

1 Event History Analysis for psychological time-to-event data: A tutorial in R with examples  
2 in Bayesian and frequentist workflows

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## Abstract

12 Time-to-event data such as response times and saccade latencies form a cornerstone of  
13 experimental psychology, and have had a widespread impact on our understanding of  
14 human cognition. However, the orthodox method for analyzing such data – comparing  
15 means between conditions – is known to conceal valuable information about the timeline of  
16 psychological effects, such as their onset time and how they evolve with increasing waiting  
17 time. The ability to reveal finer-grained, “temporal states” of cognitive processes can have  
18 important consequences for theory development by qualitatively changing the key  
19 inferences that are drawn from psychological data. Luckily, well-established analytical  
20 approaches, such as event history analysis (EHA), are able to evaluate the detailed shape  
21 of time-to-event distributions, and thus characterize the time course of psychological states.  
22 One barrier to wider use of EHA, however, is that the analytical workflow is typically more  
23 time-consuming and complex than orthodox approaches. To help achieve broader uptake of  
24 EHA, in this paper we outline a set of tutorials that detail one distributional method  
25 known as discrete-time EHA. We touch upon several key aspects of the workflow, such as  
26 how to process raw data and specify regression models, and we also consider the  
27 implications for experimental design. We finish the article by considering the benefits of  
28 the approach for understanding psychological states, as well as its limitations. Finally, the  
29 project is written in R and freely available, which means the approach can easily be  
30 adapted to other data sets.

31       *Keywords:* response times, event history analysis, Bayesian multilevel regression  
32 models, experimental psychology, cognitive psychology

33       Word count: 10131 (body) + 1709 (references) + 3473 (body supplemental material)  
34       + 393 (refs suppl. mat.)

35

## 1. Introduction

### 36 1.1 Motivation and background context: Comparing means versus 37 distributional shapes

38 In experimental psychology, it is standard practice to analyse response times (RTs),  
39 saccade latencies, and fixation durations by calculating average performance across a series  
40 of trials. Such comparisons between means have been the workhorse of experimental  
41 psychology over the last century, and have had a substantial impact on theory development  
42 as well as our understanding of the structure of cognition and brain function. Indeed, the  
43 view that mean values represent truth and variations around the mean are error is deeply  
44 ingrained in experimental psychology (Bolger, Zee, Rossignac-Milon, & Hassin, 2019).

45 However, differences in mean RT conceal important pieces of information, such as when an  
46 experimental effect starts, how it evolves with increasing waiting time, and whether its  
47 onset is time-locked to other events (Panis, 2020; Panis, Moran, Wolkersdorfer, & Schmidt,  
48 2020; Panis & Schmidt, 2016, 2022; Panis, Torfs, Gillebert, Wagemans, & Humphreys,  
49 2017; Panis & Wagemans, 2009; Wolkersdorfer, Panis, & Schmidt, 2020). Such absolute  
50 timing information is useful not only for the interpretation of experimental effects under  
51 investigation, but also for cognitive psychophysiology and computational model selection  
52 (Panis, Schmidt, Wolkersdorfer, & Schmidt, 2020).

53 As a simple illustration, Figure 1 summarises simulated data for one subject that  
54 shows how comparing means between two conditions can conceal the shapes of the  
55 underlying RT and accuracy distributions. Indeed, compared to the aggregation of data  
56 across trials (Figure 1A), a distributional approach offers the possibility to reveal the time  
57 course of psychological states (Figure 1B). For example, Figure 1B shows a first state (up  
58 to 400 ms after target onset) for which the early upswing in hazard is equal for both  
59 conditions, and the emitted responses are always correct in condition 1 and always  
60 incorrect in condition 2. In a second state (400 to 500 ms), hazard is higher in condition 1,

61 and conditional accuracies are close to .5 in both conditions. In a third state ( $>500$  ms),  
62 the effect disappears in hazard, and all conditional accuracies are equal to 1. Importantly  
63 from a face-validity perspective, this pattern of simulated data can be seen in the  
64 experimental psychology literature (Panis & Schmidt, 2016).

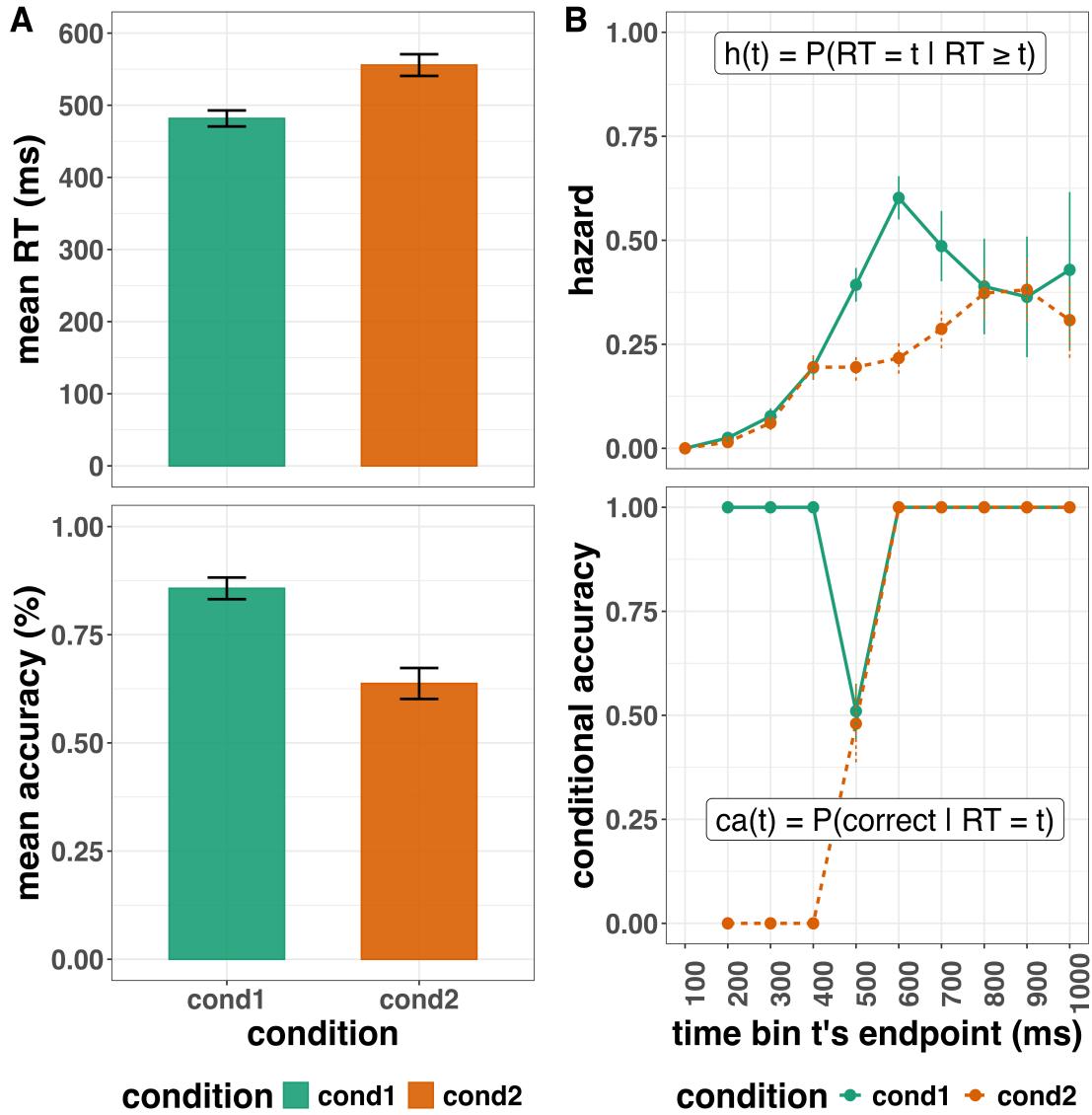


Figure 1. Simulated single-subject data showing mean performance versus distributional (EHA/SAT) analyses. (A) The mean RT (top) and overall accuracy (bottom) for two conditions are plotted. (B) The discrete-time hazard functions (top) and conditional accuracy functions (bottom) are plotted for the same data. The first second after target stimulus onset (time zero) is divided in ten bins of 100 ms ( $t = 1$  to 10). The first bin is (0,100], the last bin is (900,1000]. Two hundred trials were simulated in each condition. Note that the hazard and conditional accuracy estimates are plotted at the endpoint of each time bin. The definitions of discrete-time hazard and conditional accuracy are further explained in section 2.1.2. Error bars represent  $\pm 1$  standard error of the mean (A) or proportion (B).

65 Why does this matter for research in psychology? For many psychological questions,  
66 the estimation of such “temporal states” information can be theoretically meaningful by  
67 leading to more fine-grained understanding of psychological processes. Because EHA adds  
68 a relatively under-used but ever-present dimension – the passage of time – to the theory  
69 building toolkit, it provides one possible response to the recent call for a temporal science  
70 of behavior (Abney, Fausey, Suarez-Rivera, & Tamis-LeMonda, 2025).

71 **1.2 Aims**

72 Our ultimate aim in this paper is twofold. First, we want to convince readers of the  
73 many benefits of using EHA when dealing with psychological RT data. Second, we want to  
74 provide a set of practical tutorials, which provide step-by-step instructions on how you  
75 actually perform a (single event) discrete-time EHA on RT data, as well as a  
76 complementary discrete-time speed-accuracy tradeoff (SAT) analysis on timed accuracy  
77 data in case of choice RT data (Figure 1B).

78 Even though EHA is a widely used statistical tool and there already exist many  
79 excellent reviews (Allison, 1982; Blossfeld & Rohwer, 2002; Box-Steffensmeier, 2004;  
80 Hosmer, Lemeshow, & May, 2011; Mills, 2011; Singer & Willett, 2003; Teachman, 1983)  
81 and tutorials (Allison, 2010; Elmer, Van Duijn, Ram, & Bringmann, 2023; Landes,  
82 Engelhardt, & Pelletier, 2020; Lougheed, Benson, Cole, & Ram, 2019; Stoolmiller, 2015;  
83 Stoolmiller & Snyder, 2006), we are not aware of any tutorials that are aimed specifically  
84 at psychological RT (+ accuracy) data, and which provide worked examples of the key  
85 data processing and Bayesian multilevel regression modelling steps.

86 Set within this context, our overall aim is to introduce a set of tutorials, which  
87 explain **how** to do such analyses in the context of experimental psychology, rather than  
88 repeat in any detail **why** you may do them. Therefore, we hope that our tutorials will  
89 provide a pathway for research avenues in experimental psychology that have the potential

90 to benefit from using EHA in the future.

91 **1.3 Structure**

92 In what follows, the paper is organised in three main sections. In Section 2, we  
93 provide a brief overview of EHA to orient the reader to the basic concepts that we will use  
94 throughout the paper and why such an approach might be relevant for research in  
95 experimental psychology. In Section 3, we outline a series of tutorials, which are written in  
96 the R programming language and publicly available on our Github page  
97 ([https://github.com/sven-panis/Tutorial\\_Event\\_History\\_Analysis](https://github.com/sven-panis/Tutorial_Event_History_Analysis)), along with all of the  
98 other code and material associated with the project. The tutorials provide hands-on,  
99 concrete examples of key parts of the analytical process, such as data wrangling, plotting  
100 descriptive statistics, model fitting and planning future studies, so that others can apply  
101 EHA to their own time-to-event data measured in RT tasks. In Section 4, we discuss the  
102 strengths and weaknesses of the approach for researchers in experimental psychology.

103 **2. What is event history analysis and why is it relevant to research in  
104 experimental psychology?**

105 **2.1 A brief introduction to event history analysis**

106 EHA is a class of statistical approaches to study the occurrence and timing of events,  
107 such as disease onset, marriages, arrests, and job terminations (Allison, 2010). In this  
108 section, we want to provide an intuition regarding how EHA works in general, as well as in  
109 the context of experimental psychology. For those who want more detailed treatment of  
110 EHA and/or regression equations, we refer the reader to several excellent textbooks on  
111 these topics (Allison, 2010; Gelman, Hill, & Vehtari, 2020; Mills, 2011; Singer & Willett,  
112 2003; Winter, 2019). We also supply relevant regression equations in section E of the  
113 Supplemental Material.

114        **2.1.1 Terminology and minimum requirements for EHA.** To avoid possible

115        confusion in terminology used, it is worth noting that EHA is known by various labels,

116        such as survival analysis, hazard analysis, duration analysis, failure-time analysis, and

117        transition analysis (Singer & Willett, 2003). In this paper, we choose to use the term EHA

118        throughout.

119        In terms of minimum requirements to apply EHA, one must be able to:

120        1. define an event of interest that represents a qualitative change - a transition from one

121        discrete state to another - that can be situated in time (e.g., a button press, a

122        saccade onset, a fixation offset, etc.);

123        2. define time point zero in each trial (e.g., target stimulus onset, fixation onset, etc.);

124        3. measure the passage of time between time point zero and event occurrence in discrete

125        or continuous time units in each trial.

126        These minimal requirements are fulfilled by the RT data obtained in single-button

127        detection tasks, where the time-to-response is repeatedly measured in different trials in the

128        same individual. In section A of the Supplemental Material we visualize this and other

129        types of time-to-event data which are typically obtained in discrimination and bistable

130        perception tasks.

131        **2.1.2 Types of EHA.** There are different types of modeling approaches in EHA.

132        For example, the definition of hazard and the type of models employed depend on whether

133        one is using continuous or discrete time units. As a lab, and mainly for practical reasons,

134        we have much more experience using discrete-time EHA, and that is the approach that we

135        describe and focus on in this paper. This choice may seem counter-intuitive, given that RT

136        is typically treated as a continuous variable. However, continuous forms of EHA require

137        much more data to reliably estimate the continuous-time hazard (rate) function (Bloxom,

138        1984; Luce, 1991; Van Zandt, 2000). Thus, by trading a bit of temporal resolution for a

lower number of trials, discrete-time methods seem ideal for dealing with typical psychological RT data sets for which there are less than ~200 trials per condition per participant (Panis, Schmidt, et al., 2020). Moreover, as indicated by Allison (2010), learning discrete-time EHA methods first will help in learning continuous-time methods, so it seems like a good starting point.

To apply discrete-time EHA, one divides the within-trial time in discrete, contiguous time bins indexed by  $t$  (e.g.,  $t = 1$  to 10 time bins; Figure 1B). Then let  $RT$  be a discrete random variable denoting the rank of the time bin in which a particular person's response occurs in a particular trial (i.e., repeated measure). For example, a response in one trial might occur at 546 ms and it would be in time bin 6 (any RTs from 501 ms to 600 ms). One then calculates the sample-based estimate of the discrete-time hazard function of event occurrence for each experimental condition (Figure 1B upper panel). The discrete-time hazard function gives you, for each time bin, the conditional probability that the event occurs (sometime) in bin  $t$ , given that the event does not occur in previous bins. In other words, it reflects the instantaneous risk that the event occurs in the current bin  $t$ , given that it has not yet occurred in the past, i.e., in one of the prior bins ( $t-1, t-2, \dots, 1$ ).

In the context of experimental psychology, it is often (but not always), the case that responses can be classified as correct or incorrect. In those cases, one can also calculate the conditional accuracy function (Figure 1B lower panel). The conditional accuracy function gives you for each time bin the conditional probability that a response is correct given that it is emitted in time bin  $t$  (Allison, 2010; Kantowitz & Pachella, 2021; Wickelgren, 1977). The conditional accuracy function is also known as the micro-level speed-accuracy tradeoff (SAT) function. We refer to this extended (hazard + conditional accuracy) analysis for choice RT data as EHA/SAT. The definitions of these and other discrete-time functions are given in section B of the Supplemental Material.

**164 2.2 Benefits of event history analysis for research in experimental psychology**

165 Statisticians and mathematical psychologists recommend focusing on the hazard  
166 function when analyzing time-to-event data for various reasons (Holden, Van Orden, &  
167 Turvey, 2009; Luce, 1991; Townsend, 1990). We do not cover these benefits in detail here,  
168 as these are more general topics that have been covered elsewhere in textbooks (see also  
169 section G of the Supplemental Material). Instead, here we focus on the benefits as we see  
170 them for common research programmes in experimental psychology.

171 We highlight three benefits that we think are relevant to the domain of experimental  
172 psychology. First, as illustrated in Figure 1, compared to averaging data across trials,  
173 integrating results between hazard functions and their associated conditional accuracy  
174 functions for choice RT data can be informative for understanding psychological processes,  
175 in terms of inferences about the microgenesis and temporal organization of cognition and  
176 theoretical development. As such, the approach permits different kinds of questions to be  
177 asked, different inferences to be made, and it holds the potential to discriminate between  
178 theoretical accounts of psychological and/or brain-based processes. For example, what kind  
179 of theory or set of mechanisms could account for the shape of the functions and the  
180 temporally localized effects reported in Figure 1B (Panis & Schmidt, 2016)? Are there new  
181 auxiliary assumptions that computational models need to adopt (Panis, Moran, et al.,  
182 2020)? Will the temporal effect patterns align nicely with EEG findings (Panis & Schmidt,  
183 2022)? And are there new experiments that need to be performed to test the novel  
184 predictions that follow from these analyses?

185 Second, compared to more conventional analytical approaches, EHA uses more of the  
186 data because it deals with missing data differently. It is conventional with RT data to  
187 either (a) use a response deadline and discard all trials without a response, or (b) wait in  
188 each trial until a response occurs and then apply data trimming techniques, i.e., discarding  
189 too short or too long RTs (and perhaps also erroneous responses) before calculating a mean

190 RT (Berger & Kiefer, 2021). Discarding data can introduce biases, however. Rather than  
191 treat non-responses as missing data, EHA treats such trials as *right-censored* observations  
192 on the variable RT, because all we know is that RT is greater than some value.  
193 Right-censoring is a type of missing data problem and a nearly universal feature of survival  
194 data including RT data. For example, if the censoring time was 1 second, then some trials  
195 result in observed event times (those with a RT below 1 second), while the other trials  
196 result in response times that are right-censored at 1 second. The fact that EHA can deal  
197 with right-censoring, therefore, presents a analytical strength of the approach compared to  
198 many common approaches in experimental psychology (e.g., ANOVA, linear regression,  
199 delta plots).

200 Third, the approach is generalisable and applicable to many tasks that are commonly  
201 used in experimental psychology, such as detection, discrimination and bistable perception  
202 tasks, and to a range of common experimental manipulations, such as  
203 stimulus-onset-asynchrony (see section A of the Supplemental Material). The upshot is  
204 that one general analytical approach, which holds several potential advantages, is widely  
205 applicable to many substantive use-cases in the domain of experimental psychology,  
206 irrespective of the analyst's current view on the nature of cognition (Barack & Krakauer,  
207 2021).

### 208 2.3 Implications for research design in experimental psychology

209 Performing EHA in experimental psychology has implications for how experiments  
210 are designed. More specifically, we consider three implications that researchers will need to  
211 consider when using discrete-time EHA. First, because EHA deals with right-censored  
212 observations, one can use a fixed response deadline in each trial. This will increase design  
213 efficiency as one does not need to wait for very long RTs that would be trimmed anyway.

214 Second, since the number of trials per condition are spread across bins, it is

215 important to have a relatively large number of trial repetitions per participant and per  
216 condition. Accordingly, experimental designs using this approach typically focus on  
217 factorial, within-subject designs, in which a large number of observations are made on a  
218 relatively small number of participants (so-called small-*N* designs). This approach  
219 emphasizes the precision and reproducibility of data patterns at the individual participant  
220 level to increase the inferential validity of the design (Baker et al., 2021; Smith & Little,  
221 2018). Note that because statistical power derives both from the number of participants  
222 and from the number of repeated measures per participant and condition, small-*N* designs  
223 can still achieve what are generally considered acceptable levels of statistical power, if they  
224 have a sufficient amount of data overall (Baker et al., 2021; Smith & Little, 2018).

225 Third, the width of each time bin will need to be determined. For instance, in Figure  
226 1B we chose 100 ms in an arbitrary manner. In reality, however, bin width will need to be  
227 set by considering a number of factors simultaneously. The optimal bin width will depend  
228 on (a) the length of the observation period in each trial, (b) the rarity of event occurrence,  
229 (c) the number of repeated measures (or trials) per condition per participant, and (d) the  
230 shape of the hazard function. Finding an appropriate bin width in a given user case before  
231 fitting models will require testing a number of options, when calculating and plotting the  
232 descriptive statistics (see section 3.1). The goal is to find the smallest bin width that is  
233 supported by the amount of data available. Based on our experience, a bin width of 50 ms  
234 is a good starting value when the number of repeated measures is 100 or less. Overly small  
235 bin widths will result in erratic hazard functions as many bins will have no events, and  
236 thus hazard estimates of zero. Of note, however, is that time bins do not need to have the  
237 same width. For example, Panis (2020) used larger bins towards the end of the observation  
238 period, as fewer events occurred there.

239

### 3. Tutorials

240        Tutorials 1a and 1b show how to calculate and plot the descriptive statistics of  
241        EHA/SAT when there are one or two independent variables, respectively. Tutorials 2a and  
242        2b illustrate how to use Bayesian multilevel modeling to fit hazard and conditional  
243        accuracy models, respectively. Tutorials 3a and 3b show how to implement, respectively,  
244        multilevel models for hazard and conditional accuracy in the frequentist framework.  
245        Tutorial 4 shows how to use simulation and power analysis for planning experiments.  
246        Additionally, to further simplify the process for other users, the first two tutorials rely on a  
247        set of our own custom functions that make sub-processes easier to automate, such as data  
248        wrangling and plotting functions (see section C of the Supplemental Material for a list of  
249        the custom functions).

250        The content of the tutorials, in terms of EHA and multilevel regression modelling, is  
251        mainly based on Allison (2010), Singer and Willett (2003), McElreath (2020), Heiss (2021),  
252        Kurz (2023a), and Kurz (2023b). We used R (Version 4.5.1; R Core Team, 2024) and the  
253        R-packages *bayesplot* (Version 1.13.0; Gabry, Simpson, Vehtari, Betancourt, & Gelman,  
254        2019), *brms* (Version 2.22.0; Bürkner, 2017, 2018, 2021), *citr* (Version 0.3.2; Aust, 2019),  
255        *cmdstanr* (Version 0.9.0.9000; Gabry, Češnovar, Johnson, & Brønner, 2024), *dplyr* (Version  
256        1.1.4; Wickham, François, Henry, Müller, & Vaughan, 2023), *forcats* (Version 1.0.0;  
257        Wickham, 2023a), *futures* (Bengtsson, 2021b), *ggplot2* (Version 3.5.2; Wickham, 2016),  
258        *lme4* (Version 1.1.37; Bates, Mächler, Bolker, & Walker, 2015), *lubridate* (Version 1.9.4;  
259        Grolemund & Wickham, 2011), *Matrix* (Version 1.7.3; Bates, Maechler, & Jagan, 2024),  
260        *nlme* (Version 3.1.168; Pinheiro & Bates, 2000), *papaja* (Version 0.1.3; Aust & Barth,  
261        2024), *patchwork* (Version 1.3.0; Pedersen, 2024), *purrr* (Version 1.0.4; Wickham & Henry,  
262        2023), *RColorBrewer* (Version 1.1.3; Neuwirth, 2022), *Rcpp* (Eddelbuettel & Balamuta,  
263        2018; Version 1.0.14; Eddelbuettel & François, 2011), *readr* (Version 2.1.5; Wickham,  
264        Hester, & Bryan, 2024), *RJ-2021-048* (Bengtsson, 2021a), *rstan* (Version 2.32.7; Stan

265 Development Team, 2024), *standist* (Version 0.0.0.9000; Girard, 2024), *StanHeaders*  
266 (Version 2.32.10; Stan Development Team, 2020), *stringr* (Version 1.5.1; Wickham, 2023b),  
267 *tibble* (Version 3.3.0; Müller & Wickham, 2023), *tidybayes* (Version 3.0.7; Kay, 2024), *tidyR*  
268 (Version 1.3.1; Wickham, Vaughan, & Girlich, 2024), *tidyverse* (Version 2.0.0; Wickham et  
269 al., 2019) and *tinylabels* (Version 0.2.5; Barth, 2023) for all reported analyses.

270 **3.1 Tutorial 1a: Calculating descriptive statistics using a life table**

271 **3.1.1 Data wrangling aims.** Our data wrangling procedures serve two related  
272 purposes. First, we want to calculate descriptive statistics for each condition in each  
273 individual using a life table. A life table includes for each time bin, the risk set (i.e., the  
274 number of trials that are event-free at the start of the bin), the number of observed events,  
275 and the estimates of the discrete-time hazard probability  $h(t)$ , survival probability  $S(t)$ ,  
276 probability mass  $P(t)$ , possibly the conditional accuracy  $ca(t)$ , and their estimated  
277 standard errors (se). The definitions of these quantities are provided in section B of the  
278 Supplemental Material.

279 Second, we want to produce two different data sets that can each be submitted to  
280 different types of inferential modelling approaches. The two types of data structure we  
281 label as ‘person-trial’ data and ‘person-trial-bin’ data. The ‘person-trial’ data (Table 1)  
282 will be familiar to most researchers who record behavioural responses from participants, as  
283 it represents the measured RT and accuracy per trial within an experiment. This data set  
284 is used when fitting conditional accuracy models (Tutorials 2b and 3b).

Table 1  
*Data structure for ‘person-trial’ data*

pid	trial	condition	rt	accuracy
1	1	congruent	373.49	1
1	2	incongruent	431.31	1
1	3	congruent	455.43	0
1	4	incongruent	622.41	1
1	5	incongruent	535.98	1
1	6	incongruent	540.08	1
1	7	congruent	511.07	1
1	8	incongruent	444.42	1
1	9	congruent	678.69	1
1	10	congruent	549.79	1

*Note.* The first 10 trials for participant 1 are shown. These data are simulated and for illustrative purposes only.

285 In contrast, the ‘person-trial-bin’ data (Table 2) has a different, more extended  
 286 structure, which indicates in which bin a response occurred, if at all, in each trial.  
 287 Therefore, the ‘person-trial-bin’ data generates a 0 in each bin until an event occurs and  
 288 then it generates a 1 to signal an event has occurred in that bin. This data set is used  
 289 when fitting discrete-time hazard models (Tutorials 2a and 3a). It is worth pointing out  
 290 that there is no requirement for an event to occur at all (in any bin), as maybe there was  
 291 no response on that trial or the event occurred after the time window of interest. Likewise,  
 292 when the event occurs in bin 1 there would only be one row of data for that trial in the  
 293 person-trial-bin data set.

Table 2  
*Data structure for ‘person-trial-bin’ data*

pid	trial	condition	timebin	event
1	1	congruent	1	0
1	1	congruent	2	0
1	1	congruent	3	0
1	1	congruent	4	1
1	2	incongruent	1	0
1	2	incongruent	2	0
1	2	incongruent	3	0
1	2	incongruent	4	0
1	2	incongruent	5	1

*Note.* The first 2 trials for participant 1 from Table 1 are shown. The width of the time bins is 100 ms. These data are simulated and for illustrative purposes only.

294       **3.1.2 A real data wrangling example.** To illustrate how to quickly set up life  
 295       tables for calculating the descriptive statistics (functions of discrete time), we use a  
 296       published data set on masked response priming from Panis and Schmidt (2016), who were  
 297       interested in the temporal dynamics of the effect of prime-target congruency in RT and  
 298       accuracy data. In their first experiment, Panis and Schmidt (2016) presented a double  
 299       arrow for 94 ms that pointed left or right as the target stimulus with an onset at time  
 300       point zero in each trial. Participants had to indicate the direction in which the double  
 301       arrow pointed using their corresponding index finger, within 800 ms after target onset.  
 302       Response time and accuracy were recorded on each trial. Prime type (blank, congruent,

303 incongruent) and mask type were manipulated across trials (i.e., repeated measures of  
 304 time-to-response). Here we focus for each participant on the subset of 220 trials in which  
 305 no mask was presented. The 13-ms prime stimulus was a double arrow presented 187 ms  
 306 before target onset in the congruent (same direction as target) and incongruent (opposite  
 307 direction as target) prime conditions.

308 There are several data wrangling steps to be taken. First, we need to load the data  
 309 before we (a) supply required column names, and (b) specify the factor condition with the  
 310 correct levels and labels.

311 The required column names are as follows:

- 312 • “pid”, indicating unique participant IDs;
- 313 • “trial”, indicating each unique trial per participant;
- 314 • “condition”, a factor indicating the levels of the independent variable (1, 2, ...) and  
     the corresponding labels;
- 316 • “rt”, indicating the response times in ms;
- 317 • “acc”, indicating the accuracies (1/0).

318 In the code of Tutorial 1a, this is accomplished as follows.

```
data_wr<-read_csv("../Tutorial_1_descriptive_stats/data/DataExp1_6subjects_wrangled.csv")
data_wr <- data_wr %>%
  rename(pid = vp, condition = prime_type, acc = respac, trial = TrialNr) %>%
  mutate(condition = condition + 1, # original levels were 0, 1, 2.
        condition = factor(condition,
                             levels=c(1,2,3),
                             labels=c("blank","congruent","incongruent")))
```

319 Next, we can set up the life tables and plot for each condition the discrete-time hazard  
 320 function  $h(t)$ , survivor function  $S(t)$ , probability mass function  $P(t)$ , and conditional

accuracy function `ca(t)`. To do so using a functional programming approach, one has to nest the person-trial data within participants using the `group_nest()` function, and supply a user-defined censoring time and bin width to our custom function “`censor()`”, as follows.

```
data_nested <- data_wr %>% group_nest(pid)

data_final <- data_nested %>%
  # ! user input: censoring time, and bin width
  mutate(censored = map(data, censor, 600, 40)) %>%
  # create person-trial-bin data set
  mutate(ptb_data = map(censored, ptb)) %>%
  # create life tables without ca(t)
  mutate(lifetable = map(ptb_data, setup_lt)) %>%
  # calculate ca(t)
  mutate(condacc = map(censored, calc_ca)) %>%
  # create life tables with ca(t)
  mutate(lifetable_ca = map2(lifetable, condacc, join_lt_ca)) %>%
  # create plots
  mutate(plot = map2(.x = lifetable_ca, .y = pid, plot_eha,1))
```

Note that the censoring time (here: 600 ms) should be a multiple of the bin width (here: 40 ms). The censoring time should be a time point after which no informative responses are expected anymore, in case one waits for a response in each trial. In experiments that implement a response deadline in each trial the censoring time can equal that deadline time point. Trials with a RT larger than the censoring time, or trials in which no response is emitted during the data observation period, are treated as right-censored observations in EHA. In other words, these trials are not discarded, because they contain the information that the event did not occur before the censoring time. Removing such trials before calculating the mean event time would result in underestimation of the true mean.

The person-trial-bin oriented data set is created by our custom function `ptb()`, and it

335 has one row for each time bin (of each trial) that is at risk for event occurrence. The  
336 variable “event” in the person-trial-bin oriented data set indicates whether a response  
337 occurs (1) or not (0) for each bin. The next steps are to set up the life table using our  
338 custom function setup\_lt(), calculate the conditional accuracies using our custom function  
339 calc\_ca(), add the ca(t) estimates to the life table using our custom function join\_lt\_ca(),  
340 and then plot the descriptive statistics using our custom function plot\_eha(). One can now  
341 inspect different aspects, including the life table for a particular condition of a particular  
342 subject, and a plot of the different functions for a particular participant.

343 In general, it is important to visually inspect the functions first for each participant,  
344 in order to identify individuals that may not be following task instructions (e.g., a flat  
345 conditional accuracy function at .5 indicates that someone is just guessing), outlying  
346 individuals, and/or different groups with qualitatively different behavior. Also, to select a  
347 suited bin width for model fitting, one can test and compare various bin widths in the  
348 censor function, and select the smallest one that is supported by the data. Too small bin  
349 widths will result in erratic hazard functions because many bins will have estimates equal  
350 to zero.

351 Table 3 shows the life table for condition “blank” (no prime stimulus presented) for  
352 participant 6.

Table 3

*The life table for the blank prime condition of participant 6.*

bin	risk_set	events	hazard	se_haz	survival	se_surv	ca	se_ca
0	220	NA	NA	NA	1.00	0.00	NA	NA
40	220	0	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	NA	NA
80	220	0	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	NA	NA
120	220	0	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	NA	NA
160	220	0	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	NA	NA
200	220	0	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	NA	NA
240	220	0	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	NA	NA
280	220	7	0.03	0.01	0.97	0.01	0.29	0.17
320	213	13	0.06	0.02	0.91	0.02	0.77	0.12
360	200	26	0.13	0.02	0.79	0.03	0.92	0.05
400	174	40	0.23	0.03	0.61	0.03	1.00	0.00
440	134	48	0.36	0.04	0.39	0.03	0.98	0.02
480	86	37	0.43	0.05	0.22	0.03	1.00	0.00
520	49	32	0.65	0.07	0.08	0.02	1.00	0.00
560	17	9	0.53	0.12	0.04	0.01	1.00	0.00
600	8	4	0.50	0.18	0.02	0.01	1.00	0.00

*Note.* The column named “bin” indicates the endpoint of each time bin (in ms), and includes time point zero. For example the first bin is (0,40] with the starting point excluded and the endpoint included. At time point zero, no events can occur and therefore  $h(t=0)$  and  $ca(t=0)$  are undefined.  $se =$  standard error.  $ca =$  conditional accuracy.  $NA =$  undefined.

Figure 2 displays the discrete-time hazard, survivor, conditional accuracy, and

354 probability mass functions for each prime condition for participant 6. By using  
 355 discrete-time hazard functions of event occurrence – in combination with conditional  
 356 accuracy functions for two-choice tasks – one can provide an unbiased, time-varying, and  
 357 probabilistic description of the latency and accuracy of responses based on all trials of any  
 358 RT data set.

## Descriptive stats for subject 6

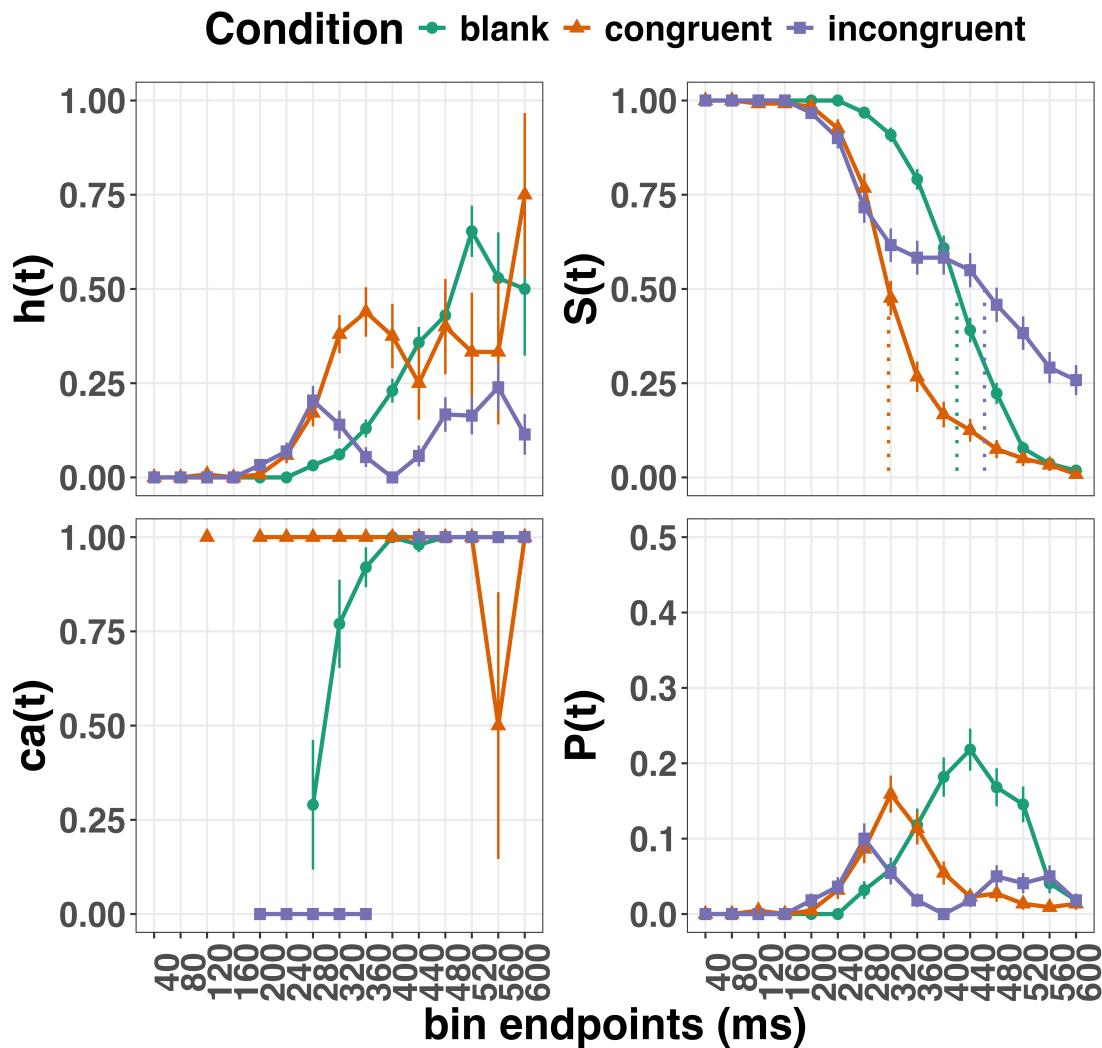


Figure 2. Estimated discrete-time hazard ( $h$ ), survivor ( $S$ ), conditional accuracy ( $ca$ ) and probability mass ( $P$ ) functions for participant 6. Vertical dotted lines indicate the estimated median RTs. Error bars represent  $\pm 1$  standard error of the respective proportion.

359 For example, for participant 6, the estimated hazard values in bin (240,280] are 0.03,

360 0.17, and 0.20 for the blank, congruent, and incongruent prime conditions, respectively. In

361 other words, when the waiting time has increased until *240 ms* after target onset, then the

362 conditional probability of response occurrence in the next 40 ms is more than five times

363 larger for both prime-present conditions, compared to the blank prime condition.

364 Furthermore, the estimated conditional accuracy values in bin (240,280] are 0.29, 1,

365 and 0 for the blank, congruent, and incongruent prime conditions, respectively. In other

366 words, if a response is emitted in bin (240,280], then the probability that it is correct is

367 estimated to be 0.29, 1, and 0 for the blank, congruent, and incongruent prime conditions,

368 respectively.

369 However, when the waiting time has increased until *400 ms* after target onset, then

370 the conditional probability of response occurrence in the next 40 ms is estimated to be

371 0.36, 0.25, and 0.06 for the blank, congruent, and incongruent prime conditions,

372 respectively. And when a response does occur in bin (400,440], then the probability that it

373 is correct is estimated to be 0.98, 1, and 1 for the blank, congruent, and incongruent prime

374 conditions, respectively.

375 These distributional results suggest that participant 6 is initially responding to the

376 prime even though (s)he was instructed to only respond to the target, that response

377 competition emerges in the incongruent prime condition around 300 ms, and that only

378 slower responses are fully controlled by the target stimulus. Qualitatively similar results

379 were obtained for the other five participants. When participants show qualitatively similar

380 distributional patterns, one might consider aggregating their data and plotting the

381 group-average distribution per condition (see Tutorial\_1a.Rmd). More generally, these

382 results go against the (often implicit) assumption in research on priming that all observed

383 responses are primed responses to the target stimulus. Instead, the distributional data

384 show that fast responses are triggered exclusively by the prime stimulus, while only the

385 slower responses reflect primed responses to the target stimulus.

386 At this point, we have calculated and plotted the descriptive statistics for each type  
387 of prime stimulus. As we will show in later Tutorials, statistical models for hazard and  
388 conditional accuracy functions can be implemented as generalized linear mixed regression  
389 models predicting event occurrence (1/0) and conditional accuracy (1/0) in each bin of a  
390 selected time window for analysis. But first we consider calculating the descriptive  
391 statistics for within-subject designs with two independent variables.

392 **3.2 Tutorial 1b: Generalising to a more complex design**

393 So far in this paper, we have used a simple experimental design, which involved one  
394 condition with three levels. But psychological experiments are often more complex, with  
395 crossed factorial designs and/or conditions with more than three levels. The purpose of  
396 Tutorial 1b, therefore, is to provide a generalisation of the basic approach, which extends  
397 to a more complicated design. We feel that this might be useful for researchers in  
398 experimental psychology that typically use crossed factorial designs.

399 To this end, Tutorial 1b illustrates how to calculate and plot the descriptive statistics  
400 for the full data set of Experiment 1 of Panis and Schmidt (2016), which includes two  
401 independent variables: mask type and prime type. As we use the same functional  
402 programming approach as in Tutorial 1a, we simply present the sample-based functions for  
403 each participant as part of Tutorial\_1b.Rmd for those that are interested.

404 **3.3 Tutorial 2a: Fitting Bayesian hazard models to interval-censored RT data**

405 In this third tutorial, we illustrate how to fit Bayesian multilevel regression models to  
406 the RT data of the masked response priming data used in Tutorial 1a. Fitting (Bayesian or  
407 non-Bayesian) regression models to time-to-event data is important when you want to  
408 study how the shape of the hazard function depends on various predictors (Singer &

409 Willett, 2003).

410 In general, when fitting regression models, our lab adopts an estimation approach to  
411 multilevel regression (Kruschke & Liddell, 2018; Winter, 2019), which is heavily influenced  
412 by the Bayesian framework as suggested by Richard McElreath (Kurz, 2023b; McElreath,  
413 2020). We also use a “keep it maximal” approach by specifying a full varying (or random)  
414 effects structure (Barr, Levy, Scheepers, & Tily, 2013). This means that wherever possible  
415 we include varying intercepts and slopes per participant. To make inferences, we use two  
416 main approaches. We compare models of different complexity using information criteria  
417 and cross-validation, to evaluate out-of-sample predictive accuracy (McElreath, 2020). We  
418 also take the most complex model and evaluate key parameters of interest using point and  
419 interval estimates.

420 **3.3.1 Hazard model considerations.** There are several analytic decisions one  
421 has to make when fitting a discrete-time hazard model. First, because the first few bins  
422 typically contain no responses, one has to select an analysis time window, i.e., a contiguous  
423 set of bins for which there is data for each participant. Second, given that the dependent  
424 variable (event occurrence) is binary, one has to select a link function (see section D of the  
425 Supplemental Material). The cloglog link is preferred over the logit link when events can  
426 occur in principle at any time point within a bin, which is the case for RT data (Singer &  
427 Willett, 2003). Third, one has to choose whether to treat TIME (i.e., the time bin index t)  
428 as a categorical or continuous predictor (see also section E of the Supplemental Material).  
429 For example, when you want to know if cloglog-hazard is changing linearly or quadratically  
430 over time, you should treat TIME as a continuous predictor. When you are only interested  
431 in the effect of covariates on hazard, you can treat TIME as a categorical predictor (i.e., fit  
432 an intercept for each bin), in which case you can choose between reference coding and  
433 index coding. With reference coding, one defines the variable as a factor and selects one of  
434 the k categories as the reference level. Brm() will then construct k-1 indicator variables  
435 (see model M1d in Tutorial\_2a.Rmd for an example). With index coding, one constructs

436 an index variable that contains integers that correspond to different categories (see models  
 437 M0i and M1i below). As explained by McElreath (2020), the advantage of index coding is  
 438 that the same prior can be assigned to each level of the index variable, so that each  
 439 category has the same prior uncertainty.

440 In the case of a large- $N$  design without repeated measurements, the parameters of a  
 441 discrete-time hazard model can be estimated using standard logistic regression software  
 442 after expanding the typical person-trial data set into a person-trial-bin data set (Allison,  
 443 2010). When there is clustering in the data, as in the case of a small- $N$  design with  
 444 repeated measurements, the parameters of a discrete-time hazard model can be estimated  
 445 using population-averaged methods (e.g., Generalized Estimating Equations), and Bayesian  
 446 or frequentist generalized linear mixed models (Allison, 2010).

447 In general, there are three assumptions one can make or relax when adding  
 448 experimental predictor variables and other covariates: The linearity assumption for  
 449 continuous predictors (the effect of a 1 unit change is the same anywhere on the scale), the  
 450 additivity assumption (predictors do not interact), and the proportionality assumption  
 451 (predictors do not interact with TIME).

452 In tutorial\_2a.Rmd we fit several Bayesian multilevel models (i.e., generalized linear  
 453 mixed models) that differ in complexity to the person-trial-bin oriented data set that we  
 454 created in Tutorial 1a. We decided to select the analysis time window (200,600] and the  
 455 cloglog link. Below, we shortly discuss two of these models. The person-trial-bin data set is  
 456 prepared as follows.

```
# read in the file we saved in tutorial 1a
ptb_data <- read_csv("Tutorial_1_descriptive_stats/data/inputfile_hazard_modeling.csv")

ptb_data <- ptb_data %>%
  # select analysis time range: (200,600] with 10 bins (time bin ranks 6 to 15)
  filter(period > 5) %>%
```

```

# define categorical predictor TIME as index variable named timebin
mutate(timebin = factor(period, levels = c(6:15)),
       # factor "condition" using reference coding, with "blank" as the reference level
       condition = factor(condition, labels = c("blank", "congruent", "incongruent")),
       # categorical predictor "prime" with index coding
       prime = ifelse(condition=="blank", 1, ifelse(condition=="congruent", 2, 3)),
       prime = factor(prime, levels = c(1,2,3)))

```

457       **3.3.2 Prior distributions.** To get the posterior distribution of each model

458 parameter given the data, we need to specify prior distributions for the model parameters  
 459 which reflect our prior beliefs. In Tutorial\_2a.Rmd we perform a few prior predictive  
 460 checks to make sure our selected prior distributions reflect our prior beliefs (Gelman,  
 461 Vehtari, et al., 2020).

462       The middle column of Supplementary Figure 3 (section F of the Supplemental  
 463 Material) shows six examples of prior distributions for an intercept on the logit and/or  
 464 cloglog scales. While a normal distribution with relatively large variance is often used as a  
 465 weakly informative prior for continuous dependent variables, rows A and B of  
 466 Supplementary Figure 3 show that specifying such distributions on the logit and cloglog  
 467 scales actually leads to rather informative distributions on the original probability scale, as  
 468 most mass is pushed to probabilities of 0 and 1.

469       **3.3.3 Model M0i: A null model with index coding.** When you do not want to  
 470 make assumptions about the shape of the hazard function, or its shape is not smooth but  
 471 irregular, then you can use a general specification of TIME, i.e., fit one grand intercept per  
 472 time bin. In this first baseline or reference model, we use a general specification of TIME  
 473 using index coding, and do not include experimental predictors. We call this model “M0i”.  
 474 The other model (see section 3.3.4) extends model M0i by including our experimental  
 475 predictor prime type.

476       Before we fit model M0i, we select the necessary columns from the data, and specify

477 our priors. In the code of Tutorial 2a, model M0i is specified as follows.

```
model_M0i <-
  brm(data = data_M0i,
       family = bernoulli(link="cloglog"),
       formula = event ~ 0 + timebin + (0 + timebin | pid),
       prior = priors_M0i,
       chains = 4, cores = 4,
       iter = 3000, warmup = 1000,
       control = list(adapt_delta = 0.999,
                      step_size = 0.04,
                      max_treedepth = 12),
       seed = 12, init = "0",
       file = "Tutorial_2_Bayesian/models/model_M0i")
```

478 After selecting the bernoulli family and the cloglog link, the model formula is  
 479 specified. The specification “0 + …” removes the default intercept in brm(). The fixed  
 480 effects include an intercept for each level of timebin. Each of these intercepts is allowed to  
 481 vary across individuals (variable pid). We request 2000 samples from the posterior  
 482 distribution for each of four chains. Estimating model M0i took about 30 minutes on a  
 483 MacBook Pro (Sonoma 14.6.1 OS, 18GB Memory, M3 Pro Chip).

484 **3.3.4 Model M1i: Adding the effects of prime-target congruency.** Previous  
 485 research has shown that psychological effects typically change over time (Panis, 2020;  
 486 Panis, Moran, et al., 2020; Panis & Schmidt, 2022; Panis et al., 2017; Panis & Wagemans,  
 487 2009). In the next model, therefore, we use index coding for both TIME (variable  
 488 “timebin”) and the categorical predictor prime-target-congruency (variable “prime”), so  
 489 that we get 30 grand intercepts, one for each combination of timebin level and prime level.  
 490 Here is the model formula of this model that we call “M1i”.

```
event ~ 0 + timebin:prime + (0 + timebin:prime | pid)
```

491 Estimating model M1i took about 124 minutes.

492 **3.3.5 Compare the models.** There are two popular strategies to evaluate how  
 493 well models will perform in predicting new data on average: Leave-One-Out (LOO)  
 494 cross-validation and the Widely Applicable Information Criterion or WAIC (McElreath,  
 495 2020). LOO-weights represent the optimal linear combination of models for predictive  
 496 performance, with higher weights for models with better out-of-sample predictive  
 497 performance. WAIC-weights represent the relative evidence for each model, with higher  
 498 weights for models with a better fit while accounting for model complexity (Kurz, 2023a;  
 499 McElreath, 2020).

```
model_weights(model_M0i, model_M1i, weights = "loo") %>% round(digits = 2) %>% format(nsmall=2)

500 ## model_M0i model_M1i
501 ##     "0.00"     "1.00"

model_weights(model_M0i, model_M1i, weights = "waic") %>% round(digits = 1) %>% format(nsmall=2)

502 ## model_M0i model_M1i
503 ##     "0.00"     "1.00"
```

504 Clearly, both the loo and waic weighting schemes assign a weight of 1 to model M1i,  
 505 and a weight of 0 to model M0i.

506 **3.3.6 Evaluating parameter estimates in model M1i.** To make causal  
 507 inferences from the parameter estimates in model M1i (Frank et al., 2025), we first plot the  
 508 densities of the draws from the posterior distributions of its population-level parameters in  
 509 Figure 3, together with point (median) and interval estimates (80% and 95% credible

510 intervals). A credible interval is a range of values that contains a parameter's true value  
 511 with a specified probability, given the observed data and model.

## Posterior distributions for population-level effects in Model M1i

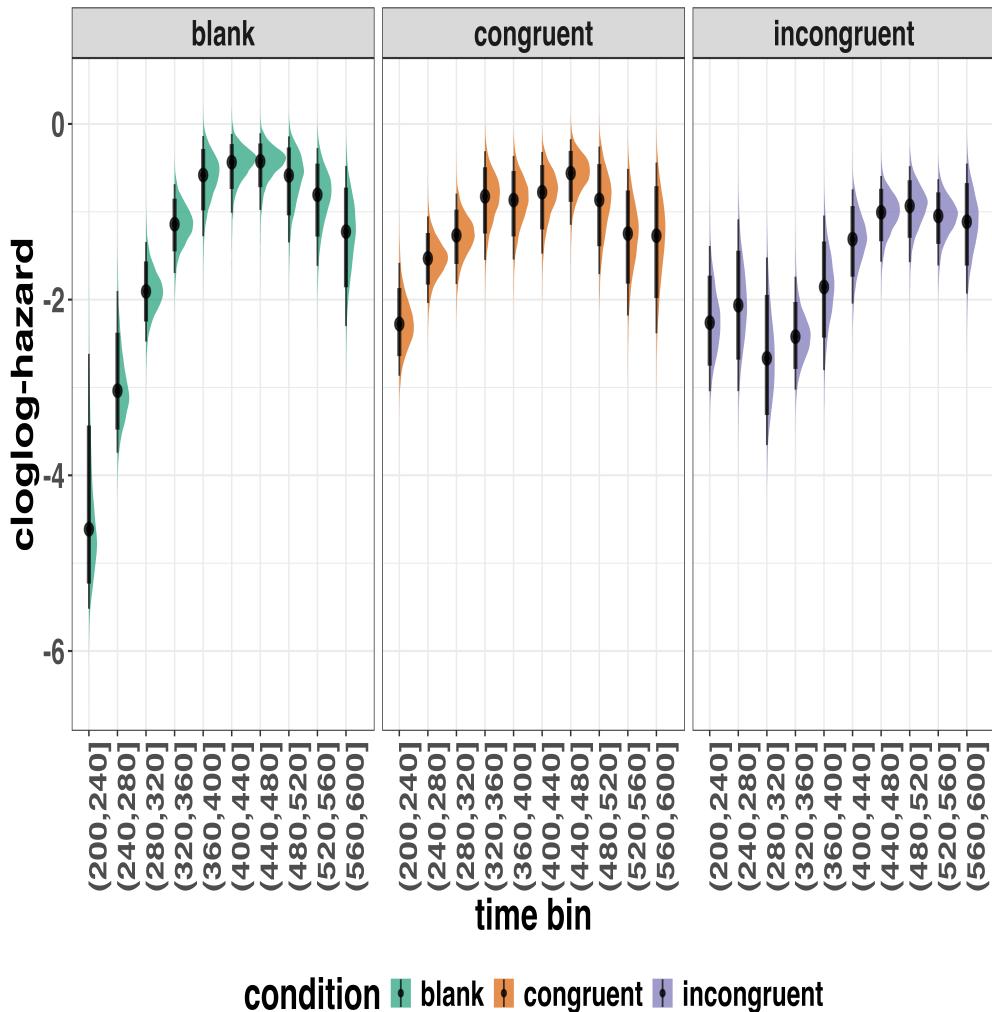


Figure 3. Medians and 80/95% credible intervals of the posterior distributions of the population-level parameters of model M1i.

512 Because the parameter estimates are on the cloglog-hazard scale, we can ease our  
 513 interpretation by plotting the expected value of the posterior predictive distribution – the  
 514 predicted hazard values – at the population level (Figure 4A), and for each participant in

the data set (Figure 4B).

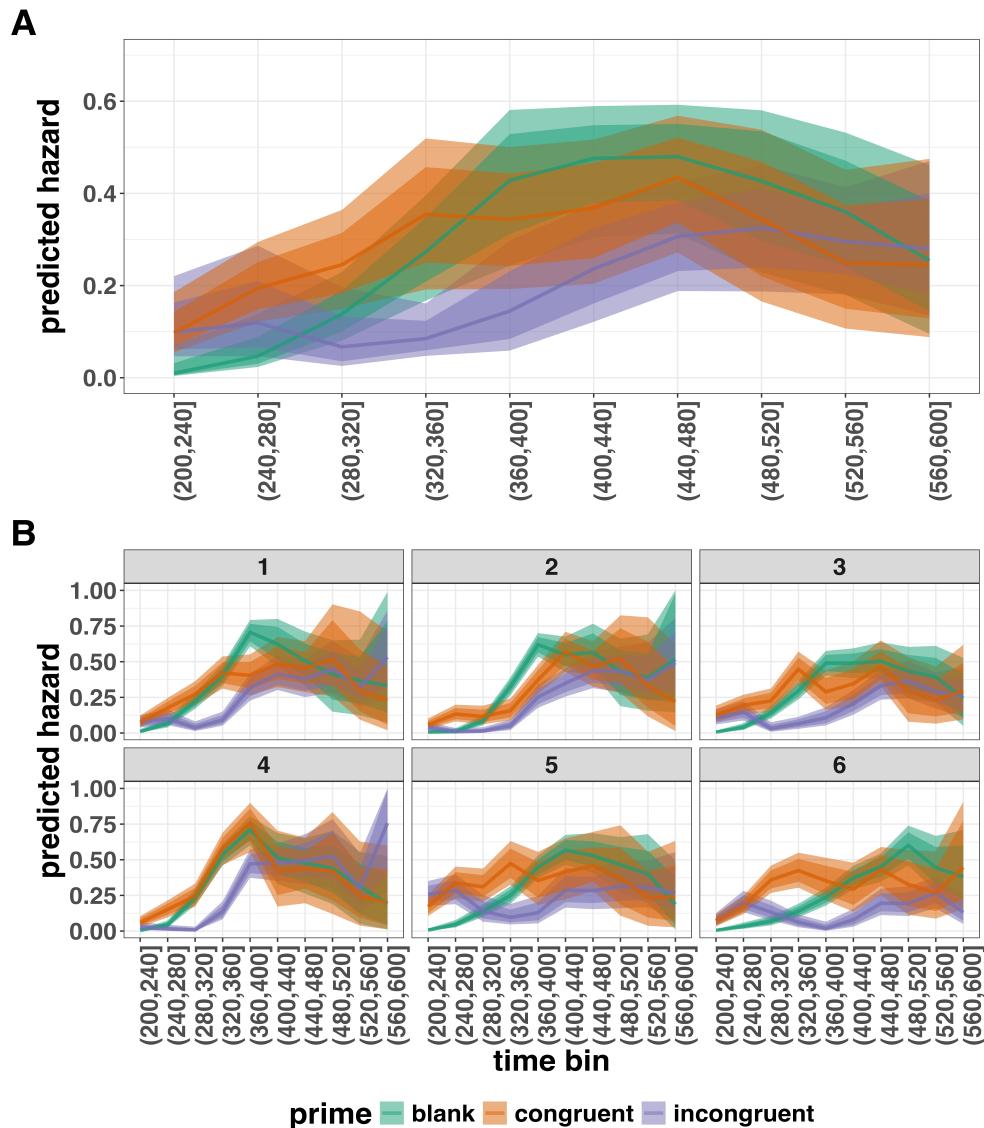


Figure 4. Point (median) and 80/95% credible interval summaries of the hazard estimates (expected values of the draws from the posterior predictive distributions) in each time bin at the population level (A), and for each participant (B).

As we are actually interested in the effects of congruent and incongruent primes, relative to the blank prime condition, we can construct two contrasts (congruent-blank, incongruent-blank), and plot the posterior distributions of these contrast effects, both at

519 the population level (Figure 5A) and at the participant level (Figure 5B).

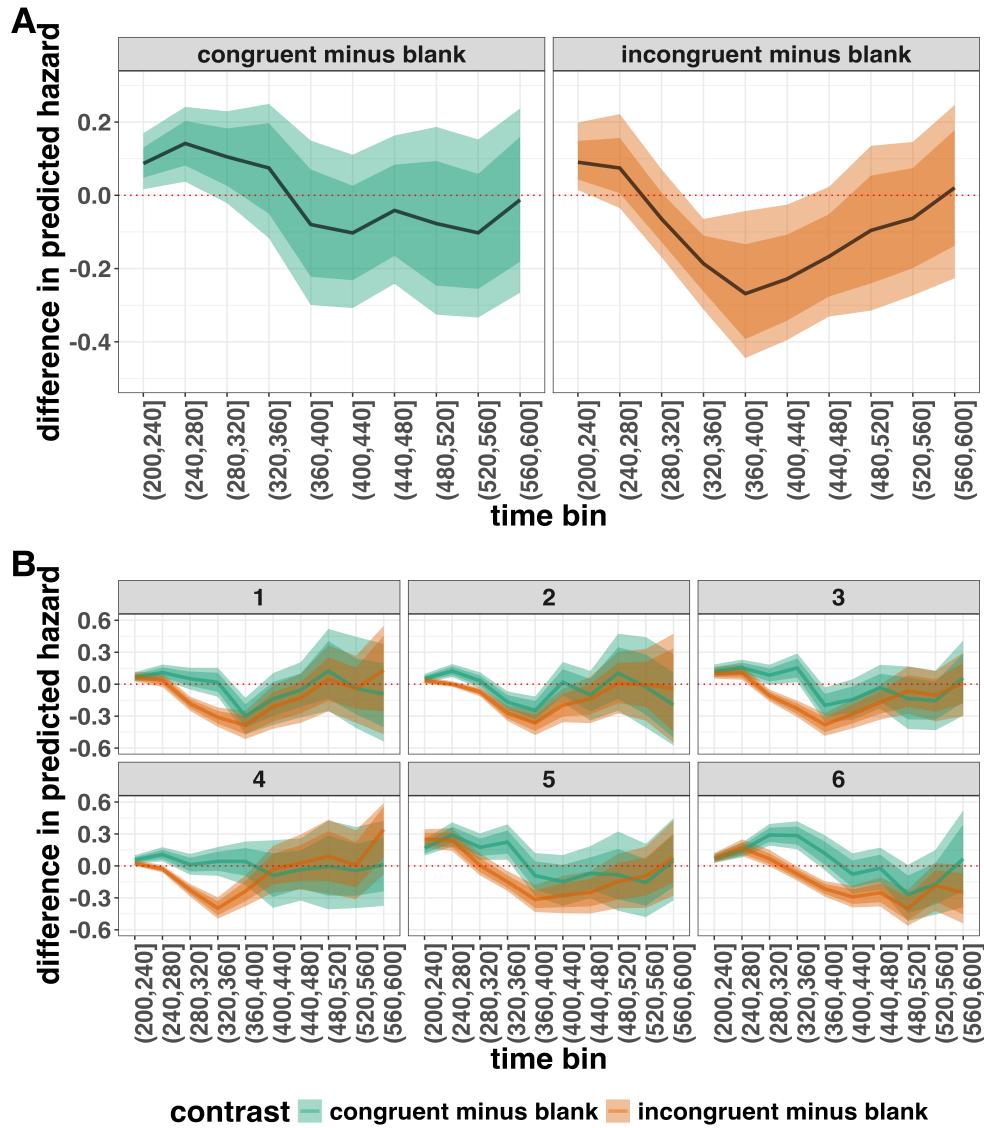


Figure 5. Point (mean) and 80/95% credible interval summaries of estimated differences in hazard in each time bin at the population level (A), and for each participant (B).

520 The point estimates and quantile intervals can also be reported in a table (see  
521 Tutorial\_2a.Rmd for details).

522 **Example conclusions for M1i.** What can we conclude from model M1i about  
523 our research question, i.e., the temporal dynamics of the effect of prime-target congruency

524 on RT? In other words, in which of the 40-ms time bins between 200 and 600 ms after  
525 target onset does changing the prime from blank to congruent or incongruent affect the  
526 hazard of response occurrence (for a prime-target stimulus-onset-asynchrony of 187 ms)?

527 If we want to estimate the population-level effect of prime type on hazard, we can  
528 base our conclusion on the credible Intervals (CrIs) in Figure 5A. The contrast “congruent  
529 minus blank” was estimated to be 0.09 hazard units in bin (200,240] (95% CrI = [0.02,  
530 0.17]), and 0.14 hazard units in bin (240,280]) (95% CrI = [0.04, 0.25]). For the other bins,  
531 the 95% credible interval contained zero. The contrast “incongruent minus blank” was  
532 estimated to be 0.09 hazard units in bin (200,240] (95% CrI = [0.01, 0.21]), -0.19 hazard  
533 units in bin (320,360] (95% CrI = [-0.31, -0.06]), -0.27 hazard units in bin (360,400] (95%  
534 CrI = [-0.45, -0.04]), and -0.23 hazard units in bin (400,440] (95% CrI = [-0.40, -0.03]). For  
535 the other bins, the 95% credible interval contained zero.

536 There are thus two phases of performance for the average person between 200 and  
537 600 ms after target onset. In the first phase, the addition of a congruent or incongruent  
538 prime stimulus increases the hazard of response occurrence compared to blank prime trials  
539 in the time period (200, 240]. In the second phase, only the incongruent prime decreases  
540 the hazard of response occurrence compared to blank primes, in the time period (320,440].  
541 The sign of the effect of incongruent primes on the hazard of response occurrence thus  
542 depends on how much waiting time has passed since target onset.

543 If we want to focus more on inter-individual differences, we can study the  
544 subject-specific hazard functions in Figure 5B. Note that three participants (1, 2, and 3)  
545 show a negative difference for the contrast “congruent minus incongruent” in bin (360,400]  
546 – subject 2 also in bin (320,360]. Interestingly, all subjects show a tendency in their mean  
547 difference (congruent minus blank) to “dip” around that time. Therefore, future modeling  
548 efforts could incorporate the trial number into the model formula, in order to also study  
549 how the effects of prime type on hazard change on the long experiment-wide time scale,

550 next to the short trial-wide time scale. In Tutorial\_2a.Rmd we provide a number of model  
551 formulae that should get you going.

552 **3.4 Tutorial 2b: Fitting Bayesian conditional accuracy models**

553 In this fourth tutorial, we illustrate how to fit a Bayesian multilevel regression model  
554 to the timed accuracy data from the masked response priming data used in Tutorial 1a.  
555 The general process is similar to Tutorial 2a, except that (a) we use the person-trial data,  
556 (b) we use the symmetric logit link function, and (c) we change the priors (our prior belief  
557 is that conditional accuracy values between 0 and 1 are equally likely). To keep the tutorial  
558 short, we only fit one conditional accuracy model, which was based on model M1i from  
559 Tutorial 2a and labelled M1i\_ca.

560 To make inferences from the parameter estimates in model M1i\_ca, we first plot the  
561 densities of the draws from the posterior distributions of its population-level parameters in  
562 Figure 6, together with point (median) and interval estimates (80% and 95% credible  
563 intervals).

## Posterior distributions for population-level effects in Model M1i\_ca

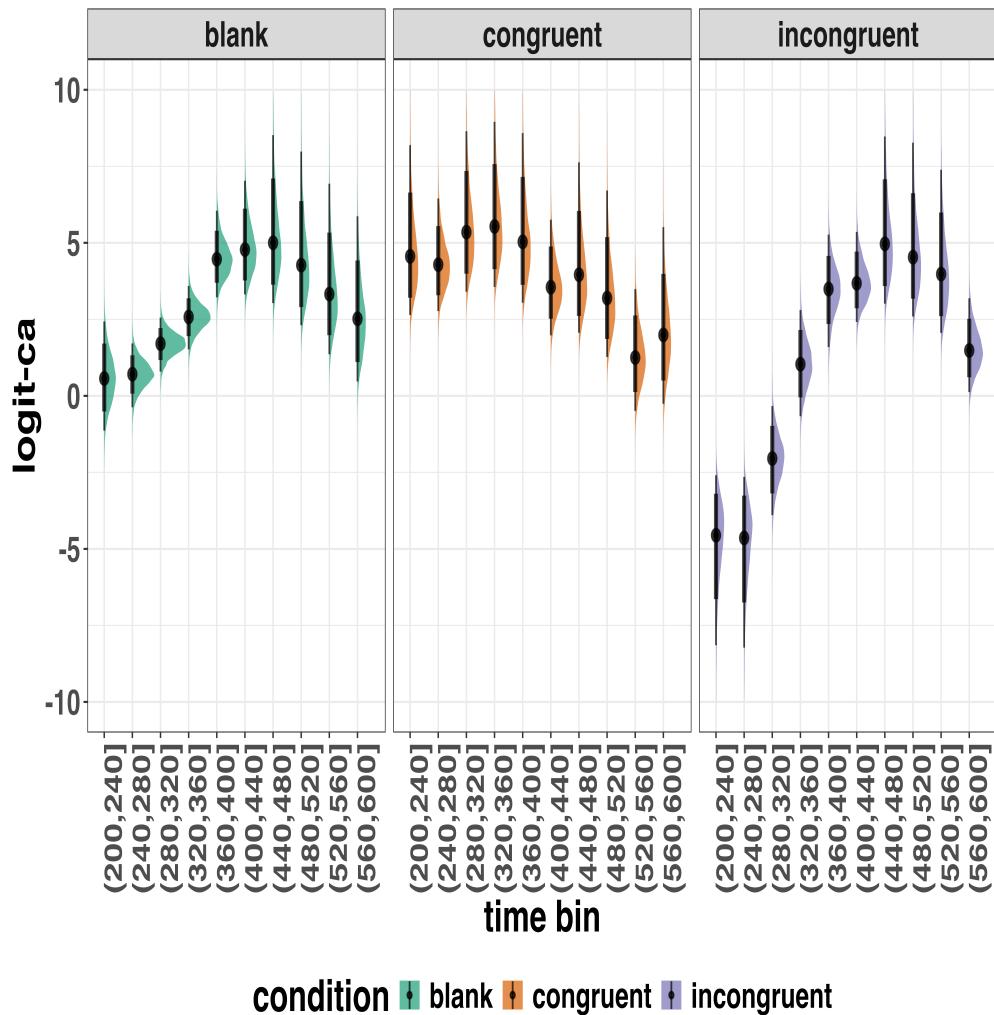
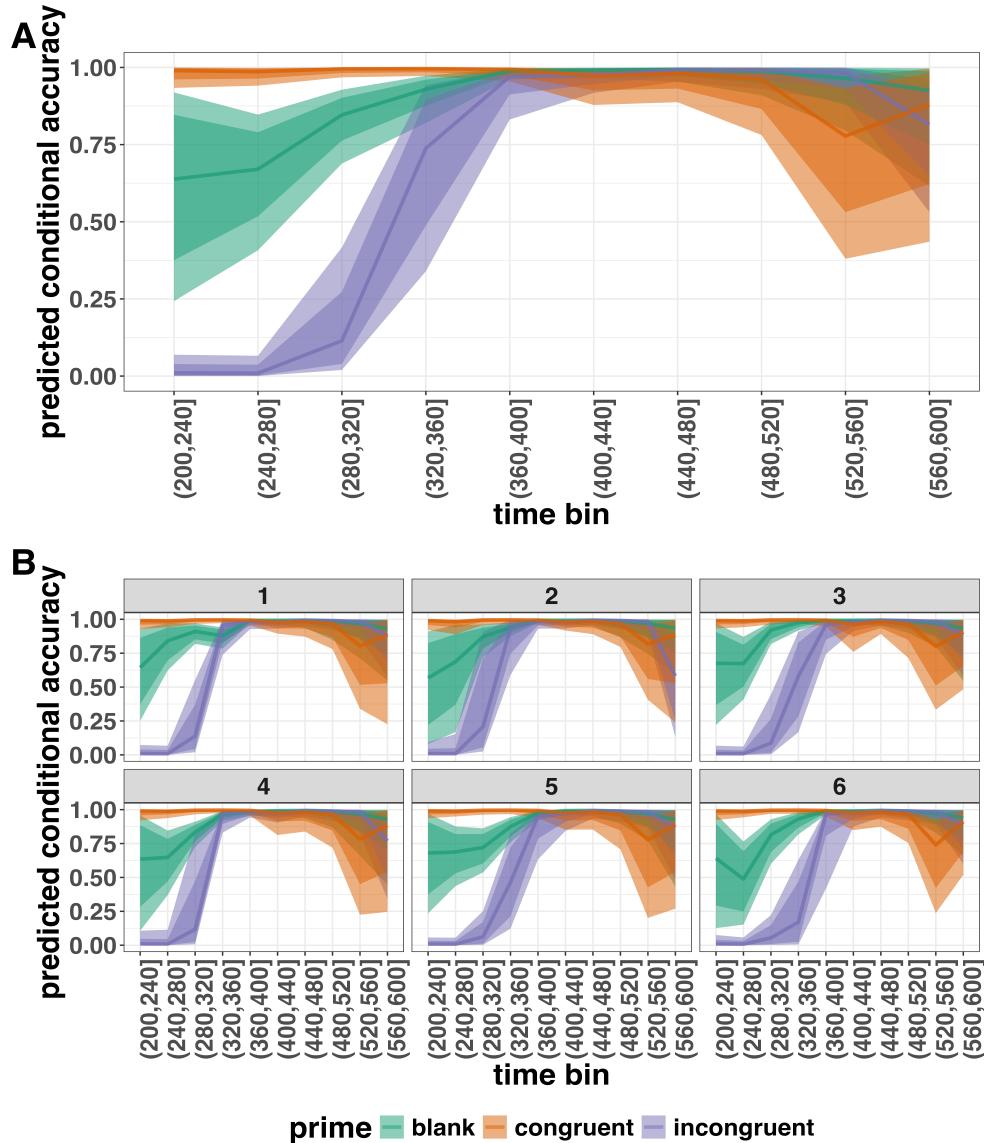


Figure 6. Medians and 80/95% credible intervals of the posterior distributions of the population-level parameters of model M1i\_ca. ca = conditional accuracy.

Because the parameter estimates are on the logit-ca scale, we can ease our

interpretation by plotting the expected value of the posterior predictive distribution – the predicted conditional accuracies – at the population level (Figure 7A), and for each participant in the data set (Figure 7B).



*Figure 7.* Point (median) and 80/95% credible interval summaries of the conditional accuracy estimates (expected values of the draws from the posterior predictive distributions) in each time bin at the population level (A), and for each participant (B).

As we are actually interested in the effects of congruent and incongruent primes,

relative to the blank prime condition, we can construct two contrasts (congruent-blank, incongruent-blank), and plot the posterior distributions of these contrast effects at the population level (Figure 8A) and for each participant (Figure 8B).

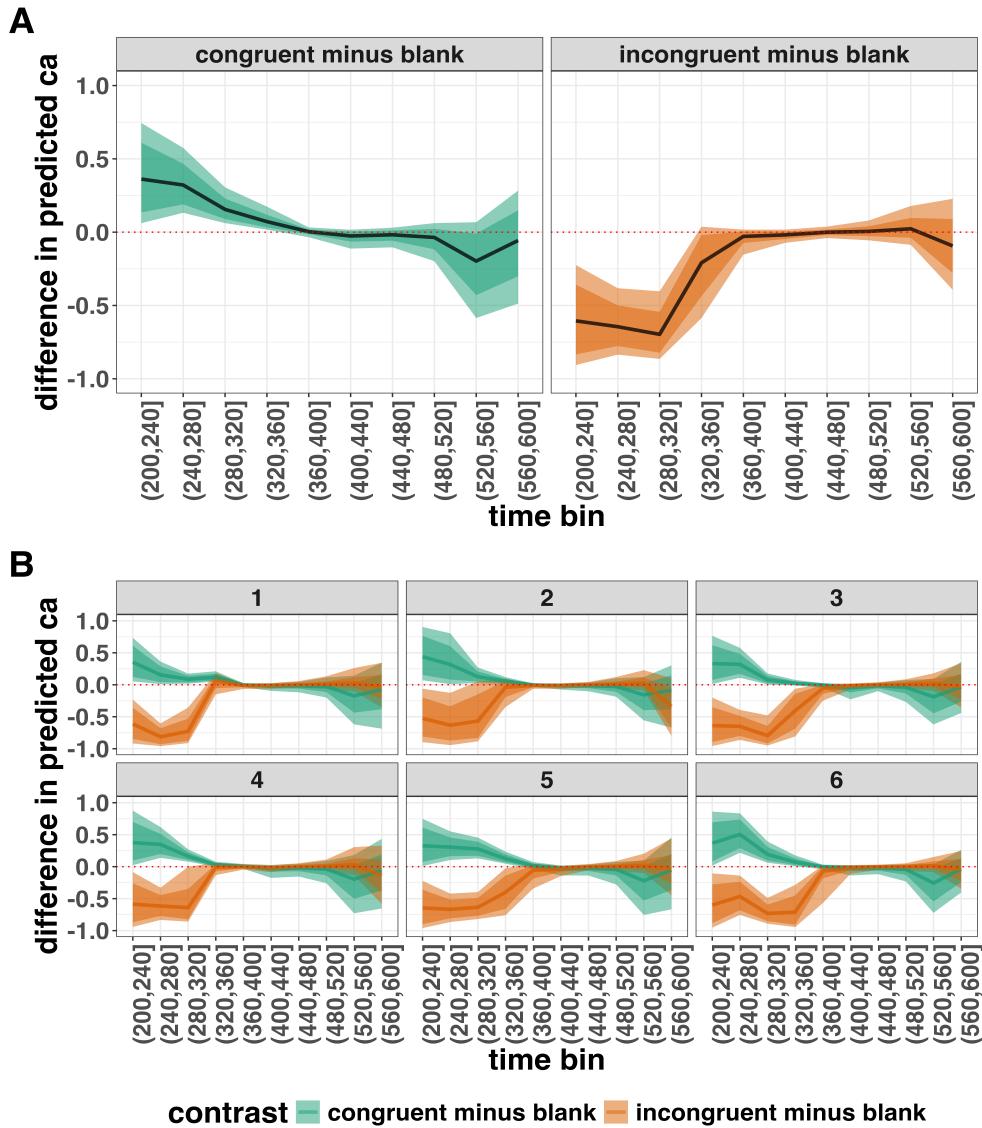


Figure 8. Point (mean) and 80/95% credible interval summaries of estimated differences in conditional accuracy in each time bin at the population level (A), and for each participant (B).

572 Based on Figure 8A we see that on the population level congruent primes have a

573 positive effect on the conditional accuracy of emitted responses in time bins (200,240],

574 (240,280], (280,320], and (320,360], relative to the estimates in the baseline condition

575 (blank prime; red dashed lines in Figure 8A). Incongruent primes have a negative effect on

576 the conditional accuracy of emitted responses in the first time bins, relative to the  
577 estimates in the baseline condition.

578 Finally, because many researchers will be more familiar with frequentist statistics, we  
579 also provide code to fit hazard and conditional accuracy models in the frequentist  
580 framework using the R package `lme4()` (see `Tutorial_3a.Rmd` and `Tutorial_3b.Rmd`).

581 **3.5 Tutorial 4: Planning**

582 In the final tutorial, we look at planning a future experiment, which uses EHA.

583 **3.5.1 Background.** The general approach to planning that we adopt here involves  
584 simulating reasonably structured data to help guide what you might be able to expect from  
585 your data once you collect it (Gelman, Vehtari, et al., 2020). The basic structure and code  
586 follows the examples outlined by Solomon Kurz in his ‘power’ blog posts  
587 (<https://solomonkurz.netlify.app/blog/bayesian-power-analysis-part-i/>) and Lisa  
588 DeBruine’s R package `faux{}` (<https://debruine.github.io/faux/>) as well as these related  
589 papers (DeBruine & Barr, 2021; Pargent, Koch, Kleine, Lermer, & Gaube, 2024).

590 **3.5.2 Basic workflow.** The basic workflow is as follows:

- 591 1. Fit a regression model to existing data.
- 592 2. Use the regression model parameters to simulate new data.
- 593 3. Write a function to create 1000s of datasets and vary parameters of interest (e.g.,  
594 sample size, trial count, effect size).
- 595 4. Summarise the simulated data to estimate likely power or precision of the research  
596 design options.

597 Ideally, in the above workflow, we would also fit a model to each dataset and  
598 summarise the model output, rather than the raw data. However, when each model takes  
599 several hours to build, and we may want to simulate many 1000s of datasets, it can be

600 computationally demanding for desktop machines. So, for ease, here we just use the raw  
601 simulated datasets to guide future expectations.

602 In the below, we only provide a high-level summary of the process and let readers  
603 dive into the details within the tutorial should they feel so inclined.

604 **3.5.3 Fit a regression model and simulate one dataset.** We again use the  
605 data from Panis and Schmidt (2016) to provide a worked example. We fit an index coding  
606 model on a subset of time bins (six time bins in total) and for two prime conditions  
607 (congruent and incongruent). We chose to focus on a subsample of the data to ease the  
608 computational burden. We also used a full varying effects structure, with the model  
609 formula as follows:

```
event ~ 0 + timebin:prime + (0 + timebin:prime | pid)
```

610 We then took parameters from this model and used them to create a single dataset  
611 with 200 trials per condition for 10 individual participants. The raw data and the  
612 simulated data are plotted in Figure 9 and show quite close correspondence, which is  
613 re-assuring. But, this is only one dataset. What we really want to do is simulate many  
614 datasets and vary parameters of interest, which is what we turn to in the next section.

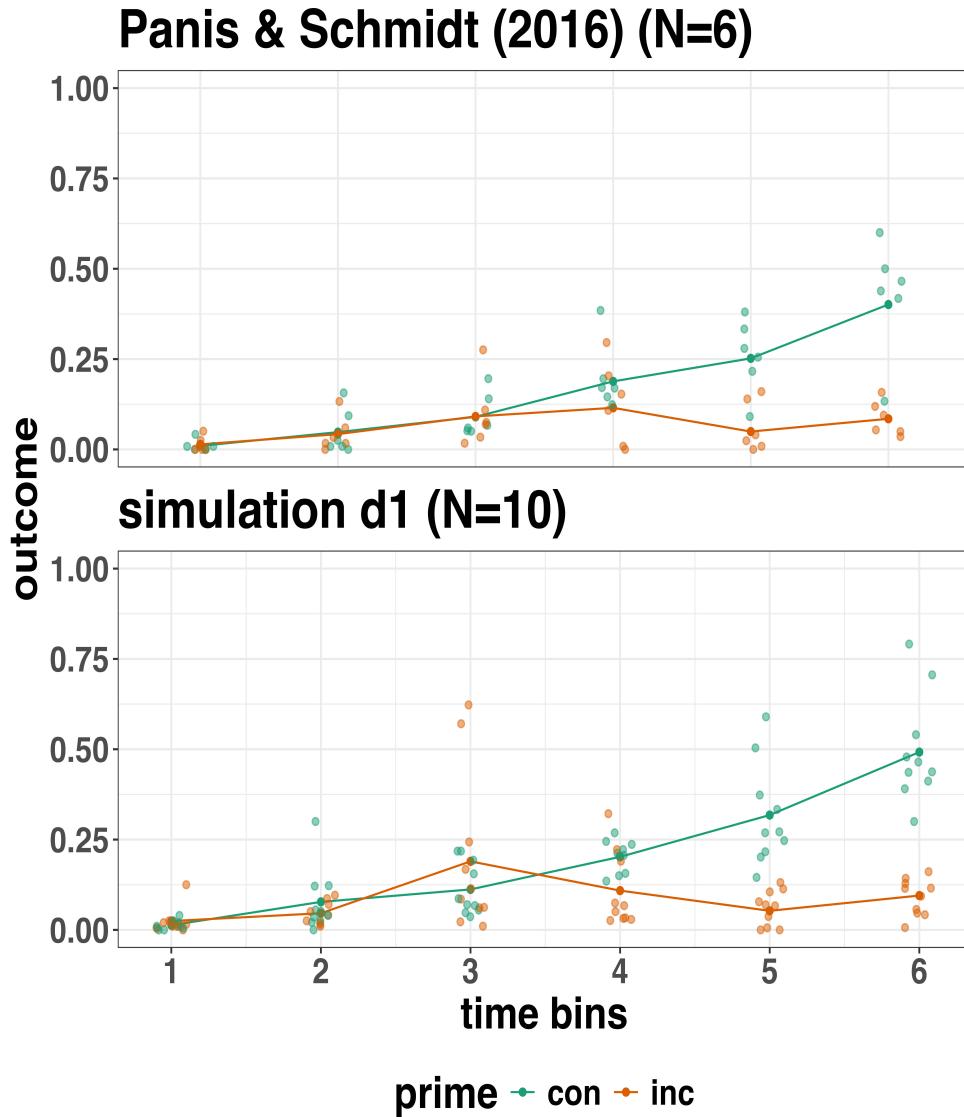


Figure 9. Raw data from Panis and Schmidt (2016) and simulated data from 10 participants.

### 3.5.4 Simulate and summarise data across a range of parameter values.

615        Here we use the same data simulation process as used above, but instead of simulating one  
 616        dataset, we simulate 1000 datasets per variation in parameter values. Specifically, in  
 617        Simulation 1, we vary the number of trials per condition (100, 200, and 400), as well as the  
 618        effect size in bin 6. We focus on bin 6 only, in terms of varying the effect size, just to make  
 619        things simpler and easier to understand. The effect size observed in bin 6 in this subsample  
 620

of data was a 79% reduction in hazard value from the congruent prime (0.401 hazard value) to the incongruent prime condition (0.085 hazard value). In other words, a hazard ratio of 0.21 (e.g.,  $0.085/0.401 = 0.21$ ). As a starting point, we chose three effect sizes, which covered a fairly broad range of hazard ratios (0.25, 0.5, 0.75), which correspond to a 75%, 50% and 25% reduction in hazard value as a function of prime condition.

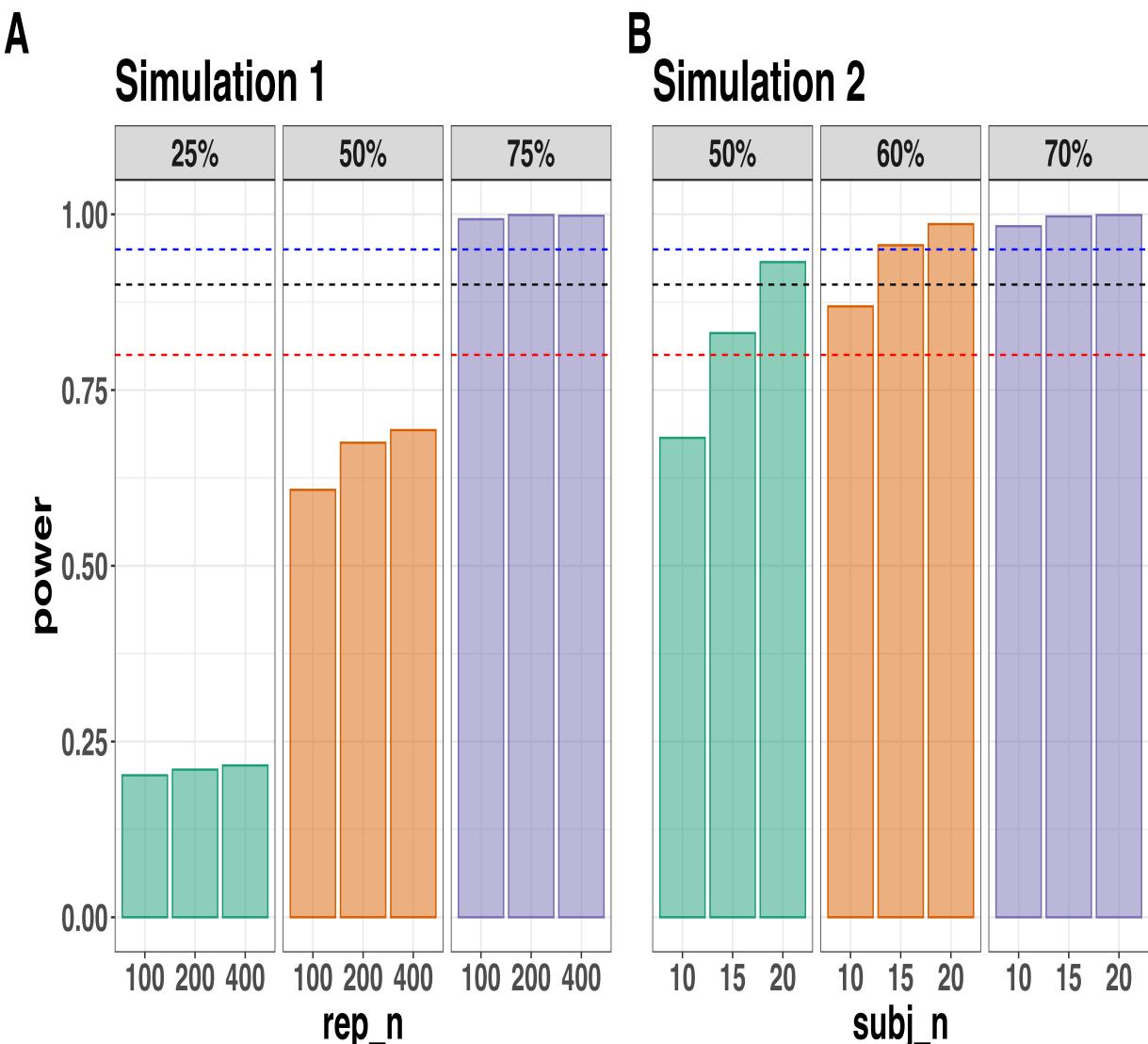
Summary results from Simulation 1 are shown in Figure 10A. Figure 10A depicts statistical “power” as calculated by the percentage of lower-bound 95% confidence intervals that exclude zero when the difference between prime condition is calculated (congruent - incongruent). In other words, what fraction of the simulated datasets generated an effect of prime that excludes the criterion mark of zero. We are aware that “power” is not part of a Bayesian analytical workflow, but we choose to include it here, as it is familiar to most researchers in experimental psychology.

The results of Simulation 1 show that if we were targeting an effect size similar to the one reported in the original study, then testing 10 participants and collecting 100 trials per condition would be enough to provide over 95% power. However, we could not be as confident about smaller effects, such as a hazard ratio of 50% or 25%. From this simulation, we can see that somewhere between an effect size of a 50% and 75% reduction in hazard value, power increases to a range that most researchers would consider acceptable (i.e., >95% power). To probe this space a little further, we decided to run a second simulation, which varied different parameters.

In Simulation 2, we varied the effect size between a different range of values (0.5, 0.4, 0.3), which correspond to a 50%, 60% and 70% reduction in hazard value as a function of prime condition. In addition, we varied the number of participants per experiment between 10, 15, and 20 participants. Given that trial count per condition made little difference to power in Simulation 1, we fixed trial count at 200 trials per condition in Simulation 2. Summary results from Simulation 2 are shown in Figure 10B. A summary of these power

647 calculations might be as follows (trial count = 200 per condition in all cases):

- 648 • For a 70% reduction (0.3 hazard ratio), N=10 would give nearly 100% power.
- 649 • For a 60% reduction (0.4 hazard ratio), N=10 would give nearly 90% power.
- 650 • For a 50% reduction (0.5 hazard ratio), N=15 would give over 80% power.



*Figure 10.* Statistical power across data Simulation 1 (A) and Simulation 2 (B). Power was calculated as the percentage of lower-bound 95% confidence intervals that exclude zero when the difference between prime condition is calculated (congruent - incongruent). In Simulation 1, the effect size was varied between a 25%, 50% and 75% reduction in hazard value, whereas the trial count was varied between 100, 200 and 400 trials per condition (the number of participants was fixed at N=10). In Simulation 2, the effect size was varied between a 50%, 60% and 70% reduction in hazard value, whereas the number of participants was varied between N=10, 15 and 20 (the number of trials per condition was fixed at 200). The dashed lines represent 80% (red), 90% (black) and 95% (blue) power. Abbreviations: rep\_n = the number of trials per experimental condition; subj\_n = the number of participants per simulated experiment.

651       **3.5.5 Planning decisions.** Now that we have summarised our simulated data,

652 what planning decisions could we make about a future study? More concretely, how many

653 trials per condition should we collect and how many participants should we test? Like

654 almost always when planning future studies, the answer depends on your objectives, as well

655 as the available resources (Lakens, 2022). There is no straightforward and clear-cut answer.

656 Some considerations might be as follows:

- 657     • How much power or precision are you looking to obtain in this particular study?

- 658     • Are you running multiple studies that have some form of replication built in?

- 659     • What level of resources do you have at your disposal, such as time, money and

660       personnel?

- 661     • How easy or difficult is it to obtain the specific type of sample?

662       If we were running this kind of study in our lab, what would we do? We might pick a

663 hazard ratio of 0.4 or 0.5 as a target effect size since this is much smaller than that

664 observed previously (Panis & Schmidt, 2016). Then we might pick the corresponding

665 combination of trial count per condition (e.g., 200) and participant sample size (e.g., N=10

666 or N=15) that takes you over the 80% power mark. If we wanted to maximise power based

667 on these simulations, and we had the time and resources available, then we would test

668 N=20 participants, which would provide >90% power for an effect size of 0.5.

669       **But**, and this is an important “but”, unless there are unavoidable reasons, no matter

670 what planning choices we made based on these data simulations, we would not solely rely

671 on data collected from one single study. Instead, we would run a follow-up experiment that

672 replicates and extends the initial result. By doing so, we would aim to avoid the Cult of

673 the Isolated Single Study (Nelder, 1999; Tong, 2019), and thus reduce the reliance on any

674 one type of planning tool, such as a power analysis. Then, we would look for common

675 patterns across two or more experiments, rather than trying to make the case that a single

676 study on its own has sufficient evidential value to hit some criterion mark.

677

#### 4. Discussion

678 This main motivation for writing this paper is the observation that EHA and SAT  
679 analysis remain under-used in psychological research. As a consequence, the field of  
680 psychological research is not taking full advantage of the many benefits EHA/SAT provides  
681 compared to more conventional analyses. By providing a freely available set of tutorials,  
682 which provide step-by-step guidelines and ready-to-use R code, we hope that researchers  
683 will feel more comfortable using EHA/SAT in the future. Indeed, we hope that our  
684 tutorials may help to overcome a barrier to entry with EHA/SAT, which is that such  
685 approaches require more analytical complexity compared to standard approaches. While  
686 we have focused here on within-subject, factorial, small- $N$  designs, it is important to realize  
687 that EHA/SAT can be applied to other designs as well (large- $N$  designs with only one  
688 measurement per subject, between-subject designs, etc.). As such, the general workflow  
689 and associated code can be modified and applied more broadly to other contexts and  
690 research questions. In the following, we discuss the main use-cases, issues relating to model  
691 complexity and interpretability, as well as limitations of the approach.

692 **4.1 What are the main use-cases of EHA for understanding cognition and brain  
693 function?**

694 For those researchers, like ourselves, who are primarily interested in understanding  
695 human cognitive and brain systems, we consider two broadly-defined, main use-cases of  
696 EHA. First, as we hope to have made clear by this point, EHA is one way to investigating  
697 a “temporal states” approach to cognitive processes, by tracking behavior as a function of  
698 step-wise increases in absolute waiting time. EHA thus provides a way to uncover the  
699 microgenesis of cognitive effects, by revealing when cognitive states may start and stop,  
700 how states are replaced with others, as well as what they may be tied to or interact with.  
701 Therefore, if your research questions concern **when psychological states occur, and**

702 **how they are temporally organized**, our EHA tutorials could be useful tools for you to  
703 use.

704 Second, even if you are not primarily interested in studying the temporal  
705 organization of cognitive states, EHA could still be a useful tool to consider using, in order  
706 to qualify inferences that are being made based on comparisons between means. Given that  
707 distinctly different inferences can be made from the same data based on whether one  
708 computes a mean across trials or a RT distribution of events (Figure 1), it may be  
709 important for researchers to supplement comparisons between means with EHA. In any  
710 case, if you have a lot of right-censored observations in your RT data set, and/or your  
711 research question concerns whether and when responses occur, and whether and when  
712 experimental manipulations affect the instantaneous risk of response occurrence, then EHA  
713 should be your method of choice.

714 **4.2 Model complexity versus interpretability**

715 Hazard and conditional accuracy models can quickly become very complex when  
716 adding more than one time scale, due to the many possible higher-order interactions. For  
717 example, some of the models discussed in Tutorial 2a, which we did not focus on in the  
718 main text, contain two time scales as covariates: the passage of time on the within-trial  
719 time scale, and the passage of time on the across-trial (or within-experiment) time scale.  
720 However, when trials are presented in blocks, and blocks of trials within sessions, and when  
721 the experiment comprises a number of sessions, then four time scales can be defined  
722 (within-trial, within-block, within-session, and within-experiment). From a theoretical  
723 perspective, adding more than one time scale – and their interactions – can be important  
724 to capture plasticity and other learning effects that may play out on such longer time  
725 scales, and that are probably present in each experiment in general (Schöner & Spencer,  
726 2016). From a practical perspective, therefore, some choices need to be made to balance  
727 the amount of data that is being collected per participant, condition and across the varying

728 timescales. As one example, if there are several timescales of relevance, then it might be  
729 prudent for interpretational purposes to limit the number of experimental predictor  
730 variables (conditions). This is of course where planning and data simulation efforts would  
731 be important to provide a guide to experimental design choices (see Tutorial 4 and section  
732 2.3).

### 733 4.3 Limitations

734 Compared to the orthodox method – comparing means between conditions – the  
735 most important limitation of multilevel hazard and conditional accuracy modeling is that it  
736 might take a long time to estimate the parameters using Bayesian methods or the model  
737 might have to be simplified significantly to use frequentist methods. Relatedly, as these  
738 models can be quite complex in terms of the number of possible parameters, more thought  
739 is required at the model specification and model building stages.

740 Another issue is that you need a relatively large number of trials per condition to  
741 estimate the discrete-time hazard function with relatively high temporal resolution (e.g., 20  
742 ms), which is required when testing predictions of process models of cognition. Indeed, in  
743 general, there is a trade-off between the number of trials per condition and the temporal  
744 resolution (i.e., bin width) of the discrete-time hazard function. Therefore, we recommend  
745 researchers to collect as many trials as possible per experimental condition, given the  
746 available resources and considering the participant experience (e.g., fatigue and boredom).  
747 For instance, if the maximum session length deemed reasonable is between 1 and 2 hours,  
748 what is the maximum number of trials per condition that you could reasonably collect?  
749 After consideration, it might be worth conducting multiple testing sessions per participant  
750 and/or reducing the number of experimental conditions. There is a user-friendly online tool  
751 for calculating statistical power as a function of the number of trials as well as the number  
752 of participants, and this might be worth consulting to guide the research design process  
753 (Baker et al., 2021). Finally, if you have a lot of repeated measurements per condition per

<sup>754</sup> participant, you can of course also try continuous-time methods (Allison, 2010; Elmer et  
<sup>755</sup> al., 2023).

<sup>756</sup>

## 5. Conclusions

<sup>757</sup> Estimating the temporal distributions of RT and accuracy provide a rich source of  
<sup>758</sup> information on the time course of cognitive processing, which have been largely  
<sup>759</sup> undervalued in the history of experimental psychology and cognitive neuroscience. We  
<sup>760</sup> hope that by providing a set of hands-on, step-by-step tutorials, which come with  
<sup>761</sup> custom-built and freely available code, researchers will feel more comfortable embracing  
<sup>762</sup> EHA and investigating the shape of empirical hazard functions and the temporal profile of  
<sup>763</sup> cognitive states. On a broader level, we think that wider adoption of such approaches will  
<sup>764</sup> have a meaningful impact on the inferences drawn from data, as well as the development of  
<sup>765</sup> theories regarding the structure of cognition.

766

**Author contributions**

767       Conceptualization: S. Panis and R. Ramsey; Software: S. Panis and R. Ramsey;  
768   Writing - Original Draft Preparation: S. Panis; Writing - Review & Editing: S. Panis and  
769   R. Ramsey; Supervision: R. Ramsey.

770

**Conflicts of Interest**

771       The author(s) declare that there were no conflicts of interest with respect to the  
772   authorship or the publication of this article.

773

**Prior versions**

774       All of the submitted manuscript and Supplemental Material was previously posted to  
775   a preprint archive: <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/57bh6>

776

**Supplemental Material**

777

**Disclosures**

778       **Data, materials, and online resources**

779       Link to public archive:  
780   [https://github.com/sven-panis/Tutorial\\_Event\\_History\\_Analysis](https://github.com/sven-panis/Tutorial_Event_History_Analysis)  
781       Supplemental Material: Panis\_Ramsey\_suppl\_material.pdf

782       **Ethical approval**

783       Ethical approval was not required for this tutorial in which we reanalyze existing  
784   data sets.

785

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