

# Generation and Prevention in continuous time causal induction

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# Background

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- Paradigm Demo
  - [https://www.bramleylab.ppls.ed.ac.uk/experiments/tia/diamond\\_demo/](https://www.bramleylab.ppls.ed.ac.uk/experiments/tia/diamond_demo/)
- Causal structure learning
- From micro-temporal dynamics

# Background

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- Including generative and preventative causal learning in the same causal system
- Building both computational-level and algorithmic-level models to predict human inference
- Examining previous findings under the contingency/contiguity issues

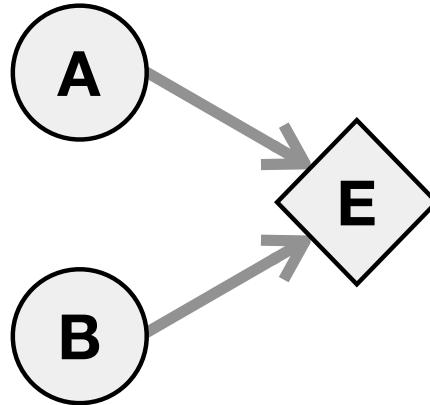
# Background

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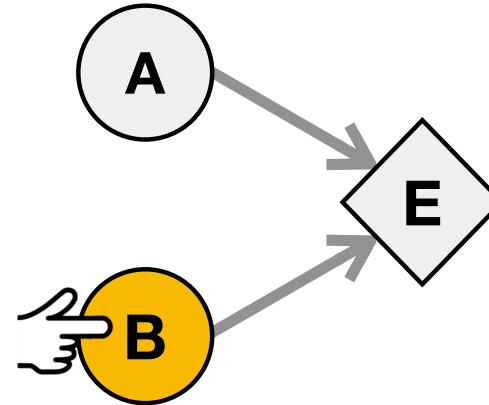
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# Experimental design

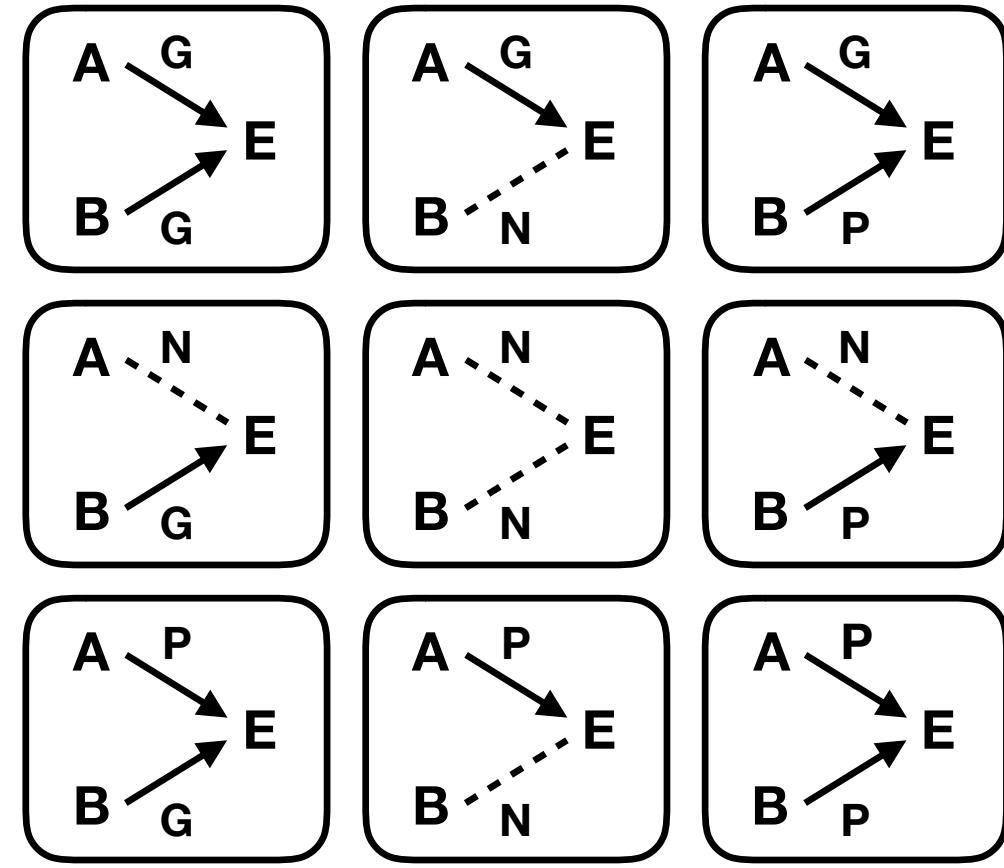
a) Inactivated state



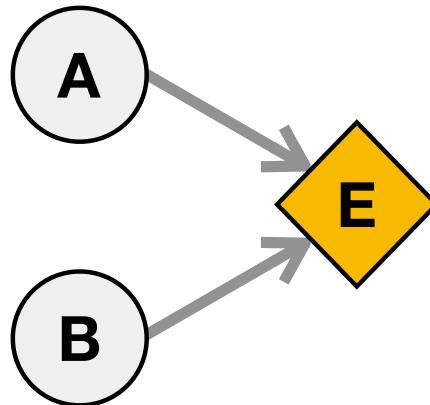
b) Cause activation



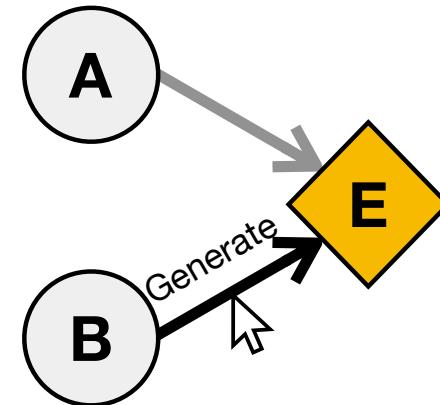
e) Possible causal structures



c) Effect activation

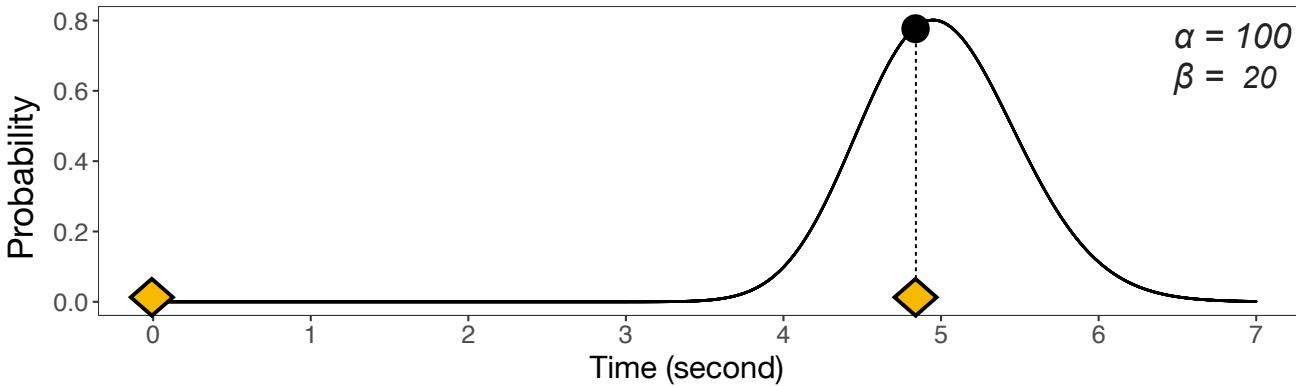


d) Marking the link

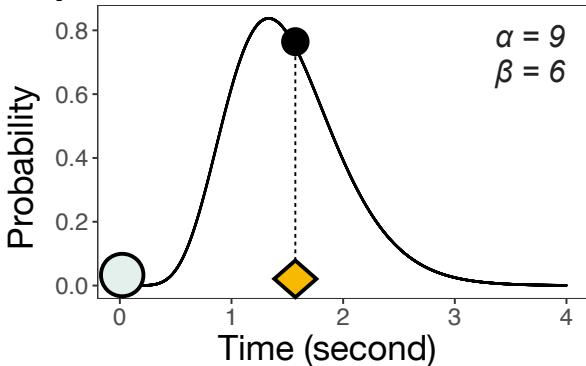


# Experimental design

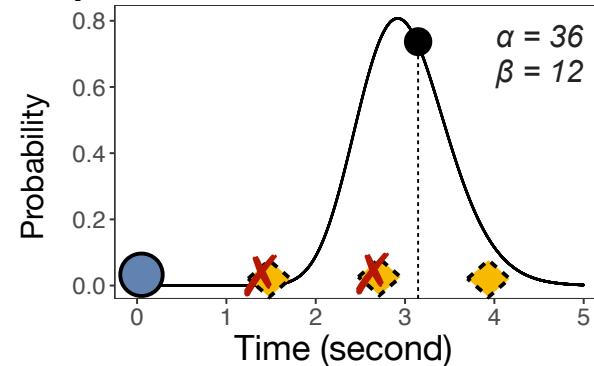
a) Base rate



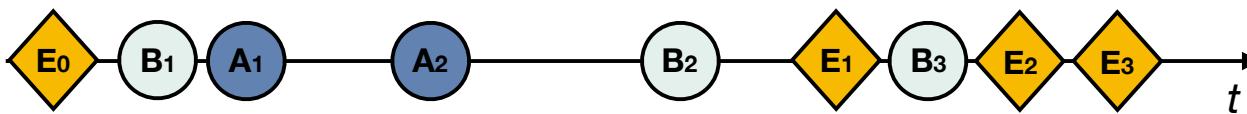
b) Generation



c) Prevention



d) Example of real-time activation



# Background

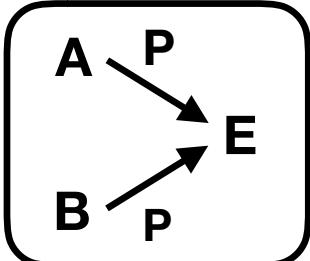
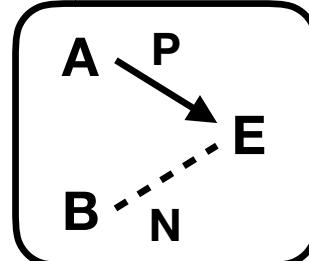
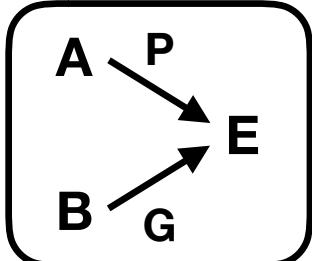
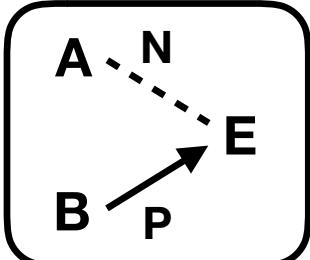
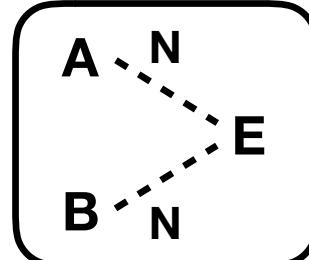
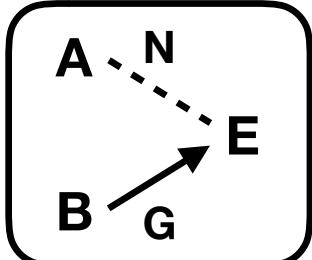
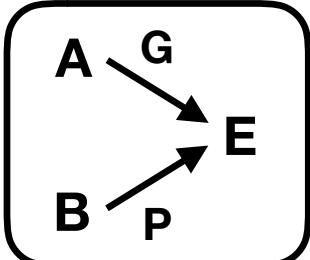
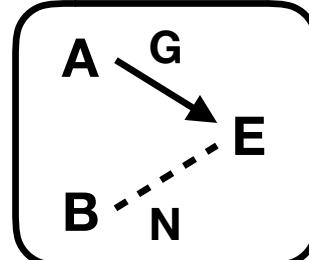
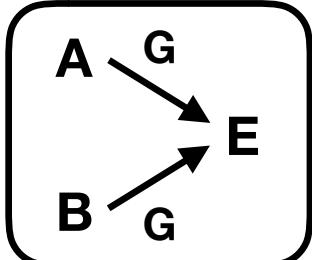
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- Including generative and preventative causal learning in the same causal system
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# 1. Actual Causal Attribution (Normative)

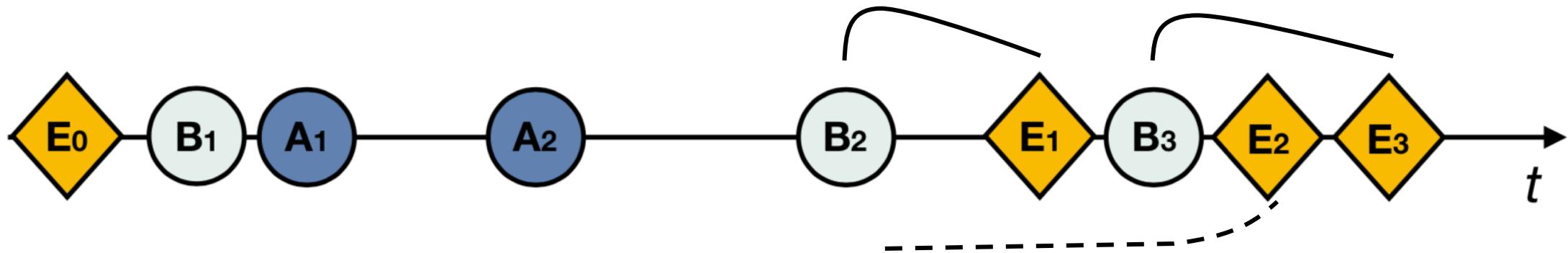
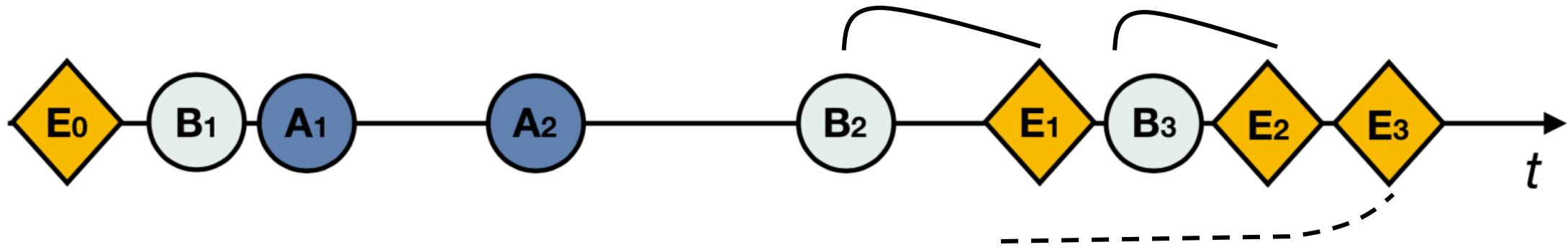
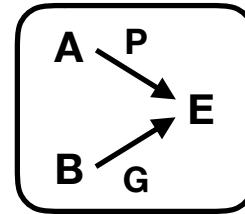
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$$P(S|\mathbf{d}_\tau, \mathbf{w}) \propto p(\mathbf{d}_\tau|S, \mathbf{w}) \cdot P(S)$$



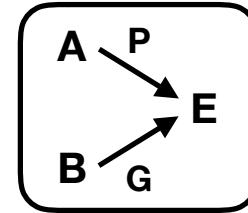
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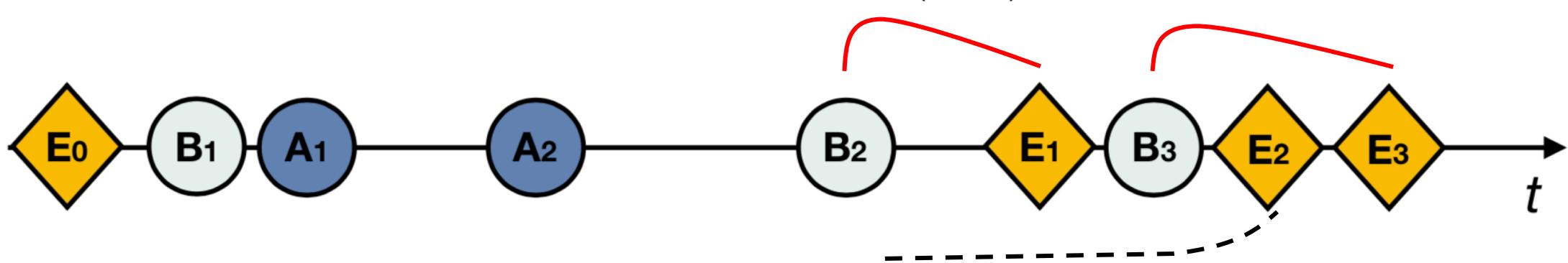
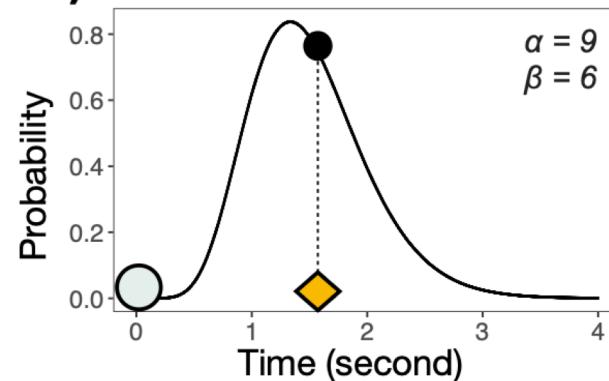


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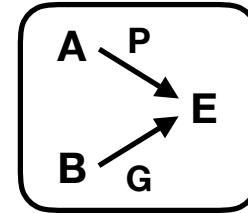


**Generative path:** the delay between the effect and its supposed actual cause.

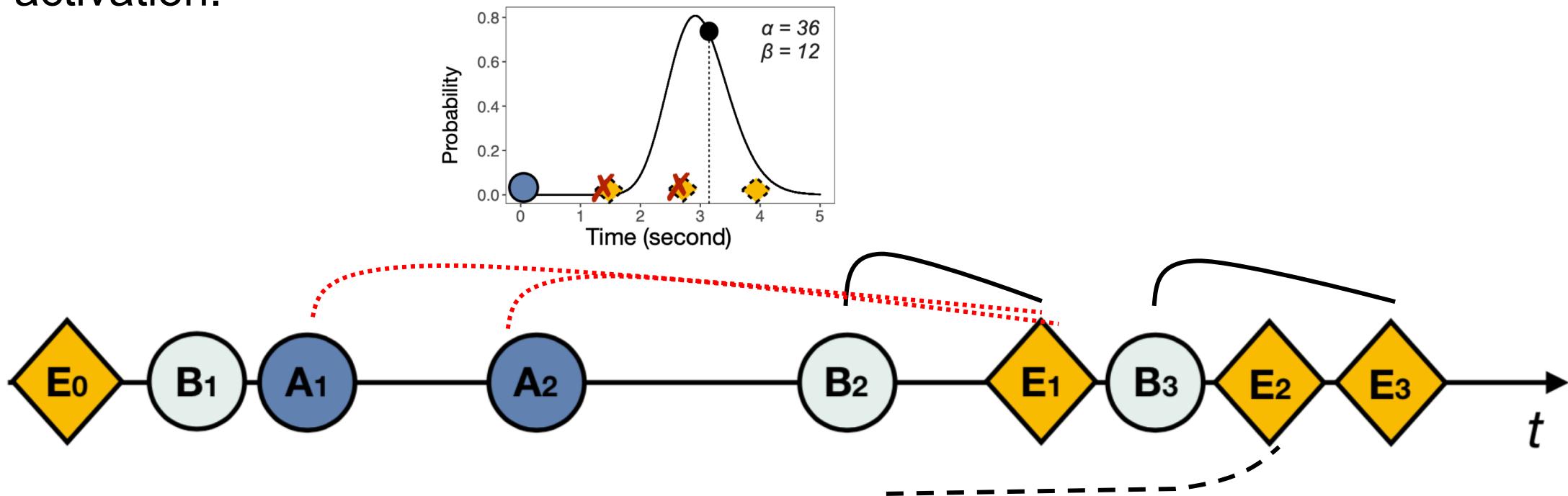


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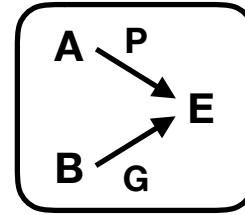


**Preventative path:** the delay between the supposed preventative control component's activation and its following subsequent target component activation.

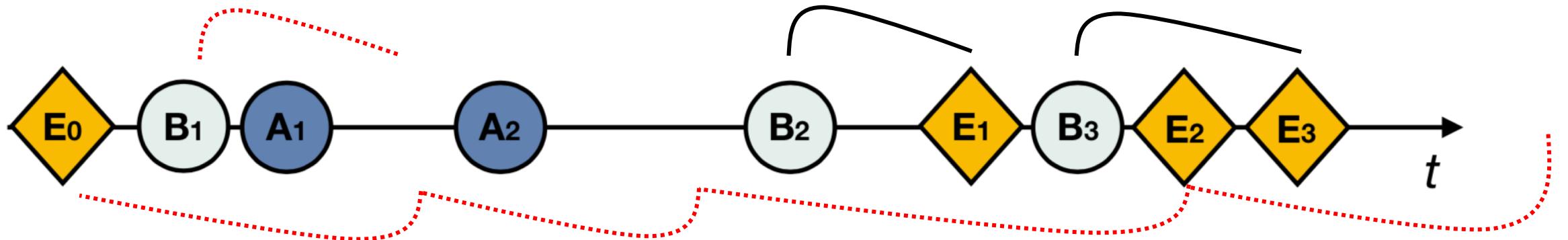


# 1. Actual Causal Attribution (Normative)

$$P(S|\mathbf{d}_\tau, \mathbf{w}) \propto p(\mathbf{d}_\tau|S, \mathbf{w}) \cdot P(S)$$



**Reflective path:** for supposed causes that did not have their corresponding effect  $e$  in the path, we must attribute them as either occurring after the end of the clip or as prevented.



## 2. Feature-based Inference

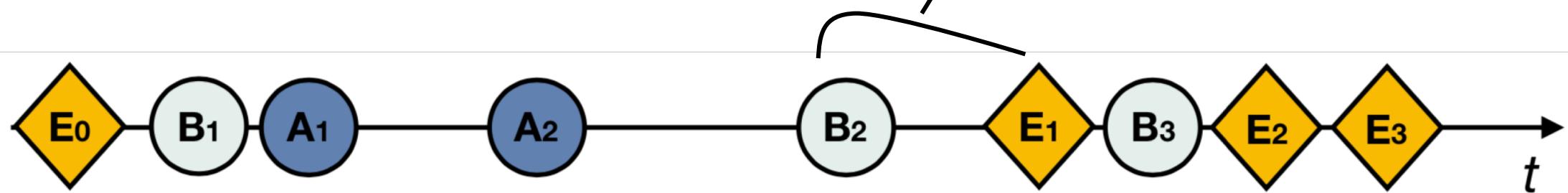
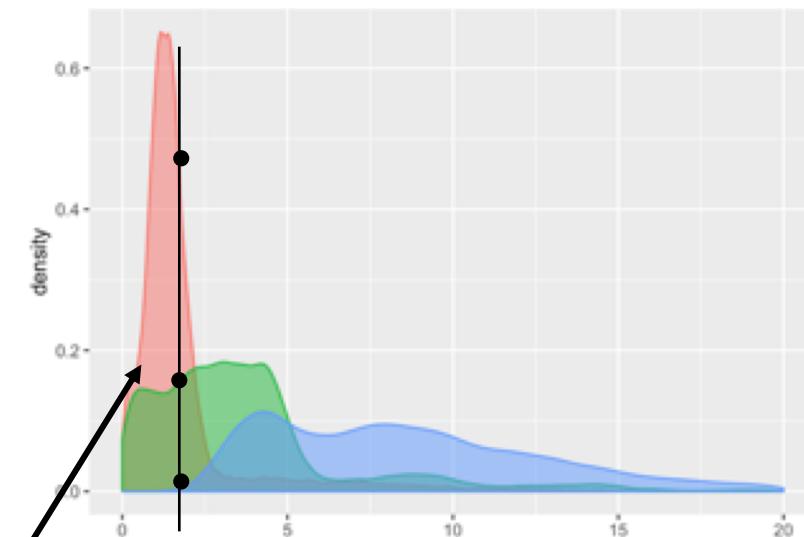
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$$P(S|\mathbf{d}_\tau, \mathbf{w}) \propto p(\mathbf{d}_\tau|S, \mathbf{w}) \cdot P(S)$$

*“combine imagination with the reality to draw causal conclusions”*

**Feature 1:** the **delay** between control component's activation and its nearest target component's activation.

**Feature 2:** following effect **number** before any other activation of any control component.



# 3. Expectation-violation local inference

*“update their belief about one connection (local updating) every time the expectation of a target component’s activation given the current belief is violated.”*

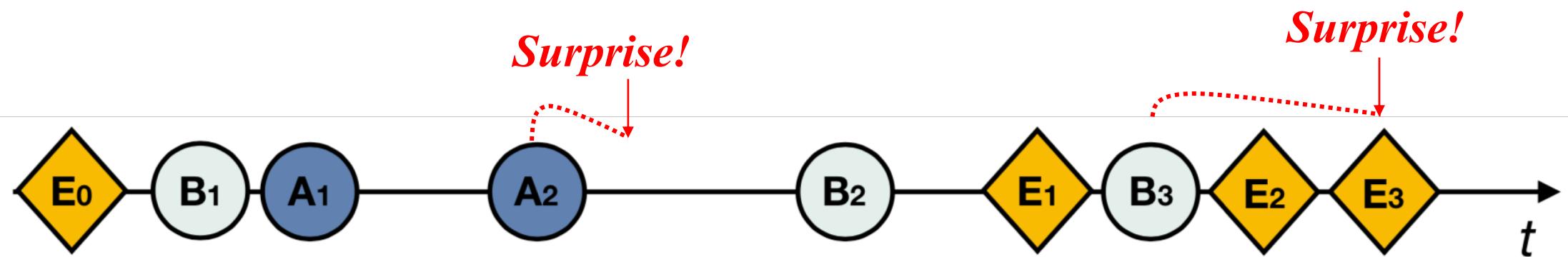
**Expectation accumulation:**  $\mathbb{E}(e) = - \sum_{g' \in \mathbf{G}_b} \ln(1 - p(t_{g' \rightarrow e} > t_{g'e} | \mathbf{w}, b) \cdot c)$

**Penalization:**  $c = \prod_{p' \in \mathbf{P}_b} p(t_{p' \rightarrow e} < t_{p'e} | \mathbf{w}, b))$

Initialization: both non-causal

Upper boundary (for preventative attribution):  $\eta$

Lower boundary (for generative attribution):  $\exp(1-\eta)$



# Model comparison

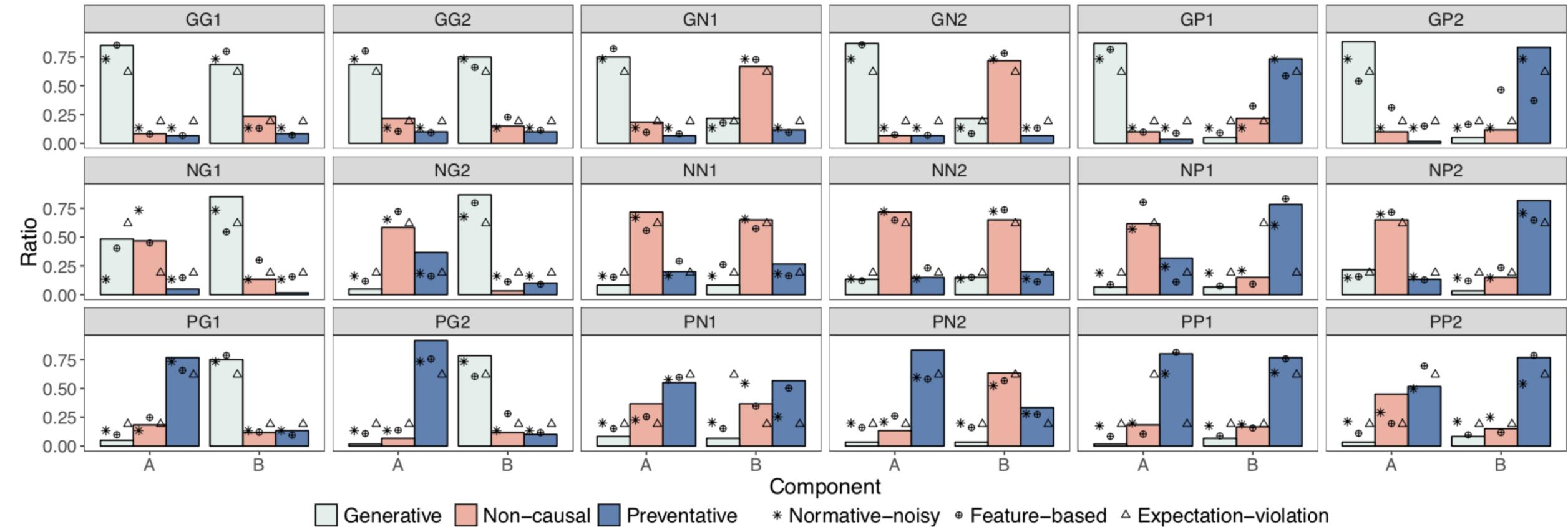
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Table 1: Feature comparison between models.

Model	Forward thinking	Actual attribution	Full evidence	Multi-links updating
NN	✓	✓	✓	✓
FB	✓	✗	✗	✓
EV	✓	✓	✗	✗

Note: NN:Normative & Normative-noisy; FB:Feature-based;  
EV:Expectation-violation.

# Human results



# Human results

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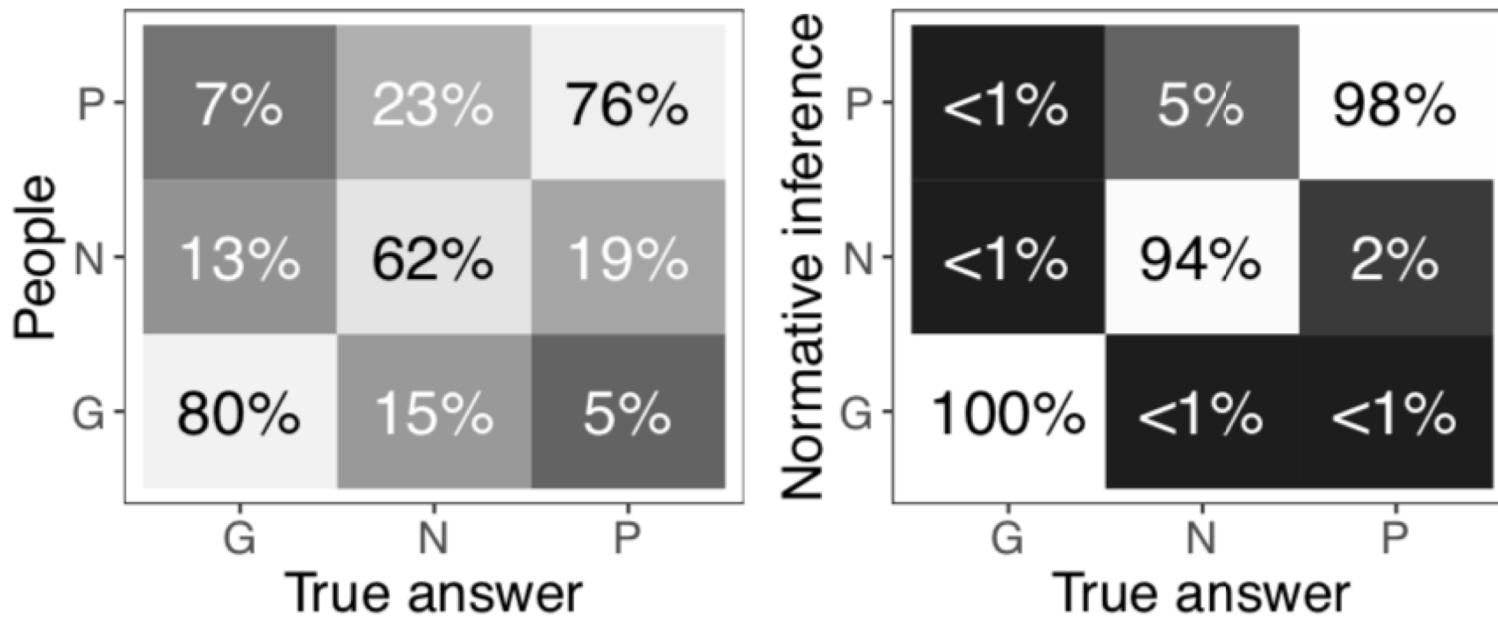


Figure 4: Overall choice patterns between different kinds of causal connections (participants vs. normative model).

# Model comparison

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$$p(n) = \frac{\exp(\lambda \cdot v_n)}{\sum_{n' \in N} \exp(\lambda \cdot v_{n'})}$$

Table 2: Model accuracy and fitting results at device level.

Model	Accuracy	Parameters	BIC	N Best
NN:	82-95%	$\lambda:2.67; \theta:3$	3382	14/60
FB:				<b>35/60</b>
delay	60%	$\lambda:3.11$	3621	(12)
number	44%	$\lambda:5.20$	3559	(10)
combine	44-60%	$\lambda_d:1.92; \lambda_n:3.52$	<b>3278</b>	(13)
EV:	11-78%	$\lambda:2.05; \eta:3.86$	3782	6/60
RD:	11%		4768	5/60

Note: NN:Normative & Normative-noisy; FB:Feature-based; EV:Expectation-violation; RD:Random. Model accuracy was calculated prior to the fitting of human data and under consideration of noise ( $\theta$ ) and threshold ( $\eta$ ) parameters.

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# Regularity

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- Regular
  - Base rate:  $5 \pm 0.5$
  - Generative:  $1.5 \pm 0.5$
  - Preventative:  $3 \pm 0.5$
- Semi-regular
  - Base rate:  $5 \pm 5$  (memoryless)
  - Generative:  $1.5 \pm 0.5$
  - Preventative:  $3 \pm 0.5$
- Irregular
  - Base rate:  $5 \pm 5$  (memoryless)
  - Generative:  $1.5 \pm 1$
  - Preventative:  $3 \pm 1$

# Regularity-normative

*Clip number in each regularity\*structure = 80*

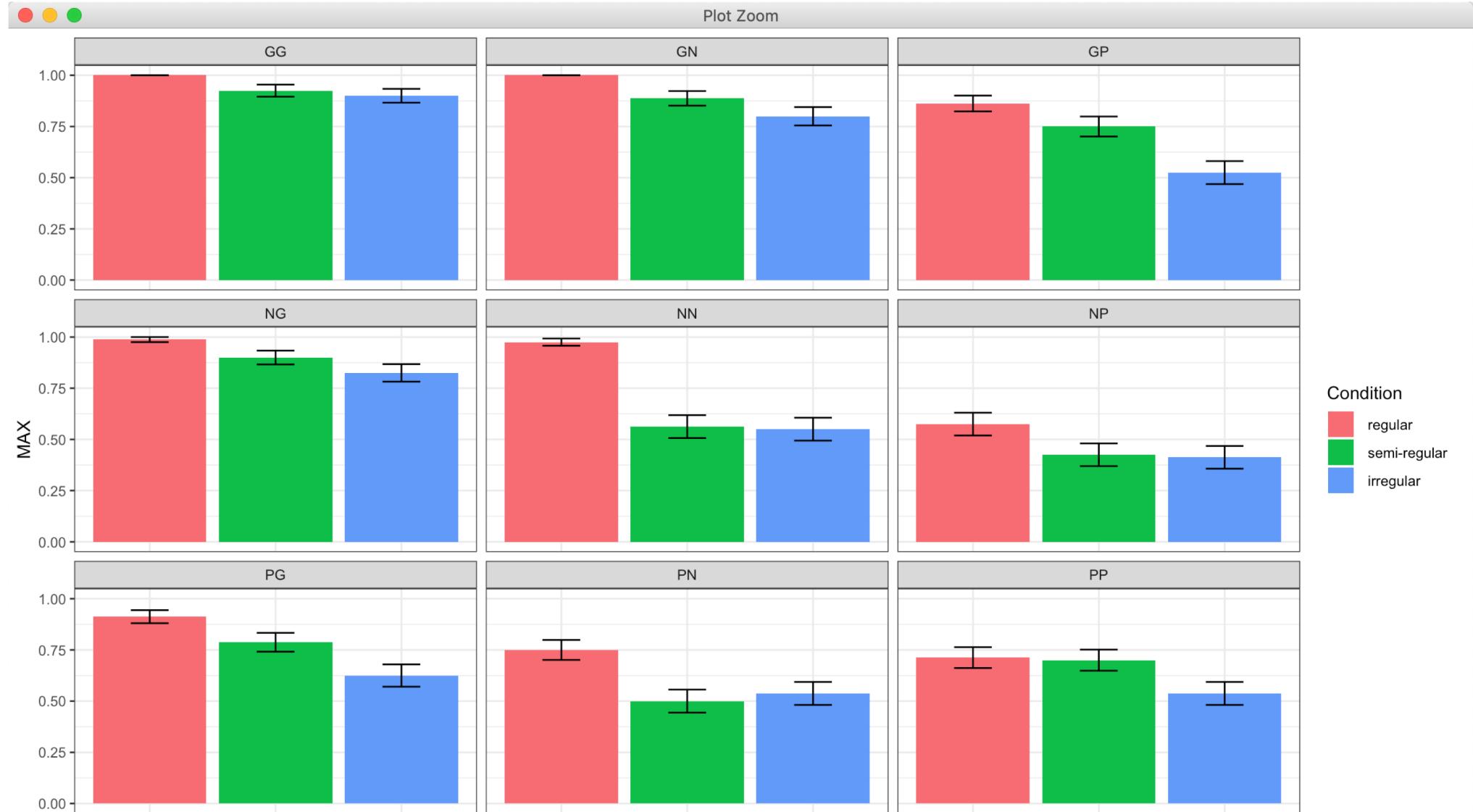
*ACC*



# Regularity-normative

*Clip number in each regularity\*structure = 80*

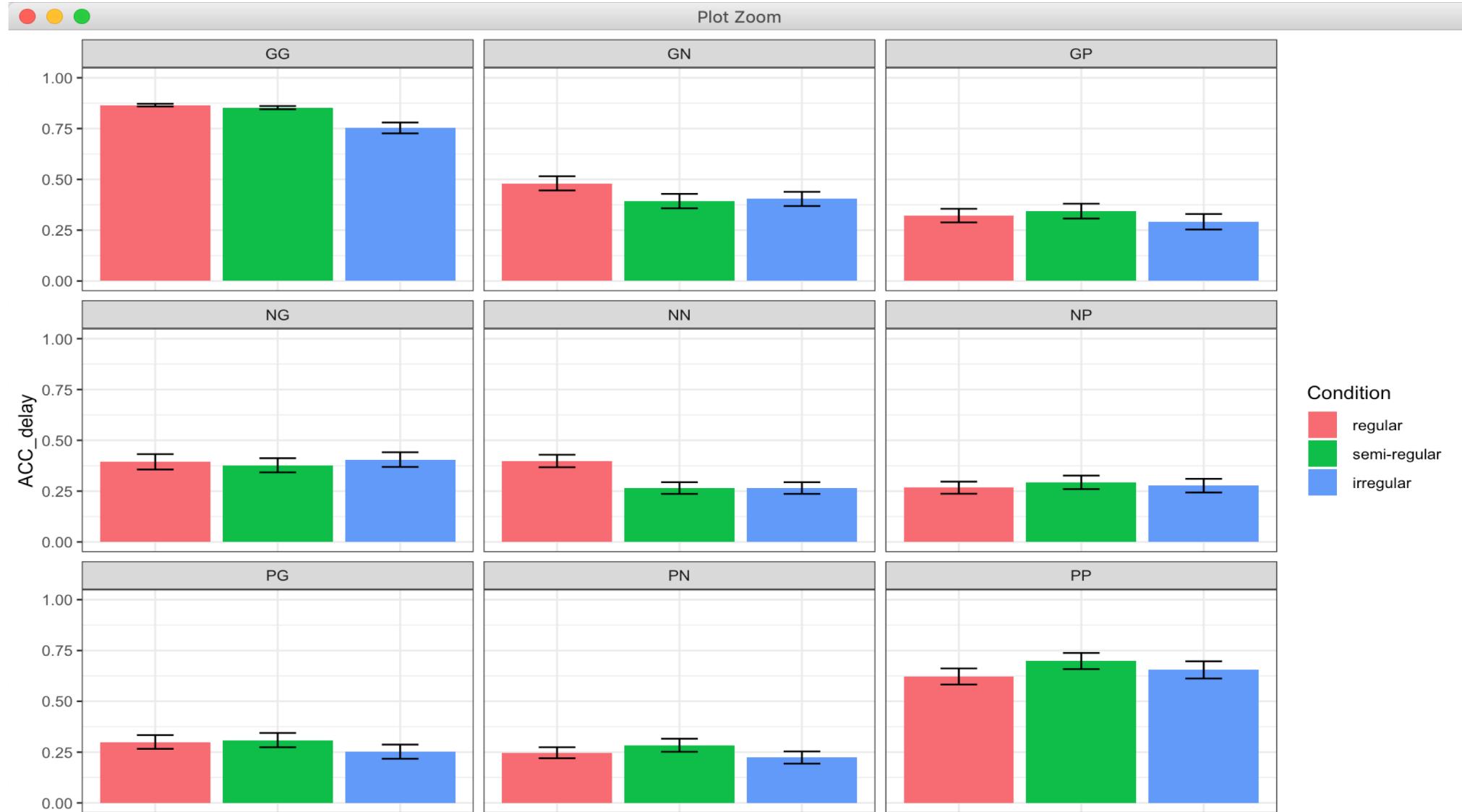
*MAP*



# Regularity- F: delay

*Clip number in each regularity\*structure = 60  
(expectation simulation=1000)*

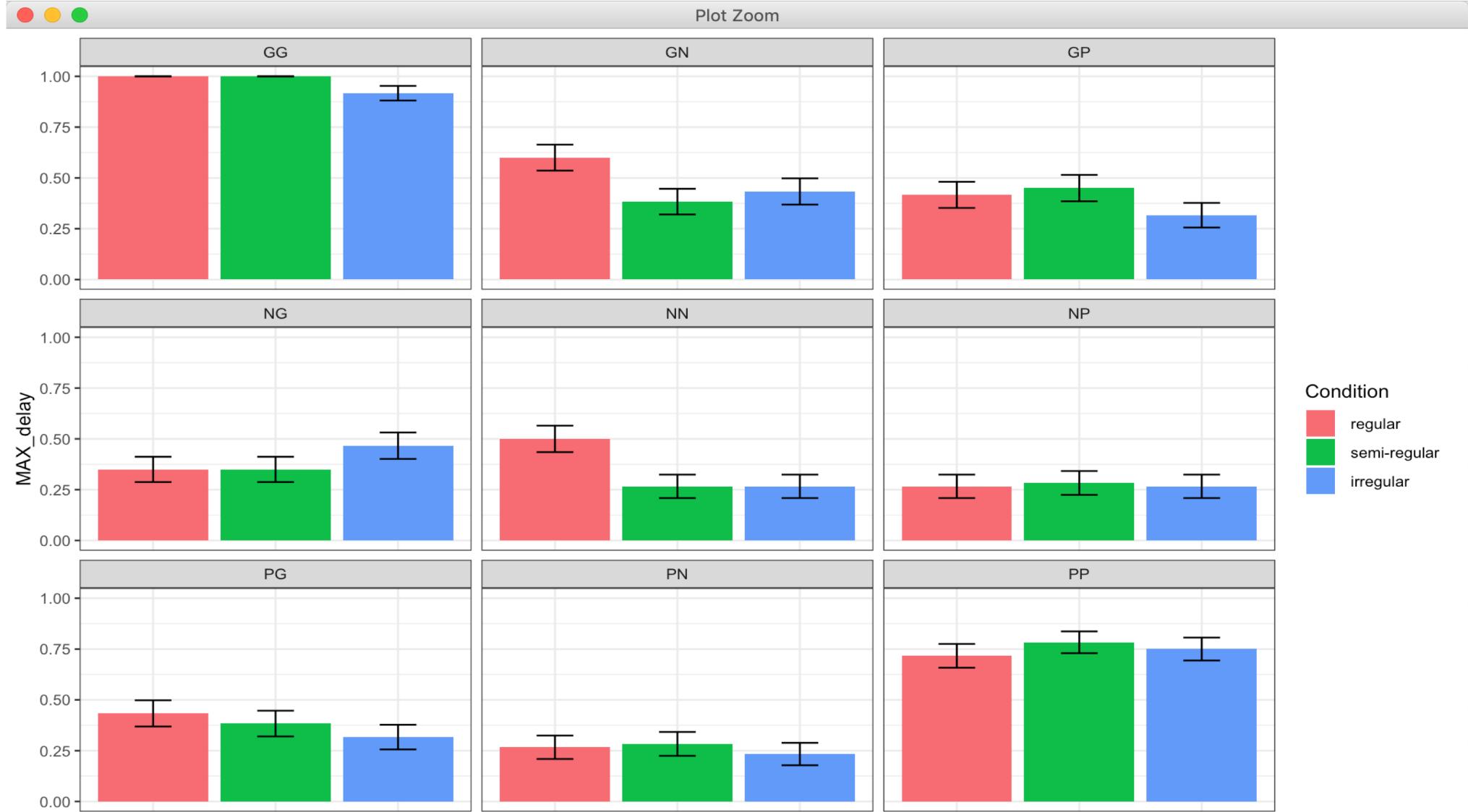
*ACC*



# Regularity- F: delay

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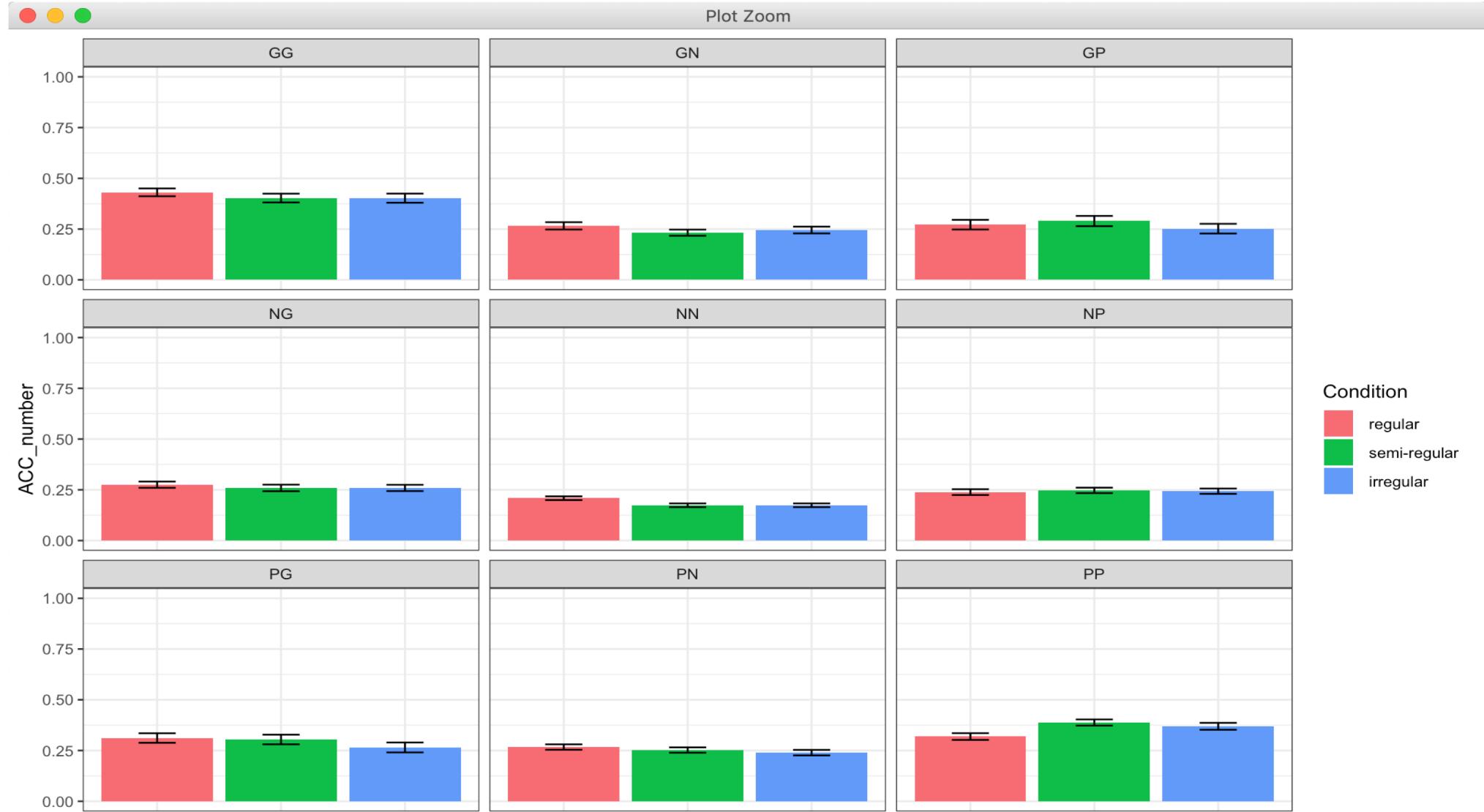
*MAP*



# Regularity- F: num

*Clip number in each regularity\*structure = 60  
(expectation simulation=1000)*

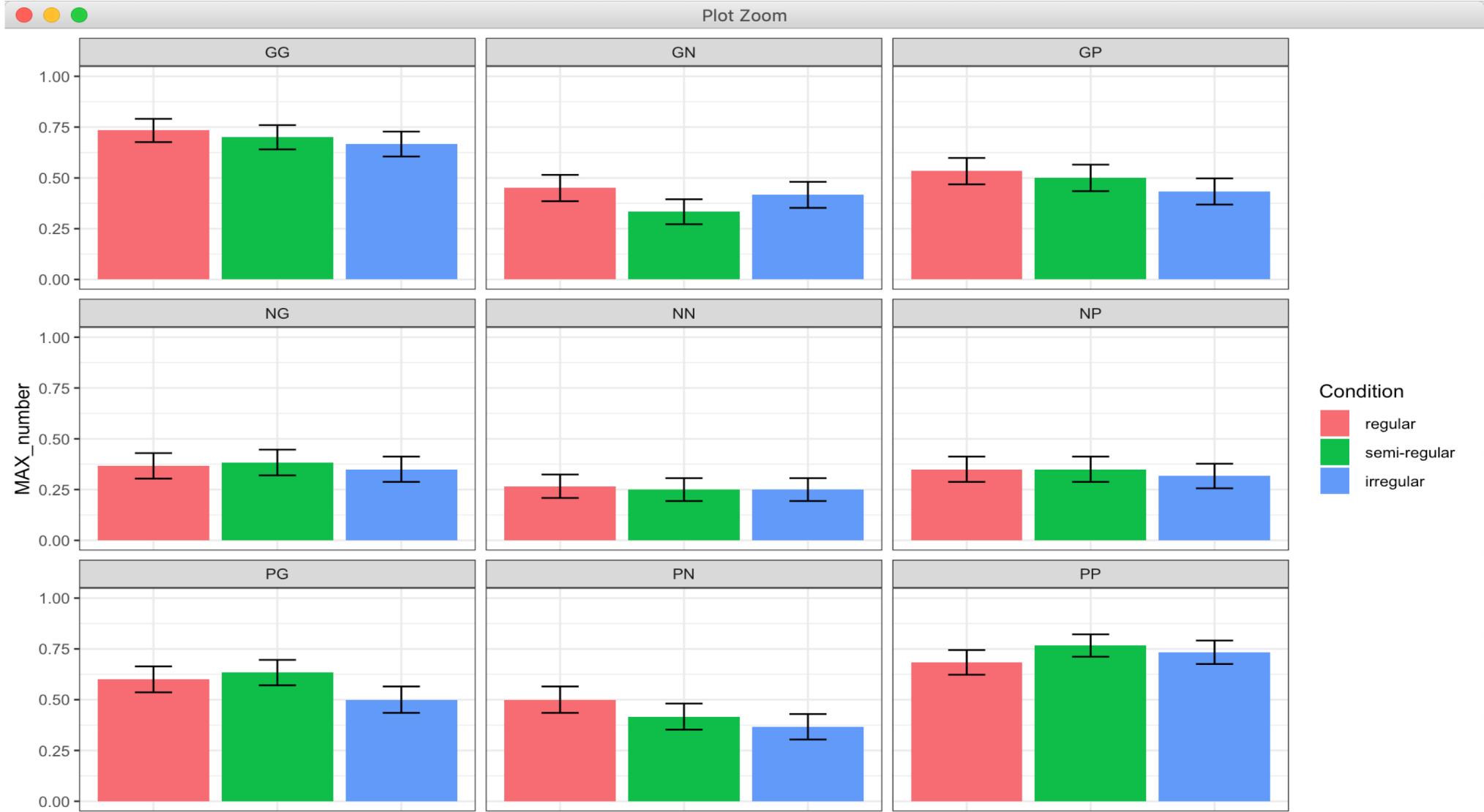
*ACC*



# Regularity- F: num

*Clip number in each regularity\*structure = 60  
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*MAP*



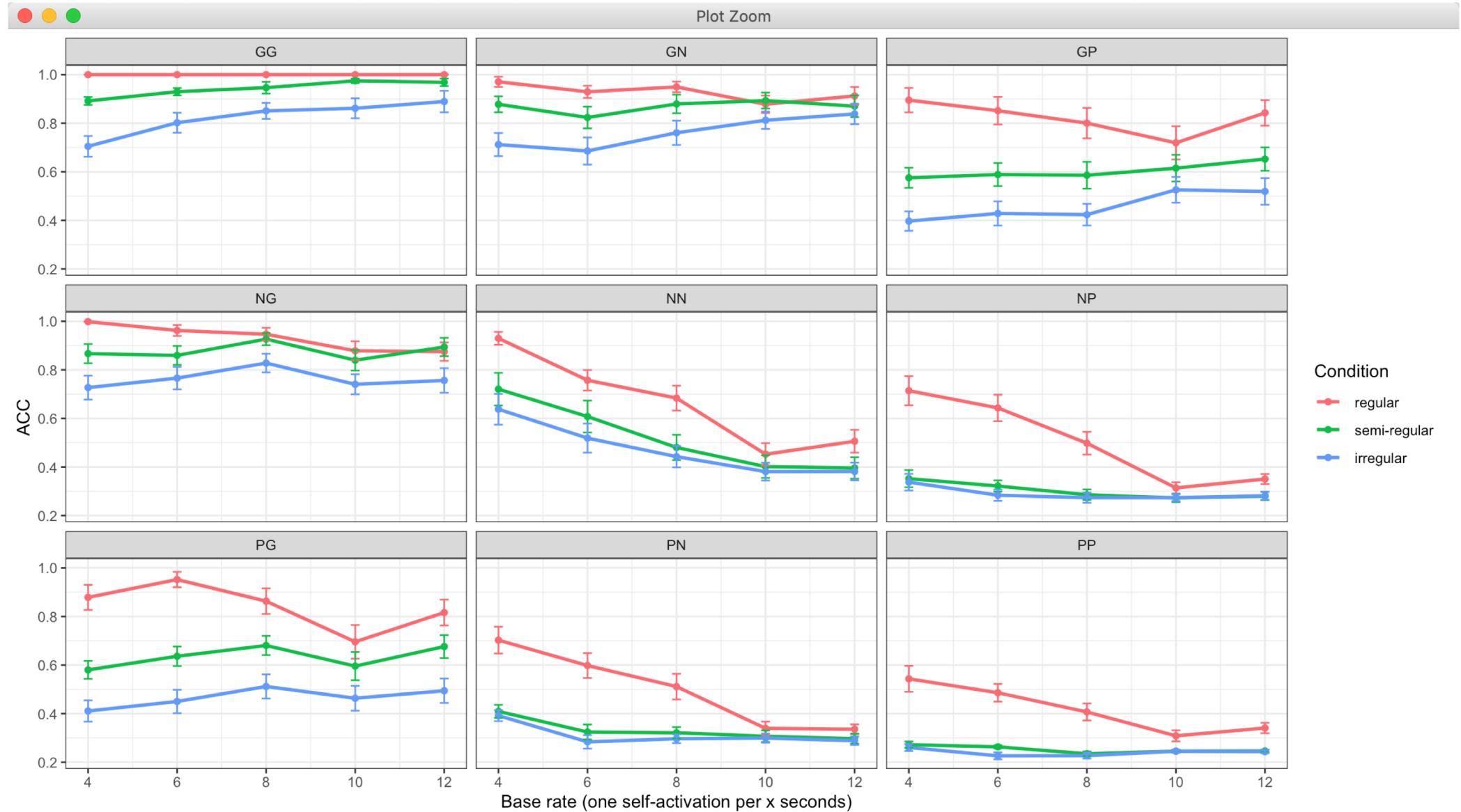
# Base Rate

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- Regular
  - Base rate:  $5 \pm 0.5$   $\{4\pm0.5, 6\pm0.5, 8\pm0.5, 10\pm0.5, 12\pm0.5\}$
  - Generative:  $1.5 \pm 0.5$
  - Preventative:  $3 \pm 0.5$
- Semi-regular
  - Base rate:  $5 \pm 5$  (memoryless)  $\{4\pm4, 6\pm6, 8\pm8, 10\pm10, 12\pm12\}$
  - Generative:  $1.5 \pm 0.5$
  - Preventative:  $3 \pm 0.5$
- Irregular
  - Base rate:  $5 \pm 5$  (memoryless)  $\{4\pm4, 6\pm6, 8\pm8, 10\pm10, 12\pm12\}$
  - Generative:  $1.5 \pm 1$
  - Preventative:  $3 \pm 1$

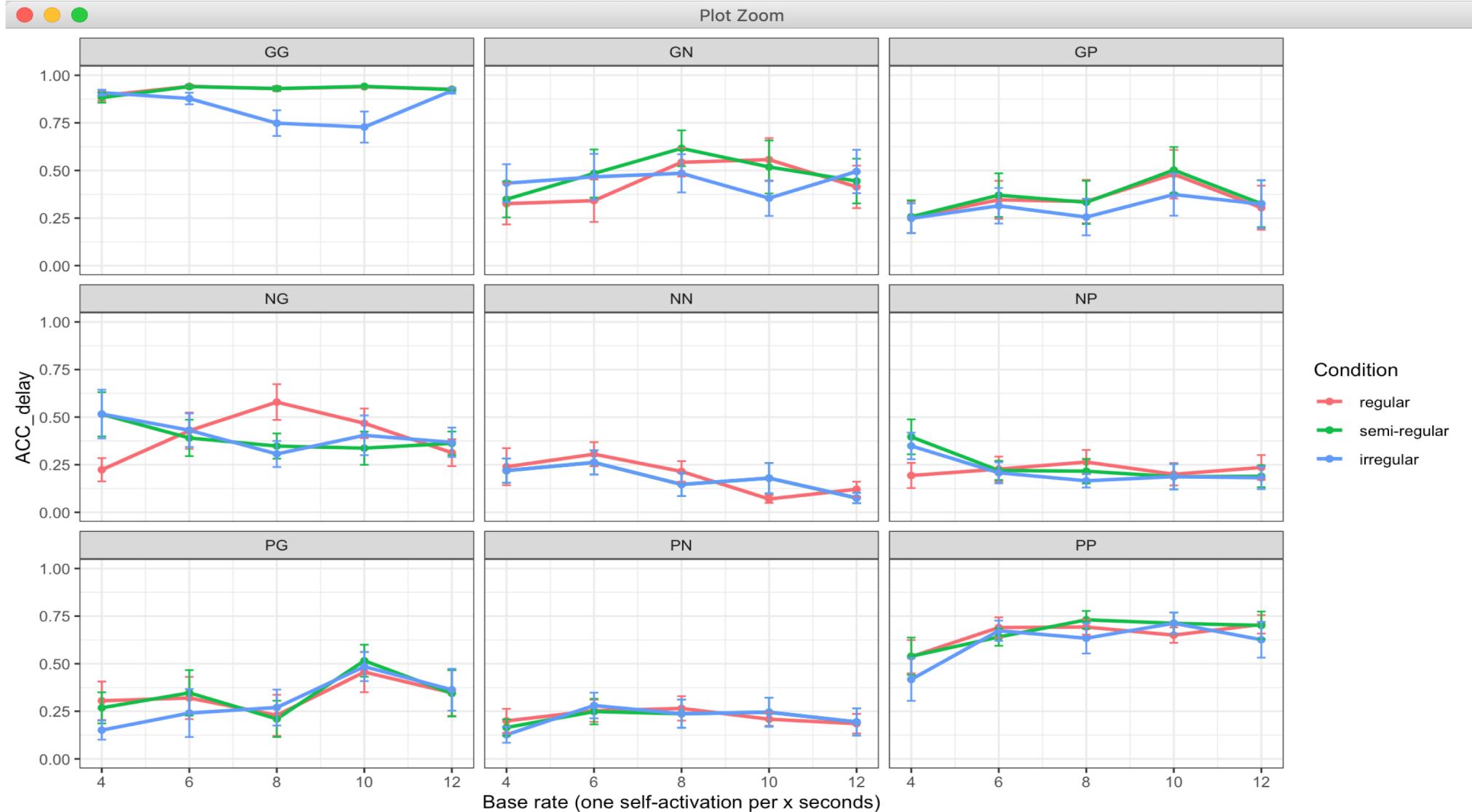
# Base Rate-normative

*Clip number in each rate  
\*structure = 30*



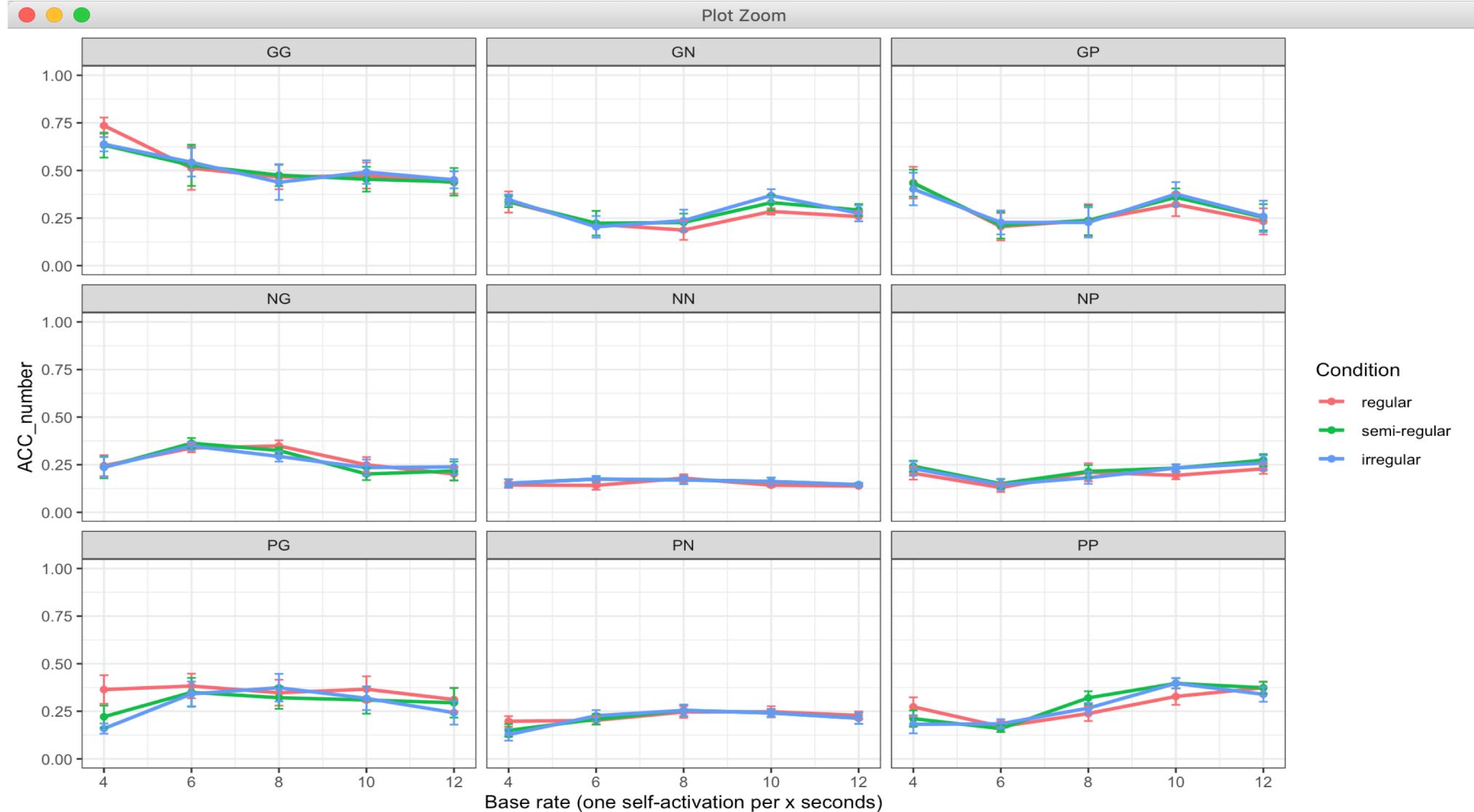
# Base Rate-F: delay

*Clip number in each regularity\*structure = 8  
(expectation simulation=720)*



# Base Rate-F: num

*Clip number in each regularity\*structure = 8  
(expectation simulation=720)*



# Causal Power (noisy)

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Noisy-OR & Noisy-AND-NOT theory (causal structure learning)

$$P_1(e^+|b, c; w_0, w_1) = w_0^b(1 - w_1)^c$$

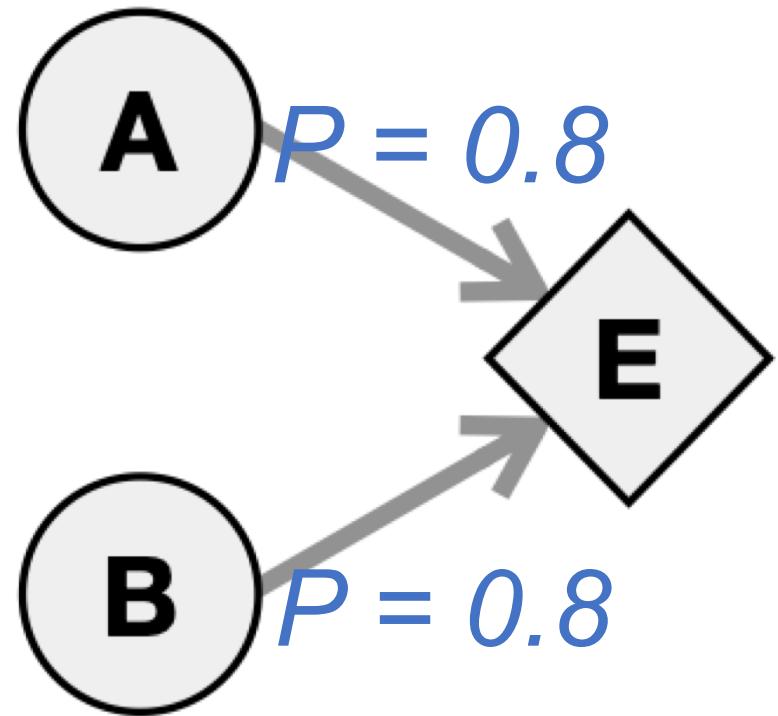
$$P_1(e^+|b, c; w_0, w_1) = 1 - (1 - w_0)^b(1 - w_1)^c.$$

Causal Power / delta-P (causal strength learning)

$$\Delta P = P(E|C) - P(E|\neg C)$$

$$w_C = \frac{\Delta P}{1 - P(E|\neg C)}$$

$$w_C = \frac{-\Delta P}{P(E|\neg C)}$$

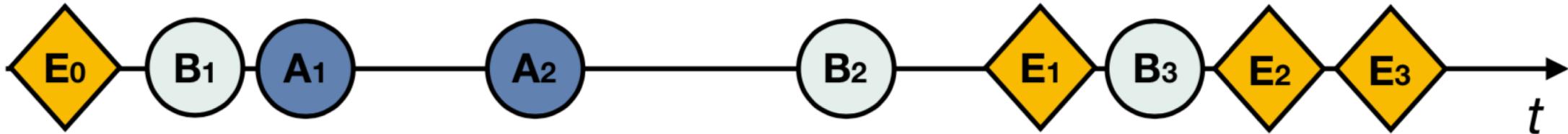


# Causal Power (noisy)

$P = 0.8 ?$

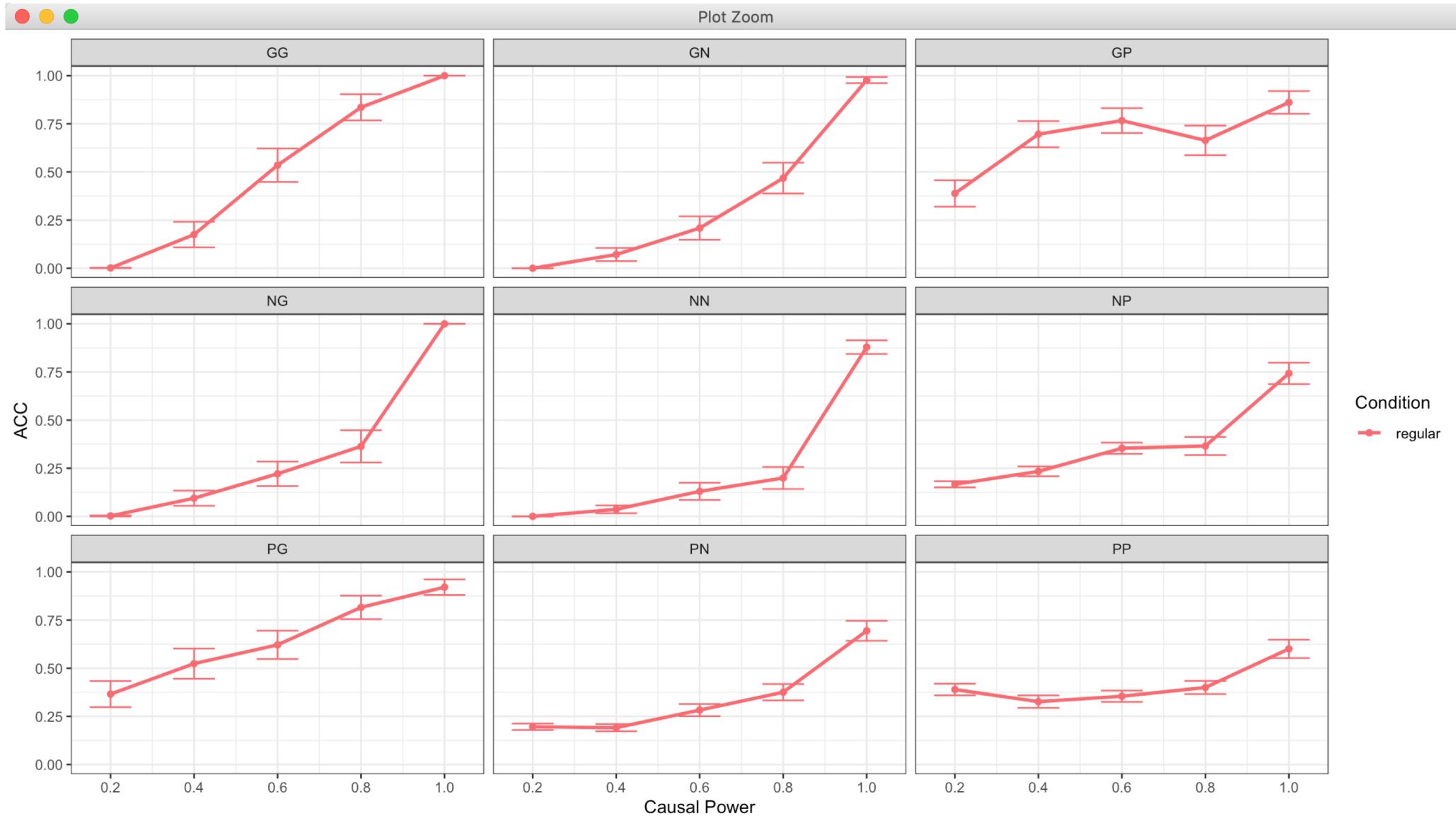
- Effect's self-activation (E)
  - $P(\text{self-activating once}) = 0.8$
- Generative effect (e.g., B1)
  - $P(\text{producing an effect}) = 0.8$
- Preventative effect (e.g., A1)
  - $P(\text{blocking all effect}) = 0.8$
  - $P(\text{not blocking any effect}) = 0.2$

- Effect's self-activation (E)
  - $P(\text{self-activating once}) = 0.8$
- Generative effect (e.g., B1)
  - $P(\text{producing an effect}) = 0.8$
- Preventative effect (e.g., A1)
  - $P(\text{blocking one effect}) = 0.8$
  - $P(\text{blocking two effect}) = 0.8 * 0.8$



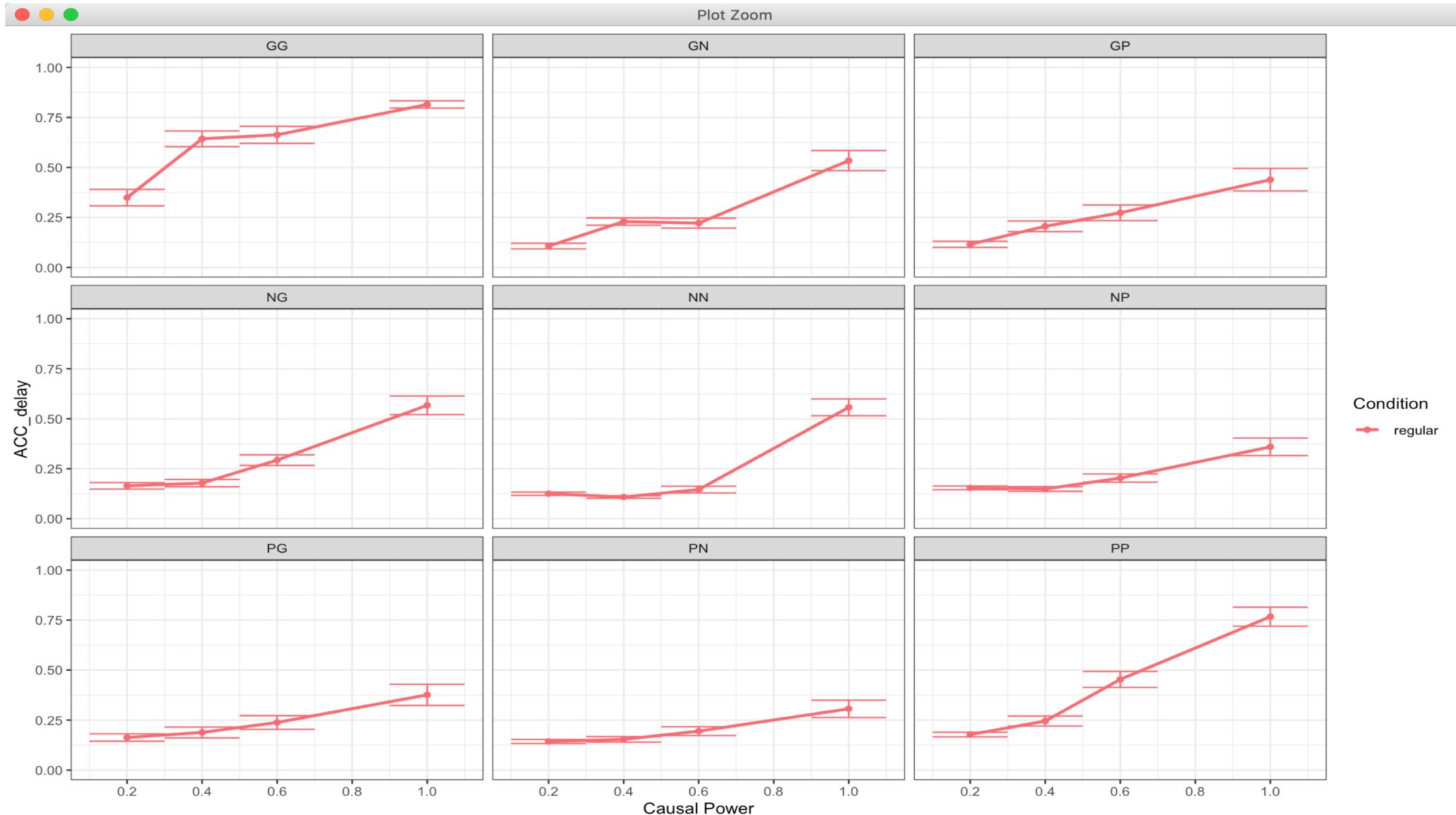
# Cpower-normative

*Clip number in each  
power\*structure = 30*



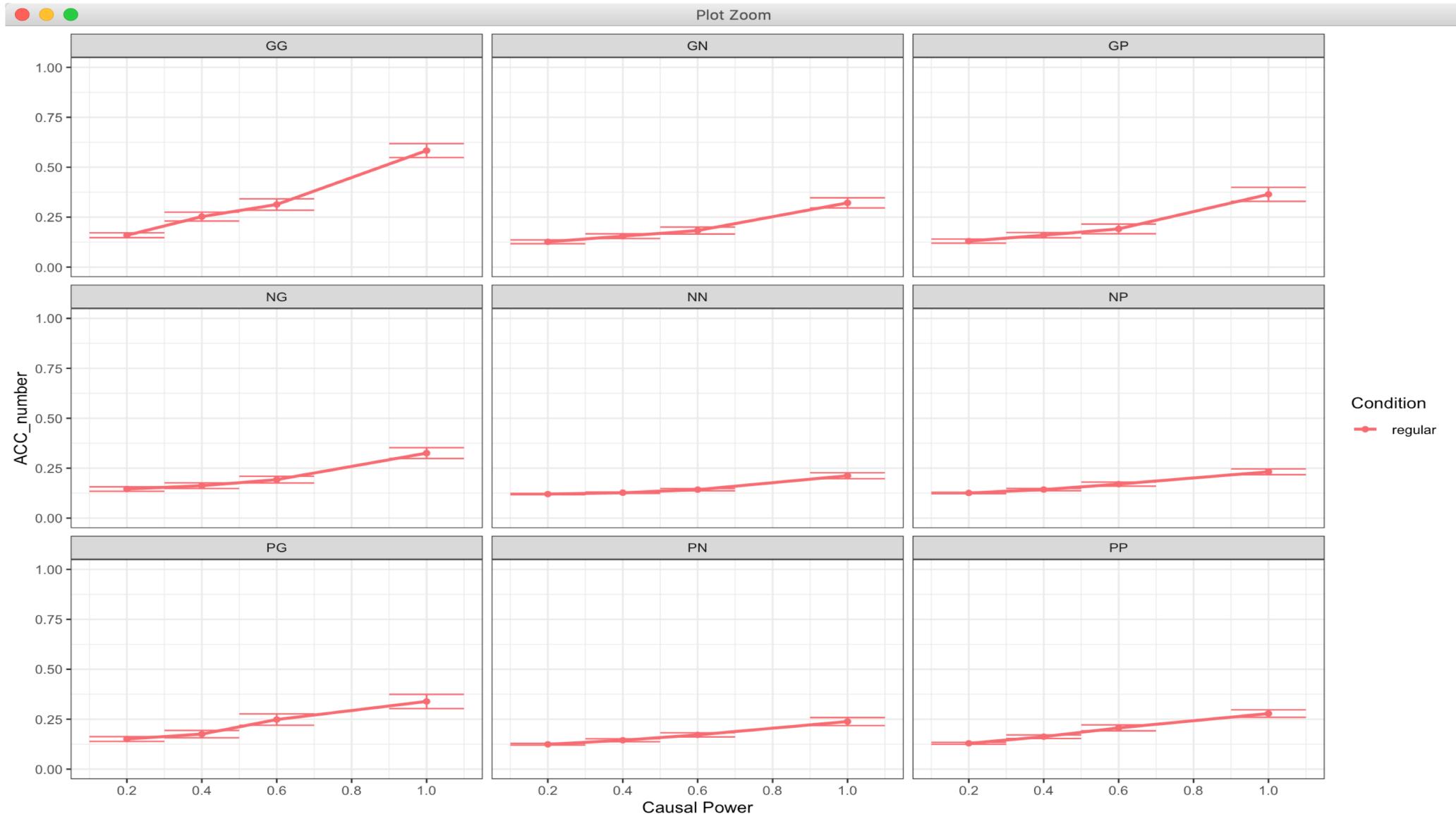
# Cpower- F: delay

*Clip number in each regularity\*structure =40  
(expectation simulation=570)*



# Cpower- F: num

*Clip number in each regularity\*structure =40  
(expectation simulation=570)*



# Prevention Scope

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