# Mousetracking

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#### Today's outline

- Why mousetracking?
- Theories of cognitive processes
  - How can mouse-tracking be used to study theories
- Examples
- Examples beyond theories
- Combining measures
- Future
- Recap

#### Behavior and cognitive processes

Eye-tracking

Reaction Time (RT)

Neural measures



Psychophysiology

Spatiotemporal features of the action itself

#### Behavior and cognitive processes

Eye-tracking

Reaction Time (RT)

Neural measures



Psychophysiology

Mousetracking

# Why mousetracking?

## Why mousetracking?

- Freely available and easy to use
  - You need a computer and a mouse
  - Freeware (for both running and analyzing)
  - Neurophysiological support for hand movements as valid index of evolving decisions
- Fine-grained measure of behavior
  - Decision microstructure
  - Capture in-between states

#### Theories of cognitive processes

- Stage-based models
- Dual-systems models
- Dynamic models

## Stage-based models

#### Consumer decision-making process



John Dewey, 1910, How we think

### Stage-based models

Applied to more general decision-making processes



John Dewey, 1910, How we think

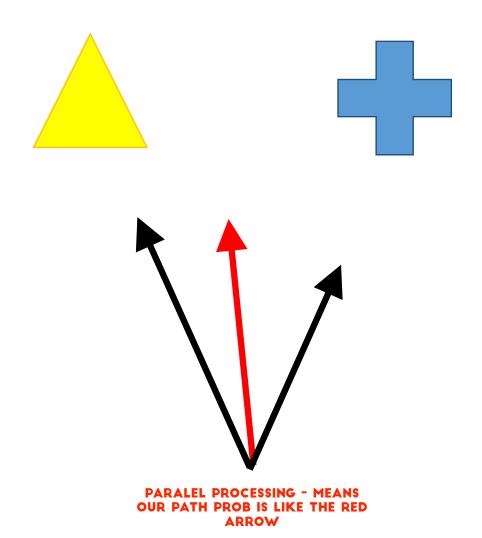
## Dual-systems models

System 1
Fast, Automatic,
Non-consious,
Emotional,
Implicit

System 2
Slow, Controlled,
Conscious,
Logical, Rational

Kahneman, 2011, Thinking Fast and Slow

## Dynamic models



#### From theory to prediction

Stage-based:

Dual-systems:

Midflight corrections

Flip-flopping

2 movement components (dual-systems)

Dynamic:

Continuous attraction Coactivation

PREDICT A MORE SMOOTH MOVEMENT

SUDDEN CHAGNE

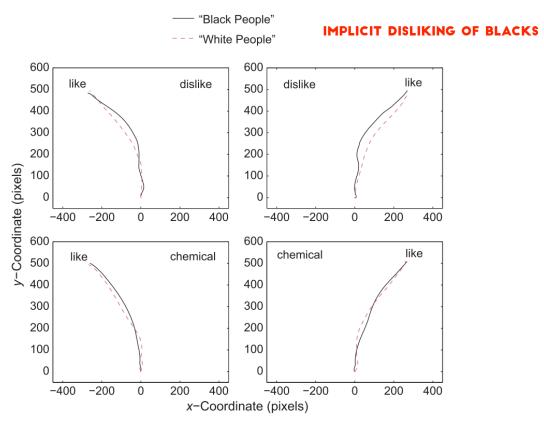
#### Stereotypes & Attitudes

- How are attitudes formed?
   Explicit & Implicit attitudes
- Coexistence of multiple attitudes



Wojnowicz et al, 2009, The Self-Organization of Explicit Attitudes

## Stereotypes & Attitudes



Wojnowicz et al, 2009, The Self-Organization of Explicit Attitudes

#### Language comprehension

Understanding structurally ambiguous sentences:

"The adolescent hurried through the door tripped."

- Activation of one vs multiple syntactic representations?
- Influence of non-syntactic information?

Farmer et al, 2007, Tracking the Continuity of Language Comprehension: Computer Mouse Trajectories Suggest Parallel Syntactic Processing

#### Language comprehension

#### Syntax-first models (stage-based):

- One representation at any given time
- Misanalysis -> separate reanalysis
- Non-syntactic information comes in late

#### Multiple constraints-based models (dynamic):

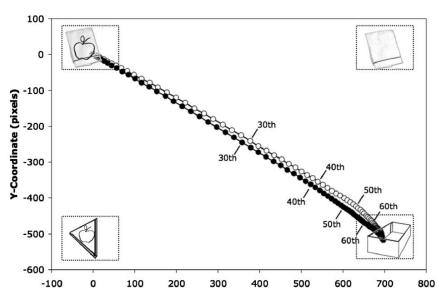
- Simultaneous active representations
- All information integrated immediately

Farmer et al, 2007, Tracking the Continuity of Language Comprehension: Computer Mouse Trajectories Suggest Parallel Syntactic Processing

#### Language comprehension

# One-Referent Context O-Ambiguous Trajectory Unambiguous Trajectory O-Ambiguous Trajectory

#### **Two-Referent Context**

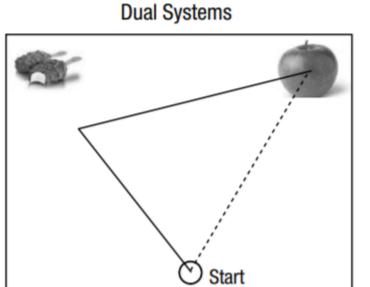


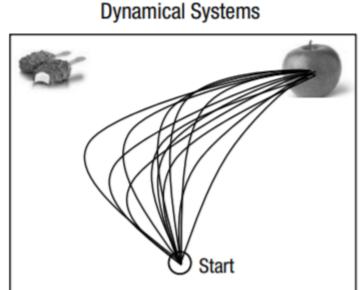
Ambiguous: Put the apple on the towel in the box.

Unambiguous: Put the apple that's on the towel in the box.

Farmer et al, 2007, Tracking the Continuity of Language Comprehension: Computer Mouse Trajectories Suggest Parallel Syntactic Processing

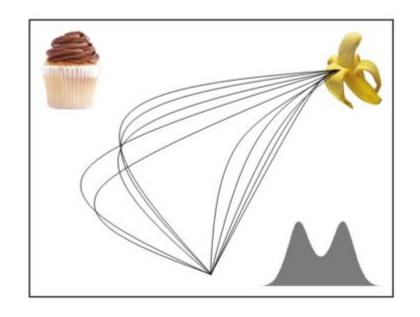
## Dual-systems & Self-control?

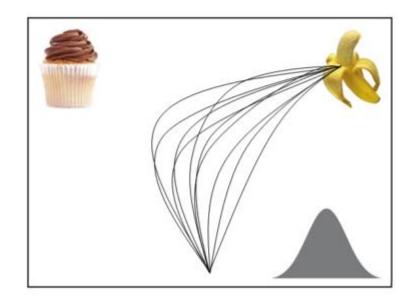




Stillman et al, 2017, Resisting temptation: Tracking how self-control coflicts are successfully resolved in real time

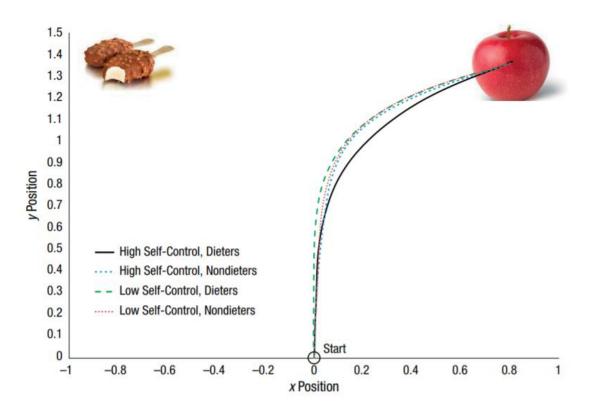
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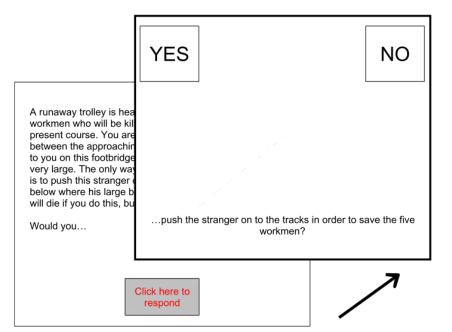
#### Dual-systems & Self-control?



Stillman et al, 2017, Resisting temptation: Tracking how self-control coflicts are successfully resolved in real time

### Moral decision making

- Emotion vs Deliberation
  - "Default-interventionist" (DI) process (Evans, 2008)
  - Emotion = moral laws & rules / Deliberation = utalitarian concerns

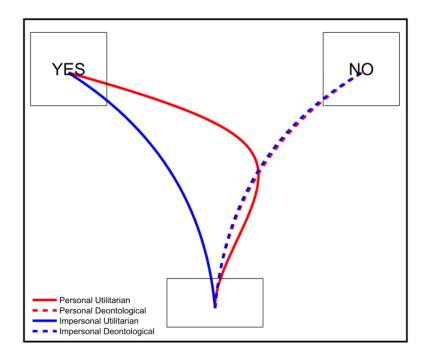


TROLLEY PROBLEM

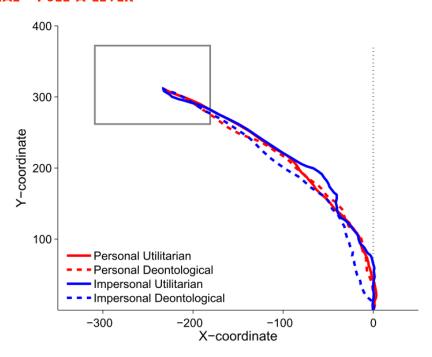
Koop, 2013, Temporal dynamics of temporal decisions

## Moral decision making

#### **Dual-systems predictions**



#### PERSONAL -> PUSHING IN FRONT IMPERSONAL - PULL A LEVER



Koop, 2013, Temporal dynamics of temporal decisions

#### Beyond theories of cognitive processes

- Deception
- Value-based decision-making

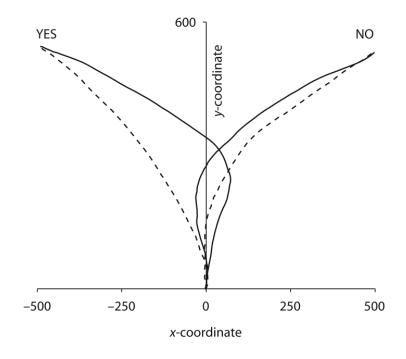
#### Temporal signature of deception

- False of truthful responses to autobiographical info (no/yes)
- Nintendo Wii Remote

Duran et al, 2010, The action dynamics of overcoming the truths

#### Temporal signature of deception

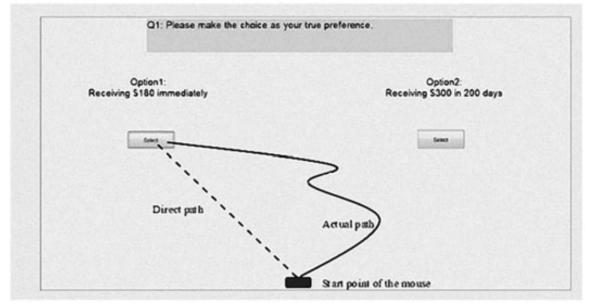
- False answers more complex (Yes greatest)
- Greater competition during false responding
- Deception detectable



Duran et al, 2010, The action dynamics of overcoming the truths

#### Value-based decision making

- Difference between decision uncertainty and decision conflict?
- Gain / Loss, Magnitude (Large / Small), Delay (Great, Small)



Cheng & González-Vallejo, 2017, Action Dynamics in Intertemporal Choice Reveal Different Facets of Decision Process

#### Value-based decision making

- Five measures (out approx 40 common)
  - X-flips HOW MANY TIMES SWITCH DIRECTION
  - Absolute average deviation (AAD) common measure of distance from fastest path
  - Distance HOW LONG A PATH FOR THE CURSOR
  - Idle time TIME NOT DOING
  - Motion time TIME
- PCA to derive components

PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS

Cheng & González-Vallejo, 2017, Action Dynamics in Intertemporal Choice Reveal Different Facets of Decision Process

#### Value-based decision making

- Conflict
  - Increased Idle Time
  - Increased deviations from direct path

- Wavering (decision uncertainty)
  - Increased x-flips

Cheng & González-Vallejo, 2017, Action Dynamics in Intertemporal Choice Reveal Different Facets of Decision Process

#### Mouse-tracking & other measures

- Eye-tracking
  - MT continuous measure, ET discrete saccades
  - ET more sensitive to preattentive processes, before movement
  - Combining the two can be a good idea

#### Mouse-tracking & other measures

#### • ERP

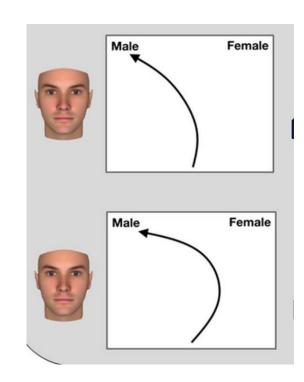
- ERPs clear time lock, exact timing of interest
- MT exact timing has no meaning, relative differences of interest
- Combining both -> more meaningful interpretation of MT timing
- Combining ERP with MT -> problem with ERP artifacts

#### Mouse-tracking & other measures

- fMRI or TMS
  - Allows for combining neural representational patterns with trajectories

- Categorizing gender & race (typical & atypical)
  - Multivoxel patterns in right fusiform gyrus in atypical trials more similar to oposing category

Stolier & Freeman, 2017, A neural mechanism of social categorization



#### The future of mouse-tracking

- Combining measures
  - Perhaps especially neuroimaging (fMRI, TMS)
- Investigating the implicit nature of MT
- Increased interest in motor processes

The future of mouse-tracking looks bright!

#### Quick Recap

- Mouse-tracking is an easy to use method that captures the microstructure of decisions
- Originally applied to distinguish between theories of cognitive processes
  - Stage-based / Dual-systems / Dynamic systems
- Applied in "all" areas of research
  - Language processsing, value-based decisions, moral cognition, self-control
- A method that can easily be combined with other measures

Discussion, Questions, Comments?

