

# IRTrees for eye tracking

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Based on research in collaboration with  
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## **Process data**

- direct process data:

data on *activities while working on a problem*

- indirect process data:

data with relevance to inferences regarding *activities while working on a problem*

often these are parallel data: response times, brain activation  
fMRI data, EEG data, introspective questions

## **Process models**

Models fitting with a process narrative  
based on direct or indirect process data

The models to be presented are

- dynamic models for direct process data

they are extremely intensive longitudinal data

- they fit with a process narrative because they

are tree models

The models to be presented are

- dynamic models for direct process data

they are extremely intensive longitudinal data

- they fit with a process narrative because they are tree models

Which does not prove they capture real ongoing processes

we are stretching model complexity  
testing the limits

to isolate the gravity effect  
in the paths of for falling leafs  
on a windy November day



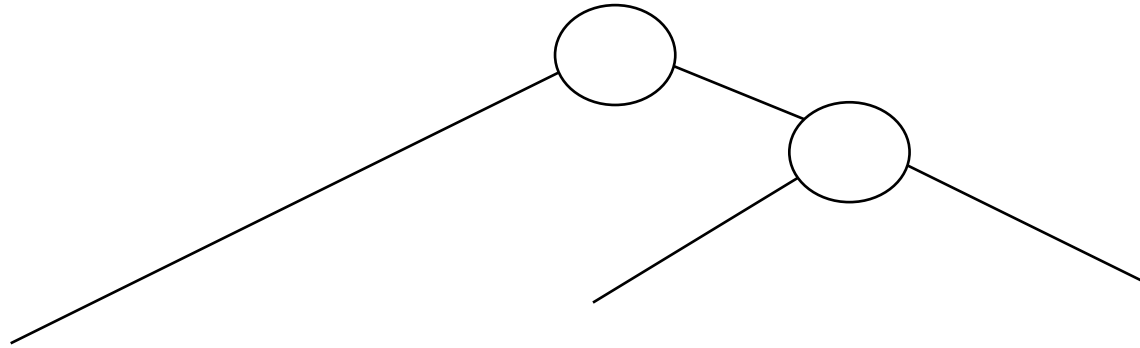
# IRTtree models

response tree models

item response tree models

- extensions of discrete survival (frailty) models
- multinomial processing tree models from cognitive psychology, with random effects (Batchelder)
- have been used to model missing responses (Cees Glas)
- general formulation in psychometric literature  
Böckenholt (2012), De Boeck & Partchev (2012),  
Roe-Thissen & Thissen (2013)

# Examples



oatmeal



bacon

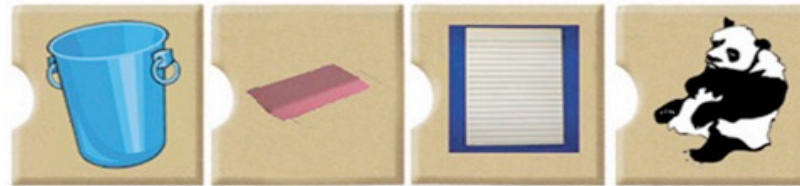


waffles

Wright, .., Bunge (2008)  
Neural correlates of  
fluid reasoning



distractor    semantic lure    correct    visual lure

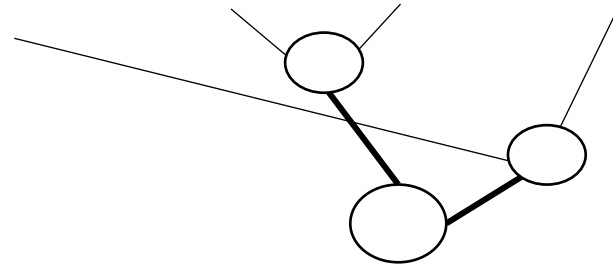


A

B

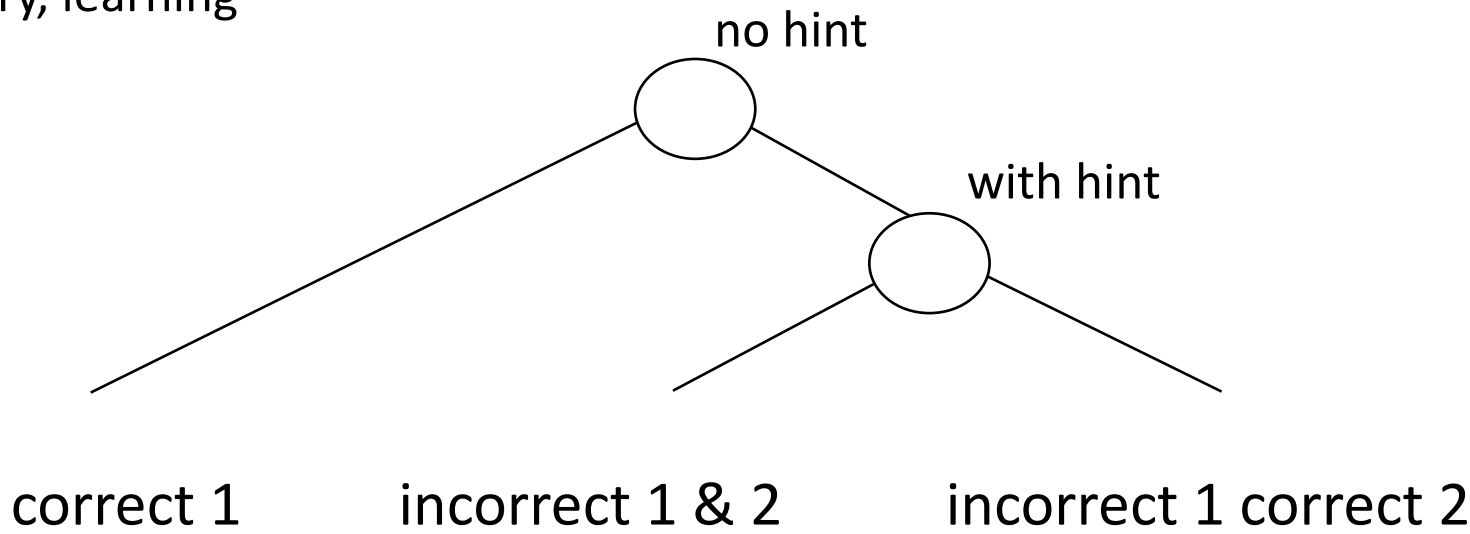
C

D





Problem solving with and without a hint  
retry, learning



A Node 1 response is a subset of possible responses  
for example, “not oatmeal”

All other Node responses are *conditional responses*,  
responses given a condition is fulfilled  
for example, the Node 2 response “bacon” is a conditional  
response, a response conditional on “not oatmeal”

*Trees* can represent the response structure one is interested in  
Only binary trees are considered (can be extended)

The conditional coding is the only one that does not induce dependency between the response options

### Conditional coding

option 1      0 -

option 2      1 0

option 3      1 1

option 1      0 0 -

option 2      0 1 -

option 3      1 - 0

option 4      1 - 1

missingness is MAR

# The task

Speaker instructs listener  
“Click on the small ... envelope”

N= 152 (listeners)  
96 items in 3 conditions  
112 time points  
(intervals of 10 millisecond  
between 180 and 1300ms  
following the onset

pipe	<b>large envelope</b>	dog
balloon	X	car
<b>small envelope</b>	house	<b>small elephant</b>

pipe	<b>large</b>	dog
	<b>envelope</b>	
balloon	X	car
	house	

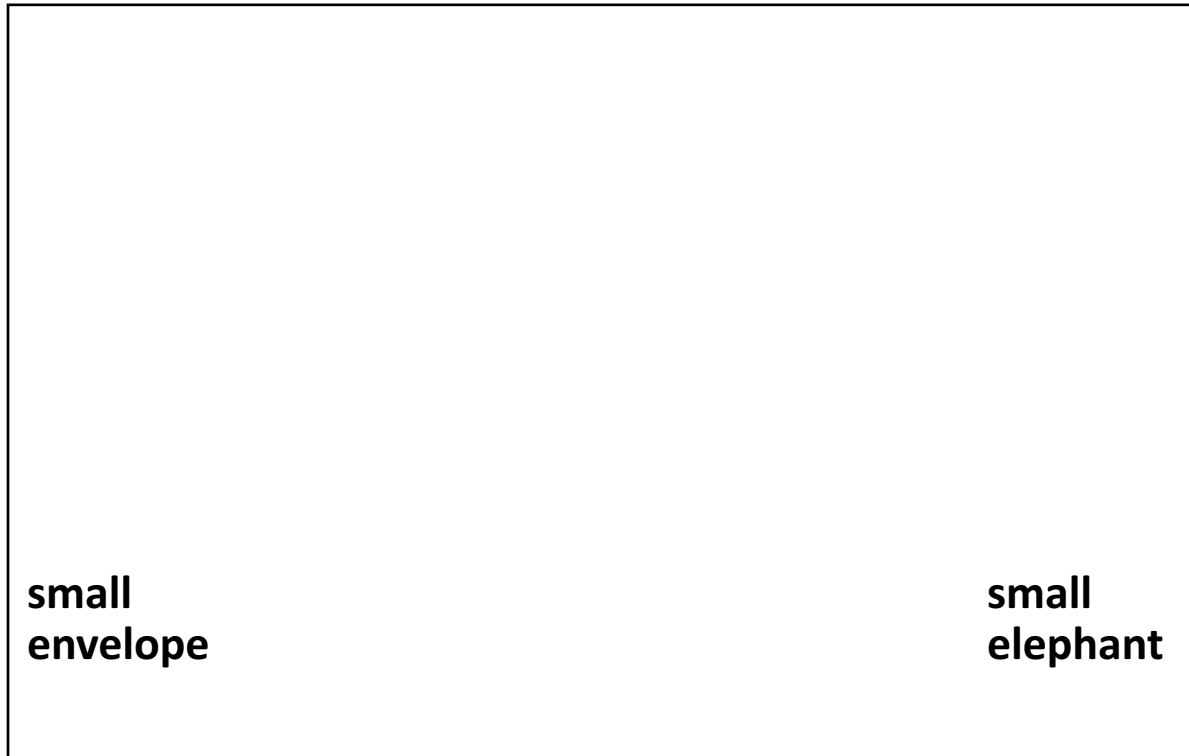
Node 1 = 0

Node 2 = NA

# The task

Speaker instructs listener

“Click on the small ... envelope”



Node 1 = 1

Node 2 = 0 or 1

# The task

Speaker instructs listener

“Click on the small ... envelope”



Node 1 = 1

Node 2 = 0

# The task

Speaker instructs listener

“Click on the small ... envelope”



**small  
envelope**

Node 1 = 1

Node 2 = 1



# Conditions in experiment

- One contrast
- Two contrasts shared
- Two contrasts privileged

One contrast

**N**

**C**

**L**

**D**

**X**

**T**

**T**

**E**

**F**

“Click on the small ... T”

Two contrasts shared

**N**

**c**

**L**

**C**

**X**

**T**

**T**

**E**

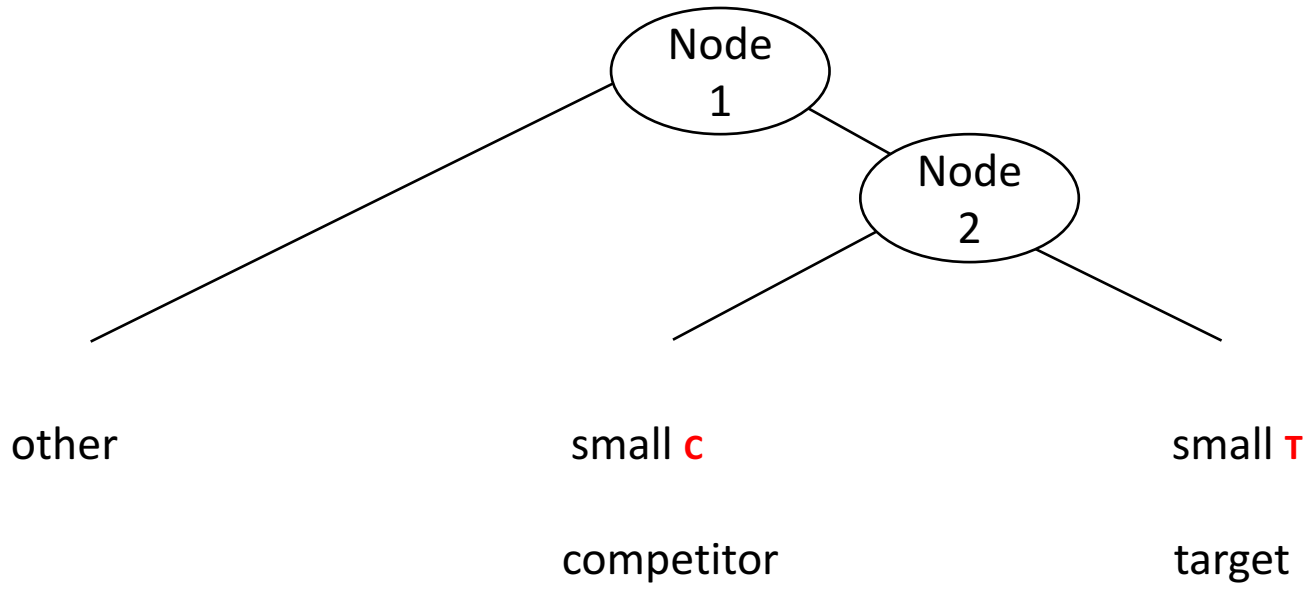
**F**

“Click on the small ... T”

## Two contrasts privileged

<b>N</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>

“Click on the small ... T”  
listener is told that speaker  
does not see the large C



## Coding of eye fixation on

		conditional response
	Node 1	Node 2
other	0	-
competitor	1	0
target	1	1

Main interest are the fixed effects of condition coding of conditions:

- one contrast (-1) vs two contrasts shared (0.5) & two contrasts privileged (0.5)
- one contrast (0) and two con (-0.5) vs two con privileged (0.5)

Additional fixed effects

- trend
  - autoregressive effects
- to avoid bias in main interest estimates and standard errors

Random effects for persons and items

# Three important aspects

1. Node specificity of effects

Everything can be different between the nodes including multidimensionality across nodes

2. Nodes combined with random effects  
issue of selecting random effects

3. Nodes combined with time series  
two parallel series: *Node 1* and *Node 2*  
missing observations for *Node 2*



# 1. Node specificity of effects

- Stronger positive trend for Node 2?
- Multidimensionality: a different dimension per node?
- Do condition effects depend on the node?

- Stronger positive trend for Node 2? YES
- Multidimensionality: a different dimension per node? YES, but ...
- Do condition effects depend on the node? YES

- Upward trend is steeper for within-category disambiguation than for category identification  
0.031 vs 0.005
- Node 2 is a different ability compared with Node 1  
 $r = 0.414$

## Condition effects

Preliminary on semantics and pragmatics

Two effects based on *semantics*

- commonality
- contrast

One effect based on *pragmatics*

- knowing the conversation context  
and given perspective taking

The *two-contrasts conditions* favor Node 1

T

C

T

c

“small” is a  
common contrast  
feature of the two bottom  
letters

	Node 1	Node 2
two vs one	<b>0.074</b> (0.014)	-0.370 (0.035)
two priv vs shared	-0.006 (0.021)	0.066 (0.048)

The *one-contrast condition* favors Node 2

T

T

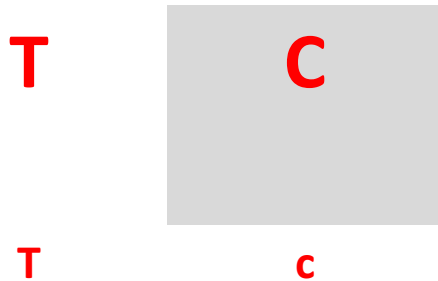
C

“small” is a  
unique contrast  
feature of the left bottom letter

	Node 1	Node 2
two vs one	<b>0.074</b> (0.014)	<b>-0.370</b> (0.035)
two priv vs shared	-0.006 (0.021)	0.066 (0.048)



The *privileged two-contrast condition* favors Node 2



“small” is a  
common contrast  
feature of two letters  
but unique in the conversation  
context if perspective taking

	Node 1	Node 2
two vs one	0.074 (0.014)	-0.370 (0.035)
two priv vs shared	-0.006 (0.021)	<b>0.066 (0.048)</b>
		remember

## 2. Nodes combined with random effects

Even more random effects

Random effect selection issues: power, bias

- Minimal approach  
plus forward strategy
- Maximal approach  
plus backward strategy
- Structured search
- Sensitivity analysis focused on effects of interest

- Step 1: are nodes multidimensional?
- Step 2: if they are, then investigate model fit for random AR for persons, items, persons & items per node
- Step 3: test effects of interest with different choices for random effects

### 3. Nodes combined with time series

Autoregression and cross-lagged relationships for

- two time series
- missingness in the second time series

two times two series

Nodes 1 and 2

$X_1$  : binary variable for N1 response

$X_1 = 1$  if T or C fixation (Node 1), 0 otherwise

$X_2$  : binary variable for conditional response (Node 2)

$X_2 = 1$  if T fixation, 0 if C fixation, missing if other

$X_T$  : binary variable for target fixation,

$X_T = 1$  for T fixation, 0 otherwise

$X_C$  : binary variable for competitor fixation,

$X_C = 1$  for C fixation, 0 otherwise

$X_T$	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
$X_C$	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
$X_{N1}$	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
$X_{N2}$	-	1	-	-	1	0	1	1	0	-	0

dynamic modeling which captures same information as AR1 and cross-lagged dependencies:

$AR1_{T \rightarrow N1}(t)$  : regression of  $X_{N1}(t-1)$  on  $X_T(t-1)$

$AR1_{C \rightarrow N1}(t)$  : regression of  $X_{N1}(t-1)$  on  $X_C(t-1)$

$AR1_{T \rightarrow N2}(t)$  : regression of  $X_{N2}(t-1)$  on  $X_T(t-1)$

$AR1_{C \rightarrow N2}(t)$  : regression of  $X_{N2}(t-1)$  on  $X_C(t-1)$

## Fixed effects

AR1 <sub>T→N1</sub> (t)	4.347
AR1 <sub>C→N1</sub> (t)	4.024
AR1 <sub>T→N2</sub> (t)	2.648
AR1 <sub>C→N2</sub> (t)	-2.629

## Random effects

AR1 <sub>T→N1</sub> (t)	0.114			
AR1 <sub>C→N1</sub> (t)	<u>0.748</u>	0.340		
AR1 <sub>T→N2</sub> (t)	0.140	0.004	0.131	
AR1 <sub>C→N2</sub> (t)	-0.464	-0.515	<u>0.788</u>	0.247



# Afterthoughts

- A case study of complex modeling of complex data
- A conditional response approach can be helpful to extract information/effects one wants to focus on controlling for less relevant effects in the the background
- Remember the effect of two contrast privileged vs two contrast shared on Node 2 effect
  - Suppose there are individual difference in the effect (random person effects) ?
  - -- they would reflect a perspective taking ability



Complex can still be beautiful