A multi-component model of recognition memory: The interplay of input statistics, memory, and decision making

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Introduction

Recognition memory is the ability to judge whether an item or event has been encountered. Although recognition judgments rely on mnemonic, perceptual and decision making processes, the experimental outcomes largely ignore the latter two. In our computational model, we systematically study how each of these factors influence the ROC-curves, a common measure to quantify recognition performance.



The memory system scales the input representations before memory noise is added. Scaling increases the inter-item distance and results in better correlations between the original and noisy patterns.

Results



The model accounts for the effect of hippocampal lesions, which lead to higher decrease of the y-offset (R) compared to the curvilinearity (F). Different memory processes are not required.



Changes in criterion placement result in drastic alterations of the ROCparameters





Memory retrieval and recognition decision

At retrieval targets (studied items) and lures (new items) are used as retrieval cues. Each of these cues is compared to all the stored items and the one with the smallest distance is retrieved. If that distance is smaller than a given threshold, the item is considered old. λ is the overall liberal bias.



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False alarm rate		False alarm rate	
 ω=0.35, λ=0.008 exp-C 	 w=0.4, λ=0.01 exp-F 	 ω=0.3, λ=0.006 exp-C 	 w=0.35, λ=0.01 exp-P

Increased liberal bias (λ) in some conditions could explain performance differences in conditions such as frontal lesions or case studies.



scenes) can directly lead to performance differences.

Conclusions

1.8

The features of the recognition ROC-curves reflect a complex relationship between perceptual, mnemonic and decision making processes rather than the simplified notion of familiarity and recollection.

1.4

* Faces,p=1.0

• Faces,p=1.8

1.0

0.5

False alarm rate

0.0 + 1.0

Caution should be exercised when interpreting ROC-findings since the aforementioned factors are often not considered, resulting in controversies.