

Discovering psycholinguistic effect timecourses with deconvolutional time series regression

Cory Shain

November 7, 2018, *Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University*

This talk in one slide

- + Temporal diffusion of effects can be a serious confound in psycholinguistic data
- + Modeling temporal diffusion is problematic with existing tools
- + **Proposal:**
 - + Deconvolutional time series regression (DTSR)
 - + Continuous time series deconvolutional regression model
 - + Can be applied to any time series
- + **Results:**
 - + Success to learn temporal structures with high fidelity
 - + Ability to estimate individual and population distributions of temporal structures in real time
- + Documented open-source Python package supports easy adoption

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 - Deconvolutional time series regression (DTSR)

 - Continuous time series general deconvolutional regression model
 - Supports arbitrary lag structures

- + **Results:**

 - Recovers known temporal structures with high fidelity

 - Outperforms existing methods in terms of accuracy and the resulting estimation of temporal structure in real-world

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- + **Results:**
 - + Recovers known temporal structure with high fidelity
 - + Outperforms existing methods in recovering temporal structure in real-world data
 - + Provides principled, interpretable, and high-resolution estimates of temporal structure
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+ Time matters a lot in psycholinguistics

- + Psycholinguistic data are generated by people with brains
- + The brain is a dynamical system that responds to its environment in time
- + Most (all?) psycholinguistic data are underlyingly time series
- + The brain's response to a stimulus may be slow (temporally diffuse)
- + Psycholinguistic measures may capture lingering response to preceding events

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 - + Stimuli and responses can be recast as convolutionally-related signals
 - + Relation described by an impulse response function (IRF)
 - + If we can discover the structure of the IRF (deconvolution), we can convolve predictors with it to obtain a model of the response that takes diffusion directly into account

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 - Finite impulse response models (FIR) (Dayal and MacGregor 1999)
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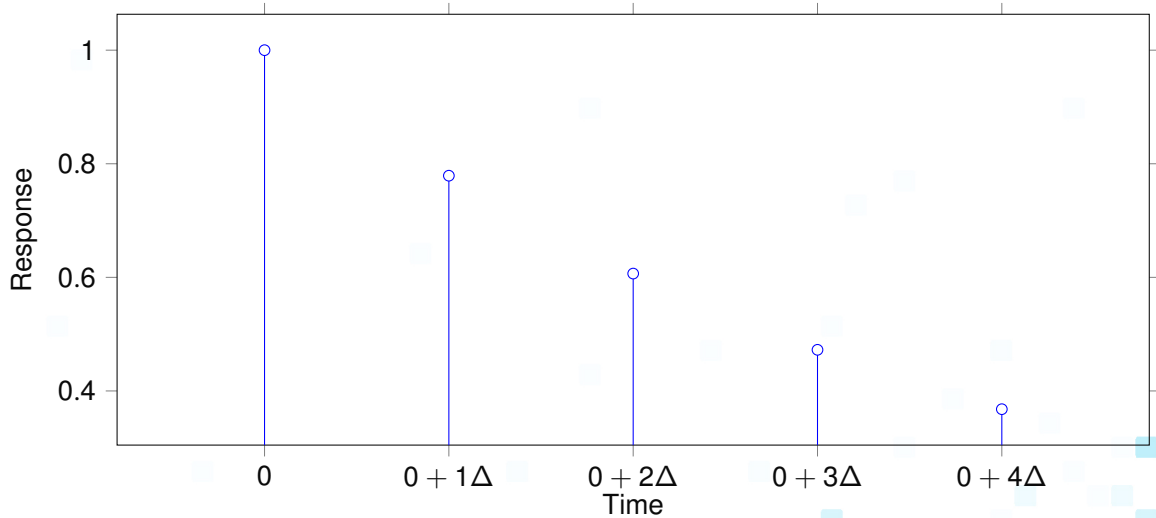
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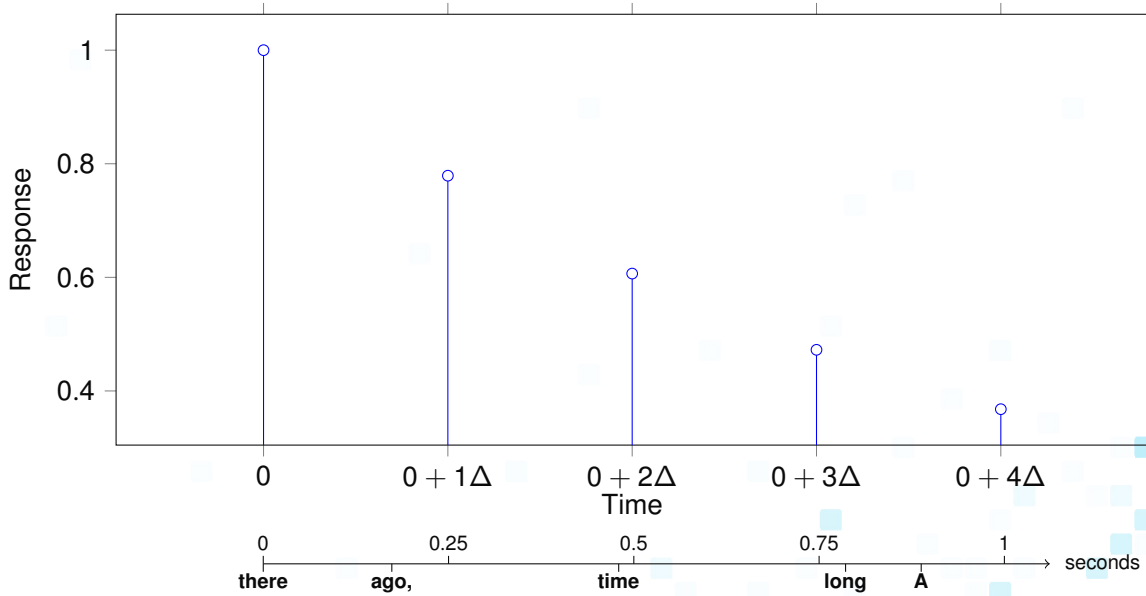
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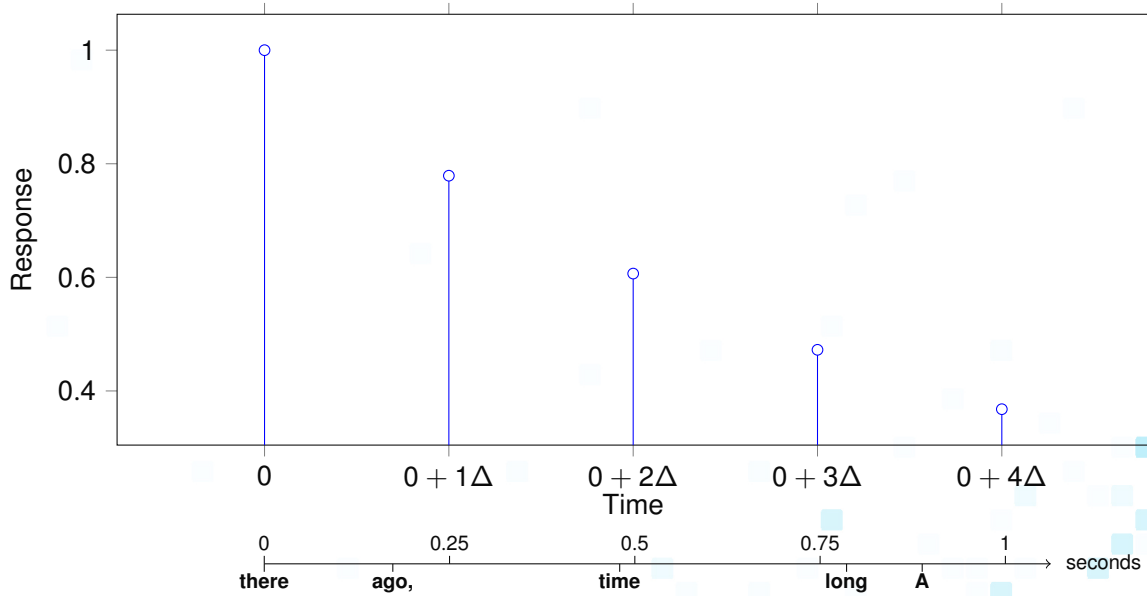
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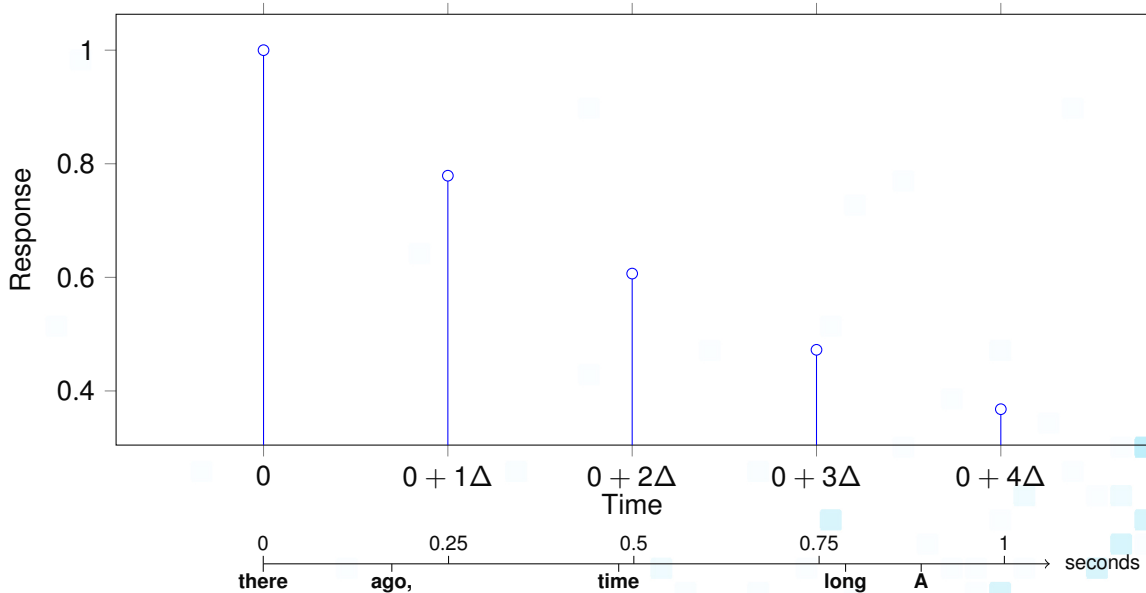
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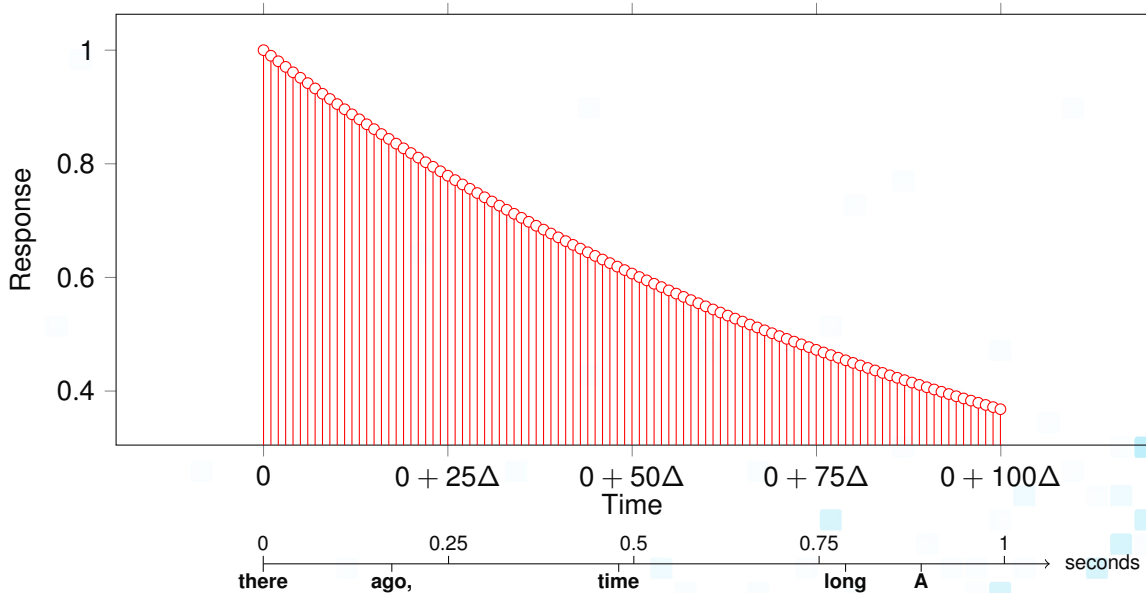




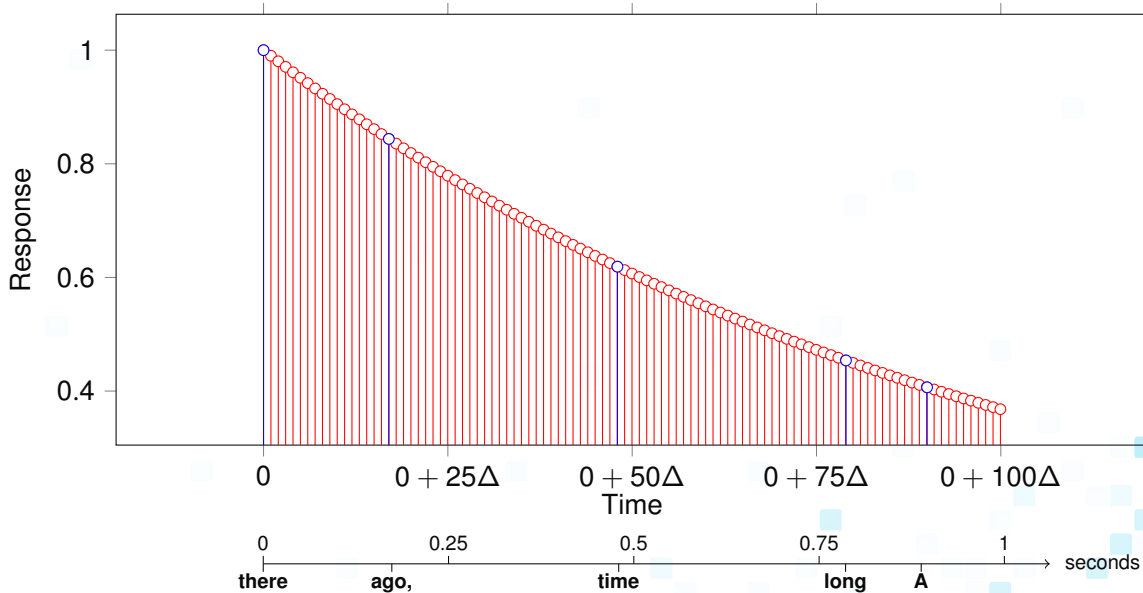
Variable spacing, Δ not fixed, can't deconvolve



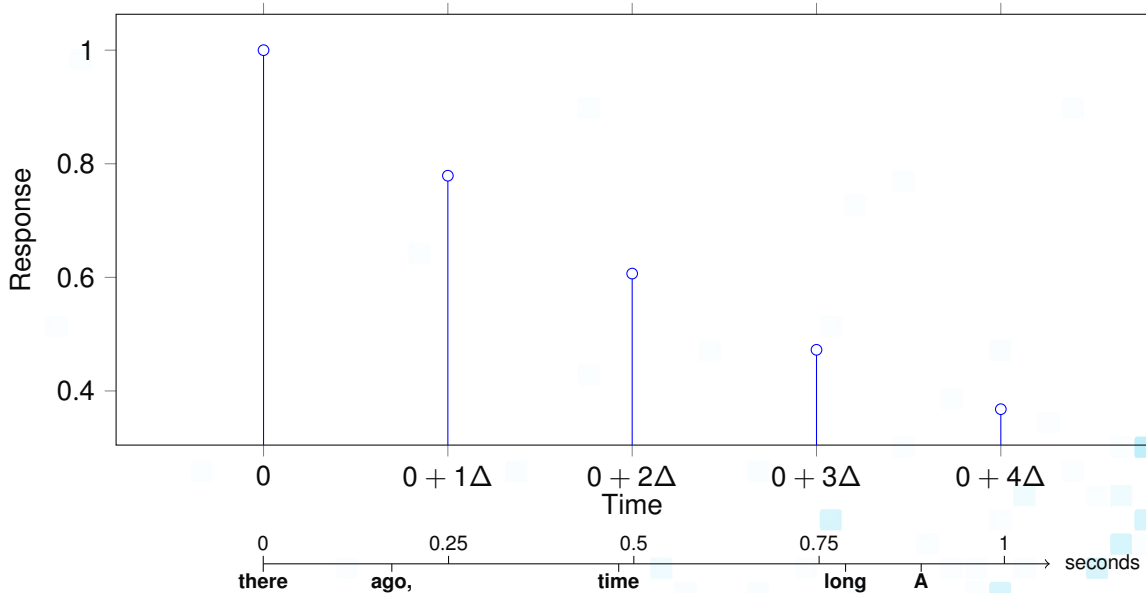
Sparse solution: Add *lots* of coefficients.



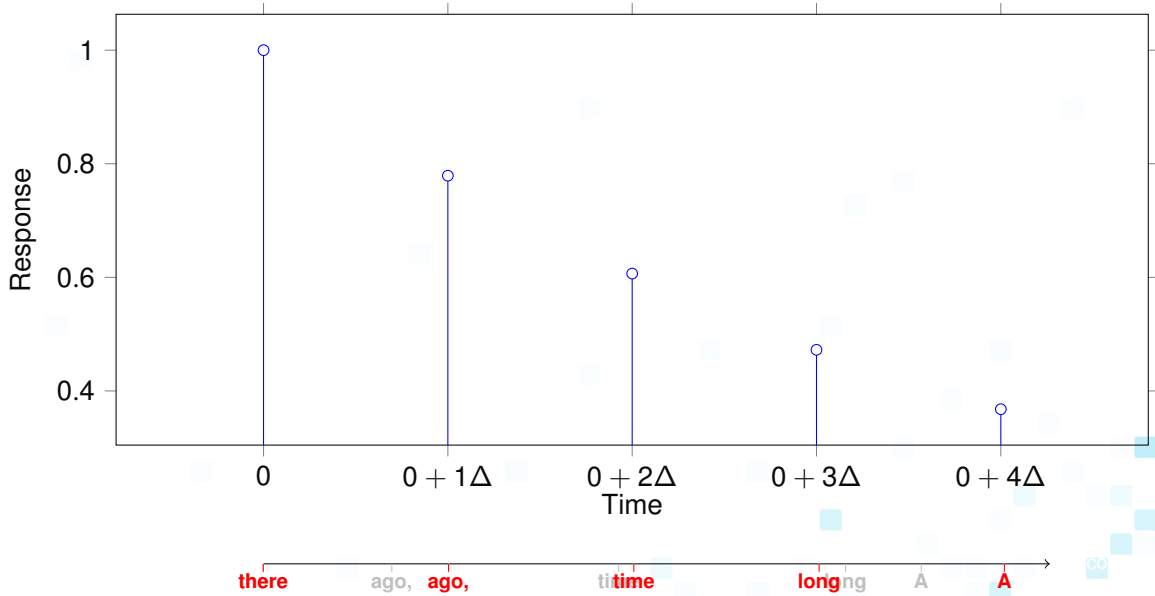
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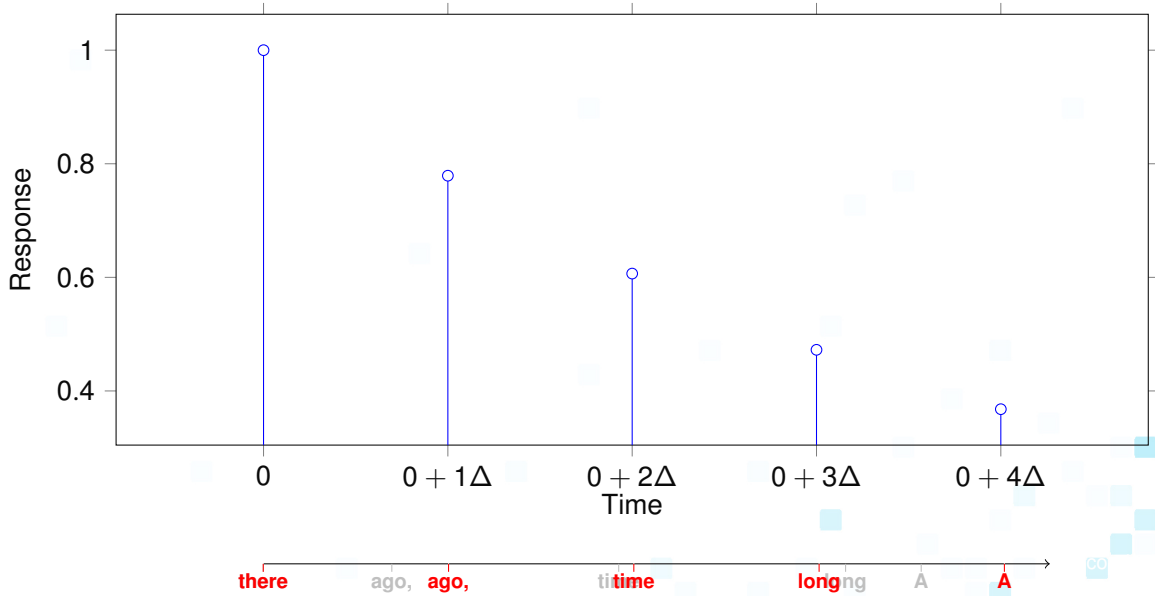
Sparse solution: Add *lots* of coefficients. $\Delta = 0.01$, but few coefficients have data.



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Distortionary solution: Delete temporal variation. Δ uninterpretable, time model broken.

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CASE IN POINT

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- + Shain et al. (2016): analysis of large SPR corpus (Futrell et al. 2018)
- + Significant effects of **constituent wrap-up** and **dependency locality**
- + First strong evidence of memory effects in broad-coverage sentence processing
- + Paper has a couple of citations
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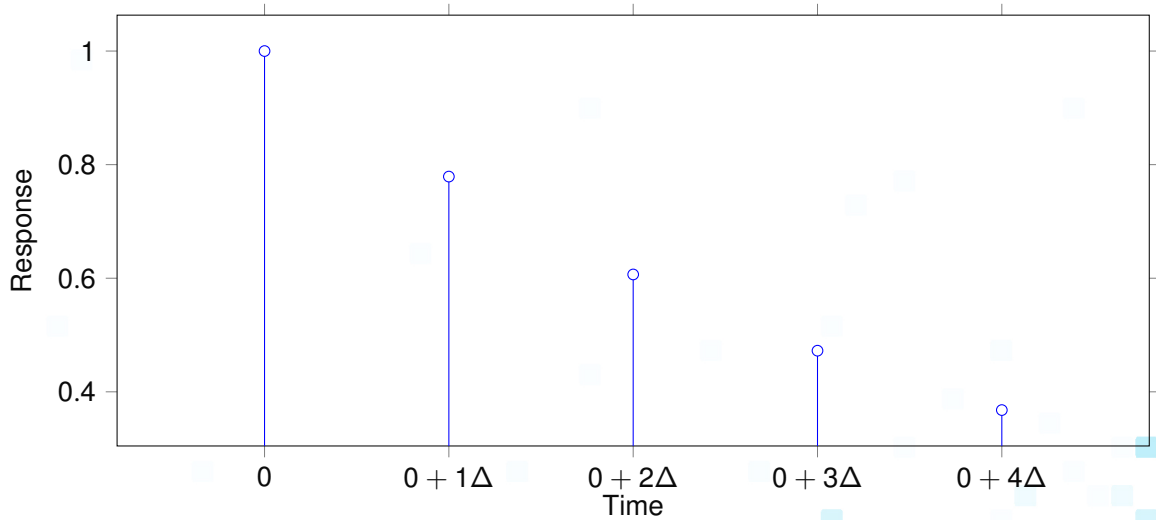
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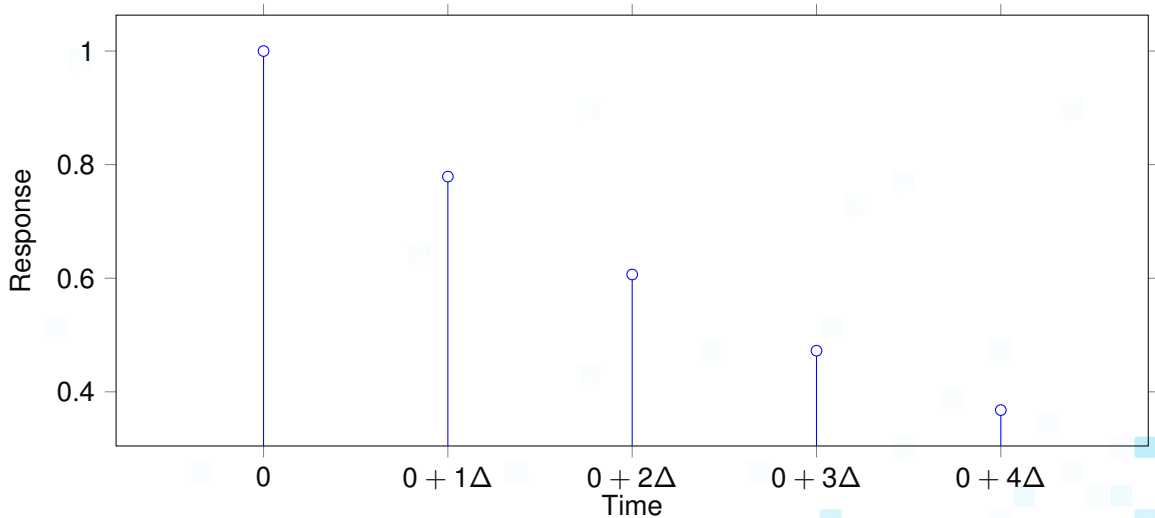
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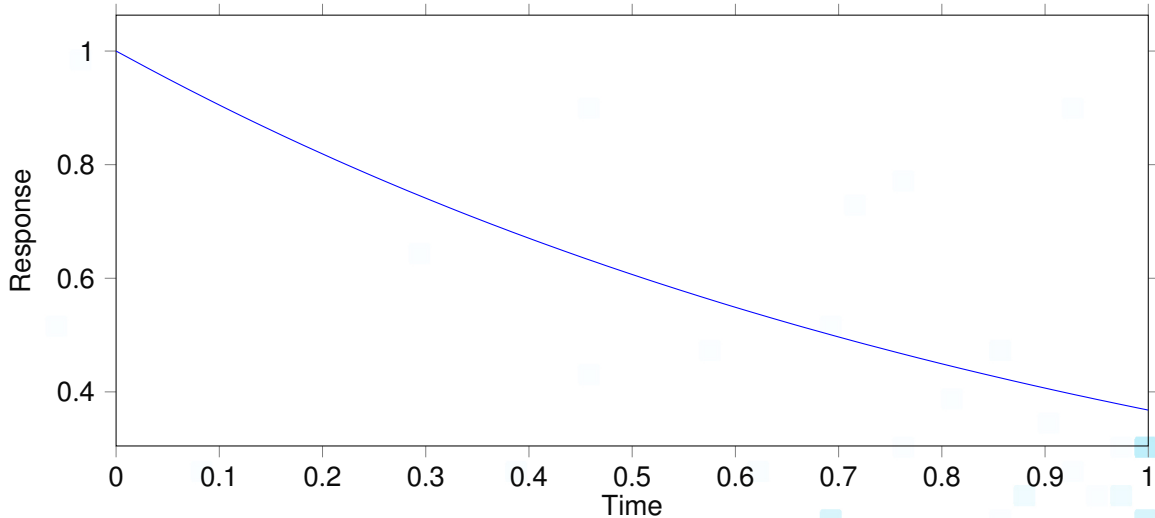
Tiny tweak to timecourse modeling \rightarrow huge impact on hypothesis testing

Deconvolution of psycholinguistic timecourses is both difficult and important.
What should we do?

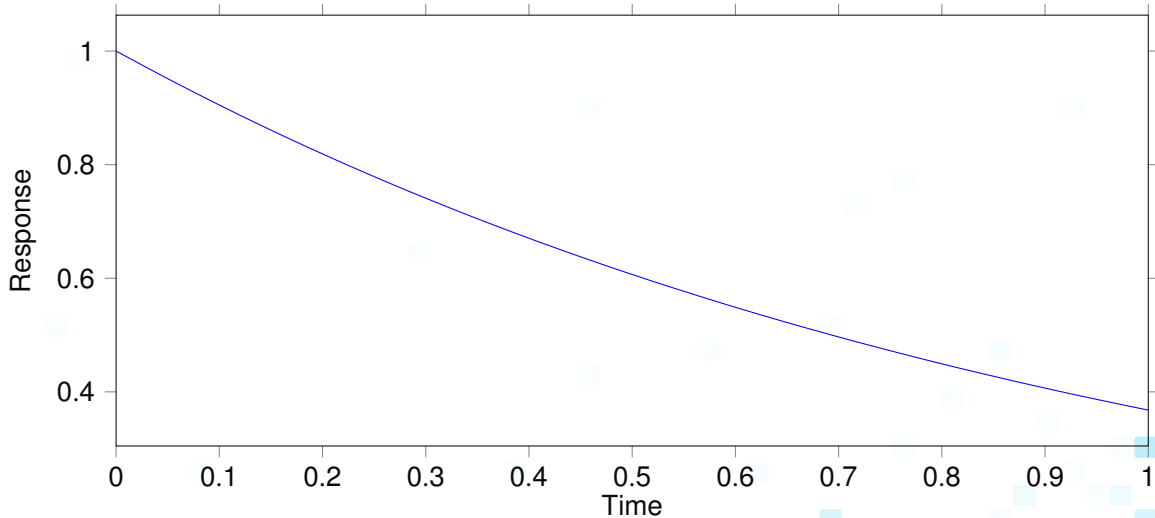




What if we had a continuous IRF?



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$$\text{E.g. } f(x; \beta) = \beta e^{-\beta x}$$

If we could fit β , we could predict the response *anywhere*

Motivation

+ Continuous-time deconvolution would

- + Avoid discretizing time into lags
- + Support **variably-spaced** events
- + Support **unsynchronized** events
- + Apply without sparsity/distortion to any psycholinguistic time series

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- + Until recently, continuous-time deconvolution was hard because non-linear in its parameters
- + Estimators would have to be derived by hand
 - Derive likelihood function (depends on IRF)
 - Derive 1st and 2nd derivatives w.r.t. all parameters
 - Use derivatives to compute maximum likelihood estimators
 - Repeat for new model
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+ Jointly fits:

- + Continuous-time parametric IRFs for each predictor
- + Linear model on convolved predictors
- + Uses autodifferentiation and gradient-based optimization
- + Applies to any time series using any set of parametric IRF kernels
- + Provides an interpretable model that directly estimates temporal diffusion
- + $O(1)$ model complexity on num. timesteps

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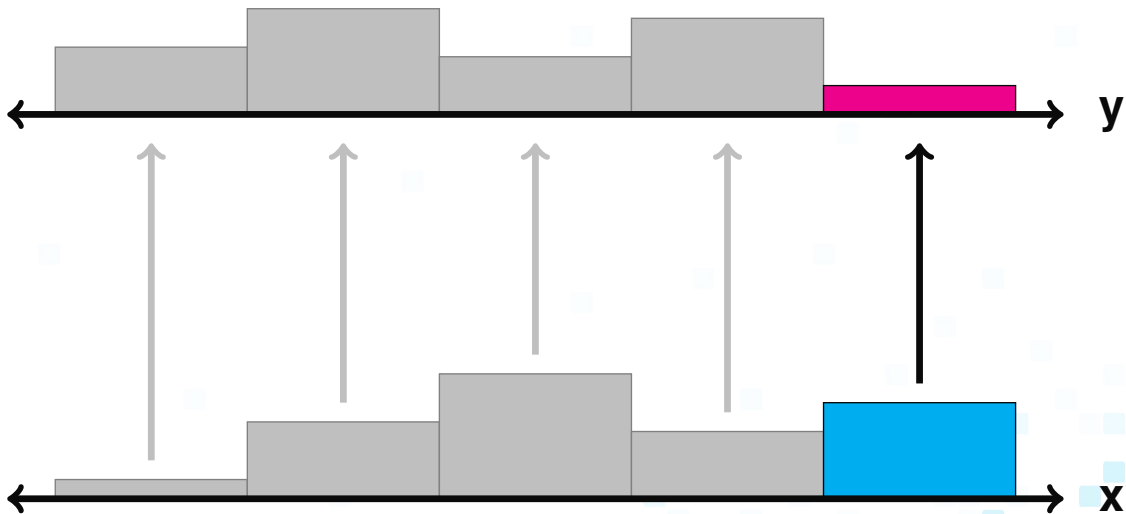
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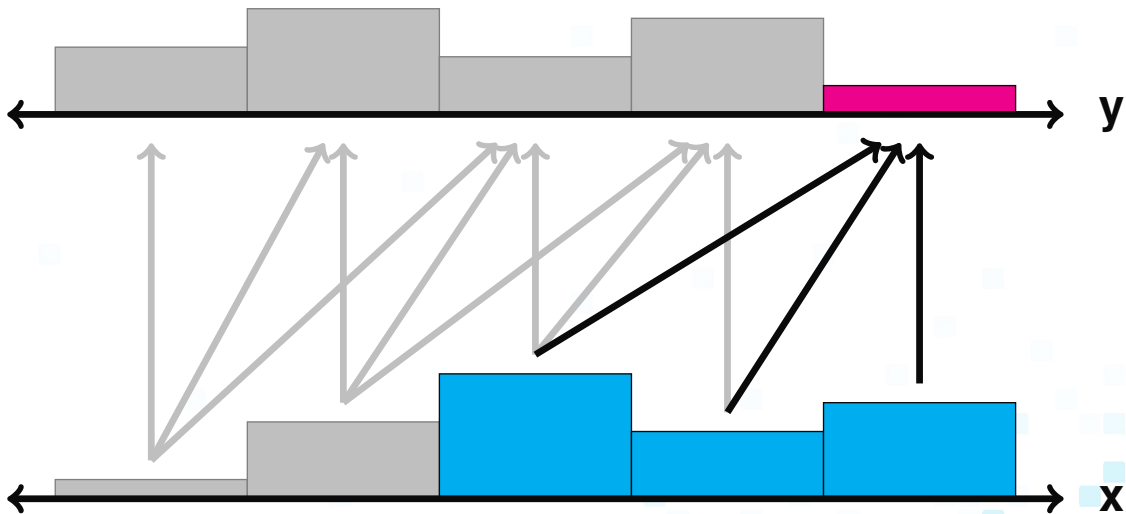
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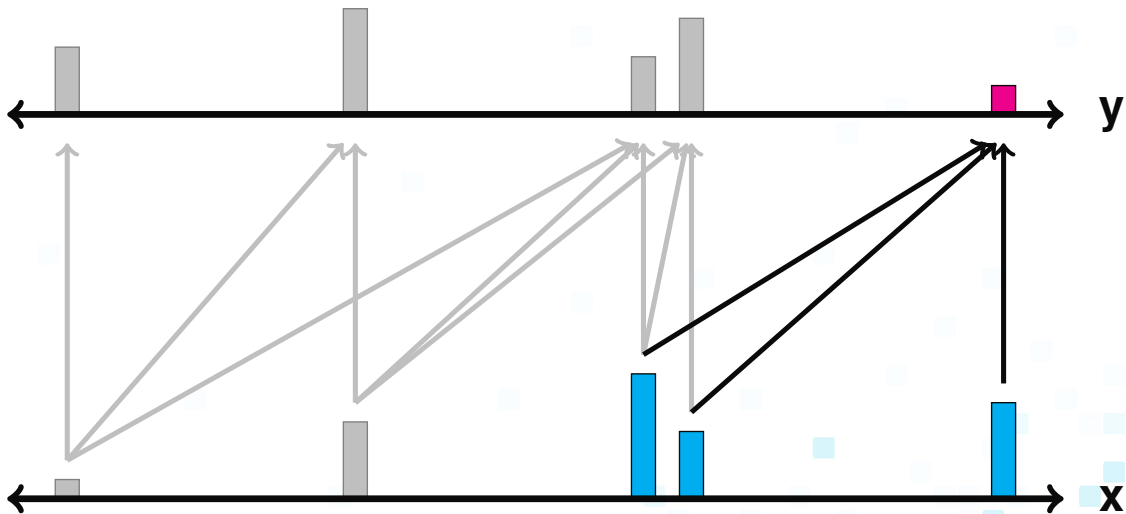
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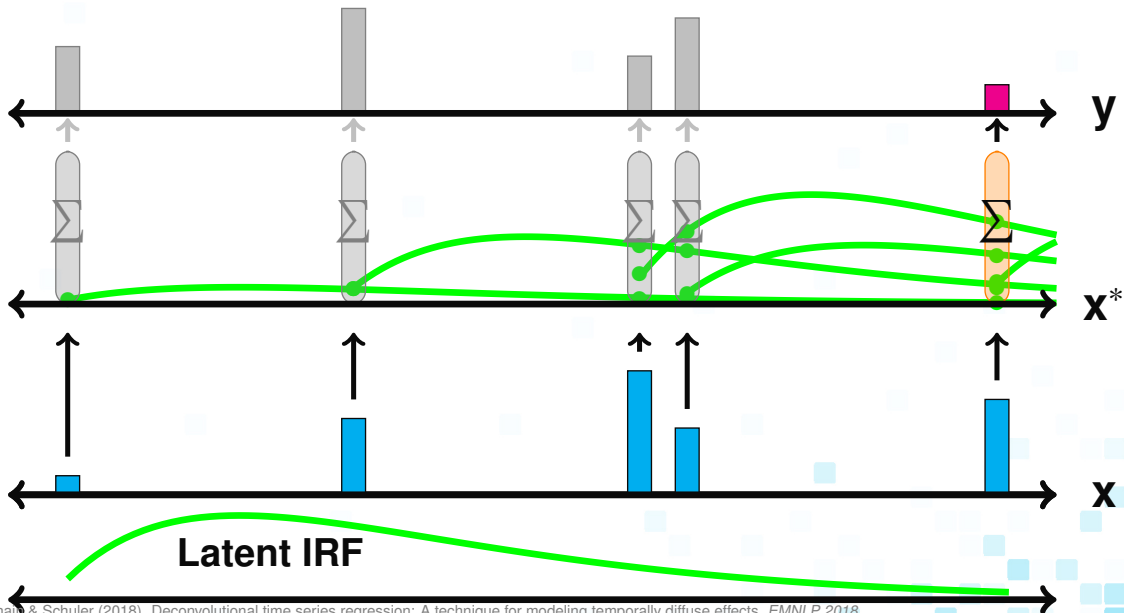
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- Mixed effects modeling (intercepts, slopes, and IIF parameters)

- Supports IIF learning (and more coming)

- Supports IIF learning through online learning

- Supports IIF learning

- Supports IIF learning and sequential Bayesian inference modes

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Proposal: Deconvolutional Time Series Regression

- + Expands range of application of deconvolutional modeling (e.g. to reading)
- + Provides high-resolution estimates of temporal dynamics
- + Documented open-source Python package supports
 - + Mixed effects modeling (intercepts, slopes, and IRF parameters)
 - + Various IRF kernels (and more coming)
 - + Non-parametric IRFs through spline kernels
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DTSR Implementation Used Here

- + ShiftedGamma IRF kernel

$$f(x; \alpha, \beta, \delta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha (x - \delta)^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta(x-\delta)}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$$

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- + Sanity check: Can DTSR recover known IRFs?
- + Generate data from a model with known convolutional structure
- + Fit DTSR to that data and compare estimates to ground truth

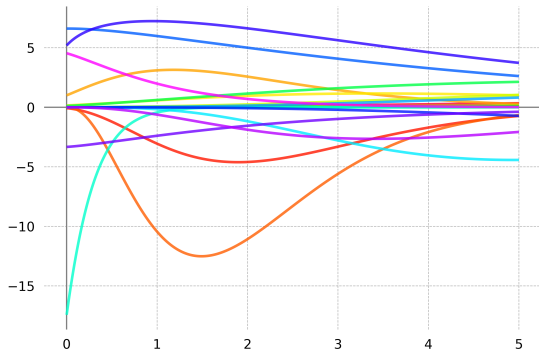
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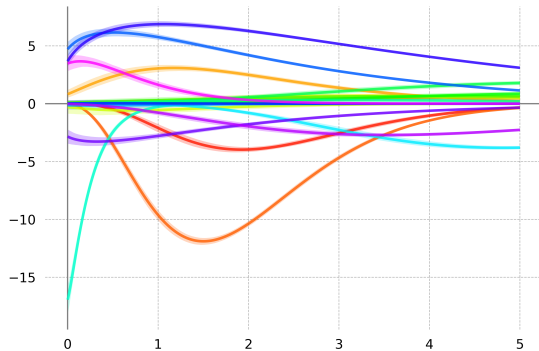
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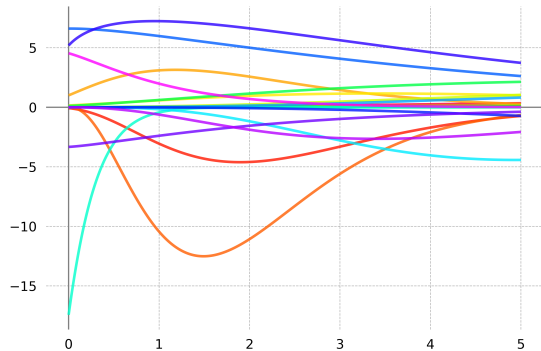


Ground truth

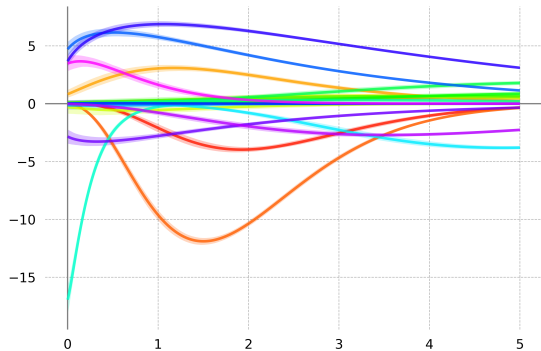


Estimated

Synthetic Evaluation



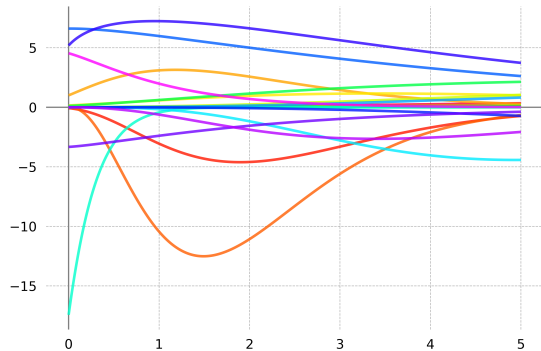
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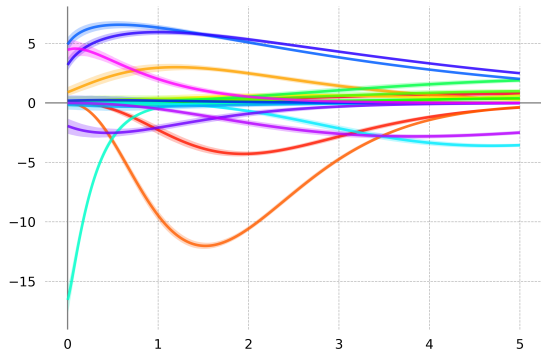
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$$\rho = 0$$

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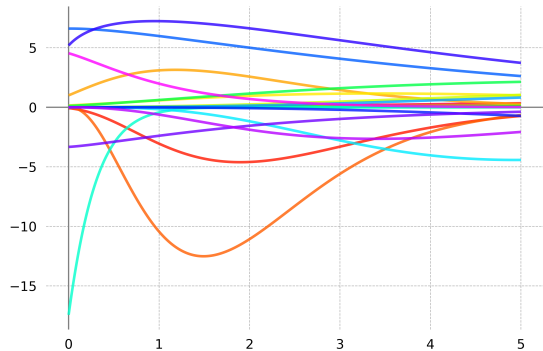
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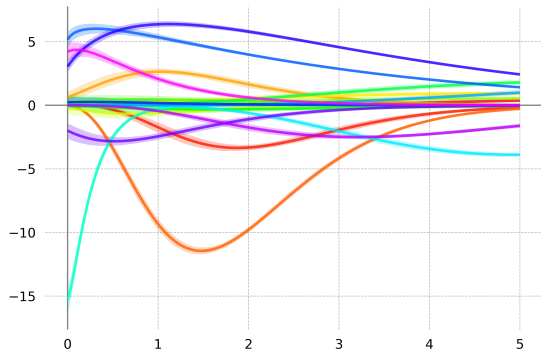
Estimated

$$\rho = 0.25$$

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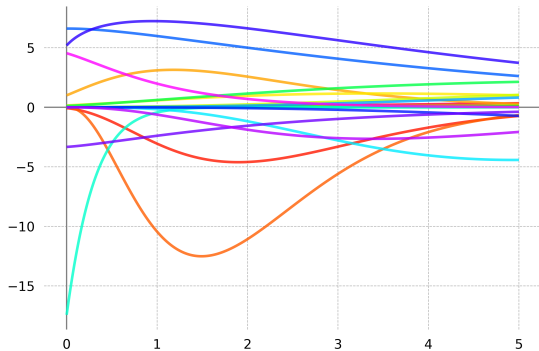
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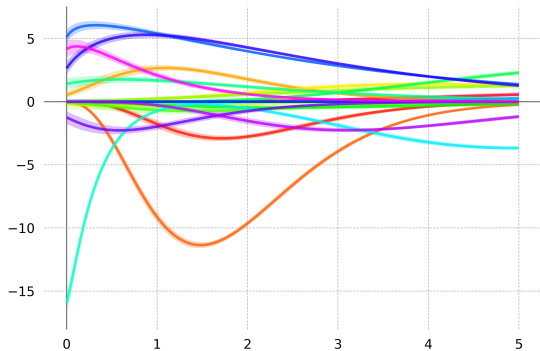
Estimated

$$\rho = 0.5$$

Synthetic Evaluation



Ground truth



Estimated

$$\rho = 0.75$$

Synthetic Evaluation

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- + Estimates are robust to multicollinearity

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Naturalistic Evaluation: Reading Times

+ Datasets:

- + Natural Stories (SPR) (Futrell et al. 2018)
- + Dundee (ET) (Kennedy, Pynte, and Hill 2003)
- + UCL (ET) (Frank et al. 2013)

Naturalistic Evaluation: Reading Times

+ Convolved predictors

- + Saccade length (eye-tracking only)
- + Word length
- + Unigram logprob
- + 5-gram surprisal
- + Rate (DTSR only)

+ Linear predictors

→ Sentence position

+ Response: Log reading times (go-past for eye-tracking)

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Naturalistic Evaluation: Reading Times

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- + Captures effects of stimulus *timing* independently of stimulus *properties*
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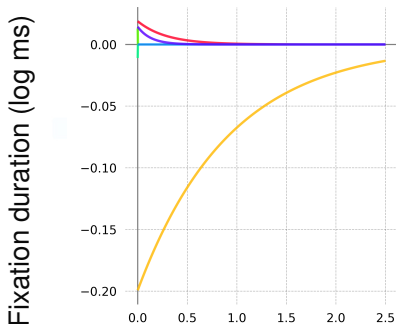
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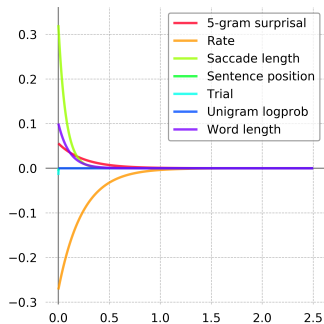
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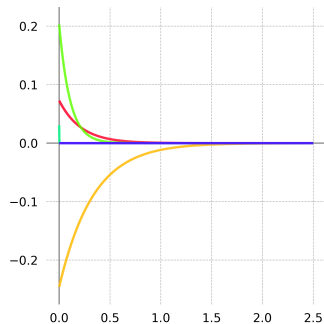
Self-Paced Reading Natural Stories



Eye-Tracking Dundee

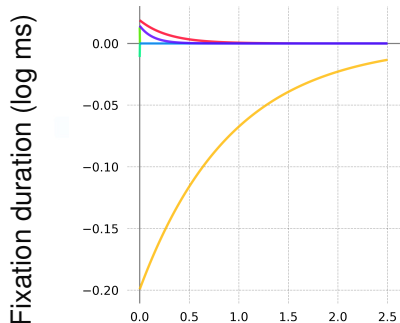


Eye-Tracking UCL

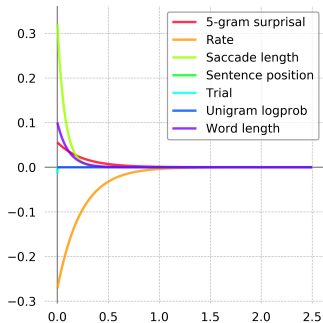


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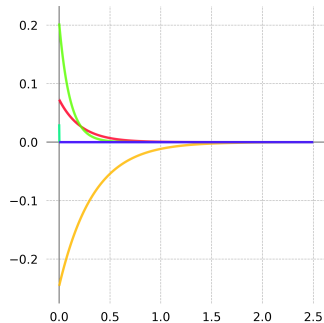
**Self-Paced Reading
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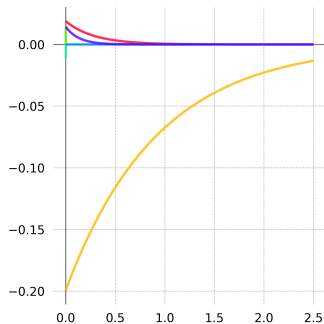


Large negative influence of Rate (convolved intercept) suggests inertia

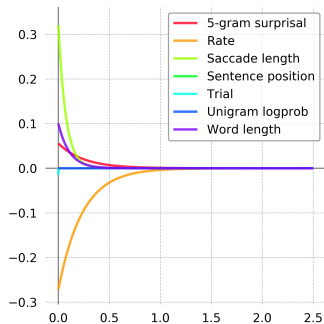
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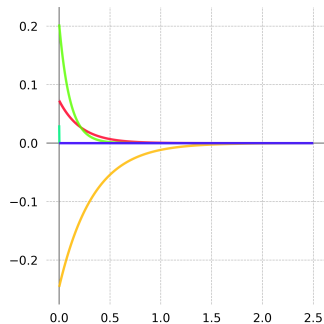
Fixation duration (log ms)



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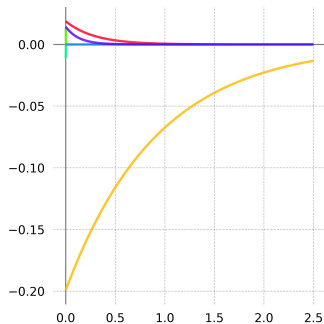
Time (s)

Diffusion mostly restricted to first second after stimulus presentation

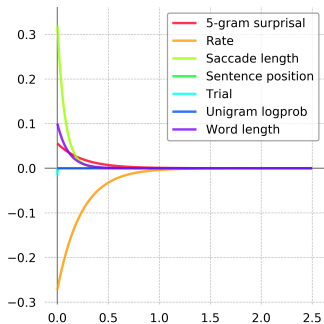
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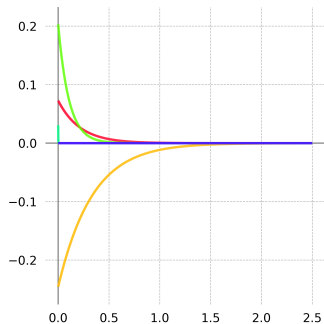
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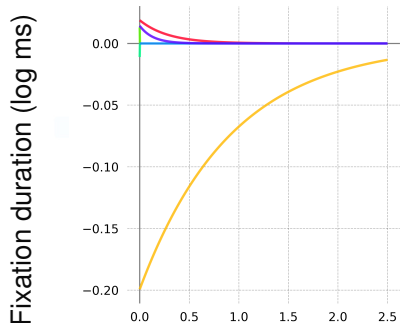


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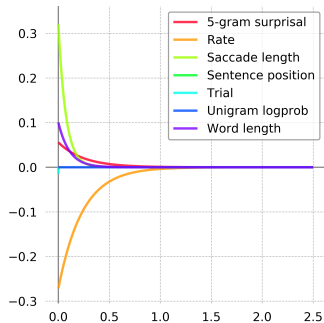
Top-down response slower than bottom-up (surp vs. word/sac. len) (Friederici 2002)

Naturalistic Evaluation: Fitted IRF

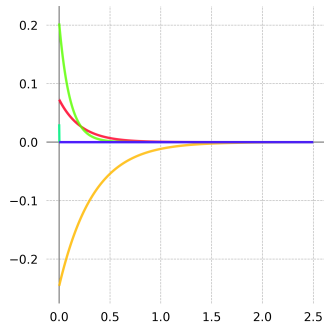
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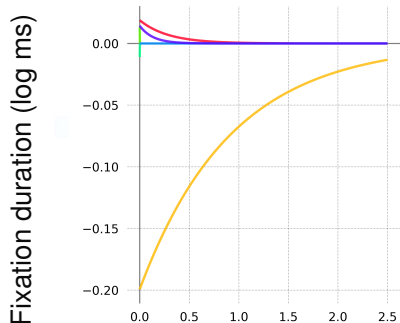
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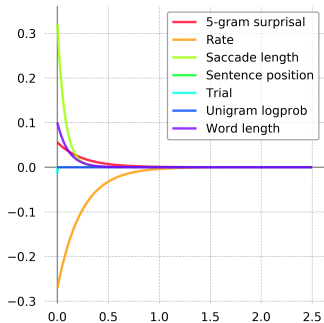
Similar temporal profile across eye-tracking corpora

Naturalistic Evaluation: Fitted IRF

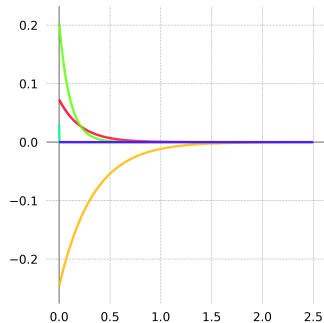
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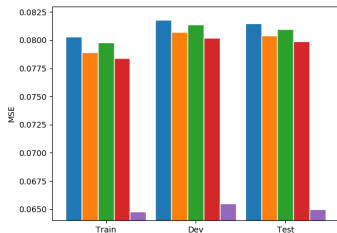
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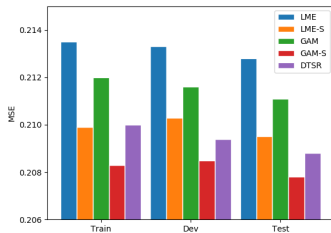
Null influence of unigram logprob (c.f. e.g. Levy 2008; Staub 2015)

Naturalistic Evaluation: System Comparison

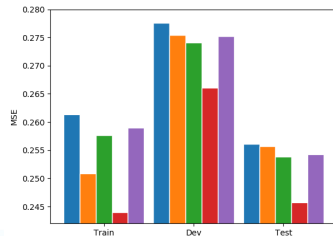
Natural Stories



Dundee



UCL



Mean squared prediction error (MSPE), DTSR vs. competitors
LME (blue); LME-S (orange); GAM (green); GAM-S (red); DTSR (purple)

Naturalistic Evaluation: Summary

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- + Estimates are plausible, replicable, and fine-grained
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So how do I test a claim using DTSR?

Hypothesis Testing

- + DTSR stochastically optimizes over a non-convex likelihood surface

- + Nearly ubiquitous property of modern machine learning algorithms
- + Introduces possibility of *estimation noise*

Conventional ML optimization

Importance sampling for an estimator

Estimation using Monte Carlo sampling (special case)

- + Estimates and training predictions/likelihoods are not guaranteed to be globally optimal
- + Differences between models may be influenced artifacts of fitting procedure

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Convergence to a non-global optimum

Highly sensitive to initialization

Estimation using Monte Carlo sampling (MCMC) is often used

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 - + Directly compare DTSR models (permutation test)
 - + Use DTSR to *transform* predictors as inputs to linear models (2-step test)
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Hypothesis Testing: Example

Test	p -value
Permutation	9.99e-05***
2-Step	TBD

In-sample test for effect of *Surprisal* in Natural Stories

Other applications of DTSR

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- + **2D predictors:** E.g. effects of word cosine similarities
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Demo...

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- + Affords new insights into the temporal dynamics of reading behavior
- + Recovers known ground-truth IRFs with high fidelity
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- + Can help avoid spurious findings due to poor control of temporal diffusion
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Thank you!

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Appendix: Synthetic data generation procedure

- + 10,000 data points 100ms apart
- + 20 randomly sampled covariates $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- + 20 unique coefficients $\mathcal{U}(-50, 50)$
- + 20 unique IRF
 - + $k \sim \mathcal{U}(1, 6)$
 - + $\theta \sim \mathcal{U}(0, 5)$
 - + $\delta \sim \mathcal{U}(0, 1)$
- + Noise added $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, 20^2)$
- + DTSR history window clipped at 128 observations

Appendix: Reading time experiments

- + **Natural Stories** (Futrell et al. 2018)
 - + Constructed narratives, self-paced reading, 181 subjects, 485 sentences, 10,245 tokens, 848,768 fixation events
 - + Post-processing: Removed sentence boundaries, events for which subjects missed 4+ comprehension questions and fixations < 100 ms or > 3000 ms.
- + **Dundee** (Kennedy, Pynte, and Hill 2003)
 - + Newspaper editorials, eye-tracking, 10 subjects, 2,368 sentences, 51,502 tokens, 260,065 fixation events
 - + Post-processing: Removed document, screen, sentence, and line boundaries
- + **UCL** (Frank et al. 2013)
 - + Sentences from novels presented in isolation, eye-tracking, 42 subjects, 205 sentences, 1,931 tokens, 53,070 fixation events
 - + Post-processing: Removed sentence boundaries

Appendix: Reading time experiments

+ Baselines

- + LME (lme4) and GAM (mgcv)
- + By-subject intercepts and slopes
- + Spillover variants
 - + No predictors spilled over
 - + Spillover 0-3 for each predictor (-S)

Appendix: Reading time experiments

- + Data split
 - + Train (50%)
 - + Dev (25%)
 - + Test (25%)