Using contexts defined by temporal structure to guide memory

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What is the impact on memory of having a consistent statistical structure at encoding that is recapitulated at retrieval?



encoding

4





Why might statistical regularities influence memory?

- reinstating an encoding context benefits and structures memory retrieval (Kahana, Howard, Polyn, Roediger, & Byrne, 2008; Morris, Bransford, and Franks, 1977; Tulving and Thomson, 1973)
- statistical structure shapes brain activity and guides learning and prediction in the service of memory retrieval (inhoff (unpublished dissertation), 2018; Mlyashita, 1988; Saffran, Aslin, & Newport, 1996; Schapiro, Kustner, & Turk-Browne, 2012; Schapiro et al., 2013; Sherman and Turk-Browne, 2020; Turk-Browne, 2012)
- can statistical structure, when imposed during encoding and reinstated at retrieval, serve as a context that facilities encoding and retrieval?



What is the dominant color in the mascot? black red green yellow







sure new maybe new guess new guess old maybe old sure old

6

9

3

behavioral results



future experiments

- what if there is structure at encoding but not at retrieval? how about if there is structure at retrieval but not encoding? is a match between encoding and retrieval structure the critical feature? (e.g., Yazin, et al., 2020)
- here, each item is both predictive and predictable. how does this relate to previous findings showing memory differences for predictive versus predictable information? (eg., Sherman & Turk-Browne, 2020)
- what is the impact of having different encoding questions that interrupt the statistical regularities in the ordered condition? might there be different types of event boundaries between mascots [ABCD/ABCD] vs. at transitions between encoding questions [ABCD/ABCD] (e.g., DuBrow & Davachi, 2013; 2016; Polyn, Norman, & Kahana, 2009; Zacks & Swallow, 2007)