

In-Person MathPsych/ICCM 2022
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A working memory model integrating meaning

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Serial recall

Encoding:

A B C D E F

Retrieval:

A * D C * Z

Correct-in-position

Omissions

Transpositions

Extra-list intrusions

Serial recall

Encoding:

A B C D E F

Retrieval:

A * D C * Z

Item memory

$$3/6 = 0.5$$

Order memory

$$1/3 = 0.333$$

Nairne (2004)

Henson (2003)

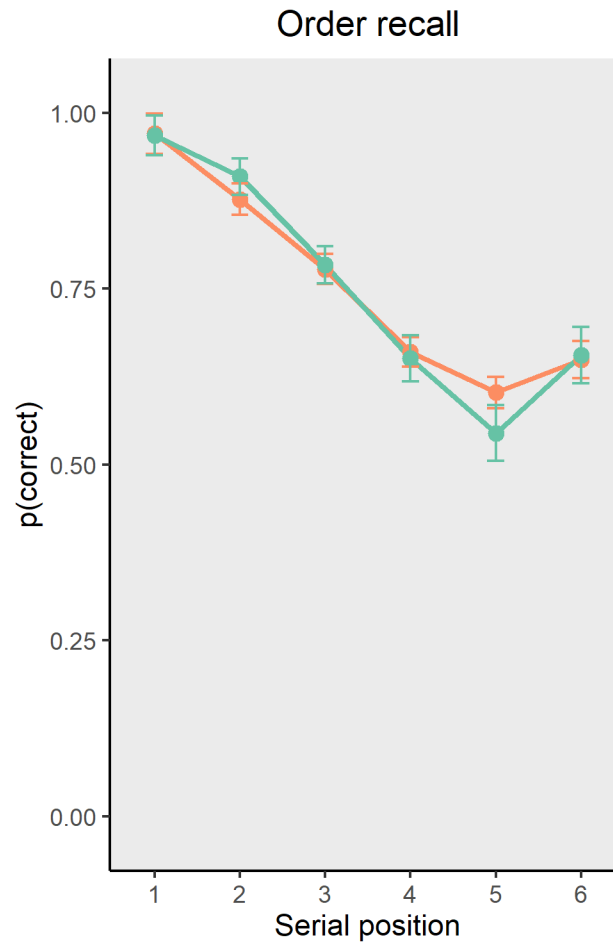
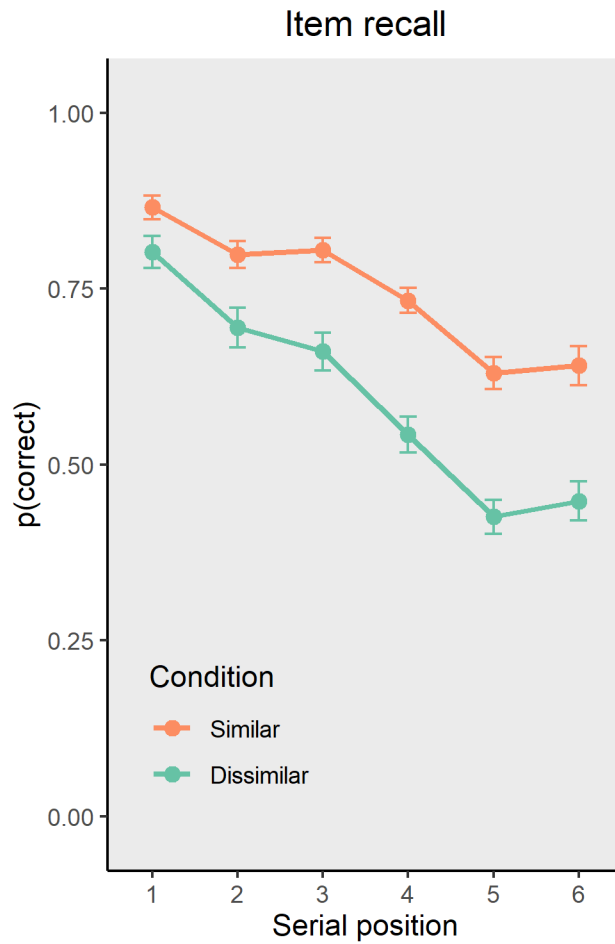
Majerus (2013, 2019)

Semantic similarity

Mars, Pluto, Earth, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter

tree, guitar, puma, laptop, banana, glove

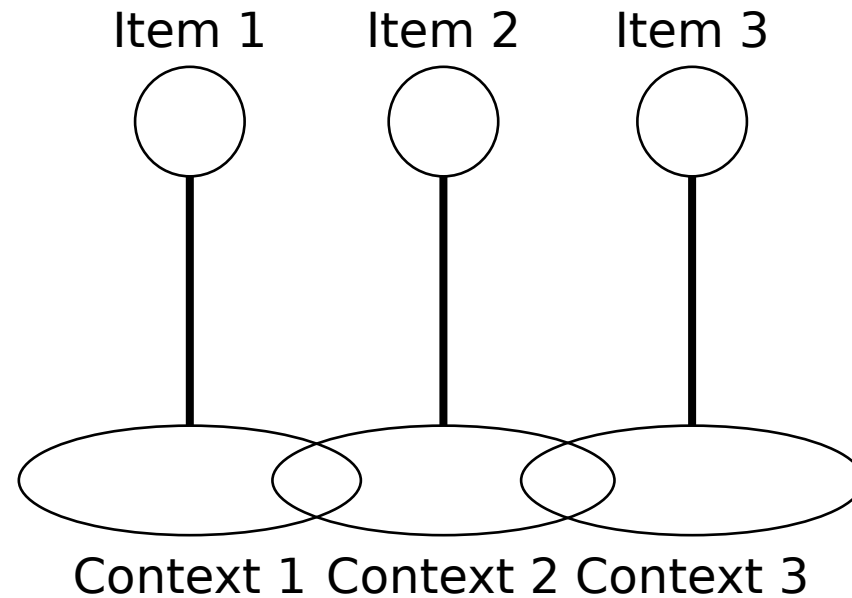
Introduction



Implications: Working memory interacts with semantic knowledge.

Question: What is the nature of these interactions?

How do we encode something into WM?



Burgess & Hitch (1999) *Psych Review*

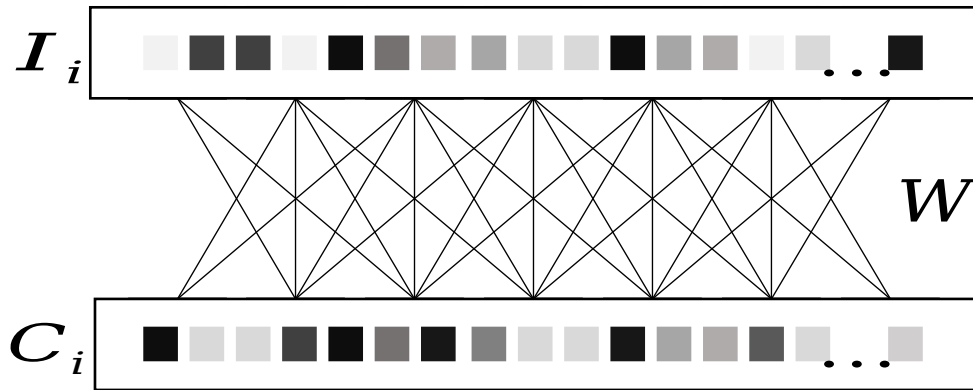
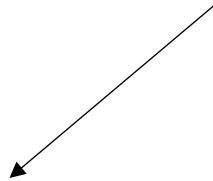
Farrell & Lewandowsky (2004) *JML*

Oberauer et al. (2012) *PB&R*

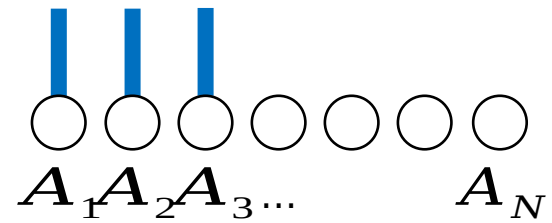
Henson (1998) *Cog Psych*

Connectionist architecture

Phonological and/or orthographic representations



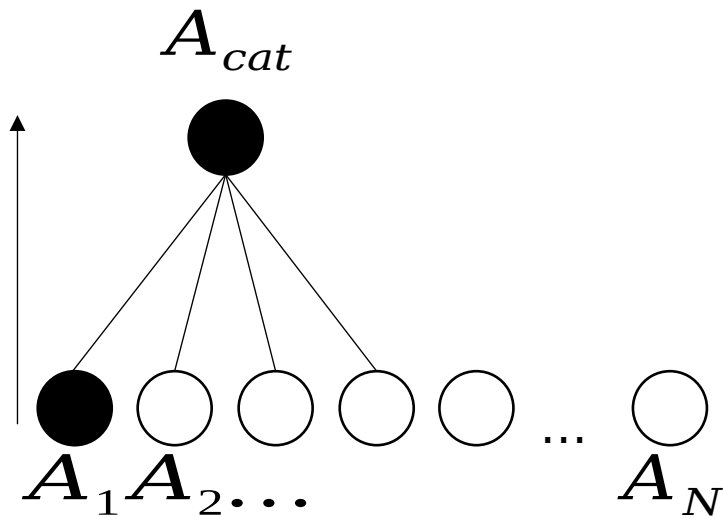
Working memory



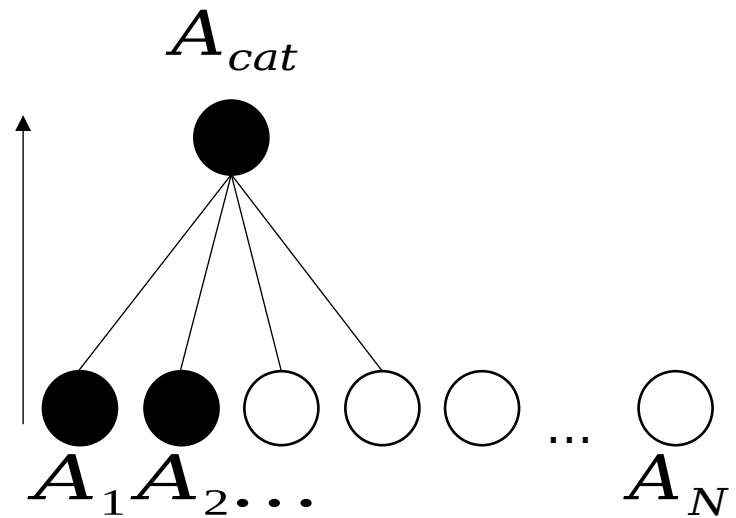
Lexico-semantic layer

Connectionist architecture

Encoding step 1

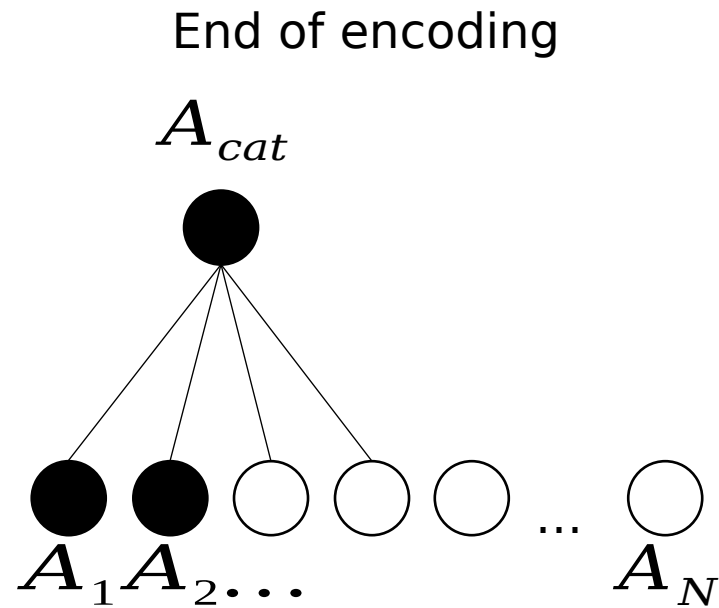


Encoding step 2



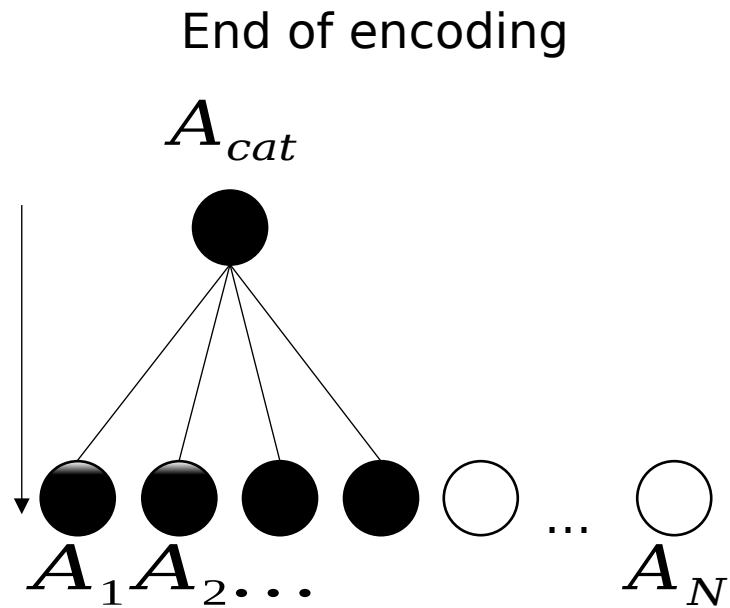
Collin & Loftus (1975) *Psych Review*
Muller et al. (1997) *Psych Review*

Connectionist architecture



Collin & Loftus (1975) *Psych Review*
Muller et al. (1997) *Psych Review*

Connectionist architecture

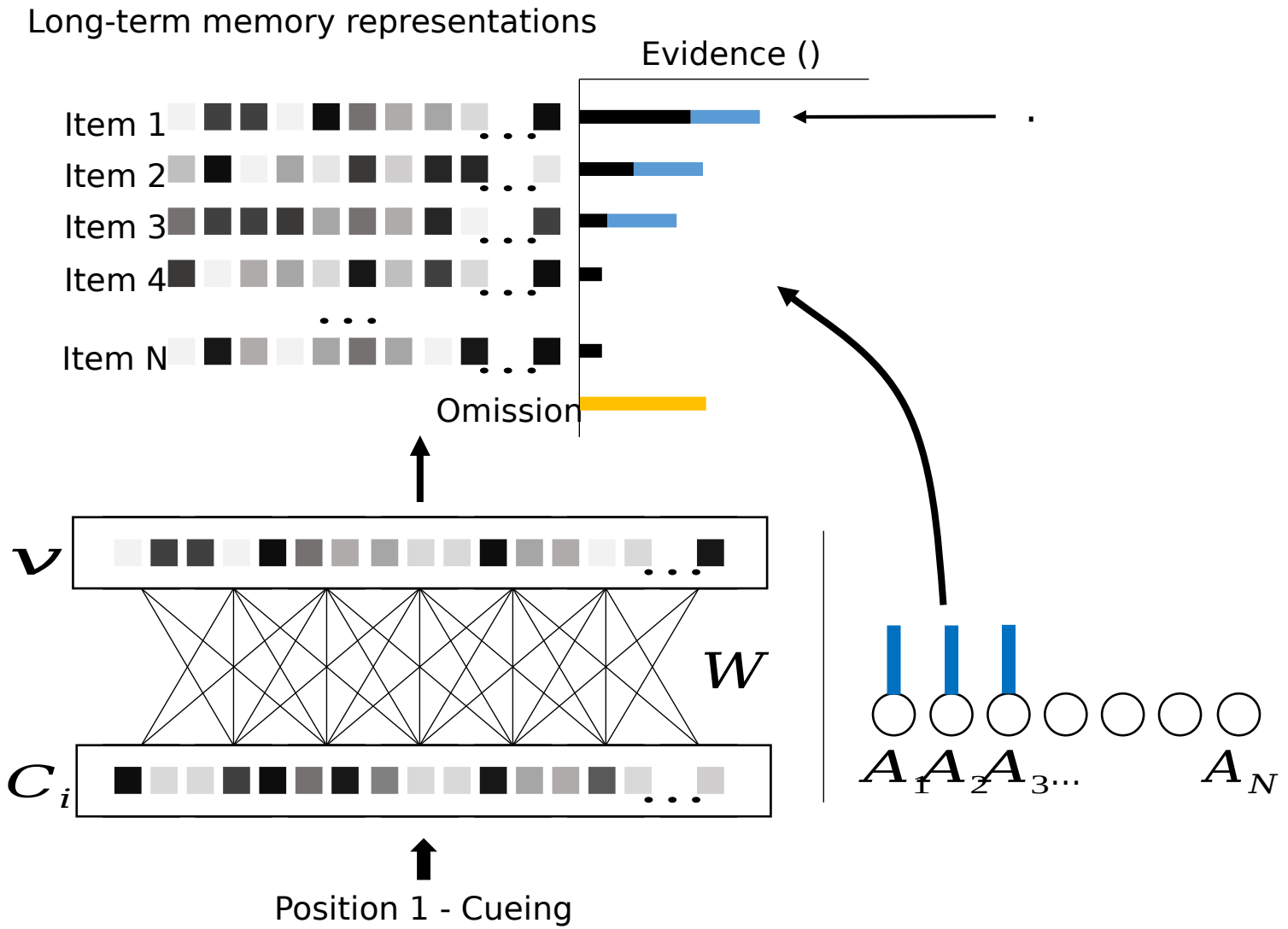


Collin & Loftus (1975) *Psych Review*
Muller et al. (1997) *Psych Review*

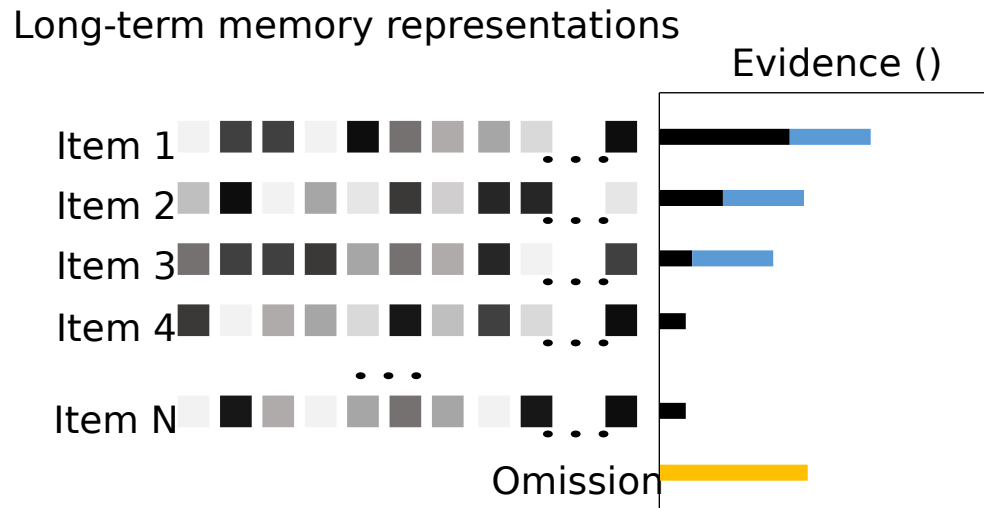
Consequence:

Semantically similar items receive stronger activation in the lexico-semantic layer than semantically dissimilar items do.

Connectionist architecture



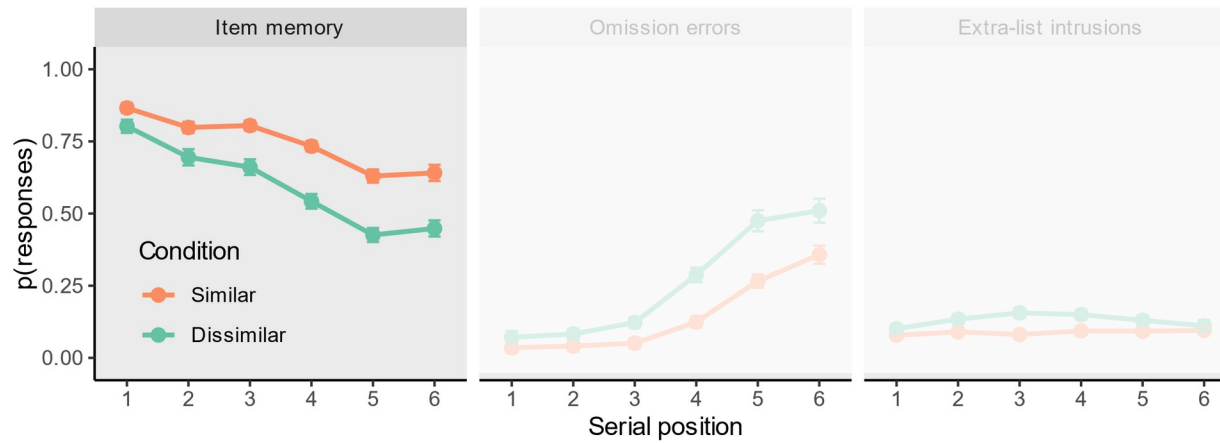
Connectionist architecture



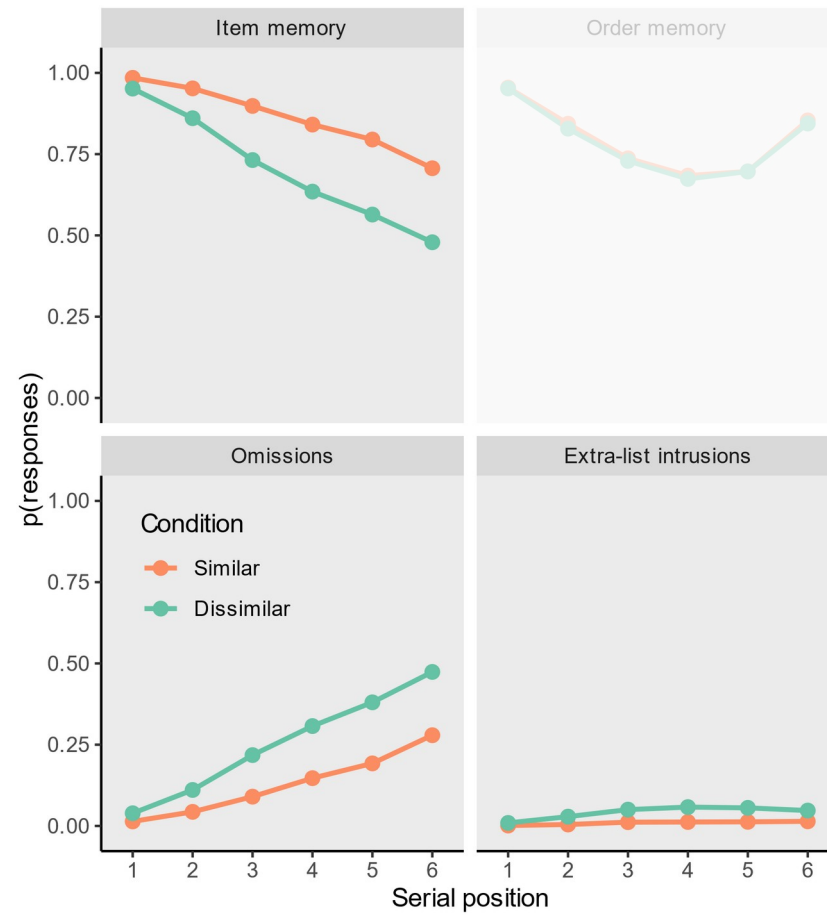
Luce's choice rule (exponential version)

= Temperature (free parameter)

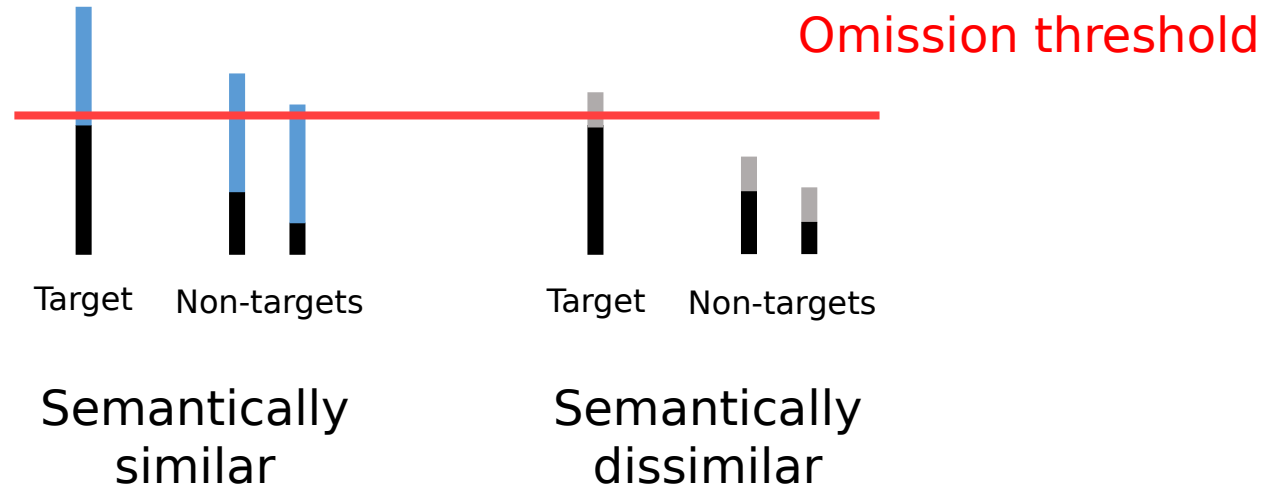
Empirical data



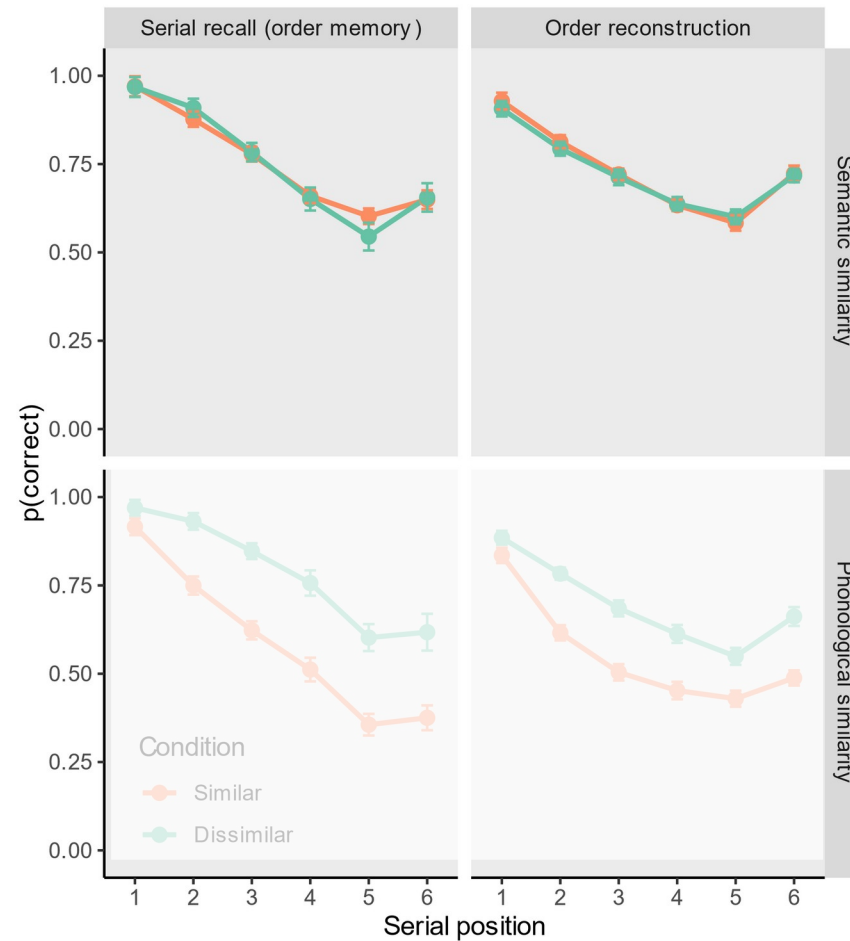
Model



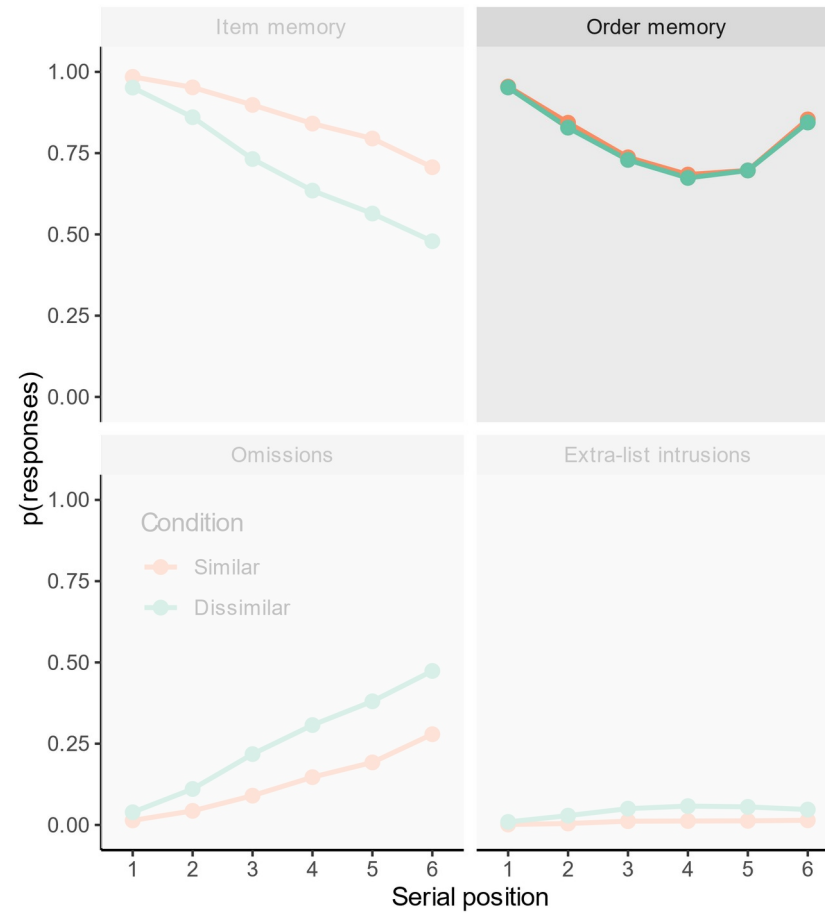
Results



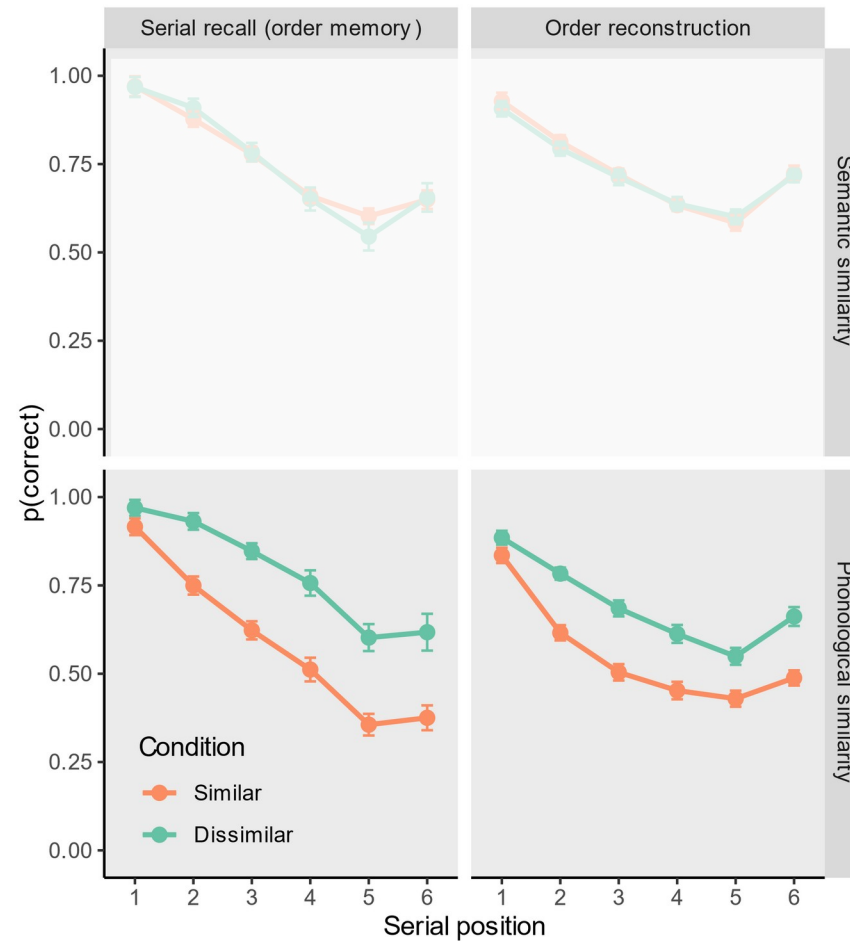
Empirical data



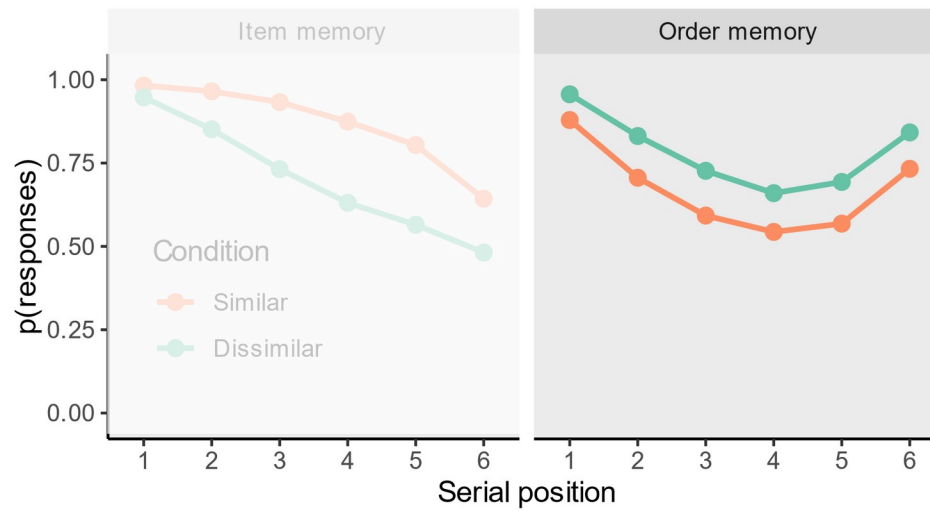
Model



Empirical data



Rhyming similarity - model



Discriminability problem!

Probe recognition tasks

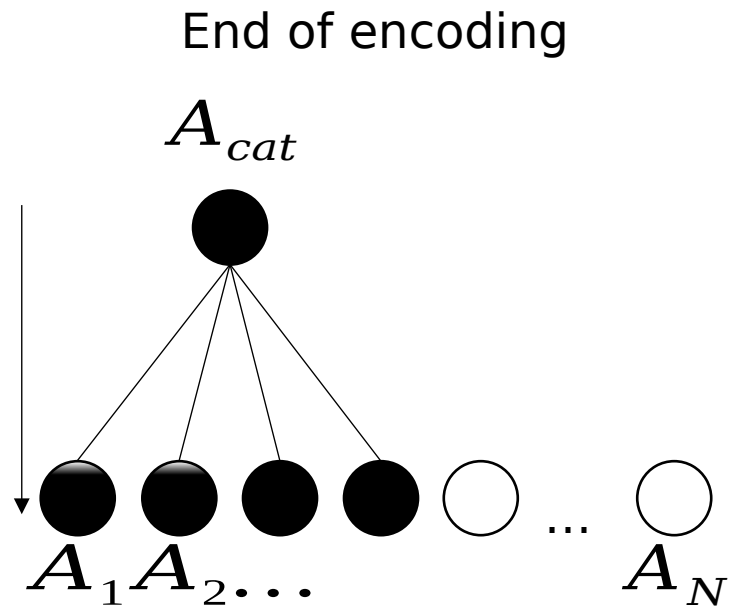
Mars, Pluto, Earth, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter

Neptun?

Leopard?

Increased false alarms

Connectionist architecture



Collin & Loftus (1975) *Psych Review*
Muller et al. (1997) *Psych Review*

Over-activation in lexico-semantic memory

Activation-monitoring framework (Gallo & Roediger, 2002)



Higher probability to respond « yes »

Is it a WM effect?

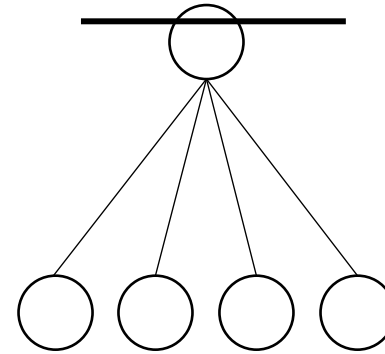
Semantic similarity **enhances item** memory...
While also leaving **order** memory **unaffected**

This pattern is well described by a model in which:

1. Semantic features are **not bound** to their context
2. Semantic similarity benefits WM through sustained activation in a lexico-semantic network

Thank you for your attention

Connectionist architecture



Connectionist architecture

Threshold updating:

Recovery:

