Introduction

- Temporal Contiguity Effect (TCE): recall of one event triggers recall of other events originally experienced nearby in time (Kahana, 1994).
- Retrieved Context Models attribute the TCE to automatic encoding of temporal information whenever new memories are formed (Healey, Long, & Kahana, 2018).
  - Predicts a TCE even when encoding is incidental.
  - Predicts reducing the TCE should reduce recall.
- However, data show incidental encoding:
  - Dramatically reduces the TCE (Healey, 2018; Nairne et al., 2017).

Research Question: Can the Retrieved Context Model simultaneously account for the TCE and overall recall in incidental encoding?

Design

- N = 5,443 [Amazon MTurk]
- Free recall task
  - 1 list of 12 words
  - Animacy judgment encoding task
- 2x2 Between-Subjects Design
  - Explicit vs. Incidental
  - Continual Distractor vs. Delayed Free Recall
- Retrieved Context Model fit using genetic algorithm

Results

Conclusions

- The Temporal Contiguity Effect is dramatically reduced, but not eliminated, when participants are not intentionally studying.
- The Retrieved Context Model can fit the TCE and overall recall in incidental encoding.
- Future Directions:
  - Examine mechanisms which might account for the difference in temporal contiguity between incidental and explicit encoding.

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