

The Temporal Contiguity Effect is modulated, but not eliminated, by orthographic distinctiveness

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Introduction

- *Temporal Contiguity Effect*: recalling one event triggers recall for other events experienced nearby in time to the initial event
- Effect is robust and frequently observed
- Recent study¹ eliminated the effect by presenting uncommonly spelled words

Research Question: Does orthographic distinctiveness eliminate the Temporal Contiguity Effect?

Design

- N = 338
 - Recruited using Amazon's Mechanical Turk
- Free recall, list learning task
 - Three trials each with 10 words
- Two conditions, between subjects:
 - Orthographically common (n = 162):

arcade	eraser	refinement
bison	glue	ruler
cookie	parachute	shank

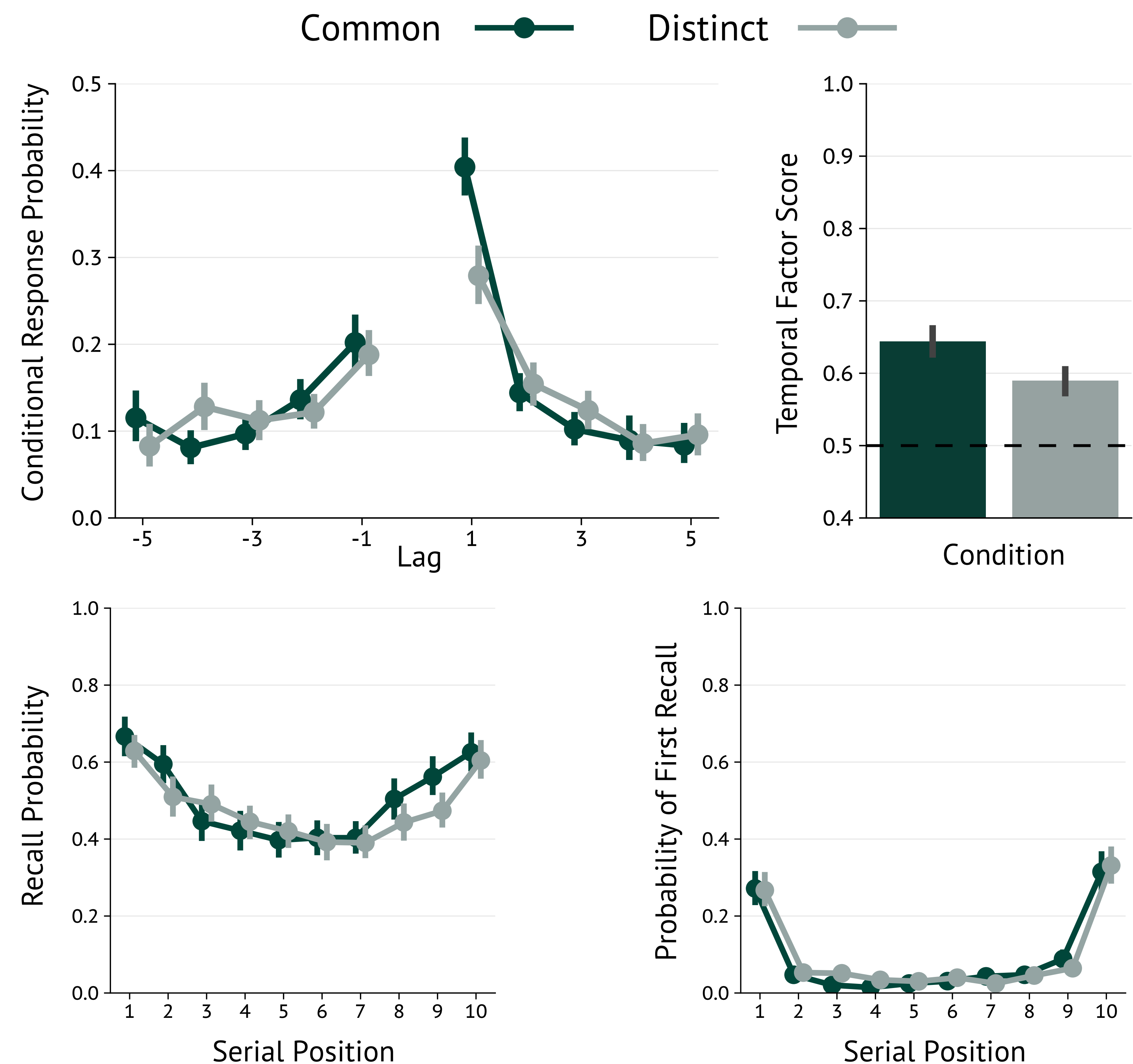
- Orthographically distinct (n = 176):

alfalfa	hyena	ptomaine
fjords	khaki	rhetoric
gnat	phlegm	svelte

References

1. McDaniel, M.A., Cahill, M., Bugg, J.M., & Meadow, N.G. (2011). Dissociative effects of orthographic distinctiveness in pure and mixed lists: an item-order account. *Memory & Cognition*, 39, 1162-1173.

Results



Conclusions

- Temporal Contiguity Effect is reduced but not completely eliminated by orthographically distinct words
- Distinct words potentially require additional cognitive processing
- Future directions: Differences in appearance/presentation of words

Contact

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