### A Generative Model of Human Performance on an Optimal Stopping Problem

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# Why Study This Problem?

#### More Controlled than Knowledge-Rich





#### More Realistic than Knowledge-Lean





### **Complements Other Optimisation Problems**

![](_page_9_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Figure_2.jpeg)

### **Optimal Decision Rule**

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Two Optimal Decisions**

follows decision rule (good but unlucky)

![](_page_11_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### **Two Optimal Decisions**

![](_page_12_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **Empirical Data**

#### **Experimental Interface**

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **50 Subjects on 40 Five-Point Problems**

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

### 98 Subjects on 40 More Five-Point Problems

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Individual Diffs in Accuracy & Confidence

![](_page_17_Figure_1.jpeg)

### **No Evidence of Learning**

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Other Values Don't Seem to Matter**

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Value in Position Matters**

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

### **Being Currently Maximal Really Matters**

![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

# A Hierarchical Bayesian Generative Model

## Why HBG Models?

- Hierarchical
  - represent knowledge at different levels of abstraction
  - formalize the structure of relationships between levels
- $\cdot$  Generative
  - provide an account of how cognitive models are instantiated and bounded
  - quarantine core issues of modeling from secondary questions of inference
- Bayesian
  - provides a (the?) complete and coherent approach to statistical inference with models

#### **Generative Framework** Ν Generative θ **Process** hetaD $p(M|\theta)$ Model Family · · · · ٤ ٦ Indexed $p(I|M,\theta)$ **Sequences Indexed Sequences** 3121 0

![](_page_25_Figure_0.jpeg)

## **Results for One Subject**

#### **Inference from Data**

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

### **Building Predictive Models**

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

### **Posterior Predictive Models**

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Overall Evaluation

#### **Individual Differences at Generative Level**

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

## **Individual Differences in Predictive Models**

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Cross Validation**

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Preliminary Results of Current Work

#### **Feedback and Reward**

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Evidence of Motivation, but not of Learning?

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Interesting Feedback by Reward Interaction?

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Group Decision-Making**

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Leadership to Extremes?**

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Thanks! Questions?