When domain general learning fails and when it succeeds; Identifying the contribution of domain specificity

Lisa Pearl & Jeff Lidz CNL Lunch Talk November 30, 2006

Road Map

Learning

Learning Theories, Domain-Specificity, and Domain-Generality
Bayesian Updating

Case Studies & Models

Anaphoric One

Previous Proposals & Equal-Opportunity Bayesian Learners

Spectacular Failures & Necessary Bias

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Learning Theories, Domain Specificity, and Domain-Generality

- · Learning theory: not just one indivisible piece
- Three parts:
 - Definition of the hypothesis space
 - Definition of the data used as intake
 - Procedure used to update learner's beliefs about opposing hypotheses

In principle, any of these components could be domain-specific or domain-general

Domain-General Update Procedures

- Probabilistic reasoning: good for problems with noisy data or incomplete information & generally applicable to any problem space
- Key: only works over a defined hypothesis space (doesn't replace having one)

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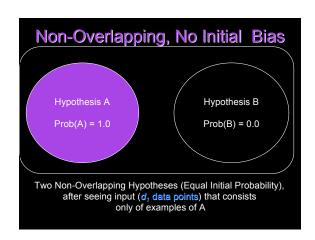
Hypothesis Spaces & Updating

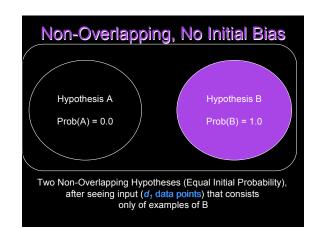
- Layout of the hypothesis space and relationships between hypotheses affect how updating works
- Updating = shifting probability between opposing hypotheses

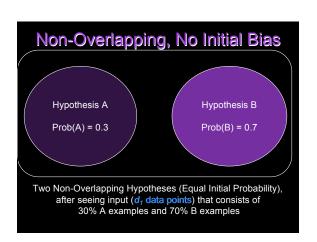
Hypothesis Spaces & Updating

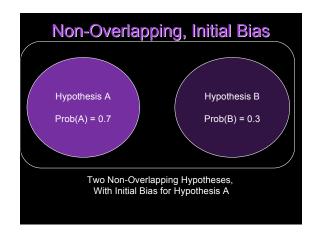
- · Look at four different hypothesis spaces:
 - Non-overlapping, no initial bias
 - Non-overlapping, initial bias
 - Overlapping (simple), no initial bias
 - Overlapping (subset-superset), no initial bias

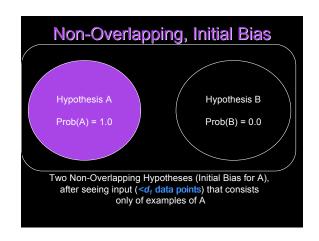
Non-Overlapping, No Initial Bias Hypothesis A Prob(A) = 0.5 Two Non-Overlapping Hypotheses, Equally Probable Initially

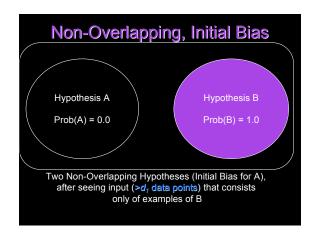


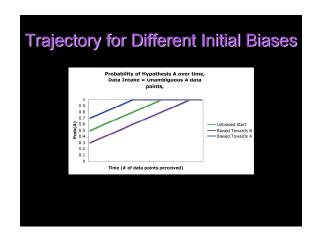


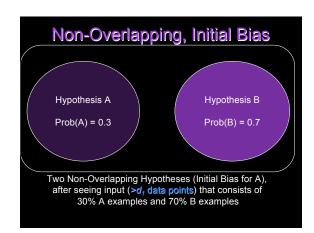


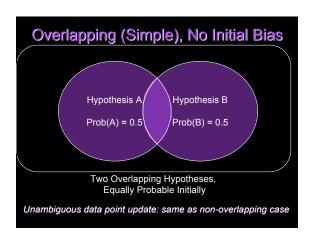


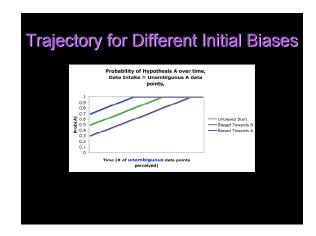


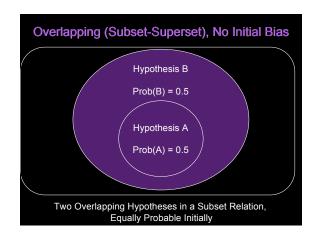


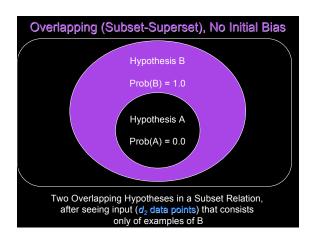


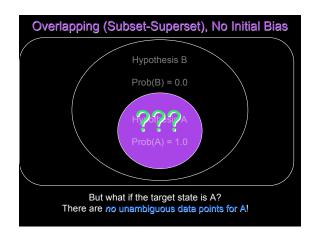










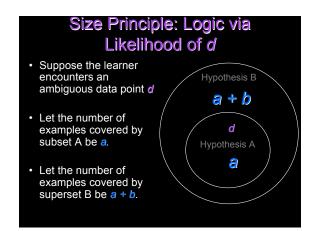


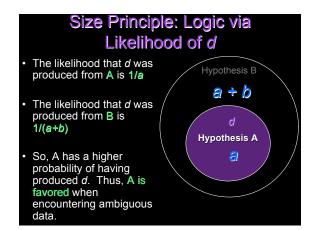
How To Converge on the Subset

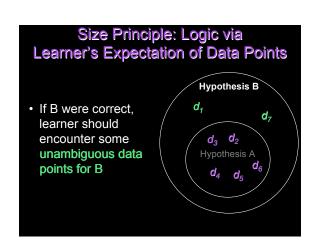
- Initially bias the hypothesis space so the subset has the majority of the probability (ex: Berwick (1985) - default/marked values)
- Use properties of the Bayesian updating procedure: indirect negative evidence

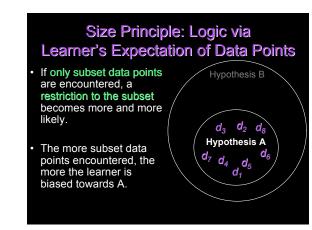
Size Principle (Indirect Negative Evidence) (Tenenbaum & Griffiths, 2001)

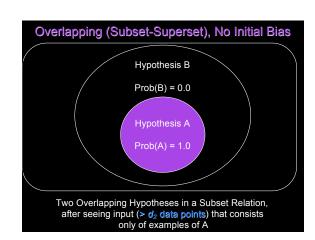
- Size principle: uses the layout of the hypothesis space to favor the subset hypothesis A when encountering an ambiguous data point
- · Two ways to describe size principle logic:
 - Likelihood of given ambiguous data point d
 - Learner expectation of set of data points $d_1, d_2, ...d_n$

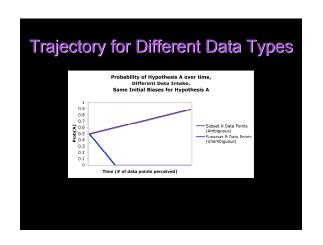


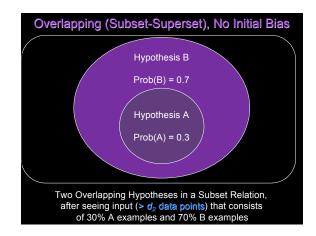












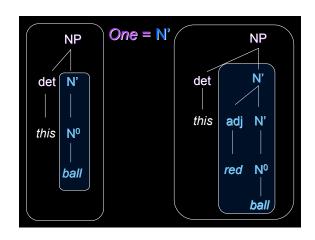


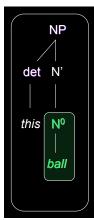
Anaphoric One: Adult Knowledge

One refers to strings of words that can be categorized as N'

"Jack likes this red ball and Lily likes that one."

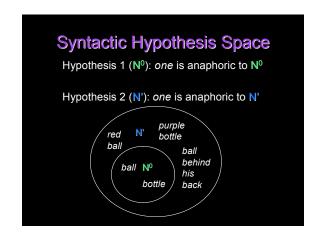
"Jack likes this ball and Lily likes that one."



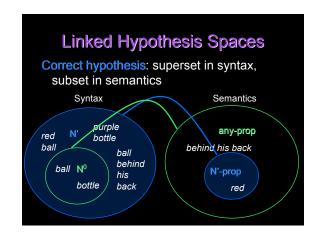


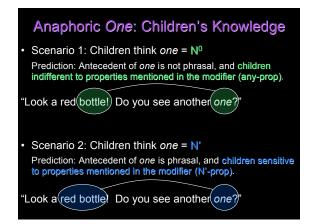
Anaphoric One: Logical Possibility

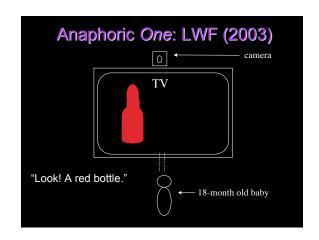
- Alternative Hypothesis:
 One refers to strings categorized as N⁰.
- But this is not the adult hypothesis:
- * I met the member of Congress and you met the one of the Ballroom at Maryland club.

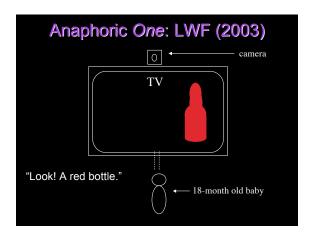


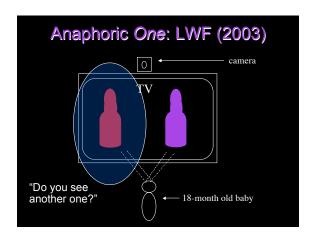
Semantic Hypothesis Space Hypothesis 1 (N'-prop): the referent of one must have the same relevant property (ex: red) as the referent of the antecedent, indicated by the modifier in the N' Hypothesis 2 (any-prop): the referent of one can have any property and does not necessarily need to have the relevant property of the antecedent any-prop behind his back | little | N'-prop red | re











Anaphoric One: LWF (2003)

- Scenario 2 wins: Children think one = N'
 - 18-month old infants have looking preference for red bottle
 - Sensitive to properties mentioned in modifier ('red')
 - Therefore, behaving as if one = N', referent of NP containing one has N'-property

"Look a red bottle! Do you see another one?"

Anaphoric One: Estimated Available Input

• ~278,000 utterances, 4017 with anaphoric one

Utterance Type	Example	#
Unambiguous	"I have a red ball, but Jack doesn't have one." (Jack has a ball, but not a red ball.)	10
Type I Ambiguous	"I have a red ball, and Jack has one, too." (Jack has a red ball at all.)	183
Type II Ambiguous	"I have a ball, and Jack has one, too." (Jack has a ball with some number of properties.)	3805
Ungrammatical	"you must be need one"	20

Unambiguous Data

Unambiguous data points indicate that the linguistic antecedent of one must be N'

N [red ball]

Example utterance & world pairing:
"I have a red ball, but Jack doesn't have one."

Jack has a ball, but it does not have the property red.

- one must refer to red ball, and not to ball

Type I Ambiguous Data

- Type I Ambiguous data points do not distinguish between one anaphoric to N' and one anaphoric to N⁰.
 Also, they have two choices for N' - red ball or ball.
- Ex: "I have a red ball, but Jack doesn't have one."
 Situation: Jack has no ball at all.
 - He doesn't have a ball, or he doesn't have a red ball?
- Ex: "I have a red ball, and Jack has one, too."
 Situation: Jack has a red ball.
 - He has a ball, or he has a red ball?

Type II Ambiguous Data

- Type II Ambiguous data points do not distinguish between one anaphoric to N' and one anaphoric to N⁰. The only string available is ball, however.
- Ex: "I have a ball, but Jack doesn't have one."
- Ex: "I have a ball, and Jack has one, too."

Ungrammatical Data

- Is uninformative about what one refers to
- Ex: "He must be needs one."

Anaphoric One: Data Recap

~278,000 utterances, 4017 with anaphoric one

Utterance Type	Example	#
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Ungrammatical	"you must be need one"	20

10 unambiguous data points is still pitifully few...

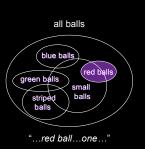
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Previous Proposals & Equal-Opportunity Bayesian

Regier & Gahl (2004)

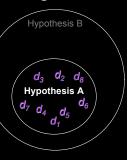
- Use indirect evidence: the type I ambiguous data
- ("I have a red ball, and Jack has **one**, too.")
- Adult preference for larger N' (red ball) will lead one to refer to a red ball every single time



all balls

Size Principle Logic

- If only subset data points are encountered, a restriction to the subset becomes more and more
- The more subset data points encountered, the more the learner is biased towards A.



Regier & Gahl (2004): Size Principle Logic

• If one always refers to a red ball (and so to red ball), learner uses size principle to converge on the subset as the correct hypothesis one = red ball:

blue balls red balls green balls red ball ==> red ball "...red ball...one..."

Regier & Gahl (2004) Claim

- Size principle logic lets learner converge on correct hypothesis without recourse to implicit biases or knowledge
- Learner simply uses Bayesian updating logic

Implicit Biases Revealed

- Bias 1: Only some data used as intake (not all)
 - Unambiguous and Type I Ambiguous
 - Type II Ambiguous ignored
- Bias 2: Only semantic hypothesis space considered (and thus only semantic data points)
 - Syntactic hypothesis space ignored

Equal-Opportunity Bayesian Learner

- A Bayesian learner truly without biases: Equal-Opportunity Bayesian Learner (EO Bayesian learner)
- Uses all available data (Unambiguous, Type I, and Type II Ambiguous)
- Uses both syntactic and semantic data points (recognizing that there are two linked hypothesis spaces)

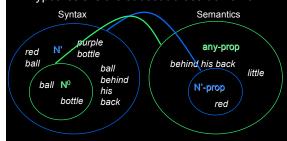
Hypothesis Spaces

- Syntax (antecedent of one): No vs. No
- Semantics (referent of one in the world):
 N'-prop vs. any-prop

Linked Hypothesis Spaces Syntax Semantics purple any-prop N' red bottle ball behind his back ball little behind ball N⁰ N'-prop bottle back red

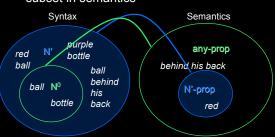
Linked Hypothesis Spaces

• The problem for the size principle: no hypothesis is the subset *across* domains



Linked Hypothesis Spaces

 Correct hypothesis: superset in syntax, subset in semantics



EO Bayesian Learner: Updating

- Initial State: both hypotheses are equiprobable in both syntax & semantics
- Update probabilities within each domain, based on data type observed
- Update across domains, because hypothesis spaces are linked

EO Bayesian Learner: Updating Syntax

• 2 hypotheses: N' and No

• Track $p_{N'}$ $(p_{N0} = 1 - p_{N'})$

• Initial state: $p_{N'} = 0.5$

EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Unambiguous Data Update

Unambiguous data (10 of 4017 data points)

$$p_{N'} = p_{N' \text{ old}} + 1$$

$$t = \# \text{ of data points expected (amount of change allowed)}$$

$$= 4017$$

Utterance: "...red ball...one..."

World: referent of one has property red

EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Unambiguous Data Update

Unambiguous data (10 of 4017 data points)

$$p_{N'} = \frac{p_{N' \text{ old}} * t + 1}{t + 1}$$

Intuition: 1 added to numerator since learner is fully confident that unambiguous data point signals N' hypothesis

Utterance: "...red ball...one..."

World: referent of one has property red

EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Unambiguous Data Update

• Unambiguous data (10 of 4017 data points)

$$p_{N'} = p_{N' \text{ old}} * t + 1$$

$$t + 1$$
Intuition: 1 added to denominator since 1 data point seen

Utterance: "...red ball...one..."

World: referent of one has property red

EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Unambiguous Data Update N' one = 'red ball' Nº

EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Type II Ambiguous Data Update

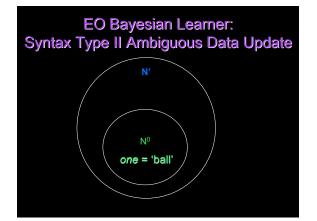
• Type II Ambiguous data (3805 of 4017 data points)

$$p_{N'} = \frac{p_{N' \text{ old}} * t + ????}{t + 1}$$

Intuition: number added should be less than 1, since learner is not certain that type II ambiguous data point signals N' hypothesis

Utterance: "...ball...one..."

World: referent of one may have property red (and other properties)



EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Type II Ambiguous Data Update

• Type II Ambiguous data (3805 of 4017 data points)

$$p_{N'} = \frac{p_{N' \text{ old}} * t + p_{N'|a}}{t + 1}$$

Value added is partial confidence value, $p_{N'|a'}$ which will be < 1.

Utterance: "...ball...one..."

World: referent of *one* may have property red (and other properties)

EO Bayesian Learner: Partial Confidence Value

 Partial confidence value p_{N'|a} is based on the fact that the utterance has only a noun as the possible antecedent.

...ball...one...

Noun is compatible with N' hypothesis. Means Nounonly string chosen from all possible N' strings. So, depends on likelihood of choosing a Noun-only string from all possible N' strings: pn from N'.

EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Type II Ambiguous Data Update

• Type II Ambiguous data (3805 of 4017 data points)

$$p_{N'} = p_{N' \text{ old}} * t + p_{N'|a}$$

The smaller the ratio of Noun-only strings to total N' strings, the smaller this value is and the more the learner is biased towards the N⁰ hypothesis for a type II ambiguous data point.

Utterance: "...ball...one..."

World: referent of *one* may have property red (and other properties)

EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Type II Ambiguous Data Update

Example Update for Type II Ambiguous

 $\mathbf{p}_{N'} = 0.5, t = 4017, \mathbf{p}_{n \text{ from } N'} = 0.25$

 $p_{N'} = \frac{0.5 *4017 + 0.2}{4017 + 1} = .499925$ (slight bias for N⁰)

Note: majority of data is type II ambiguous (modifier-less antecedent). Every time learner sees one, learner is biased towards wrong answer. Small biases can add up over time.

EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Type I Ambiguous Data Update

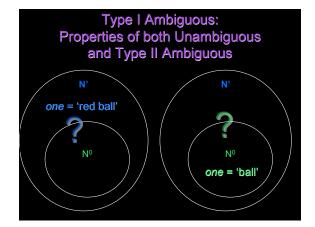
Type I Ambiguous data (183 of 4017 data points)

$$p_{N'} = p_{N' \text{ old}} * t + ????$$

Intuition: number added should be less than 1, since learner is not certain that type I ambiguous data point signals N' hypothesis

Utterance: "...red ball...one..."

World: referent of *one* has property red (and other properties)



EO Bayesian Learner: Syntax Type I Ambiguous Data Update

Type I Ambiguous data (183 of 4017 data points)

$$p_{N'} = p_{N' \text{ old}} * t + 1$$

$$t + 1$$

We will be generous and pretend learner is fully confident in N' hypothesis. This will overestimate learner's confidence in N' hypothesis.

Utterance: "...red ball...one..."

World: referent of *one* has property red (and other properties)

EO Bayesian Learner: Updating Semantics

• 2 hypotheses: N'-prop and any-prop

Track p_{N'-prop} (p_{any-prop} = 1 - p_{N'-prop})

Initial state: p_{N'-prop} = 0.5

• Data types: Same-Property, Different-Property

EO Bayesian Learner: Updating Semantics Same-Property

 Same-property data points: referent of one has same salient property as N' antecedent referent

(...red ball...) --> referent of one has property red

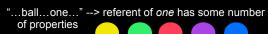
Unambiguous data points (10) + Type I
Ambiguous data points (183) + some of the
Type II Ambiguous data points (???)

EO Bayesian Learner: Semantics Same-Property Type II Ambiguous

Type II Ambiguous data point







- number of properties learner is aware of = c.
- Likelihood that referent of one coincidentally has salient property that referent of antecedent has is 1/c.

EO Bayesian Learner: Updating Semantics Same-Property

 Same-property data points: referent of one has same salient property as N' antecedent referent

(...red ball...) --> referent of one has property red

Unambiguous data points (10) + Type I
Ambiguous data points (183) + some of the
Type II Ambiguous data points (3805*1/c)

EO Bayesian Learner: Updating Semantics Different-Property

 Different-property data points: referent of one has different salient property than N' antecedent referent

some of the Type II Ambiguous data points (???)

EO Bayesian Learner: Semantics Different-Property Type II Ambiguous

Type II Ambiguous data point





"...ball...one..." --> referent of *one* has some number of properties

- number of properties learner is aware of = c.
- Likelihood that referent of one has different salient property that referent of antecedent has is (c-1)/c.

EO Bayesian Learner: Updating Semantics Different-Property

Different-property data points: referent of one has different salient property than N' antecedent referent

some of the Type II Ambiguous data points (3805*(c-1)/c)

EO Bayesian Learner: Semantics Same-Property Data Update

 Same-Property data (193+3805*1/c of 4017 data points)

$$p_{N'-prop} = \frac{p_{N'-prop \text{ old}} * t + p_{N'-prop|s}}{t + 1}$$



Value added is partial confidence value, p_{N'-prop|d'} which will be < 1. Same-property data point is consistent with any-property hypothesis. Partial confidence value depends on the likelihood of choosing same-property from all properties (1/c).

EO Bayesian Learner: Semantics Different-Property Data Update

Different-Property data (3805*(c-1)/c of 4017 data points)

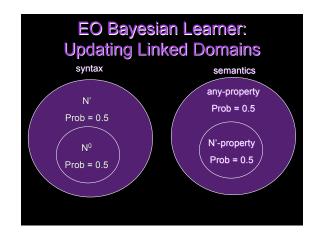
$$p_{N'-prop} = \frac{p_{N'-prop \text{ old}} * t + 0}{t + 1}$$

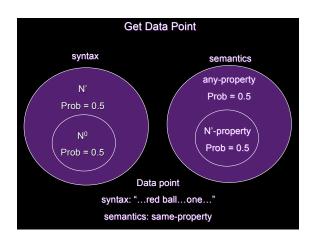


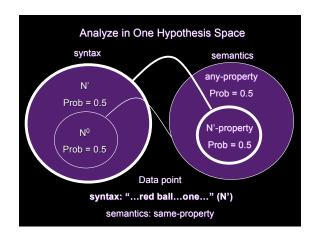
Value added to numerator is 0, since differentproperty data point is not compatible with N'-prop hypothesis. Learner has no confidence that this data point indicates N'-prop hypothesis.

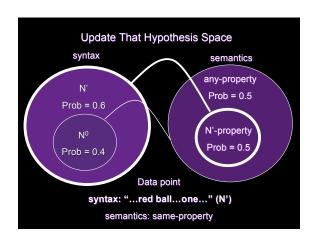
EO Bayesian Learner: Updating Linked Domains

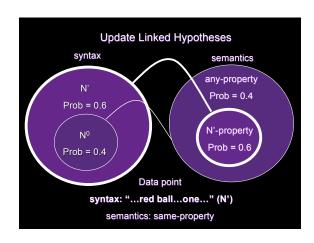
- · Hypothesis spaces are linked
- Any data point impacting one hypothesis should also have an effect on the other

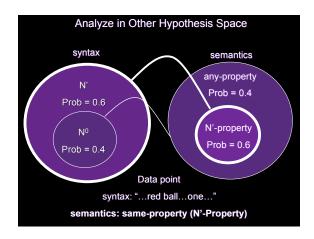


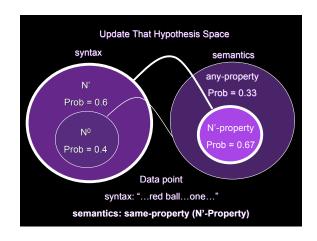


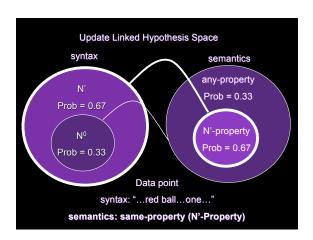


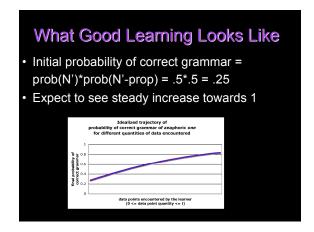












Simulating an EO Bayesian Learner

- Syntax
 - Need value for p_{n from N'}
 - Note: the higher this value, the more biased towards N' the learner is for type II ambiguous data
 - We'll be generous and define strings in N' categorically, instead of by individual vocabulary items
 - N' strings = {Noun, Adjective Noun, Noun PP, Adjective Noun PP}

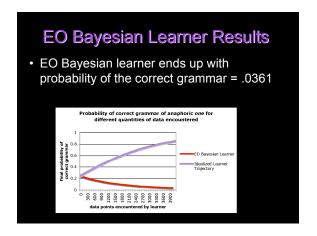
Ex: "ball", "red ball", "ball behind his back", "red ball behind his back"

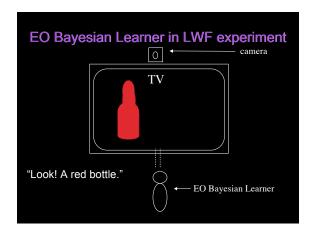
 $p_{n \text{ from N'}} = 1/4$

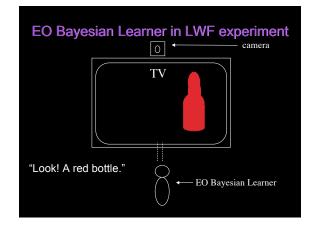
Simulating an EO Bayesian Learner

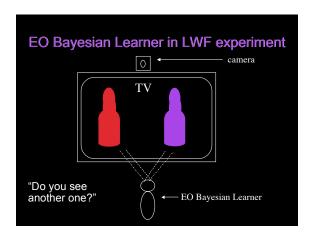
- · Semantics:
 - Need value for c
 - c is number of categories in the world learner is aware of
 - Note: the smaller c is, the more the learner is biased towards the N'-prop hypothesis for a sameproperty data point. We'll be generous and make c small.
 - Let c = 5 ({red, purple, nice, little, behind his back})

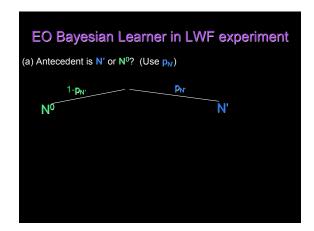
Road Map Learning Learning Theories, Domain-Specificity, and Domain-Generality Bayesian Updating Case Studies & Models Anaphoric One Previous Proposals & Equal-Opportunity Bayesian Learners Spectacular Failures & Necessary Bias

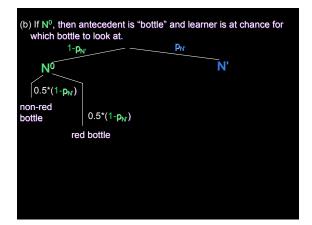


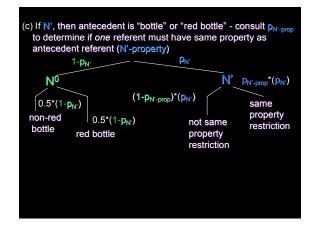


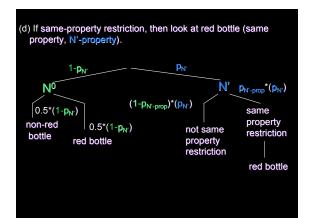


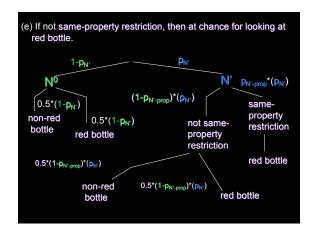


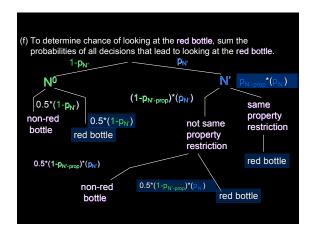


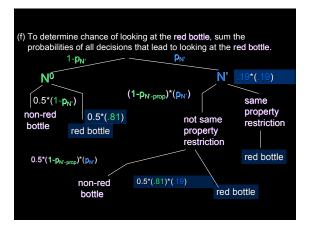








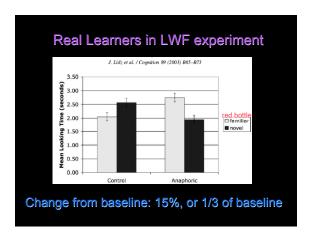




EO Bayesian Learner in LWF experiment

- Baseline probability for looking at red bottle, when given 2 bottles: .5
- Probability after learning: 0.518

That's barely a 2% change above baseline (1/25 of baseline).



EO Bayesian Learner Summary

- EO Bayesian Learner doesn't converge on the correct grammar
- EO Bayesian Learner doesn't behave as real learners do

Therefore, EO Bayesian Learner is not a good model of how children learn.

Less Generous Estimates for EO Bayesian Learner

- Several places where we made generous estimates of the parameters involved in the model. (Ex: p_{n from N'}, c)
- This gives an overestimation of the probability an EO Bayesian learner would converge on the correct grammar.

Less Generous Estimates for EO Bayesian Learner

- Pn from N'

 Strings defined categorically (Noun, Adjective Noun, Noun PP, etc.). Previously 1/4 (0.25).
 - Let strings be defined over vocabulary items (ball, red ball).
 - MacArthur CDI suggests 18-months olds know at least 49 adjectives and 247 Nouns, so conservative estimate of N' strings is 49*247 (Noun Adjective combinations).
 - $-p_{n \text{ from N'}} \text{ now} = .02041$

Less Generous Estimates for EO Bayesian Learner

- c: number of properties learners are aware of
 - Previously 5.
 - MacArthur CDI suggests 18-month olds know at least 49 adjectives, which means they ought to know at least 49 properties.

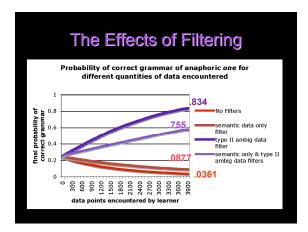
Less Generous Results for EO Bayesian Learner

- Probability of converging on the correct syntactic and semantic hypothesis = .0139.
- Probability of looking at red bottle in LWF experiment = .507 (change from baseline of .7%, compared to real learners 15%)

Not like real learners...

The Effects of Filtering

- · EO Bayesian Learner:
 - Defined hypothesis spaces, probabilistic updating
 - No filters on data intake
 - Failed badly
- Putting the Regier & Gahl filters back:
 - Use only semantic data
 - Use only unambiguous & type I ambiguous data (ignore type II ambiguous data - NPs with no modification)



Filtering Summary

 The learner does best when using both syntactic & semantic data to update, and when the learner ignores type II ambiguous data

Ignoring Type II Ambiguous Data

In order to ignore it, learner must have some way to identify type II ambiguous data

Filter to ignore type II ambiguous data should be the result of some other principled learning strategy

Proposal to Derive the Filter

- Principle: learning happens when there is uncertainty (Shannon, 1948; Gallistel, 2001; Gallistel, forthcoming)
- Suppose learner comes equipped with constraint on available representation: no anaphora to X⁰ categories (Hornstein & Lightfoot, 1981)
- Current problem solved: one = N'
- Different problem: which N' --> ball or red ball?

Proposal to Derive the Filter

- Ball and red ball have different consequences in the semantic domain (any-prop vs. N'-prop)
- Relevant data: utterances where there is a choice between two (or more) N' antecedents (Unambiguous and Type I Ambiguous) - learner has uncertainty about which N' is antecedent

"Look, a red ball! There's another one."

 Irrelevant data: everything else (Type II Ambiguous) learner has no uncertainty about which N' is antecedent

"Here's a ball. Give me another one, please."

Proposal to Derive the Filter

- Note: proposal is syntactocentric.
- Syntactic uncertainty (which N' antecedent) drives learner
- If semantic uncertainty mattered, learner could not ignore Type II Ambiguous data - each one has uncertainty between **any-property** and N'**property** hypothesis.

Conclusions: Learning Theory Recap

- · Learning theory: not just one indivisible piece
- Three parts:
 - Definition of the hypothesis space
 - Definition of the data used as intake (filtering)
 - Procedure used to update learner's beliefs about opposing hypotheses

In principle, any of these components could be domain-specific or domain-general

Conclusions

- Bayesian Learner fails on anaphoric one without filtering (& principled way to derive filter involves having constraints on the hypothesis space)
- Linked hypothesis spaces intensifies effect of learning (really good or really bad)
- Linked hypothesis spaces may mean there's no subset hypothesis across domains, which nullifies big advantage of Bayesian updating

WHIRD BAND