

Event Memory from Psychology

Steven Jones

Computer Science and Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

scijones@umich.edu

May 9, 2019

Last Year's Pursuit: starting to become successful?!

- Complimentary Learning Systems (McClelland, McNaughton, O'Reilly 1995)
 - Hippocampus has rapid pattern-separation while cortex has slow learning rate for overlapping representation.
- Event Segmentation Theory (Zacks 2007)
 - Events are themselves recognized and delineated and perception of event boundaries creates episodes.
- Hippocampal Indexing Theory (Teyler & DiScenna 1986)
 - Neocortical activity is stored and indexed by the hippocampus, which can provide replay by re-instantiating those signals.
- Two-State Memory Processing Theory (Buzsáki 1996)
 - The hippocampus transfers memories to the cortex during sleep.



Outline

- 1 Background
- 2 Event Memory in Humans
- 3 Event Memory for Cognition

What is Event Cognition?

“By event we mean a segment of time at a given location that is conceived by an observer to have a beginning and an end. In particular we focus on the events that make up everyday life on the timescale of a few seconds to tens of minutes things like opening an envelope, pouring coffee into a cup, changing the diaper of a baby or calling a friend on the phone.”¹

¹Kurby, C. A., & Zacks, J. M. (2008). Segmentation in the perception and memory of events. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 12(2), 72-79.

What is Event Cognition?

“By event we mean a segment of time at a given location that is conceived by an observer to have a beginning and an end. In particular we focus on the events that make up everyday life on the timescale of a few seconds to tens of minutes things like opening an envelope, pouring coffee into a cup, changing the diaper of a baby or calling a friend on the phone.”¹

- Event is typically specified as the dynamics for some subset of objects and relations within a given context (usually a location).

¹Kurby, C. A., & Zacks, J. M. (2008). Segmentation in the perception and memory of events. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 12(2), 72-79.

What is Event Cognition?

“By event we mean a segment of time at a given location that is conceived by an observer to have a beginning and an end. In particular we focus on the events that make up everyday life on the timescale of a few seconds to tens of minutes things like opening an envelope, pouring coffee into a cup, changing the diaper of a baby or calling a friend on the phone.”¹

- Event is typically specified as the dynamics for some subset of objects and relations within a given context (usually a location).
- Event Cognition is the scientific characterization of the human memory and cognition for time intervals perceived as segments with distinct beginning and end boundaries.

¹Kurby, C. A., & Zacks, J. M. (2008). Segmentation in the perception and memory of events. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 12(2), 72-79.

Event Cognition as a big field of research

- Types of thinking enabled by thoughts being structured into event representations.

Event Cognition as a big field of research

- Types of thinking enabled by thoughts being structured into event representations.
- The real-time perception of events.

Event Cognition as a big field of research

- Types of thinking enabled by thoughts being structured into event representations.
- The real-time perception of events.
- The organization of long-term memories by event-like segments, details of retrieval and encoding.

Event Memory in Humans

- 1 Background
- 2 Event Memory in Humans
- 3 Event Memory for Cognition

“Events” describe neural activity patterns^{2,3}

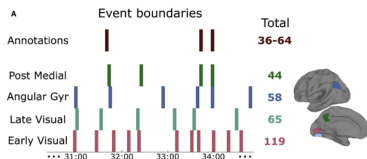
throughout the brain

²See Baldassano, C., Chen, J., Zadbood, A., Pillow, J. W., Hasson, U., & Norman, K. A. (2017). Discovering event structure in continuous narrative perception and memory. *Neuron*, 95(3), 709-721. for figures.

³Zacks, J. M., Braver, T. S., Sheridan, M. A., Donaldson, D. I., Snyder, A. Z., Ollinger, J. M., ... & Raichle, M. E. (2001). Human brain activity time-locked to perceptual event boundaries. *Nature neuroscience*, 4(6), 651.

“Events” describe neural activity patterns^{2,3}

throughout the brain



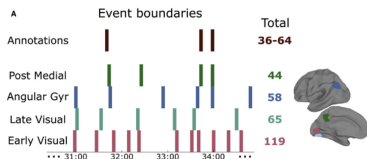
²See Baldassano, C., Chen, J., Zadbood, A., Pillow, J. W., Hasson, U., & Norman, K. A. (2017). Discovering event structure in continuous narrative perception and memory. *Neuron*, 95(3), 709-721. for figures.

³Zacks, J. M., Braver, T. S., Sheridan, M. A., Donaldson, D. I., Snyder, A. Z., Ollinger, J. M., ... & Raichle, M. E. (2001). Human brain activity time-locked to perceptual event boundaries. *Nature neuroscience*, 4(6), 651.

“Events” describe neural activity patterns^{2,3}

with description of functionality

throughout the brain

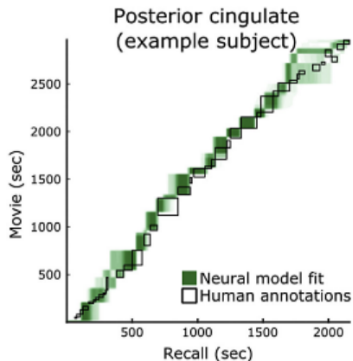
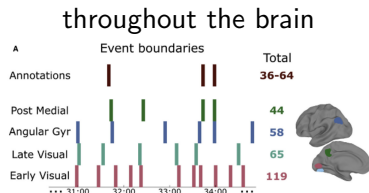


²See Baldassano, C., Chen, J., Zadbood, A., Pillow, J. W., Hasson, U., & Norman, K. A. (2017). Discovering event structure in continuous narrative perception and memory. *Neuron*, 95(3), 709-721. for figures.

³Zacks, J. M., Braver, T. S., Sheridan, M. A., Donaldson, D. I., Snyder, A. Z., Ollinger, J. M., ... & Raichle, M. E. (2001). Human brain activity time-locked to perceptual event boundaries. *Nature neuroscience*, 4(6), 651.

“Events” describe neural activity patterns^{2,3}

with description of functionality



²See Baldassano, C., Chen, J., Zadbood, A., Pillow, J. W., Hasson, U., & Norman, K. A. (2017). Discovering event structure in continuous narrative perception and memory. *Neuron*, 95(3), 709-721. for figures.

³Zacks, J. M., Braver, T. S., Sheridan, M. A., Donaldson, D. I., Snyder, A. Z., Ollinger, J. M., ... & Raichle, M. E. (2001). Human brain activity time-locked to perceptual event boundaries. *Nature neuroscience*, 4(6), 651.

Event Memory describes much of human cognition⁷

⁴ Ezzyat, Y., & Davachi, L. (2011). What constitutes an episode in episodic memory?. *Psychological Science*, 22(2), 243-252.

⁵ Eisenberg, M. L., & Zacks, J. M. (2016). Ambient and focal visual processing of naturalistic activity. *Journal of Vision*, 16(2), 5-5.

⁶ Richmond, L. L., & Zacks, J. M. (2017). Constructing experience: Event models from perception to action. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 21(12), 962-980.

⁷ Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607. for the quote “[...]in some ways, a theory of event cognition is a theory of cognition writ large.”

Event Memory describes much of human cognition⁷

- Episodic Memory⁴
 - Events are the episodes of episodic memory.

⁴ Ezzyat, Y., & Davachi, L. (2011). What constitutes an episode in episodic memory?. *Psychological Science*, 22(2), 243-252.

⁵ Eisenberg, M. L., & Zacks, J. M. (2016). Ambient and focal visual processing of naturalistic activity. *Journal of Vision*, 16(2), 5-5.

⁶ Richmond, L. L., & Zacks, J. M. (2017). Constructing experience: Event models from perception to action. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 21(12), 962-980.

⁷ Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607. for the quote “[...]in some ways, a theory of event cognition is a theory of cognition writ large.”

Event Memory describes much of human cognition⁷

- Episodic Memory⁴
 - Events are the episodes of episodic memory.
- Perception⁵
 - How people move their eyes depends on event boundaries.

⁴ Ezzyat, Y., & Davachi, L. (2011). What constitutes an episode in episodic memory?. *Psychological Science*, 22(2), 243-252.

⁵ Eisenberg, M. L., & Zacks, J. M. (2016). Ambient and focal visual processing of naturalistic activity. *Journal of Vision*, 16(2), 5-5.

⁶ Richmond, L. L., & Zacks, J. M. (2017). Constructing experience: Event models from perception to action. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 21(12), 962-980.

⁷ Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607. for the quote “[...]in some ways, a theory of event cognition is a theory of cognition writ large.”

Event Memory describes much of human cognition⁷

- Episodic Memory⁴
 - Events are the episodes of episodic memory.
- Perception⁵
 - How people move their eyes depends on event boundaries.
- Planning and Simulation⁶
 - Event models are the models for model-based control.

⁴Ezzyat, Y., & Davachi, L. (2011). What constitutes an episode in episodic memory?. *Psychological Science*, 22(2), 243-252.

⁵Eisenberg, M. L., & Zacks, J. M. (2016). Ambient and focal visual processing of naturalistic activity. *Journal of Vision*, 16(2), 5-5.

⁶Richmond, L. L., & Zacks, J. M. (2017). Constructing experience: Event models from perception to action. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 21(12), 962-980.

⁷Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607. for the quote "[...]in some ways, a theory of event cognition is a theory of cognition writ large."

Event Memory for Cognition

- 1 Background
- 2 Event Memory in Humans
- 3 Event Memory for Cognition**

Event Memory describes Working Memory and Long-term Memory

Event Schema (General “Script”)

Event Model (Specific grounding)

Event Memory describes Working Memory and Long-term Memory

Event Schema (General “Script”)

- action model

Event Model (Specific grounding)

Event Memory describes Working Memory and Long-term Memory

Event Schema (General “Script”)

- action model
- the general narrative for a betrayal

Event Model (Specific grounding)

Event Memory describes Working Memory and Long-term Memory

Event Schema (General “Script”)

- action model
- the general narrative for a betrayal

Event Model (Specific grounding)

- actually using a light switch

Event Memory describes Working Memory and Long-term Memory

Event Schema (General “Script”)

- action model
- the general narrative for a betrayal

Event Model (Specific grounding)

- actually using a light switch
- describing Brutus in Julius Caesar (spoiler)

Event Memory describes representations that generalize across knowledge content

Event Memory describes representations that generalize across knowledge content

Representation:

- “event memory element”
 - The type of memory element used to make a model of a specific event (aka an “event model”) or to describe a general event (aka an “event schema”).

Event Memory describes representations that generalize across knowledge content

Representation:

- “event memory element”
 - The type of memory element used to make a model of a specific event (aka an “event model”) or to describe a general event (aka an “event schema”).

Content:

Event Memory describes representations that generalize across knowledge content

Representation:

- “event memory element”
 - The type of memory element used to make a model of a specific event (aka an “event model”) or to describe a general event (aka an “event schema”).

Content:

- Past

Event Memory describes representations that generalize across knowledge content

Representation:

- “event memory element”
 - The type of memory element used to make a model of a specific event (aka an “event model”) or to describe a general event (aka an “event schema”).

Content:

- Past
- Present

Event Memory describes representations that generalize across knowledge content

Representation:

- “event memory element”
 - The type of memory element used to make a model of a specific event (aka an “event model”) or to describe a general event (aka an “event schema”).

Content:

- Past
- Present
- Future

Event Memory describes representations that generalize across knowledge content

Representation:

- “event memory element”
 - The type of memory element used to make a model of a specific event (aka an “event model”) or to describe a general event (aka an “event schema”).

Content:

- Past
- Present
- Future
- Embodiment/Self

Event Memory describes representations that generalize across knowledge content

Representation:

- “event memory element”
 - The type of memory element used to make a model of a specific event (aka an “event model”) or to describe a general event (aka an “event schema”).

Content:

- Past
- Present
- Future
- Embodiment/Self
- Environment

Properties of Human Event Memory Element Representation

Defn. **Context:** working memory contents which are static at a given timescale. (e.g. representation for a goal or a perceived general location.)

Properties of Human Event Memory Element Representation

Defn. **Context:** working memory contents which are static at a given timescale. (e.g. representation for a goal or a perceived general location.)

- temporally-extended

Properties of Human Event Memory Element Representation

Defn. **Context:** working memory contents which are static at a given timescale. (e.g. representation for a goal or a perceived general location.)

- temporally-extended
- arrangeable in time

Properties of Human Event Memory Element Representation

Defn. **Context:** working memory contents which are static at a given timescale. (e.g. representation for a goal or a perceived general location.)

- temporally-extended
- arrangeable in time
- transferable across contexts

Properties of Human Event Memory Element Representation

Defn. **Context:** working memory contents which are static at a given timescale. (e.g. representation for a goal or a perceived general location.)

- temporally-extended
- arrangeable in time
- transferable across contexts
- exclusive in a given combination of time and context

Properties of Human Event Memory Element Representation

Defn. **Context:** working memory contents which are static at a given timescale. (e.g. representation for a goal or a perceived general location.)

- temporally-extended
- arrangeable in time
- transferable across contexts
- exclusive in a given combination of time and context
- not exclusive in time (given different contexts)

Properties of Human Event Memory Element Representation

Defn. **Context:** working memory contents which are static at a given timescale. (e.g. representation for a goal or a perceived general location.)

- temporally-extended
- arrangeable in time
- transferable across contexts
- exclusive in a given combination of time and context
- not exclusive in time (given different contexts)
- not exclusive in context (given different times)

Properties of Human Event Memory Element Representation

Defn. **Context:** working memory contents which are static at a given timescale. (e.g. representation for a goal or a perceived general location.)

- temporally-extended
- arrangeable in time
- transferable across contexts
- exclusive in a given combination of time and context
- not exclusive in time (given different contexts)
- not exclusive in context (given different times)
- predictive

Properties of Human Event Memory Element Representation

Defn. **Context:** working memory contents which are static at a given timescale. (e.g. representation for a goal or a perceived general location.)

- temporally-extended
- arrangeable in time
- transferable across contexts
- exclusive in a given combination of time and context
- not exclusive in time (given different contexts)
- not exclusive in context (given different times)
- predictive
- prediction and goal addressable
(not necessarily addressable based on conceptual similarity)

Event Model Knowledge Content

Content:

- Past
- Present
- Future
- Embodiment/Self
- Environment

Cognitive capabilities by Event Model Knowledge Content

	Past	Present	Future	nonspecific
Egocentric				
Allocentric				

Cognitive capabilities by Event Model Knowledge Content

	Past	Present	Future	nonspecific
Egocentric	Episodic Memory			
Allocentric				

Cognitive capabilities by Event Model Knowledge Content

	Past	Present	Future	nonspecific
Egocentric	Episodic Memory	Perception & Action		
Allocentric				

Cognitive capabilities by Event Model Knowledge Content

	Past	Present	Future	nonspecific
Egocentric	Episodic Memory	Perception & Action	Episodic Future Thinking	
Allocentric				

Cognitive capabilities by Event Model Knowledge Content

	Past	Present	Future	nonspecific
Egocentric	Episodic Memory	Perception & Action	Episodic Future Thinking	Personal Semantics
Allocentric				

Cognitive capabilities by Event Model Knowledge Content

	Past	Present	Future	nonspecific
Egocentric	Episodic Memory	Perception & Action	Episodic Future Thinking	Personal Semantics
Allocentric	(thinking about historical events)			

Cognitive capabilities by Event Model Knowledge Content

	Past	Present	Future	nonspecific
Egocentric	Episodic Memory	Perception & Action	Episodic Future Thinking	Personal Semantics
Allocentric	(thinking about historical events)	Virtual Sensing		

Cognitive capabilities by Event Model Knowledge Content

	Past	Present	Future	nonspecific
Egocentric	Episodic Memory	Perception & Action	Episodic Future Thinking	Personal Semantics
Allocentric	(thinking about historical events)	Virtual Sensing	Semantic Future Thinking	

Cognitive capabilities by Event Model Knowledge Content

	Past	Present	Future	nonspecific
Egocentric	Episodic Memory	Perception & Action	Episodic Future Thinking	Personal Semantics
Allocentric	(thinking about historical events)	Virtual Sensing	Semantic Future Thinking	Semantic Memory

Computation that humans perform to enable Event Memory⁸

⁸Heavily paraphrased from Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607.

Computation that humans perform to enable Event Memory⁸

- Segmentation
 - Humans identify event boundaries from continuous sensor stream.

⁸Heavily paraphrased from Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607.

Computation that humans perform to enable Event Memory⁸

- Segmentation
 - Humans identify event boundaries from continuous sensor stream.
- Learning
 - Humans acquire knowledge about internal structure of event schemas.

⁸Heavily paraphrased from Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607.

Computation that humans perform to enable Event Memory⁸

- Segmentation
 - Humans identify event boundaries from continuous sensor stream.
- Learning
 - Humans acquire knowledge about internal structure of event schemas.
- Inference
 - Humans use event models for virtual sensing by pattern completion.

⁸Heavily paraphrased from Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607.

Computation that humans perform to enable Event Memory⁸

- Segmentation
 - Humans identify event boundaries from continuous sensor stream.
- Learning
 - Humans acquire knowledge about internal structure of event schemas.
- Inference
 - Humans use event models for virtual sensing by pattern completion.
- Prediction
 - Humans use event models to predict world state.

⁸Heavily paraphrased from Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607.

Computation that humans perform to enable Event Memory⁸

- Segmentation
 - Humans identify event boundaries from continuous sensor stream.
- Learning
 - Humans acquire knowledge about internal structure of event schemas.
- Inference
 - Humans use event models for virtual sensing by pattern completion.
- Prediction
 - Humans use event models to predict world state.
- Memory
 - Humans reconstruct the past with event structure.

⁸Heavily paraphrased from Franklin, N., Norman, K. A., Ranganath, C., Zacks, J. M., & Gershman, S. J. (2019). Structured event memory: a neuro-symbolic model of event cognition. *BioRxiv*, 541607.

Nuggets and Coal

Coal

Nuggets

Nuggets and Coal

Coal

Nuggets

- actually have a set of constraints to functionality of event representation.

Nuggets and Coal

Coal

Nuggets

- actually have a set of constraints to functionality of event representation.
- highly general description of **many** aspects of human cognition.

Nuggets and Coal

Nuggets

- actually have a set of constraints to functionality of event representation.
- highly general description of **many** aspects of human cognition.

Coal

- *highly general – description – of many aspects of human cognition*

Nuggets and Coal

Nuggets

- actually have a set of constraints to functionality of event representation.
- highly general description of **many** aspects of human cognition.

Coal

- *highly general – description* – of many aspects of human cognition
- few hints as to the right algorithms to implement even within neural architectures in order to perform the computation of event memory.

Nuggets and Coal

Nuggets

- actually have a set of constraints to functionality of event representation.
- highly general description of **many** aspects of human cognition.

Coal

- *highly general* – description – of many aspects of human cognition
- few hints as to the right algorithms to implement even within neural architectures in order to perform the computation of event memory.
- unclear that we want to compute in Soar the things humans compute to achieve event memory functionality