Generalising state transition structure
in the human medial temporal lobe

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Abstract

Effective planning involves knowing where different actions will take us. However natural environments are rich and complex, leading to a "curse of dimensionality" – an exponential increase in memory demand as a plan grows in depth. One potential solution to this problem is to generalise the neural state transition functions used for planning between similar contexts. Here, we asked human participants to perform a sequential decision making task designed so that knowledge could be shared between some contexts but not others. Computational modelling showed that participants generalise a transition model between contexts where appropriate. fMRI data identified the medial temporal lobe as a locus for learning of state transitions, and within the same region, correlated BOLD patterns were observed in contexts where state transition information was shared. Finally, we show that the transition model is updated more strongly following the receipt of positive compared to negative outcomes, a finding that challenges conventional theories of planning which assume knowledge about our environment is updated independently of outcomes received. Together, these findings propose a computational and neural account of how information relevant for planning can be shared between contexts.

Introduction

Effective goal-directed behaviour requires an agent to learn an accurate model of the world. Theories of reinforcement learning (RL) conceive of this model as a function $p(s'|s, a)$ that encodes the probability of transitioning to a new state, s', given the current state, s, and action, a. Explicitly learning a state transition function permits agents to plan over possible futures (Sutton and Barto, 1998). This computational framework has been widely used to model simple laboratory behaviours that involve a limited number of state transitions (Daw et al., 2011, Doll et al., 2015, Gläscher et al., 2010, Wunderlich et al., 2012). However, it has well-known limitations, foremost among which is that computational cost grows exponentially with the number of states. The question of how biological or artificial agents can plan efficiently remains an open concern for both neuroscientists and machine learning researchers.

A particular challenge is that in natural environments, transition probabilities can vary with time and context. For example, when planning a journey to work, the likely costs incurred when travelling by car (traffic jams), rail (scheduling delays) or bike (getting wet) can all change unpredictably from day to day. One way to reduce the cost of planning is to share knowledge of likely state transitions across multiple contexts. For example, consider someone who makes the same journey on a weekday (context 1) or a weekend (context 2). Some knowledge about the transitions that make up the journey may generalise across contexts: for example, if a train line is closed for repairs, then delays can be expected in both circumstances. However, in other cases, knowledge may be specific to contexts. For example, if most drivers on a given route are commuters, then traffic may be heavy on Fridays but light on Sundays. If the brain can learn to share the transition function in the former but not the latter case, the cost of planning is reduced. Computing invariances over structured state spaces (or cognitive maps) might permit forms of abstract concept formation and inductive reasoning that are thought to support intelligent human behaviour (Behrens et al., 2018).

Here, we developed an experimental paradigm that allowed us to specifically test for "model sharing" – the generalisation of a state transition function between contexts. The task required participants to learn a simple associative map in 4 different contexts. In two of the contexts, the same transitions could be used to guide decisions, whereas in the remaining two contexts, model sharing would be detrimental to performance. Our first question was whether, and how, participants would share information between contexts. Our question and approach are similar to those described in a recent paper by Baram and colleagues (Baram et al., 2021), with one key difference being that in our work the transition function (how states of the world are associated), rather than the value function (the value of states and actions), was generalised between contexts.

Our second question was posed at the neural level and addressed by recording fMRI data whilst participants performed the task. The neural and computational mechanisms by which humans and potentially other animals might share relational knowledge across contexts have come into focus recently, not least because modelling this process is likely to be important for building advanced autonomous agents (Botvinick et al., 2020). A great deal of interest has focussed on the medial temporal lobe (MTL) and adjacent neural structures, which may be important for forming new associations between states (Eichenbaum et al., 1999). For example, in the hippocampus and anterior ventral stream, repeated co-occurrence of two visual items alters representational properties so that single neurons or neuronal ensembles come to code for both stimuli (Miyashita, 1988, Yokose et al., 2017, Rey et al., 2018). In humans, a number of recent fMRI experiments have used statistical learning paradigms to show that states experienced nearby in space and time come to evoke more similar BOLD patterns in MTL structures, which could reflect associative learning at the population level (Schapiro et al., 2012, Schapiro et al., 2013, Deuker et al., 2016, Garvert et al., 2017). Moreover, the MTL may be a strong candidate for not only learning state associations in a single context but also encoding relational knowledge that can be generalised across contexts. For example, the MTL is involved in bridging past

memories to make new inferences on the basis of paired associations or transitive relations (Bunsey
and Eichenbaum, 1996, Wimmer and Shohamy, 2012, Zeithamova et al., 2012, Kumaran et al., 2016,
Koster et al., 2018, Park et al., 2019). Moreover, neuronal ensembles in CA1 encode memories in a
similar format when associations were formed in two contexts that occurred on the same day, relative
to contexts a week apart (Cai et al., 2016), with temporal proximity also argued to support memory
integration in human imaging studies (Zeithamova and Preston, 2017). BOLD patterns in MTL were are
also similar for physically dissimilar stimuli that exhibited a common relationship to an outcome (Baram
et al., 2021). The MTL is thus an excellent candidate to act as a neural substrate for model sharing, and
so we focussed our analyses there.
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Finally, we designed our paradigm such that the transition function (the probability of moving from s
to s' under action a) and the value function (when in state s, the expected value of taking the action a
that led to s') were theoretically independent. This was achieved by ensuring that one action (choice
of door in our task) led to a high-stakes state where outcomes - signalled in advance - could be either
good or bad. An alternate action led to a low-stakes state where outcomes were always neutral. This
allowed us to ask an auxiliary question concerning whether state transition learning depends on
whether an outcome is positive or negative. From a normative perspective, there is merit in learning
about state transitions irrespective of whether they allow you to obtain future benefits or avoid future
losses and so classic theories of model based planning assume an independence between the value
function and the transition function (Sutton and Barto, 1998). However, set against this, there is
empirical evidence from rodent navigation tasks for greater reverse replay following positive (versus
negative) outcomes (Ambrose et al., 2016, Singer and Frank, 2009), an effect that may be the result of
positive prediction errors governing the degree to which action policies are worth the effort in updating
(Mattar and Daw, 2018). Our paradigm is ideally suited to test whether model updating in humans is
symmetric after good and bad experiences.
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We tackled these questions using computational modelling (to understand how participants performed
the task) and functional neuroimaging (to assess the brain areas involved). We find that a cluster of
regions in the MTL, including the hippocampus, amygdala and entorhinal cortex, display patterns of
BOLD activity encoding transition probabilities that are more similar when generalisation between
conditions is possible than when it is not. This suggest that the MTL generalises transition information
across contexts when these contexts share their underlying structure but maintains separable encoding
patterns for each context in cases where state associations are context specific. Next, we show that
belief updating of state transition knowledge occurs to a greater degree following positive outcomes
compared to negative. This learning asymmetry is reflected by an interaction in the MTL whereby state
prediction errors are expressed with greater fidelity for positive compared to negative outcomes. These
findings nuance conventional models of planning that assume state transitions and outcomes are
tracked and maintained separately from one another.
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Results

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Task and design. Participants (n = 29) performed a planning task in an fMRI scanner (the "heist" task;
Figure 1a). The task was introduced to participants via a cover story that suggested they were a burglar
involved in a heist at one of 4 locations, each denoted by a unique coloured gem. Each trial occurred in
one of these four (gem) contexts, and the relevant coloured gem icon remained on the screen
throughout the trial to make this clear. After trial onset, participants chose one of two doors (light vs
dark), which were respectively associated in context c with probabilities p_c of transitioning to the (high-
stakes) "heist" state and $1 - p_c$ of transitioning to the "neutral" state (**Figure 1b**). Before making their
choice, participants were presented with an additional cue which signalled whether, in the heist state,
the participant would be caught (police cue; incurring a loss) or commit a successful burglary (swag cue;
incurring a gain), whereas no positive or negative outcomes occurred in the neutral state (outcome of

zero). The optimal policy was thus to learn the transition probability in order to approach (avoid) the heist state in the presence of the swag (police) cue. To decorrelate choices and probabilities for the scanner, 75% of trials were "forced" in which only a single door was available, but in which transition probabilities could still be updated on receipt of reward. In the remaining 25% of trials, participants could freely choose between the two doors. Participants were unaware during the initial door presentation whether the trial would be a forced or free choice and therefore needed to actively consider transition probabilities on every trial.

The task was performed in alternating blocks that we label "dependent" and "independent" conditions. In both conditions, the transition probability in each context p_c switched randomly between 0.2 and 0.8 across the course of the experiment. However, in dependent blocks, the transitions probabilities associated with the two contexts (e.g. p_1 and p_2) were yoked so that $p_1 = p_2$ at all times (**Figure 1c**, top panel). In independent blocks, the transition probabilities associated with the other two contexts (e.g. p_3 and p_4) were unrelated (overlapping on average half of the time; **Figure 1c**, bottom panel). The two contexts that made up each condition were randomly interleaved within a block, but the dependent and independent conditions themselves occurred in temporally distinct blocks of trials. Participants were told before starting the task about the two conditions and were told at the start of each new block whether they were entering a dependent or independent condition block (see **Methods** for full details about the task).

Figure 1. Task Design. (a) Trial sequence. On each trial, participants are shown one of two options (a dark and a light door) and either required to select this option (forced choice trials) or to choose between this option and the alternate option (free choice trials). The subsequent state and outcome are then revealed. (b) State transition dynamics: at the first stage, each option (framed as two doors) transitions participants to one of two 2nd level states; a "neutral state" in which an outcome of 0 (sofa/chair stimuli) is always obtained, or a "heist state" in

which an outcome of 1 (swag bag stimuli) or -1 (police stimuli) can be obtained. One first stage option (light door in the figure) transitions with probability p to the neutral state and with probability 1 - p to the vault state; the alternate option (dark door) has the opposite transition probabilities. p changes at random points in the task **(c)** In dependent blocks (top panel), p is the same in each context; changes to p occur simultaneously over the two contexts. In independent blocks (bottom panel), p alternates independently in each context.

Behavioural analysis. We first asked whether behaviour differed between the dependent and independent conditions. If participants generalised knowledge of the transition structure across contexts, then they should be more prone to use learning from context j to inform subsequent decisions in context i when in the dependent than independent condition (note that this behaviour is expected because participants were instructed about the dependence or independence among transition probabilities for the two gems in each block).

We used a logistic mixed effects regression to measure this effect in a trial-history dependent fashion, asking how choices made on each trial t in context i depended on the history of state transitions observed over the previous 5 trials that had occurred in the contexts i and j, where j was the alternate context within the relevant condition (dependent or independent). To conduct this analysis we recoded choices in a single frame of reference that removed the choice inversion between trials where police and swag cues were present. This was necessary because in our task, the transition history is relevant not for determining the specific response (light vs. dark door) but rather the choice contingent on the presence of the swag or police cue. We call the historic information that is predictive of this recoded choice "transition evidence".

The results are shown in **Figure 2**. In the dependent condition, transition evidence from the previous two trials (t-2) significantly predicted choice, both when it was experienced in the same (t-1: Fixed Effect β [95% CI] = 1.11 [0.76-1.46], Standard Error (SE) = 0.18, p < 0.001, t-2: β = 0.43 [0.17-0.70], SE = 0.13, p < 0.001) and when it was experienced in the alternate context to the current trial (t-1: β = 0.72 [0.42-1.02], SE = 0.15, p < 0.001, t-2: β = 0.40 [0.17-0.63], SE = 0.12, p < 0.001; **Figure 2a**). In contrast, in the independent condition, choices were only influenced by transition evidence when this was accrued in the same context (**Figure 2b**). This was the case going 1, 2, 3 and 4 trials back (t-1: β = 0.62 [0.24-1.00], SE = 0.19, p = 0.001; t-2: β = 0.30 [0.04-0.55], SE = 0.13, p = 0.02; t-3: β = 0.35 [0.09-0.61], SE = 0.13, p=0.008; t-4: β = 0.32 [0.07-0.58], SE = 0.13, p = 0.01). When transition evidence was accrued in the alternate context, this did not influence participants subsequent choices, even on the immediately previous (t-1) trial (β = 0.07 [-0.12-0.27], SE = 0.10, p = 0.47). See **Supplementary Tables 1** and **2** for full details of all regression coefficients and statistics.

Figure 2. Behavioural data. Parameter estimates predicting choice from state transitions experienced 1-5 trials back, separated according to whether transitions occurred in the same (blue) or alternate (red) context to the

current trial context in (a) the dependent condition and (b) the independent condition. Bars represent fixed
effects regression coefficients from a mixed effects logistic regression on participants' choices. Error bars
represent standard error of the mean. Triangles represent the mean fixed effects regression coefficient estimates
generated via the same mixed effects logistic regression as the data but for choice simulated for agents under a
flexible computational learning model which enables evidence integration to adapt to the condition in which
choices are being made (dependent or independent). *p < 0.05 (human data). Error bars express 95% confidence
intervals.

To directly compare the relative weight participants placed on past evidence received from the same
and alternate context in each of the two conditions (dependent, independent) we ran an additional
mixed effects model. We computed the difference in transition evidence between the two contexts
(averaged over the past 5 trials; we call this "differential evidence") for each condition (dependent/
independent) and their interaction as predictors in this model. This revealed a significant interaction
between differential evidence and condition (β = -0.41 [-0.63, -0.18], SE = 0.11, p < 0.001) along with a
main effect of differential evidence (β = 0.43 [0.20, 0.66], SE = 0.12, p < 0.001), but no main effect of
condition (β = -0.05 [-0.13, 0.04], SE = 0.04, p = 0.27). The interaction between differential evidence
and condition remained significant in a permutation test which guards against greater similarity of
feedback (in the dependent condition compared to the independent condition) confounding the effect
(β [95% range under the null distribution] = -0.41 [-0.25, 0.08], p<0.001). Together, these results
suggest that the relative preference for information received from the same (versus the alternate)
context shifted between conditions. This was a result of participants increasing integration of
information from the alternate context in the dependent condition.

We also analysed data from an additional pilot experiment (n = 31; see **Methods**) with an identical
structure except for two important differences: firstly, there were no forced choice trials, and secondly,
participants were not instructed about the dependence or independence of the transition structure but
were left to discover it for themselves. In contrast to the fMRI cohort, in the independent condition,
choices were influenced by transition evidence that accrued in *both* the same context (t-1: β [95% CI]
= 1.20 [0.95, 1.45], SE = 0.13, p < 0.001, t-2: β = 0.65 [0.49, 0.82], SE = 0.08, p < 0.001, t-3: β = 0.39
[0.26, 0.52], SE = 0.07, p<0.001, t-4: β = 0.25 [0.15, 0.34], SE = 0.05, p<0.001, t-5: β = 0.19 [0.09-0.29],
SE = 0.05, p<0.001) and in the other context (t-1: β = 0.22 [0.07, 0.37], SE = 0.08, p = 0.004, t-2: β =
0.15 [0.06, 0.24], SE = 0.05, p = 0.001, t-3: β = 0.10 [0.002, 0.20], SE=0.05, p=0.046, t-4: β = 0.09 [0.004,
0.179], SE=0.04, p=0.04, t-5: β = 0.09 [-0.001, 0.19], SE=0.049, p=0.05). See **Supplementary Figure 9**
and **Supplementary Tables 9** and **10** for plots and full details of regression coefficients and statistics.
Examining whether differential evidence interacted with condition revealed a significant interaction
between differential evidence and condition (β = -0.097 [-0.17, -0.02], SE = 0.04, p = 0.010) however
this was not significant in the permutation test (β [95% range under the null distribution] = -0.097 [-
0.25, 0.08], p=0.92). As discussed below, we think that together these results suggest that in the
absence of instruction, participants may have a stronger prior that the two gems which co-occur in time
belong to a shared latent context.

Computational model. Our modelling framework assumed that choices were determined by a mixture
of associations learned in an independent and dependent fashion across contexts. We note at the
outset that our model is not intended primarily as an account of the computations that humans
undertake, but as an analytic tool that compactly parameterises human policy with just a few
parameters, and allows us to verify the degree to which humans share a model between contexts.

The model is composed of two learners, one which learns a shared transition function across a pair of
contexts and another which learns a separate transition function for each context. On each trial, choices
are determined by linearly mixing the estimated probabilities from each learner according to a
weighting parameter w, and using the resulting probabilistic estimate $\hat{p}_c$ to compute the relative
expected value of heist and neutral states, according to which a choice was made via inverse

temperature parameter β. The optimal policy (for an omniscient agent) would be to use $w = 1$ in the
dependent condition and w = 0 in the independent condition. On each trial, participants updated the
context specific and the context independent transition functions according to a state prediction error,
δ, which quantifies the degree of surprise at reaching a state given the option chosen and current
estimates of the transition function. δ was also weighted by w and the degree of update governed by
a learning parameter, α.
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We compared two versions of this learning model. A *fixed model* in which w was held constant across
the experiment was compared to a *flexible model* in which w was allowed to reverse between
experimental conditions (i.e., $w_{independent}$ = 1 - $w_{dependent}$). This feature of the flexible model gives it the
capacity to shift between relying to a greater degree on separate transition functions in the
independent condition (i.e., w towards 0) and relying on a shared transition function in the dependent
condition (i.e., w towards 1). See **Methods** for full model specification.
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Flexible model adapts information integration between conditions. We fit each model to single subject
choices on a per-trial basis and compared fixed and flexible models by computing unbiased marginal
likelihoods via subject-level Leave One Out cross validation (LOOcv) for each participant. Comparison
of LOOcv scores revealed significantly lower scores (indicating superior performance in cross validation
at predicting participant choices) for the flexible model compared to the fixed model (t(28) = 2.72, p <
0.01, see **Table 1** for model parameters and LOOcv scores). The best-fitting w parameter tended
towards 1 in the dependent condition and 0 in the independent condition, consistent with the
behavioural data. This indicates that participants learned a single transition function in dependent
blocks but reverted to learning two different transition functions in independent blocks (by contrast,
when w was held fixed across blocks it assumed an intermediate value of ~0.61). A flexible model with
two separate w parameters (one per condition, fitted separately) did not account any better for
participants choices than the flexible model with a single w that reversed between conditions (t(28) =
-1.59, p = 0.12). Simulating choices using a population of subjects drawn according to best-fitting
parameters of the flexible model showed that the flexible model qualitatively recapitulated the change
in relative preference for information from the alternate versus same context between conditions
(**Figure 2**). The fixed model was not able to recover this pattern (**Supplementary Figure 1**).
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	LOOcv scores	free parameters	β	α	w (fixed)	w (dependent condition)	w (independent condition)
fixed model	47.47 (+/- 1.26)	3	1.80 [95% CI = 1.40, 2.20]	0.65 [95% CI = 0.47, 0.80]	0.61 [95% CI = 0.49, 0.70]		
flexible model	46.32* (+/- 1.47)	3	1.59 [95% CI = 1.24, 1.95]	0.56 [95% CI = 0.38, 0.73]		0.85 [95% CI = 0.66, 0.95]	0.15 [95% CI = 0.05, 0.34]

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Table 1. Model fitting and parameters. The table summarizes for each model its fitting performances and its
average parameters: LOOcv: leave one out cross validation scores, mean (standard error of the mean) over
participants; free parameters: number of free parameters in each model; α: learning rate; β: softmax slope
(sensitivity to the difference in the value of choosing dark versus light door (on free choice trials). w: weighting
parameter (governs the weighted combination of context independent and context dependent transition
functions). Data for model parameters are expressed as mean and 95% confidence intervals (calculated as the
sample mean +/- 1.96 x standard error). *p < 0.01 comparing LOOCV scores between the two models (paired
sample t-test). Lower scores indicate superior performance in cross validation.
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289 **Neuroimaging data.** Having established that participants behave differently in the dependent and
290 independent conditions, we turned to the fMRI data to understand the neural mechanisms that
291 supported this differential behaviour. Our goal was to use multivariate approaches (including

representational similarity analysis, RSA) to examine how multivoxel patterns encoding transition probabilities (i.e. beliefs about the forthcoming state) were related in the dependent and independent conditions. However, we first adopted a univariate analysis to identify target sites for the coding of the state transition function, using the state prediction error (SPE) from the model. We expected that the MTL would be sensitive to SPEs, consistent with a long tradition implicating the hippocampus in the formation of state associations (Eichenbaum et al., 1999), and a detector of states that either match or violate the agent's expectations (Kumaran and Maguire, 2007, Duncan et al., 2012).

Univariate analysis. We thus modelled BOLD responses at the time the transitioned-to state ("heist" or "neutral") was revealed using a parametric predictor encoding the unsigned state prediction error $|\delta|$ extracted from the flexible model. This analysis collapsed over conditions (dependent, independent). This modulator was included alongside other quantities coding for outcome, trial type (forced/free choice) and the interaction of outcome and $|\delta|$ (see **Methods**).

The BOLD signal correlated negatively with $|\delta|$ in two MTL clusters (peak left: [x, y, z]: -20, -4, -28, t(28) = 5.01, p < 0.001 uncorrected for multiple comparisons; peak right: 18, -4, -21, t = 4.22, p < 0.001 uncorrected), which survived small volume correction using a bilateral anatomical MTL mask (peak left: -20, -7, -24; t(28) = 5.01, family wise error corrected at the peak level within bilateral MTL mask [p_{FWE}] = 0.008; peak right: 18, -4, -21; t(28) = 4.22, p_{FWE} = .047). In total, 10.14% of voxels lay within the anatomically defined amygdala, 33.33% within the hippocampus, 49.28% within the parahippocampus and 5.80% in the entorhinal cortex (**Figure 3a**), determined by assessing overlap with anatomical masks generated in WFU pickatlas (see **Methods**).

The negative direction of the parametric effect indicates greater BOLD in response to expected (compared to unexpected) state transitions as previously observed in other learning tasks at the time new information is received and beliefs are updated (Sharot et al., 2011). We combined these clusters (extracted at p < 0.001 uncorrected) into a single bilateral functional region of interest (ROI) mask (**Figure 3b**) which we then used for subsequent multivariate analyses.

Representational Similarity Analysis (RSA). Next, we used a multivariate approach to assess the mapping from BOLD responses in our functional ROI to transition probabilities, and to measure how this mapping changed over contexts. We began with an analysis of BOLD signals at the time of choice, i.e. when the door was presented. This is the timepoint during which participants needed to consider the transition probability to each prospective 2nd level state. We first used representational similarity analysis (RSA), measuring the correlation distance across multivoxel patterns associated with transition probabilities p(heist state | door presented) derived from our flexible learning model into quartiles, both across blocks and across gems (**Figure 3c**). Note that our prediction is that neural patterns encoding transition probabilities should be more similar across contexts in dependent than in independent blocks. We thus computed a similarity score by averaging correlations in diagonal (same probability quartile) vs. off-diagonal (different probability quartile) cases, separately for the two contexts in the dependent and independent condition (**Figure 3**).

This revealed a significant condition (dependent, independent) x quartile (diagonal, off-diagonal) interaction (t(28) = 4.02, p < 0.001, 95% CI [.11,.33], paired sample t-test). This was the result of a difference in similarity between on and off diagonal scores in the dependent condition (t(28) = 5.33, p < 0.001, 95% CI [.11,.26], one sample t-test versus 0) which was absent in the independent condition (t(28) = -0.82, p = 0.42, 95% CI [-.11, .05], one sample t-test versus 0, see **Figure 3d**).

One interpretation of this finding is that in the dependent condition, the MTL encodes the state transition function for each context with a common neural pattern. However, we also considered some alternative possibilities. First, we examined whether the results held if we allocated trials to bins using

fixed probabilities across the unity range (i.e., quartile 1: 0.00-0.25, quartile 2: 0.26-0.50, quartile 3:
0.51-0.75 & quartile 4: 0.76-1.00) rather than adapting bins for each participant according to the
specific distribution of probabilities they used. This revealed the same pattern of results
(condition*diagonal interaction: t(28) = 4.20, p < 0.001; 95% CI [.10, .30]; difference in similarity
between on and off diagonal bins in the dependent condition: t(28) = 5.73; p < 0.001; 95% CI [.13, .28];
difference in similarity between on and off diagonal bins in the independent condition: t(28) = 0.04; p
= 0.97; 95% CI [-.07, .08], see **Supplementary Material**). Second, we checked that the number of trials
in each probability quartile were well matched between contexts, finding that they were (t(28) = 1.50,
p = 0.55, 95% CI [-.02, .15], see **Supplementary Material**). Finally, we were concerned that the effect
might arise as a spurious effect of closer temporal proximity between trials in the same transition
probability quartile in dependent blocks. To address this, first we checked whether the average
difference between the temporal distance of trials in on versus off diagonal quartile combinations was
correlated with the difference in representational similarity (see **Methods** and **Supplementary**
Material). This was neither the case in the dependent condition (r = -.20, p = 0.32), nor the independent
condition (r = .15, p = 0.44). As an additional check, we then repeated our analysis in cross-validation
across sessions. In other words, we measured the similarity between quartile/bin n_i and n_j where i and
j are drawn from different scanner runs and computed the average for each similarity bin across all
possible c_{1i} and c_{2j} combinations where $i \neq j$ (see **Supplementary Material** for illustration). This
revealed the same (albeit weaker) pattern of results with fixed probability bins (condition*diagonal
interaction: t(28) = 2.04, p = 0.05; 95% CI [-.00, .06]) and probability quartiles (t(28) = 1.89, p = 0.069;
95% CI [-.00, .07]).
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Figure 3. (a) The magnitude of (unsigned) state predictions errors related negatively to the degree of BOLD
response in bilateral MTL. Image shown thresholded at p < 0.001 uncorrected. **(b)** Voxels in this contrast were
converted to a bilateral mask and used as a functional ROI in subsequent analysis. **(c)** Schematic of the RSA analysis
at the time of planning (door presentation). In each context, trials were divided into quartiles, according to
participants' current estimates of p (heist state | door presented) extracted from the computational learning
model (mean quartile ranges: bin 1: p <= 0.21, bin 2: 0.21 < p <= 0.51, bin 3: 0.51 < p <= 0.80; bin 4: 0.80 < p <=
0.96). **(d)** Difference scores were significantly greater for dependent than independent blocks. Dots represent
individual participant data, grey lines indicate datapoints belonging to the same participant. Red line indicates the
median, box represents the 25th and 75th percentile of data, whiskers extend to any data point that is not outside
1.5 times the interquartile range **(e)** Schematic of the encoding model analysis (example shown for one-hot case).
(f) Difference in cross-entropy loss from the encoding model between dependent and independent blocks
(predicting probability bins in one context in a condition using weights trained on the other context in that

 condition; in crossvalidation) for a range of probability bins (one hot case). Error bars show standard error of the
380　mean; *significant at p < 0.05, ** significant at p < 0.01., *** significant at p < 0.001
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Multivariate encoding model. Next, taking a complementary approach, we built an encoding model that
mapped transition probabilities (in the frame of reference *p(state = heist|door presented)* derived from
the flexible learning model as before) flexibly onto voxels within the MTL ROI, separately for each
context c_a. We then inverted this model to predict transition probabilities both for the same context
c_b and the other three (held out) contexts (contexts) c_b where $a \neq b$ (see **Figure 3e** for a schematic of
this analysis). This approach allowed us to train and test in cross-validation, by obtaining weights from
session (scanner run) i and then using these to predict the probabilities for each context on session j.
The model output was a 4 x 4 (context x context) matrix of predicted vs. true (model-derived) transition
probabilities, which we compared via cross-entropy loss. This allowed us to measure whether, within
the MTL, neural patterns coding for probabilities were more similar across contexts in the dependent
condition (e.g. $c_1 \rightarrow c_2$ and $c_2 \rightarrow c_1$) than in the independent condition (e.g. $c_3 \rightarrow c_4$ and $c_4 \rightarrow c_3$).
Unlike the RSA approach, this also allowed us to compare two different coding schemes. It could either
be the case that state associations are encoded in a high-dimensional format in which probabilities map
onto bins with no input structure. This can be implemented via a one-hot input function in the encoding
model which also enables us to test various levels of granularity of binning, to verify that the RSA results
were not specific to our choice of having 4 bins. Alternatively, it could instead be the case that
probabilities are encoded in a low-dimensional format, whereby neural patterns are more similar for
closer probabilities (e.g., bin 1 is more similar to bin 2 than to bin 4). This can be implemented via an
Gaussian input function (effectively, a tuning curve for probability) in the encoding model. Probabilities
were converted to odds ratios for this exercise (see **Methods**).
402
The results validated and extended those of the RSA. Using one-hot encoding of probability, we found
stronger evidence of shared encoding of probability in the dependent condition compared to the
independent condition. Furthermore, this effect was independent of the number of bins chosen, as
long as there were more than 3 bins (**Figure 3f**). We obtained the most robust effects with ~6 bins
(implying a psychologically plausible granularity to the estimation of transition probabilities), for which
the cross-validated loss was substantially higher between contexts in the independent condition than
those in the dependent condition (t(28) = -3.12, p = 0.002). When cross-validation was performed
across sessions only, reconstructing both probabilities in the other context as well as in the same
context using information from another session (e.g. $c_1\ session\ 1 \rightarrow c_1\ session\ 2$) we found the same
pattern of results (t(28) = -3.80, p < 0.001). Similar results were also obtained at different granularities.
Interestingly, we were unable to recreate these effects under the additional constraint imposed by
Gaussian encoding of probability ratios. This implies that whilst there is a consistent code for transition
probabilities, its similarity structure does not map smoothly onto the one-dimensional axis given by
probability.
417
Characterising the nature of the effect in the medial temporal lobe. Our functional ROI (**Figure 3b**) used
for the RSA and encoding model analysis included voxels from different anatomical subregions of the
MTL. To investigate whether the observed effect was specific to particular subregions of the MTL, we
conducted four further RSA analyses. This was exactly as described above but on voxels from 4 different
MTL anatomical masks (see **Methods**): hippocampus, parahippocampus, entorhinal cortex and
amygdala (**Figure 4a**). Fisher transformed similarity scores were then entered into a region by condition
(dependent/ independent) 4*2 repeated measures analysis of variance (ANOVA).
425
426　This revealed a main effect of condition (F(1,28) = 29.40, p < 0.001) with the difference in similarity (M)
427　between on and off diagonal scores greater in the dependent than independent condition ($M_{hippocampus}$
428　= .26, $M_{parahippocampus}$ =.13, $M_{entorhinal\ cortex}$ = .15, $M_{amygdala}$ = .16) as well as a region x condition interaction
429　(F(2.45, 68.54) = 3.91, p = 0.018; Greenhouse-Geisser corrected). To better understand the interaction
430　we proceeded to test the difference in similarity scores between conditions in each region with every

other region (correcting for multiple comparisons). This revealed a larger difference between conditions in the hippocampus compared to each of the other 3 MTL subregions (entorhinal cortex, amygdala and parahippocampus, all p < 0.05, paired sample t-test) with the parahippocampus surviving correction for multiple comparisons (t(28) = 3.91, p = 0.001, significant at Bonferroni-corrected threshold of p < 0.008; for full table of paired comparisons see **Supplementary Material**). There was also a main effect of region (F(3, 84) = 3.33, p = 0.023), with the difference across both conditions being significantly greater in the amygdala than in both parahippocampus (t(28) = 3.07, p = 0.005) and entorhinal cortex (t(28) = 2.81, p = 0.009). Together, these results suggest that greater similarity in transition encoding in the dependent compared to the independent condition was not exclusive to a particular subregion of the MTL but was most pronounced in the hippocampus (see **Figure 4a** and **Supplementary Material**).

Finally, to test if the differences between our conditions was selective to the MTL or present over the whole brain, we conducted the same RSA analysis using voxels in two control regions: early visual cortex (V1) and primary motor cortex (M1). There was no significant difference between conditions in either control region (V1: t(28) = -0.28, p = 0.78, 95% CI [-.08,.06]; M1: t(28) = -0.22, p = 0.83, 95% CI [-.09,.08], **Figure 4b**).

Figure 4. RSA analysis in **Figure 3c** was repeated using **(a)** anatomical masks of subregions of the MTL, specifically: bilateral hippocampus, parahippocampus, entorhinal cortex and amygdala, **(b)** as well as in V1 and M1 (control regions). **(c)** illustration of the whole brain searchlight interaction analysis; the difference between on diagonal and off-diagonal similarity was contrasted between conditions. **(d)** whole-brain searchlight interaction analysis revealed greater similarity between on versus off diagonal in the dependent condition compared to the independent condition in our functional ROI, right dorsal striatum (top panel) and left inferior frontal gyrus/OFC (bottom panel). Brain images shown at p < 0.001 uncorrected, thresholded at t > 3.

RSA whole-brain searchlight. Next, we repeated the same RSA as described above across the whole brain using a searchlight approach. In the dependent condition, this identified activity within our functional ROI (right peak: 22, -7, -18; t(28) = 4.31 , family-wise error corrected at peak level within

functional ROI mask, p_{FWE} = 0.005; left peak: -24, -7, -18; t(28) = 4.92, family-wise error corrected at peak level within functional ROI mask, p_{FWE} = 0.001). The cerebellum also survived family wise error correction for multiple comparisons at the cluster level (cluster-defining threshold p < 0.001, uncorrected; see **Supplementary Material**). We did not find any evidence for differences in similarity in or outside our functional ROI in the independent condition, even at very lenient thresholds (p < 0.01 uncorrected).

Next, we conducted a new searchlight that directly tested the difference in similarity for on versus off diagonal bins between conditions (**Figure 4c**). This also revealed activation in our functional ROI (right peak: 22, -7, -18; t(28) = 3.55, family-wise error corrected at peak level within functional ROI mask, p_{FWE} = 0.02; left peak: -27, -10, -14; t(28) = 4.02, family-wise error corrected at peak level within functional ROI mask, p_{FWE} = 0.006). A cluster in the right dorsal striatum (29, -7, -7: t(28) = 5.80, p < 0.001, FWE cluster-level corrected, **Figure 4d**) which extended into the hippocampus, as well as the inferior frontal gyrus adjacent to Brodmann area 47 (-16, 14, -18: t(28) = 5.08, p = 0.007) and left cerebellum (-2, -46, -21: t(28) = 4.92, p = 0.03) also survived family wise error correction for multiple comparisons over the whole brain at the cluster level (cluster-defining threshold p < 0.001 uncorrected).

Multivariate analysis during transition probability updating. The analyses described so far focus on the timepoint when planning takes place (door presentation). What happens during updating? To examine this, we conducted a related analysis at the time of transition outcome, i.e. when participants learned whether, conditional on their choice, they had reached the "heist" or the "neutral" state. We reasoned that in order to update the state action representations appropriately (in a shared or unshared manner across contexts) it would be necessary to re-encode both the selected action (light vs. dark door) and encountered state (heist vs. neutral). We thus partitioned data according to these factors and investigated whether BOLD signals were more similar when both state and action matched (i.e. on-diagonal elements) vs where they did not (off-diagonal elements) at the time of updating, separately for the dependent and independent conditions (**Figure 5a**) in our functional ROI. This analysis also revealed a significant condition x diagonal interaction (t(28) = 2.67, p = 0.01 95% CI [.03,.22], paired sample t-test, **Figure 5b**), driven by a significant difference in similarity between matched and mismatched choice-state combinations (the on versus off diagonal in **Figure 5a**) in the dependent condition (t(28) = 2.35, p = 0.03 95% CI [.01, .18], one sample t-test versus 0) which was absent in the independent condition (t(28) = - 0.78, p = 0.44, 95% CI [-.12, .05]).

Once again, this effect was not specific to a particular subregion of the MTL (see **Supplementary Material**). We entered similarity scores from RSAs conducted in subregions of the MTL into a condition (dependent, independent) by region (hippocampus, parahippocampus, entorhinal cortex, amygdala) ANOVA. This revealed a main effect of condition (F(1,27) = 10.05 p = 0.004). There was no main effect of region (F(3,81) = 0.95, p = 0.42), nor a region by condition interaction (F(3,81) = 1.21, p = 0.31; see **Supplementary Material**). There was no difference between conditions in two control brain regions (V1: t(28) = 1.16, p = 0.26, 95% CI [-.04,.16]; M1: t(28) = 1.66, p = 0.11, 95% CI [-.02,.15]). See **Supplementary Material** for whole brain searchlight results.

a

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505 **Figure 5 (a)** Model representational dissimilarity matrix. We examined the BOLD similarity at the time of outcome
506 between matched choice (door) – outcome state combinations and mismatched combinations between contexts
507 in the two conditions. **(b)** In our MTL ROI, the difference between representational similarity of matched and
508 mismatched combinations was significantly greater in dependent than independent blocks.
509
Outcome valence modulates updating of state transitions. An interesting feature of our design is that
the transition function changes (with reversals of p) in a way that is unrelated to outcomes. This means
that in theory, any learning about the transition function should not depend on whether the outcome
was positive or negative. To test whether participants might be biased to update the transition function
more or less according to the outcome, we calculated a **_consistency score_** (see **Methods**) for each
participant. This measured the consistency of each choice given transitions experienced on the previous
trial. A high consistency score indicates that a participant updates transitions strongly on the basis of
feedback. This was calculated separately for trials in which participants received a positive outcome (+1
on a gain trials or 0 on a loss trial) and those where they received a negative outcome (-1 on a loss trial
or 0 on a gain trial) on the previous trial. Notably, this is not the same as a win- stay, lose-switch bias,
as a choice would be considered consistent only if it considered *both* past transitions and the current
reward/loss incurred when reaching the heist state (i.e. if choosing the dark door on trial t-1 had
resulted in monetary gain, but the current trial t was a police trial (monetary loss), the consistent choice
would be to choose the light door on trial t).
524
525 We first conducted this analysis in a separate behavioural experiment (described as "pilot" above; n =
526 31, see **Methods**). This experiment included exclusively free choice trials, giving us greater power to be
527 able to detect valence effects. In this version of the task, participants were not told about any structure
528 between contexts and integrated information from each context in each condition.
529
Participants integrated evidence from the other context in the dependent condition (1-4 trials back) in
this dataset but also did so in the independent condition - therefore we remain agnostic as to whether
participants adjusted how they integrated feedback from state transitions between the two conditions
and primarily use this dataset to examine how outcome interacts with learning the state transitions.
See **Supplementary Figure 9 and Supplementary Tables 5 and 6** for parameter estimates predicting
choice from state transitions experienced 1-5 trials back.] This revealed that transition updating was
greater following positive compared to negative outcomes (t(30) = 9.79, p < 0.001, paired sample ttest,
Figure 6a). In other words, participants updated state transition knowledge and adjusted their
subsequent behaviour to a greater degree when outcomes were positive compared to negative. Note
that this analysis collapses over contexts (see **Methods**). However the main effect remains (t(30) = 8.14,
p < 0.001) when we run this same analysis restricted to the dependent condition.
541

542 Next, we ran the same analysis on our fMRI participants (restricted to free choice trials, **Figure 6b**). We
543 again observed a main effect of outcome with greater updating following positive compared to negative
544 outcomes (t(28) = 2.24, p = 0.03). This effect remained when analysis was restricted to trials from the
545 dependent condition (t(28) = 2.60, p = 0.015).
546

547
Figure 6. Outcome on the previous trial influenced the degree to which transition knowledge was updated.
Specifically, when participants received a positive outcome (+1 on gain trials or 0 on loss trials) consistency scores
(indexed as percentage repeat choices for desirable trials and percentage switch choices for undesirable trials)
were higher compared to when they received a negative outcome. This was observed in **(a)** participants that
completed a behavioural study outside the scanner **(b)** our fMRI cohort. **(c)** Unsigned state prediction errors were
modulated by outcome valence in the MTL (peak [x,y,z]: -13, -10, -18), t(28) = 4.87, p = 0.018 FWE whole brain
cluster level corrected), image displayed at p < 0.001 uncorrected. **(d)** The magnitude of the valance effect
observed behaviourally (quantified as green minus red in (b)) correlated with the size of the interaction betas
observed in the fMRI data in (c) (Spearman's rho = -0.41, p < 0.03). * p < 0.05, + p < 0.05: one sample ttest; n.s.,
non significant
558
In two data sets, our participants' behaviour suggested that rewards received influenced the degree to
which the transition function was updated with a greater update following positive compared to
negative outcomes. If this is the case, we would predict that SPE signals in the MTL – which drive
updates to the transition function – ought to be larger following positive outcomes compared to
negative. To test this, we examined the interaction of the unsigned state prediction error regressor and
outcome in a univariate whole-brain analysis (controlling for the main effects of each, see **Methods**).
This revealed a negative effect in a cluster in the left MTL (peak [x,y,z]: -13, -10, -18, p = 0.018 whole

brain FWE cluster level corrected after thresholding at p < 0.001) which included voxels within our
functional ROI (peak [x,y,z]: -16, -7, -18, t(28) = 4.08, small volume corrected using functional ROI mask).
No other regions survived whole brain correction. Note that since the main effect of SPE is also negative
(**Figure 3a**), the sign of this interaction suggests a greater parametric effect of unsigned SPEs in the MTL
following positive versus negative outcomes.

Finally, we examined whether there was a relationship between this interaction effect in the MTL (i.e.,
the degree to which unsigned SPEs were modulated by outcome valence) and participants' behaviour
(the degree to which consistency scores were greater for positive outcomes compared to negative
outcomes). We quantified each participant's behavioural outcome valence effect (**Figure 6b**) by taking
the difference in consistency scores between positive and negative outcomes and correlated these with
each participants parametric SPE *outcome interaction beta (this quantifies the degree to which the
parametric effect of unsigned SPEs vary are modulated by outcome). This revealed a negative
correlation that was robust to outliers (Spearman's rho = -0.41, p < 0.03); specifically, the greater
participants showed a bias towards integrating information following transition sequences that ended
in a positive outcome (versus negative) in their choices, the greater extent to which unsigned SPEs
expressed in the MTL were greater for higher (versus lower) outcomes.

Discussion

We studied the neural and computational mechanisms by which humans generalise information about
the transition structure of the world across contexts. Our study asked participants to learn and track a
pair of probabilistic state associations in two conditions – one which invited sharing across the two
contexts, and one which did not. This allowed us to measure differences in behaviour and brain activity
as a function of the imperative to either share or keep separate state associations between contexts.
In the dependent condition, we observed that participants' choices reflected not just the outcome
history from the current context, but also from the other context with which it was interleaved.
However, this was not the case in the independent condition. Overall, the data were best described by
a model in which participants relied to a greater extent on information that combined information
across contexts in the dependent condition but then switched to greater reliance on information that
partitioned contexts in the independent condition, switching flexibly between these policies from block
to block.

This suggests that participants have the capacity to maintain and use separate transition functions that
are either aligned or separated. It also implies – reassuringly - that participants performed the task as
expected. However, we also note that when participants were uninstructed, we saw model sharing in
both the dependent and independent conditions. One explanation for this is that *a priori*, participants
tend to believe that items occurring together have shared latent properties, such as being associated
with correlated transitions. We suspect that had participants had longer to train on the task, they would
have learned the generative structure even without being explicitly told. For example, Baram and
colleagues trained their participants over a week to learn anticorrelation among two reward functions
(Baram et al., 2020). For the fMRI experiment, we chose to directly instruct our participants, as our
hypothesis was agnostic to whether model sharing occurred because of instruction or trial-and-error
learning.

To address the question of how neural population activity (measured at the coarse level of multivoxel
patterns) encoded transition probabilities within and between contexts in the dependent and
independent condition, we began by identifying voxels that responded differentially according to
whether a transition between states was expected or unexpected, using estimates of state prediction
errors (SPEs) from the best-fitting ("flexible") model to parameterise this effect. We found that
responses to SPEs correlated with BOLD responses in brain regions that overlapped with the bilateral

hippocampus (**Figure 3a**). Of note, the parametric effect of SPEs in the MTL were negative, i.e., this region responded more robustly to expected over unexpected transitions. Whilst this might seem surprising, given the past implication of the (more anterior) hippocampus in novel or surprising stimuli (Strange et al., 2005), in fact the hippocampal-entorhinal BOLD signal has been found to increase to both matches and mismatches in seemingly perplexing ways and often within the same experimental paradigm (Duncan et al., 2012, Henson et al., 2000, Kumaran and Maguire, 2007) and the reasons for enhancement and suppression of MTL BOLD signals by novelty and familiarity remain murky (Barron et al., 2016, Segaert et al., 2013).

We first focussed our analysis on voxels in this region and measured the consistency in neural patterns in these voxels in encoding transition probabilities between conditions. To do this, we needed to account for the fact that participants estimates of these transition probabilities were themselves changing over time, due to fluctuations in the underlying transition dynamics. At some points in the task for instance, choosing the grey door was likely to lead to the heist state, whilst choosing the light door was likely to lead to the neutral state. At other points, the converse was true. One would expect that as these transition dynamics changed, different patterns of BOLD responses would also emerge as encoding adapts to reflect current estimates about the likelihood of going to each state. Therefore, we divided trials into 4 separate quartiles according to participants' current estimates of transition probabilities inferred from our computational learning model. We then adopted two complementary multivariate approaches: an RSA-based method, which relies on patterns of correlation in fMRI voxels, and a more flexible encoding modelling pipeline, that learned a linear mapping from (model-derived) transition probabilities to fMRI voxels for one session or context and then inverted this model to make predictions in held out sessions or contexts. Both approaches told a similar story: the encoding of probability was more similar across contexts in the dependent condition than in the independent condition.

In other words, the brain learned a representation that was shared across contexts when propitious to do so, but partitions probability encoding into different patterns when it is necessary to disambiguate the predictions for different contexts. The encoding model also enabled us to examine the pattern of results under two different coding schemes - a Gaussian input function and a one-hot input function. Interestingly, whilst the one-hot input function replicated the pattern of RSA and was robust to a range of different probability bins being used, the Gaussian input function did not. We are not entirely clear about why this is the case. Previous theories have emphasised that neural populations in cortex may encode probability distributions in smoothly-varying ways, permitting forms of function approximation or Bayesian inference (Ma et al., 2006, Orhan and Ma, 2017), and there is even some support for this class of theory from studies involving BOLD recordings (Van Bergen et al., 2015). However, the nature of the coding scheme for transition probabilities in hippocampus remains unclear.

The findings described here imply that there is flexibility in the way that transition probabilities are encoded. This potentially allows for "model sharing" – a biological means by which the brain is able to prevent the prohibitive computational cost of planning, by generalising knowledge of state transitions between contexts. Model sharing may be complementary to other approaches proposed for mitigating the cost of planning. For example, it has been proposed that search paths can be dynamically pruned in ways that focus on the most promising routes (Huys et al., 2012). Other theories, including sophisticated models from AI research, emphasise forms of model compression or abstraction to make planning more effective (Schrittwieser et al., 2020, Wayne et al., 2018). It seems likely that the solution which we propose here - recruiting and updating the same model over different contexts – is one among many ingredients that allow humans to plan effectively.

Another key open question is how model sharing could be implemented in practice. Our computational model, as currently presented, is an analytic tool and does not offer a process-level account of model

sharing. It seems likely that participants could have to learn to group gems appropriately by their shared causal structure, for example, treating each gem in the dependent condition as a common item irrespective of their colour. For example, previous structure learning tasks have suggested that participants are able to use the similarity of latent variables such as value estimates, prediction errors and their covariation over time to draw links between different contexts (Wunderlich et al., 2011, Acuña and Schrater, 2010). Bayesian inference models in which latent causes are inferred and used to group together experiences (Gershman and Niv, 2010, Gershman et al., 2015, Sanders et al., 2020, Niv, 2019) could also be a means that participants learn to group different contexts together in practice. Another possibility is that neural geometry actively represents the relational organisation of task elements (Bernardi et al., 2020, Luyckx et al., 2019, Sheahan et al., 2021). However, our encoding model did not find a smoothly-varying relationship between neural coding and probability, which seems like it would follow naturally from such a representation.

Observing these effects in the MTL is consistent with past findings that have identified the involvement of the MTL in learning state associations (Eichenbaum et al., 1999, Miyashita, 1988, Yokose et al., 2017, Rey et al., 2018, Schapiro et al., 2012, Schapiro et al., 2013, Deuker et al., 2016, Garvert et al., 2017), encoding relational knowledge that can be used to generalise and draw inferences across contexts (Bunsey and Eichenbaum, 1996, Wimmer and Shohamy, 2012, Zeithamova et al., 2012, Kumaran et al., 2016, Koster et al., 2018, Park et al., 2019) and its role in model based planning (Bradfield et al., 2020), including in two stage sequential planning tasks similar to the one we deploy here (Vikbladh et al., 2019, Miller et al., 2017), potentially via representation of task structure (Geerts et al., 2020). Our initial analysis focused on a region that included different subregions of the MTL. But when we repeated our RSA approach separately in 4 different anatomical subregions of the MTL – hippocampus, entorhinal cortex, amygdala and parahippocampus – we found a significant effect in each of these (an effect which was absent in two control regions). This is suggestive that a network of MTL regions is involved in encoding the predictive relationships between states necessary for planning - consistent with past findings using a similar paradigm to ours (Boorman et al., 2016) - and that each component in this network has the capacity to flexibly adapt the representations it uses to facilitate the sharing of models between contexts when prudent to do so. The involvement of a number of subregions might account for why disabling a specific part of the MTL does not always lead to reductions in goal directed behaviour (Corbit and Balleine, 2000, Gaskin et al., 2005). Interestingly, the effect we observed was strongest in bilateral hippocampus, in line with its involvement in modulating pattern separation between contexts and memories via inputs from other MTL brain regions including the entorhinal cortex (Yassa and Stark, 2011). However, future work – ideally with higher resolution fMRI or direct recordings - is needed to help characterise the precise functional contribution each of these subregions.

We also examined whether there were other regions of the brain in which representations had a similar selective pattern similarity between contexts by running a whole brain searchlight analysis. In addition to confirming the involvement of the MTL, this detected a strong effect in the dorsal striatum and the left IFG. This analysis was exploratory and neither of these brain regions were hypothesised to be involved from the outset. Whilst the IFG and adjacent OFC have previously been shown to be involved in inferring task states using fMRI multivariate approaches (Niv, 2019, Schuck et al., 2016), the striatum was particularly unexpected given its well established role in model free learning (Geerts et al., 2020, Joel et al., 2002, Montague et al., 1996, O'Doherty et al., 2004) although (and with the necessary caveats with regard to retrospective inference), there is some evidence from fMRI and lesion studies that the dorsal striatum – along with prefrontal cortex (Balleine and O'Doherty, 2010, Niv, 2009) – may also play an important role in model based planning behaviour (Yin et al., 2005a, Yin et al., 2005b). Exactly what the functional role either region fulfils here in the service of our task though is unclear.

Computational accounts of model based learning (Sutton and Barto, 1998) typically have the transition matrix stored and updated independently of the reward function. But tasks used to probe choices are not usually designed to test whether this is borne out empirically. For instance, whilst knowledge of the

state transitions is used to plan in the Two Step Task – a task often used to measure planning in humans
(Daw et al., 2011; Doll et al., 2015) and rodents (Miller et al., 2017) - state transitions are held fixed and
do not need to be updated over time. This places all onus on learning the rewards in each state (which
gradually change over time). In our task, by having rewards in one state fluctuate between positive
(thereby desirable relative to the alternative state) and negative (thereby undesirable relative to the
alternative state) and having state transitions change over time we can actually test whether the
transition function and the value function are updated independently of one another. This is vital for
understanding how planning decisions and deficits thereof (Gillan et al., 2016) are implemented in
practice.
729
Examining participants stay/switch behaviour revealed an effect of valence whereby following positive
outcomes, participants updated transition probabilities to a greater degree than following negative
outcomes. We note that these findings are unlikely to be accounted for by purely model free state-
action learning since our task and updating metric includes cases where participants should (if using
model based control and updating the transition function) repeat choices following negative outcomes
and switch choices following positive outcomes. These cases would cancel out the effect of valence we
actually observe in the data under a model free controller (which would repeat following positive and
switch following negative outcomes). An effect of valence on updating was also observed in the fMRI
data which revealed a greater parametric effect of SPEs for positive outcomes relative to negative in
the MTL.
740
Normative accounts of planning dissociate representations of the value function and the transition
function so that agents can learn about the world independent of specific outcomes. So why might –
as our data suggests - humans have evolved to modulate learning in such a way that deviates from
these normative accounts? Sensitivity to new information can vary according to many factors such as
surprise (Pearce and Hall, 1980), volatility (Behrens et al., 2007) and arousal levels (Dundon et al., 2020,
Garrett et al., 2018, Li et al., 2011). One possibility is that the valence of the outcome received acts as
a cue which modulates learning (via arousal for instance). Interestingly, the pattern of asymmetric
updating is reminiscent of confirmation bias (Nickerson, 1998) whereby learning is greater when
information confirms prior beliefs. In bandit tasks this manifests itself as greater learning for positive
outcomes from bandits that were chosen and negative outcomes for unchosen bandits compared to
learning from negative outcomes for chosen bandits and positive outcomes for unchosen bandits
(Fontanesi et al., 2019, Palminteri et al., 2017, Tarantola et al., 2021). A recent account of confirmation
bias (Lefebvre et al., 2020) has used reinforcement learning models to show that this learning
asymmetry can in fact be beneficial by driving apart the difference in value between the different
options, thereby helping agents choose the correct option in the face of decision noise. Future
theoretical work may help shed light on whether a similar normative account exists behind the
asymmetry we observe here in planning to show that that biasing learning towards pathways that lead
to reward (rather than avoid punishment) could help maximise reward in model based planning under
certain conditions.
760
Together these results shed important light on the computational processes by which the MTL
maintains and adapts knowledge about the consequences of our choices and actions in the world. First,
they demonstrate that by relying on a common representational code, knowledge can be shared across
different contexts we interact with. This is essential for learning in the natural world where the sheer
number of contexts we deal with makes maintaining exclusively context specific representations
unrealistic in the absence of infinite memory capacity. Second, by modulating learning via outcomes,
state associations can be revised faster following rewards – this could be beneficial for helping us
strengthen associations that lead to positive outcomes and forget those that don't but may be
maladaptive when states and rewards fluctuate quickly and independently of one another.
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Methods

Participants (fMRI): A total of 62 healthy volunteers with no self-declared history of psychiatric or neurological disorders took part in the experiment. Thirty one took part in the pilot experiment, and thirty-one participated in the main fMRI study. From the latter, two participants were subsequently excluded. One was excluded because their structural fMRI revealed a possible brain abnormality. A second participant was excluded due to excessive head motion (more than 10% of images contained motion artefacts upon visual inspection). This left 29 participants (16 female; mean [std.] age: 25.86 [3.59]) in the final sample. Participants were paid 10€/hour plus a bonus contingent on performance. Participants gave informed consent prior to scanning. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the University of Granada and participant numbers were determined based on past experience within the lab.

Heist Task: On each trial of the main experiment (the pilot experiment is described below), participants were presented with one of two doors (dark/light) on one (left/right) side of the screen (side counterbalanced), in one of two "contexts" within the current block (**Figure 1a**). On forced trials (24 per trials per block), participants were required to select the door initially presented. On free choice trials (8 per block), participants could either choose the door initially presented or opt to choose the alternate door which appeared on the opposite side of the screen (**Figure 1a**). Participants had 1.5 seconds to respond otherwise the trial aborted. Missed trials (mean [std] = 6.41 [4.65]) were excluded from all analyses.

The selection of door influenced which of two possible 2nd stage states participants subsequently transitioned to. One of the doors transitioned with probability p to a heist state where participants could either win or lose money and transitioned with probability $1 - p$ to a neutral state in which participants would always receive 0 as an outcome (participants were only rewarded for free choice trials). The alternate door transitioned to the same second stage states but with the inverse probabilities (i.e., probability $1 - p$ of transitioning to the heist state and probability p to the neutral state, **Figure 1b**). The value of p was set to either 0.2 or 0.8, reversing randomly throughout the task (with probability 0.1 on every trial). Participants were told state transitions could change but were not told the probability with which this could happen. Importantly, p always had the same value for both contexts in dependent blocks. In independent blocks, the values for p were independent in the two contexts. Participants were explicitly told this probability structure during the instructions and the block type they were in (dependent/independent) was clearly signalled to them at the start of a new block of trials. The context of the current trial was signalled to participants by the colour of a gemstone presented in the centre of the screen (either green, yellow, blue or red). The assignment of gemstone to context was different for each participant but (after assignment) remained the same throughout the experiment. Whether a gain or a loss was possible in the heist state alternated on each trial and was signalled to participants during door and response presentation. Explicitly providing participants with this information was done to remove the need to actively learn the value of each bottom level state and emphasise the need to track the transition function and use current beliefs about this function to plan. After indicating their choice, participants were shown the state they transitioned to and the resulting outcome – either a gain or a loss if they transitioned to the heist state or zero if they transitioned to the neutral state.

The task took place in sessions of trials (2 blocks of 32 trials per session, 5 sessions total during the experiment, 320 trials total). The first session took place outside of the scanner. Each session contained one block of trials in the dependent condition and one block of trials in the independent condition. The order of the blocks was counterbalanced across sessions. Participants indicated their response using a computer keyboard (outside the scanner) or MRI compatible button box (inside the scanner). Participants were paid a base-rate bonus of 2.50 Euro plus 2.5 times their percentage of correct free

choice trials (up to 5 Euro total). The task was programmed in MATLAB using Psychtoolbox (Kleiner et al., 2007).

Behavioural analysis (adapting information integration between contexts): To examine the extent to which participants updated beliefs about state transitions within and between contexts, logistic regression analyses were conducted (mixed-effects models using the fitglme fitting routine in MATLAB, version 2020 [https://www.mathworks.com/]). Models tested to what extent subjects' choice behaviour on each trial (coded as: select dark door = 1; select light door = 0) was influenced by transitions experienced over the previous 5 trials.

To examine this, we first constructed 5 variables that coded the evidence received from the state transition n trials back (relative to the current trial, t), where n ranged from 1 to 5. When trial t was a gain trial, previous transitions to the heist state were coded 1 (-1) if the dark (light) door was selected t-n trials back and participants transitioned to the heist state and coded -1 (1) if the transition encountered was to the neutral state. This coding was reversed for loss trials (**Figure 2**). The intuition implicit in this coding scheme is that participants would aim to repeat choices that previously transitioned to the heist state on gain trials but to switch choices on loss trials (in an attempt to transition to the neutral state and avoid incurring a loss). We also partitioned trials according to whether evidence was received in the same or alternate context as the current trial t. This lead to a total of 10 variables – 5 encoding evidence received 1 to 5 trials back from the same context and 5 encoding evidence received 1 to 5 trials back from the alternate context. 0 was entered as a value for cases where a variable did not apply for a particular trial (for example, if 3 trials back a subject's choice was executed in the alternate context, evidence 3 trials back in the same context would be assigned a value of 0 for this trial).

Next, to assess *qualitatively* whether the degree of information integration from each context (same and other) changed between conditions, we entered all 10 variables in separate mixed effects models: one for the dependent condition and one for the independent condition. Only choices from free choice trials were entered in the model as the dependent variable (however the information encoded in the independent variables used to predict choice could come from free or forced trials as participants could use transition information from both trial types). All regressors and the intercept were taken as random effects, i.e. allowed to vary across subjects.

The model was specified in the syntax of MATLABs fitglme routine as:

DarkDoor ~ oneBackSame + twoBackSame + threeBackSame + fourBackSame + fiveBackSame + oneBackOther + twoBackOther + threeBackOther + fourBackOther + fiveBackOther + (1 + oneBackSame + twoBackSame + threeBackSame + fourBackSame + fiveBackSame + oneBackOther + twoBackOther + threeBackOther + fourBackOther + fiveBackOther | subject)

To the extent that participants are using information from each context to a similar degree (which ought to be the case in dependent blocks), coefficient estimates ought to have a similar magnitude for same and other context. To the extent that participants ignore information from an alternate context to a similar degree (which ought to be the case in independent blocks), there ought to be separation between coefficient estimates from same versus other. Note that by controlling multiple trials back we guard against the possibility that information used in the alternate context can have an effect in the dependent condition by virtue of the fact the feedback of received is similar in the two contexts.

Finally, to assess *quantitively* whether differences in information integration between conditions were significant, we averaged each condition's streams of evidence for picking the dark door on the current trial over the past five trials. This resulted in two quantities:

873
874 average_evidence_Same = (oneBackSame + twoBackSame + threeBackSame + fourBackSame +
875 fiveBackSame)/5
876
877 average_evidence_Other = (oneBackOther + twoBackOther + threeBackOther + fourBackOther +
878 fiveBackOther)/5
879
880 We then subtracted average_evidence_Other from average_evidence_Same providing a difference
881 score:
882
883 differential_evidence = average_evidence_Same - average_evidence_Other
884
The differential evidence score reflects a relative preference in updating beliefs for information
received from the same context over information received from the other context. When equal to 0,
individuals are indifferent between evidence from the same and evidence from the other context.
When greater than 0, individuals prefer (i.e. update beliefs to a greater degree) information received
in the same context compared to the other context. When less than 0, individuals prefer information
received in the other context compared to the same context.
891
892 We used this differential evidence score in a third mixed effects model to test whether preferences for
893 the context in which information was received shifted with condition (captured in the model as a
894 Differential Evidence by Condition interaction). The model was specified as follows:
895
896 DarkDoor ~ differential_evidence*Condition + (1 + differential_evidence*Condition | subject)
897
898 Condition was again coded as 1 = Dependent condition, -1 = Independent condition.
899
Computational Model: Participants are assumed to track the task's underlying state transition
structure in the form of p, an estimate of the probability that selection of one of the two doors (which
of the two is arbitrary, but in our modelling this is taken to be the dark door) transitions to the heist
state. This is assumed (as is the actual case in the experimental design) to be equal to the probability
that the alternate door transitions to the neutral state. It is also assumed (as is the case) that 1- p is
equal to the probability of each door going to the alternate state (dark goes to neutral and light to
heist). Under these assumptions, maintaining a belief about a single quantity, p, enables computation
of estimates for each door going to each 2nd level (terminating) state. Importantly, participants are
assumed to maintain two sets of beliefs about p: $p_{specific}^i$ and $p_{independant} \cdot p_{specific}^i$ maintains
separate estimates of p, exclusive to each context where i indexes the 2 contexts in each block (i.e.
$[p_{specific}^{i=1}, p_{specific}^{i=2},]$). $p_{independent}$ maintains a single estimate of p which updates across contexts (within
the same block). All estimates of p were initialised to 0.5 at the start of the experiment in all models.
912
913 At the time of choice, participants then combine the two sets of beliefs ($p_{specific}^i$, $p_{independent}$) into a
914 single estimate, $\hat{p}_c$, according to:
915
916 $\hat{p}_c = w*p_{independent} + (1 - w) * p_{specific}^i$
917
918 We tested a baseline model in which w was held fixed between conditions. We refer to this as the *fixed*
919 *model*. We tested this against a 2nd model which was identical in all respects except that it allowed w
920 to reverse in the independent condition. In other words, in the dependent condition $\hat{p}_c$ was calculated
921 as:
922
923 $\hat{p}_c = w *p_{independent} + (1 - w)*p_{specific}^i$

924
925   In the independent condition $\hat{p}_c$ was calculated as:

926
927    $$p_{combined} = (1 - w)*p_{independent} + w *p^i_{specific}$$

928
929   We refer to this as the *flexible model*.

930
931   In both models, combined estimates of p ($\hat{p}_c$) were then used to calculate the value of selecting each
932   door:

933
934    $$Q_{dark\ door} = r * \hat{p}_c$$
935    $$Q_{light\ door} = (r * 1 - \hat{p}_c)$$

936
937   *[r = 1 on gain trials, -1 on loss trials]*

938
939   Following choice, after participants observed the 2nd level state they transitioned to, a state prediction
940   error, δ, calculated as:

941
942    $$\delta = x - \hat{p}_c$$

943
944   *[x = 1 if chose dark door and transition to heist state OR*
945   *chose light door and transitioned to neutral state;*

946
947   *x = 0 if chose dark door and transitioned to neutral state OR*
948   *chose light door and transitioned to heist state]*

949
950   This prediction error was then applied to update both sets of beliefs about p:

951
952    $$p_{independent} = p_{independent} + w *\alpha*\delta$$
953    $$p^i_{specific} = p^i_{specific} + (1- w)*\alpha*\delta$$

954
955   Where the context indexing $p^i_{specific}$ can be context 1 or context 2.

956
957   The w used in each update is identical to w used to compute $\hat{p}_c$ and was either held fixed (fixed model)
958   or allowed to reverse between conditions (flexible model).

959
960   To avoid probability estimates exceeding 1 or going below 0 (which in a small number of cases is
961   possible in this setup), updates to beliefs were bounded to within this range.

962
963   The probability of choosing the dark door was then estimated using a softmax choice rule, as follows:

964
965    $$p(choice = dark\ door) = \frac{1}{1 + exp\left(\beta(Q_{light\_door} - Q_{dark\_door})\right)}$$

966
Altogether each model has 3 parameters: α, β and w. For each participant, we estimated the free
parameters of the model by maximizing the likelihood of their sequence of choices, jointly with group-
level distributions over the entire population using an Expectation Maximization (EM) procedure
(Garrett and Daw, 2020, Huys et al., 2011) implemented in the Julia language (Bezanson et al., 2012),
version 0.7.0. Note, similar to the behavioural analysis reported above, all trials (forced and free) were
included in the model but only free choice trials were included in the likelihood calculation. Models

were compared by first computing unbiased per subject marginal likelihoods via subject-level cross-
validation and then comparing these likelihoods between models (Flexible versus Fixed) using paired
sample t-tests (two sided).
976
Computational Simulations. To examine the qualitative fit of each learning model to the data we ran
separate simulations for the Fixed Model (in which w was held constant across conditions) and the
Flexible Model (in which w was allowed to vary with condition). For each simulation (n = 504 for each
model), we ran a group of 29 virtual participants. For each virtual participant, we randomly selected
(with replacement) a set of parameters (β, α and w) from the best fit parameters generated by the
computational model (fit to actual participants choices). We then simulated the learning process by
which estimates of p evolved (given door selection and state encountered), exactly as described for the
respective computational models. To mimic the task as closely as possible, 25% of a virtual agents trials
were free choice trials in which we simulated which of the two doors were selected (given current
beliefs about p, and whether a gain or a loss was available in the heist state) and 75% were forced
choice trials where the door selected was chosen for them (as a coin flip).
988
We then entered choices made by each virtual agent as the dependent variable in a binomial mixed
effects model with regressors coding evidence received 1 to 5 trials back from the same and alternate
context (10 regressors in total). This was run separately for each condition replicating the analysis
conducted on the data (i.e. actual subjects' choices) with the same model specification (as before, all
regressors and the intercept were taken as random effects). This generated a set of fixed effect
parameter estimates for each simulation for each condition. We then averaged each fixed parameter
estimate over the simulations and compared these to the parameter estimates generated from the
data.
997
Finally we used the fixed model to run a permutation test to estimate the extent to which an interaction
between differential evidence and condition (our third mixed effects model) could arise under agents
that did not change information integration between contexts which might occur due to feedback being
more similar in the dependent condition compared to the independent condition. Specifically, we
simulated choices for 500 groups made up of 29 agents each, performing the task. For each agent, we
randomly selected (with replacement) a set of parameters (β, α) from the best fit parameters generated
by the fixed model (fit to actual participants choices). W could take any value between 0 and 1
(uniformly distributed) and could not reverse between contexts. For each group we then calculated
differential evidence scores on each trial for each participant and entered these into a mixed effects
model to predict choices (along with condition and their interaction) exactly as we did using participants
data. This generated a distribution of fixed effects estimates and t statistics which we used to calculate
a 95% confidence interval and compare against the estimates found in the data.
1010
fMRI image acquisition, pre-processing and reporting. MRI data were acquired on a 3T Siemens
Magnetom Trio MRI Scanner (Erlangen, Germany) scanner. A whole brain high-resolution T1-weighted
anatomical structural scan was collected before participants commenced the four in-scanner blocks of
the task (imaging parameters: 1mm^3 voxel resolution, TR = 1900ms, TE = 2.52ms, inversion time (TI) =
900ms, slice thickness = 1mm, voxel resolution = 1mm^3). During the task, axial echo planar functional
images with BOLD-sensitive contrast were acquired in descending sequence (imaging parameters: 32
axial slices per image; voxel size = 3.5mm^3, slice spacing = 4.2mm, TR = 2000ms, flip angle = 80°, TE =
30ms). 462 volumes were collected per participant per session (total number of volumes over the 4
sessions = 1848), resulting in a scanning time of approximately 1 hour. Image analysis was performed
using SPM12 (http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm). The following procedures were used for preprocessing
of the raw functional files. Slice-time correction referencing was applied with reference to the middle
slice to correct for/avoid interpolation errors due to the descending image acquisition sequence (Sladky
et al., 2011 in Juechems et al. (2017)). Then, realignment of thet images from each session with the first

image within it was performed. The crosshair was adjusted to the anterior commissure manually to
improve coregistration. After coregistration of the functional with the structural images was performed,
segmentation, normalisation and smoothing of the epi files was undertaken. We then checked for
motion artefacts and flagged scans as well as warping manually.

In all fMRI analysis (univariate and RSA searchlights) we report activation that survives small volume
correction at peak level within an anatomical or functional ROI mask (see below for how these were
defined). Other brain regions were only considered significant at a level of $p < 0.001$ uncorrected if they
survived whole-brain FWE correction at the cluster level ($p < 0.05$).

Anatomical masks: Anatomical masks were generated using the automated anatomical labelling (AAL)
atlas (Tzourio-Mazoyer et al., 2002) and Talairach Daemon Atlas (Lancaster et al., 2000), which was
used to define Brodmann area 28 as entorhinal cortex (Canto et al., 2008) and Brodmann area 17 as V1
(Tootell et al., 1998) integrated in the WFU Pickatlas GUI (Maldjian et al., 2003):
1036
(1) A bilateral medial temporal lobe mask used for small-volume correction, which was defined as
including the bilateral hippocampus, entorhinal cortex, parahippocampus and amygdala and
dilated by a factor of 1 in the WFU Pickatlas GUI.
(2) Bilateral amygdala (84 voxels), hippocampus (336 voxels), entorhinal cortex (53 voxels), and
parahippocampus (404 voxels) masks (no dilation) used for anatomical definition of our ROI
from fMRI general linear model 1 (see below) as well as post-hoc RSA tests (**Figure 4 &**
Supplementary Figure 6).
(3) Bilateral V1 (121 voxels) and bilateral primary motor cortex (Brodmann area 4, 240 voxels) used
as a control region for the post-hoc RSA tests (see **Figure 4** & **Supplementary Figure 6**).
1046
1047 All masks were resliced to match the dimensions of our data using the SPM fMRI Realign (Reslice)
1048 function.
1049
1050 **fMRI general linear model 1:** For each participant, the blood oxygen level-dependent (BOLD) signal was
1051 modelled using a General Linear Model (GLM) with time of door presentation and time of outcome
1052 presentation as onsets. Events were modelled as delta (stick) functions (i.e. duration set to 0 seconds)
1053 and collapsed over our two experimental conditions (dependent and independent blocks).
1054
To identify regions tracking state prediction errors, we extracted trial by trial estimates of unsigned
state prediction errors, $|\delta|$, from our computational model and entered these as parametric regressors,
modulating the time of outcome for each participant. In addition, we also entered the following
regressors: outcome received (1, 0 or -1), the interaction of outcome with unsigned state prediction
error (i.e. the product of outcome received with $|\delta|$ on each trial) and trial type (1 = forced, -1 = free).
Six movement parameters, estimated from the realignment procedure were added as regressors of no
interest.
1062
ROI definition: We identified region(s) in which the BOLD response was parametrically modulated by
the magnitude of the unsigned state prediction error ($|\delta|$), using a threshold of $p < 0.001$ uncorrected,
with cluster size > 10 voxels. Clusters identified were saved as binary regions of interest (ROIs; in SPM)
and then combined into a single ROI using the MarsBaR toolbox (http://marsbar.sourceforge.net/). This
functional ROI was then used for subsequent representational similarity analysis (RSA; see below). We
divided the number of voxels that fell within both our functional ROI and each anatomical mask by the
total number of voxels in our functional ROI. This gave us the percentage with which our functional ROI
was a conjunction of each anatomical region.
1071

fMRI GLM 2a (door presentation): For each participant, we created a design matrix in which each door
presentation (32 per condition per session) was modelled as a separate event (without parametric
regressors attached). Such a procedure has been used multiple times in the past (Charpentier et al.,
2014, Garrett et al., 2016). Outcome onset was entered as an additional event. Events were modelled
as delta functions and convolved with a canonical hemodynamic response function to create regressors
of interest. Six motion correction regressors estimated from the realignment procedure were entered
as covariates of no interest.

1079

RSA (door presentation): To examine whether BOLD responses were more similar between contexts in
the dependent versus independent condition, we used GLM3a to extract estimates of BOLD response
on each trial in our functional ROI (identified from GLM 1) and partitioned these estimates into four
linearly spaced bins according to how likely the door presented was to go to the heist state (P(state =
heist | door_presented)). This was inferred by extracting trial by trial estimate of $p_{combined}$ (from the
flexible learning computational model) and using $p_{combined}$ or 1-$p_{combined}$ depending whether the
dark or light door was presented respectively to estimate p(state=heist | door_presented).

1087

1088   We divided trials into quartiles based on p(heist state | door presented), resulting in the following
1089   average (standard deviation; SD) probability bins:

1090

1091   Bin 1: 0.04 < p (heist state | door presented) ≤ 0.21 (0.10)
1092   Bin 2: 0.21 < p (heist state | door presented) ≤ 0.51 (0.09)
1093   Bin 3: 0.51 < p (heist state | door presented) ≤ 0.80 (0.09)
1094   Bin 4: 0.80 < p (heist state | door presented) > 0.96 (0.03)

1095

1096   This was done separately for each context that the participant (N = 29) encountered (2 in dependent
1097   blocks and 2 in independent blocks, 16 bins in total). We then averaged these estimates in each voxel
1098   in our functional ROI (collapsing across the 4 functional runs) for each bin generating an average BOLD
1099   response for each voxel.

1100

To compare the similarity of responses between contexts we proceeded by first calculating the
dissimilarity of BOLD responses in each of the 4 bins between contexts. This was computed using the
pdist function in MATLAB using 1-pearson correlation as a measure of distance; hence high correlation
indicates a low level of dissimilarity (conversely a high level of similarity). This generated an 8x8
dissimilarity matrix for each condition of which we subselected the 4x4 matrix displaying the
dissimilarity of probability bins between the two contexts (i.e. context 1 vs context 2 for each level of p
(heist state | door presented))

1108

Dissimilarity scores were then converted into similarity scores (high scores indicating greater similarity)
and Fisher transformed to allow inference at the group level. The four similarity scores along the
diagonal of each RSA matrix (where identical bins are compared between contexts) were averaged for
each participant creating an on-diagonal similarity score which quantifies the extent to which identical
values of transition probabilities are encoded similarly between the two contexts in a condition. The 12
similarity scores on the off-diagonal of each RSA matrix (where different bins are compared between
contexts) were separately averaged together to create off-diagonal similarity scores. Note that unlike
in regular RSA analyses, all 12 scores were averaged across rather than just the upper or lower triangle
as the values in the 4x4 RSM are not identical about the diagonal (off-diagonal 4x4 of a larger 8x8, see
above). We then computed the difference between on and off diagonal scores separately for each
condition. One sample ttests (versus 0) were conducted to assess whether significant differences
between on an off diagonal similarity scores existed. Two-tailed paired sample ttests were used to
compare whether difference scores were greater for the dependent condition compared to the

independent condition. For a crossvalidated version of this analysis in which where we exclude within
block autocorrelations, see **Supplementary Material**.
1124
1125 The same RSA procedure was applied to voxels within the four anatomical ROIs used to characterise
1126 the nature of the effect within the medial temporal lobe and the control regions V1 and M1 (**see Figure**
1127 **4**). The interaction ANOVA result reported in-text are Greenhouse-Geisser corrected to adjust for
1128 violations of sphericity (both F value and degrees of freedom).
1129
To check whether there is a relationship between the temporal proximity of trials between contexts
and how similar the neural patterns are, we calculated the mean temporal distance between trials in
the two contexts on the diagonal and the off-diagonal in each condition for each participant. We then
correlated the difference in proximity between diagonal and off-diagonal trials with the difference in
representational similarity between the diagonal and off-diagonal in the dependent and the
independent condition (scatter plots of these correlations are presented in the **Supplementary**
Materials).
1137
Encoding model analysis: As a complementary approach, we built a linear encoding model, equivalent
to a crossvalidated multinomial logistic regression, that mapped voxels (within an ROI) onto
probabilities under different constraints. We evaluated this model in cross-validation, using
independent held out data from across scanner runs. Briefly, we first extracted single-trial estimates
of BOLD within the MTL ROI for each gem on each session, yielding data Y of size $v \times t$, where v is the
number of voxels and t the number of trials on which that gem was presented. We also recoded (scalar)
single-trial, model-derived estimates of transition probability (converted to odds ratios) as input vectors
in either a one-hot format (i.e. a one within the relevant bin and zeros elsewhere) or a Gaussian format
(i.e. a Gaussian tuning curve that was maximal in the relevant bin but gradually tapered over adjacent
bins). We used n bins falling within the range (in log odds) units of -2 to 2, where n varied exhaustively
from 1-10. This yielded data X of size $n \times t$. We estimated weights w by linear regression of X_i onto
Y_i for scanner run i and evaluated the fit of the model to help out probabilities X_j from multivariate
patterns Y_j acquired in scanner run j. We used a (mean) cross-entropy loss in validation. This exercise
allowed us to verify, for each gem, the cross-validated loss when weights obtained with gem g were
evaluated with gem g' with which it co-occurred, both in the independent condition (where the
probabilities were different) and the dependent condition (where they were not). We tested whether
there was stronger cross-validation between gems (and across runs) in the dependent than the
independent condition, for varying number of bins n and with both one-hot and Gaussian input
functions.
1157
Searchlight RSA analysis (door presentation; whole-brain): To assess whether our ROI was the only brain
area with dependent and independent block transition probability representations and potential
differences between them or whether this representation was distributed across the brain (and thus
potentially less meaningful), we also conducted a whole-brain searchlight analysis. The searchlight
analysis was conducted using a combination of scripts from the RSA toolbox (Nili et al., 2014) and our
own parser script feeding in the single-trial onset events generated in GLM3a. The searchlight radius
used was 10.5mm (corresponding to 3 voxels). Neural representational dissimilarity maps for the two
block types were separately correlated with model representational dissimilarity matrices (RDMs,
Figure 3d) using Spearman's correlation coefficient. The model RDM specified that the on-diagonal was
more similar between contexts than the off-diagonal. This was done individually for each participant
and the resulting maps of correlation coefficients were saved. Second-level analysis as described above
was then applied to the r-maps to establish separate group-level effects for the two conditions, i.e. the
dependent and independent blocks (**Figure 3e**). We report any brain regions that survive whole brain
correction at the cluster level after thresholding at p < 0.001.
1172

fMRI GLM 2b (outcome presentation): For each participant, we created a design matrix in which each outcome presentation (32 per condition per session) was modelled as a separate event (without parametric regressors attached). Door presentation onset was entered as an additional event.

RSA analysis (outcome presentation): We used GLM2b to extract estimates of BOLD response on each trial in our functional ROI and partitioned these estimates into bins according to the combination of doors chosen and state encountered. These combinations (of which there are 4 in total) drive the direction and degree of update of beliefs (p) about state transitions in the computational model. Specifically, we divided responses into bins as follows:

Bin 1: dark door chosen + heist state encountered
Bin 2: dark door chosen + neutral state encountered
Bin 3: light door chosen + heist state encountered
Bin 4: light door chosen + neutral state encountered

This was done separately for each context that the participant encountered (2 in dependent blocks and 2 in independent blocks, 16 bins in total). We then averaged these estimates in each voxel in our functional ROI (collapsing across the 4 functional runs) for each bin generating an average BOLD response for each voxel.

To compare the similarity of responses between contexts we followed a similar procedure to the RSA analysis conducted at door presentation. We first calculated the dissimilarity of BOLD responses in each of the 4 choice-outcome state combinations across the two conditions generating 2 separate 8*8 RSA matrices of which we subselected the off-diagonal 4x4 for further analyses (context 1 vs context 2 for each of the four choice-outcome state combinations computed separately for each condition). After conversion to similarity scores and Fisher transformation, the four on-diagonal similarity scores and the 12 off-diagonal similarity scores of each RSA matrix were averaged to create 2 sets of similarity scores per condition. The mean on- and off-diagonal similarity scores were then entered into a paired ttest to assess differences between identical choice-outcome bins and non-identical choice-outcome bins in the two contexts. Then, to assess whether there were meaningful differences between conditions, the difference between the mean on and off-diagonal scores for each participant in each condition was entered into a paired ttest (dependent on-diagonal-off-diagonal vs independent on-diagonal vs of-diagonal).

The same RSA procedure was applied to voxels within the four anatomical ROIs used to characterise the nature of the effect within the medial temporal lobe and the control regions V1 and M1 (see **Figure 5**). Again, the ANOVA results reported were Greenhouse-Geisser corrected due to violations of the assumption of sphericity.

Searchlight RSA analysis (outcome presentation; whole-brain): The searchlight analysis was implemented in the same way as described above for the searchlight RSA at time of door onset. Here, the onset events read into the searchlight script were the outcome onset events generated in GLM3b. Again, the model RDMs specified that the on-diagonal (identical choice-outcome combinations for the two contexts within a condition) was more similar than the off-diagonal (**Figure 5a**) and the analysis was conducted separately for the two conditions.

Searchlight interaction analysis (outcome presentation; whole-brain): The interaction analysis was also conducted similarly to the analysis described above for the time of door onset. In this case, if there is a difference between the difference scores for the two conditions, this means that the difference between the similarity in encoding of identical choice-outcome combinations and different choice-outcome combinations across the two contexts is different between the two conditions. If this

difference is positive (as this analysis is coded as encoding similarity), it means the same choice-outcome combinations are encoded more similarly between contexts than non-identical choice-outcome combinations in dependent than in independent blocks and vice versa. As for door presentation, we report any brain regions that survive whole brain correction at the cluster level after thresholding at p < 0.001.

Component searchlight interaction analyses (outcome presentation; whole-brain): The same representational similarity analyses as above were also performed for the same choice only (e.g. choosing the light door) and the same outcome state only (e.g. reaching the risky state). By comparing the results from these additional searchlight analyses to the main analysis, we were able to investigate whether the regions that emerge for the choice-outcome analysis encode predominantly encode choice or outcome state or whether they truly encode a combination of the two (for results of this analysis see **Supplementary Material**).

fMRI general linear model 3: To visualise the parametric effect of our interaction term ($|\delta|$ * outcome) in GLM1, we ran a separate GLM which included onsets of door presentation and outcome presentation with outcome onsets separated into 3 separate events: time of outcome presentation when participants received an outcome of +1, an outcome of 0 and an outcome of -1. Each of the 3 outcome onsets was modulated by 2 parametric regressors: unsigned state prediction error (extracted from our flexible RL model) and trial type (force/free). Events were modelled as delta functions and collapsed over our two experimental conditions (dependent and independent blocks), just as for fMRI GLM1. Six movement parameters, estimated from the realignment procedure were added as regressors of no interest. We then extracted the parametric betas for the state prediction error regressors for each participant from the 3 outcome conditions using the Marsbar toolbox at the peak voxel of the $|\delta|$ * outcome cluster identified in GLM1.

Participants and task (behavioural pilot): Thirty-one self-declared healthy individuals (18 female; *M* = 26.29 years, *SD* = 5.50) were recruited using opportunity sampling via the Oxford University Research Recruitment System. The study was approved by the ethics committee at the University of Oxford. The task was the same as the fMRI cohort undertook described above) save for the following differences. Firstly, participants performed 8 blocks of 60 trials (480 trials total) and all trials in this design were free choice trials. This provided us with a higher powered design to detect differences in updating due to outcome received at the end of an episode. After an inter trial interval (0.3-0.5s) participants had up to 5 seconds to make their choice after which they received confirmation of their choice (0.5s) and feedback (1s). Second, participants were not informed about the differences between blocks. However, just as before each block had two different contexts, a dependent block in which transitions for the two contexts was the same and an independent block in which the transitions were independent.

Behavioural analysis (outcome valence and state transition updating): To examine the effect of outcome valence on transition updating we calculated a consistency score for each participant. This is the percentage of times a participant's choices were consistent given both: (1) the previous trials state-action-state sequence, (2) whether the current trial was a gain or a loss trial. Since the same state action state sequence can lead to repeating or switching being the correct thing to do - depending whether the next trial is a gain or a loss trial – we first divided trials into two types - repeat and switch. Repeat trials are those for which participants would want to revisit the terminating state from the previous trial. For example, participants would want to repeat their choice if they picked the grey door on the last trial, went to the vault and the next trial is a gain trial. These trials comprised:

(i) Trials where they previously reached the heist state AND the current trial was a gain trial.
(ii) Trials where they previously reached the neutral state AND the current trial was a loss trial.

Switch trials are those where participants would want to avoid the terminating state from the previous trial. For example, participants should want to swich their choice if they picked the grey door on the last trial, went to the vault and the next trial is a loss trial. These trials comprised:

(i)   Trials where they previously reached the heist AND the current trial was a loss trial.

(ii)   Trials where they previously reached the neutral AND the current trial was a gain trial.

For both repeat and switch trials, the outcome on the previous trial can be positive or negative. For instance, whilst a participant ought to want to repeat selection of grey door if that took them to the vault on the last trial and the next trial is a gain trial, the outcome on the last trial (when they went to the vault) could have been positive or negative, depending whether the last trial was a gain or a loss trial. Hence we then further divided each trial type – repeat, switch – into those where they received a positive (+1 on gain trials, 0 on loss trials) or negative (-1 on gain trials, 0 on loss trials) outcome at the end of the previous transition. This gave us 4 types of trials – repeat positive, repeat negative, switch positive and switch negative. We calculated the % of trials participants repeated or switched choices (as appropriate) for these 4 trial types for each participant. We then calculated a *consistency score* for positive trials by averaging together repeat positive and switch positive. We also did the same for negative trials.

For the behavioural experiment dataset, all trials were used. In the fMRI dataset, only free choice trials were included (but transition sequences from the previous trial could be from a free or a force trial). Participants' consistency scores for positive were compared to negative using paired sample ttests (two tailed). First we did this collapsing over contexts and conditions. This meant that the previous trial could have either been from the same or from the alternate context. Note that participants were not explicitly told of the conditions (i.e., whether to ignore or take notice of contextual cues) in the behavioural dataset. Although they were told this in the fMRI version of the task this ought not to bias this analysis. Nonetheless, we also repeated this analysis only using trials in the dependent condition.

Finally, we calculated a quantified each participants outcome valence effect as the difference between consistency scores for positive trials (i.e. repeat positive and switch positive trials) minus consistency scores for negative trials (i.e. repeat negative and switch negative trials). This indexed the degree to which participants updated state transitions preferentially following positive compared to negative outcomes over both types of trials. We then correlated each participants valence effect with their parametric betas extracted for the interaction regressor ($|\delta|$ * outcome) from GLM1.

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Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Data Availability

Behavioural data and analysis scripts for all analyses are available at:

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Supplementary Material

Fixed effects coefficients (95% CIs):

Name	Estimate	SE	tstat	pValue	Lower	Upper	
Intercept	-0.12234	0.098273	-1.2449	0.21346	-0.31518	0.0705	
oneBackSameGem	1.1124	0.17782	6.2556	5.80E-10	0.76345	1.4613	***
twoBackSameGem	0.43516	0.13316	3.2679	0.0011192	0.17386	0.69646	**
threeBackSameGem	0.12169	0.13769	0.88379	0.37702	-0.1485	0.39188	
fourBackSameGem	0.12764	0.14018	0.91055	0.36274	-0.14743	0.40272	
fiveBackSameGem	0.27492	0.13963	1.9689	0.049235	0.0009229	0.54892	*
oneBackOtherGem	0.71938	0.15133	4.7537	2.28E-06	0.42243	1.0163	***
twoBackOtherGem	0.40005	0.11724	3.4122	0.0006696	0.16999	0.63011	***
threeBackOtherGem	0.045014	0.12806	0.35151	0.72528	-0.20627	0.2963	
fourBackOtherGem	0.054181	0.12789	0.42364	0.67191	-0.19678	0.30514	
fiveBackOtherGem	0.088797	0.12254	0.72461	0.46885	-0.15167	0.32926	

Supplementary Table 1. Dependent Condition: Fixed effect coefficients from Lagged Logistic Regression Model (N=29).*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***, p<0.001

Fixed effects coefficients

Name	Estimate	SE	tstat	pValue	(95% CIs):		
Intercept	-0.083218	0.076251	-1.0914	0.27538	-0.23285	0.066412	
oneBackSameGem	0.62289	0.19375	3.2149	0.0013463	0.24269	1.0031	***
twoBackSameGem	0.29632	0.12814	2.3126	0.020948	0.044877	0.54777	*
threeBackSameGem	0.35279	0.13314	2.6498	0.008181	0.091526	0.61405	**
fourBackSameGem	0.32482	0.13215	2.4579	0.014142	0.065493	0.58414	*
fiveBackSameGem	0.23133	0.12847	1.8006	0.07206	-0.020773	0.48343	
oneBackOtherGem	0.074356	0.10218	0.72769	0.46697	-0.12616	0.27487	
twoBackOtherGem	0.08851	0.1104	0.8017	0.42292	-0.12814	0.30516	
threeBackOtherGem	-0.17593	0.10473	-1.6798	0.093307	-0.38144	0.029589	
fourBackOtherGem	-0.17049	0.11637	-1.465	0.14323	-0.39885	0.057872	
fiveBackOtherGem	0.12256	0.11191	1.0951	0.27373	-0.097052	0.34217	

Supplementary Table 2. Independent Condition: Fixed effect coefficients from Lagged Logistic Regression Model (N=29).*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***, p<0.001

	Dependent Condition		Independent Condition	
	Context 1	Context 2	Context 3	Context 4
Quartile 1	16.24 (3.07)	16.17 (2.51)	15.55 (4.20)	15.14 (3.03)
Quartile 2	15.97 (3.12)	15.45 (1.86)	15.14 (3.66)	16.45 (3.17)
Quartile 3	15.07 (2.40)	15.55 (3.44)	15.93 (4.25)	16.38 (3.70)

Quartile 4	16.00 (3.26)	15.69 (2.95)	16.21 (3.92)	14.83 (3.67)

Supplementary Table 3. Mean (standard deviation) number of trials in each condition for the RSA conducted at time of door onset presented in the main paper. There is no significant difference between the mean trial numbers per bin in dependent and independent condition (t(28 = 1.50, p = 0.55, 95% CI [-.02, .15]). This was calculated by comparing the mean trial numbers in each probability bin of the two contexts in the dependent (8 probability bins total) to those in the independent condition using a paired samples ttest.

Bins	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
T-value	-.45	-.03	-1.53	-2.12	-2.39	-3.12	-2.41	-1.72	-2.53	-2.60
P value	0.33	0.49	0.07	0.02	0.01	0.002	0.01	0.05	0.009	0.007

Supplementary Table 4. Statistics for the crossentropy loss bins at time of onset (crossvalidation, one-hot)

Supplementary Figure 1. Behavioural data. Parameter estimates predicting choice from state transitions 1-5 trials back (same data as in Figure 2) with simulations from the fixed model (triangles) superimposed. Bars represent fixed effect regression coefficients from a mixed effects logistic regression. Error bars represent standard error of the mean. *p<0.05.

Dependent Blocks

p heist state | door presented	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4
Quartile 1	0.23 (0.37)	0.33 (0.38)	0.30 (0.40)	0.25 (0.42)
Quartile 2	0.25 (0.45)	0.29 (0.45)	0.38 (0.42)	0.37 (0.30)
Quartile 3	0.32 (0.36)	0.41 (0.37)	0.28 (0.47)	0.24 (0.36)
Quartile 4	0.38 (0.37)	0.39 (0.38)	0.38 (0.42)	0.40 (0.31)

Independent Blocks

Supplementary Figure 2. RSA at door onset. Each entry shows the mean (standard deviation) similarity score over participants 4*4 quartiles of p (heist state | door presented). Analysis in the main text averages on and off diagonal cells to generate a matched and mismatched similarity score for each condition (see Figure 3c main text). There was a significant interaction between condition and on and off-diagonal (t(28) = 4.02, p < 0.001, 95% CI [.11,.33]), characterised by a significant difference in similarity between on and off diagonal (Figure 3c) in the dependent condition (t(28) = 5.33, p < 0.001, 95% CI [.11,.26]) which was not observed in the independent condition (t(28) = -0.82, p = 0.42, 95% CI [-.11, .05]). As reported in-text, there was no difference between trial numbers in the two conditions (t(28 = 1.50, p = 0.55, 95% CI [-.02, .15]), calculated by comparing the mean number of trials in dependent and independent blocks' probability bins (two-tailed t-test).

Interaction values for regions:	Mean difference (SD)	SEM	t-value	pValue (2-tailed)	(95% CIs):	
Hippocampus – entorhinal cortex	0.10 (0.25)	0.05	2.07	0.048	0.00	0.19
Hippocampus - amygdala	0.10 (0.23)	0.04	2.27	0.031	0.01	0.19
Hippocampus - parahippocampus	0.13 (0.18)	0.03	3.91	0.001	0.06	0.19
Entorhinal cortex - amygdala	-0.00 (0.21)	0.04	-0.00	0.988	-0.08	0.08
Entorhinal cortex - parahippocampus	0.03 (0.17)	0.03	0.92	0.366	-0.04	0.09
Amygdala - parahippocampus	0.03 (0.23)	0.04	0.70	0.490	-0.06	0.12

Supplementary Table 5. Paired comparisons of the interaction effect at onset timepoint across the anatomical subsections of the MTL shown in Figure 4a. As we have 6 paired comparisons, the Bonferroni-corrected threshold for significance is 0.05/6 = 0.0083.

Dependent Blocks

p heist state | door presented	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4
Quartile 1	0.11 (0.13)	0.08 (0.14)	0.09 (0.13)	0.07 (0.14)
Quartile 2	0.10 (0.14)	0.08 (0.14)	0.05 (0.16)	0.08 (0.13)
Quartile 3	0.09 (0.12)	0.07 (0.11)	0.08 (0.11)	0.06 (0.13)
Quartile 4	0.13 (0.16)	0.07 (0.14)	0.10 (0.13)	0.13 (0.15)

Independent Blocks

p heist state | door presented	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4
Quartile 1	0.06 (0.13)	0.10 (0.13)	0.08 (0.12)	0.05 (0.14)
Quartile 2	0.08 (0.16)	0.09 (0.14)	0.10 (0.13)	0.07 (0.14)
Quartile 3	0.08 (0.12)	0.10 (0.13)	0.03 (0.12)	0.03 (0.10)
Quartile 4	0.10 (0.15)	0.11 (0.19)	0.11 (0.16)	0.08 (0.14)

Supplementary Figure 3. RSAs with 4*4 quartiles in cross validation. Here, the similarity between bin n_i and n_j where i and j are drawn from different scanner runs. Condition x bin interaction: t(28) = 1.89, p = 0.068; 95% CI [-.00, .07]; Matched vs mismatched in dependent condition: t(28) = 1.79; p = 0.084; 95% CI [-.00,.04]; Matched vs mismatched in independent condition: t(28) = -1.35; p = 0.188; 95% CI [-.04, .01].

Dependent Blocks   **Independent Blocks**

Supplementary Figure 4. Same RSA analysis as reported in the main text and Supplementary Figure 2, now using fixed range of quartiles (0-0.25, 0.26-0.5, 0.51-0.75 and 0.76-1.0) to compute similarity scores. There was a significant condition by diagonal interaction (dependent, independent) x bin (on, off diagonal) (t(28) = 4.20, p < 0.001; 95% CI [.10, .30]), characterised by a significant difference in similarity between on and off diagonal (Figure 3c) in the dependent condition (t(28) = 5.73; p < 0.001; 95% CI [.13, .28]) which was not observed in the independent condition (t(28) = 0.04; p = 0.97; 95% CI [-.07, .08]).

Dependent Blocks   **Independent Blocks**

Supplementary Figure 5. Same RSA analysis as in Supplementary Figure 4 in crossvalidation. Condition by diagonal interaction: t(28) = 2.04, p = 0.05; 95% CI [.00, .06]. Similarity between on and off diagonal (dependent condition: t(28) = 1.22; p = 0.23; 95% CI [-.01, .04], independent condition: t(28) = -1.34; p = 0.19; 95% CI [-.04, .01]).

Dependent Blocks   **Independent Blocks**

Supplementary Figure 6. Scatterplots showing the relationship between the difference in mean trial distance (temporal distance) between the diagonal and off-diagonal trials and the representational similarity difference between diagonal and off-diagonal (see Figure 3 and Supplementary Figure 2) at the time of door onset for the two conditions.

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Supplementary Figure 7. (a) To investigate whether the effect observed at the time of feedback (Main
Text Figure 5) was specific to a particular subregion of the MTL we conducted follow-up RSAs in the
same subregions of the MTL as the time of door onset. Difference in similarity scores (diagonal minus
off diaganal) were entered into a 2(condition) by 4(region) repeated measures ANOVA. This found no
evidence for functional specialisation within the MTL (no condition*region interaction: $F(3,81) = 1.21$,
$p = 0.312$) and no main effect of region (no main effect of region $F(3,81) = 0.95$, $p = 0.419$). However
there was a main effect of condition. In other words, across all regions, the similarity of identical
compared to non-identical action-outcome state pairings was greater in the dependent than the
independent condition ($F(1,27) = 10.06$, $p = 0.004$). **(b)** We then repeated this analysis in two control
regions (V1 and M1) and found no evidence for differential encoding of probability bins between
conditions in either region (V1: interaction $t(28) = 1.16$, $p = 0.26$, 95% CI [-.04,.16]; M1: interaction $t(28)$
$= 1.66$, $p = 0.11$, 95% CI [-.02,.15]). **C)** A whole brain searchlight comparing the difference in similarity
scores between on and off diagonal between conditions revealed a significant interaction within our
state prediction error ROI (left: [-16, -4, -32], $t(28) = 3.47$, $p = 0.02$ cluster level corrected within our
SPE mask), as well as in a cluster comprised of right hippocampus extending into pons ($t(28) = 5.05$, p
< 0.0001 uncorrected, [12, 18, -18], $p = 0.04$ cluster level corrected across the whole brain with cluster-
forming threshold of $p < .001$ uncorrected). No other significant effects were observed.
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Supplementary Figure 8. Illustration of how the crossvalidation was implemented. Each square corresponds to a 4x4 RSM of probability bins' representational similarity to each other. To determine the between-context difference in similarity between the diagonal and off-diagonal in crossvalidation, we averaged across all Fisher transformed between-context similarity squares that are indicated in blue, i.e. that were not part of the same scanner session (e.g. c_1 S1 to c_2 S2) and then computed the statistics on the resulting averaged 4x4 as described in-text for the main analysis. To compute the same – same context crossvalidated similarity shown in supplementary Figure 5, we averaged across all Fisher transformed similarity squares indicated in green and computed the statistics as described for the main analysis in-text.
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Supplementary Figure 9. Parameter estimates predicting choice from state transitions 1-5 trials back
from a separate behavioural experiment in which conditions were not signalled to participants (same
analysis as shown Figure 2 Main Paper). Bars represent fixed effect regression coefficients from a mixed
effects logistic regression (see also **Supplementary Table 6** and **Table 7** below). Error bars represent
standard error of the mean. *p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001. Participants integrate evidence from
the other context in the dependent condition and in the independent condition.
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					(95% CIs):	
Name	Estimate	SE	tstat	pValue	Lower	Upper	
Intercept	-0.030993	0.031728	-0.97682	0.3286917	-0.093189	0.03120381	
oneBackSameGem	1.0902467	0.114242	9.543293	1.85E-21	0.866299	1.31419453	***
twoBackSameGem	0.570577	0.072219	7.900604	3.18E-15	0.429006	0.71214793	***
threeBackSameGem	0.3455804	0.056242	6.144565	8.44E-10	0.2353305	0.45583036	***
fourBackSameGem	0.1868641	0.061791	3.024112	0.0025023	0.0657351	0.30799314	**
fiveBackSameGem	0.1284043	0.056651	2.266604	0.0234436	0.0173529	0.23945568	*
oneBackOtherGem	0.2962969	0.072803	4.069852	4.75E-05	0.1535822	0.43901153	***
twoBackOtherGem	0.1817307	0.055763	3.258962	0.0011233	0.0724183	0.291043	*
threeBackOtherGem	0.1148956	0.051048	2.250754	0.0244308	0.0148275	0.21496379	**
fourBackOtherGem	0.114004	0.050795	2.244416	0.0248356	0.014432	0.21357593	**
fiveBackOtherGem	0.0808322	0.054348	1.48731	0.1369761	-0.025705	0.18736991	

1673 **Supplementary Table 6.** Dependent Condition (separate behavioural experiment in which conditions
1674 were not signalled to participants during the experiment and participants were not told about them in
1675 advance): Fixed effect coefficients from Lagged Logistic Regression Model (N=31).*p<0.05, **p<0.01,
1676 ***, p<0.001
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Name	Estimate	SE	tstat	pValue	(95% CIs):		
Intercept	-0.044685	0.035191	-1.26978	0.2042037	-0.11367	0.02429995	
oneBackSameGem	1.1985755	0.127696	9.38614	8.16E-21	0.9482536	1.44889735	***
twoBackSameGem	0.65258	0.083389	7.825735	5.76E-15	0.4891134	0.81604664	***
threeBackSameGem	0.389834	0.065256	5.973937	2.43E-09	0.2619137	0.51775436	***
fourBackSameGem	0.2454047	0.049098	4.99823	5.92E-07	0.1491577	0.34165165	***
fiveBackSameGem	0.1892692	0.048877	3.872367	0.0001087	0.0934563	0.285082	***

oneBackOtherGem	0.2180347	0.076398	2.853922	0.0043305	0.0682719	0.36779754	**
twoBackOtherGem	0.1476574	0.045843	3.220964	0.0012832	0.0577926	0.23752226	**
threeBackOtherGem	0.1013551	0.050789	1.995619	0.0460126	0.0017943	0.20091593	*
fourBackOtherGem	0.0913405	0.044482	2.053414	0.0400682	0.0041423	0.17853873	*
fiveBackOtherGem	0.0948919	0.048999	1.936607	0.0528321	-0.00116	0.19094431	

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1679 **Supplementary Table 7.** Independent Condition (separate behavioural experiment in which conditions
1680 were not signalled to participants during the experiment and participants were not told about them in
1681 advance): Fixed effect coefficients from Lagged Logistic Regression Model (N=31).*p<0.05, **p<0.01,
1682 ***, p<0.001