

1 **Switch costs in inhibitory control**
2 **and voluntary behavior: A**
3 **computational study of the**
4 **antisaccade task**

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Eduardo A. Aponte^{1,}, Klaas E. Stephan^{1,2,3}, Jakob Heinzle¹*

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8 ¹ Translational Neuromodeling Unit (TNU), Institute for Biomedical
9 Engineering, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, Wilfriedstrasse 6, 8032
10 Zurich, Switzerland.

11 ² Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging, University College London, 12
12 Queen Square London WC1N 3BG.

13 ³ Max Planck Institute for Metabolism Research, Gleueler Strasse 50, 50931
14 Cologne, Germany.

15

16 *Corresponding author:

17 Eduardo A. Aponte; aponte@biomed.ee.ethz.ch

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34 **Abstract**

35 An integral aspect of human cognition is the ability to inhibit habitual responses
36 in order to initiate complex, rule-guided actions. Moreover, humans have also
37 the ability to alternate between different sets of rules or tasks, at the cost of
38 degraded performance when compared to repeating the same task, a
39 phenomenon called the ‘task switch cost’. While it is recognized that switching
40 between tasks requires often to inhibit habitual responses, the interaction
41 between these two forms of cognitive control has been much less studied than
42 each of them separately. Here, we use a computational model to draw a bridge
43 between inhibitory control and voluntary action generation and thereby
44 provide a novel account of seemingly paradoxical findings in the task switch
45 literature. We investigated task switching in the mixed antisaccade task, in
46 which participants are cued to saccade either in the same or in the opposite
47 direction to a peripheral stimulus. Our model demonstrates that stopping a
48 habitual action leads to increased inhibitory control that persists on the next
49 trial. However, enhanced inhibition affects only the probability of generating
50 habitual responses, and, contrary to previous accounts, cannot be characterized
51 as proactive task interference. In addition, our model demonstrates that
52 voluntary actions (but not habitual responses) are slower and more prompt to
53 errors on switch trials compared to repeat trials. We conclude that precisely the
54 interaction between these two effects explains a variety of contradictory
55 findings reported in the literature.

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57

58 **Introduction**

59 A hallmark of high-order cognition is the ability to alternate between different
60 voluntary actions, as well as between habitual and non-habitual responses
61 (Isoda and Hikosaka, 2008). However, alternating between different tasks
62 engenders reaction time (RT) and error rate (ER) switch costs (Kiesel et al.,
63 2010). While inhibitory control of habitual actions (Aron, 2011) and flexible
64 action selection (Monsell, 2003) have been investigated in great detail, the
65 interplay between them and its impact on task switching has received much less
66 attention (but see Hikosaka and Isoda 2010). Saliently, while great effort has
67 been devoted to developing computational models of action inhibition (Schall
68 et al., 2017) and task switching (Karayanidis et al., 2010; Schmitz and Voss,
69 2014), models of the interaction between these two forms of cognitive control
70 have been less prominent in the literature.

71 An attractive experimental paradigm to study the above phenomena is the
72 antisaccade task (Hallett, 1978; Munoz and Everling, 2004), in which a habitual
73 response – a prosaccade towards a salient peripheral stimulus – needs to be
74 overwritten by a non-habitual action, i.e., an antisaccade in the opposite
75 direction of the stimulus. Behaviorally, switch costs in the mixed antisaccade
76 task, in which pro- and antisaccade trials are alternated, have been investigated
77 in great detail (Barton et al., 2002; Cherkasova et al., 2002; Hunt and Klein,
78 2002; Manoach et al., 2002; Bojko et al., 2004; Fecteau et al., 2004; Manoach et
79 al., 2004; Barton et al., 2006a; 2006b; Manoach et al., 2007; Rivaud-Pechoux et
80 al., 2007; Ansari et al., 2008; Ethridge et al., 2009; Franke et al., 2009; Mueller
81 et al., 2009; Lee et al., 2011; Weiler and Heath, 2012a; 2012b; DeSimone et al.,
82 2014; Weiler and Heath, 2014a; 2014b; Heath et al., 2015; Pierce et al., 2015;
83 Heath et al., 2016; Chan et al., 2017). Despite the large number of studies, no
84 unified picture of the cost of switching in this paradigm has emerged. In
85 particular, all human studies we are aware of have reported higher latencies in
86 switch prosaccades (i.e., correct prosaccades that follow an antisaccade trial)
87 than in repeat prosaccades. The costs associated with switch antisaccades are

88 less clear: While some studies have indicated that switch antisaccades display
89 lower RT than repeat trials (e.g., Cherkasova et al., 2002), others have reported
90 both lower and higher RT (e.g., Barton et al., 2006a), and yet others indicate no
91 switch costs (e.g., Weiler and Heath, 2012a).

92 From a theoretical perspective, two main explanations for switch costs in the
93 antisaccade task have been proposed. According to the task-set reconfiguration
94 hypothesis (Rogers and Monsell, 1995; Barton et al., 2006a), switch trials
95 require the active reconfiguration of the task-set relevant to the new trial. This
96 process is assumed to be an act of endogenous control that is not necessary in
97 repeat trials, is time consuming, and can be prepared in advance of the
98 peripheral stimulus. While intuitively appealing, this hypothesis is at odds with
99 the observation that switch antisaccades are sometimes *faster* than repeat
100 antisaccades (Cherkasova et al., 2002). By contrast, the task inertia hypothesis
101 (Allport et al., 1994; Barton et al., 2006b; Weiler et al., 2015) postulates that
102 passive interference caused by non-dominant rules (antisaccades) lead to pro-
103 but not antisaccade RT switch costs. In other words, antisaccades require the
104 activation of a ‘non-dominant’ rule, which interferes with prosaccades on the
105 next trial. Because prosaccades are the ‘dominant’ rule, no interference occurs
106 after this task-set has been activated. Again, this hypothesis is at odds with
107 positive switch costs in switch pro- and antisaccades (Barton et al., 2006a). In
108 other words, none of these hypotheses offers a satisfying explanation of the
109 conflicting behavioral findings in the antisaccade task.

110 One approach to reconcile conceptual theories and seemingly contradictory
111 experimental evidence is the application of generative models to empirical data
112 (Monsell, 2003; Karayanidis et al., 2010; Heinzle et al., 2016), which might help
113 disentangle the mechanisms behind switch costs. In this direction, we recently
114 developed the *Stochastic Early Reaction, Inhibition and late Action* (SERIA)
115 model (Aponte et al., 2017) of the antisaccade task. In essence, SERIA combines
116 the ‘horse-race’ model of the countermanding saccade task (Logan et al., 1984;
117 Camalier et al., 2007) to explain the inhibition of habitual, fast prosaccades, with
118 a second race between two voluntary, or rule-guided actions that generate pro-
119 and antisaccades. In contrast to previous models (Noorani and Carpenter,

120 2013), SERIA takes into account that prosaccades are not only reactive or
121 habitual saccades, but can also be the result of a rule-guided decision process.

122 The main goal of our study was to investigate whether switch costs can be
123 attributed to the inhibition of habitual responses and/or to the generation of
124 voluntary saccades. Moreover, we investigated whether our modeling supports
125 and explains the predictions of the task inertia and/or the task reconfiguration
126 hypotheses. With these goals in mind, we applied SERIA to two versions of the
127 antisaccade task (Aponte et al., 2018). In Task 1, the peripheral stimulus served
128 simultaneously as task cue, indicating whether a pro- or an antisaccade should
129 be performed. In Task 2, subjects were cued about the task demands in advance
130 of the peripheral stimulus. Following previous reports, we expected positive
131 antisaccade RT switch costs in Task 1, in which task and direction cue
132 overlapped (similar to the short delay condition in Hunt and Klein, 2002; Barton
133 et al., 2006a; Ethridge et al., 2009; see also Meiran, 1996). In Task 2, we
134 expected either a negative or non-significant antisaccade switch cost, as the
135 task cue was presented much in advance of the peripheral saccade target
136 (Barton et al., 2006a; Ethridge et al., 2009; DeSimone et al., 2014).

137 Our results indicate that switch costs in the antisaccade task are explained by
138 two distinct inter-trial effects that impact inhibitory control and voluntary
139 action generation independently. Specifically, SERIA demonstrates task-inertia
140 *like* effects on inhibitory control of habitual actions, as well as task-set
141 reconfiguration costs in the execution of voluntary actions. We show here that
142 by distinguishing between inhibitory control and voluntary action generation,
143 it is possible to develop a unified account of the cost of switching in the
144 antisaccade task that explains empirical findings and reconciles previous
145 theoretical accounts.

146 **Methods**

147 In this study, we analyzed switch costs in the data reported in Aponte et al.
148 (2018), and hence we provide here only a short summary of the experimental
149 procedures. The data is available for download at doi:10.3929/ethz-b-
150 000296409. This experiment was approved by the ethics board of the Canton

151 of Zurich, Switzerland (KEK-ZH-Nr.2014-0246) and was conducted according
152 to the Declaration of Helsinki.

153 ***Participants***

154 Twenty-five healthy male subjects participated in the experiment. All subjects
155 had normal or corrected to normal vision and provided written informed
156 consent to participate in the study.

157 ***Apparatus***

158 The experiment was conducted in a dimly illuminated room. Subjects sat 60cm
159 in front of a computer screen (41.4x30cm; Philips 20B40; refresh rate 85Hz).
160 Eye position was recorded at a sampling rate of 1000Hz with a remote, infrared
161 eye tracker (Eyelink 1000; SR Research, Ottawa, Canada). Head position was
162 stabilized using a chin rest. The experiment was controlled by in-house
163 software written in the Python programming language (2.7) using the PsychoPy
164 package (1.82.02; Peirce, 2007; 2008).

165 ***Experimental design***

166 Subjects took part in two tasks consisting of three blocks of mixed pro- and
167 antisaccade trials. Each block comprised 200 trials of which either 20, 50, or
168 80% were prosaccade trials. Before the main experiment, subjects underwent
169 a training block of 50 prosaccade trials followed by 50 antisaccade trials for
170 each task. During training (but not in the main experiment), subjects received
171 feedback about their performance.

172 In Task 1 (Fig. 1), two red circles (radius 0.25°) were presented throughout the
173 experiment at an eccentricity of $\pm 12^\circ$. Each trial started with a central fixation
174 cross ($0.6 \times 0.6^\circ$). Subjects were required to fixate for at least 500ms, after which
175 a random interval of 500 to 1000ms started. Completed this period, the fixation
176 cross disappeared, and a green bar ($3.48 \times 0.8^\circ$) in either horizontal or vertical
177 orientation was presented centered on one of the red circles for 500ms.
178 Subjects were instructed to saccade to the red circle cued by a horizontal green
179 bar (prosaccade trials), and to saccade to the un-cued circle in case of a vertical
180 bar (antisaccade trials). The next trial started after 1000ms. Pro- and

181 antisaccade trials were randomly interleaved, but the same sequence was
182 presented to all subjects. The location (left of right) of the peripheral cue was
183 randomly permuted, such that the number of pro- and antisaccade trials in each
184 direction was the same.

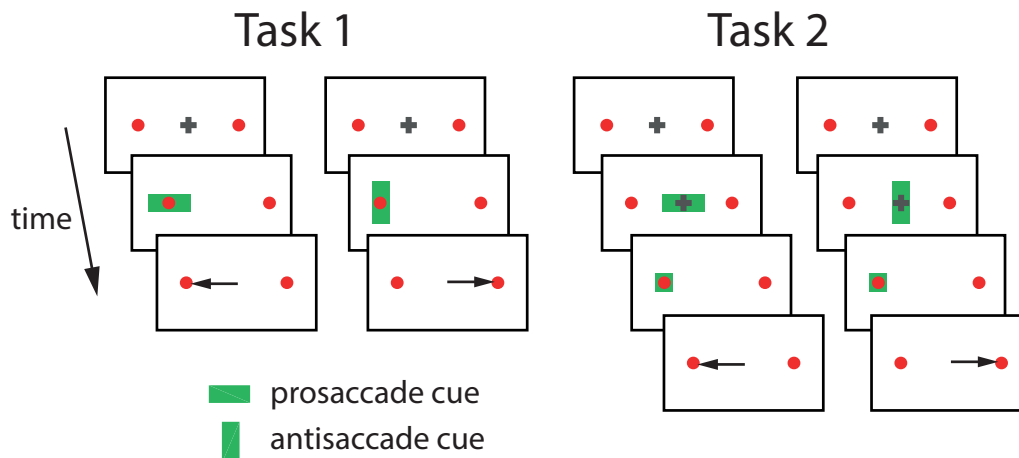


Figure 1: Experimental design. In both tasks, participants were instructed to first fixate to a central cross. **Task. 1:** After a variable interval (500-1000ms), a cue indicating the trial type was presented behind one of the peripheral red circles for 500ms. Depending on the cue orientation a saccade had to be performed toward or away from the cued target. **Task. 2:** Before the peripheral stimulus was presented, subjects were cued for 700ms about the task to be performed. After this cueing period, the central fixation cross disappeared, and a neutral cue was presented behind one of the peripheral red circles for 500ms. Depending on the orientation of the central green bar, a saccade toward or away from the cued target had to be performed.

185 Task 2 differed in that subjects were cued about the trial type in advance of the
186 peripheral stimulus. As in Task 1, subjects were required to initially fixate a grey
187 cross for 500 to 1000ms. After this interval, either a horizontal or a vertical bar
188 was displayed behind the fixation cross. The bars had the same dimensions and
189 color in both tasks. 700ms later, the green bar and the fixation cross were
190 removed, and a green square ($1.74^\circ \times 1.74^\circ$) was presented centered behind one
191 of the red circles for 500ms. Participants were instructed to saccade to the cued
192 circle when a horizontal bar had been presented before and to saccade to the
193 non-cued circle otherwise. The next trial started after 1000ms.

194 **Data processing**

195 Saccades were detected with the software provided by the eye tracker
196 manufacturer (Stampe, 1993), which uses a $22^\circ/s$ and $3800^\circ/s^2$ threshold to
197 define the start of a saccade. Only saccades larger than 2° were included in the
198 analysis. Trials were rejected in case of eye blinks or if subjects failed to
199 maintain fixation before the peripheral cue was presented. Saccades with a
200 latency above 800ms or below 50ms were rejected as invalid. Antisaccades
201 were also rejected if their RT was less than 90ms. Only trials that directly
202 followed a valid trial were included in the final analysis.

203 **Statistical Analysis**

204 As variables of interest, we investigated mean RT of correct saccades and mean
205 ER. These were analyzed with a generalized linear mixed effects (GLME) model
206 implemented in the programming language *R* (package *lme4*; Bates et al., 2015).
207 Independent variables were prosaccade trial probability (PP) with levels 20, 50
208 and 80%; trial type (TT); switch trial (SWITCH) with levels *switch* and *repeat*;
209 and SUBJECT entered as a random effect. Significance was assessed through *F*
210 tests with the Satterthwaite approximation to the degrees of freedom (Luke,
211 2017). For ER, the probit function was used as link function in the GLME. To test
212 for significant effects, we used the Wald Chi-squared test implemented in the
213 *car* package (Fox and Weisberg, 2011). When probabilities were investigated,
214 we used a beta regression model implemented in the package *glmmADBM*
215 (Fournier et al., 2012). Again, significance was tested with Wald Chi-squared
216 tests.

217 **The SERIA model**

218 Briefly, SERIA (Aponte et al., 2017) models the race of four independent
219 accumulators or units: an early (u_e), an inhibitory (u_i), a late prosaccade (u_p),
220 and an antisaccade (u_a) unit. An action $A \in \{pro., anti.\}$ and its latency $T \in$
221 $[0, \infty[$ are treated as random variables, whose distribution is a function of the
222 hit times of each of the units, U_e, U_i, U_p , and U_a respectively. Conceptually,
223 SERIA can be decomposed into two different competitions (see Figure 2): First,
224 the early unit, which models reactive, habitual responses, generates a

225 prosaccade at time t if it hits threshold at time t (i.e., $U_e = t$) before all other
226 units. An early response can be stopped by the inhibitory unit if the latter hits
227 threshold at some earlier point. In that case, either a pro- or an antisaccade is
228 generated, depending on the outcome of the second race decision process
229 between the late pro- and antisaccade units. For example, a late prosaccade at
230 time t is generated if the late prosaccade unit hits threshold at $U_p = t$ before the
231 antisaccade unit (i.e., $U_a > t$).

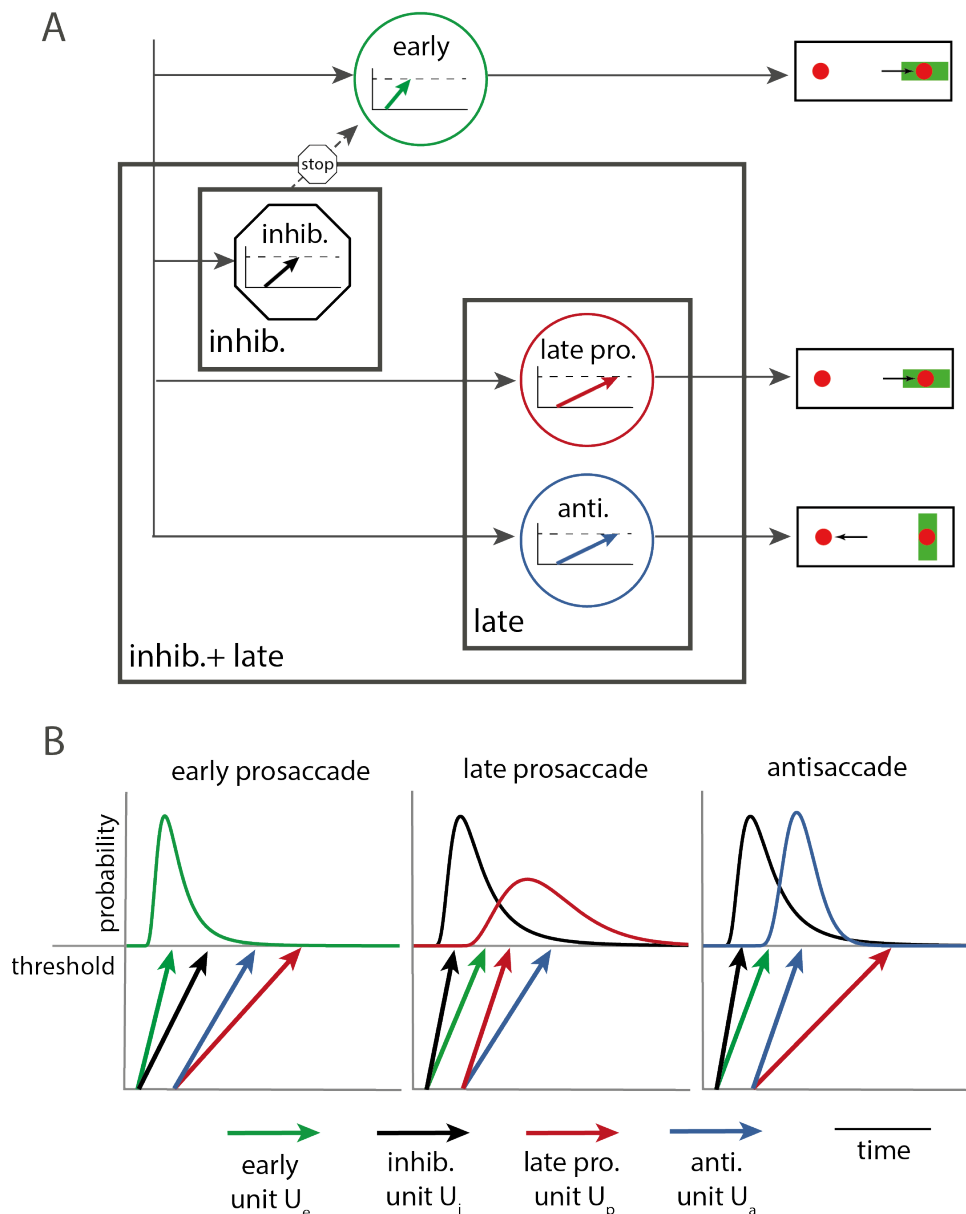


Figure 2: The SERIA model. **A.** SERIA is a race model that incorporates four different units (displayed as circles): an early prosaccade unit (green), an inhibitory unit (black), a late prosaccade (red) and an antisaccade unit (blue). We hypothesized that the effect of the previous trial could affect the inhibitory unit (*inhib.*), the late units (*late*), or both (*inhib.+late*). These three hypotheses are represented by black frames indicating the units affected by the previous trial under the corresponding hypothesis. **B.** The RT distributions are a function of the hit time distributions of the four units. Early reactions, which are always prosaccades, occur when the early unit hits threshold before all other units. A late prosaccade occurs mainly when the early unit is stopped by the inhibitory unit, and the late prosaccade unit hits threshold before the antisaccade unit. Similarly, antisaccades can only occur when the antisaccade unit hits threshold before the late prosaccade unit. Figure modified with permission from Aponte et al. (2018).

232 Concretely, SERIA provides an explicit formula for the probability of an action
233 A and its RT. First, a prosaccade at time t is generated when either the early unit
234 u_e hits threshold at time t (i.e., $U_e = t$) before all other units. The probability of
235 this event is

$$236 \quad p(U_e = t)p(U_p > t)p(U_a > t)p(U_i > t). \quad (1)$$

237 Furthermore, a prosaccade at time t can be triggered when the late prosaccade
238 unit hits threshold at t before all other units

$$239 \quad p(U_p = t)p(U_e > t)p(U_a > t)p(U_i > t) \quad (2)$$

240 or when an early response is stopped by the inhibitory unit (i.e., $U_i < t$ and $U_i <$
241 U_e), and the late prosaccade unit hits threshold before the antisaccade unit

$$242 \quad p(U_p = t)p(U_a > t) \int_0^t p(U_i = \tau)p(U_e > \tau)d\tau. \quad (3)$$

243 Similarly, an antisaccade at time t is generated when the antisaccade unit hits
244 threshold at t ($U_a = t$), before all other units

$$245 \quad p(U_a = t)p(U_e > t)p(U_p > t)p(U_i > t) \quad (4)$$

246 or when the antisaccade unit hits threshold before the late prosaccade unit after
247 an early prosaccade has been stopped

$$248 \quad p(U_a = t)p(U_p > t) \int_0^t p(U_i = \tau)p(U_e > \tau)d\tau. \quad (5)$$

249 To fit the model, we assumed a parametric form for the hit times of each of the
250 units: the hit times of the early (U_e) and inhibitory unit (U_i) were modeled with
251 the inverse Gamma distribution, while the hit times of the late units (U_p and U_a)
252 were modeled using the Gamma distribution (Aponte et al., 2017). Thus, each
253 unit could be fully characterized by two parameters controlling the mean and
254 variance of the hit times. Accordingly, 8 parameters were required for the 4
255 units in a given condition.

256 **Model space**

257 We aimed to answer two different questions through quantitative Bayesian
258 model comparison (Kass and Raftery, 1995; Stephan et al., 2009) and

259 qualitative predictive fits (Gelman et al., 2003): First, are models that include
260 information about the previous trial superior in explaining experimental data
261 compared to models that do not account for this factor? Second, can inter-trial
262 effects be explained by changes in either the generation of voluntary saccades,
263 inhibitory control, or a combination of both?

264 To answer these questions, we fitted SERIA models that explain actions and RT
265 not only as a function of the current trial type, but also as a function of the
266 previous trial. For this, all trials were divided into four different conditions,
267 according to the cue displayed (pro- or antisaccade) and whether it was a
268 switch or a repeat trial. Although a completely different set of parameters could
269 operate in each condition, this seems biologically implausible and our goal was
270 to identify which parameters could be fixed across conditions, without
271 compromising the ability of the models to parsimoniously explain participants'
272 behavior. Based on our previous findings (Aponte et al., 2018), we constrained
273 our model space so that the parameters of the early unit, as well as the no-
274 decision time, the probability of an early outlier, and the delay of the late units
275 (Aponte et al., 2017) were fixed across all conditions.

276 The first model that we considered did not account for the effect of the previous
277 trial. However, we allowed both the inhibitory and the two late units to vary
278 between pro- and antisaccade trials. Thereby, this model included in addition
279 to the constrained parameters (e.g., the 2 parameters for the early unit) 12
280 parameters for the late and inhibitory units ($2 \times 3 = 6$ per trial type). We refer to
281 this model as the *no-switch* model.

282 Next, we considered the hypothesis that the late units but not the inhibitory unit
283 could change on switch trials. Compared to the *no-switch* model, this model
284 required $2 \times 4 = 8$ additional parameters for the late pro- and antisaccade units
285 on switch and repeat trials. We refer to it as the *switch:late* model. By contrast,
286 in the *switch:inhib.* model we allowed the inhibitory unit but not the late units
287 to differ between switch and repeat trials. This required only $2 \times 2 = 4$ extra
288 parameters compared to the *no-switch* model. Finally, we combined the last two
289 models into the *switch:inhib.+late* model, by permitting the two late units and

290 the inhibitory unit to vary between switch and repeat trials. Hence, this model
291 required $(4 \times 2) + (2 \times 2) = 12$ more parameters than the *no-switch* model.

292 *Model fitting*

293 All models were estimated using the techniques described in our previous
294 studies (Aponte et al., 2017; 2018). Data from all subjects were entered
295 simultaneously into a hierarchical model presented in Aponte et al. (2018).
296 Samples from the posterior distribution were drawn using the Metropolis-
297 Hastings algorithm. The evidence or marginal likelihood of a model was
298 computed using thermodynamic integration (Gelman and Meng, 1998; Aponte
299 et al., 2016) with 16 parallel chains ordered according to the temperature
300 schedule in Calderhead and Girolami (2009). The algorithm was run for 130000
301 iterations, from which the last 30000 were used to compute summary statistics.
302 The implementation of the models and inference is available in the open source
303 TAPAS toolbox (<http://translationalneuromodeling.org/tapas/>).

304 We were interested in several model-based statistics derived from the fits. First,
305 we evaluated the probability of an inhibition failure, defined as the probability
306 that the early unit hits threshold before all other units:

$$309 \quad p(\text{inhib. fail.}) = \int_0^{\infty} p(U_e = t)p(U_i > t)p(U_p > t)p(U_a > t)dt. \quad (6)$$

307 Inhibition failures are fast, reflexive prosaccades, which are correct on
308 prosaccade trials and errors on antisaccade trials.

310 We also report the conditional probability of a late prosaccade, defined as the
311 probability that the late prosaccade unit hits threshold before the antisaccade
312 unit:

$$314 \quad p(\text{late pro.}) = \int_0^{\infty} p(U_p = t)p(U_a > t)dt. \quad (7)$$

313 Note that the conditional probability of an antisaccade is defined as

$$315 \quad p(\text{anti.}) = 1 - p(\text{late pro.}). \quad (8)$$

316 We were also interested in the expected hit times of the late units, defined as

$$317 \quad E[\text{late pro. hit time}] = \frac{1}{p(\text{late pro.})} \int_0^{\infty} t p(U_p = t)p(U_a > t)dt \quad (9)$$

318 and analogously so for antisaccades. This quantity is the expected hit time of
319 the late prosaccade unit, conditioned on the antisaccade unit arriving at a later
320 point. We report this statistic, as it conveys an interpretable quantity that can
321 be readily compared to experimental data.

322

323 **Results**

324 From the 25 participants recruited, two subjects were not included in the final
325 analysis. One subject was excluded because of incomplete data, and the second
326 because in two blocks more than 50% of the trials were either invalid or directly
327 followed an invalid trial.

328 In the following, we report Task 1 and 2 separately. First, classical statistical
329 analyses of mean RT and ER are presented. These are followed by model-based
330 analyses, in which we compare the *no-switch* and *switch* models using
331 quantitative Bayesian model comparison. We then restrict our attention to
332 *switch* models and explore them in detail, using posterior predictive fits
333 (Gelman et al., 2003) to test when and why individual models fail to predict
334 participants' behavior.

335 **Task 1**

336 In Task 1, roughly 4% of the trials were discarded.

337 *Error rate and reaction times*

338 Mean RT, ER and switch cost in all conditions are displayed in Fig. 3. On average,
339 participants made significantly more errors on anti- ($22 \pm 21\%$) than on
340 prosaccade trials ($14 \pm 14\%$; $X^2 = (1,276) = 146.2, p < 10^{-5}$), and on switch
341 ($27 \pm 19\%$) than on repeat trials ($10 \pm 13\%$; $X^2 = (1,276) = 406.6, p < 10^{-5}$).
342 There was a significant interaction between TT and SWITCH ($X^2 = (1,276) =$
343 $8.4, p = 0.003$) demonstrating different switch costs on prosaccade trials
344 compared to antisaccade trials. The antisaccade switch cost (19%) was 4%
345 higher than the prosaccade switch cost (15%).

346 Regarding RT, antisaccades ($313 \pm 44ms$) were significantly slower than
347 prosaccades ($284 \pm 45ms$; $F_{1,242} = 57.8, p < 10^{-5}$); switch trials ($313 \pm$
348 $46ms$) were slower than repeat trials ($285 \pm 43ms$; $F_{1,242} = 53.6, p < 10^{-5}$).
349 The interaction between TT and SWITCH was not significant ($F_{1,242} = 0.5, p =$
350 0.463), or, in other words, the antisaccade switch cost ($26ms$) did not
351 significantly differ from the prosaccade switch cost ($32ms$).

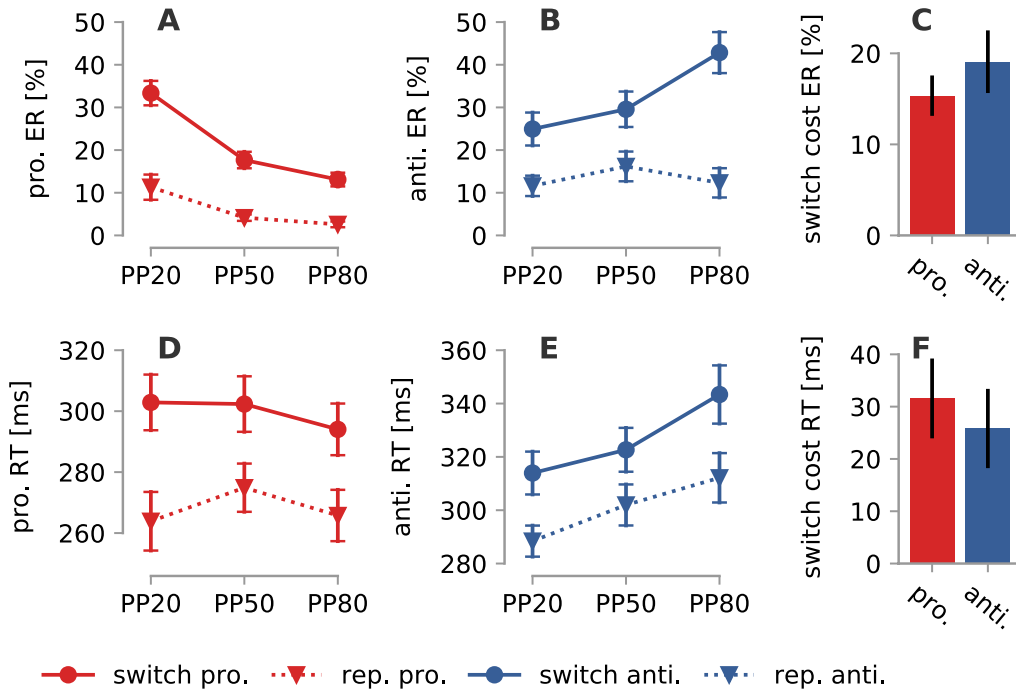


Figure 3: Error rate (ER) and reaction time (RT) in Task 1. **A.** Mean ER on prosaccade trials. **B.** Mean ER on antisaccade trials. **C.** ER switch costs. **D.** Mean RT on prosaccade trials. **E.** Mean RT on antisaccade trials. **F.** RT switch cost. Error bars display the sem. PP: prosaccade trial probability.

352 *SERIA* – model comparison

353 All models were initially evaluated according to their log evidence or log
 354 marginal likelihood, which corresponds to the accuracy or expected log
 355 likelihood of a model adjusted by its complexity (Stephan et al., 2009). Table 1
 356 reports the evidence and accuracy of all models in log units. The model with the
 357 highest evidence was the *switch:inhib.+late* model (LME=-16153.3, Δ LME>44
 358 log units compared to all other models), which also obtained the highest
 359 accuracy. Note that this model was heavily penalized (accuracy-evidence=940)
 360 compared to the simpler models *no-switch* (accuracy-evidence=782)
 361 *switch:late* (accuracy-evidence=922) and *switch:inhib.* (accuracy-
 362 evidence=834).

Table 1

	Accuracy	LME
<i>no-switch</i>	-15673	-16455
<i>switch:late</i>	-15231	-16175
<i>switch:inhib.</i>	-15400	-16235
<i>switch:inhib.+late</i>	-15212	-16153

Model comparison. Log model evidence (LME) and expected log-likelihood or accuracy (displayed for comparison) are listed for the four models tested. The highest evidence and accuracy from the switch models are highlighted in bold.

363 The predictive fits of all models are displayed in Fig. 4. These represent the
364 expected predictive distribution estimated from posterior samples. Visual
365 inspection suggests that while the *no-switch* model failed to capture the
366 distribution of switch prosaccades (Fig. 4C), the *switch:inhib.* model failed to
367 capture the distribution of late responses, and particularly so on prosaccade
368 trials (Fig. 4A and C). The *switch:late* model made a better job regarding late
369 saccades, but it did not capture early errors on antisaccade trials (Fig. 4D).
370 Finally, the *switch:late+inhib.* model was able to accommodate most relevant
371 features of subjects' behavior.

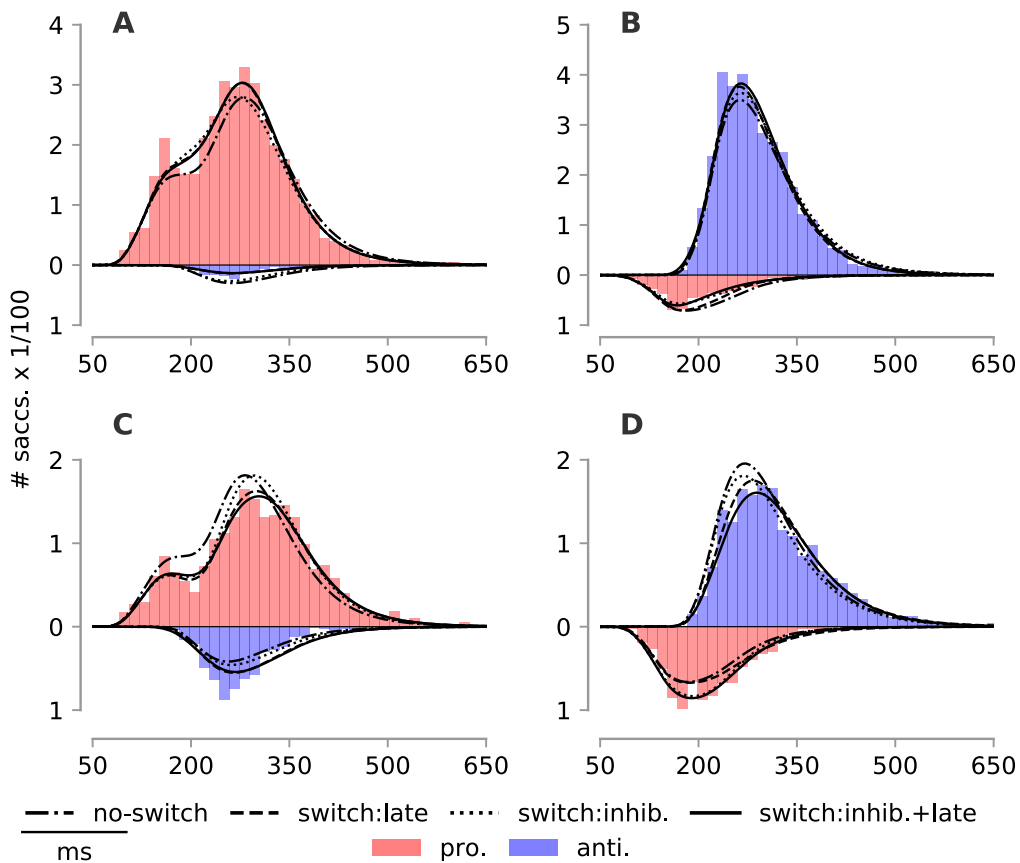


Figure 4: Histogram of the empirical reaction time (RT) and model fits. The empirical RT distribution of prosaccades is displayed in red, and the RT distribution of antisaccades in blue. Errors are displayed in the negative half plane. The weighted posterior predictive distributions of models *no-switch*, *switch:late*, *switch:inhib.* and *switch:late+inhib.* are plotted in different line styles. **A.** Prosaccade repeat trials. **B.** Antisaccade repeat trials. **C.** Prosaccade switch trials. **D.** Antisaccade switch trials.

372 Fig. 5 displays the ER and RT switch costs predicted by all *switch* models.
 373 Clearly, only model *switch:inhib.+late* was able to capture switch costs on both
 374 pro- and antisaccade trials, whereas model *switch:late* and *switch:inhib.* only
 375 correctly explained ER and RT in one of the trial types.

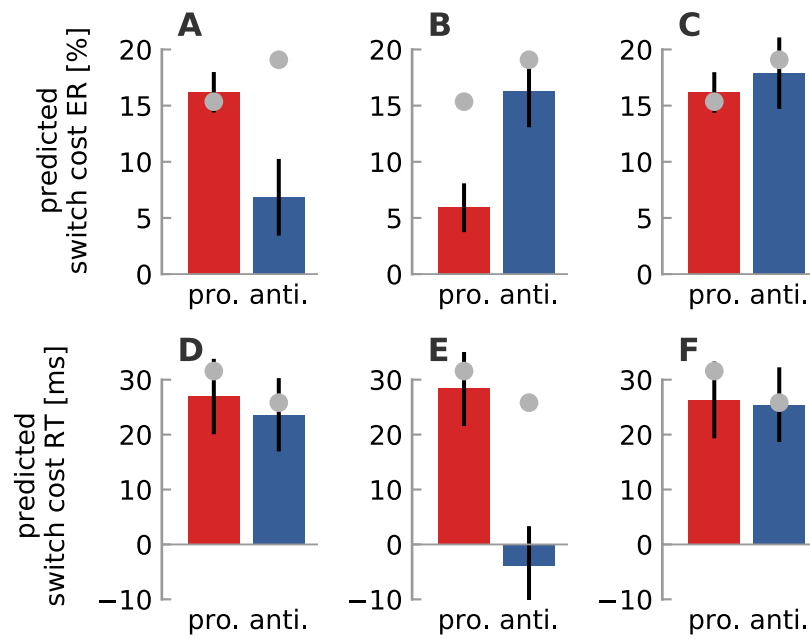


Figure 5: Predicted error rate (ER) and reaction time (RT) switch costs. ER switch cost predicted by the *switch* models. Empirical switch costs (Fig. 3C and 3F) are displayed as gray circles. **A.** *switch:late*. **B.** *switch:inhib.*. **C.** *switch:inhib.+late*. While the *switch:late* model correctly predicted the ER switch costs on prosaccade trials, antisaccade ER costs were clearly underestimated. By contrast, the *switch:inhib.* model captured ER costs on anti- but not on prosaccade trials. The *switch:inhib.+late* made a good job on pro- and antisaccade trials. **D-F.** RT switch cost predicted by the *switch* models. **D.** *switch:late*. **E.** *switch:inhib.*. **F.** *switch:inhib.+late*. The *switch:late* and *switch:inhib.+late* but not the *switch:inhib.* models captured RT switch costs in both pro- and antisaccade trials. Error bars depict the sem. of the model predictions.

376 SERIA – parameter estimates

377 According to SERIA, there are two types of errors on antisaccade trials:
 378 inhibition failures and late prosaccades. To disentangle how these two types of
 379 errors contributed to the antisaccade switch cost, we turned first our attention
 380 to the probability of an inhibition failure (see Eq. 6), defined as the probability
 381 that the early unit hits threshold before all other units. The *switch:inhib.+late*
 382 model predicted that, on prosaccade trials, $28 \pm 19\%$ of all saccades were
 383 inhibition failures, whereas this number was lower on antisaccade trials
 384 ($21 \pm 18\%$). The effect of switching on pro- ($X^2(1,138) = 107.9, p < 10^{-3}$) and
 385 antisaccades trials ($X^2(1,138) = 229.2, p < 10^{-5}$) was significant. When

386 considered together, we found a significant interaction between TT and
387 SWITCH ($X^2(1,276) = 302.1, p < 10^{-5}$). Concretely, prosaccade trials induced
388 more inhibition failures on the next trial, regardless of trial type (pro. switch
389 cost=-18%; anti. switch cost=19%; Fig. 6A).

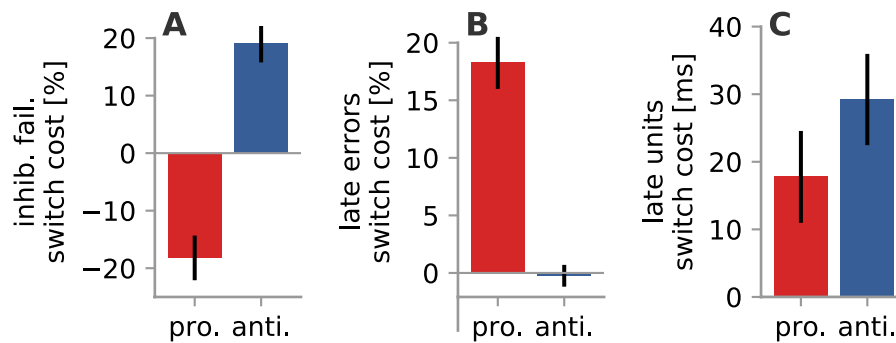


Figure 6: Switch costs in task 1. **A.** Inhibition failures switch cost according to model m_4 *switch:inhib.+late* (Eq. 6). **B.** Late error switch cost (Eq. 7 and 8). **C.** Late units' hit time (Eq. 9) switch cost. Error bars represent the sem..

390 This suggested the same number of inhibition failures following a prosaccade
391 trial, regardless of the next trial type. To explore this hypothesis, we fitted a
392 model in which the inhibitory unit was fixed across switch prosaccade and
393 repeat antisaccade trials and across repeat prosaccade and switch antisaccades.
394 The evidence of this post-hoc model was higher than the evidence of
395 *switch:inhib.+late* model ($\Delta LME = 12.1$). Qualitatively, there were no large
396 differences in the predictions and parameters of the model. Thus, regardless of
397 trial type, early reactions were similarly inhibited after an antisaccade trial
398 compared to a prosaccade trial.

399 Next, we submitted the probability of late errors (Fig. 6B; Eq. 7 and 8) on pro-
400 ($19 \pm 15\%$) and antisaccade ($4 \pm 5\%$) trials to a single GLME. This revealed a
401 significant interaction between SWITCH and TT ($X^2(1,276) = 63.0, p < 10^{-5}$).
402 The mean late error switch cost on prosaccade trials was 18%, whereas on
403 antisaccade trials, it was less than 1%. When late ER on antisaccade trials was
404 analyzed separately, the factor SWITCH was not significant ($X^2(1,138) =$
405 $0.1, p = 0.81$).

406 Finally, we investigated the hit time of the late units (Fig. 6C; Eq. 9). Switch late
407 reactions (335 ± 42 ms) were significantly ($F_{1,248} = 81.9, p < 10^{-5}$) slower than

408 repeat reactions (312 ± 36 ms). The late prosaccade RT switch cost (18ms) was
409 lower than the antisaccade unit RT cost (29ms) which resulted in a significant
410 interaction between TT and SWITCH ($F_{1,248} = 4.8, p = 0.028$).

411 ***Task 2***

412 In Task 2, around 9% of all trials were discarded. At most, 35% of all trials in a
413 single block were excluded.

414 *Error rate and reaction time*

415 In this condition (Fig. 7), subjects made significantly fewer errors on pro- ($2 \pm$
416 4% ; Fig. 7A) than on antisaccade trials ($13 \pm 13\%$; $X^2 = (1,276) = 297.4, p <$
417 10^{-5} ; 7B), and on repeat ($5 \pm 10\%$) than on switch trials ($10 \pm 12\%$; $X^2 =$
418 $(1,276) = 77.4, p < 10^{-5}$). There was a significant interaction between
419 SWITCH and TT ($X^2 = (1,276) = 6.3, p = 0.011$; Fig. 7C) driven by larger
420 switch costs on antisaccade trials (8%) than on prosaccade trials (3%).

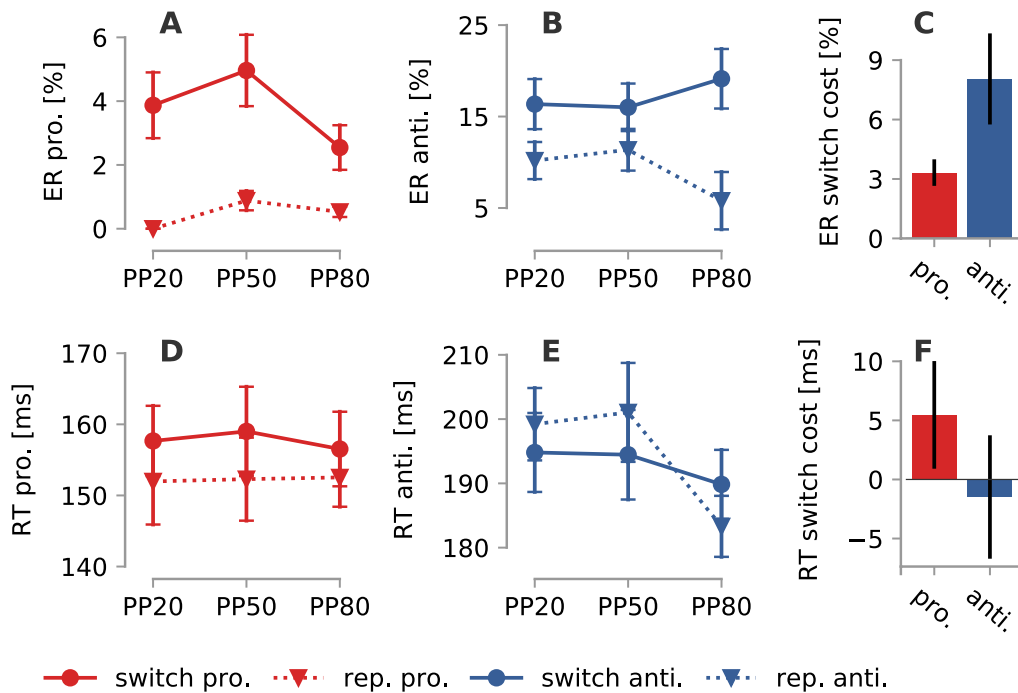


Figure 7: Error rate (ER) and reaction times (RT) in Task 2. **A.** Mean ER on prosaccade trials. **B.** Mean ER on antisaccade trials. **C.** ER switch costs. **D.** Mean RT on prosaccade trials. **E.** Mean RT on antisaccade trials. **F.** RT switch cost. Error bars display the sem. PP: prosaccade probability.

421 Prosaccades (Fig. 7D; $155 \pm 26ms$) were faster than antisaccades (Fig. 7E;
 422 $194 \pm 30ms$; $F_{1,242} = 385.8, p < 10^{-5}$), but neither the effect of SWITCH
 423 ($F_{1,242} = 1.0, p = 0.314$) nor the interaction between SWITCH and TT ($F_{1,242} =$
 424 $3.0, p = 0.079$) were significant (Fig. 7F). Nevertheless, we submitted pro- and
 425 antisaccades to two separate GLME. As shown in Fig. 7F, prosaccades were
 426 significantly faster on repeat than on switch trials ($\Delta RT = 5ms$; $F_{1,110} =$
 427 $6.4, p = 0.012$), but there was no significant difference on antisaccade trials
 428 ($\Delta RT = -1ms$; $F_{1,110} = 0.2, p = 0.576$), although switch antisaccades were
 429 slightly faster than repeat antisaccades.

430 SERIA - Model comparison

431 Contrary to the findings in Task 1, the model with the highest evidence (*no-*
 432 *switch*) did not account for any switch cost (Table 2). The second best model
 433 was the *switch:inhib.* model, in which the inhibitory unit was allowed to change
 434 across all four possible conditions, but the late units could not differ between

435 switch and repeat trials. The difference in LME between *no-switch* and
436 *switch:inhib.* models is explained by a much larger penalty for the latter model
437 (749 and 813 respectively).

Table 2

	Accuracy	LME
<i>no-switch</i>	-5258	-6008
<i>switch:late</i>	-5194	-6092
<i>switch:inhib.</i>	-5234	-6047
<i>switch:inhib.+late</i>	-5257	-6253

Model comparison. Log model evidence (LME) and expected log-likelihood or accuracy are listed for the four models tested. The highest evidence and accuracy from the switch models are highlighted in bold.

438 All four models fitted RT and ER well in Task 2 (Fig. 8), with no obvious
439 difference between them. This reflects the subtle effects of switching in Task 2.
440 The *switch:late*, *switch:inhib.+late* predicted switch costs most accurately (Fig.
441 9A and C), but had a lower evidence than the *switch:inhib.* model.

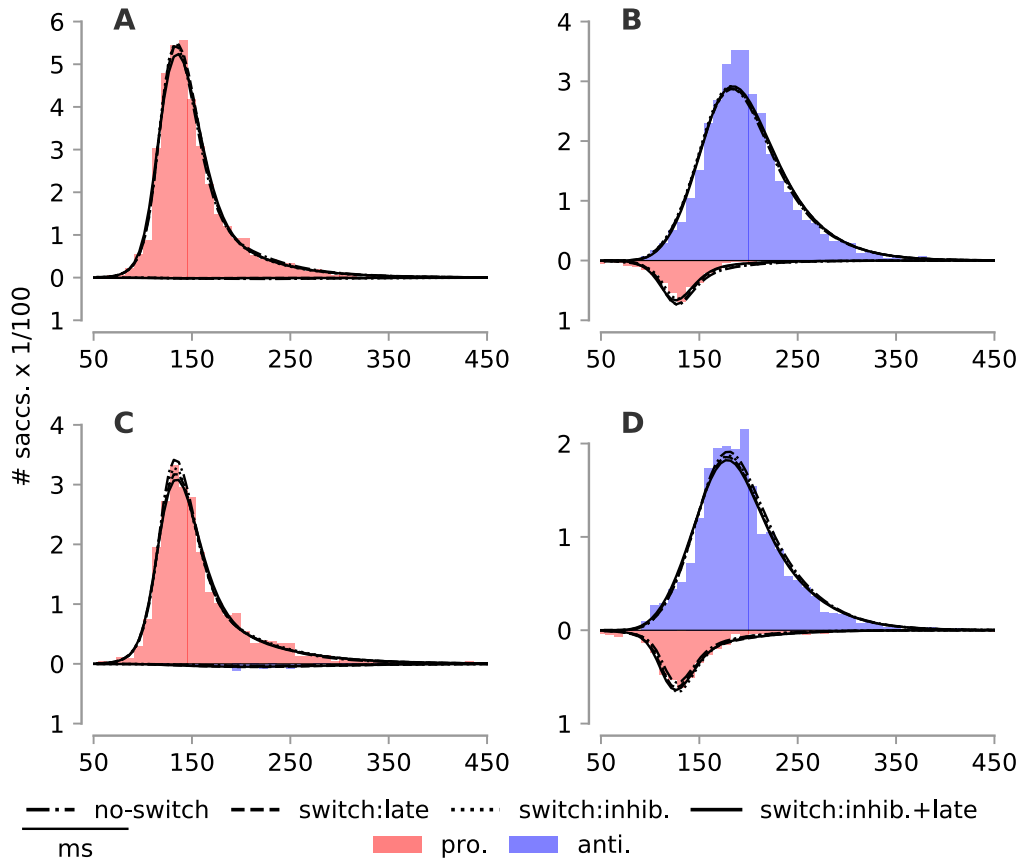


Figure 8: RT histograms and predictive model fits in Task 2. Similar to Fig. 4. **A.** Prosaccade repeat trials. **B.** Antisaccade repeat trials. **C.** Prosaccade switch trials. **D.** Antisaccade switch trials. With the exception of prosaccade switch trials (C), all models generated similar fits.

442 Because the classical analysis clearly demonstrated the presence of switch
443 costs, we continued to investigate the best *switch* model. Hence, we proceeded
444 to discuss switch costs in Task 2 based on the *switch:inhib.* model. We come
445 back to models *switch:late* and *switch:inhib.+late* below.

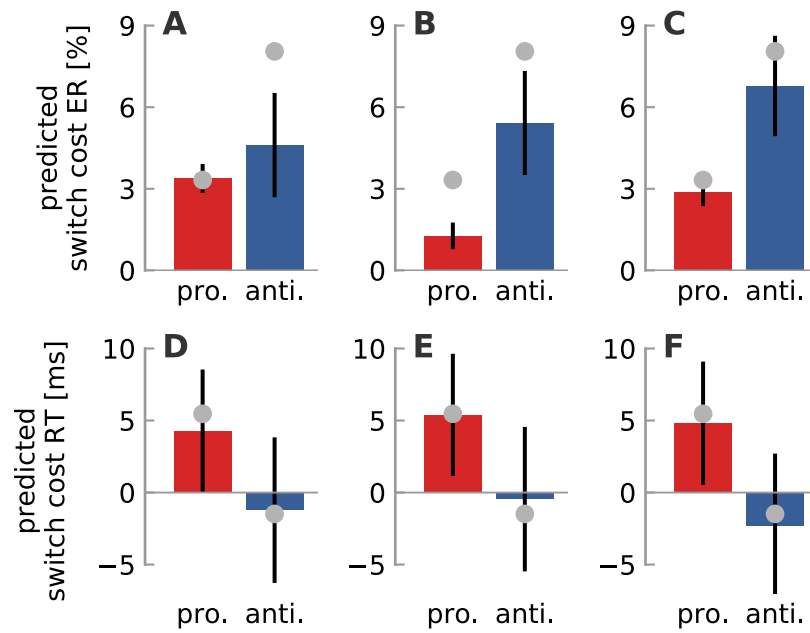


Figure 9: Model predictions. Top. Predicted ER switch cost. **A.** *switch:late*. **B.** *switch:inhib.*. **C.** *switch:inhib.+late*. **Bottom.** Predicted RT switch cost. **D.** *switch:late*. **E.** *switch:inhib.*. **F.** *switch:inhib.+late*.

446 Qualitatively, the *switch:inhib.* model (Fig. 9B) could reproduce our main
447 behavioral findings: switch trials were characterized by higher ER ($10 \pm 11\%$)
448 than repeat trials ($6 \pm 11\%$; $X^2(1,248) = 58.3, p < 10^{-5}$). Although the
449 predicted switch cost was higher on anti- (5.4%) than on prosaccade trials
450 (1.2%), the interaction between SWITCH and TT was not significant
451 ($X^2(1,248) = 0.1, p = 0.75$) contrary to our behavioral analysis. Moreover, the
452 model clearly underestimated the ER switch cost on pro- and antisaccade trials
453 (Fig. 9B), as discussed in the next section. Regarding RT, the model predicted a
454 positive switch cost on prosaccade trials (5ms, $F_{1,112} = 9.8, p = 0.002$), as well
455 as a negative but negligible cost on antisaccades trials ($F_{1,112} = 0.0, p = 0.834$).

456 *SERIA* – model parameters

457 To understand how the *switch:inhib.* model was able to capture switch costs in
458 Task 2 without postulating changes in the late units, we plotted the probability
459 of inhibition failures on switch and repeat trials (Fig. 10A-B). As in Task 1,
460 saccades that followed prosaccade trials were more likely to be inhibition
461 failures, regardless of trial type (Fig. 10C; interaction TT*SWITCH; $X^2(1,248) =$

462 47.7, $p < 10^{-5}$). This allowed for more late reactions on switch prosaccade
 463 trials, and conversely, more early errors on switch antisaccade trials. Because
 464 switch prosaccades yielded more late reactions than repeat prosaccades, these
 465 trials were accompanied by more slow saccades. In summary, prosaccades led
 466 to more inhibition failures on the next trial (regardless of trial type). However,
 467 the base line of inhibitory control was different on pro- and antisaccade trials,
 468 as subjects made roughly 7 times more inhibition failures on prosaccade trials
 469 ($60 \pm 15\%$) than on antisaccade trials ($8 \pm 9\%$).

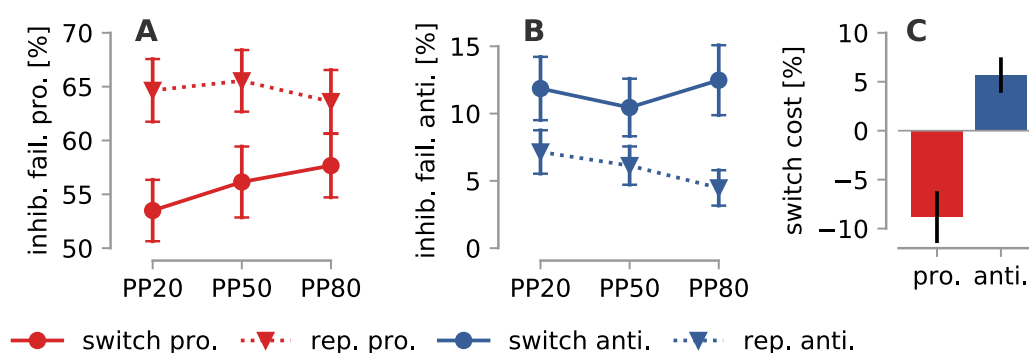


Figure 10: Inhibition failures in Task 2 according to the *switch:inhib.* model. A. Predicted probability of an inhibition failure on a prosaccade trial. **B.** Inhibition failures on antisaccade trials. **C.** Inhibition switch cost on pro- (-9%) and antisaccade (6%) trials. Error bars display the sem..

470 *Prosaccade and antisaccade ER switch cost*

471 As illustrated above (Fig. 9B), the *switch:inhib* model underestimated the ER
 472 switch cost and its predictions did not support a significant interaction between
 473 the factors SWITCH and TT. Careful examination revealed that although the
 474 *switch:inhib.* model could partially account for the ER on prosaccade trials (Fig
 475 11A-B; repeat: 1.6%; switch: 2.9%), it could not fully capture the eightfold
 476 increase in ER between prosaccade repeat (0.47%) and switch trials (3.79%).
 477 According to SERIA, an error on a prosaccade trial can almost only¹ be
 478 generated when an early response is inhibited and the antisaccade unit hits

¹ It is possible, although highly unlikely, that the antisaccade unit hits threshold before all three other units.

479 threshold before the late prosaccade unit. Thereby, the prosaccade ER is
480 *approximately* equal to

$$481 \quad p_{pro. ER} \approx (1 - p_{inhib. fail}) * p_{late error}. \quad (10)$$

482 In the *switch:inhib* model, the late units are assumed to not change across switch
483 and repeat trials and thereby, an eightfold increase in the ER is only possible if
484 there is an eightfold change in the probability of a late action (i.e., $1 -$
485 $p_{inhib. fail}$; Eq. 10). However, such a large change is not possible given the
486 predicted number of inhibition failures on prosaccade trials (60%; see Fig 10A).
487 Thus, higher ER on switch trials can only be explained by changes in the late
488 units.

489 To account for this cost, we considered a model (*switch:inhib.+anti.*) in which
490 we allowed the parameters of the antisaccade unit to vary between switch and
491 repeat prosaccade trials. These parameters control the probability and RT of
492 errors on prosaccade trials but have no influence on antisaccade trials. As
493 displayed in Fig. 11C-D, the predicted ER on switch and repeat trials using the
494 *switch:inhib.+anti.* model was 3.67% and 0.67%, respectively. When we
495 considered again the interaction between the factors SWITCH and TT using the
496 predicted ER of the *switch:inhib.+anti.* model, this was significant ($X^2(1,276) =$
497 $20.5, p < 10^{-5}$). Nevertheless, the *switch:inhib.+anti.* model had a lower LME
498 than the *switch:inhib.* model ($\Delta LME=67.0$).

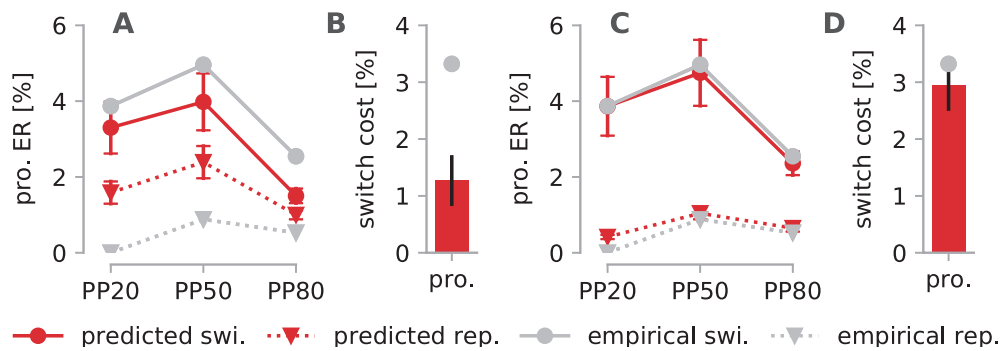


Figure 11: Predicted and empirical ER and switch cost on prosaccade trials. A. *switch:inhib.* predictions. The *switch:inhib.* model accounts for the switch cost only through changes in inhibitory control. **B. *switch:inhib.* prosaccade ER switch cost.** Although this model does capture a fraction of the switch cost, it is limited by the proportion of inhibition failures on repeat and switch trials. For visualization the empirical switch cost is displayed as a gray circle. **C. *switch:inhib.+anti.* predictions.** In the *switch:inhib.+anti.* model, the antisaccade unit is allowed to vary between prosaccade switch and repeat trials. In this case, the predicted error rate on repeat trials is closer to the empirical error rate. **D. *switch:inhib.+anti.* prosaccade ER switch cost.** Similar to panel B. Error bars display the sem. of the model predictions.

499 Regarding antisaccade trials, the ER switch cost was underestimated by the
 500 *switch:inhib.* model (empirical 8.1%, predicted 5.3%). However, as shown in
 501 Fig. 12, this was mainly due to the PP80 condition, in which the empirical ER in
 502 repeat trials was lower than predicted by the model. Note that this condition is
 503 by design much less frequent than the others, and thereby the empirical mean
 504 ER displays high uncertainty. Taken together, our analyses demonstrate that,
 505 similarly to Task 1, alternating from an antisaccade to a voluntary prosaccade
 506 induces more *late errors* compared to repeat prosaccades. However, there is no
 507 *late error cost* associated with alternating from a prosaccade to an antisaccade
 508 trial.

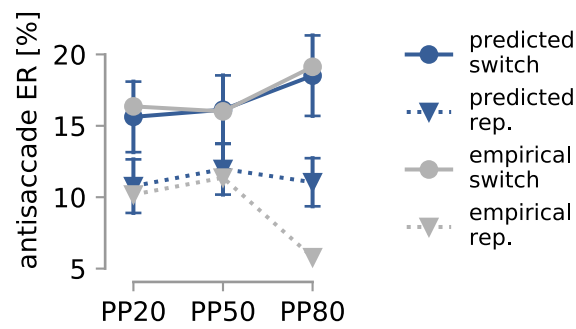


Figure 12: Predicted and empirical ER on antisaccade trials. Predictions were obtained using the *switch:inhib.* model, in which the late units are assumed to not change across switch and repeat trials. The model overestimated the empirical ER for repeat trials in the PP80 condition only. Error bars display the sem. of the model predictions.

509

510 **Discussion**

511 Here, we investigated switch costs in the mixed antisaccade task with the help
512 of a computational model. This allowed us to accurately quantify to what extent
513 task switching affects the inhibition of habitual responses (early prosaccades)
514 and voluntary behavior (late pro- and antisaccades). Modeling revealed two
515 main distinguishable effects: First, in Task 1 but not in Task 2, switch trials
516 engendered RT costs in late, voluntary saccades. Second, in both tasks, early
517 reactions that followed prosaccade trials were less likely to be inhibited
518 compared to saccades that followed antisaccade trials. Can SERIA accommodate
519 all or some of the predictions of the task-set reconfiguration and the task-inertia
520 hypotheses? Does SERIA provide an alternative or more fined-grained
521 explanation for these predictions? In the following, we discuss the answer to
522 these questions.

523 ***Switch costs in the antisaccade task***

524 Findings in the mixed antisaccade task can be divided into to two main groups.
525 Early studies (e.g., Barton et al., 2002; Cherkasova et al., 2002; Manoach et al.,
526 2002; Fecteau et al., 2004) reported positive prosaccade RT switch costs,
527 negative antisaccade RT costs, as well as higher ER in switch trials regardless of
528 trial type. More recently, Heath and Weiler (e.g., Weiler and Heath, 2012a;
529 Weiler et al., 2015) reported positive RT switch costs on prosaccade trials, and
530 no RT switch costs on antisaccade trials. Again, all switch trials were
531 characterized by higher ER.

532 Our empirical findings are well in line with these previous reports. Regarding
533 Task 1, positive switch costs in pro- and antisaccade trials have been previously
534 demonstrated in a similar design by Barton et al. (2006a); see also (Hunt and
535 Klein, 2002), who displayed the task cue 200ms in advance of the peripheral
536 stimulus. In Task 2, we found non-significant negative antisaccade RT switch
537 costs, as well as significant positive prosaccade RT switch costs. This is
538 congruent with the unidirectional switch costs reported by Weiler and Heath
539 (2012a).

540 Based on SERIA, we proposed three models or hypotheses to explain these
541 findings: (i) the *switch:inhib.* model in which only the parameters of the
542 inhibitory unit could change across switch and repeat trials; (ii) the *switch:late*
543 model in which the late units but not the inhibitory unit were allowed to vary
544 across conditions; and (iii), the *switch:inhib.+late* model which combines both
545 hypotheses.

546 Quantitative Bayesian model selection and qualitative posterior predictive
547 checks (Gelman et al., 2003; Gelman and Shalizi, 2013) indicated that in Task 1
548 the *switch:inhib.+late* model accounted best for participants' ER and RT. In Task
549 2, the model with the highest evidence did not allow for any switch cost.
550 However, in the *switch* family, the *switch:inhib.* model obtained the highest
551 evidence. Qualitatively, this model could fit RT switch costs in pro- and
552 antisaccade trials, and, after an extension, it could fit prosaccade ER switch
553 costs.

554 SERIA demonstrates therefore that there is a cost associated with switching
555 between voluntary pro- and antisaccades, and that this cost is only observable
556 in Task 1. In particular, we could show that in this task not only switch
557 antisaccades had a higher latency than repeat antisaccades, but *late* switch
558 prosaccades were also delayed compared to repeat prosaccades. In Task 2,
559 SERIA accounted for pro- and antisaccade switch costs without postulating any
560 change in the late units. Fundamentally, this is compatible with the main
561 prediction of the task-set reconfiguration hypothesis (Rogers and Monsell,
562 1995; Meiran, 1996), which postulates that switching between task-sets is time
563 consuming, but can be done in advance of the response cue.

564 In addition to the switch cost associated with voluntary actions, we found that
565 there was a consistent inter-trial effect on inhibitory control in Task 1 and 2.
566 Specifically, we found that inhibition failures were more likely after prosaccade
567 trials than after antisaccade trials, regardless of the current trial type. This
568 observation is a direct prediction of the task inertia hypothesis according to
569 which "switch costs should change as a function of the task that participants are
570 switching from, not as a function of the task they are switching to" (Wylie and
571 Allport, 2000). A second prediction of this hypothesis that is confirmed by our

572 modeling is that inter-trial effects persist regardless of the delay between the
573 task-cue and the imperative stimulus (i.e., the peripheral target; Wylie and
574 Allport, 2000).

575 The answer to our first question (can SERIA accommodate the predictions of
576 the task inertia and task-set reconfiguration hypotheses?) is therefore positive.
577 As in other multiple-component models (reviewed in Schmitz and Voss, 2014),
578 the mechanisms that explains both predictions are assigned to different
579 components: On one hand, asymmetric switch costs that persist regardless of
580 the delay between task and peripheral cues are explained by carry-over
581 inhibition of habitual reactions. On the other hand, higher RT on switch trials in
582 Task 1 (in which subjects cannot prepare their action in advance of the
583 peripheral cue) are assigned to the generation of voluntary actions.

584 The answer to our second question (how does SERIA explain these
585 predictions?) is more nuanced. Although our modeling is compatible with the
586 predictions of the task inertia hypothesis, SERIA postulates a different
587 mechanism for these inter-trial, carry-over effects. Rather than passive
588 interference between task-set rules (Weiler et al., 2015), our results indicate
589 that the strong inhibition associated with an antisaccade trial reduces the
590 probability of an inhibition failure on the next trial. We come back to this point
591 later.

592 The mechanism described by SERIA differs also from the theory proposed by
593 Barton et al. (2006a), according to which switch costs are (partially) due to the
594 generalized suppression of the response-system that “affects both the
595 upcoming pro- and antisaccades”. This account is problematic, because
596 generalized inhibition predicts the same effect on switch pro- and antisaccades,
597 keeping their ratio constant compared to repeat trials. By contrasts, in SERIA,
598 stronger inhibition leads to more late responses in prosaccade switch trials, as
599 well as fewer inhibition failures on repeat antisaccade trials, while allowing for
600 negligible antisaccade RT switch costs.

601 Our results also shed light on the observation that response inhibition in the
602 go/no-go task induce similar RT costs on go trials as antisaccade trials on
603 prosaccade trials (Barton et al., 2006b). In particular, SERIA postulates that the

604 inhibition of early responses in the antisaccade task relies on the same
605 functional mechanism as correct no-go trials in the go/no-go task. Hence, it is a
606 natural prediction that similar carry-over effects should be observed in both
607 paradigms (Barton et al., 2006b).

608 So far, we have not discussed the negative or paradoxical antisaccade RT switch
609 costs initially reported by Cherkasova et al. (2002). Negative switch costs occur
610 only when the task cue is presented in advance of the peripheral cue (Hunt and
611 Klein, 2002; Barton et al., 2006a), which suggests that negative switch costs are
612 not caused by changes in voluntary action generation. In Supp. Material 1, we
613 demonstrate that the *switch:inhib.* model can simulate negative switch costs,
614 even in the absence of changes in the late units across repeat and switch trials.
615 This is possible because of the non-linear interactions between the antisaccade,
616 the early and the inhibitory units which allow for faster antisaccades in low
617 inhibition conditions (switch trials) compared to high inhibition conditions
618 (repeat trials).

619 The mechanisms described by SERIA are therefore sufficient to explain the
620 plurality of behavioral findings reported in the antisaccade task: positive switch
621 costs in pro- and antisaccade trials when the task cue is presented shortly
622 before or simultaneously to the peripheral stimulus; and unidirectional switch
623 costs, as well as paradoxical switch costs, when the task cue is presented ahead
624 of the peripheral cue. Next, we discuss in more detail how the *switch:inhib.*
625 model allows for asymmetric switch costs in the absence of changes in the late
626 units.

627 ***Asymmetric costs in habitual and non-habitual responses***

628 A key observation in the task switching literature is that switching from a
629 habitual to a non-habitual response engenders higher costs than switching from
630 a non-habitual to a habitual response (Allport et al., 1994; Wylie and Allport,
631 2000). SERIA provides a simple mathematical explanation for this
632 phenomenon. The expected RT of dominant or habitual responses can be
633 *approximated* as the mixture of the expected RT of early and late responses

$$634 \quad E[\textit{habitual RT}] = p_{\textit{early}}E[\textit{early RT}] + (1 - p_{\textit{early}})E[\textit{late RT}]. \quad (11)$$

635 The expected RT of non-habitual responses is given by

$$636 \quad E[RT \text{ non habitual}] = E[\text{late RT}]. \quad (12)$$

637 Accordingly, in a transition from a non-habitual to a habitual response, the
638 probability of a late response increases, elevating the overall mean RT, even in
639 the absence of late action switch costs. In the case of a transition from a habitual
640 to a non-habitual response, the RT of non-habitual responses should be equal
641 to the RT of repeat trials. This is how the *switch:inhib.* model explains the
642 positive RT switch cost on prosaccade trials as well as the absence of a
643 significant RT switch cost on antisaccade trials in Task 2. Note that this
644 approximation is invalid in certain circumstances, as demonstrated in Supp.
645 Material 1, in which we show that the *switch:inhib.* model can generate negative
646 antisaccade RT switch costs.

647 To our knowledge, no other computational model has been used to investigate
648 the inhibition of habitual responses as a component of task switching, nor has
649 this mechanism been used to explain asymmetric task switch costs. Arguably,
650 the reason is that most paradigms used in the task-switching literature do not
651 require actions for which a habitual (or dominant) response is associated, an
652 important exception being the modified Stroop paradigm used originally by
653 (Allport et al., 1994). Nevertheless, it is likely that habitual action inhibition
654 plays an important role in experimental paradigms in which dominant and non-
655 dominant responses are required from participants.

656 An important qualification here is that while the concept of ‘inhibition’ plays a
657 significant role in the task switching literature (reviewed in Koch et al., 2010),
658 this is usually understood as the ‘proactive interference resulting from having
659 performed a competing task’ (Koch et al., 2010). In the present context, we have
660 used ‘inhibition of habitual responses’ in the narrow sense of ‘motor inhibition’
661 entailed by the race model proposed by Logan et al. (1984; see Schall et al.,
662 2017). Specifically, inhibition (in this narrow sense) only affects early reactions
663 through the binary, probabilistic competition between independent
664 accumulators.

665 In summary, switch costs in the mixed antisaccade task can be partially
666 explained by a mechanism that fulfills one of the main predictions of the task
667 inertia hypothesis. However, this mechanism affects only the inhibition of
668 habitual responses, which modulates ER and RT by altering the ratio between
669 habitual and voluntary actions. This form of inhibition should not be confused
670 with proactive interference of tasks-sets, proposed by other theories of task
671 switching.

672 ***Conclusion***

673 Our modeling illustrates how conceptual theories of switch costs can profit
674 from a rigorous formulation in computational terms, as seemingly
675 contradictory hypotheses and findings can be formally unified under a more
676 general theory. In particular, our analysis indicates that alternating between
677 voluntary actions engenders task-set reconfiguration costs, whereas carryover
678 inhibition of habitual responses can explain asymmetric switch costs.

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682

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- 851

852 **Supplementary materials**

853 *Supplementary Material 1. Can SERIA explain paradoxical switch* 854 *costs?*

855 In Task 2, we found a negative but not significant RT switch cost in antisaccade
856 trials, that is, antisaccades that followed prosaccades were faster than repeated
857 antisaccades. Negative antisaccade RT switch costs, called *paradoxical switch*
858 *costs* (Cherkasova et al., 2002), have been reported in designs in which the trial
859 type is displayed much in advance of the visual cue and are accompanied by an
860 increase in ER. Could the SERIA model account for this finding at all? In order
861 to answer this theoretical question, we set up a simulation (Fig. S1) in which the
862 early prosaccade unit and the late units behaved identically between repeat and
863 switch trials, but the inhibitory unit was allowed to change across both
864 conditions. Although it might be possible to explain antisaccade switch costs
865 relying on the late units, the results from Task 1 and 2 suggest that switching
866 between trial types engender positive but not negative costs on the late units.

867 Initially (Fig. S1A), we simulated switch and repeat RT distributions varying
868 only the parameters of the inhibitory unit. The RT of switch and repeat
869 antisaccades were 304 and 293ms, whereas the ER were 5 and 28%
870 respectively. The mean antisaccade RT decreased as high latency antisaccades
871 competed with non-inhibited prosaccades. A critical property of this simulation
872 is that the early unit has a sluggish hit time distribution that explains the
873 relatively low error rate (5-28%). Under this condition, when inhibitory control
874 is released, the antisaccade RT distribution is shifted toward lower latencies. As
875 displayed in Fig. S1.B, negative RT switch costs (-15ms) are still possible when
876 the early unit has a narrow distribution, but the ER (rep. 20%, switch 58%)
877 would be much larger than usually reported.

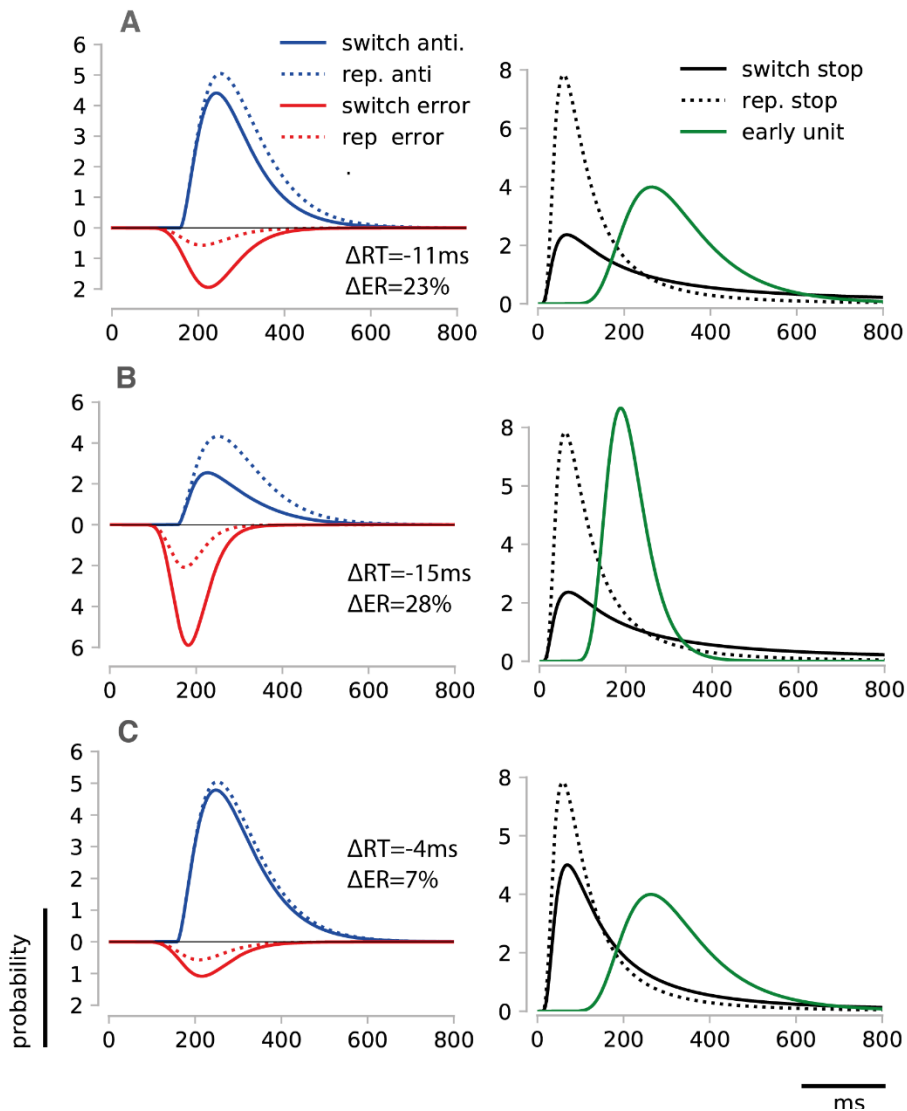


Figure S1: Simulated antisaccade costs. **A. Left:** Simulated antisaccade RT distribution in switch (solid line) and repeat (broken line) trials. Errors are displayed in the bottom half-plane. Probabilities have been scaled by 1000. The RT switch cost was -11ms, and the ER switch cost was 23%. **Right:** Distribution of the hit times of the early and stop unit in repeat and switch trials. Switch antisaccades are characterized by lower inhibitory control. The early unit has a wide distribution that allows for low error rate and negative RT switch cost **B. Left:** Simulated antisaccade RT distribution when the early unit has a narrow distribution. In the switch condition, the ER was 58% and in repeat trials, it was 20%. The RT switch cost was -15ms. **Right:** Distribution of the hit times of the early and stop unit in repeat and switch trials. **C. Left:** Simulated switch cost with moderated release of inhibition in switch trials. RT switch cost: -4ms; ER switch cost: 7%. **Right:** Inhibitory and early units.

878 What happens when there is a less pronounced release of inhibition in
 879 antisaccade switch trials? In Fig. S1C, the latency of the inhibitory unit in switch
 880 trials was shorter compared to the first simulation. This reduced the ER in

881 switch trials to 16% (switch cost=7%) but also reduced the negative
882 antisaccade switch cost to only 4ms, demonstrating that for moderate
883 differences in inhibitory control, the paradoxical switch cost is much lower. This
884 potentially accounts for the unidirectional switch cost (Weiler and Heath,
885 2012a), that is, when there is only a moderate change in inhibitory control,
886 there is no strong change in the RT latency of antisaccades across switch and
887 repeat trials.

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