Speakers do prime themselves
Syntactic priming occurs from production-to-production
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Syntactic priming is robust, but self-priming is more elusive
Different models of syntactic production make different predictions about self-priming
- Error-driven learning models (Chang, Dell, & Bock, 2006)
- Activation-based models (Reitter et al., 2011; Jaeger & Snider, 2013)
Some evidence for self-priming in corpora (Gries, 2005) – little in the lab

Do speakers prime themselves in controlled experiments?

Self-priming as auto-correlation
Syntactic selections can be treated as transitions between states

Figure 1: Speakers show DO and PO priming from comprehension

Method and Procedure
- 360 participants recruited on Amazon Mechanical Turk
- Experiment conducted as Qualtrics survey
- Double object (DO), prepositional object (PO), or Other
- Assess self-priming with novel multinomial mixed effects model

Figure 2: Speakers are more likely to reuse the same structure from the previous trial

Conclusion
- Novel computational approach provides first experimental evidence of self-priming
- Speakers are sensitive to both comprehended and produced input
- Self-priming is not just an artifact of discourse constraints, conversation topic
- Activation-based, rather than error-based, models best explain pattern of results

References