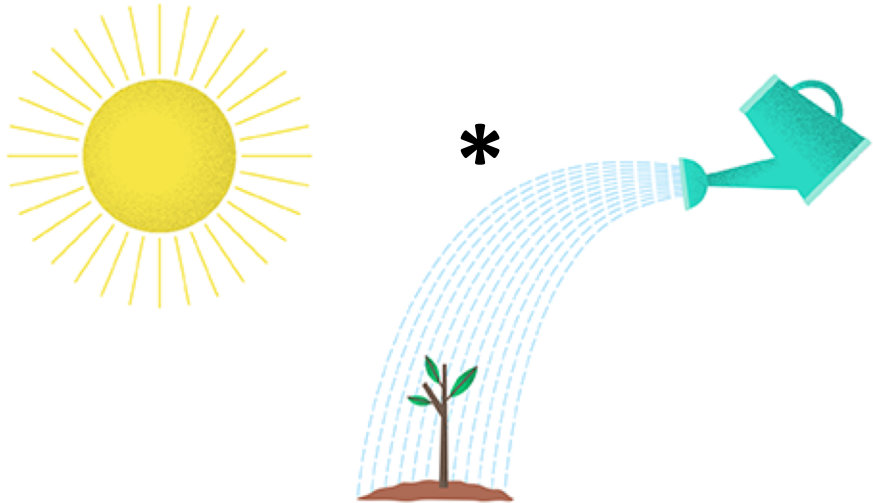


Interactions between continuous predictors

Dr. Margriet A. Groen



The concept of interaction



$$y = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2$$

$$y = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3(x_1 * x_2)$$



An example: Iconicity (again)

LANGUAGE, COGNITION AND NEUROSCIENCE, 2018
VOL. 33, NO. 1, 25–31
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2017.1358379>

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group

REGULAR ARTICLE



Lonely sensational icons: semantic neighbourhood density, sensory experience and iconicity

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ABSTRACT

Perry, Perlman, and Lupyan (2015). Iconicity in English and Spanish and its relation to lexical category and age of acquisition. *PLoS One*, 10, e0137147. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0137147) found that a sample of English words was rated as being slightly iconic, on average, with words varying in their iconicity. Thus, the relationship between word form and meaning does not seem to be categorically arbitrary. We investigated factors that might explain variation in iconicity: specifically, that concepts with sparser semantic neighbourhoods have more iconic word forms, and that concepts with more sensory information are more likely to have iconic word forms (as in Winter, Perlman, Perry, & Lupyan, in press. Which words are the most iconic? Iconicity in English sensory words. *Interaction Studies*. Retrieved from http://sapir.psych.wisc.edu/papers/winter_perlman_perry_lupyan_interaction-studies.pdf), even after accounting for age of acquisition (AoA; Kuperman, Stadthagen-Gonzalez, & Brysbaert, 2012. Age-of-acquisition ratings for 30,000 English words. *Behavior Research Methods*, 44, 978–990. doi:10.3758/s13428-012-0210-4). We found support for both predictions: words with sparser semantic neighbourhoods (ARC; Shaoul & Westbury, 2010. Exploring lexical co-occurrence space using HiDEx. *Behavior Research Methods*, 42, 393–413. doi:10.3758/Brm.42.2.393), and greater associated sensory experience (SER; Juhasz & Yap, 2013. Sensory experience ratings for over 5,000 mono- and disyllabic words. *Behavior Research Methods*, 45, 160–168. doi:10.3758/s13428-012-0242-9), were more iconic, even after accounting for AoA. ARC was also found to moderate SER. These results further our appreciation of iconicity as a general property of the lexicon.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 9 March 2017
Accepted 3 July 2017

KEYWORDS

Sound symbolism; iconicity; arbitrariness; semantic neighbourhoods; sensory features

An example: Sidhu & Pexman

```
lonely <- read_csv('sidhu&pexman_2017_iconicity.csv')
```

```
lonely
```

```
# A tibble: 1,389 x 4
  Word      SER    ARC Iconicity
  <chr> <dbl> <dbl>    <dbl>
1 one    1.55 0.702    1.85
2 him    2.55 0.689    0.583
3 she    1.60 0.687    0.714
4 me     2.33 0.664    0.600
5 he     1.40 0.694    1.06
6 mine   2.08 0.641    1.50
7 near   2.10 0.674    0.538
8 spite  2.91 0.625    2.86
9 few    1.55 0.697    2.50
10 none  1.73 0.661    0.833
# ... with 1,379 more rows
```



Model with interaction term

```
lonely_md1 <- lm(Iconicity ~ SER * ARC, data = lonely)

tidy(lonely_md1) %>% select(term, estimate)
```

	term	estimate
1	(Intercept)	1.3601014
2	SER	0.3612026
3	ARC	-0.7929281
4	SER:ARC	-0.5255308

Standardising the predictors

```
# Standardize continuous predictors:

lonely <- mutate(lonely,
  SER_z = (SER - mean(SER)) / sd(SER),
  ARC_z = (ARC - mean(ARC)) / sd(ARC))

lonely
```

```
# A tibble: 1,389 x 6
  Word      SER  ARC Iconicity  SER_z  ARC_z
  <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
1 one    1.55  0.702  1.85 -1.74  1.16
2 him    2.55  0.689  0.583 -0.745 1.06
3 she    1.6   0.687  0.714 -1.69  1.05
4 me     2.33  0.664  0.6   -0.956 0.871
5 he     1.4   0.694  1.06 -1.89  1.10
6 mine   2.08  0.641  1.5   -1.21  0.691
7 near   2.1   0.674  0.538 -1.19  0.949
8 spite  2.91  0.625  2.86 -0.382 0.567
9 few    1.55  0.697  2.5   -1.74  1.13
10 none  1.73  0.661  0.833 -1.56  0.842
# ... with 1,379 more rows
```



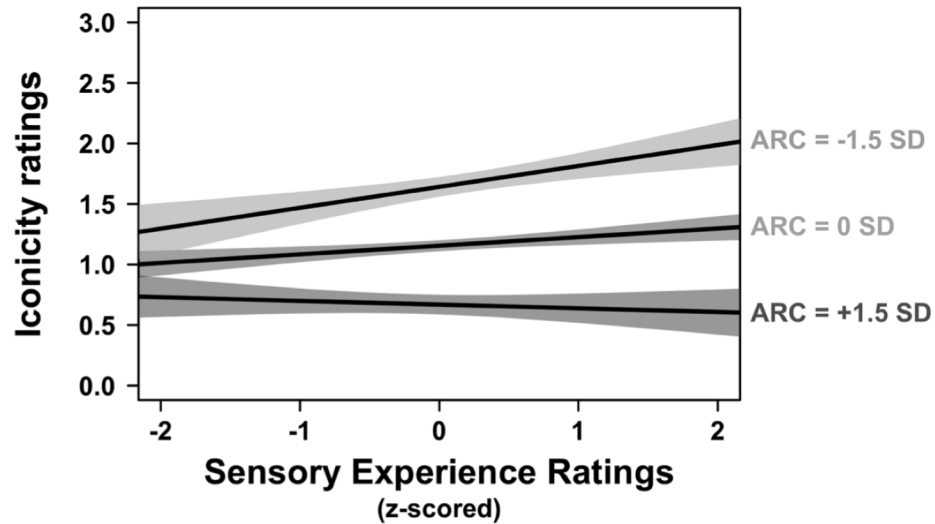
Model with interaction term, using standardized predictors

```
# Fit model with standardized predictors:  
  
lonely_md1_z <- lm(Iconicity ~ SER_z * ARC_z,  
                  data = lonely)  
  
tidy(lonely_md1_z) %>% select(term, estimate)
```

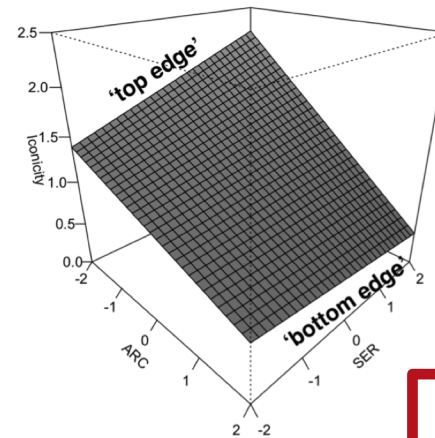
	term	estimate
1	(Intercept)	1.15564895
2	SER_z	0.07115308
3	ARC_z	-0.32426472
4	SER_z:ARC_z	-0.06775347

Interpretation

(a) Iconicity by SER and ARC



(b) Perspective plot



Summary

- Interaction: describes a situation where the influence of a predictor on the response depends on another predictor.

$$y = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3(x_1 * x_2)$$

```
lm (y ~ x1*x2, data)
```

```
lm (y ~ x1 + x2 + x1:x2, data)
```

- Center and standardize continuous predictors to facilitate interpretation.
- Spend some time interpreting the coefficients!
- If interaction significant, can't interpret predictors in isolation anymore.
- Slope for interaction can be read as: If both predictors increase, then

