

Semi-supervised Learning with 2D Categories

John Patterson

Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York, United States

Kenneth Kurtz

Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York, United States

Abstract

Research has shown that 1D category representations acquired through supervision change after unsupervised exposures that suggest a different boundary. However, it is unclear whether this effect generalizes to categories in which multiple dimensions are relevant. To address this question, we trained participants on a 2D information integration structure (a diagonal boundary) under supervision. Participants then classified unsupervised items that implied either a steeper or flatter boundary than that established by supervision creating a conflict region where items should switch membership. Participants classified a grid of the stimulus space both immediately before (pretest) and after (posttest) unsupervised learning to assess for differences. We found that conflict-region items were more likely to be classified as members of the opposite class on the posttest, relative to pretest in a manner consistent with the unsupervised learning condition. Implications of these findings for semi-supervised learning research and theories of category learning are discussed.