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Title: How Competition Works Across Time

Abstract:

Competition is recognized as a core organizing principle in biology, psychology, economics, and linguistics. But how and when is the competition between competing and collaborating motivations adjudicated and implemented in real time? Using examples drawn from empirical studies of lexical, syntactic, and discourse motivations, I will show how competition plays itself out across multiple time frames, including historical change. The stability of these various frames emerges from patterns of neural consolidation linked to features of cue validity, cue conflict, and group referencing.