



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Department of Statistics

MASTER'S THESIS PRESENTATION

JAYMO KIM

Department of Statistics
The University of Chicago

Learning of Efficient Behaviour in Spatial Exploration Through
Observation of Behaviour of Conspecific in Laboratory Rats

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ZOOM Meeting, 5747 S. Ellis Avenue

ABSTRACT

Learning of efficient behaviour in spatial exploration through observation of behaviour of conspecific in laboratory rats" tries to reveal whether one rat can learn from another rat's performance. For this purpose, an eight-arm radial maze is used in an experiment of a rat observing another rat's foraging performance before foraging on its own. The results show that the observer rat performs better than rats without prior observation. One possible reason for this improved performance of the observer rat is that the observer rat adopts efficient foraging behaviour by reducing the number of rearing occasions. However, it is ambiguous how the observer rat learns such foraging behaviour since the performance of the demonstrator rat seems not to affect the performance of the observer rat.