

1 **Title:** The Exponential-Weight Mean-Variance Model: A novel computational model for the Balloon  
2 Analogue Risk Task

3

4 **Authors:**

5 Harhim Park<sup>1</sup>, Jaeyeong Yang<sup>1</sup>, Jasmin Vassileva<sup>2,3</sup>, and Woo-Young Ahn<sup>1</sup>

6

7 <sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

8 <sup>2</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia, United States of America

9 <sup>3</sup>Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia, United States of

10 America

11

12 **Corresponding author:**

13 Woo-Young Ahn, Ph.D.

14 Department of Psychology

15 Seoul National University

16 Seoul, Korea 08826

17 Tel: +82-2-880-2538, Fax: +82-2-877-6428. E-mail: [wahn55@snu.ac.kr](mailto:wahn55@snu.ac.kr)

18

19 **Keywords:** Balloon Analogue Risk Task, risk-taking, Hierarchical Bayesian Analysis, computational  
20 modeling, substance use

21

22 Number of words in the abstract: 144

23 Number of words in the main text (including references): 8,386

24 Number of Figures/Tables in the main text: 6 / 1

25 Number of Figures/Tables in supplemental online material: 14 / 2

26 Number of References: 45

27

28 **Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare no competing financial interest.

29

30

1 **Abstract**

2 The Balloon Analogue Risk Task (BART) is a popular task used to measure risk-taking behavior. To  
3 identify cognitive processes associated with choice behavior on the BART, a few computational models  
4 have been proposed. However, the extant models are either too simplistic or fail to show good  
5 parameter recovery performance. Here, we propose a novel computational model, the exponential-  
6 weight mean-variance (EWMV) model, which addresses the limitations of existing models. By using  
7 multiple model comparison methods, including post hoc model fits criterion and parameter recovery, we  
8 showed that the EWMV model outperforms the existing models. In addition, we applied the EWMV  
9 model to BART data from healthy controls and substance-using populations (patients with past opiate  
10 and stimulant dependence). The results suggest that (1) the EWMV model addresses the limitations of  
11 existing models and (2) heroin-dependent individuals show reduced risk preference than other groups  
12 in the BART.

## 1. Introduction

Computational modeling of cognitive tasks has been widely used to address the limitations of behavioral measures, with which it is often hard to identify underlying cognitive processes (Ahn et al., 2014; Daw, Gershman, Seymour, Dayan, & Dolan, 2011; Ratcliff, 1978). For example, research examining a series of models for the Iowa Gambling Task (IGT) has accounted for the various patterns in behavioral data, provided short- and long-term prediction and good parameter recovery (Ahn, Busemeyer, Wagenmakers, & Stout, 2008; Ahn et al., 2014; Busemeyer & Stout, 2002; Haines, Vassileva, & Ahn, 2018; Worthy & Maddox, 2014), and revealed decision-making deficits in several clinical populations that were not detected by traditional performance indices (see Ahn, Dai, Vassileva, Busemeyer, & Stout, 2016 for a review).

Like the IGT, the Balloon Analogue Risk Task (BART) (Lejuez et al., 2002) was originally designed for the clinical purpose of measuring risk-taking tendencies and the identification of individuals who are prone to take risks (Lejuez et al., 2002; Lejuez, Simmons, Aclin, Daughters, & Dvir, 2004), but its scope has expanded to other areas of psychology and cognitive science (van Ravenzwaaij, Dutilh, & Wagenmakers, 2011; Wallsten, Pleskac, & Lejuez, 2005). The BART has been shown to identify high risk-taking individuals (Aclin, Lejuez, Zvolensky, Kahler, & Gwadz, 2005; Lejuez et al., 2002; Lejuez et al., 2004). Specifically, the behavioral performance of the BART is significantly correlated with self-report measures of risk-related constructs such as impulsivity and sensation-seeking (Lejuez et al., 2002), and past real-world risky behaviors such as drug use and risky sex (Lejuez et al., 2004). These results presumably reflect at least two features of the BART which make the task similar to real-world situations: First, each trial of the BART includes sequential risk-taking choices and terminates when the participant does not want to take the risk any more or encounters a certain condition that makes it impossible to proceed. Second, the riskiness of the risk-taking choices within a trial increases each time the participant makes a risky choice. Specifically, as the participant makes a risky choice, the loss amount gradually increases, whereas the reward amount remains constant or even decreases. Many actual risky behaviors involve these features. For example, patients with substance use disorders continue to take the drug even in the face of negative consequences until they are satisfied with it or cannot obtain the drug because of external factors such as lack of availability and insufficient money. Also, patients often start with smaller amounts of the drug but gradually increase their dosage as their tolerance increases. As their tolerance increases, they must (and are likely to) take more risks to get

1 the same amount of reward. The BART has the distinct advantage of effectively illustrating this kind of  
2 real-world situation in a laboratory setting.

3 To quantitatively analyze the underlying cognitive processes on the BART, previous studies  
4 have proposed two computational models: a four-parameter model (Wallsten et al., 2005) and a two-  
5 parameter model (Pleskac, 2008; van Ravenzwaaij et al., 2011). The four-parameter model was  
6 proposed as a winning model by comparing several computational models. The parameters of the four-  
7 parameter model have been shown to correlate with the frequencies of past real-world risky behaviors  
8 such as substance use, unprotected sex, and stealing (Wallsten et al., 2005). However, two parameters  
9 related to the learning process of the four-parameter model showed poorer parameter recovery and  
10 were systematically overestimated (Heathcote, Brown, & Wagenmakers, 2015; van Ravenzwaaij et al.,  
11 2011). Since good parameter recovery performance is crucial for interpreting results based on the model  
12 parameters (van Ravenzwaaij & Oberauer, 2009; Wagenmakers, Van Der Maas, & Grasman, 2007),  
13 poor parameter recovery performance is a critical limitation of the four-parameter model.

14 The two-parameter model was proposed to overcome this limitation of the four-parameter model  
15 (Pleskac, 2008; van Ravenzwaaij et al., 2011). To develop a model that shows good parameter recovery,  
16 the authors simplified the original model by removing parameters that do not exhibit good recovery. The  
17 two-parameter model is a nested model of the four-parameter model, and as a result of simplification,  
18 it succeeded in recovering accurate parameter values (van Ravenzwaaij et al., 2011). However, the  
19 two-parameter model also has a critical limitation; it is based on a strict assumption that participants do  
20 not learn during the BART. The assumption is unrealistic unless the researcher tells the participant the  
21 actual exploding probability of virtual balloons before starting the experiment. Consistently, Pleskac  
22 (2008) showed that the two-parameter model provided a better fit than the four-parameter model when  
23 the probability structure was explicitly informed, but a poorer fit than the four-parameter model when  
24 the probability structure was uninformed.

25 Furthermore, because this issue is related to the task design, the two-parameter model may not  
26 fit the original task design. The original task design has the advantage that it similarly illustrates real-  
27 world situations, which means if we modify the task design to apply the two-parameter model, we lose  
28 the advantage. Thus, there is a need to build a new model, which shows good parameter recovery and  
29 fits the original task design.

30 Here, we propose a novel BART model, which shows good parameter recovery, fits the original

1 task design, and provides an intuitive interpretation of the learning process in the BART. First, we  
2 introduce the existing model (the four-parameter model). We also consider a non-learning version of  
3 the four-parameter model to test whether the assumption that learning is not involved during the BART.  
4 Then, we reparameterized the four-parameter model to improve its parameter recovery. Based on the  
5 four-parameter model, we developed candidate models and selected the best model based on the  
6 leave-one-out information criterion (LOOIC) (Vehtari, Gelman, & Gabry, 2017) and the parameter  
7 recovery. To examine the clinical implication of the new model, we applied the model to BART data from  
8 patients with past opiate and stimulant dependence as well as healthy controls.

## 10 **2. Method**

### 11 *2.1 Participants*

12 593 individuals, enrolled for a study of impulsivity in opiate and stimulant users in Sofia,  
13 Bulgaria, were initially included. Then, only those who meet the following criteria were included: age  
14 between 18 and 50 years, longer than 8 years of formal education, estimated IQ of 80 or above, no  
15 history of head injury or loss of consciousness for more than 30 minutes, no history of neurological  
16 illness or psychotic disorders, HIV-seronegative status, and not currently on opioid maintenance therapy.  
17 All participants had a negative breathalyzer test for alcohol and negative rapid urine toxicology screen  
18 for opiates, cannabis, amphetamines, methamphetamines, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, cocaine,  
19 MDMA, and methadone. We classified the included participants into three groups: healthy controls,  
20 heroin-dependent, and amphetamine-dependent groups. After that, group-specific criteria were applied  
21 to make each group include primarily mono-dependent ('pure') users. For the healthy control group,  
22 participants with any substance dependence or abuse symptom based on DSM-IV criteria were  
23 excluded (except for nicotine, caffeine, and past cannabis dependence). For the heroin and the  
24 amphetamine-dependent groups, mono-substance-dependent participants who met DSM-IV lifetime  
25 criteria for opiate or stimulant dependence with no dependence on any other substances were included.  
26 Finally, a total of 226 subjects (135 healthy controls, 47 heroin-dependent, and 44 amphetamine-  
27 dependent individuals) were included in the analysis. For more details about the recruitment and  
28 screening procedures, see Ahn and Vassileva (2016). This study was approved by the Institutional  
29 Review Boards of the Virginia Commonwealth University and the Medical University in Sofia. All

1 participants provided informed consent. See supplementary material for demographic and clinical  
2 characteristics of the participants (Table S1).

## 3 4 2.2 Task

5 In the BART, a virtual balloon is presented to the participant on each trial. Participants need to  
6 decide whether to pump the balloon to accumulate some predefined amount of reward (i.e., pump), or  
7 transfer and receive the reward that has been accumulated so far (i.e., transfer). Each trial ends when  
8 the participant chooses to transfer the accumulated reward or the balloon explodes. If the balloon  
9 explodes, the participant loses all the accumulated reward on that trial. Participants are not informed  
10 about the probability of the balloon exploding. Typically, the degree of risk-taking on the BART is  
11 measured by the adjusted BART score, which is the average number of pumps for unexploded balloons  
12 (Lejuez et al., 2002). The adjusted BART score is preferable because it is not directly affected by the  
13 explosion probability and provides an estimate of pure intention. To examine group differences in the  
14 adjusted BART score between the three groups, we conducted the Bayesian t-test using the R package  
15 *BEST* (Kruschke, 2013; Meredith & Kruschke, 2018).

## 16 17 2.3 Models

### 18 2.3.1 The four-parameter model

19 The four-parameter model (Wallsten et al., 2005) is based on two assumptions. First, the  
20 participants update the belief about the probability of the balloon exploding after each trial. Second, the  
21 participants decide the optimal number of pumps before each trial.

22 From a computational modeling perspective, the first assumption means that  $p_k^{burst}$ , the  
23 participant's perceived probability that pumping the balloon on trial  $k$  will make the balloon explode, is  
24 constant during the trial  $k$ . The participant initially has a prior belief about the probability of the balloon  
25 exploding and updates the prior belief based on observation on each trial. The updating process is  
26 described as follows:

$$27 \quad p_k^{burst} = 1 - \frac{\alpha + \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{success}}{\mu + \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{pumps}} \text{ with } 0 < \alpha < \mu. \quad (1)$$

28 In Equation (1), the initial value of  $p_k^{burst}$  is  $1 - \alpha/\mu$ , which reflects the participant's initial  
29 belief that pumping will make the balloon explode. The magnitudes of  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  indicate the degree of

1 learning from observations; high values indicate that the prior belief is strong and the perceived  
 2 probability is hard to be affected by the observed data.  $\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{success}$  is the sum of the number of  
 3 successful pumps up to trial  $k - 1$ , and  $\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{pumps}$  is the sum of the total number of pumps up to trial  
 4  $k - 1$ .

5 The second assumption that the participant evaluates the optimal number of pumps before  
 6 each trial is reflected in the equations for calculating the probability that the participant will pump the  
 7 balloon. Adopting the prospect theory (Kahneman & Tversky, 2013), the expected utility after  $l$  pumps  
 8 on trial  $k$ ,  $U_{kl}$ , is given by:

$$9 \quad U_{kl} = (1 - p_k^{burst})^l (lr)^\gamma. \quad (2)$$

10 In Equation (2),  $r$  is the amount of reward per successful pump, and  $\gamma$  is risk-taking  
 11 propensity. We can calculate the optimal number of pumps by setting the first derivative of Equation (2)  
 12 for  $l$  equals zero. Then, we can easily derive the optimal number of pumps on trial  $k$ ,  $v_k$ , as follows:

$$13 \quad v_k = \frac{-\gamma}{\ln(1 - p_k^{burst})} \text{ with } \gamma \geq 0. \quad (3)$$

14 Based on  $v_k$ , we can calculate the probability that the participant will pump the balloon on trial  
 15  $k$  for pump  $l$ ,  $p_{kl}^{pump}$ :

$$16 \quad p_{kl}^{pump} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\tau(l - v_k)}} \text{ with } \tau \geq 0. \quad (4)$$

17 In this logistic equation,  $\tau$  is the inverse temperature parameter. The inverse temperature of  
 18 the choice rule determines how deterministic or random the choice is; The higher  $\tau$ , the more  
 19 deterministic. If  $l < v_k$ ,  $p_{kl}^{pump}$  becomes greater than 0.5. Similarly, if  $l > v_k$ ,  $p_{kl}^{pump}$  becomes less  
 20 than 0.5. In sum, the four-parameter model has four parameters to be estimated:  $\alpha, \mu, \gamma$ , and  $\tau$ .

21 We can calculate the likelihood of the data given the parameters by multiplying the probability  
 22 that the participant will pump on trial  $k$  for pump  $l$ ,  $p_{kl}^{pump}$ . The probability of the data given the  
 23 parameters,  $p(D|\alpha, \mu, \gamma, \tau)$ , is given by:

$$24 \quad p(D|\alpha, \mu, \gamma, \tau) = \prod_{k=1}^{k^{last}} \prod_{l=1}^{l_k^{last}} p_{kl}^{pump} \left(1 - p_{k, l_k^{last} + 1}^{pump}\right)^{d_k}, \quad (5)$$

25 where  $k^{last}$  is the last number of trials,  $l_k^{last}$  is the last number of pumping opportunities on trial  $k$ . if  
 26 the participant transfers the accumulated reward on trial  $k$  to the virtual bank account,  $d_k = 1$  and if  
 27 the balloon explodes on trial  $k$ ,  $d_k = 0$ .

28 Although previous researchers have primarily used the four-parameter model, it has been

1 known that  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  of the four-parameter model are not well recovered. The two-parameter model  
 2 was proposed to address this problem of the four-parameter model (Pleskac, 2008; van Ravenzwaaij  
 3 et al., 2011). However, the two-parameter model does not apply to the original BART paradigm because  
 4 participants are not informed of the probability structure of the task. Therefore, instead of the two-  
 5 parameter model, we considered a non-learning version of the four-parameter model, which is based  
 6 on an assumption that participants do not learn during the BART.

### 8 2.3.2 Non-learning version (Par3 model)

9 The non-learning version of the four-parameter model is based on the following assumption of  
 10 the two-parameter model: participants do not learn during the BART. Since participants do not update  
 11 their belief of the probability of the balloon exploding based on observations and they are not informed  
 12 of the probability structure of the original BART paradigm, in this model, we assumed participant's belief  
 13 of the probability of the balloon exploding as a parameter,  $\theta$ . Then, similar to Equation (3), we can  
 14 derive the optimal number of pumps,  $\nu$ , as follows:

$$15 \nu = \frac{-\gamma}{\ln(1-\theta)} \text{ with } \gamma \geq 0. \quad (6)$$

16 Based on the optimal number of pumps, similar to Equation (4), we can calculate the  
 17 probability that the participant will pump the balloon for pump  $l$ ,  $p_l^{pump}$ :

$$18 p_l^{pump} = \frac{1}{1+e^{\tau(l-\nu)}} \text{ with } \tau \geq 0. \quad (7)$$

19 Notably, the optimal number of pumps,  $\nu$ , and the probability that the participant will pump the  
 20 balloon for pump  $l$ ,  $p_l^{pump}$ , do not depend on the trial number because the participant's belief of the  
 21 probability of the balloon exploding is a parameter with a fixed value. In sum, the non-learning version  
 22 of the four-parameter model includes three free parameters to be estimated:  $\theta$ ,  $\gamma$ , and  $\tau$ .

### 24 2.3.3 Reparametrized version (Par4 model)

25 We suspected that the strong association between  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  (the ratio reflects the  
 26 participant's initial belief and the magnitudes indicate the degree of learning from observations) may be  
 27 problematic and tested if reparametrizing  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  would improve the parameter recovery  
 28 performance of the model.

29 The parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  are associated with two processes. The ratio of  $\alpha$  to  $\mu$ ,  $\alpha/\mu$ ,



1 refers to the participant's initial belief that pumping will make the balloon explode, and the magnitudes  
 2 of both  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  determine the degree of learning from observations. Thus, we wanted to  
 3 reparametrize them so that each parameter is uniquely associated with just one process. Also, we  
 4 wanted to remove the constraint that  $\alpha$  is less than  $\mu$  because the constraint might lead to inefficient  
 5 sampling for Bayesian parameter estimation (see Section 2.4).

6 For the goal, we reparametrized  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  into  $\phi$  and  $\eta$ :  $\phi = \alpha/\mu$  and  $\eta = 1/\mu$ .

7 Substituting these parameters into Equation (1) yields:

$$8 \quad p_k^{burst} = 1 - \frac{\phi + \eta \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{success}}{1 + \eta \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{pumps}} \text{ with } 0 < \phi < 1, \eta > 0. \quad (8)$$

9 After the reparameterization, the initial value of  $p_k^{burst}$  equals  $1 - \phi$ . Thus,  $\phi$  indicates the  
 10 participant's initial belief that pumping will not make the balloon explode. Also,  $\eta$  is an updating  
 11 coefficient of the participant's belief by the observed data. If  $\eta = 0$ ,  $p_k^{burst}$  is not affected by the  
 12 observed data. If  $\eta$  is very large,  $p_k^{burst}$  rapidly comes close to the observed probability of burst.  
 13 Equations (3) and (4) remain the same. Note that we included the reparametrized four-parameter  
 14 version in the hBayesDM package as a function named *bart\_par4* (Ahn, Haines, & Zhang, 2017).

#### 16 2.3.4 The Exponential-Weight model (EW model)

17 The four-parameter model has two limitations, even after the reparameterization. First,  
 18 although the model assumes that the participant updates  $p_k^{burst}$  from the prior belief with the observed  
 19 data, Equation (8) hardly provides an intuitive interpretation of the learning process. We modified the  
 20 updating equation in an attempt to show the learning process more clearly. Second, the assumption  
 21 that the participant determines the optimal number of pumps before each trial might be too strong.

22 To address the first issue, we defined a parameter,  $\psi = 1 - \phi$ , which is the initial value of  
 23  $p_k^{burst}$ . Substituting this parameter into Equation (8) yields:

$$24 \quad p_k^{burst} = \omega_{k-1} \psi + (1 - \omega_{k-1}) P_{k-1} \text{ with } 0 < \psi < 1, \eta > 0, \quad (9)$$

25 where  $P_{k-1} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (n_i^{pumps} - n_i^{success})}{\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{pumps}}$ , which is the observed probability that pumping has made the balloon

26 explode up to trial  $k - 1$ , and  $\omega_{k-1} = \frac{1}{1 + \eta \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{pumps}}$ , which is the weight indicating how much weight is  
 27 given to the prior belief on trial  $k$  when estimating the probability of the balloon exploding. Each  
 28 component of Equation (9) has a clear role, which is interpretable as a part of weight updating learning.

1 Specifically, the current value ( $p_k^{burst}$ ) is estimated as a weighted average of the initial value ( $\psi$ ) and the  
 2 observed value ( $P_{k-1}$ ). As data accumulates, the participant updates the weight ( $\omega_{k-1}$ ) and the observed  
 3 value ( $P_{k-1}$ ). The weight ( $\omega_{k-1}$ ) and the observed value ( $P_{k-1}$ ) are determined by the total number of  
 4 the data ( $\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{pumps}$ ) and the number of the data that meet a certain condition (explosion,  
 5  $\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (n_i^{pumps} - n_i^{success})$ ). In this framework,  $\eta$  indicates how rapidly the participant depends on  
 6 experience. If  $\eta \rightarrow \infty$ , learning entirely depends on the present outcome. If  $\eta = 0$ , no further learning  
 7 occurs.

8 To improve the model performance within this framework, we modified the functional form of  
 9 the weight,  $\omega_{k-1}$ . If we define  $x$  as  $\eta \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{pumps}$ , in Equation (9),  $\omega_{k-1} = \frac{1}{1+x}$ , which means the  
 10 weight is hyperbolic. Other functional forms can be alternatives to the hyperbolic function if they meet  
 11 two conditions: the participant's learning starts with the prior belief (if  $x = 0$ ,  $\omega_{k-1} = 1$ ) and primarily  
 12 depends on the observed value after observing enough data (if  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\omega_{k-1} \rightarrow 0$ ). The exponential  
 13 decay,  $e^{-x}$ , is a reasonable alternative because it meets the two conditions and is commonly used to  
 14 describe natural phenomena such as the voltage of the resistor-capacitor circuit, the number of remain  
 15 radioactive atoms, and the concentration of the first-order chemical reaction. Replacing  $\omega_{k-1}$  with  $e^{-x}$   
 16 in Equation (9) yields:

$$17 \quad p_k^{burst} = e^{-\xi \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{pumps}} \psi + (1 - e^{-\xi \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i^{pumps}}) P_{k-1} \text{ with } 0 < \psi < 1, \xi > 0. \quad (10)$$

18 To avoid confusion, we replaced  $\eta$  with  $\xi$  and named  $\xi$  an updating exponent.

19 For the second issue (the assumption that the participant determines the optimal number of  
 20 pumps before each trial), we tested a new model which assumed that the participant decides whether  
 21 to pump the balloon or not before each pump instead of each trial. Using the prospect theory  
 22 (Kahneman & Tversky, 2013), we calculated the subjective utilities for pumping and not-pumping a  
 23 balloon on trial  $k$  for pump  $l$  as follows:

$$24 \quad U_{kl}^{pump} = (1 - p_k^{burst}) r^\rho - p_k^{burst} \lambda \{(l-1)r\}^\rho \text{ with } 0 < \rho < 2, \lambda > 0, \quad (11)$$

$$25 \quad U_{kl}^{transfer} = 0, \quad (12)$$

26 where  $r$  is the amount of reward for each successful pump,  $\rho$  is risk preference, and  $\lambda$  is loss  
 27 aversion. Then, we can calculate the probability that the participant will pump the balloon on trial  $k$  for  
 28 pump  $l$ ,  $p_{kl}^{pump}$ , by using these subjective utilities.

$$1 \quad p_{kl}^{pump} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\tau(U_{kl}^{transfer} - U_{kl}^{pump})}} \text{ with } \tau \geq 0, \quad (13)$$

2 where  $\tau$  is inverse temperature. We noticed that this model (Equations (11), (12), and (13)) is similar  
3 to a model (Model1) reported in Wallsten et al. (2005). Although the Model1 was not the best-fitting  
4 model, its model fit was close to that of the winning model (the four-parameter model). Considering that  
5 the EW model has a single parameter for risk preference instead of having separate risk preference for  
6 gain and loss like the Model1, we also included the Model1 to the model comparison to examine its  
7 performance compared to other models. In summary, the EW model has five free parameters to be  
8 estimated:  $\psi$  (prior belief of burst),  $\xi$  (updating exponent),  $\rho$  (risk preference),  $\tau$  (inverse  
9 temperature), and  $\lambda$  (loss aversion).

10

### 11 2.3.5 The Exponential-Weight Mean-Variance model (EWMV model)

12 The existing models and EW model utilize the prospect theory (Kahneman & Tversky, 2013)  
13 to calculate subjective utilities for pumping and not-pumping. Given that previous studies have  
14 suggested that the performances of the prospect theory and the mean-variance analysis (Markowitz,  
15 1952) are comparable (Boorman & Sallet, 2009; Hens & Mayer, 2014; Levy & Levy, 2004), we tested a  
16 model by applying the mean-variance analysis to the EW model. According to the mean-variance  
17 analysis, the subjective utility of an option can be formulated by a linear combination of the expected  
18 value and the variance of potential outcomes. Applying the mean-variance analysis, we calculated the  
19 subjective utilities for pumping and not-pumping a balloon on trial  $k$  for pump  $l$  as follows:

$$20 \quad U_{kl}^{pump} = (1 - p_k^{burst})r - p_k^{burst}\lambda(l-1)r + \rho p_k^{burst}(1 - p_k^{burst})\{r + \lambda(l-1)r\}^2 \text{ with } \lambda > 0, \quad (14)$$

$$21 \quad U_{kl}^{transfer} = 0, \quad (15)$$

22 where  $r$  is the amount of reward for each successful pump,  $\rho$  is risk preference, and  $\lambda$  is loss  
23 aversion. In Equation (14), the first two terms indicate the expected value of a pump, and the last term  
24 indicates the impact of the variance of potential outcomes on the subjective utility. Notably, in the mean-  
25 variance framework, the risk preference is defined as a coefficient of the variance term, which is a proxy  
26 for risk. If  $\rho < 0$ , the participant prefers to choose an option with a large variance of potential outcomes.  
27 If  $\rho = 0$ , the expected value of an option determines the participant's subjective utility. If  $\rho > 0$ , the  
28 participant prefers to choose an option with a small variance of potential outcomes. Like the EW model,  
29 we can calculate the probability of pumping the balloon by using these subjective utilities based on the

1 mean-variance analysis (Equation (13)). In summary, the EWMV model includes five free parameters:  
2  $\psi$  (prior belief of burst),  $\xi$  (updating exponent),  $\rho$  (risk preference),  $\tau$  (inverse temperature), and  $\lambda$   
3 (loss aversion).

#### 5 *2.4 Hierarchical Bayesian Analysis (HBA)*

6 We used hierarchical Bayesian Analysis (HBA) for parameter estimation (Berger, 2013;  
7 Gelman, Carlin, Stern, & Rubin, 2004; Lee, 2011). HBA offers several benefits over conventional non-  
8 hierarchical approaches such as individual-level ordinary least squares and maximum likelihood  
9 estimation (MLE) methods. First, HBA estimates parameters as posterior distributions instead of point  
10 estimates. Posterior distributions provide us with more information about the parameters than point  
11 estimates because distributions show the uncertainty of the estimated values. Second, with HBA, we  
12 can systematically characterize similarities and differences across subjects within a Bayesian  
13 framework based on the amount of information from each individual. Previous studies suggest that HBA  
14 allows us to estimate model parameters more accurately than individual- or group-level MLE methods  
15 (Ahn, Krawitz, Kim, Busemeyer, & Brown, 2011).

16 We conducted HBA by using Stan (version 2.15.1), a probabilistic programming language for  
17 specifying statistical models (Carpenter et al., 2017). Stan uses Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (HMC) for  
18 sampling from high-dimensional parameter space. Specifically, we implemented the models in the  
19 hBayesDM (Ahn et al., 2017) environment, which uses Stan. We used a large enough sample size  
20 (4000 samples, including 2000 burn-in samples per chain) to assure that parameters converge to the  
21 target distributions, with four independent chains to check that the posterior distributions are not  
22 dependent on initial starting points. Note that Vehtari, Gelman, Simpson, Carpenter, and Bürkner (2019)  
23 recommended running at least four chains by default. The trace plots indicated that chains were well  
24 mixed and the  $\hat{R}$  values (Gelman & Rubin, 1992) for all model parameters were lower than 1.1, which  
25 indicates that the estimated parameter values converged to their target posterior distributions. Thinning  
26 was not applied because thinning of chains is rarely useful for the precision of estimates (Link & Eaton,  
27 2012). See supplementary material for detailed information of HBA (Table S2, Figure S3, and Figure  
28 S4).

29

30

## 1 *2.5 Model comparison*

### 2 *2.5.1 Leave-one-out information criterion (LOOIC)*

3 LOOIC is an information criterion calculated from the Leave-one-out cross-validation. Leave-  
4 one-out cross-validation is a method to estimate out-of-sample prediction accuracy from a fitted  
5 Bayesian model based on the log-likelihood evaluated from the posterior distributions (Vehtari, Gelman,  
6 & Gabry, 2017). It is well-known that LOOIC has various benefits over simpler estimates such as Akaike  
7 Information Criterion (AIC, Akaike, 1998) and Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC, Schwarz, 1978). We  
8 used the R package *loo* (Vehtari et al., 2017) to estimate LOOIC for each model. Because LOOIC is  
9 calculated from the log-likelihood, the lower LOOIC is, the better its model fit is. For model selection,  
10 LOOIC weights are defined as Akaike weights (Wagenmakers & Farrell, 2004) calculated based on  
11 LOOIC values, and the detailed information is provided in the supplementary material (see Model  
12 comparison section).

13

### 14 *2.5.2 Parameter recovery*

15 We also used parameter recovery to evaluate how accurate a model estimates true parameter  
16 values from the simulation data generated from the true parameter values (e.g., Ahn et al., 2011; Ahn  
17 et al., 2014; Haines et al., 2018; Wagenmakers et al., 2007). For the comparison, we did parameter  
18 recovery analysis for the reparametrized version of the four-parameter model, the EW model, and the  
19 EWMV model. For each parameter in each competing model, we randomly sampled true parameter  
20 values from the truncated normal distribution with a mean and a standard deviation estimated from data  
21 of healthy controls, heroin-dependent, and amphetamine-dependent groups to investigate a broader  
22 range of parameter values. For each group, we calculated individual posterior means as individual  
23 parameter values for participants and used the mean and standard deviation of the individual parameter  
24 values as the mean and standard deviation for the truncated normal distribution. Then, we generated  
25 simulation data of 30 trials per subject by using the true parameter values. Lastly, we estimated  
26 parameter values from the simulation data. Correlations between the true parameter values and the  
27 predicted parameter values were used to evaluate the model performance.

28

29

30

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Model comparison

##### 3.1.1 Leave-one-out information criterion (LOOIC)

Table 1 shows the LOOIC for five competing models. In all three groups, the EWMV model was the best-fitting model followed by the EW, Model1, Par4, and Par3 in the order of model fits. The Par4 model outperformed the Par3 model, which is consistent with the result of the previous study, showing that the two-parameter model provided a poorer fit than the four-parameter model when the probability structure was uninformed (Pleskac, 2008). LOOIC weights, the relative likelihoods of the models calculated based on LOOIC values, strongly favored the EWMV model as indicated by its LOOIC weights of 1. Considering that the Model1 includes one more parameter but shows poorer model fits than the EW model, we excluded the Model1 from subsequent analyses. Also, given that the LOOIC values for the Par3 model were much larger than those of the other models (i.e., the Par3 model provided much poorer model fits than the other models), we decided to exclude the Par3 model from further analyses.

Group	Model	LOOIC	$\Delta$ LOOIC	LOOIC Weights
HC	EWMV	20297.650	0	1.000
	EW	20454.267	156.617	0.000
	Model1	20488.310	190.660	0.000
	Par4	20666.613	368.963	0.000
	Par3	22482.830	2185.180	0.000
Her	EWMV	7055.653	0	1.000
	EW	7080.670	25.017	0.000
	Model1	7104.407	48.754	0.000
	Par4	7182.598	126.945	0.000
	Par3	7811.477	755.824	0.000
Amp	EWMV	6761.845	0	1.000
	EW	6793.605	31.760	0.000
	Model1	6805.140	43.295	0.000
	Par4	6877.514	115.669	0.000
	Par3	7264.684	502.839	0.000

Table 1. Leave-one-out information criterion for each model. EWMV: the exponential-weight mean-variance model, EW: the exponential-weight model, Model1: a model similar to the EW model from a previous study (Wallsten et al., 2005), Par4: the reparametrized version of the four-parameter model, Par3: the non-learning version of the four-parameter model, HC: healthy control group, Her: heroin-dependent group, Amp: amphetamine-dependent group. Lower LOOIC indicates a better model fit. The LOOIC weight is the relative likelihood of the model calculated

1 based on its LOOIC.

### 3 3.1.2 Parameter recovery

4 We evaluated the quality of parameter recovery as the correlation coefficient between the true  
5 and estimated values. In the main text, we report the parameter recovery results from the healthy control  
6 group. The parameter recovery results from the heroin- and amphetamine-dependent groups are  
7 reported in the supplementary material (Figures S5-S10) and are not qualitatively different from the  
8 those from the healthy control group.

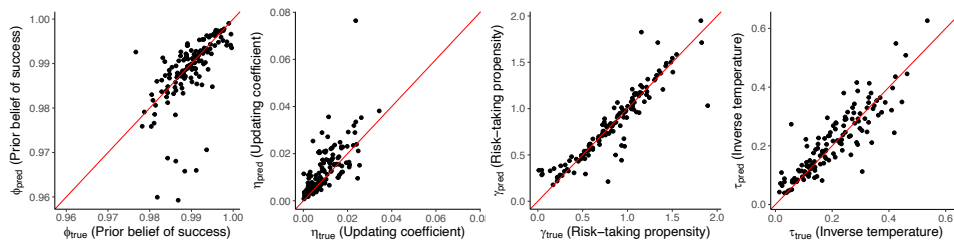
9 Figure 1 shows the results of parameter recovery from the healthy control group for the Par4  
10 model. As shown in Figure 1, overall all parameters were relatively well recovered in the Par4 model  
11 including the prior belief of success ( $\phi$ ) and the updating coefficient ( $\eta$ ), which were not well recovered  
12 and systematically overestimated in the previous studies (Heathcote et al., 2015; van Ravenzwaaij et  
13 al., 2011). This suggests that our reparameterization may have improved the parameter recovery  
14 performance by separating the roles of the two parameters. To directly compare the parameter recovery  
15 of the four-parameter model and the Par4 model, we attempted to recover the parameters of the four-  
16 parameter model, but the parameters of the original four-parameter model failed to converge even after  
17 many (e.g., 4000) burn-in samples. We suggest two possible reasons underlying the failure. First, given  
18 that the magnitudes of  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  commonly indicate the degree of learning from observations, the high  
19 correlation between the two parameters might make the sampling process fail to work well even with  
20 HMC. Second, the constraint that  $\mu$  is always larger than  $\alpha$  may cause issues in the sampling process.

21 Figure 2 shows the results of parameter recovery from the healthy control group for the EW  
22 model. The EW model showed poorer parameter recovery performance than the Par4 model in two  
23 aspects. First, the risk preference ( $\rho$ , EW model) exhibited relatively weak recovery compared to the  
24 risk-taking propensity ( $\gamma$ , Par4 model). Second, for the loss aversion ( $\lambda$ , EW model), the estimated  
25 values were shrunk towards the mean value. This shrinkage effect indicates that the model parameter  
26 might not be accurately estimated from the information the data contain. Figures S7 and S8 show that  
27 the loss-aversion ( $\lambda$ , EW model) was also not recovered well from the heroin-dependent and  
28 amphetamine-dependent groups, which is consistent with the recovery results from the healthy control  
29 group.

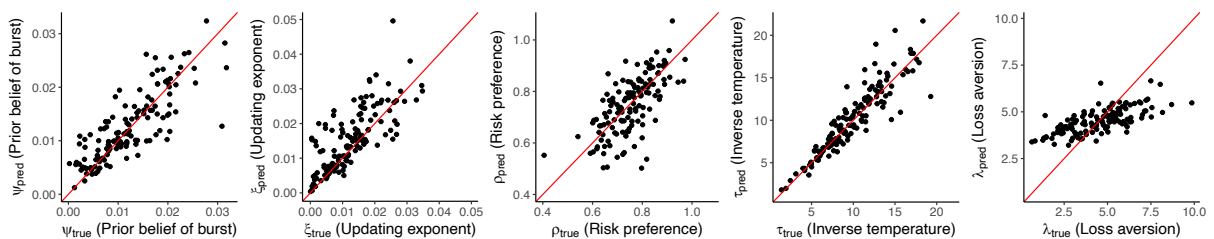
30 Figure 3 shows the results of parameter recovery from the healthy control group for the EWMV

1 model. All parameters showed good parameter recovery, including the loss aversion parameter ( $\lambda$ ,  
 2 EWMV model), which was not recovered well for the EW model. Given that the EWMV model includes  
 3 one more parameter than the Par4 model (i.e., the EWMV model is more complex than the Par4 model),  
 4 we considered the parameter recovery results as additional support for the EWMV model.

5 The parameter recovery results for the prior belief and updating rate provide additional support  
 6 for the EWMV model. For the Par4 model, some parameter values of the prior belief of success ( $\phi$ ) and  
 7 the updating coefficient ( $\eta$ ) deviated from the diagonal in all three groups (Figures 1, S5, and S6).  
 8 Notably, the updating coefficient ( $\eta$ ) showed poor parameter recovery when we used the mean and  
 9 standard deviation estimated from the amphetamine-dependent group (Figure S6). In contrast, for the  
 10 EWMV model, most parameter values of the prior belief of burst ( $\psi$ ) and the updating exponent ( $\xi$ ) were  
 11 well recovered (Figures 3, S9, and S10). Considering the LOIC and parameter recovery results, we  
 12 selected the EWMV model as the winning model and compared it with the Par4 model in further  
 13 analyses.



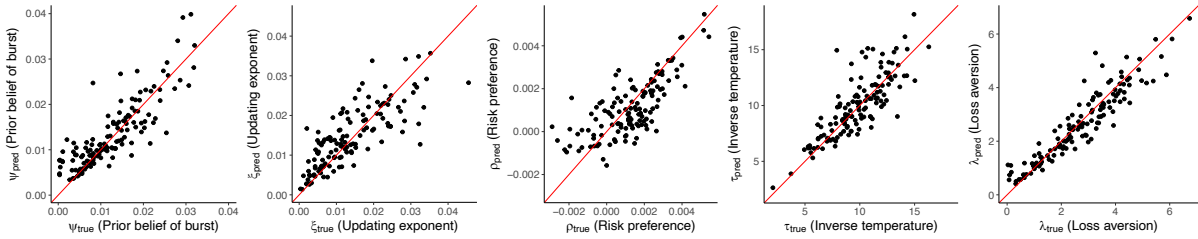
15 *Figure 1.* Parameter recovery results for the reparametrized version of the four-parameter model (Par4 model).  
 16 The red line denotes  $y = x$ . The correlation coefficient of each scatter plot is as follows.  $\phi$  (prior belief of success):  
 17 0.605,  $\eta$  (updating coefficient): 0.702,  $\gamma$  (risk-taking propensity): 0.918,  $\tau$  (inverse temperature): 0.882. The  
 18 average of the correlation coefficients is 0.777.



21 *Figure 2.* Parameter recovery results for the exponential-weight model (EW model). The red line denotes  $y = x$ .  
 22 The correlation coefficient of each scatter plot is as follows.  $\psi$  (prior belief of burst): 0.818,  $\xi$  (updating exponent):  
 23 0.764,  $\rho$  (risk preference): 0.666,  $\tau$  (inverse temperature): 0.913,  $\lambda$  (loss aversion): 0.694. The average of the  
 24 correlation coefficients is 0.771.



1



2

3

Figure 3. Parameter recovery results for the exponential-weight mean-variance model (EWMV model). The red line denotes  $y = x$ . The correlation coefficient of each scatter plot is as follows.  $\psi$  (prior belief of burst): 0.847,  $\xi$  (updating exponent): 0.798,  $\rho$  (risk preference): 0.746,  $\tau$  (inverse temperature): 0.812,  $\lambda$  (loss aversion): 0.933. The average of the correlation coefficients is 0.827.

7

### 8 3.2 Correlation analysis

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

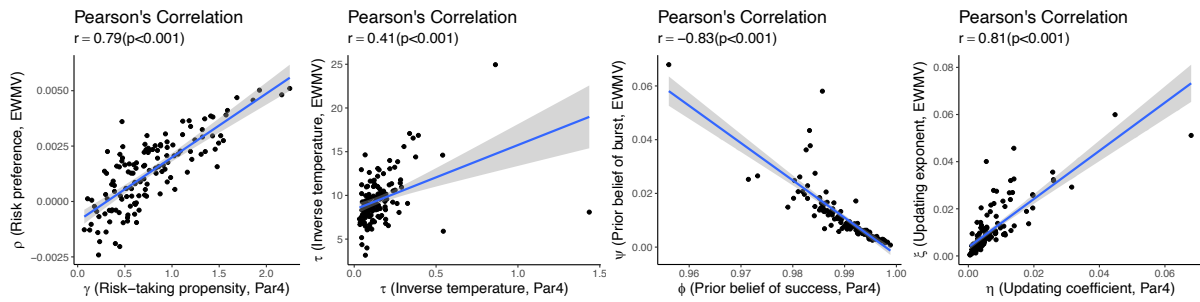
26

27

To examine whether the EWMV model includes advantageous features of the four-parameter model, we investigated correlations between seemingly corresponding model parameters of the Par4 model and the EWMV model:  $(\gamma, \rho)$ ,  $(\phi, \psi)$ ,  $(\eta, \xi)$ , and  $(\tau, \tau)$ ; the former one is the parameter of the Par4 model, and the latter one is the parameter of the EWMV model. The risk-taking propensity ( $\gamma$ ) and the risk preference ( $\rho$ ) are related to the risk-taking tendency. The prior belief of success ( $\phi$ ) and the prior belief of burst ( $\psi$ ) correspond to the participant's prior belief about the balloon. The updating coefficient ( $\eta$ ) and the updating exponent ( $\xi$ ) mean updating rate of observation. The two inverse temperatures ( $\tau$ ) reflect how much the participant is deterministic. In the main text, we report the correlations between corresponding model parameters from the healthy control group. The correlation analysis results from the heroin- and amphetamine-dependent groups are reported in the supplementary material (Figures S11 and S12), which show similar patterns with the results from the healthy control group.

Figure 4 shows the correlations between the corresponding parameter pairs. All of the pairs had strong correlations. Although the correlation between the two inverse temperatures ( $\tau$ ) was relatively weak, it is acceptable as they are related to different quantities; one is related to the number of pumps, and the other is related to the subjective utility. The prior belief of success ( $\phi$ ) and the prior belief of burst ( $\psi$ ) were negatively correlated because the sum of the two probabilities should be 1 in an ideal case. The updating coefficient ( $\eta$ ) and the updating exponent ( $\xi$ ) were positively correlated because both of them represent how rapidly the participant updates the belief based on past

1 experiences. Notably, the risk-taking propensity ( $\gamma$ ) and the risk preference ( $\rho$ ) showed a strong positive  
 2 correlation, which implicates that, like the risk-taking propensity, the risk preference may reflect risk-  
 3 taking tendency and be correlated with the frequencies of the past real-world risky behaviors.



5  
 6 *Figure 4.* Correlations between the corresponding parameter pairs of the models. The blue lines indicate the  
 7 regression lines of each graph. Shaded regions indicate 95% confidence intervals.

### 9 3.3 Group difference

10 As a way of evaluating the utility of the EWMV model, we applied the EWMV model to healthy  
 11 and substance-dependent populations (patients with past heroin or amphetamine dependence). We  
 12 analyzed the group differences of three groups (healthy control, heroin, and amphetamine-dependent  
 13 groups; see below for the details) for their behavioral performance and the parameter estimates of the  
 14 EWMV model (we also tested the Par4 model).

#### 16 3.3.1 Behavioral Performance

17 The heroin-dependent group displayed a marginally lower adjusted BART score (95% HDI: [-  
 18 9.73, 0.629], mean= -4.59; 95.9% of the posterior samples were smaller than 0) than the amphetamine-  
 19 dependent group. The result suggests that heroin users might show lower risk-taking than amphetamine  
 20 users during the BART. See supplementary material for detailed information on the behavioral  
 21 performance and the group difference in behavioral performance (Figures S1 and S2).

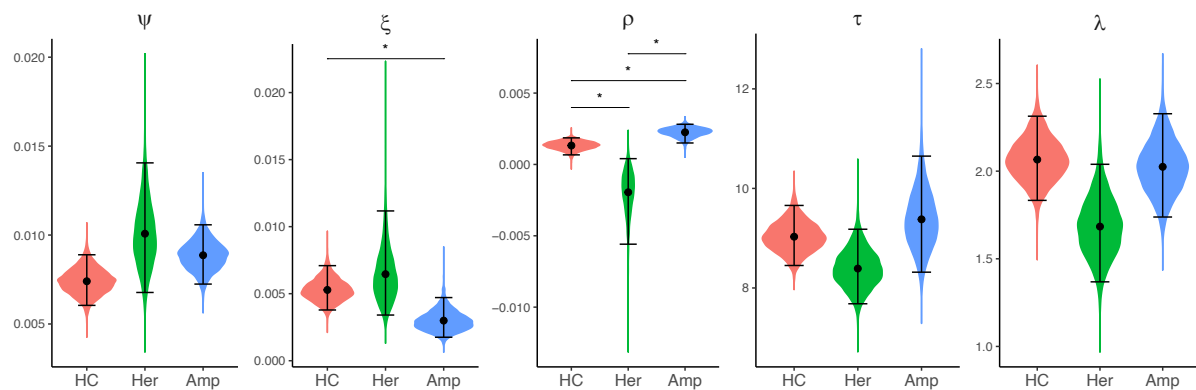
#### 23 3.3.2 Model Parameters

24 We estimated parameters of the EWMV model and the Par4 model for each group separately  
 25 to compare the parameter values between the groups. Figure 5 shows the posterior distributions of the

1 group parameters for each group with the EWMV model. The heroin-dependent group displayed  
 2 credibly lower risk preference ( $\rho$ ) than the healthy control group (95% HDI of the group difference: [-  
 3 0.0064, -0.0005], mean: -0.0033) and the amphetamine-dependent group (95% HDI of the group  
 4 difference: [-0.0073, -0.0013], mean: -0.0042). The amphetamine-dependent group displayed credibly  
 5 higher risk preference ( $\rho$ ) than the healthy control group (95% HDI of the group difference: [0.0001,  
 6 0.0018], mean: 0.0009). Additionally, the amphetamine-dependent group displayed credibly lower  
 7 updating exponent ( $\xi$ ) than the healthy control group (95% HDI of the group difference: [-0.0046, -  
 8 0.0001], mean: -0.0023).

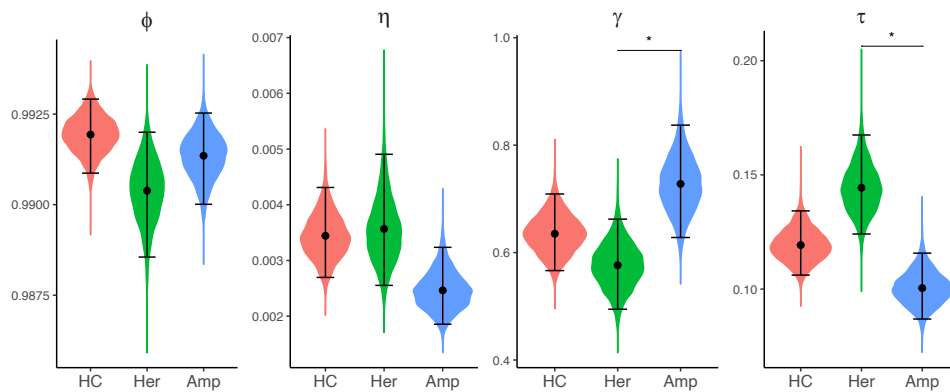
9 Figure 6 shows the posterior distributions of the group parameters for each group with the  
 10 Par4 model. The heroin-dependent group displayed credibly lower risk-taking propensity ( $\gamma$ ) than the  
 11 amphetamine-dependent group (95% HDI of the group difference: [-0.280, -0.012], mean: -0.151). Also,  
 12 the heroin-dependent group displayed higher inverse temperature ( $\tau$ ) than the amphetamine-dependent  
 13 group (95% HDI of the group difference: [0.019, 0.070], mean: 0.044). See supplementary material for  
 14 detail information about the group differences of the model parameters (Figure S13 and S14).

15



16

17 *Figure 5.* Posterior distributions of the group parameters with the exponential-weight mean-variance model  
 18 (EWMV model). Tick marks on the bottom and top of each graph indicate 95% highest density intervals (HDIs).  
 19 Points in the middle of each graph indicate mean values. Asterisks indicate that the 95% HDIs of the posterior  
 20 distributions of group mean differences do not include zero (group differences were credible). See supplementary  
 21 material for more information about the group differences of model parameters (Figure S9).  $\psi$ : prior belief of  
 22 burst,  $\xi$ : updating exponent,  $\rho$ : risk preference,  $\tau$ : inverse temperature,  $\lambda$ : loss aversion. HC: healthy control  
 23 group, Her: heroin-dependent group, Amp: amphetamine-dependent group.



1  
 2 *Figure 6.* Posterior distributions of the group parameters with the reparametrized version of the four-parameter  
 3 model (Par4 model). Tick marks on the bottom and top of each graph indicate 95% highest density intervals (HDIs).  
 4 Points in the middle of each graph indicate mean values. Asterisks indicate that the 95% HDIs of the posterior  
 5 distributions of group mean differences do not include zero (group differences were credible). See supplementary  
 6 material for more information about the group differences of model parameters (Figure S10).  $\phi$ : prior belief of  
 7 success,  $\eta$ : updating coefficient,  $\gamma$ : risk-taking propensity,  $\tau$ : inverse temperature. HC: healthy control group, Her:  
 8 heroin-dependent group, Amp: amphetamine-dependent group.

9  
 10 The results of the behavioral performance and the model parameters are consistent. Among  
 11 the three groups, the differences between the heroin-dependent and amphetamine-dependent groups  
 12 were the most noticeable. The heroin-dependent group displayed a marginally lower adjusted BART  
 13 score, lower risk preference ( $\rho$ ), and lower risk-taking propensity ( $\gamma$ ) compared to the amphetamine-  
 14 dependent group. These results consistently show that heroin users show lower risk-taking than  
 15 amphetamine users during the BART.

## 17 4. Discussion

18 The main focus of this study is on the development of a novel BART model that addresses the  
 19 limitations of existing models. We proposed a non-learning version of the four-parameter model (Par3  
 20 model) and a reparametrized version of the four-parameter model (Par4 model). Based on the  
 21 reparametrized Par4 model, we developed candidate models and selected the best model (EWMV  
 22 model) using the leave-one-out information criterion (LOOIC) and the parameter recovery. The model  
 23 comparison results suggest that the EWMV model shows better prediction performance across all  
 24 populations than the other models and good parameter recovery. To examine whether the EWMV model

1 includes advantageous features of the four-parameter model, we calculated the correlations between  
2 corresponding parameter pairs for the Par4 and EWMV models. All of the corresponding parameter  
3 pairs had strong correlations, which implies that the EWMV model may include advantageous features  
4 of the four-parameter model. As a way of evaluating the utility of the EWMV model, we analyzed  
5 differences among substance-using populations in behavioral performance and model parameters of  
6 the Par4 and EWMV models. The group differences in behavioral performance and model parameters  
7 of the Par4 and EWMV models were consistent. The results of the group differences show that the  
8 EWMV model reveals group differences among the groups more clearly than the behavioral  
9 performance and the Par4 model, and provides a measure of an additional core psychological construct  
10 of risk-taking behavior. Overall, these results suggest that the EWMV model outperforms existing  
11 models for the original BART paradigm.

12 Adequate parameter recovery is a fundamental assumption and necessary for interpreting  
13 parameter values of a computational model, and it is noteworthy that we can improve parameter  
14 recovery by reparameterization alone. We believe that reparameterizing parameters associated with  
15 more than one role into parameters with unique roles might help the model recover accurate parameter  
16 values. Note that the information criteria such as AIC, BIC, and LOOIC for the reparameterized version  
17 and the original model are more or less the same. It suggests that the reparameterized version does not  
18 have additional explanatory power compared with the original model. The results demonstrate that  
19 parameter recovery and post hoc model fits measured with information criteria reflect different aspects  
20 of model comparisons, and we need to use both methods for comprehensive evaluation.

21 Besides the superior prediction performance and good parameter recovery performance, the  
22 EWMV model also has an advantage that it provides a more interpretable learning process: an agent  
23 estimates the present value as a weighted average of the initial and observed value and updates the  
24 weight and observed value as data accumulates. In addition, all parameters included in the EWMV  
25 model have distinct and interpretable roles. Also, the EWMV model might be applicable to a wide range  
26 of cognitive tasks other than the BART. The weight updating learning of the EWMV model is analogous  
27 to the Kalman filter, an algorithm to track unknown state variables with uncertainty (Welch & Bishop,  
28 1995). Because the weight updating learning model might be applicable to all situations that include  
29 initial states and sequential observations, it might be an alternative to other well-established models to  
30 quantify learning situations such as the Rescorla-Wagner model (Rescorla & Wagner, 1972).

1 Utilizing the mean-variance analysis (Markowitz, 1952) is another distinct feature of the EWMV  
2 model. Although a few previous studies have compared the mean-variance analysis and the prospect  
3 theory (Kahneman & Tversky, 2013), and have suggested that their performances are comparable  
4 (Boorman & Sallet, 2009; Hens & Mayer, 2014; Levy & Levy, 2004), only a few models (e.g., d'Acremont,  
5 Lu, Li, Van der Linden, & Bechara, 2009) directly have utilized the mean-variance analysis to calculate  
6 subjective utilities.

7 When we analyzed the group difference between substance-dependent populations by using  
8 behavioral performance and the model parameters of the Par4 and EWMV models, the results of the  
9 EWMV model were consistent with the results of the behavioral performance and the Par4 model in the  
10 sense that the group difference between heroin and amphetamine users were notable. This result may  
11 indicate that the EWMV model appropriately reflects the participants' risk-taking tendencies in their  
12 behaviors. It is also consistent with the results of previous studies showing that opiates (heroin) and  
13 stimulants (amphetamine) addictions are behaviorally and neurobiologically distinct (Badiani, Belin,  
14 Epstein, Calu, & Shaham, 2011), related to different dopamine modulation mechanisms (Kreek et al.,  
15 2012), and characterized by different personality and neurocognitive profiles (Ahn & Vassileva, 2016).

16 Providing a measure of loss aversion, which is a core psychological construct of risk-taking  
17 behavior, is also advantageous to the EWMV model. Previous studies analyzing risk-taking behavior  
18 have consistently shown that loss aversion plays a crucial role in risk-taking behavior, and many  
19 computational models of experimental paradigms to investigate risk-taking tendency include  
20 parameters of loss aversion (Ahn et al., 2008; Ahn et al., 2011; Sokol-Hessner et al., 2009; Worthy,  
21 Pang, & Byrne, 2013). This feature makes the EWMV model comparable with the other computational  
22 models that include loss aversion. While a previous study using the IGT found that past heroin users  
23 show reduced loss aversion compared to healthy controls (Ahn et al., 2014), we failed to replicate the  
24 finding in the BART and the winning model (EWMV model). We speculate that it could be due to various  
25 differences between the IGT and the BART but a future study is necessary to further investigate the  
26 issue.

27 In conclusion, we proposed a novel model for the BART, called the EWMV model, using the  
28 weight updating learning and the mean-variance analysis, which addresses the limitations of existing  
29 models. The EWMV model outperformed other models in model fits and parameter recovery  
30 performance. Also, its distinct merits come with a more interpretable learning process, more salient

1 group differences in model parameters between substance-dependent populations, and the existence  
2 of loss aversion parameter. We believe the core features of the model (e.g., the weight updating learning  
3 model and the mean-variance analysis) would be useful to disentangle neurocognitive processes  
4 underlying many cognitive tasks, not just the BART.

5  
6 **Declarations of interest: none**

## 7 **Acknowledgements**

8 We thank the Seoul Science High School (SSHS) students for assistance in data analysis.  
9 Also, we would like to thank all volunteers for their participation in this study. We express our gratitude  
10 to Georgi Vasilev, Kiril Bozgunov, Elena Psederska, Dimitar Nedelchev, Rada Naslednikova, Ivaylo  
11 Raynov, Emiliya Peneva, and Victoria Dobrojalieva for assistance with recruitment and testing of study  
12 participants. The research reported in this publication was supported in part by the National Institute on  
13 Drug Abuse and Fogarty International Center under award number R01DA021421 to J.V, and the Basic  
14 Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation (NRF) of Korea funded by the  
15 Ministry of Science, ICT, & Future Planning (NRF-2018R1C1B3007313 and NRF-2018R1A4A1025891)  
16 to W.-Y.A., the Institute for Information & Communications Technology Planning & Evaluation (IITP)  
17 grant funded by the Korea government (MSIT) (No. 2019-0-01367, BabyMind), and the Creative-  
18 Pioneering Researchers Program through Seoul National University (SNU) as well as Research  
19 Settlement Fund for the New Faculty of SNU to W.-Y.A.

## 21 **References**

- 22 Ahn, W. Y., Busemeyer, J. R., Wagenmakers, E. J., & Stout, J. C. (2008). Comparison of decision learning  
23 models using the generalization criterion method. *Cognitive science*, *32*(8), 1376-1402.
- 24 Ahn, W. Y., Dai, J., Vassileva, J., Busemeyer, J. R., & Stout, J. C. (2016). Computational modeling for  
25 addiction medicine: from cognitive models to clinical applications. In *Progress in brain*  
26 *research* (Vol. 224, pp. 53-65): Elsevier.
- 27 Ahn, W. Y., Haines, N., & Zhang, L. (2017). Revealing Neurocomputational Mechanisms of  
28 Reinforcement Learning and Decision-Making With the hBayesDM Package. *Comput*  
29 *Psychiatr*, *1*, 24-57. doi:10.1162/CPSY\_a\_00002
- 30 Ahn, W. Y., Krawitz, A., Kim, W., Busemeyer, J. R., & Brown, J. W. (2011). A model-based fMRI analysis  
31 with hierarchical Bayesian parameter estimation. *Journal of Neuroscience, Psychology, and*

1           *Economics*, 4(2), 95-110. doi:10.1037/a0020684

2     Ahn, W. Y., Vasilev, G., Lee, S.-H., Busemeyer, J. R., Kruschke, J. K., Bechara, A., & Vassileva, J. (2014).  
3           Decision-making in stimulant and opiate addicts in protracted abstinence: evidence from  
4           computational modeling with pure users. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5, 849.

5     Ahn, W. Y., & Vassileva, J. (2016). Machine-learning identifies substance-specific behavioral markers  
6           for opiate and stimulant dependence. *Drug alcohol dependence*, 161, 247-257.

7     Akaike, H. (1998). Information theory and an extension of the maximum likelihood principle. In  
8           *Selected papers of hirotugu akaike* (pp. 199-213): Springer.

9     Aklin, W. M., Lejuez, C., Zvolensky, M. J., Kahler, C. W., & Gwadz, M. (2005). Evaluation of behavioral  
10           measures of risk taking propensity with inner city adolescents. *Behaviour research therapy*,  
11           43(2), 215-228.

12    Badiani, A., Belin, D., Epstein, D., Calu, D., & Shaham, Y. (2011). Opiate versus psychostimulant  
13           addiction: the differences do matter. *Nature reviews neuroscience*, 12(11), 685.

14    Berger, J. O. (2013). *Statistical decision theory and Bayesian analysis*. Springer Science & Business  
15           Media.

16    Boorman, E. D., & Sallet, J. (2009). Mean–variance or prospect theory? The nature of value  
17           representations in the human brain. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 29(25), 7945-7947.

18    Busemeyer, J. R., & Stout, J. C. (2002). A contribution of cognitive decision models to clinical  
19           assessment: decomposing performance on the Bechara gambling task. *Psychological*  
20           *assessment*, 14(3), 253.

21    Carpenter, B., Gelman, A., Hoffman, M. D., Lee, D., Goodrich, B., Betancourt, M., . . . Riddell, A. (2017).  
22           Stan: A probabilistic programming language. *Journal of statistical software*, 76(1).

23    d'Acremont, M., Lu, Z.-L., Li, X., Van der Linden, M., & Bechara, A. (2009). Neural correlates of risk  
24           prediction error during reinforcement learning in humans. *Neuroimage*, 47(4), 1929-1939.

25    Daw, N. D., Gershman, S. J., Seymour, B., Dayan, P., & Dolan, R. J. (2011). Model-based influences on  
26           humans' choices and striatal prediction errors. *Neuron*, 69(6), 1204-1215.

27    Gelman, A., Carlin, J. B., Stern, H. S., & Rubin, D. B. (2004). Bayesian data analysis, 2nd edn. Texts in  
28           Statistical Science. In: Boca Raton, London, NewYork, Washington DC: Chapman & Hall, CRC.

29    Gelman, A., & Rubin, D. B. (1992). Inference from iterative simulation using multiple sequences.  
30           *Statistical science*, 7(4), 457-472.

31    Haines, N., Vassileva, J., & Ahn, W. Y. (2018). The Outcome-Representation Learning Model: A Novel  
32           Reinforcement Learning Model of the Iowa Gambling Task. *Cognitive science*, 42(8), 2534-  
33           2561.

34    Heathcote, A., Brown, S. D., & Wagenmakers, E.-J. (2015). An introduction to good practices in  
35           cognitive modeling. In *An introduction to model-based cognitive neuroscience* (pp. 25-48):  
36           Springer.

37    Hens, T., & Mayer, J. (2014). Cumulative prospect theory and mean variance analysis: a rigorous  
38           comparison. *Swiss Finance Institute Research Paper*(14-23).

39    Kahneman, D., & Tversky, A. (2013). Prospect theory: An analysis of decision under risk. In *Handbook*



- 1           *of the fundamentals of financial decision making: Part I* (pp. 99-127): World Scientific.
- 2 Kreek, M. J., Levran, O., Reed, B., Schlussman, S. D., Zhou, Y., & Butelman, E. R. (2012). Opiate  
3 addiction and cocaine addiction: underlying molecular neurobiology and genetics. *The*  
4 *Journal of clinical investigation*, *122*(10), 3387-3393.
- 5 Kruschke, J. K. (2013). Bayesian estimation supersedes the t test. *Journal of Experimental Psychology:*  
6 *General*, *142*(2), 573.
- 7 Lee, M. D. (2011). How cognitive modeling can benefit from hierarchical Bayesian models. *Journal*  
8 *of Mathematical Psychology*, *55*(1), 1-7.
- 9 Lejuez, C. W., Read, J. P., Kahler, C. W., Richards, J. B., Ramsey, S. E., Stuart, G. L., . . . Brown, R. A.  
10 (2002). Evaluation of a behavioral measure of risk taking: The Balloon Analogue Risk Task  
11 (BART). *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, *8*(2), 75-84. doi:10.1037/1076-  
12 898x.8.2.75
- 13 Lejuez, C. W., Simmons, B. L., Aklin, W. M., Daughters, S. B., & Dvir, S. (2004). Risk-taking propensity  
14 and risky sexual behavior of individuals in residential substance use treatment. *Addictive*  
15 *behaviors*, *29*(8), 1643-1647.
- 16 Levy, H., & Levy, M. (2004). Prospect theory and mean-variance analysis. *Review of Financial Studies*,  
17 *17*(4), 1015-1041.
- 18 Link, W. A., & Eaton, M. J. (2012). On thinning of chains in MCMC. *Methods in ecology and evolution*,  
19 *3*(1), 112-115.
- 20 Markowitz, H. (1952). Portfolio Selection. *The Journal of Finance*, *7*(1), 77-91. doi:10.2307/2975974
- 21 Meredith, M., & Kruschke, J. K. (2018). Bayesian Estimation Supersedes the t-Test.
- 22 Pleskac, T. J. (2008). Decision making and learning while taking sequential risks. *Journal of*  
23 *Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, *34*(1), 167.
- 24 Ratcliff, R. (1978). A theory of memory retrieval. *Psychological review*, *85*(2), 59.
- 25 Rescorla, R. A., & Wagner, A. R. (1972). A theory of Pavlovian conditioning: Variations in the  
26 effectiveness of reinforcement and nonreinforcement. *Classical conditioning II: Current*  
27 *research theory*, *2*, 64-99.
- 28 Schwarz, G. (1978). Estimating the dimension of a model. *The annals of statistics*, *6*(2), 461-464.
- 29 Sokol-Hessner, P., Hsu, M., Curley, N. G., Delgado, M. R., Camerer, C. F., & Phelps, E. A. (2009).  
30 Thinking like a trader selectively reduces individuals' loss aversion. *Proceedings of the*  
31 *National Academy of Sciences*, *106*(13), 5035-5040.
- 32 van Ravenzwaaij, D., Dutilh, G., & Wagenmakers, E.-J. (2011). Cognitive model decomposition of the  
33 BART: Assessment and application. *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*, *55*(1), 94-105.  
34 doi:10.1016/j.jmp.2010.08.010
- 35 van Ravenzwaaij, D., & Oberauer, K. (2009). How to use the diffusion model: Parameter recovery of  
36 three methods: EZ, fast-dm, and DMAT. *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*, *53*(6), 463-473.
- 37 Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., & Gabry, J. (2017). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out  
38 cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics Computing*, *27*(5), 1413-1432.
- 39 Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., Simpson, D., Carpenter, B., & Bürkner, P.-C. (2019). Rank-normalization, folding,

- 1 and localization: An improved  $\hat{R}$  for assessing convergence of MCMC. *arXiv*  
2 *preprint arXiv:1903.08008*.
- 3 Wagenmakers, E.-J., & Farrell, S. (2004). AIC model selection using Akaike weights. *Psychonomic*  
4 *bulletin & review*, 11(1), 192-196.
- 5 Wagenmakers, E.-J., Van Der Maas, H. L., & Grasman, R. P. (2007). An EZ-diffusion model for response  
6 time and accuracy. *Psychonomic bulletin review*, 14(1), 3-22.
- 7 Wallsten, T. S., Pleskac, T. J., & Lejuez, C. W. (2005). Modeling behavior in a clinically diagnostic  
8 sequential risk-taking task. *Psychol Rev*, 112(4), 862-880. doi:10.1037/0033-295X.112.4.862
- 9 Welch, G., & Bishop, G. (1995). An introduction to the Kalman filter. In: Citeseer.
- 10 Worthy, D. A., & Maddox, W. T. (2014). A comparison model of reinforcement-learning and win-stay-  
11 lose-shift decision-making processes: A tribute to WK Estes. *Journal of Mathematical*  
12 *Psychology*, 59, 41-49.
- 13 Worthy, D. A., Pang, B., & Byrne, K. A. (2013). Decomposing the roles of perseveration and expected  
14 value representation in models of the Iowa gambling task. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 4, 640.  
15