

# **Amblyopia Research Update**

**June 1, 2023**

**Brian Blais**

# Normal Vision Model

## Normalization as a canonical neural computation

Matteo Carandini<sup>1</sup> and David J. Heeger<sup>2</sup>

NATURE REVIEWS | NEUROSCIENCE

VOLUME 13 | JANUARY 2012 | 51

*J Comp Neurol.* 2010 June 1; 518(11): 2051–2070. doi:10.1002/cne.22321.

### FIXATION INSTABILITY IN AMBLYOPIA

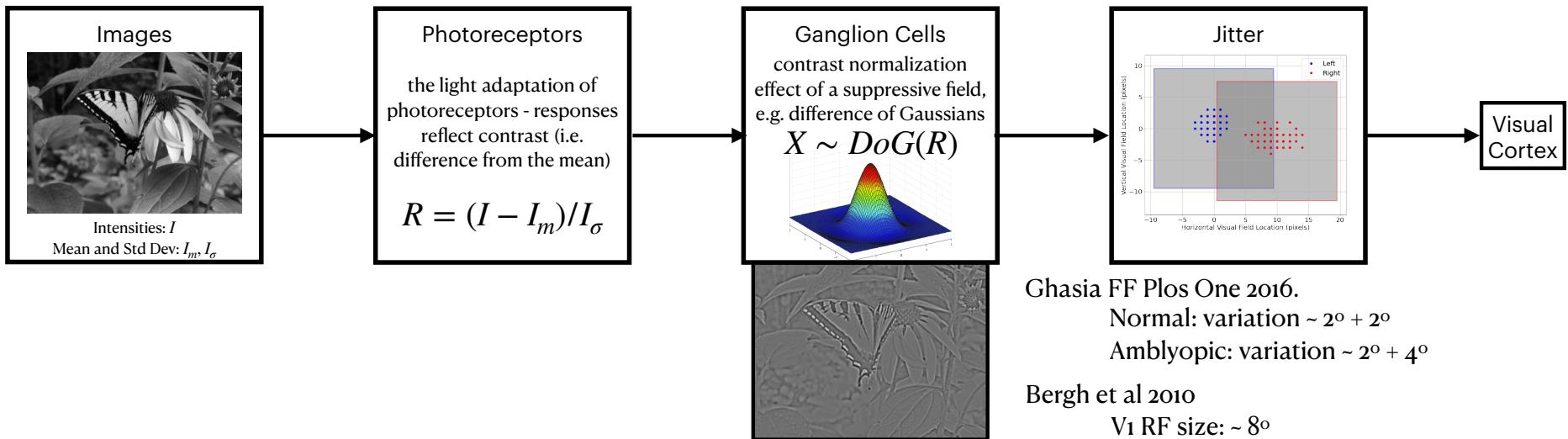
» Fixation instability has been reported in amblyopic patients\*  
» Amblyopia is a neurodevelopmental disorder secondary to abnormal visual experience during early childhood and can arise due to anisometropia, strabismus, deprivation or mixed mechanisms



Gonzalez EG, Wong AM 2012; Subramanian V, Jost R, Birch E 2013; Ghasia FF *Plos One* 2016;  
Kang S, Ghasia FF; JEMR 2019; Scaramuzzi M, Ghasia FF,  
PIBR 2018; Scaramuzzi M, Ghasia FF *Plos One* 2020; Scaramuzzi M, Ghasia FF *Scientific Rep* 2021

### Receptive-field Properties of V1 and V2 Neurons in Mice and Macaque monkeys

Gert Van den Bergh<sup>1,2</sup>, Bin Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Lutgarde Arckens<sup>2</sup>, and Yuzo M. Chino<sup>1</sup>



Ghasia FF *Plos One* 2016.

Normal: variation  $\sim 2^\circ + 2^\circ$

Amblyopic: variation  $\sim 2^\circ + 4^\circ$

Bergh et al 2010

V1 RF size:  $\sim 8^\circ$

bblais

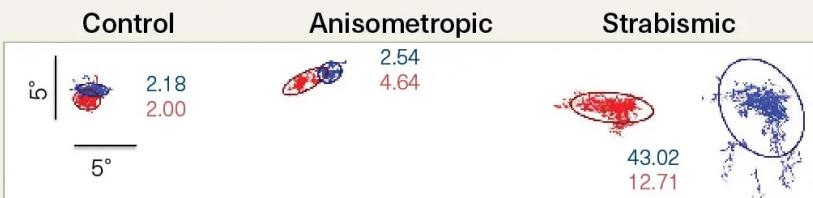
V1 RF size: 19px

Jitter:  $\mu = 7.5, \sigma = 2$

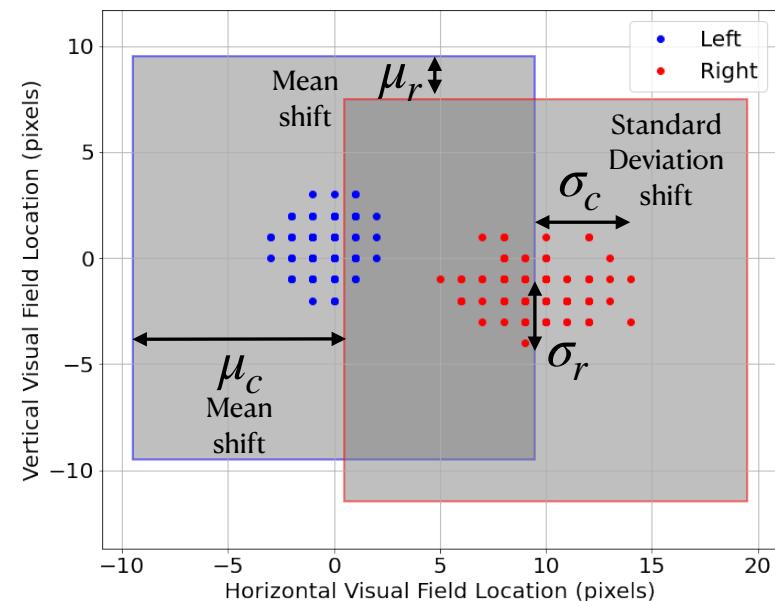
# Strabismic Shift and Jitter

## FIXATION INSTABILITY IN AMBLYOPIA

- » Fixation instability has been reported in amblyopic patients\*
- » Amblyopia is a neurodevelopmental disorder secondary to abnormal visual experience during early childhood and can arise due to anisometropia, strabismus, deprivation or mixed mechanisms

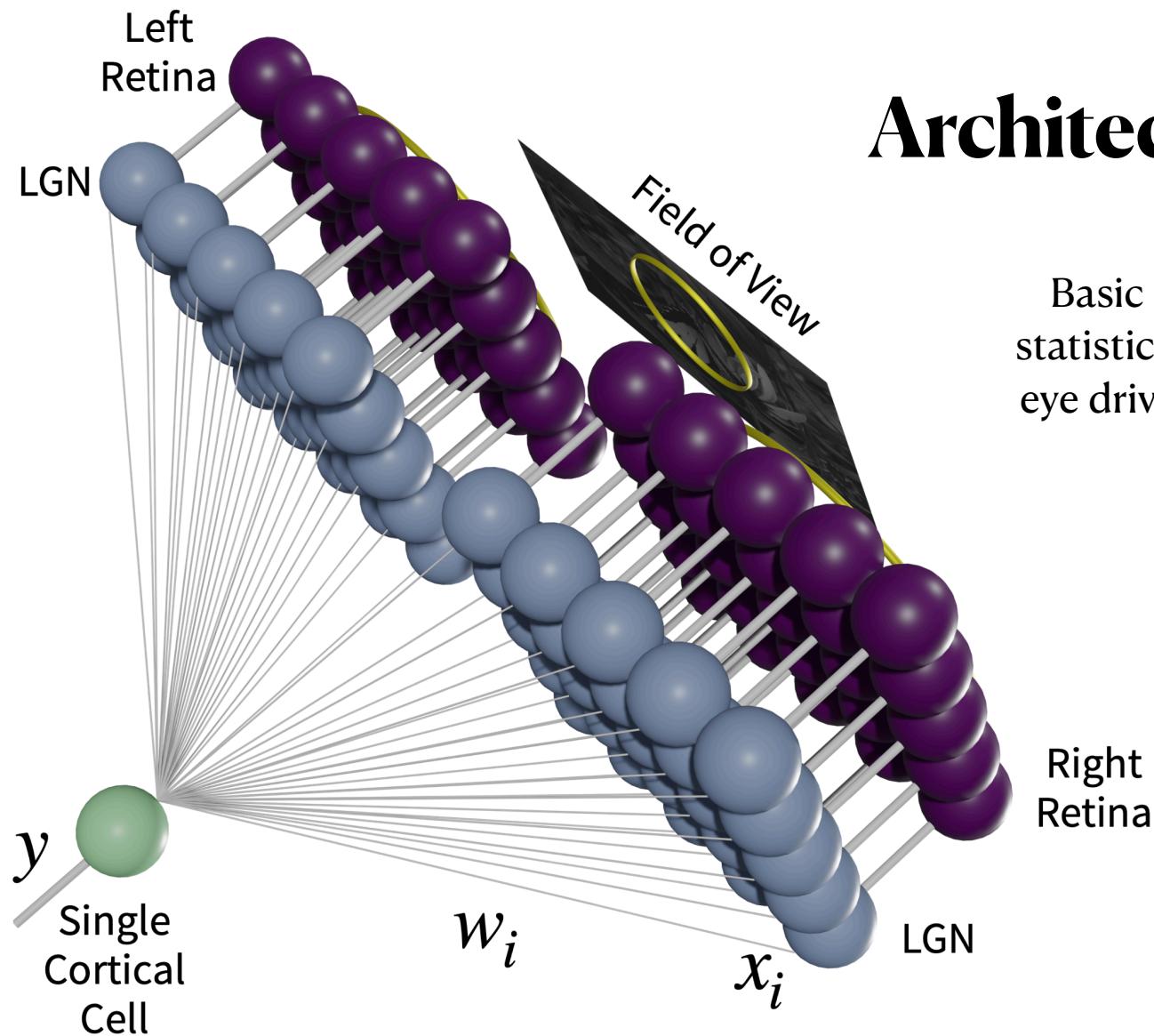


Gonzalez EG, Wong AM 2012; Subramanian V, Jost R, Birch E 2013; Ghasia FF Plos One 2016.  
Kang S, Ghasia FF: JEMR 2019, Scaramuzzi M, Ghasia FF,  
PIBR 2018, Scaramuzzi M, Ghasia FF Plos One 2020, Scaramuzzi M, Ghasia FF Scientific Rep 2021



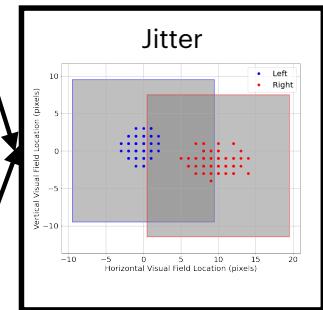
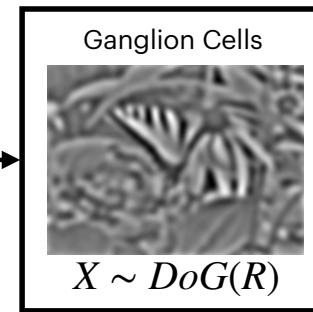
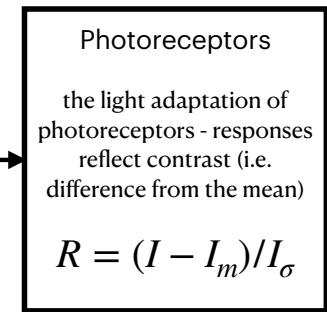
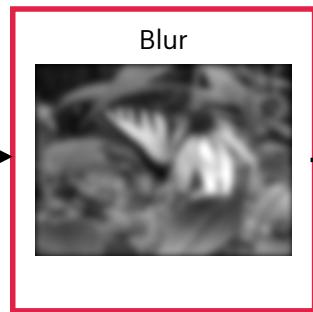
# Architecture

Basic idea: Differences in the statistics of the inputs from each eye drive the dynamics of deficit and recovery



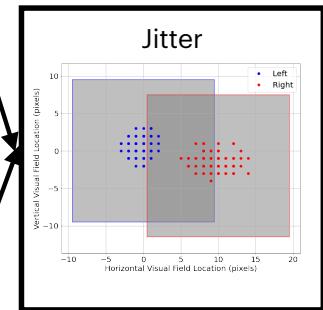
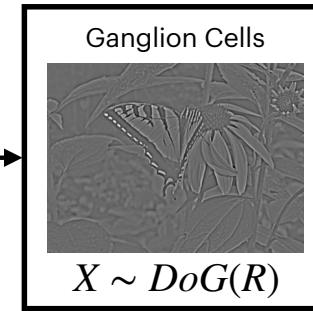
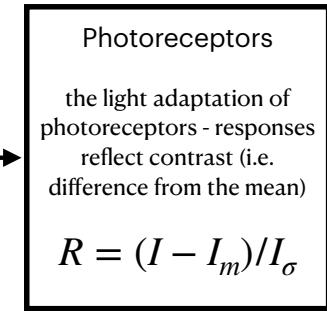
# Vision Deficit Model

Amblyopic Eye



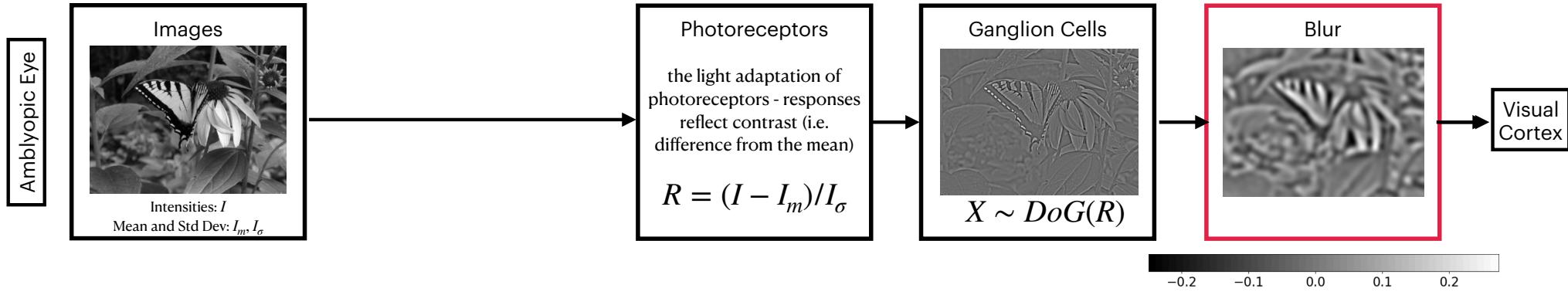
Visual Cortex

Fellow Eye

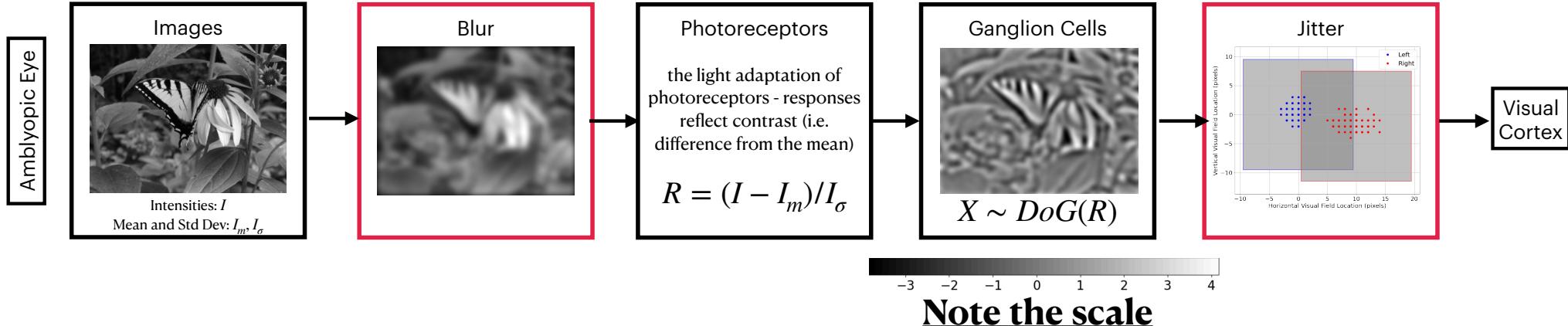


Visual Cortex

# Old Deficit Model

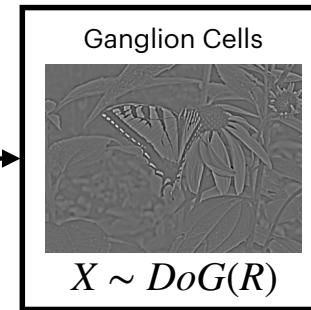
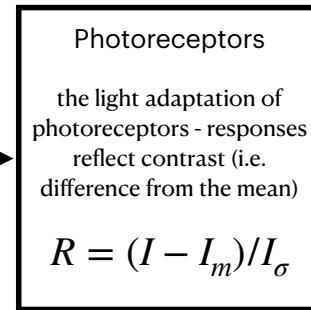
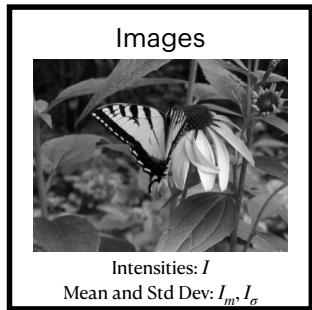


# New Deficit Model

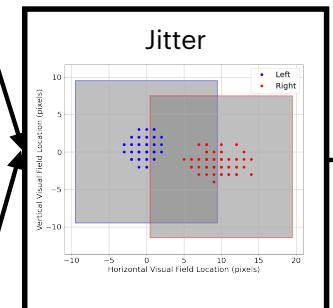


# Optical Fix Model

Amblyopic Eye

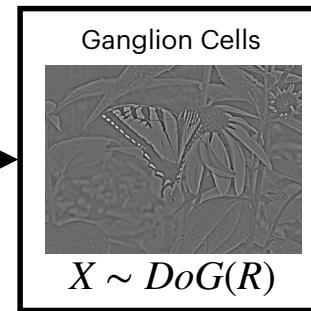
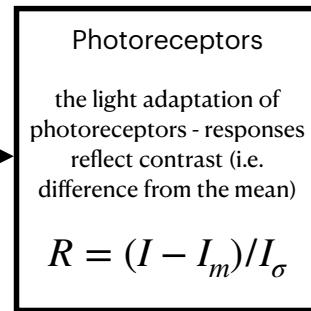
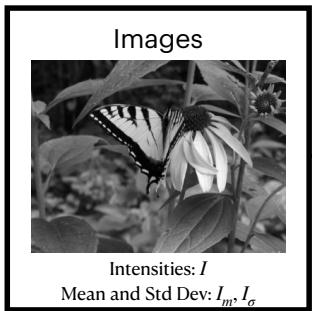


$$X \sim DoG(R)$$



Visual Cortex

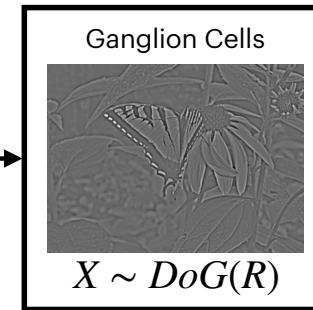
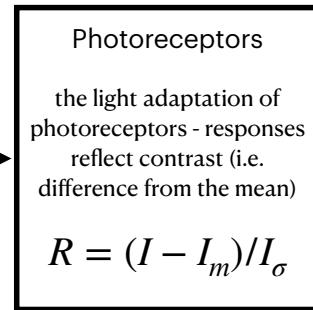
Fellow Eye



$$X \sim DoG(R)$$

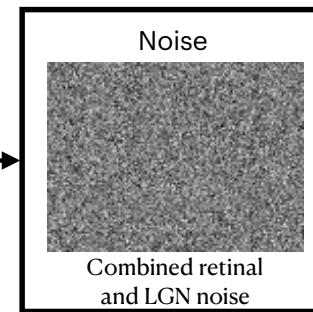
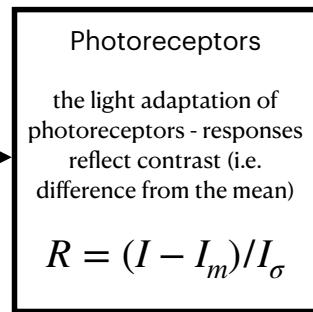
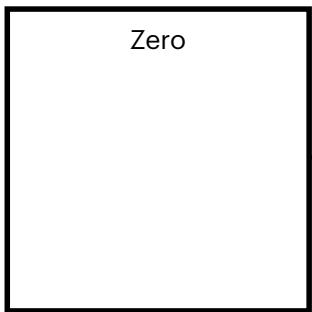
# Patch Model

Amblyopic Eye



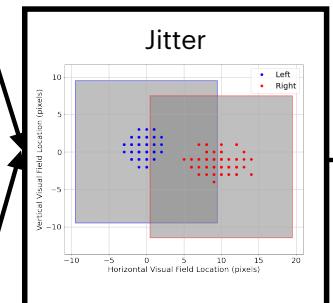
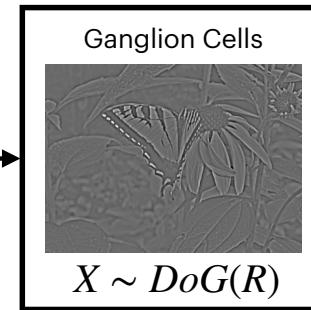
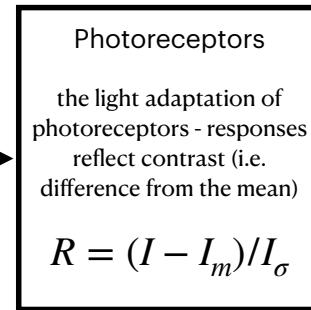
(No jitter because one channel has no image input) → Visual Cortex

Fellow Eye



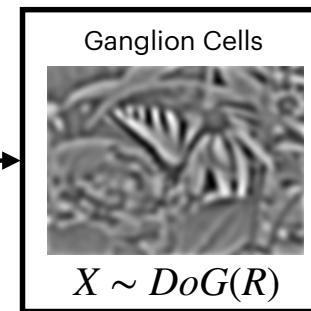
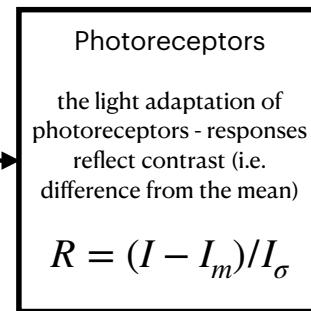
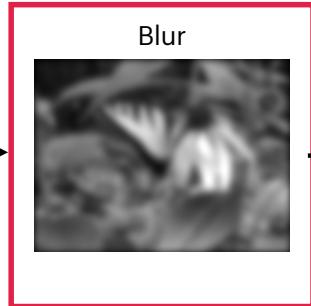
# Atropine Model

Amblyopic Eye



Visual Cortex

Fellow Eye



# Contrast/Mask Model

Amblyopic Eye

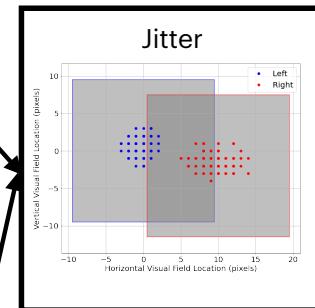
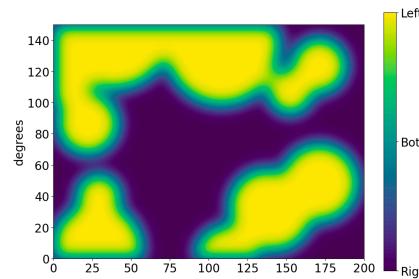


Photoreceptors  
the light adaptation of photoreceptors - responses reflect contrast (i.e. difference from the mean)

$$R = (I - I_m)/I_\sigma$$

Ganglion Cells

$X \sim DoG(R)$



Visual Cortex

Fellow Eye



Contrast

Photoreceptors  
the light adaptation of photoreceptors - responses reflect contrast (i.e. difference from the mean)

$$R = (I - I_m)/I_\sigma$$

Ganglion Cells

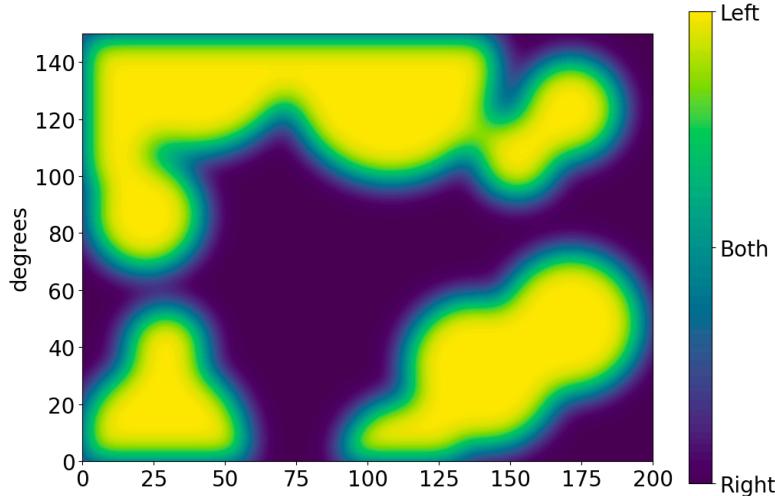
$X \sim DoG(R)$

# Images

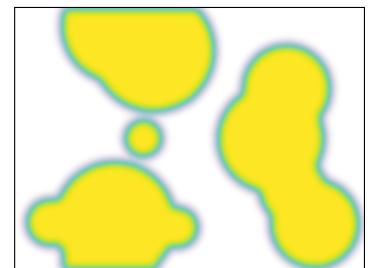
118 images 600 x 800 pixels



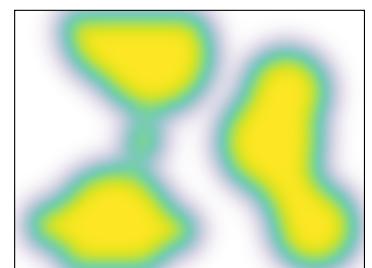
# Masks



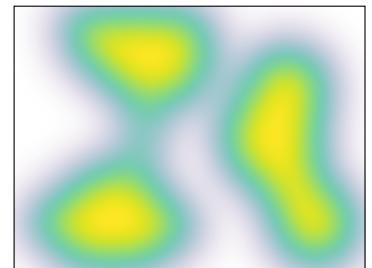
$f=10$



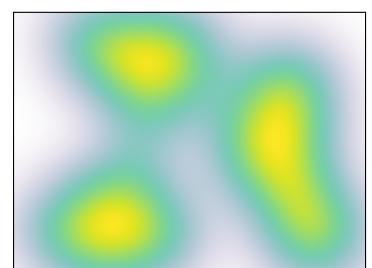
$f=30$



$f=50$



$f=70$

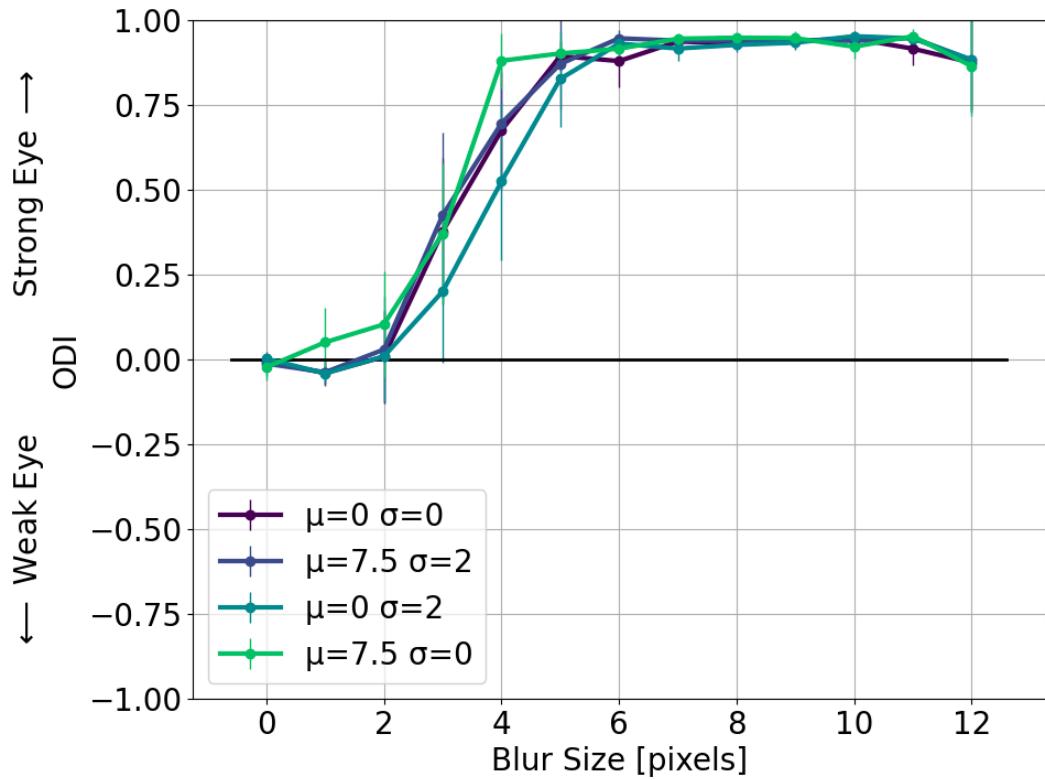
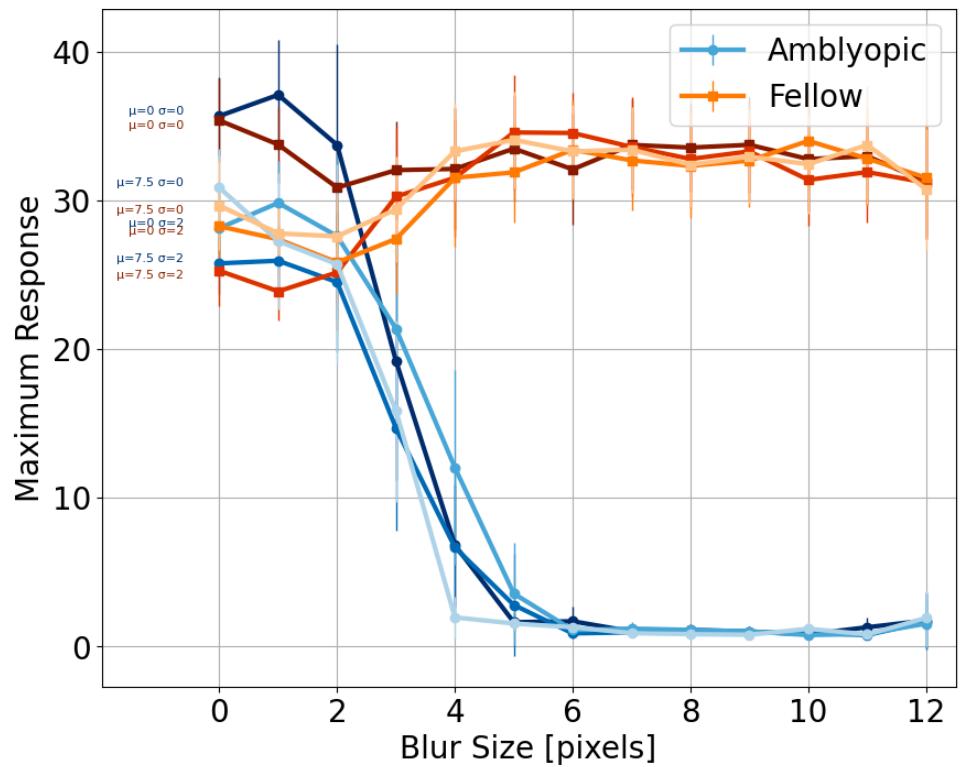


# Results to Follow

• Comments and results will be formatted like this

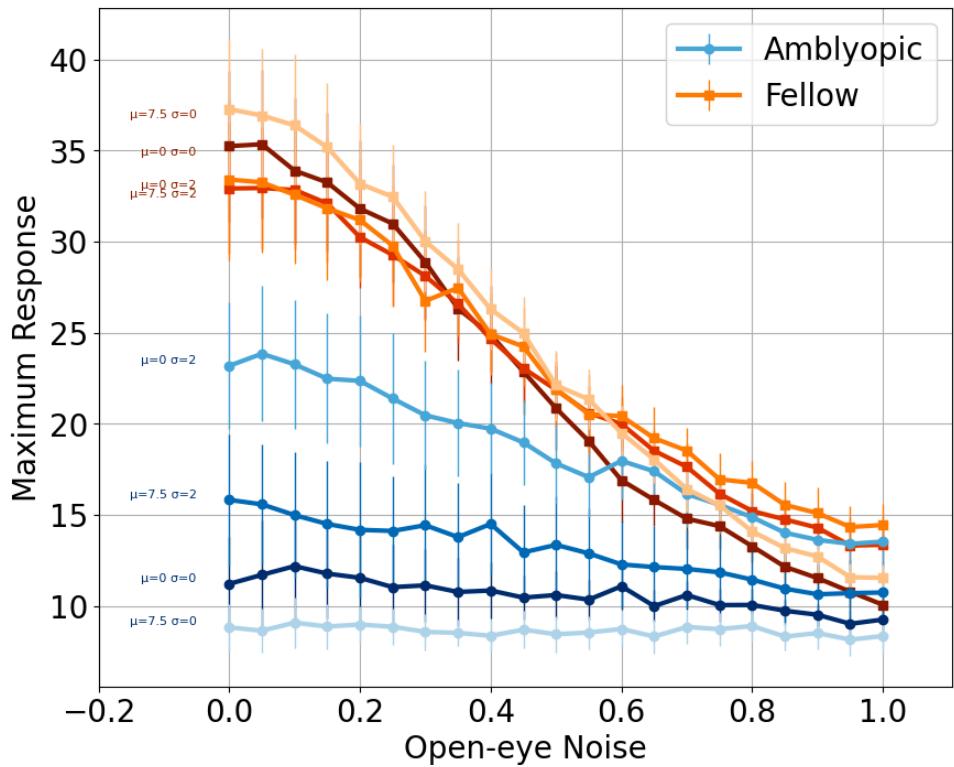
Open questions/things to explore will be formatted like this

# Deficit

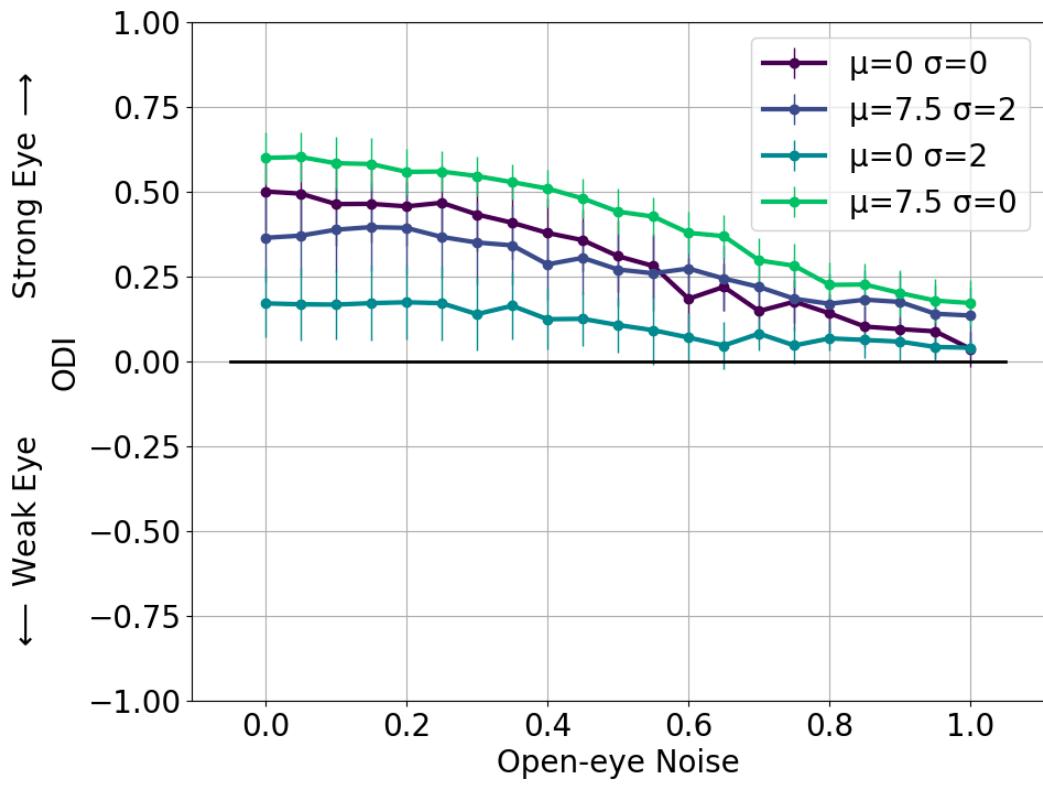


- Jitter does very little other than make the variation higher
- Choosing blur=4 for the subsequent simulations

# Optical Fix



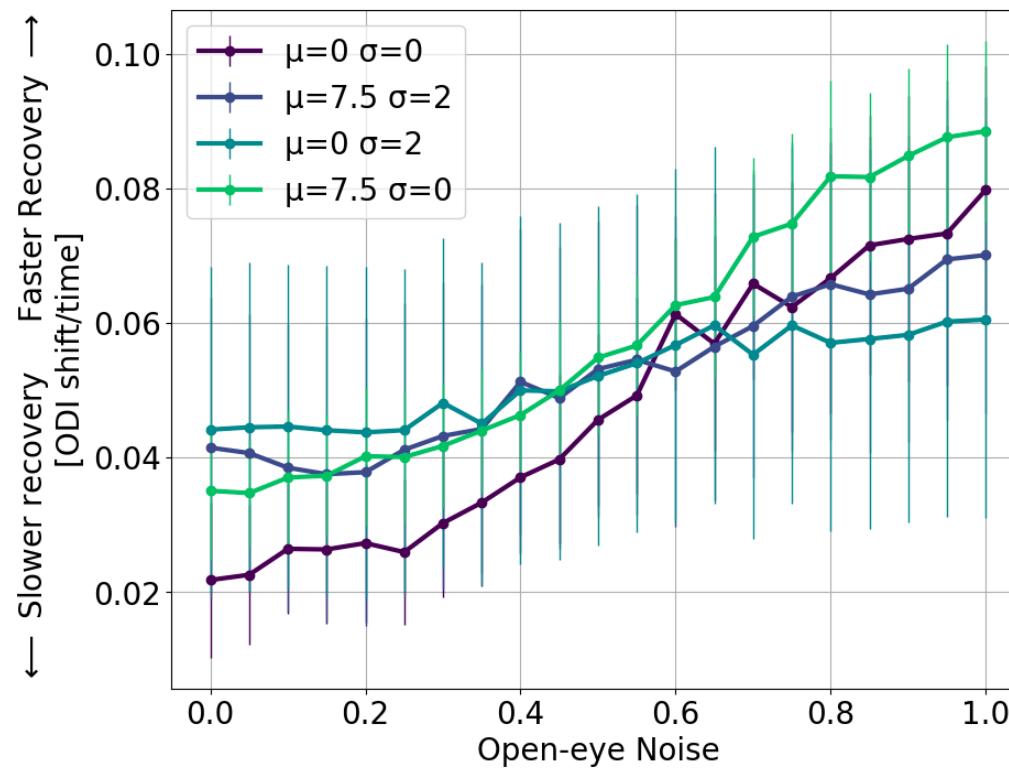
□ Not sure how to interpret the effect on the optical fix from the jitter+noise



- Larger noise increases rate of recovery
- Choose open-eye noise = 0.1 for all simulations (other than these)

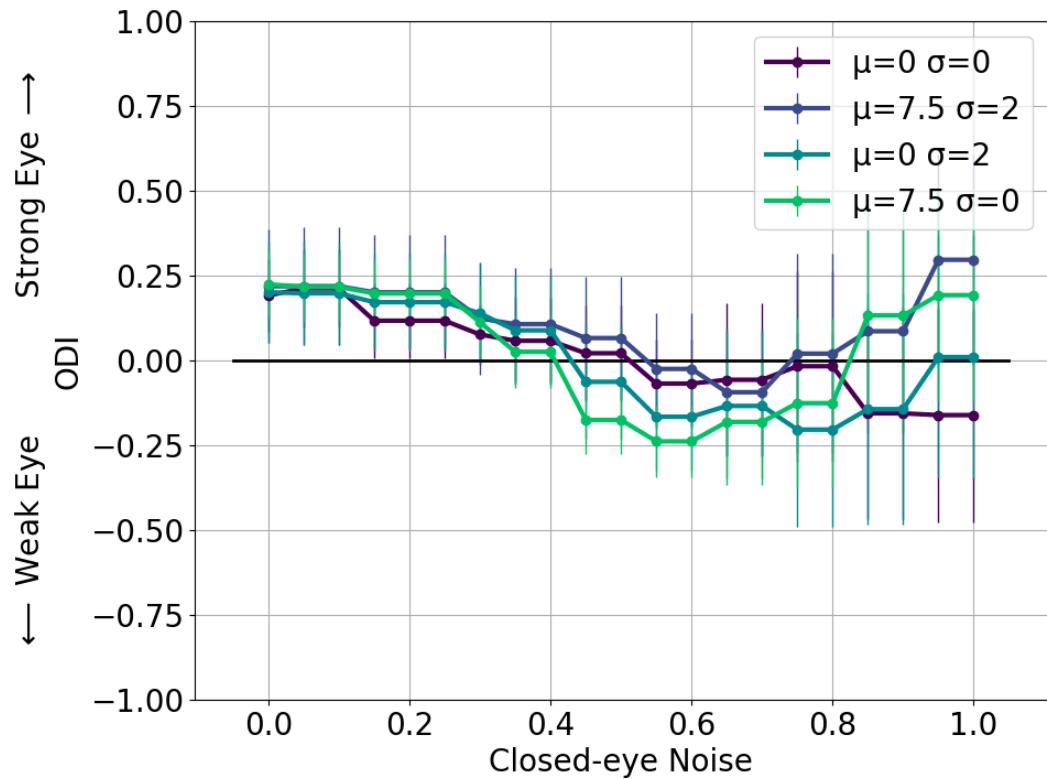
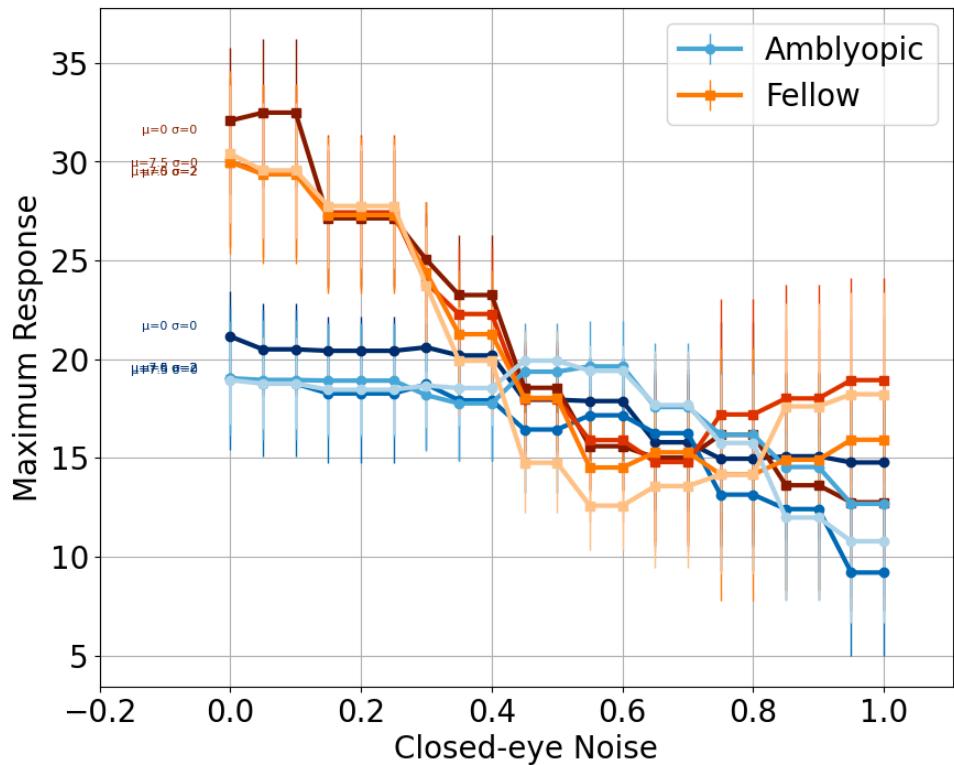
# Optical Fix

## Rate of recovery



- Larger noise increases rate of recovery
- Choose open-eye noise = 0.1 for all simulations (other than these)

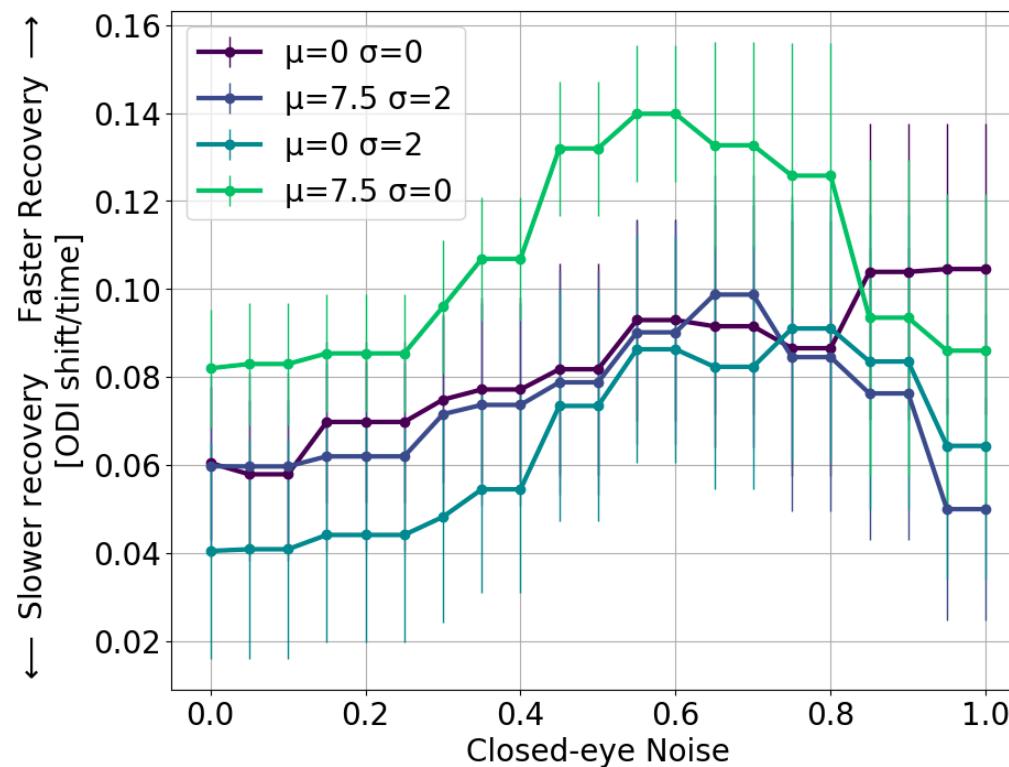
# Patch Treatment



- Jitter does very little other than make the variation higher
- Larger noise yields much larger variation

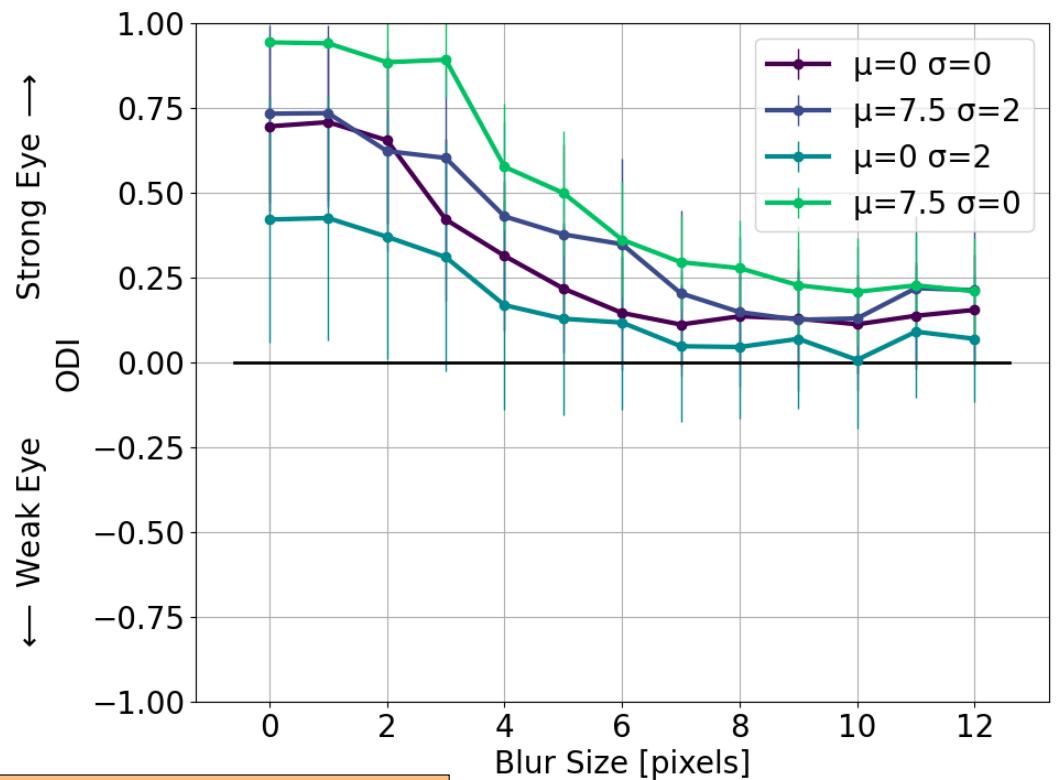
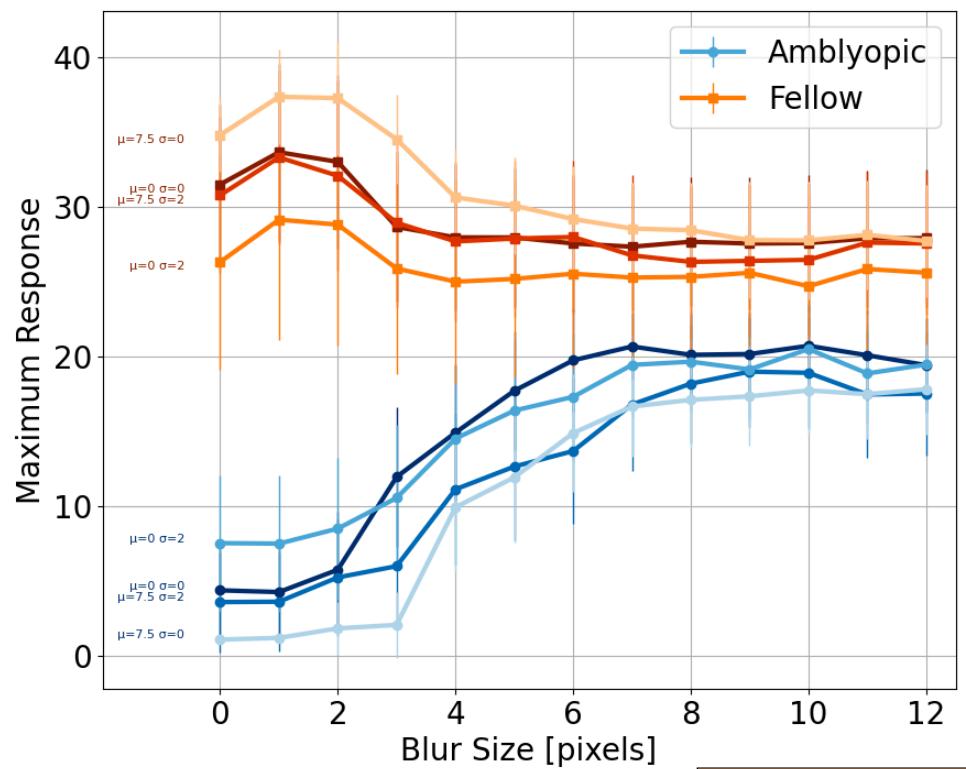
# Patch Treatment

Rate of recovery



□ Not sure why the rate reduces for large noise — even though the change may not be statistically significant

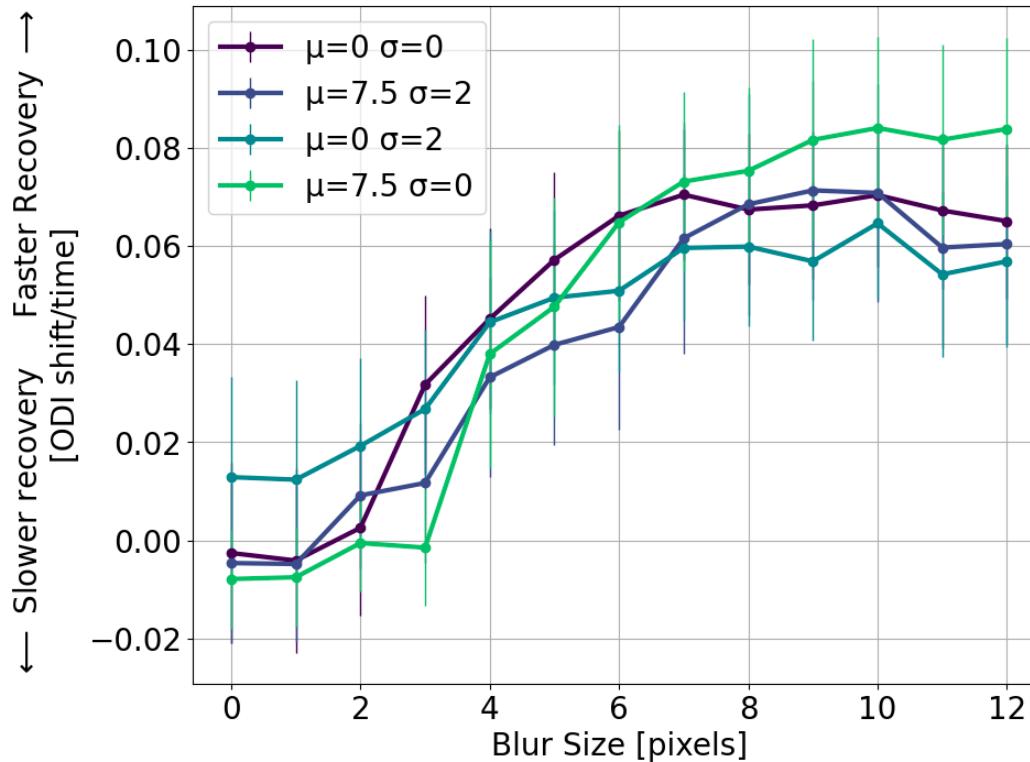
# Atropine Treatment



• Jitter does very little other than make the variation higher

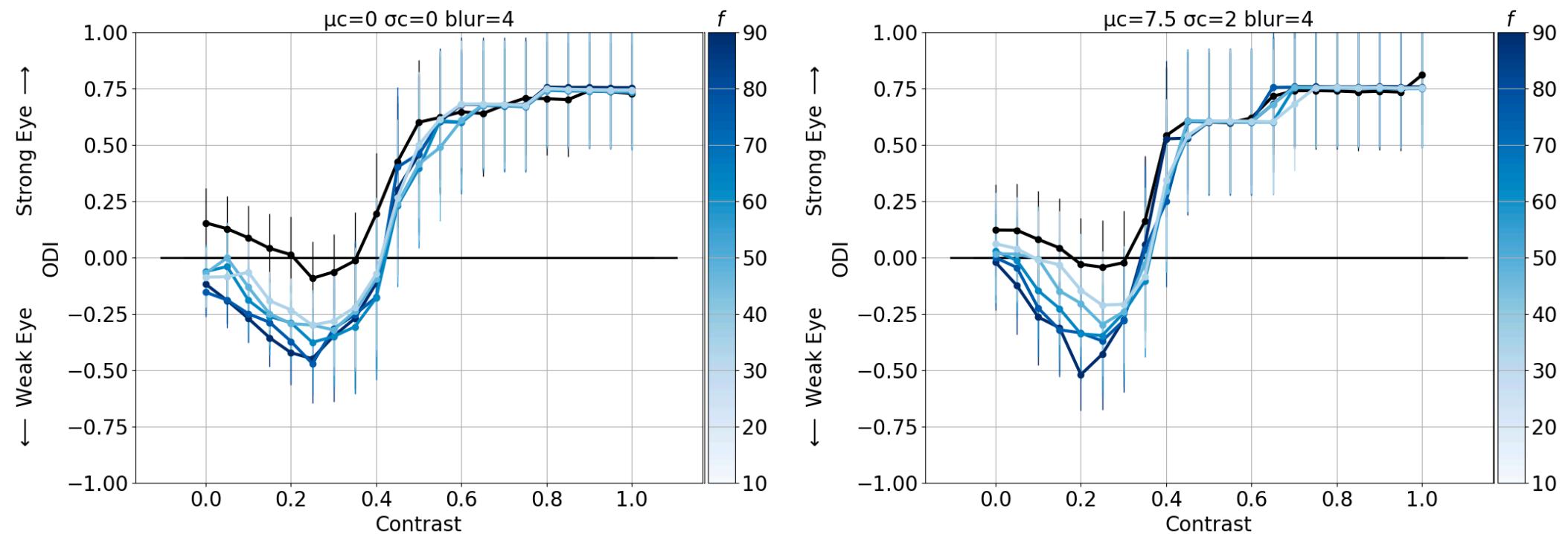
# Atropine Treatment

Rate of recovery



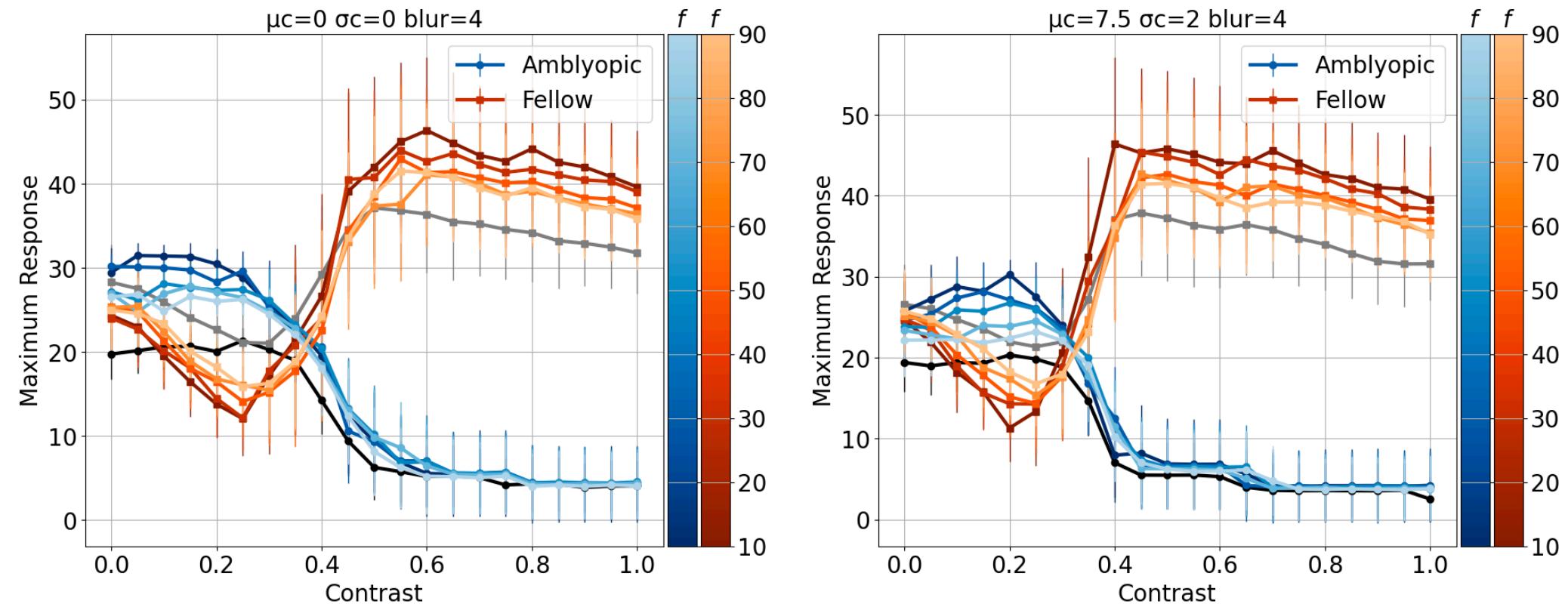
- Recovery rate saturates for high blur value

# Contrast + Mask



- Jitter does very little other than make the variation higher
- If the strong-eye contrast is too low (less than around 0.4) → reverse amblyopia
- The mask fuzziness increases this effect → the sharper the mask the faster the effect

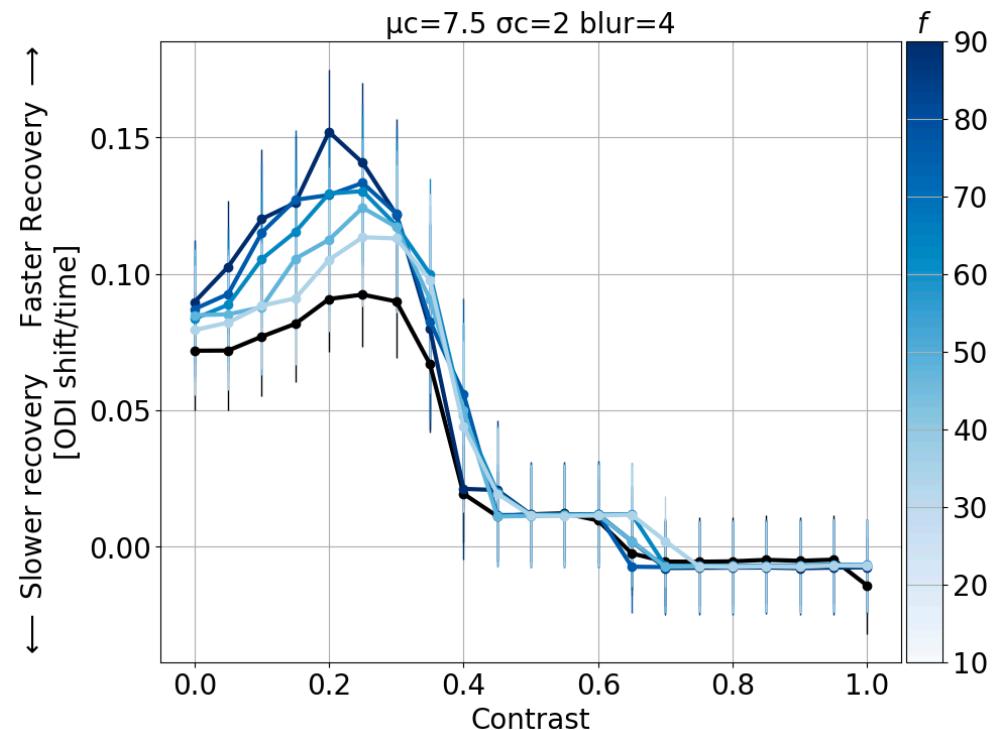
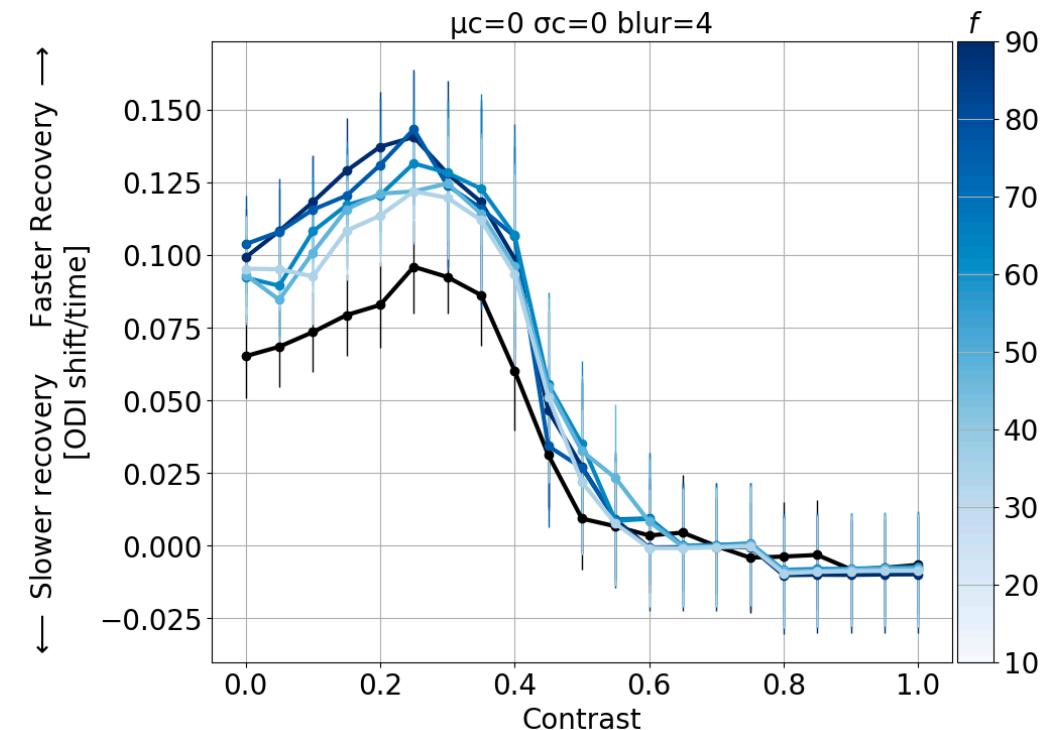
# Contrast + Mask



- Jitter does very little other than make the variation higher
- Suggests that one could reduce the speed of the recovery by making the masks fuzzier (i.e. more overlap)

# Contrast + Mask

Rate of recovery



# Rate of Recovery Summary

