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# Influence of input structure and task similarity on continual learning

Dimitra Maoutsas

Dimitra Maoutsas - MCN summer course

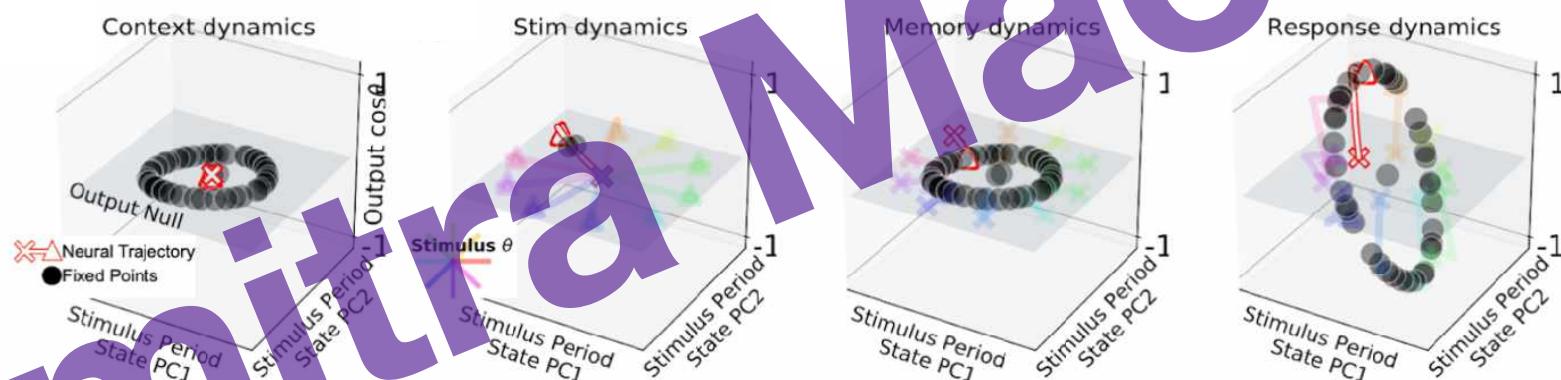
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# How sequential task training affects the RNN dynamical landscape?

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# RNNs as tools to understand computations

## Dynamics as computations

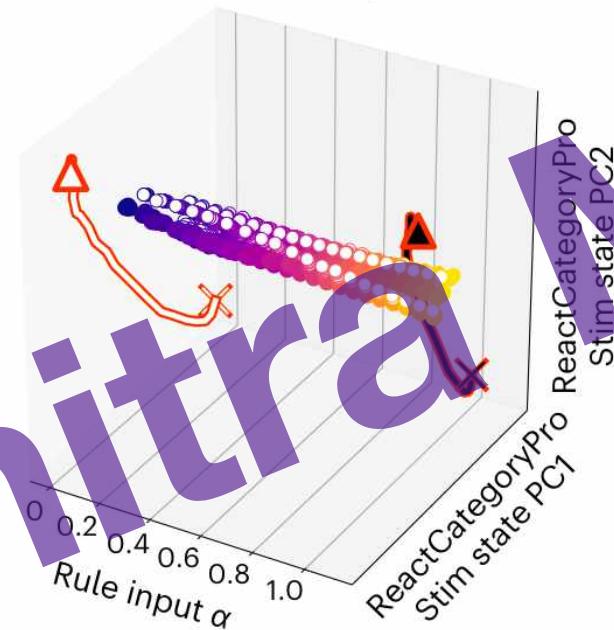


Driscoll et al. 2022

**Individual brain regions are able to support computations required for multiple tasks**

How?

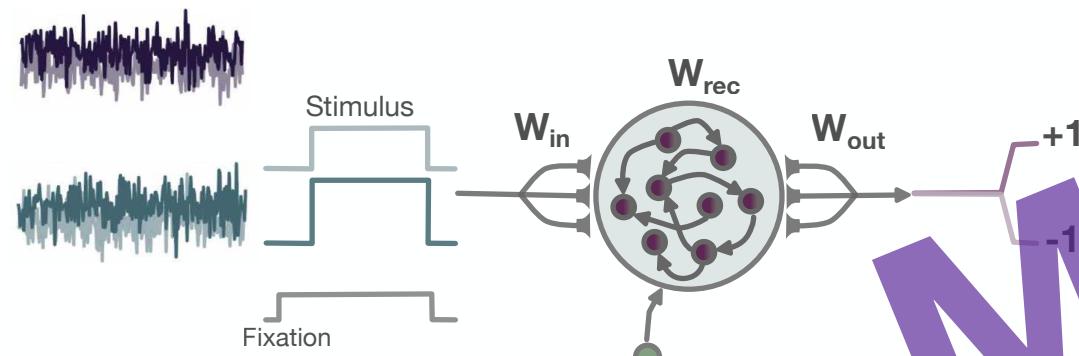
ReactCategoryPro vs. ReactCategoryAnti  
Stim bifurcation diagram



networks trained on  
multiple tasks  
**simultaneously** tend to  
share same dynamical  
motifs if required  
computations are similar

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# Classical single-task RNN structure



Vanilla RNN

$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}_t}{dt} = -\mathbf{r}_t + \phi(W_{rec}\mathbf{r}_t + W_{in}\mathbf{I}_t^{in})$$
$$\mathbf{o}_t = W_{out} \cdot \mathbf{r}_t + \mathbf{b}$$

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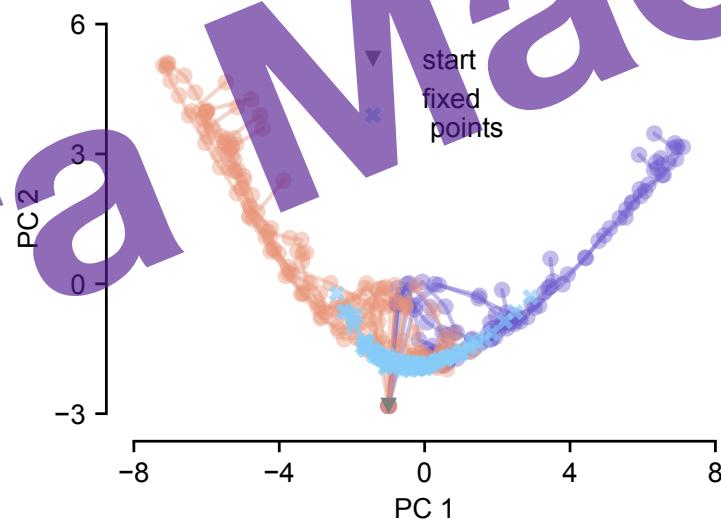
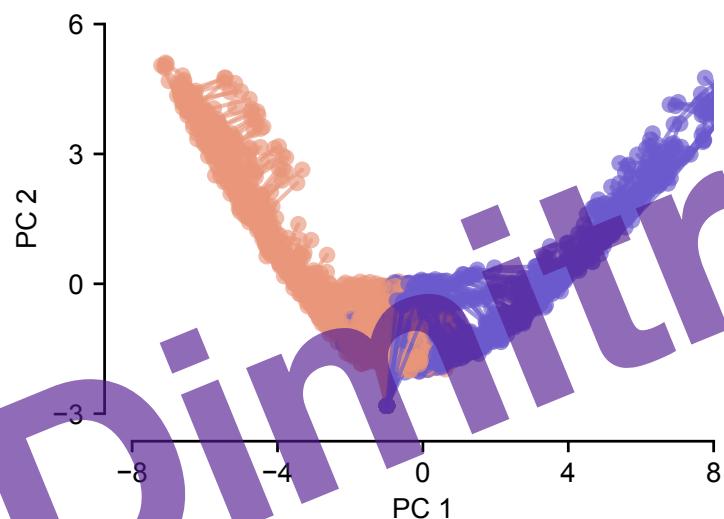
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RNNs trained on single tasks

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# Perceptual decision making task

Single-task trained RNN



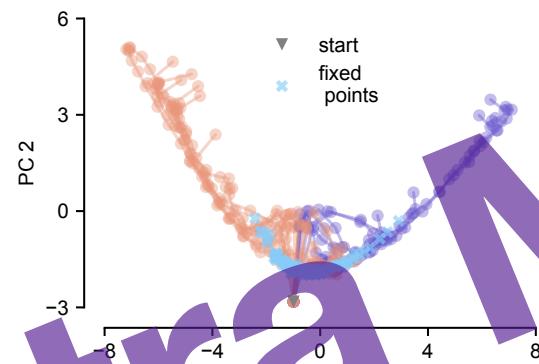
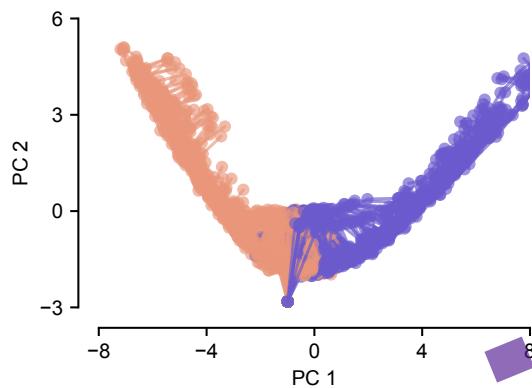
Define energy function

$$q(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x})\|^2$$

$q$  is zero only at fixed points

# Perceptual decision making task

Single-task trained RNN



Define energy function

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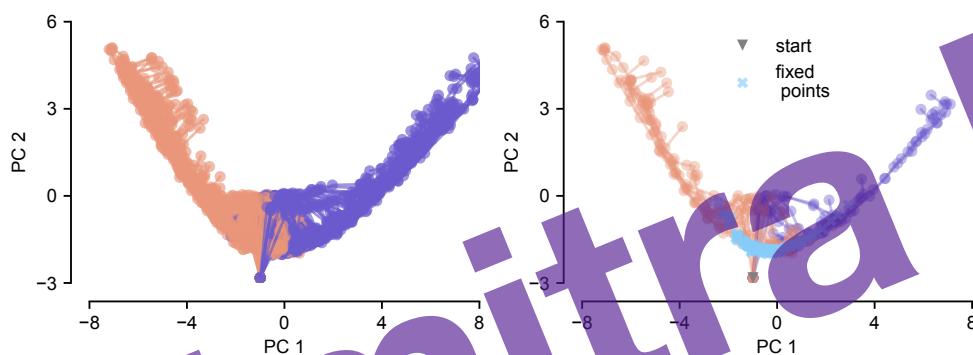
$q$  is zero only at fixed points

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial x_i} = \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\partial F_k}{\partial x_i} \dot{x}_k = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 q}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} = \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\partial F_k}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial F_k}{\partial x_j} + \sum_{k=1}^N \dot{x}_k \frac{\partial^2 F_k}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} > 0$$

# Perceptual decision making task

Single-task trained RNN



Define energy function

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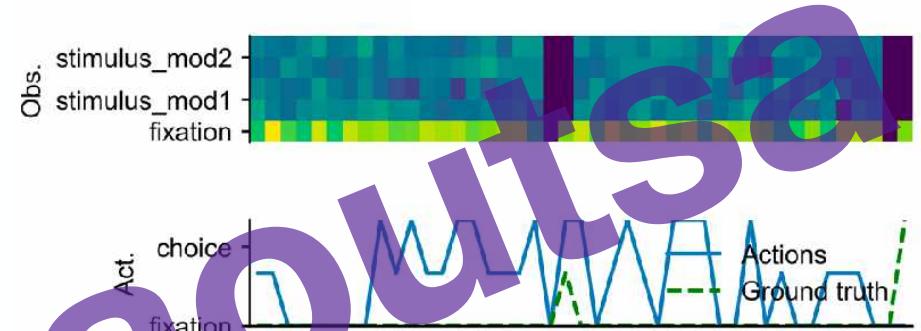
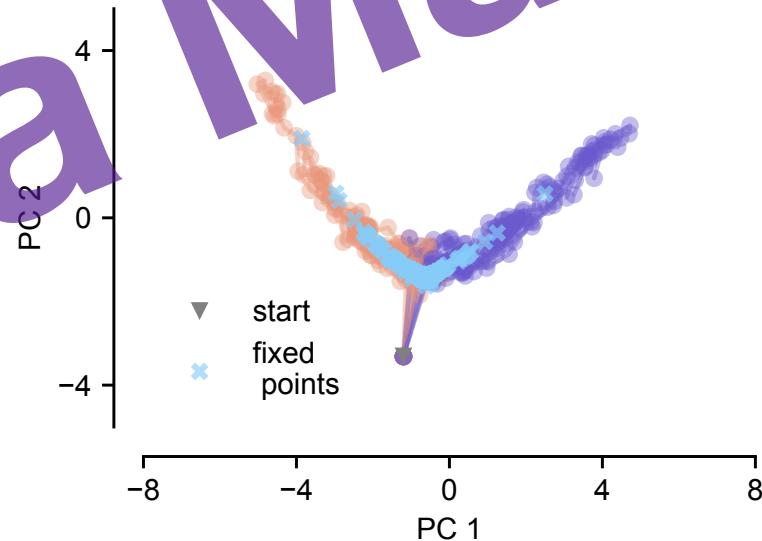
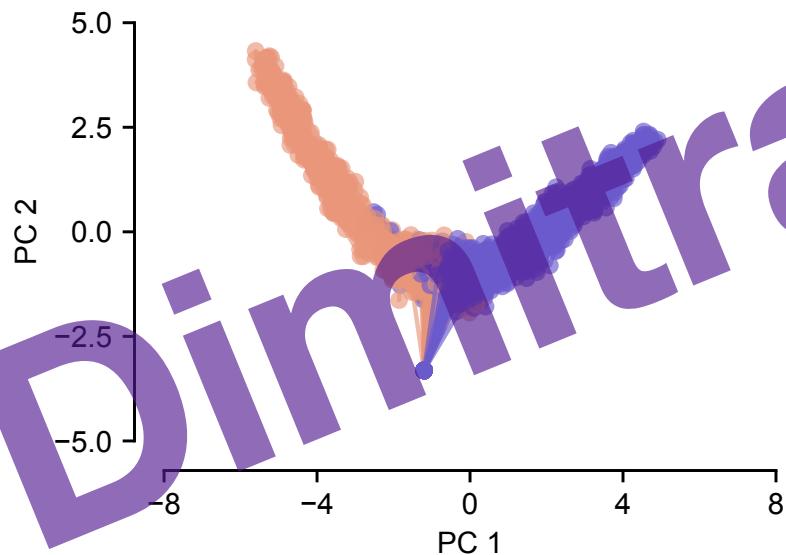
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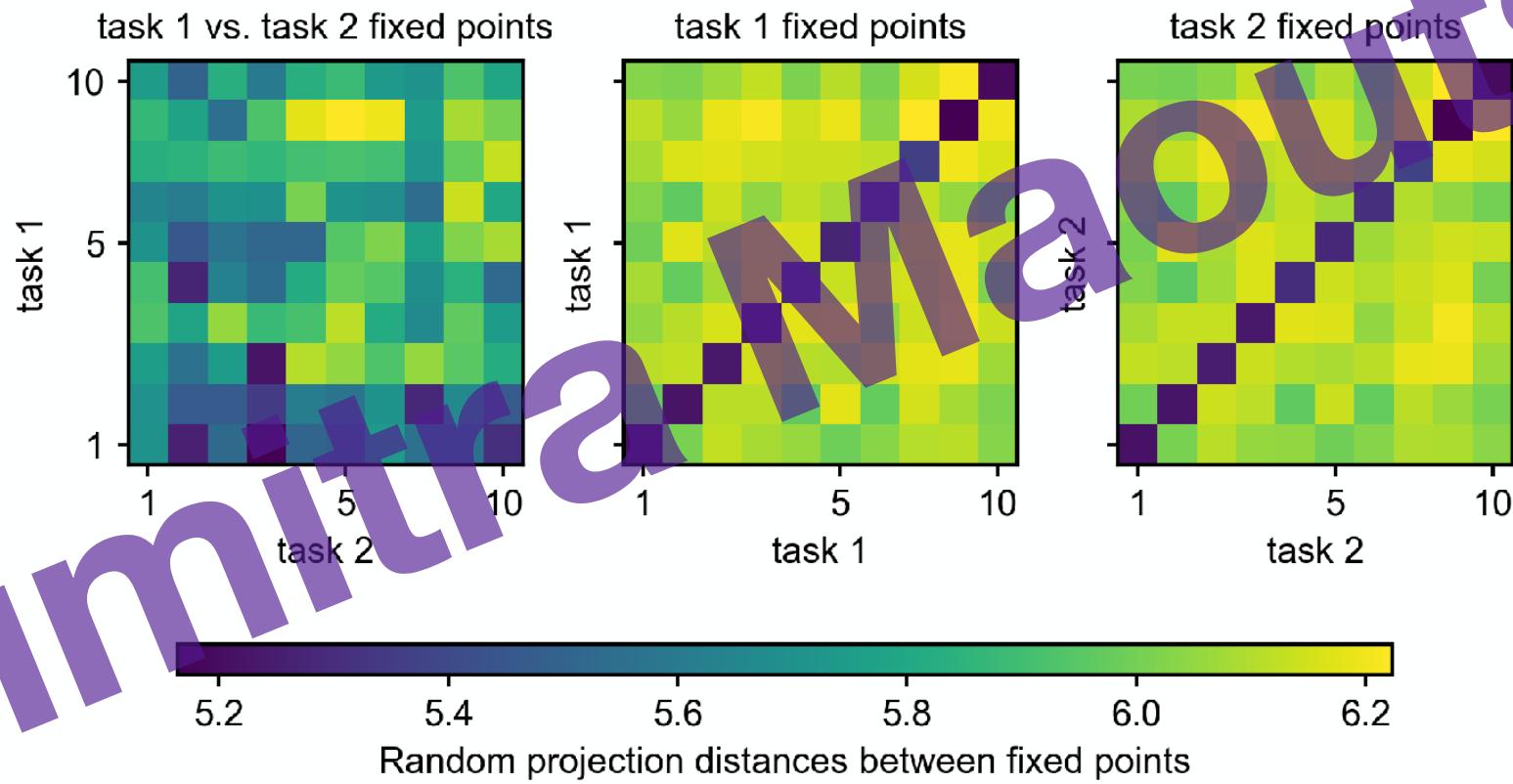


# Multisensory integration task

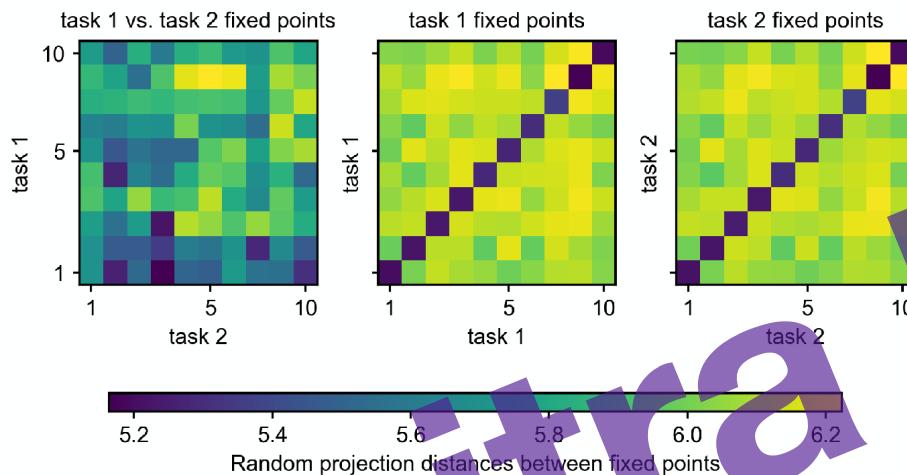
Single-task trained RNN



# Distances between fixed points of the two tasks

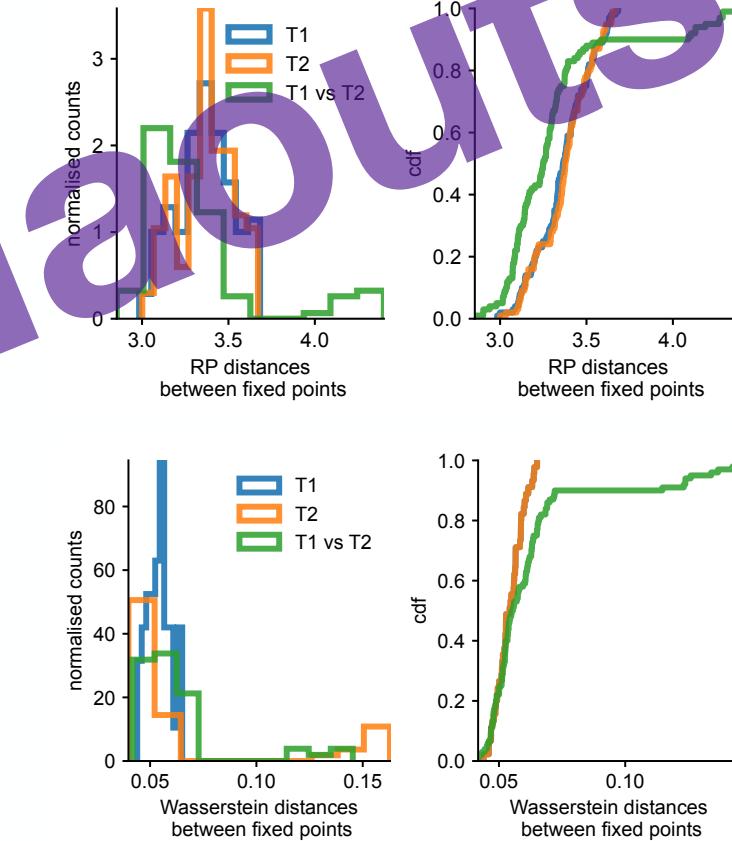


# Distances between fixed points of the two tasks



Procrustes distance  
in the future

Wasserstein distance  
yields more sensible  
distance estimates

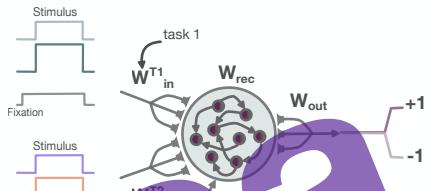
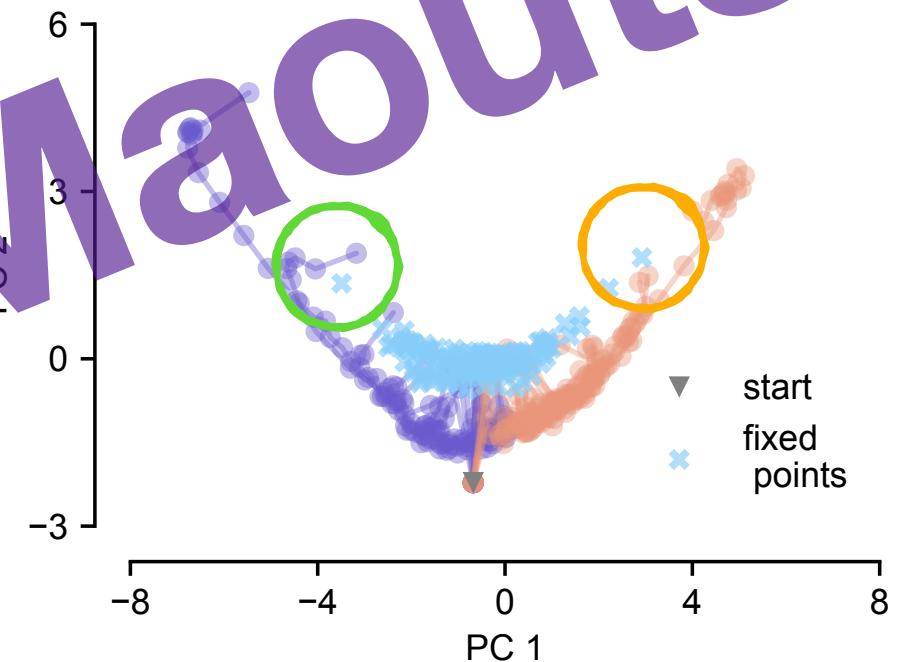
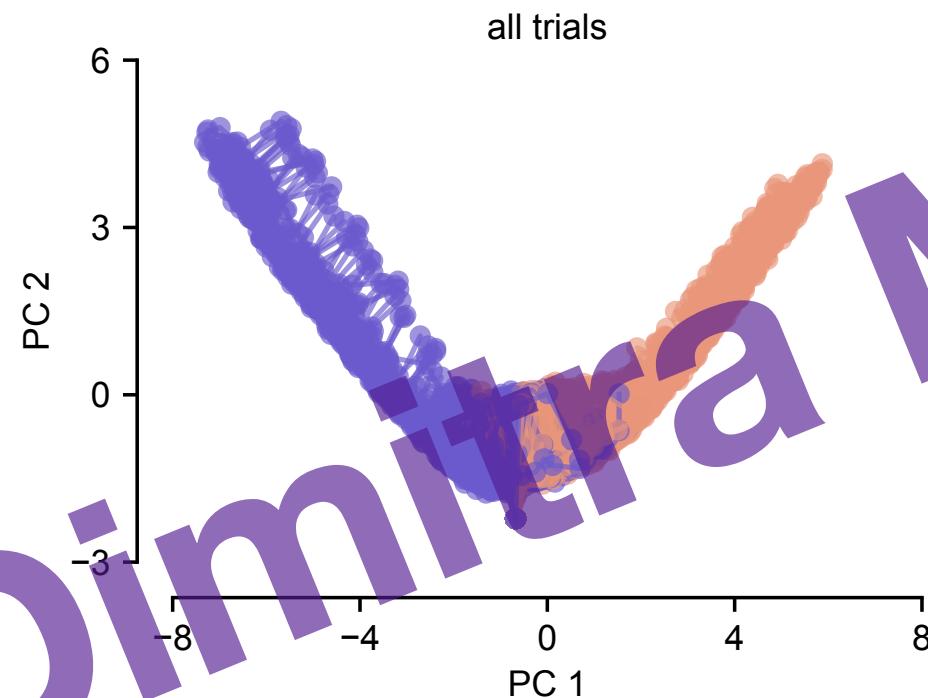


RNNs trained sequentially  
on two tasks

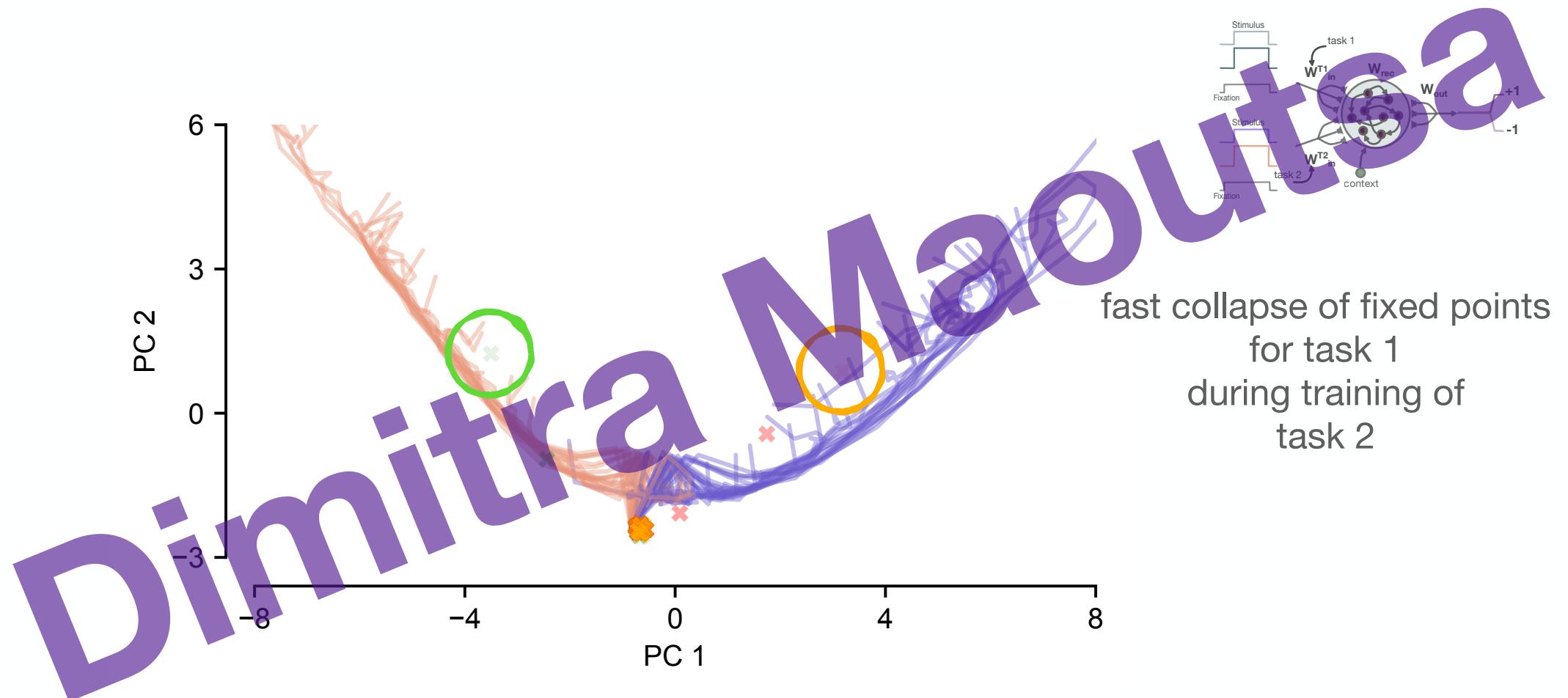
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# Multi-task trained RNN

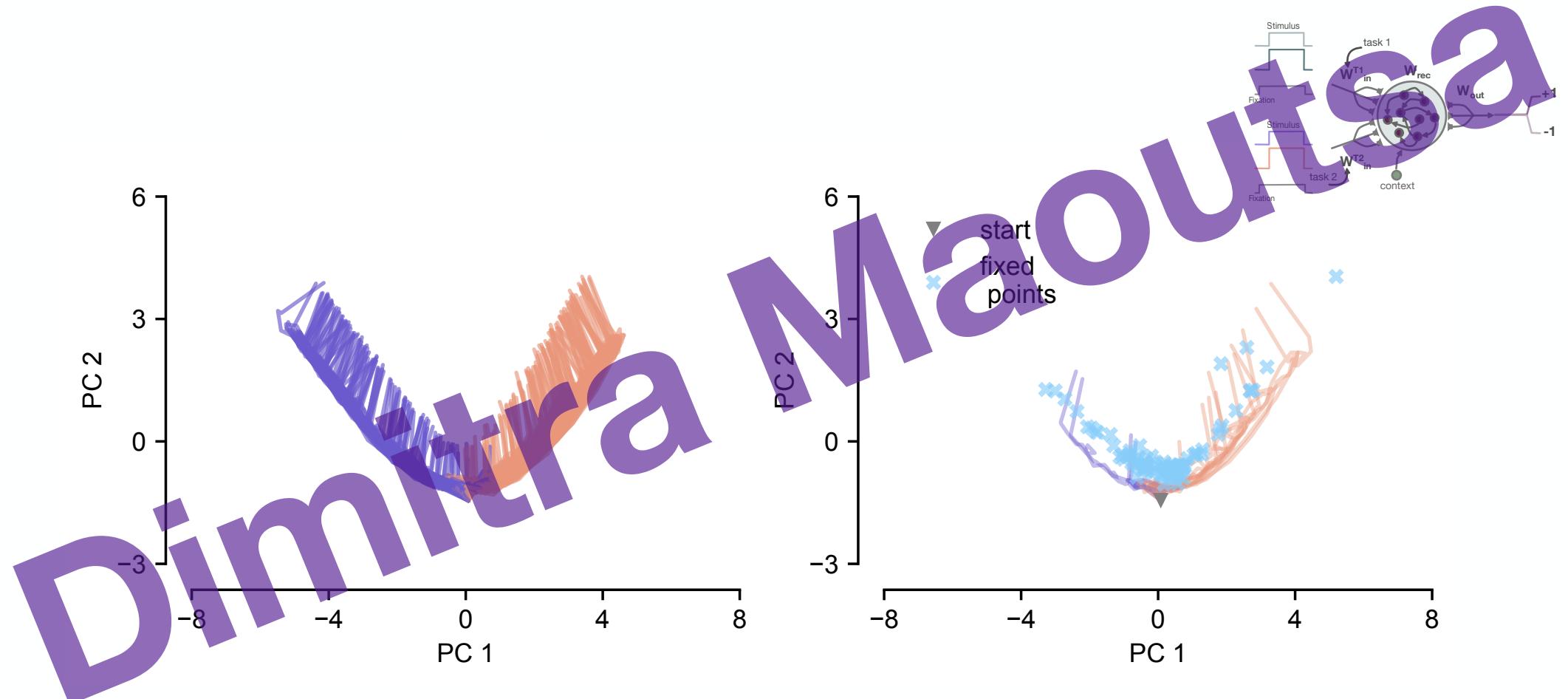
Representations and fixed points after training task 1



# Evolution of fixed points of task 1 during training of task 2

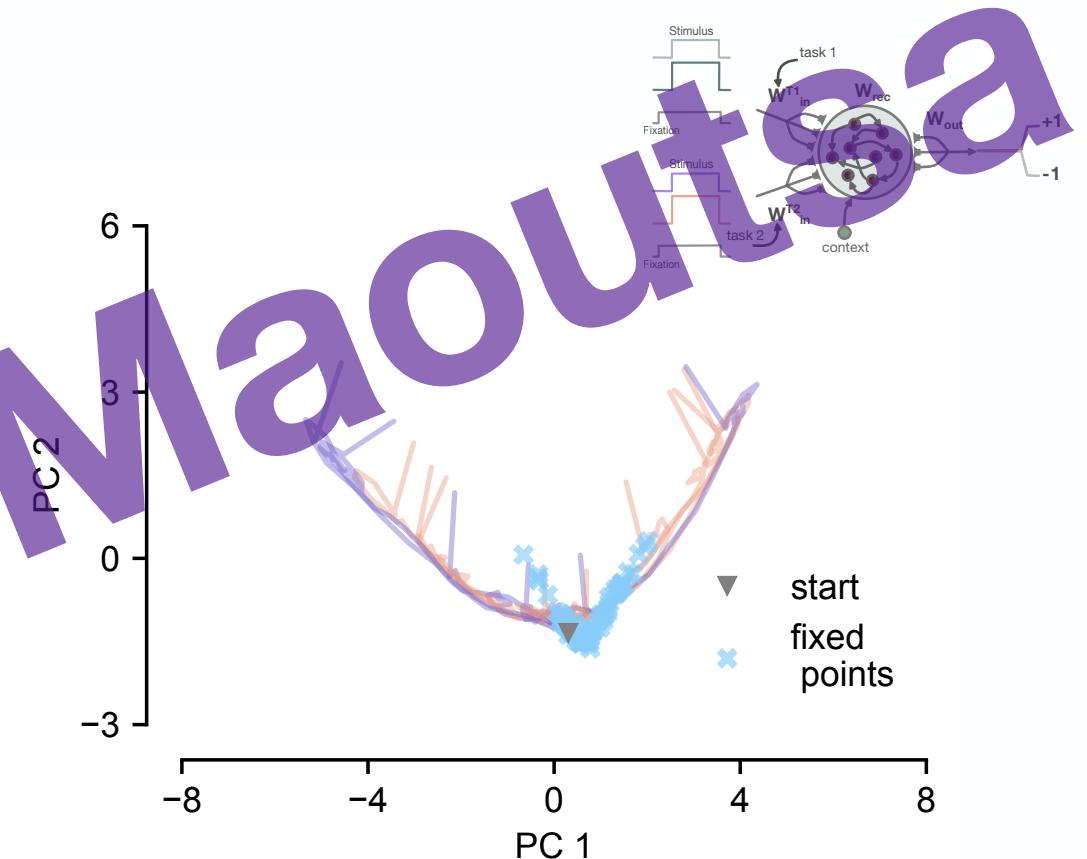
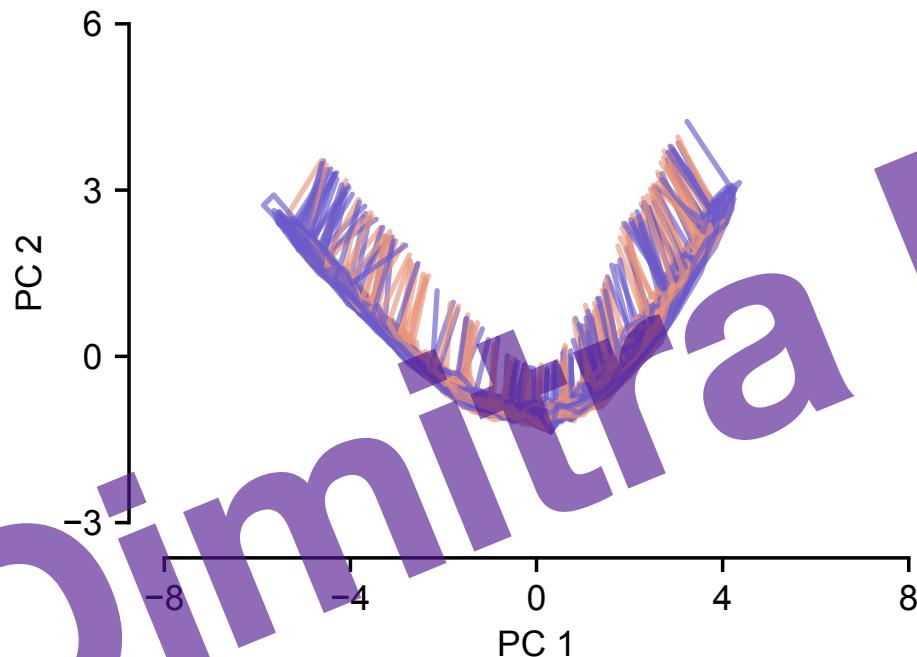


# Low-dimensional representation of task 2



# Performance of task 1 after task 2 drops

trajectories of task 1 get  
mixed for both stimulus  
conditions

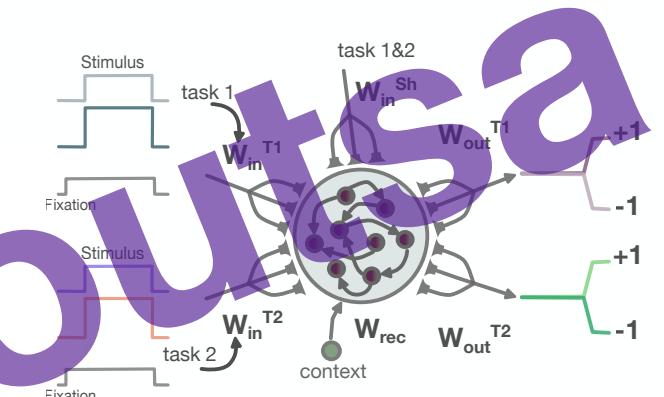
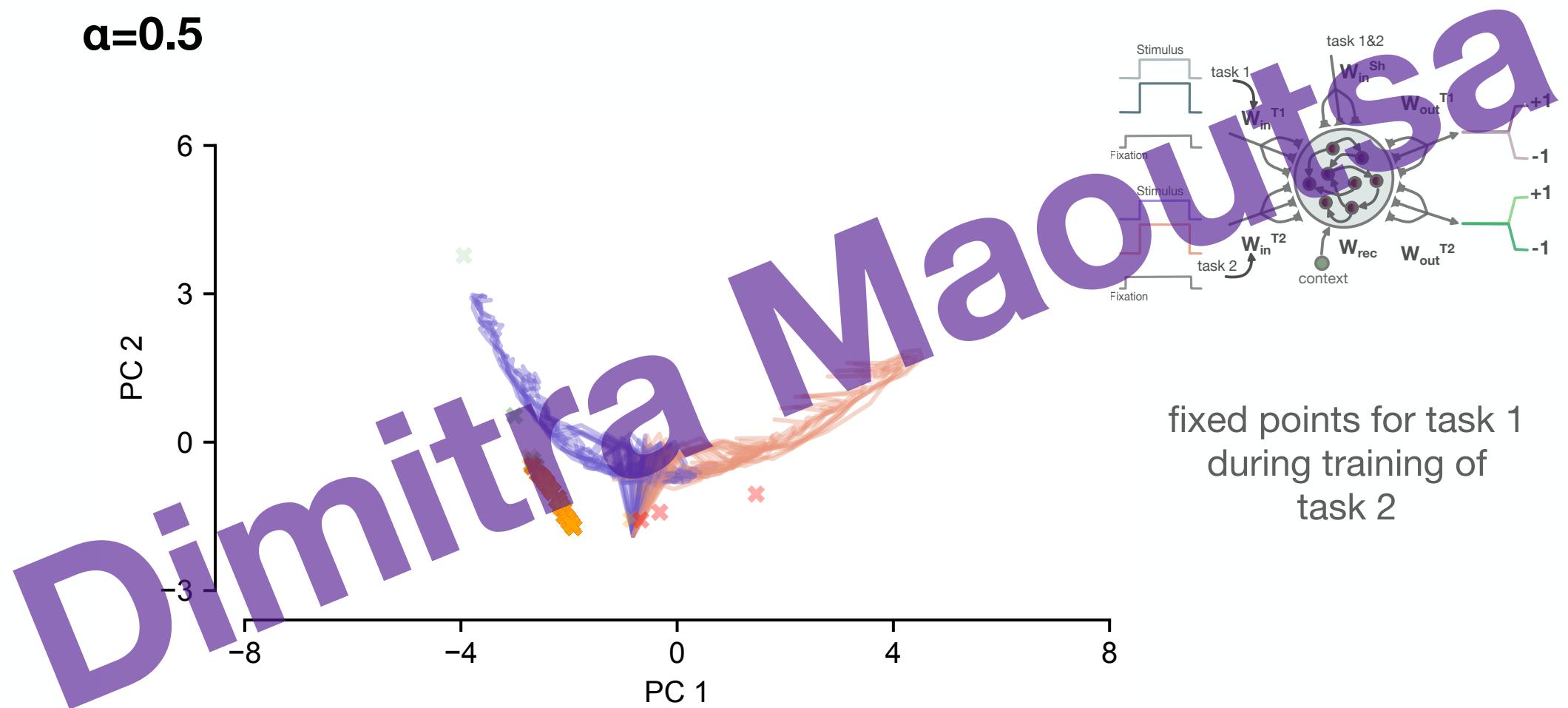


RNNs trained sequentially on two tasks  
with mixed selective  
inputs pathways

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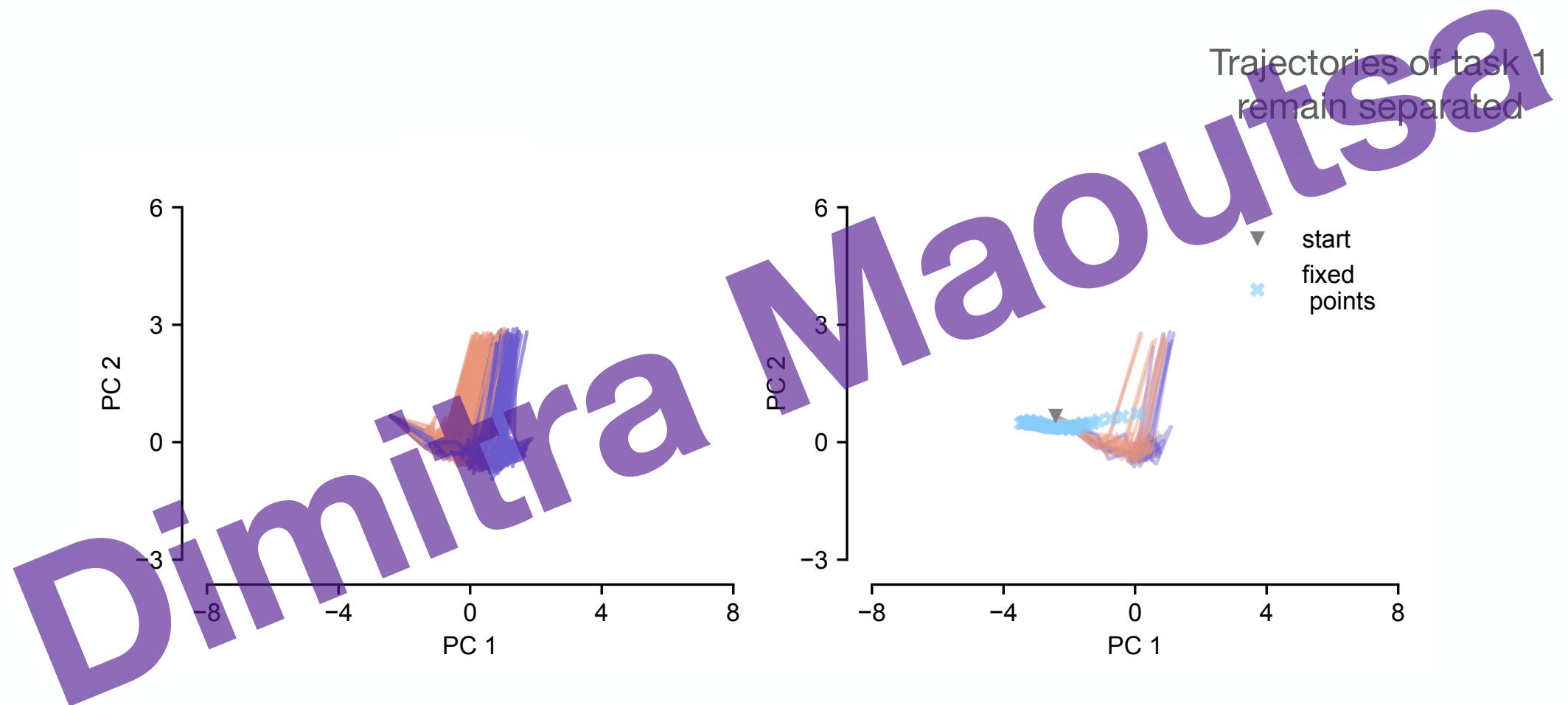
# Mixed selective pathway slows down FP forgetting

$\alpha=0.5$

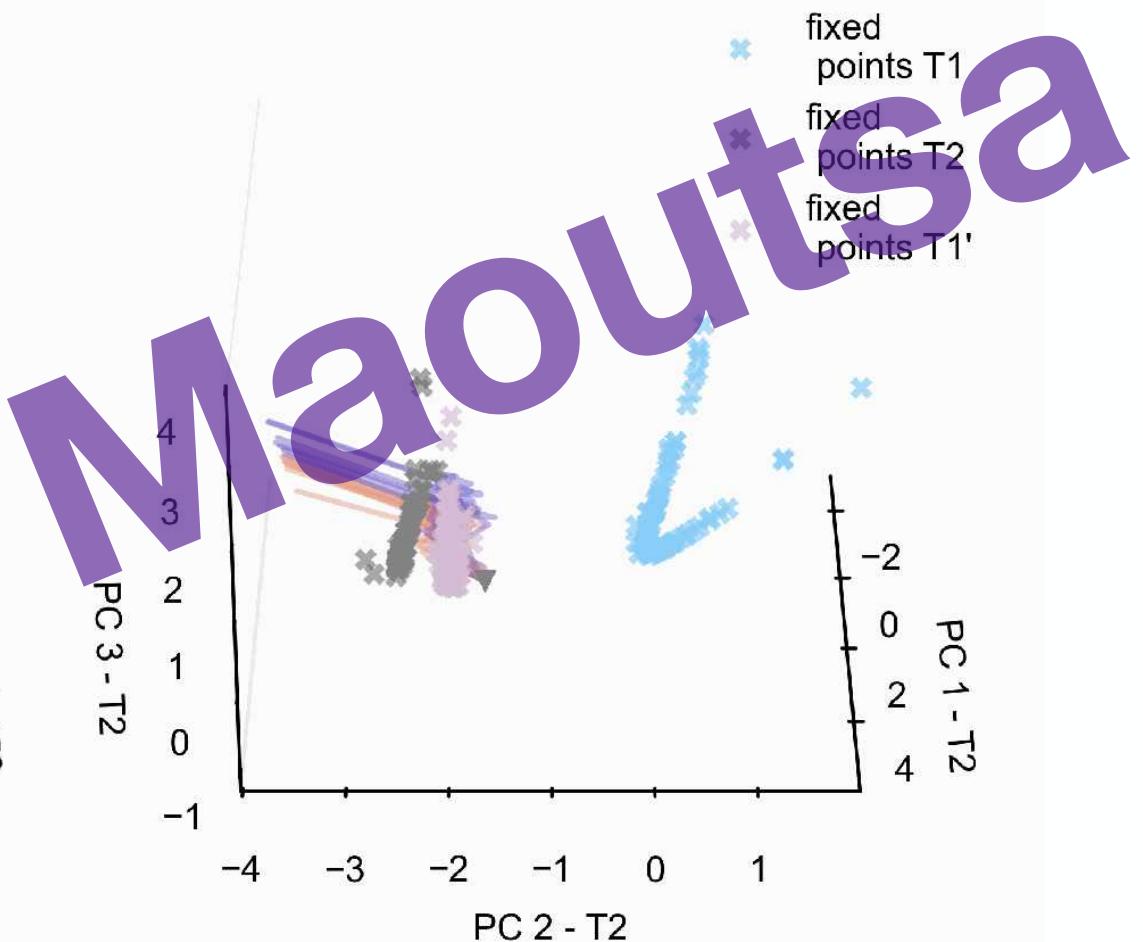
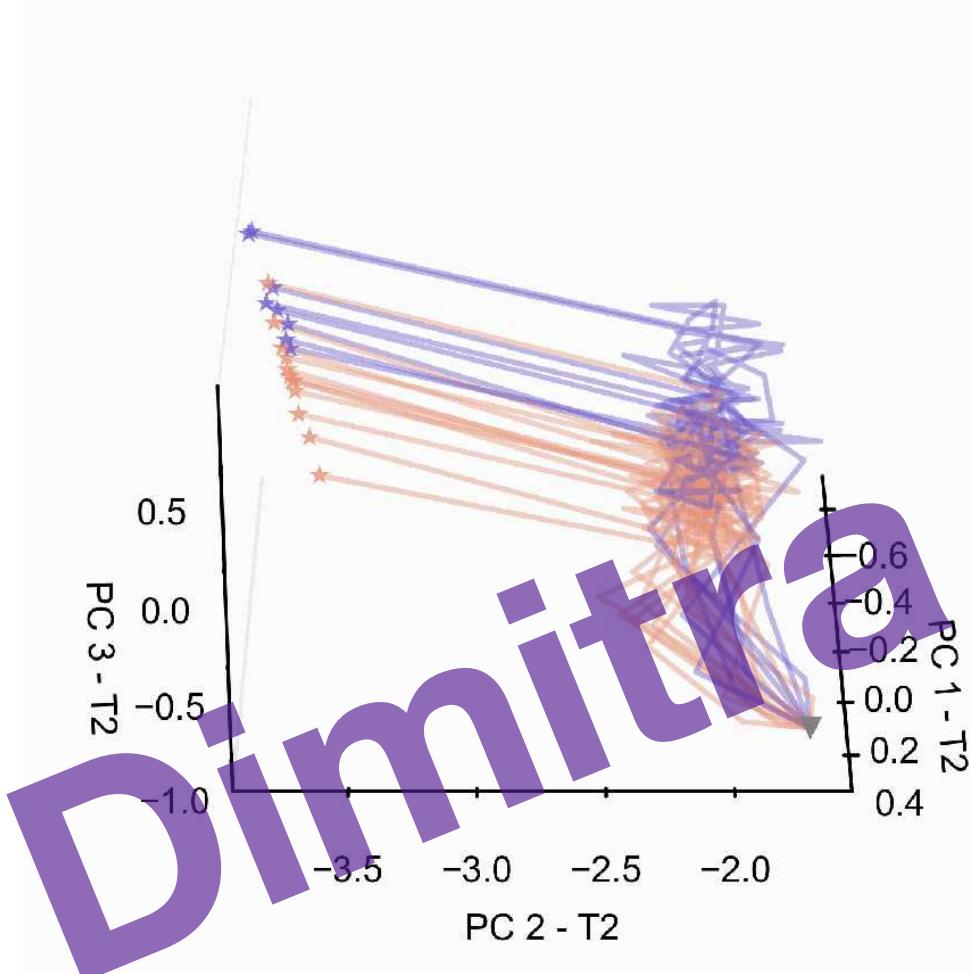


fixed points for task 1  
during training of  
task 2

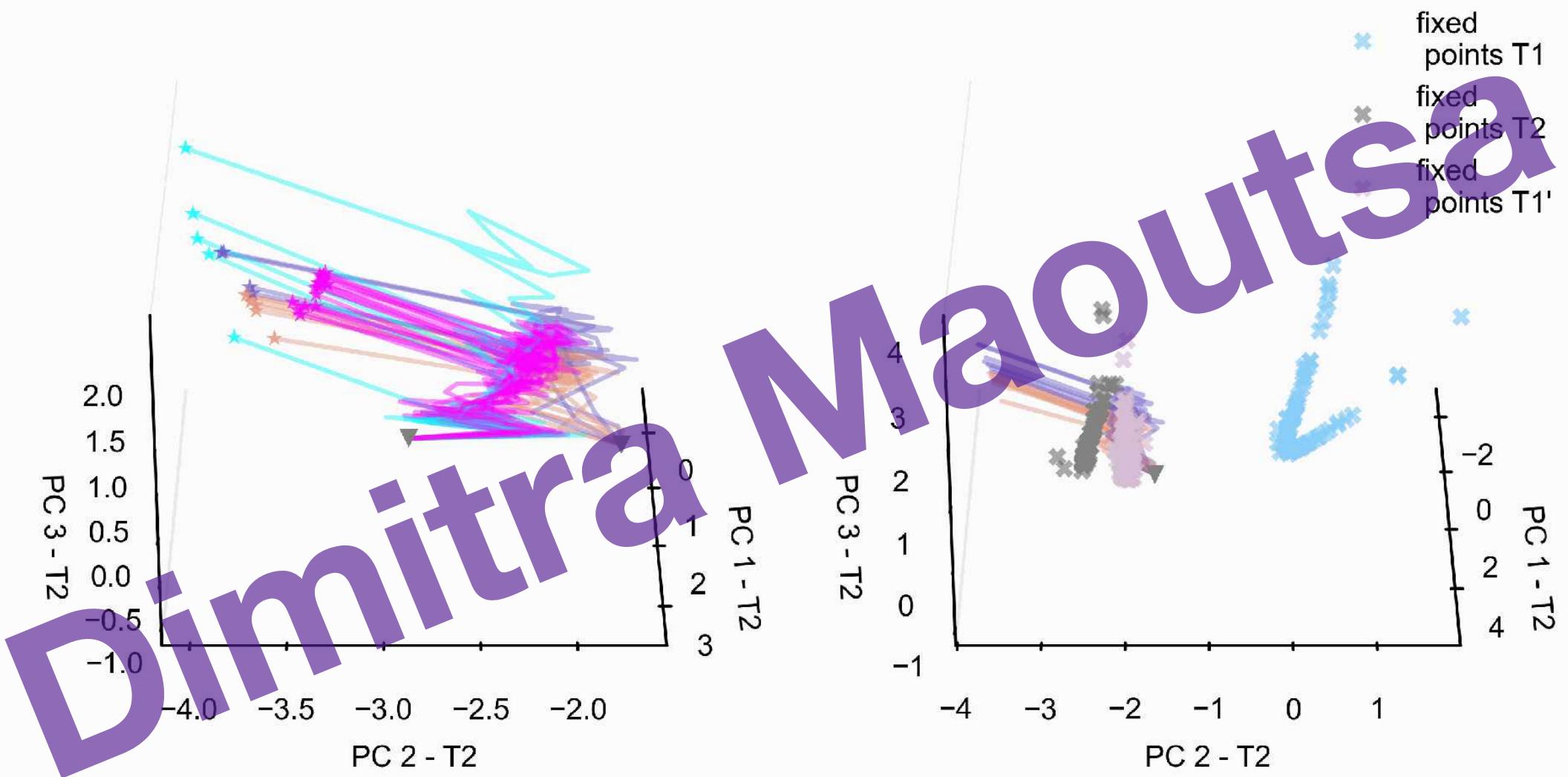
# Representations of task 1 after training task 2



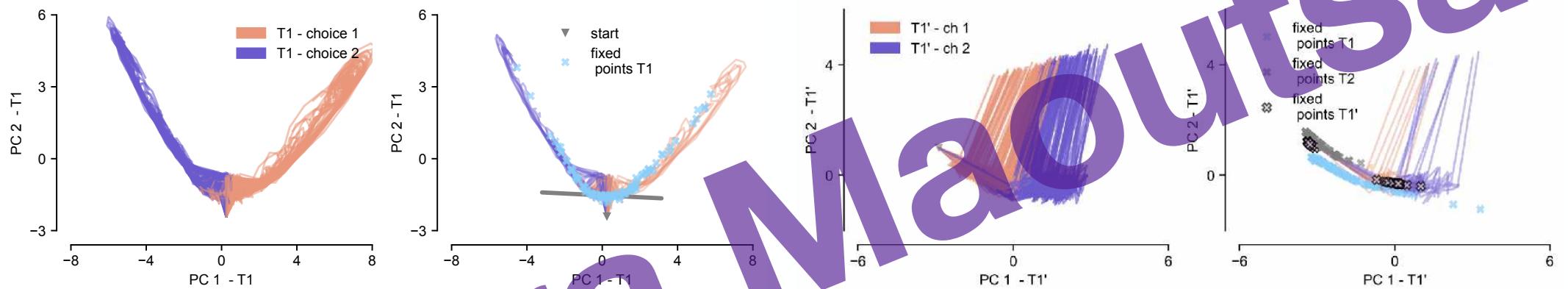
$\alpha = 0.5$



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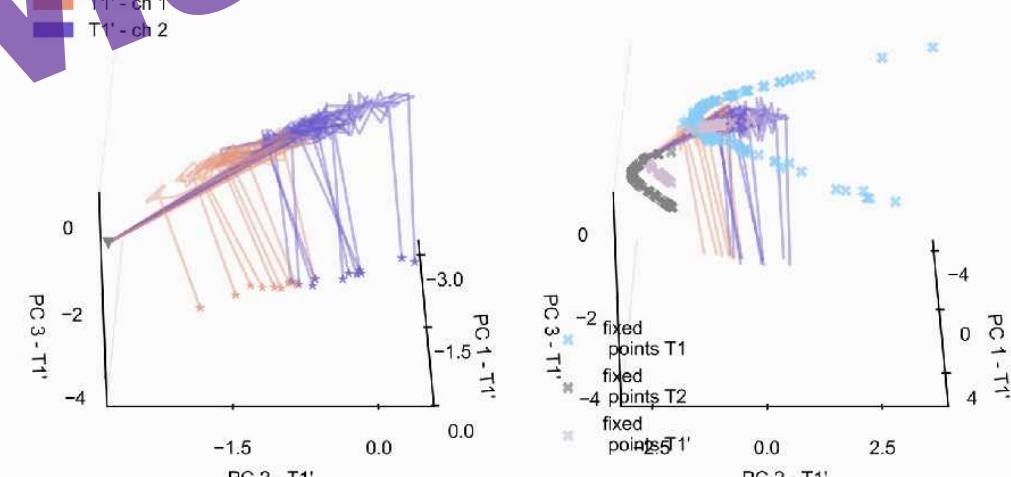
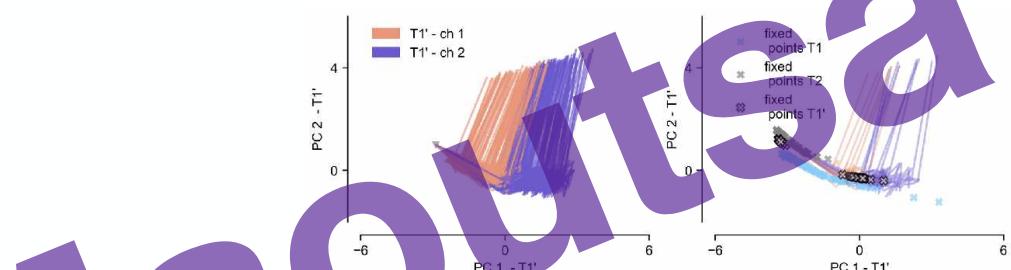
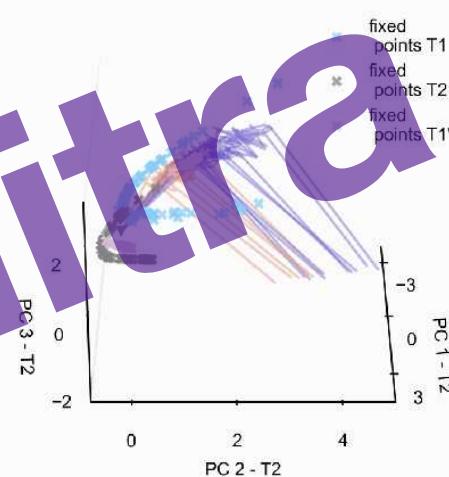
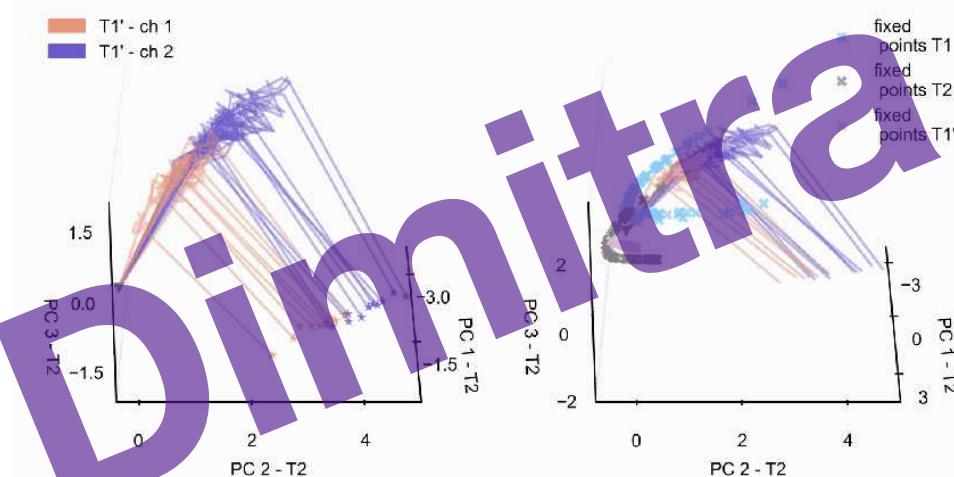
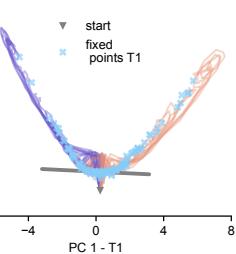
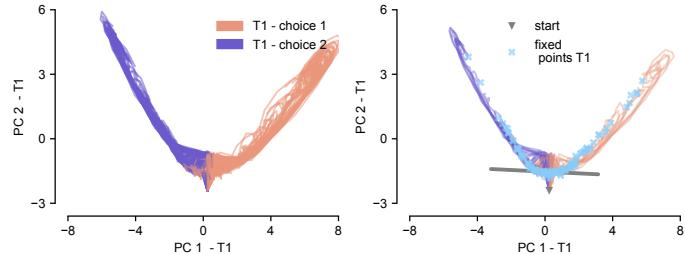


# Representation of task 1 for $\alpha=0$

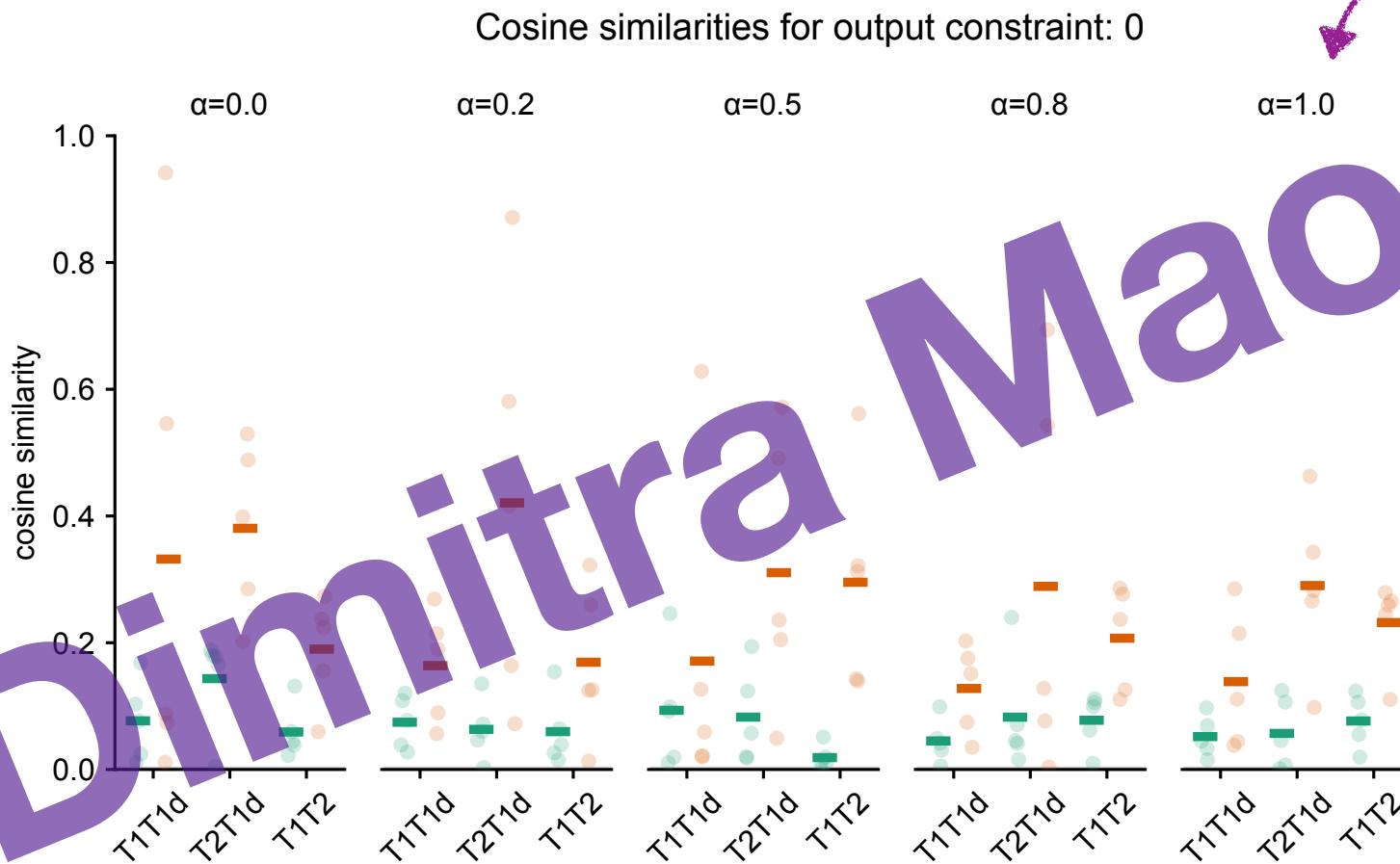


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# Representation of task 1 for $a=0$



# Comparing PC subspaces



all input  
is separate

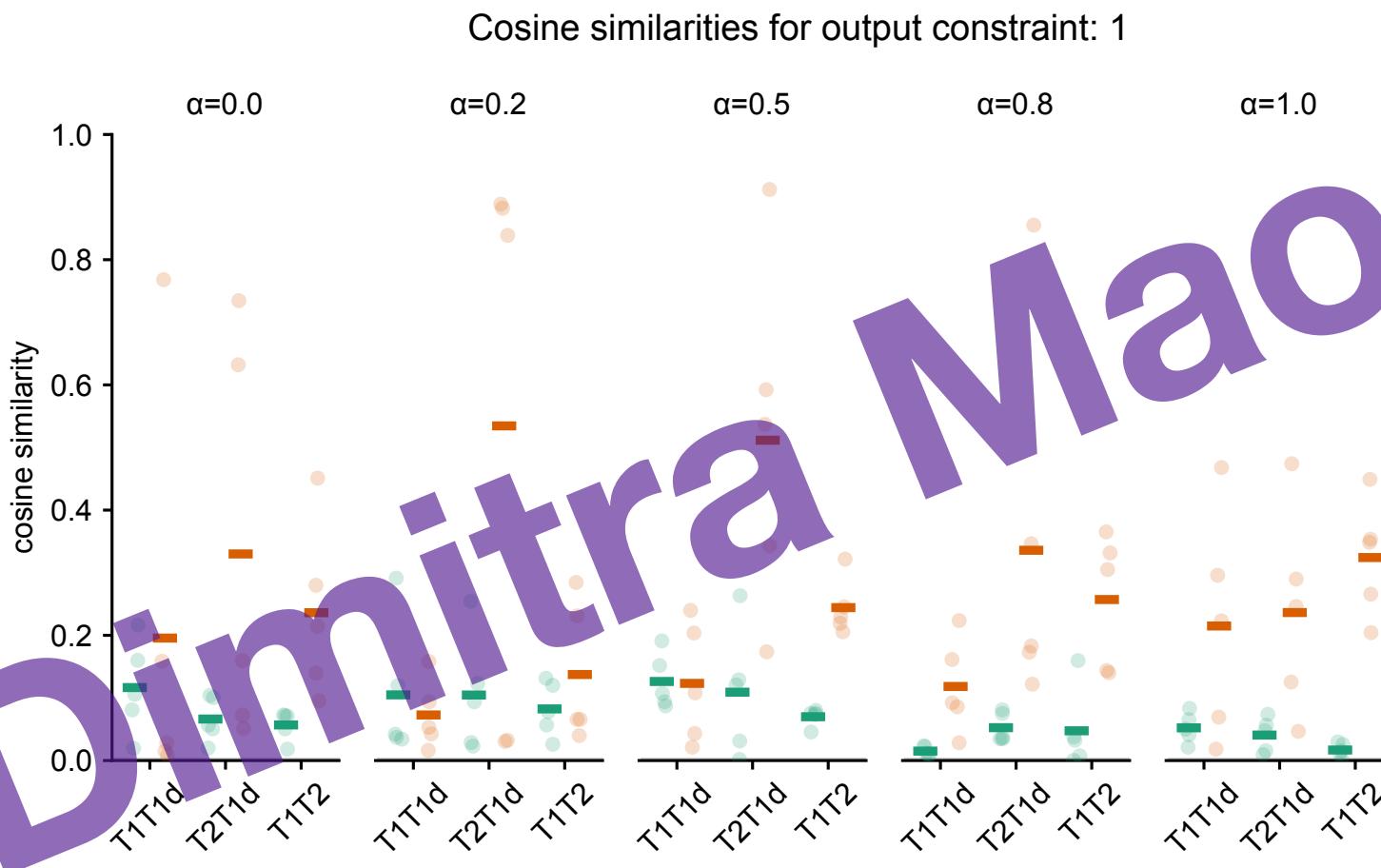
Cosine similarity

$$S_c(PC_{T1}^1, PC_{T2}^1) = \frac{PC_{T1}^1 \cdot PC_{T2}^1}{\|PC_{T1}^1\| \|PC_{T2}^1\|}$$

0: orthogonal

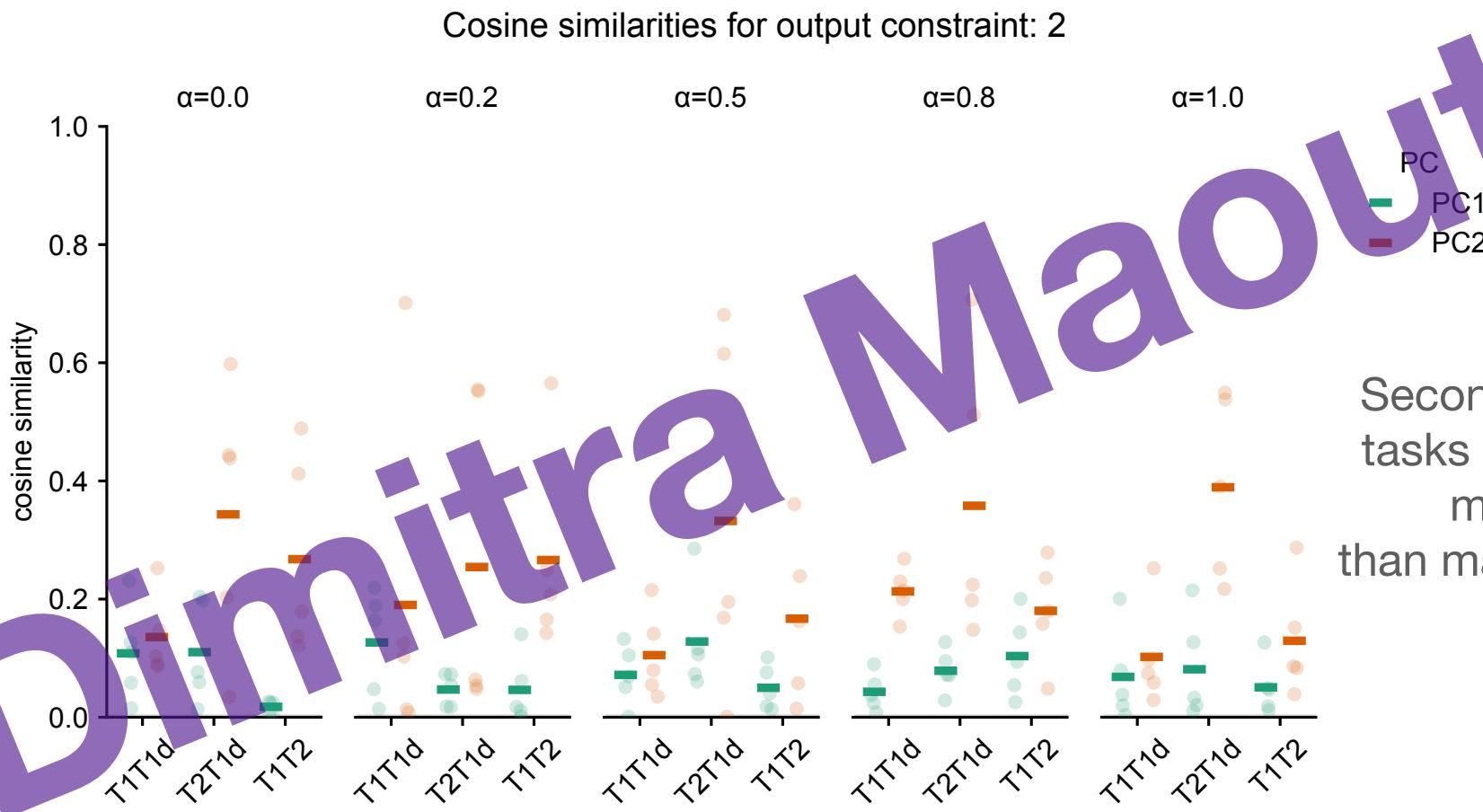
1: aligned

# Comparing PC subspaces



Alignment of PC2 larger  
when ignoring irrelevant  
output

# Comparing PC subspaces



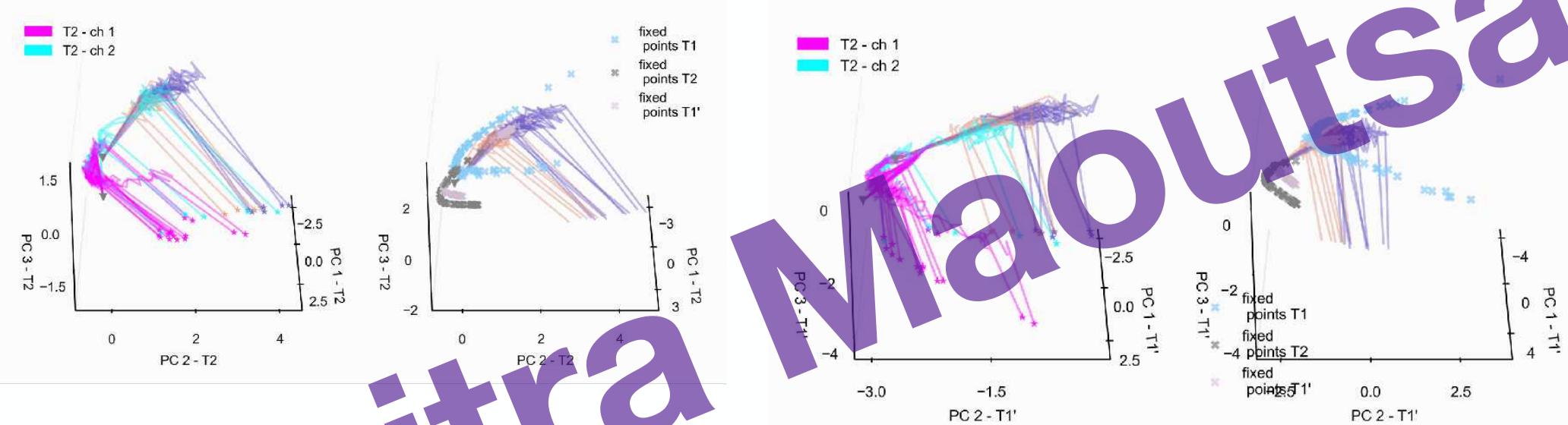
Second PCs between tasks are consistently more aligned than maximum variance directions

# Summary

- Inputs with mixed selectivity promote sharing the same dynamical landscape with existing dynamical structure

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**a=0**



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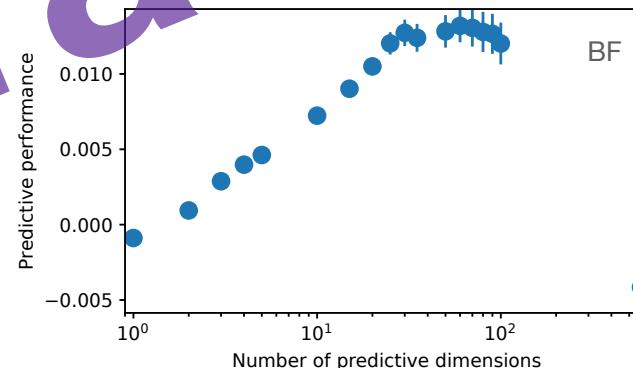
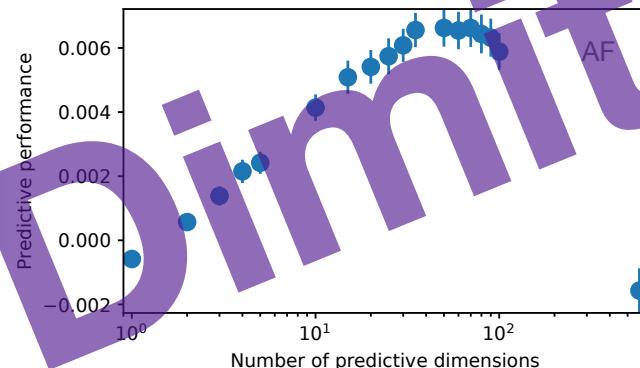
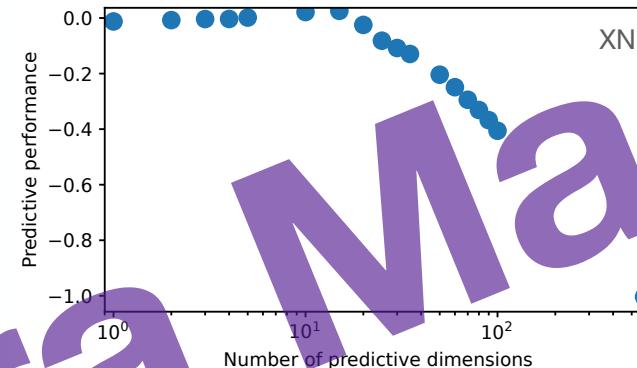
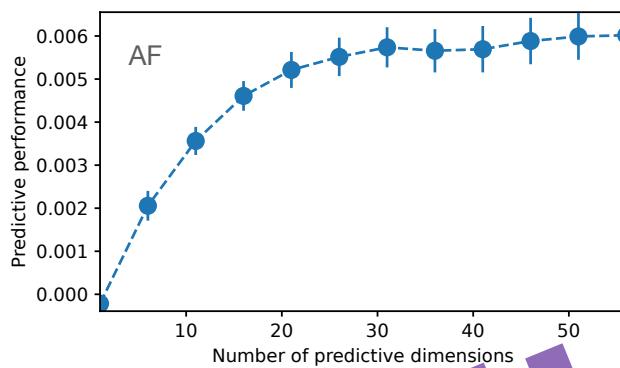
# ACC feedback to V1?

For the project of Sarah Elnozahy

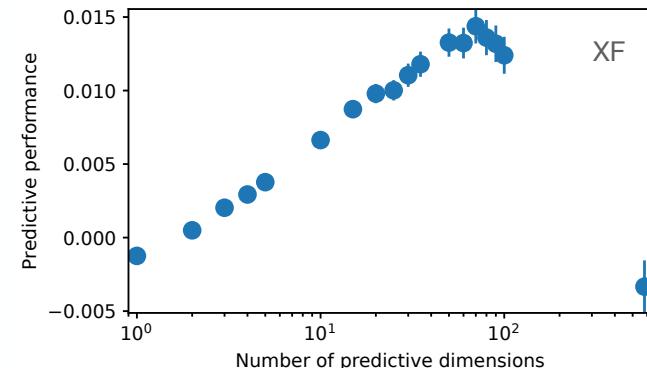
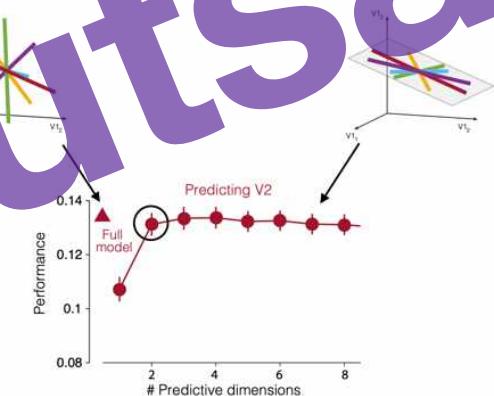
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# Communication subspace through reduced rank regression

## Predict ACC from V1 (V1-> ACC)



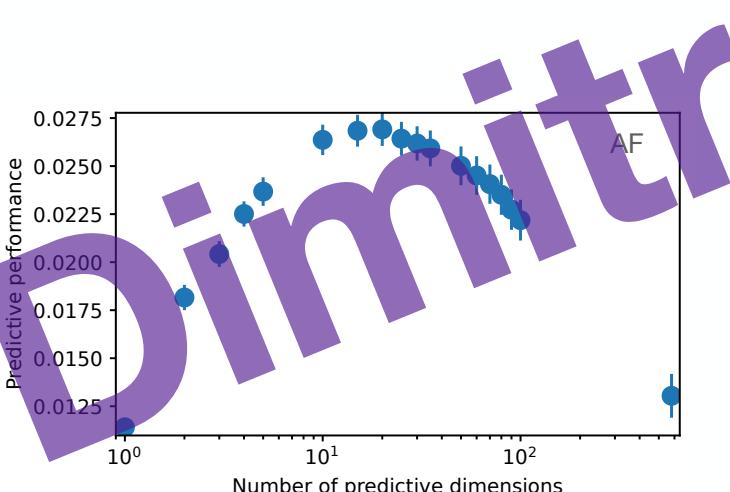
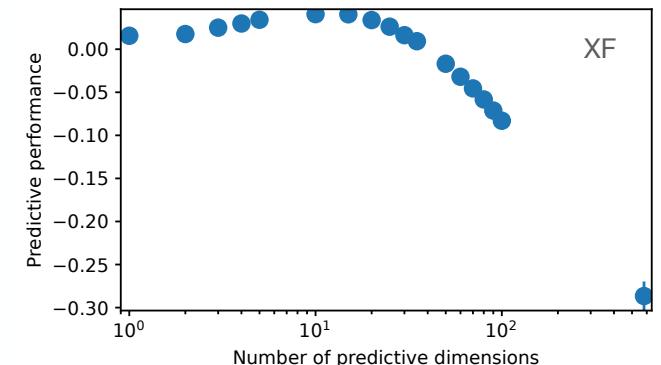
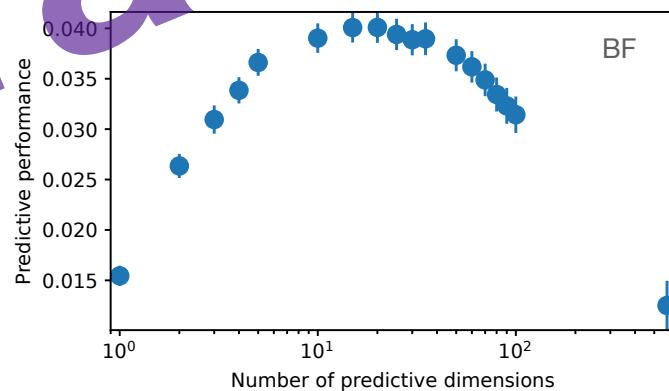
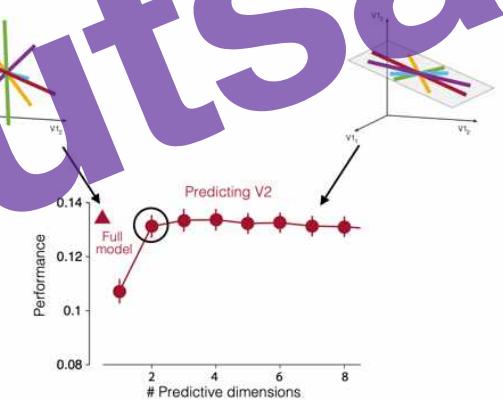
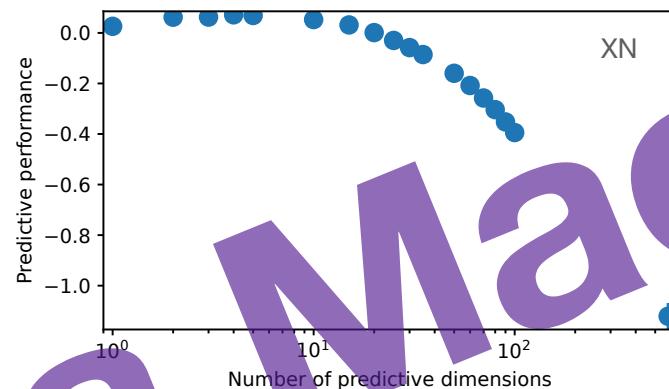
How many dimensions in V1 are required to predict ACC activity

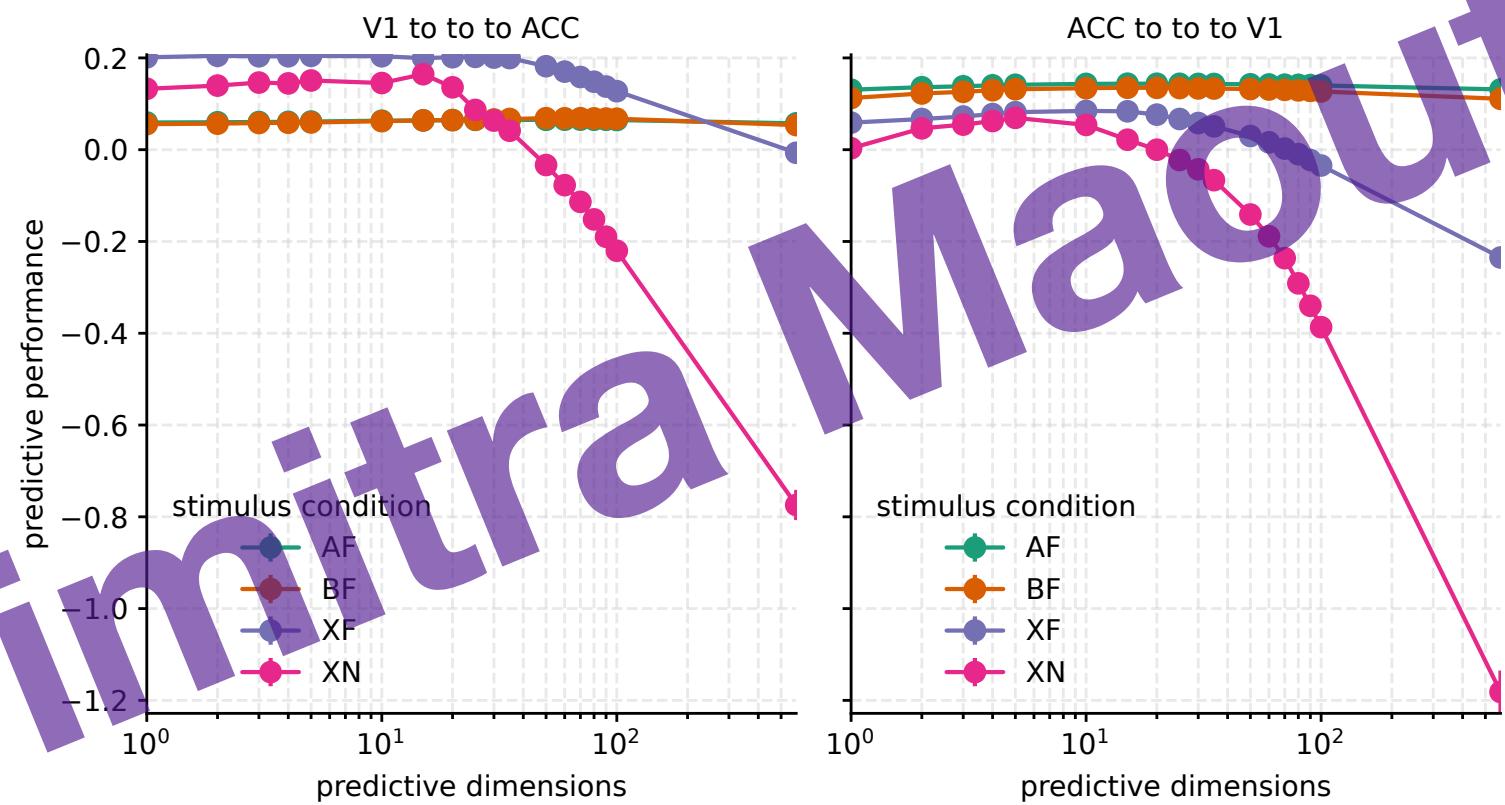


# Communication subspace through reduced rank regression

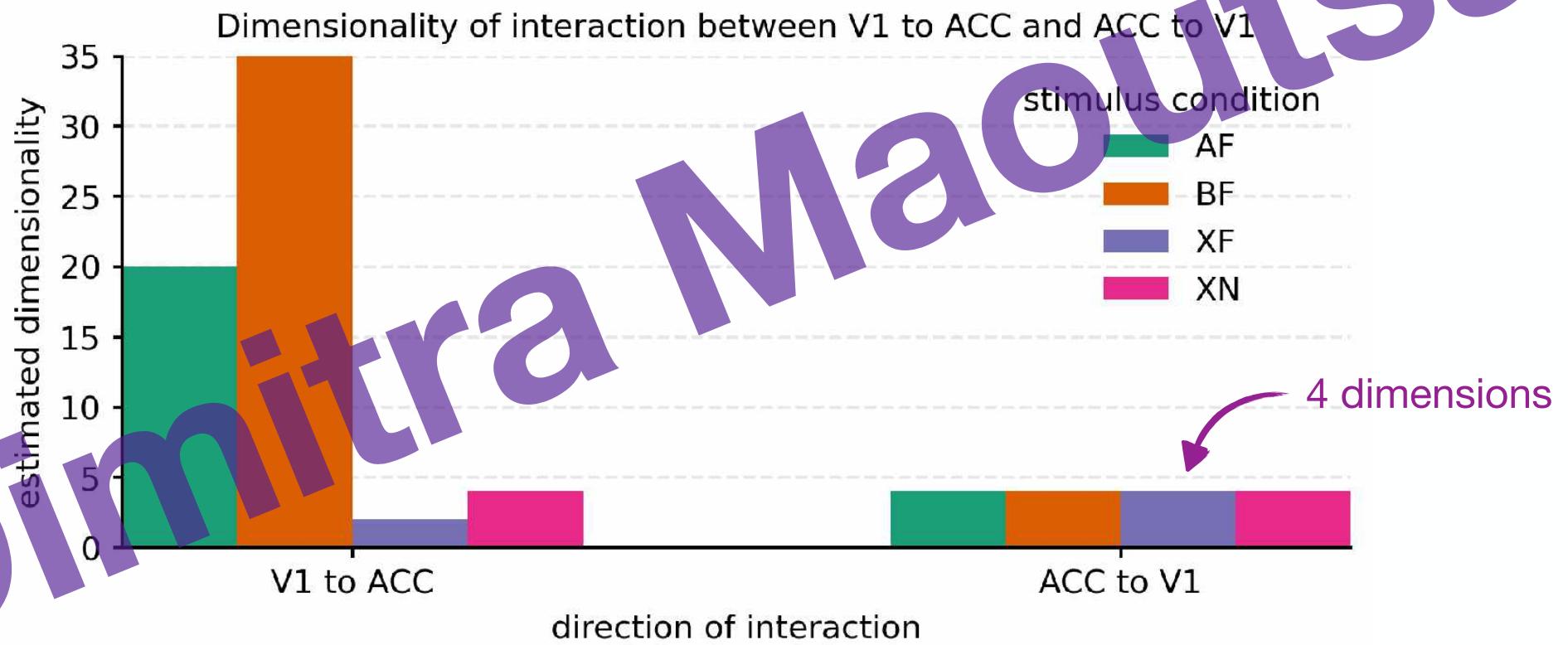
## Predict V1 from ACC (ACC->V1)

How many dimensions in V1 are required to predict ACC activity





## Reduced rank regression predicts low-dimensional feedback from ACC to V1



# Summary

- reduced rank regression predicted **high dimensional input from V1 to ACC** and **low-dimensional input from ACC to V1**
- Attempts to fit Generalised Linear models to predict future population responses were not particularly fruitful
- Simultaneous recordings from V1 neurons and ACC axons may improve the performance of the GLM