

# Measures and models of covert visual attention in neurotypical function and ADHD

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## Divided attention

...the fewer objects we consider at once, the clearer and more distinct will be our knowledge of them.  
Hence the more vividly we will or desire that a certain object should be clearly and distinctly known, the more we concentrate consciousness through some special faculty upon it.

## Selective attention

*William Hamilton, 1859*

# Covert visual attention

Part 1

1. Divided attention

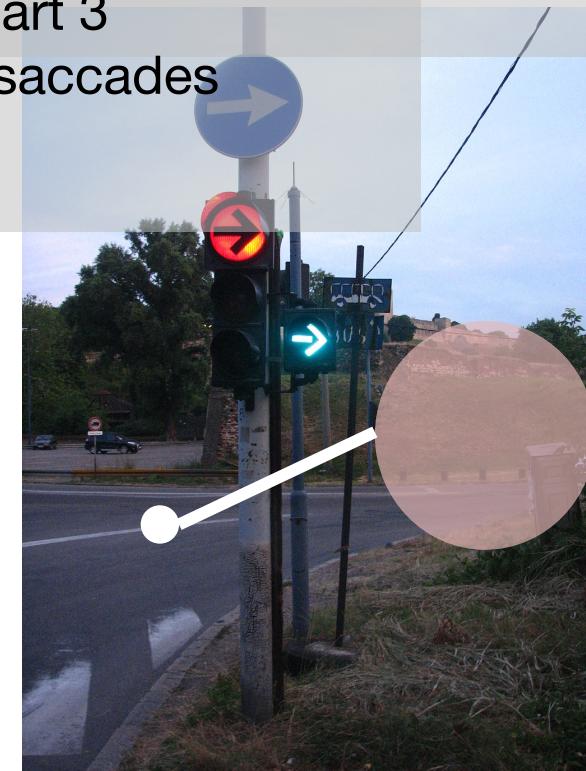


Part 2

2. Selective attention

Part 3

Microsaccades



# Outline

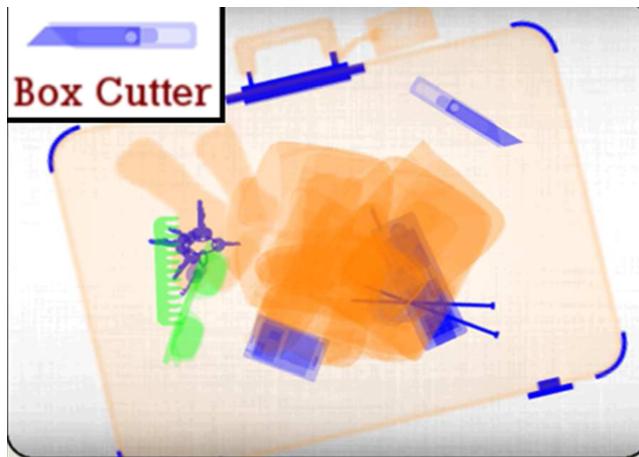
1. Divided attention: visual search with heterogenous distractors  
*In preparation*



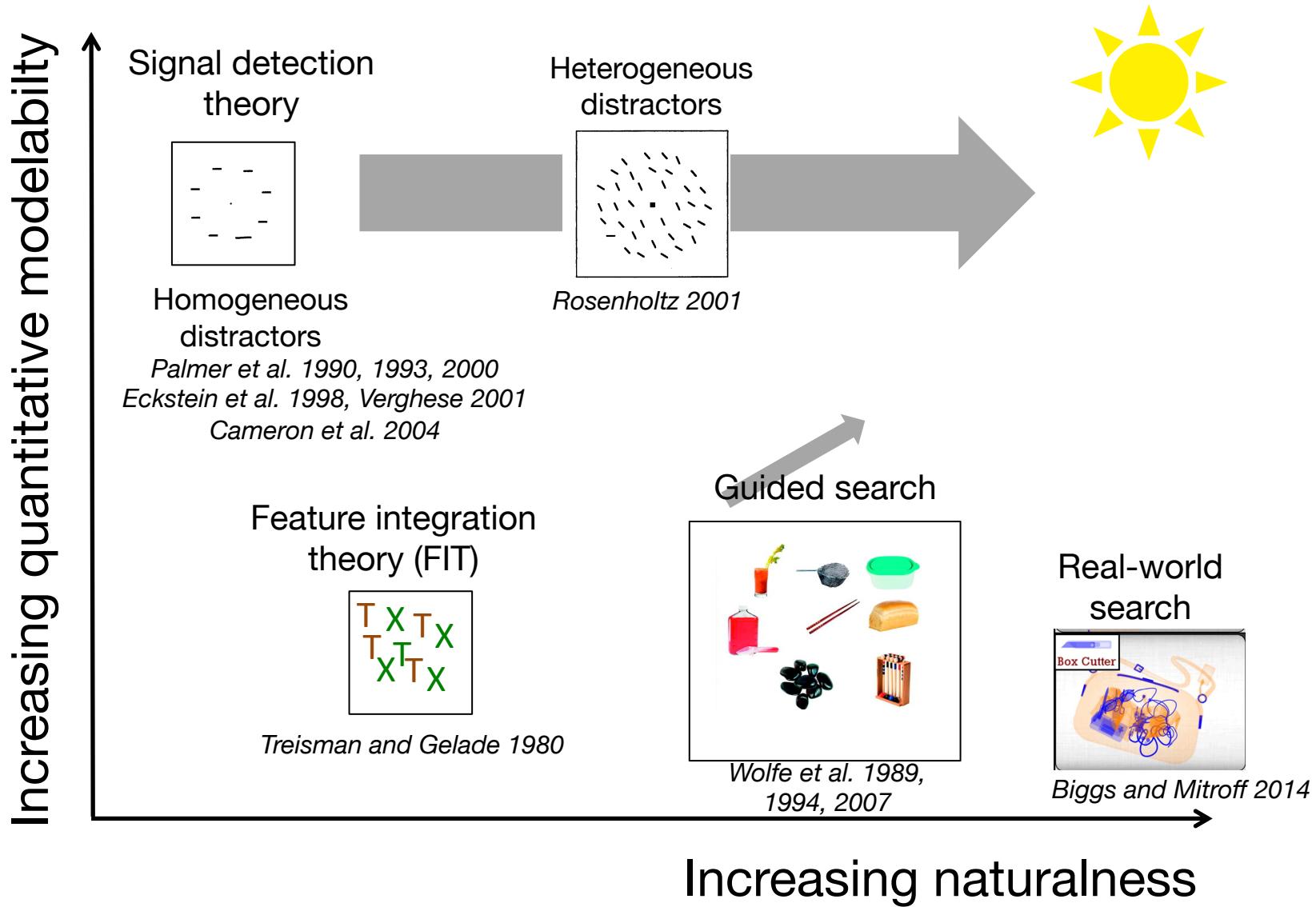
2. Selective attention: feature cueing and task-switching in neuropsychiatry, with an application to ADHD  
*with Allison G Yonelinas, Daniel C Adler, Michael H Halassa – Computational Psychiatry*
3. Bayesian microstate analysis, with an application to ADHD  
*with Bas van Opheusden\**  
*Journal of Vision, 17 (1):13*

## Part 1: visual search with heterogeneous distractors

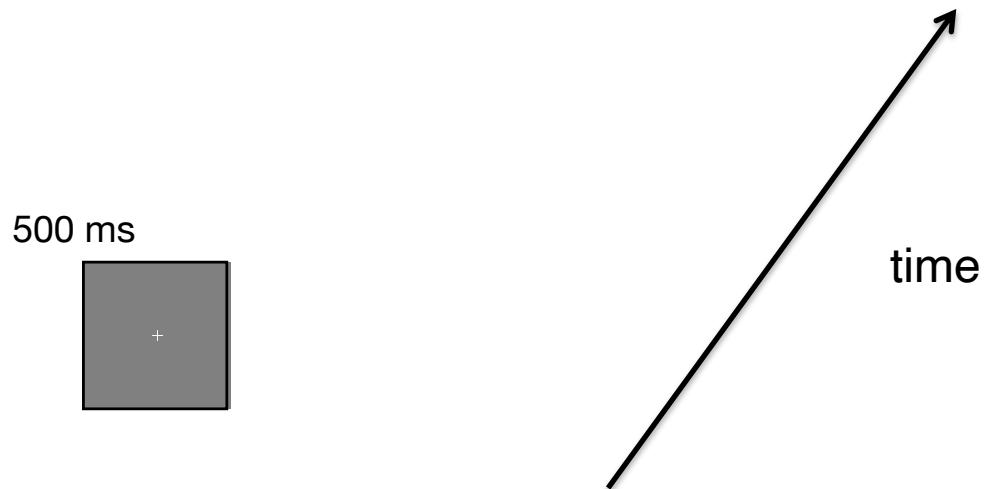
# Visual search



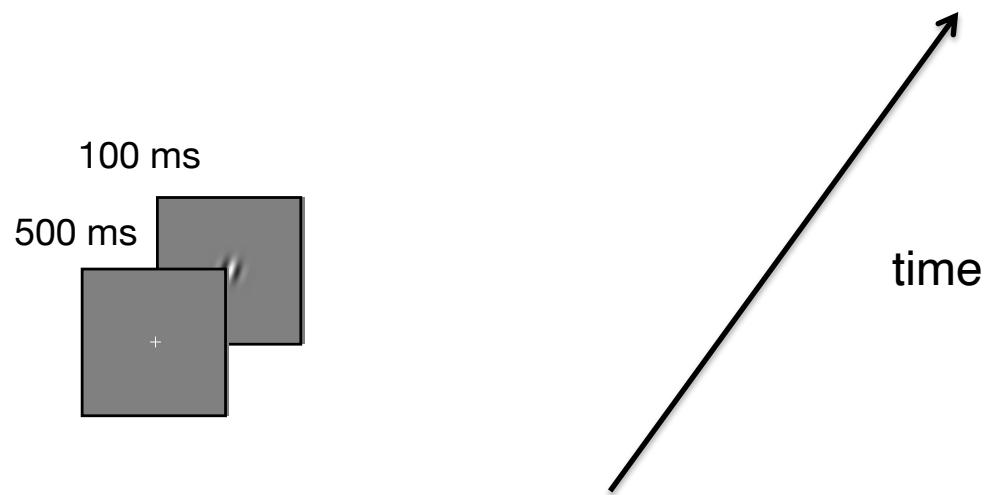
*Biggs and Mitroff 2014*



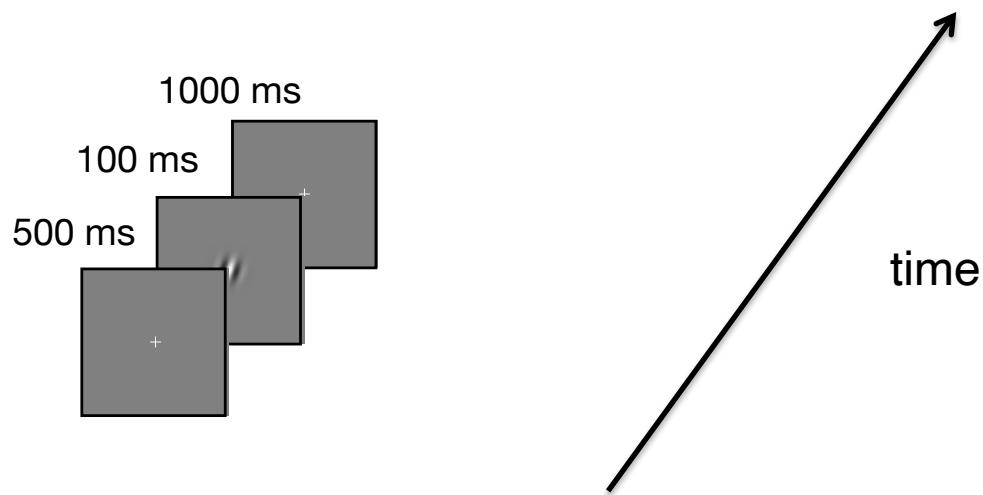
# n-AFC localization with heterogenous distractors



# n-AFC localization with heterogenous distractors

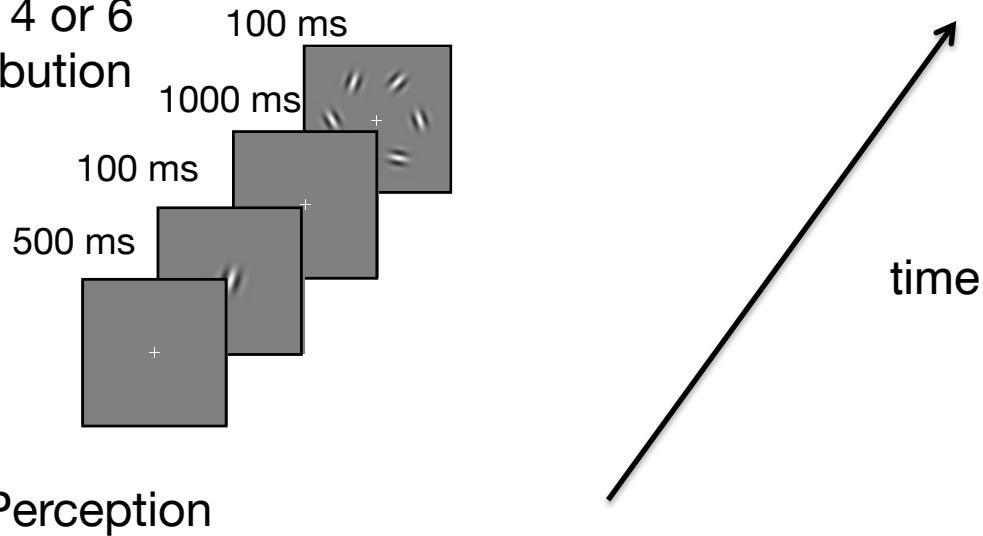


# n-AFC localization with heterogenous distractors

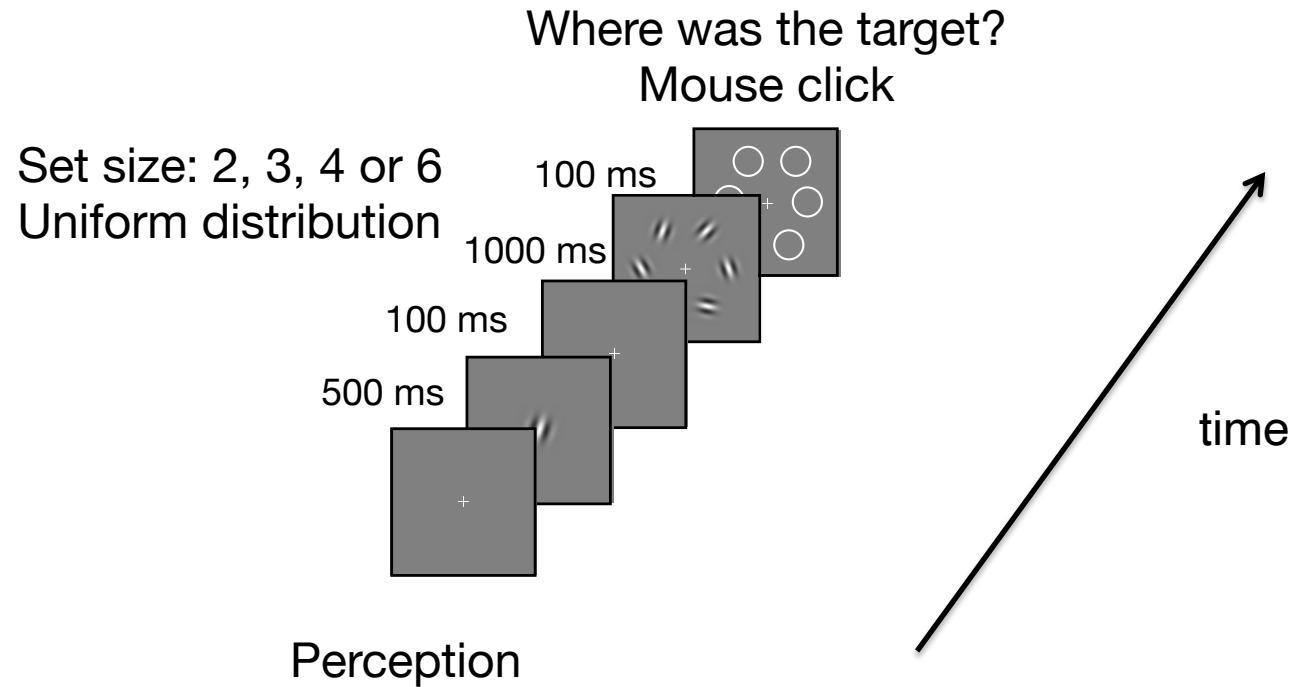


# n-AFC localization with heterogenous distractors

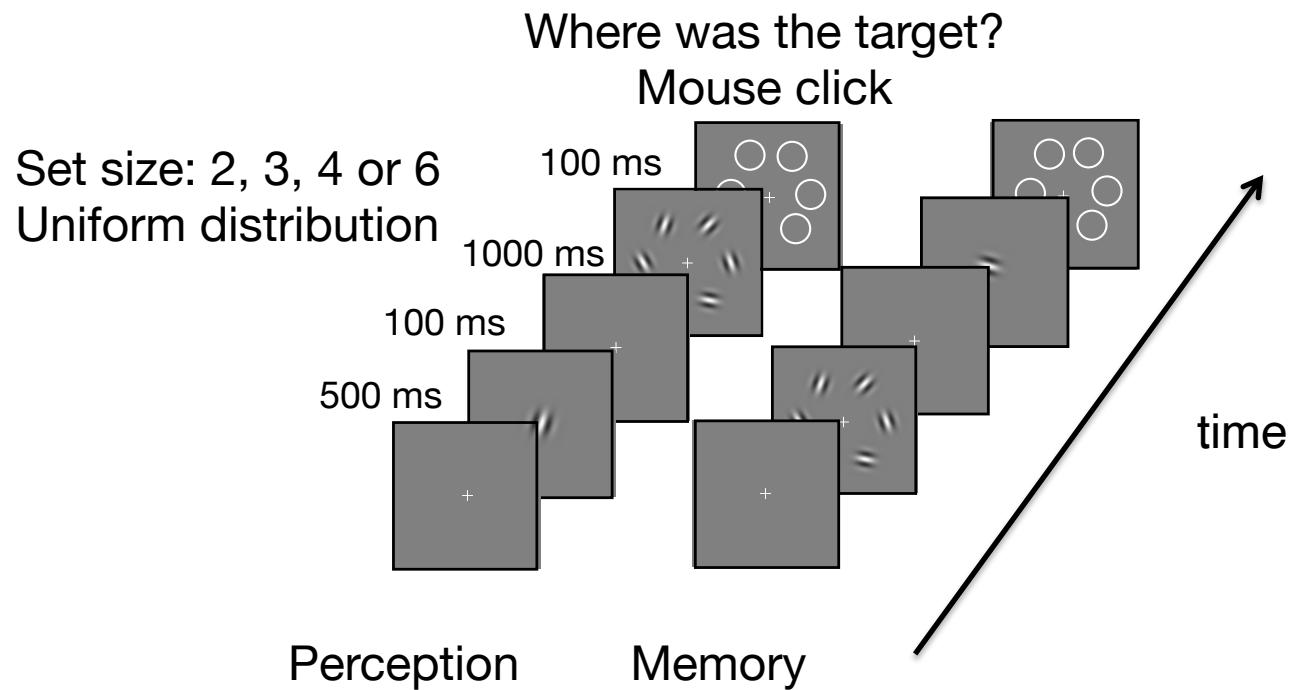
Set size: 2, 3, 4 or 6  
Uniform distribution



# n-AFC localization with heterogenous distractors



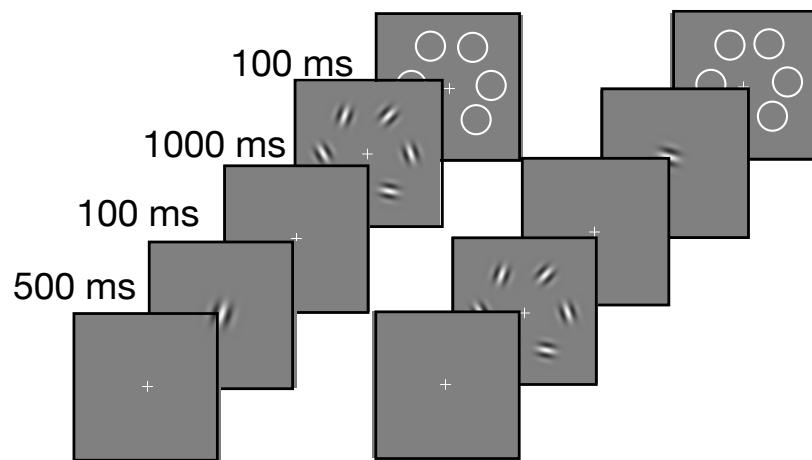
# n-AFC localization in perception and memory



# n-AFC localization and detection

## Localization

Where was the target?  
Mouse click

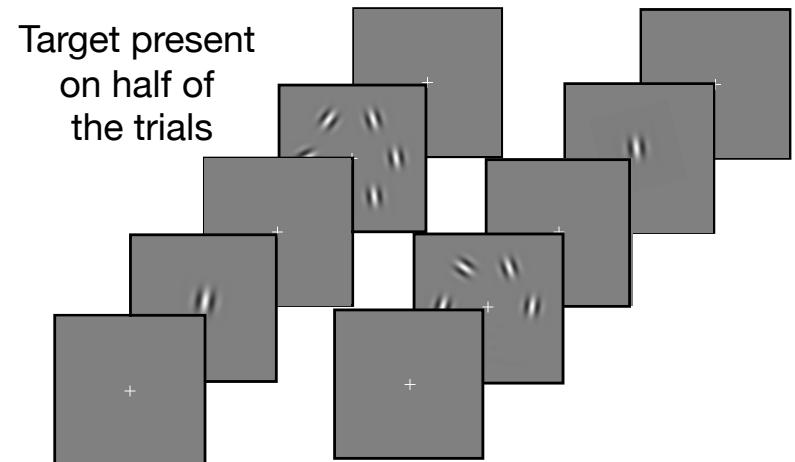


Perception

Memory

## Detection

Target present or absent?  
Button press

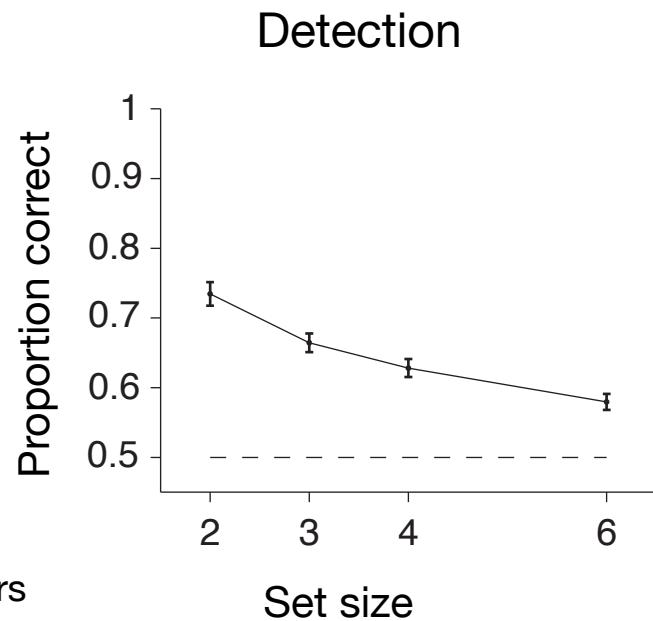
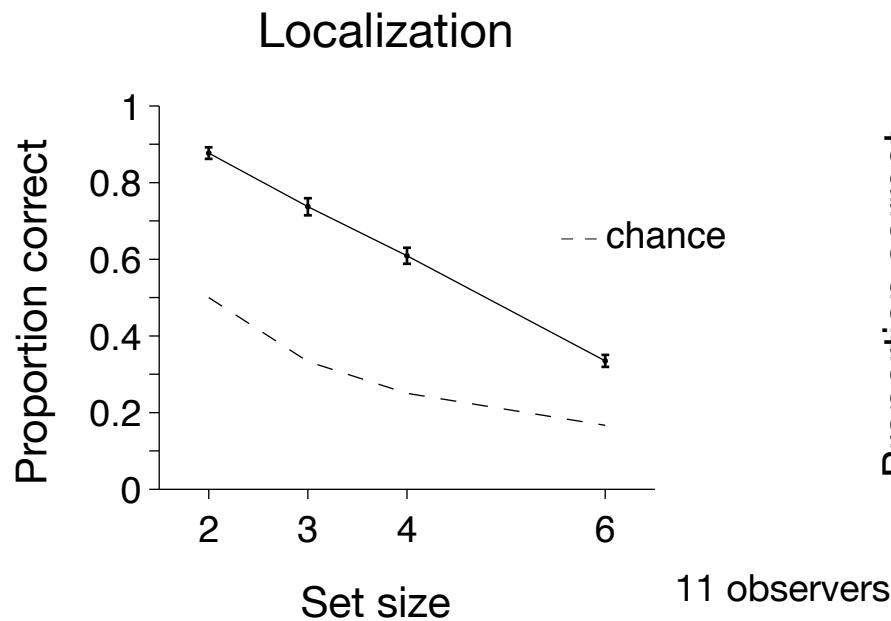


Perception

Memory

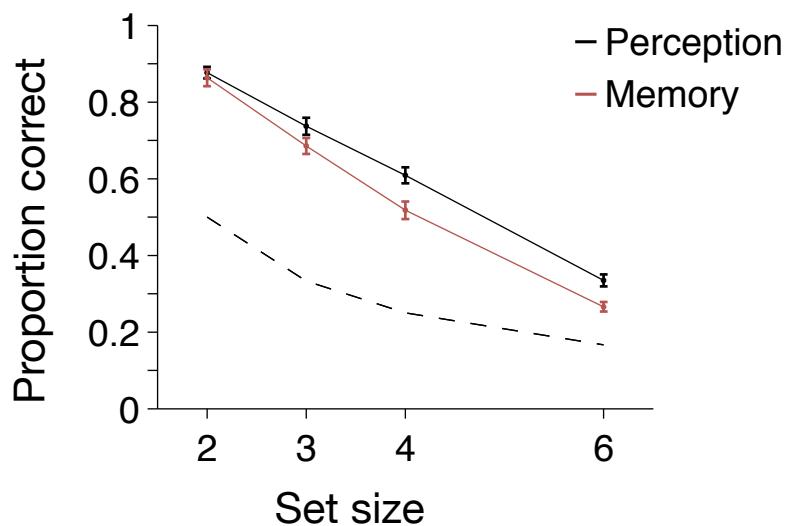
*Mazyar, van den Berg and Ma,  
2012*

# Summary statistic #1: Accuracy as a function of set size



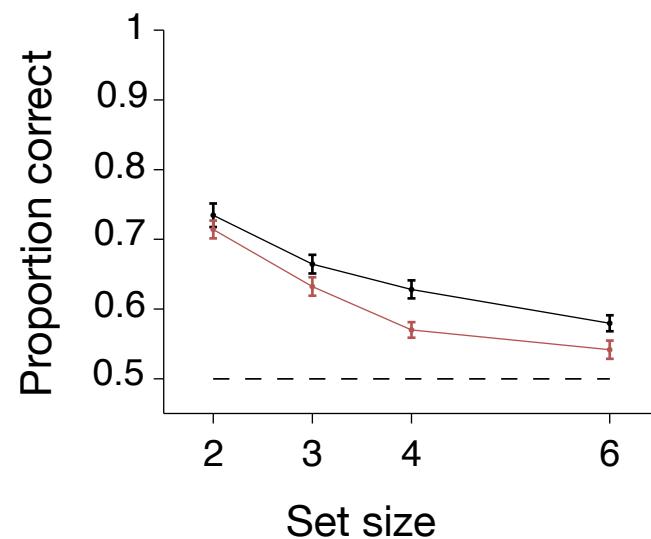
# Summary statistic #1: Accuracy as a function of set size

Localization



Effect of set size:  $p < 0.001$   
Effect of Perception/Memory:  $p < 0.001$

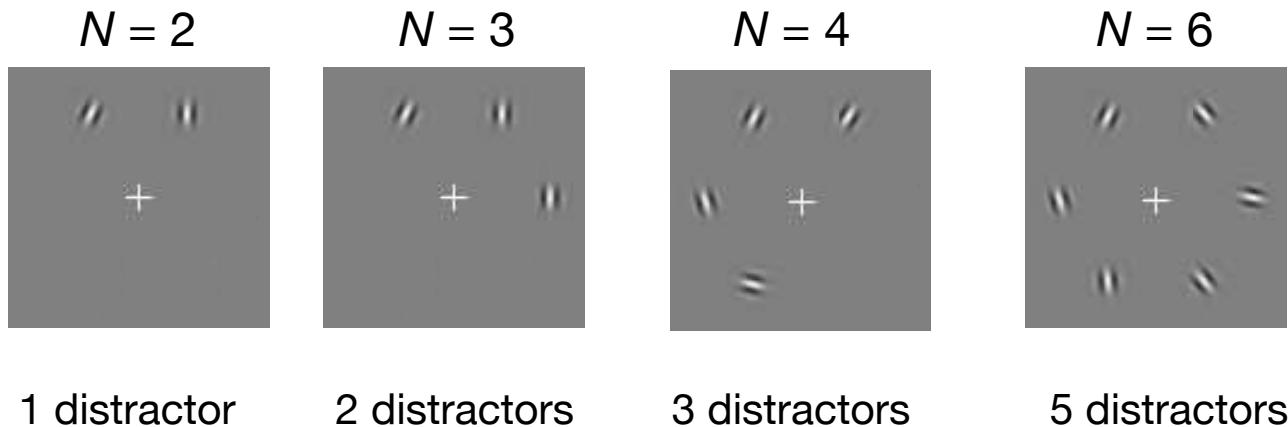
Detection



Effect of set size:  $p < 0.001$   
Effect of Perception/Memory:  $p < 0.001$

- Goal: understand the underlying process through quantitative modeling.
- We need a more detailed characterization of behavior.
- How can we better characterize the behavioral data given that distractors are heterogeneous?

# Challenge: Distractor space is $(N-1)$ -dimensional



We need a smart “dimensionality reduction”.

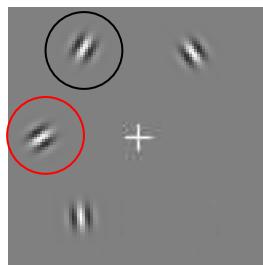
One way to reduce  $N-1$  distractors to a single number:  
minimum target-distractor (T-D) orientation distance

Target orientation

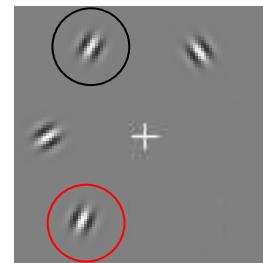
$$s_T = 30^\circ$$

Easier?

$$N = 4$$



Harder?

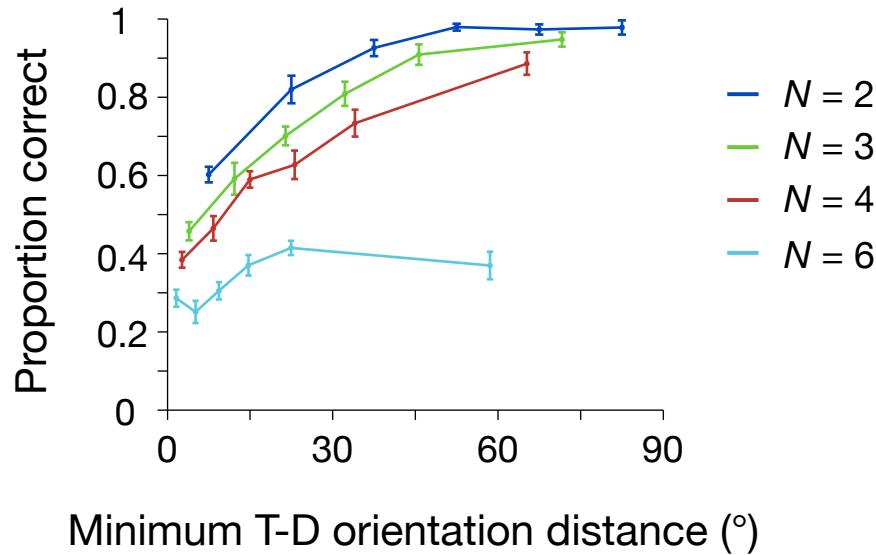


Distractor orientation (°)	Target-distractor orientation distance (°)
-35	65
55	25
-5	35

Distractor orientation (°)	Target-distractor orientation distance (°)
-35	65
55	25
24	6

**Minimum T-D orientation distance**

## Summary statistic #2: Accuracy as a function of minimum target-distractor orientation distance



Effect of set size:  $p < 0.001$

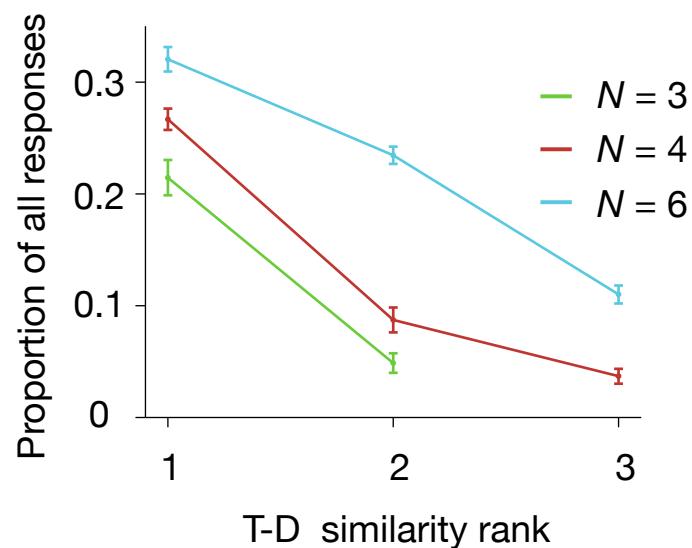
Effect of minimum T-D orientation distance:  $p < 0.001$

Not just qualitative trends. We will use the exact shapes of these curves to constrain the model.

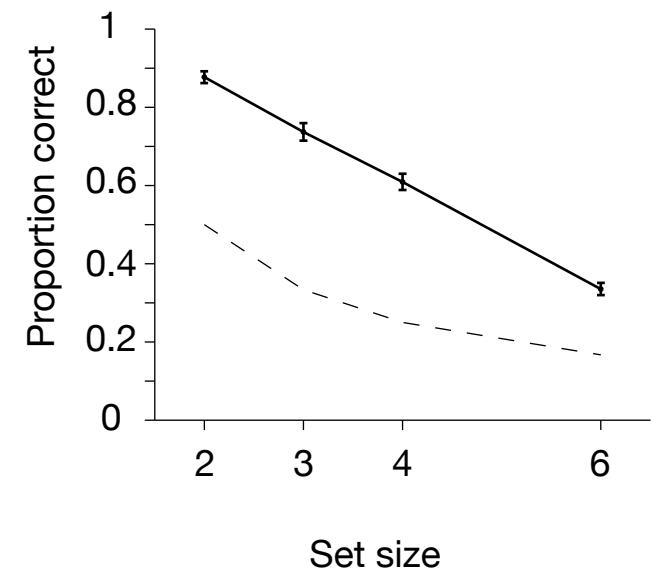
So far, we have only examined proportion correct.  
Next, we will break down the error responses.

## Summary statistic #3: Histogram of error responses by target-distractor similarity rank

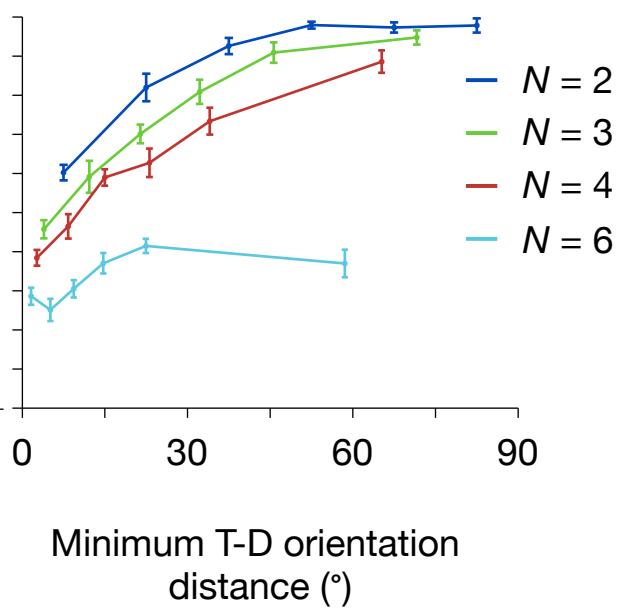
Distractor orientation (°)	Target-distractor orientation distance (°)	Target-distractor similarity rank
-35	65	3
55	25	2
11	19	1



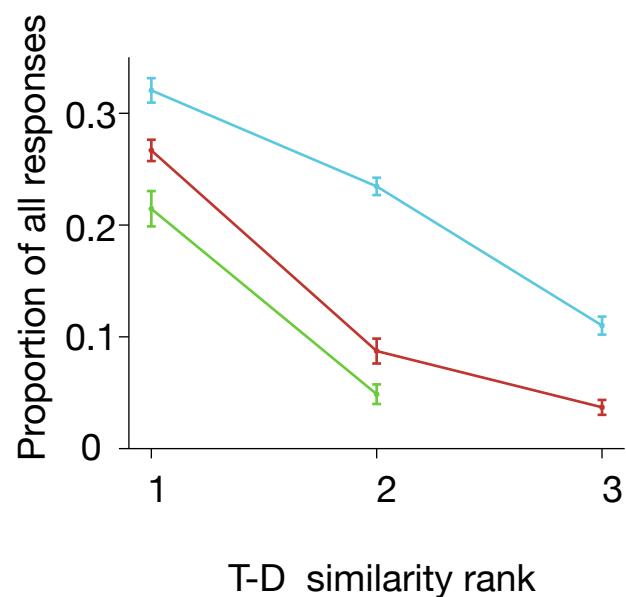
Summary statistic #1:  
Accuracy as a function of  
set size



Summary statistic #2:  
Accuracy as a function of  
minimum target-distractor  
orientation distance



Summary statistic #3:  
Histogram of error  
responses by target-  
distractor similarity rank



Goal: fit all these curves together (on an individual-subject basis)  
with an optimal-observer model

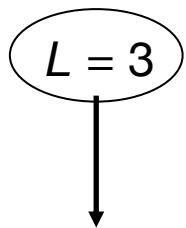
**Optimal-observer modeling** - two stages:

**Encoding:** stimuli → noisy measurements

**Decision:**

- Calculate probabilities of possible target locations based on the set of noisy measurements and knowledge of the encoding process
- Choose the most probable location: this maximizes proportion correct

# Optimal-observer model: encoding stage

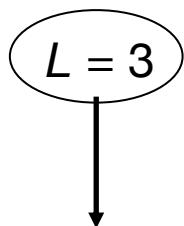


Each location is equally likely to contain the target

## Optimal-observer model: encoding stage

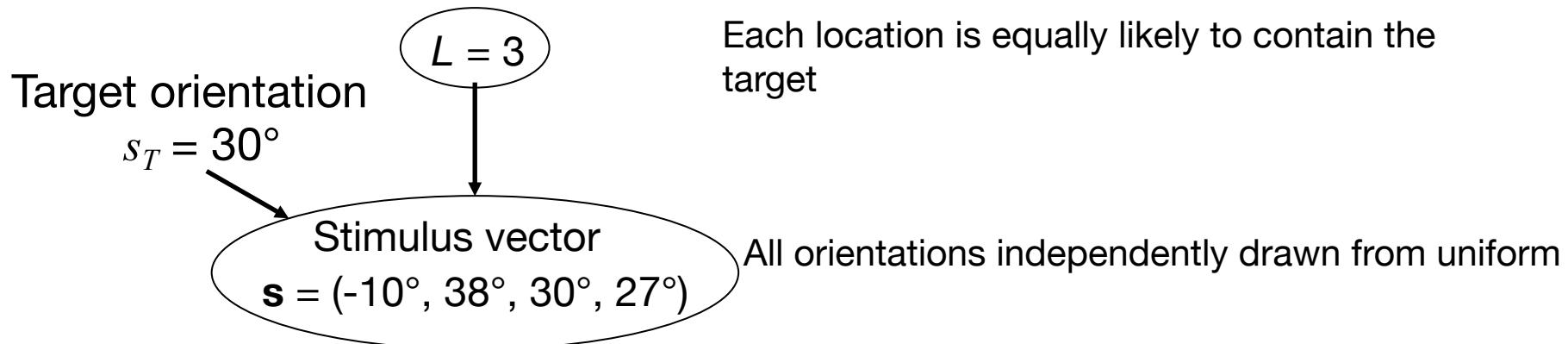
Target orientation

$$s_T = 30^\circ$$

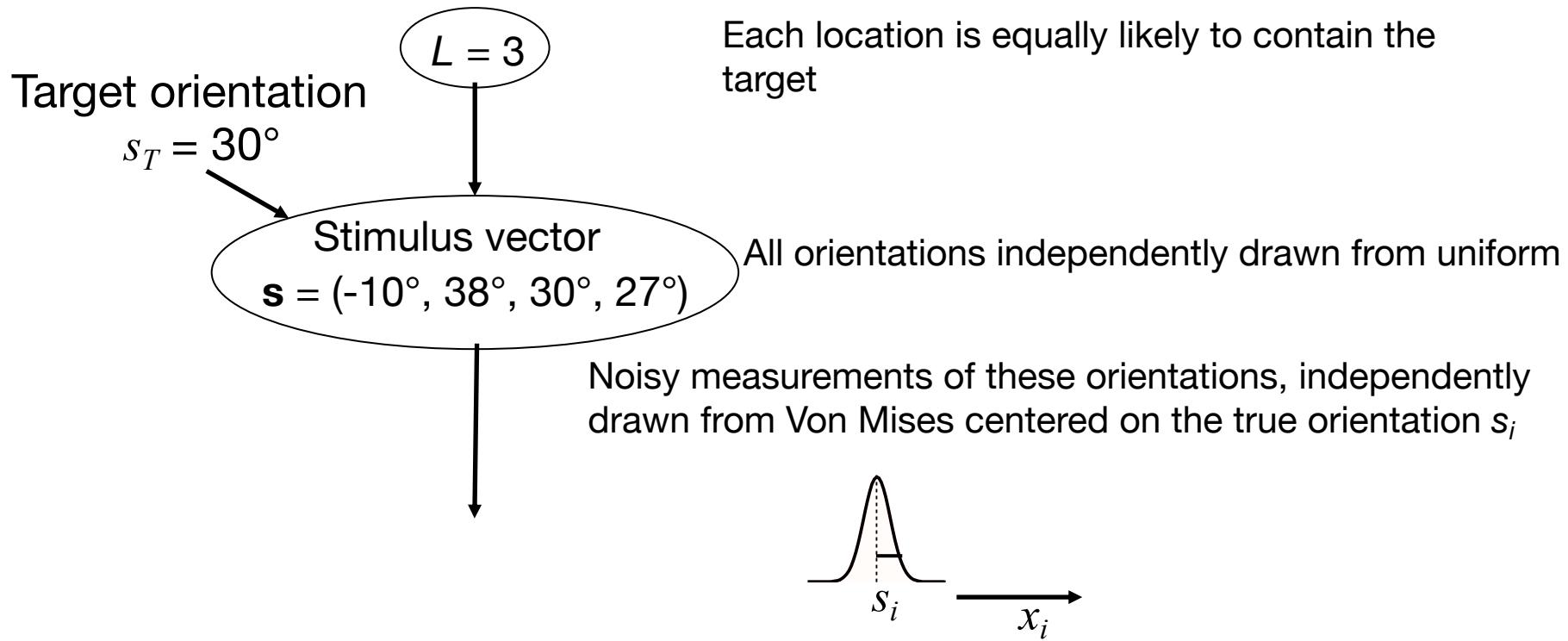


Each location is equally likely to contain the target

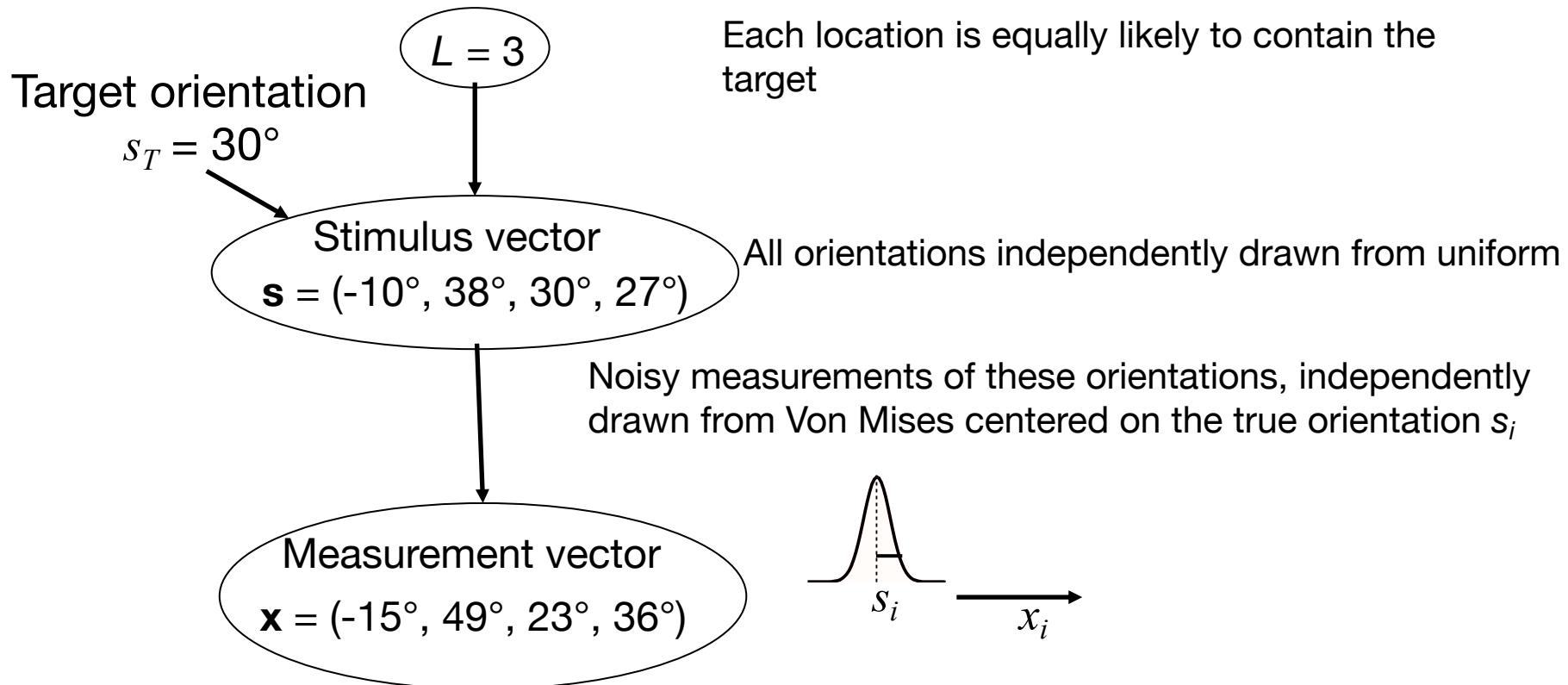
# Optimal-observer model: encoding stage



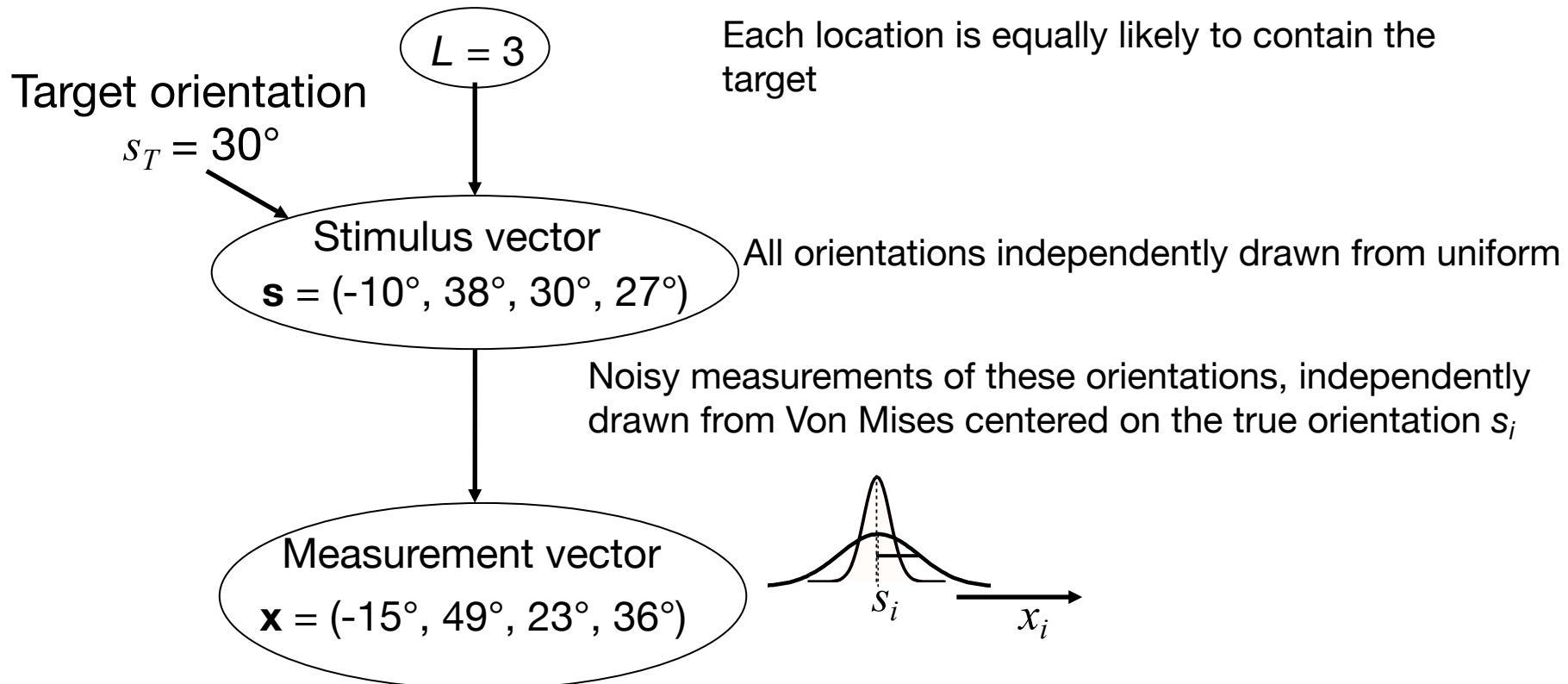
# Optimal-observer model: encoding stage



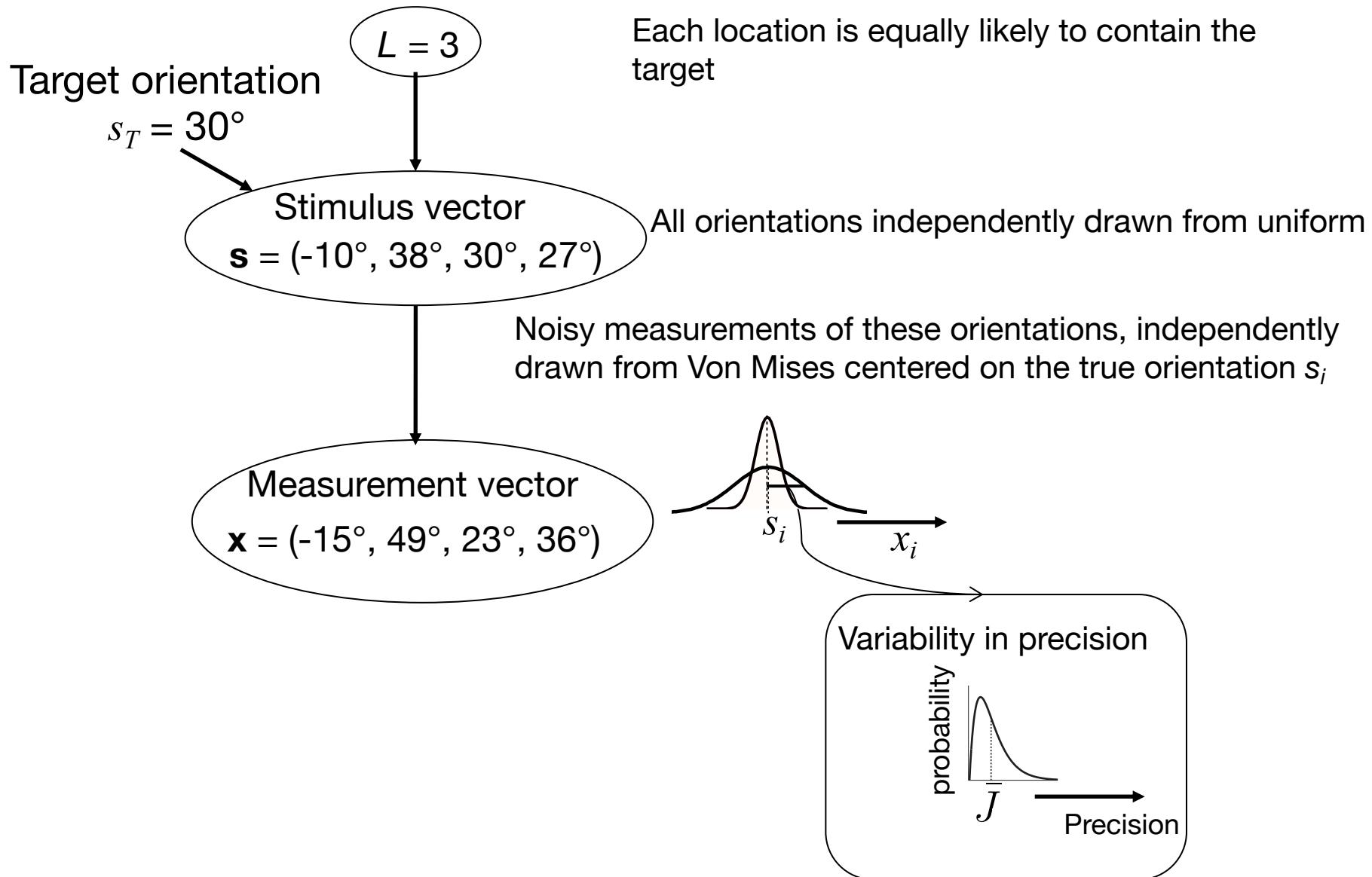
# Optimal-observer model: encoding stage



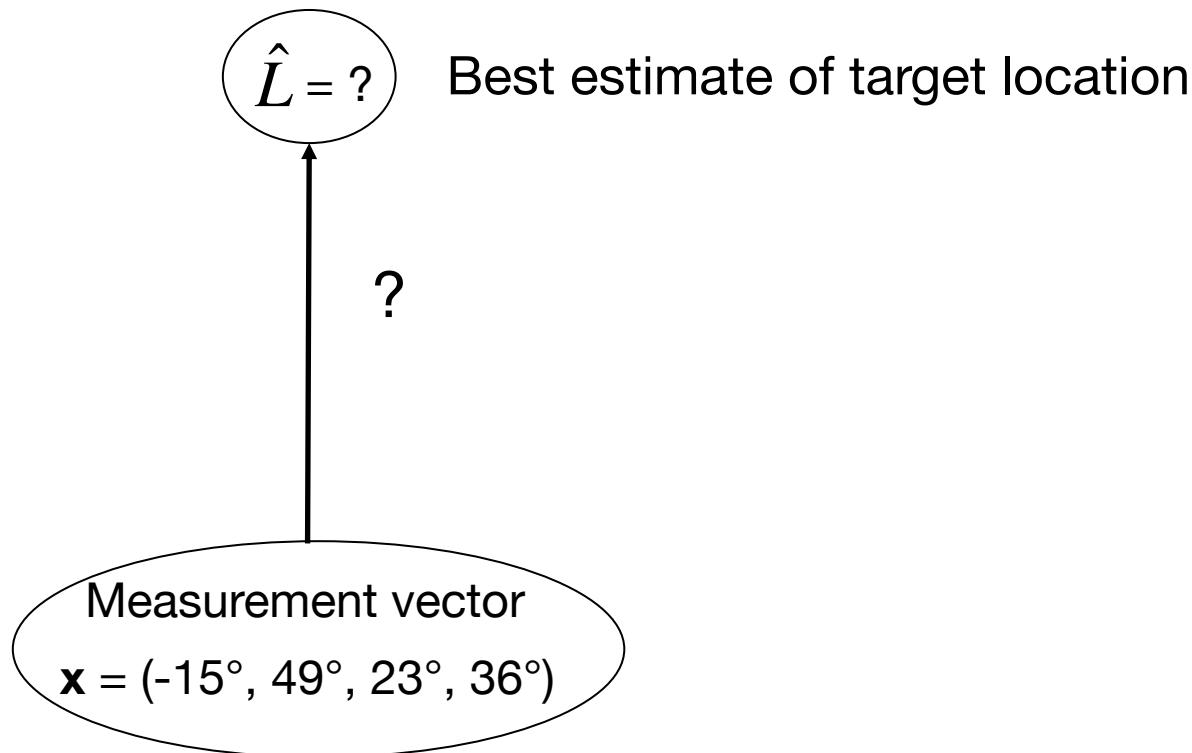
# Optimal-observer model: encoding stage



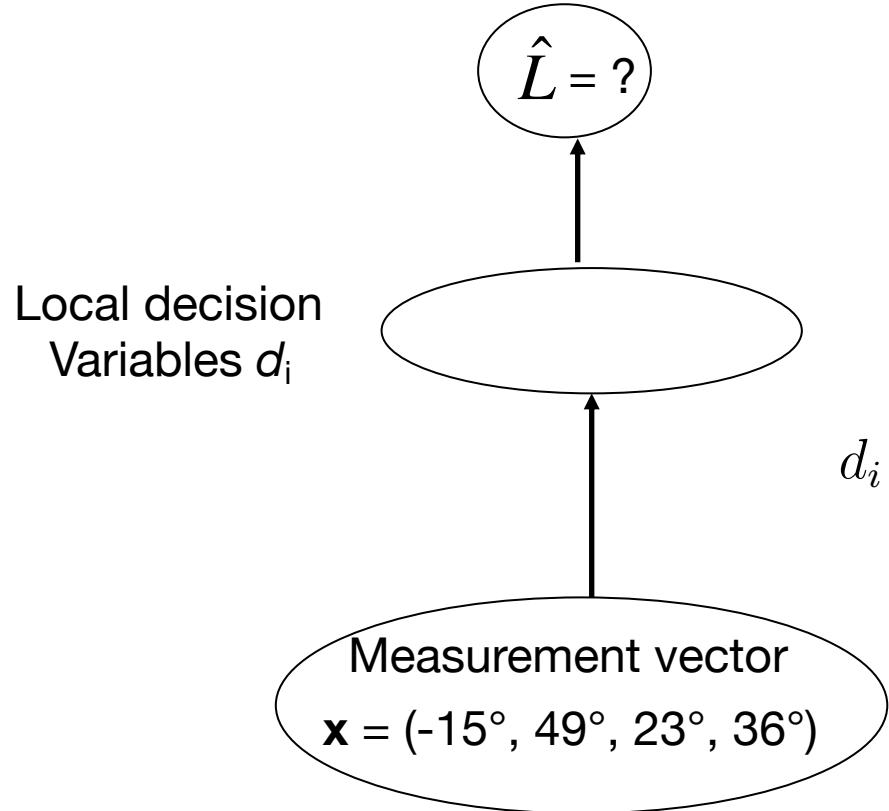
# Optimal-observer model: encoding stage



# Optimal-observer model: decision stage

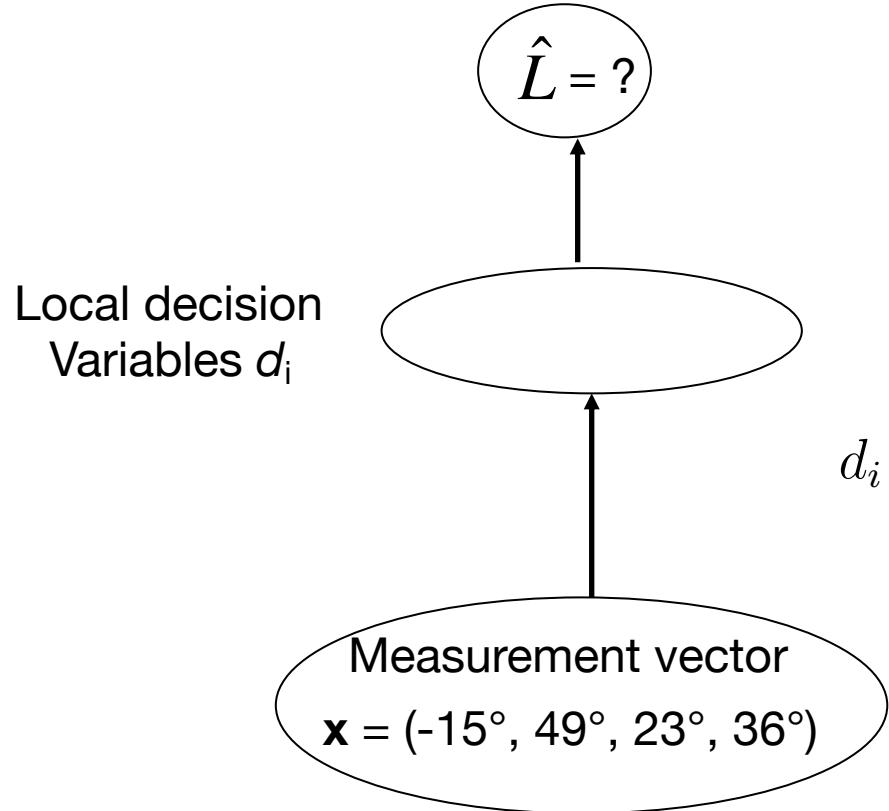


# Optimal-observer model: decision stage



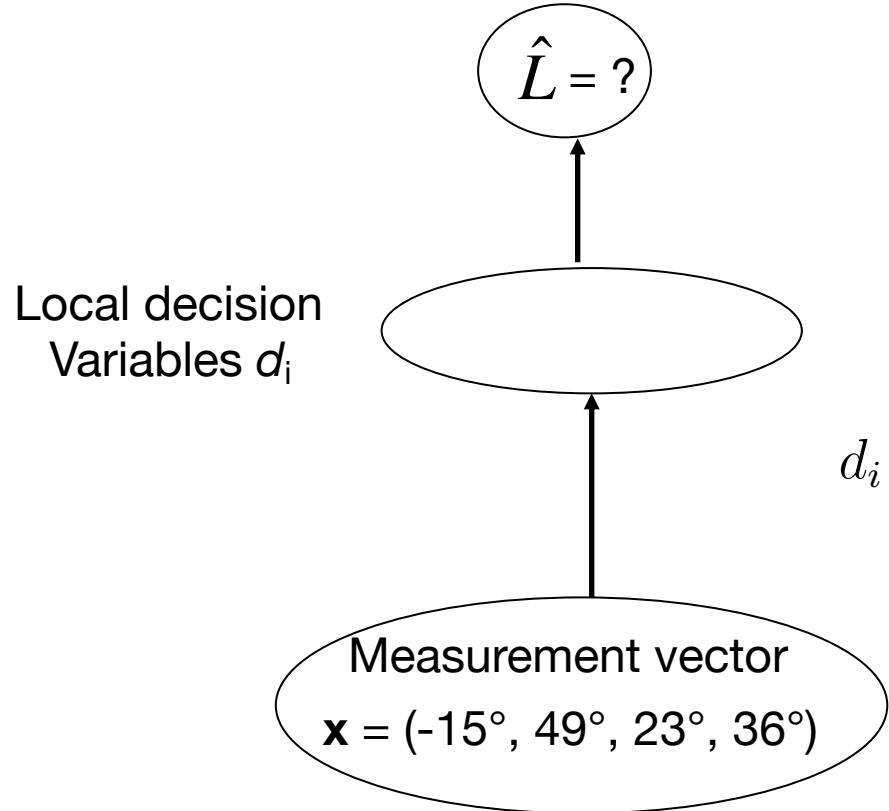
$$d_i = \log \frac{p(x_i|\text{target at location } i)}{p(x_i|\text{distractor at location } i)}$$

# Optimal-observer model: decision stage



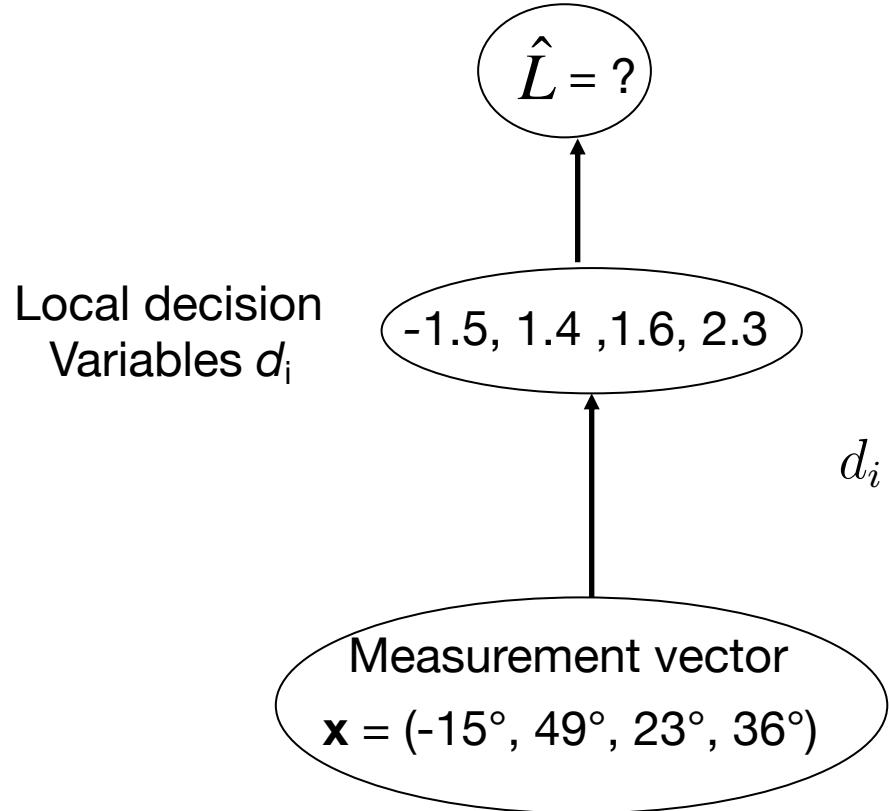
$$\begin{aligned}d_i &= \log \frac{p(x_i | \text{target at location } i)}{p(x_i | \text{distractor at location } i)} \\&= -\log I_0(\kappa_i) + \kappa_i \cos(x_i - s_T)\end{aligned}$$

# Optimal-observer model: decision stage



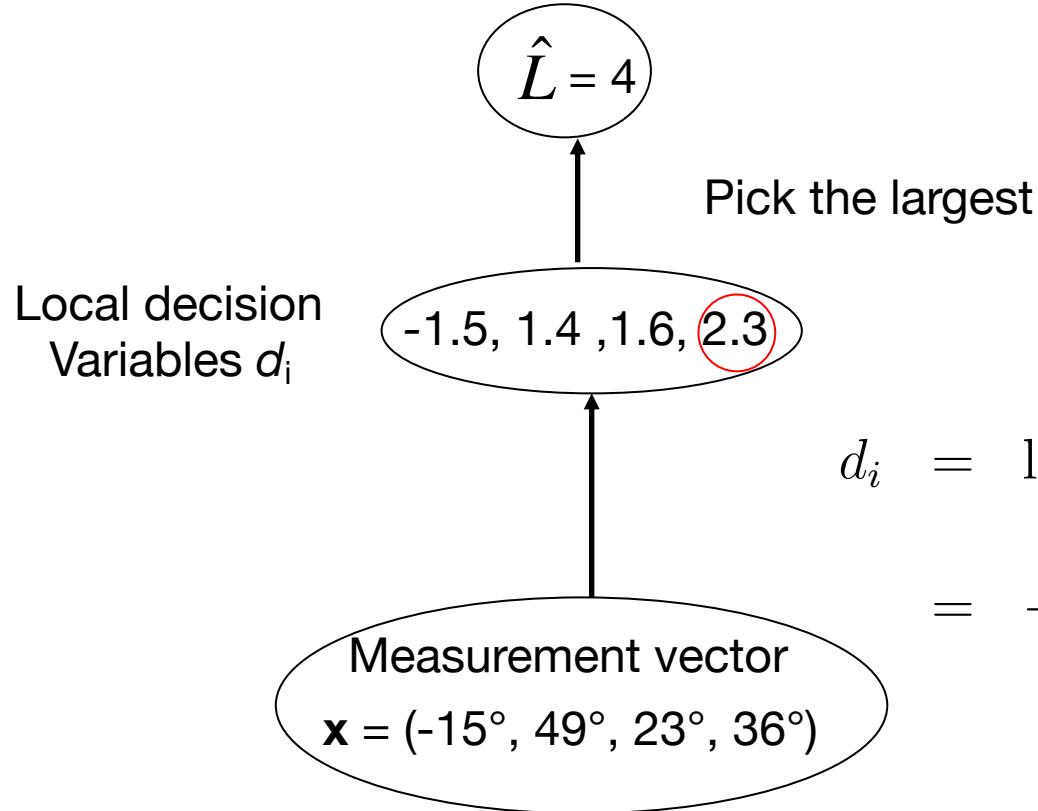
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# Optimal-observer model: decision stage



$$\begin{aligned}d_i &= \log \frac{p(x_i \text{ | target at location } i)}{p(x_i \text{ | distractor at location } i)} \\&= -\log I_0(\kappa_i) + \kappa_i \cos(x_i - s_T)\end{aligned}$$

# Optimal-observer model: decision stage



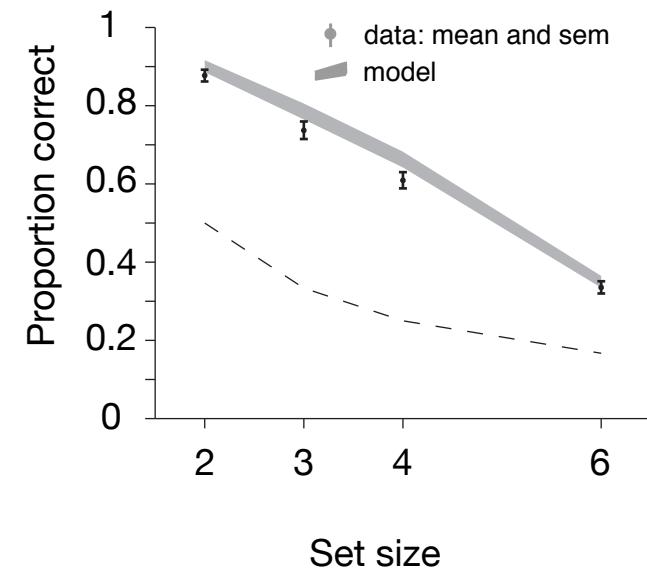
$$\begin{aligned}d_i &= \log \frac{p(x_i \text{ | target at location } i)}{p(x_i \text{ | distractor at location } i)} \\&= -\log I_0(\kappa_i) + \kappa_i \cos(x_i - s_T)\end{aligned}$$

# Parameters and model fitting

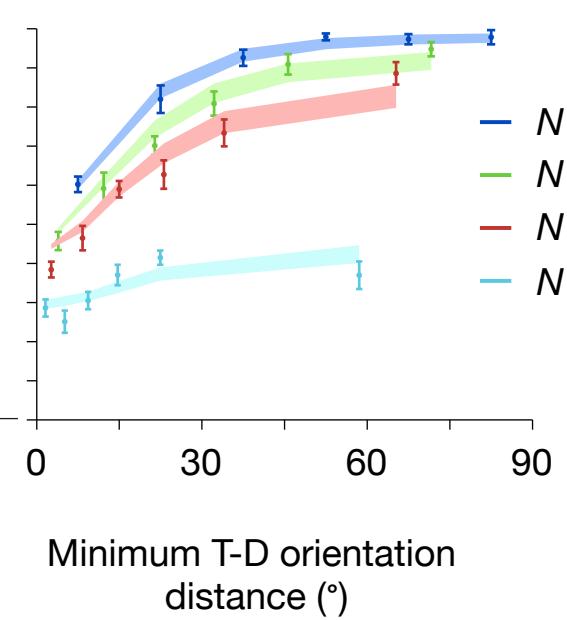
- Five free parameters:
  - Mean precisions at set sizes 2, 3, 4, 6
  - Variability in precision
- Simulate predictions  $p(\hat{L} | s)$  (2000 samples)
- Model fitting:
  - Fit trial-to-trial responses to find parameter estimates that maximize the likelihood,  $p(\text{data} | \text{model parameters})$
  - Use Bayesian Adaptive Direct Search, *Acerbi and Ma, 2017*
- Model checking: simulate summary statistics with fitted parameters (per subject)

# Optimal-observer model captures the localization data very well

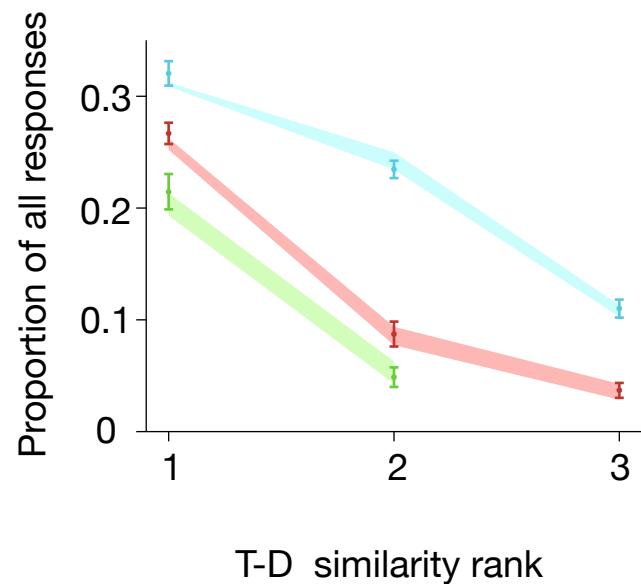
Summary statistic #1



Summary statistic #2

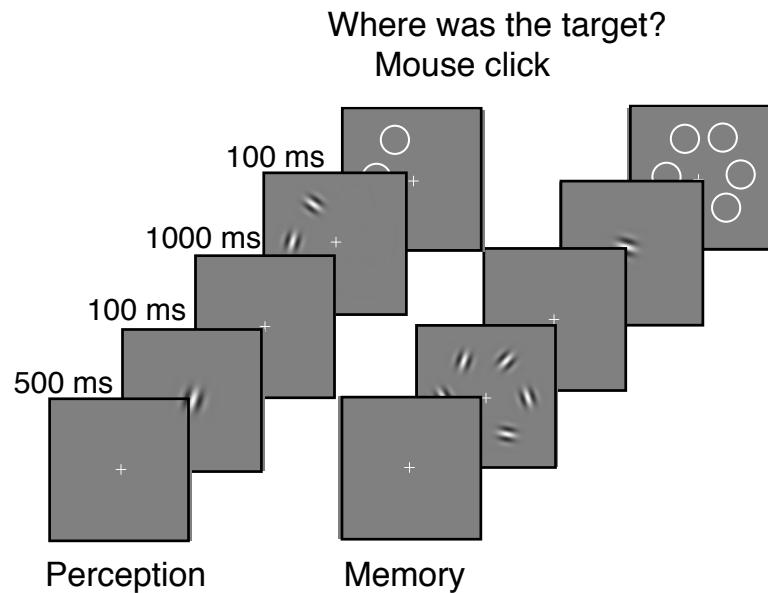


Summary statistic #3

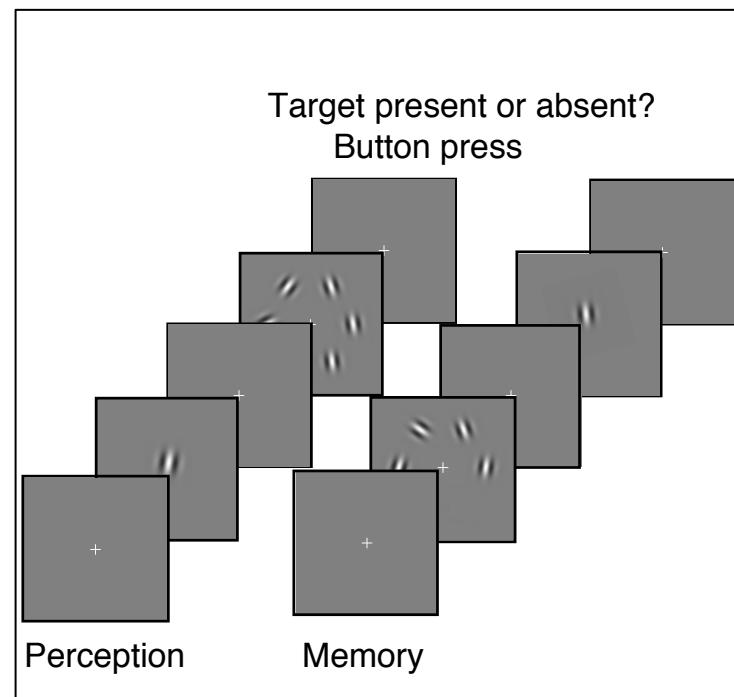


Every subject also did a second task, detection:

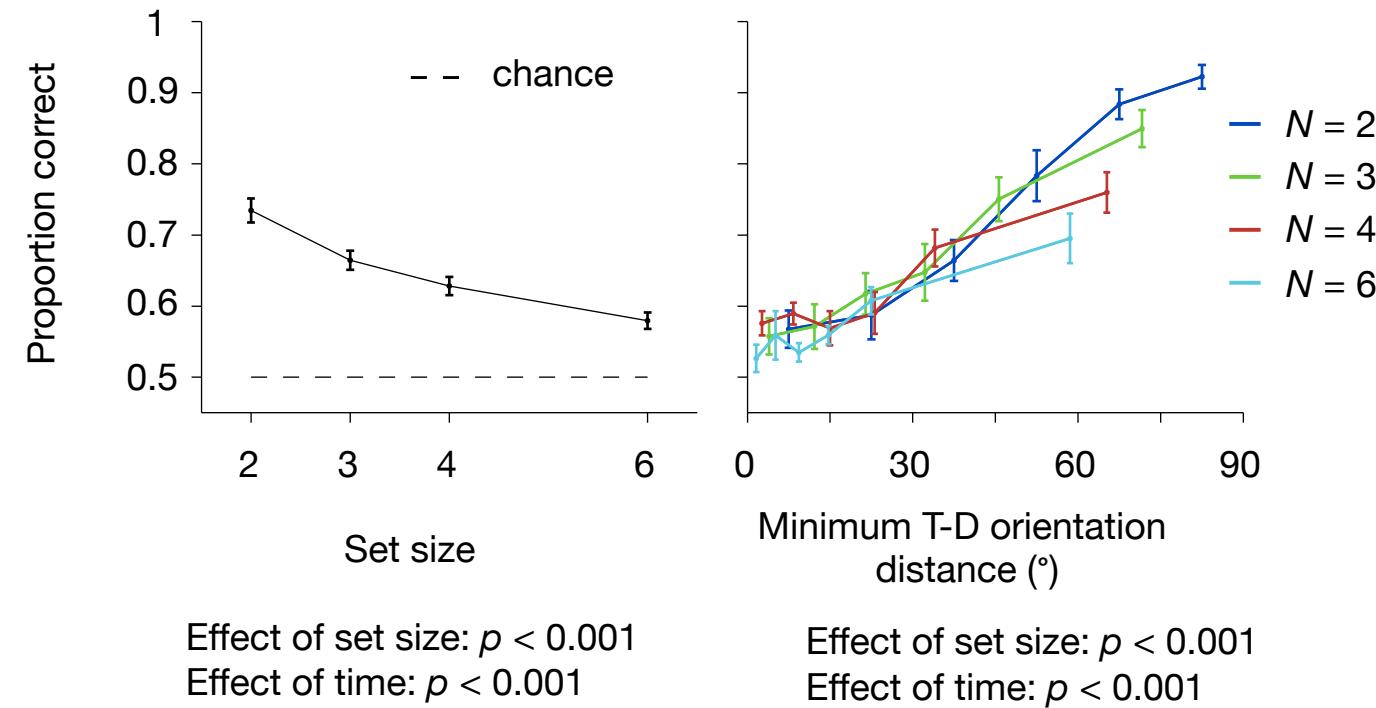
## Localization



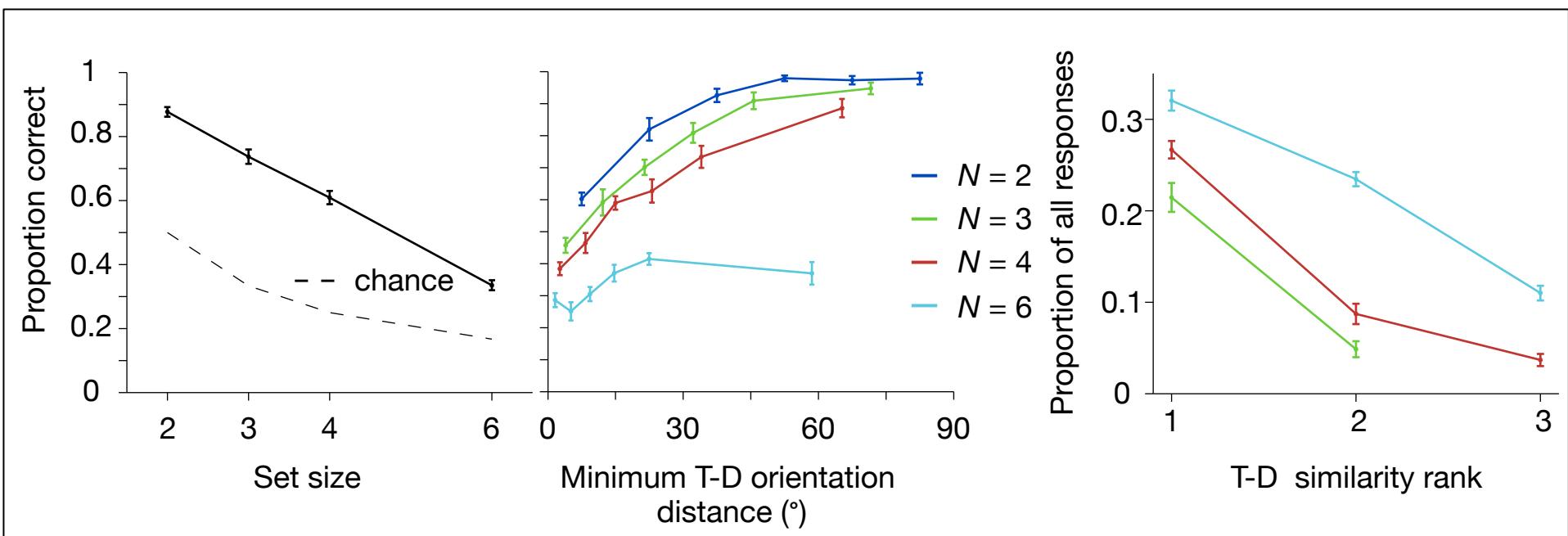
## Detection



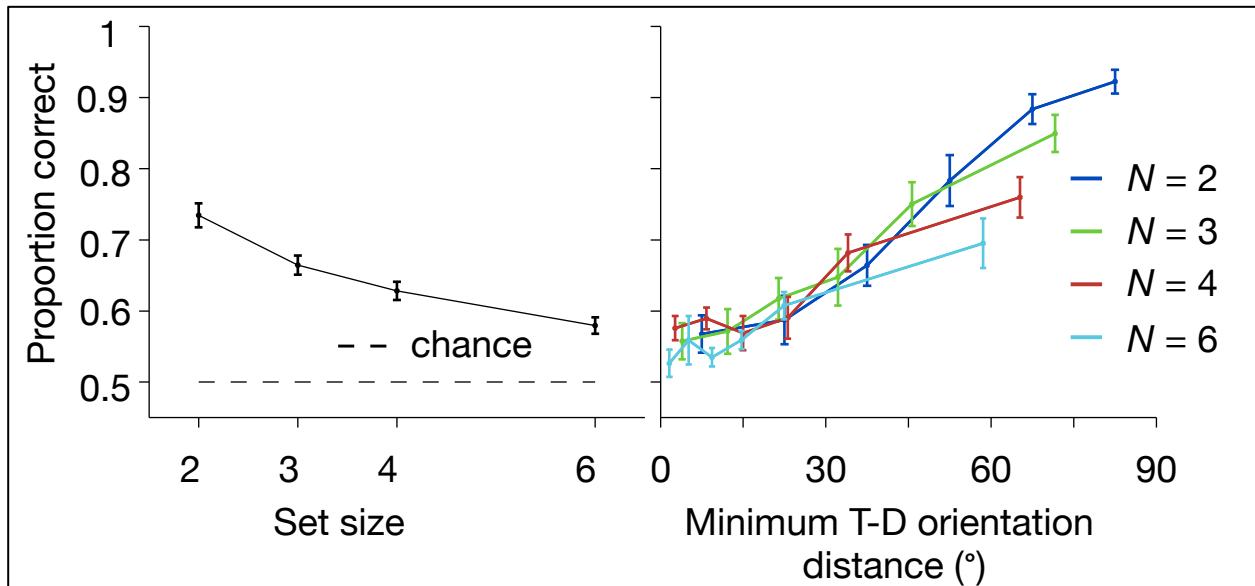
# Summary statistics #1 and #2 for detection



## Localization



## Detection



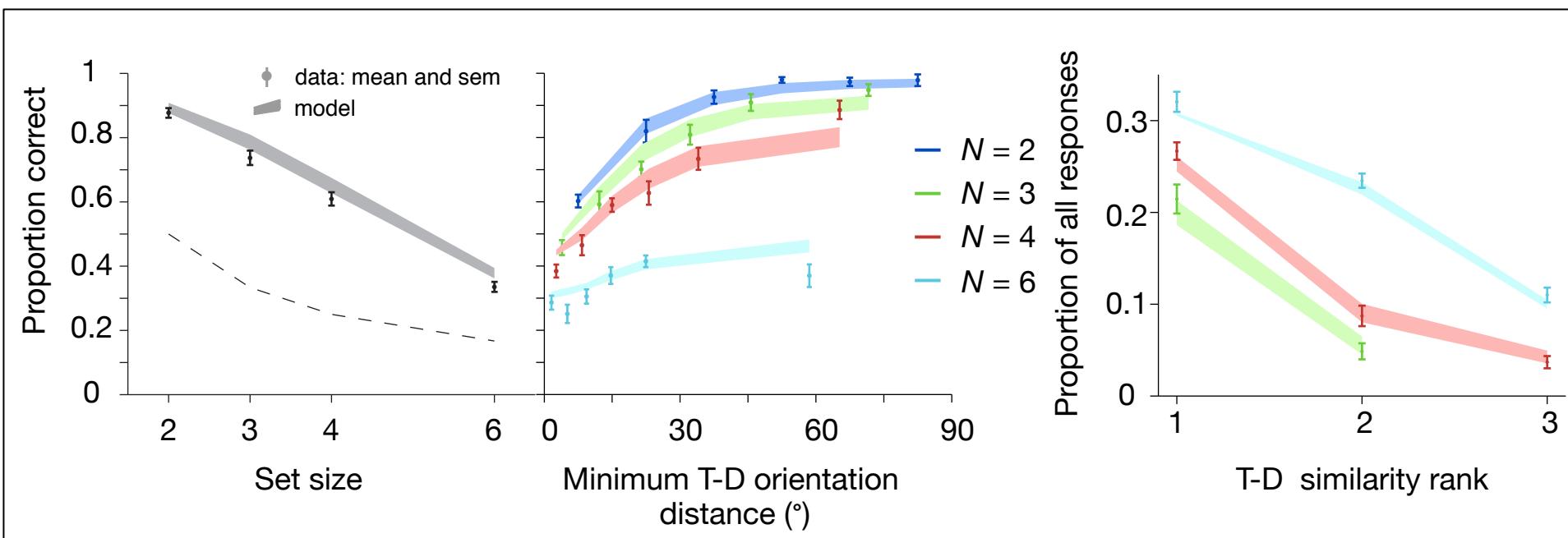
Goal: fit all these curves together within the same subject *with the same parameters*

## Fitting the optimal-observer model *jointly* to localization and detection

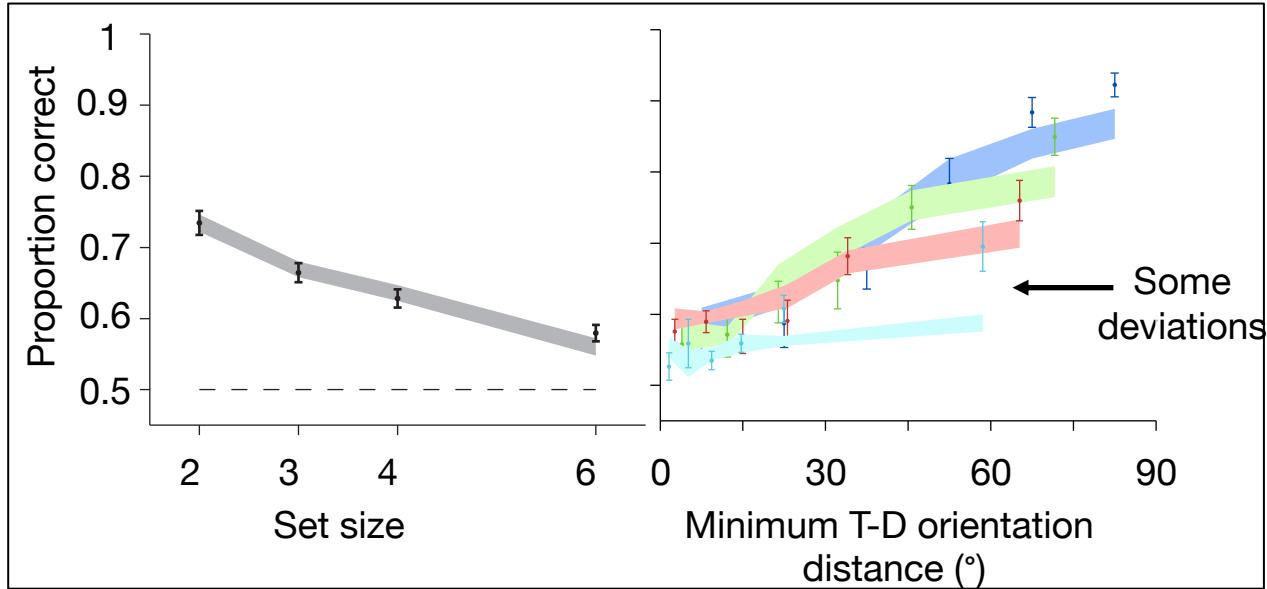
- Same encoding model for both localization and detection
- Slightly different decision rule (in view of task difference)  
*Ma et al. 2011, Mazyar, van den Berg and Ma 2012*
- Per subject, *parameters are shared between tasks*, with one additional parameter for Detection ( $p_{present}$ ): one more parameter, double the data!

## Localization

# Joint fits for perception

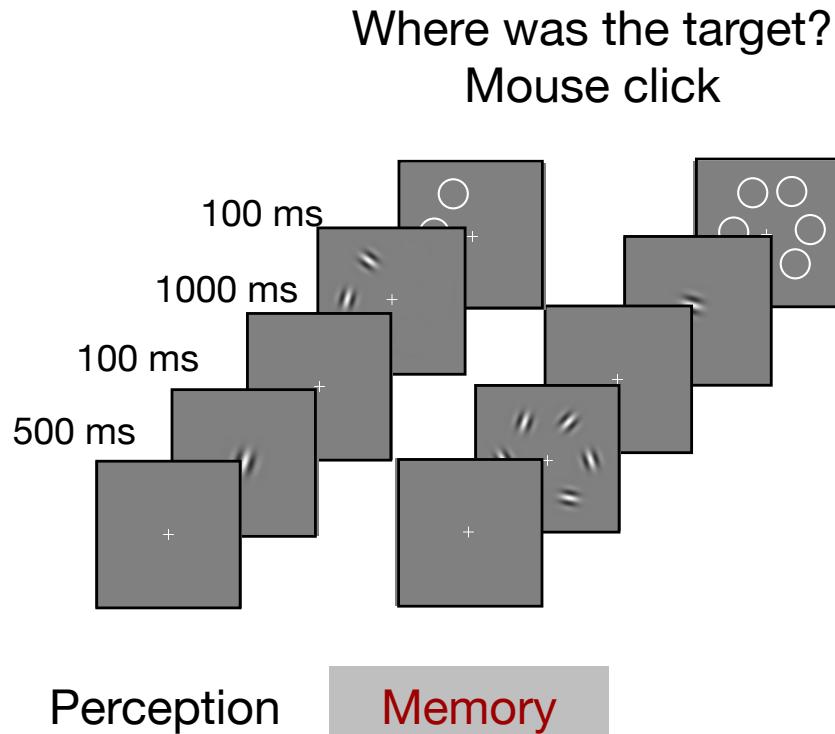


## Detection

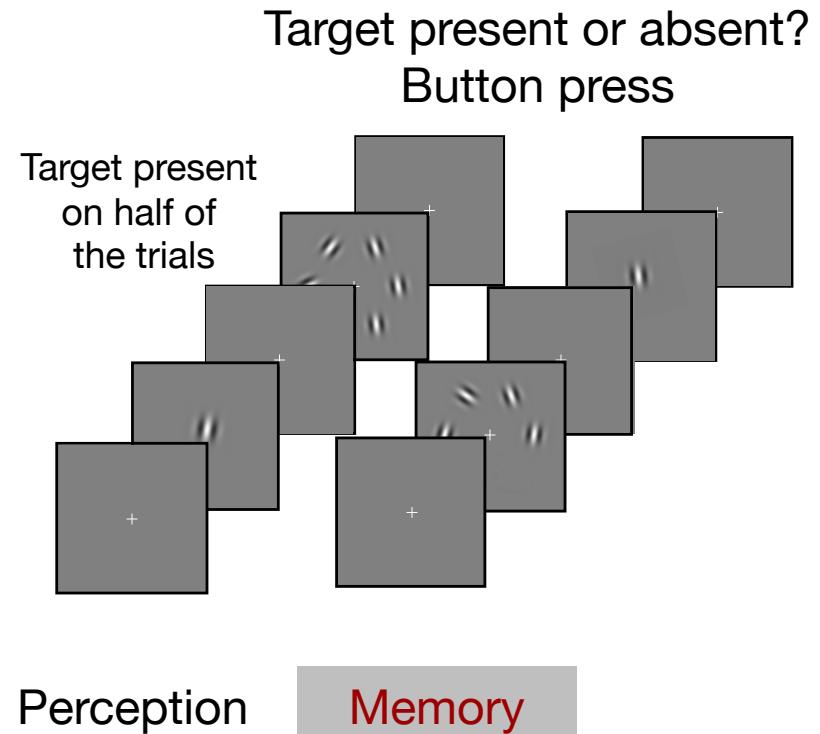


# n-AFC localization and detection

Localization

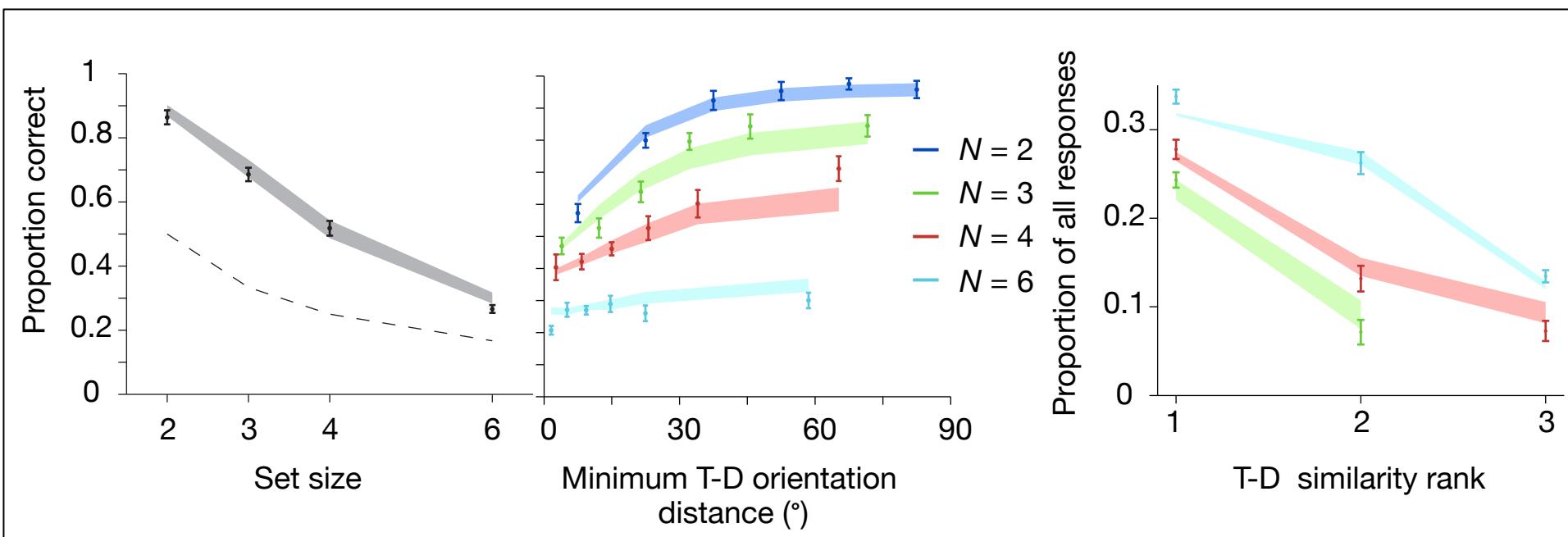


Detection

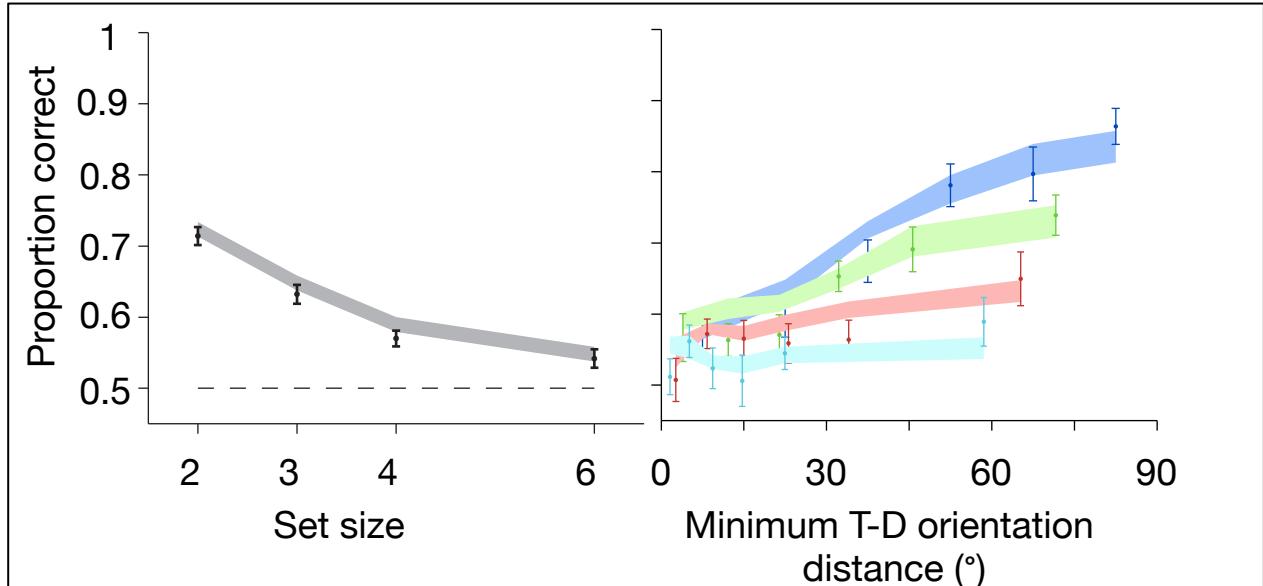


## Localization

# Joint fits for memory

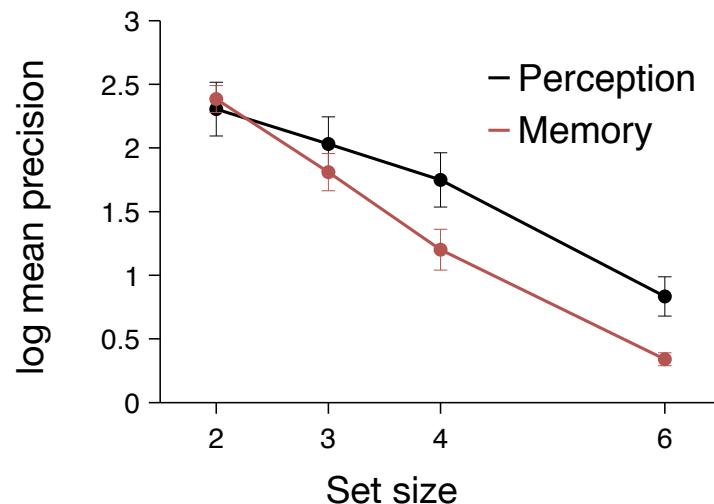


## Detection



The same process might underlie perception- and memory-based visual search.

# Mean precision parameters decrease with set size in perception and memory



Effect of set size:  $p < 0.001$

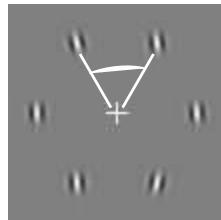
Effect of Perception/Memory:  $p = 0.009$

# Does stimulus proximity affect this pattern of results?

- Are the results in Experiment 1 conditional on the far spacing of stimuli?
  - There is some reason to believe that observers might swap items across locations *Bays 2009, 2016*
- Experiment 2 repeats Experiment 1 with a smaller spacing, still outside the Bouma distance for crowding *Bouma 1971*

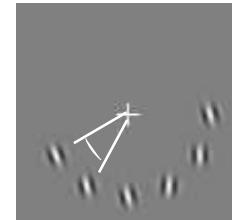
Experiment 1

60 deg



Experiment 2

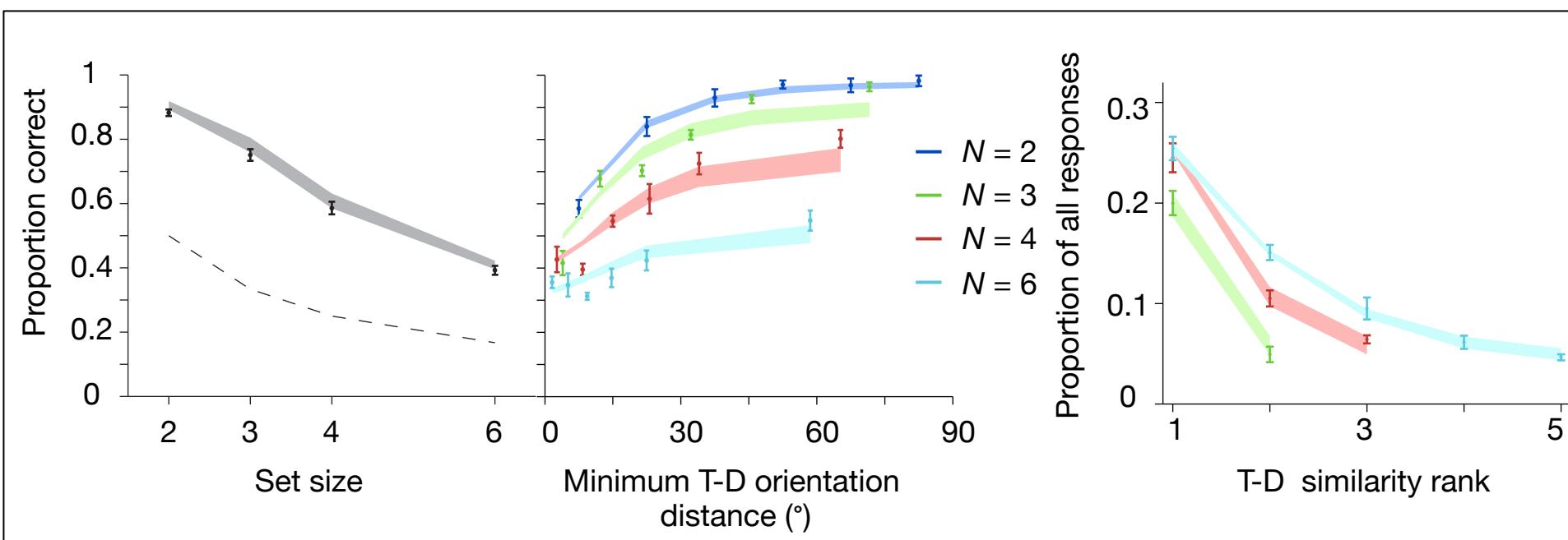
30 deg



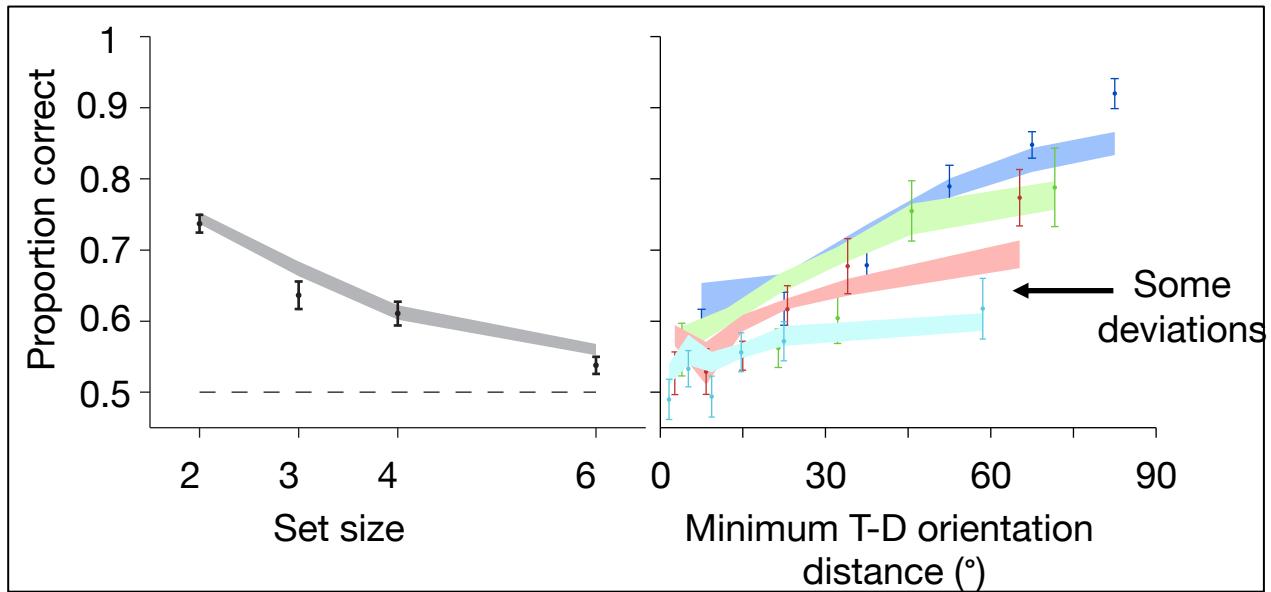
- Does the optimal-observer model still capture the data?

## Localization

## Smaller spacing: Joint fits for perception

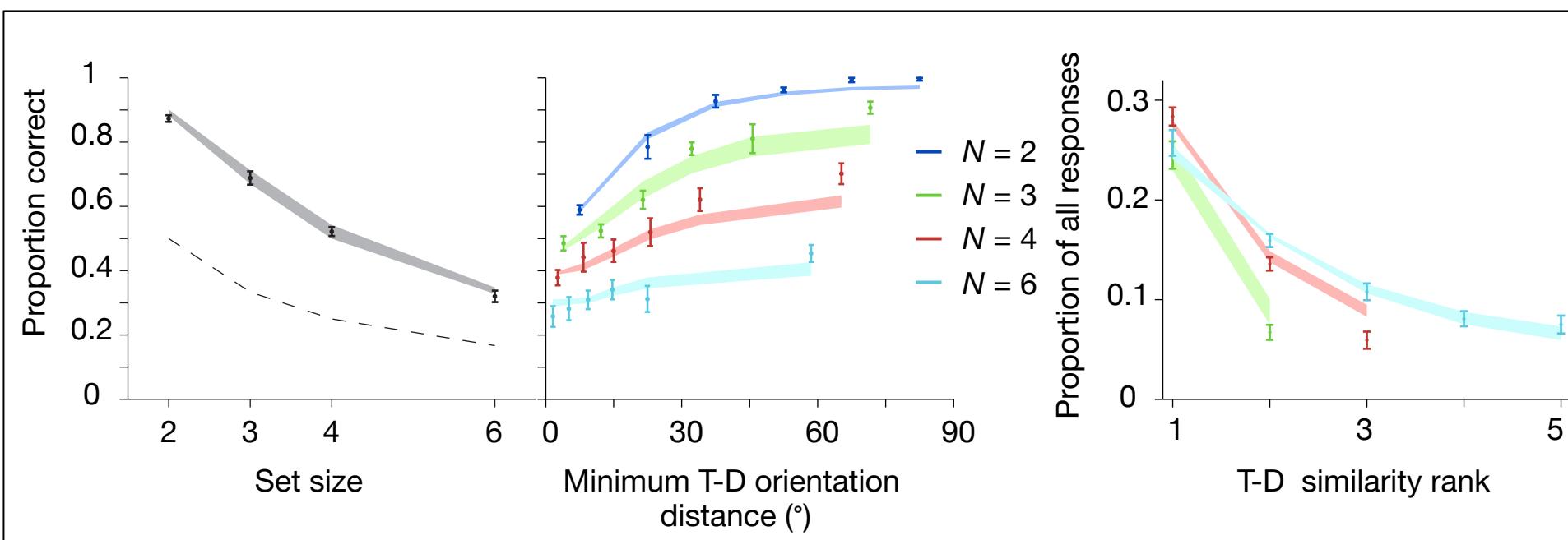


## Detection

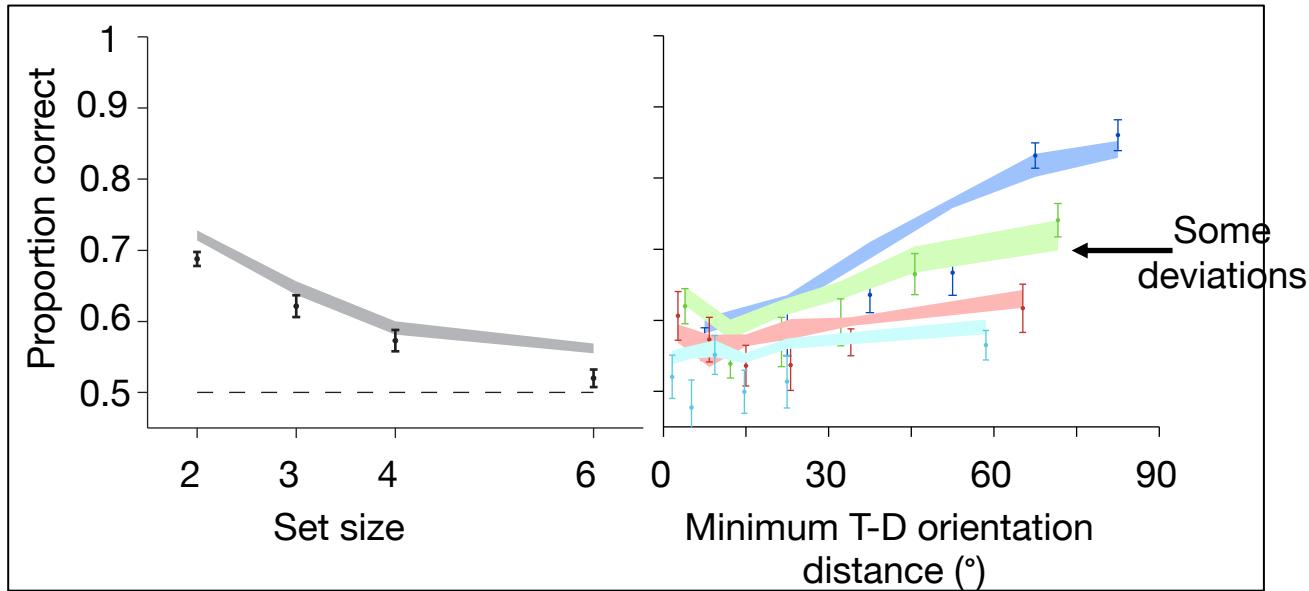


## Localization

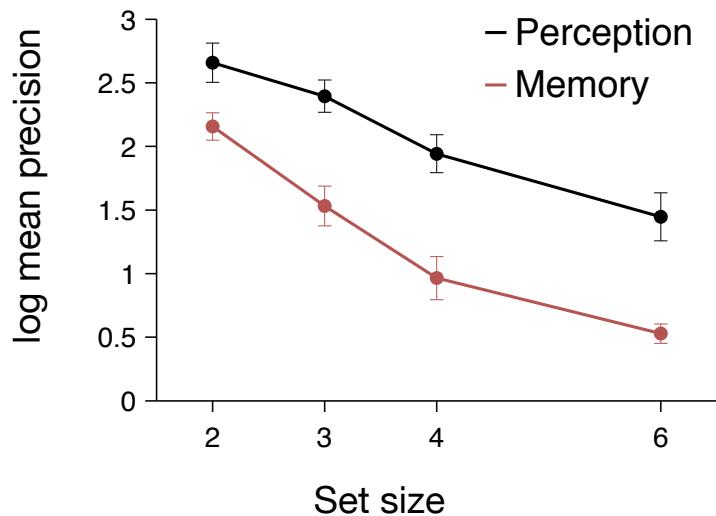
# Smaller spacing: Joint fits for memory



## Detection



# Smaller spacing: Mean precision parameters decrease with set size in perception and memory



Effect of set size:  $p < 0.001$

Effect of Perception/Memory:  $p = 0.003$

# Conclusions part 1

- Goal: study visual search with heterogeneous distractors (towards real-world search), but maintain modelability
- Varied set size, task, timing condition (perception/memory) and spacing
- Accuracy decreases with increasing set size
- Accuracy increases with increasing minimum target-distractor orientation distance
- In localization, distractors more similar to the target were chosen more often
- Optimal-observer model captured the localization data well
  - Same model captured the joint localization and detection data, suggesting shared encoding processes
  - However, some deviations in the detection task
- Same process model for perception and memory-based search
  - In both Perception and Memory, precision decreases with set size
  - Precision Perception > Precision Memory
- Similar results with higher stimulus proximity



## Part 2: Spatial and feature cueing and task-switching in neurotypicals and ADHD

*Allison Young\**



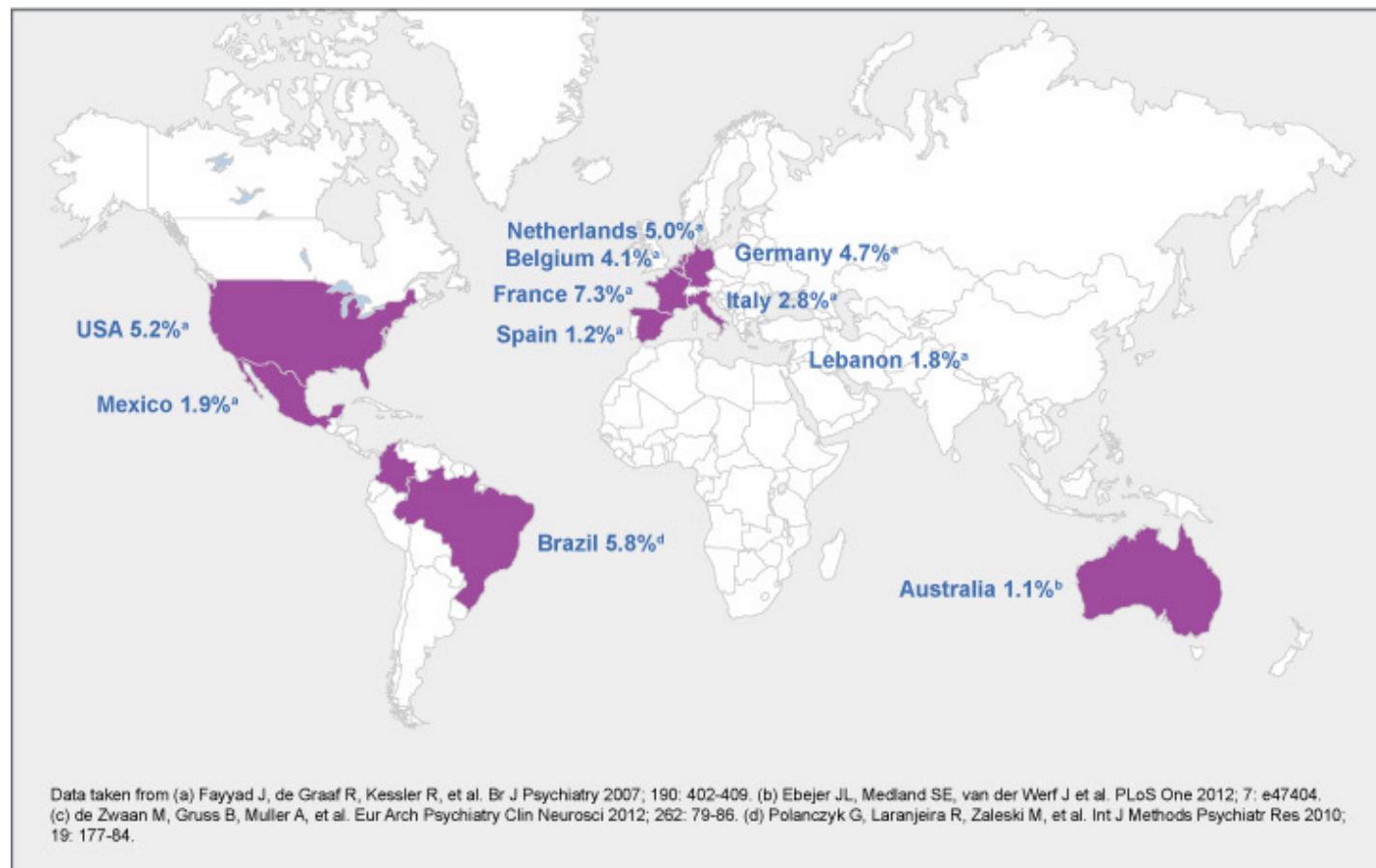
*Lenard Adler*



*Michael Halassa*



# Attention-deficit/hyperactive disorder (ADHD) is highly prevalent around the world



Source: <http://adhd-institute.com/burden-of-adhd/epidemiology/>

# ADHD diagnosis example questions

## Adult ADHD Self-Report Scale

1. How often do you have trouble wrapping up the final details of a project, once the challenging parts have been done?

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very Often

2. How often do you have difficulty getting things in order when you have to do a task that requires organization?

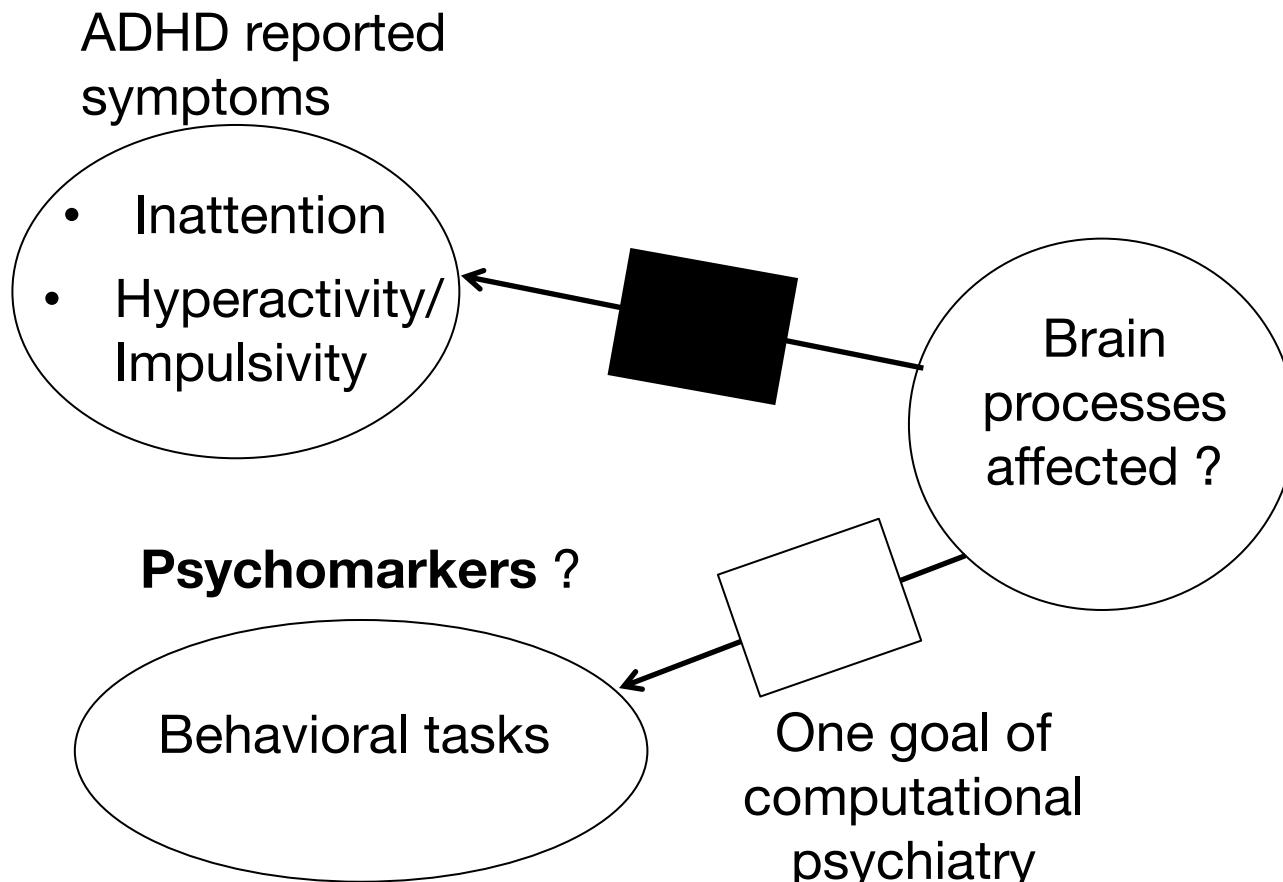
Inattention

15. How often do you find yourself talking too much when you are in social situations?

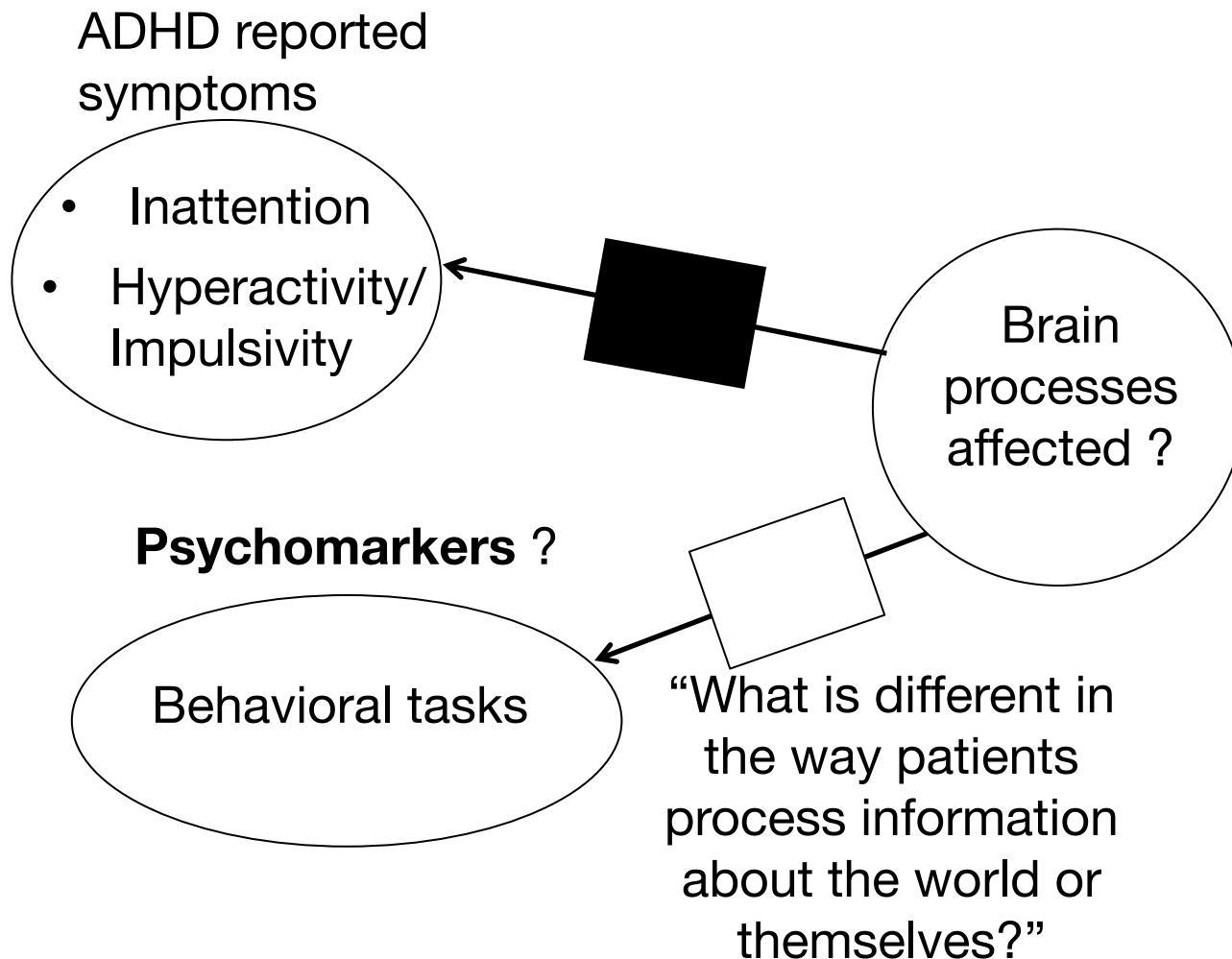
Hyperactivity/  
Impulsivity

These survey questions might contain some inherent subjectivity and give insufficient insight into the underlying processes.

# Searching for new psychomarkers in ADHD



# Searching for new psychomarkers in ADHD

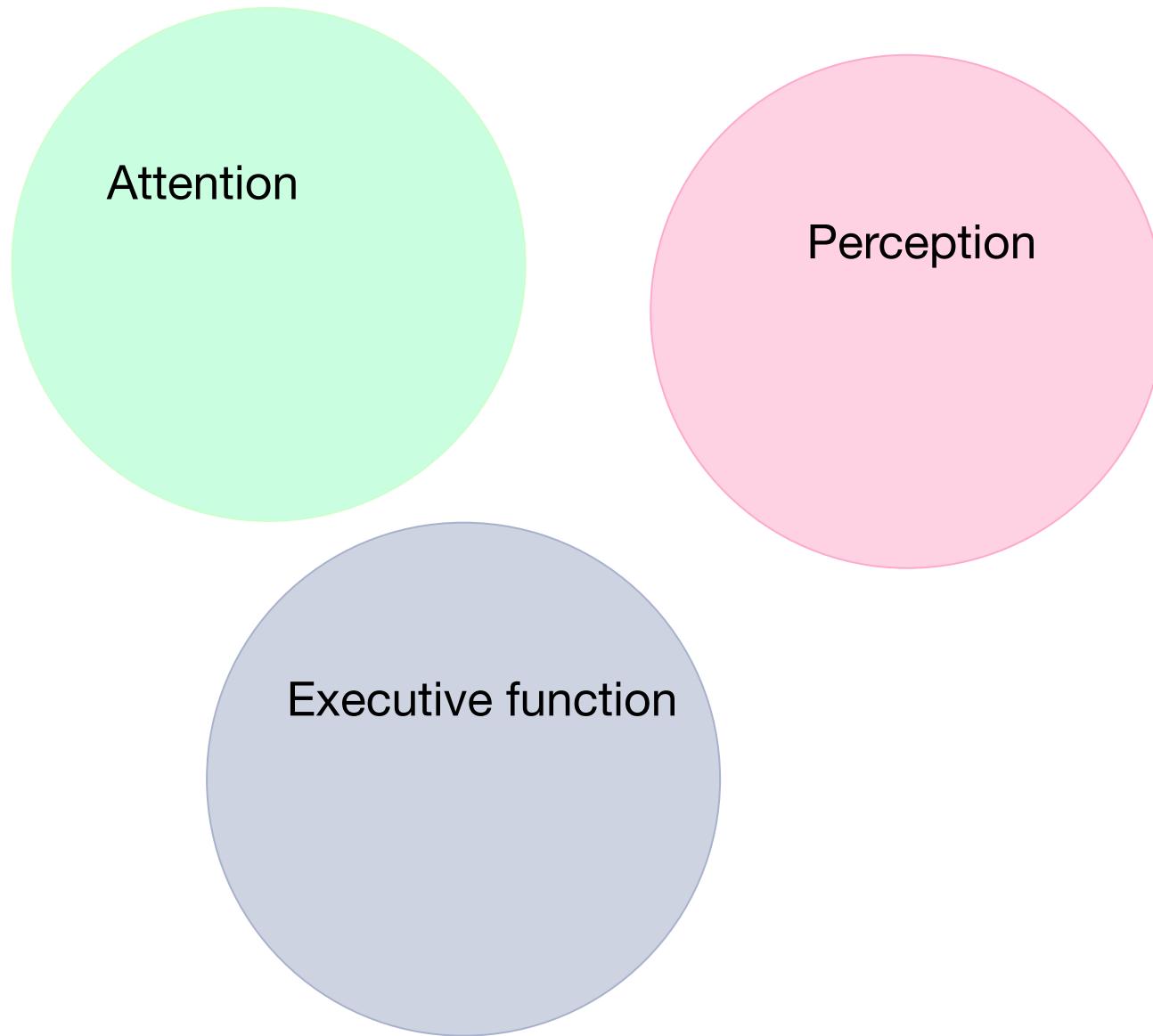


*Redish and Gordon 2016*

# Participants

- 20 ADHD and 20 Controls
- Recruited through local advertisements, including flyers, newspaper and radio advertisements – part of a larger study at NYUMC
- Controls matched to ADHD in age and gender distributions
  - ADHD: 11F, 9M. Control: 12F, 8M
  - ADHD:  $32.5 \pm 6.1$  yo. Control:  $35.3 \pm 10.0$  yo
- A trained clinician assessed every participant using the following scales:
  - Adult ADHD Clinician Diagnostic Scale (ACDS)
  - Adult ADHD Investigator Symptom Rating Scale (AISRS)
  - Clinical Global Impressions-Severity of Illness (CGI-S) Scale
  - M.I.N.I International Neuropsychiatric Interview
- Participants also completed self-report scales:
  - Adult ADHD Self-Report Scale (ASRS v.1.1.)
  - Adult ADHD Quality of Life (AAQoL) Scale
  - World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS- II)
  - Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function Adult Version (BRIEF-A)

# What is impaired in ADHD?



# What is impaired in ADHD?

- Divided attention ?
- Selective attention ?
- Sustained attention/vigilance?
- Flexibility?

*Van Zomeren and Brouwer, 1994  
Huang-Pollock and Nigg 2003  
Roberts et al. 2017*

Perception

Executive function

# What is impaired in ADHD?

- Divided attention ?
- Selective attention ?
- Sustained attention/vigilance?
- Flexibility?

~No

*Van Zomeren and Brouwer, 1994  
Huang-Pollock and Nigg 2003  
Roberts et al. 2017*

Perception

Executive function

# What is impaired in ADHD?

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Roberts et al. 2017*

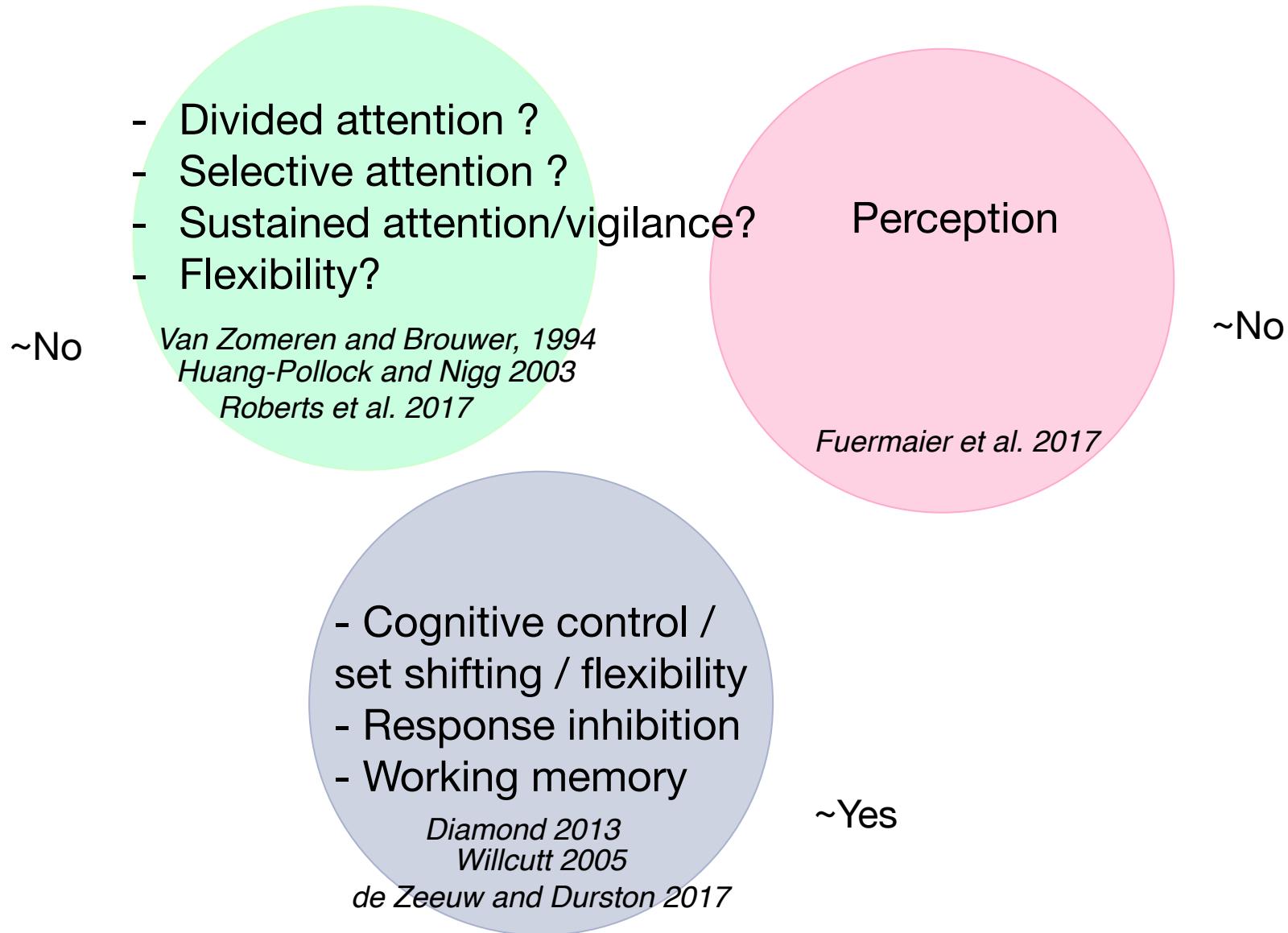
Perception

~No

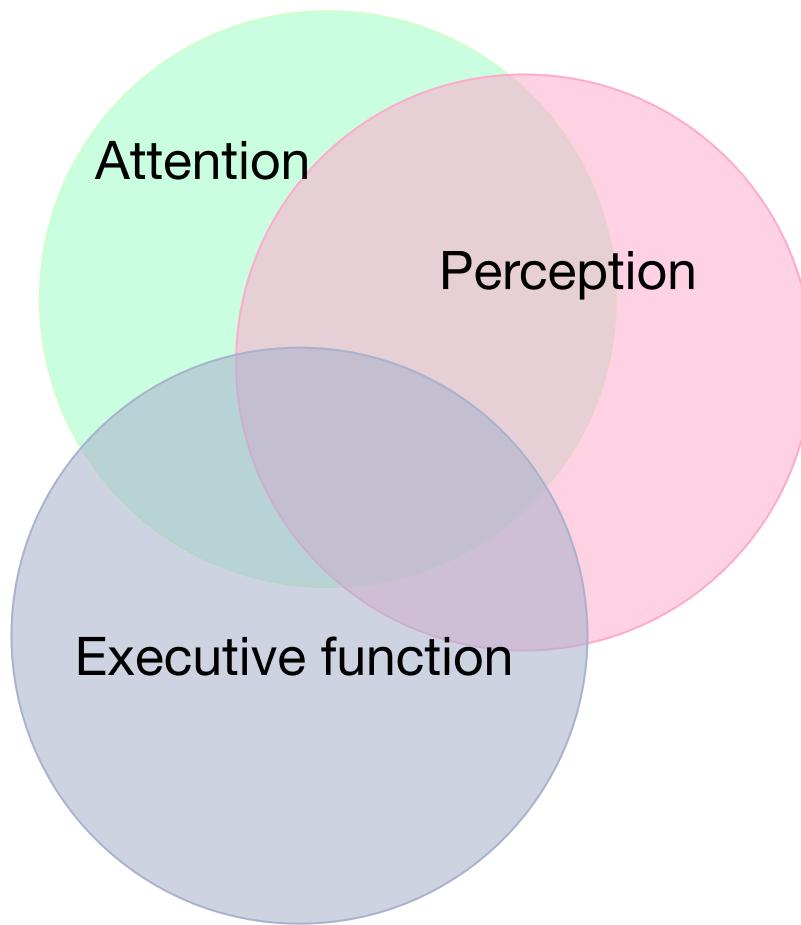
*Fuermaier et al. 2017*

Executive function

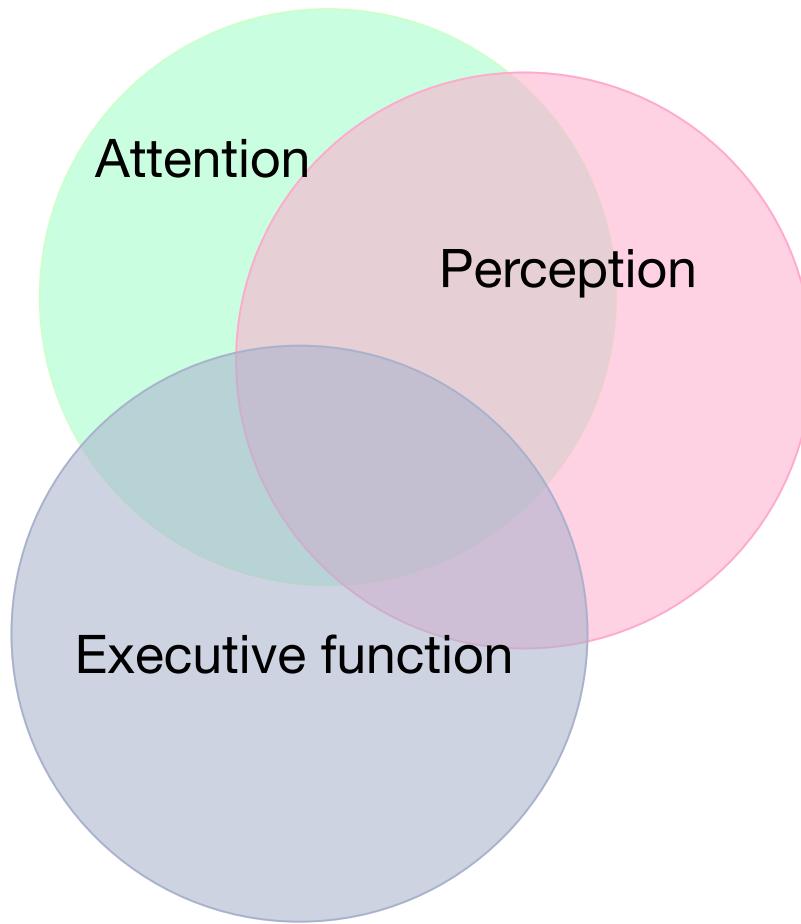
# What is impaired in ADHD?



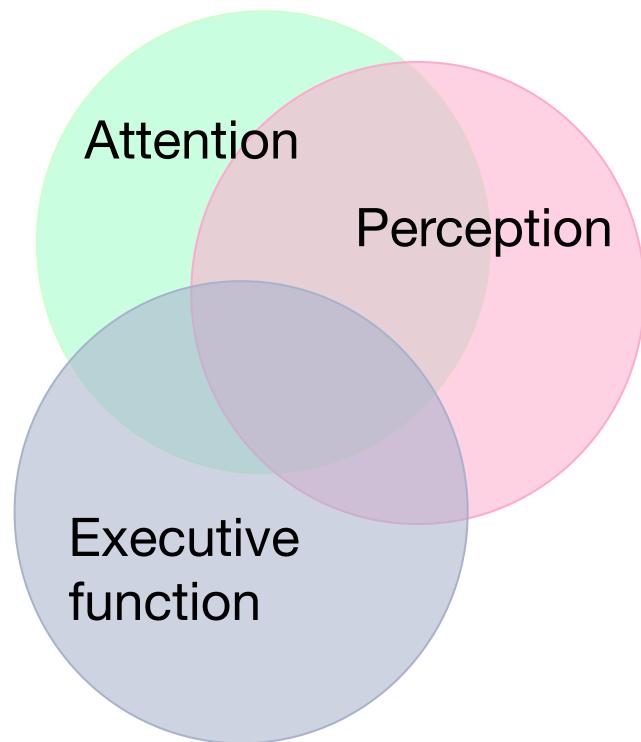
Hypothesis: Perceptual deficits emerge if attention and executive function are simultaneously taxed.



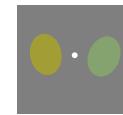
Goal: get separate measures of perceptual encoding precision and executive function



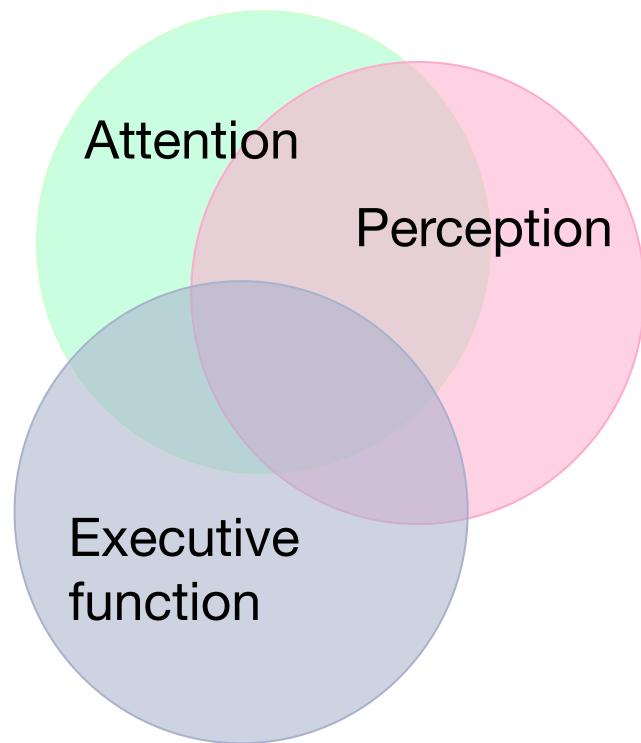
# Our approach



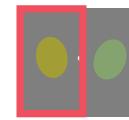
Stimuli



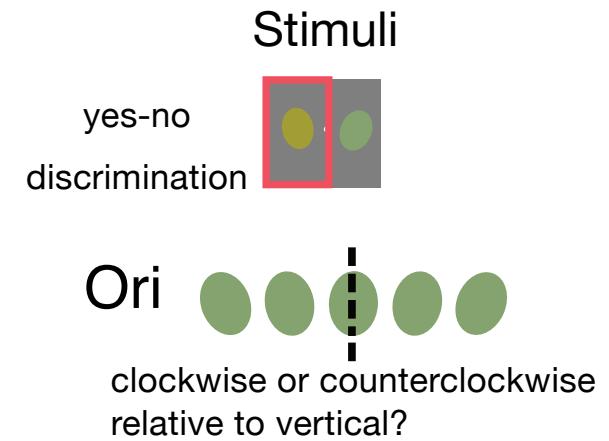
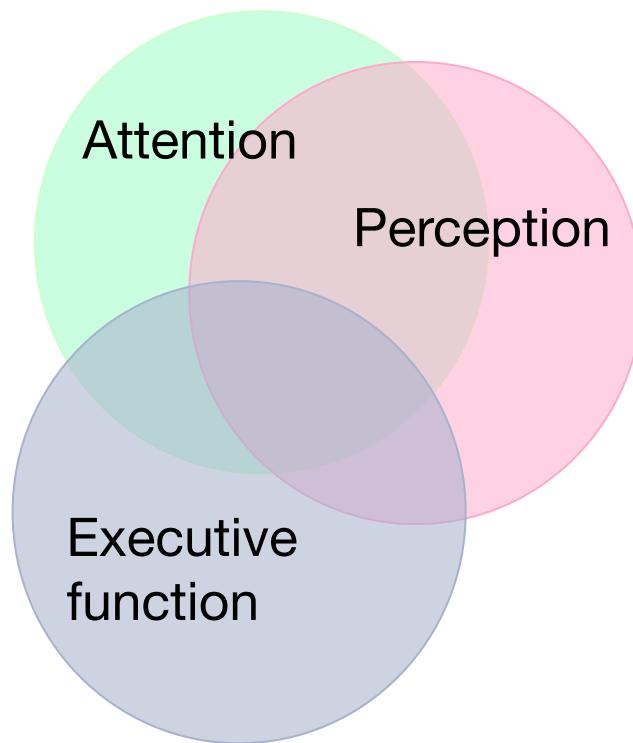
# Our approach



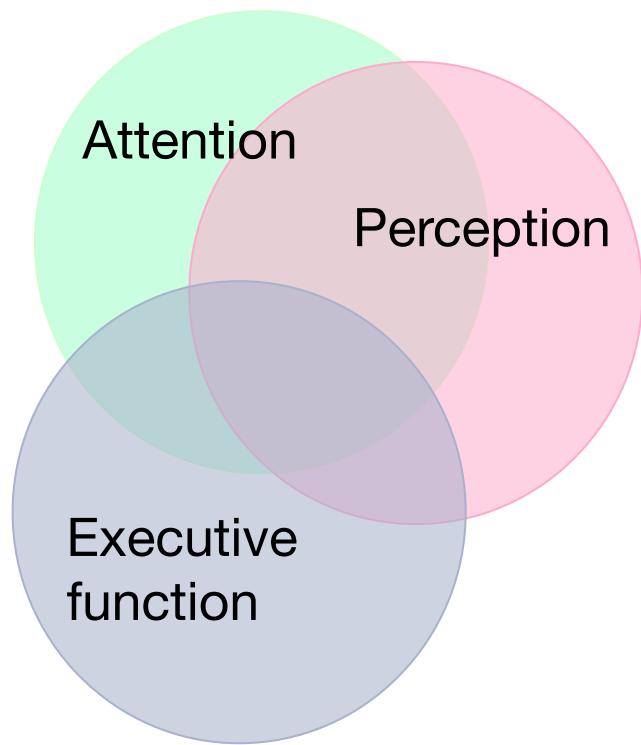
Stimuli  
yes-no  
discrimination



# Our approach

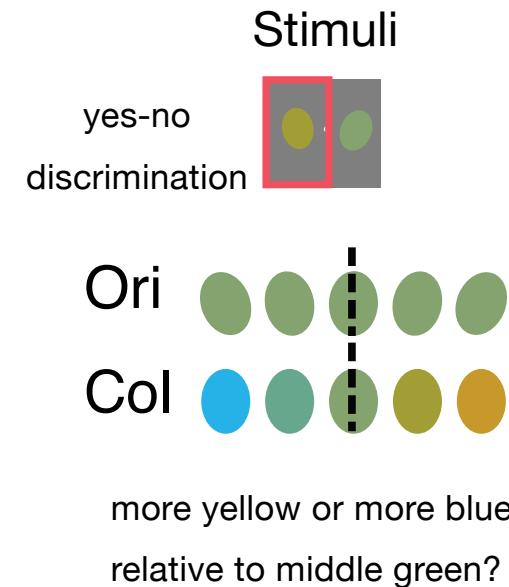
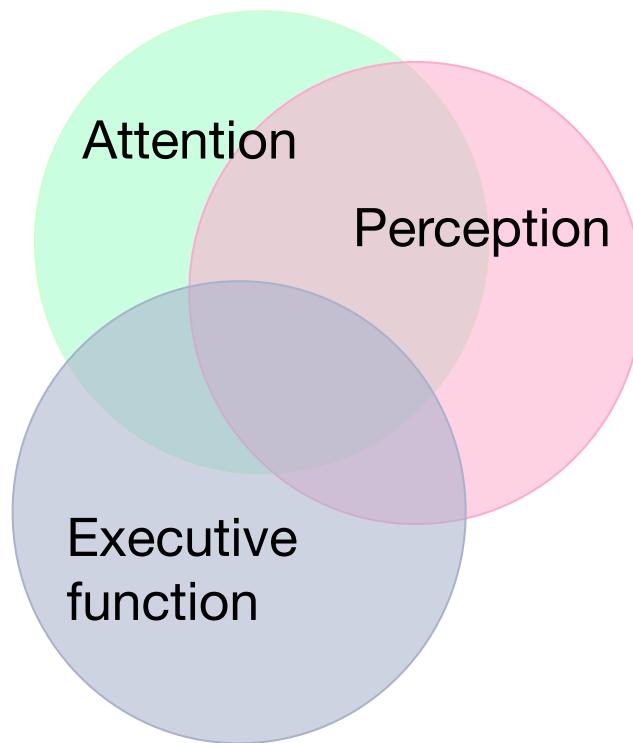


# Our approach

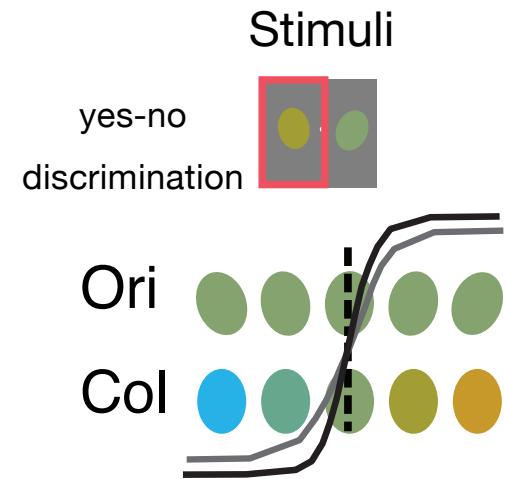
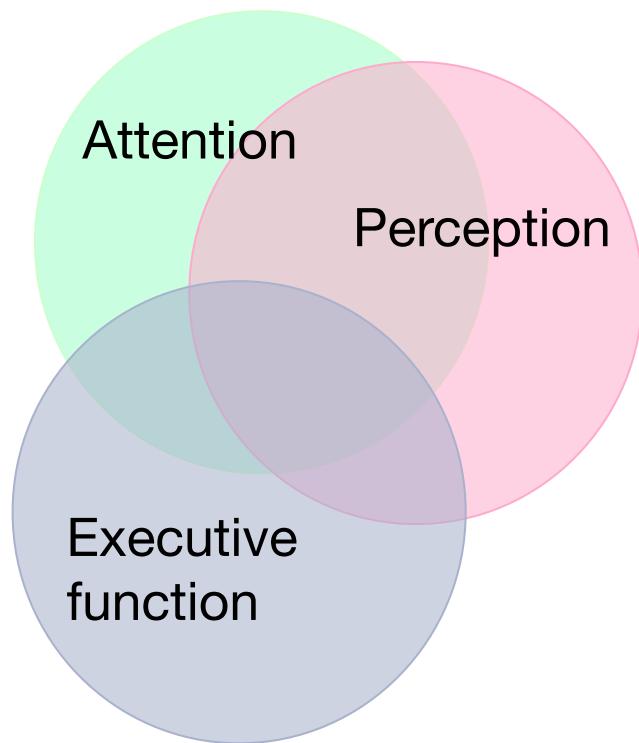


- Stimuli  
yes-no  
discrimination
- 
- A gray rectangle containing two small circles: a yellow one on the left and a green one on the right. A red rectangular frame surrounds the entire rectangle.
- Ori
- 
- A series of five green circles arranged horizontally. A black line starts at the center of the first circle and curves upwards and to the right towards the fifth circle, ending with a vertical tick mark. A dashed vertical line is also present.
- clockwise or counterclockwise  
relative to vertical?
- Fit psychometric curves

# Our approach



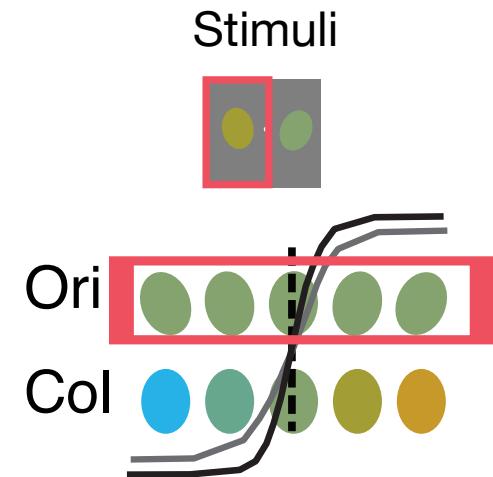
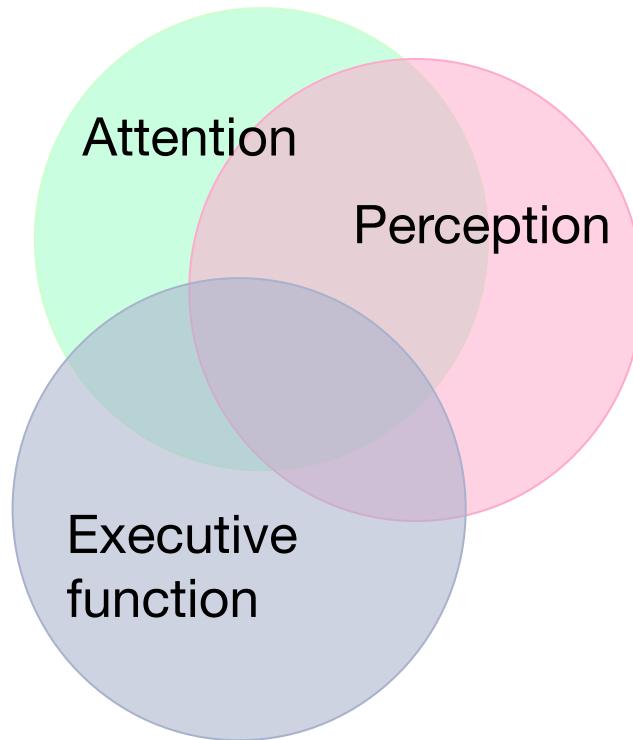
# Our approach



# Our approach

Selective attention:  
Spatial cues

Feature cues  
Ori      |  
Col



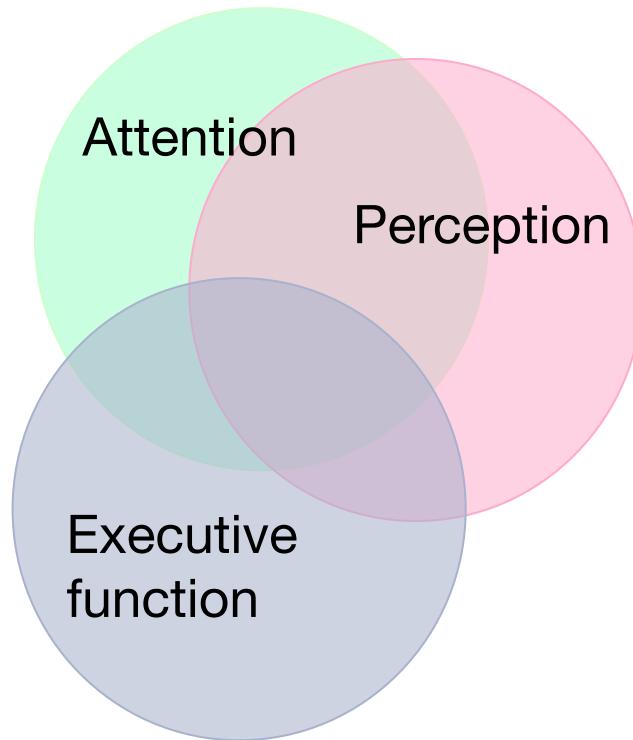
# Our approach

Selective attention:  
Spatial cues

Feature cues  
Ori



Col

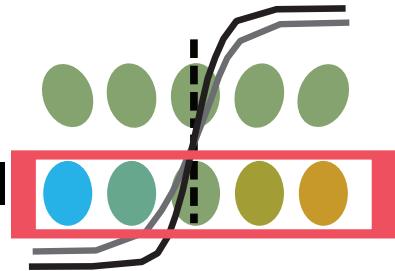


Stimuli



Ori

Col

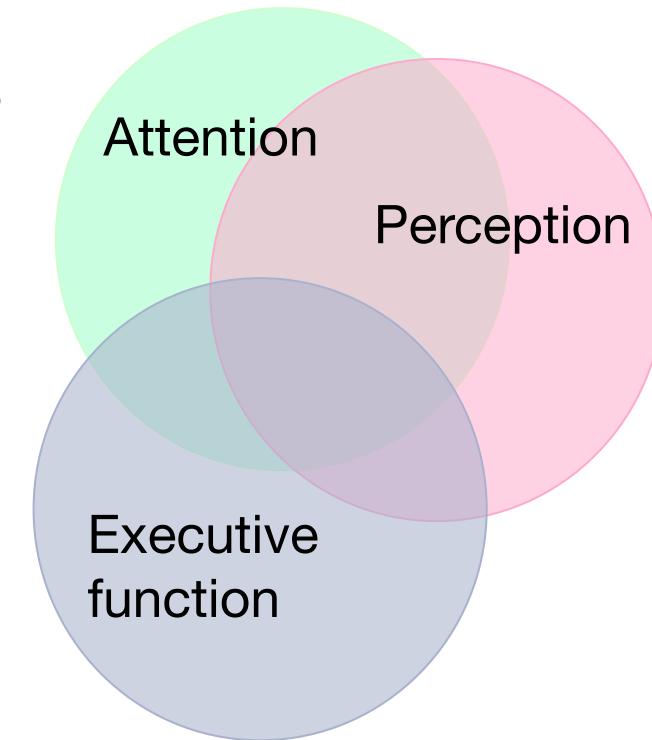


Selective attention:  
Spatial cues

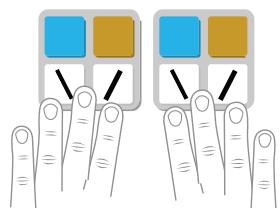
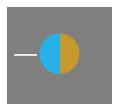
Feature cues  
Ori



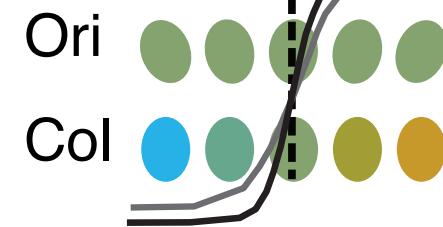
Col



Cognitive control:  
Feature same vs  
Feature switch

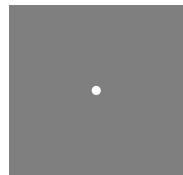


Stimuli



# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

Trial time course



100 ms

# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

Trial time course



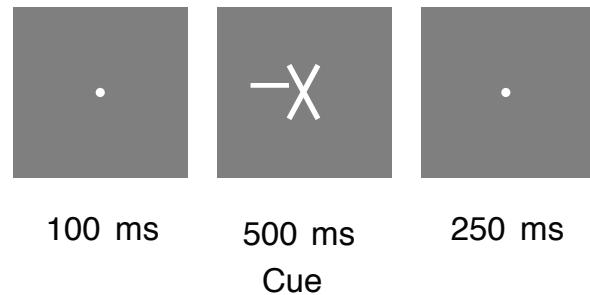
100 ms

500 ms

Cue

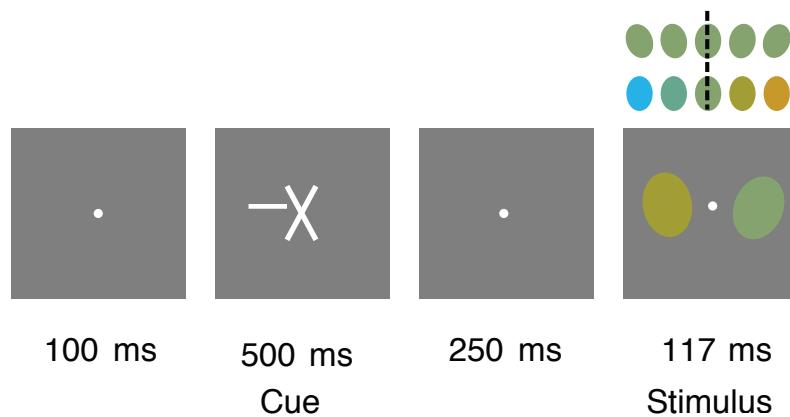
# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

Trial time course



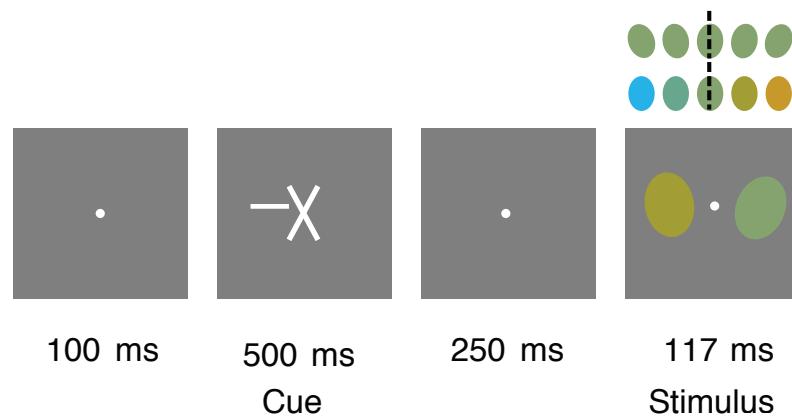
# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

Trial time course



# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

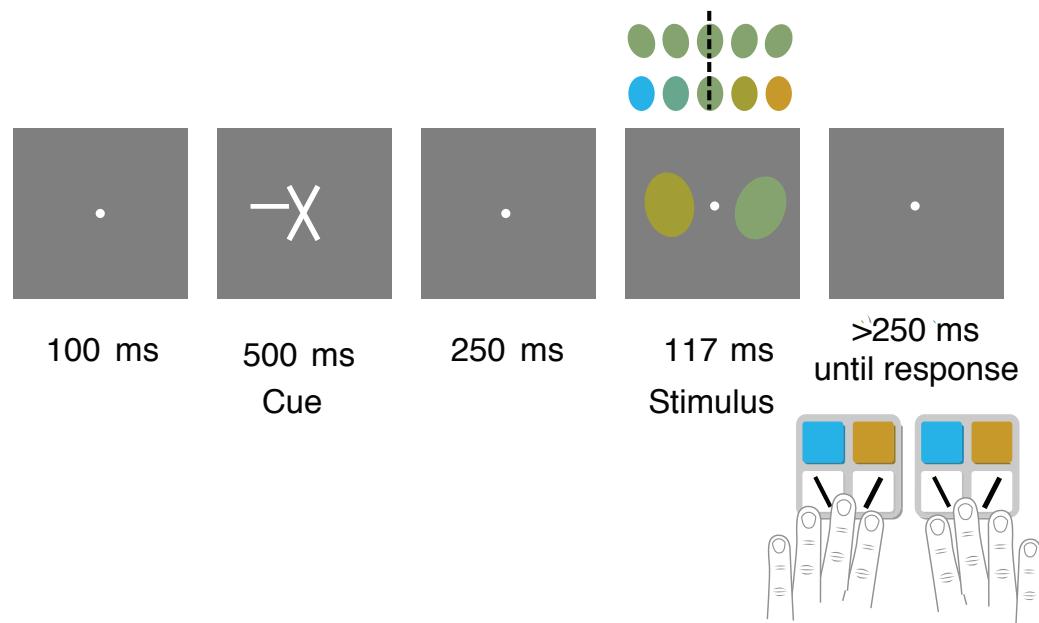
Trial time course



- Adaptive (efficient) stimulus selection method  
*(Kontsevich and Tyler 1999, Acerbi 2016)*
- Especially important for running ADHD participants

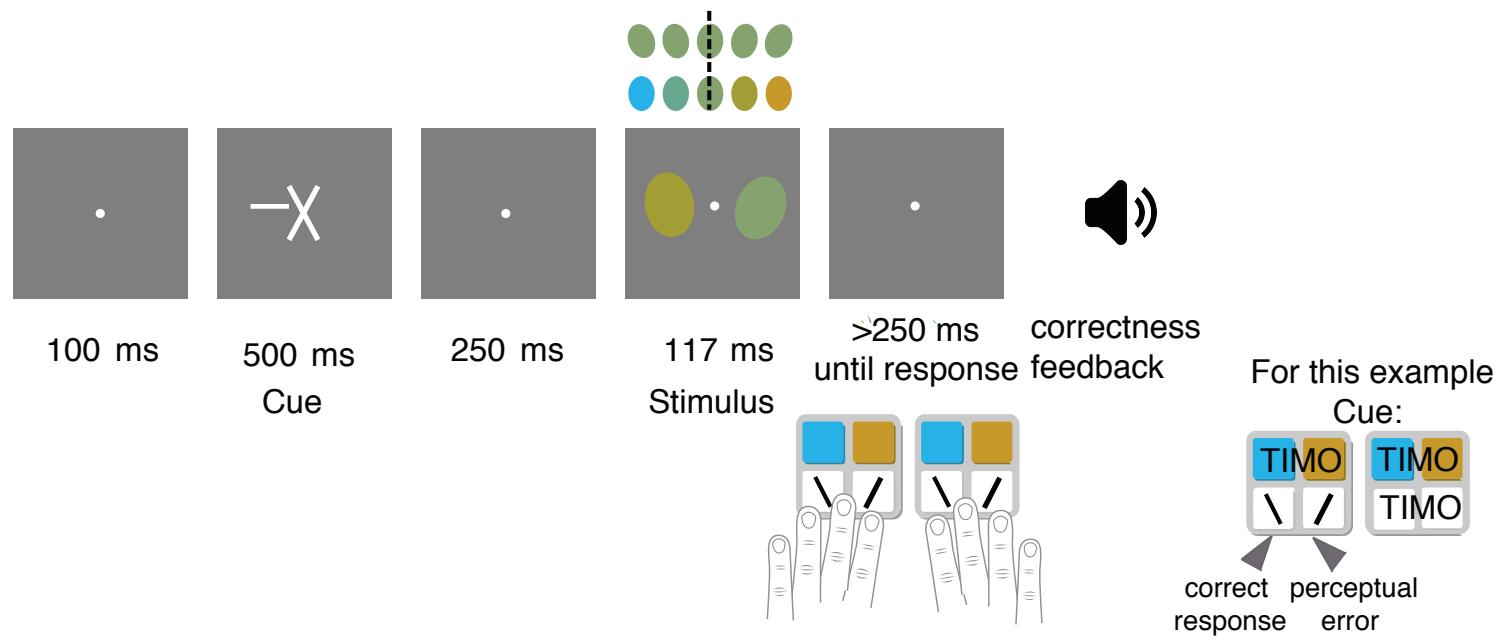
# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

Trial time course



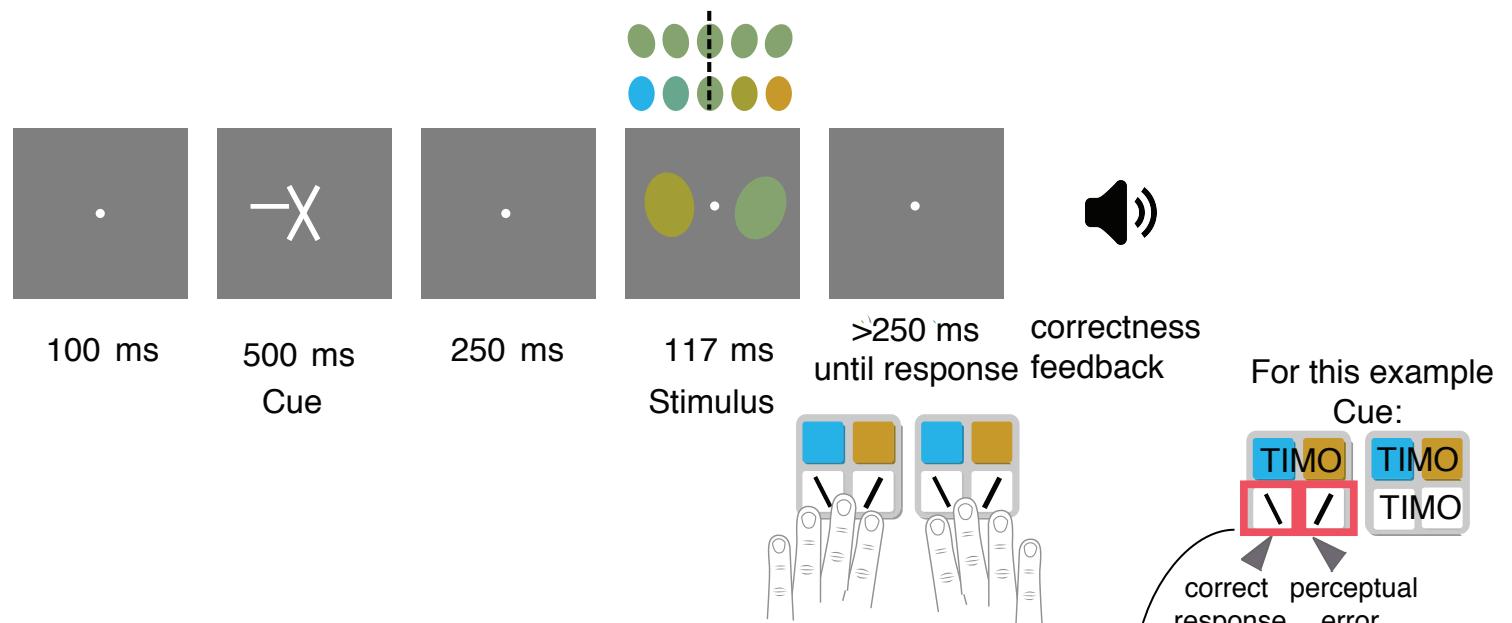
# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

Trial time course



# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

Trial time course



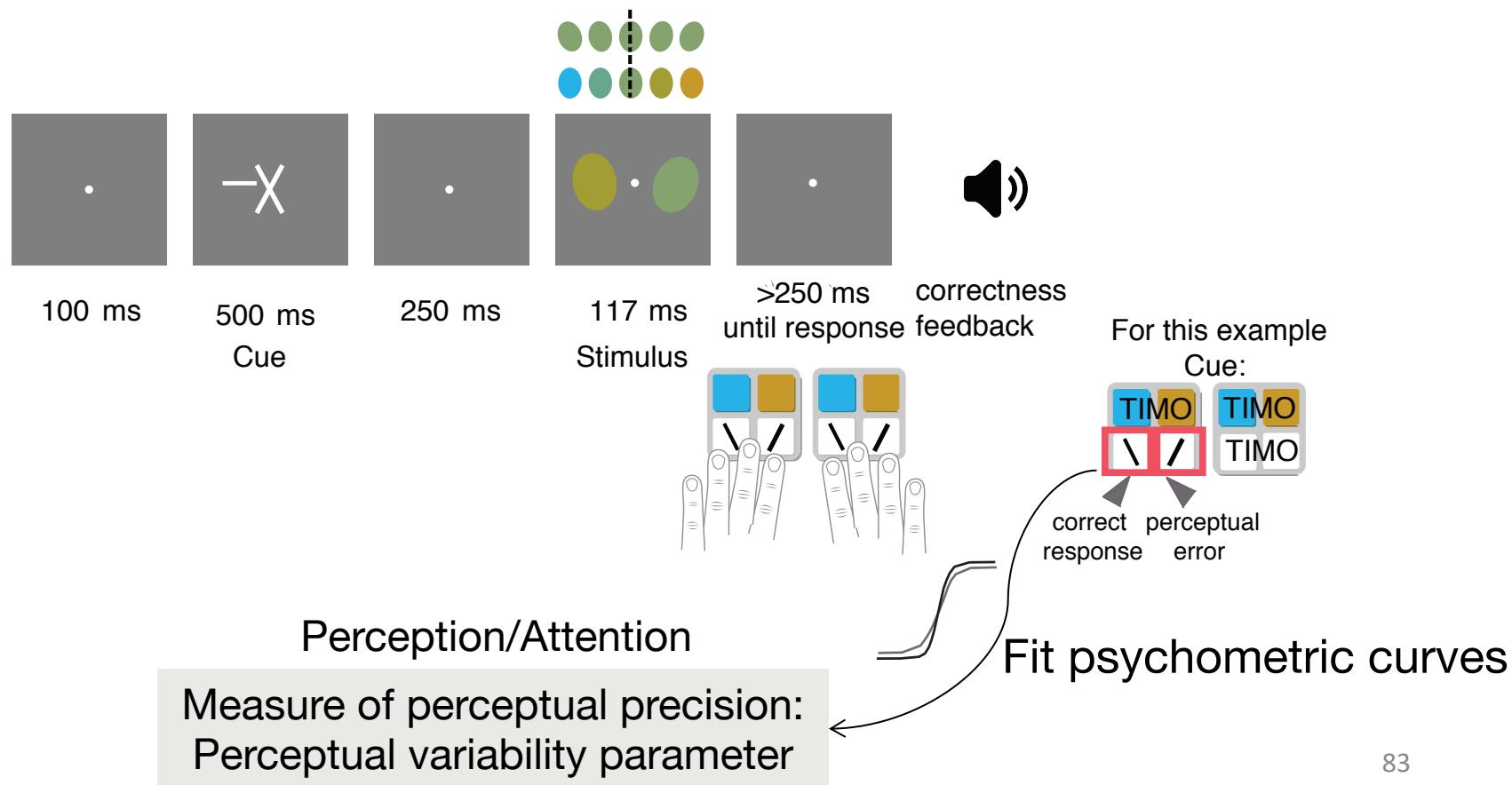
Perception

Measure of perceptual precision:  
Perceptual variability parameter

Fit psychometric curves

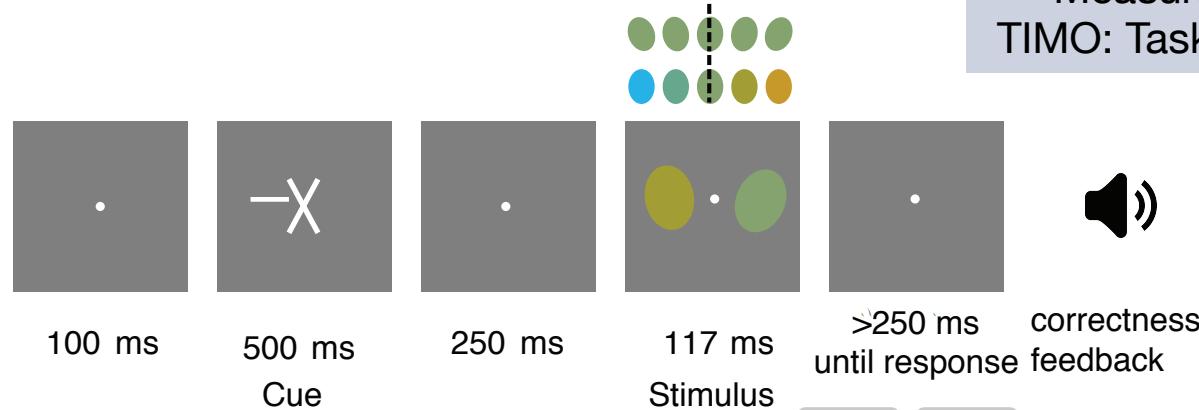
# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

Trial time course



# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

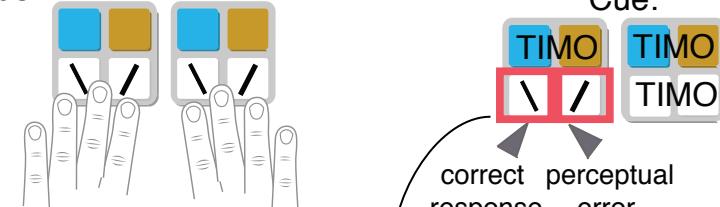
Trial time course



Executive function

Measure of cognitive control:  
TIMO: Task-irrelevant motor output

For this example  
Cue:



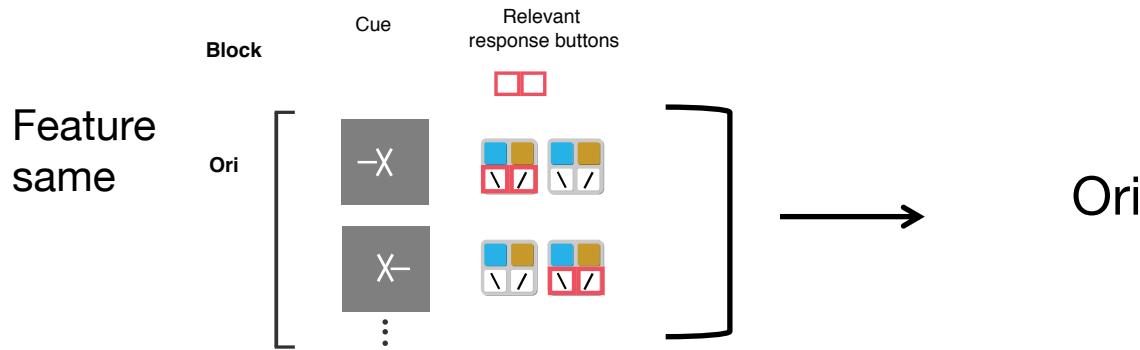
Perception/Attention

Measure of perceptual precision:  
Perceptual variability parameter

Fit psychometric curves

# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

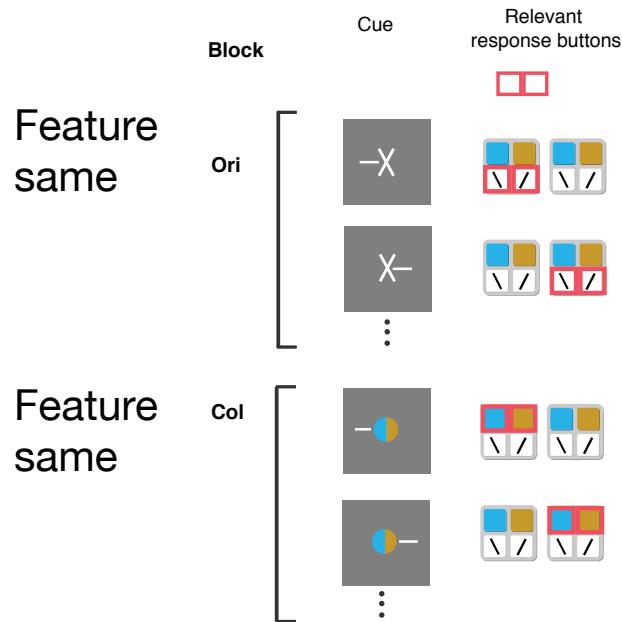
3 types of blocks:



Trials in 4 conditions:

# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

3 types of blocks:



Trials in 4 conditions:

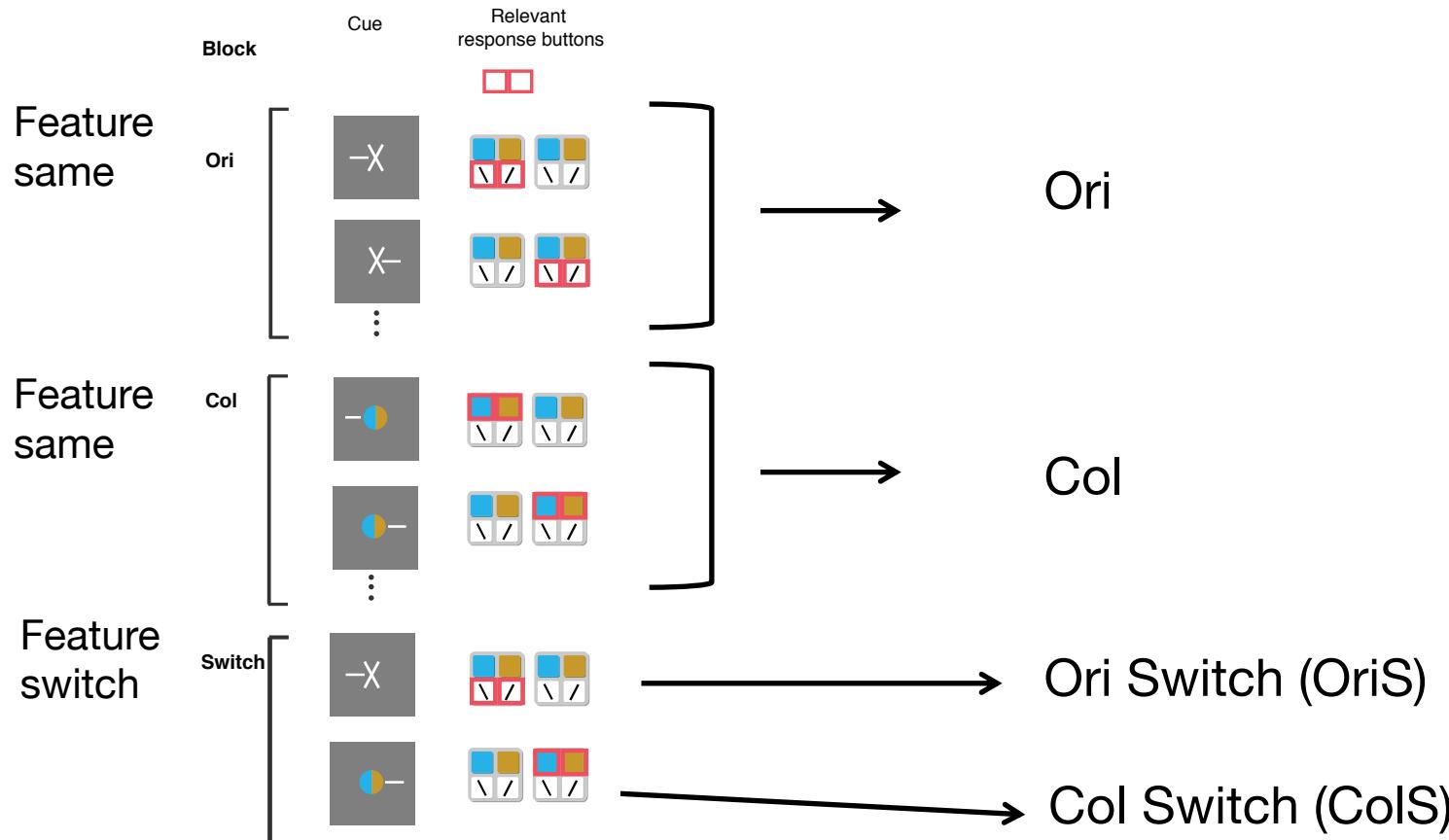
Ori

Col

# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

3 types of blocks:

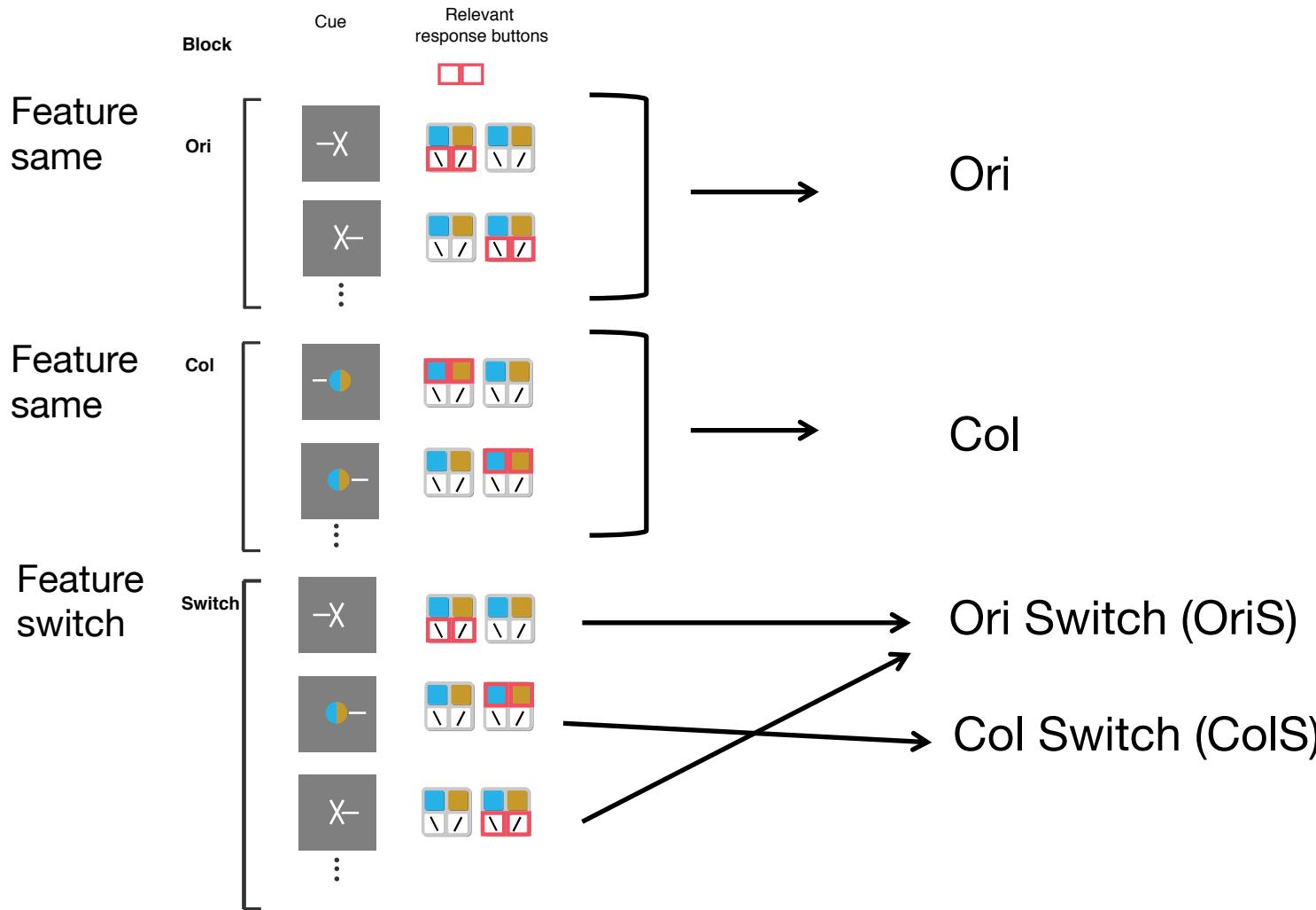
Trials in 4 conditions:



# Perceptual decision-making with spatial and feature dimension task switching

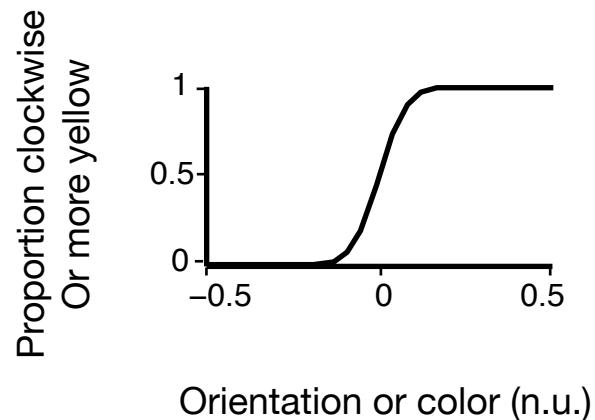
3 types of blocks:

Trials in 4 conditions:



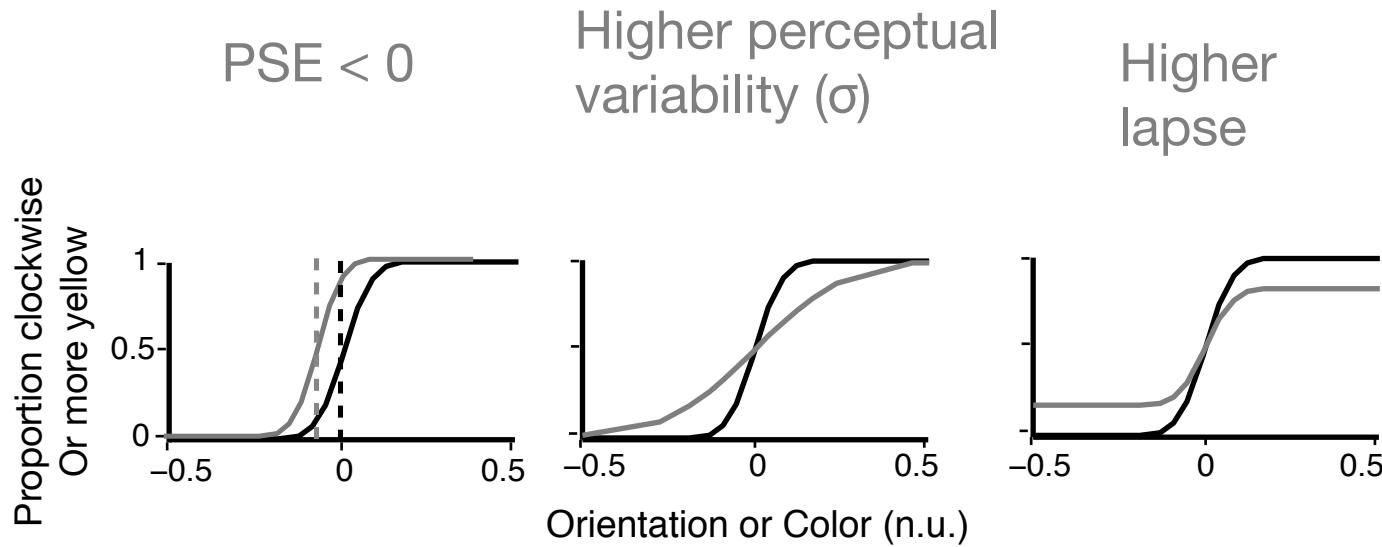
# Psychometric curve fitting

- On non-TIMO trials, we fit psychometric curves with parameters PSE, perceptual variability ( $\sigma$ ), and lapse



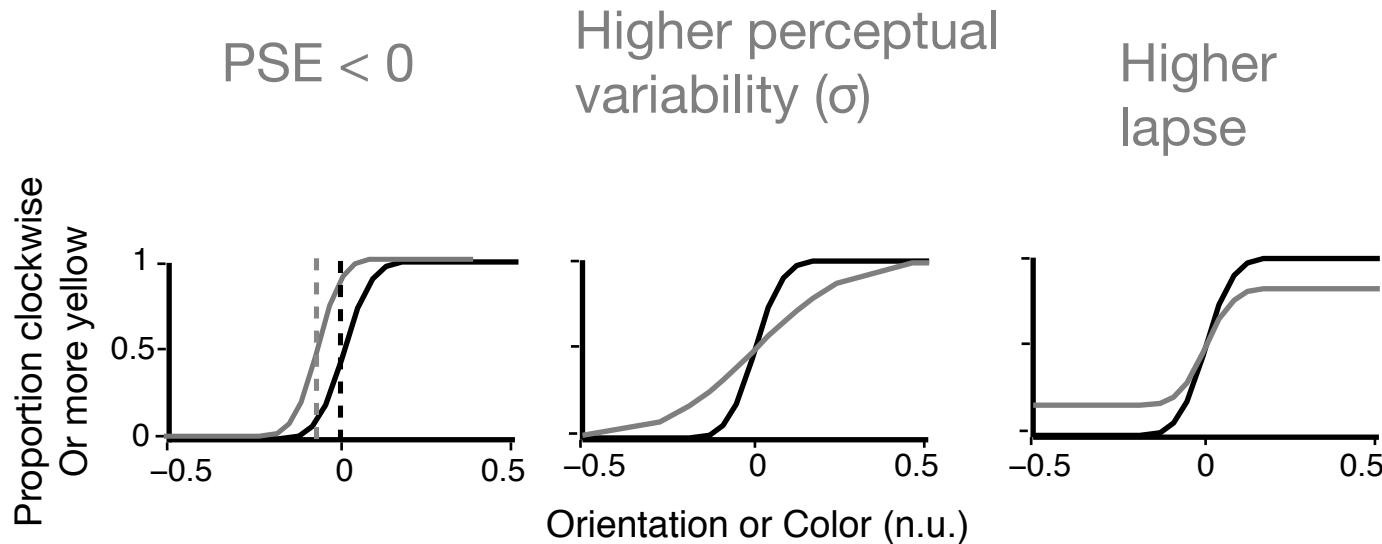
# Psychometric curve fitting

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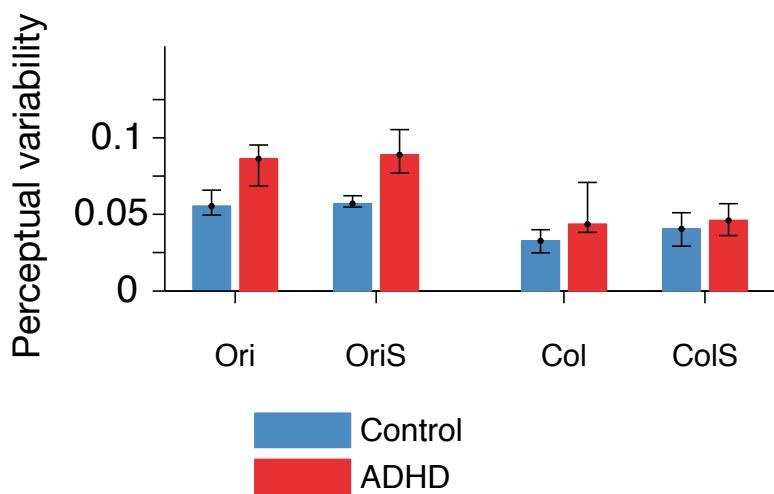
# Psychometric curve fitting

- On non-TIMO trials, we fit psychometric curves with parameters PSE, perceptual variability ( $\sigma$ ), and lapse



- We assume that PSE and lapse are shared between Switch/No-Switch conditions for a given feature, while perceptual variability might vary.

# ADHD participants have higher perceptual variability

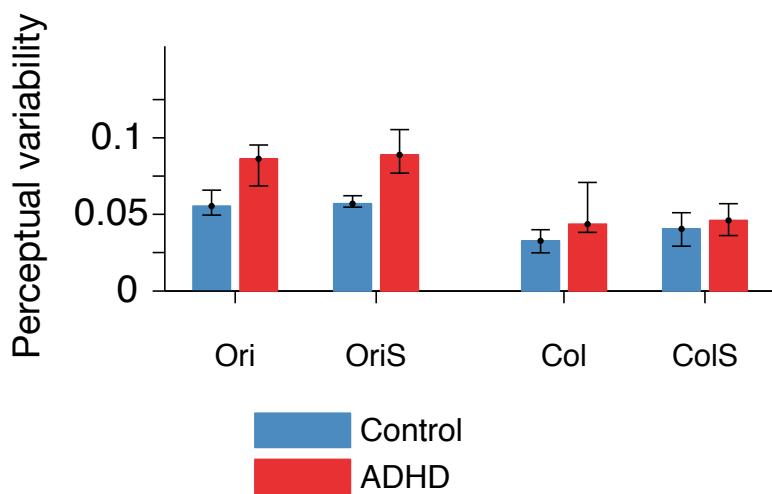


Effect of group:  $p = 0.002$

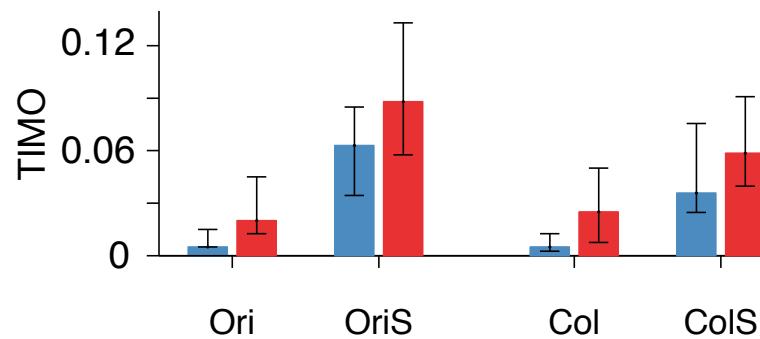
Effect of feature Ori/Col:  $p < 0.001$

Effect of load no-switch/Switch:  $p = 0.33$

# ADHD participants have higher perceptual variability and higher TIMO

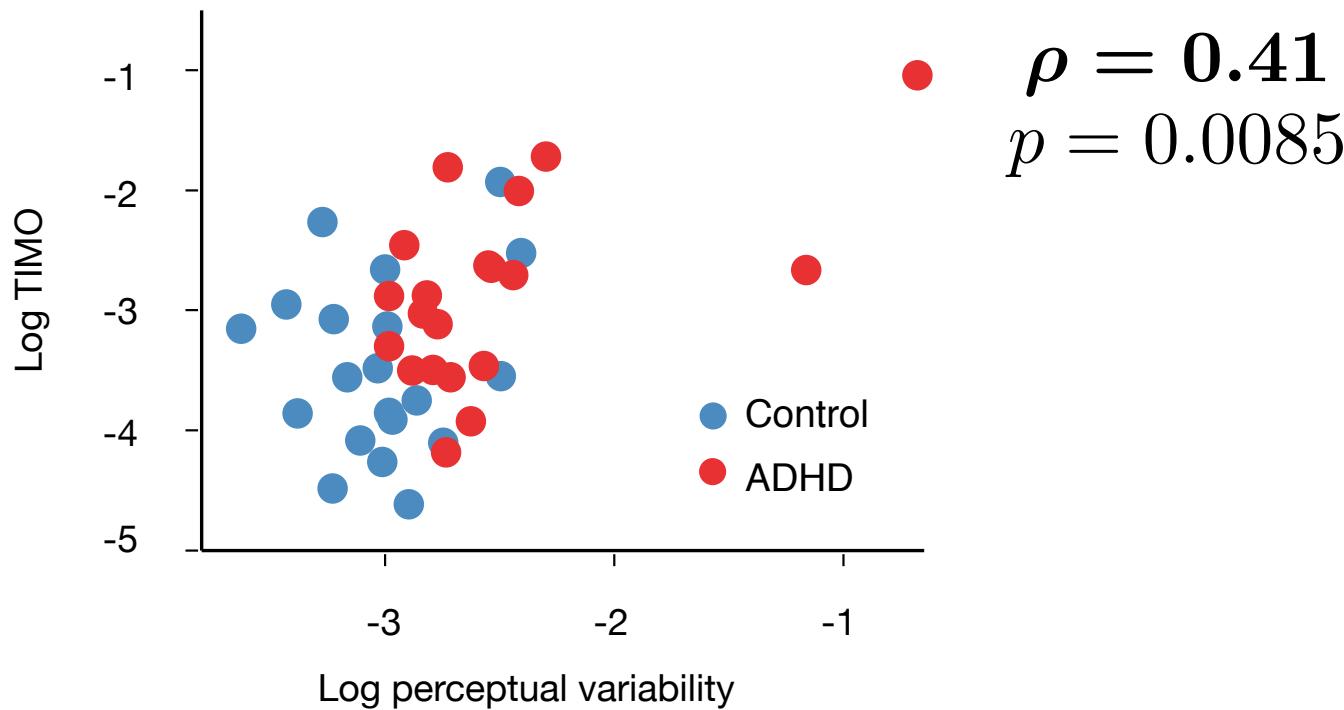


Effect of group:  $p = 0.002$   
Effect of feature Ori/Col:  $p < 0.001$   
Effect of No-switch/Switch:  $p = 0.33$

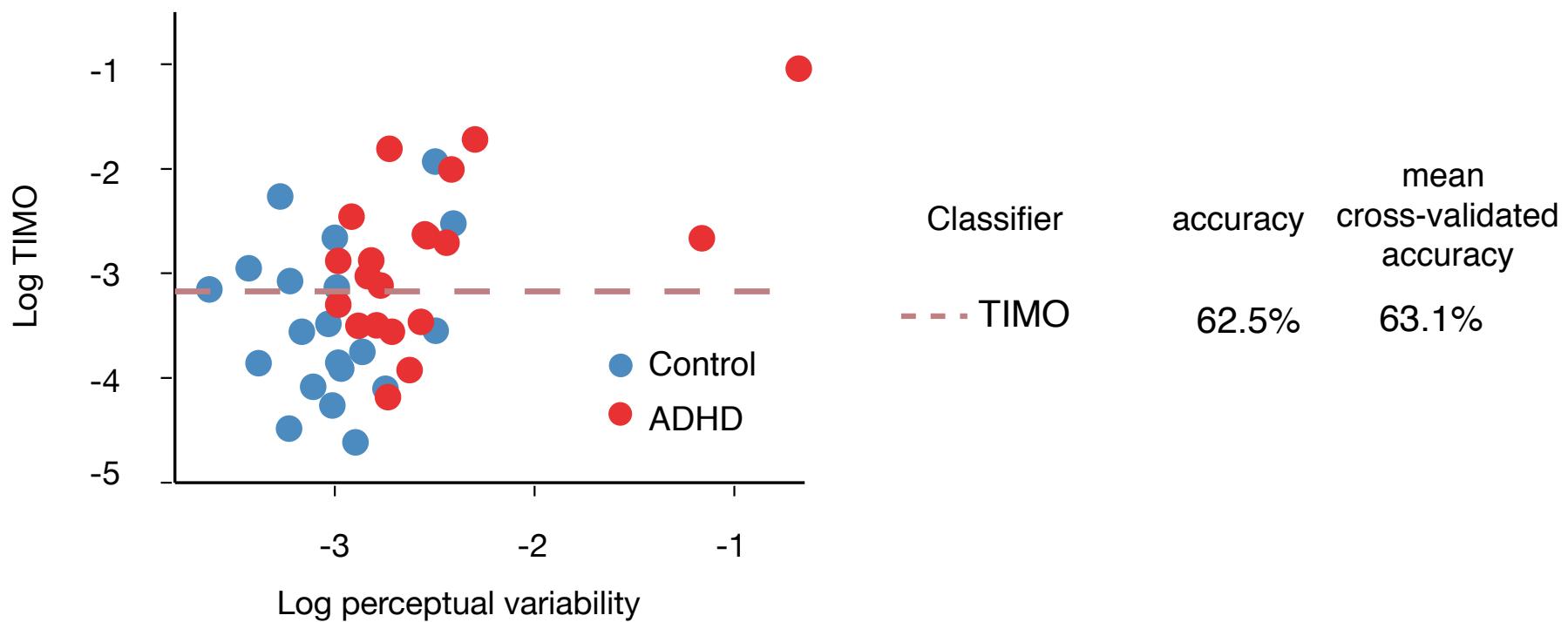


Effect of group:  $p = 0.005$   
Effect of feature Ori/Col:  $p = 0.21$   
Effect of No-switch/Switch:  $p < 0.001$

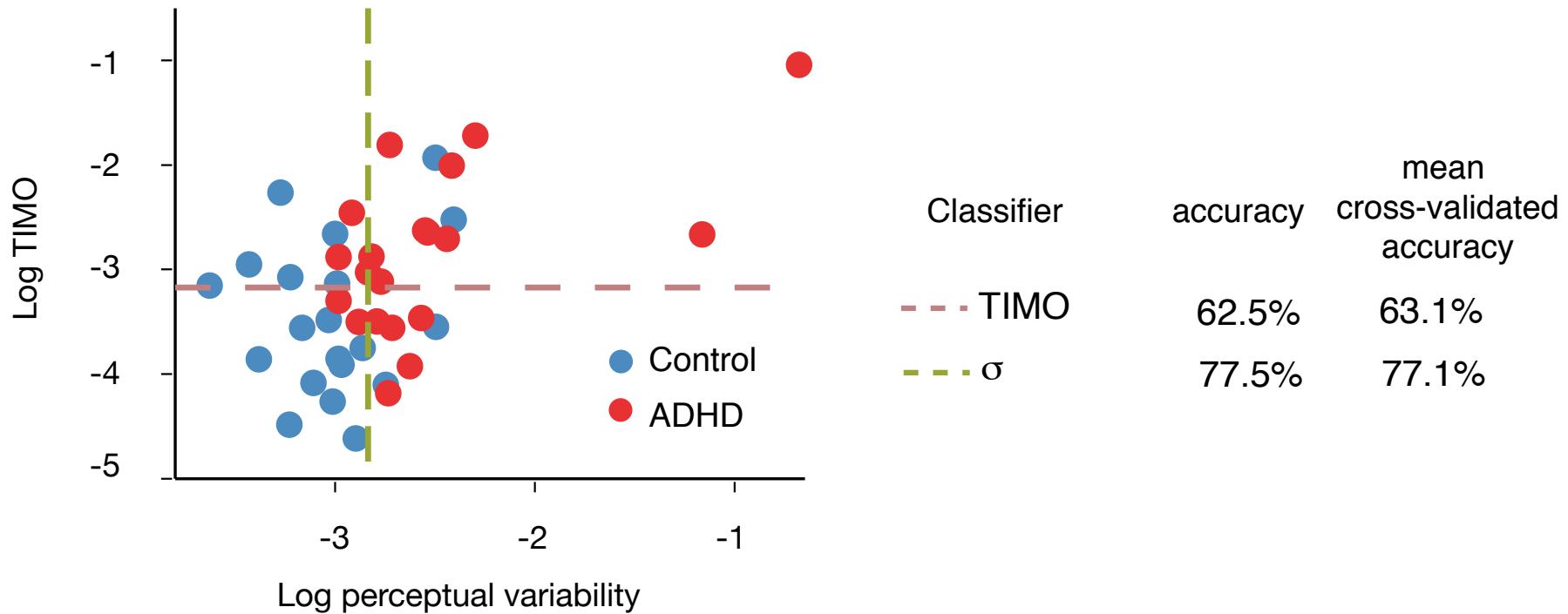
# Perceptual variability and TIMO are correlated



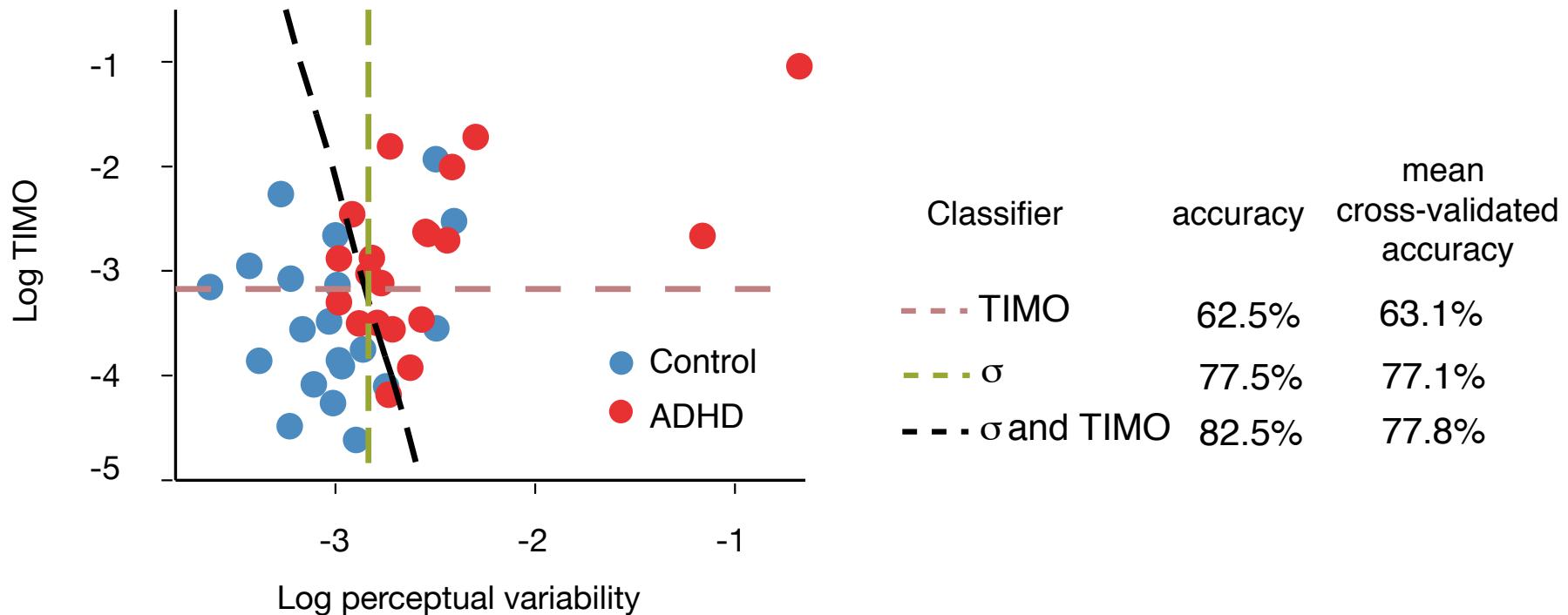
# Logistic regression classifier based on TIMO



# Logistic regression classifier based on perceptual variability

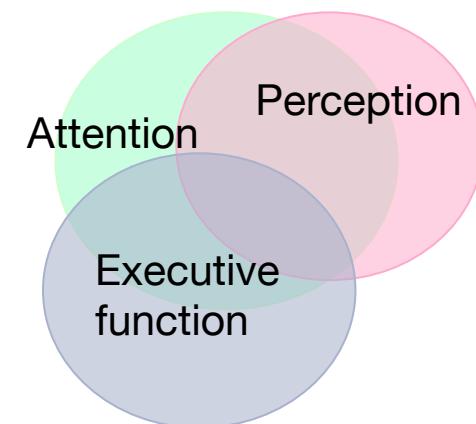


# Logistic regression classifiers including perceptual variability yield high diagnosis accuracy



## Conclusions part 2

- Goal: get separate measures of perceptual encoding precision and cognitive control
  - Taxed attention through spatial and feature cueing
  - Taxed executive function through stimulus-response rules
- ADHD participants had worse cognitive control
  - In line with previous studies
- ADHD participants had higher perceptual variability
  - Contrast with previous studies
  - Perhaps perceptual differences in ADHD only manifest when attention and executive function are simultaneously taxed
- Classifier based on perceptual variability parameter yielded good diagnosis accuracy → candidate psychomarker.



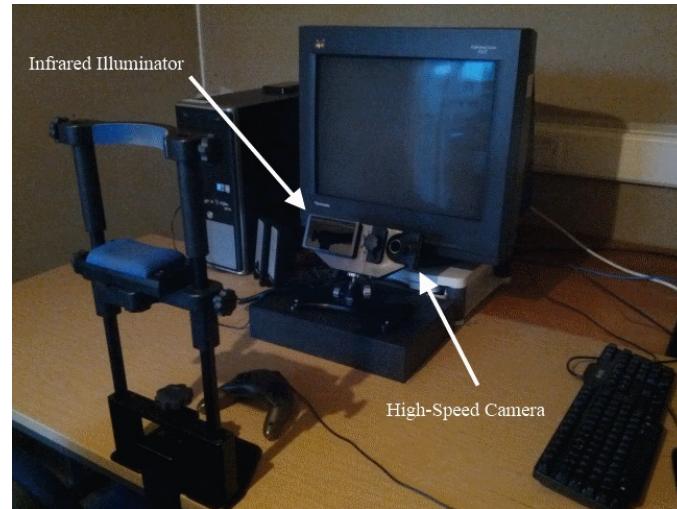
## Part 3: Bayesian microsaccade detection, with an application to ADHD

*with Bas van Opheusden\**

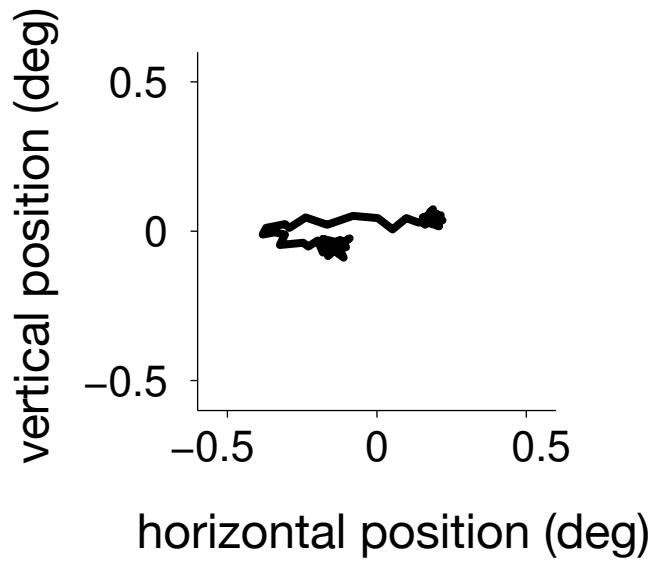


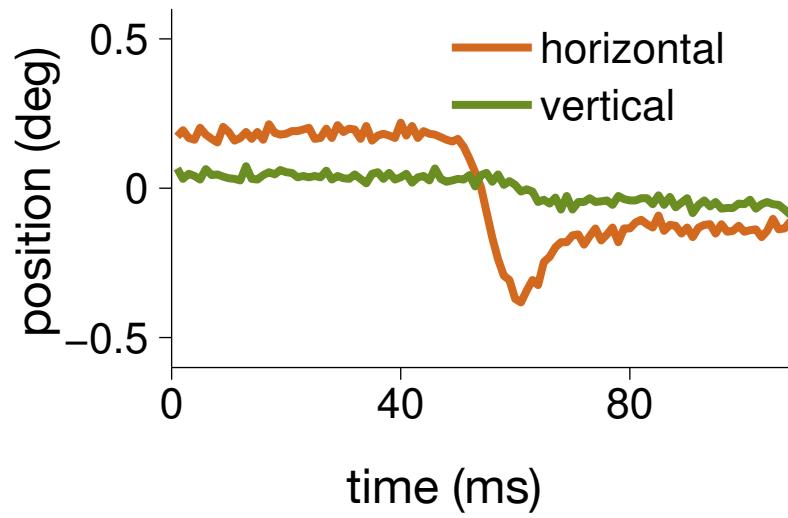
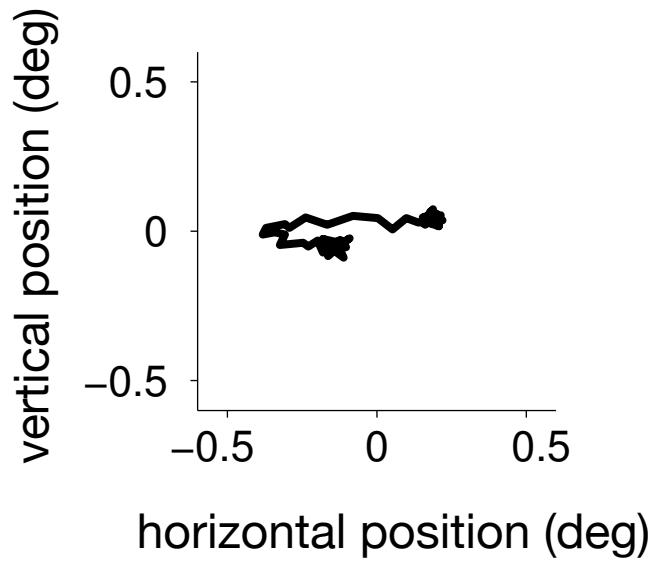
# Microsaccades

- High velocity fixational eye movements
- Several proposed perceptual and cognitive roles, also in indexing covert attention *Engbert and Kliegl 2003, Martinez-Conde et al. 2004, 2013, Rolfs 2009, Lara and Wallis 2012, Yuval-Greenberg et al. 2014*
- Detection is complicated partly due to the eye tracker noise → important to have a good detection algorithm

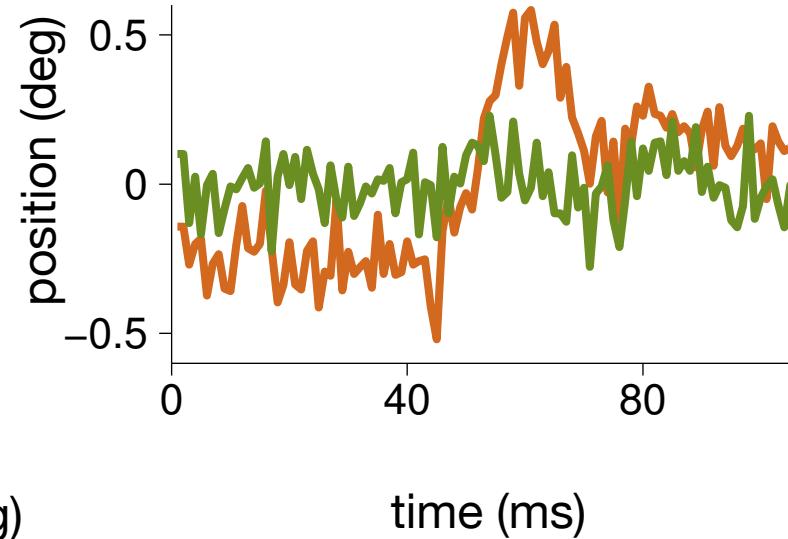
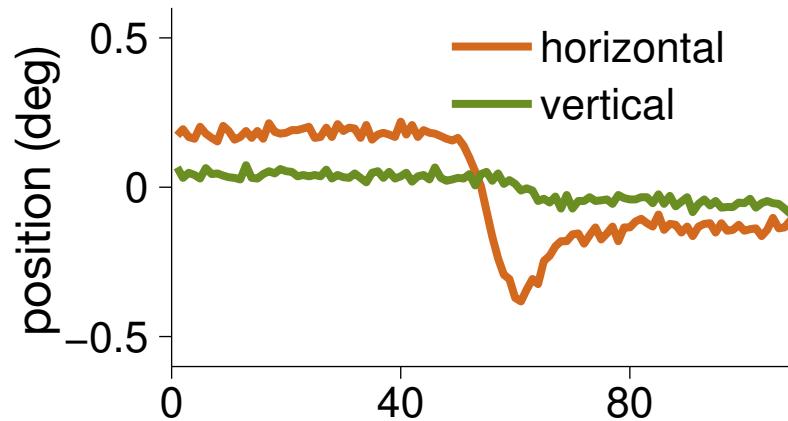
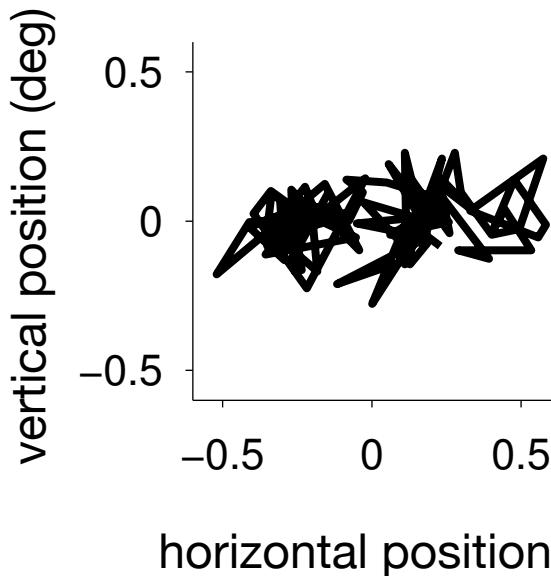
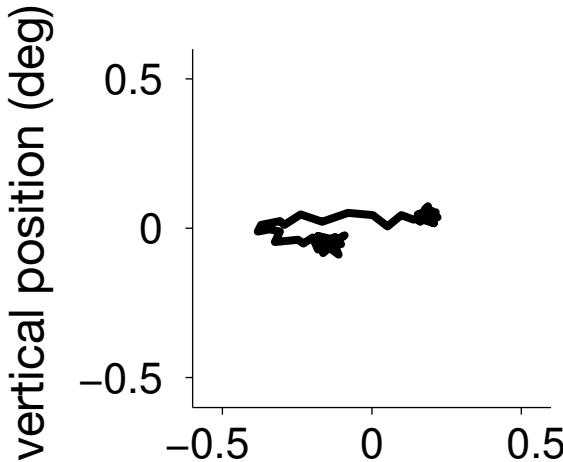


Source: [https://wiki.psychwire.co.uk/?page\\_id=180](https://wiki.psychwire.co.uk/?page_id=180)



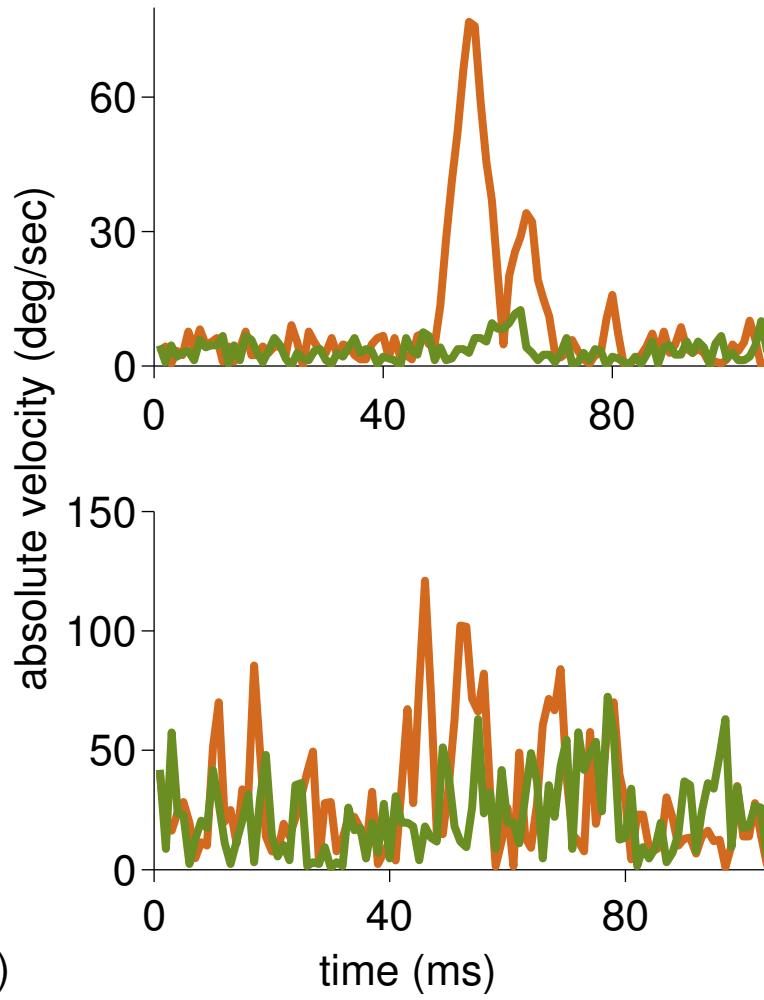
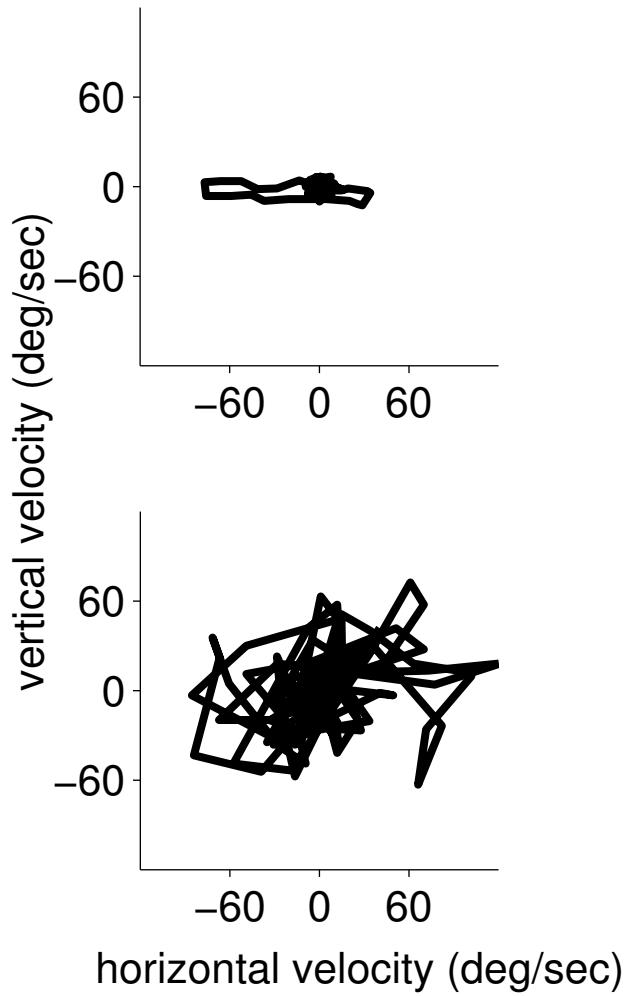


# Microsaccades can be hard to detect under high noise



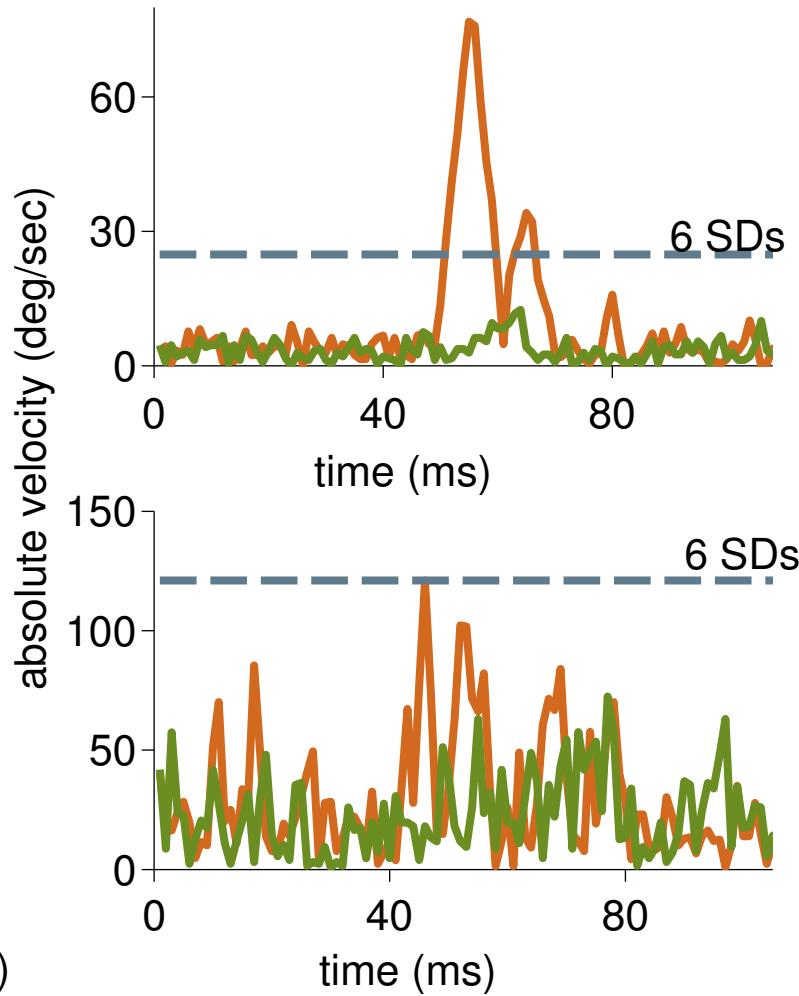
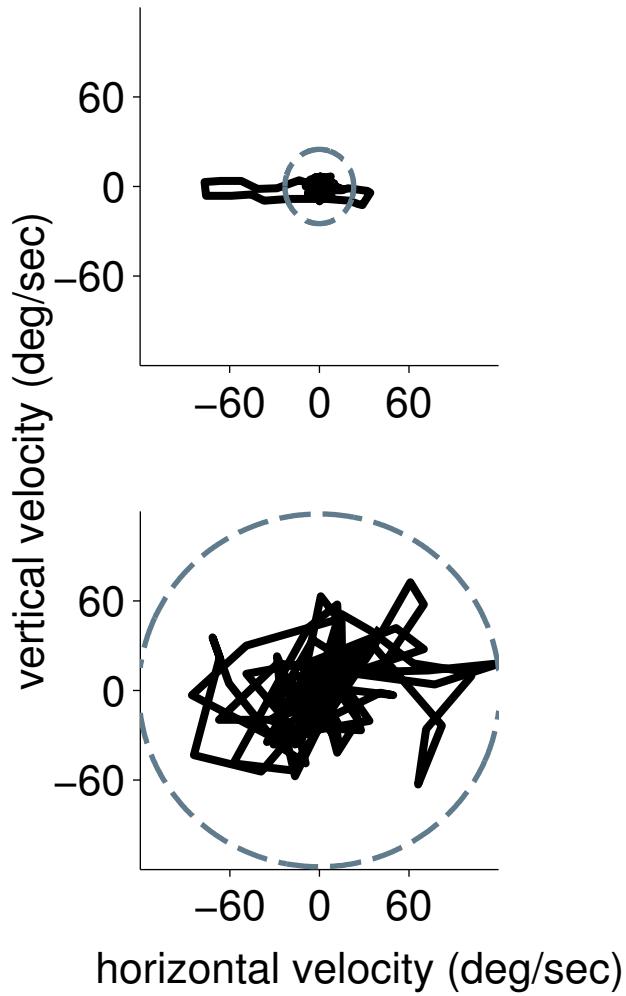
# Engbert & Kliegl (EK) velocity threshold algorithm

Engbert and Kliegl, 2003



# Engbert & Kliegl (EK) velocity threshold algorithm

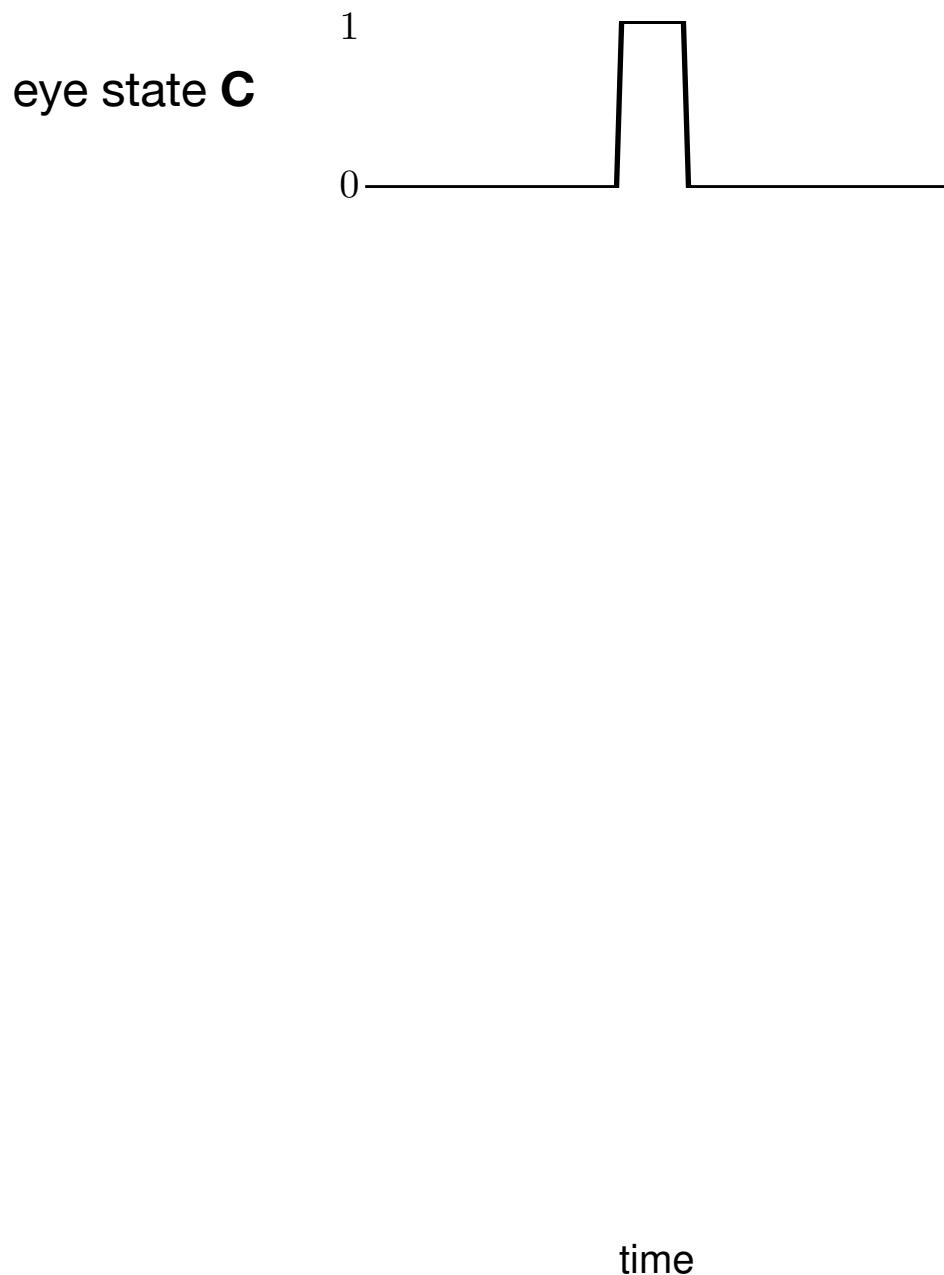
*Engbert and Kliegl, 2003*



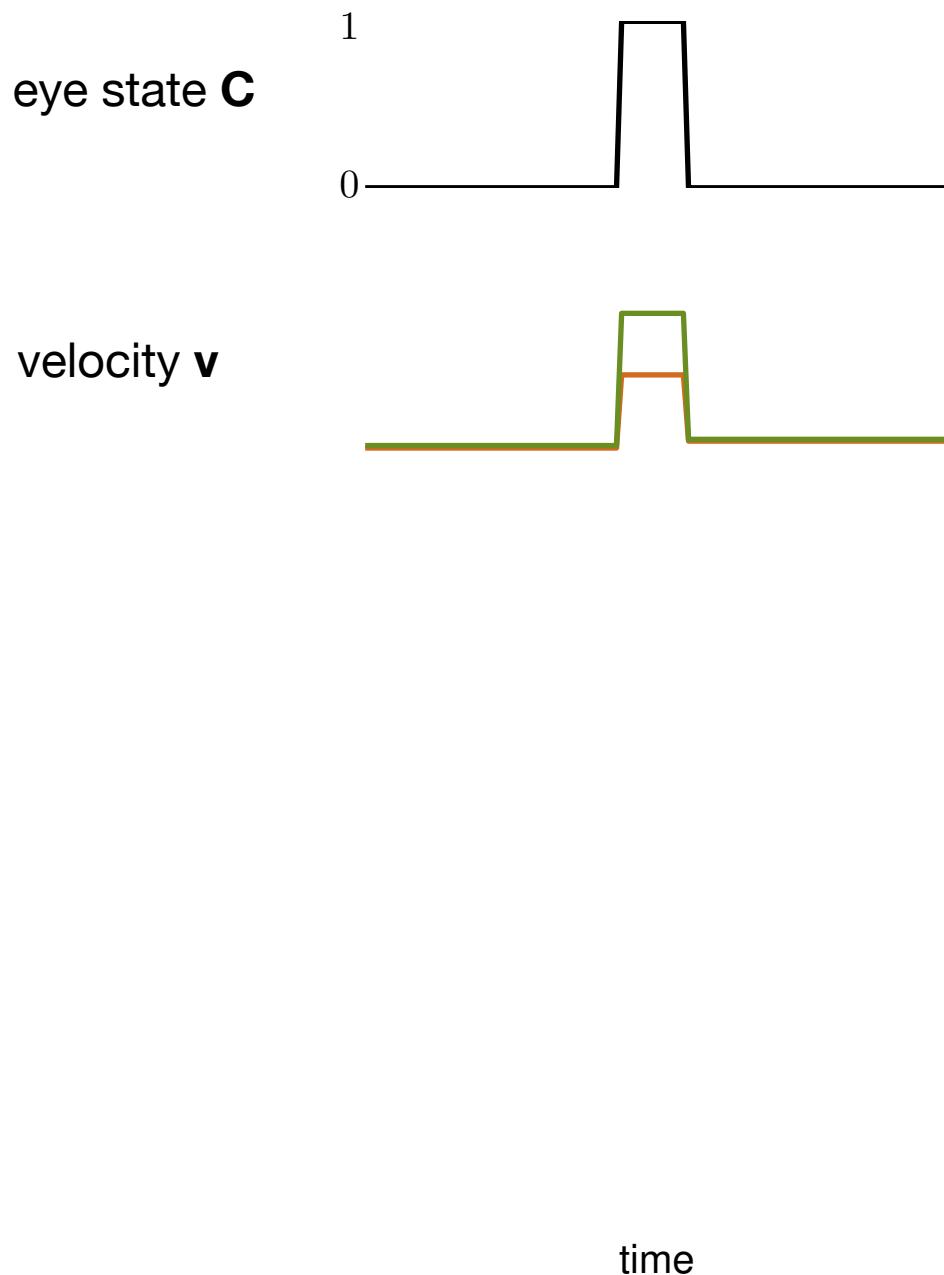
## Bayesian microsaccade detection (BMD)

- Explicit assumptions about the process by which measured eye positions are generated
  - Probabilistic, not mechanistic
- Returns at each time point a probability instead of a binary answer

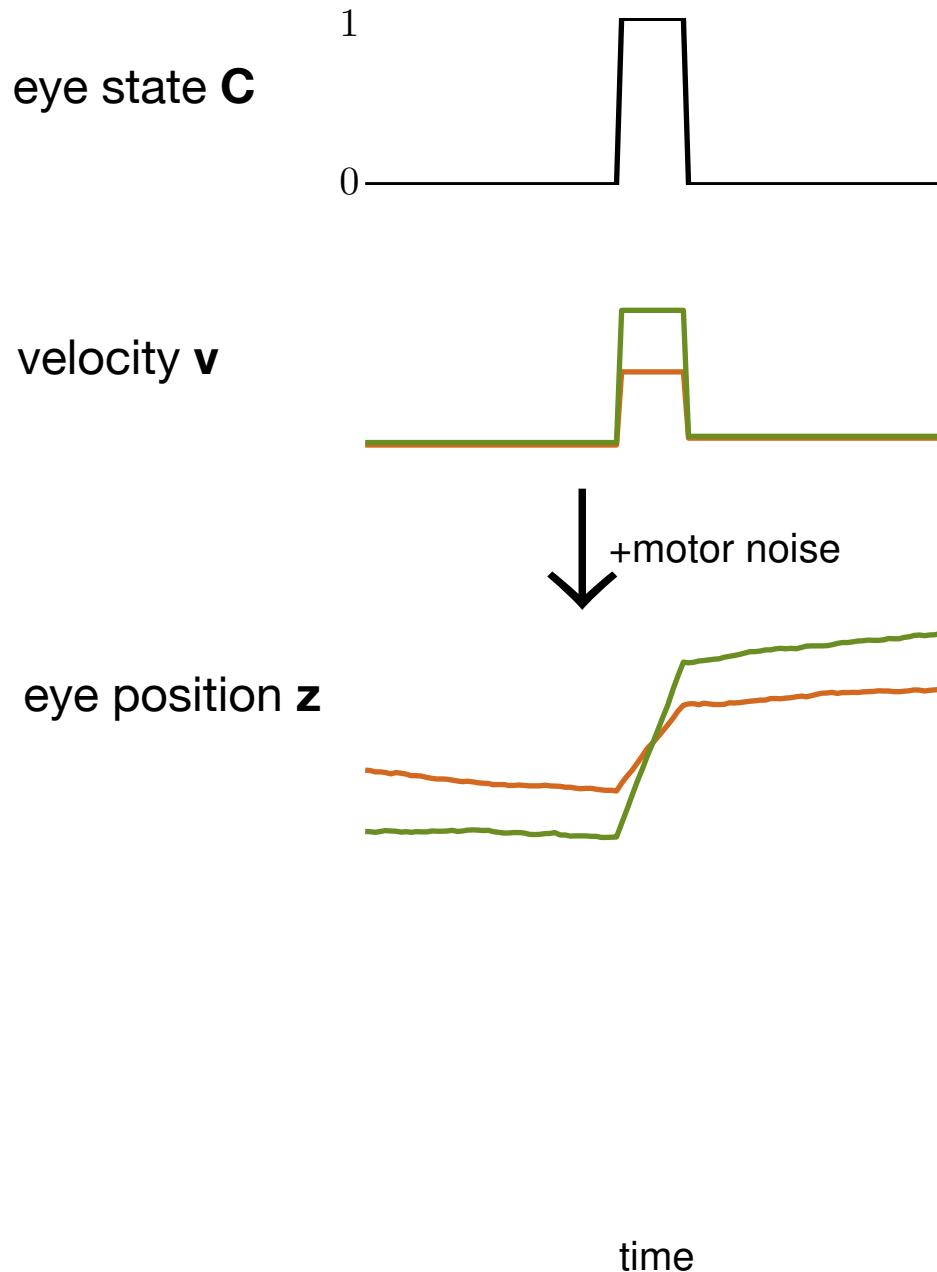
# Generative model of fixational eye movements



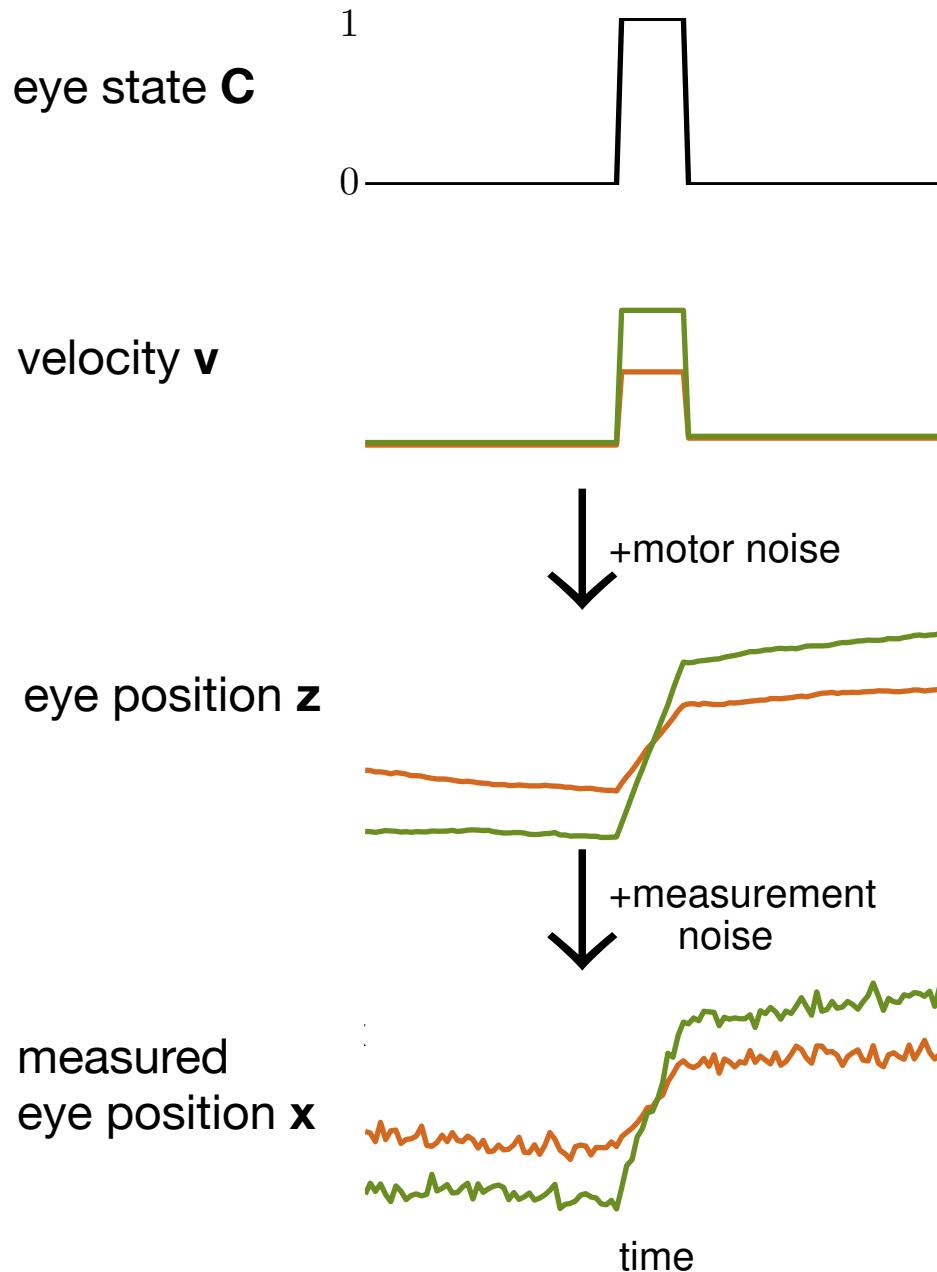
# Generative model of fixational eye movements



# Generative model of fixational eye movements



# Generative model of fixational eye movements



eye state **C**

?

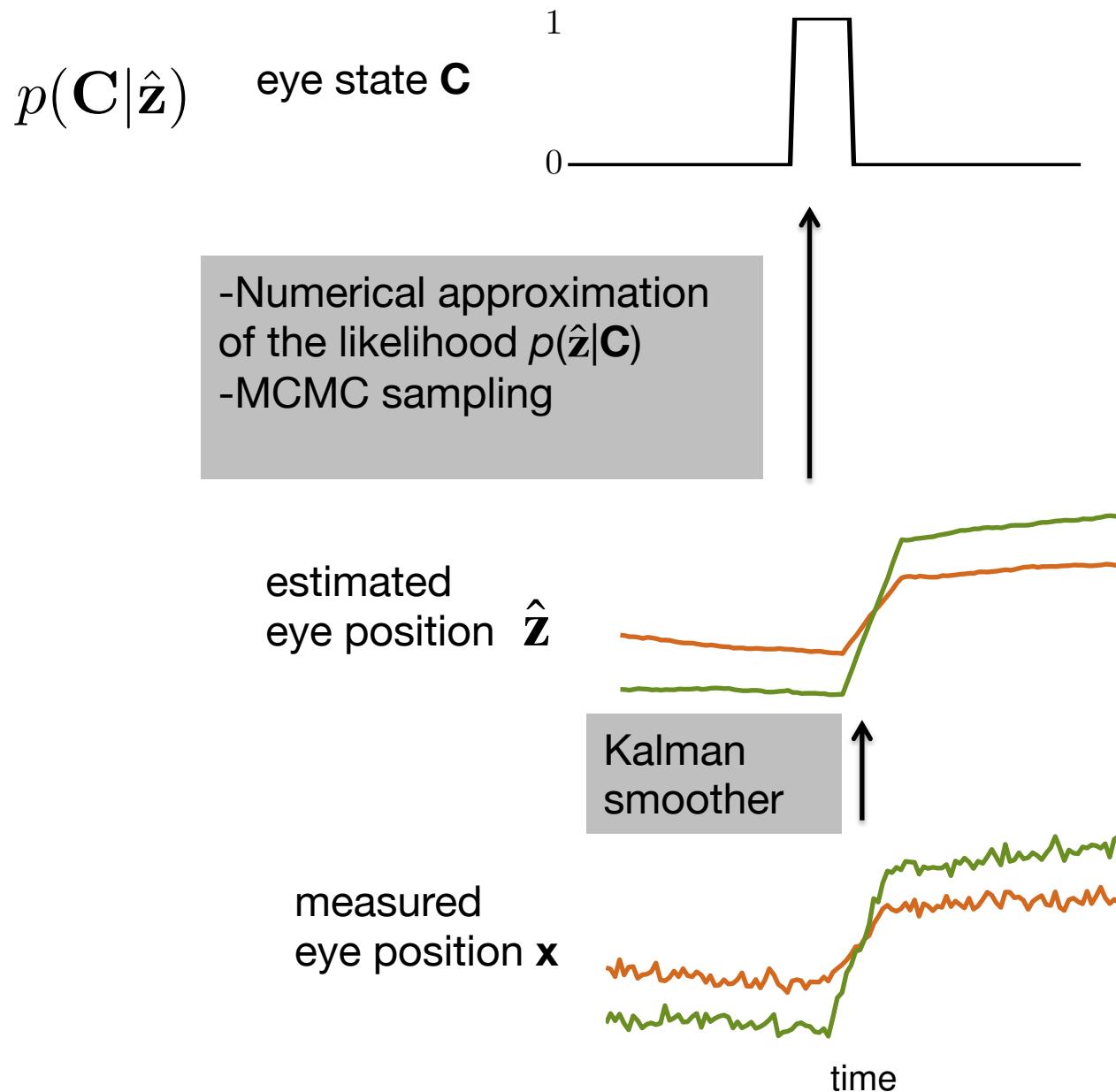
Bayesian inference

$$p(\mathbf{C}|\mathbf{x})$$

measured  
eye position **x**

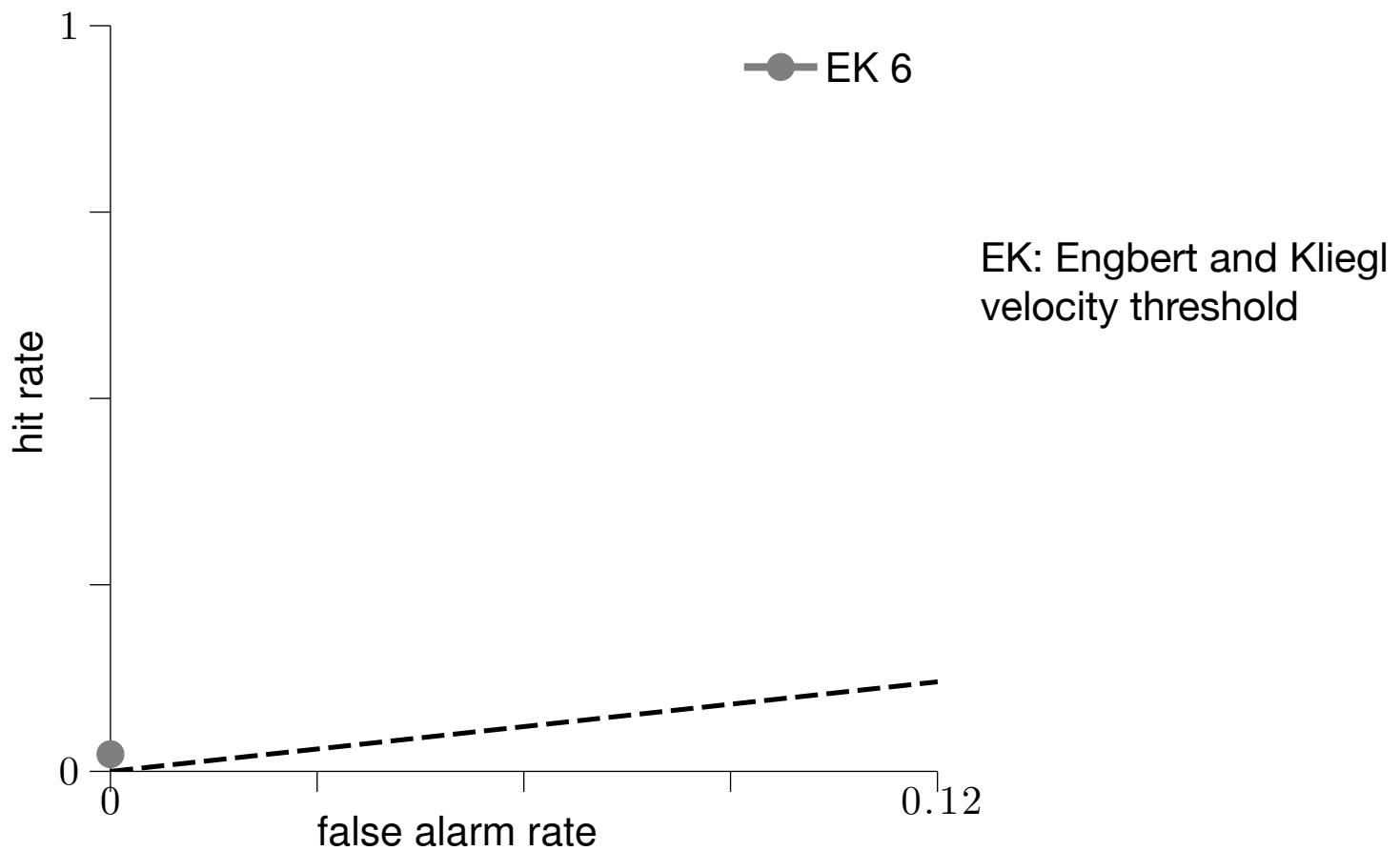


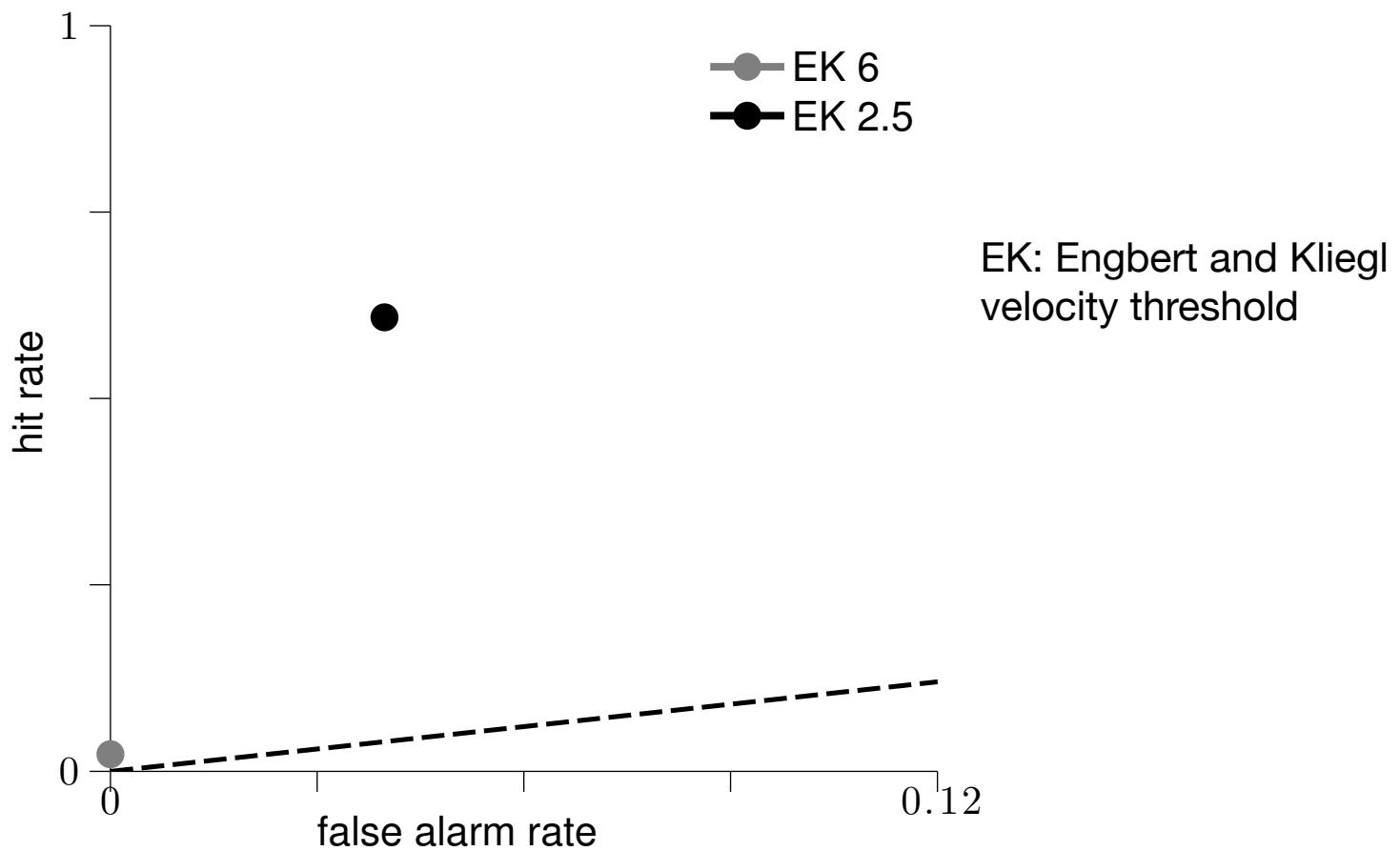
# Approximate inference: BMD algorithm

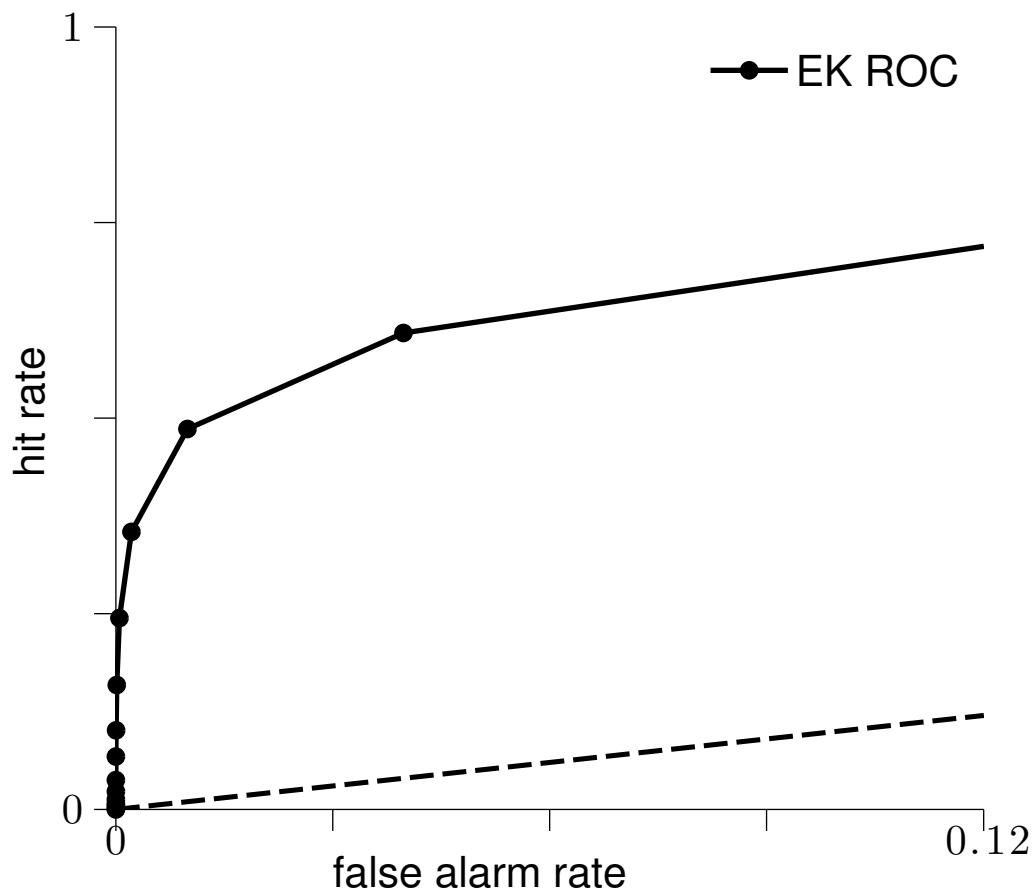


## Test BMD algorithm: simulated data

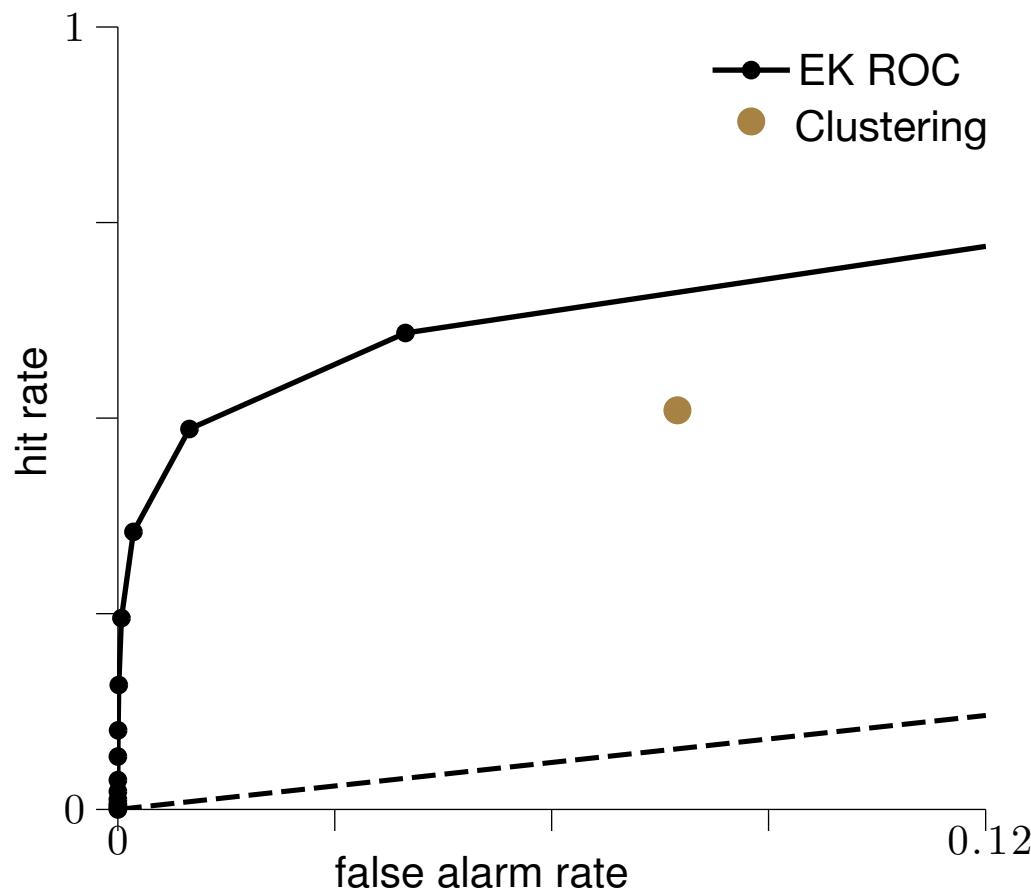
1. Simulate data from generative model with increasing levels of motor and measurement noise
2. Test BMD against alternative algorithms: variants of EK velocity threshold, unsupervised clustering (Otero-Milan, 2014)
3. Use hit rate and false alarm rate as metric for performance



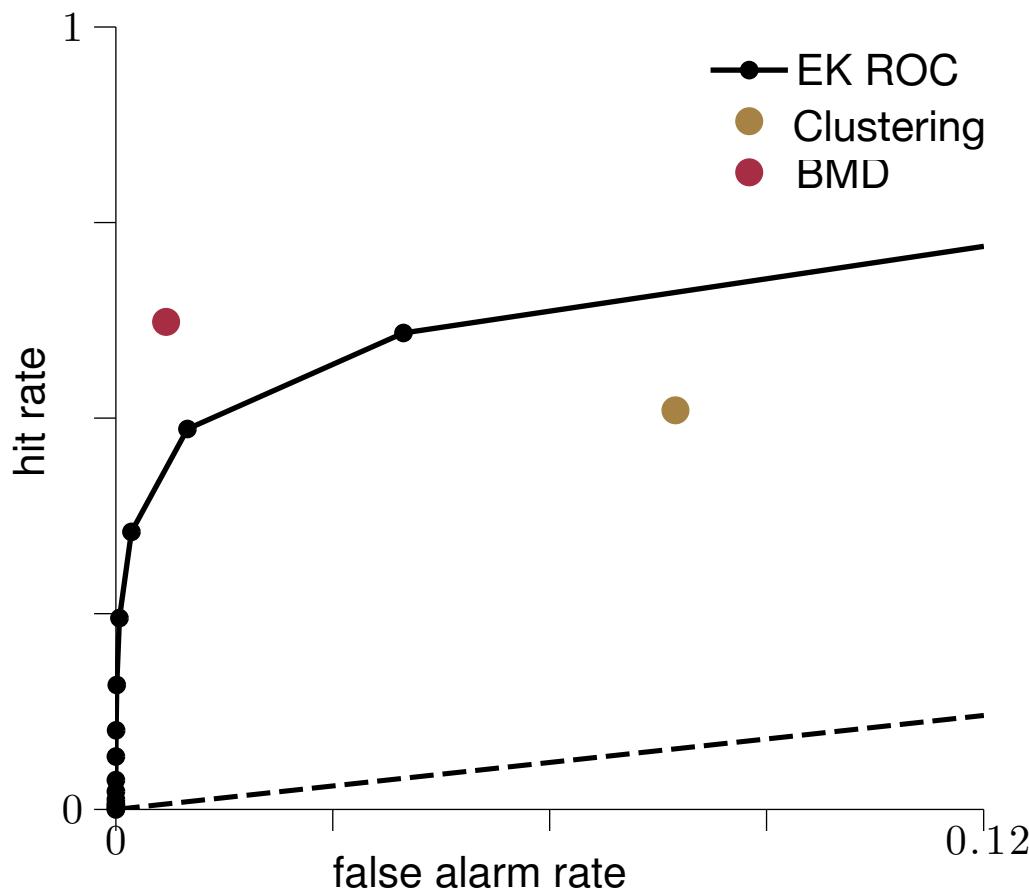




# Unsupervised clustering is less robust to noise than EK on simulated data



BMD is more robust to noise than EK on simulated data

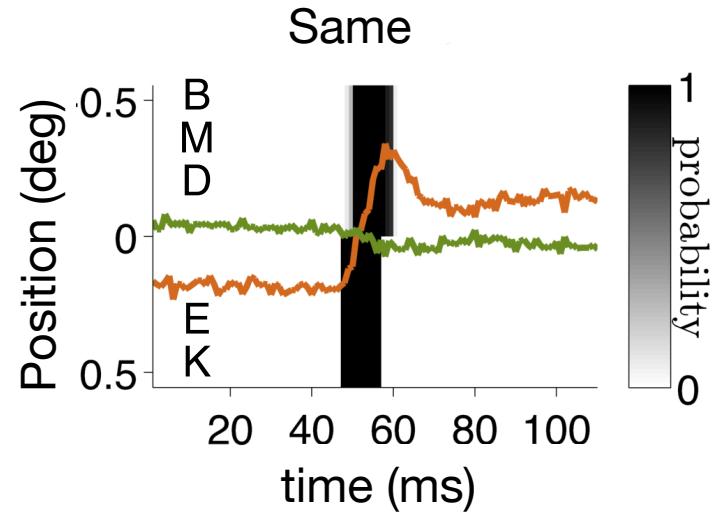


## Tests on real data

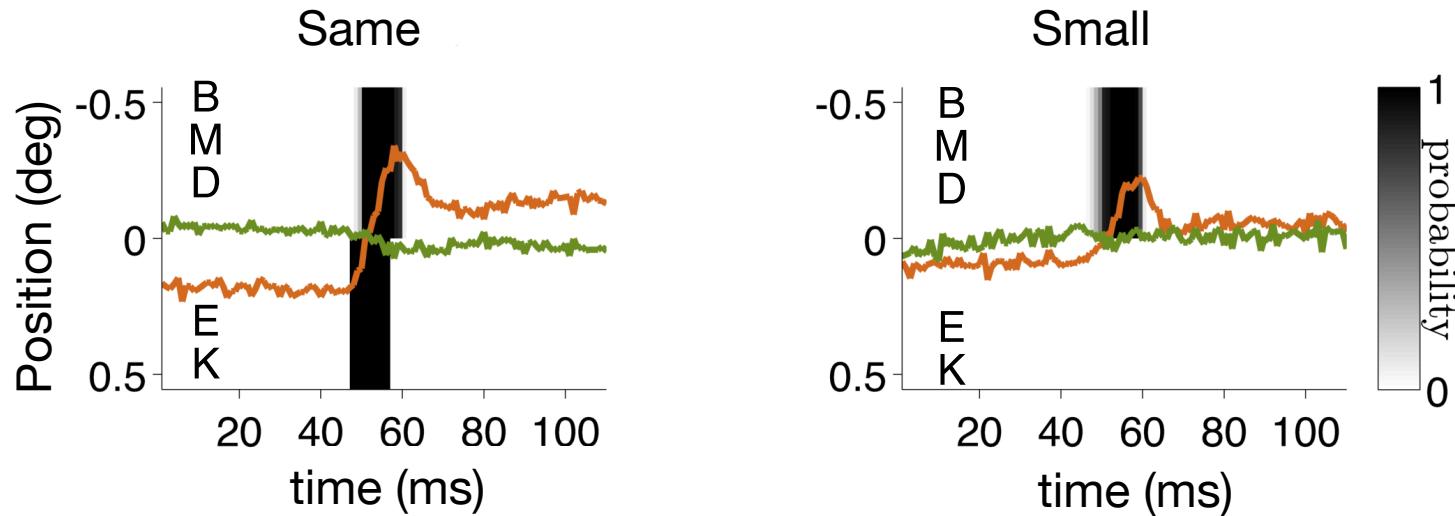
### 1. EyeLink data

- High measurement noise

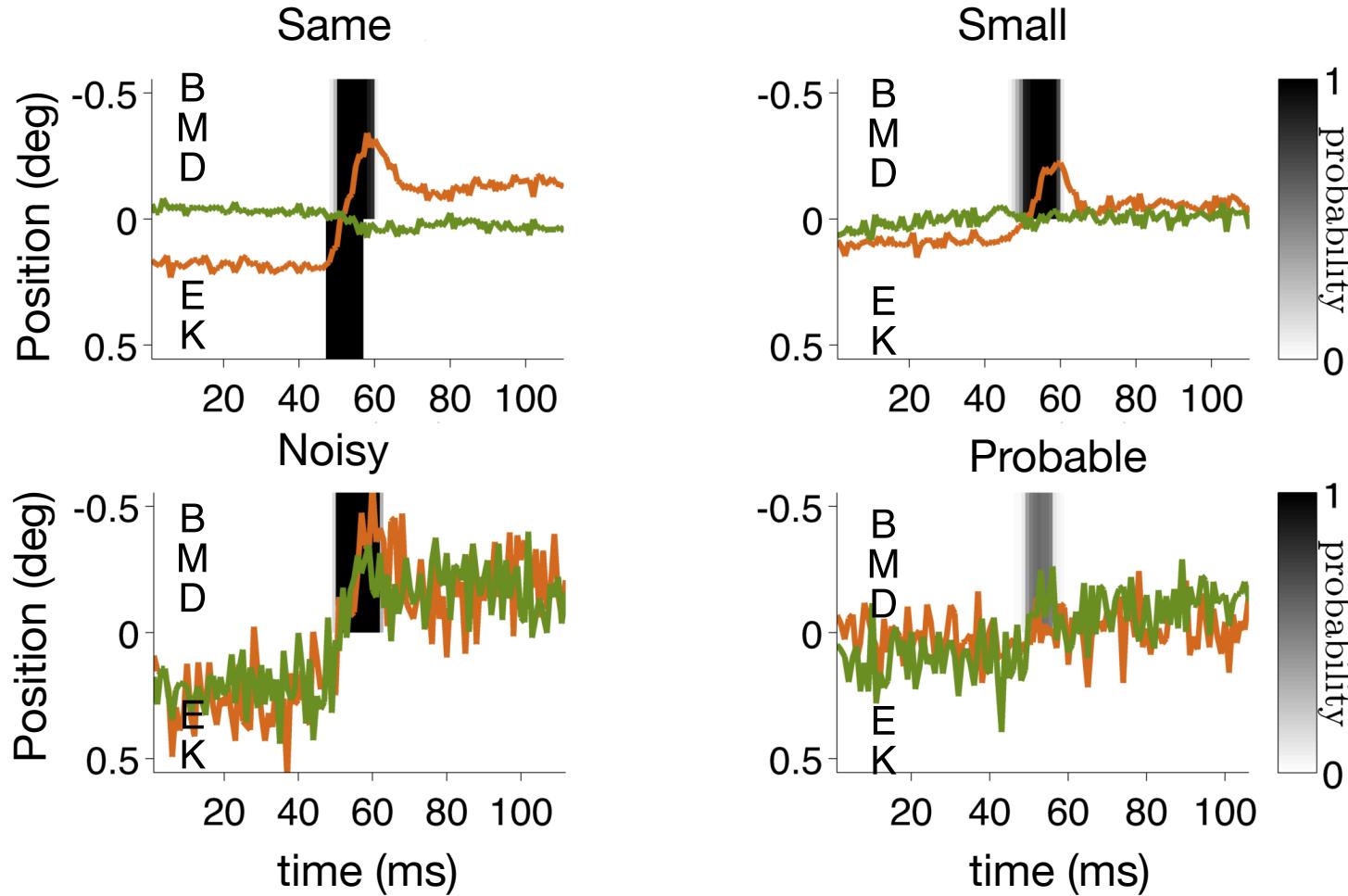
In most cases, BMD infers almost the same microsaccade as EK



# BMD infers a **small** microsaccade missed by EK



# BMD infers probable microsaccades embedded in noise, undetected by EK



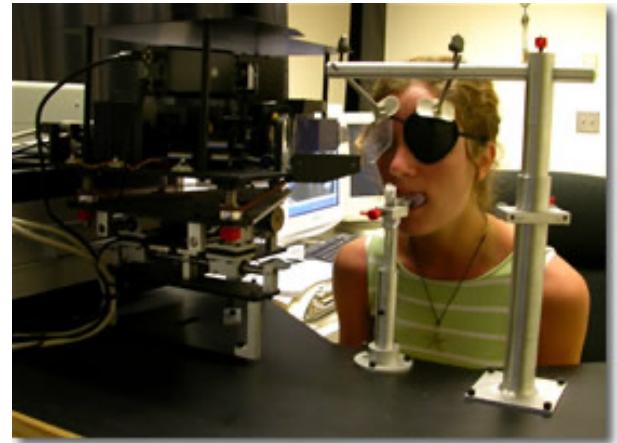
## Tests on real data

### 1. EyeLink data

- High measurement noise

### 2. Dual Purkinje Image data

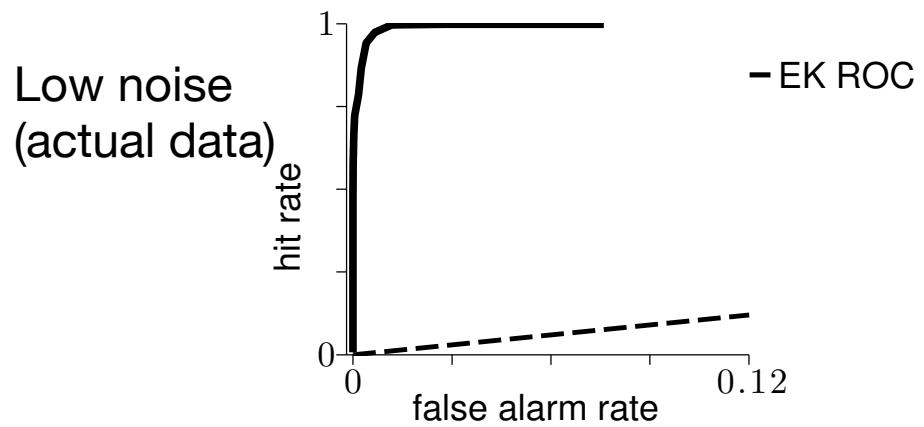
- Low measurement noise
- Ko, Poletti and Rucci, 2010 and Poletti and Rucci, 2015

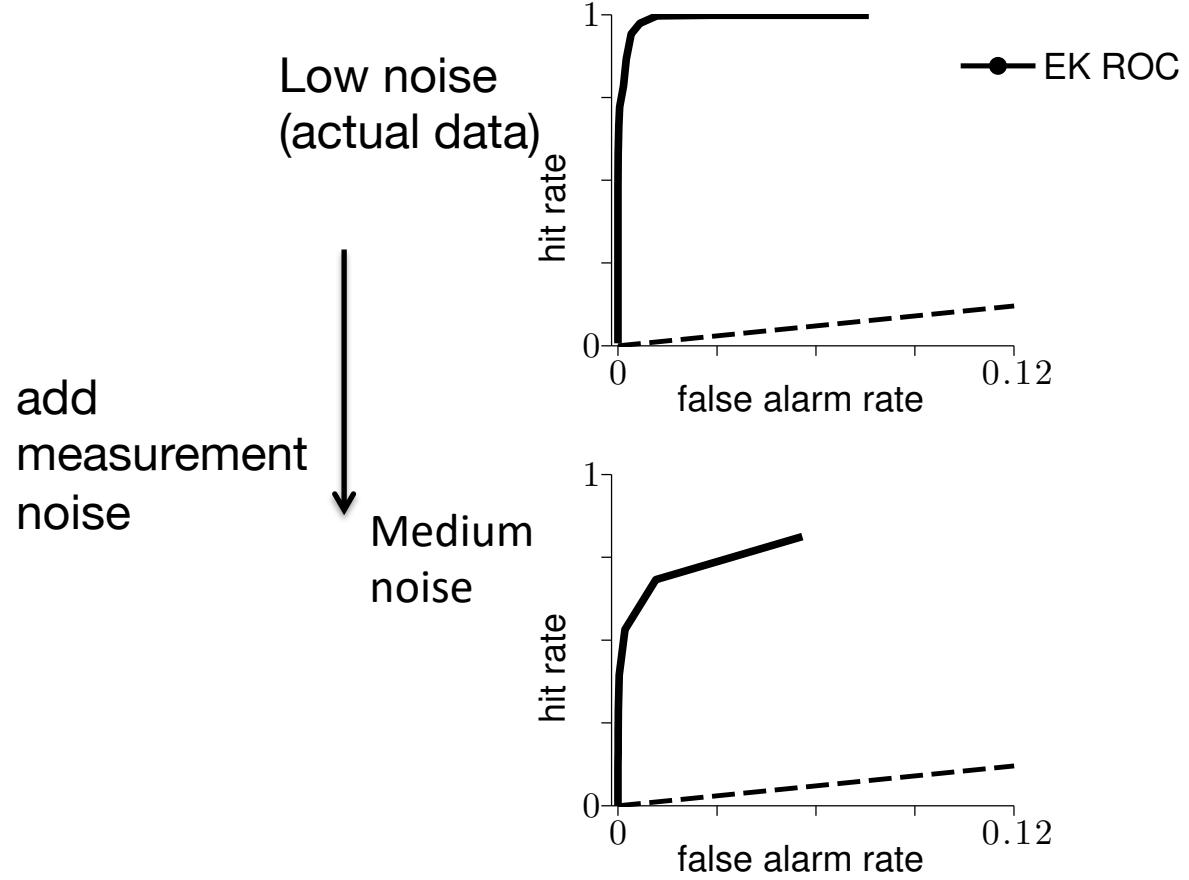


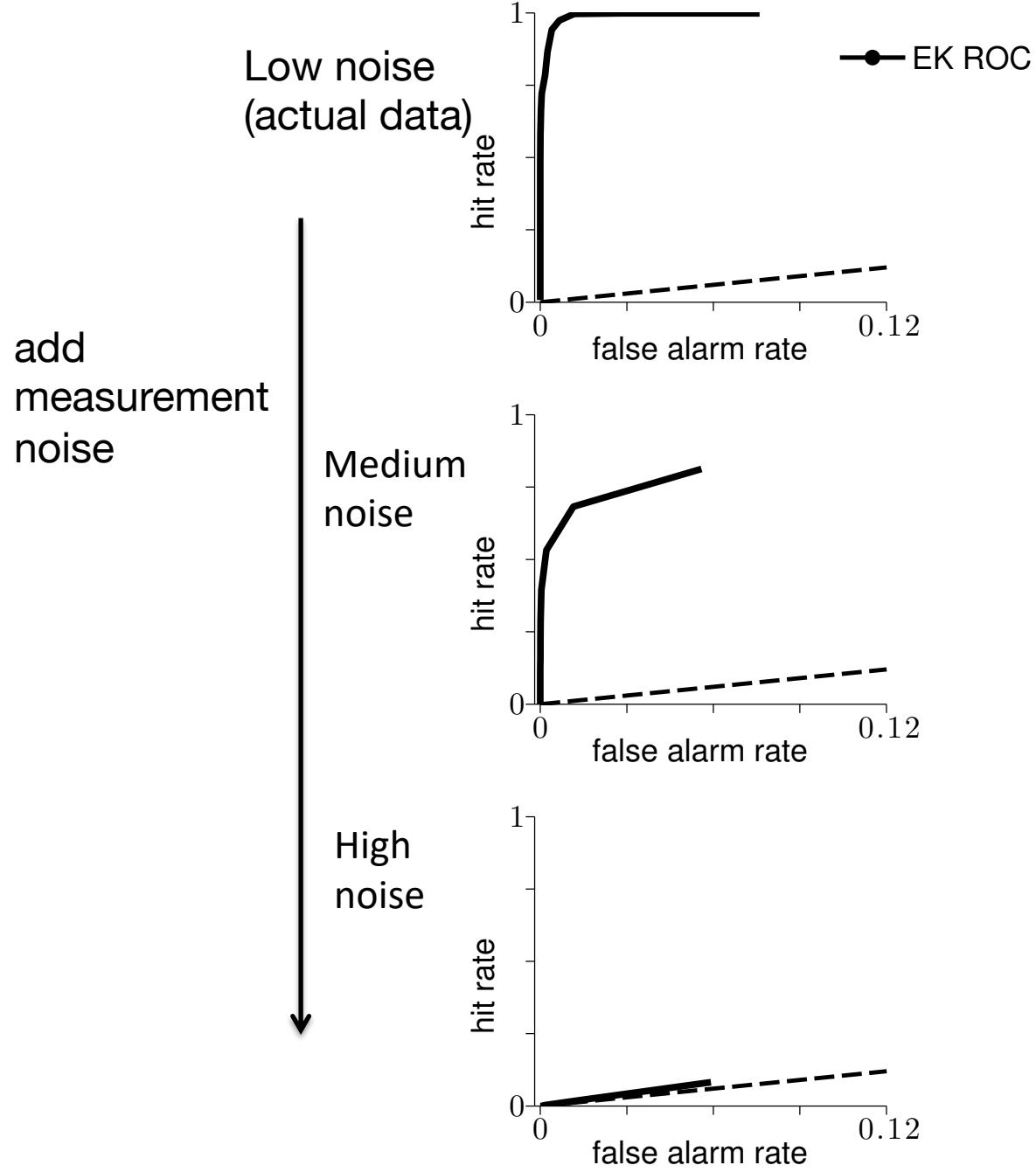
Poletti and Rucci lab

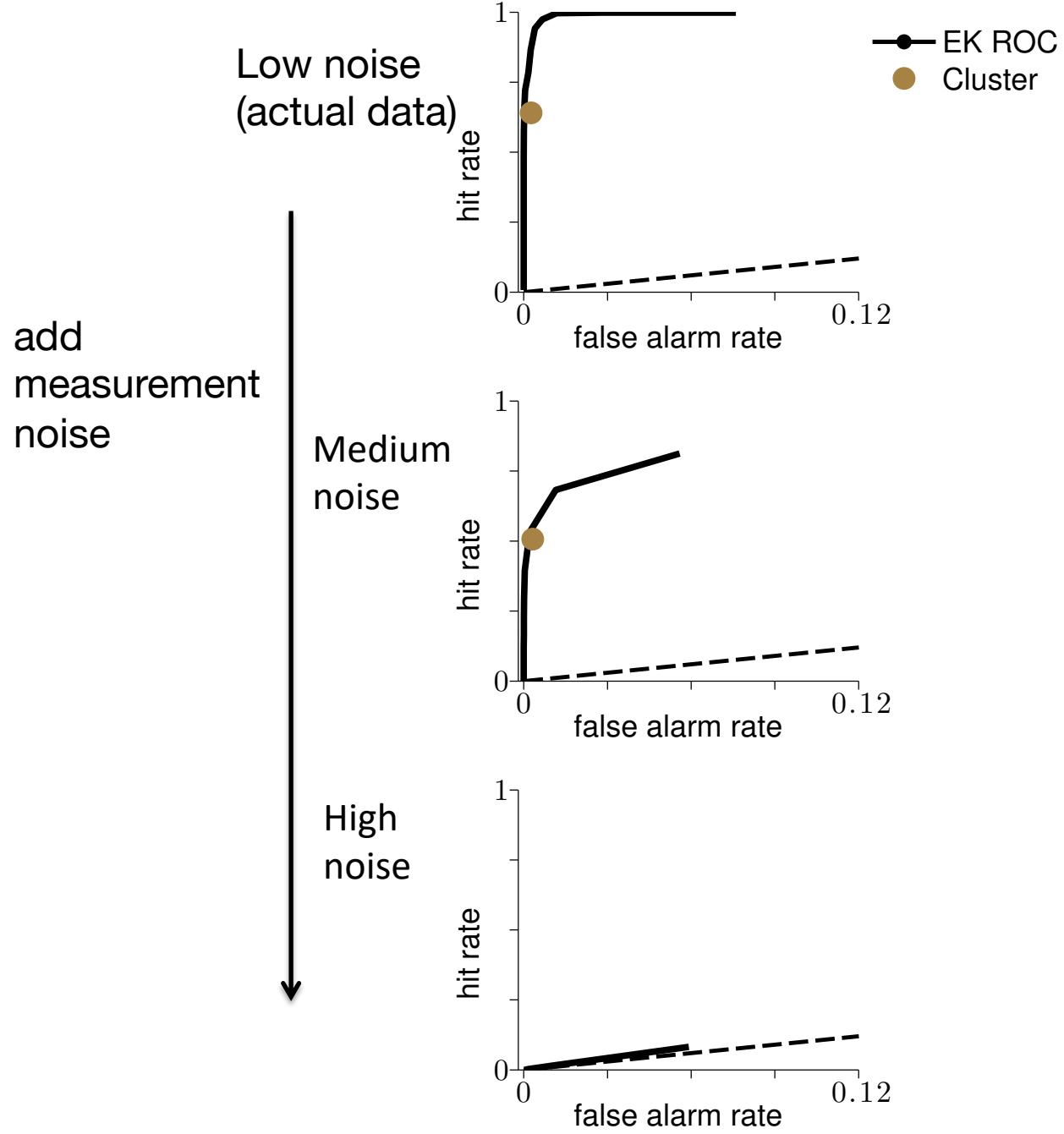
# Strategy

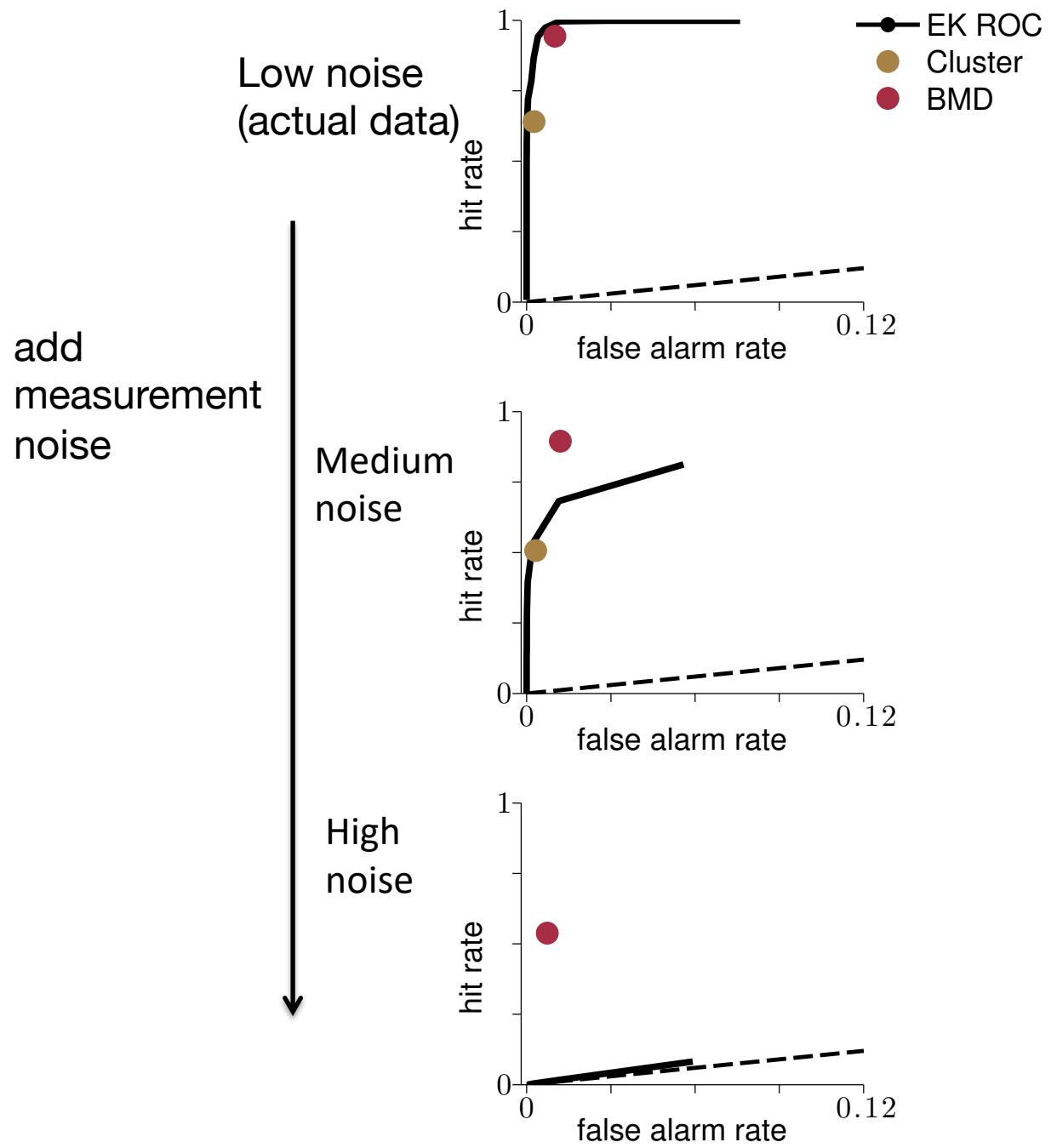
- Set ground truth as the inferred microsaccades on low-measurement noise DPI data
- Artificially add measurement noise
- Compare robustness of EK, clustering and BMD





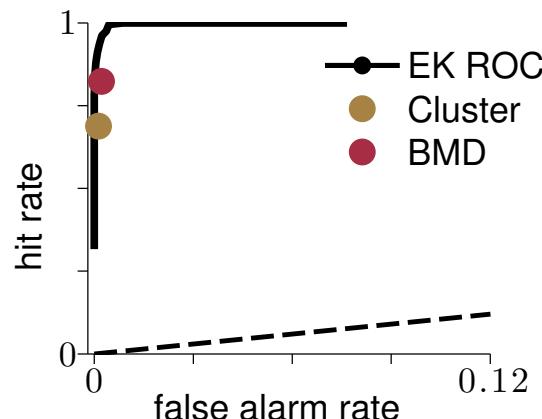
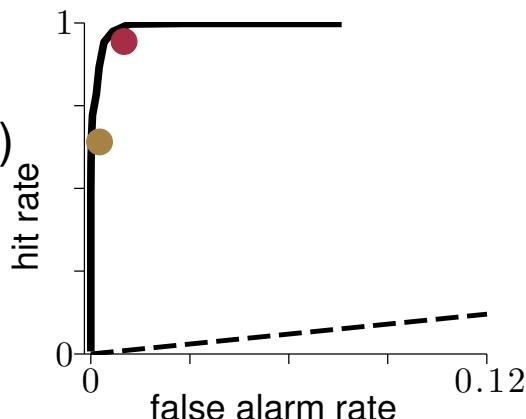




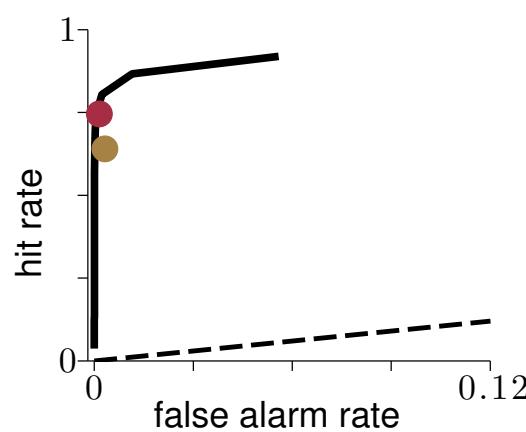
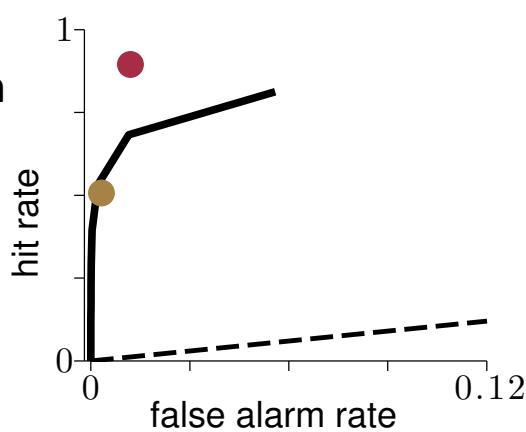


add  
measurement  
noise

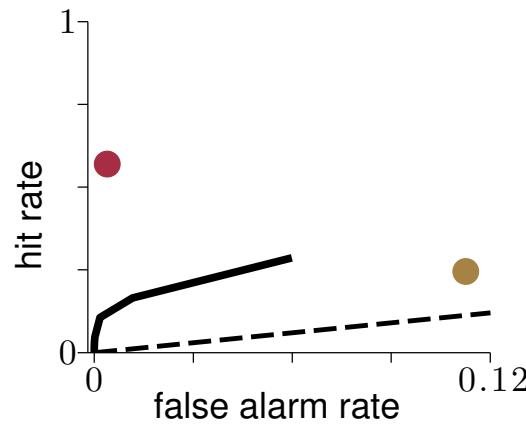
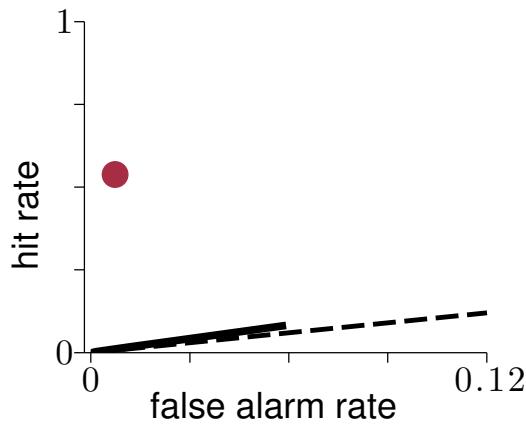
Low noise  
(actual data)



Medium  
noise



High  
noise

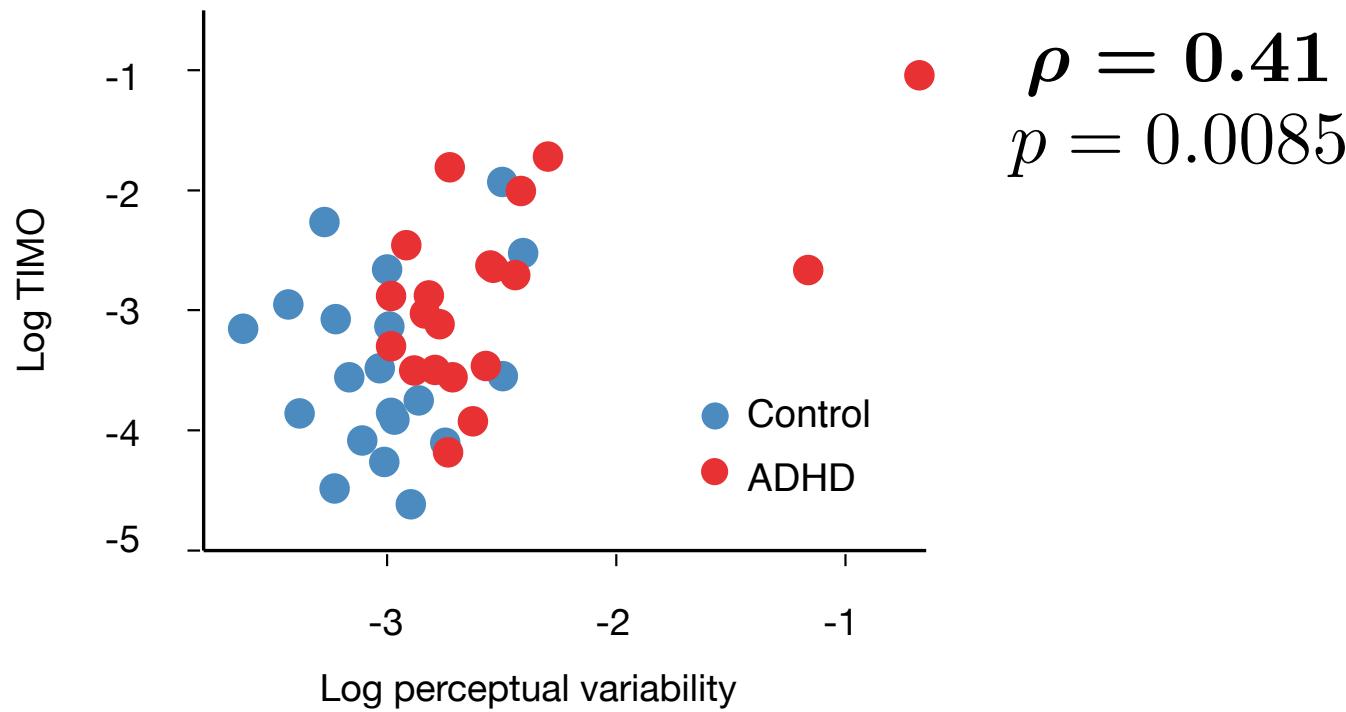


- New Bayesian microsaccade detection (BMD) algorithm is more robust to measurement noise from the eye tracker
- What if I have data that was already filtered with EyeLink's online filter and has super low noise?
  - Use unsupervised clustering or EK velocity threshold

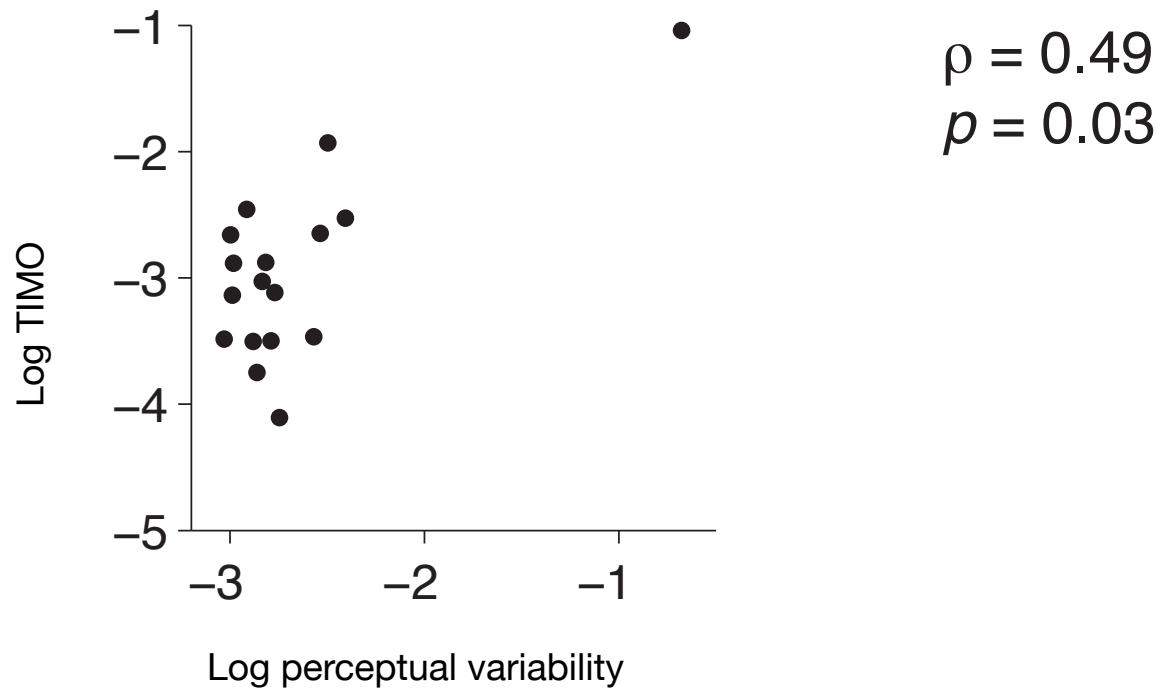
## BMD application to ADHD

- Microsaccade suppression around stimulus onset could facilitate stimulus encoding *Martinez-Conde et al. 2013*
- Some evidence for differences in oculomotor control in ADHD (*Munoz et al. 2003*), more recently microsaccades:
  - ADHD participants made more microsaccades during tasks that require stable fixation *Fried et al. 2014, Panagiotidi et al. 2017*
  - Less effective inhibition of microsaccade rate around expected stimulus onset *Dankner et al. 2017*

## Part 2 data: Perceptual variability and TIMO are correlated



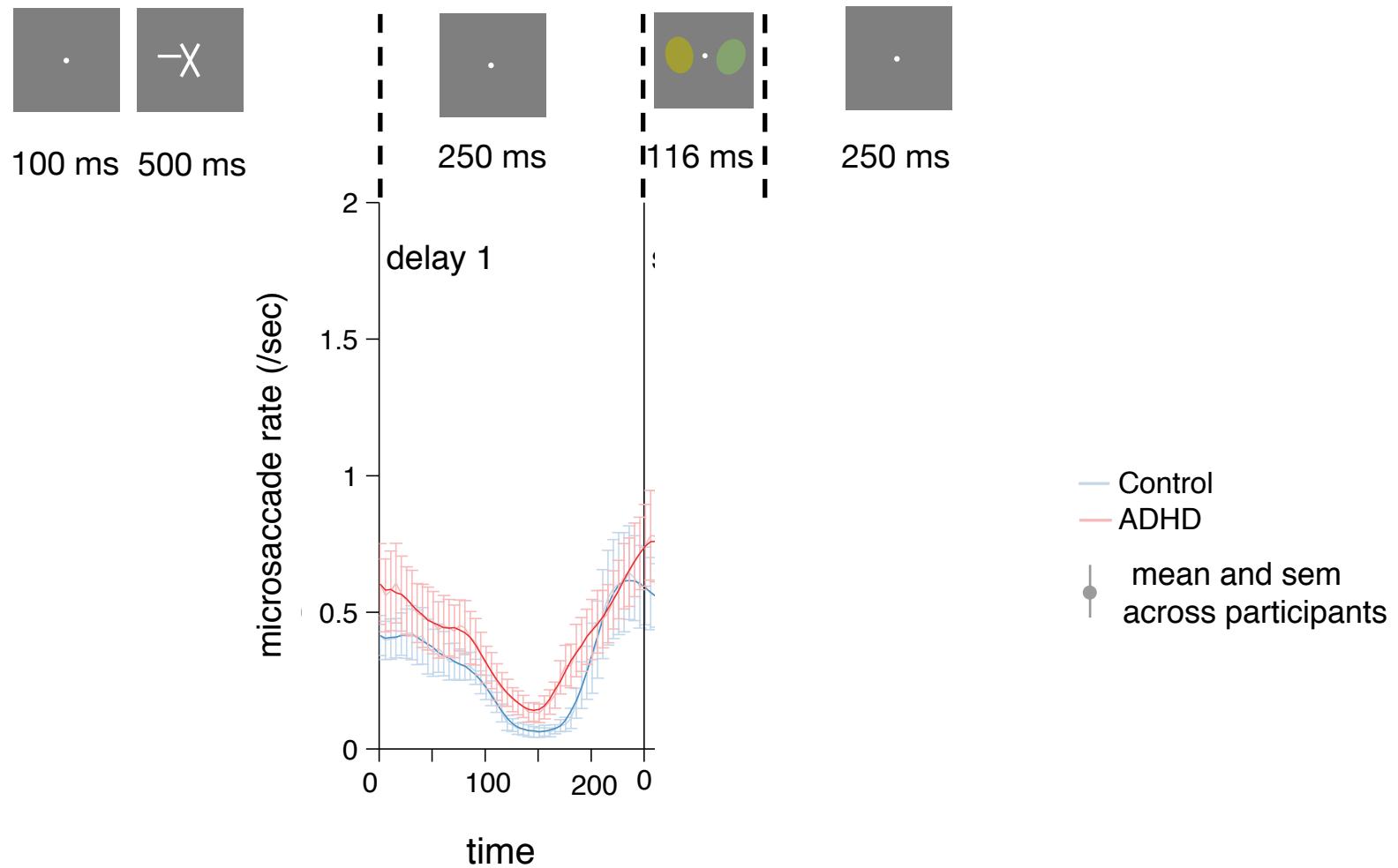
# Perceptual variability and TIMO are correlated



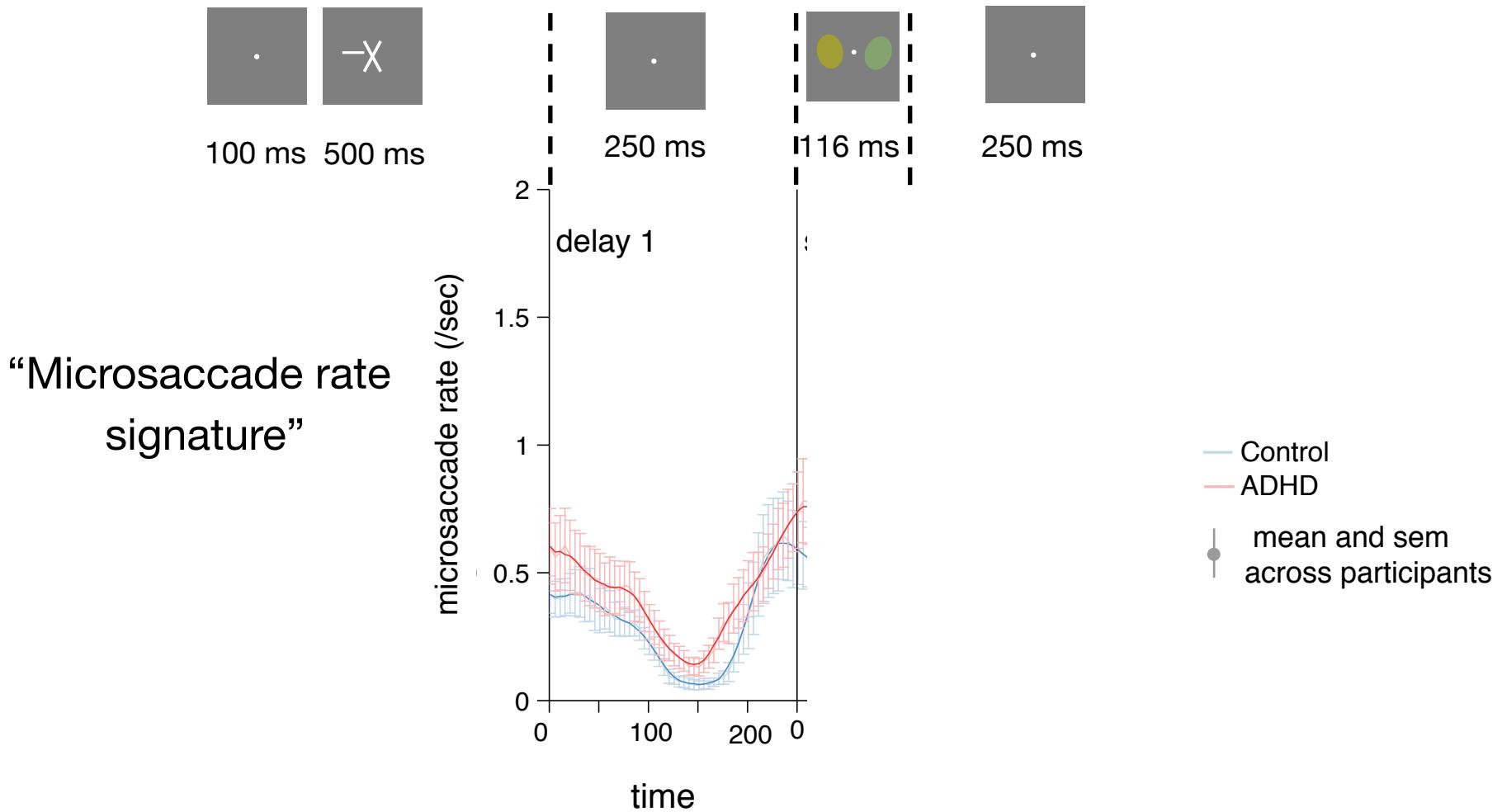
# Microsaccade rate time courses



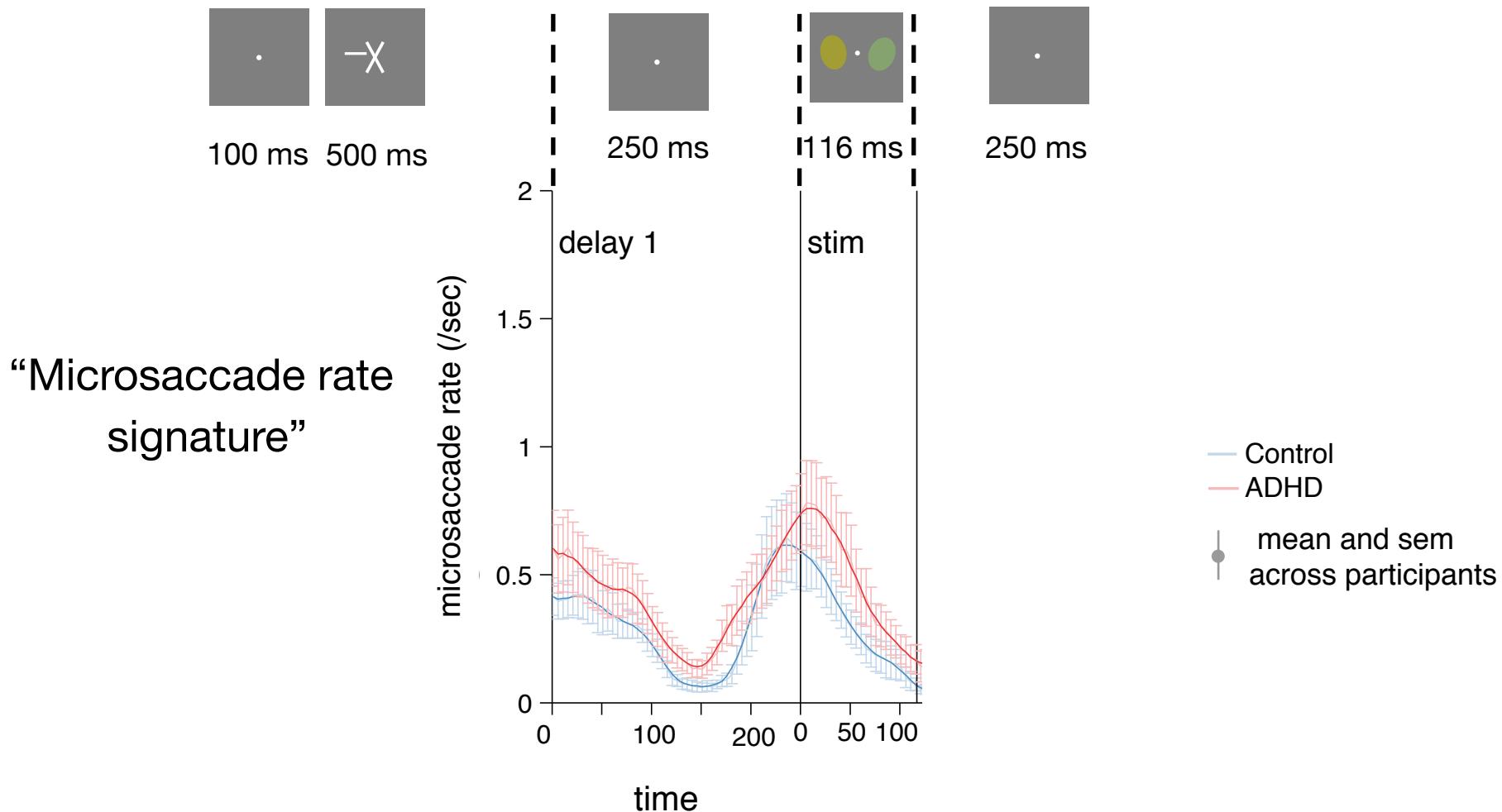
# Microsaccade rate time courses around stimulus onset



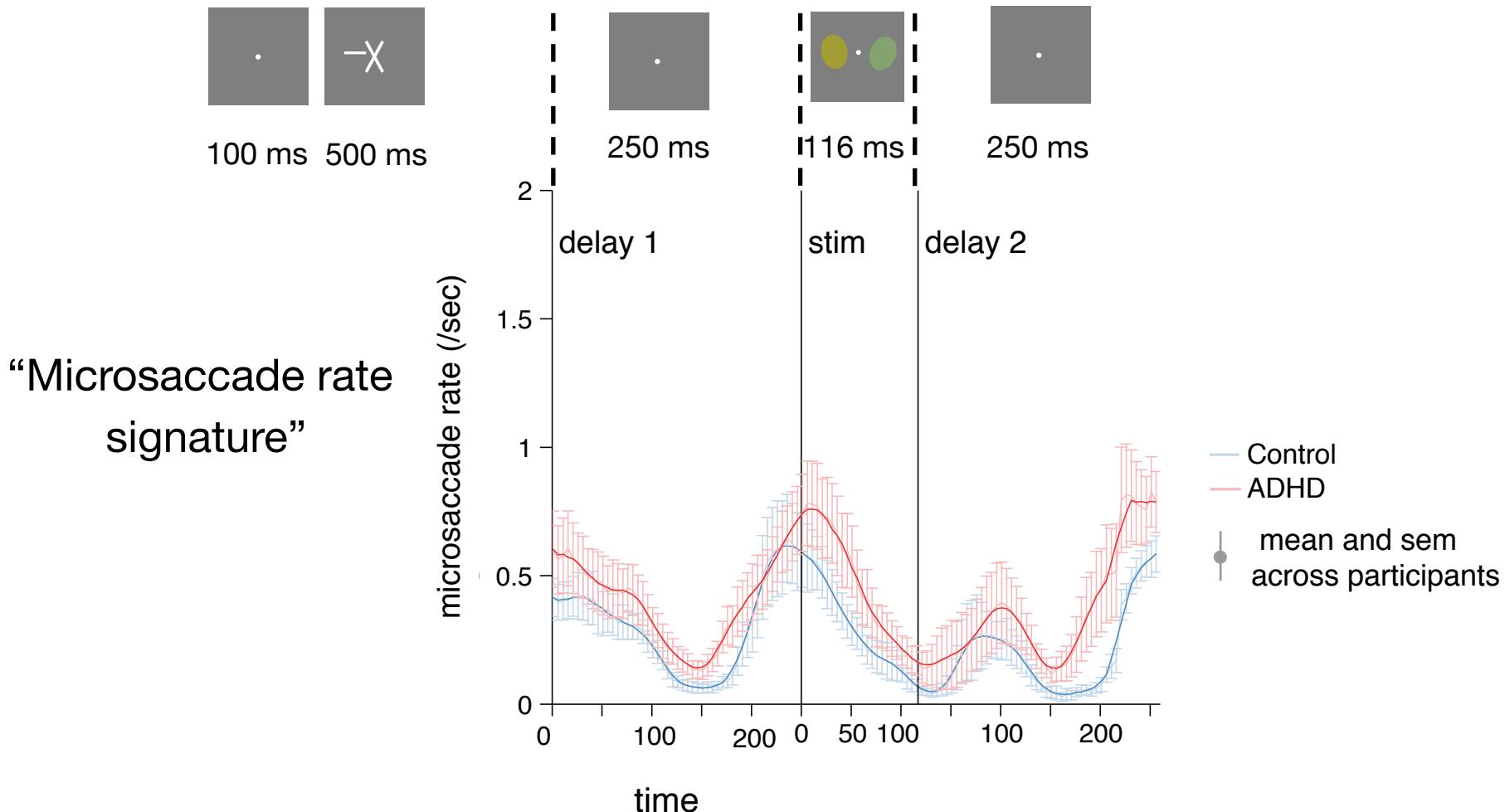
# Microsaccade rate time courses around stimulus onset



# Microsaccade rate time courses around stimulus onset

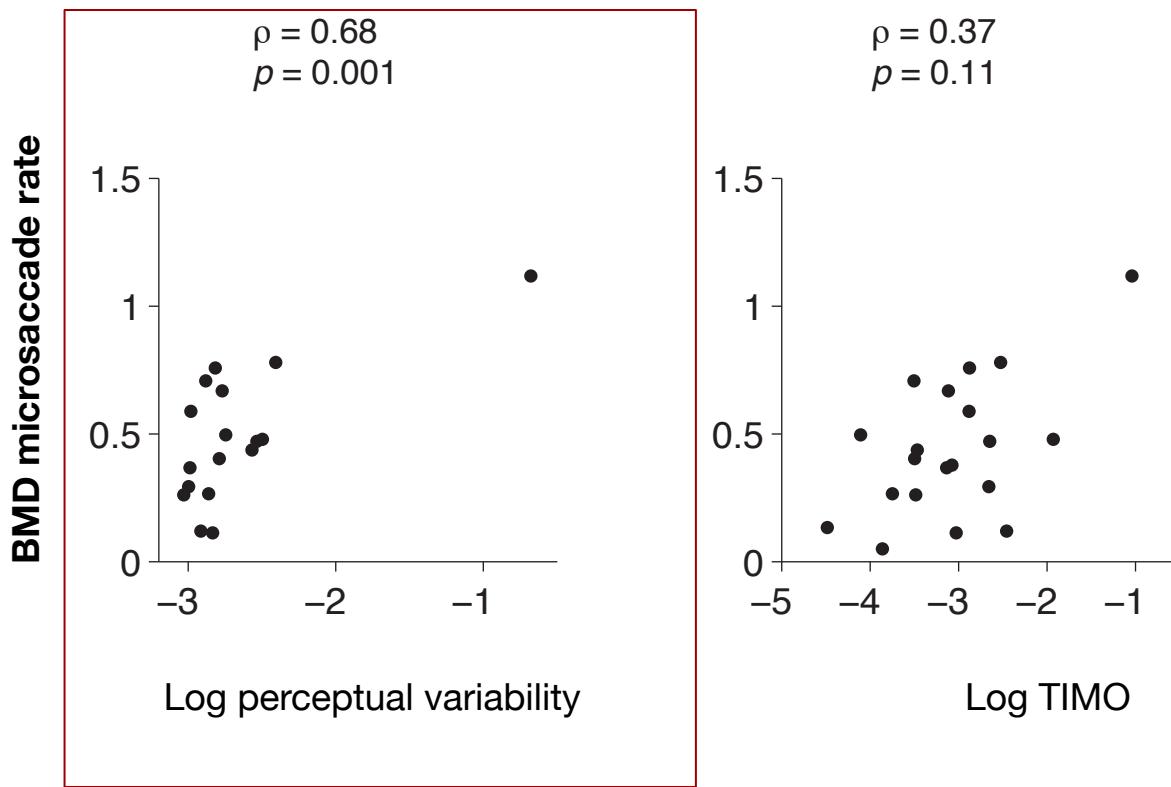


# Microsaccade rate time courses around stimulus onset



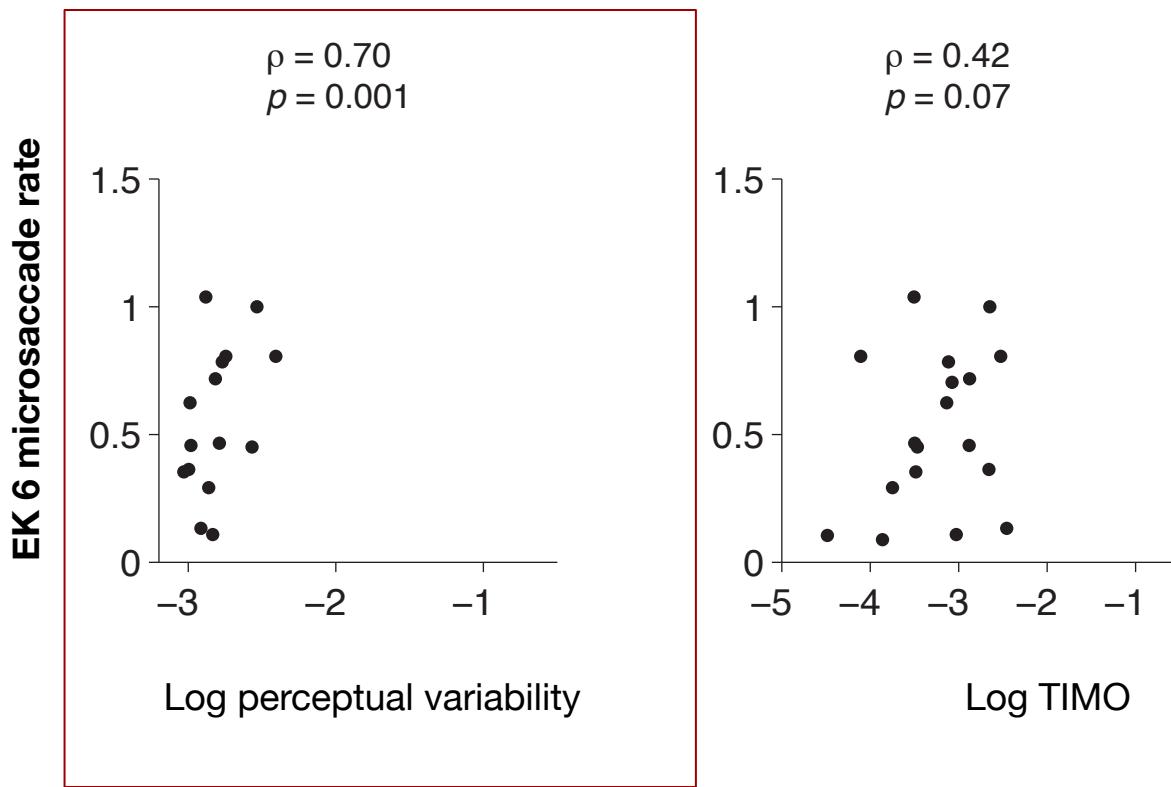
# Perceptual variability and TIMO: differential correlation with microsaccade rate around stimulus onset

## BMD algorithm



# Perceptual variability and TIMO: differential correlation with microsaccade rate around stimulus onset

## EK6 algorithm



## Conclusions part 3

- Goal: develop a principled, Bayesian method for microsaccade detection and apply it to the ADHD and neurotypicals dataset in Part 2
- BMD recovers previously undetected microsaccades as it is more robust to eye tracker noise
- BMD algorithm brings a principled, Bayesian framework to microsaccade detection
- BMD has limitations:
  - It does not work well on low-noise or already filtered data
  - Speed
  - Assumptions, but improvements can be flexibly included
- Microsaccade rate around stimulus onset is correlated with the perceptual variability parameter, but not with TIMO
- Future: thorough exploration of microsaccade direction, velocity and amplitude distributions across all task periods

## General conclusions

1. An **optimal-observer model** with a variable-precision encoding stage can capture observers' data in visual search with heterogeneous distractors.
2. We found **higher perceptual variability** in ADHD during a demanding task, along with worse cognitive control. Behavioral metrics alone yielded high diagnosis accuracy.
3. **Bayesian microsaccade detection** yields more robust inferences, especially under high measurement noise from the eye tracker.
4. Higher perceptual variability in ADHD could be associated with **less effective microsaccade suppression** around stimulus onset.

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## Committee:

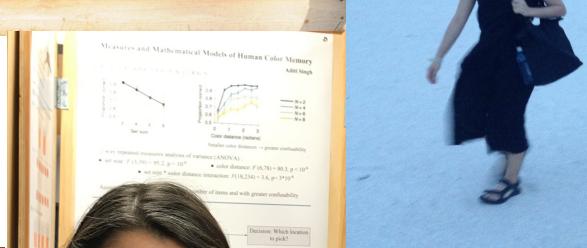
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  - Emily Cowan
  - Cristina Popa
  - Maddy Joglekar
- ⋮

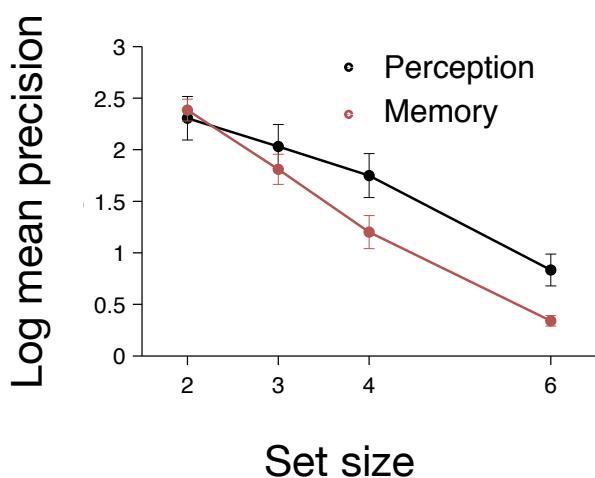
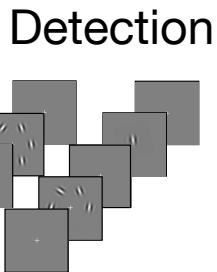
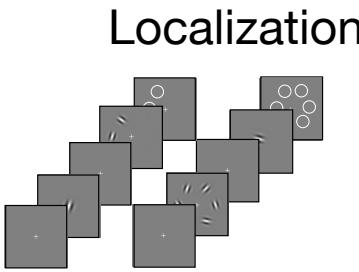




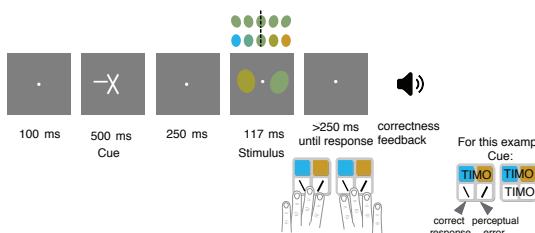


# Recap measures related to visual covert attention

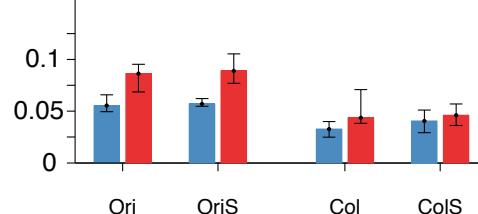
## Part 1



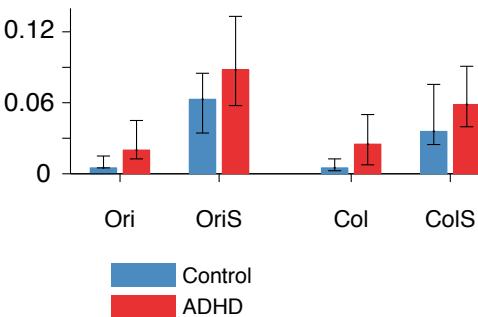
## Part 2



### Perception/Attention

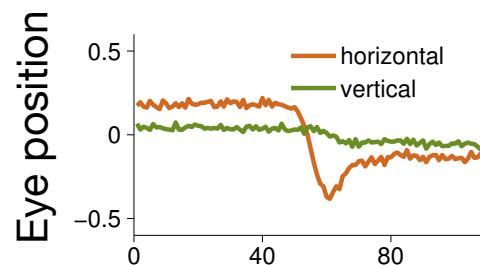


### Cognitive control

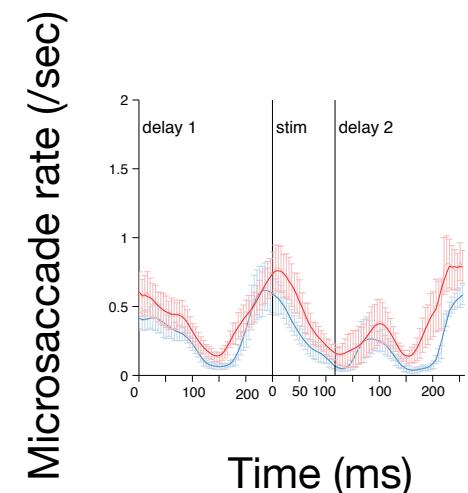


## Part 3

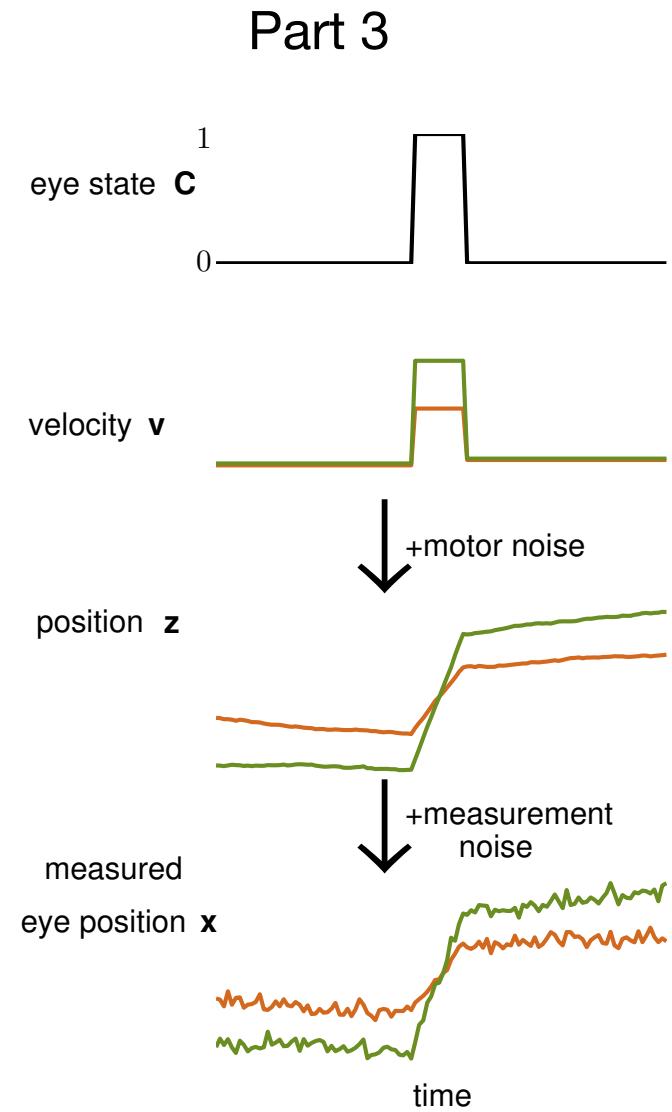
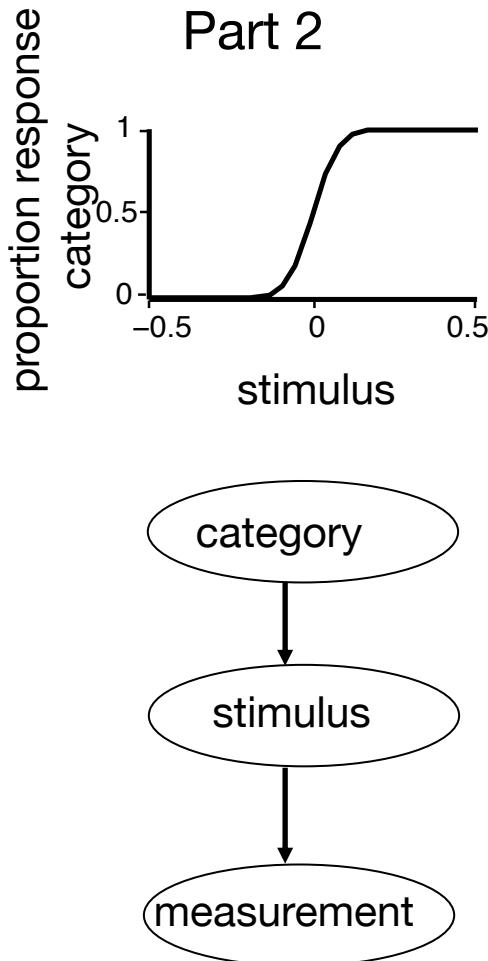
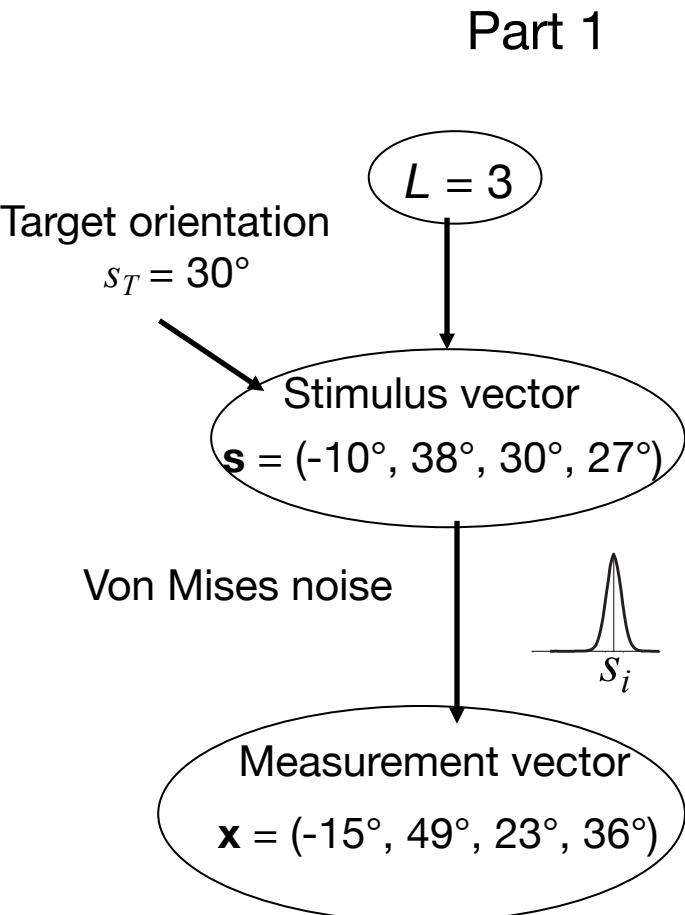
### Microsaccades



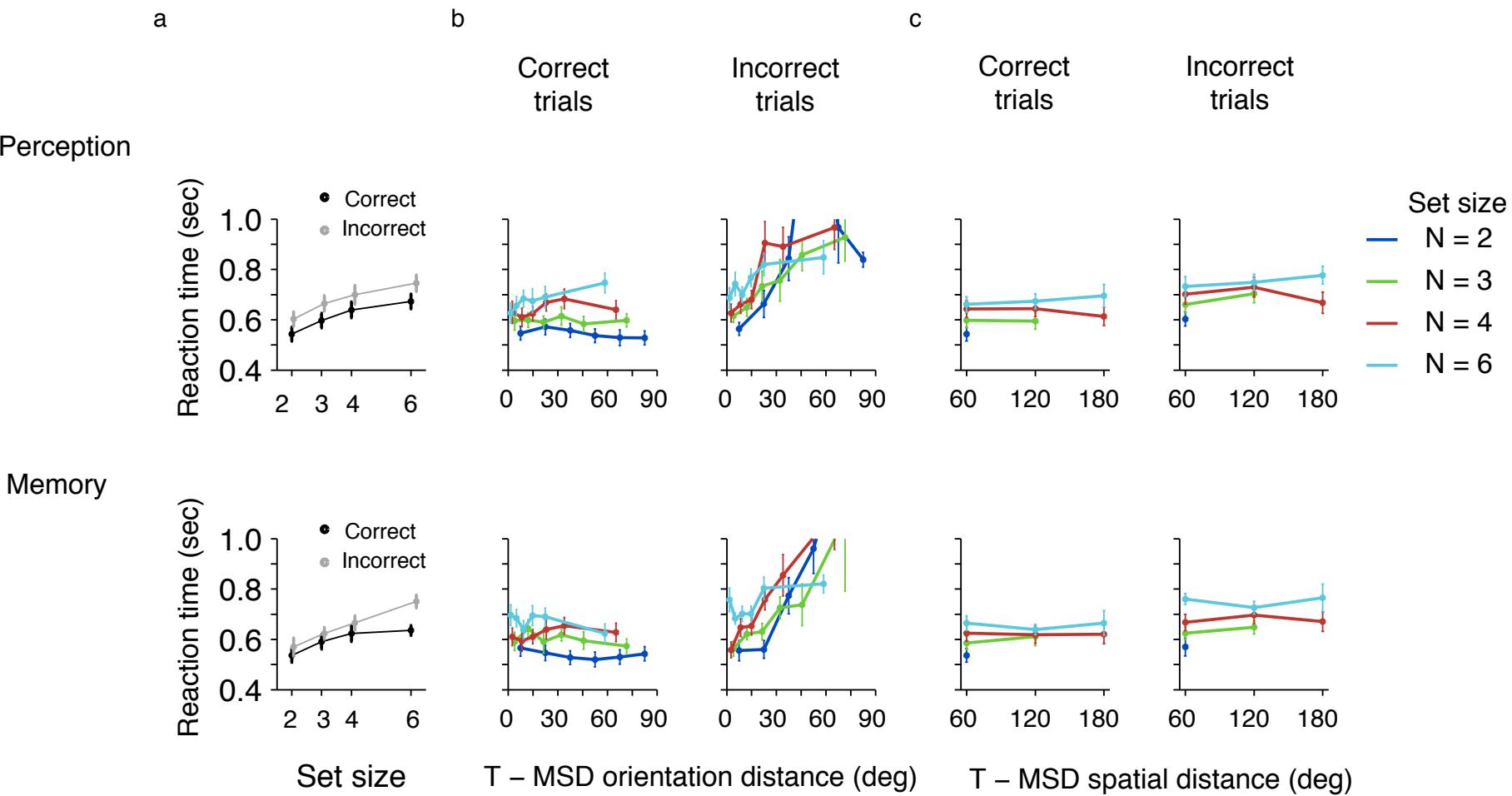
### Time (ms)



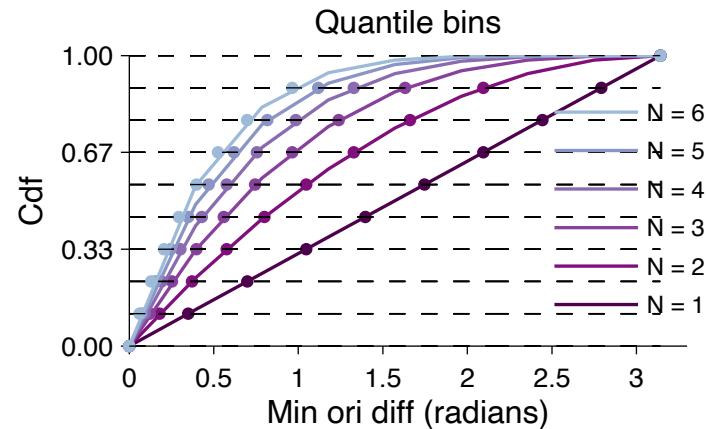
# Recap models related to visual covert attention



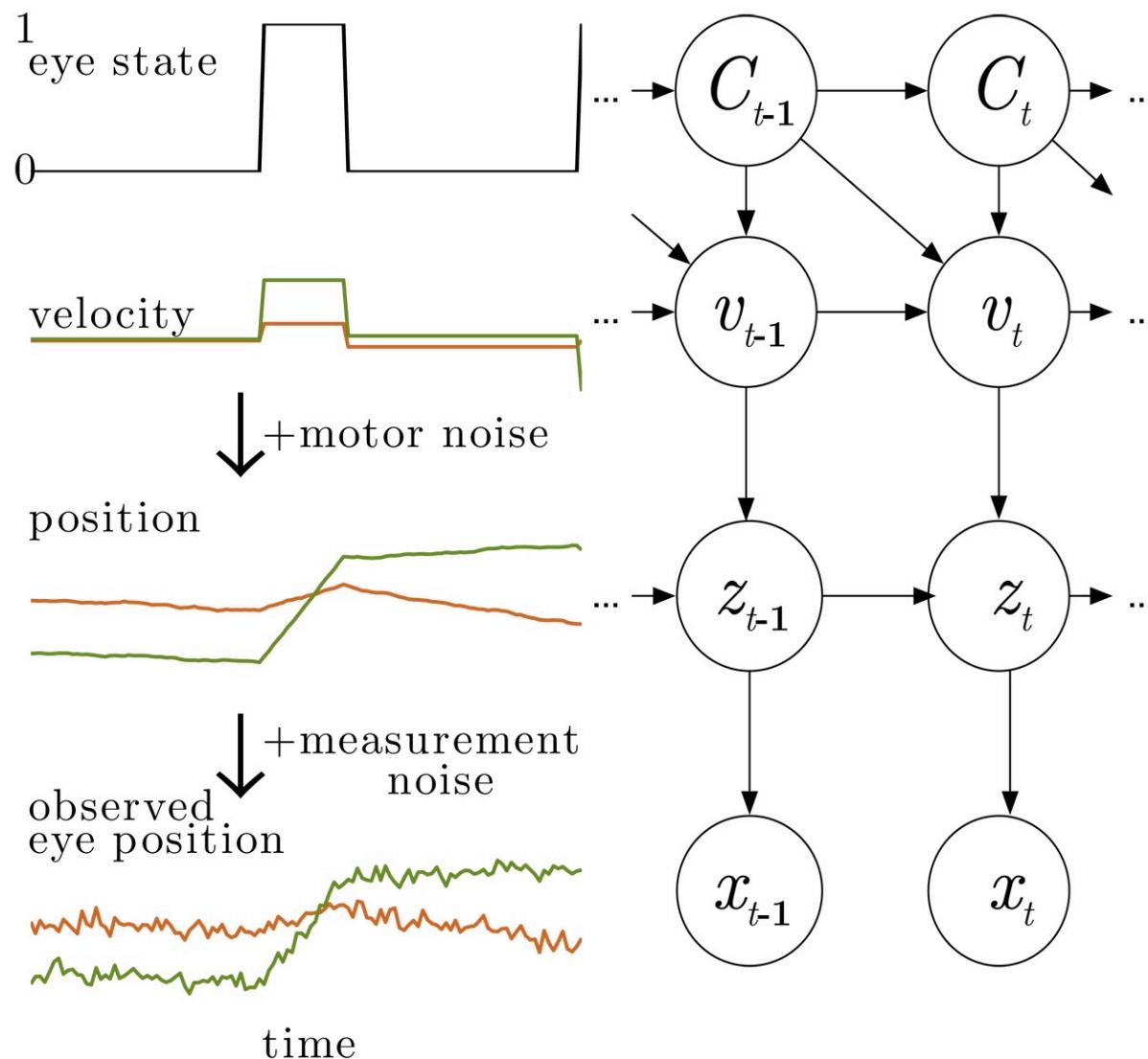
# Reaction times Exp 1



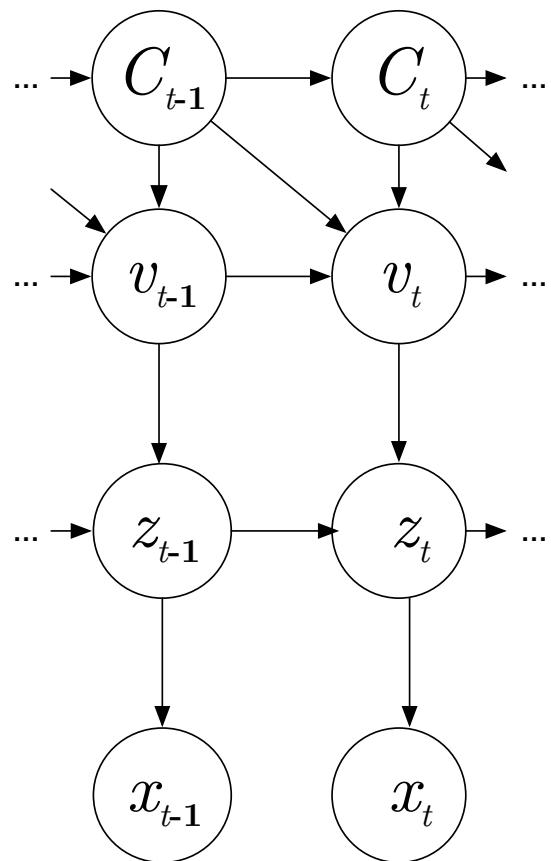
# Quantile binning



# Generative model of fixational eye movements



# Generative model of fixational eye movements



$$p(\mathbf{C}) \propto \prod_{k=1}^{2n-1} \text{Gamma} \left( \Delta\tau_k; 2, \frac{1}{\lambda_{k \pmod 2}} \right)$$

$$p(v_t | C_t = C_{t-1}) = \delta(v_t - v_{t-1})$$

$$p(v_t | C_t = 1, C_{t-1} = 0) \propto \text{Gen Gamma}(\|v_t\|; \sigma_1, d_1, 2)$$

$$p(v_t | C_t = 0, C_{t-1} = 1) \propto \text{Gen Gamma}(\|v_t\|; \sigma_0, d_0, 2)$$

$$p(z_t | z_{t-1}, v_t) = \mathcal{N}(z_t; z_{t-1} + v_t, \Sigma_z)$$

$$p(x_t | z_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_t; z_t, \Sigma_x)$$

Step	Operation
0	Initialize $\mathbf{C}$ , $\hat{\sigma}_1$ , $\hat{d}_1$ , $\hat{\sigma}_0$
1	Estimate the motor and measurement noise: $\hat{\sigma}_z$ , $\hat{\sigma}_x$
2	Estimate $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ from observations $\mathbf{x}$ : Kalman smoother
3	Sample from the posterior over $\mathbf{C}$ : MCMC
4	Estimate the velocity distribution parameters: maximum likelihood estimation (MLE)
	Return to Step 1

Table 1. BMD algorithm.