

Dynamical systems for behavioral and neural data



Luca Mazzucato

Depts of Biology, Mathematics & Physics
Institute of Neuroscience
University of Oregon

CSHA Computational and Cognitive
Neuroscience Summer School



Artwork by Audra McNamee

Dynamical systems for behavioral and neural data

- TODAY: hidden Markov models for **behavior**:
 - Slides
 - Spontaneous movements - HMM with Autoregressive observations
 - Naturalistic foraging - HMM with Linear Model emissions
 - HMM best practices
 - Live coding session
 - Mystery dataset
 - Fit Linear Model, Mixture of Linear Model
 - Sample and fit data w/ LM-HMM
 - Model selection for # of hidden states

Behavior is a complex dynamical system



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Behavior is a complex dynamical system



words / actions ~100 ms
Whisking, sniffing, moving a paw, ...

Behavior is a complex dynamical system



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Whisking, sniffing, moving a paw, ...

sentences / **sequences** ~1 s

Walking, rolling the walnut, hiding

Behavior is a complex dynamical system



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Walking, rolling the walnut, hiding

stories / **plans** ~1 min

Must get walnut!

Behavior is a complex dynamical system



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Behavior ← Neural activity

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Behavior \longleftrightarrow Neural activity

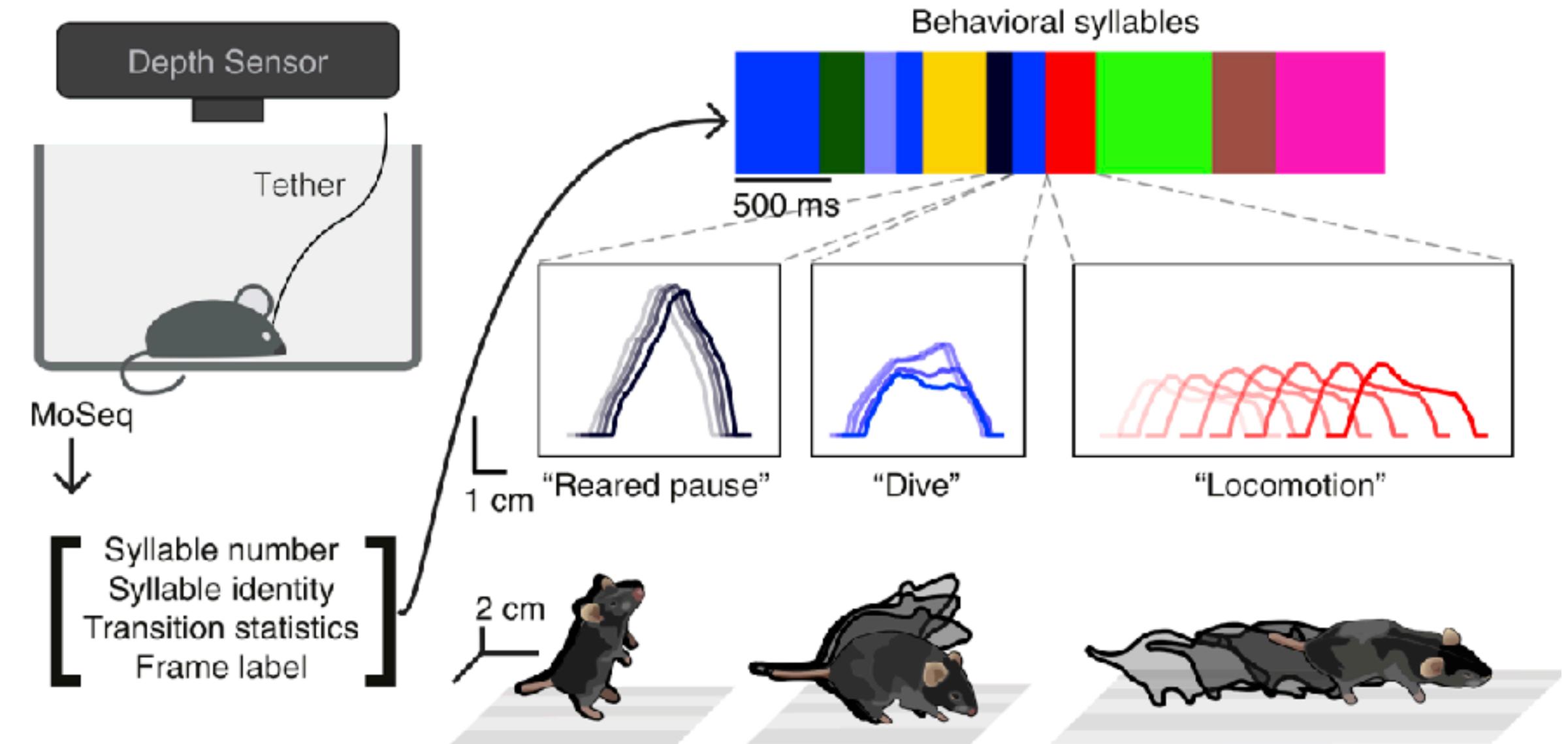
Behavior is a complex dynamical system



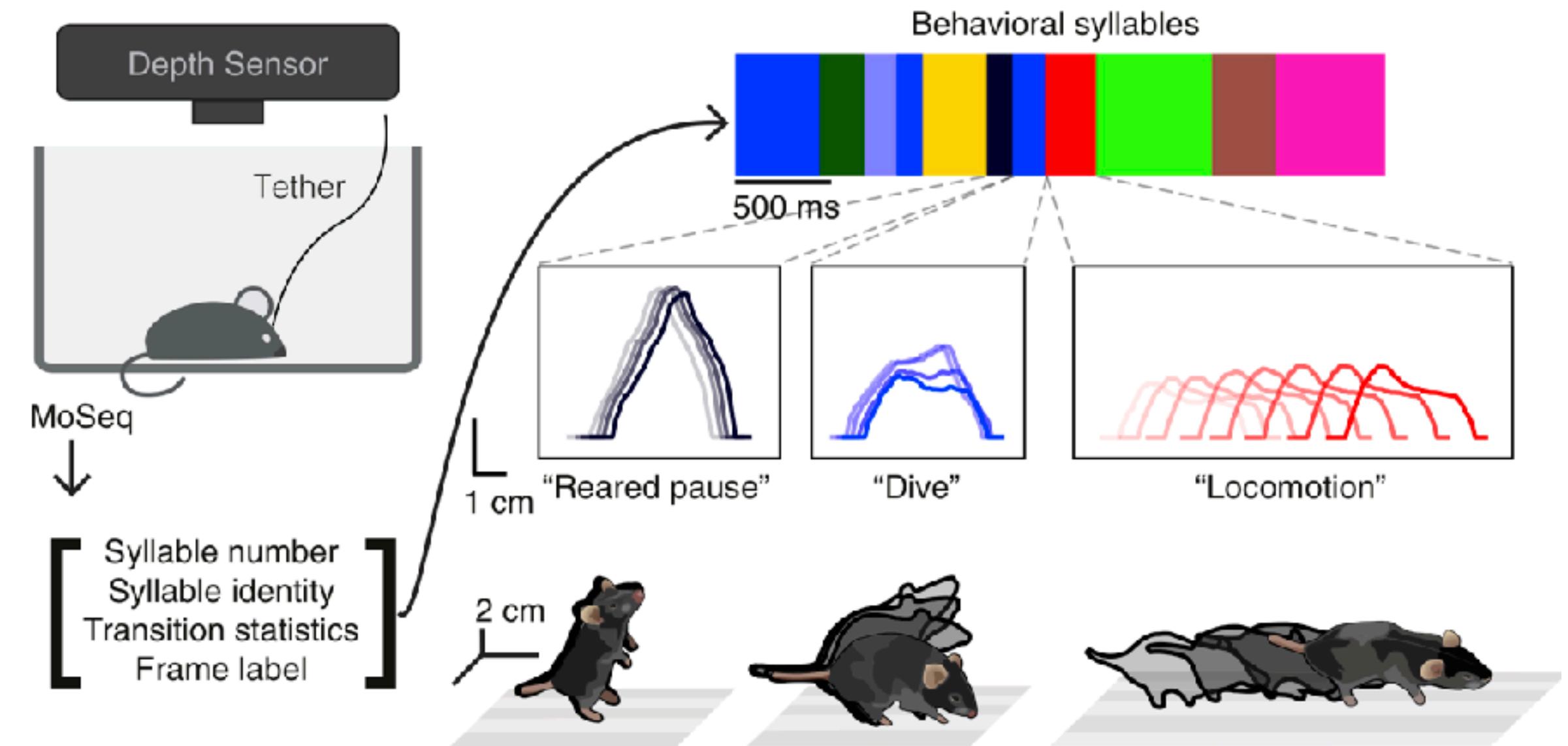
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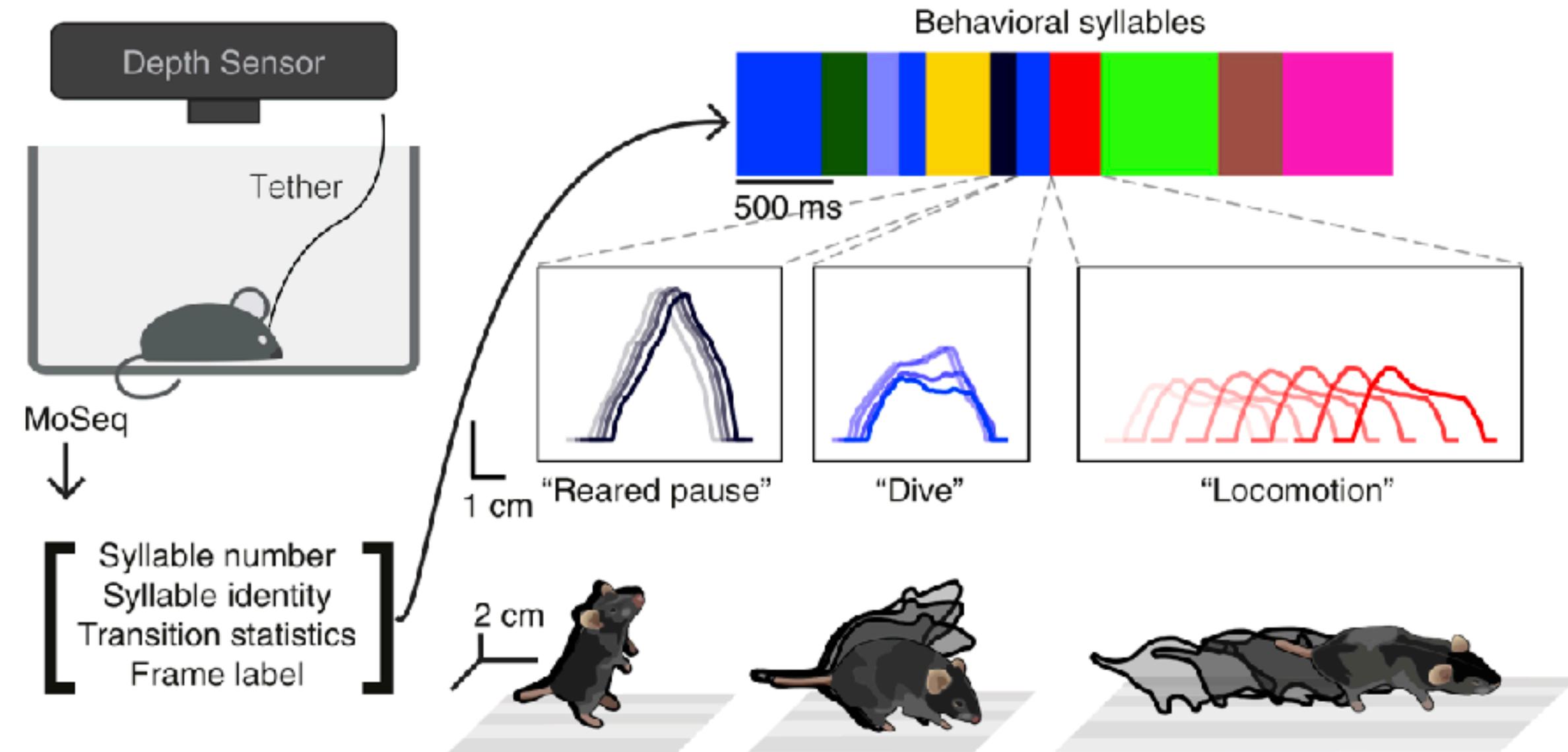
Complex temporal structure in behavior



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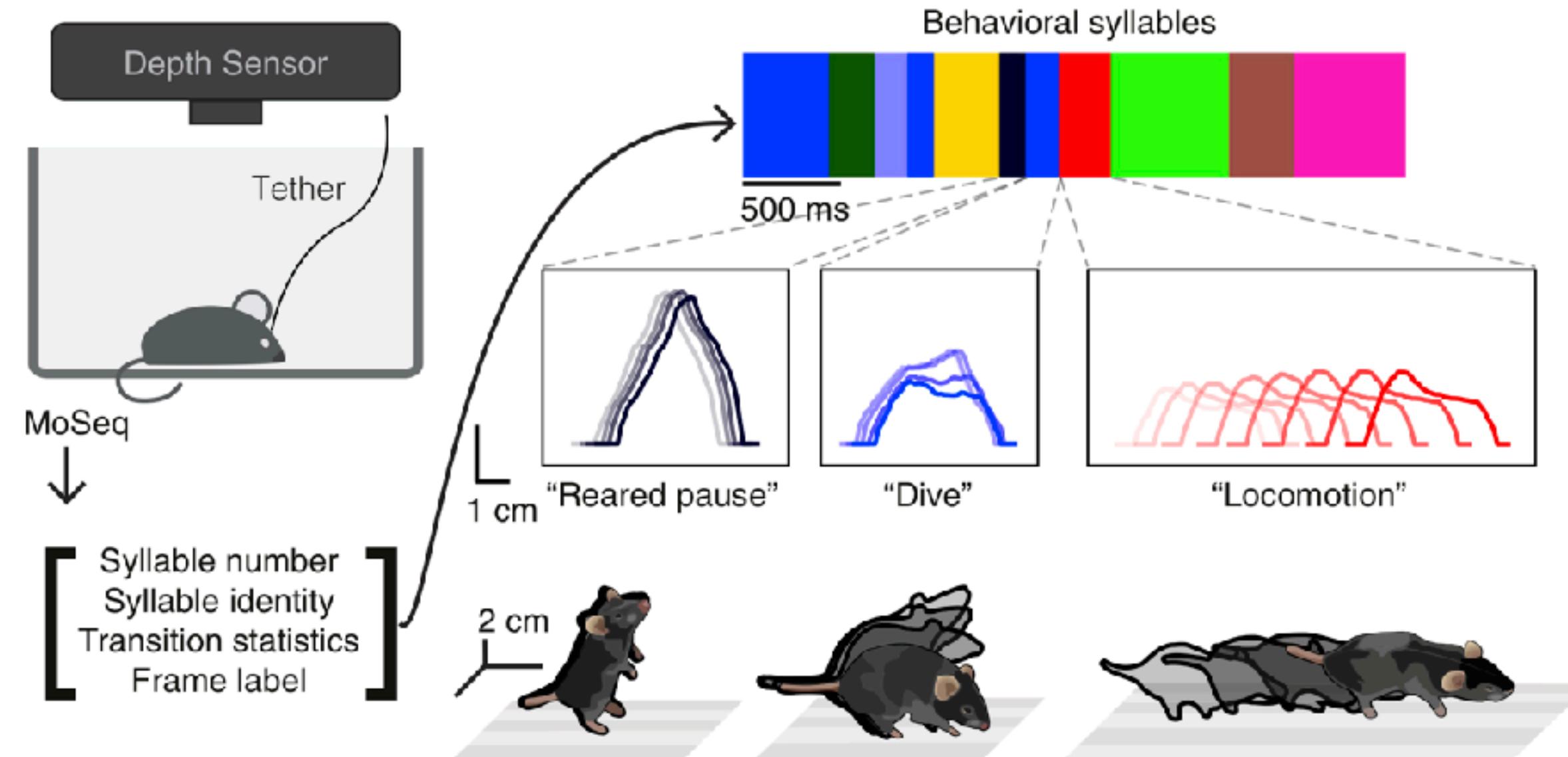
Complex temporal structure in behavior



Variability sources:

1 - many syllables / actions

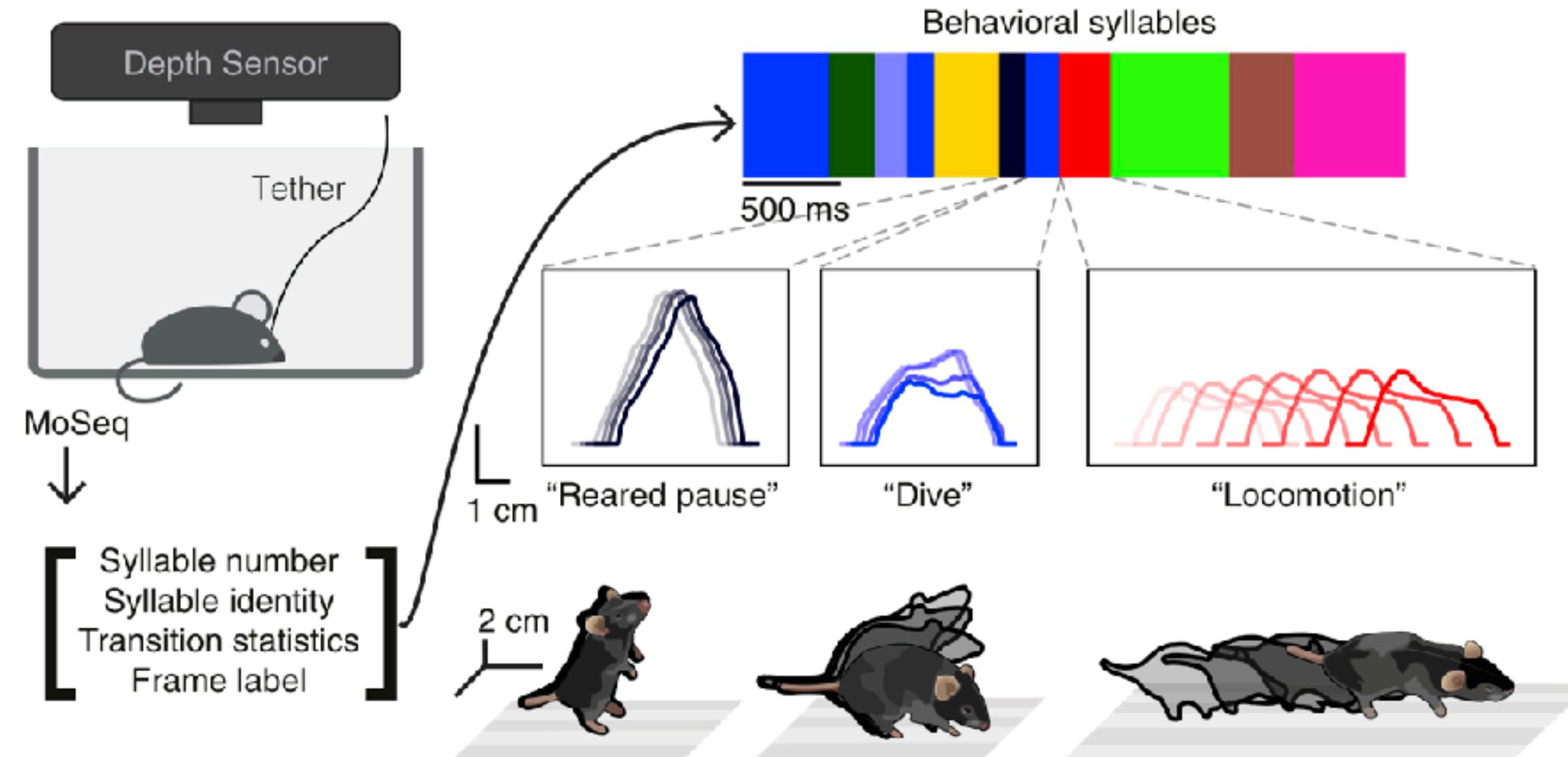
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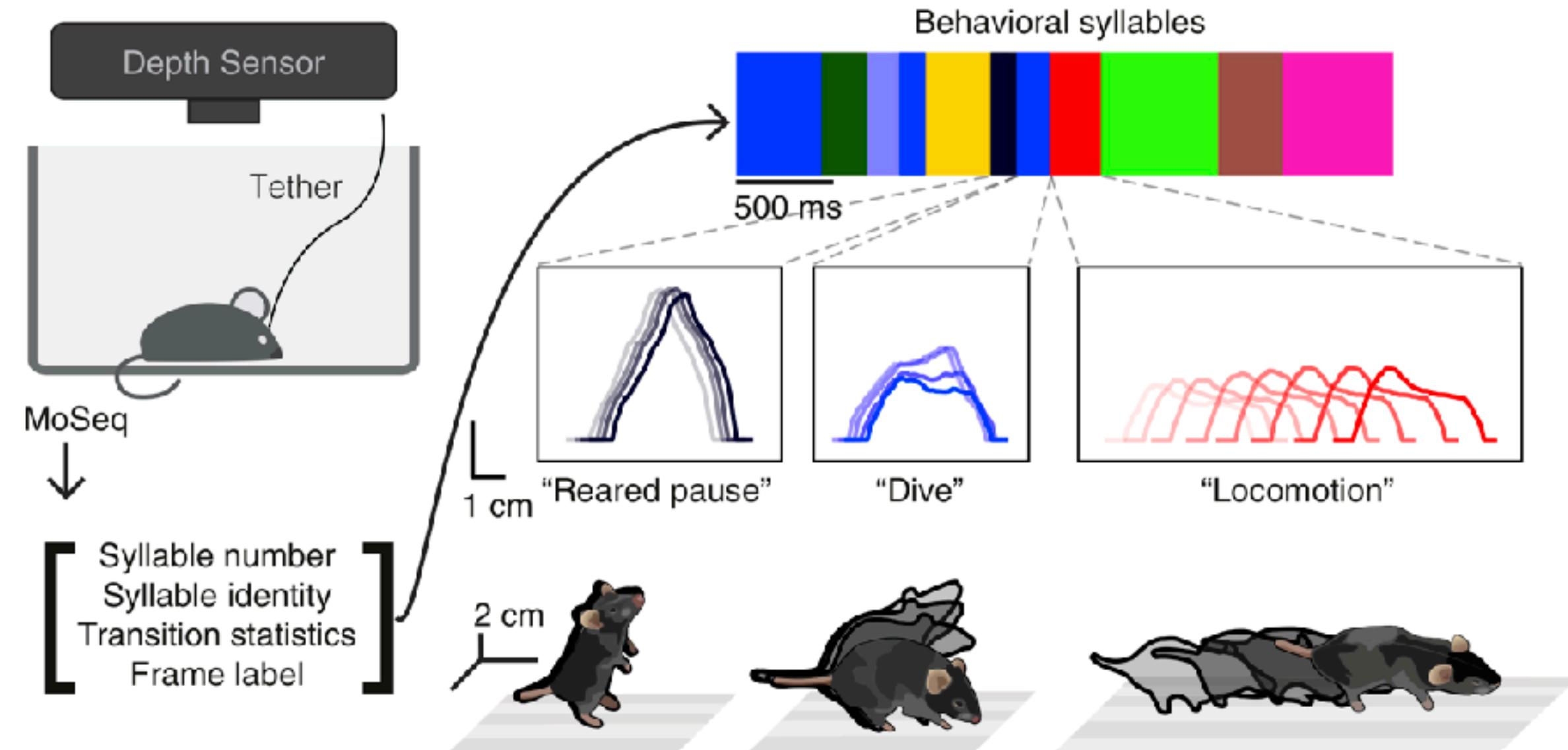
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Variability sources:

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Complex temporal structure in behavior



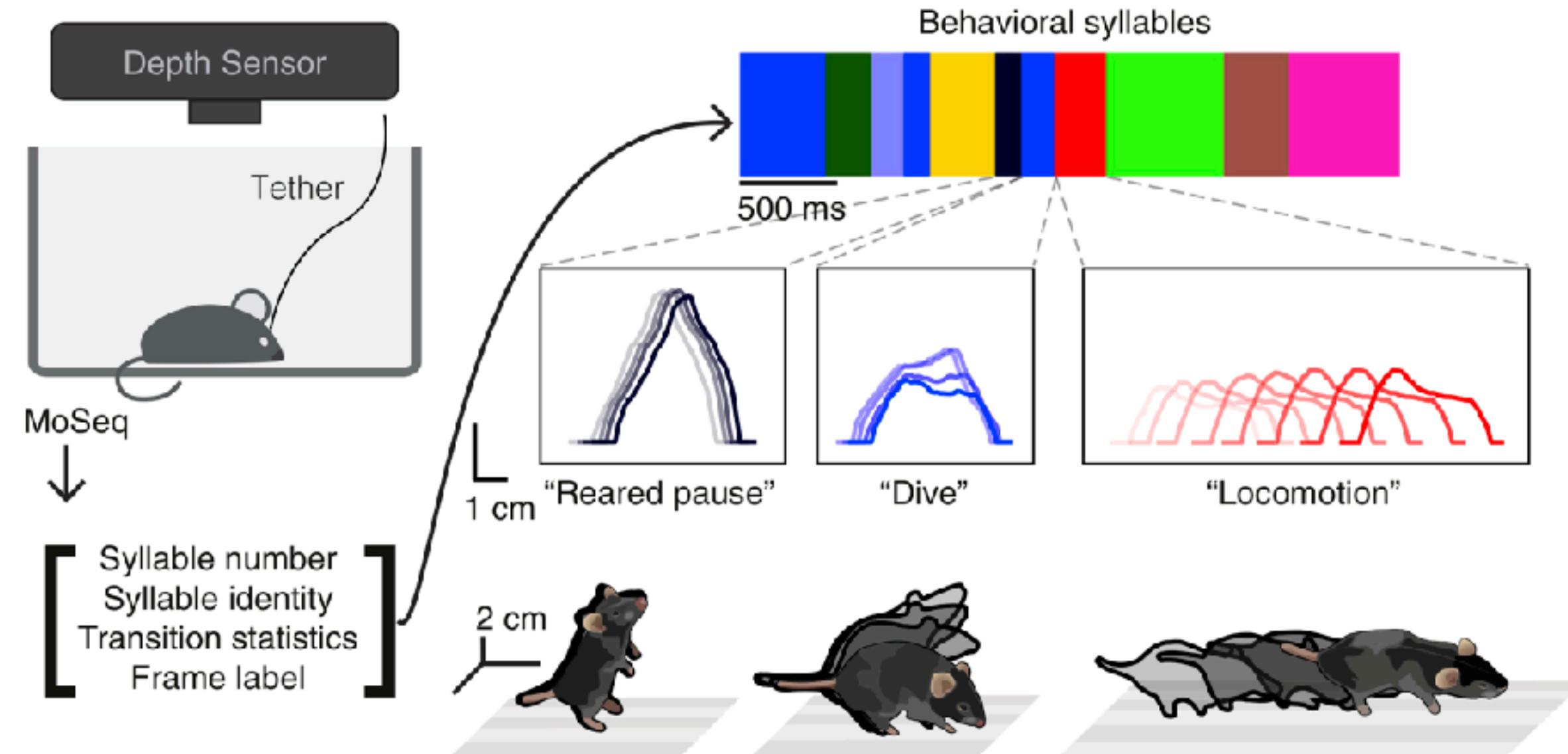
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[Wiltschko et al, 2015]
[Markovits et al, 2018]
[Findley et al, 2021]

Complex temporal structure in behavior



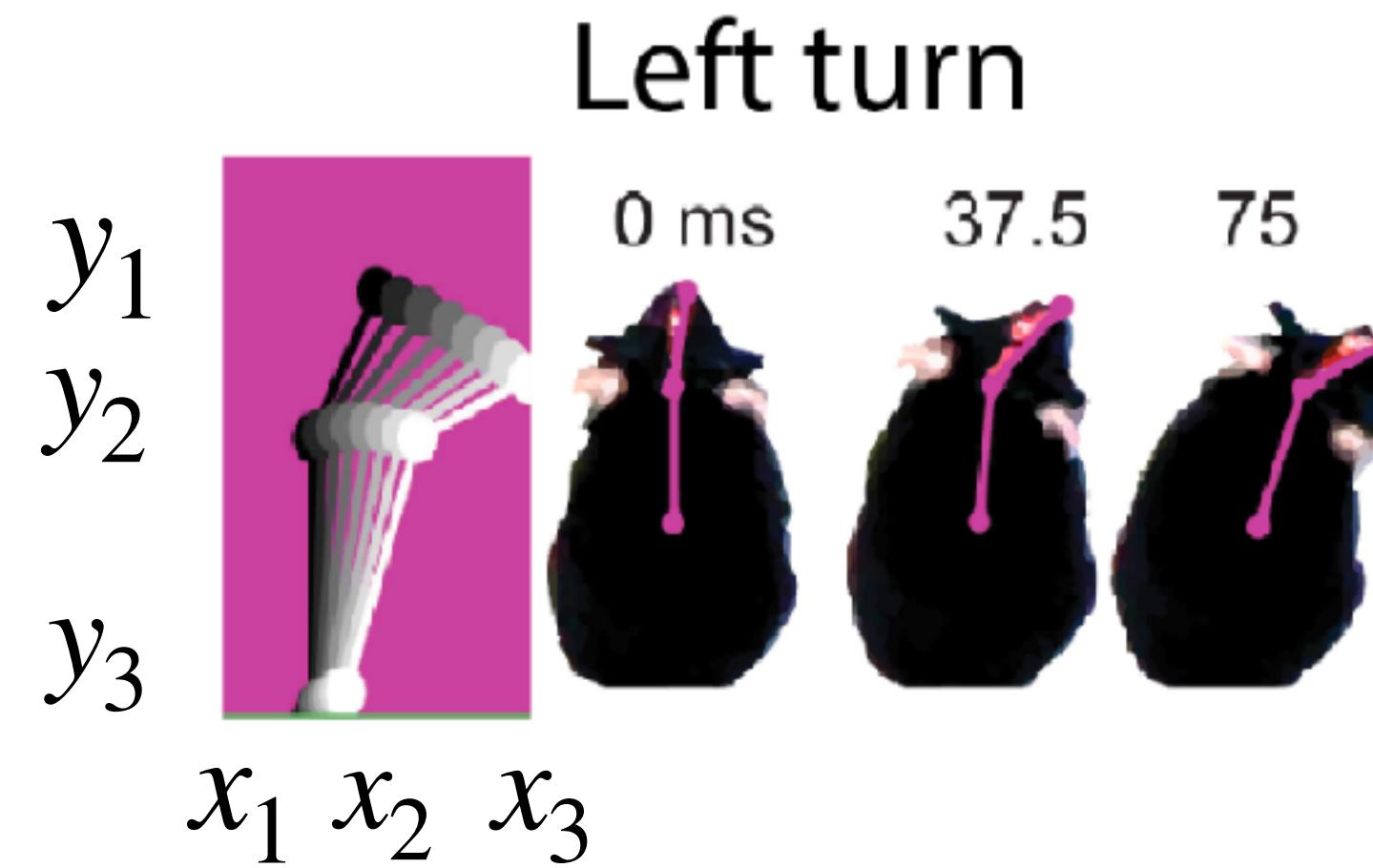
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Autoregressive dynamics



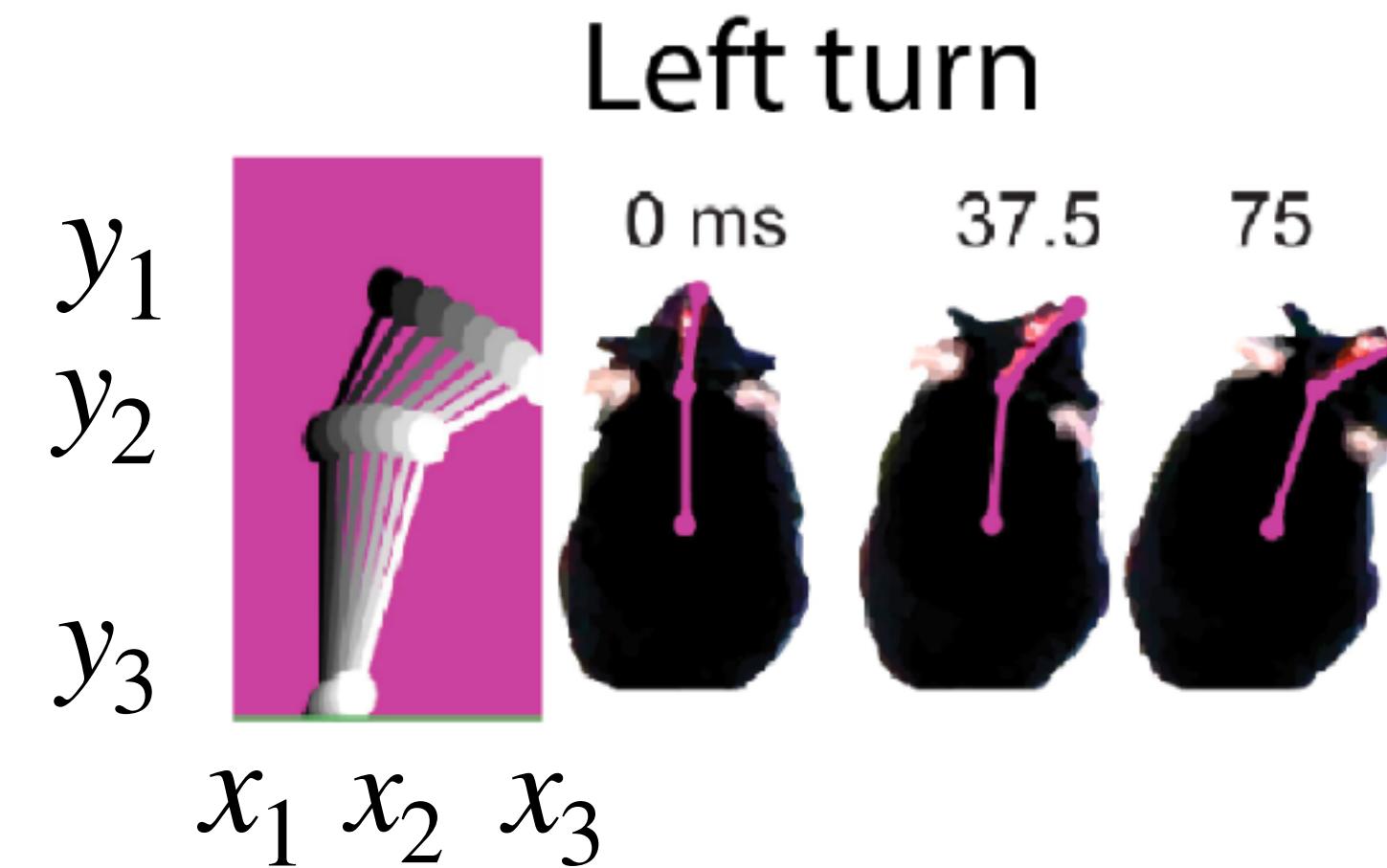
Autoregressive dynamics

$$\vec{r}_{t+1} = A\vec{r}_t + \vec{b} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$$

A matrix = rotation b vector = translation

$$\vec{r} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Autoregressive dynamics



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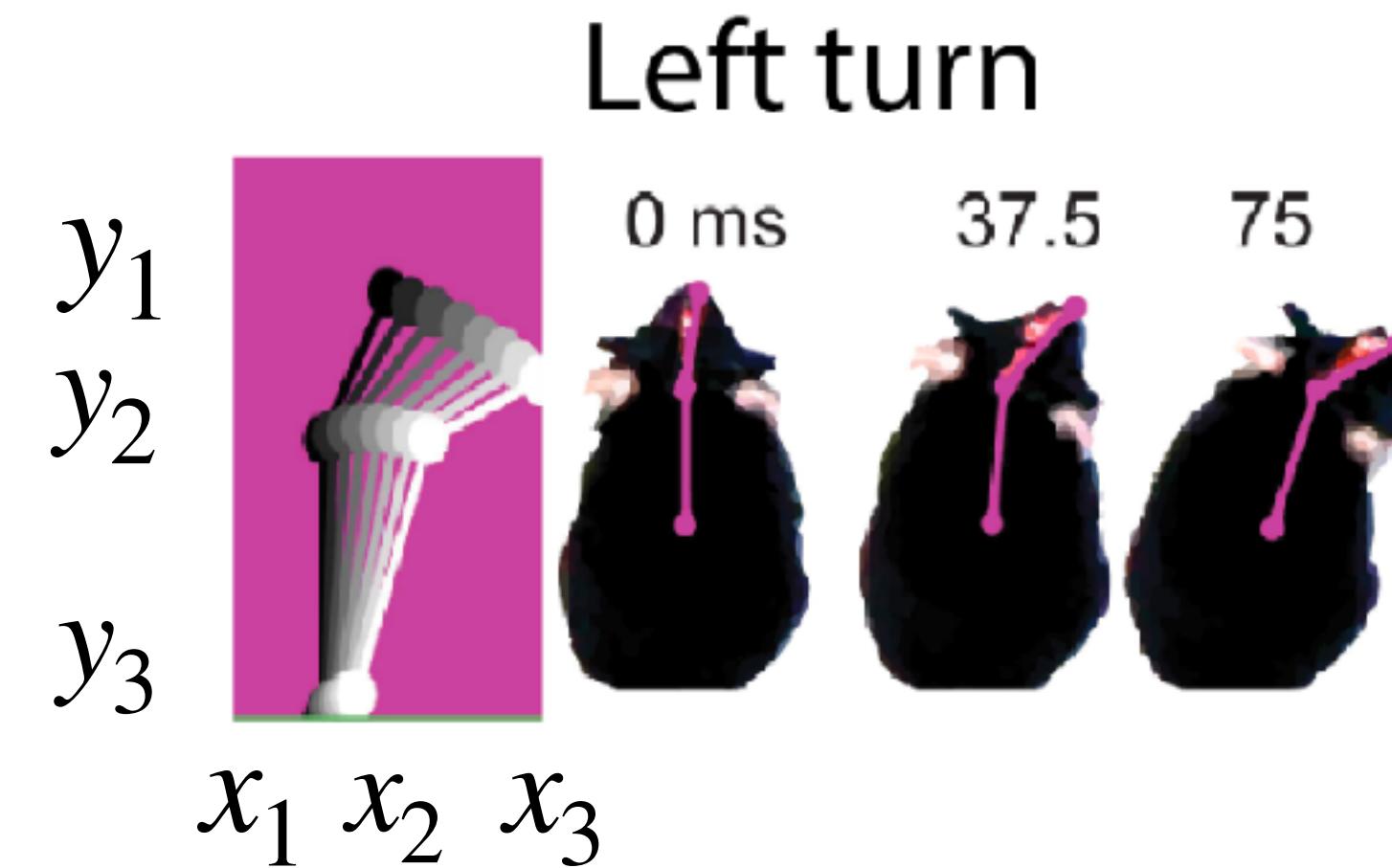
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noise

$$p(\vec{r}_{t+1}) = N(A\vec{r}_t + \vec{b}, \Sigma)$$

Autoregressive dynamics



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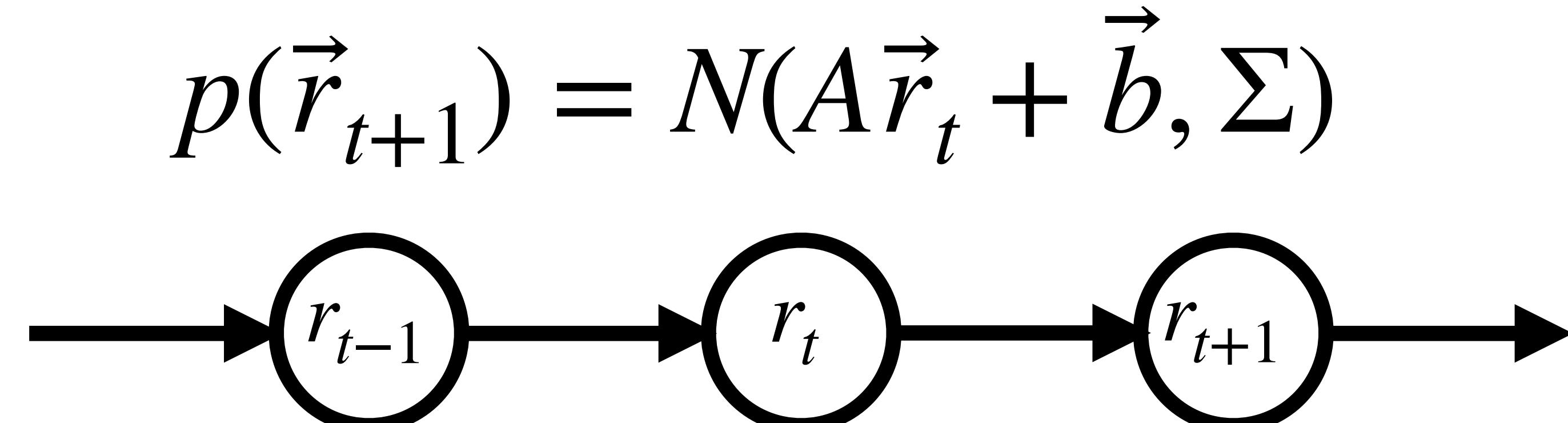
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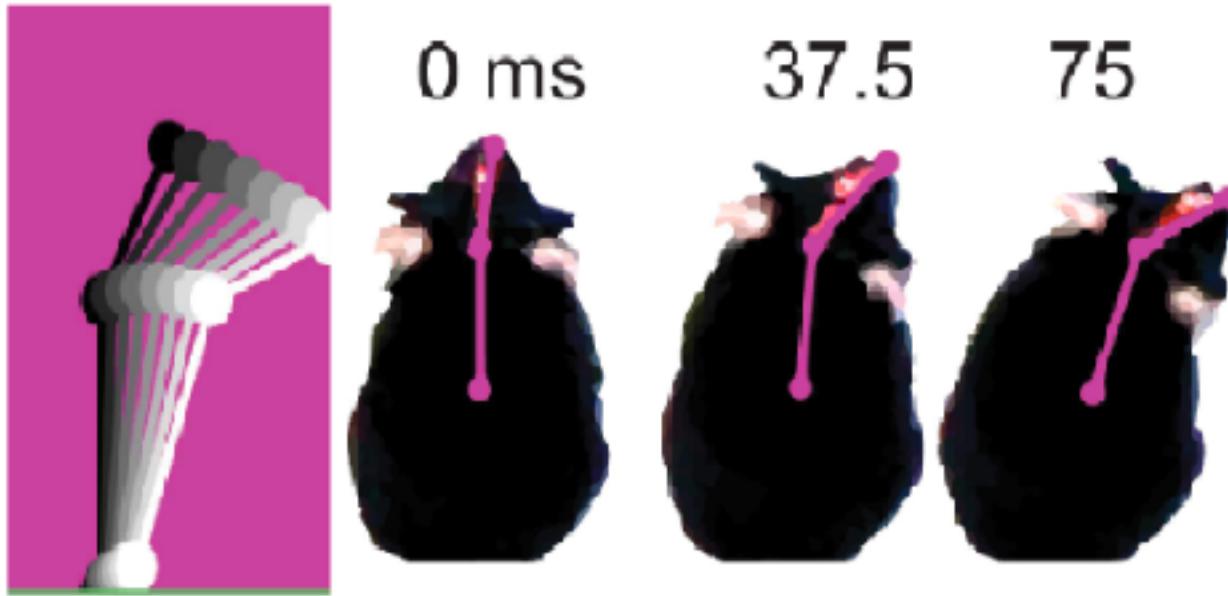
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Autoregressive dynamics

Left turn

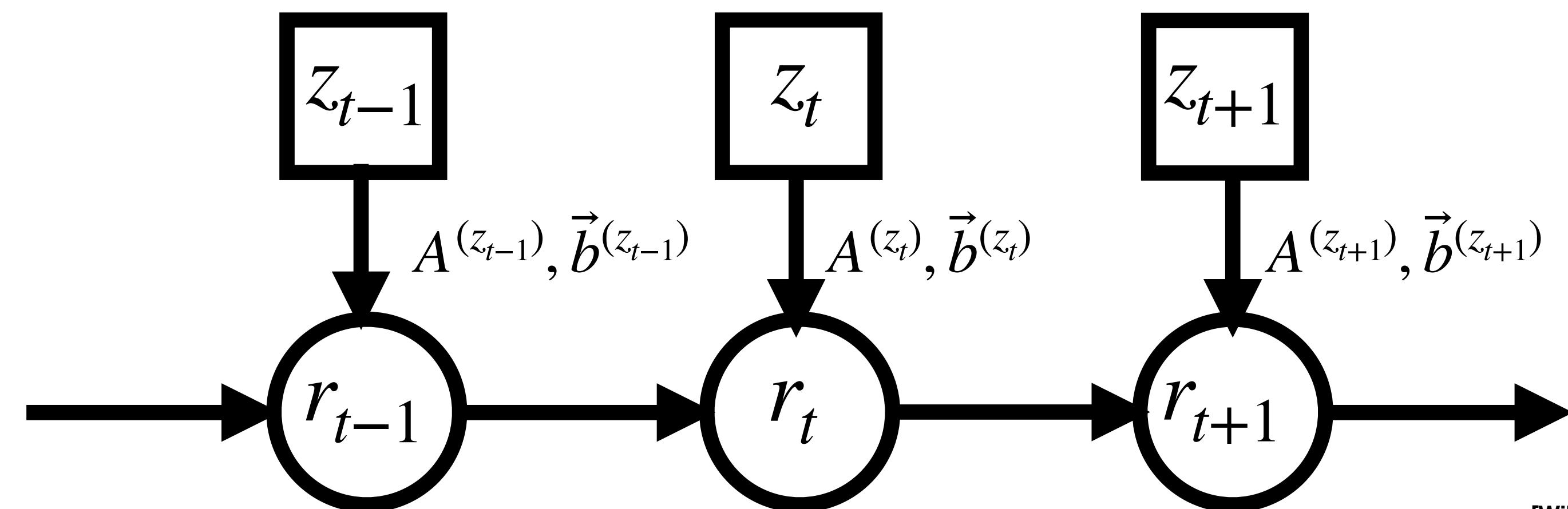


Autoregressive dynamics

$$\vec{r}_{t+1} = A\vec{r}_t + \vec{b} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$$

$$z_t \in 1, \dots, K$$

Hidden states (motifs)



[Wiltschko et al, 2015]

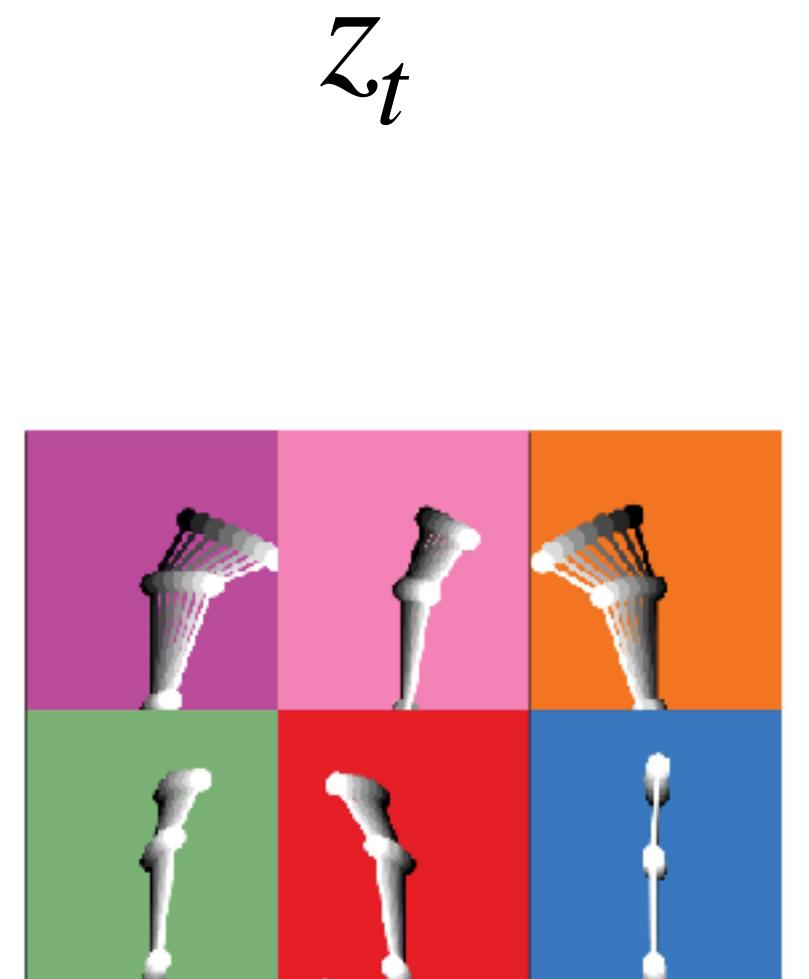
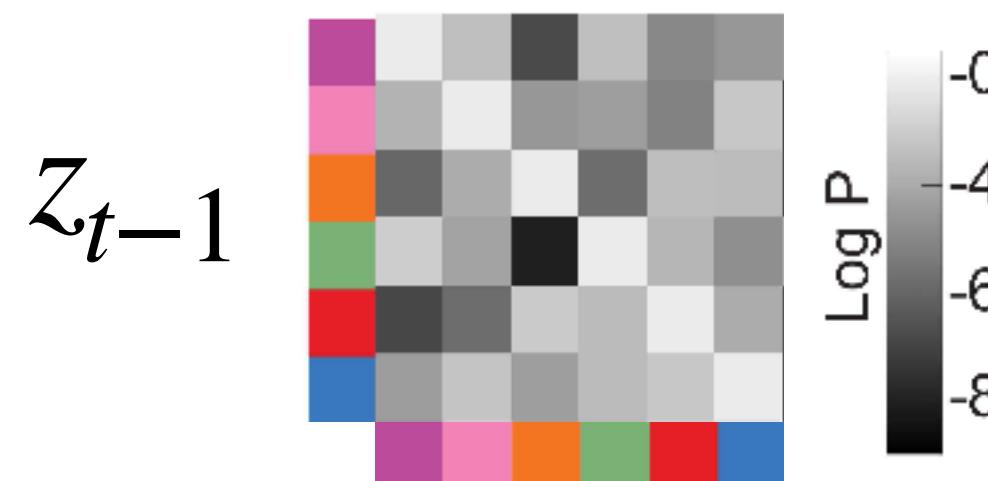
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AR Hidden Markov model

Transition probabilities

$$p(z_t = k | z_{t-1} = l)$$

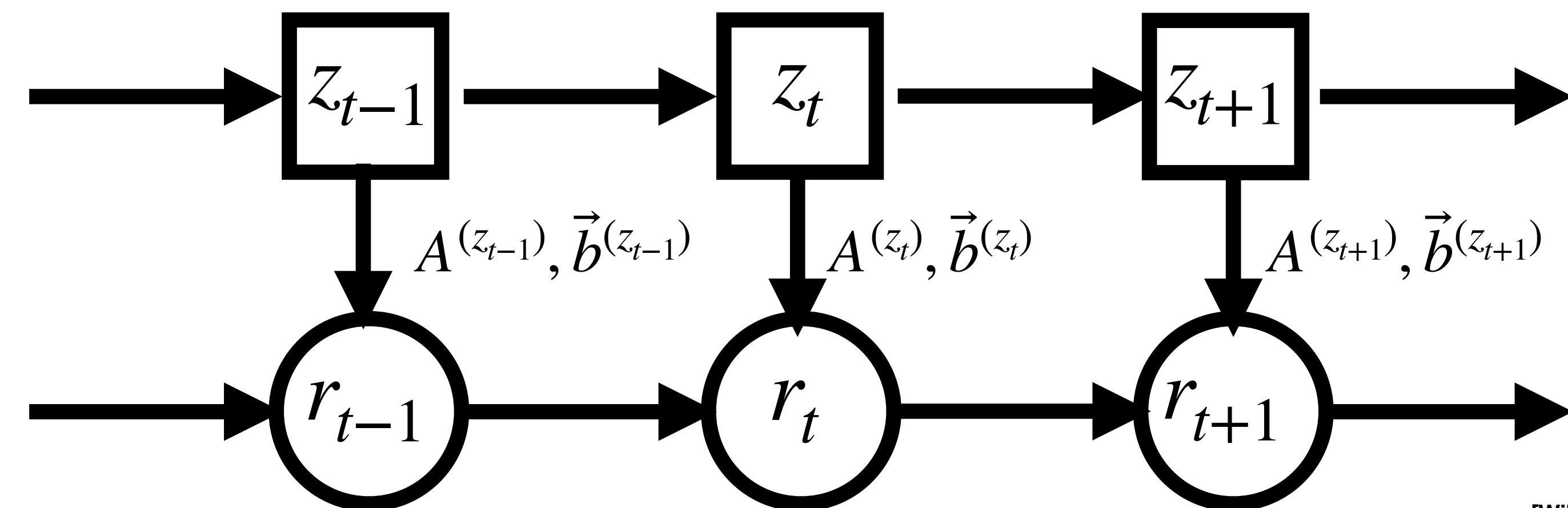


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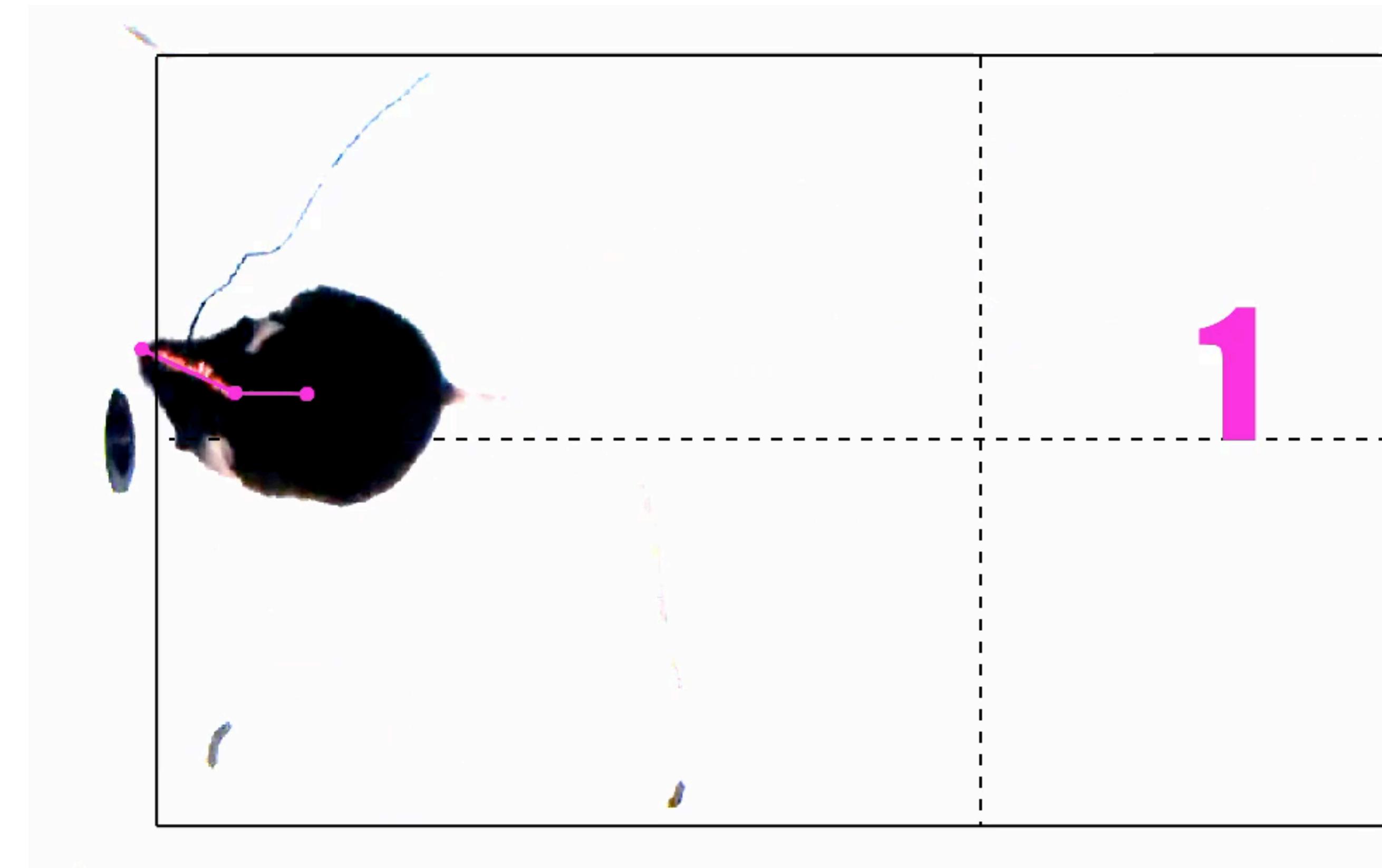
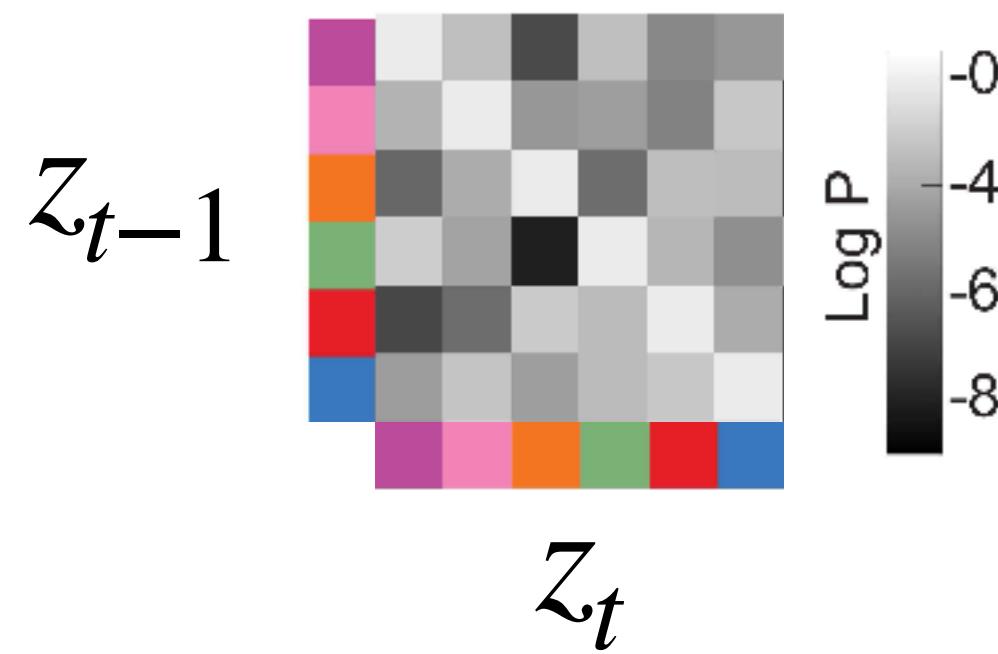
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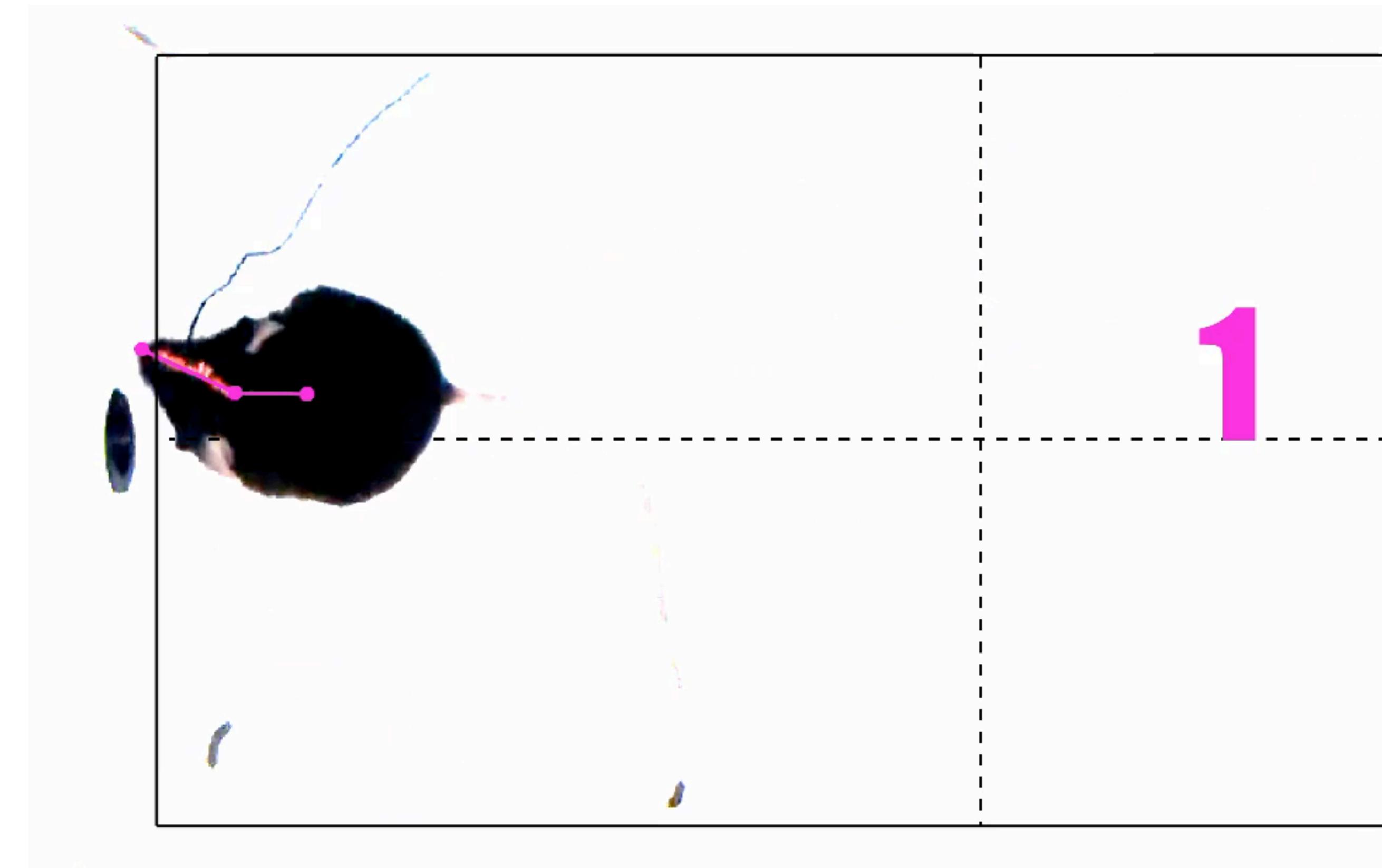
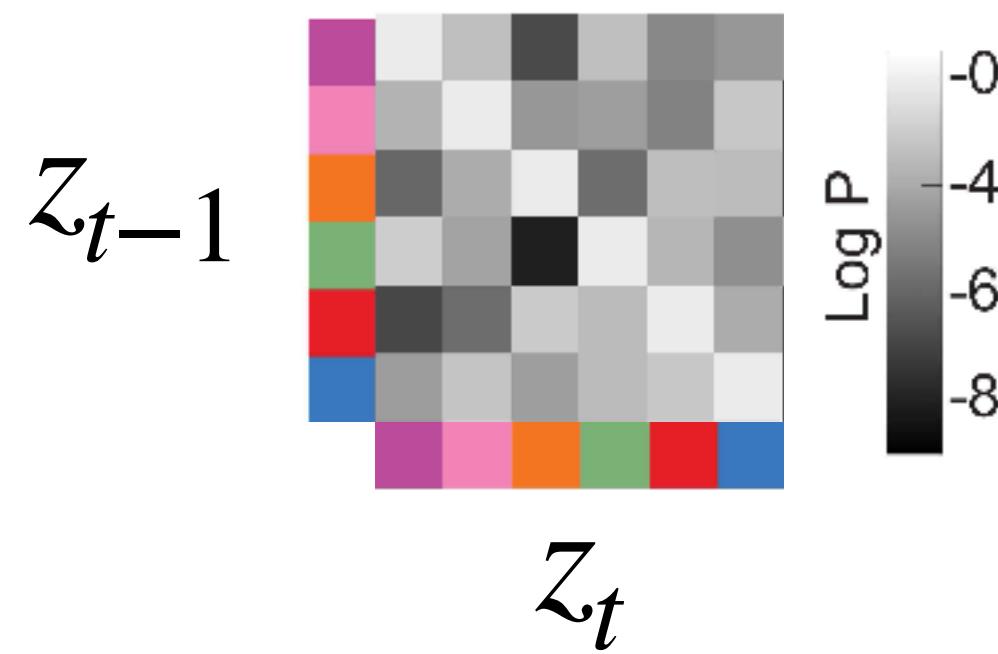
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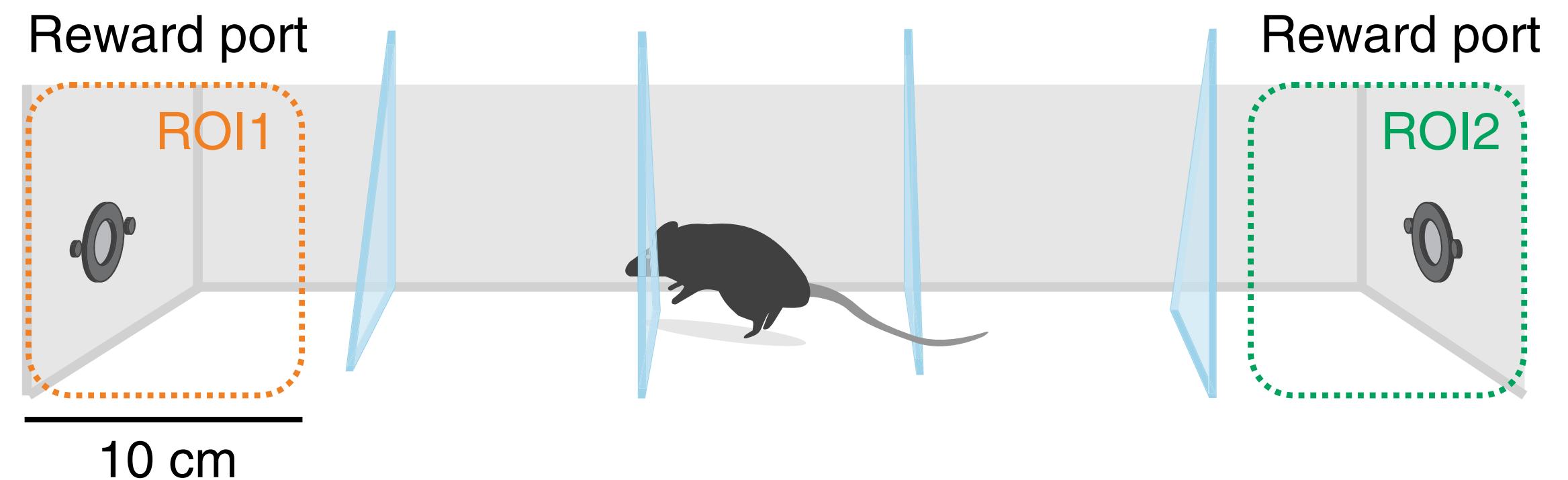
References

HMM: Theory

Applications to freely moving behavior

- AR-HMM:
 - Moseq [*Wiltschko et al, 2015, Markovits et al, 2018*][*Findley et al, 2021*]
- Switching Linear Dynamical Systems (SLDS)
 - Keypoint Moseq [*Weinreb et al, 2023*]

Naturalistic foraging

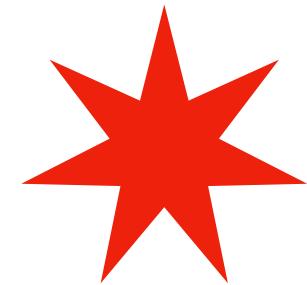
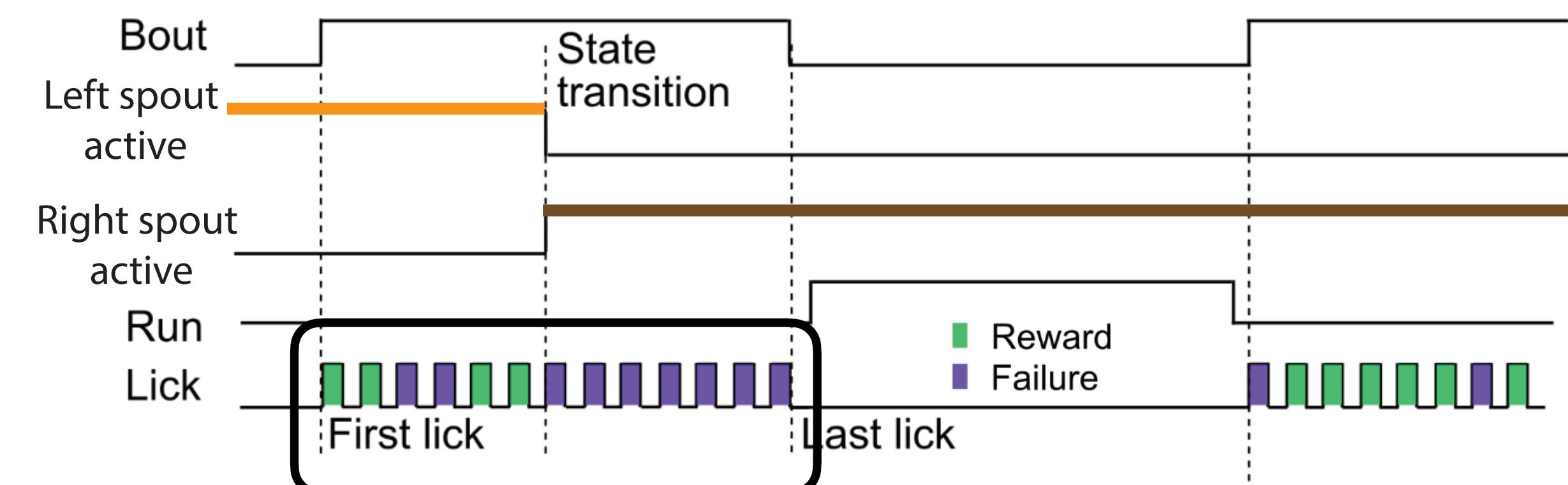


Naturalistic foraging



Rewarded lick
Failures.

→ port is active → stay
→ prob release?
port inactive?

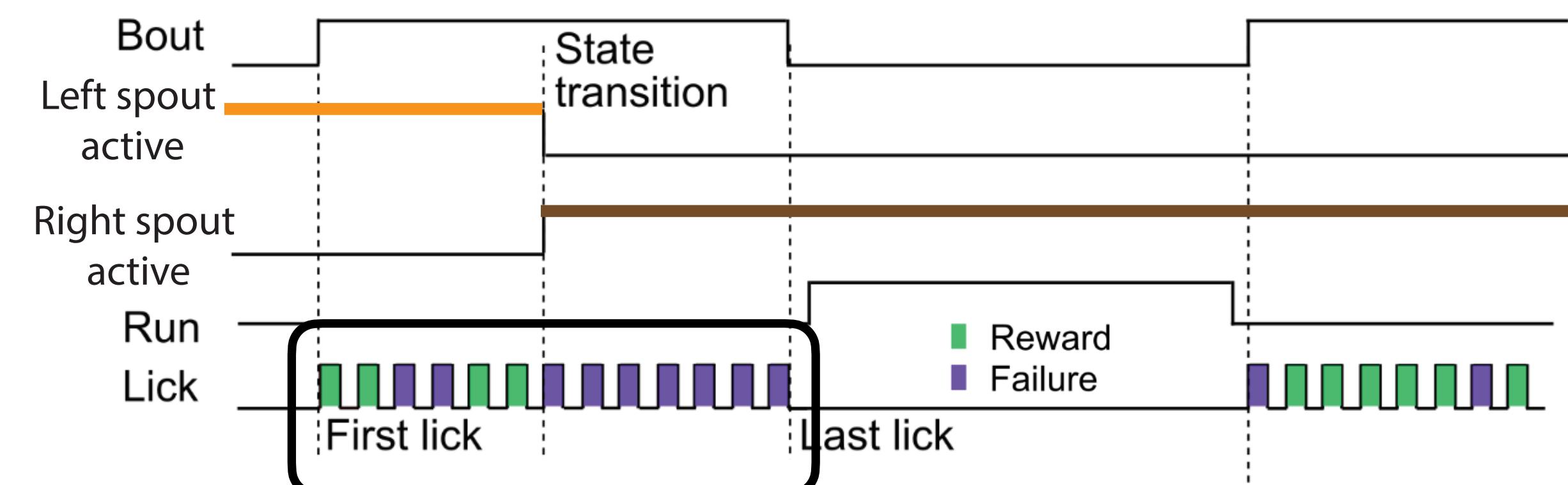


Naturalistic foraging

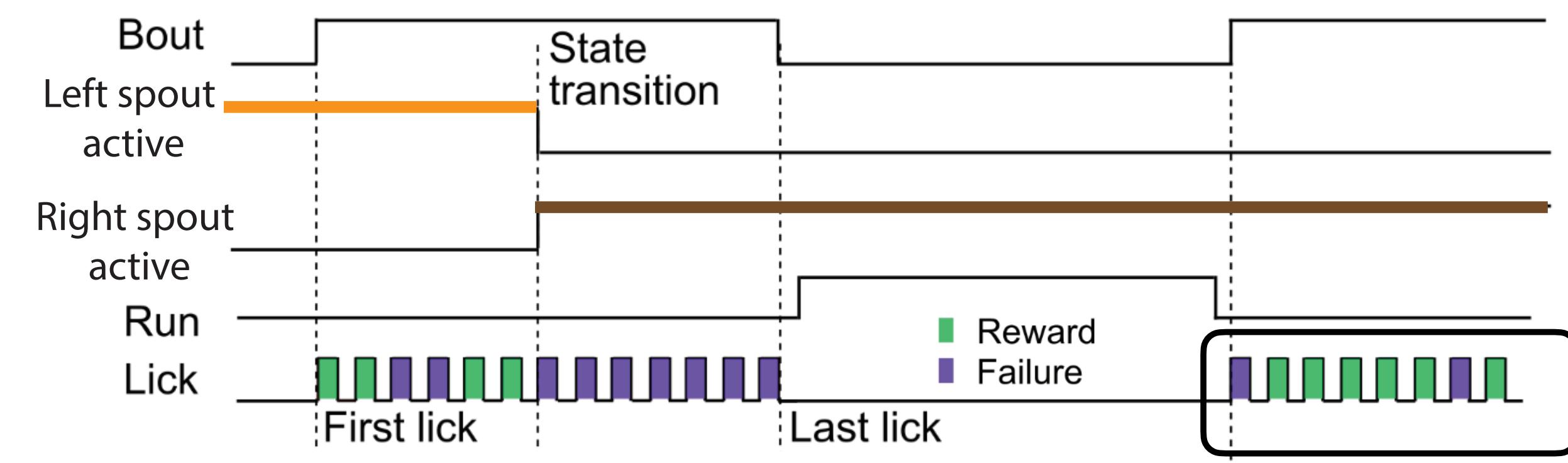


Rewarded lick → port is active → stay
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Integrate Rew & Fail, but how?



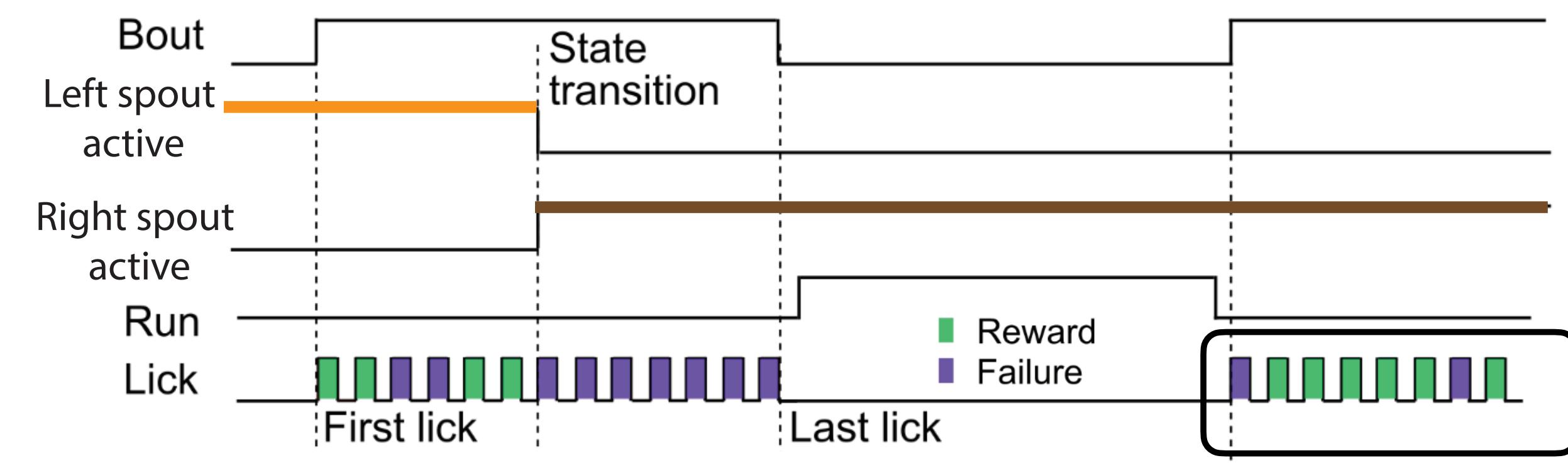
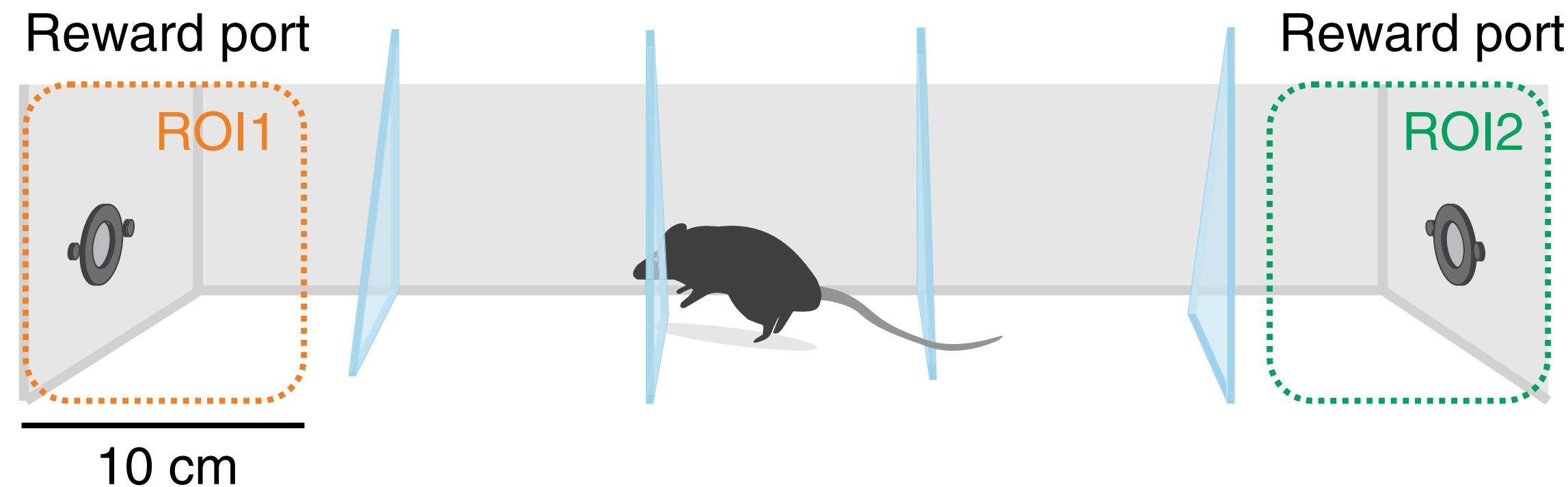
Naturalistic foraging



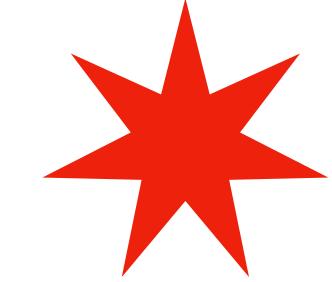
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Naturalistic foraging



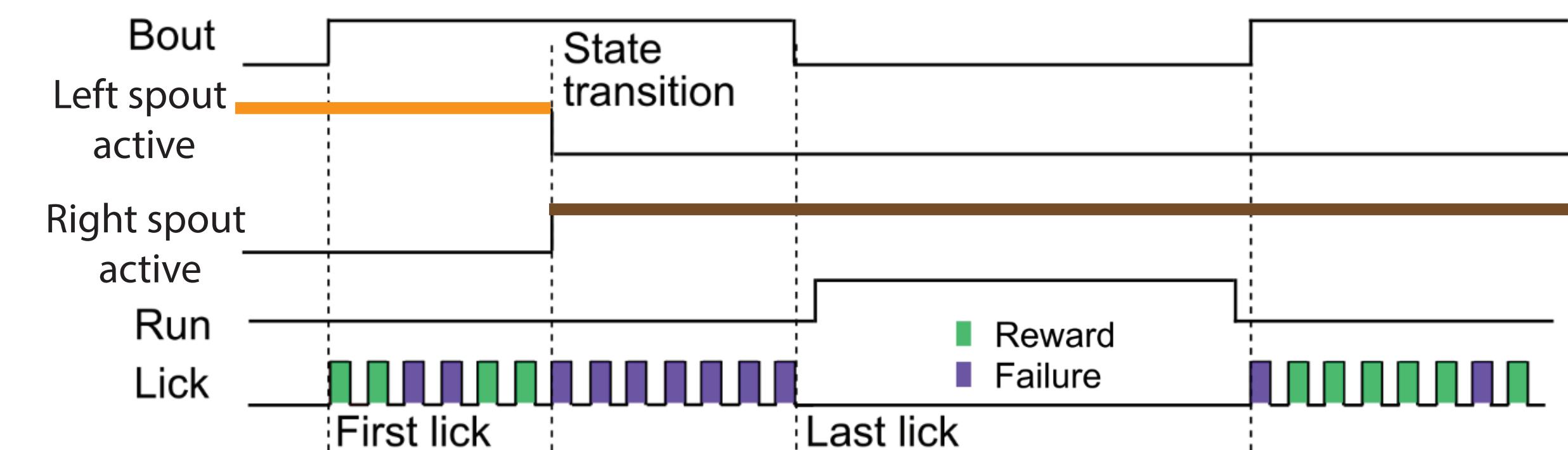
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Integrate Rew & Fail, but how?

...Alternative strategies for evidence accumulation

Naturalistic foraging



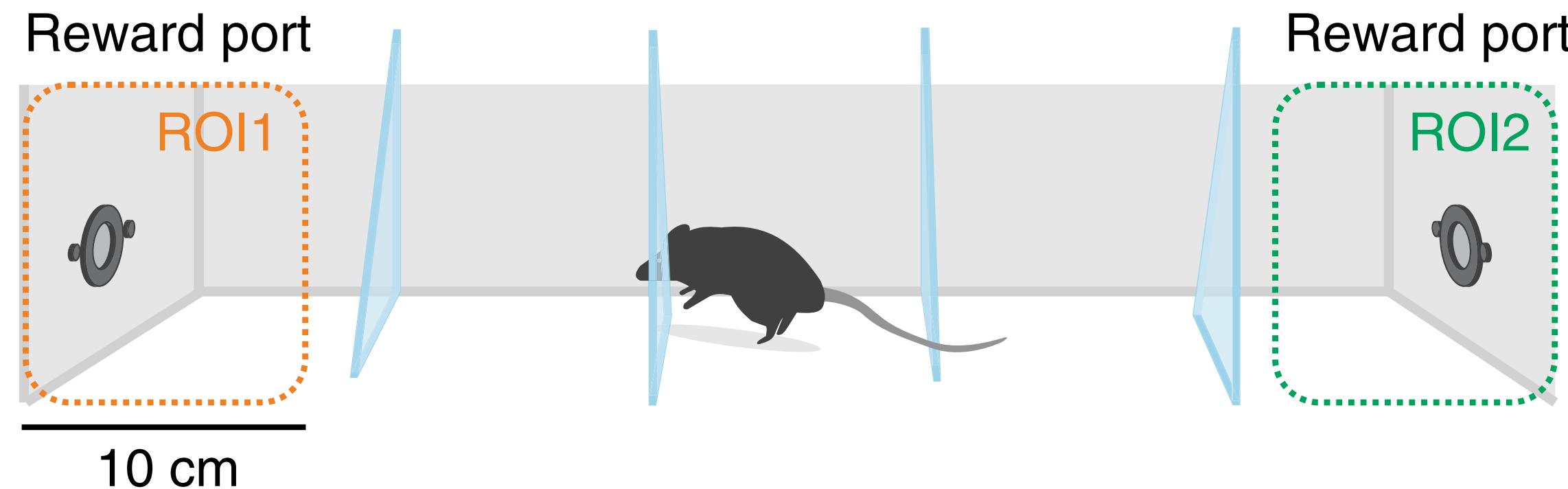
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Naturalistic foraging

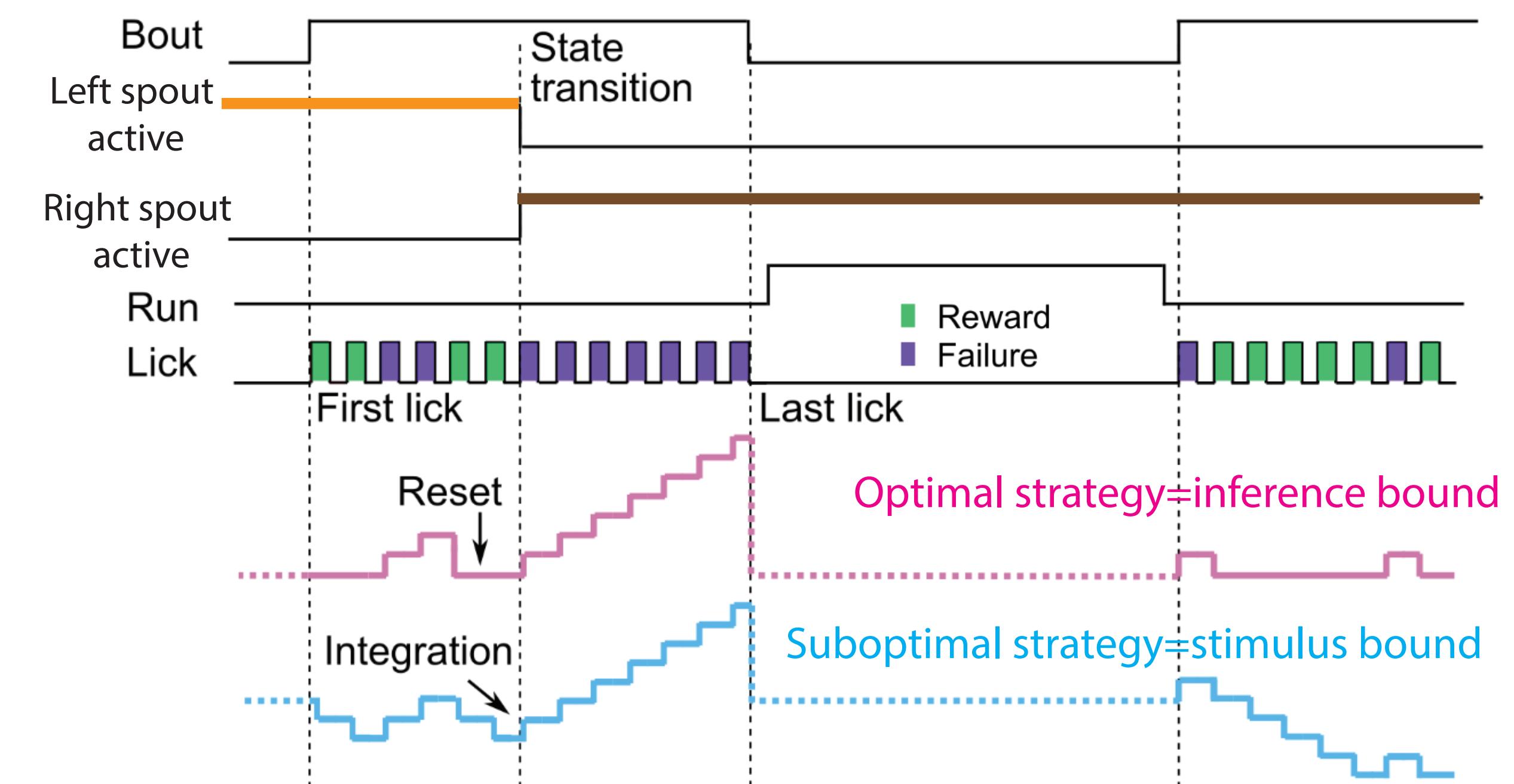


Rewarded lick
Failures.

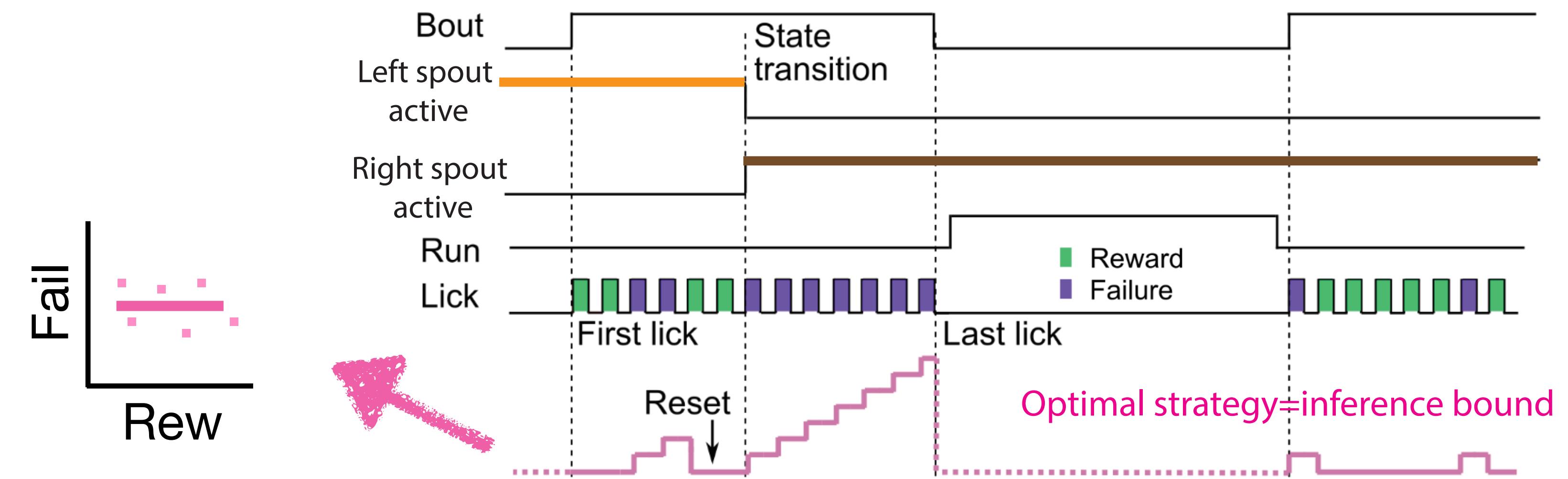
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Integrate **Rew** & **Fail**, but how?

...Alternative strategies for evidence accumulation



Naturalistic foraging



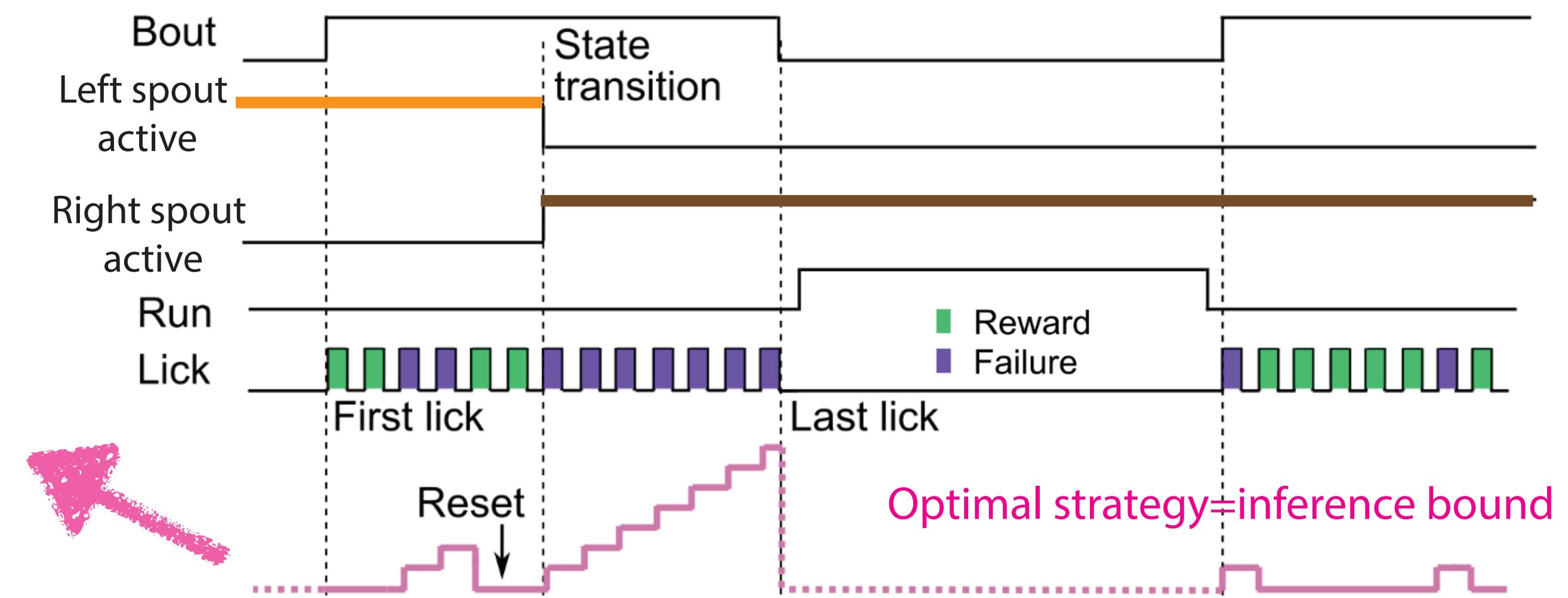
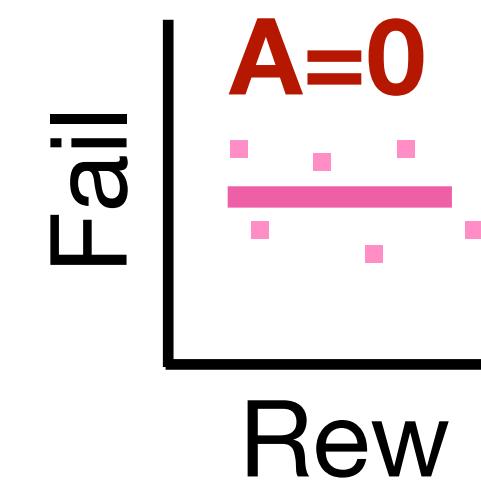
Naturalistic foraging

Strategies are **Linear Models**:

$$\text{Fail} = A \times \text{Rew} + b$$

A = how much they weigh **Rew**

b = how many **Fail** they tolerate



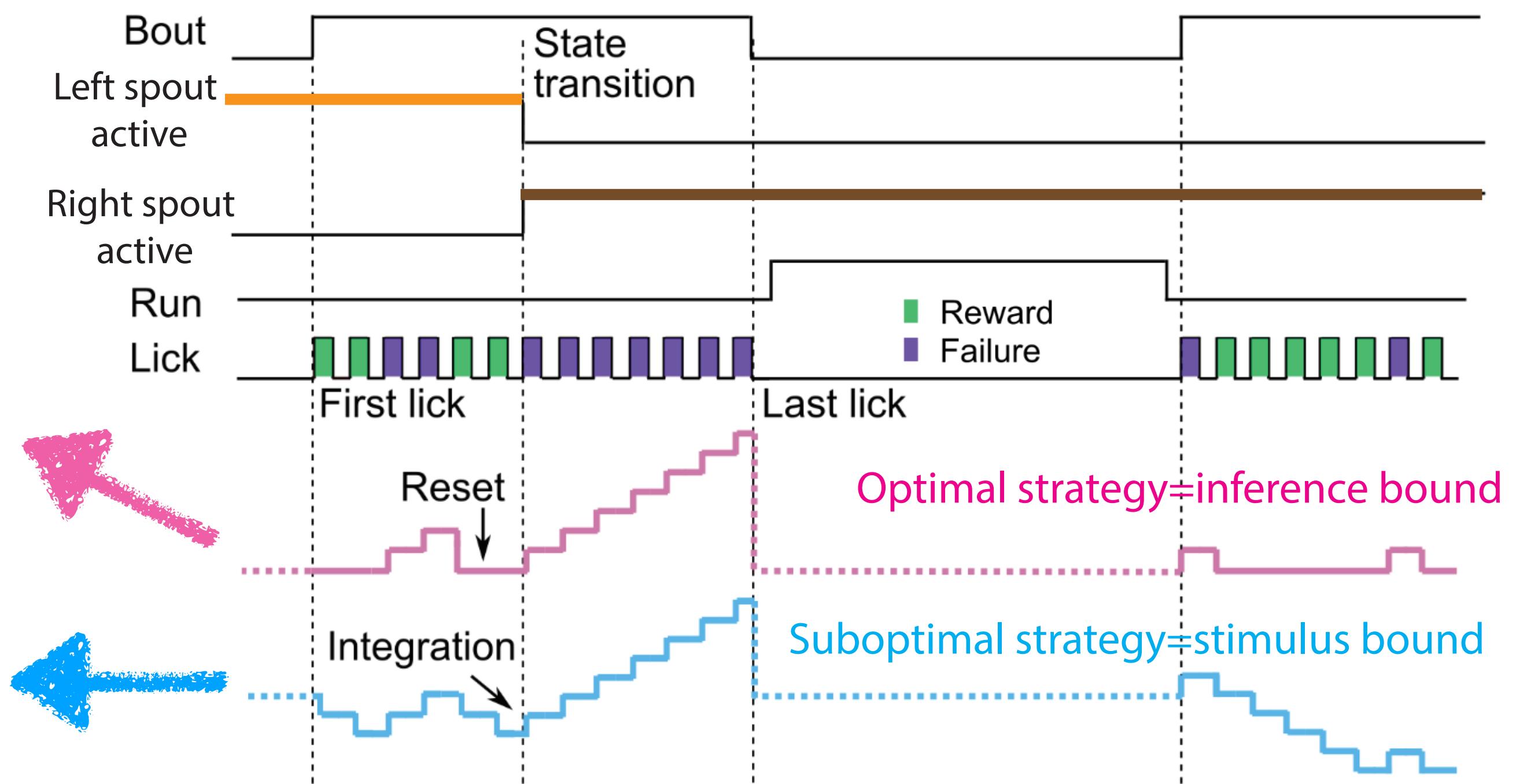
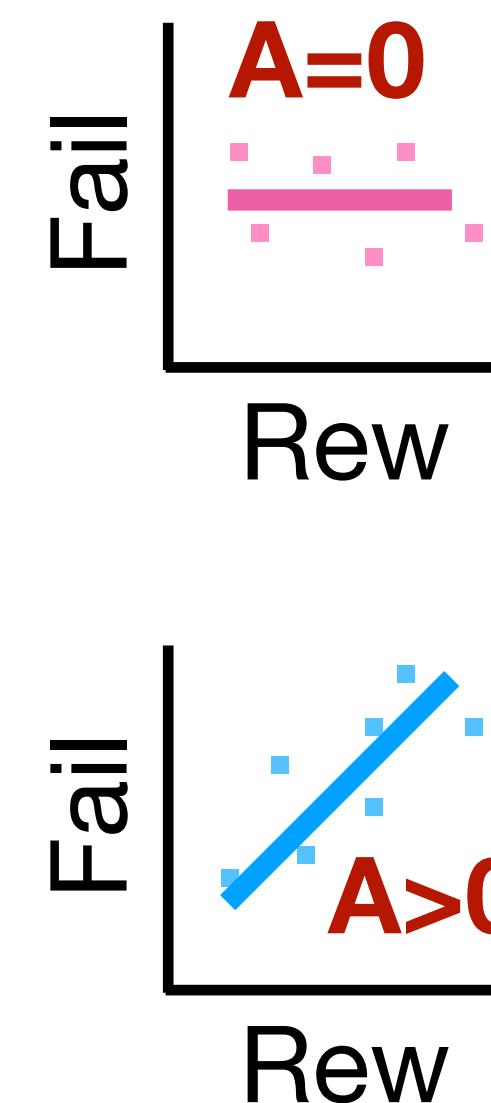
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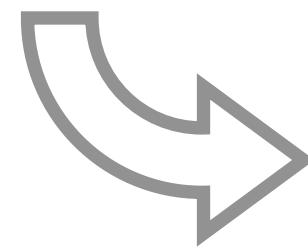
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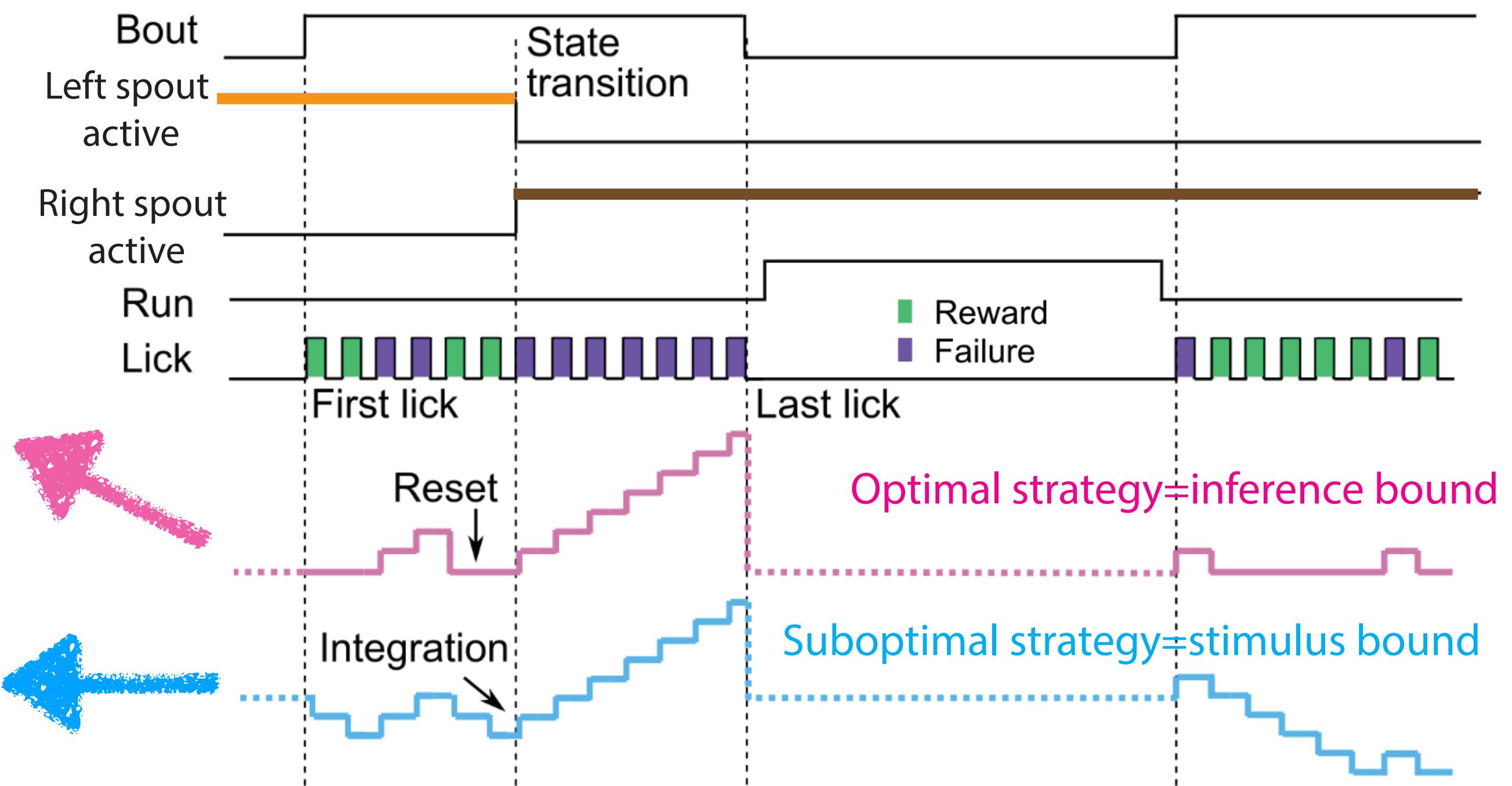
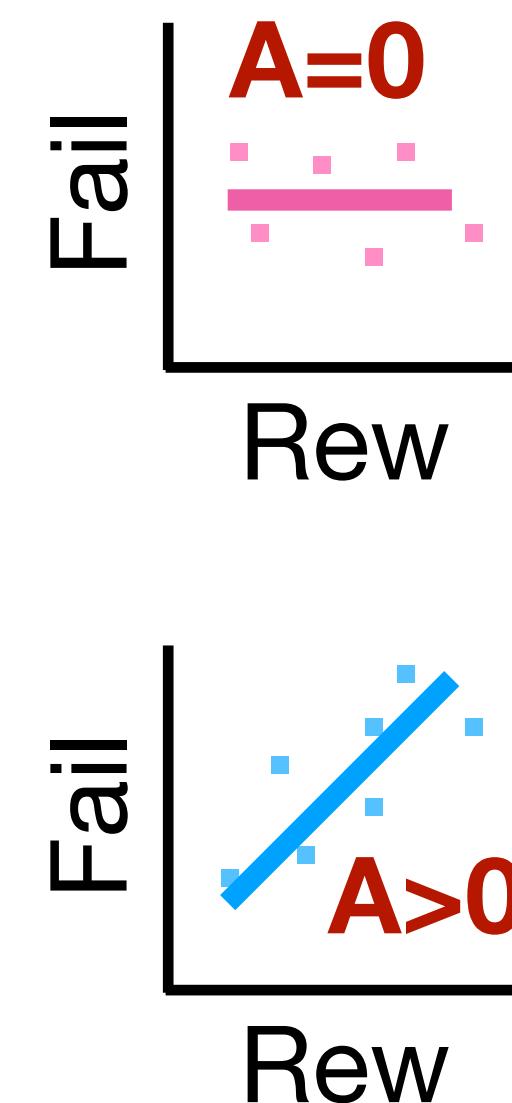
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Switching between strategies

 Switching between linear models



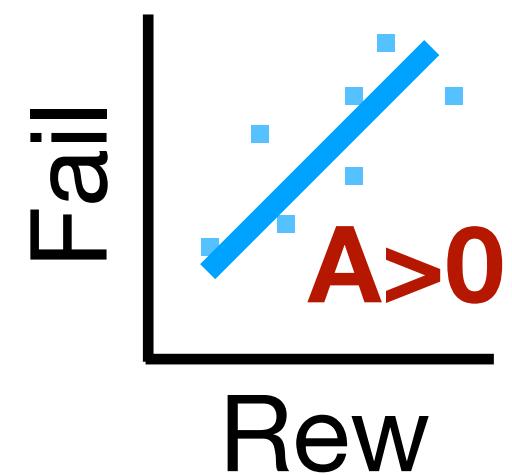
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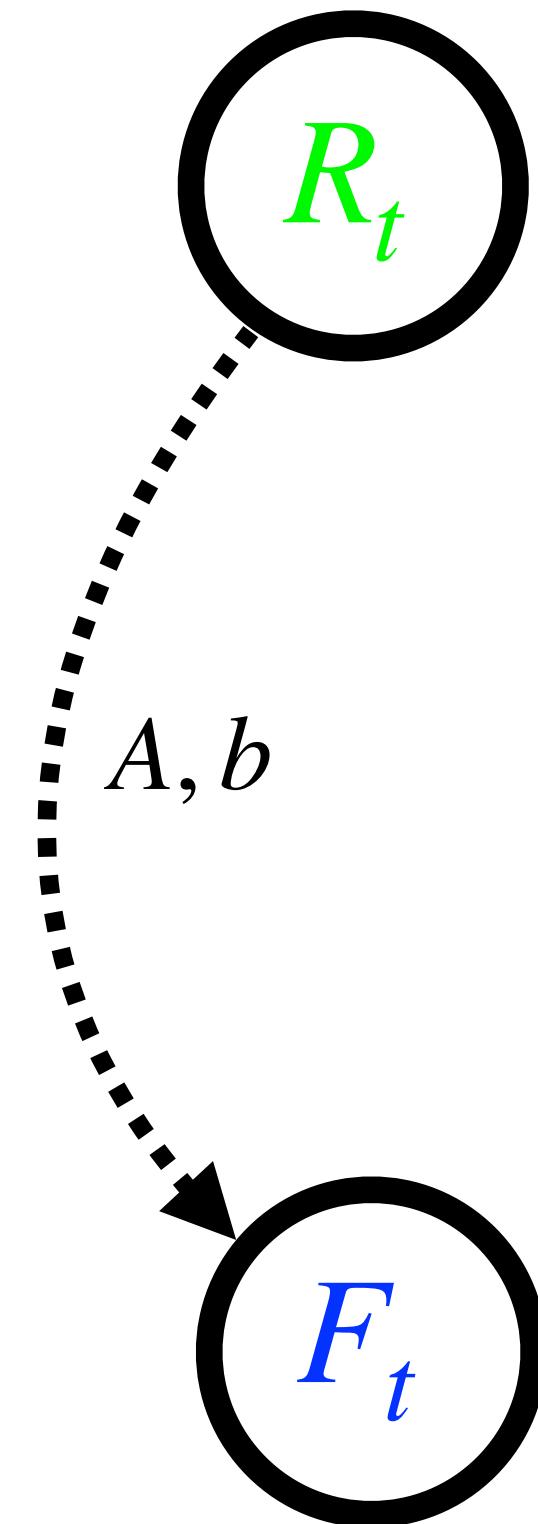
$$\text{Fail} = \mathbf{A} \times \text{Rew} + b$$

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$$p(F_t) = N(AR_t + b, \sigma)$$



Naturalistic foraging

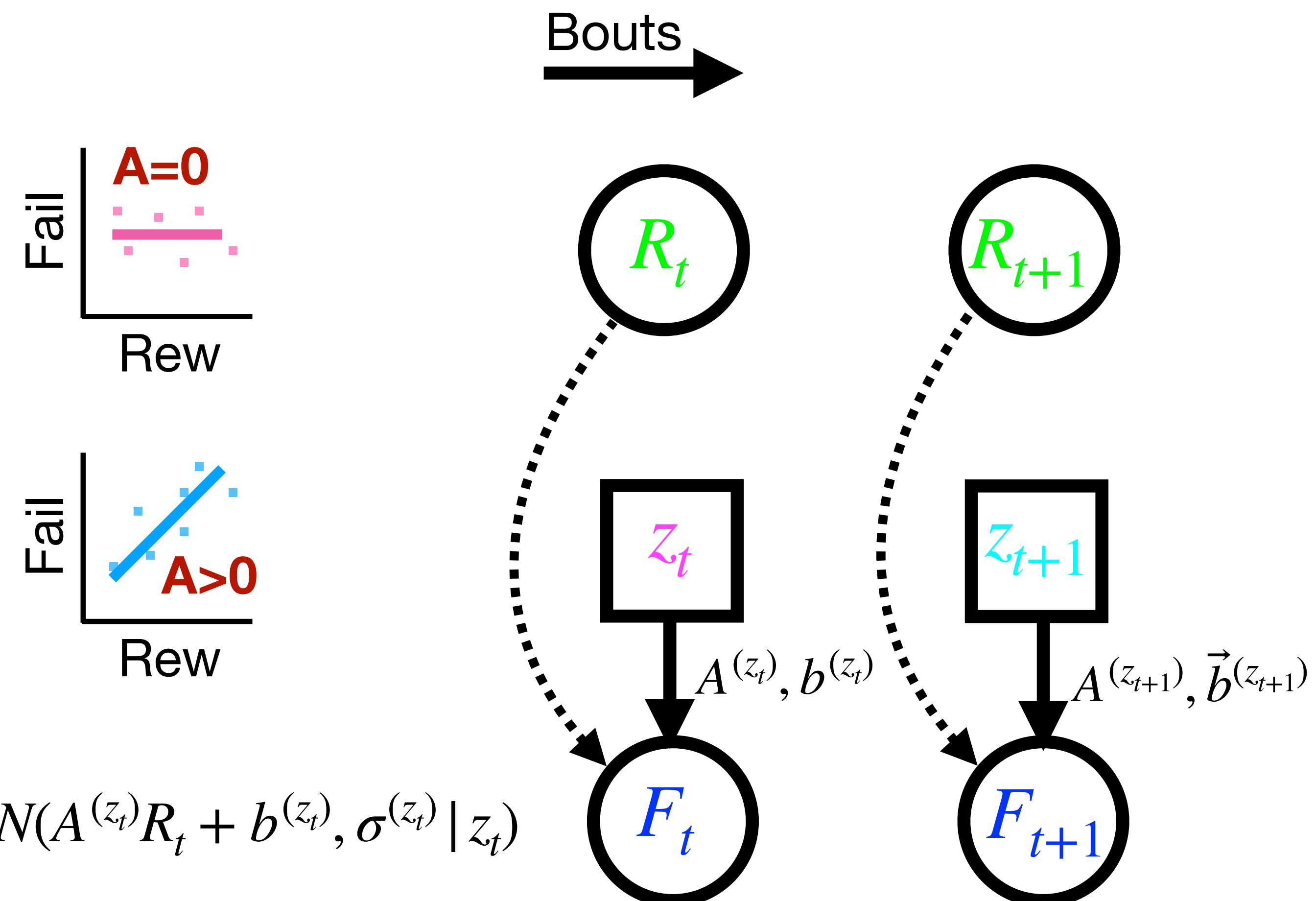
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b = how many **Fail** they tolerate

Linear Model parameters A, b depend on hidden state z_t



Naturalistic foraging

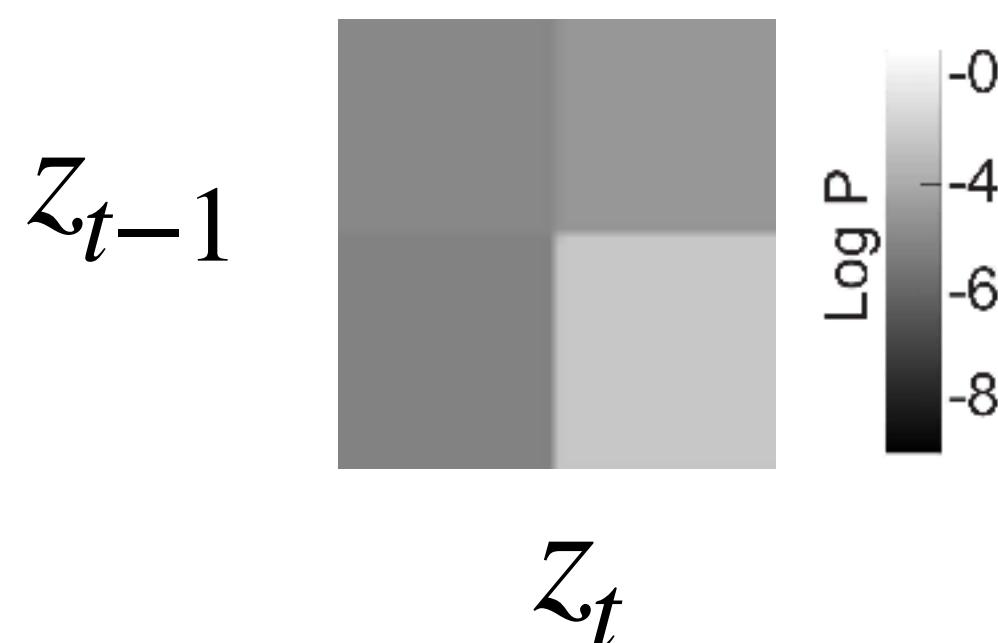
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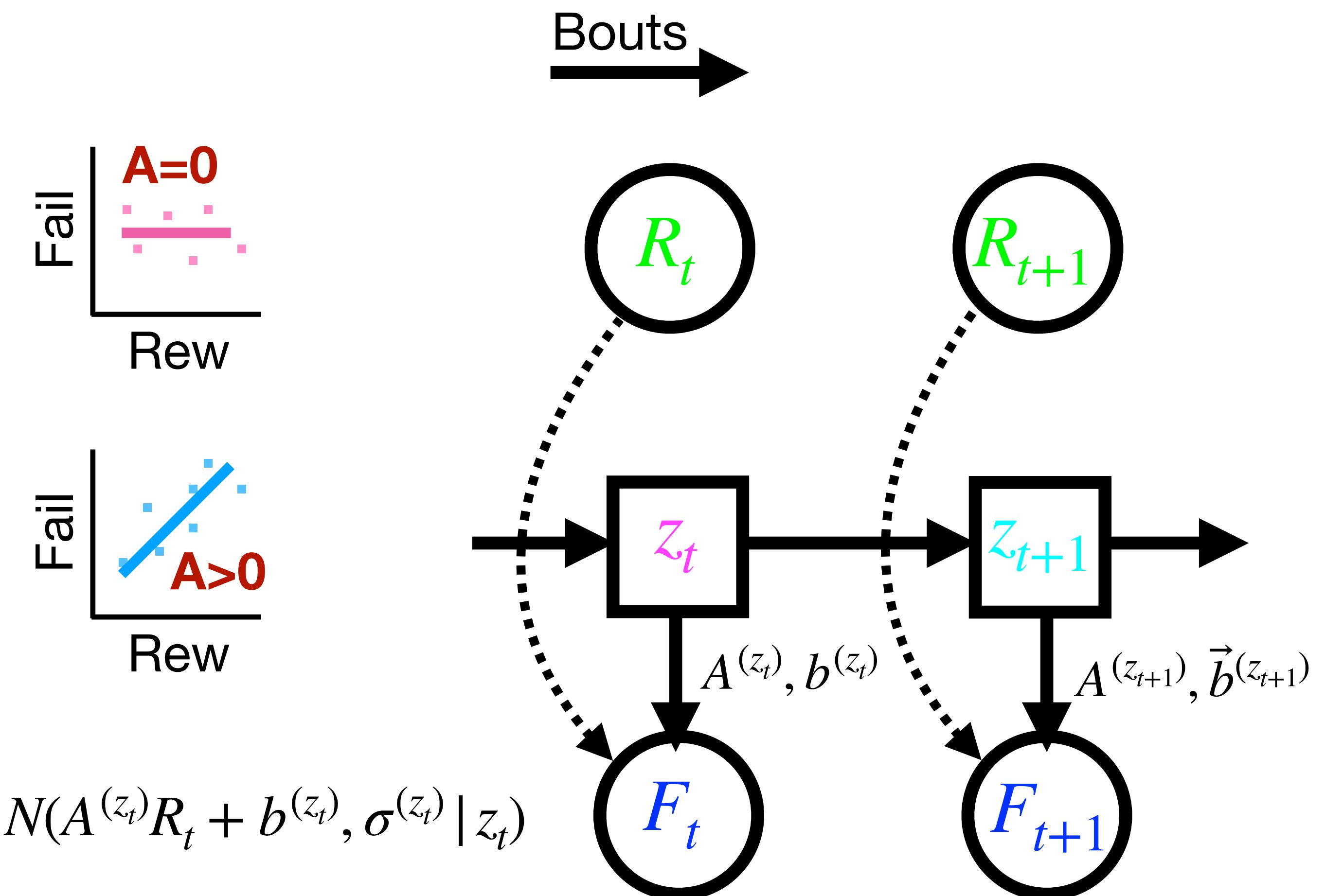
b = how many **Fail** they tolerate

$$p(z_t = k | z_{t-1} = l)$$



$$p(F_t) = N(A^{(z_t)}R_t + b^{(z_t)}, \sigma^{(z_t)} | z_t)$$

Hidden Markov model with Linear Model emissions



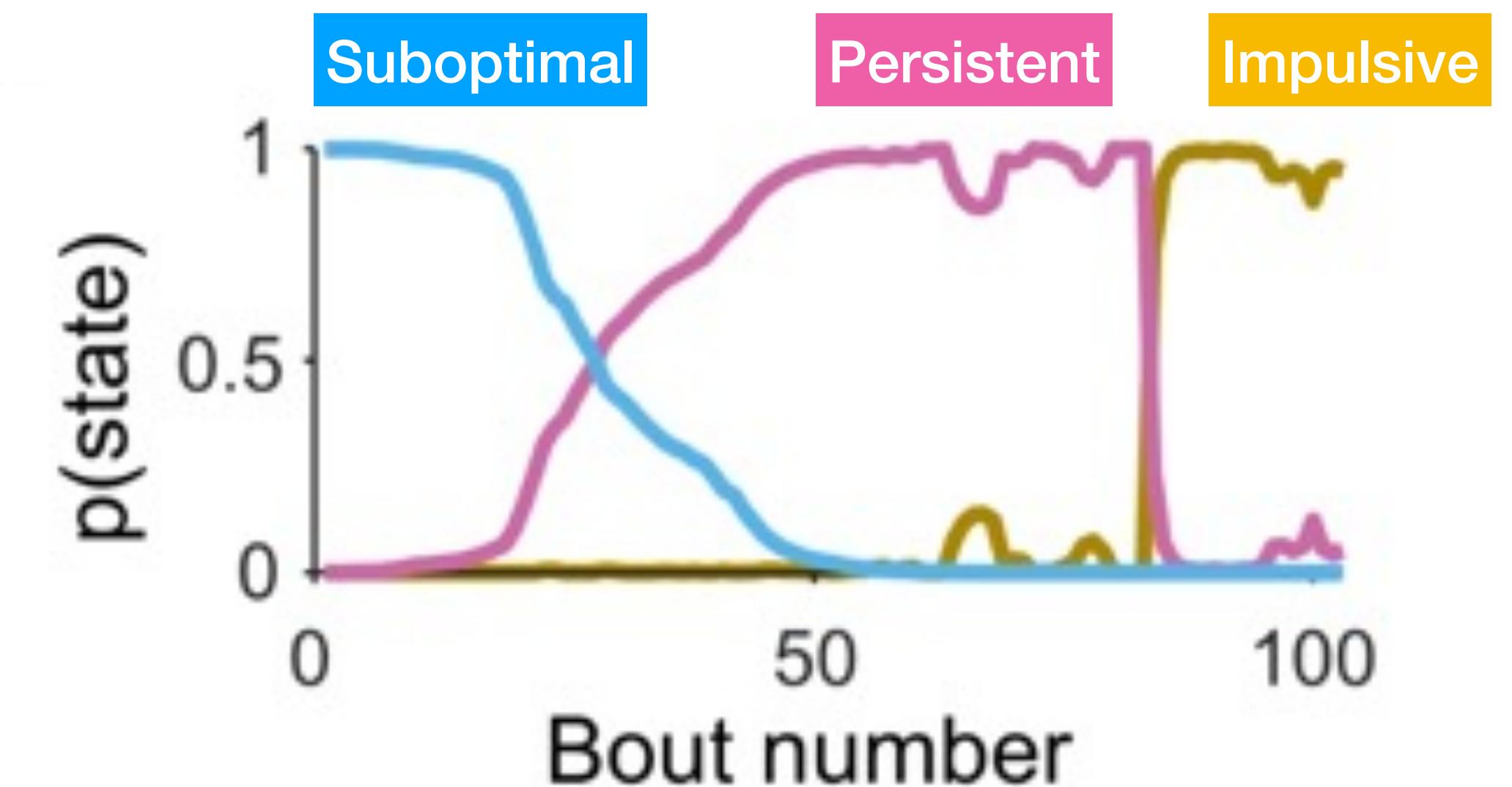
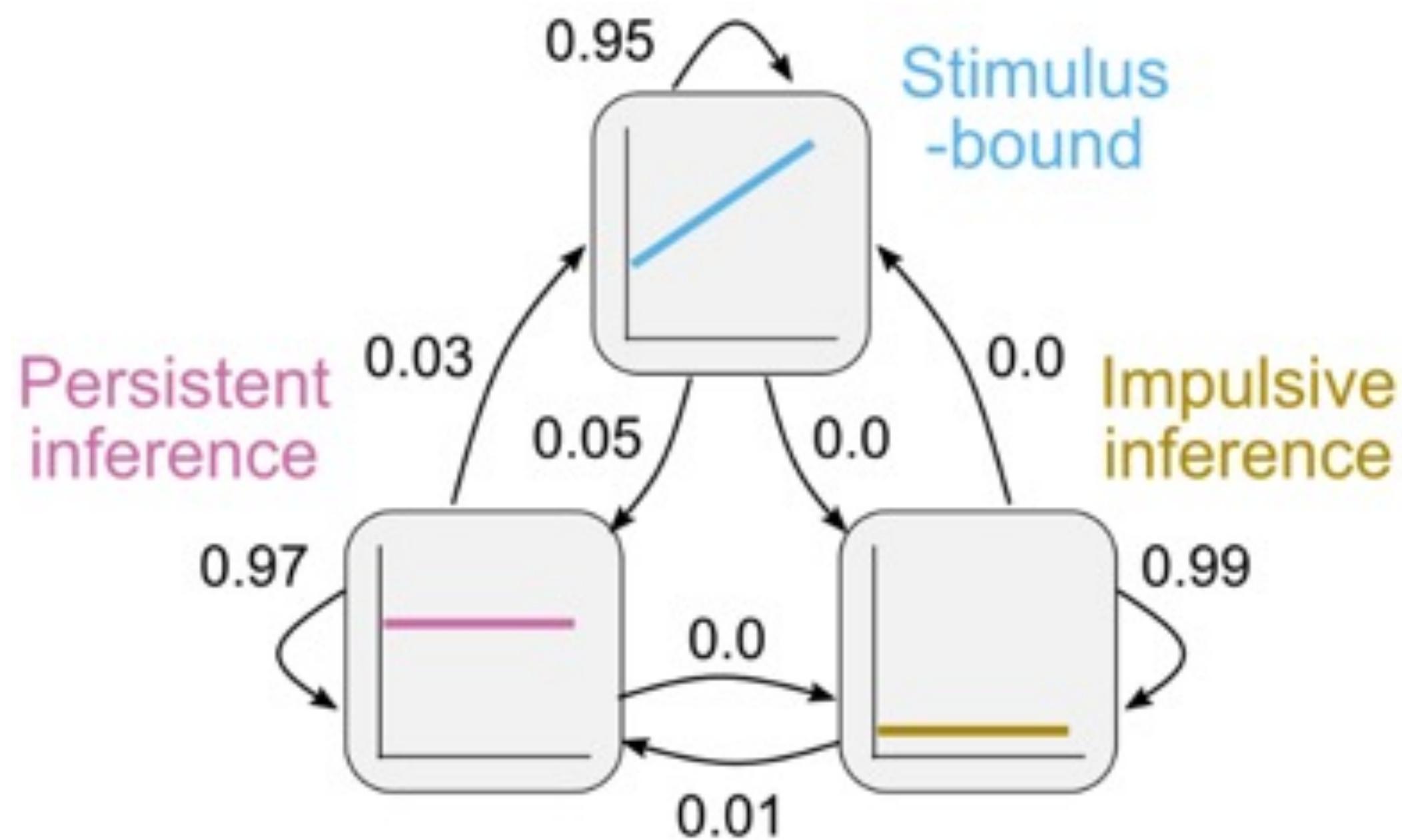
Naturalistic foraging

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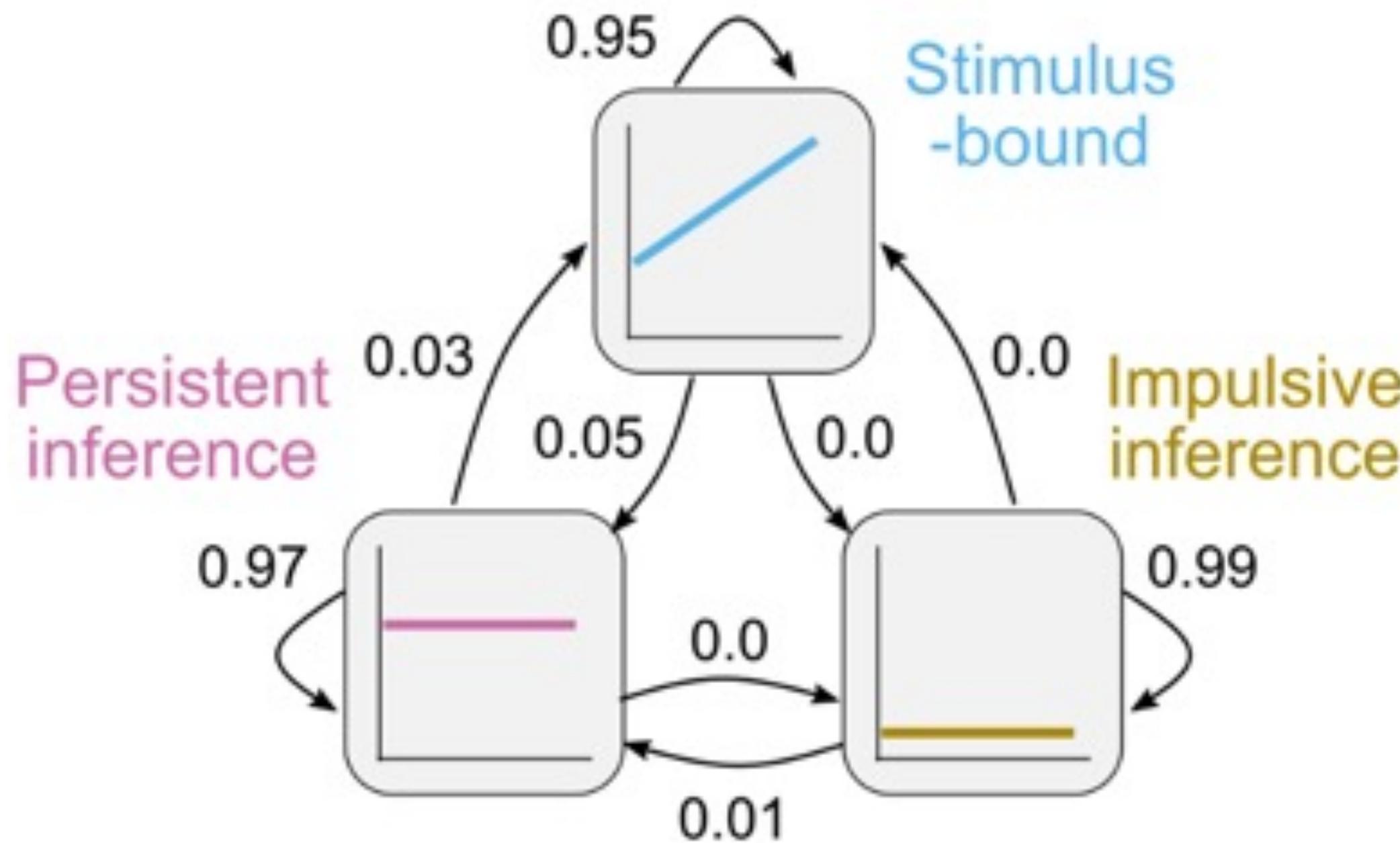
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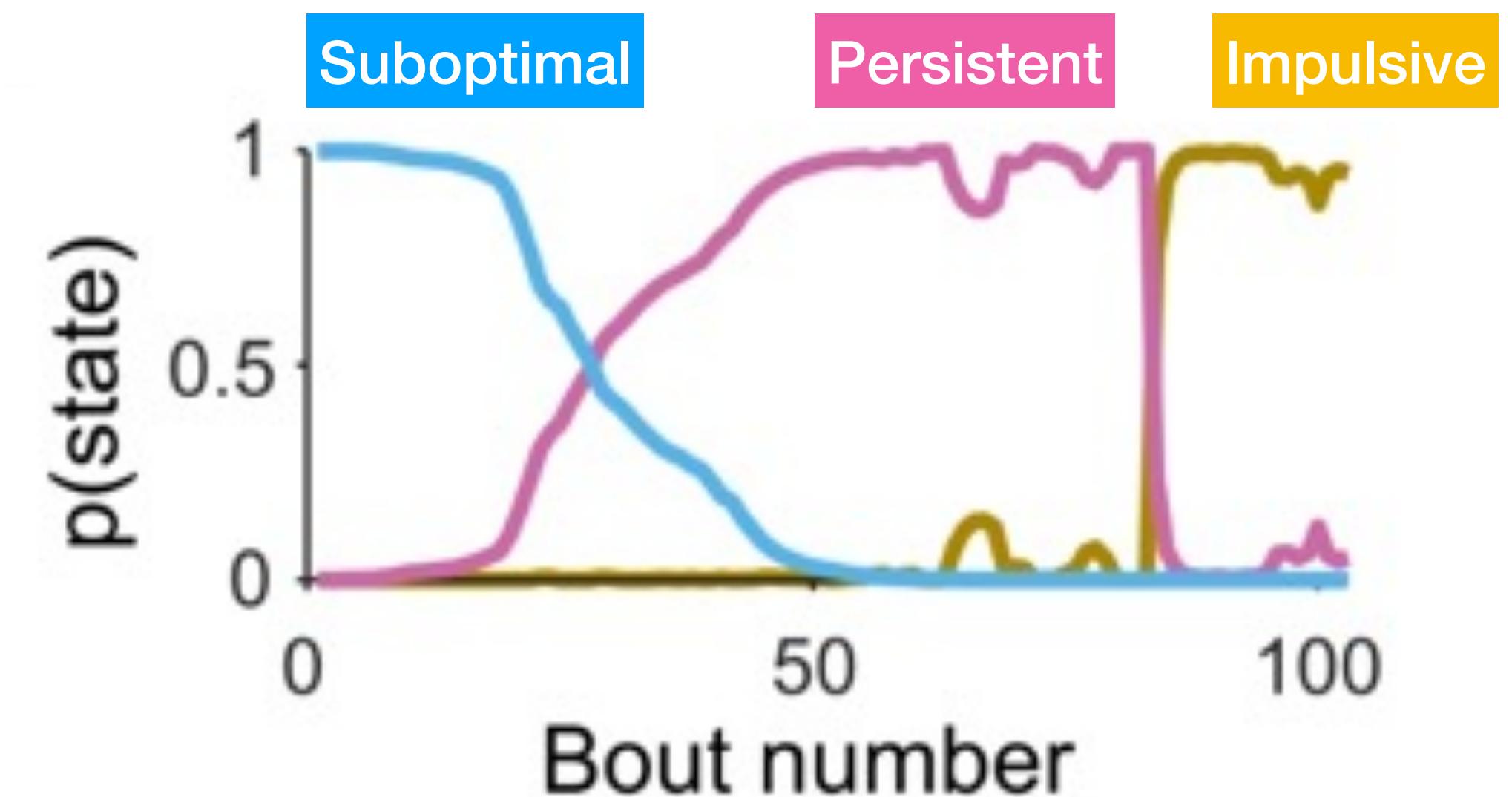
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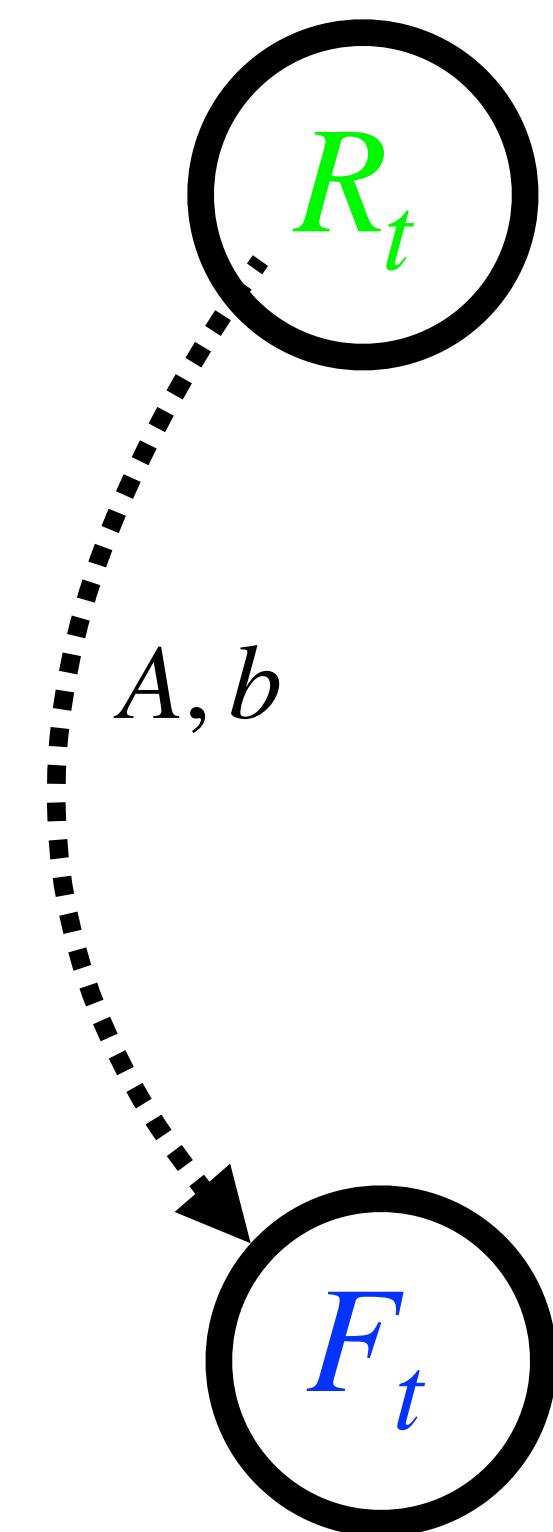
Two optimal strategies, one suboptimal strategy.



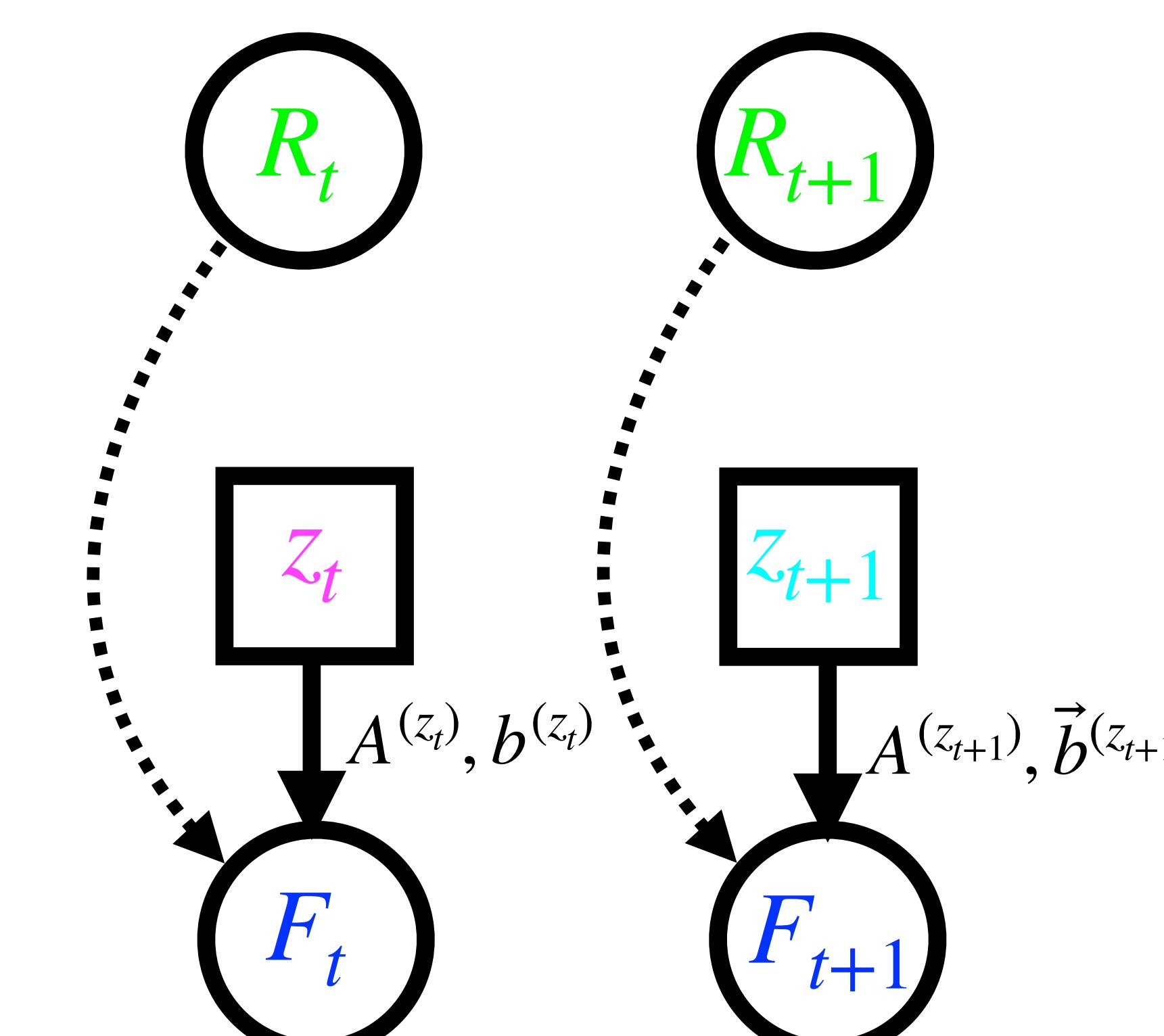
Coding tutorial

- Load mystery dataset
- Fit models
- Select # hidden states

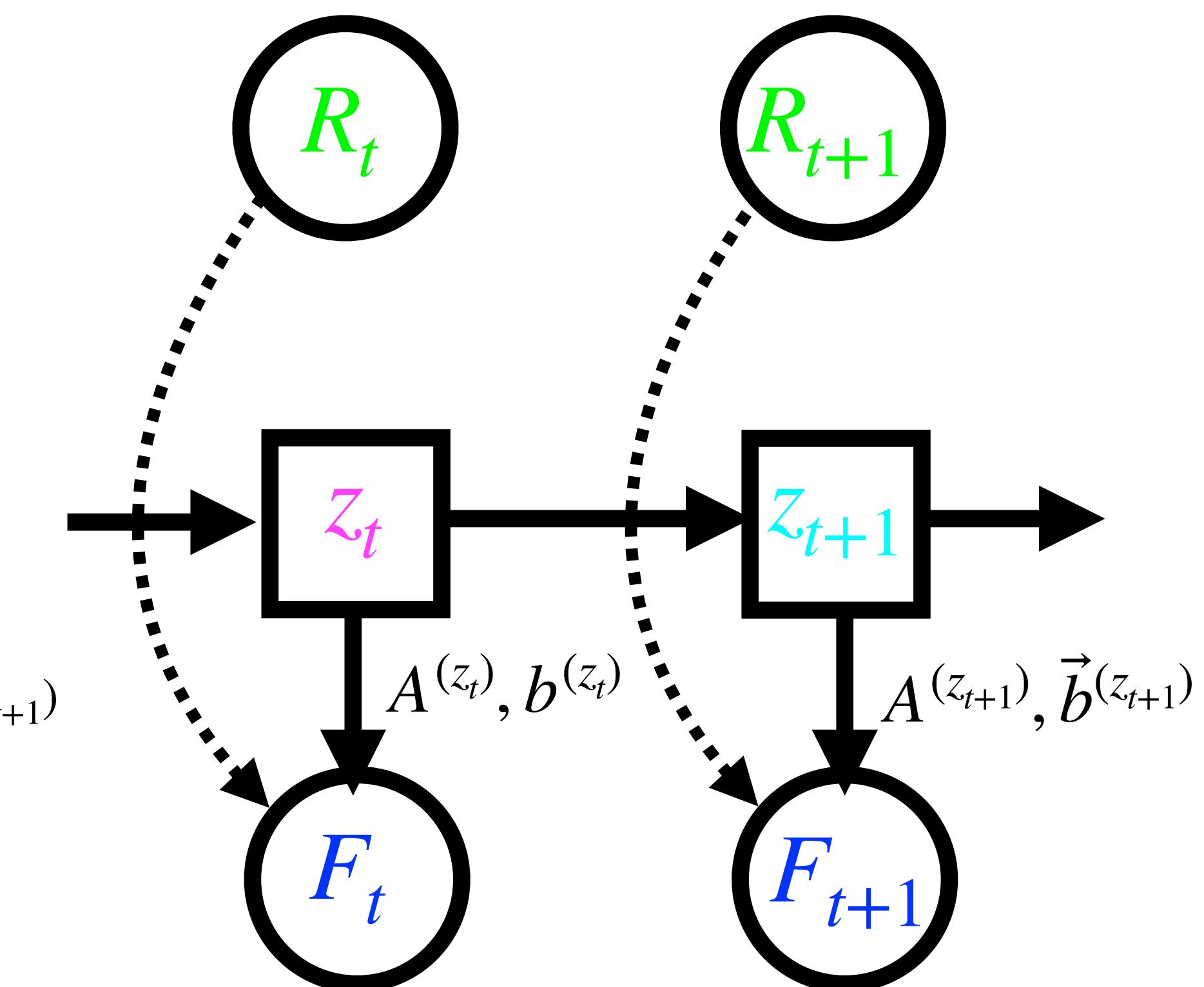
Fit Linear Model



Fit mixture of LMs



Fit LM-HMM



HMM with Linear Model emissions

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

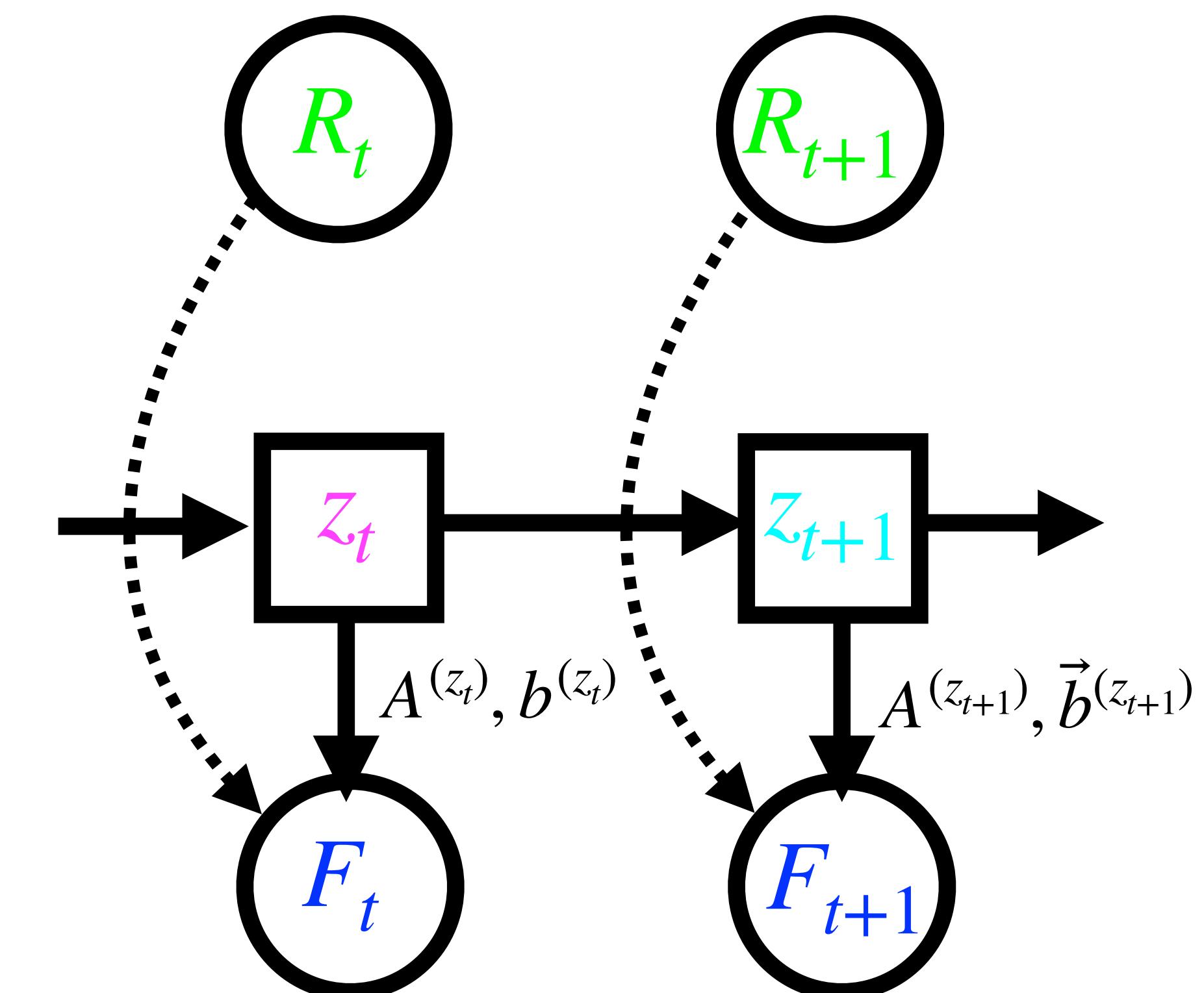
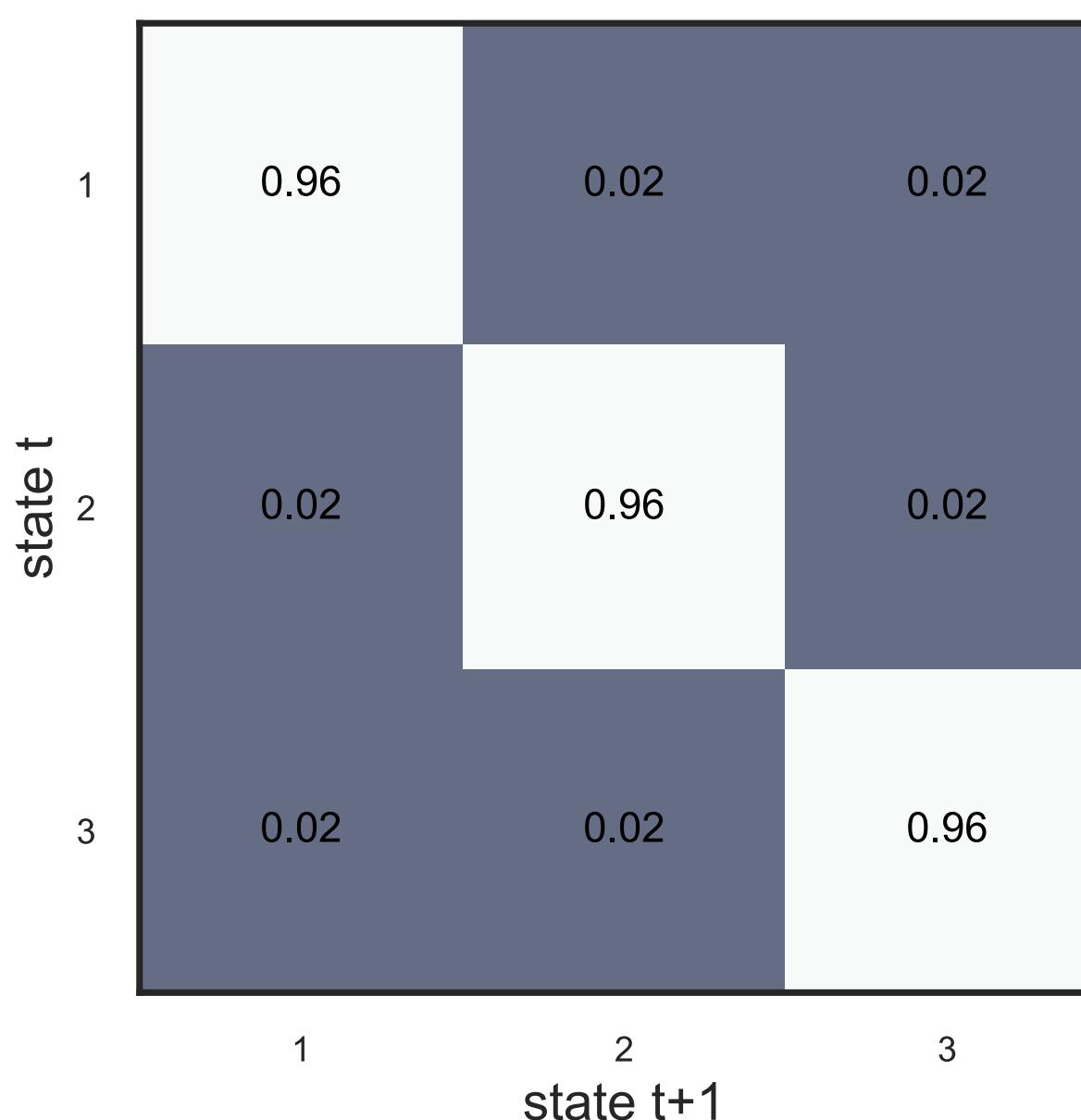
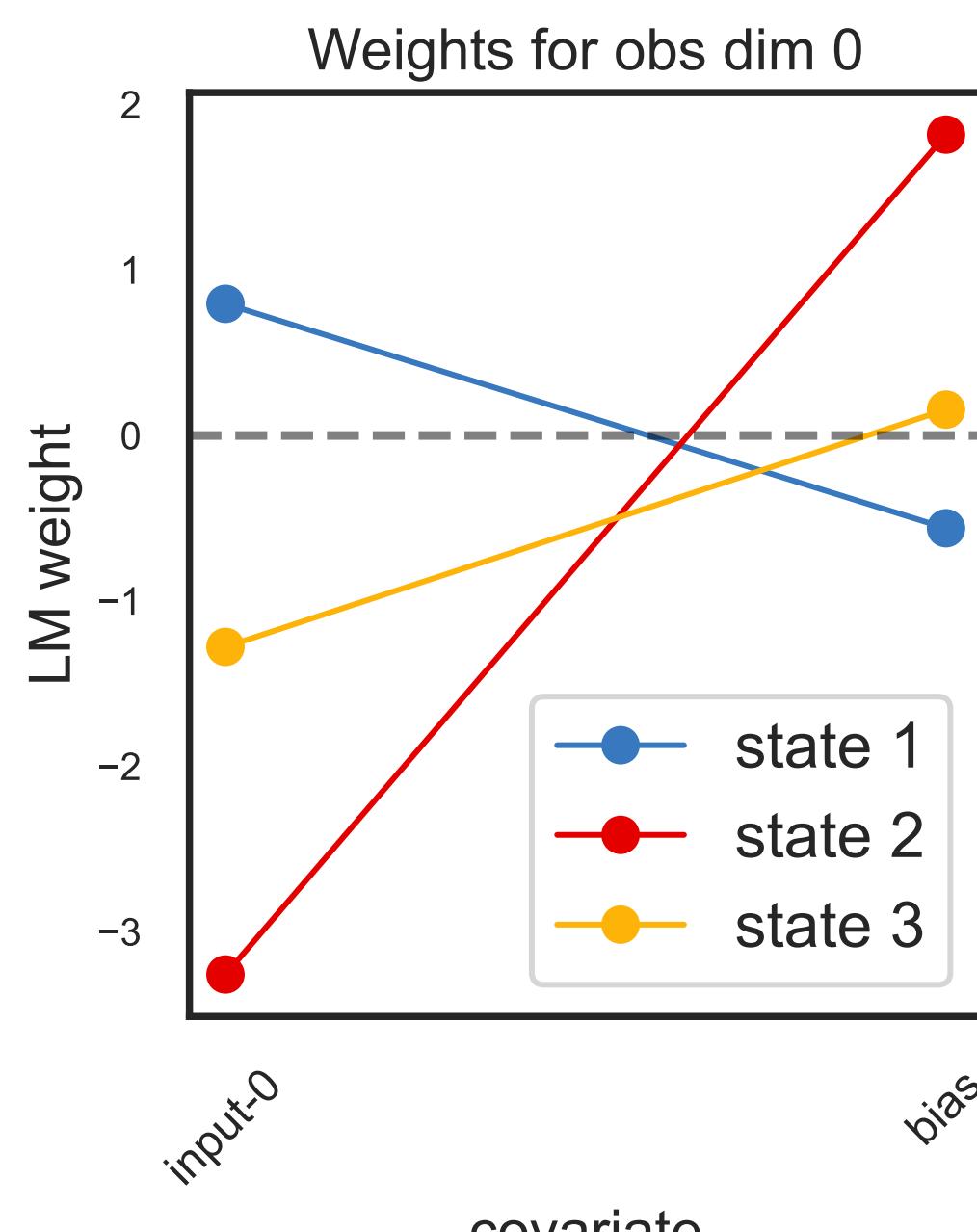
Model:

$$\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$$

Parameters with K hidden states
observation weights $A^{(k)}$, biases $b^{(k)}$,
noise cov $\Sigma^{(k)}$

Transition probabilities $T_{kl} = p(z_t = l | z_{t-1} = k)$

Initial probabilities: $\pi_k = p(z_0 = k)$



HMM with Linear Model emissions

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

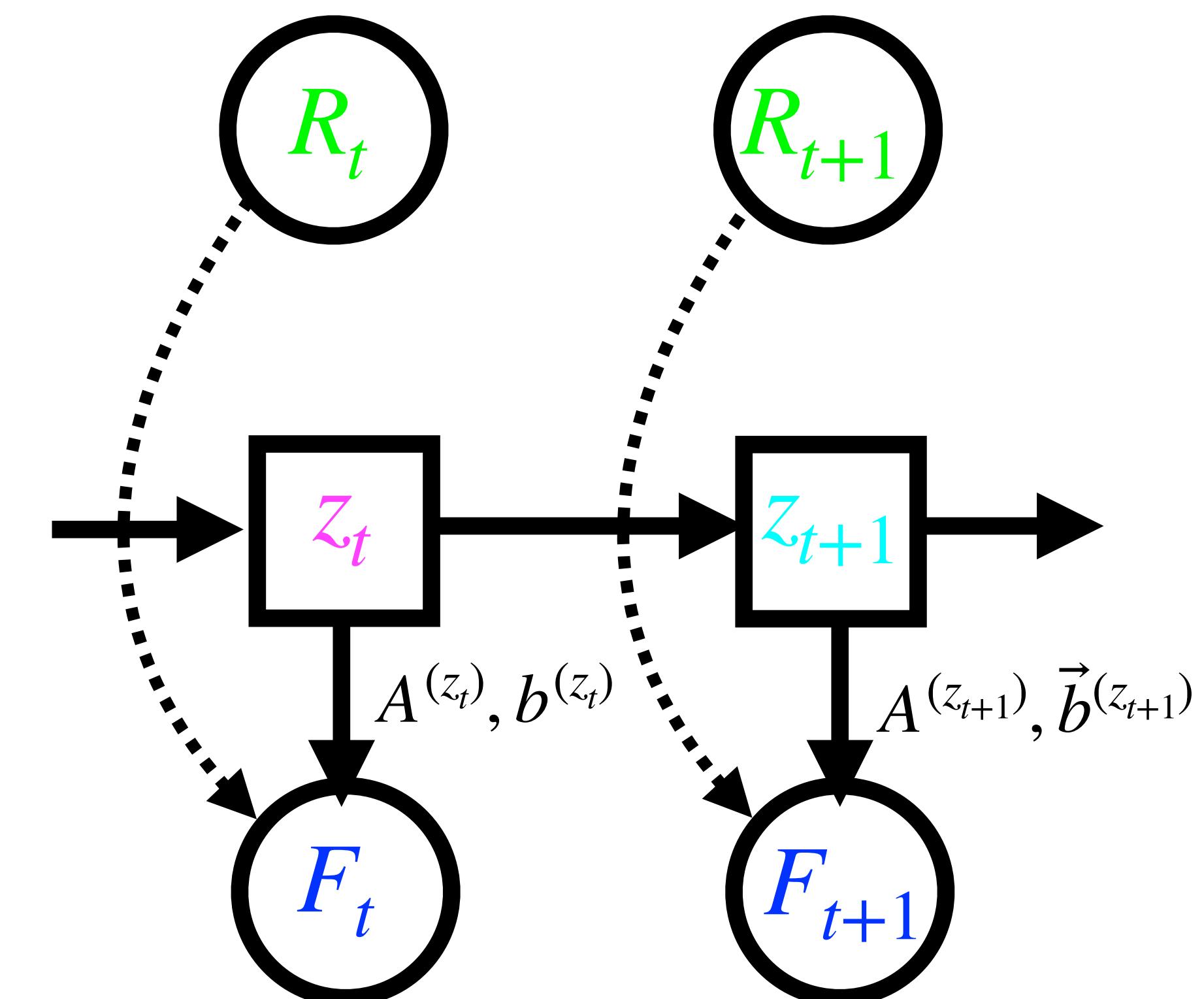
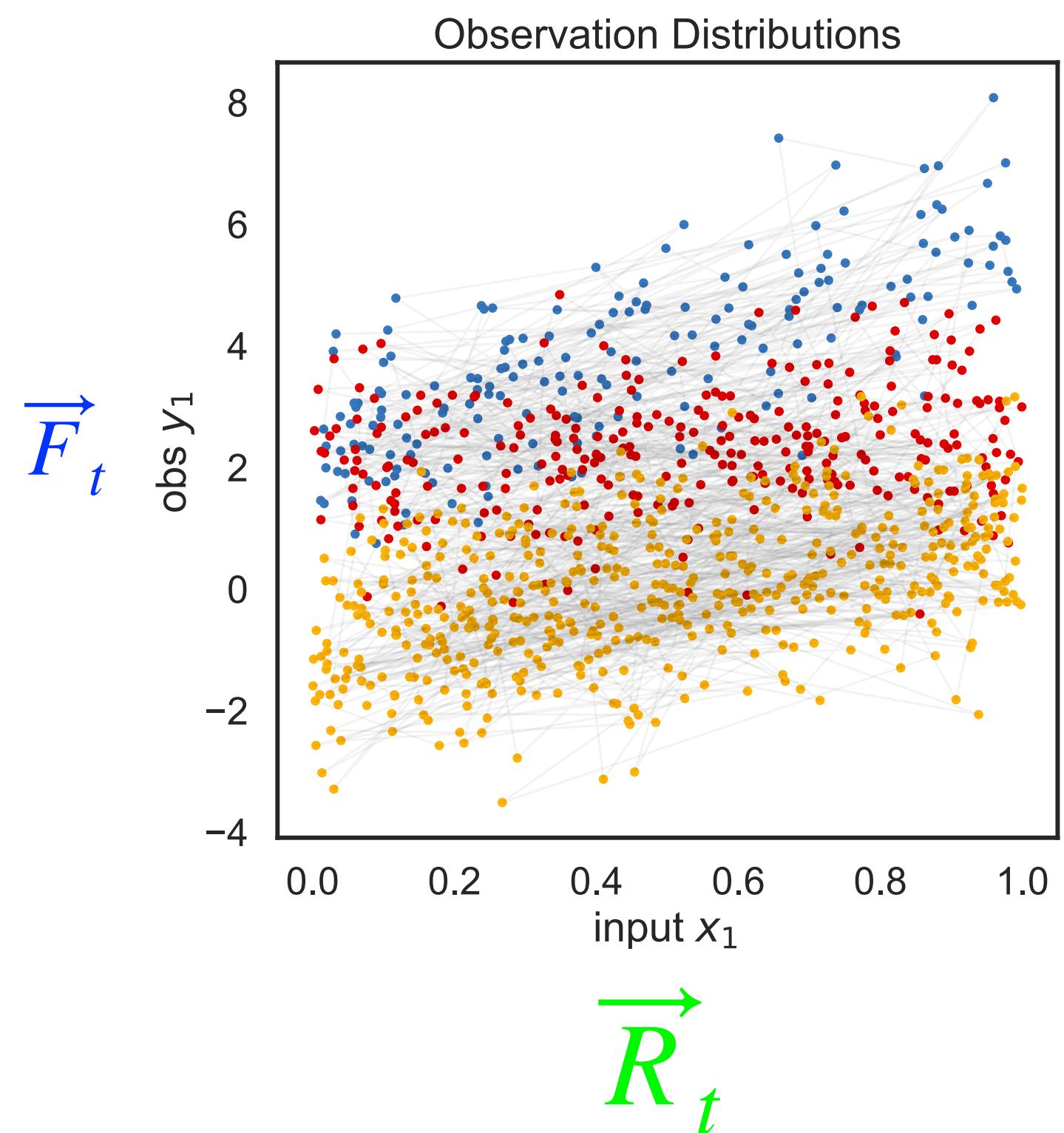
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HMM with Linear Model emissions

Observations n-dim:

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Inputs m-dim:

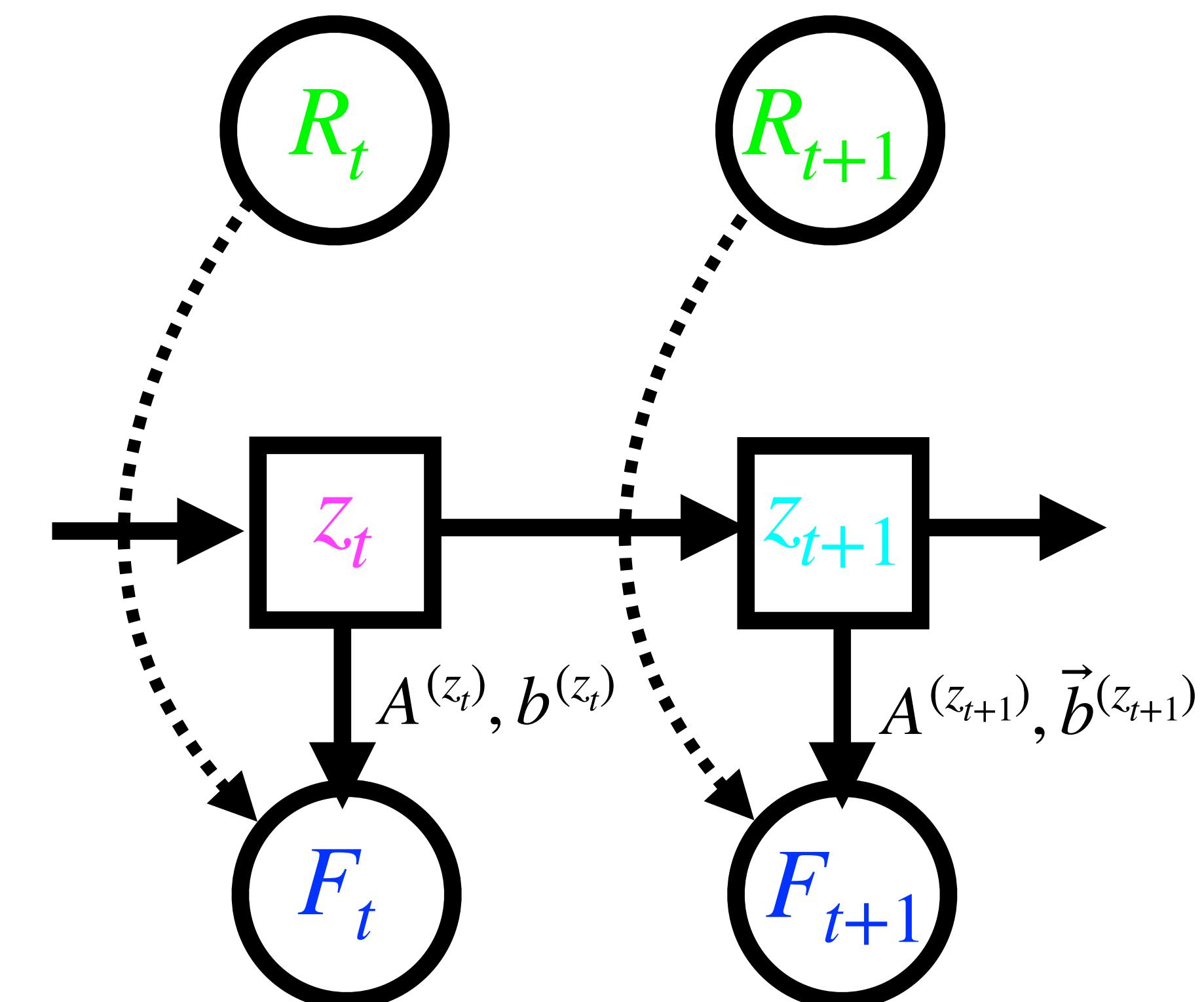
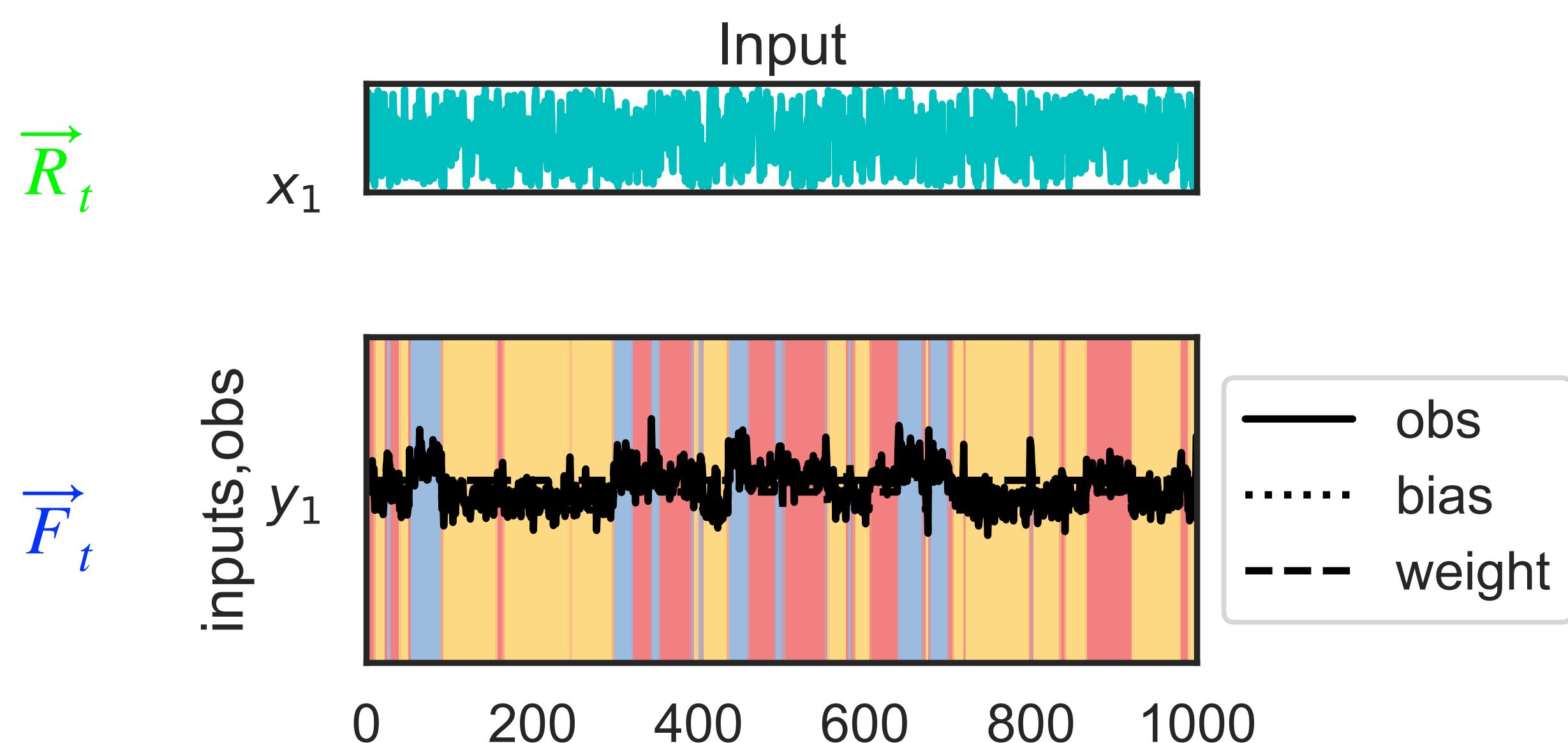
$$\vec{R}_t$$

Model: $\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$

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HMM with Linear Model emissions

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

Model: $\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$

Parameters with K hidden states
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noise cov $\Sigma^{(k)}$

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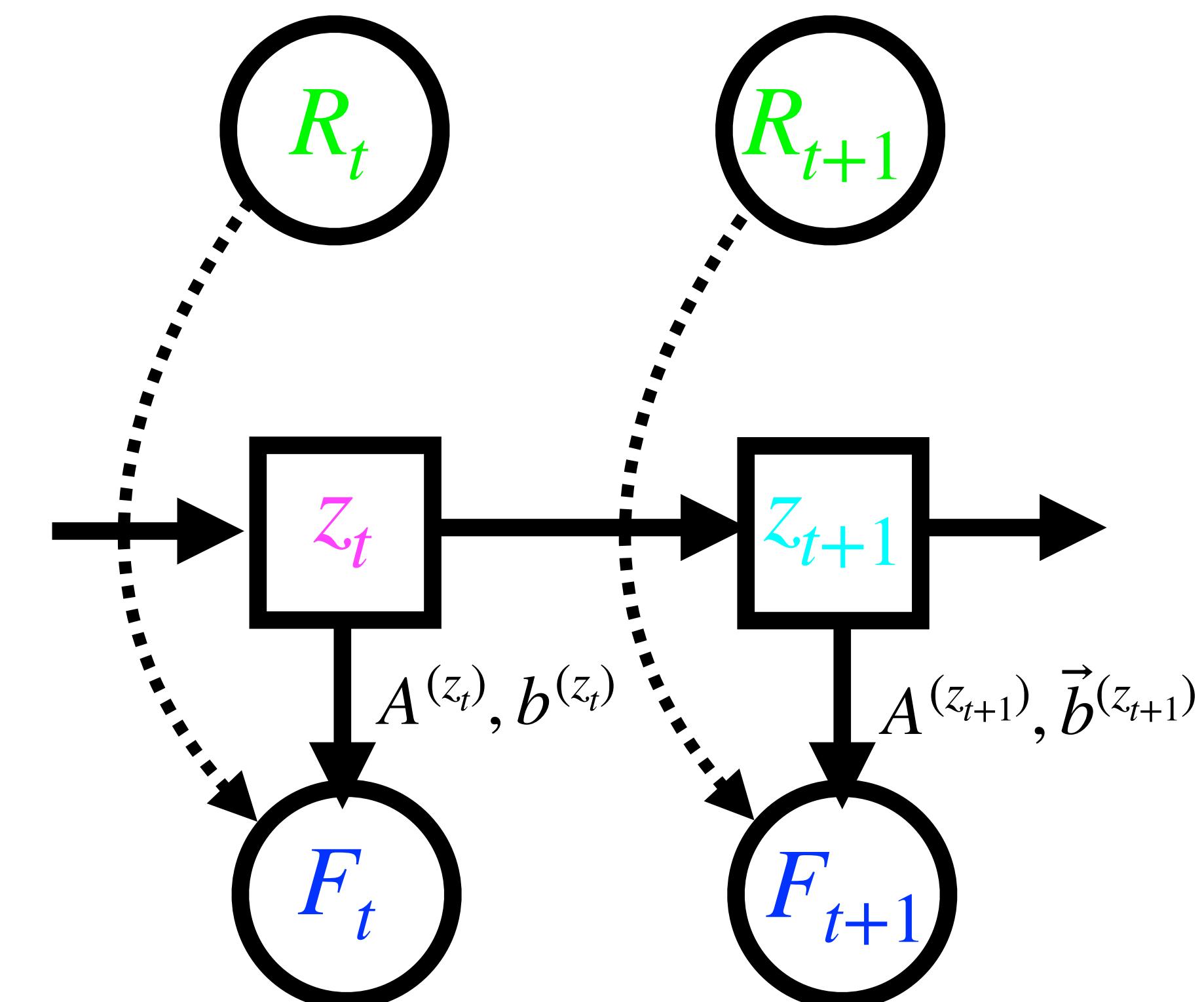
Initial probabilities: $\pi_k = p(z_0 = k)$

Train model parameters
using Expectation Maximization

Alternate E and M steps

E step: estimate probs with fixed params

M step: estimate params with fixed probs



HMM with Linear Model emissions

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

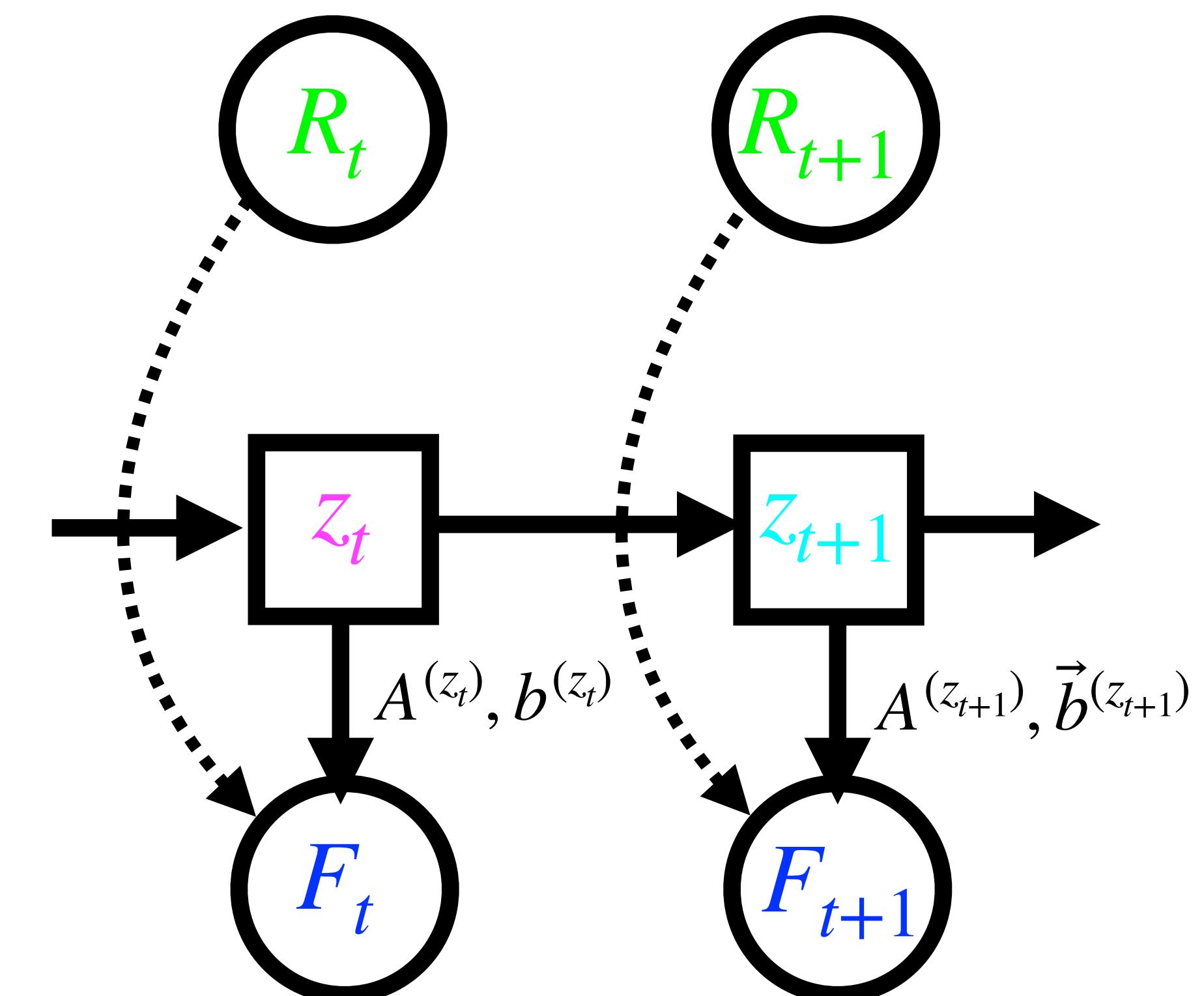
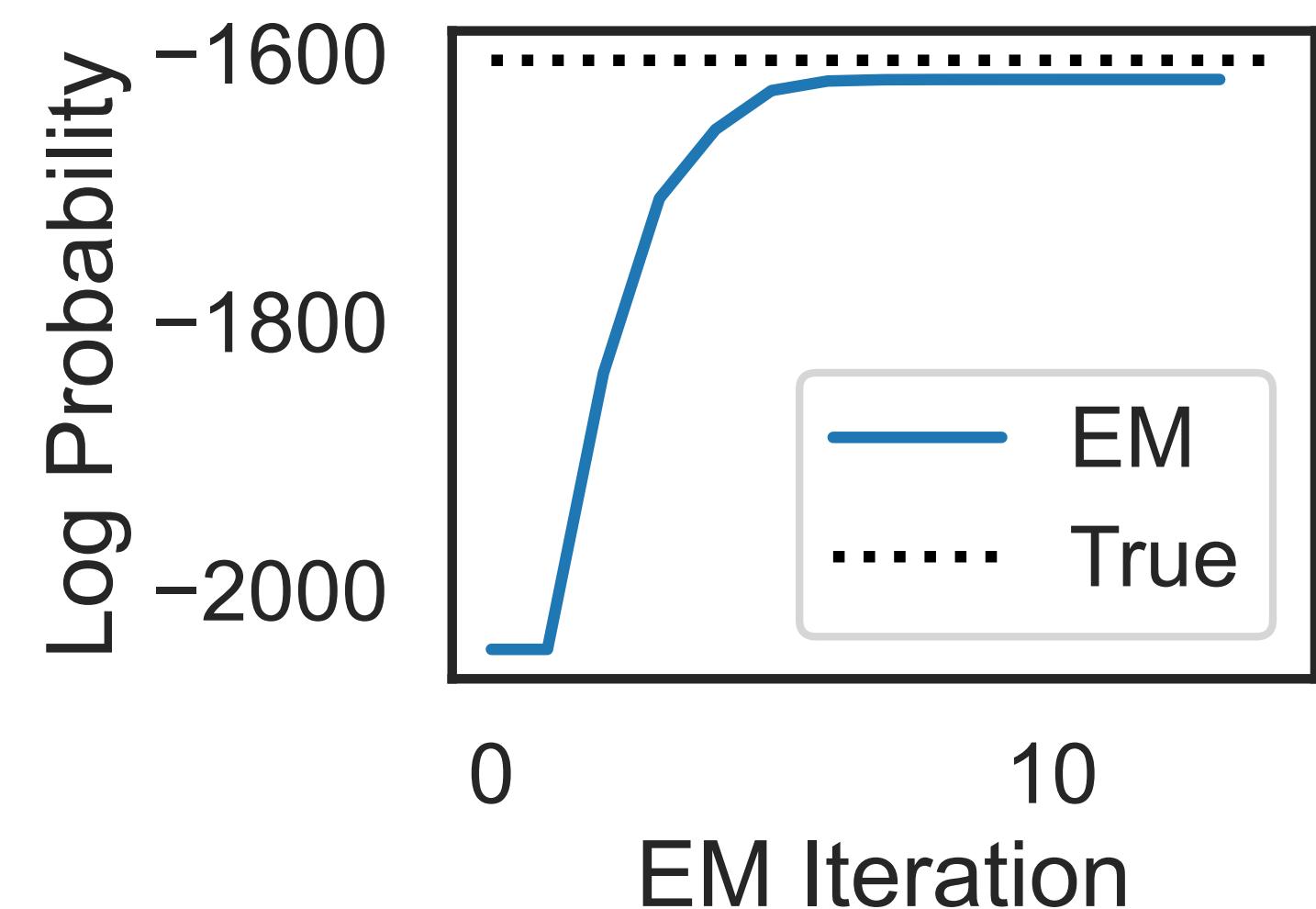
Model: $\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$

Parameters with K hidden states
observation weights $A^{(k)}$, biases $b^{(k)}$,
noise cov $\Sigma^{(k)}$

Transition probabilities $T_{kl} = p(z_t = l | z_{t-1} = k)$

Initial probabilities: $\pi_k = p(z_0 = k)$

Train model parameters
using Expectation Maximization



HMM with Linear Model emissions

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

Model: $\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$

Parameters with K hidden states
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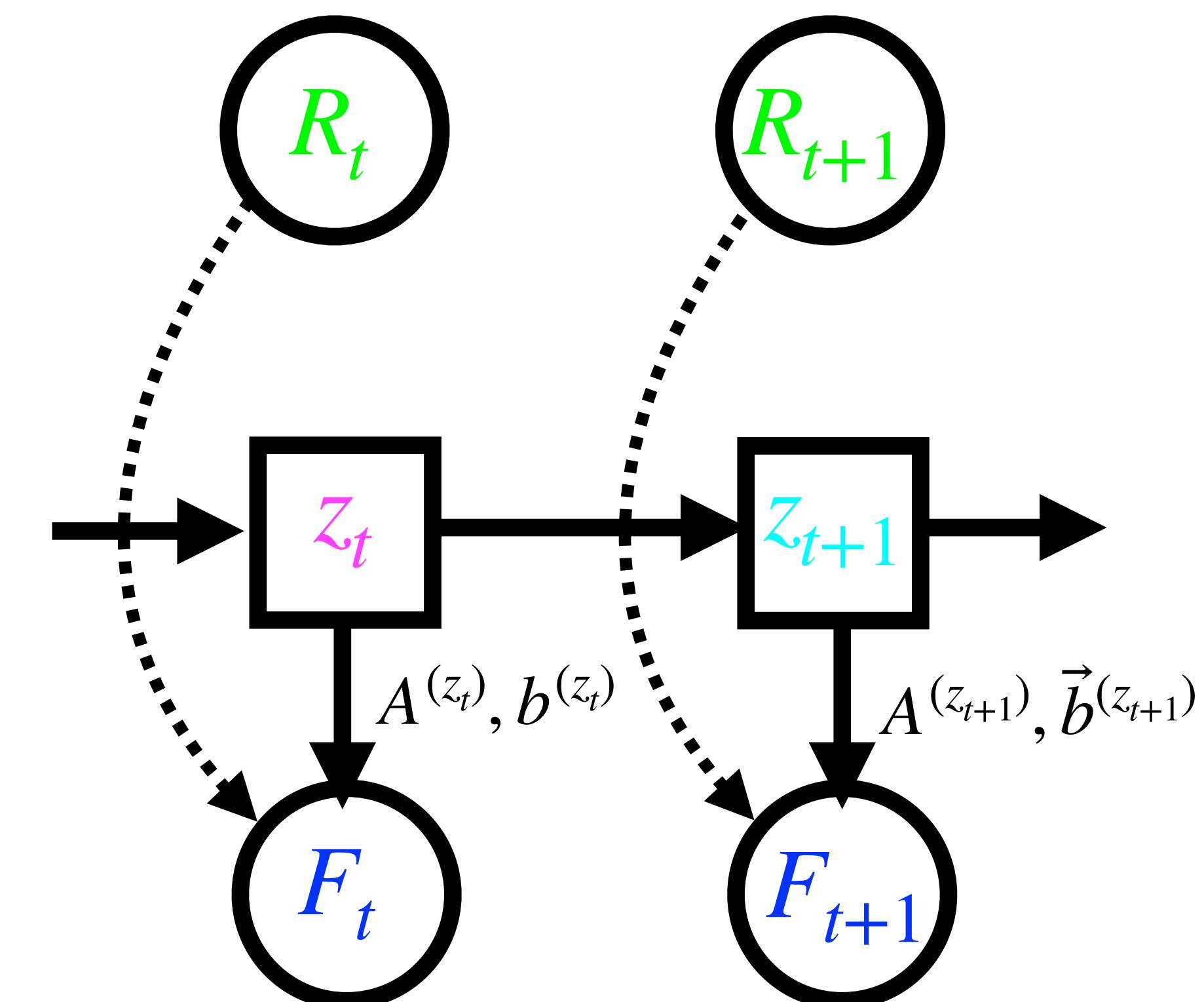
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Train model parameters
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EM is not convex

→ train many models with diverse
params initialization, pick best



HMM with Linear Model emissions

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

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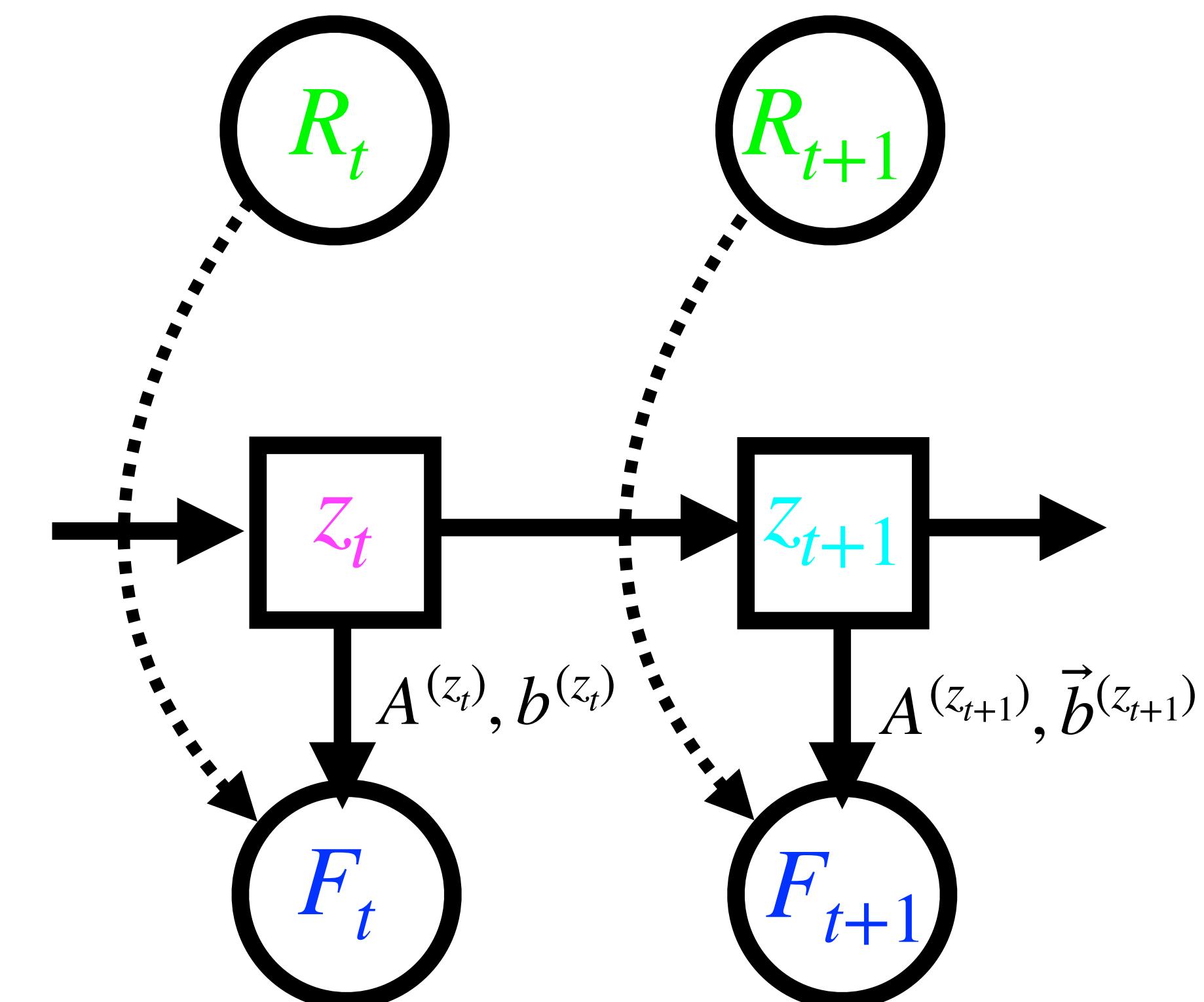
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→ train many models with diverse
params initialization, pick best



Model selection: Pick # states

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

Model: $\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$

Parameters with K hidden states
observation weights $A^{(k)}$, biases $b^{(k)}$,
noise cov $\Sigma^{(k)}$

Transition probabilities $T_{kl} = p(z_t = l | z_{t-1} = k)$
Initial probabilities: $\pi_k = p(z_0 = k)$

How do we choose the
number of states?

Model selection: Pick # states

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

Model:

$$\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$$

Parameters with K hidden states
observation weights $A^{(k)}$, biases $b^{(k)}$,
noise cov $\Sigma^{(k)}$

Transition probabilities $T_{kl} = p(z_t = l | z_{t-1} = k)$

Initial probabilities: $\pi_k = p(z_0 = k)$

How do we choose the number of states?



Use the
bias-variance
tradeoff,
Luke!

Model selection: Pick # states

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

Model:

$$\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$$

Parameters with K hidden states
observation weights $A^{(k)}$, biases $b^{(k)}$,
noise cov $\Sigma^{(k)}$

Transition probabilities $T_{kl} = p(z_t = l | z_{t-1} = k)$

Initial probabilities: $\pi_k = p(z_0 = k)$

Too few states —> underfit

Too many states —> overfit

Optimal # states —> best fit



Use the
bias-variance
tradeoff,
Luke!

Model selection: xval

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

Model: $\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$

Parameters with K hidden states
observation weights $A^{(k)}$, biases $b^{(k)}$,
noise cov $\Sigma^{(k)}$

Transition probabilities $T_{kl} = p(z_t = l | z_{t-1} = k)$

Initial probabilities: $\pi_k = p(z_0 = k)$

1. Split data into training set S_{train}
and test set S_{test}

2. Fit HMM with K states to
 S_{train} , estimate likelihood of
test set $\text{LL}(S_{\text{test}}|S_{\text{train}})$

3. Increase K and find best,
or at least elbow



Use the
bias-variance
tradeoff,
Luke!

Model selection: xval

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

Model: $\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$

Parameters with K hidden states
observation weights $A^{(k)}$, biases $b^{(k)}$,
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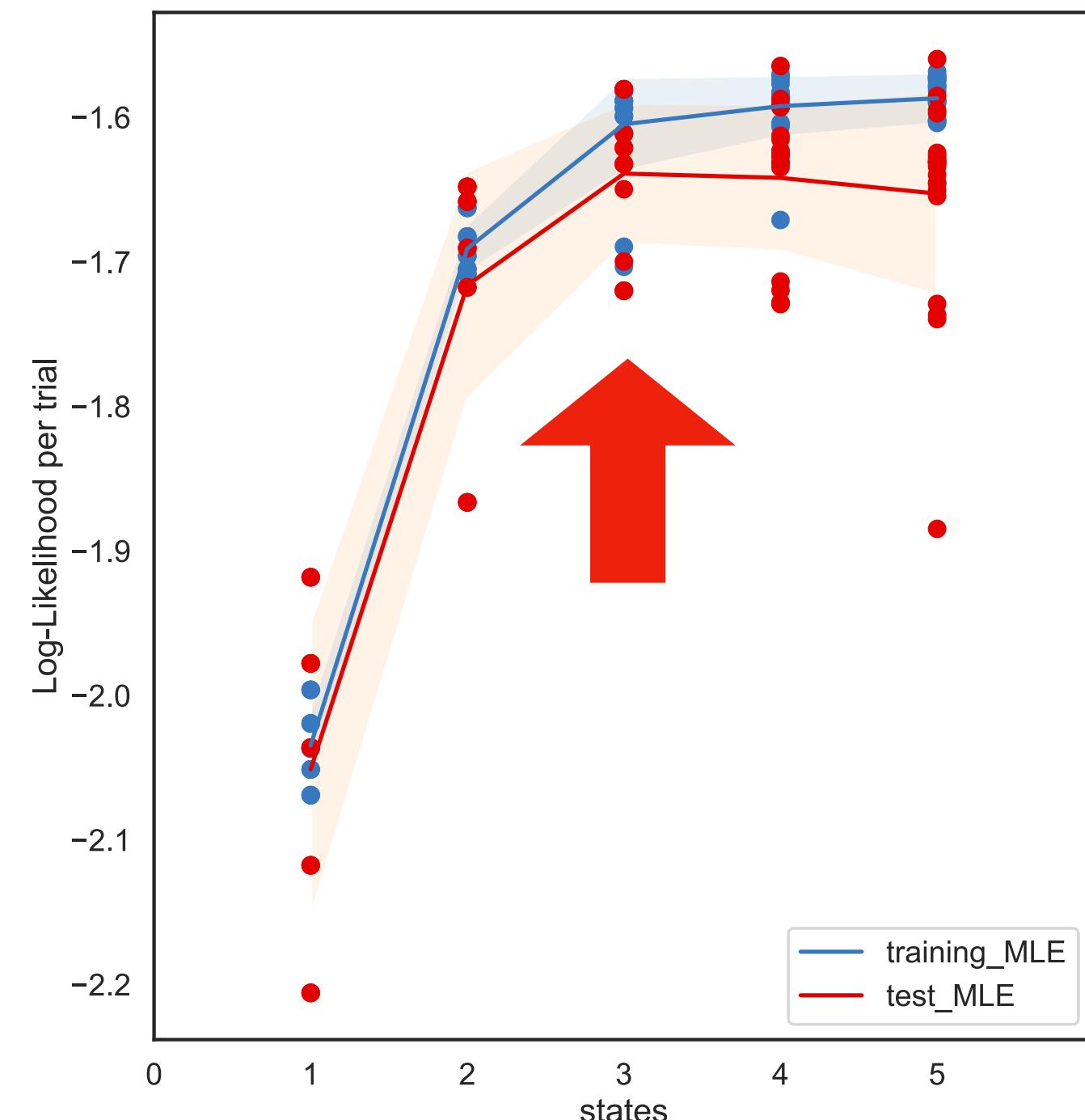
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2. Fit HMM with K states to S_{train} , estimate likelihood of test set $\text{LL}(S_{\text{test}}|S_{\text{train}})$

3. Increase K and find best, or at least elbow



Model selection: BIC/AIC

Observations n-dim:

$$\vec{F}_t$$

Inputs m-dim:

$$\vec{R}_t$$

Model:

$$\vec{F}_t = A^{(z_t)} \vec{R}_t + b^{(z_t)} + \vec{\epsilon}_t$$

Parameters with K hidden states
observation weights $A^{(k)}$, biases $b^{(k)}$,
noise cov $\Sigma^{(k)}$

Transition probabilities $T_{kl} = p(z_t = l | z_{t-1} = k)$

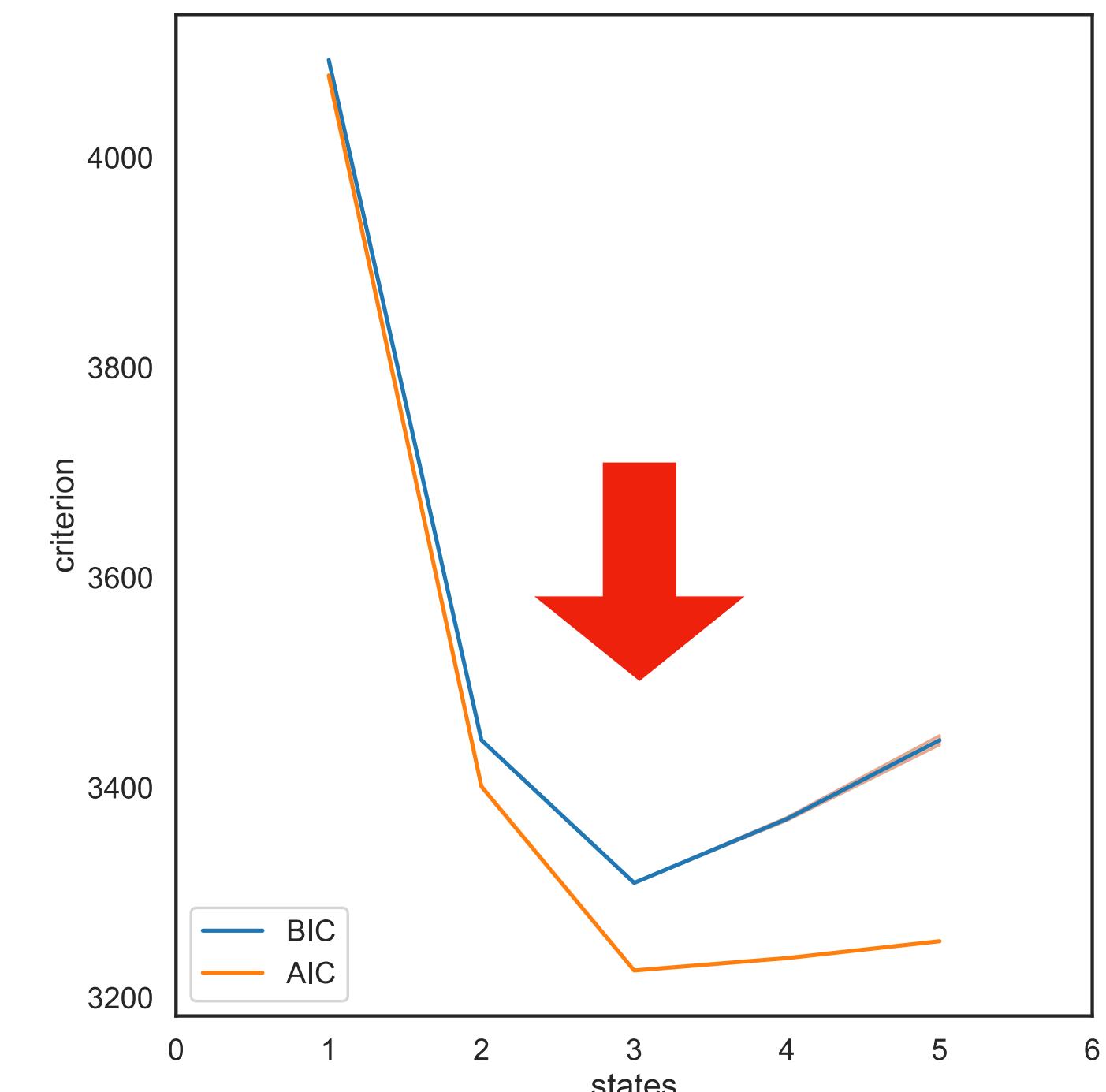
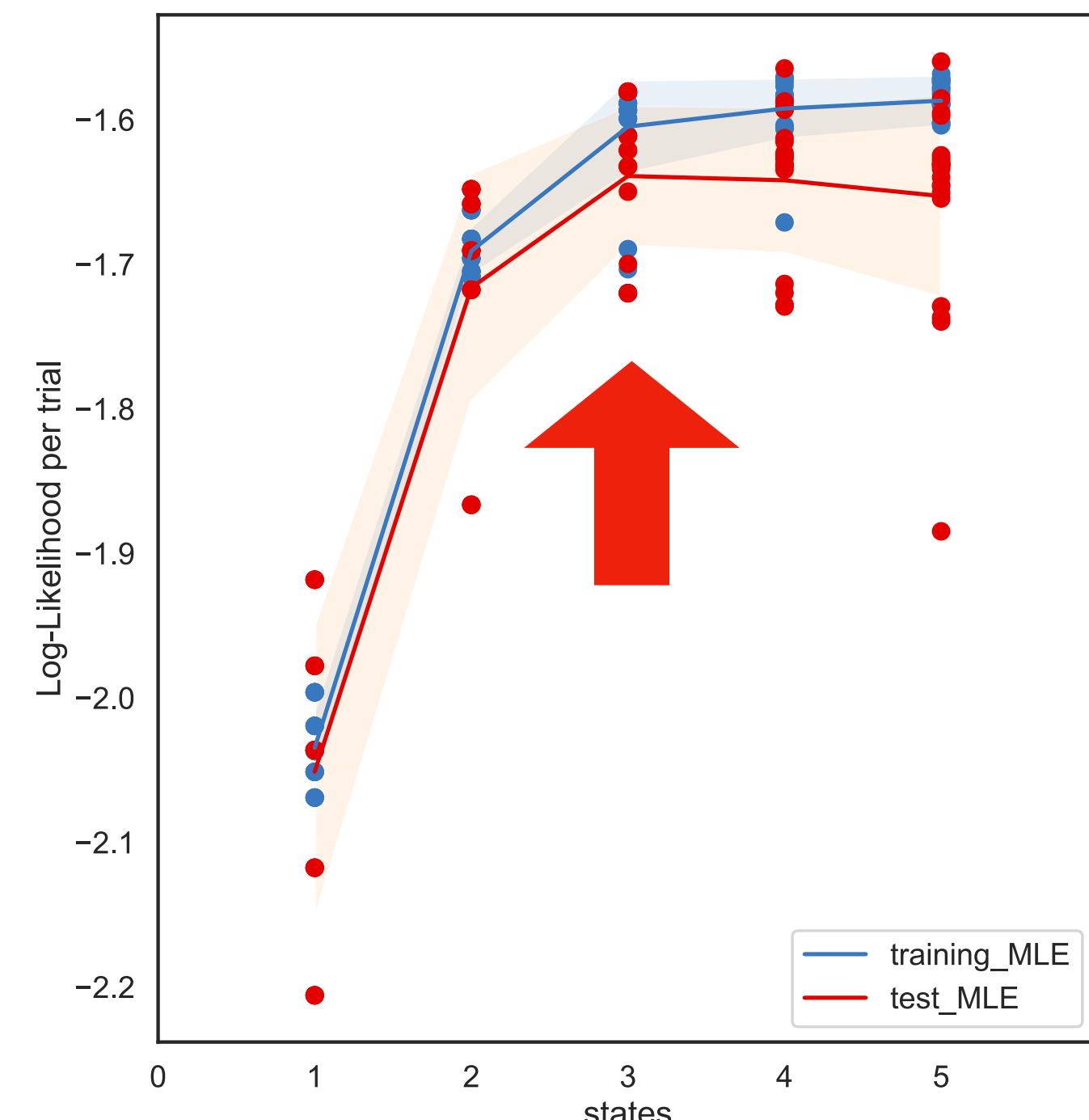
Initial probabilities: $\pi_k = p(z_0 = k)$

Penalize fit by # of parameters P:

$$BIC = -2*LL + P*log(T)$$

$$AIC = -2(LL + 2*P)$$

$$P = K(K-1) + K-1 + K*n*(m+1) + K*n$$



References

- State space model packages
 - <https://github.com/lindermanlab/ssm>
 - <https://github.com/mazzulab/ssm>
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 - Wiltschko, Alexander B., et al. "Mapping sub-second structure in mouse behavior." (2015).
 - Findley, Teresa M., et al. "Sniff-synchronized, gradient-guided olfactory search by freely moving mice." (2021).
- Decision Making
 - Ashwood, Zoe C., et al. "Mice alternate between discrete strategies during perceptual decision-making." (2022).
 - Cazettes, Fanny, et al. "A reservoir of foraging decision variables in the mouse brain." (2023).

