



南方科技大学  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# Machine Learning and NeuroEngineering

## 机器学习与神经工程

Lecture 3 – Random-walk model for decision making

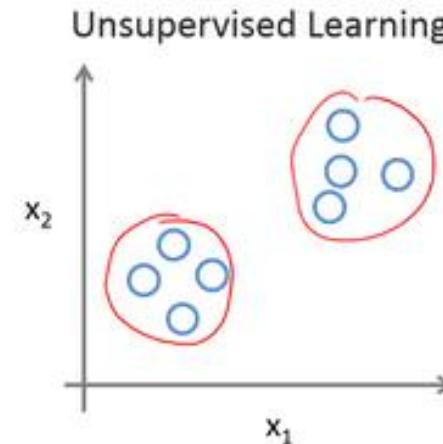
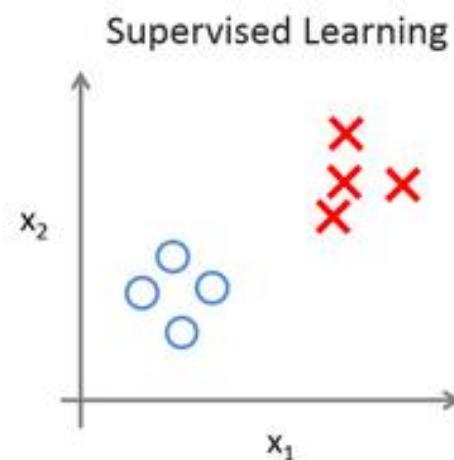
**Quanying Liu (刘泉影)**

SUSTech, BME department

Email: [liuqy@sustech.edu.cn](mailto:liuqy@sustech.edu.cn)

# Lecture 2 Recap

1. Artificial intelligence > Machine learning > Deep learning
2. Supervised & Unsupervised & Semi-supervised learning



# Lecture 2 Recap

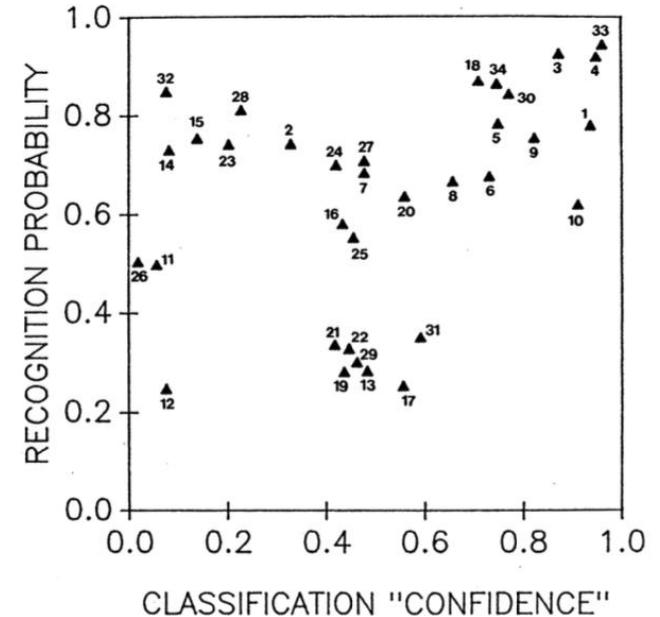
1. Artificial intelligence > Machine learning > Deep learning
2. Supervised & Unsupervised & Semi-supervised learning
3. Why do we need model? (The 4 points)
  - 1) Data never speak for themselves. It requires a model to be understood and to be explained.
  - 2) Verbal theorizing alone ultimately cannot substitute for quantitative analysis.
  - 3) There are always several alternative models that vie for explanation of data and we must select among them.
  - 4) Model selection rests on both **quantitative evaluation** and **intellectual and scholarly judgment**.

# Lecture 2 Recap

1. Artificial intelligence > Machine learning > Deep learning
2. Supervised & Unsupervised & Semi-supervised learning
3. Why do we need model? (The 4 points)
4. Generalized Context Model

**Models** to study relationship:

- Correlation
- Linear regression
- Fitting a specific function
- Regression with neural network
- ...



# GCM: Step-by-step

$x_{i k}$

i: the index of face

k: the index of the feature

1. The **distance** between two faces (i&j):

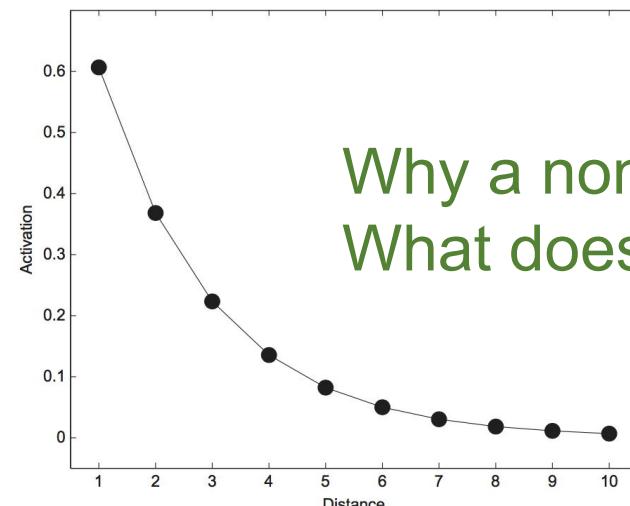
$$d_{ij} = \left( \sum_{k=1}^K |x_{ik} - x_{jk}|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

2. The **similarity** between two faces:

$$s_{ij} = \exp(-c \cdot d_{ij})$$

3. **Response probabilities** (to choose category A)

$$P(R_i = A|i) = \frac{\left( \sum_{j \in A} s_{ij} \right)}{\left( \sum_{j \in A} s_{ij} \right) + \left( \sum_{j \in B} s_{ij} \right)}$$

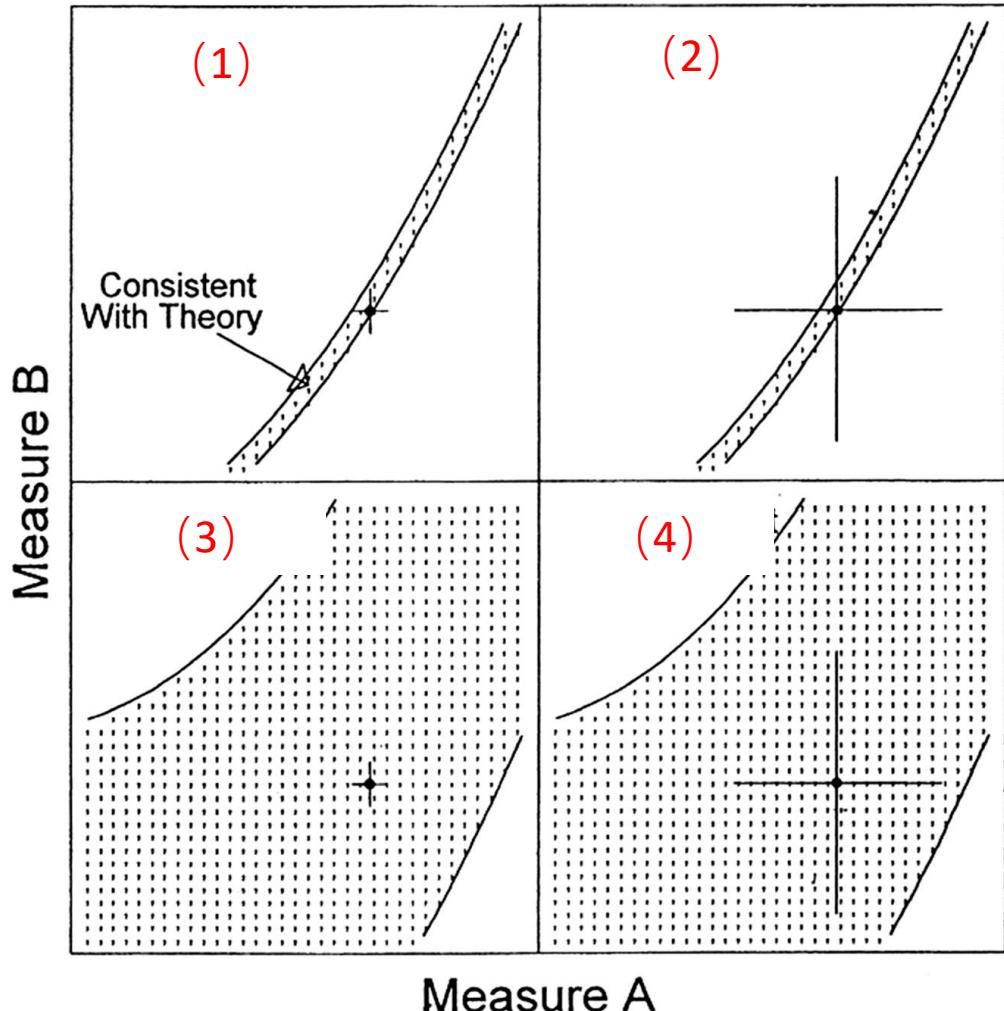


Why a nonlinear function?  
What does it mean?

# Lecture 2 Recap

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3. Why do we need model? (The 4 points)
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5. Scope and Falsifiability

# Scope and Falsifiability



## 4 models:

The shadowed region is the zone of prediction from model.

The dot with error bar is the real data.

The real data supports **which model** the most?

(1)

Which two have better quality of data?

(1 and 3)

# Lecture 3

1. A 2-choice decision making task
2. Random-walk model
3. R and RStudio
4. Implement Random-walk model with R
  - simulate data with random-walk model
  - explore the predictions of model
5. Trial-to-Trial Variability in the Random-Walk Model
6. Connecting model and data

# Let's do a cognitive task.

Please stare at the cross ‘+’ in the center of the monitor.

When the cross disappear, please Press the keyboard:  
‘**f**’(left) when you see more ‘\’     ‘**j**’(right) when you see more ‘/’

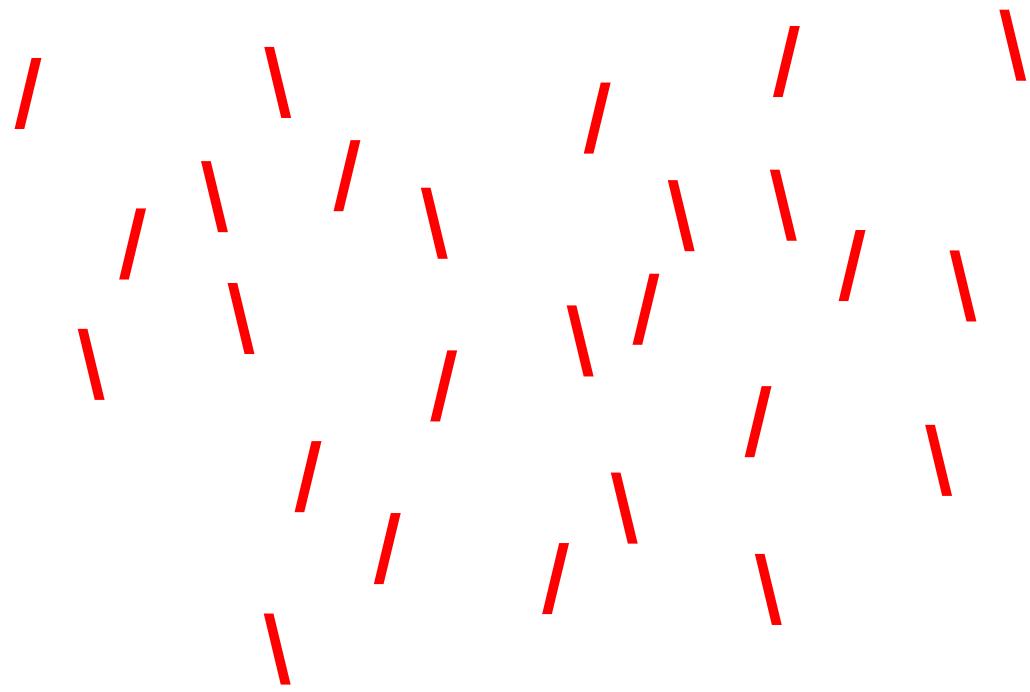
You have to do it as **soon** as the ‘+’ disappears as possible,  
and as **correct** as possible.

**Let's start the task.**

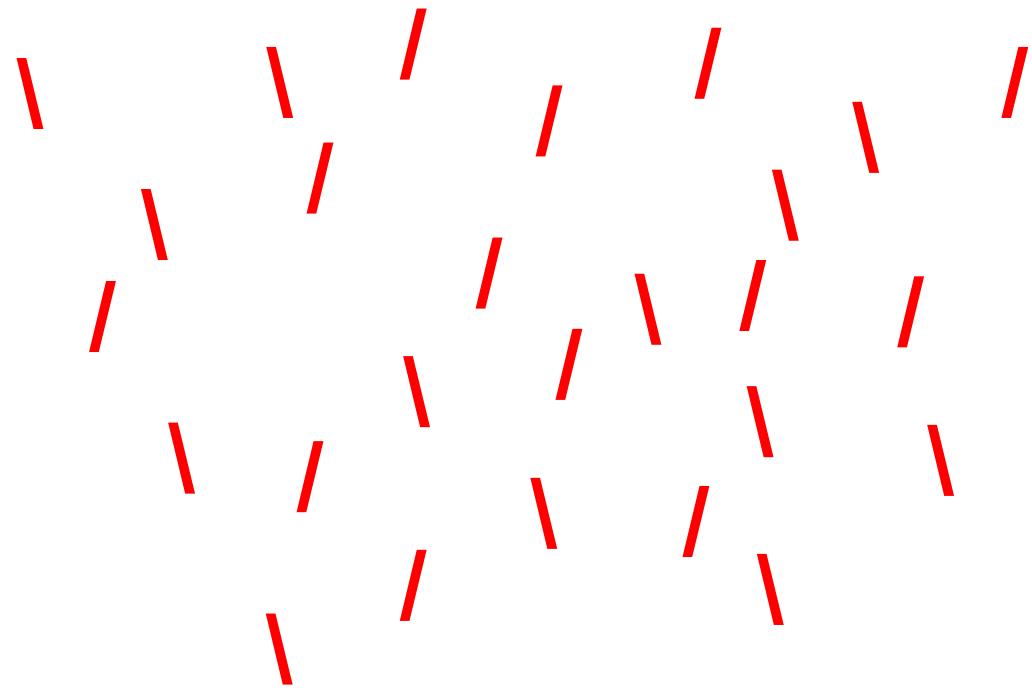
+



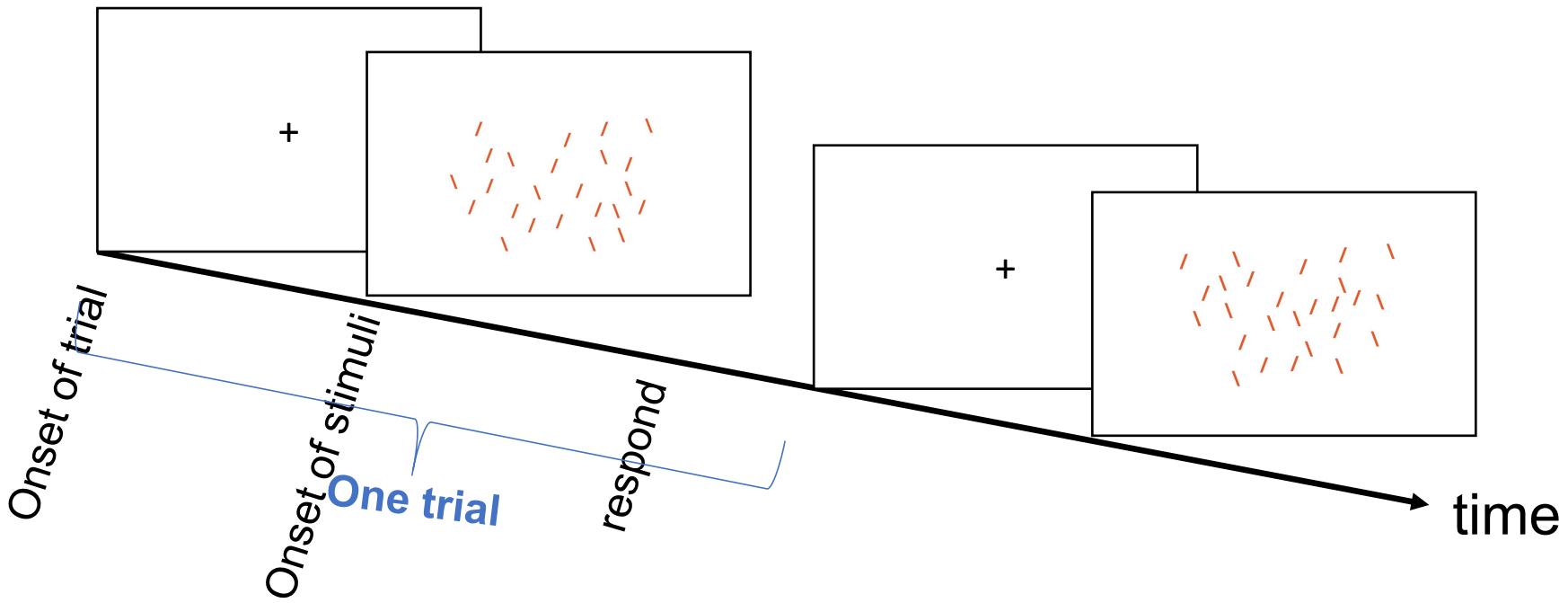
+



+



OK. To be short we finish the task now. But in the real cognitive experiment, we would do it hundreds of times.



We will record:

**response time** (onset of stimuli → you response to the stimuli)

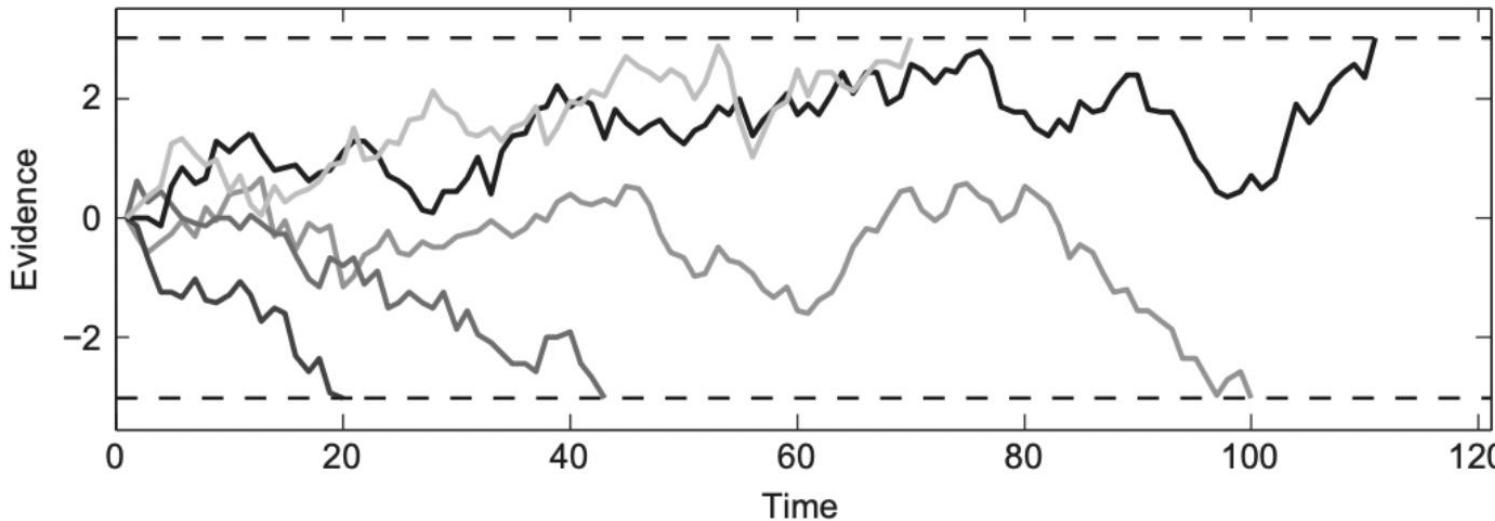
**accuracy** (whether your response is correctly)

# Random-walk model

## Assumption:

When a stimulus is presented, **not** all information is available to the decision maker instantaneously.

Instead, people **gradually build up the evidence** required to make a decision.

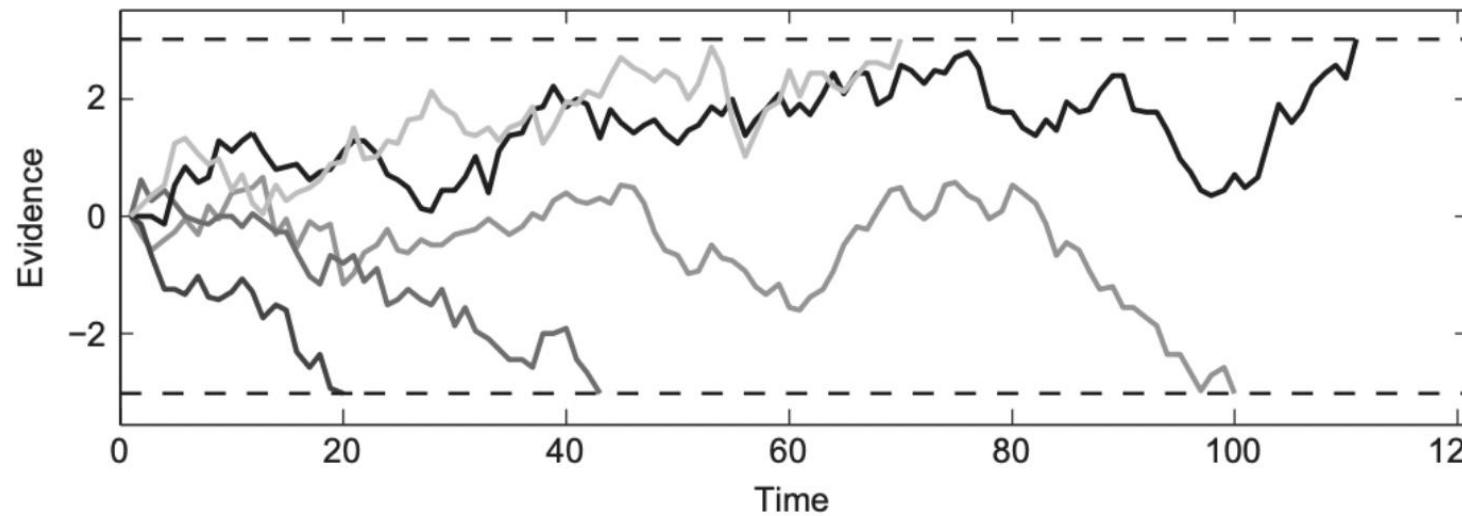


Evidence is accumulated with time (sample steps).

**Drift:** the evidence from one sample step.

When the number of / and \ is equivalent.

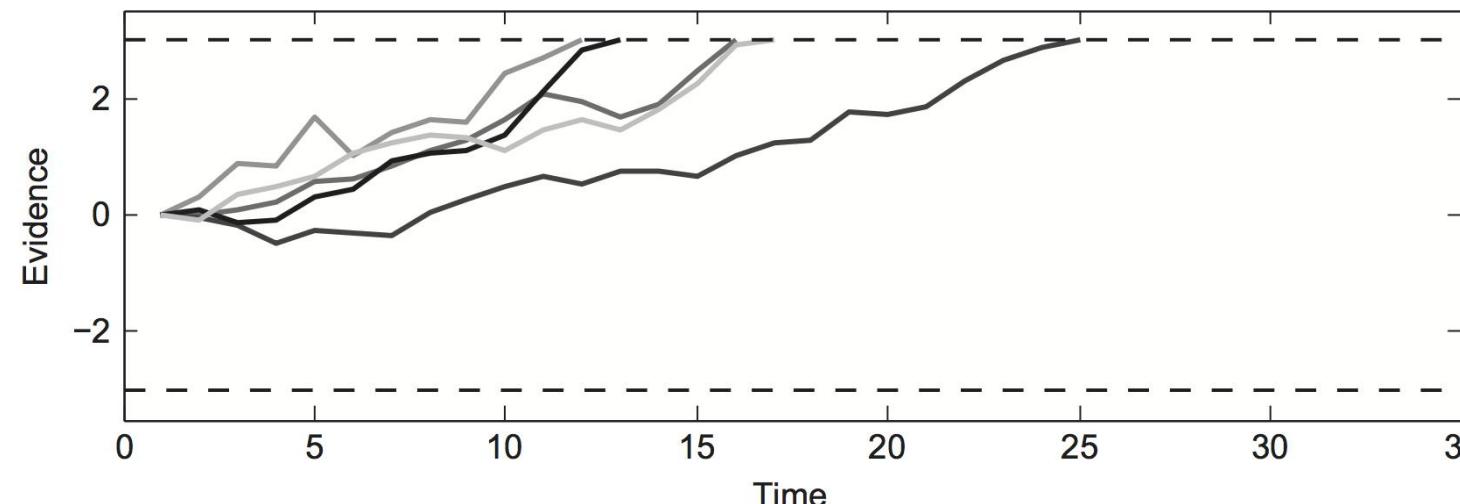
When the stimulus are **non-informative**, the probability to left and right is equal.



drift rate = 0

Do you take **similar** time to make decisions for left and right?  
1(yes) or 2(no)

When the stimulus are **informative**, it favors one direction.



drift rate = 0.2

Does it take **less** time for the up boundary, compared to the bottom boundary? 1(yes) or 2(no)

# R and RStudio

R is ‘GNU S’, a **freely** available language and environment for statistical computing and graphics.

It provides a wide variety of statistical and graphical techniques:  
linear and nonlinear modelling, statistical tests, time series analysis,  
classification, clustering, etc.

It is cross-platform, suitable for Windows, Mac, and Linux.

Download and install R: <http://cran.r-project.org/>

RStudio (a **free** interface for R programming):

Download RStudio: [www.rstudio.com/](http://www.rstudio.com/)

# Implement random-walk model with R

```
# random-walk model
nreps <- 10000      # number of trials
nsamples <- 2000    # samples to collect evidence for each decision

drift <- 0.0          # noninformative stimulus
sdrw <- 0.3           # s.t.d in the evidence
criterion <- 3        # distance between boundary and baseline

latencies <- rep (0, nreps) # a vector to store the simulated response latencies
responses <- rep (0, nreps) # a vector to store the simulated responses
evidence <- matrix (0, nreps, nsamples+1) # a matrix to store the evidence for each response

for (i in c(1:nreps)) {
  evidence[i ,] <- cumsum ( c ( 0 , rnorm(nsamples , drift , sdrw) ) )      Draw samples from a normal distribution
  p <- which ( abs (evidence[i, ] )>criterion) [1] # find the first evidence bigger than criterion
  responses[i] <- sign (evidence[i,p])   # responses: positive (left) or negative (right)
  latencies[i] <- p }                      # response latency
```

# Plot the simulated data

```
## plot up to 5 random-walk paths
tbpn <- min(nreps, 5)
plot(1:max(latencies[1:tbpn])+10,type='n',las = 1,
      ylim = c(-criterion, criterion),
      ylab = 'Evidence', xlab='Decision time')
for (i in c(1:tbpn)){
  lines(evidence[i, 1:(latencies[i])])
}
abline(h=c(criterion, -criterion), lty='dashed')
```

```
## plot histograms of latencies
par(mfrow=c(2 , 1))
toprt <- latencies[responses>0]
topprop <- length(toprt)/nreps
hist(toprt, col='gray',
      xlab='Decision time', xlim=c(0,max(latencies)),
      main=paste('Top responses (',
      as.numeric(topprop),')m=',
      as.character(signif(mean(toprt),4)),
      sep=""),las=1)
botrt <- latencies[responses<0]
botprop <- length(botrt)/nreps
hist(botrt, col='gray',
      xlab='Decision time', xlim = c(0, max(latencies)),
      main=paste ('Bottom responses (', as.numeric
      (botprop), ' ) m= ', as.character(signif(mean(botrt),4)) ))
```

# Trial-to-trial variability

Trial-to-trial variability refers to changes in the values of parameters between different simulated trials.

It is based on the physical and psychological circumstances in an experiment **do not remain invariant**.

- Stimuli are encoded better or worse by our brain.
- We pay more or less attention.
- **Mistakes:** start the decision process before the stimulus is presented...

**Variability in the **starting value** of the random walk**

**Variability in the **drift rate****

# Trial-to-Trial Variability in the drift rate

```
#random walk model with unequal latencies between responses classes
nreps <- 1000
nsamples <- 2000
drift <- 0.03 # 0 = noninformative stimulus; >0 = informative
sdrw <- 0.3
criterion <- 3
t2tsd <- c(0.0, 0.025) # trial-to-trial s.d.

latencies <- rep(0,nreps)
responses <- rep(0,nreps)
evidence <- matrix(0, nreps, nsamples+1)

for (i in c(1:nreps)) {
  sp <- rnorm(1, 0.5, t2tsd[1]) # sampling starting point: mean = 0, std = 0
  dr <- rnorm(1, drift, t2tsd[2]) # sampling drift rate: mean = drift, std = 0.025
  evidence[i,] <- cumsum(c(sp, rnorm(nsamples, dr, sdrw)))
  p <- which(abs(evidence[i,])>criterion)[1]
  responses[i] <- sign(evidence[i,p])
  latencies[i] <- p }
```

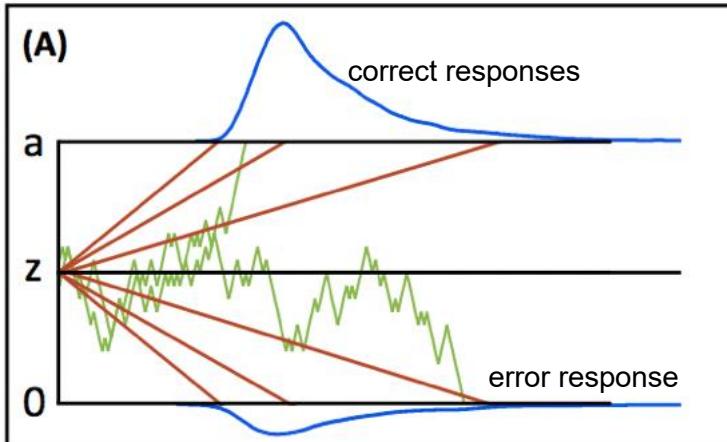
1 longer  
2 shorter

Assuming both the starting point and drift rate are Gaussian distribution.

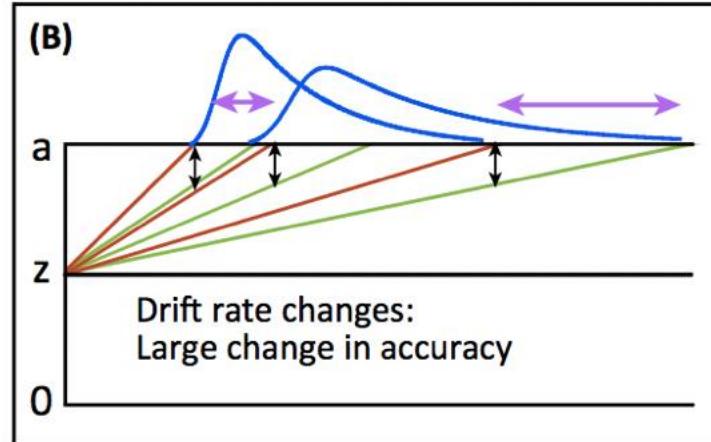
# Drift-diffusion models

The parameters of the model are boundary separation ( $a$ ), starting point ( $z$ ), drift rate ( $v$ , one of each condition), nondecision time ( $\text{Ter}$ ),

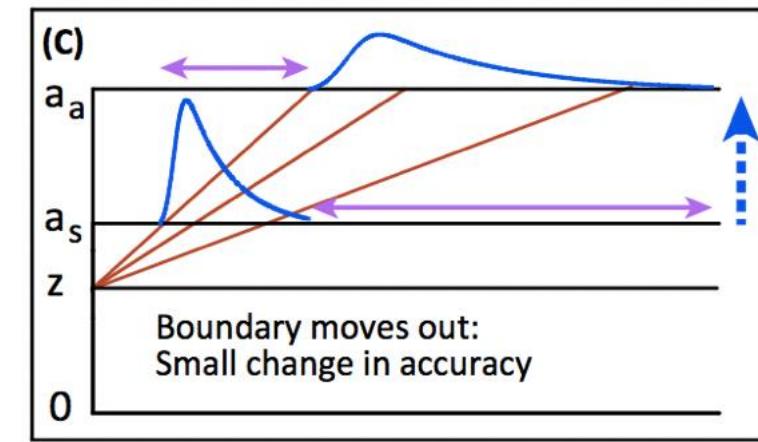
Two simulated paths in the diffusion model



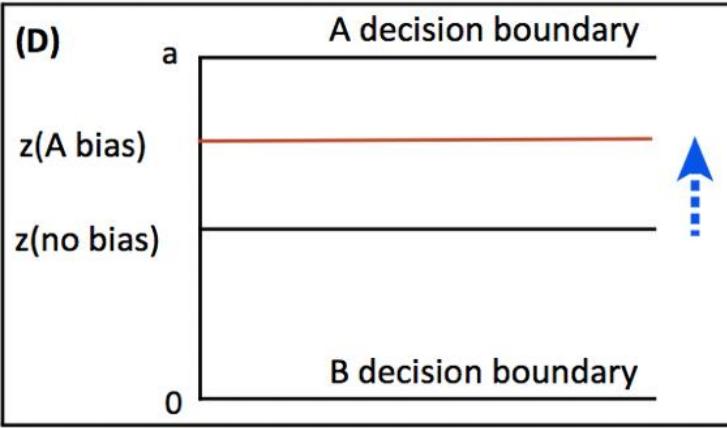
Effects of lowering drift rate by a fixed amount



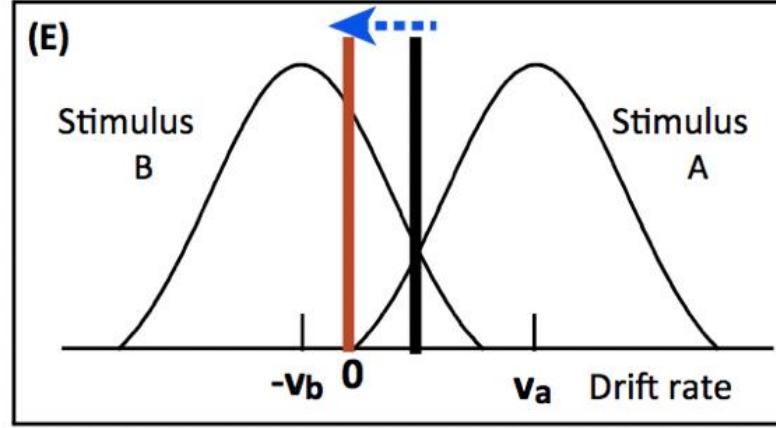
Effects of moving a boundary away



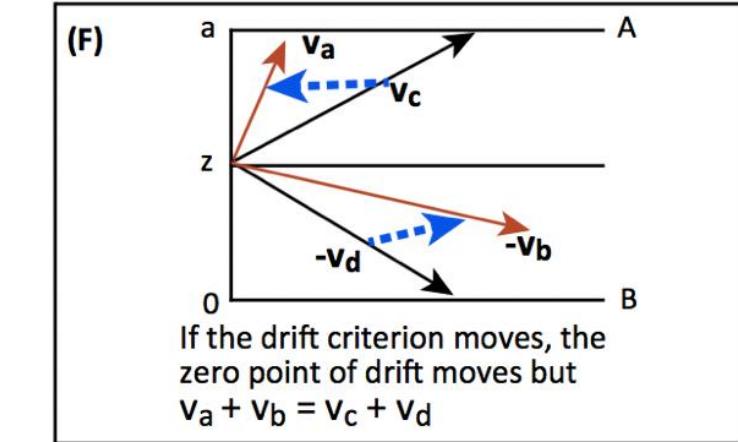
Change in the starting point (RT effect as C)



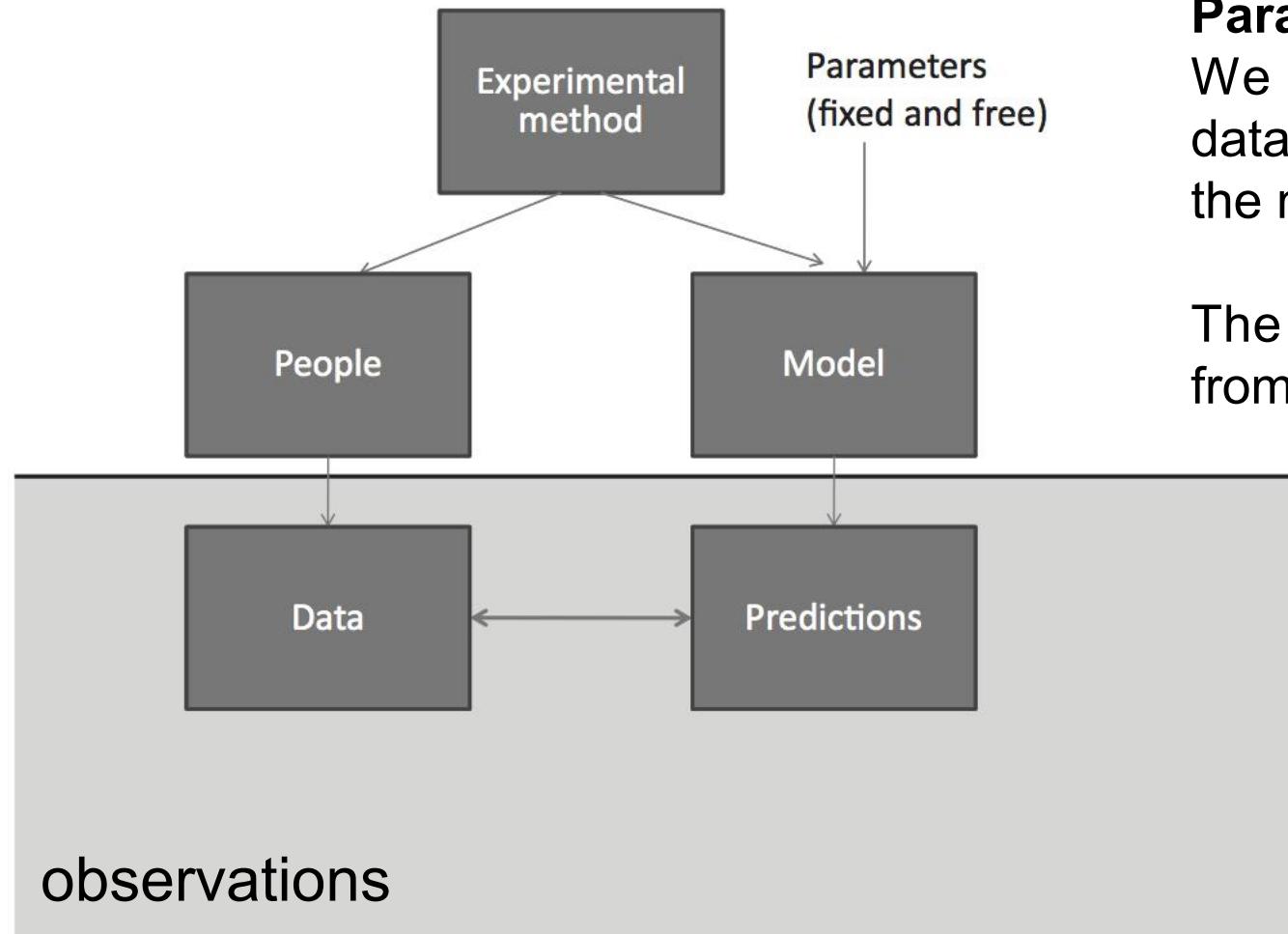
Bias towards A by changing the zero point of drift rate



Effects of (E)



# Connecting Model and Data



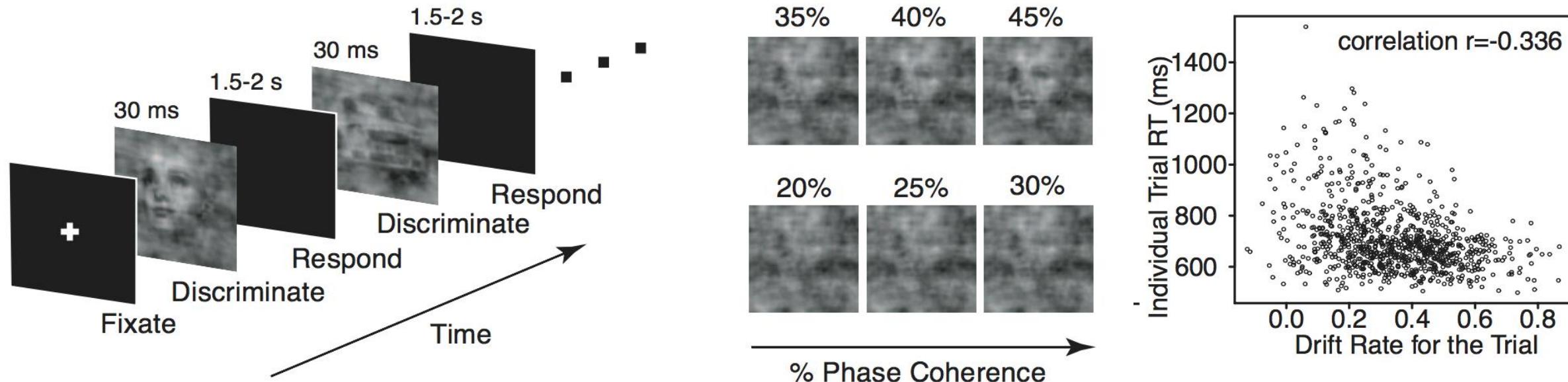
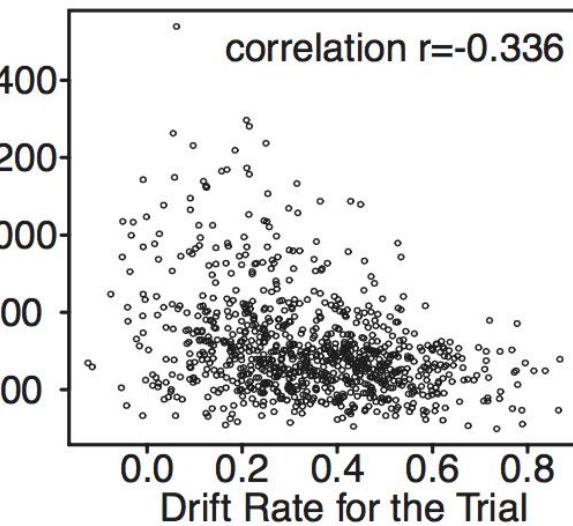
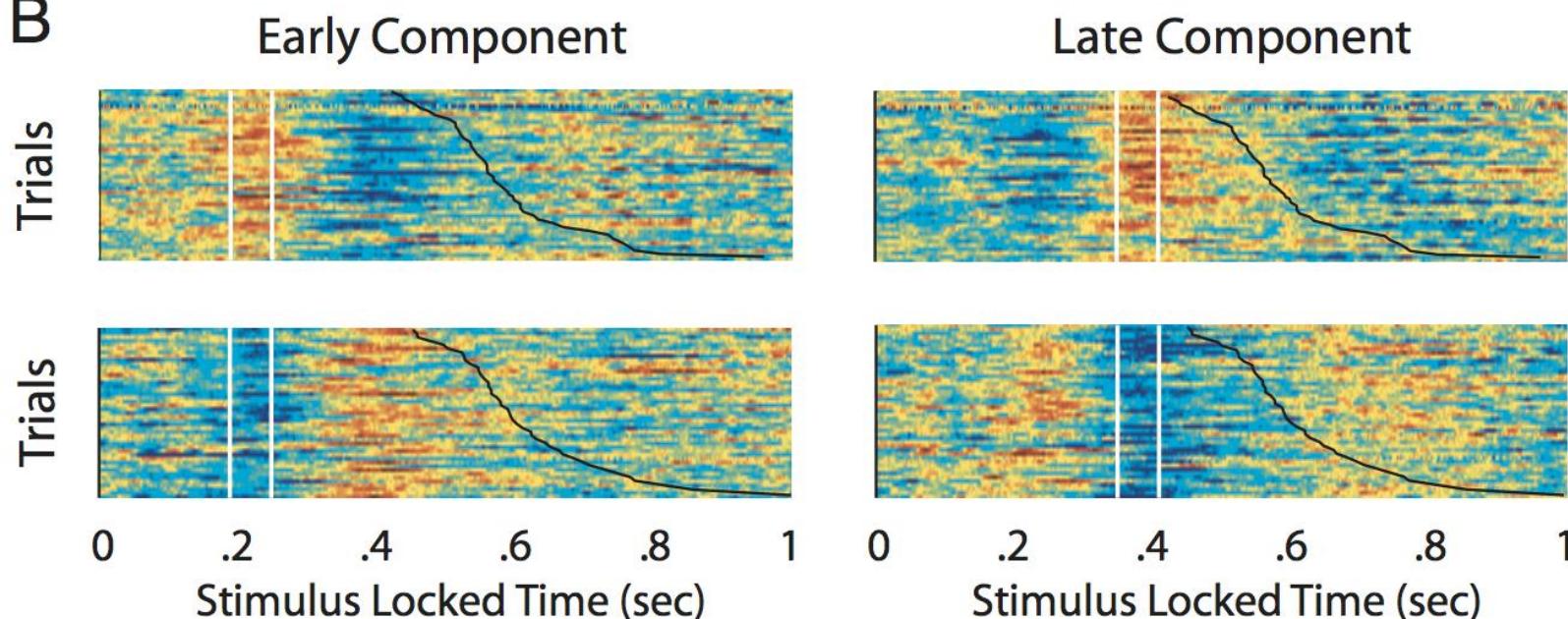
## Parameters: free & fixed

We estimate the **free parameters** from the data, by finding those values that maximally **fit** the model's predictions with the data.

The **fixed parameters**, that are not estimated from the data, are **invariant** across datasets.

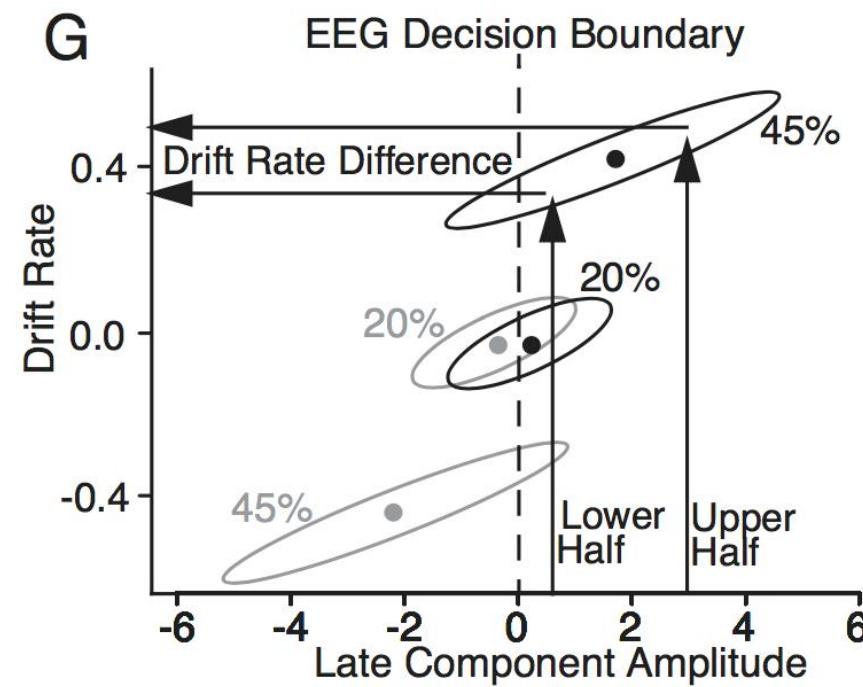
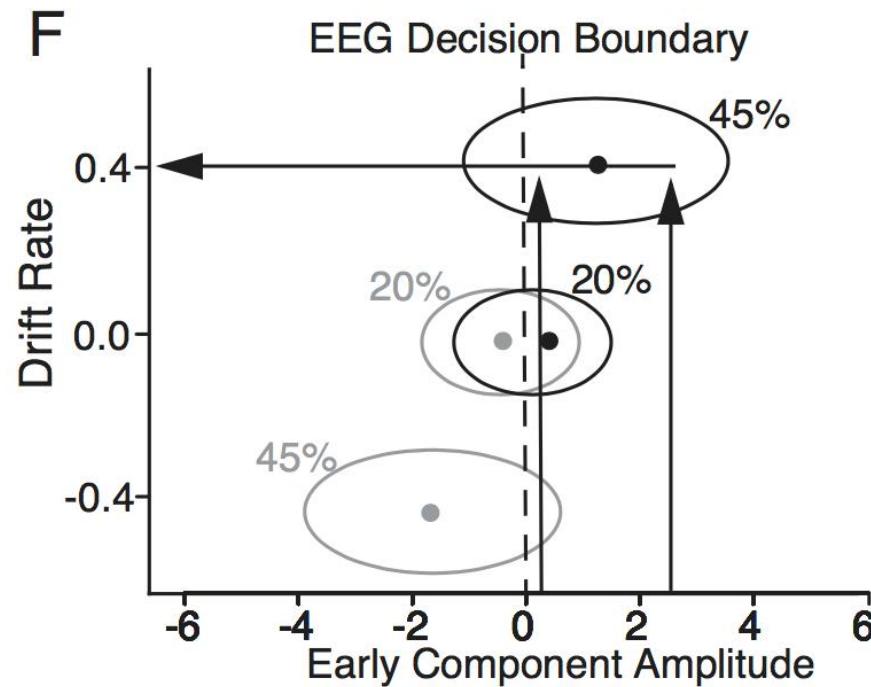
# How to estimate free parameters?

We will introduce **the principles of parameter estimation** next lecture.

**A****B**

Fit the EEG amplitude and drift rate with **Bivariate Gaussian distributions**.

$$f(x, y) = \left(2\pi\sigma_1\sigma_2\sqrt{1-\rho^2}\right)^{-1} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2(1-\rho^2)}\left(\frac{(x-\mu_1)^2}{\sigma_1^2} - \frac{2\rho(x-\mu_1)(y-\mu_2)}{\sigma_1\sigma_2} + \frac{(y-\mu_2)^2}{\sigma_2^2}\right)\right]$$



Which one is associated with the drift rate?

1 (the early component of EEG) or 2 (late component of EEG)

# Summary of Lecture 3

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# Recommended materials

## Textbook

- Computational Modeling of Cognition and Behavior, Chapter 2

Must read.

## Research Paper

- Roger Ratcliff, Marios G. Philiastides, and Paul Sajd. (2009), Quality of evidence for perceptual decision making is indexed by trial-to-trial variability of the EEG, PNAS
  - Must read. Good for you to understand how to use models.
- Roger Ratcliff, Philip L. Smith, Scott D. Brown, and Gail McKoon (2016), Diffusion Decision Model: Current Issues and History, Trends in Cognitive Science
  - Not obliged. For fun.

# Homework 1

Implement the task with Python (可以用PyGame)

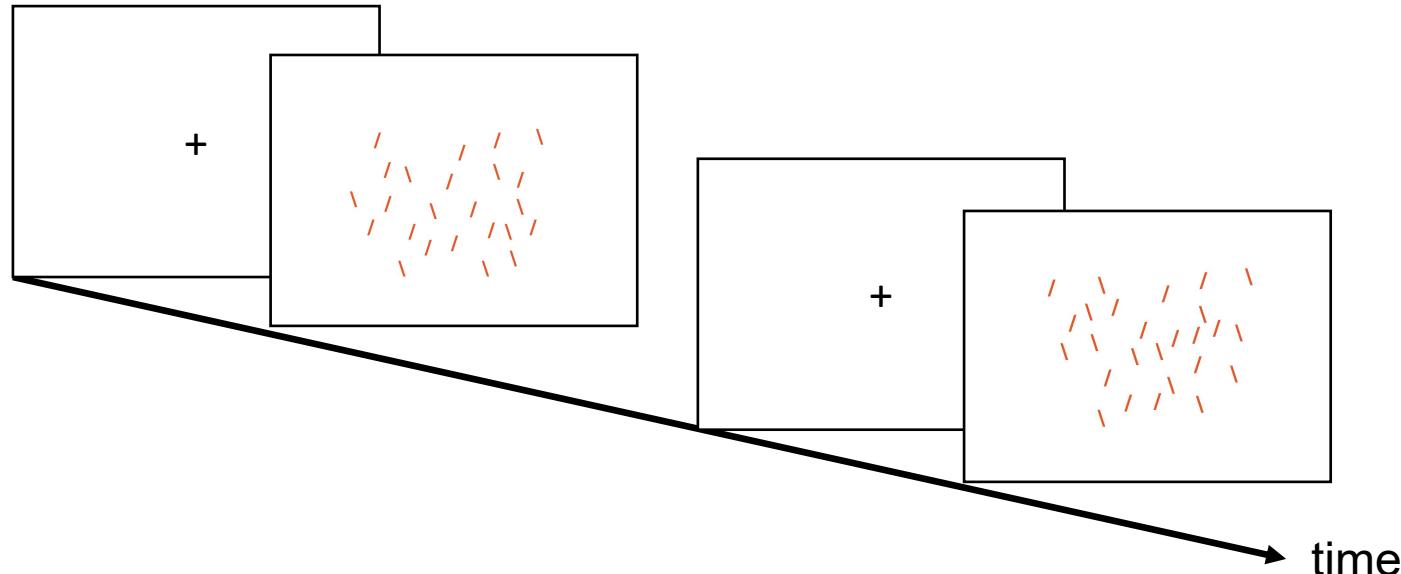
DDL: March 8, 2021

(上课前, 把code发邮件给曲由之quyz@mail.sustech.edu.cn, 课上抽查)

## Requirements

1. **60 trials in total**
2. The **number** of \ and / is sampled from a uniform distribution [20, 40] and cannot be equal.
3. Randomize the **locations** of \ and /
4. **Record the following information**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1) Subject ID              | 5) The number of \ in a trial             |
| 2) Trial ID                | 6) The number of / in a trial             |
| 3) Time: onset of stimulus | 7) The response: left or right            |
| 4) Time: response is made  | 8) Response time: time in 4) – time in 3) |



Tip: An example on YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6xMBig-pP4>

Some code is available at github

输出到一个csv文件  
一行就是一个trial的信息  
每一行有8列

# Quiz

1 or 2

When we are under time pressure,  
the error responses are **faster** than correct responses?

**1 (yes) or 2 (no)**

**1**

The error responses are always **faster** than correct responses?

**1 (yes) or 2 (no)**

**2**

when the task is difficult and no time pressure

When we made **fast** errors, the drift rates of error responses are **bigger** than the drift rates of correct responses?

1 (yes) or 2 (no)

2  
lower starting point

Learning will increase the drift rate, shift the starting point and the boundary.

**1 (yes) or 2 (no)**

**I am not sure. We need study it.**