

# *From stimulus to choice:* Modeling decision-making and feedback effects in mice

## ***Choice Dynamics Investigators (CDI)***

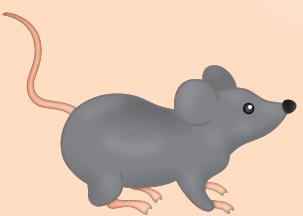
David Ademola, Kedar Waychal

Aitana Grasso Cladera,

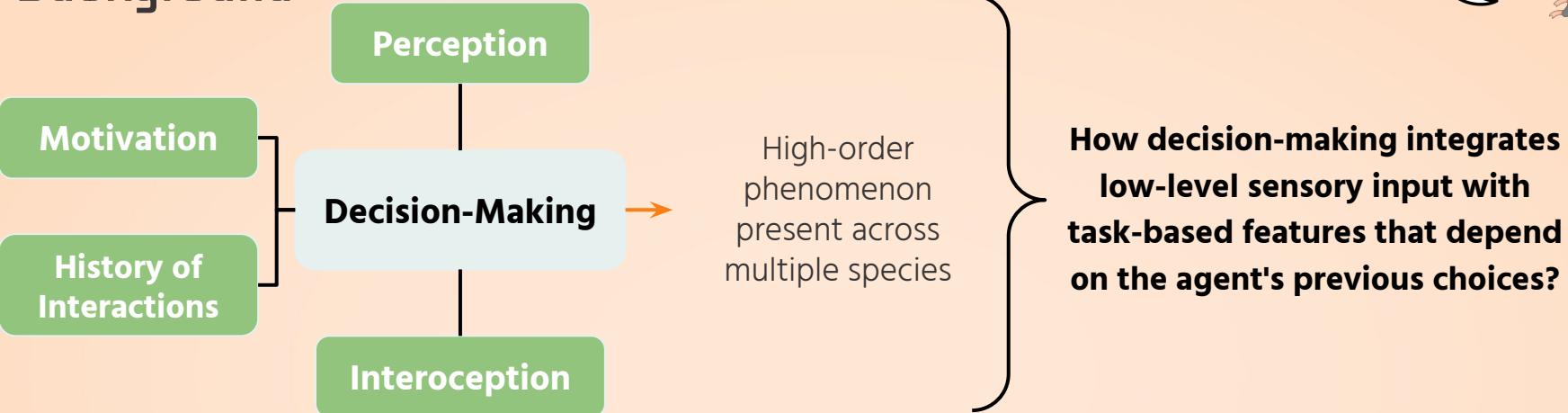
Reza Samavat, Paulami Dey.

## **TAs:**

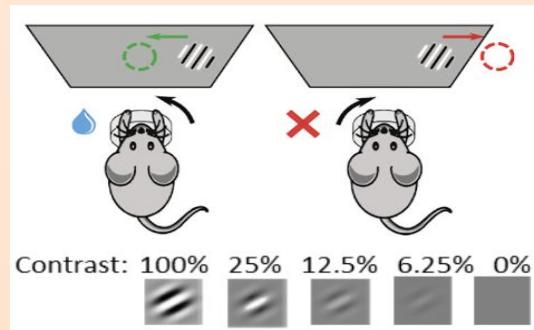
Masoumeh Golmohamadian, Faezeh Shafiei



# Background



How do you want to do it?



What do you want to do?



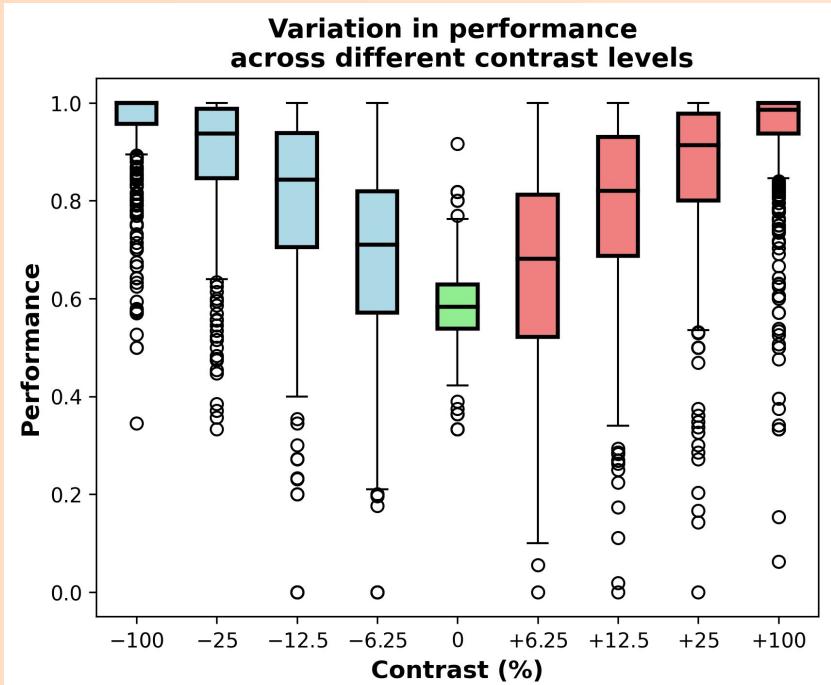
INTERNATIONAL  
BRAIN  
LABORATORY

Standardized 2-Alternative  
Forced Choice Task (2AFC)  
task with Feedback  
implemented on mice.

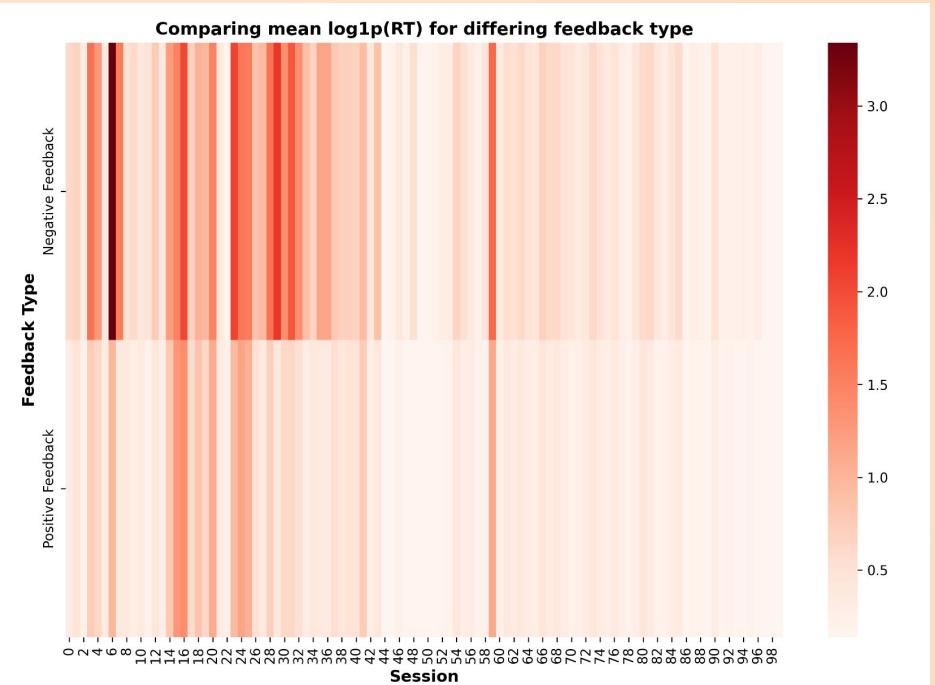
The present project seeks to understand which factors affect/influence the decision-making process in mice trained to perform a 2-Alternative Forced Choice (2AFC) task



# Background: Diving into the dataset



Performance is influenced by the contrast level and the presentation side of the stimulus: **Logistic Regression Model**

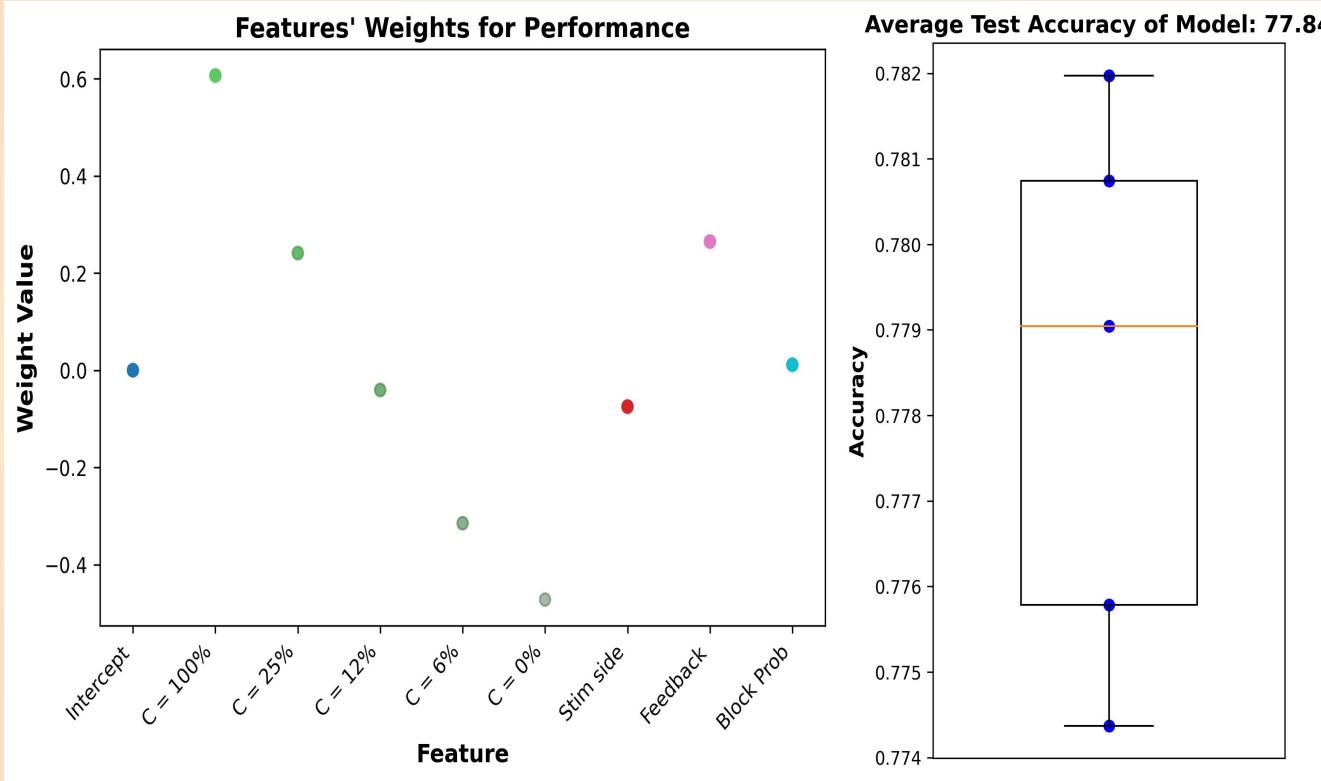


Prior history could also influence the decision in the succeeding trial, modifying learning strategies: **General Drift-Diffusion Model**

We aim to apply modeling strategies to show how decision-making integrates low-level sensory input with trial-based features that depend on the agent's previous choices

# Analysis 1: Logistic Regression Model

How was the decision made?



We see that contrast and feedback are the major features used by mice in the decision-making computation

# Analysis 2: General Drift-Diffusion Model

When was the decision made?



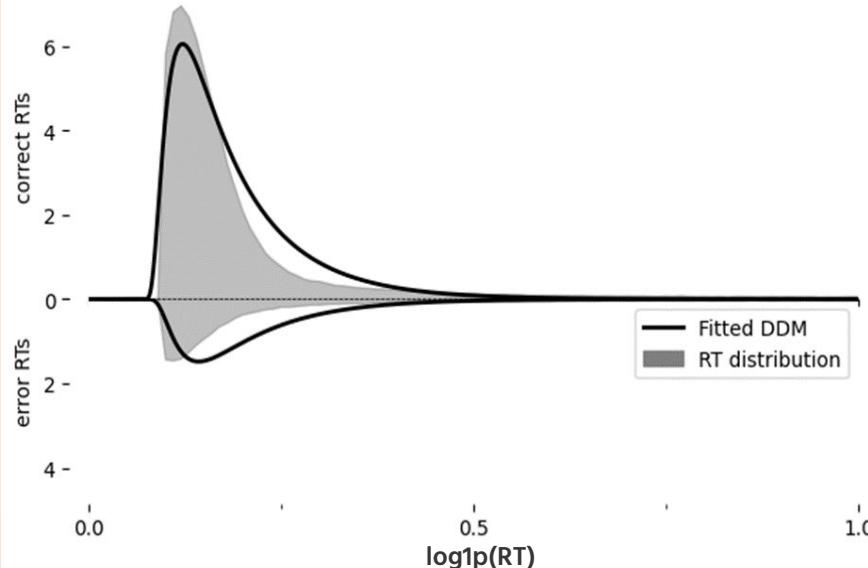
**Model 1 (static parameters)**  
Drift = 1.939  
Noise = 1, dt = 0.005 (default)  
Bound = 0.3759  
Starting position = 0.0  
Non-decision time = 0.0778  
Loss = 83843

**Model 2 (varying drift)**  
Drift = 3.6957\*feedbackType  
Noise = 1, dt = 0.005  
Bound = 0.5173  
Starting position = 0.0  
Non-decision time = 0.0631  
Loss = -13583

**Model 3 (varying drift)**  
Drift = 1.6957\*feedbackType  
Noise = 0.5, dt = 0.001  
Bound = 0.2573  
Starting position = 0.1183  
Non-decision time = 0.0656  
Loss = -17550

**Model 4 (varying drift, RT < 60)**  
Drift = 1.8170\*feedbackType  
Noise = 0.5, dt = 0.001  
Bound = 0.2506  
Starting position = 0.1034  
Non-decision time = 0.0678  
Loss = -36863

GDDM fitted to the response time (RT) distribution



We see that a feedback dependence is necessary to capture the dynamics of the decision-making process

# Conclusions

What can we conclude?



1. Preliminary analysis of the data revealed a variation in mice's performance and response time with stimuli contrast and the previous trials' feedback, respectively.
2. Through a logistic regression model, we concluded that contrast and feedback are the major features used by mice in the decision-making computation.
3. Using the drift-diffusion model, we see that a feedback dependence is necessary to capture the dynamics of the decision-making process.

The project utilized modeling to gain an understanding on how visual contrast and feedback affect the performance of mice, and how feedback affects the dynamics of decision-making

# Limitations and Future Work

Limitations now, future improvements await!



## Limitations

LRM and DDM are abstractions  
Better DDM fit

Excludes internal state, environmental context, long-term effects  
Not considering non-decision trials

Species-specific behaviors

## Future Work

Explore non-linear models (neural network, tree based models)  
Bayesian priors

### Feature Set

Neural recordings  
Low contrast trials

### Comparative Studies

Cross-subject comparisons (individual differences)

Future work should improve models and include more factors to understand decision-making better

# References



1. Standardized and reproducible measurement of decision-making in mice *eLife* 2021, **10**, e63711, <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.63711>
  
2. A practical introduction to using the drift diffusion model of decision-making in cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and health sciences. *Frontiers in Psychology* 2022, **13**, 1039172.  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.1039172>