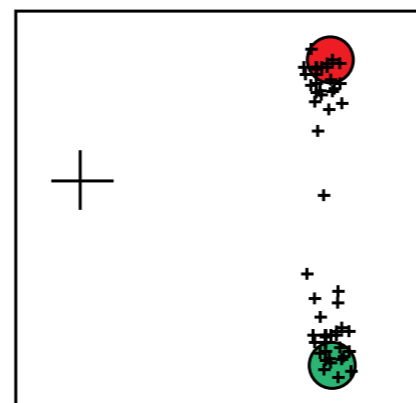
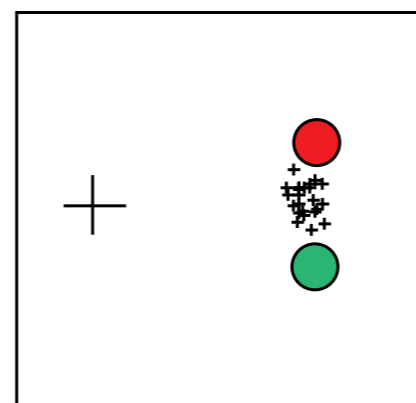


# Dynamic Field Theory: Memory

Gregor Schöner

[gregor.schoener@ini.rub.de](mailto:gregor.schoener@ini.rub.de)

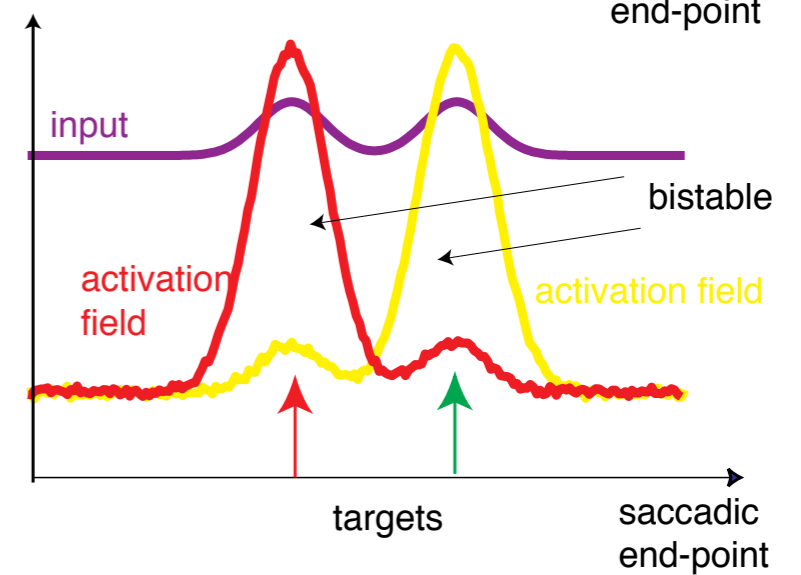
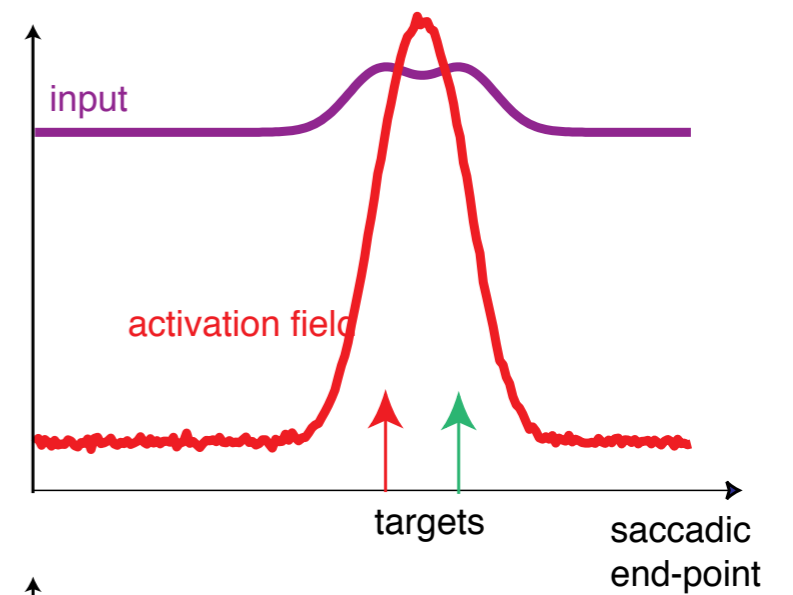
# Recall from last lecture ... selection



initial  
fixation

visual  
targets

[after: Ottes et al., Vis. Res. 25:825 (85)]



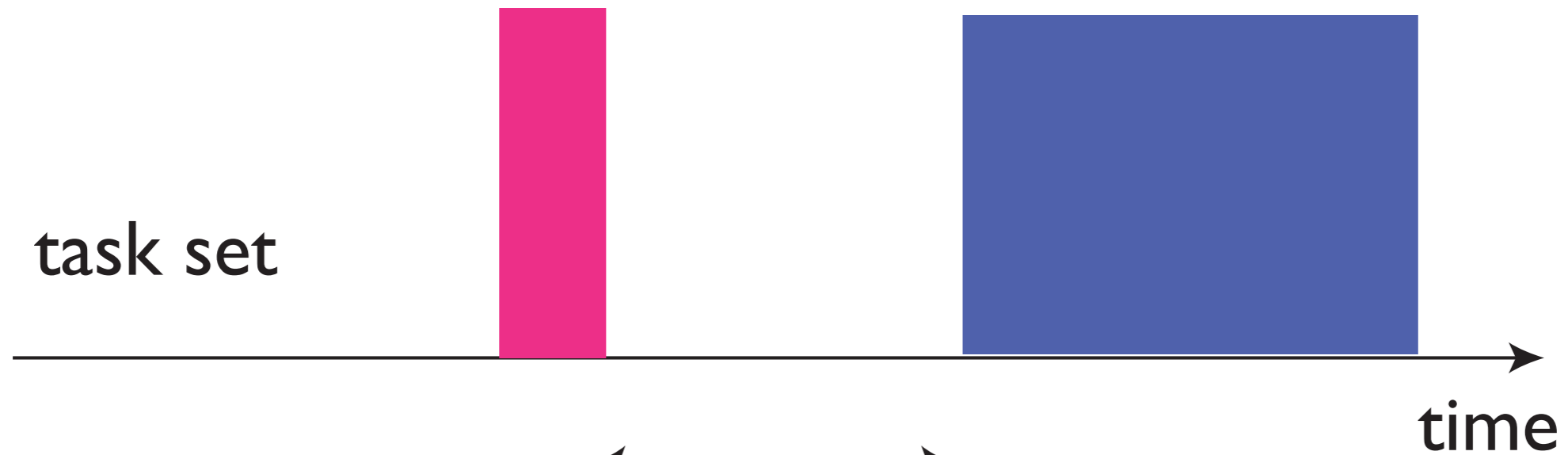
[after Kopecz, Schöner: Biol Cybern 73:49 (95)]

# reaction time (RT) paradigm

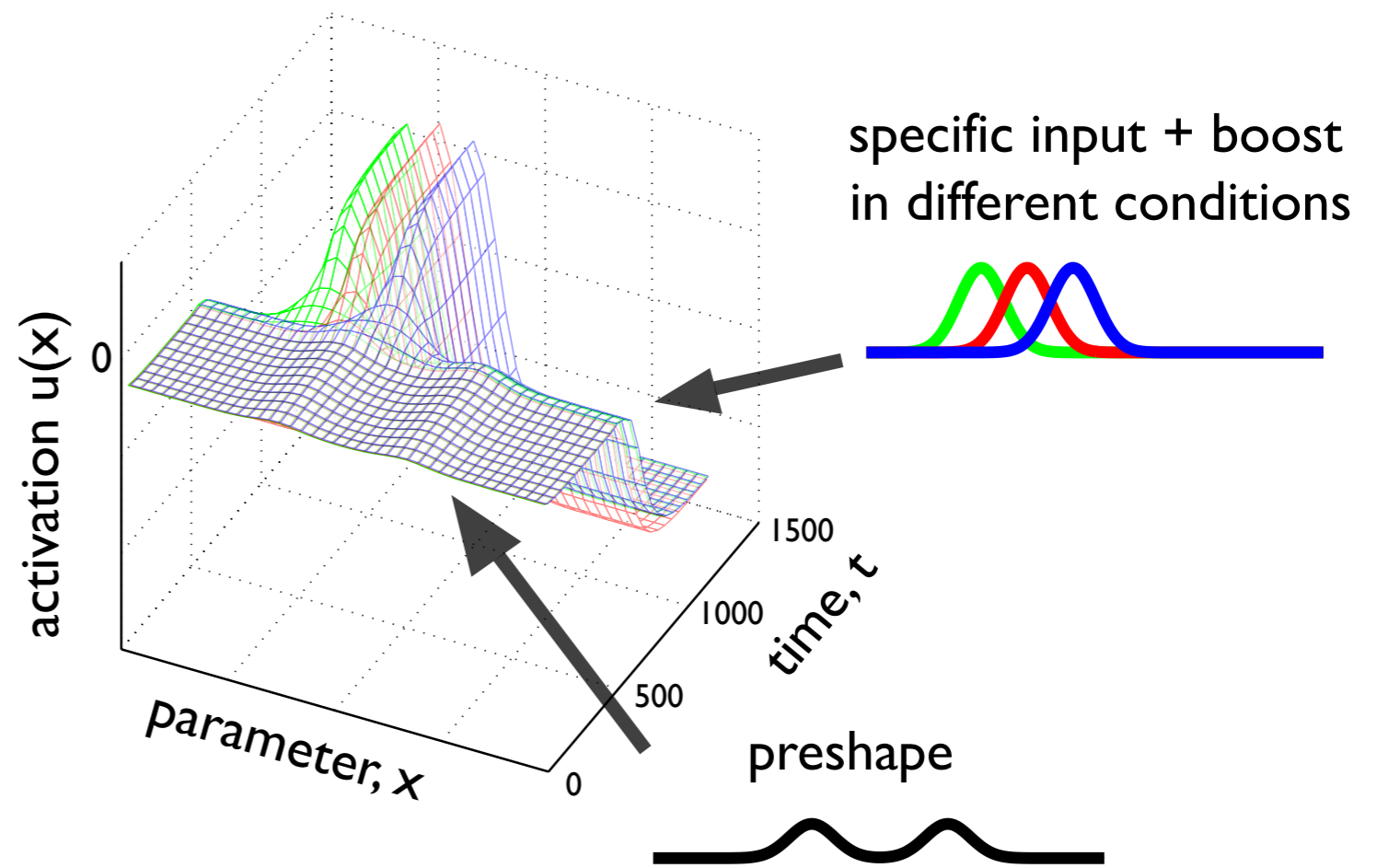
imperative  
signal=  
go signal

response

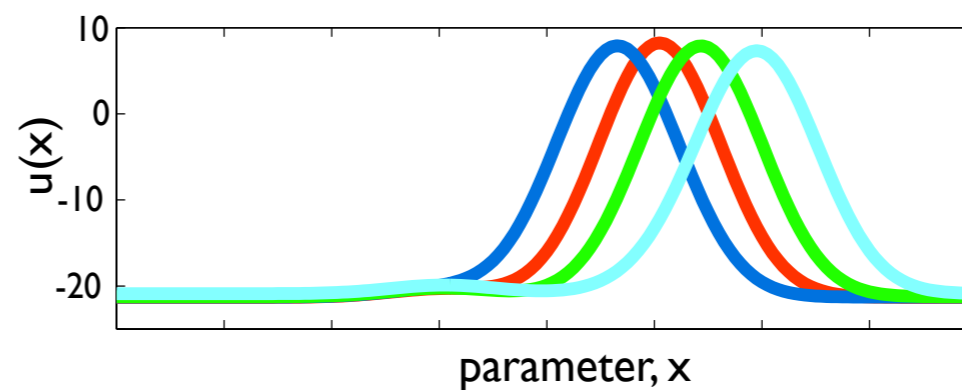
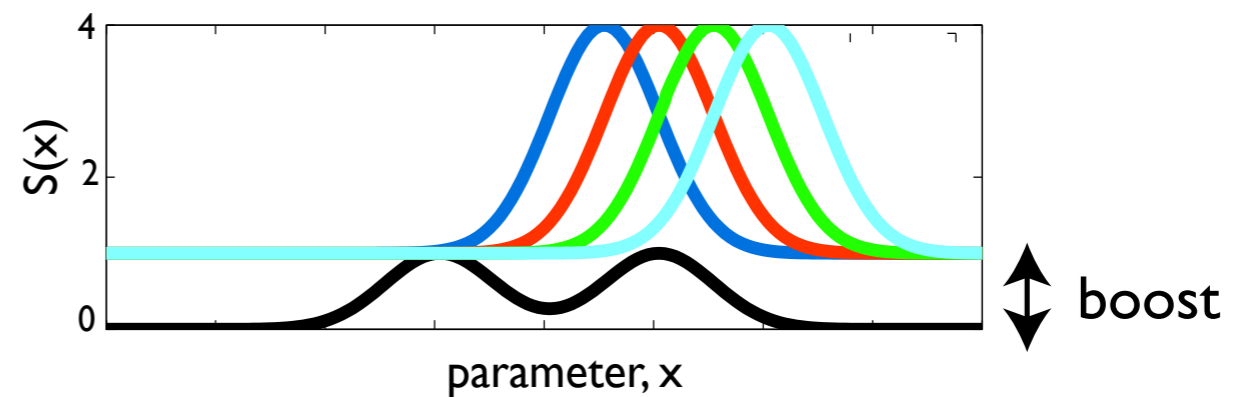
task set



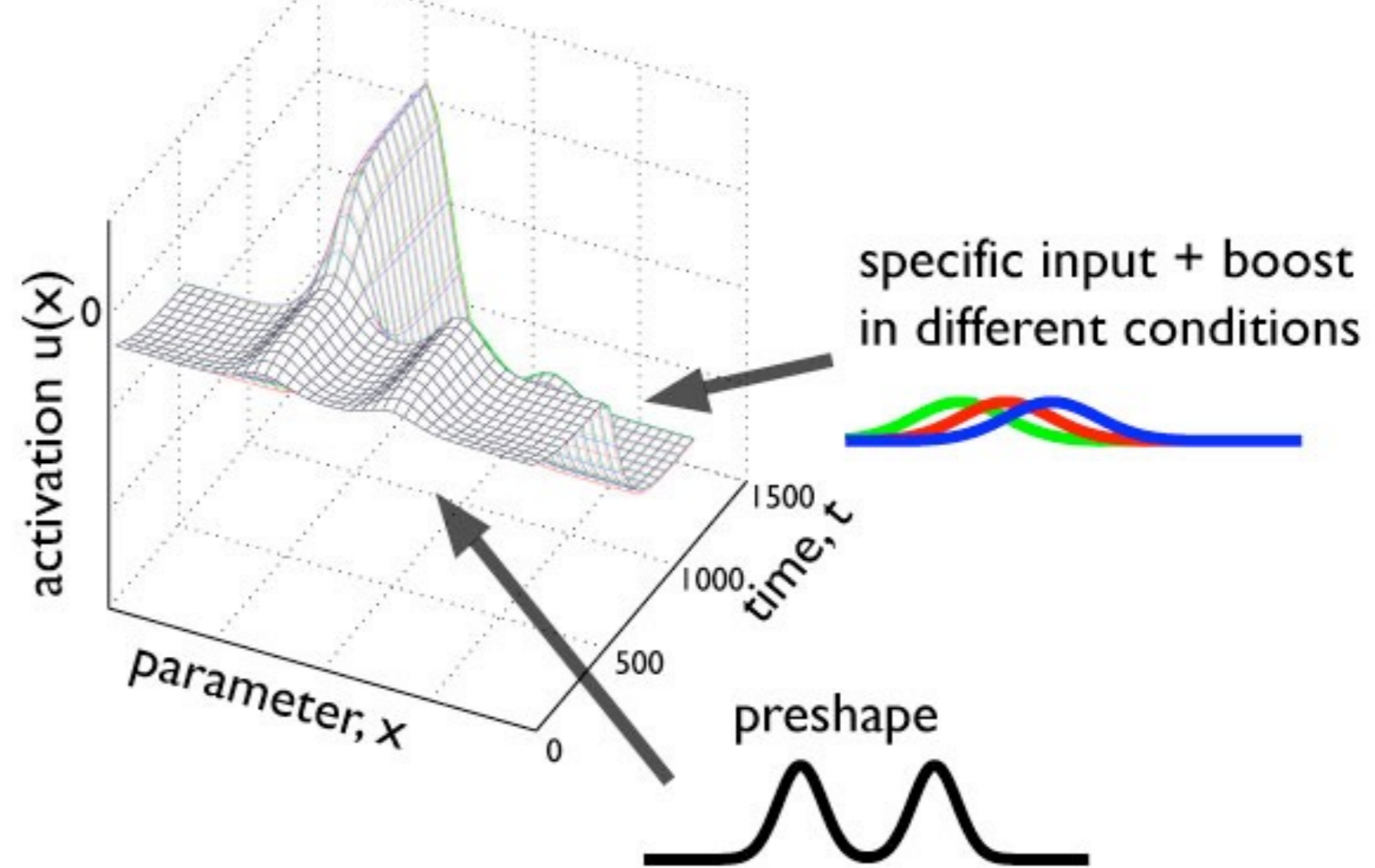
# weak preshape in selection



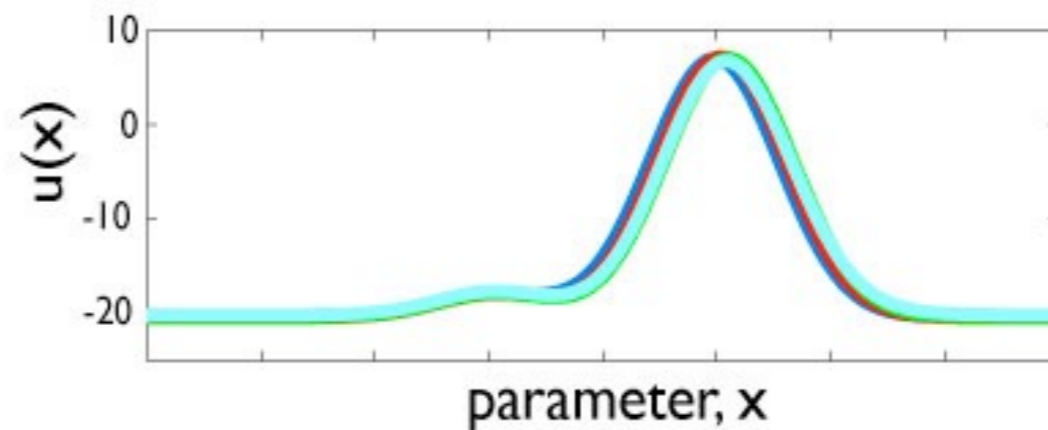
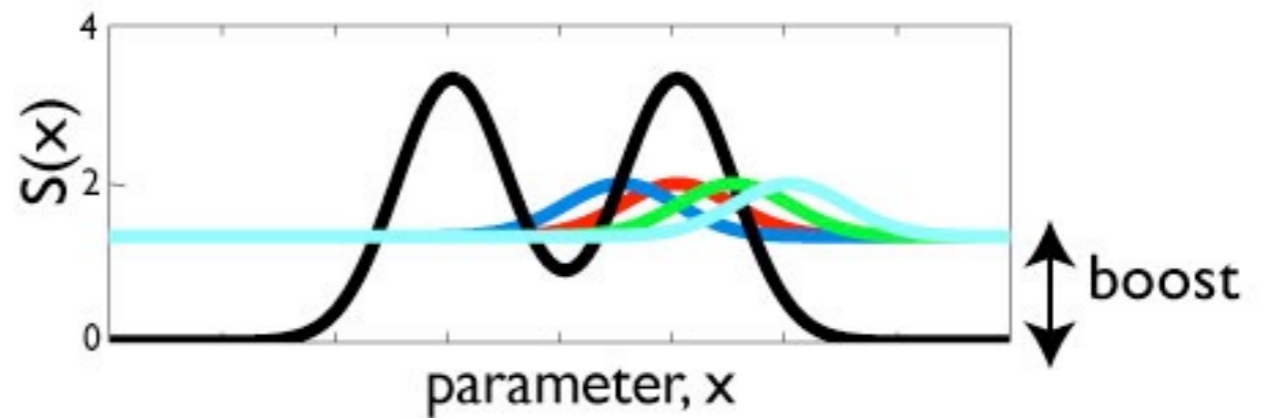
- in which specific (imperative) input dominates and drives detection instability



# strong preshape in selection



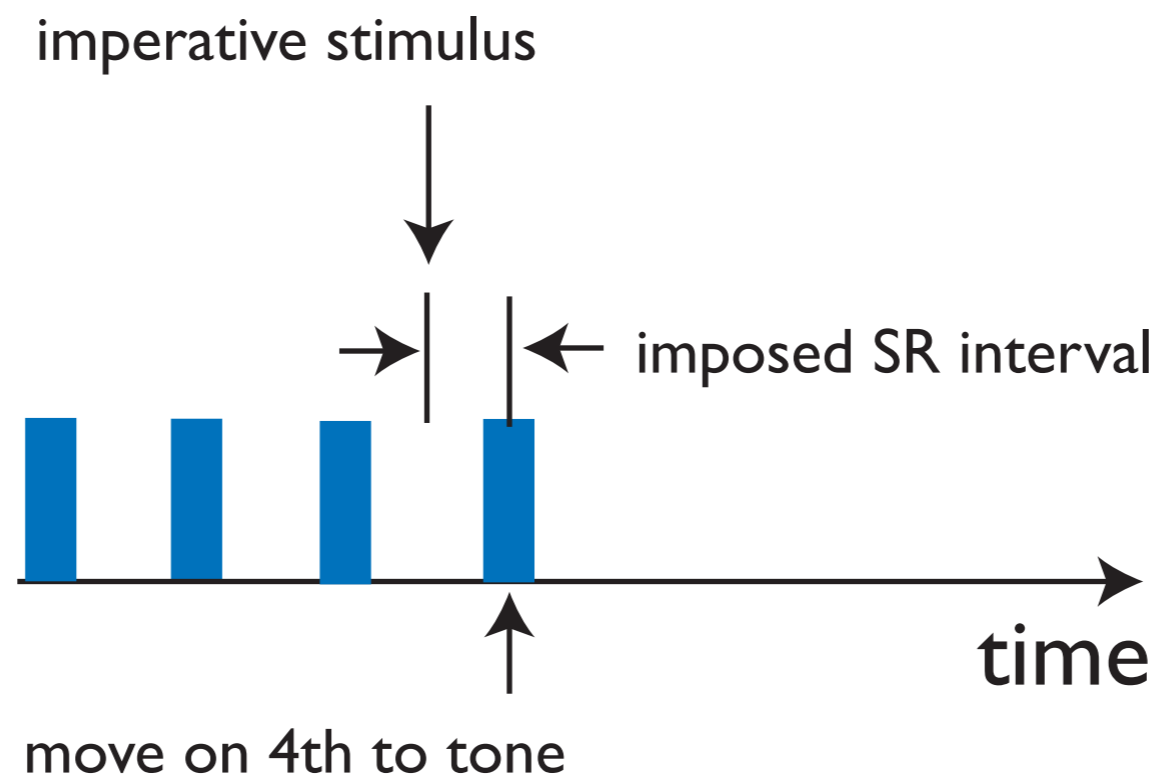
■ supports  
categorical  
selection decisions



[Wilimzig, Schöner, 2006]

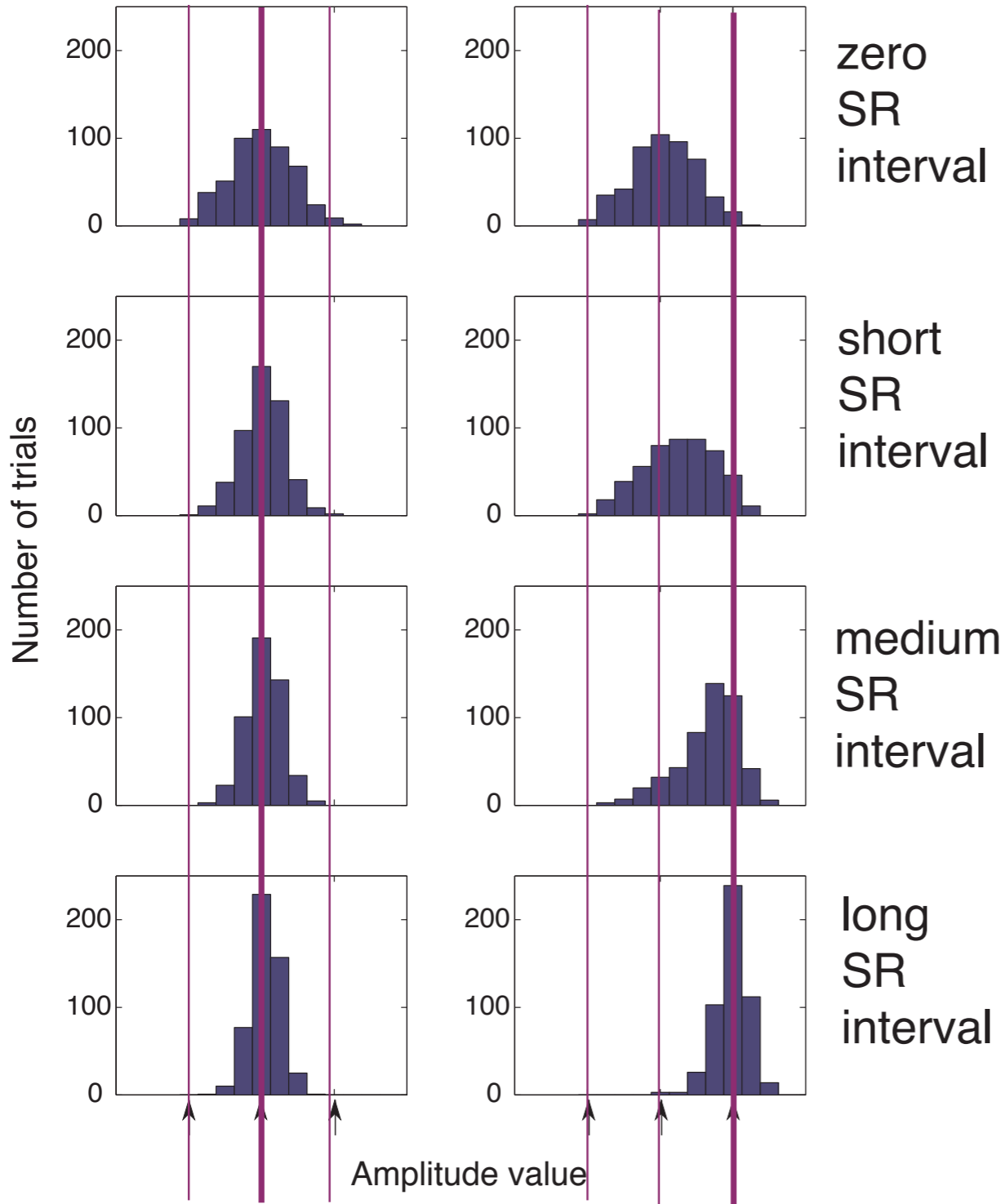
# Behavioral evidence for the graded and continuous evolution of decision

timed movement  
initiation paradigm

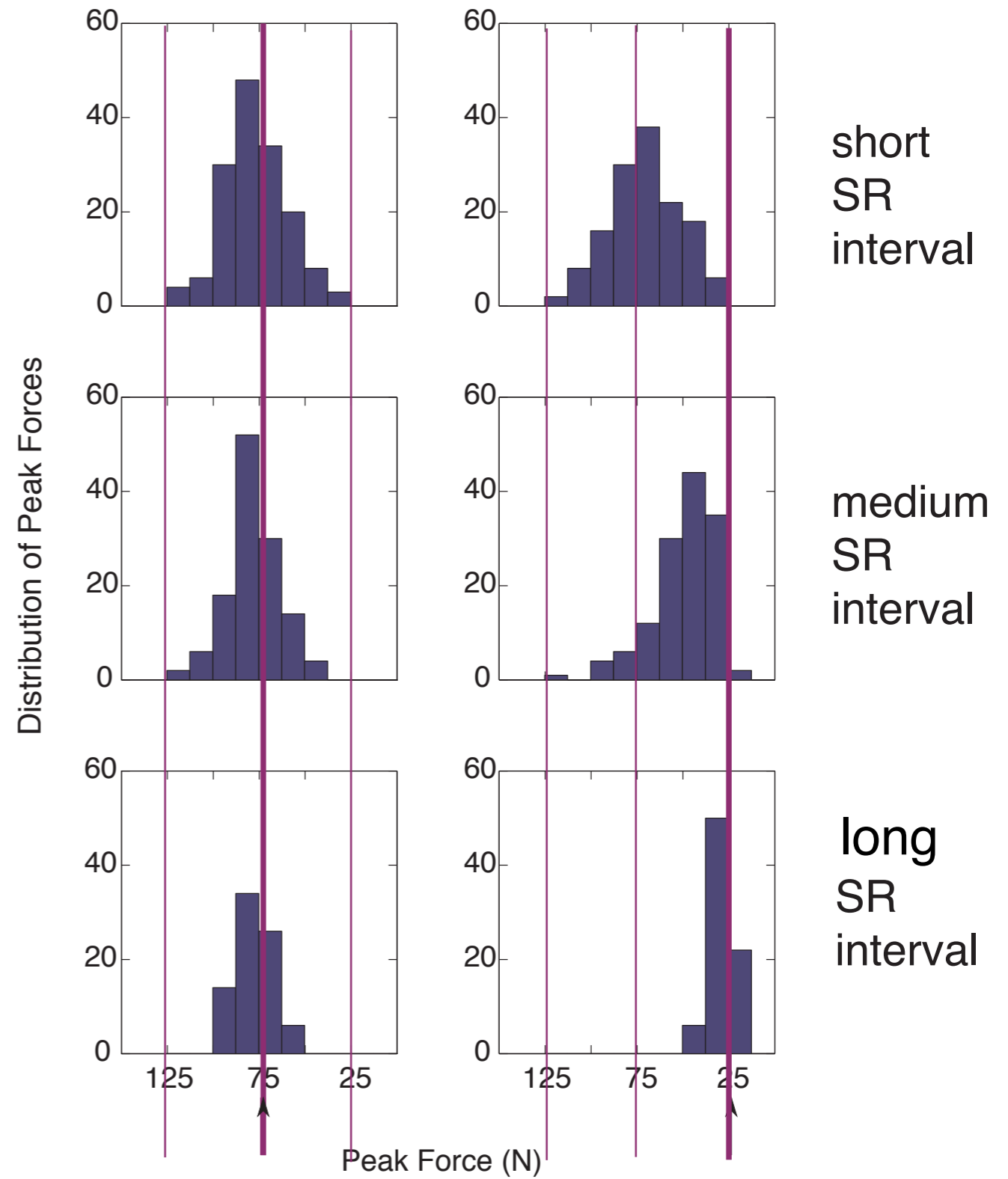


[Ghez and colleagues, 1988 to 1990's]

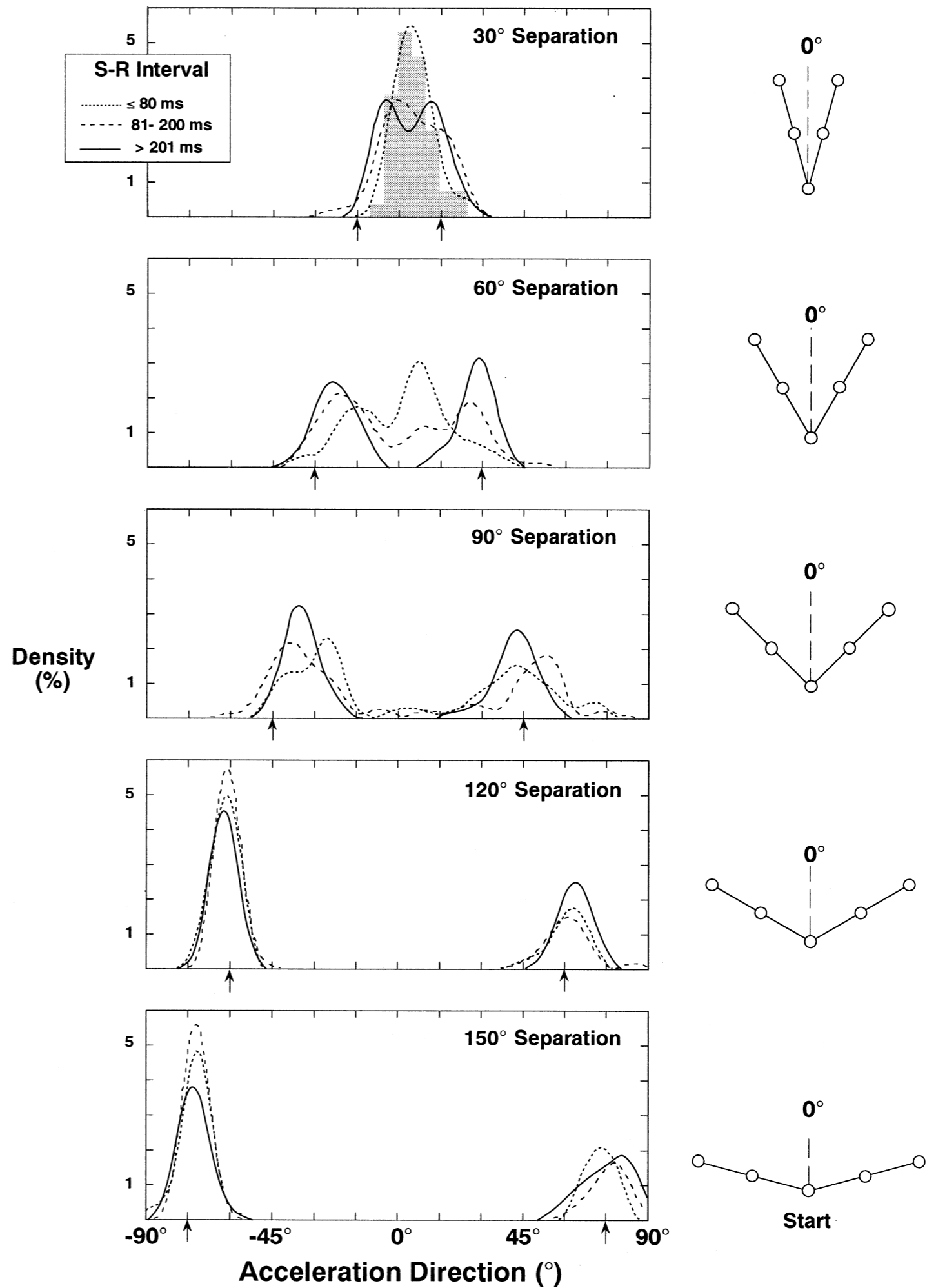
### theoretical account for Henig et al.



### Experimental results of Henig et al



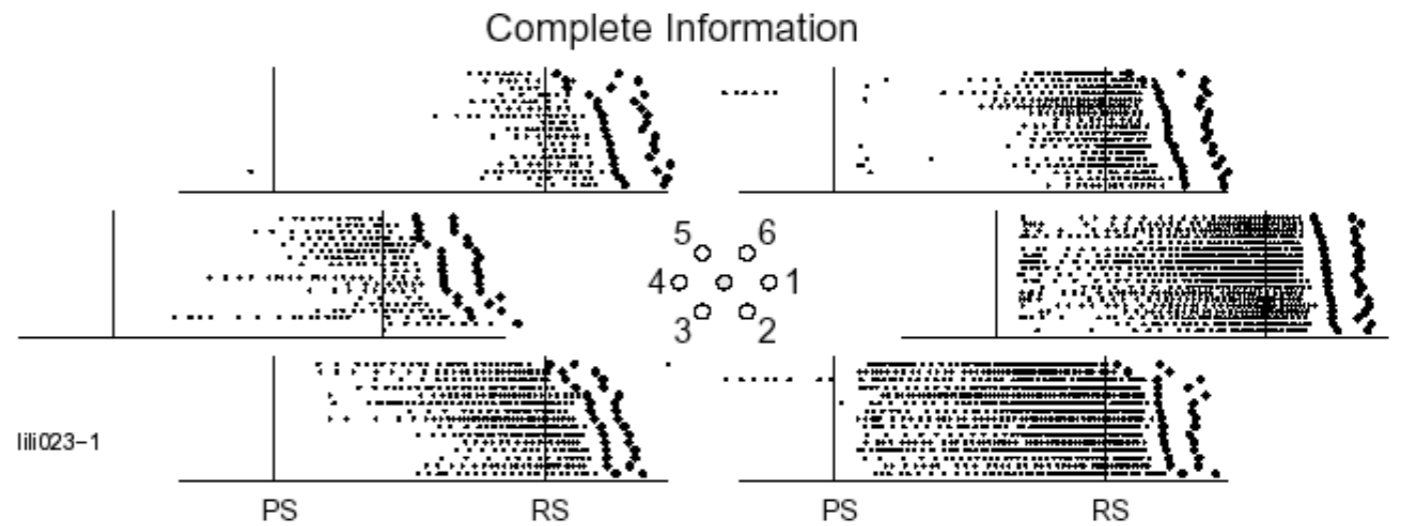
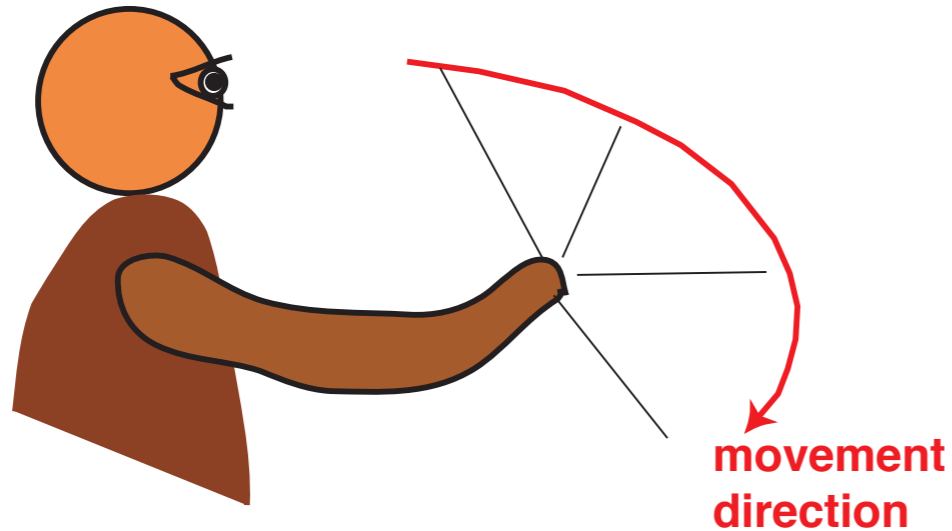
■ infer width of  
preshape peaks  
in field



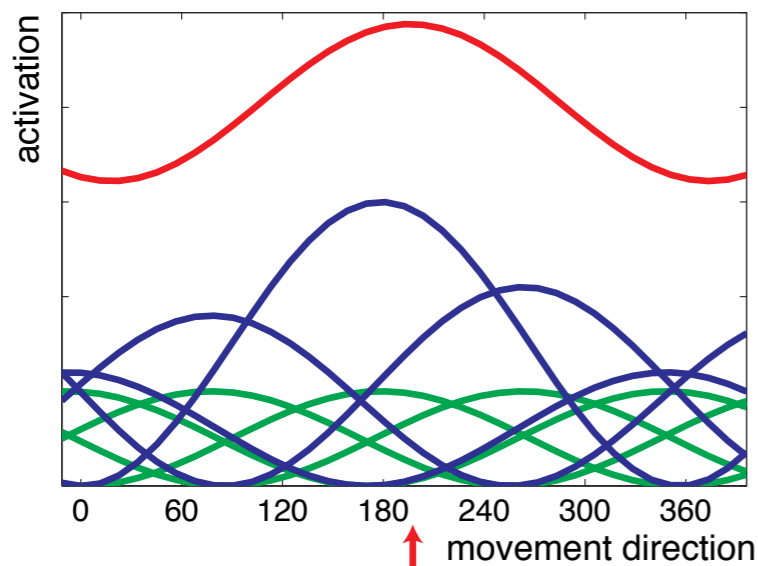
[Ghez et al 1997]



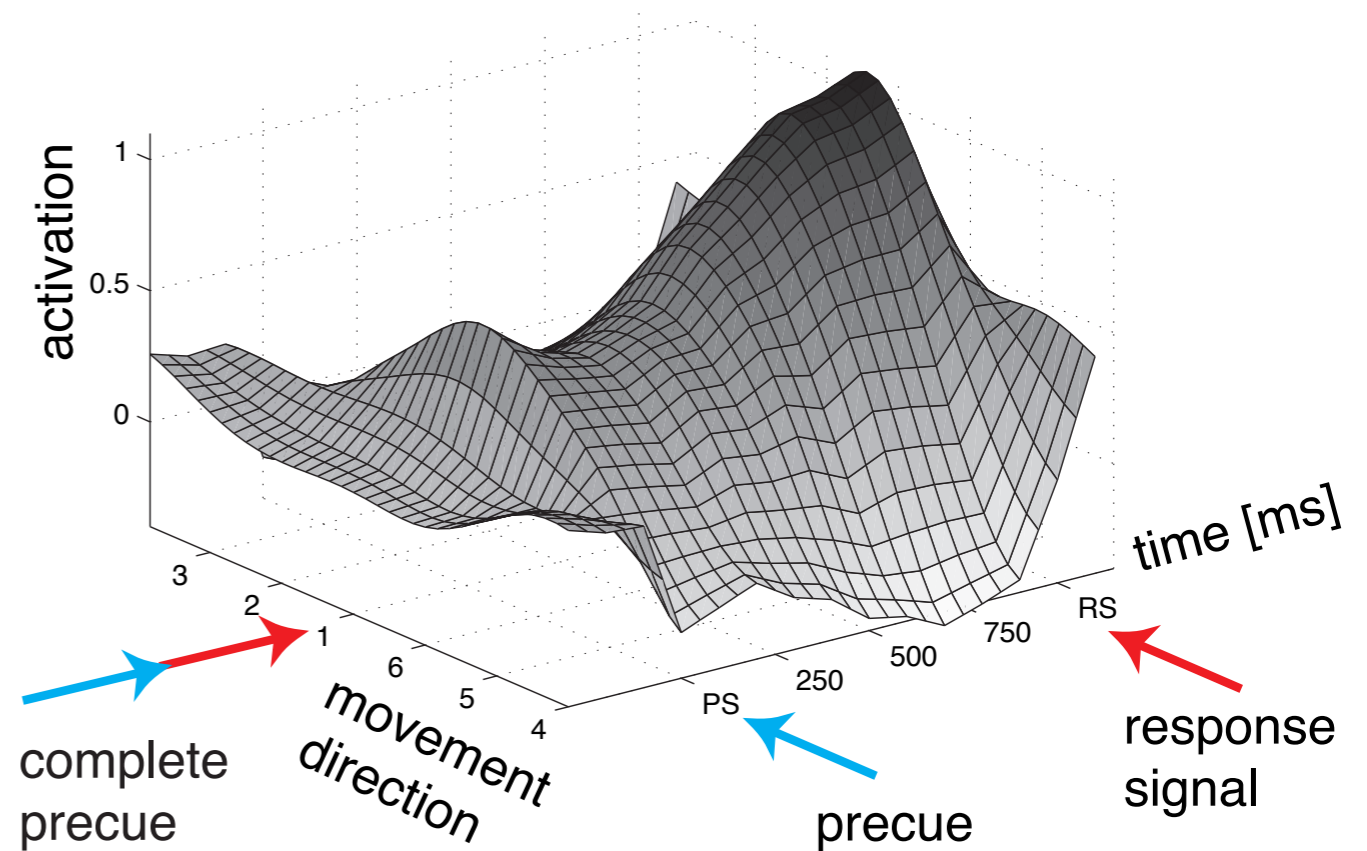
# Neural evidence for preshape



Distribution of population activation =  $\sum_{\text{neurons}} \text{tuning curve} * \text{current firing rate}$



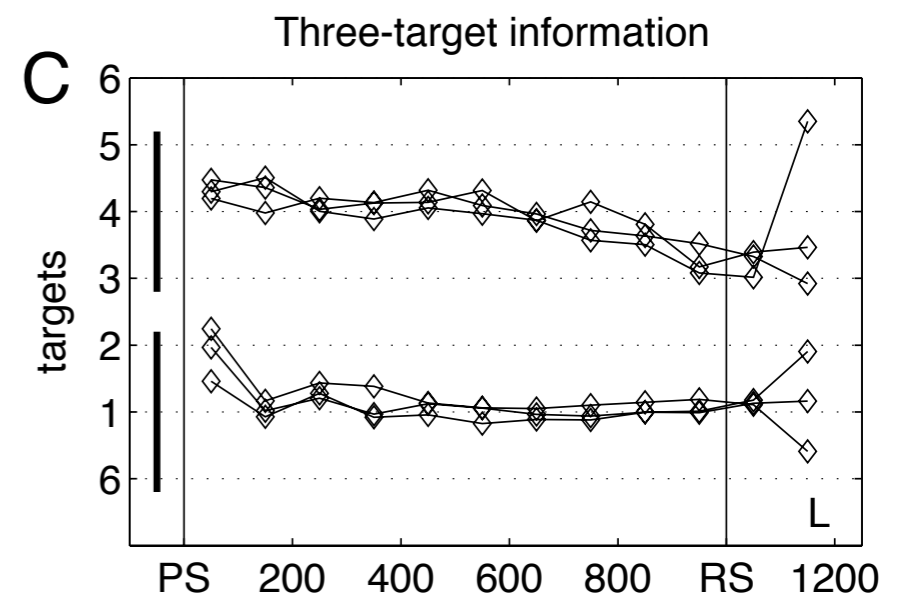
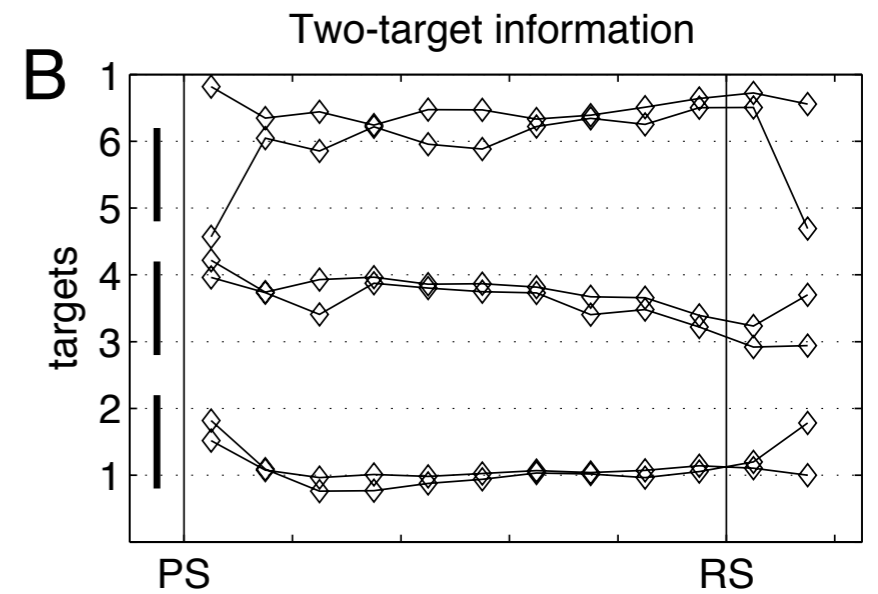
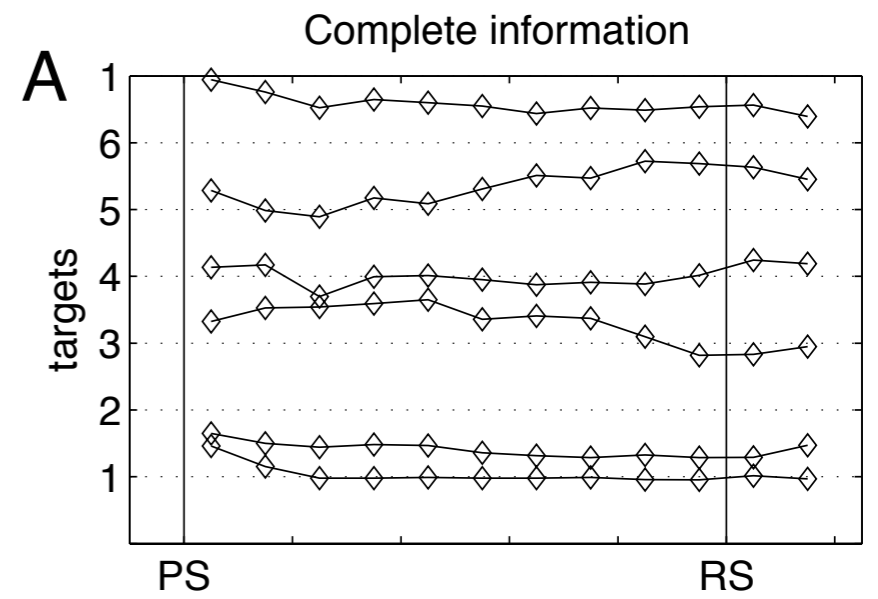
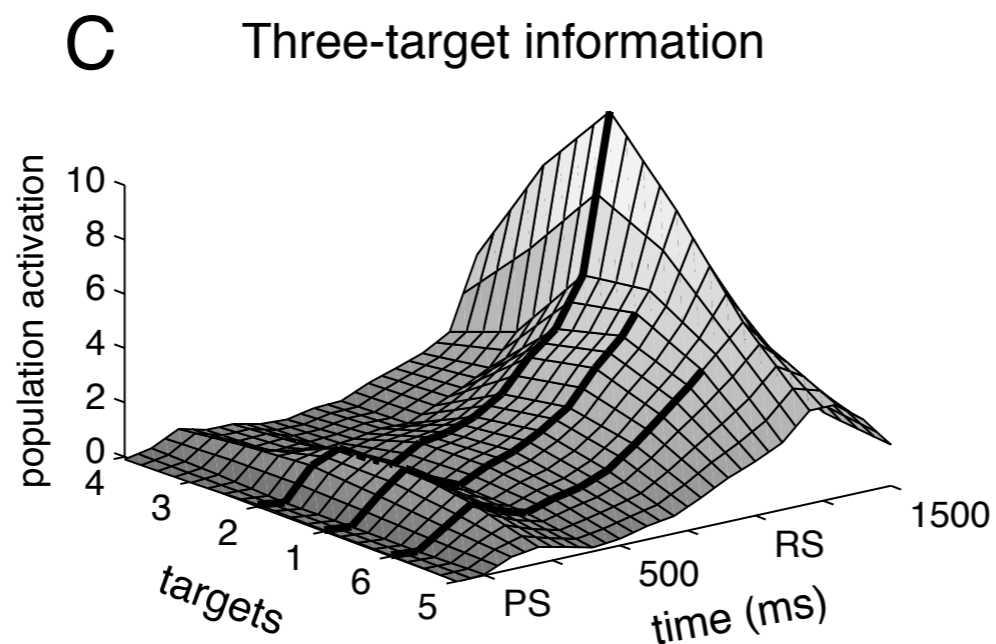
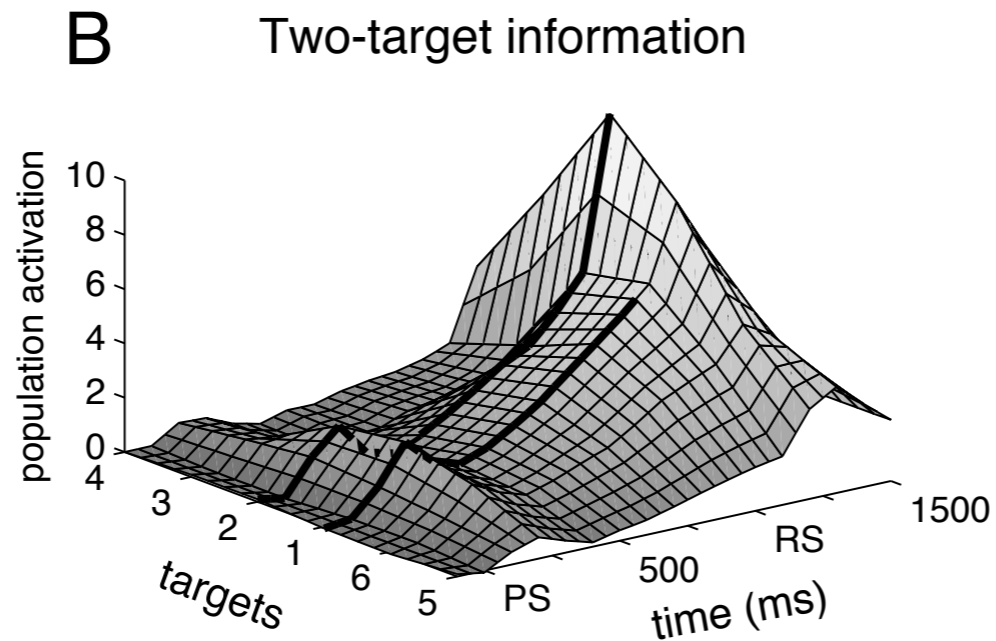
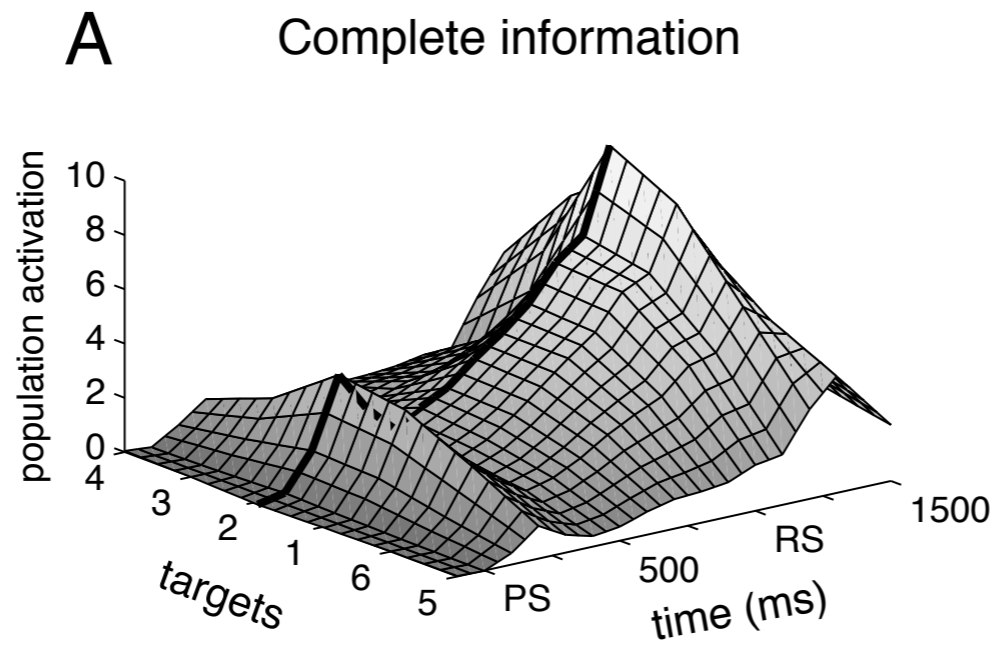
movement direction required in this trial



[after Bastian, Riehle, Schöner, submitted]

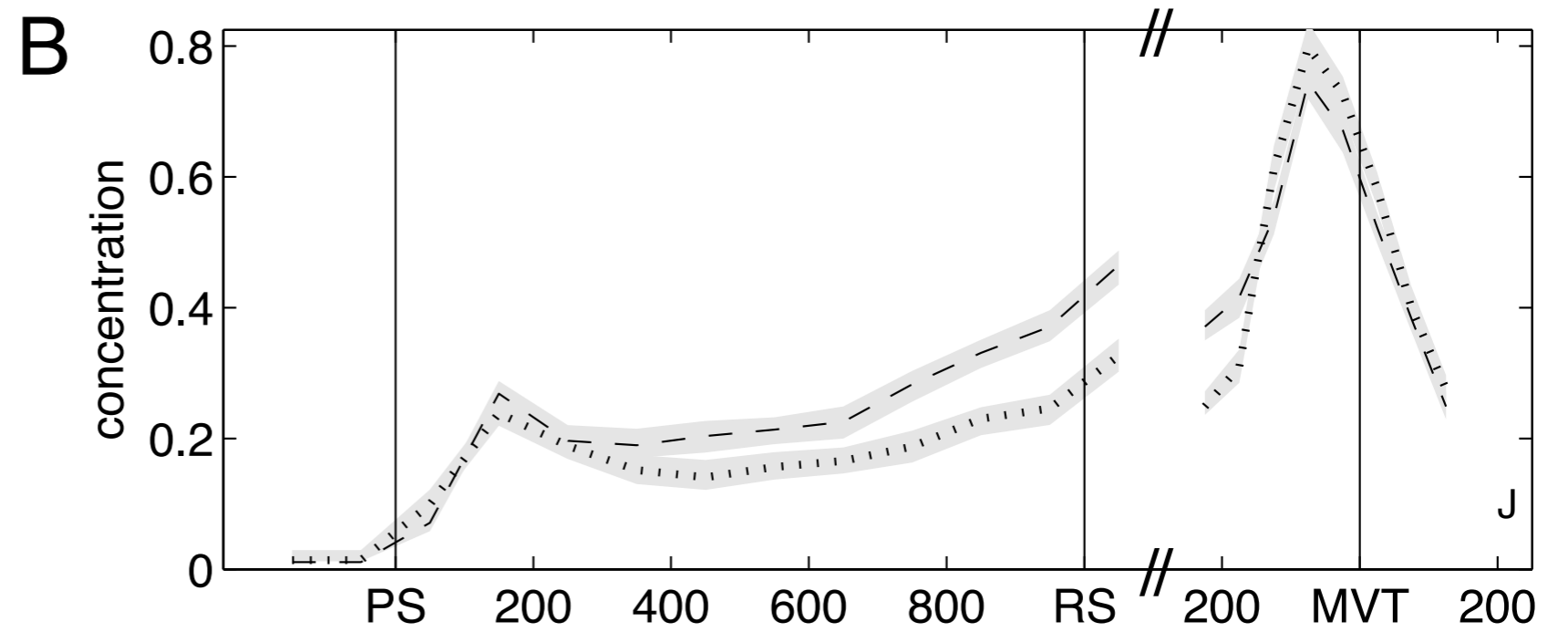
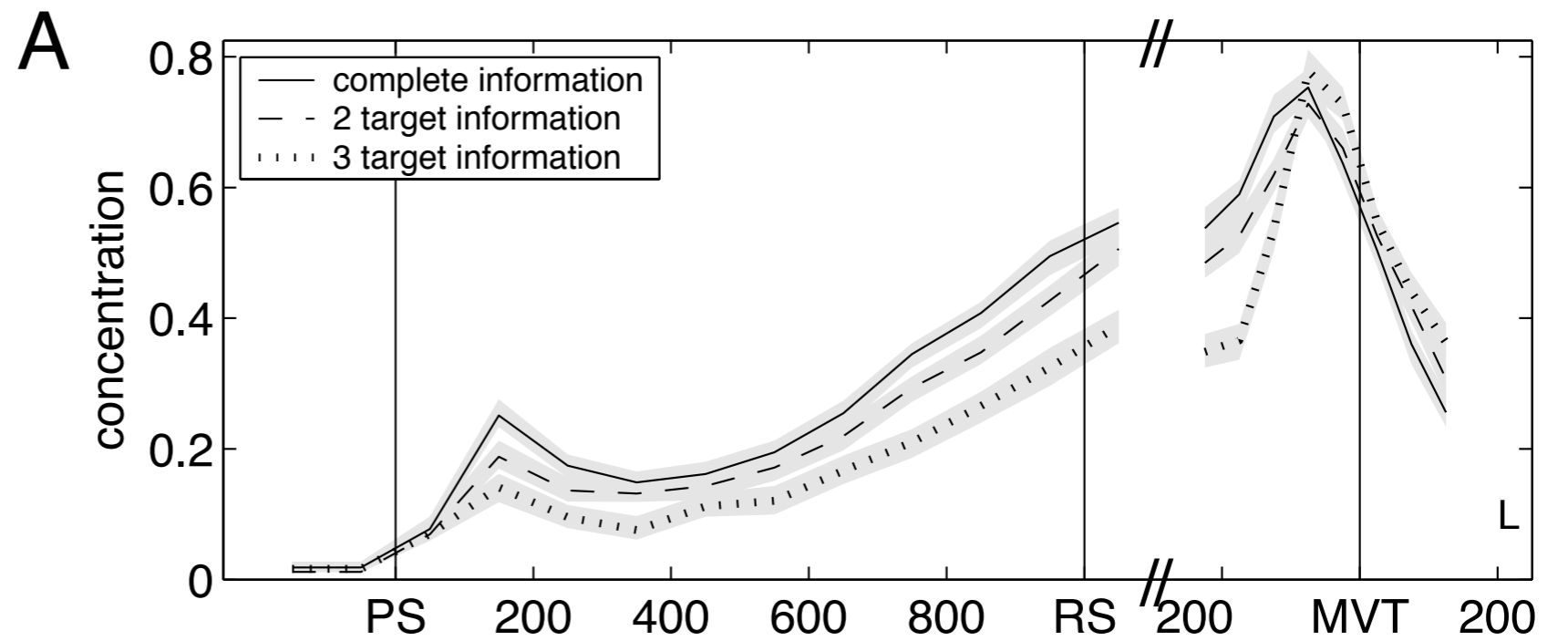
[Bastian, Riehle, Schöner: Europ J Neurosci 18: 2047 (2003)]

**DPA reflects prior information**



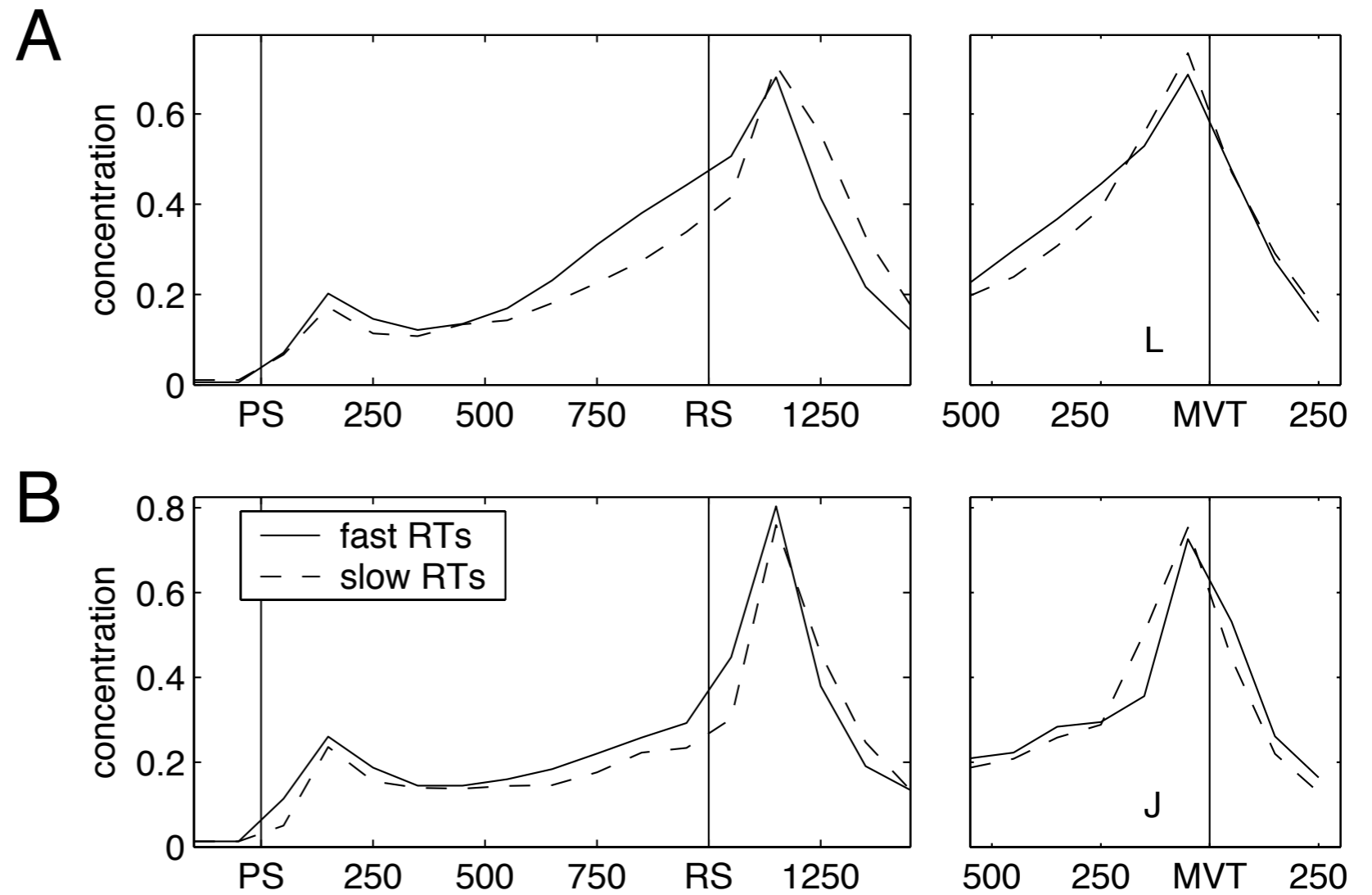
[Bastian, Schöner, Riehle 2003]

■ DPA reflects prior information



[Bastian, Schöner, Riehle 2003]

■ preshape correlates with RT



[Bastian, Schöner, Riehle 2003]

# Where does the preshape of representations come from?

- from the perceptual layout, the environment...

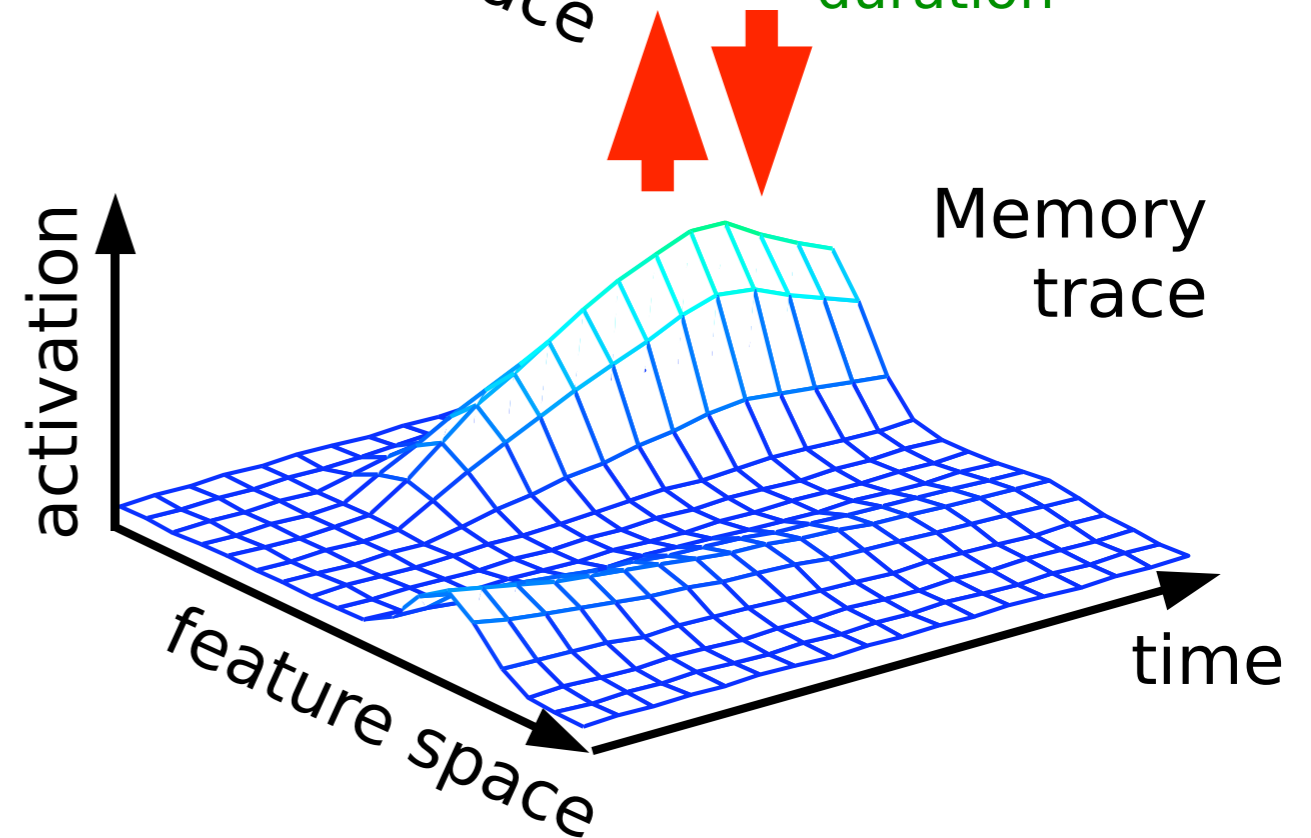
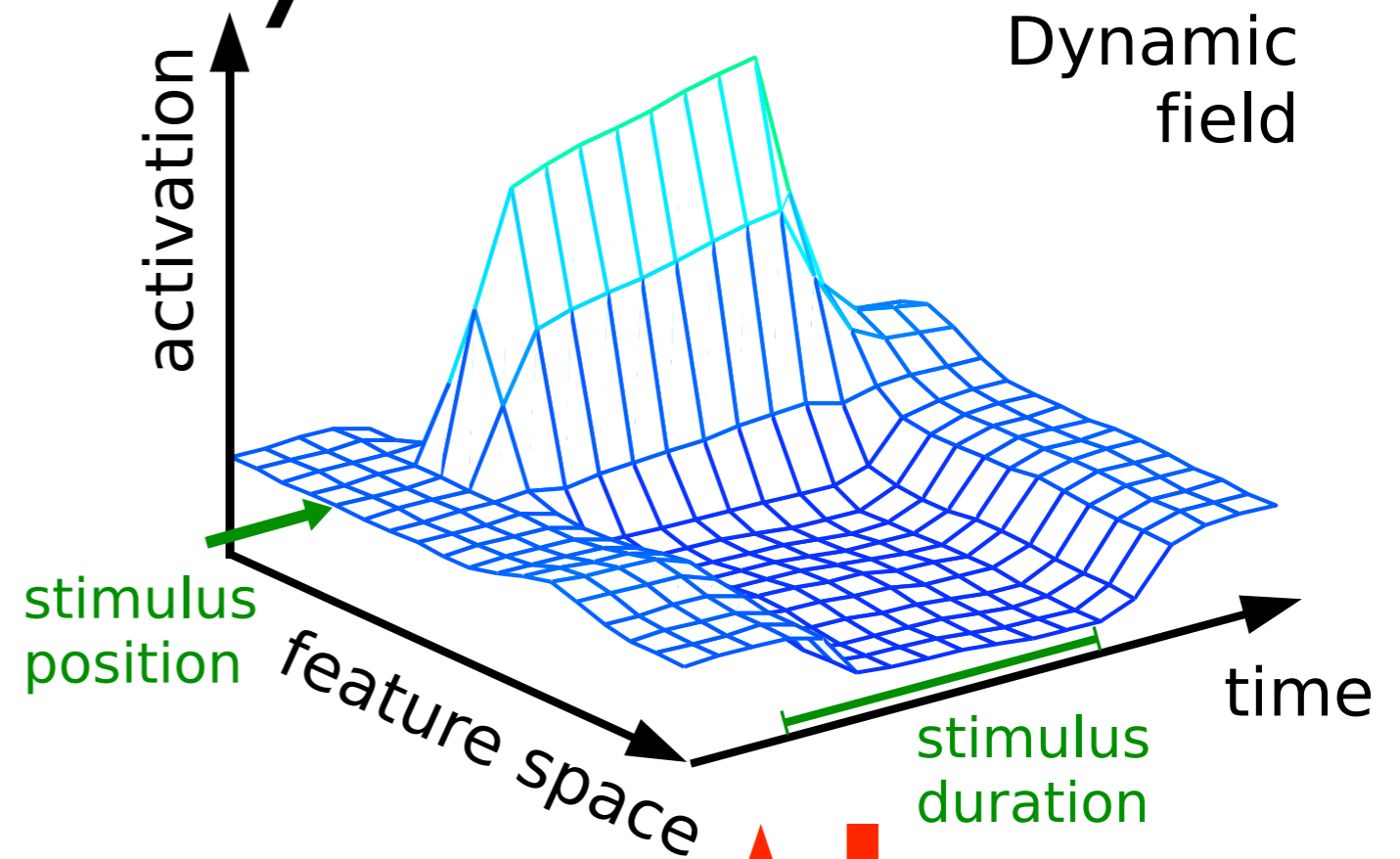
  - e.g. task set

- from experience, perhaps shaped by reward

- => memory=influence on behavior and thinking from past experience

# The memory trace

- DFT account for simple forms of memory



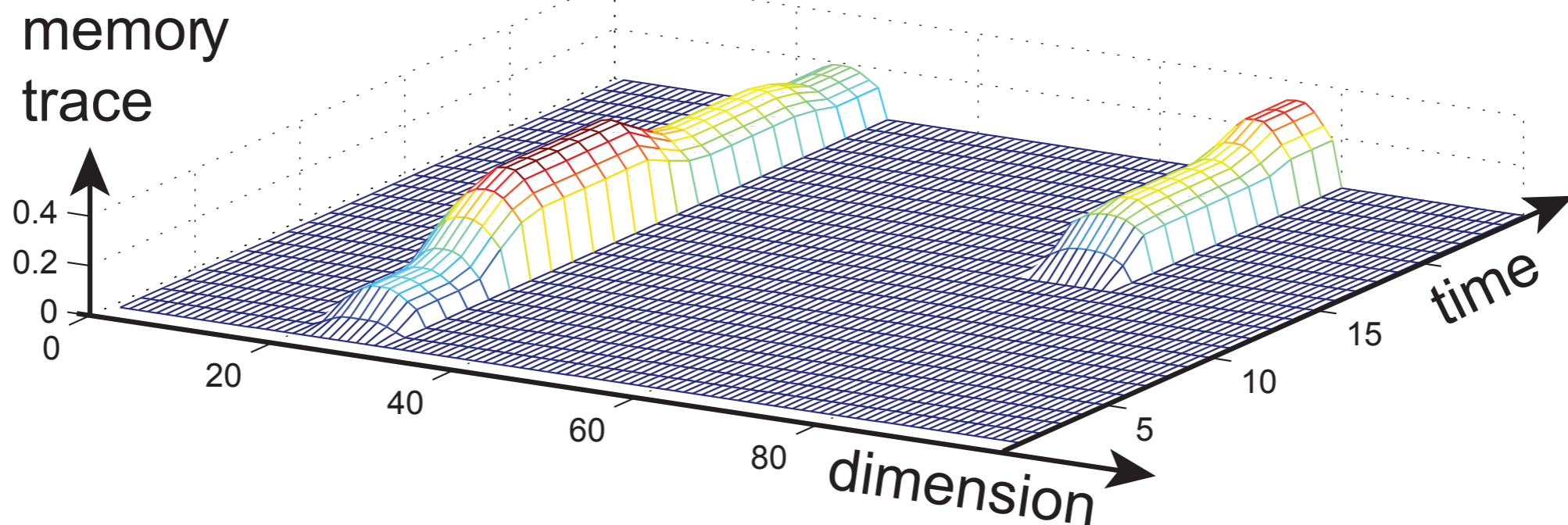
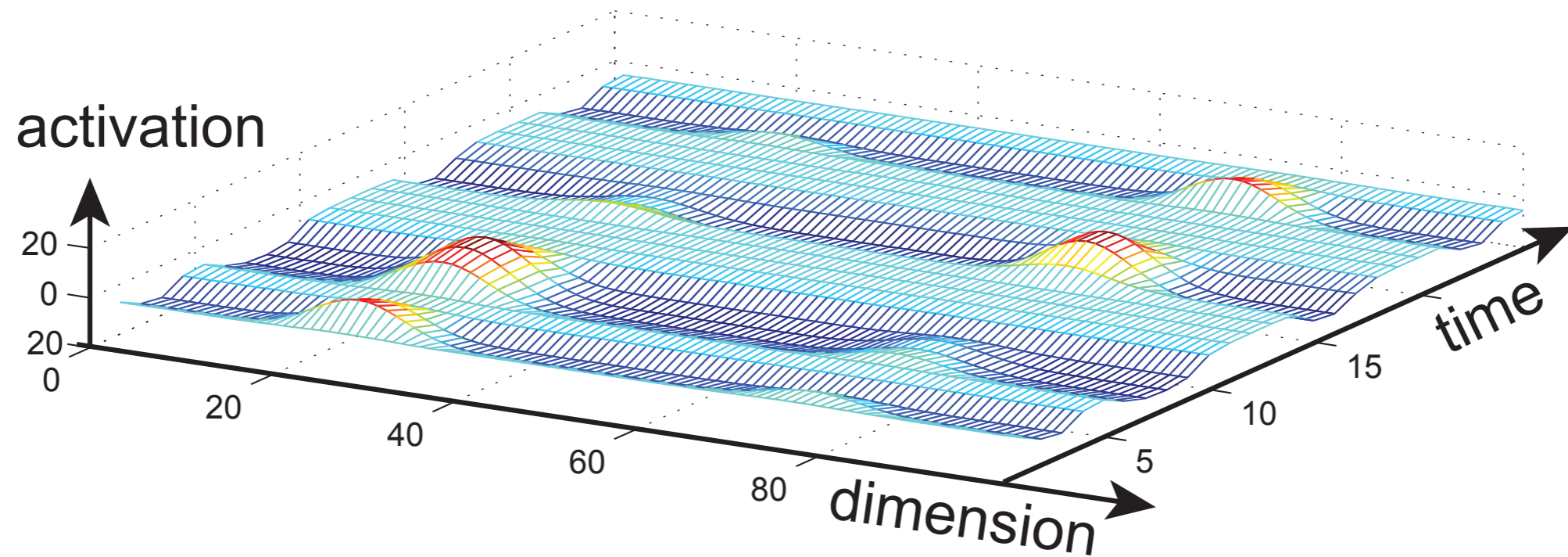
# The memory trace

$$\tau \dot{u}(x, t) = -u(x, t) + h + S(x, t) + u_{\text{mem}}(x, t) + \int dx' w(x - x') \sigma(u(x'))$$

$$\tau_{\text{mem}} \dot{u}_{\text{mem}}(x, t) = -u_{\text{mem}}(x, t) + \int dx' w_{\text{mem}}(x - x') \sigma(u(x', t))$$

- memory trace only evolves while activation is excited
- potentially different rates for growth and decay

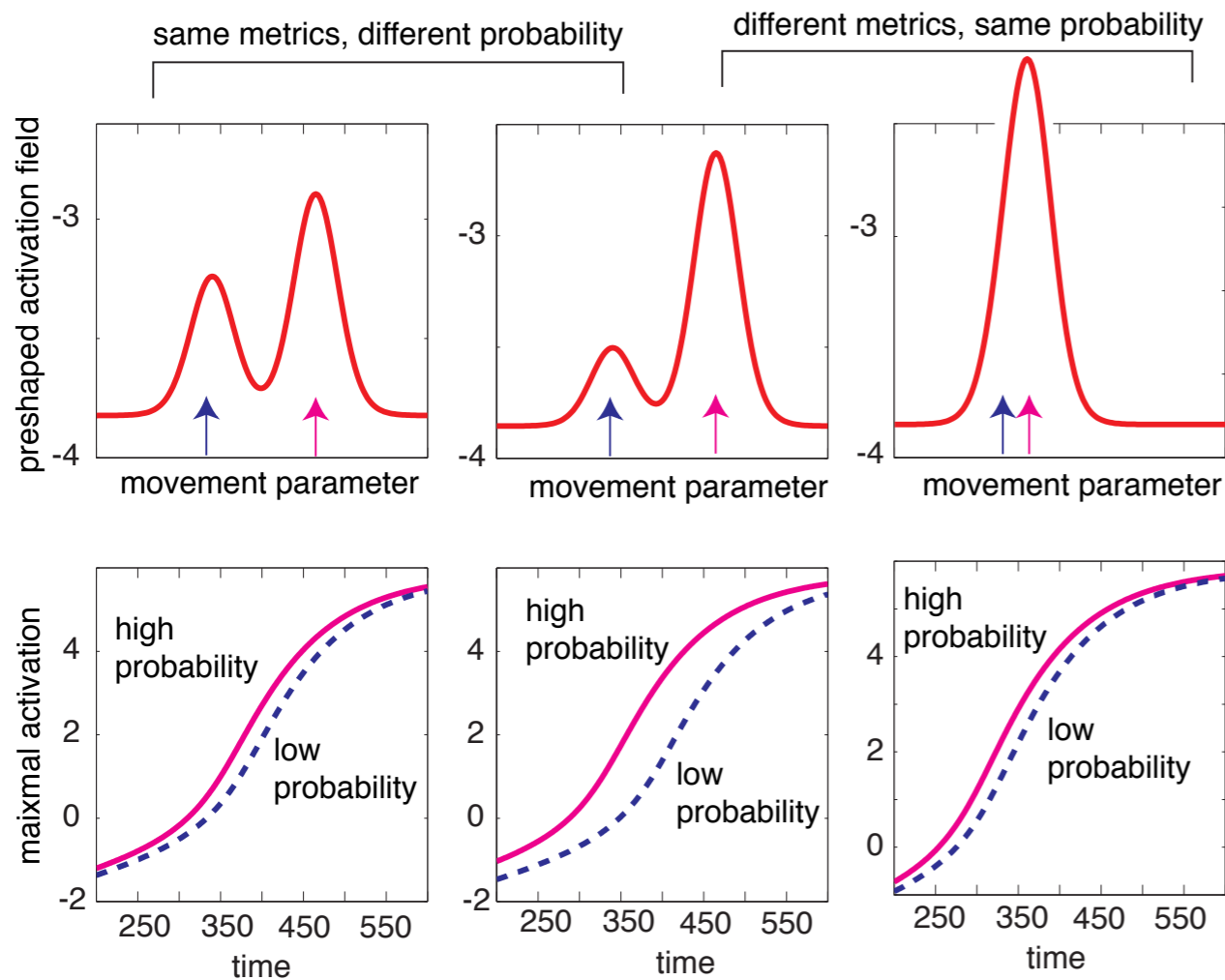
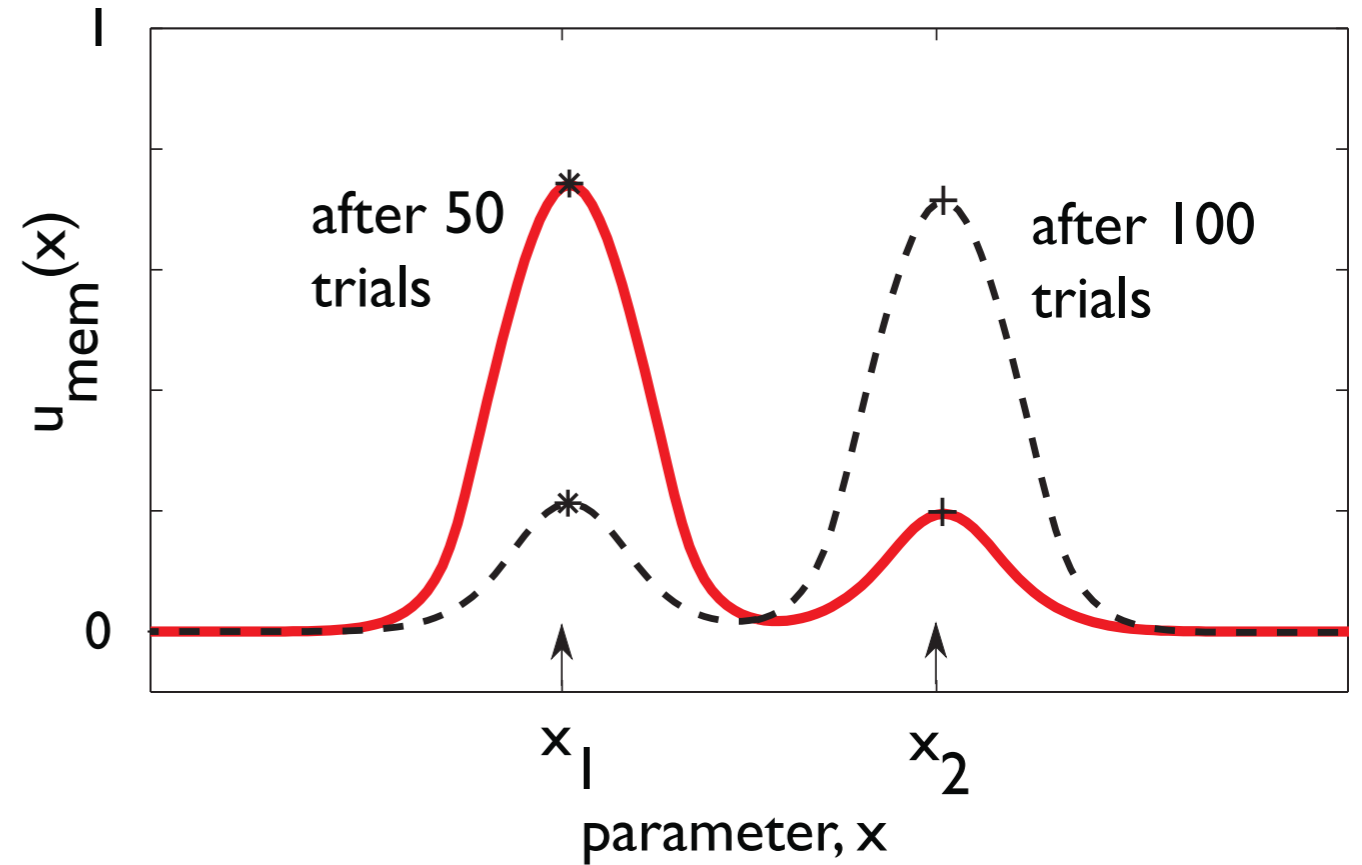
# The memory trace reflects the history of detection/selection decisions



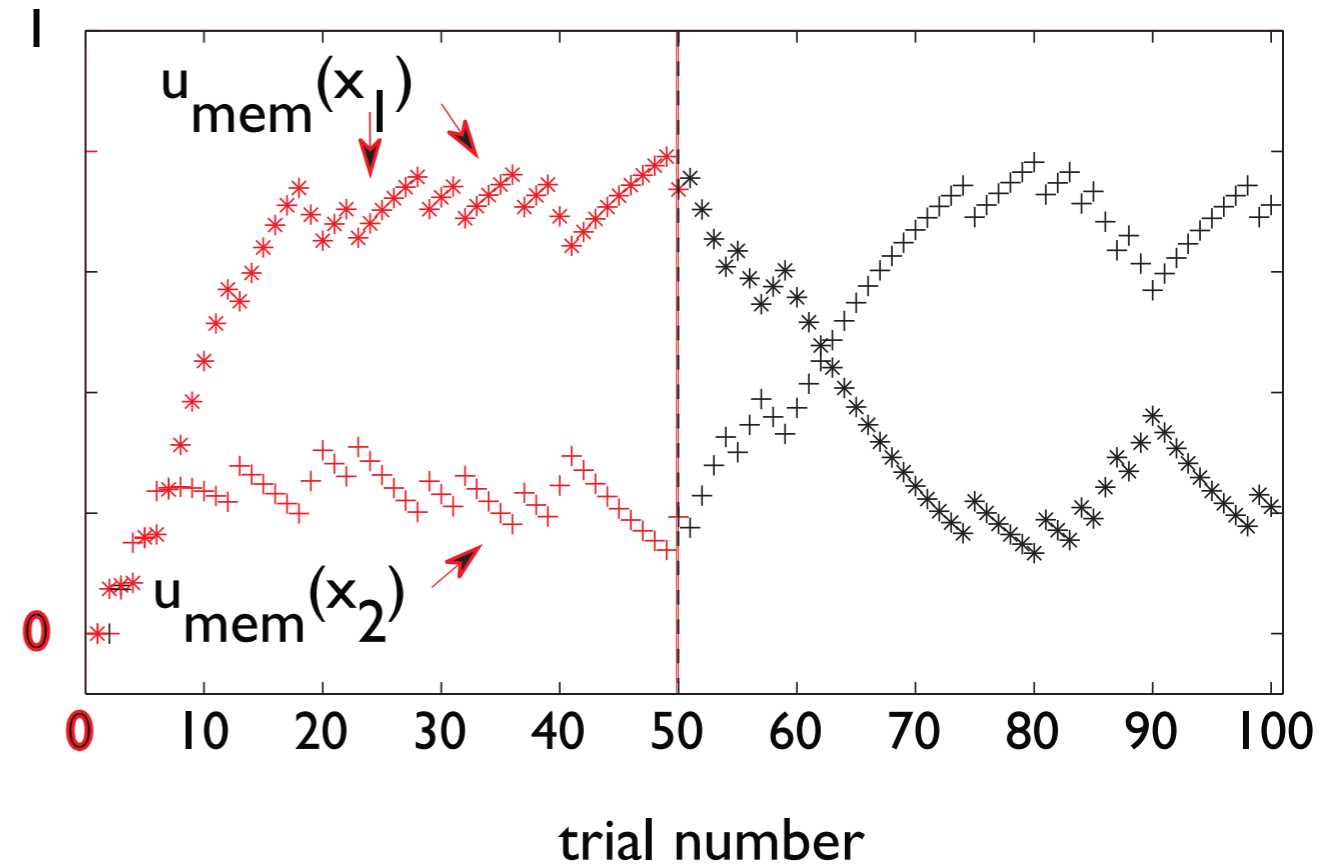


■ provides an account for probabilistic effects

■ e.g. Hyman's law



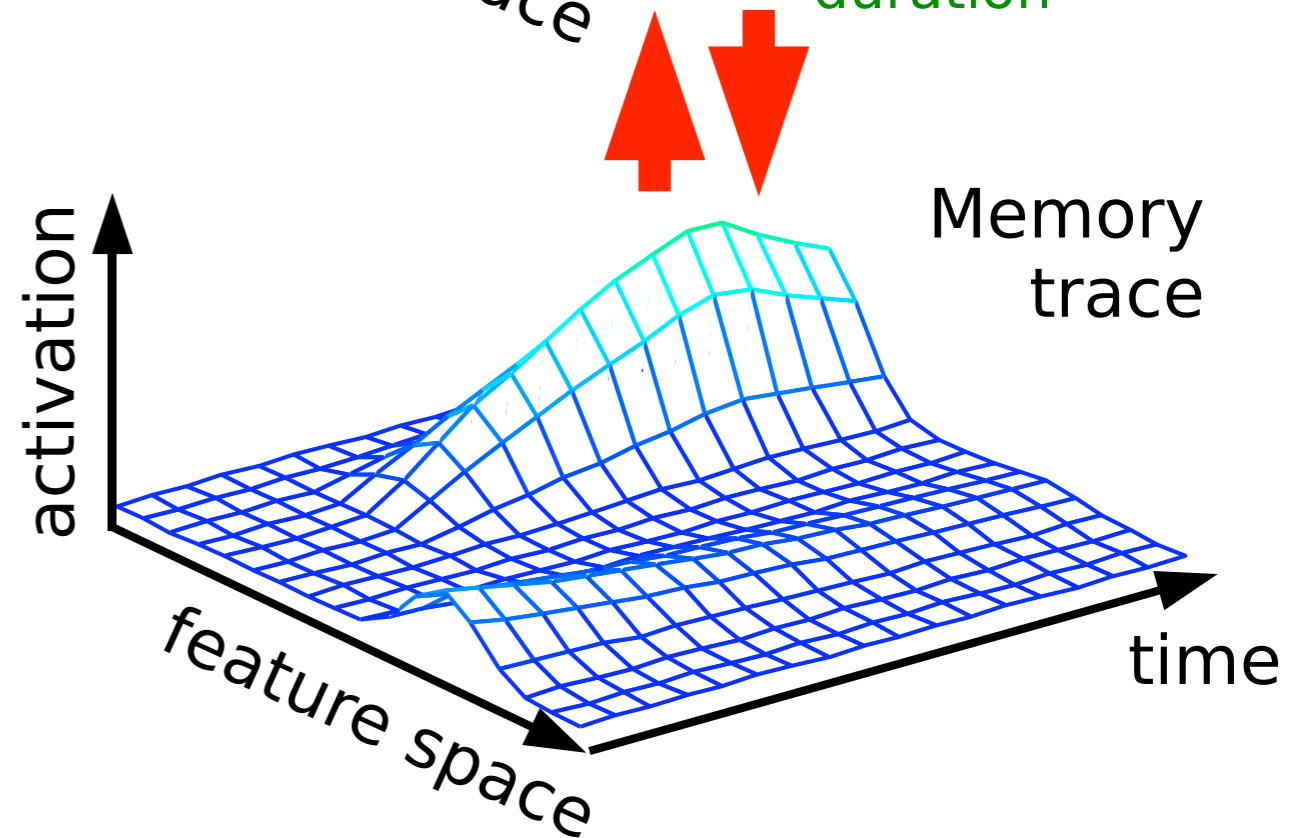
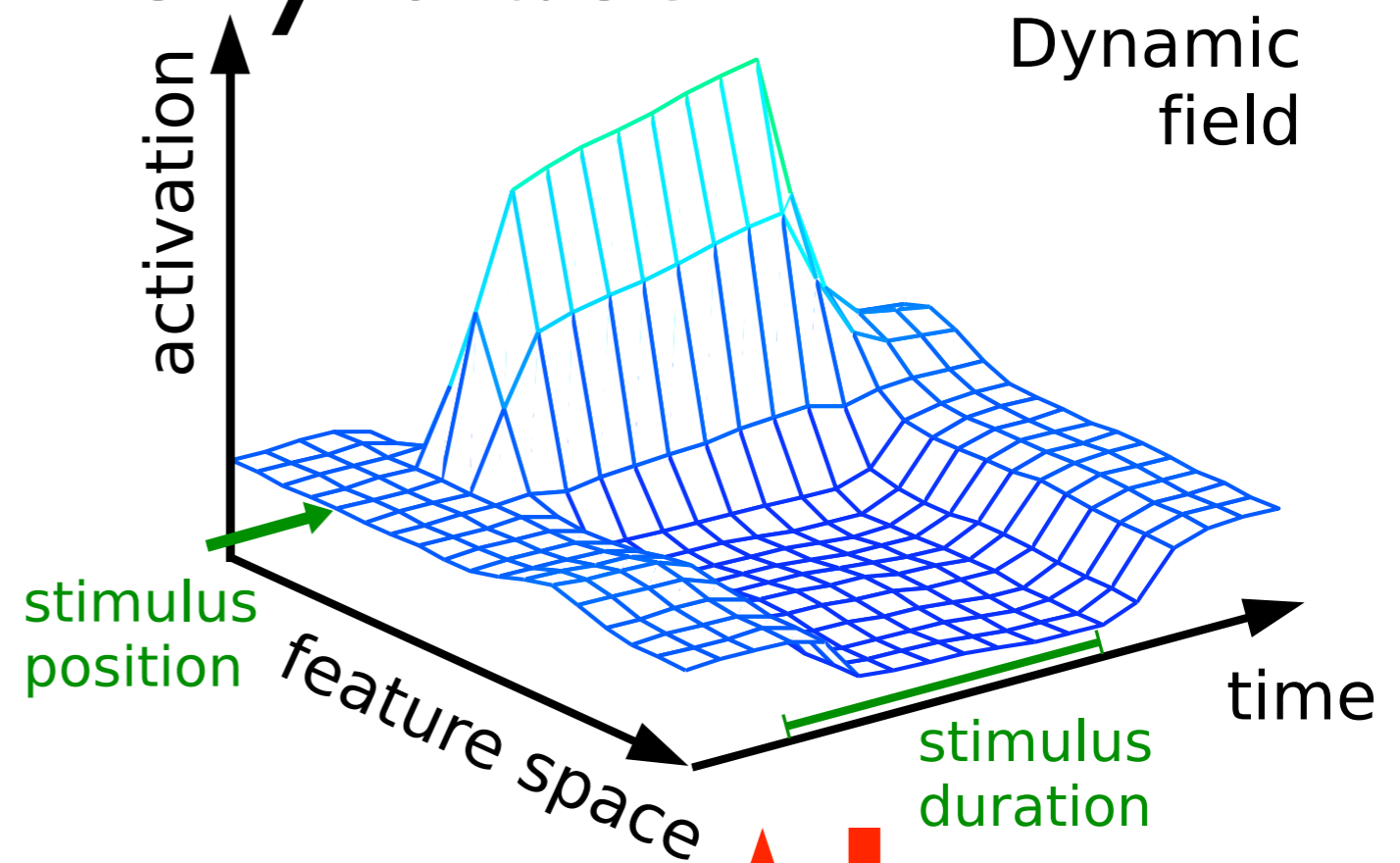
[from Erlhagen, Schöner: Psych. Rev. 2002]



[from Erlhagen, Schöner, Psych Rev 2002]

# The memory trace

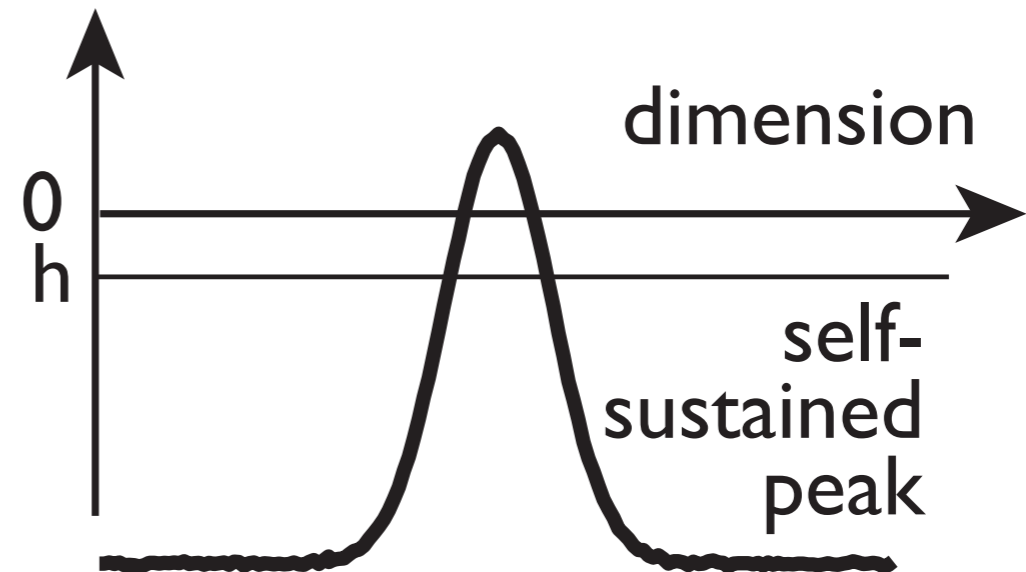
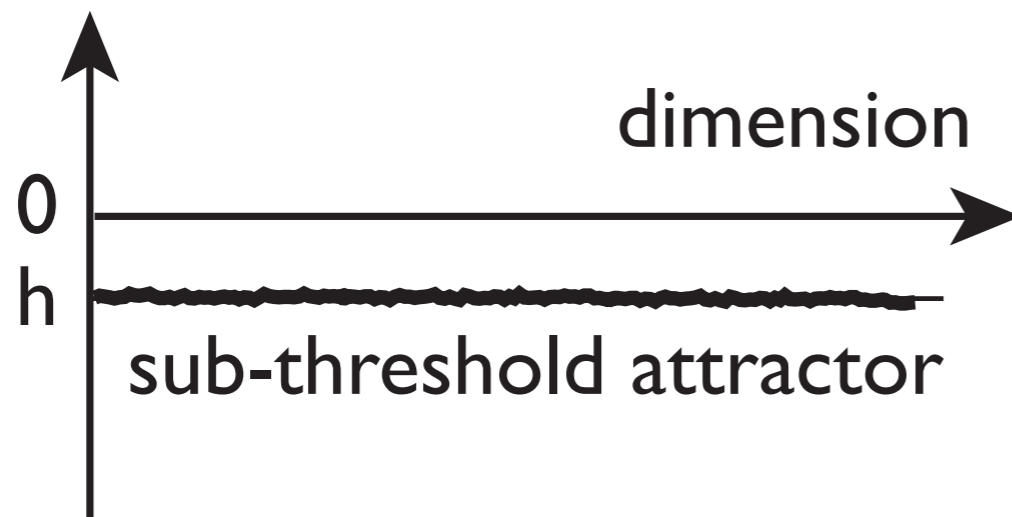
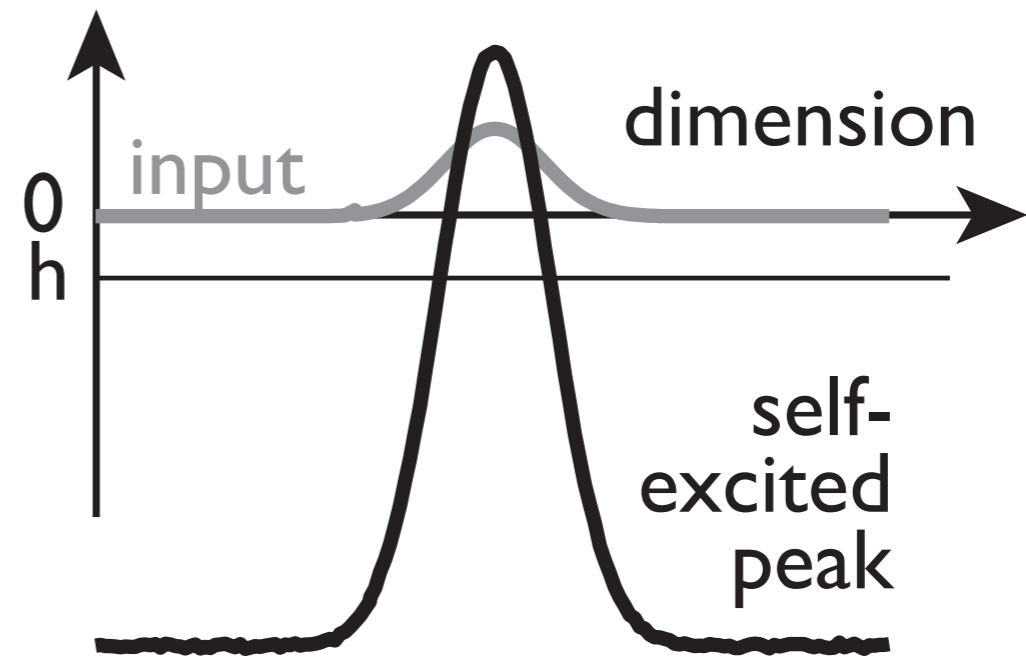
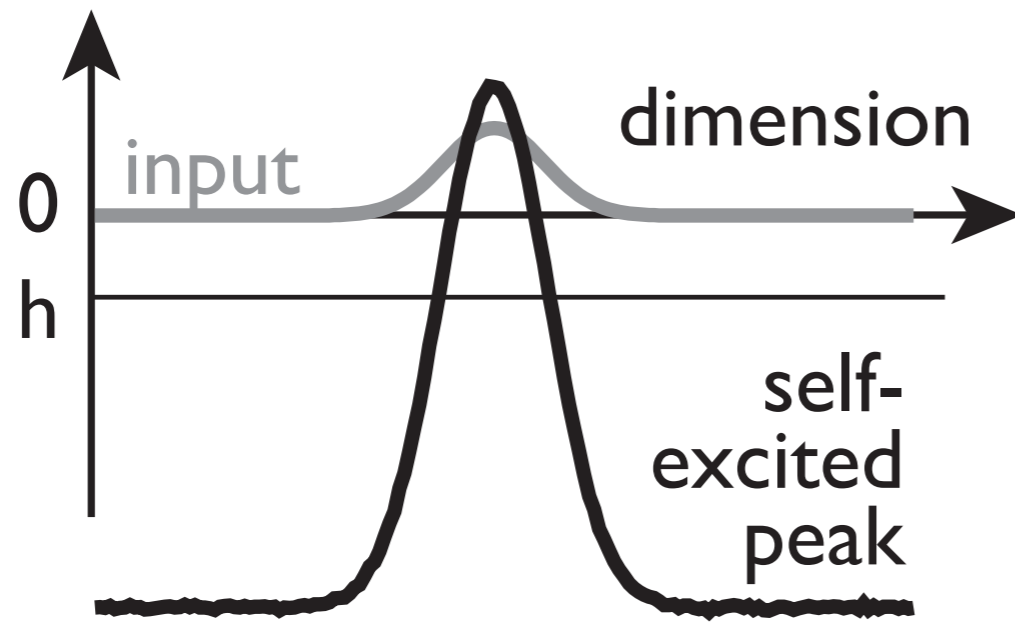
- in excitatory fields:  
promotes activation of  
same state as  
experienced (“habit”)
- in inhibitory fields:  
promotes non-  
activation of the same  
state as experienced  
 (“habituation”)



# Working memory as sustained activation

- activation peak induced by input
- remains stable after input is removed

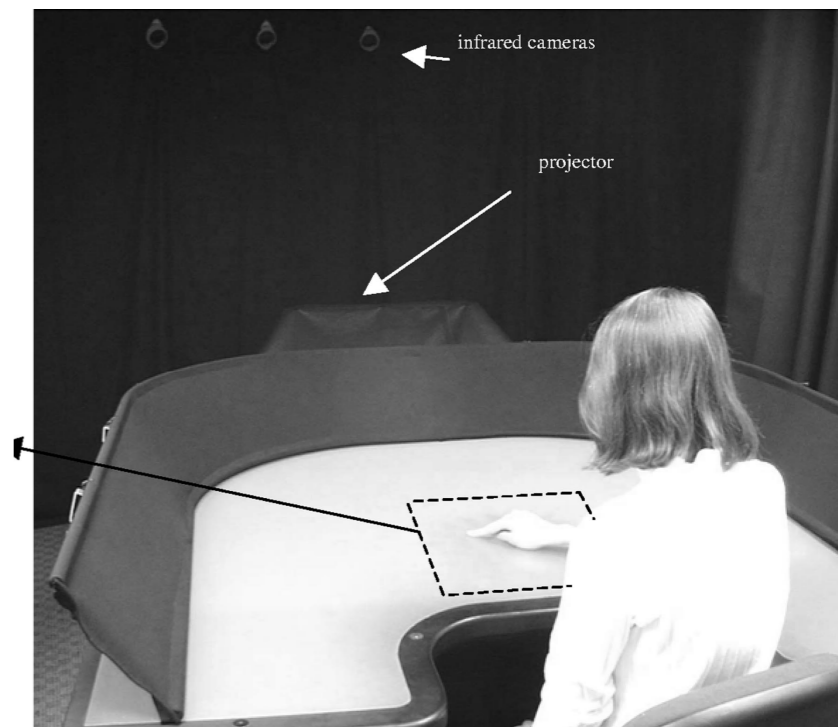
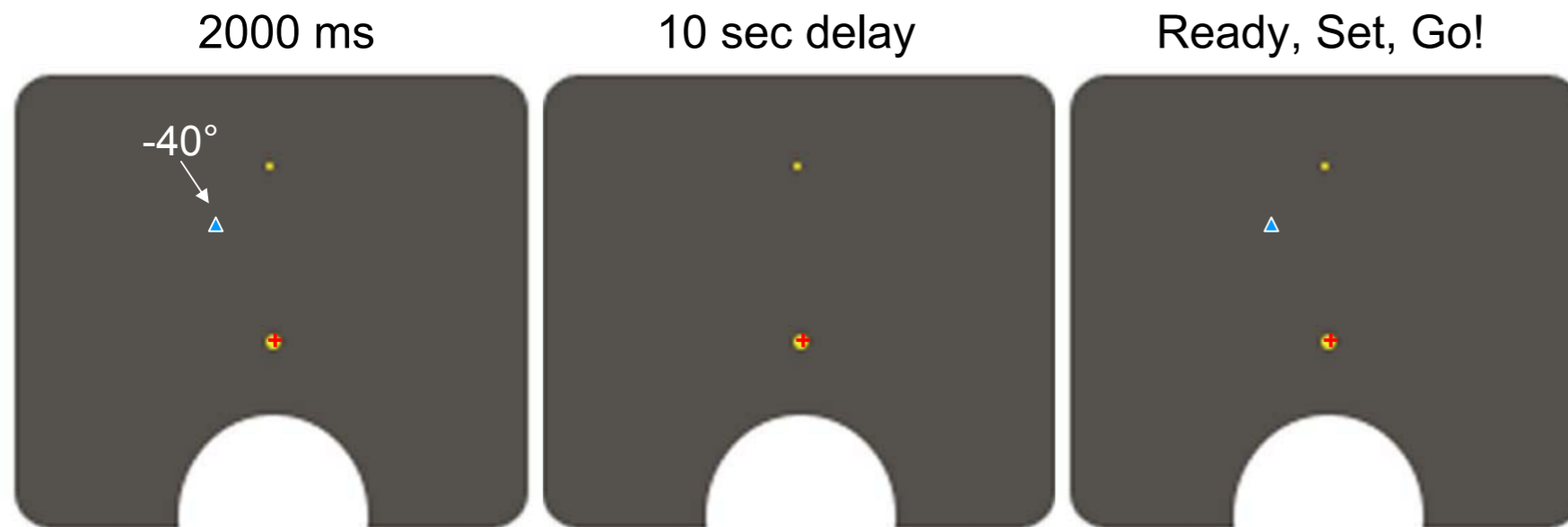
# (Working) memory instability



# Working memory as sustained peaks

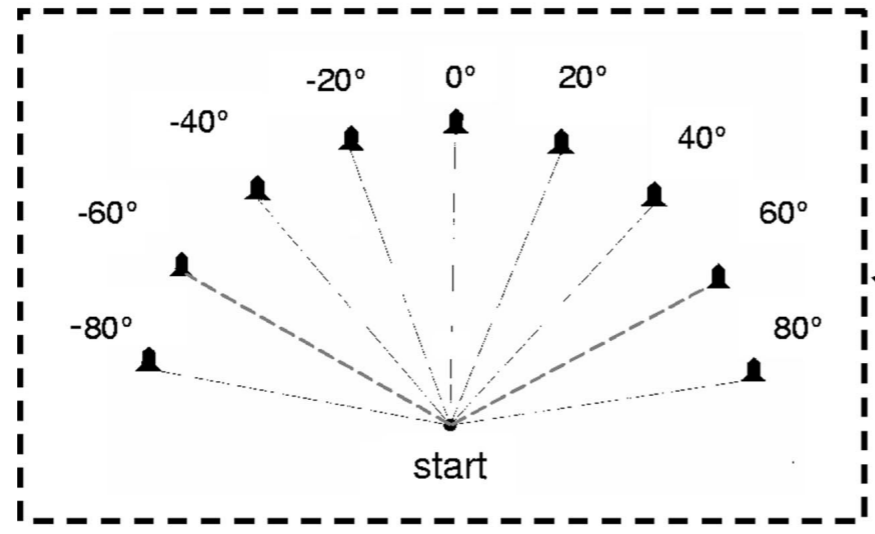
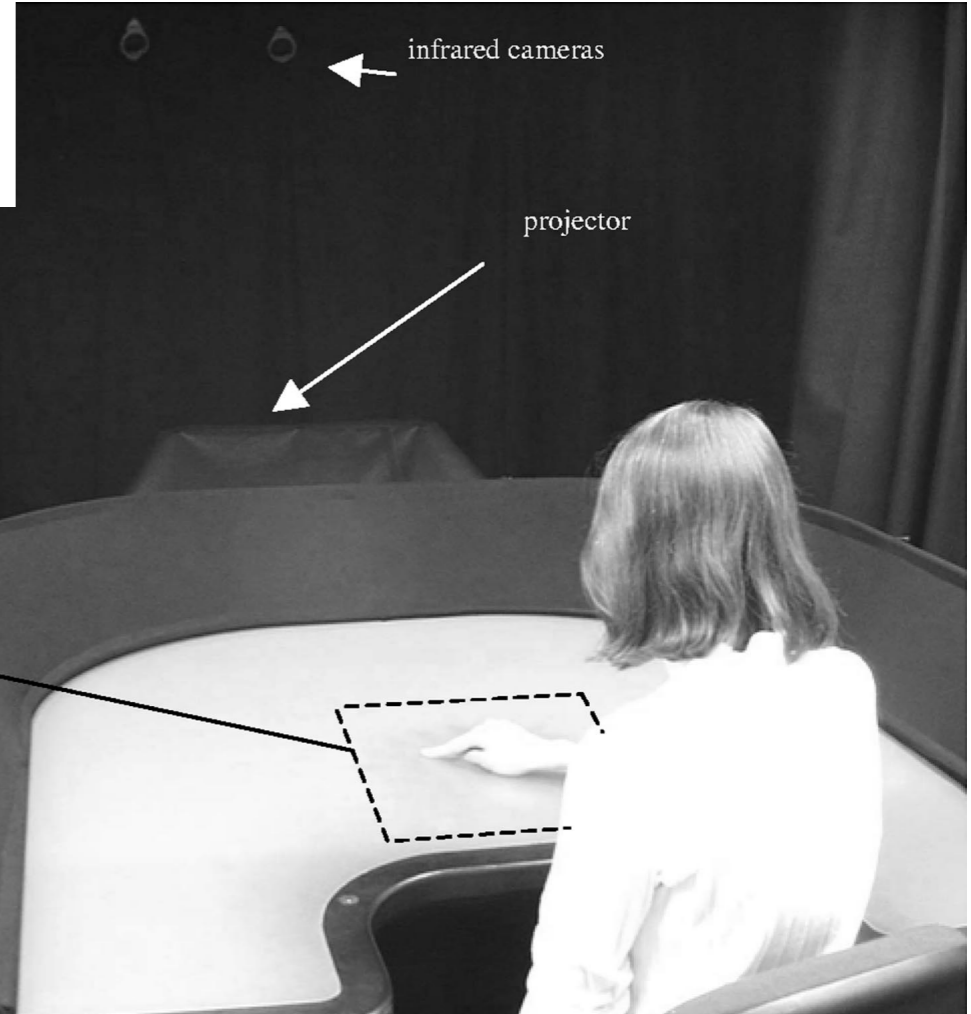
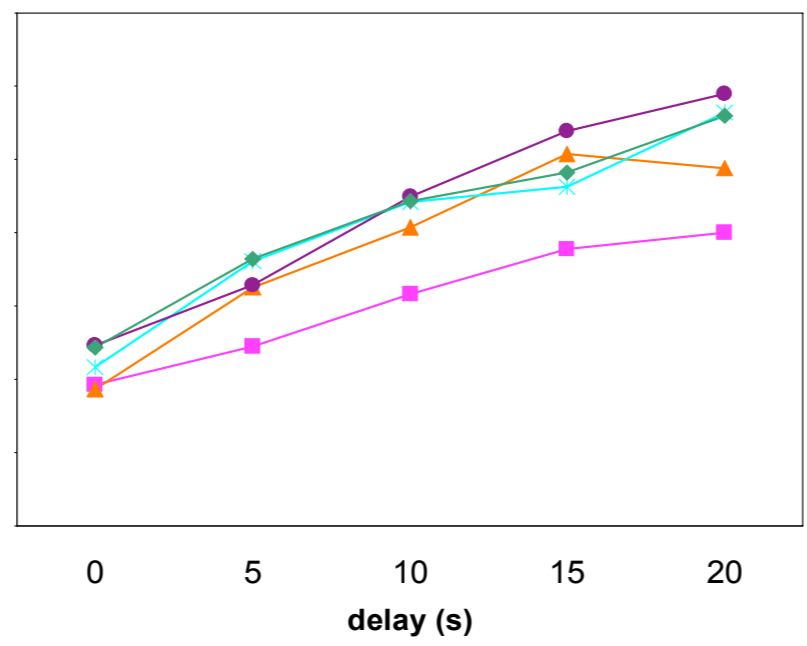
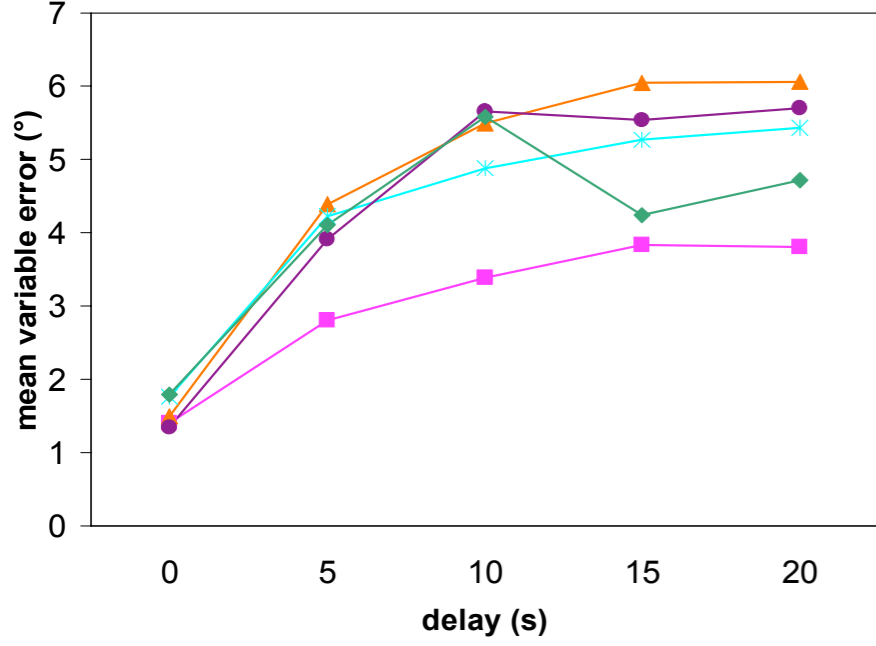
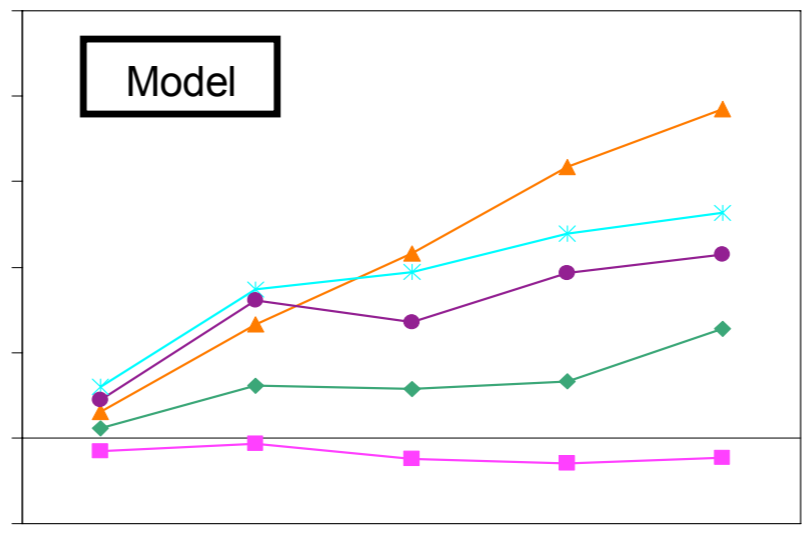
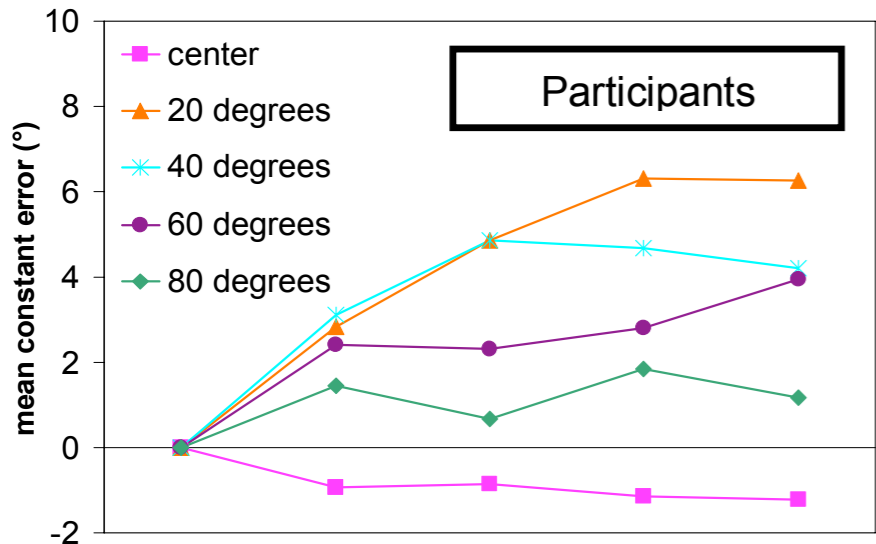
- WMM is marginally stable state: it is not asymptotically stable against drift within the low-dimensional space
- => empirically real.. ?

# “space ship” task probing spatial working memory



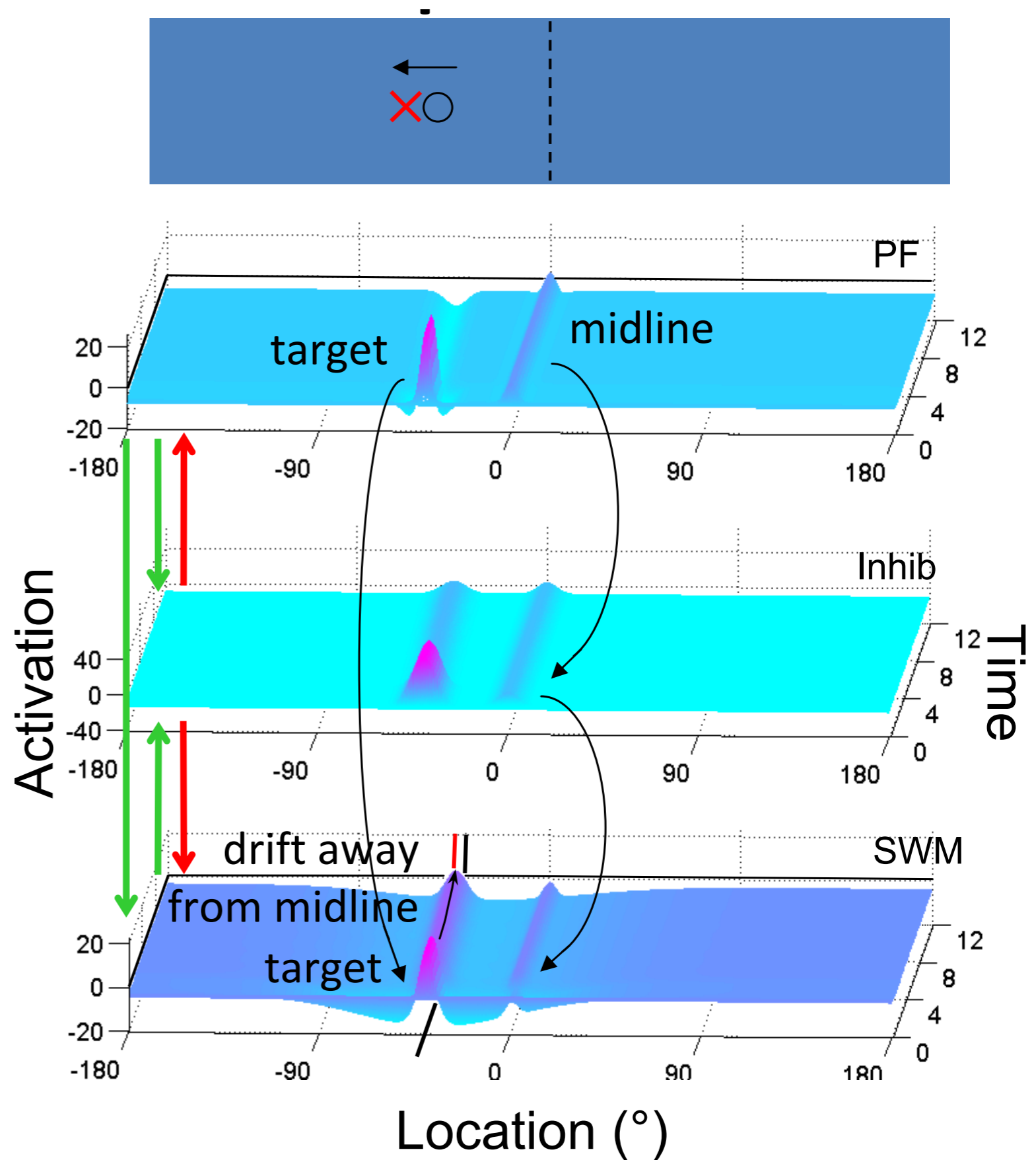
[Schutte, Spencer, JEP:HPP 2009]

repulsion from mid-line



[Spencer, Schöner, 2006]

- DFT account of repulsion: inhibitory interaction with peak representing landmark





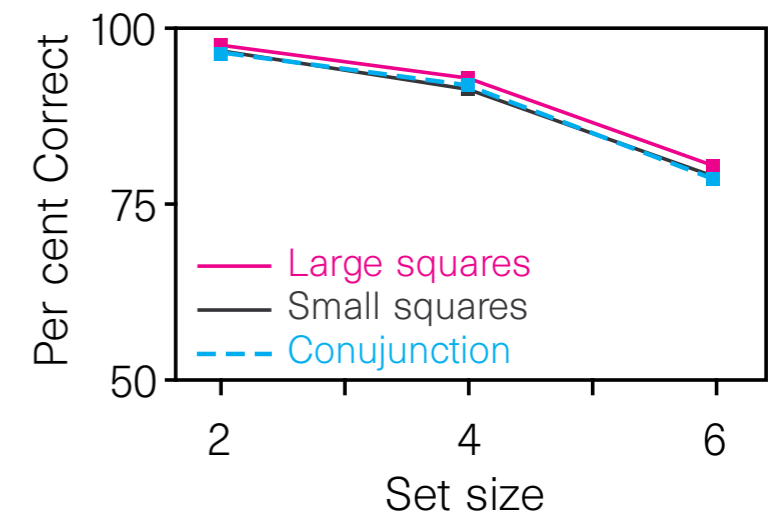
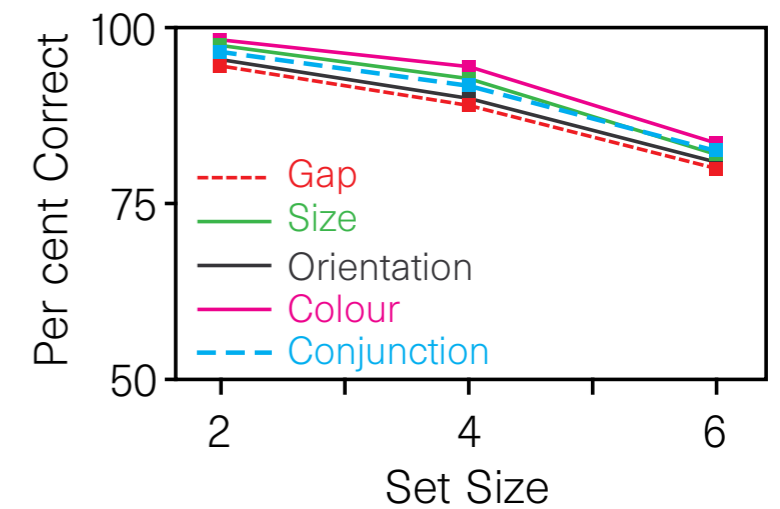
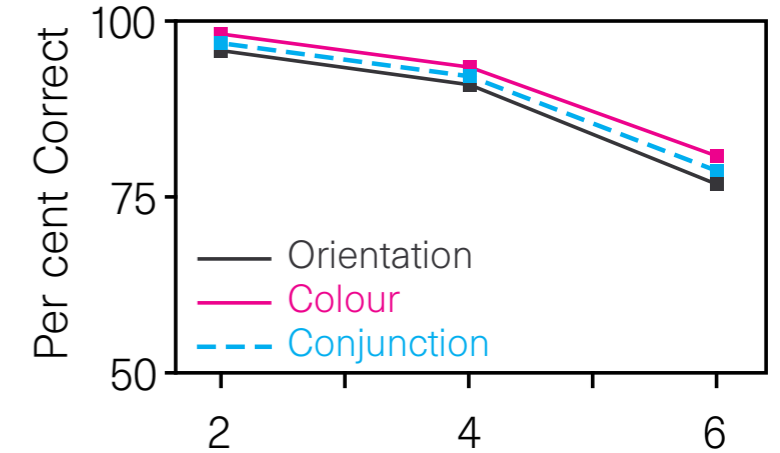
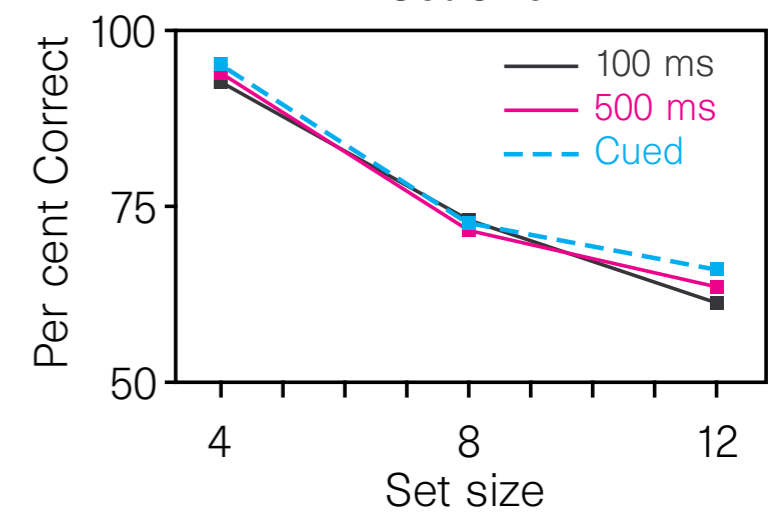
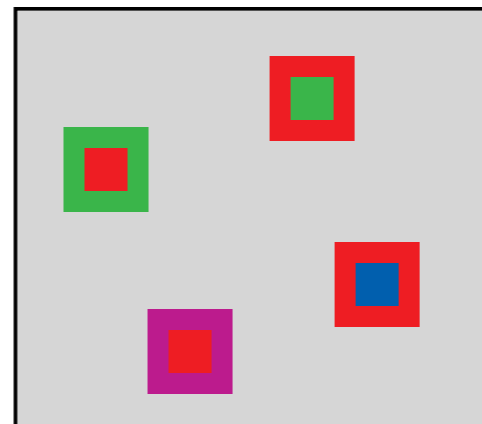
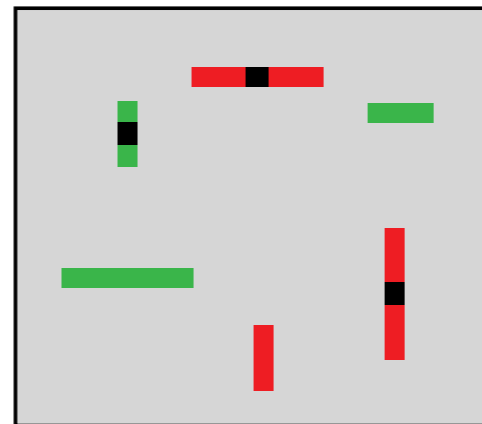
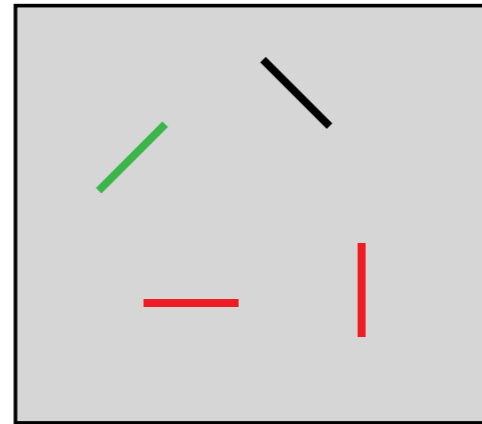
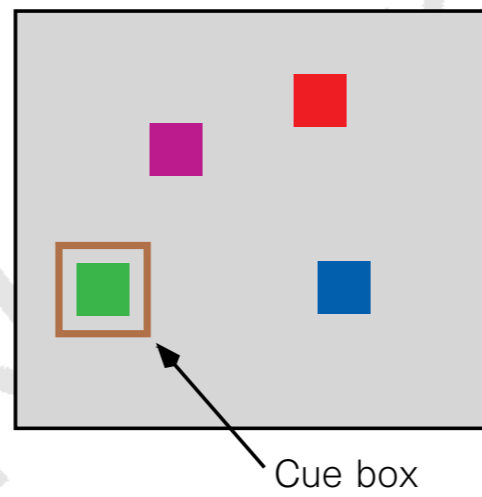
# visual working memory capacity limits

■ capacity based on the number of objects...

■ about 4

■ probed by change detection, free recall

[Luck, Vogel, 1997]

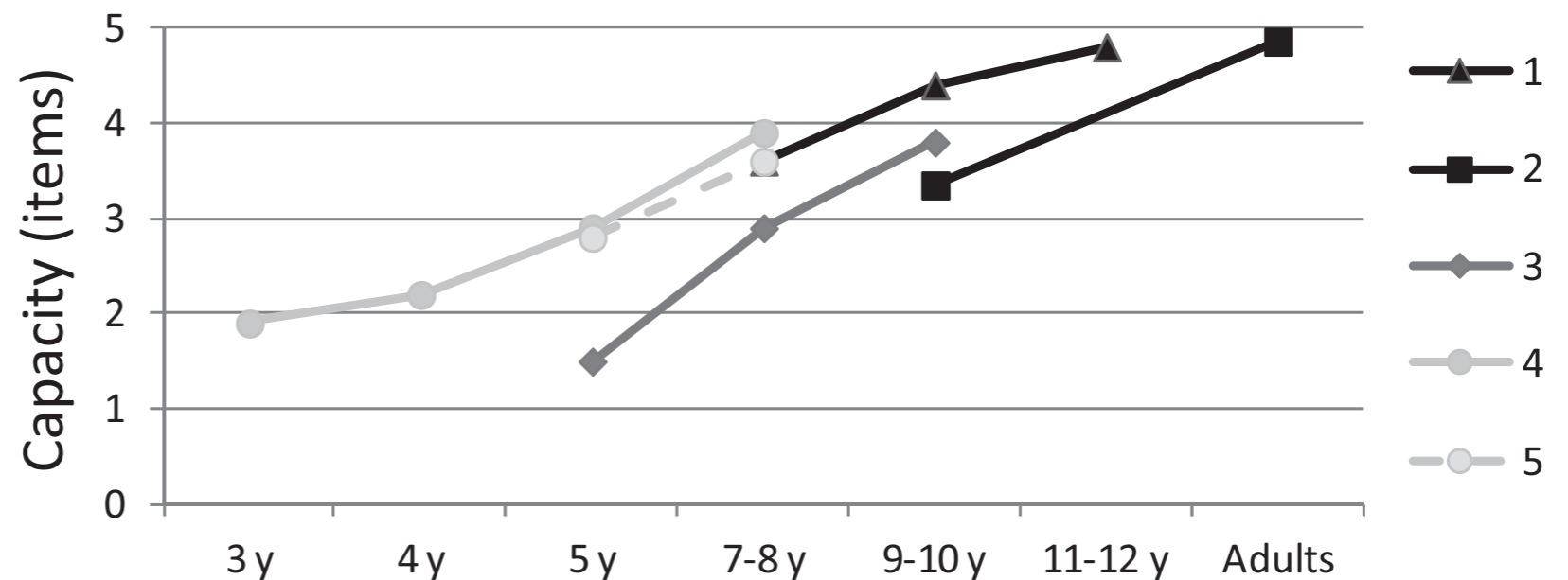


# DFT account of WM capacity

- fundamentally caused by accumulation of inhibitory interaction across peaks
- => generic to DFT

# WM capacity depends on interaction

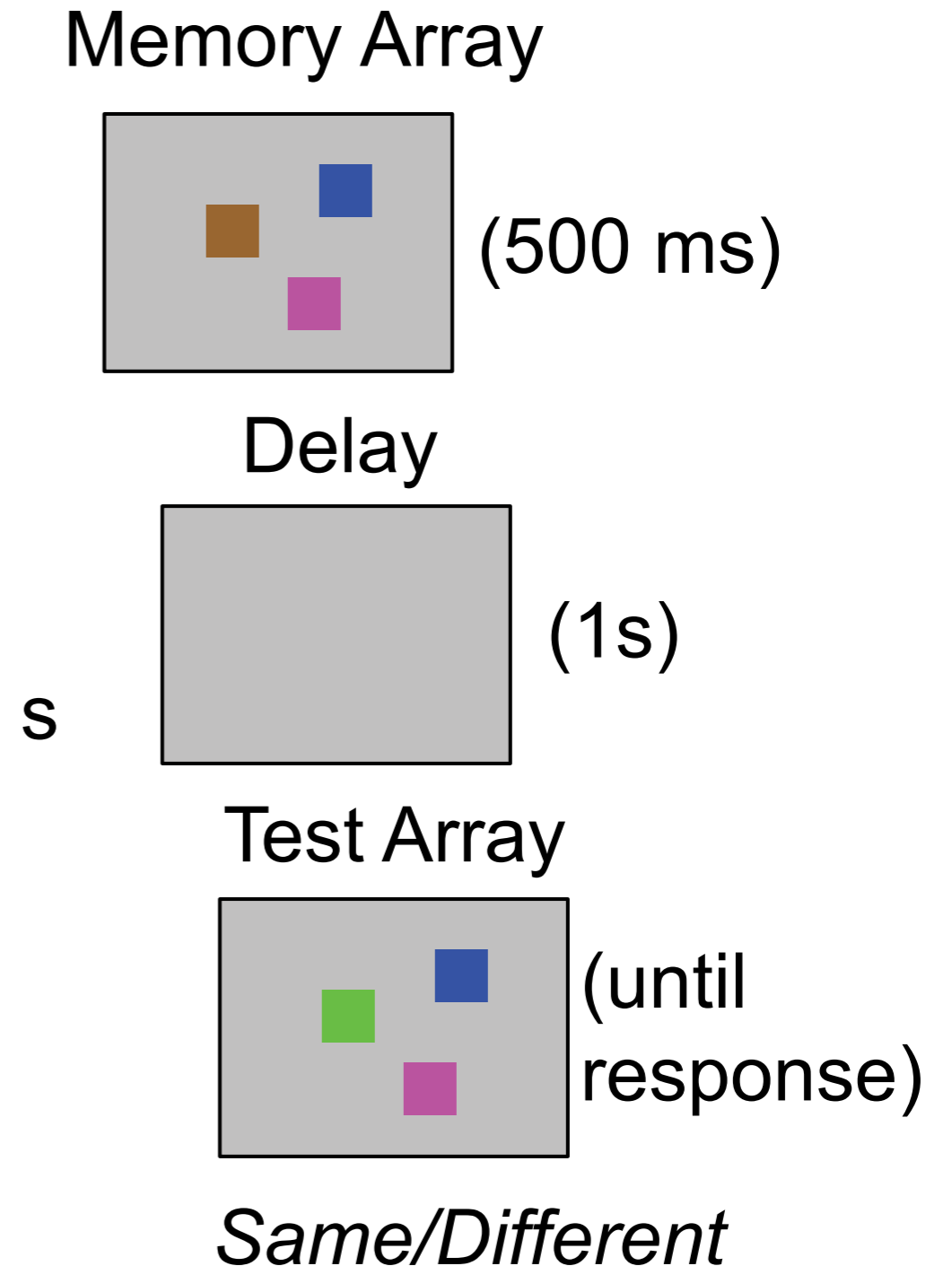
- capacity increases across development
- consistent with “spatial precision hypothesis”... interaction becomes more excitatory/local over development



[Simmering 2010]

# Change detection

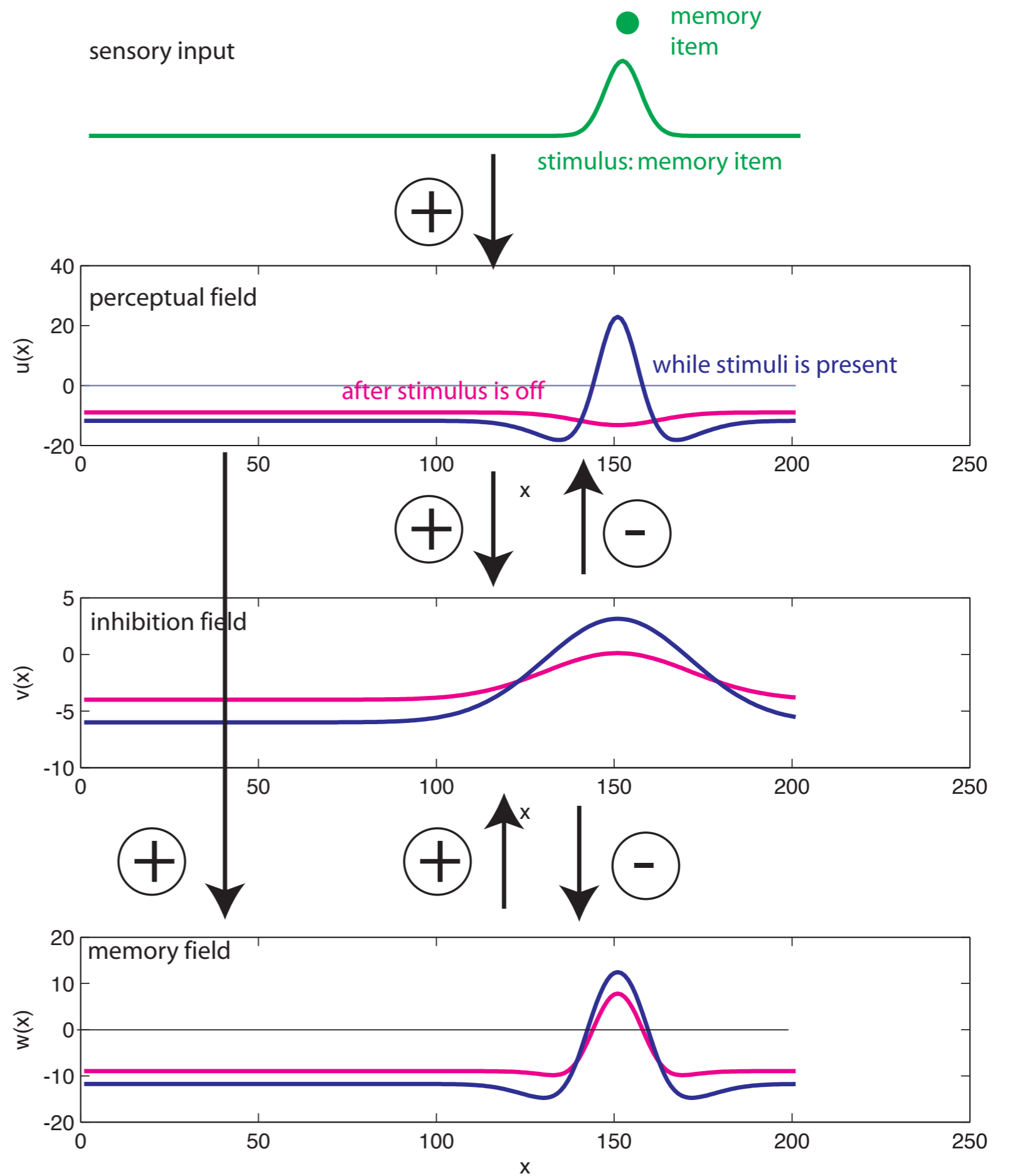
- the standard probe of working memory



# DFT account for change detection

- separation between perceptual and memory function

# 3 layer model



# 3 layer model

$$\begin{aligned}\tau \dot{u}(x, t) &= -u(x, t) + h_u + S(x, t) + \int dx' c_{uu}(x - x') \sigma(u(x', t)) \\ &\quad - \int dx' c_{uv}(x - x') \sigma(v(x', t)) + \int dx' c_{uw}(x - x') \sigma(w(x', t)) \\ \tau \dot{v}(x, t) &= -v(x, t) + h_v \\ &\quad + \int dx' c_{vu}(x - x') \sigma(u(x', t)) + \int dx' c_{vw}(x - x') \sigma(w(x', t)) \\ \tau \dot{w}(x, t) &= -w(x, t) + h_w + \int dx' c_{ww}(x - x') \sigma(w(x', t)) \\ &\quad - \int dx' c_{wv}(x - x') \sigma(v(x', t)) + \int dx' c_{wu}(x - x') \sigma(u(x', t))\end{aligned}$$

**=> simulations**

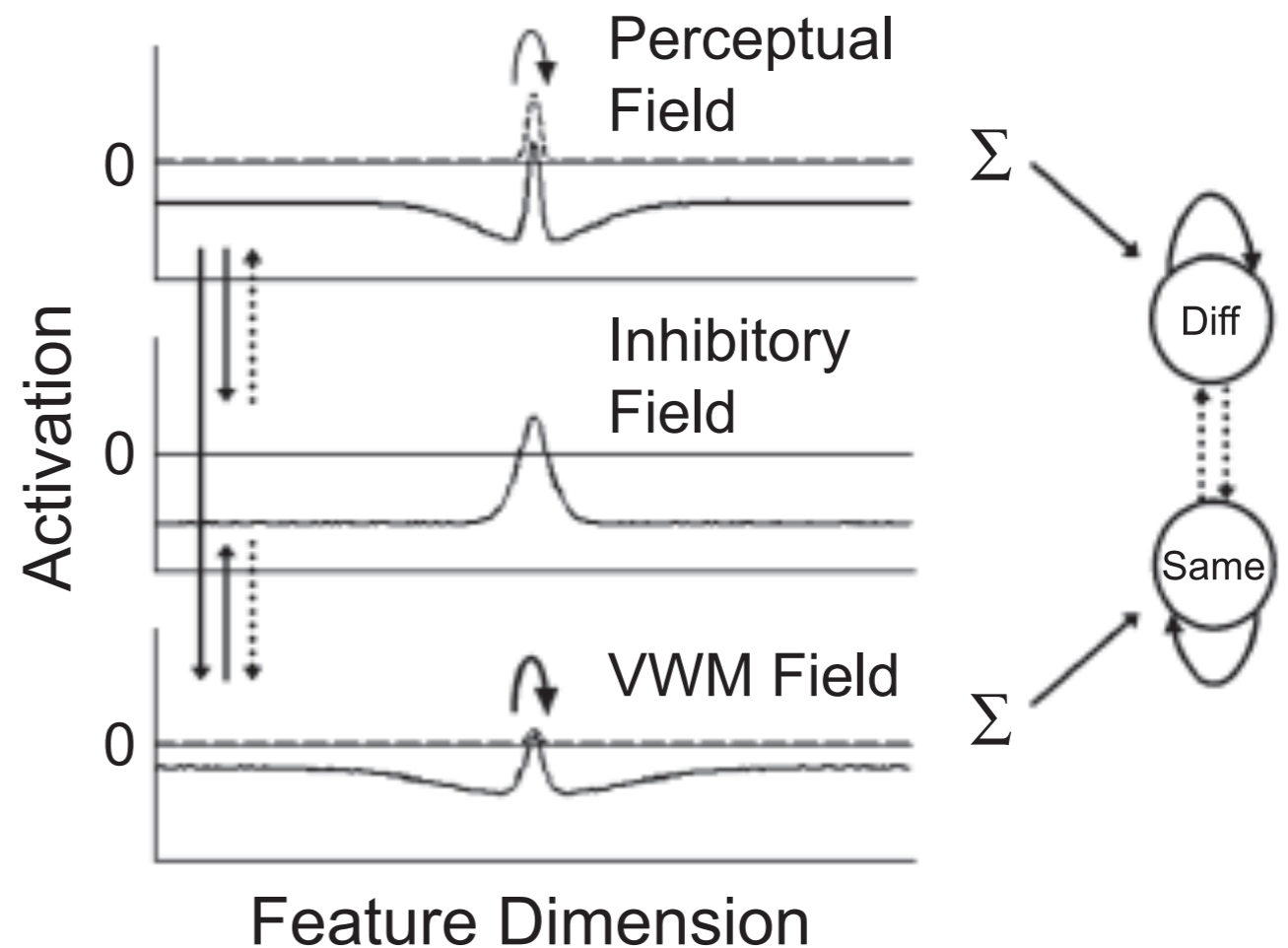


# DFT account for change detection

- => account for how working memories arise from percepts, how percepts may detect change and update memories...

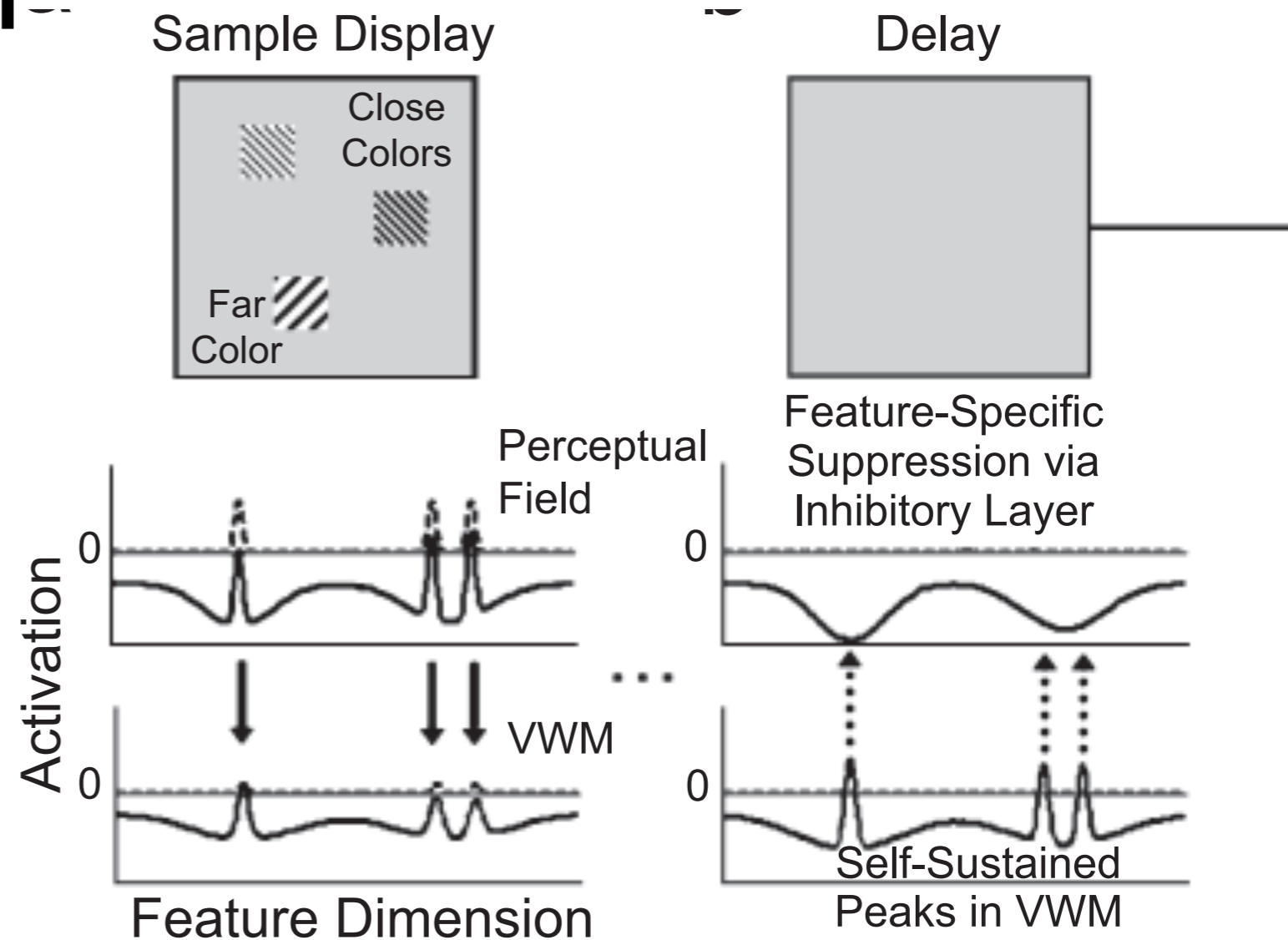
# DFT account for change detection

- generate the categorical “answer” by two competing nodes
- based on the “hidden” go-signal in the task



# DFT account for change detection

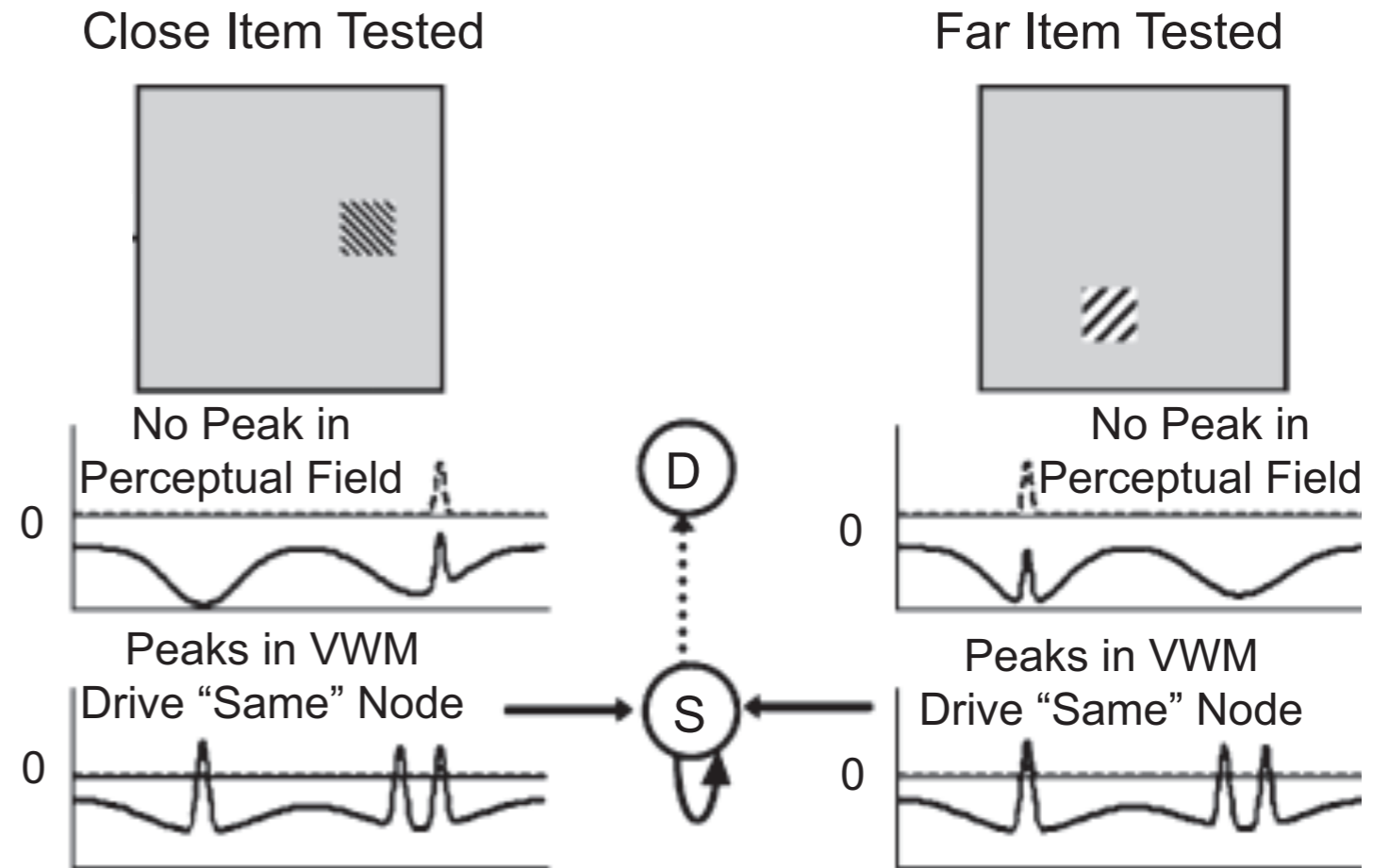
- I) working memory is created



Activation —————  
 Input - - - - -  
 Excitation —————>  
 Inhibition .....>

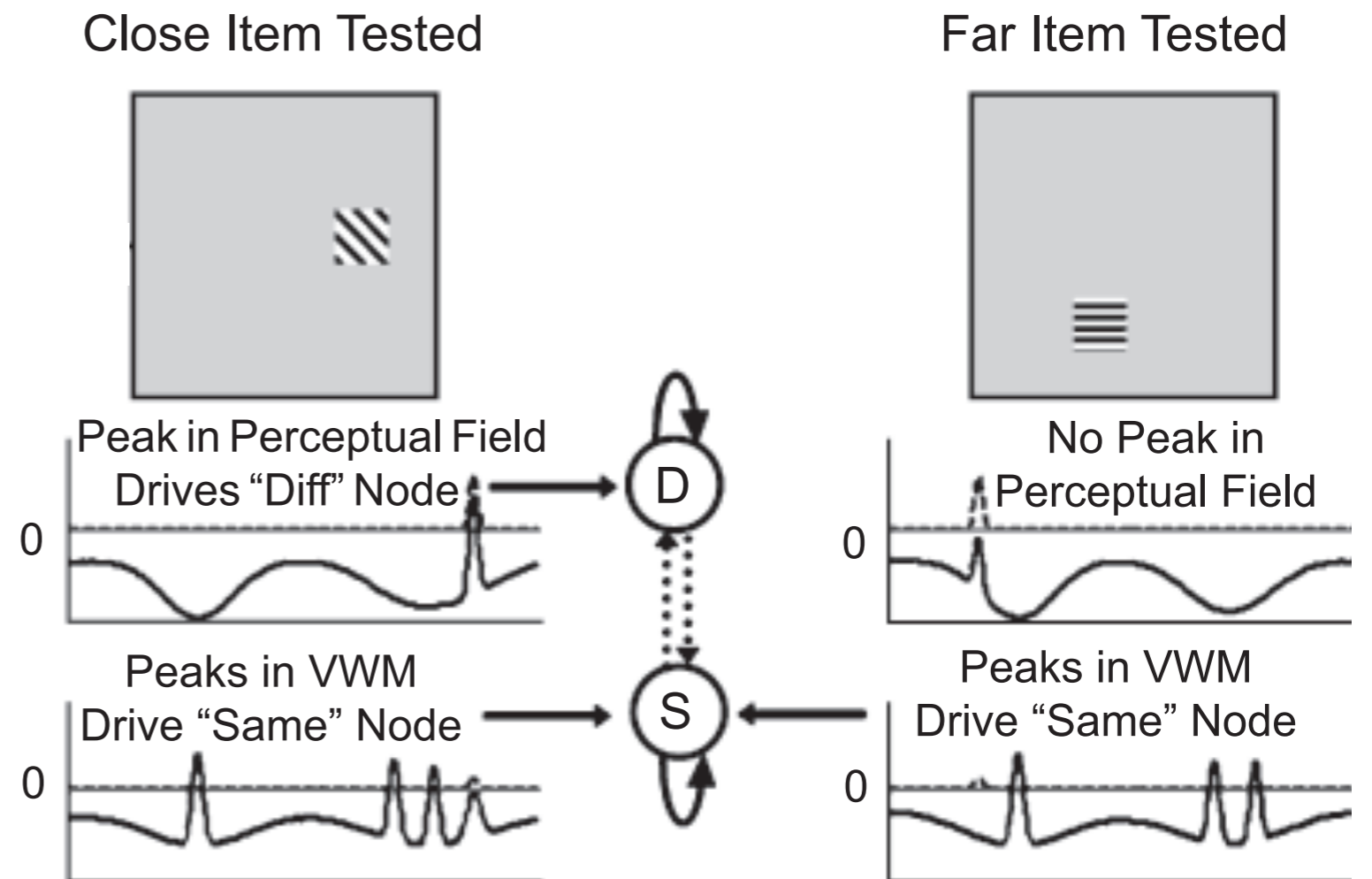
# DFT account for change detection

- 2) change detection in “same” trial



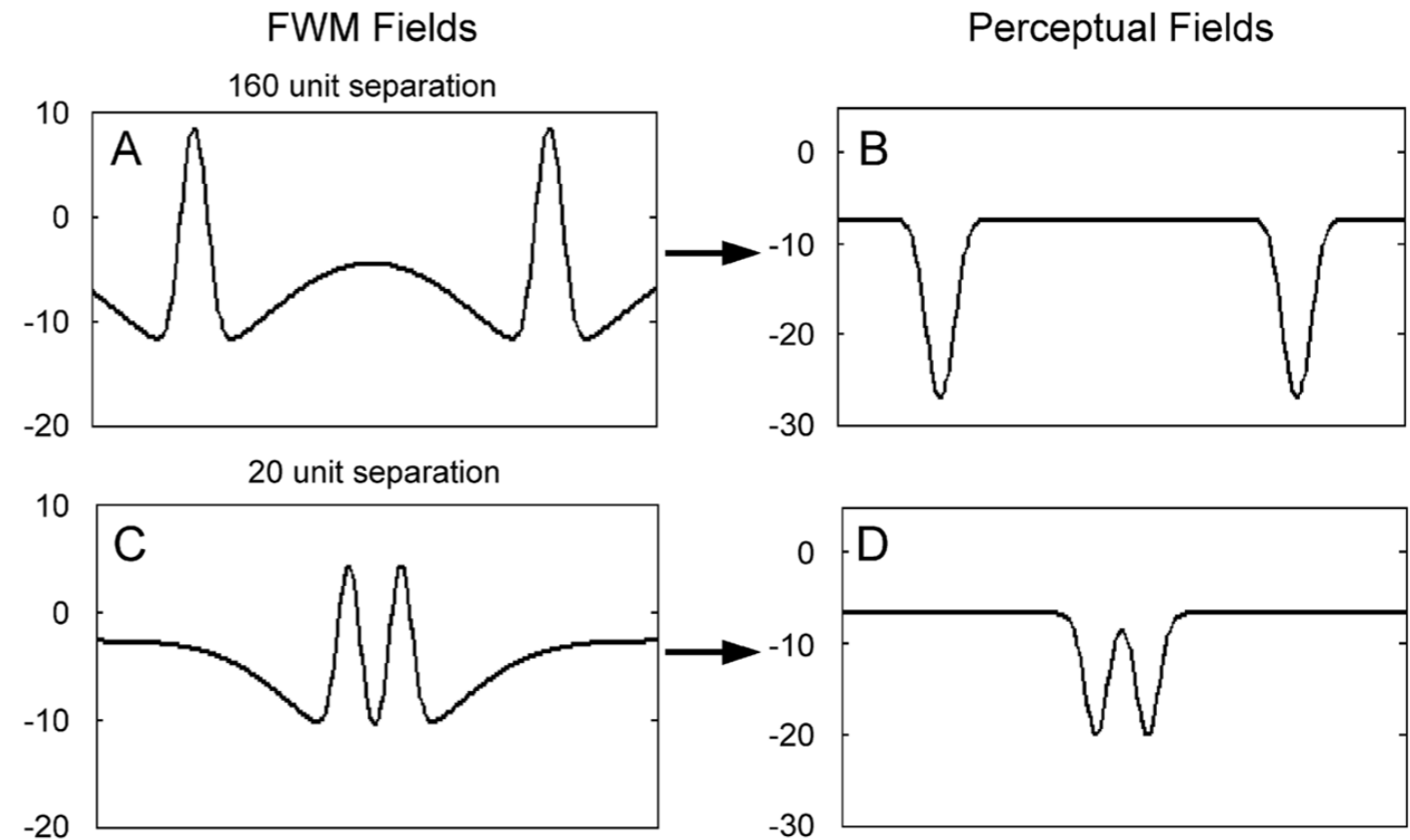
# DFT account for change detection

- 2) change detection in “different” trial



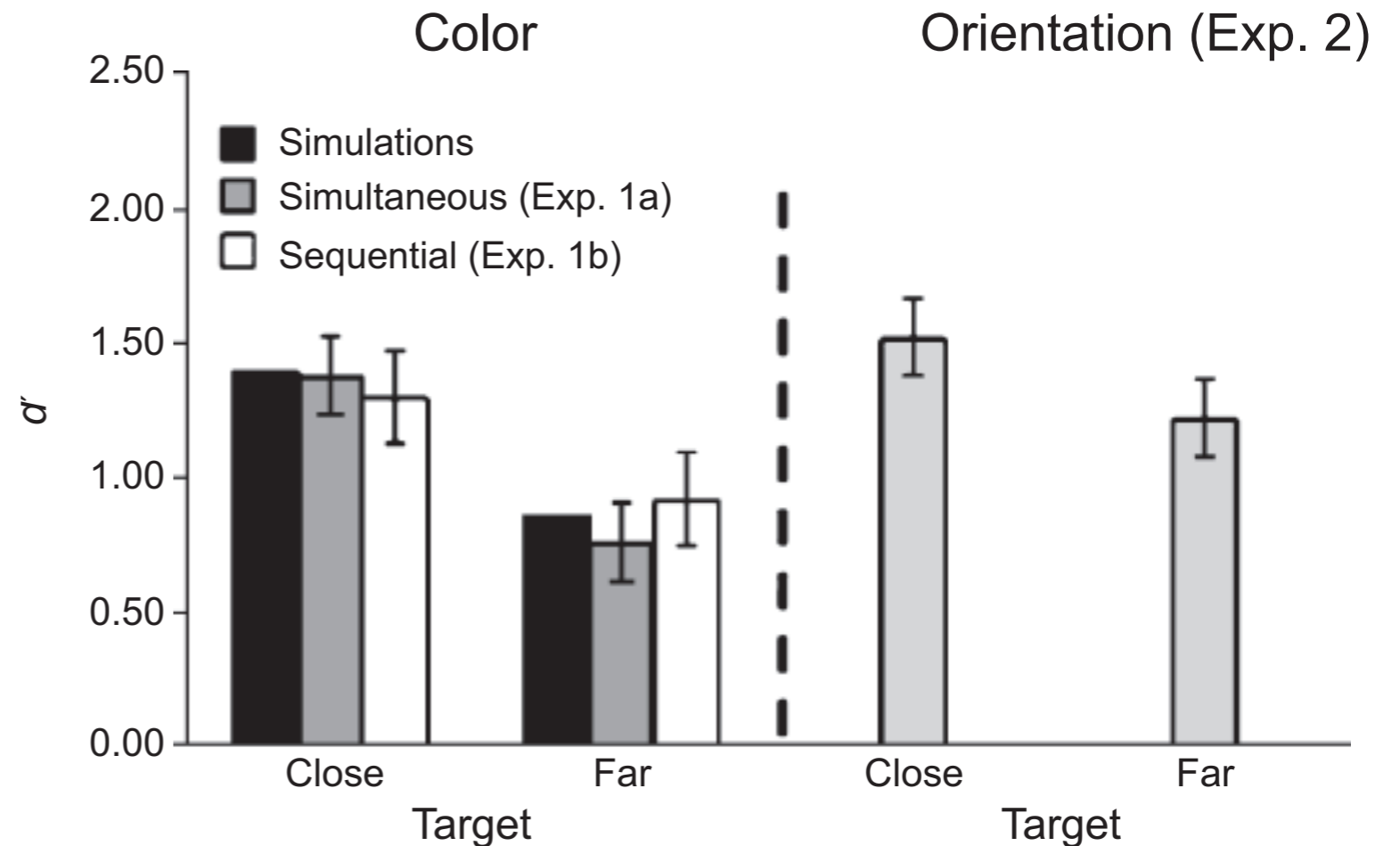
# DFT account for change detection

- predict better change detection when items are metrically closer !

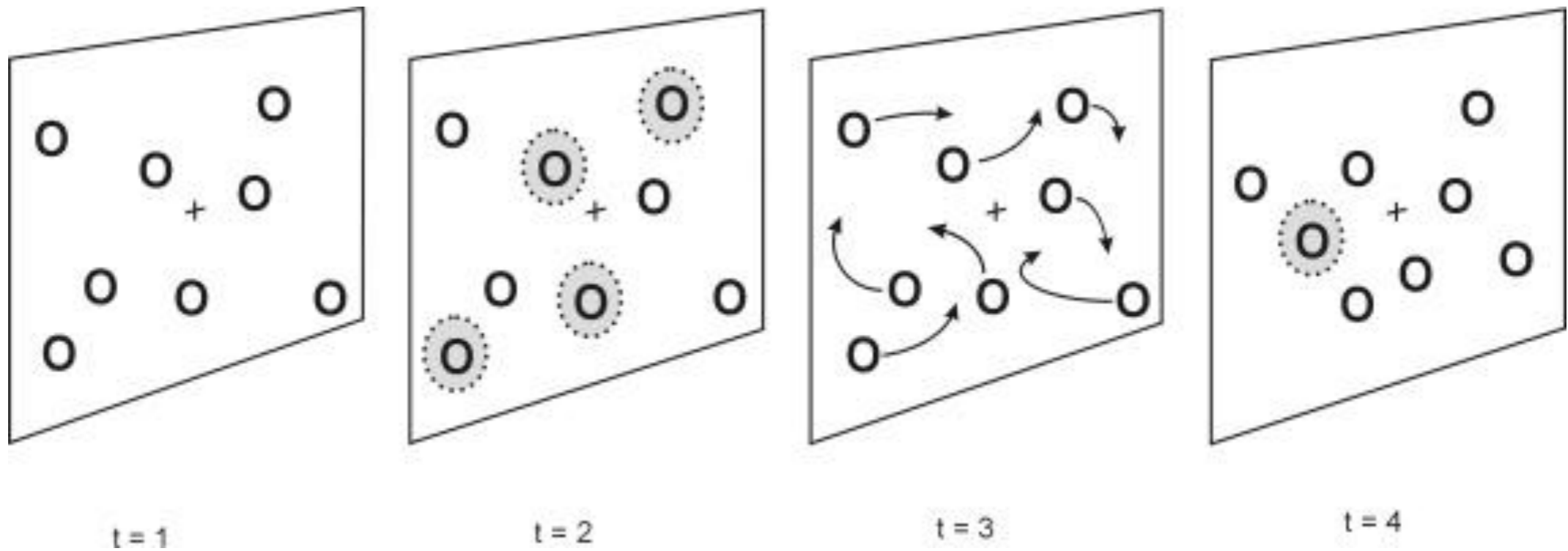


# DFT account for change detection

- predict better change detection when items are metrically closer !

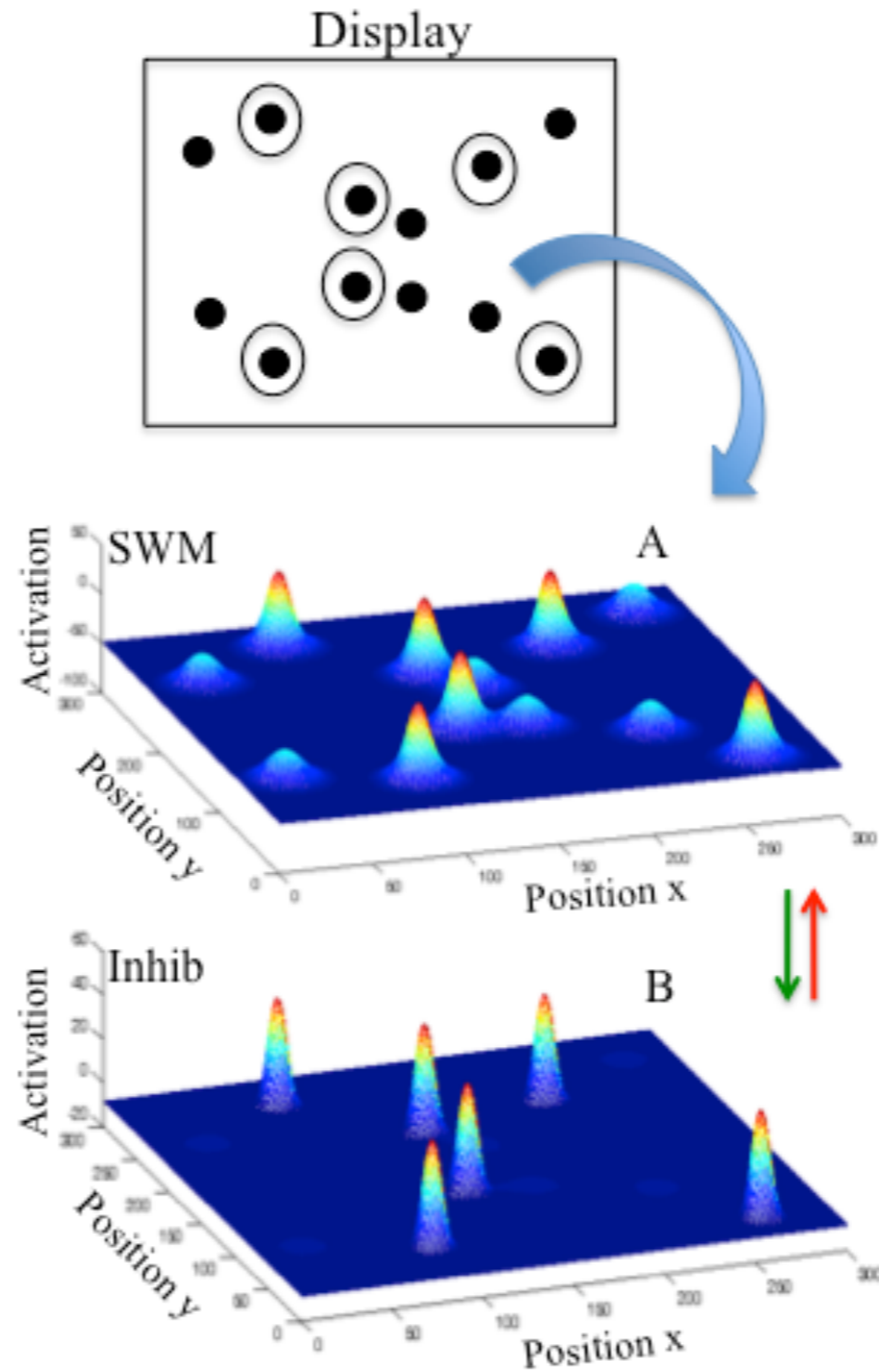


# Multi-object tracking



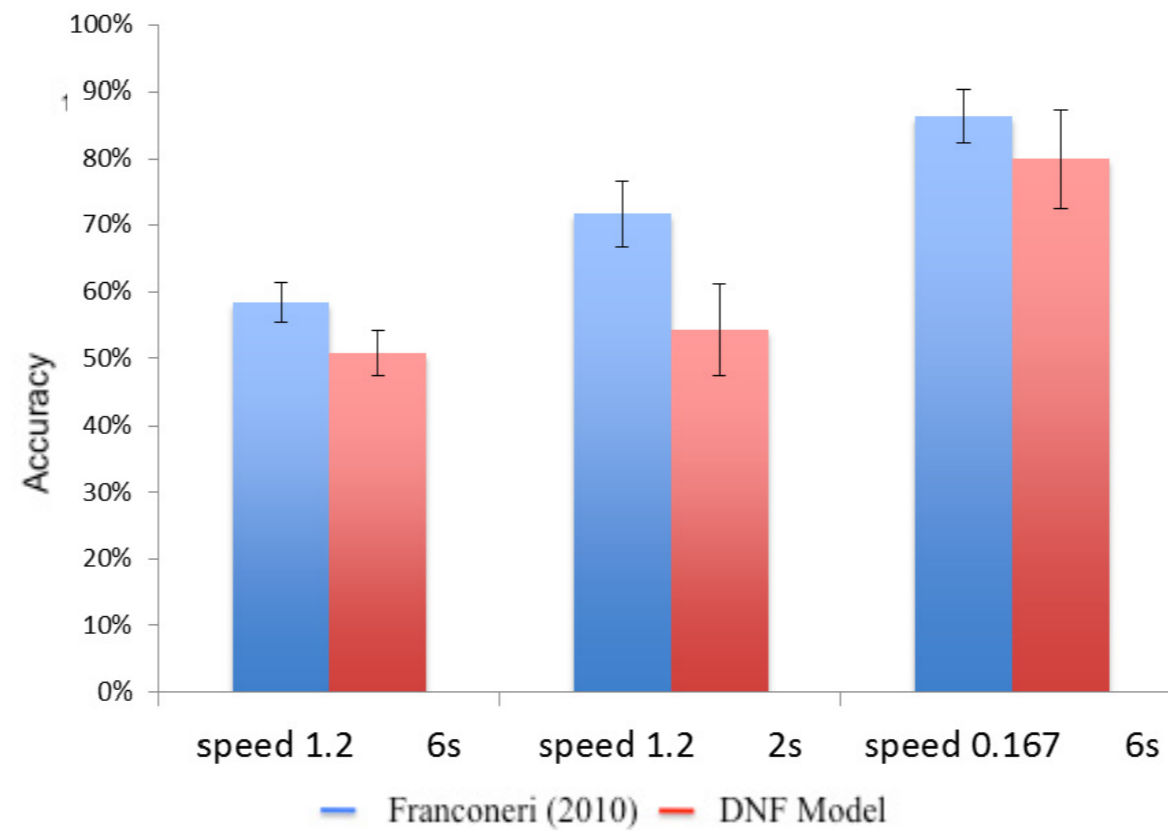


# Multi-object tracking



[Spencer et al]

# Multi-object tracking

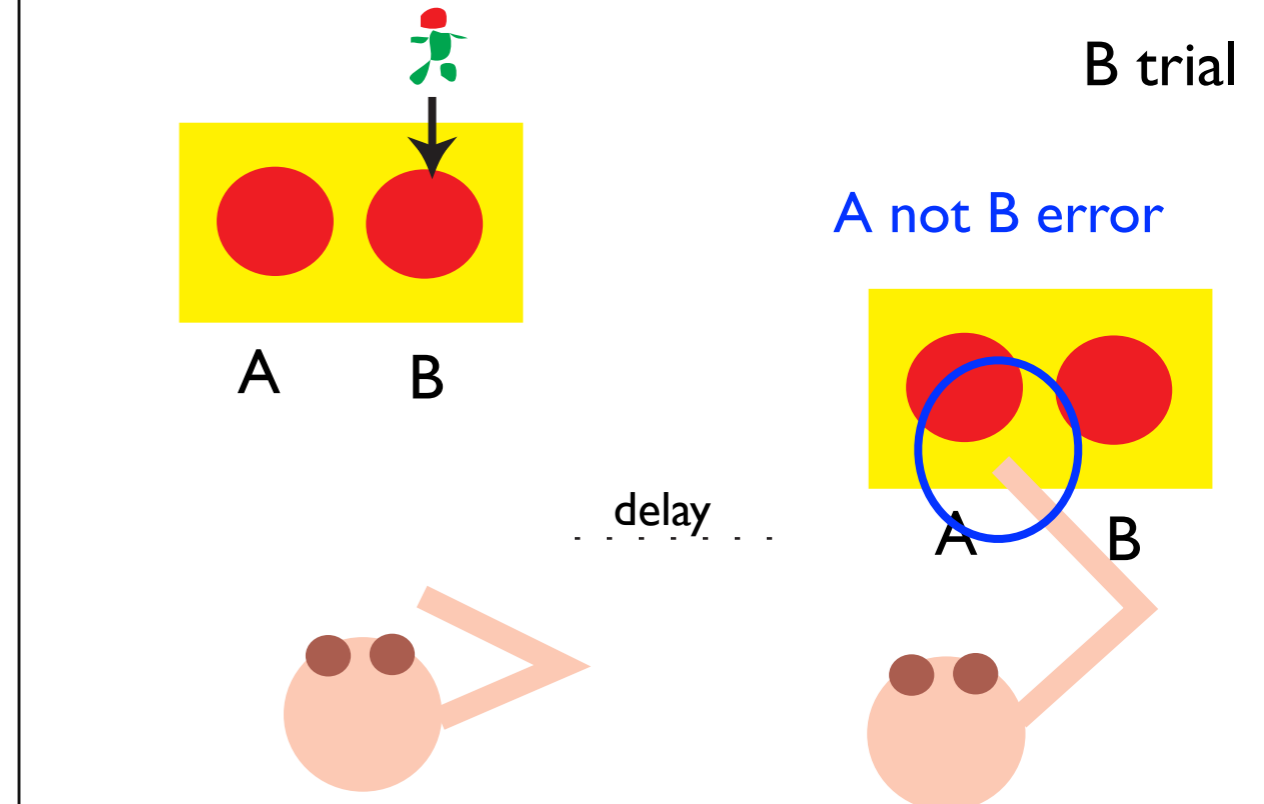
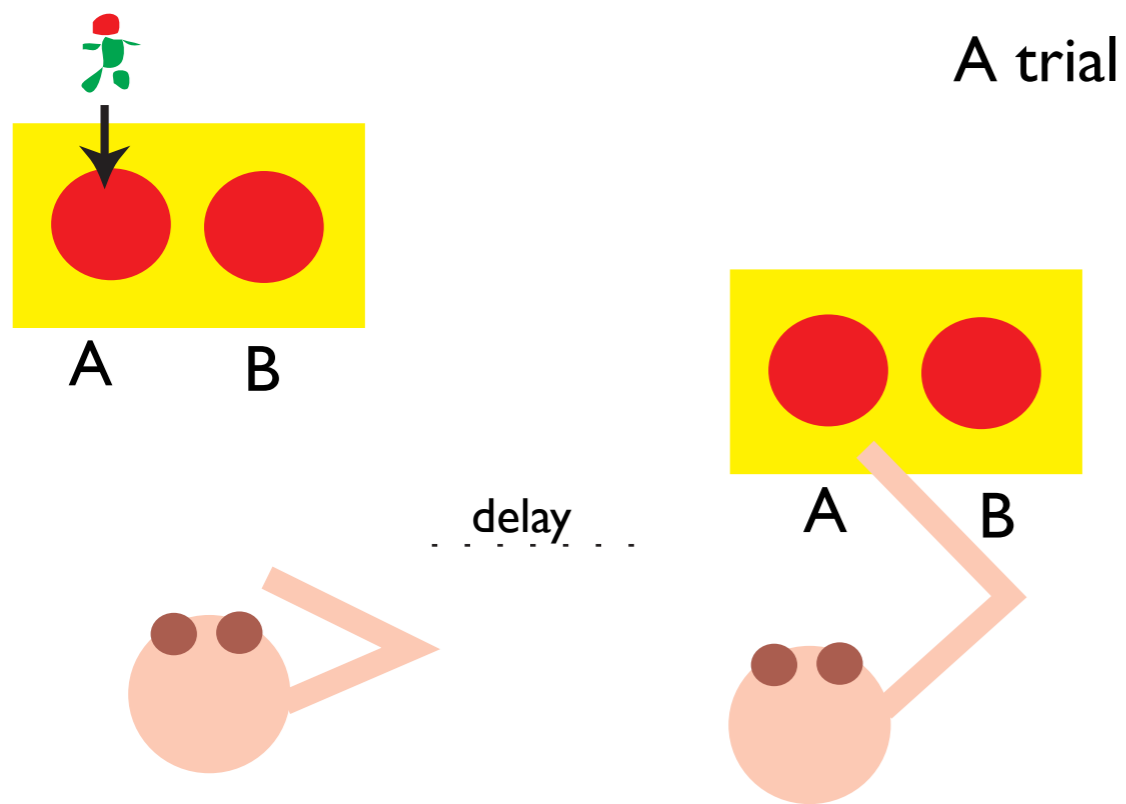


[Spencer et al]

# Combining working memory and the memory trace

- in a case study that invokes all dynamic instabilities of DFT as well...

# Piaget's A not B paradigm: "out-of-sight -- out of mind"

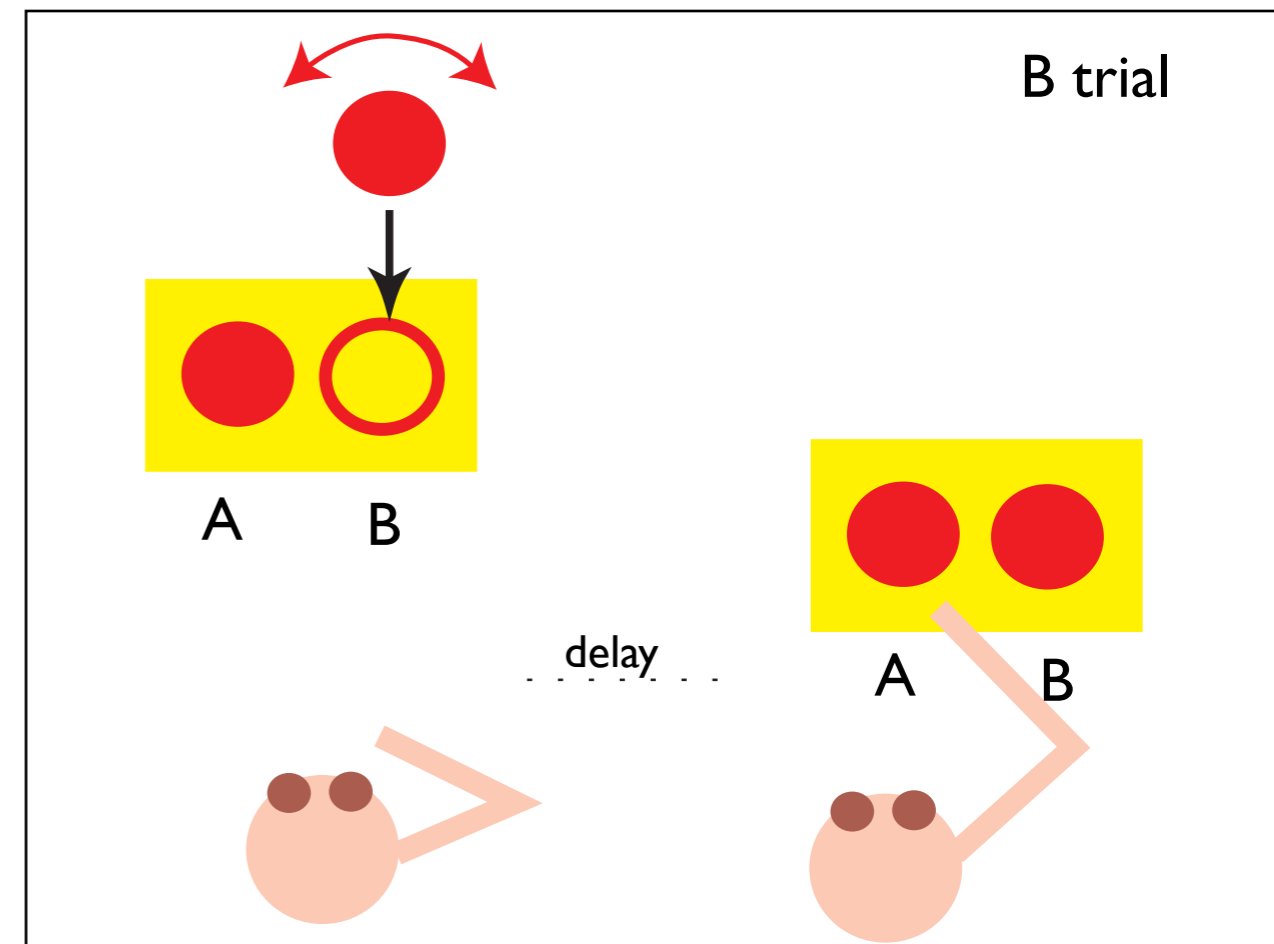
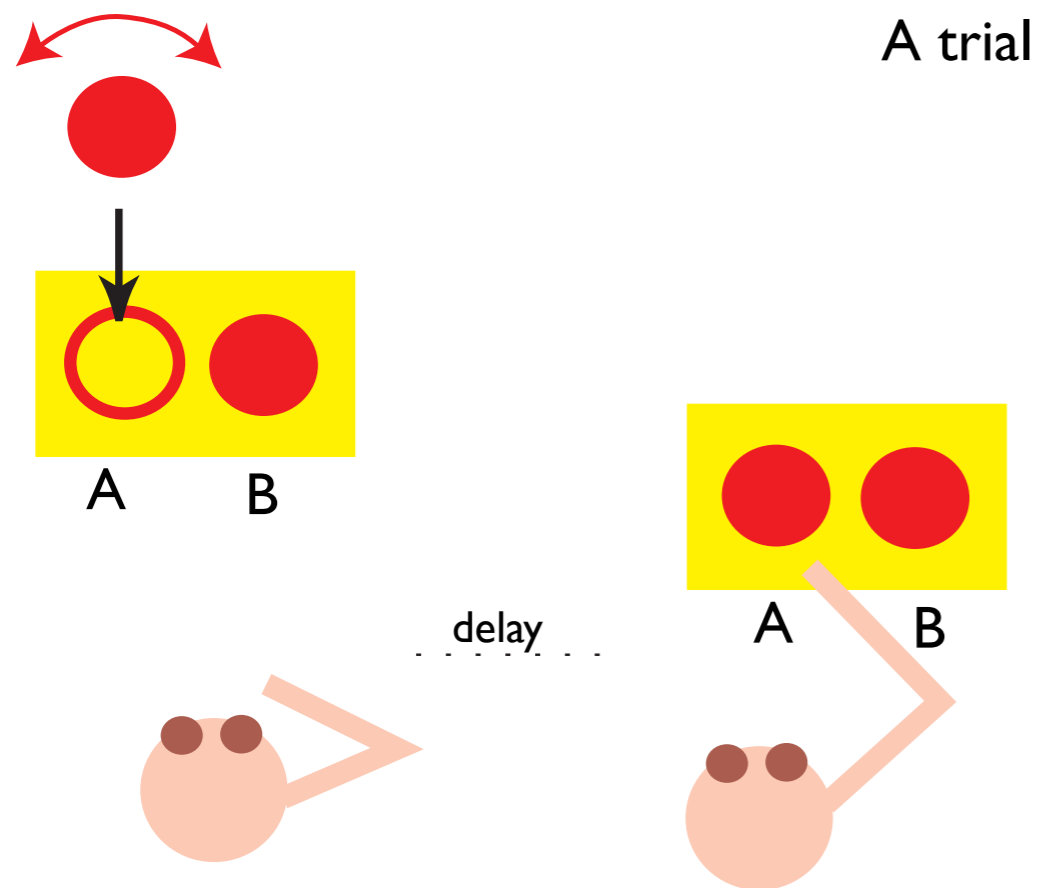


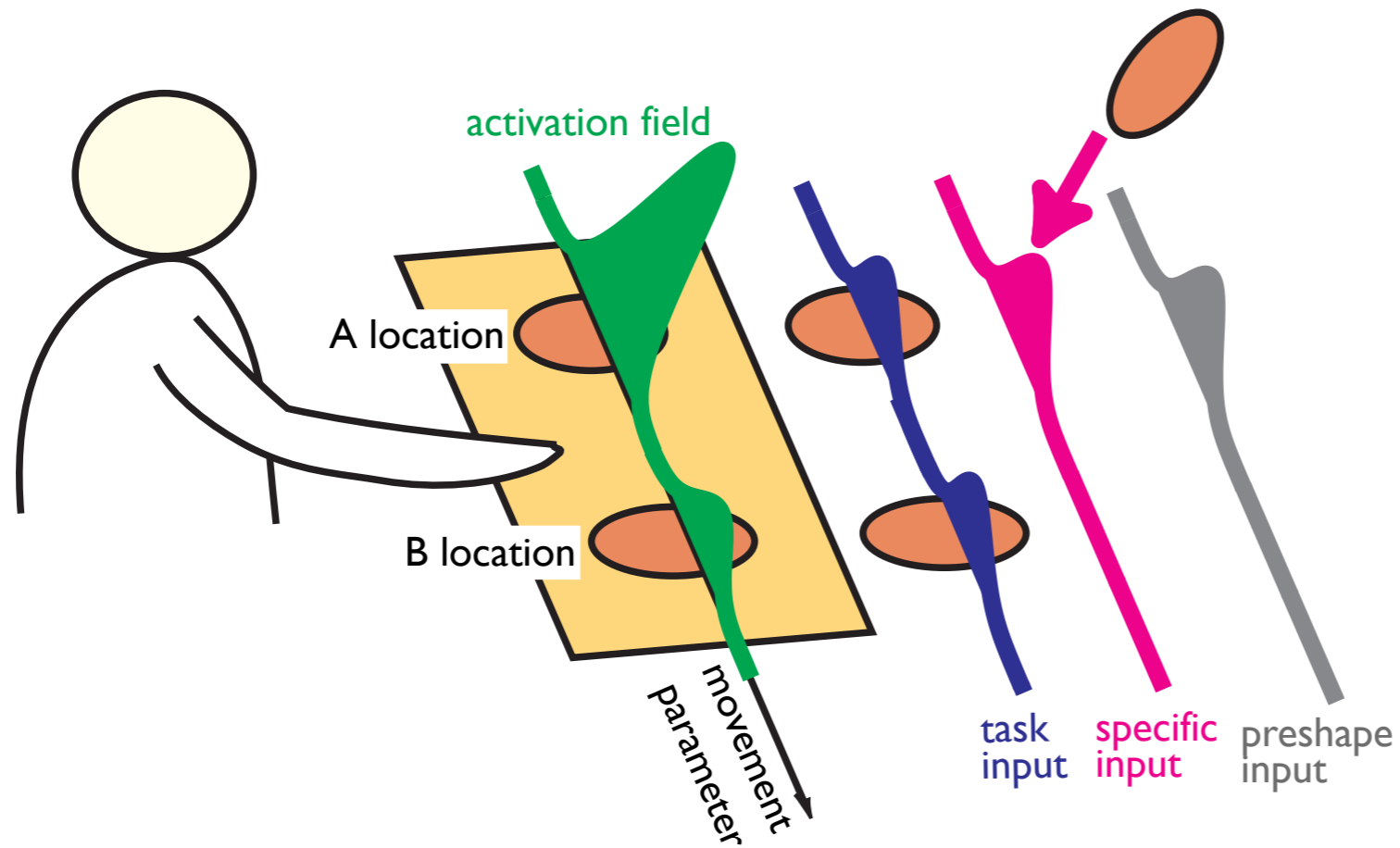
# Toyleless variant of A not B task



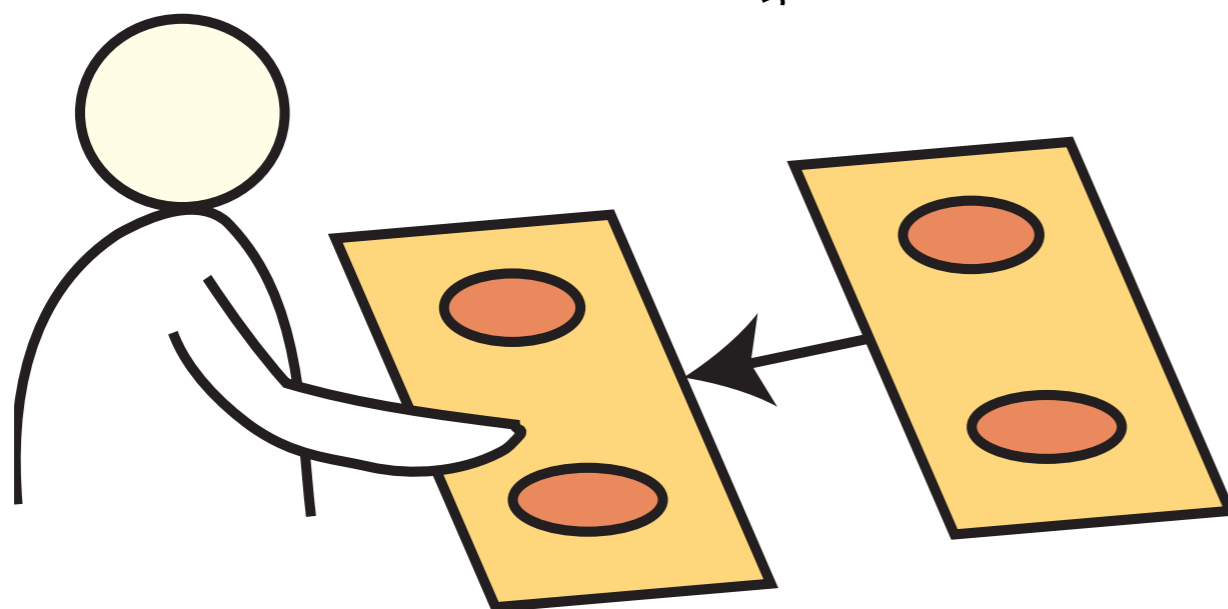
[Smith, Thelen et al.: Psychological Review (1999)]

# Toyleless variant of A not B task reveals that A not B is essentially a decision task!





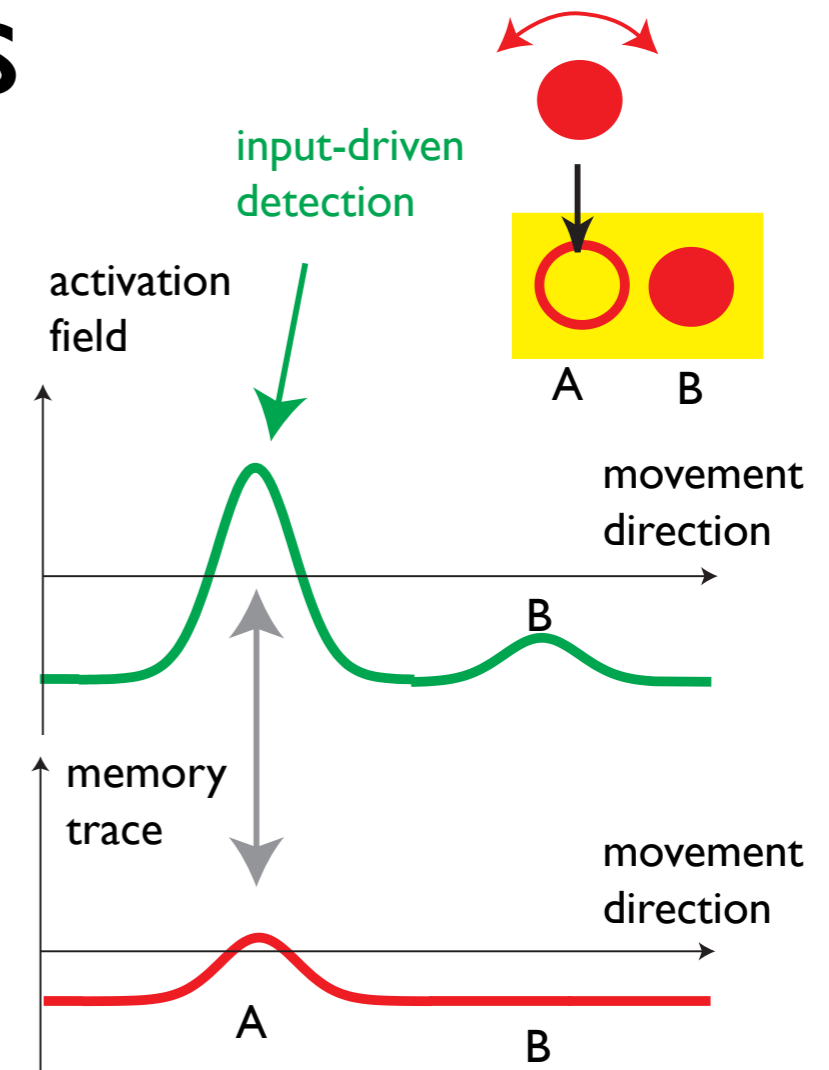
[Thelen, et al., BBS (2001)]



[Dineva, Schöner, Dev. Science 2007]

# Instabilities

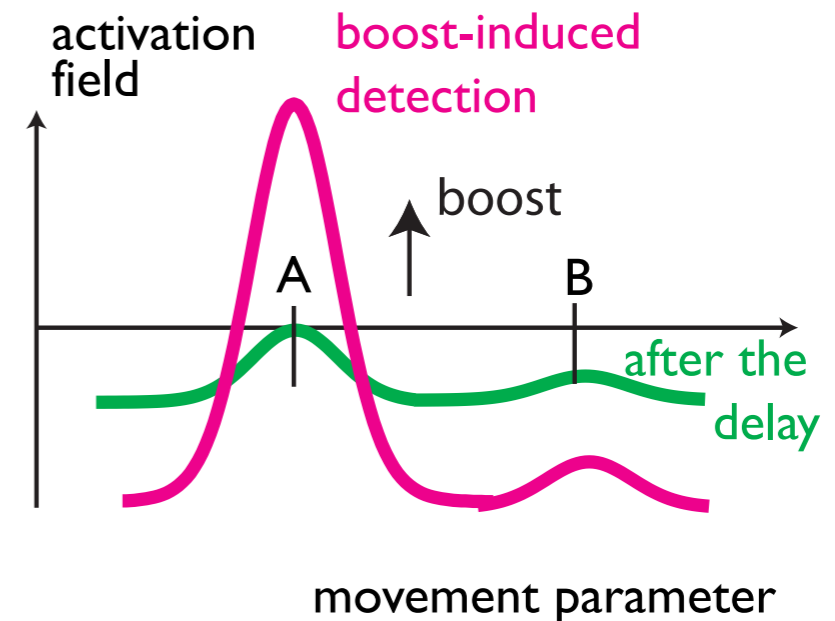
- detection: forming and initiating a movement goal
- selection: making sensori-motor decisions
- (learning: memory trace)
- boost-driven detection: initiating the action
- memory instability: old infants sustain during the delay, young infants do not





# Instabilities

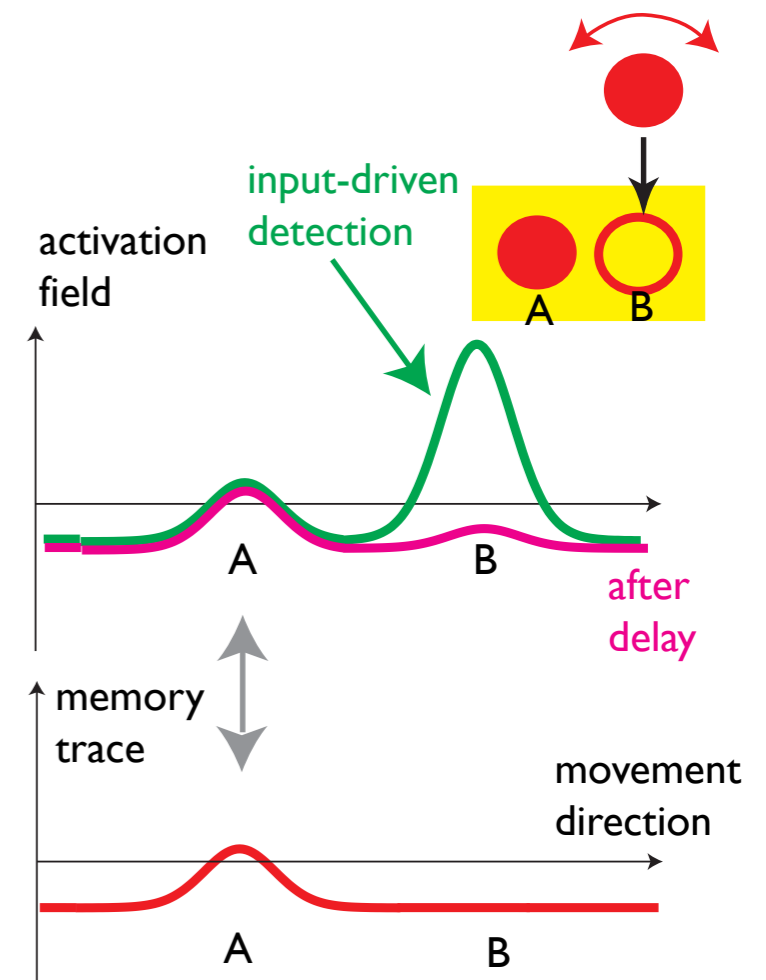
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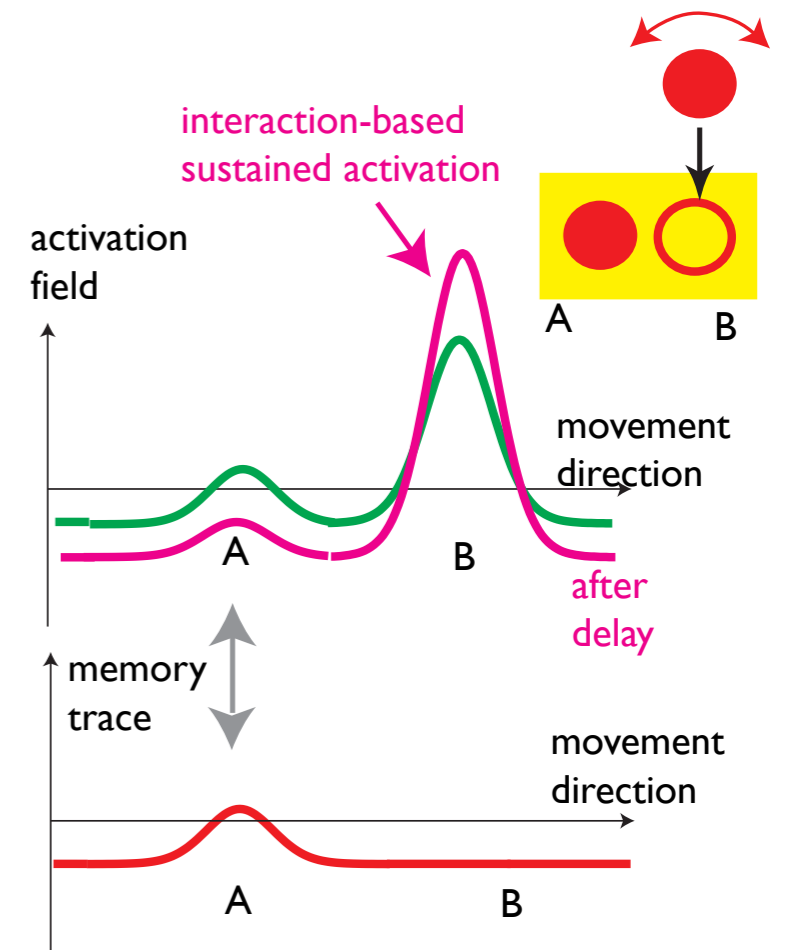
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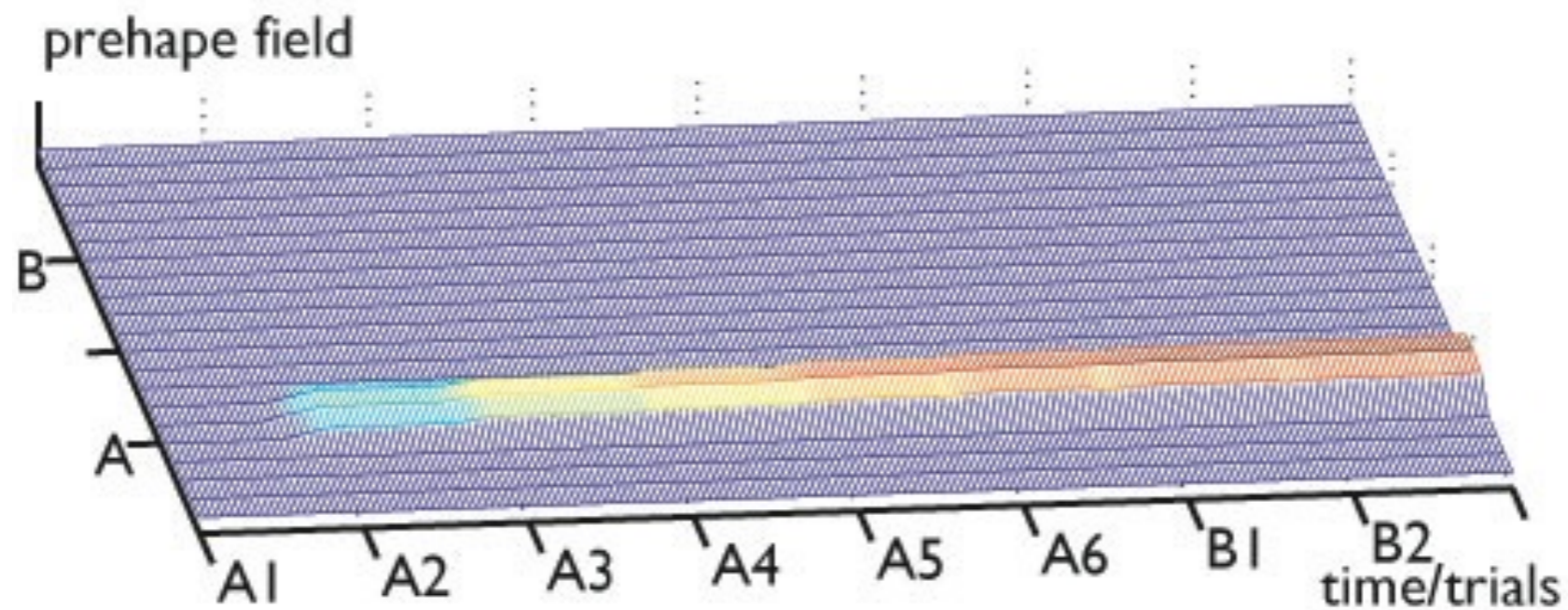
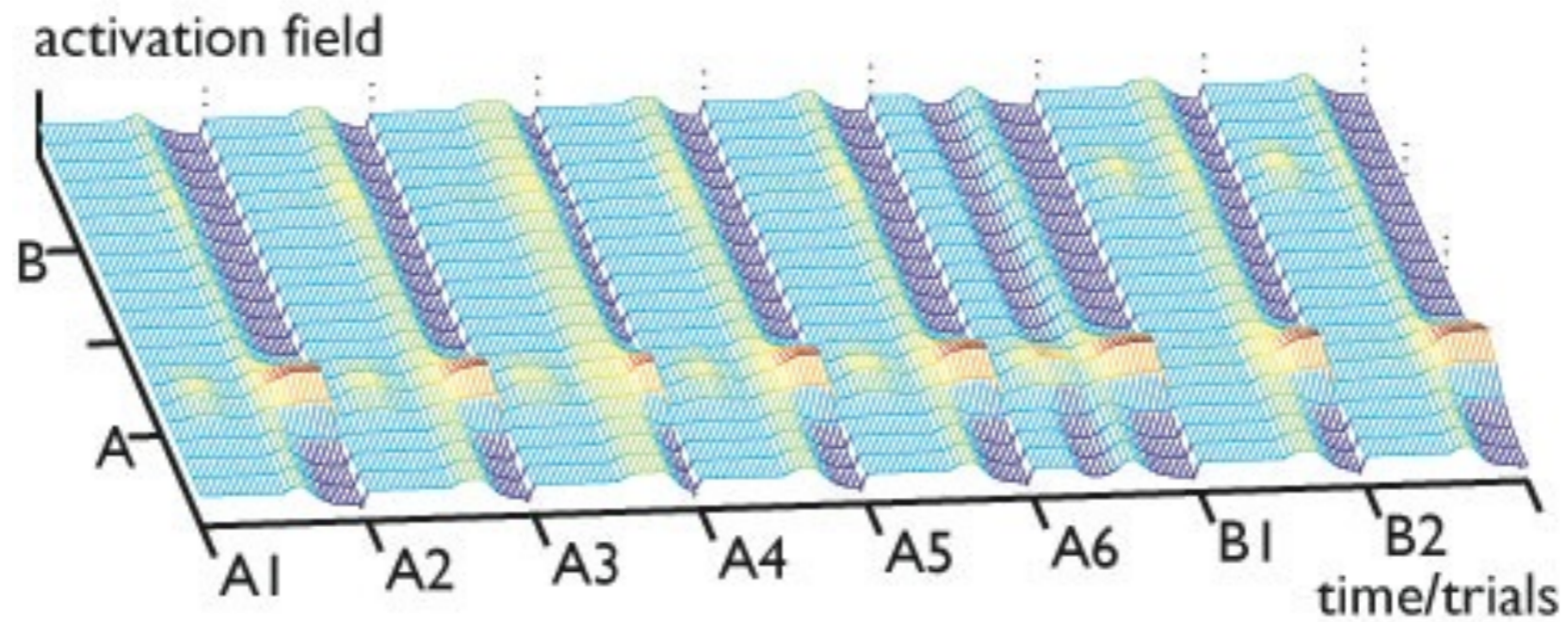
young



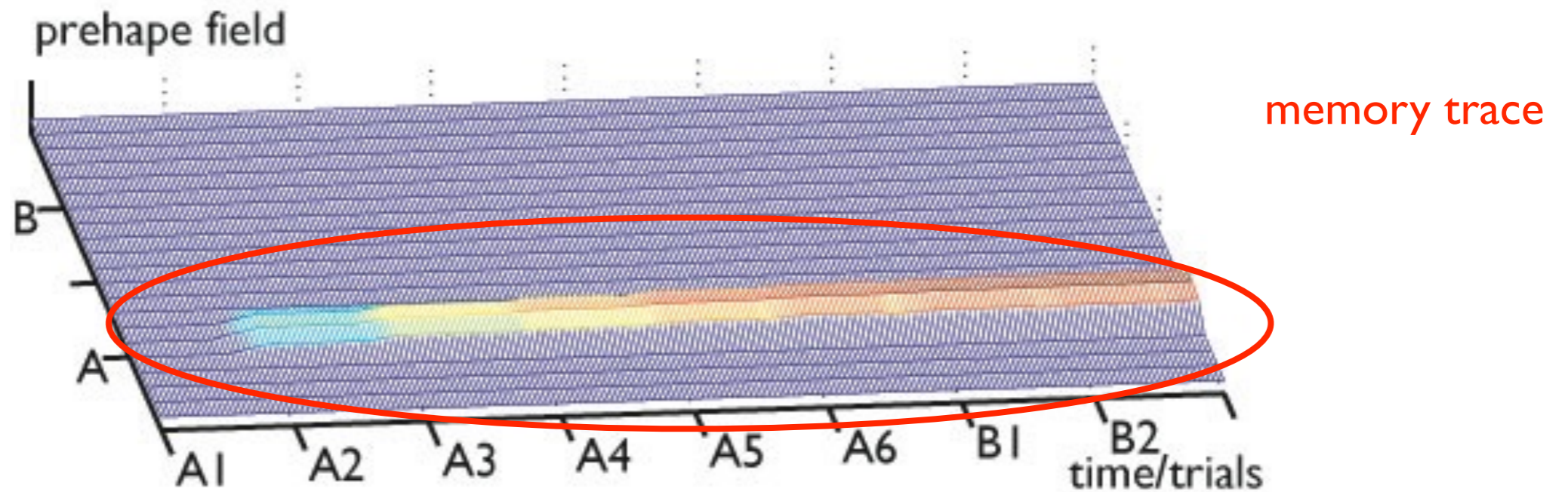
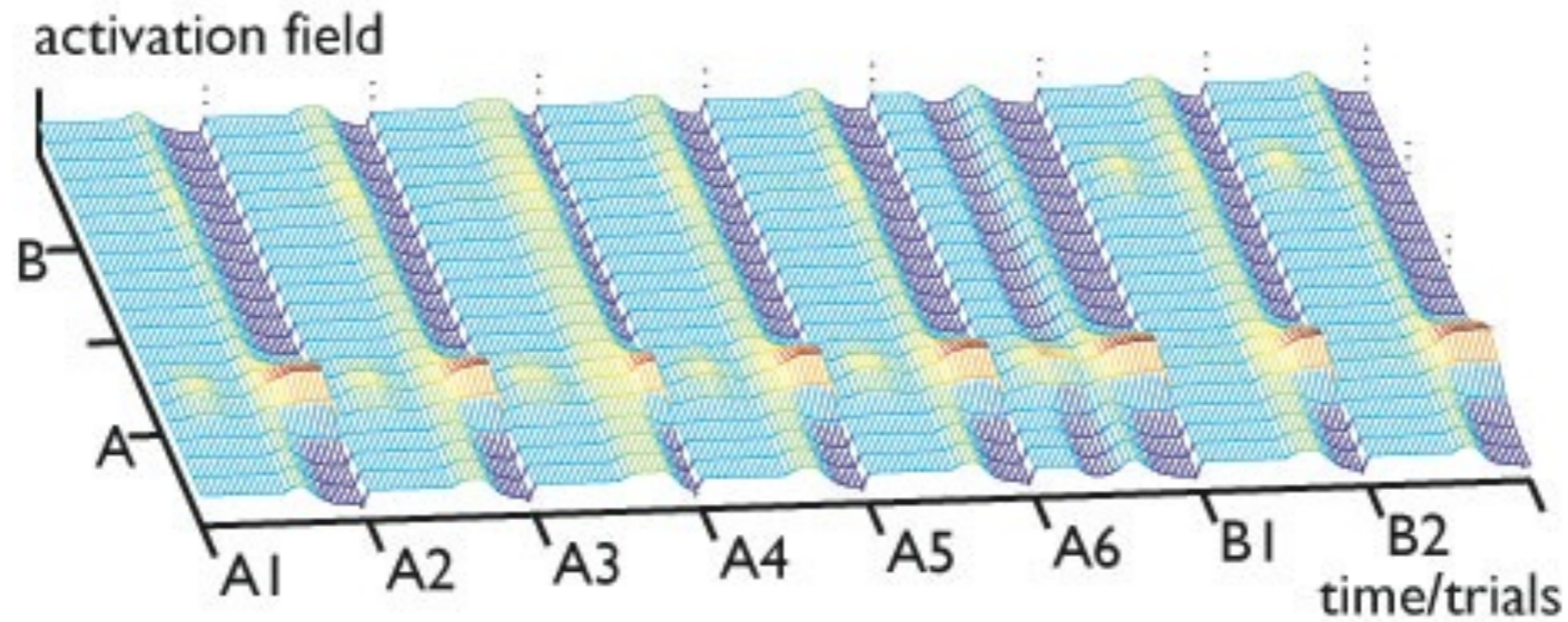
old



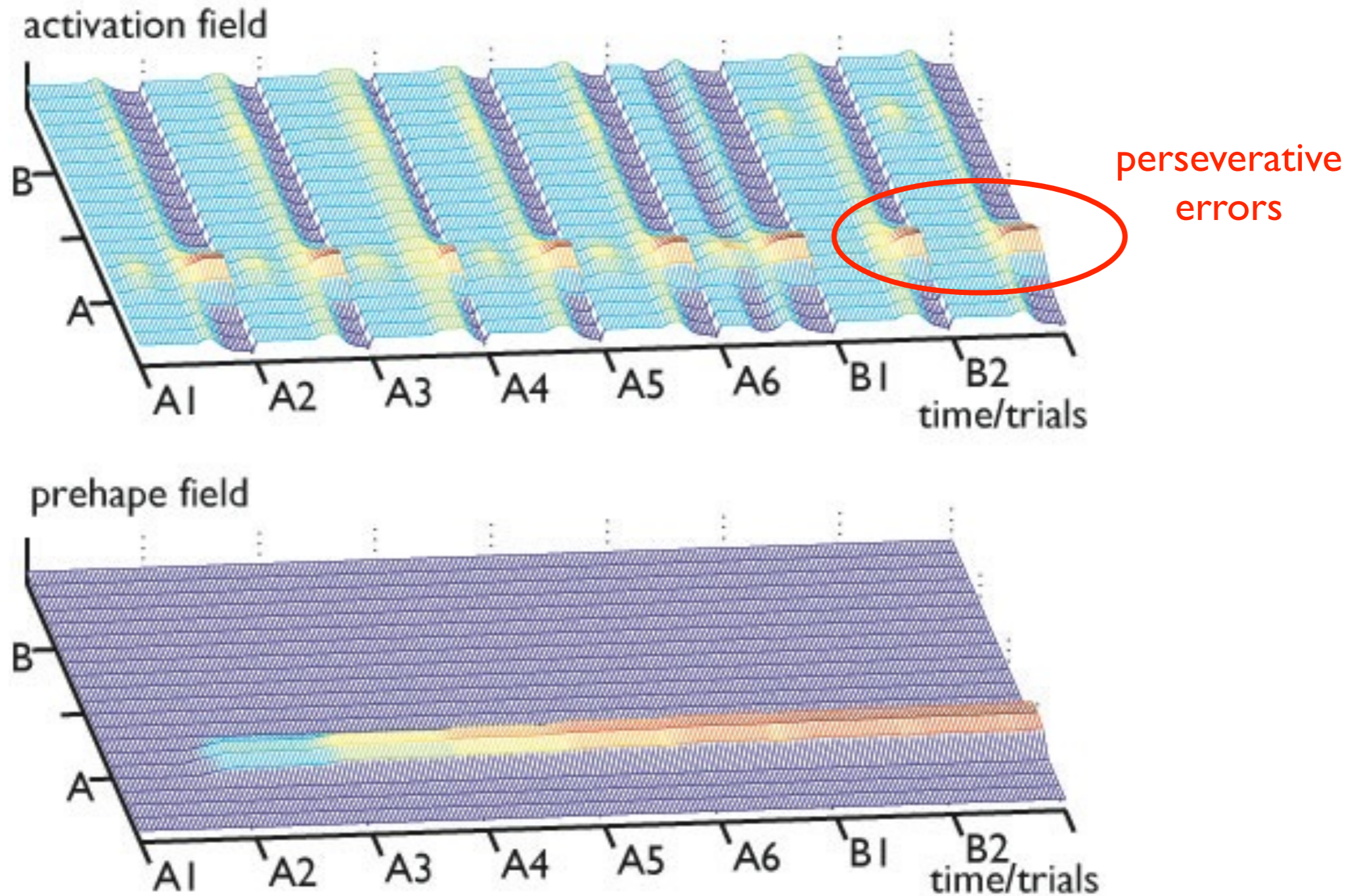
# DFT of infant perseverative reaching



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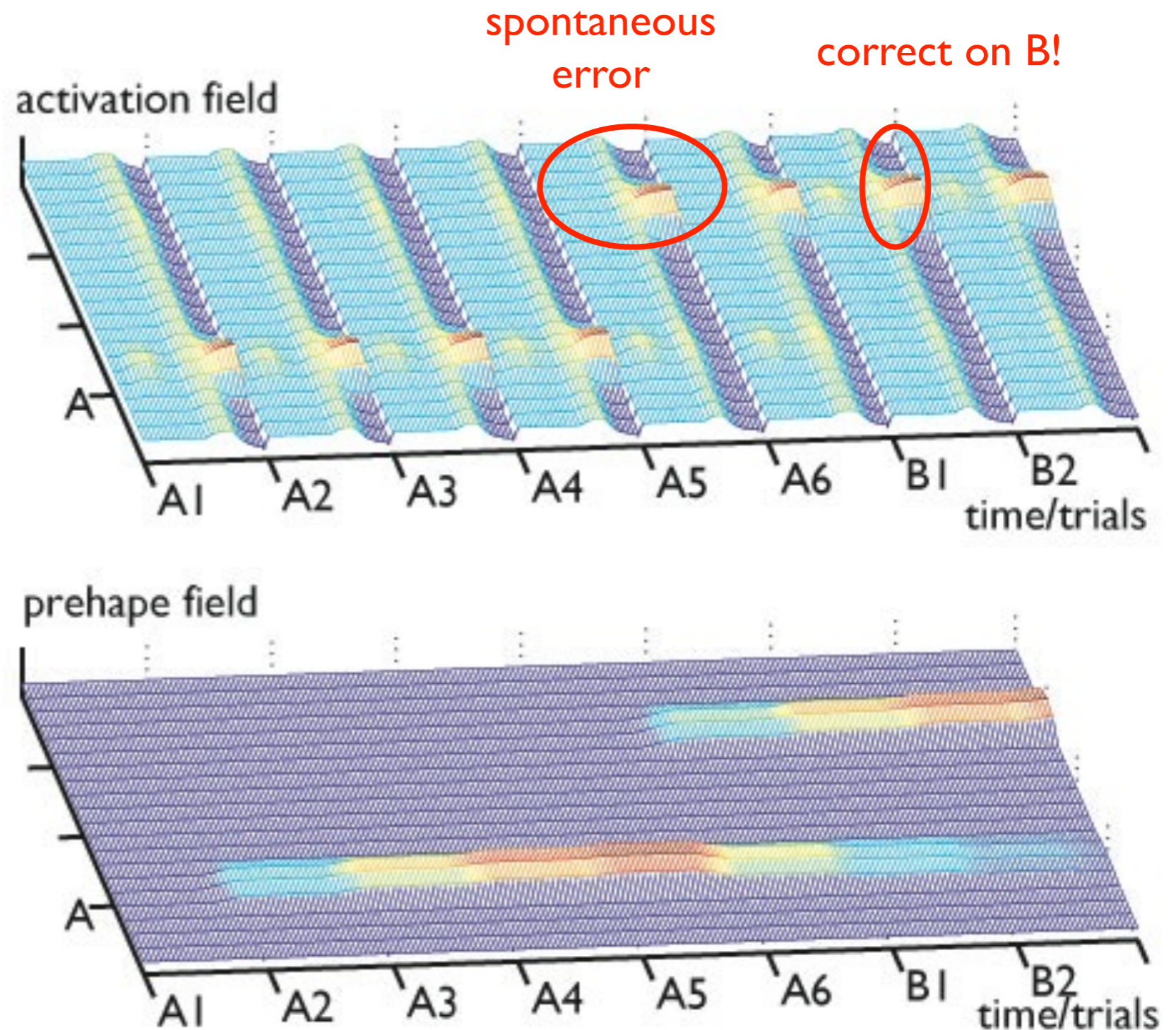


# DFT of infant perseverative reaching



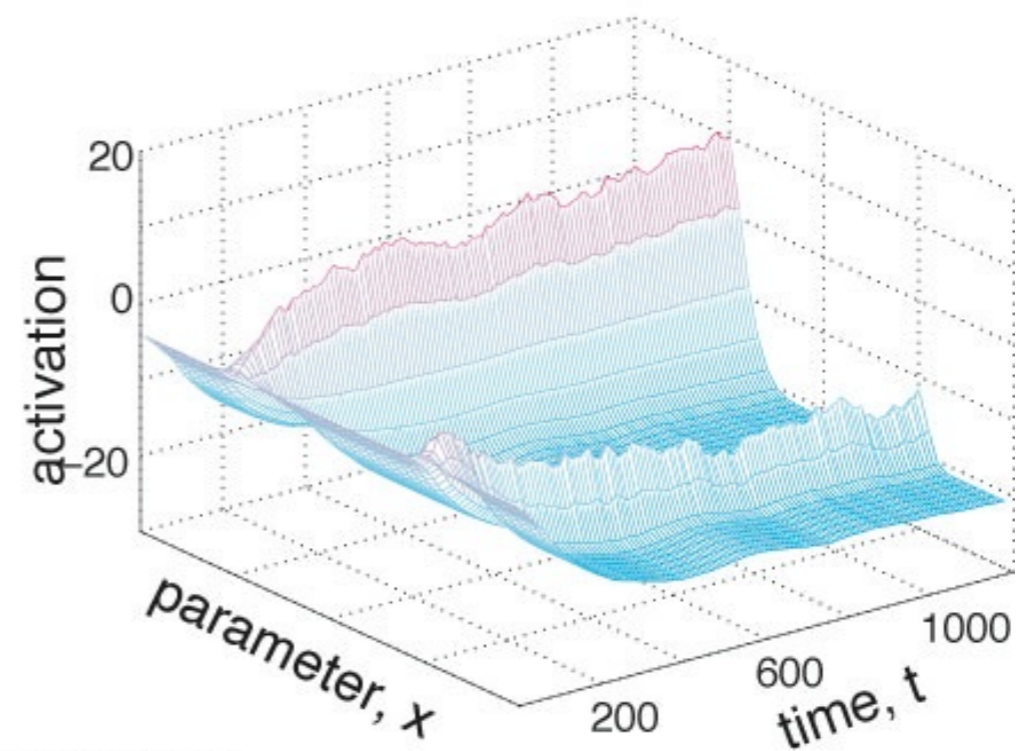
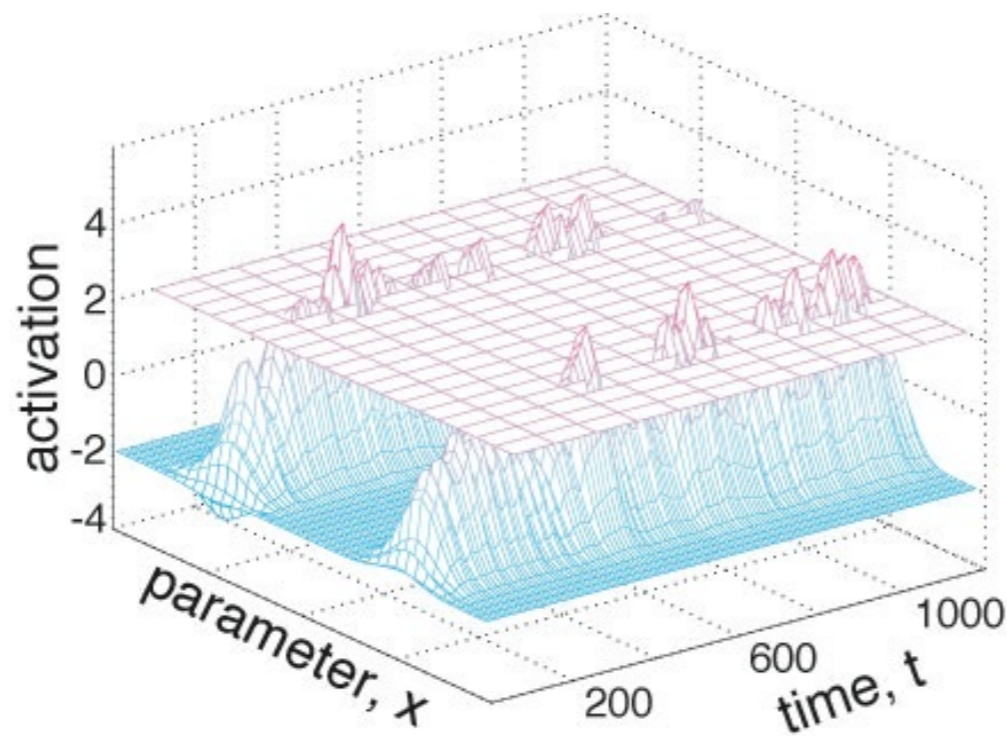
# DFT of infant perseverative reaching

- in spontaneous errors, activation arises at B on an A trial
- which leads to correct reaching on B trial
- because reaches to B on A trials leave memory trace at B



# => DFT is a neural process model

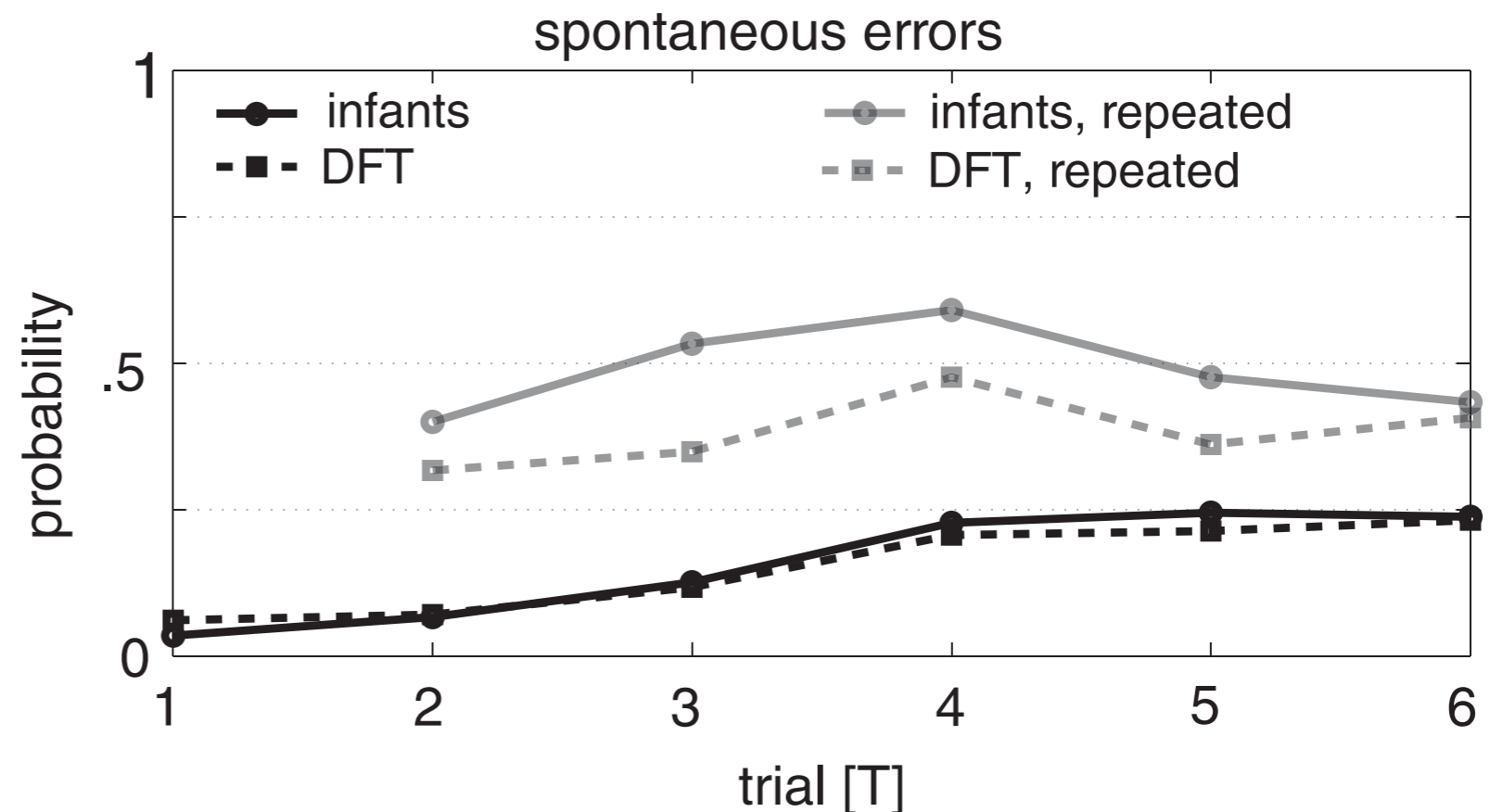
- that makes the decisions in each individual trial, by amplifying small differences into a macroscopic stable state
- and that's how decisions leave traces, have consequences



[Wilimzig, Schöner, 2006]

# Decisions have consequences

- a spontaneous error doubles probability to make the spontaneous error again



[Dineva, Schöner: Connection Science 2018]



# Conclusions

- the memory trace provides a process substrate in DFT for memory, from which instances can be re-instantiated by the boost driven detection instability
- sustained activation peaks provide the process substrate for working memory in DFT
- experimental signatures like metric drift, limited capacity, its dependence on the metrics of feature memory align with DFT
- the AnotB effect illustrates the role of both working memory and of the memory trace