

ARTICLE

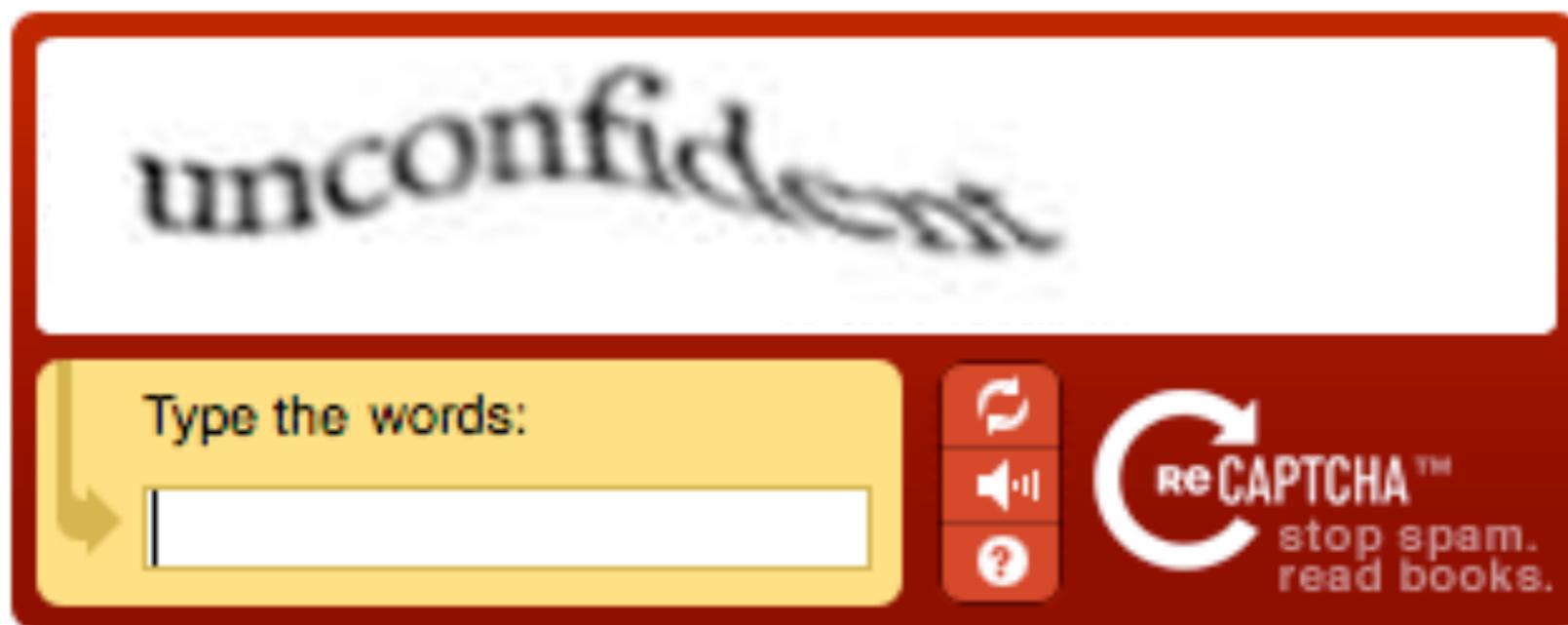
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-15581-6>

OPEN

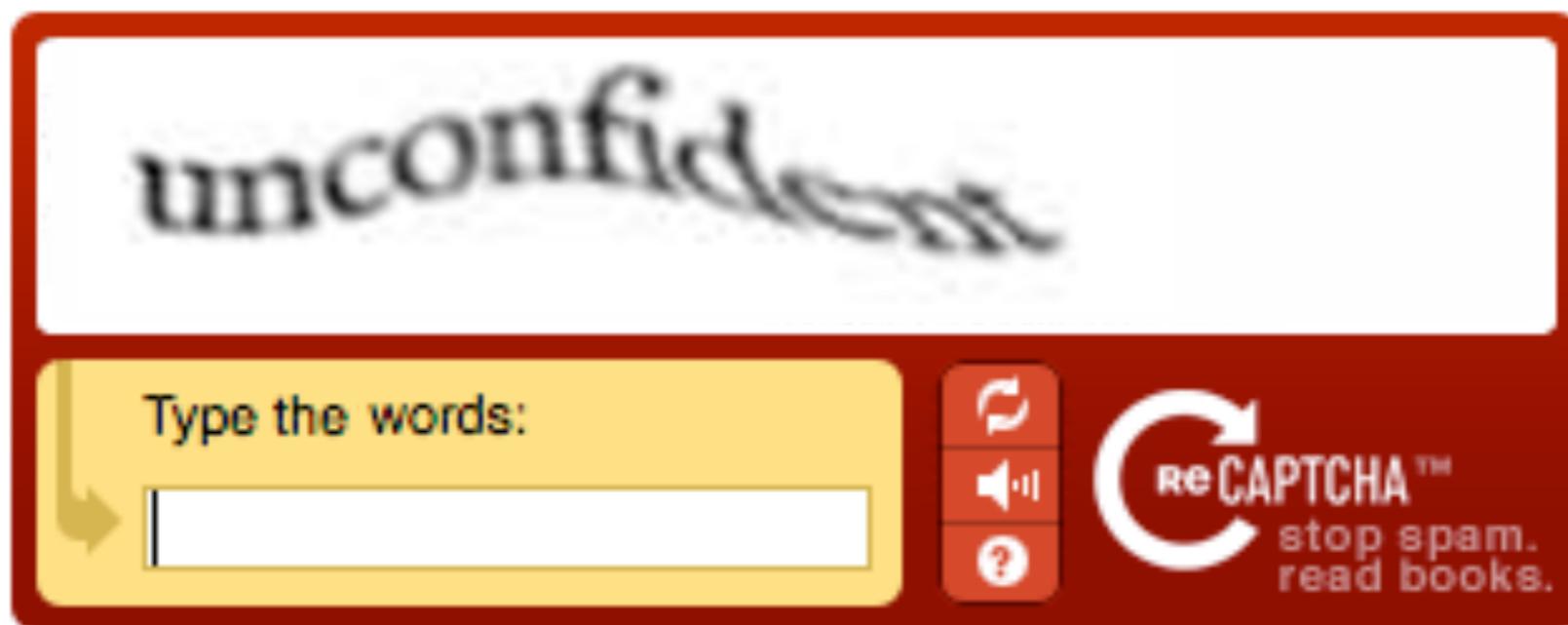
# Confidence reports in decision-making with multiple alternatives violate the Bayesian confidence hypothesis

Hsin-Hung Li<sup>1</sup>✉ & Wei Ji Ma<sup>1,2</sup>

Virtual Journal Club  
*May 4th 2020*



Confidence refers to the “sense of knowing” that comes with a decision



Confidence refers to the “sense of knowing” that comes with a decision  
Confidence affects the planning of subsequent actions

## **Bayesian Confidence Hypothesis**

Confidence is based on the posterior probability of the chosen category :  $p(\text{correct})$

e.g.,

*Peirce and Jastrow (1884)*

*Galvin et al. (1959)*

*Kepecs and Mainen (2012)*

*Mamassian (2016)*

*Kiani and Shadlen (2009)*

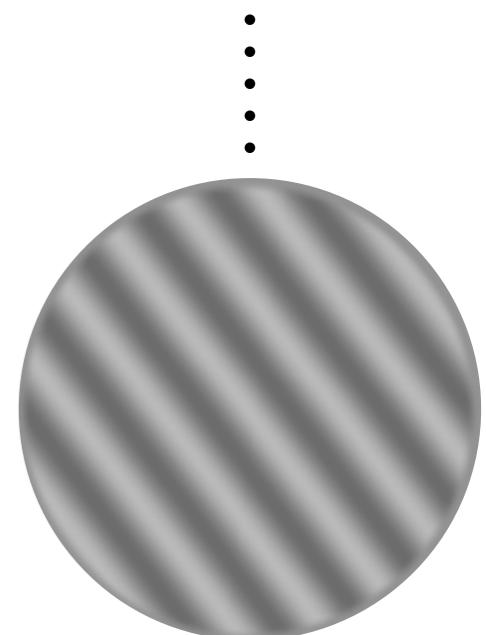
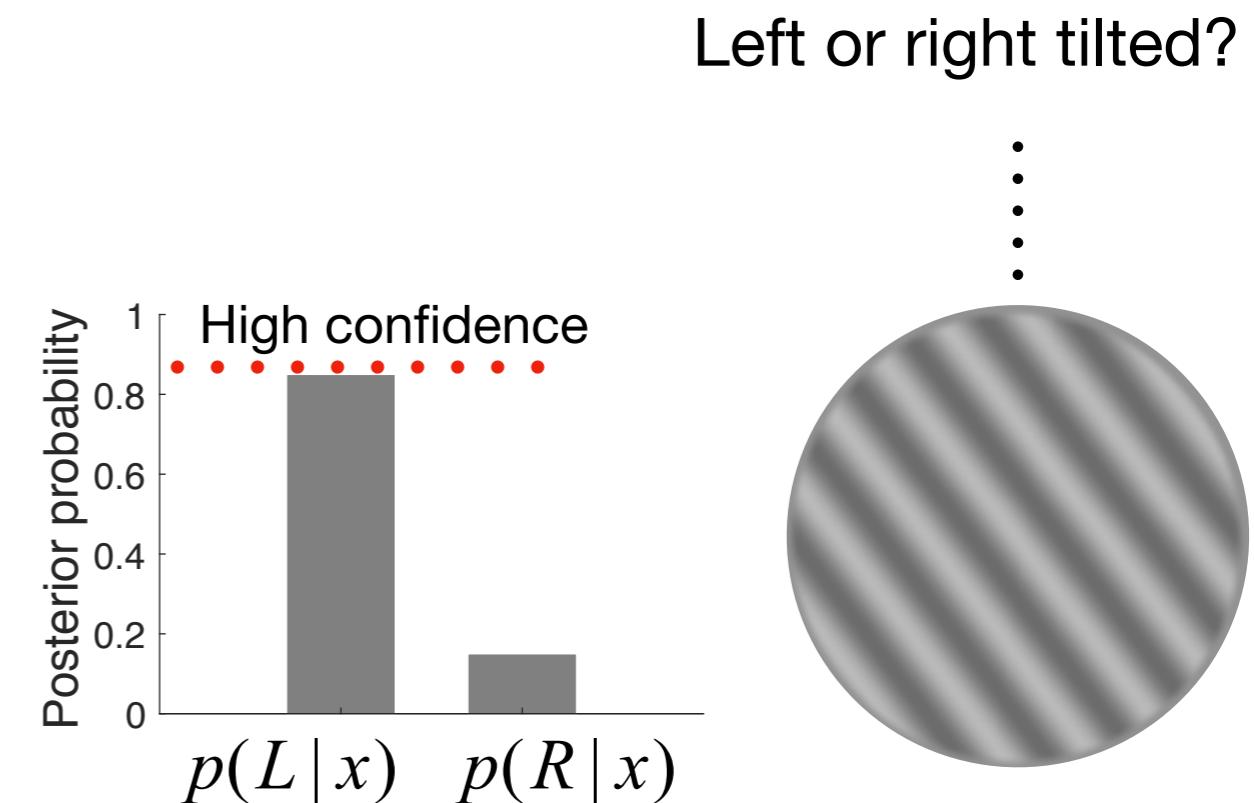
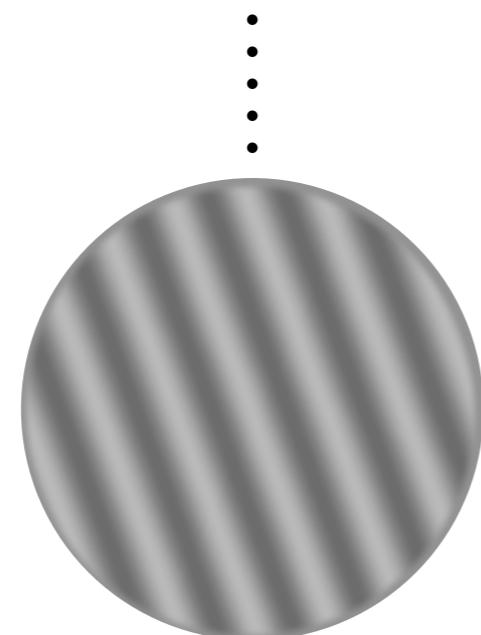
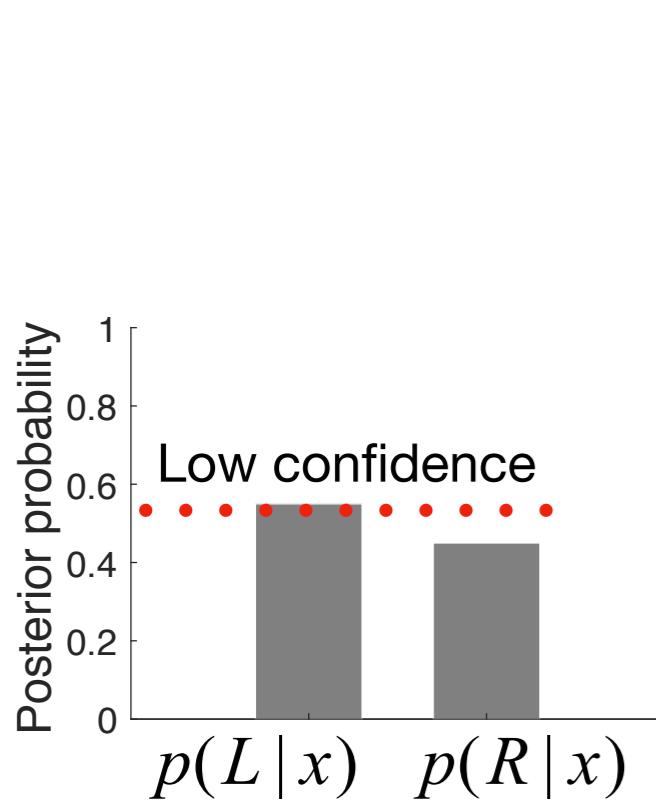
*Kepecs, Uchida, Zariwala and Mainen (2009)*

*Pouget, Drugowitsch and Kepecs (2016)*

*Sanders, Hangya and Kepecs (2016)*

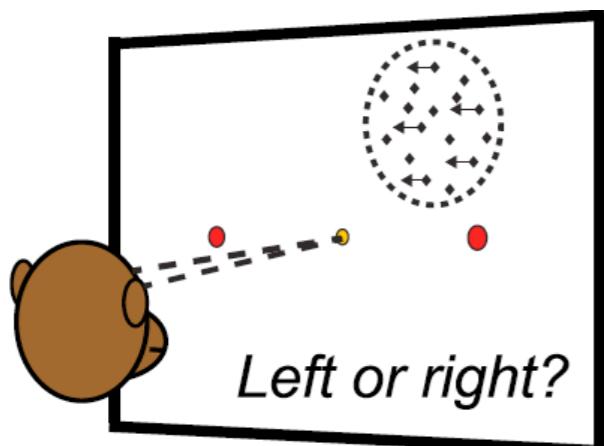
## Bayesian Confidence Hypothesis

Confidence is based on the posterior probability of the chosen category :  $p(\text{correct})$

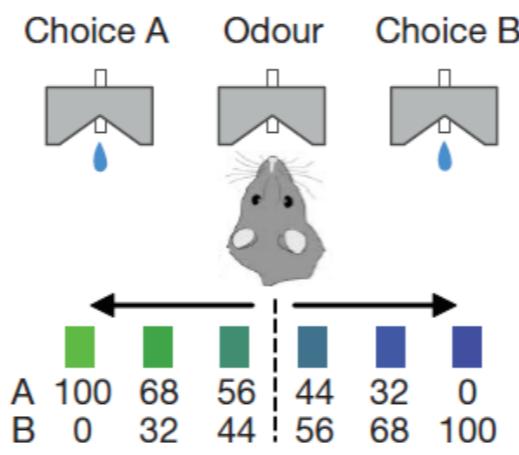


# Bayesian Confidence Hypothesis

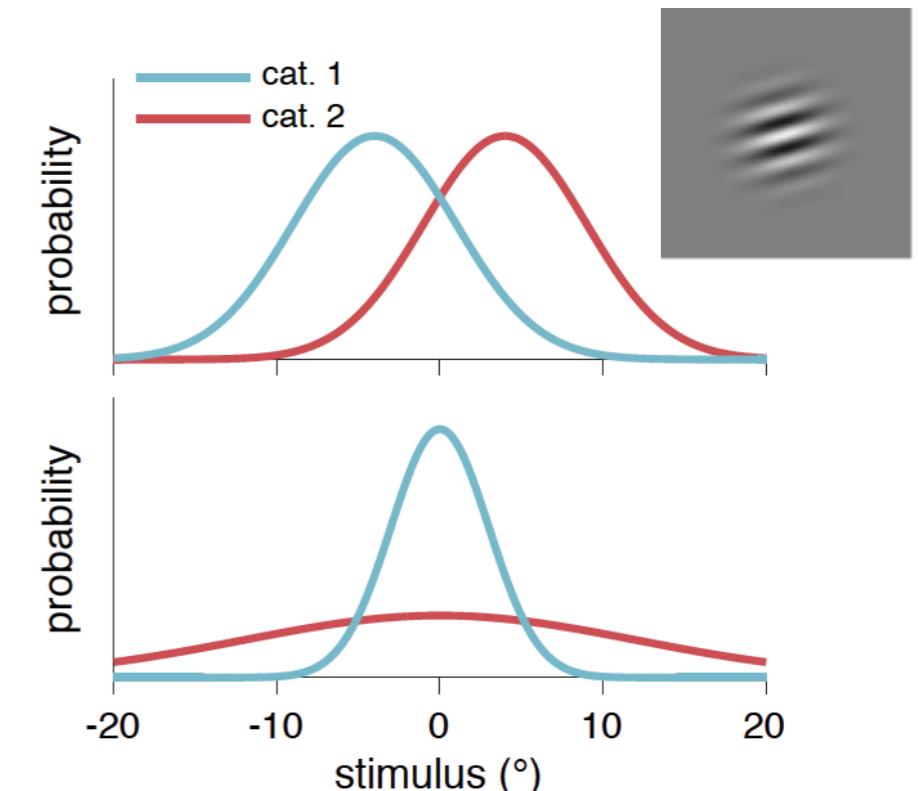
Confidence is based on the posterior probability of the chosen category :  $p(\text{correct})$



Kiani and Shadlen, 2009  
Fetsch et al., 2014



Kepecs et al., 2009



Adler and Ma, 2018

# People often face more complex decisions involving multiple choices

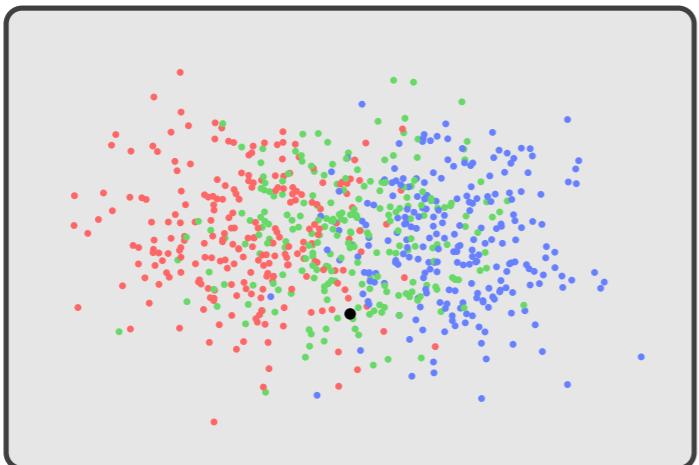


# People often face more complex decisions involving multiple choices



## Distinguish different models of confidence report

A



Which group does the black dot belong to?

time

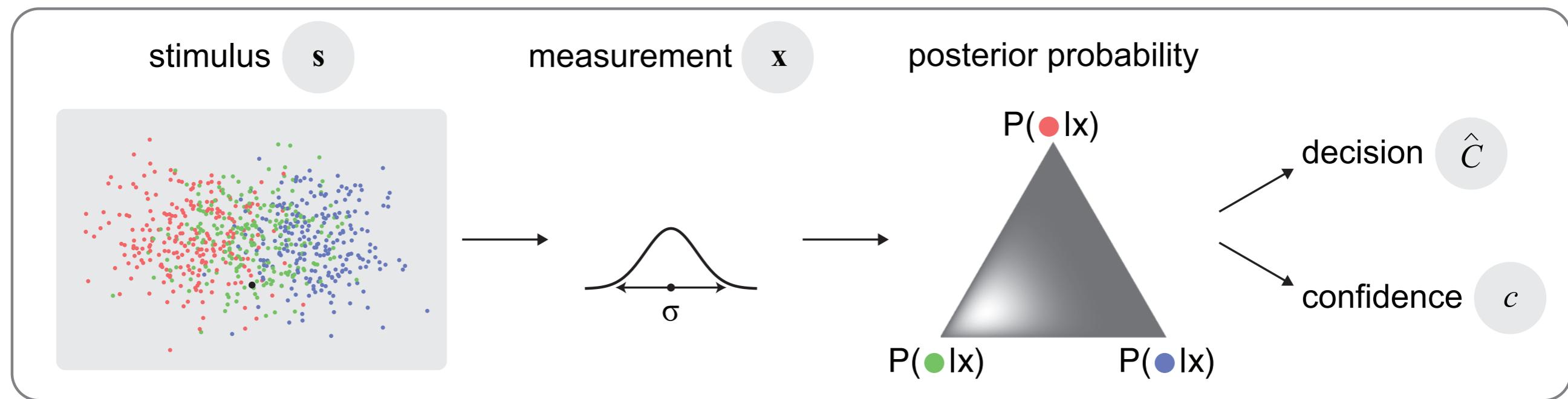
very  
low      somewhat  
low      somewhat  
high      very  
high

How confident are you in your decision?

Fig. 1 Experimental procedure and stimuli.

DEMO

A

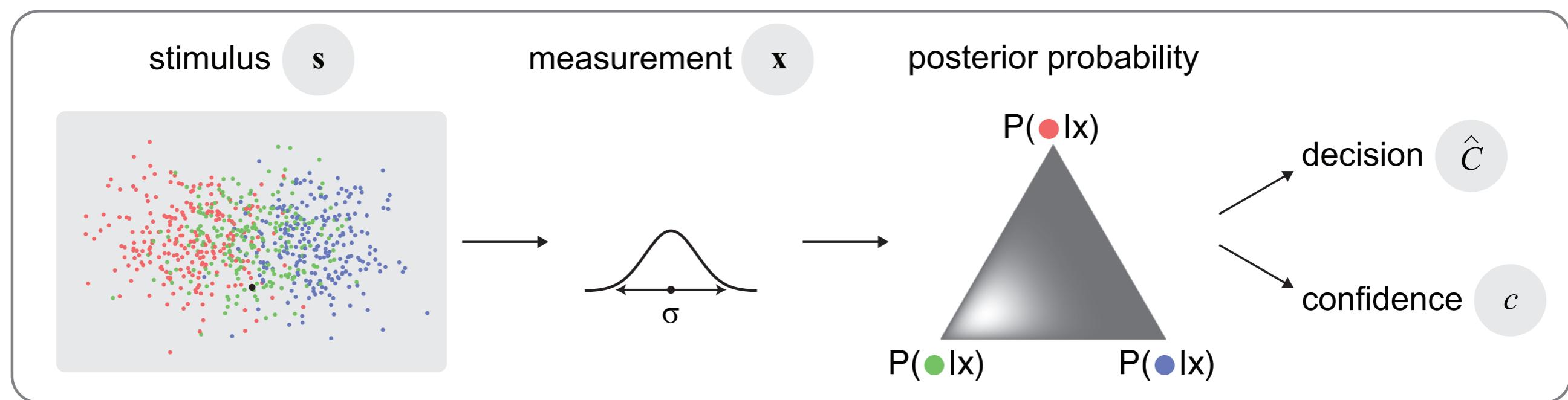


$$p(C | \mathbf{x}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x} | C)}{\sum_{C'=1}^3 p(\mathbf{x} | C')} \quad (1)$$

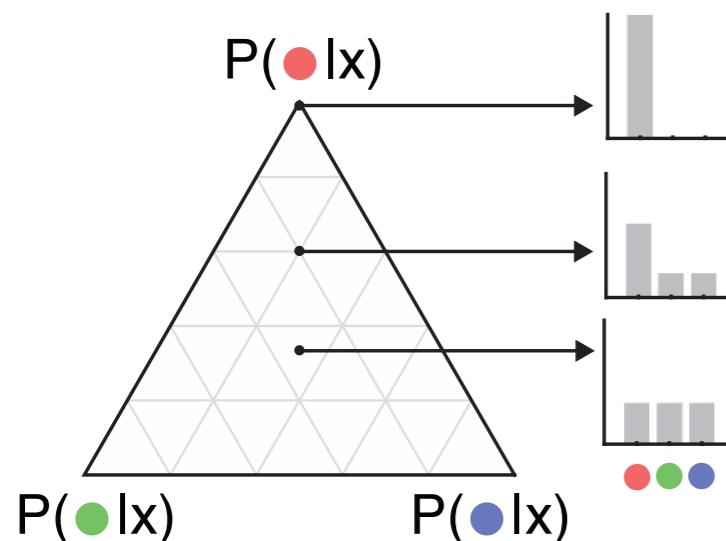
$$p(\mathbf{x} | C) = N(\mathbf{m}_C, (\sigma_s + \sigma)\mathbf{I})$$

Fig. 2 Models.

A



B

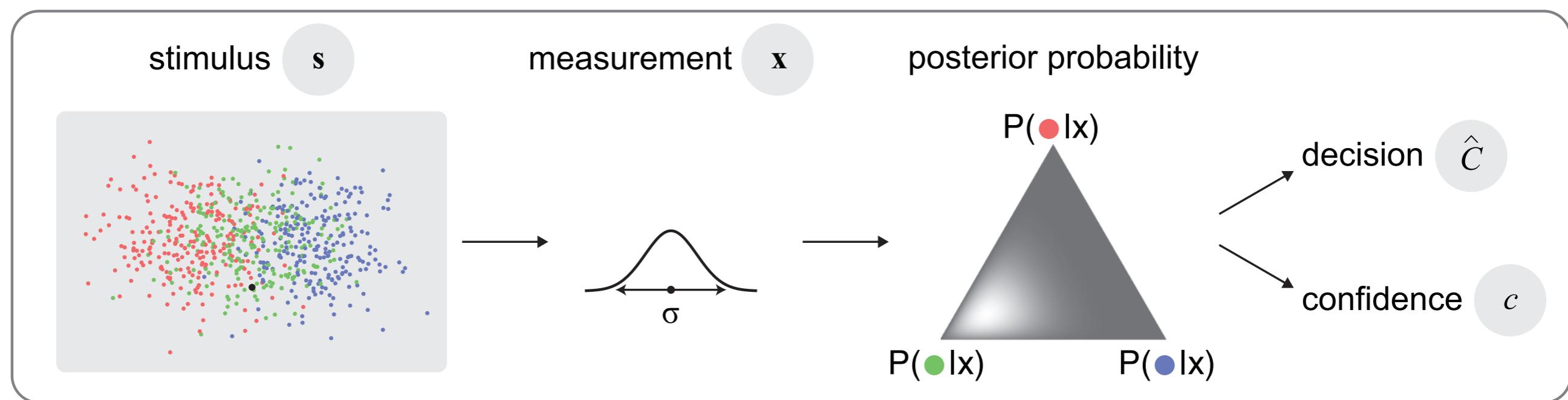


**Categorical decision:**  
Always pick the group with the highest posterior

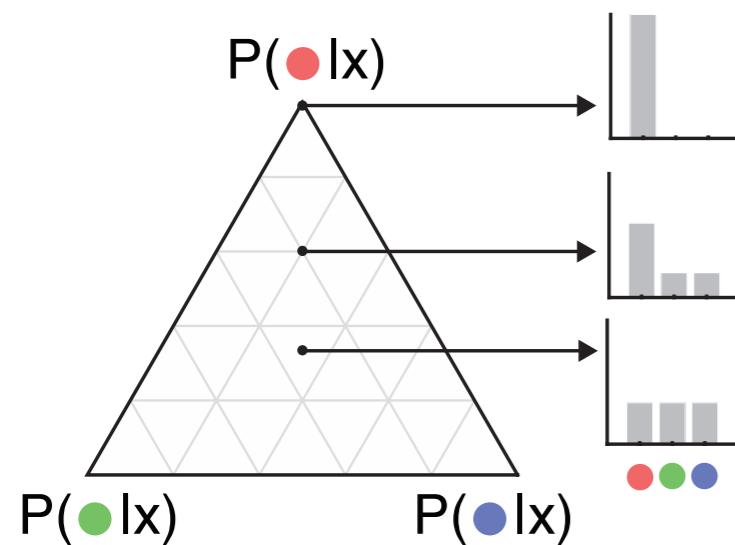
**Confidence report:**  
Three candidate models  
Max, Difference, Entropy

Fig. 2 Models.

A



B



C

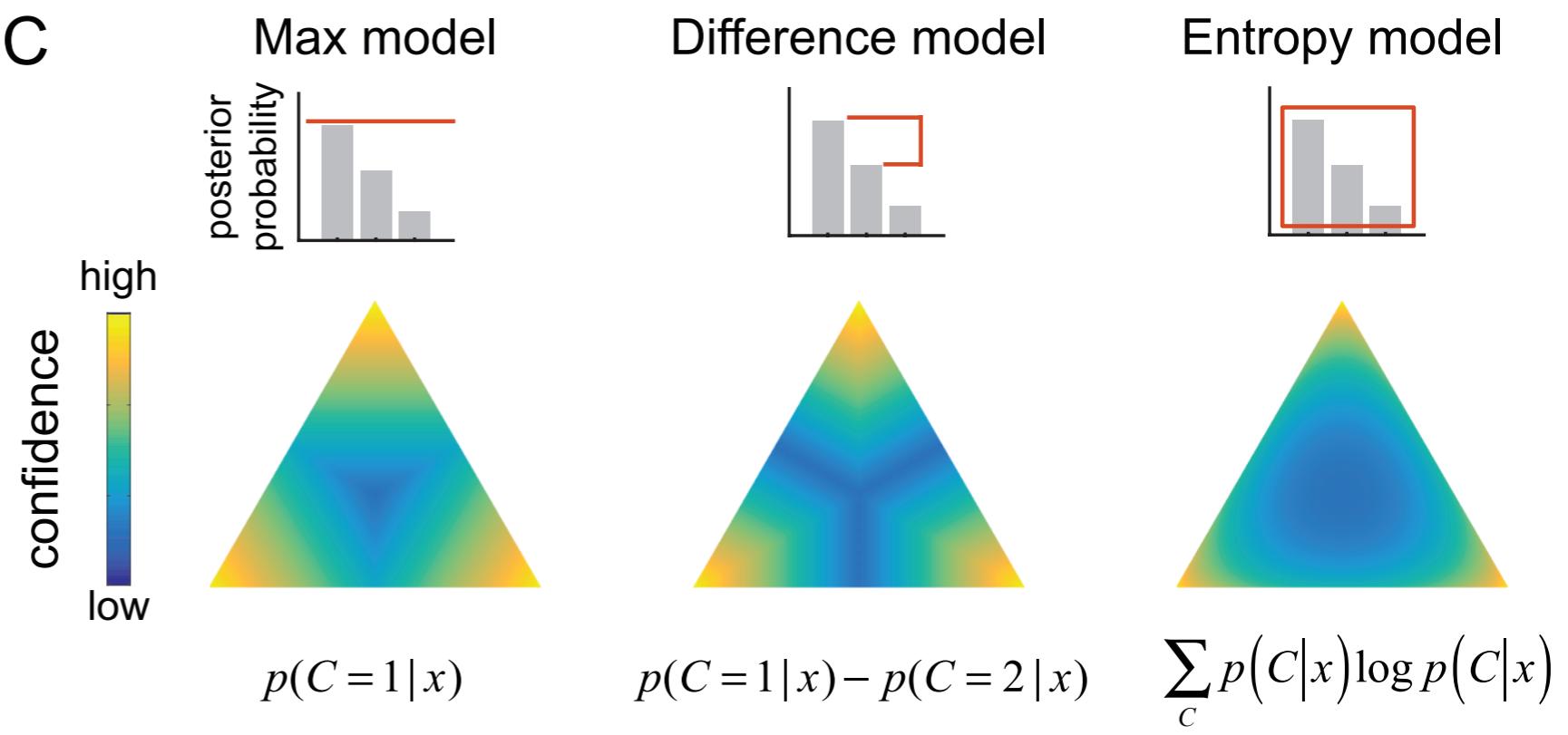


Fig. 2 Models.

# **Max** (Maximum a posteriori)

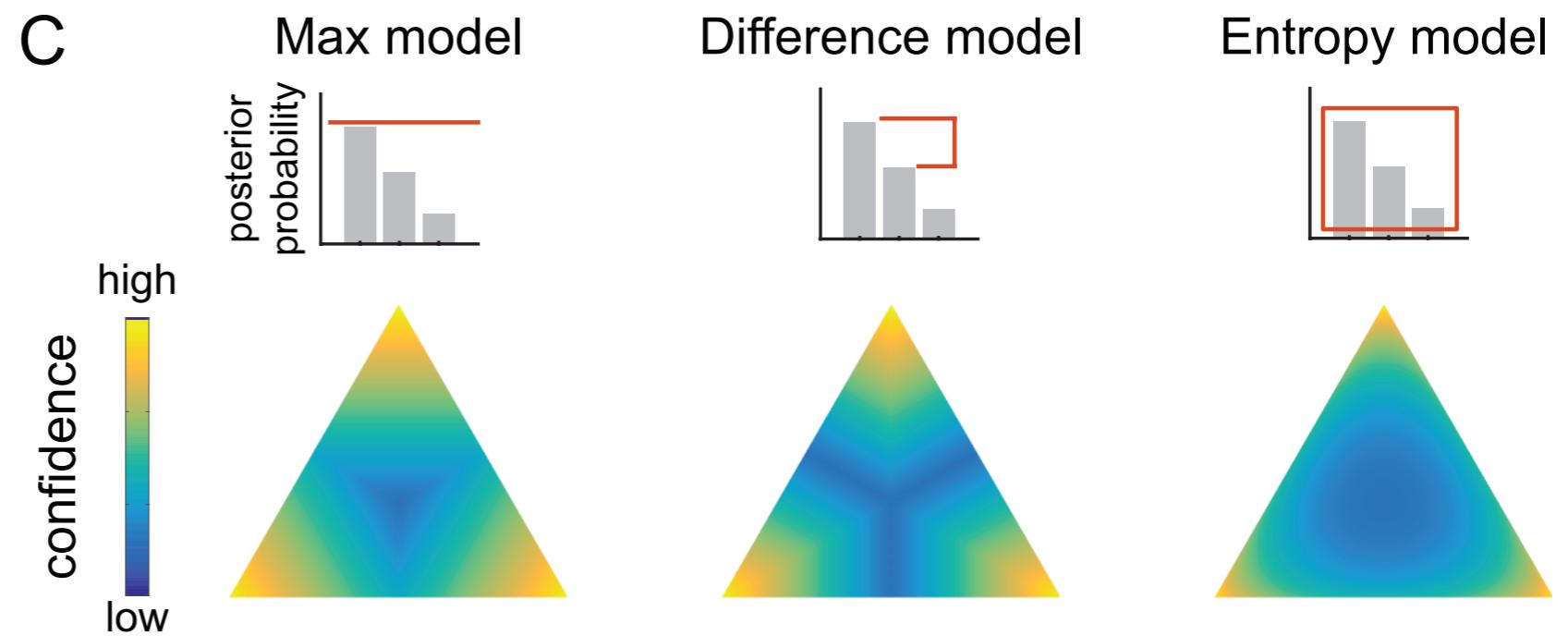
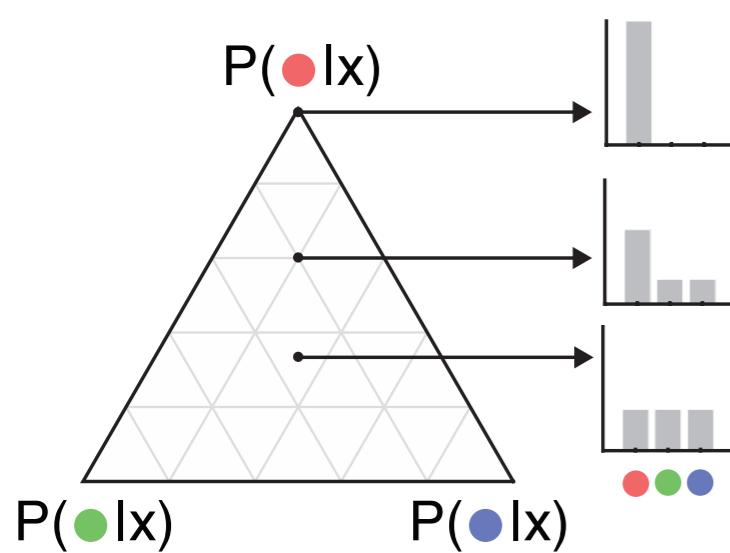
$$p(C = 1 | x)$$

# **Diff** (Difference)

$$p(C = 1 | x) - p(C = 2 | x)$$

# **Ent** (Negative entropy)

$$\sum_C p(C|x) \log p(C|x)$$



## Confidence

**Max**

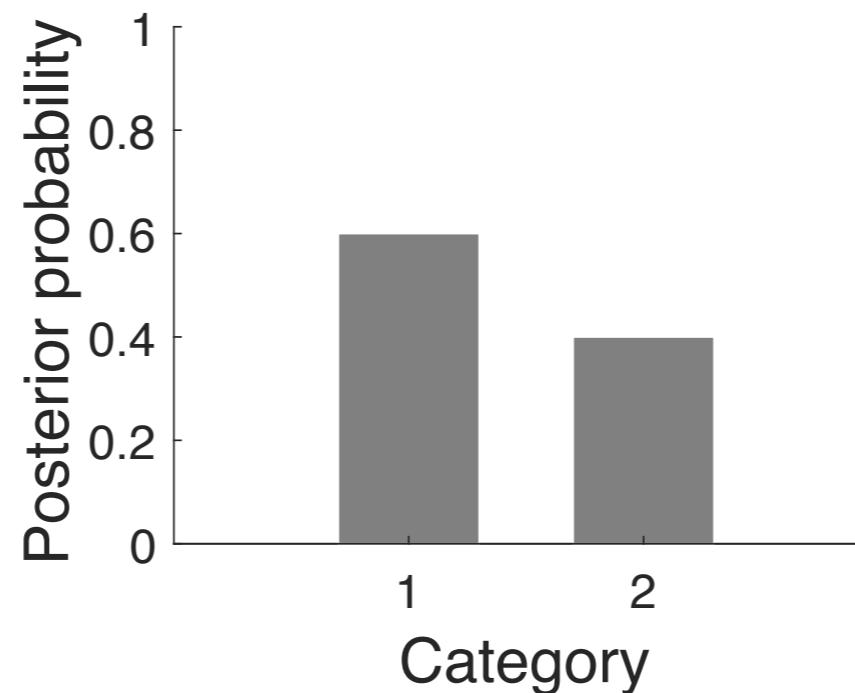
$$p(C = 1 | x)$$

**Diff**

$$p(C = 1 | x) - p(C = 2 | x)$$

**Entropy**

$$\sum_C p(C|x) \log p(C|x)$$



## Confidence

**Max**

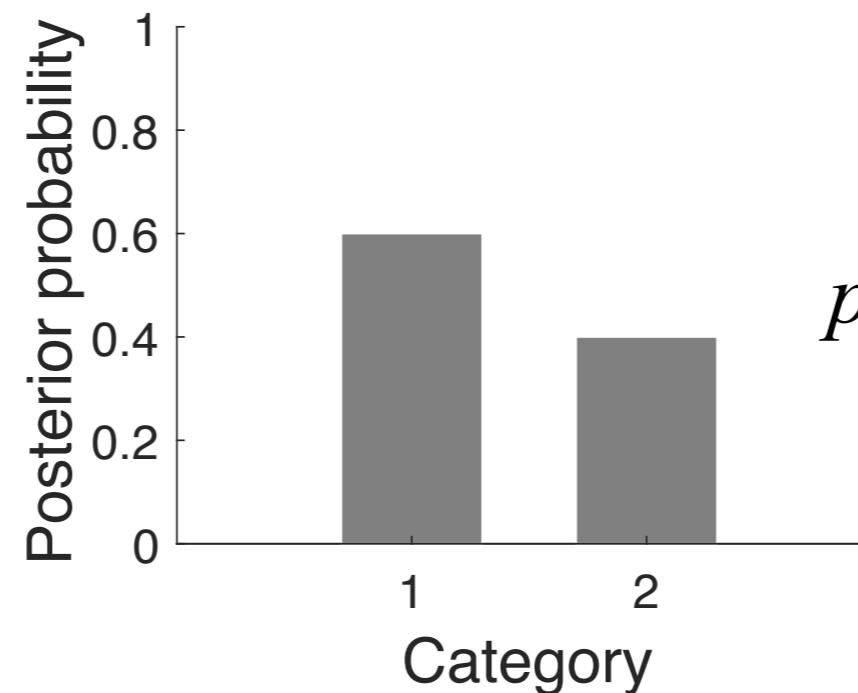
$$p(C = 1 | x)$$

**Diff**

$$p(C = 1 | x) - p(C = 2 | x)$$

**Entropy**

$$\sum_C p(C|x) \log p(C|x)$$



$$p(C = 1|x) + p(C = 2|x) = 1$$

## Confidence

**Max**

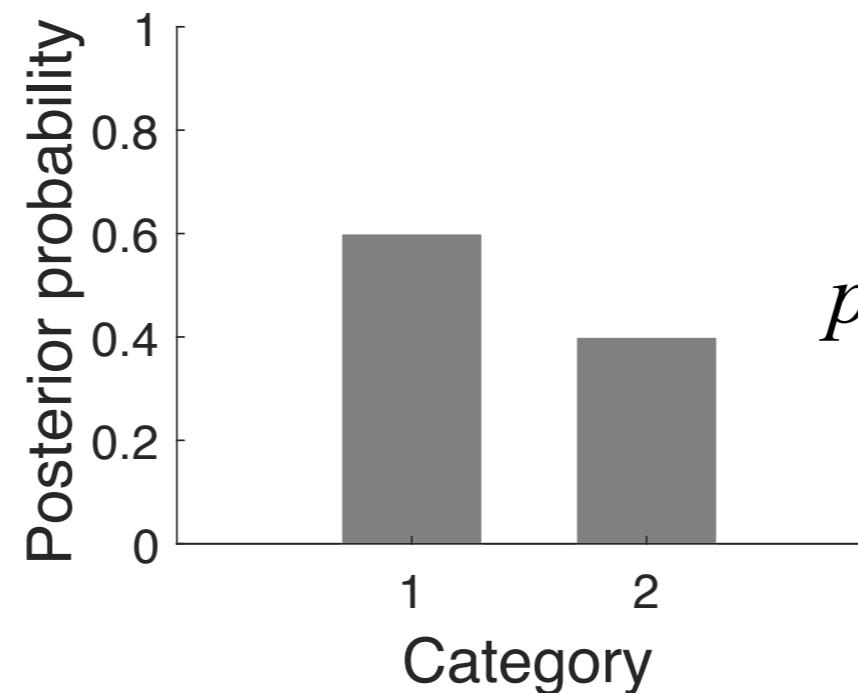
$$p(C = 1 | x)$$

**Diff**

$$p(C = 1 | x) - (1 - p(C = 1 | x))$$

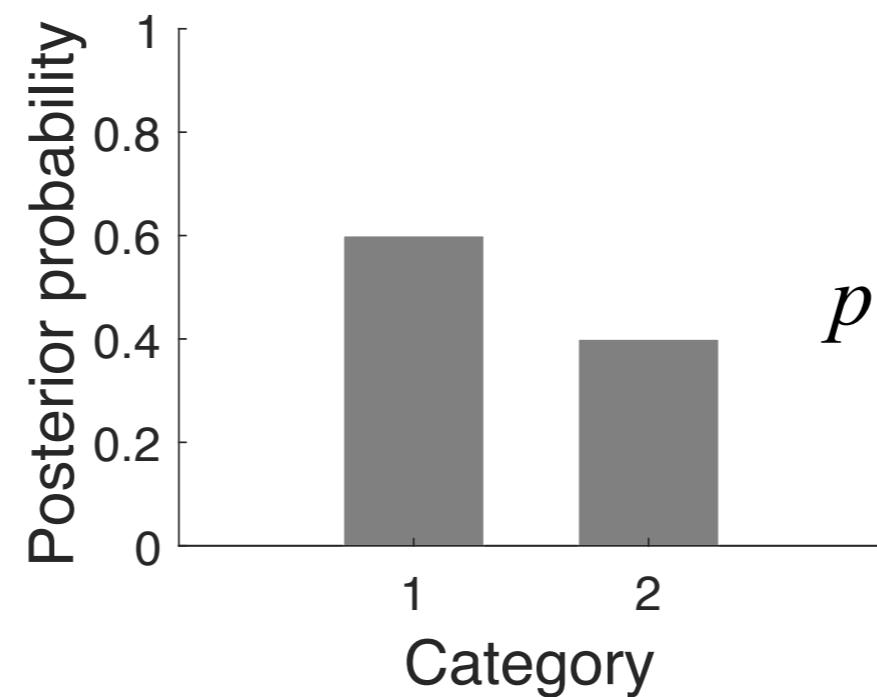
**Entropy**

$$p(C = 1 | x) \log p(C = 1 | x) + (1 - p(C = 1 | x)) \log (1 - p(C = 1 | x))$$



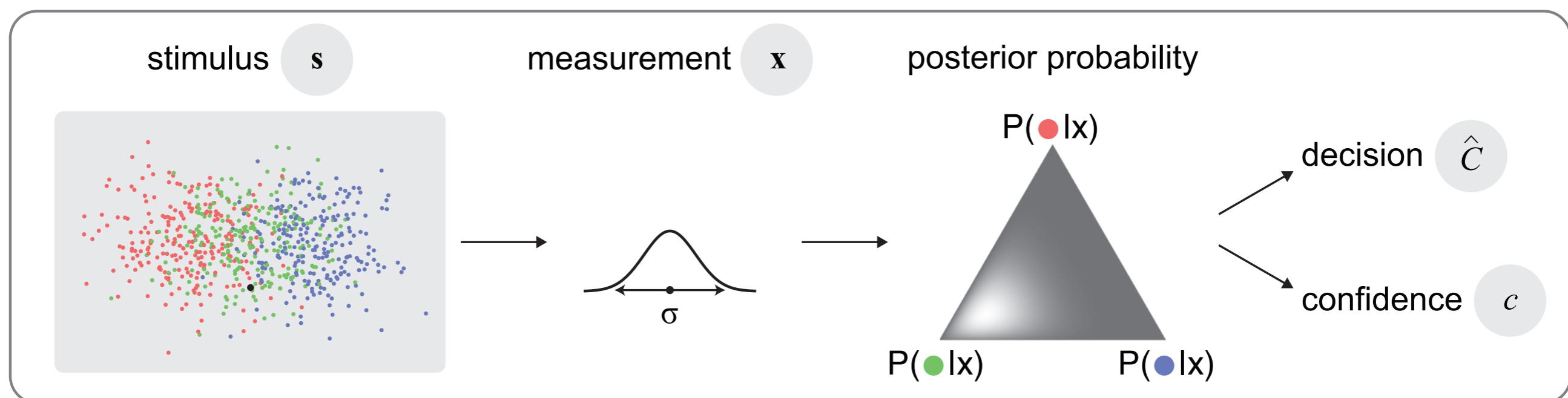
# Confidence

$$p(C = 1 | x)$$

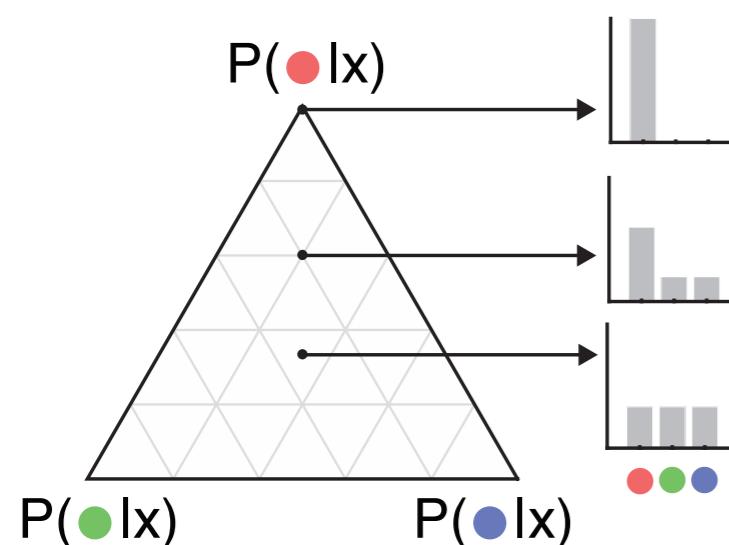


$$p(C = 1|x) + p(C = 2|x) = 1$$

A



B



C

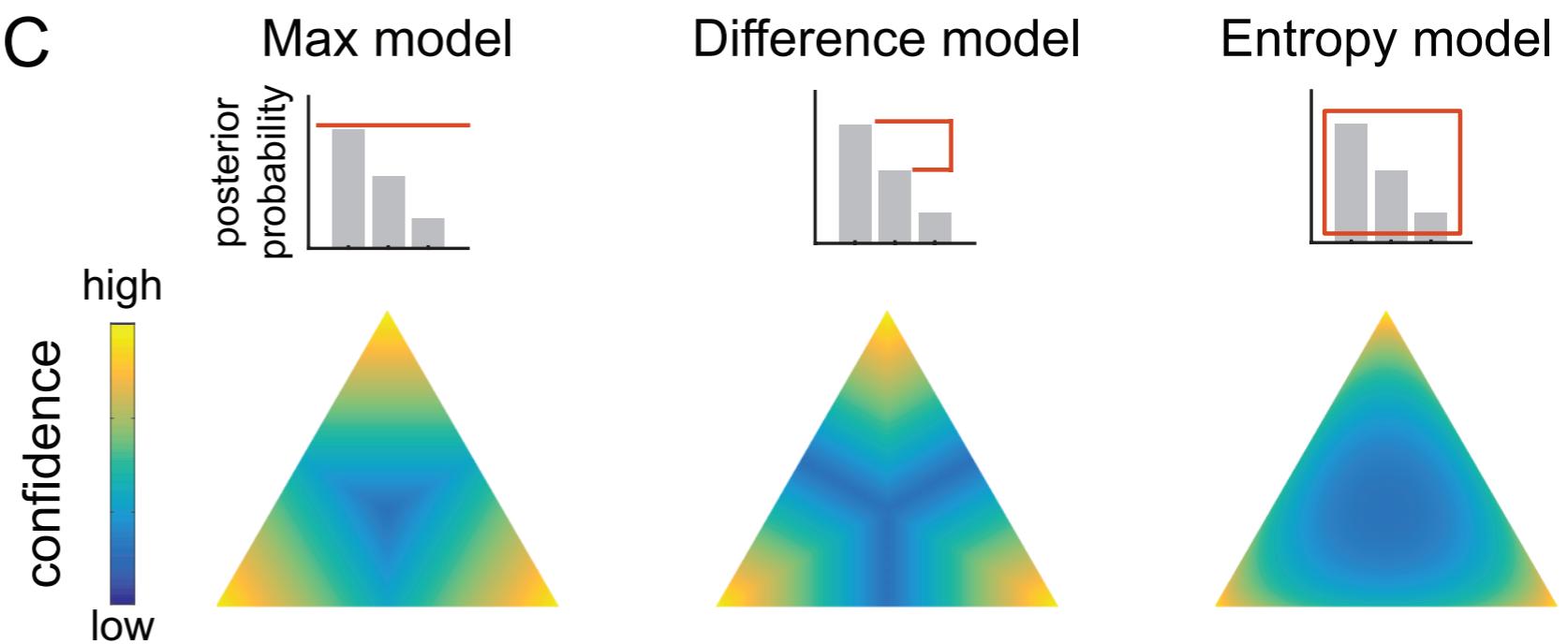


Fig. 2 Models.

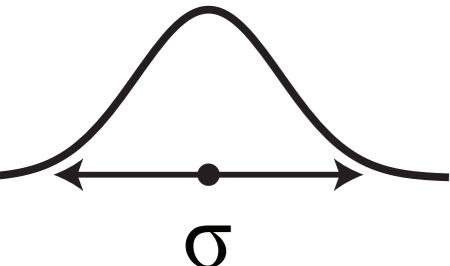
**Sources of variability:**

- (1) sensory noise (noisy measurement of the target dot location)
- (2) inference noise (decision noise)

measurement



posterior probability



$$P(\bullet \mid x)$$

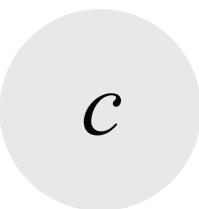
$$P(\bullet \mid x)$$

$$P(\bullet \mid x)$$

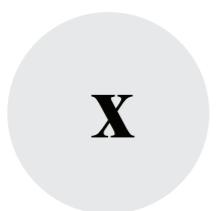
decision



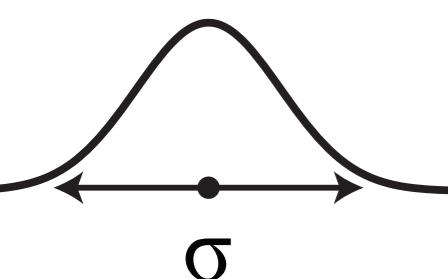
confidence



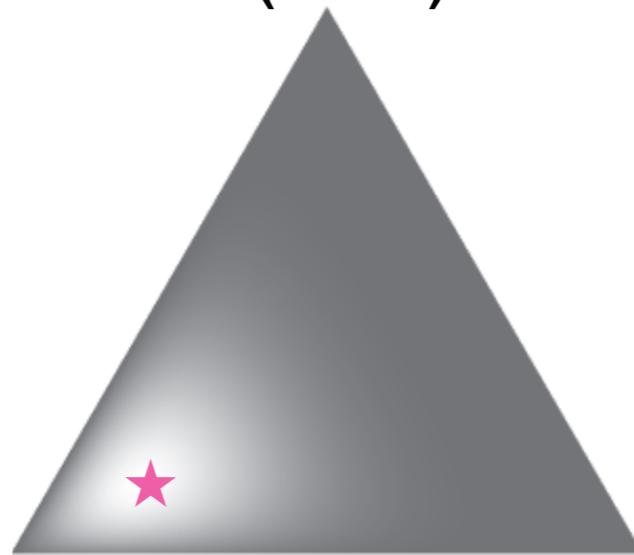
surement



posterior probability



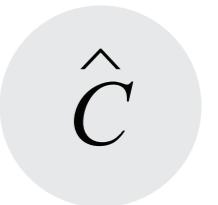
$$P(\bullet \mid x)$$



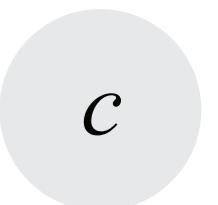
$$P(\bullet \mid x)$$

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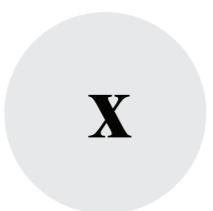
decision



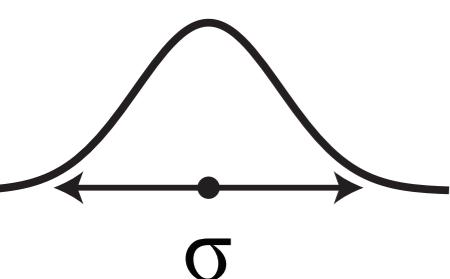
confidence



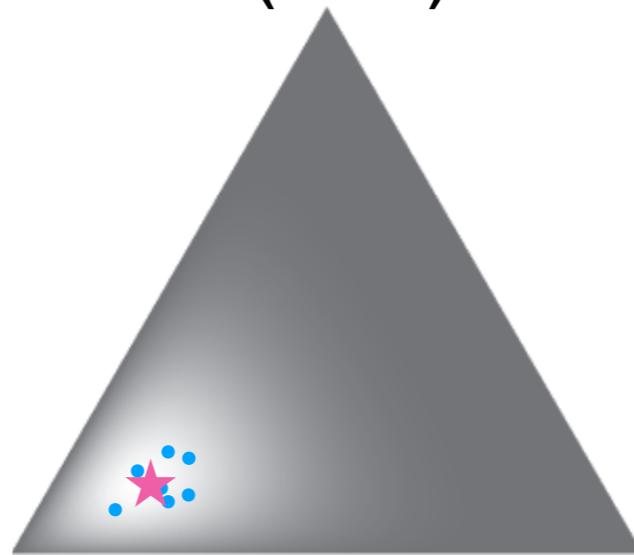
measurement



posterior probability



$P(\bullet | x)$



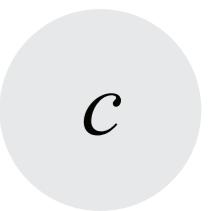
$P(\bullet | x)$

$P(\bullet | x)$

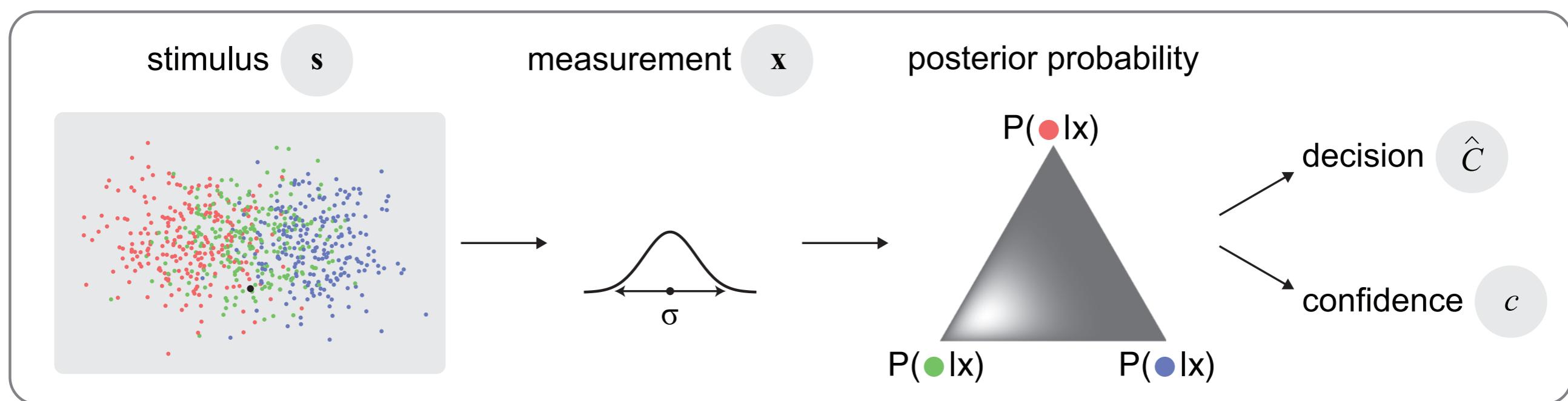
decision



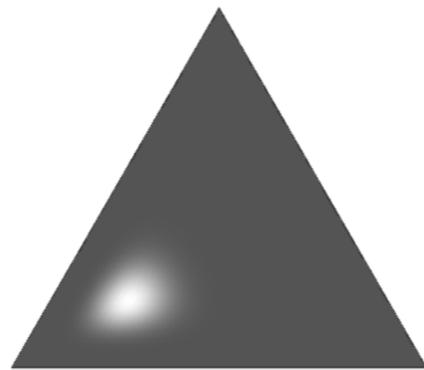
confidence



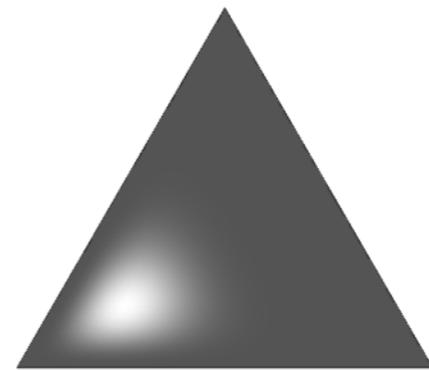
A



$$\mathbf{q} \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{p}; \alpha)$$



low decision noise



high decision noise

The expected value of  $\mathbf{q}$  is  $\mathbf{p}$ .

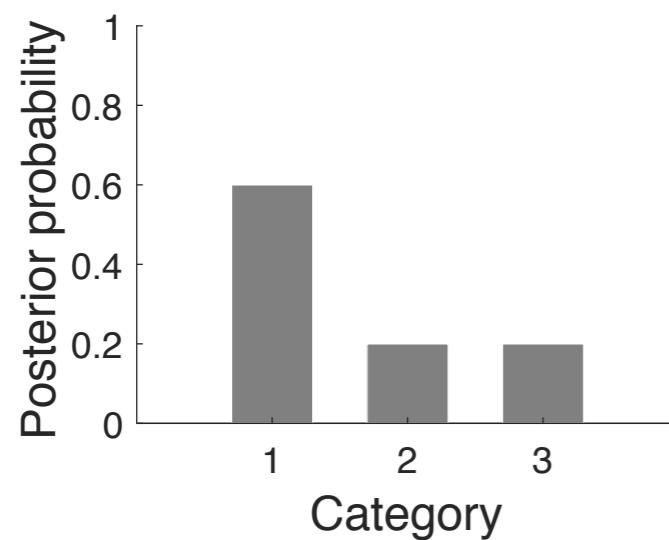
The concentration parameter  $\alpha$ , a scalar that determines the magnitude of the decision noise

# Free parameters

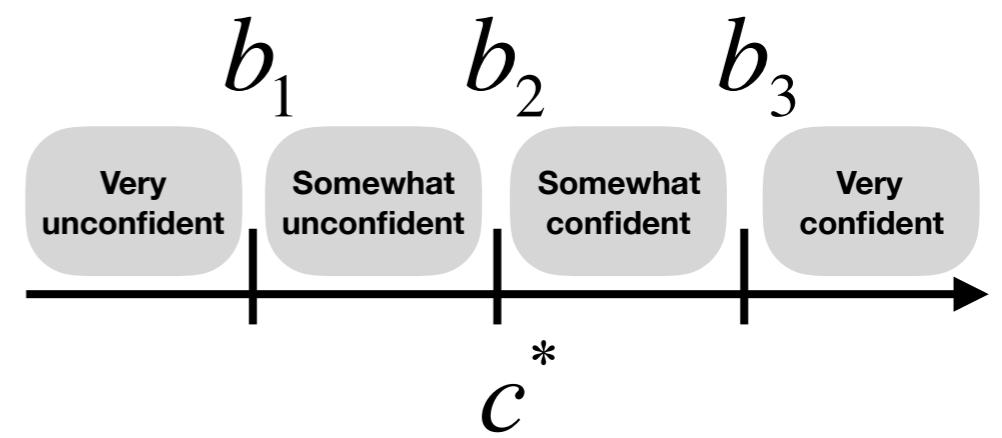
Criteria:  $b_1, b_2, b_3$

Noise:  $\sigma, \alpha$

Lapse rate:  $\lambda$



{ Max model  
Diff model  
Ent model



# Maximum likelihood estimation

$$L_M(\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(d_i, c_i | s_i, b_1, b_2, b_3, \sigma, \alpha, \lambda)$$

## Free parameters

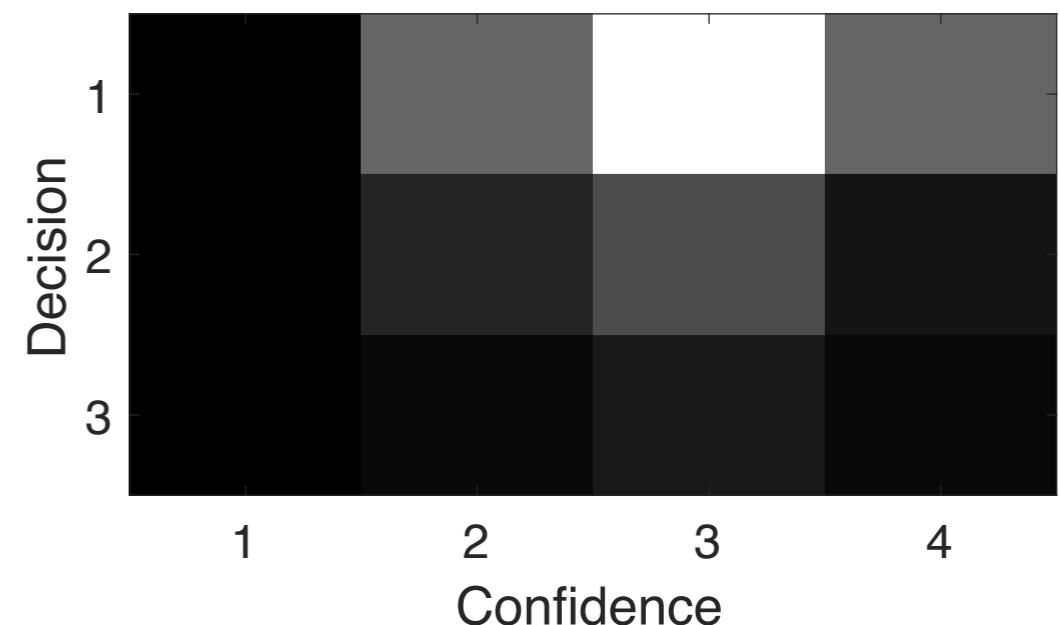
Criteria:  $b_1, b_2, b_3$

Noise:  $\sigma, \alpha$

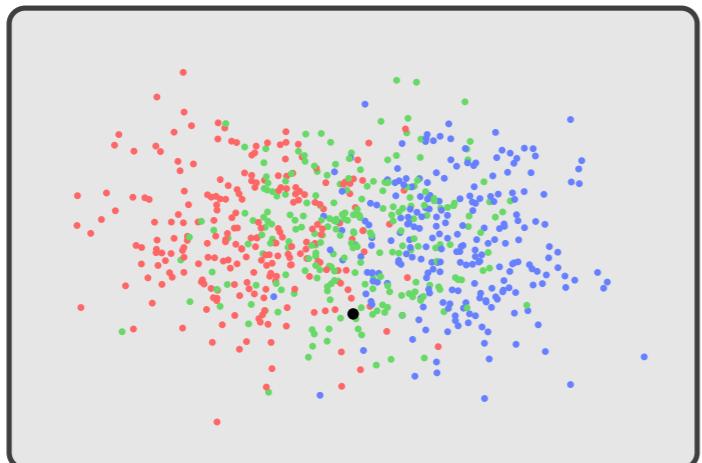
Lapse rate:  $\lambda$

joint probability for trial  $i$

$$p(d_i, c_i | s_i, b_1, b_2, b_3, \sigma, \alpha, \lambda)$$



A



time

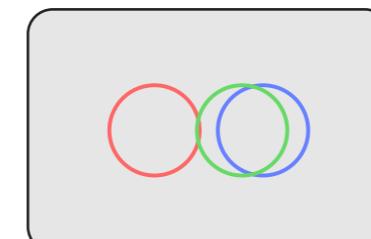
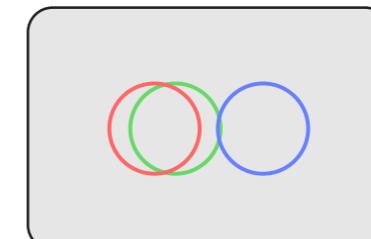
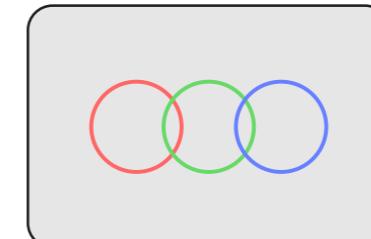
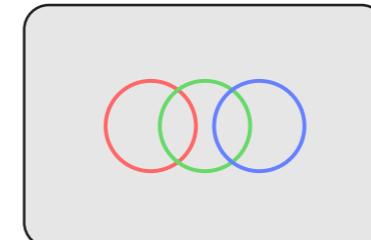
Which group does the black dot belong to?

very low somewhat low somewhat high very high

How confident are you in your decision?

B

Experiment 1 and 3



C

Experiment 2

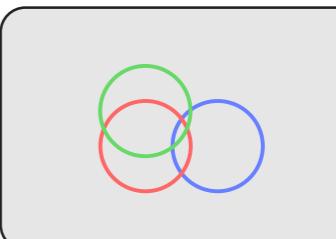
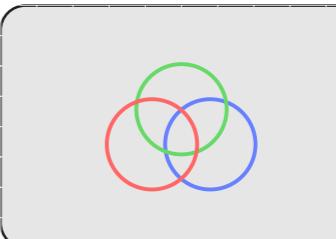
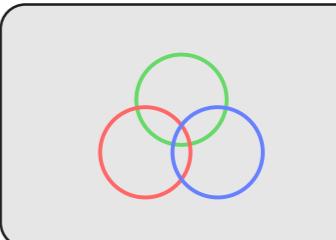


Fig. 1 Experimental procedure and stimuli.

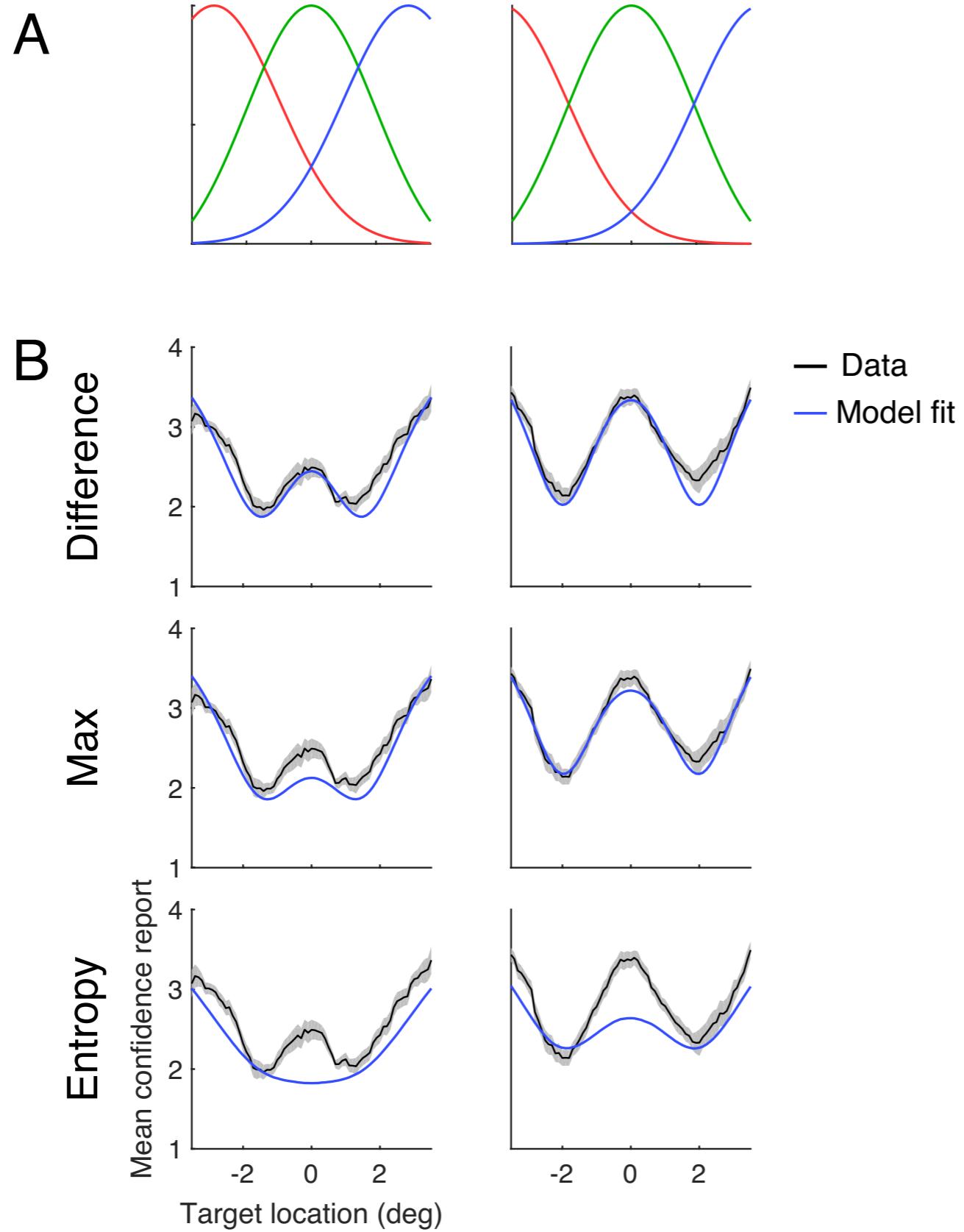


Fig. 3. Experiment 1.

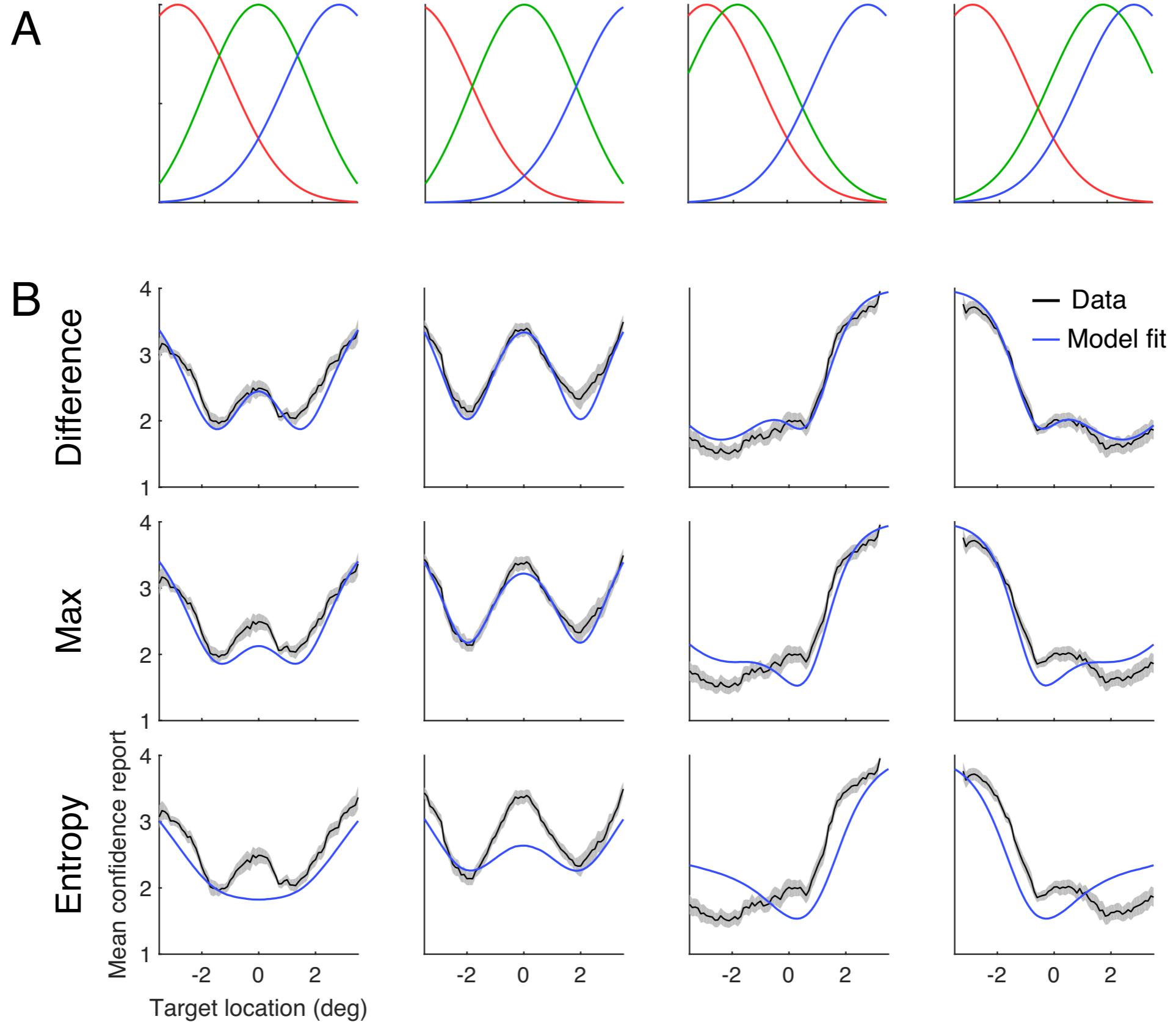
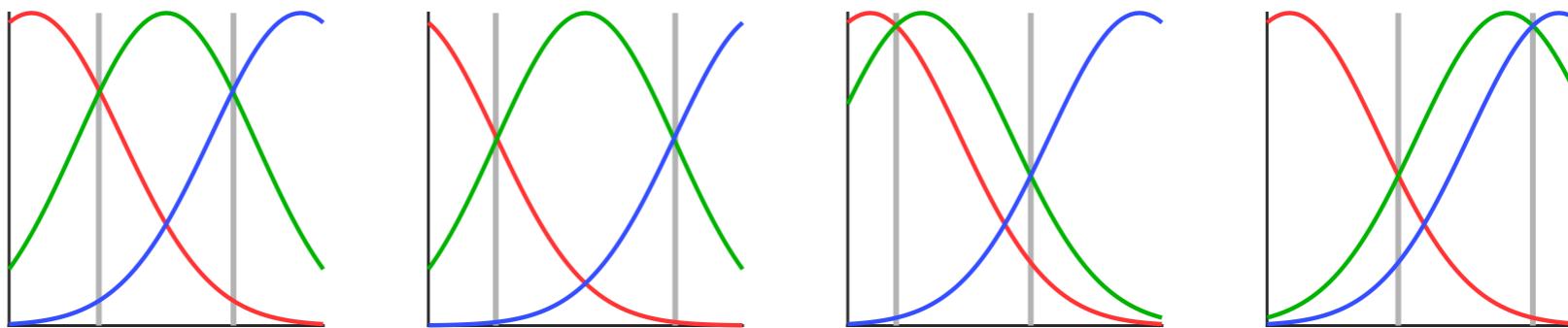
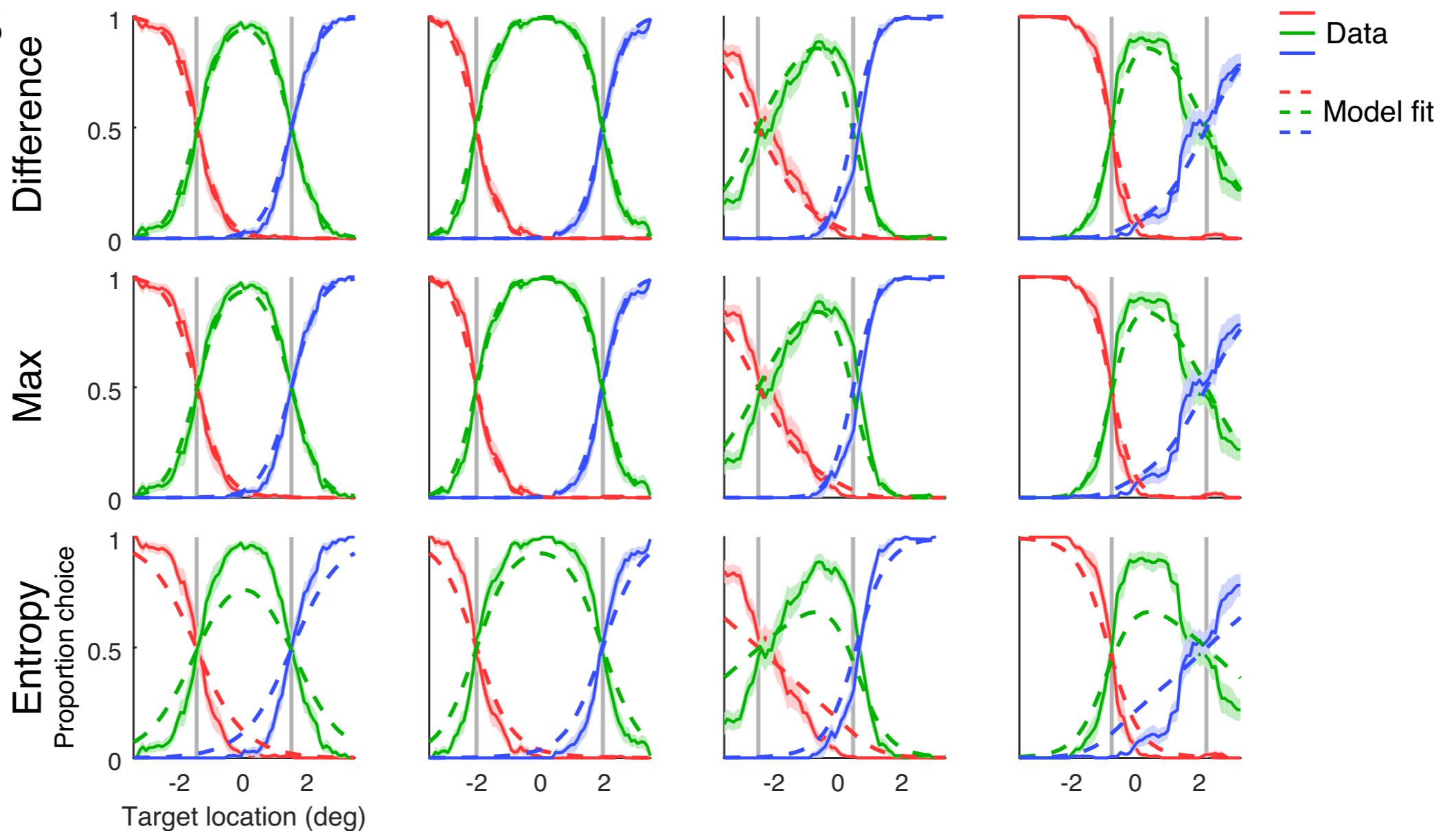


Fig. 3. Experiment 1.

**A****B**

Supplementary Figure 2.

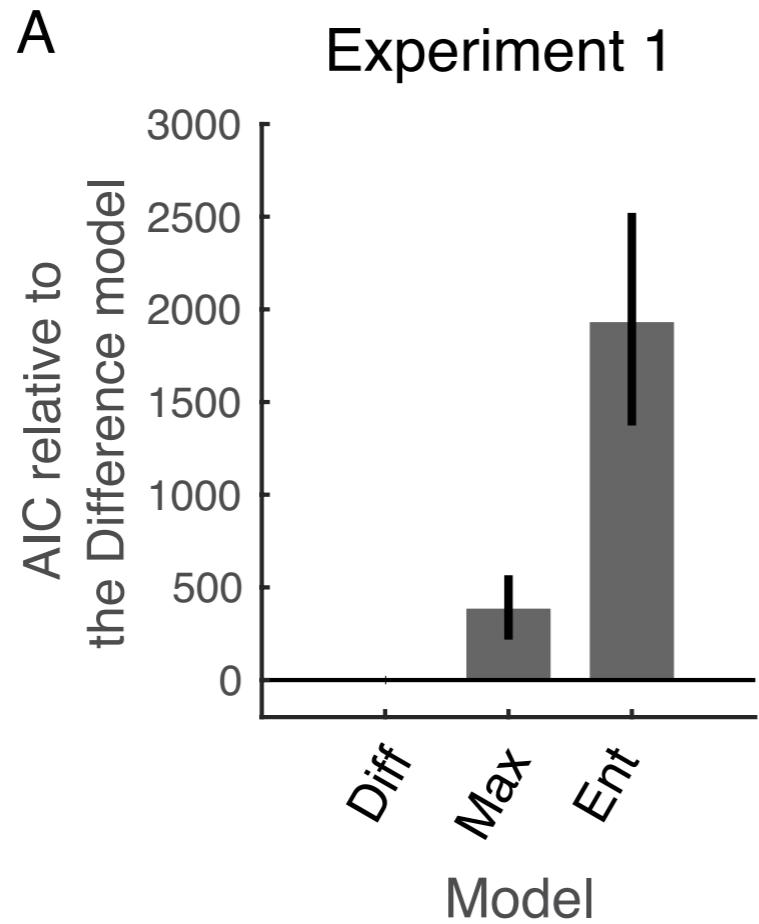
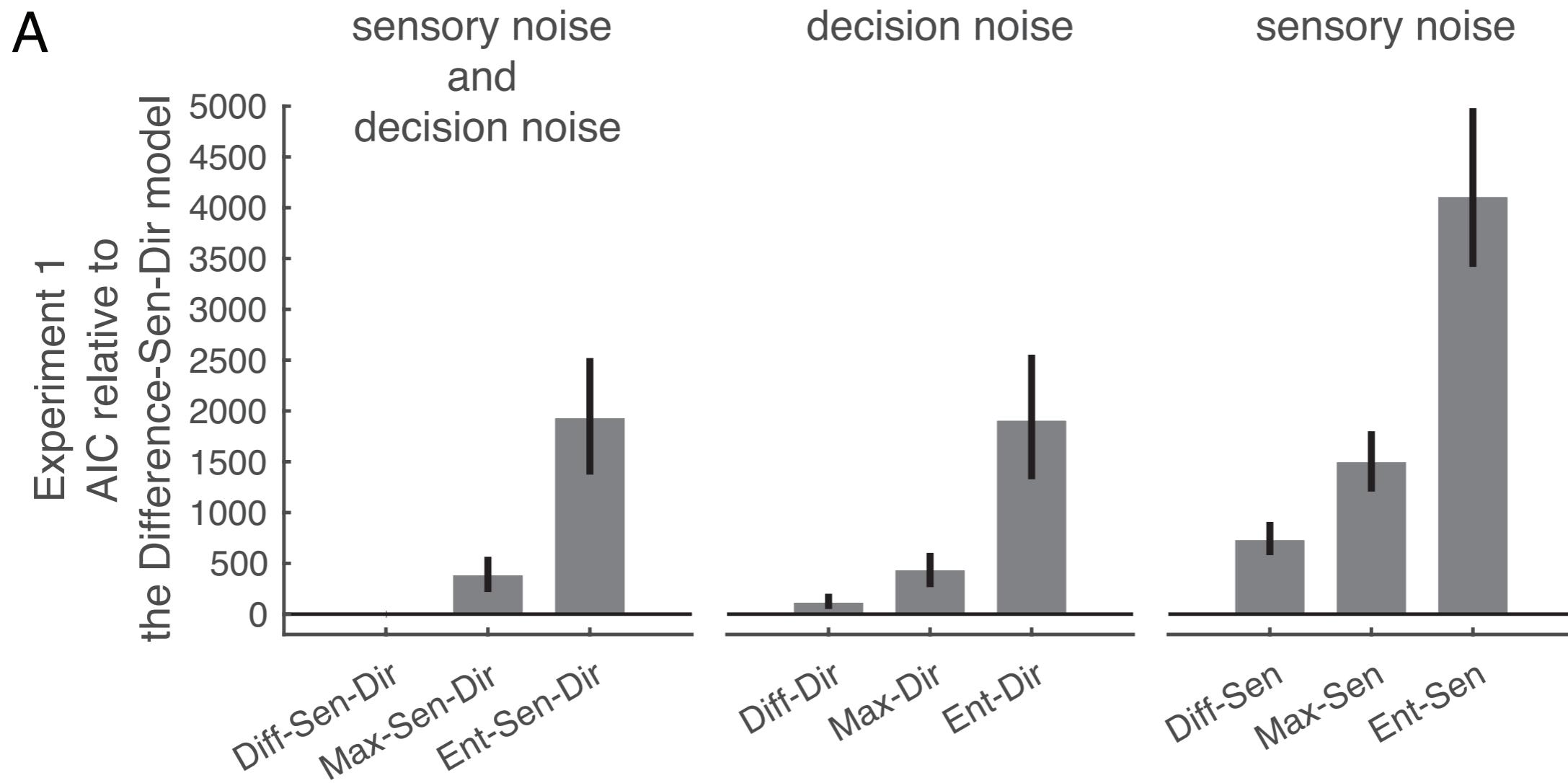
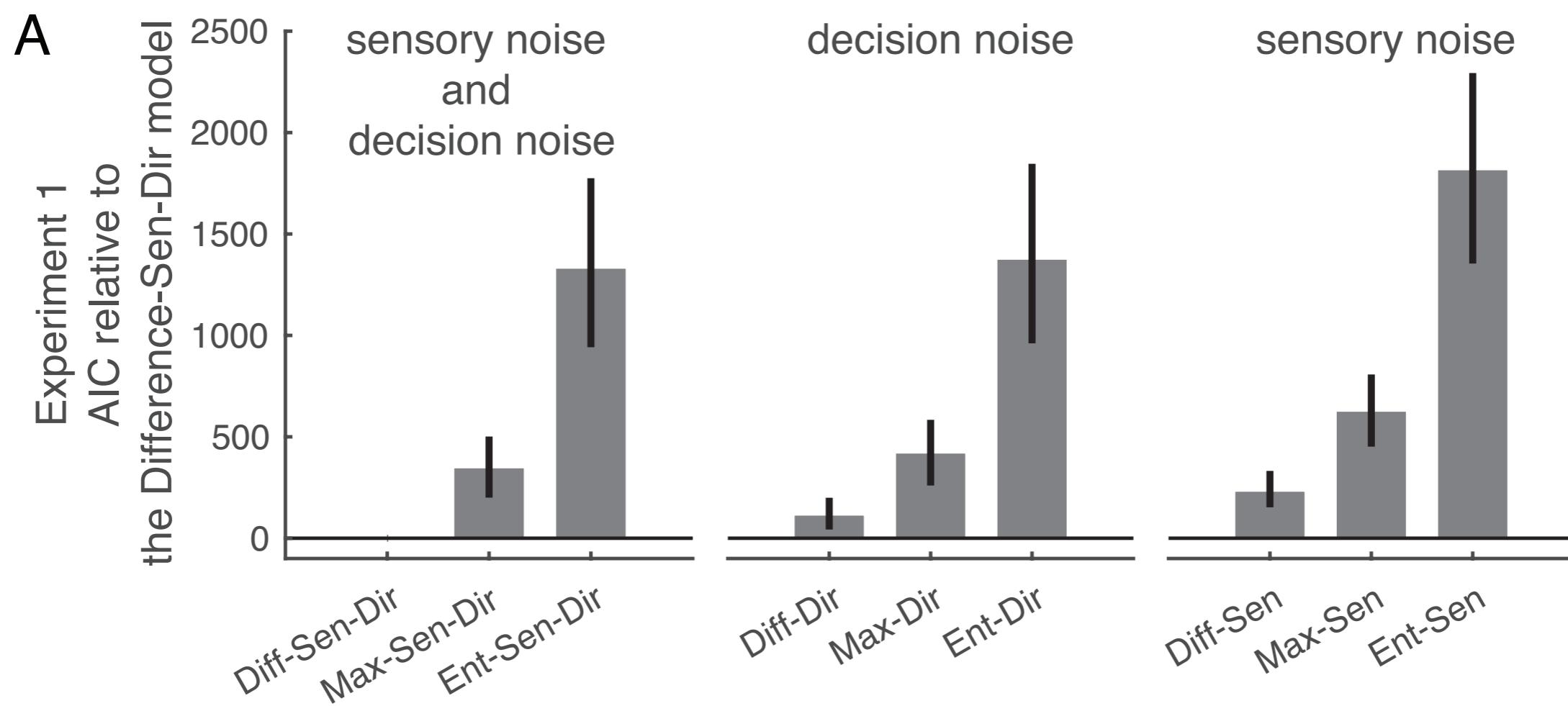


Fig. 4. Experiment 1. Model comparisons using  $\Delta\text{AIC}$ :  
AIC of each model compared with the Difference model

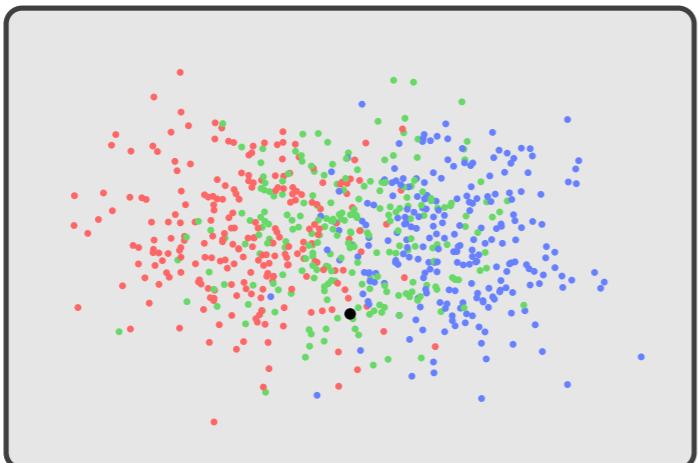


Supplementary Figure 4.



Supplementary Figure 6. Fitting confidence reports only

A



time



Which group does the black dot belong to?

very  
low

somewhat  
low

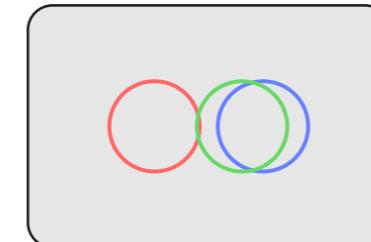
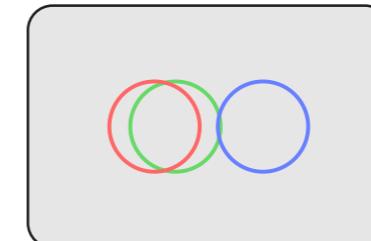
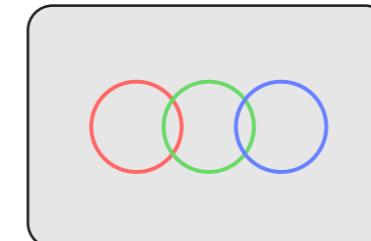
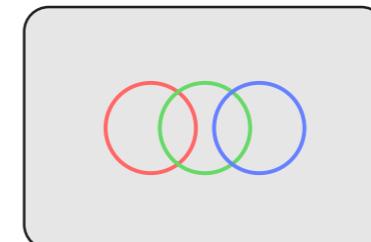
somewhat  
high

very  
high

How confident are you in your decision?

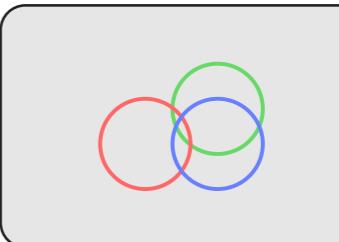
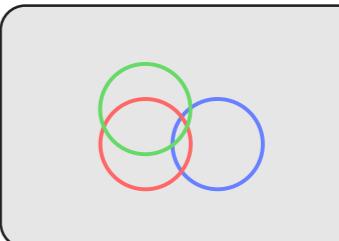
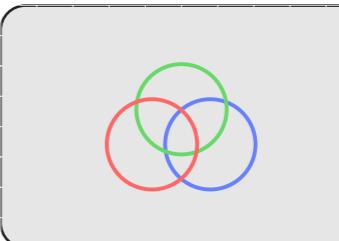
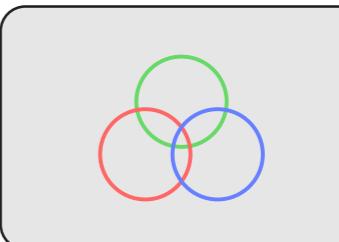
B

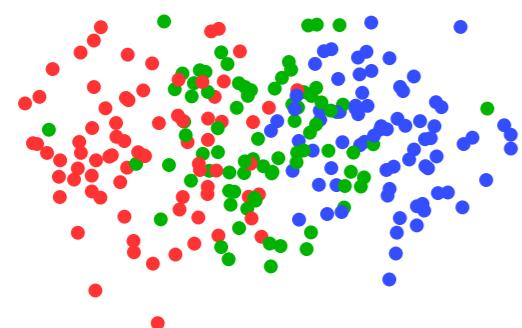
Experiment 1 and 3



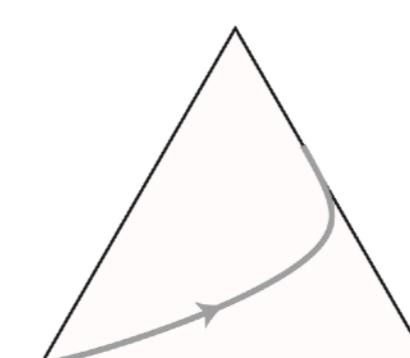
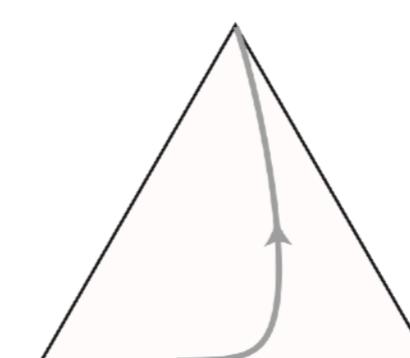
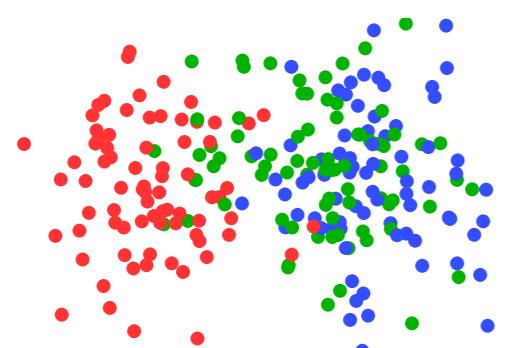
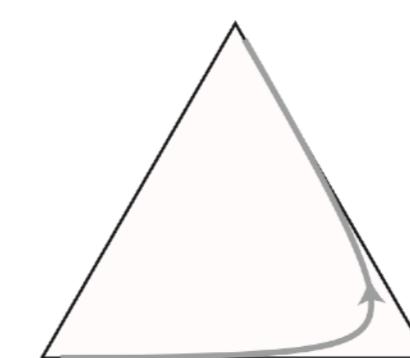
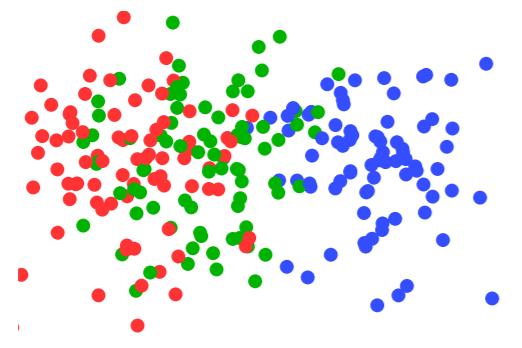
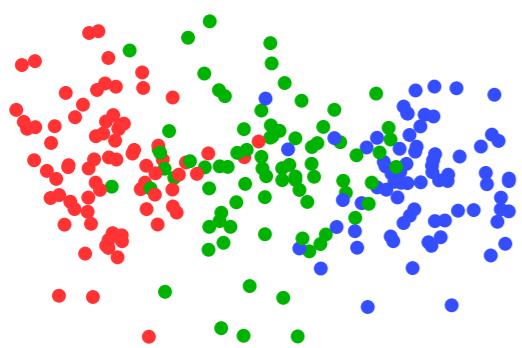
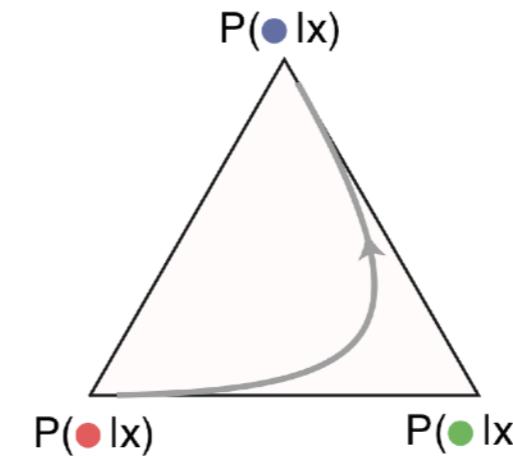
C

Experiment 2

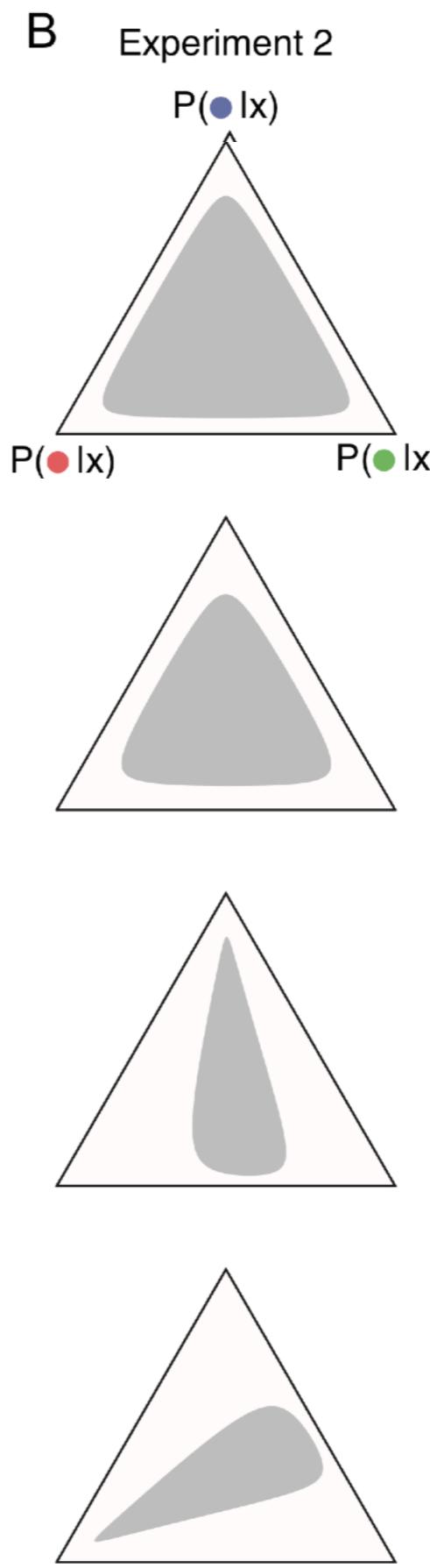
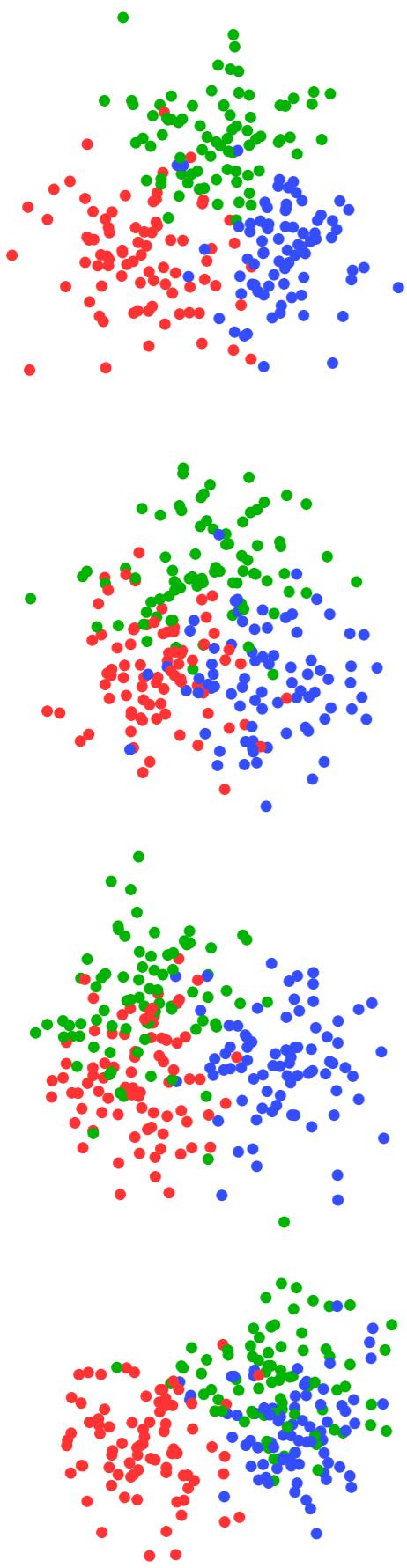




A Experiment 1 and 3



Supplementary Figure 1.



Supplementary Figure 2.

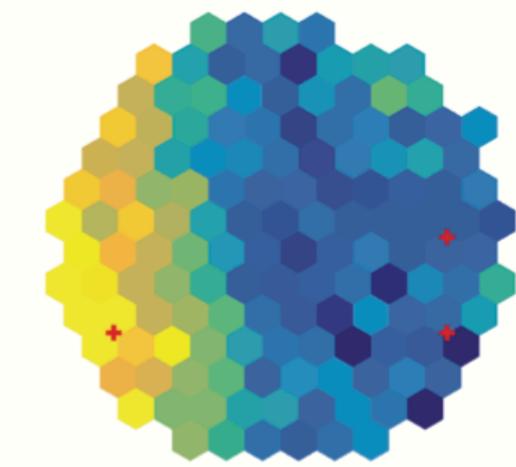
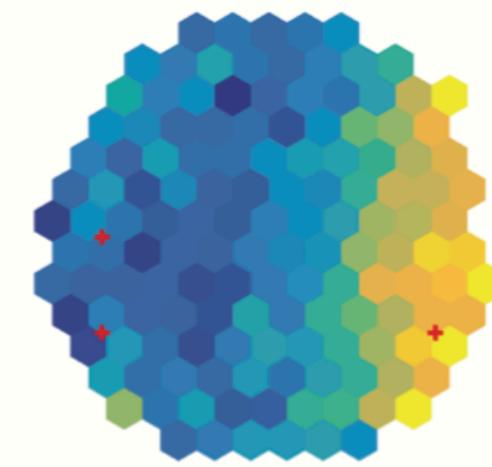
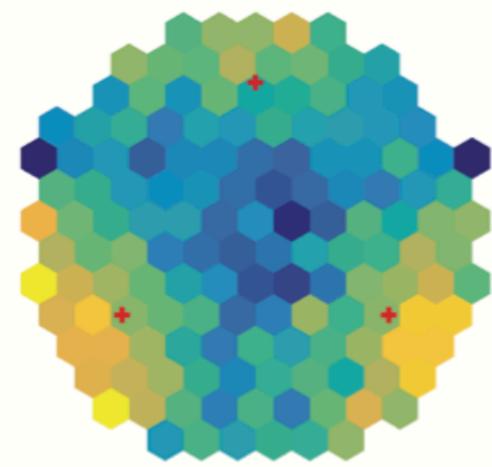
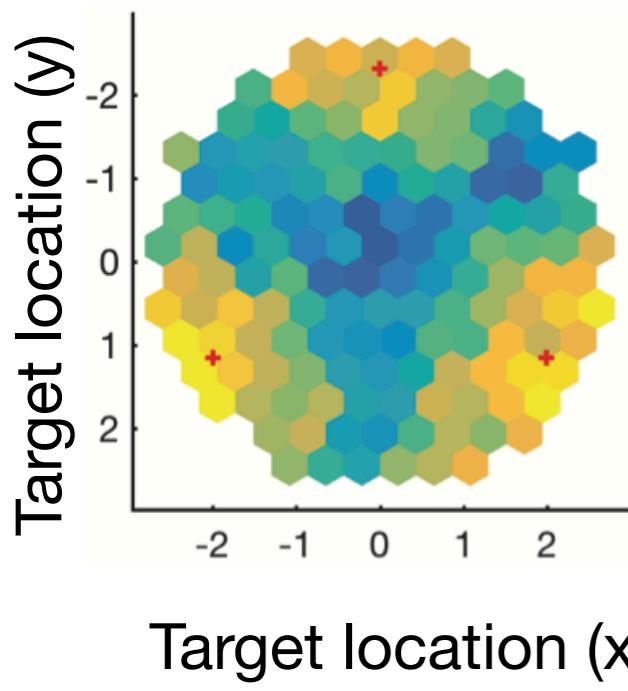


Fig. 5 Experiment 2.

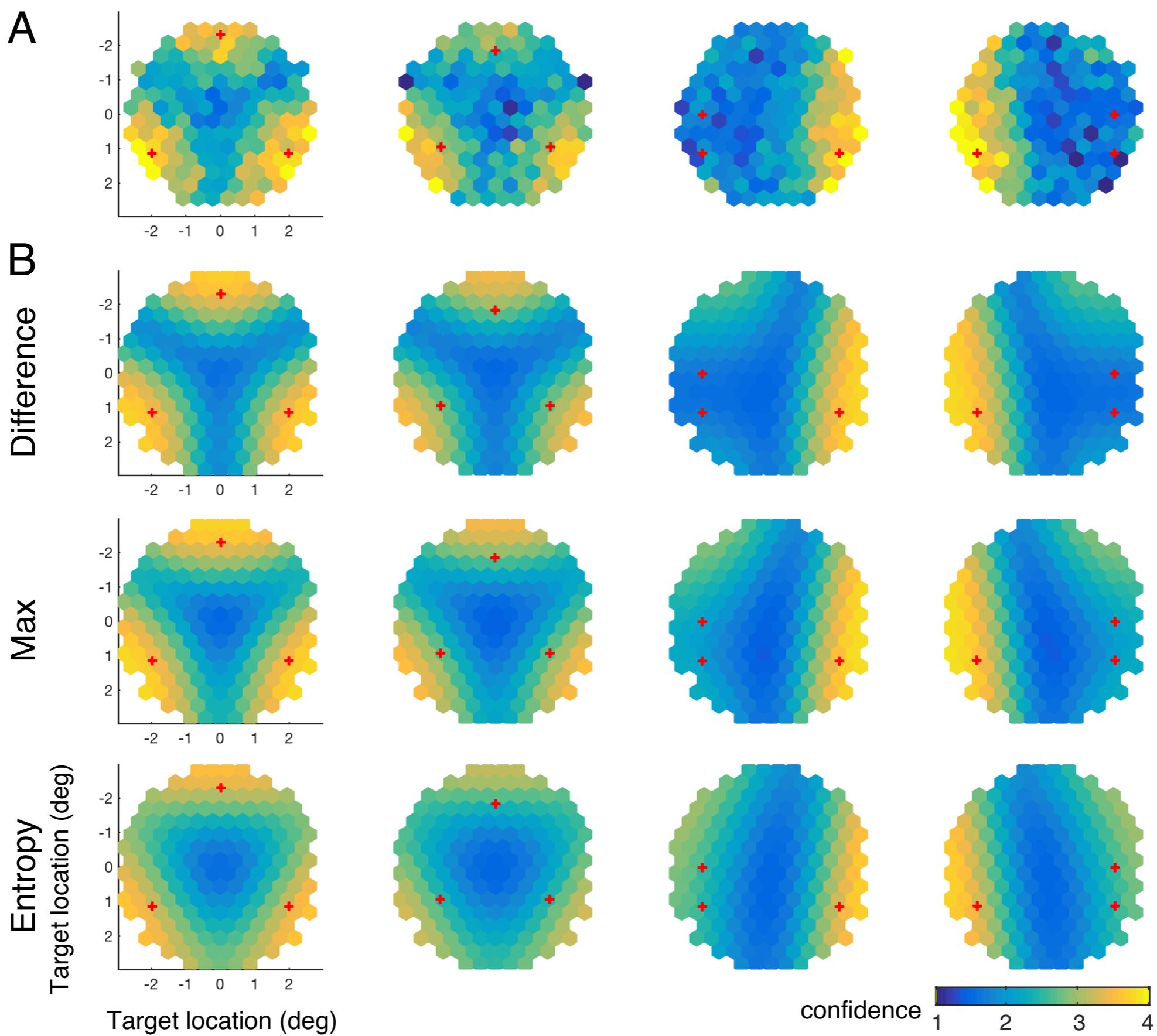


Fig. 5 Experiment 2.

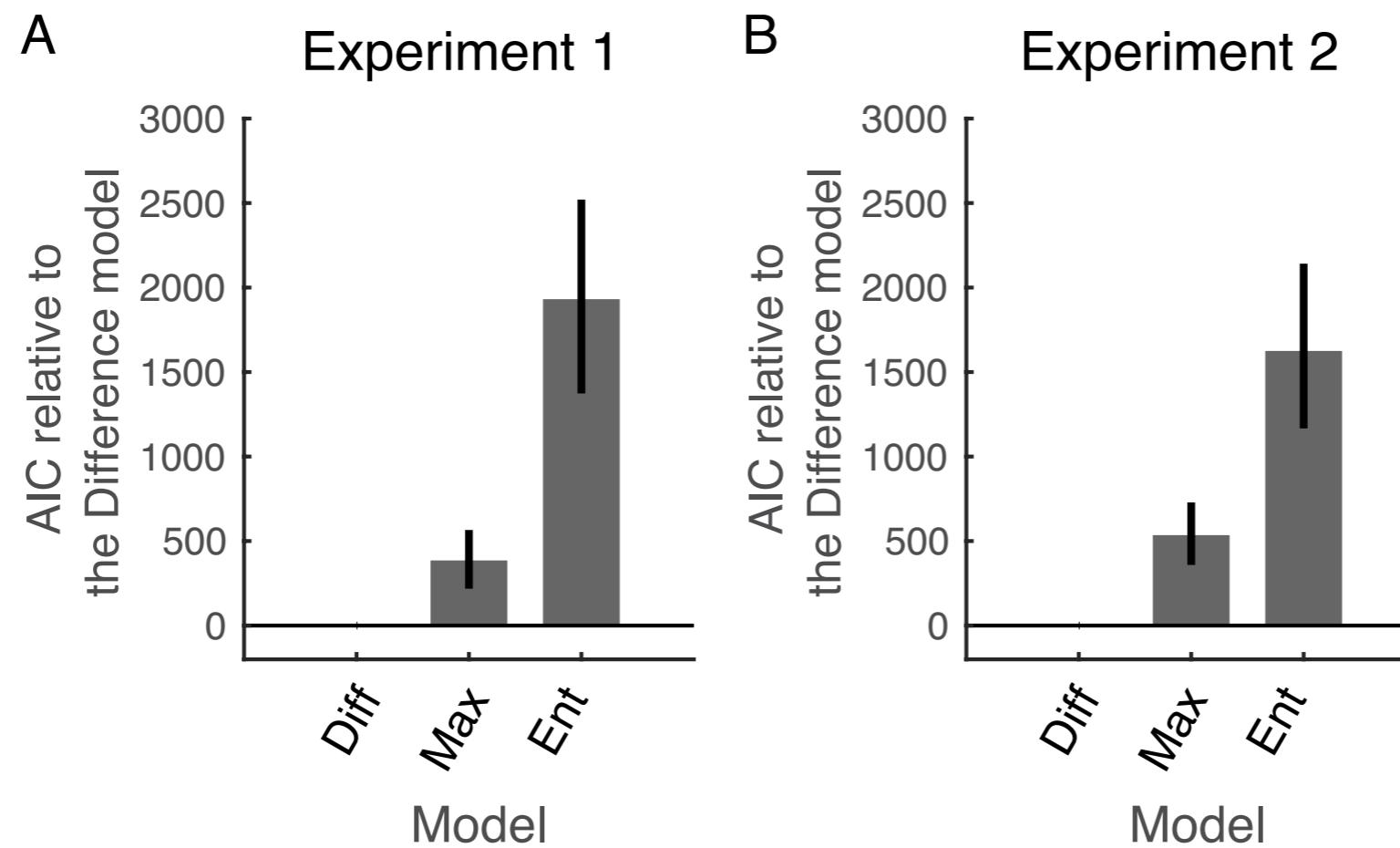
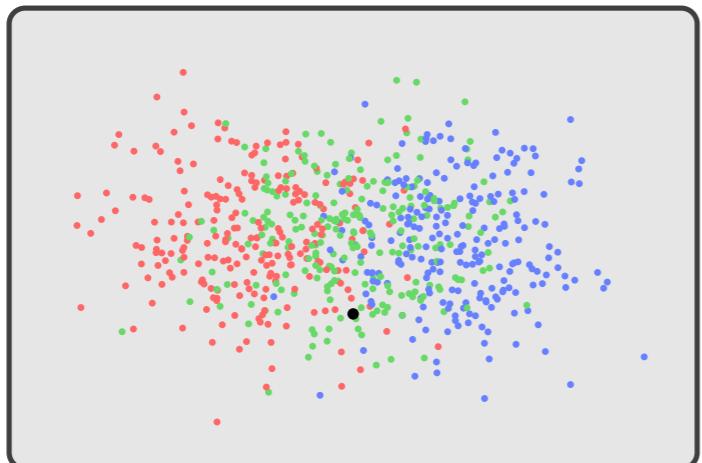


Fig. 4. Experiment 1. Model comparisons using  $\Delta\text{AIC}$ :  
AIC of each model compared with the Difference model

A



time



Which group does the black dot belong to?

very  
low

somewhat  
low

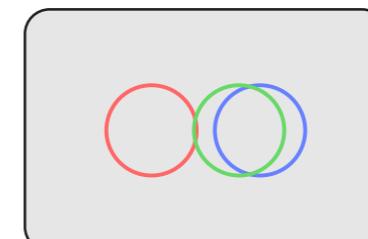
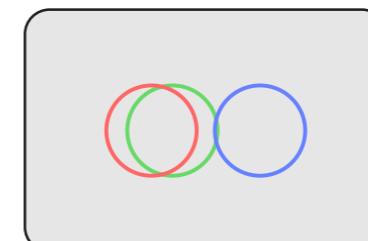
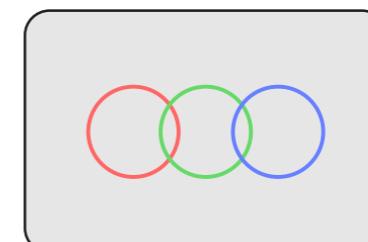
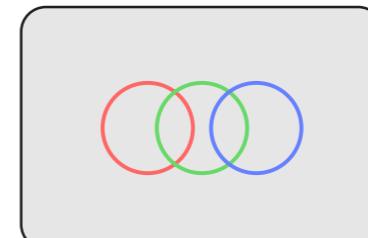
somewhat  
high

very  
high

How confident are you in your decision?

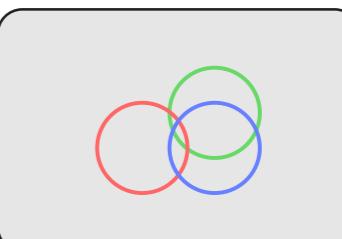
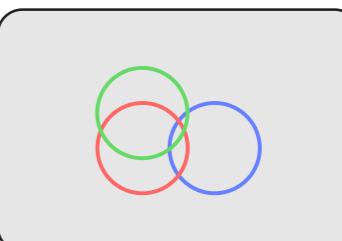
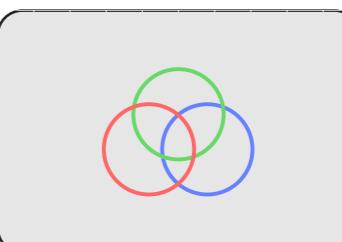
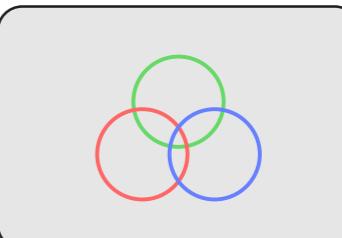
B

Experiment 1 and 3



C

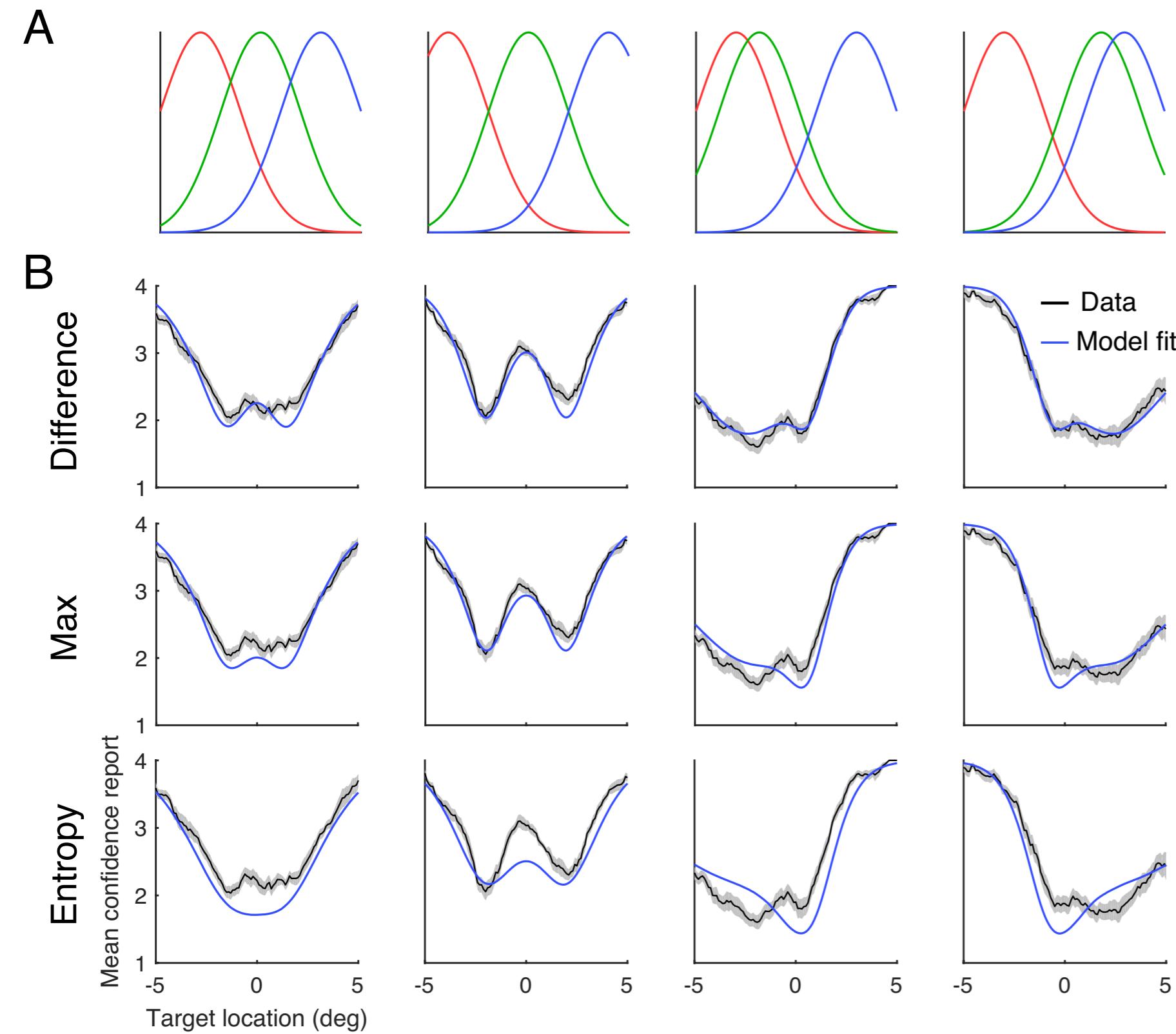
Experiment 2



Experiment 3

1. Feedback

2. Sampling from the true stimulus distribution



Supplementary Figure 11.

If you are interested in:

- Model recovery analysis (Supplementary Figure 3)
- Model comparisons using BIC index (Supplementary Figure 5)
- Fitting confidence reports alone (Supplementary Figure 6 and 7)
- Fitting category decisions alone (Supplementary Figure 9)
- 21 additional models (various implementations of variabilities; heuristic models; Supplementary Figure 10)
- Ratio model (Supplementary Figure 12)

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Difference model outperforms Max and Entropy model

Posteriors of unchosen options matter



**Doby Rahnev** @DobyRahnev · 5月2日

回覆給 @weijima01 和 @hsinhungli

Great paper, congrats to you both! A bit of tangential question: are you thinking of this task as a "perceptual choice" (as the tweet reads)? I always thought of it as a cognitive choice. This may be semantics but I also think that perception may actually work differently.

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**Hsin-Hung Li** @hsinhungli · 5月2日

@DobyRahnev Thank you :-) This sounds like an interesting topic to discuss in our virtual journal club: May 4 at 12:30 EST

[nyu.zoom.us/j/99274459619](https://nyu.zoom.us/j/99274459619)

This task could be on the borderline between perception and cognition. Essentially this is a location/position categorization task.

Difference model outperforms Max and Entropy model  
Posteriors of unchosen options matter

**THANK YOU!**  
**Time to discuss**