



Dimensions of Motor Control  
@TUM 20250320

# Motor learning: context dependency, meta-learning, and redundancy

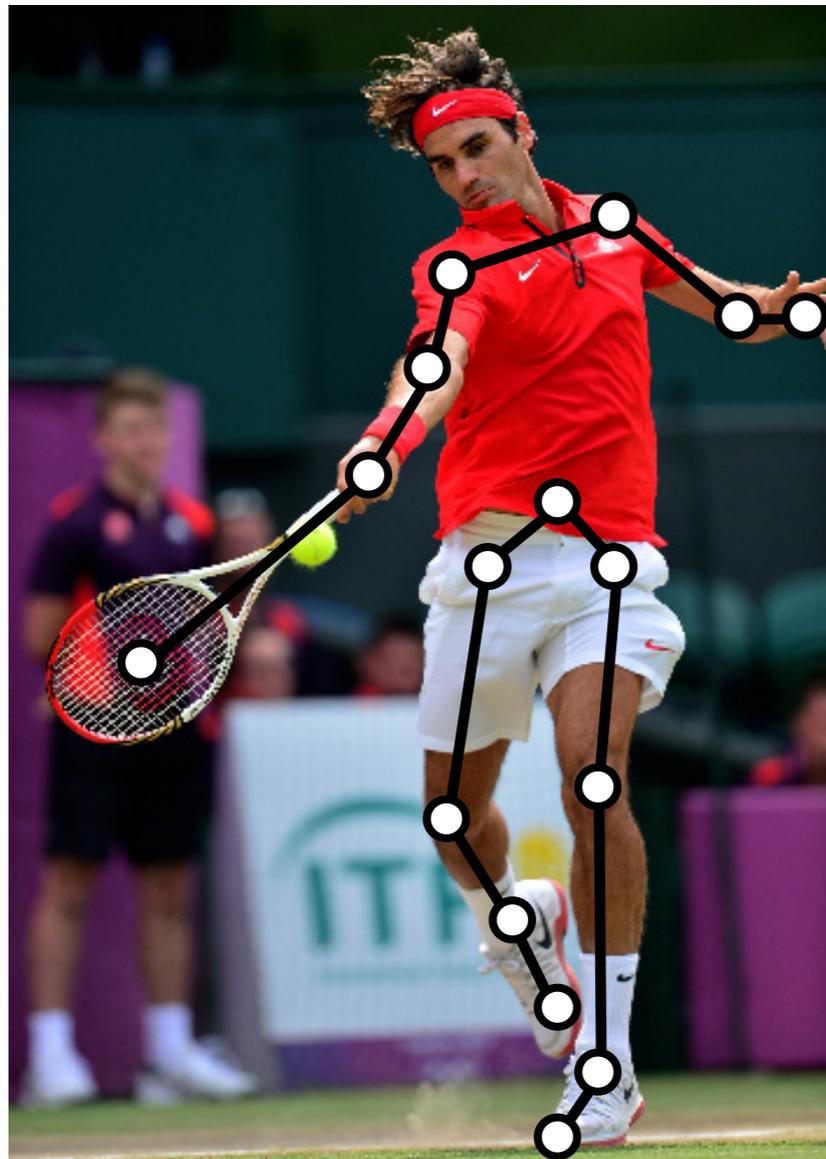
Daichi Nozaki PhD

Professor

Graduate School of Education

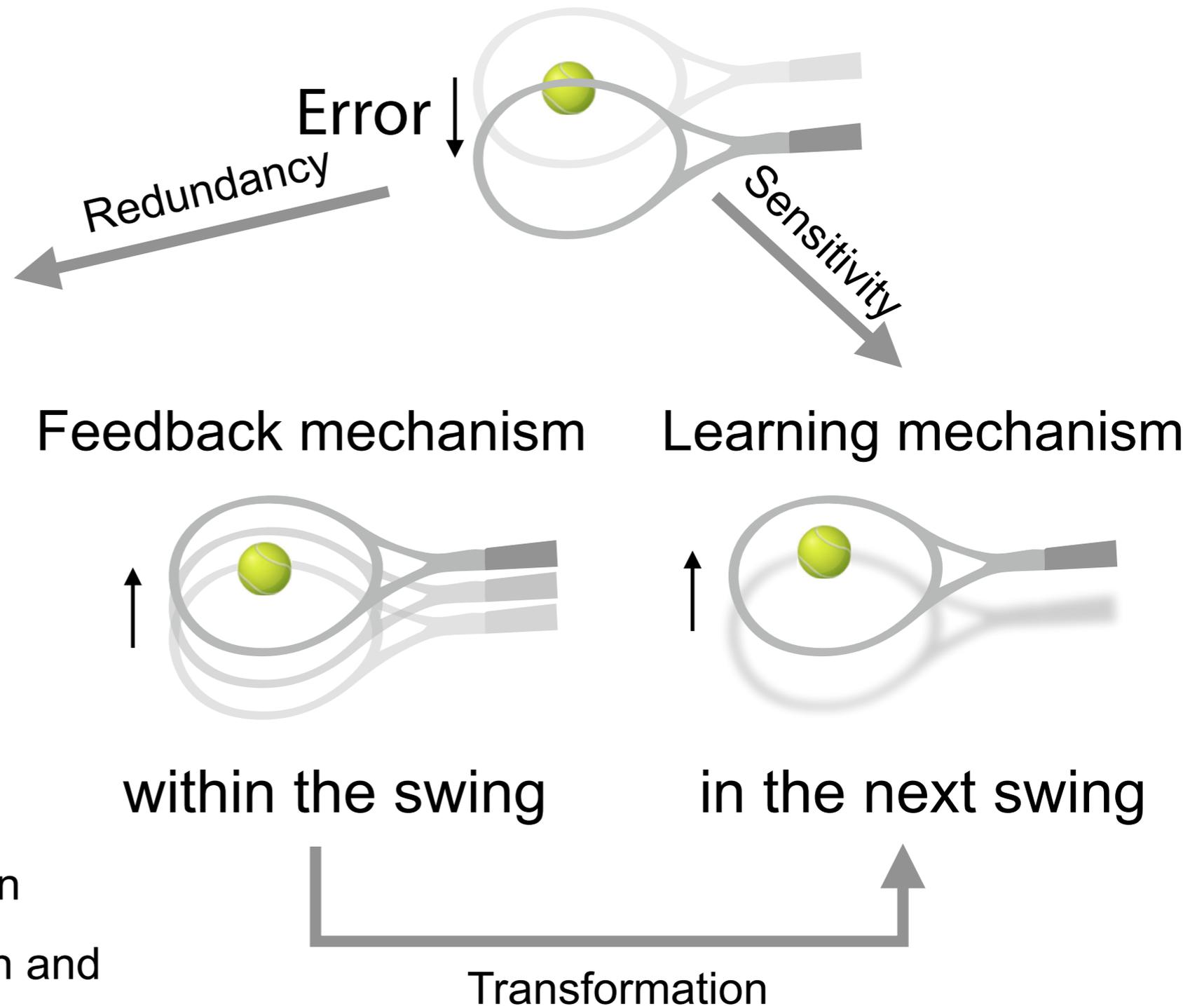
The University of Tokyo

# Mechanisms of movement correction



Multimodal sensory integration

Integration between prediction and sensory information...



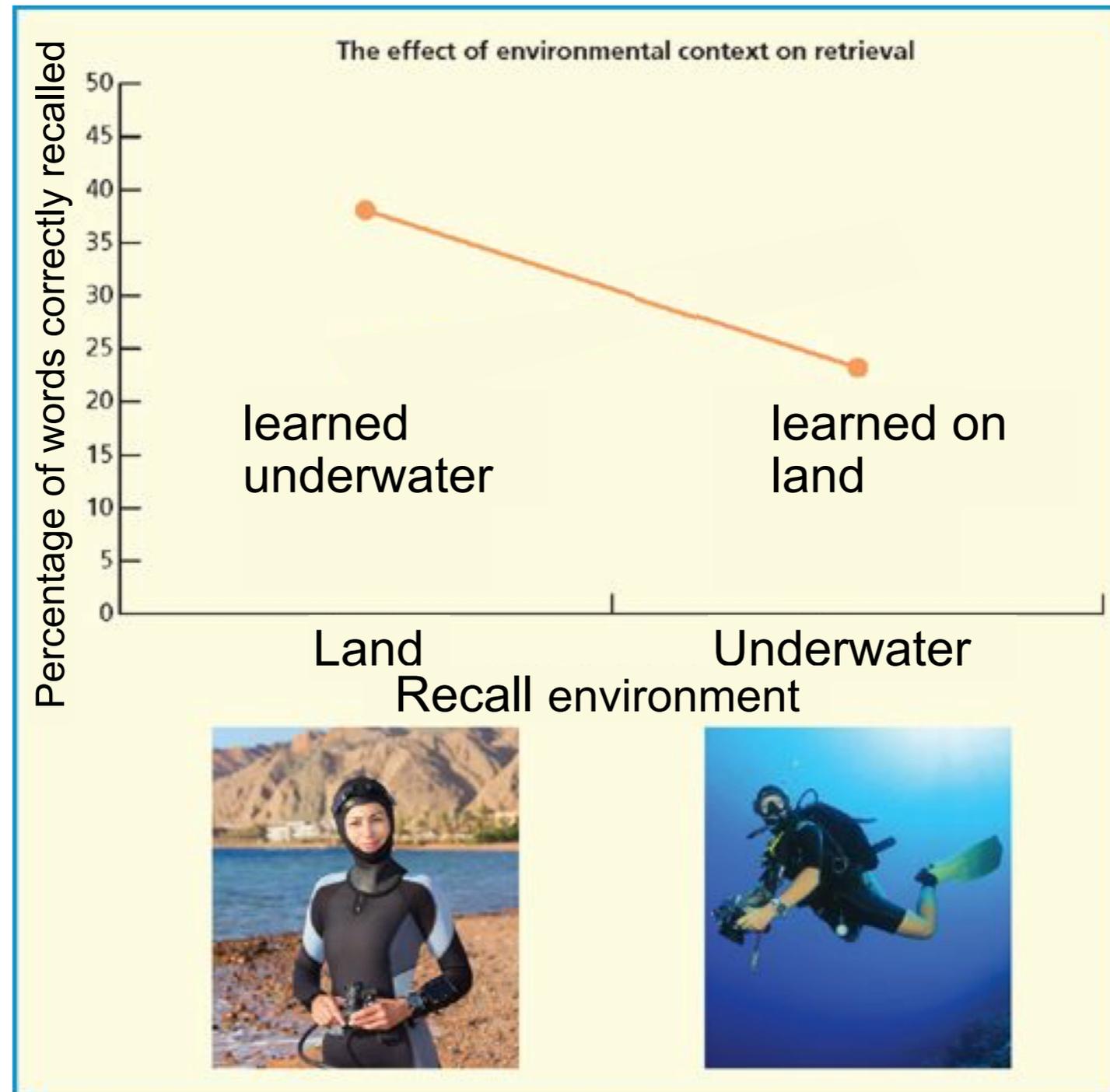
# Contents

1. Context dependency: Motor memory is formed and retrieved according to different behavioral contexts.
2. Meta learning: Motor learning alters how motor learning is performed.
3. Redundancy: How does the brain coordinate redundant body movement for adaptations?

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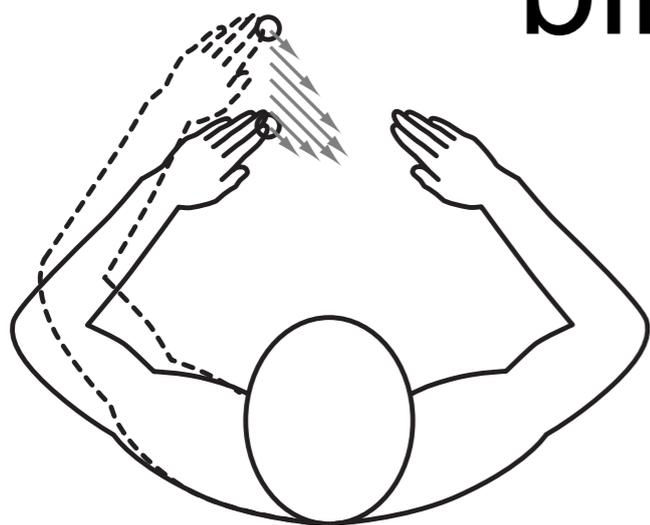
- 1. Context dependency: Motor memory is formed and retrieved according to different behavioral contexts.**
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# Declarative memory is context dependent

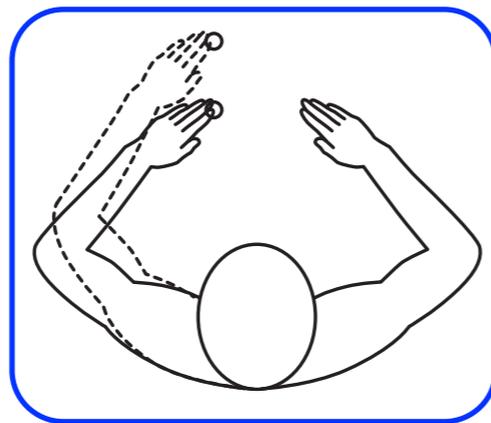


*Godden & Baddeley, British Journal of Psychology, 1975*

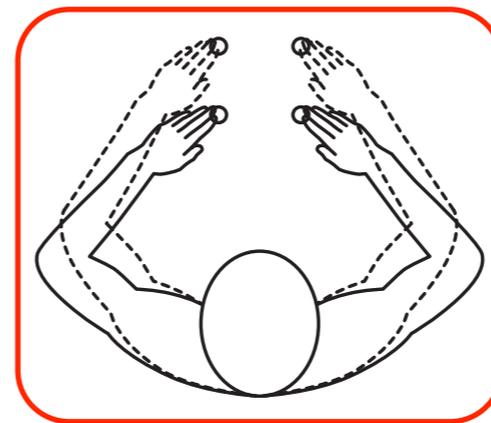
# Transfer of learning between uni- and bimanual movements



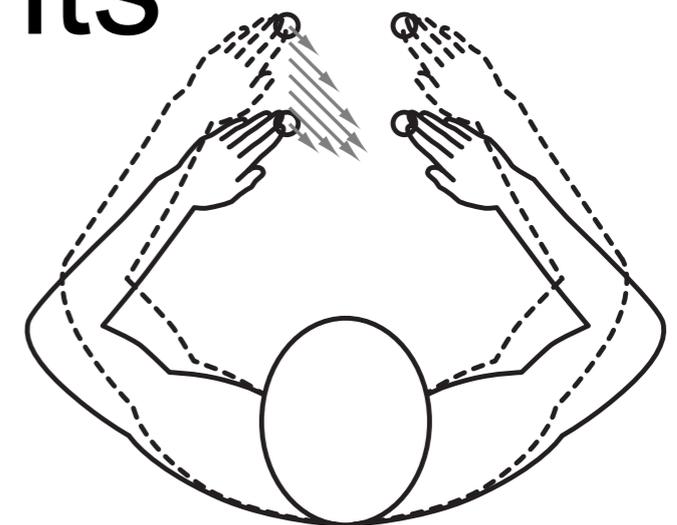
Uni- learning



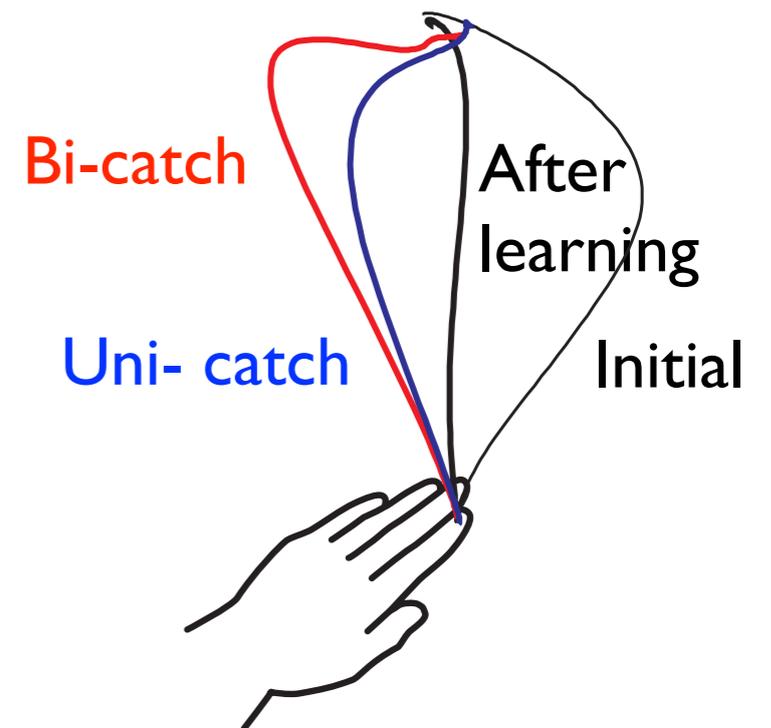
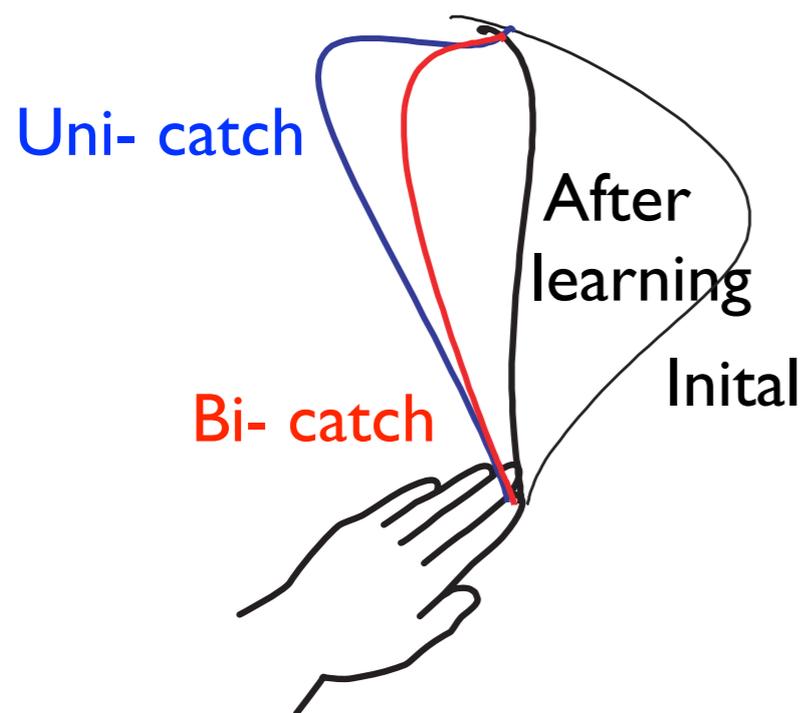
Uni- catch trial



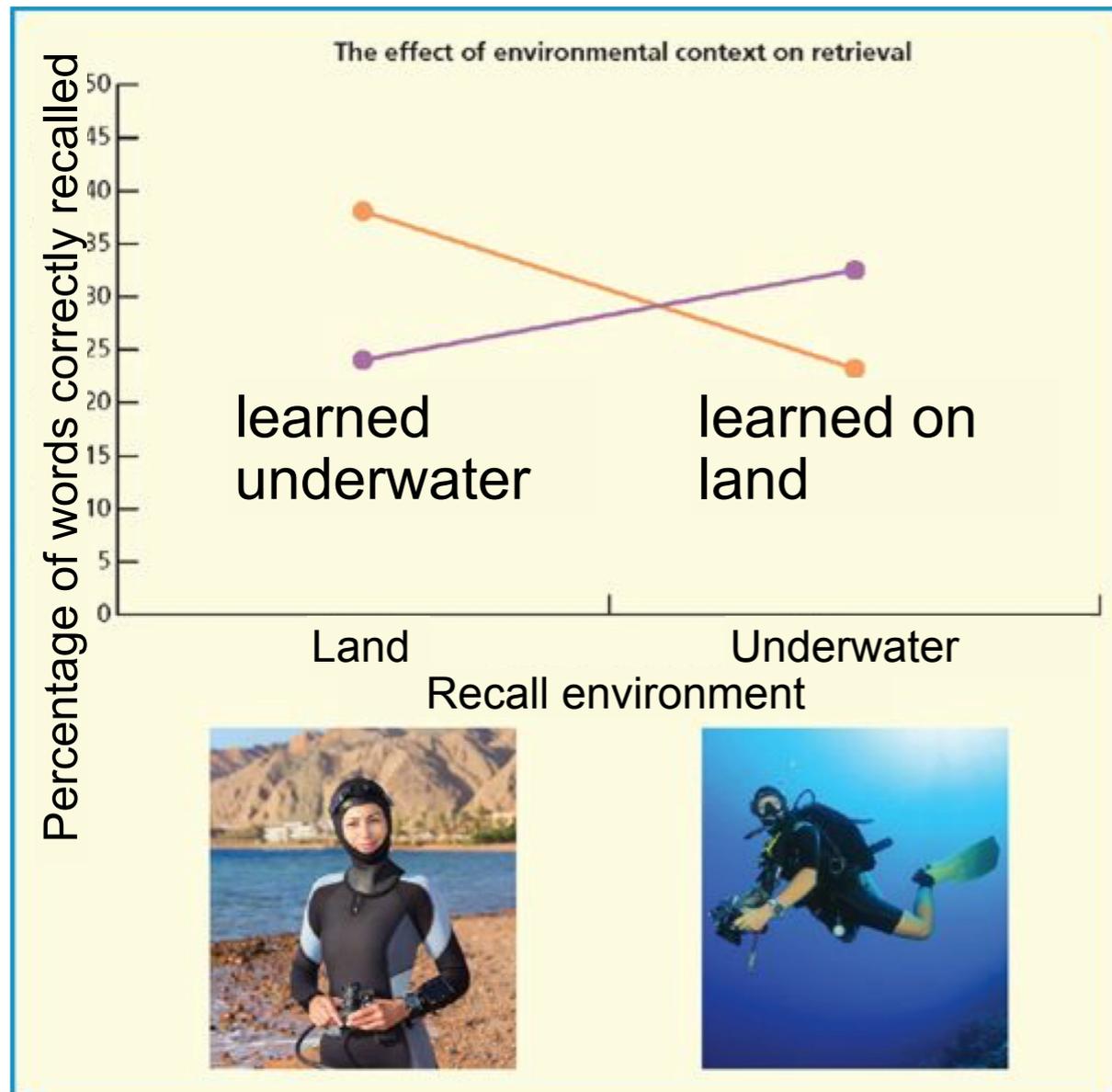
Bi- catch trial



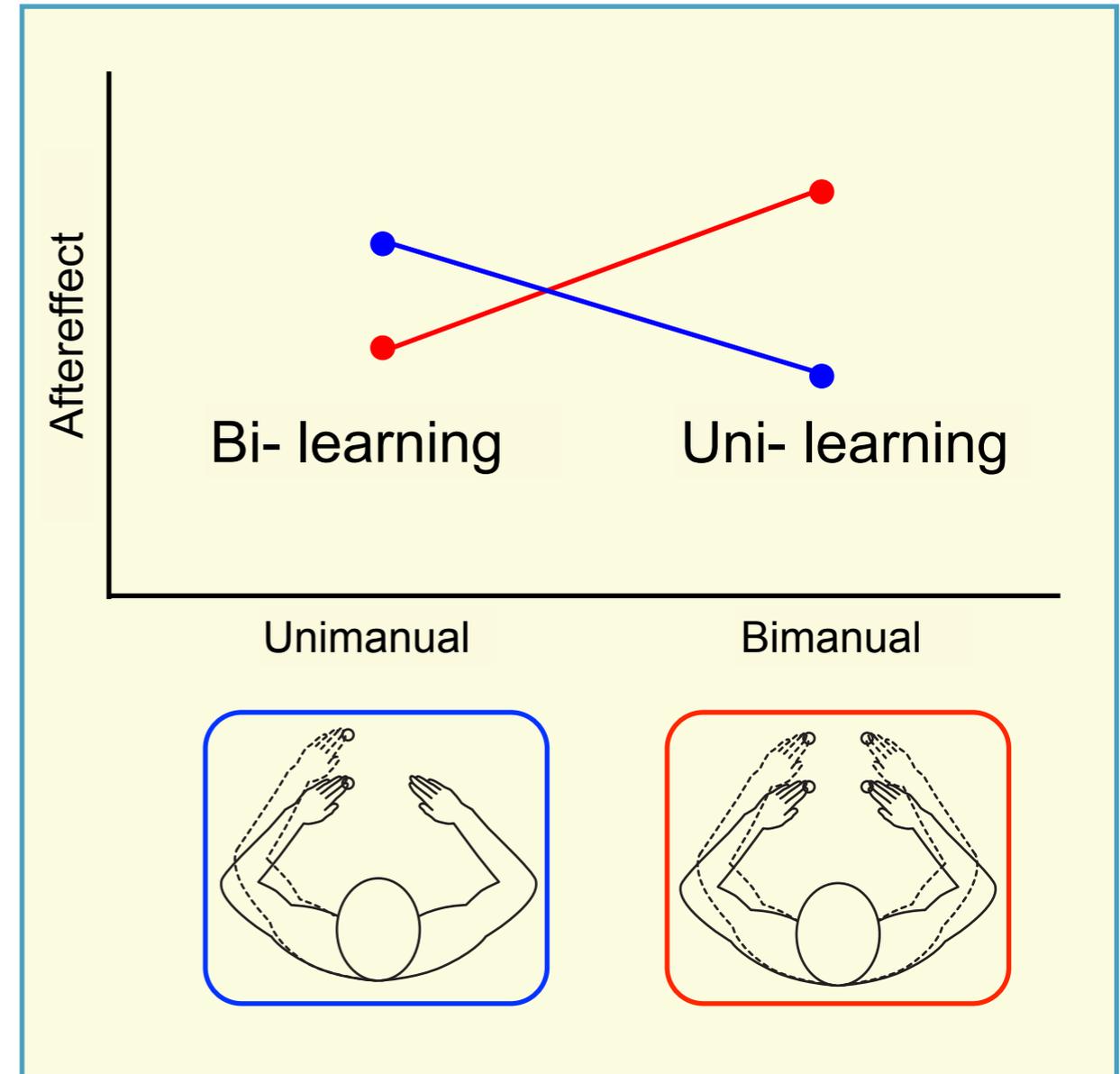
Bi- learning



# Motor memory is context-dependent

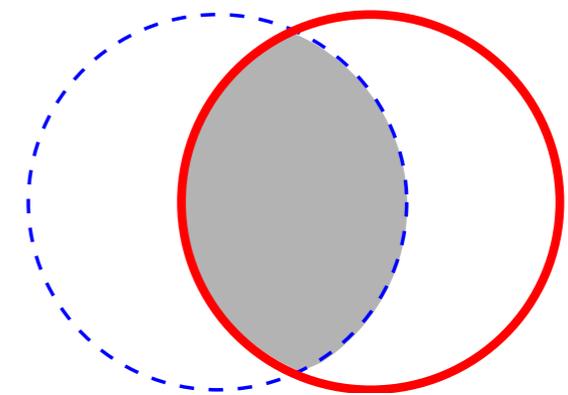
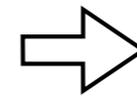
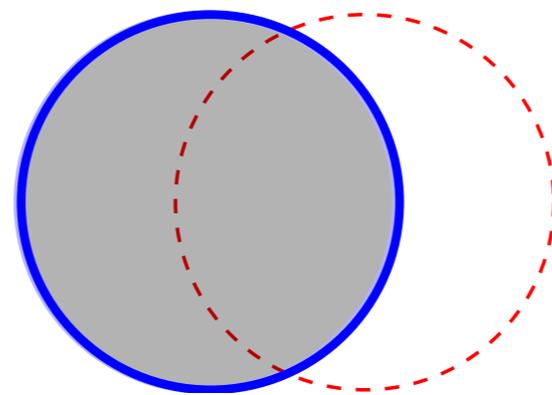


Godden & Baddeley, British Journal of Psychology, 1975



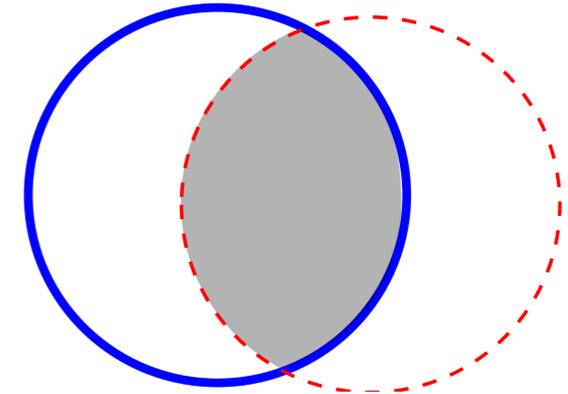
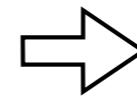
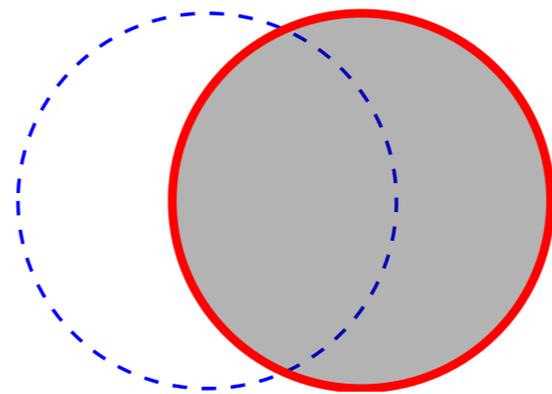
Nozaki et al., Nature Neuroscience, 2006

# Partially overlapping motor memories



After uni- learning

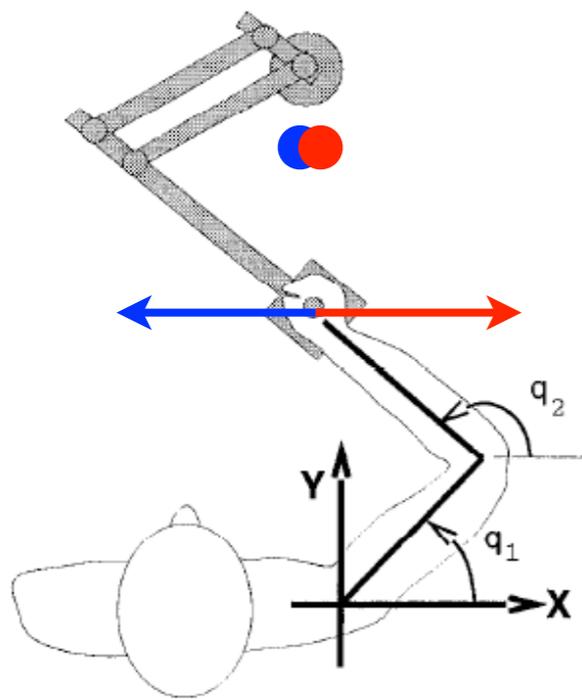
Transfer to bi- mov



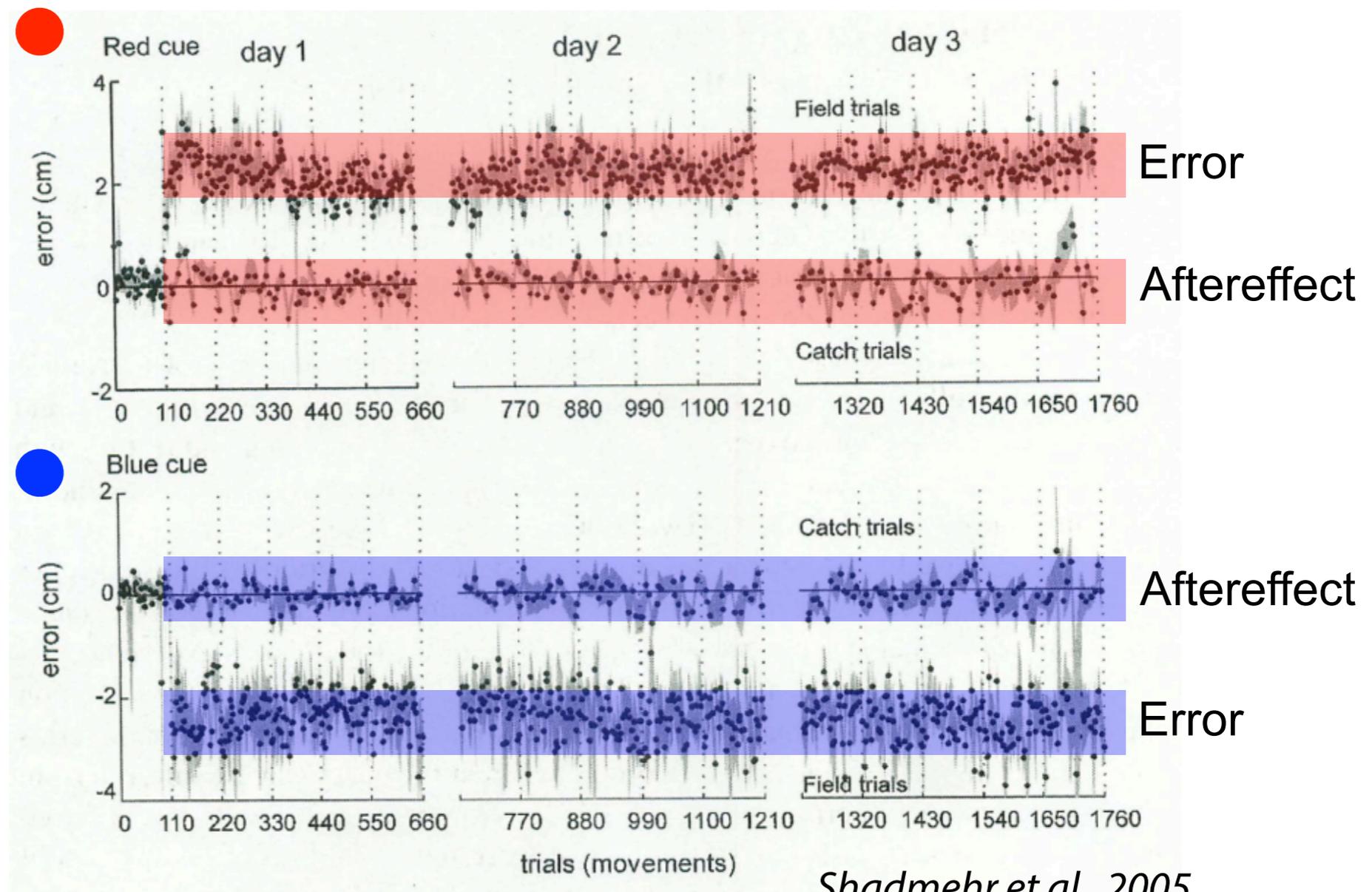
<sup>i</sup>  
After bi- learning

Transfer to uni- mov

# Difficulty in adapting to opposing force fields

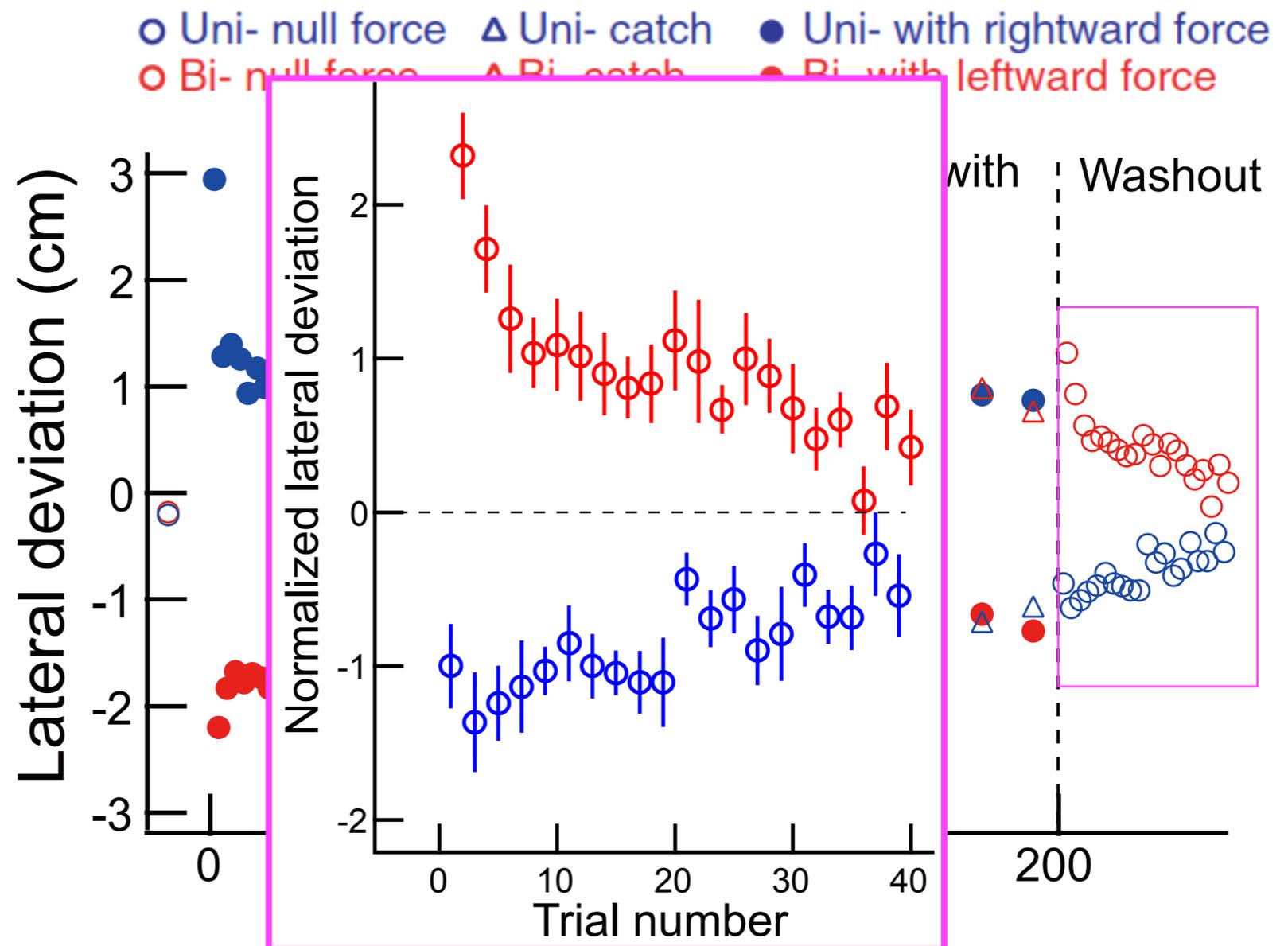
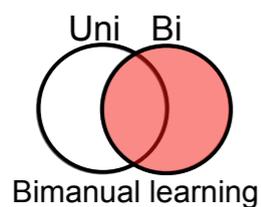
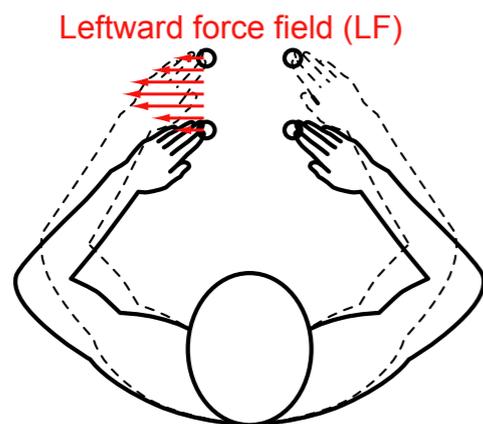
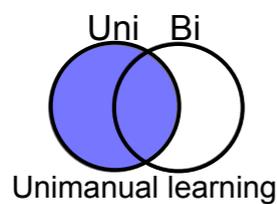
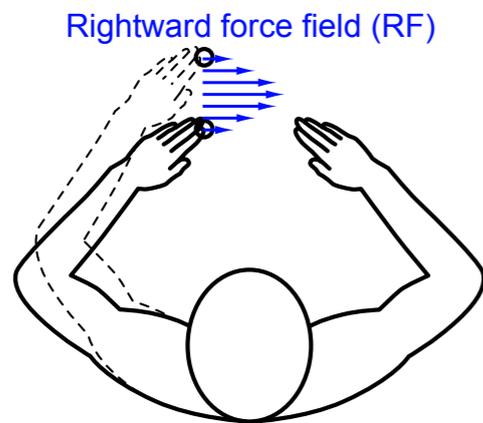


FF directions were changed according to the target color.



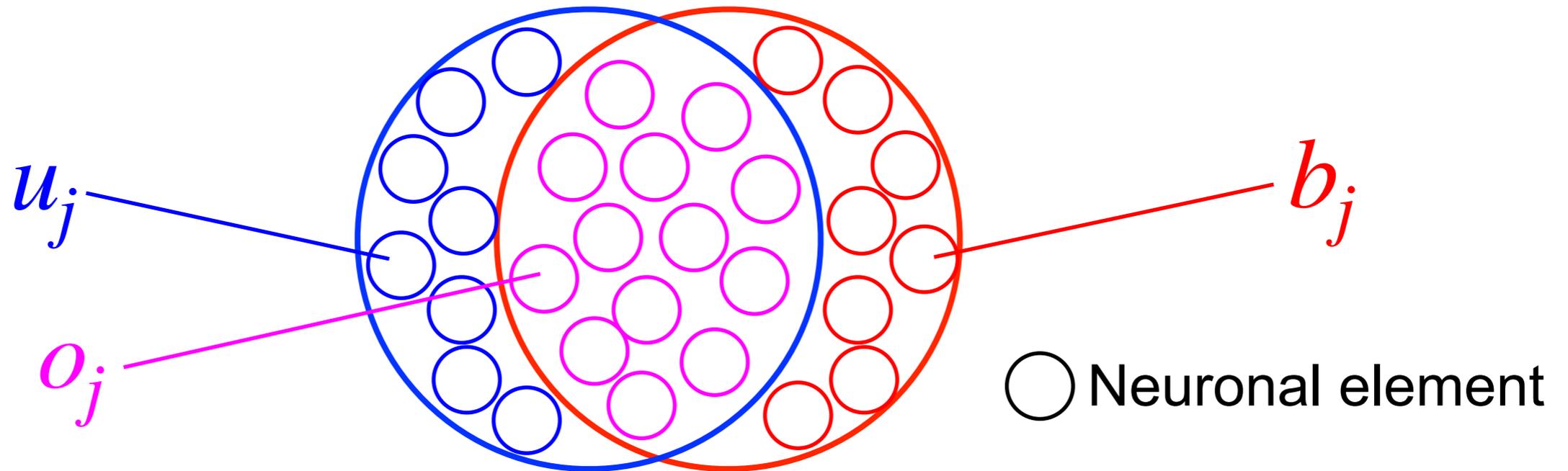
*Shadmehr et al., 2005*

# Adaptation to opposing force field with and without the opposite arm



Very slow wash-out

# State-space model



After the  $i$ -th uni- learning

$$e(i) = f - \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Perturbation} \\ \sum_{j=1}^{N_u} u_j(i) + \sum_{j=1}^{N_o} o_j \\ \text{Motor command} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$u_j(i+1) = \alpha u_j(i) + ke(i)$$

$$o_j(i+1) = \alpha o_j(i) + ke(i)$$

$$b_j(i+1) = \alpha b_j(i)$$

After the  $i$ -th bi- learning

$$e(i) = f - \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sum_{j=1}^{N_b} b_j(i) + \sum_{j=1}^{N_o} o_j(i) \end{array} \right\}$$

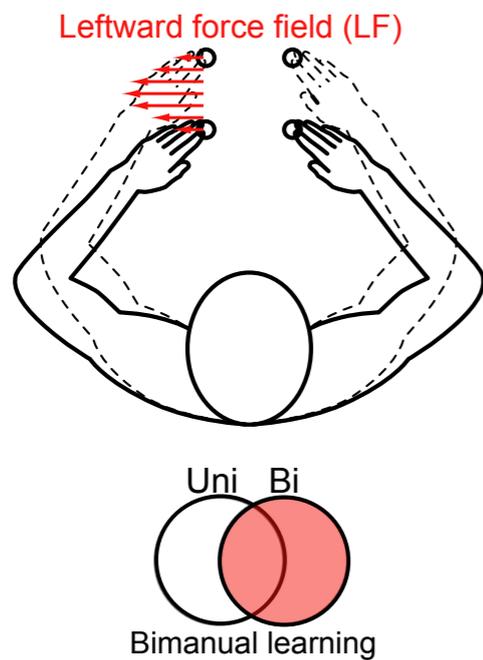
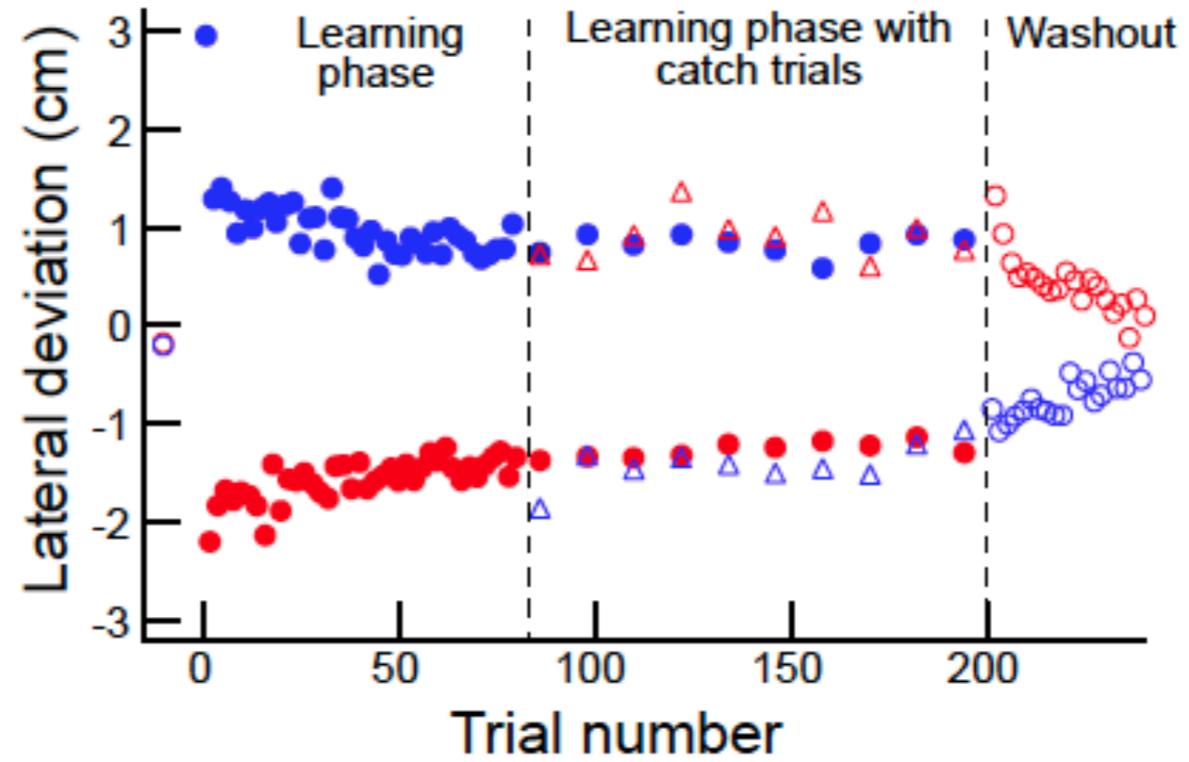
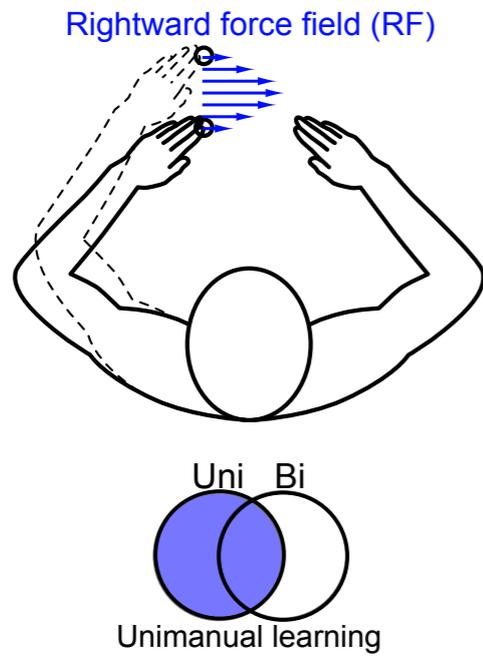
$$u_j(i+1) = \alpha u_j(i)$$

$$o_j(i+1) = \alpha o_j(i) + ke(i)$$

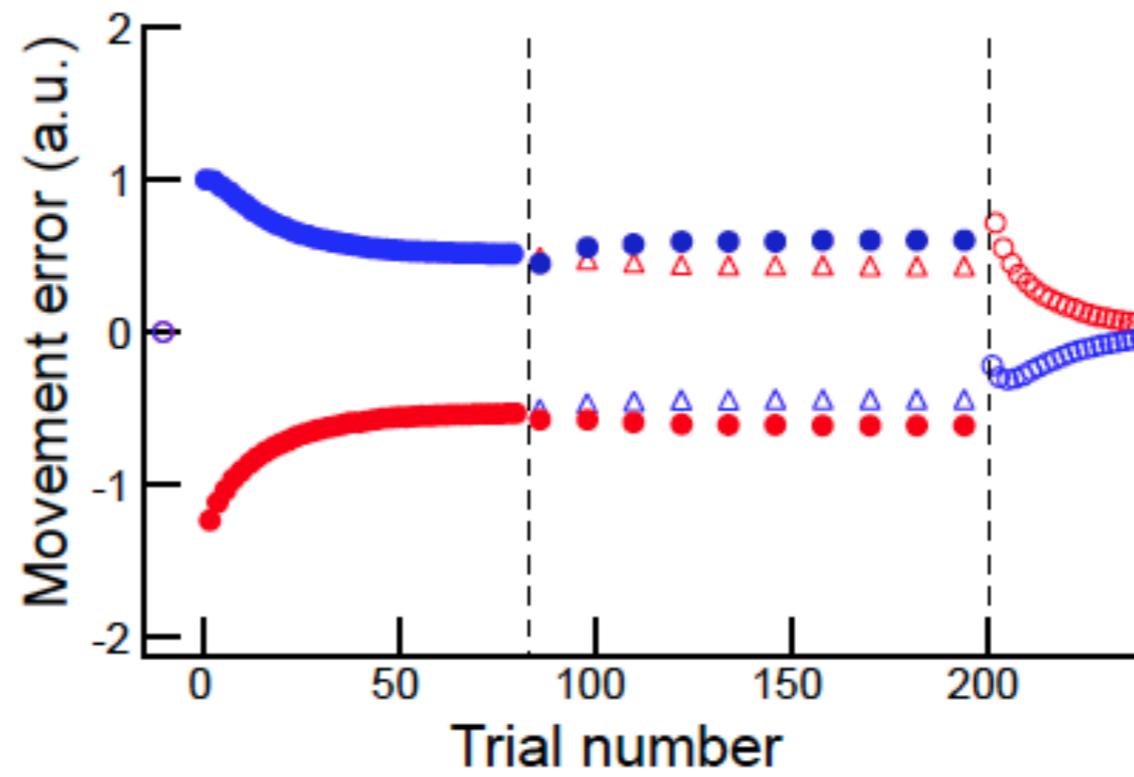
$$b_j(i+1) = \alpha b_j(i) + ke(i)$$

- Uni- null force    △ Uni- catch    ● Uni- with force
- Bi- null force    △ Bi- catch    ● Bi- with force

## Experimental result

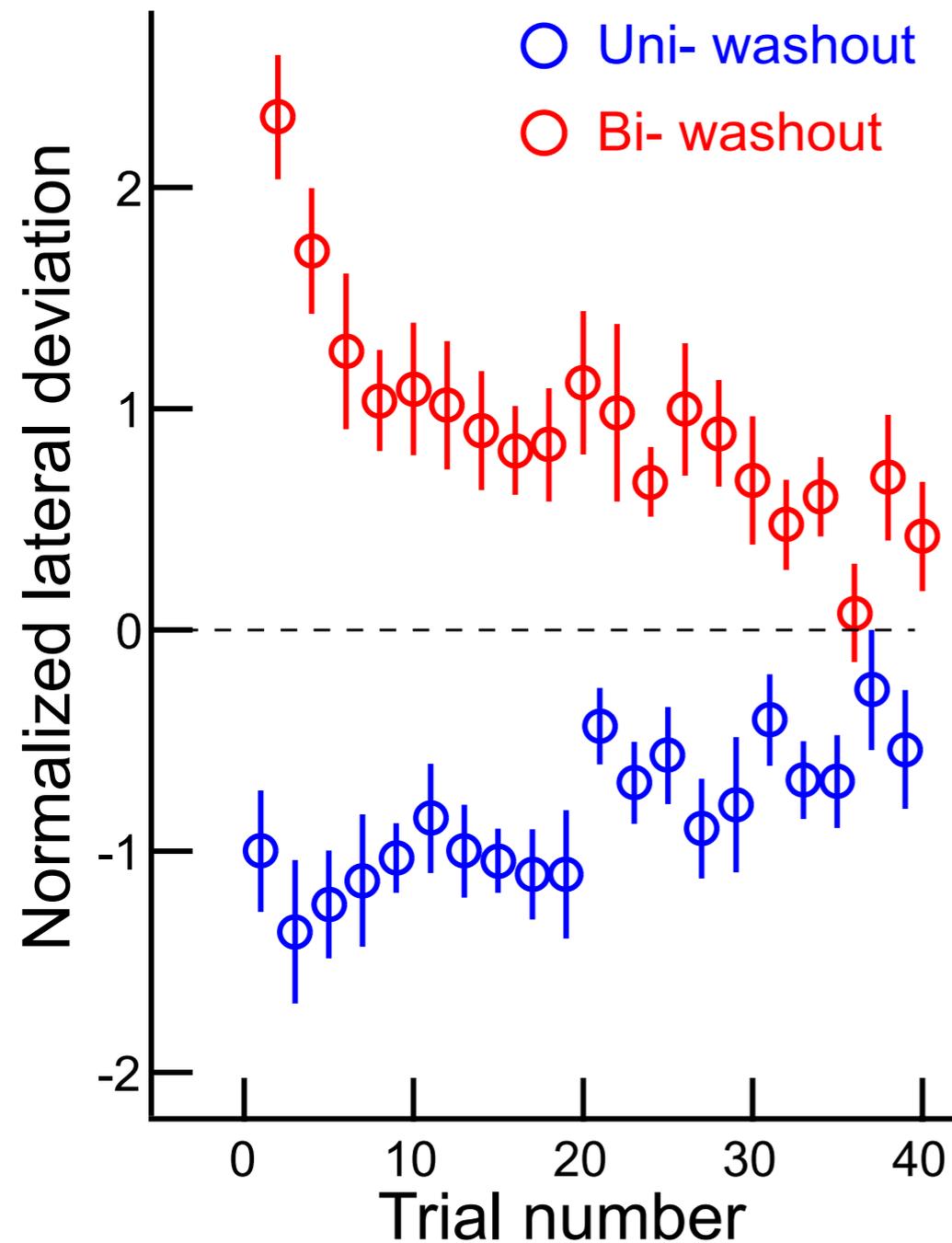


## Model prediction

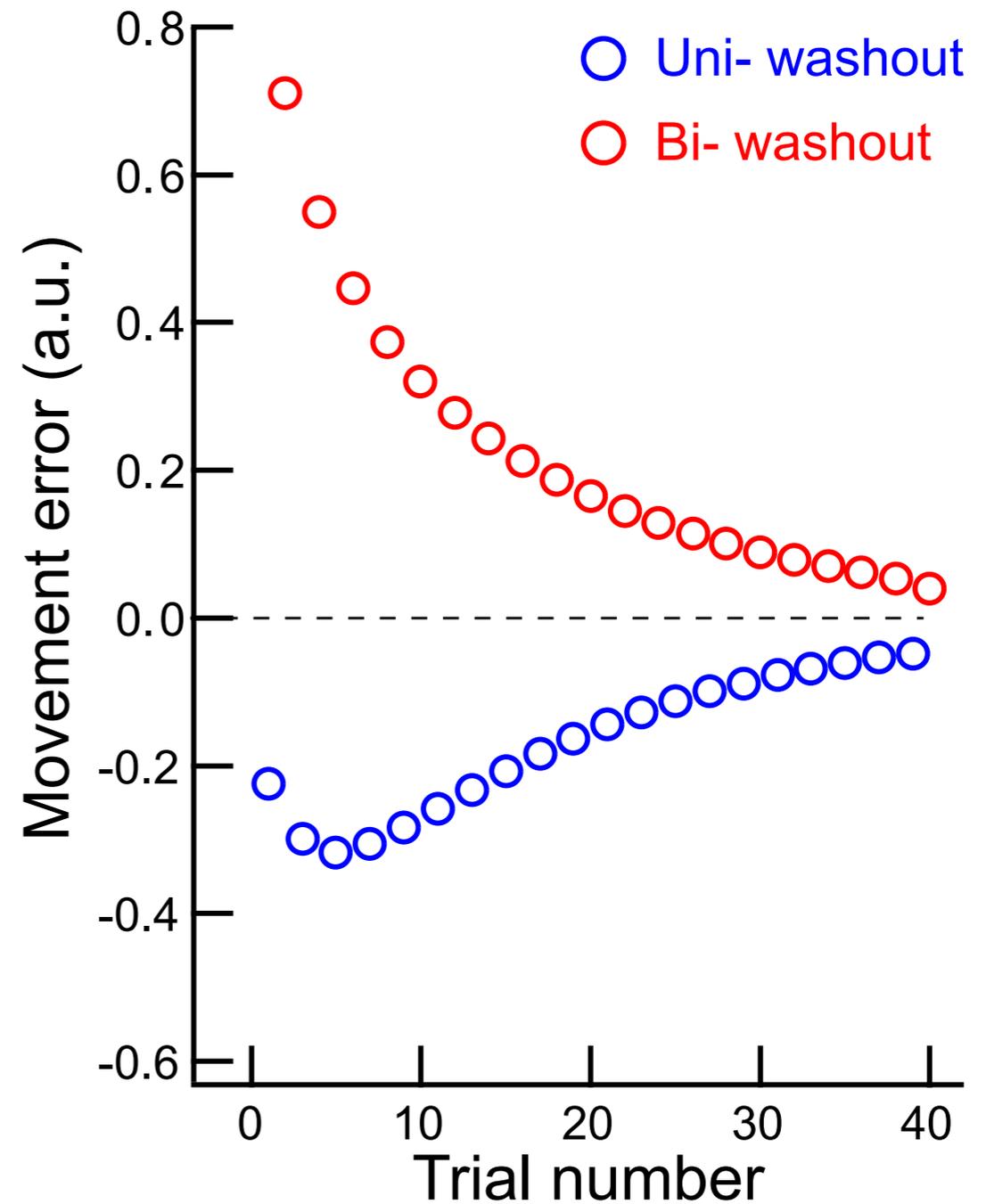


# The model reproduces very slow washout

## Experiment



## Model prediction



# The number of elements matters

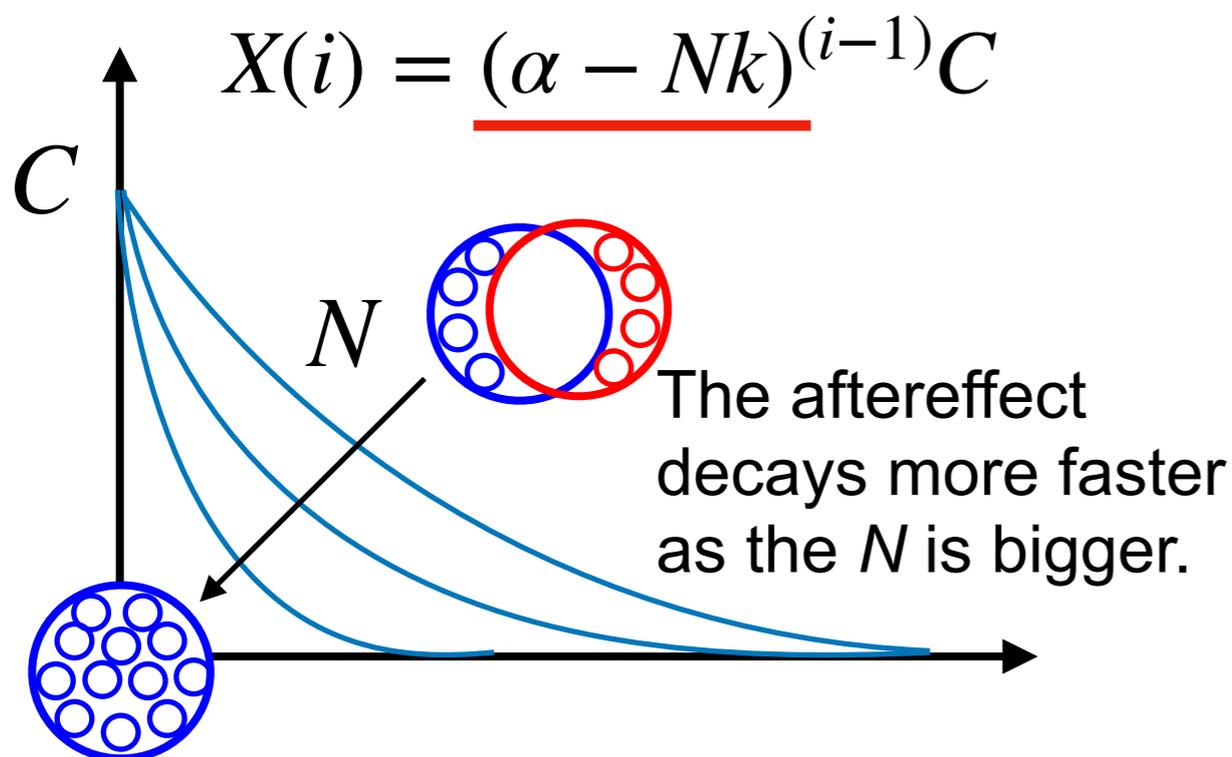
Motor command  $X(i) = \sum_{j=1}^N x_j(i)$

Error  $e(i) = f - \sum_{j=1}^N x_j(i)$

Update  $x_j(i+1) = \alpha x_j(i) + ke(i)$

$X(i+1) = (\alpha - Nk)X(i) + Nkf$

Washout



Single trial adaptation

$X(i) = 0 \rightarrow X(i+1) = \underline{Nkf}$

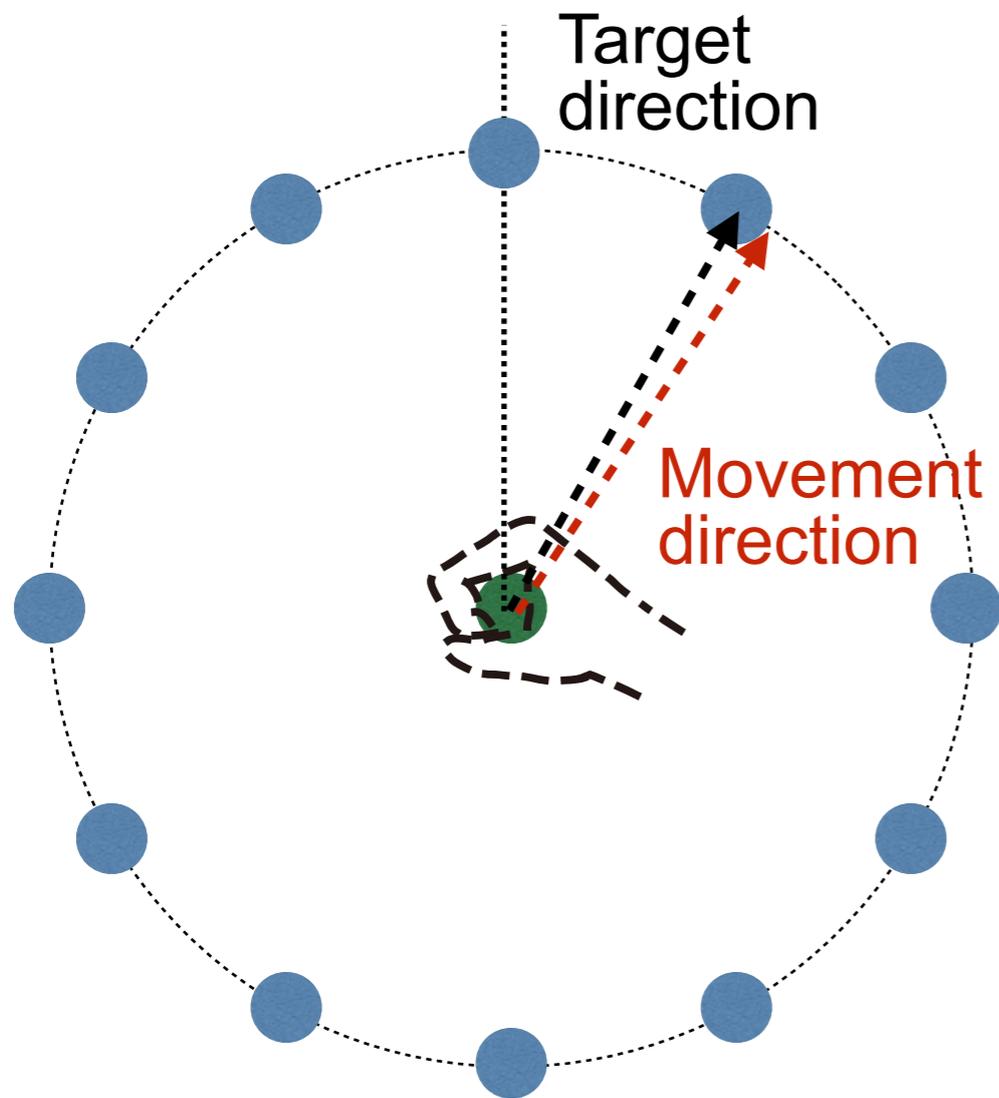


Aftereffect induced by the error is proportional to the  $N$ .

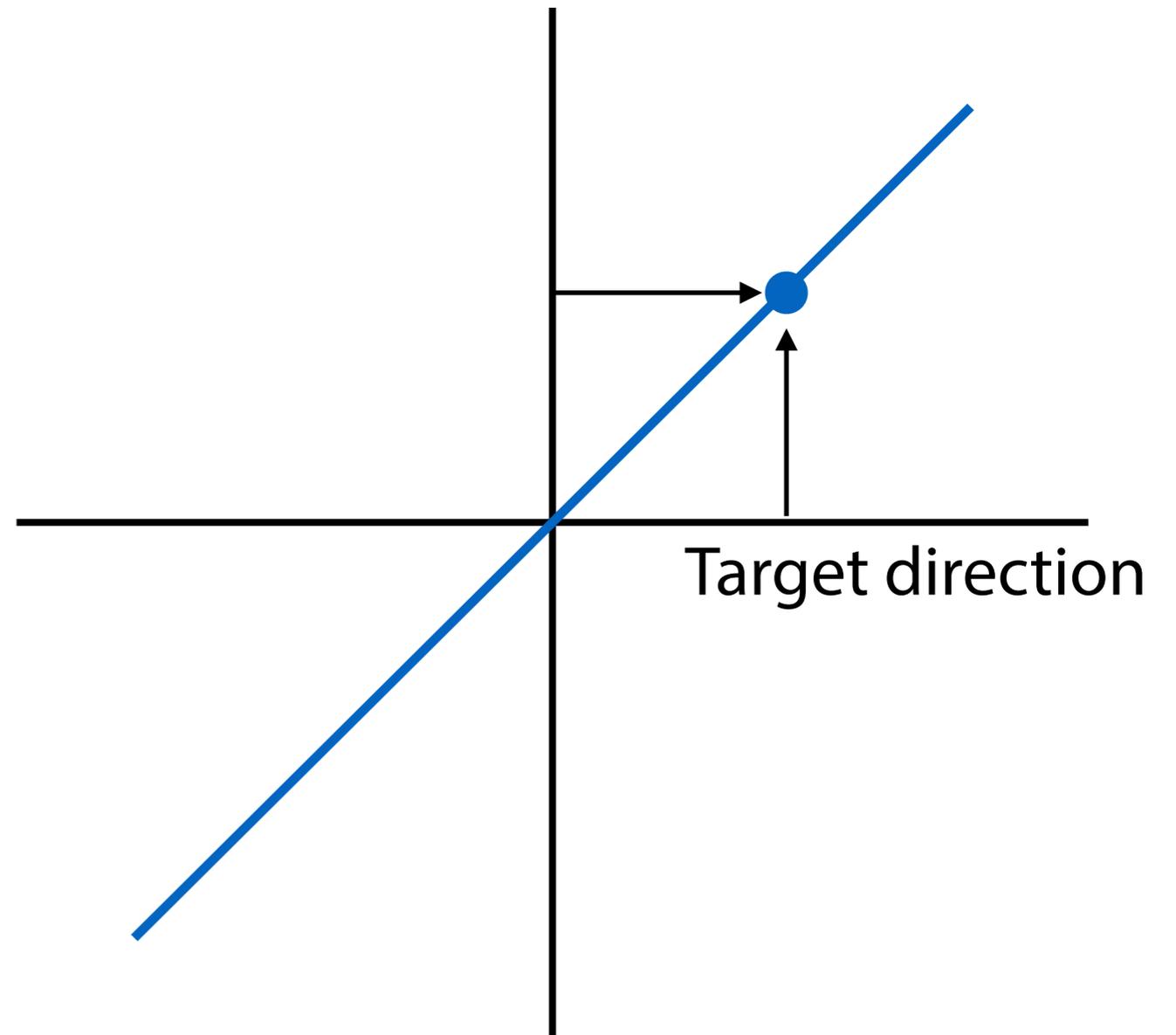
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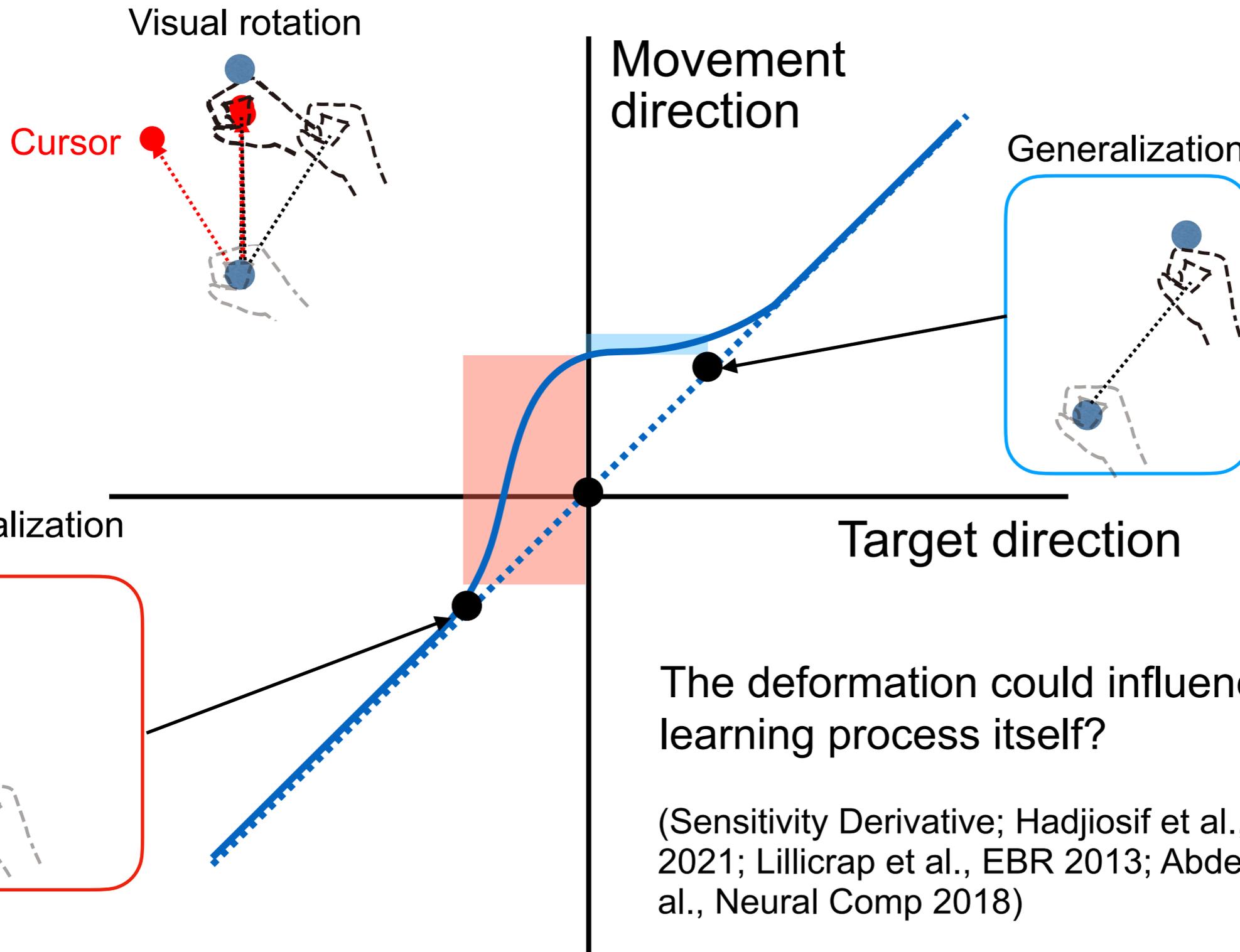
# Visuomotor map



Movement direction

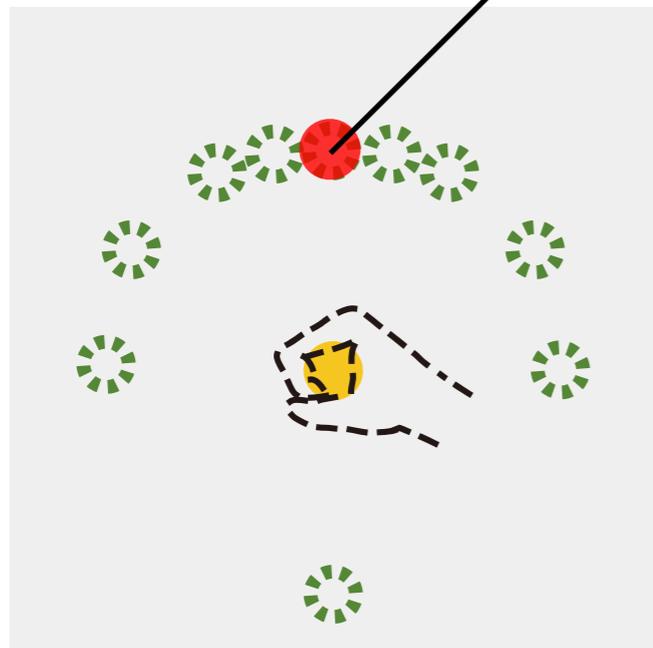


# Deformation of visuomotor map

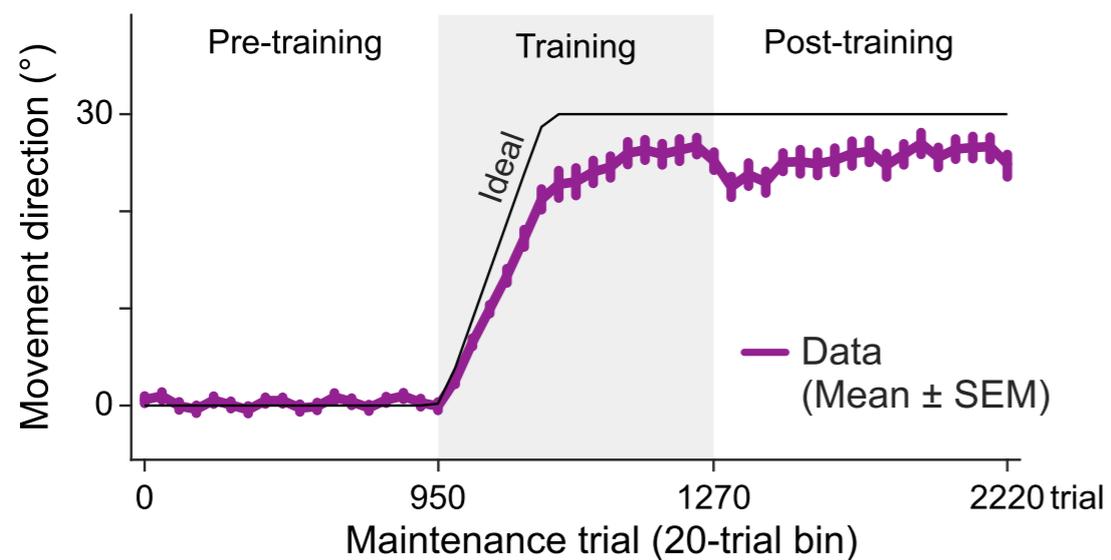
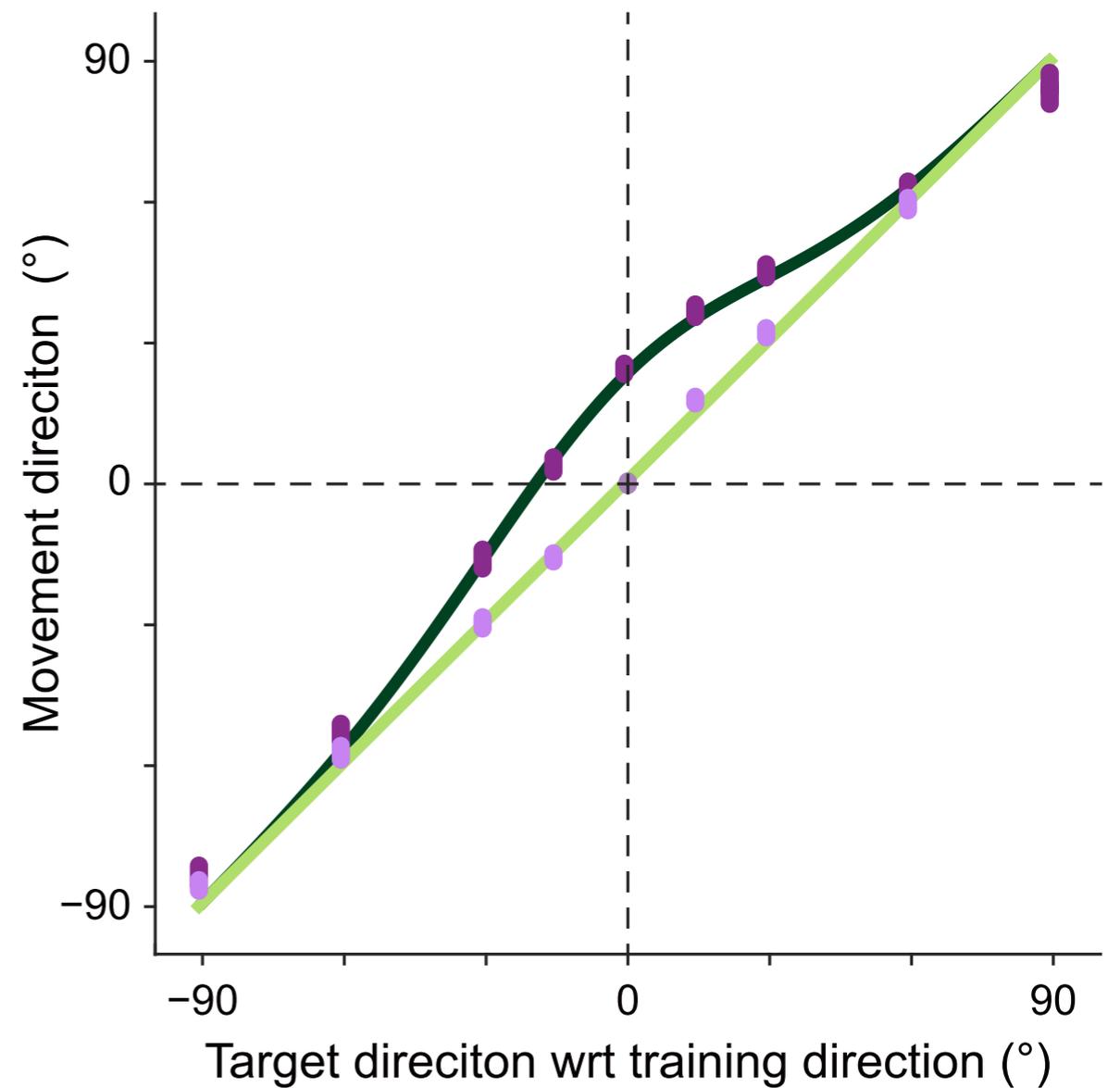


# Deformation of Visuomotor map

Training target  
(30 deg visual rotation)

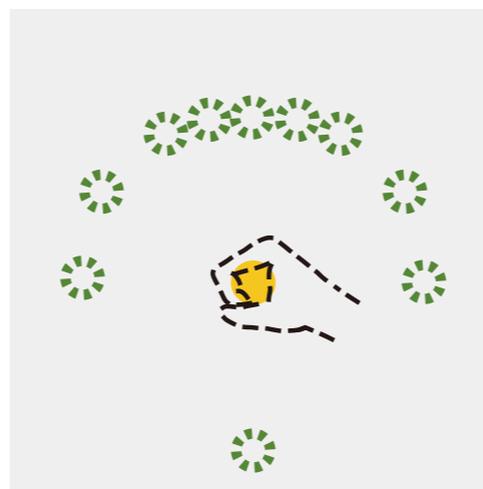
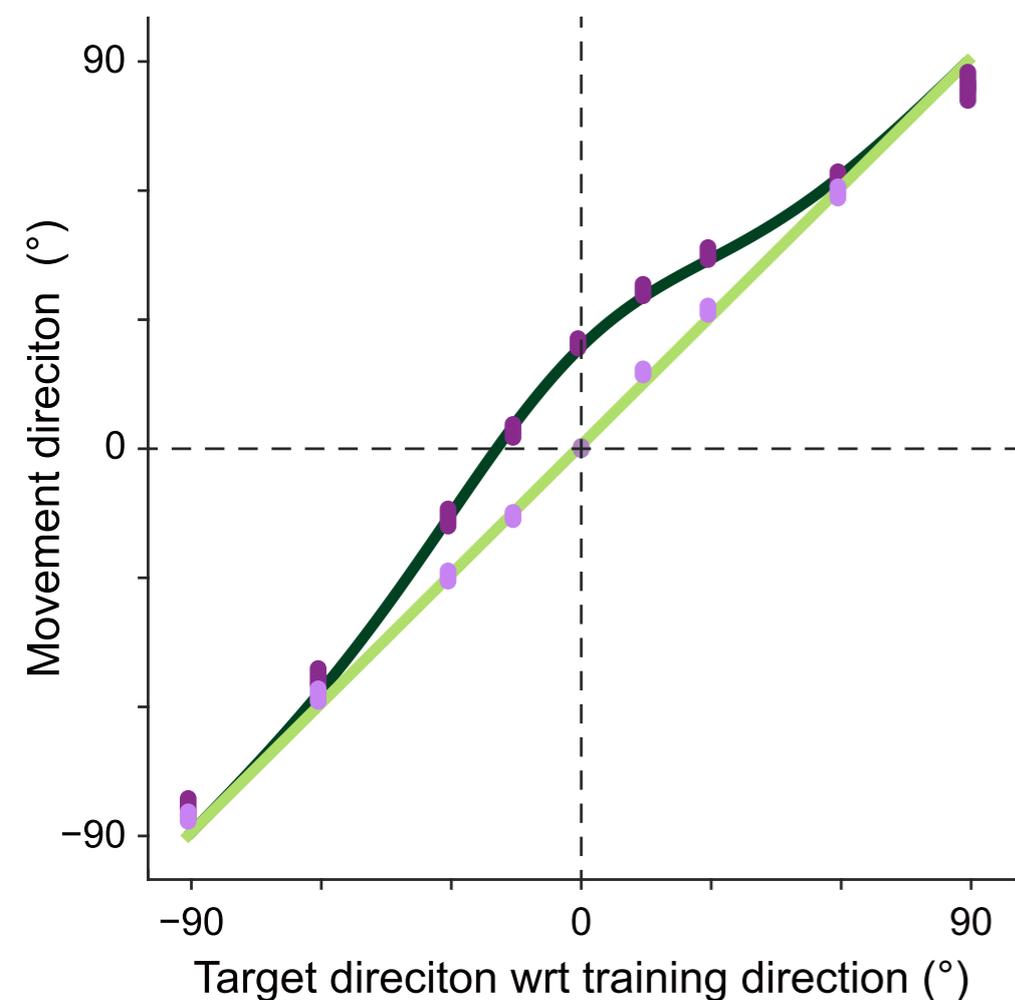


Visuomotor map

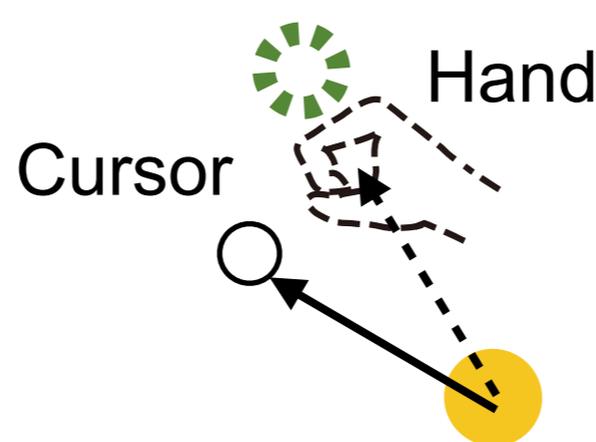


# Quantifying movement correction to a visual error perturbation

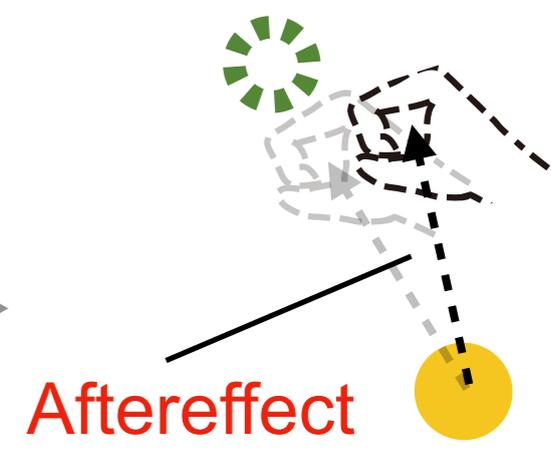
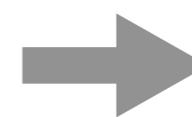
Visuomotor map



Test target



Perturb. trial

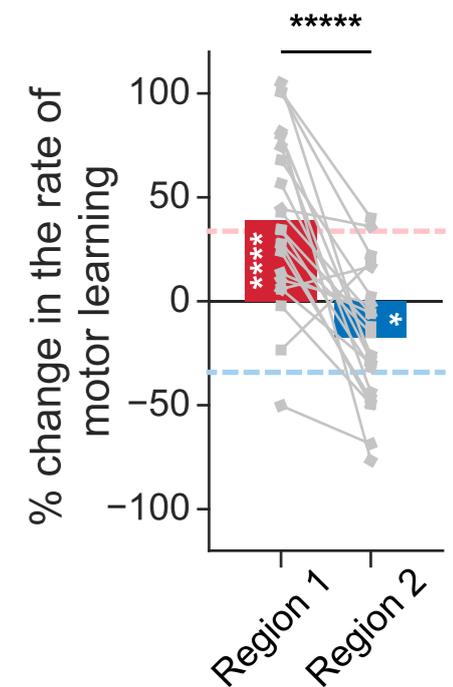
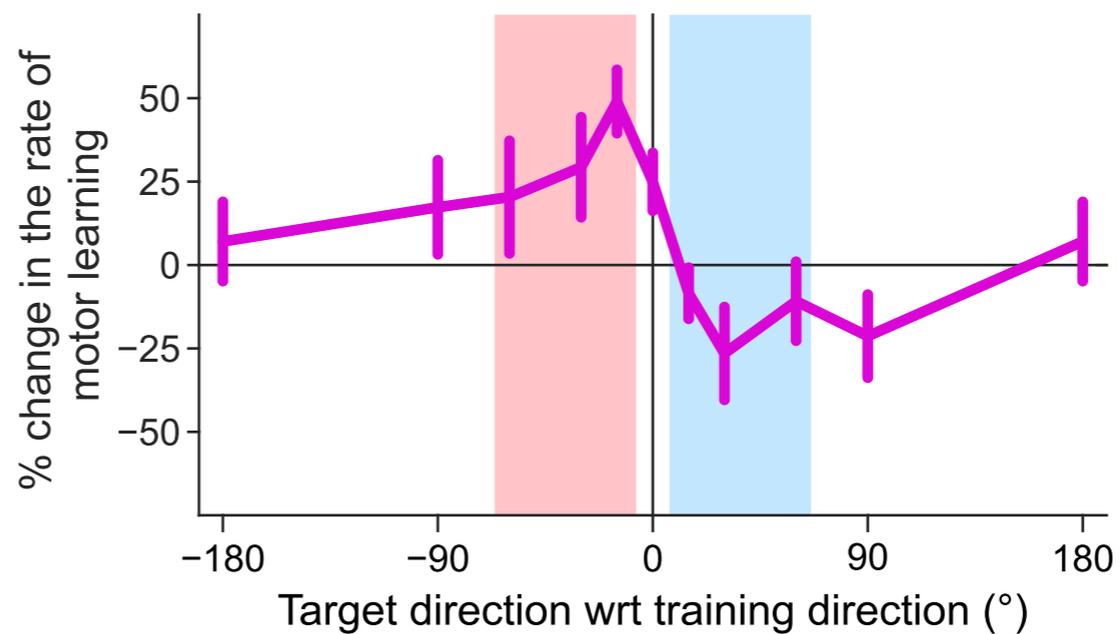
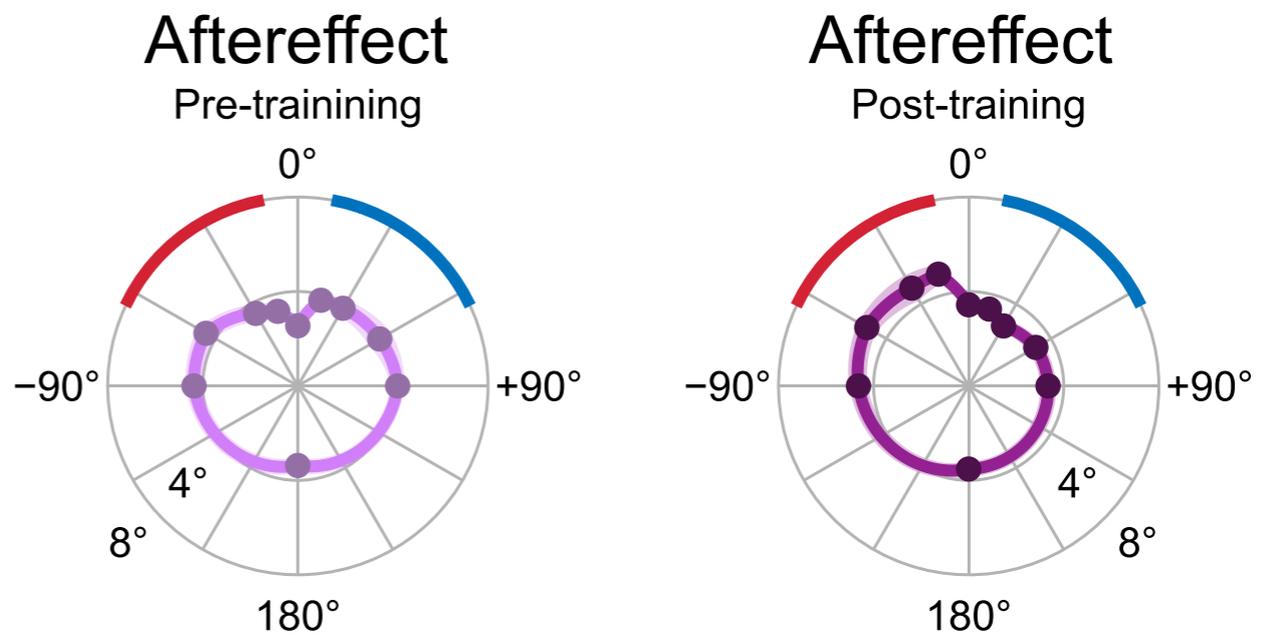
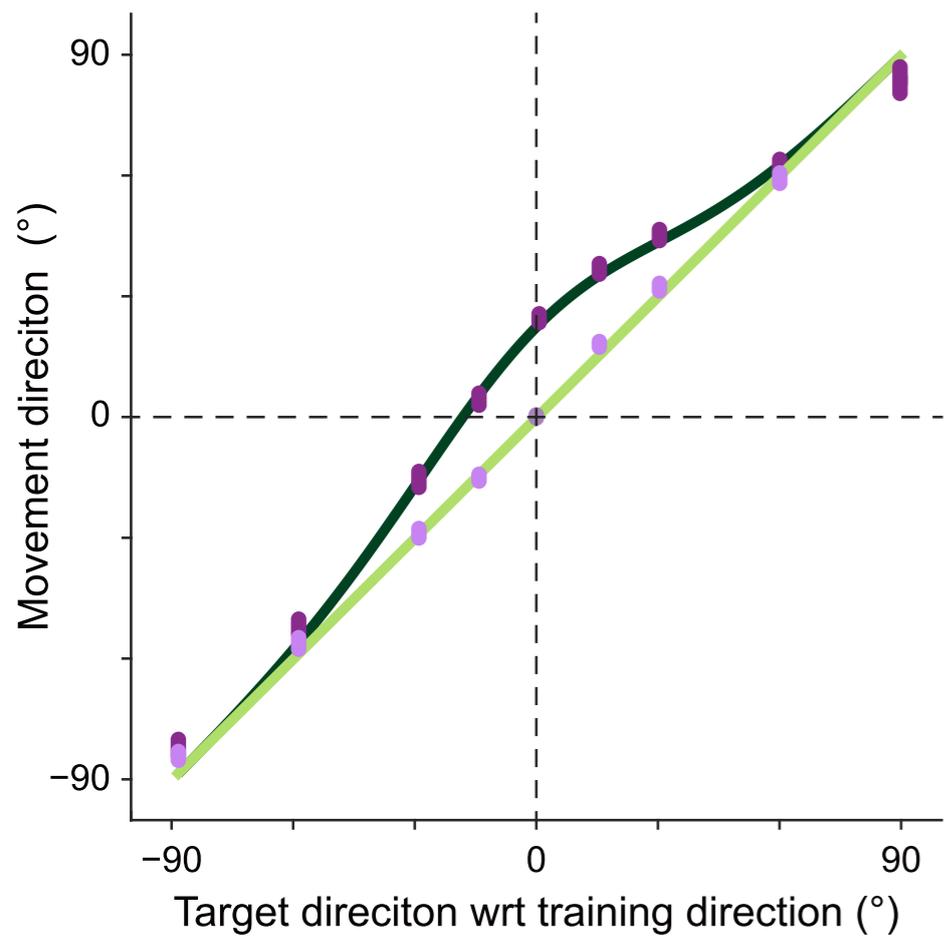


Probe trial

Single trial adaptation

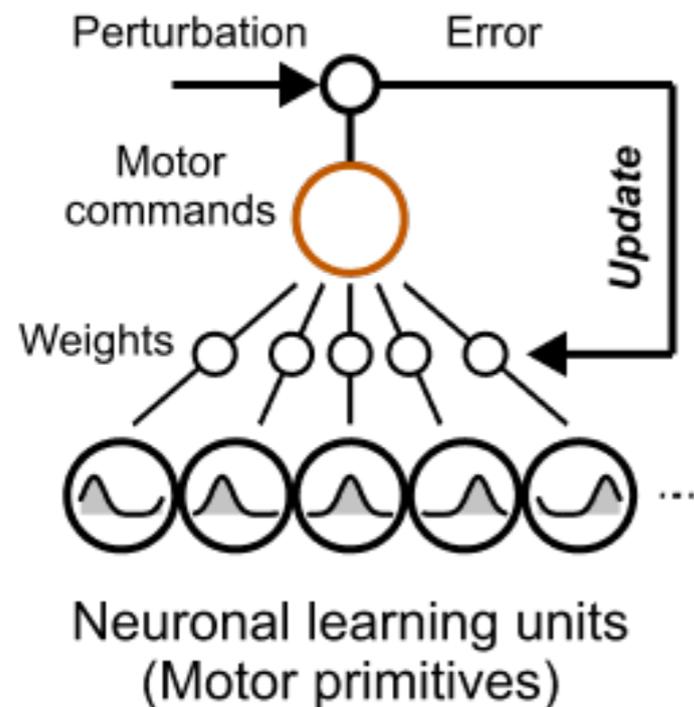
# Deformation of VM map influences the movement correction sensitivity

## Visuomotor map



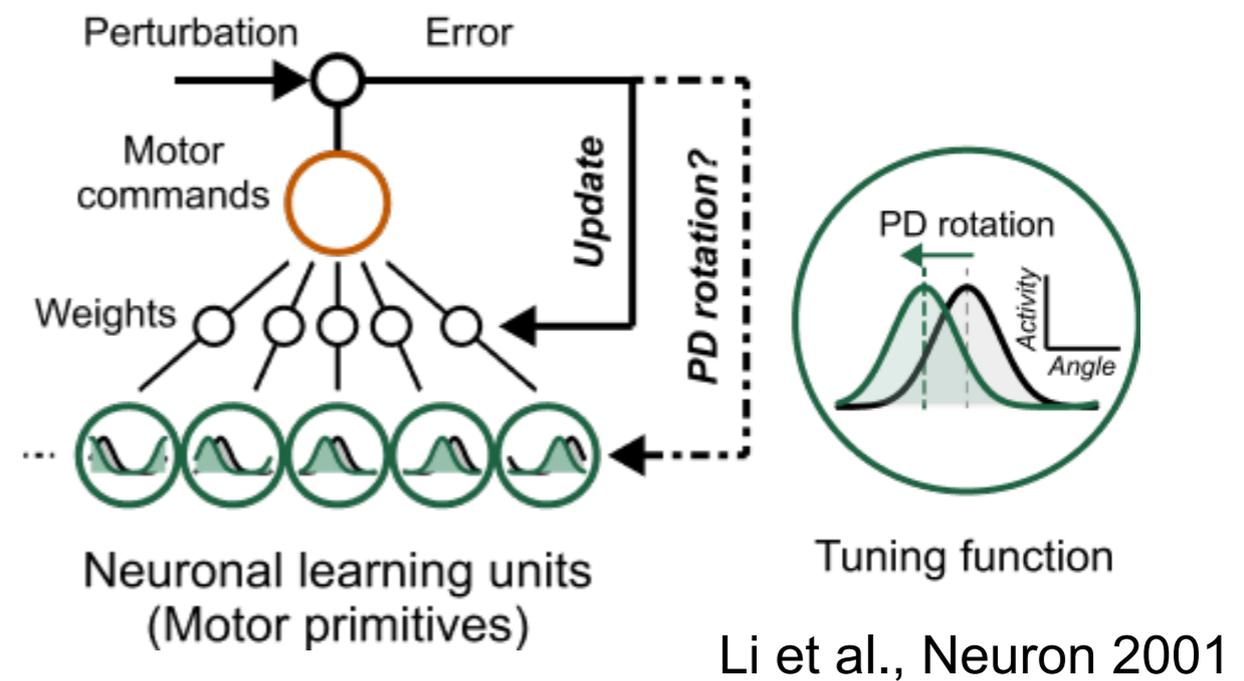
# State space models

## Conventional model



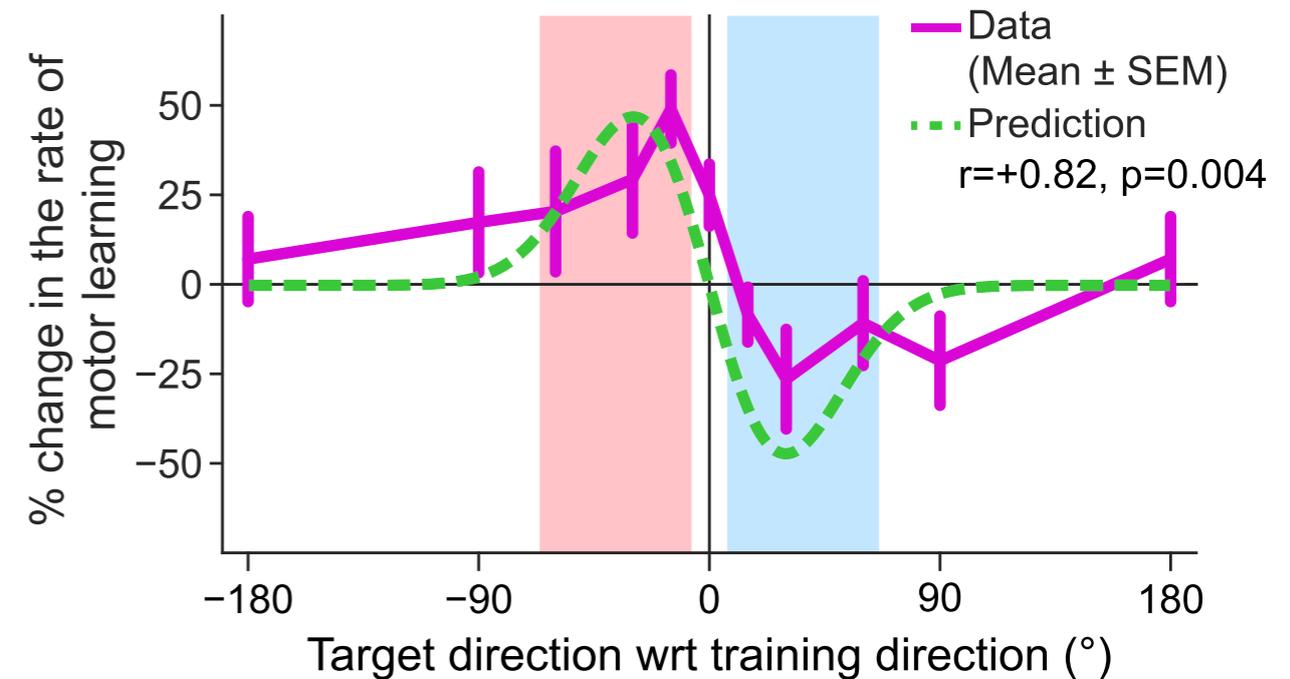
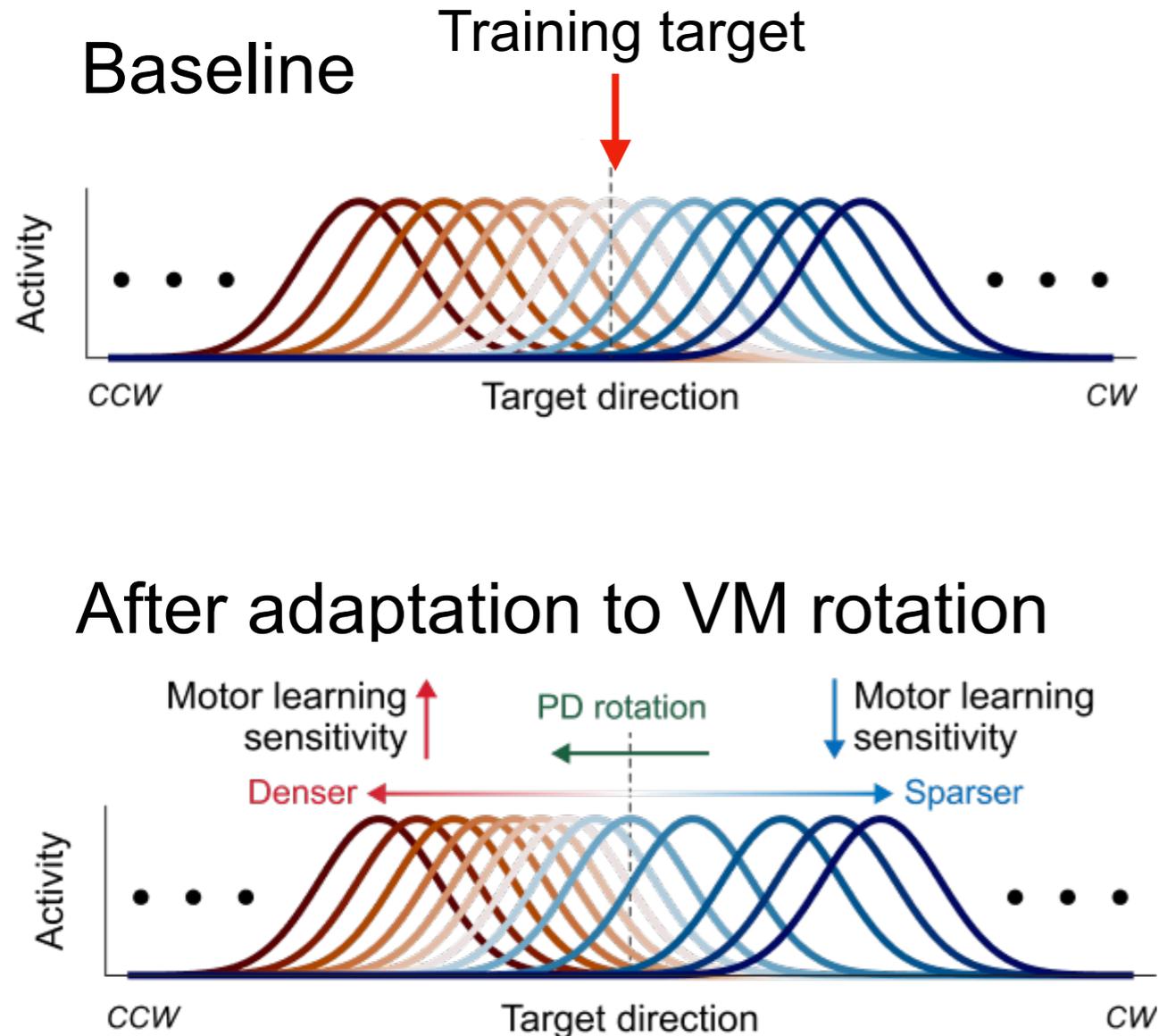
Theoretically, this model cannot explain our experimental results.

## New model with PD rotation

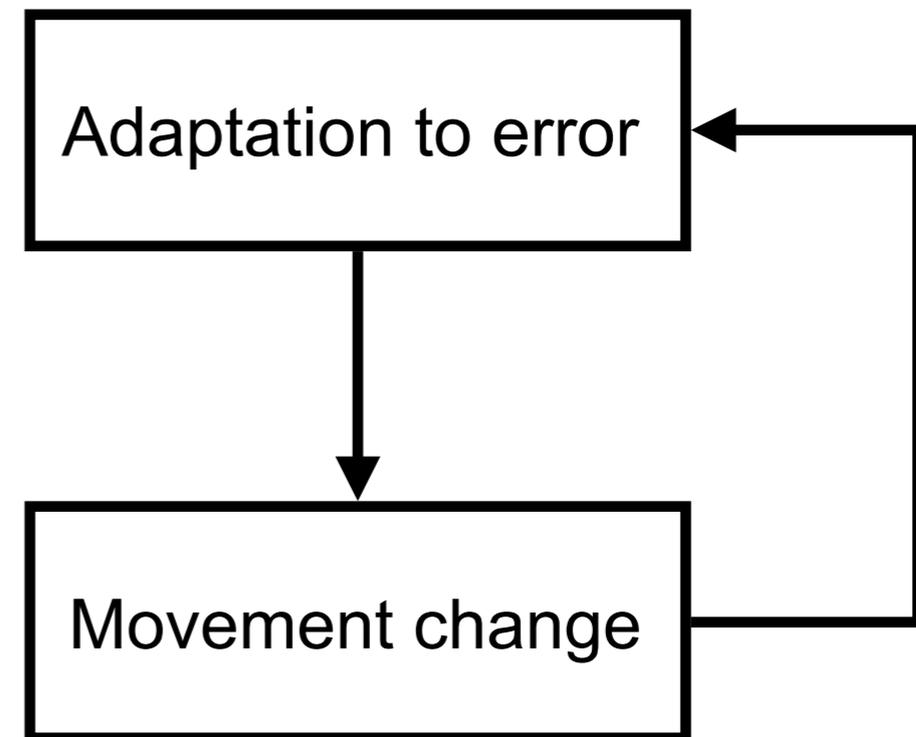
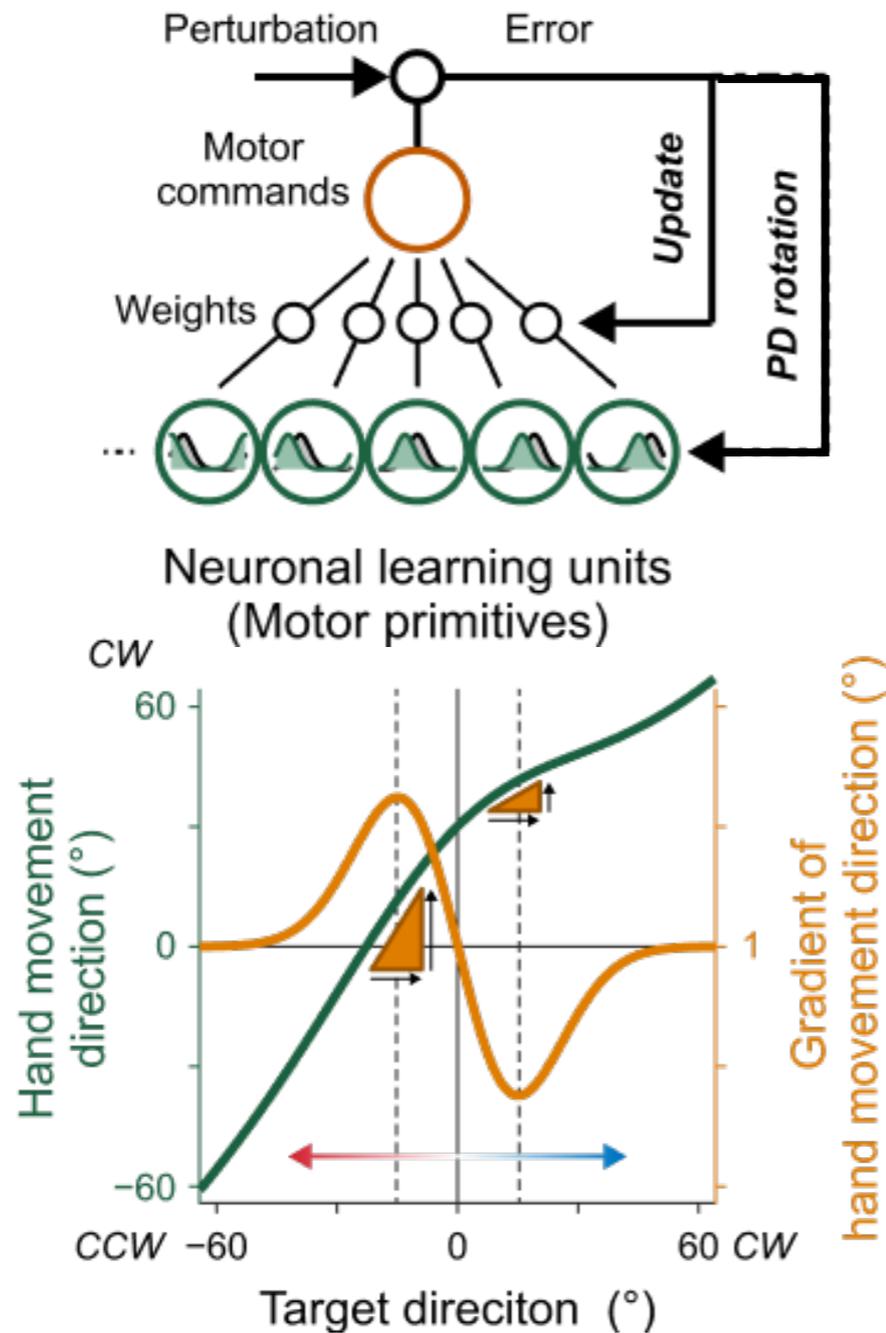


This new model takes into account the rotations of the PDs of the neural learning units.

# The number of elements matters



# Learn to learn

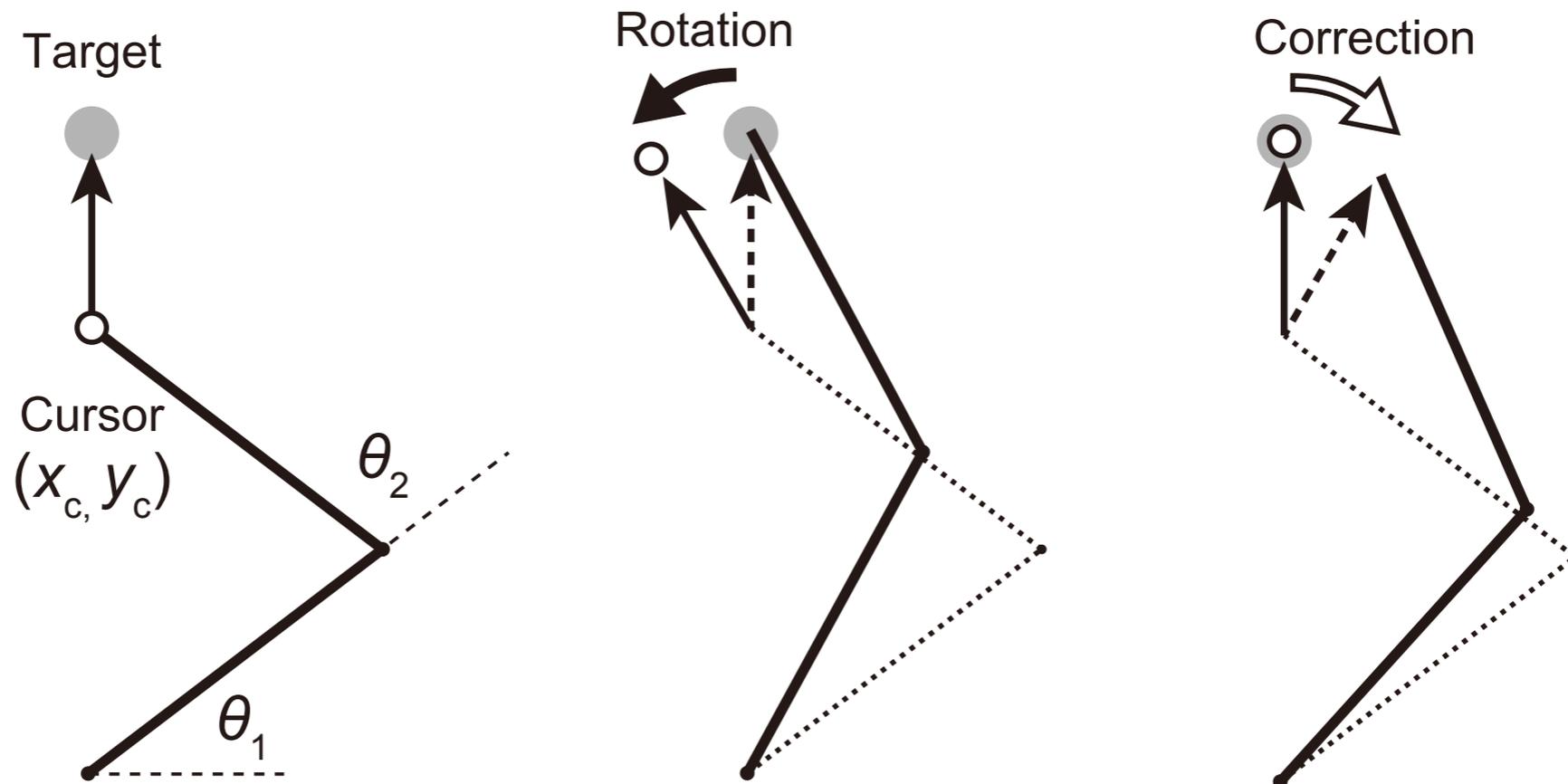


The PD rotation provides a mechanism whereby the motor system can simultaneously learn how to move and learn how to learn

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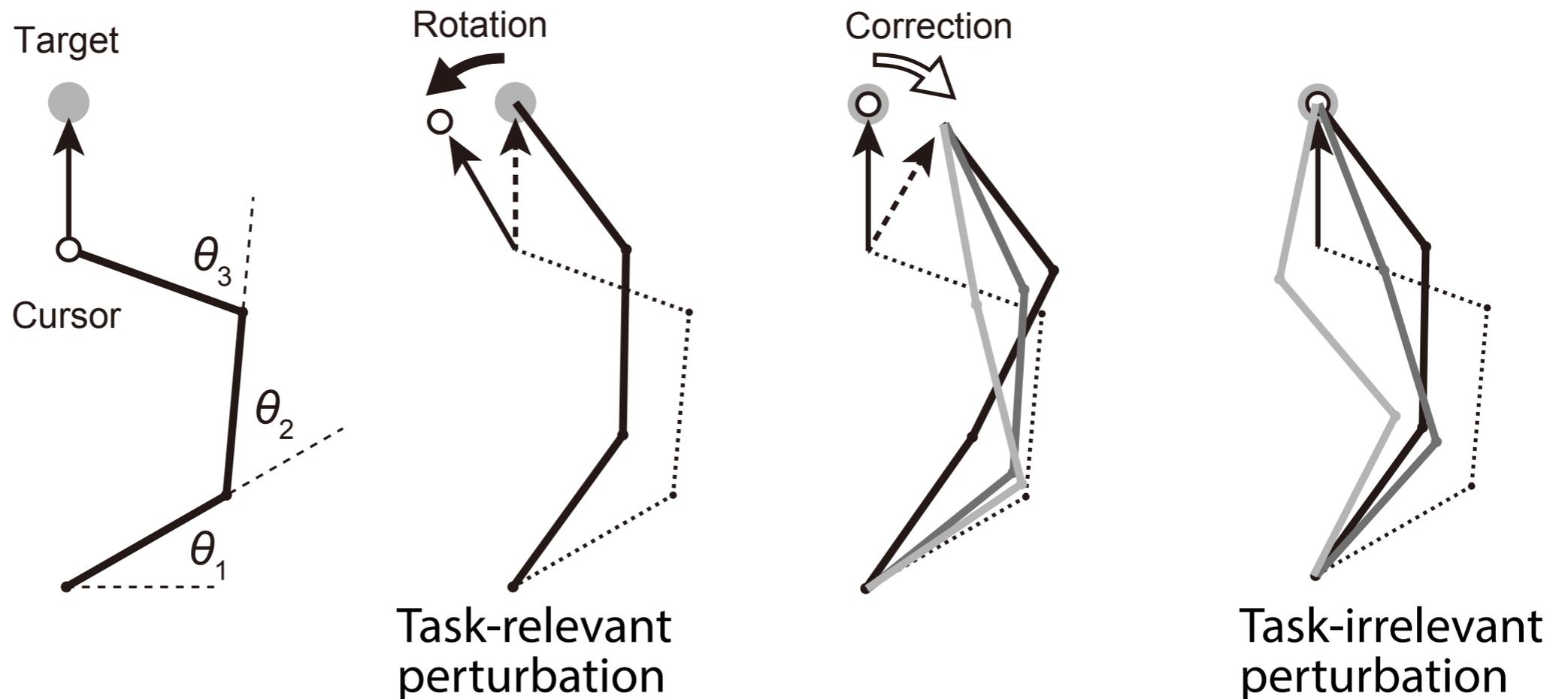
1. Context dependency: Motor memory is formed and retrieved according to different behavioral contexts.
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3. **Redundancy: How does the brain coordinate redundant body movement for adaptations?**

# Movement correction for a simple reaching movement



- There is no redundancy in planar reaching movements that primarily involve the shoulder and elbow joints.
- The kinematics of movement and movement corrections are uniquely determined.

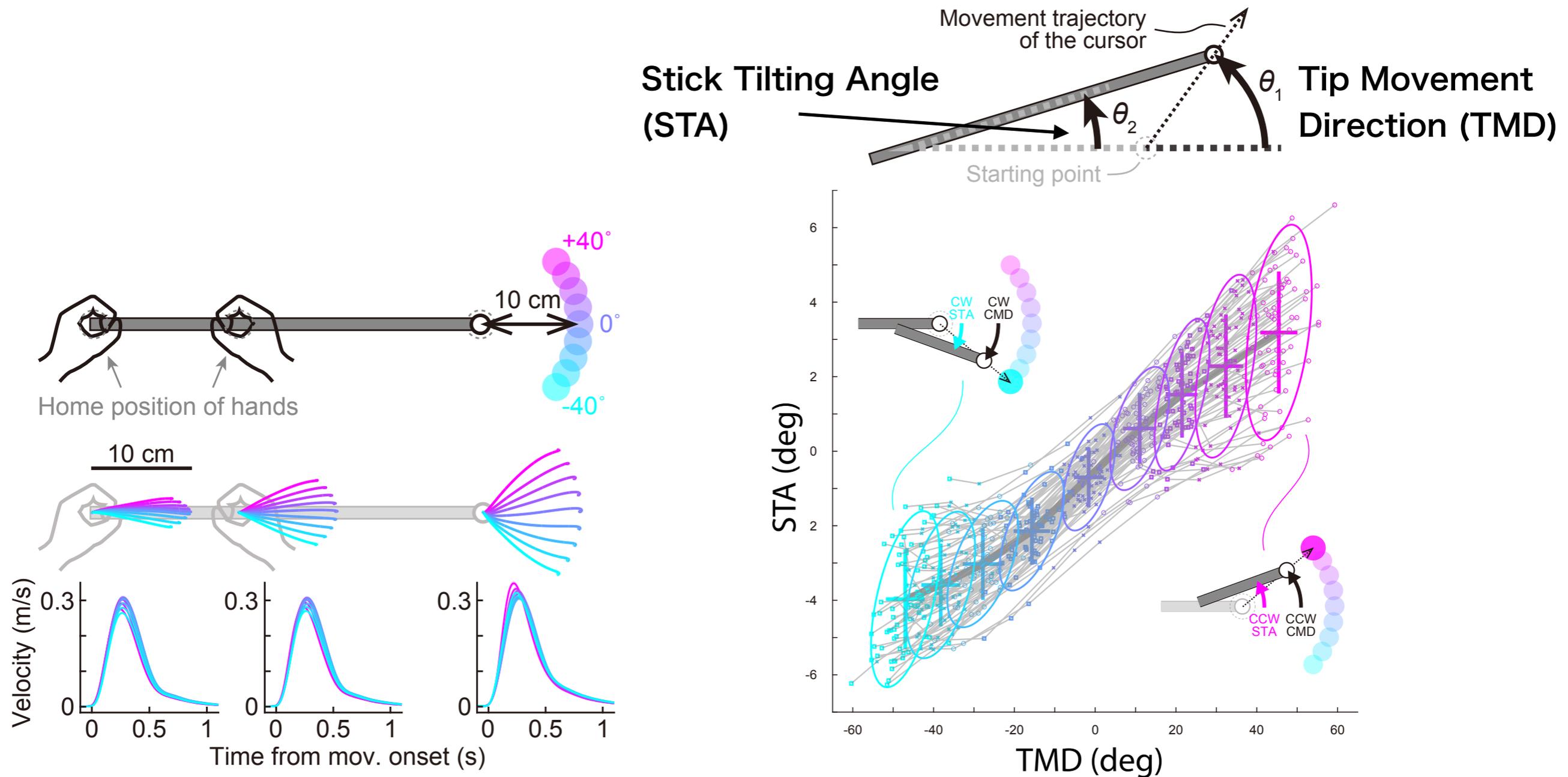
# Movement correction for a redundant system



- How does the motor system coordinate the pattern of movement to correct for the perturbation to the end effector?
- Does the motor system correct the movement pattern even if the perturbation does not influence the performance?

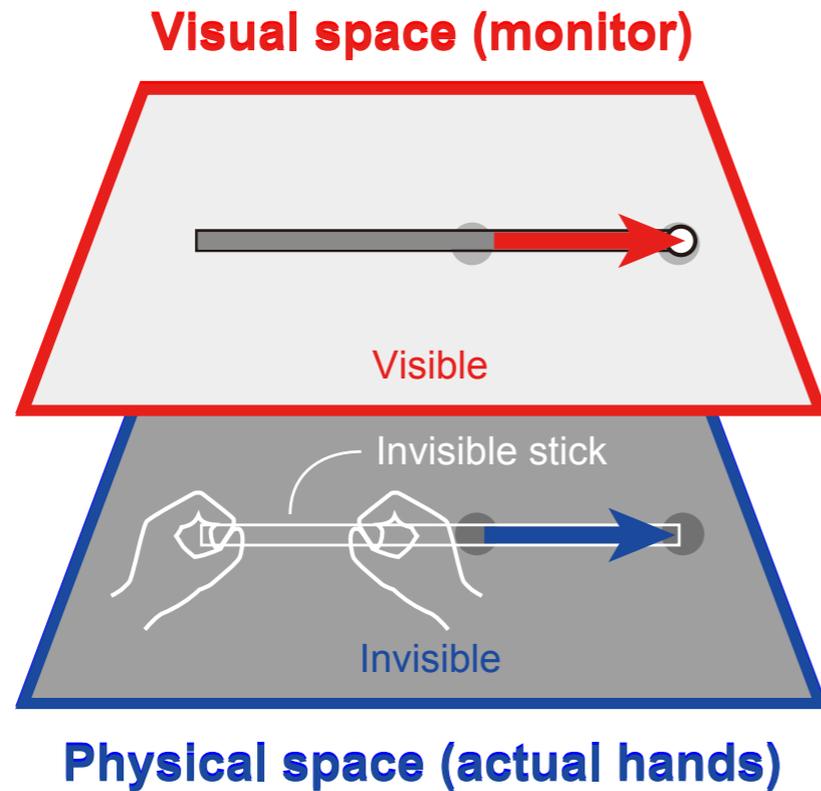


# Movement pattern

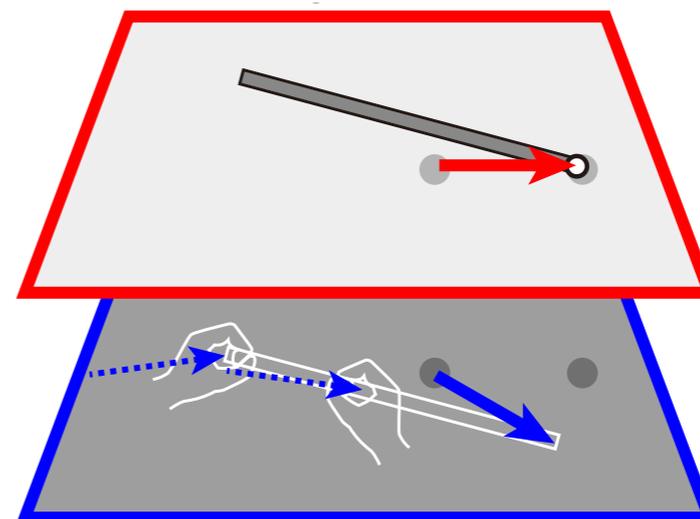
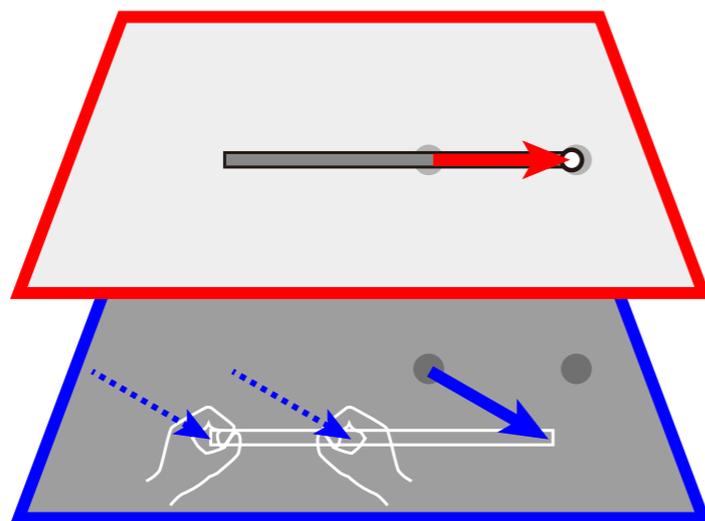


Almost all participants performed this reaching task with the tip of the stick by tilting the stick.

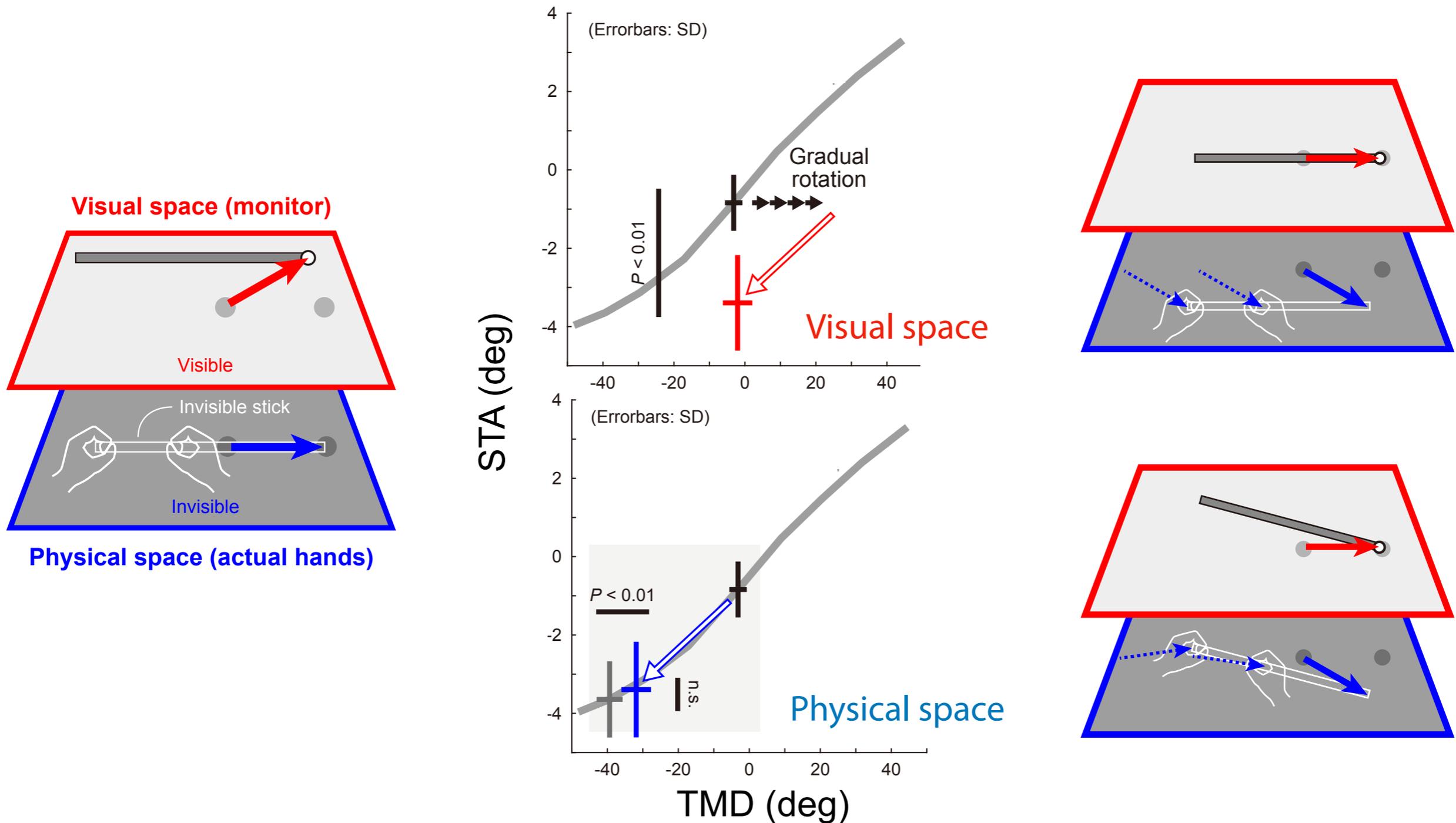
# Exp 1: Adaptation to tip-movement rotation



The tip rotation was gradually increased with trials (1 deg/trial). Participants were not aware of the rotation.

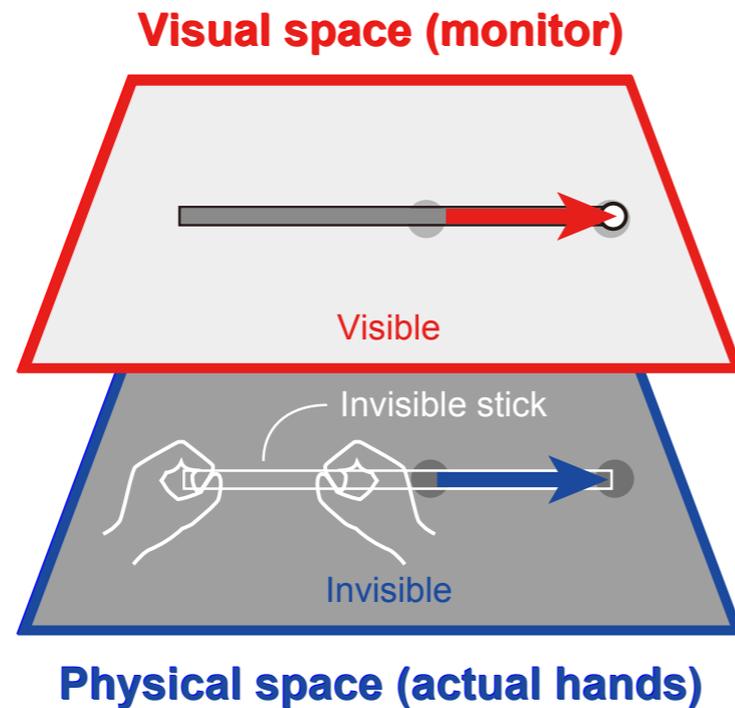


# Exp 1: Adaptation to tip-movement rotation



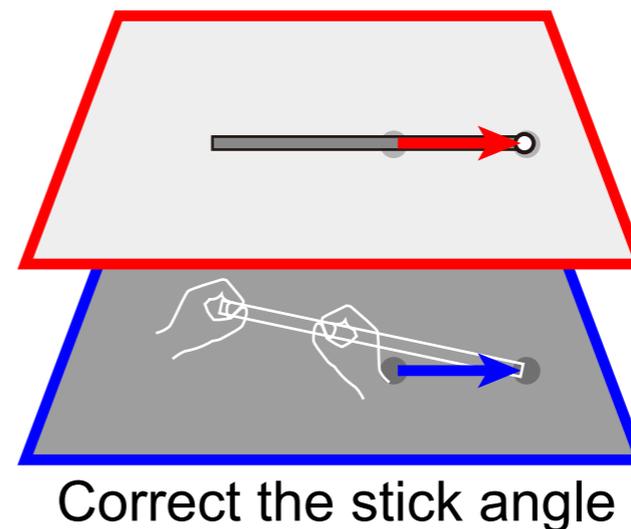
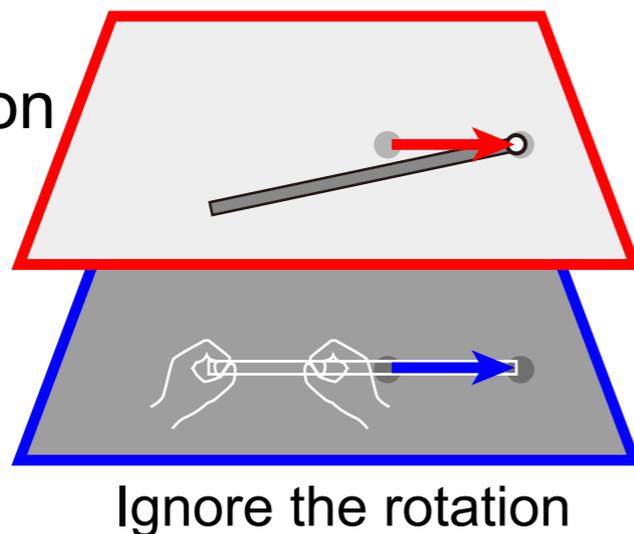
The motor system implicitly changes the direction of the tip movement by tilting the stick as if it were aiming in that direction.

# Exp 2: Adaptation to stick rotation

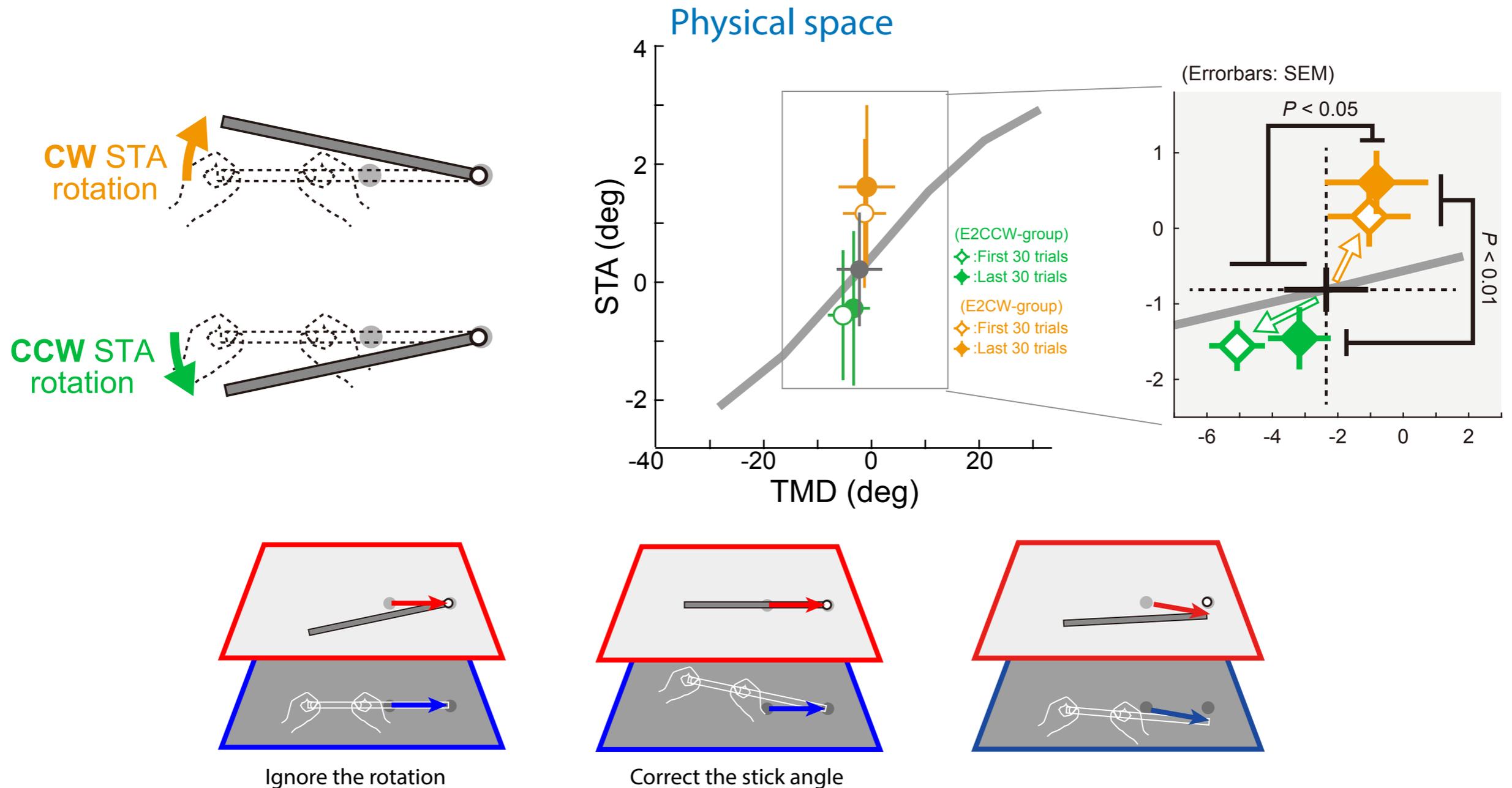


Stick was rotated by 6 deg around the tip. Participants were not aware of the stick rotation.

Minimal intervention principle



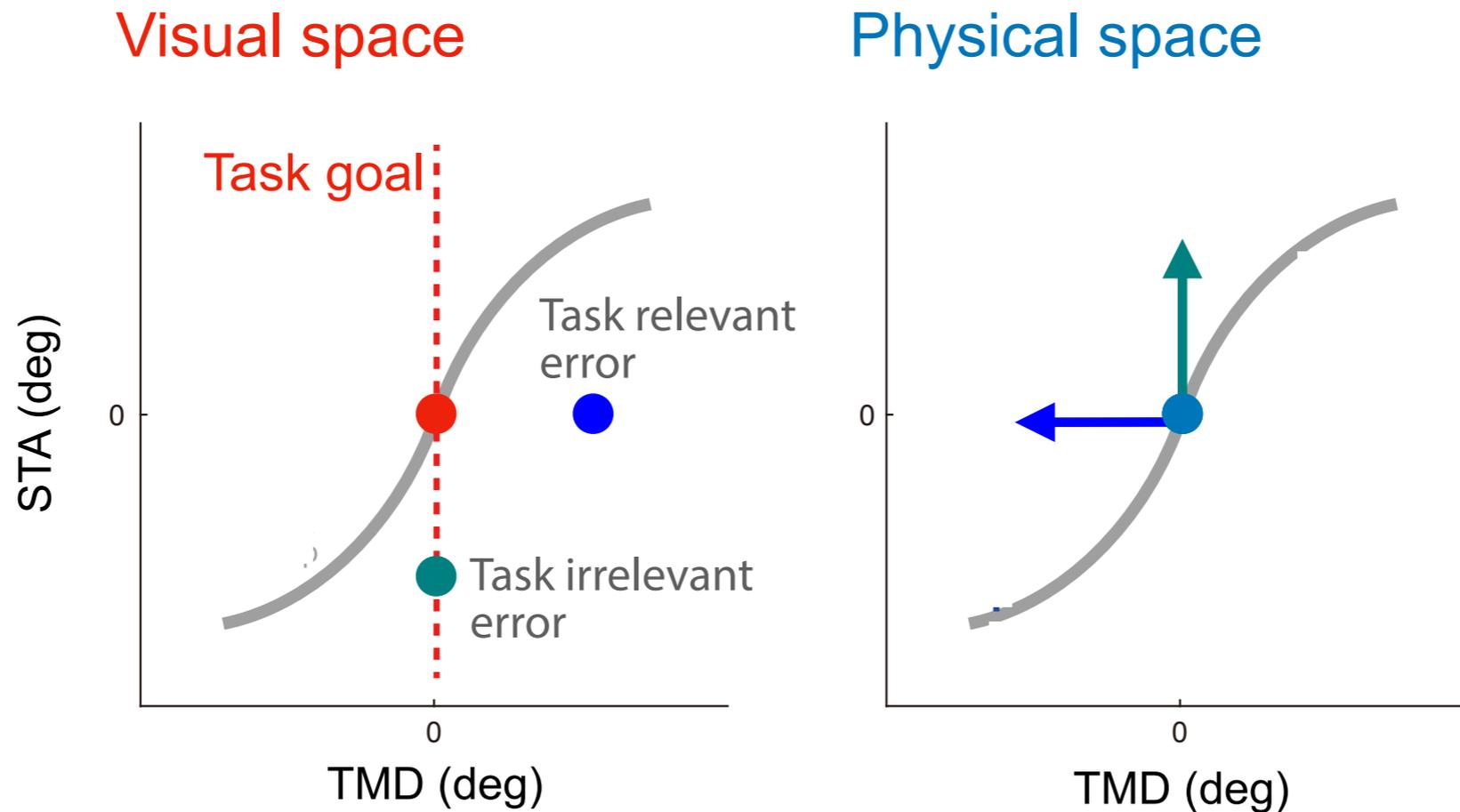
# Exp 2: Adaptation to stick rotation



Stick rotation was partially corrected, although the correction was not necessary.

The unnecessary correction resulted in the task error.

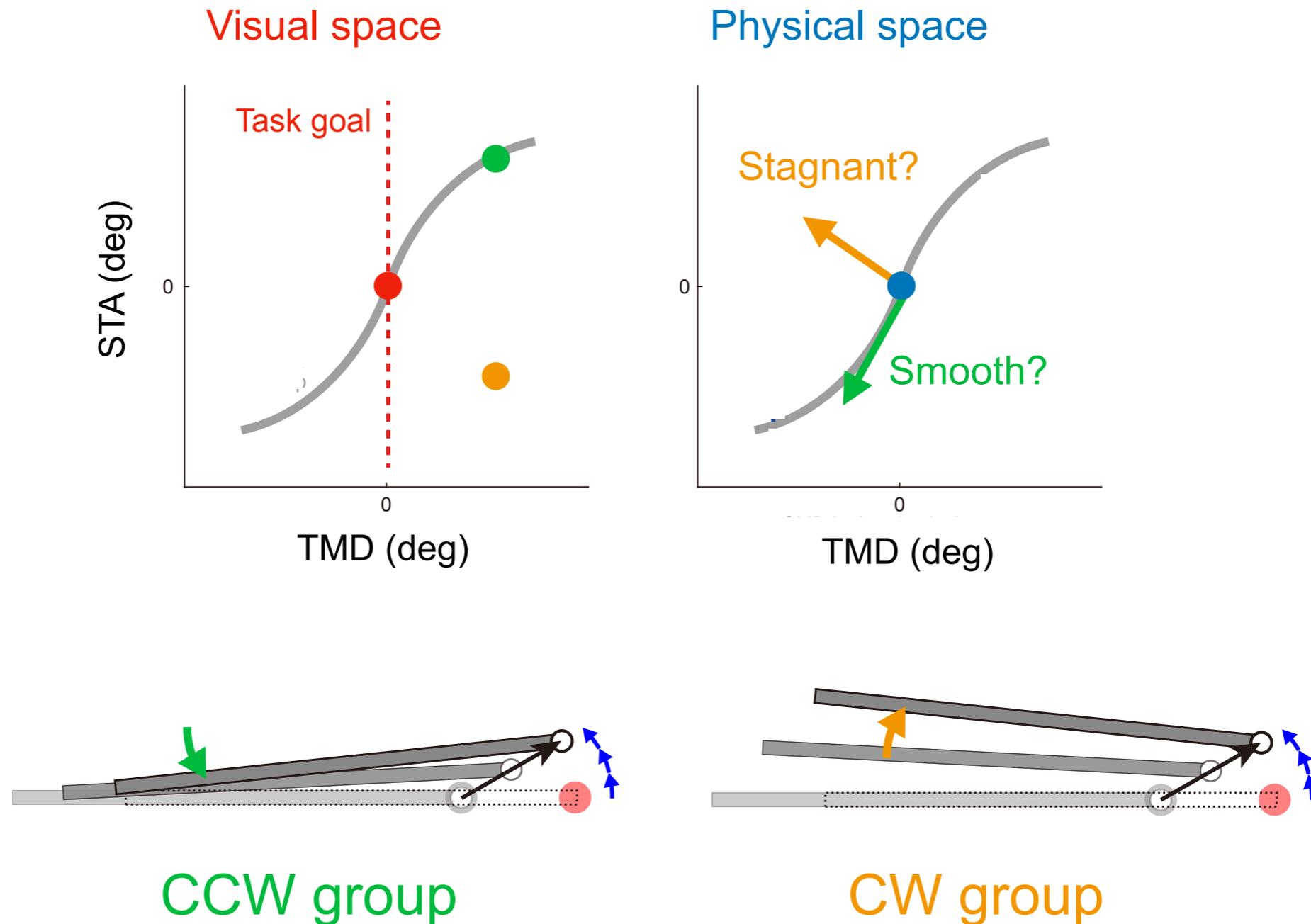
# Movement correction patterns in redundant systems



The motor system attempts to correct visual errors whether they are task-relevant or task-irrelevant.

The physical correction patterns are constrained by the inherent relationship (i.e., TMD-STA relationship).

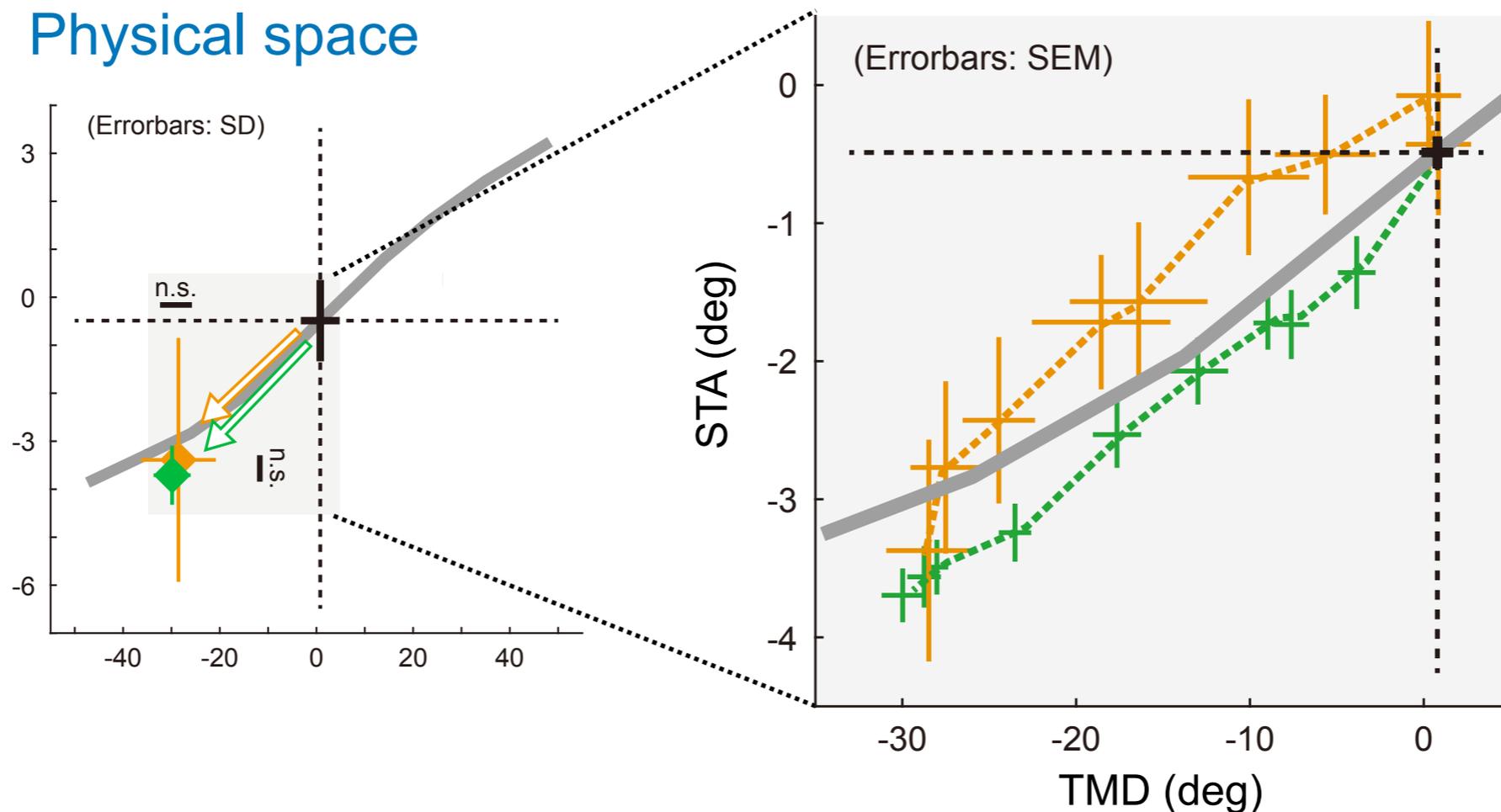
# Exp 3: Adaptation to simultaneous application of tip rotation and stick rotation



# Exp 3: Adaptation to simultaneous application of tip rotation and stick rotation

Adaptation pattern for every 5 trials

Physical space



The adaptation was more delayed for **E3CW group**.

The task-irrelevant error information significantly influences how the task-relevant error is compensated.

# References

## **Context dependency**

Nozaki et al., Nature Neurosci 2006

Nozaki & Scott, Exp Brain Res 2009

Yokoi et al, J Neurosci 2011, 2014

Hirashima & Nozaki, Curr Biol 2012

Takiyama et al., Nature Comm 2015

Nozaki et al., eLife 2016

## **Meta learning**

Hayashi et al., eNeuro 2016

Hayashi et al., bioRxiv “Shifts in neural tuning systematically alter sensorimotor learning ability”

## **Redundancy**

Kobayashi & Nozaki, eLife 2024

# Acknowledgment

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Asako Munakata

Yasuko Shinya

Kanae Abe

Megumi Annen

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