

# General Principles of Human and Machine Learning



Lecture 10: Function Learning

Dr. Charley Wu

<https://hmc-lab.com/GPHML.html>


# Welcome back!

## Teaching evaluations

- You should have received an email asking to submit your teaching evaluations
- Please do so before January 20th

## Exam registration

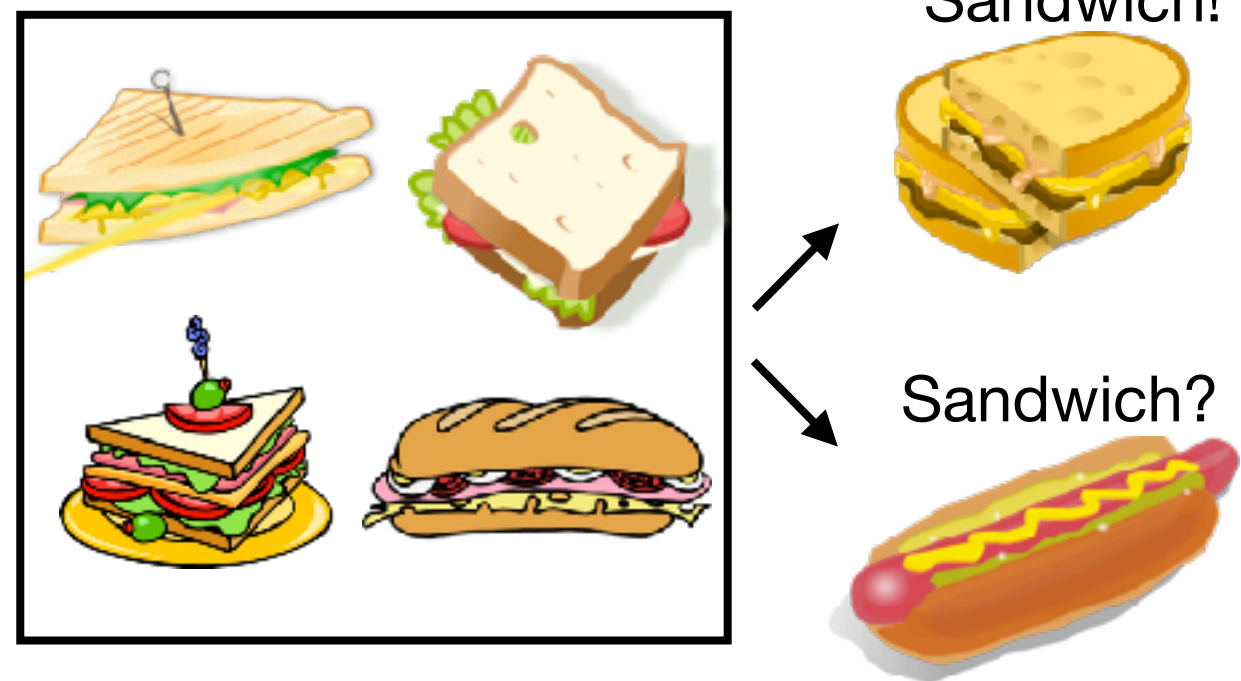
- This should now be “theoretically possible” depending on the “Prüfungsordnung” of your study program
- If you are on the new Prüfungsordnung, you can register on ALMA
- If you are on the old one and unable to register, please let me know at the next lecture and I can get you manually added

Week 10:		Jan 14: Function learning	Jan 15	Alex	Wu, Meder, & Schulz (in press)
Week 11:		Jan 21: No Lecture	Jan 22: No Tutorial		
Week 12:		Jan 28: Language and semantics	Jan 29	Hanqi	Kamath et al., (2024)
Week 13:		Feb 4: General Principles	Feb 5	Charley	Gershman (2023)
Exam 1	13:00-15:00 21.02.2025 Hörsaal 1 F119 (SAND)				
Exam 2	12:00-14:00 11.04.2025 Ground floor lecture room, AI building, Maria-von-Linden-Str. 6, D-72076 Tübingen				

# The story so far ...

## Concept learning as classification

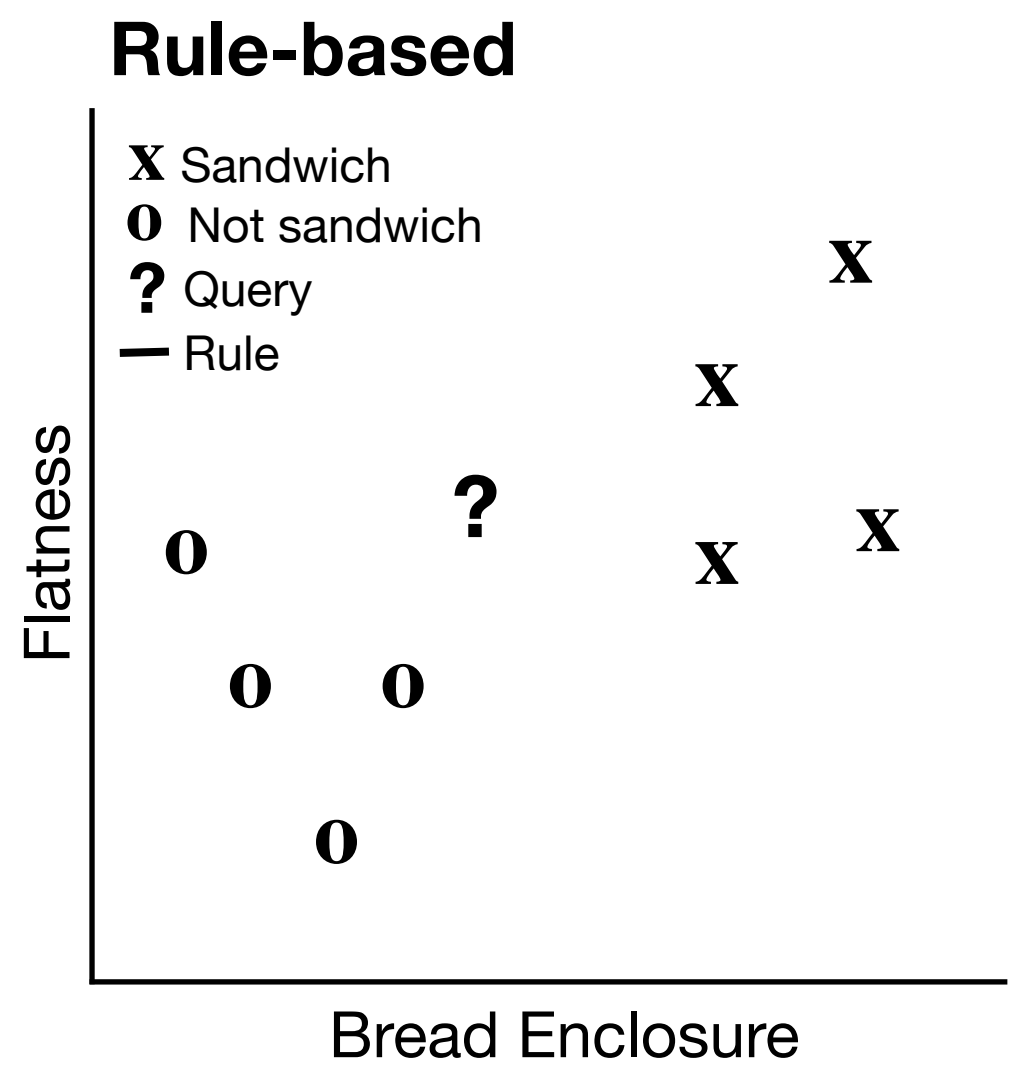
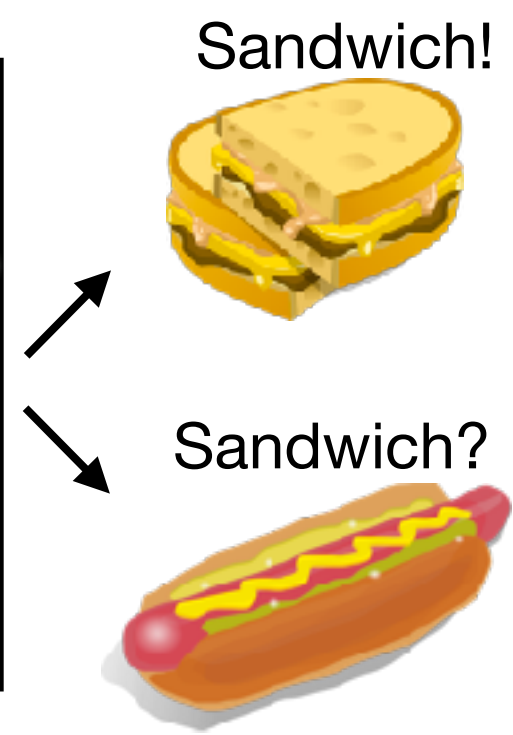
Previous Experiences





# The story so far ...

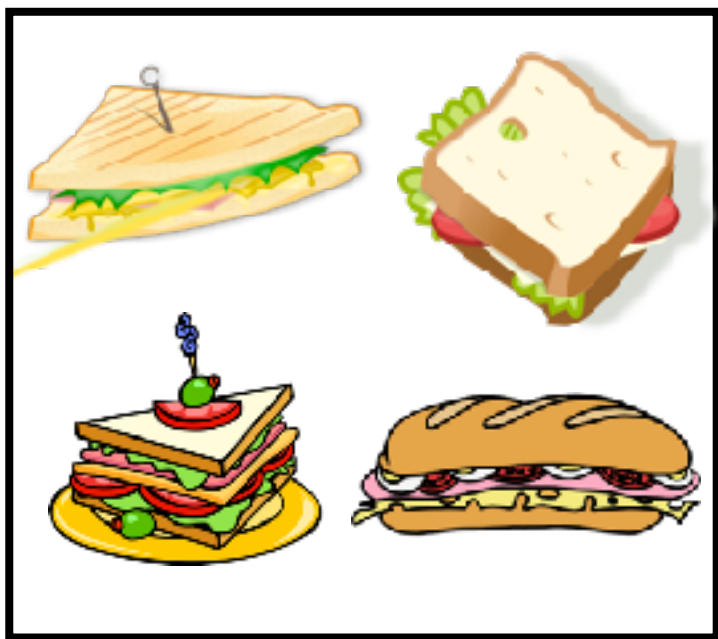
## Concept learning as classification



# The story so far ...

## Concept learning as classification

Previous Experiences



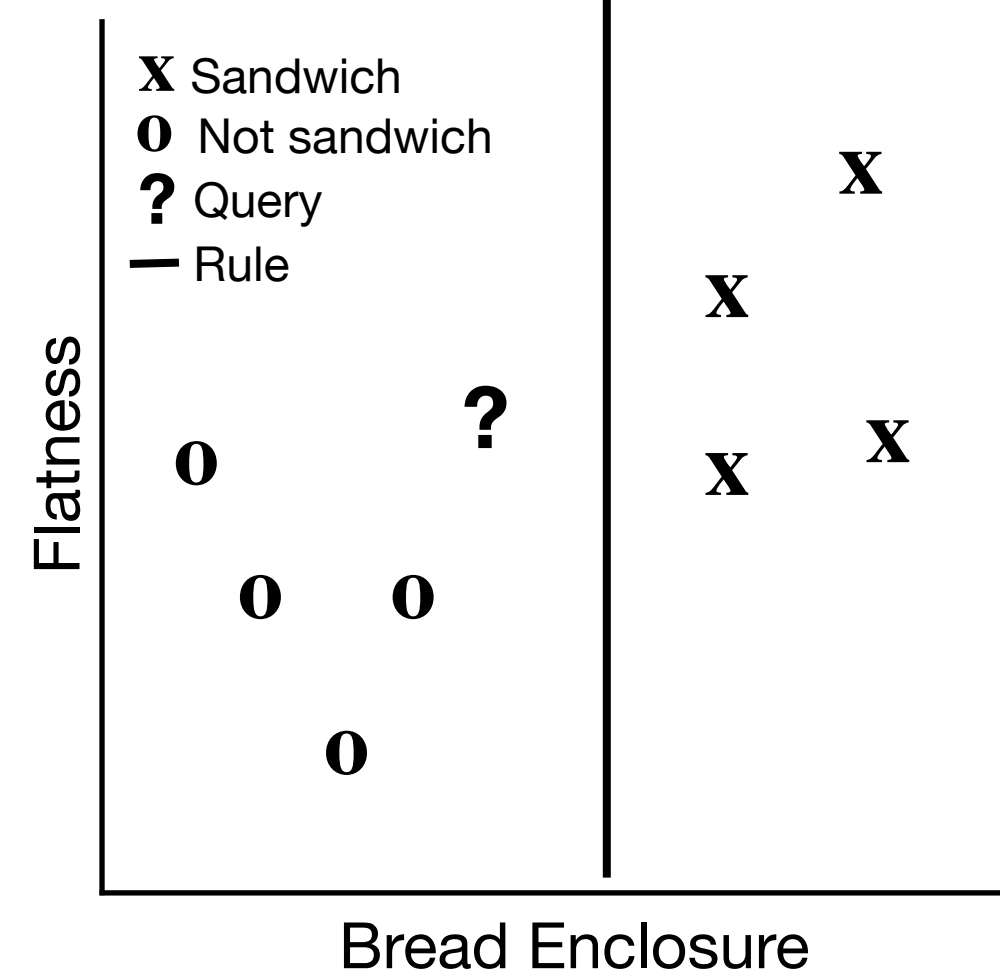
Sandwich!



Sandwich?

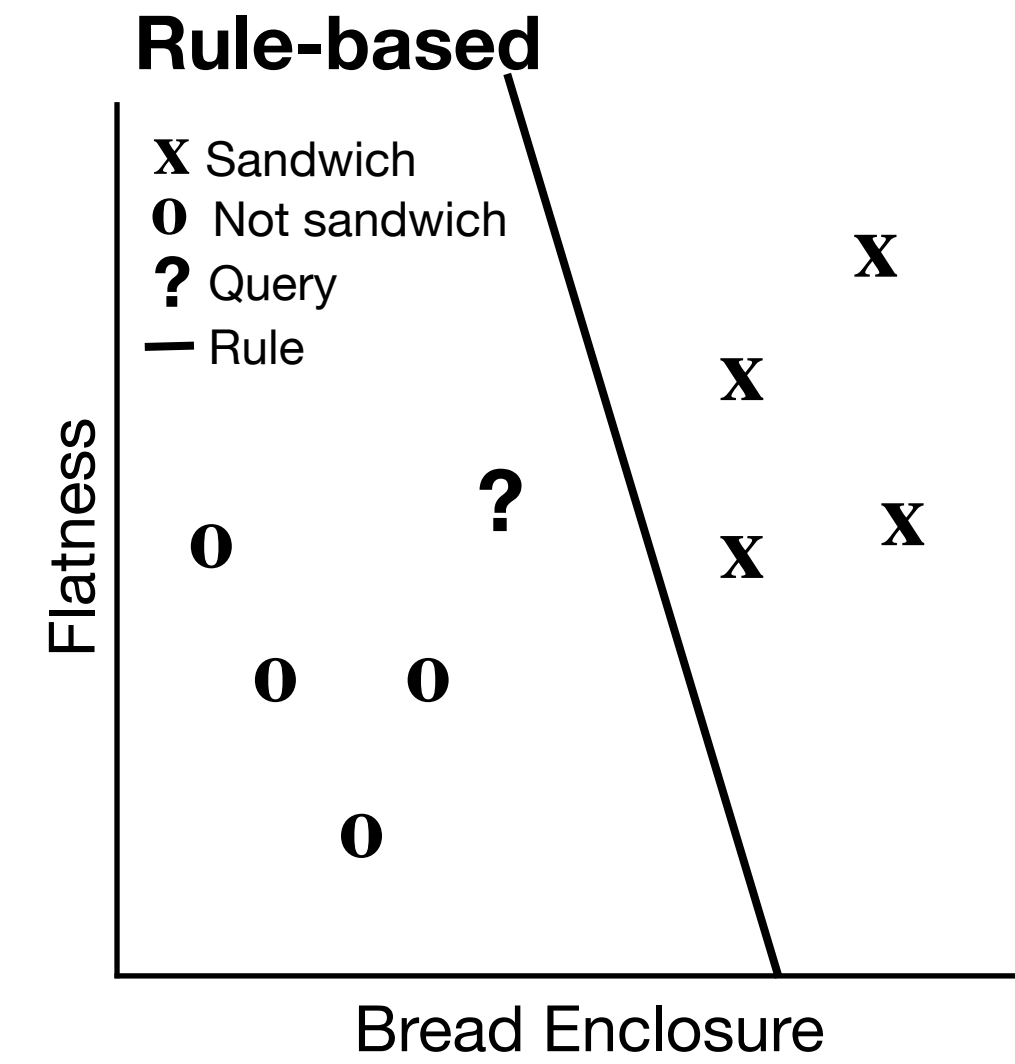
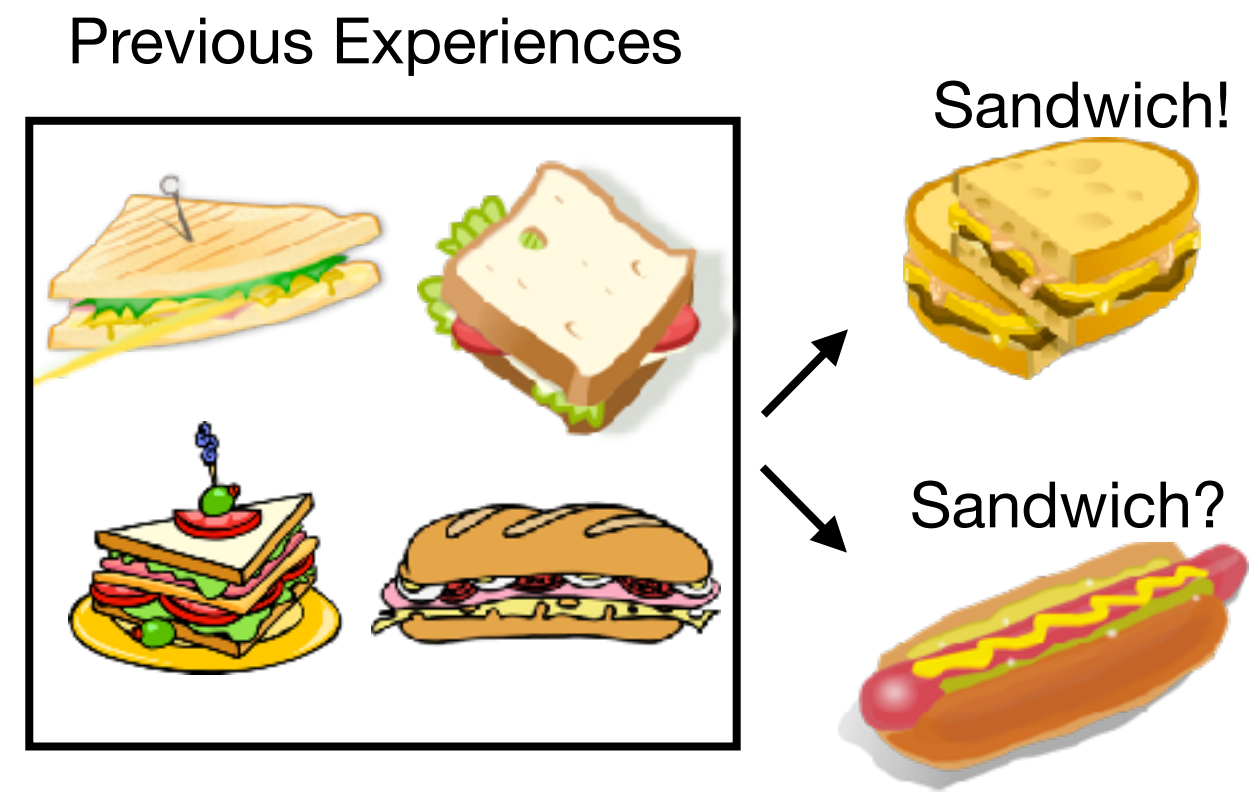


### Rule-based



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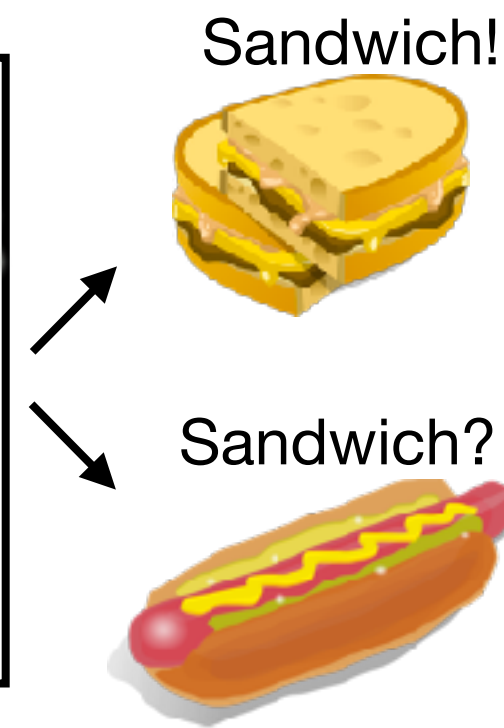
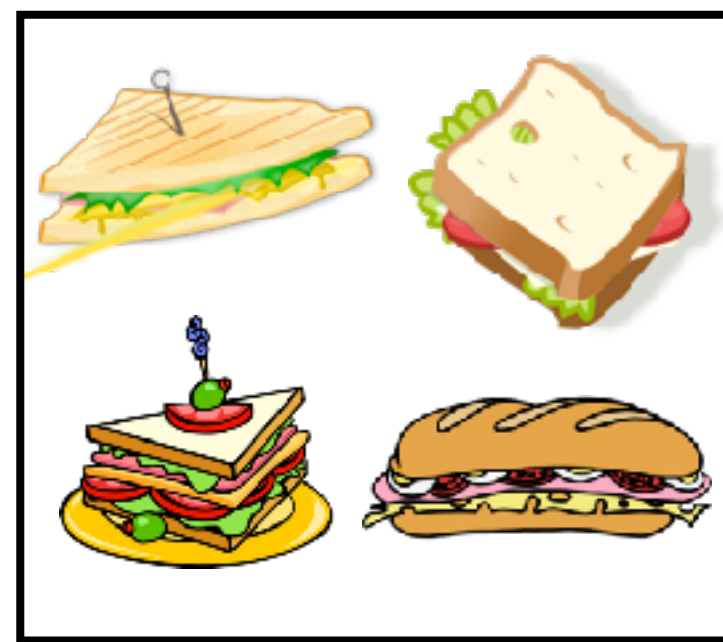
## Concept learning as classification



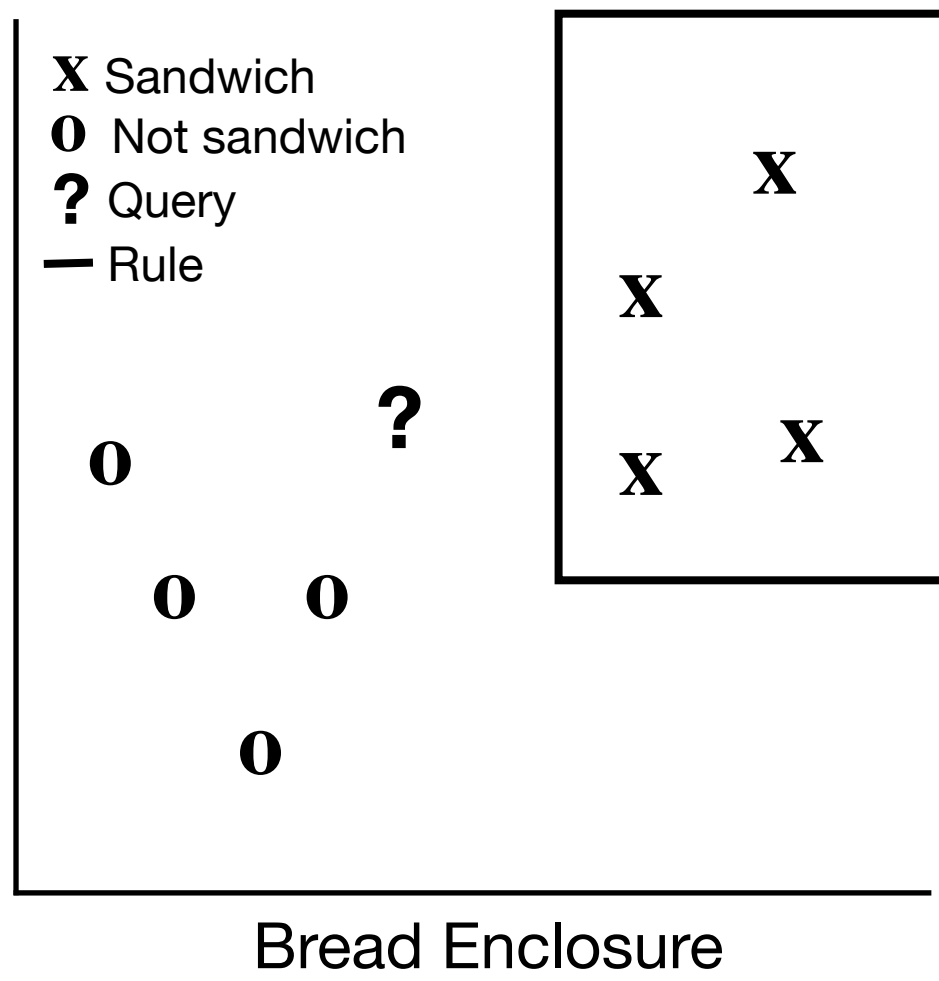
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## Concept learning as classification

Previous Experiences

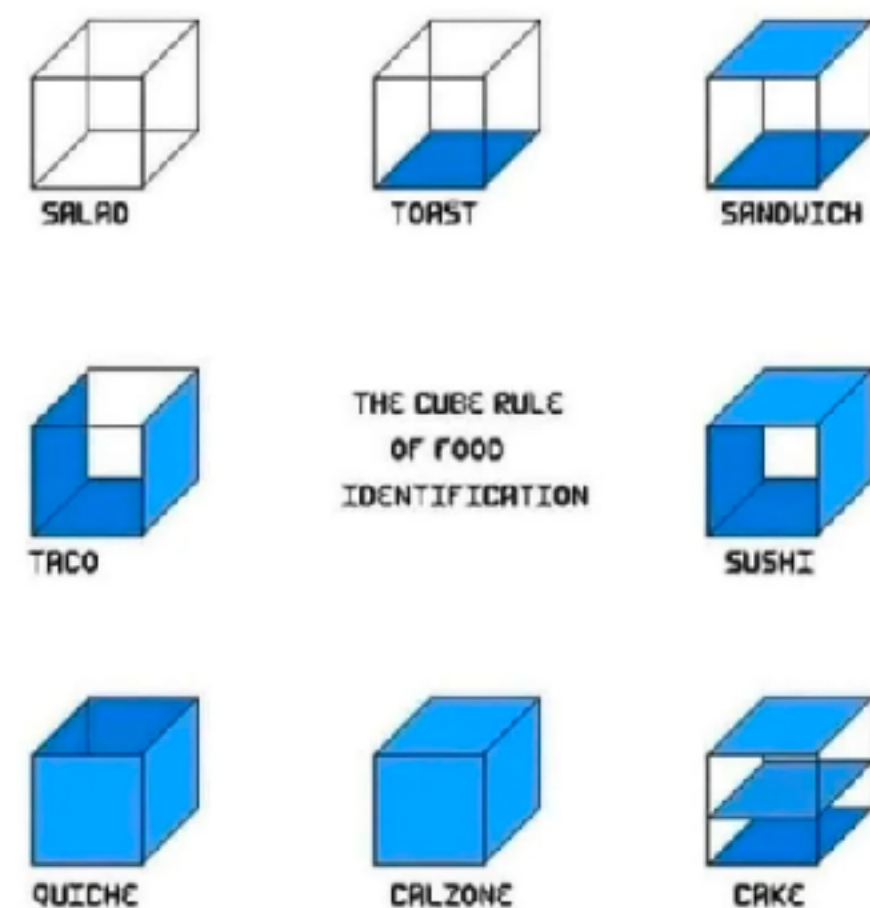
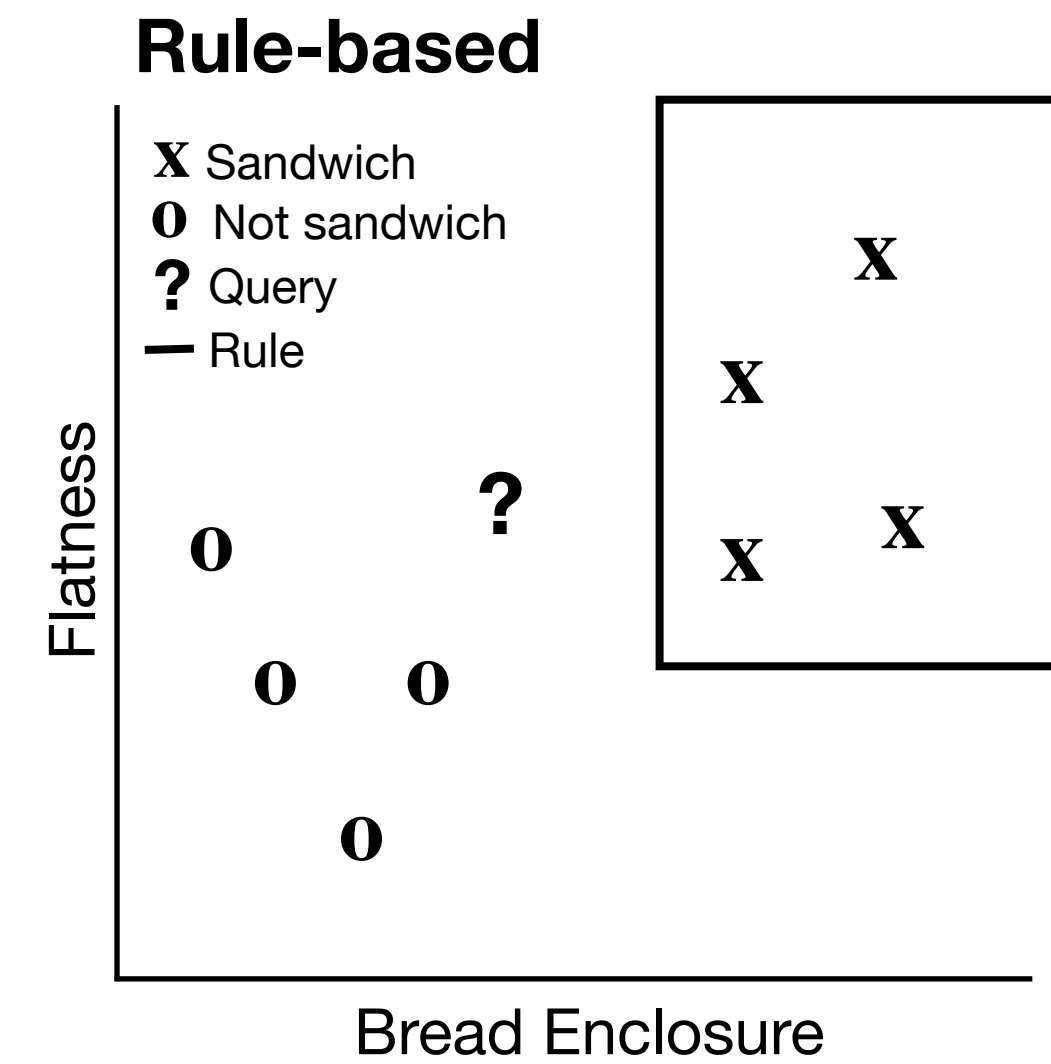
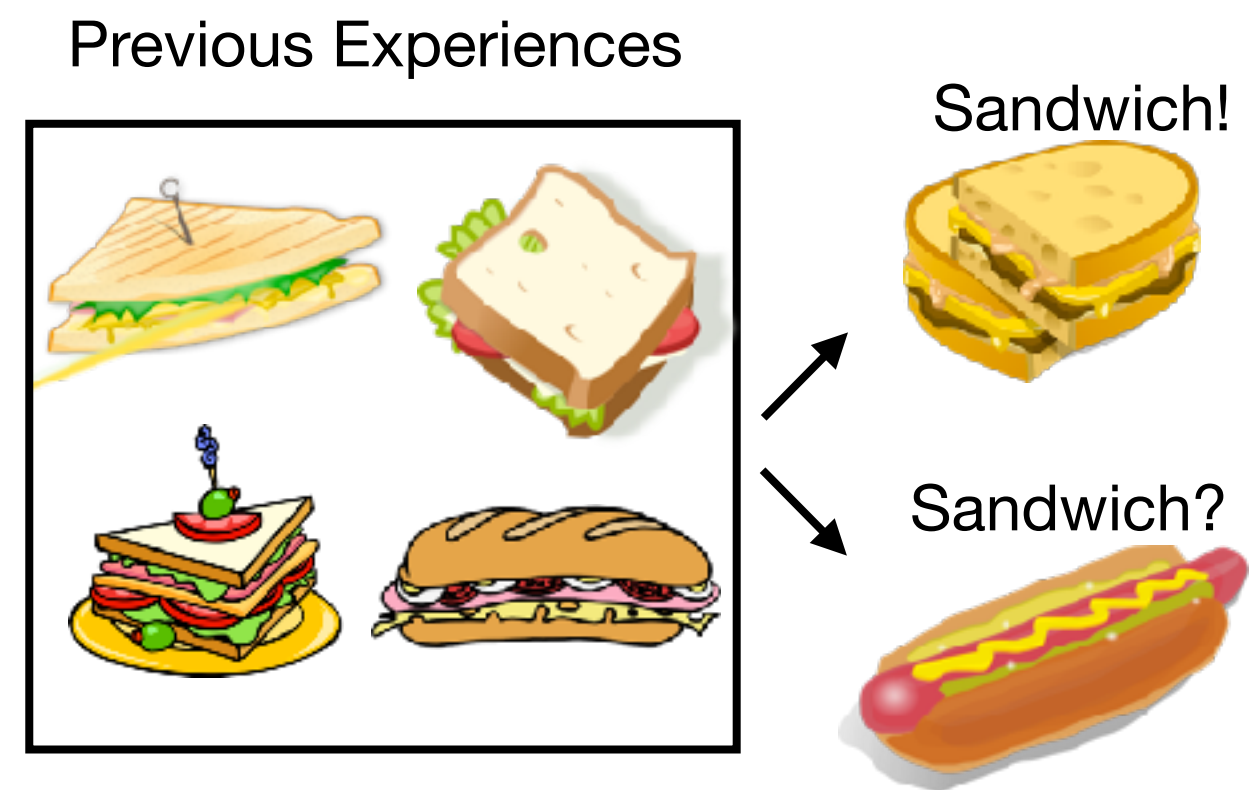


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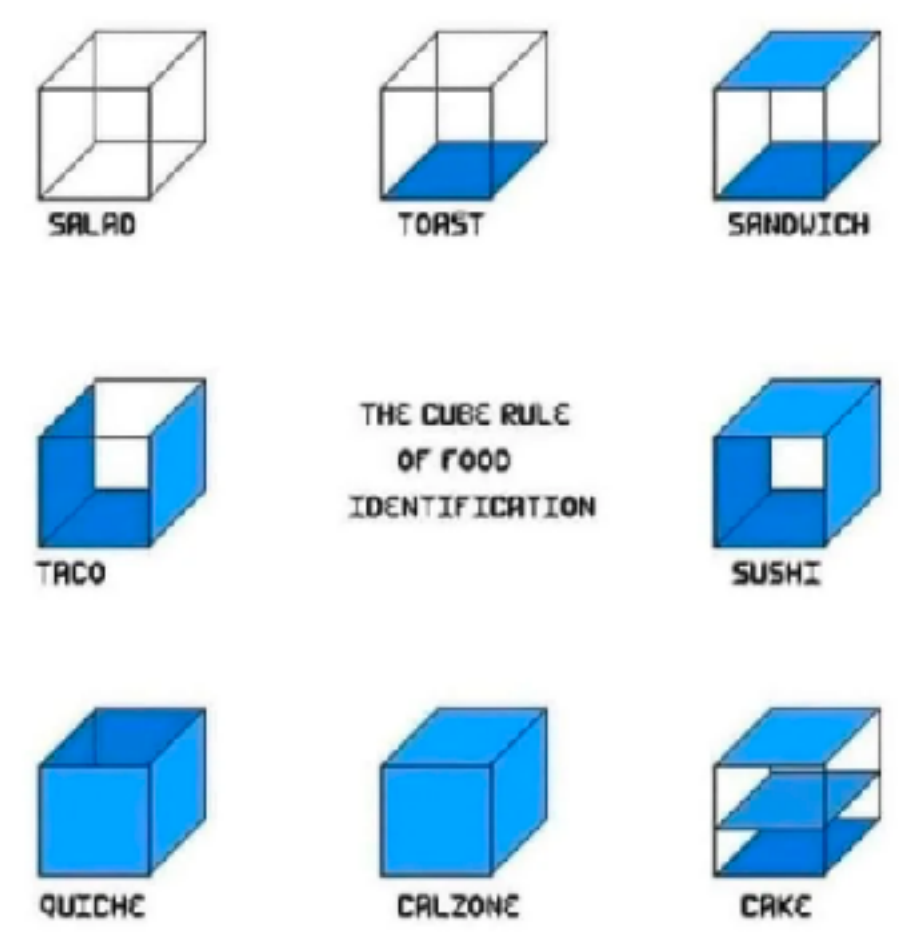
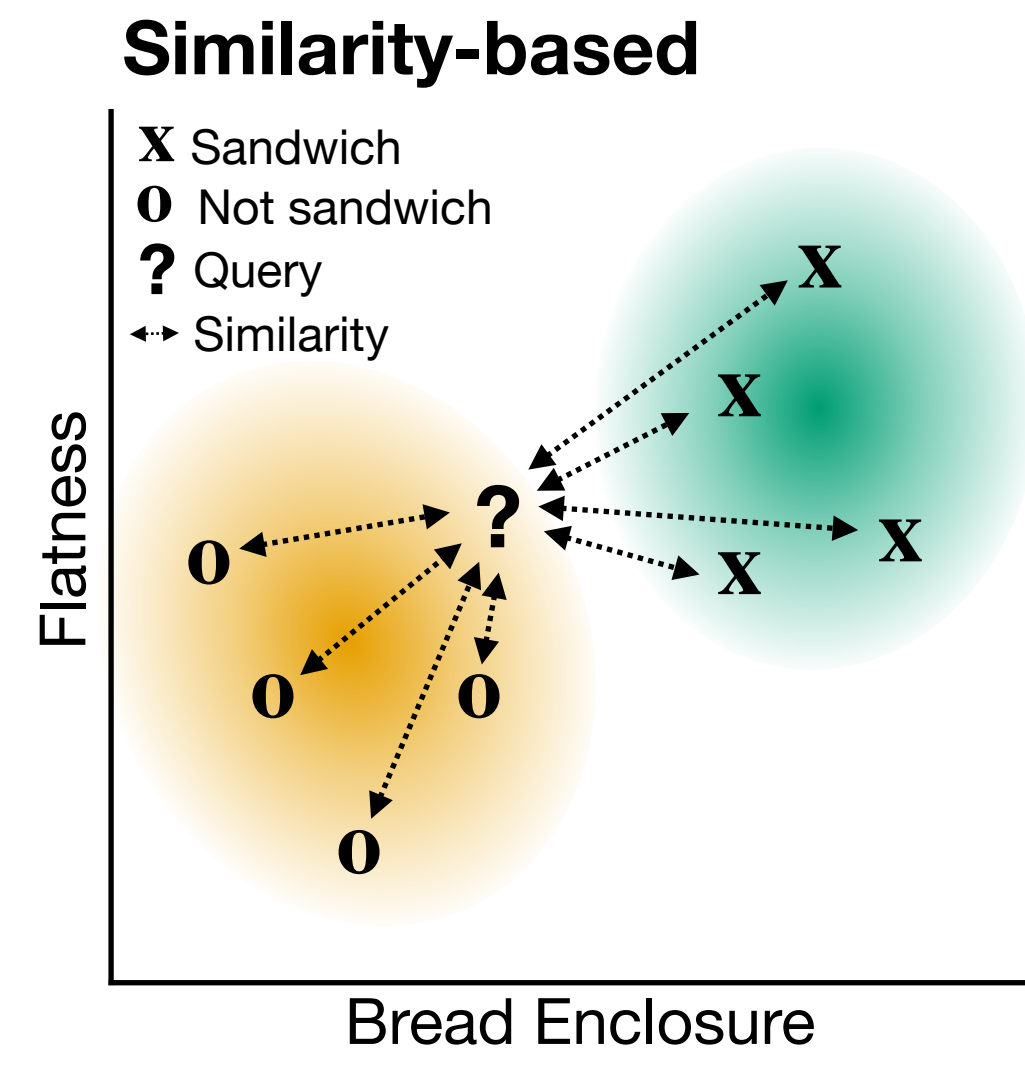
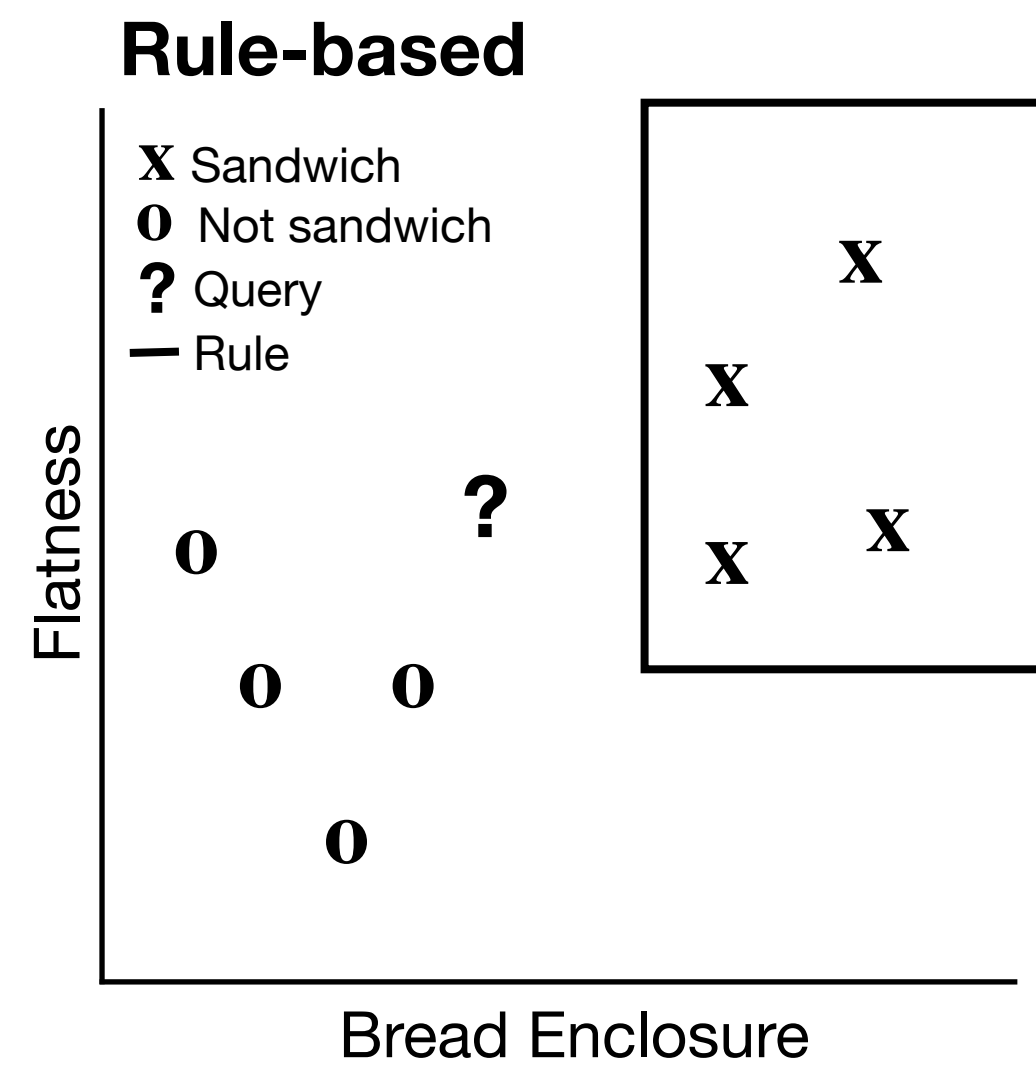
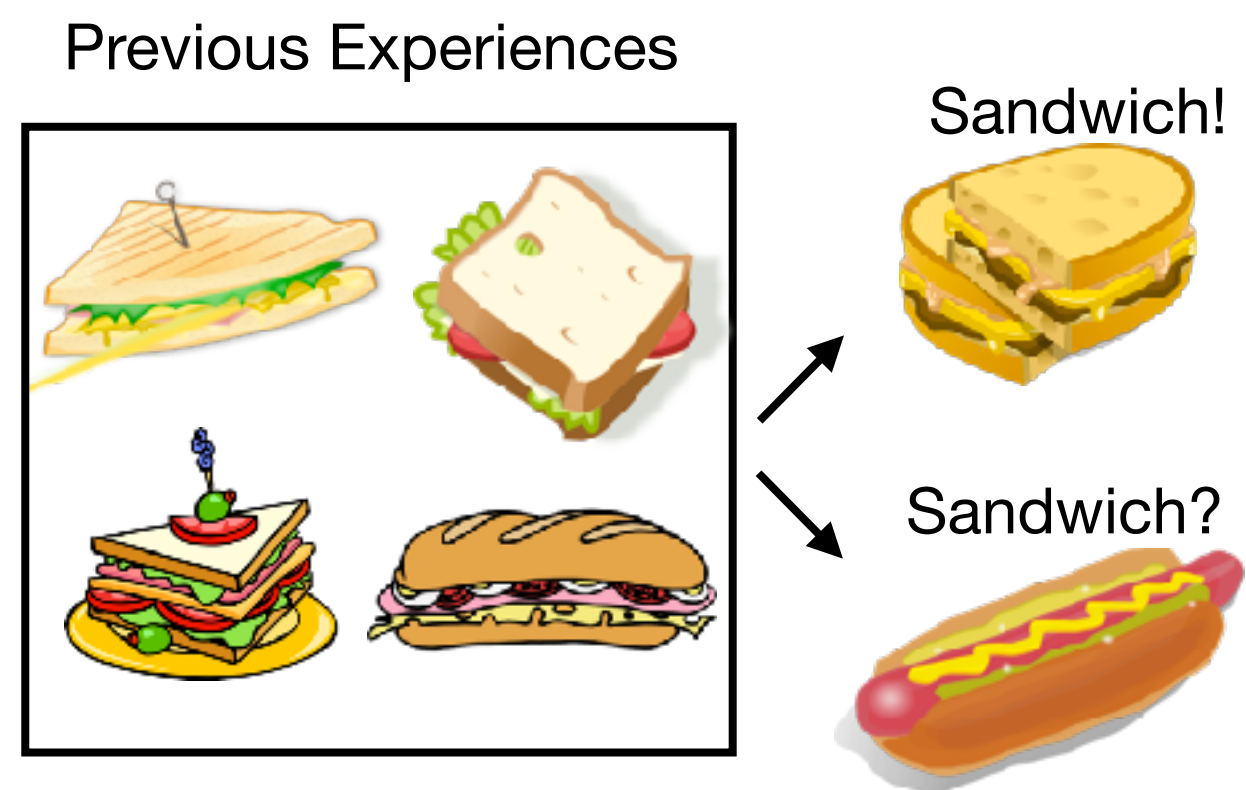
## Concept learning as classification





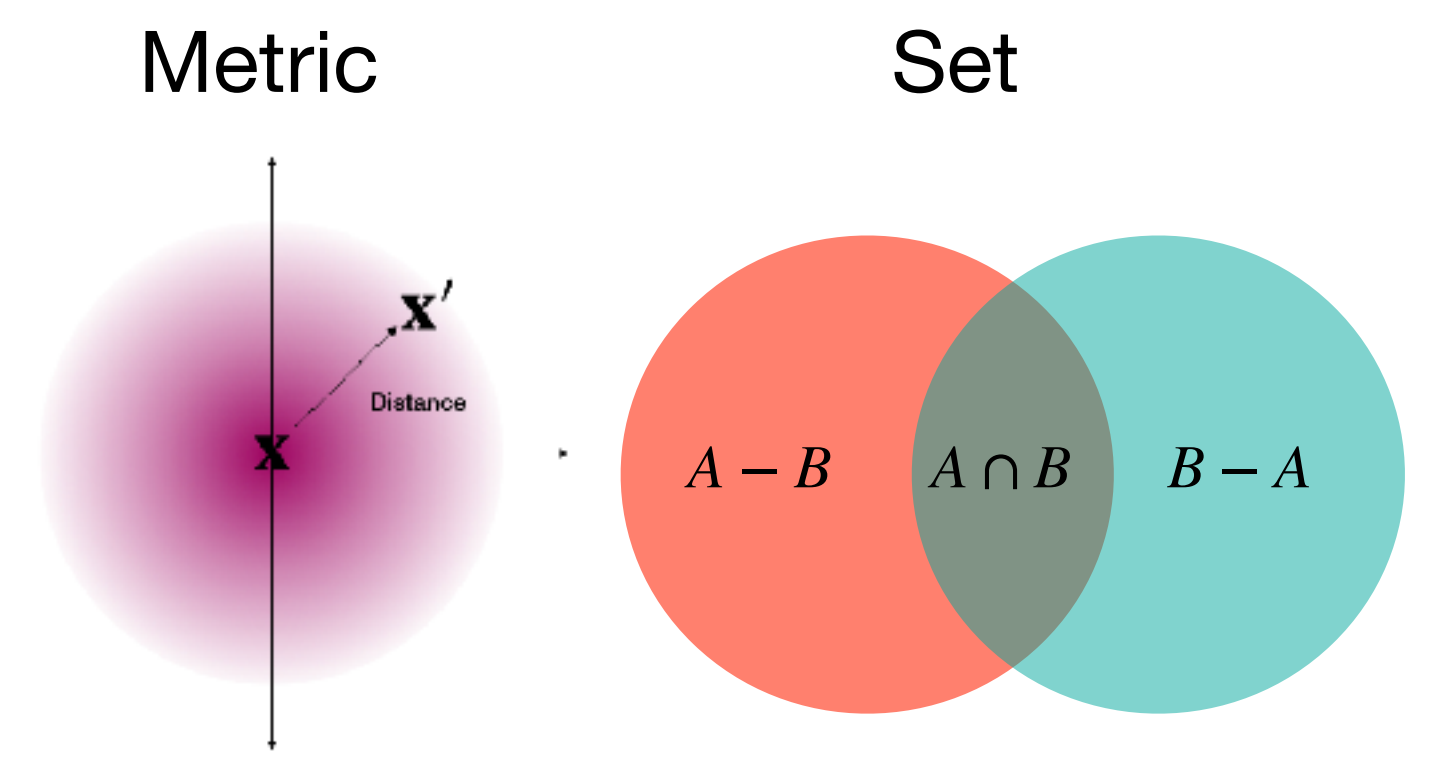
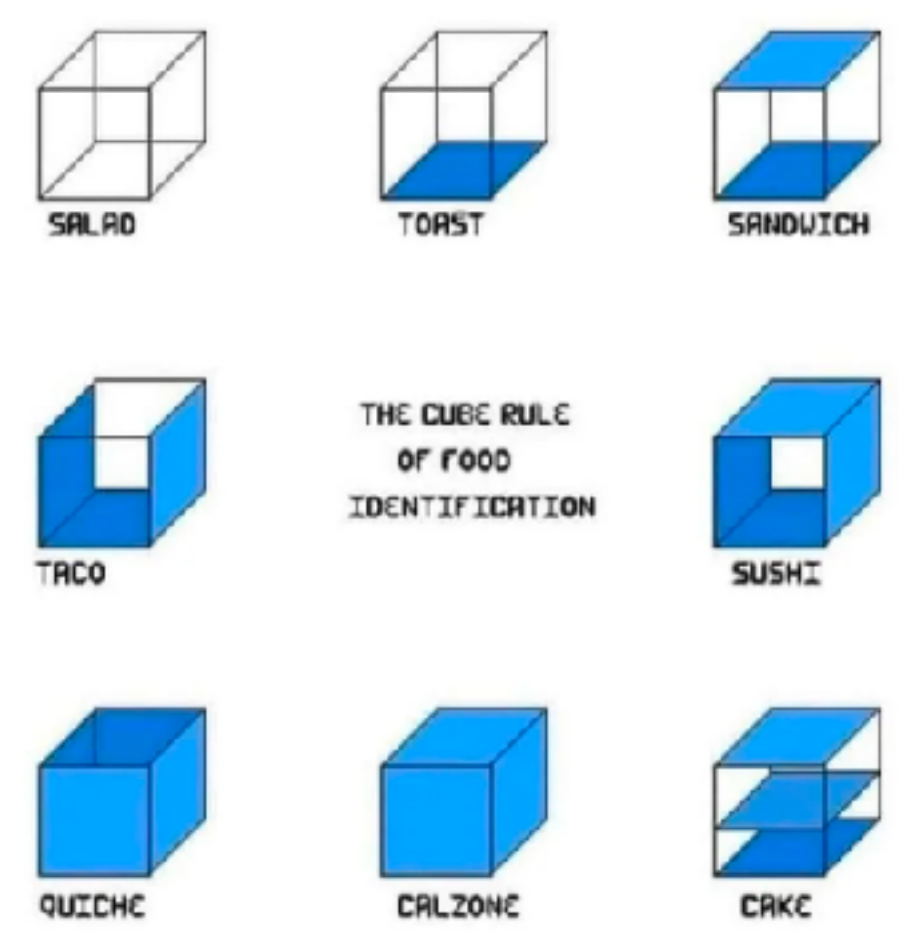
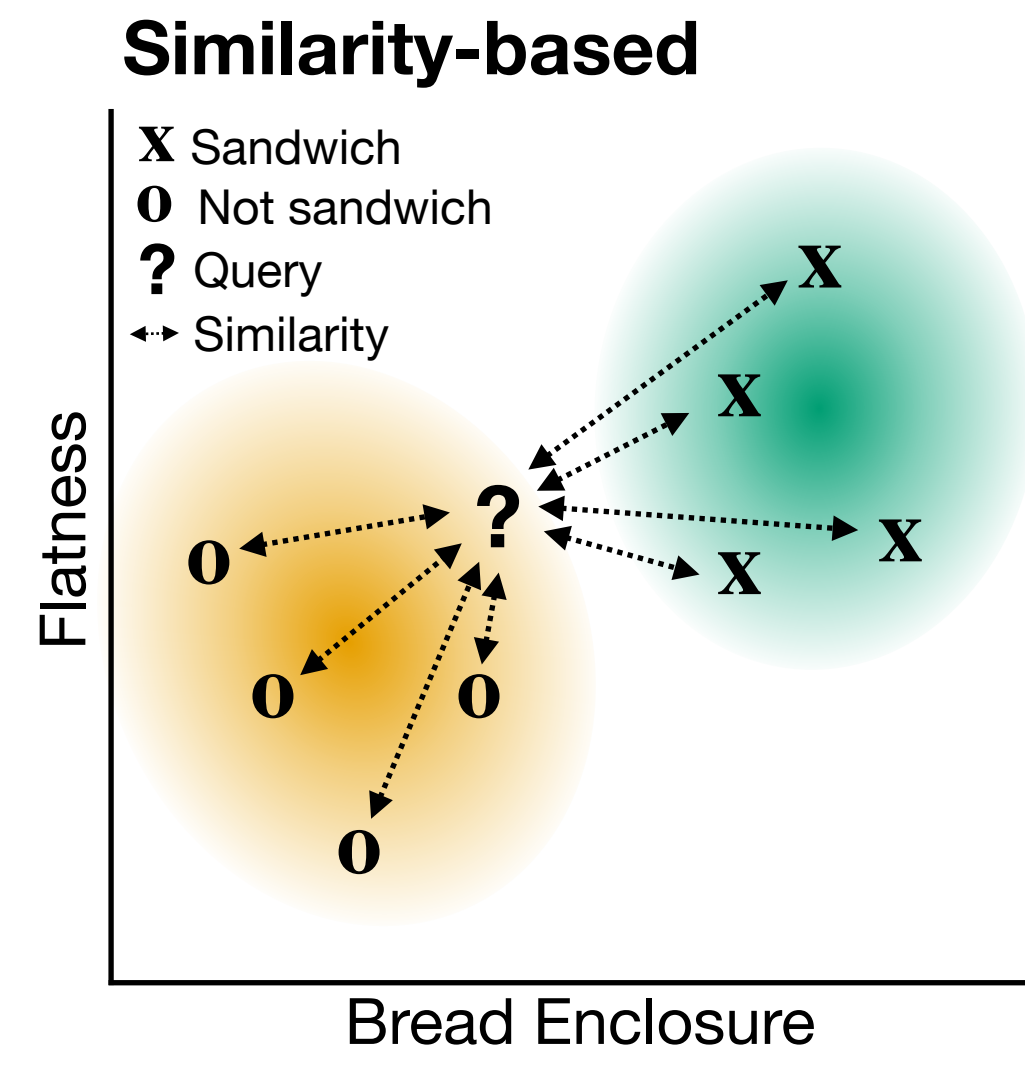
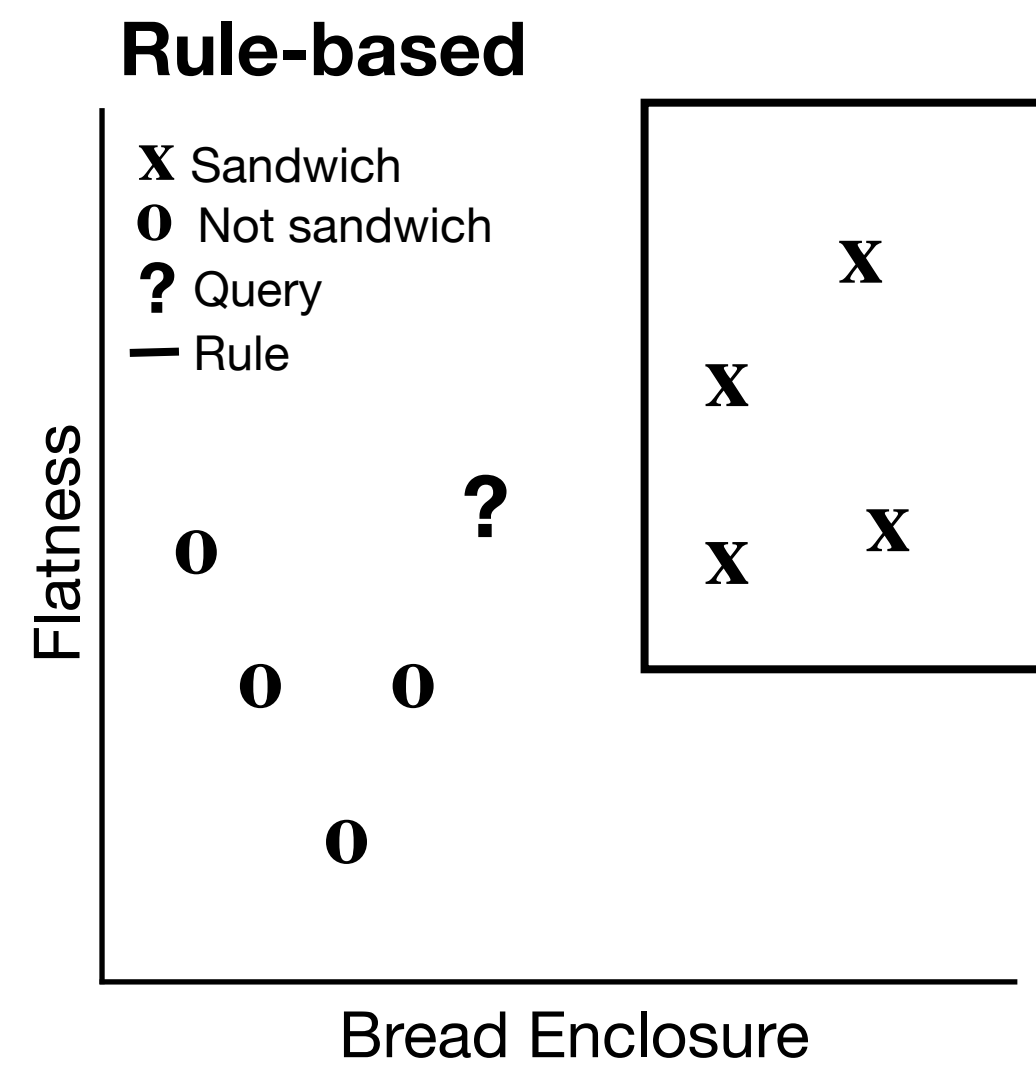
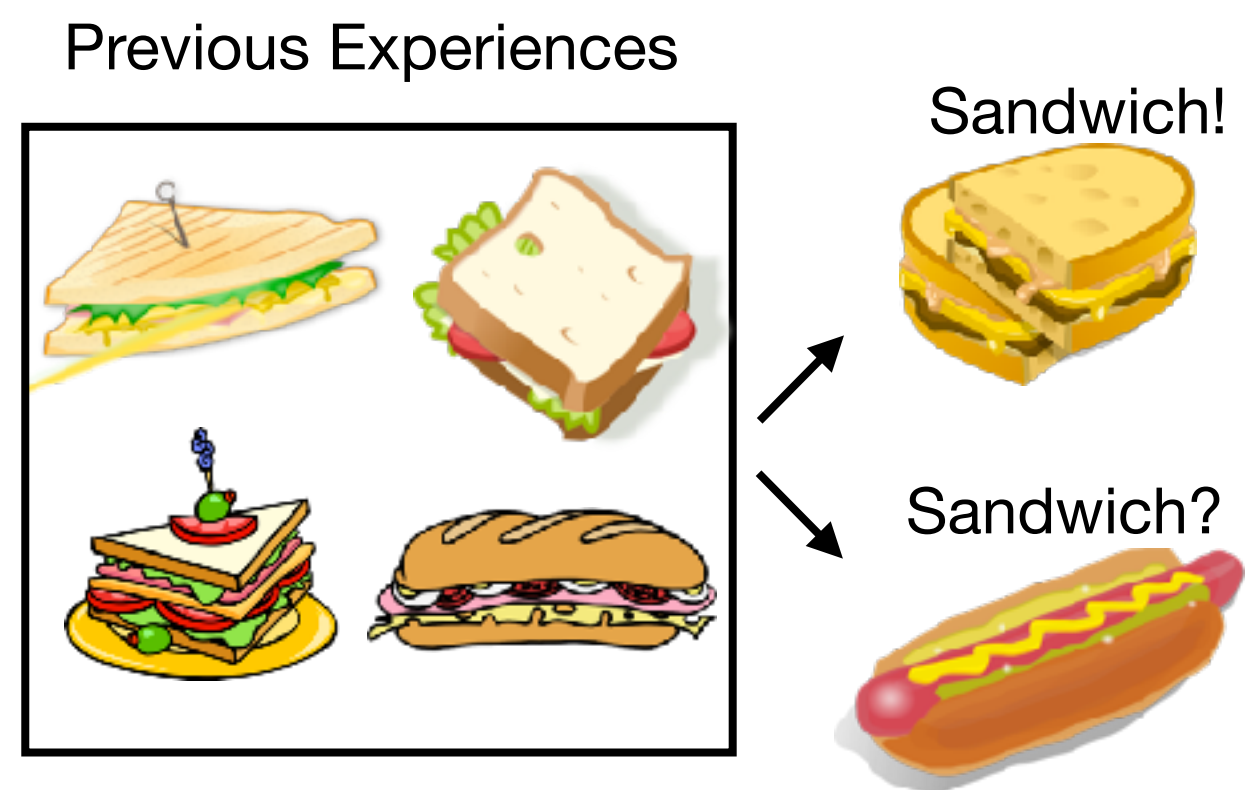
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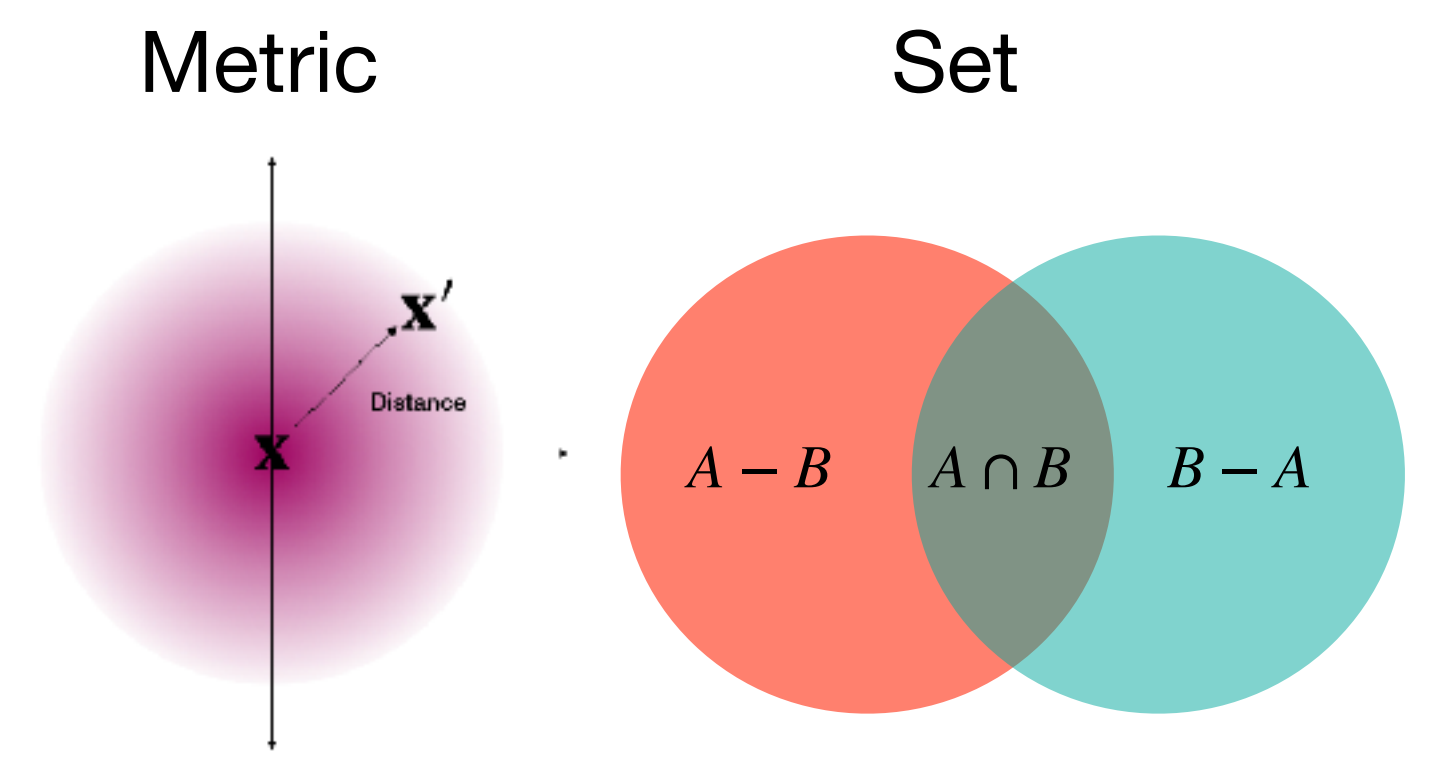
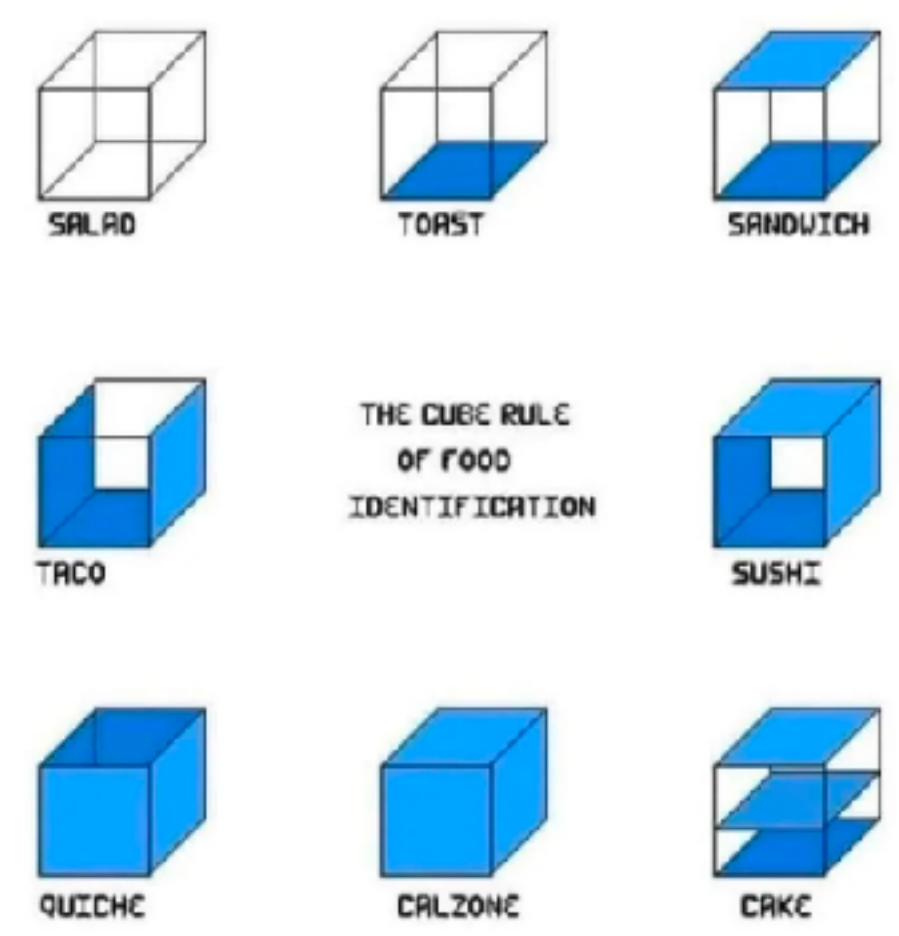
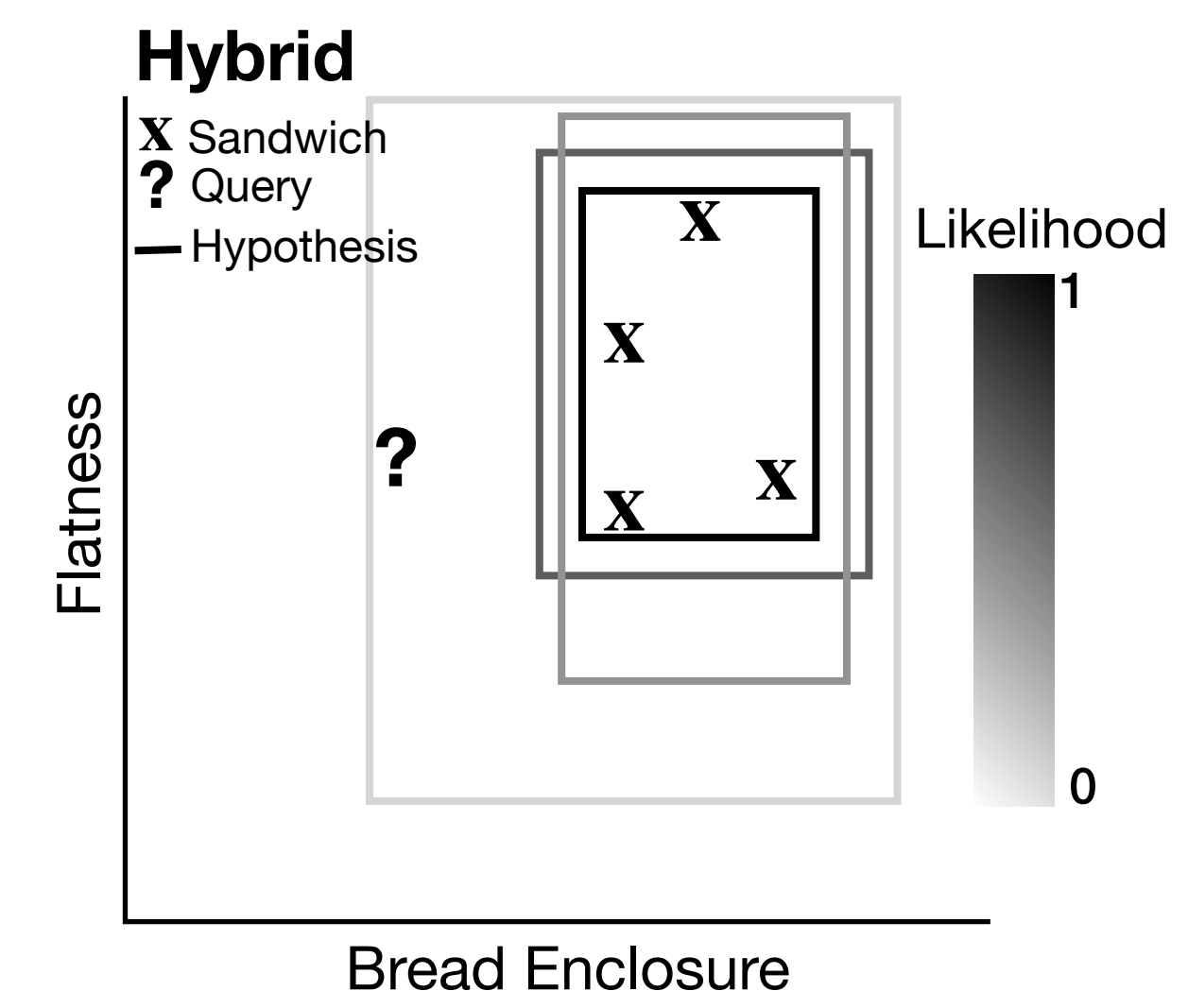
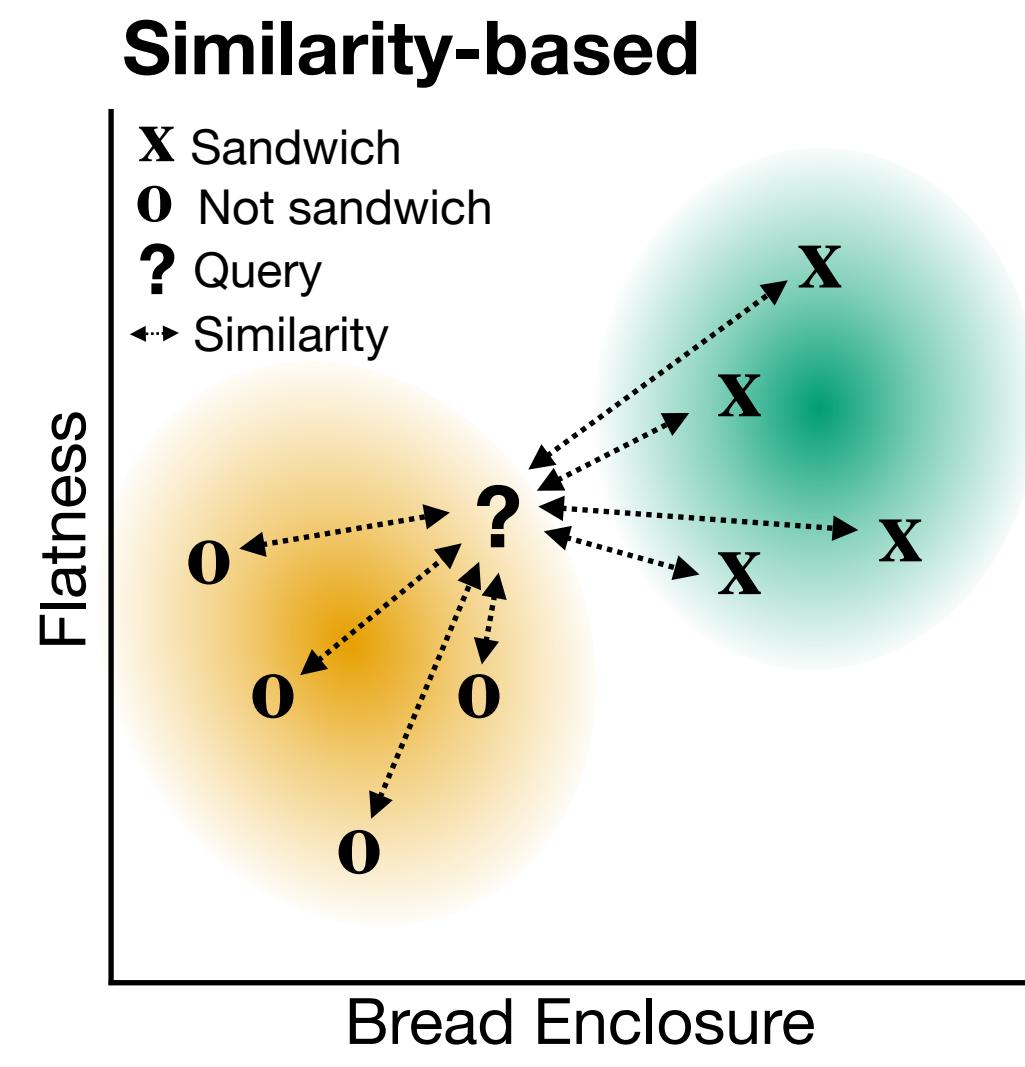
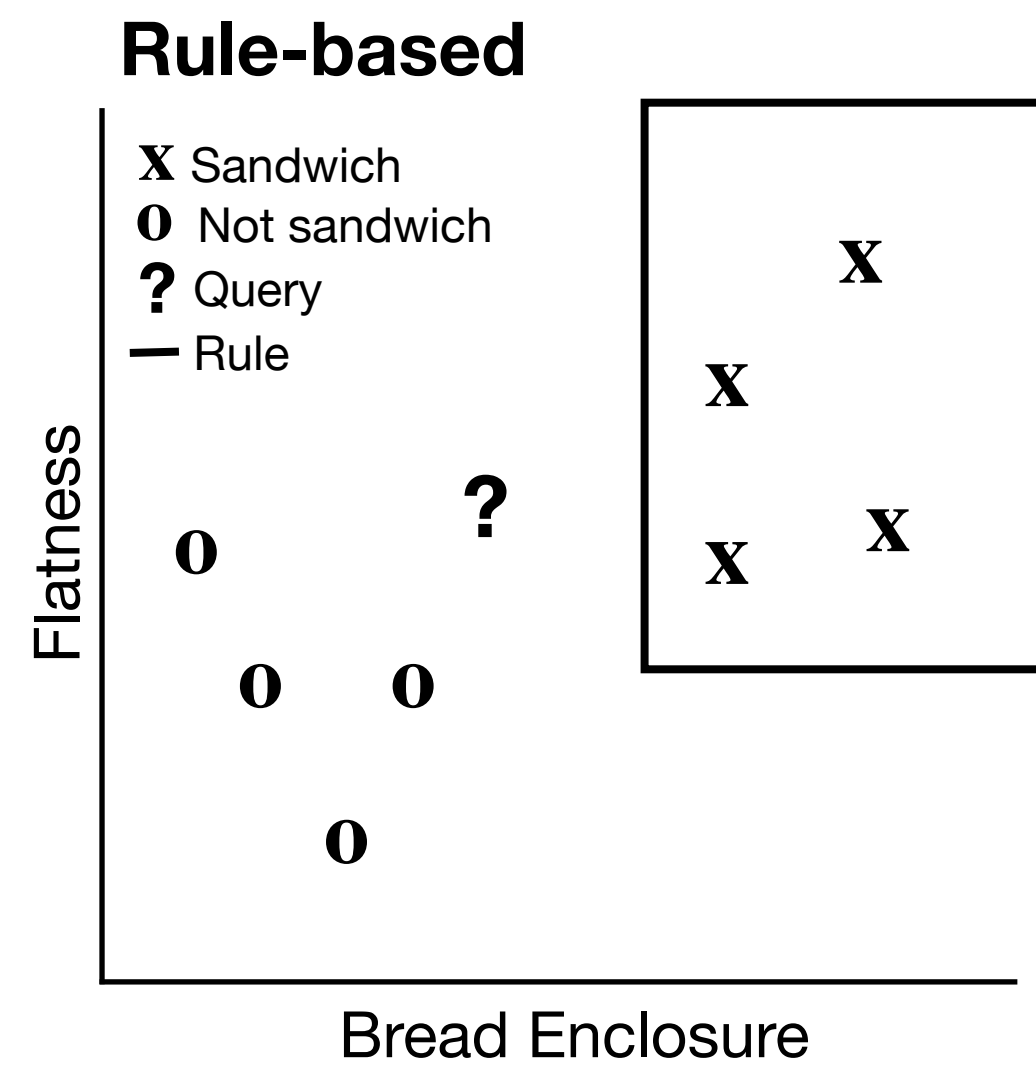
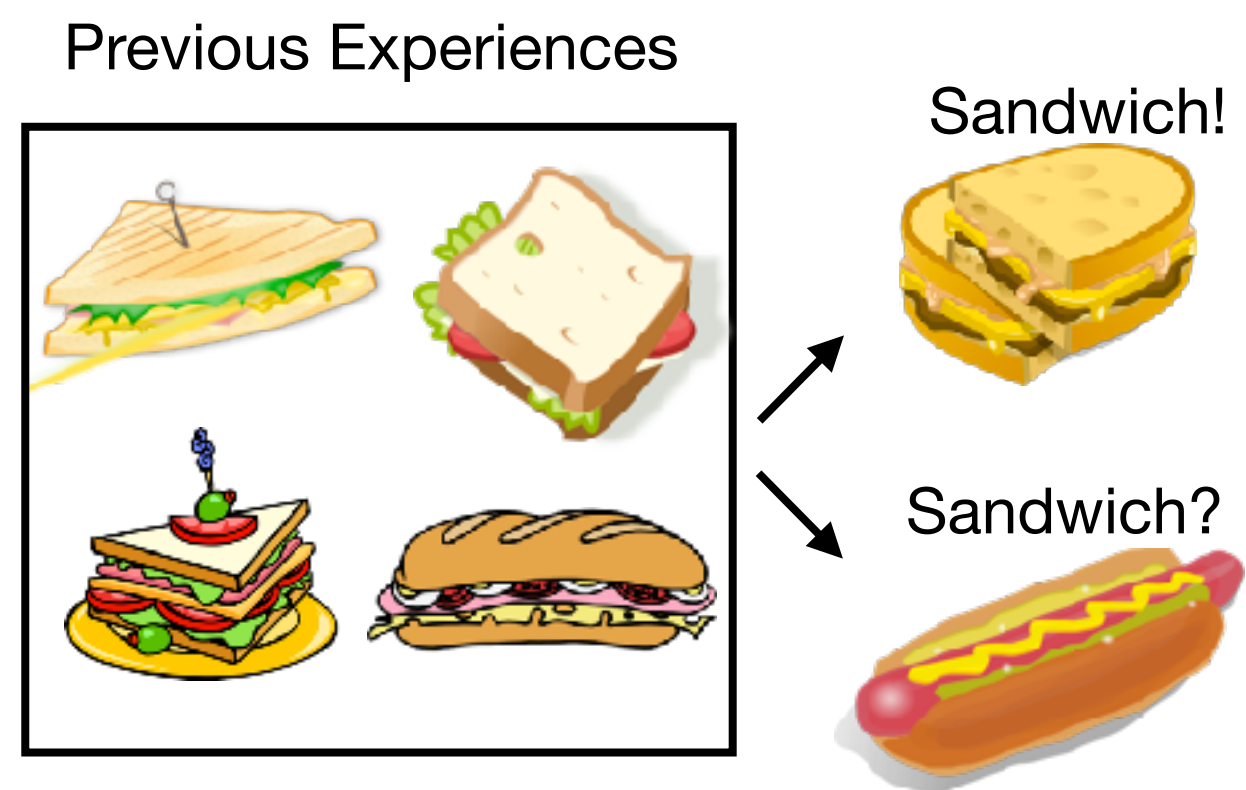
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## Concept learning as classification



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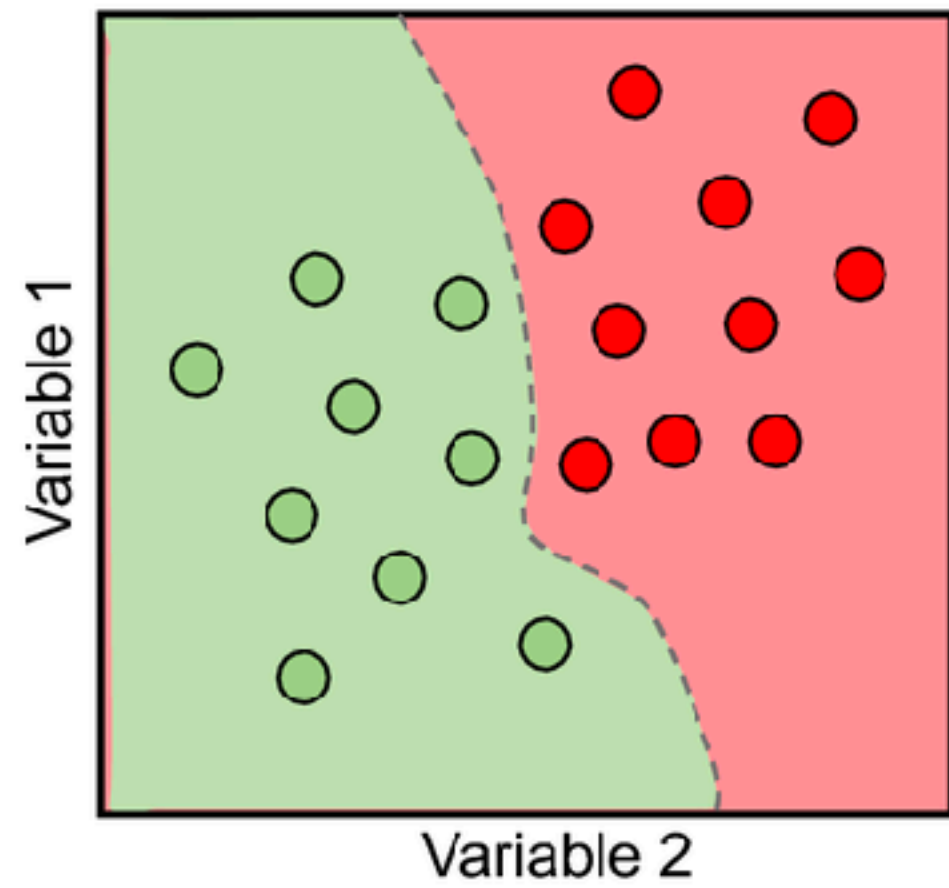
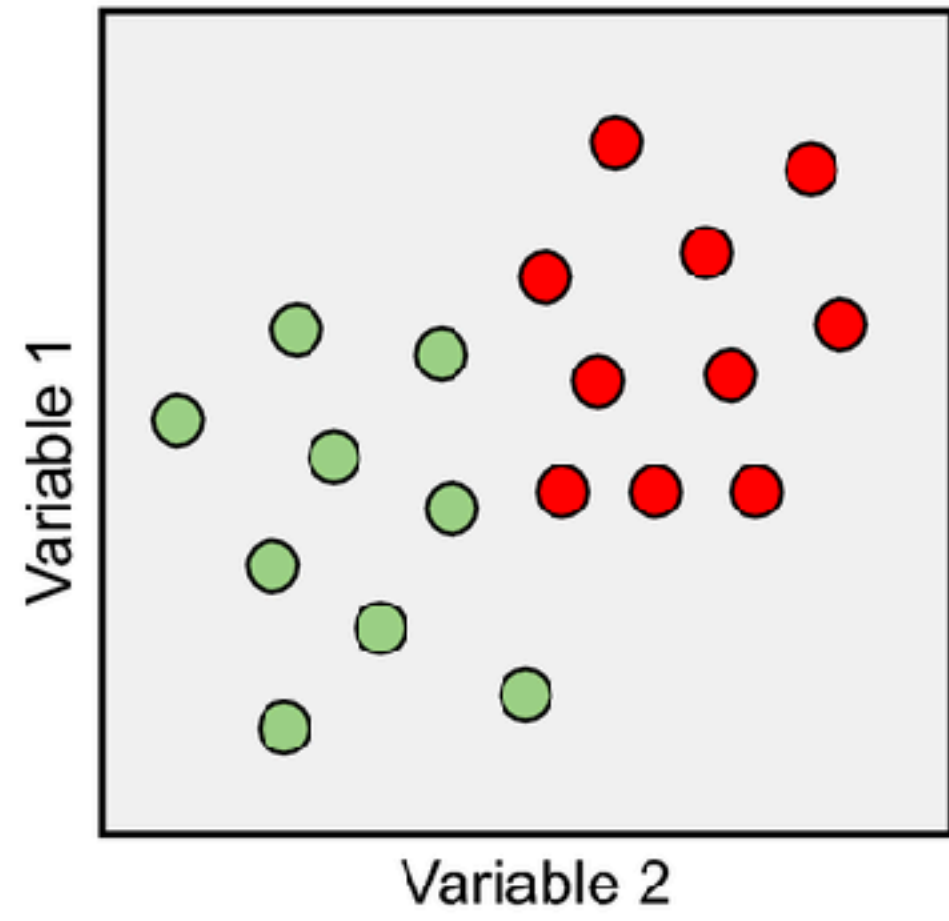
## Concept learning as classification



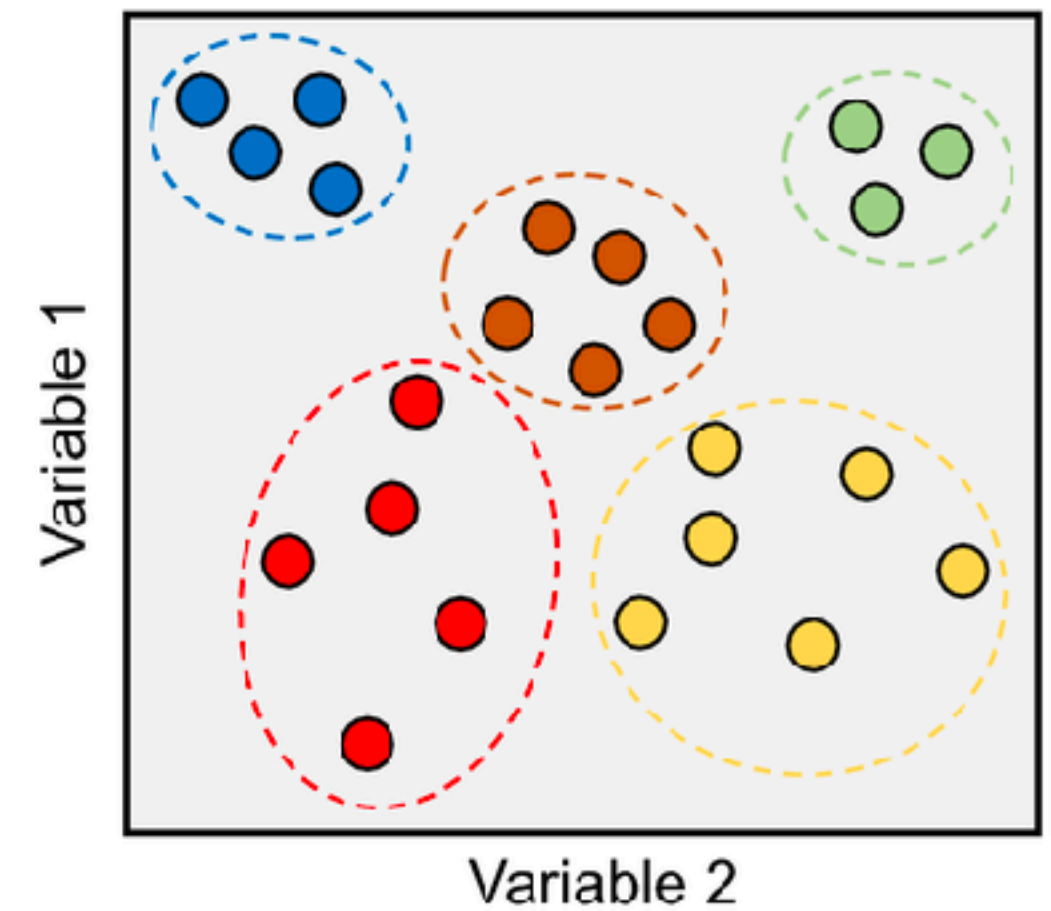
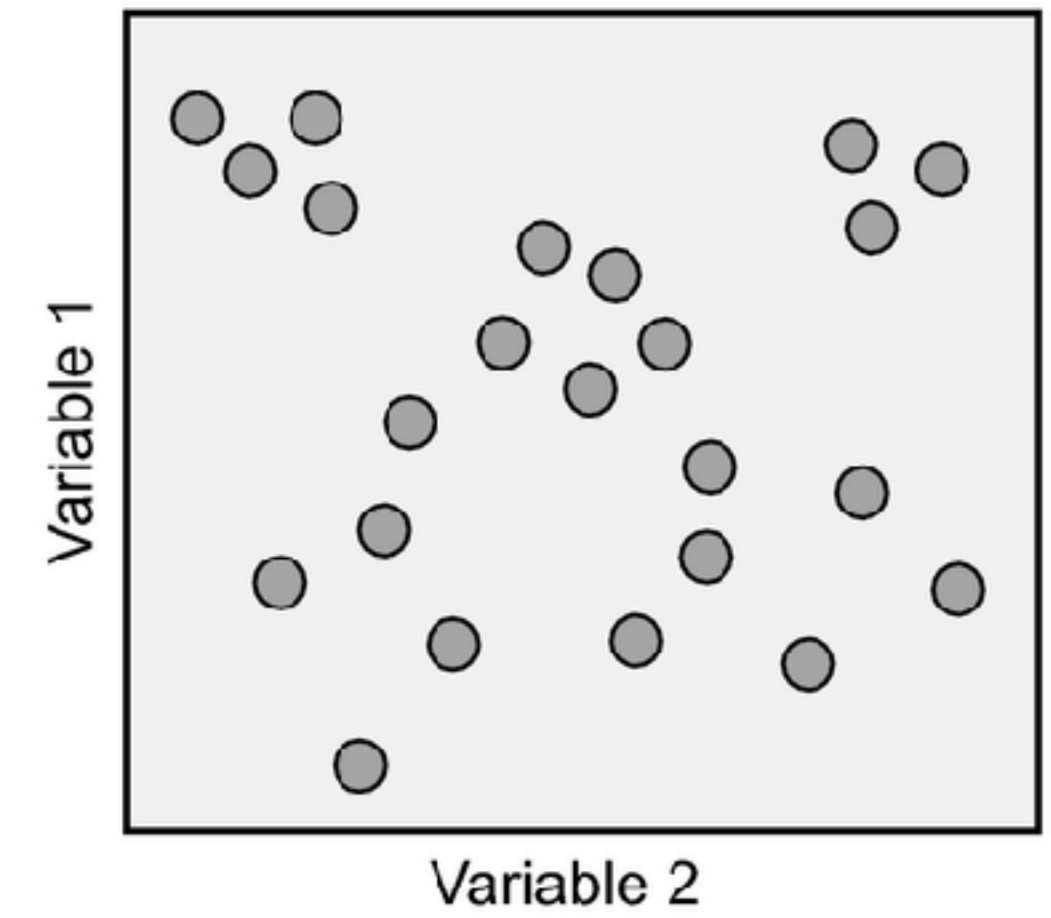


# The story so far ...

## Supervised

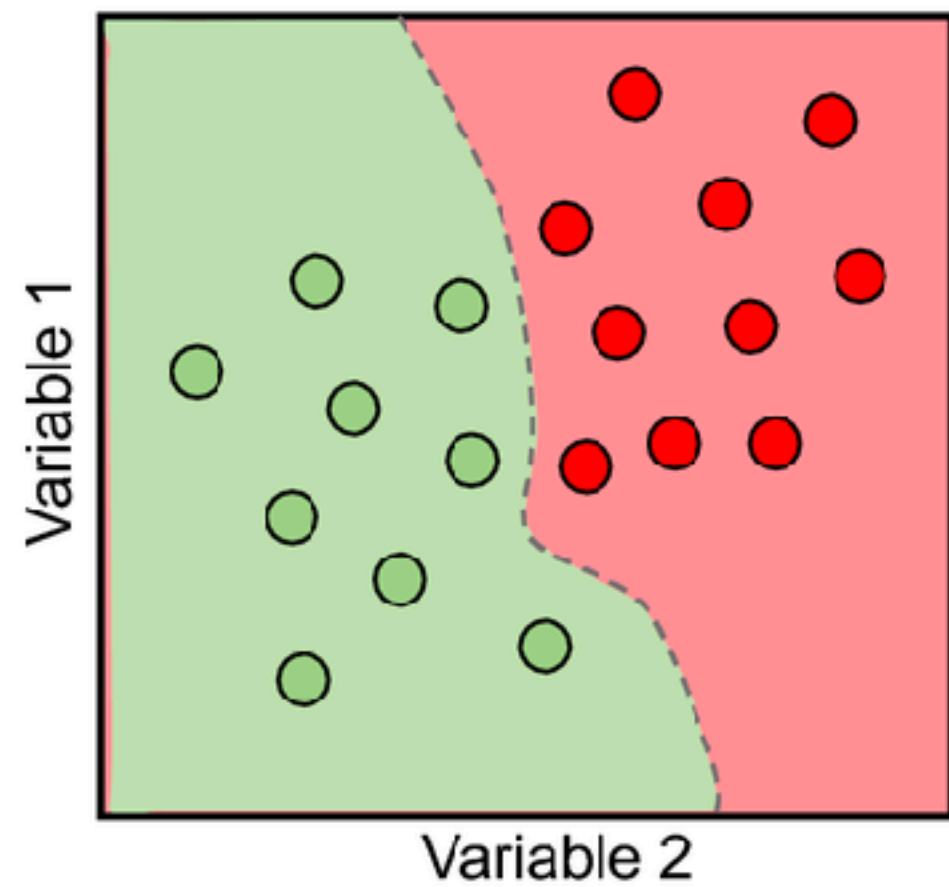
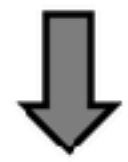
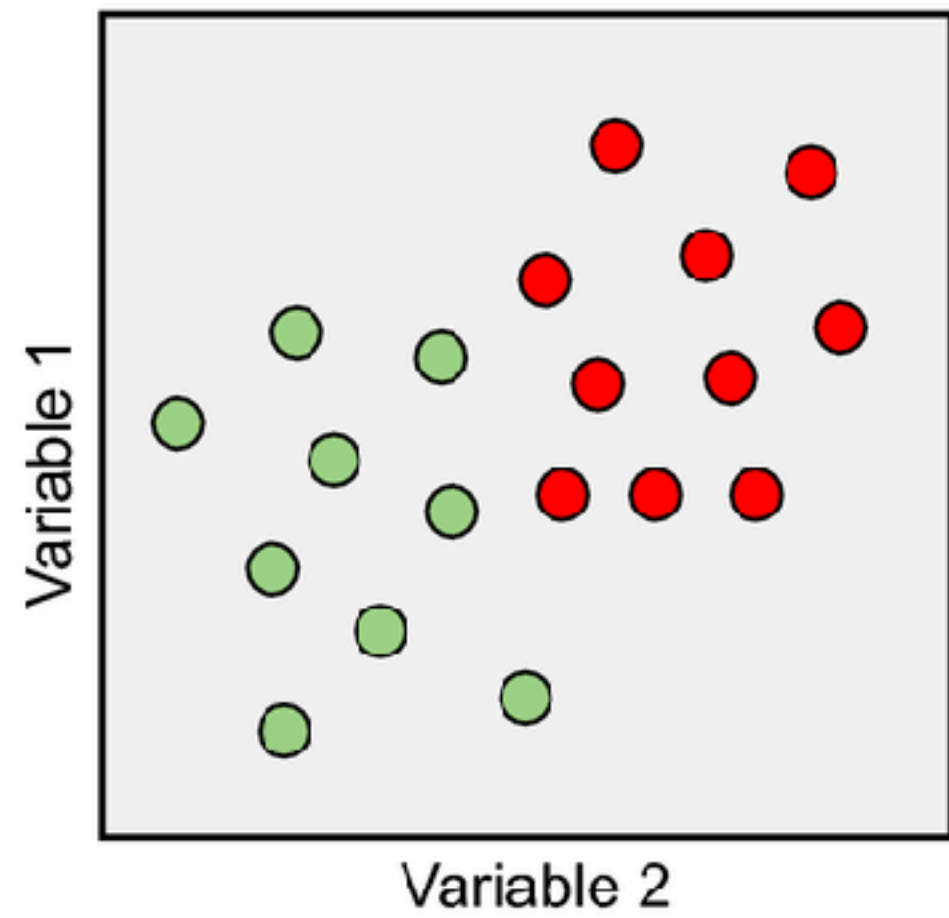


## Unsupervised



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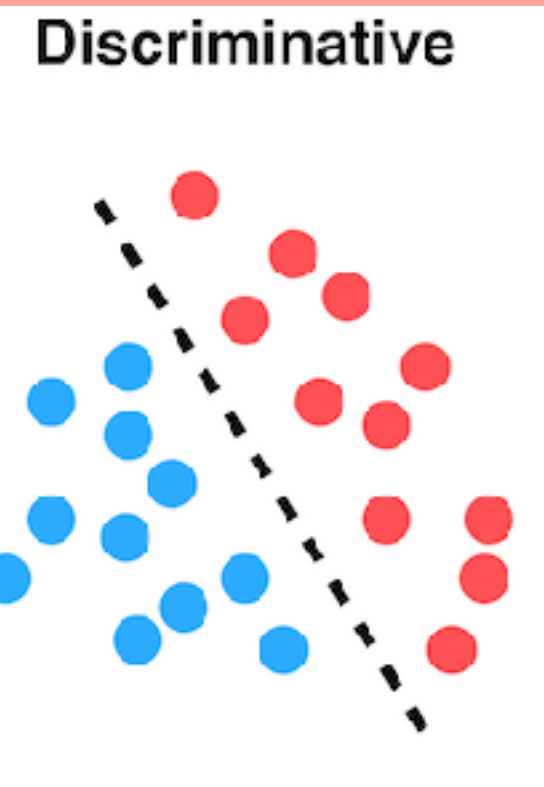
## Supervised



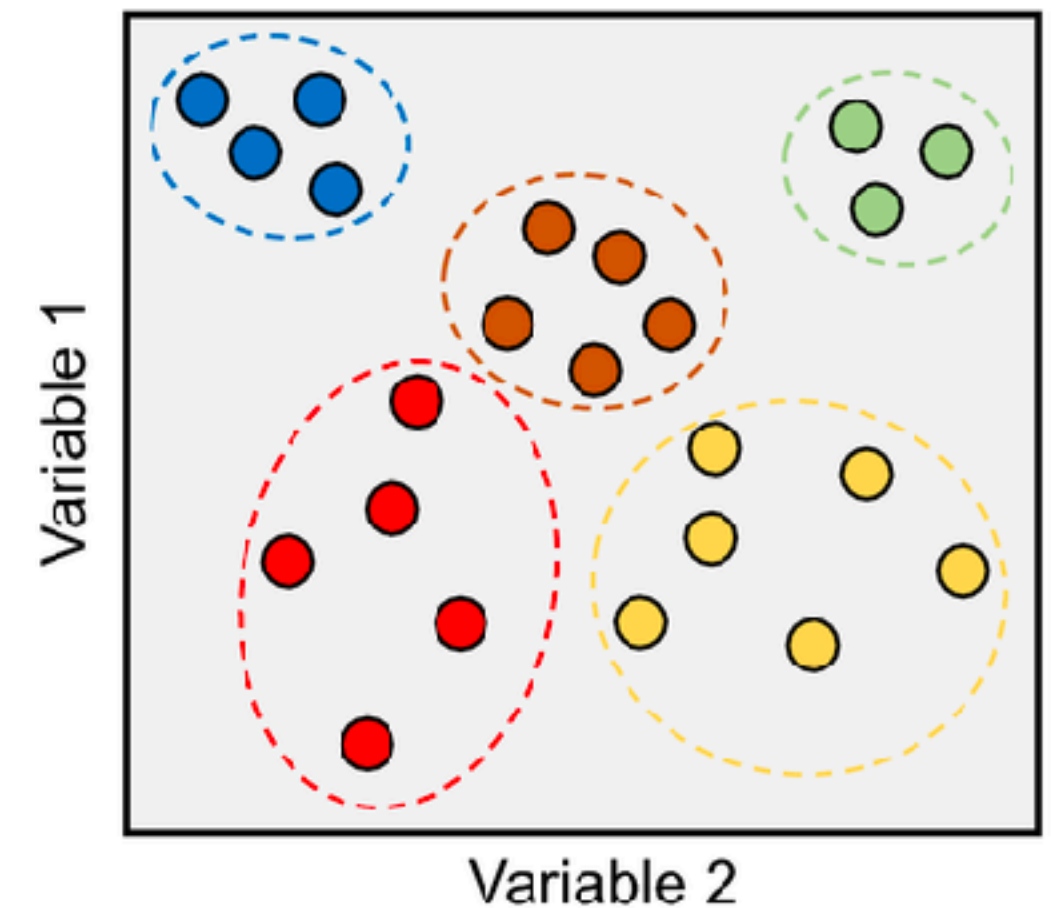
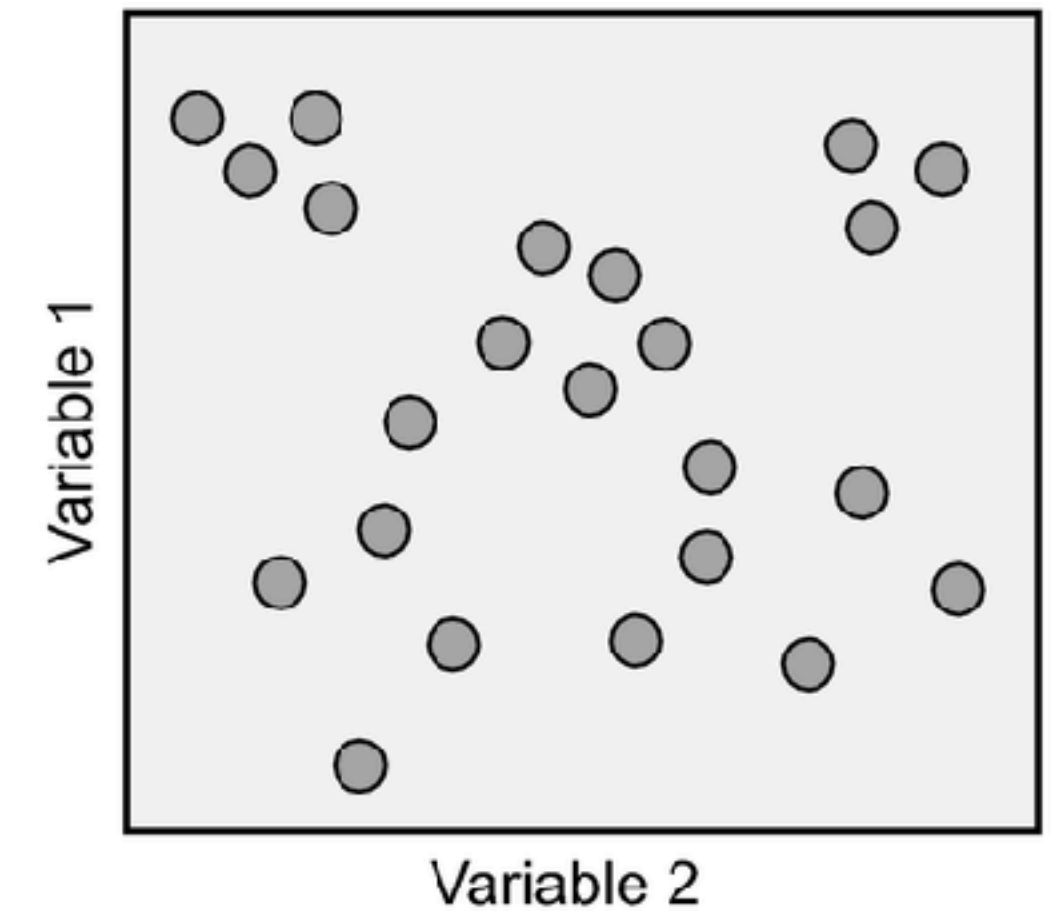
MLPs

Decision trees  
and random  
forests

SVMs



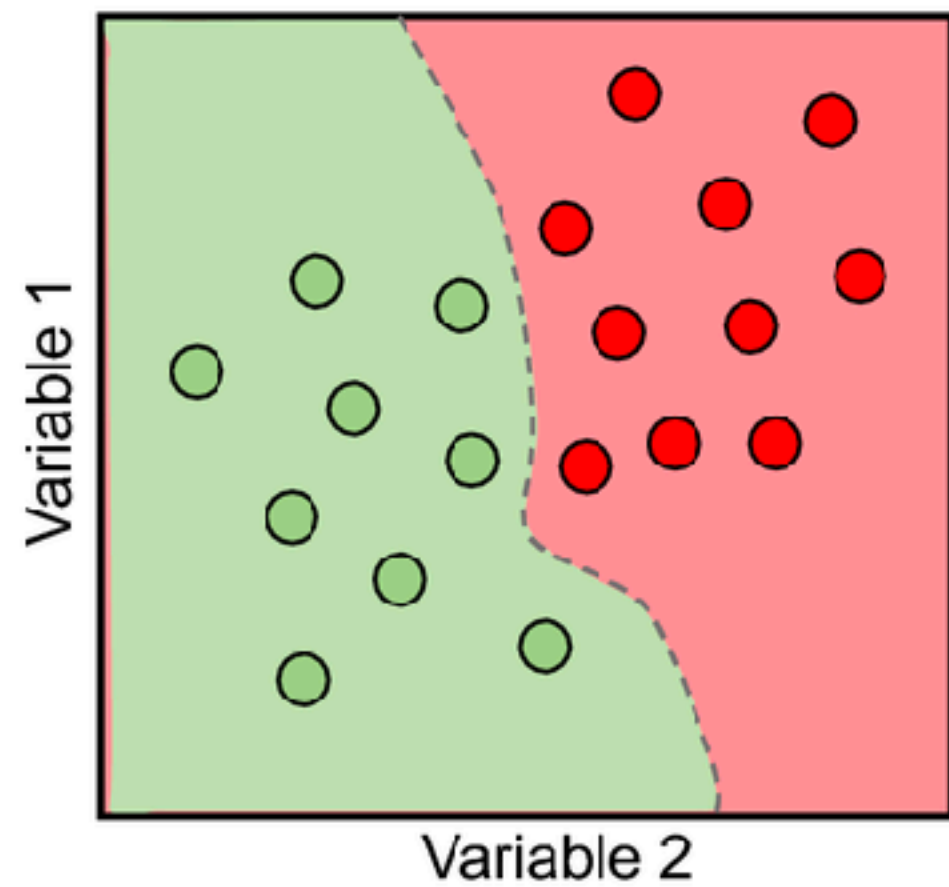
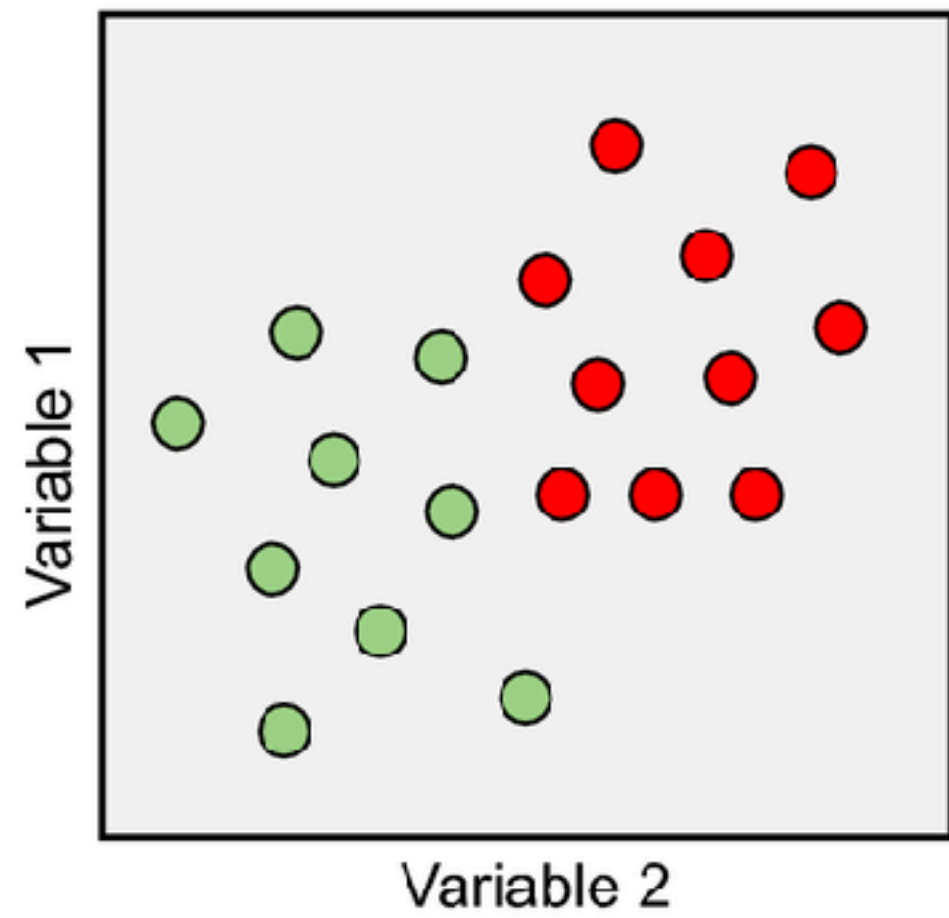
## Unsupervised





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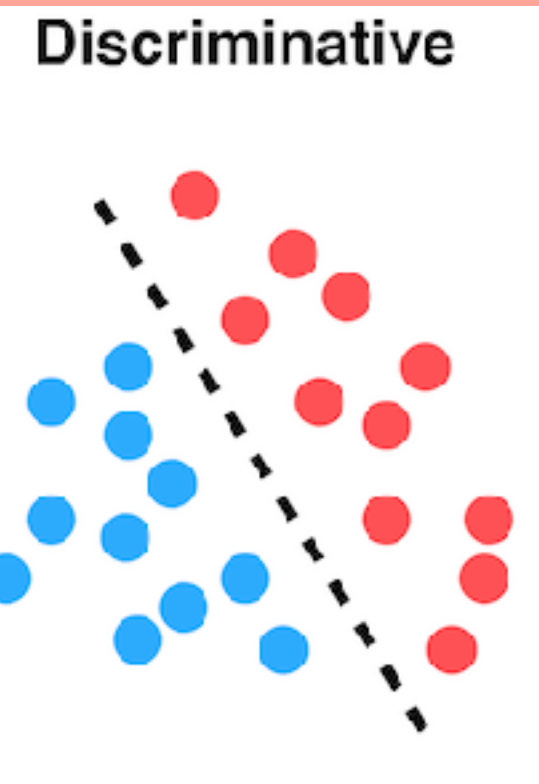
## Supervised



MLPs

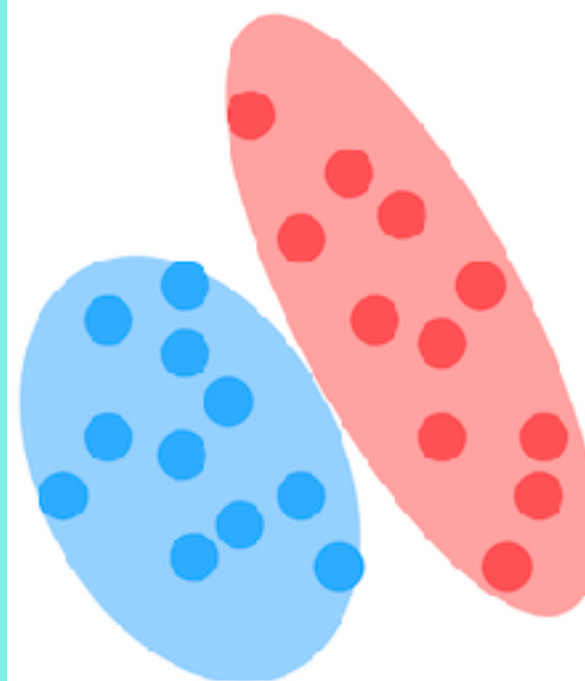
Decision trees  
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SVMs

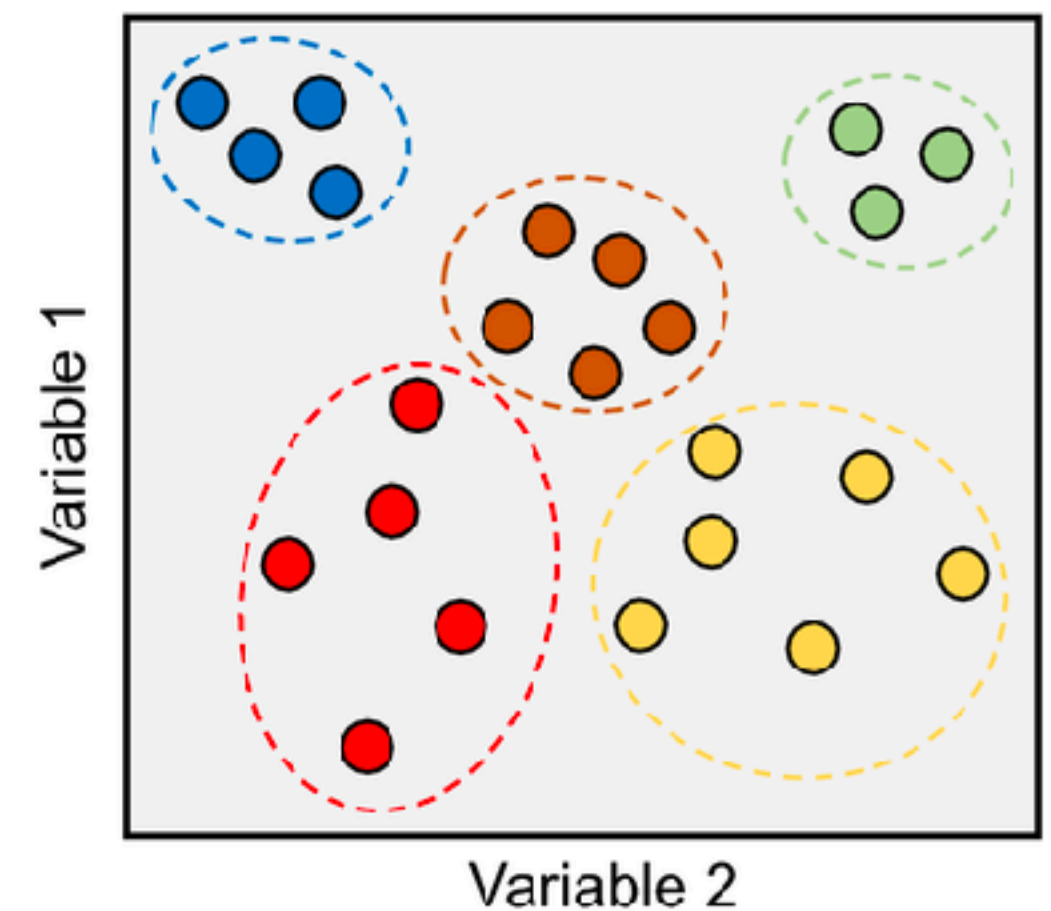
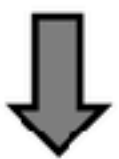
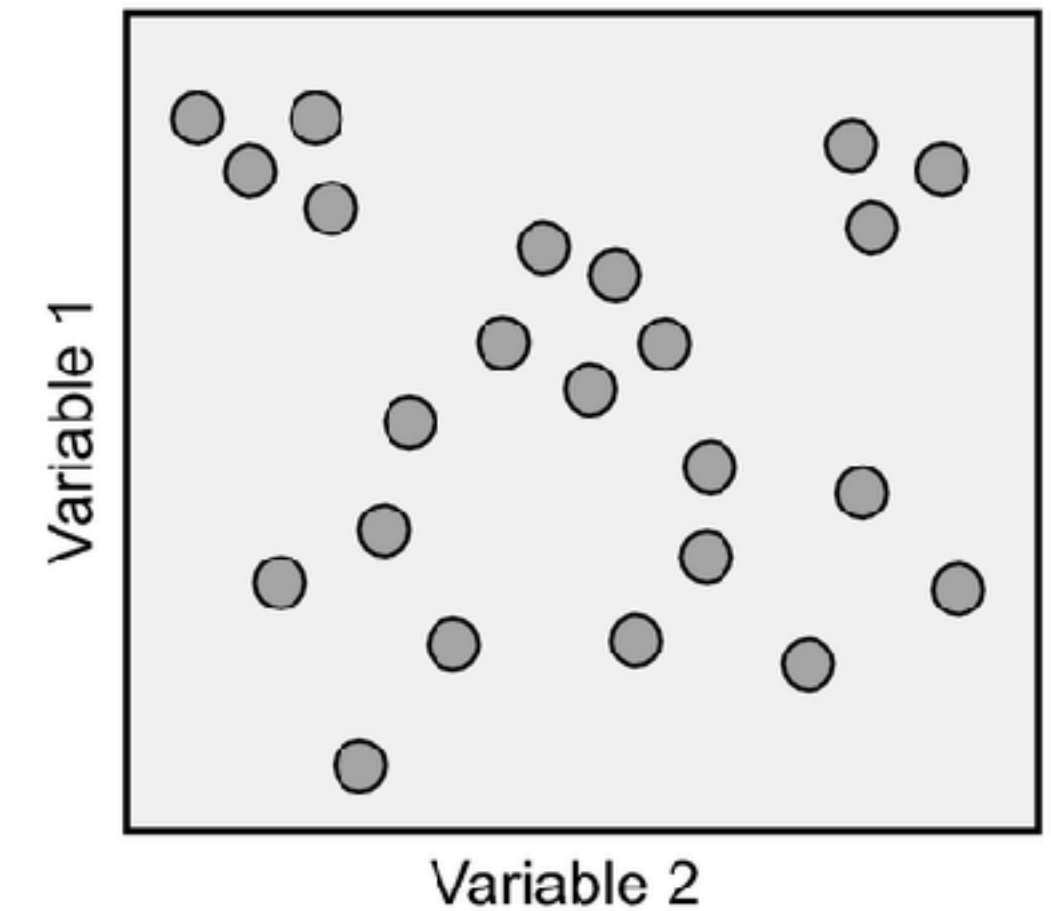


Naïve Bayes

Generative

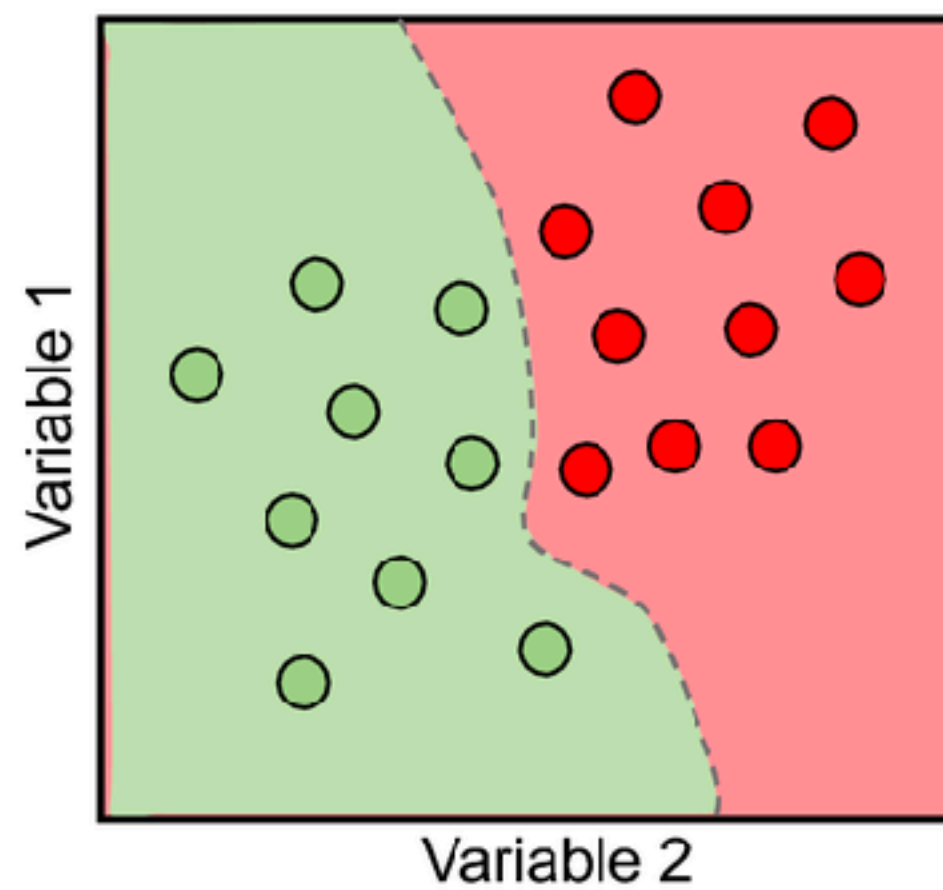
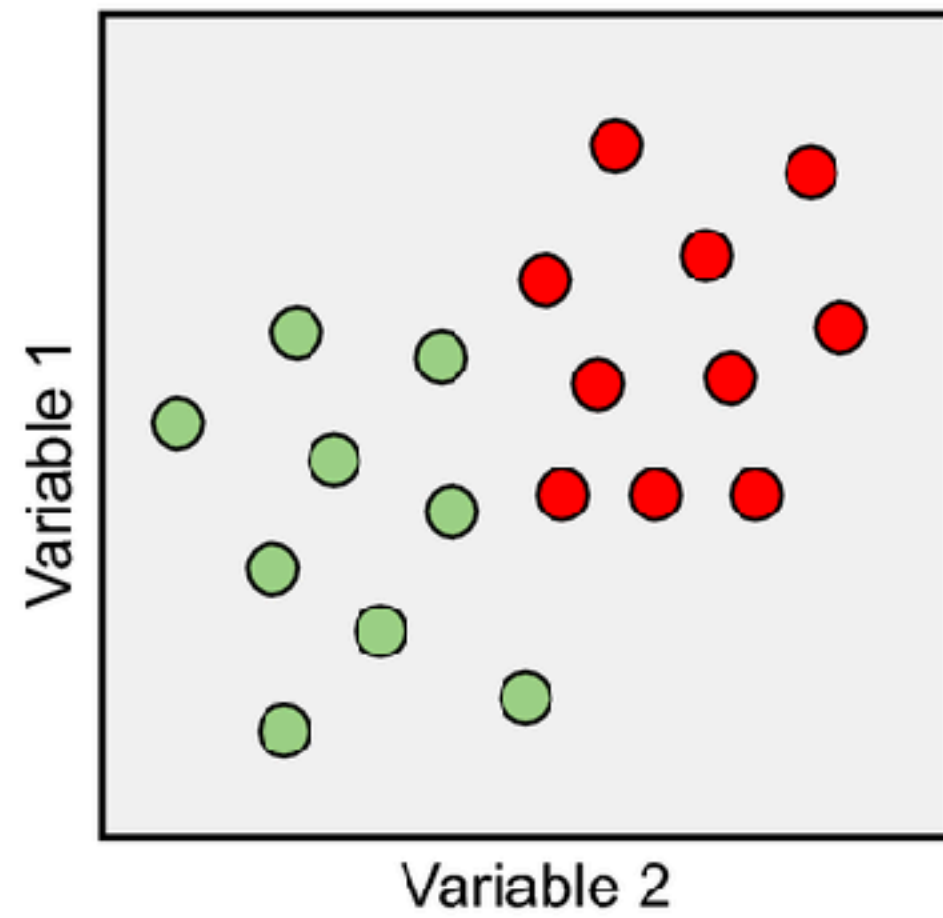


## Unsupervised



# The story so far ...

## Supervised

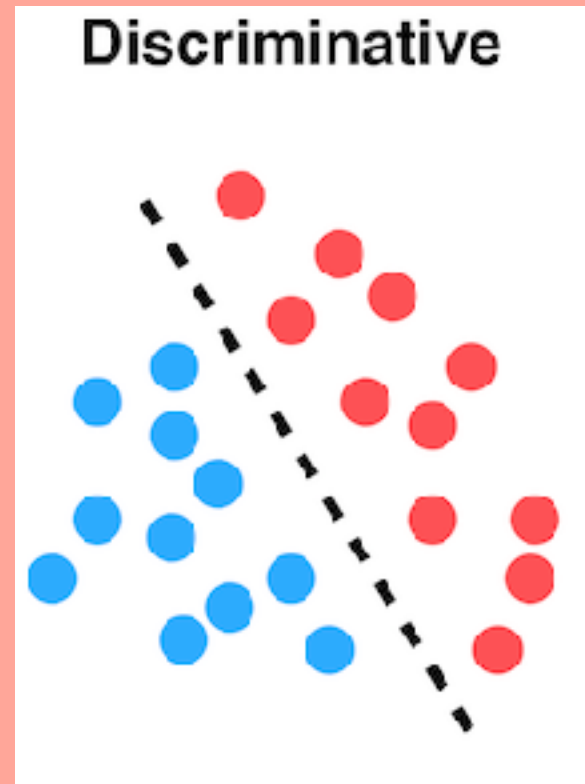


MLPs

Decision trees  
and random  
forests

SVMs

Discriminative

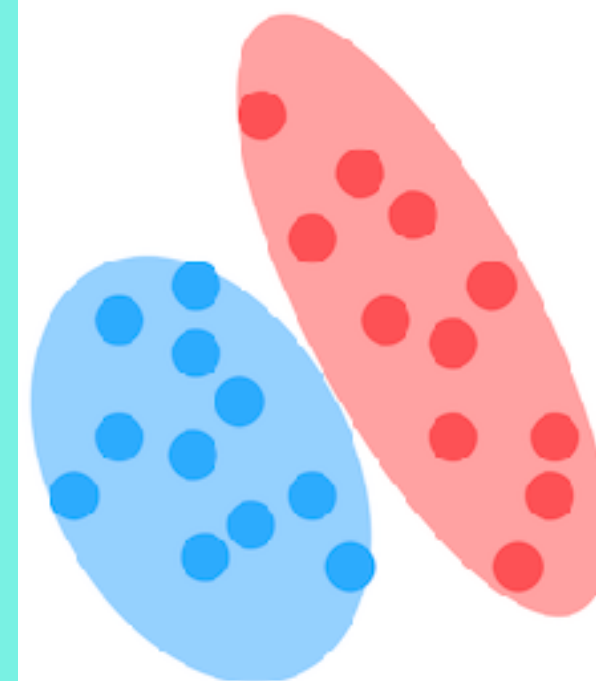


k-Means

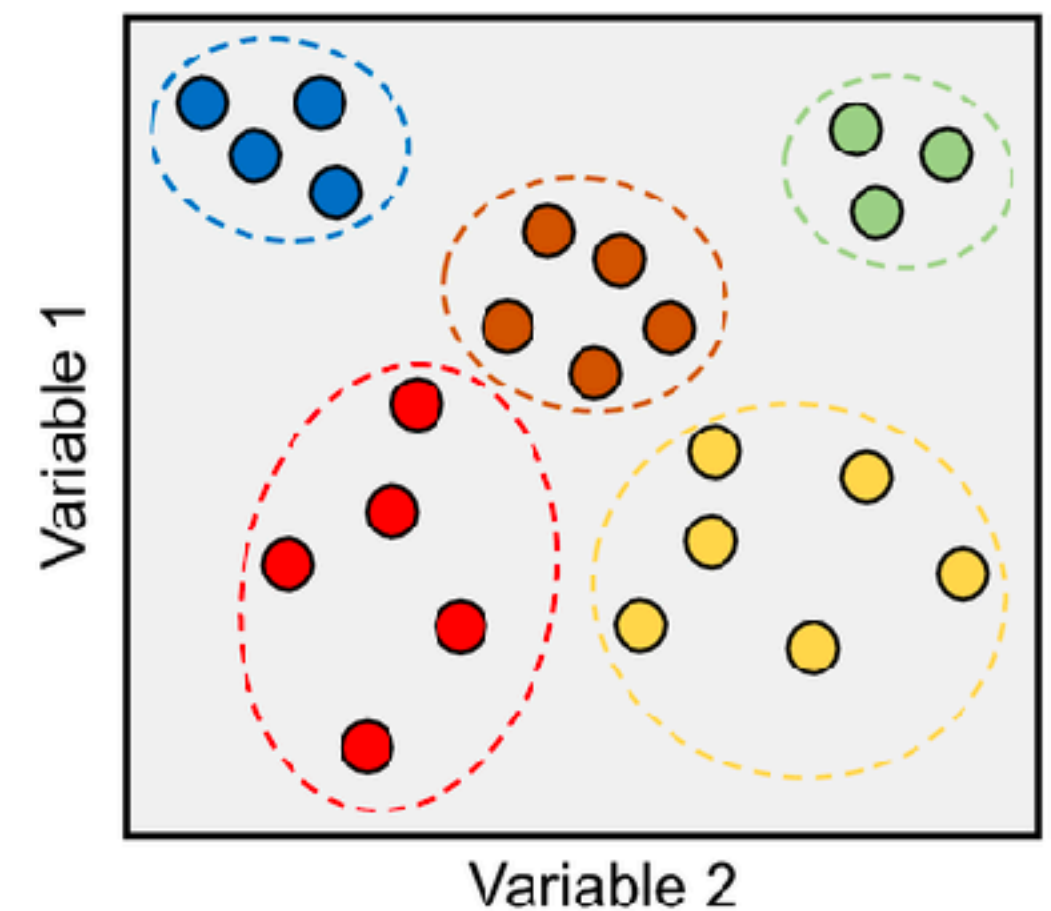
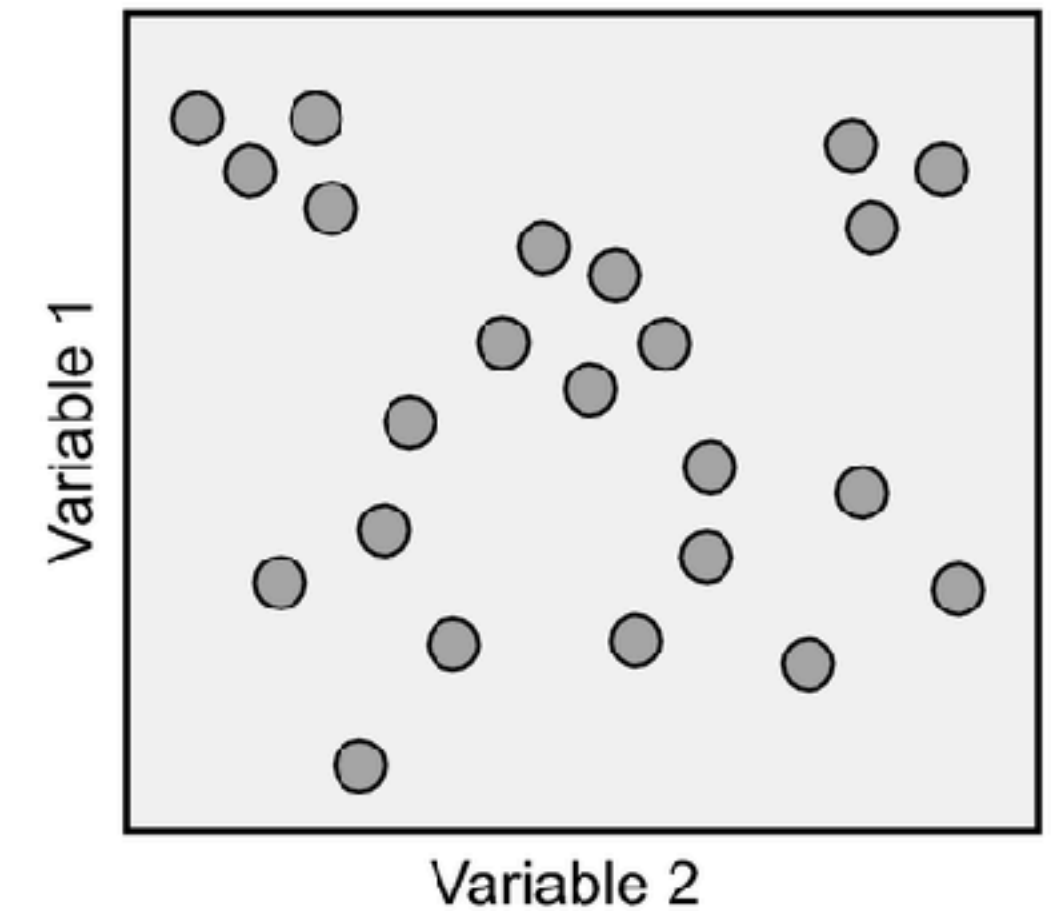
GMMs

Naïve Bayes

Generative



## Unsupervised



# From Concepts to Functions

**Concept Learning as Classification**

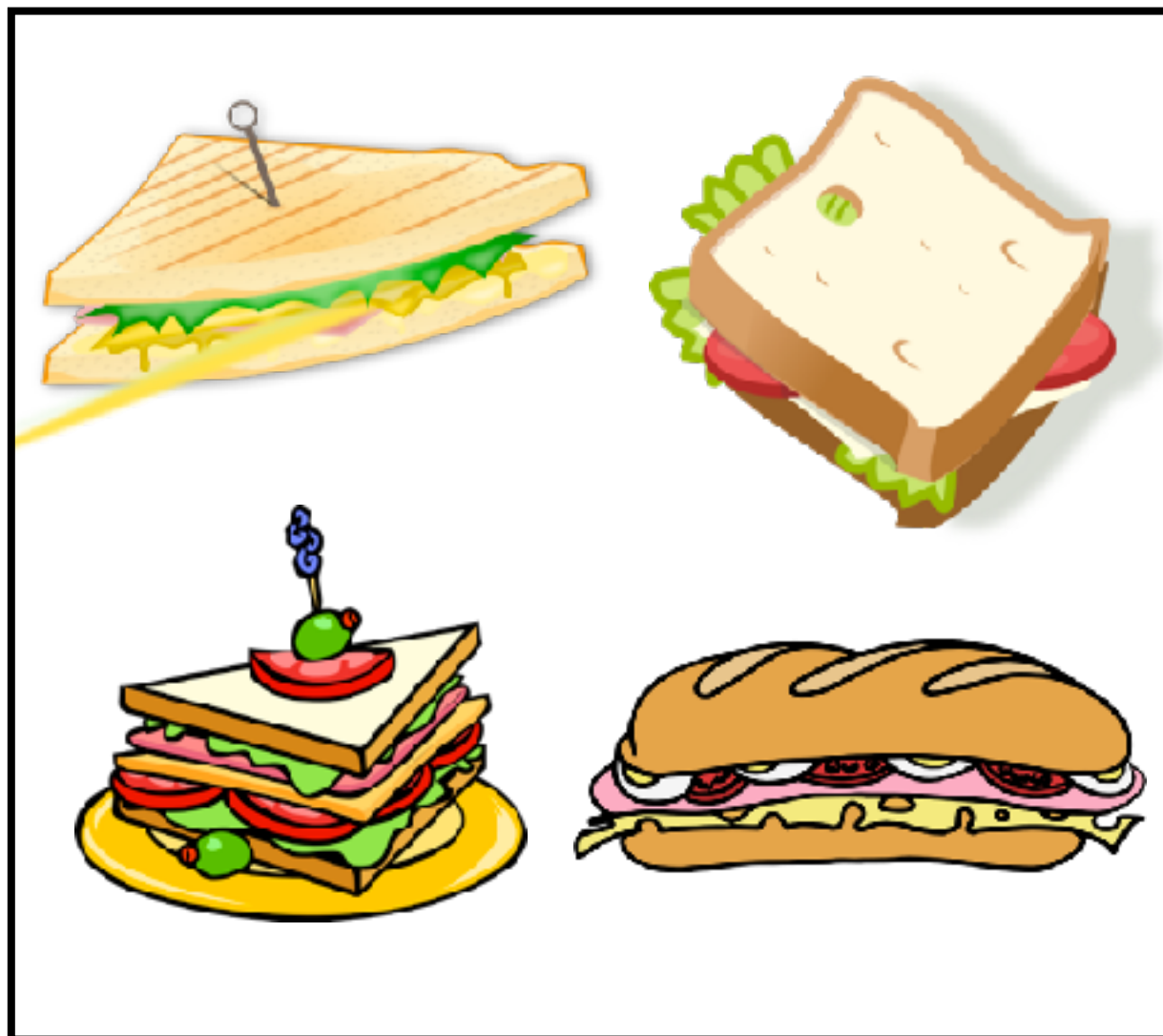
**Function learning as Regression**

# From Concepts to Functions

**Concept Learning as Classification**

**Function learning as Regression**

Previous Experiences

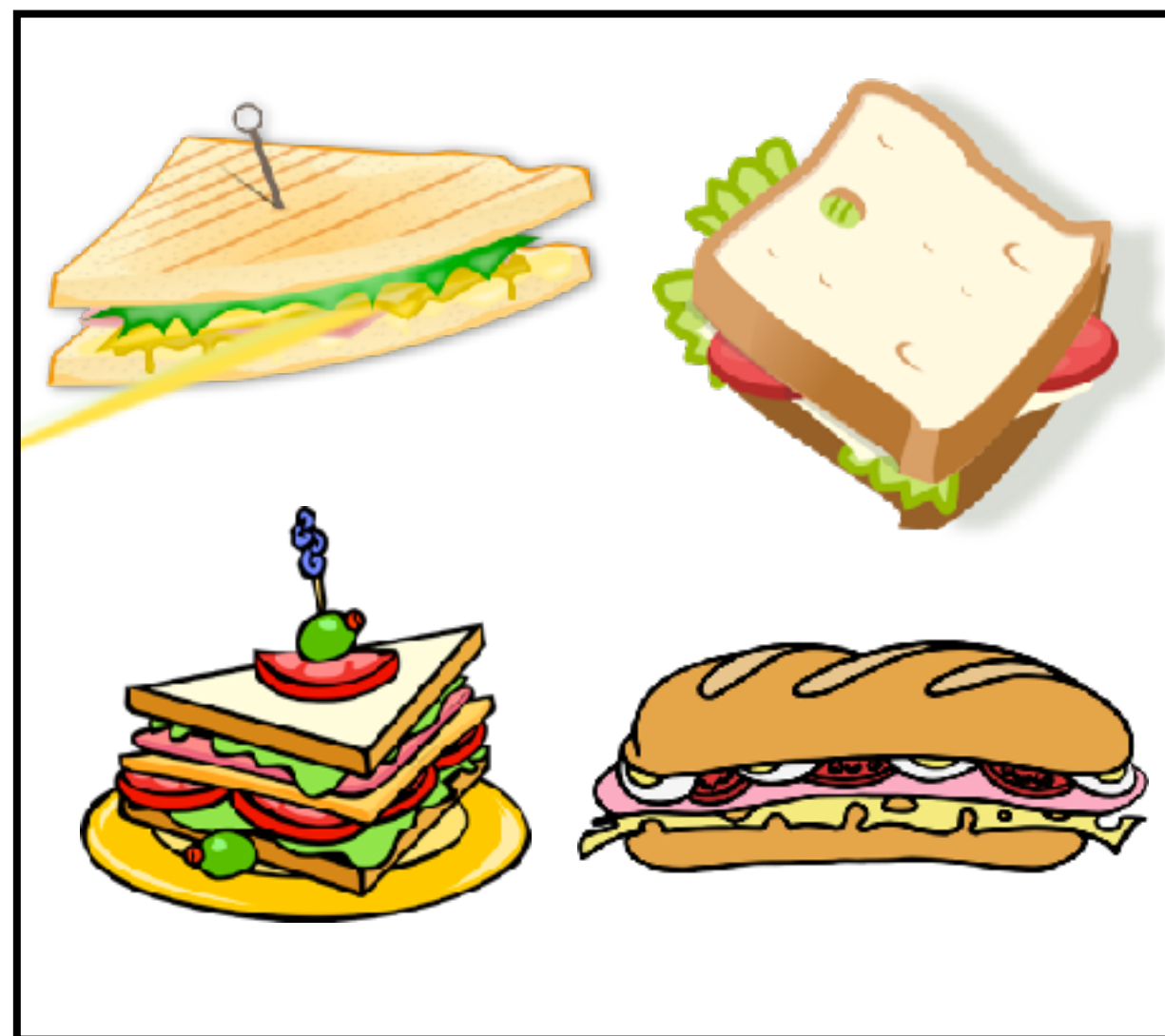


# From Concepts to Functions

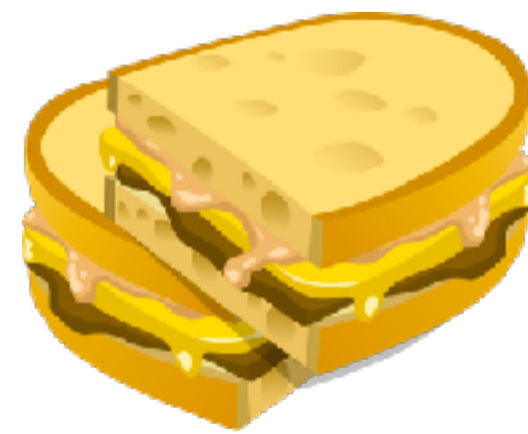
**Concept Learning as Classification**

**Function learning as Regression**

Previous Experiences



Sandwich!



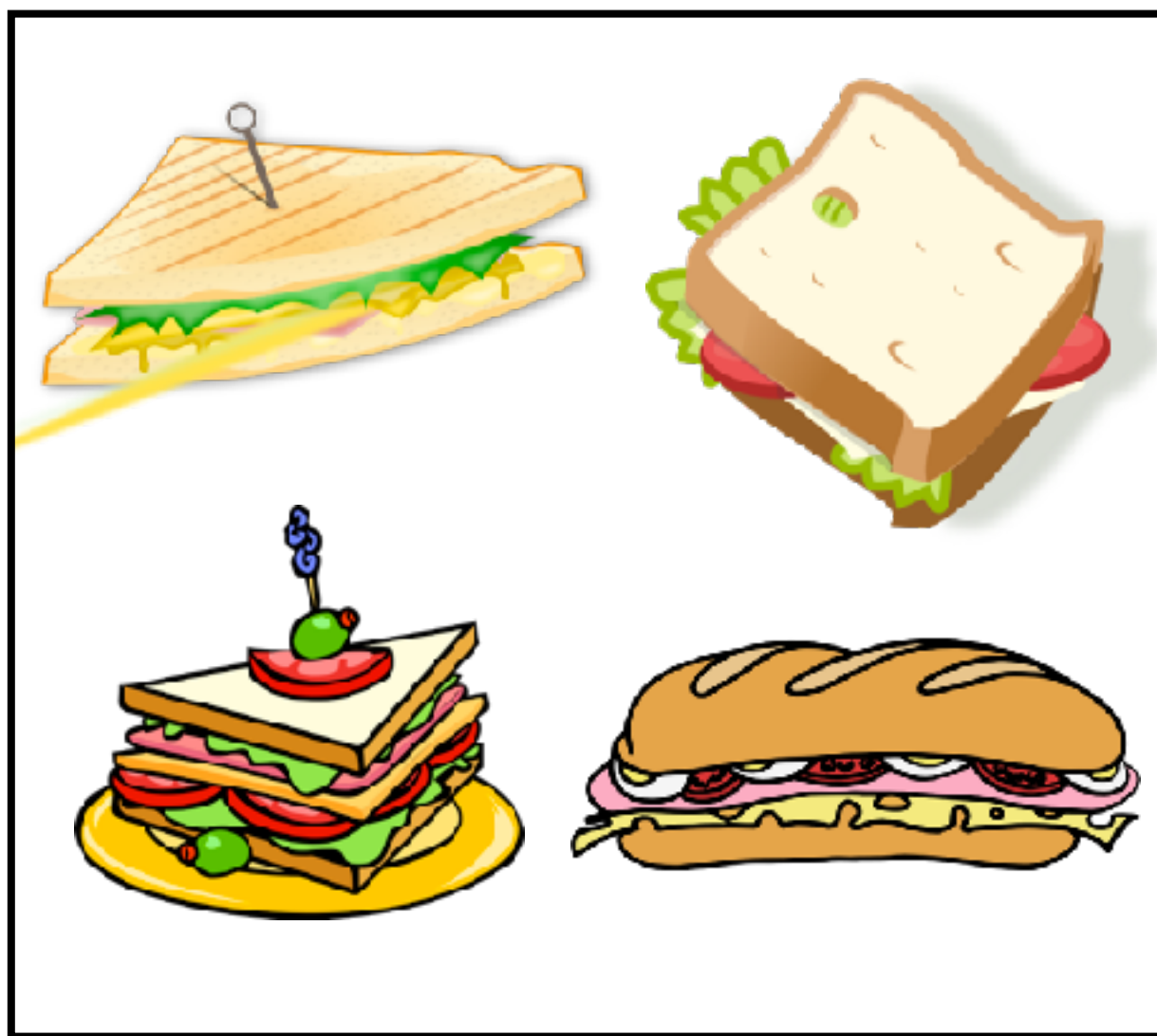


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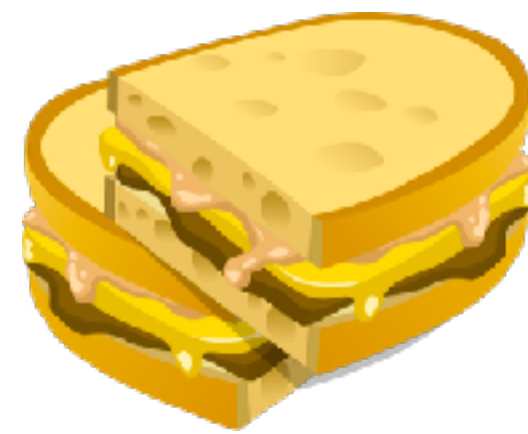
## Concept Learning as Classification

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Previous Experiences



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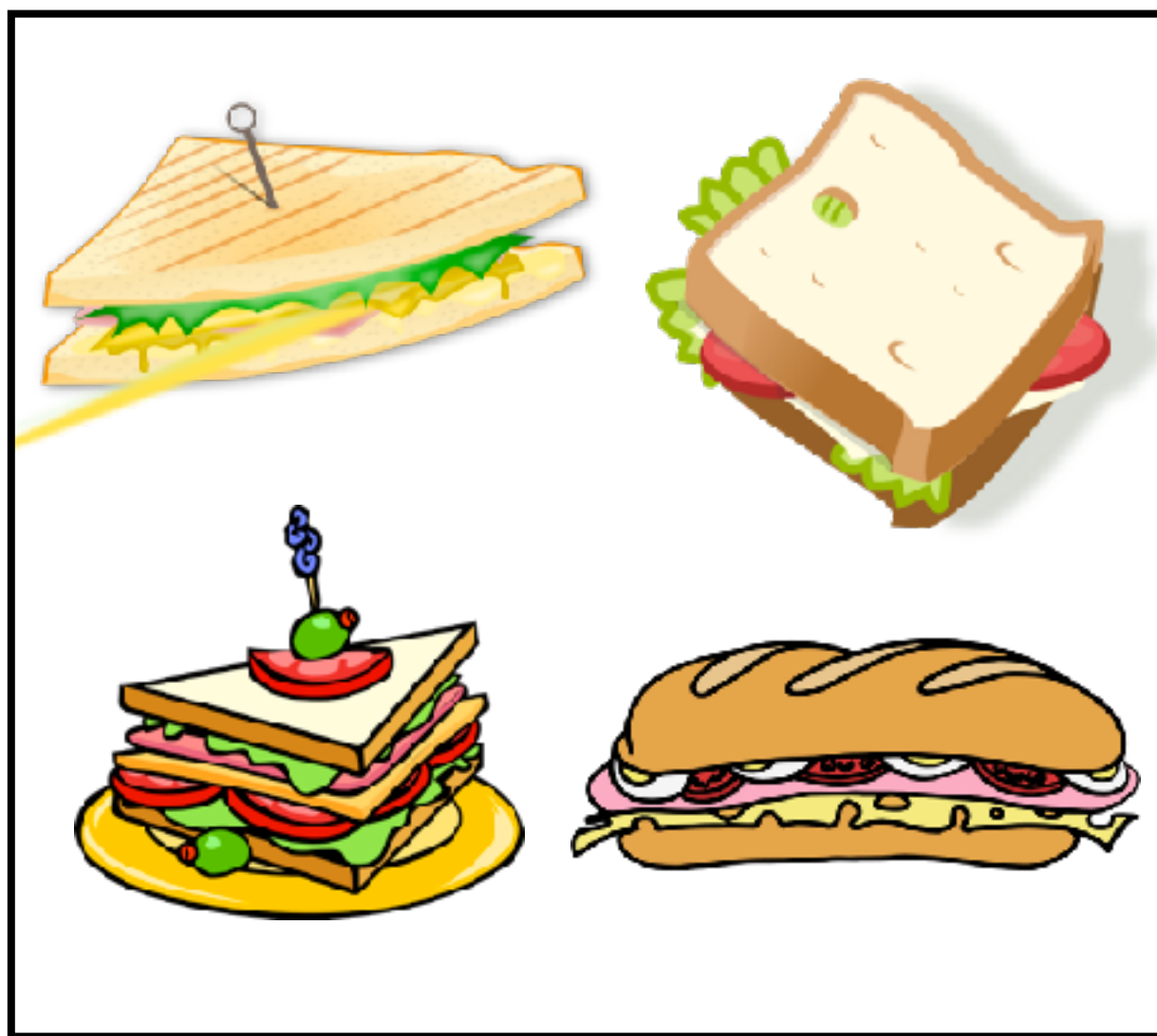
Sandwich?



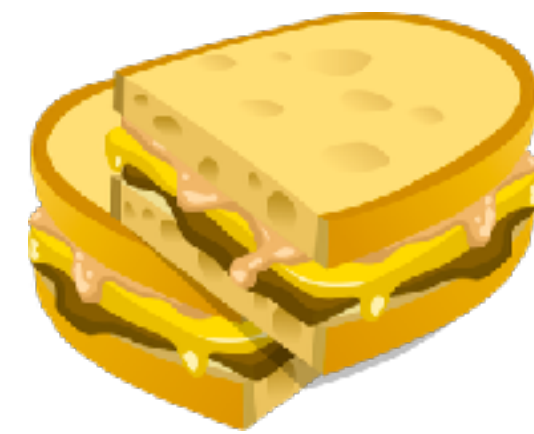
# From Concepts to Functions

## Concept Learning as Classification

Previous Experiences



Sandwich!



Sandwich?



## Function learning as Regression

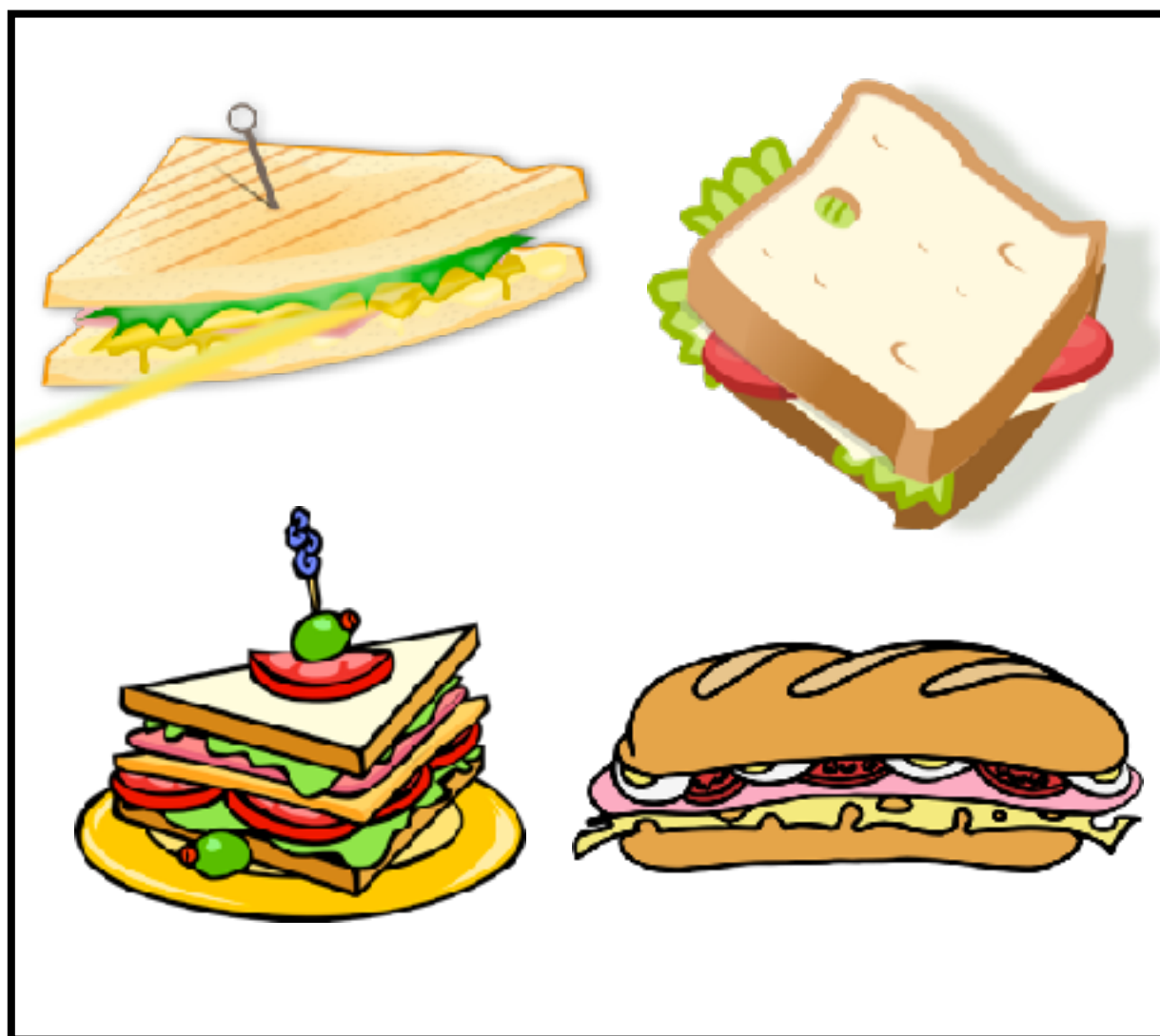
Previous Experiences



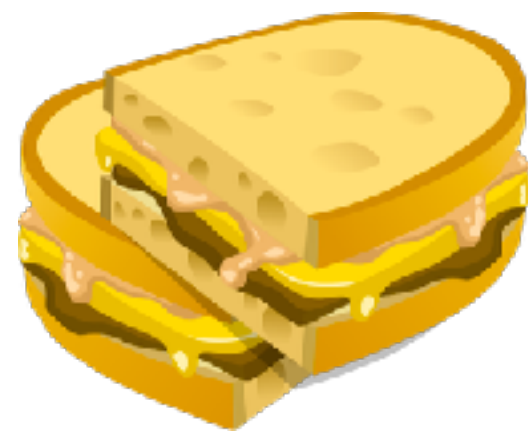
# From Concepts to Functions

## Concept Learning as Classification

Previous Experiences



Sandwich!



Sandwich?



## Function learning as Regression

Previous Experiences



?

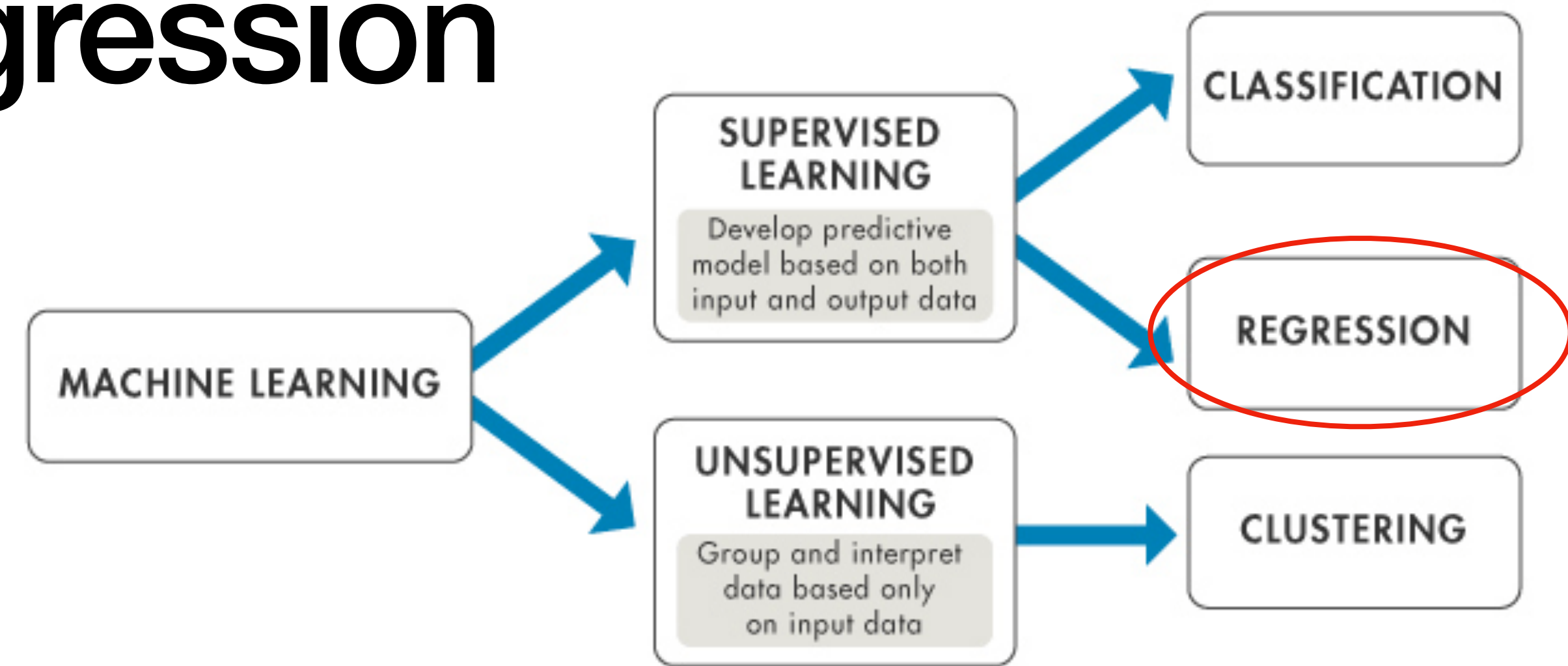


# Today's agenda

- Early Psychological research on how people learn explicit functions
  - Rule-based
  - Similarity-based
  - Hybrid using Bayesian function learning
- Implicit function learning as a key part of generalization in RL
- Modeling human generalization and exploration in RL
  - Spatially correlated bandit (Wu et al., 2018; Giron et al., 2023)
  - Generalization to abstract (Wu et al., 2020) and graph-structured domains (Wu et al., 2021)
  - Open challenges

# Function learning as regression

- **Regression** is that other branch of supervised learning problems we previously skipped over
- Rather than predicting *discrete* categories, we want to learn to predict a *continuous* real-valued variable



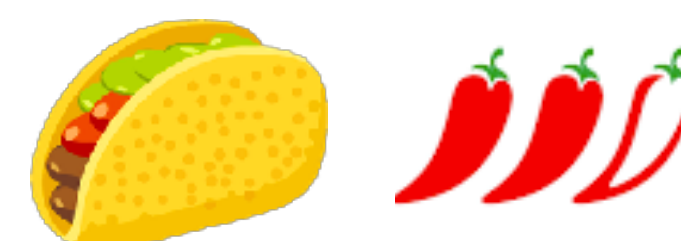
- Learning a function mapping input space  $X$  to target variable  $Y$

$$f : X \rightarrow Y \text{ where } y = f(x)$$

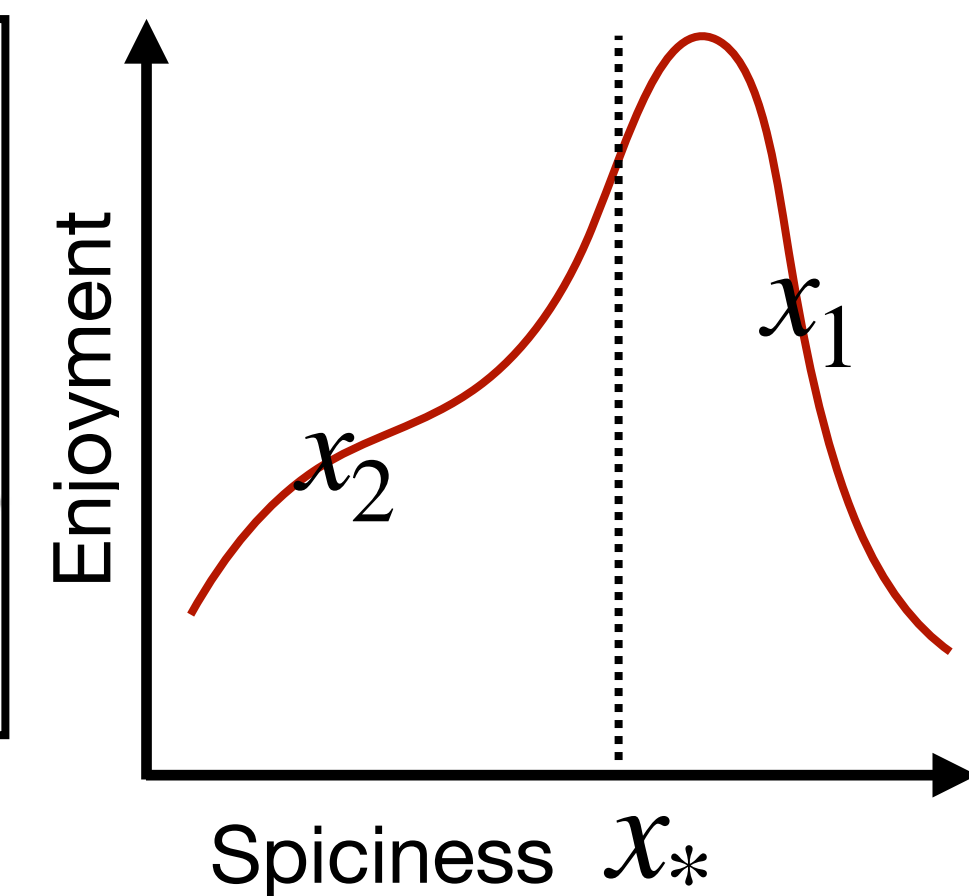
- To make a prediction about so new situation  $x_*$ , we simply evaluate the function:  $y_* = f(x_*)$
- *But how do we learn this function?* For any set of datapoints, there are an infinite number of functions that pass through them

Previous Experiences

	Spiciness	Enjoyment



?





# Theories of Function Learning

## Regression task

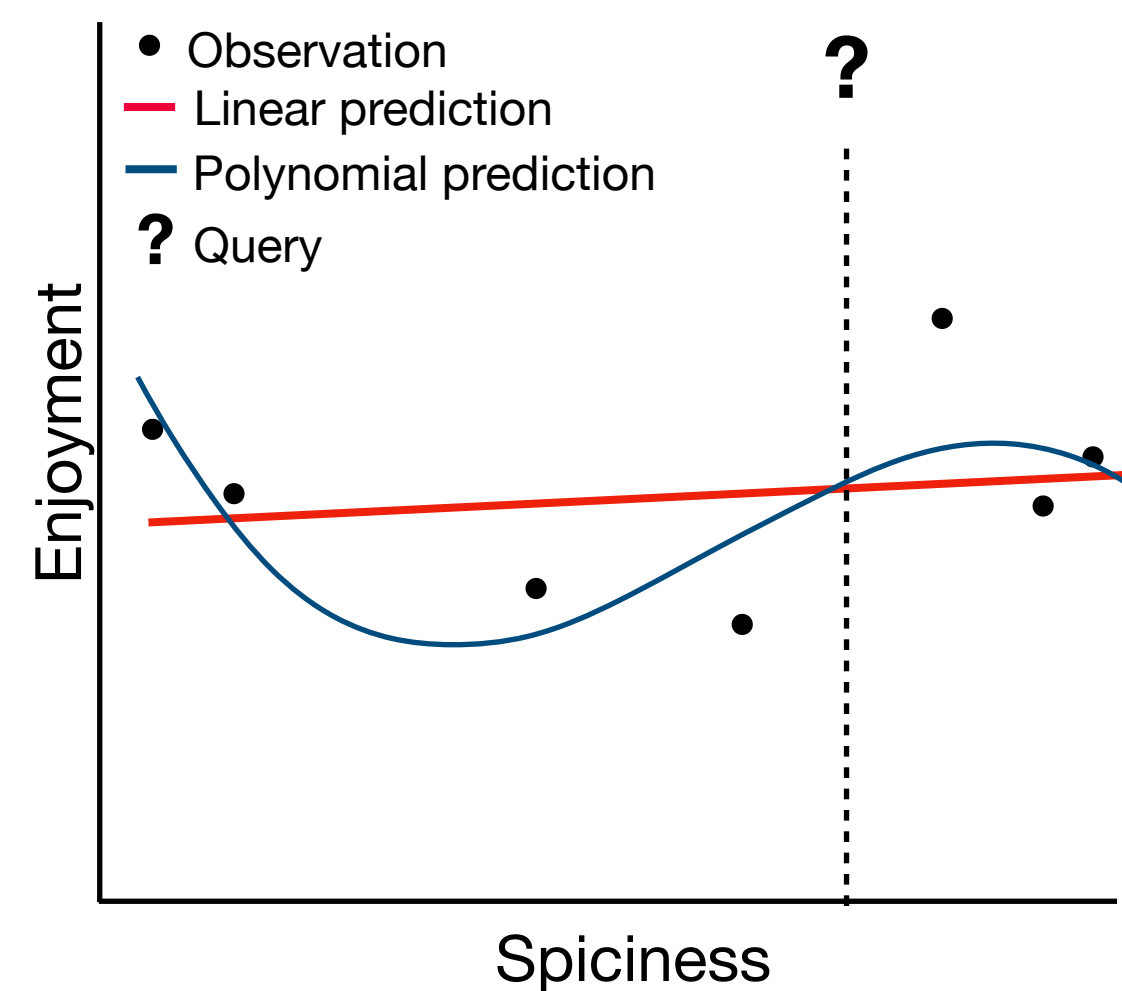


# Theories of Function Learning

## Regression task



## Rule-based



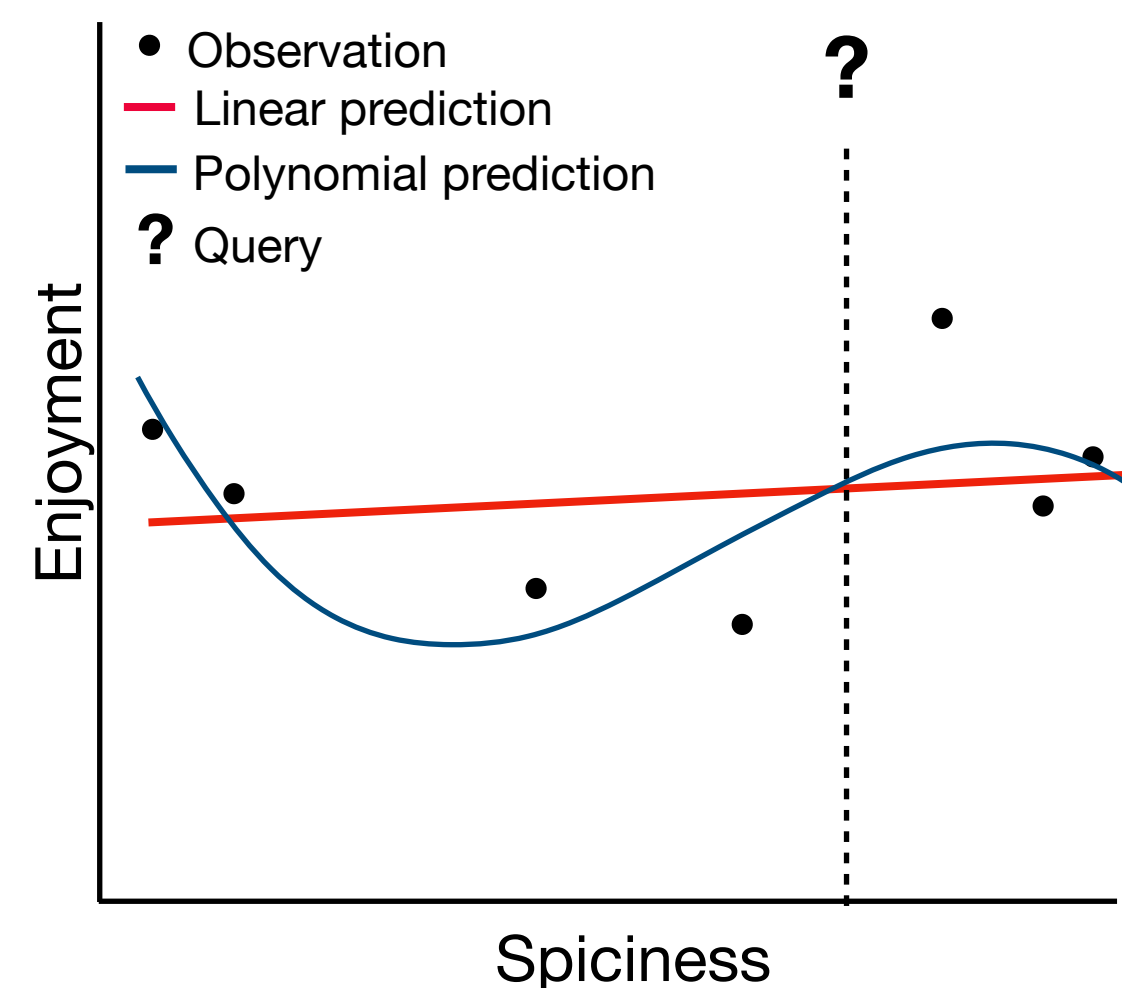
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# Theories of Function Learning

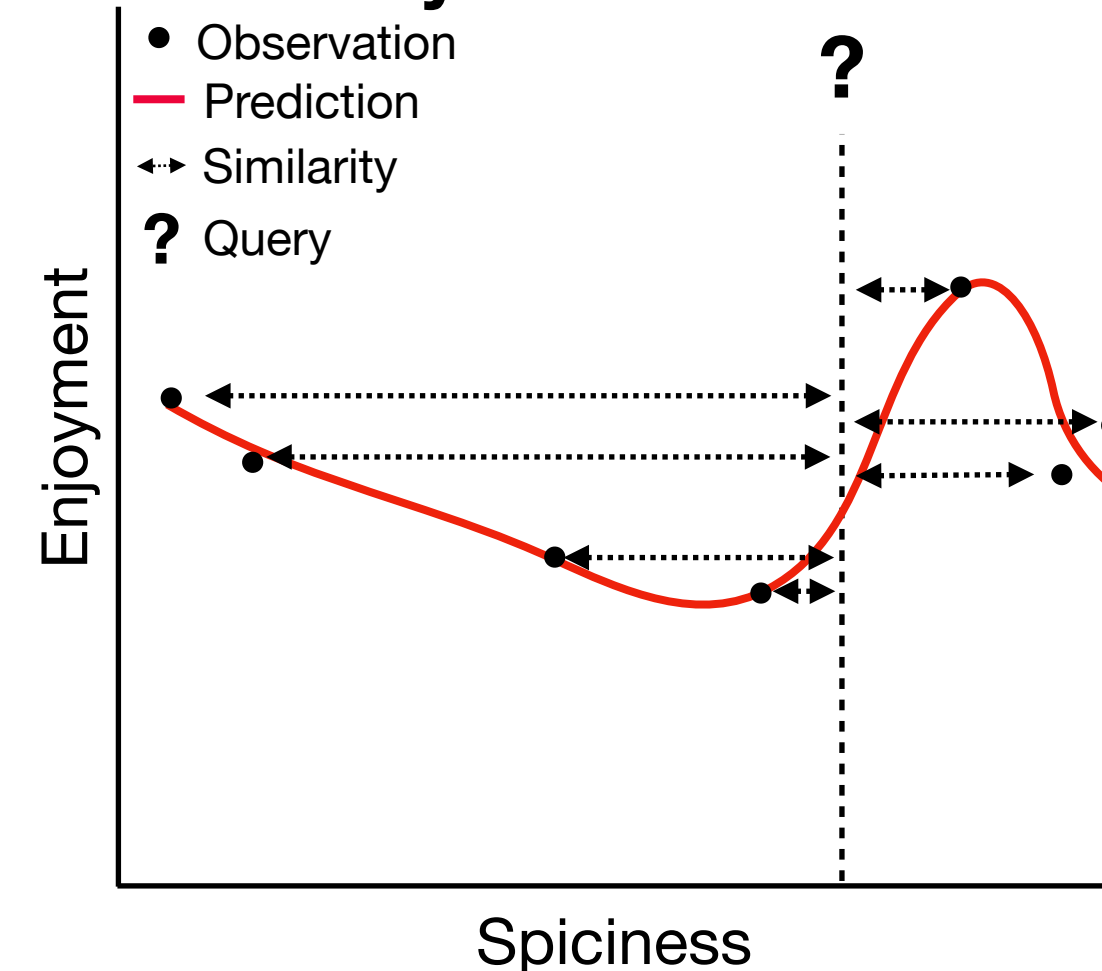
## Regression task



## Rule-based



## Similarity-based



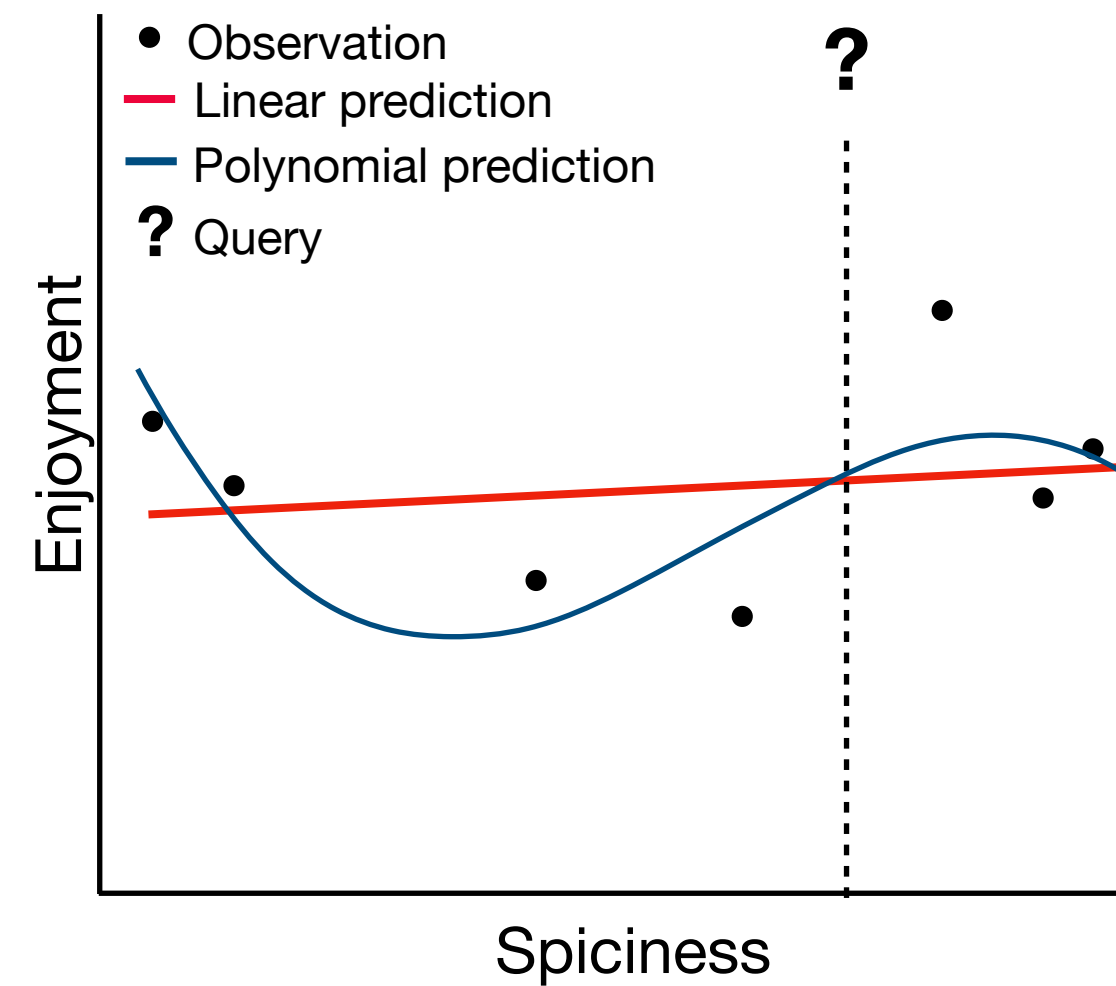
- *Rules* describe an explicit parametric family of candidate functions (e.g., linear or polynomial) (Carroll, 1963; Brehmer, 1976)
- *Similarity* uses the generic principle that similar inputs produce similar outputs (often learned using ANNs) as the basis of generalization (McClelland et al., 1986; Busemeyer et al., 1997)

# Theories of Function Learning

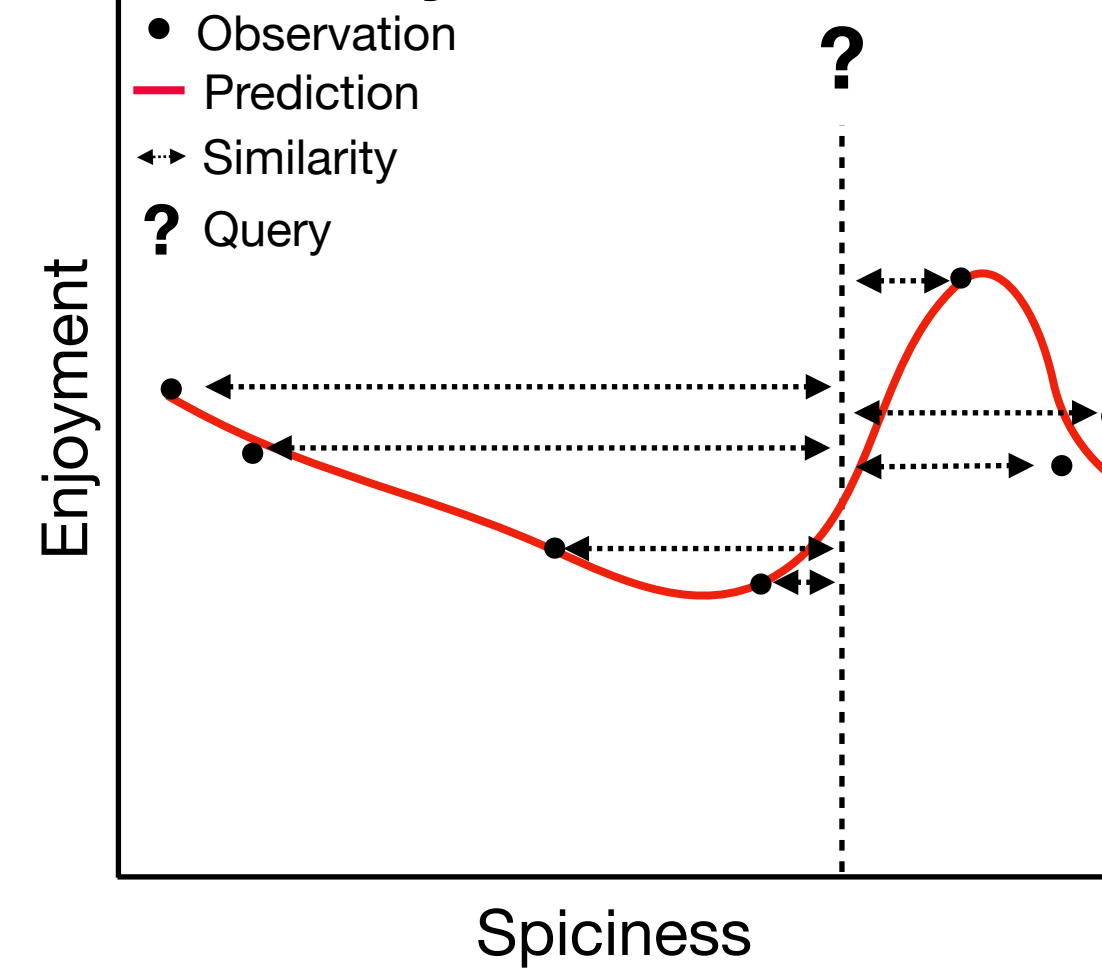
## Regression task



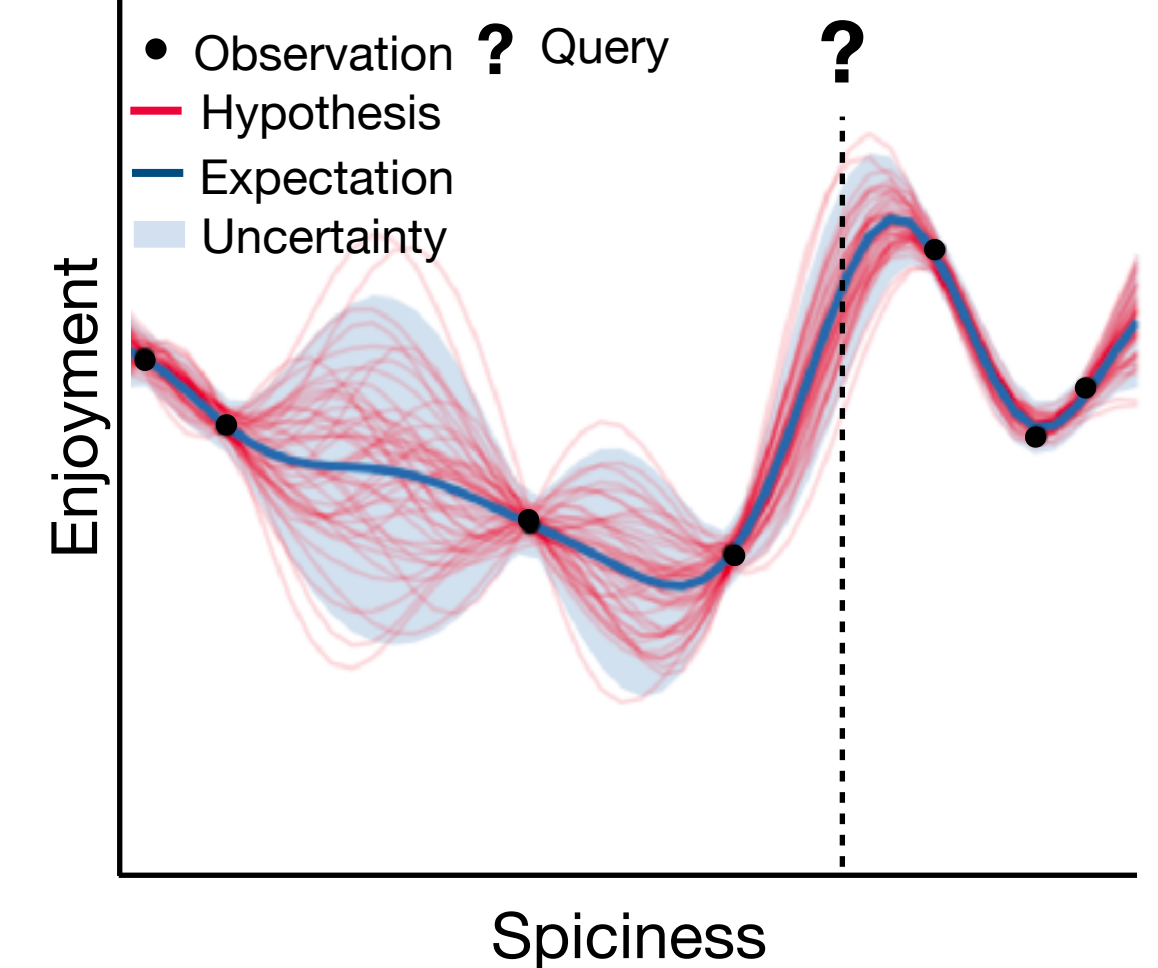
## Rule-based



## Similarity-based



## Hybrid

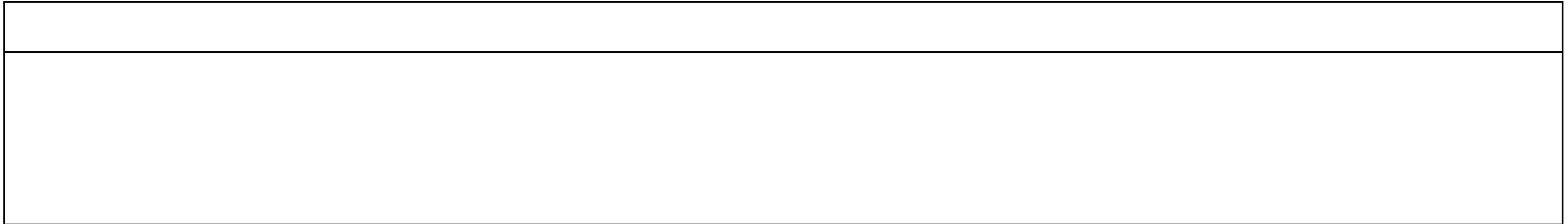


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- *Similarity* uses the generic principle that similar inputs produce similar outputs (often learned using ANNs) as the basis of generalization (McClelland et al., 1986; Busemeyer et al., 1997)
- *Hybrids* combine elements of both: Gaussian process (GP) regression uses kernel similarity to learn a distribution over functions, and can compositionally combine kernels like we can combine multiple rules (Rasmussen & Williams, 2005; Mercer, *PhilTransRoySoc* 1909; Lucas et al., *PBR* 2015)



# Rule-based theories of function learning

- Carroll (1963) was one of the first to study how people learned continuous mappings between stimuli and responses
  - Rather than learning discrete S-R associations, people learn functions
  - Functions are not just a response, but correspond to a set of rules or programs, allowing for interpolation and extrapolation
- Experiment using relationships such as  $y = 1.22x + 1.0$  or  $y = -5.1x + 0.2x^2 + 32.60$



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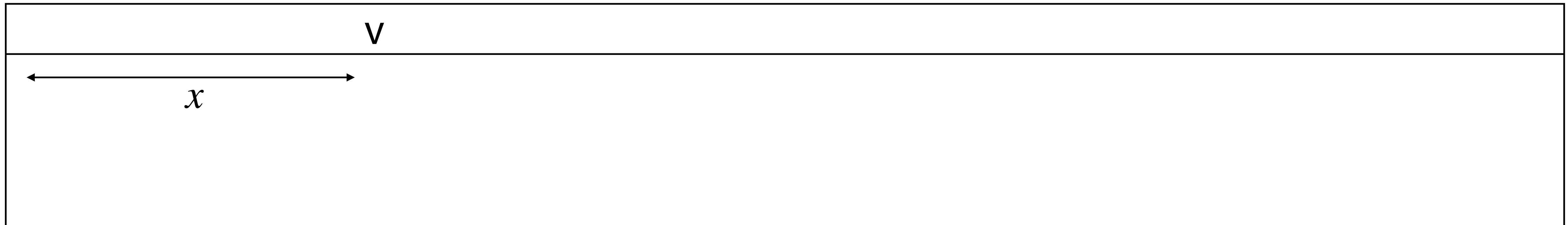
**stimuli**

v

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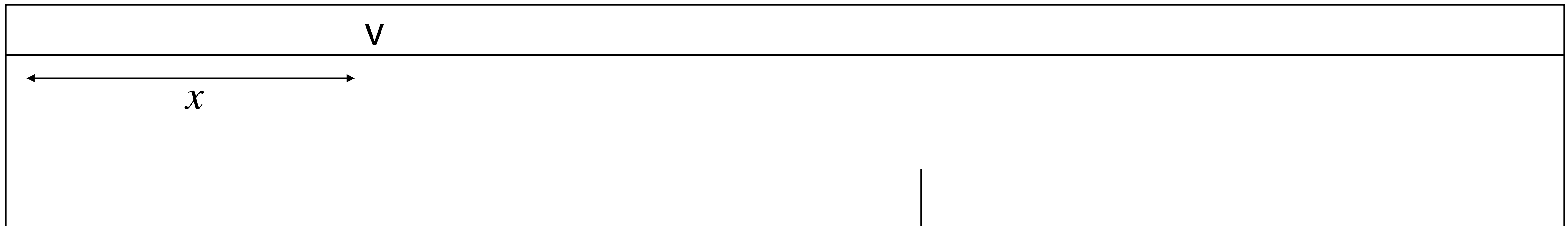
stimuli



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stimuli



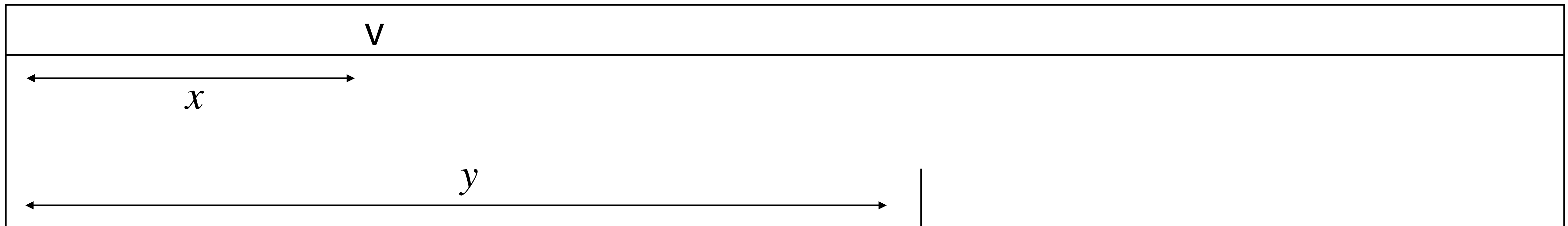
response



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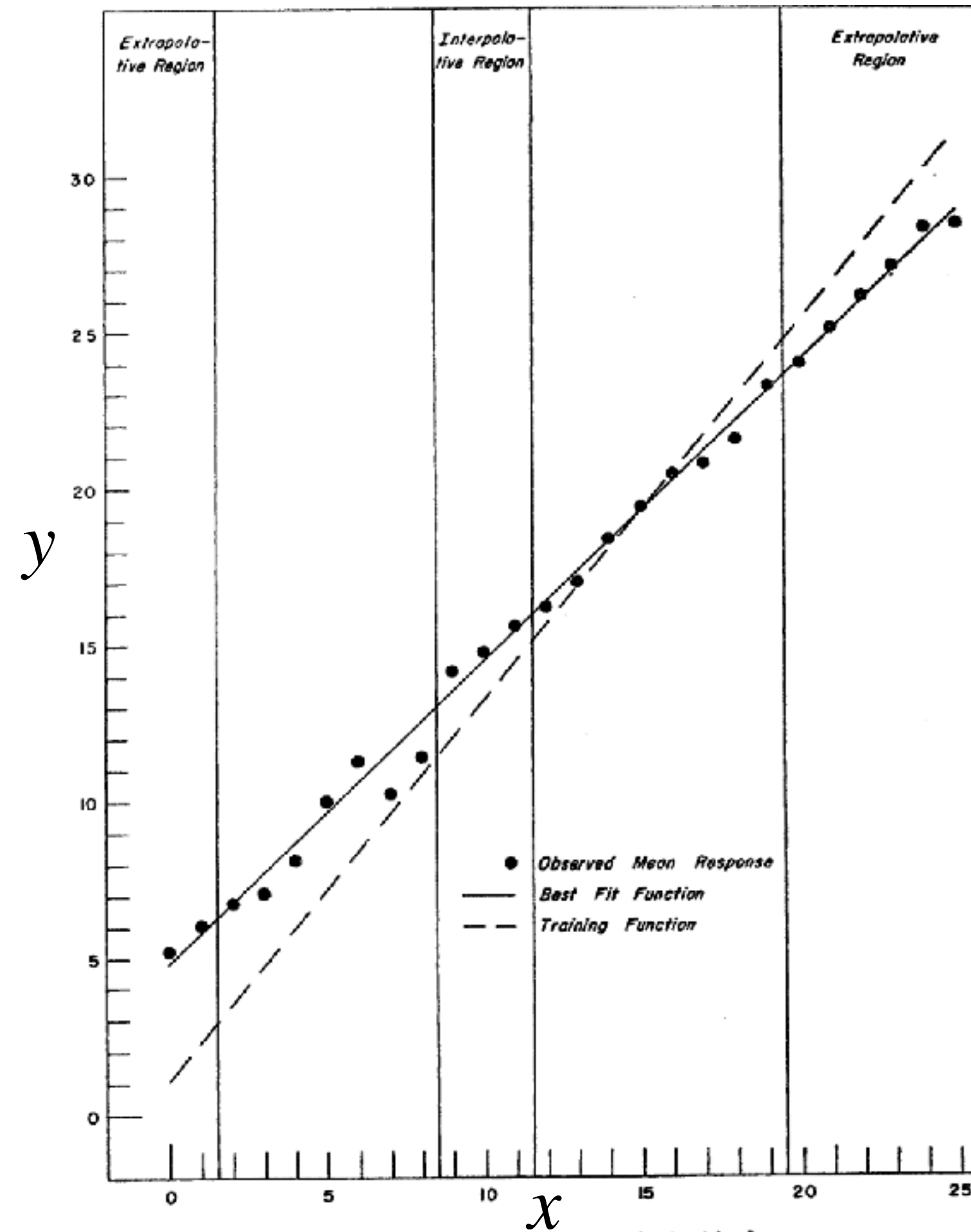


Fig. 3. Plot of mean response against stimulus for subject #4, condition I.

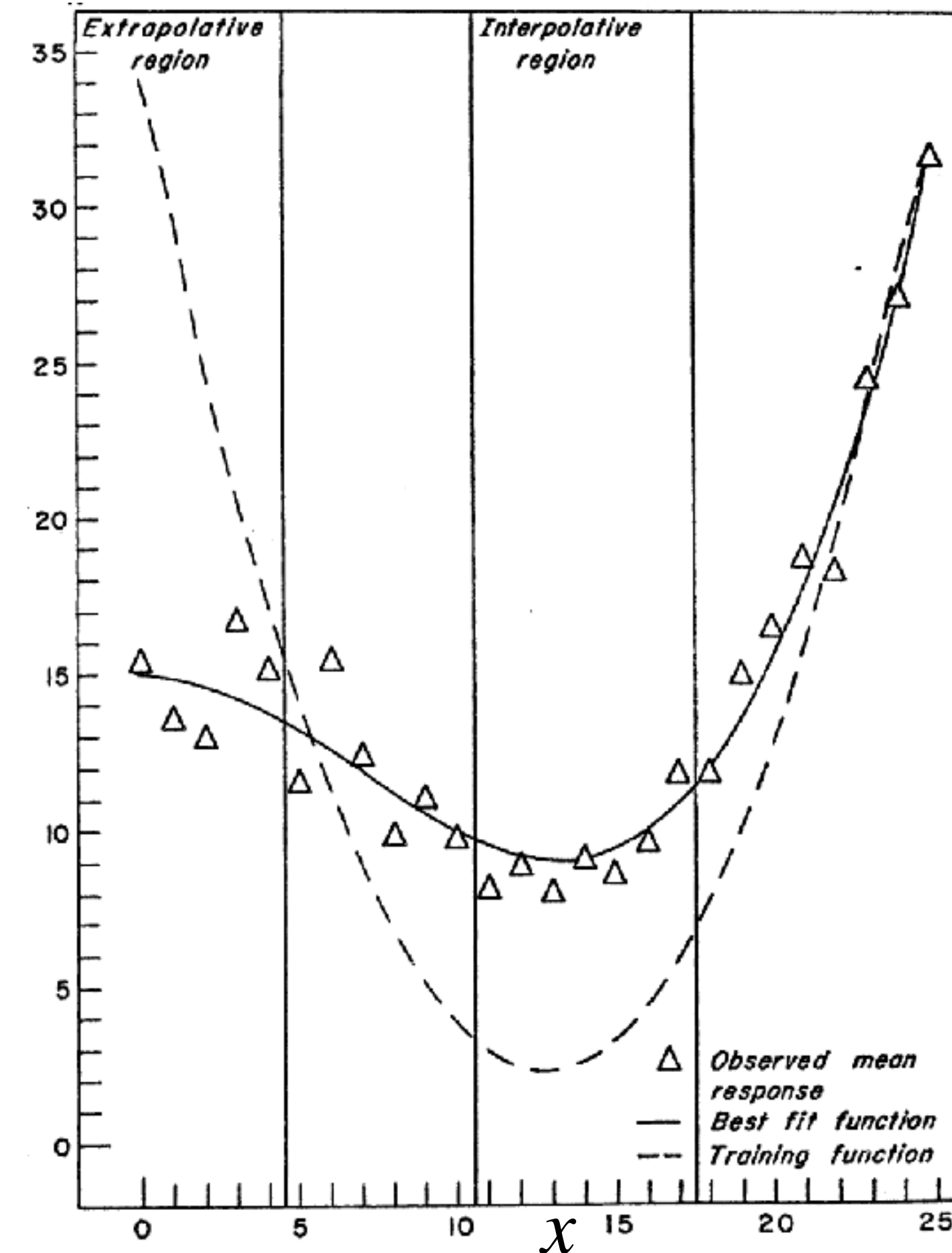


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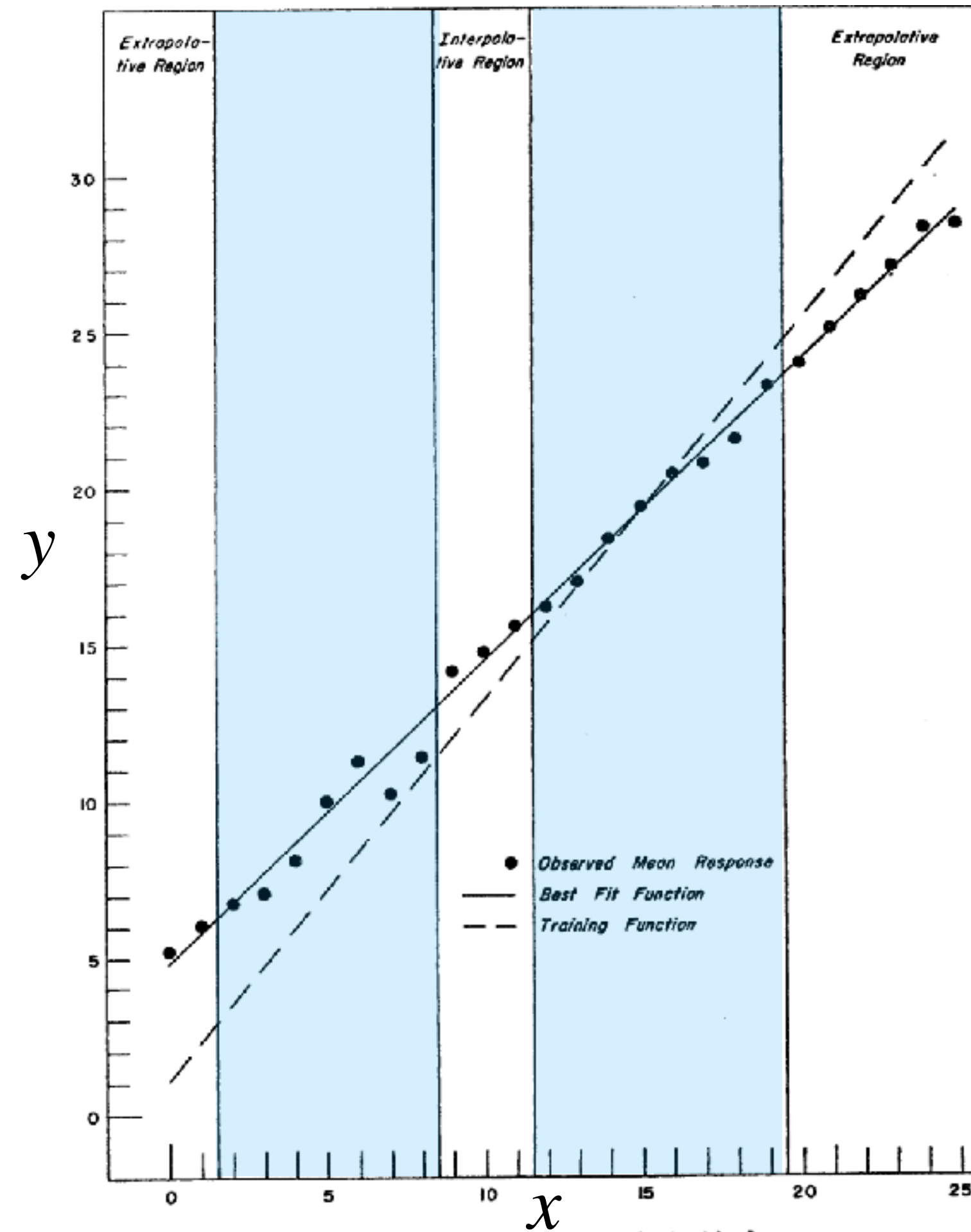


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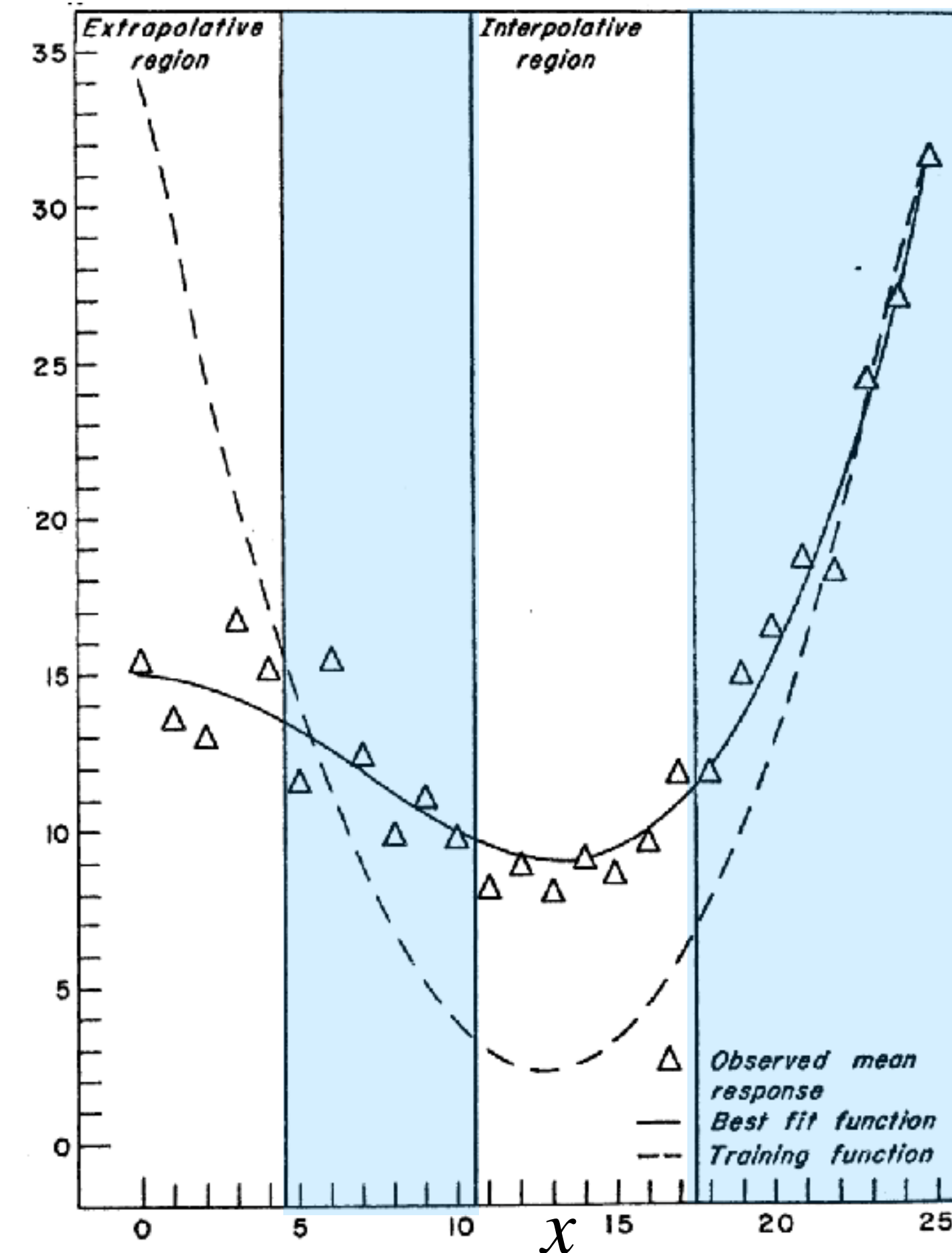


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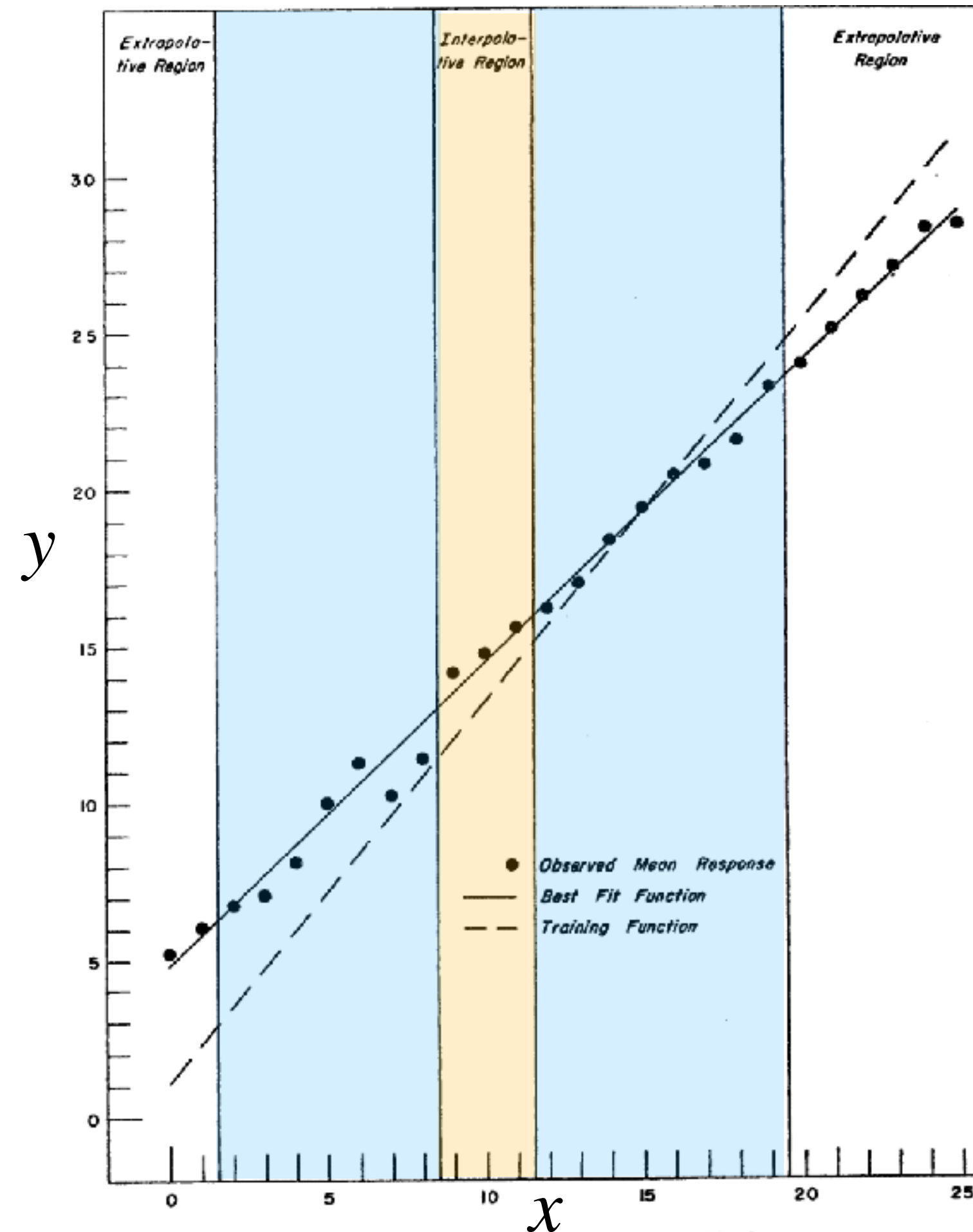


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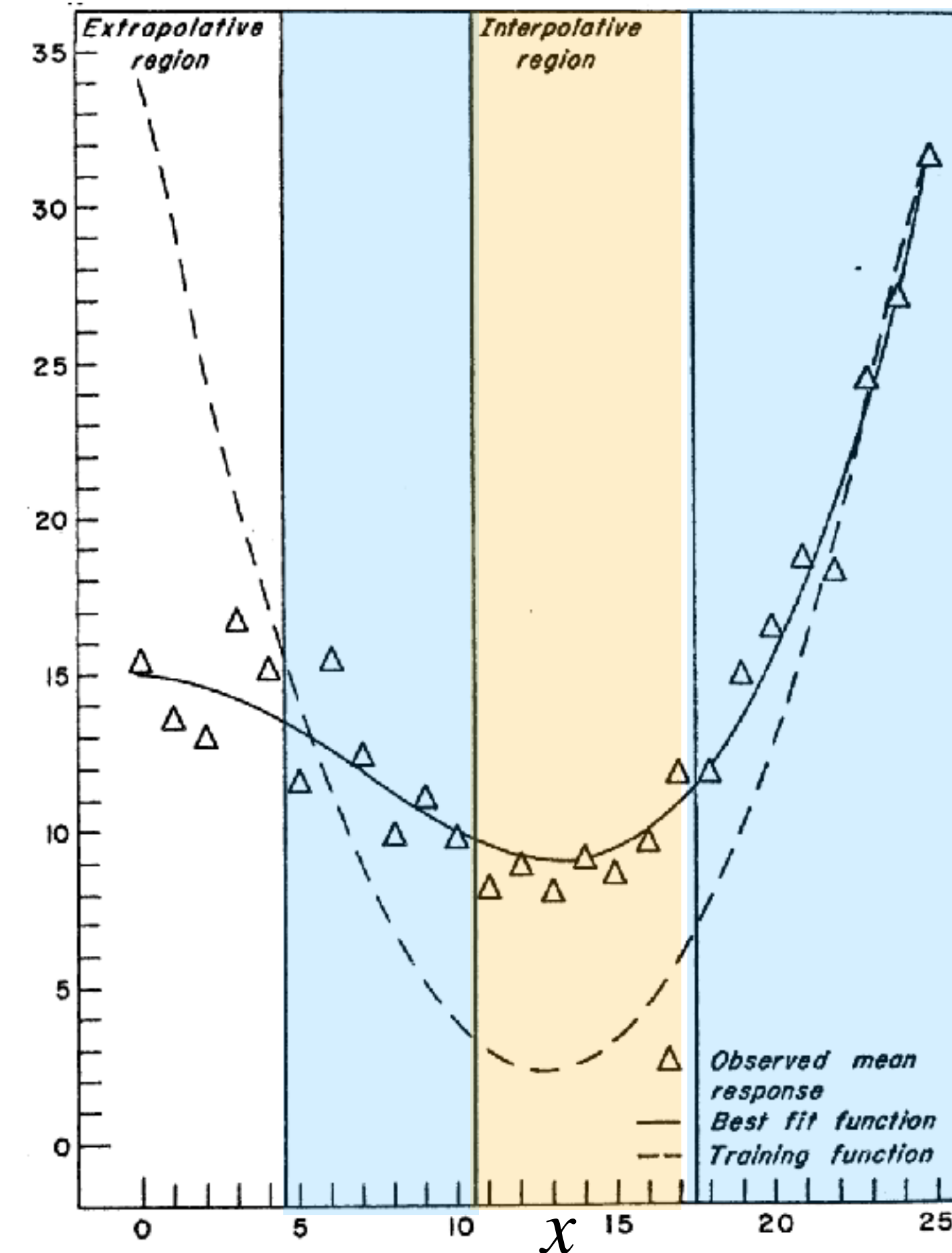


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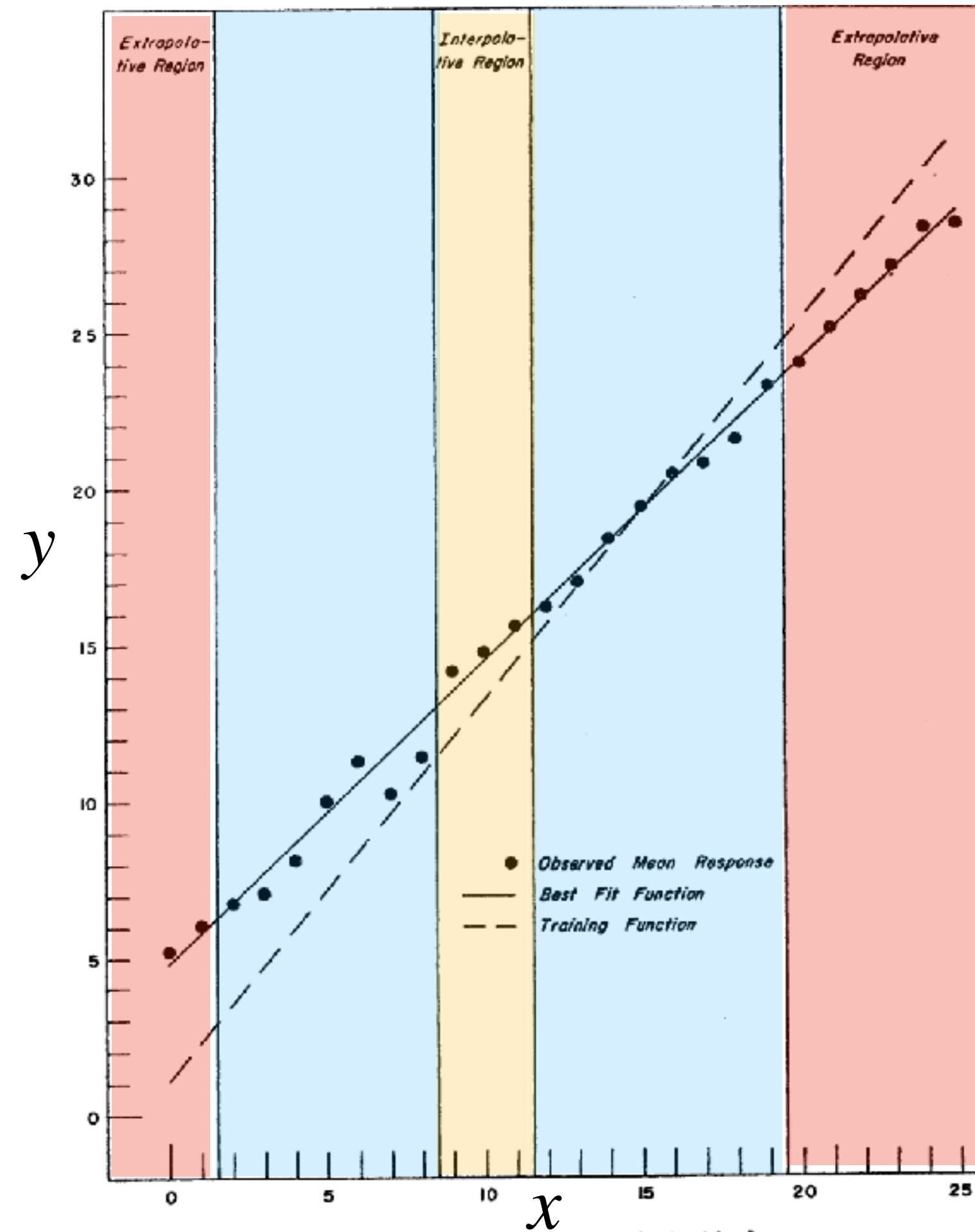


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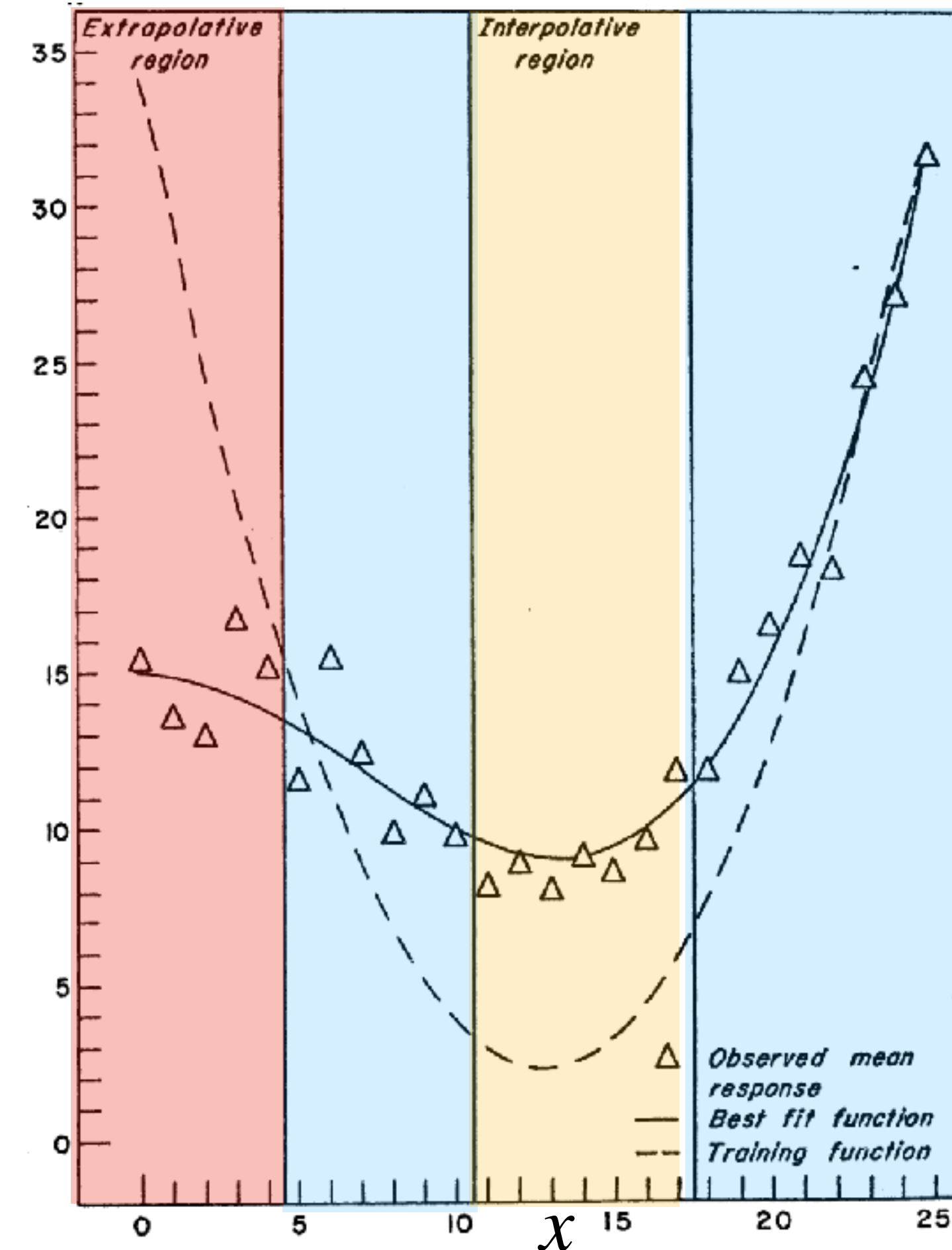
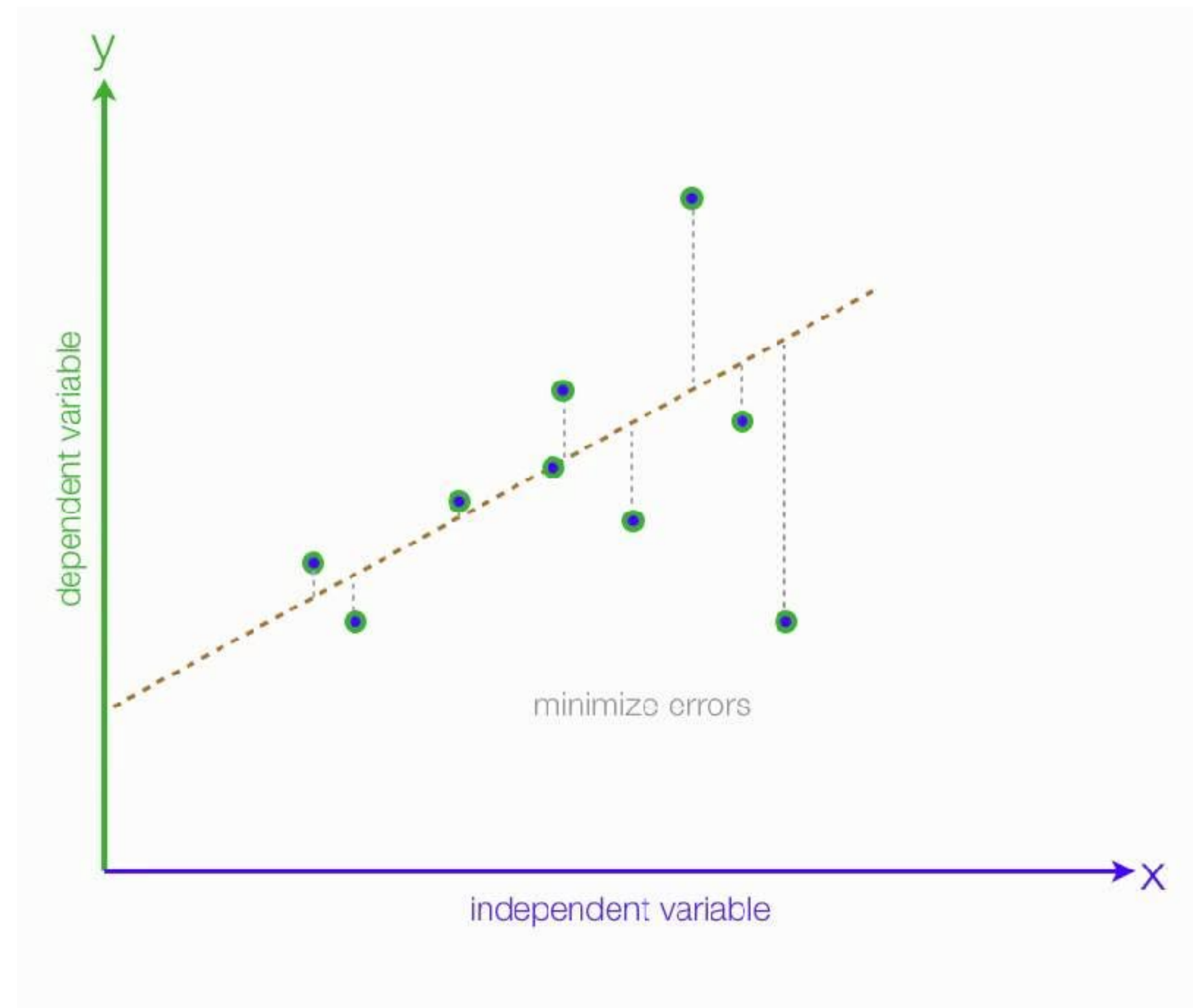


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# Linear regression

- *Find a line that minimizes errors*

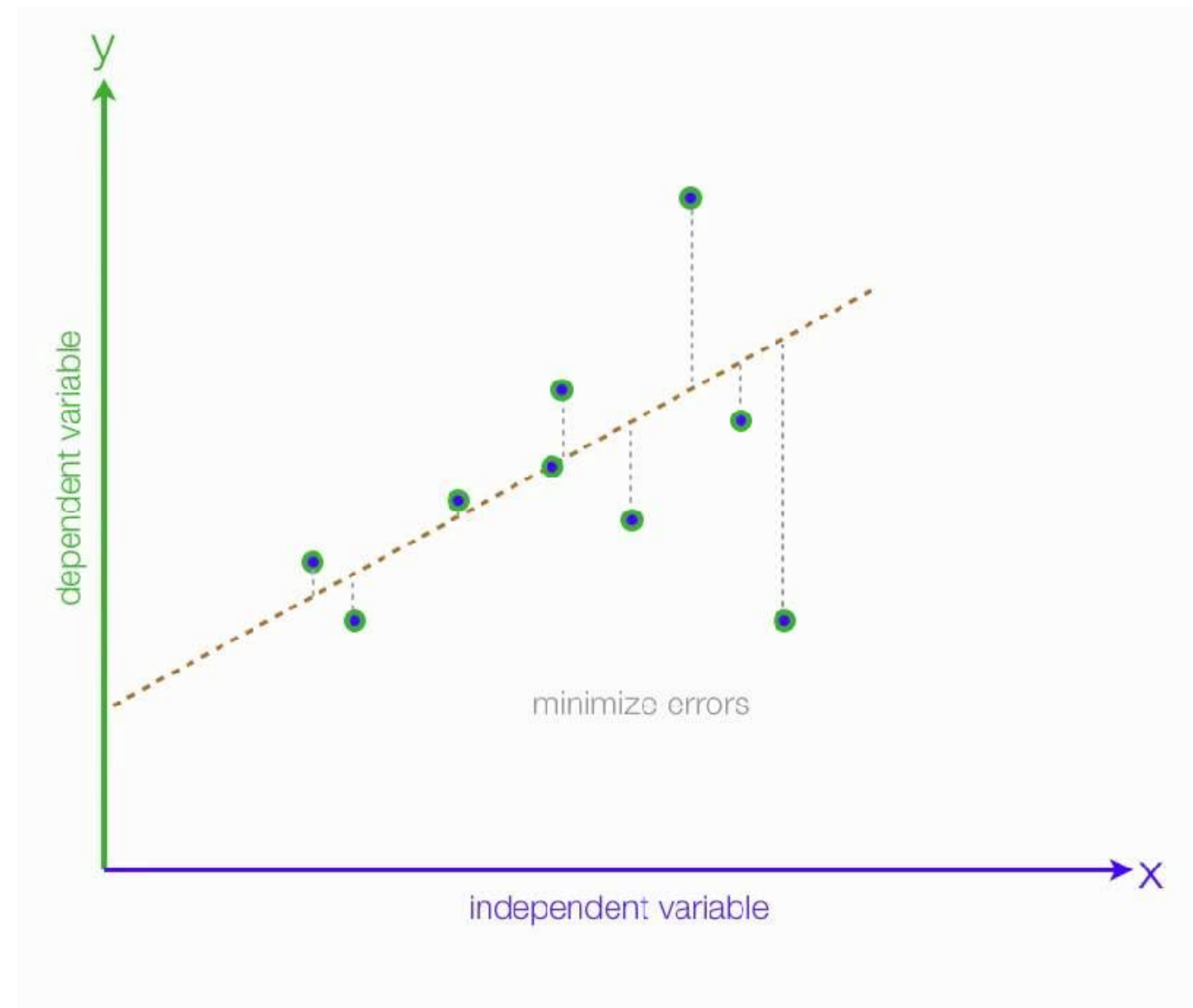


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- Find a line that minimizes errors
- How you learn it in high school:

$$y = mx + b$$

slope  $\nearrow$   $m$        $\leftarrow$  intercept  $b$





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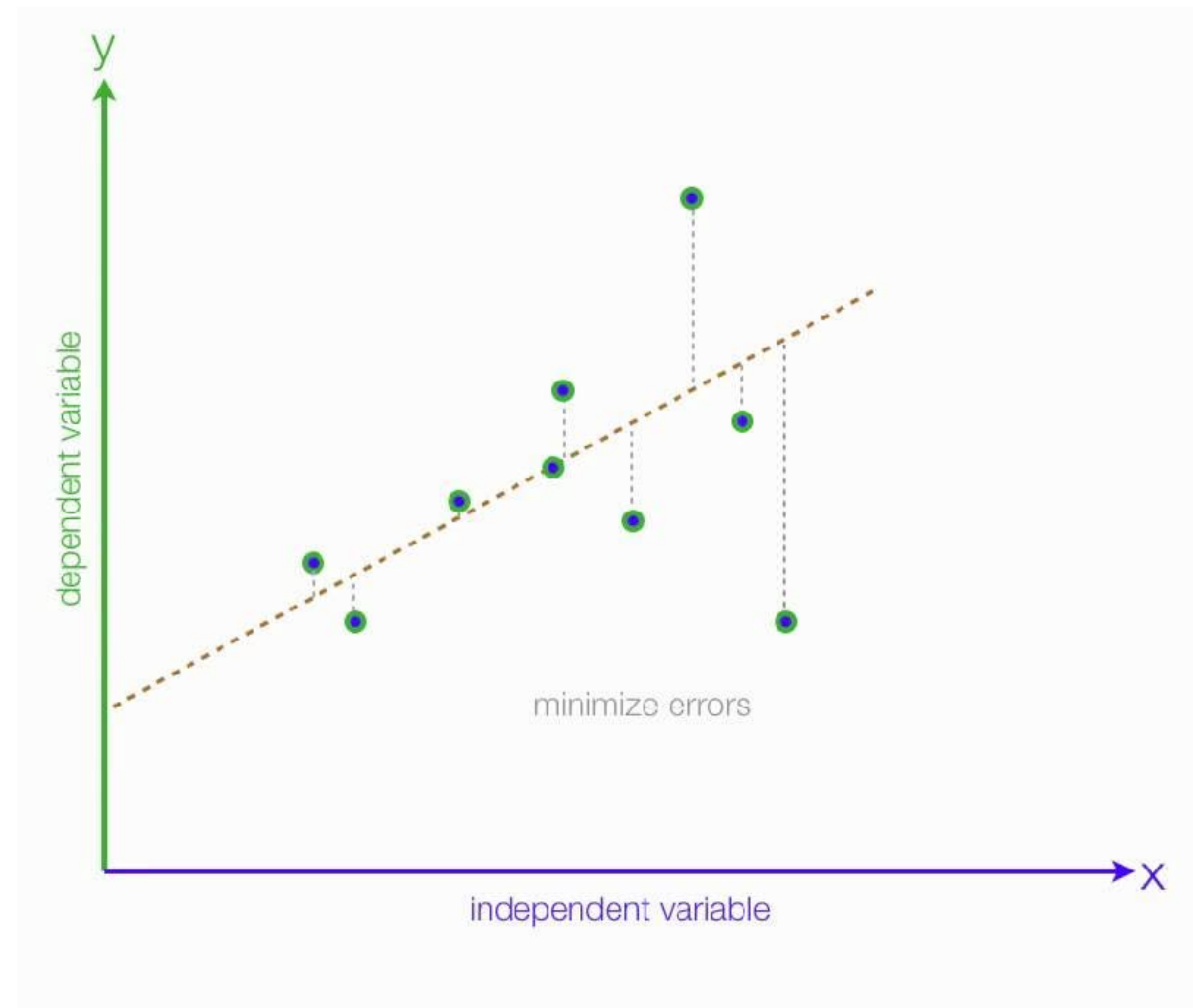
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$$y = X^T \mathbf{w} + \epsilon$$

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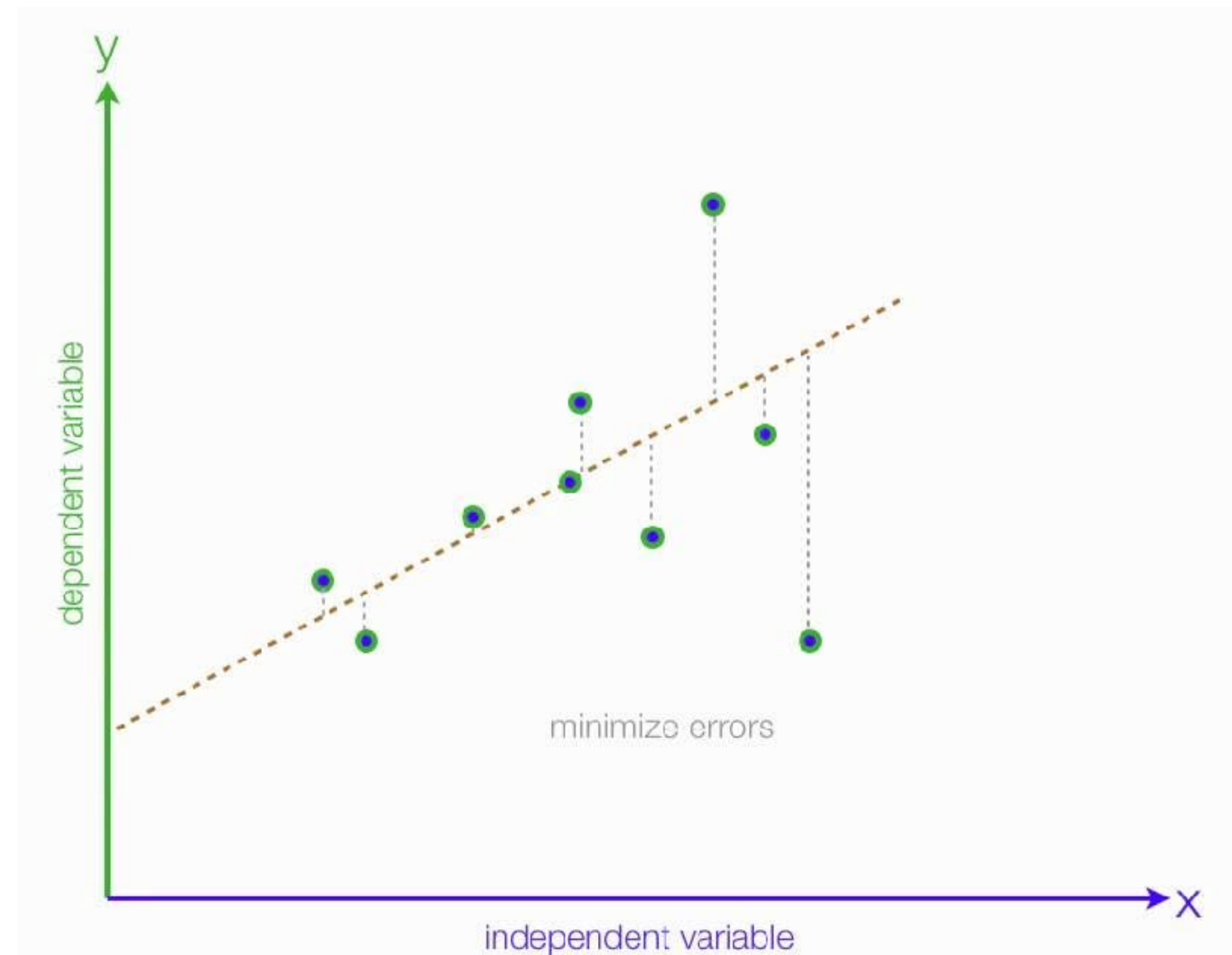
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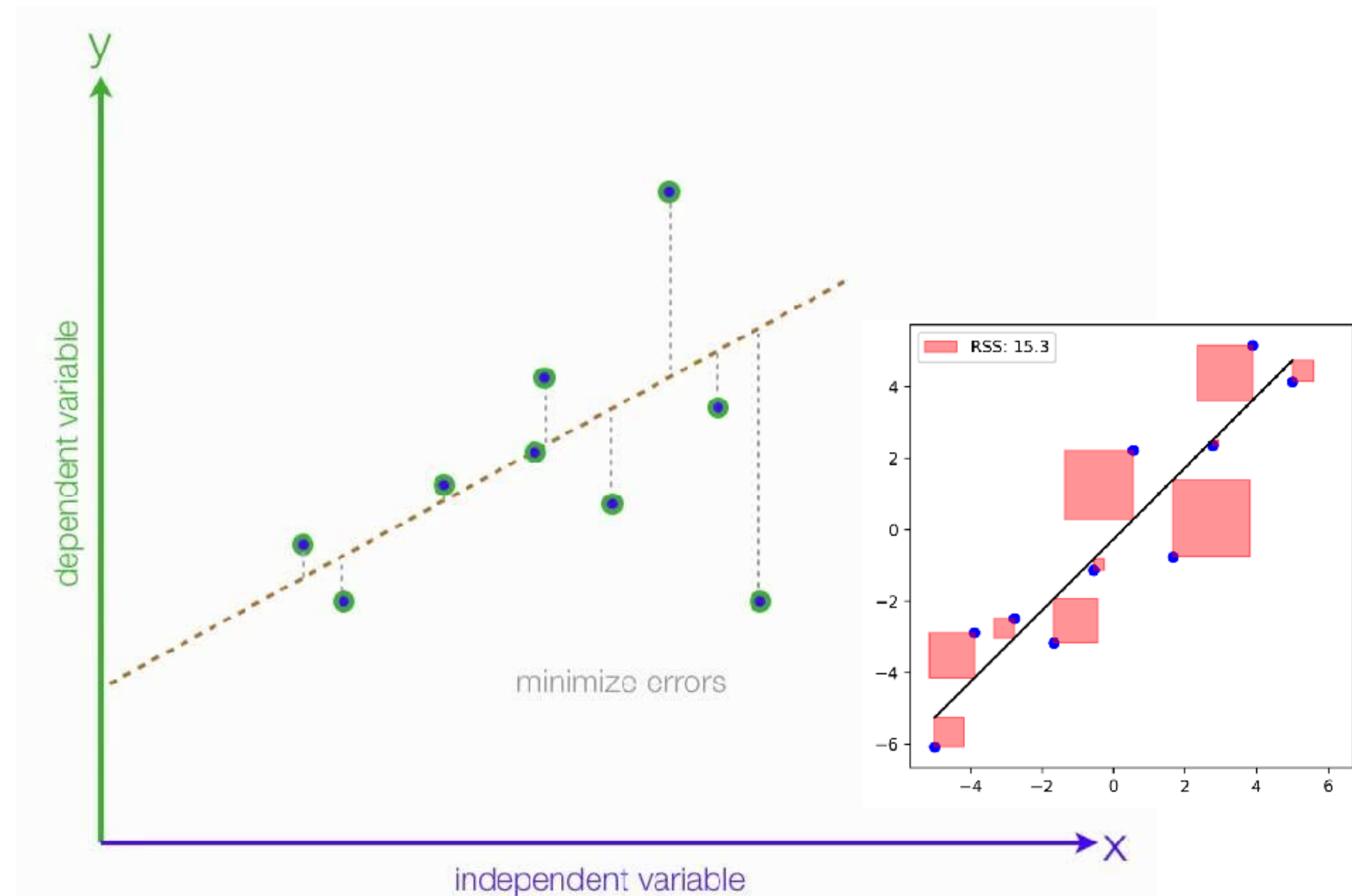
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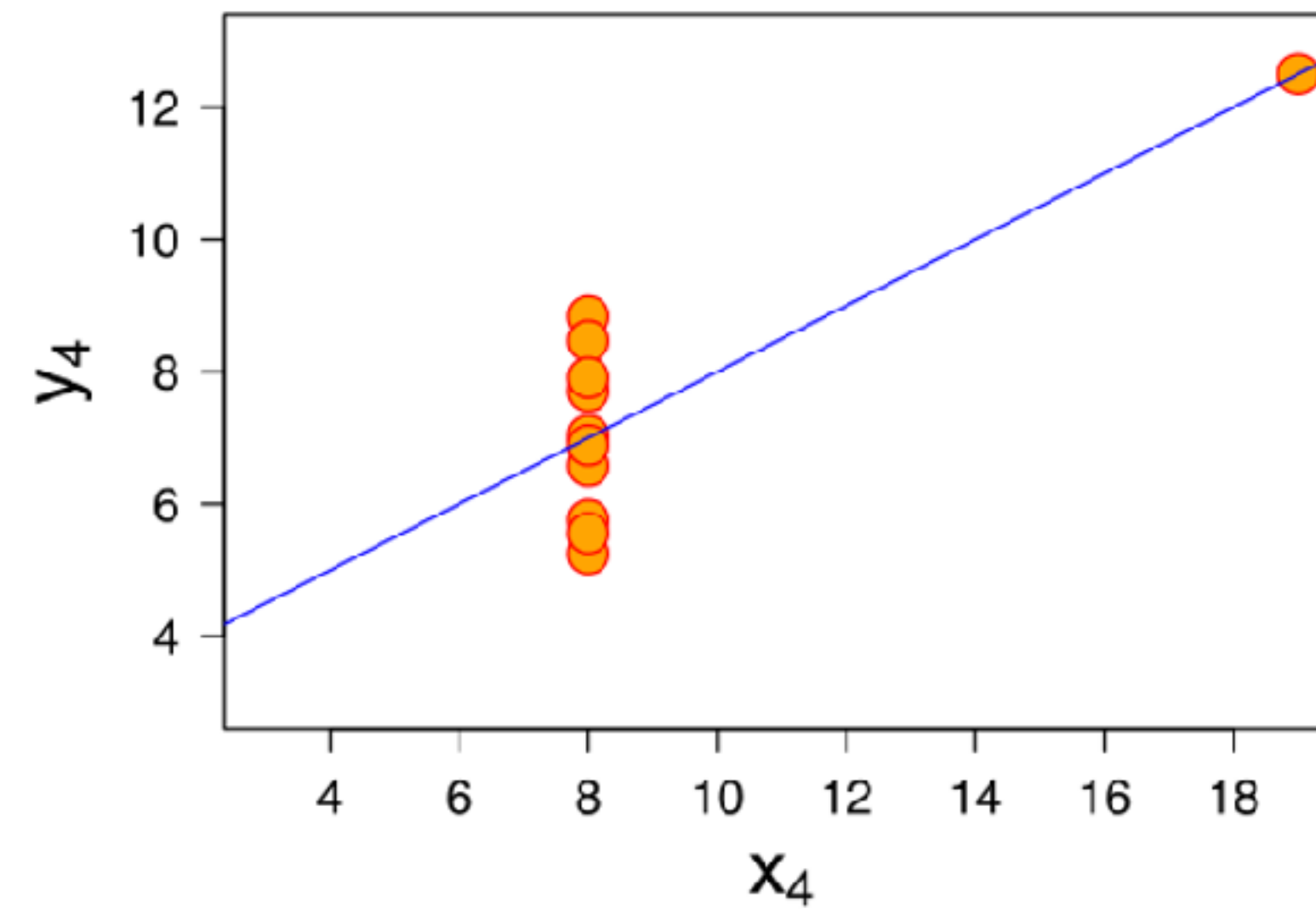
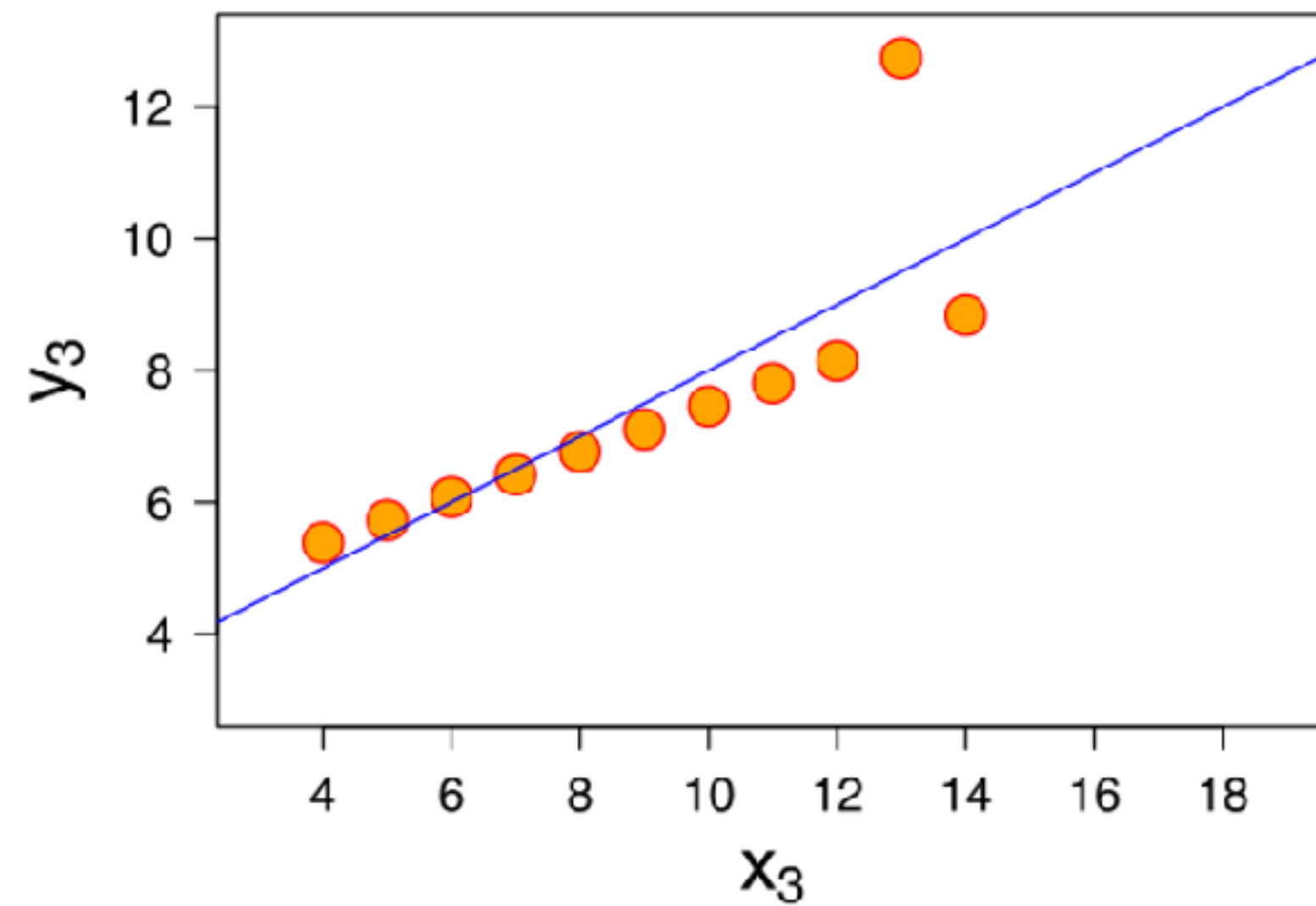
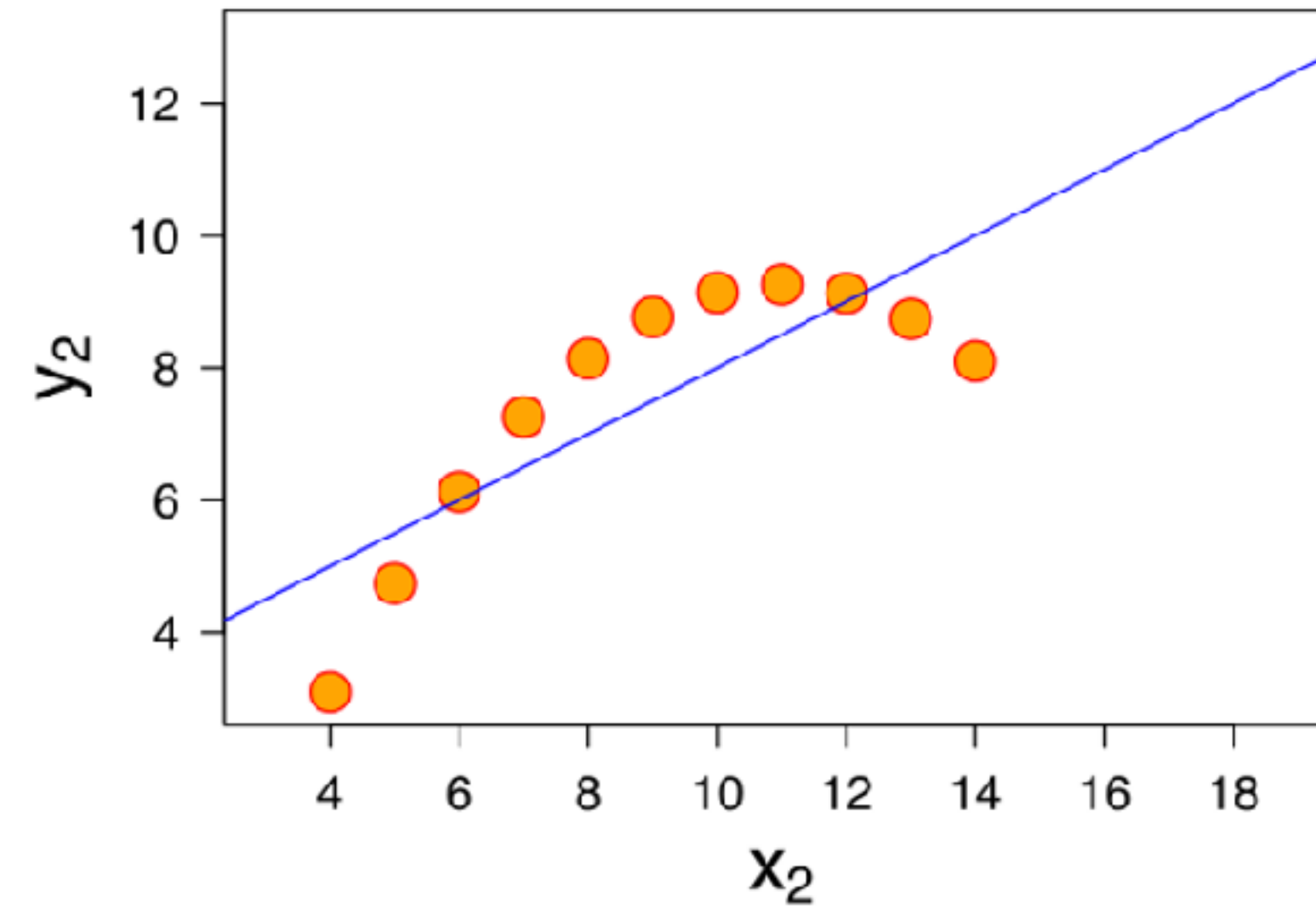
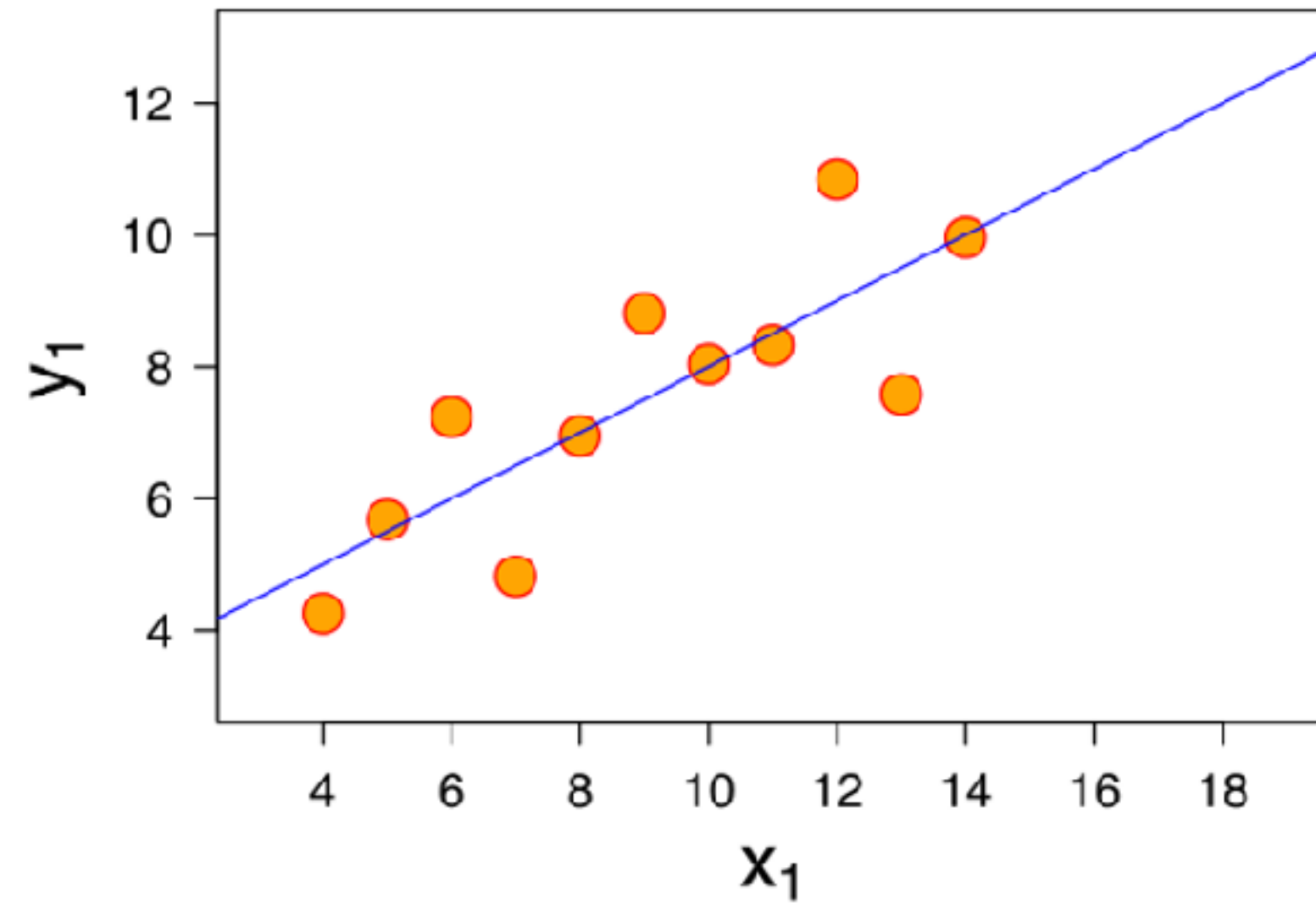
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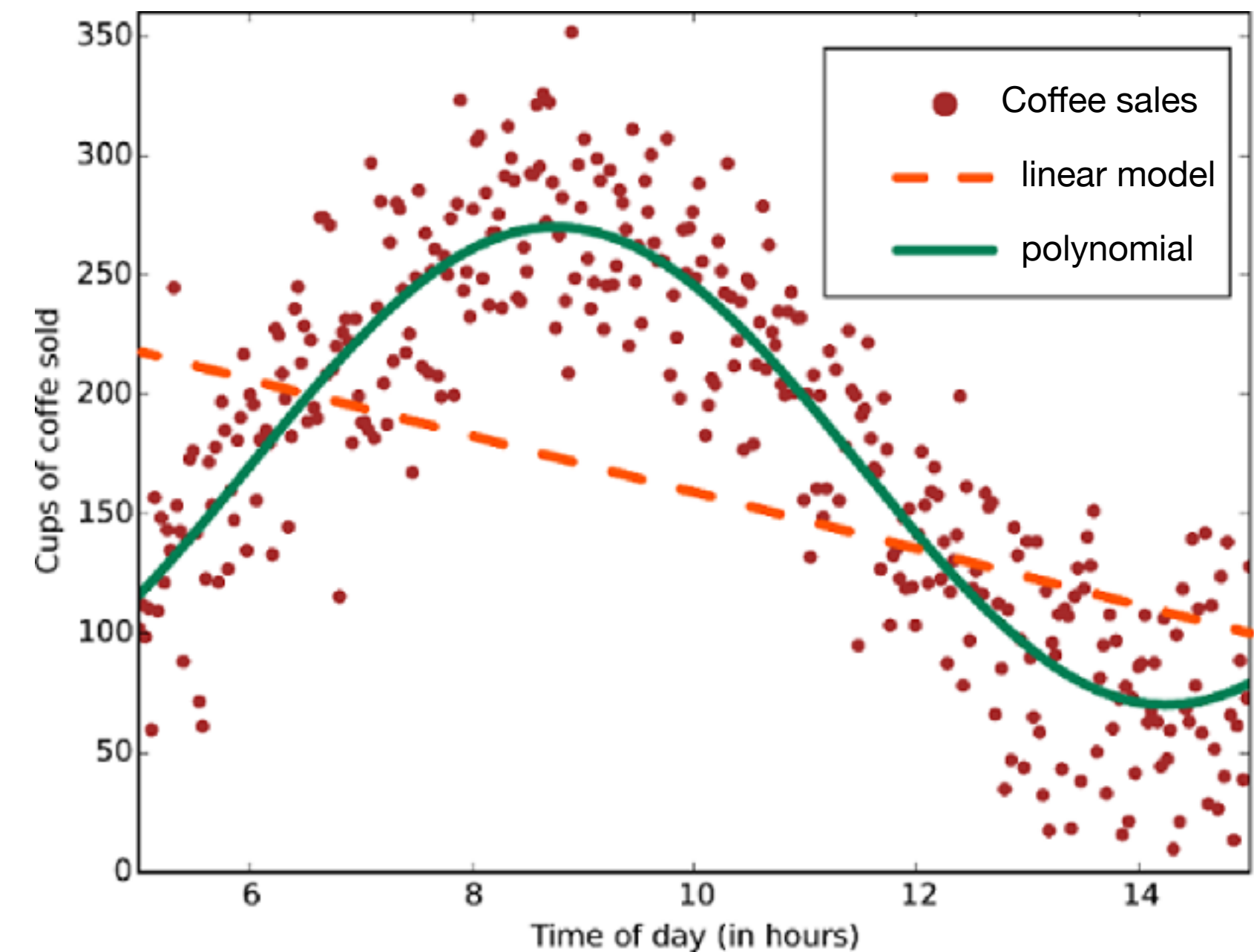
# Linear assumptions don't always work





# Parametric regression

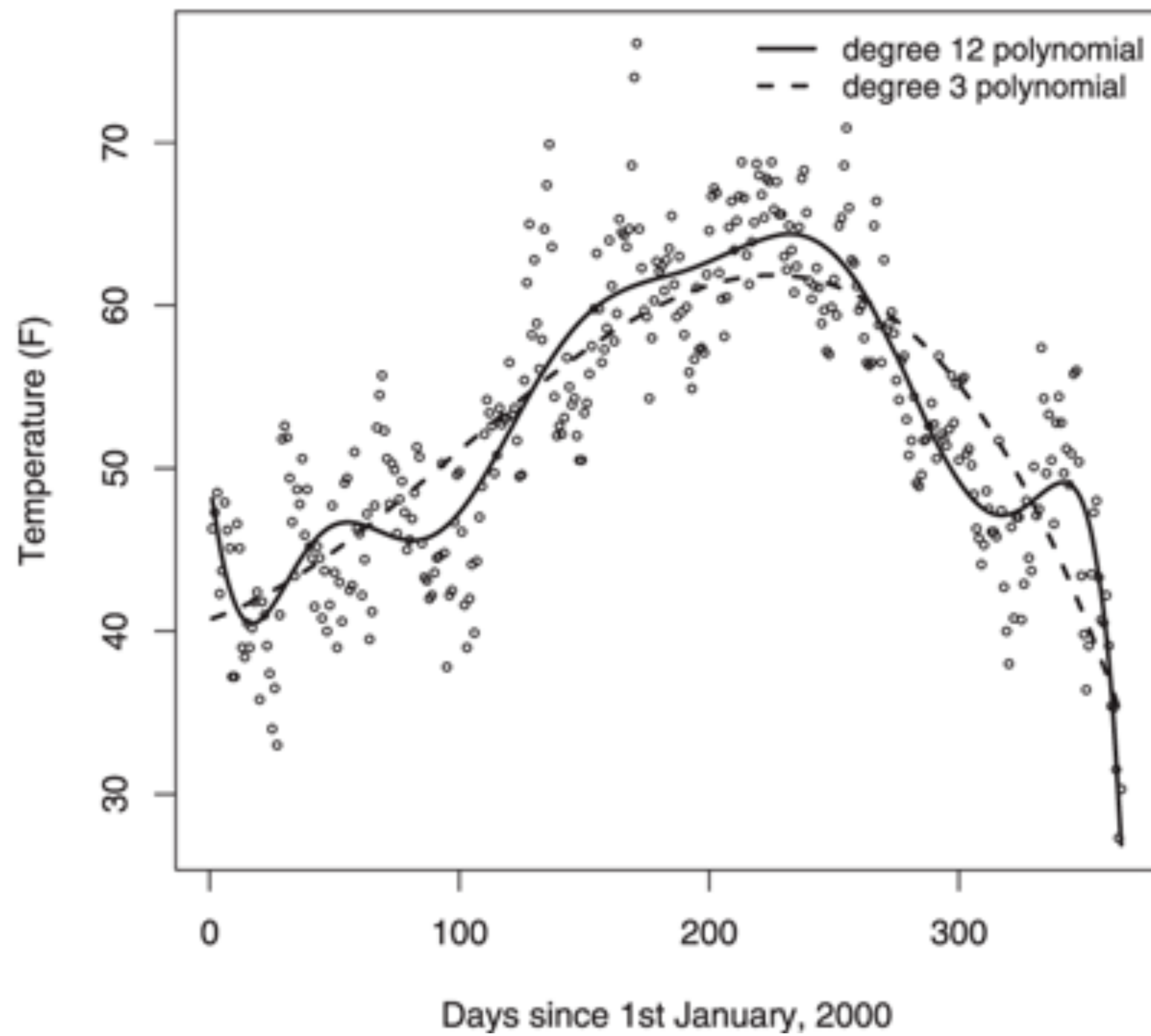
- Rather than assuming a linear relationship, assume a different functional form
  - Exponential:  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^{\mathbf{x}}$
  - Logarithmic:  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w} \log(\mathbf{x})$
  - Power:  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{w}}$
  - Polynomial:  $f(x) = w_i x^i + w_{i-1} x^{i-1} + \dots + w_1 x$   
(switching to univariate  $x$  for simplicity)



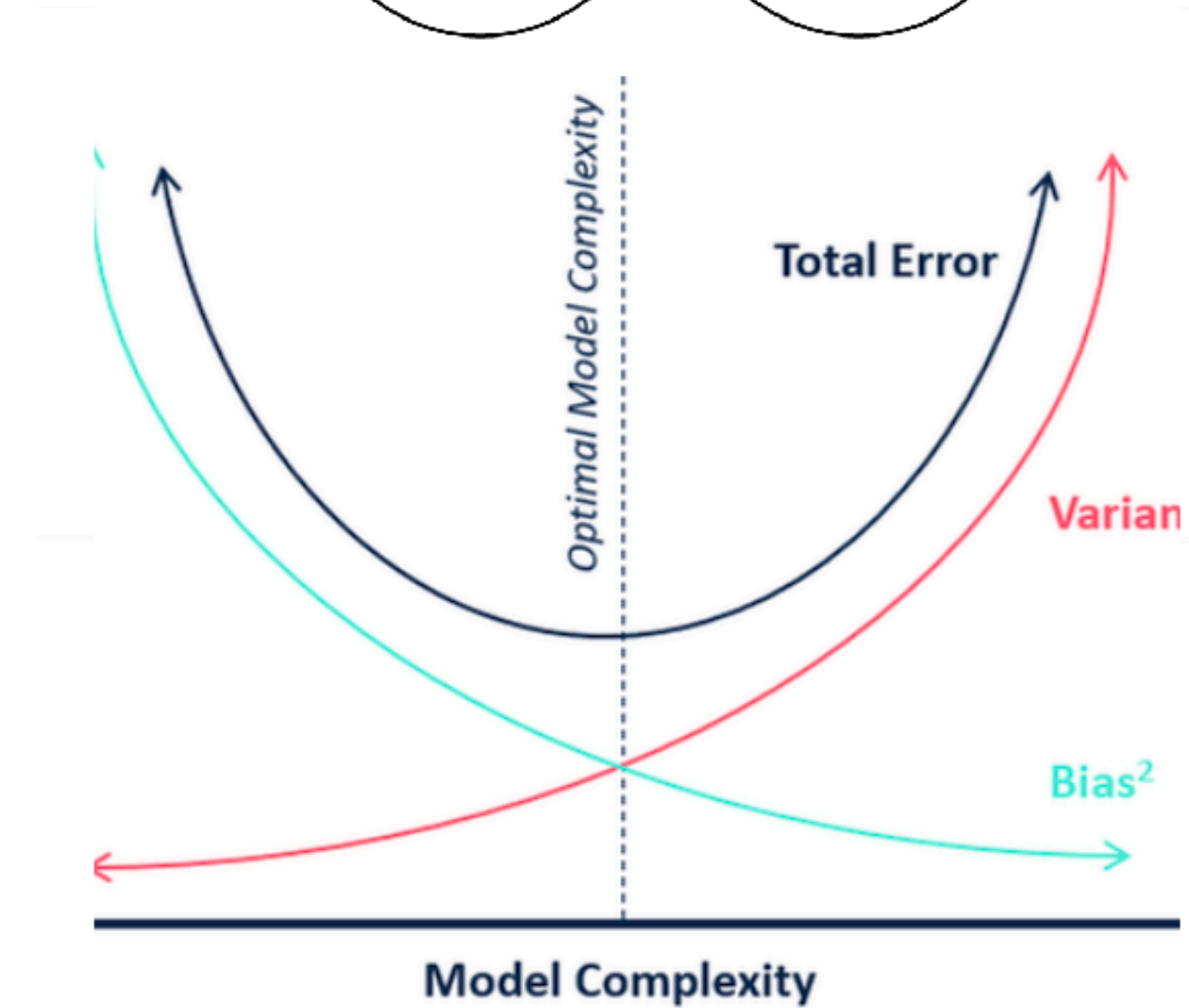
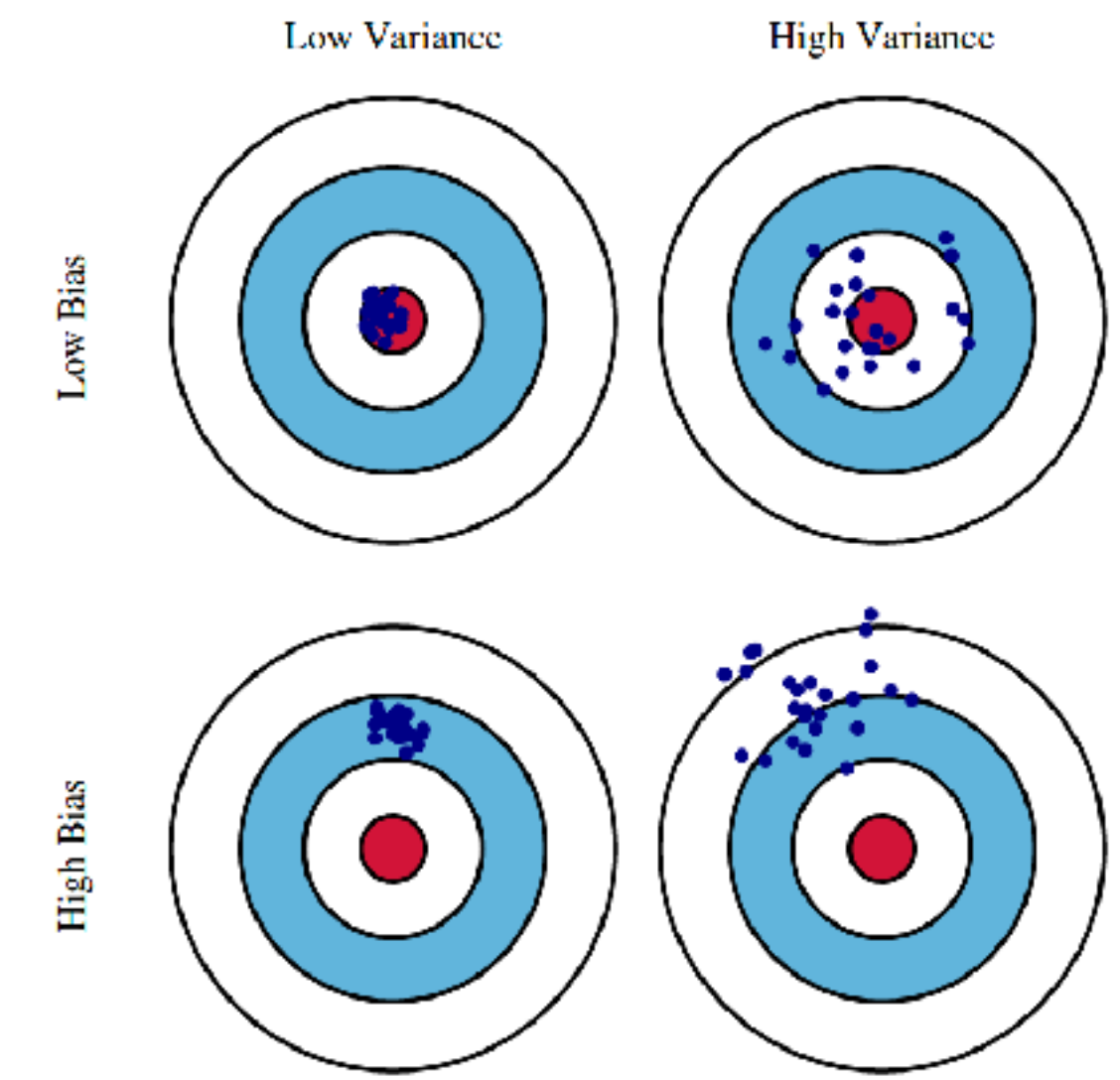
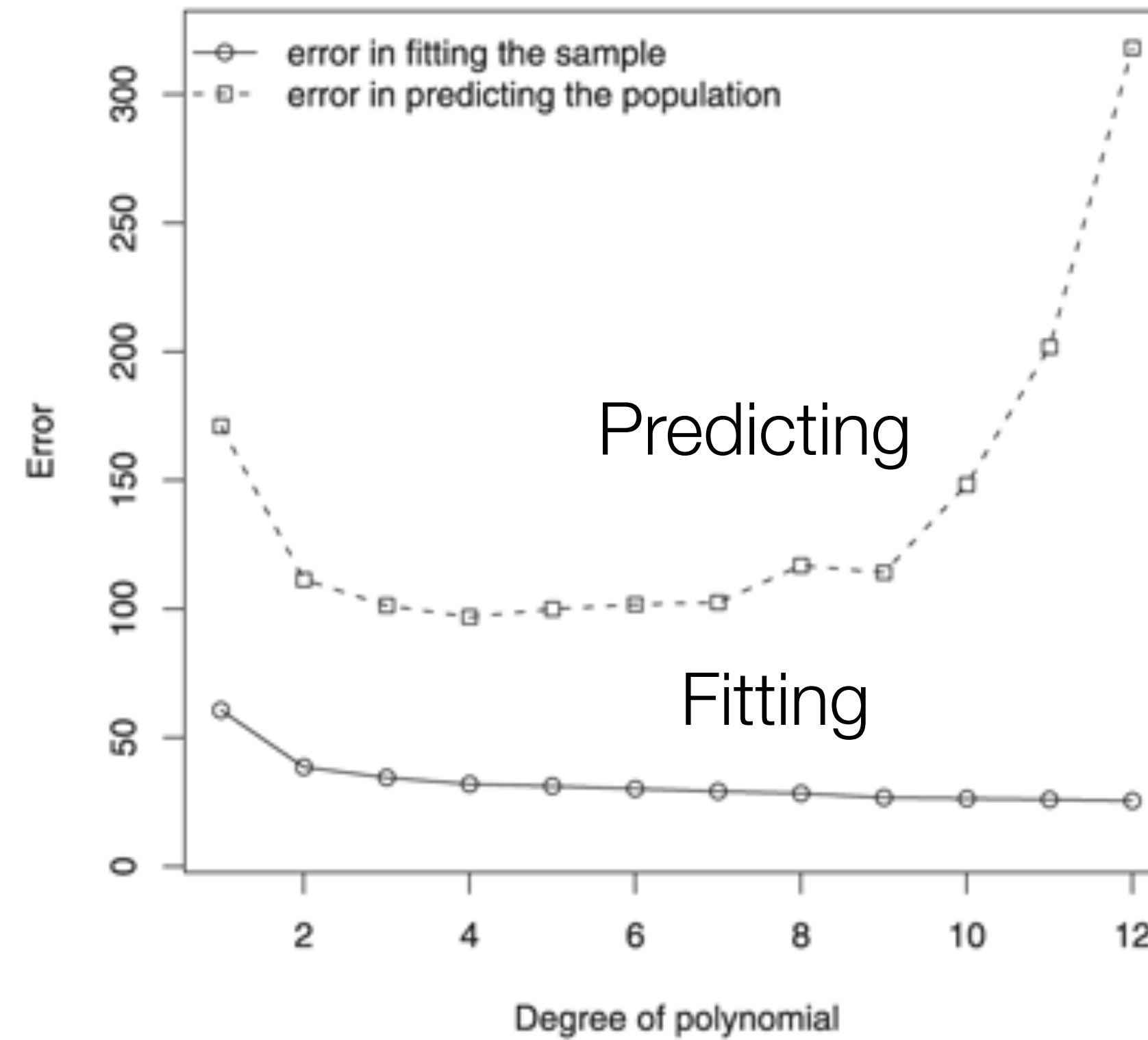
Exponential	Logarithmic	Power	Polynomial

# Bias-Variance trade-off

London's daily temperature in 2000



Model performance for London 2000 temperatures

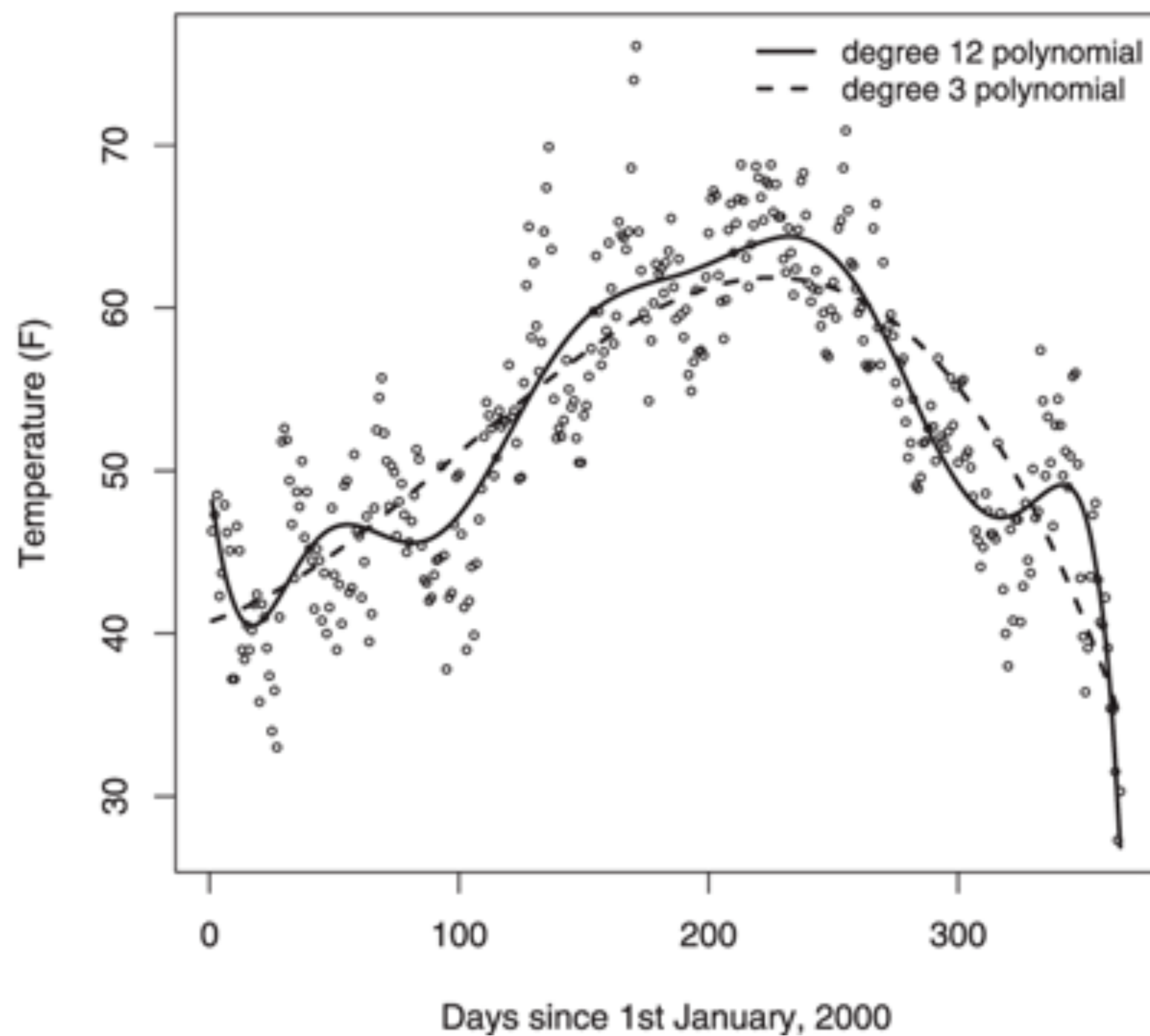




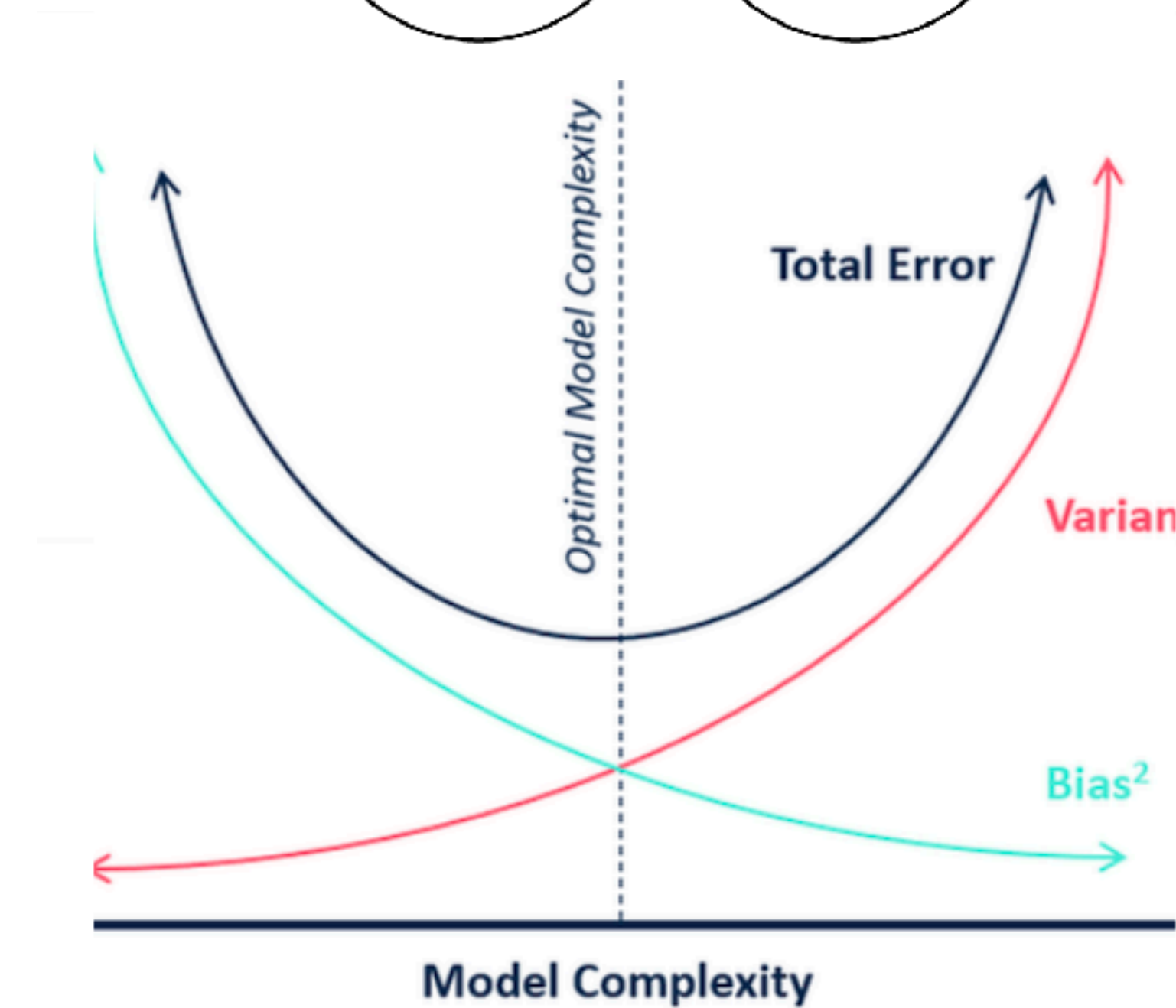
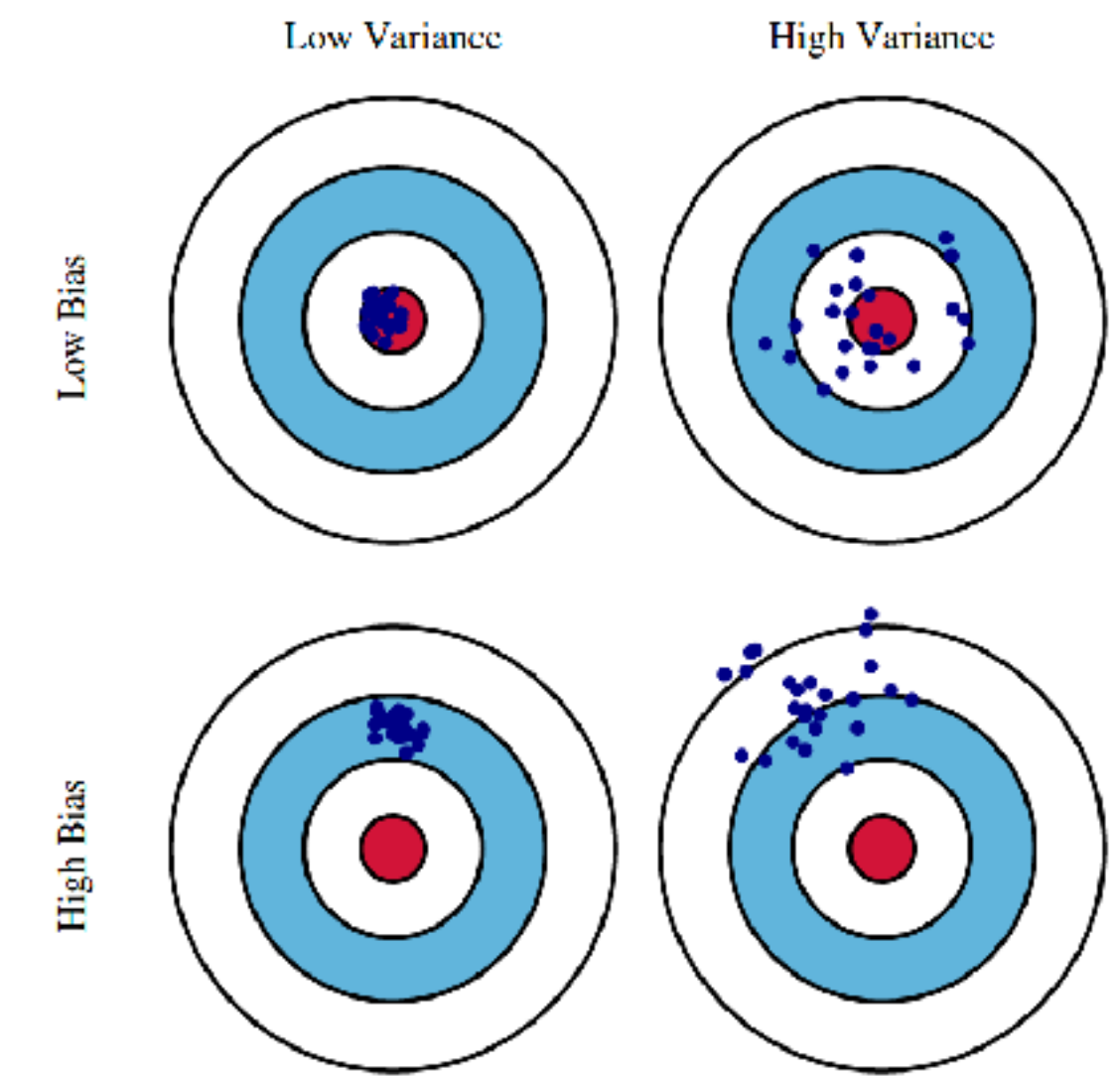
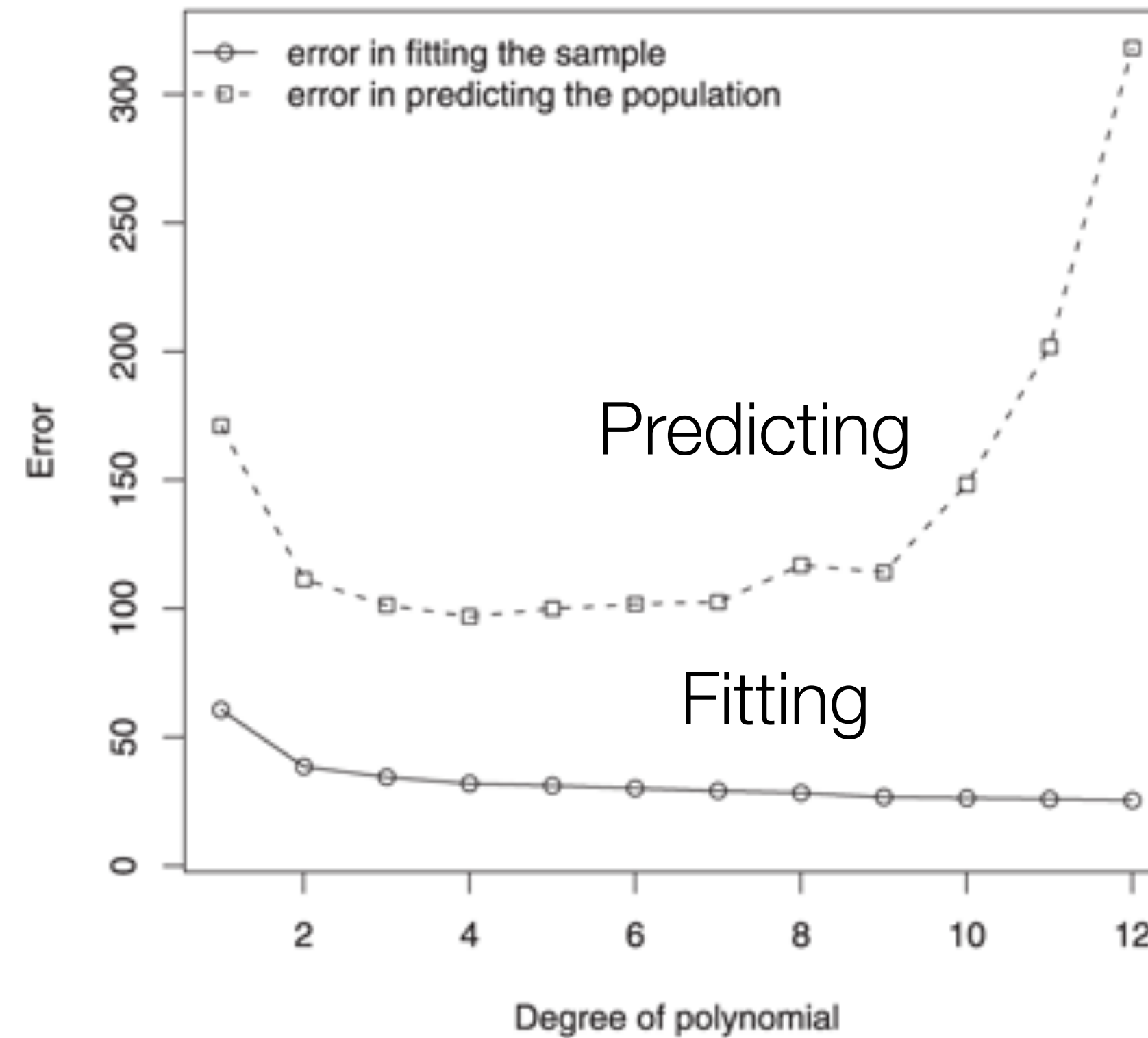
# Bias-Variance trade-off

*Rule-based theories don't offer guidance about how people choose between different parametric models*

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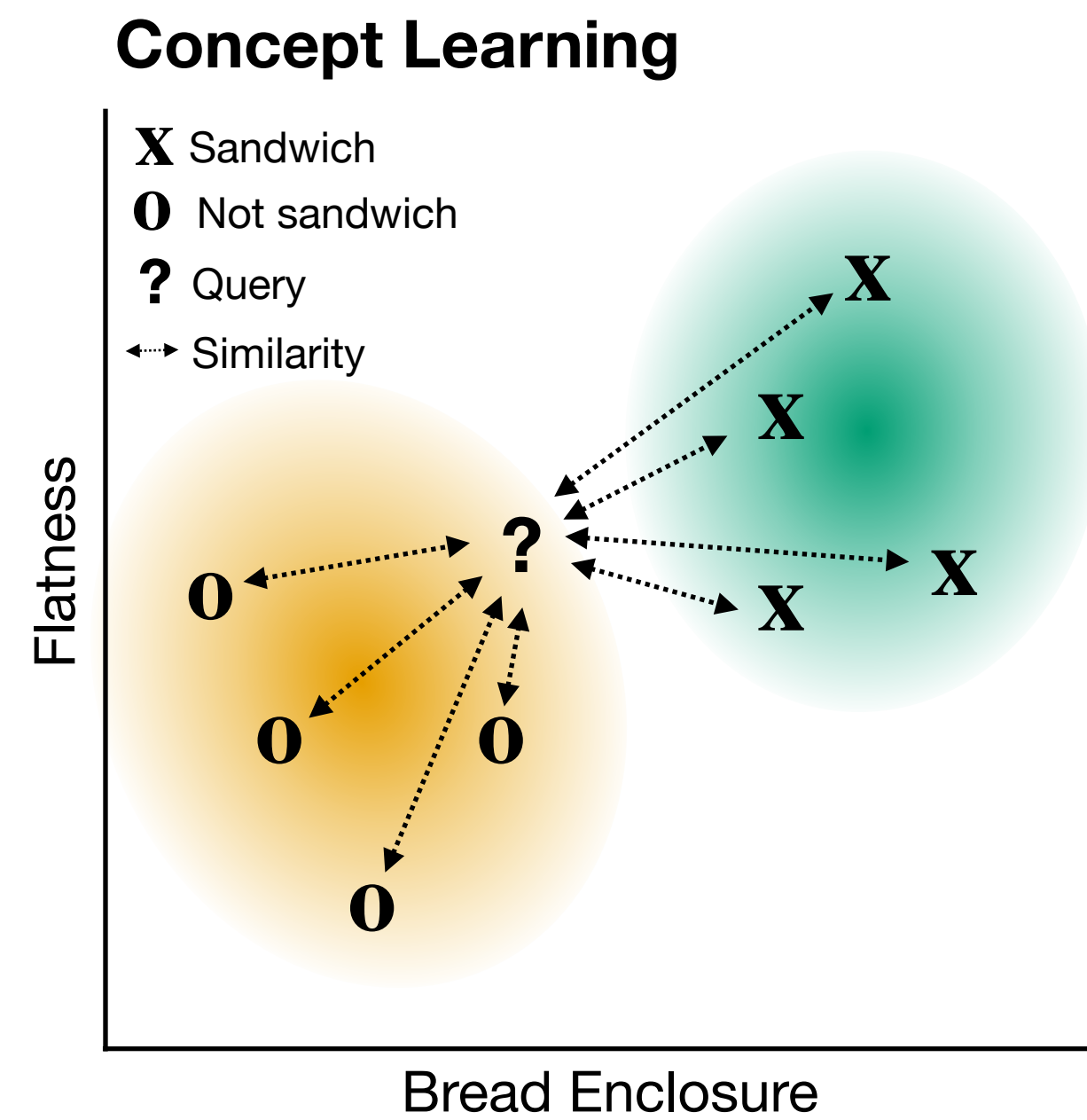
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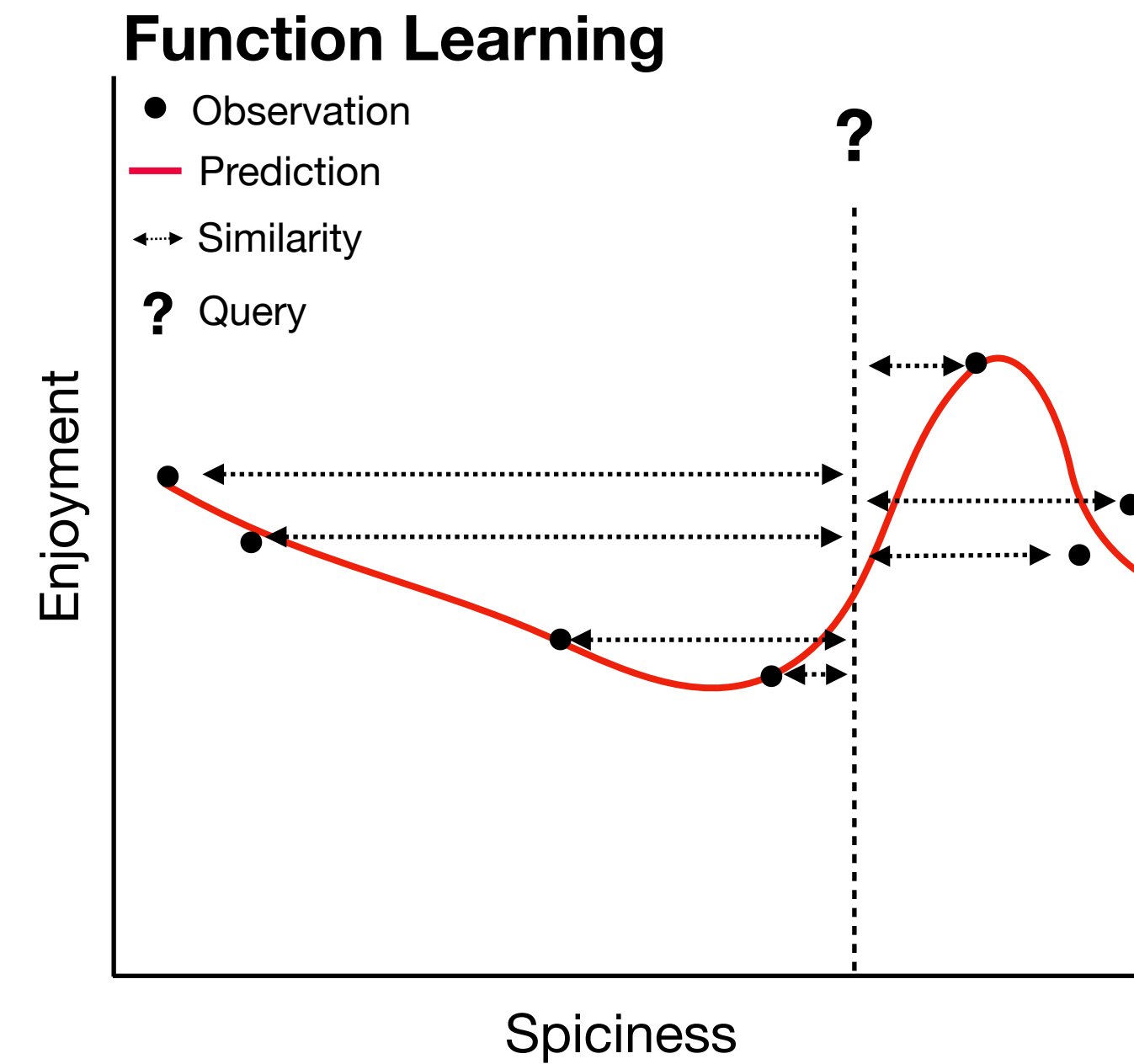
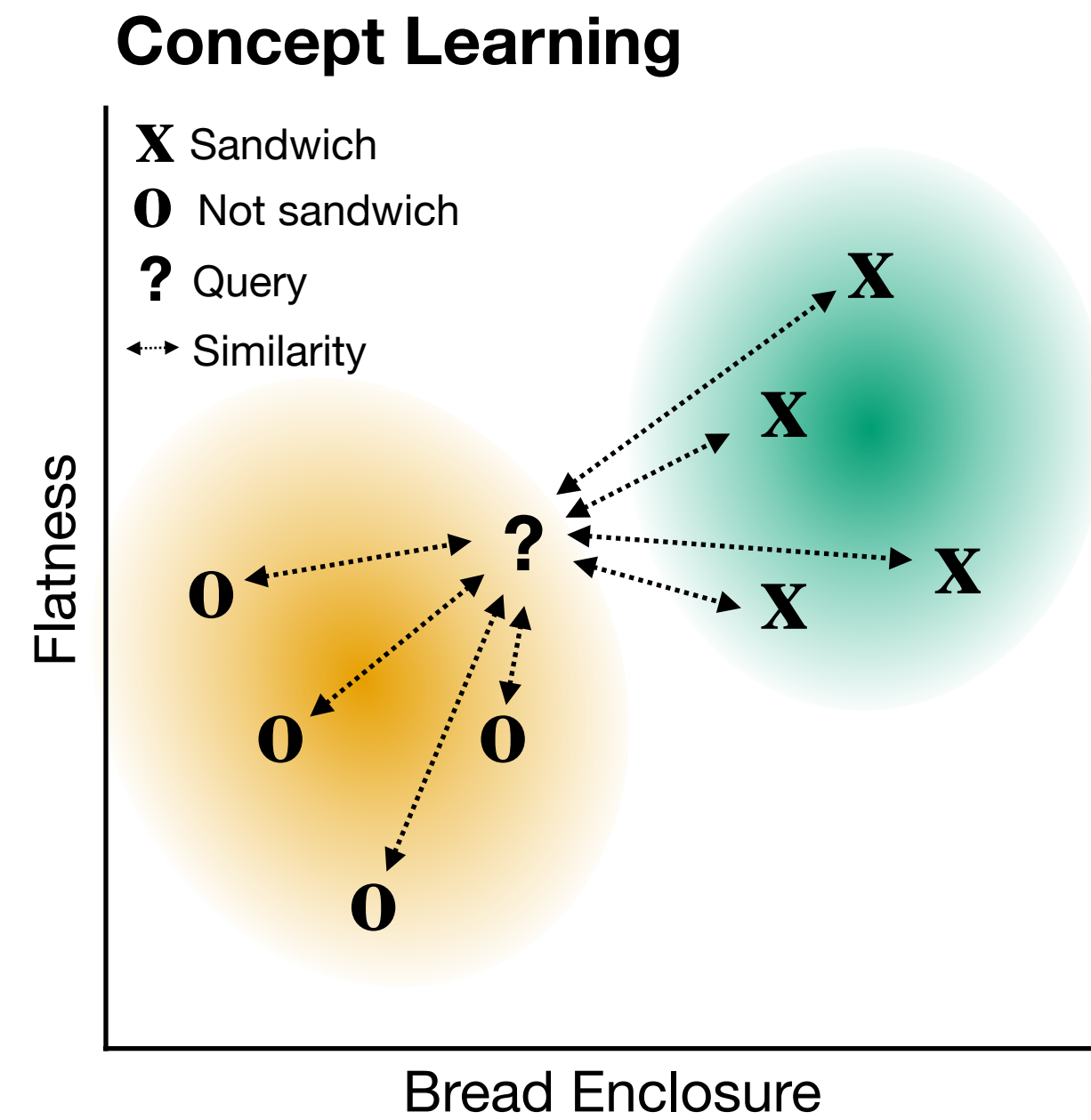
# Similarity-based theories of function learning



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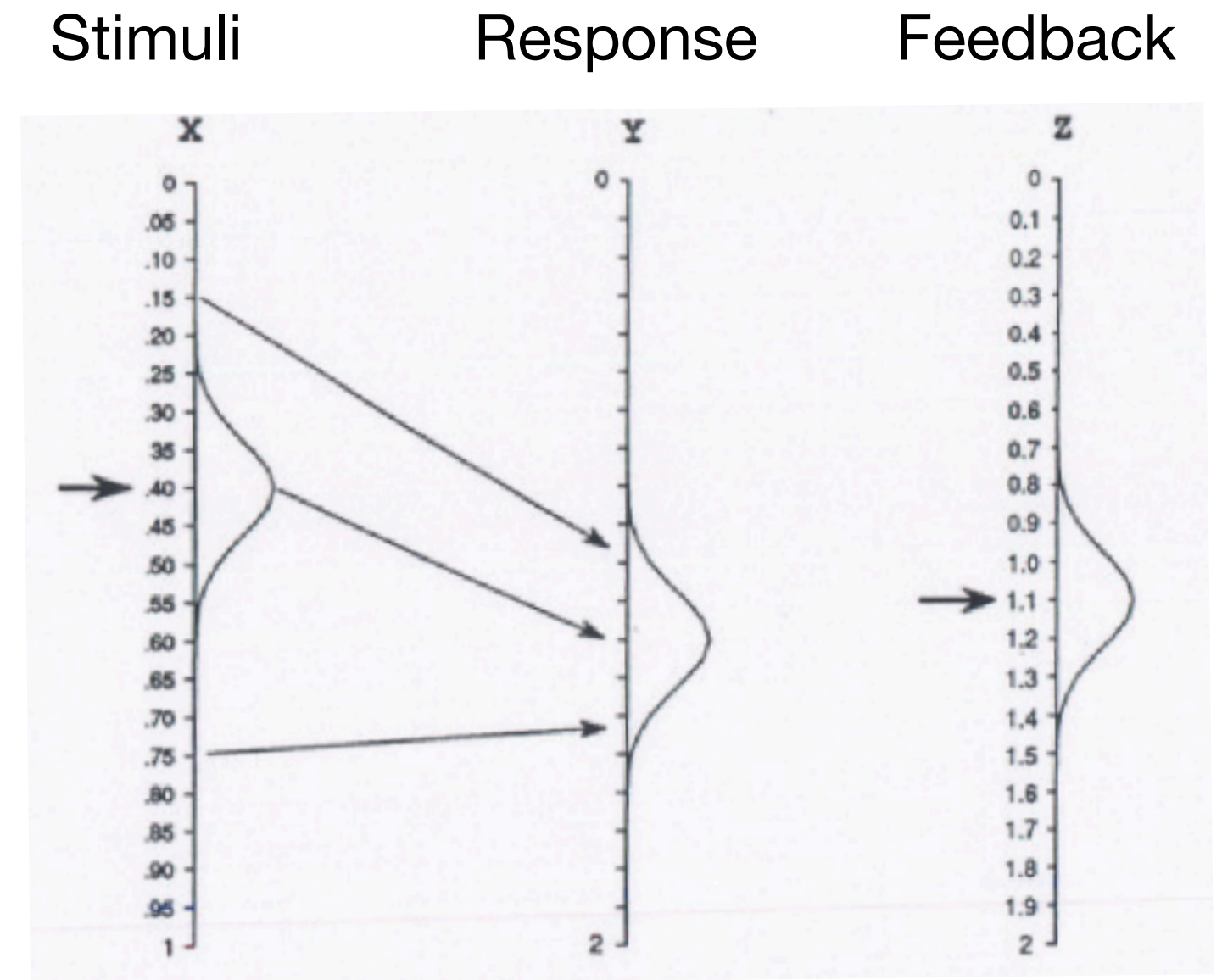


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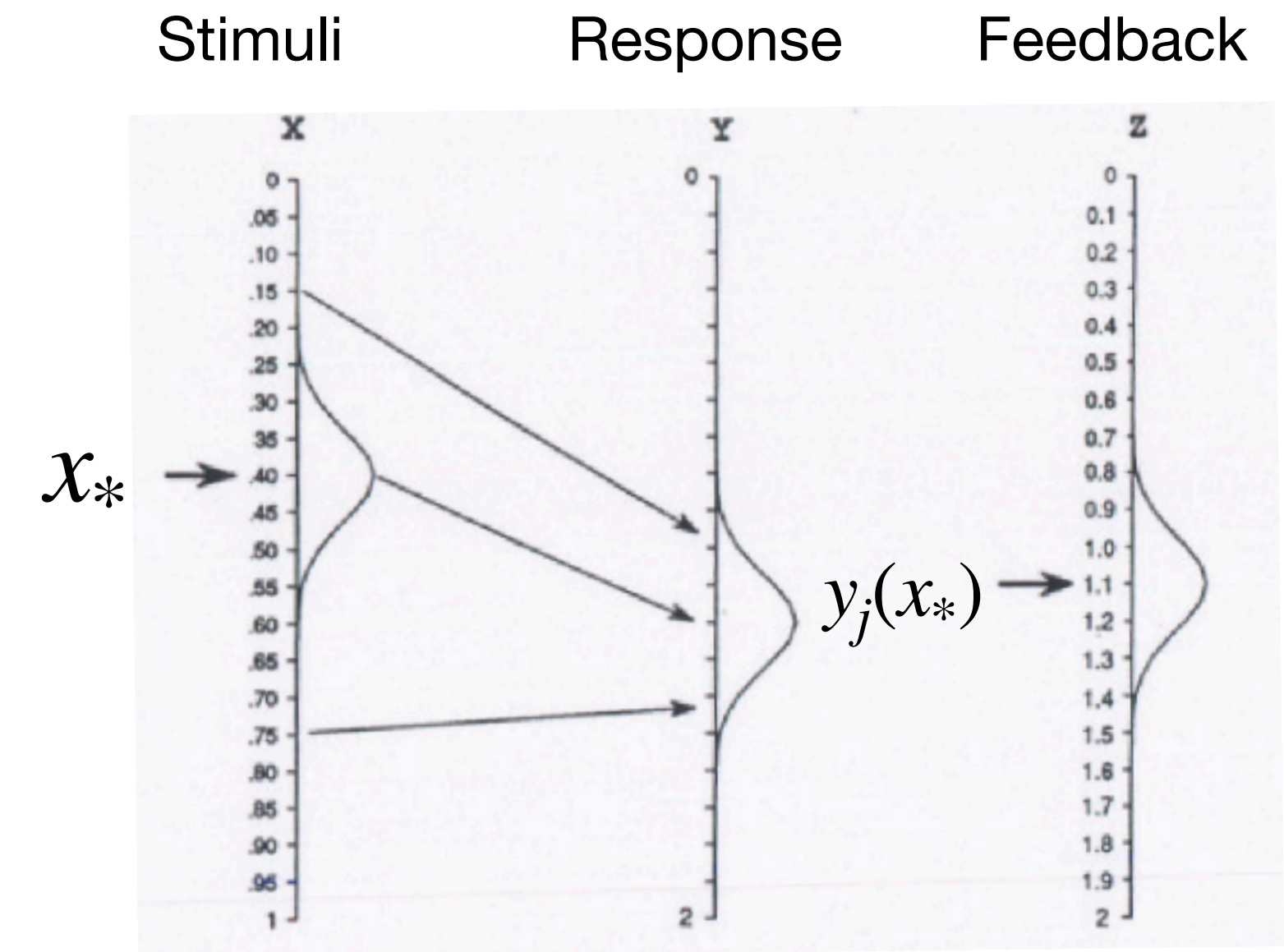
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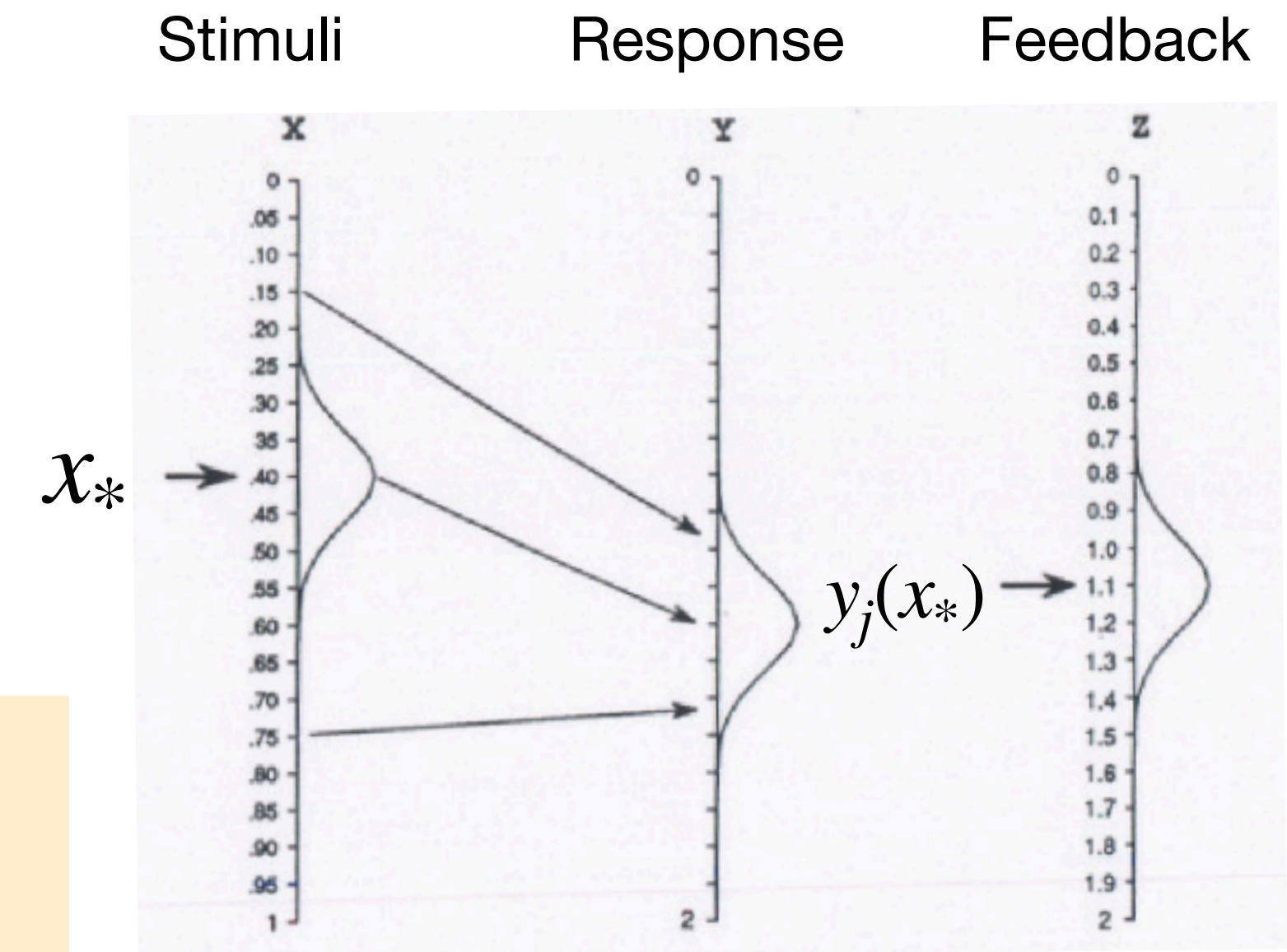


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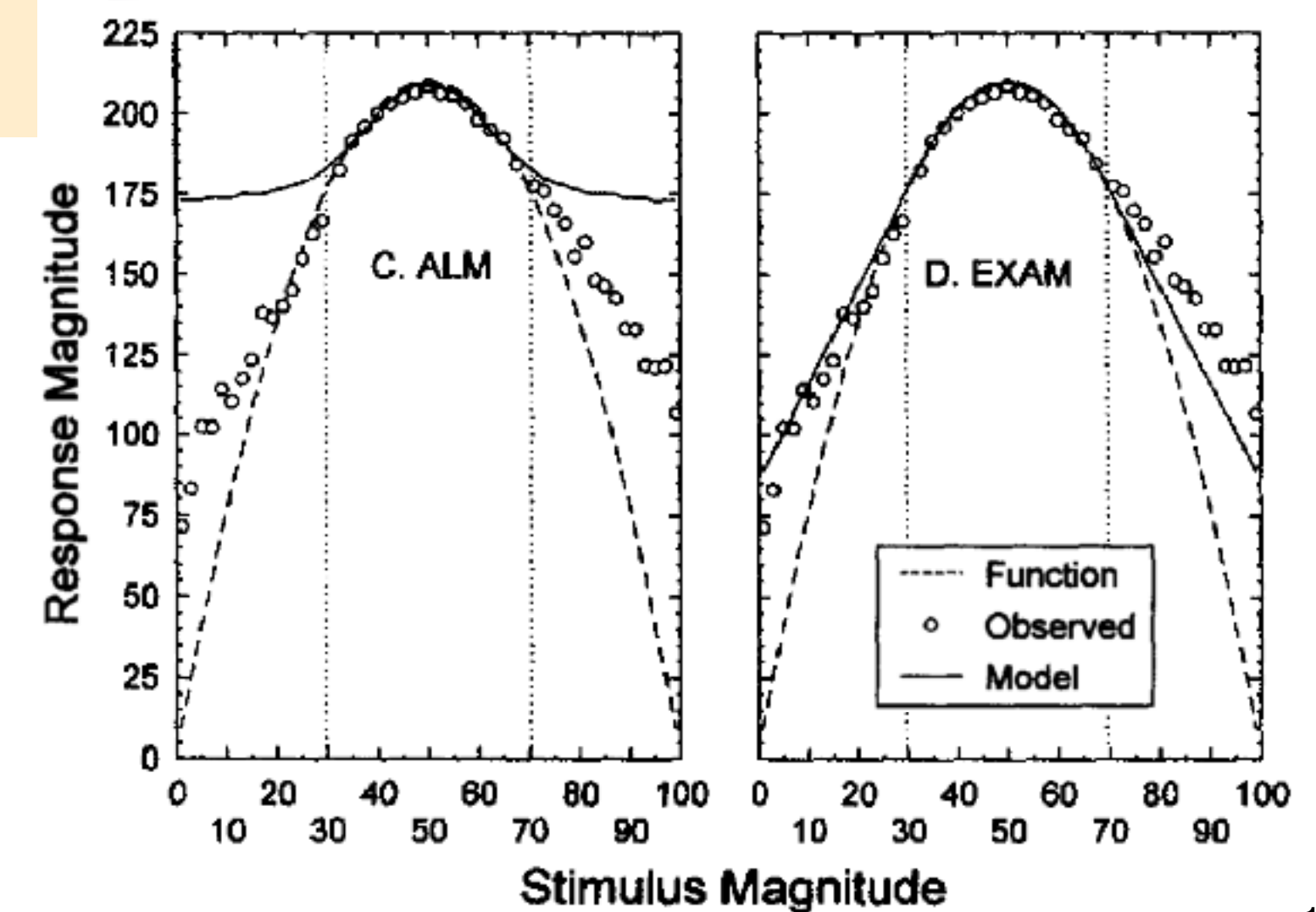
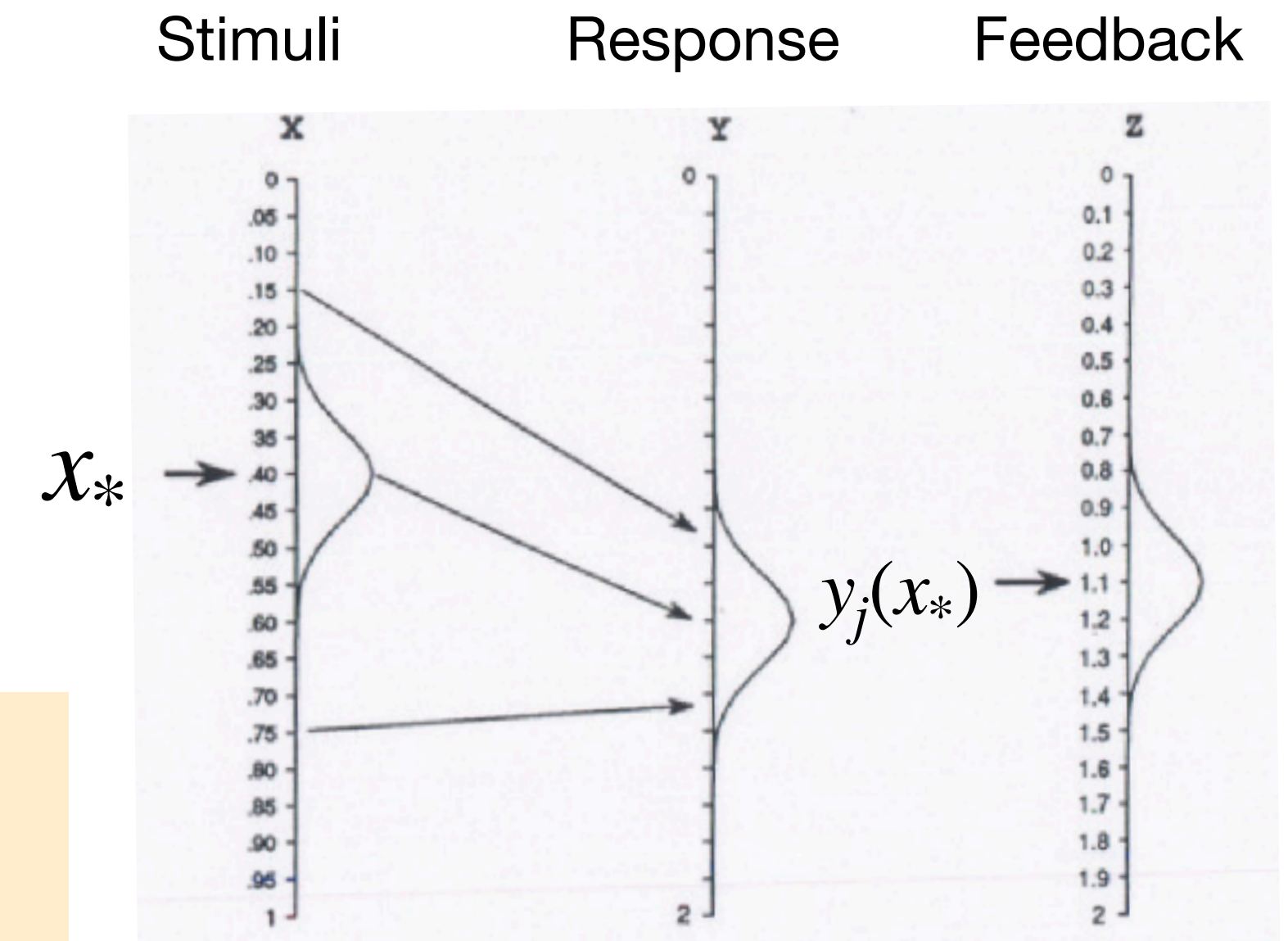
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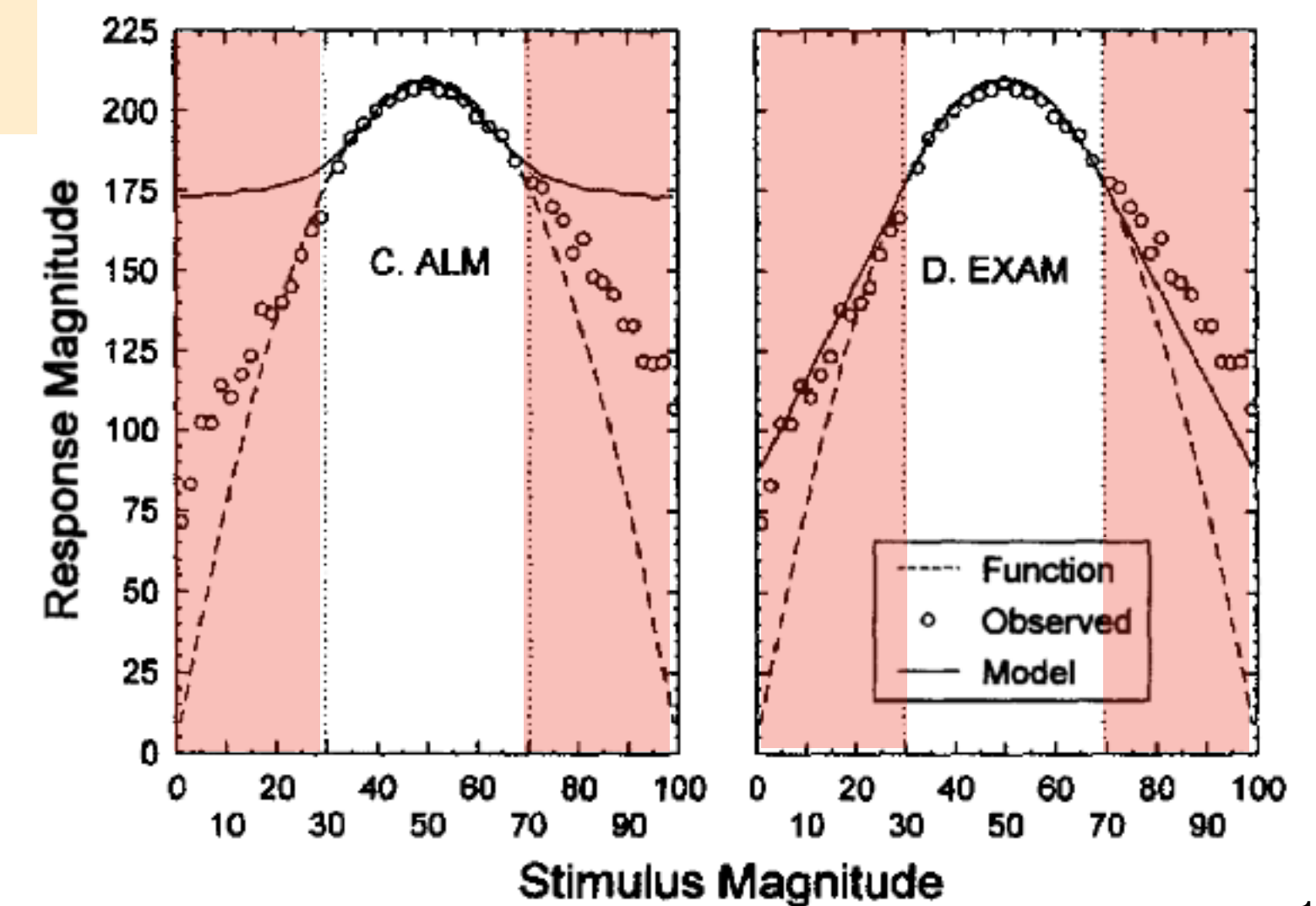
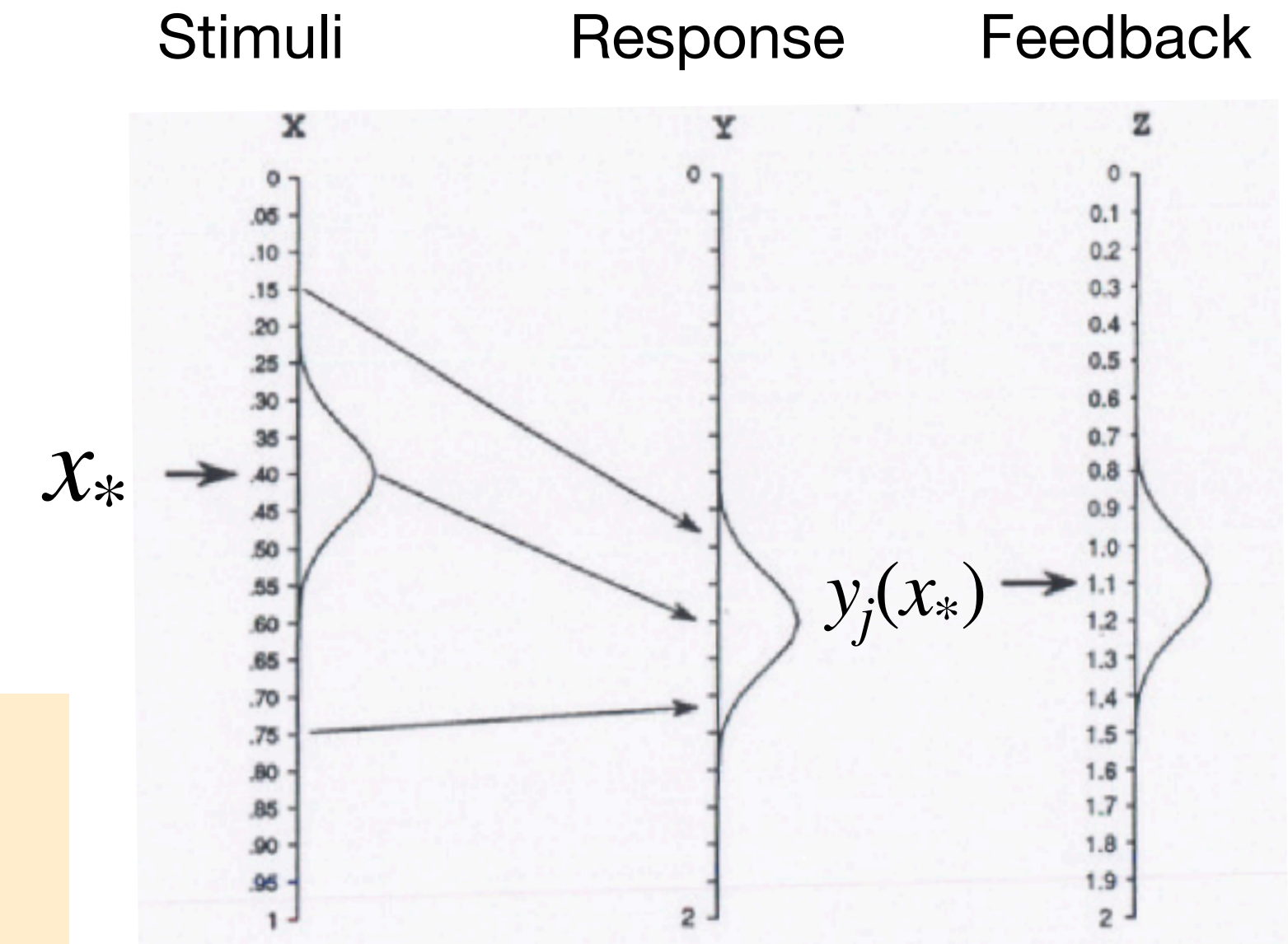
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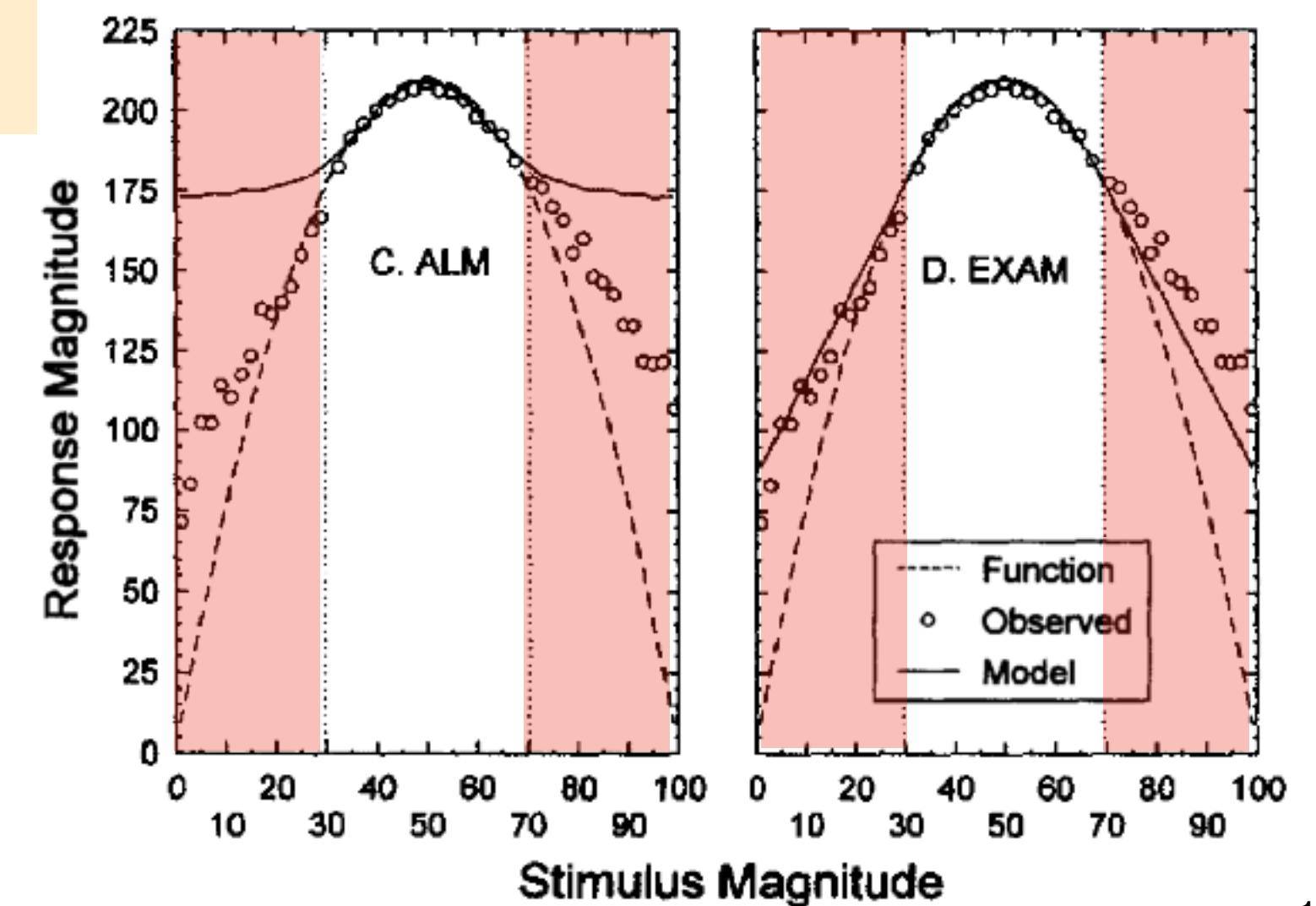
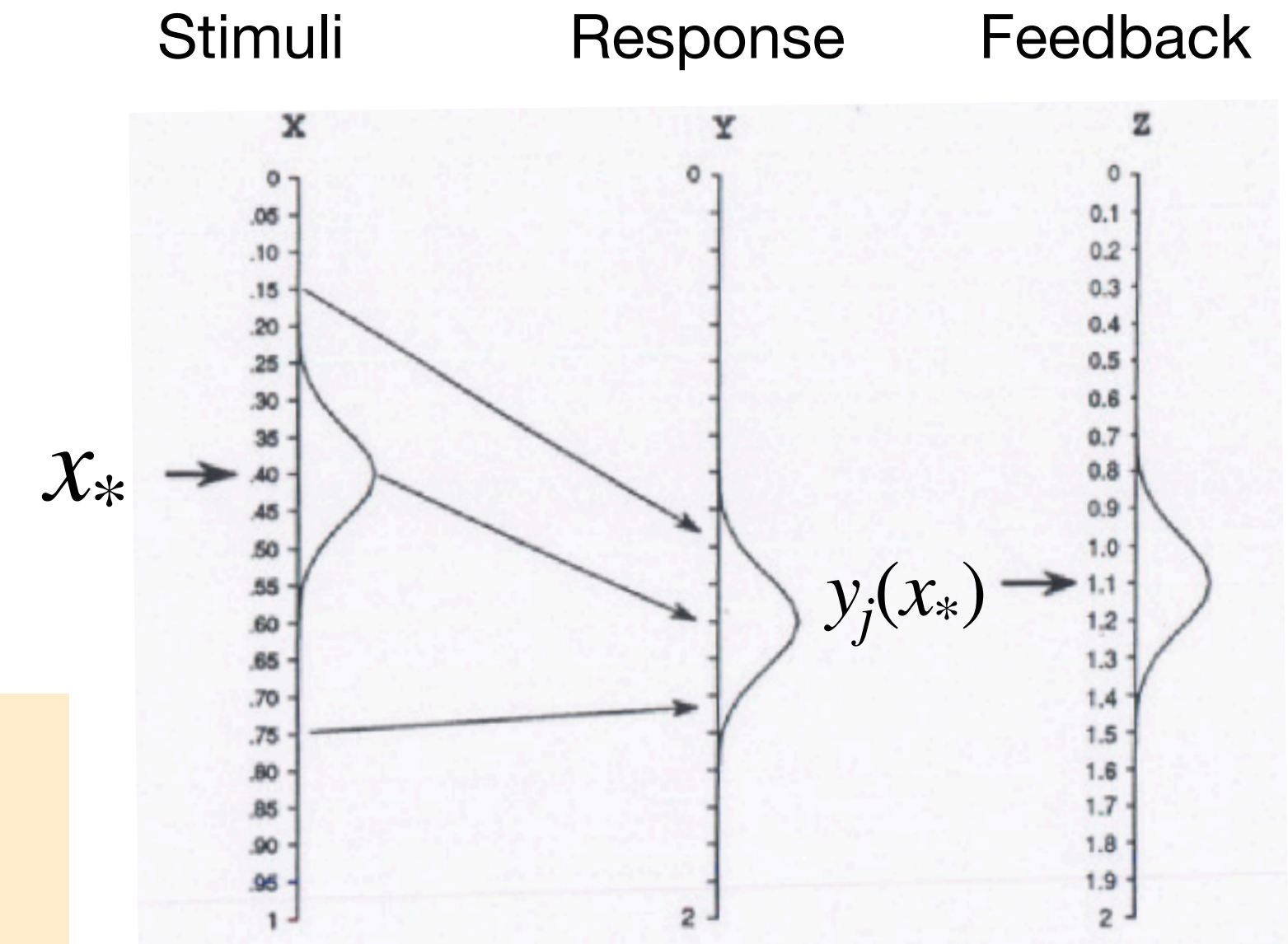
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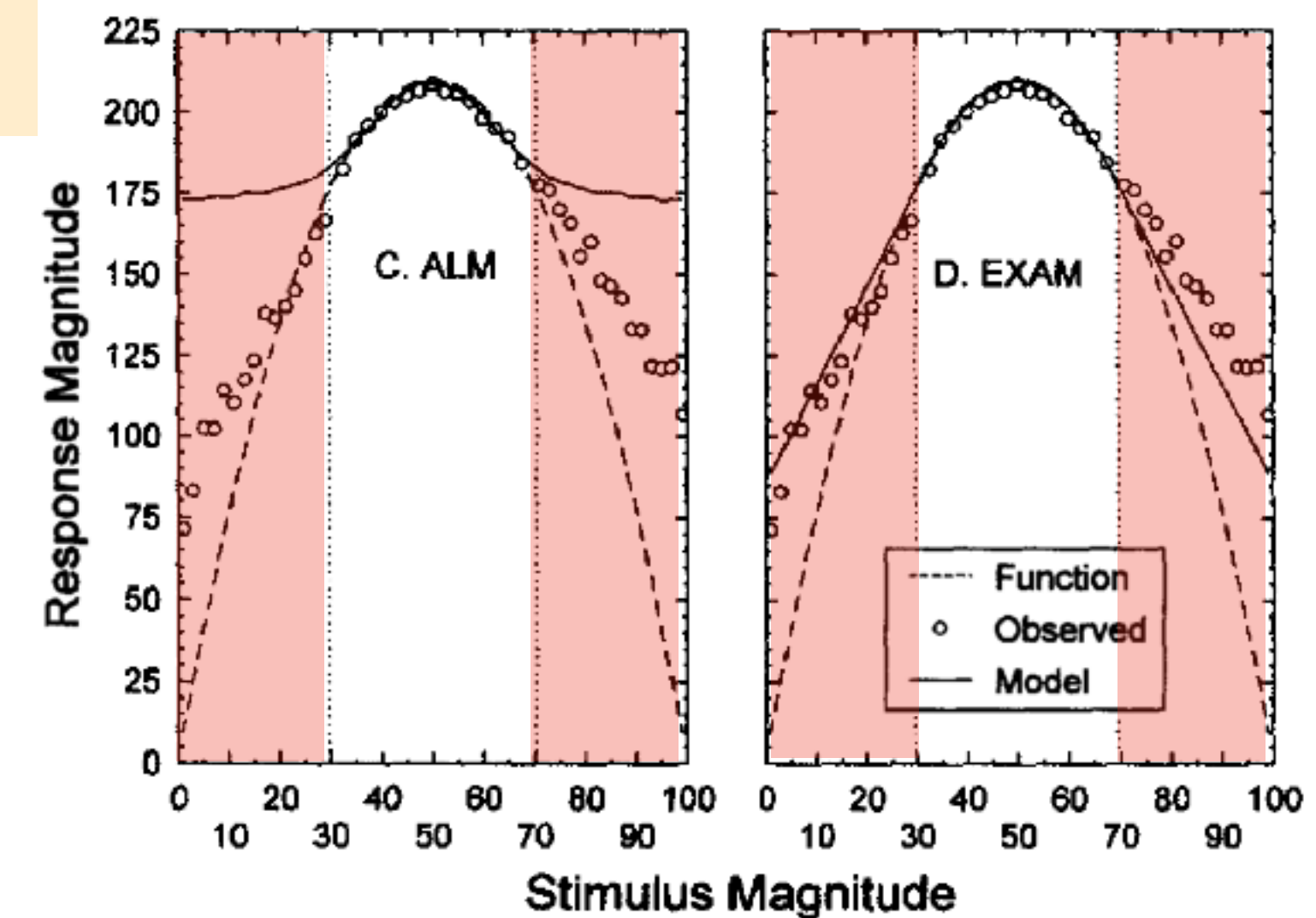
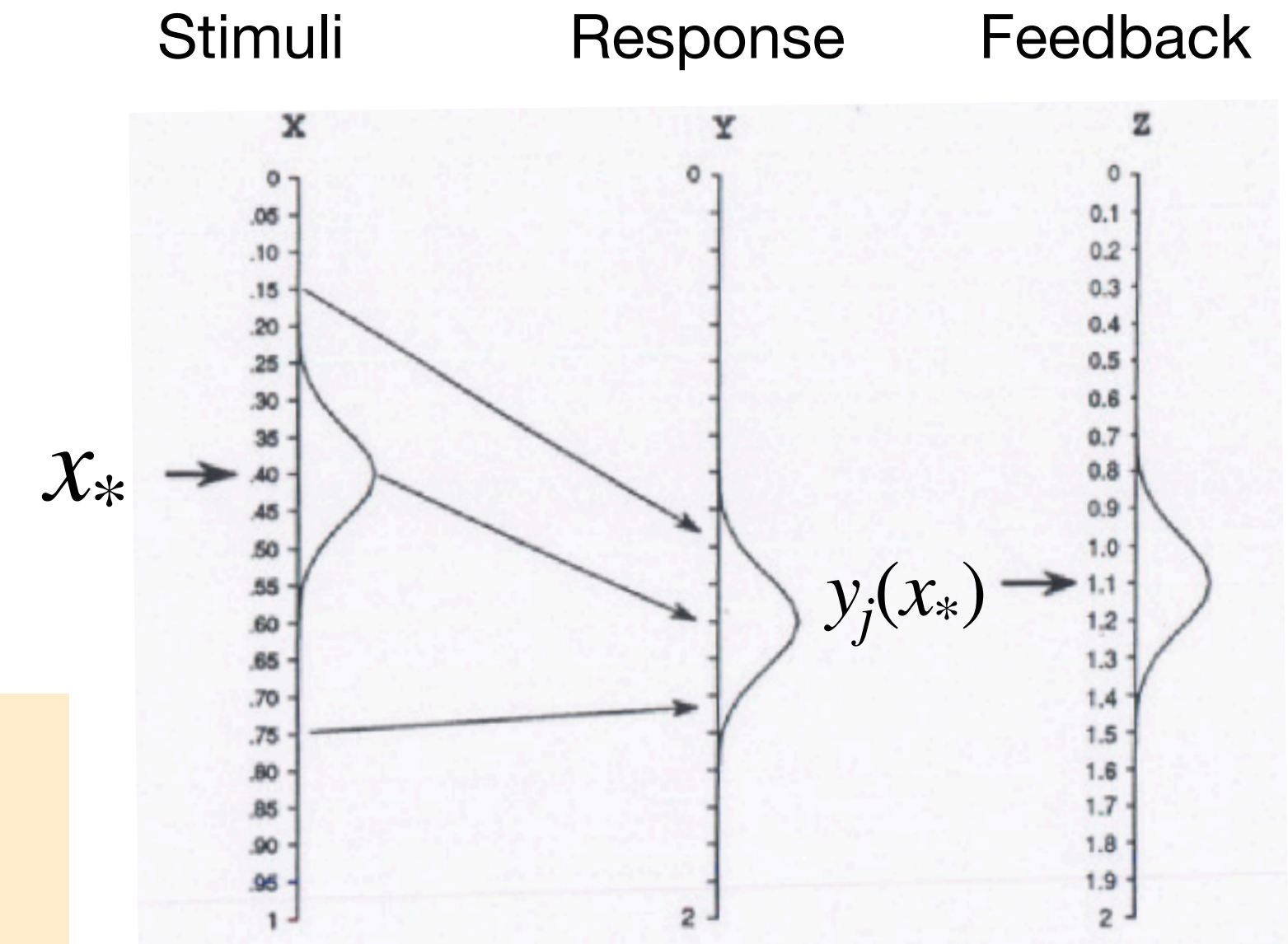
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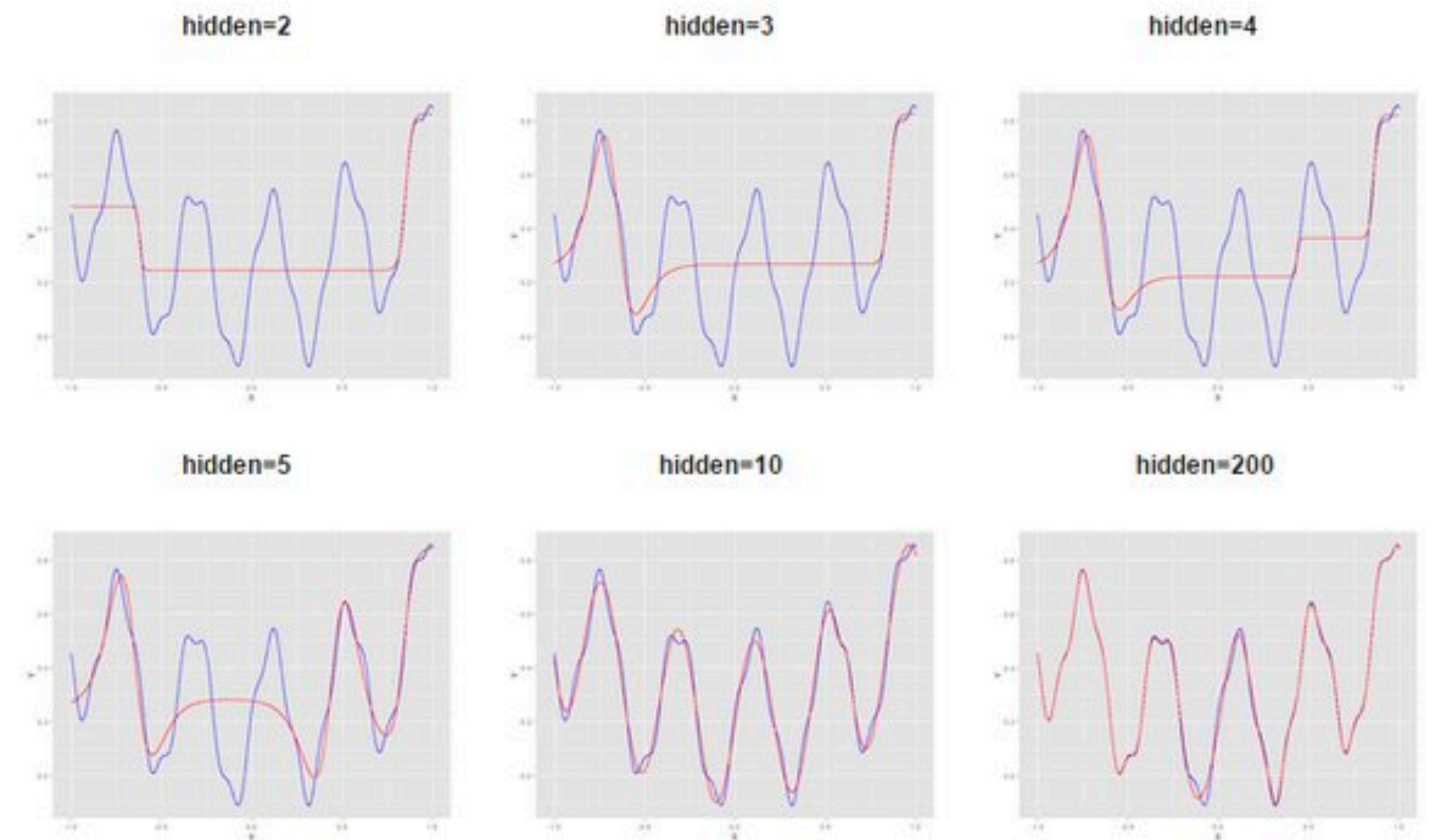
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- But humans also sometimes extrapolate in a non-linear fashion (Bott & Heit, 2004)





# Neural networks as Universal Function Approximators

- Recall Cybenko (1989): Every continuous function can be approximated arbitrarily closely by an MLP with just a single hidden layer
- adding more nodes in the hidden layer increases the representational capacity of the network
- But fitting is not the same as predicting
- As we see from ALM, extrapolation patterns of NNs don't always match the inductive biases of humans learners



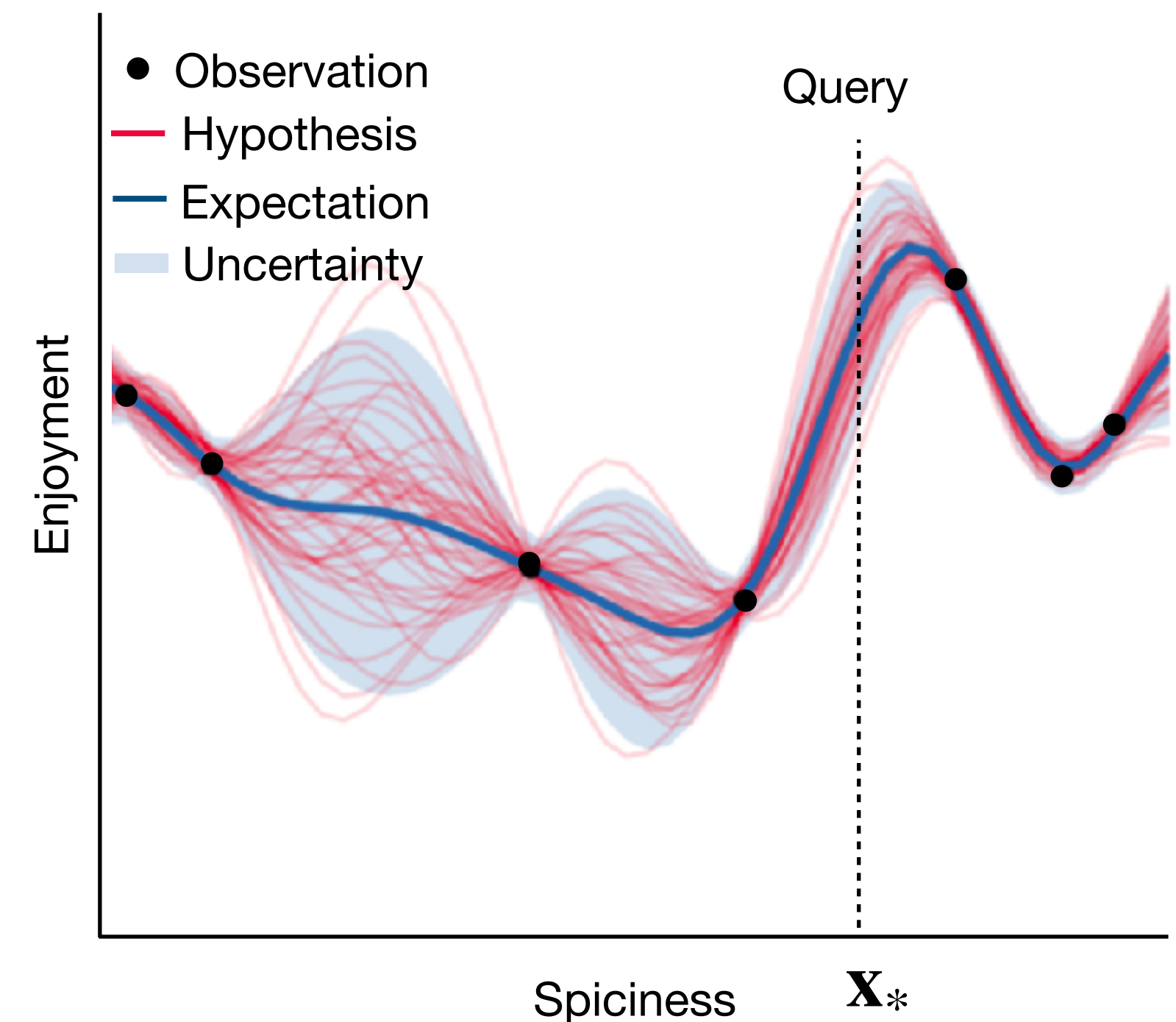
# Gaussian Process (GP) regression as a hybrid model

- Bayesian framework for function learning
  - Assumes a distribution over functions: each function corresponds to a **hypothesis** about the relationship between  $x$  and  $y$
- Bayesian posterior is conditioned on past **observations**, letting us make predictions (with uncertainty) about any point along the input space ( $\mathbf{x}_*$ )
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- GPs are a *non-parametric* model, meaning the complexity is defined by the data not the number of parameters in the chosen functional class (i.e., *parametric models*)



# Gaussian Process (GP) regression as a hybrid model

- Bayesian framework for function learning
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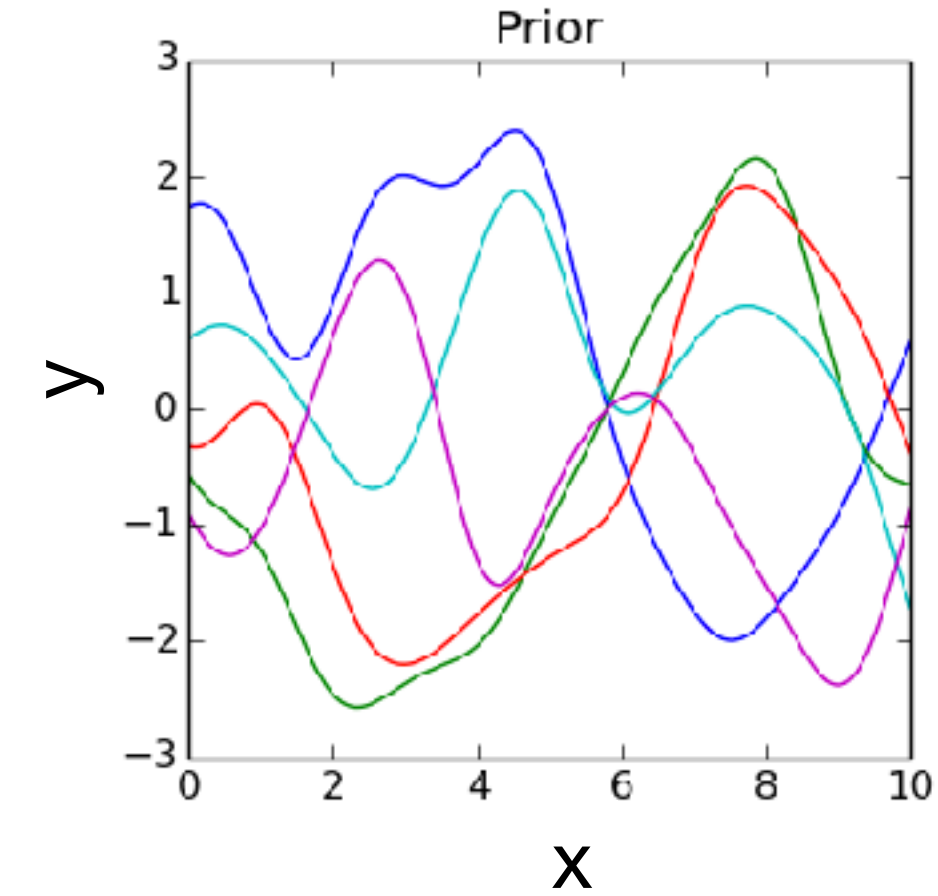
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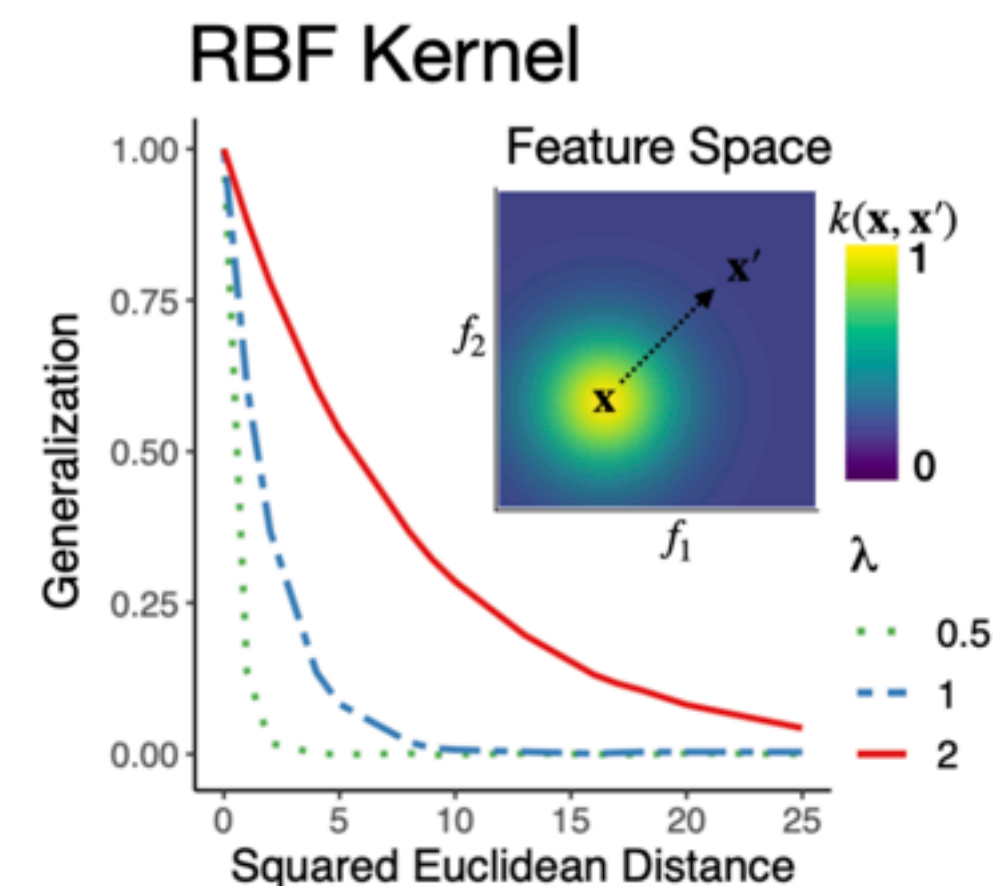
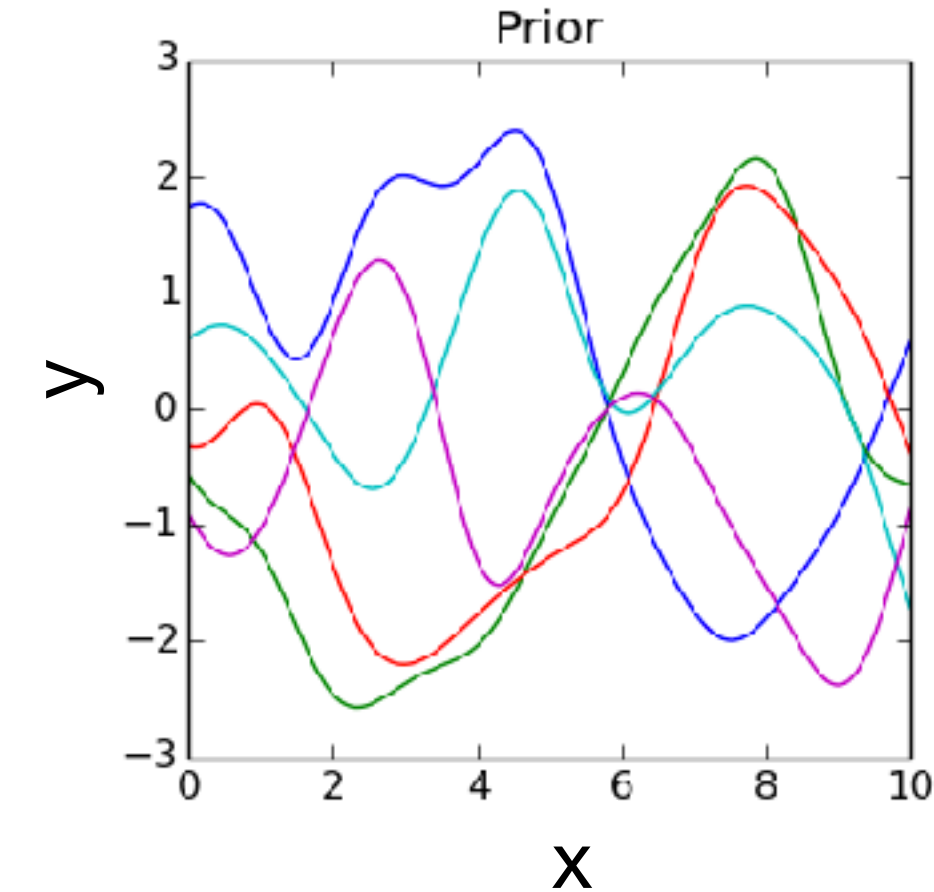
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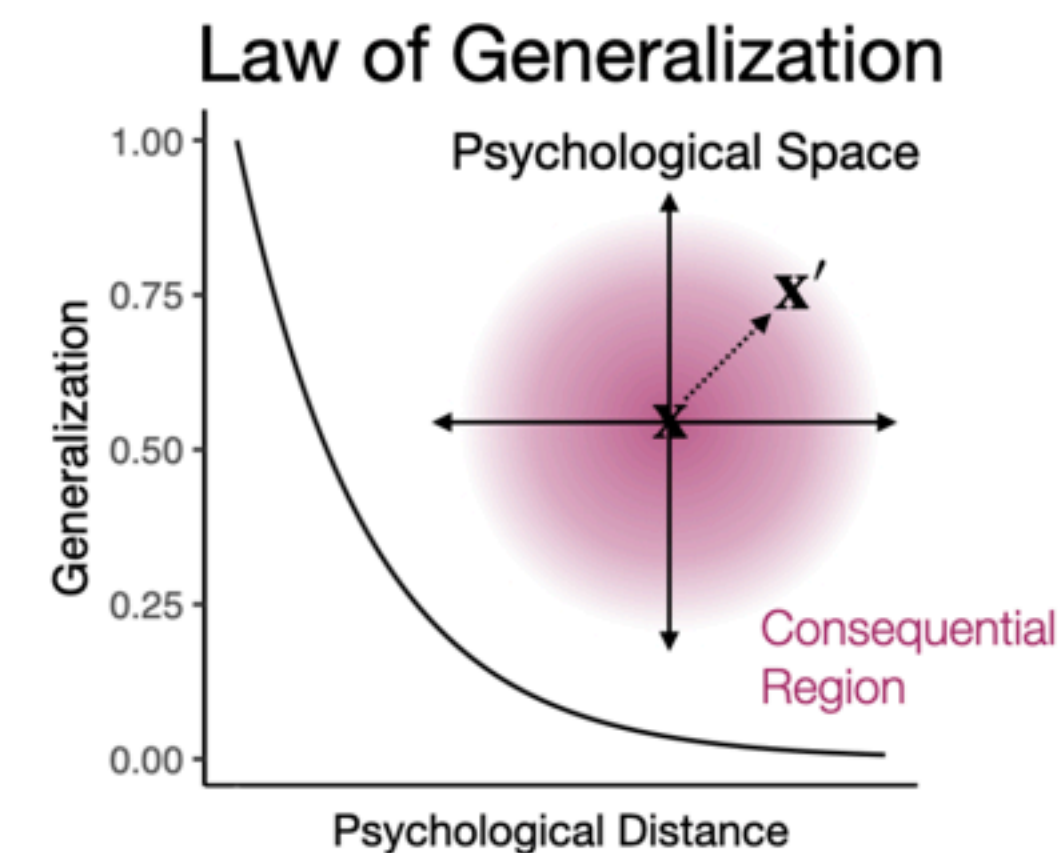
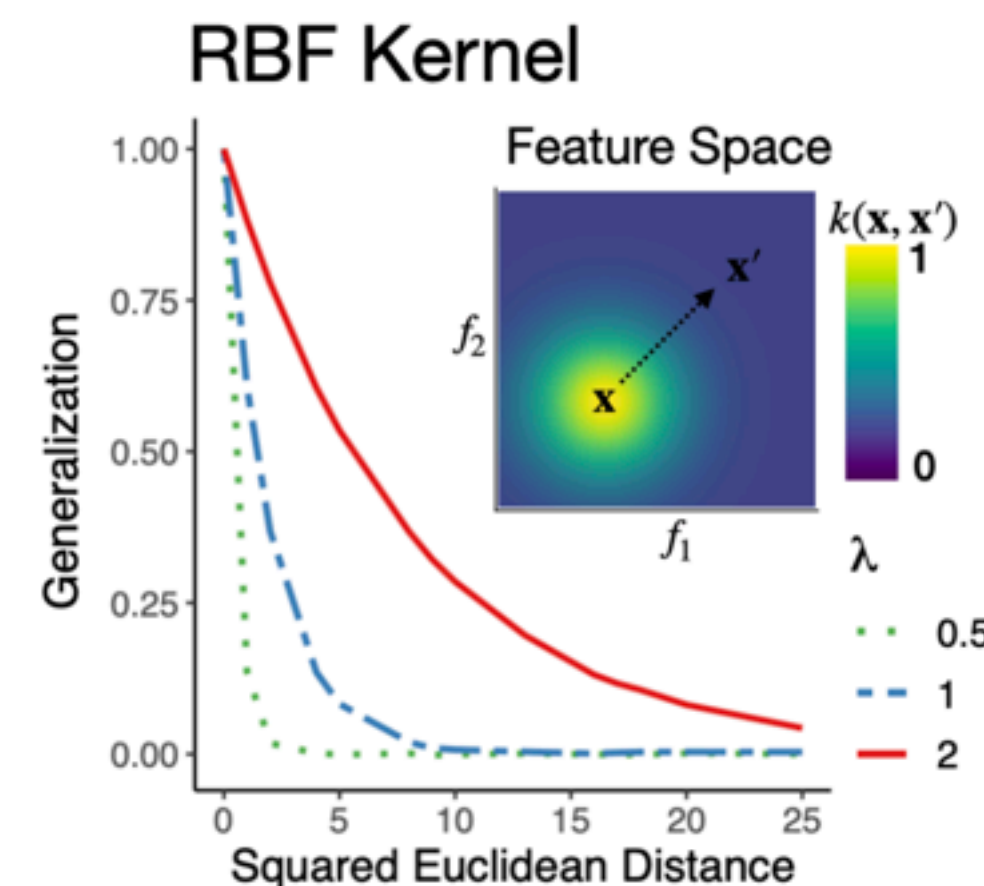
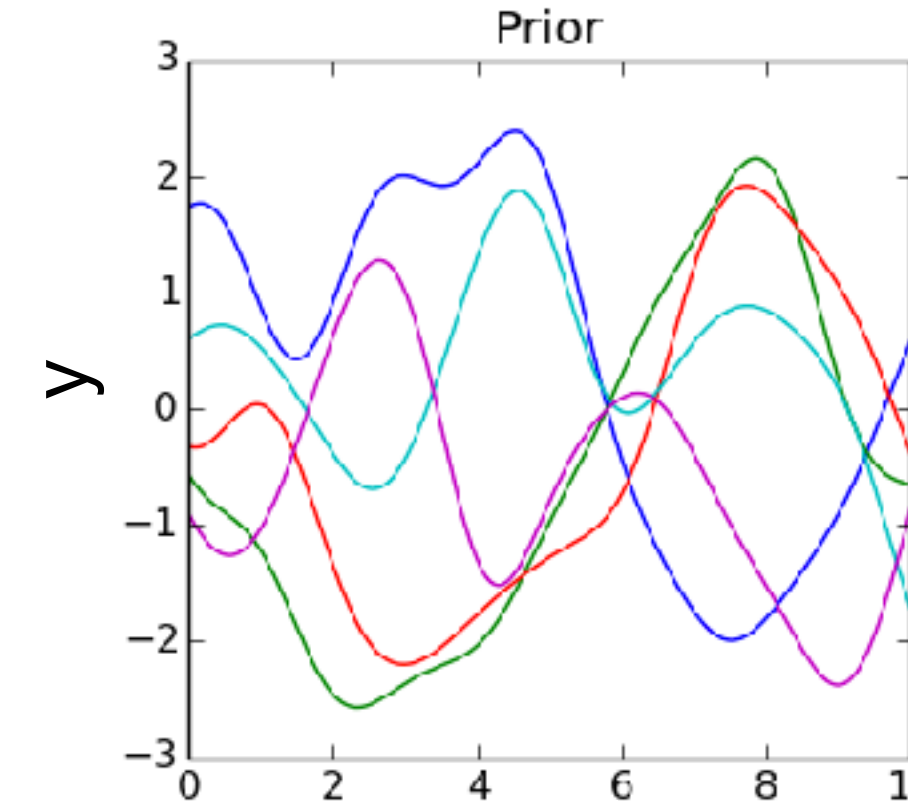
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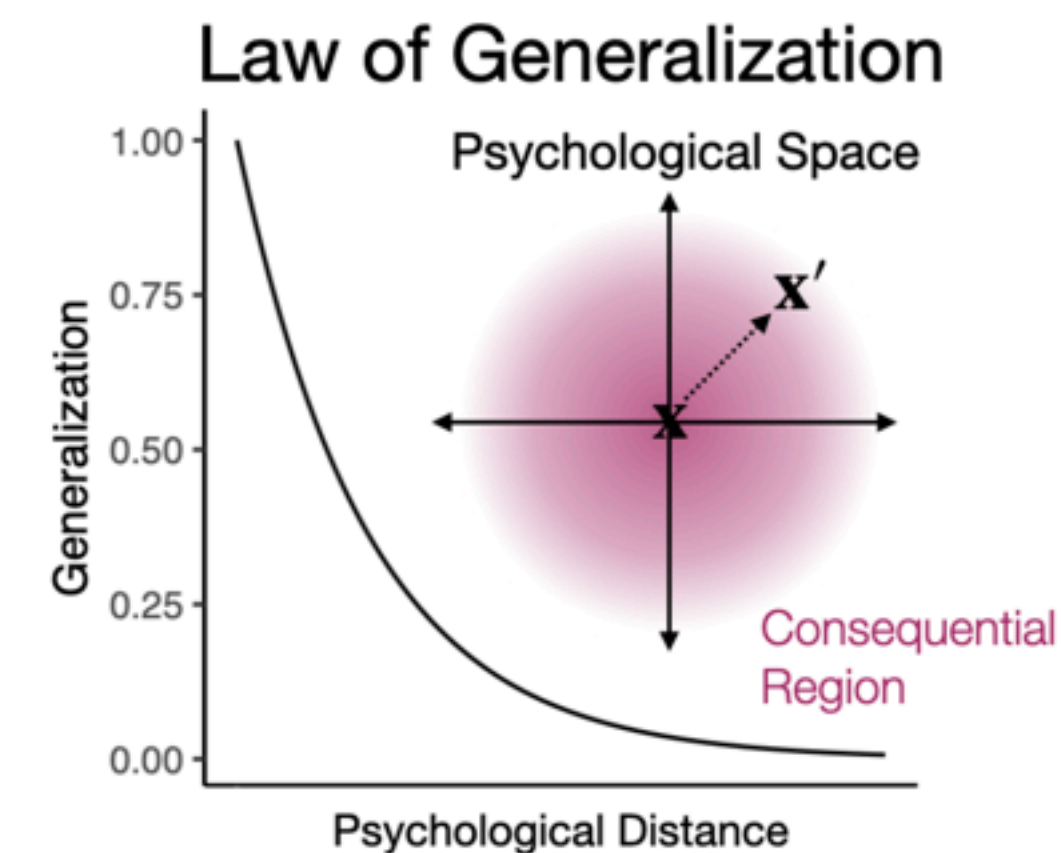
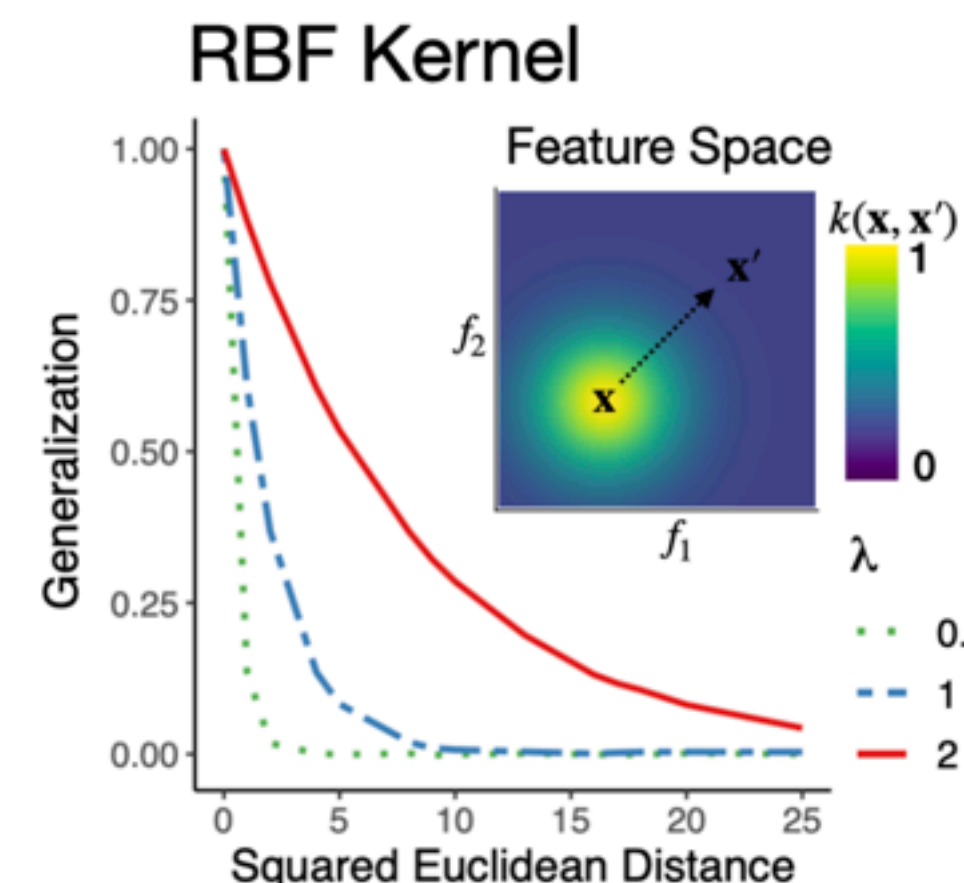
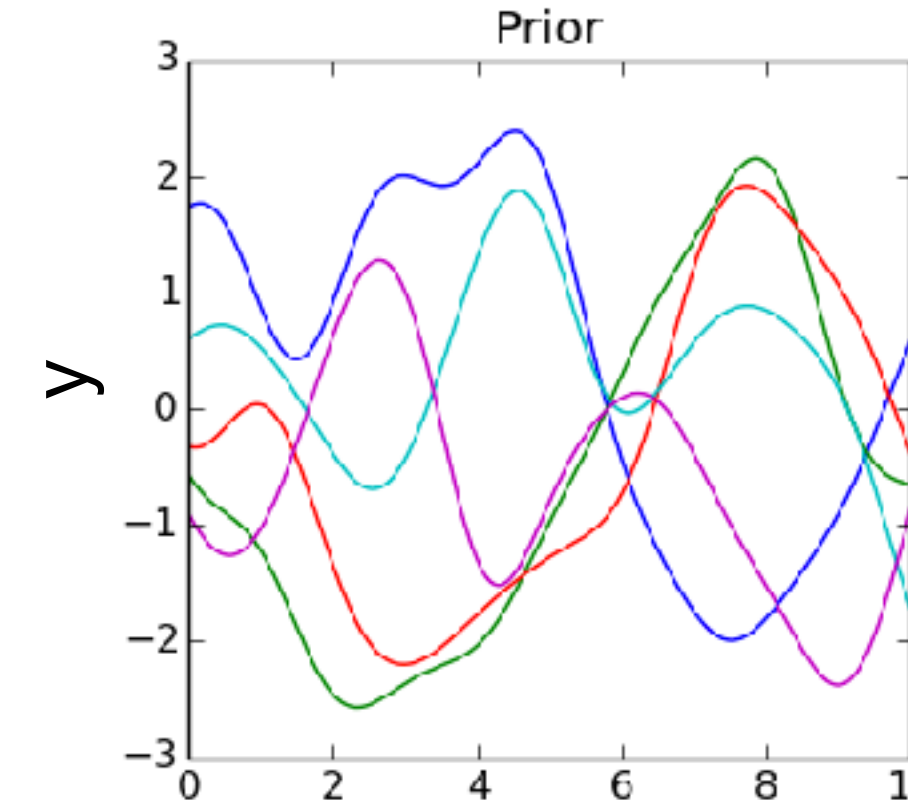
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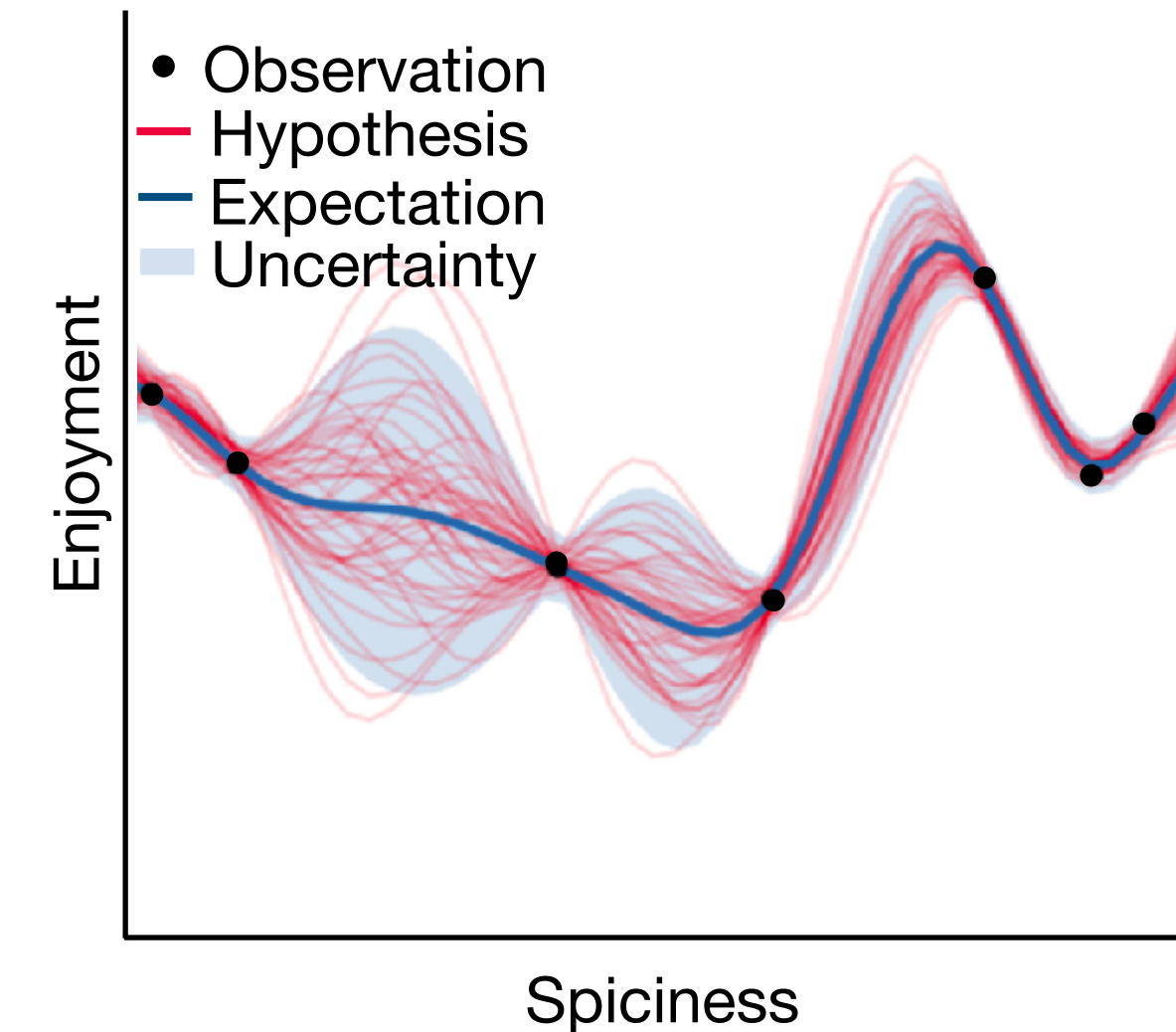
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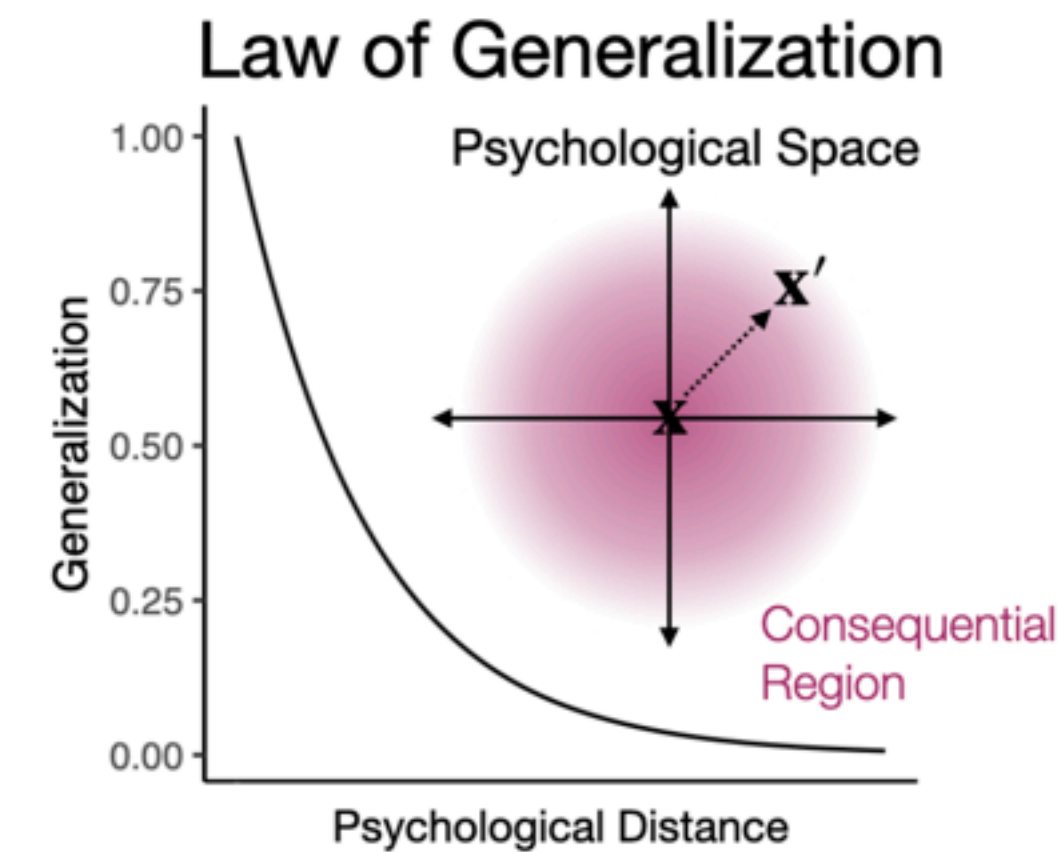
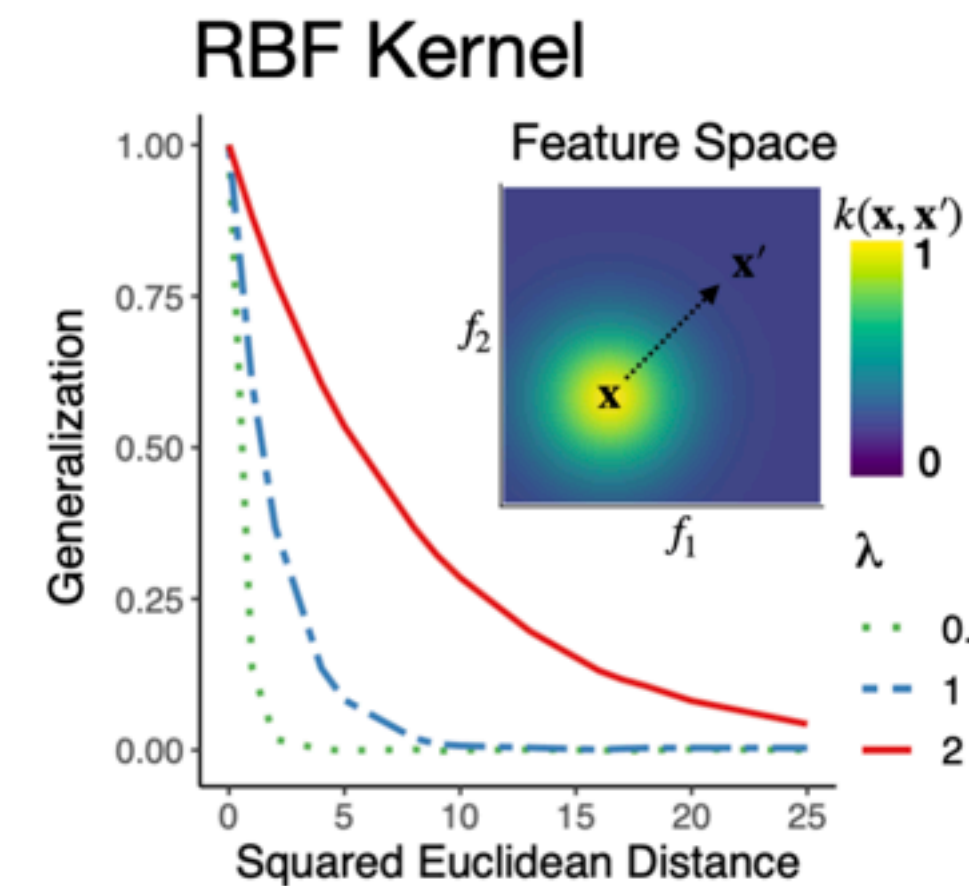
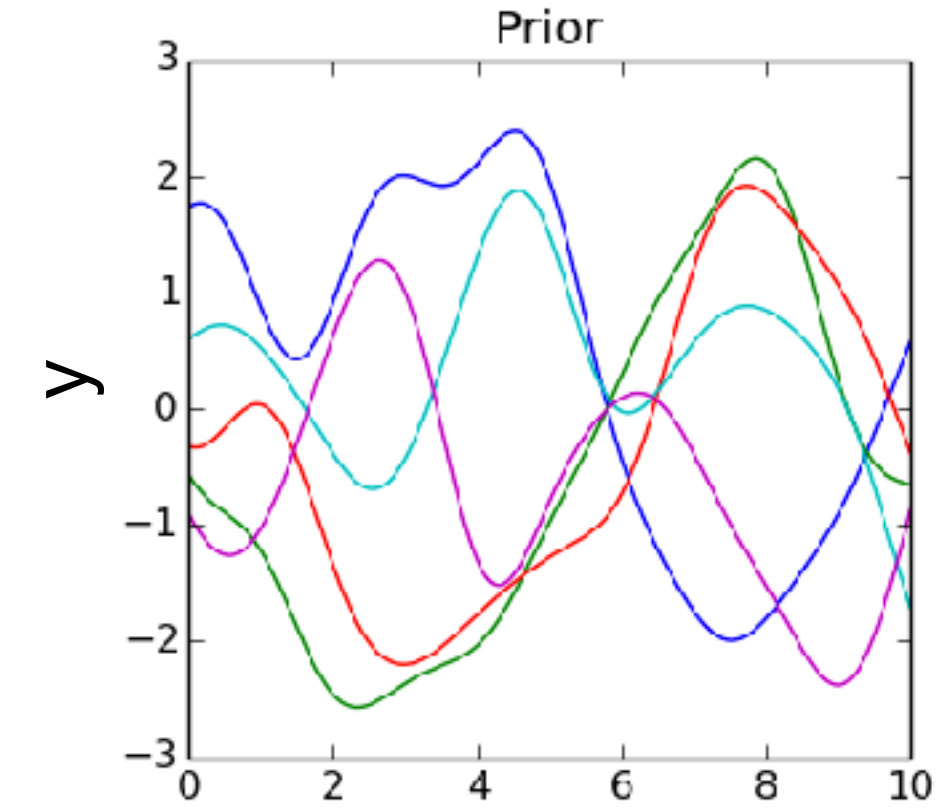
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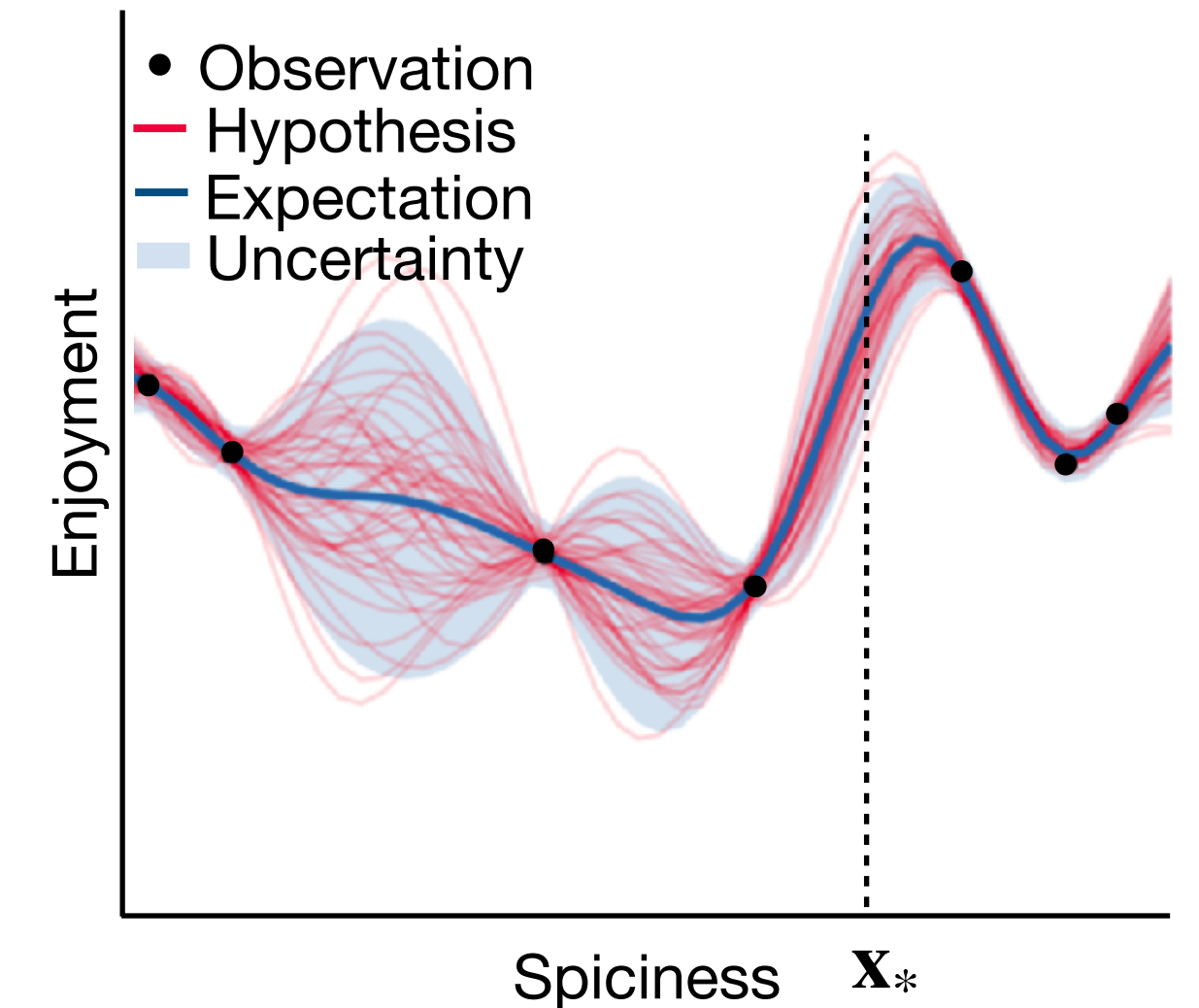
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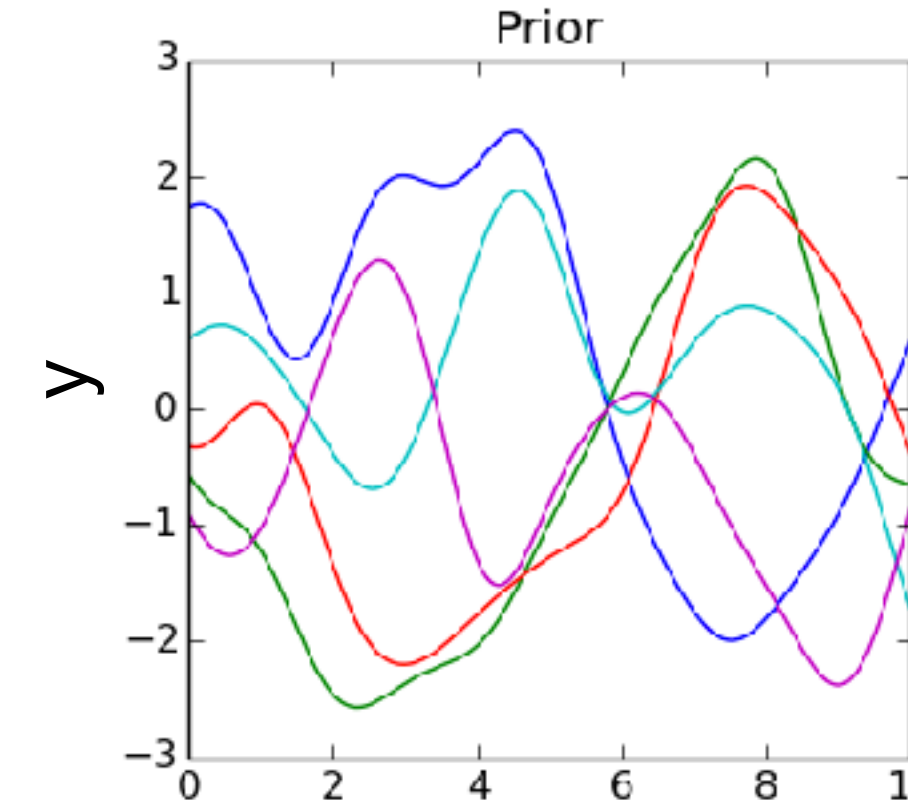
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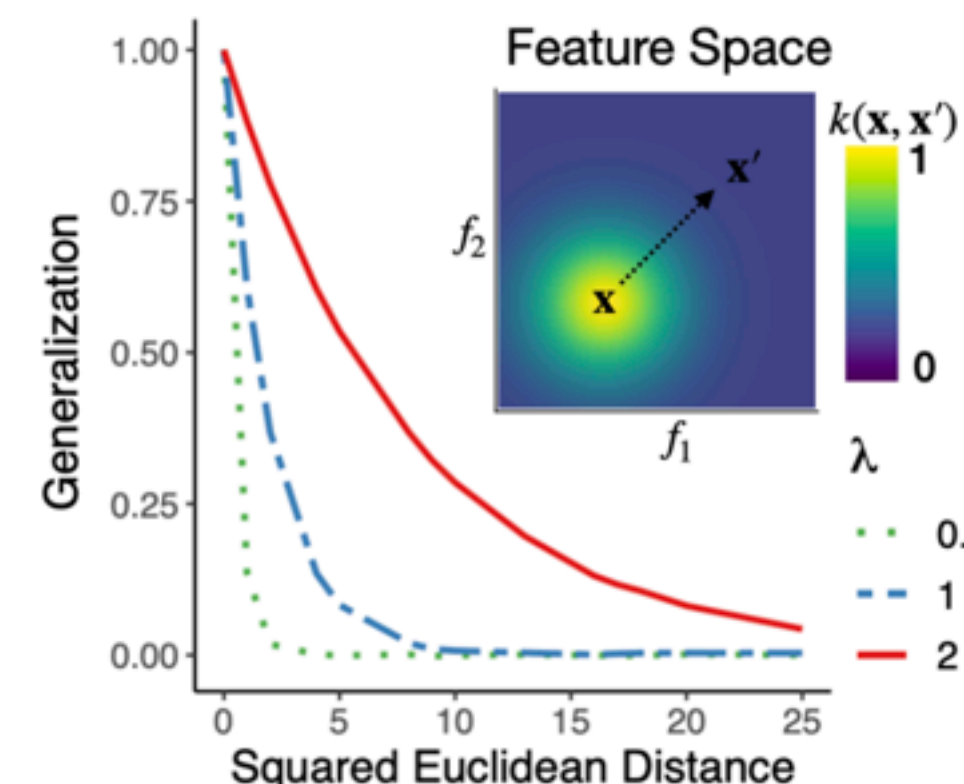
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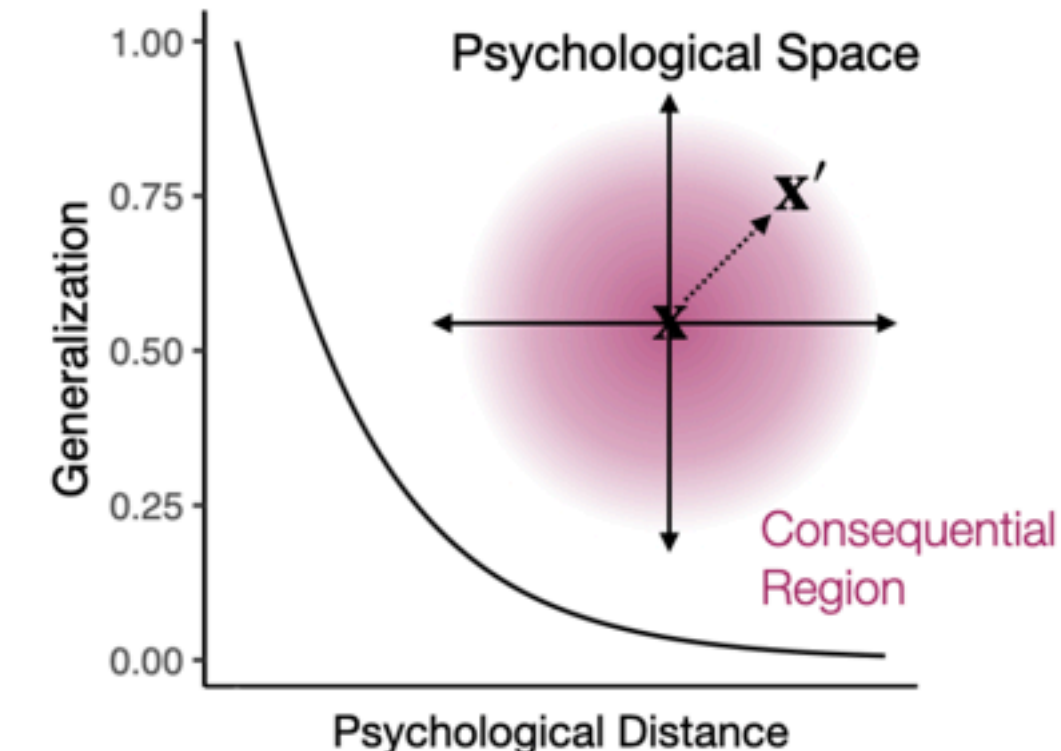
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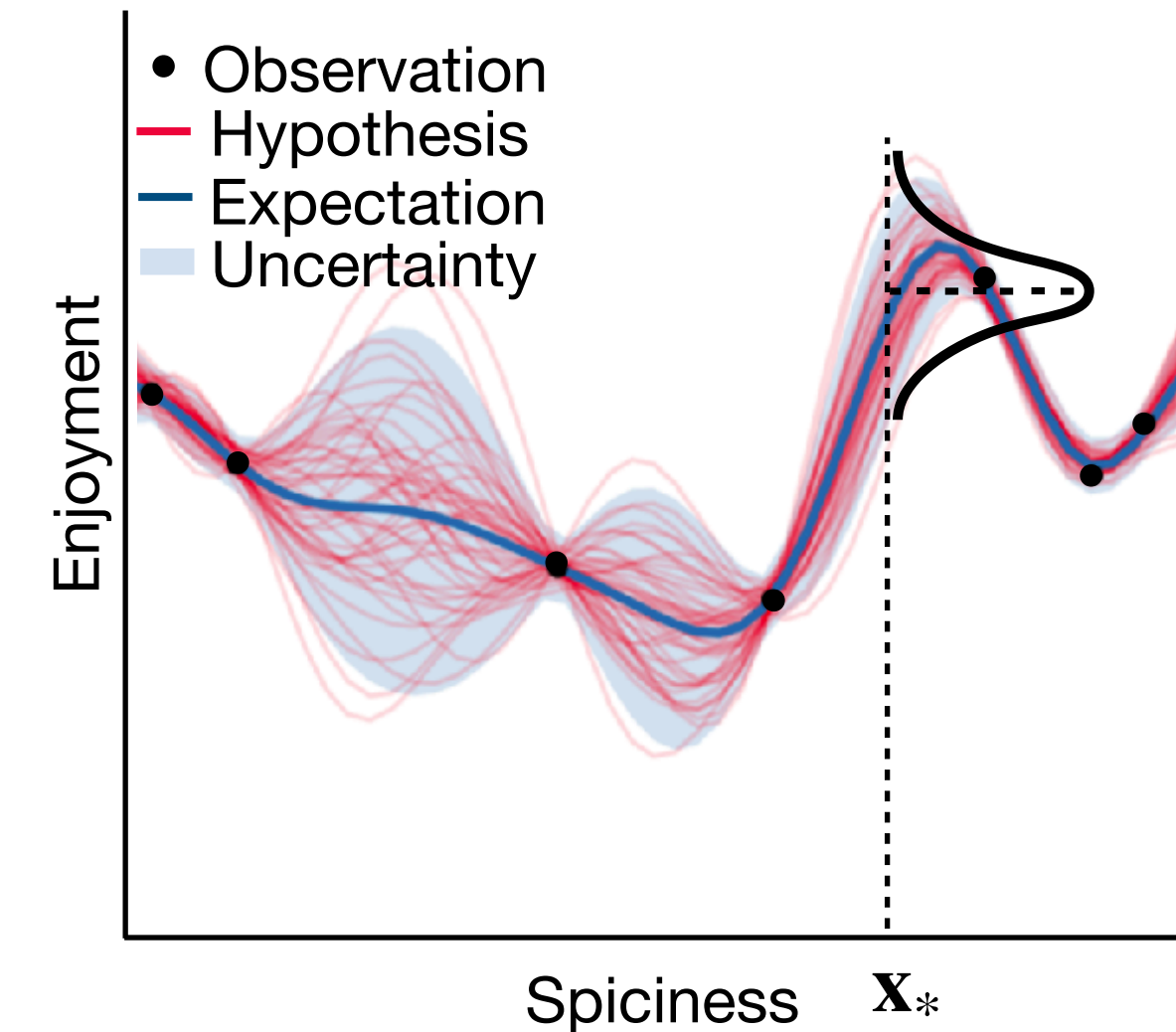
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Law of Generalization



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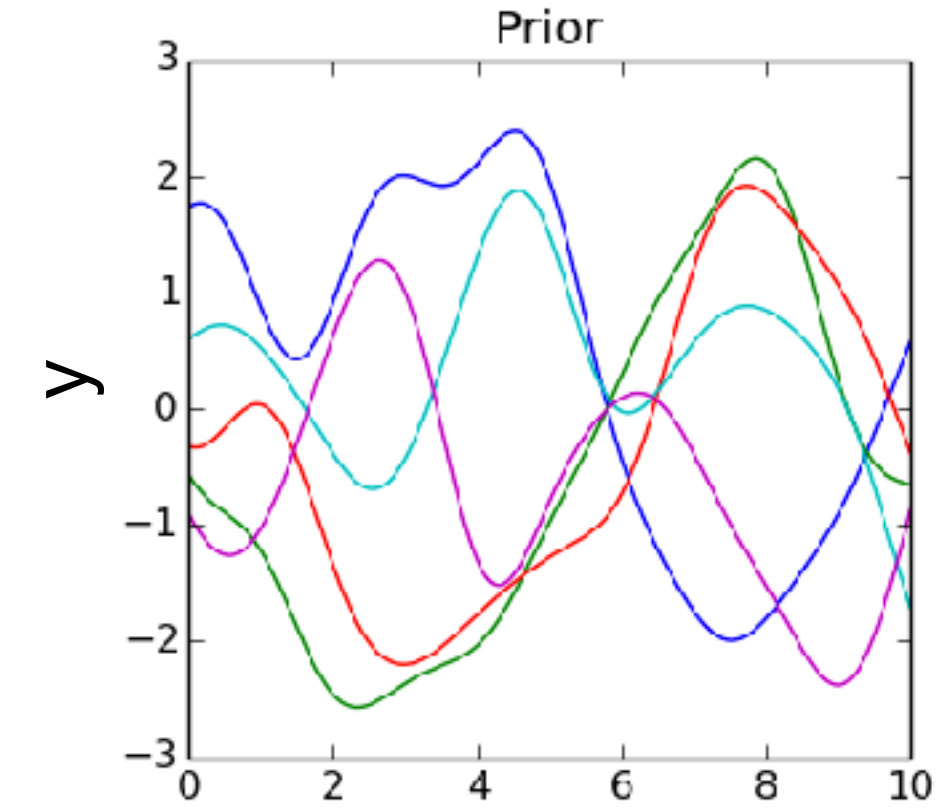
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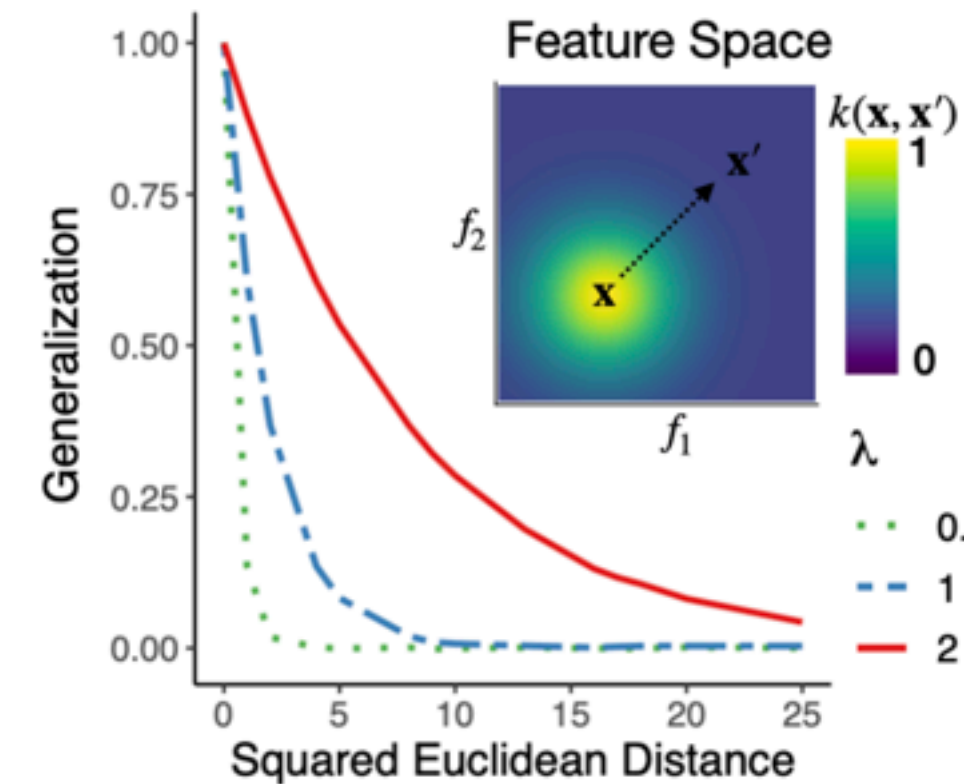
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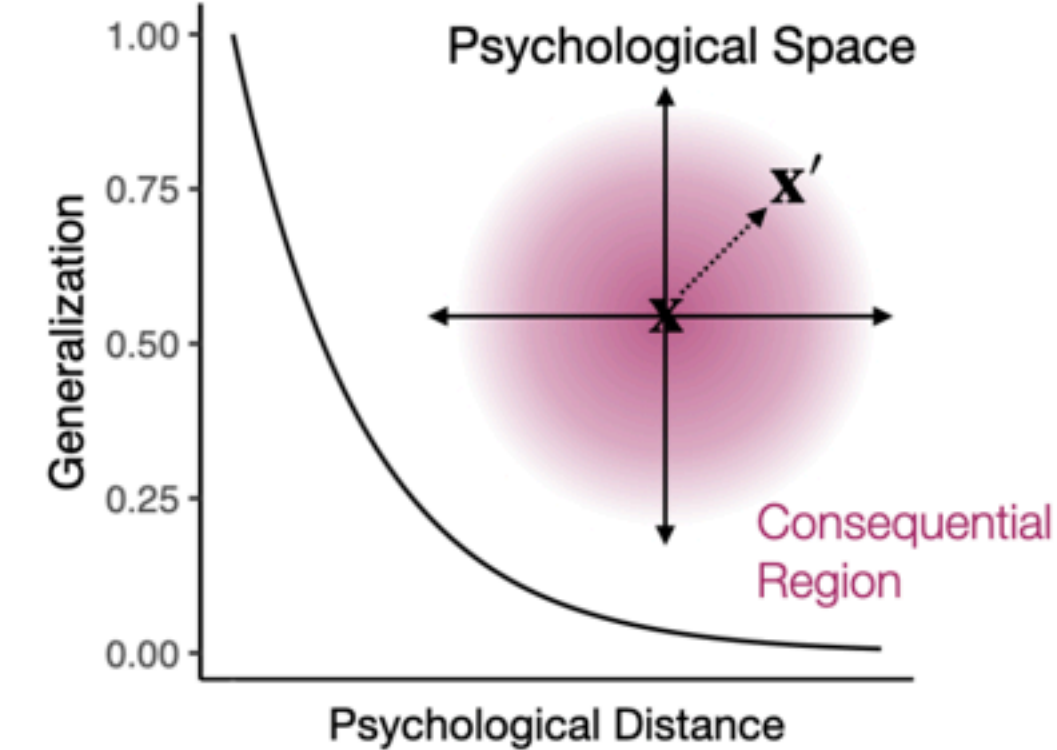
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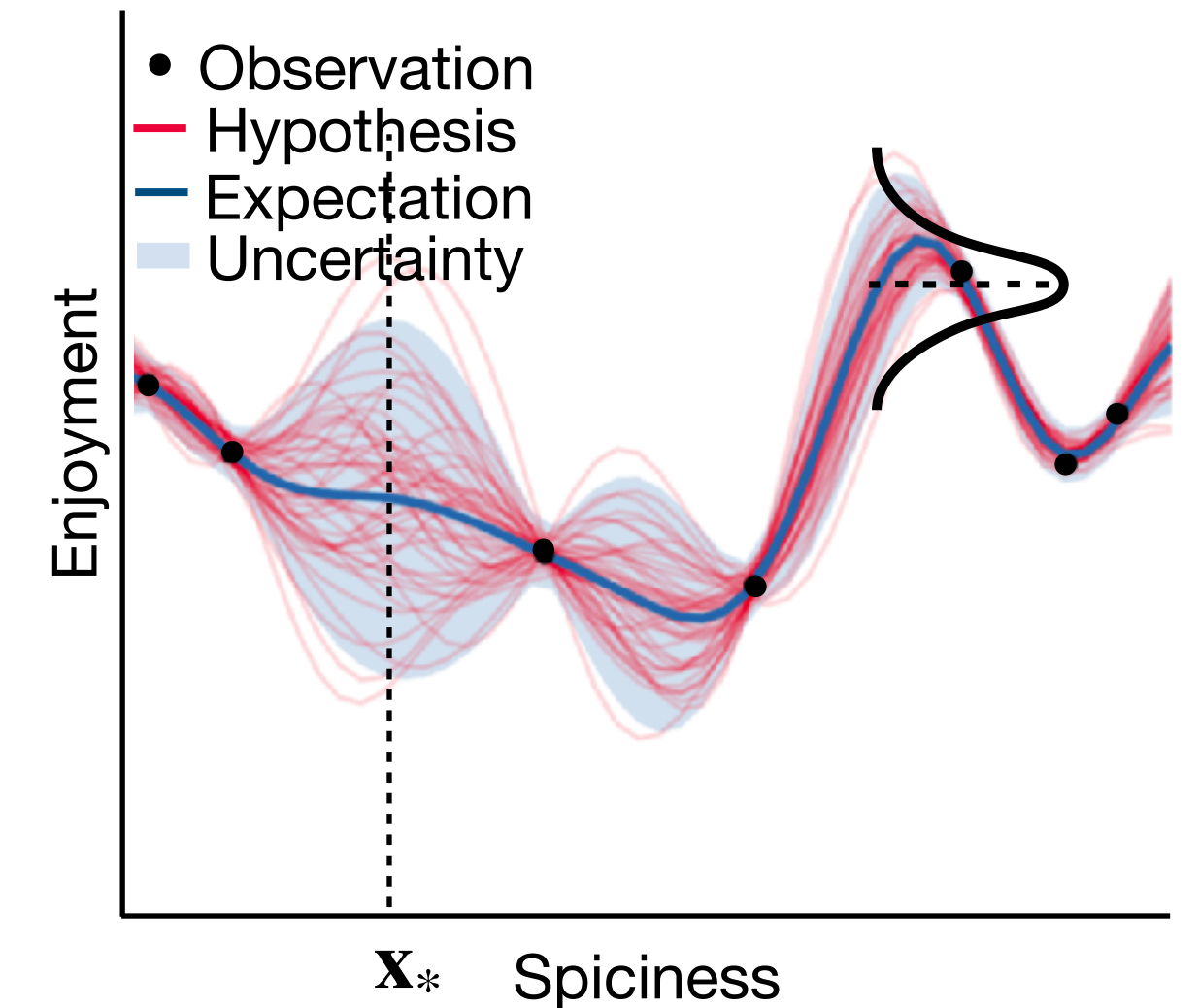
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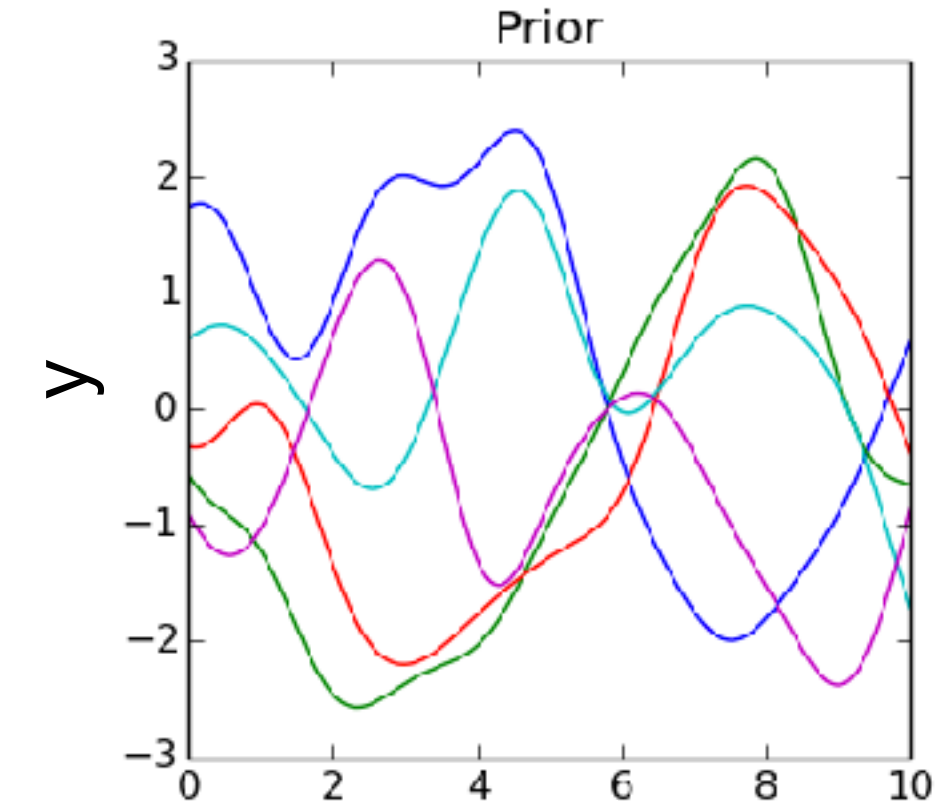
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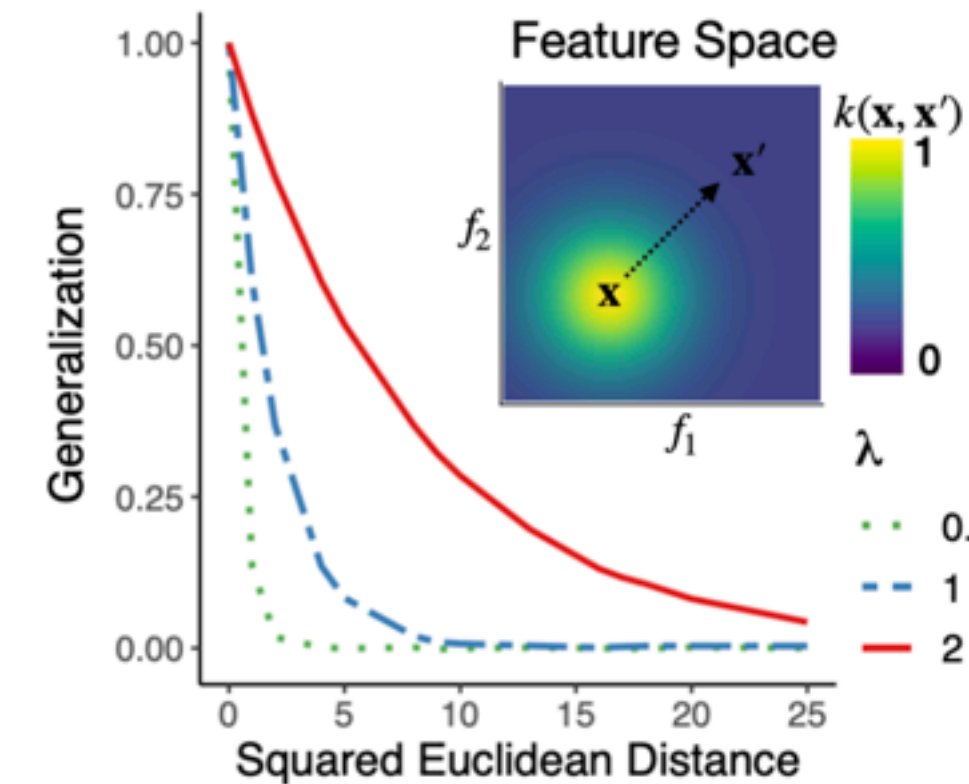
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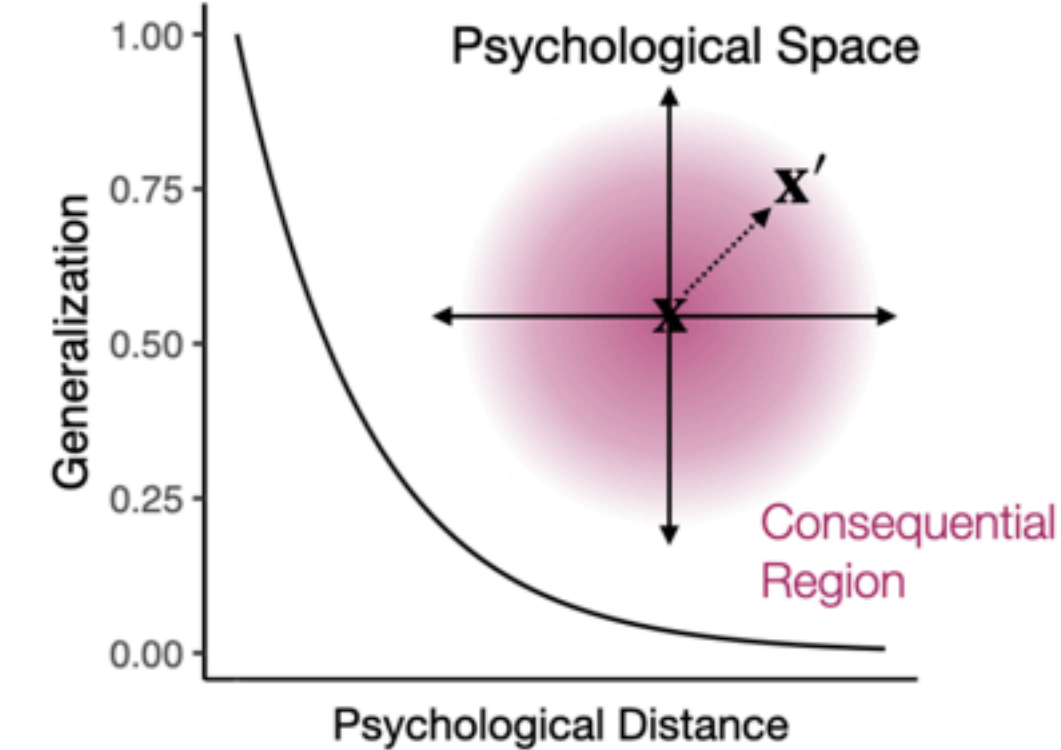
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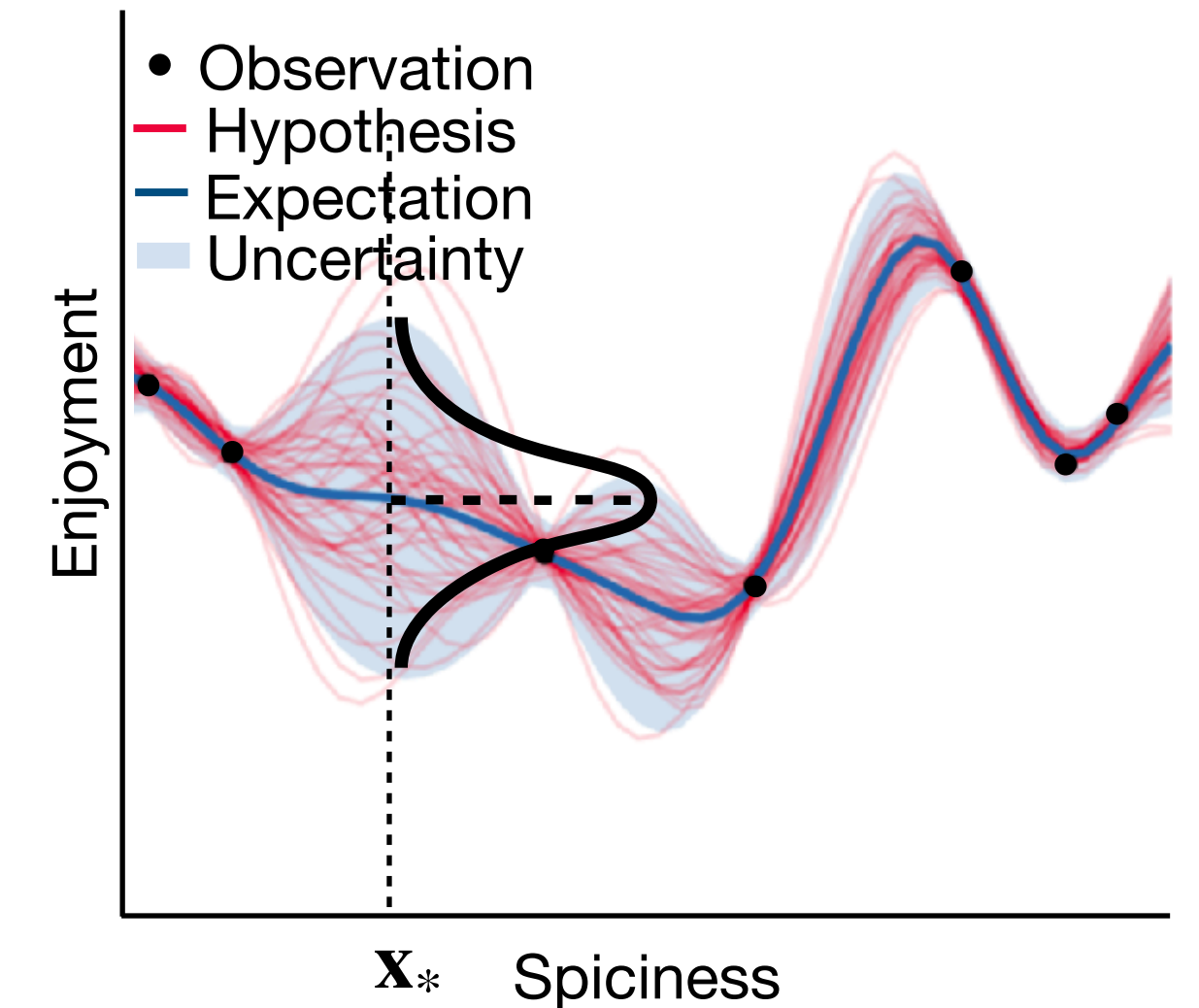
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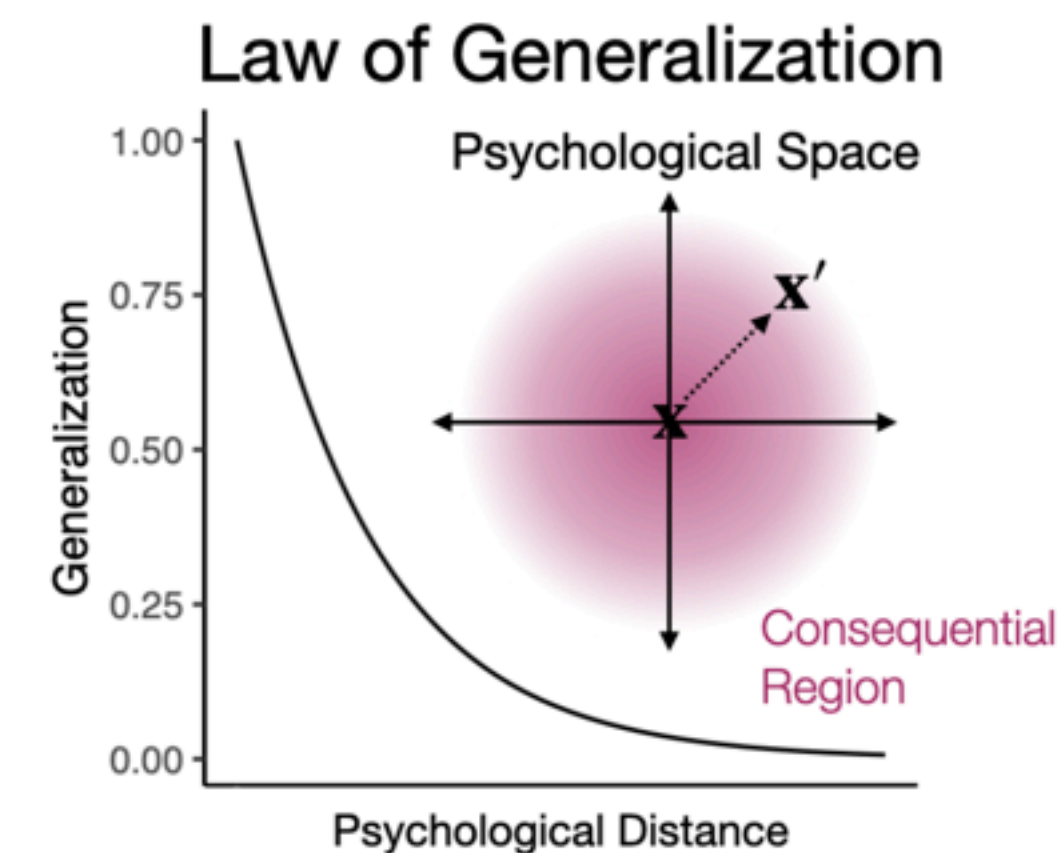
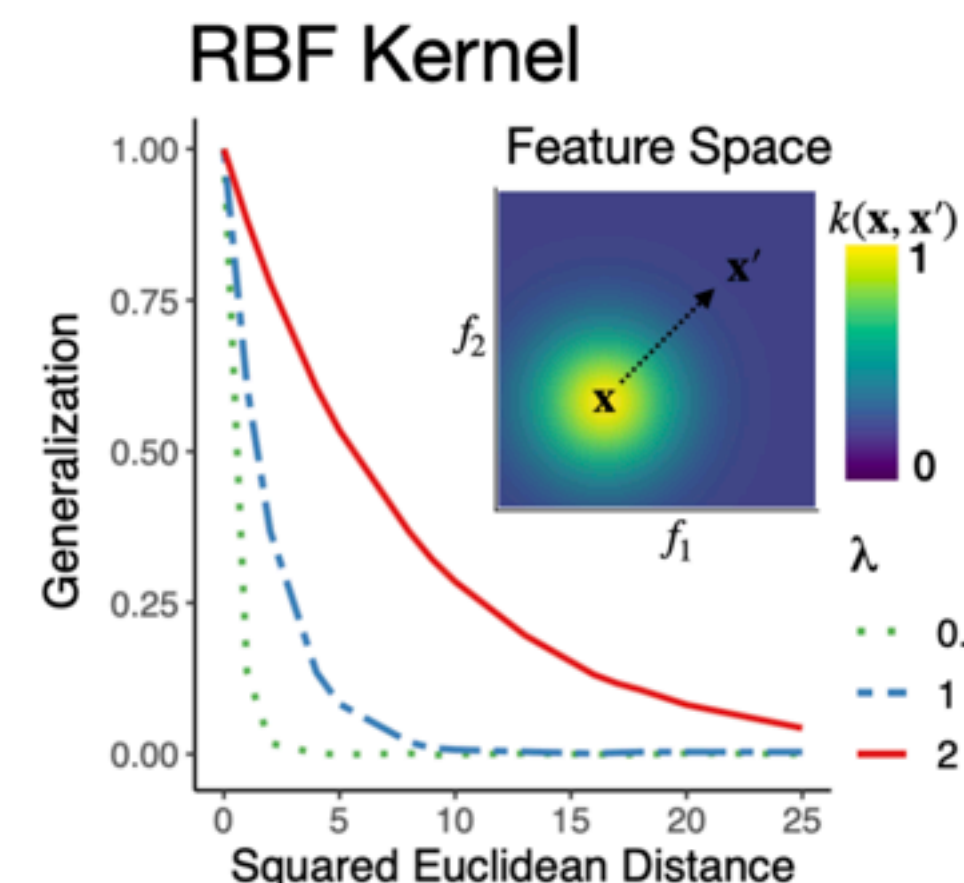
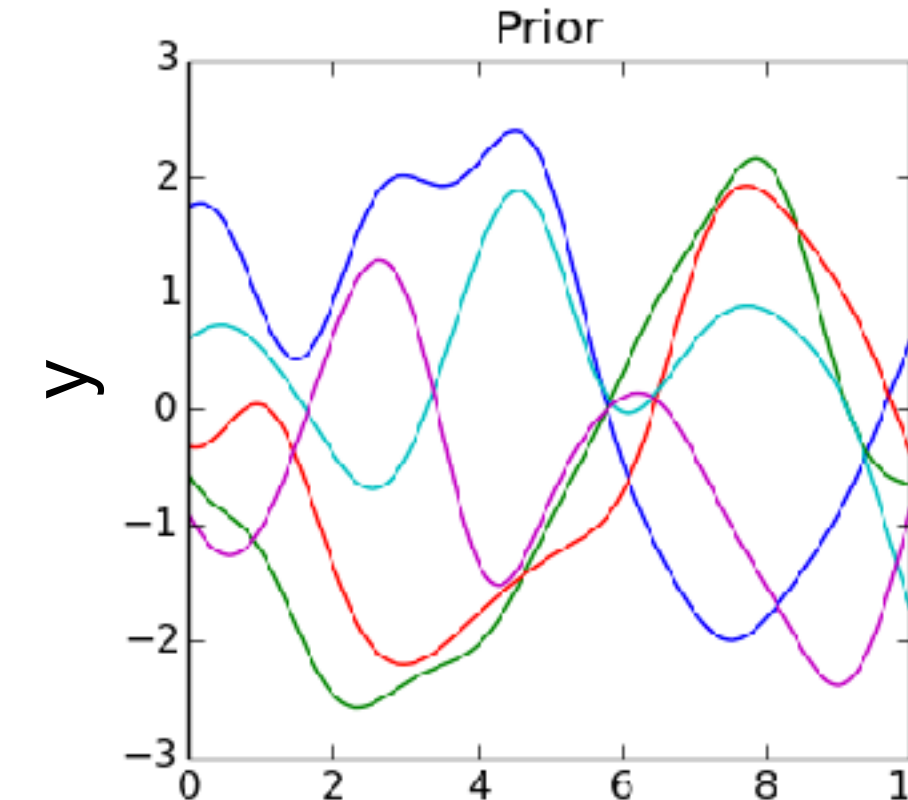
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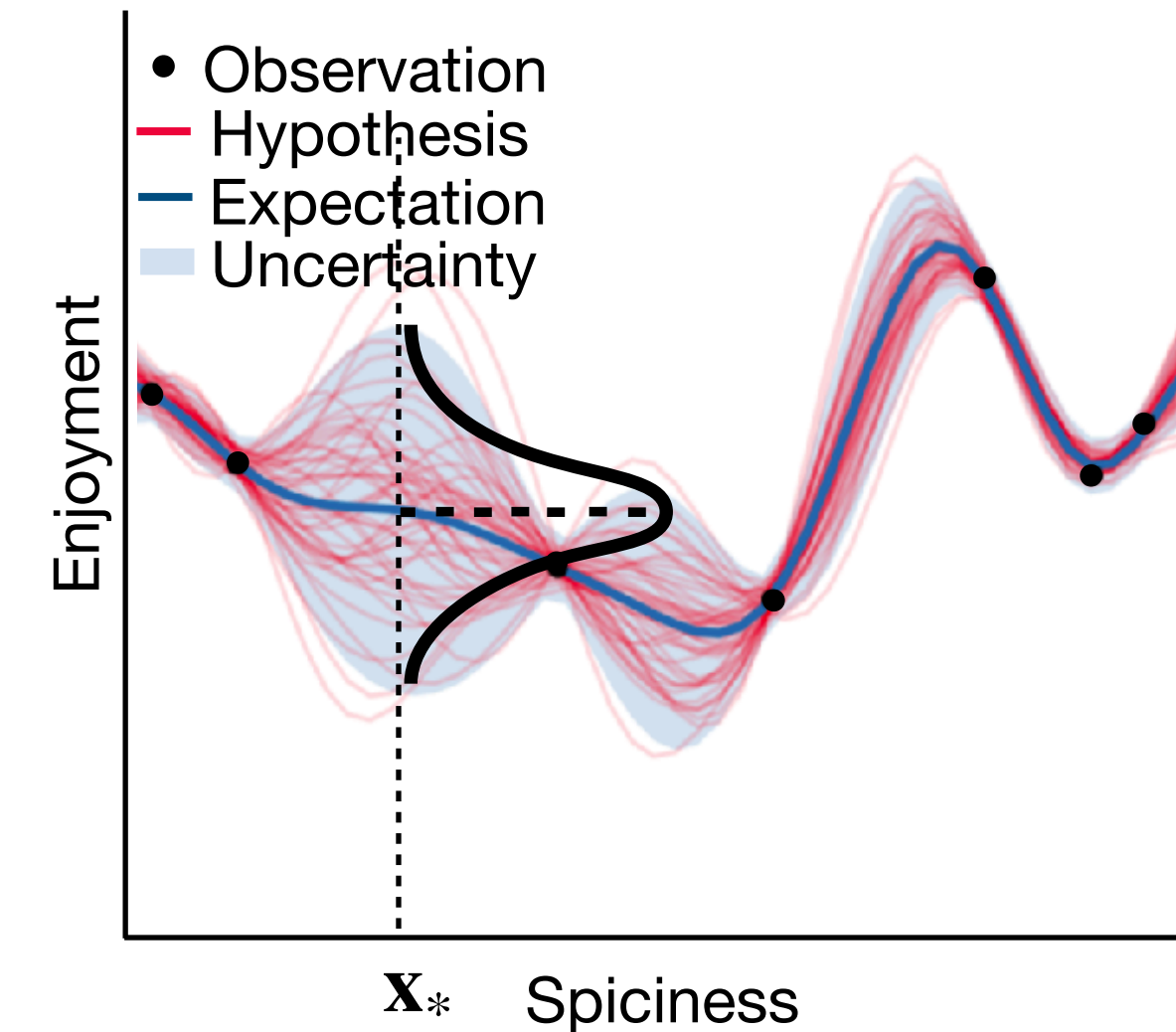
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\*Don't worry too much about what these equations mean for now; I will provide some intuitions later



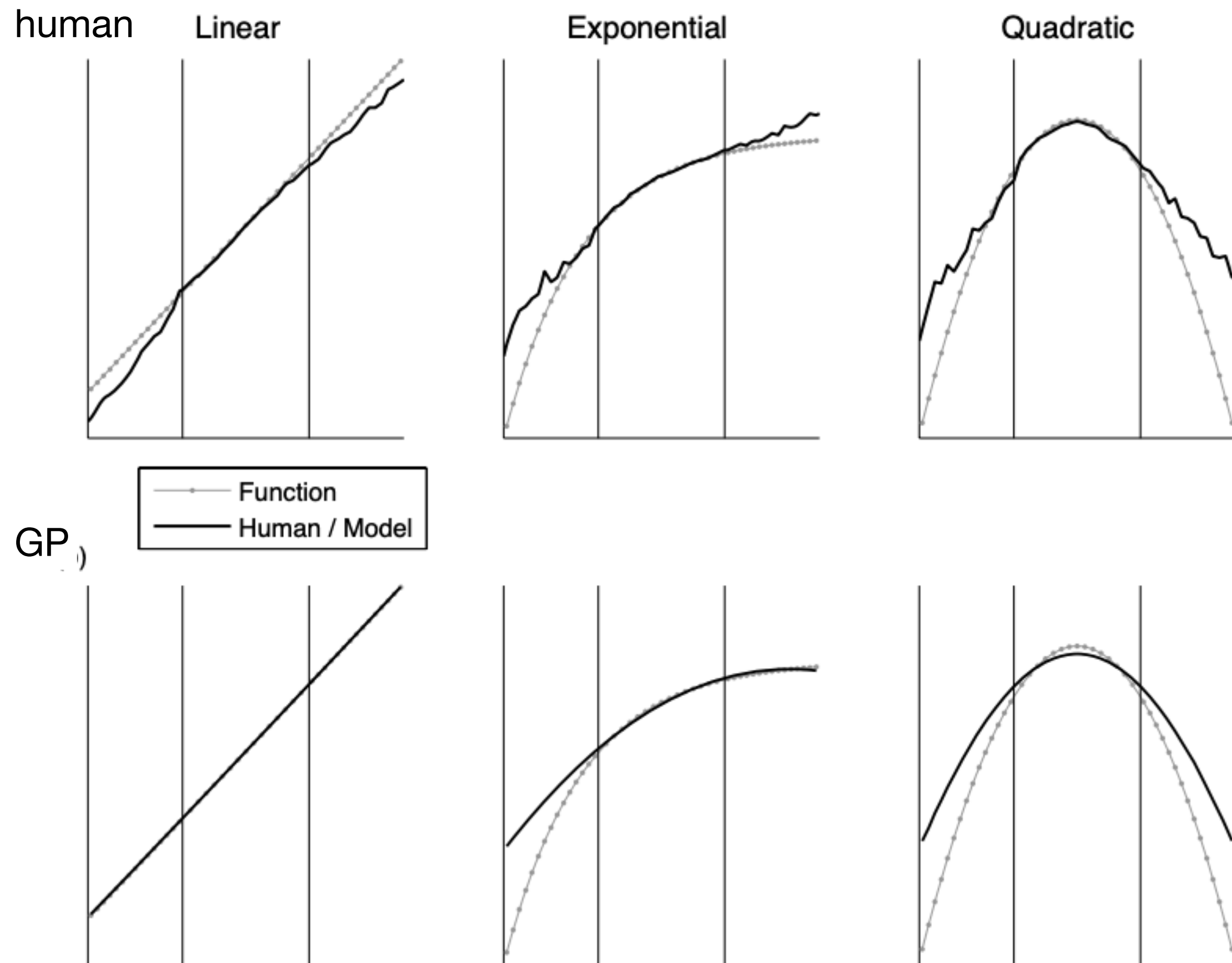
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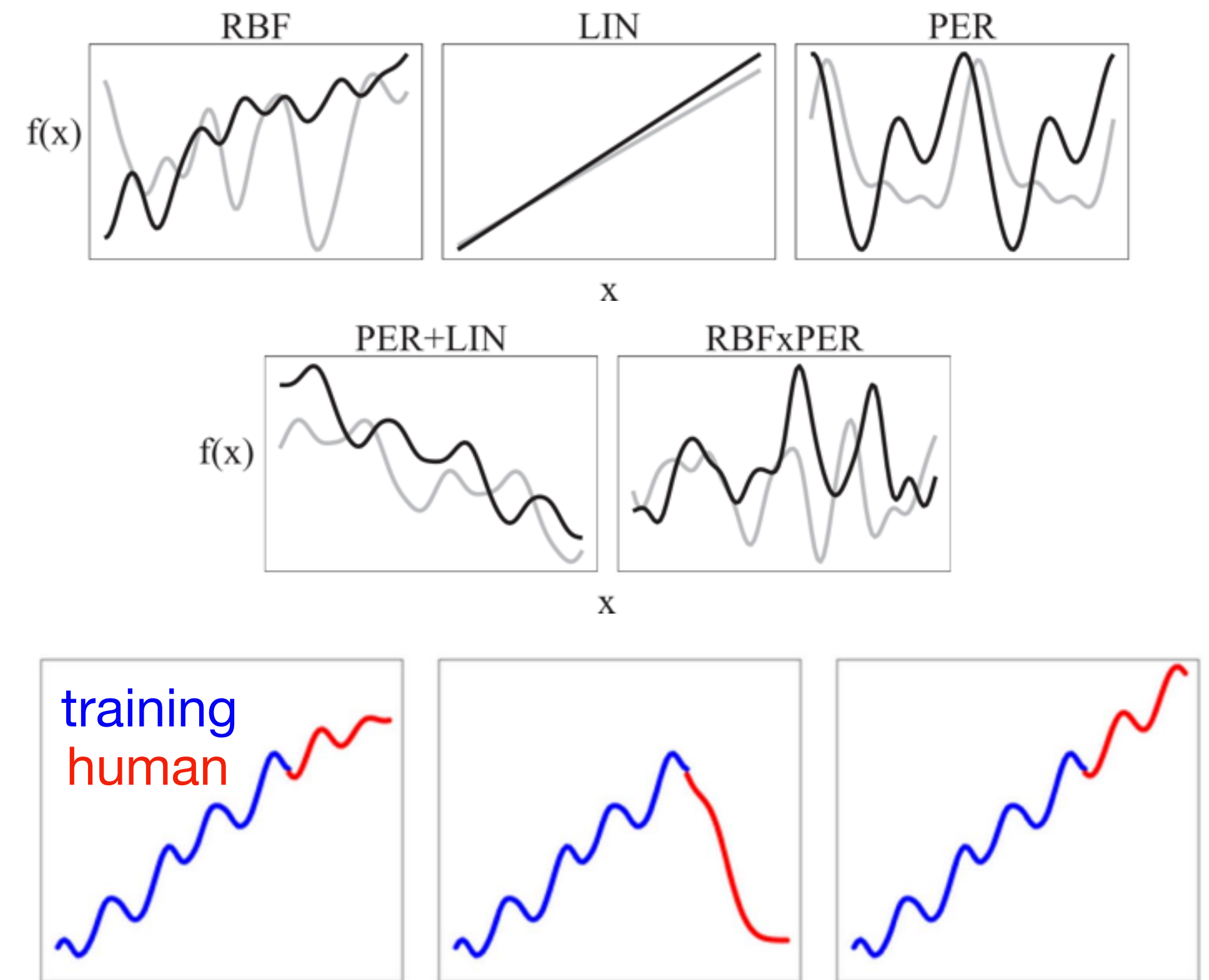


# GPs provide the best predictions for human function learning

## Extrapolation



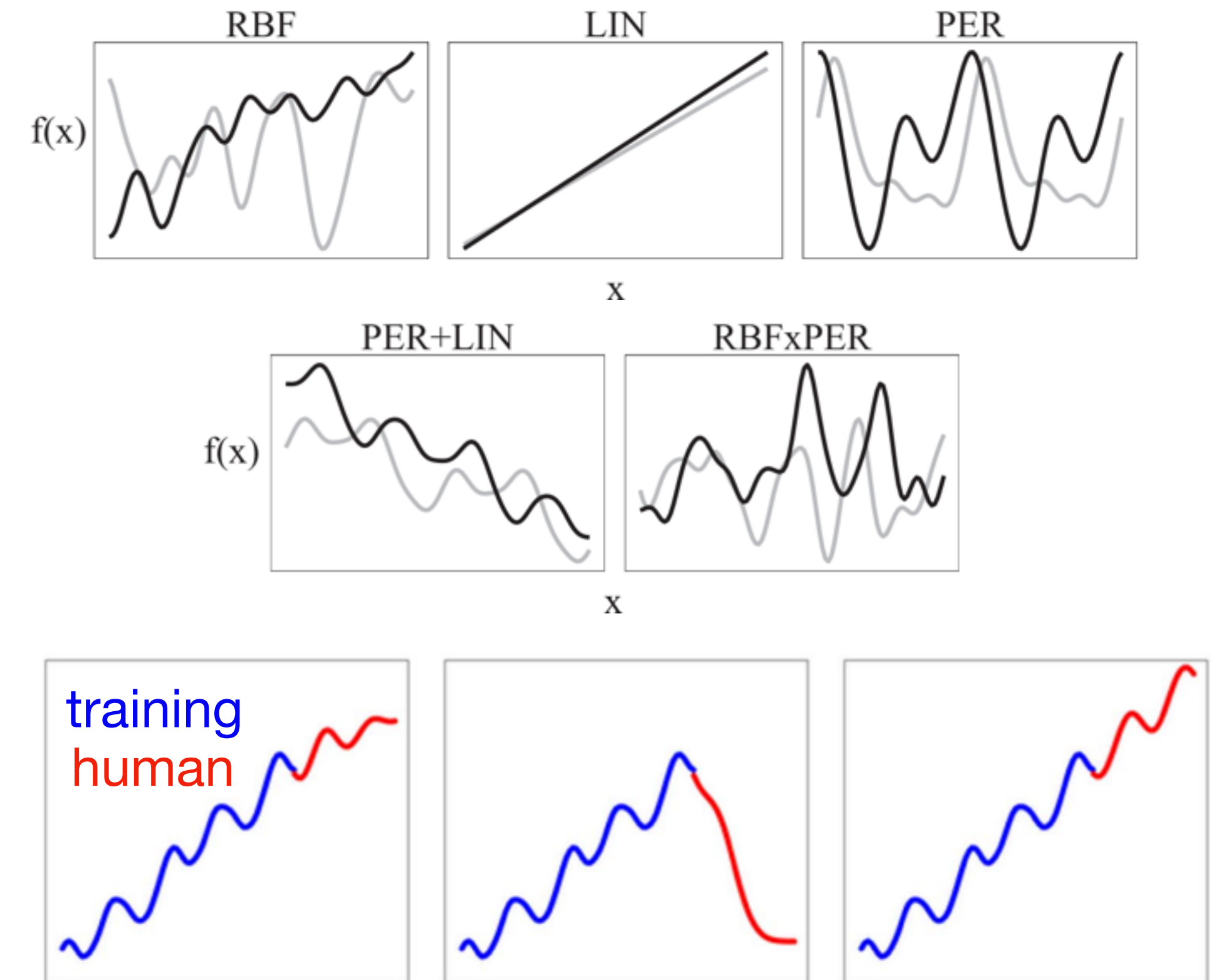
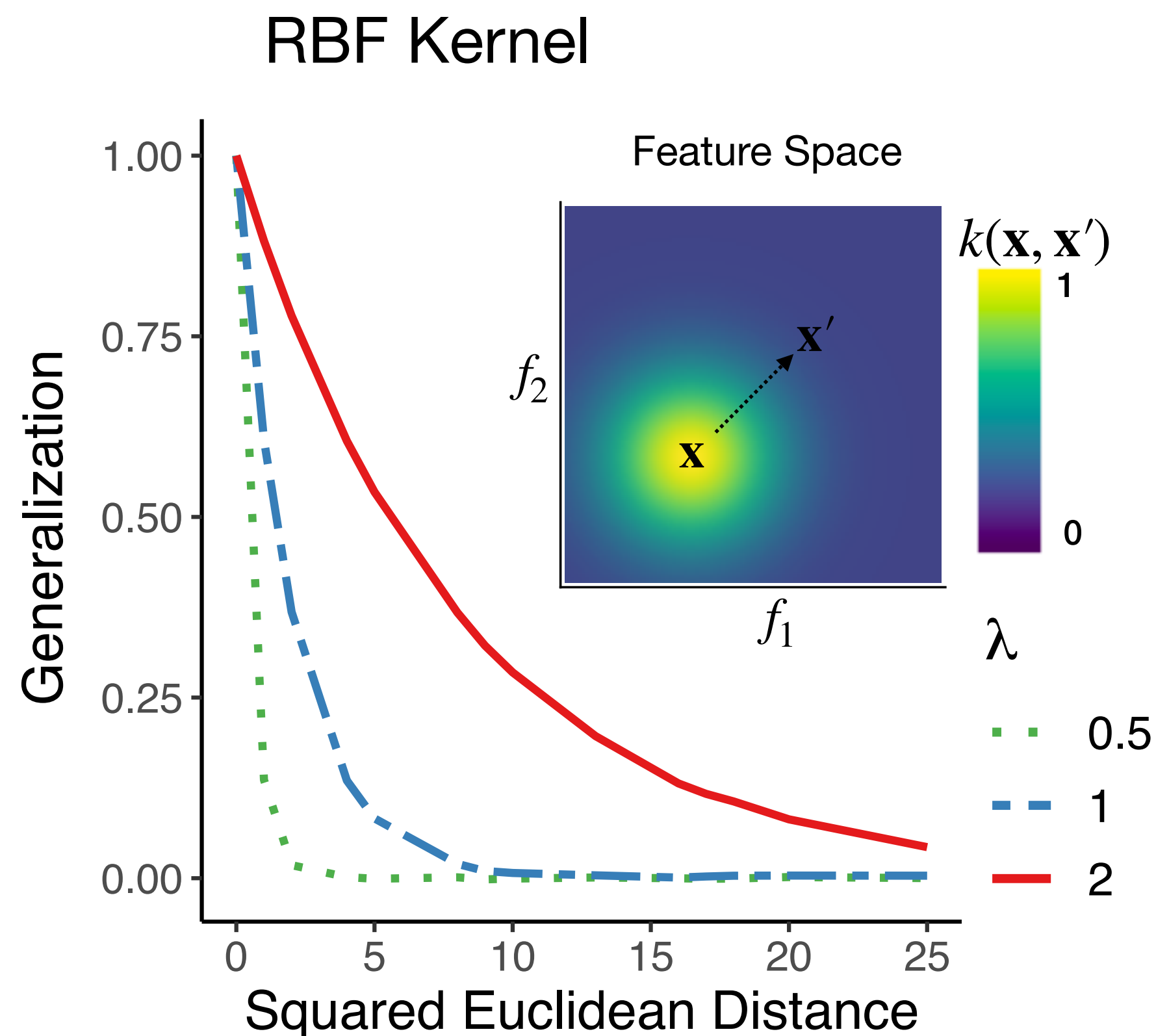
## Compositional functions



# Duality of GP function learning

Kernel provides an explicit **similarity** metric

Kernels can be compositionally combined, similar to how we can combine **rules** to create new ones



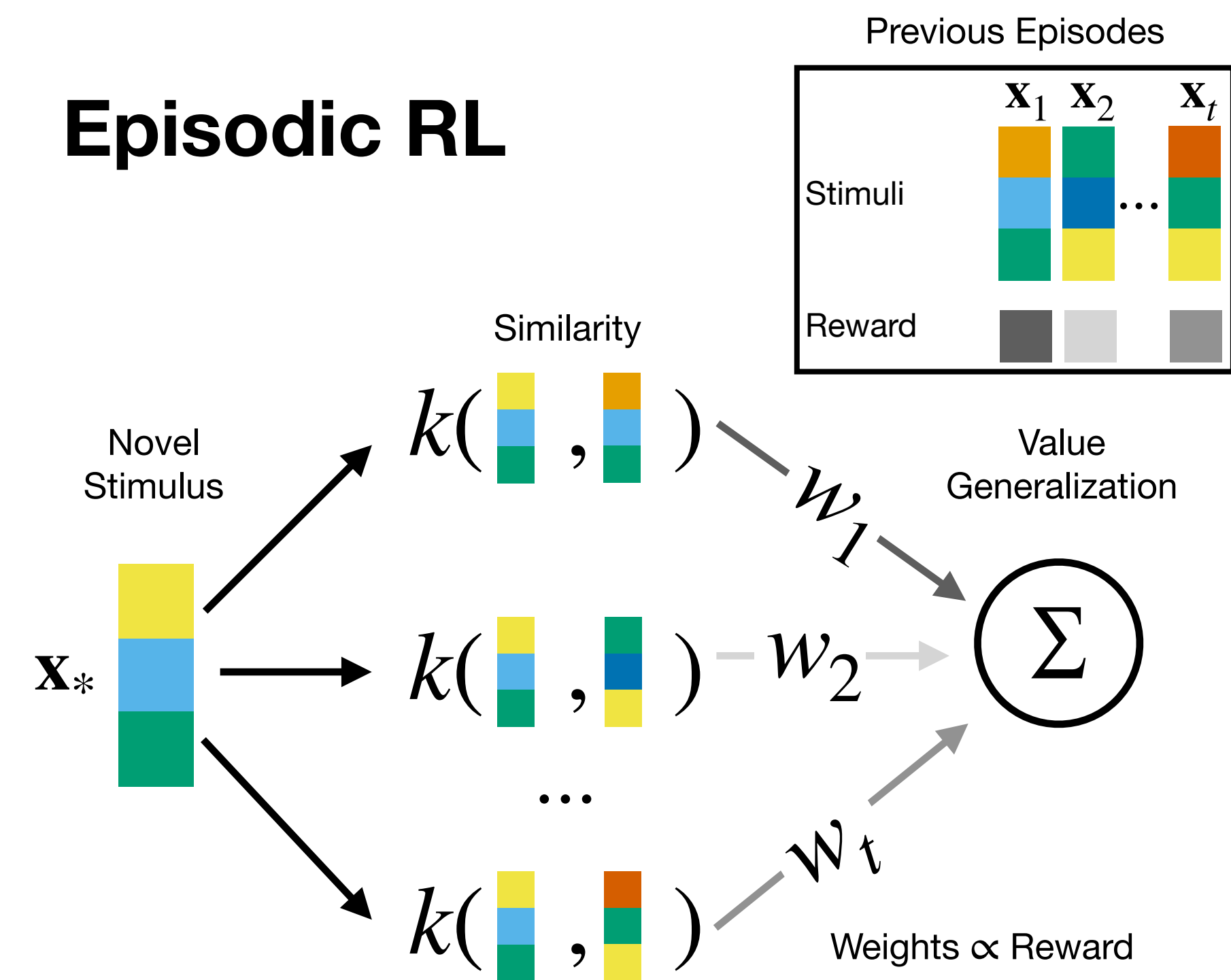
# Connection to RL



# Connection to RL

- Episodic RL for generalization in new settings  
(Gershman & Daw, *AnnRevPsych* 2017; Bottvinick et al., *TICS* 2019)
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## Episodic RL



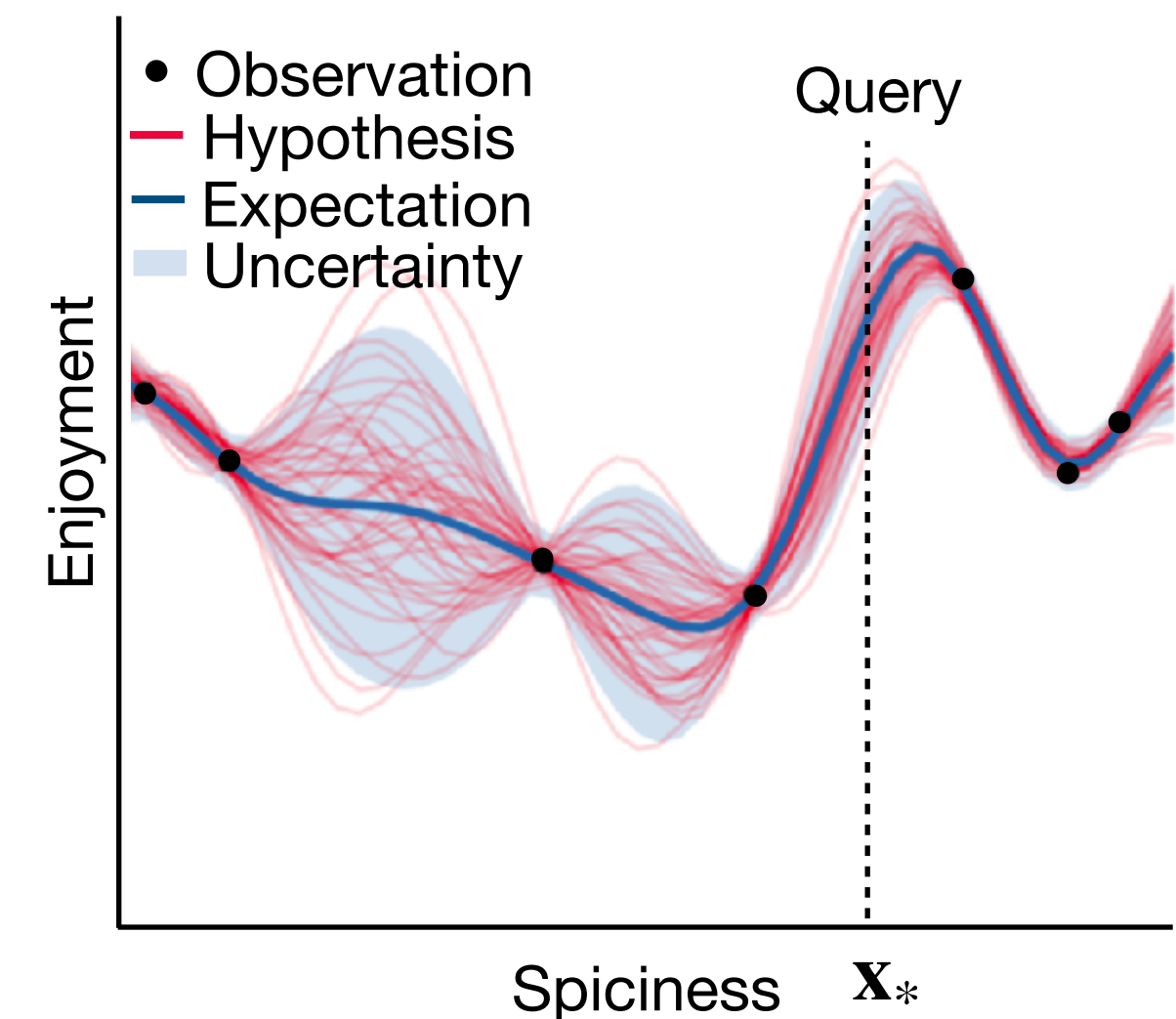
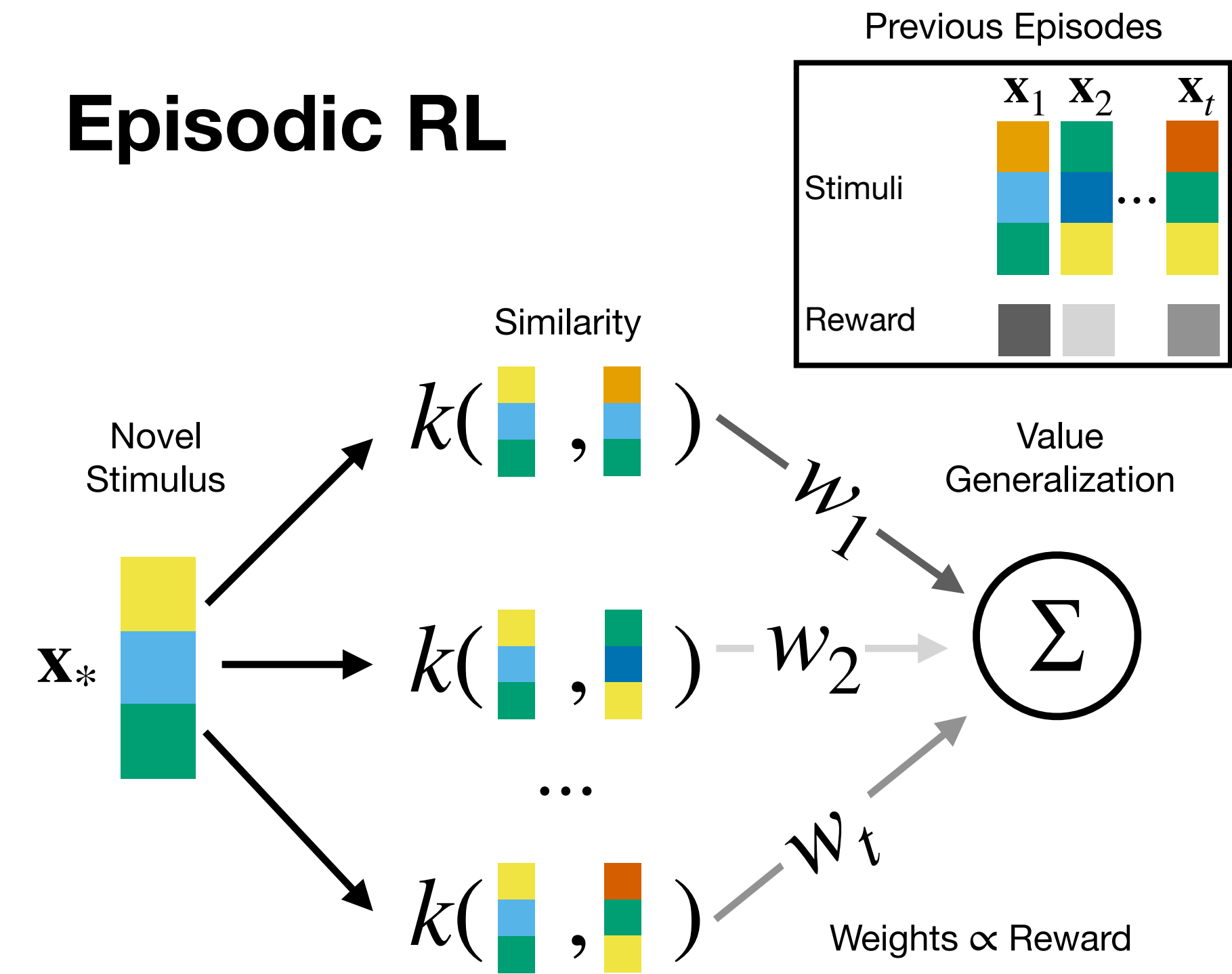
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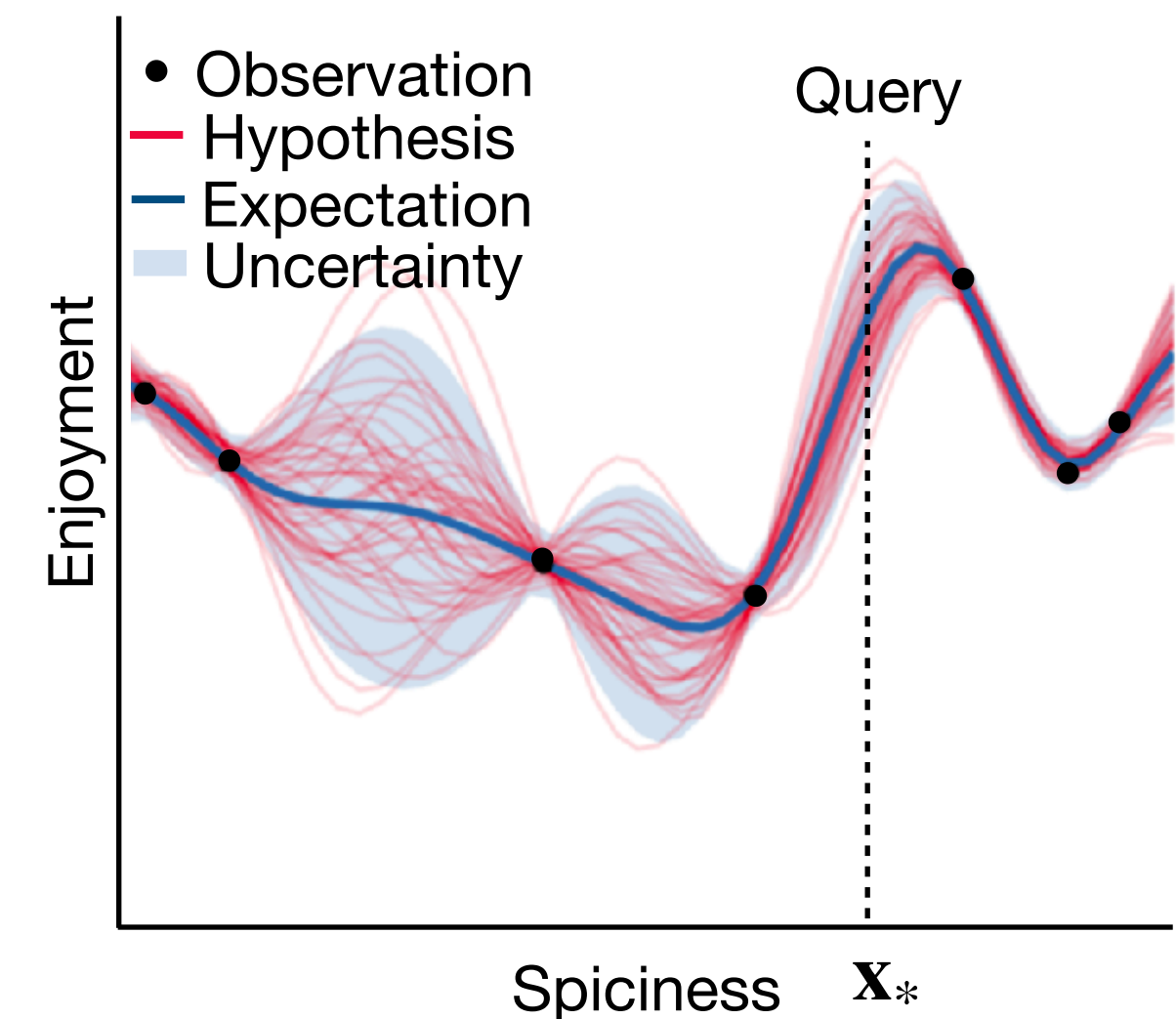
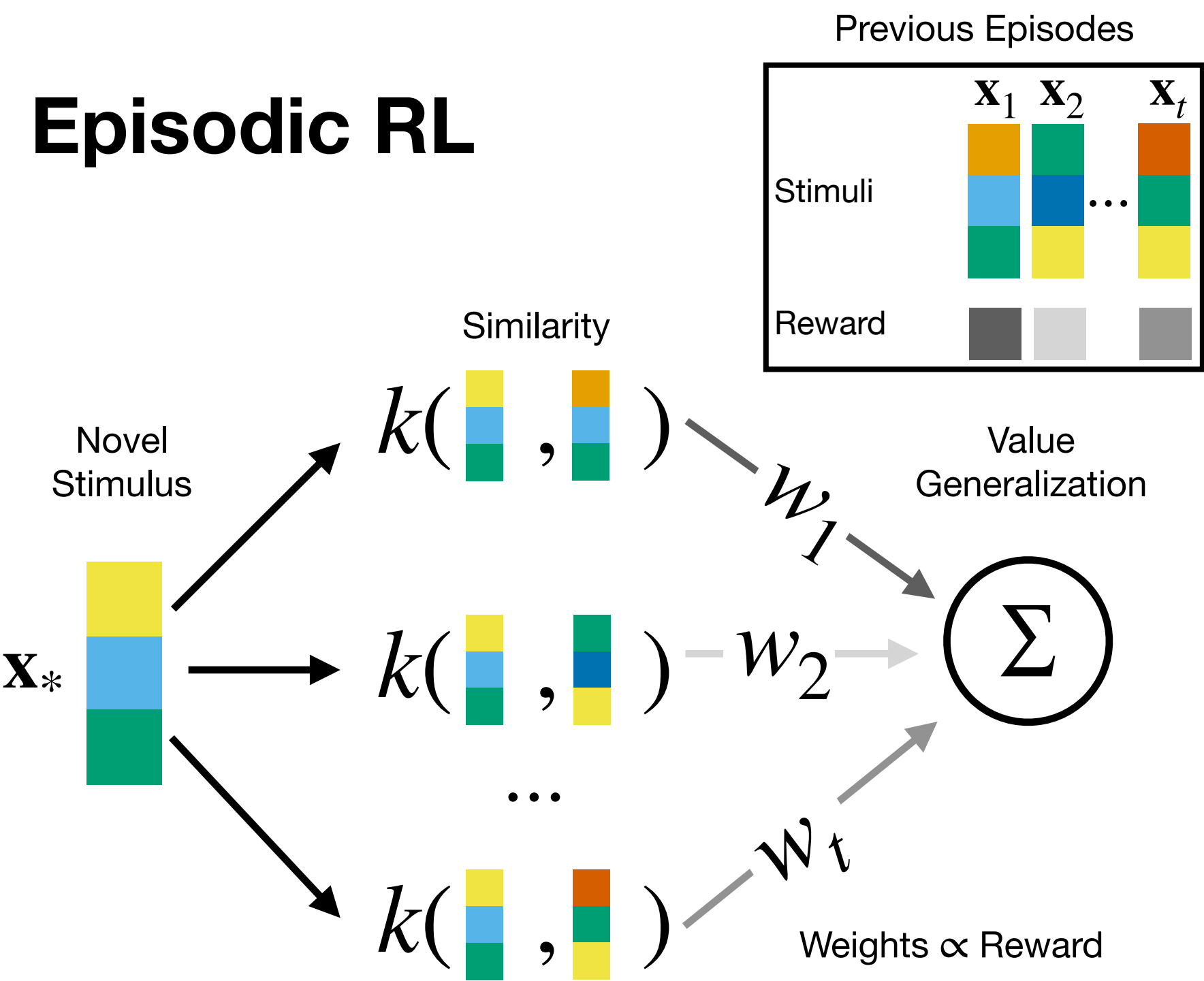


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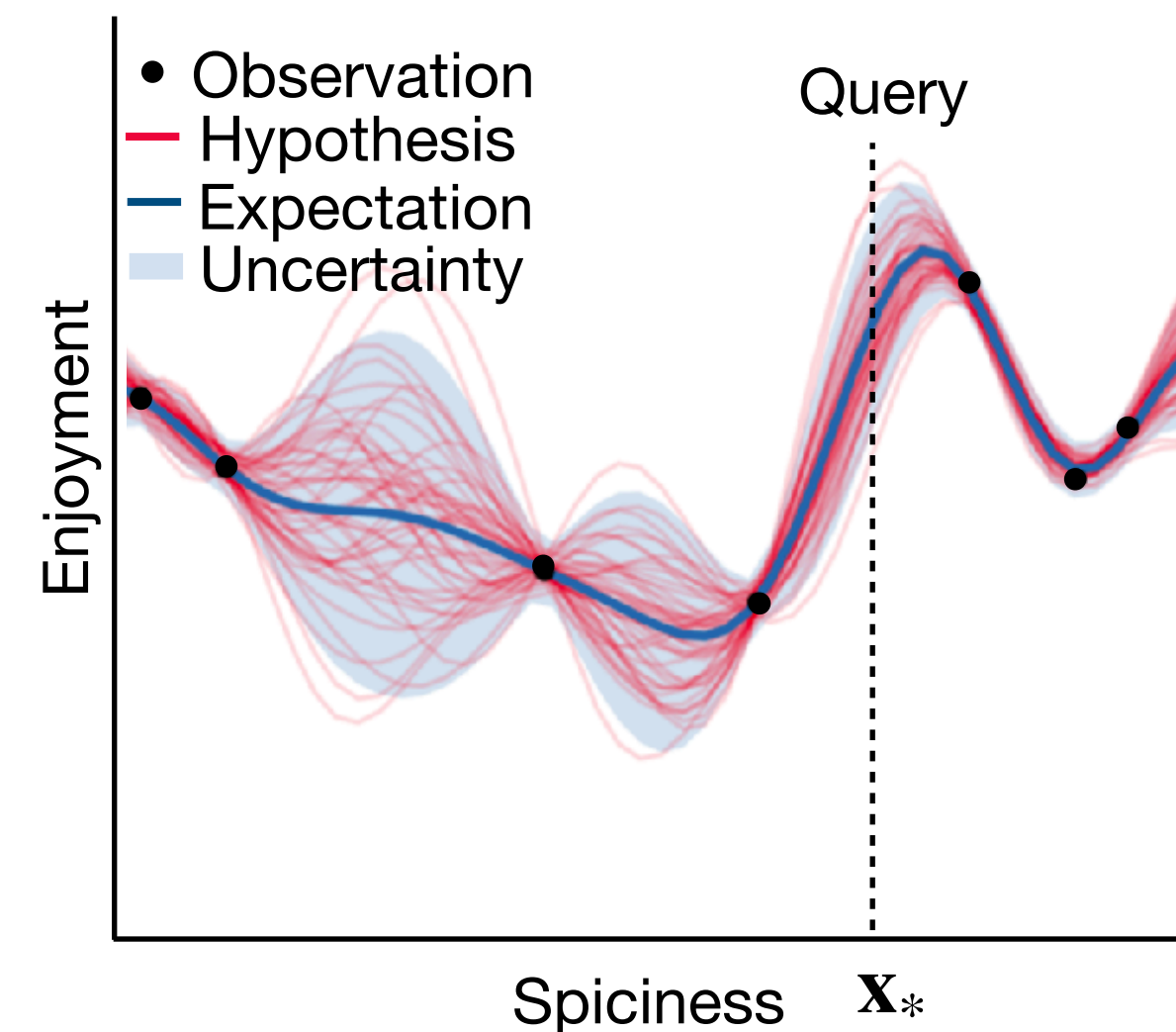
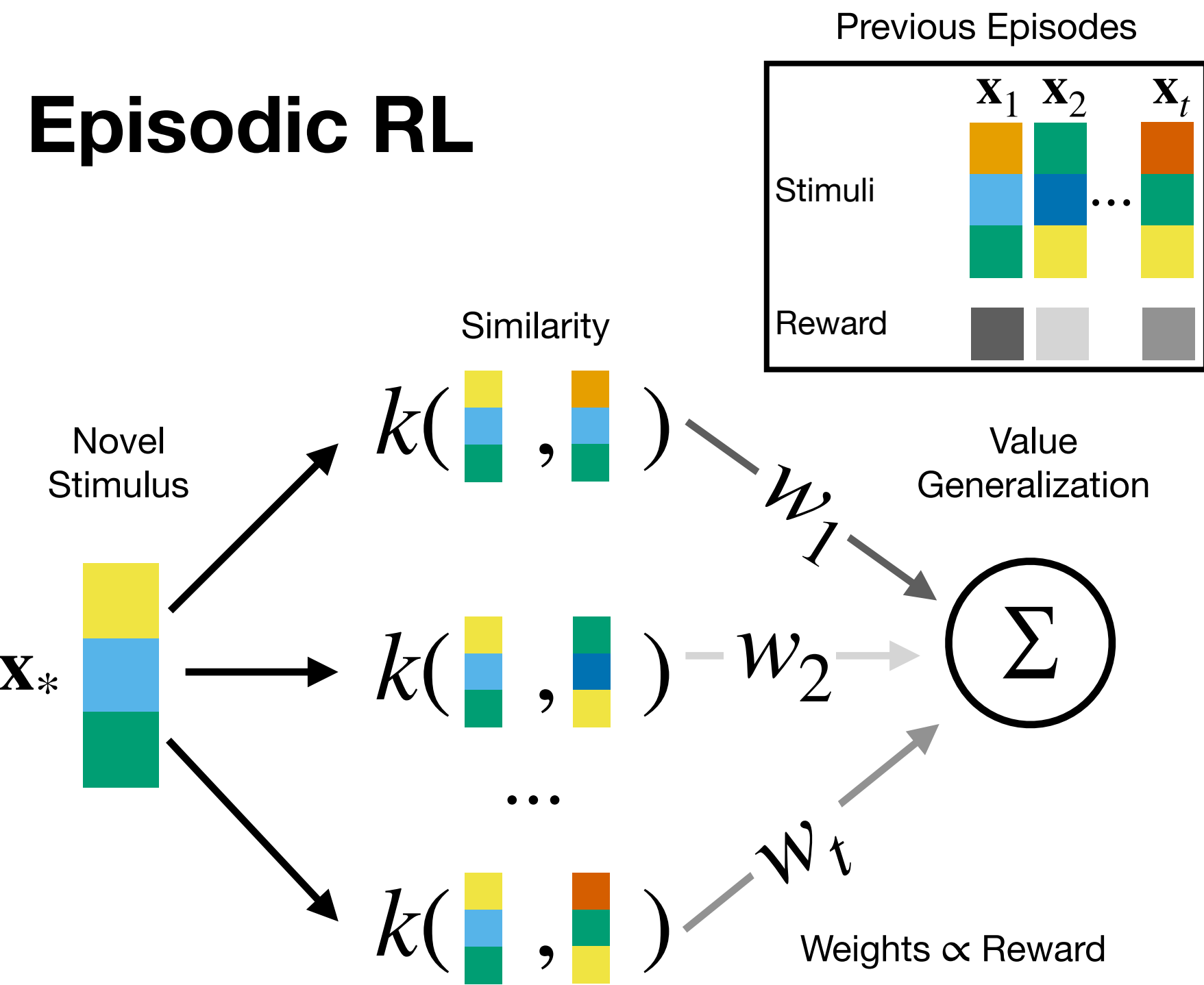
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$$m(\mathbf{x}_* | \mathcal{D}) = \mathbf{k}_*^\top (\mathbf{K} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{y} = \sum_{i=1}^N \overset{\text{weights}}{w_i} \overset{\text{similarity}}{k(\mathbf{x}_*, \mathbf{x}_i)} \text{ where } \mathbf{w} = [\mathbf{K} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}]^{-1} \mathbf{y}$$

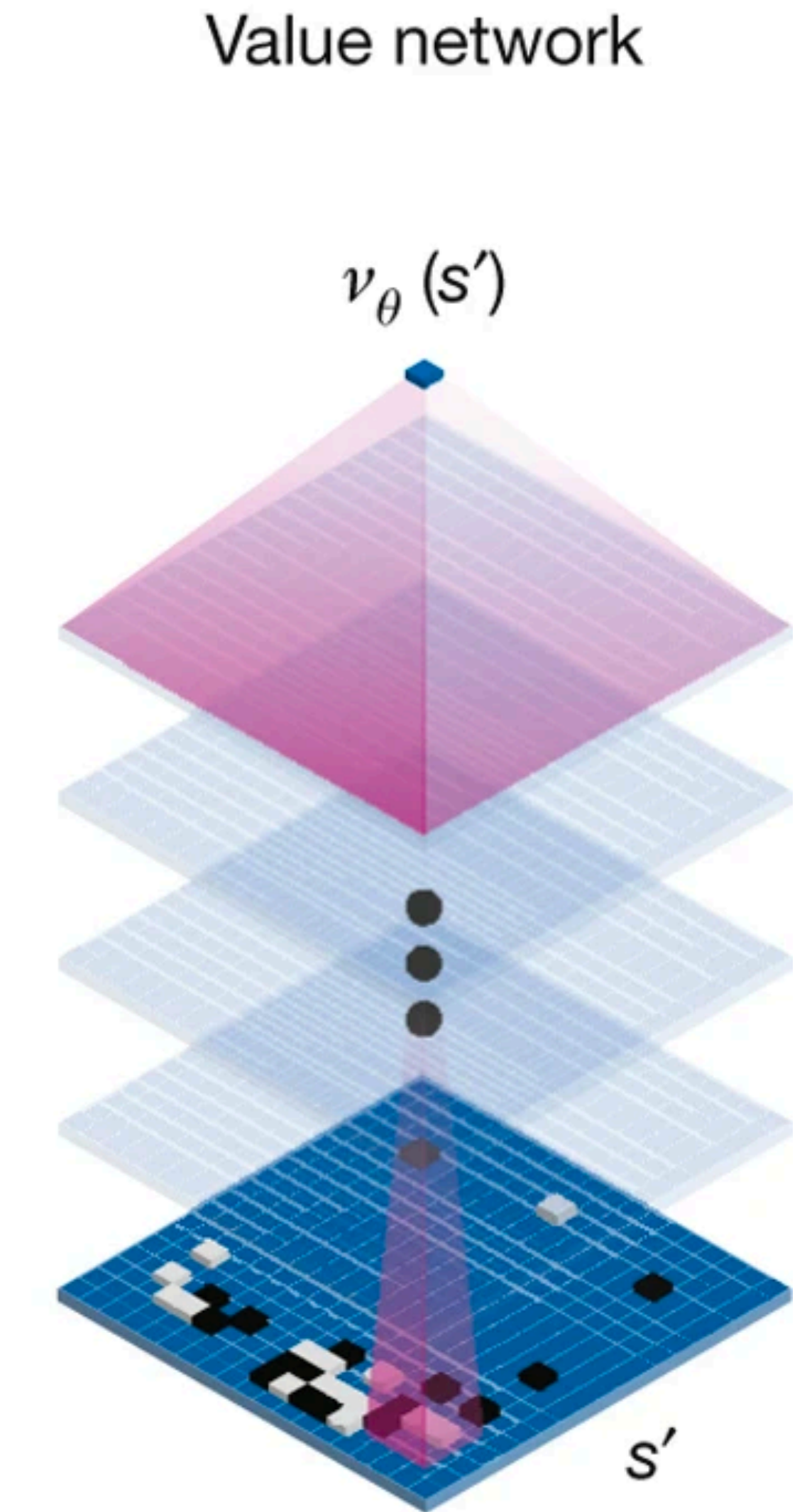
$$v(\mathbf{x}_* | \mathcal{D}) = k(\mathbf{x}_*, \mathbf{x}_*) - \mathbf{k}_*^\top (\mathbf{K} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{k}_*$$

# Value function approximation in RL

- Classic function learning is typically a supervised learning problem
  - Given stimulus  $\mathbf{x}_*$  predict  $f(\mathbf{x}_*)$
- Value function approximation is a key method for generalization in RL
  - Use function learning mechanisms for inferring *implicit* value of novel states:  
 $V(s') = f(s')$
  - Implement a policy on the basis of value:  $\pi(s') \propto \exp(V(s'))$
- AlphaGo uses a deep neural network for value function approximation
  - DNNs are simply a universal function approximator (Cybenko, 1989)
  - But for understanding human behavior, GPs offer better interpretability due to psychologically meaningful parameters
  - **GPs are equivalent to an infinitely wide deep neural network** (Neal, 1996)
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# Interim summary

- Function learning is a regression problem
- Early **rule-based theories** assumed humans learn functions by picking specific class of functions and then optimizing the weights (as in linear or parametric regression) —> Brittle and lacked flexibility
- **Similarity-based methods** used ANNs to encode the generic principle that similar inputs produce similar outputs —> failed to capture systematic biases in how humans extrapolate
- **Hybrid approaches** using GP regression offer a Bayesian framework, combining kernel similarity and rule-like compositionality of kernels

## Regression task



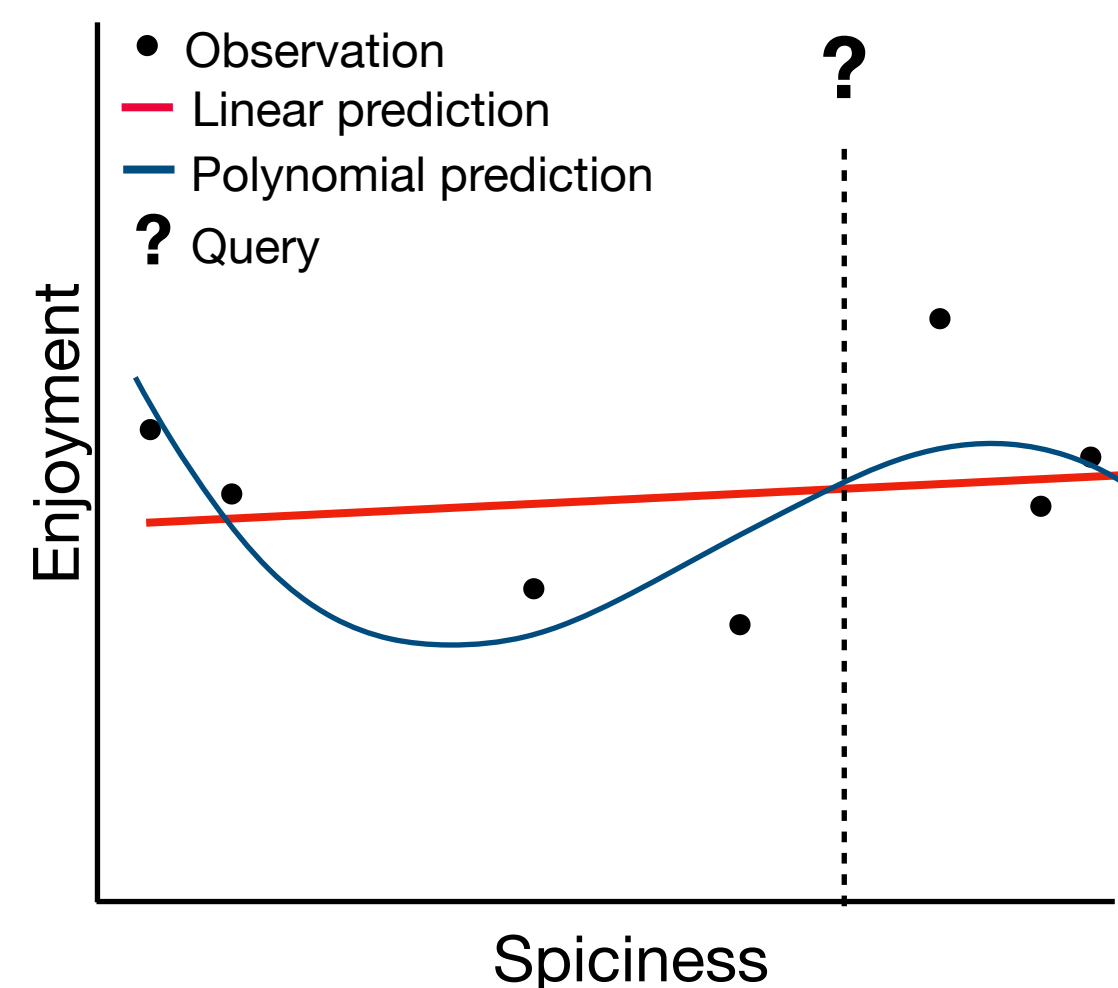
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## Regression task



## Rule-based



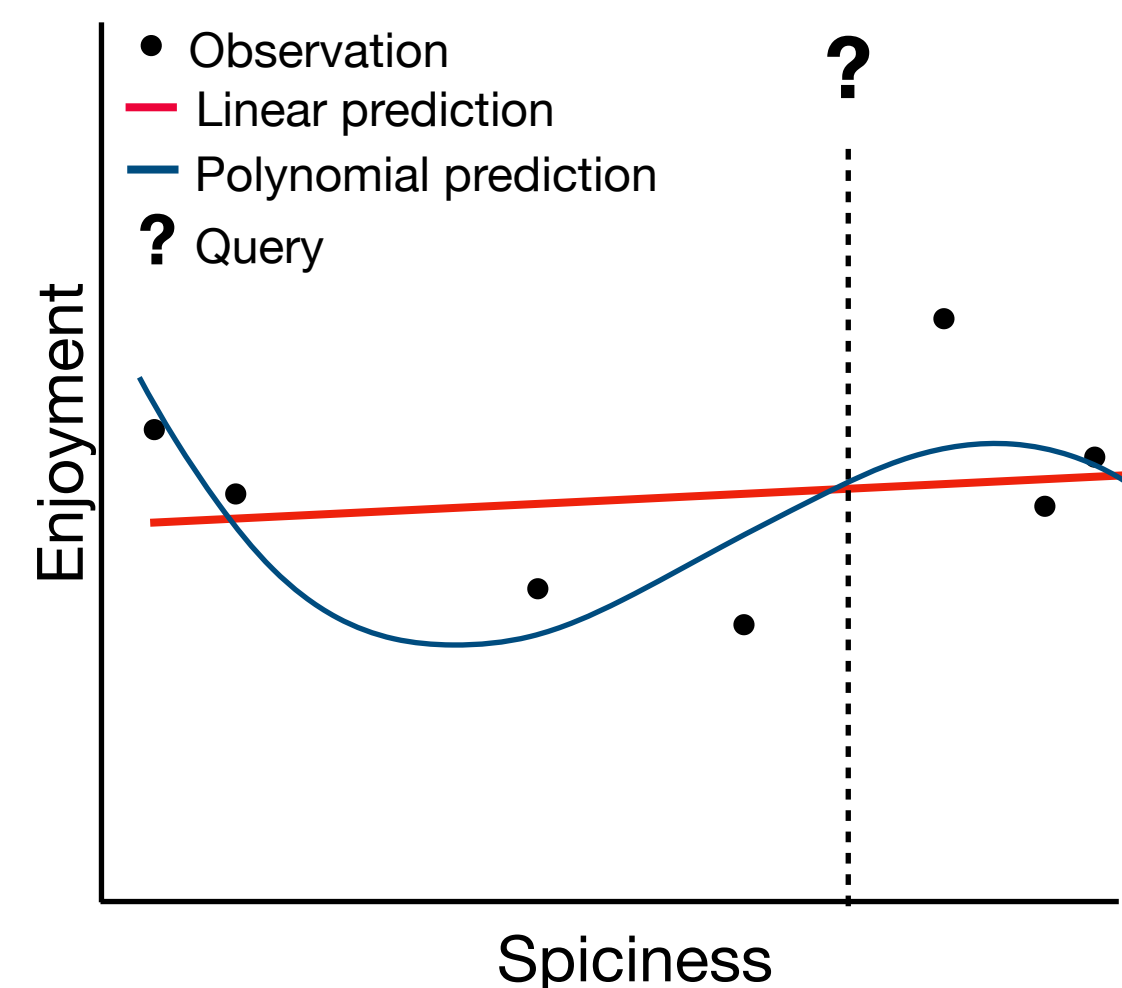
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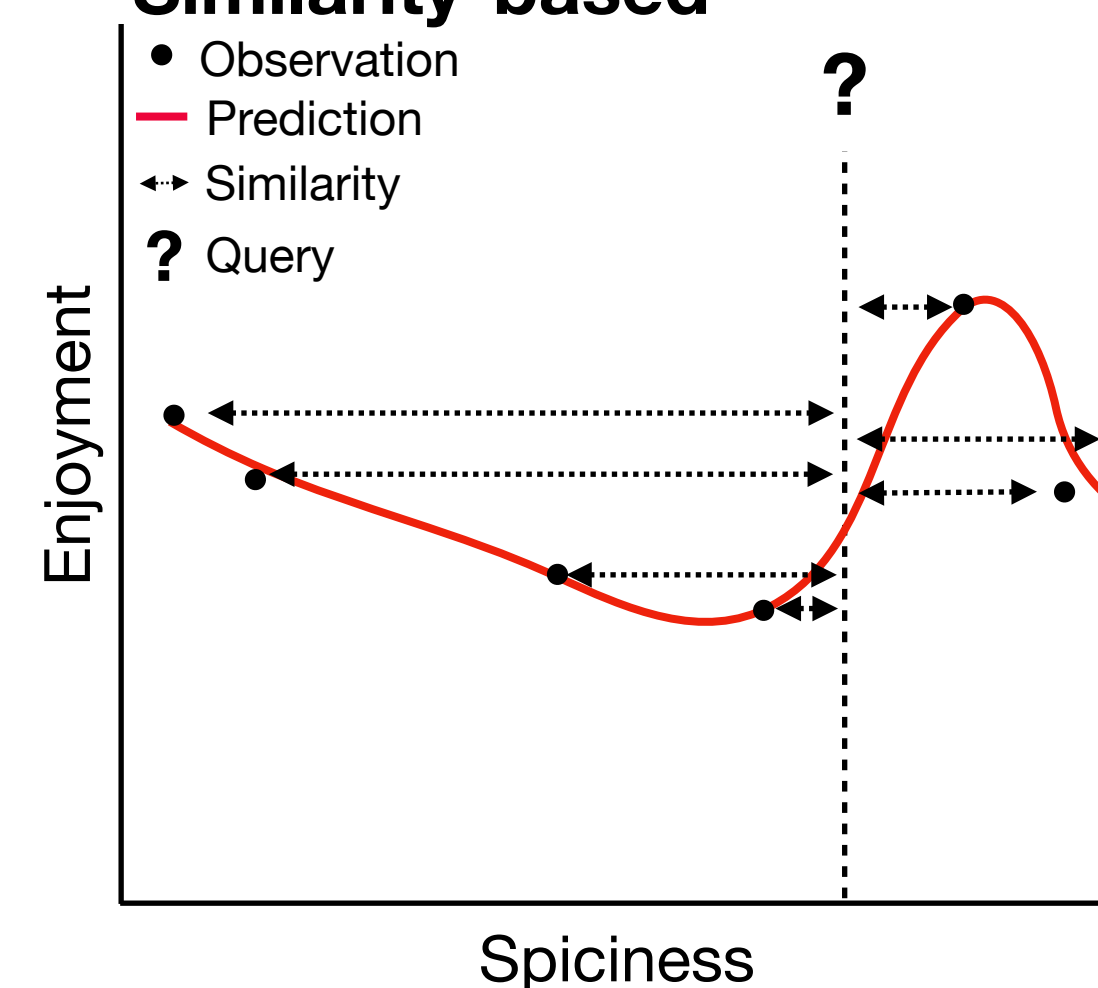
## Regression task



## Rule-based



## Similarity-based





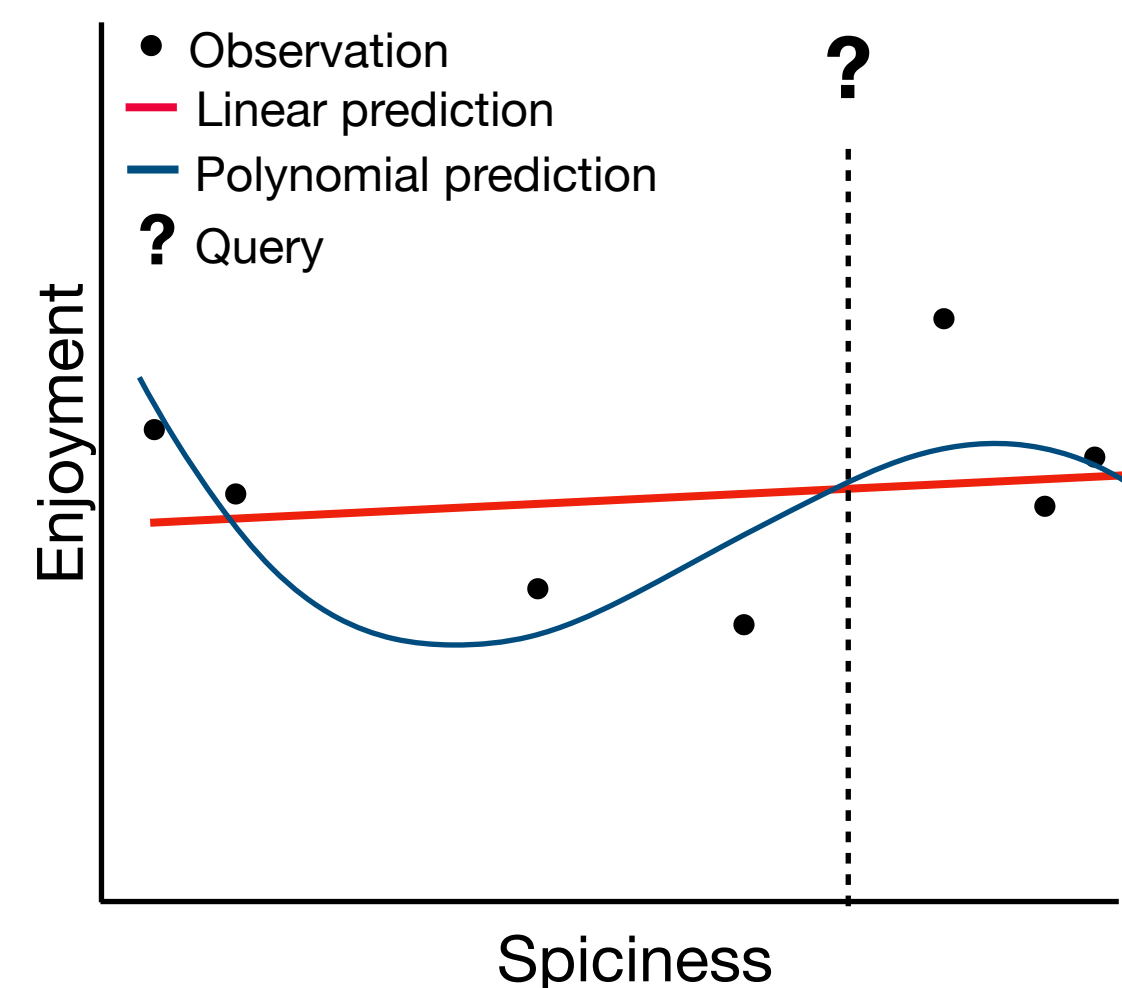
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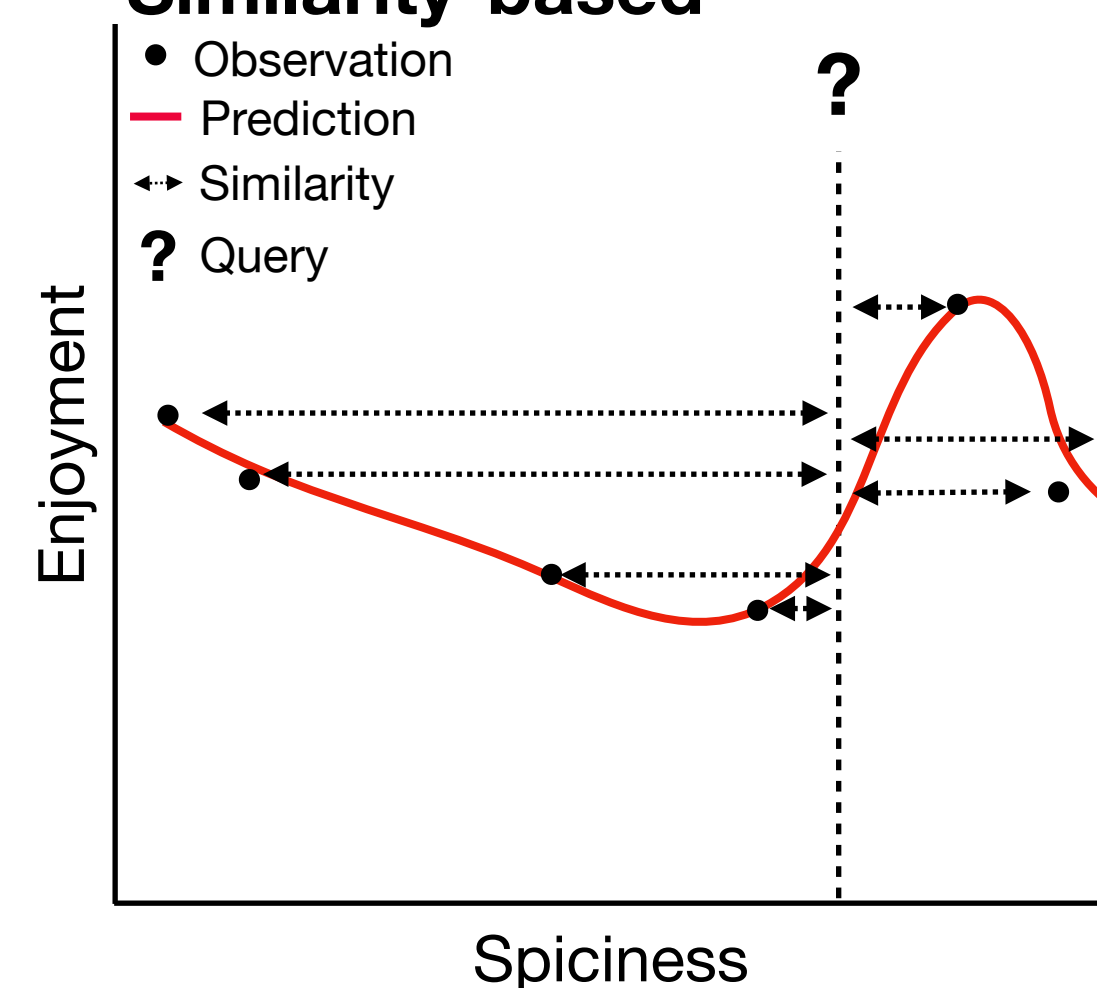
## Regression task



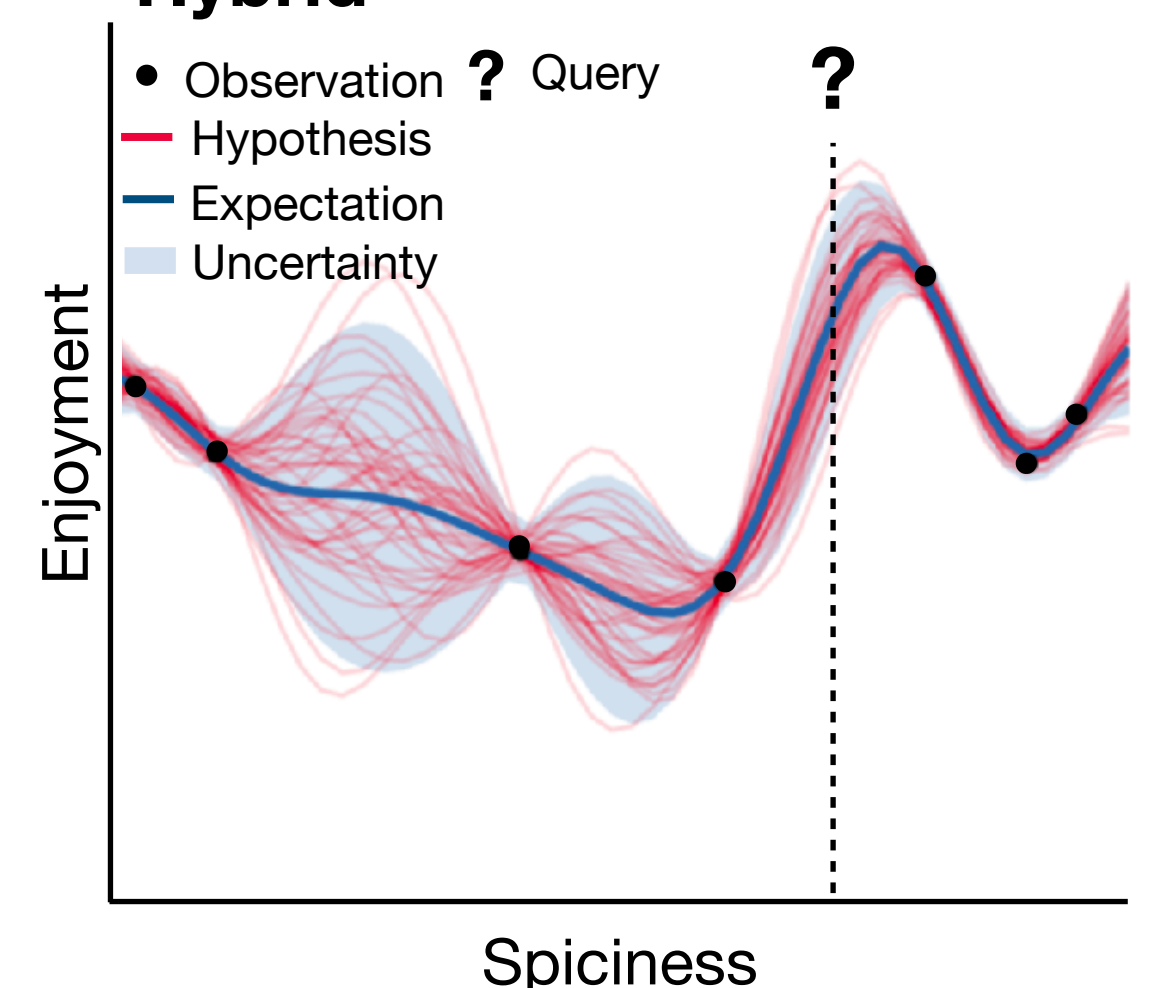
## Rule-based



## Similarity-based

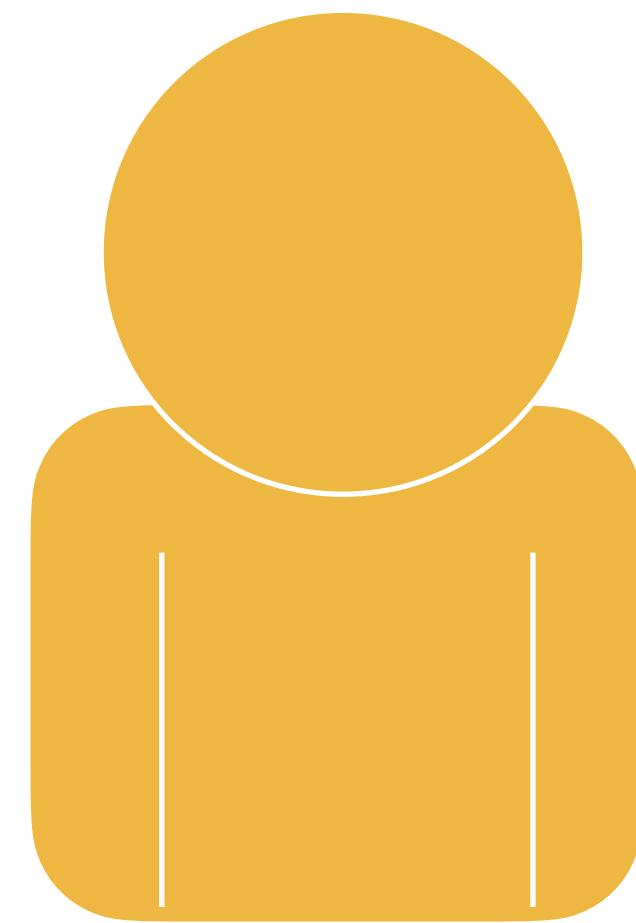
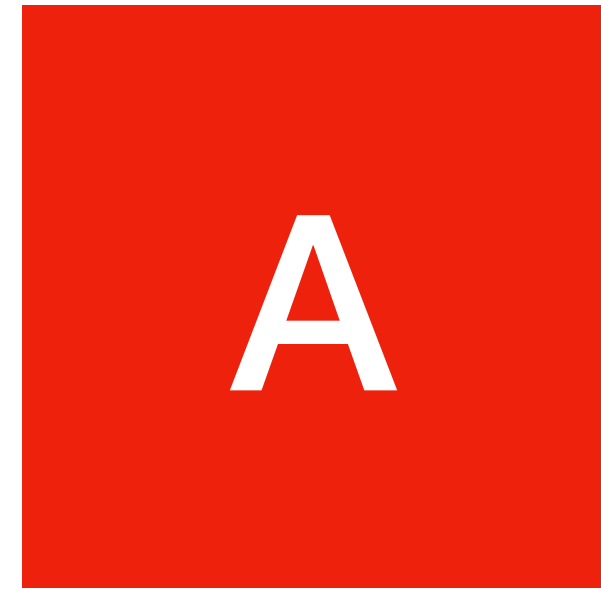


## Hybrid



**5 minute break**

# Human learning in the lab

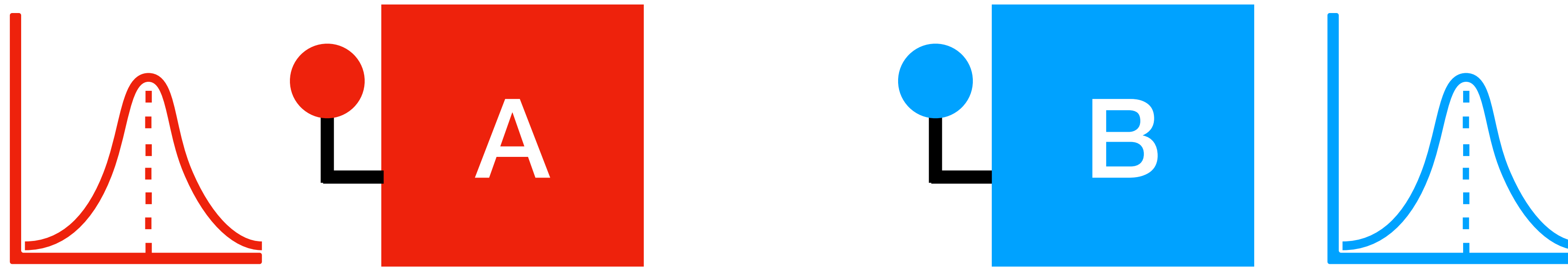




# Human learning in the lab



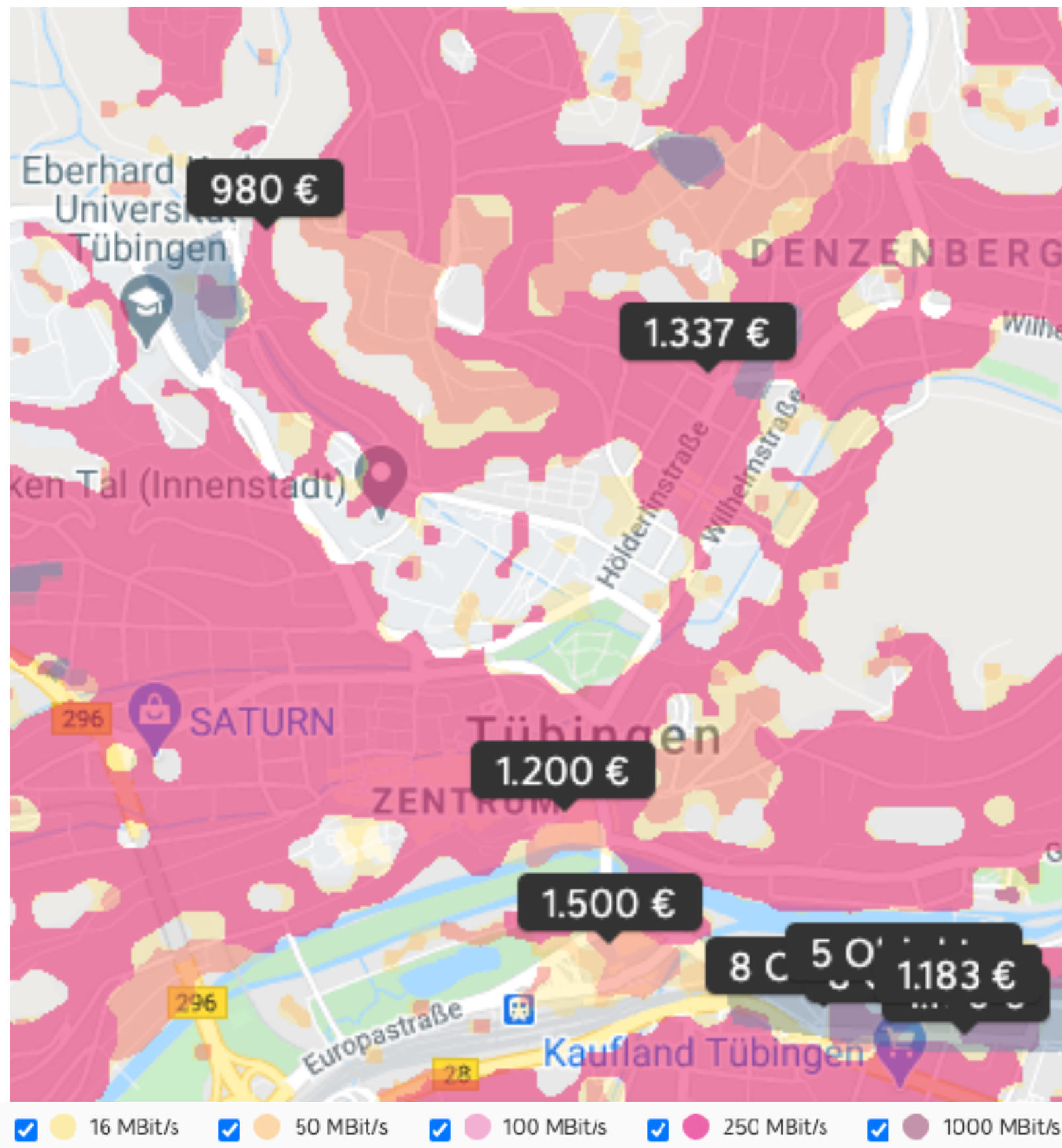
# Human learning in the lab





# Real life problems

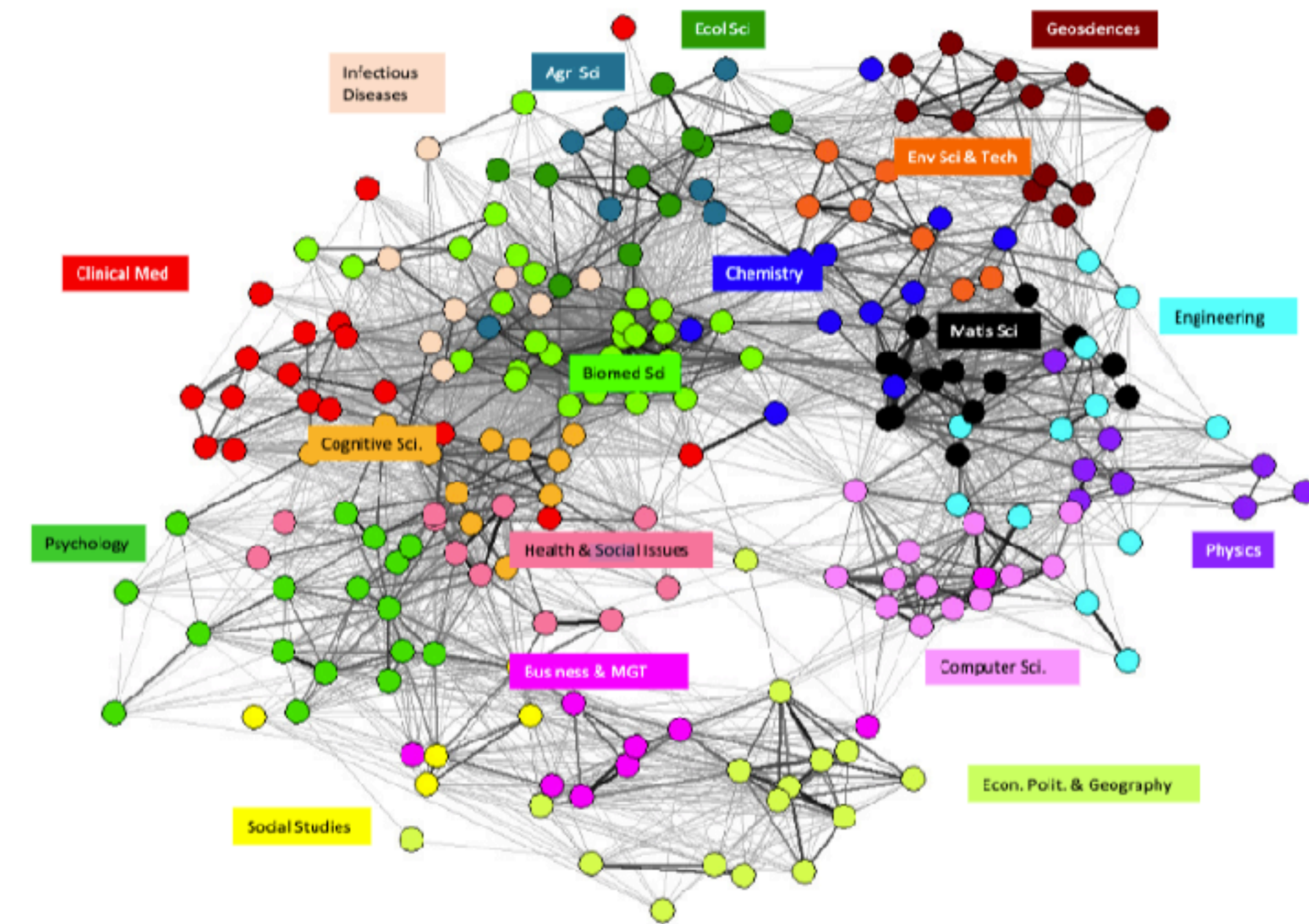
Finding a place to live



Picking what to eat



Choosing a research topic





# Exploration-Exploitation Dilemma



**Exploration**



**Exploitation**



A cartoon illustration of Calvin and Hobbes in space. Calvin, a small boy with spiky yellow hair, is on the left, looking up at the stars with an open mouth. Hobbes, a large tiger with orange and black stripes and a white belly, is on the right, also looking up. The background is a vast field of white stars of varying sizes against a black sky. The ground they are standing on is a dark blue, textured surface.

Let's  
explore!

But where?



**How do people navigate vast environments when we cannot explore all possibilities?**

A cartoon illustration of Calvin and Hobbes standing on a blue, textured surface against a starry black background. Calvin is on the left, looking up at Hobbes. Hobbes is on the right, looking back at Calvin. Both characters have speech bubbles.

Let's explore!

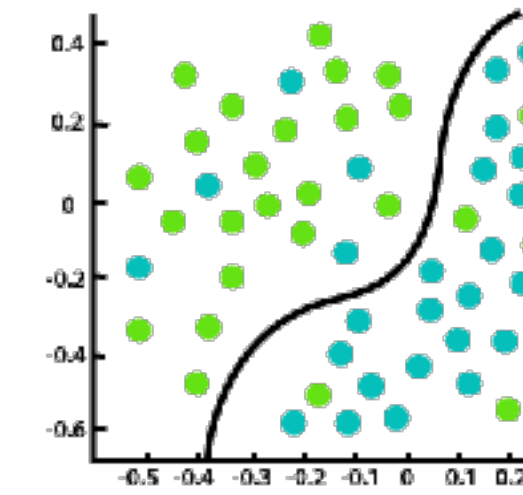
But where?



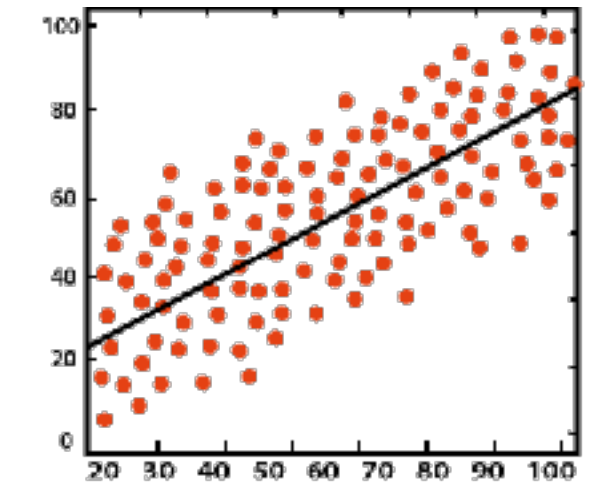
# Generalization in RL

- Shepard formalized generalization as *classification*
- In RL, we can formalize generalization as *regression*: learning a value function

Classification



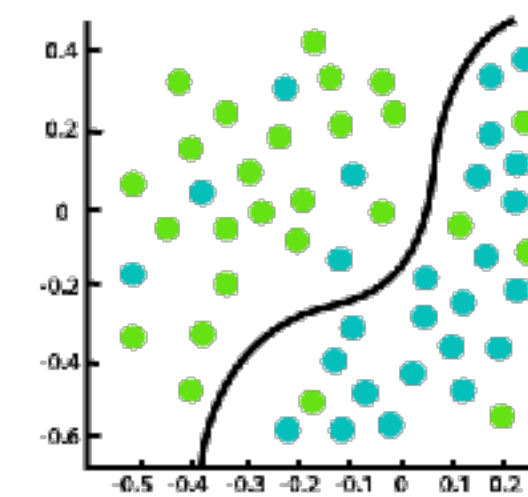
Regression



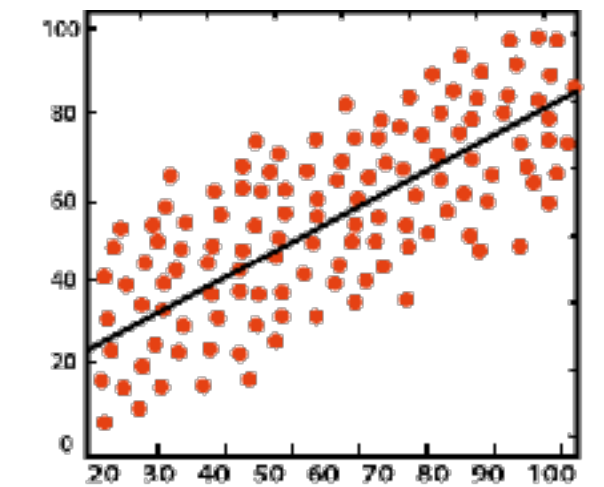
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Classification



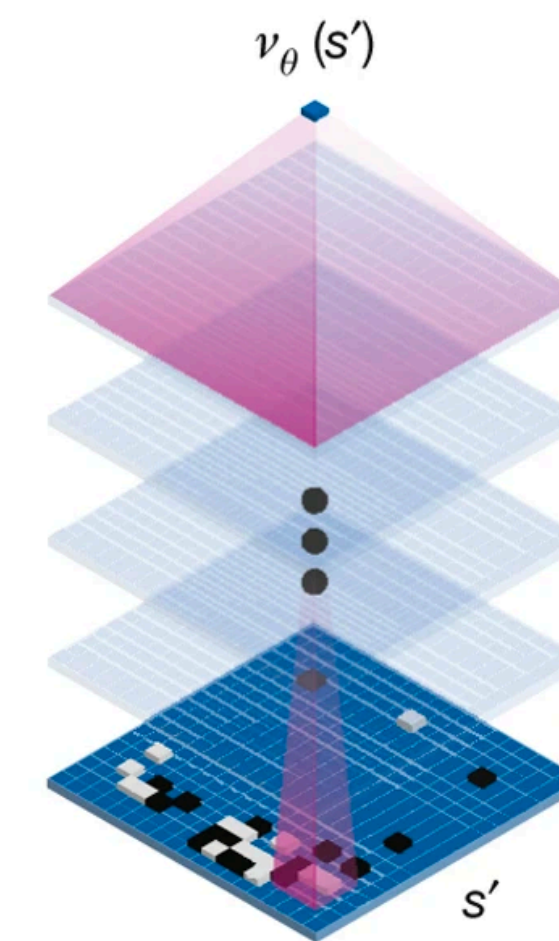
Regression



- In RL, we can formalize generalization as *regression*: learning a value function

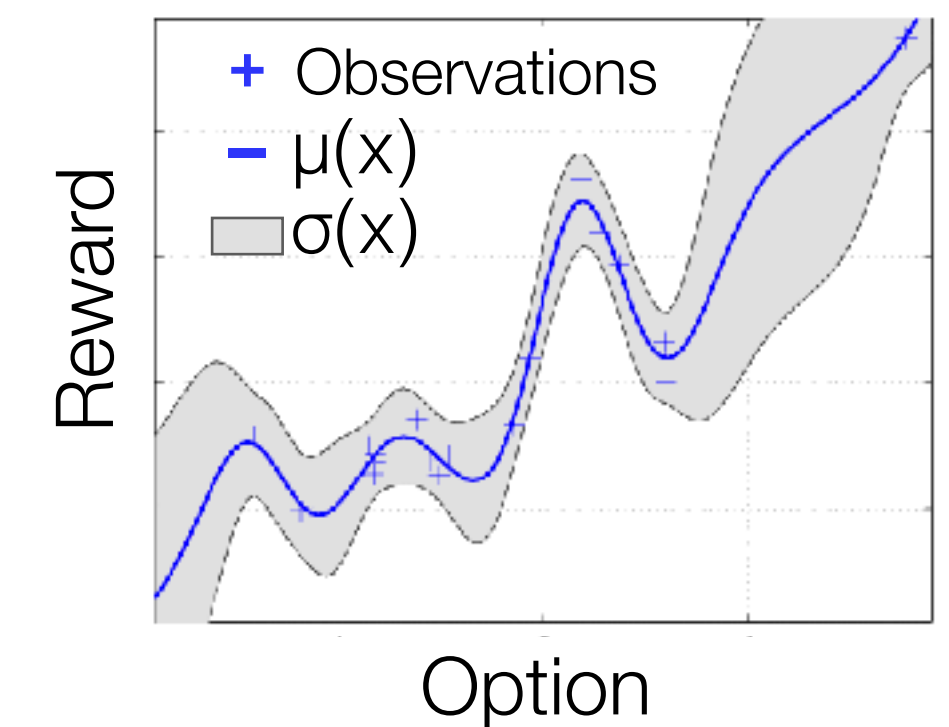
- **Function learning:**

- Learn an implicit value function mapping states to reward expectations; ubiquitous in modern RL
- Predict *where* to explore through interpolation and extrapolation



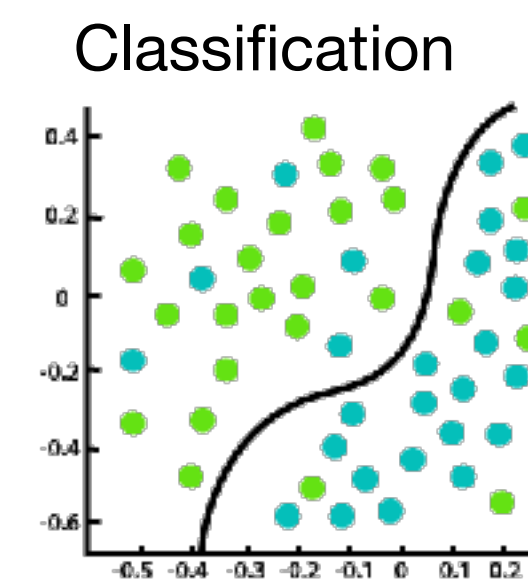
Silver et al., (*Nature* 2016)

## Function learning

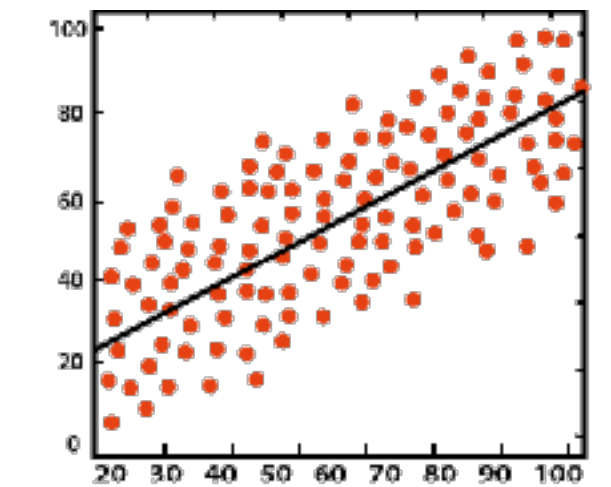


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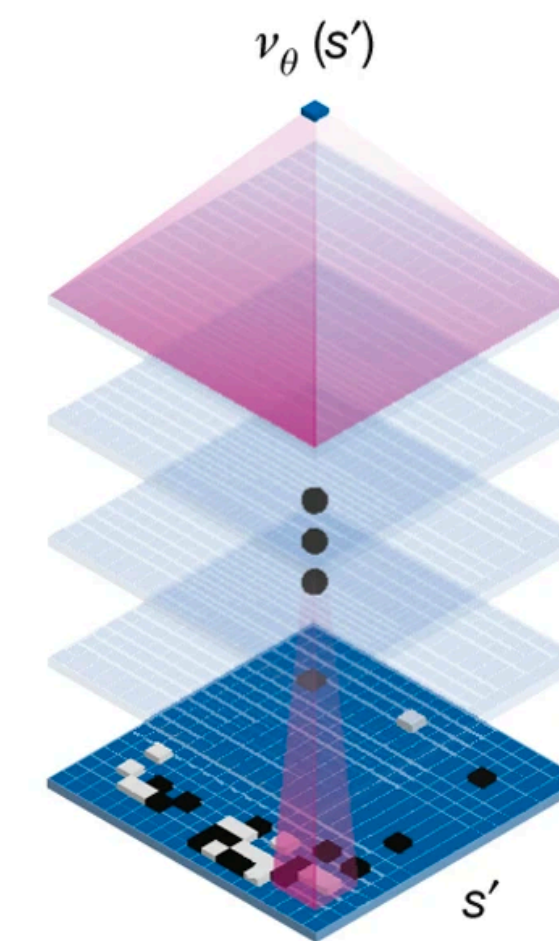
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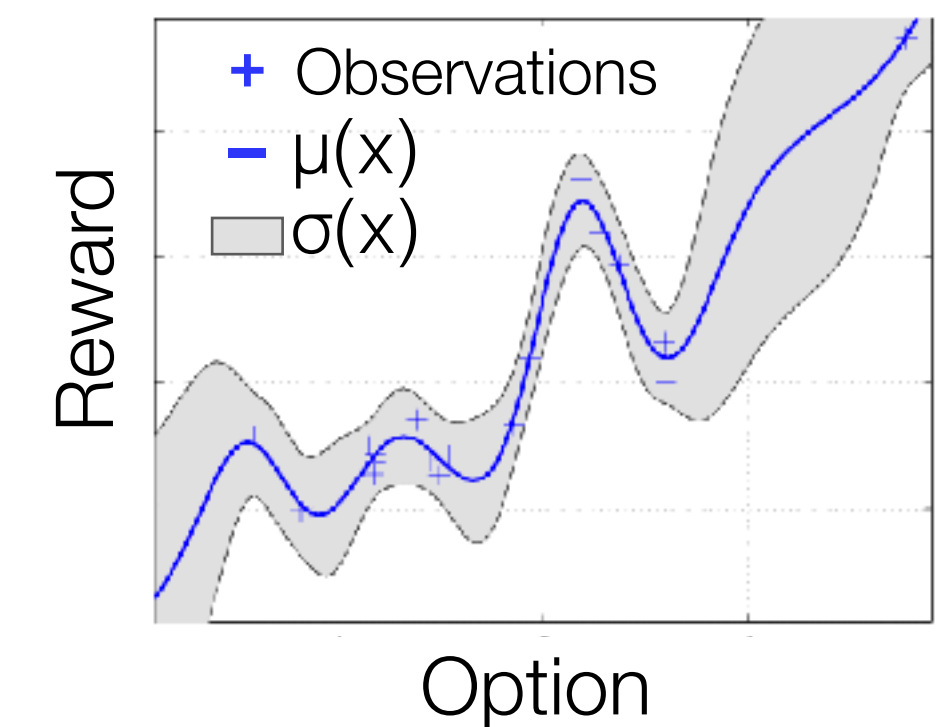
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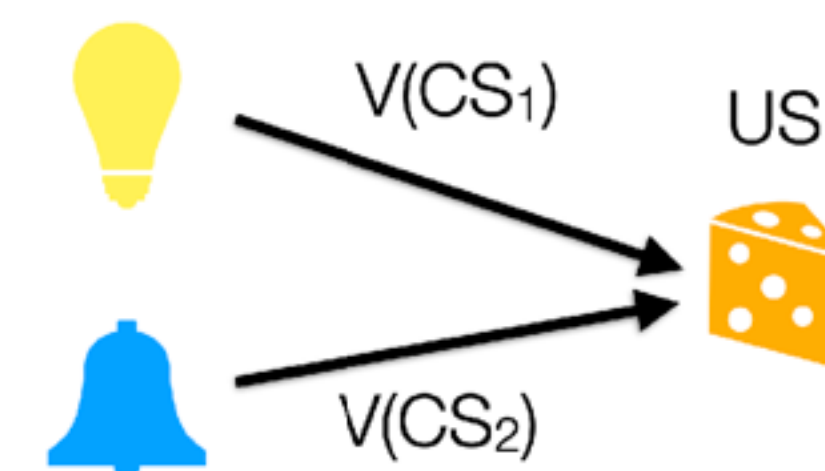
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## Function learning

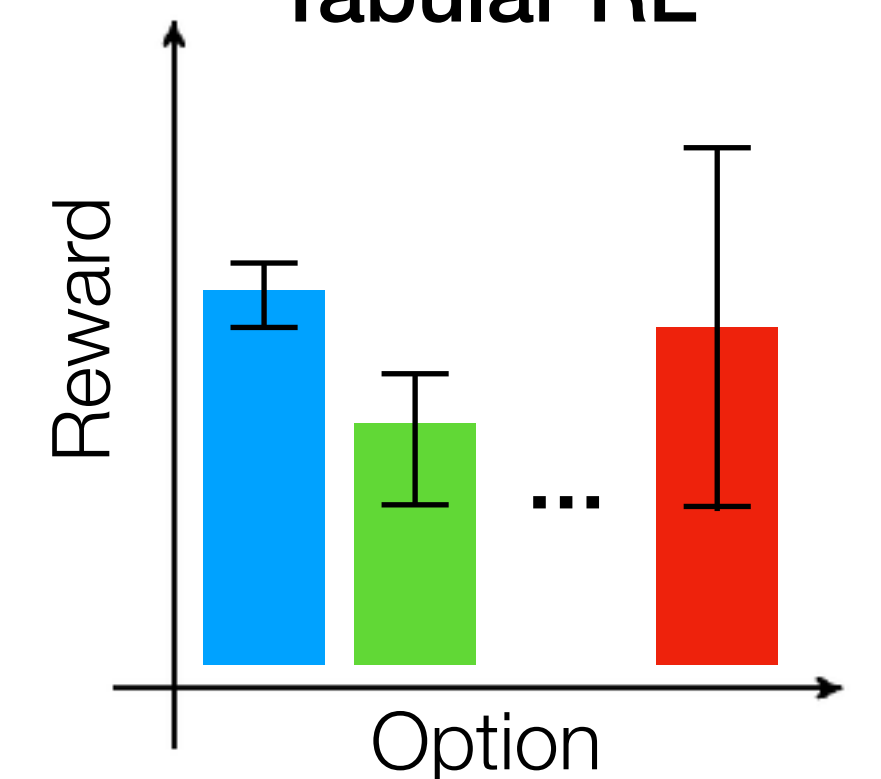


- **Tabular learning:**

- Traditional associative learning models learn the value of each option independently
- No guidance about *where to explore*, with novel options defaulting to some prior expectation

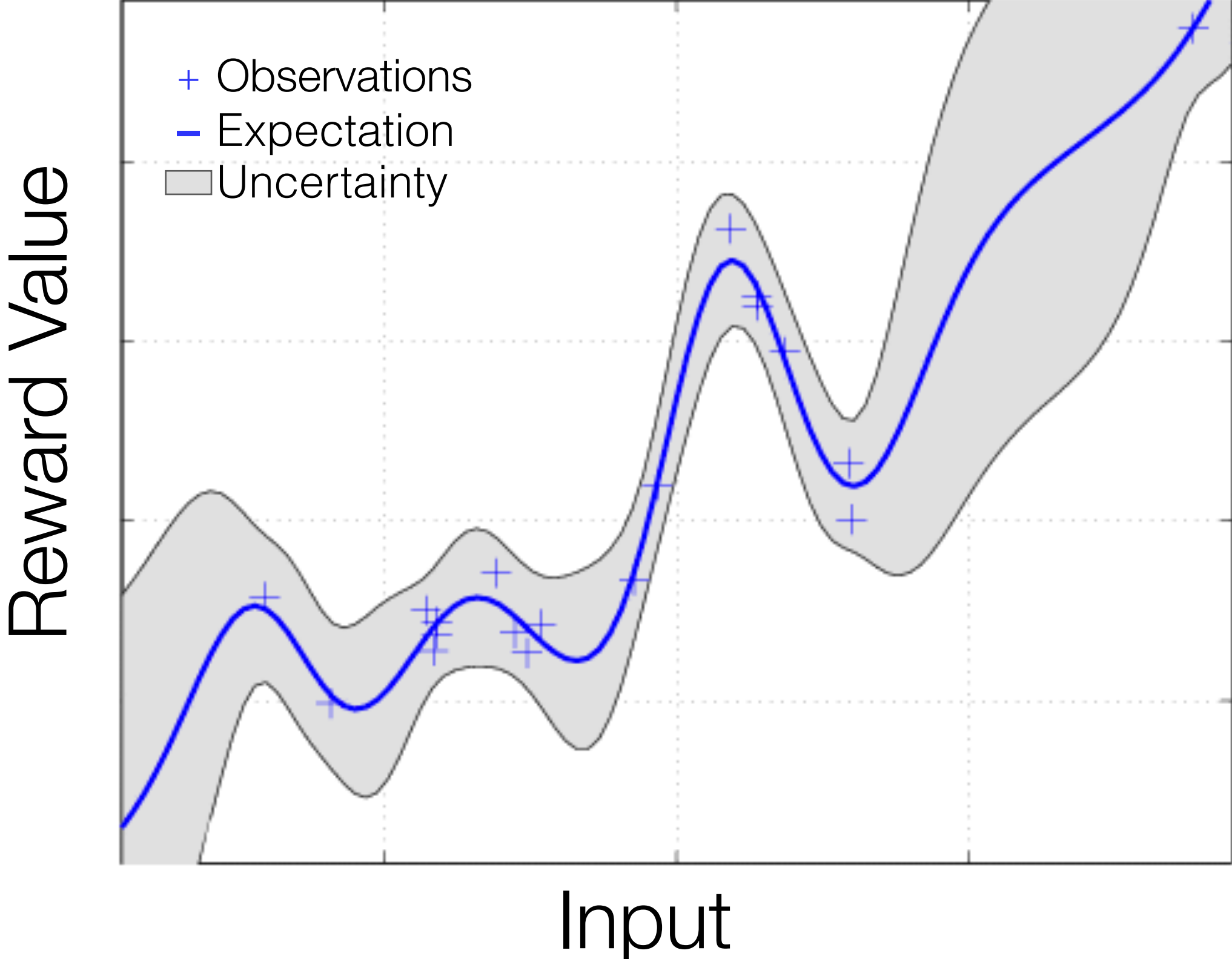


## Tabular RL

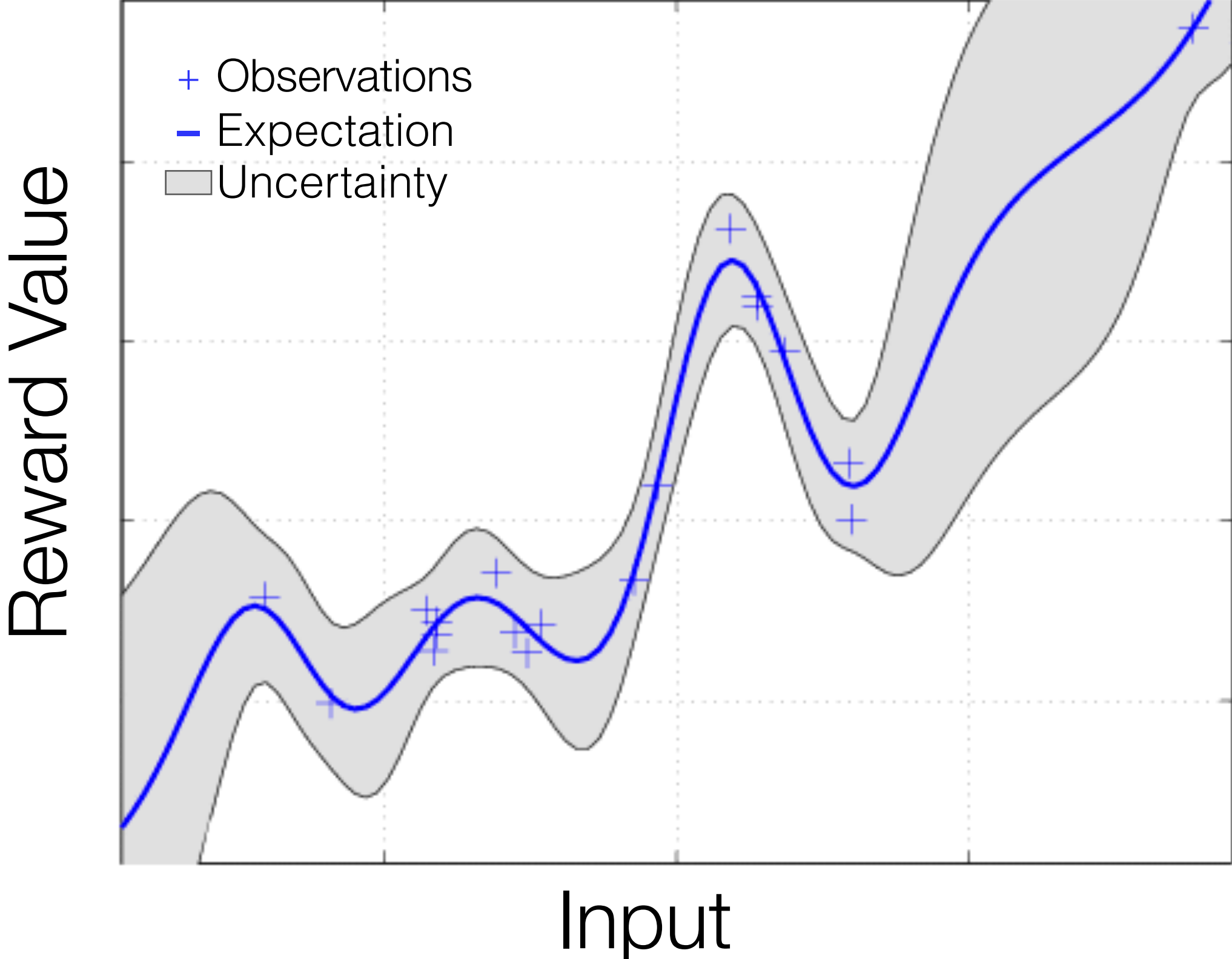




# Bayesian Function Learning using Gaussian Process (GP) Regression



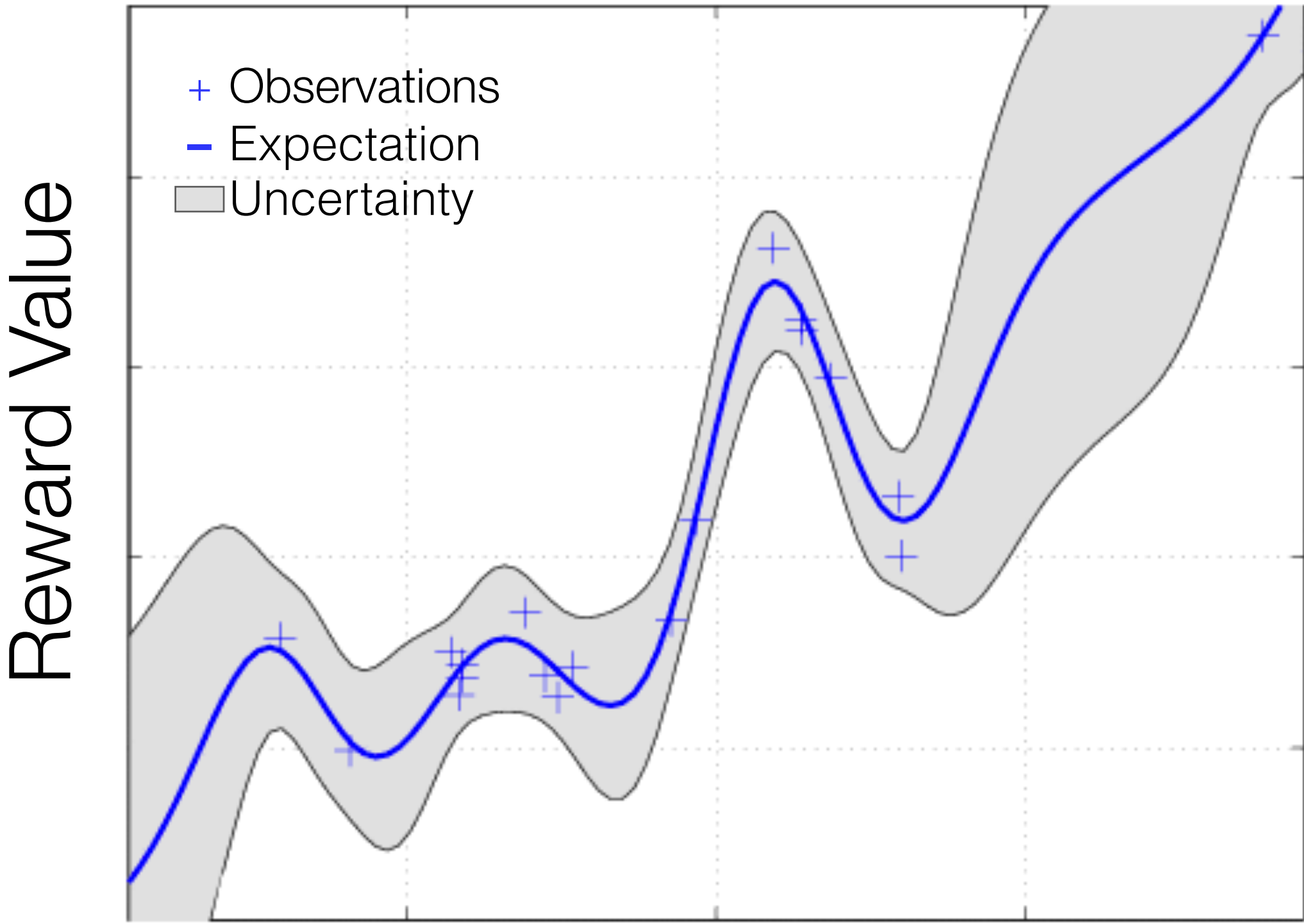
# Bayesian Function Learning using Gaussian Process (GP) Regression



Location

(Wu et al., *NHB* 2018)

# Bayesian Function Learning using Gaussian Process (GP) Regression



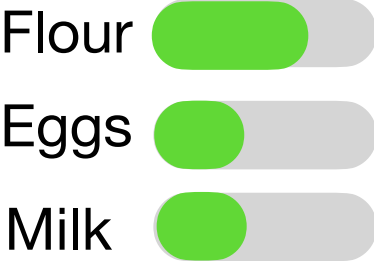
Input



Location



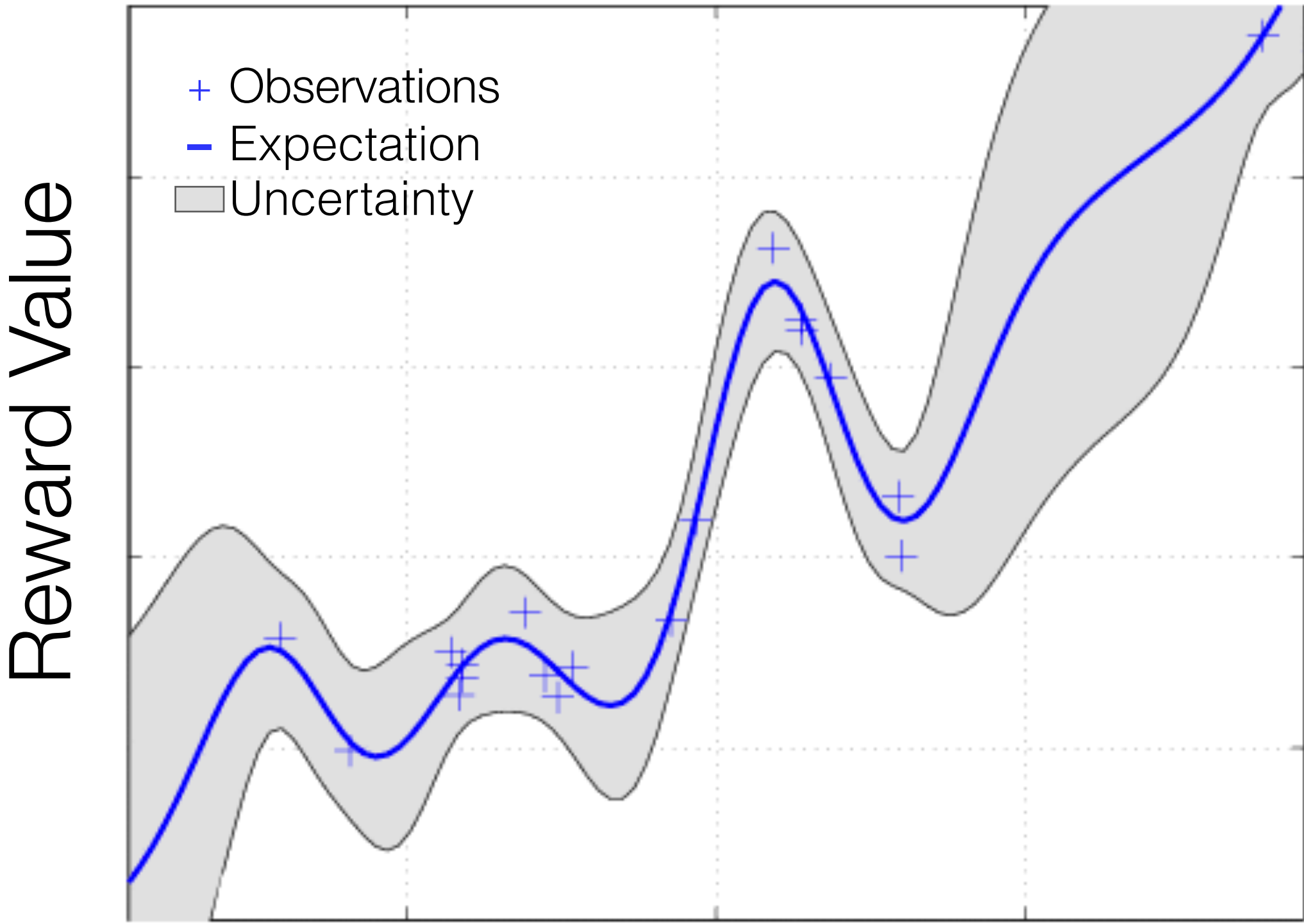
Features



(Wu et al., *NHB* 2018)  
(Wu et al., *PLOS CompBio* 2020)



# Bayesian Function Learning using Gaussian Process (GP) Regression



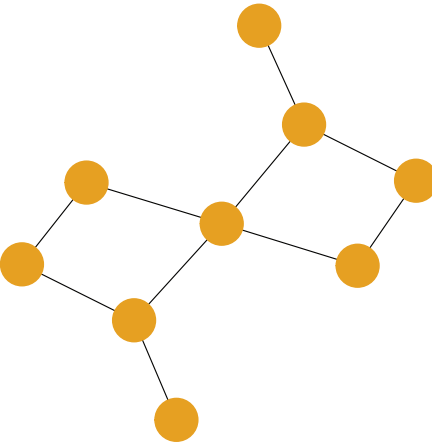
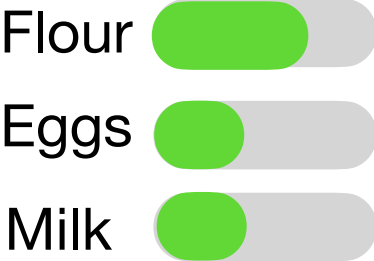
Input



Location



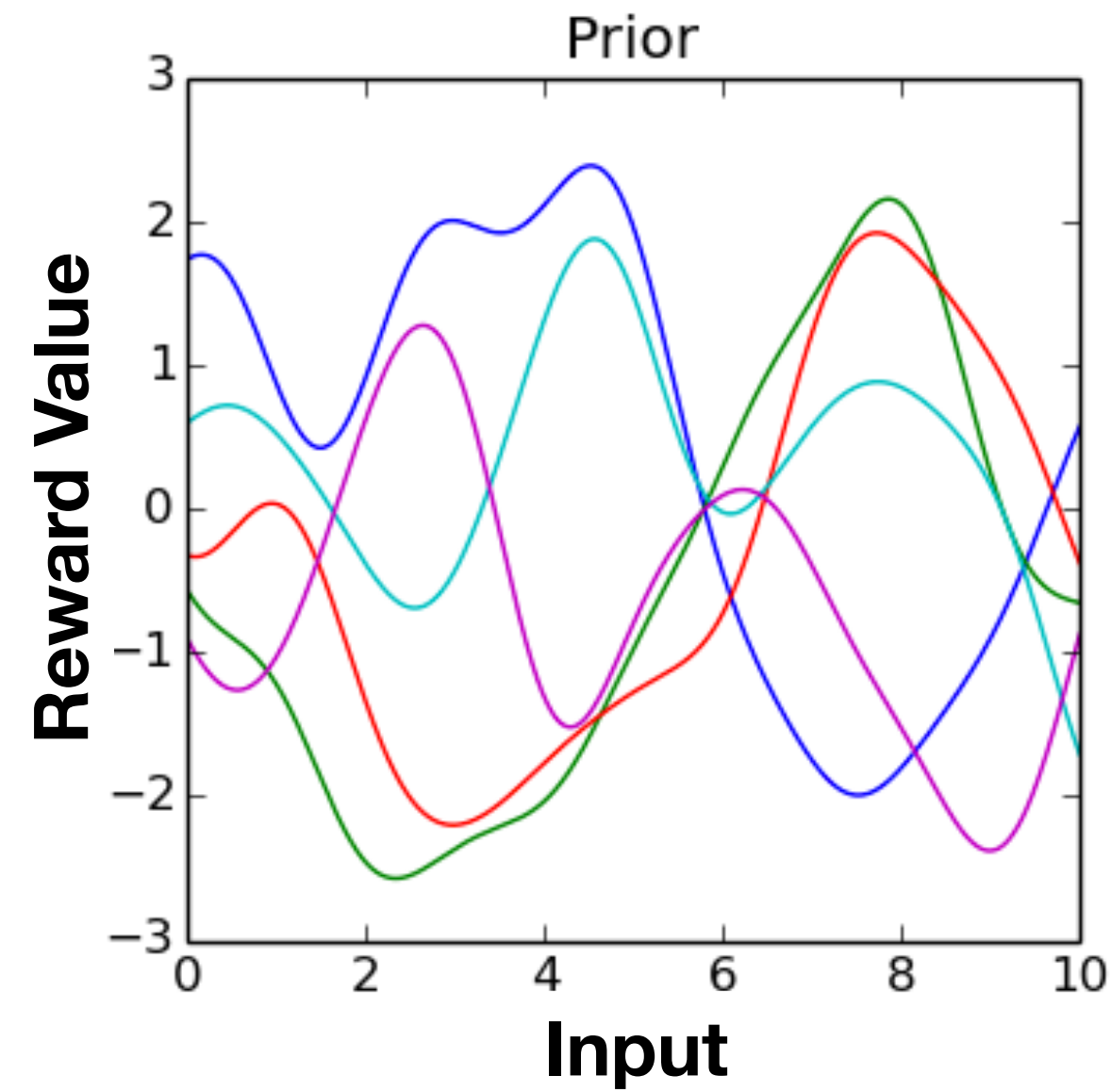
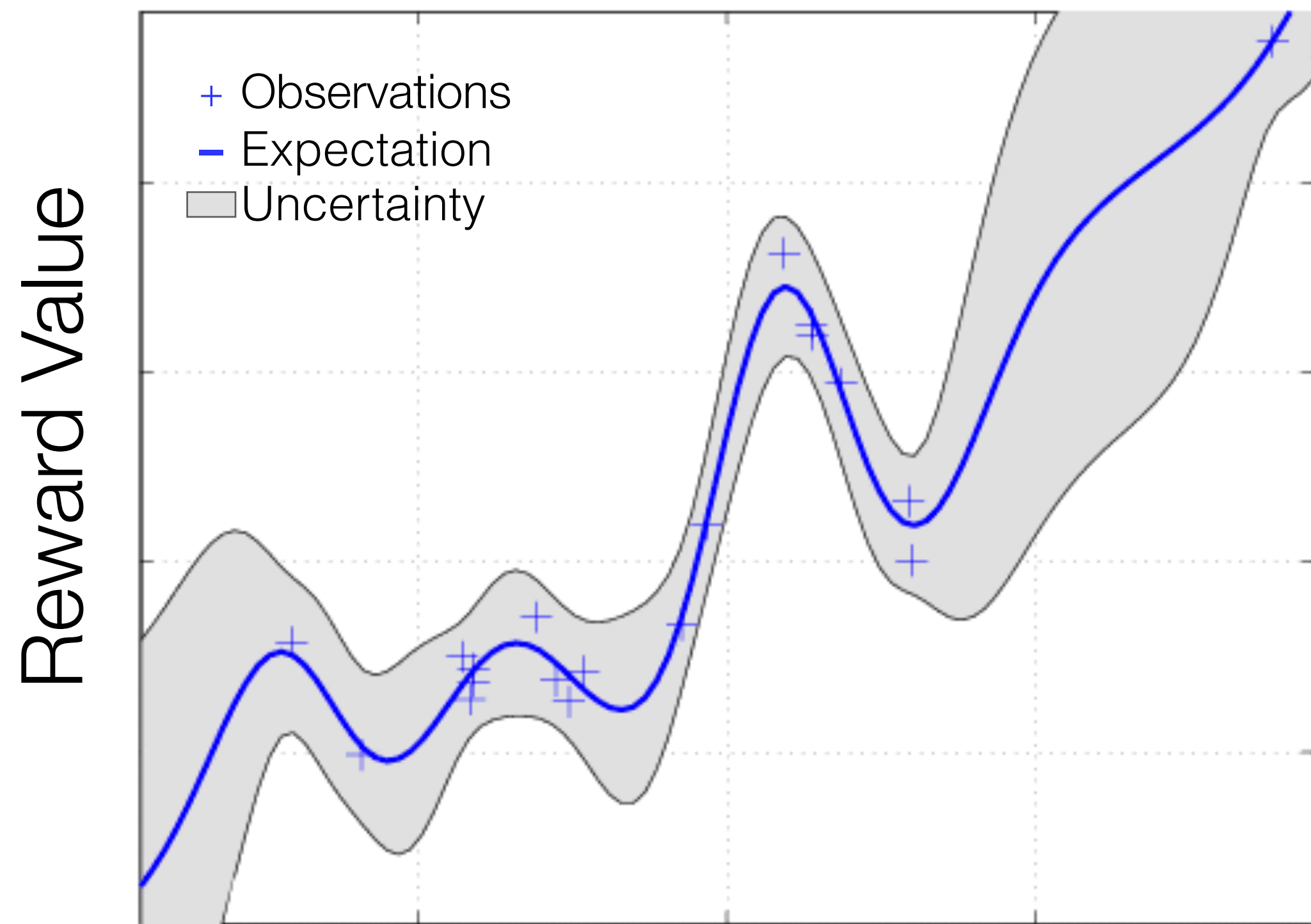
Features



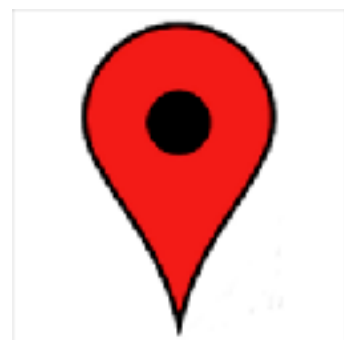
Nodes

(Wu et al., *NHB* 2018)  
(Wu et al., *PLOS CompBio* 2020)  
(Wu et al., *CBB* 2021)

# Bayesian Function Learning using Gaussian Process (GP) Regression



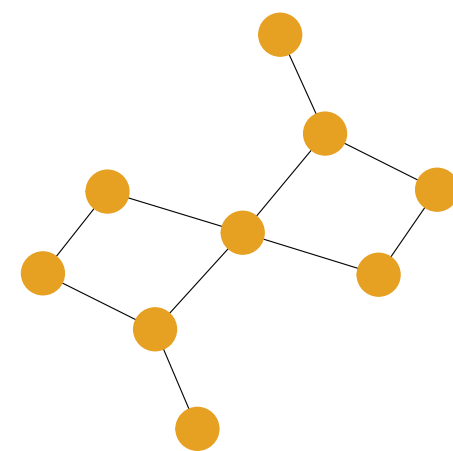
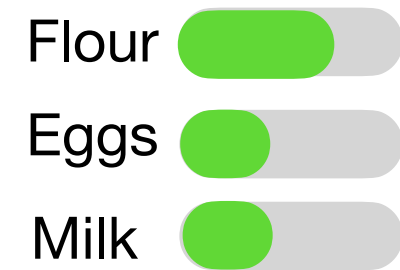
Input



Location



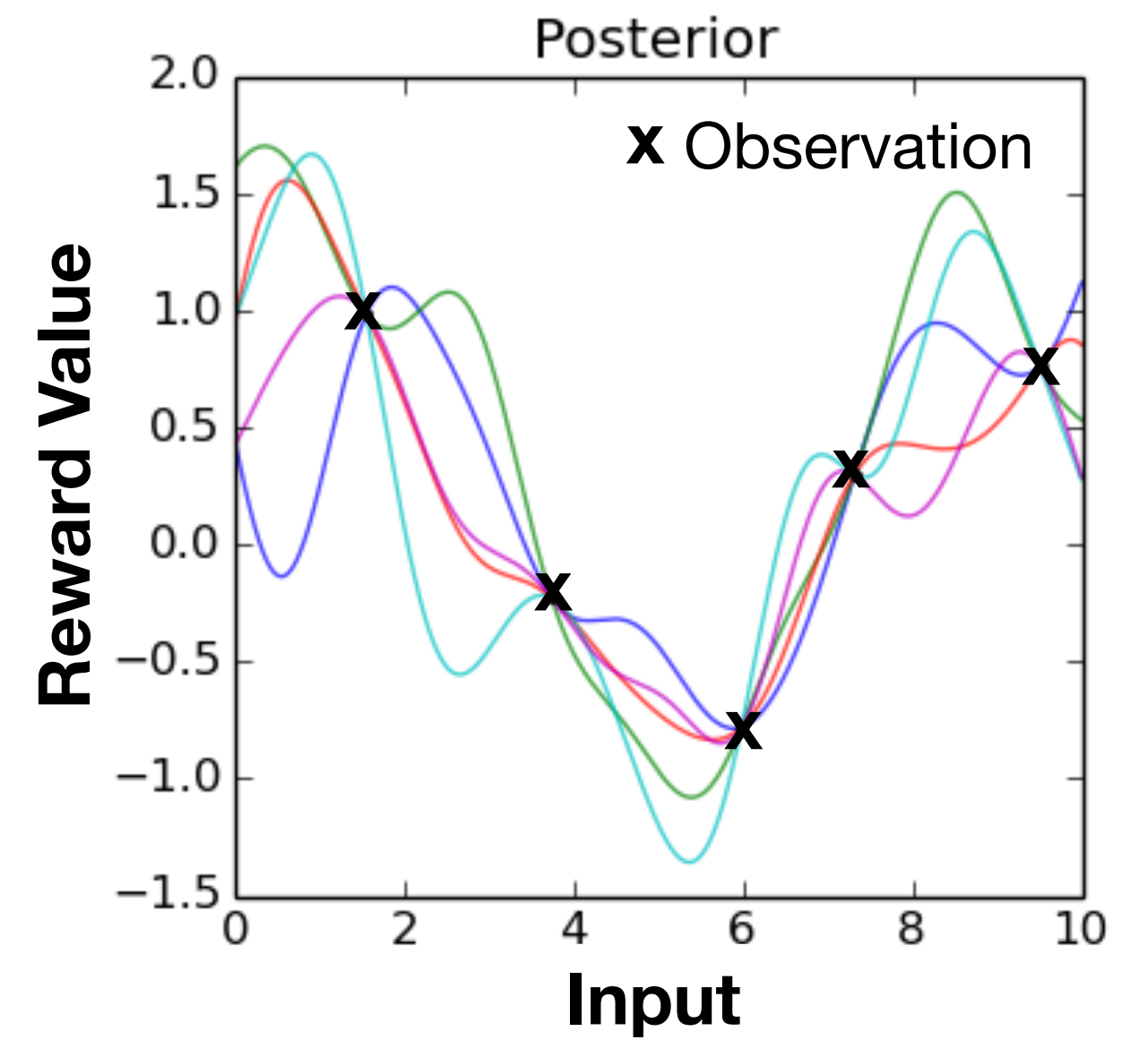
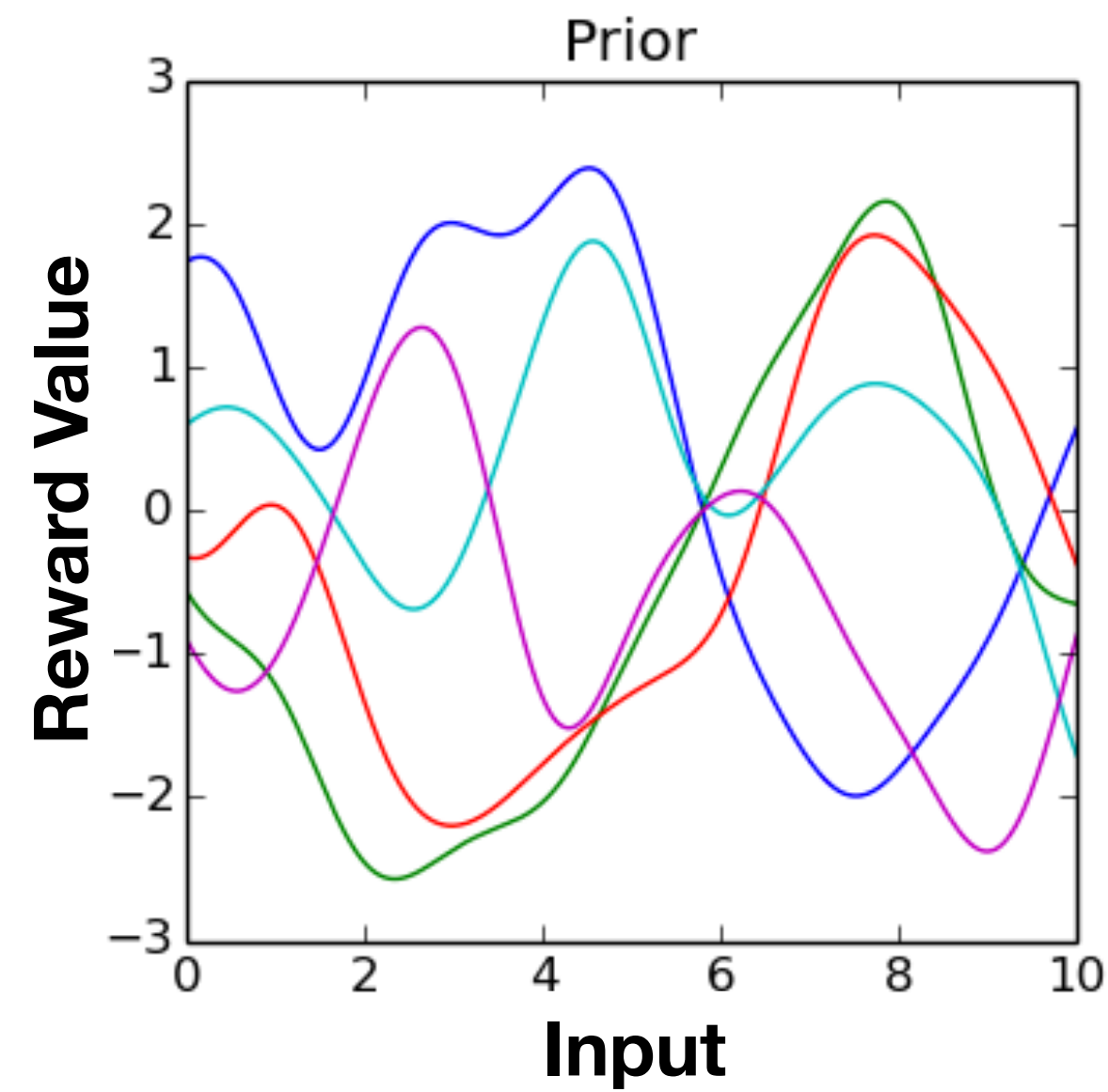
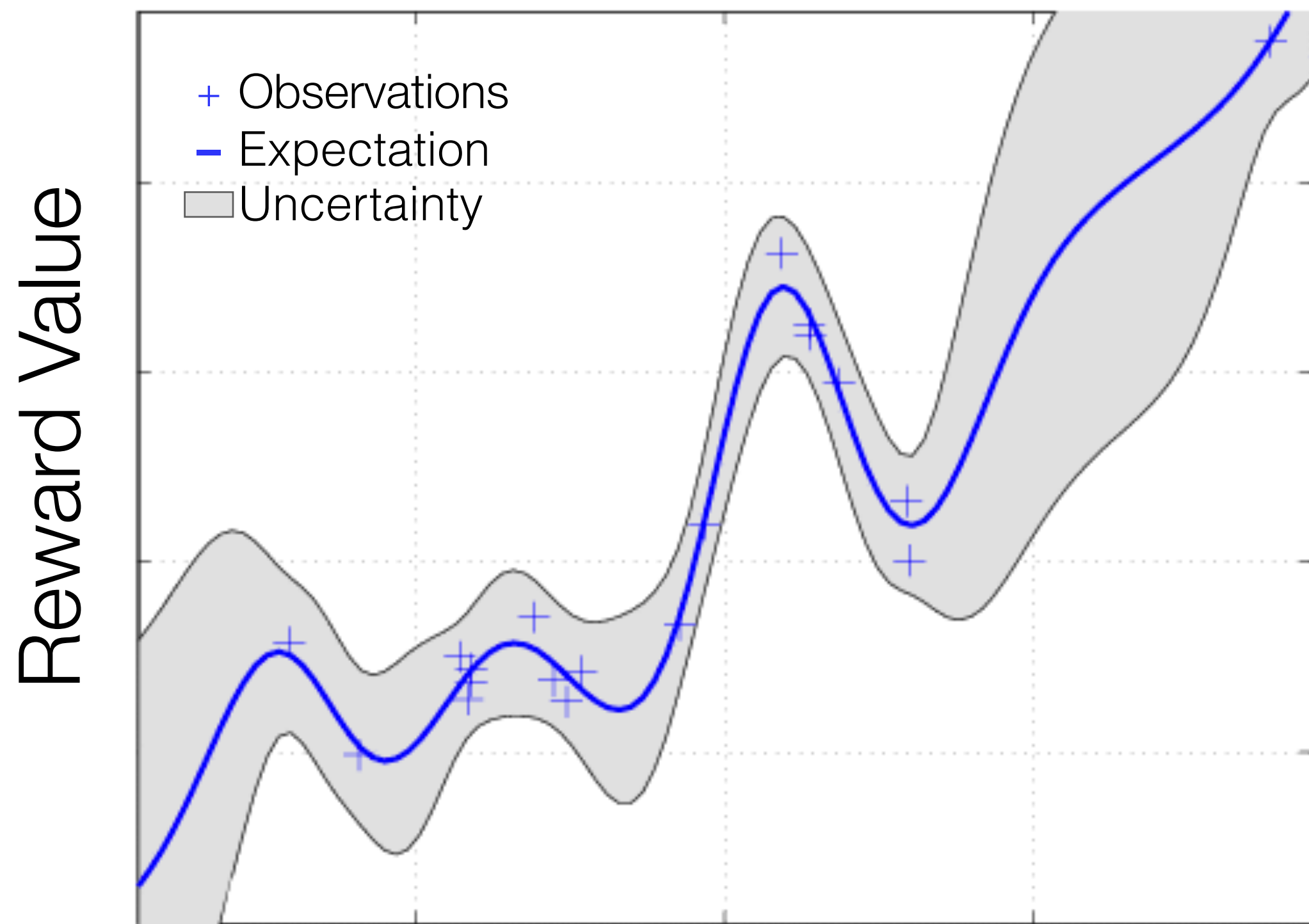
Features



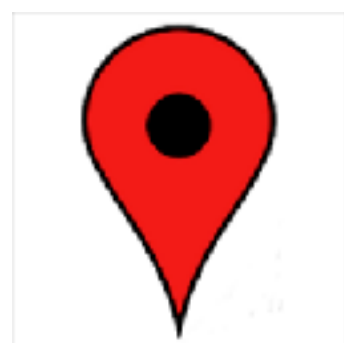
Nodes

(Wu et al., *NHB* 2018)  
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# Bayesian Function Learning using Gaussian Process (GP) Regression



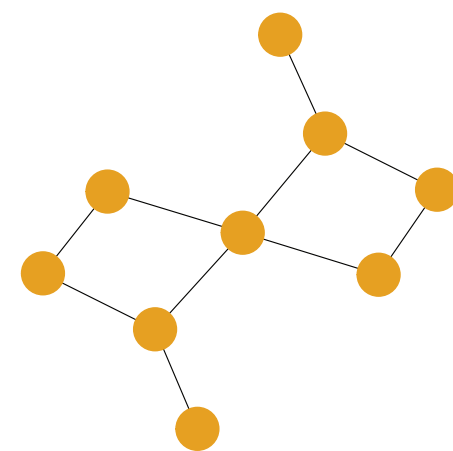
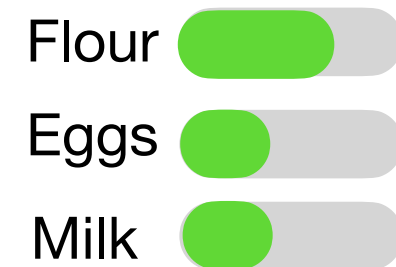
Input



Location



Features

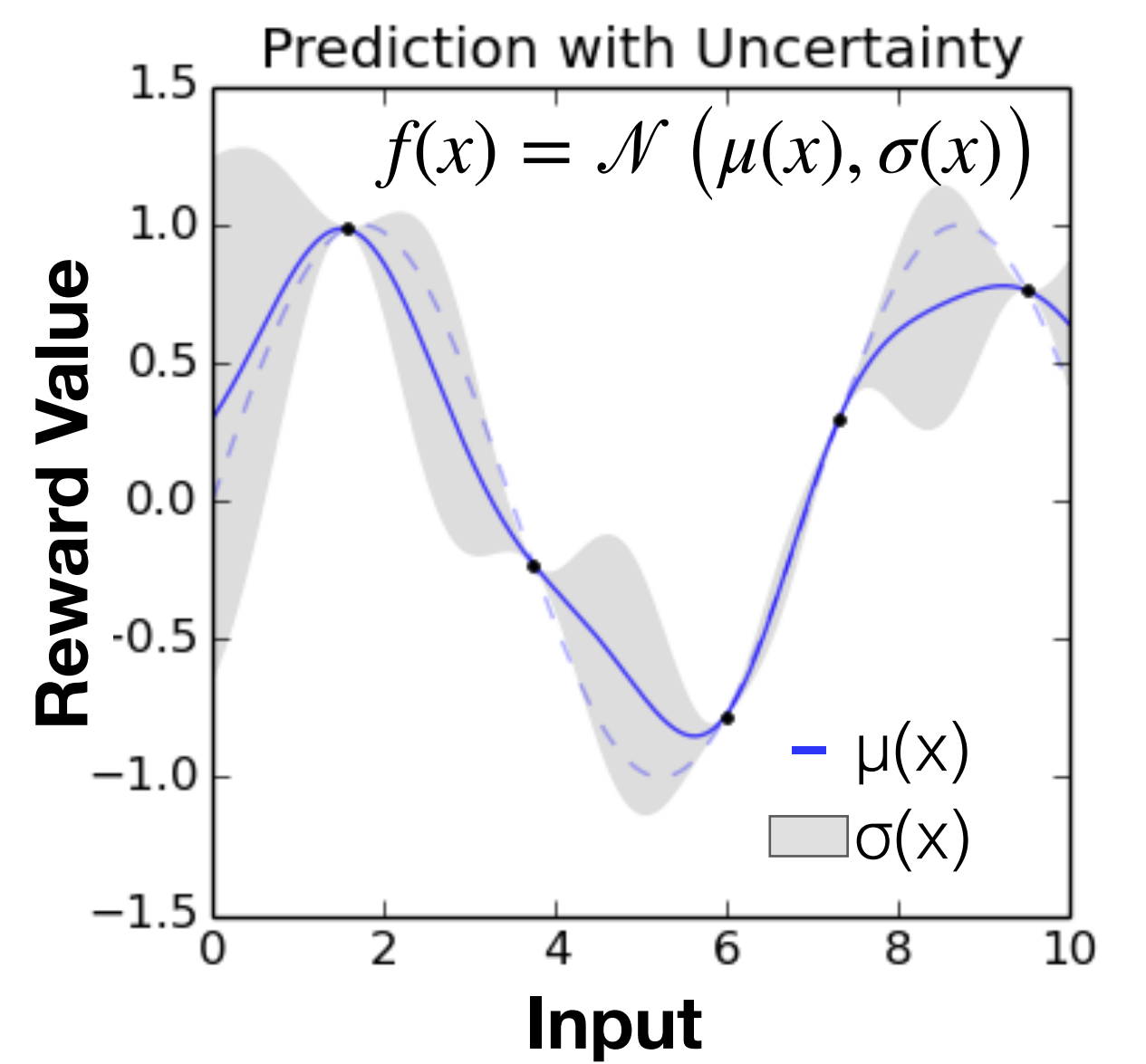
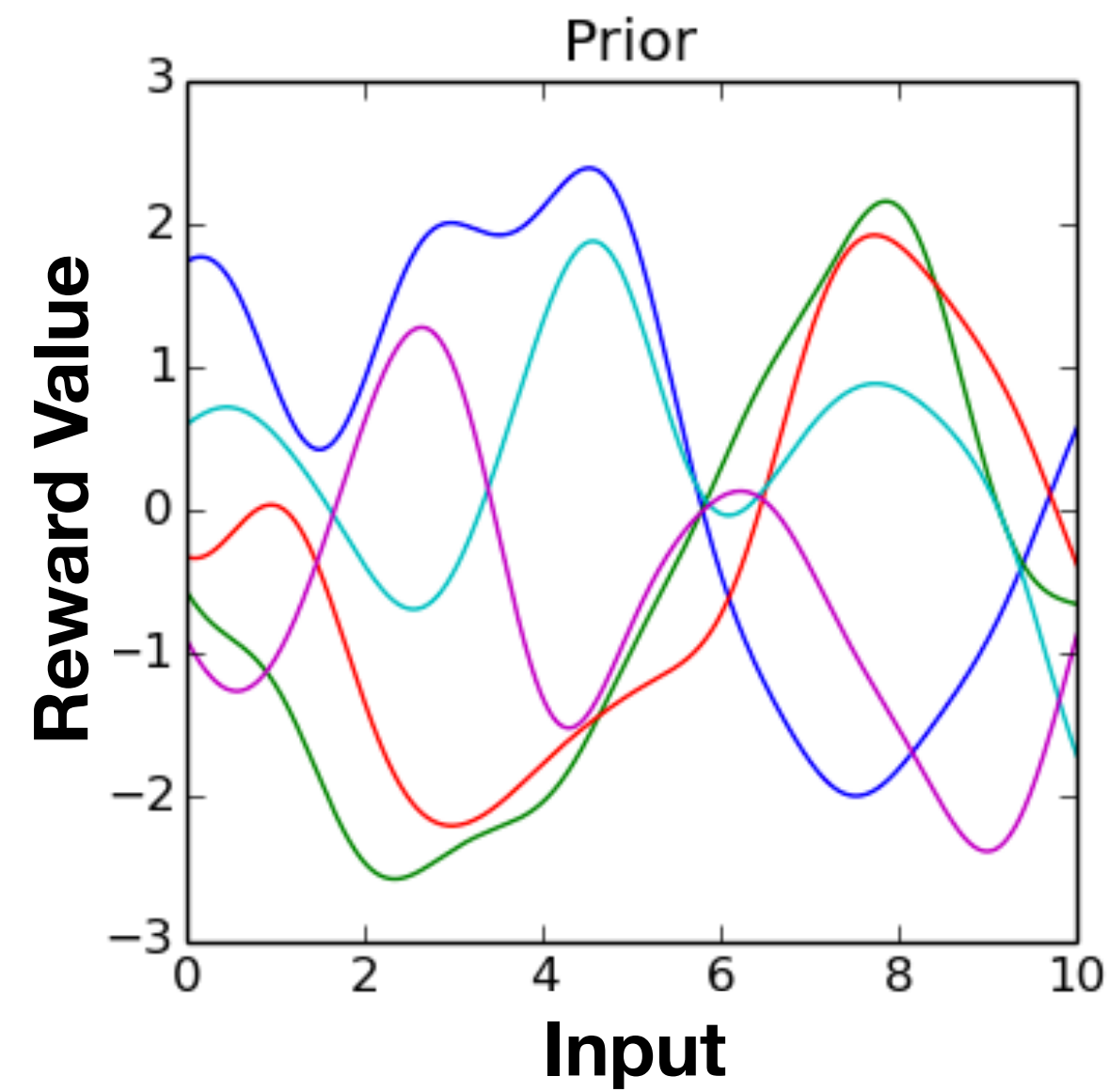
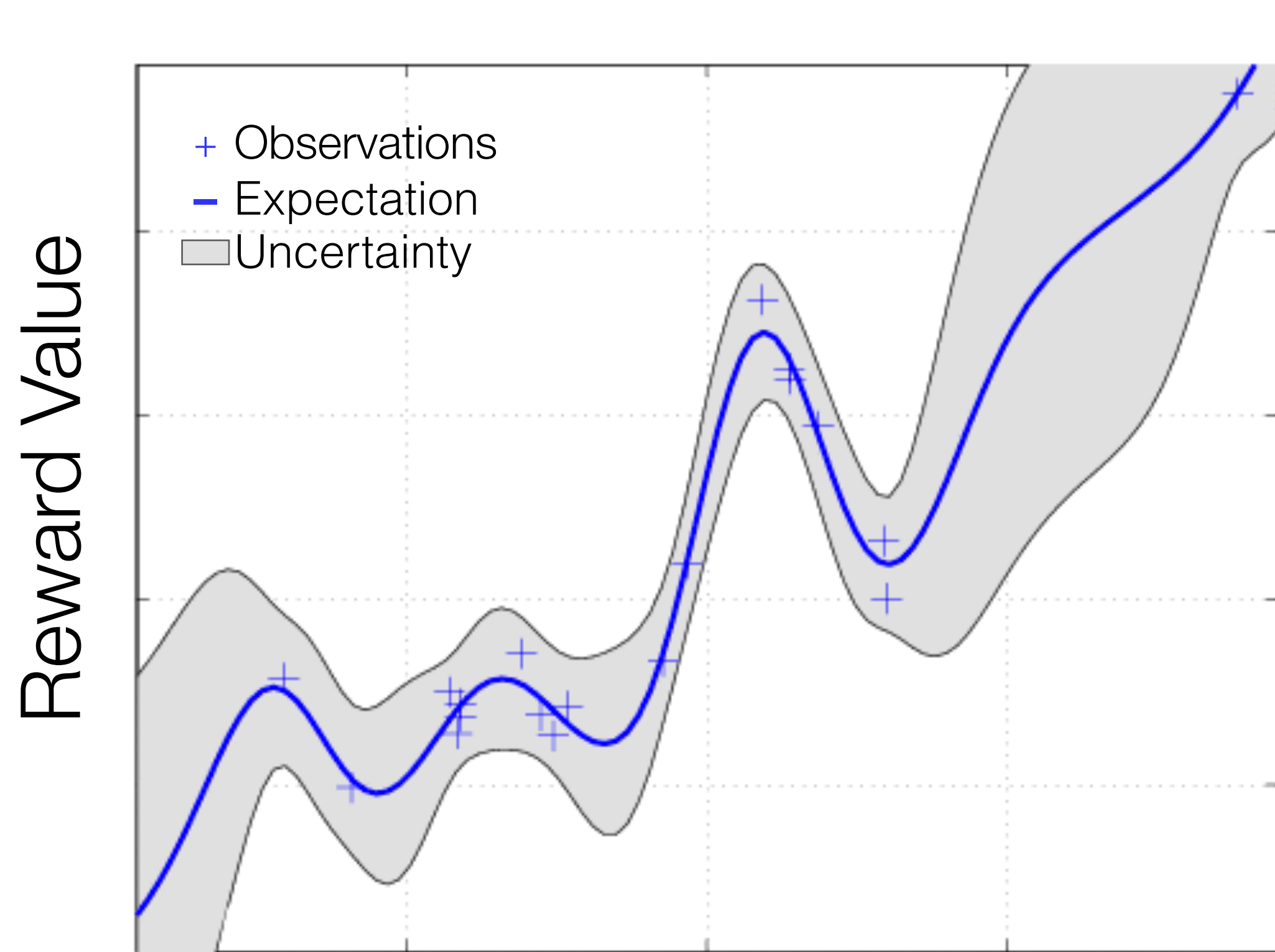


Nodes

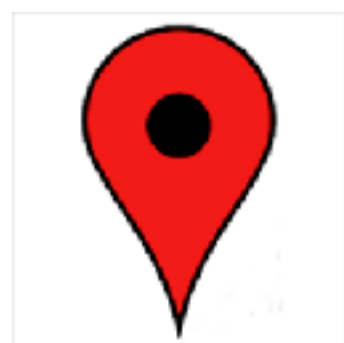
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# Bayesian Function Learning using Gaussian Process (GP) Regression



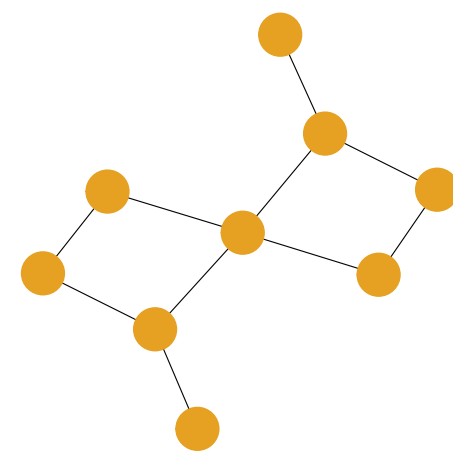
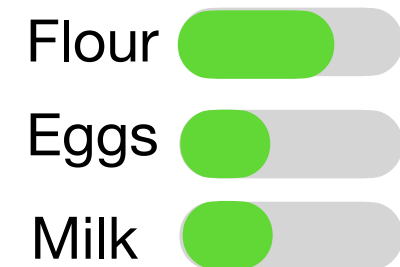
Input



Location



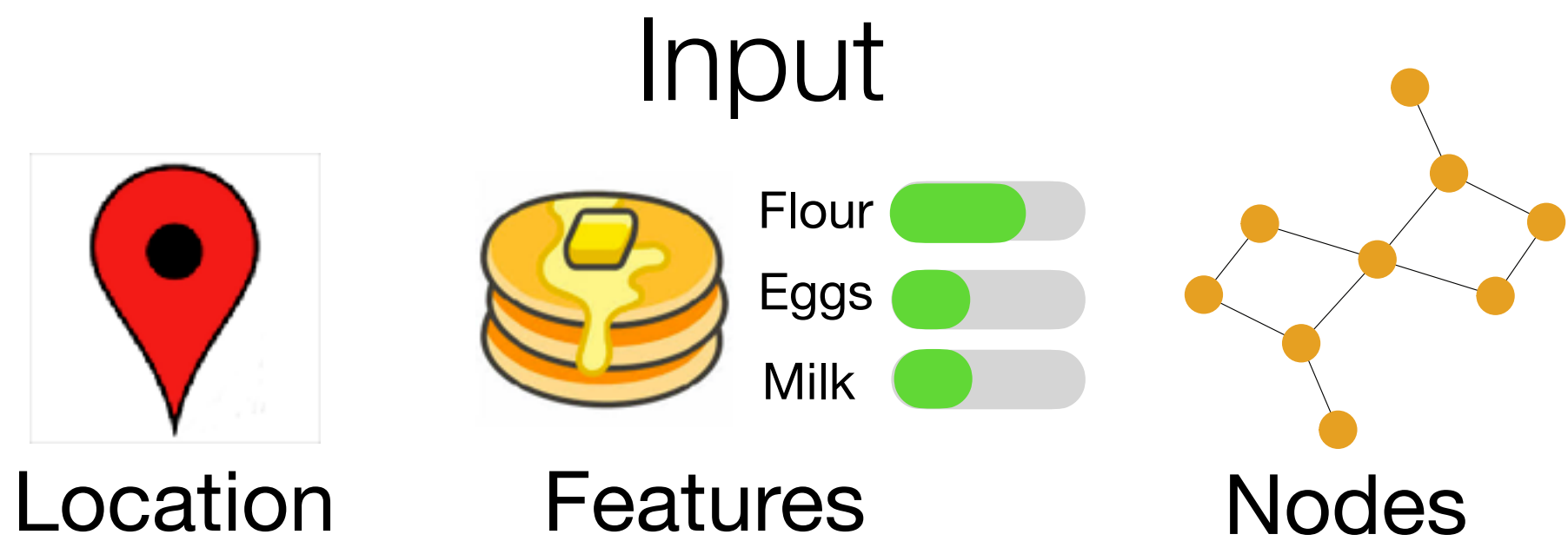
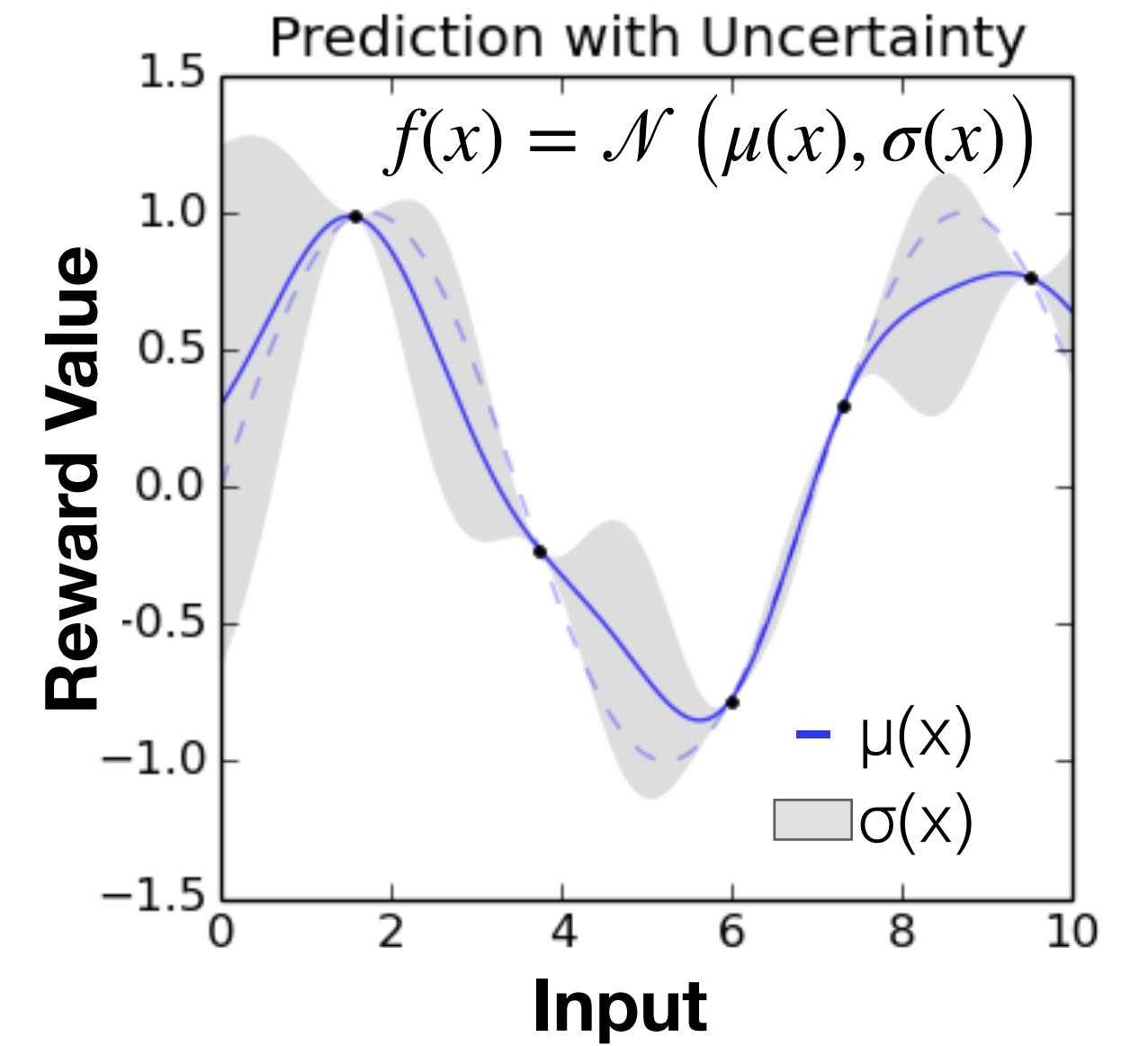
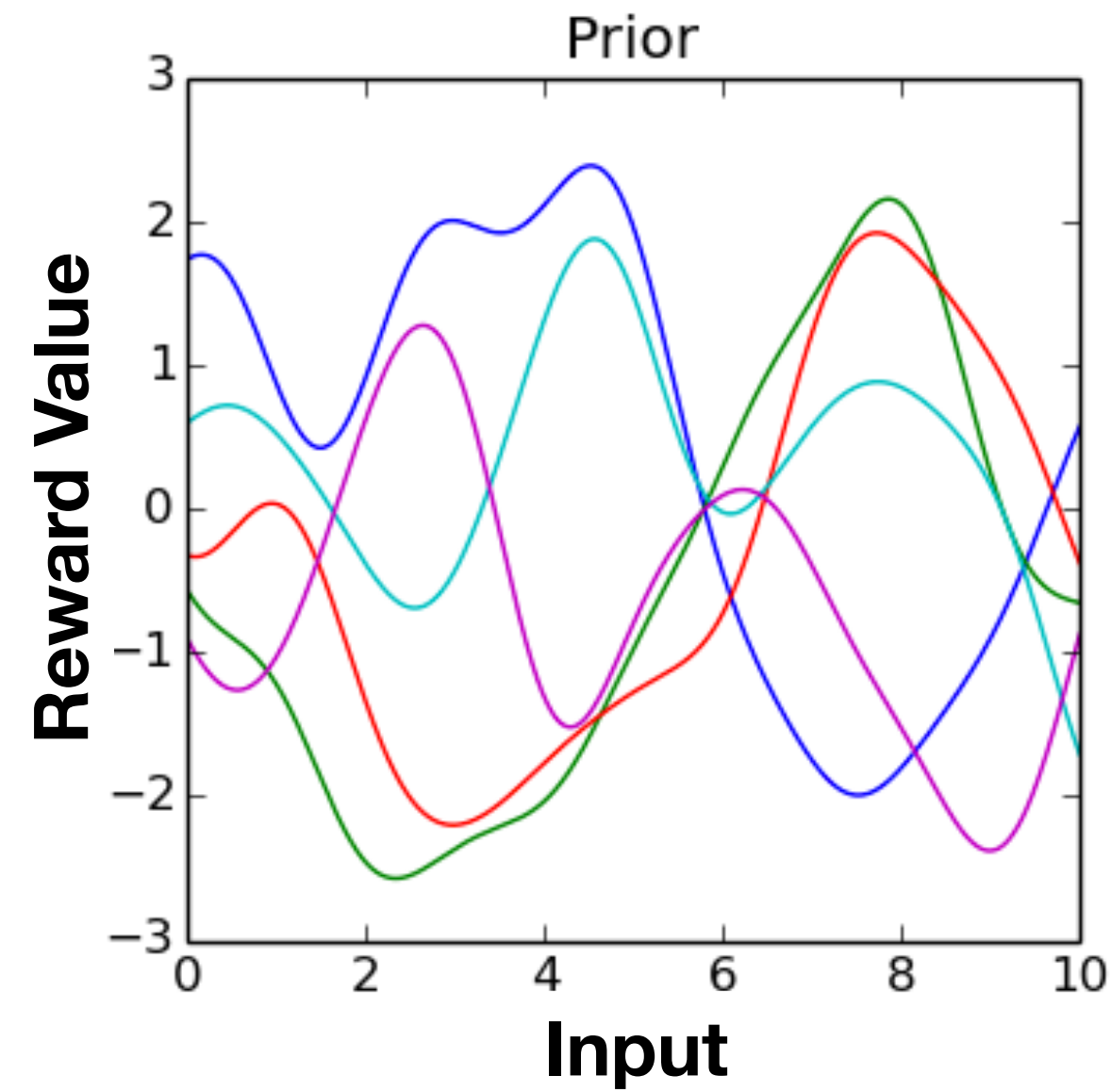
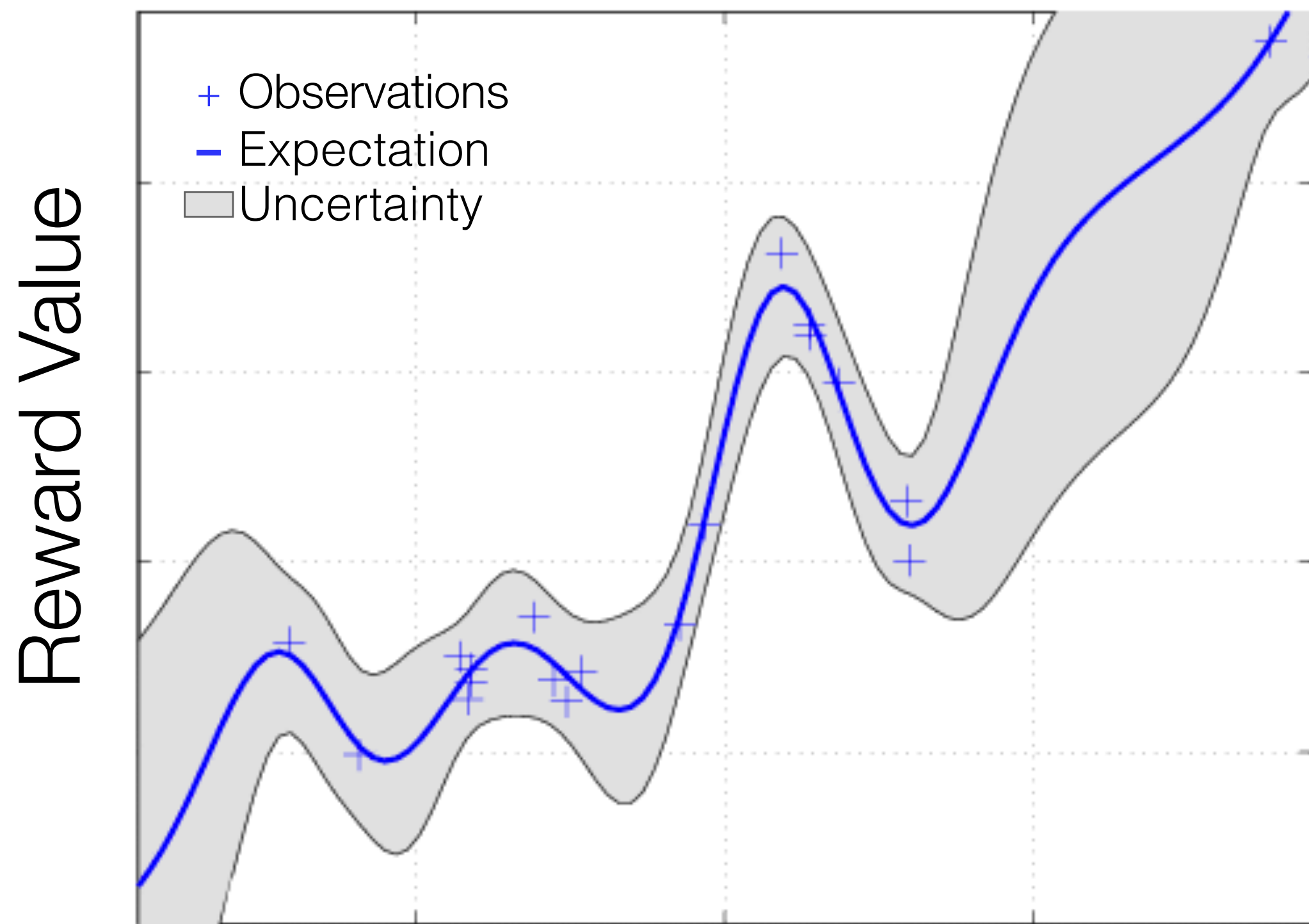
Features



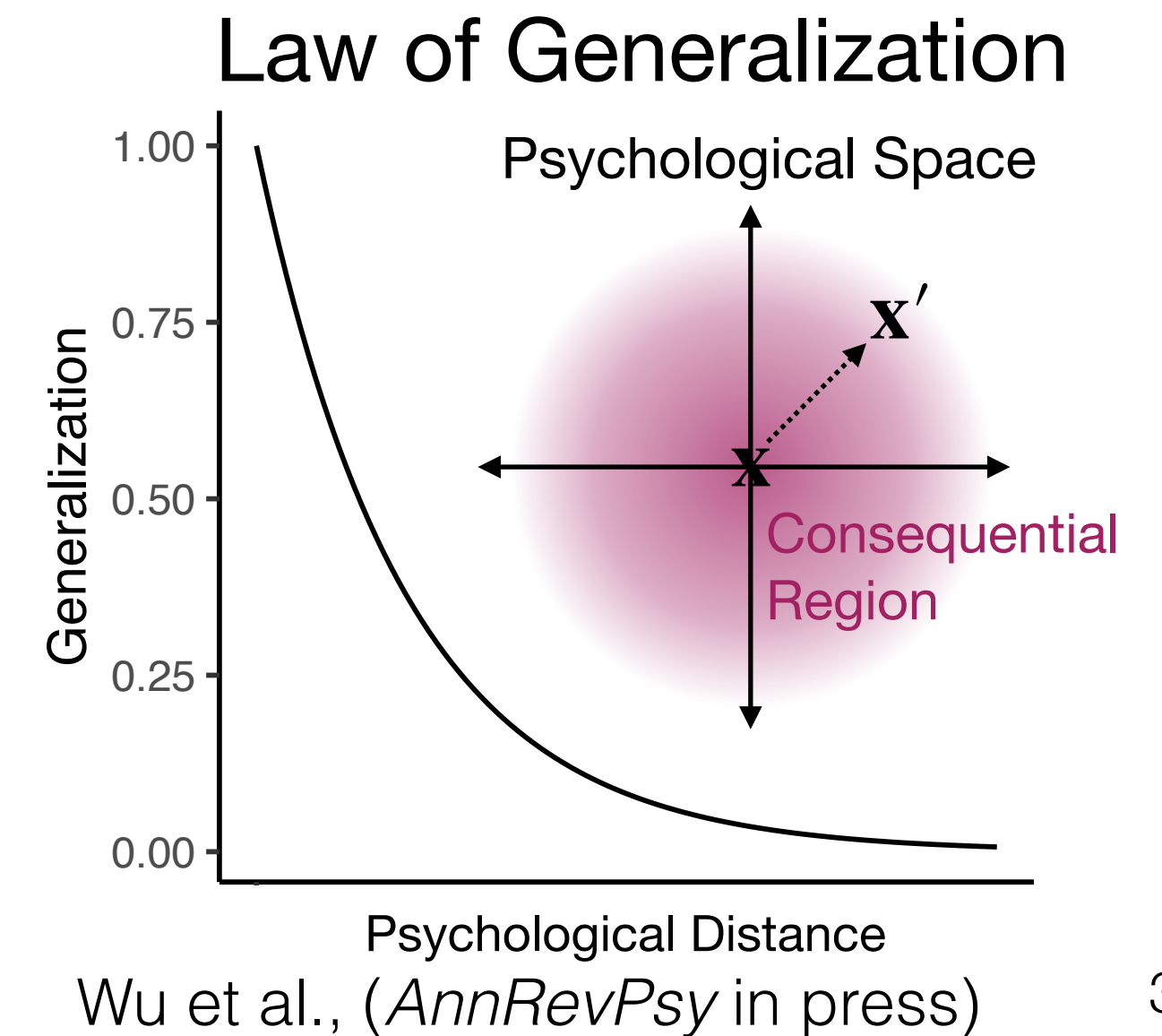
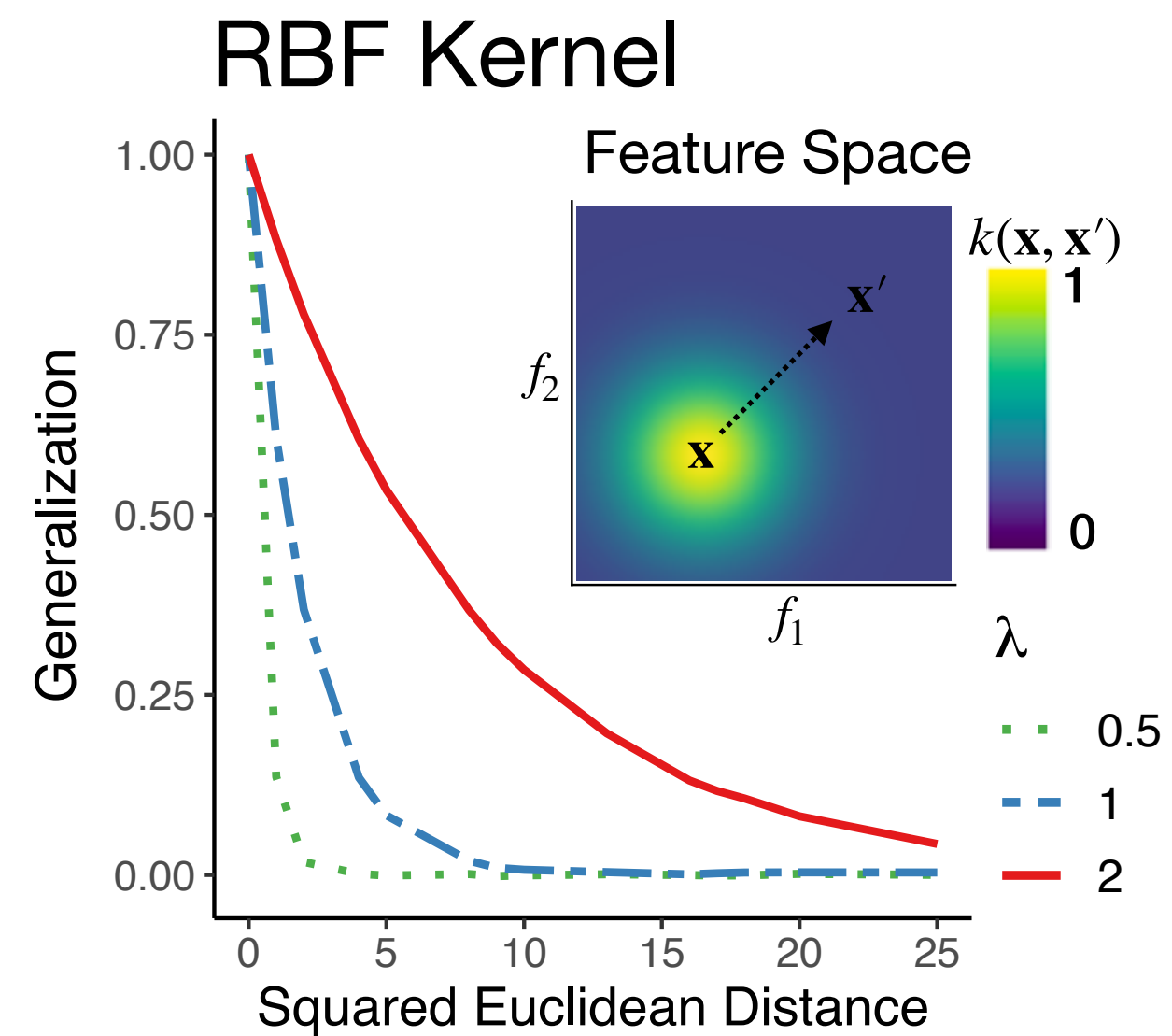
Nodes

(Wu et al., *NHB* 2018)  
 (Wu et al., *PLOS CompBio* 2020)  
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# Bayesian Function Learning using Gaussian Process (GP) Regression

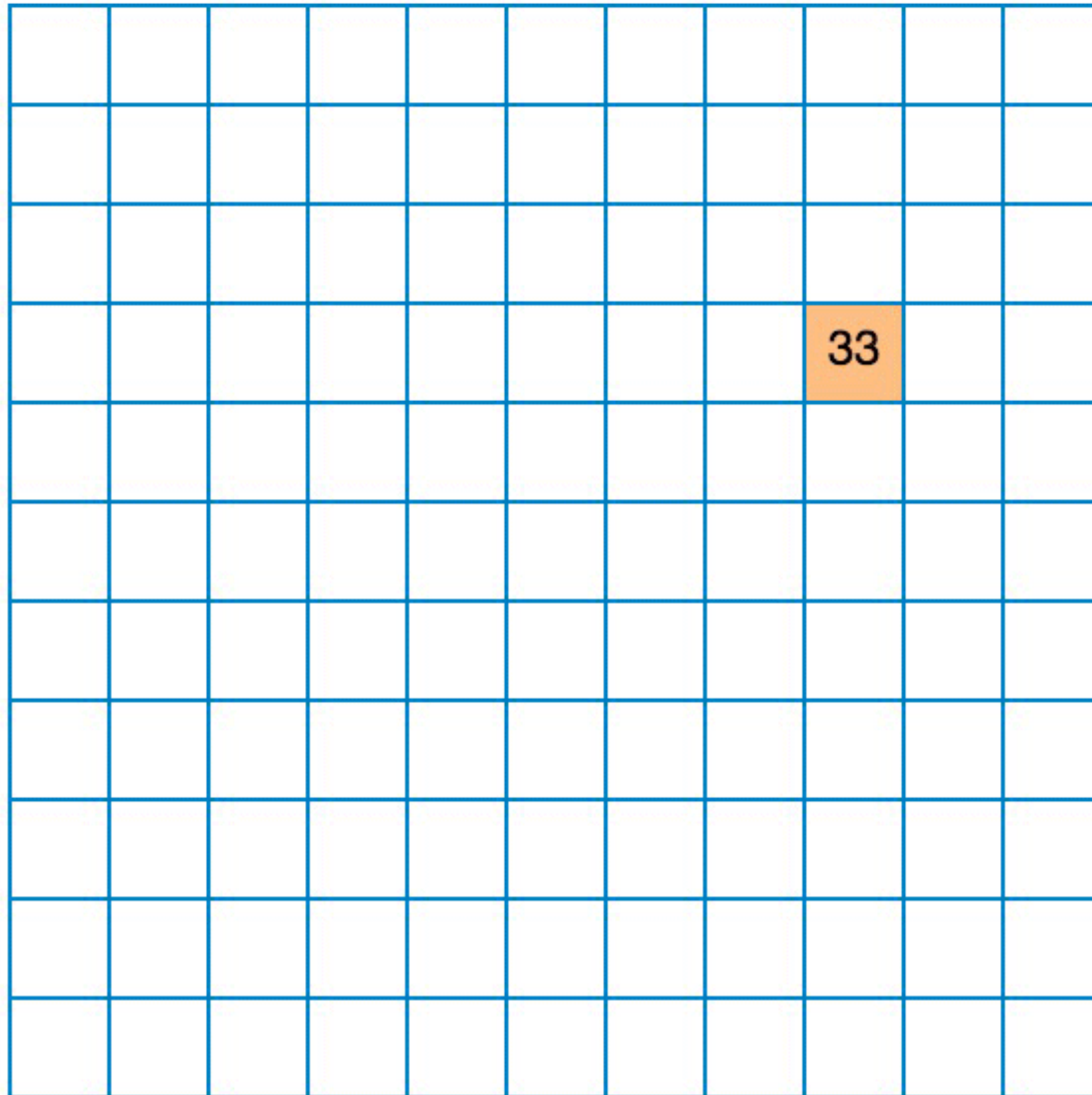




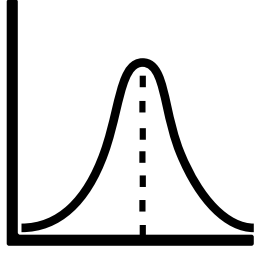

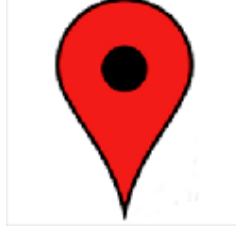
(Wu et al., *NHB* 2018)  
 (Wu et al., *PLOS CompBio* 2020)  
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# Spatially Correlated Bandit

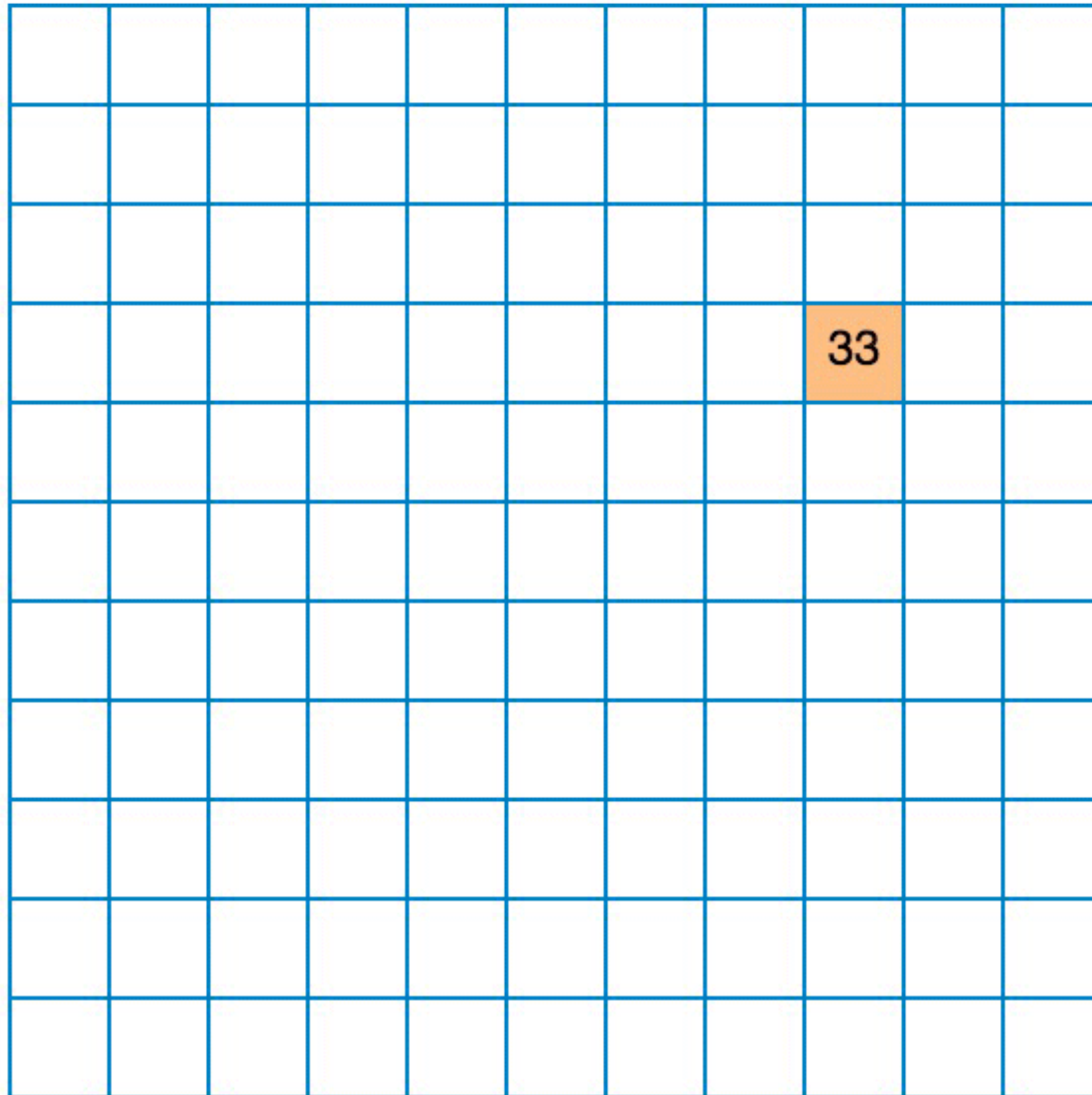



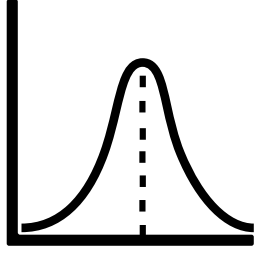
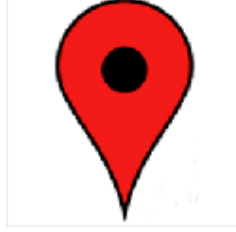
-  click tiles on the grid
-  maximize reward
-  each tile has normally distributed rewards
-  limited search horizon
-  nearby tiles have similar rewards

Wu et al., (*Nature Human Behaviour* 2018)



# Spatially Correlated Bandit



-  click tiles on the grid
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# Spatially Correlated Bandit

7	5	10	22	32	32	28	24	22	26	33
6	11	19	29	38	41	42	40	37	36	40
22	27	30	35	43	50	53	53	51	49	46
45	44	38	36	40	46	47	49	54	55	48
61	55	46	40	37	32	27	31	44	52	44
62	59	57	54	44	27	14	17	33	46	45
53	59	68	71	59	36	17	15	28	45	51
46	57	71	77	67	47	26	18	27	45	56
45	56	65	67	60	46	29	20	27	42	55
51	57	58	53	47	40	30	23	28	40	49
60	62	58	47	39	38	35	31	35	41	46

 click tiles on the grid

 maximize reward

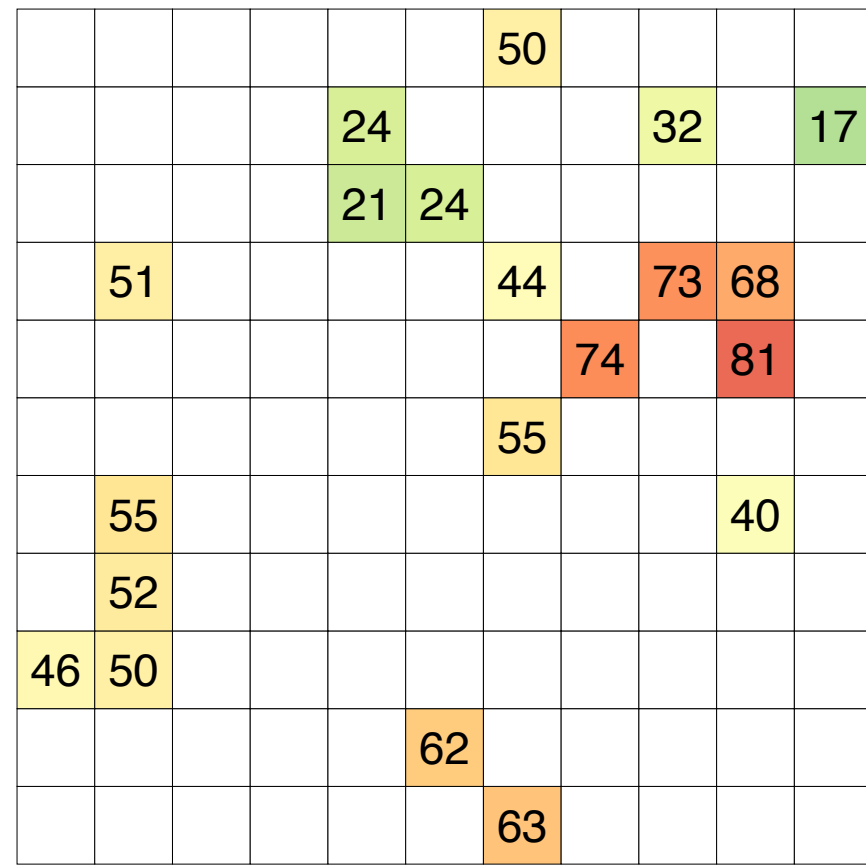
 each tile has normally distributed rewards

 limited search horizon

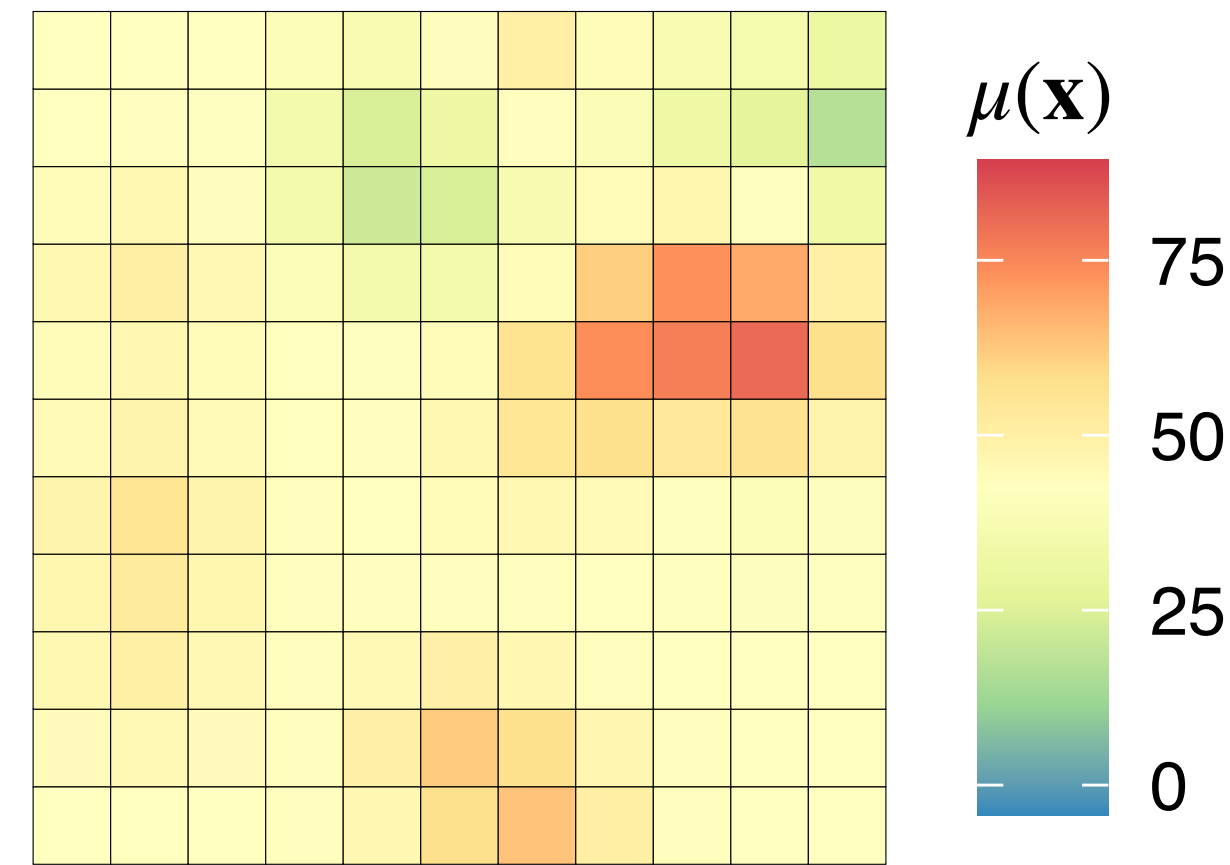
 nearby tiles have similar rewards

# GP-UCB Model

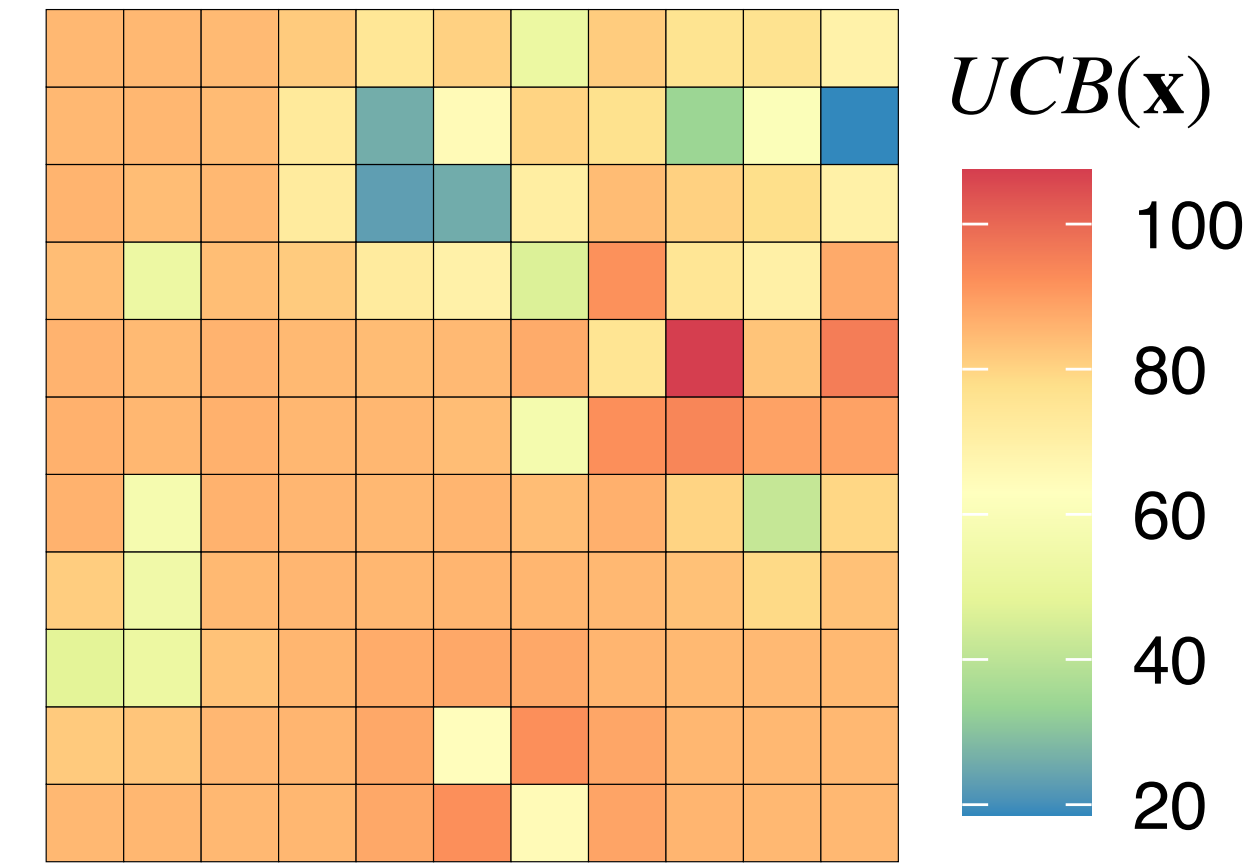
Observations



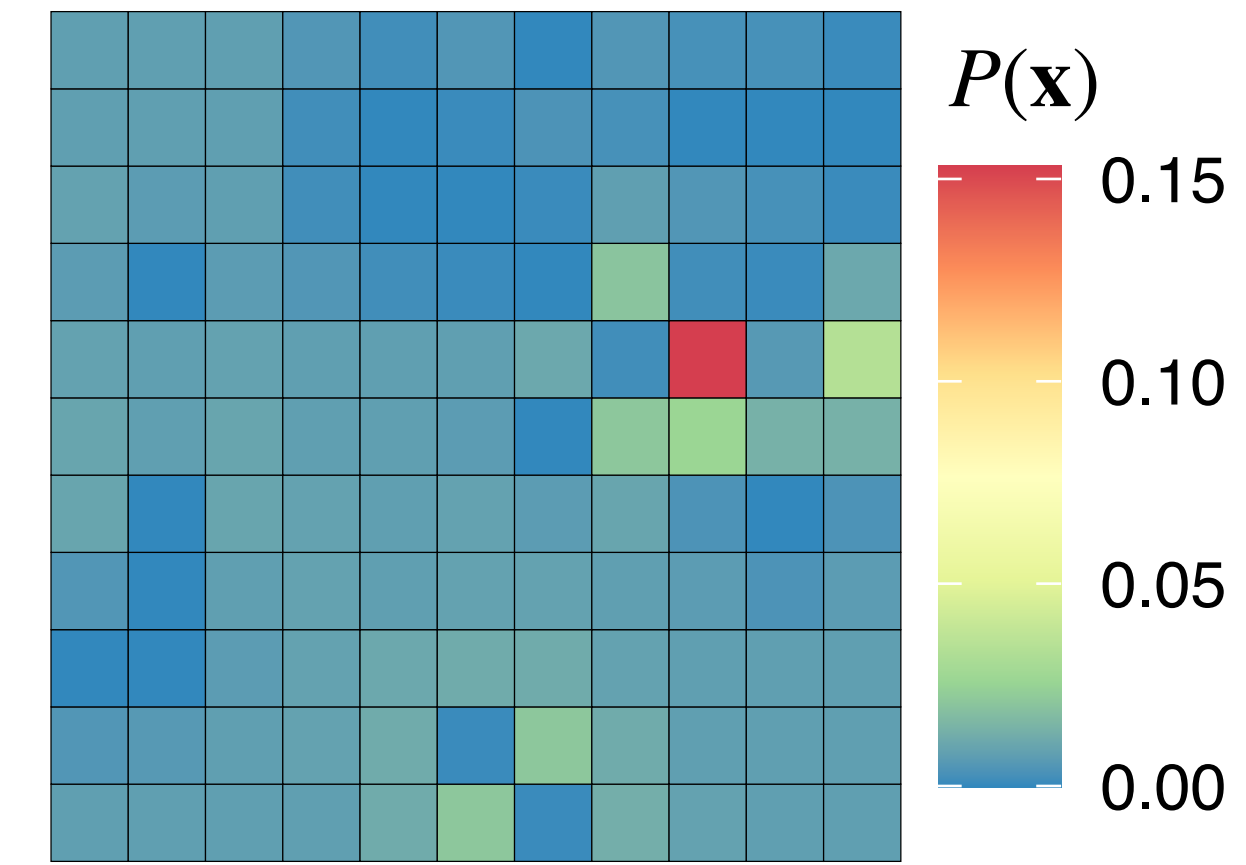
Gaussian Process (GP)



Upper Confidence Bound (UCB) Sampling



Softmax Choice Rule



Generalization

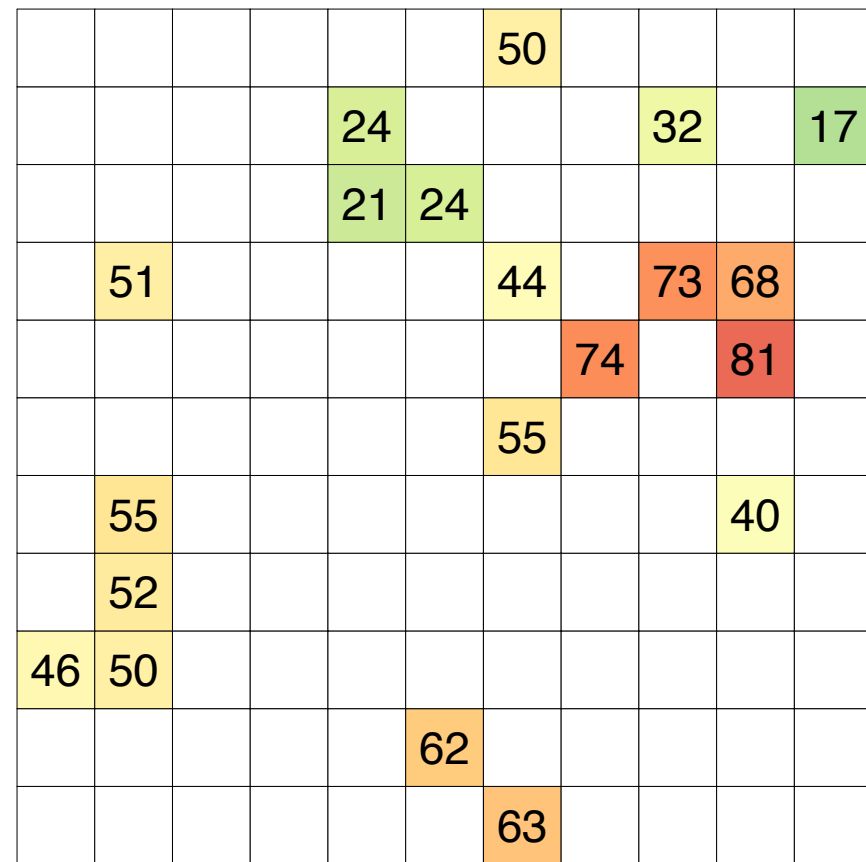
Directed Exploration

Random Temperature

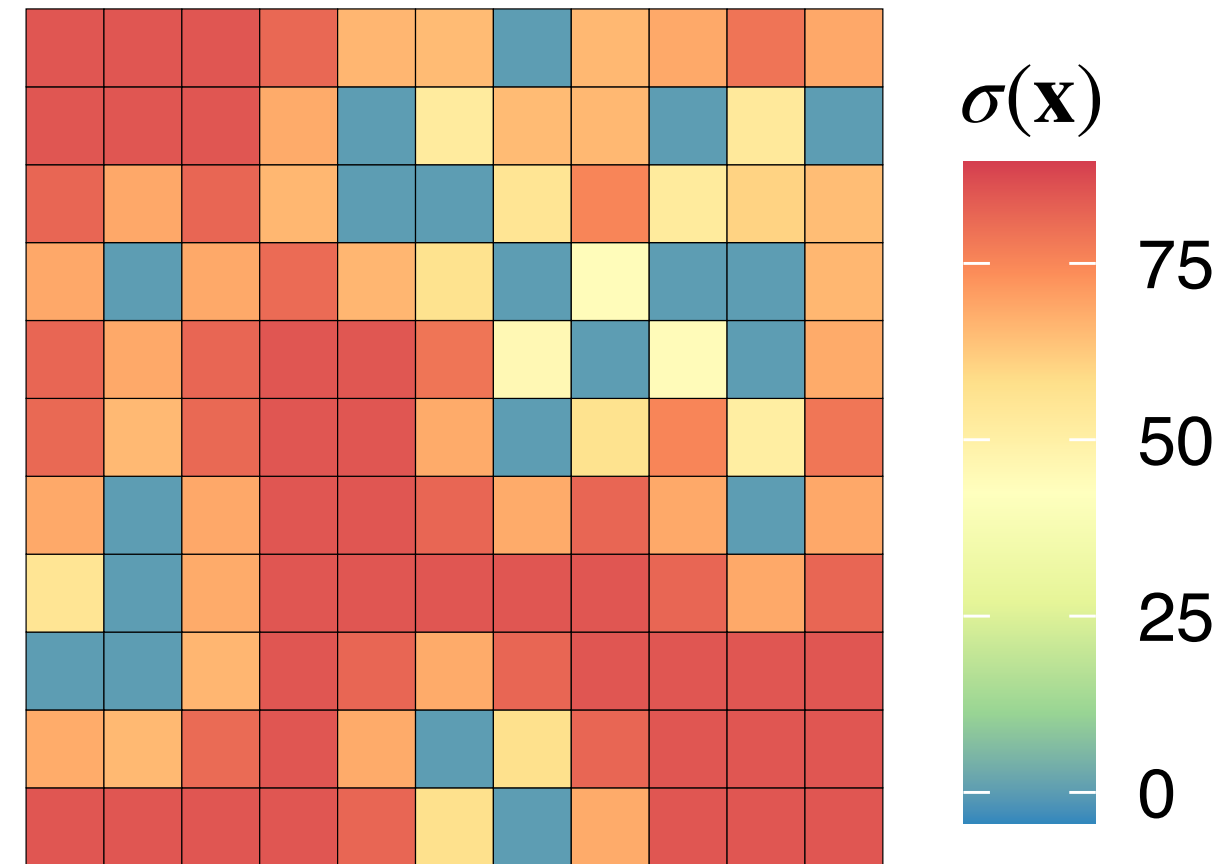


# GP-UCB Model

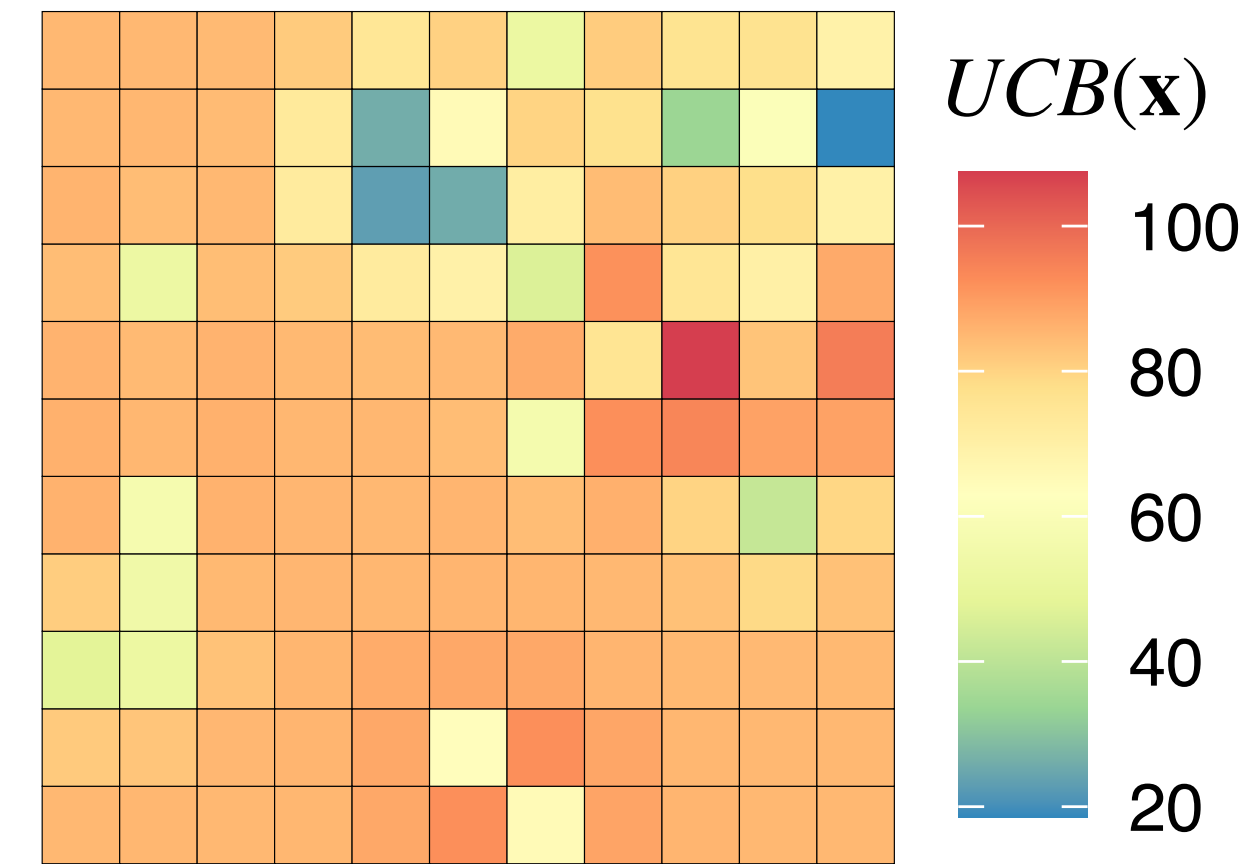
Observations



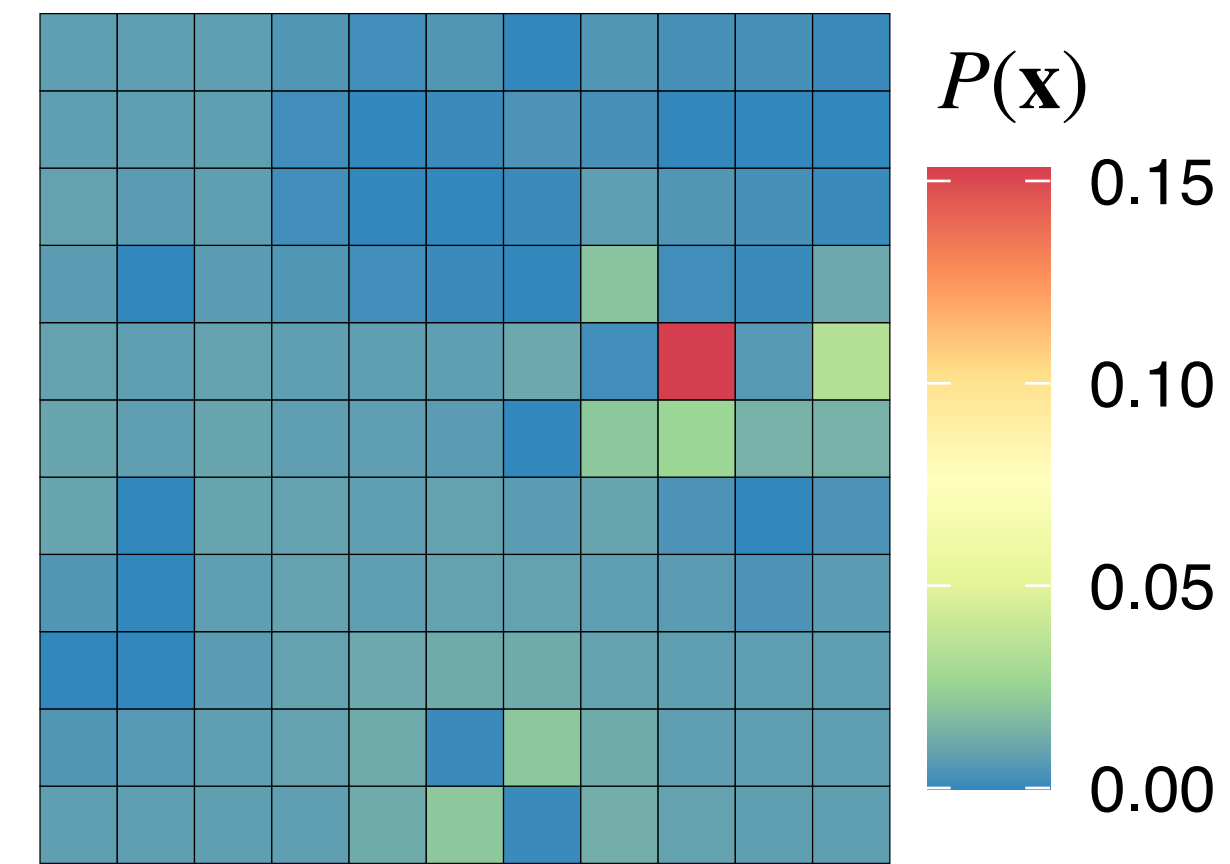
Gaussian Process (GP)



Upper Confidence Bound (UCB) Sampling



Softmax Choice Rule



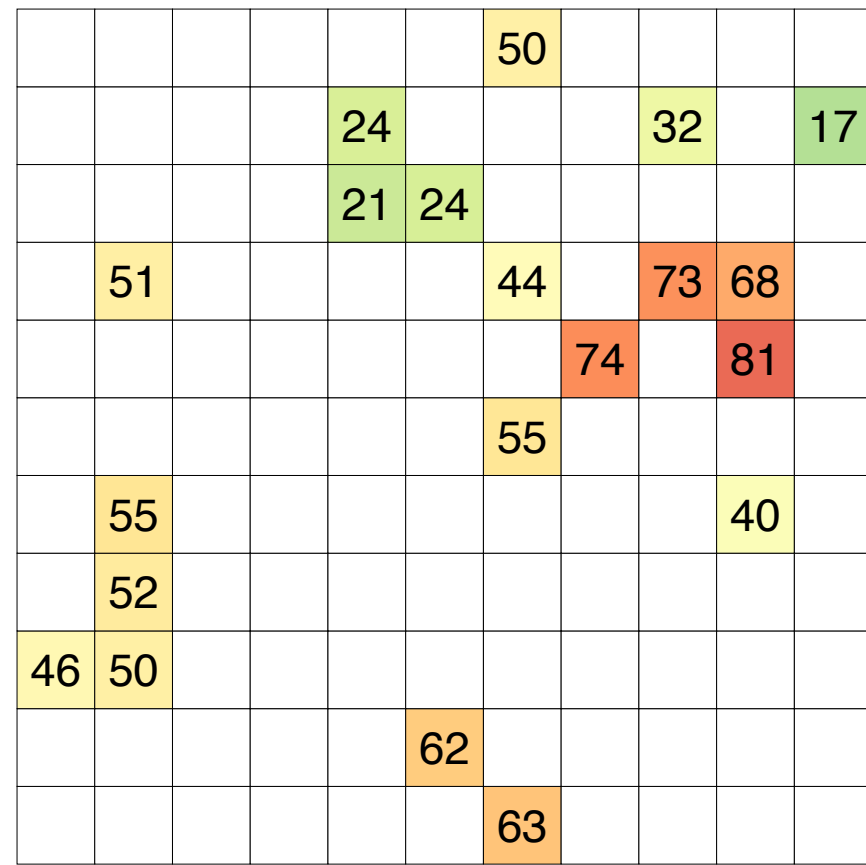
Generalization

Directed Exploration

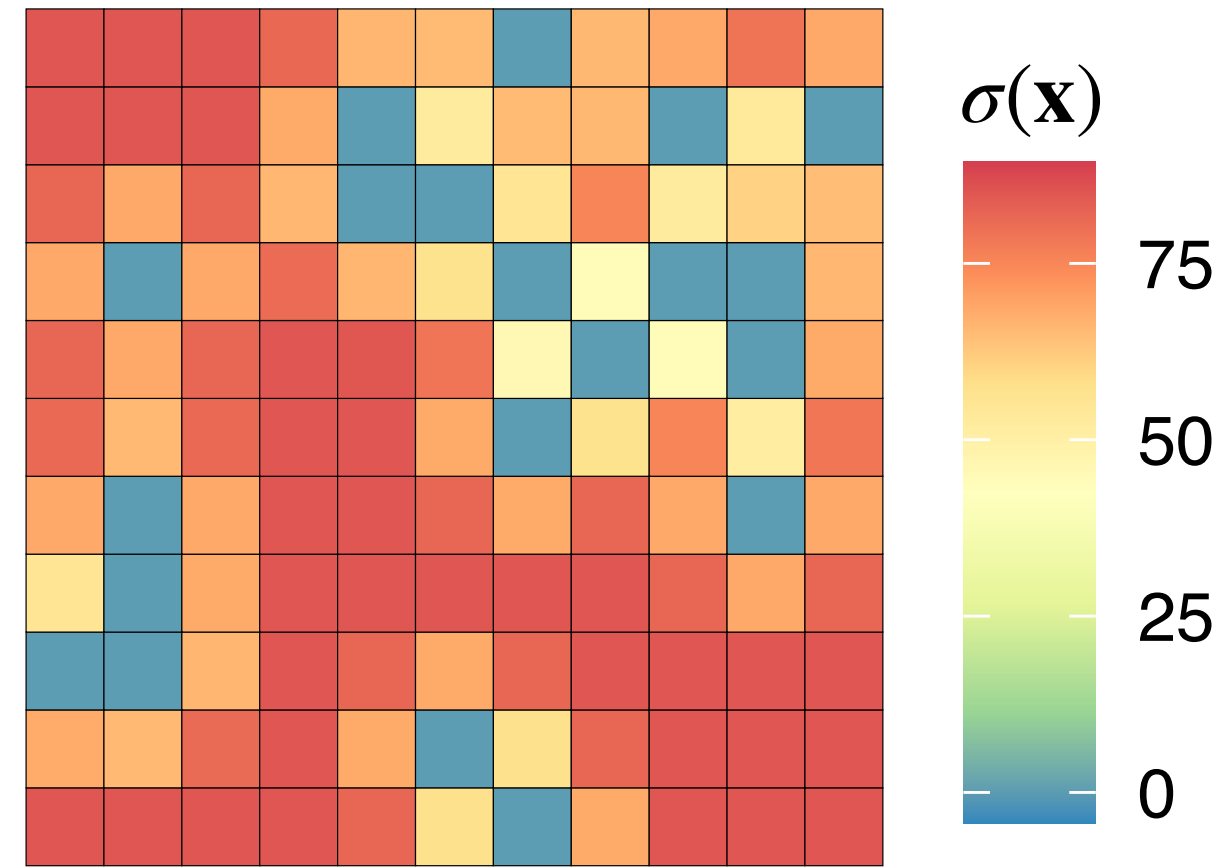
Random Temperature

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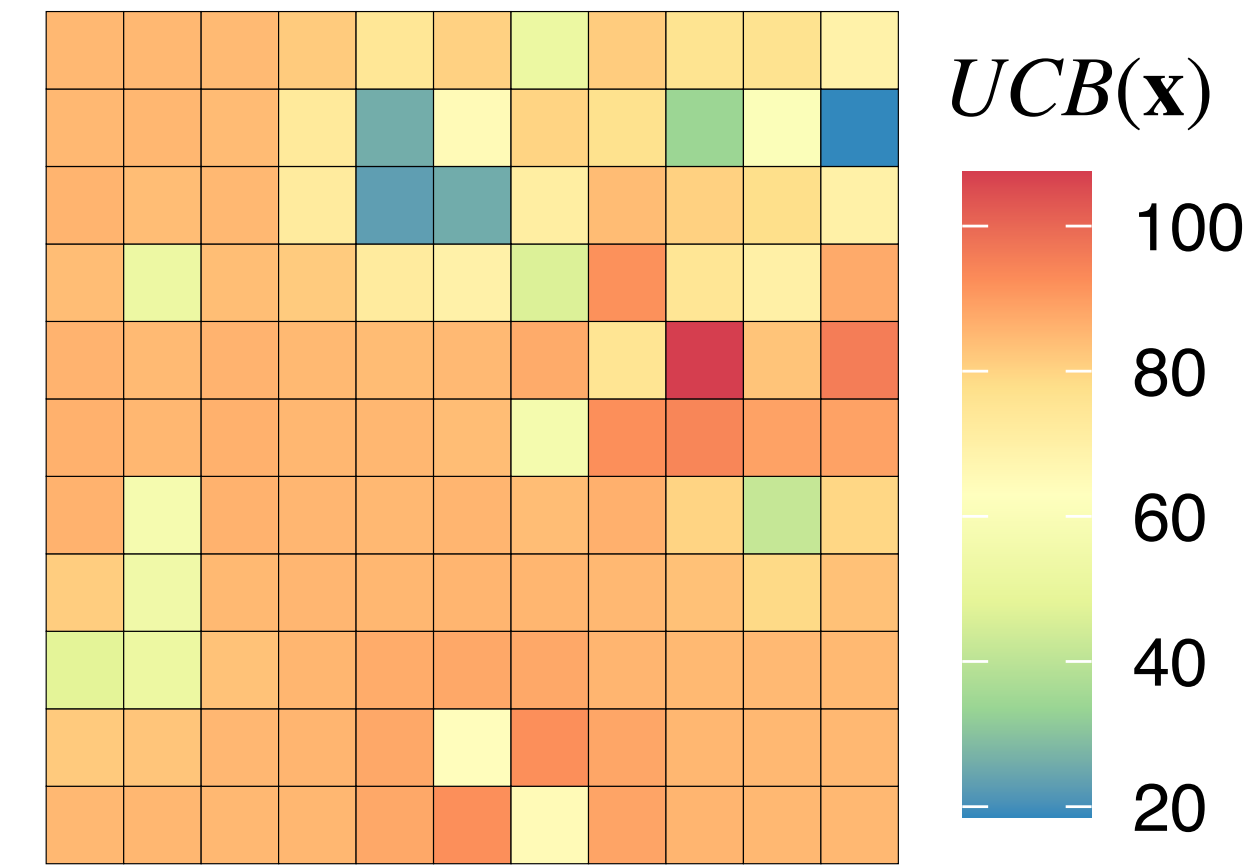
Observations



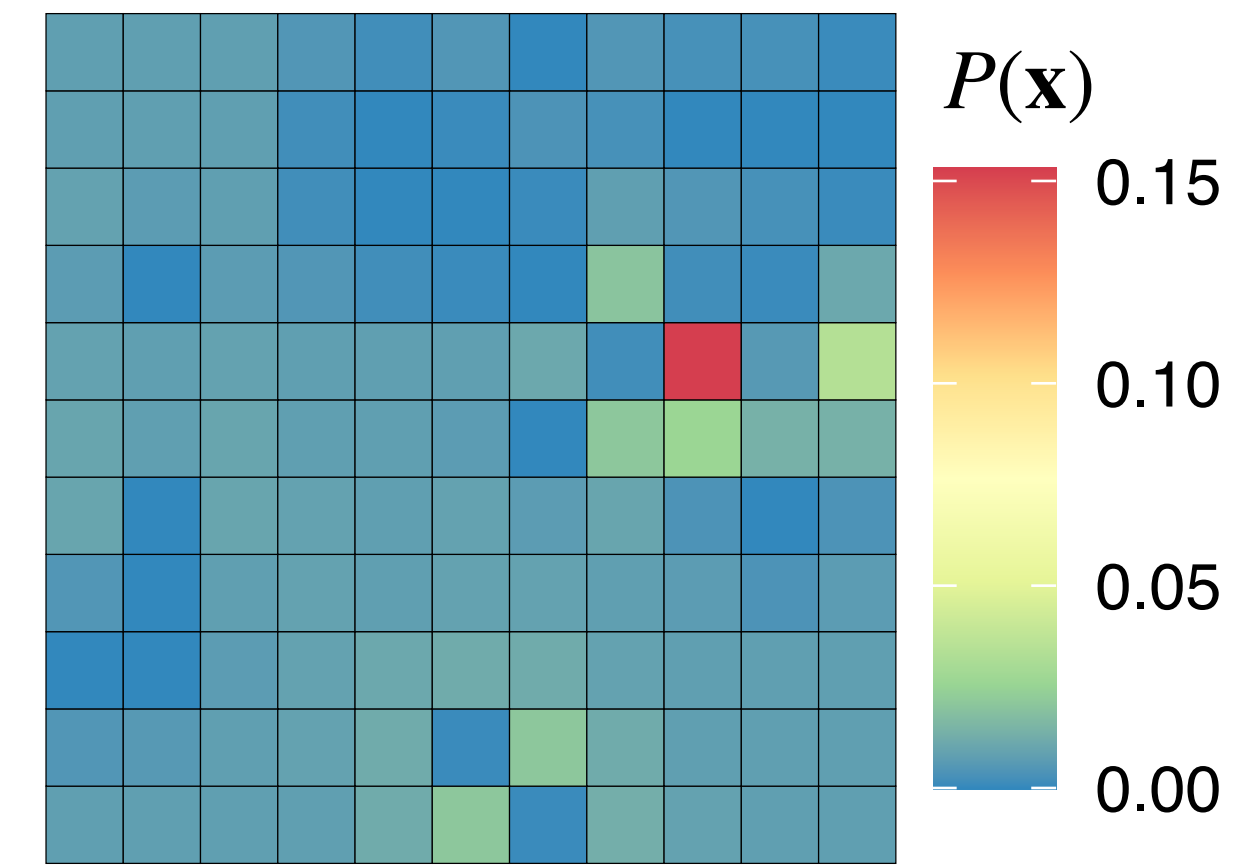
Gaussian Process (GP)



Upper Confidence Bound (UCB) Sampling



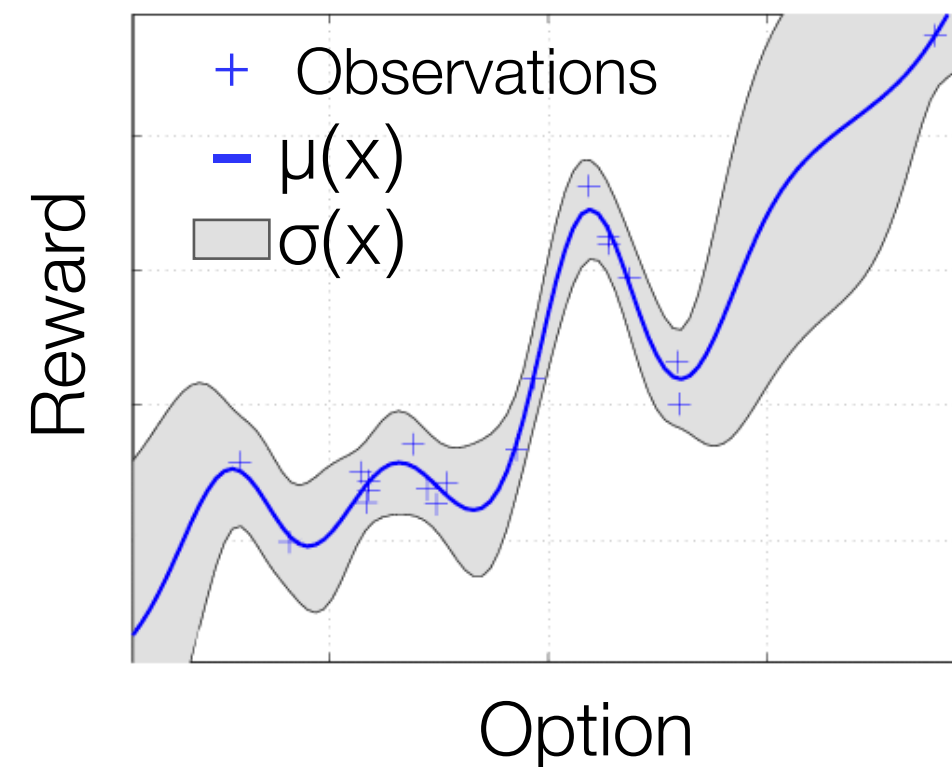
Softmax Choice Rule



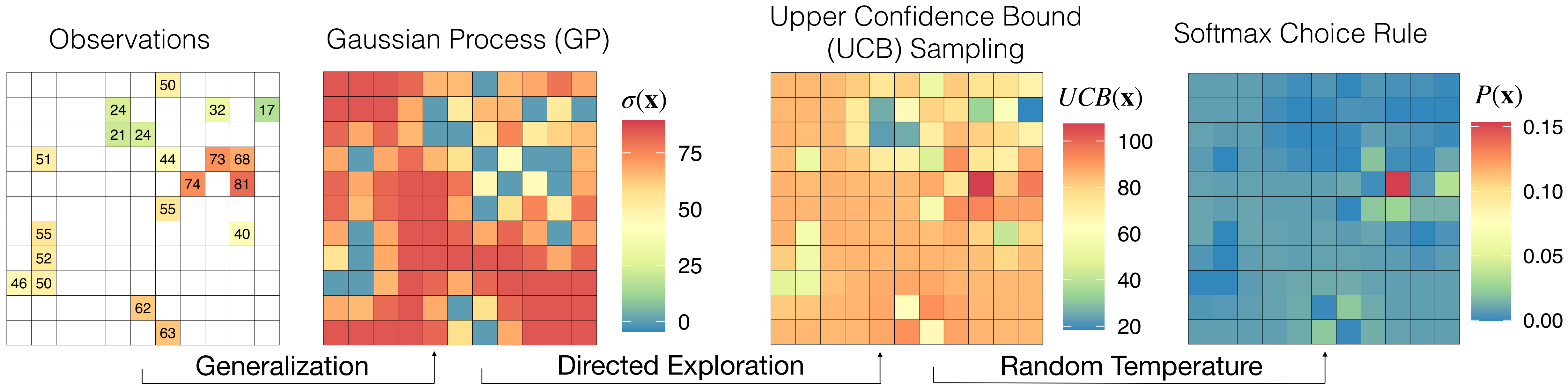
Generalization

Directed Exploration

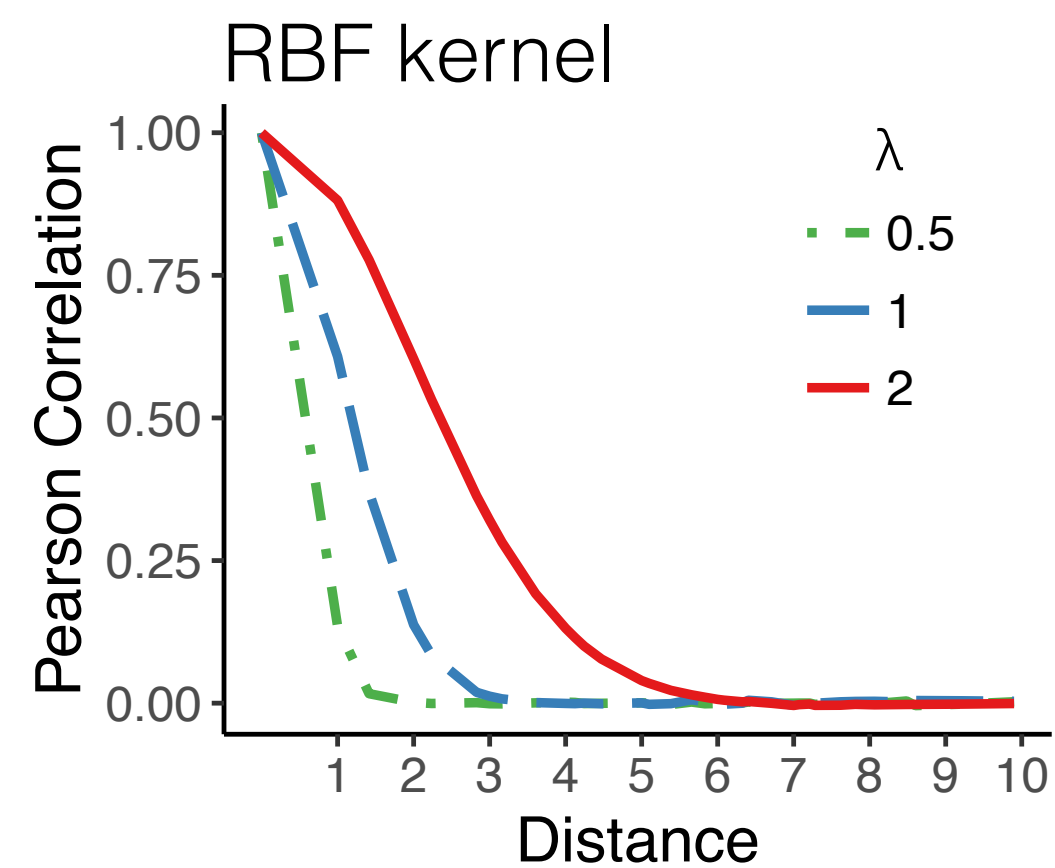
Random Temperature



# GP-UCB Model

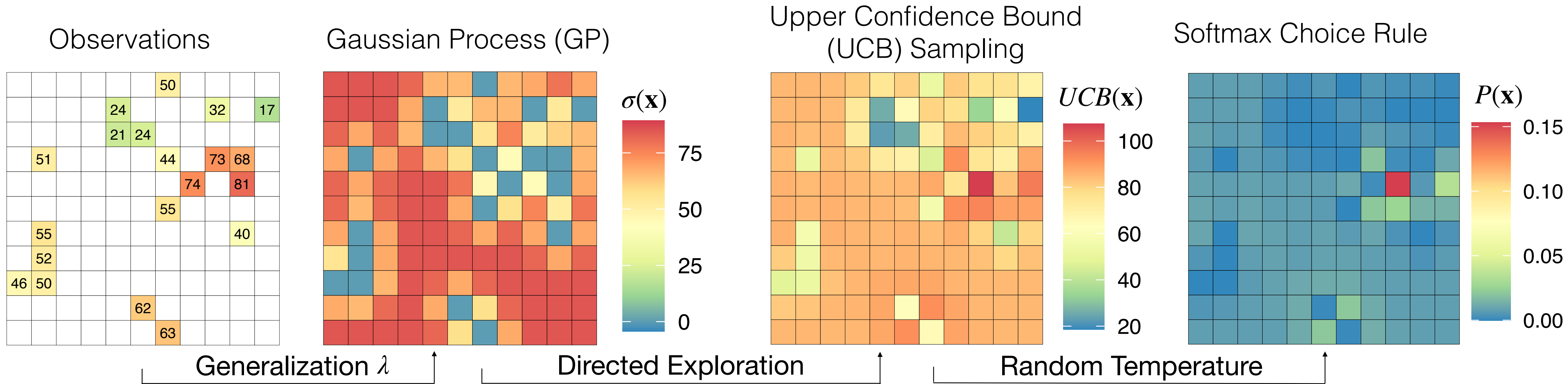


$$k_{RBF}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|^2}{2\lambda^2}\right)$$

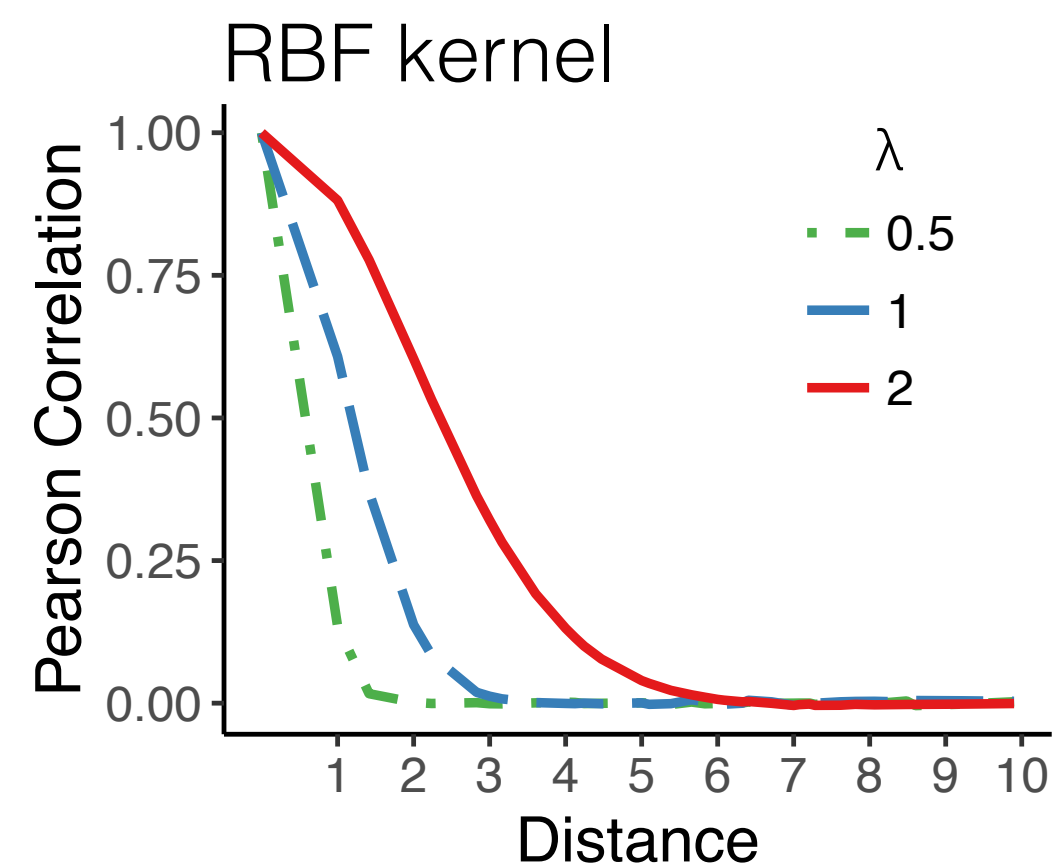




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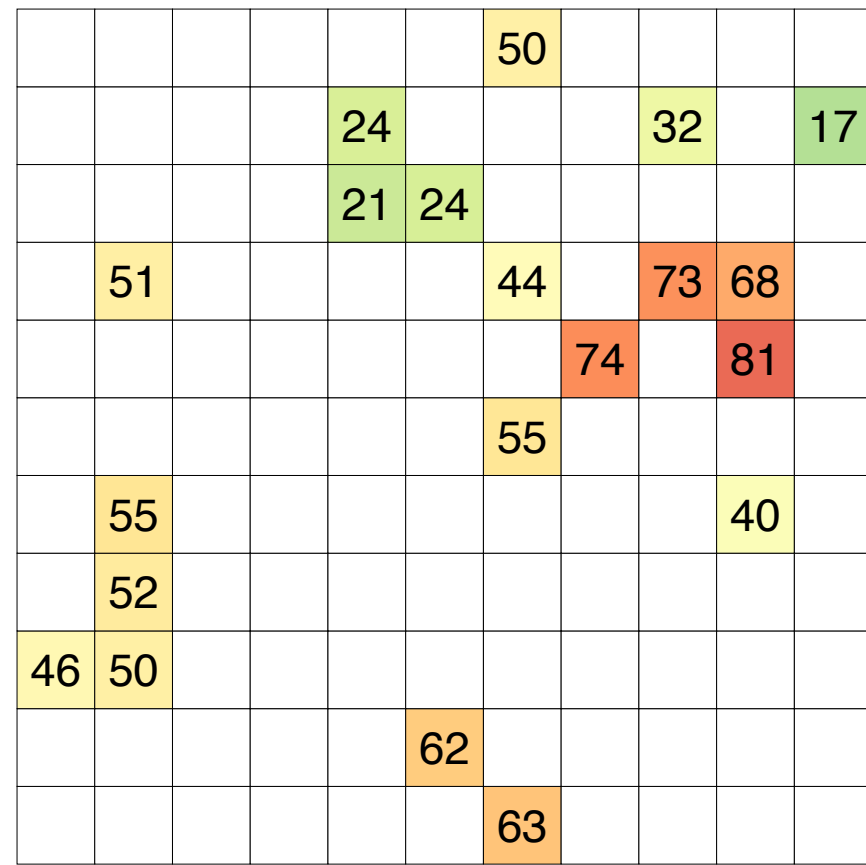


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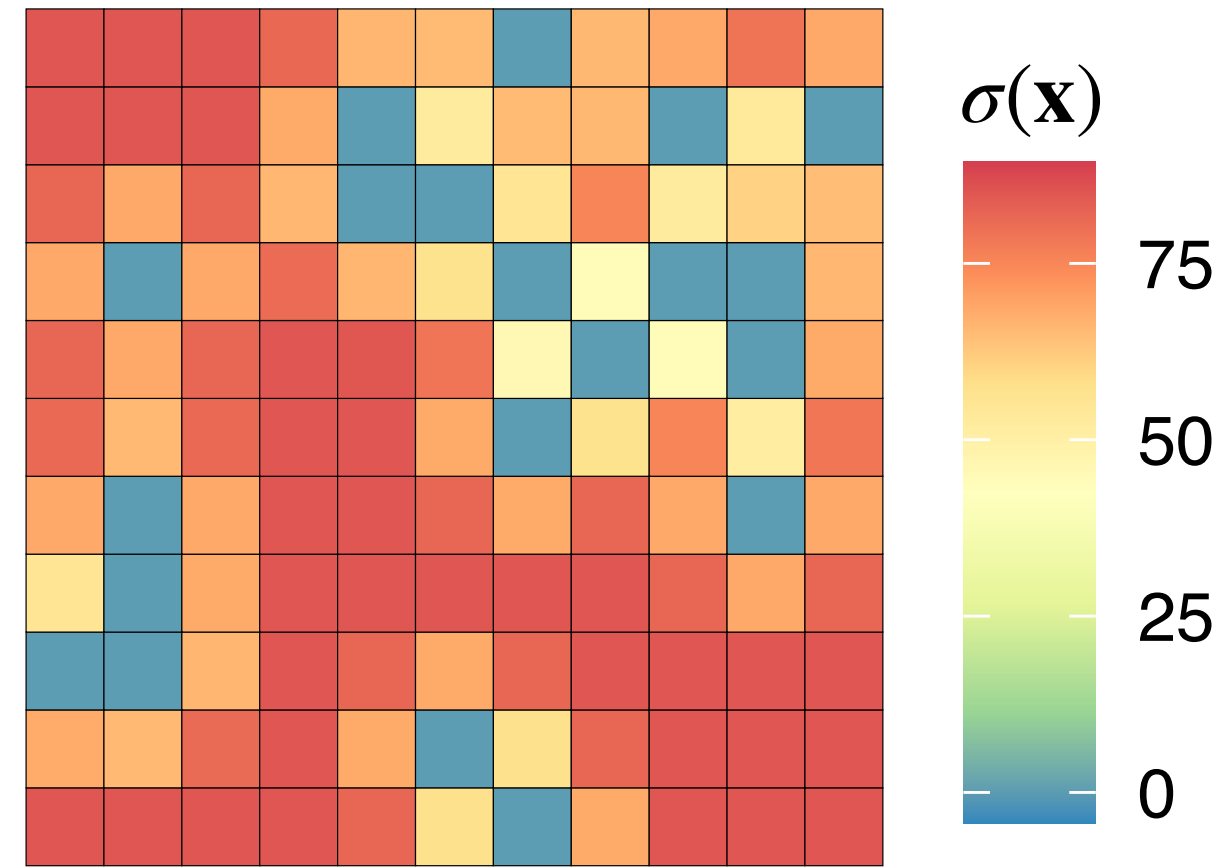


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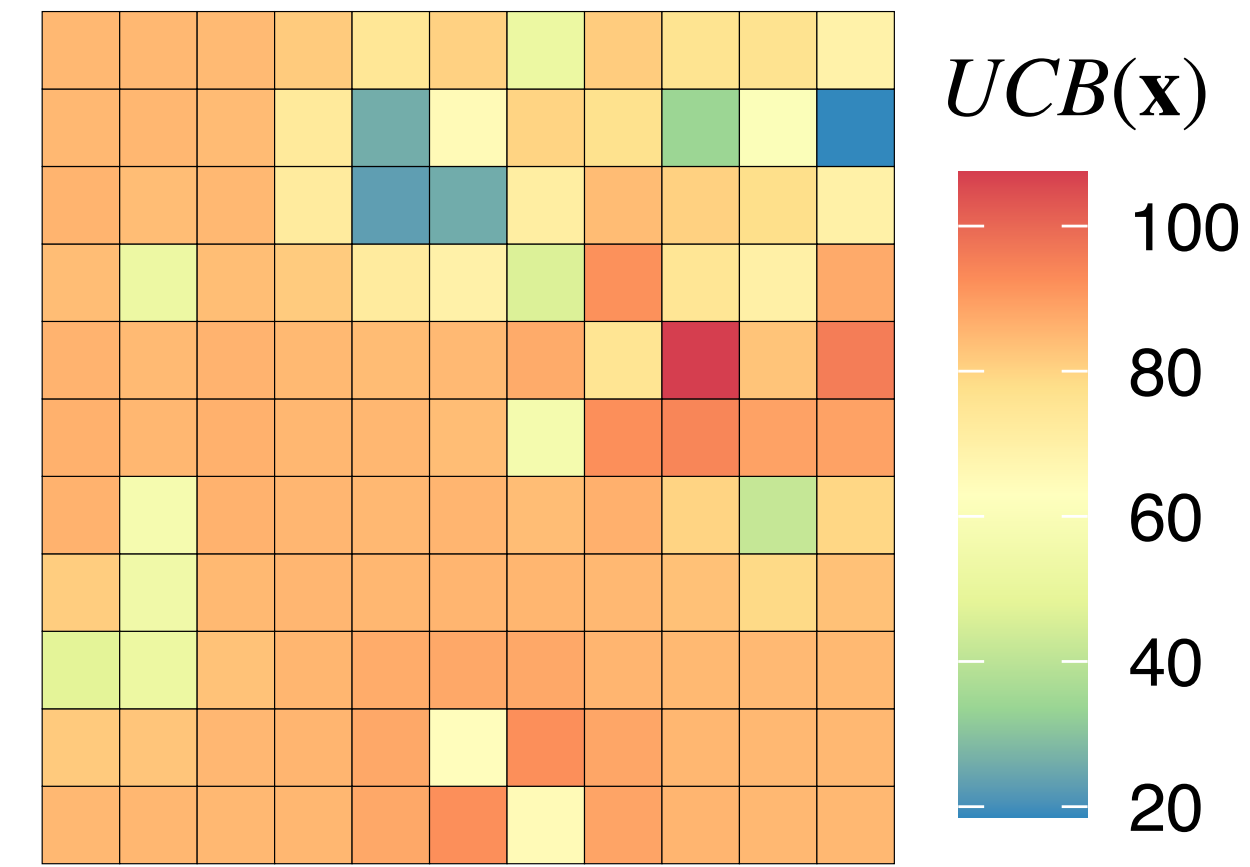
Observations



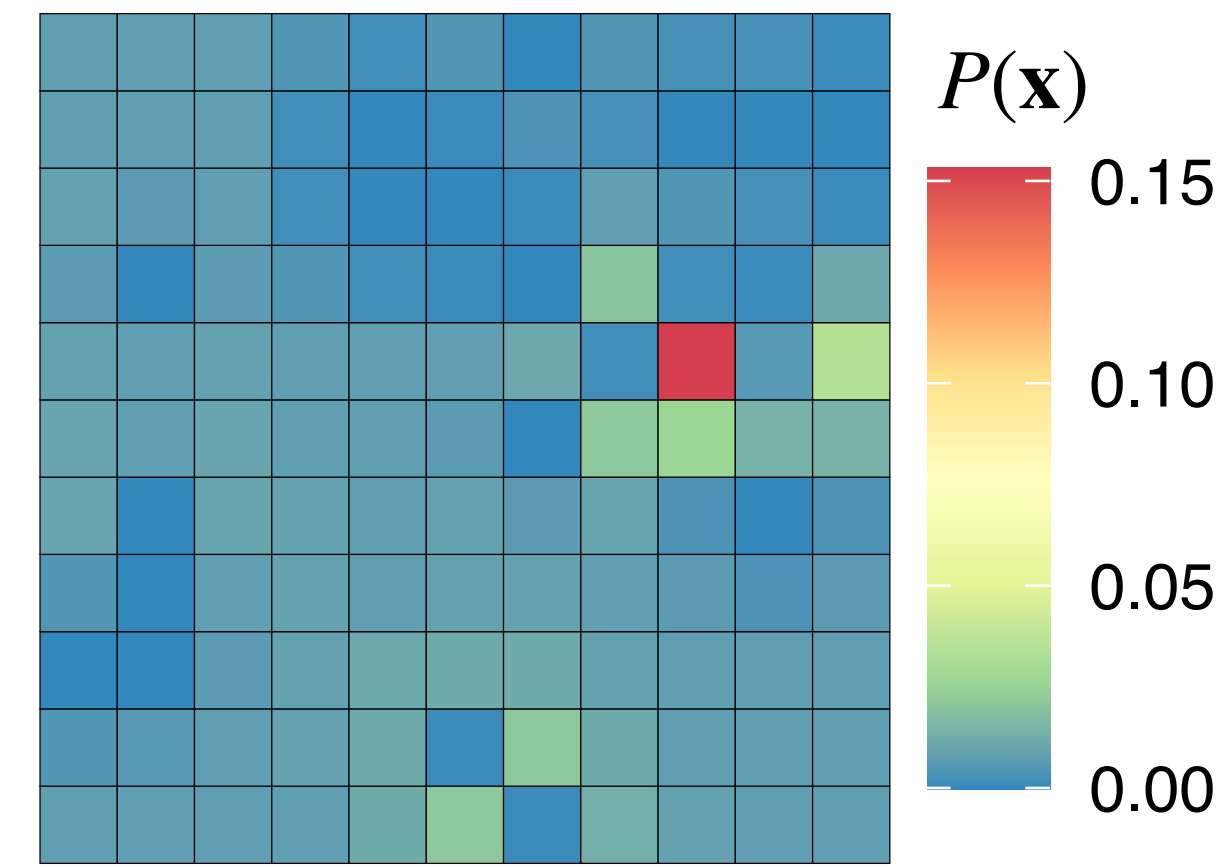
Gaussian Process (GP)



Upper Confidence Bound (UCB) Sampling



Softmax Choice Rule

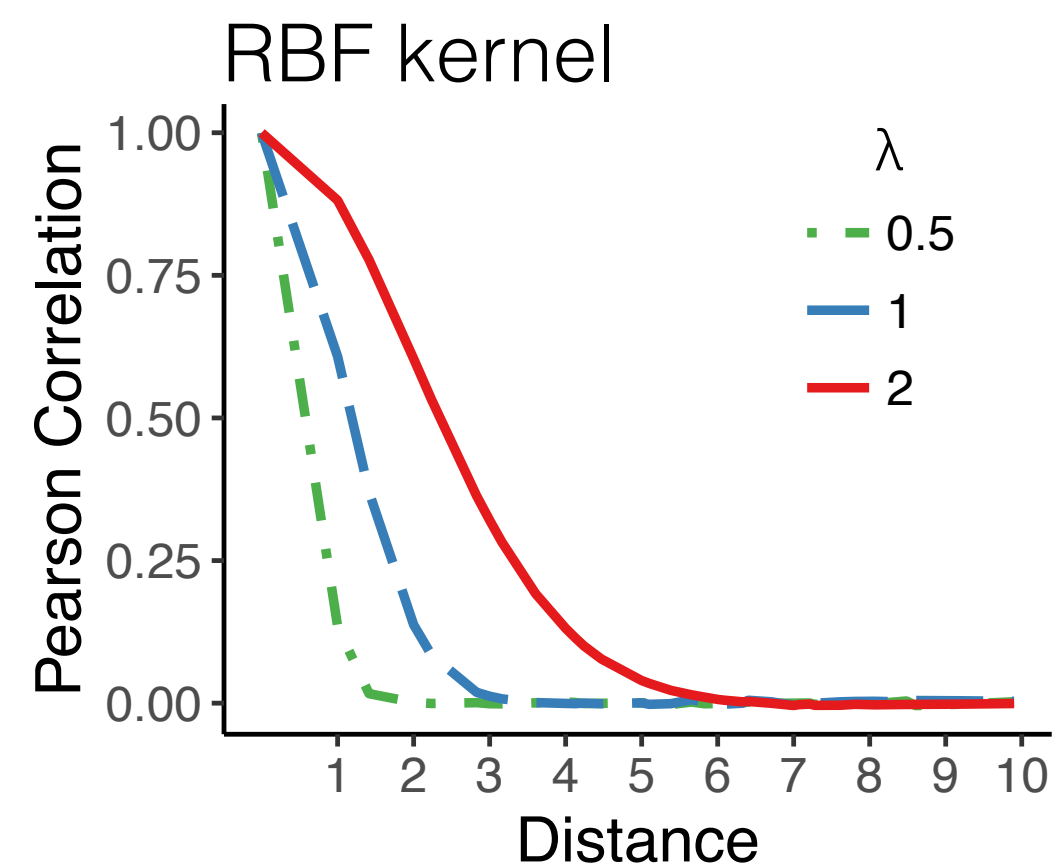


Generalization  $\lambda$

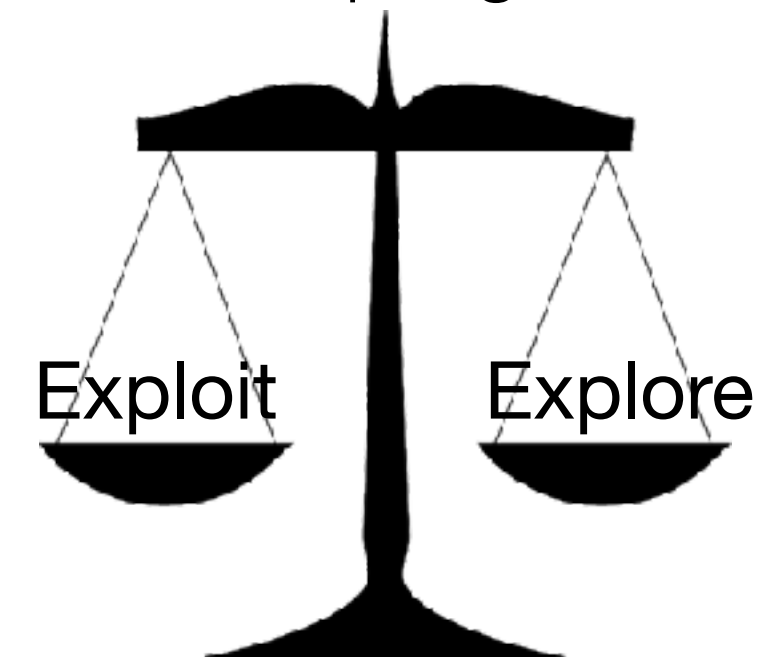
Directed Exploration

Random Temperature

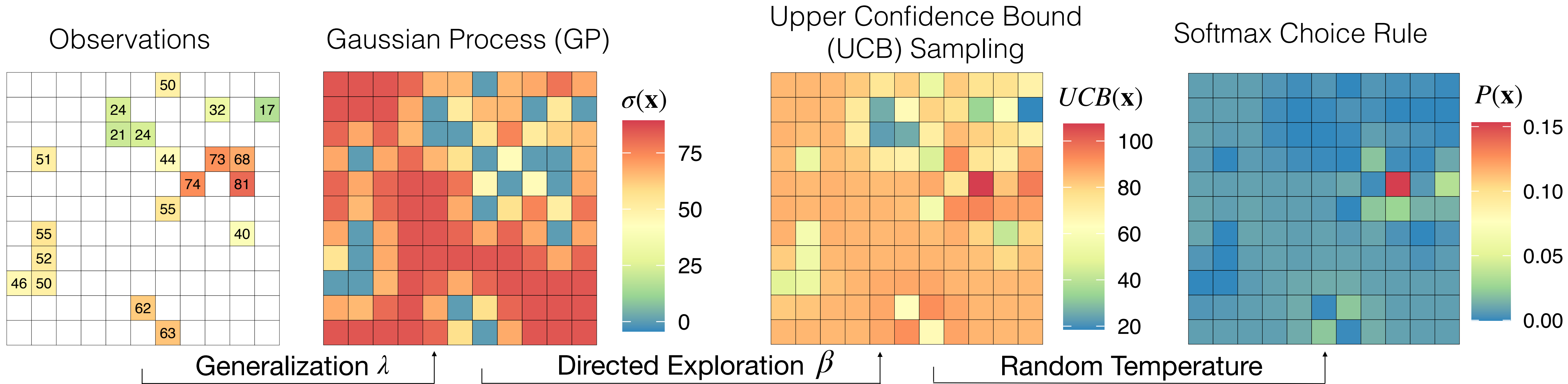
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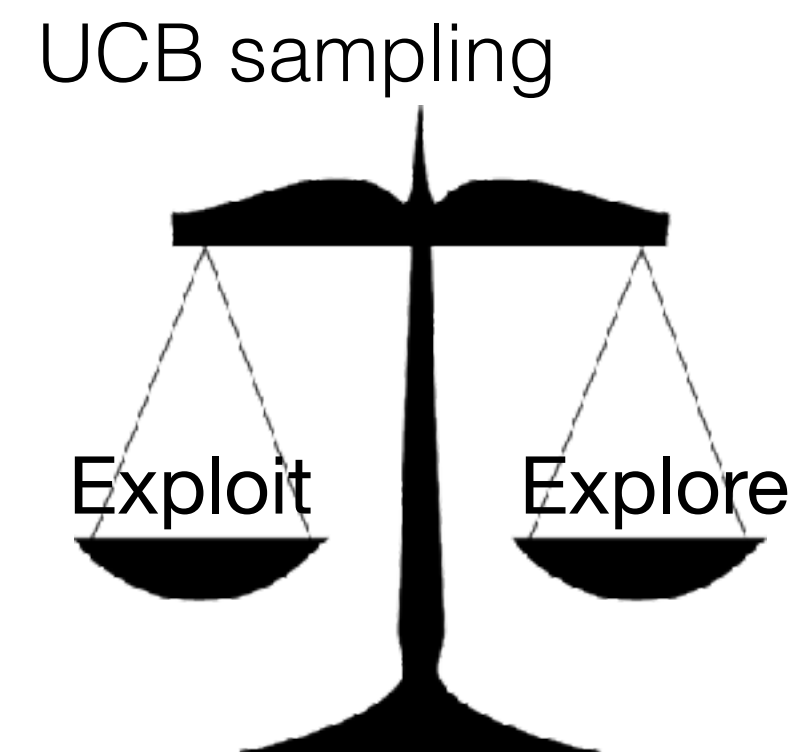
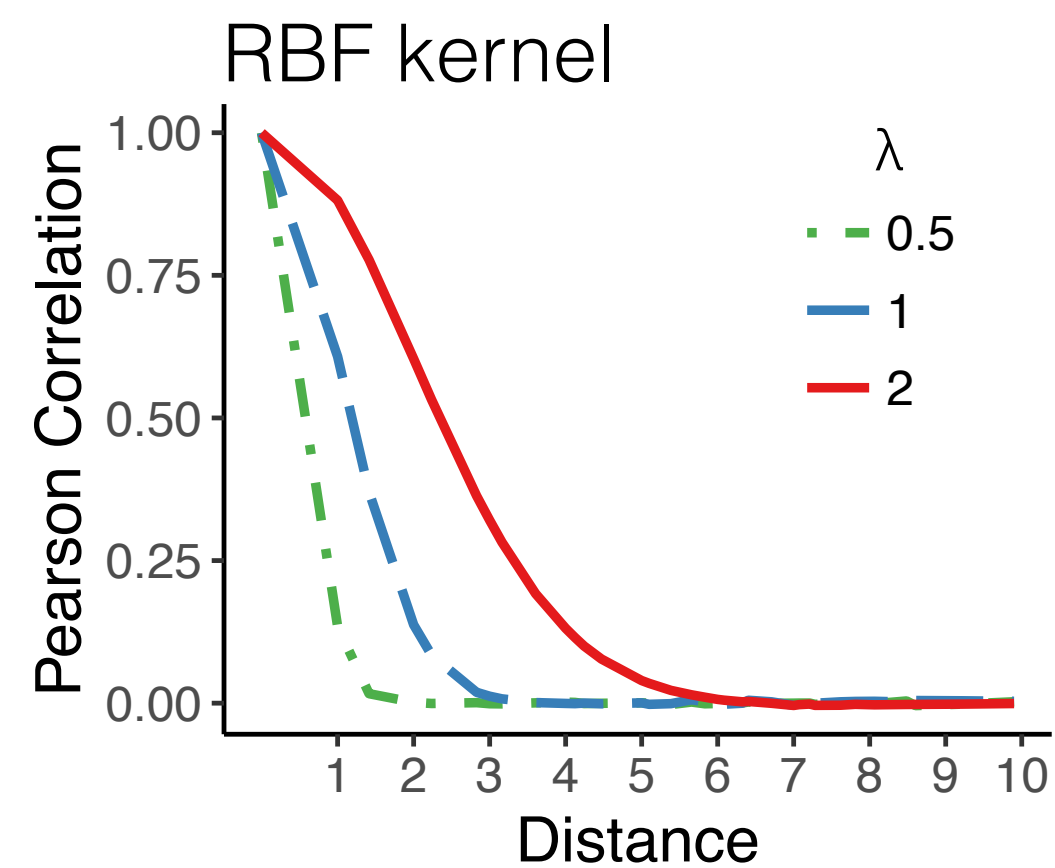
UCB sampling



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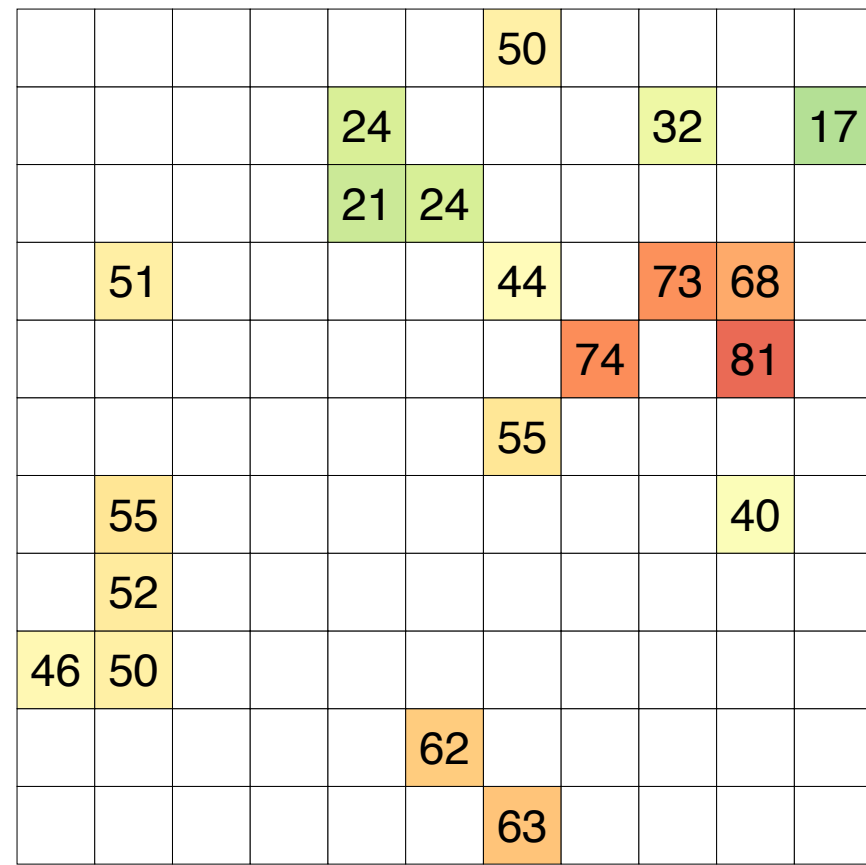
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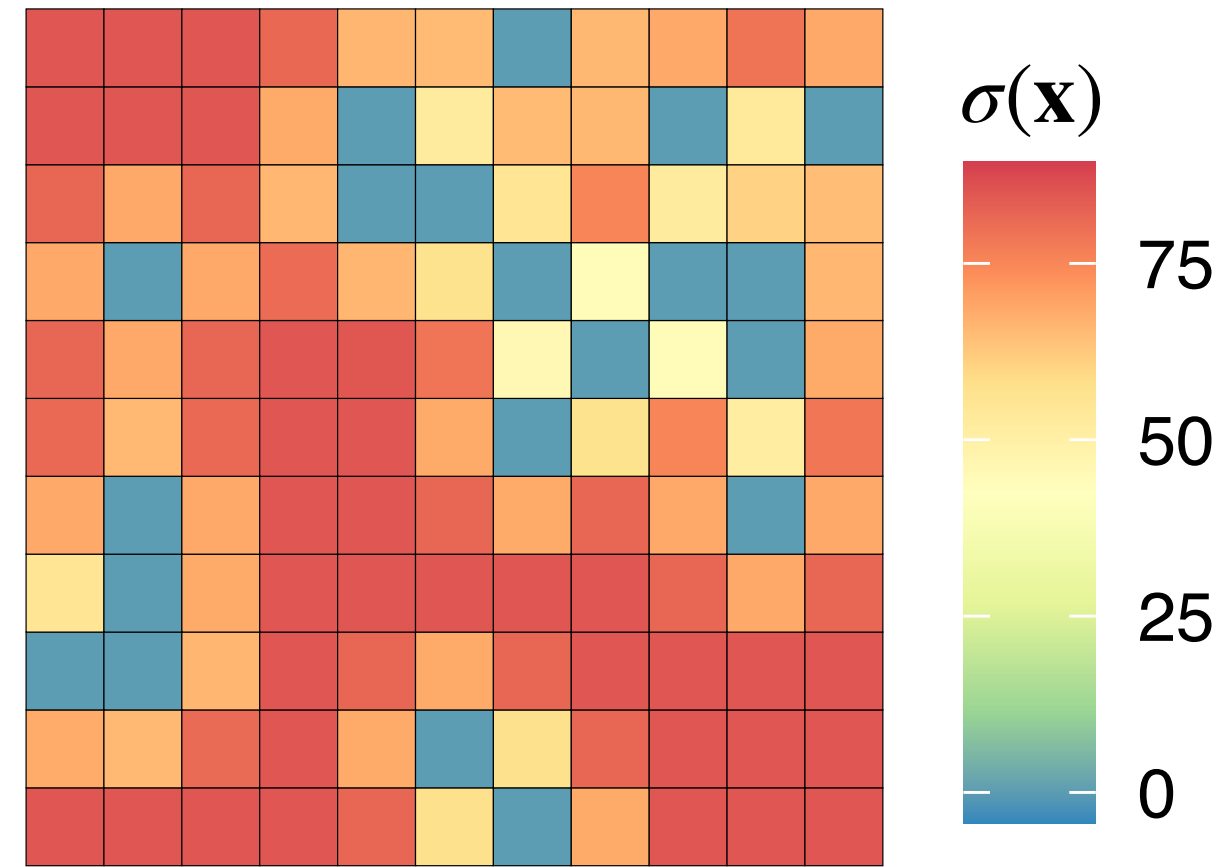


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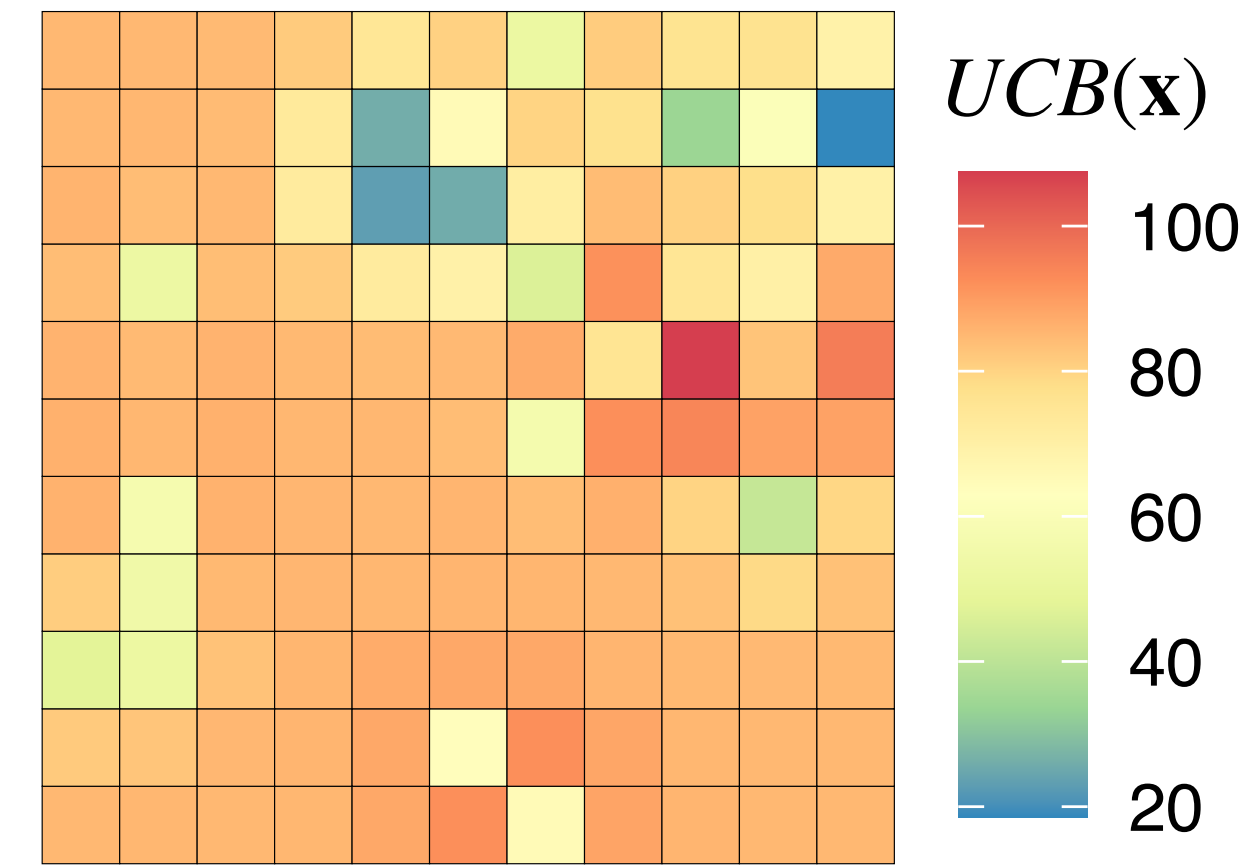
Observations



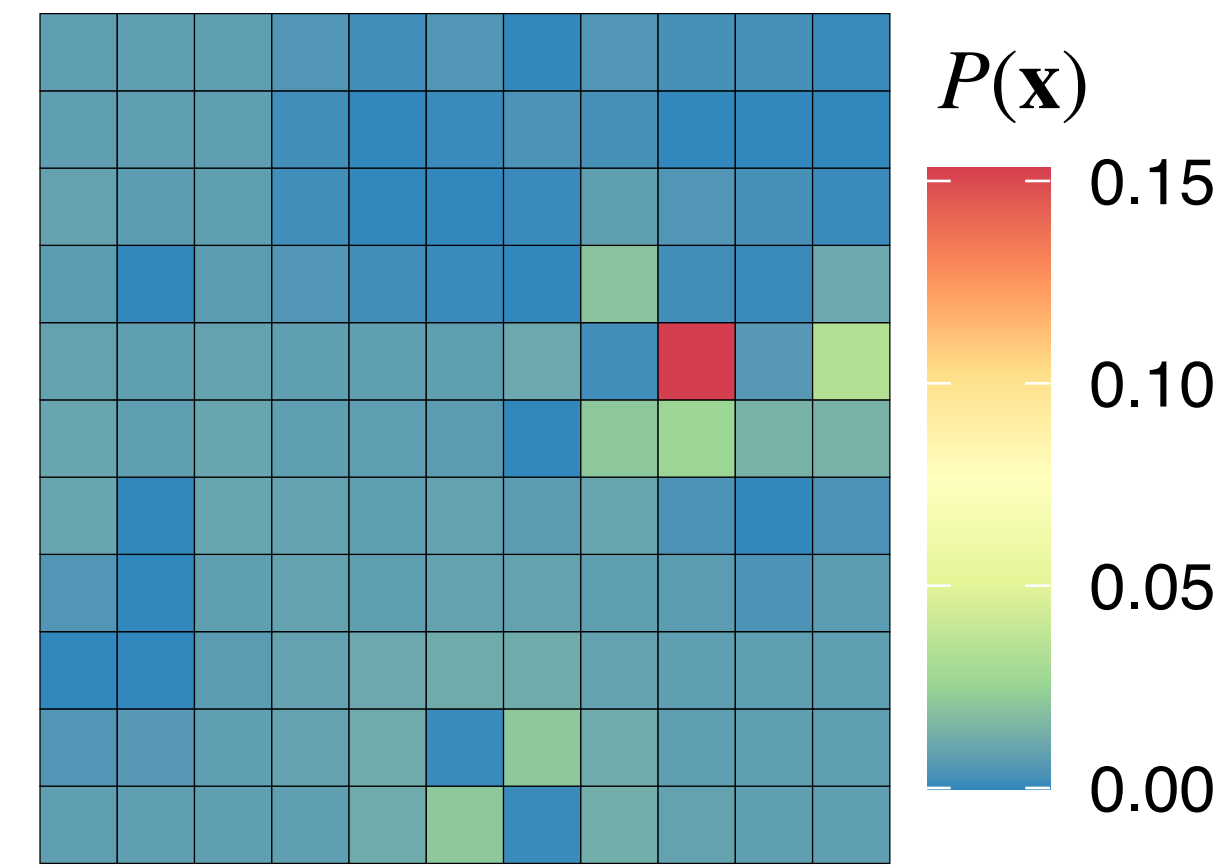
Gaussian Process (GP)



Upper Confidence Bound (UCB) Sampling



Softmax Choice Rule



Generalization  $\lambda$

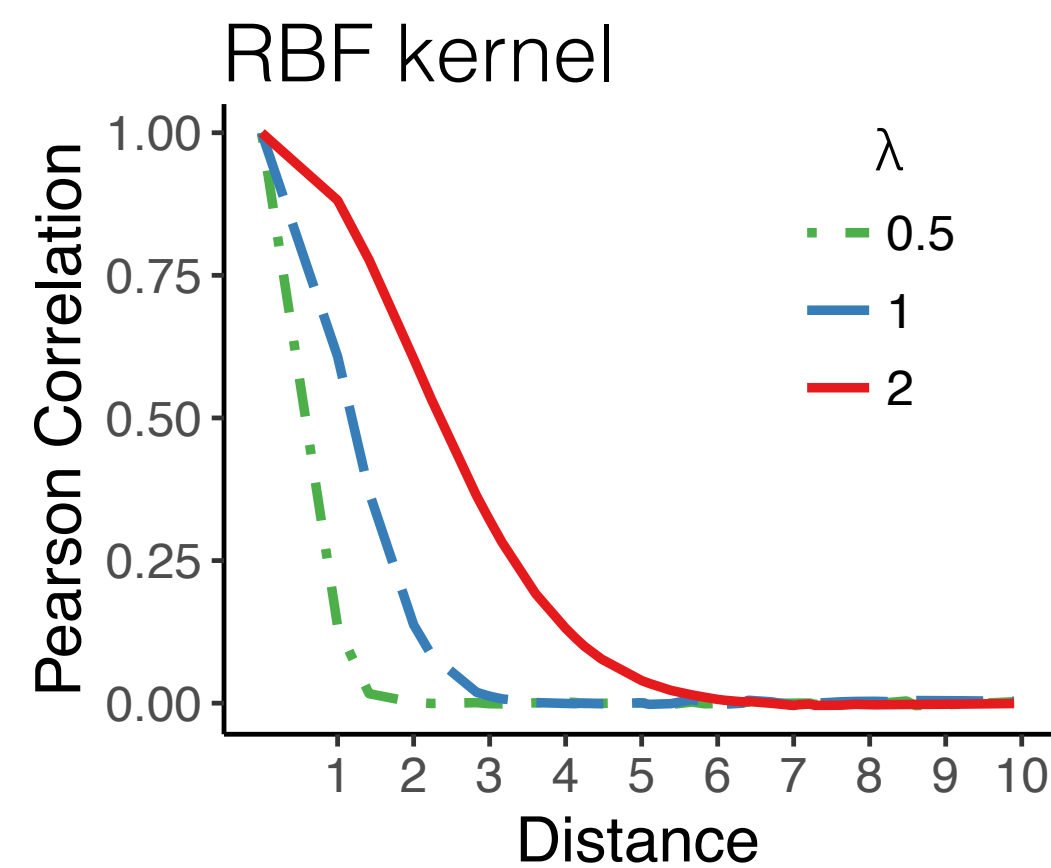
Directed Exploration  $\beta$

Random Temperature

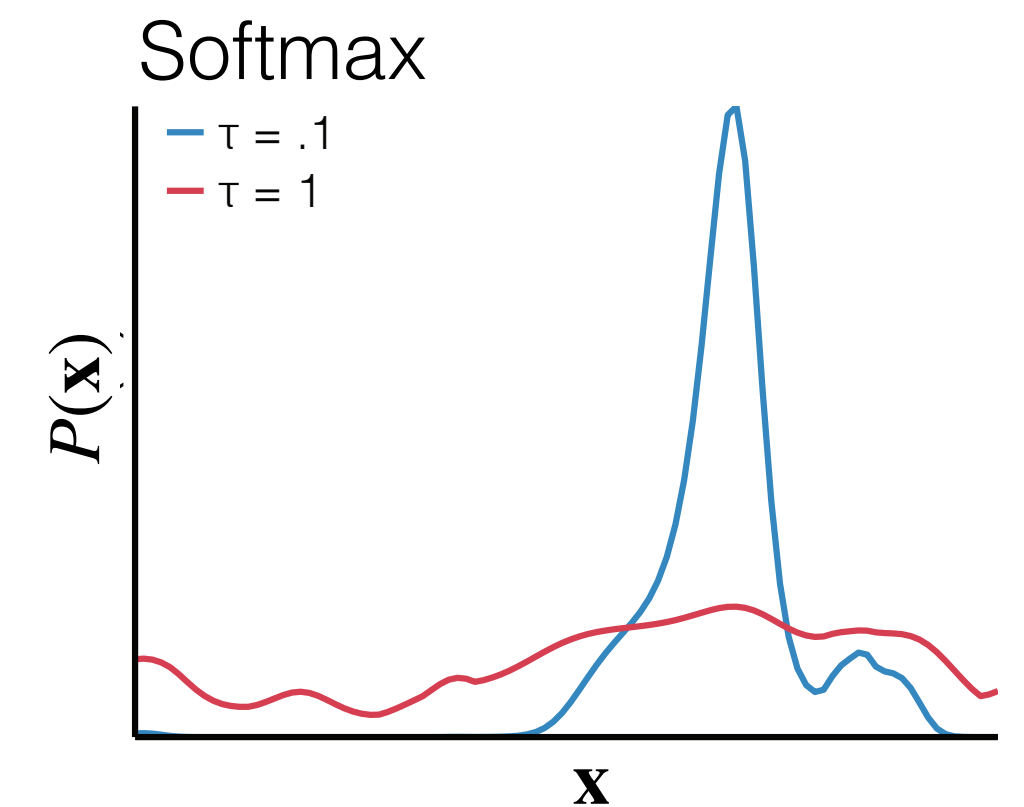
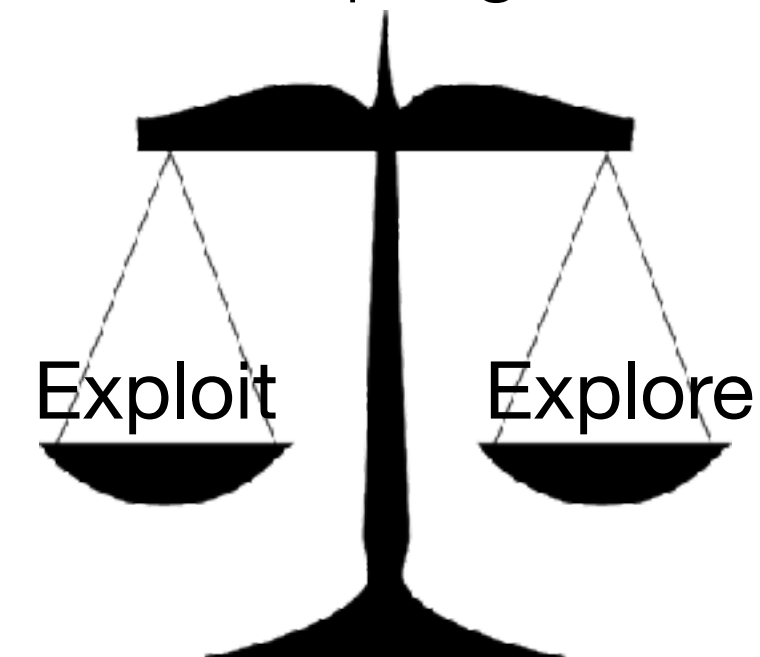
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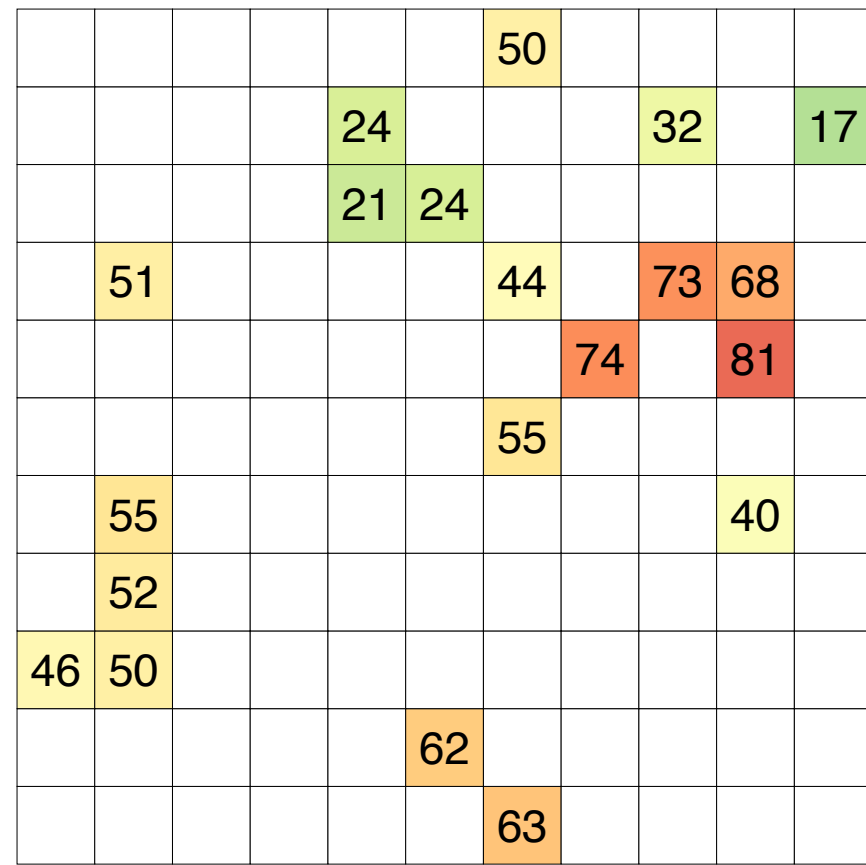


UCB sampling

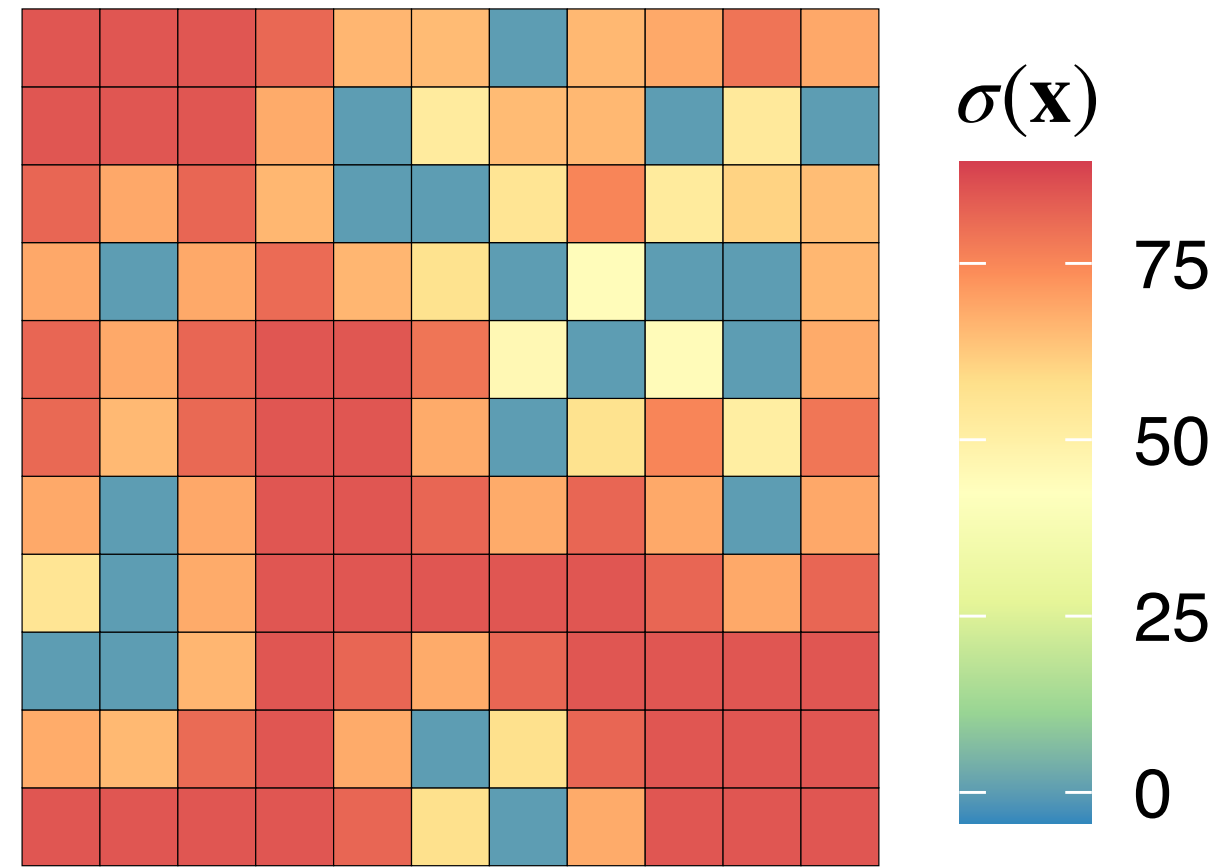


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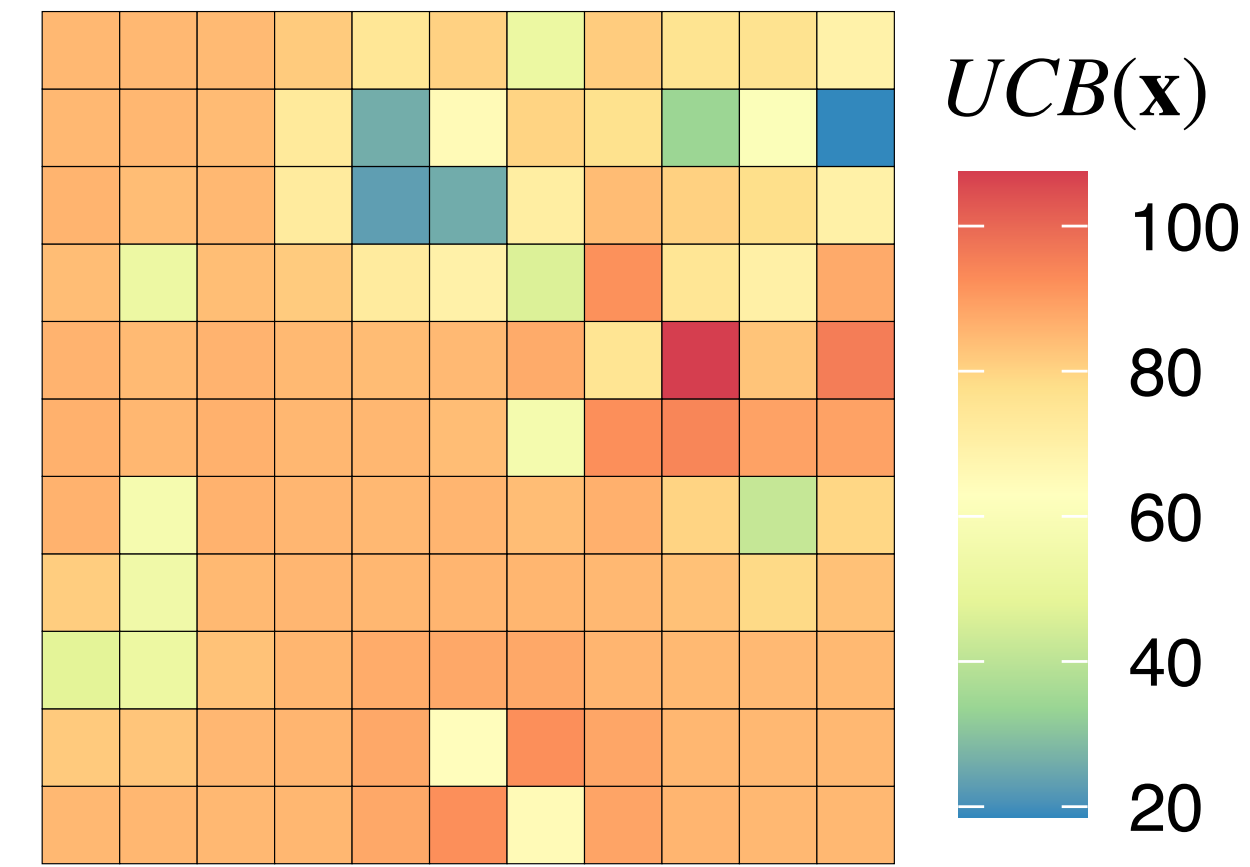
Observations



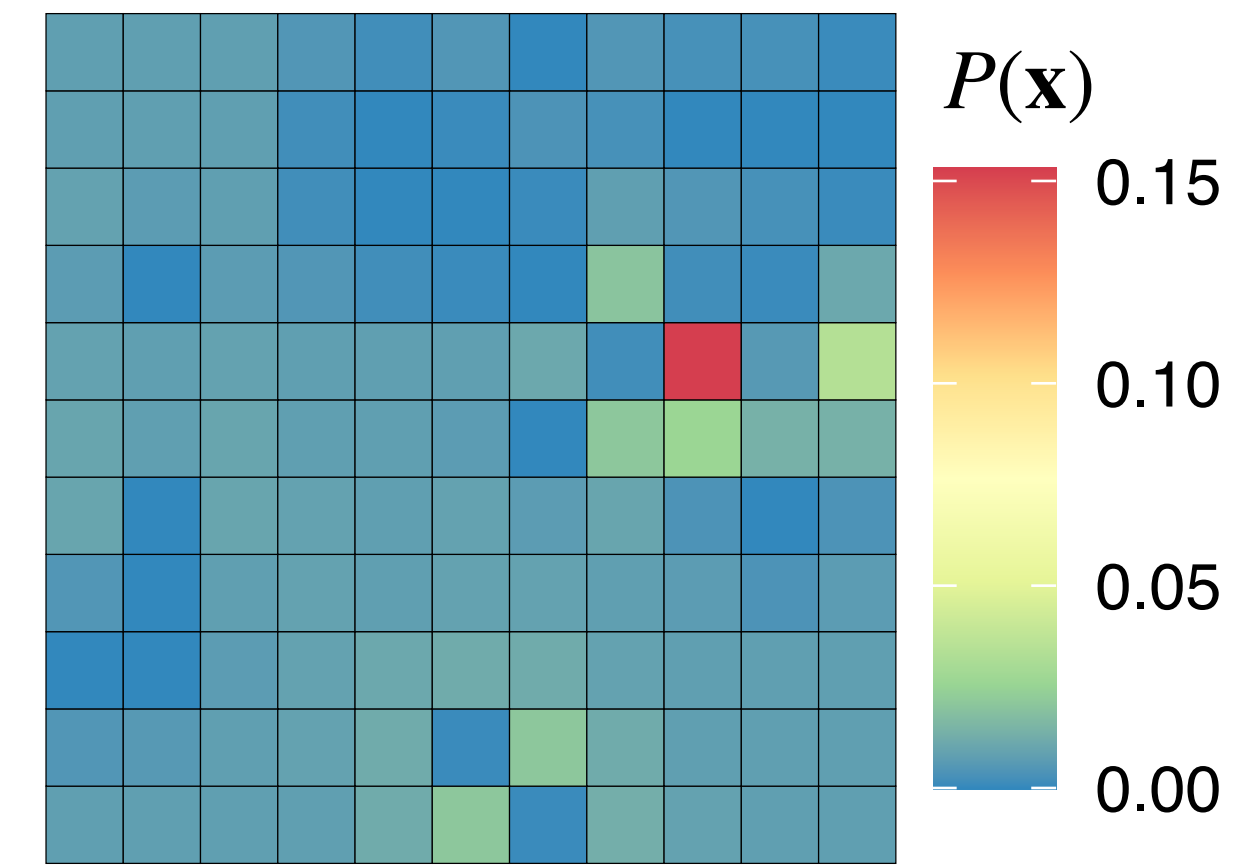
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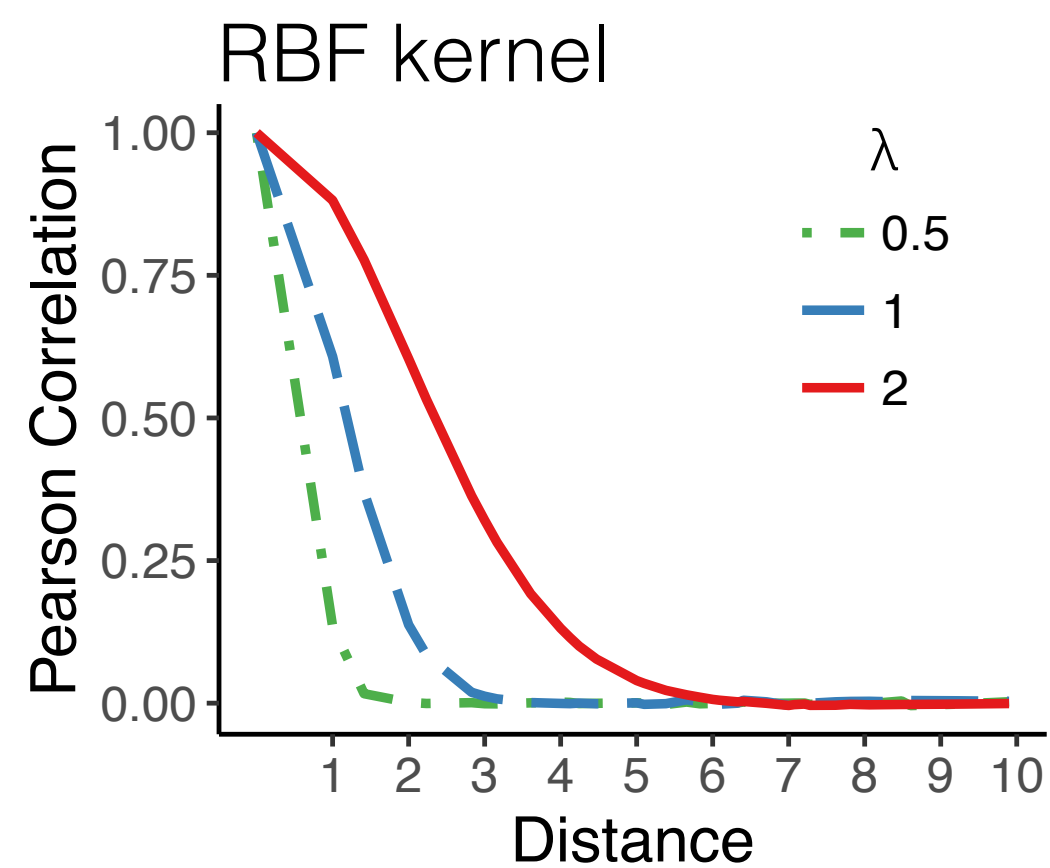
Directed Exploration  $\beta$

Random Temperature  $\tau$

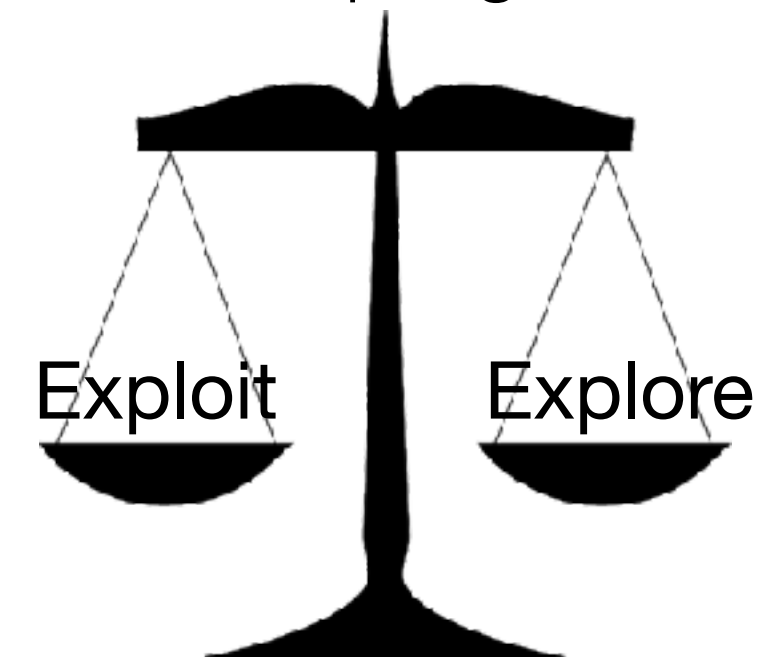
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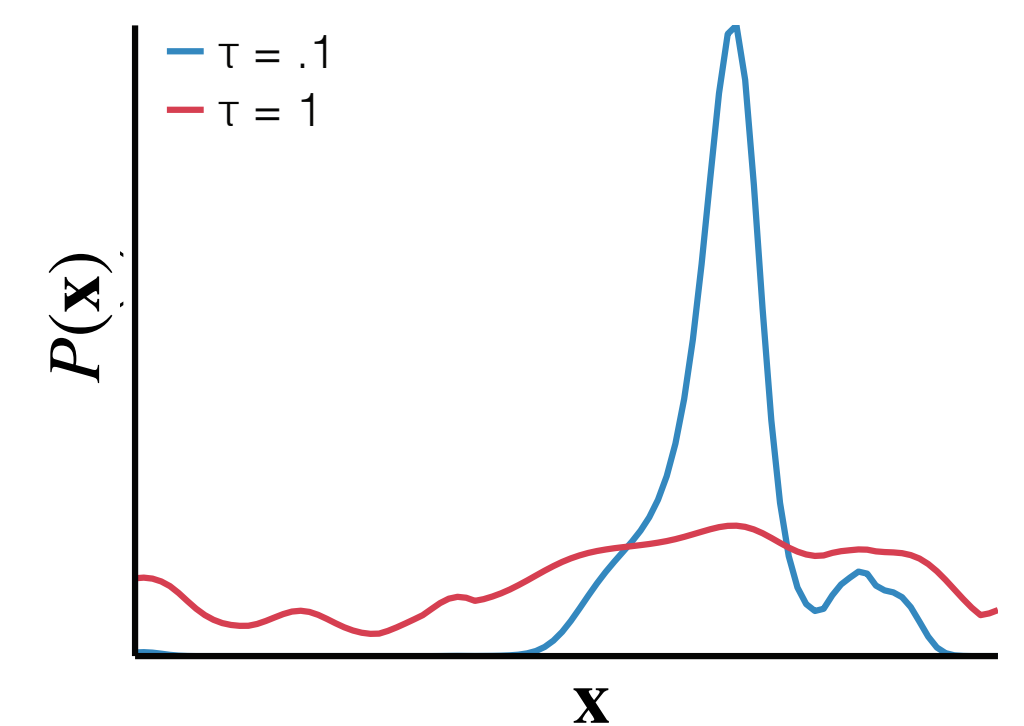
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UCB sampling



Softmax





Anna Giron  
Uni Tübingen



Simon Ciranka  
MPI Berlin

nature human behaviour








Article

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# Developmental changes in exploration resemble stochastic optimization

Received: 11 November 2022

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Anna P. Giron<sup>1,2,12</sup>, Simon Ciranka<sup>3,4,12</sup> , Eric Schulz<sup>5</sup> , Wouter van den Bos<sup>6,7</sup>,  
Azzurra Ruggeri<sup>8,9,10</sup> , Björn Meder<sup>8,11</sup>  & Charley M. Wu<sup>1,3</sup> 

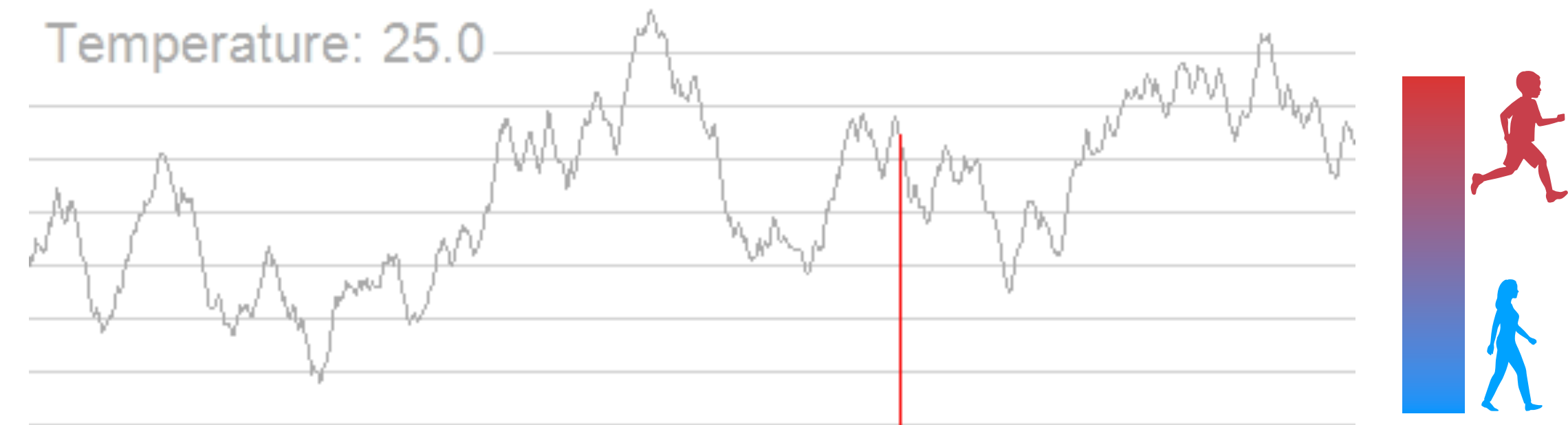


# Development as “cooling off”



- **Inspiration:** Heated metal becomes less malleable as it cools

## Stochastic Optimization

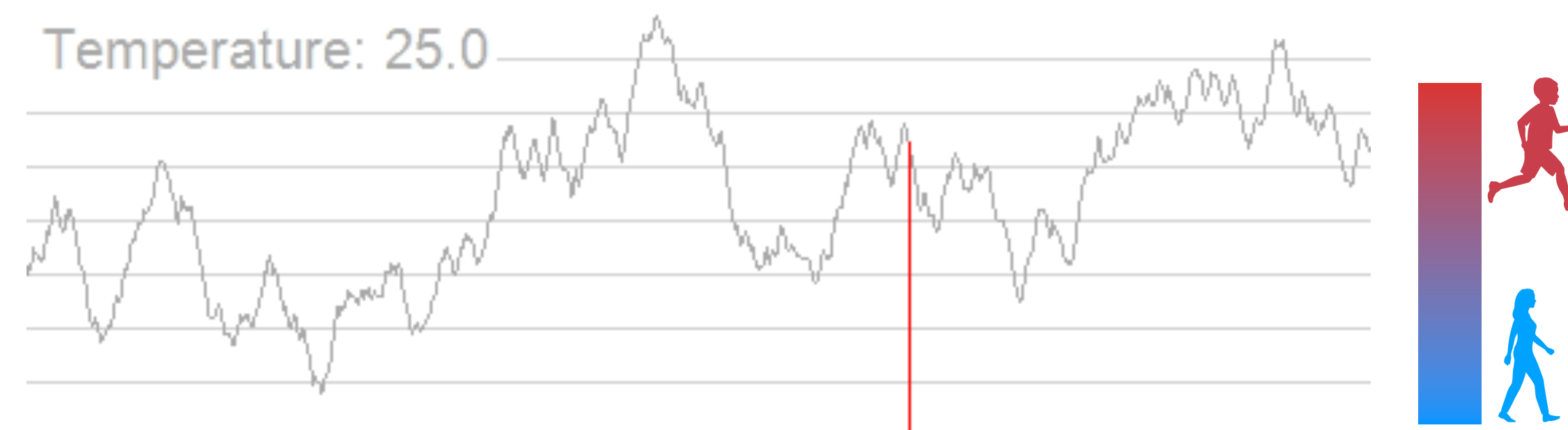


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- **Inspiration:** Heated metal becomes less malleable as it cools
- **Application:**
  - Optimization algorithms start off very explorative (high temperature) and gradually becomes more exploitative (cools off)
  - Avoids getting stuck in a local optima

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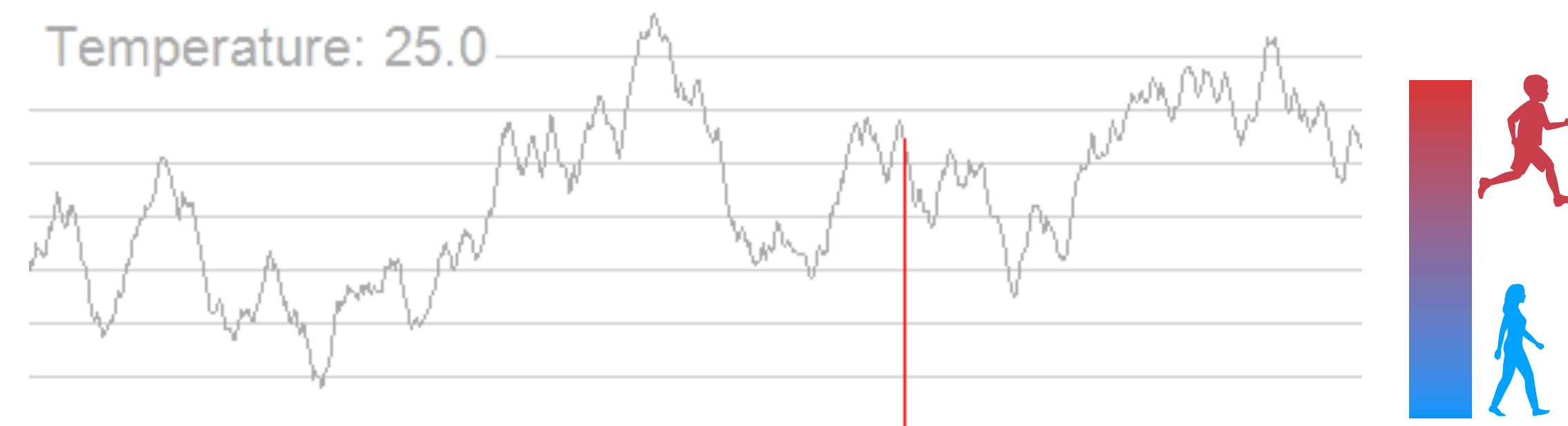


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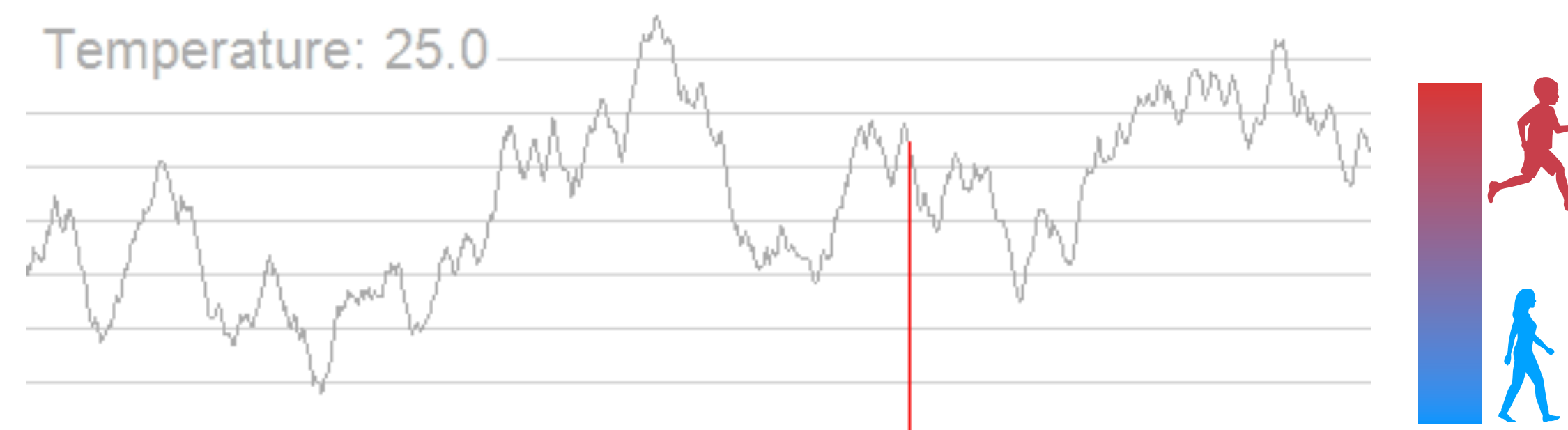


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  - Ambiguity in what is being optimized

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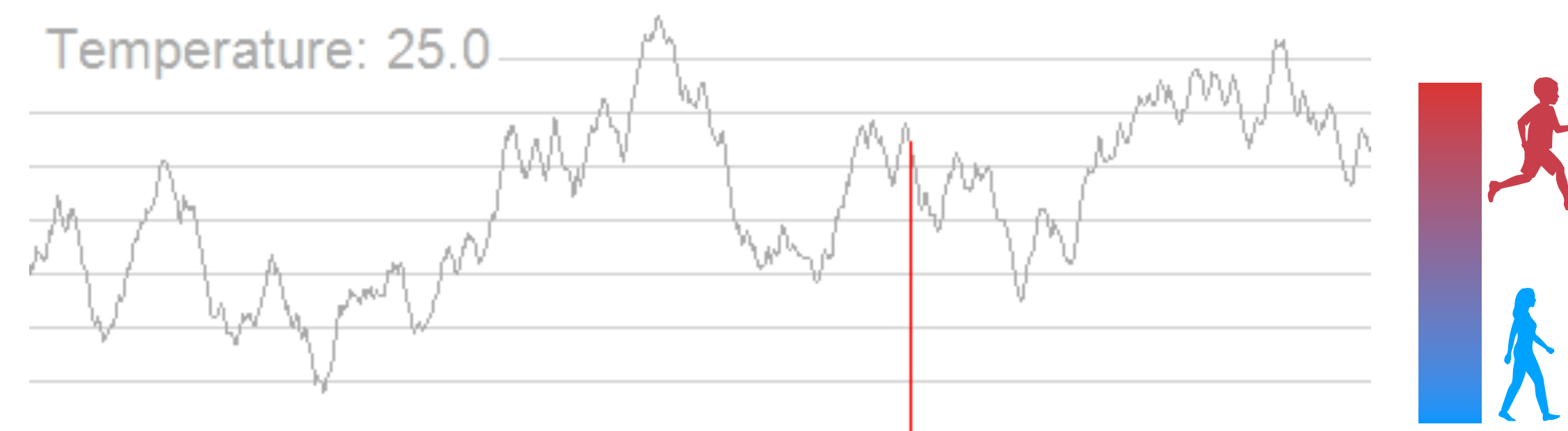


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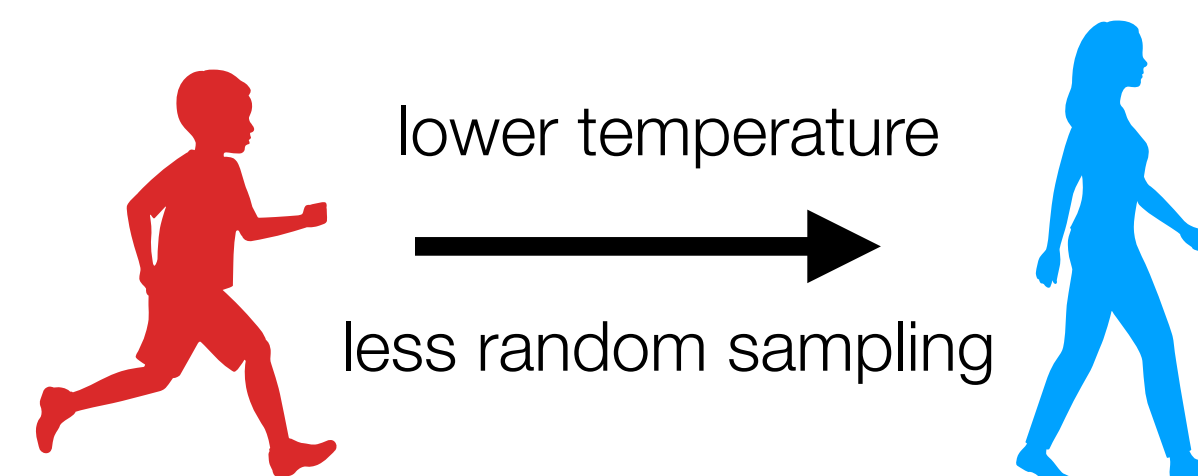


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## Stochastic Optimization



### H1: Uni-dimensional reduction of randomness in sampling

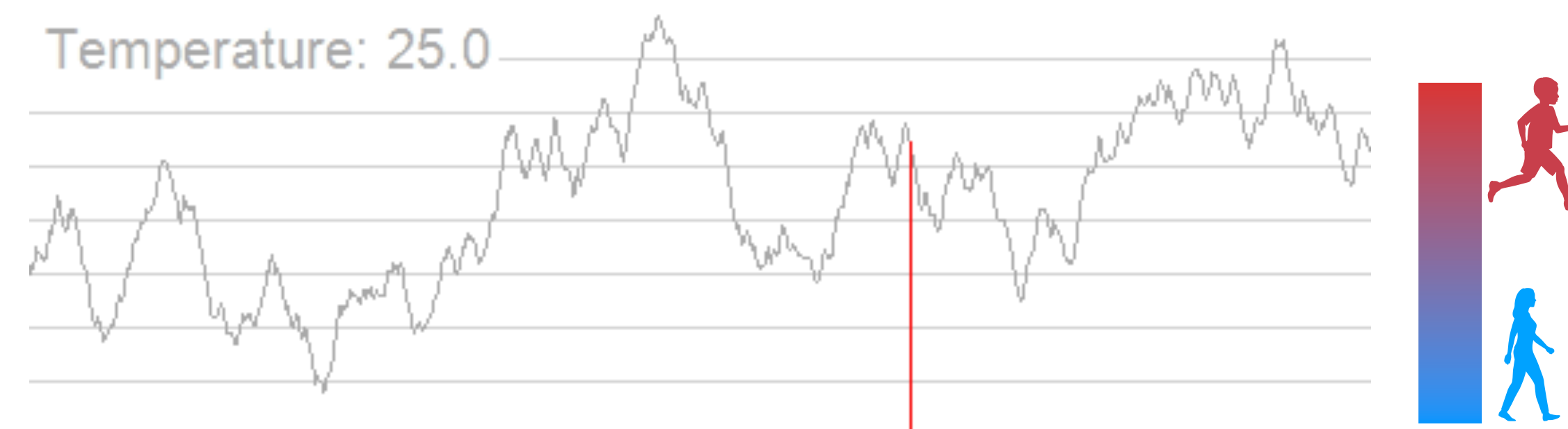


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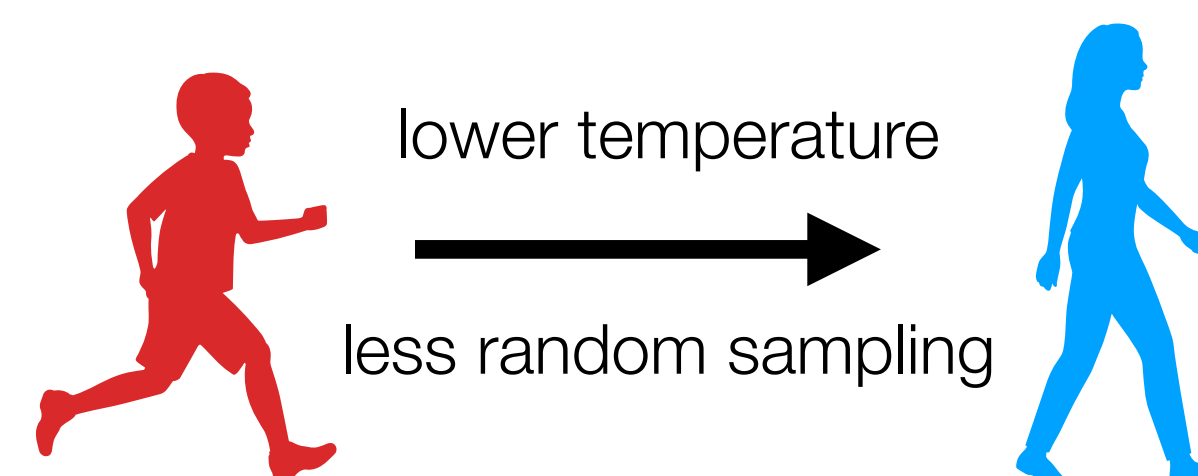


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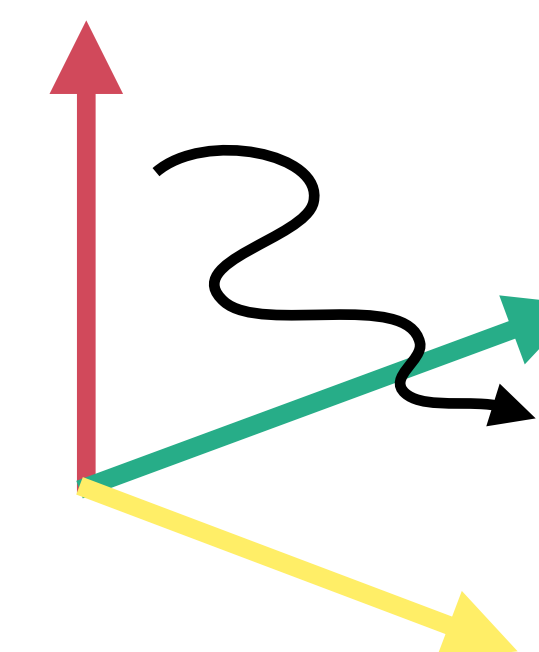
## Stochastic Optimization



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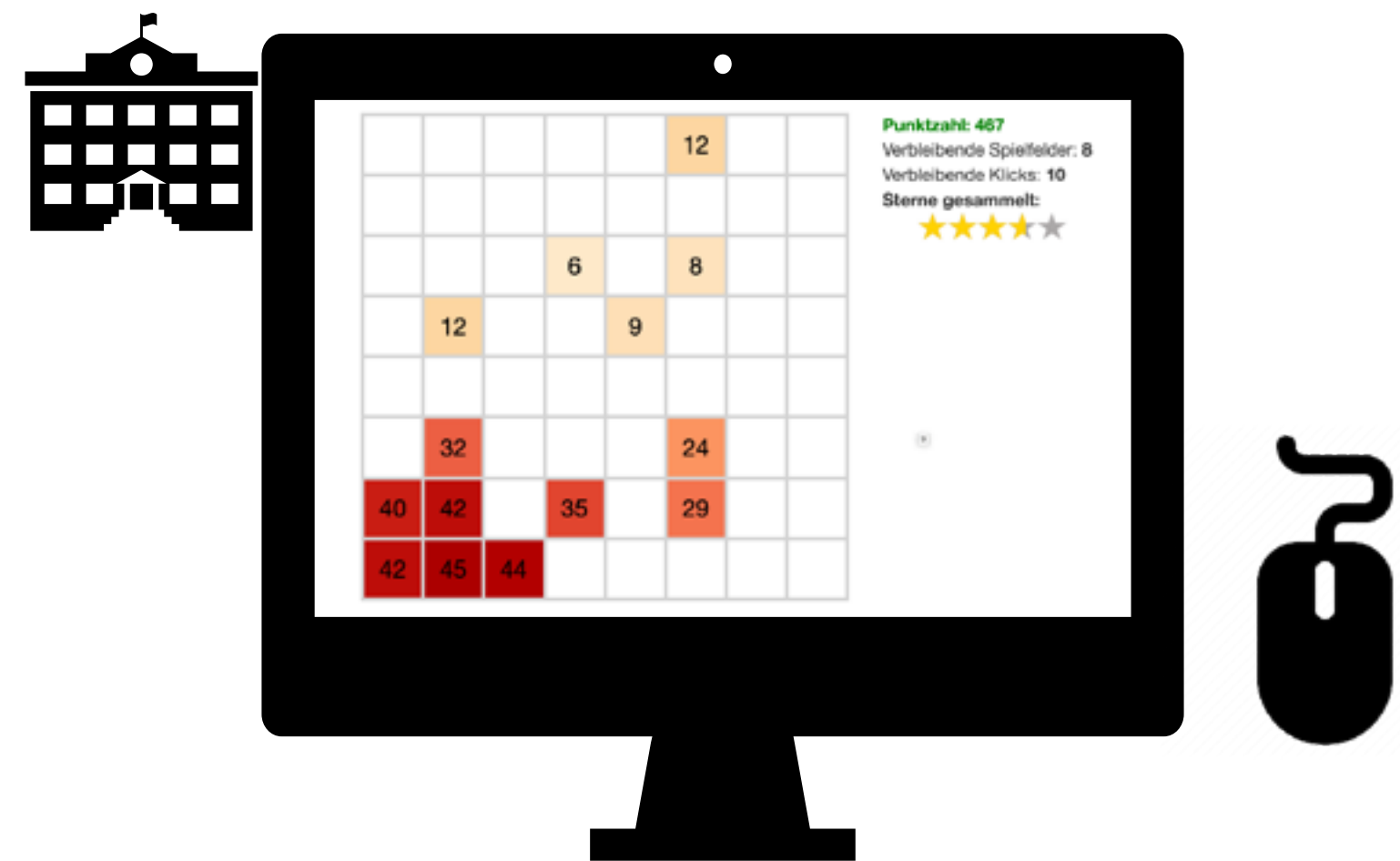
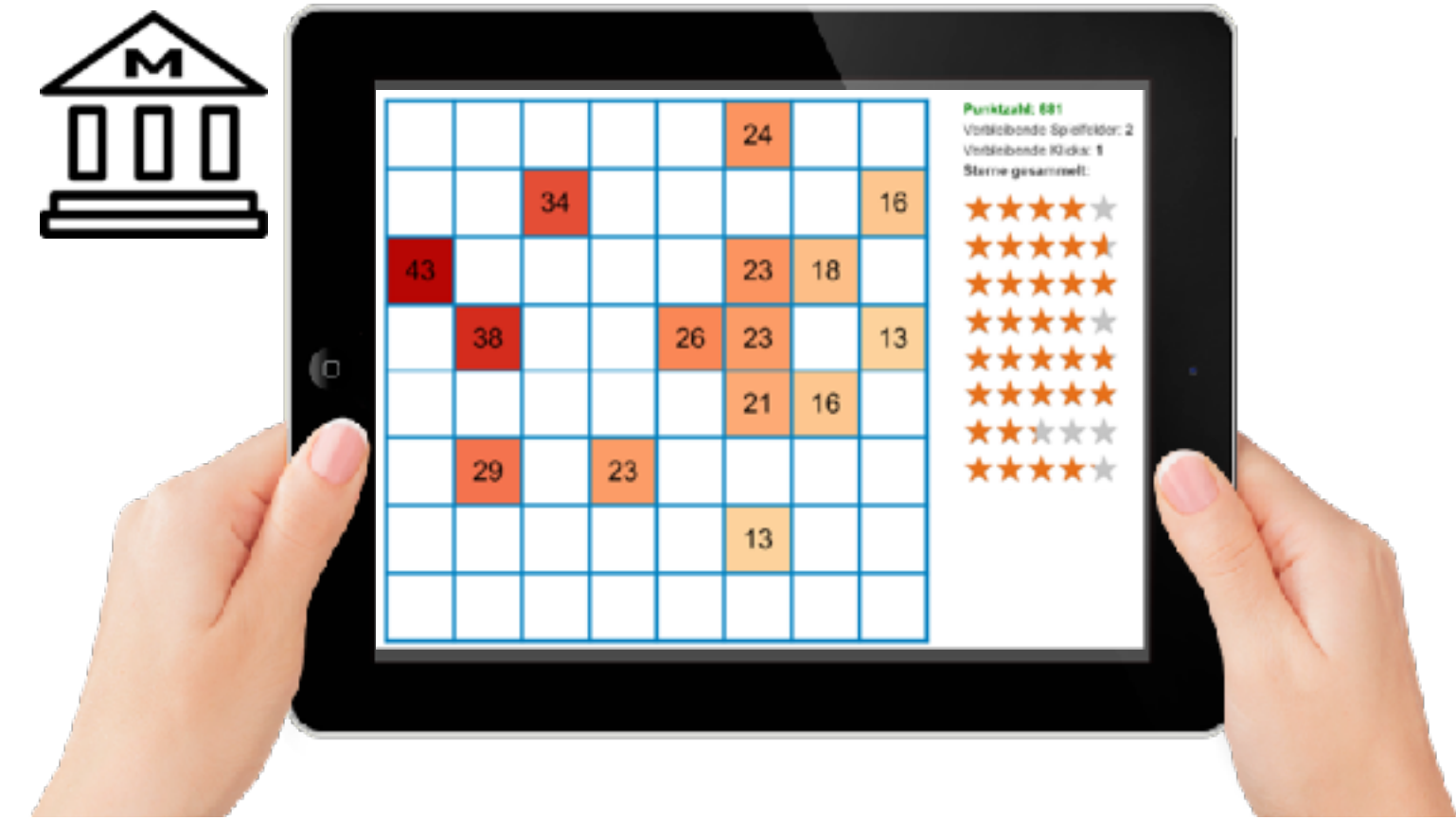
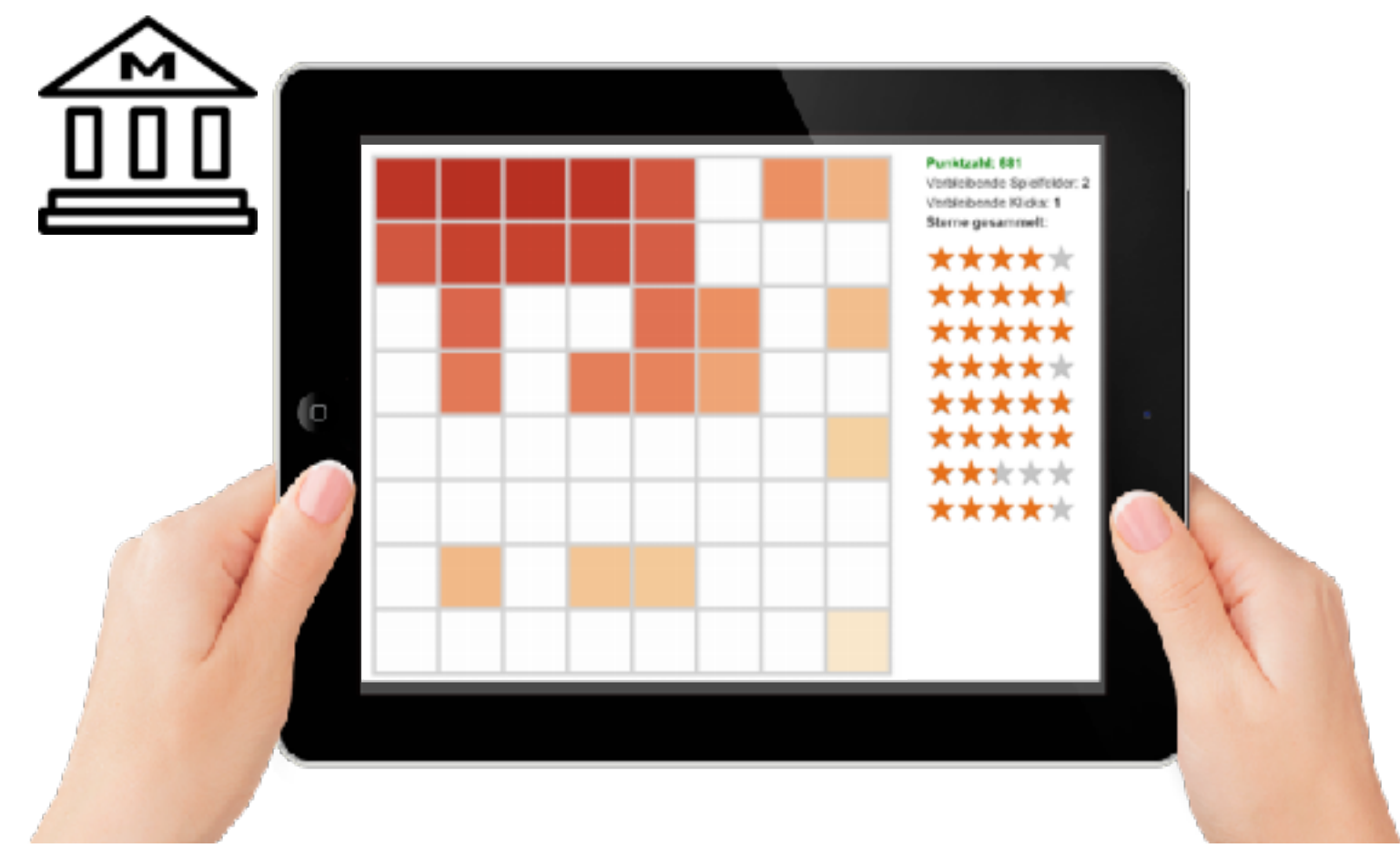
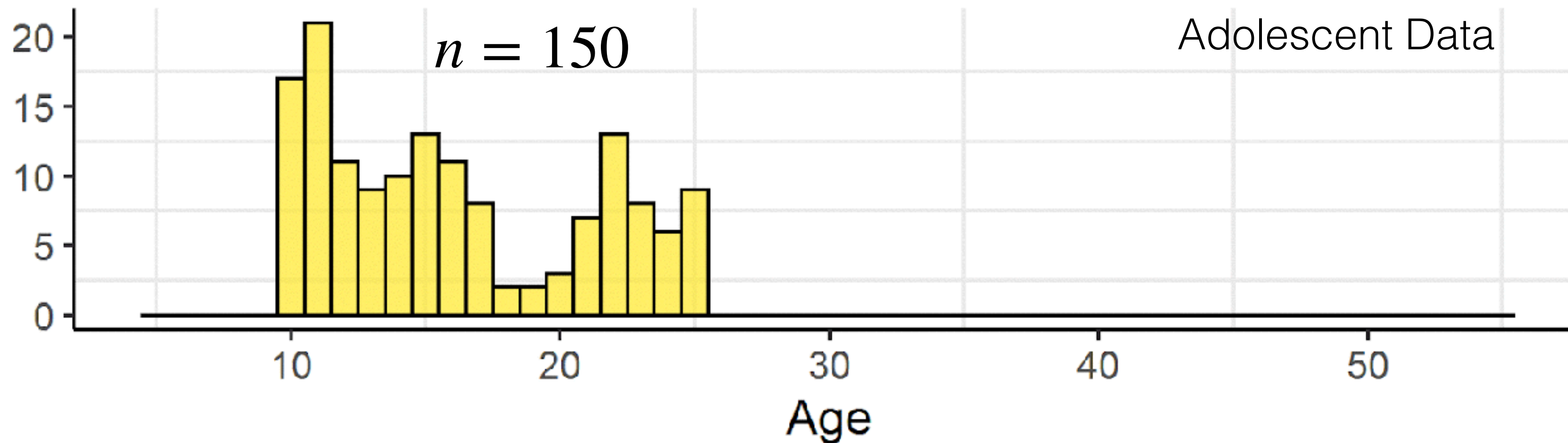
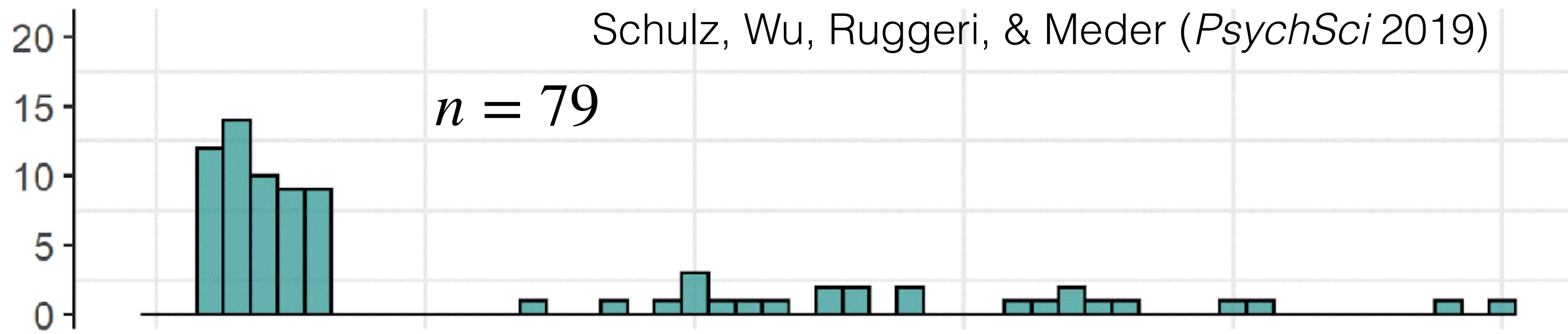
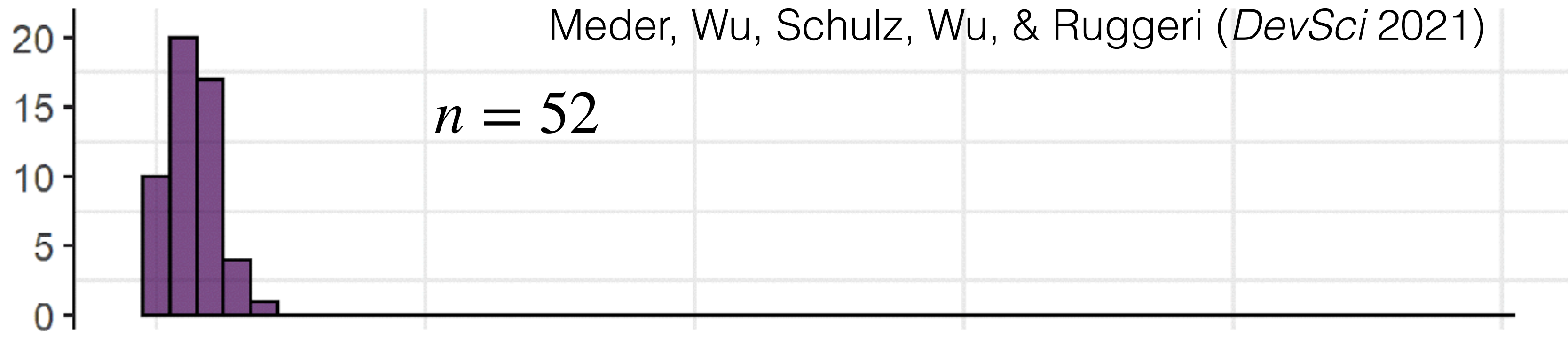


**H2: Multi-dimensional optimization of learning strategies**





## Combined dataset with $n = 281$ subjects between 5 and 55

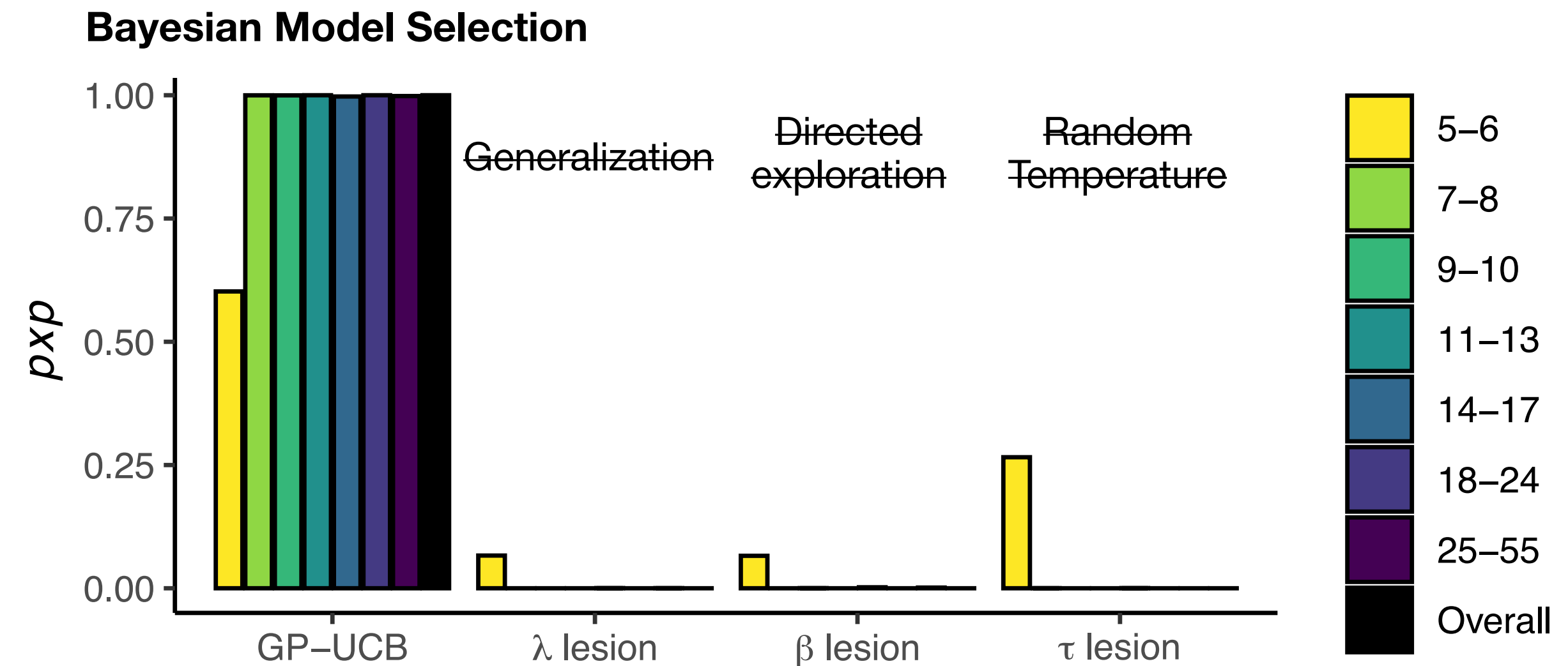


# GP-UCB across the lifespan

- GP-UCB provides the predictions of behavior from the ages of 5 to 55 ( $n=281$ )

# GP-UCB across the lifespan

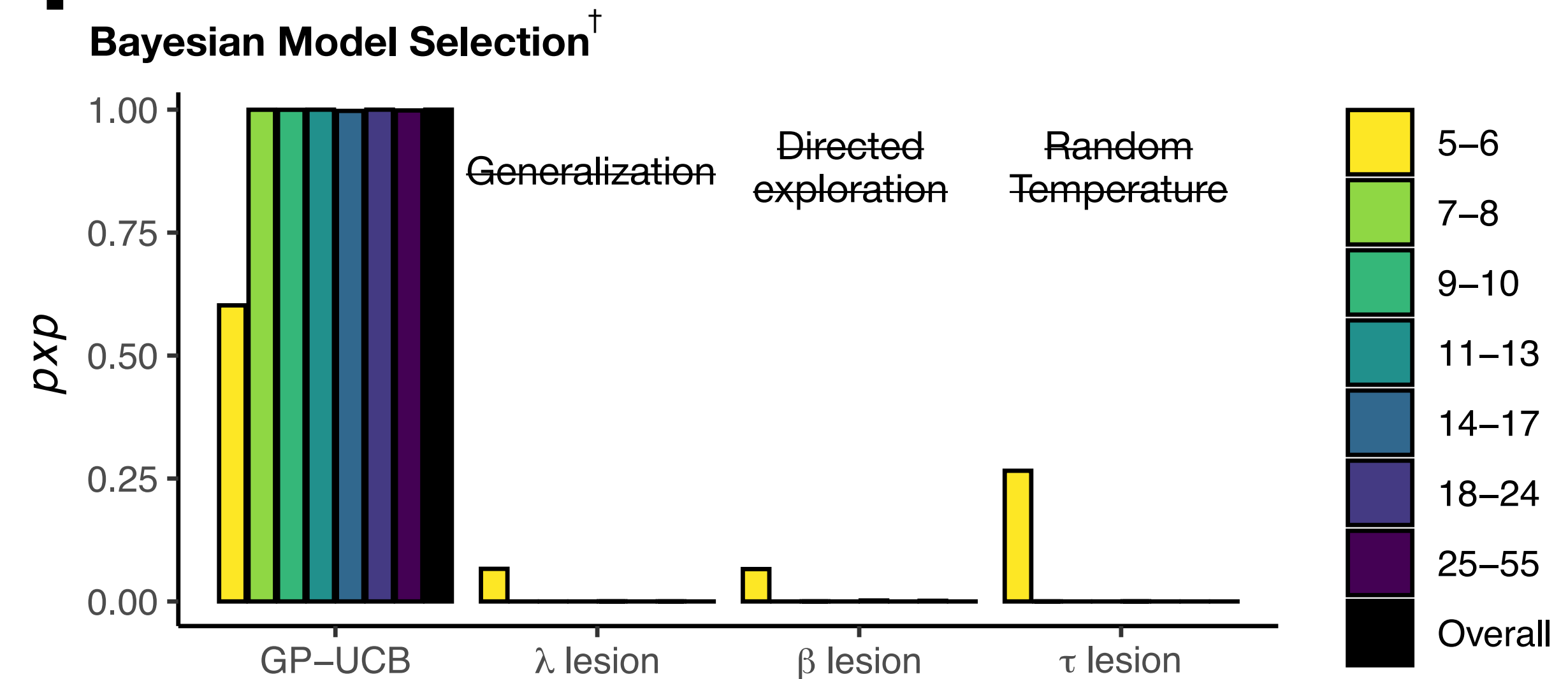
- GP-UCB provides the predictions of behavior from the ages of 5 to 55 ( $n=281$ )
- We can lesion out each component to show that all are necessary
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  - $\beta$  lesion removes uncertainty-directed exploration by setting  $\beta = 0$
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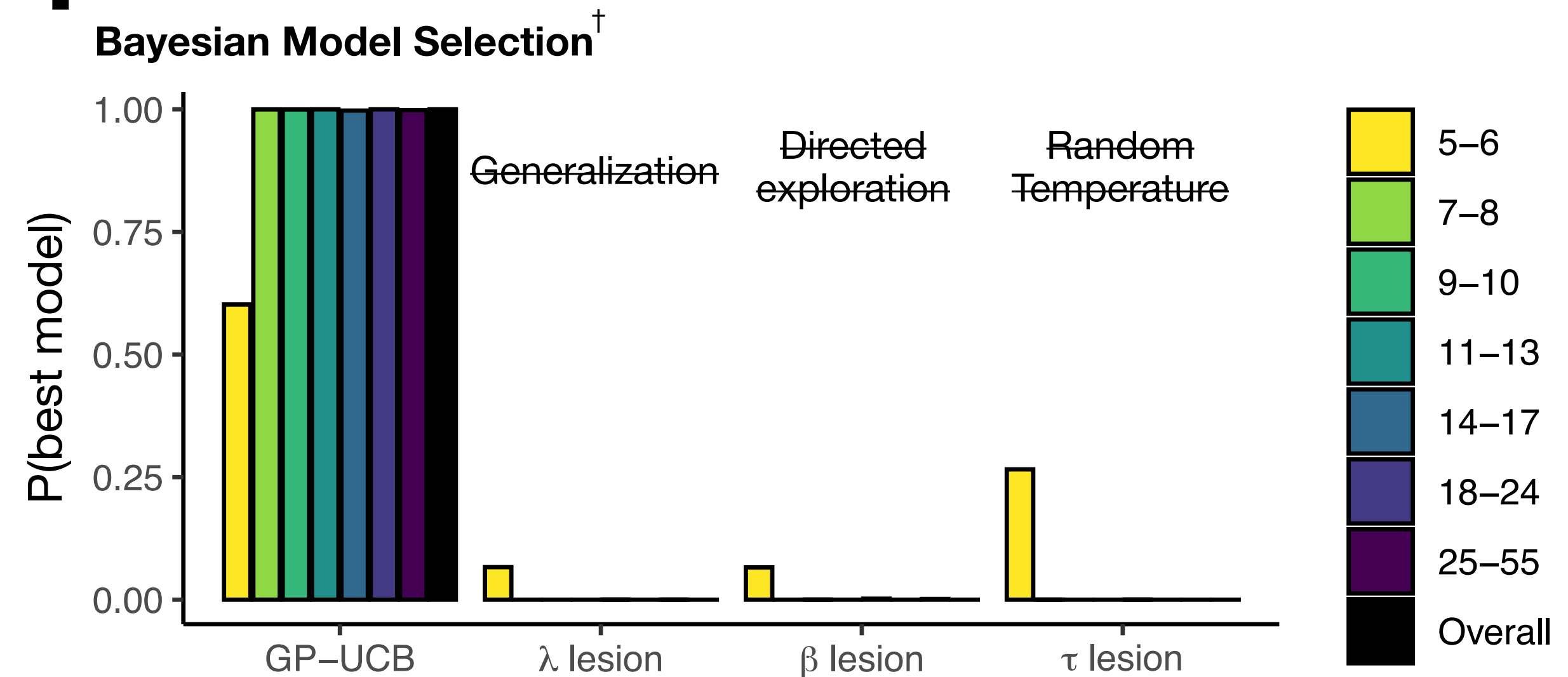
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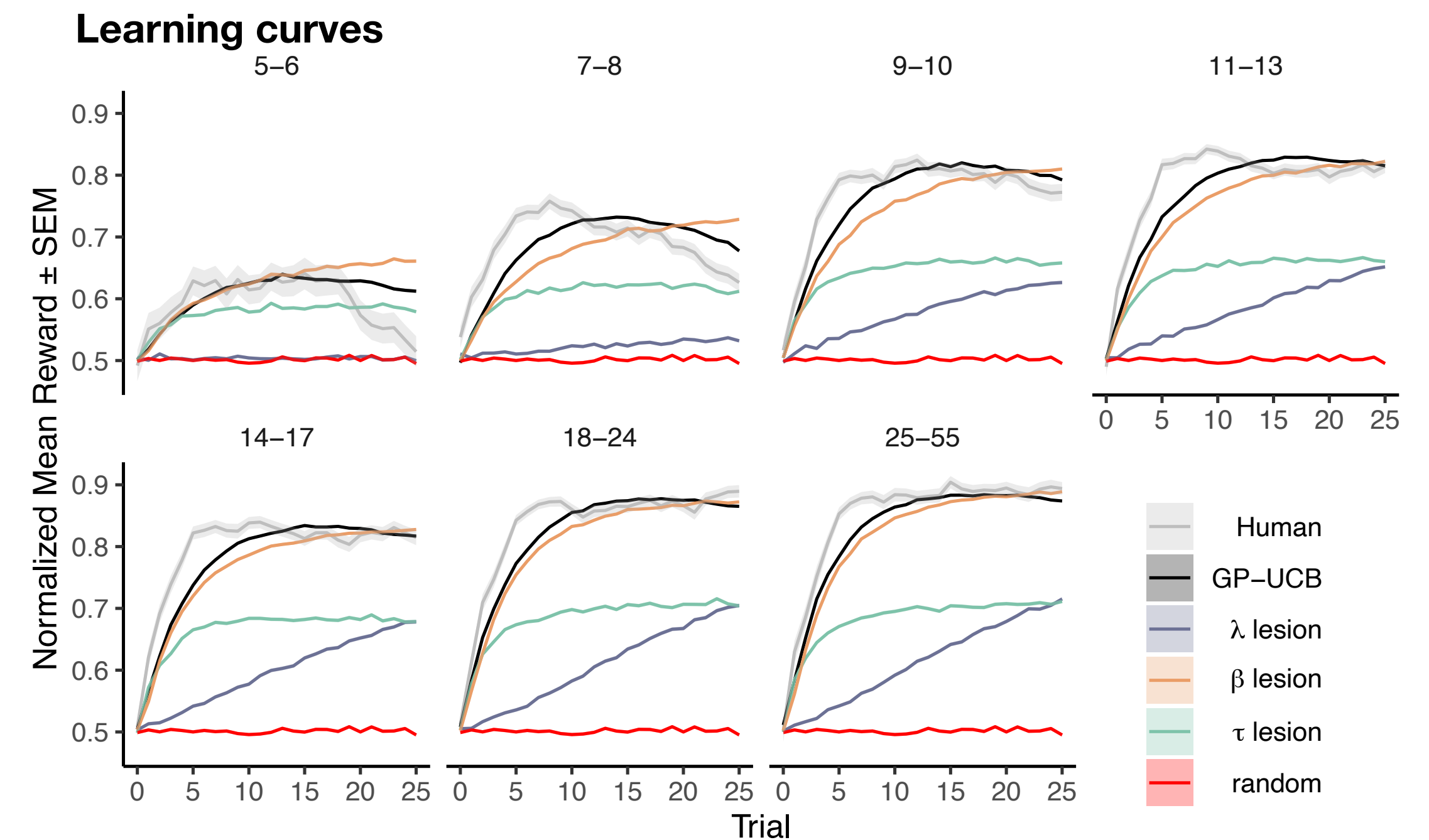
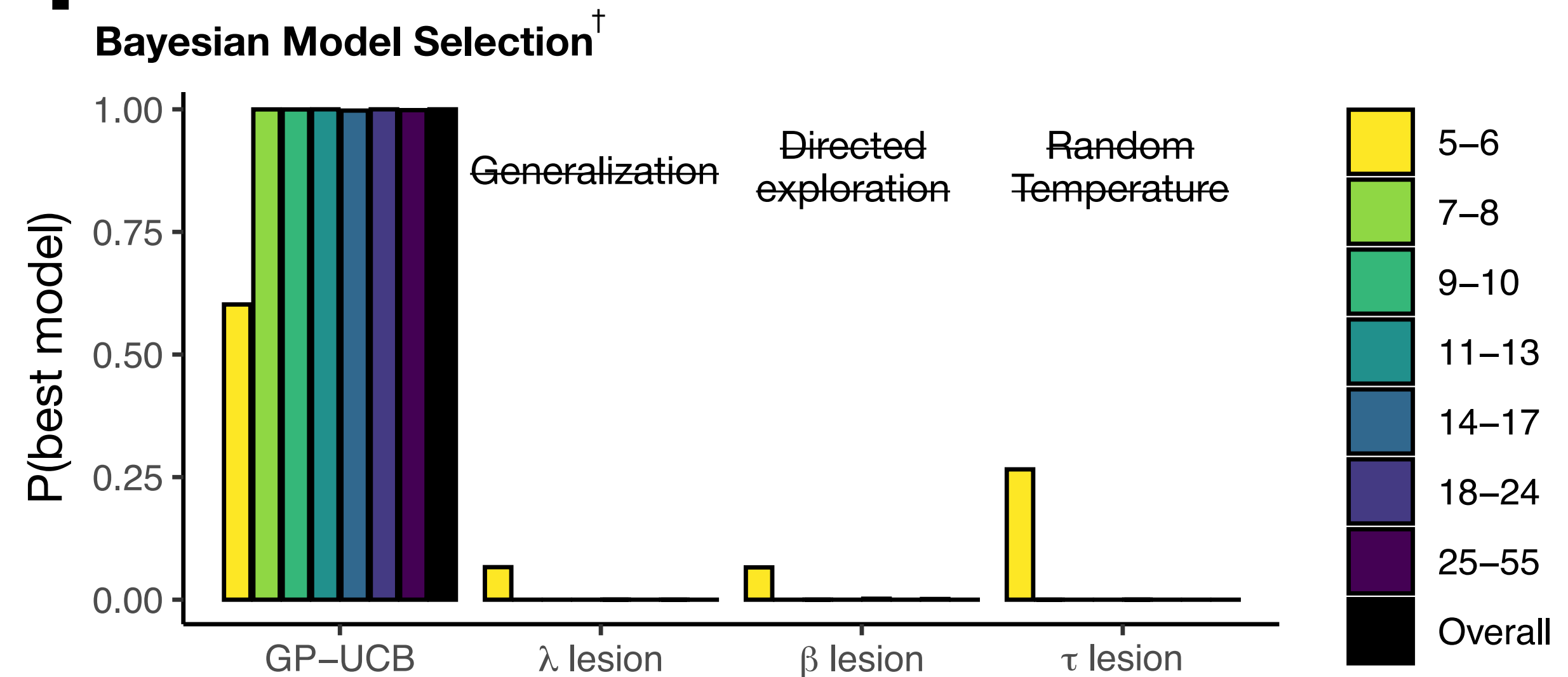
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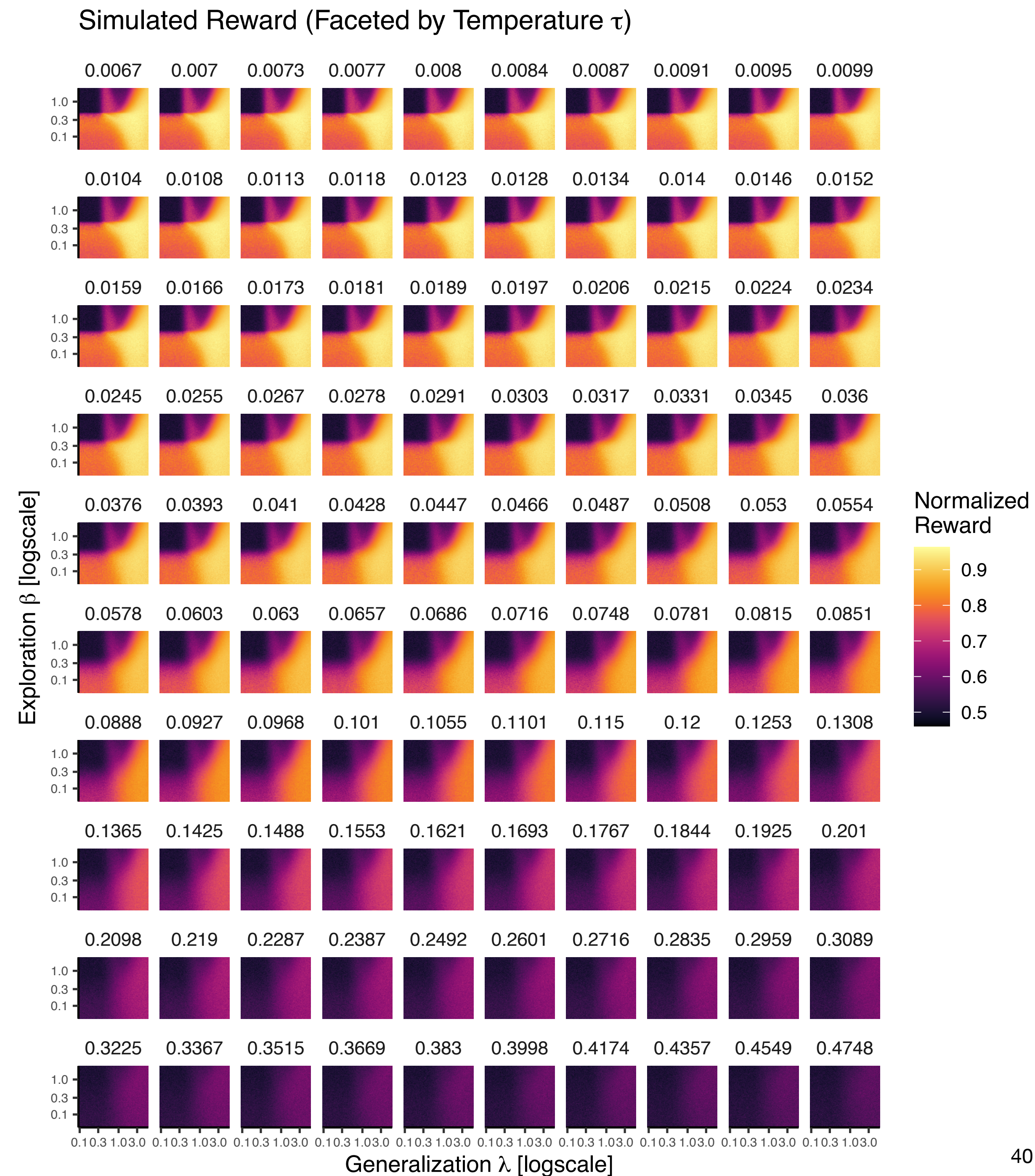
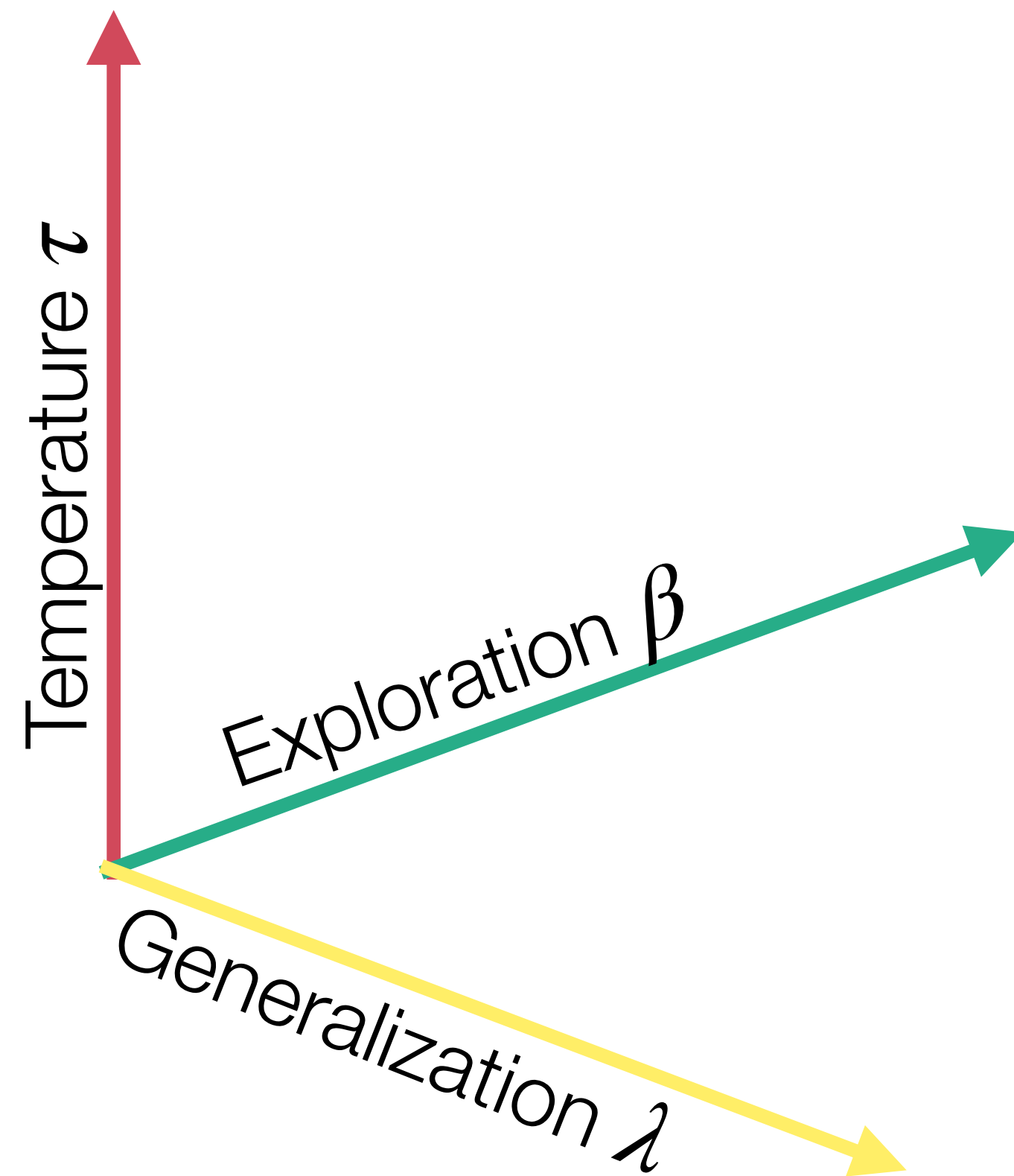
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- The **full model** reproduces the same age-related differences in learning curves
  - $\beta$ -lesion is also good, but doesn't produce the same decaying learning curves that children have and generally learns slower





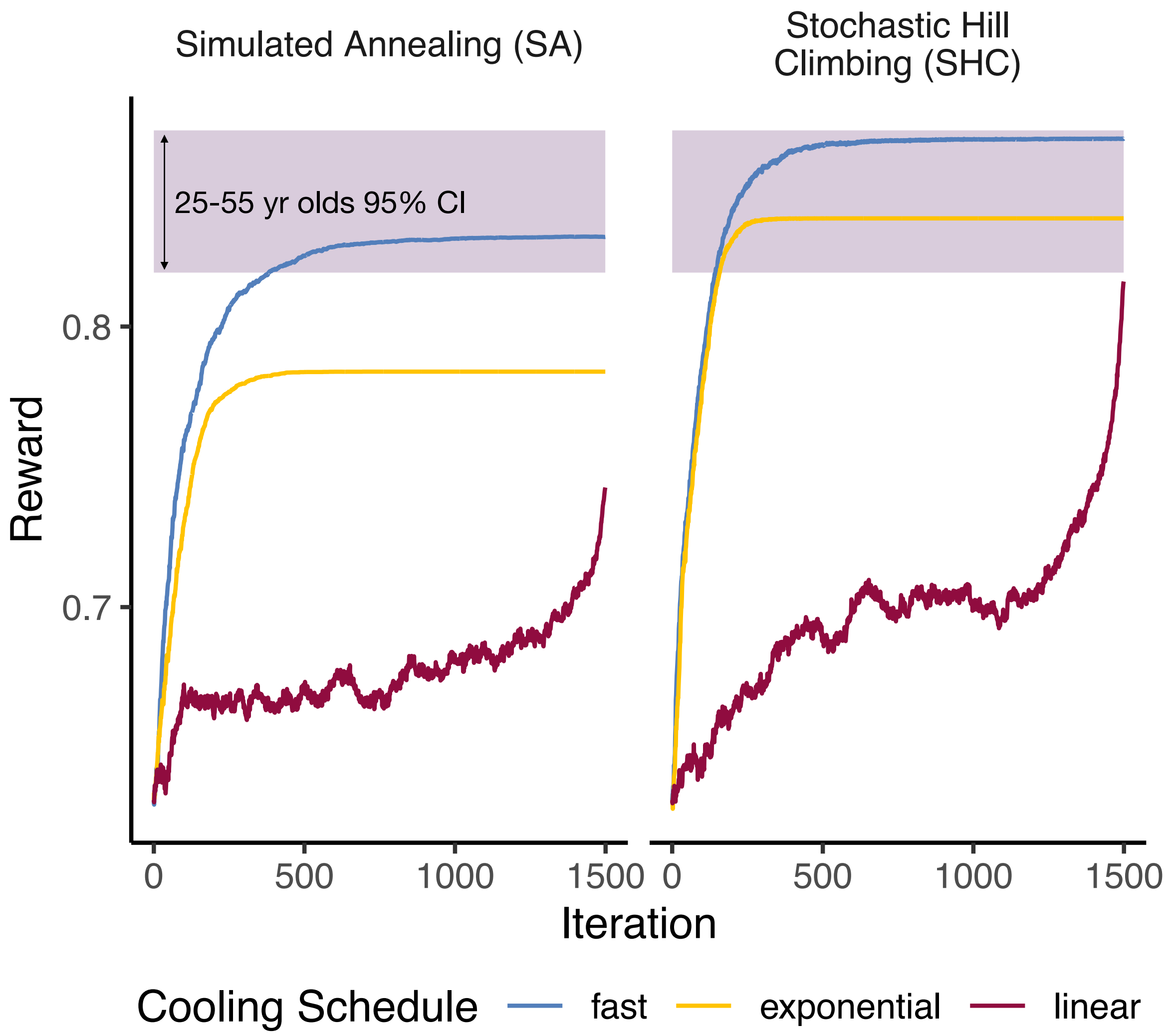
# Fitness Landscape

Simulations over 1 million plausible parameter combinations

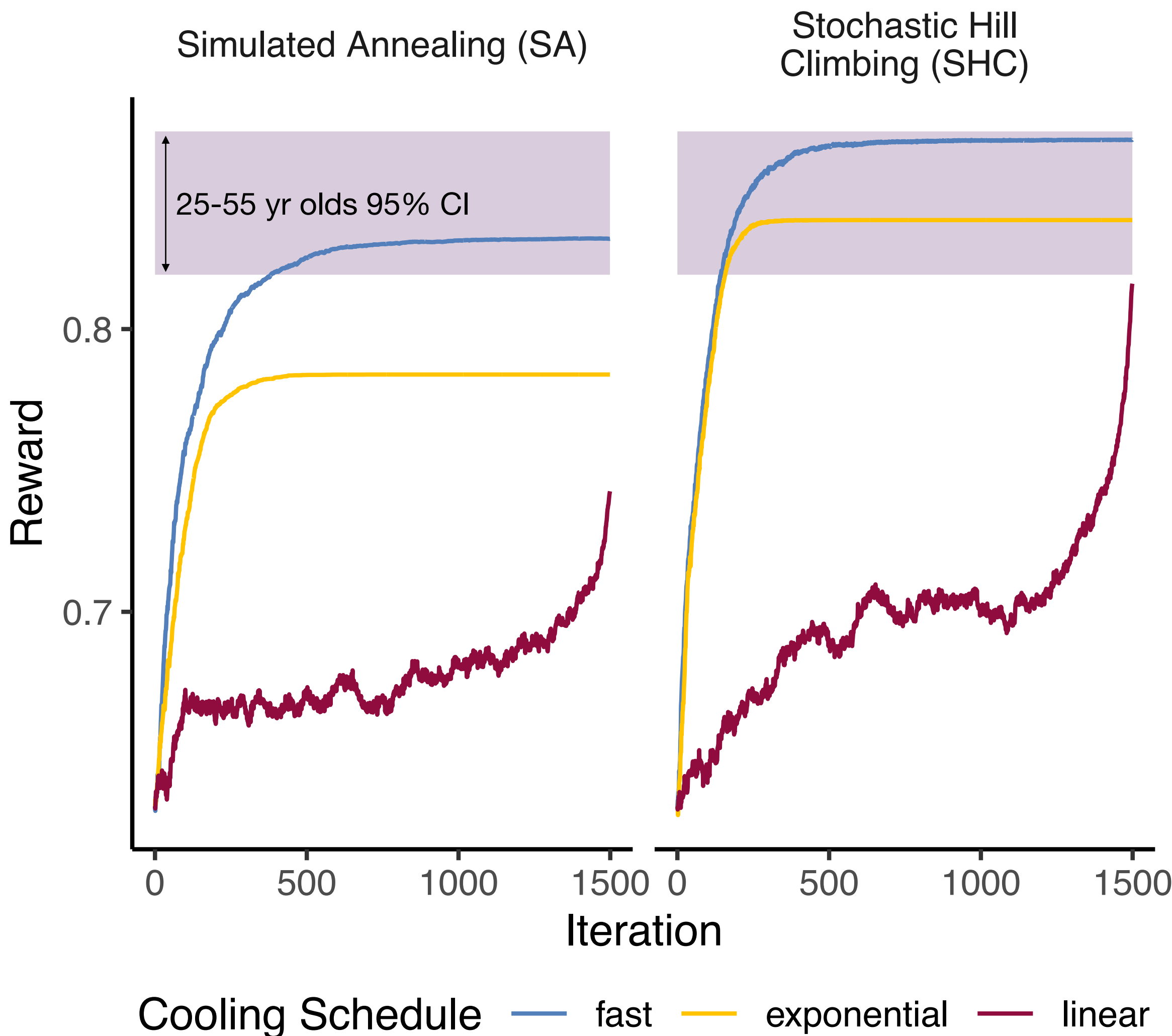




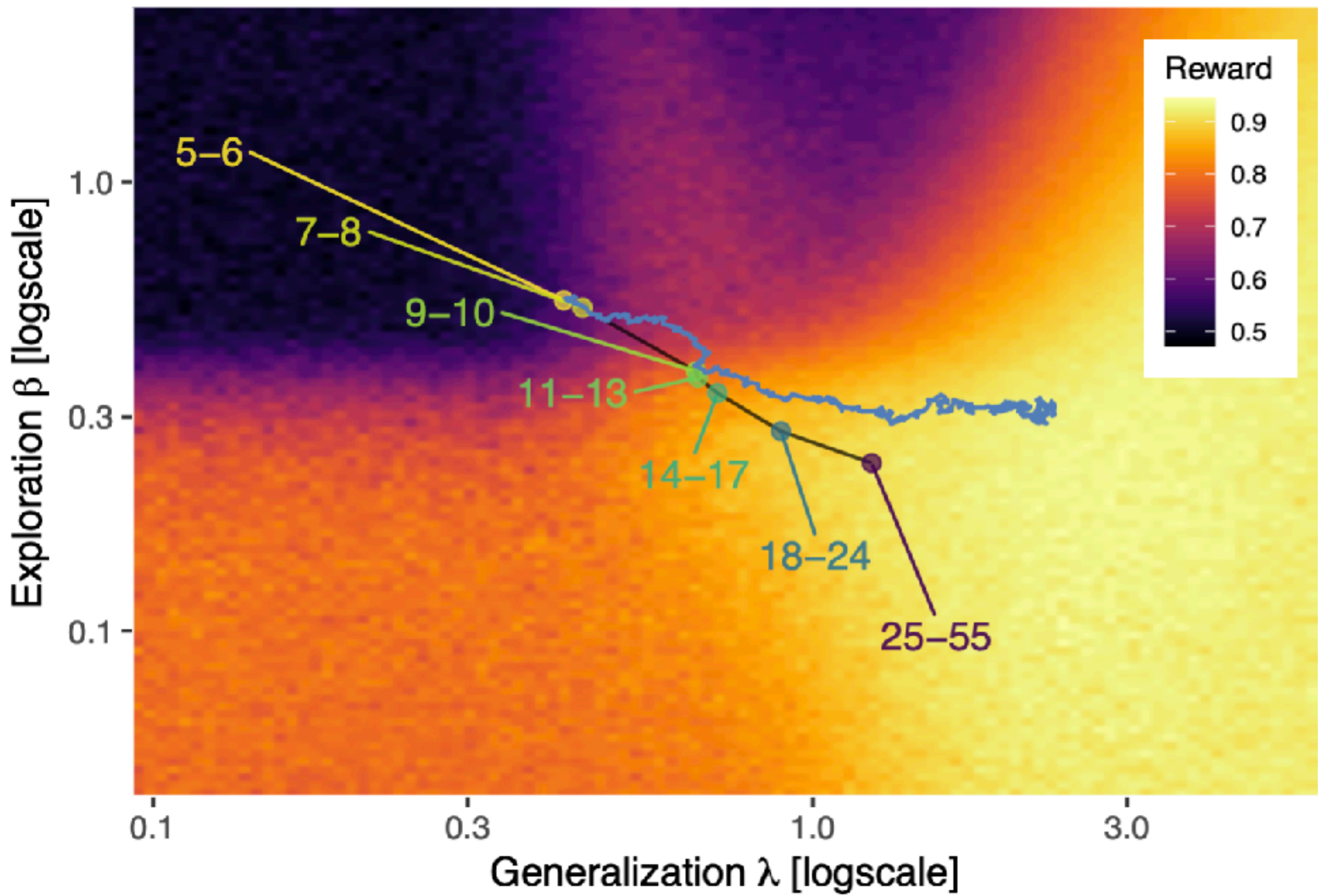
# Human development resembles an optimization process in GP parameter space



# Human development resembles an optimization process in GP parameter space



## Human vs. SHC-fast





# A versatile and robust paradigm



- Generalization guides exploration

Wu, Schulz, Nelson, Speekenbrink & Meder (*NHB* 2018)

- Developmental trajectory of learning

Giron\*, Ciranka\*, Schulz, Van den Bos, Ruggeri, Meder, & Wu (*NHB* 2023)

Meder, Wu, Schulz & Ruggeri (*DevSci* 2021)

Schulz, Wu, Ruggeri & Meder (*PsychSci* 2019)

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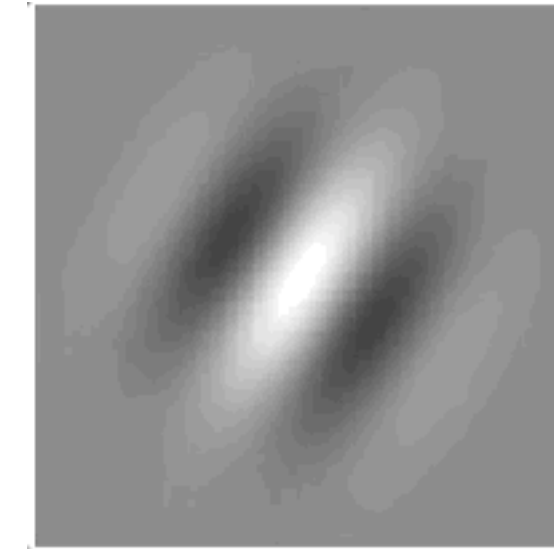
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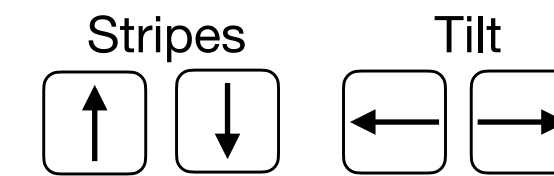
- Search in abstract conceptual spaces

Wu, Schulz, Garvert, Meder & Schuck (*PLOS Comp Bio*, 2020)

Conceptual features



Current Score: 141  
Trials Remaining: 14  
Rounds Remaining: 10



Wu, Schulz, Garvert, Meder & Schuck  
(*PLOS Comp Bio* 2020)

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Schulz, Wu, Ruggeri & Meder (*PsychSci* 2019)

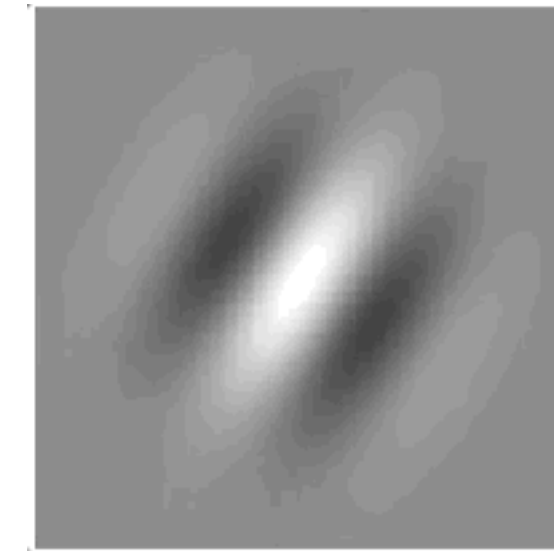
- **Search in abstract conceptual spaces**

Wu, Schulz, Garvert, Meder & Schuck (*PLOS Comp Bio*, 2020)

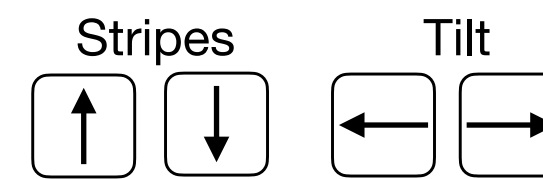
- **Graph-structured generalization**

Wu, Schulz & Gershman (*CBB* 2021)

## Conceptual features

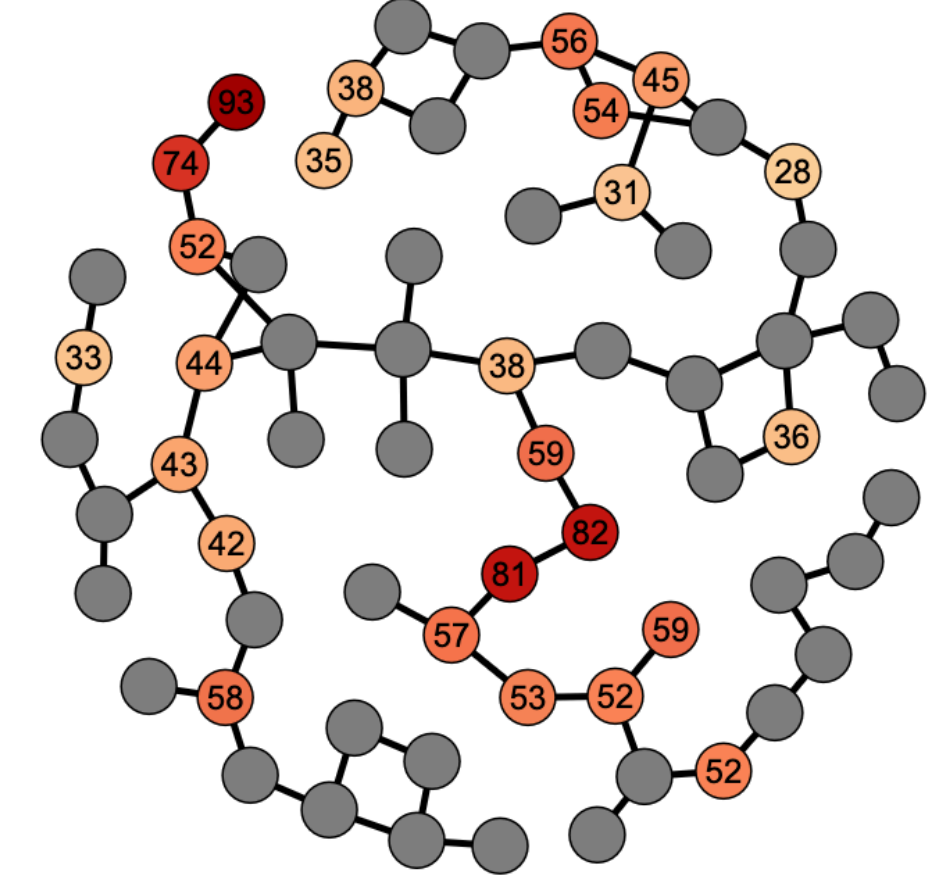


Current Score: 141  
Trials Remaining: 14  
Rounds Remaining: 10



Wu, Schulz, Garvert, Meder & Schuck  
(*PLOS Comp Bio* 2020)

## Graph structures



Wu, Schulz & Gershman (*CBB* 2021)



# A versatile and robust paradigm



- **Generalization guides exploration**

Wu, Schulz, Nelson, Speekenbrink & Meder (*NHB* 2018)

- **Developmental trajectory of learning**

Giron\*, Ciranka\*, Schulz, Van den Bos, Ruggeri, Meder, & Wu (*NHB* 2023)  
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- **Safe exploration**

Schulz, Wu, Huys, Krause & Speekenbrink (*Cognitive Science* 2018)

- **Forgetful generalization with limited memory**

Breit, Ten, Sakaki, Murayama, & Wu (*KogWiss* 2022)  
Ten, Breit, Sakaki, Murayama & Wu (*in prep*)

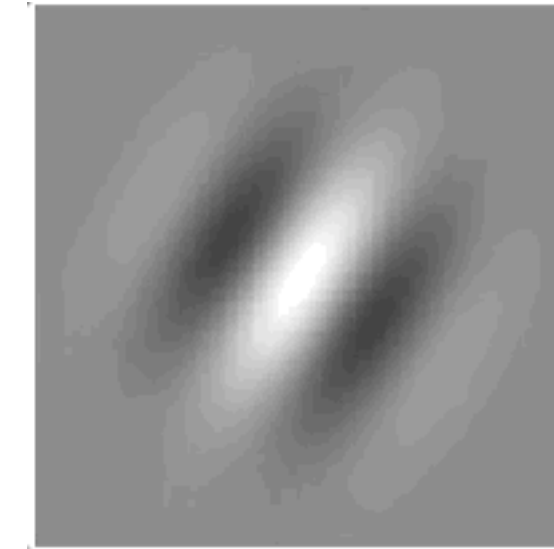
- **Neural basis for generalization and exploration**

Liebe, Ciranka, Spies, Lanzenburger, & Wu (*in prep*)  
Wong, Moneta, Schuck, Hauser & Wu (*in prep*)

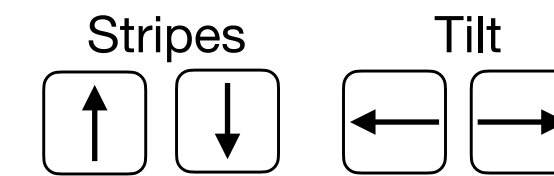
- **Social generalization**

Witt, Toyokawa, Lala, Gaissmaier, & Wu (*PNAS* 2024)  
Wu, Deffner, Kahl, Meder, Ho\* & Kurvers\* (*NatComms in press*)  
Wu, Ho, Kahl, Leuker, Meder & Kurvers (*CogSci* 2021)

## Conceptual features

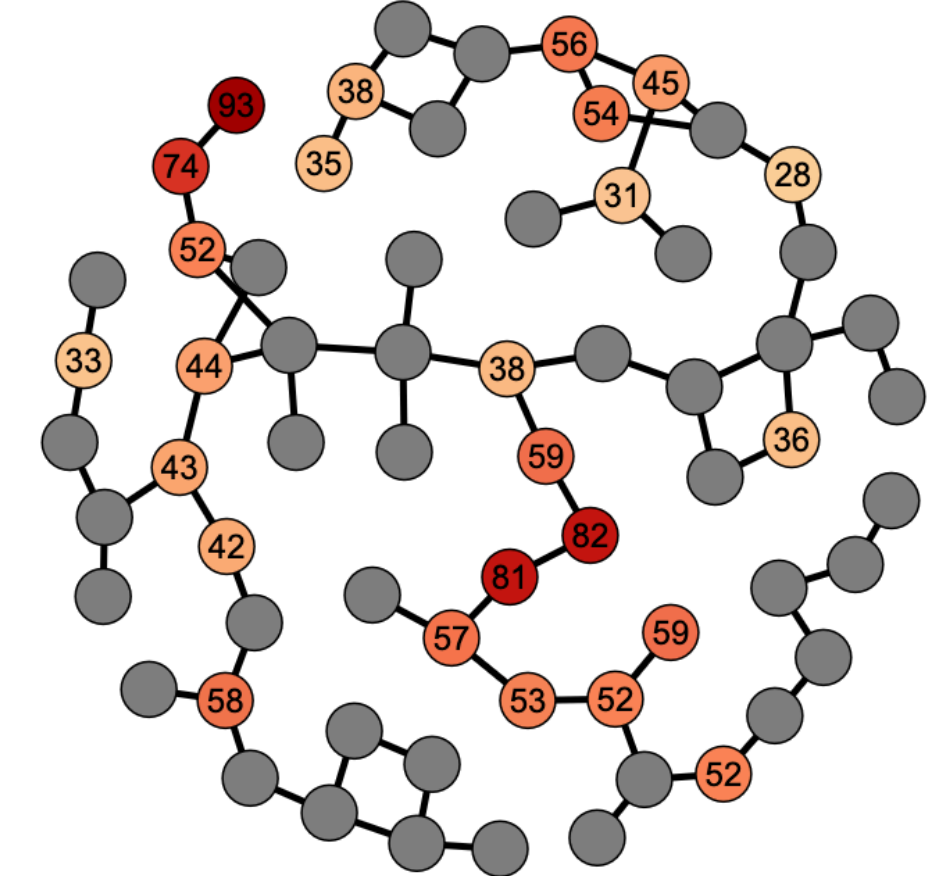


Current Score: 141  
Trials Remaining: 14  
Rounds Remaining: 10



Wu, Schulz, Garvert, Meder & Schuck (*PLOS Comp Bio* 2020)

## Graph structures



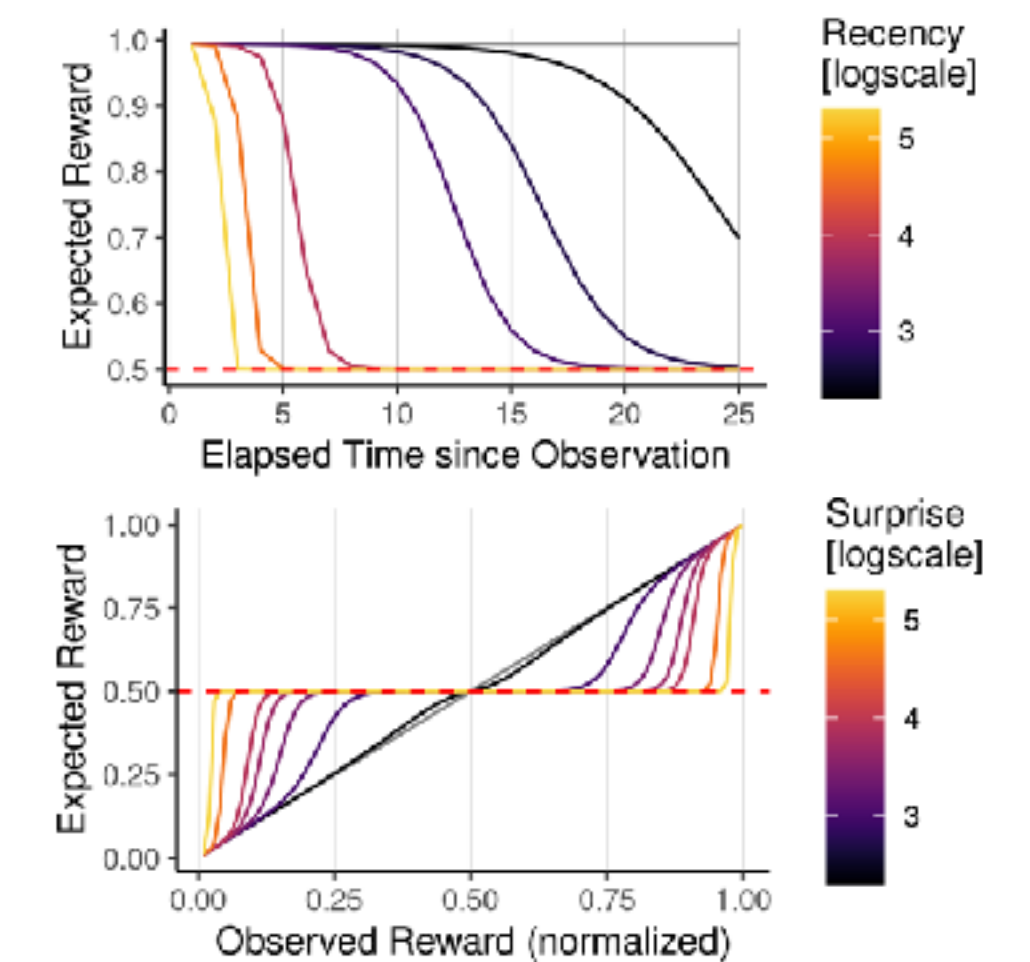
Wu, Schulz & Gershman (*CBB* 2021)

## Safe exploration



Schulz, Wu, et al., (*Cognitive Science* 2018)

## Forgetful generalization



Ten, Breit, Sakaki, Murayama & Wu (*in prep*)



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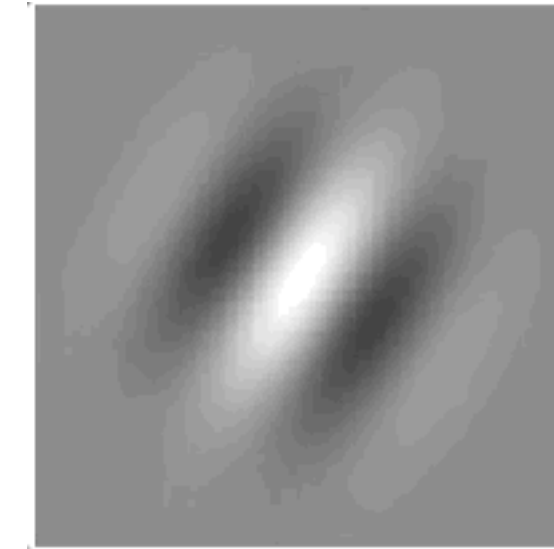
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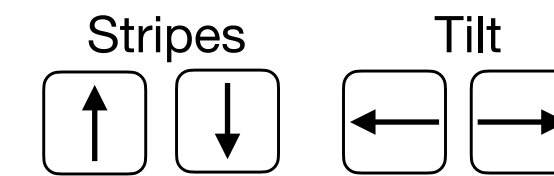
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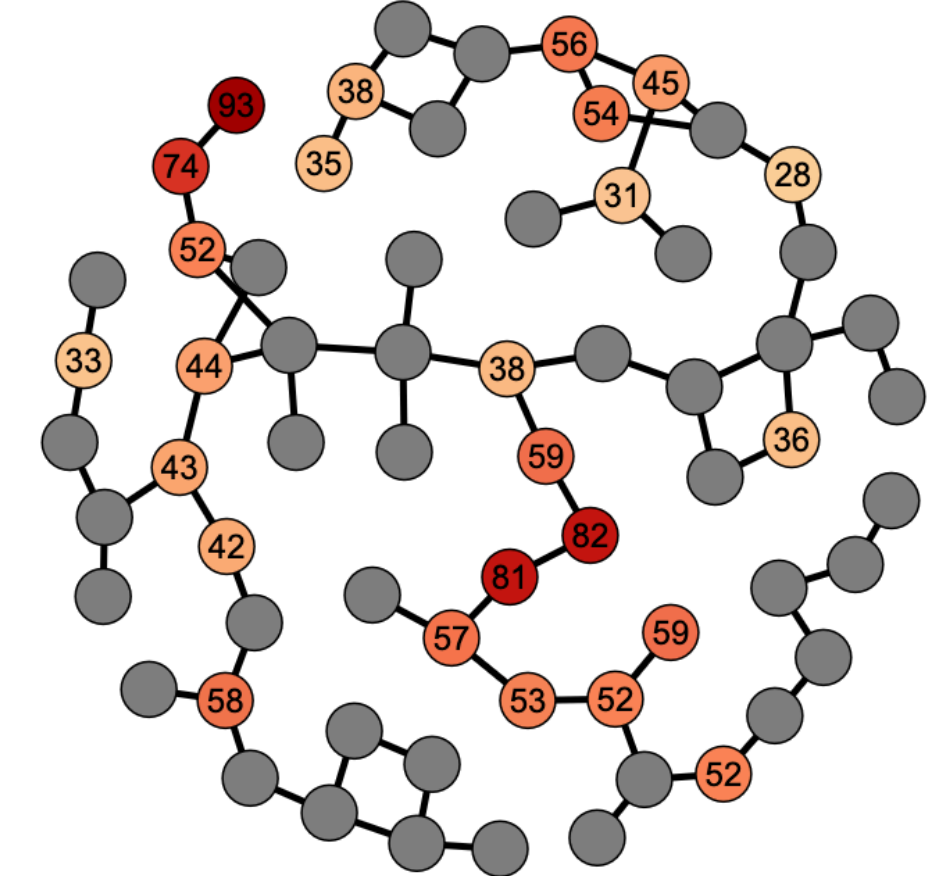


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## Graph structures



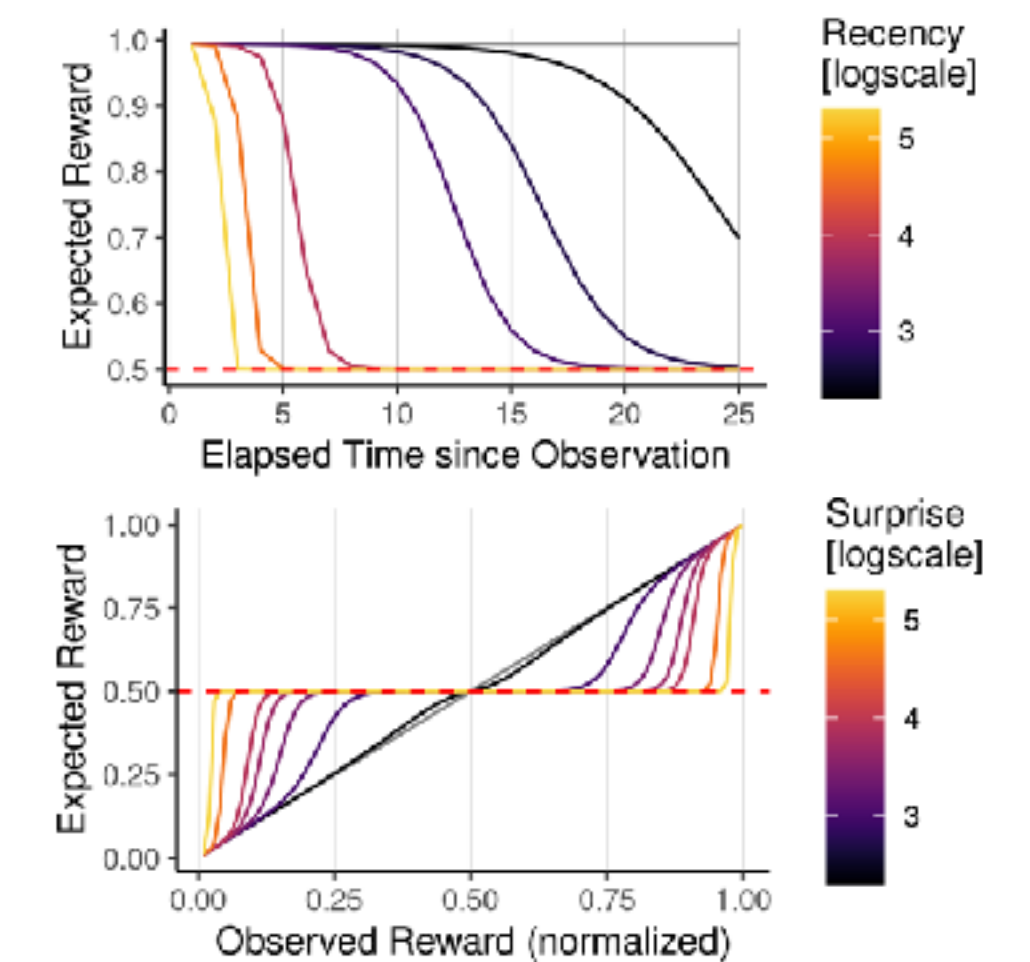
Wu, Schulz & Gershman (*CBB* 2021)

## Safe exploration



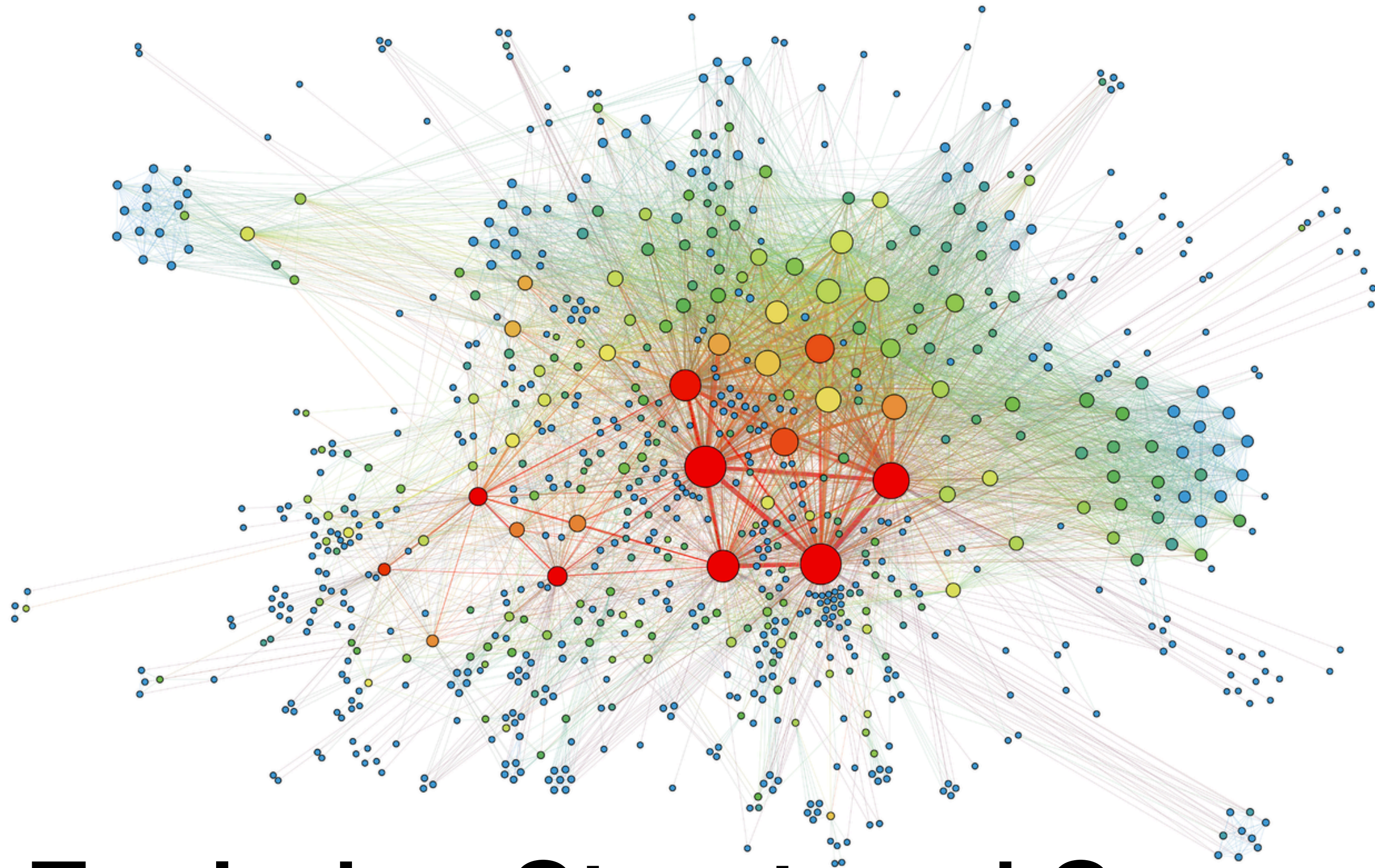
Schulz, Wu, et al., (*Cognitive Science* 2018)

## Forgetful generalization



Ten, Breit, Sakaki, Murayama & Wu (*in prep*)

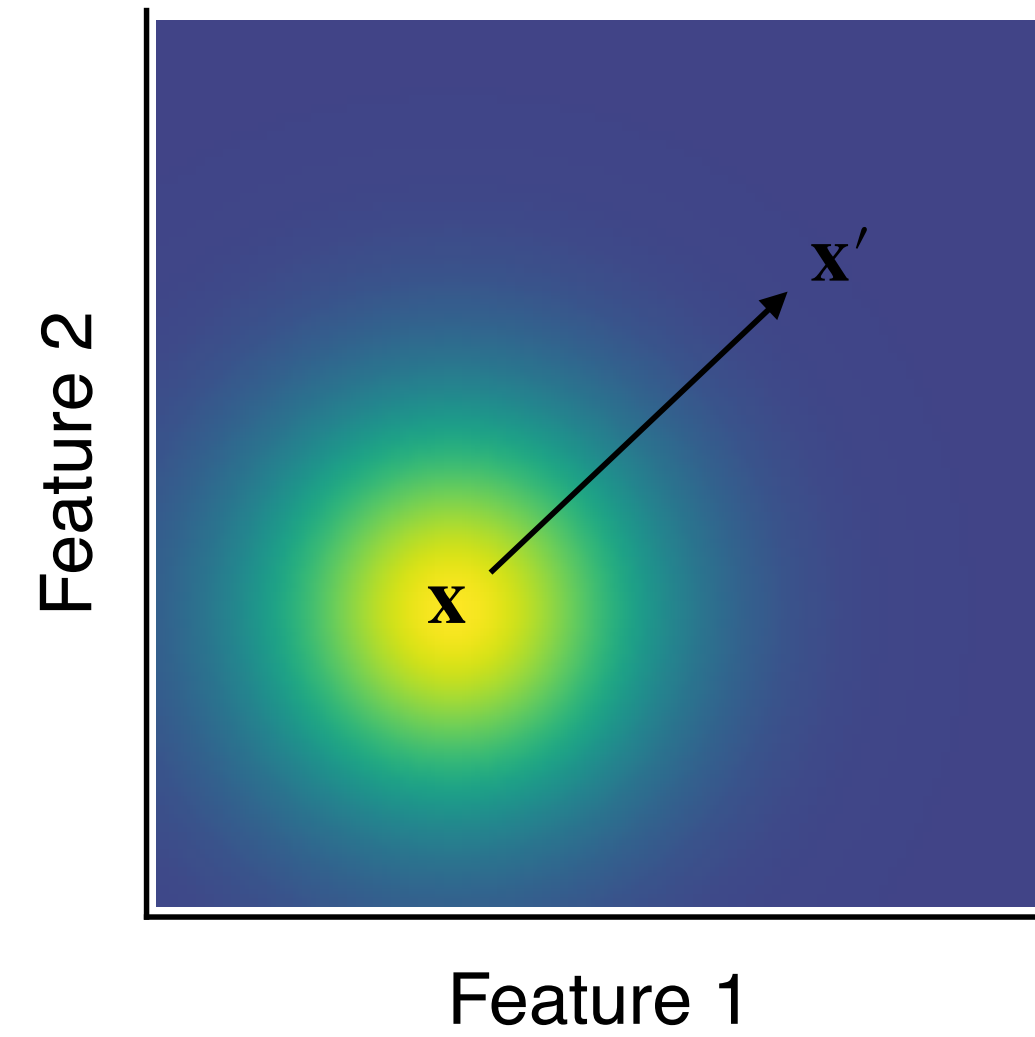




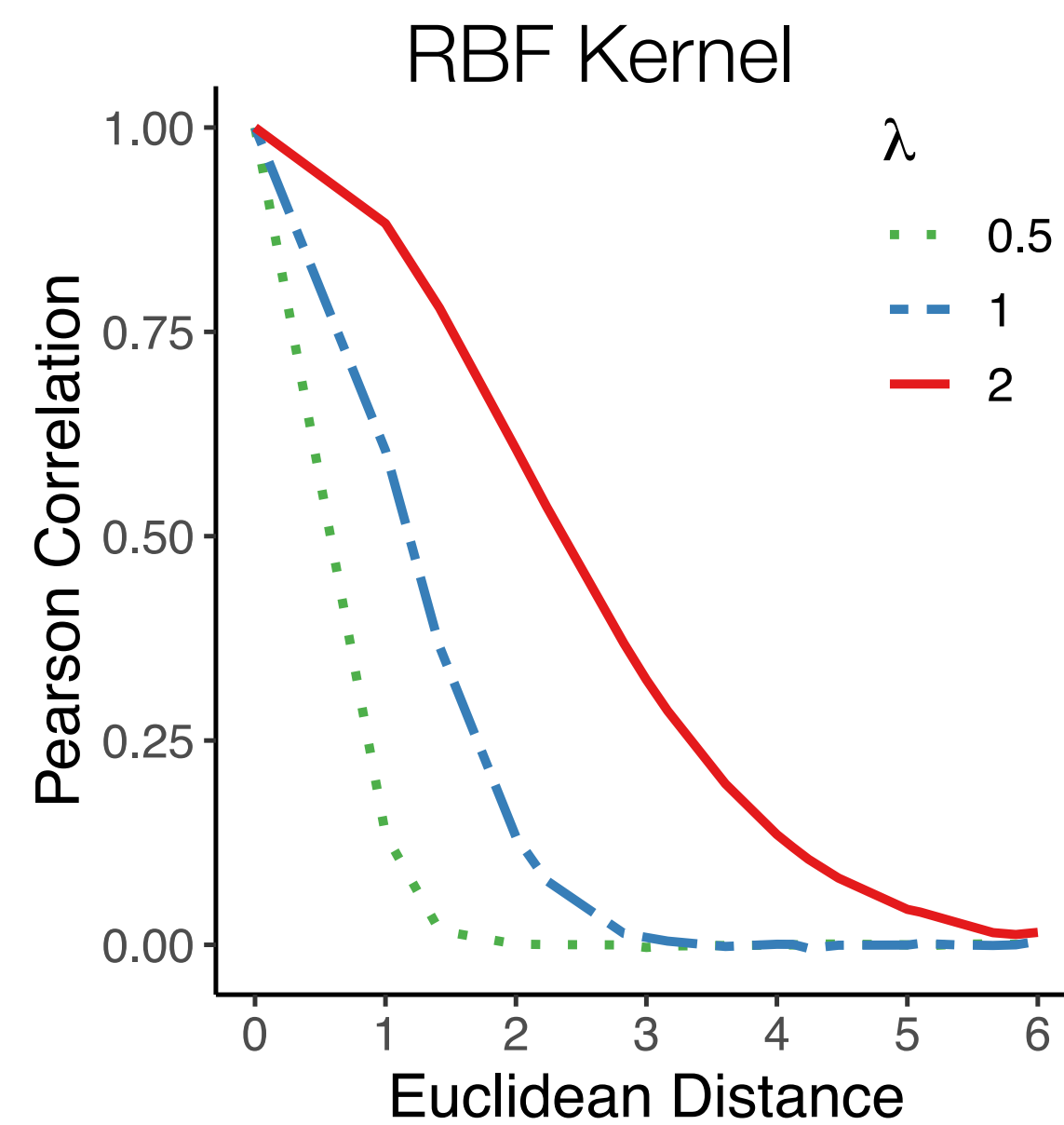
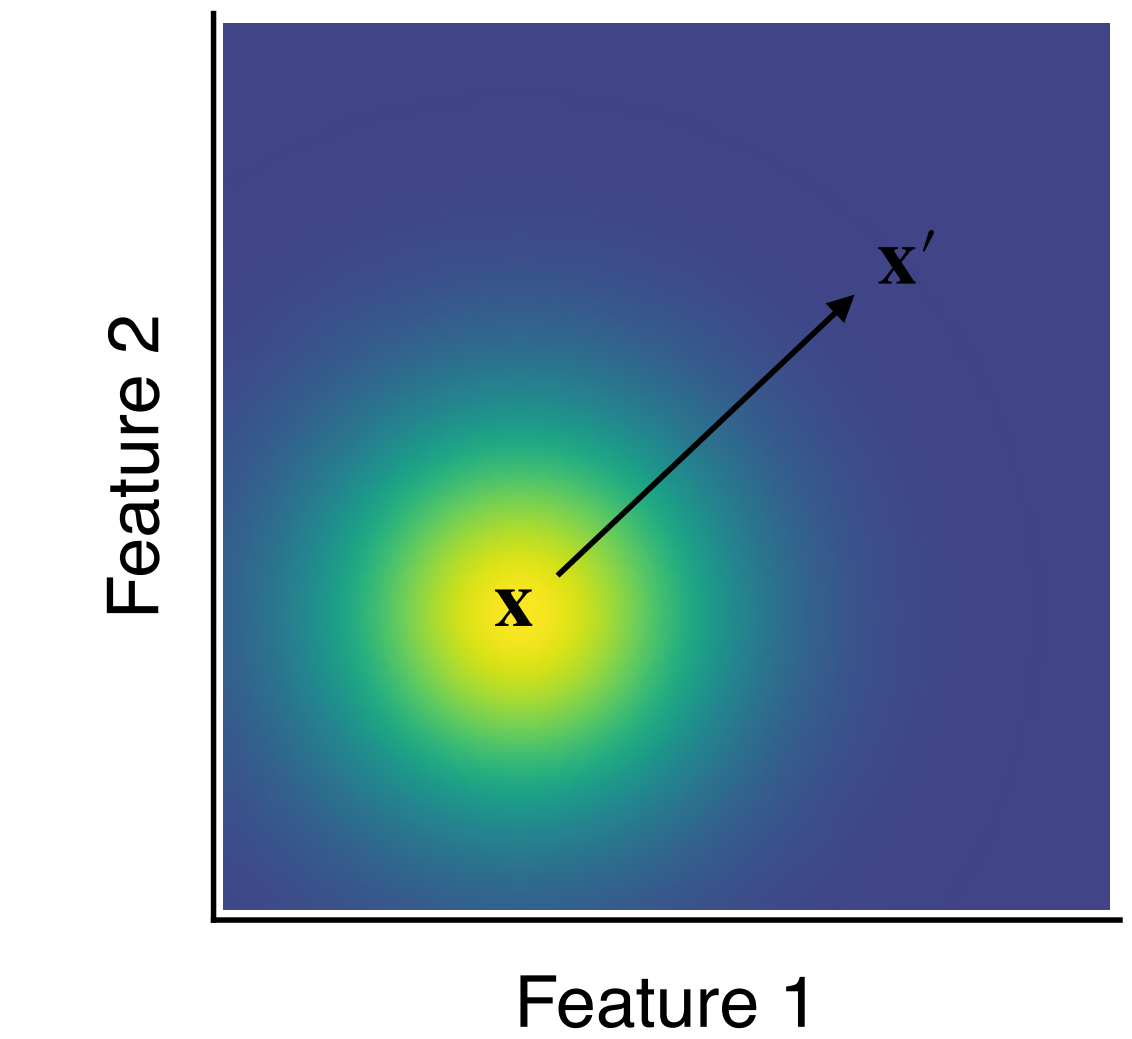
# Exploring Structured Spaces



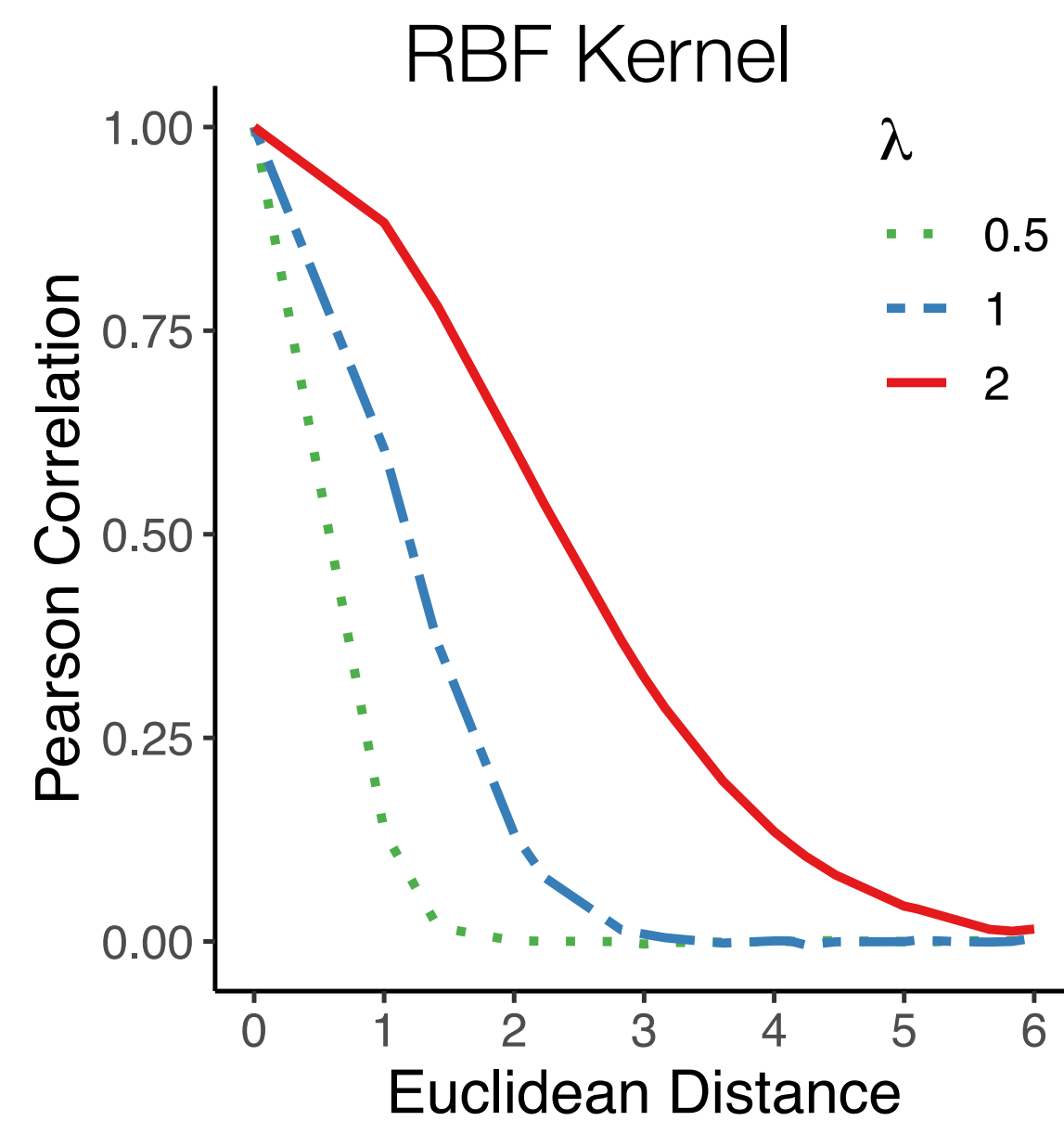
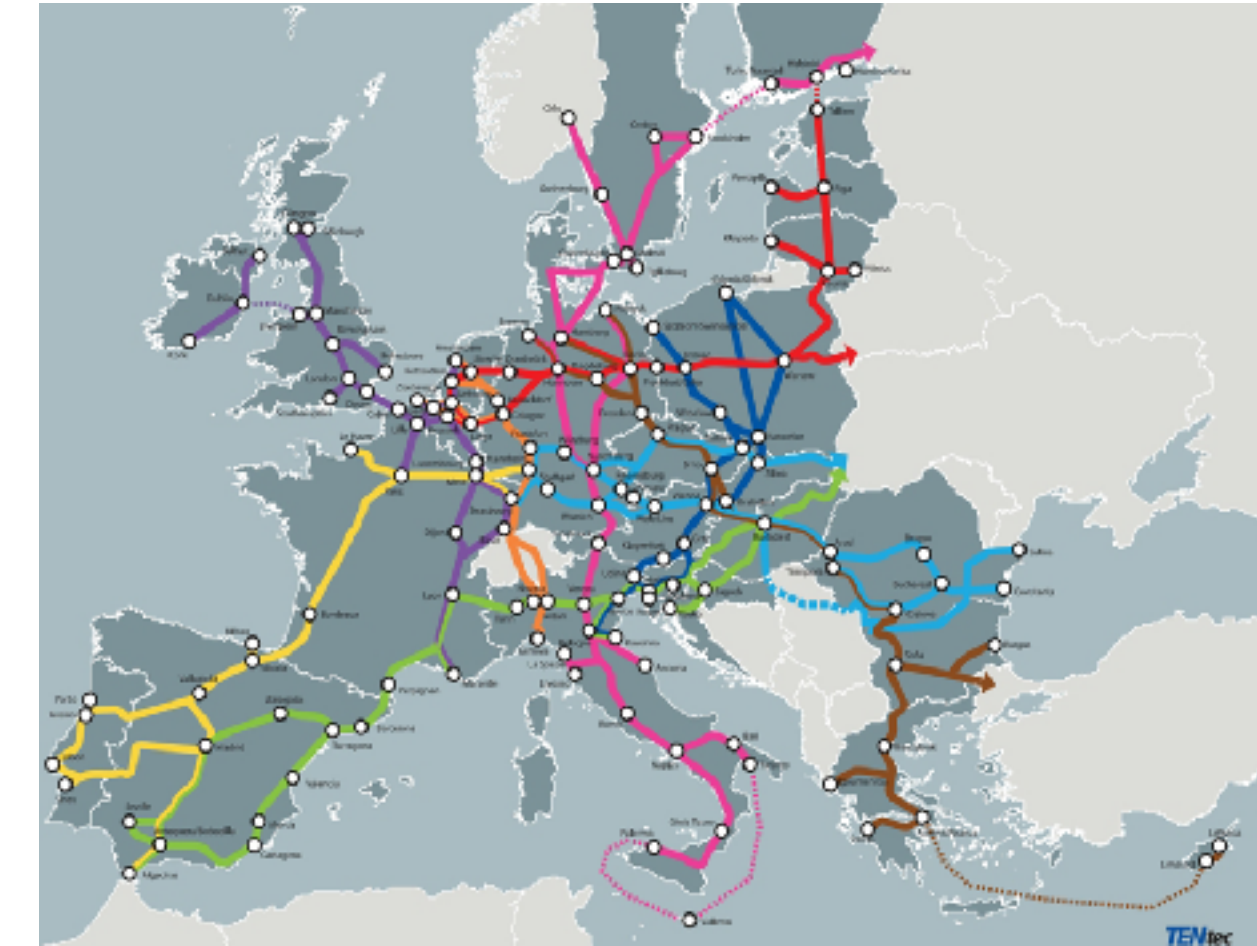
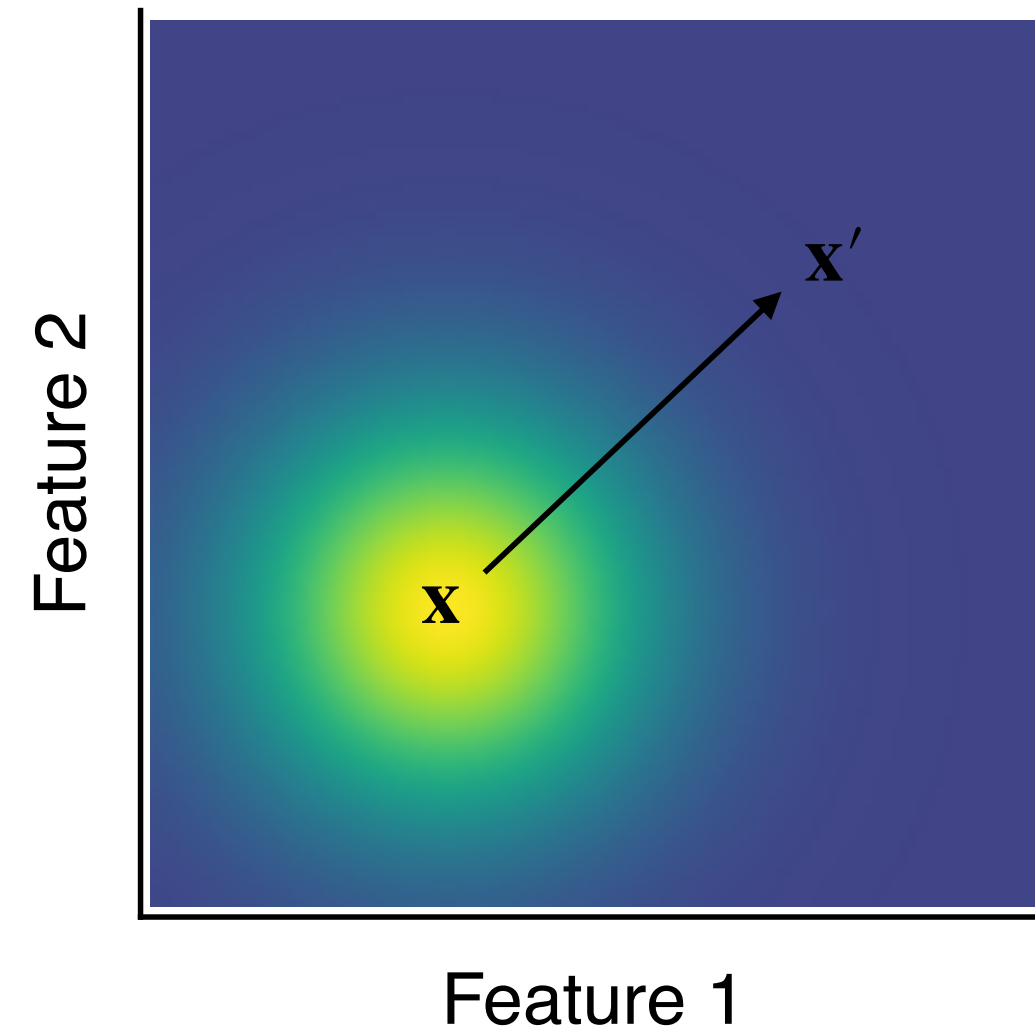
# From continuous to structured spaces



# From continuous to structured spaces

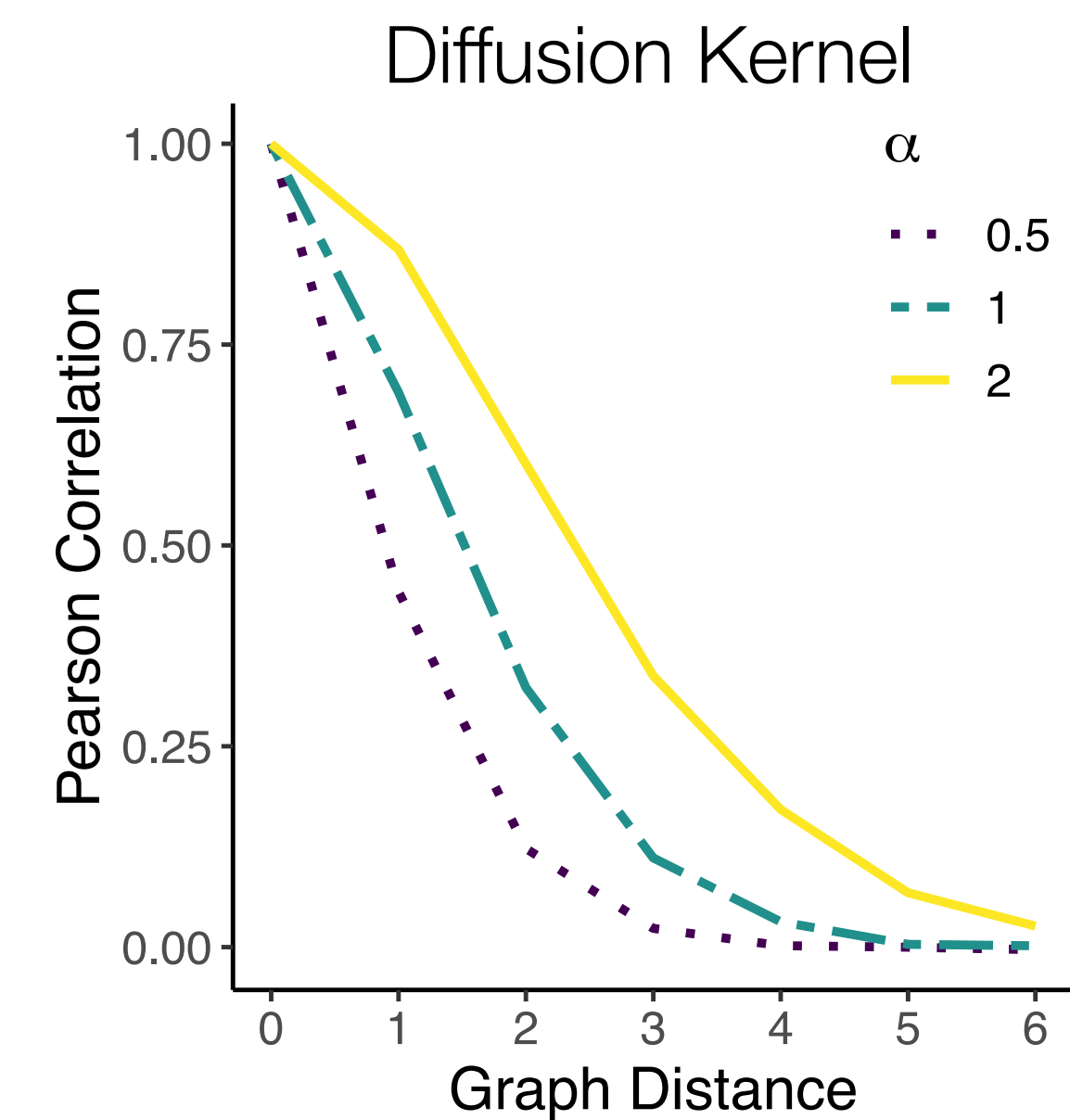
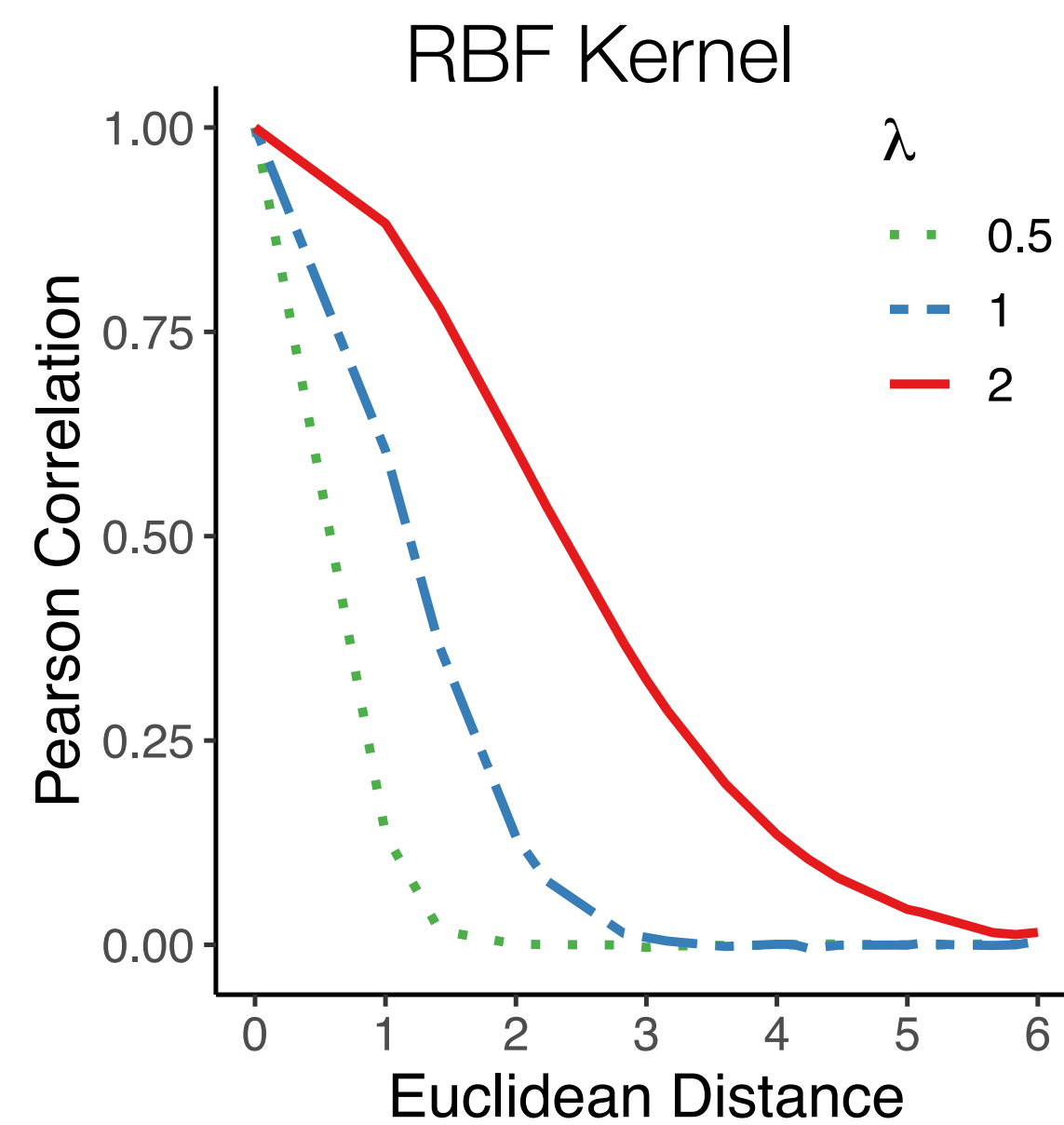
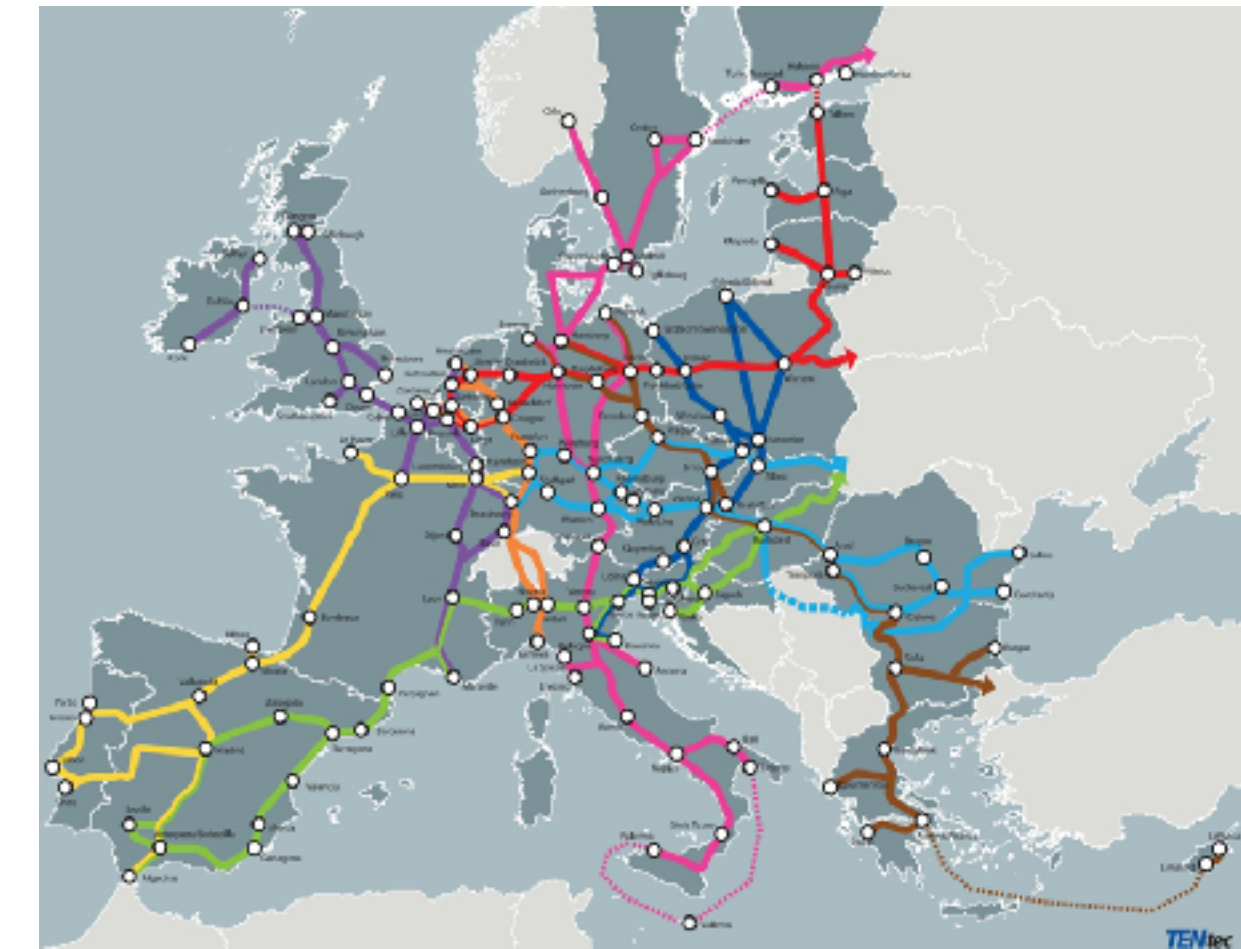
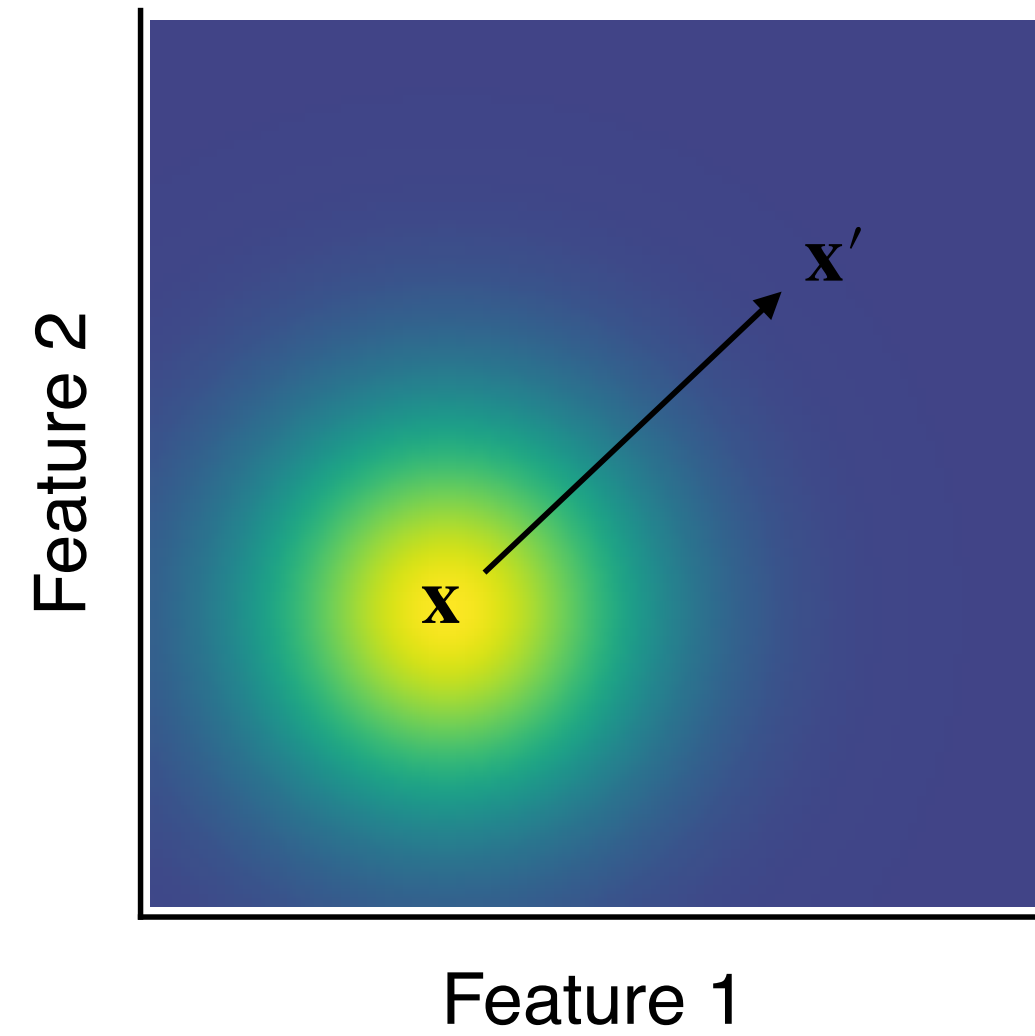


# From continuous to structured spaces

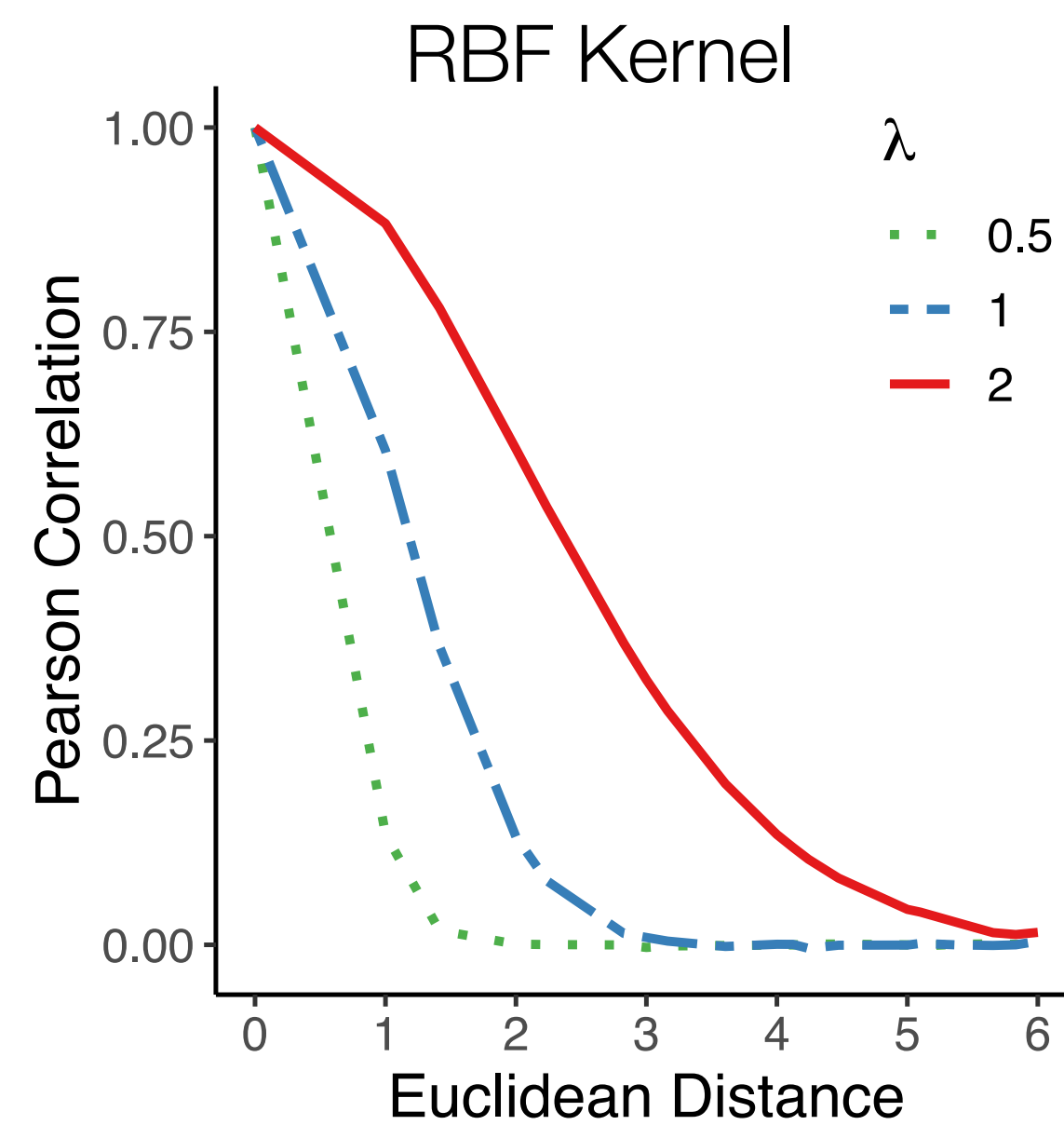
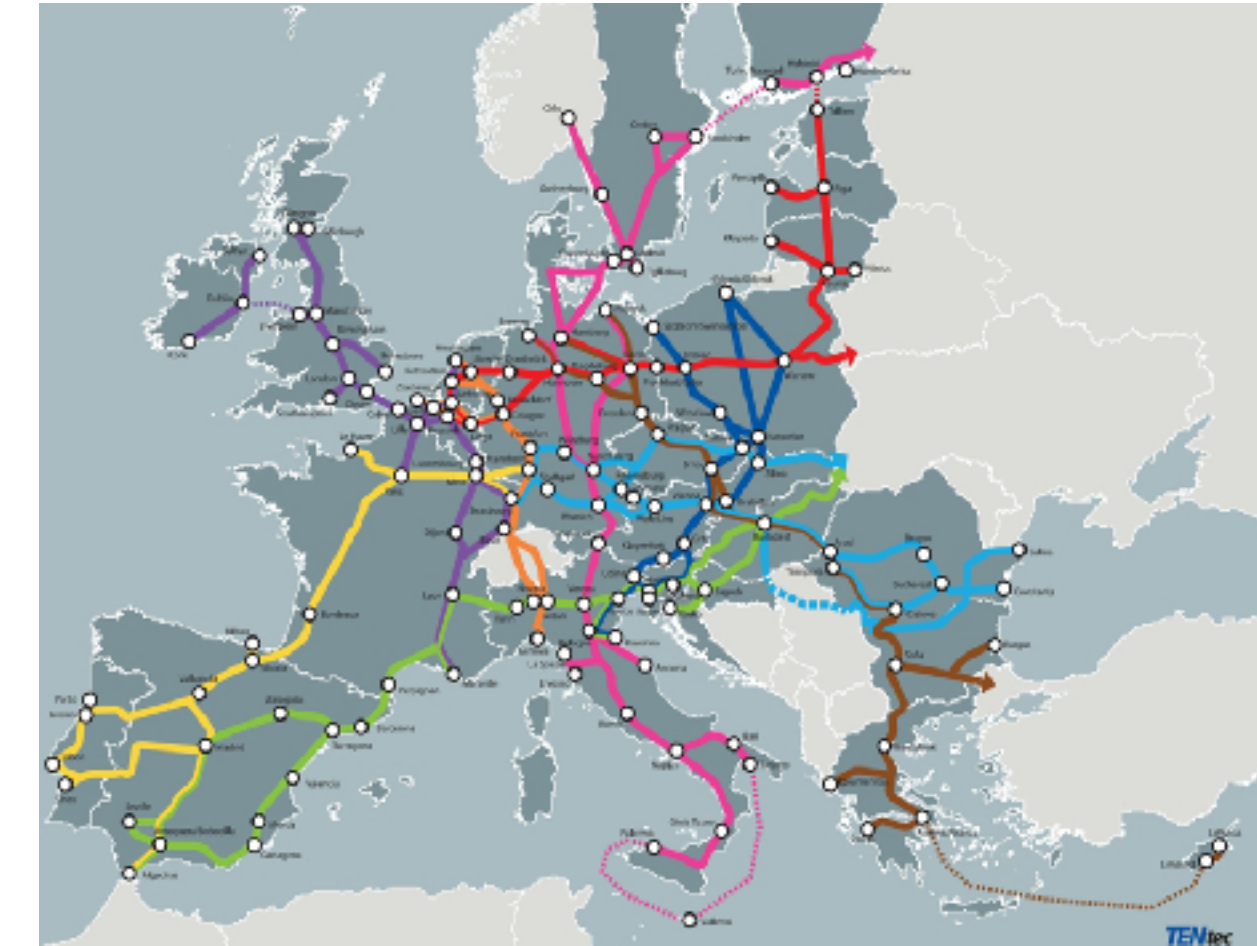
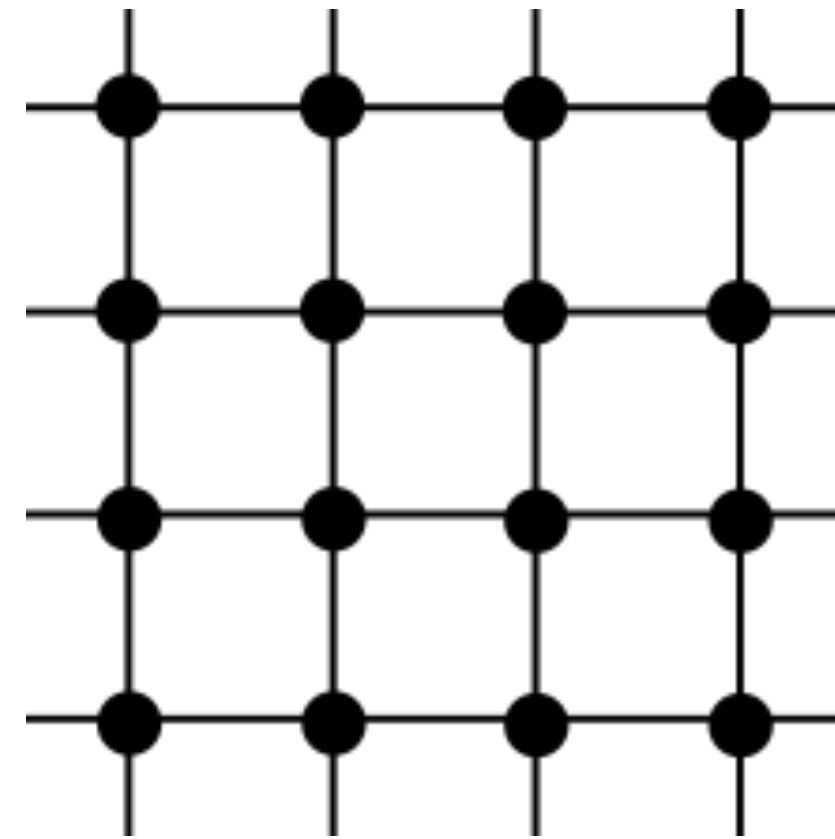
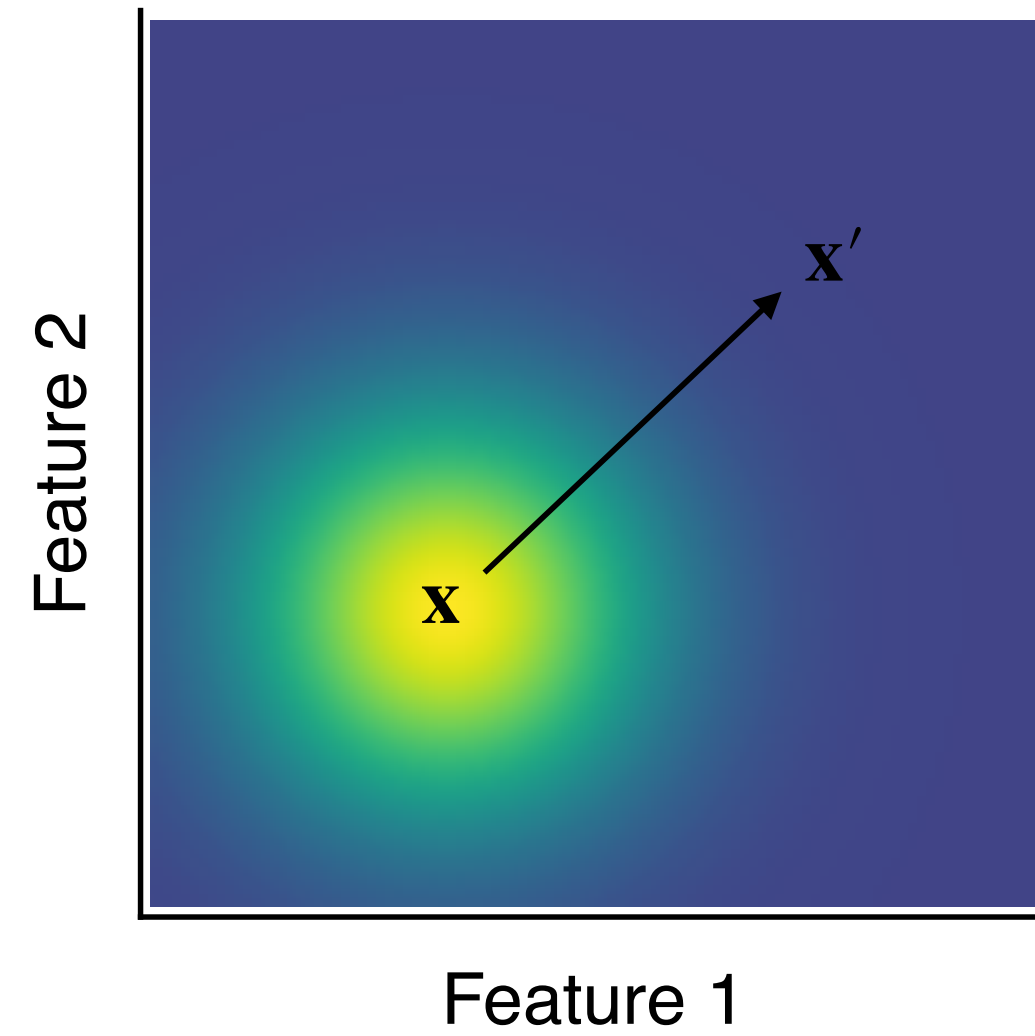




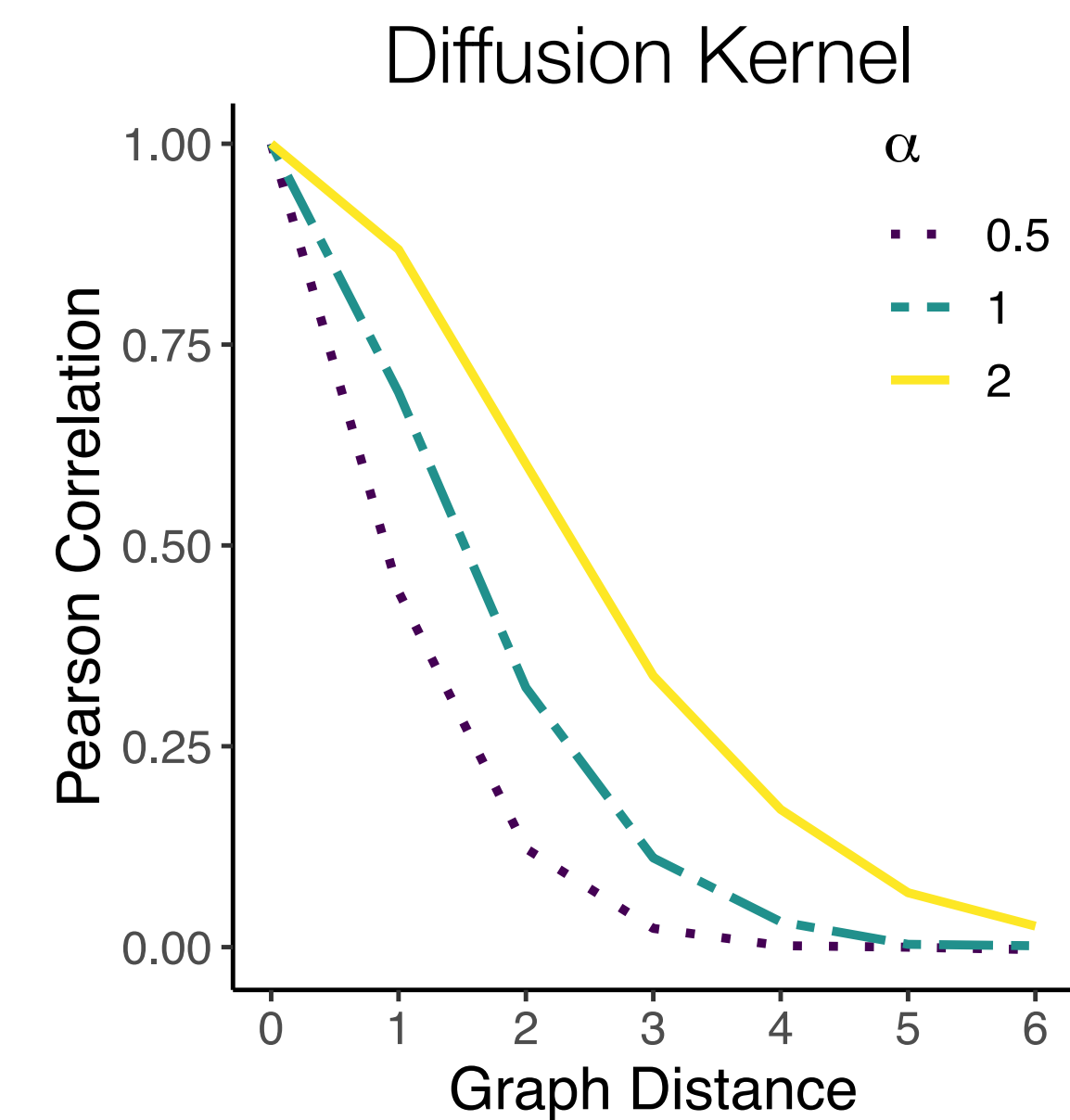
# From continuous to structured spaces



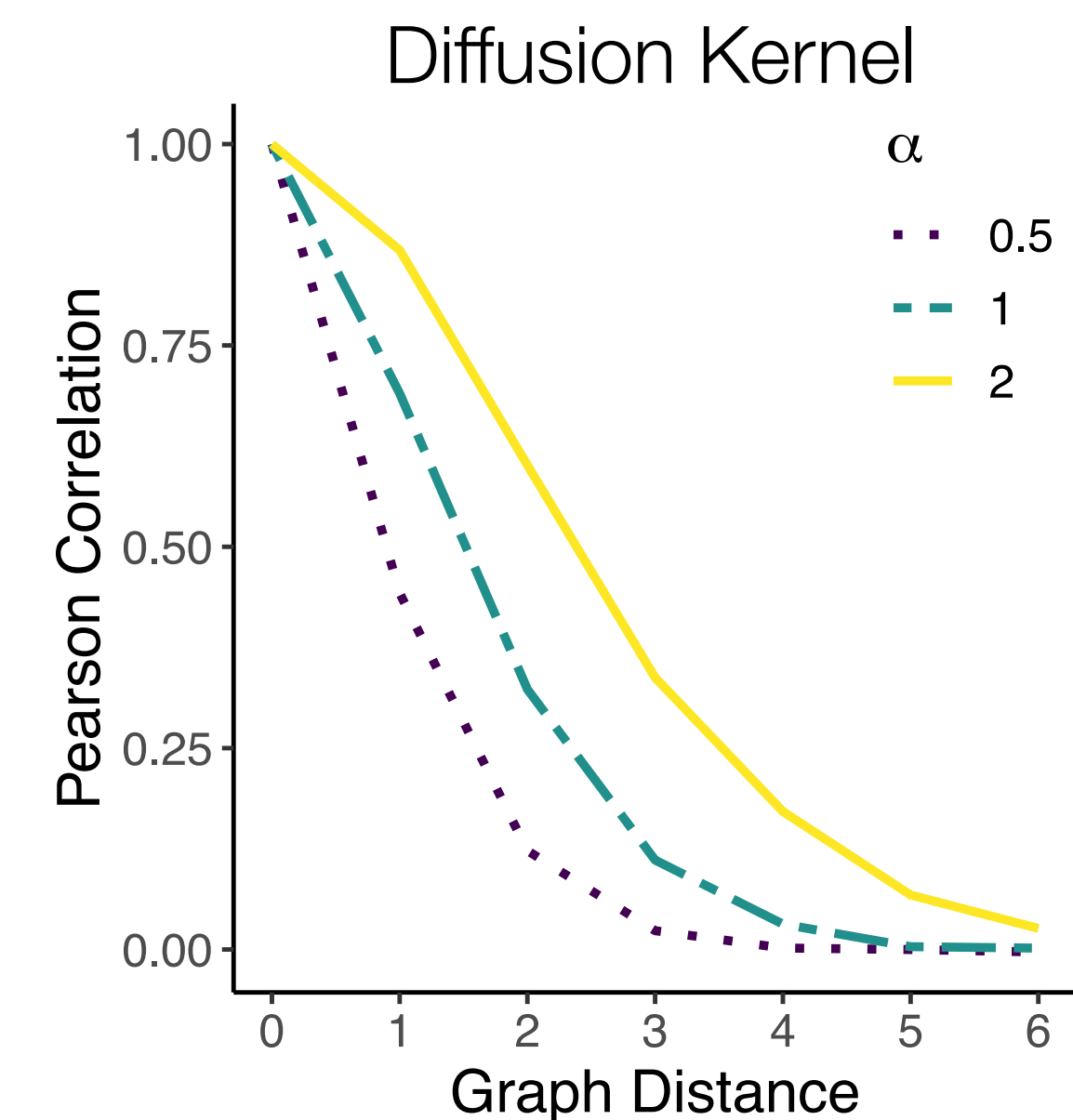
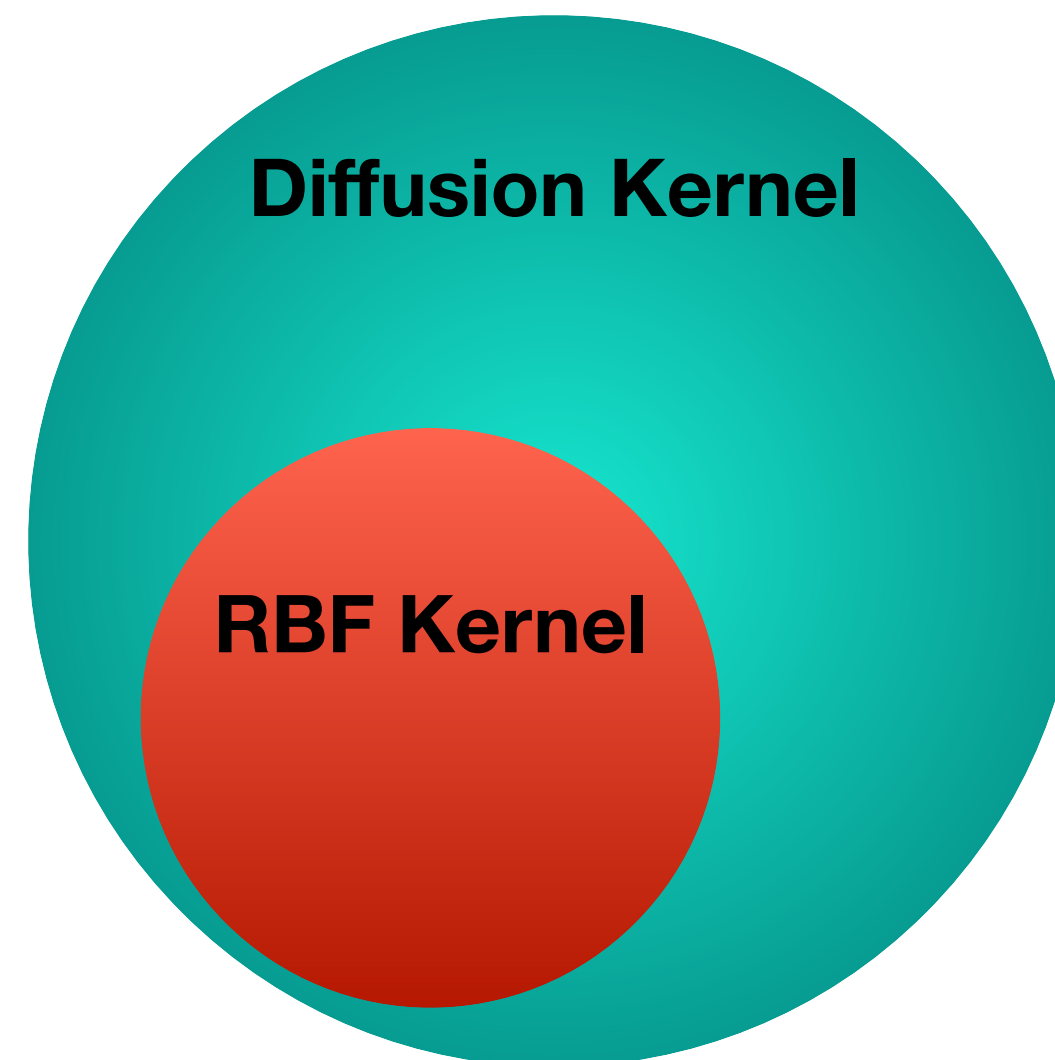
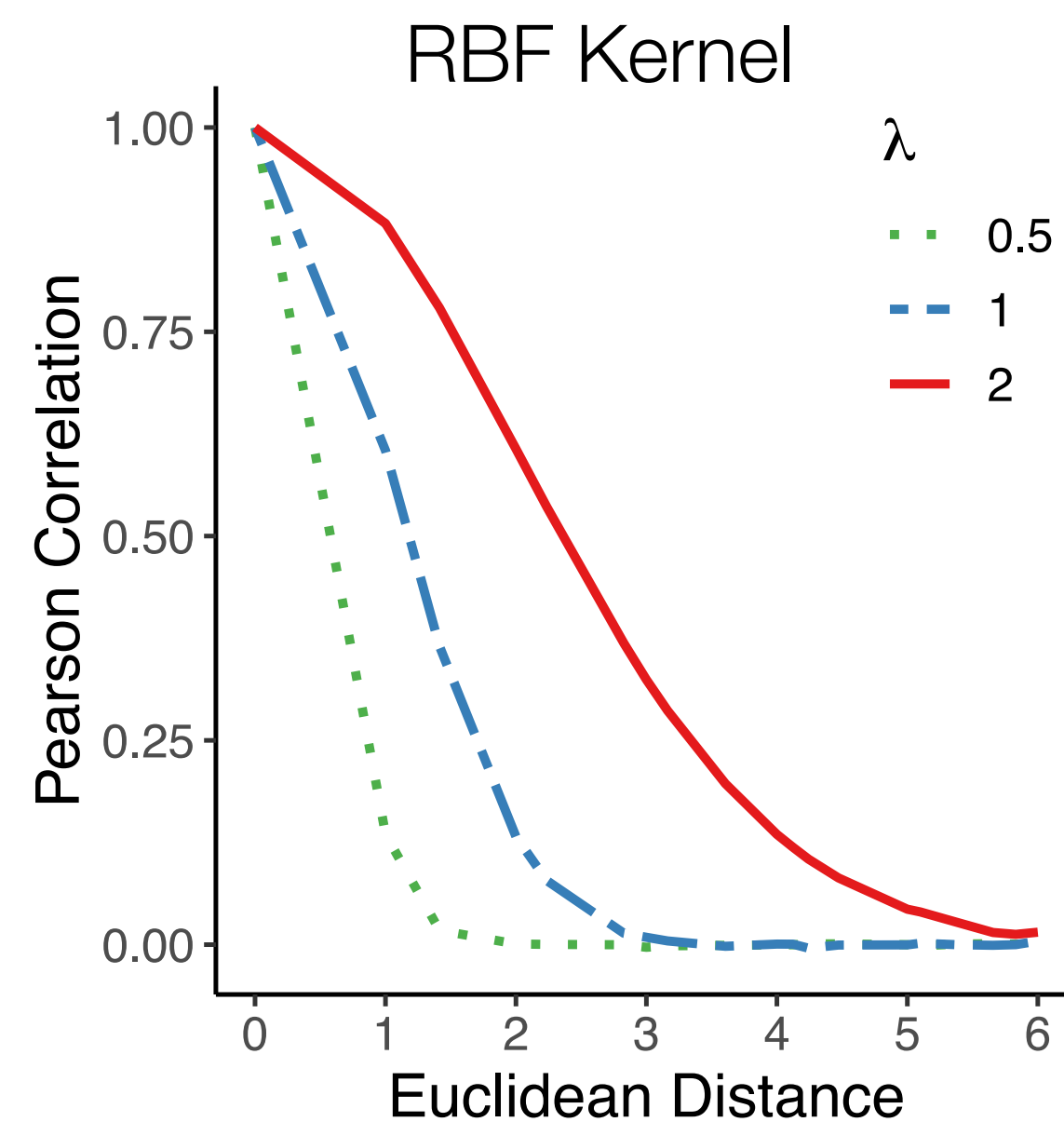
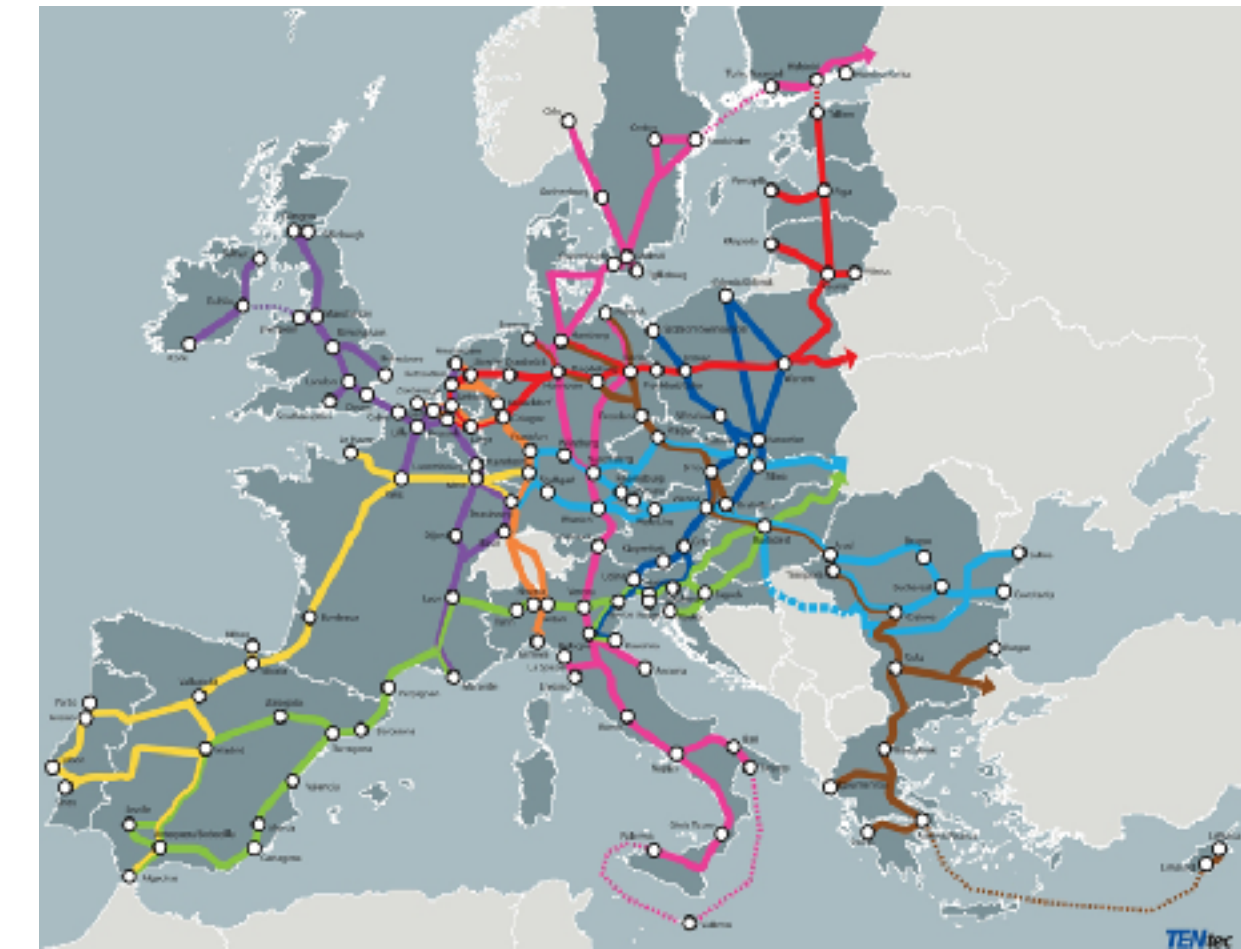
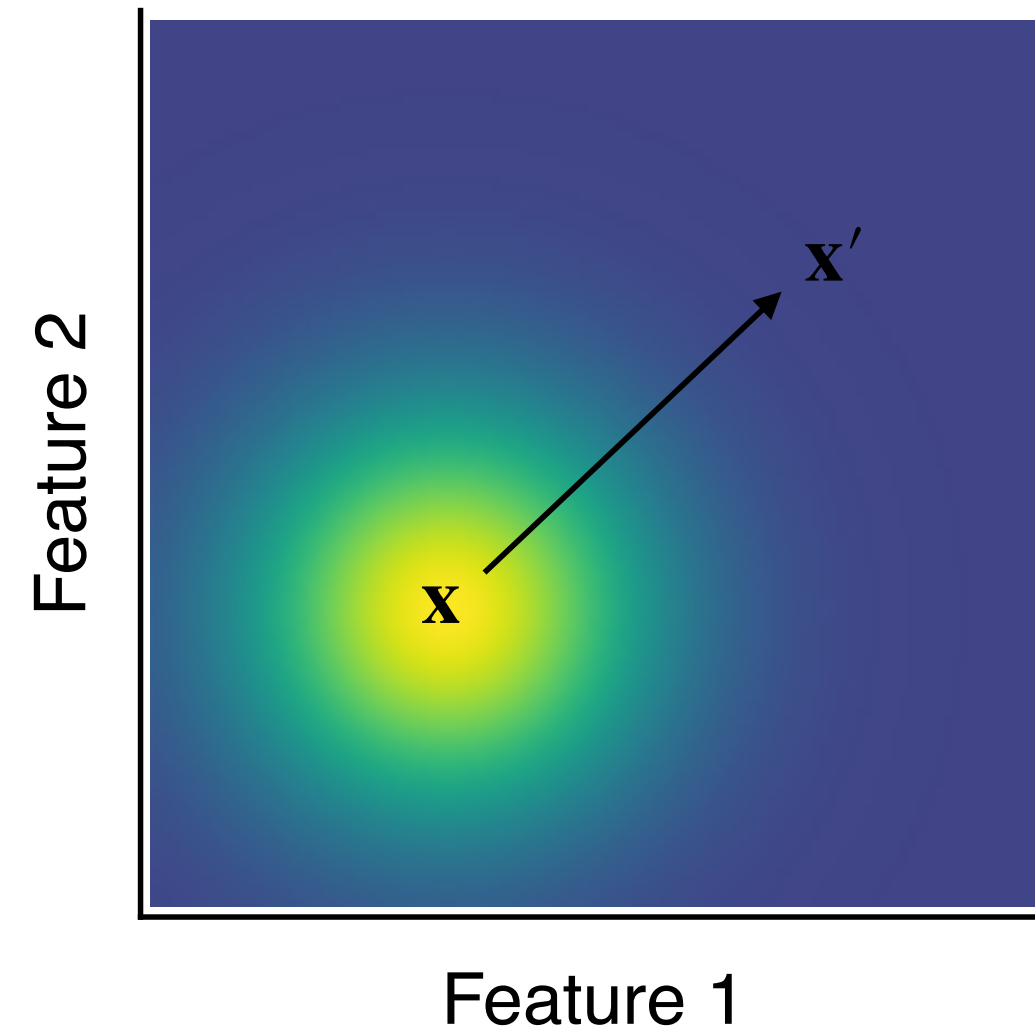
# From continuous to structured spaces



==



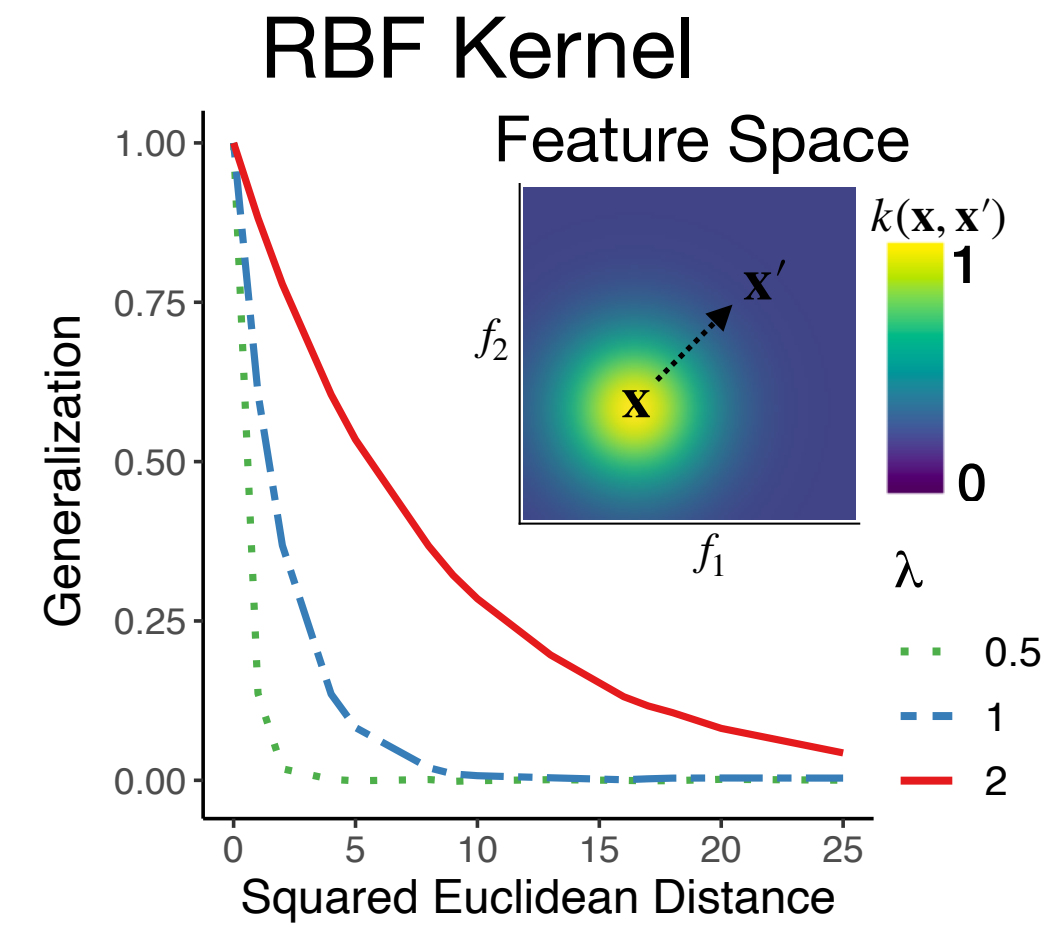
# From continuous to structured spaces





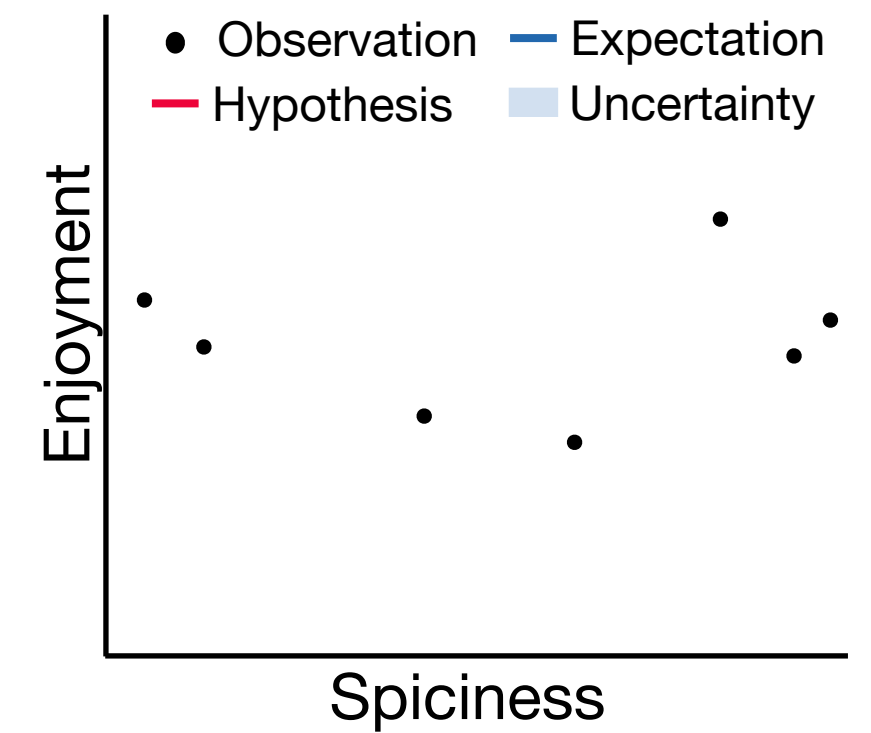
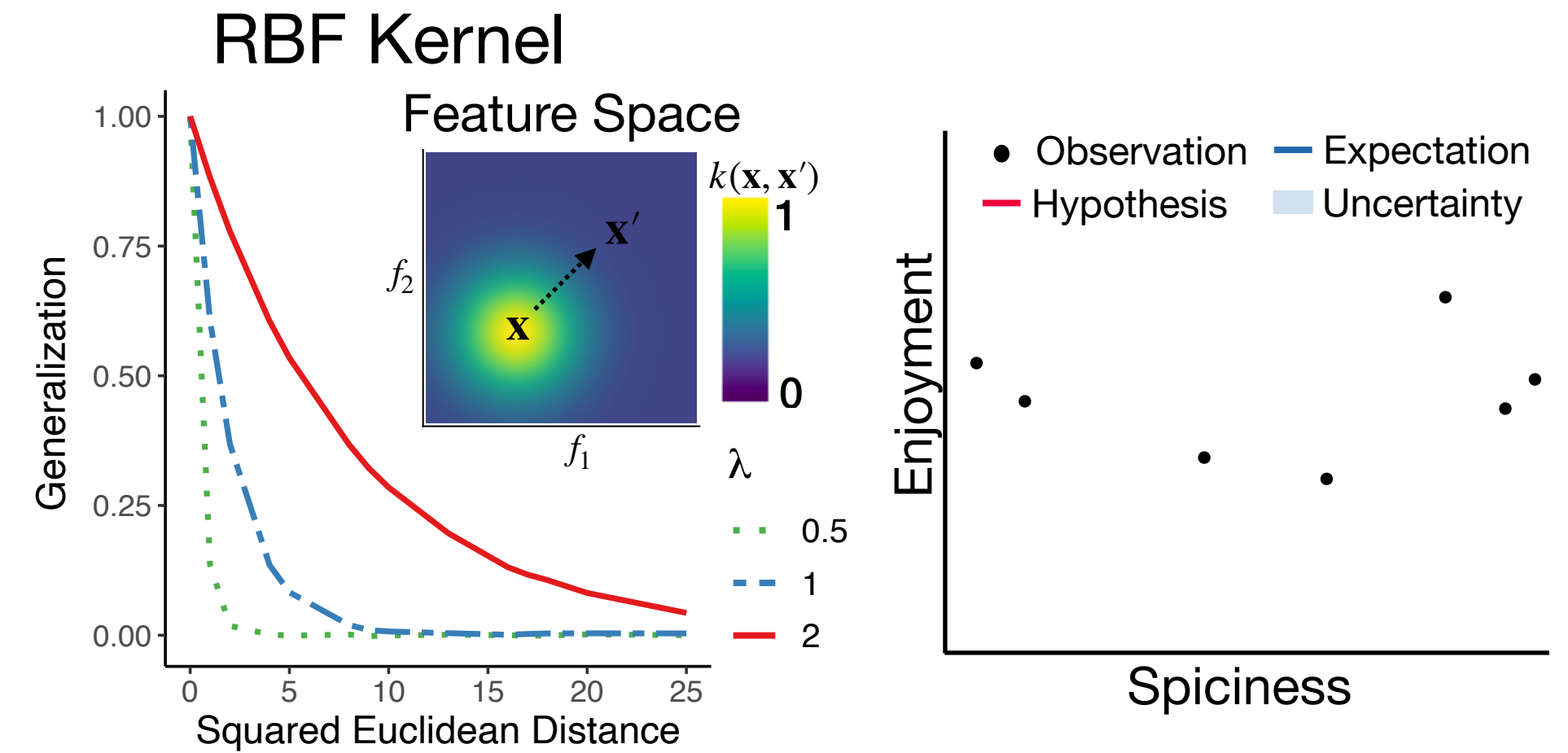
# Similarity can also capture relational structure

- The RBF kernel, like most classic accounts, represent similarity as distance in feature space
- Learns smooth functions in a continuous domain



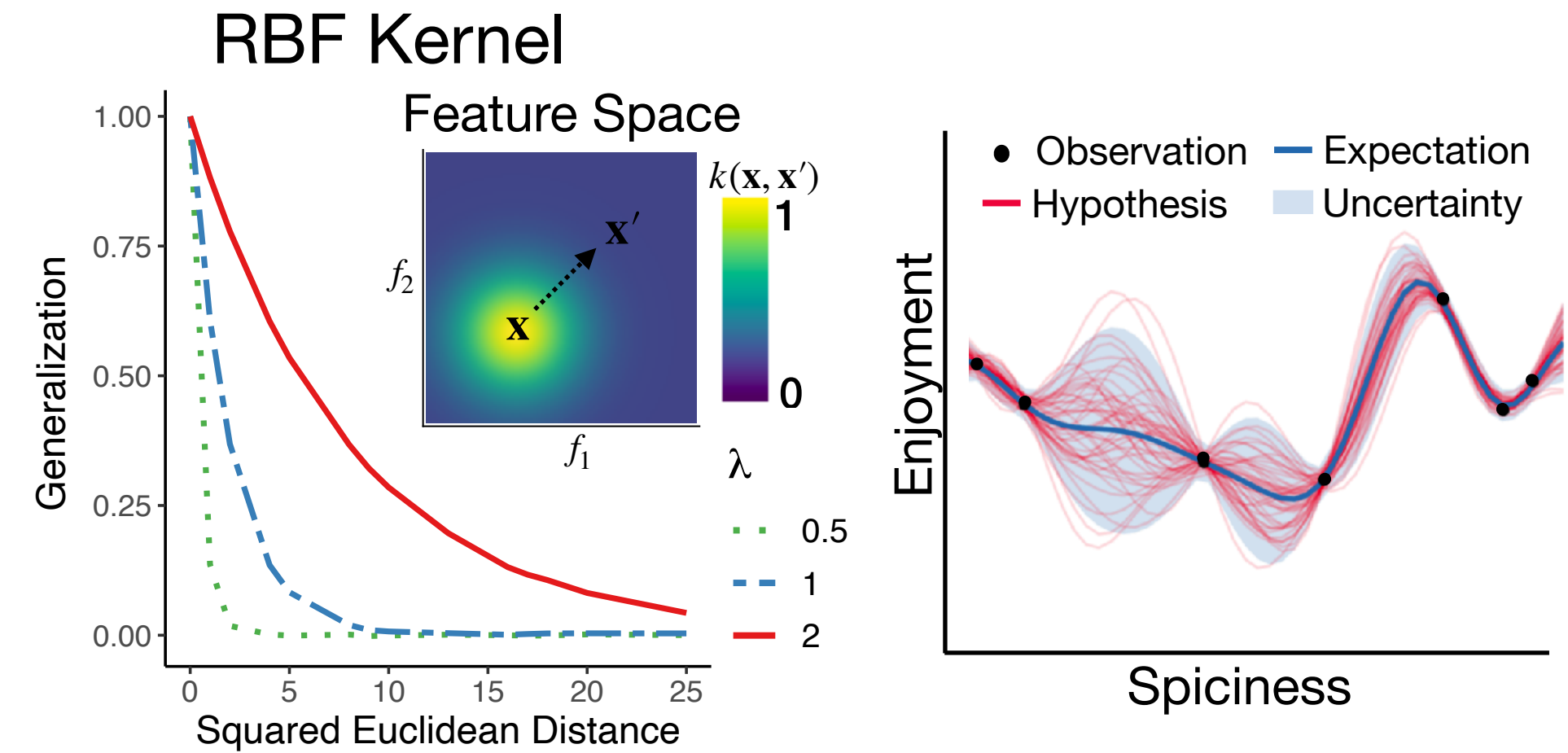
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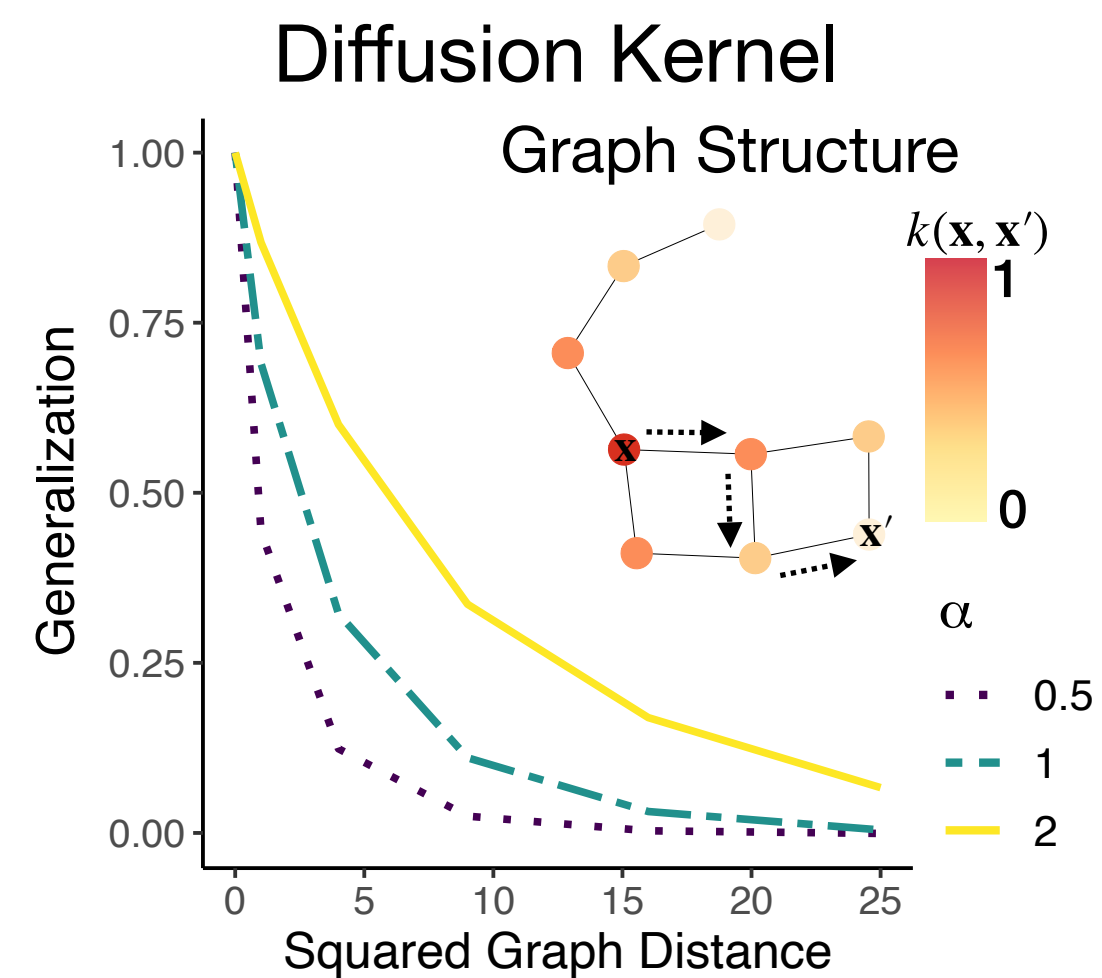
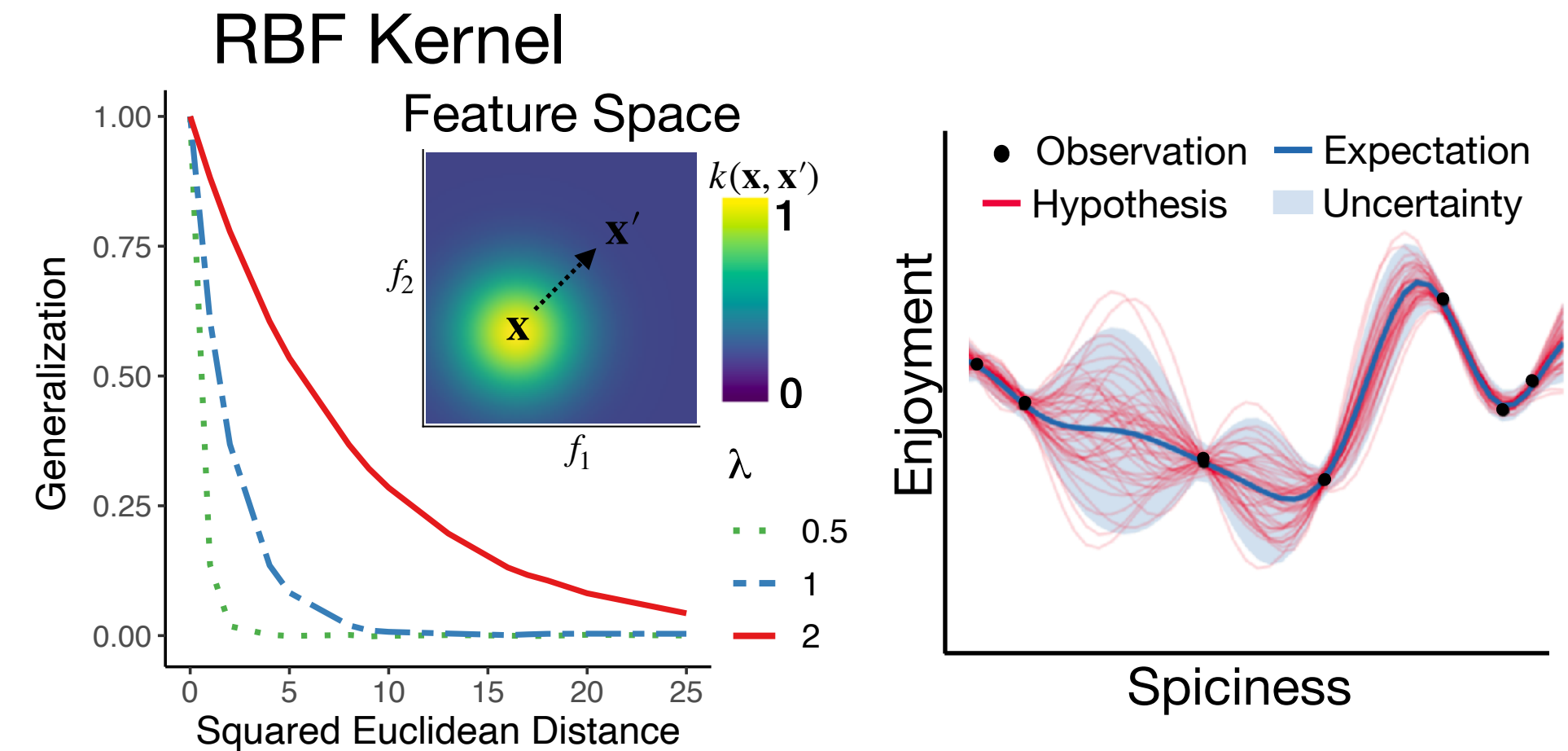
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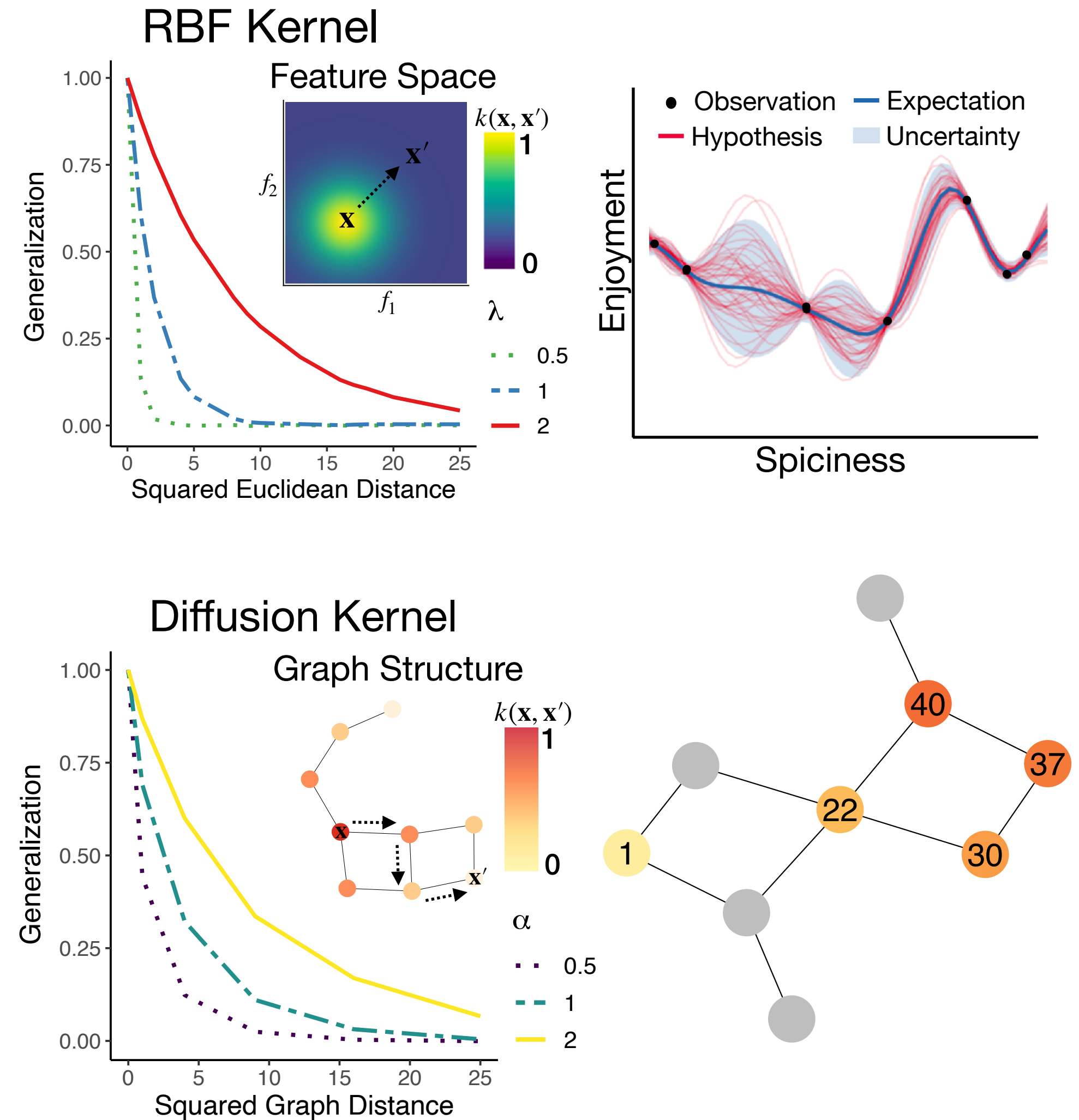
# Similarity can also capture relational structure

- The RBF kernel, like most classic accounts, represent similarity as distance in feature space
- Learns smooth functions in a continuous domain
- A diffusion kernel represents similarity based on the connectivity of a graph
- Learns functions on discrete graph representations



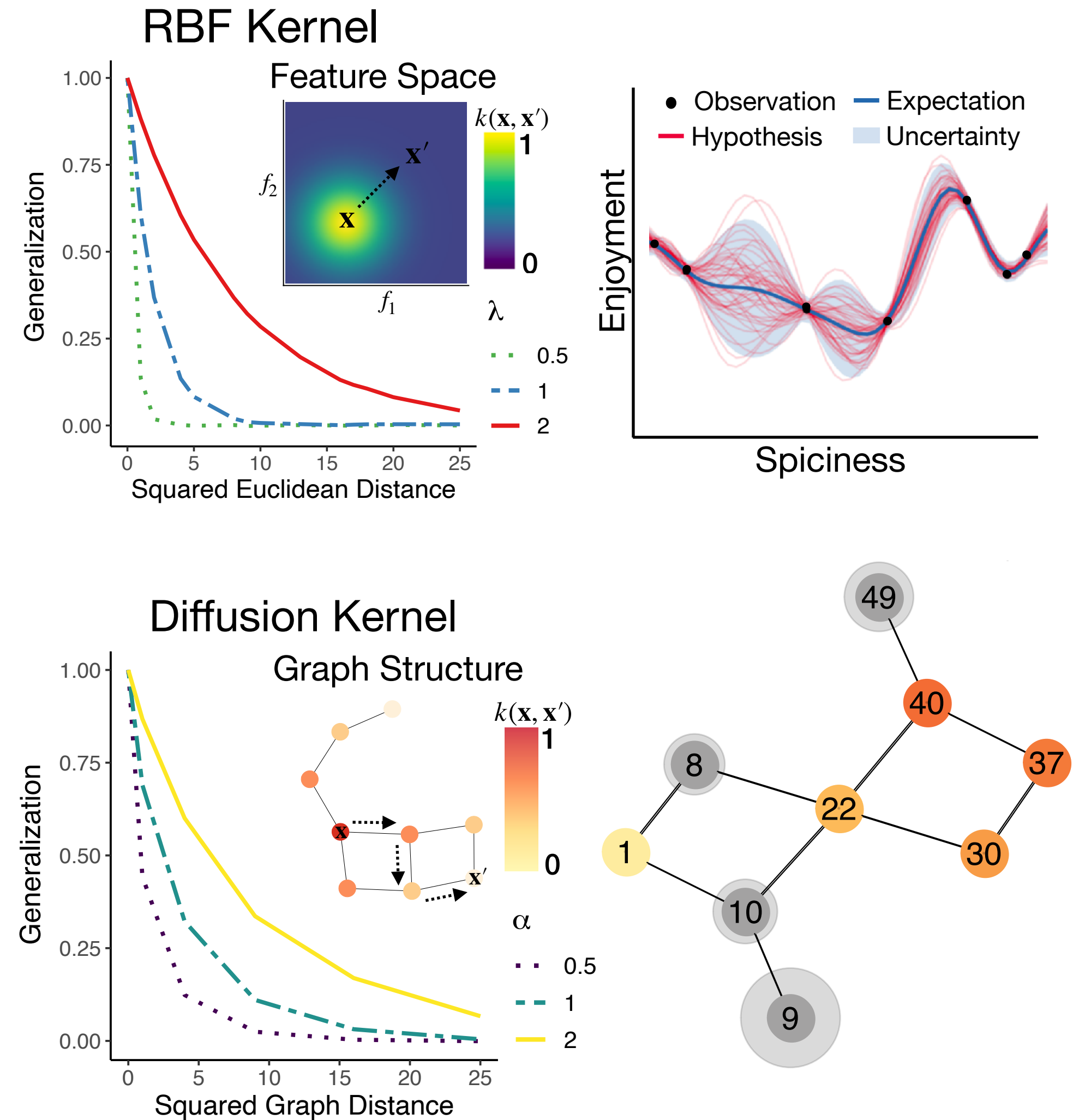
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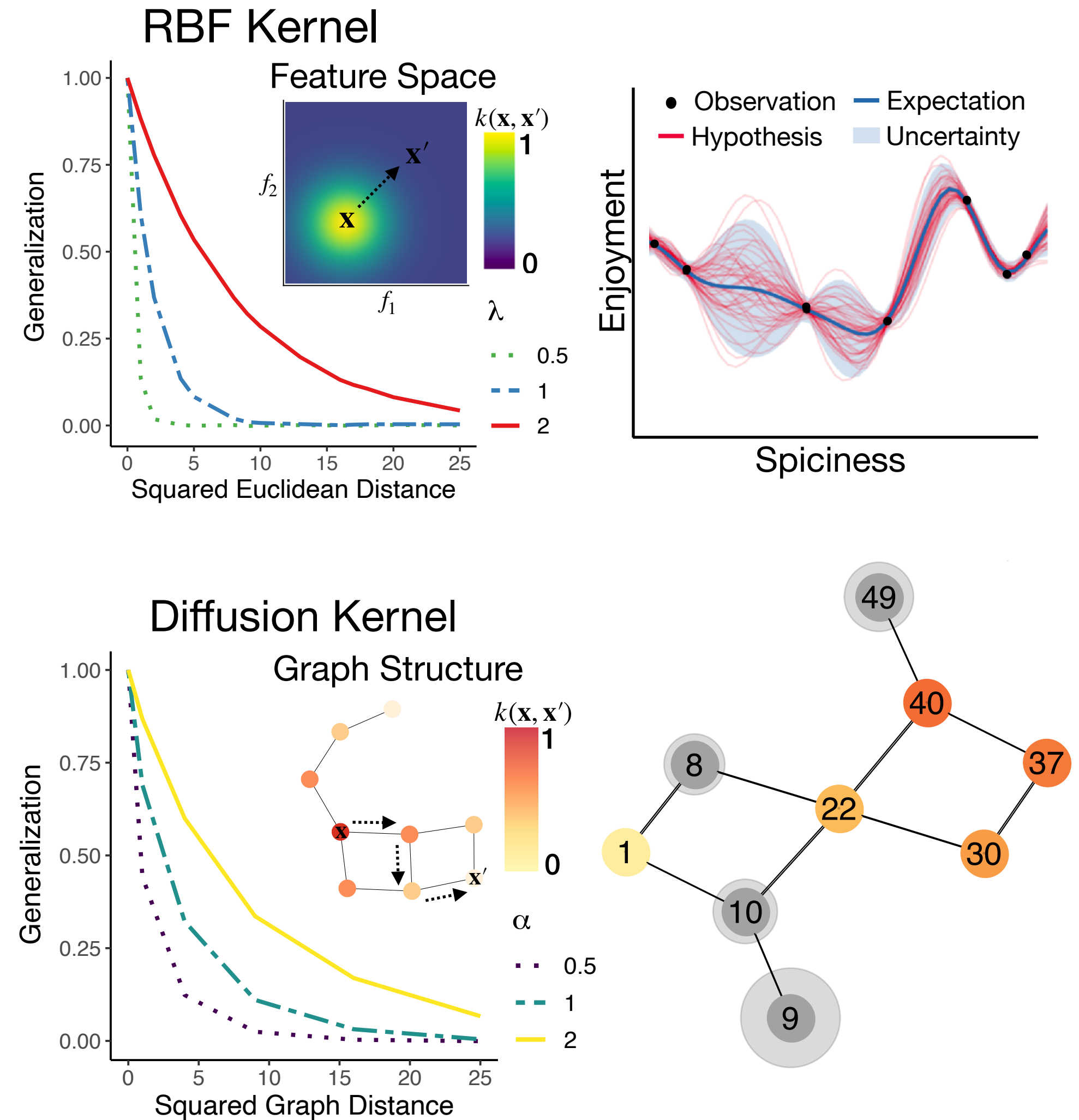
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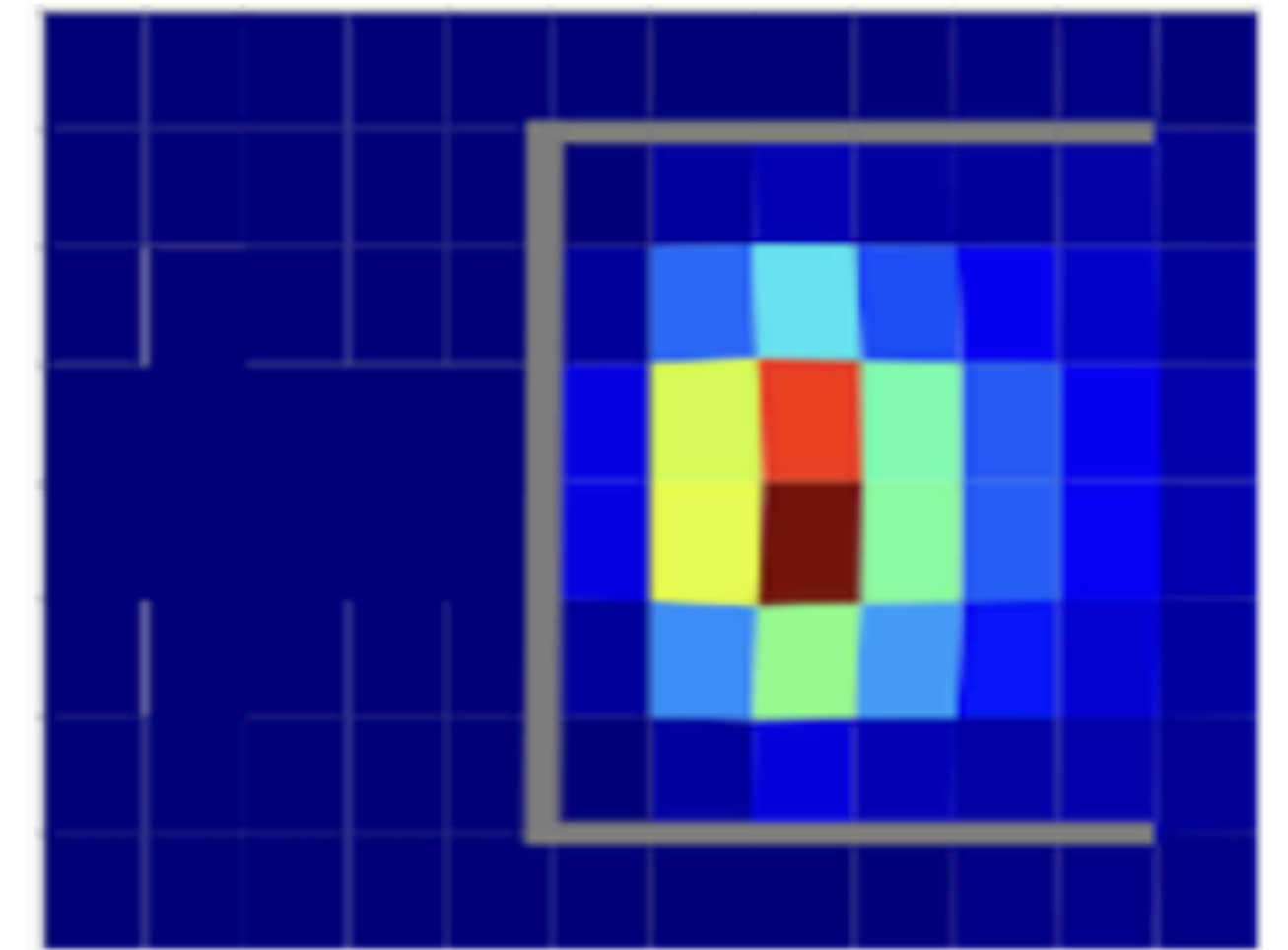
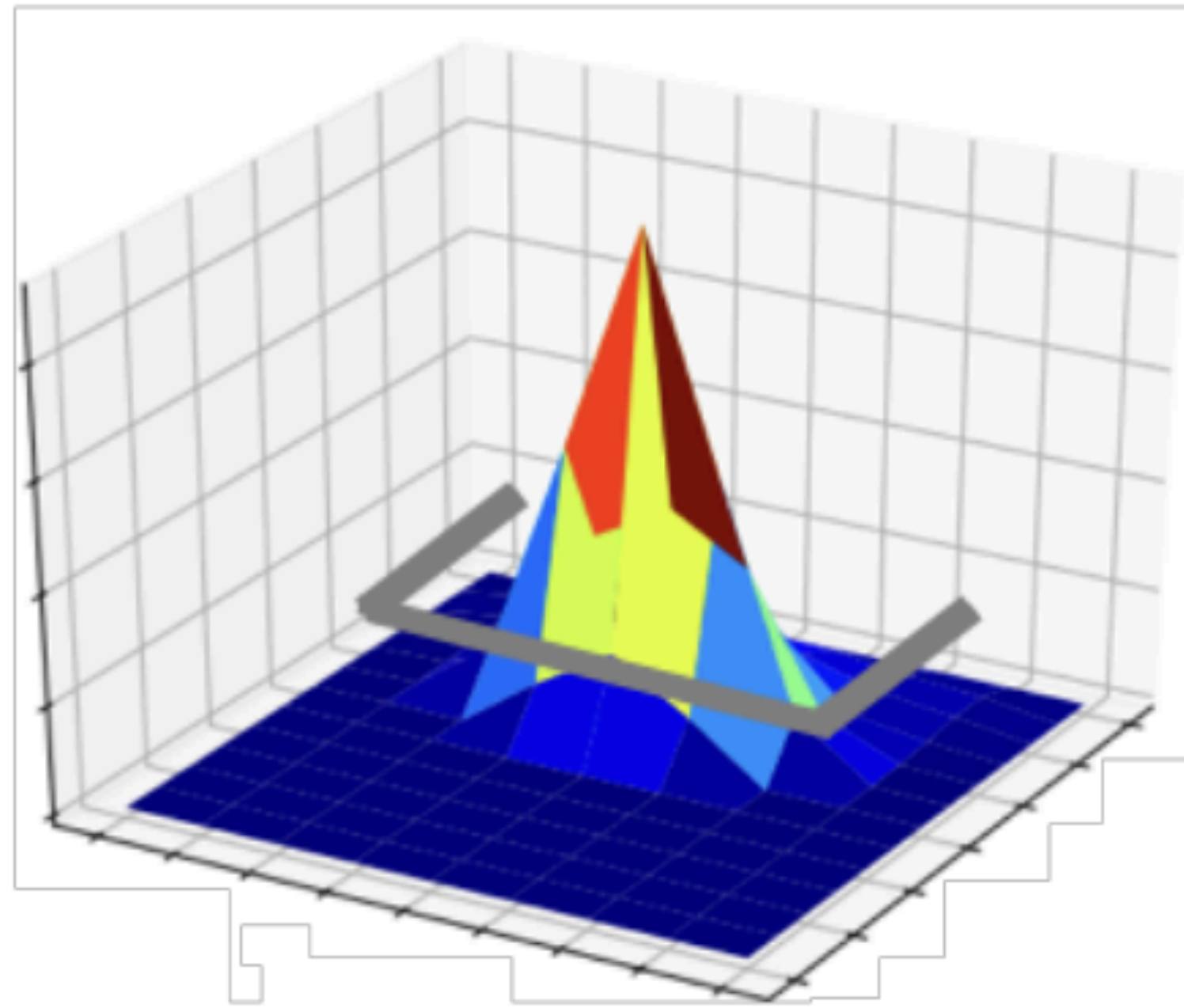
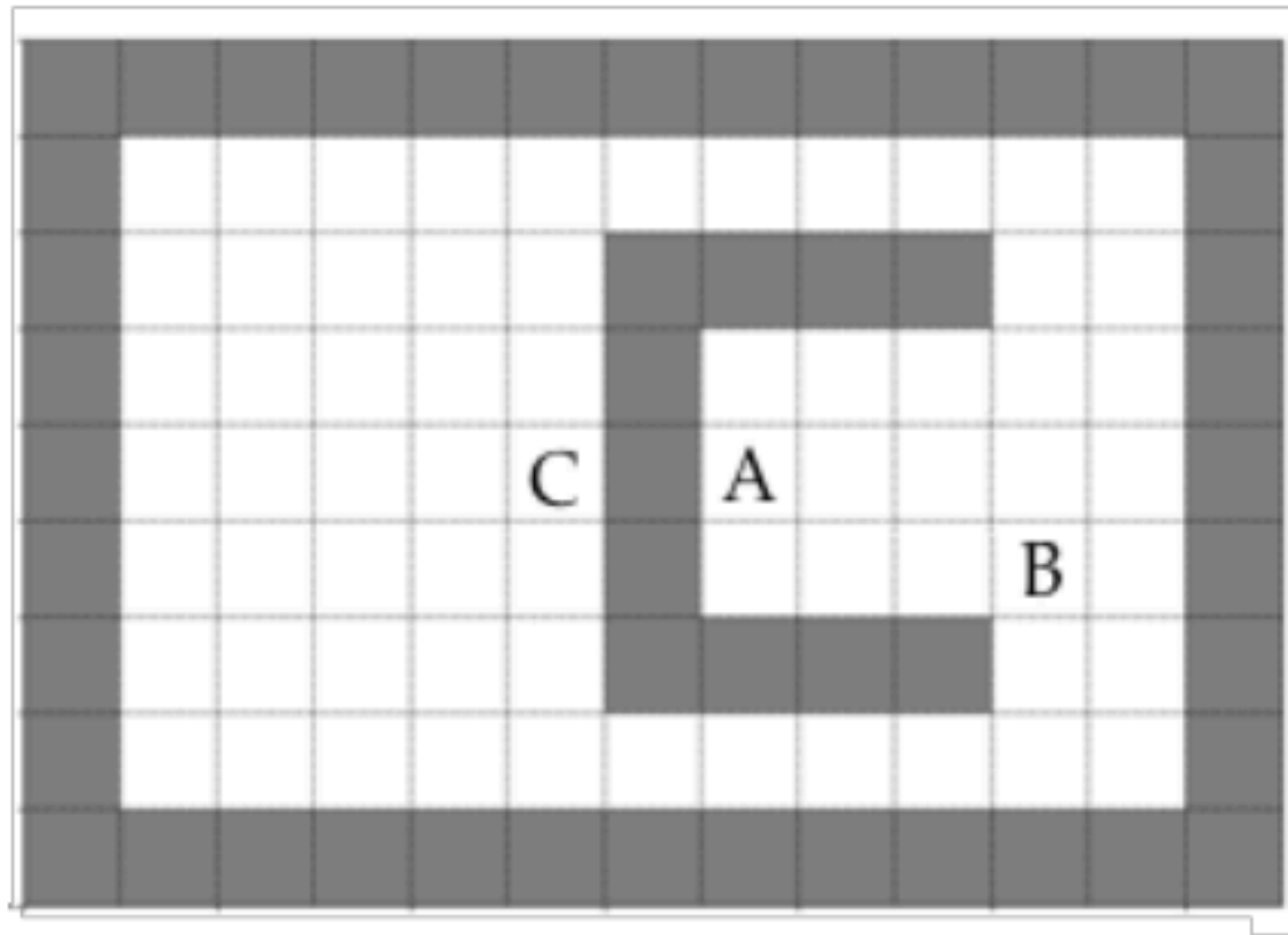


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- The RBF kernel, like most classic accounts, represent similarity as distance in feature space
- Learns smooth functions in a continuous domain
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- Learns functions on discrete graph representations
- RBF kernel = Diffusion kernel in the limit of an infinitely fine lattice graph



# Generalization based on transition dynamics



Machado et al. (ICLR 2018)

- A indicates a reward
- Even though C is closer than B, the transition dynamics of the environment make it easier for B to reach A

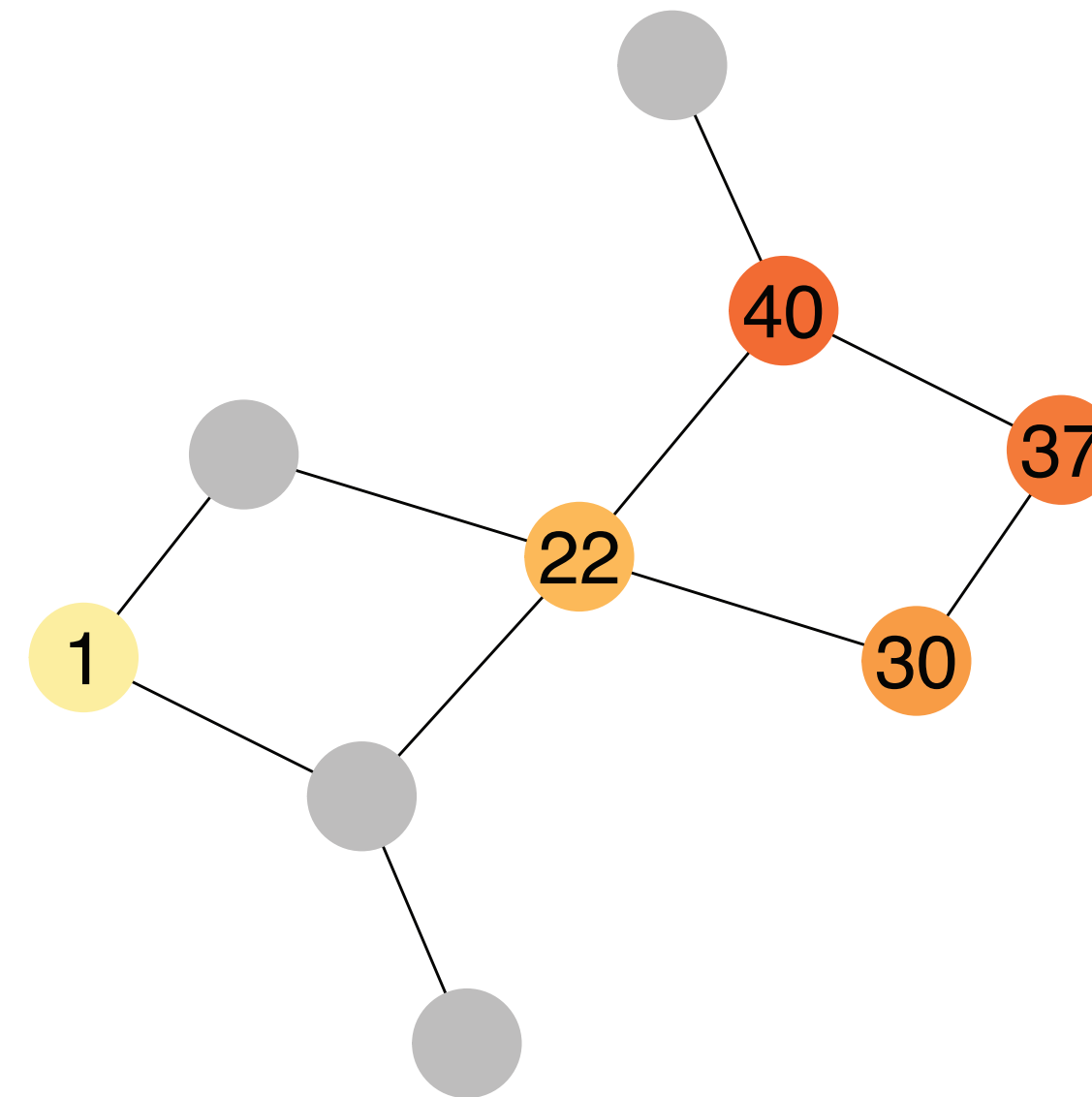
# Diffusion Kernel

- Rather than similarity between features, we use the connectivity structure of the graph to define similarity

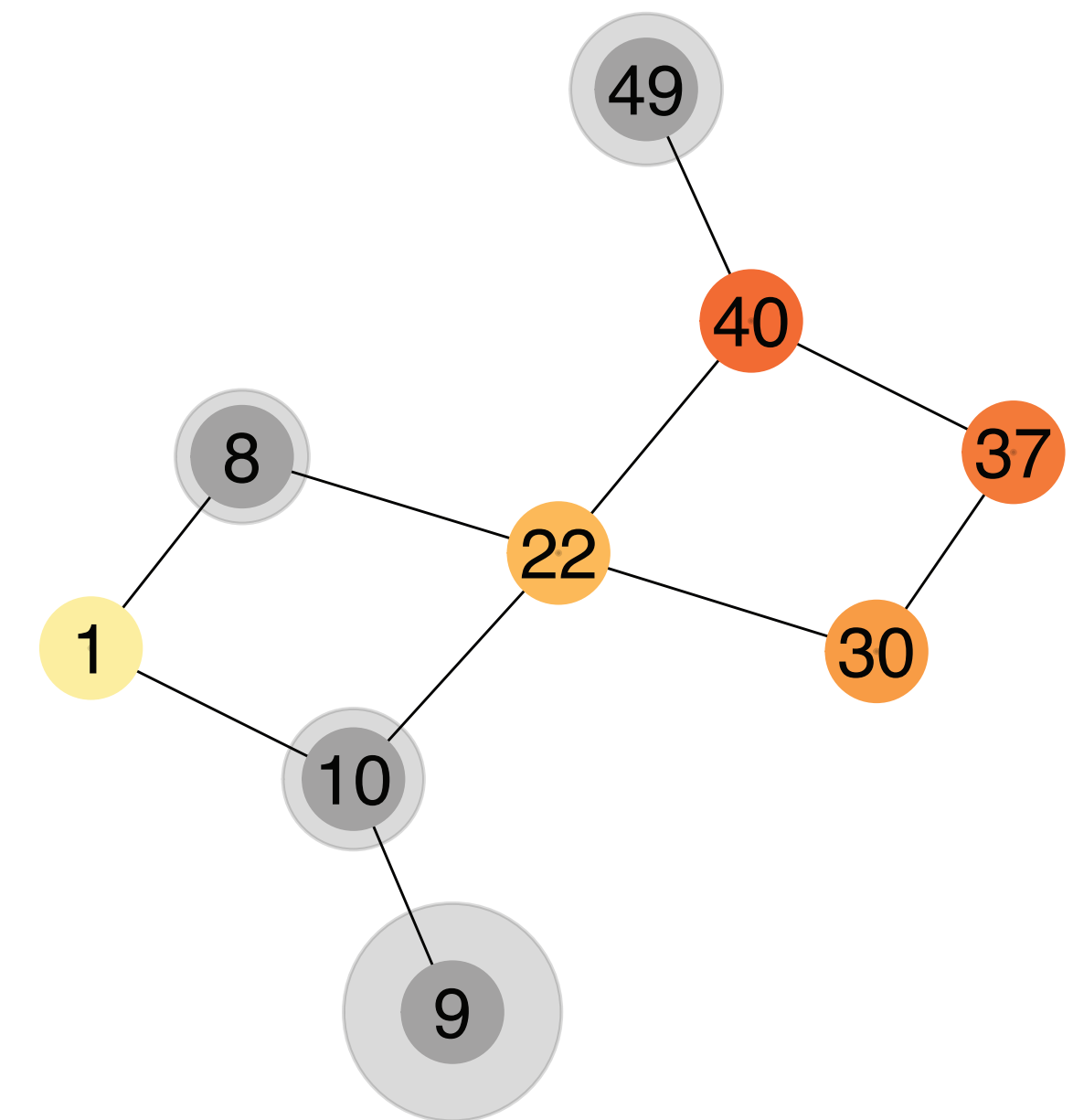
$$k_{DF}(s, s') = \exp(-\alpha L)$$

- Where  $L$  is the graph Laplacian
- $\alpha$  is a free parameter (diffusion level)
- The diffusion kernel assumes function values diffuse across the graph according to a random walk

Observations



Predictions (with uncertainty)



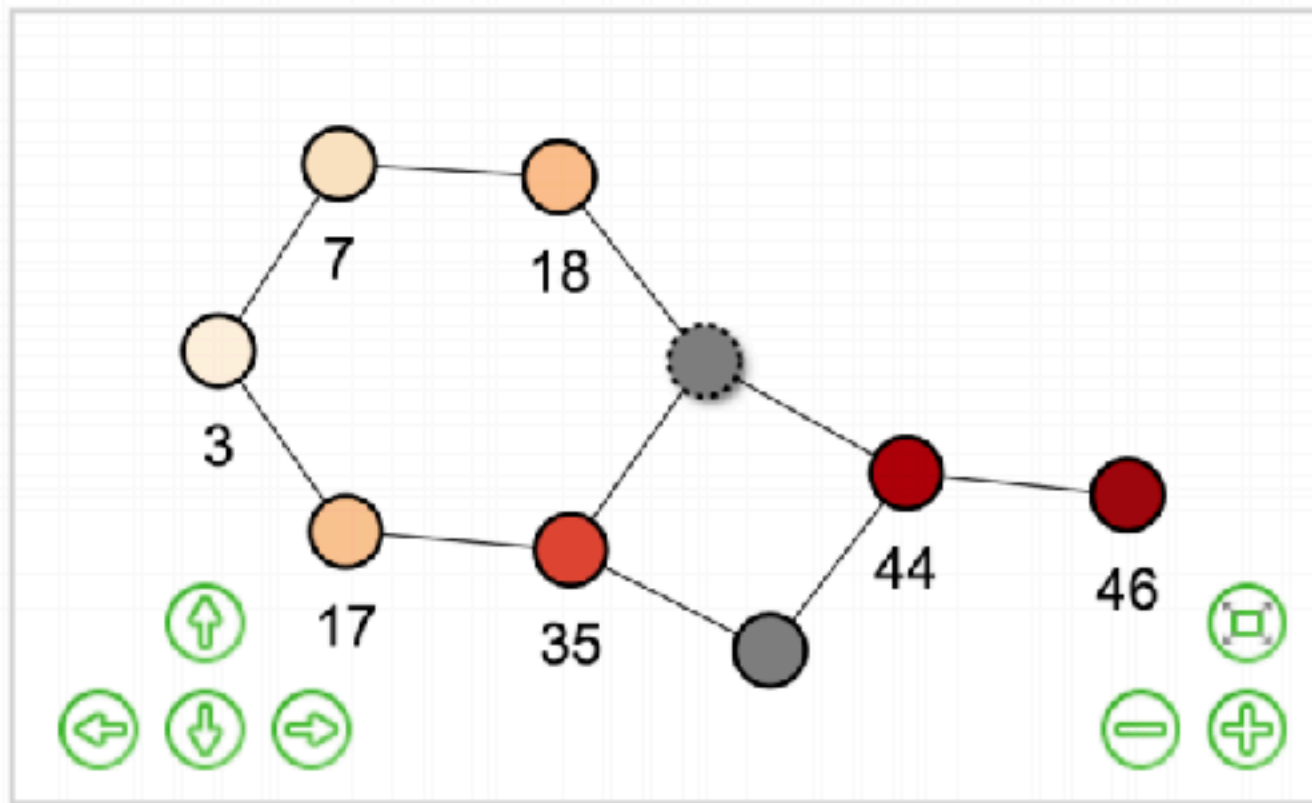


# Experiment 1

## Prediction Task

Current Network: 4/30

Current Weighted Error: 10.19



How many passengers do you think will be observed at the selected station?



How confident are you?



Submit

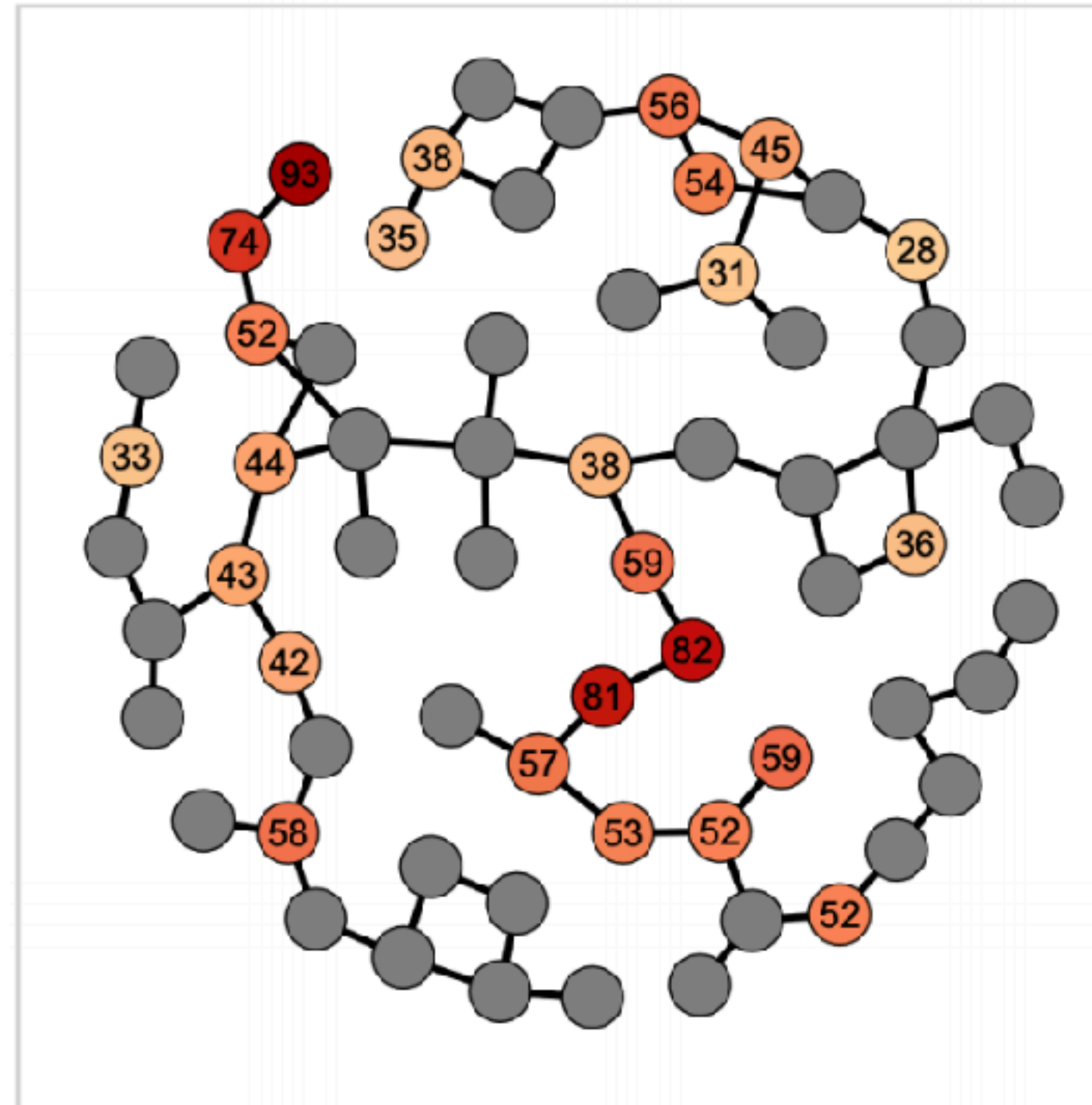
# Experiment 2

## Bandit Task

Current Score: 1296

Clicks remaining: 1

Current round: 1/10



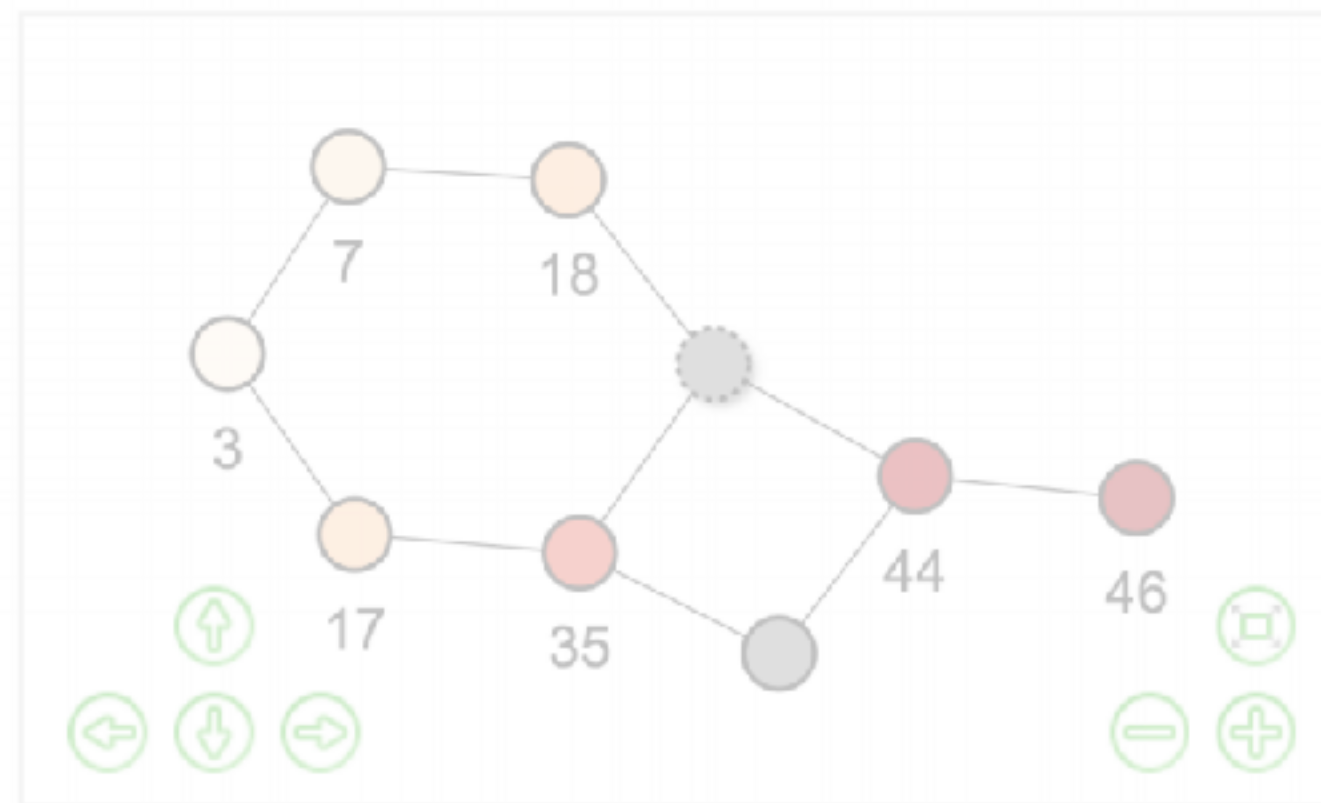
## Bonus Round

# Experiment 1

## Prediction Task

Current Network: 4/30

Current Weighted Error: 10.19



How many passengers do you think will be observed at the selected station?



How confident are you?



Submit

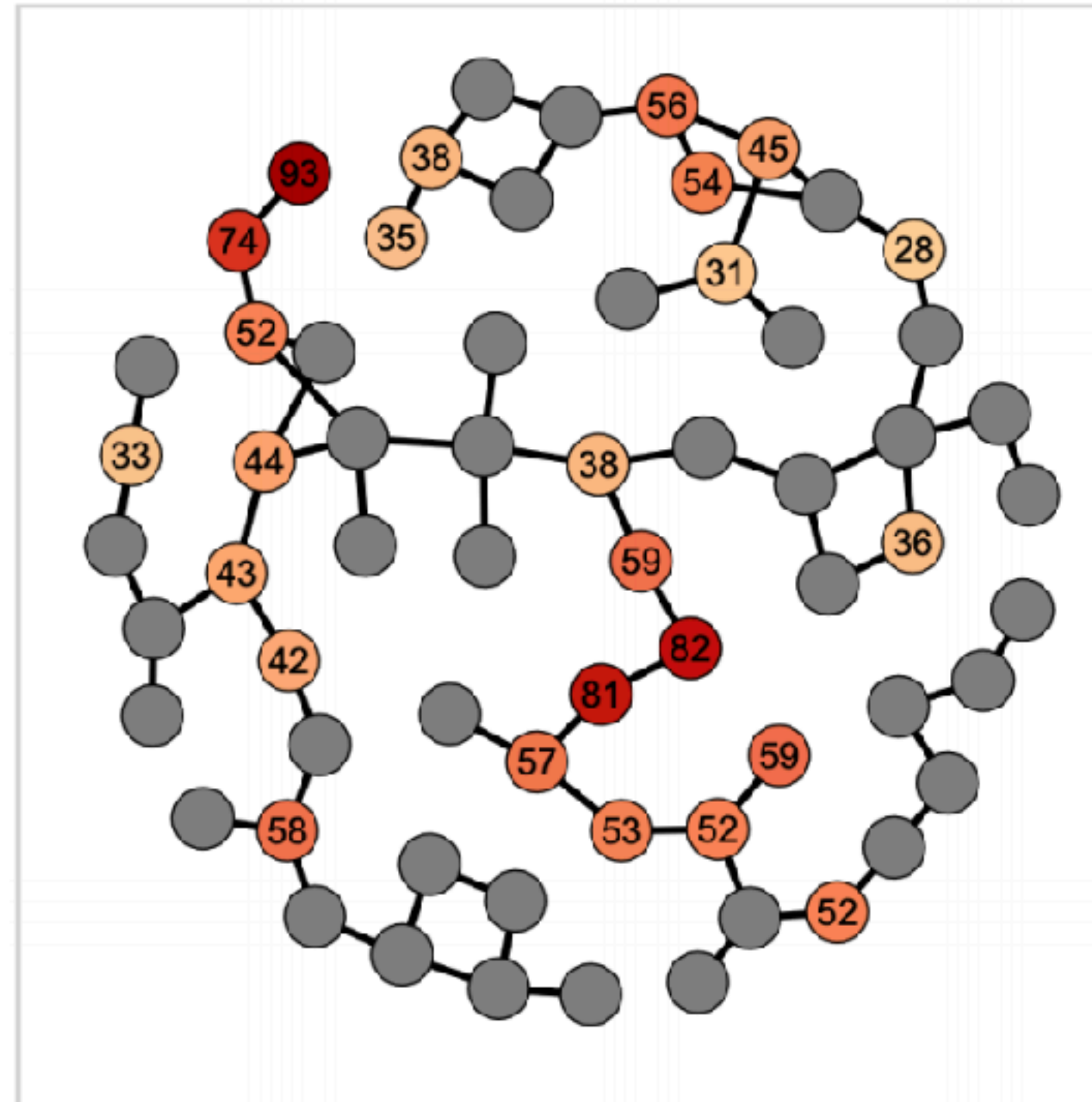
# Experiment 2

## Bandit Task

Current Score: 1296

Clicks remaining: 1

Current round: 1/10



## Bonus Round

How many points do you think will be observed at the selected node?

Few  Many

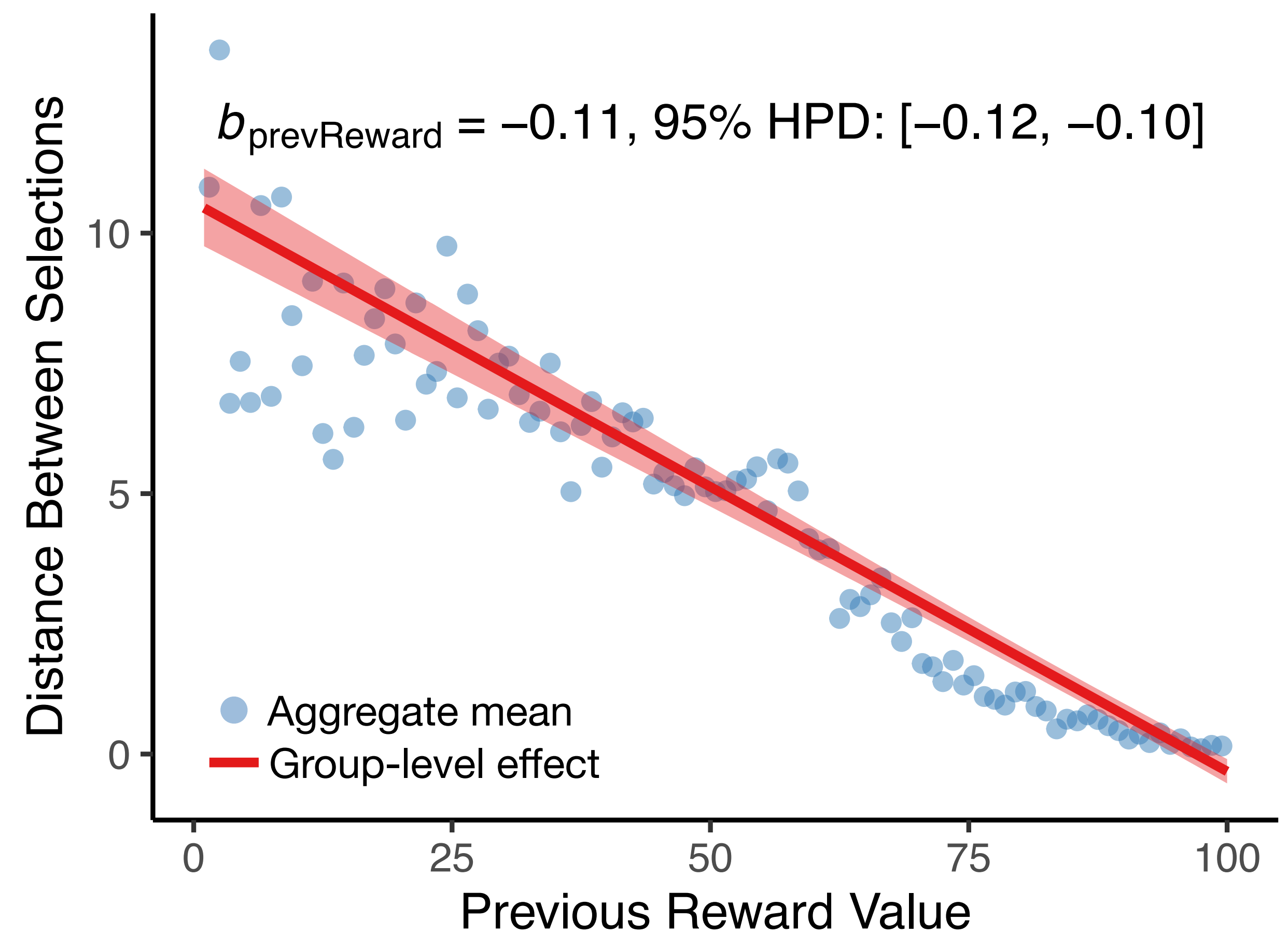
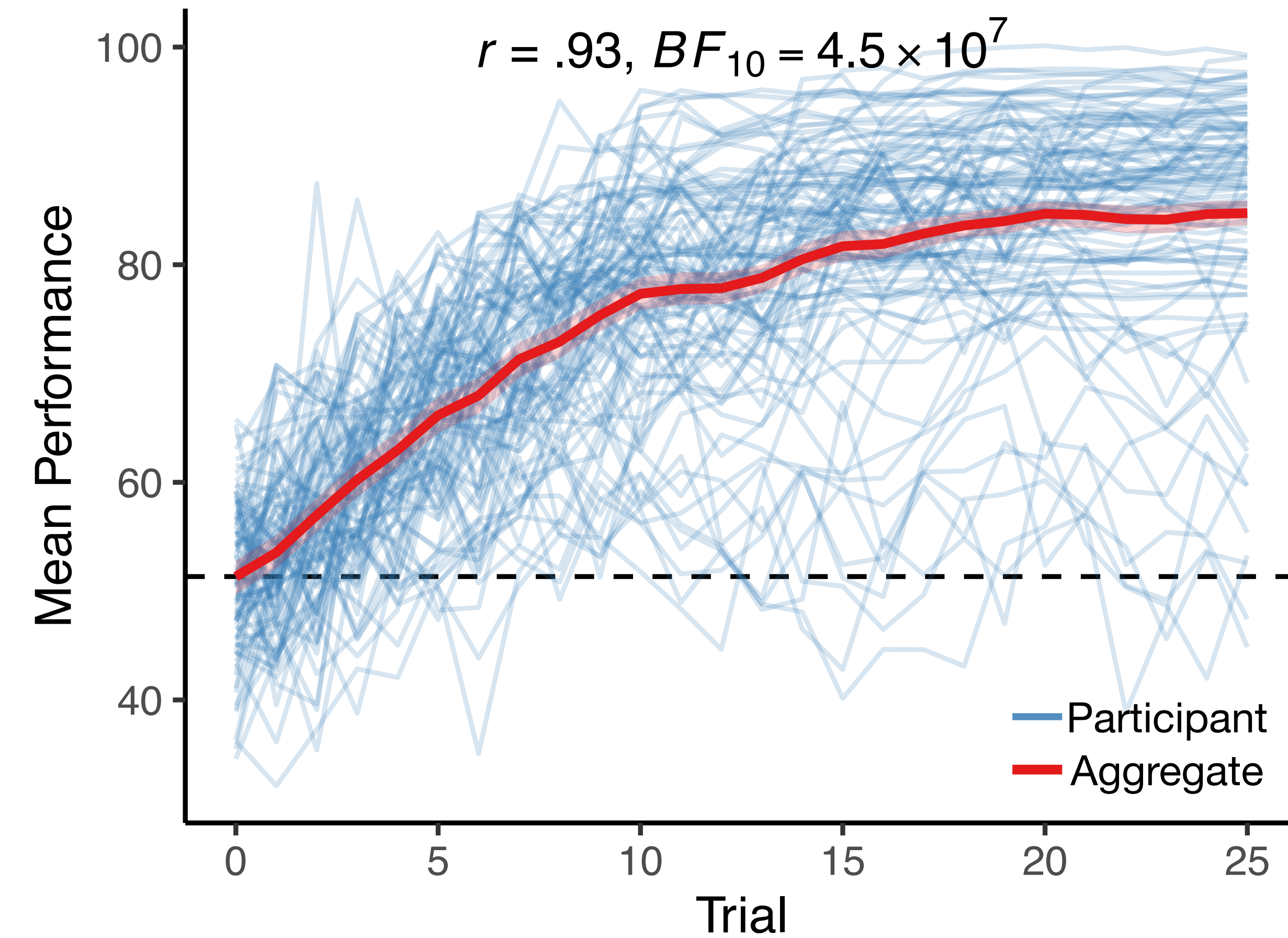
How confident are you?

Least confident  Most confident

Submit



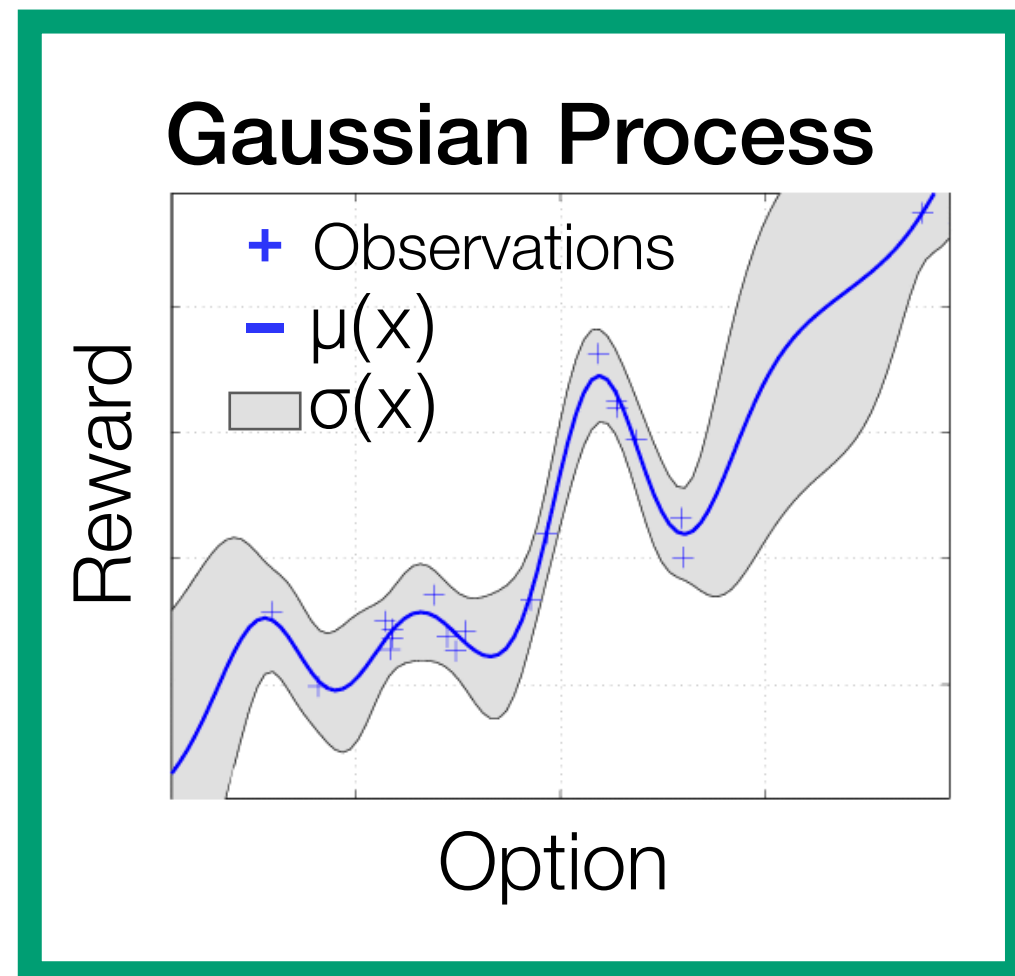
# Behavioral Results



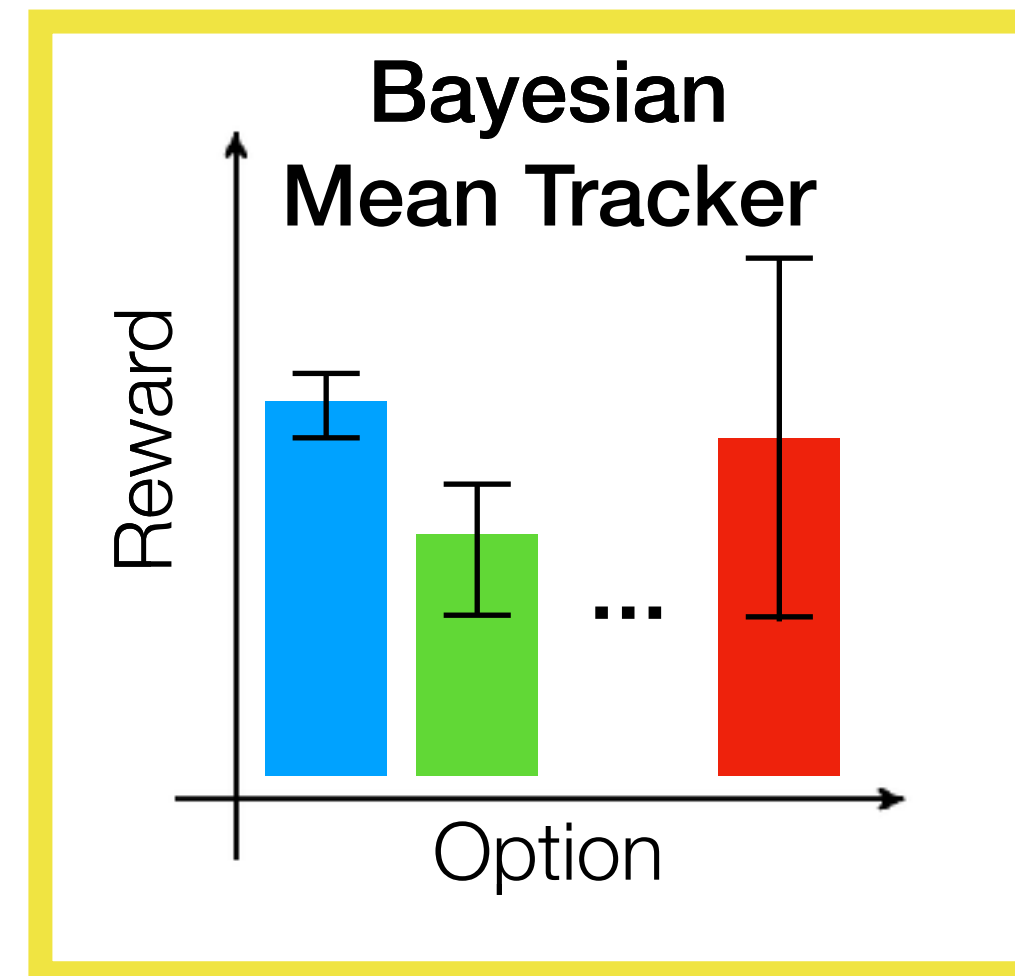


# Model Results

## Generalization

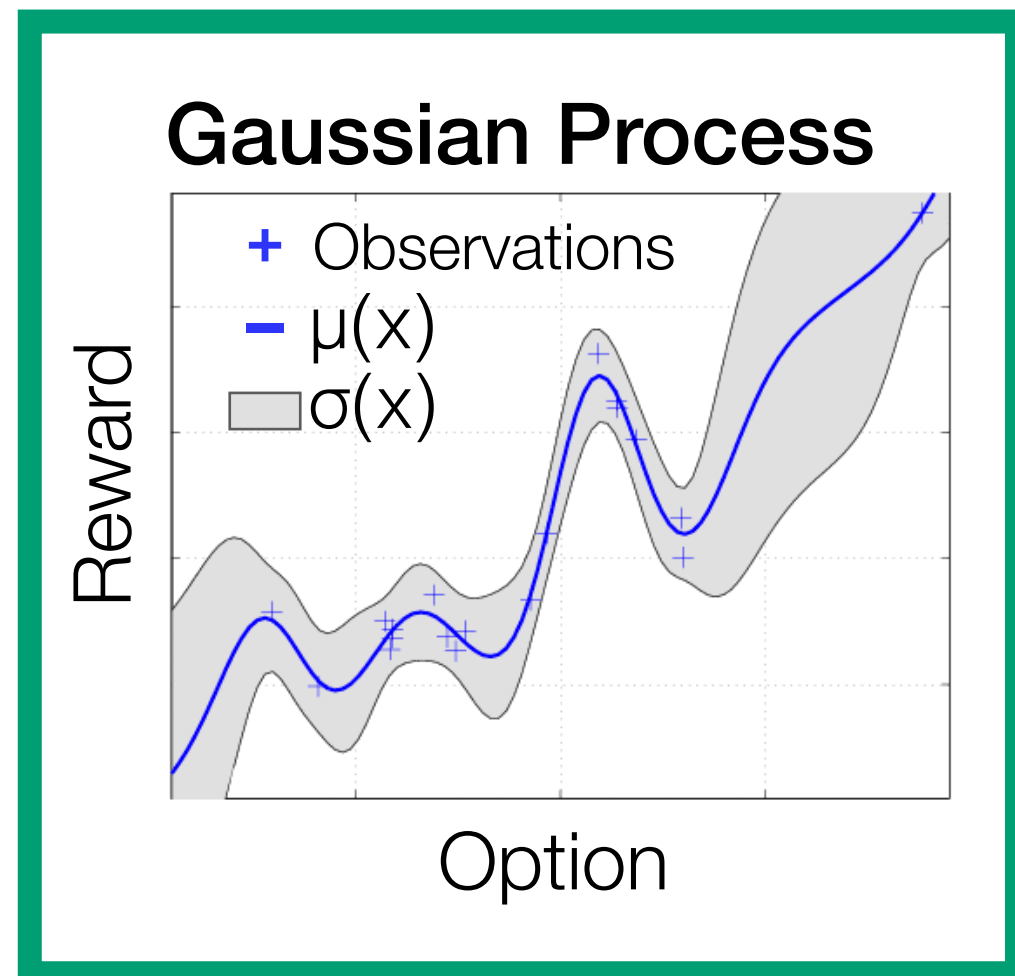


## No generalization

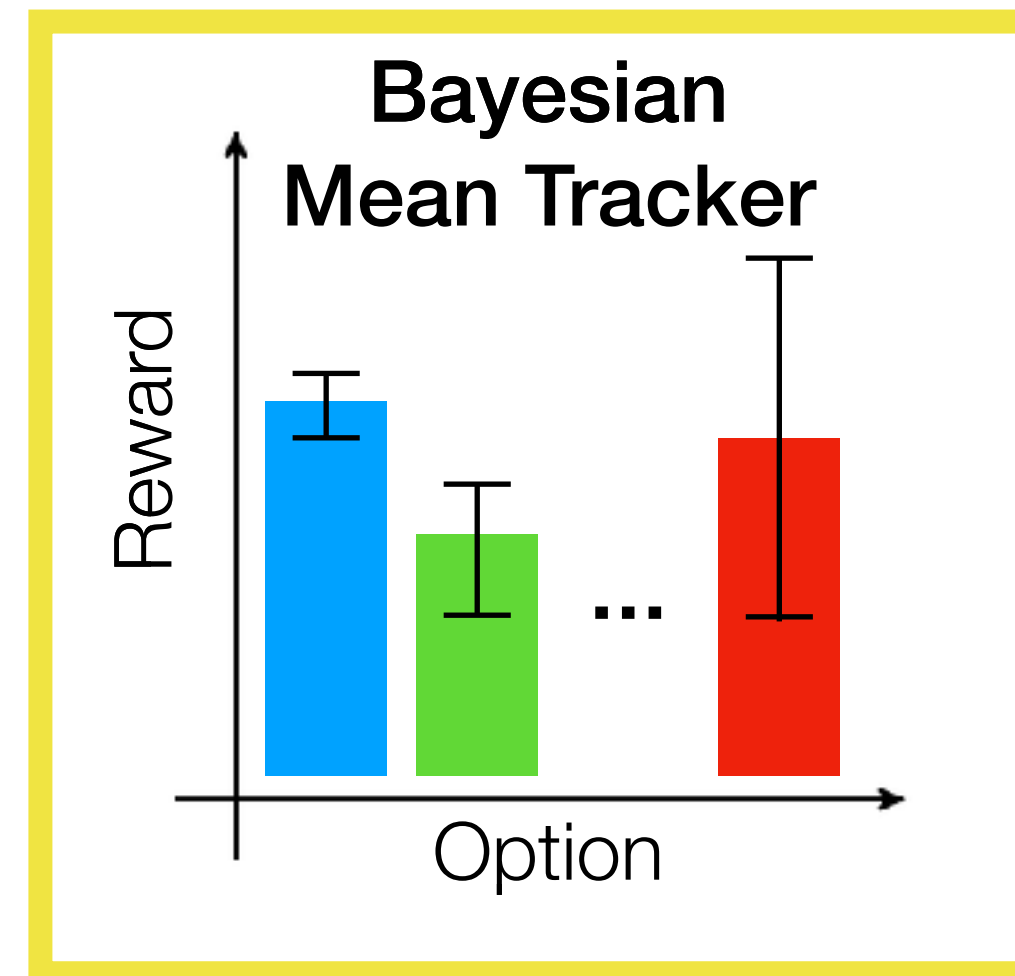


# Model Results

## Generalization

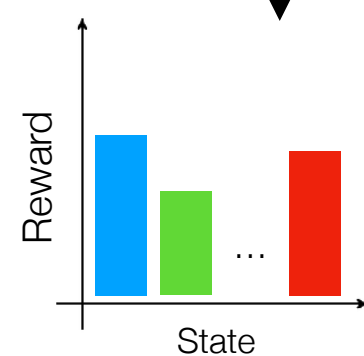


## No generalization



## Successor Representation

$$V^\pi(s, a) = \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} M(s, s', a) R(s')$$



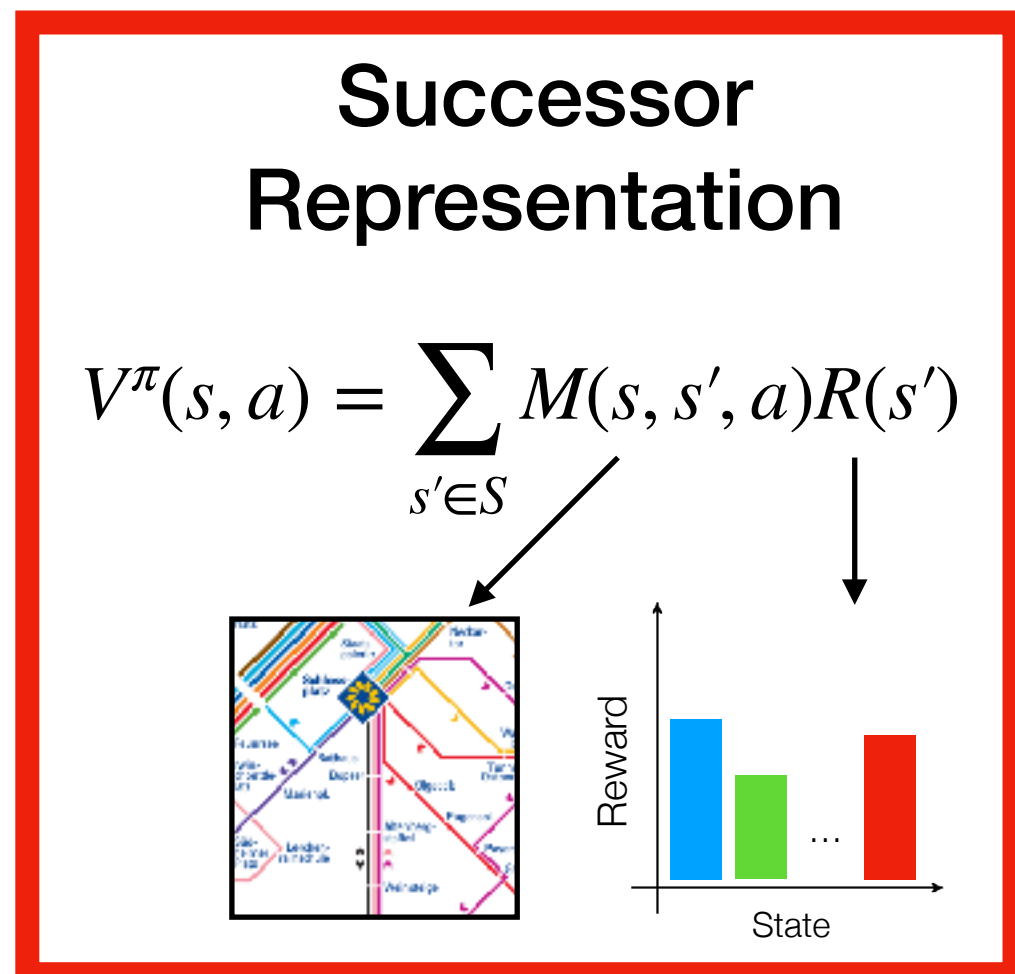
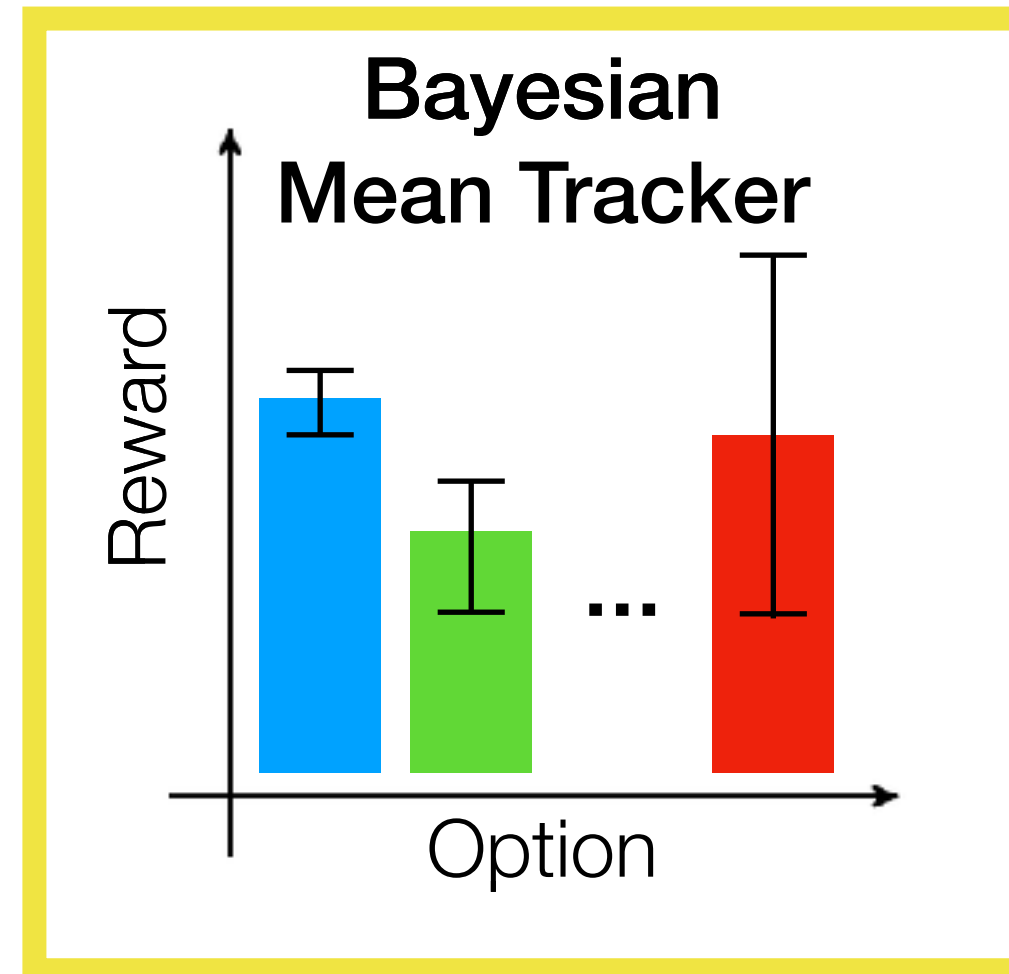
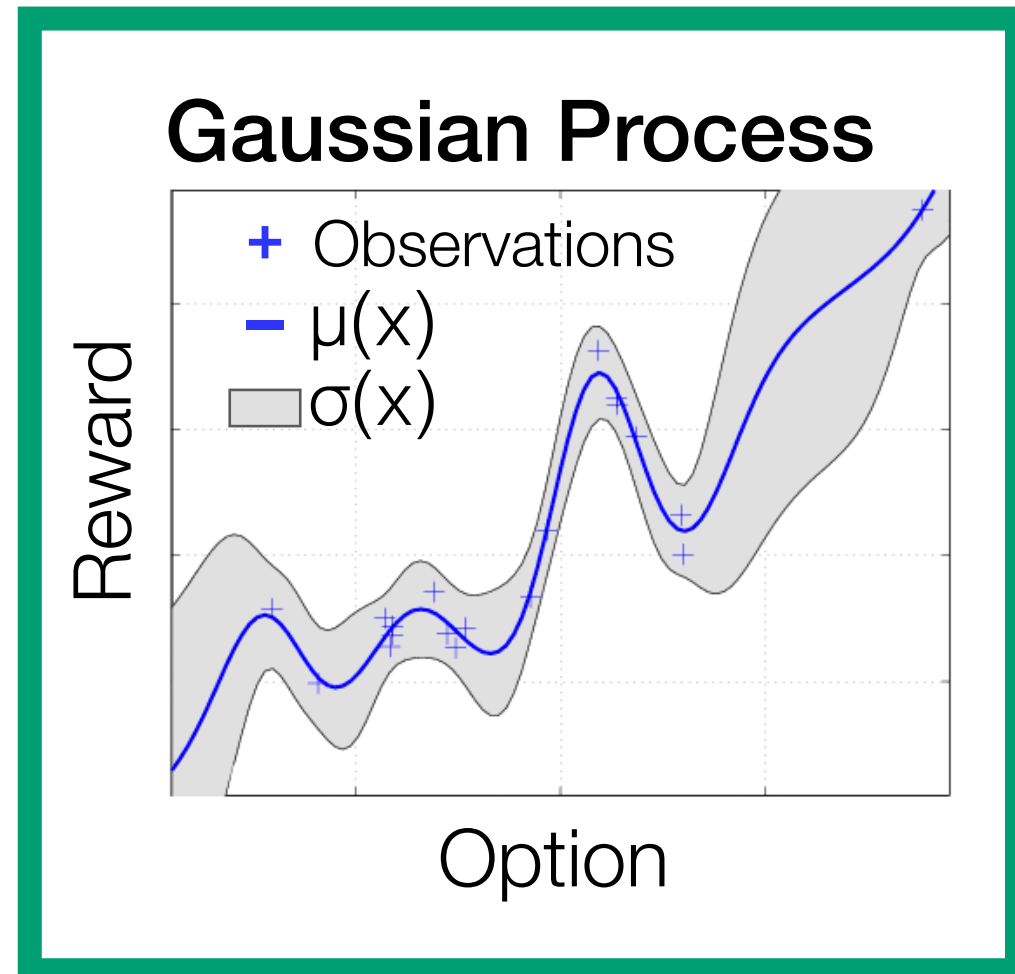
# Model Results

directed + random exploration

random exploration

**Generalization**

**No generalization**





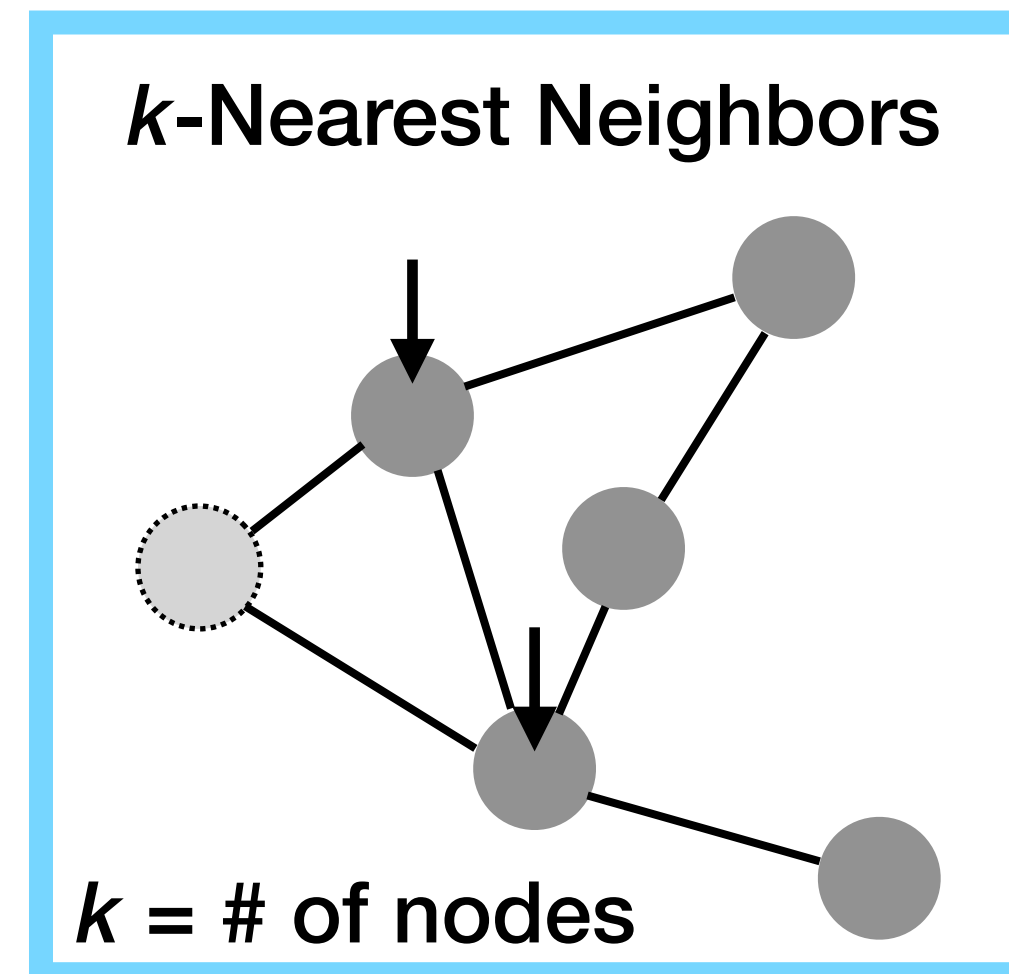
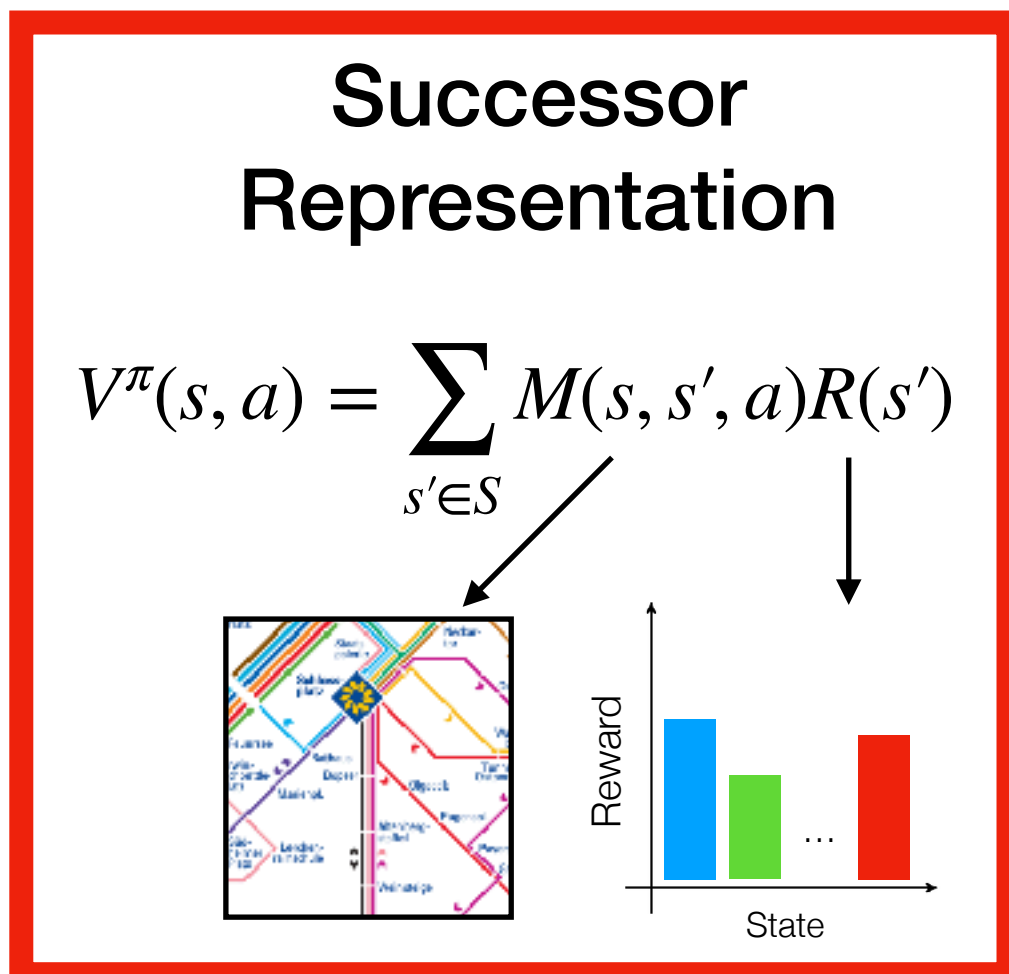
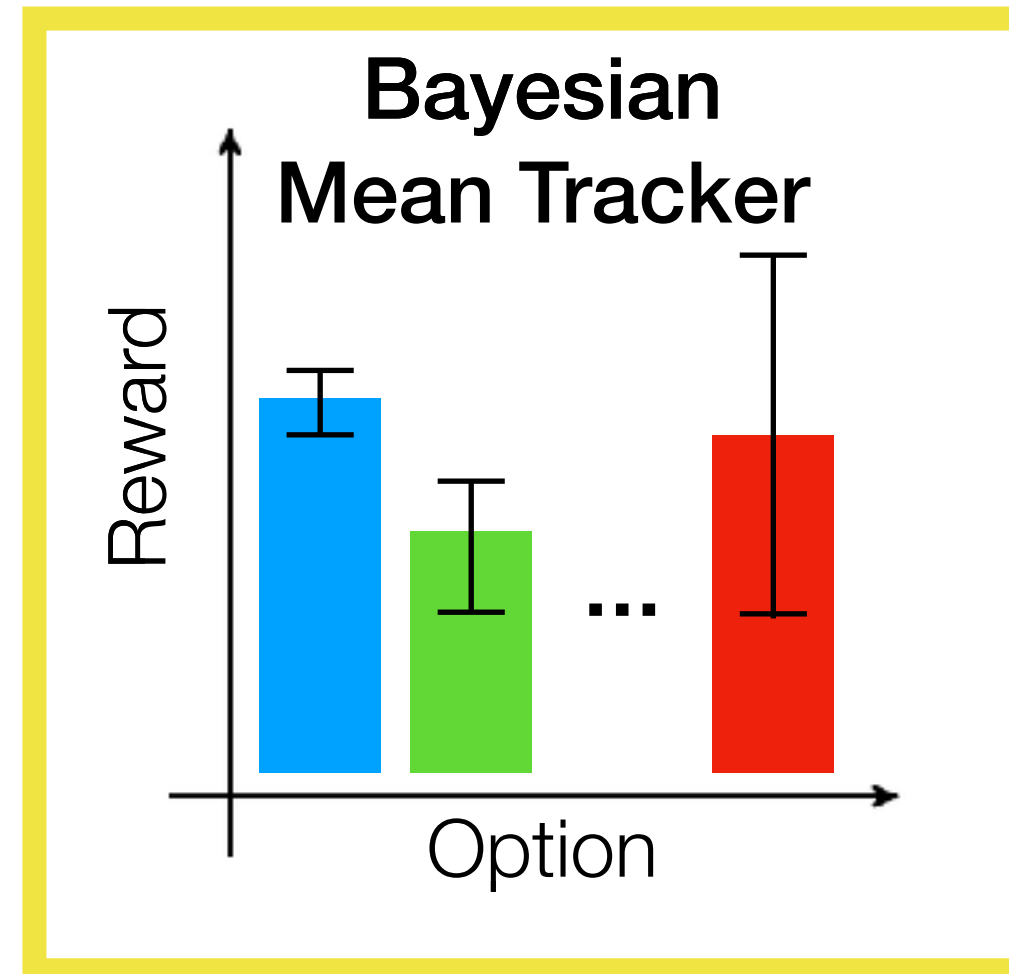
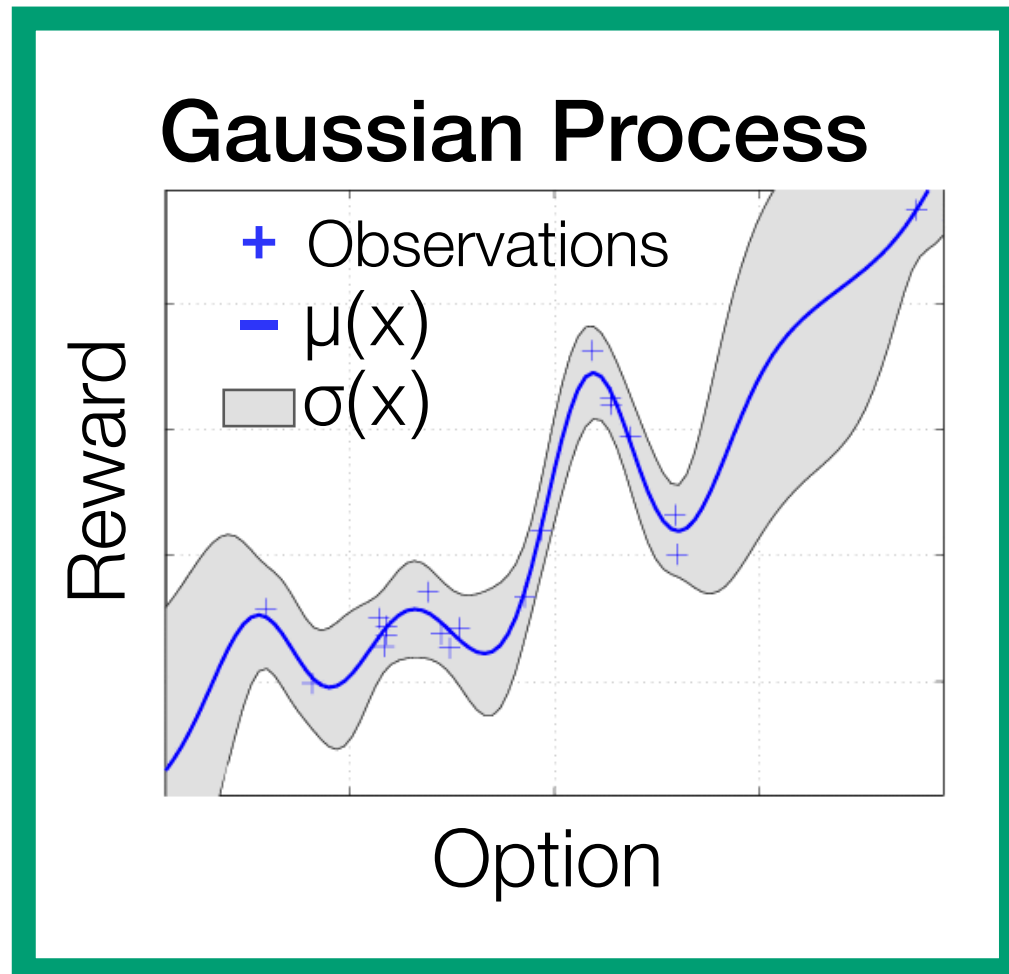
# Model Results

directed + random exploration

random exploration

Generalization

No generalization



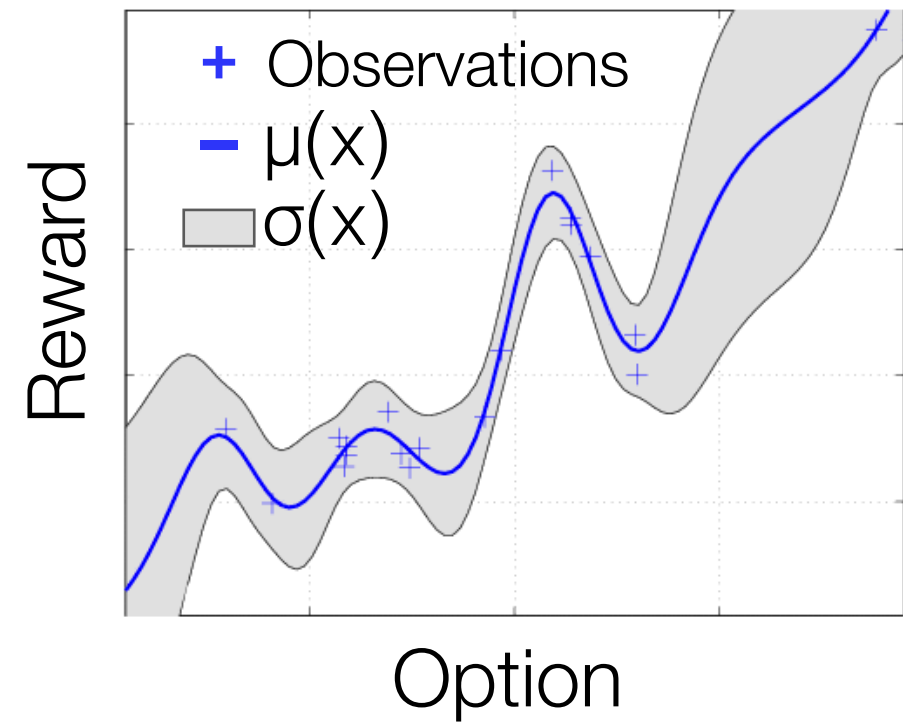
# Model Results

directed + random exploration

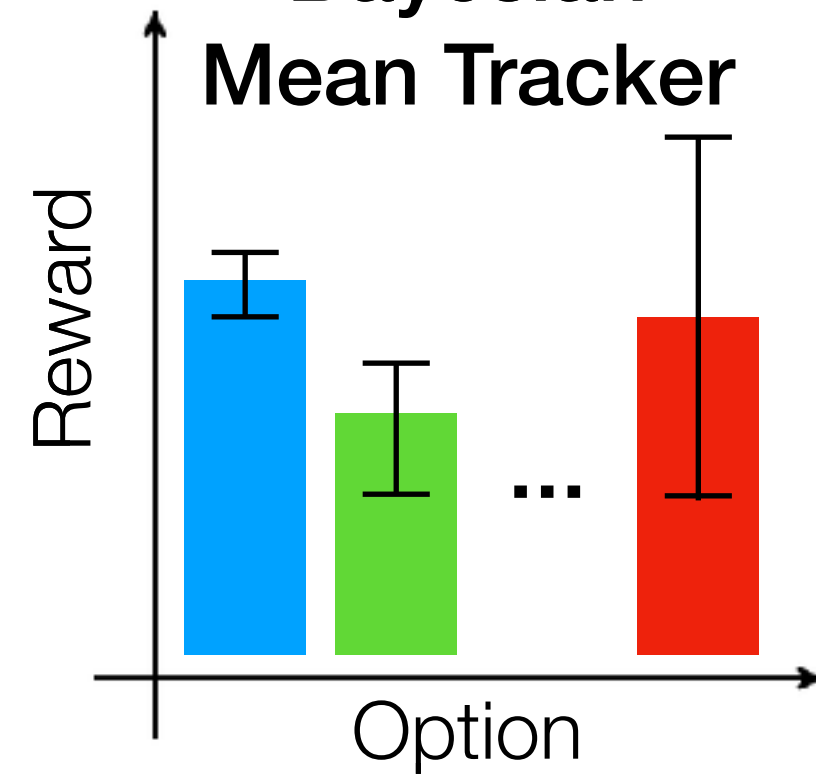
## Generalization

## No generalization

### Gaussian Process

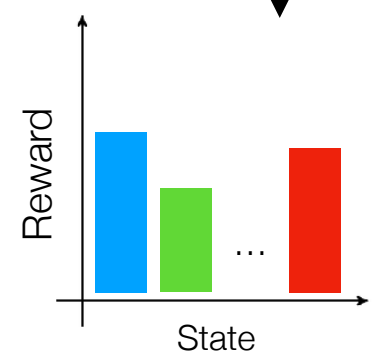


### Bayesian Mean Tracker

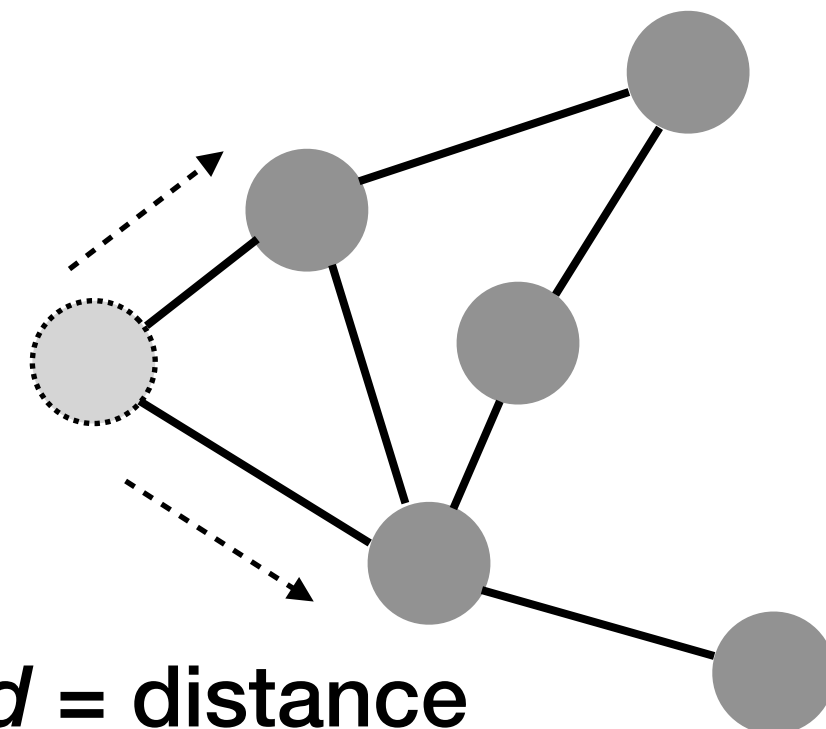


### Successor Representation

$$V^\pi(s, a) = \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} M(s, s', a) R(s')$$



### $d$ -Nearest Neighbors



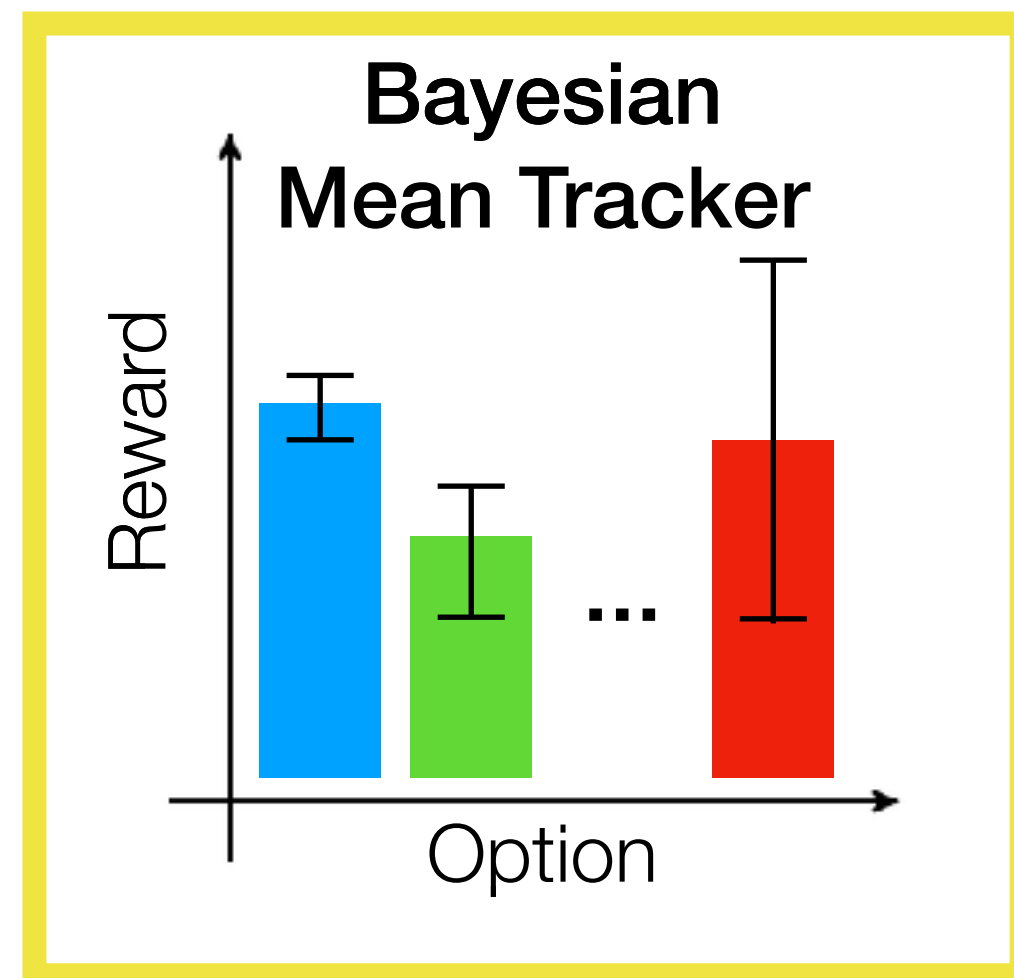
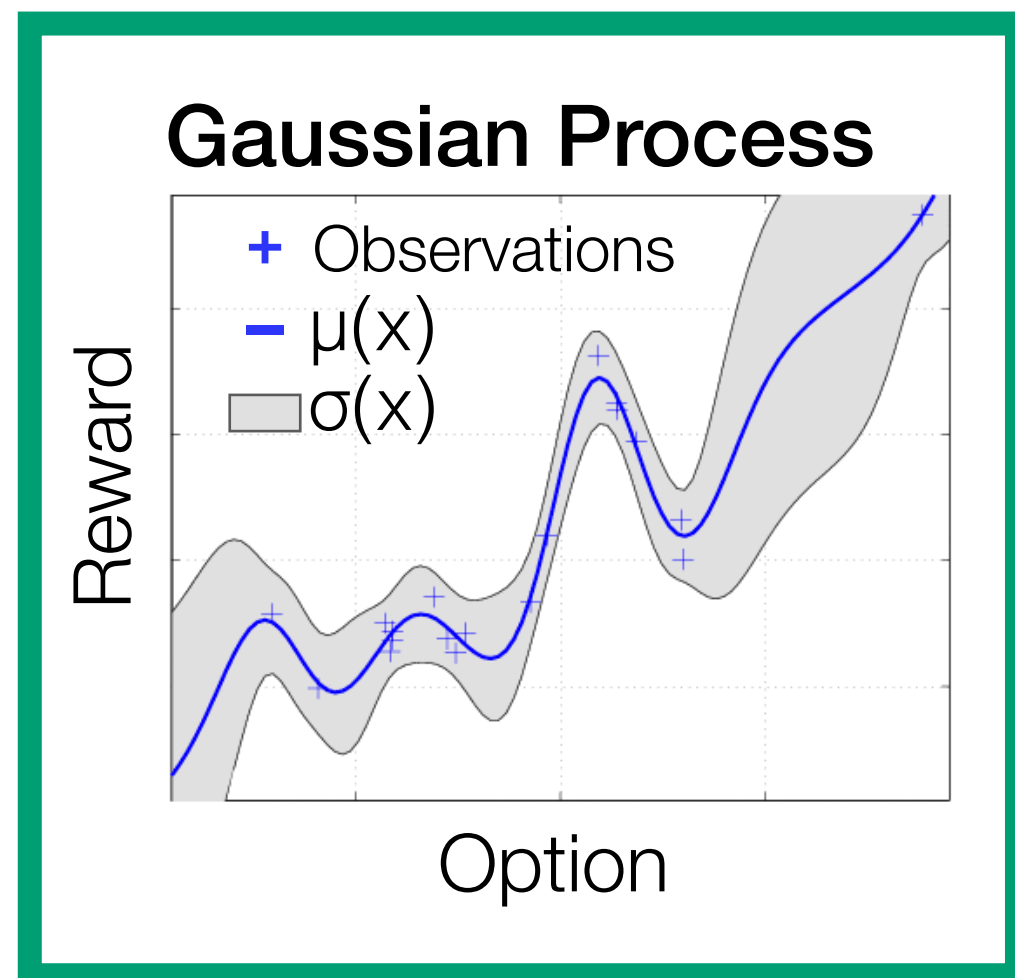
random exploration

# Model Results

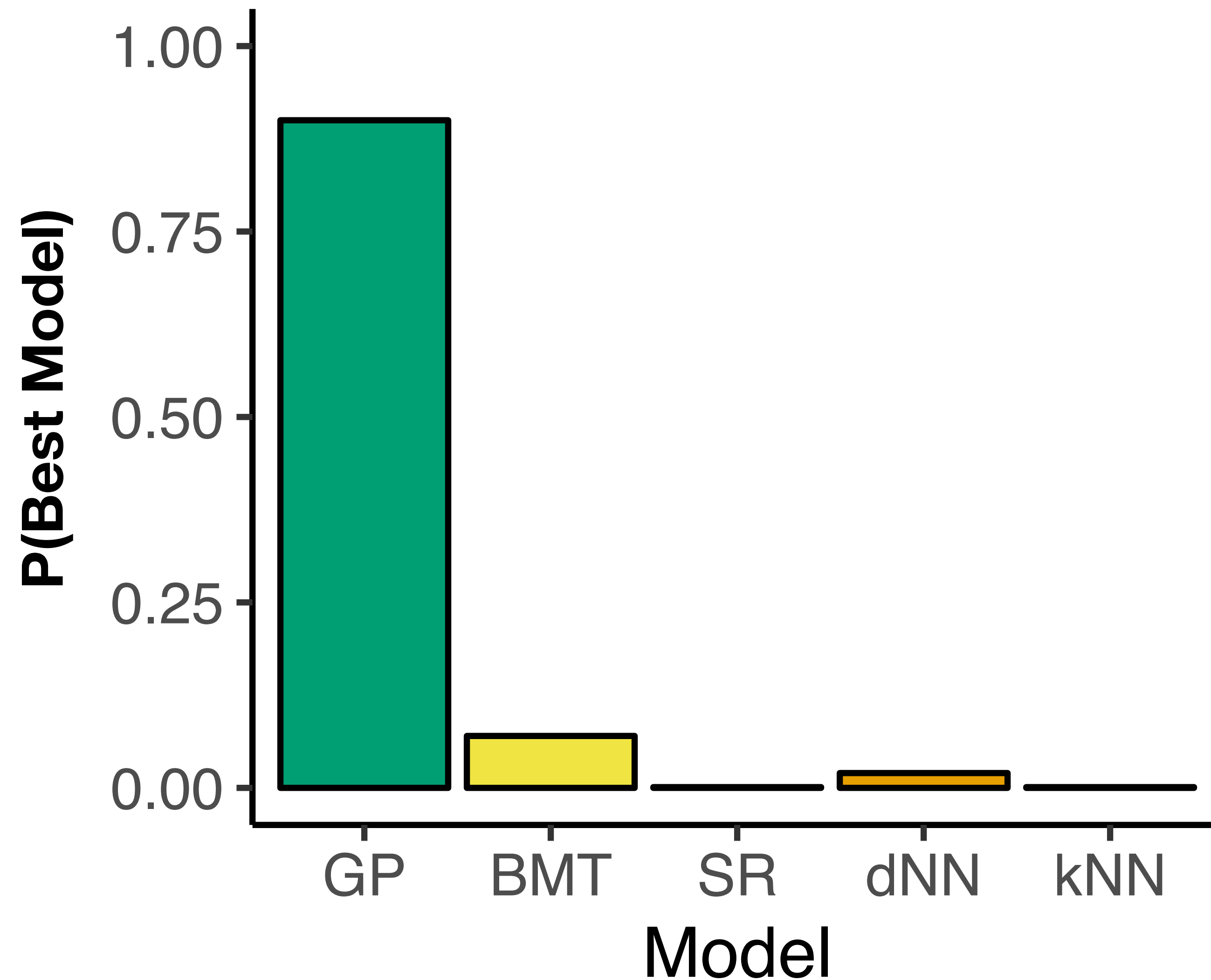
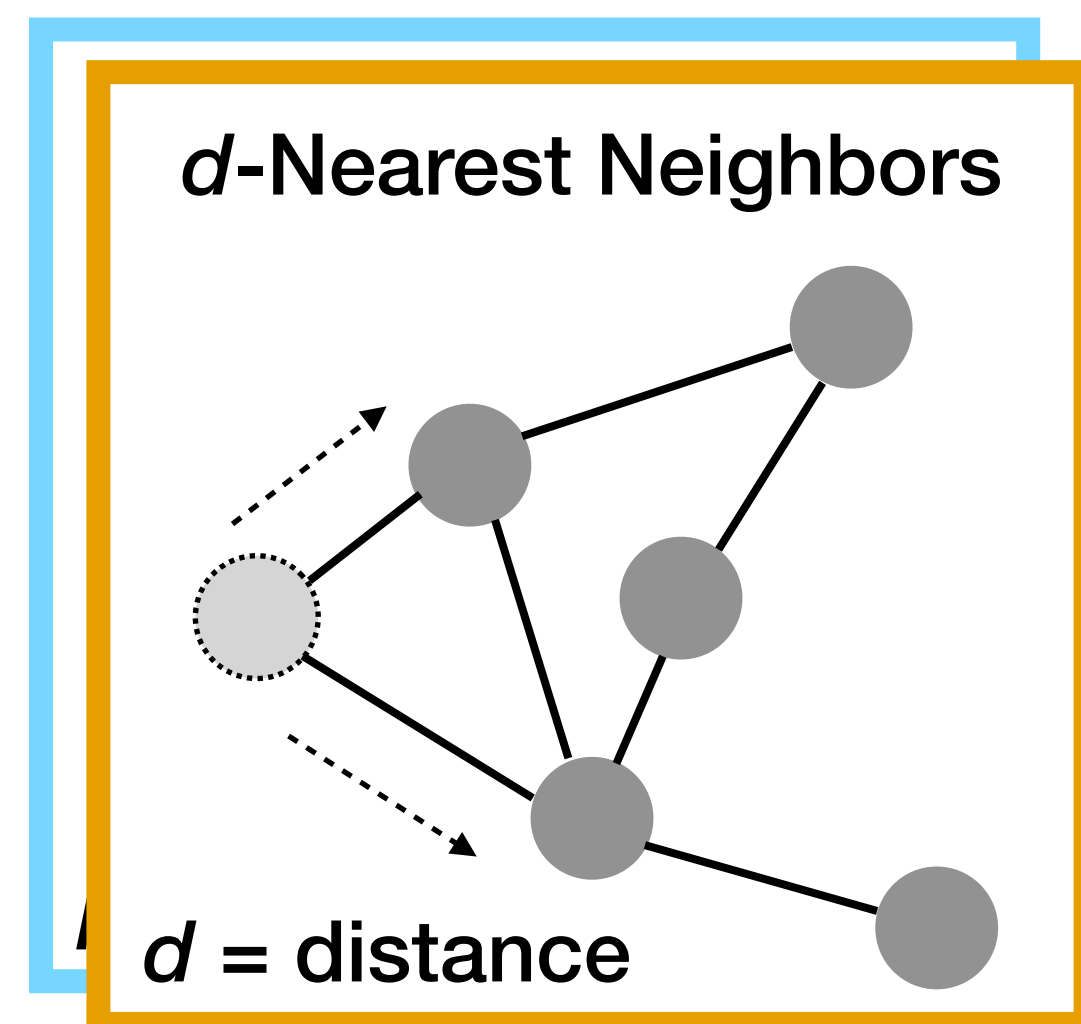
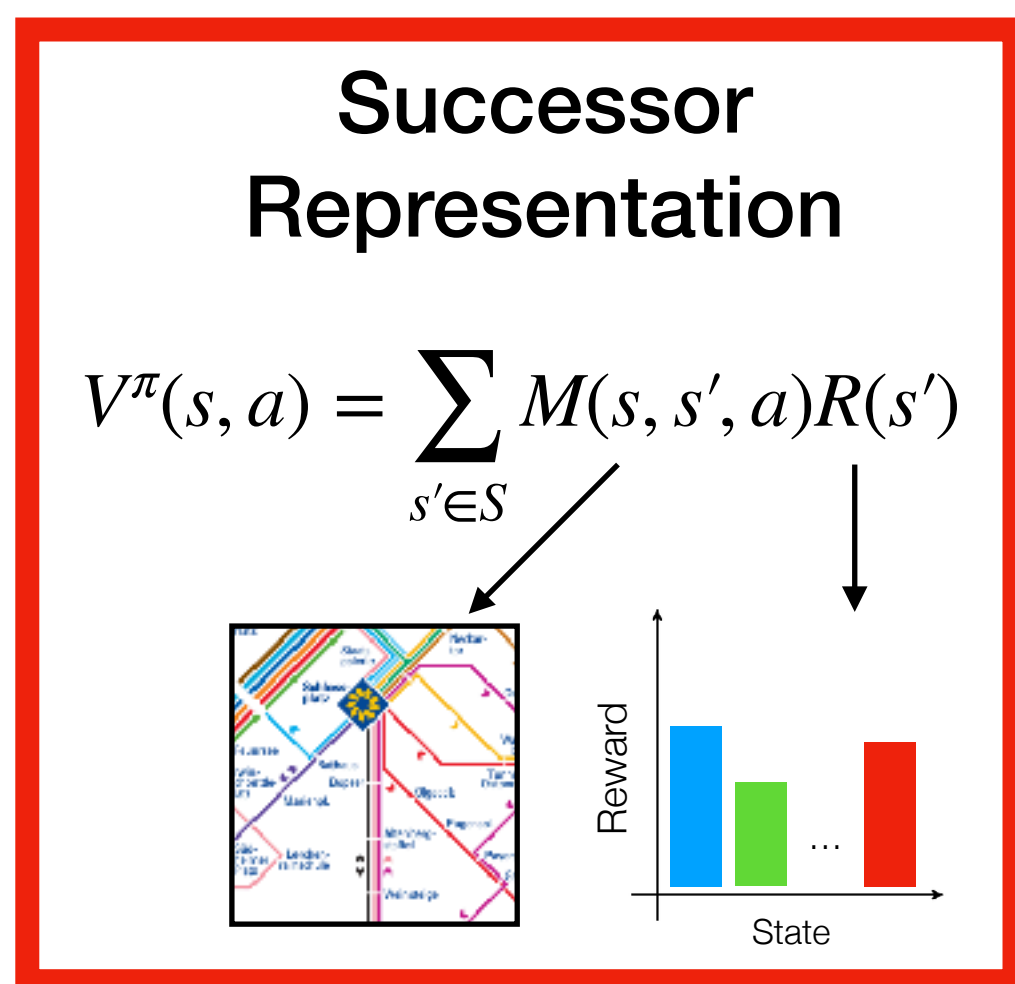
directed + random exploration

Generalization

No generalization



random exploration





# Validation on judgments

How many points do you think will be observed at the selected node?

Few  Many

How confident are you?

Least confident  Most confident

**Submit**

# Validation on judgments

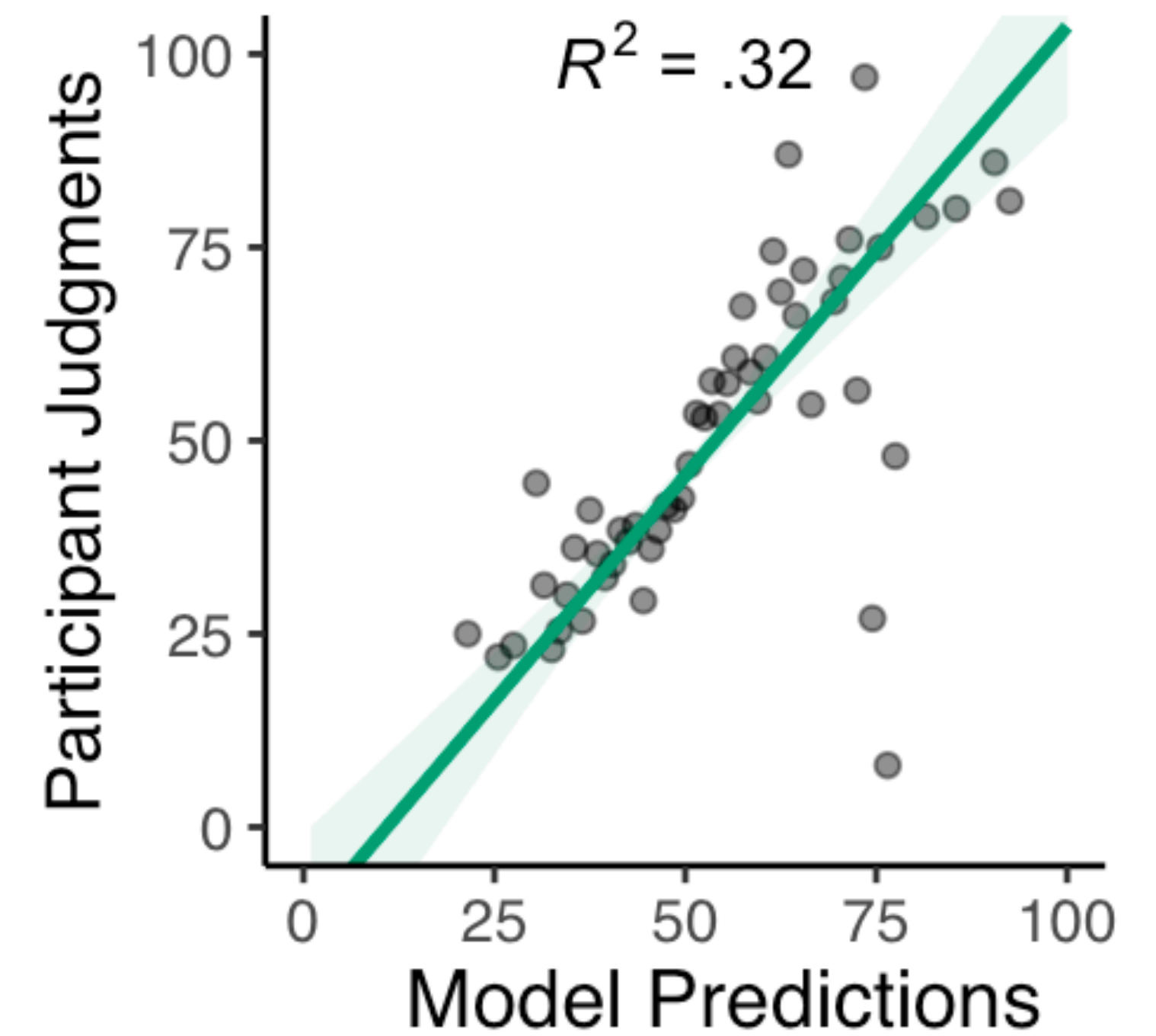
How many points do you think will be observed at the selected node?

Few Many

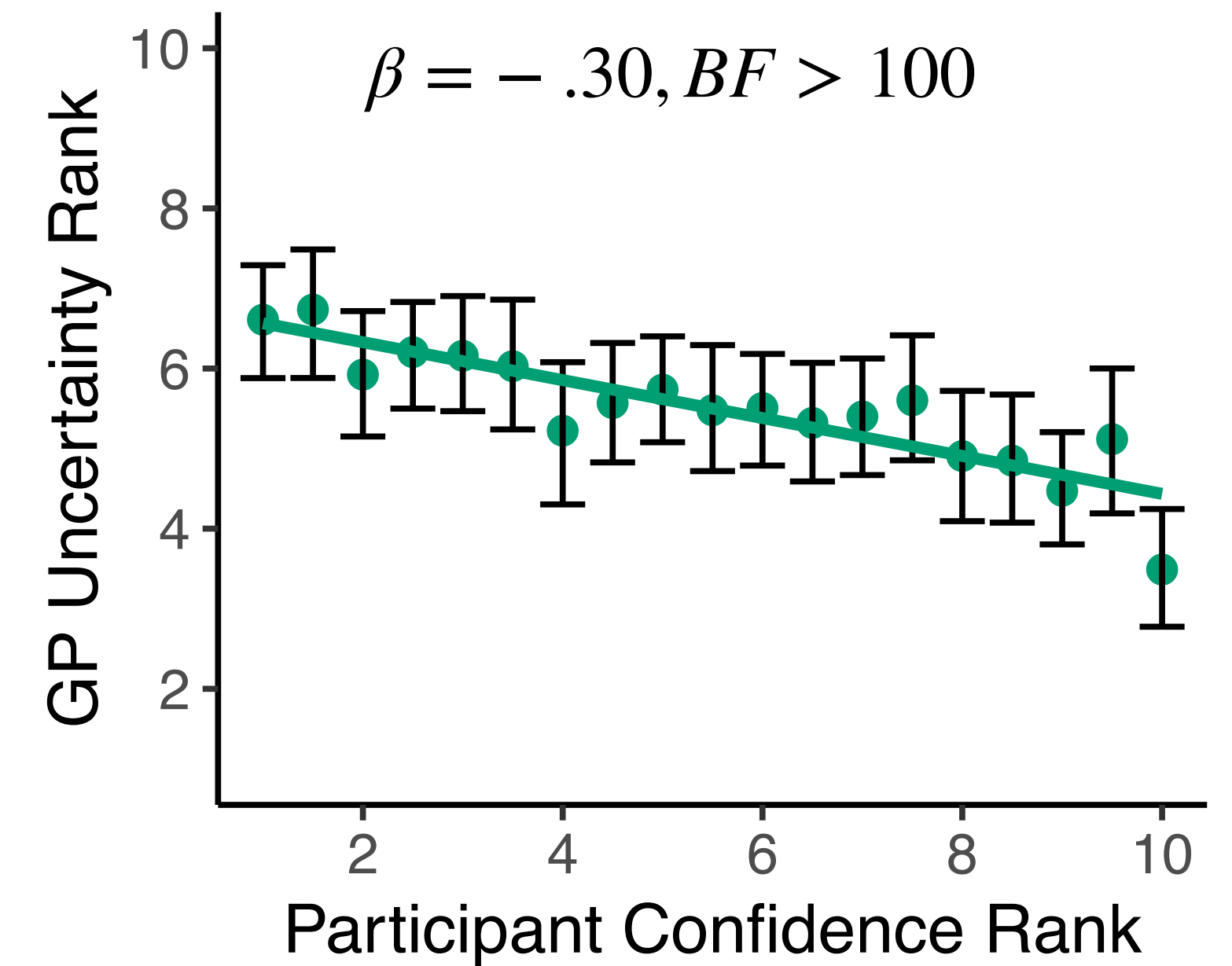
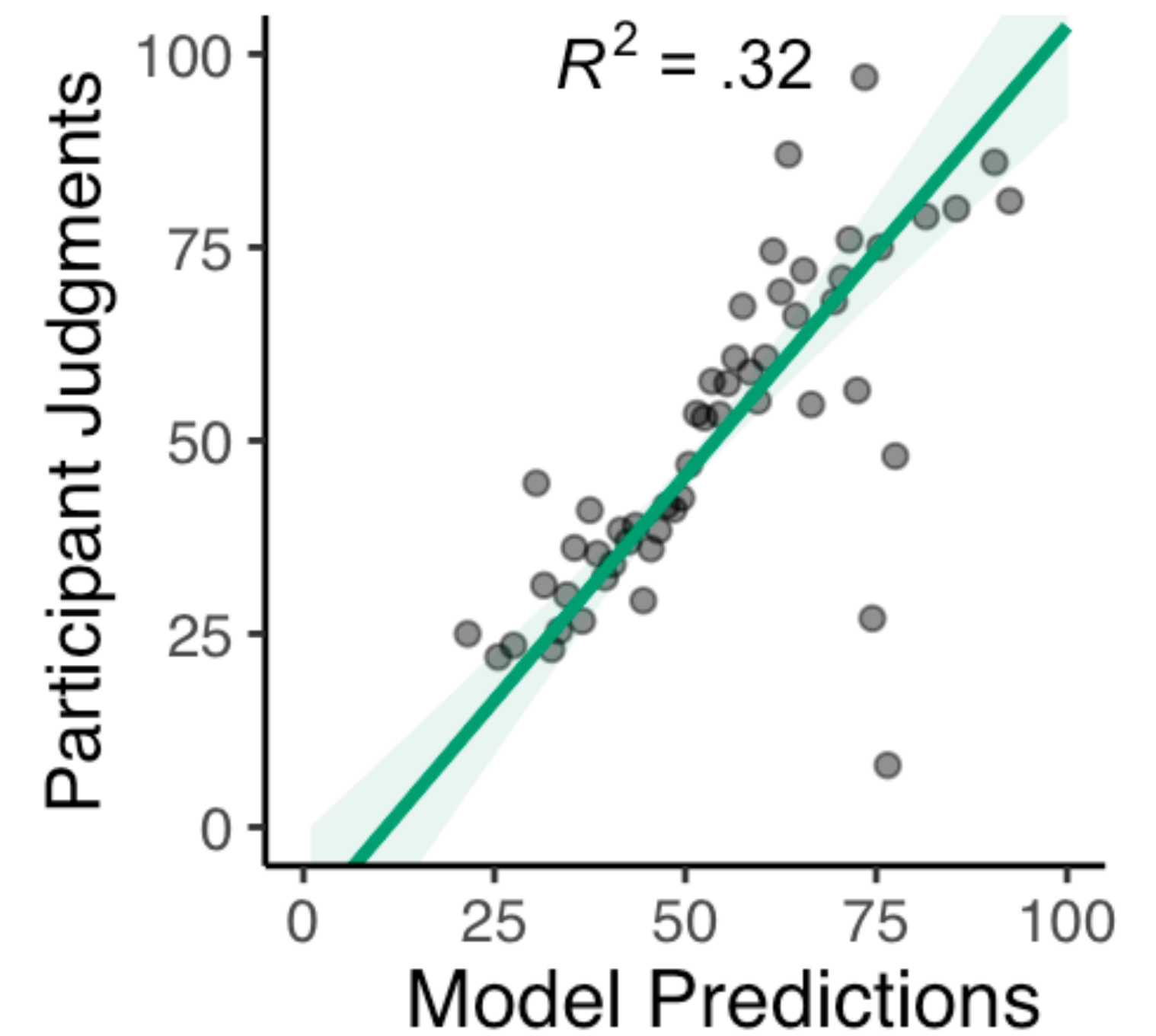
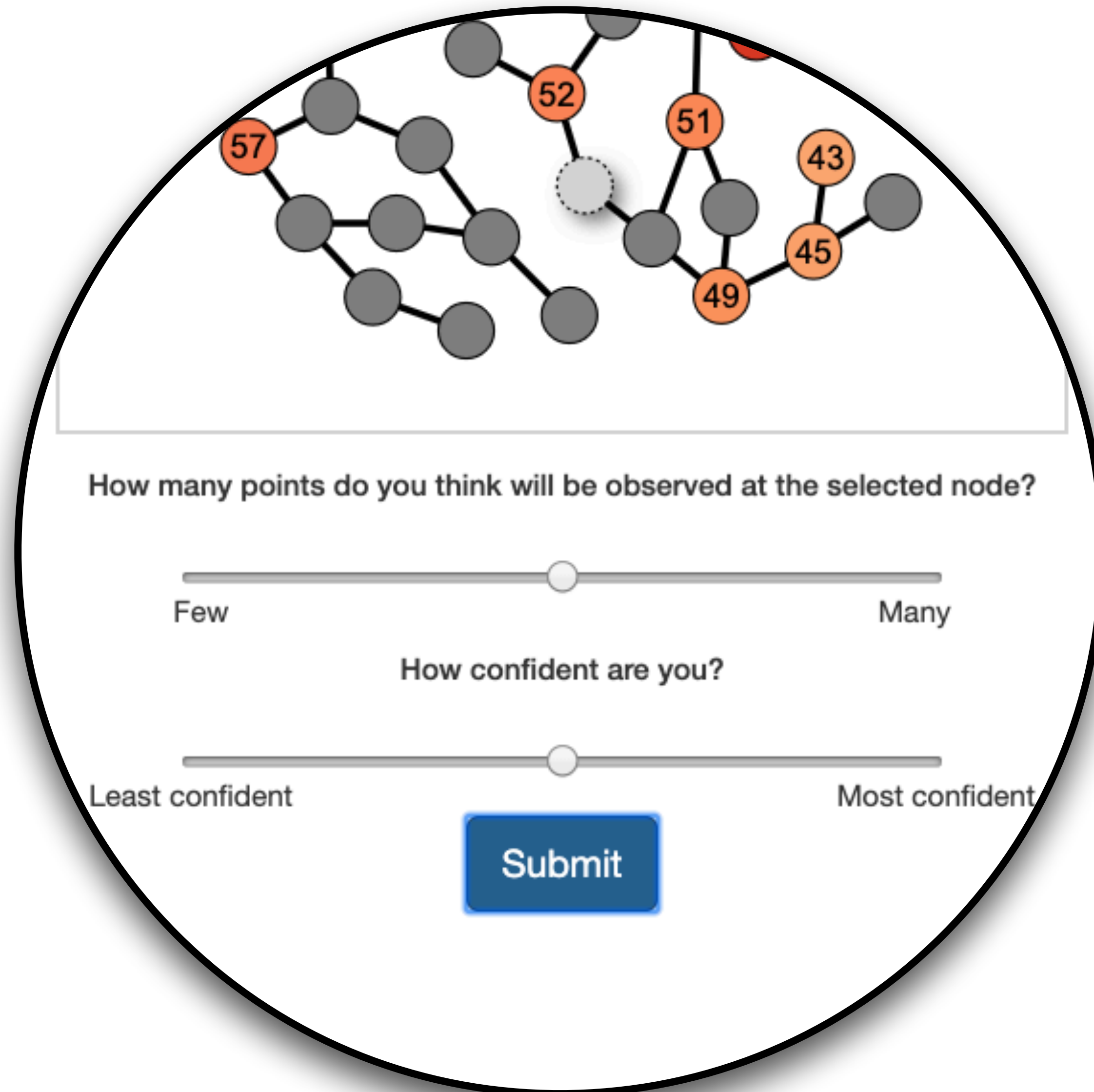
How confident are you?

Least confident Most confident

Submit

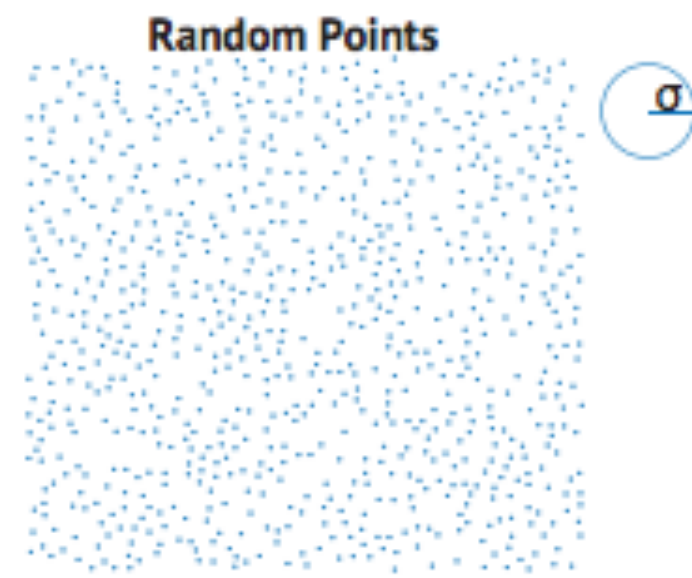


# Validation on judgments

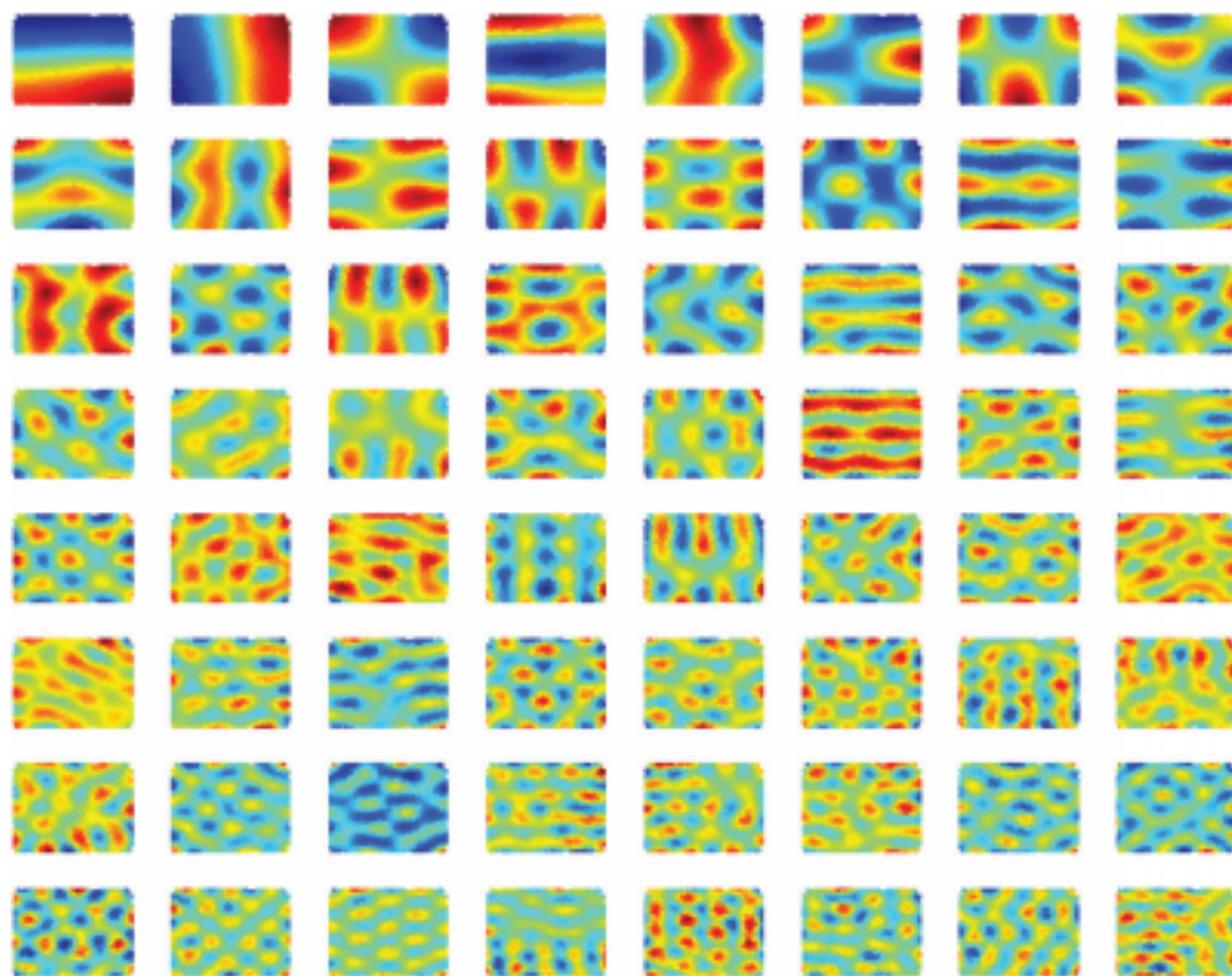




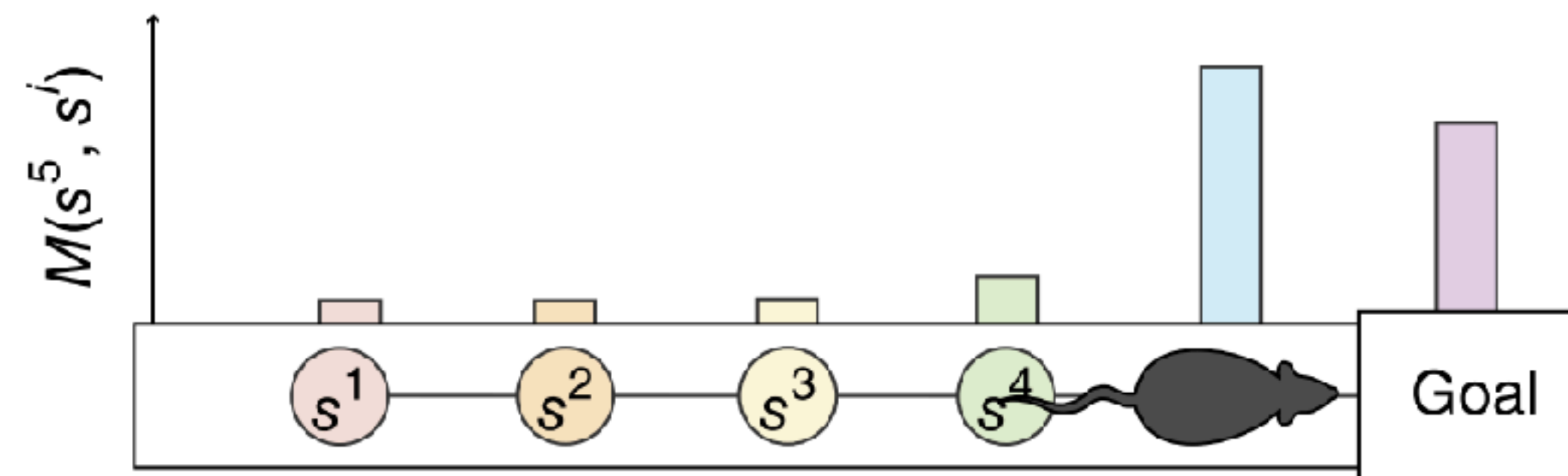
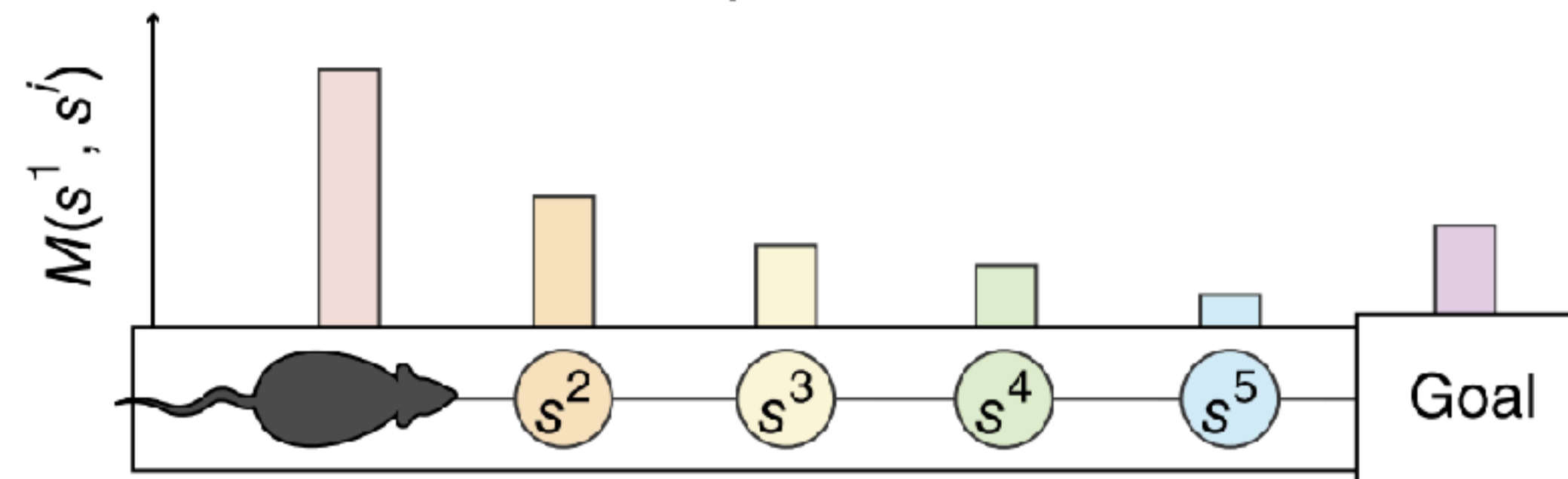
# Diffusion Kernel has equivalencies to the Successor Representation



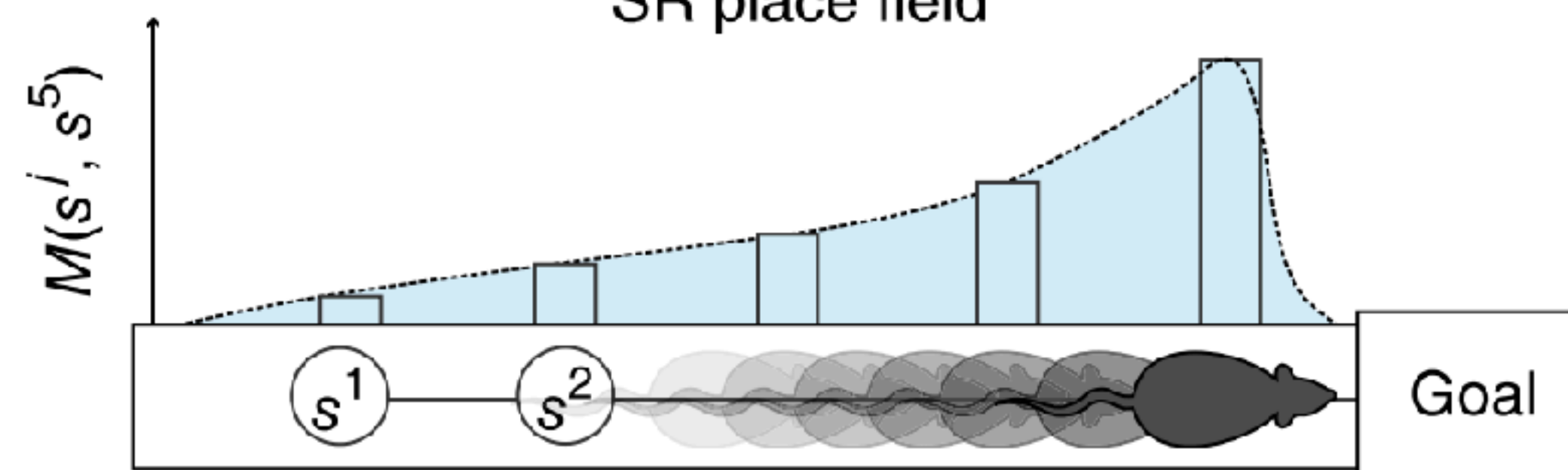
Eigen Vectors



Successor representation of states

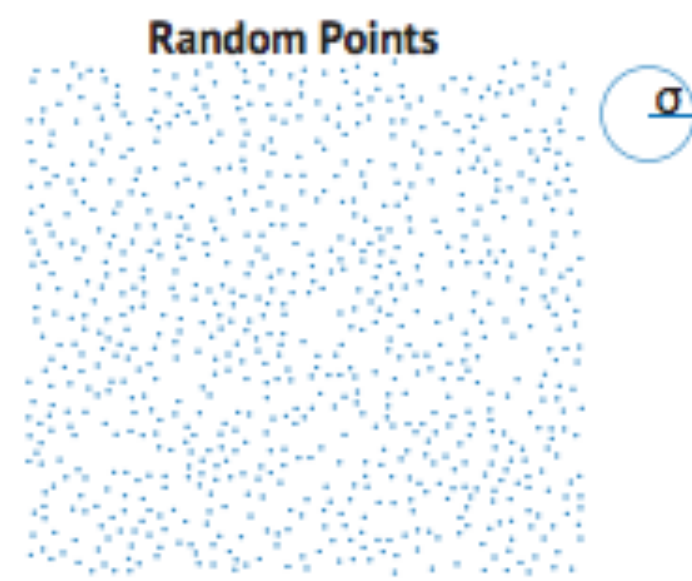


SR place field

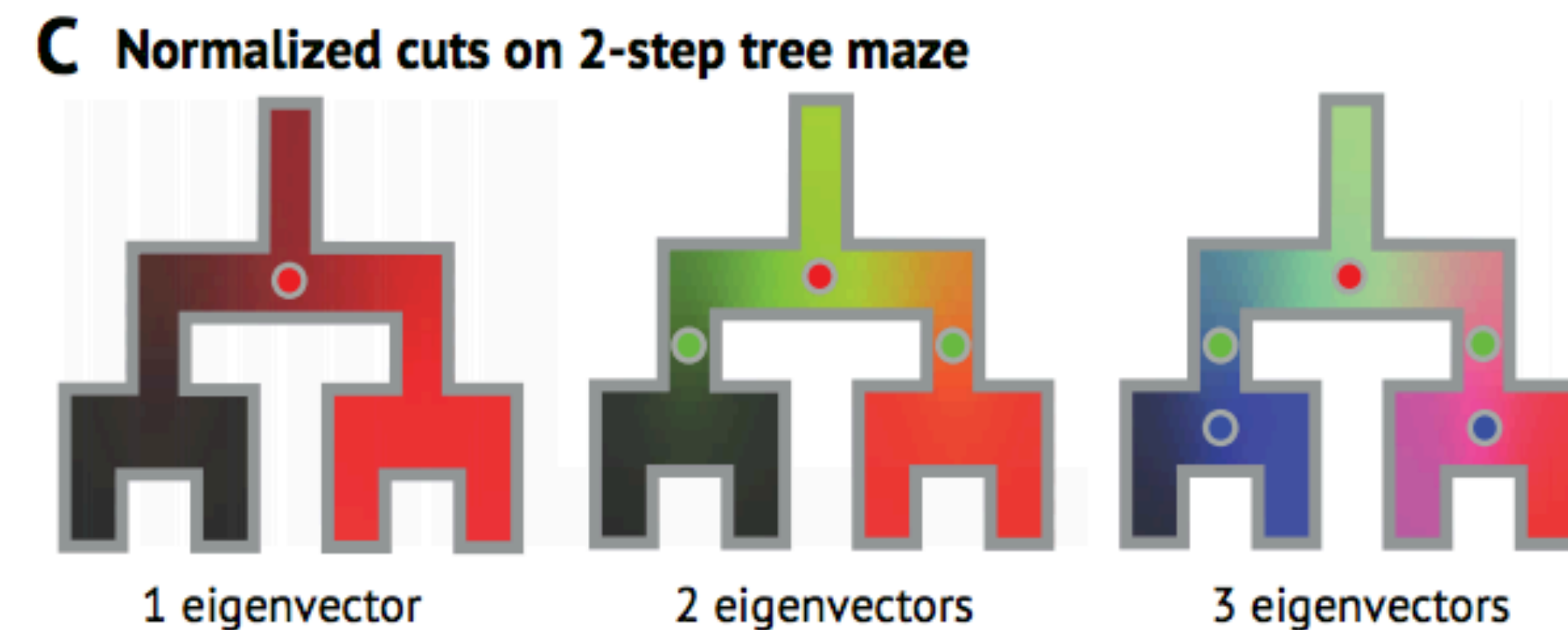
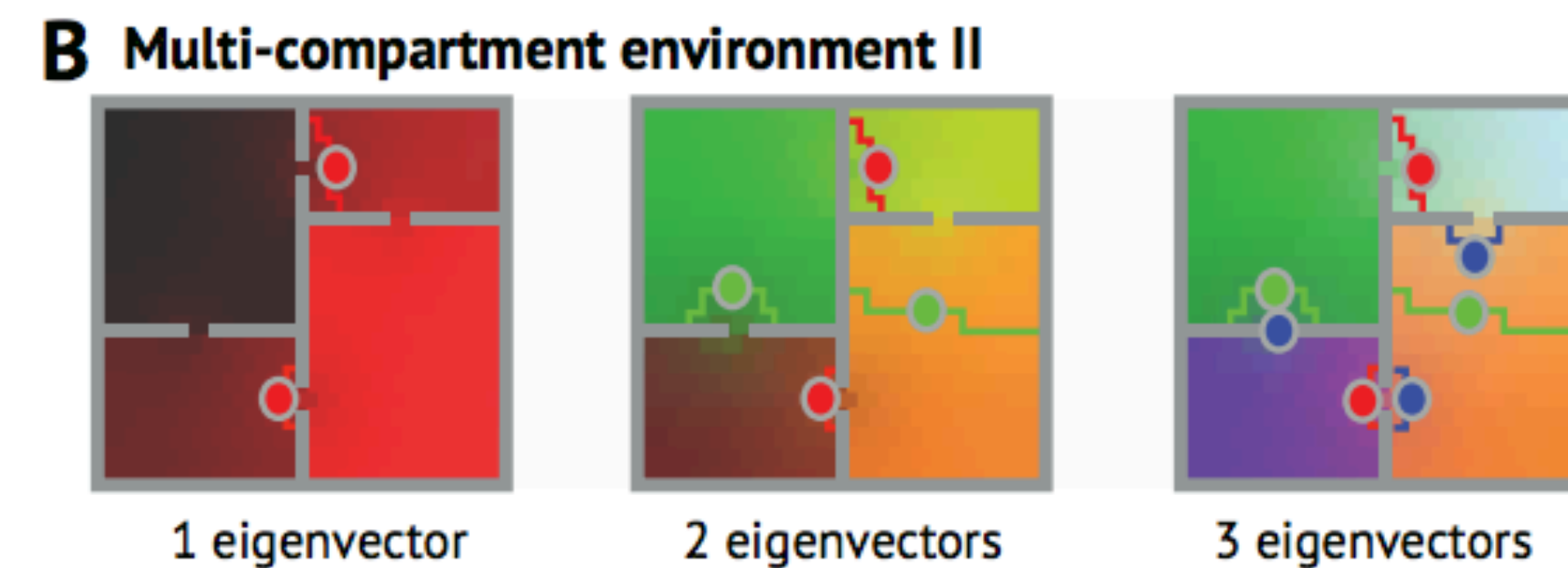
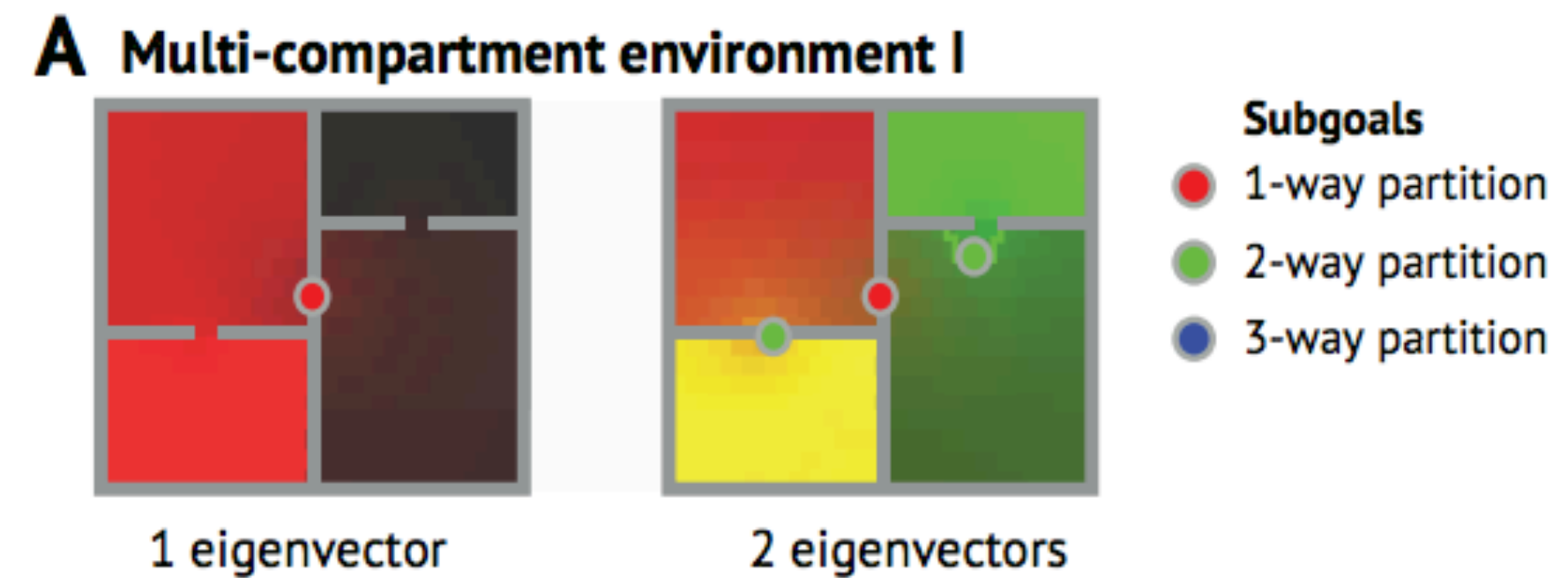
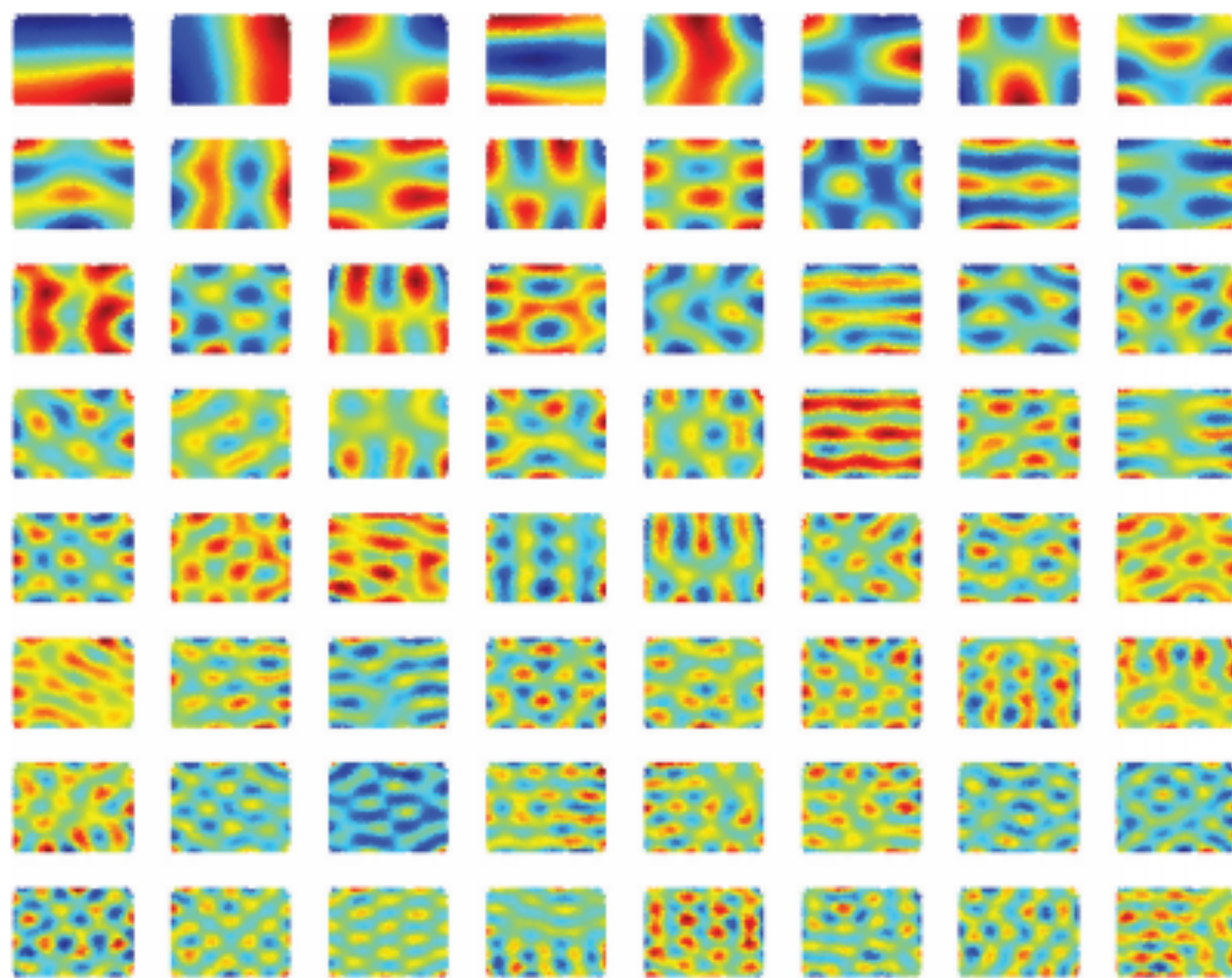




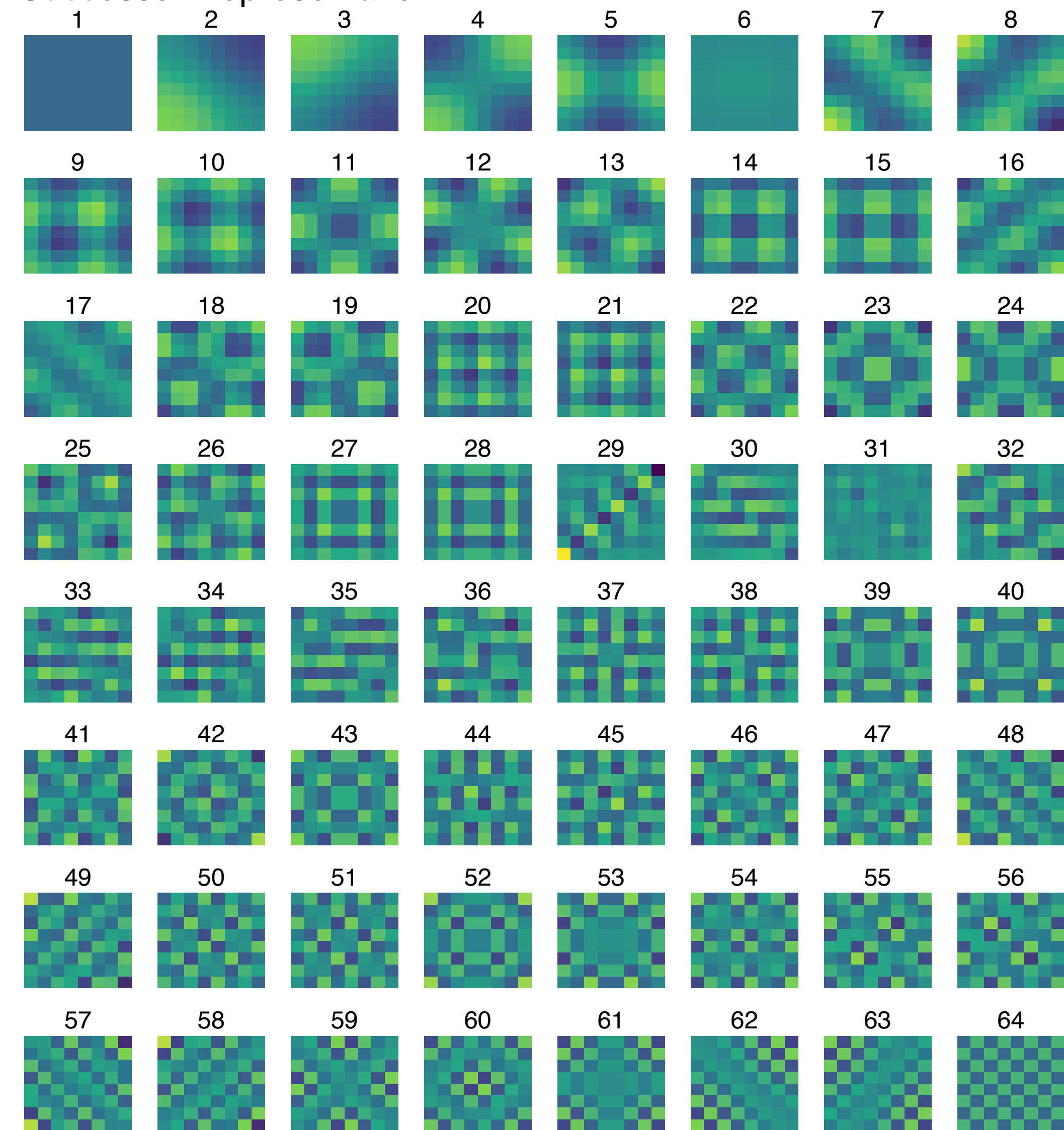
# Diffusion Kernel has equivalencies to the Successor Representation



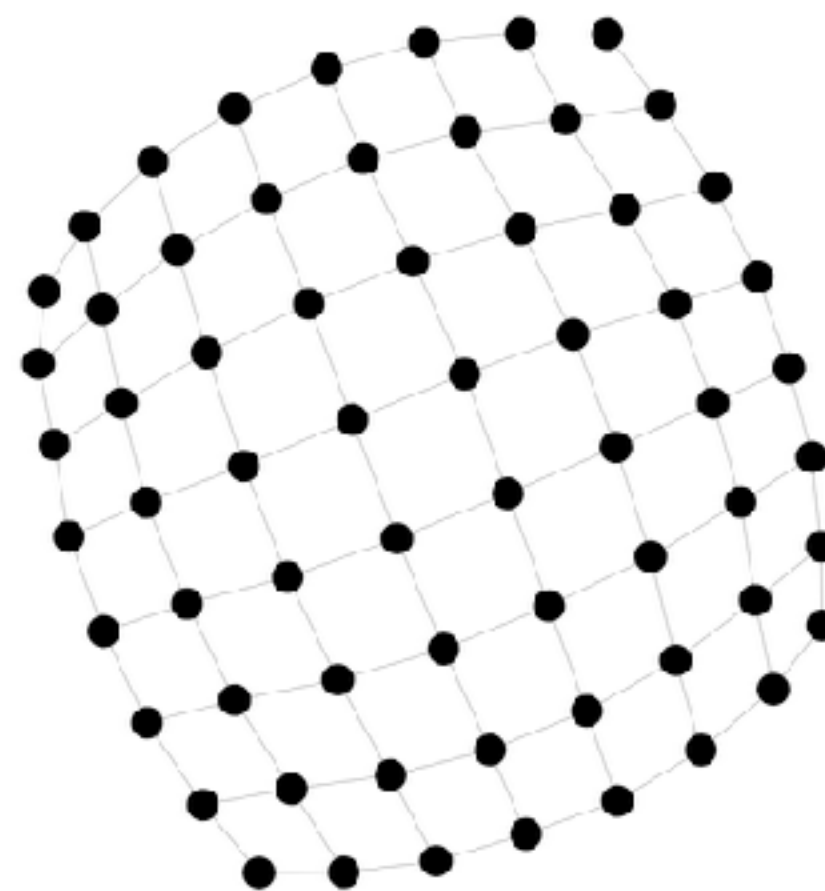
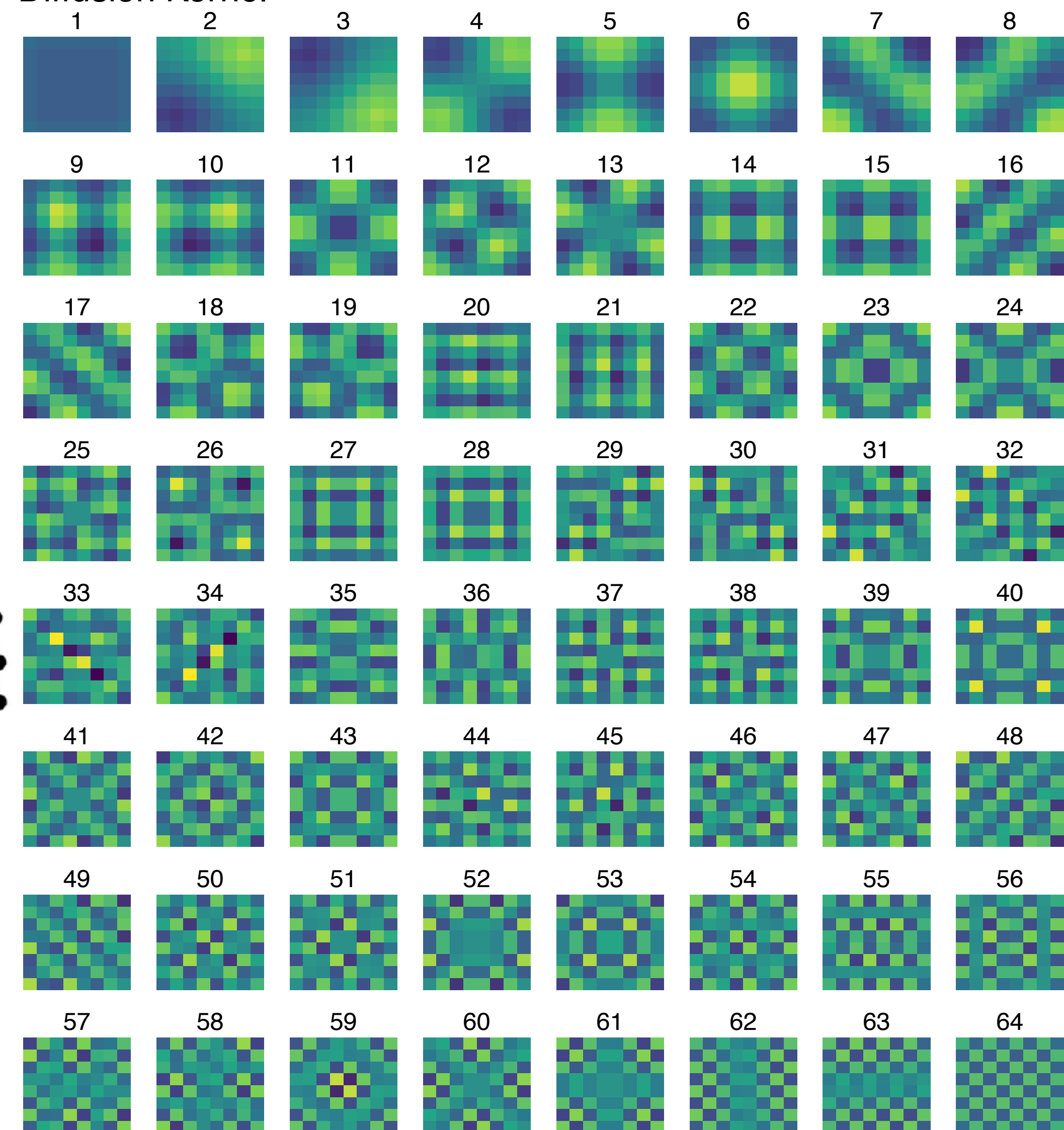
Eigen Vectors



### Successor Representation

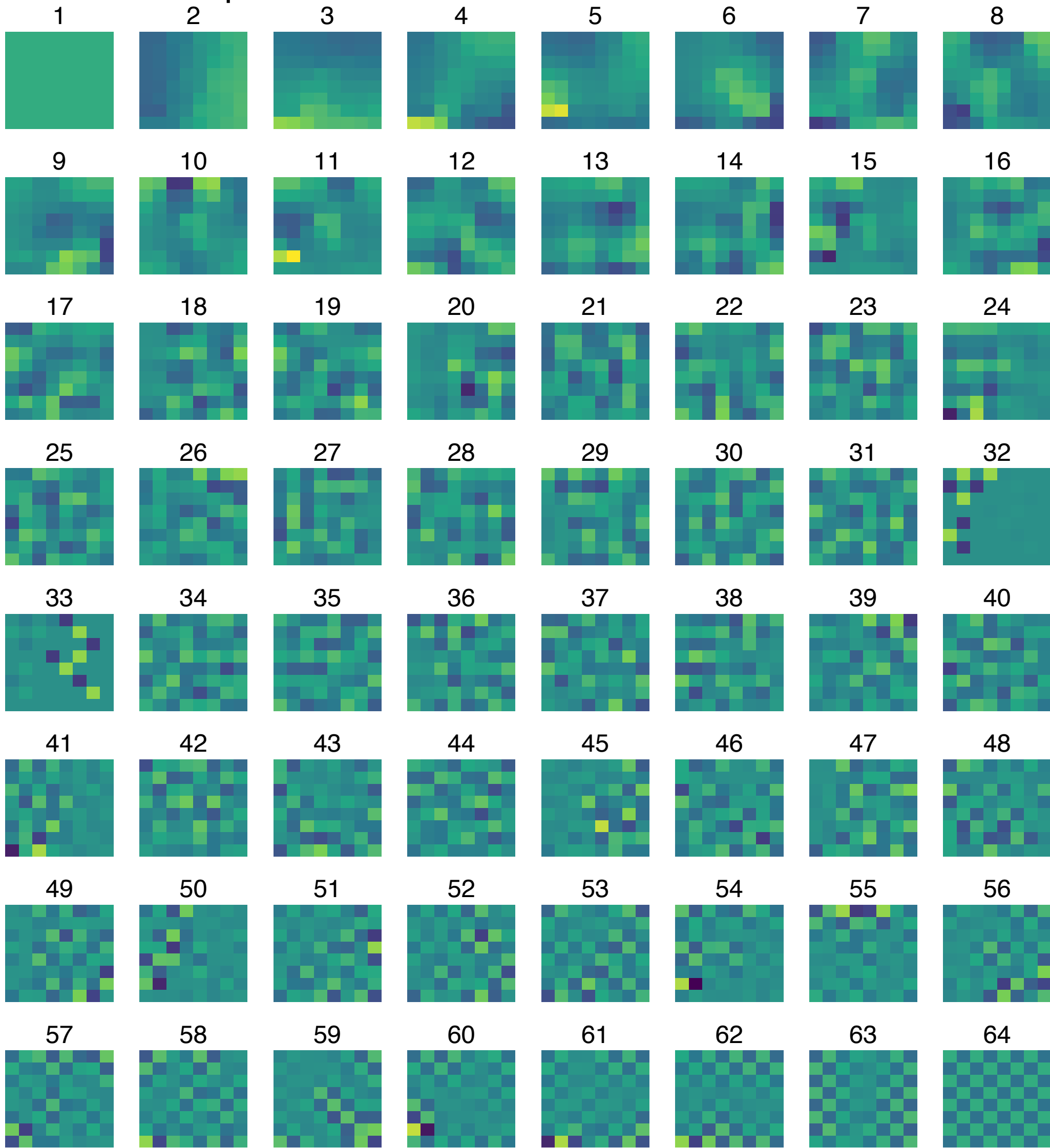


### Diffusion Kernel

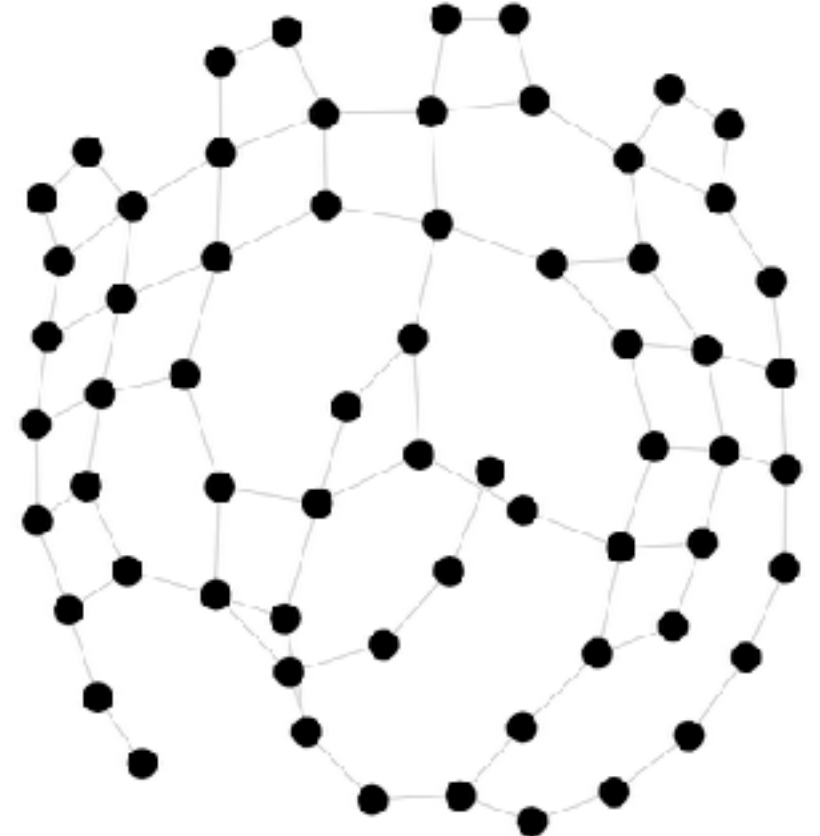
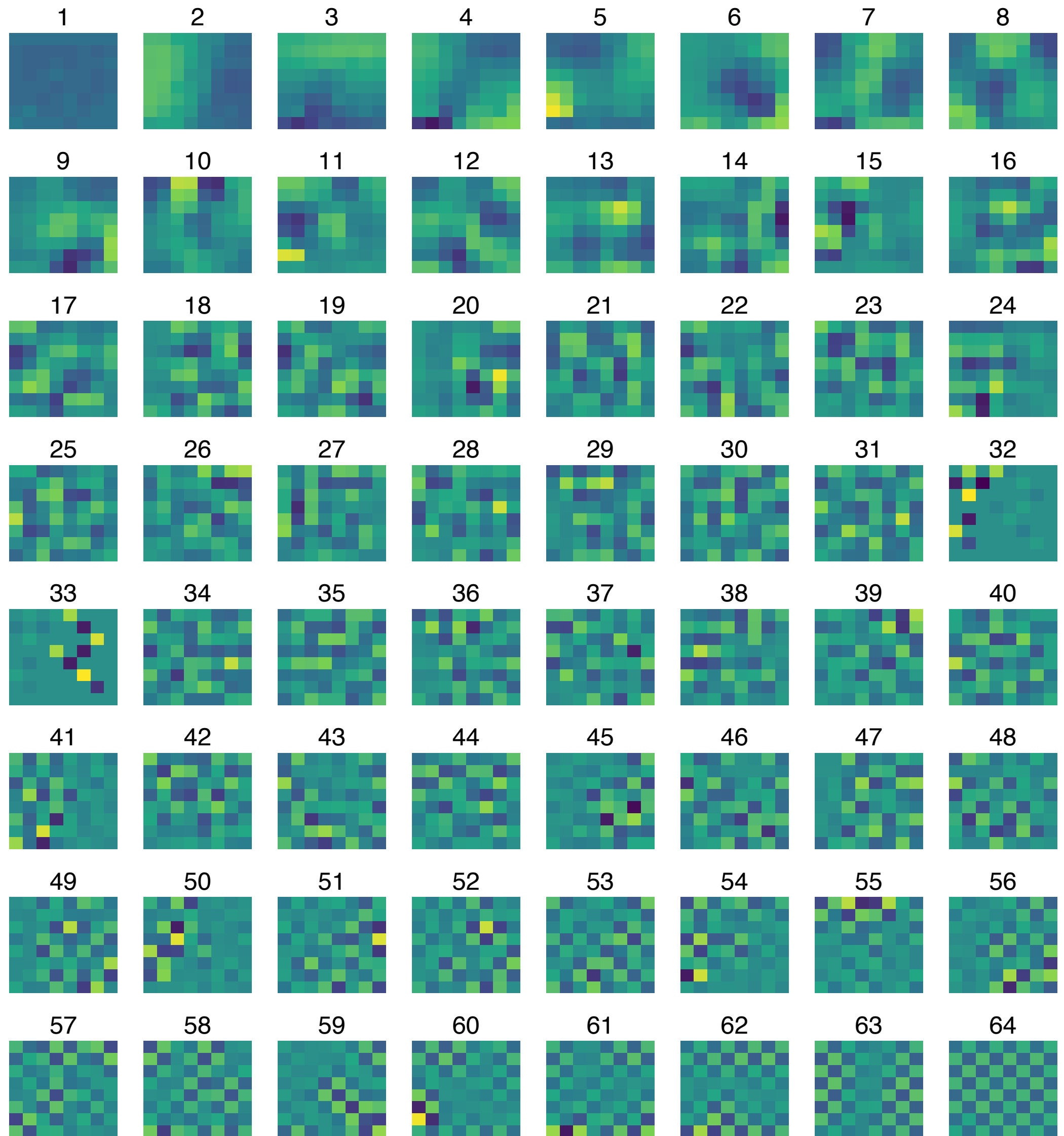




### Successor Representation



### Diffusion Kernel



# Validation on judgments

How many points do you think will be observed at the selected node?

Few Many

How confident are you?

Least confident Most confident

Submit

# Validation on judgments

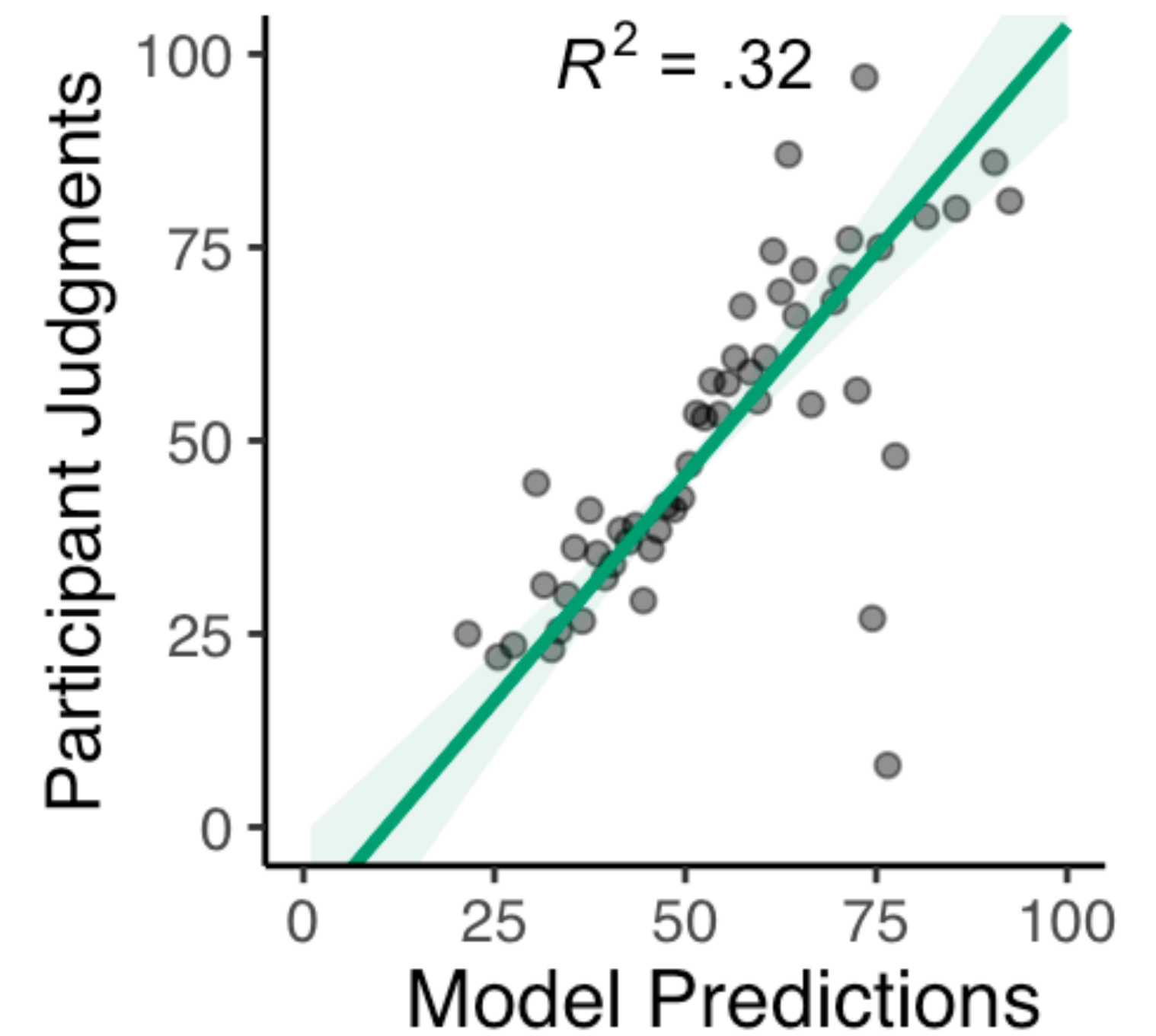
How many points do you think will be observed at the selected node?

Few Many

How confident are you?

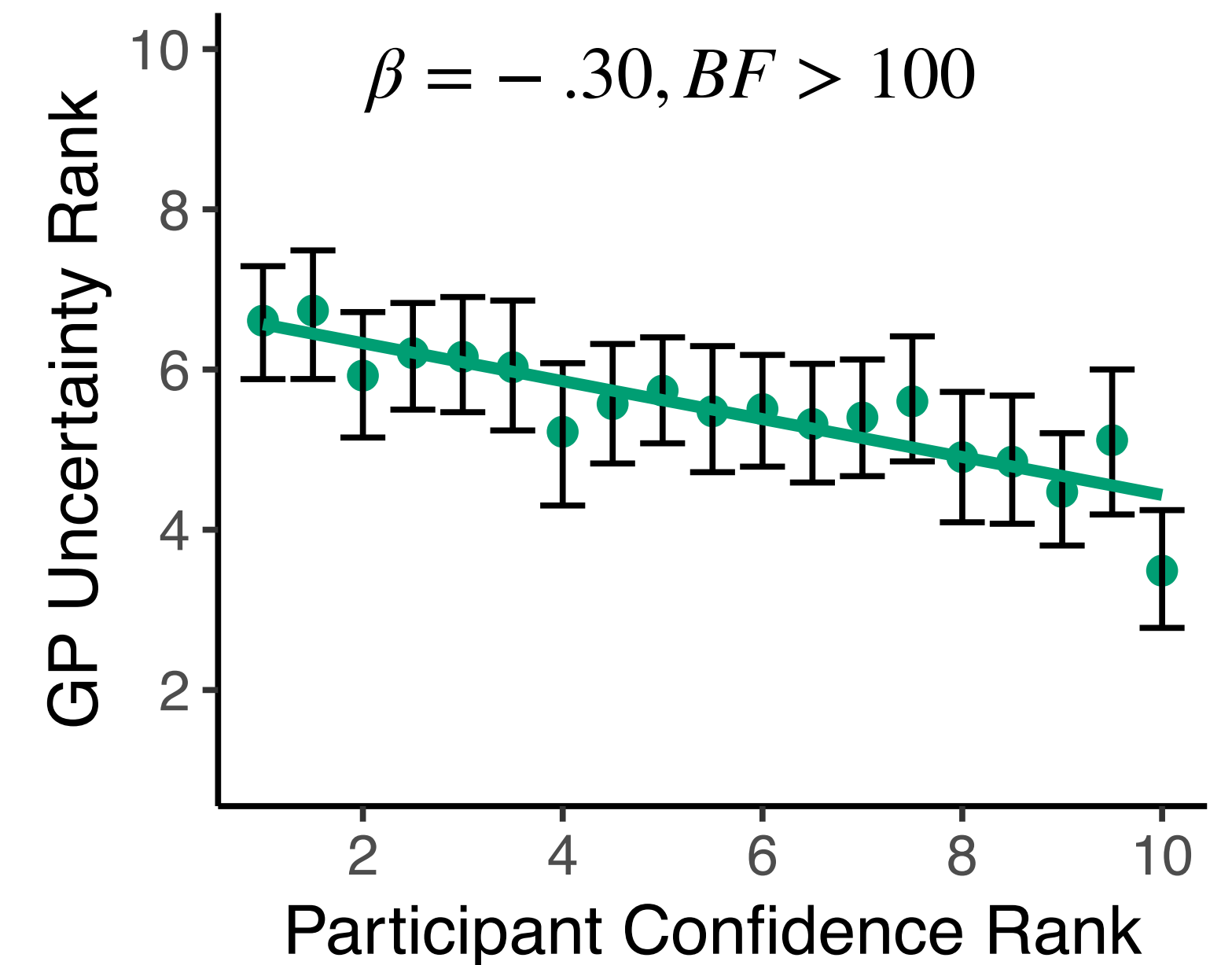
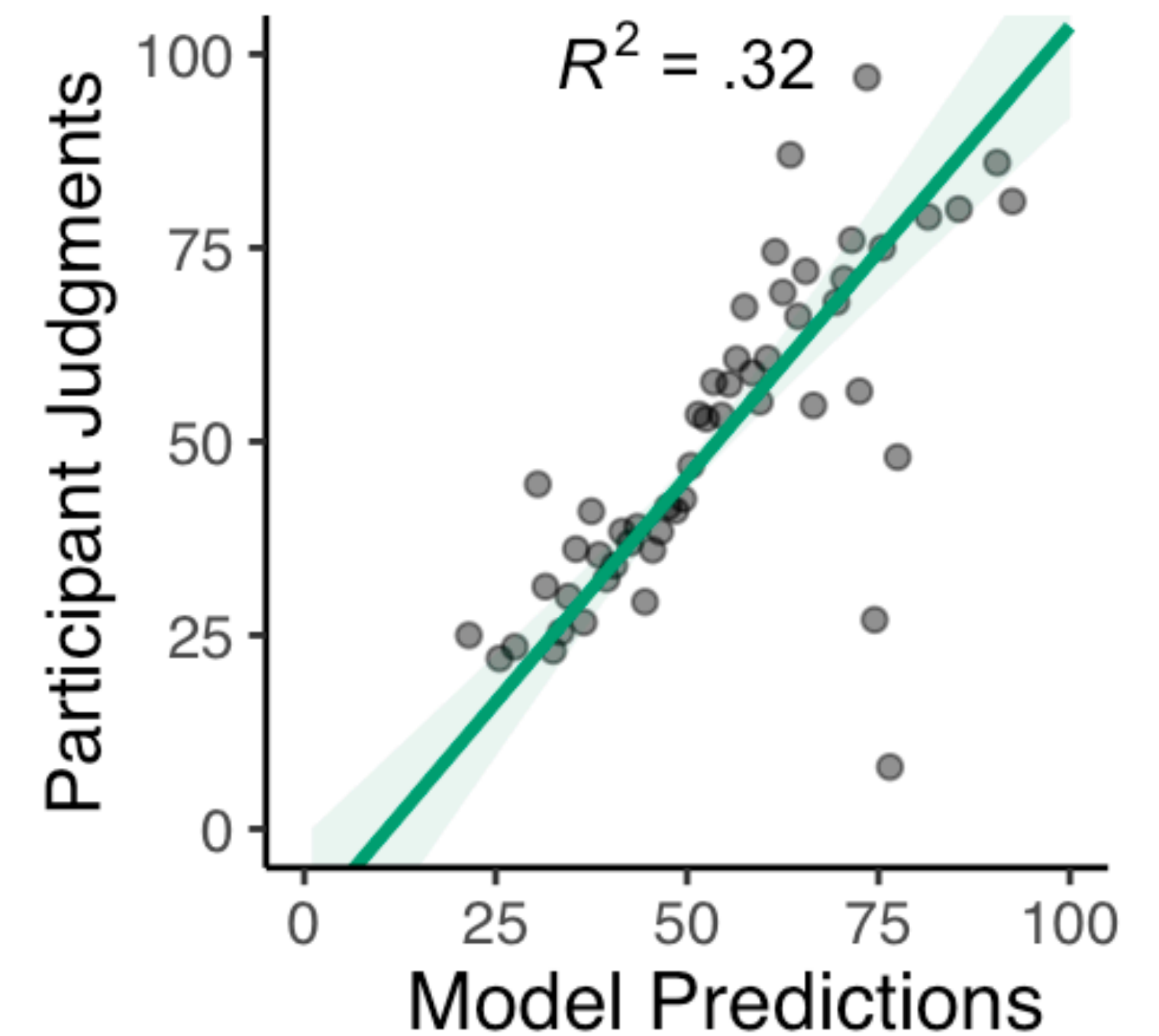
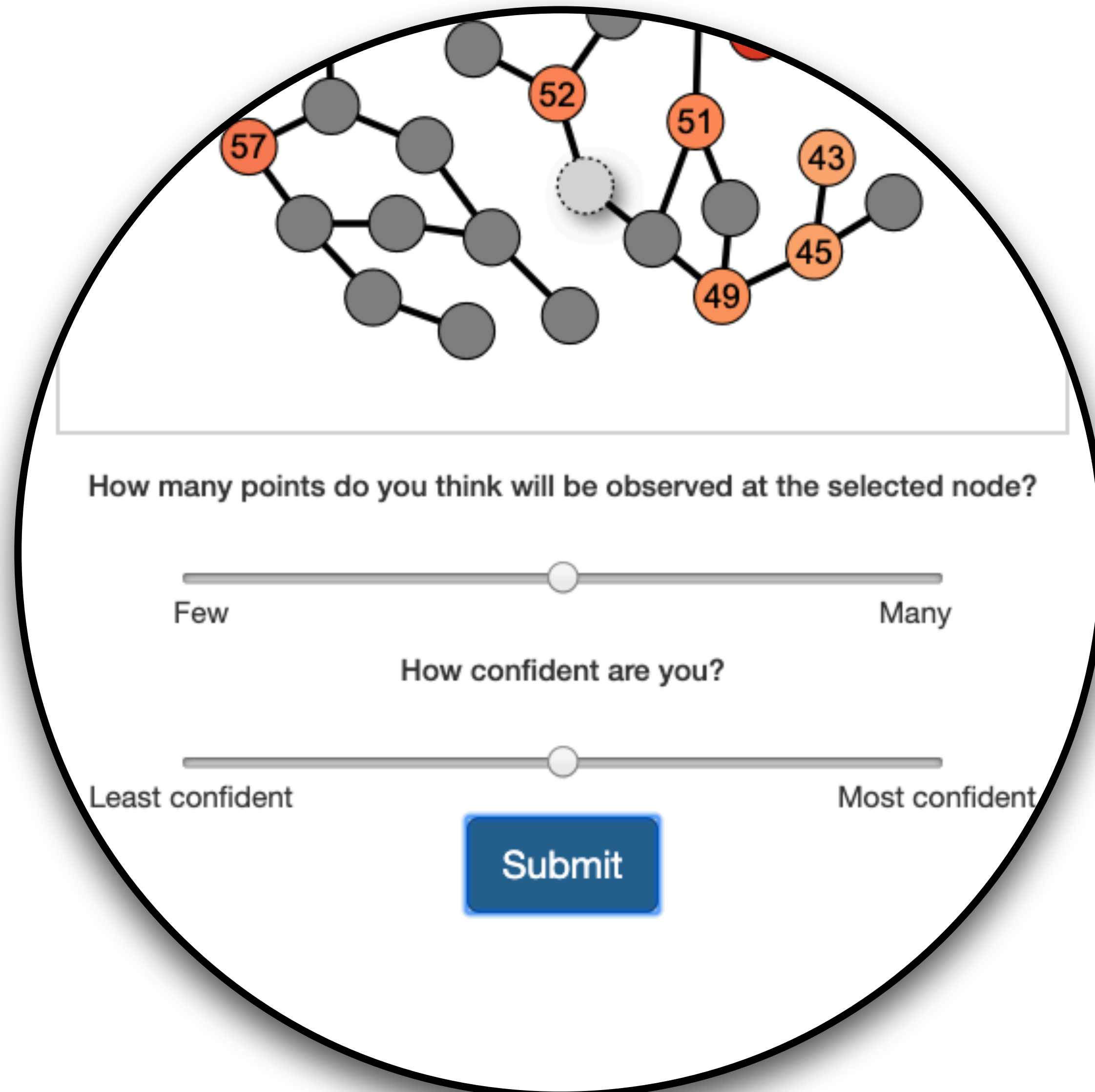
Least confident Most confident

Submit





# Validation on judgments

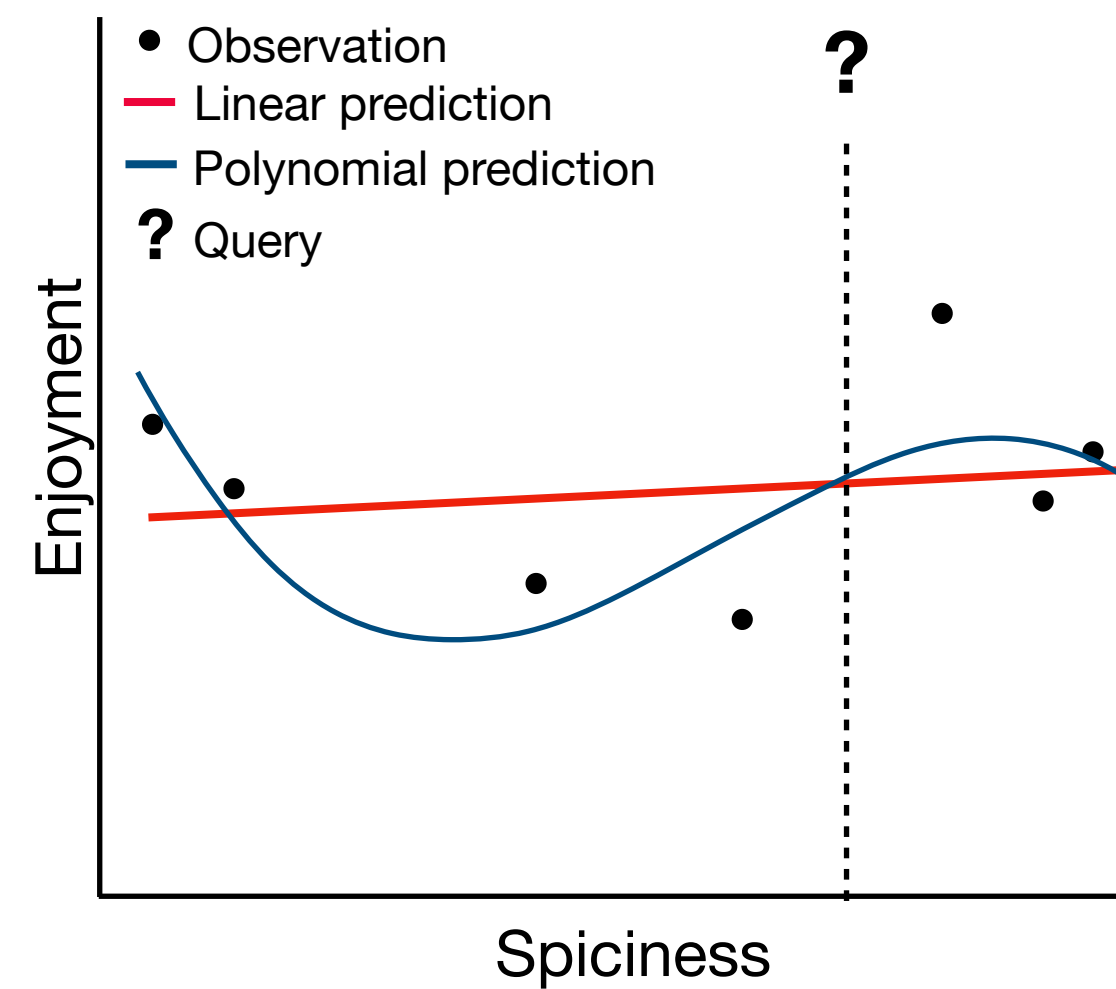


# Function Learning Summary

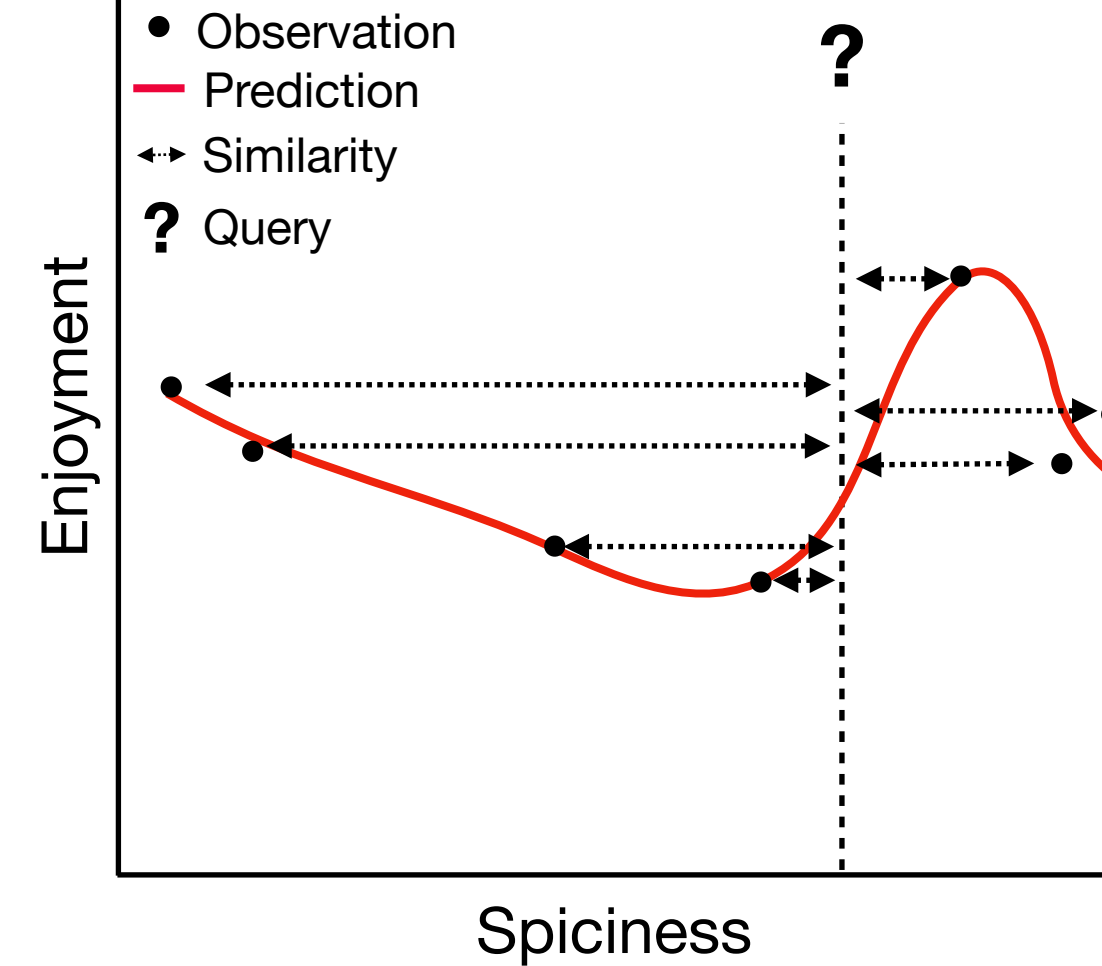
## Regression task



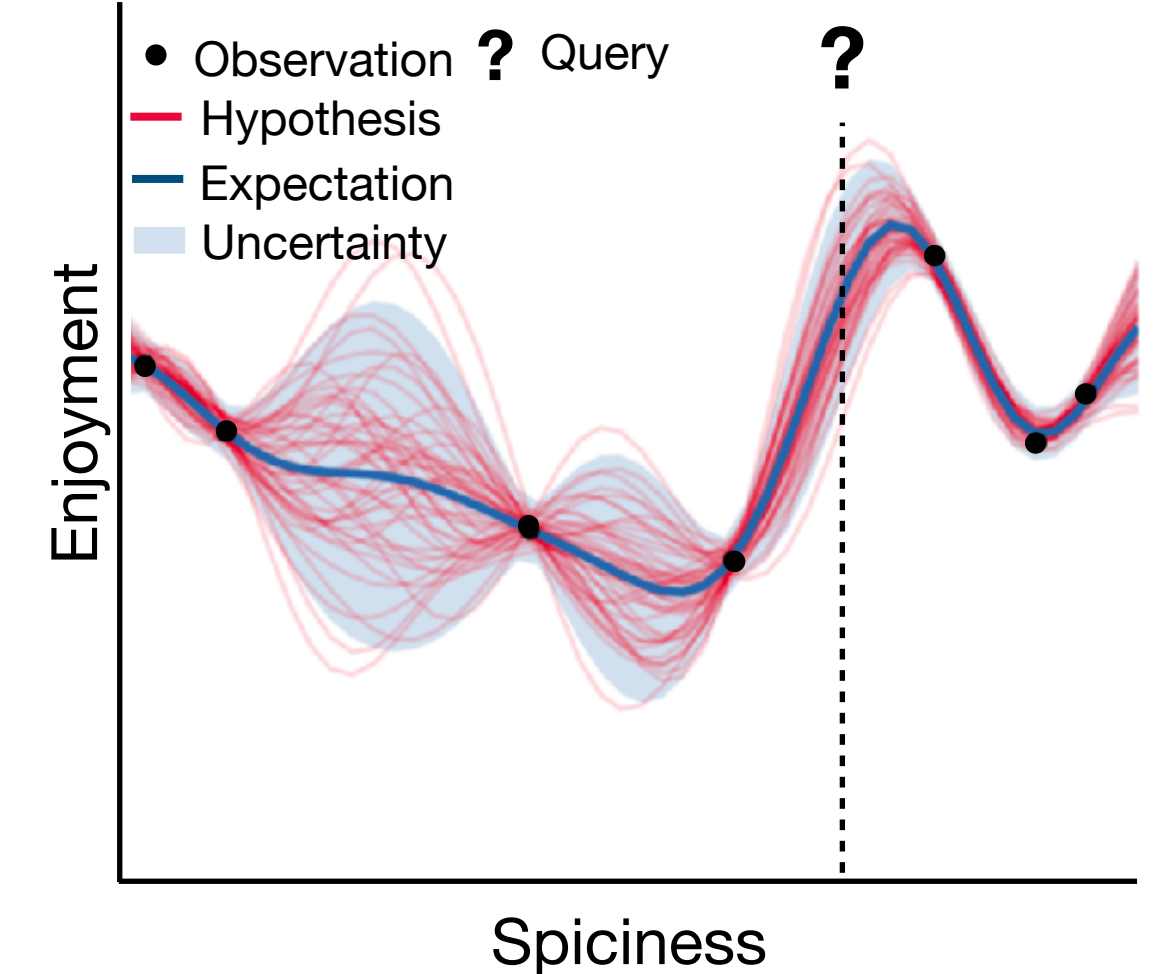
## Rule-based



## Similarity-based



## Hybrid



- Functions represent candidate hypotheses about the world allowing us to evaluate an infinite range of possibilities through interpolation and extrapolation
- Early **rule-based** approaches lacked flexibility, while **similarity-based** approaches didn't capture human inductive biases
- GP regression is a **hybrid** model, using the principles of Bayesian inference to compute a distribution over candidate hypotheses
- GPs not only capture how humans explicitly learn functions, but also how we implicitly learn a value function to guide our exploration in RL tasks with large search spaces
  - Originally tested in spatial environments (Wu et al., 2018), but can also be applied to any arbitrary features (Wu et al., 2020), or even graph-structured environments (Wu et al., 2021)



# Next Lecture (in 2 weeks) - Language and Semantics

