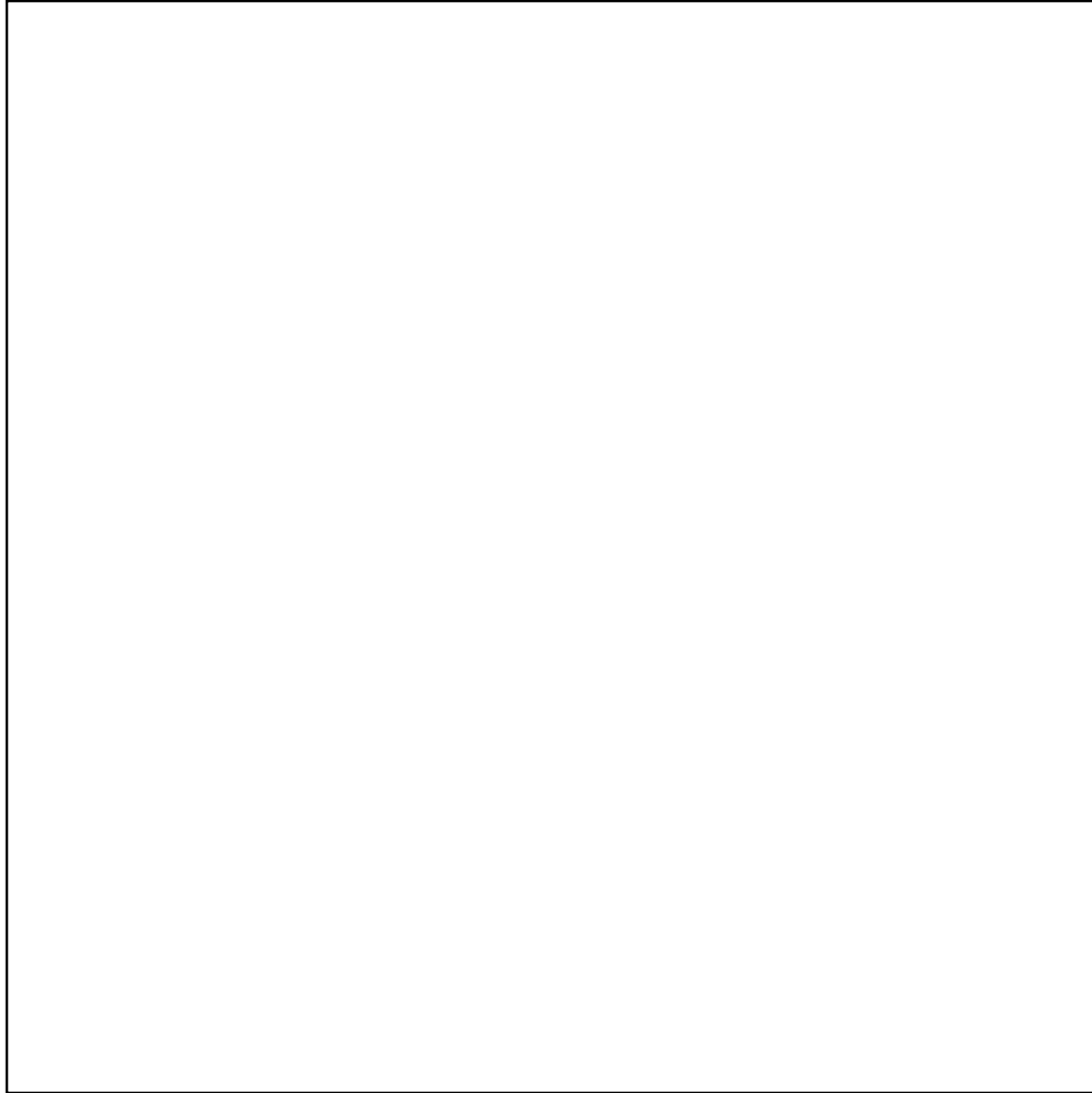


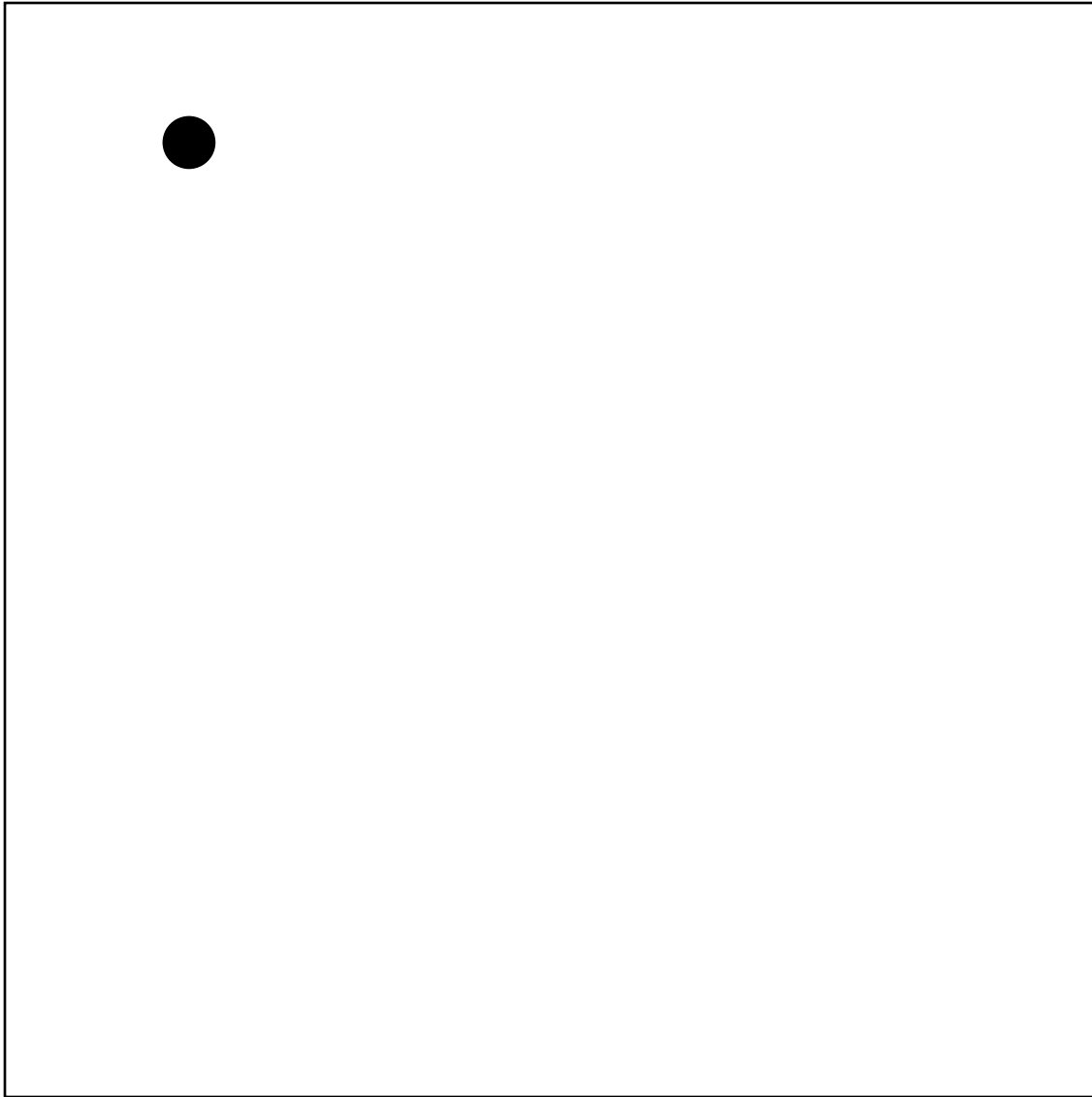
# Representing spatial information in working memory

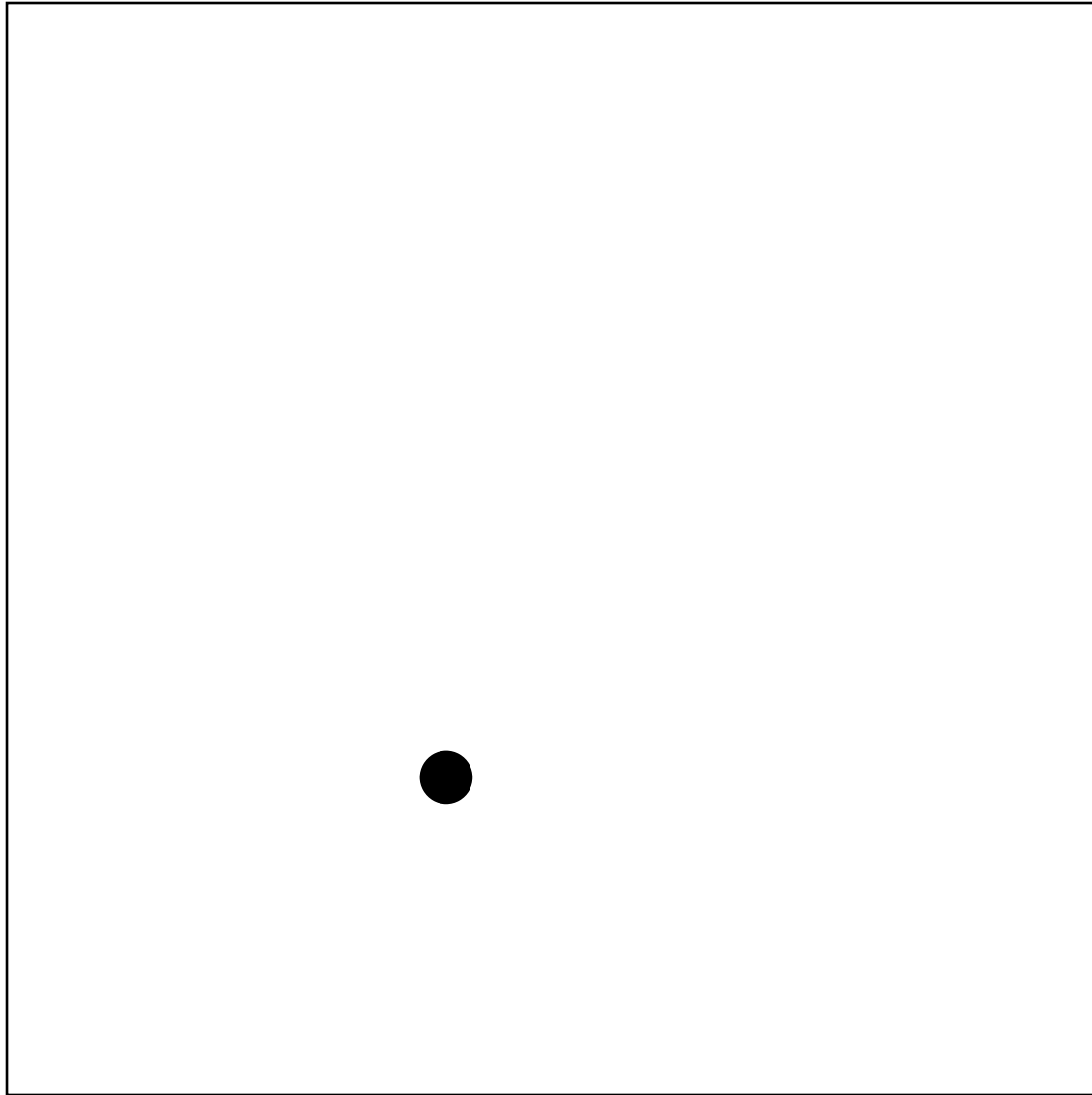
B. Kowialiewski, S. Majerus, K. Oberauer

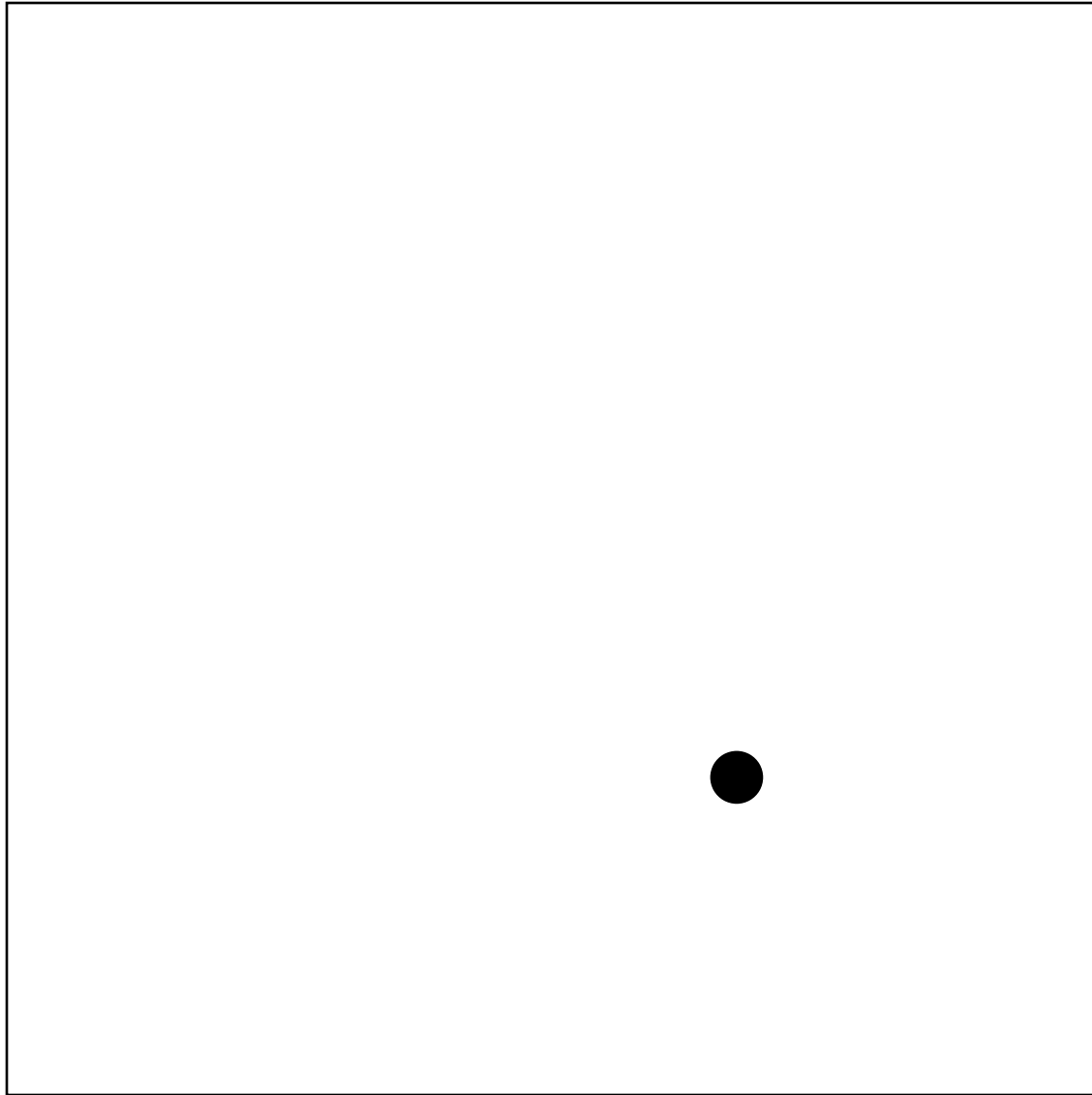


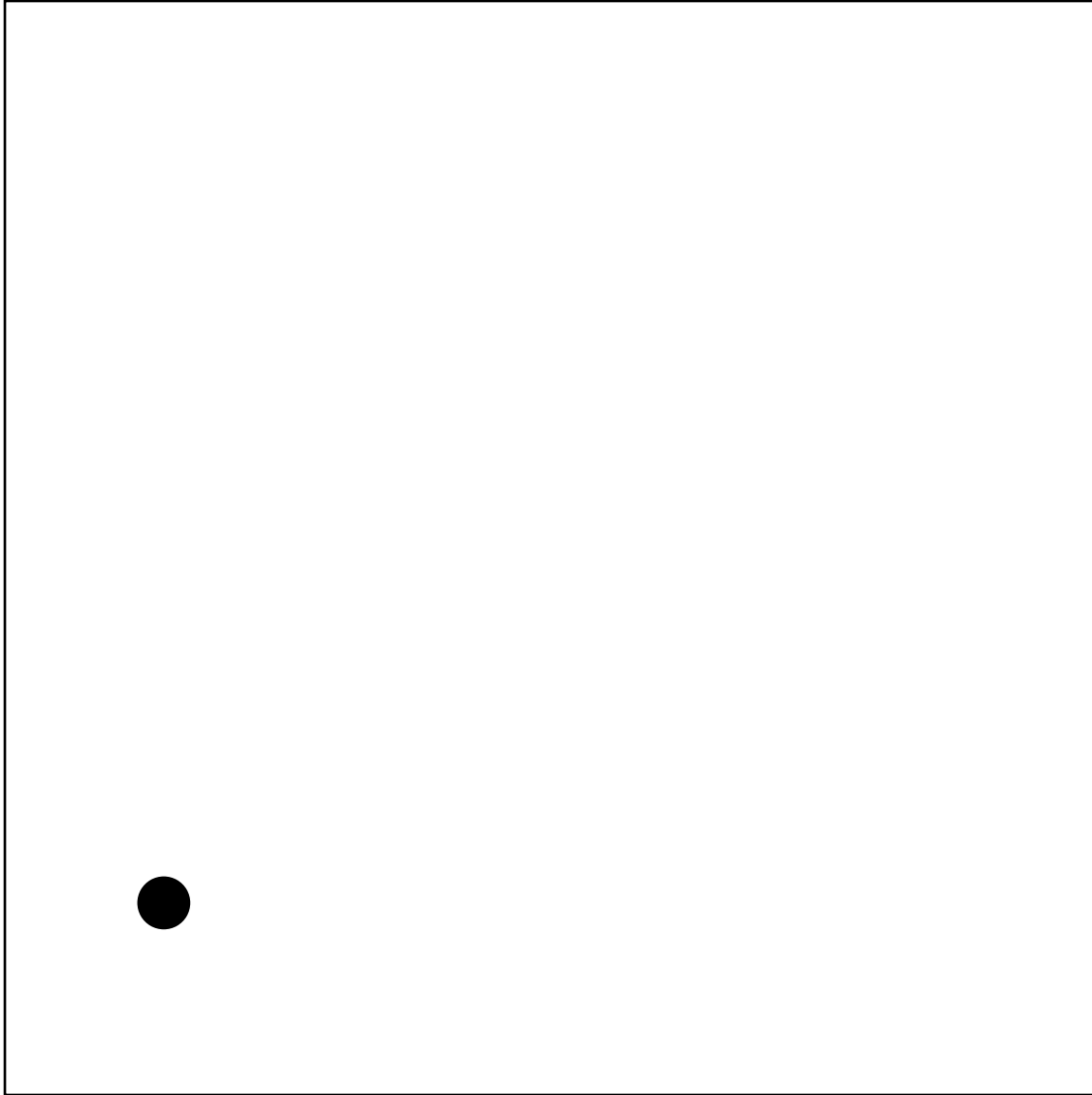
**University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>**

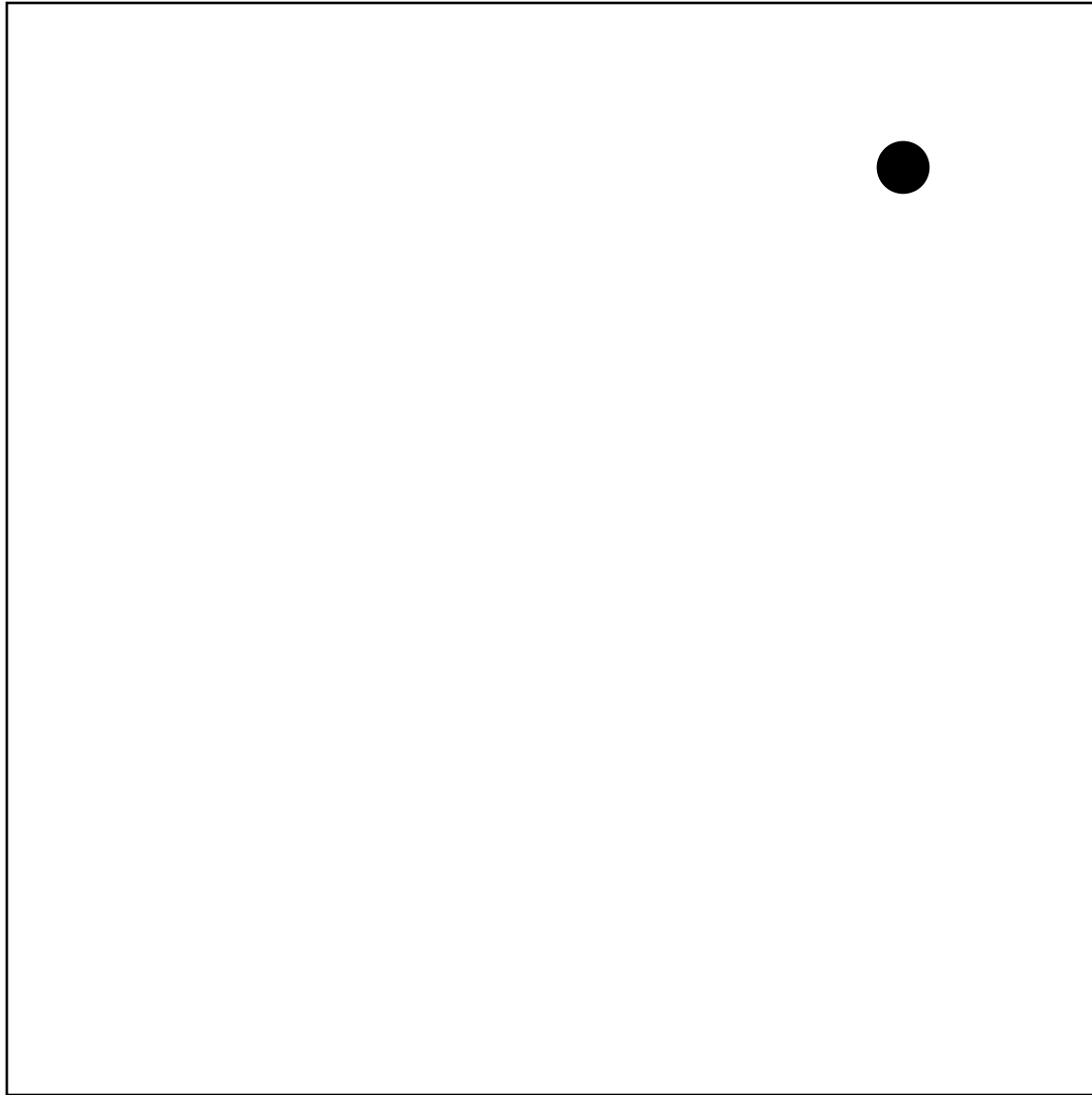


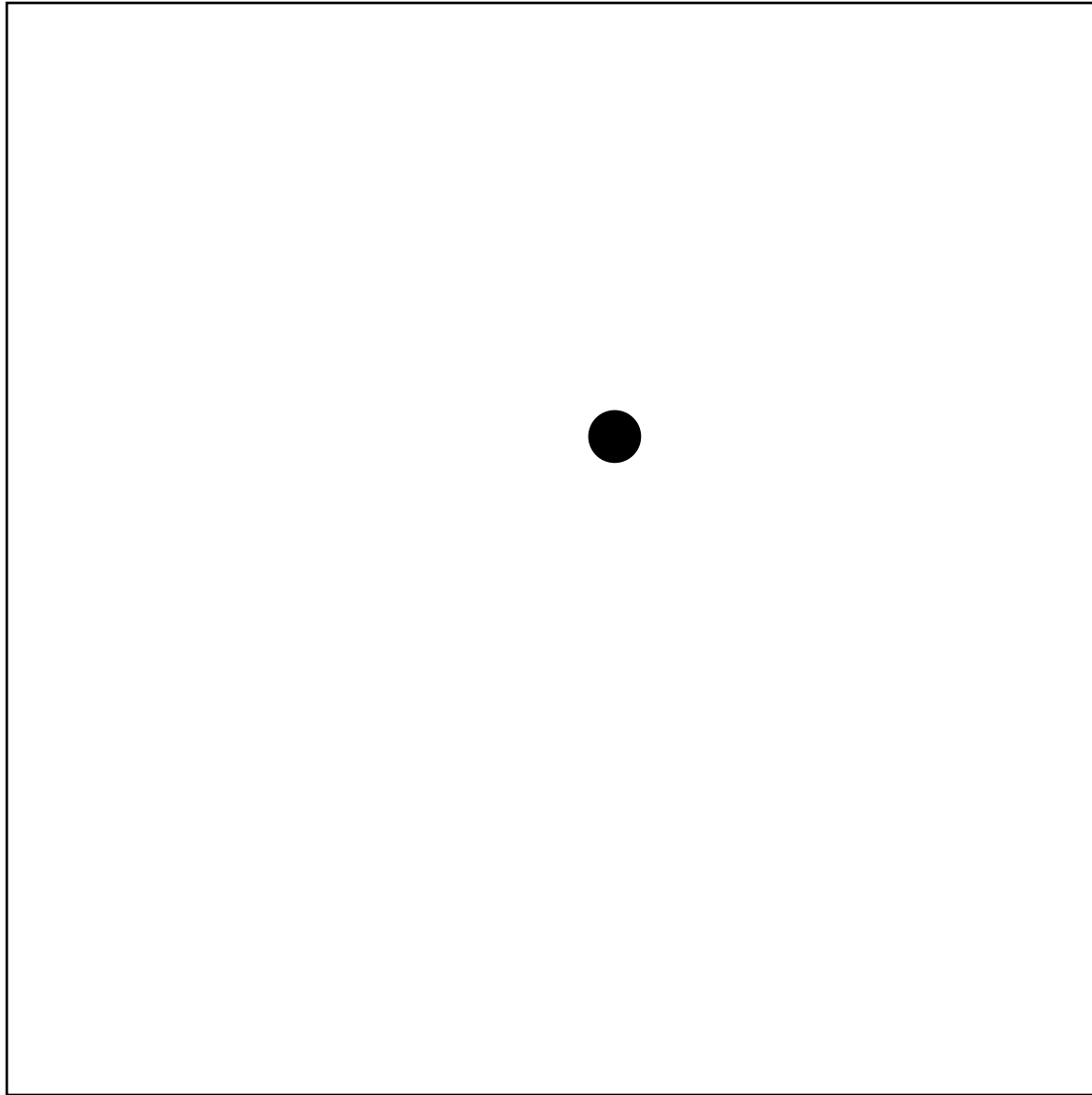




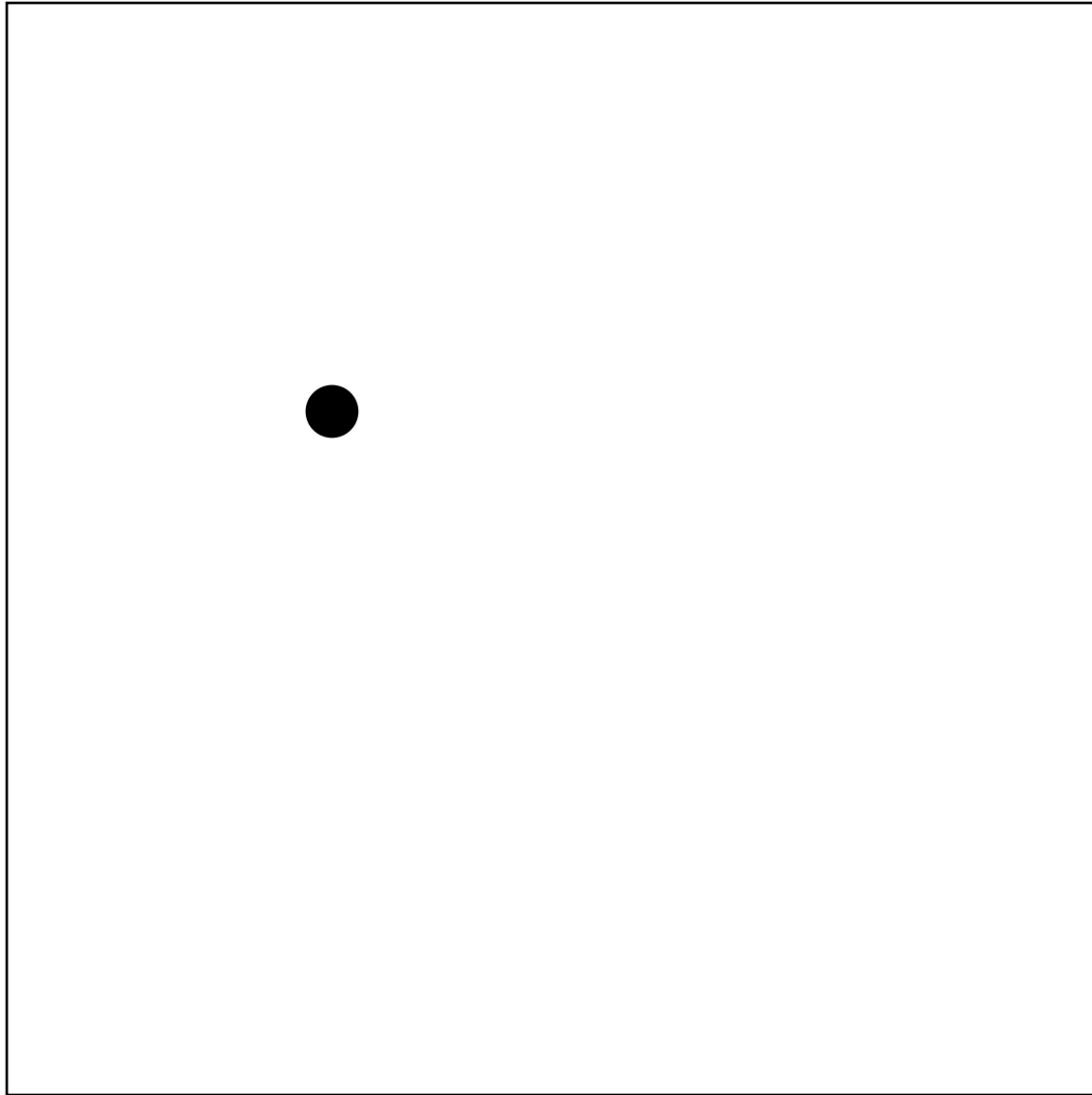


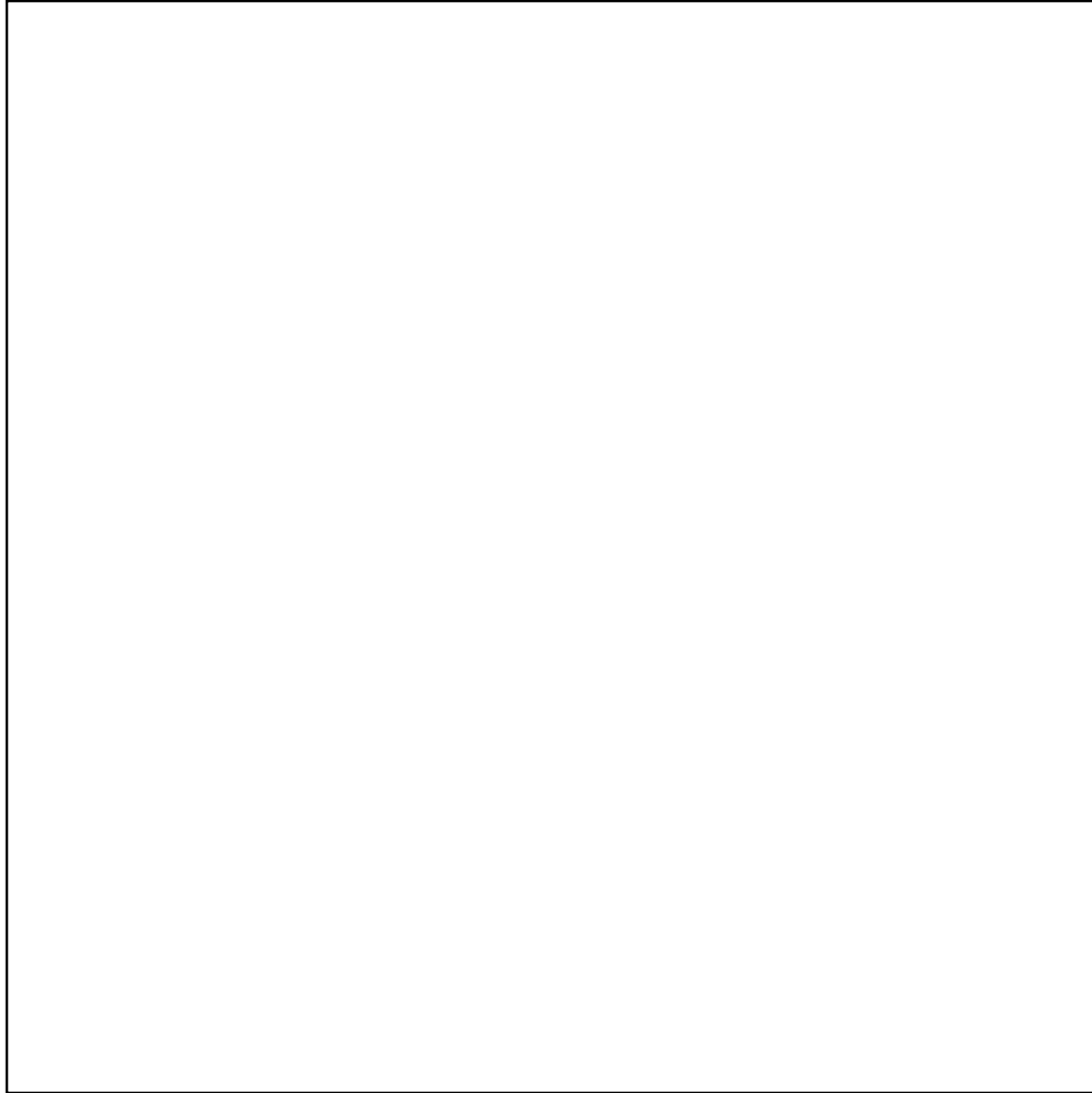












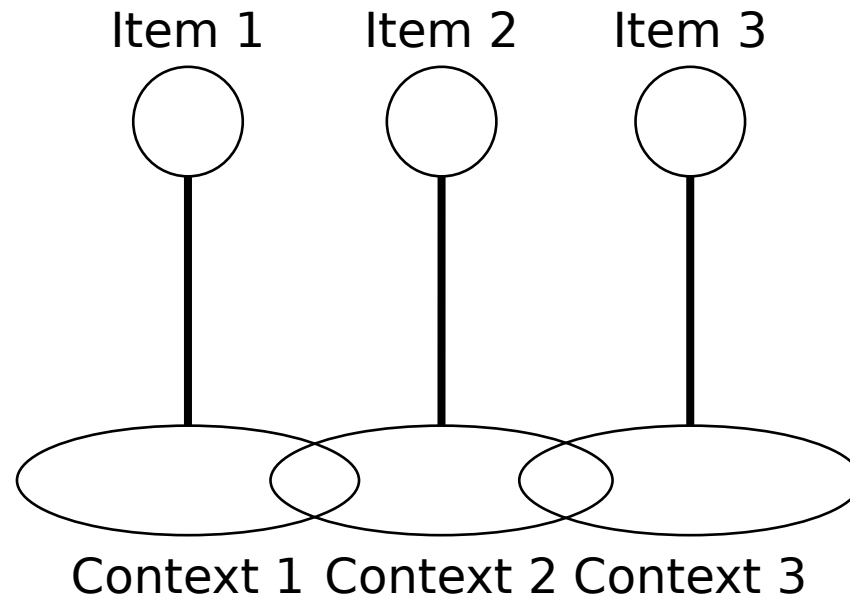
How do we memorize such sequences?

We need to represent:

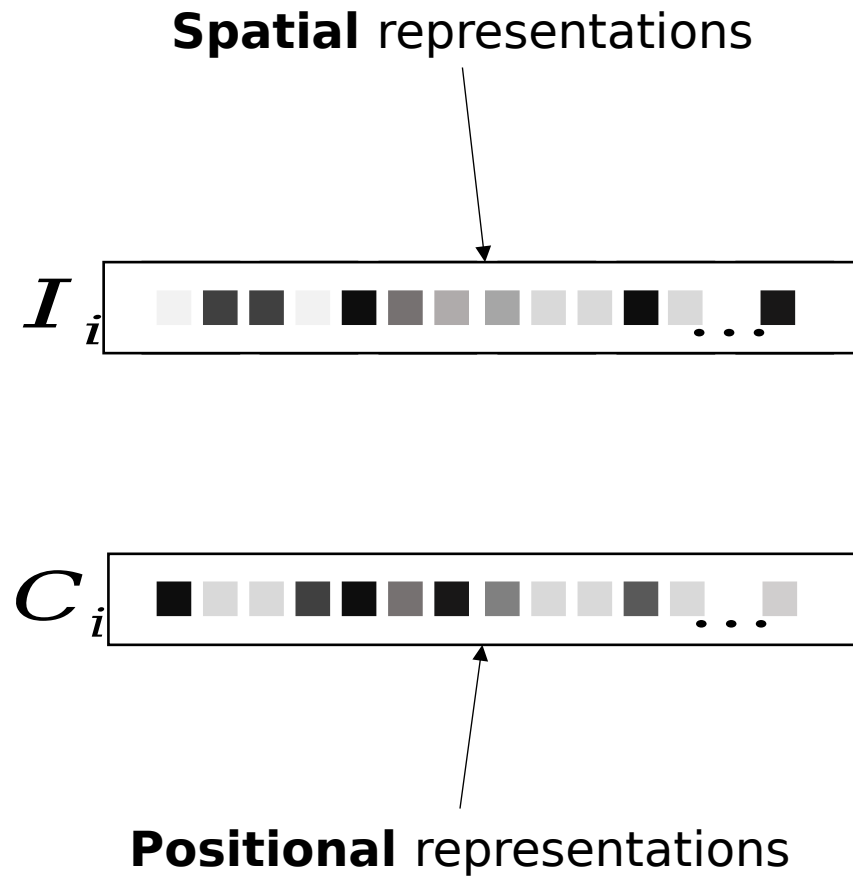
1. Spatial **locations**
2. The **order** in which they appear

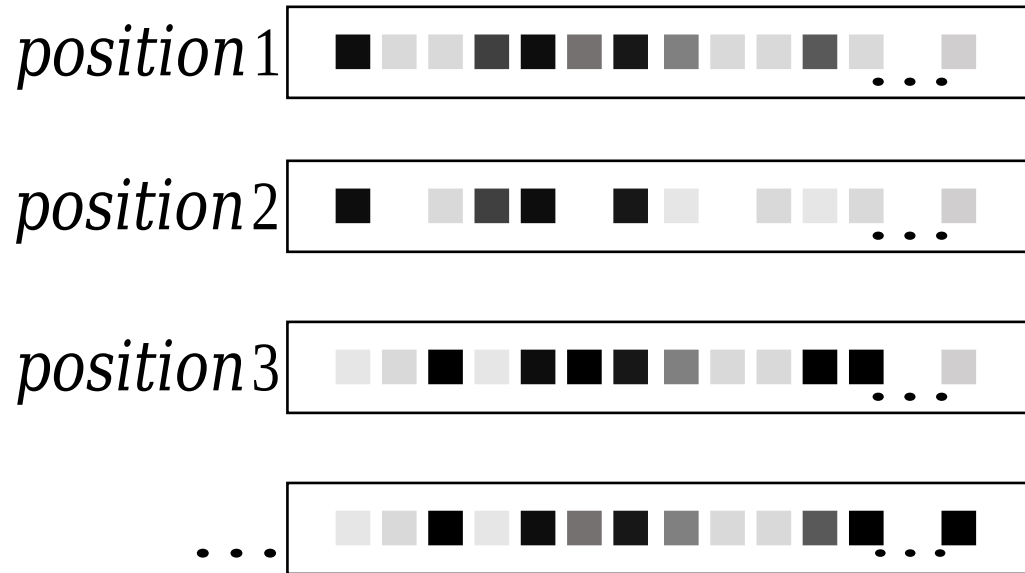
Both should be combined.

# Introduction



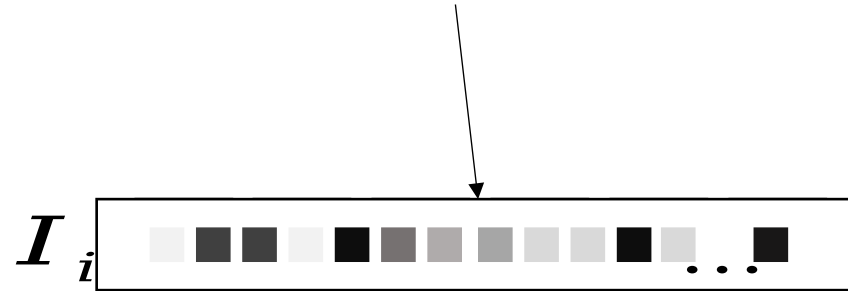
Burgess & Hitch (1999) *Psych Review*  
Barrett & Lewandowsky (2004) *JML*  
Gatherer & Gollwitzer (2012) *PB&R*  
Anderson (1998) *Cog Psych*



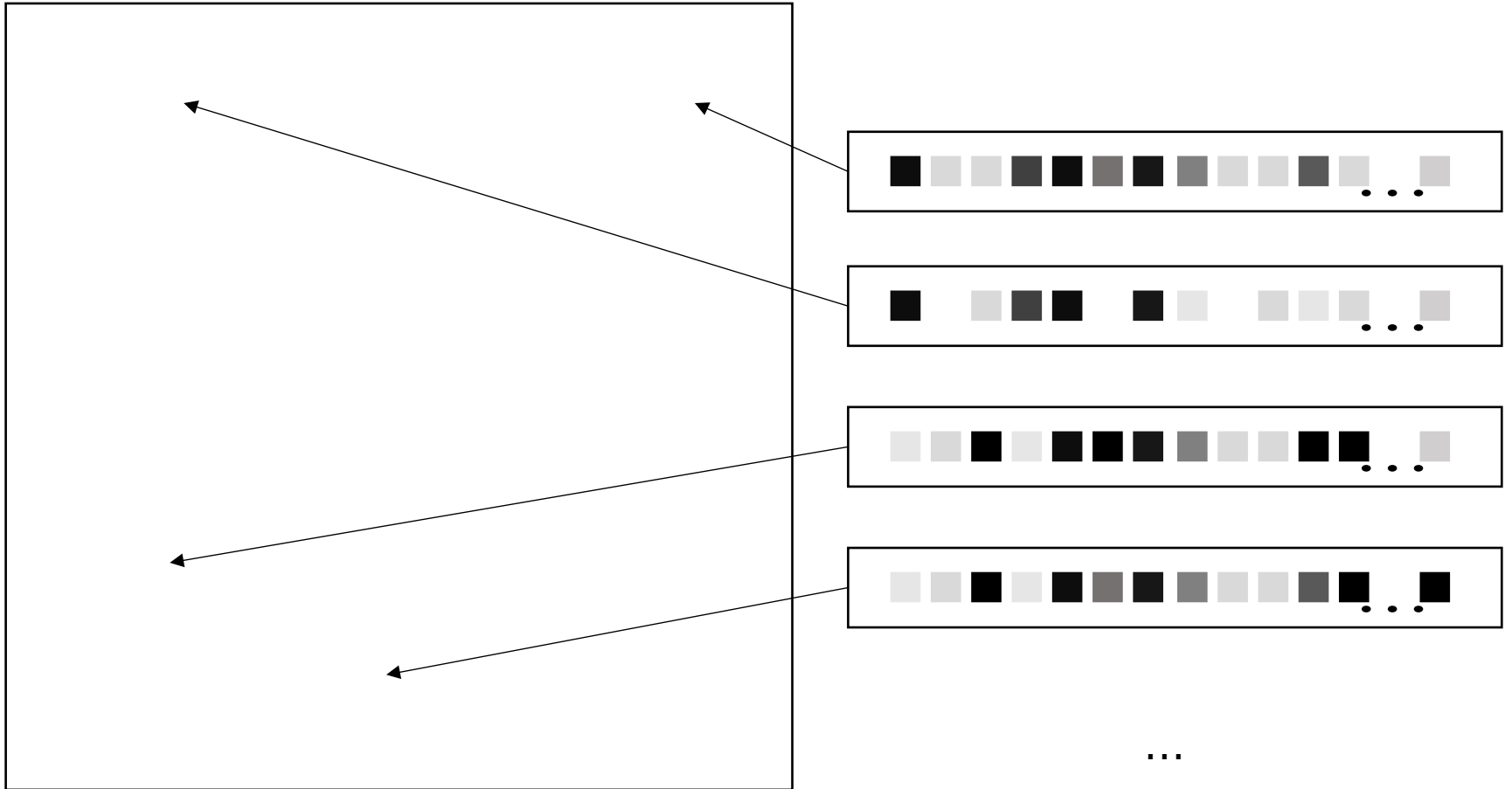


$$\cos (C_i, C_j) = P^{|i - j|}$$

**Spatial** representations

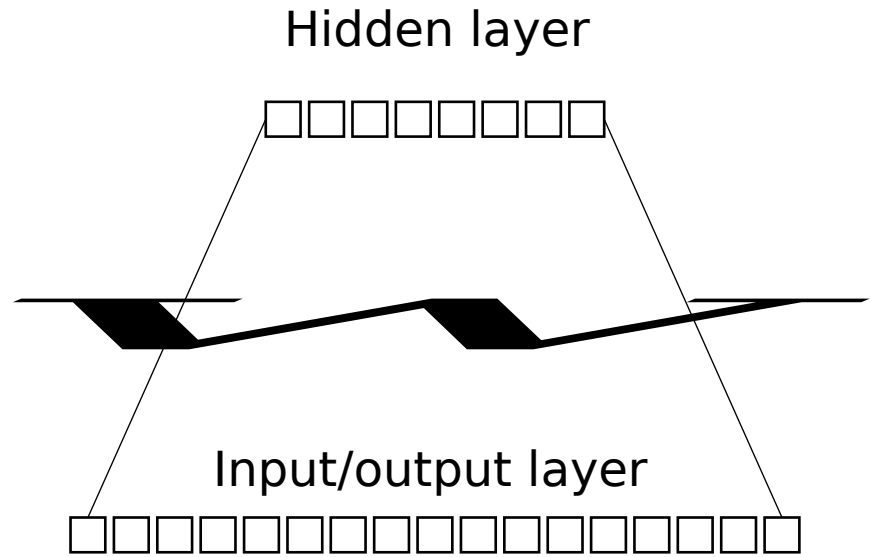


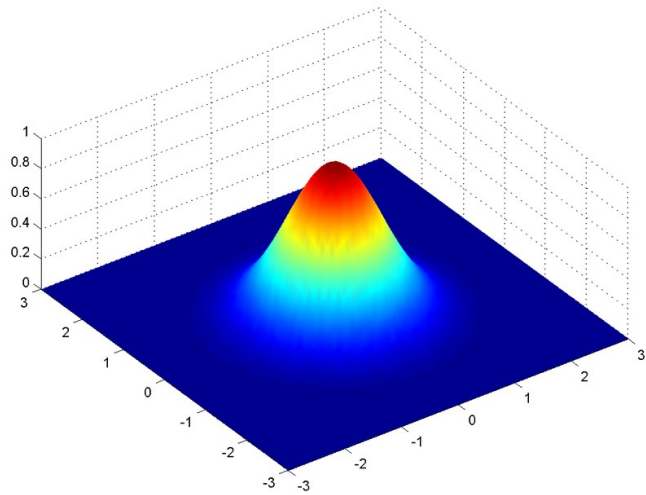
# Model





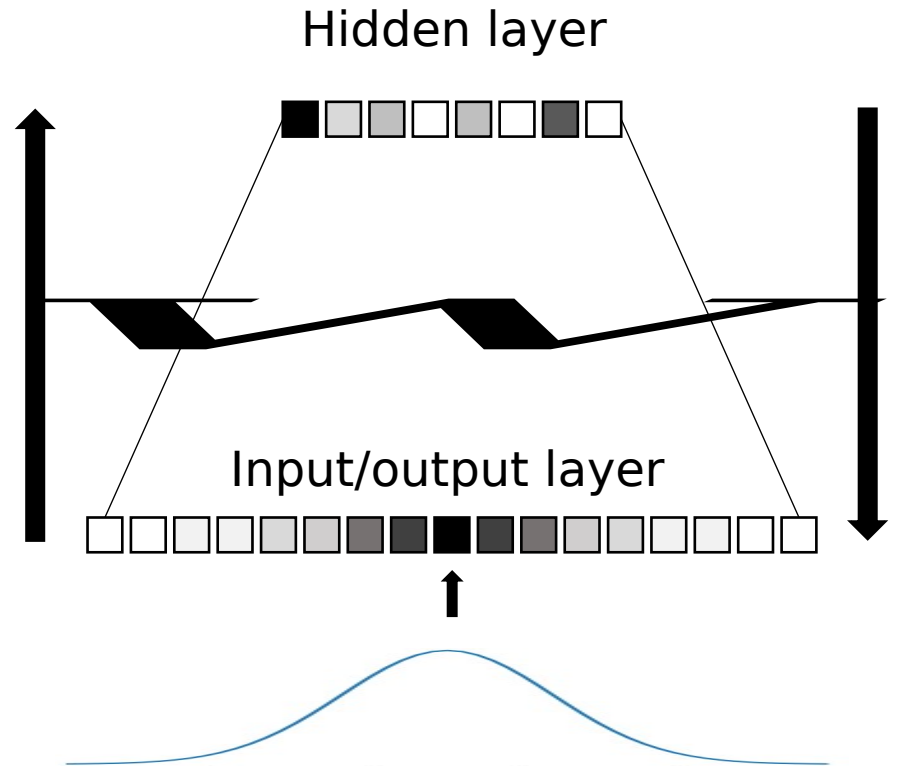
# Autoencoder



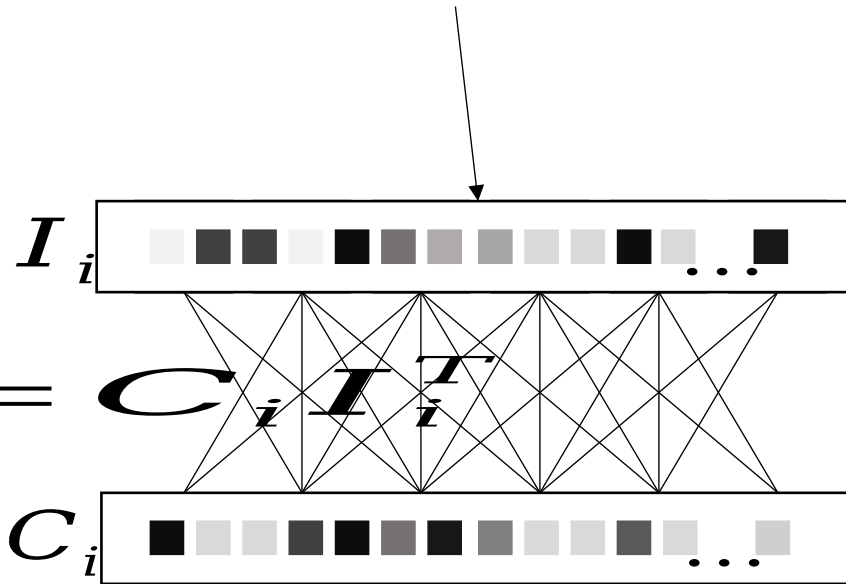


Multivariate normal distribution

# Autoencoder



**Spatial** representations



**Positional** representations

urgess & Hitch (1999) *Psych Review*

arrell & Lewandowsky (2004) *JML*

berauer et al. (2012) *PB&R*

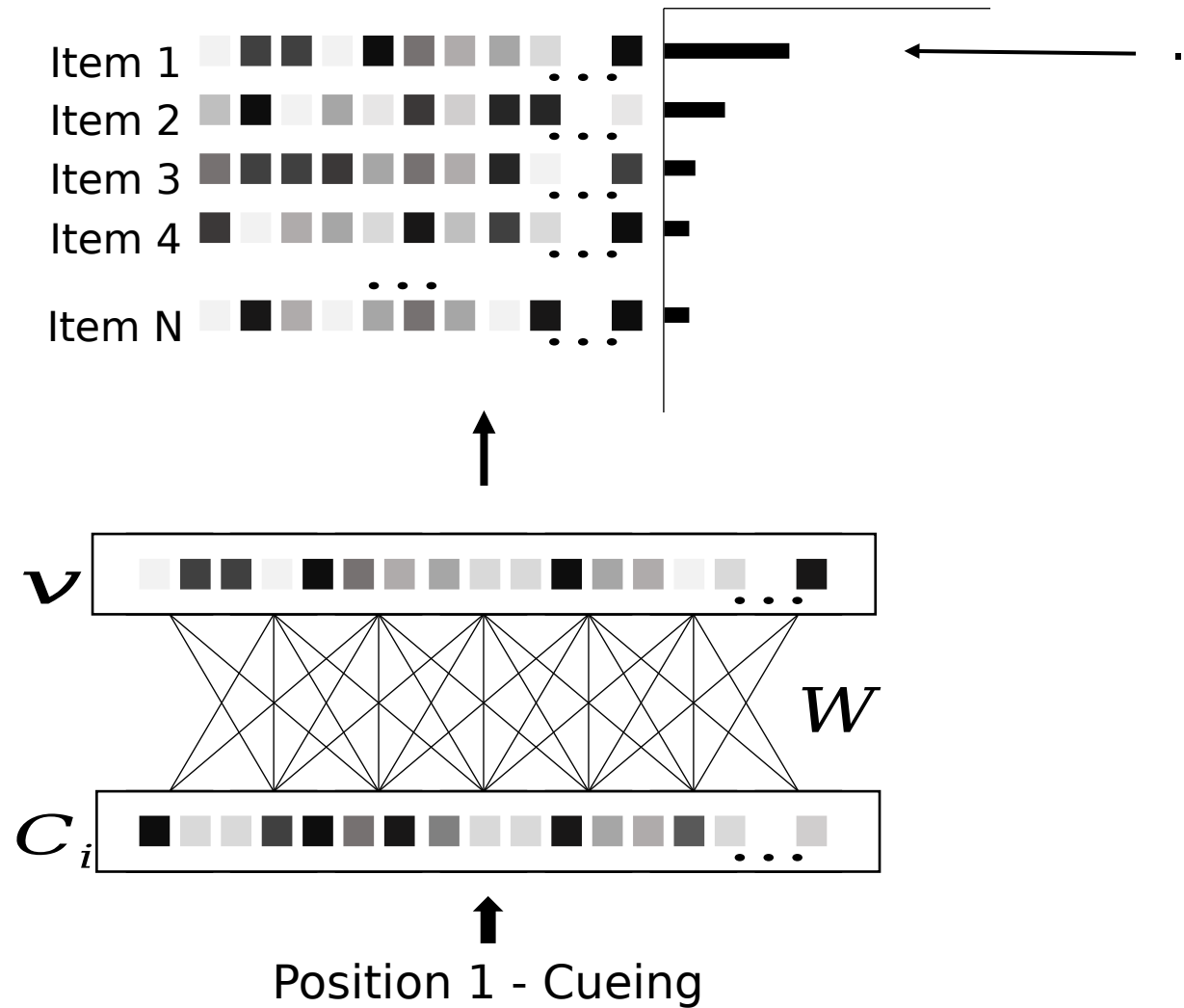
enson (1998) *Cog Psych*

**Retrieval phase**

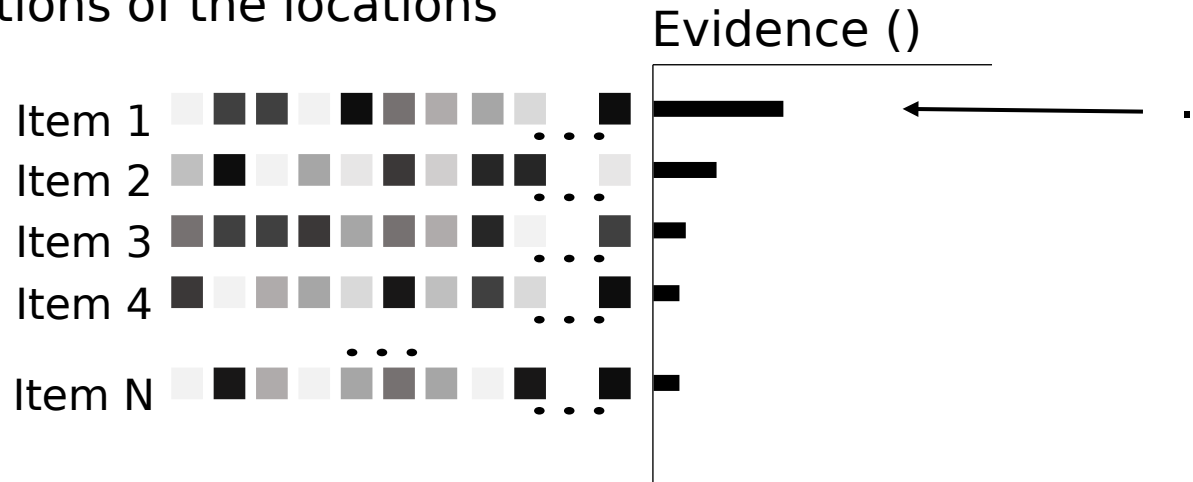
# Model

Representations of the locations

Evidence ()



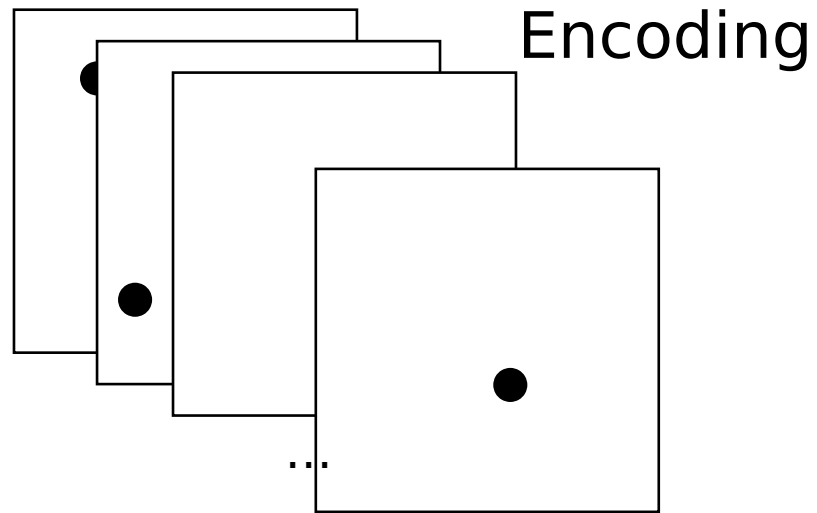
Representations of the locations



Luce's choice rule (exponential version)

= Temperature (free parameter)

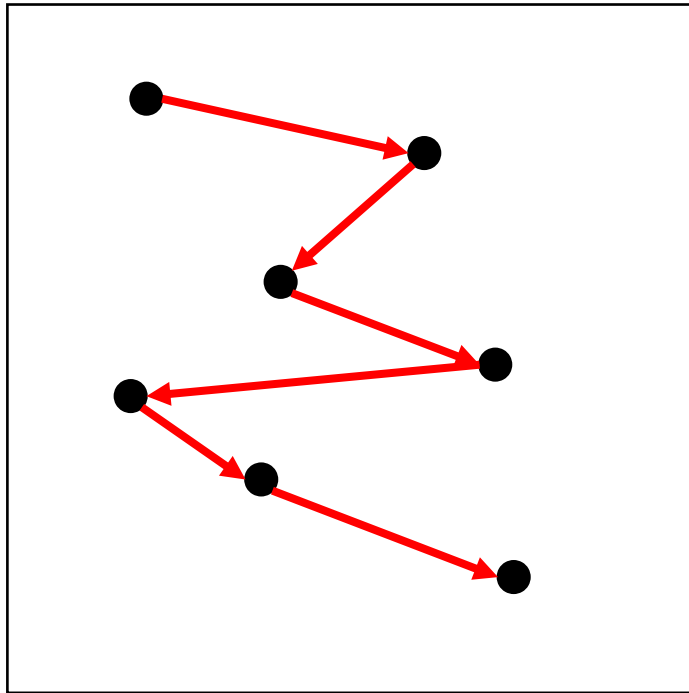




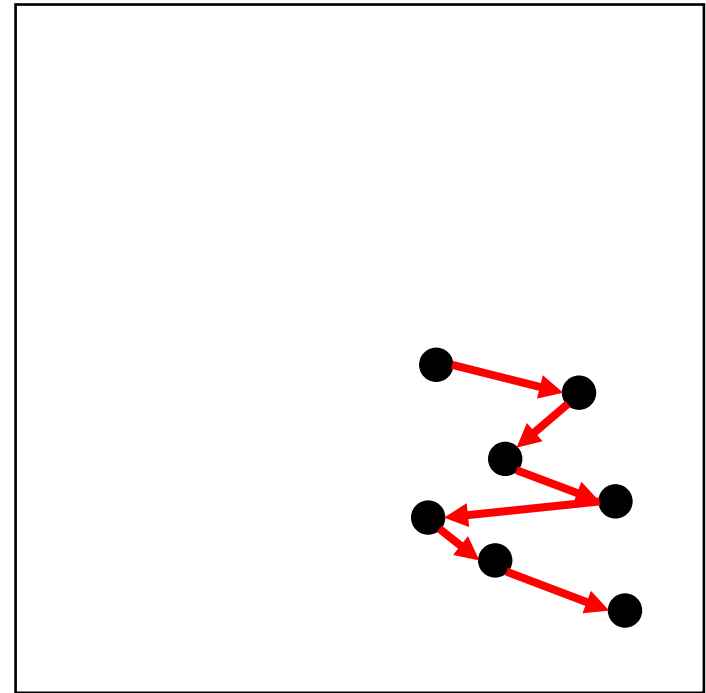
7 items  
1s / item



Distant

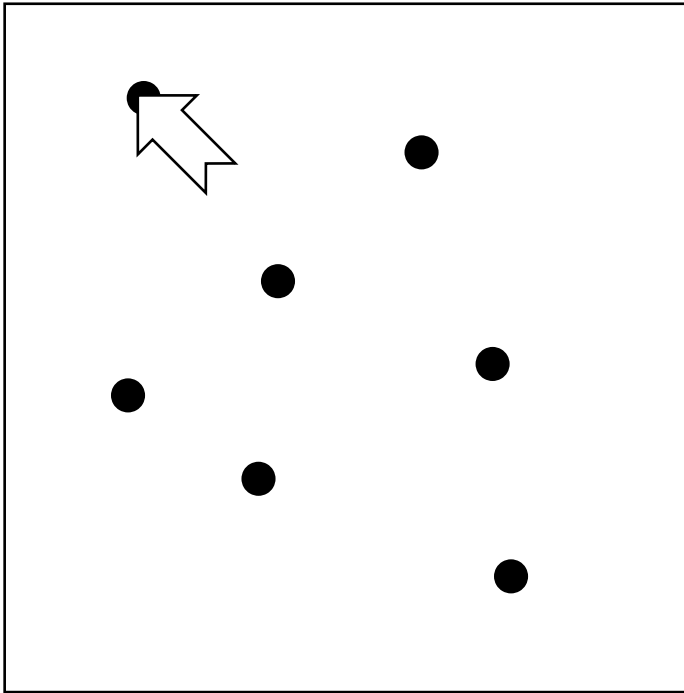


Close



Shrunk by 2.5 + random xy translation

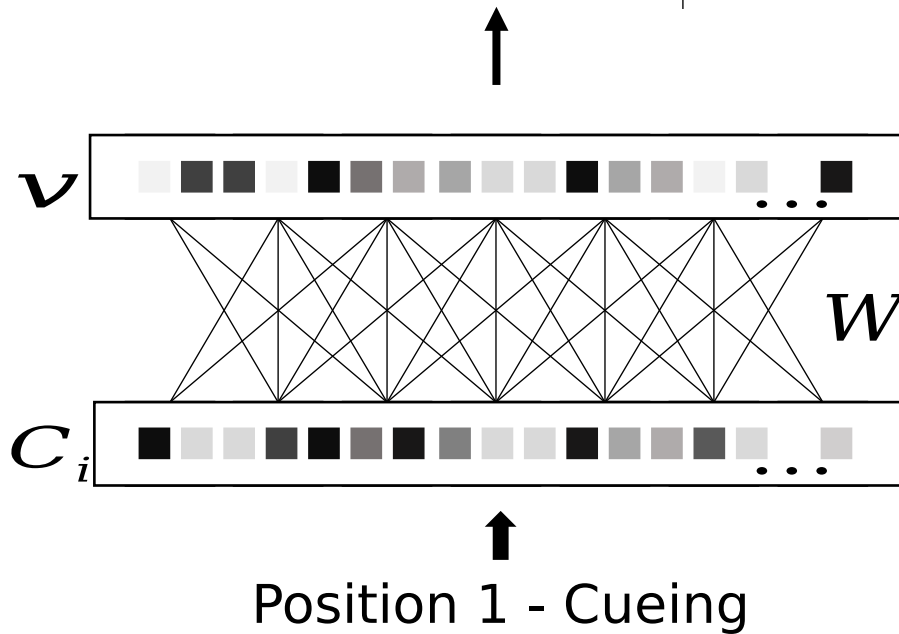
## Order reconstruction



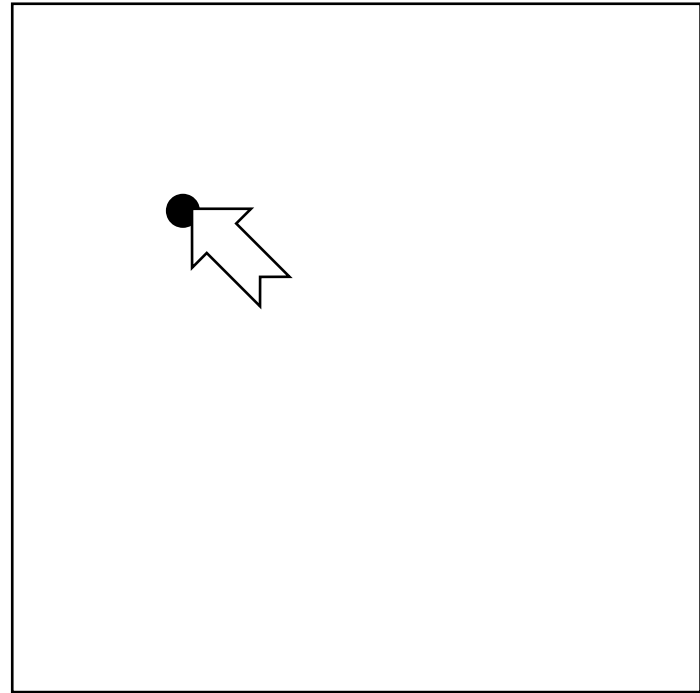
Order memory +++

Representations of the locations

Evidence ()



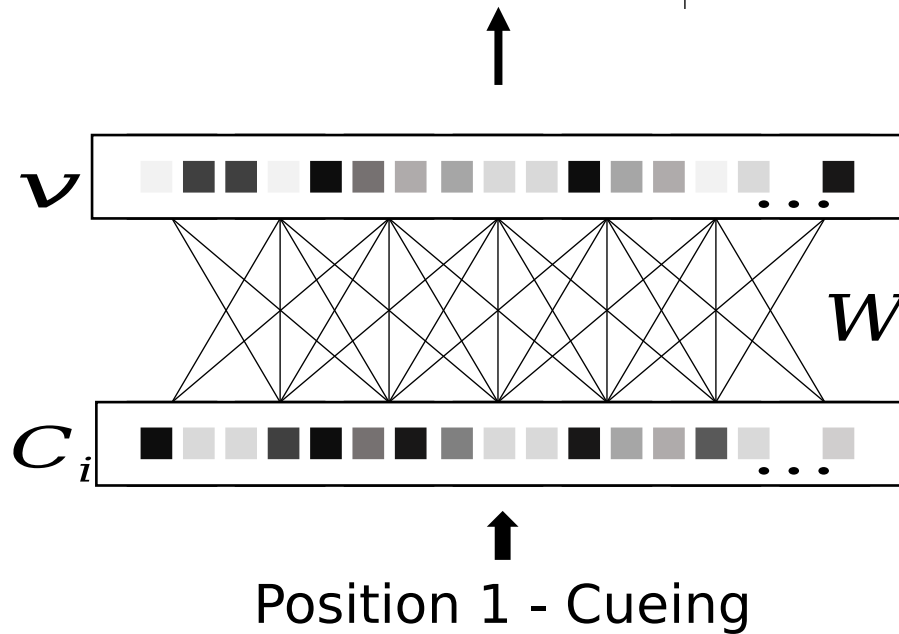
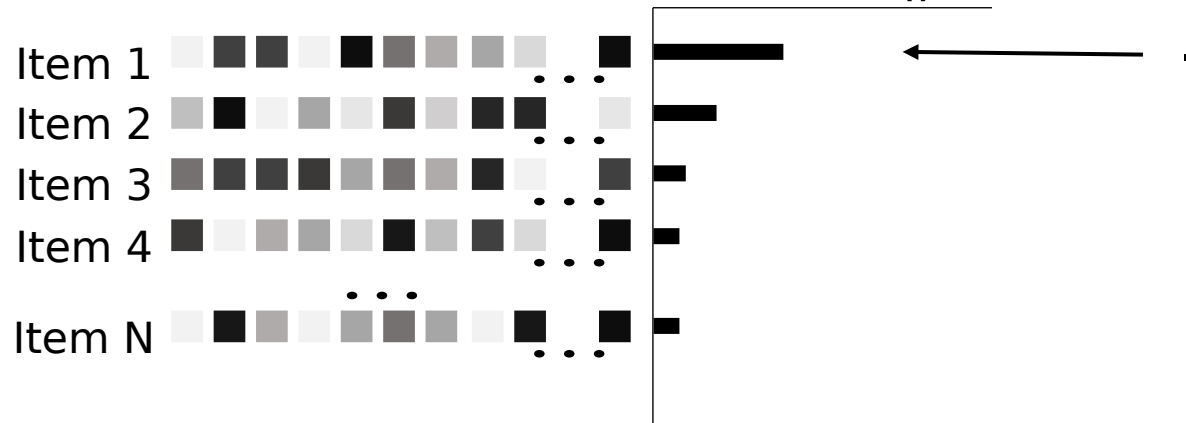
## Serial recall



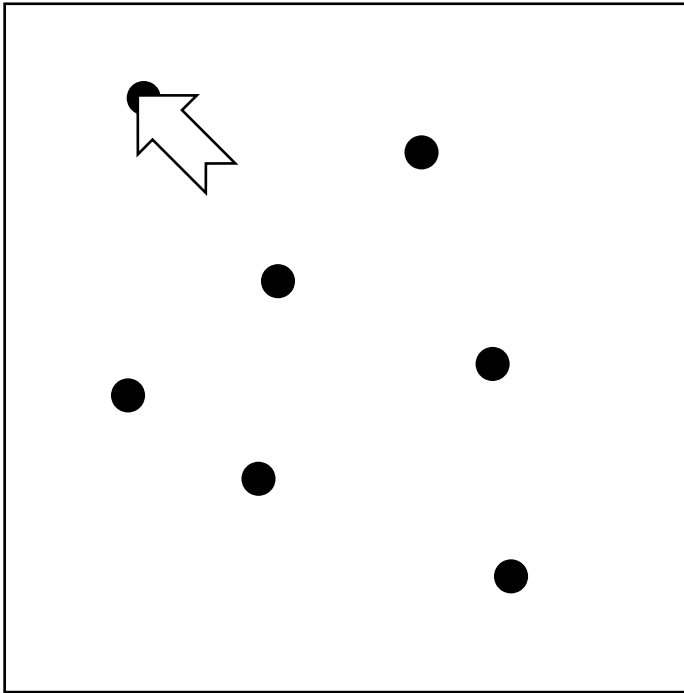
Item memory ++  
Order memory +

Representations of the locations

Evidence ()

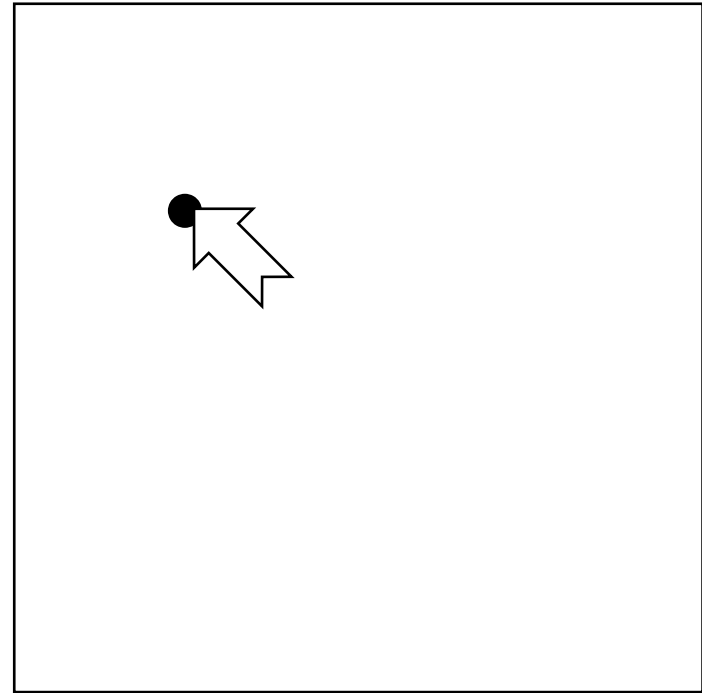


## Order reconstruction



Order memory +++

## Serial recall

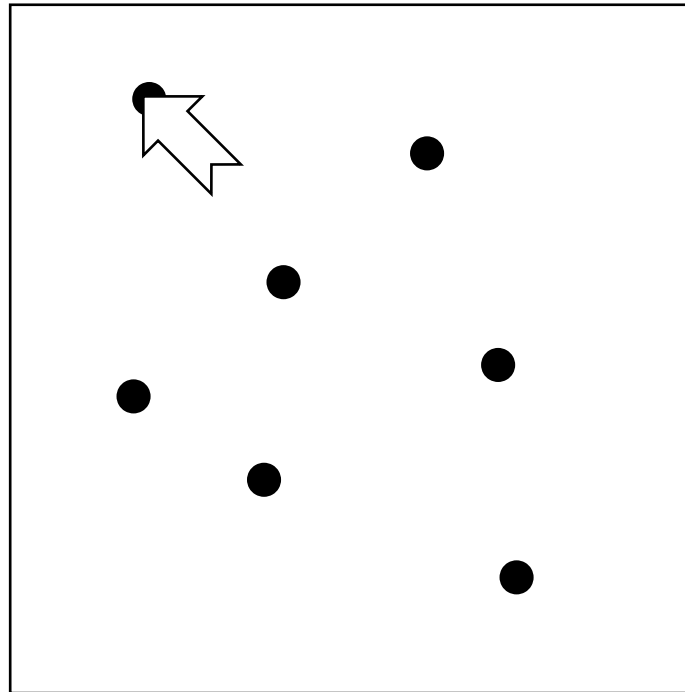


Item memory ++  
Order memory +

## **2x2 design:**

- **Proximity manipulation:** Close vs. Distant
- **Task type:** Serial recall vs. Order reconstruction

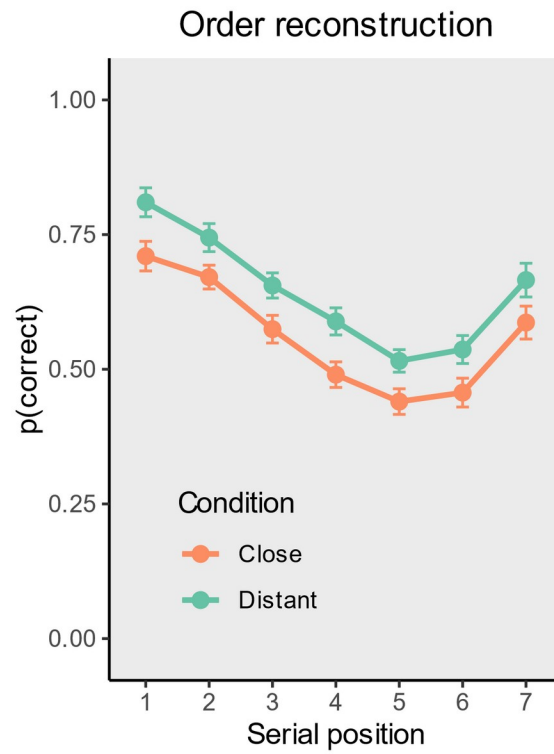
## Order reconstruction



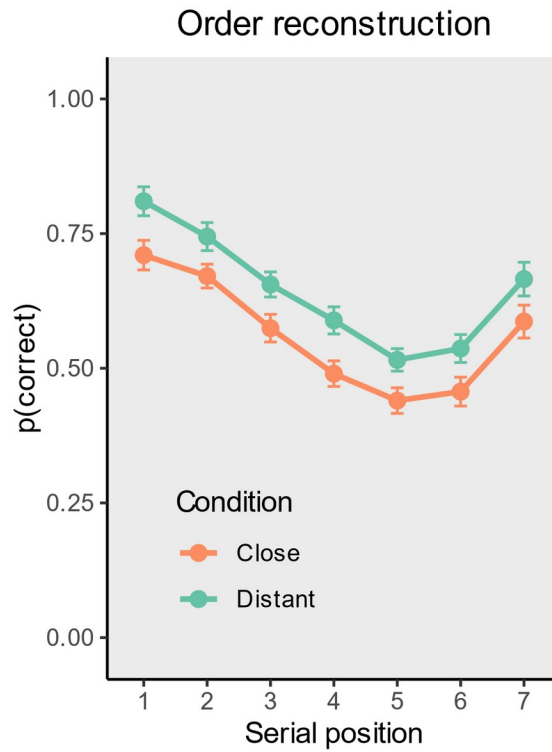
Order memory +++



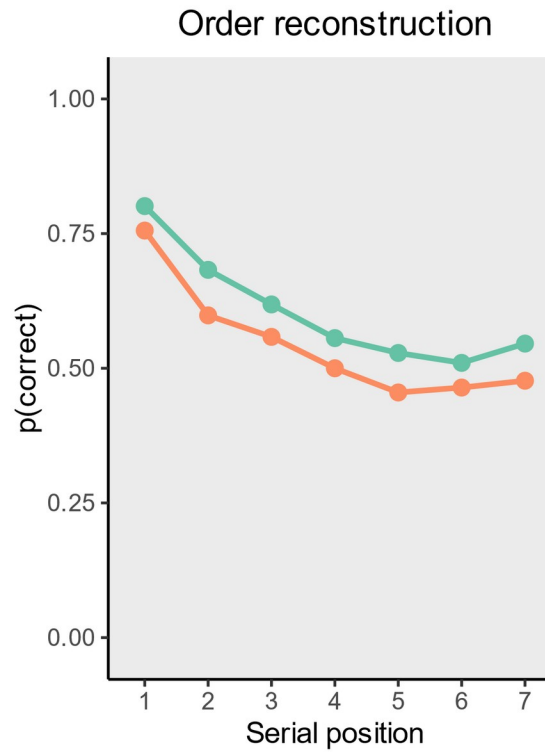
## Human data



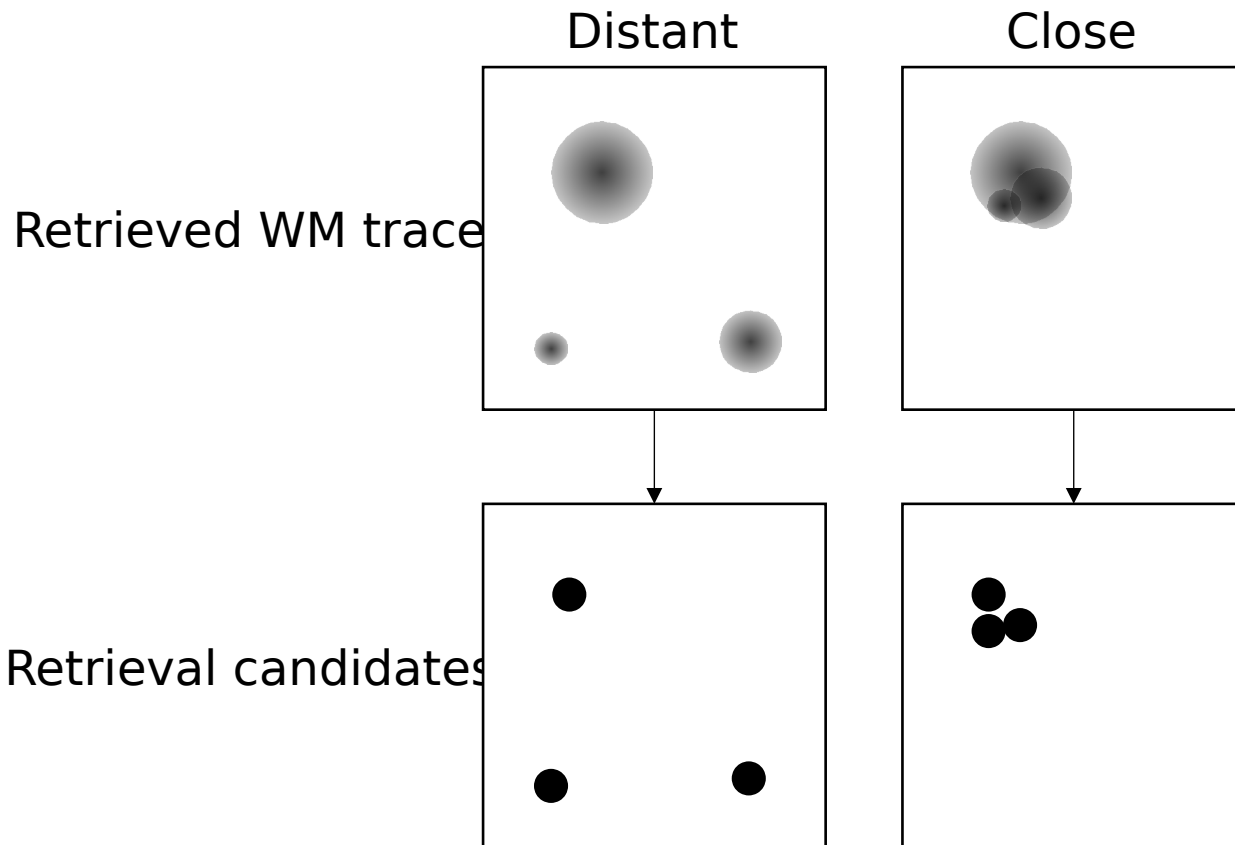
## Human data



## Simulation

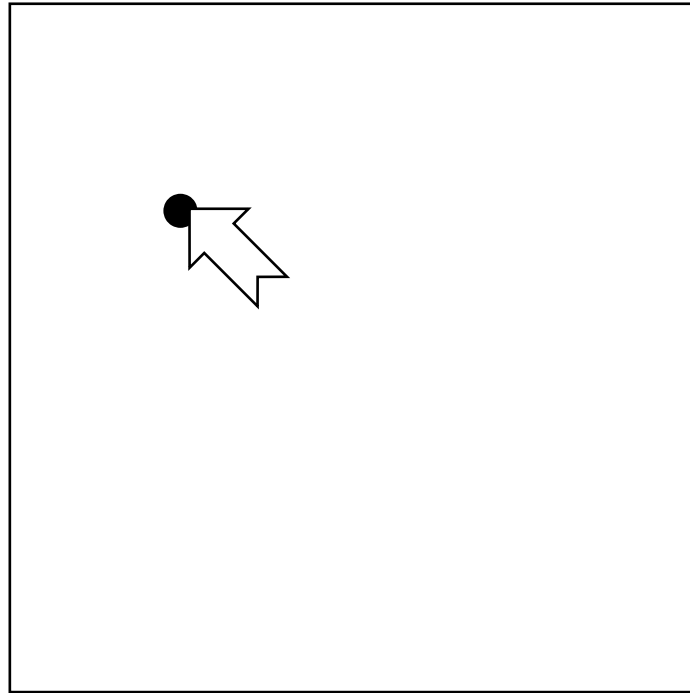


## The superposition principle: In reconstruction



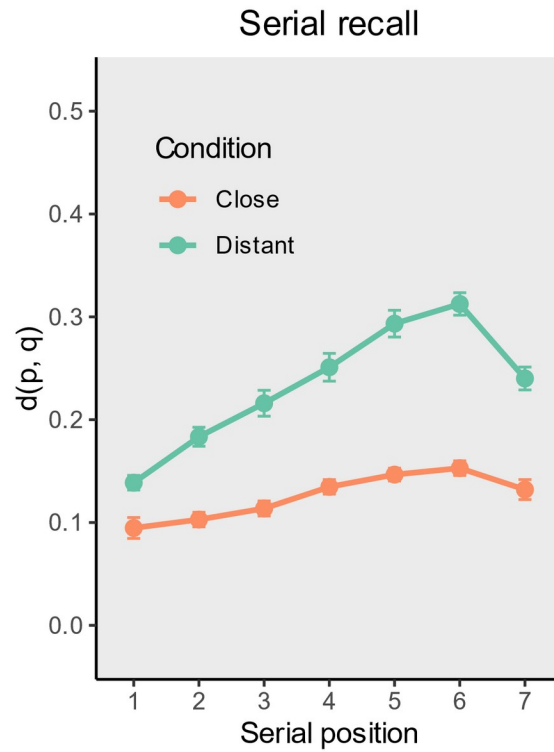
**Problem to  
discriminate the  
retrieval candidates**

## Serial recall

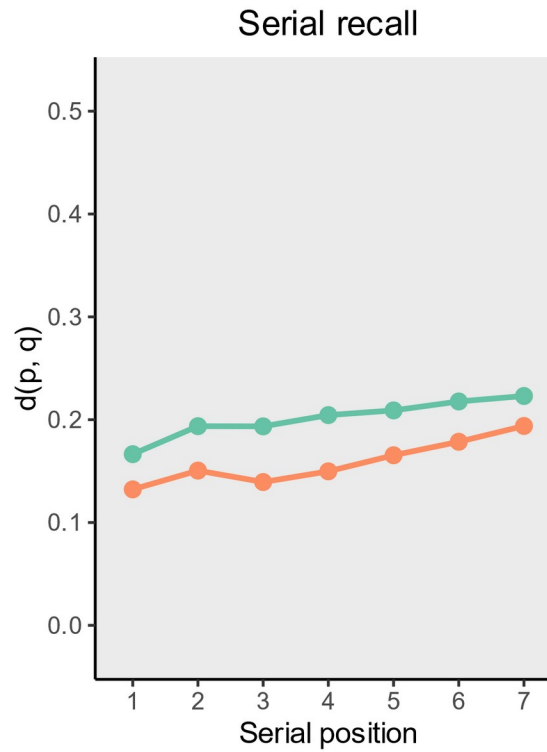


Item memory ++  
Order memory +

## Human data

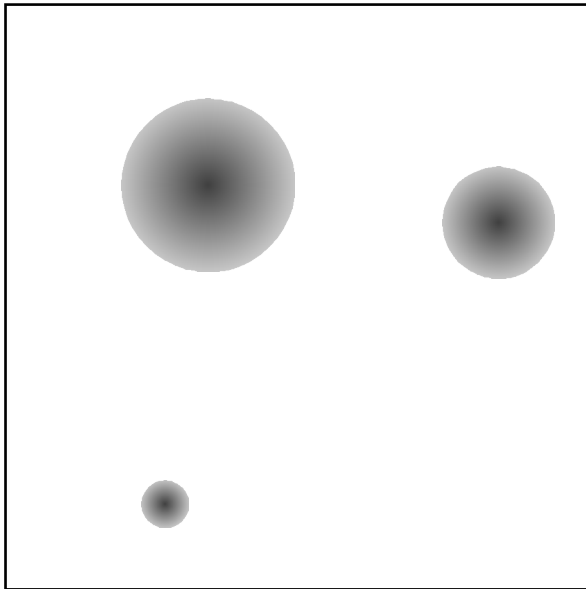


## Simulation

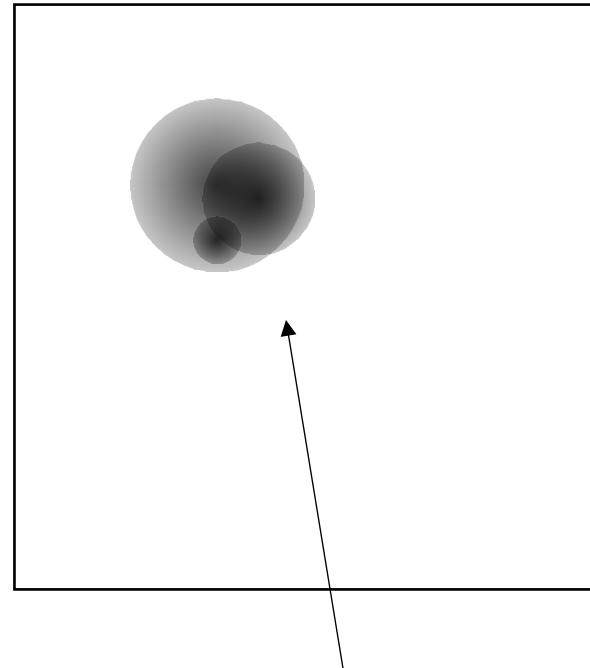


## The superposition principle: Recall

Distant



Close



Whatever the model retrieves here,  
it will be very close to the  
original target

Proximity has **two opposing effects** on WM performance:

1. Increases confusion errors
2. Increases the ability to retrieve the information stored

This impact of similarity on WM performance is observed:

For **colors** (Jalbert et al., 2008)

For **tones** (Visscher et al., 2007)

For **verbal** items (Gupta et al., 2005)

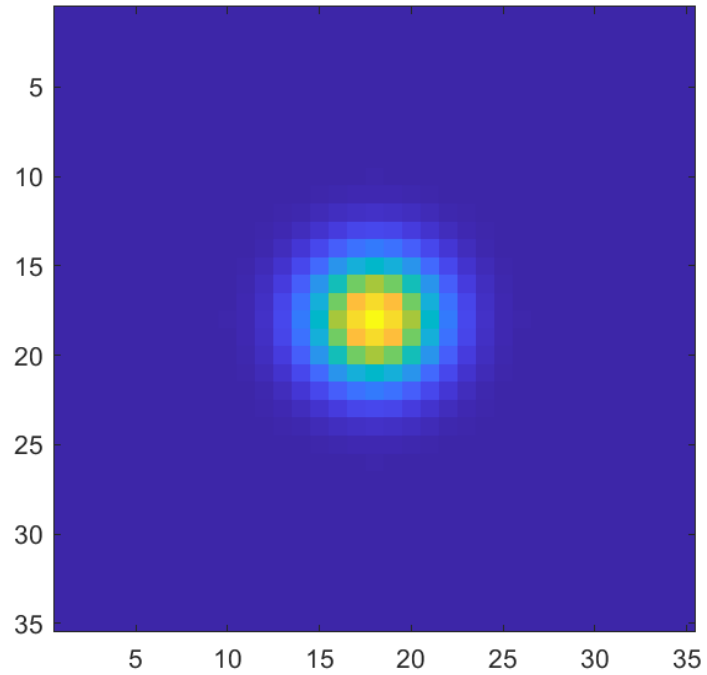
The spatial domain is no exception to this rule



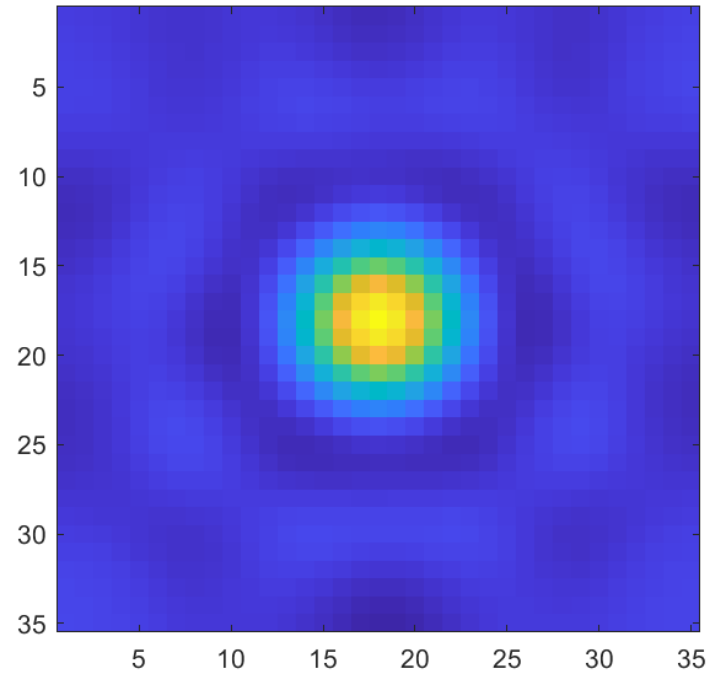
Thank you for your attention



Original vectors



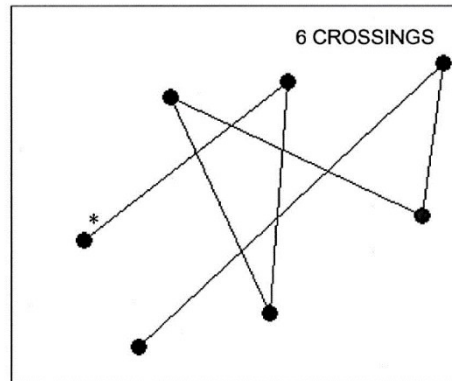
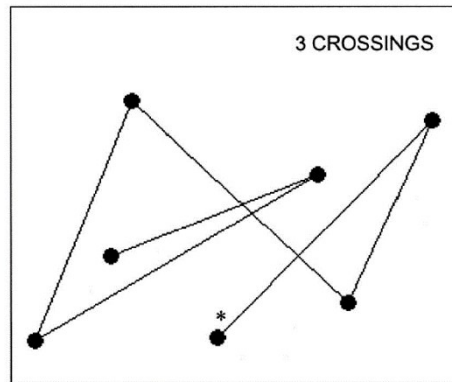
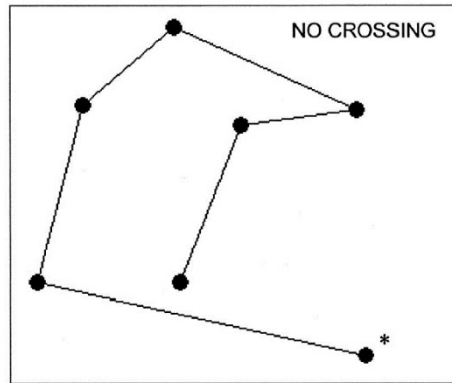
Hidden layer



# Discussion

Memory performance  
decreases as complexity  
increases

Unexplained in the  
model

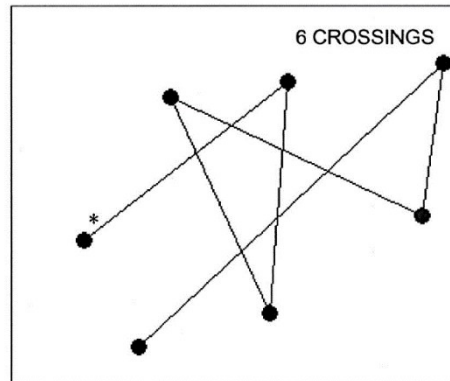
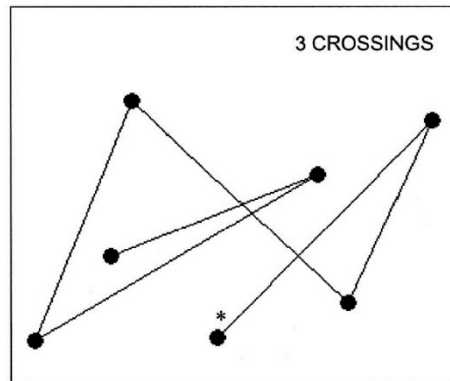
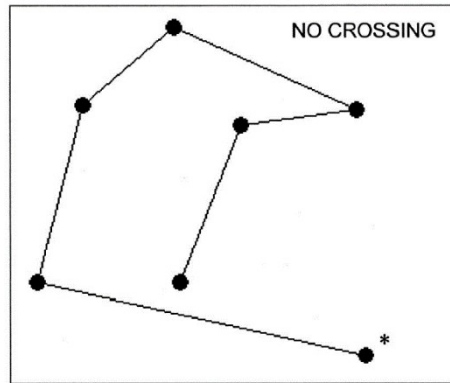


Parmentier et al. (2005)

# Discussion

Memory performance  
decreases as complexity  
increases

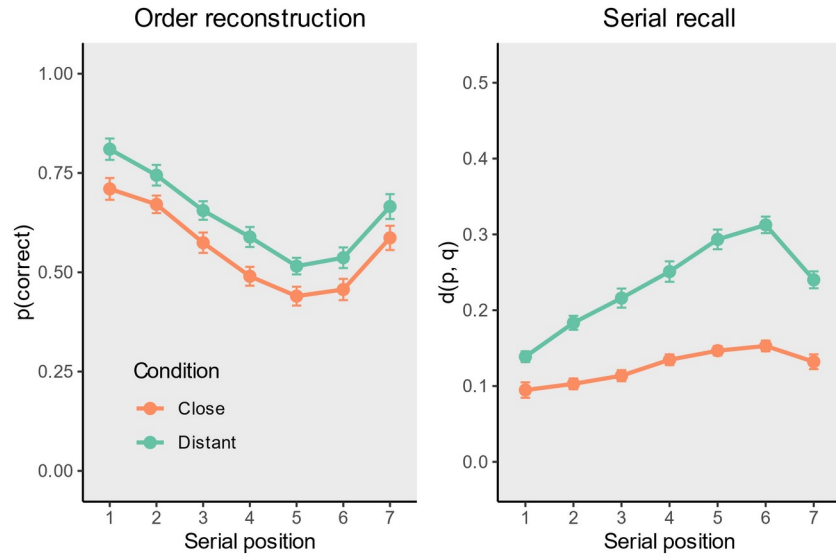
Unexplained in the  
model



Complexity is  
confounded with the  
ability to rely on **pre-  
existing  
representations.**

Those representations  
aren't implemented  
anywhere.

## Human data



## Model

