

# Active Learning for Behavior

Dennis L. Barbour, MD, PhD

Department of Biomedical Engineering  
Washington University in St. Louis



October 22, 2018



## **Disclosure**

Dennis Barbour has an ownership interest in Bonauria, LLC, and may financially benefit if the company is successful in commercializing products that are related to this research.

E

F P

T O Z

L P E D

P E C F D

E D F C Z P

F E L O P Z D

D E F P O T E C

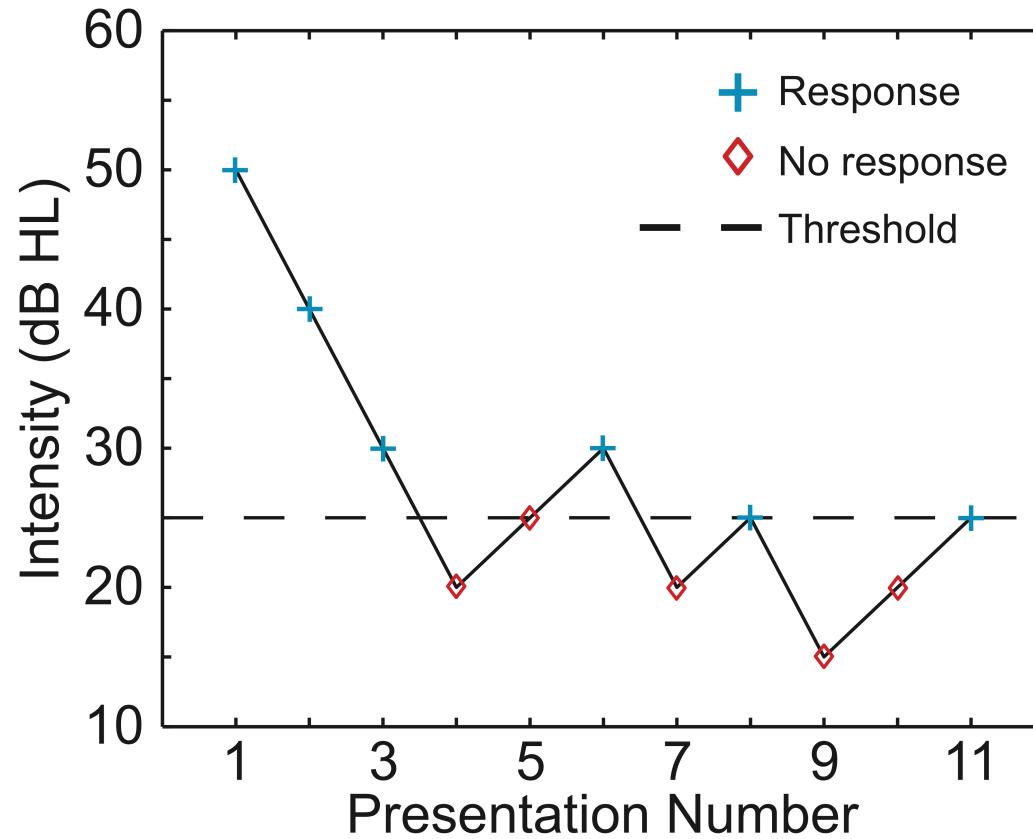
L E F O D P C T

F D P L T C E O

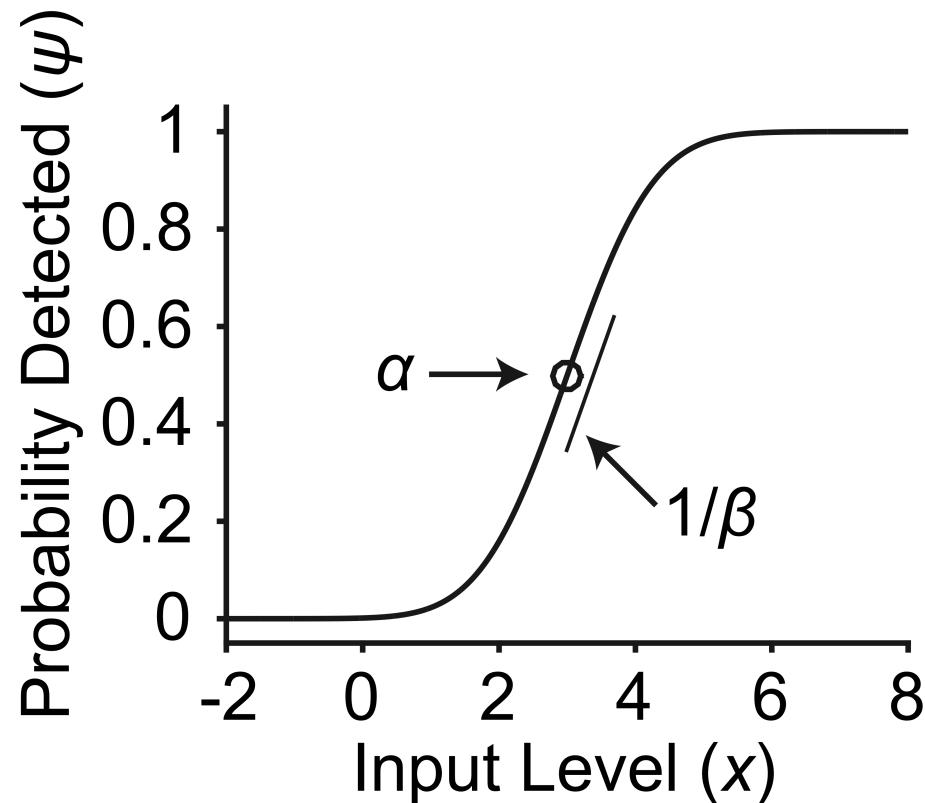
P E Z O L C F T D

D L Z V P O C J F L Z C P O F C D

## Up-down procedures estimate thresholds only



**Psychometric functions are traditionally parameterized by threshold and spread**

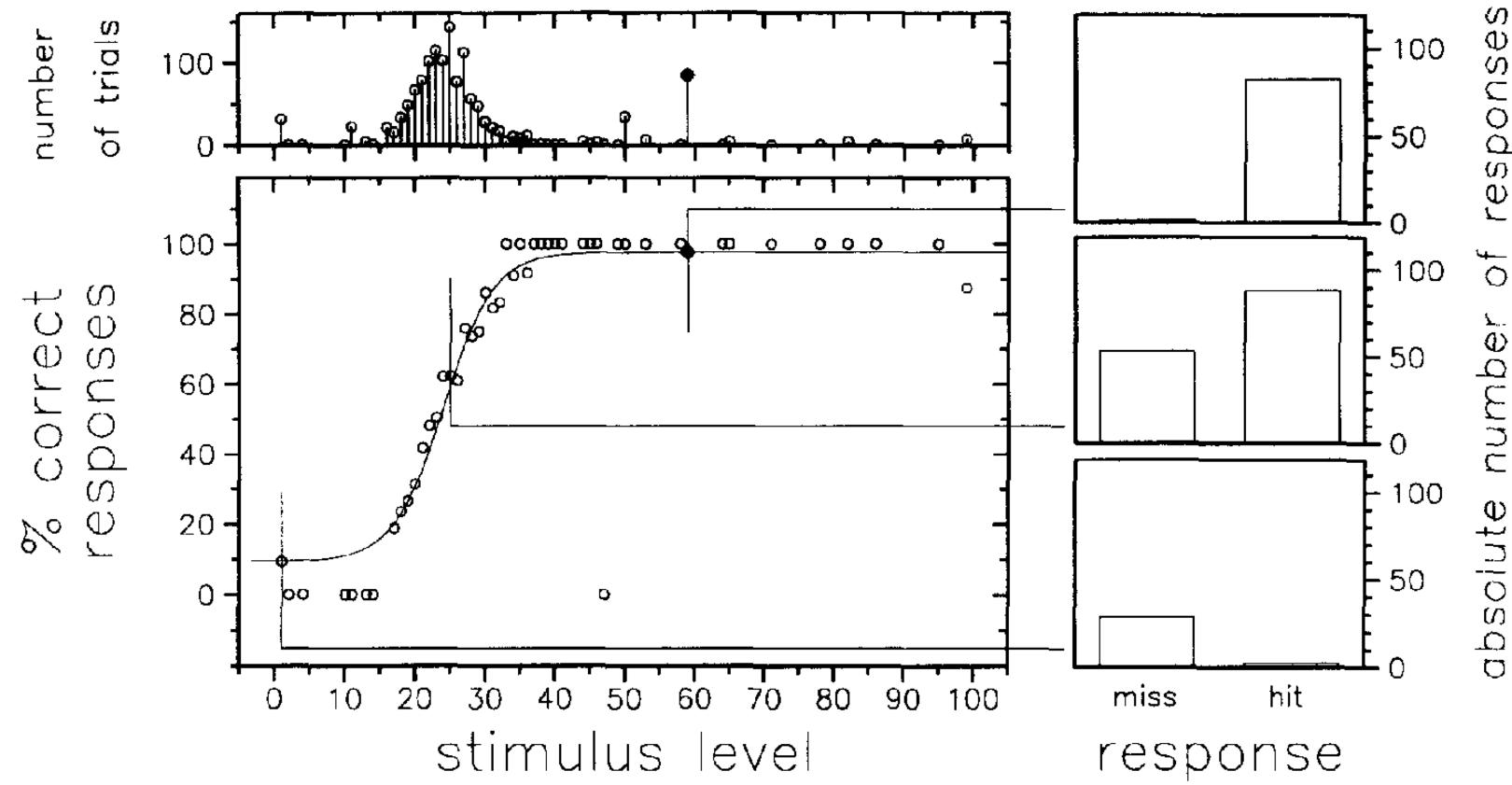


$$\psi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\lambda-\alpha}{\beta}\right)^2} d\lambda$$

$\alpha$  = threshold

$\beta$  = spread

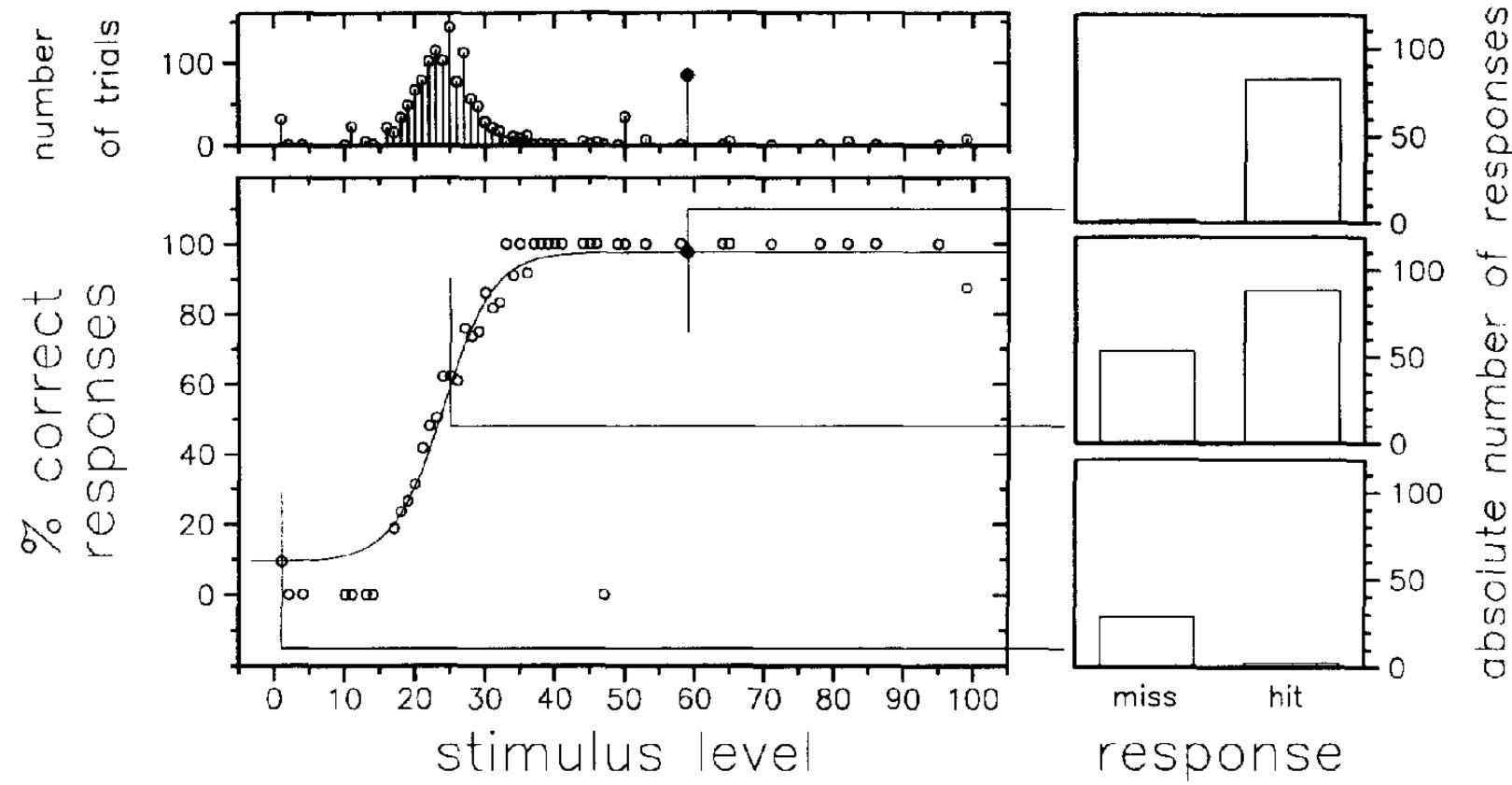
**Classical psychophysics often involves estimating a Bernoulli probability distribution as a function of an independent variable**



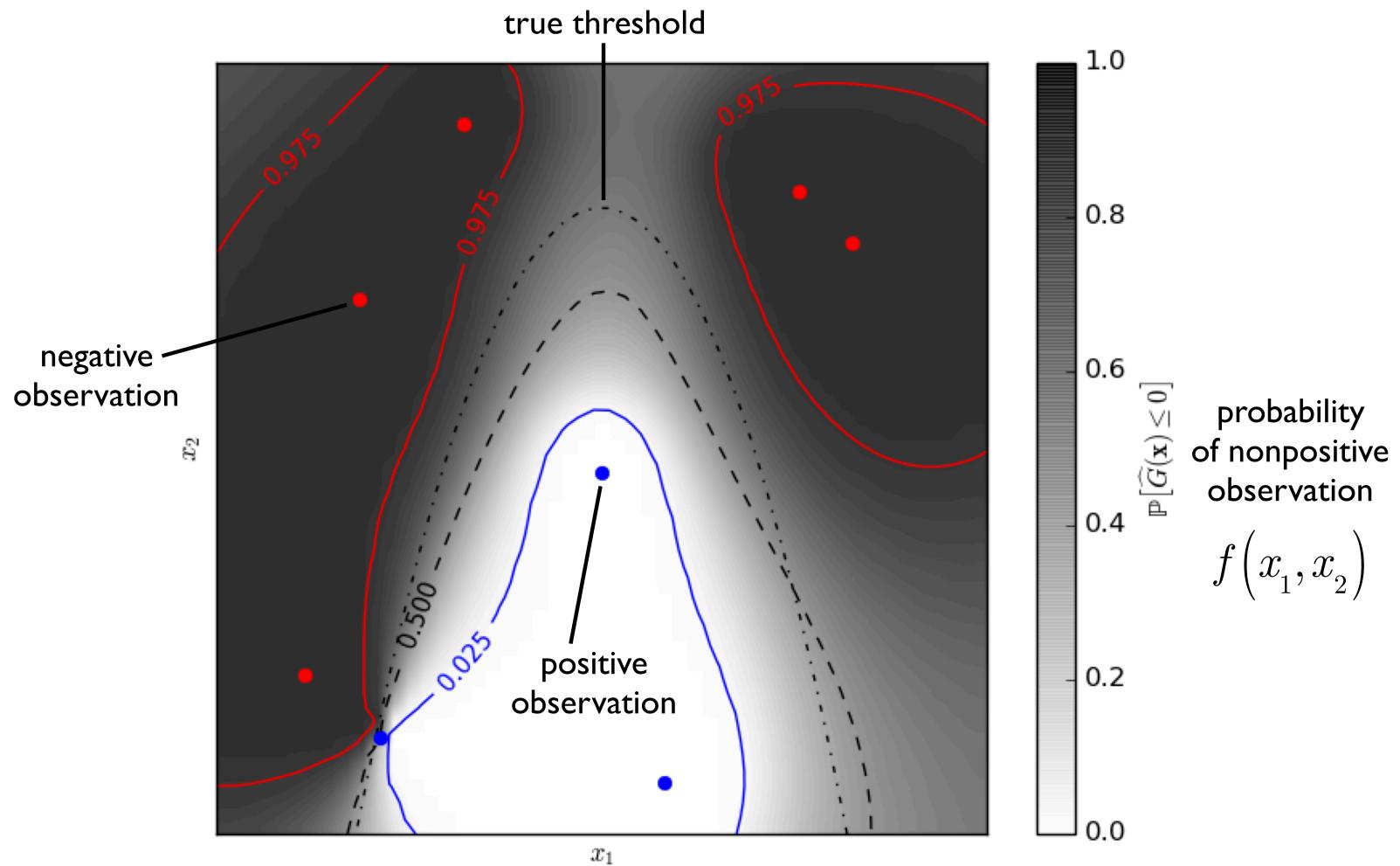
## **Classical psychophysics involves estimating a Bernoulli probability distribution as a function of an independent variable**

An example of a psychometric function with results from a forced-choice experiment with nine spatial alternatives is given in Fig. 1. Here, the percentage correct assignments of the stimulus location has been plotted against the stimulus level, which in this case was the duration of a temporal break in one of nine simultaneously displayed stimuli. The plotted results are cumulative data of 35 sessions, i.e. repetitions of the experiment with the same stimulus setup.

**Classical psychophysics often involves estimating a Bernoulli probability distribution as a function of an independent variable**



## Probabilistic classification generates continuous estimates of class boundaries



## Bayes' theorem provides a key inferential framework

$$\begin{aligned} \text{posterior} &= \frac{\text{likelihood} \quad \text{prior over } f}{\text{prior over } y} \\ p(f|x,y) &= \frac{p(y|f)p(f|x)}{p(y|x)} \\ &= \frac{p(y|f)p(f|x)}{\int p(y|f)p(f|x)df} \end{aligned}$$

Bayes' theorem:

the posterior distribution (the probability of model given the observations) equals  
the prior distribution (the probability of the model) times  
the likelihood (the probability of the observations given the model) normalized by  
the marginal likelihood (the probability of the observations or the model evidence)

## Gaussian processes represent a powerful implementation of Bayesian inference

regression example

$$y(x) = f(x) + \varepsilon(x)$$

$$f(x) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(x), K(x, x'))$$

$$\varepsilon(x) = \varepsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

classification example

$$y(x) \sim \text{Bernoulli}\left(\Phi\left(f(x)\right)\right)$$

$$f(x) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(x), K(x, x'))$$

$$\Phi(f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^f e^{-z^2/2} dz$$

mean function example: constant

$$\mu(x) = c$$

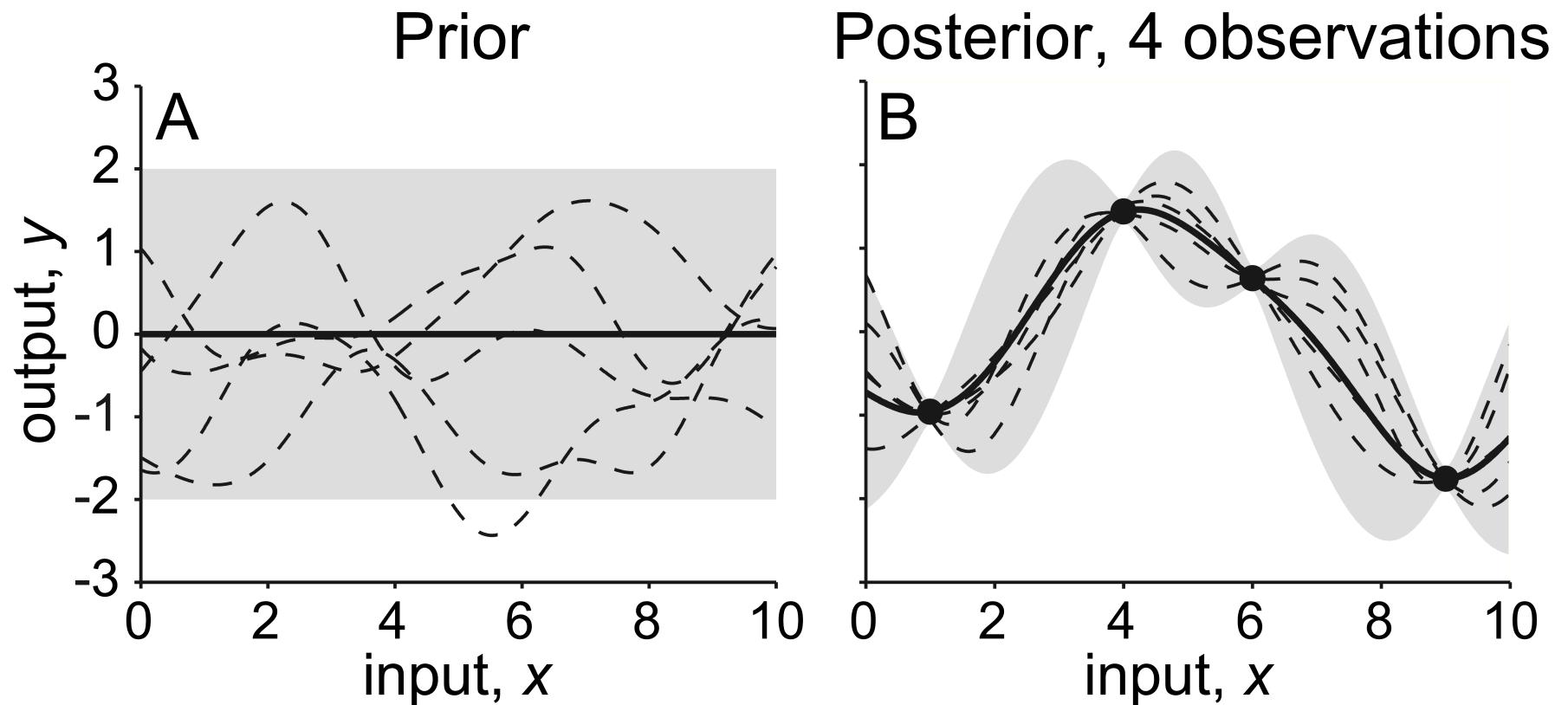
kernel example: linear

$$K(x, x') = s_1^2 (x - x')$$

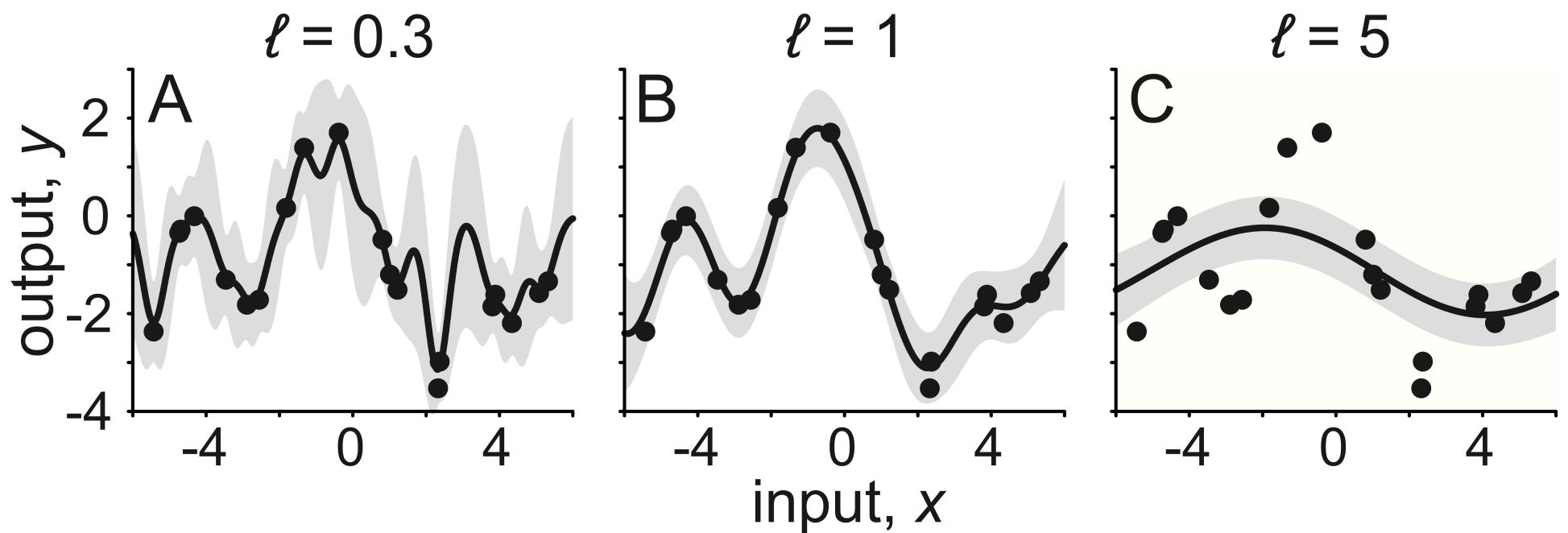
kernel example: squared exponential

$$K(x, x') = s_2^2 \exp\left(\frac{-(x - x')^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

Prior beliefs + observations lead to posterior beliefs



Constraints on the GP covariance function determine details of the posterior belief



## Gaussian process estimates enable active learning

$$\arg \max_{\mathbf{x}^*} H[\Theta \mid D] - E_{y^* \sim p(y^* \mid \mathbf{x}^*, D)} [H[\Theta \mid y^*, \mathbf{x}^*, D]]$$

hyperparameters       $\Theta$

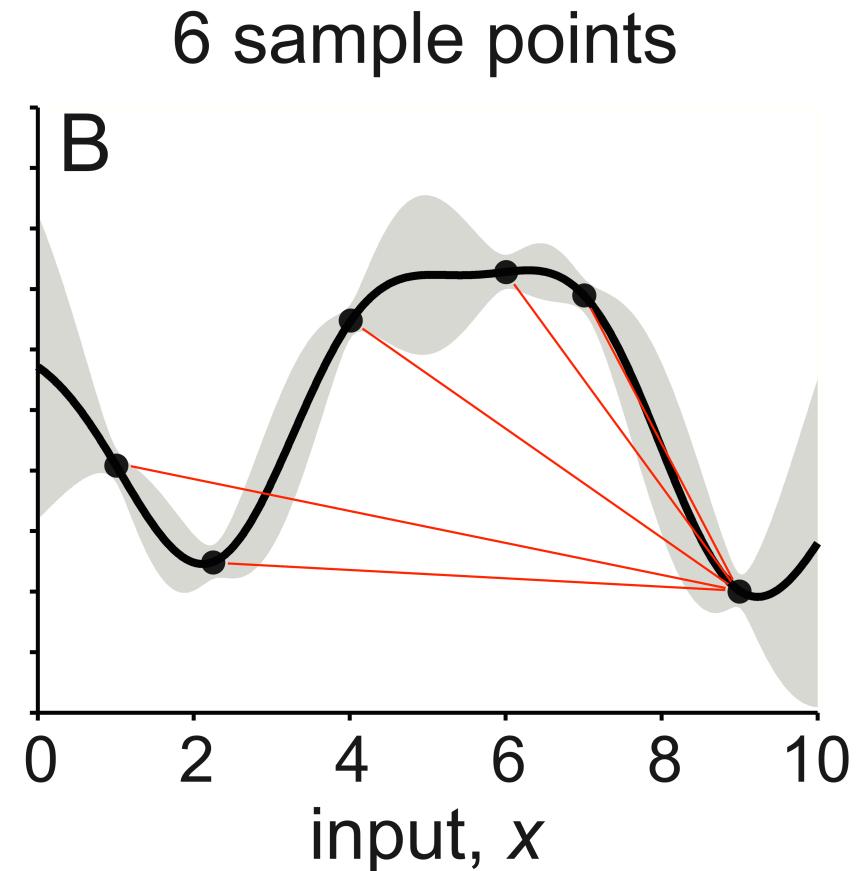
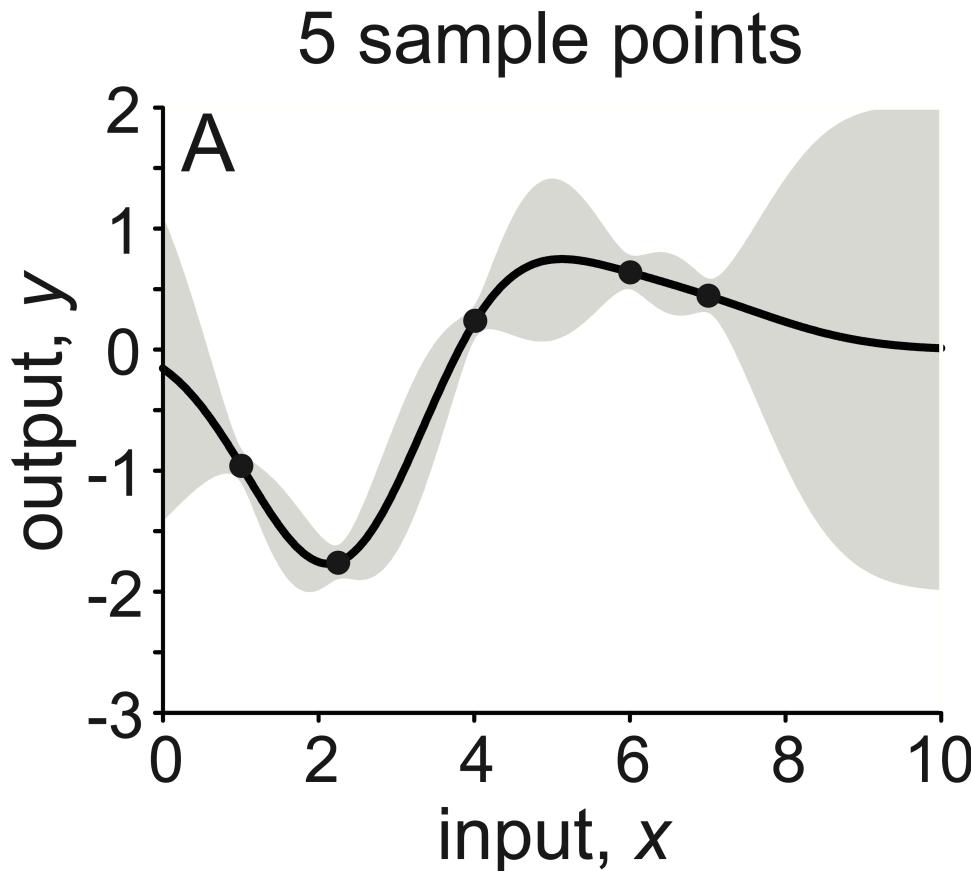
test data       $(\mathbf{x}^*, y^*)$

training data       $D = \{\mathbf{x}_i, y_i\}_{i=1}^n = \{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y}\}$

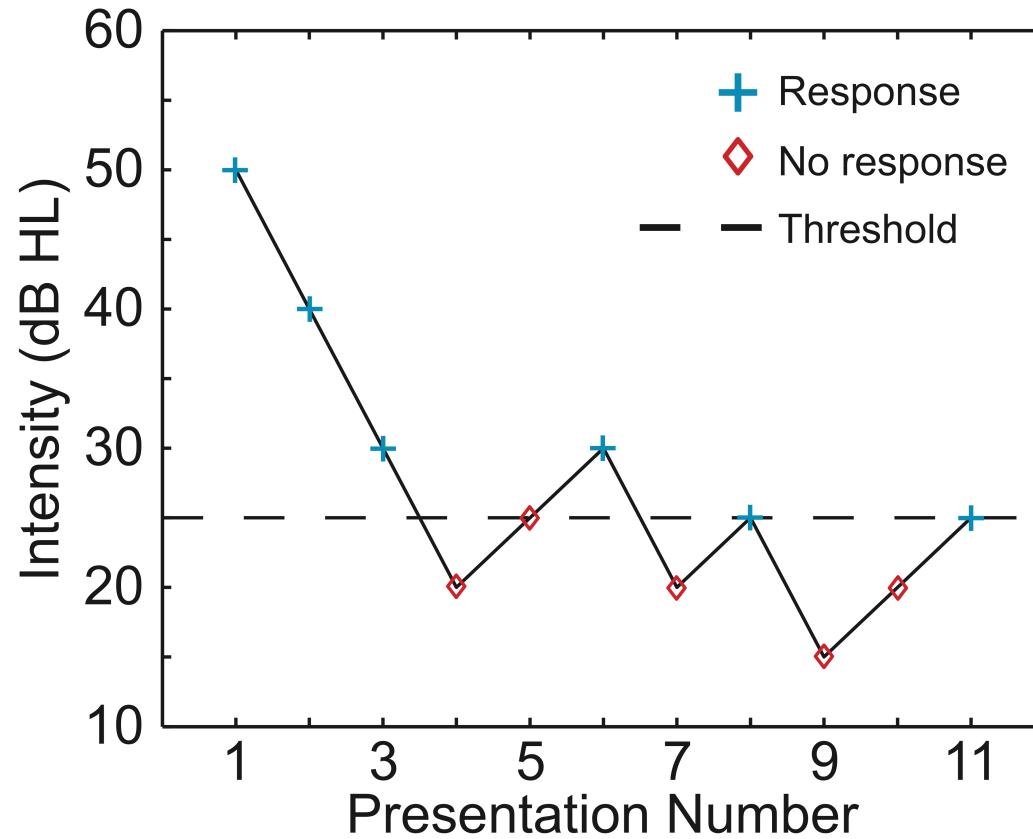
entropy       $H[\Theta \mid D]$

$$\arg \max_{\mathbf{x}^*} H[y^* \mid \mathbf{x}^*, D] - E_{\Theta \sim p(\Theta \mid D)} [H[y^* \mid \mathbf{x}^*, \Theta]]$$

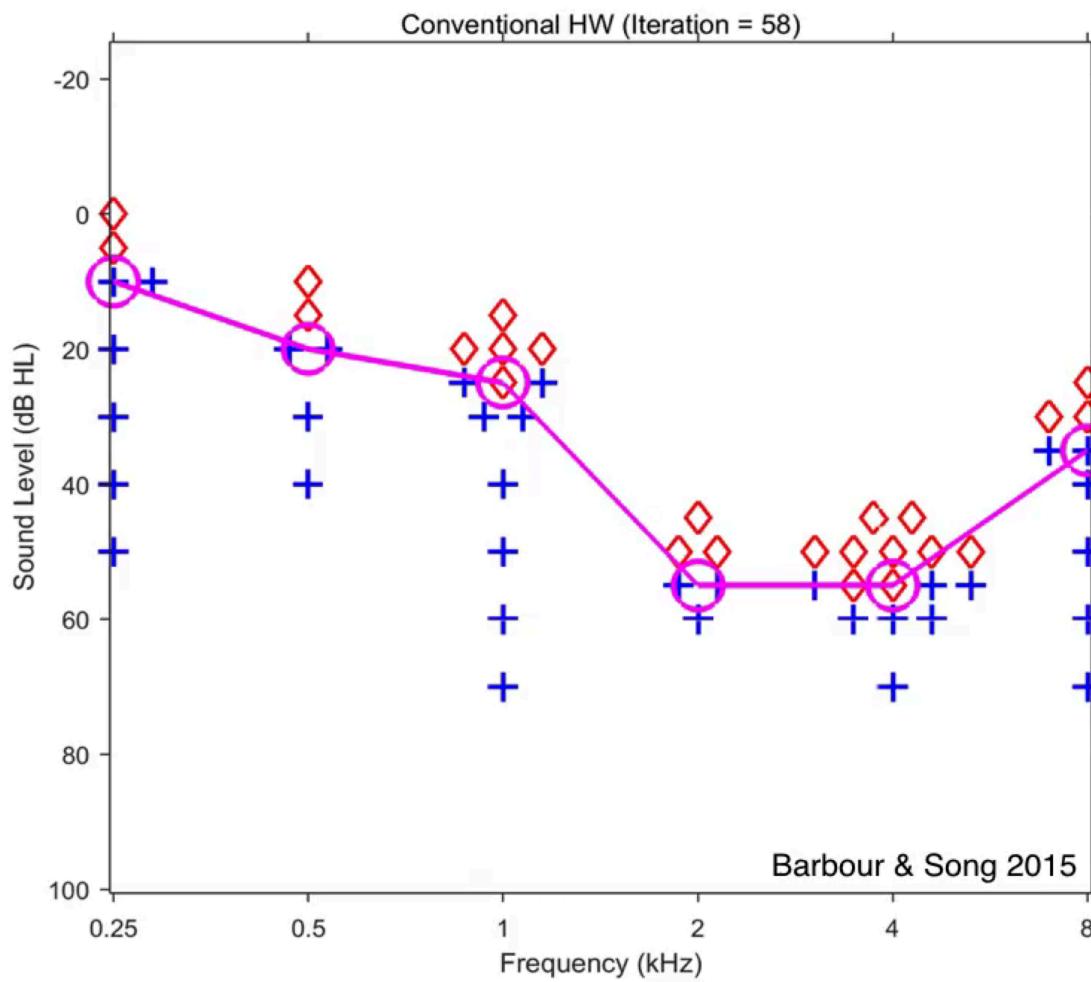
**Additional observations can be selected where they would be most valuable**



## Up-down procedures estimate thresholds only



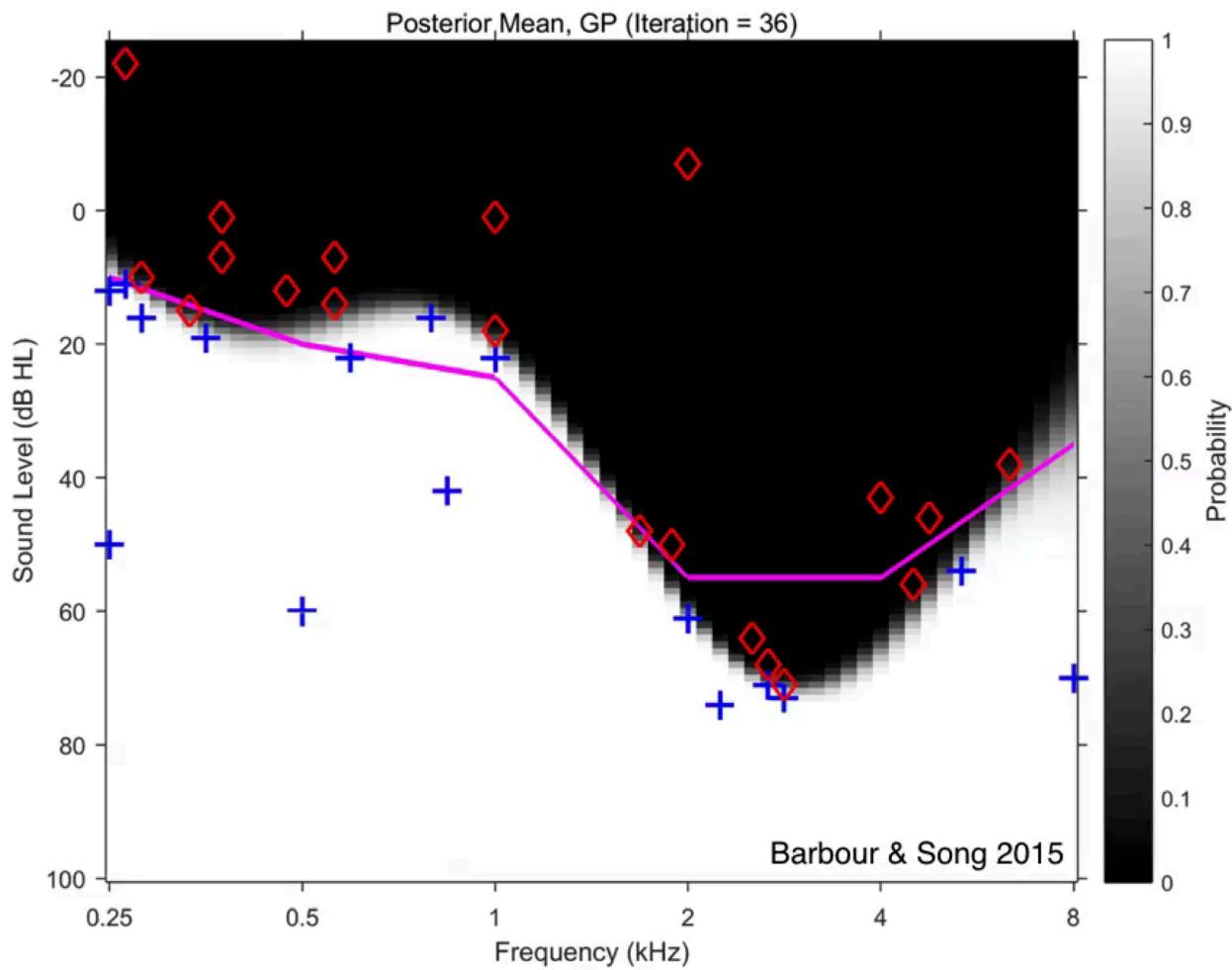
## Hughson-Westlake audiometry (HWA) estimates tone detection thresholds only



## The probabilistic classifier in this case is a Gaussian process

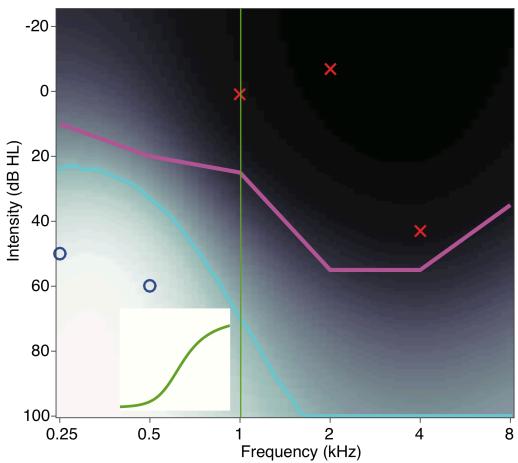
input data vectors	$\mathbf{x} = (L, \omega), \mathbf{x}' = (L', \omega')$
output observation	$y(\mathbf{x}) \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\Phi(f(\mathbf{x})))$
sigmoidal link function	$\Phi(f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^f \exp\left(-\frac{z^2}{2}\right) dz$
latent function	$f(\mathbf{x}) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(\mathbf{x}), K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'))$
sound level kernel	$K_L(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = K_L(L, L') = s_L^2 LL'$
frequency kernel	$K_\omega(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = K_\omega(\omega, \omega') = s_\omega^2 \exp\left(-\frac{(\omega - \omega')^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$
complete kernel	$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = K_L + K_\omega$

## Gaussian process audiometry (GPA) estimates the complete audiometric function

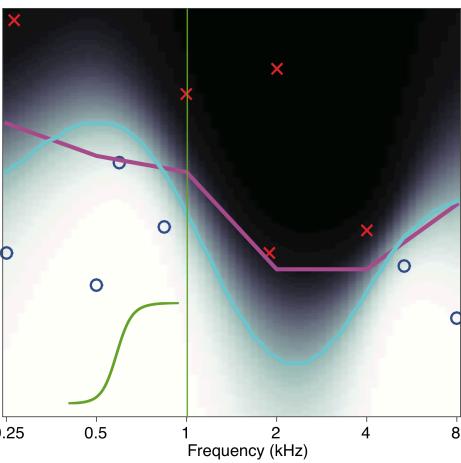


## GPA delivers both threshold and slope estimates across frequency

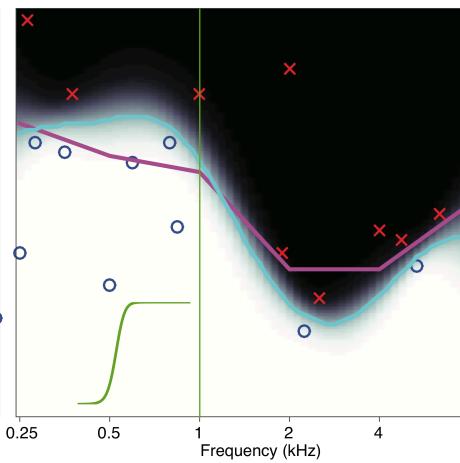
5 samples



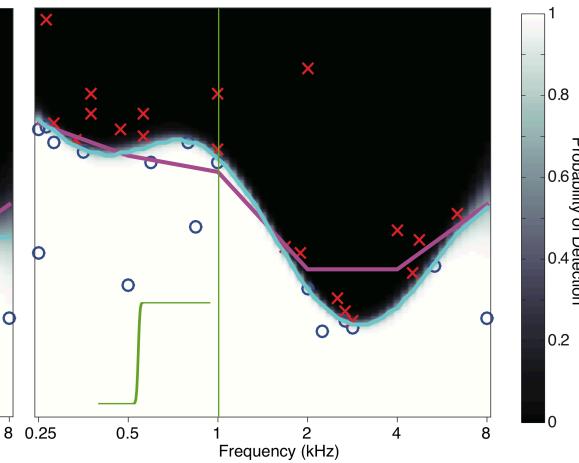
11 samples



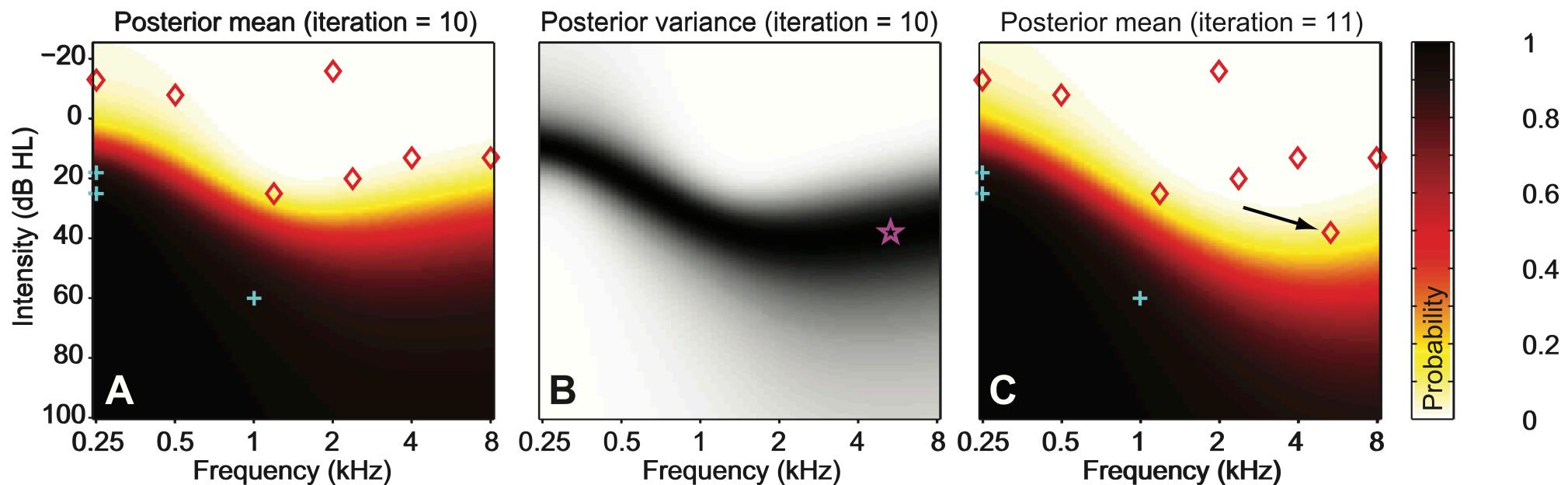
19 samples



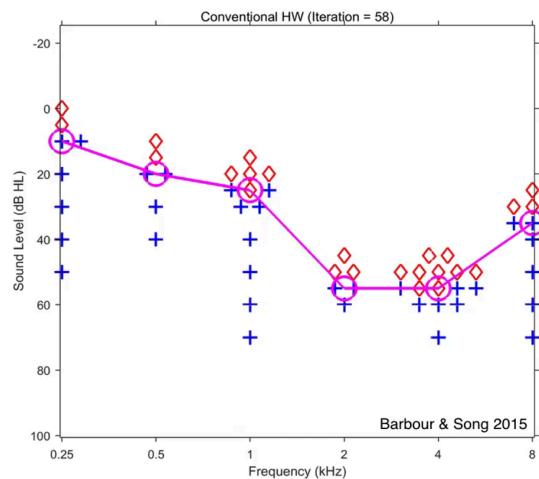
36 samples



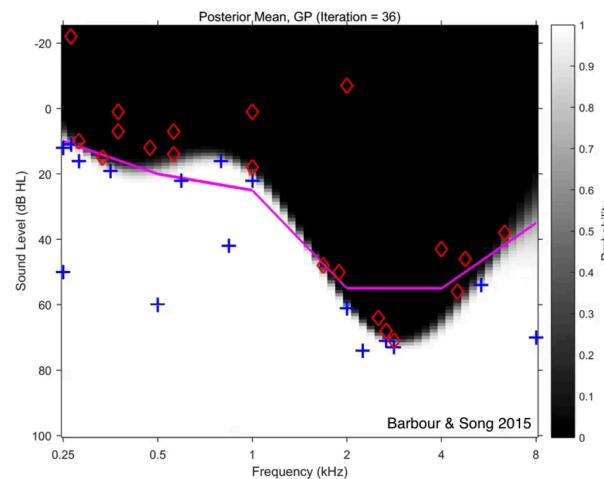
## Bayesian active learning ensures that samples are acquired where needed most



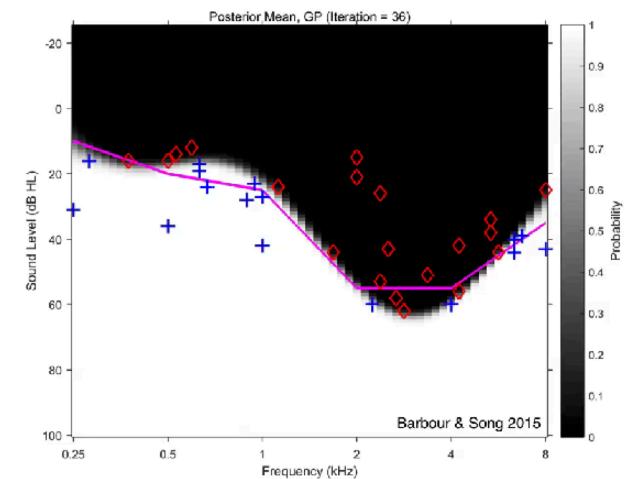
## GPA is robust to stimulus selection



HWA

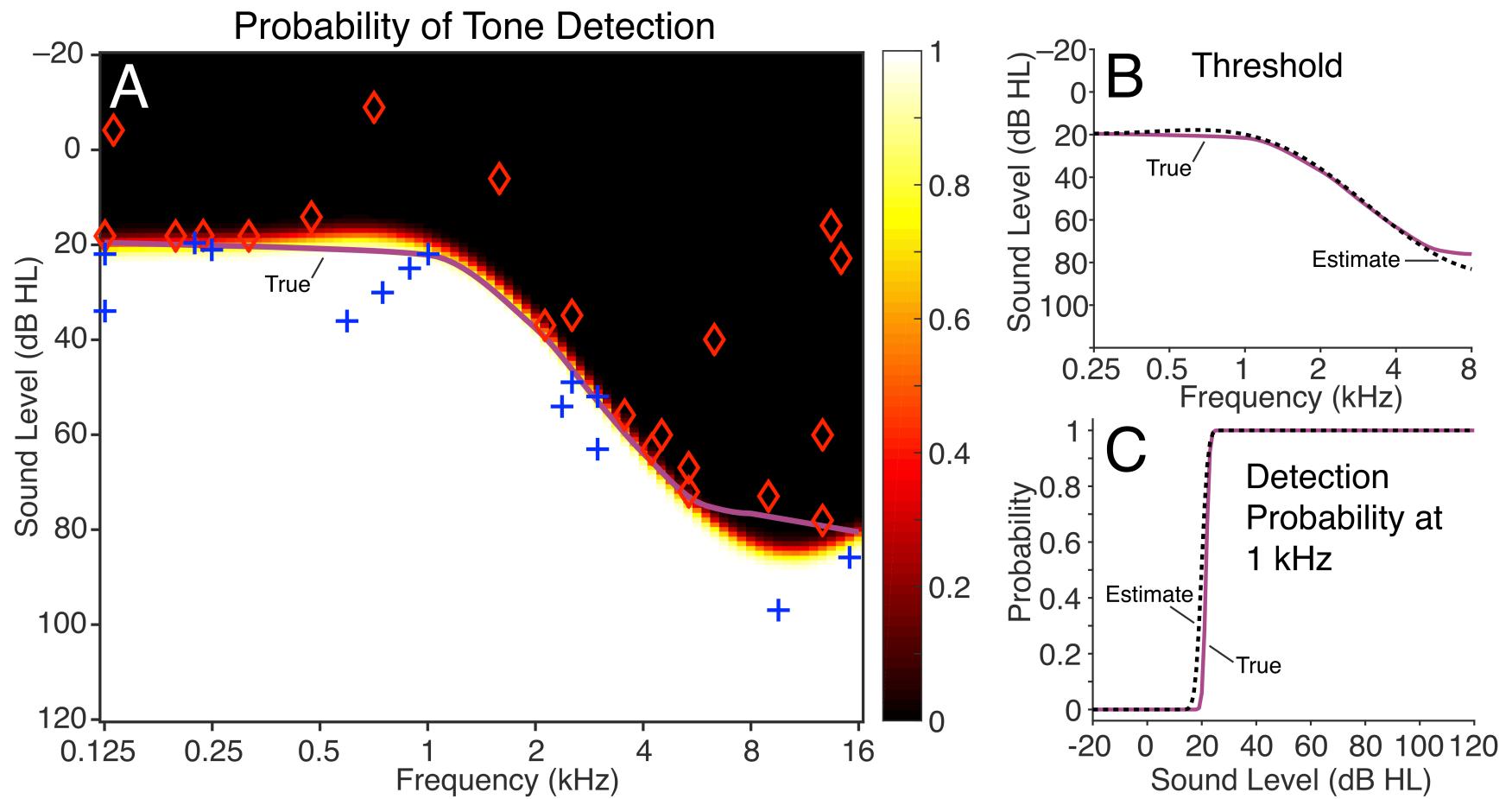


GPA I

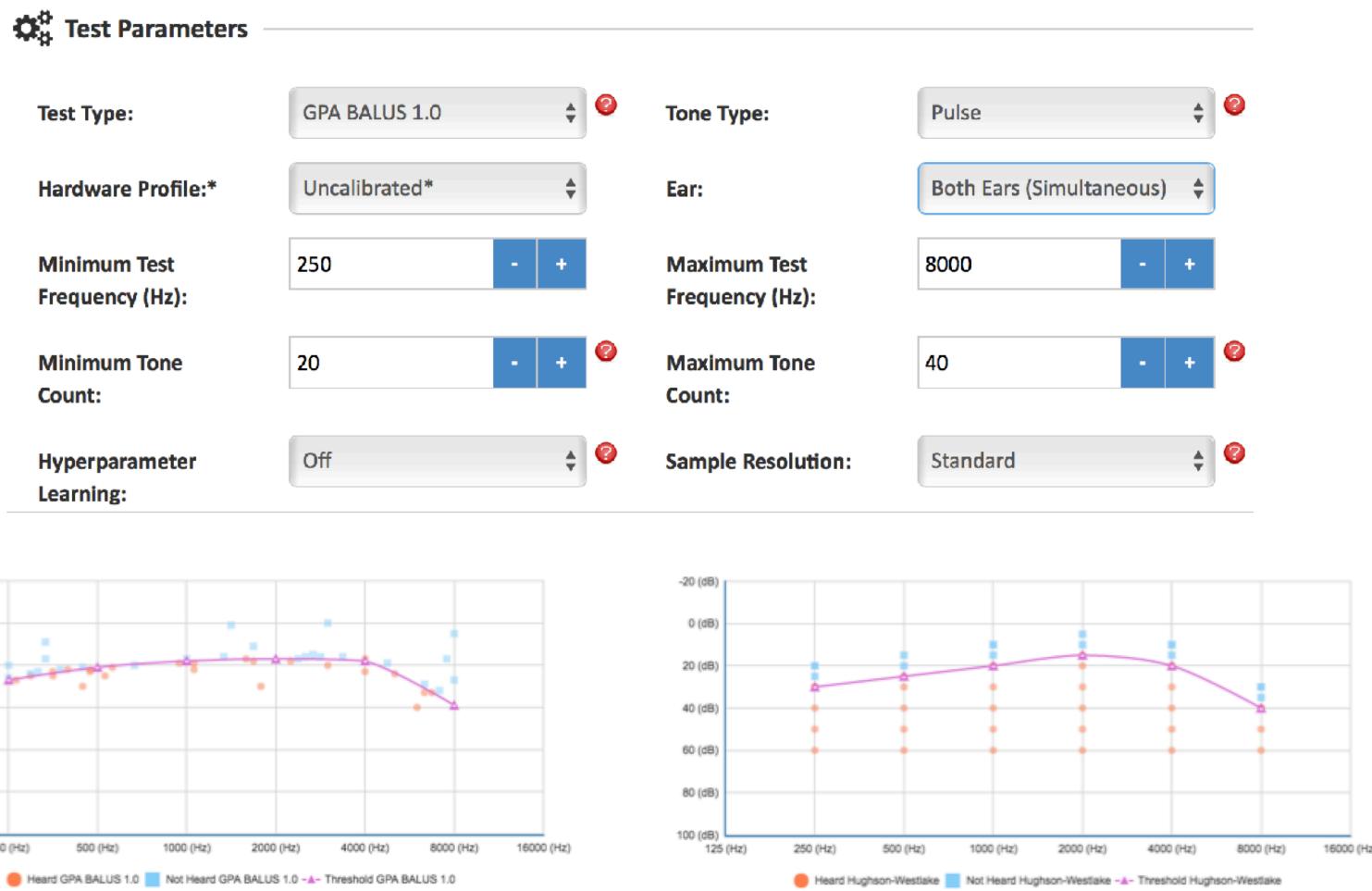


GPA 2

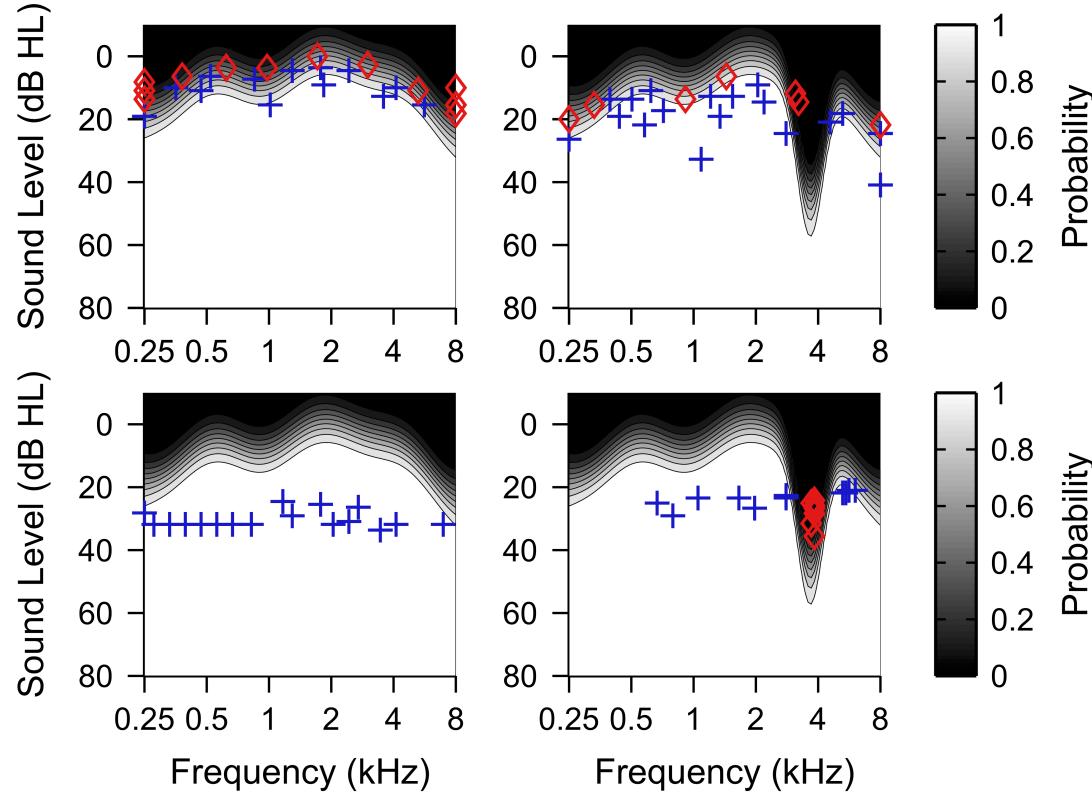
## Gaussian process classification with Bayesian active learning yields accurate multidimensional psychometric threshold and slope estimates with few samples



# Online GPA can be compared directly to online HWA



**Stimulus selection can be targeted toward real-time hypothesis testing**



**Bayesian active model selection**

Gardner, et al, NIPS, 2377-2385, 2015

25

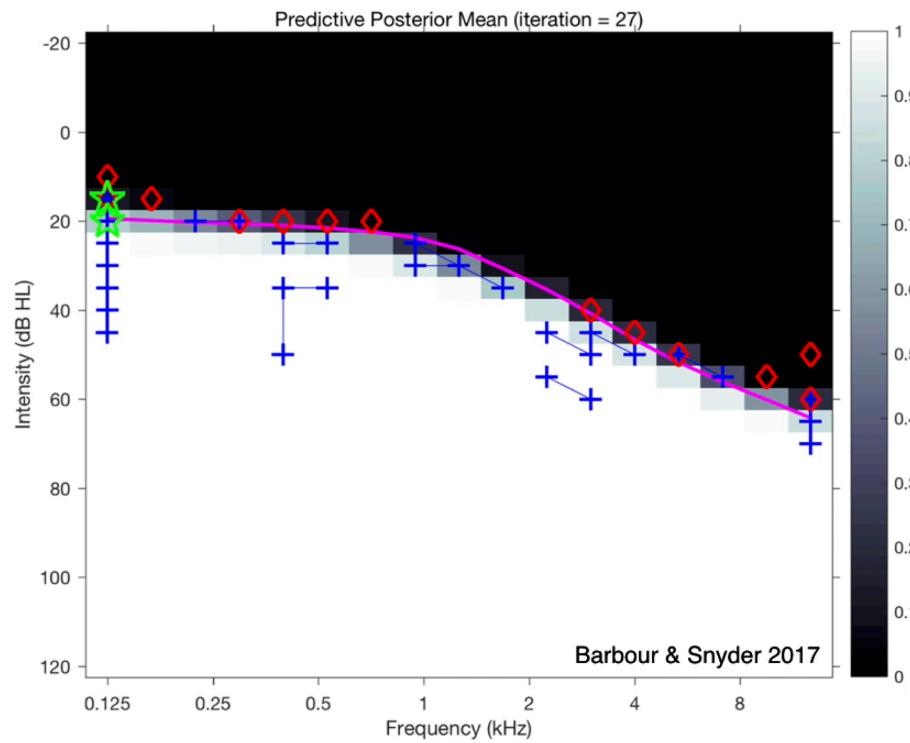
## A test of human inference

Which answer, “yes” or “no,” provides more information in response to the following question:

“Have you been anxious or depressed in the past 2 weeks?”

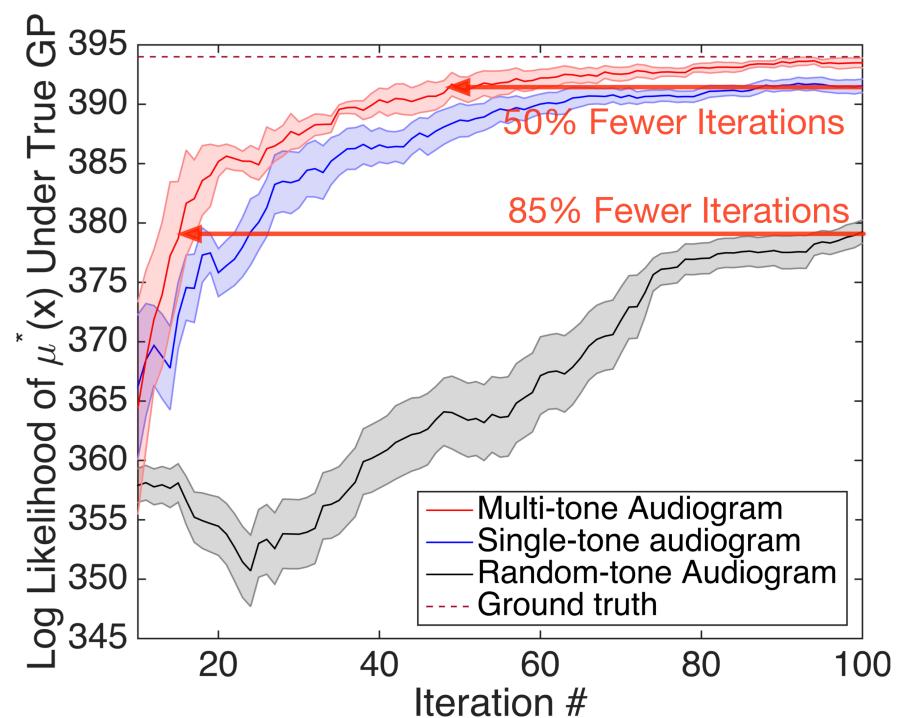
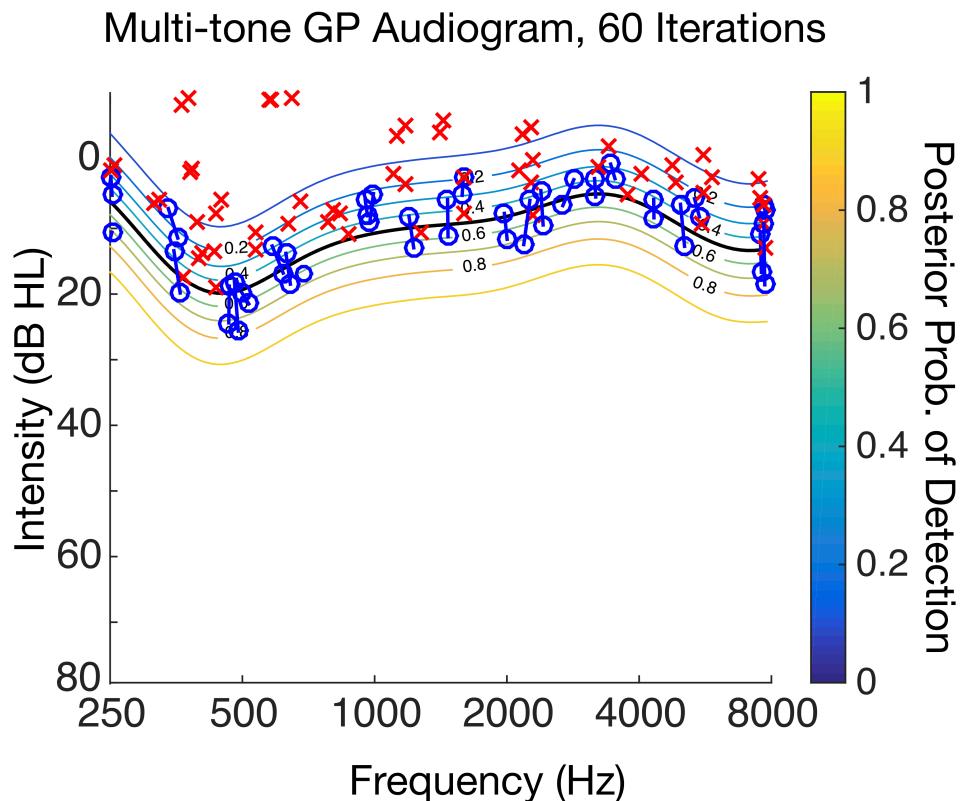
- A. Yes
- B. No

## Multitone audiometry accelerates active learning



**multiplexed psychometric estimation**

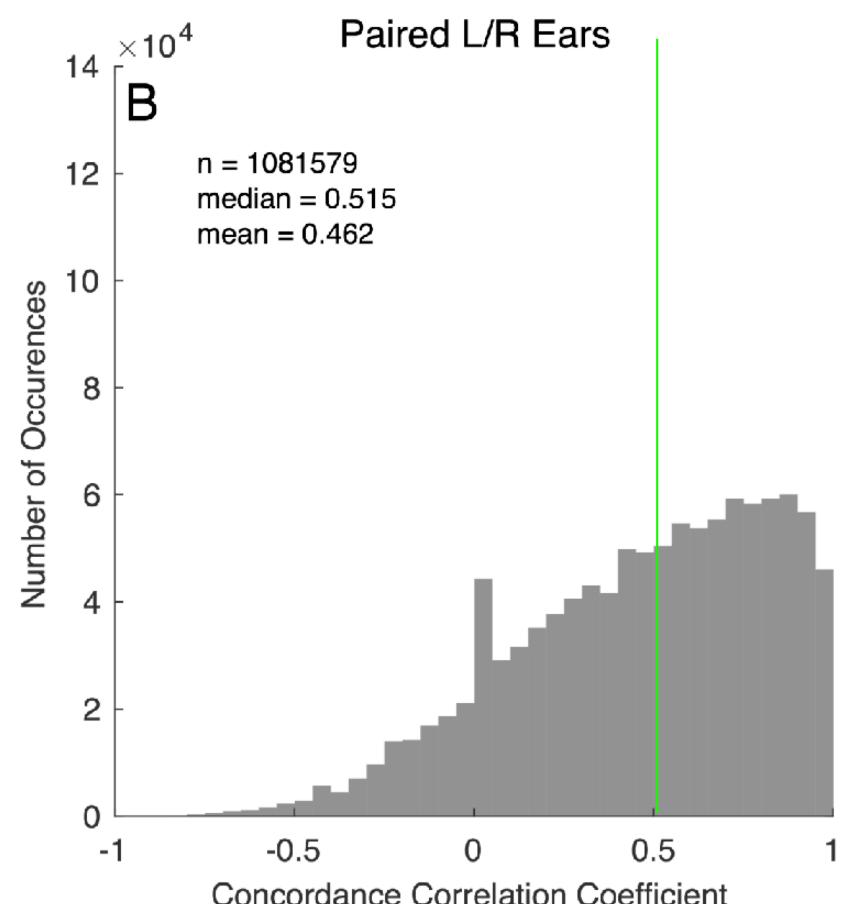
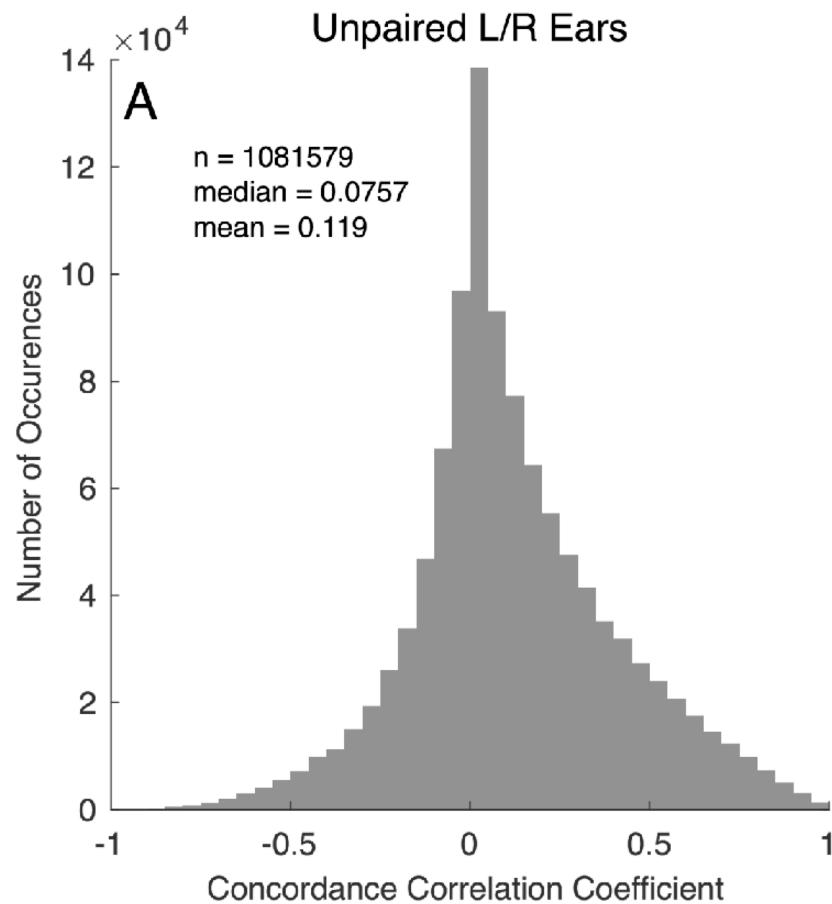
## Multitone audiometry accelerates active learning



**multiplexed psychometric estimation**

Gardner, et al, UAI, 286-295, 2015

## Hearing thresholds of a person's two ears are concordant



## Conjoint estimation is a natural extension of disjoint estimation with a GP

$$\mathbf{x} = (L, \omega, e), \mathbf{x}' = (L', \omega', e')$$

$$K_e(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \begin{cases} s_{11}^2 & \text{if } e = e' = 1 \\ s_{12}^2 & \text{if } e \neq e' \\ s_{22}^2 & \text{if } e = e' = 2 \end{cases}$$

$$K_{\text{conjoint}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = K_e(K_L + K_\omega)$$

$$\mathbf{x} = (L, \omega), \mathbf{x}' = (L', \omega')$$

$$y(\mathbf{x}) \sim \text{Bernoulli}\left(\Phi(f(\mathbf{x}))\right)$$

$$\Phi(f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^f \exp\left(-\frac{z^2}{2}\right) dz$$

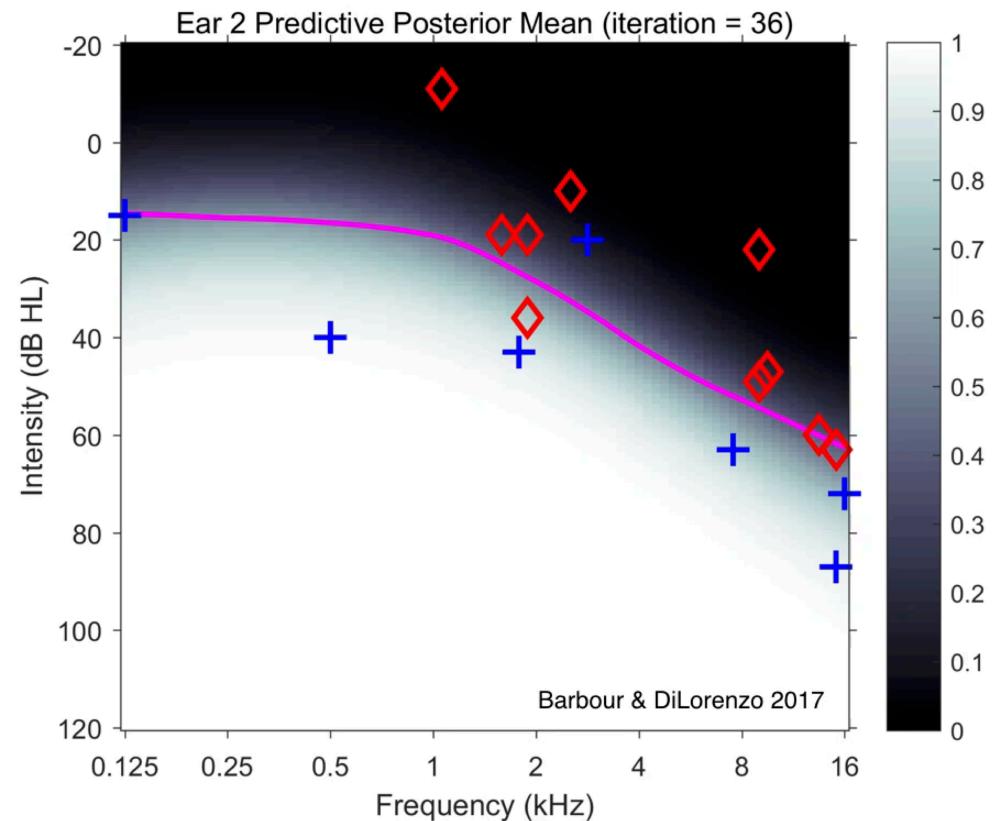
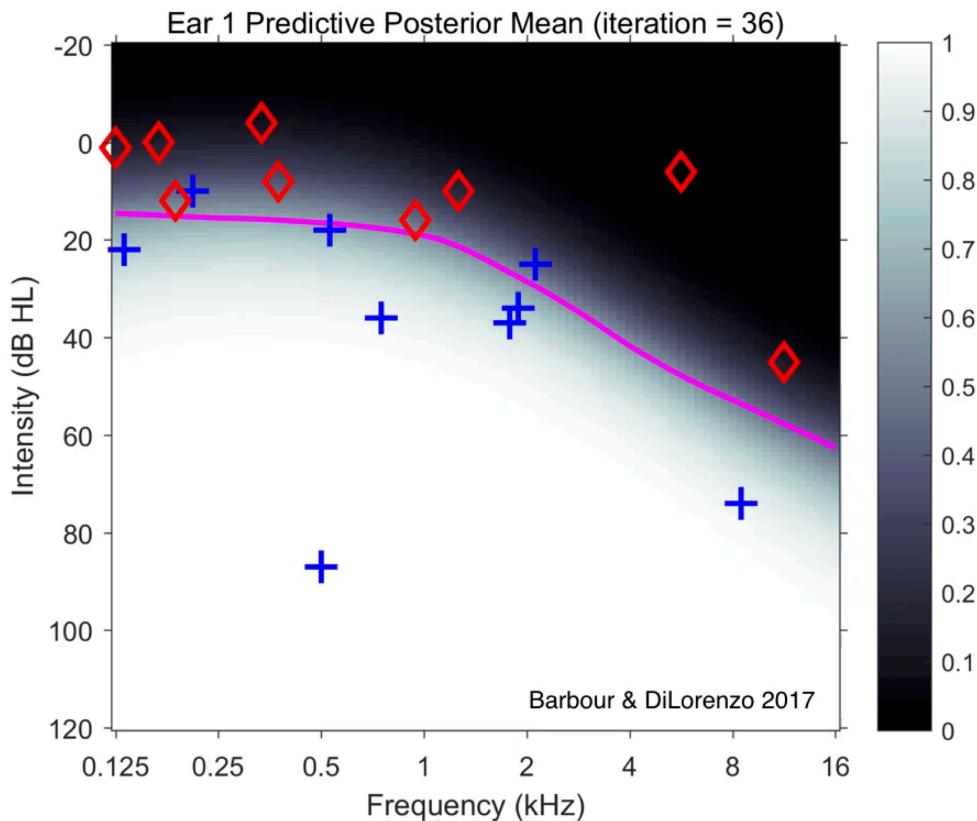
$$f(\mathbf{x}) \sim \mathcal{GP}\left(\mu(\mathbf{x}), K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')\right)$$

$$K_L(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = K_L(L, L') = s_L^2 LL'$$

$$K_\omega(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = K_\omega(\omega, \omega') = s_\omega^2 \exp\left(-\frac{(\omega - \omega')^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

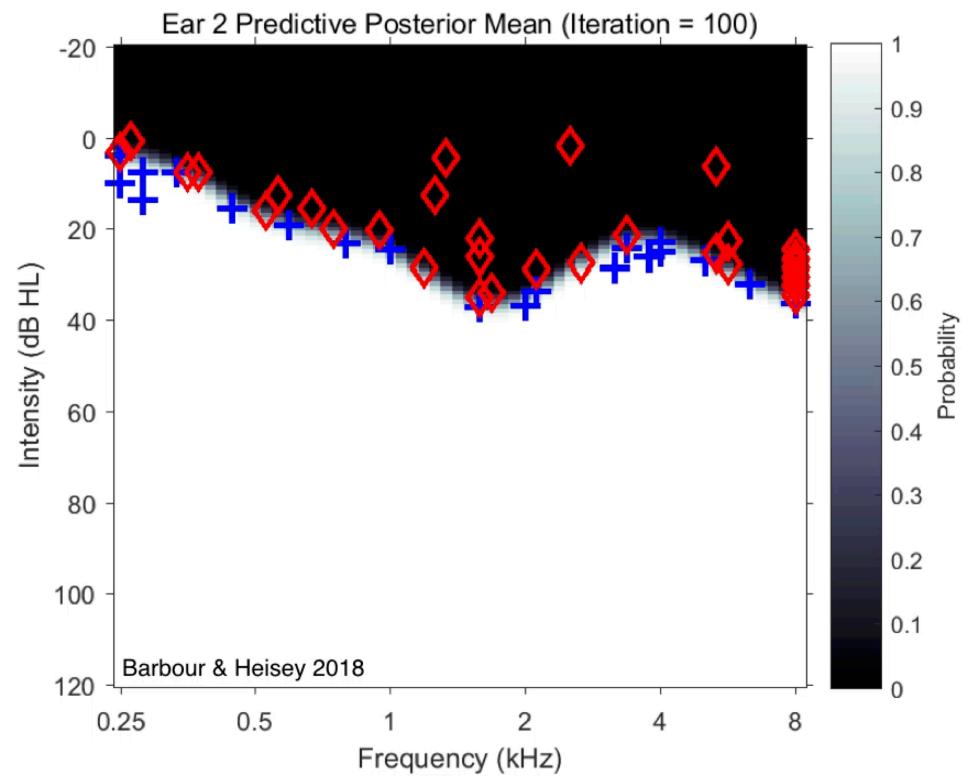
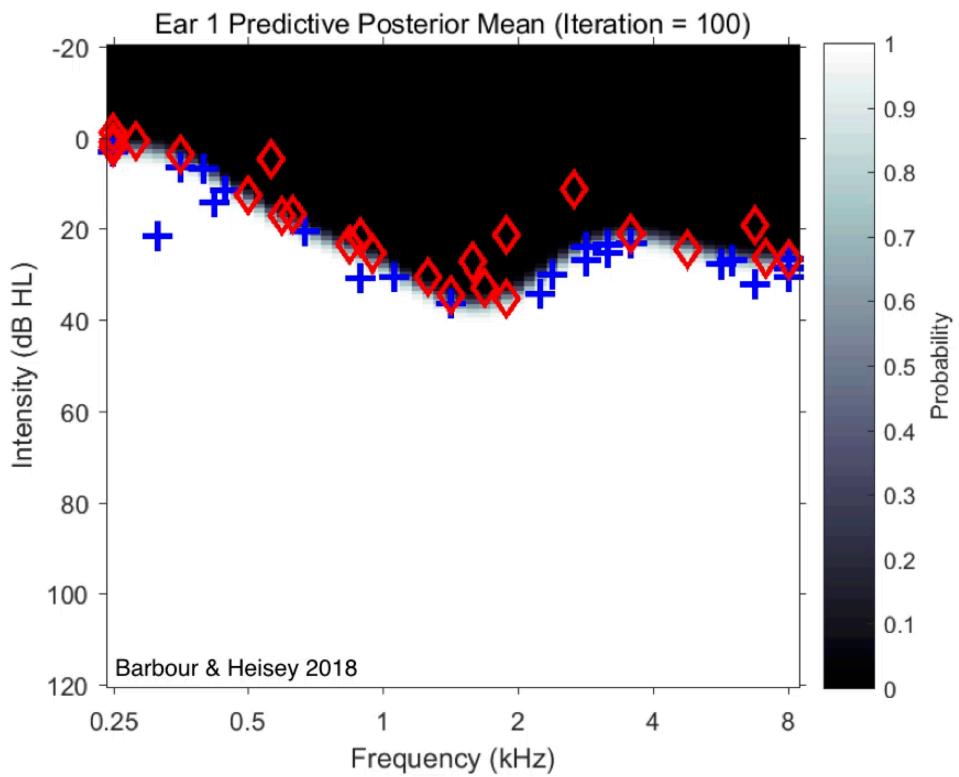
$$K_{\text{disjoint}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = K_L + K_\omega$$

## Natural correlations can be exploited to augment estimator power

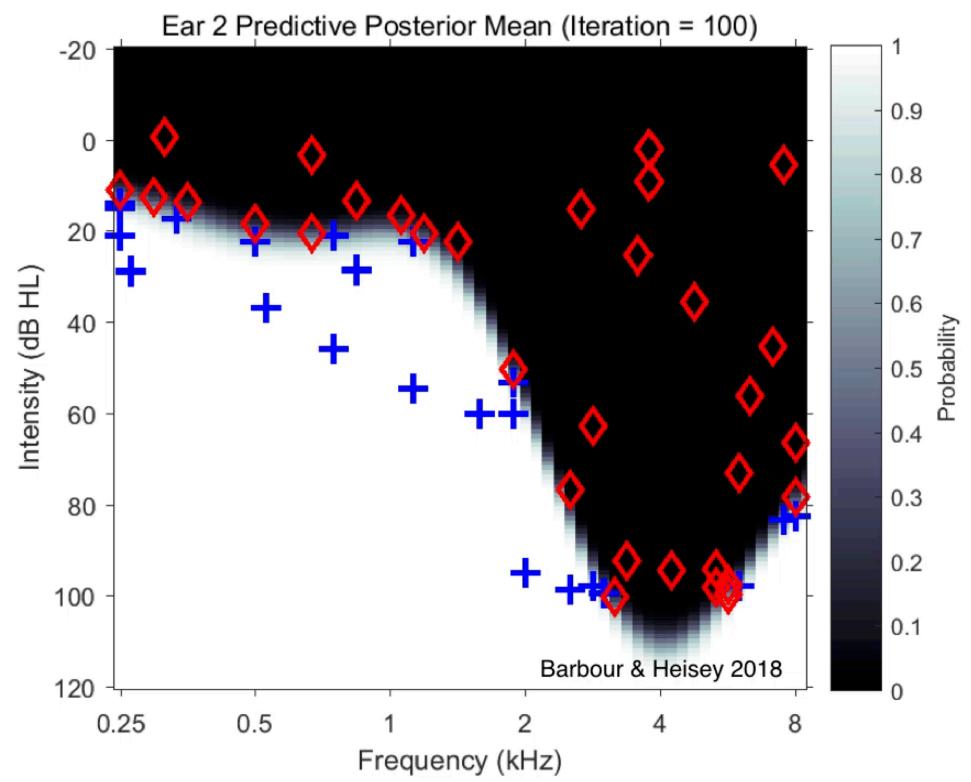
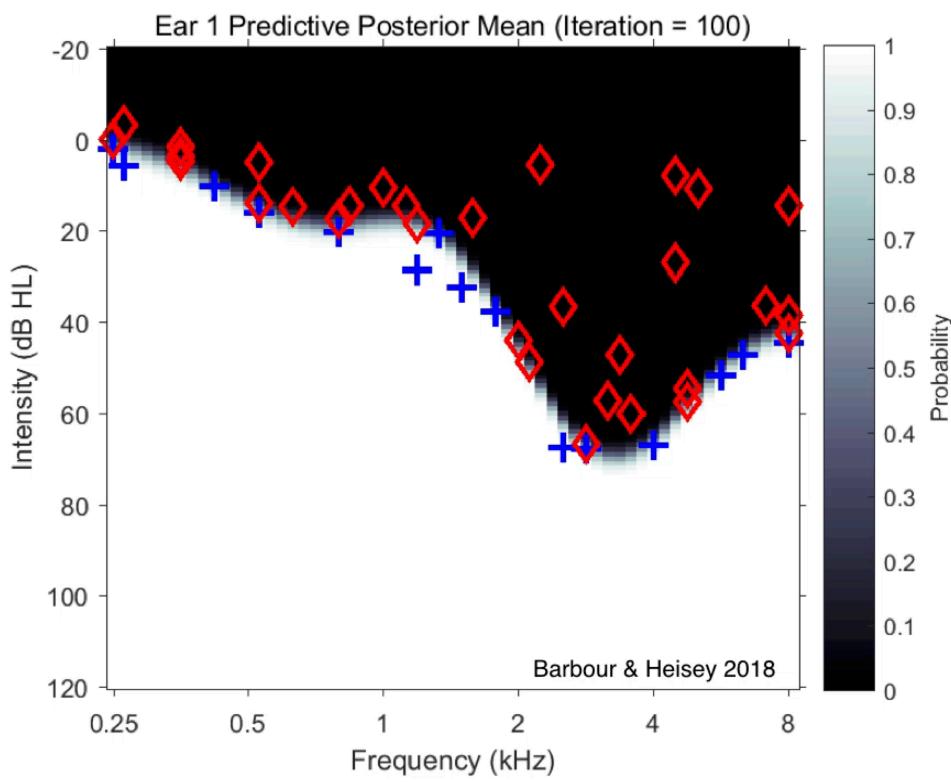


**conjoint psychometric estimation**

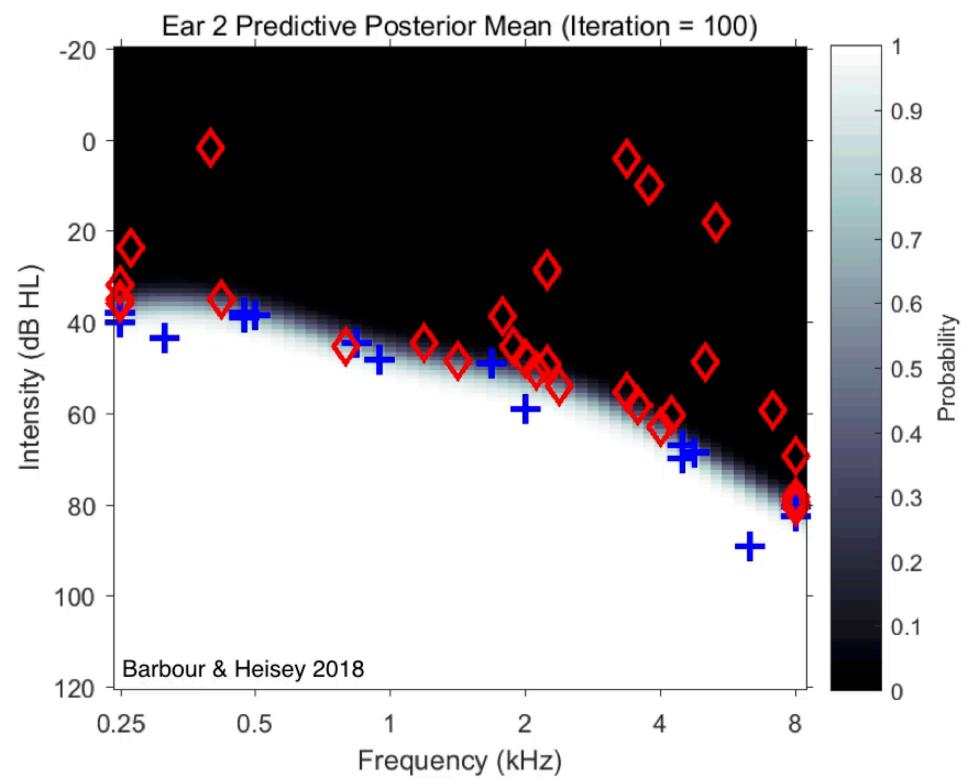
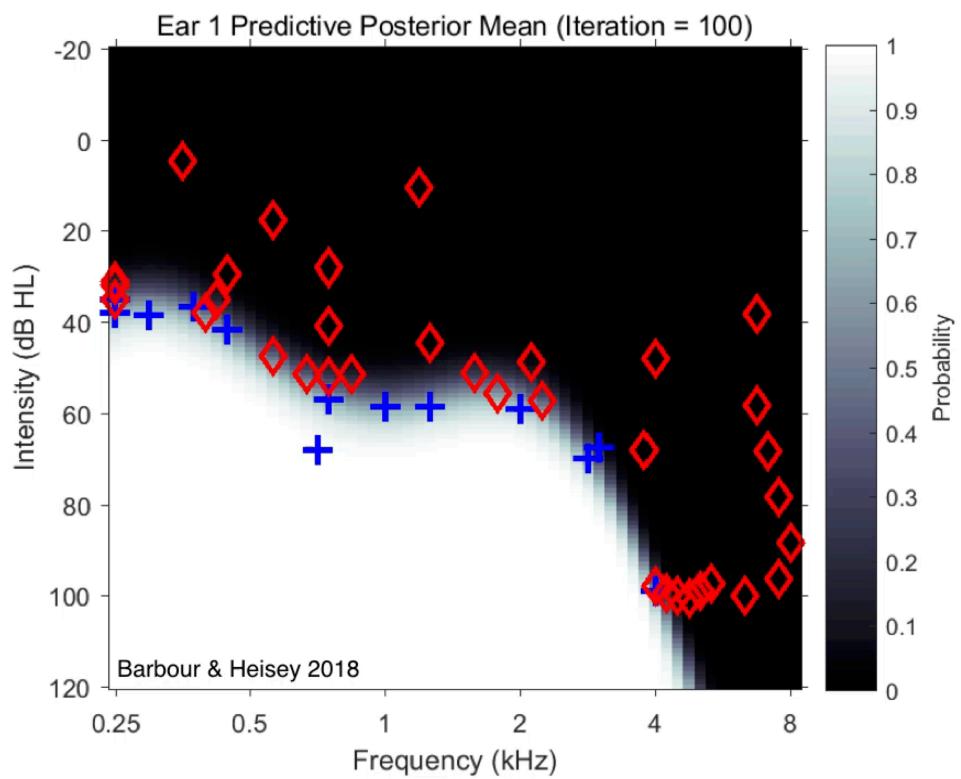
## Active mutual conjoint estimation enables rapid assessment of both ears



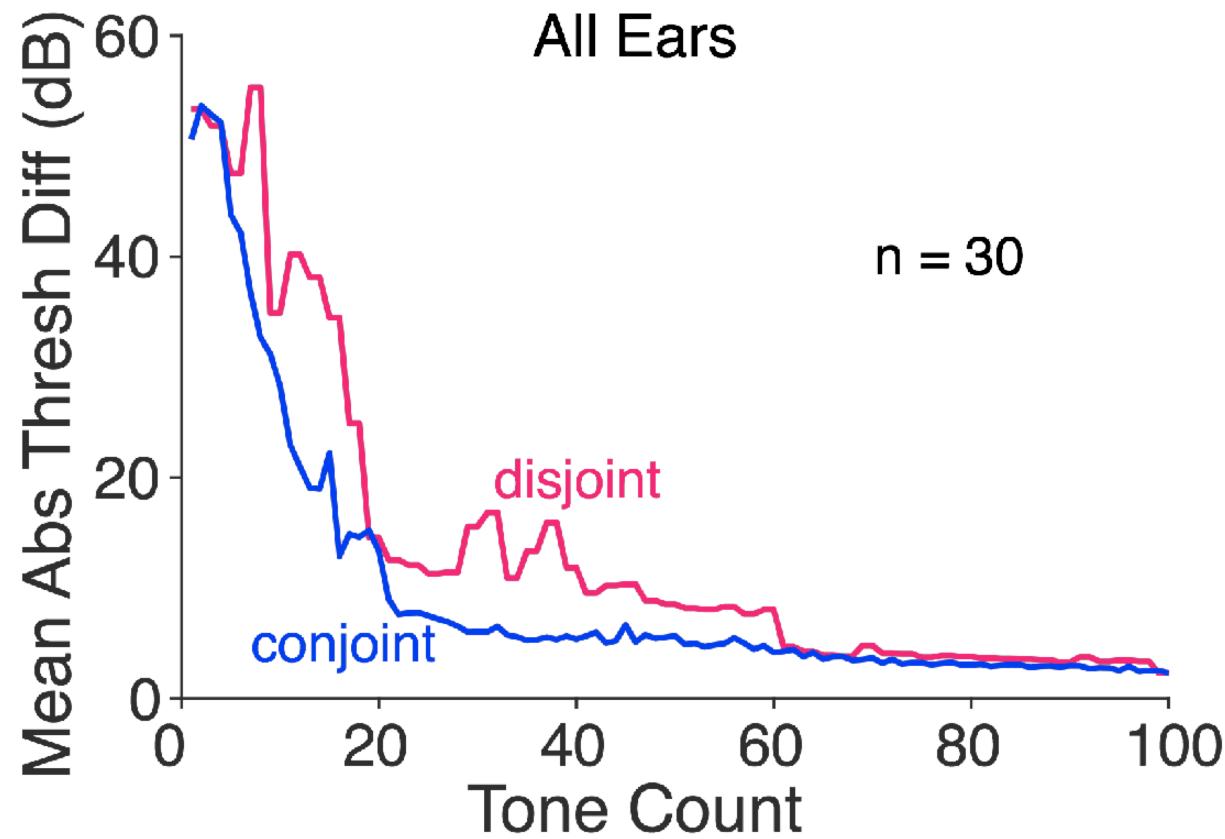
## Active mutual conjoint estimation enables rapid assessment of both ears



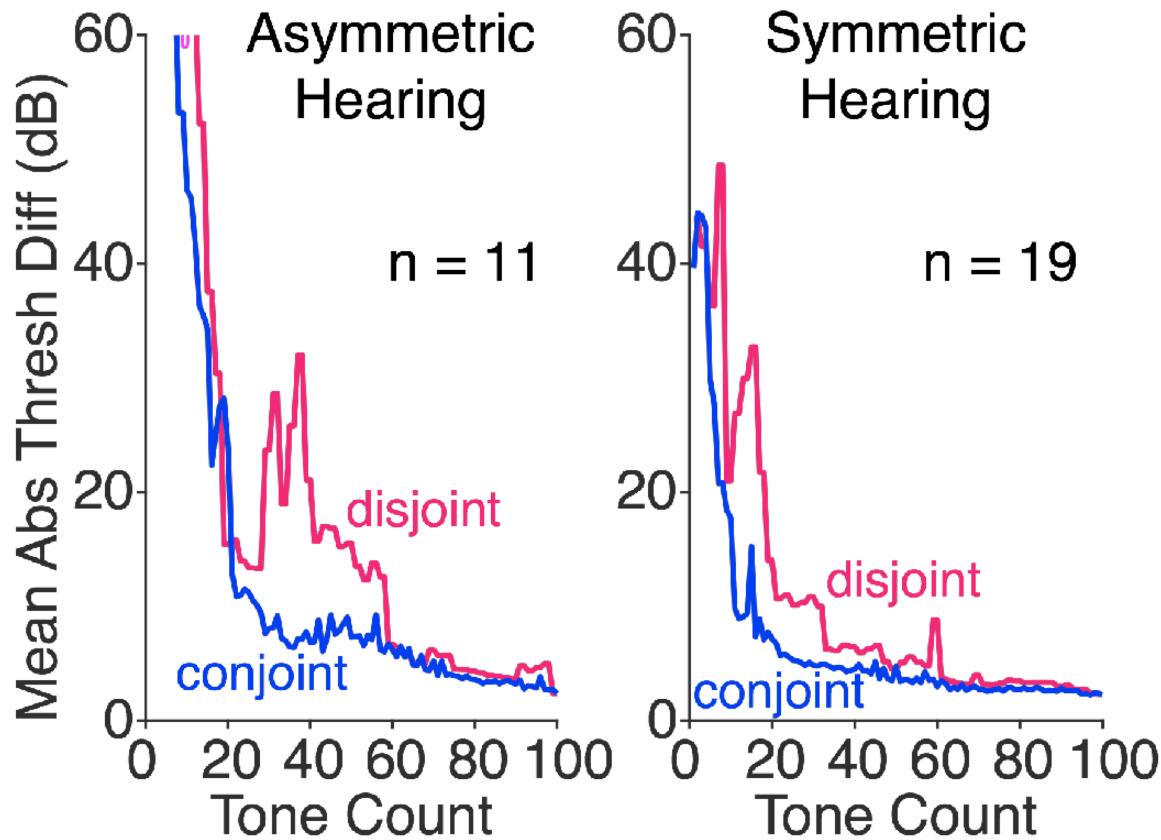
## Active mutual conjoint estimation enables rapid assessment of both ears



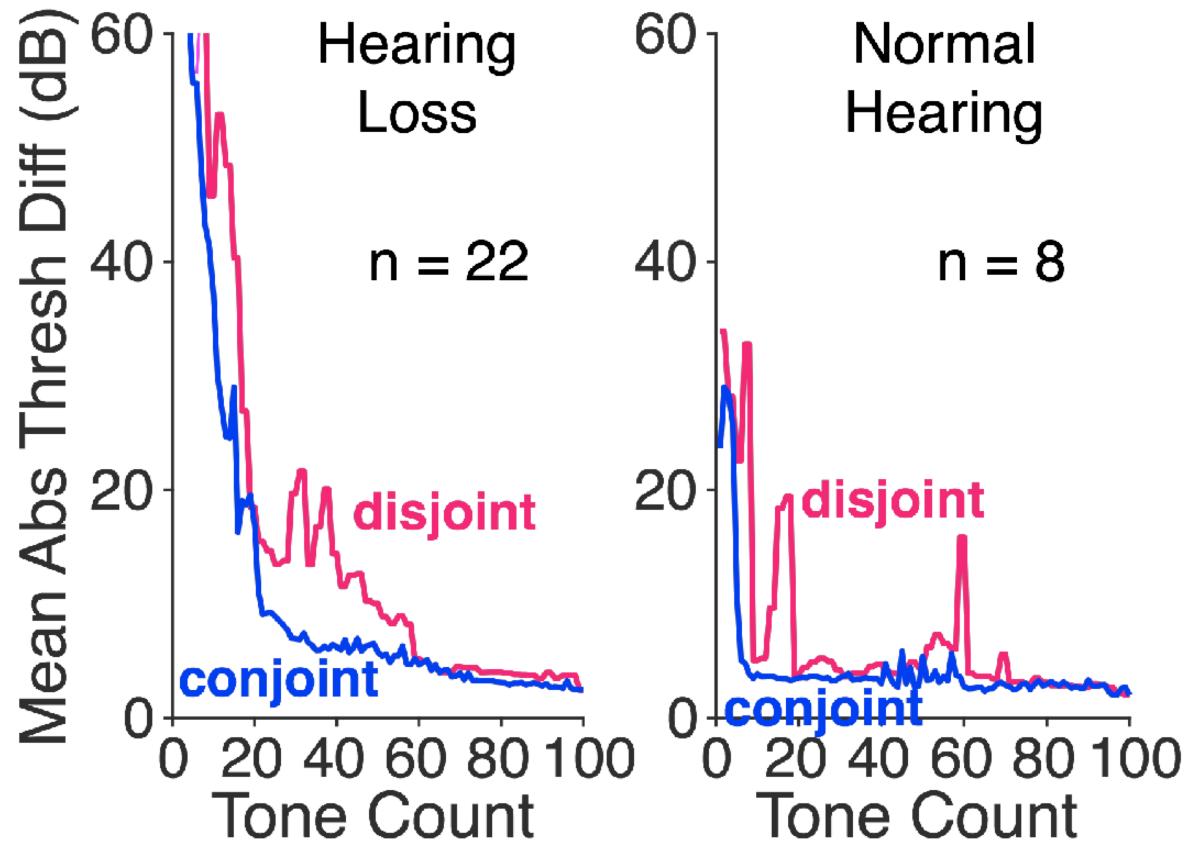
Active mutual conjoint estimation speeds up testing on average over disjoint



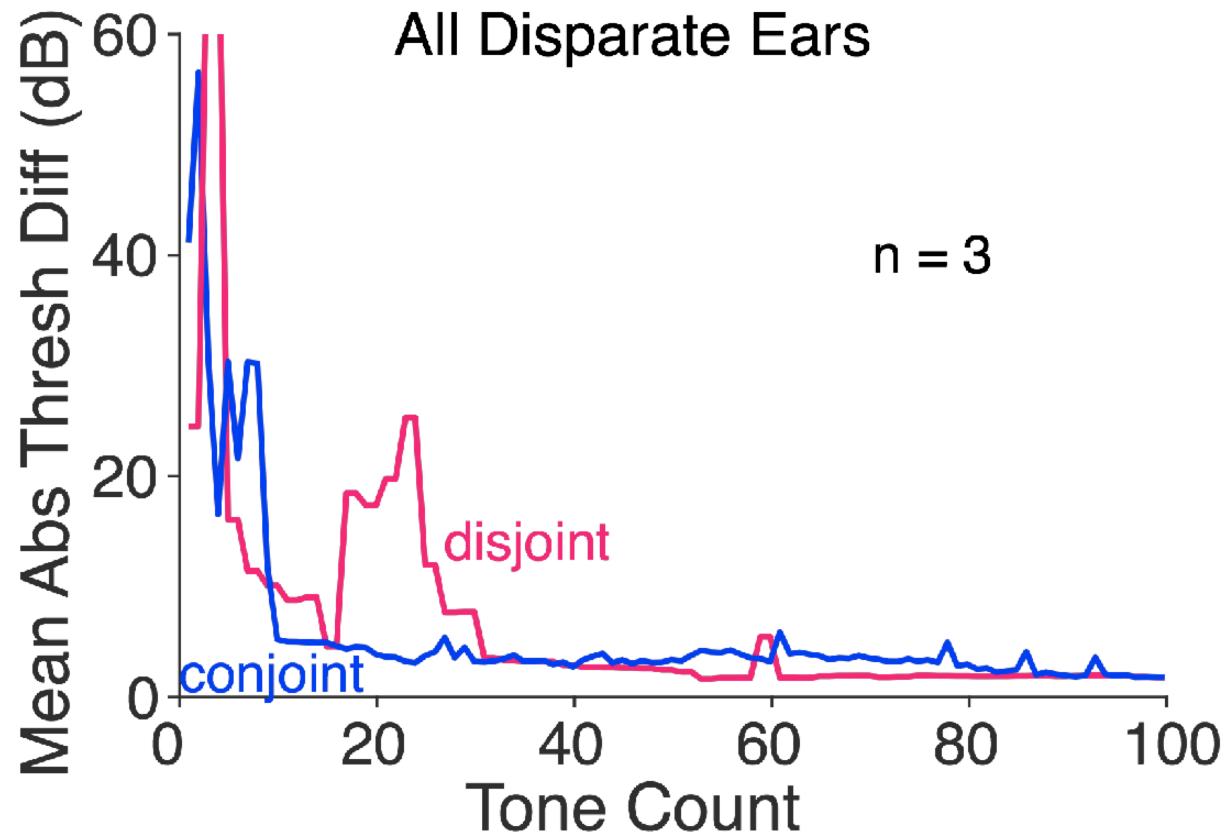
## Active mutual conjoint estimation works for both symmetric and asymmetric hearing



## Active mutual conjoint estimation works for both normal and hearing loss



## Active mutual conjoint estimation works across people



[https://www.toonpool.com/cartoons/iPod\\_Sharing\\_65669](https://www.toonpool.com/cartoons/iPod_Sharing_65669); Heisey, Buchbinder & Barbour. *Acta Acustica* 104:762-765, 2018.

## **General active differential assessment**

## **Online machine learning audiogram access**

You can reach the test site here:

[beta.bonauria.com](http://beta.bonauria.com)

You can learn more about the web site, complete with instructions, here:

<https://goo.gl/GclpkK>

And use these login credentials for the class:

Username: cse591

Password: HvpeCrkSv8zH45r5rAn

## Acknowledgements

- David Song
- Katherine Heisey
- Jake Gardner
- Gustavo Malkomes
- Kilian Weinberger
- Roman Garnett
- John Cunningham
- Kiron Sukesan
- James DiLorenzo
- Braham Snyder
- Trevor Larson
- Steven Bosch
- Brittany Wallace
- Rebecca Howard
- Jenna Buchbinder
- Jeff Chen
- Jonathan Chen
- Ellie Degen
- Cate Jiang
- Kevin Xie
- Ramone Agard

Skandalaris Center, National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health  
Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences  
Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology