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## Metadata of the article that will be visualized in OnlineFirst

1	Article Title	<b>Canal–otolith interactions alter the perception of self-motion direction</b>
2	Article Sub- Title	
3	Article Copyright - Year	<b>The Psychonomic Society, Inc. 2019</b> <b>(This will be the copyright line in the final PDF)</b>
4	Journal Name	Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics
5	Family Name	<b>Mast</b>
6	Particle	
7	Given Name	<b>Fred W.</b>
8	Corresponding Suffix	
9	Author Organization	University of Bern
10	Division	Department of Psychology
11	Address	Bern, Switzerland
12	e-mail	fred.mast@psy.unibe.ch
13	Family Name	<b>Macauda</b>
14	Particle	
15	Given Name	<b>Gianluca</b>
16	Author Suffix	
17	Organization	University of Bern
18	Division	Department of Psychology
19	Address	Bern, Switzerland
20	e-mail	
21	Family Name	<b>Ellis</b>
22	Particle	
23	Given Name	<b>Andrew W.</b>
24	Author Suffix	
25	Organization	University of Bern
26	Division	Department of Psychology
27	Address	Bern, Switzerland
28	e-mail	
29	Family Name	<b>Grabherr</b>
30	Author Particle	
31	Given Name	<b>Luzia</b>

# AUTHOR'S PROOF

32	Author	Suffix
33		Organization University of Bern
34		Division Department of Psychology
35		Address Bern, Switzerland
36		e-mail
37		Family Name <b>Francesco</b>
38		Particle <b>Di</b>
39		Given Name <b>Roman B.</b>
40	Author	Suffix
41		Organization University of Bern
42		Division Department of Psychology
43		Address Bern, Switzerland
44		e-mail
45		Received
46	Schedule	Revised
47		Accepted
48	Abstract	Few studies have investigated the perception of vestibular stimuli when they occur in sequences. Here, three experiments ( $n_{\text{total}} = 33$ ) are presented that focus on intravestibular motion sequences and the underlying perceptual decision-making process. Natural vestibular stimulation (yaw rotation or translation) was used to investigate the discrimination process of the direction of a subsequent spatially congruent or incongruent translation or rotation. The few existing studies focusing on unimodal motion sequences have uncovered self-motion aftereffects, similar to the visual motion aftereffect, possibly due to altered processing of sensory stimuli. An alternative hypothesis predicts a shift of spatial attention due to the cue motion influencing perception of the subsequent motion stimulus. The results show that participants systematically misjudged the direction of motion stimuli well above the detection threshold if the direction of the preceding cue motion stimulus was congruent with the direction of the target (a motion aftereffect). Hierarchical drift diffusion models were used to analyze the data. The results suggest that altered perceptual decision-making and the resulting misperceptions are likely to originate in altered processing of sensory vestibular information.
49	Keywords separated by ' - '	Motion aftereffect - Drift diffusion model - Vestibular cognition - Perceptual decision-making
50	Foot note information	The online version of this article ( <a href="https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-019-01691-x">https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-019-01691-x</a> ) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

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## Electronic supplementary material

**ESM 1**  
(DOCX 32 kb)

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## Canal–otolith interactions alter the perception of self-motion direction

7 Gianluca Macauda<sup>1</sup> · Andrew W. Ellis<sup>1</sup> · Luzia Grabherr<sup>1</sup> · Roman B. Di Francesco<sup>1</sup> · Fred W. Mast<sup>1</sup>  
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### Abstract

Few studies have investigated the perception of vestibular stimuli when they occur in sequences. Here, three experiments ( $n_{\text{total}} = 33$ ) are presented that focus on intravestibular motion sequences and the underlying perceptual decision-making process. Natural vestibular stimulation (yaw rotation or translation) was used to investigate the discrimination process of the direction of a subsequent spatially congruent or incongruent translation or rotation. The few existing studies focusing on unimodal motion sequences have uncovered self-motion aftereffects, similar to the visual motion aftereffect, possibly due to altered processing of sensory stimuli. An alternative hypothesis predicts a shift of spatial attention due to the cue motion influencing perception of the subsequent motion stimulus. The results show that participants systematically misjudged the direction of motion stimuli well above the detection threshold if the direction of the preceding cue motion stimulus was congruent with the direction of the target (a motion aftereffect). Hierarchical drift diffusion models were used to analyze the data. The results suggest that altered perceptual decision-making and the resulting misperceptions are likely to originate in altered processing of sensory vestibular information.

22

**Keywords** Motion aftereffect · Drift diffusion model · Vestibular cognition · Perceptual decision-making

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Navigation through three-dimensional space requires keeping track of self-motion relative to an external reference frame (DeAngelis & Angelaki, 2012). Self-motion perception relies on information provided by the vestibular end organs, which are sensitive to both rotation (semicircular canals, SCCs) and translation (otolith organs). Everyday motion typically leads to combined rotatory and translatory input. Indeed, the otolith and SCC signals strongly interact in order to correctly estimate self-motion perception. The processing of vestibular information requires both inputs at the earliest level (Carriat, Jamali, Brooks, & Cullen, 2015; Cullen, 2012). For example, otolith information is ambiguous with respect to the physical motion stimulus (*tilt-translation ambiguity*), and combined otolith and SCC signals are necessary to disambiguate the sensory input (Angelaki, McHenry, Dickman, Newlands, & Hess, 1999; Merfeld, Zupan, & Gifford, 2001). Interestingly, scant attention has been paid to the perception of vestibular stimuli

and the underlying perceptual decision-making process when they occur in succession. Vestibular thresholds are commonly determined when a defined motion stimulus is presented in isolation (e.g. Grabherr, Nicoucar, Mast, & Merfeld, 2008). Two previous studies stressed the necessity to look at the influence of intravestibular interaction—that is, the interplay of otolith and SCC signals—on vestibular direction detection thresholds for better understanding real-world situations (Crane, 2016; MacNeilage, Turner, & Angelaki, 2010). So far, a small number of studies have used nulling and staircase paradigms to investigate motion sequences for vestibular or visuo-vestibular stimuli, and they have found self-motion aftereffects. These aftereffects resulted in the increased intensities of motion required to cancel out the adaptor stimulus (Crane, 2012a, 2012b; Cuturi & MacNeilage, 2014). However, in these studies, the adaptor and target stimuli always consisted of either linear translations or rotations separately.

In the visual domain, a motion aftereffect (MAE) results after prolonged exposure to coherent visual motion: A subsequently presented pattern of stationary dots appears to move in the opposite direction (the waterfall illusion; Adams, 1834). This perceptual phenomenon provides a window into the neural and computational mechanisms that underlie visual motion perception (Anstis, Verstraten, & Mather, 1998; Cuturi &

**Electronic supplementary material** The online version of this article (<https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-019-01691-x>) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

✉ Fred W. Mast  
fred.mast@psy.unibe.ch

<sup>1</sup> Department of Psychology, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

66 MacNeilage, 2014; Konkle, Wang, Hayward, & Moore,  
 67 2009). The dominating explanation for this static MAE sug-  
 68 gests a selective adaptation mechanism of motion-sensitive  
 69 populations of neurons in the primary visual cortex (Huk,  
 70 Ress, & Heeger, 2001), which implies that MAEs occur as a  
 71 result of altered stimulus processing (sensitivity). According to  
 72 such models, prolonged exposure to a specific motion subse-  
 73 quently leads to a reduced firing rate and responsiveness of  
 74 those neurons (Huk et al., 2001). Assuming that distinct pop-  
 75ulations of neurons code different directions that are constantly  
 76 compared, prolonged stimulation with coherent motion in one  
 77 direction would result in a decreased firing rate of the neurons  
 78 with that specific directional sensitivity. Thus, when subse-  
 79 quently viewing static patterns, the patterns appear to move  
 80 in the opposite direction (Anstis et al., 1998). More recent  
 81 studies started using dynamic instead of static probes. The  
 82 dynamic MAE differed from the static MAE, leading to the  
 83 idea that different neural populations are involved (see Mather,  
 84 Pavan, Campana, & Casco, 2008, for a review). A simplified  
 85 model associates the static MAE with early areas of visual  
 86 cortex, whereas higher-level aspects of the dynamic MAE are  
 87 associated with the middle temporal (MT) and medial superior  
 88 temporal (MST) areas. Although the dorsal part of area MST is  
 89 involved in processing self-motion, the role of area MT seems  
 90 to be limited to motion perception in general (Chowdhury,  
 91 Takahashi, DeAngelis, & Angelaki, 2009; Ilg, 2008).

92 However, effects of sequential motion may alternatively  
 93 manifest themselves in the form of a bias in perceptual deci-  
 94 sion-making, such that a leftward cue stimulus results in an  
 95 increased tendency to give a leftward response, and vice versa.  
 96 This is in line with the spatial-attention account (Posner,  
 97 Snyder, & Davidson, 1980), according to which an abstract  
 98 higher-level spatial (direction) cue exerts an influence on the  
 99 perception of the second motion stimulus. Spatial congruence  
 100 of the cue and target speeds up responses to the target for short  
 101 interstimulus intervals (ISIs). Long ISIs, however, result in an  
 102 impeding effect for spatially congruent trials. This phenome-  
 103 non is known as *inhibition of return* (IOR). Importantly, this  
 104 effect is not caused by low-level sensory properties of the cue,  
 105 but rather by abstract spatial information. In fact, the alloca-  
 106 tion of spatial attention can also be induced cross-modally (for  
 107 reviews, see Driver & Spence, 1998; McDonald, Green,  
 108 Störmer, & Hillyard, 2012; Spence, 2010).

109 To date, research on spatial cueing in the vestibular system  
 110 has been rather scarce (see Figliozi, Guariglia, Silvetti,  
 111 Siegler, & Dericchi, 2005, for an exception). This is striking,  
 112 since vestibular stimuli are essential in the spatial processing  
 113 of self-motion perception. Moreover, it has been hypothesized  
 114 for a long time that vestibular processing is closely related to  
 115 spatial attention (Ferrè, Longo, Fiori, & Haggard, 2013;  
 116 Figliozi et al., 2005; Shuren, Hartley, & Heilman, 1998;  
 117 Silberpfennig, 1941; Vallar, Sterzi, Bottini, Cappa, &  
 118 Rusconi, 1990).

119 Here we present three experiments with sequences of mo-  
 120 tions that focus on intravestibular interaction and their influ-  
 121 ence on the perceptual decision-making process. Yaw rotation  
 122 or translation preceded a spatially congruent or incongruent  
 123 translation or rotation, where all trials consisted of either trans-  
 124 lations followed by rotations, or vice versa. Participants per-  
 125 formed a self-motion direction discrimination task for the sec-  
 126 ond motion stimulus, and we also measured reaction times.

127 Taken together, the self-motion aftereffect and spatial-  
 128 attention accounts predict different response patterns in  
 129 terms of participants' choices and reaction times. On the  
 130 one hand, inspired by the MAE literature, a self-motion  
 131 aftereffect suggests a diminished ability to process a motion  
 132 stimulus when its direction is congruent with that of  
 133 the preceding cue stimulus. This effect would be reflected  
 134 mainly in the participants' responses (correct or incorrect).  
 135 On the other hand, a spatial-attention account suggests ei-  
 136 ther facilitation in terms of faster responses (at short ISIs)  
 137 or IOR (at long ISIs) for congruent motion directions.  
 138 Facilitation could imply a bias for the motion direction that  
 139 is congruent with the direction of the preceding stimulus,  
 140 resulting in decreased reaction times (RTs), while IOR  
 141 would imply interference leading to longer RTs. Signal  
 142 detection theory distinguishes between a response bias (de-  
 143 cision criterion/intercept) and stimulus processing (d-  
 144 prime/slope). However, the classical signal detection ap-  
 145 proach does not take RTs into account, and it is not appro-  
 146 priate for dealing with uncertainty in the decision-making  
 147 process. (Clark, Yi, Galvan-Garza, Bermúdez Rey, &  
 148 Merfeld, 2018). When combined with choices, the time  
 149 taken to respond contains important information about  
 150 the cognitive process leading to a perceptual decision  
 151 (Shadlen & Kiani, 2013). Here we apply the drift diffusion  
 152 model (DDM; Ratcliff & McKoon, 2008) to better exploit  
 153 the information available in the data. The DDM, based on  
 154 the joint analysis of participants' choices and RTs, has be-  
 155 come a widely used cognitive model (Shadlen & Kiani,  
 156 2013). It allows participants' performance to be  
 157 decomposed into different subprocesses, represented by  
 158 the parameters of the DDM. According to the model, noisy  
 159 sensory evidence is accumulated over time until a decision  
 160 boundary is reached (Ratcliff & McKoon, 2008). The  
 161 speed of evidence accumulation is called the *drift rate*.  
 162 Since the DDM deals with two-alternative forced choice  
 163 tasks, evidence accumulated for one of the response op-  
 164 tions is counted as evidence against the alternative. The  
 165 point at which the process of evidence accumulation starts  
 166 is called the *starting point*. Two other relevant parameters  
 167 are the *boundary separation*, which defines the amount of  
 168 evidence necessary for a response, and the *nondecision time*.  
 169 Hence, DDMs are helpful in capturing the relevant  
 170 processes underlying decision-making in the perception of  
 171 subsequent motion stimuli.

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## Experiment 1

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### Method

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Experiment 1 was based on a modification of the spatial-cueing paradigm by Posner, Snyder, and Davidson (1980), set up to examine potential influences of self-motion stimuli on the perception of subsequent motion stimuli. Similar to spatial cueing in the visual system, a cue stimulus (first motion) was expected to direct spatial attention to one side of space, leading to faster accurate responses when the cue and target were congruent at short ISIs, and slower accurate responses when the cue and target motion were congruent at long ISIs. The spatial-cueing effect is usually found for briefly presented stimuli with a short ISI (Ruz & Lupiáñez, 2002). Therefore, each of the two motion stimuli lasted 200 ms, and the ISIs ranged from 50 to 600 ms.

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Participants were first translated horizontally (interaural y-axis, cue) and then rotated about the earth-vertical axis (yaw rotation, target). The first motion was stronger than the second motion, in order to ensure that participants would correctly perceive the cue and shift their attention accordingly. A trial was considered *congruent* when both motions had the same spatial direction (e.g., leftward interaural translation followed by leftward rotation). A trial was defined as *incongruent* when the second motion was directed in the opposite spatial direction (e.g., leftward interaural translation followed by rightward rotation). Performance in neutral trials served as a baseline; in these trials, yaw rotation was preceded by a horizontal forward or backward motion (x-axis). On the basis of the spatial-cueing paradigm, neutral trials were not expected to influence the subsequent motion. For both leftward/rightward and forward/backward translations, the first motion was 3.6 times above the threshold established in a preliminary study and similar to that in published data (Valko, Lewis, Priesol, & Merfeld, 2012), and the second motion was 2.6 times above the threshold reported by Grabherr, Nicoucar, Mast, and Merfeld (2008).

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**Participants** Twelve healthy participants participated in the first experiment (eight male, four female; mean age 27, range 24–30 years). All participants were right-handed according to a German version of the handedness questionnaire by Chapman and Chapman (1987). None of the participants reported a history of neurological, vestibular, or attentional disorders. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the University of Bern, and all participants gave written informed consent prior to the experiment in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

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**Motion stimuli** A six-degree-of-freedom motion platform (6DOF2000E; Moog Inc., East Aurora, NY) and in-house software were used to generate the motion stimuli. The cue

stimuli consisted of translations with single-cycle sinusoidal acceleration and a frequency  $f$  of 5 Hz [ $a(t) = A \sin(2\pi ft)$ ,  $T = 1/f$ ] along both the y-axis (left/right) and the x-axis (forward/backward), as had been used in previous studies (see, e.g., Crane, 2012a; Grabherr et al., 2008). The acceleration amplitude ( $A$ ) was set to  $0.25\text{m/s}^2$ , resulting in a peak velocity of  $0.016\text{m/s}$  ( $v_{\max} = AT/\pi$ ) and a displacement of  $0.0016\text{ m}$  ( $\Delta p = AT^2/2\pi$ ). For the target stimuli, we used the same acceleration profile as for the cue stimuli, but with yaw rotations about an earth-vertical axis (left/right). The acceleration amplitude was set to  $24\text{ deg/s}^2$  ( $v_{\max} = 1.53\text{ deg/s}$ ,  $\Delta p = 0.153\text{ deg}$ ).

**Experimental design** Cue congruence (three levels: congruent, incongruent, and neutral) and ISI (four levels: 50, 100, 200, and 600 ms) were varied within each participant. In *congruent* trials, interaural y-axis translations were followed by yaw rotations to the corresponding side. In *incongruent* trials, y-axis translations preceded yaw rotations in the opposite direction. Neutral trials consisted of a translation along the naso-occipital x-axis and a subsequent yaw rotation. In-house software based on LabVIEW (National Instruments, Austin, Texas) was used to record participants' response and RTs.

**Experimental procedure** Participants were seated in a car seat with a five-point harness, which was mounted on the motion platform. Their head was fixated by means of a helmet. The experiments were conducted in darkness, and participants were blindfolded to prevent the perception of surrounding visual cues. White noise was delivered to in-ear headphones at approximately 60 dB to mask sounds from the engine of the motion platform. Participants were instructed to indicate the perceived direction of the second motion as fast as possible by pressing the corresponding button with either their left or right hand. The first motion served as a time-varying warning cue, which indicated the beginning of the second motion but did not predict its direction. Practice trials were administered until participants understood the task. Once a participant was comfortable with the task, the motion sets were presented in three blocks. Participants were given sufficient time to rest between blocks. In total, 192 trials were presented randomly (48 congruent, 48 incongruent, and 96 neutral). A trial consisted of a cue stimulus (200 ms), a variable ISI (50–600 ms), a target stimulus (200 ms), time to respond (max. 2,500 ms), time for return to the origin (1,100 ms), and an intertrial interval of about 1,000 ms.

**Data analysis** All analyses were computed in R (R Core Team, 2013) using the brms (Bürkner, 2017) and rstan (Guo et al., 2017) packages, which implement Bayesian inference procedures. These procedures provide posterior probability distributions for the estimated parameters. For all calculated statistical models, samples of each parameters' posterior

271 distribution were drawn with a Hamiltonian Monte Carlo sam-  
 272 pling algorithm implemented in Stan. Samples were generated  
 273 by four independent Markov chains, each with 1,000 warm-up  
 274 samples, followed by another 1,000 samples drawn from the  
 275 posterior distribution. Those 1,000 samples for each Markov  
 276 chain were retained for further statistical inference. To confirm  
 277 that the samples for each chain converged to the same poste-  
 278 rior distribution, the R-hat statistic was used, along with visual  
 279 inspection of the shape of the posterior distribution and the  
 280 chains (Gelman et al., 2014). For all calculated models the R-  
 281 hat statistics were below 1.05. Together with the visually  
 282 inspected chains, this indicated that all Markov chains con-  
 283 verged to the same posterior distribution of the estimated pa-  
 284 rameters. These posterior distributions can be interpreted as  
 285 Bayesian credible intervals. Calculations were performed on  
 286 UBELIX (<http://www.id.unibe.ch/hpc>), the HPC cluster at the  
 287 University of Bern. All analyses, models, and data are freely  
 288 accessible on the Open Science Framework (OSF; [https://osf.  
 289 io/46nqw/](https://osf.io/46nqw/)).

290 To see whether participants were able to correctly perceive  
 291 the direction of the yaw rotation, their performance was ana-  
 292 lyzed with a multilevel Bayesian logistic regression model  
 293 implemented in brms, including the factors cue congruence  
 294 (congruent, incongruent, neutral) and ISI (50, 100, 200, 600  
 295 ms). To analyze RTs in more detail, multilevel Bayesian multi-  
 296 ple regression models, with a lognormal likelihood function  
 297 including the factors correctness (correct, wrong), cue congru-  
 298 ence (congruent, incongruent, neutral), and ISI (50, 100, 200,  
 299 600 ms), were calculated for Experiments 1 and 2.

300 To jointly analyze participants' responses and RTs, and to  
 301 study the bias introduced by the first motion, we modeled the  
 302 data using two different Bayesian multilevel DDMs  
 303 (Vandekerckhove, Tuerlinckx, & Lee, 2011) estimated in  
 304 brms (Bürkner, 2017). This procedure allows for parameter  
 305 estimates for groups (fixed effects) while considering varia-  
 306 tion between participants. For the first experiment, the neutral  
 307 conditions were not included in the statistical models, since  
 308 they were uninformative with respect to the underlying pro-  
 309 cesses of congruent and incongruent trials. Moreover, the con-  
 310 gruent and incongruent conditions were split into their specific  
 311 directions in order to obtain a separate factor for the cue and  
 312 target motion. This allowed us to fit a model in which the cue  
 313 motion influenced the starting point for the direction of the  
 314 target motion.

315 To investigate the decision-making process of self-motion  
 316 perception in more detail, two different DDMs with either a  
 317 flexible drift rate or a flexible starting point were calculated for  
 318 Experiments 1 and 2. For the flexible drift rate, we estimated  
 319 the fixed effects of the cue motion, the target motion, and the  
 320 ISI, together with by-participant random effects. For the  
 321 starting point, we estimated random intercepts for participants,  
 322 but included no covariates. In the model with the flexible  
 323 starting point for the drift rate, we estimated the fixed effects

324 of the cue motion and the ISI, together with by-participant  
 325 random effects. Moreover, for the starting point, fixed effects  
 326 were estimated of the cue motion and the ISI, along with by-  
 327 participant random effects. Models for Experiments 1 and 2  
 328 were compared using the leave-one-out cross-validation  
 329 (LOO; Vehtari, Gelman, & Gabry, 2017). The LOO is a mea-  
 330 sure of a model's predictive accuracy. In the following compari-  
 331 sons, we report the model-specific LOO information cri-  
 332 terion (LOOIC) and the LOOIC difference between the two  
 333 models, as well as their standard errors of the LOOIC (see also  
 334 Wallis et al., 2017, for a similar procedure). The LOOIC esti-  
 335 mates the expected log pointwise predictive density.  
 336 Multiplication by -2 converts the measure to the deviance  
 337 scale. Hence, lower LOOIC values indicate a better model fit.  
 338 For all DDM models, we used weakly informative prior dis-  
 339 tributions for the fixed-effect parameters (see the  
 340 [supplementary online material](#)). All other priors were set to  
 341 the default implemented in brms and can be checked in the  
 342 analysis file available on the OSF.

343 To assess whether the DDMs calculated for Experiments 1  
 344 and 2 provided a good description, we generated 500 com-  
 345 plete datasets (responses and RTs) from each model's posteri-  
 346 or predictive distribution. In a first step, within each dataset,  
 347 we calculated the mean response probabilities and median RTs  
 348 for the upper and lower responses for each participant in each  
 349 experimental condition. In a second step, the 500 datasets  
 350 were summarized by different quantiles (.025, .1, .5, .9, and  
 351 .975) for both the predicted response probabilities and the  
 352 median RTs for lower and upper responses, for each partici-  
 353 pant in each experimental condition. The predicted medians of  
 354 the response probabilities and RTs were then compared to the  
 355 observed responses and RTs. To quantify the distance between  
 356 the models' predictions and the observed data, a distance mea-  
 357 sure was calculated. This measure for the specific models was  
 358 calculated as the sum of the squared differences between ob-  
 359 servations and the median predictions for each participant in  
 360 each experimental condition. The distance measures for the  
 361 different models are presented in Table 1. Lower values cor-  
 362 respond to a closer match between the generated and the ob-  
 363 served datasets.

$$\text{Distance} = \sum_{i=1}^n (\text{observation} - \text{prediction})^2$$

**Table 1** Distance measures for the different models in Experiments 1 and 2

Model	Experiment 1		Experiment 2		t1.1Q1
	No Bias	Bias	No Bias	Bias	
Response probability "Right"	1.91	4.31	1.60	6.26	t1.4
Median RT "Right"	33.45	36.12	22.14	26.46	t1.5
Median RT "Left"	59.30	60.56	37.80	45.29	t1.6

366 The medians and quantiles of the response probabilities  
367 and RTs were then averaged across all participants. A com-  
368 parison of the generated medians to the observed values over  
369 all participants is presented in Supplementary Tables 1–4.  
370 Moreover, they are visually compared to the observed data  
371 in Figs. 3, 4, and 7 below. The described model checks are  
372 based on standard procedures to assess the model fit  
373 (Singmann, 2017, 2018).

## 374 Results

375 **Accuracy** The logistic regression showed that motion discrim-  
376 ination performance was below chance level when the cue and  
377 target motions were congruent. This suggests that participants  
378 misperceived the direction of the target motion. Direction dis-  
379 crimination performance was above chance level when a yaw  
380 rotation was preceded by an incongruent or a neutral forward–  
381 backward motion (Fig. 1, Exp. 1), suggesting that participants  
382 correctly perceived the direction of the yaw rotation. The dis-  
383 crimination performance did not differ between the incongruent  
384 and neutral motions, since all 95% credible intervals (CIs)  
385 for the posterior distributions of the difference included zero.  
386 Overall, the response patterns indicate that the direction of the  
387 translation leads to a misperception of the direction of the  
388 rotation when the directions were congruent—that is, a self-  
389 motion aftereffect—except at an ISI of 600 ms. When taking  
390 into account the RTs presented in Fig. 2, interpretation of the  
391 combined measures (accuracy and RTs) remained difficult and  
392 inconclusive. Thus, DDMs were calculated in order to provide  
393 more insights into the underlying process of the self-motion  
394 aftereffect.

395 **Reaction times** The analysis of the RTs indicated no difference  
396 between correct (estimate of the mean = 1.52 s, 95% CI =  
397 [1.36, 1.71]) and wrong (estimate = 1.51 s, 95% CI = [1.40,  
398 1.62]) responses when the cue and target motions were con-  
399 gruent at an ISI of 50 ms. For the same ISI, participants were  
400 slightly faster for correct (estimate = 1.50 s, 95% CI = [1.40,  
401 1.61]) than for wrong (estimate = 1.73 s, 95% CI = [1.54,  
402 1.95]) responses when the cue and target stimuli were incon-  
403 gruent. This difference was even more pronounced in the neutral  
404 condition (correct responses: estimate = 1.31 s, 95% CI =  
405 [1.25, 1.38]; wrong responses: estimate = 1.66 s, 95% CI =  
406 [1.54, 1.80]). RTs in wrong trials for an ISI of 50 ms did not  
407 differ between the congruent, incongruent, and neutral condi-  
408 tions. The slowest RTs for wrong responses were observed at  
409 an ISI of 600 ms over all conditions (estimate = 2.41 s, 95% CI  
410 = [2.16, 2.69]). Parameter estimates of the means and 95% CIs  
411 for all conditions are depicted in Fig. 2.

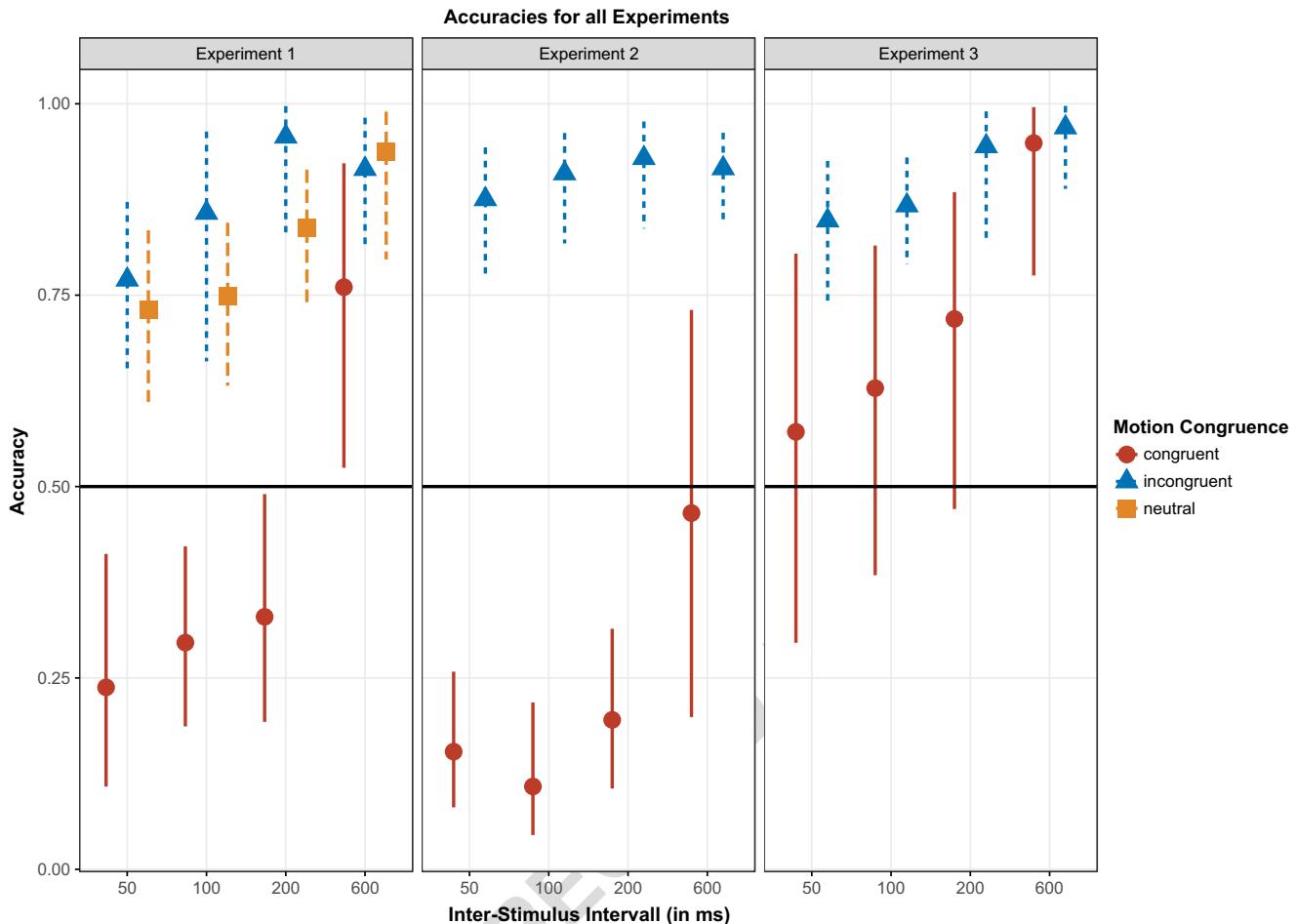
412 **Drift diffusion models** The LOOICs for the model with the  
413 perceived direction of the response and the drift-rate parame-  
414 ter depending on the direction of the first motion (no-bias

415 model), the model with the starting point also depending on  
416 the direction of the first motion (bias model), and their LOOIC  
417 difference are presented in Table 2 (Exp. 1 columns). The  
418 LOOIC values indicate that the fit for the model with the  
419 drift-rate parameter depending on the direction of the first  
420 motion (no bias) was better, which is reflected in its lower  
421 LOOIC.

422 A comparison of the posterior predictive distributions  
423 and the observed data for both models in Experiment 1 is  
424 presented in Fig. 3; in the left panels are comparison results  
425 for the model that included cue and target motion as well as  
426 ISI as predictors of the drift rate (no-bias model), and in the  
427 right panels are results for the model that included target  
428 motion and ISI as predictors for the drift rate, with the  
429 starting point depending on the cue motion in combination  
430 with ISI (bias model). The first row in Fig. 3 shows com-  
431 parisons of the predicted (circles) and observed (crosses)  
432 response probabilities of responding “right” for the no-bias  
433 and bias models across all participants. This comparison  
434 shows that the predicted and observed response probabili-  
435 ties of responding “right” are closer in the no-bias than in  
436 the bias model. Moreover, the 80% (fat gray bars) and 95%  
437 (thin gray lines) credible intervals constructed from the  
438 quantiles averaged across participants are narrower in the  
439 no-bias model. These results indicate that the model with  
440 no bias describes the observed response probabilities better  
441 than the bias model. Moreover, the ranges of the predic-  
442 tions for the response probabilities made by the no-bias  
443 model are narrower. This reflects decreased uncertainty  
444 about the model’s posterior parameter estimates and means  
445 that the model is able to make more precise predictions.

446 The second and third rows in Fig. 3 show the predicted  
447 (black circles and gray lines and bars) and observed (color  
448 crosses) median RTs for “left” and “right” responses. The  
449 intervals of the predicted median RTs are equally wide for  
450 both models. The observed and predicted median RTs over  
451 all conditions are also equally distant. Overall, the model for  
452 which the drift rate depends on the cue and target motions as  
453 well as the ISI, but with no predictor for starting point (no-bias  
454 model), describes the observed data better, especially the re-  
455 sponse probabilities. This conclusion is also supported by that  
456 model’s lower LOOIC. Therefore, the model with no shifted  
457 starting point was preferred.

458 To have more trials for each condition, and therefore more  
459 precise parameter estimates for our models, we decided not to  
460 distinguish between the explicit directions of the cue and tar-  
461 get motions and to summarize the directions in the factor cue  
462 congruence. The response was then coded in terms of accu-  
463 racy. Thus, we estimated an additional model with fixed effects  
464 of congruence and ISI, together with random effects of partic-  
465 ipants for the drift rate (no-bias model, but with correctness as  
466 the response variable). For the starting point, we estimated a  
467 by-participant random intercept model.



**Fig. 1** Participants' performance in all three experiments. Dots, triangles, and squares represent the inverse logit-transformed parameter estimates of the different conditions in the logistic regressions. The lower and upper

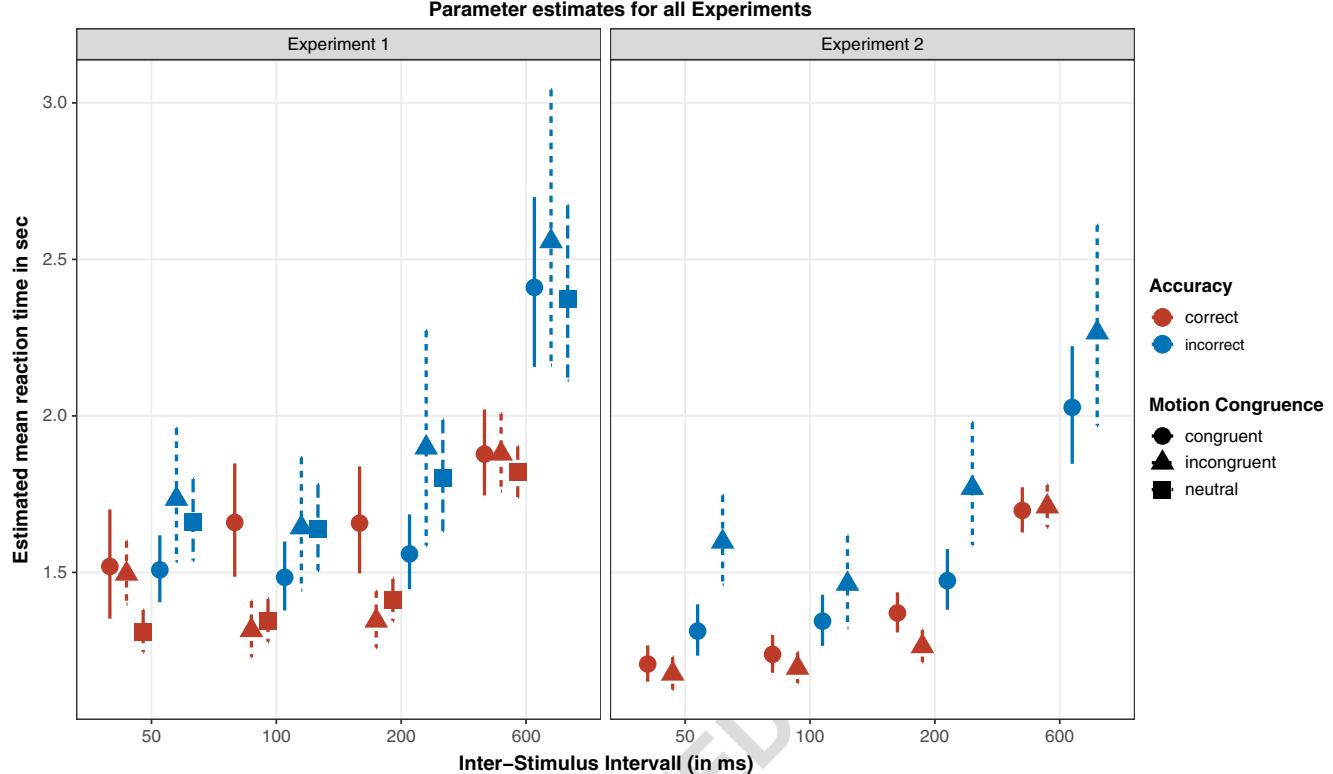
ends of the lines surrounding them represent the 95% credible intervals. The black lines at .5 illustrate chance level

468 The goodness of fit for this model, based on posterior  
469 predictive checks, is presented in Fig. 4, left panels.  
470 The model predicts participants' responses well, since  
471 the observed median response probabilities (crosses)  
472 are close to the predicted response probabilities  
473 (circles) and are within both the 80% and 95% intervals  
474 of the predictive posterior distribution. Median RTs for  
475 the correct responses match the observed median RTs,  
476 as well. However, the model has difficulties describing  
477 the RTs for the wrong responses, especially in the in-  
478 congruent conditions, since the observed median RTs  
479 are at the upper end of the 80% and 95% intervals of  
480 the posterior predictive distributions.

481 The DDM with correctness as a response variable re-  
482 vealed that evidence for wrong responses was accumulat-  
483 ed when the cue and target motions were spatially con-  
484 gruent for ISIs of 50, 100, and 200 ms. The parameter  
485 estimates for both incongruent cues and congruent cues  
486 at an ISI of 600 ms indicate sensory evidence accumula-  
487 tion for the correct response (Fig. 5).

## Discussion

488 In Experiment 1, the results of logistic regression showed that  
489 there are compelling intravestibular self-motion aftereffects in  
490 terms of direction discrimination performance when a yaw  
491 rotation is preceded by a translation in the same spatial direc-  
492 tion. Thus, stimulation of the otoliths influences a sensory  
493 decision-making process that is based on information provid-  
494 ed by the semicircular canals, so that congruent motions are  
495 systematically misperceived. We concluded that the perceptual  
496 decision about the direction of the target motion uses an  
497 estimate of spatial direction obtained not only from the semi-  
498 circular canals, but also from the preceding stimulation of the  
499 otoliths. Importantly, self-motion aftereffects were found for a  
500 specific time window of ISIs of 50–200 ms, but not at 600 ms.  
501 This time window is much shorter than that reported in the  
502 vestibular MAE literature (Crane, 2012a). A graphical sum-  
503 mary of these misperceptions for congruent trials and the un-  
504 derlying decision-making processes is illustrated in Fig. 6.  
505 The RT data in Experiment 1 show that participants generally



**Fig. 2** Participants' RT data in Experiments 1 and 2. Dots, triangles, and squares represent the transformed parameter estimates of the means from the different conditions in the lognormal regressions. The lower and upper ends of the lines surrounding them represent the 95% credible intervals

507 responded faster for correct responses. This was not the case  
 508 in the congruent conditions for ISIs of 50, 100, and 200 ms. In  
 509 these conditions, the RTs for wrong responses were even  
 510 slightly faster. For these ISIs, self-motion aftereffects were  
 511 observed. This might suggest that participants were convinced  
 512 to respond correctly but did in fact accumulate evidence for  
 513 the wrong direction.

519 translation were reversed. Specifically, we investigated the  
 520 influence of a rotation (cue) on a subsequent translation (target).  
 521 The motion trajectories remained unchanged. Only congruent  
 522 and incongruent cues were presented, since no rotation  
 523 could serve as a “neutral” cue for lateral translations in the  
 524 horizontal plane. Both pitch and roll rotations in an upright  
 525 participant would inevitably lead to otolith stimulation, due to  
 526 a resulting deviation from the direction of gravity.

## 514 **Experiment 2**

### 515 **Method**

516 The results of Experiment 1 raise the question of whether the  
 517 consistent directional misperception of the second motion  
 518 (self-motion aftereffect) would also occur if the rotation and

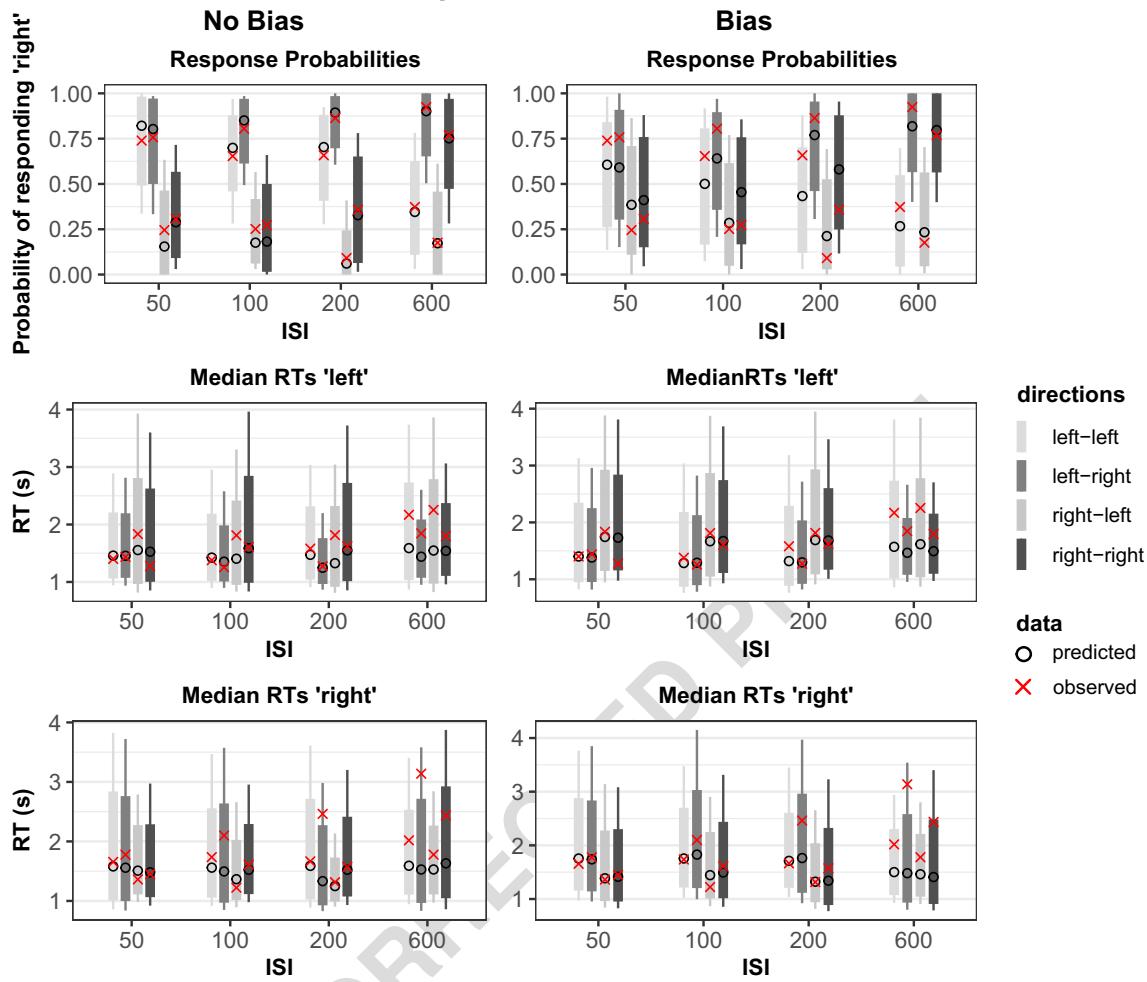
527 **Participants** Twelve new participants were recruited for  
 528 Experiment 2. Two of the participants had to abort the exper-  
 529 iment, and we included the remaining ten participants in the  
 530 analysis (six male, four female; mean age 29, range 23–56  
 531 years). All participants were right-handed according to a  
 532 German version of the handedness questionnaire by  
 533 Chapman and Chapman (1987). None of the participants

t2.1 **Table 2** LOOIC values for the models in Experiments 1 and 2

	Experiment 1			Experiment 2		
	No Bias	Bias	No Bias – Bias	No Bias	Bias	No Bias – Bias
LOOIC	2,794.30	3,114.74	– 321.45	4,348.22	5,415.79	– 1,067.57
SE	80.42	75.25	46.99	132.25	71.64	87.48

LOOIC = leave-one-out information criterion, SE = standard error

## Experiment 1



**Fig. 3** Comparison of the posterior predictive distributions and the observed data from Experiment 1, for the model with the drift rate depending on cue and target motion but no shift in the starting point (on the left; no-bias model) and for the model with the drift rate depending on target motion and ISI and with the starting point depending on the cue motion in combination with ISI (on the right; bias model). The median predictions for response probabilities and median RTs averaged across all participants are plotted as black circles. The

bold gray bars represent 80% credible intervals, computed from the .1 and .9 quantiles. The thinner gray bars represent 95% intervals, computed from the .025 and .975 quantiles. Together, these indicate the uncertainty of the models' predictions, with larger intervals indicating more uncertainty. The means of the observed response probabilities and the medians of the observed RT data, averaged across all participants, are shown as crosses. The different ISIs are presented on the x-axis

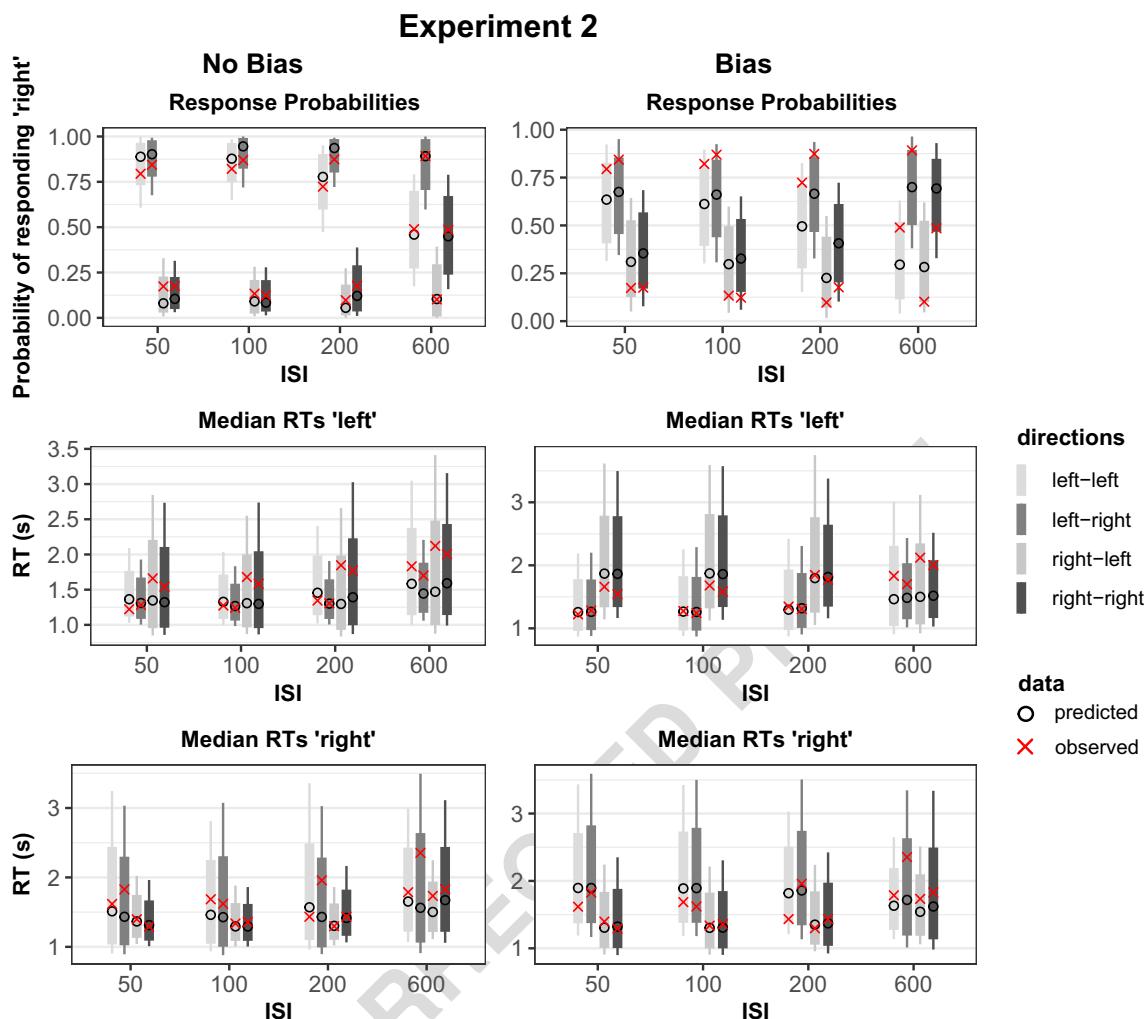
534 reported a history of relevant neurological, vestibular, or attentional disorders. The study was approved by the ethics  
535 committee of the University of Bern, and all participants gave  
536 written informed consent prior to the experiment in accordance  
537 with the Declaration of Helsinki.  
538

539 **Motion stimuli** The cue stimuli were rotations about an  
540 earth-vertical axis (right/left) with single-cycle sinusoidal  
541 acceleration and a frequency of 5 Hz [ $a(t) = A \sin(2\pi ft) = A \sin(2\pi t/T)$ ]. The acceleration amplitude was  
542 set to  $33 \text{ deg/s}^2$  ( $v_{\max} = 2.10 \text{ deg/s}$ ,  $\Delta p = 0.021 \text{ deg}$ ).  
543 The target stimuli consisted of translations in the  $y$ -axis  
544 (right/left) with the same acceleration profile as the cue  
545 stimuli. The acceleration amplitude was set to  $0.18 \text{ m/s}^2$   
546

( $v_{\max} = 0.011 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $\Delta p = 0.0011 \text{ m}$ ). The linear acceleration  
547 was always along the participants'  $y$ -axis.  
548

**Experimental design** Within each participant, cue congruence  
549 (two levels: congruent, incongruent) and ISI (four levels: 50,  
550 100, 200, and 600 ms) were manipulated. In congruent trials a  
551 yaw rotation was followed by a translation along the interaural  
552  $y$ -axis to the corresponding side. In incongruent trials a yaw  
553 rotation was followed by an interaural  $y$ -axis translation to the  
554 opposite side. Again, participants' responses and RTs were  
555 recorded.  
556

**Experimental procedure** The experimental procedure was  
557 similar to that of Experiment 1, differing only in the type of  
558



Q5

**Fig. 4** Comparison of the posterior predictive distributions and the observed data for Experiments 1 (left panels) and 2 (right panels), with the drift depending on the congruence of the directions of cue and target motion and the ISI, no shift in the starting point, and correctness as the response variable. The median predictions for response probabilities and median RTs averaged across all participants are plotted as black circles. The bold gray bars represent 80% credible intervals, computed from the

.1 and .9 quantiles. The thinner gray bars represent 95% intervals, computed from the .025 and .975 quantiles. Together, these indicate the uncertainty of the models' predictions, with larger intervals indicating more uncertainty. The means of the observed response probabilities and the medians of the observed RT data averaged across all participants are shown as crosses. The different ISIs are presented on the x-axis

559 motion sequences presented. In this experiment, 192 trials  
560 were randomly presented (96 congruent, 96 incongruent).

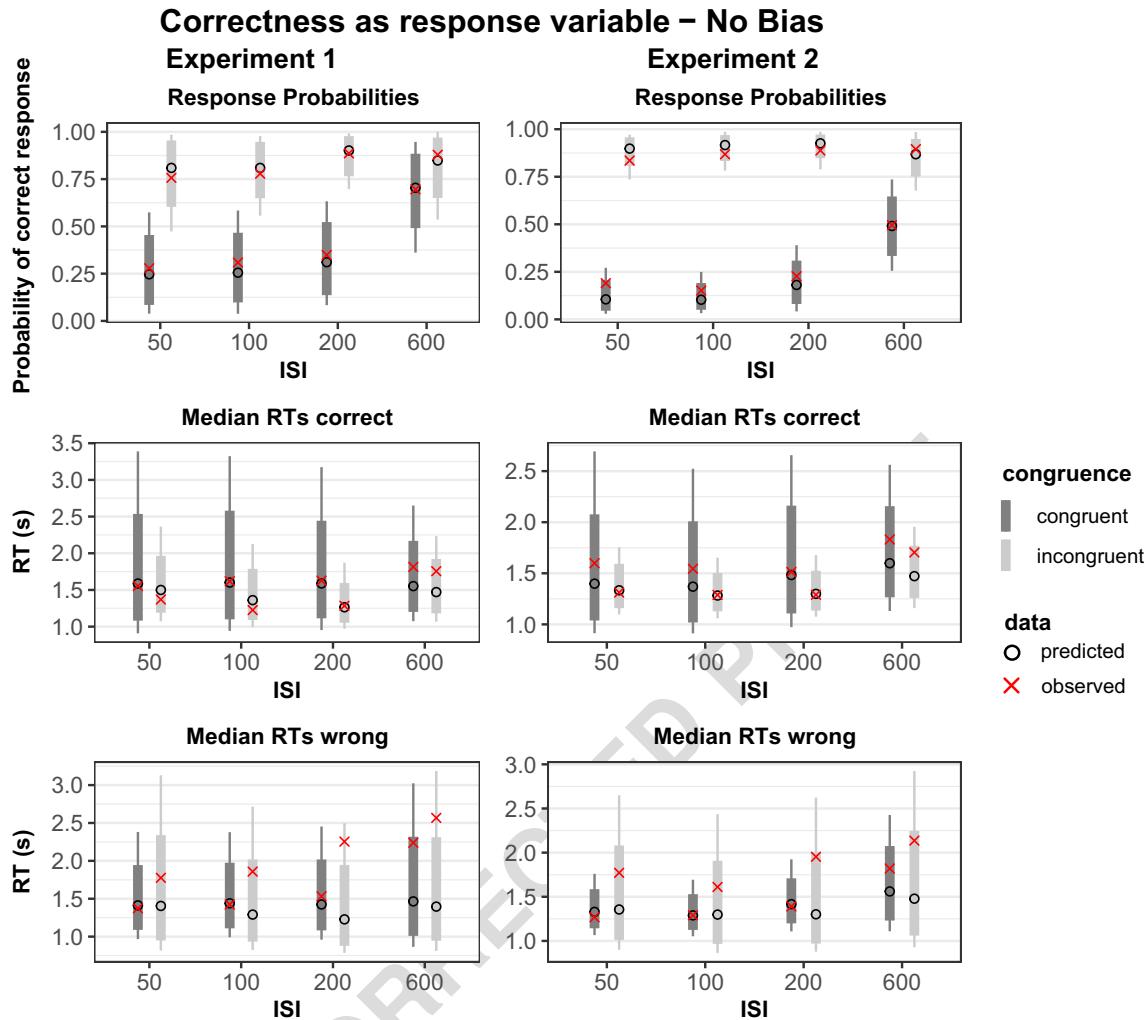
561 **Data analysis** Participants' response accuracy was analyzed  
562 with a multilevel Bayesian logistic regression similar to that  
563 in Experiment 1, but with the factor cue congruence consisting  
564 of only two levels (congruent, incongruent). The details of the  
565 joint analysis of accuracy and RTs (DDM) can be found in the  
566 Method section of Experiment 1.

## 567 Results

568 **Accuracy** The logistic regression model (Fig. 1, Exp. 2 panel)  
569 revealed that the motion discrimination performance was be-  
570 low chance level in the congruent conditions for ISIs of 50,

100, and 200 ms, indicating a misperception of the spatial direction of the translation. For an ISI of 600 ms, the discrimination performance was around chance level. Direction discrimination performance was above chance level when a yaw rotation preceded an incongruent motion, meaning that the spatial direction of the target stimulus was correctly perceived. Just as in Experiment 1, the response patterns indicate that the direction of the rotation led to a misperception of the direction of the translation when the directions were congruent—that is, a self-motion aftereffect—except for an ISI of 600 ms.

**Reaction times** The analysis of RTs indicated that participants were slightly faster on correct (estimate = 1.21 s, 95% CI = [1.15, 1.27]) than on wrong (estimate = 1.31 s, 95% CI = [1.24, 1.40]) responses when the cue and target motions were



**Fig. 5** Estimates for the effects of congruence and ISI on the drift rate of the drift diffusion models in Experiments 1 and 2. The estimates for Experiment 1 are represented by squares, and the estimates for Experiment 2 by triangles. Estimates for congruent conditions are in a

cool color, whereas estimates for incongruent conditions are in a warm color. Vertical lines around the estimates show the 95% credible interval for each estimate

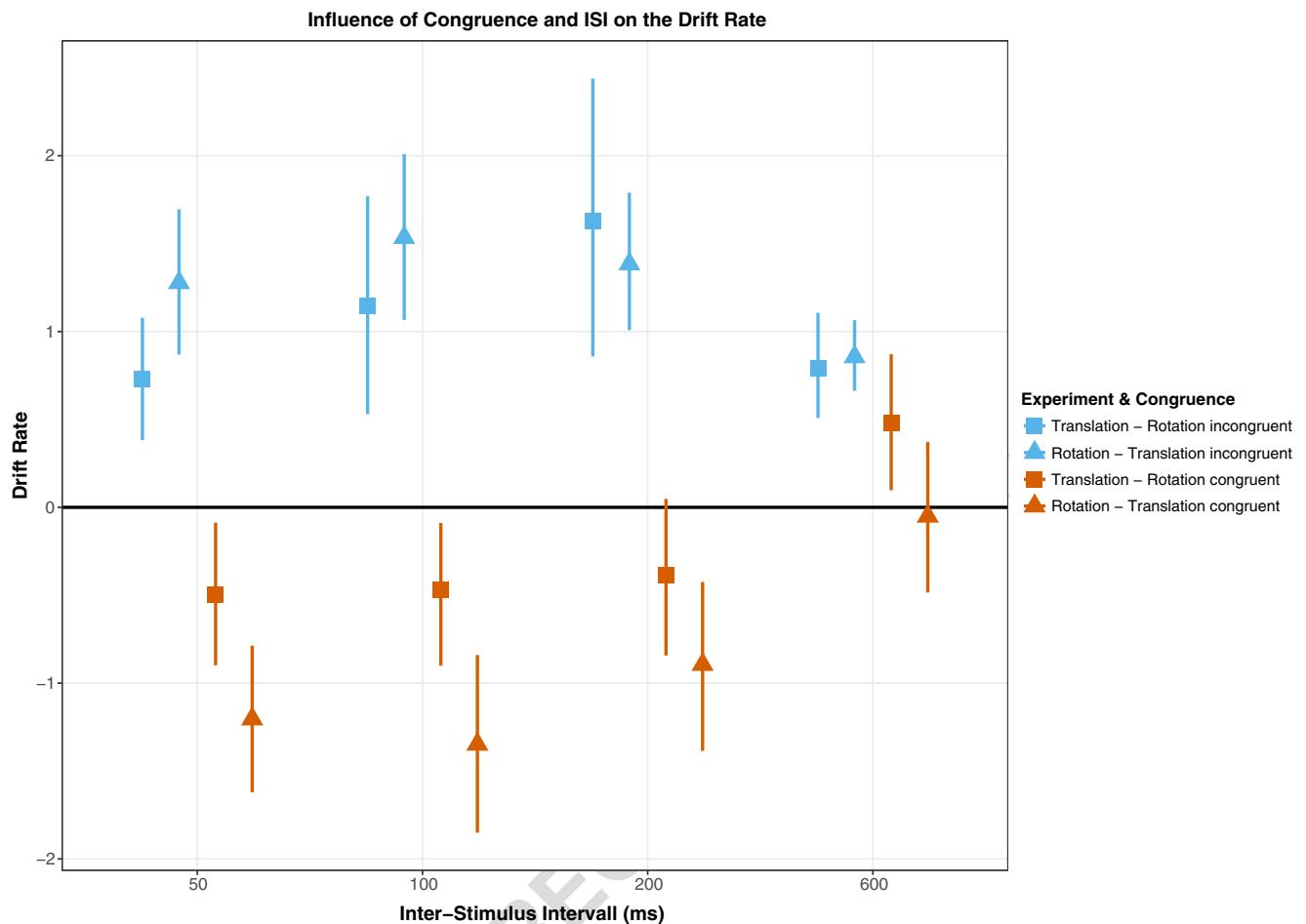
Q6

585 congruent at an ISI of 50 ms. For the same ISI, participants  
 586 were meaningfully faster for correct (estimate = 1.18 s, 95%  
 587 CI = [1.13, 1.23]) than for wrong (estimate = 1.60 s, 95% CI =  
 588 [1.47, 1.74]) responses when the cue and target stimuli were  
 589 incongruent. Additionally, RTs for wrong responses were  
 590 clearly faster in the congruent than in the incongruent condition.  
 591 This difference was absent for the RTs of correct responses.  
 592 The slowest RTs for wrong responses were observed  
 593 at an ISI of 600 ms over all conditions (estimate = 2.03 s, 95%  
 594 CI = [1.85, 2.23]). Parameter estimates of the means and the  
 595 95% CIs for all conditions are depicted in Fig. 2.

596 **Drift diffusion model** The LOOIC values for the model with  
 597 the perceived direction as response and the drift-rate parameter  
 598 depending of the direction of the first motion (no-bias model),  
 599 the model with the starting point depending on the direction of the  
 600 first motion (bias model), and their LOOIC

601 difference are presented in Table 2 (Exp. 2). As in Experiment  
 602 1, the lower LOOIC value indicates that the model fit for the  
 603 model with the drift-rate parameter depending on the direction  
 604 of the first motion (no-bias model) was better.

605 A comparison of the posterior predictive distributions and  
 606 the observed data for both models in Experiment 2 is present-  
 607 ed in Fig. 7; in the left panels are comparison results for the  
 608 model that included cue and target motion as well as ISI as  
 609 predictors of the drift rate (no-bias model), and the right panels  
 610 are results for the model that included target motion and ISI as  
 611 predictors for the drift rate, with the starting point depending  
 612 on the cue motion in combination with ISI (bias model). As in  
 613 Fig. 3, the first row in Fig. 7 shows comparisons of the pre-  
 614 dicted and observed median response probabilities of  
 615 responding “right” for the no-bias and bias models across all  
 616 participants. This comparison shows that the predicted and  
 617 observed response probabilities of responding “right” are



**Fig. 6** An illustration of the self-motion aftereffects and the underlying perceptual decision-making processes in Experiment 1. In this example, left/right translations are used as the cues and yaw rotations as the targets. The reverse pairing yielded the same results (Exp. 2). Thought bubbles indicate the perceived self-motion direction. Checkmarks represent correct perceptions of self-motion direction, and Xs represent misperceptions. The accumulation of sensory evidence is depicted in the right graph for each cue-target combination. A decision is made when the evidence accumulation process reaches a threshold (left or right). The sensory evidence accumulation always starts at the same

starting point, equidistant from both decision thresholds—that is, there is no response bias. In contrast, the sign of the drift rate is switched, depending on the congruency of cue and target motions. In the upper half, the cue and target motions are incongruent. For those conditions, evidence for the actual physical stimulus is accumulated, leading to a correct perceptual decision. In the lower half, the cue and target motions are spatially congruent. In these conditions, sensory evidence is accumulated for the opposite target direction, leading to an incorrect decision

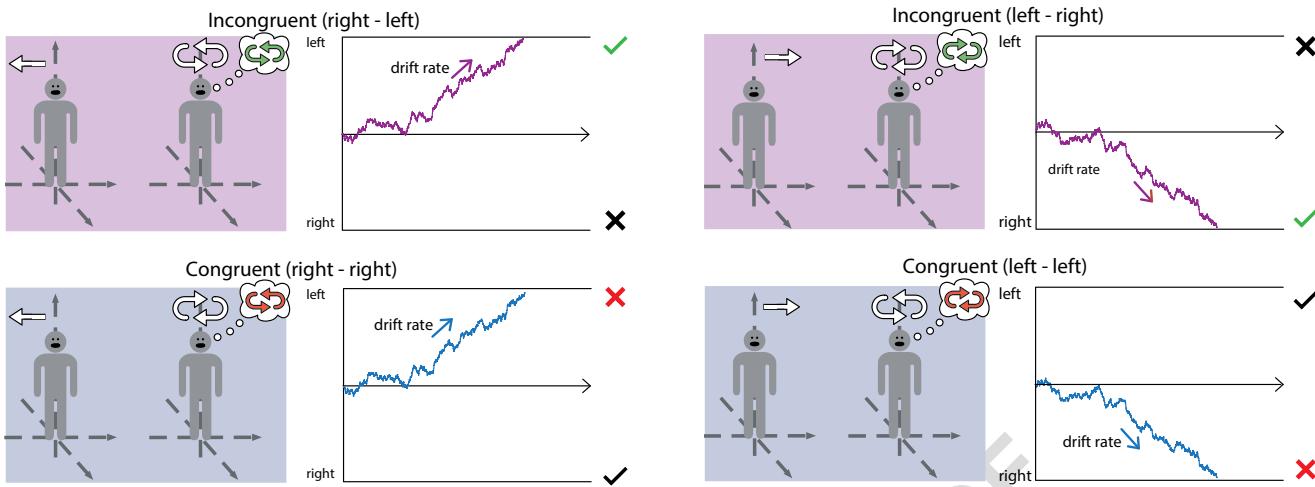
much closer in the no-bias than in the bias model. Moreover, the 80% (fat gray bars) and 95% (thin gray lines) credible intervals reflecting the posterior predictive distributions are quite narrow in the no-bias model. These observations indicate that the model with no bias describes the observed response probabilities substantially better than the bias model. Moreover, the ranges of the predictions for the response probabilities made by the no-bias model are narrower, indicating the precision of the predictions.

Again, the second and third rows in Fig. 7 show the predicted and observed median RTs for “left” and “right” responses. The intervals of the predicted median RTs are equally wide for both models. The distance of the observed and predicted median RTs over all conditions is slightly closer in the

bias model (right panels). However, the no-bias model is also able to describe the observed median RTs.

Overall, the model for which the drift rate depends on the cue and target motions as well as the ISI (no-bias model) describes the observed data better, especially the response probabilities. Again, this conclusion is also supported by that model's lower LOOIC. Therefore, the model with no shifted starting point was preferred.

As in Experiment 1, we decided not to distinguish between the explicit directions of the cue and target motions and to summarize the directions in the factor cue congruence. Responses were coded in terms of accuracy. Thus, we estimated an additional model with fixed effects of congruence and ISI together with random effects of participant on the drift rate.



**Fig. 7** Comparison of the posterior predictive distributions and the observed data from Experiment 2, for the model with the drift rate depending on cue and target motion but no shift in the starting point (on the left; no-bias model) and for the model with the drift rate depending on target motion and ISI and with the starting point depending on the cue motion in combination with ISI (on the right; bias model). The median predictions for response probabilities and median RTs averaged across all participants are plotted as black circles. The

bold gray bars represent 80% credible intervals, computed from the .1 and .9 quantiles. The thinner gray bars represent 95% intervals, computed from the .025 and .975 quantiles. Together, these indicate the uncertainty of the models' predictions, with larger intervals indicating more uncertainty. The means of the observed response probabilities and the medians of the observed RT data, averaged across all participants, are shown as crosses. The different ISIs are presented on the x-axis

Q9

646 For the starting point, we estimated a by-participant random  
647 intercept model.

648 The goodness of fit for this model based on posterior pre-  
649 dictive checks is presented in Fig. 4, right panels. The model  
650 predicts participants' responses well, even better than in  
651 Experiment 1, since the observed median response proba-  
652 bilities (crosses) are both close to the predicted response proba-  
653 bilities (black circles) and within the 80% and 95% intervals  
654 of the predictive posterior distribution. The intervals of the  
655 posterior predictive distributions are very narrow, even  
656 narrower than in Experiment 1. The median RTs for correct  
657 responses match the observed median RTs, as well. Again, the  
658 model has difficulties describing the RTs for wrong responses,  
659 especially in the incongruent conditions, where the observed  
660 median RTs are at the upper end of the 80% and 95% intervals  
661 of the posterior predictive distributions. This is probably due  
662 to the fact that incorrect responses were rare in these  
663 conditions.

664 The accuracy-coded DDM revealed that evidence for the  
665 wrong response was accumulated when the cue and target  
666 motions were spatially congruent for ISIs of 50, 100, and  
667 200 ms. The parameter estimate for congruent cues and an  
668 ISI of 600 ms indicates no systematic evidence accumulation  
669 for either response (Fig. 5), and this is also demonstrated by  
670 the fact that participants' accuracy was at chance level (Fig. 1).

## 671 Discussion

672 The results of the logistic regression clearly indicate self-  
673 motion aftereffects for short ISIs, with participants

674 misperceiving the direction of translation in the congruent  
675 trials. In Experiment 2, we have demonstrated that  
676 intravestibular self-motion aftereffects are also present when  
677 a yaw rotation is followed by a translation in the same spatial  
678 direction. Thus, intravestibular self-motion aftereffects are bi-  
679 directional: The processing of otolith stimulation is altered  
680 depending on the direction of a previous stimulation of the  
681 semicircular canals. Otolith and canal receptors function dif-  
682 ferently, and yet we found a striking similarity in both combi-  
683 nations (otolith preceded by canal stimulation in Exp. 2, and  
684 the opposite order in Exp. 1). The RT data in Experiment 2  
685 also show that participants generally responded faster on cor-  
686 rect trials. However, this was less the case in the congruent  
687 conditions for ISIs of 50, 100, and 200 ms—that is, when self-  
688 motion aftereffects were more pronounced. In contrast to  
689 Experiment 1, the RTs were slightly faster for correct than  
690 for incorrect trials.

## 691 Experiment 3

### 692 Method

693 In the third experiment, we wanted to test whether self-motion  
694 aftereffects were coupled with the intensity of the cue and  
695 target motions. For rotations about the earth-vertical axis and  
696 for horizontal *y*-axis translations, we chose the same intensi-  
697 ties as in Experiment 1; however, the order of motion types  
698 was the same as in Experiment 2. Thus, in proportion to the

699 detection threshold, the cue stimulus was weaker than the  
700 target stimulus, in contrast to Experiments 1 and 2.

701 **Participants** For Experiment 3, 12 new participants were re-  
702 cruited. One participant pressed the left button on 92% of all  
703 trials and was excluded from the study. The remaining 11  
704 participants (nine female, two male; mean age 25, range 21–  
705 38 years) were included in the further analysis. All participants  
706 were right-handed according to a German version of the hand-  
707 edness questionnaire by Chapman and Chapman (1987).  
708 None of the participants reported a history of relevant neuro-  
709 logical, vestibular, or attentional disorders. The study was ap-  
710 proved by the ethics committee of the University of Bern, and  
711 all participants gave written informed consent prior to the  
712 experiment in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

713 **Motion stimuli** The cue stimuli consisted of yaw rotations  
714 about an earth-vertical axis (left/right). They consisted of sin-  
715 gular cycles of sinusoidal acceleration at a frequency of 5 Hz.  
716 The acceleration amplitude was  $24 \text{ deg/s}^2$  ( $v_{\max} = 1.53 \text{ deg/s}$ ,  
717  $\Delta p = 0.0153 \text{ deg}$ ). The target stimuli were translations along  
718 the  $y$ -axis (left/right). They consisted of the same acceleration  
719 profile as the cue stimuli. Their frequency was again 5 Hz, and  
720 the acceleration amplitude was  $0.25 \text{ m/s}^2$  ( $v_{\max} = 0.016 \text{ m/s}$ ,  
721  $\Delta p = 0.0016 \text{ m}$ ).

722 **Experimental design and procedure** The design and experi-  
723 mental procedure were identical to those of Experiment 2, but  
724 using the motion intensities of Experiment 1.

725 **Data analysis** The statistical model for the accuracy data in  
726 Experiment 3 did not differ from the analysis of Experiment 2.

## 727 **Results**

728 **Accuracy** The logistic regression model showed that the mo-  
729 tion discrimination performance was around chance level (for  
730 ISIs of 50 and 100 ms), or even above chance level (for ISIs  
731 200 and 600 ms), when the prior stimulus was spatially con-  
732 gruent with the subsequent motion (e.g., a leftward yaw rota-  
733 tion followed by a left translation). Direction discrimination  
734 performance for the second motion was higher when a yaw  
735 rotation was followed by an incongruent translation. In this  
736 experiment, there were no clear self-motion aftereffects (see  
737 also Fig. 1, Exp. 3 panel).

## 738 **Discussion**

739 In Experiment 3 we wanted to investigate whether the same  
740 self-motion aftereffect could be observed if the relative  
741 strengths of the cue and target motions were reversed,  
742 resulting in a cue that was relatively weaker than the target.  
743 Although we observed that accuracy was impaired and that

744 participants performed at chance level, this manipulation did  
745 not result in self-motion aftereffects.

## 746 **General discussion**

747 In Experiment 1, we showed that translations influence the  
748 ability to discriminate the direction of yaw rotations, depend-  
749 ing on the spatial congruency of the translations and rotations.  
750 These same response patterns were also observed in  
751 Experiment 2 when a yaw rotation preceded a translation.  
752 These results are striking, in that participants systematically  
753 misjudged strong motion stimuli well above the detection  
754 threshold as a function of the preceding motion stimulus.  
755 The RT data from Experiment 1 further suggest that in the  
756 congruent conditions participants were confident about cor-  
757 rectly detecting the direction of the target stimulus, as they  
758 responded slightly faster on incorrect trials. Usually, incorrect  
759 responses are accompanied by slower RTs, as was shown for  
760 the 600-ms ISI and in the incongruent conditions in  
761 Experiments 1 and 2, as well as in the neutral condition in  
762 Experiment 1 for all ISIs. The application of a DDM to the  
763 results of these two experiments revealed that erroneous self-  
764 motion perception is explained better by an altered accumula-  
765 tion of vestibular sensory evidence than by a biased starting  
766 point. This implies that the altered perceptual decision-making  
767 process and the resulting misperceptions are likely due to al-  
768 tered processing of vestibular information. It is possible that  
769 decision-making circuits dynamically accumulate evidence  
770 for the wrong direction, because they receive less or no input  
771 from the correct motion direction because its sensitivity has  
772 been altered.

773 These results contradict the predictions made by a mecha-  
774 nism that relies on attentional shifts by means of cueing. In  
775 fact, from previous studies in other modalities (see Spence,  
776 2010, for a review) one could have expected facilitating ef-  
777 fects for spatially congruent trials with short ISIs and an IOR  
778 for spatially congruent trials with long ISIs. In the present  
779 study, participants showed a consistent response pattern that  
780 indicates an actual misperception and not just longer response  
781 times as one could predict within the framework of the spatial  
782 cueing paradigm. Also, the comparison of the results from  
783 Experiments 1 and 3 contradicts spatial cueing. Reversal of  
784 the relative magnitude of cue and target intensity is not sup-  
785 posed to alter the results as the directional information given  
786 by the cue remains unchanged. However, the results from  
787 Experiment 3 differ completely from those of Experiment 1,  
788 and therefore, a mere shift of spatial attention can be ruled out.  
789 This also suggests that sensory evidence accumulation is not  
790 independent of the intensity of the first motion stimulus.

791 The present study has demonstrated intravestibular self-  
792 motion aftereffects (from the otoliths to the SCCs, and vice  
793 versa) for the first time. This self-motion aftereffect is

interesting for several reasons. The cue and target stimuli in the present experiments relied on different sensory inputs—that is, to the otoliths and SCCs. Previous research has shown that otolith and SCC signals converge at an early stage of processing in the vestibular nuclei (Carriot et al., 2015; Dickman & Angelaki, 2002). Albeit linear and translational angular movements are fundamentally different, we speculate that, at this stage, a common spatial representation of the directional information implied by the rotations and translations might be obtained by integrating rotational and translational sensory afferents. The application of DDMs to the perceptual decision-making process in self-motion aftereffects provided confirmatory evidence. In fact, the drift rate changing as a function of the congruence of the cue and target suggests that the cue motion alters sensory evidence accumulation during real-time vestibular processing. Because the cue and target stimuli relied on different sensory systems, the evidence accumulation process in self-motion aftereffects can be pinpointed to a stage at which the SCC and otolith signals have already converged. A conceivable alternative would have been a strategic bias that operated prior to processing of the sensory evidence. However, this explanation can be ruled out by the results of the DDM.

The observed phenomenon in Experiments 1 and 2 resembles the description of MAEs in the vestibular modality (Coniglio & Crane, 2014; Crane, 2012a, 2012b). Yet, the paradigm used in this study clearly differs from what is normally used to investigate (vestibular) MAEs. Classically, the target motion is adapted to the participants' previous responses and the adaptor is presented longer. In contrast, in the present experiments strong target stimuli were presented. Although participants are capable of correctly perceiving the direction of self-motion when it is preceded by a neutral or incongruent motion, they consistently misperceive the direction if the preceding motion was congruent, despite the fact that the motion intensity was well above the direction detection threshold (Grabherr et al., 2008; Valko et al., 2012).

The temporal intervals between the two sequences of motion are a crucial factor for self-motion aftereffects. In the present study, the ISIs were selected on the basis of the literature on the spatial-cueing paradigm, ranging from 50 to 600 ms. Again, as compared to the literature on vestibular MAEs, these ISIs are rather short. For example, Crane (2012a) used ISIs ranging from 500 to 3,000 ms and only found consistent MAEs starting at 1,000 ms. Similarly, Coniglio and Crane (2014) observed weaker MAEs with increasing ISIs. In contrast to those studies, here the self-motion aftereffects were only observed at ISIs of 50, 100, and 200 ms. The short duration of the cue stimuli in the present experiments marks the most crucial difference from classical MAE studies: In fact, whereas MAEs possibly arise due to adaptation at a neural level, it is rather unlikely that cue stimuli of 200 ms could lead to adaptation. Hence, although the outcomes of the present

experiments may resemble MAEs, the underlying mechanism of this self-motion aftereffect is most likely not neural adaptation.

The present data suggest that self-motion aftereffects arise as a function of the interaction of stimulus duration, stimulus intensity, and ISI. Important data to back up this claim stem from Experiment 3 in the present study. In fact, in Experiment 3 the intensity relative to the threshold was weaker in the cue than in the target motion. Thus, in comparison to Experiment 2, the intensities for the cue and target were reversed. This subtle change resulted in virtually no self-motion aftereffect in Experiment 3, although direction discrimination performance was still worse in the congruent than in the incongruent condition. Notably, previous studies on perceptual aftereffects for prolonged asymmetric passive vestibular stimulation by means of different velocities for different rotation directions have reported asymmetric perceptual responses (Panichi et al., 2011; Pettorossi et al., 2013): Where perceptual responses were enhanced for fast rotations, reduced responses were observed for slower rotations. These results underline the importance of the intensity of a cue stimulus in the perception of a following vestibular stimulus.

The intravestibular self-motion aftereffects suggest that a representation of spatial direction is obtained by combining information from both otoliths and SCCs. The activation of this representation through translations or rotations could lead to an altered sensitivity in self-motion perception. This is in accordance with a study by Nooij, Nesti, Bülthoff, and Pretto (2016), who found that the linear addition of translational and rotational components of the sensory input does not suffice to explain the perceived motion; instead, the components must be combined in a more complex manner. Interestingly, two other studies looking at the intravestibular interaction between otoliths and SCCs found that translation detection thresholds were increased with concurrent rotation (Crane, 2016; MacNeilage et al., 2010). However, yaw rotation detection thresholds were barely influenced by simultaneous translations. This seemingly unidirectional relationship underlines the rather complex intravestibular interaction of the otoliths and SCCs. These results are in line with our findings indicating that yaw rotations as the cue stimuli produced stronger self-motion aftereffects.

Our results suggest that altered sensitivity produces self-motion aftereffects at very short ISIs, whereas at an ISI of 600 ms the effect disappears. The results from Experiment 3 also imply that the amount of sensitivity alteration depends on the intensity of the vestibular stimulation. Importantly, altered sensitivity is in line with altered evidence accumulation. Future studies aiming at better understanding the mechanisms underlying self-motion aftereffects should systematically study the interaction of the ISI, duration, and intensity of cue and target motions, to delineate the limits of the self-motion aftereffect. In particular, the notion of attention in the context

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900 of passive self-motion needs to be refined (cf. Figliozi et al.,  
 901 2005). Attention can be viewed as a gain control mechanism  
 902 that modulates sensory processing (Hillyard, Vogel, & Luck,  
 903 1998). Brown, Friston, and Bestmann (2011) have discussed  
 904 this mechanism in the context of motor planning and active  
 905 inference, and it would be beneficial to investigate the potential  
 906 role of attentional modulation as a gain control mechanism  
 907 in the context of evidence accumulation and self-motion  
 908 aftereffects.

909 Another important aspect is the influence of proprioception.  
 910 Participants in typical self-motion aftereffect studies are seated and fixated on a motion platform.  
 911 Accelerations and decelerations not only stimulate the  
 912 vestibular system, but also generate proprioceptive cues.  
 913 The processing of those proprioceptive signals could  
 914 interfere with the vestibular afferent signals of the second  
 915 motion and lead to incorrect information processing,  
 916 which would result in altered sensory evidence accumulation.  
 917 Thus, the reported self-motion aftereffects might occur  
 918 at a processing stage at which vestibular information  
 919 has been combined with proprioceptive information. The  
 920 misperception of the direction in spatially congruent  
 921 conditions could foster exploratory behavior similar to the  
 922 phenomenon of spontaneous alternation behavior  
 923 (Vecera, Rothbart, & Posner, 1991). Spontaneous alternation  
 924 behavior is a memory-driven tendency to avoid previously  
 925 selected spatial locations in order to explore the  
 926 environment. We speculate that the observed altered evi-  
 927 dence accumulation process might lead to a similar behav-  
 928 ior. However, it remains to be investigated whether and  
 929 how these two phenomena interact.

930 In conclusion, we have shown intravestibular self-motion  
 931 aftereffects and suggest that this effect may be rooted in al-  
 932 tered evidence accumulation in the perceptual decision-  
 933 making process at the level of a common representation of  
 934 spatial direction from the SCCs and otoliths. Higher-level de-  
 935 cision-making processes have been rather neglected in vesti-  
 936 bular psychophysics for a long time. However, in the last few  
 937 years several studies have acknowledged the importance of  
 938 such higher-level aspects in self-motion perception and have  
 939 started to investigate the underlying processes in vestibular  
 940 (Clark et al., 2018; Ellis, Klaus, & Mast, 2017; Merfeld,  
 941 Clark, Lu, & Karmali, 2016; Wertheim, Mesland, & Bles,  
 942 2001) and multisensory (Drugowitsch, DeAngelis, Angelaki,  
 943 & Pouget, 2015; Drugowitsch, DeAngelis, Klier, Angelaki, &  
 944 Pouget, 2014; Lim, Wang, & Merfeld, 2017) perceptual decision-  
 945 making. Yet, they have important theoretical and practical  
 946 implications regarding the complex nature of biological  
 947 self-motion perception. In daily life, we are constantly ex-  
 948 posed to stimuli targeting the otoliths and semicircular canals,  
 949 both simultaneously and in rapid succession. Here we showed  
 950 the necessity to further investigate such sequences of motions,  
 951 since they can alter perceptual decision-making processes.

**Author note** Authors G.M. and A.W.E. were supported by the  
 952 Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF, grant numbers  
 953 162480 and 147164, PI: F.W.M.).

**Publisher's note** Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

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UNCORRECTED PROOF

# AUTHOR'S PROOF

## AUTHOR QUERIES

**AUTHOR PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUERIES.**

- Q1. Note reordering of Tables 1&2, per order of treatment in paper. 
- Q2. Please check rephrase of models, here and in Fig. 3, as well as in Exp. 2 and Fig. 7. 
- Q3. The few color refs. to the figs. (in the main text and captions) are removed or rephrased to also work with grayscale print versions. 
- Q4. Bias model description rephrased for (I hope) clarity. Description of regression structure in captions was difficult to parse, so please check paraphrases here and in Fig. 7 carefully. 
- Q5. Note that Figs. 4–7 are reordered, also per order of treatment in paper. Please check that figs. still correspond to correct captions. 
- Q6. Do rephrased colors work with grayscale fig.? 
- Q7. Rephrased for clarity. OK? 
- Q8. Please check rephrase of models. 
- Q9. Rephrase OK? 
- Q10. Changed from “yaw rotation” per Exp. 2 Method, and following sentence here. OK? 
- Q11. Sentence elaborated for clarity. OK? 