

1 **Cognitive-physical task interaction during self-paced**
2 **cycling: A multiscale Granger Causality study**

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30 **Abstract**

31 Studying cognitive-physical interactions in self-paced high-intensity physical exercise presents
32 the challenge of accounting for potential dual-task effects. In fact, self-pacing is thought to rely
33 on top-down cognitive processing which makes it more susceptible to cognitive-physical
34 interactions. Hence, even in paradigms where the experimental manipulation concerns the
35 intensity of the exercise (i.e. high intensity versus low intensity) rather than its presence (i.e.
36 exercise versus resting), performing the physical task might be more cognitively demanding in
37 the higher intensity exercise condition. Here, we investigate the temporal dynamics of
38 cognitive-physical interactions during dual-tasking by applying time-domain Granger Causality
39 to data that combined indoor self-paced cycling and a cognitive task. Moreover, we investigate
40 whether greater experience in self-pacing during cycling would reduce the need for exerting
41 top-down control and therefore dual-task effects. We show that while cognitive and physical
42 performance can interact in some individuals, better physical performance was not detrimental
43 to cognitive performance in the expert cyclists group. We therefore propose that in self-paced
44 physical exercise cognitive-physical interactions in expert cyclists are overall not confounded
45 by dual-tasks interaction effects, although such interaction cannot be excluded for every single
46 participant.

47 **Keywords:** Dual-task, cognitive load, top-down processing, stimulus-response conflict,
48 physical exercise.

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50

51 **1 Introduction**

52 Cognitive performance during physical exercise is typically studied using one of two
53 methodologies: either comparing an exercise condition with a non-exercise resting condition
54 (e.g., Audiffren et al., 2008) or comparing two (or more) exercise conditions at different
55 intensities (e.g., Ciria et al., 2019). In the first case, participants' behavior is assessed in
56 situations that differ in terms of physical and cognitive demands, as in the exercise conditions
57 they perform a physical (e.g., walking on a treadmill or pedaling on an indoor bike) and
58 cognitive (e.g., simple reaction times, RT) tasks at the same time. This is controlled, to some
59 extent, in the second case, as participants are always subject to a dual-task situation. However,
60 even in this case, performing the physical task might be more cognitively demanding in the
61 higher intensity exercise conditions than in the lower intensity conditions, which might result
62 in a potentially stronger interaction with the concurrent cognitive task. The study of these
63 potential cognitive-physical interactions is particularly relevant in the exercise-cognition field,
64 especially when examining the potential effect of acute physical exercise on cognitive processes
65 (e.g., on memory or attention). Moreover, self-paced high-intensity exercise conditions, (e.g.,
66 a cycling time-trial where participants are instructed to perform their best for a given time) are
67 highly susceptible to cognitive-physical interactions, since self-pacing is thought to rely on top-
68 down cognitive processing (Holgado & Sanabria, 2021). This issue is addressed in the two
69 experiments included in this report.

70 Cognitive-physical interaction effects have been studied mainly during walk, whereby
71 participants' gait and cognitive performance is compared between single and dual-task
72 conditions (see Al-Yahya et al., 2011, for a review). The potential cognitive-physical
73 interaction has also been investigated through more intense exercise conditions, such as cycling
74 (Brisswalter et al., 1995) or rowing (Duckworth et al., 2021). For instance, Brisswalter et al.
75 (Brisswalter et al., 1995) reported a U-shape relationship between mean RT performance in a
76 simple probe task and pedal rate, and a linear relationship between mean RT and VO_{2max} .

77 In cognitive-physical dual-task experiments, time series of physical and cognitive performance
78 data are averaged within blocks of given lengths and analyzed using parametric or non-
79 parametric statistical tools (analysis of variance, t-tests, Mann-Whitney test, linear regression
80 etc.) (e.g., Brisswalter et al., 1995). Instead, here we use a novel approach based on Granger
81 Causality (GC) (Granger, 1969), in order to exploit the information contained in the temporal
82 fluctuations in these measures to quantify their interdependencies and respective modulations.
83 GC analysis involves building an autoregressive model to predict the future values of the system
84 under consideration, given its past. The prediction on the target given by the values of its own
85 past is then compared with the one to which also the past values of the candidate driver are
86 included. If the prediction improves (i.e., if the candidate driver adds relevant information on
87 the future values of the target above and beyond the information provided by the past values of
88 the driver alone) it is said that the driver has a Granger influence on (or Granger causes) the
89 driver. GC is then a proxy for a dynamical influence. Here we applied a multiscale version of
90 time-domain GC (Faes et al., 2017) to capture influences at different temporal scales. It is
91 important to stress that GC is informative on effects/behaviors, as opposed to mechanisms
92 (Barrett & Barnett, 2013).

93 The objective of the present study was twofold. First, we aimed at investigating temporal
94 dynamics during dual-tasking involving self-paced cycling. This was addressed by applying
95 GC to a dataset (Dataset 1) already published by our research group (Zandonai et al., 2021).
96 Second, we studied the role of expertise in the potential interaction between physical and
97 cognitive performance during a cycling self-paced time trial. If cyclists learn to efficiently self-
98 pace through experience (Brick et al., 2016; Edwards & Polman, 2013; Holgado & Sanabria,
99 2021), they would reduce the need for exerting top-down control during cycling physical
100 efforts. One would then expect a null or small interaction between the physical and cognitive
101 tasks in expert cyclists, and a reliable interaction in non-expert endurance athletes, such as
102 runners or swimmers.

103 Our specific pre-registered hypotheses <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/6QAR5> were the
104 following¹: 1) power output will influence heart rate (HR) in both experts and non-experts; 2)
105 a significant bidirectional influence between RT and power output in the cycling task will be
106 shown only in non-experts; 3) experts will outperform non-experts in the cycling task, resulting
107 in a longer distance covered in the 30-minute session, higher watts/kg ratio developed during
108 the experiment, higher HR, and higher ratings of perceived effort (RPE); 4) experts will
109 outperform non-experts in the RT task, resulting in shorter overall RT, reduced congruency
110 effect and conflict adaptation (see below for a description of the task).

111 **2 Materials and Methods**

112 **2.1 Participants**

¹ Note that the pre-registration included the recording of muscle oxygenation saturation and hemoglobin, but we could not finally do it due to technical issues.

113 **2.1.1 Dataset 1**

114 For Dataset 1, we re-analysed data from 23 healthy expert cyclists from a previous study
115 (Zandonai et al., 2021). In the original experiment, 29 subjects completed an intense cycling
116 exercise session under 3 different conditions: tramadol, paracetamol and placebo. Here, we
117 analyzed the data from 23 participants (6 were discarded for technical issues) under the placebo
118 condition to avoid any potential moderator effect of the drugs.

119 **2.1.2 Dataset 2**

120 For Dataset 2, we planned to collect data from 100 healthy athletes, 50 experienced cyclists and
121 50 non-cycling endurance athletes (i.e., runners and swimmers). Given the difficulty of
122 estimating an effect size a priori, we aimed for a large sample size based on our previous
123 experience recruiting this type of participants. In addition, we planned to monitor the Bayes
124 Factor (BF) for between-group differences in GC parameters and the other dependent variables,
125 and to stop the experiment whenever the BF reached moderate evidence to support ($BF > 6$) or
126 reject the null hypothesis ($BF < 1/6$). Finally, due to the time and budget constraints, we recruited
127 a total of 44 participants, composed of 21 expert cyclists (20 males, mean age 31.95 years,
128 range 18-55 years) and 22 non-expert athletes (runners and swimmers; 17 males, mean age
129 25.63 years, range 18-55 years). Both expert cyclists and non-expert endurance athletes had at
130 least 3 years of experience in their sport with a training routine of 4 or more days per week. We
131 ensured that the non-experts did not include cycling in their training routine and had no previous
132 cycling experience. Exclusion criteria were the presence of symptomatic cardiomyopathy,
133 metabolic disorders, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, epilepsy, therapy with b-blockers
134 or medications that would alter cardiovascular function, hormonal therapy, smoking, or
135 neurological disorders. Before taking part in the experiment, participants were informed about

136 the experiment and provided written consent. They received a compensation of 10€ for their
137 participation in the experiment. The experiment was approved by the local ethical committee
138 (978/CEIH/2019) and was conducted following the Declaration of Helsinki.

139

140 **2.2 Experimental design and procedure**

141 **2.2.1 Dataset 1**

142 Dataset 1 corresponded to a self-paced high-intensity cycling session (indoor time-trial) lasting
143 20 min, in which participants were told to perform their best, avoiding premature extenuation,
144 while responding, as fast and accurately as possible, to the Sustained Attention to Response
145 Task (SART) (Robertson et al., 1997). More details about the procedure can be found in the
146 original article (Zandonai et al., 2021).

147 **2.2.2 Dataset 2**

148 **2.2.2.1 Design and procedure**

149 Dataset 2 consisted of a between-participants design, with the main independent variable of
150 Expertise (experts vs. non-experts). Participants performed a 30 min indoor high intensity self-
151 paced cycling session and an auditory Simon task simultaneously. Participants were asked to
152 maintain their coffee intake habit (i.e., to avoid it if not used to) and refrain from taking any
153 other stimulants for 8 h before the experimental session, as well as avoid any intense physical
154 exercise 24 h prior to the test (as in Dataset 1). When participants arrived at the laboratory, the
155 cycle ergometer (SRM indoor trainer, SRM, Germany) was adjusted to their preferences. The
156 experimenter adjusted the chest heart rate monitor (H10, Polar Electro, Kempele, Finland).

157 Power output was measured using the SRM indoor trainer and the Favero Assioma pedals
158 (Favero Electronics SLR, Arcade, Italy). Auditory stimuli were presented through in-ear
159 earphones (Hyperx, HP Inc., USA).

160

161 **2.2.2.2 Cycling session**

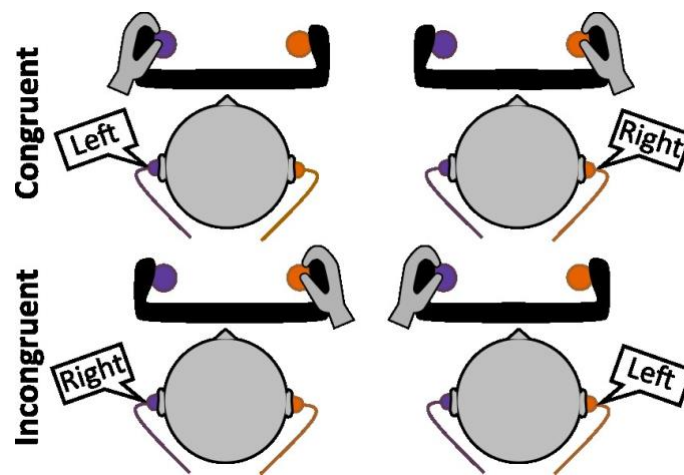
162 The session started with a 10-min warm-up at a power corresponding between 1.5 and 2.5
163 $\text{W}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$. They were instructed to achieve the maximum mean power possible during the 30 min.
164 Power and HR data were collected at a frequency of 1Hz. Perceived cognitive and physical
165 effort was measured using a visual analogue scale.

166 **2.2.2.3 Task**

167 Participants were asked to perform an auditory version of the classic Simon task (Simon &
168 Rudell, 1967). Recordings of the spoken words “*izquierda*” (left in Spanish) and “*derecha*”
169 (right in Spanish) were presented to participants through the right or left earphone. Stimuli were
170 considered congruent when the word meaning corresponded to the side from which they were
171 played (e.g., listening to the word “*derecha*” through the right earphone) and incongruent when
172 they did not (e.g., listening to the word “*derecha*” through the left earphone). Participants were
173 asked to report by button pressing (with their thumb) the location depicted by the word meaning
174 while ignoring its physical location (see Figure 1). For instance, if the word presented was
175 “*izquierda*” the participant had to press a button with his left hand regardless of which
176 headphone the word was played from. If the word presented was “*derecha*” the participant had
177 to press a button with his right hand regardless of which headphone the word was played from.
178 The response devices were placed on both sides of the bike’s handlebar, so the participant was

179 able to respond without moving the hands away from the bike. Speed and accuracy were
180 stressed. Participants had a maximum of 750 ms to respond, after which responses were
181 discarded. The participant's response and the following trial were separated by an Interstimulus
182 interval (ITI) which was a random number between 800 and 1200 ms. If the participant did not
183 respond, the ITI began after the response window of 750 ms ended. Testing was fixed in time
184 duration, therefore the total number of trials depended on the participant's speed. During the
185 warm-up, participants familiarized with the task through a 30 seconds practice block.

186



187

188 **Figure 1:** Auditory conflict task. In each trial, participants either heard the word “*left*” or “*right*” played from the
189 left or right headphone. The trials were congruent when the meaning of the word matched the location from where
190 it was played, or incongruent if otherwise. Presentation of congruent or incongruent trials were equally probable
191 and randomized. Participants responded by button pressing. They were instructed to press either the left or right
192 button according to the meaning of the word, ignoring the location from which it was played.

193

194 2.3 Preprocessing and statistical analysis

195 For Dataset 1, the preprocessing followed the procedure reported in Zandonai and colleagues
196 (2021). For Dataset 2, behavioral data corresponding to incorrect responses and omissions were

197 removed. To match the time series to RT, we selected the time series sampling points closest
198 to the time points of the behavioral responses.

199 For both datasets, time series were detrended with the l_1 norm (Kim et al., 2009) and
200 standardized prior to the analysis. We used time-domain GC (Granger, 1969), which establishes
201 whether an autoregressive model of a target time series improves when another time series is
202 included in the model, acting as a proxy for a dynamical influence. Among the several
203 modifications to Granger's original conceptualization (see Shohaje & Fox, 2022 for a review),
204 here we use a multiscale version of GC (Faes et al., 2017), allowing to assess Granger-causal
205 influences broken down across several temporal time scales. The first scale contains all the
206 temporal complexity of the time series (thus up to the Nyquist frequency). The second scale
207 considers slower frequencies (up to half of the Nyquist frequency), the third one even slower
208 (up to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Nyquist frequency) and so on. The approach used here, and described in detail
209 in Faes and colleagues (2017), performs downsampling and averaging in a single step, allowing
210 to mitigate problems arising by considering the two steps separately.

211 We downsampled the time series up to a factor 12, i.e. we used 12 scale values, in steps of 1.
212 The order of the autoregressive model was chosen according to the Bayesian Information
213 Criterion testing the values from 1 to 20.

214 In order to account for the simultaneous presence of short-term dynamics and long-range
215 correlations, particularly prominent in the data under investigation, we complemented the
216 model with a vector autoregressive fractionally integrated framework for Gaussian processes
217 (Pinto et al., 2022).

218 Statistical significance was assessed for every participant by building a null distribution using
219 iterative amplitude adjusted Fourier Transform surrogates preserving the spectrum (Schreiber
220 & Schmitz, 1996), and checking whether the results fall outside the 95th percentile of the null
221 distribution.

222 In Dataset 2, if significant effects were found in any of the participants, the BF (with the null
223 hypothesis as denominator) for the GC parameters was calculated considering the independent
224 variable “Expertise”. The BF was also calculated for the rest of between-group comparisons.
225 To compare the conflict effect in the Simon task between groups, we computed the RT
226 difference between incongruent and congruent trials for every participant. For the conflict
227 adaptation effect, we first computed the congruency effect for previous congruent and previous
228 incongruent trials, to then subtract the congruency effect of previous incongruent trials from
229 that of previous congruent trials to obtain an index of the conflict adaptation effect.

230 Data and analytic code can be found on the OSF page of the project
231 (<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/6QAR5>).

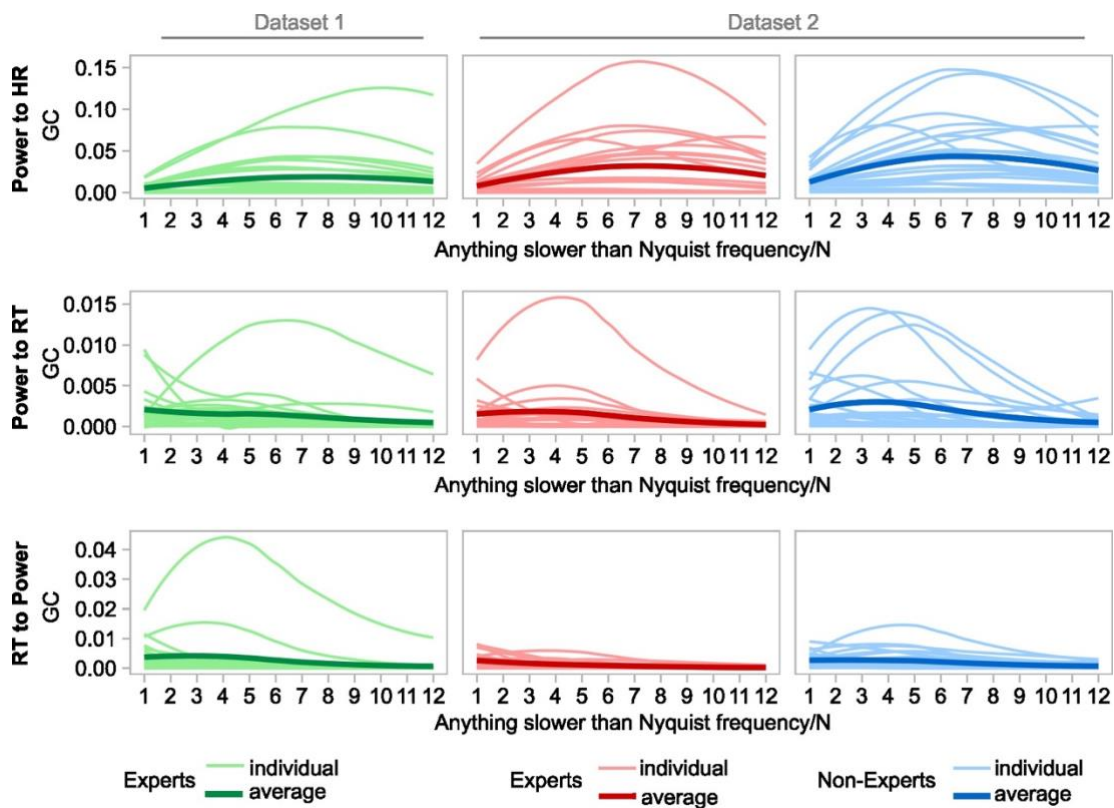
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233 **3 Results**

234 **3.1 Granger causality**

235 The GC analysis performed on Dataset 1 showed influence of power output on RT in only 4
236 participants (out of 23), influence of RT over power output in 5 participants, and influence of
237 power output on HR in 11 participants (see Figures 2 and 3). In Dataset 2, RT to power influence
238 was shown in 7 expert cyclists (out of 21), and 8 non-expert cyclists (out of 23). Larger GC
239 values were obtained in all time scales, although BF analyses showed anecdotal evidence for

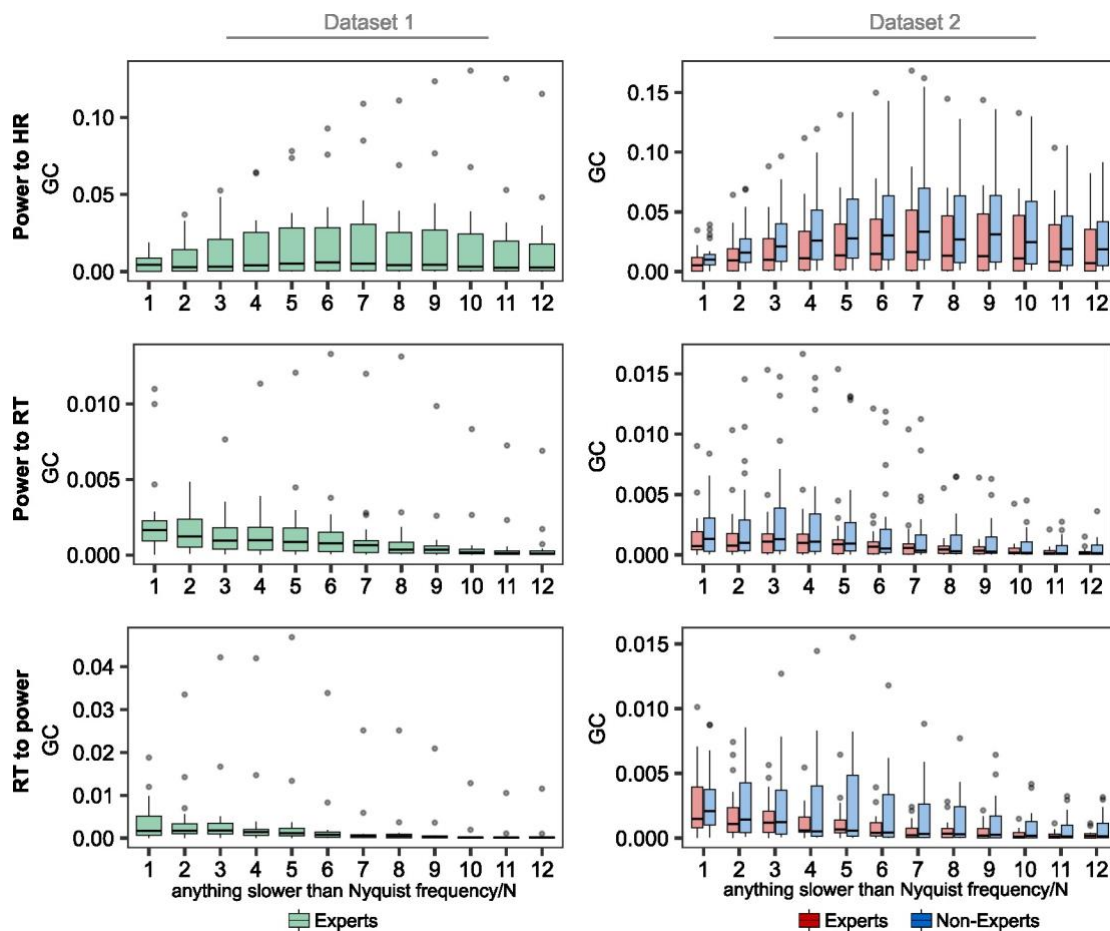
240 the null in the case of time scales 1 to 5, and anecdotal evidence for the alternative hypothesis
 241 for time scales 6 to 12 (see Table 1 in the supplementary material). Power influence on RT was
 242 shown in 5 experts (out of 21) and 6 non-experts (out of 23). Again, larger values were obtained
 243 for non-experts than for experts in all time scales, albeit all between-group comparisons showed
 244 anecdotal evidence for the null (all $BF_{10} < .72$; see Table 1 in the supplementary material). As
 245 expected, there was an influence of power output and HR in 12 experts (out of 21) and 19 non-
 246 expert cyclists (out of 23), with larger values for non-experts than for experts in all time scales.
 247 Independent-samples BF t-tests showed anecdotal evidence for the null in all time scales (all
 248 $BF_{10} < .78$ see Table 1 in the supplementary material). Graphic representation of individual
 249 results are available in the supplementary material (supplementary figures 1 and 2 for the
 250 experts group of Dataset 1, supplementary figures 3 and 4 for the experts group of Dataset 2,
 251 and supplementary figures 5 and 6 for the non-experts group of Dataset 2).



253 **Figure 2.** Individual GC estimates of power to HR (top row), power to RT (middle row), and RT to power (bottom row).
 254 Estimates are calculated over 12 time bins in the experts (Dataset 1), experts and non-experts (Dataset 2)
 255 groups. Thin lines represent individual participants' estimates and bold lines the group average.
 256
 257

258 3.2 Reaction times, heart rate and power output, perceived physical and cognitive effort

259 The analysis of the RT data showed anecdotal evidence for a null group difference in overall
 260 RT, $BF_{10} = 0.45$, anecdotal evidence for a larger congruency effect in non-experts than in
 261 experts, $BF_{10} = 2.93$, and anecdotal evidence for the null regarding the conflict adaptation effect,
 262 $BF_{10} = 0.49$. Strong evidence was shown for group differences in terms of overall power output,
 263 $BF_{10} = 239189$, relative power output (w/kg) $BF_{10} = 145500000$, and HR $BF_{10} = 31.46$. In terms
 264 of the perceived effort, the analysis showed anecdotal evidence for greater perceived physical



265 effort in the expert group than in the non-expert group, $BF_{10} = 1.844$, and anecdotal evidence
266 for the null in the case of perceived cognitive effort, $BF_{10} = 0.43$ (see Figure 4).

267

268 **Figure 3.** Group GC estimates of power to HR (top row), power to RT (middle row), and RT to power (bottom
269 row). Estimates are averaged over each of the 12 time bins in the experts and in the experts and non-experts
270 (Dataset 2) groups. Box plots show the median (middle horizontal line), and 25th and 75th percentiles (bottom and
271 top horizontal lines). The upper and lower whiskers indicate the 1.5 times the interquartile range above the 75th
272 percentile and below the 25th percentile. Gray dots represent outlier values.

273

274 **4 Discussion**

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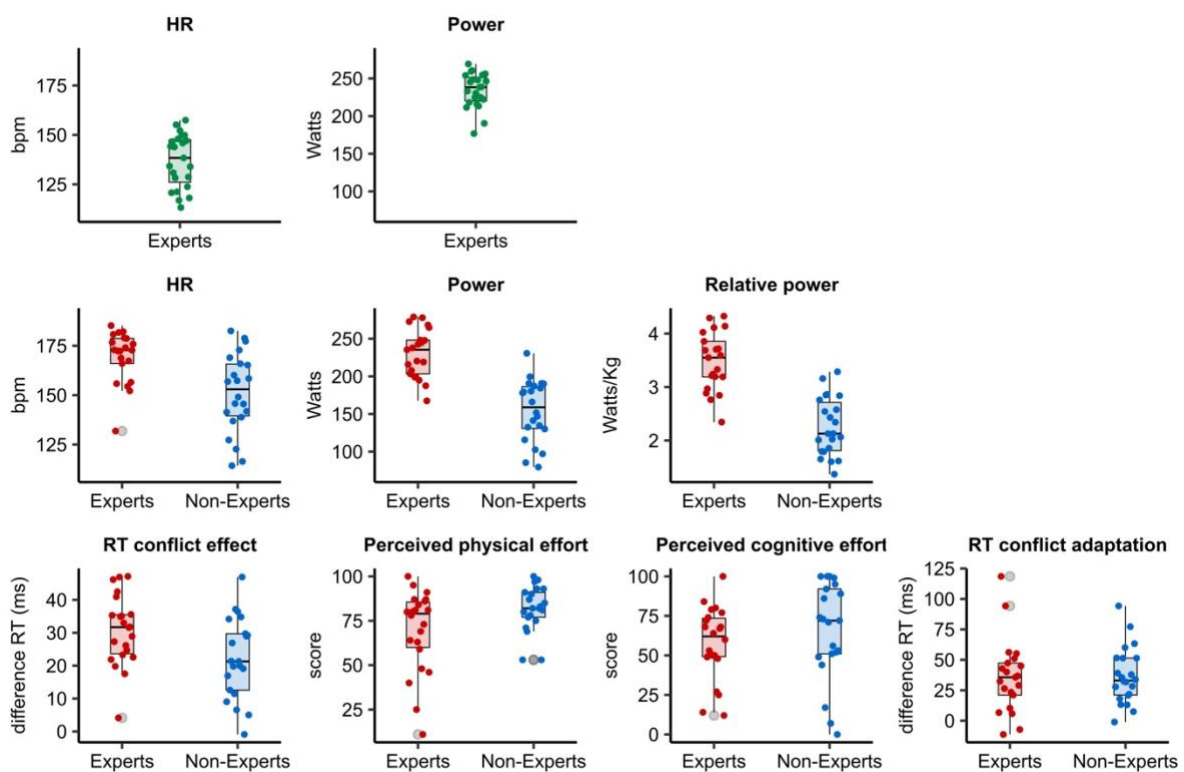
276 People can perform two tasks at the same time but usually at the cost of shared resources and
277 potential interaction effects (Pashler, 1994). This is what has been reported for the case of motor
278 tasks, such as walking, and RT tasks (Al-Yahya et al., 2011), and could in turn explain at least
279 part of the variance in studies investigating cognitive performance during physical exercise
280 (e.g., cycling) that compare exercise condition(s) with a resting condition (Chang et al., 2014),
281 or even in the case of two cycling conditions with different intensities (Ciria et al., 2019).

282

283 The results of Datasets 1 and 2 showed evidence of mutual interaction between power output
284 and RT in some of the participants, with no evidence of group differences in GC indexes. In
285 most cases when an interaction was present, its maximum was found at time scales slower than
286 the one corresponding to the original sampling. For example, some individual and average
287 curves peak at scale 7, corresponding to a frequency around 0.07 Hz, and to a period of about
288 14 seconds. In other words, the dynamical processes of the driver time series which are more
289 informative in predicting the dynamical processes of the target time series are located in a

290 temporal range centered at this frequency. This lack of strong cognitive-physical interactions
 291 in any of the samples tested here contrasts with the evidence for better physical performance of
 292 the expert cyclists, and anecdotal evidence for better performance (i.e., reduced congruency
 293 effect) in the cognitive task. The expected influence of power output on HR was detected in 11
 294 out of 23 participants in Dataset 1 and 31 out of 44 participants in Dataset 2, which reflects the
 295 impact of workload on heart response (McCarthy & Wyatt, 2003).

296



297

298 **Figure 4.** Group representation of the main variables measured in Dataset 1 and Dataset 2. Box plots depict the
 299 median (middle horizontal line), and 25th and 75th percentiles (bottom and top horizontal lines). The upper and
 300 lower whiskers indicate the 1.5 times the interquartile range above the 75th percentile and below the 25th
 301 percentile. Jittered dots are individual participants' means.

302

303 The GC results in both studies suggest that cognitive and physical performance can interact in
304 some individuals, at least for the case of RT and self-paced high intense indoor cycling. Given
305 that only a small portion of the sample showed that cognitive-physical interaction pattern, and
306 that no clear group differences were reported, a potential ad-hoc explanation points to individual
307 differences in self-pacing capacities/strategies, regardless of the particular expertise in the
308 physical/motor cycling task. The lack of relationship between the RT and power output time
309 series in the majority of the participants in Studies 1 and 2 could also be due to the use of a
310 stationary indoor bike in a laboratory. Maintaining the desired cadence and effort pace seems
311 much easier indoors than outdoors, where cyclists have to keep attending while riding in a
312 changing environment and react rapidly to unexpected events that could compromise their
313 safety (e.g., a pothole on the road, or a dog crossing the road). Hence, our results cannot be
314 directly extrapolated to real cycling contexts, where the likelihood of physical and cognitive
315 performance mutual influence might increase, and expertise could play a crucial role.

316

317 In our study, however, expertise in cycling did not seem to be important according to the results
318 of the BF analysis, even if larger GC values were shown for non-experts than for experts for
319 both the influence of RT to power output and power output to RT. Participants in the non-expert
320 group had no prior experience in cycling, but were endurance athletes with experience in self-
321 paced efforts, thereby explaining, at least partially, the lack of group differences in the GC
322 indexes. In contrast, the analysis of central tendency measures, commonly used in this type of
323 studies, showed strong evidence for group differences in terms of power output and HR, and
324 anecdotal evidence for superior cognitive performance in experts. Together, these results could
325 be taken as evidence of lack of dual-tasks interaction effects, as GC shows that better physical
326 performance was not detrimental to cognitive performance in the expert cyclists group. In any

327 case, the GC approach used here certainly provides more valuable information than those
328 central tendency measures, at least for the purpose of looking at potential physical-cognitive
329 performance interactions.

330

331 In conclusion, our study brings two major contributions. One is the evidence that dual-task
332 effects are likely to be negligible in expert cyclists, suggesting that experiments using
333 paradigms in which the experimental manipulation concerns exercise intensity may be robust
334 to dual-task confounds, although interactions between power output and RT cannot be
335 discarded, at least in some participants. However, our study did not allow us to neatly isolate
336 the effects of expertise in such a relationship. We recruited non-cyclist athletes to control for
337 fitness levels and address cycling-specific expertise. Nevertheless, endurance athletes
338 regardless of discipline may still acquire important experience in self-paced physical exercise.
339 As a result, our findings cannot be generalized to any other group than those considered in this
340 study as, for example, non-athletes. Another important contribution concerns the use of GC as
341 a way of determining the potential dynamical influence between time series of physical and
342 cognitive performance data in research on cognitive performance during cycling. Our results
343 highlight the importance of GC measures in carefully assessing individual cognitive-physical
344 interaction beyond group effects.

345

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353

354 **Competing interests statement**

355 The authors declare that they have no known competing interests.

356

357 **Authors' contributions**

358 **Chiara Avancini:** Methodology, Software, Experiment setup, Data curation, Writing,
359 Reviewing, Editing, Figures; **Daniele Marinazzo:** Methodology, Analysis, Software, Writing,
360 Reviewing, Editing; **Daniel Sanabria:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Analysis, Writing,
361 Reviewing, Editing, Supervision; **Juan José Pérez-Díaz:** Data collection, Data curation; **José-**
362 **Antonio Salas-Montoro:** Data collection, Reviewing; **Luis F. Ciria:** Conceptualization,
363 Methodology, Writing, Reviewing, Editing, Supervision. All authors have read and approved
364 the final version of the manuscript, and agree with the order of presentation of the authors.

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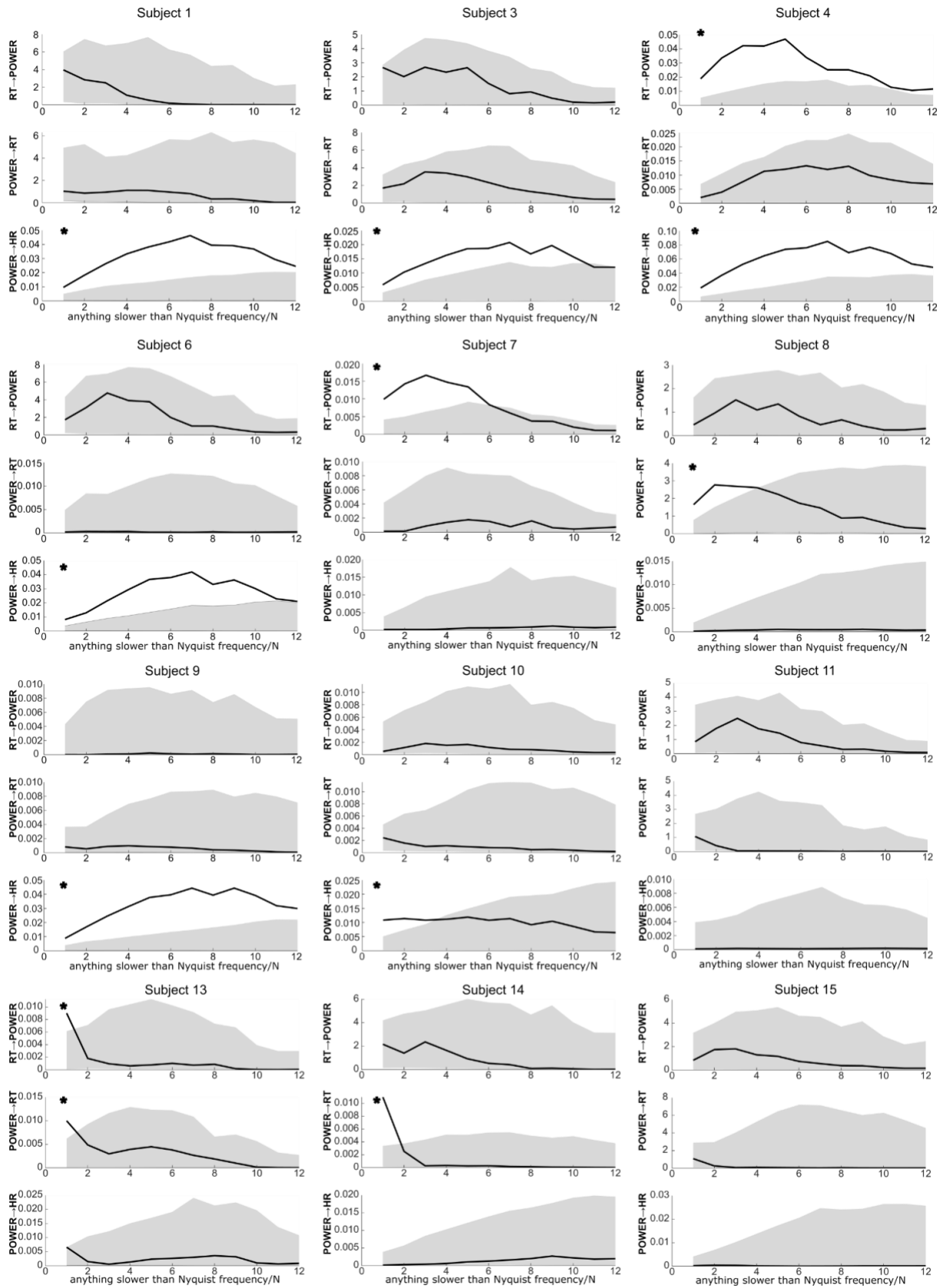
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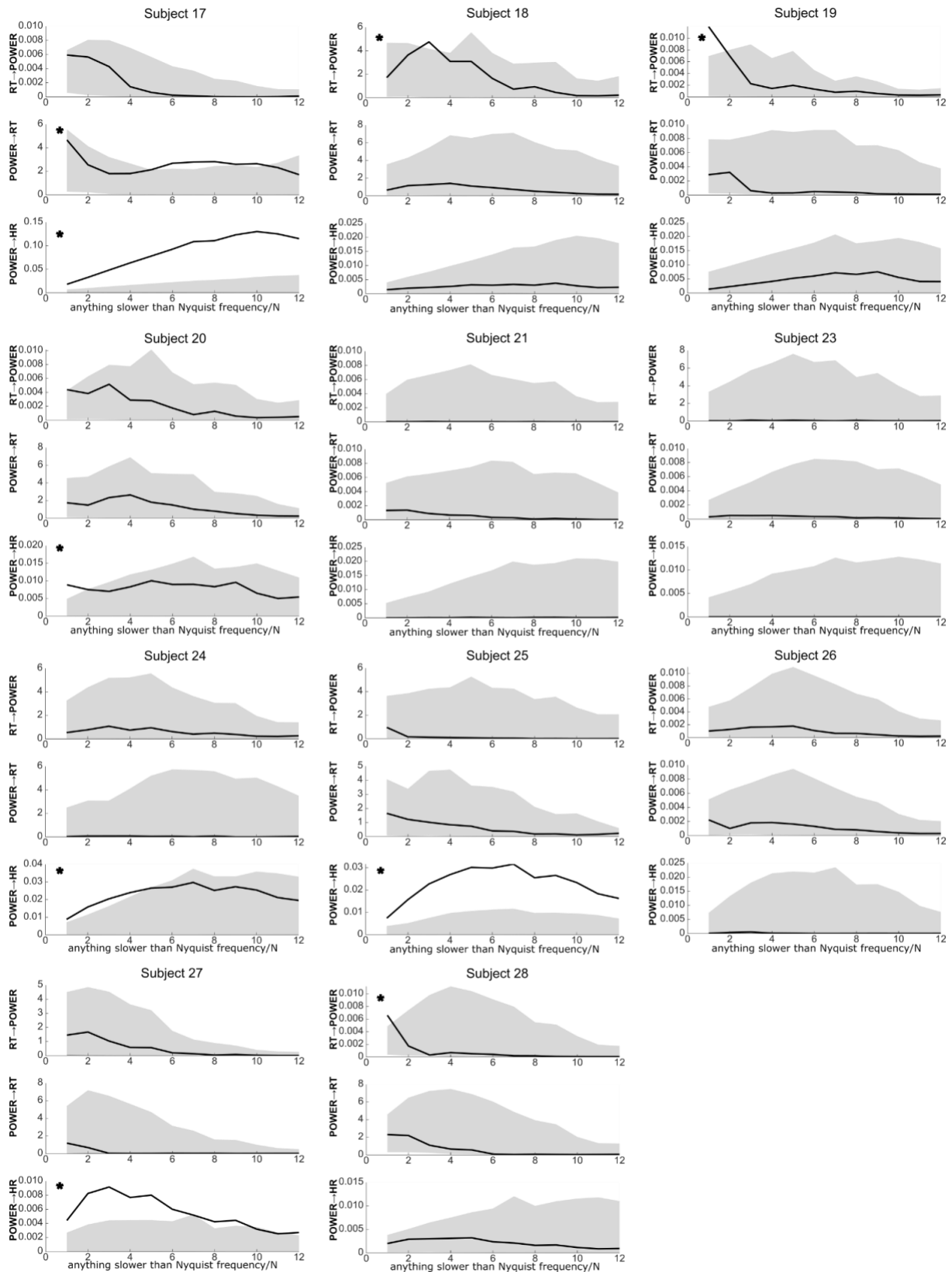
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444 **Supplementary material**



446 **Supplementary figure 1.** Individual GC estimates of the experts group from Dataset 1 (subject
447 1 to subject 15). Estimates of power to HR, power to RT, and RT to power are calculated over
448 12 time bins. Bold lines represent individual participants' estimates and the gray shadowing the
449 5th to 95th percentiles of the surrogate null distribution. The asterisks denote results that fall
450 outside the 95th percentile of the null distribution. Note that participants' numbers reflect the
451 numbers assigned during data collection.

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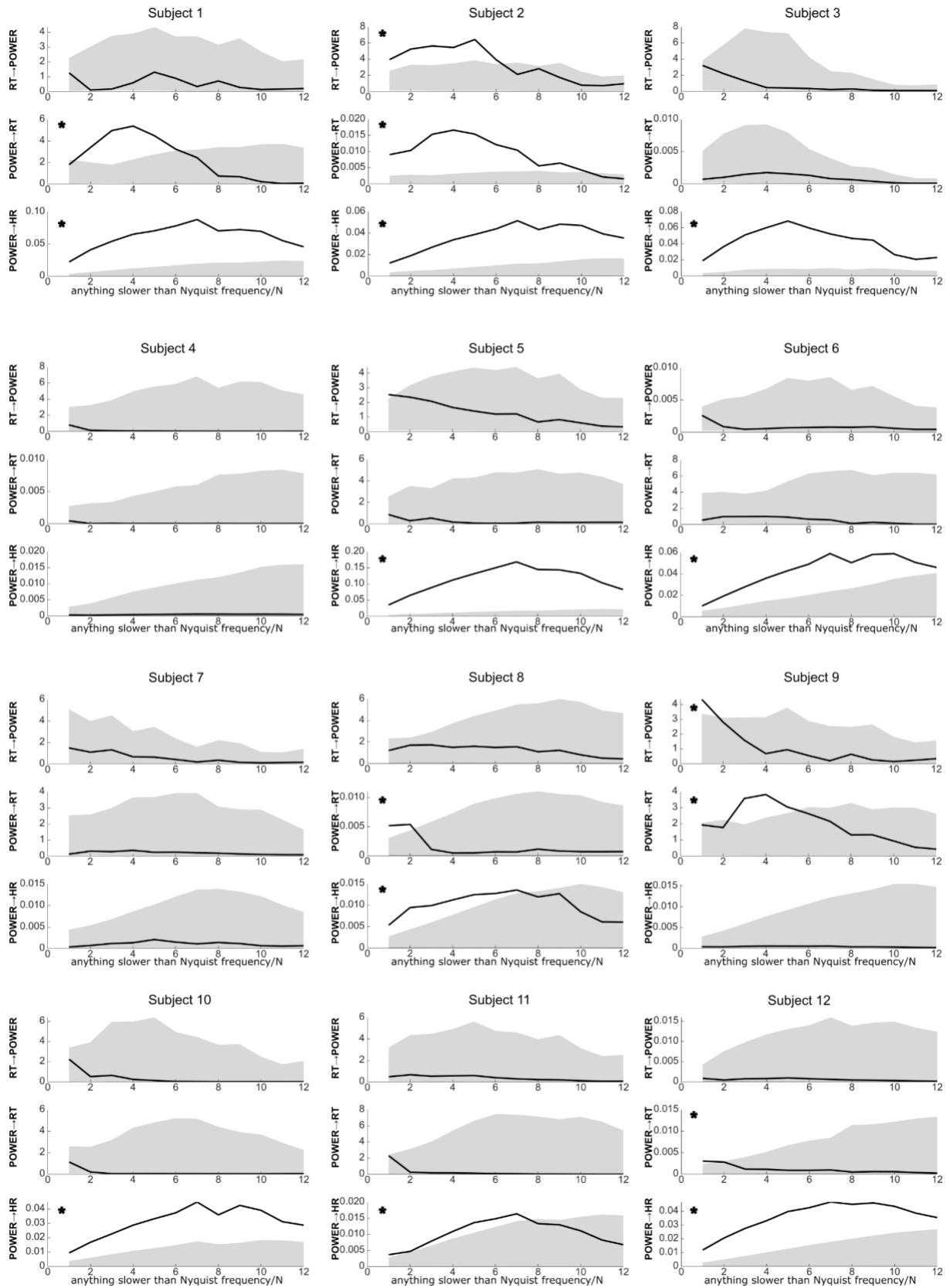


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454 **Supplementary figure 2.** Individual GC estimates of the experts group from Dataset 1 (subject
 455 17 to subject 28). Estimates of power to HR, power to RT, and RT to power are calculated over

456 12 time bins. Bold lines represent individual participants' estimates and the gray shadowing the
457 5th to 95th percentiles of the surrogate null distribution. The asterisks denote results that fall
458 outside the 99th percentile of the null distribution. Note that participants' numbers reflect the
459 numbers assigned during data collection.

460



462 **Supplementary figure 3.** Individual GC estimates of the experts group from Dataset 2 (subject
463 1 to subject 12). Estimates of power to HR, power to RT, and RT to power are calculated over
464 12 time bins. Bold lines represent individual participants' estimates and the gray shadowing the
465 5th to 95th percentiles of the surrogate null distribution. The asterisks denote results that fall
466 outside the 95th percentile of the null distribution.

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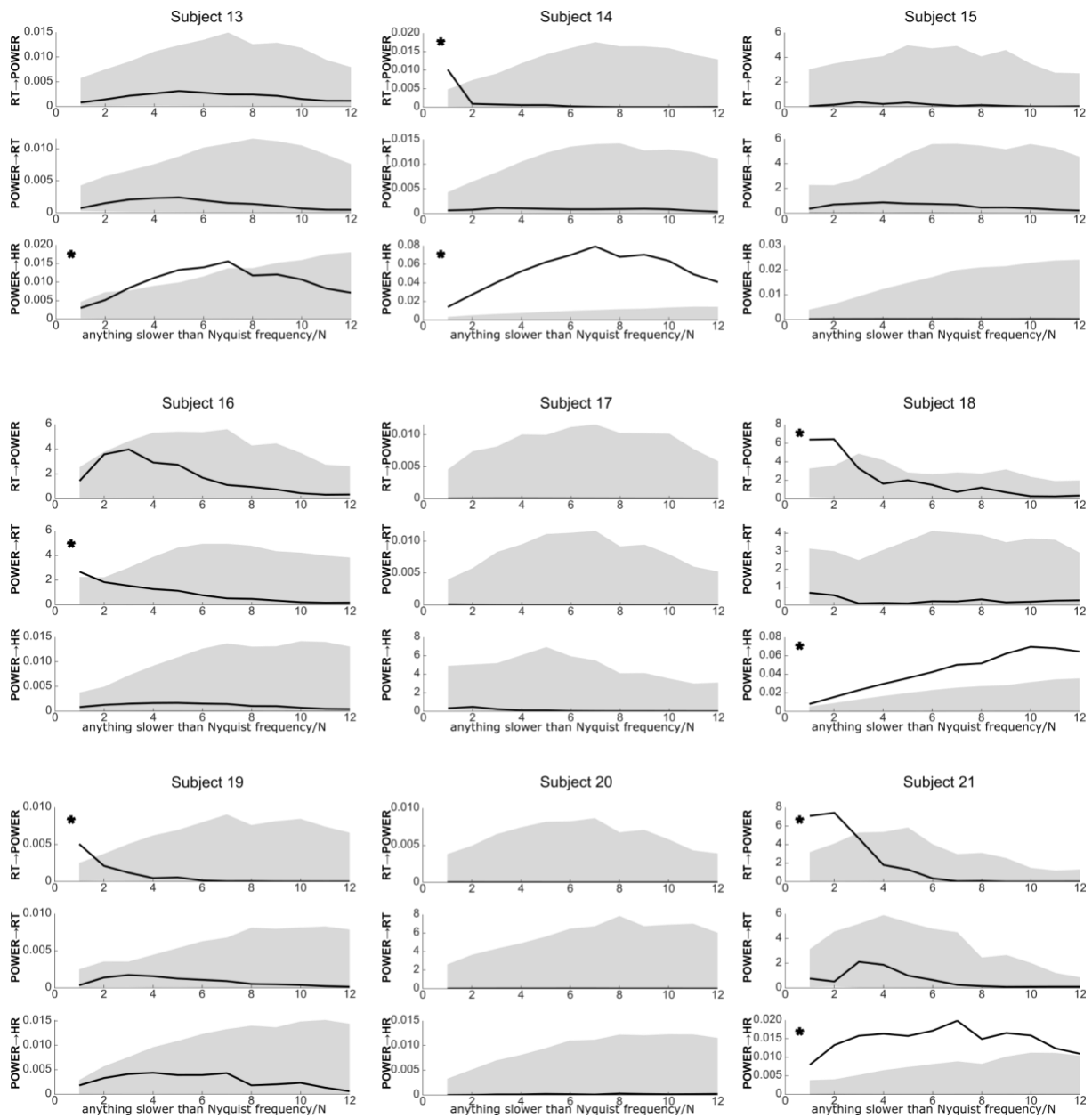
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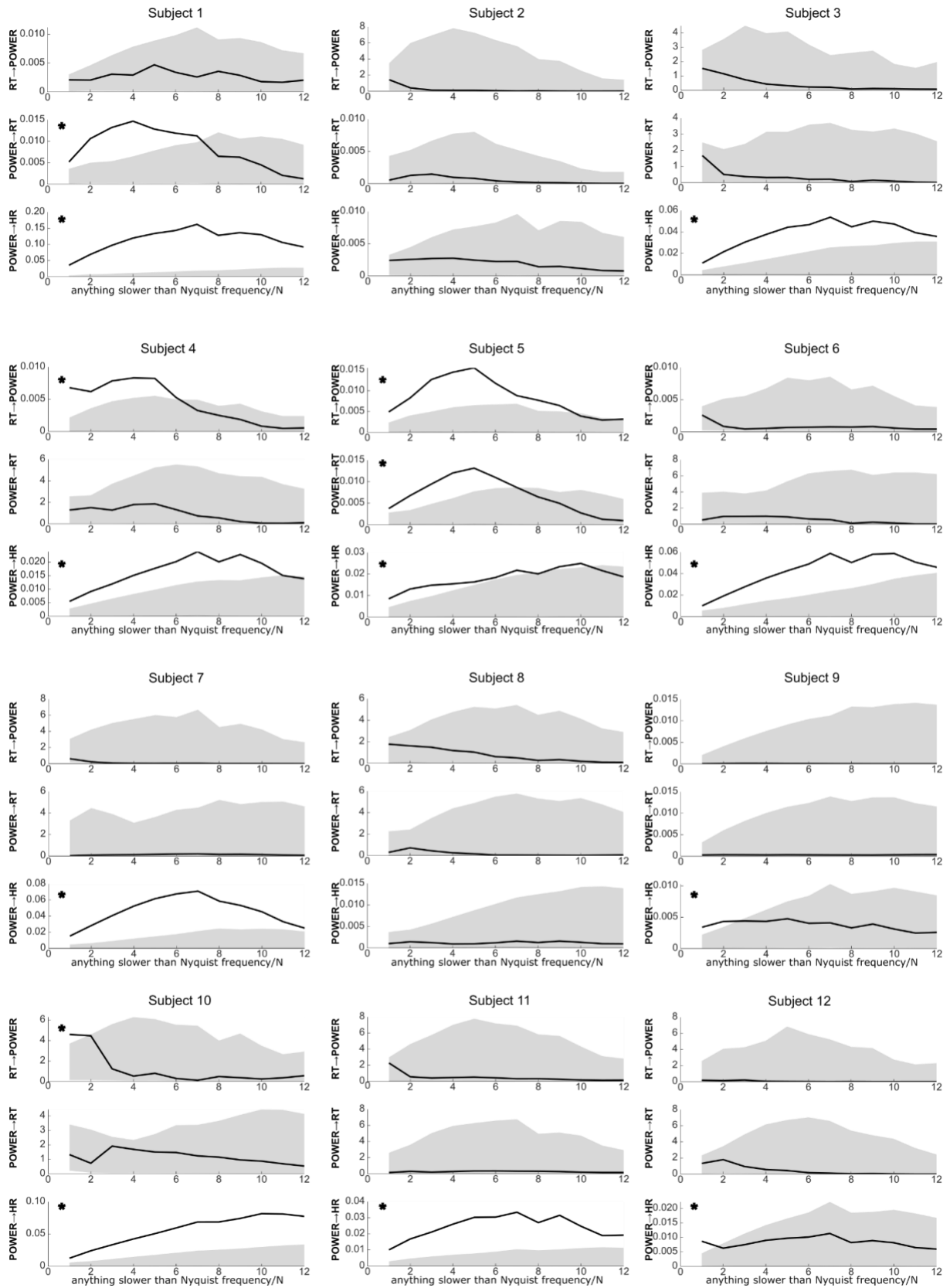
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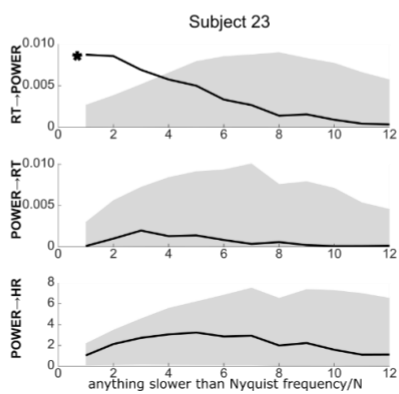
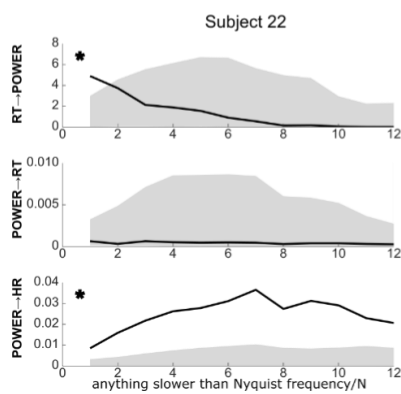
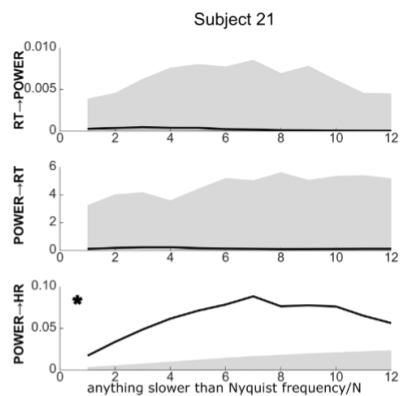
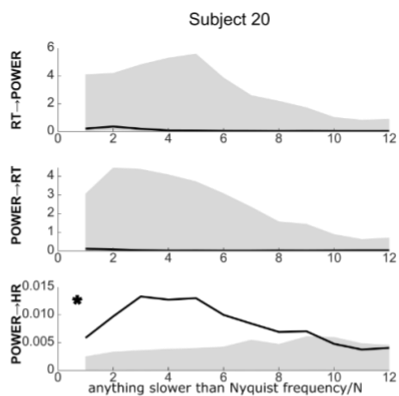
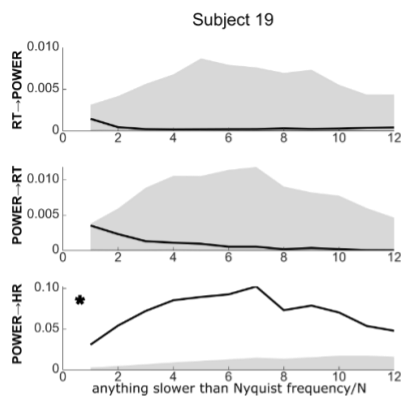
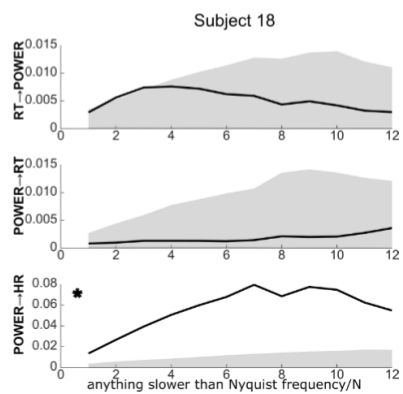
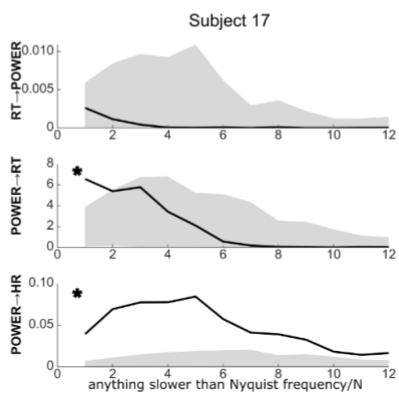
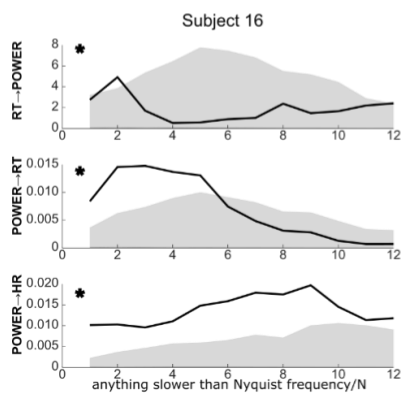
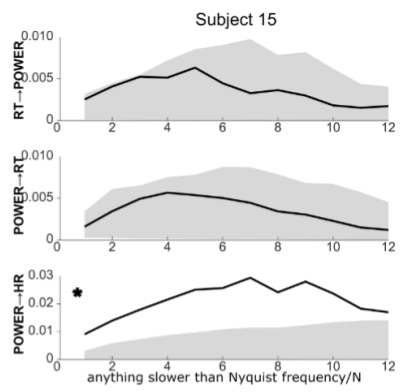
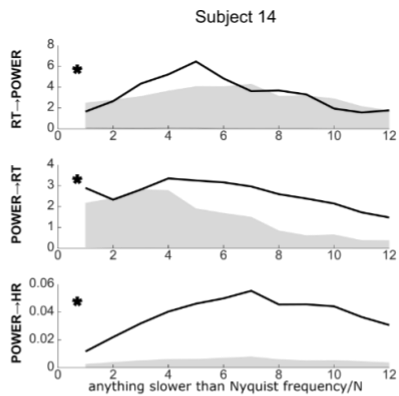
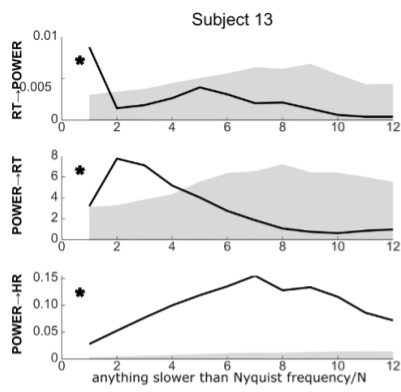
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474 **Supplementary figure 4.** Individual GC estimates of the experts group from Dataset 2 (subject
 475 13 to subject 21). Estimates of power to HR, power to RT, and RT to power are calculated over
 476 12 time bins. Bold lines represent individual participants' estimates and the gray shadowing the
 477 5th to 95th percentiles of the surrogate null distribution. The asterisks denote results that fall
 478 outside the 95th percentile of the null distribution.



480 **Supplementary figure 5.** Individual GC estimates of the non-experts group from Dataset 2
481 (subject 1 to subject 12). Estimates of power to HR, power to RT, and RT to power are
482 calculated over 12 time bins. Bold lines represent individual participants' estimates and the gray
483 shadowing the 5th to 95th percentiles of the surrogate null distribution. The asterisks denote
484 results that fall outside the 95th percentile of the null distribution.

485



487 **Supplementary figure 6.** Individual GC estimates of the non-experts group from Dataset 2
 488 (subject 13 to subject 23). Estimates of power to HR, power to RT, and RT to power are
 489 calculated over 12 time bins. Bold lines represent individual participants' estimates and the gray
 490 shadowing the 5th to 95th percentiles of the surrogate null distribution. The asterisks denote
 491 results that fall outside the 95th percentile of the null distribution.

492

| scale | RT to power | | power to RT | | Power to HR | |
|-----------|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| | BF ₁₀ | error % | BF ₁₀ | error % | BF ₁₀ | error % |
| 1 | 0.299 | 0.006 | 0.348 | 0.006 | 0.782 | 0.006 |
| 2 | 0.419 | 0.006 | 0.515 | 0.006 | 0.625 | 0.006 |
| 3 | 0.582 | 0.006 | 0.464 | 0.006 | 0.566 | 0.006 |
| 4 | 0.914 | 0.007 | 0.410 | 0.006 | 0.521 | 0.006 |
| 5 | 0.916 | 0.007 | 0.436 | 0.006 | 0.499 | 0.006 |
| 6 | 1010 | 0.007 | 0.408 | 0.006 | 0.443 | 0.006 |
| 7 | 1.202 | 0.007 | 0.393 | 0.006 | 0.427 | 0.006 |
| 8 | 1.060 | 0.007 | 0.522 | 0.006 | 0.400 | 0.006 |
| 9 | 1.260 | 0.007 | 0.423 | 0.006 | 0.406 | 0.006 |
| 10 | 1.310 | 0.007 | 0.446 | 0.006 | 0.386 | 0.006 |
| 11 | 1.484 | 0.007 | 0.645 | 0.006 | 0.379 | 0.006 |
| 12 | 1.592 | 0.008 | 0.729 | 0.006 | 0.394 | 0.006 |

493

494 **Table 1:** Results of Bayesian independent-samples t-tests comparing GC parameters of the
 495 experts against the non-experts group of Dataset 2. BF are calculated with the null hypothesis
 496 as denominator, meaning that the larger the value, the more evidence is provided for the
 497 alternative hypothesis.

498