

# Using Artificial-Intelligence-Driven Deep Neural Networks to Uncover Principles of Brain Representation and Organization

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# The origin of the problem

Understanding complex, noisy data streams is a critical part of cognition.

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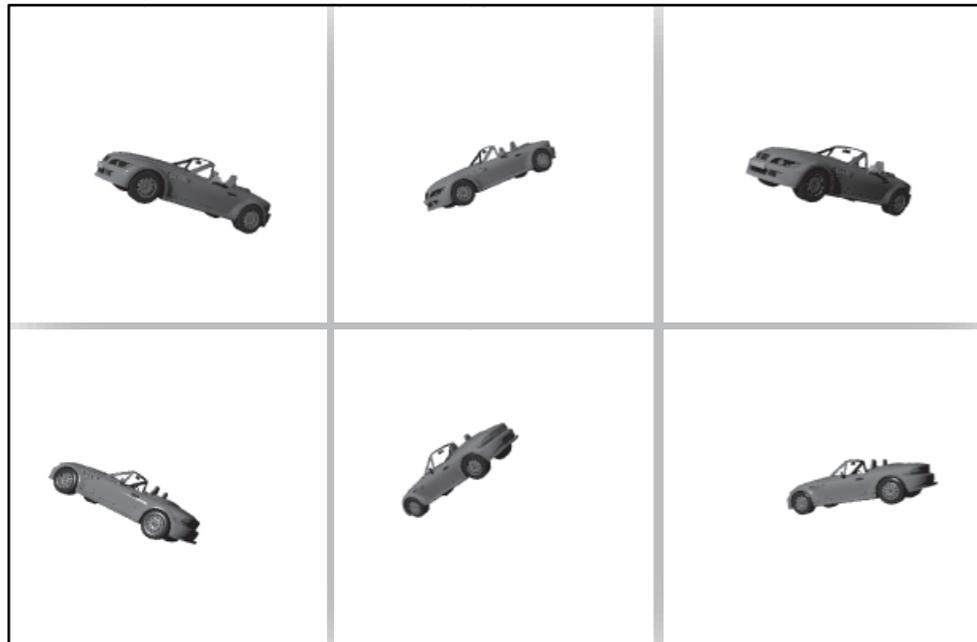


“Mercedes behind Lamborghini, on a field in front of mountains.”

# Variation Makes Object Recognition Challenging



View: position, size, pose, illumination



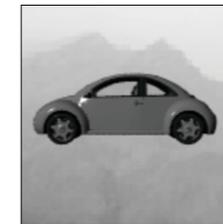
Distortion & Noise



Background variation

Geometric variation

Beetle



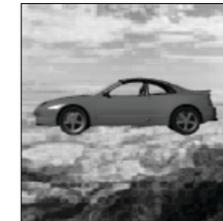
BMW Z3



Clio



Celica

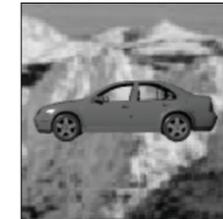


Alfa



car identities

VW Bora



BMW 325

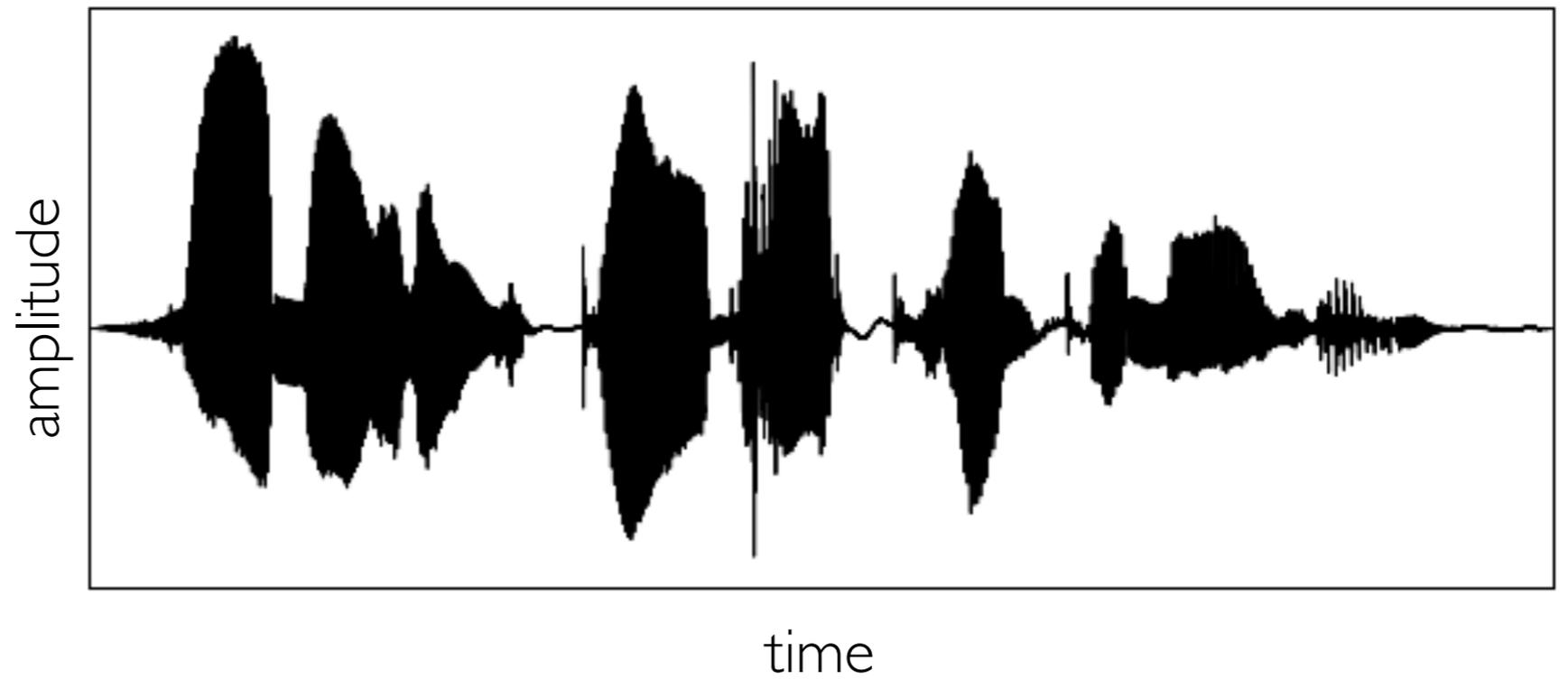


Astra



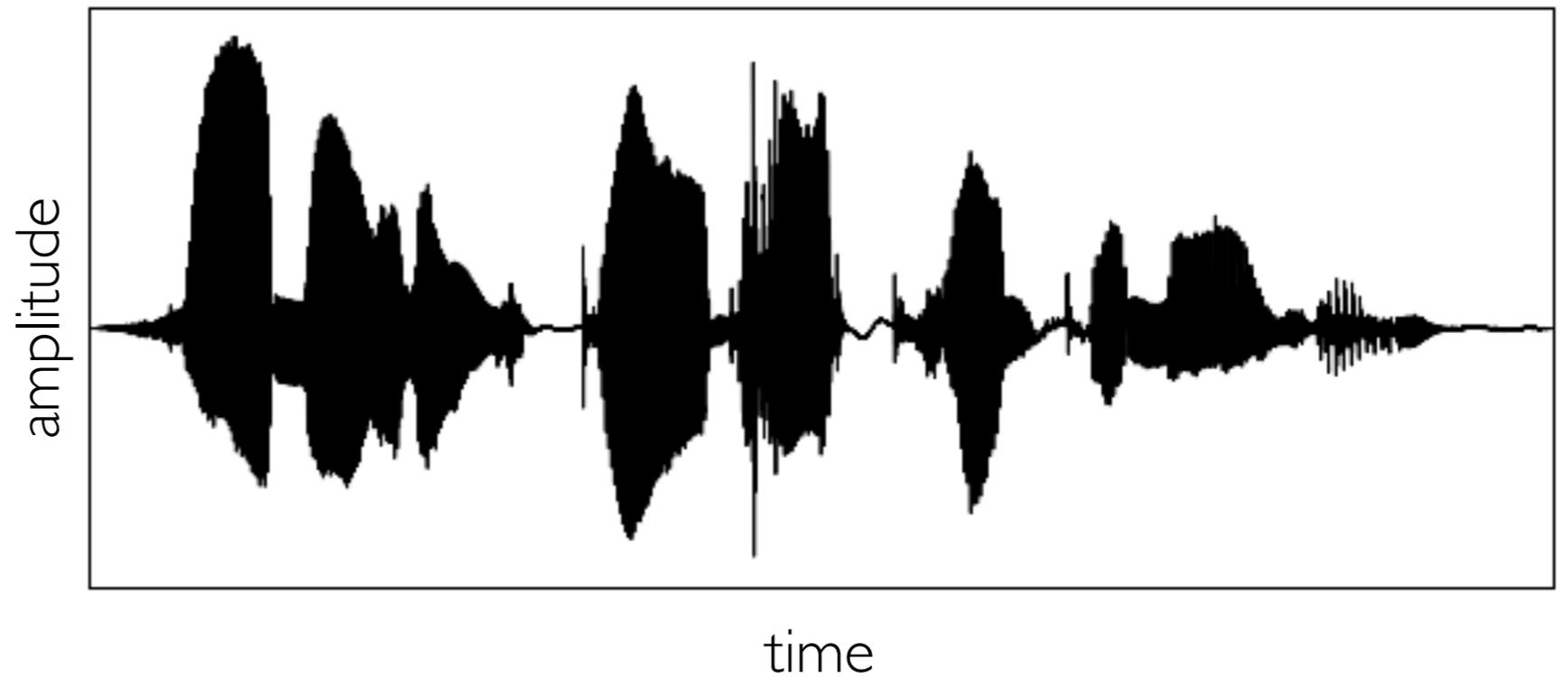
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Understanding complex, noisy data streams is a critical part of cognition.



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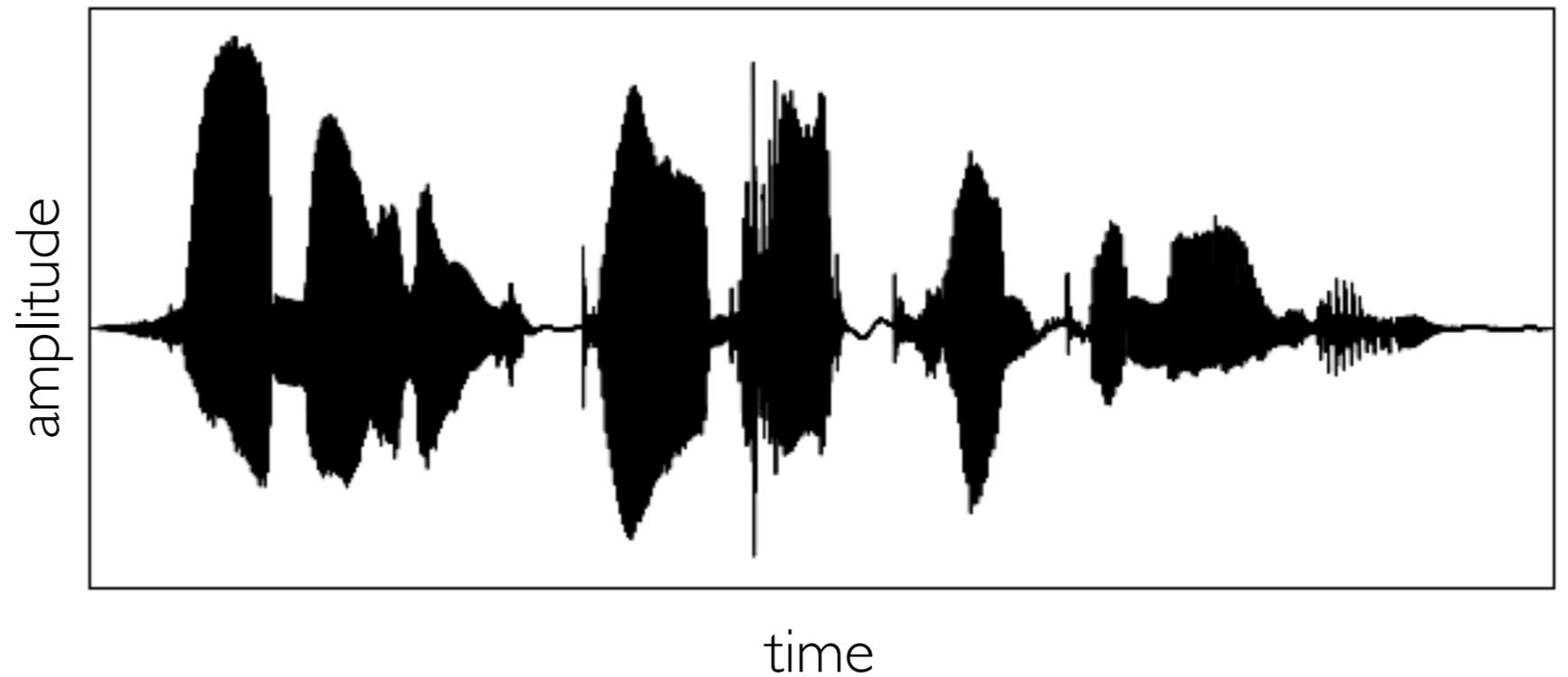
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“Hannah is good at compromising.”

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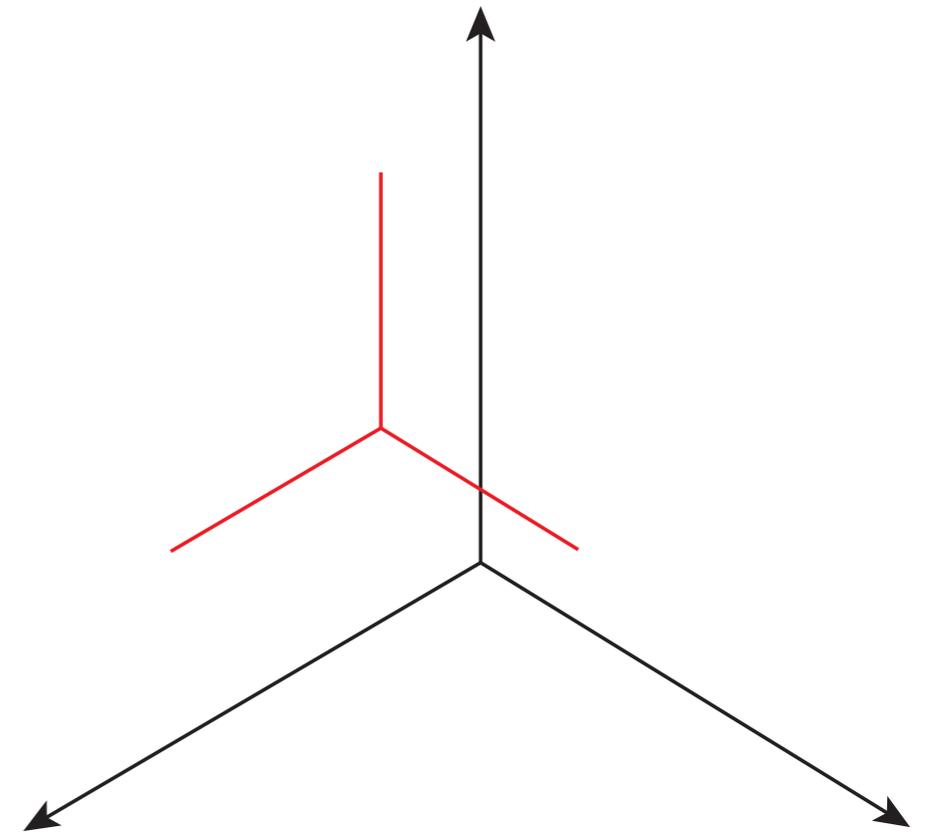
variation sources: speaker identity  
background noise  
reverberation  
...

# The origin of the problem

Axes of natural variation of natural  
**“physics”** representation of world

e.g.

retinal photoreceptor voltage  
or hair-cell point amplitudes

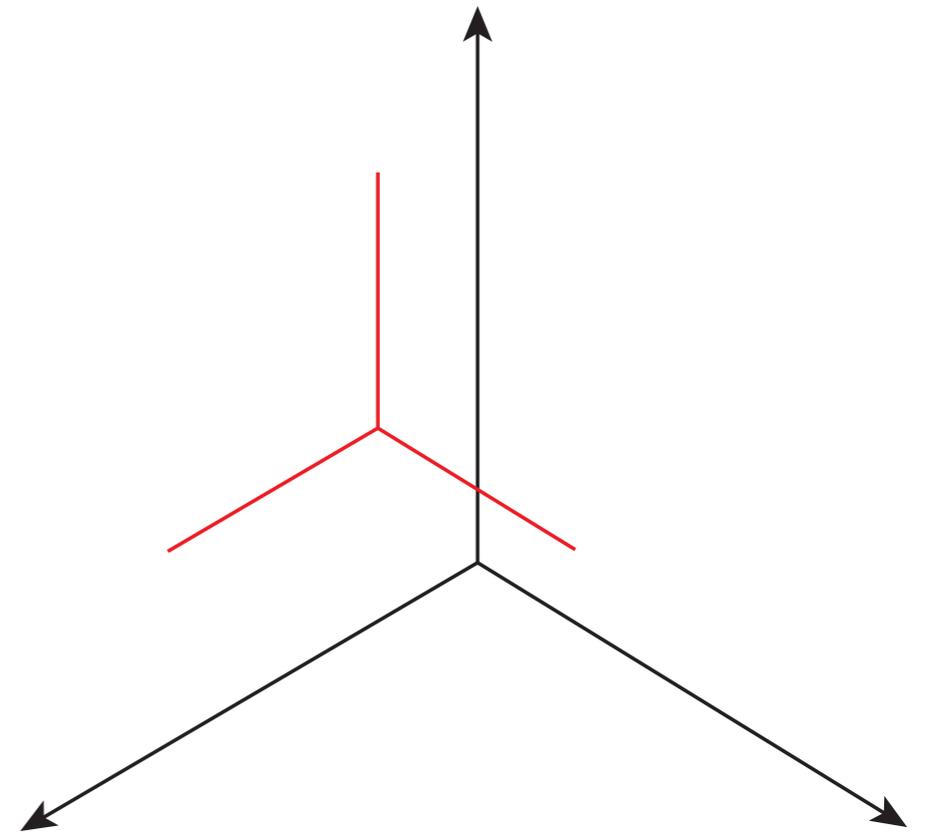


# The origin of the problem

Axes of natural variation for  
natural **behavioral** events

e.g.

deforming face moving in complex-  
lighted environment

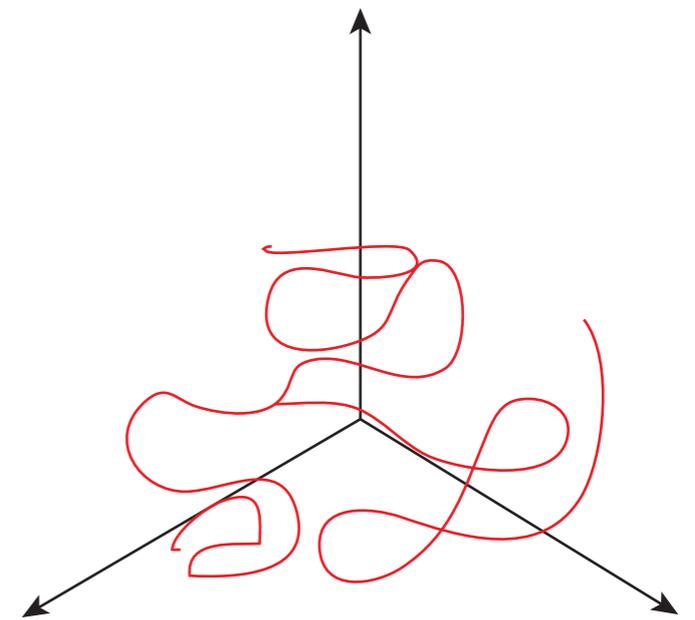
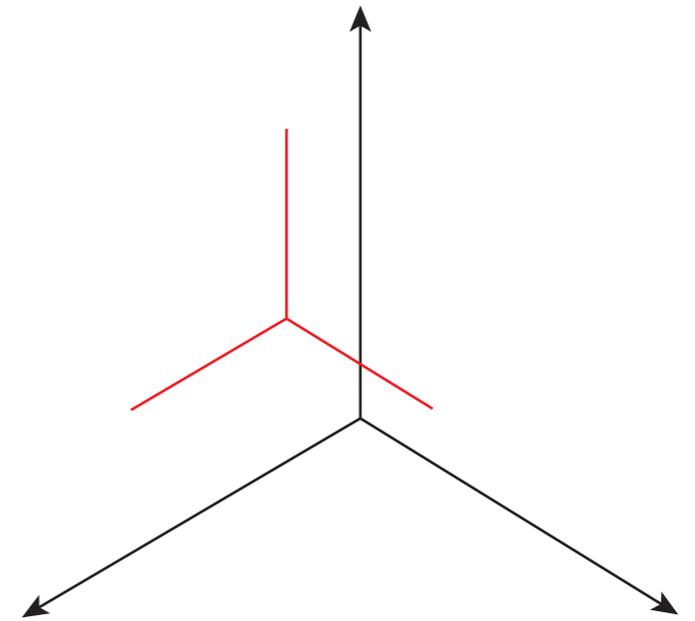


# The origin of the problem

Axes of natural variation for natural **behavioral** events (e.g. deforming face moving in complex-lighted environment)

*are misaligned with*

Axes of natural variation of natural **“physics”** representation of world e.g. retinal photoreceptor voltage or hair-cell point amplitudes



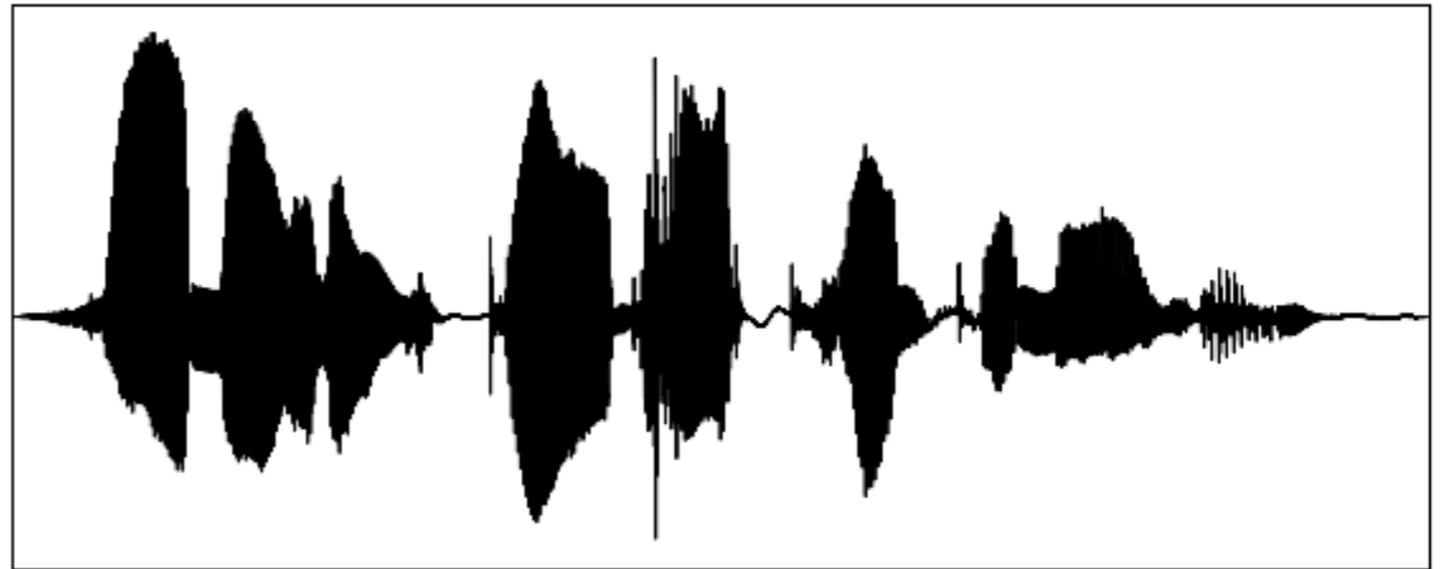
# The origin of the problem



visual  
cortex



“Mercedes behind  
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auditory  
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“Hannah is good at compromising”

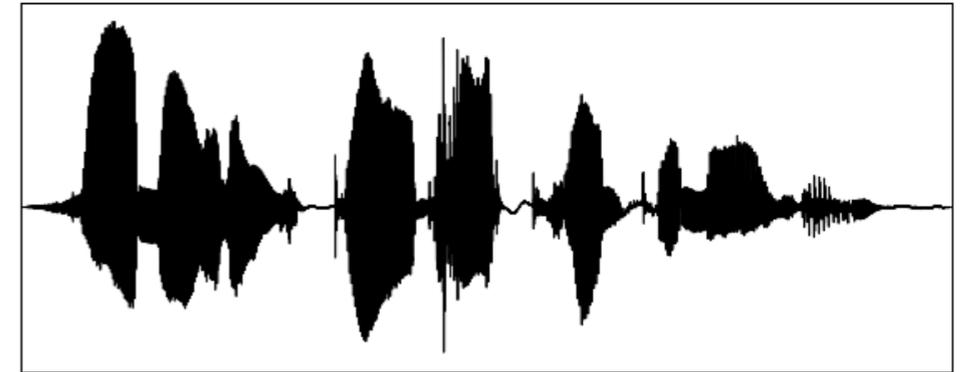
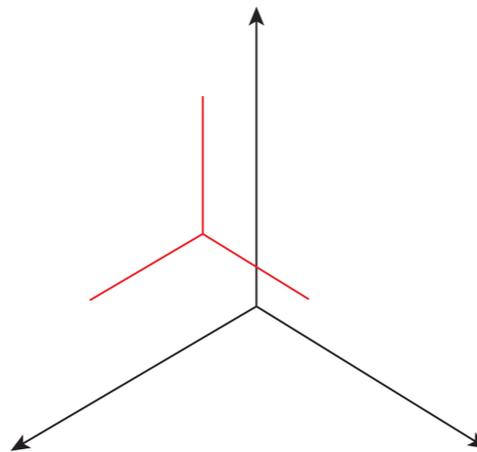
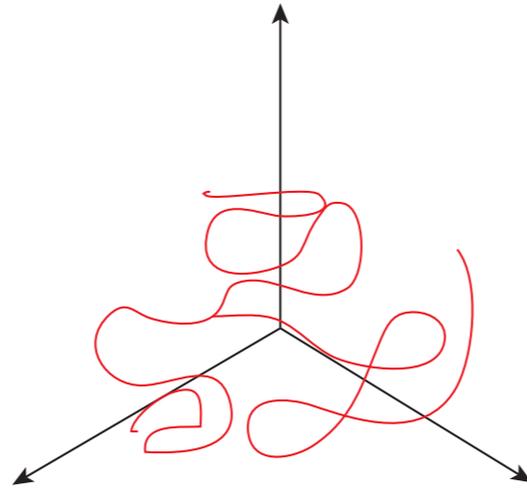
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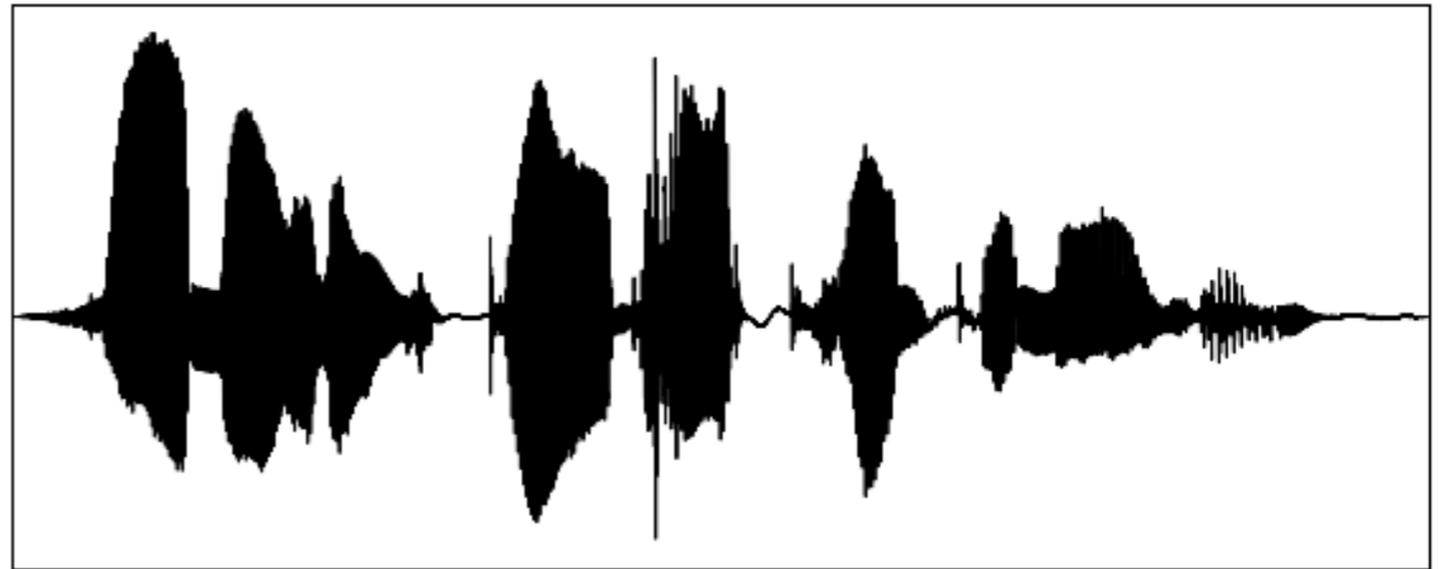


auditory cortex

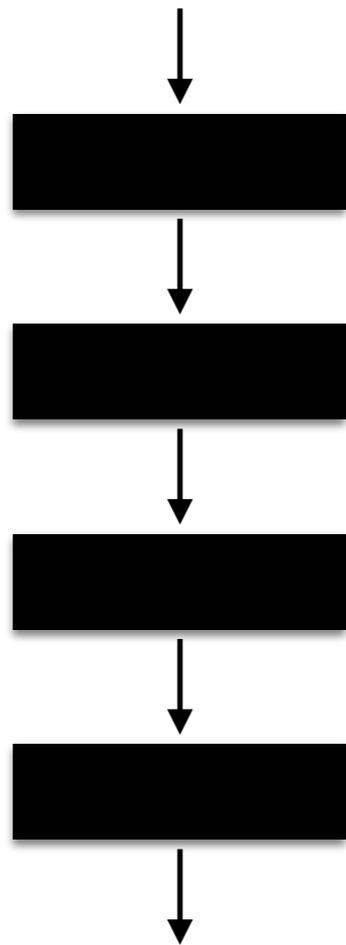


“Hannah is good at compromising”

# Sensory cascade

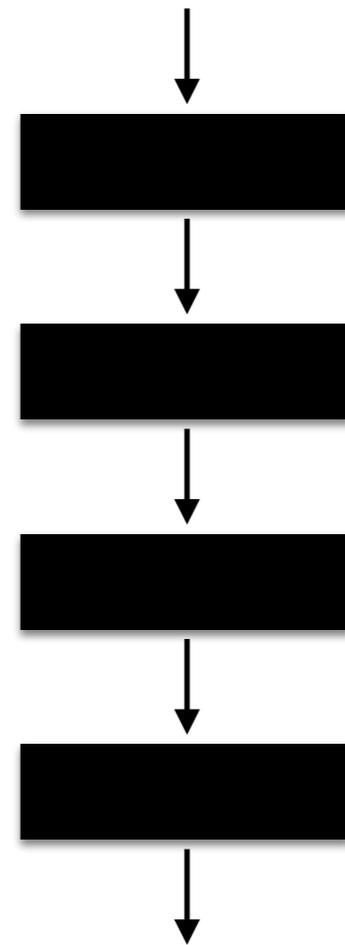


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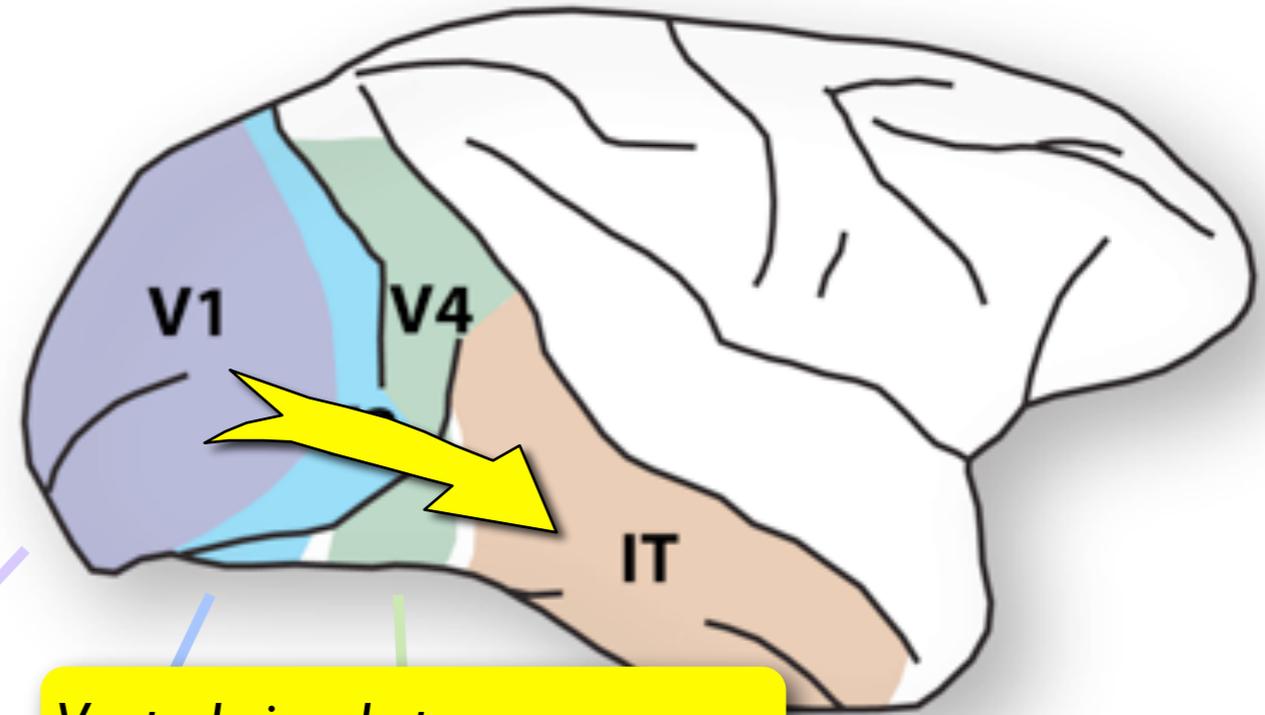
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cortex



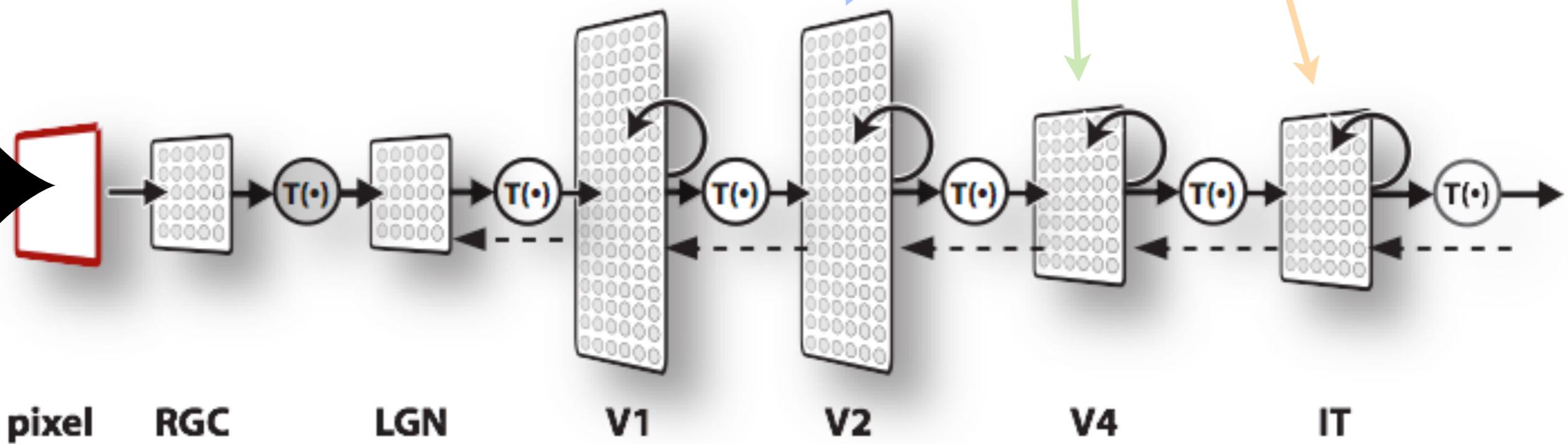
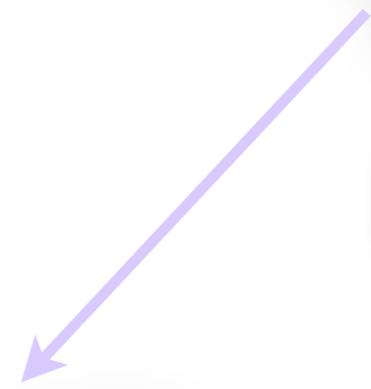
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# Ventral Stream = Connected series of brain areas

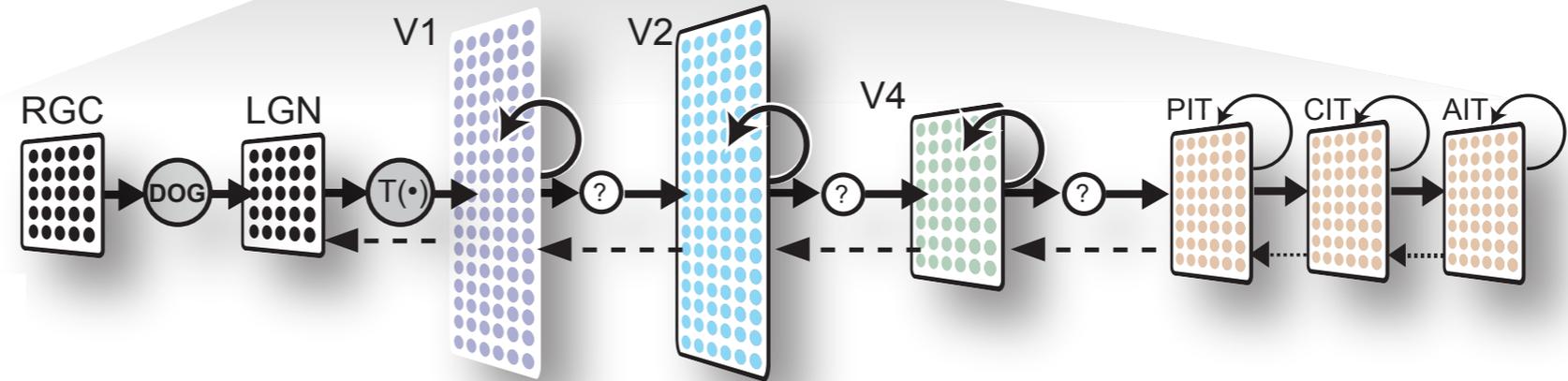
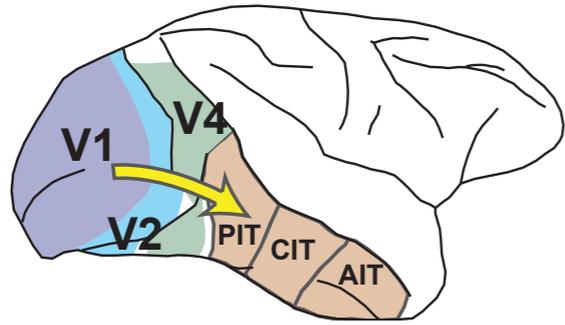
Kaas (2003), Van Essen (2003), Valois and Morgan (1974), Gross (1973), Mishkin and Ungerleider (1983), Holmes and Gross (1984), Harel et al. (1987), Freiwald and Tsao (2010), Pitcher, et al. (2009), Yaginuma (1982), Holmes (1984), Weiskrantz (1984), Schiller (1995), Afraz (2006), Verhoef (2012), Rust (2010), Freiwald (2010), Lehky (2007), Majaj (2015)



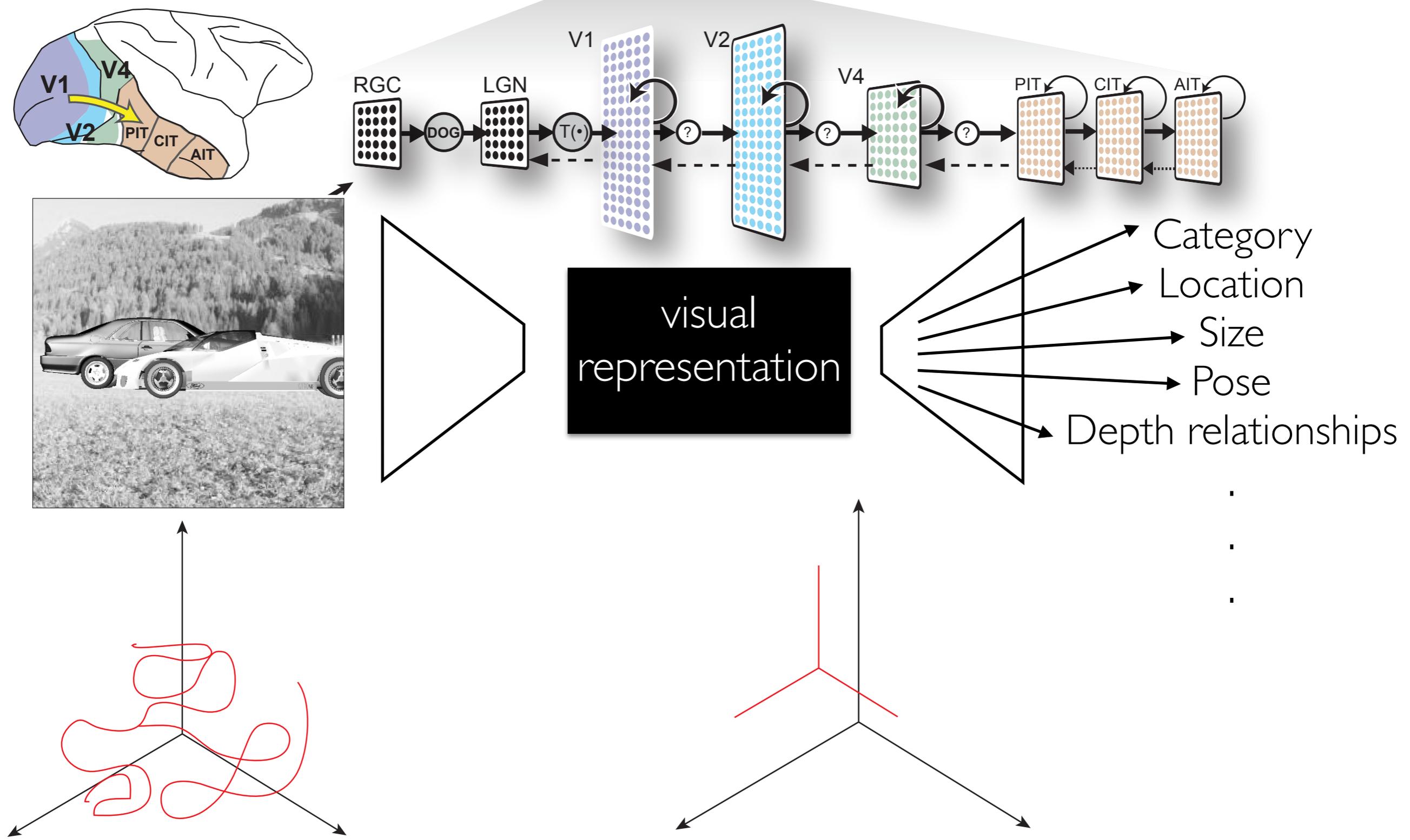
Ventral visual stream



Stimulus  $\xrightarrow{\text{representation}}$  Neurons  $\xrightarrow{\text{read-out}}$  Behavior



Stimulus  $\xrightarrow{\text{representation}}$  Neurons  $\xrightarrow{\text{read-out}}$  Behavior



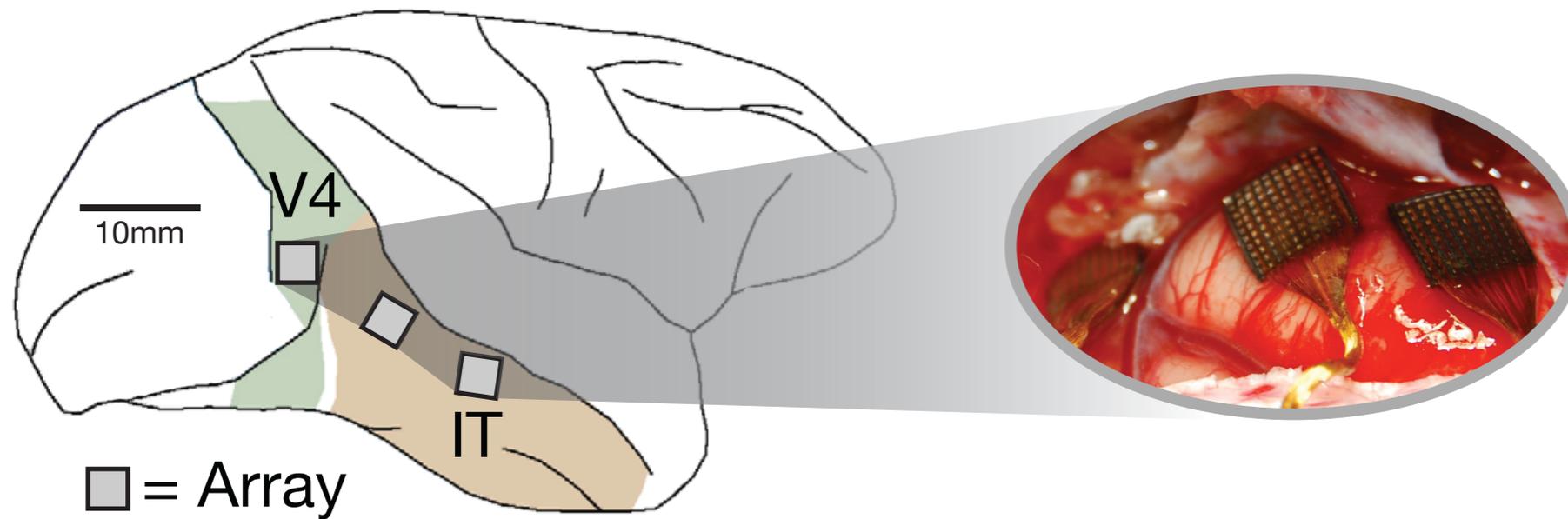
visual  
representation

- Category
- Location
- Size
- Pose
- Depth relationships

·  
·  
·

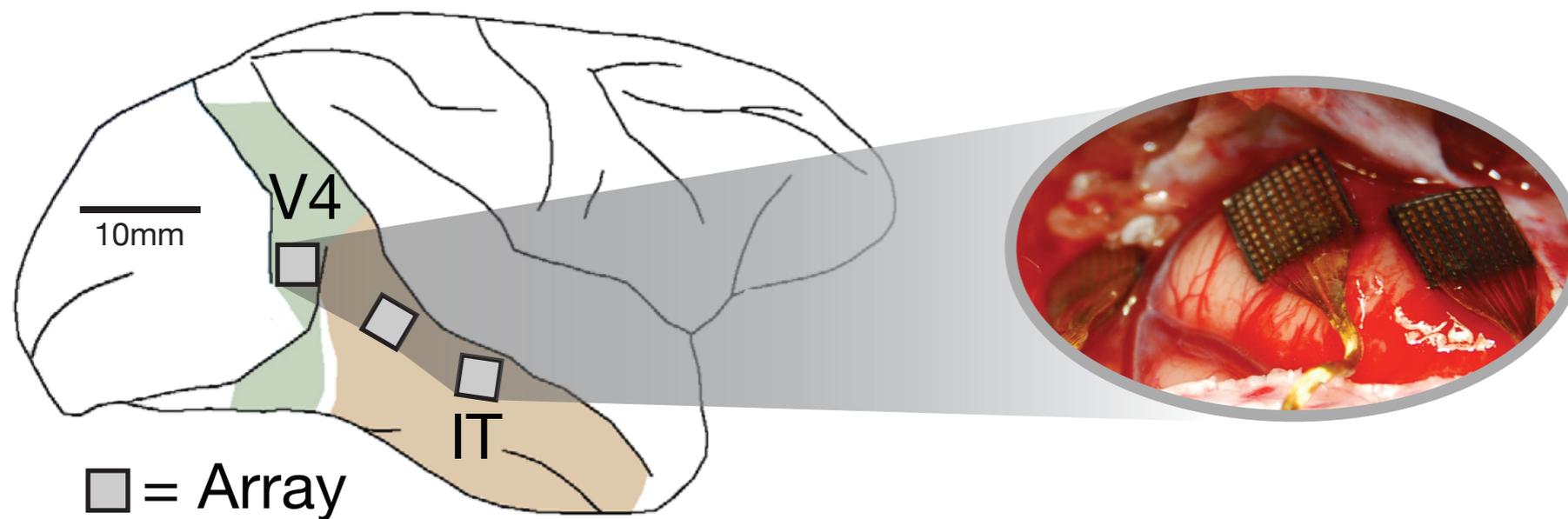
# Multi-array Electrophysiology Experiment

Multi-array electrophysiology in macaque V4 and IT.

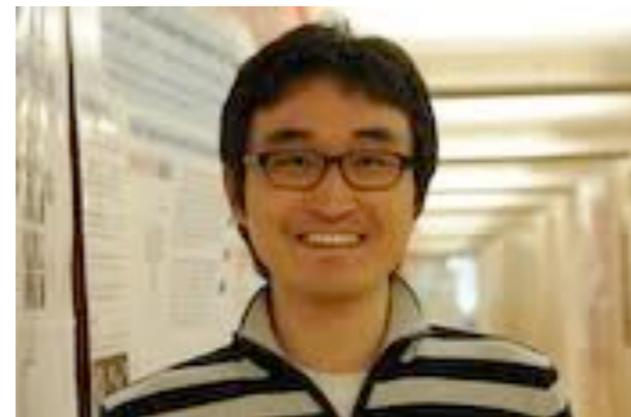


# Multi-array Electrophysiology Experiment

Multi-array electrophysiology in macaque V4 and IT.



About 300 total sites



Ha Hong



Jim DiCarlo

# Multi-array Electrophysiology Experiment

5760 images

64 objects

8 categories

uncorrelated photo backgrounds

Low variation



... 640 images

Medium variation



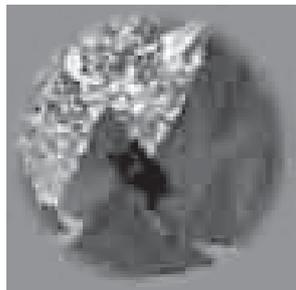
... 2560 images

High variation



... 2560 images

Animals



Boats



Cars



Chairs



Faces



Fruits



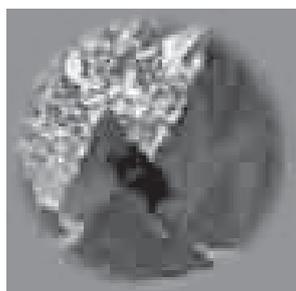
Planes



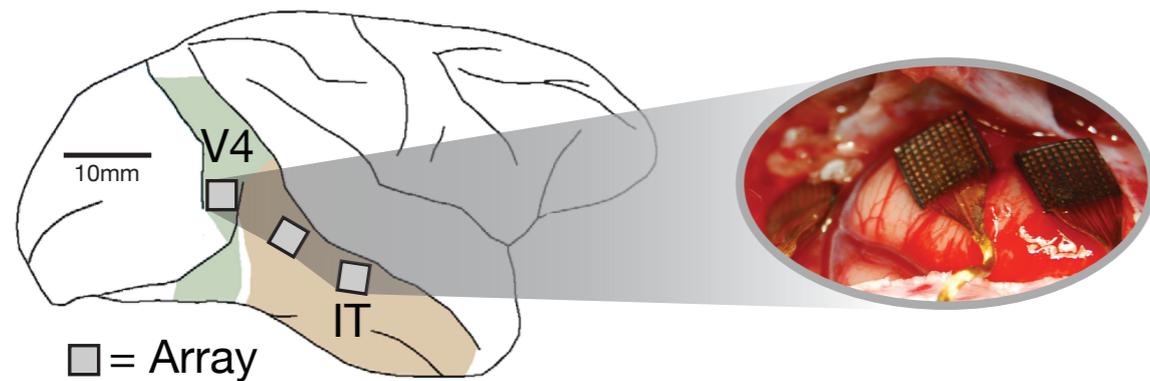
Tables



Pose, position, scale, and background variation

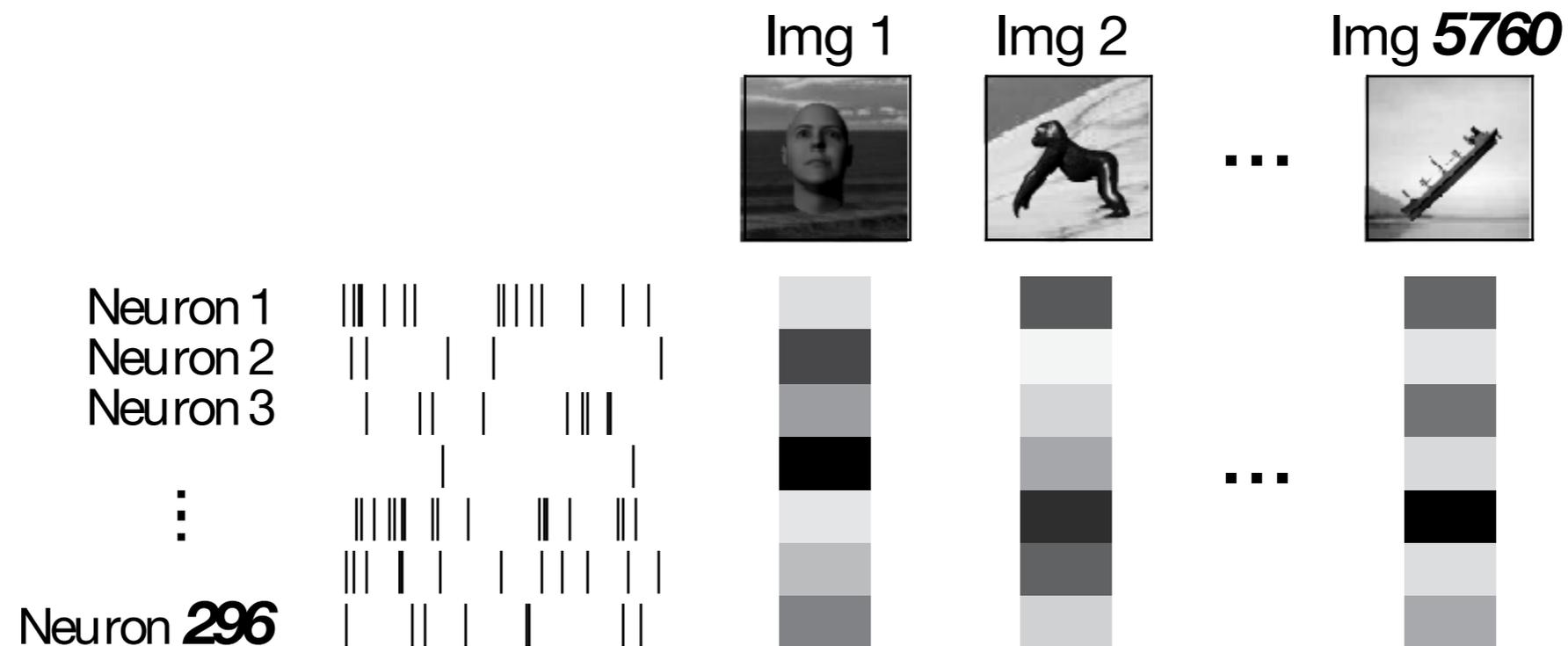


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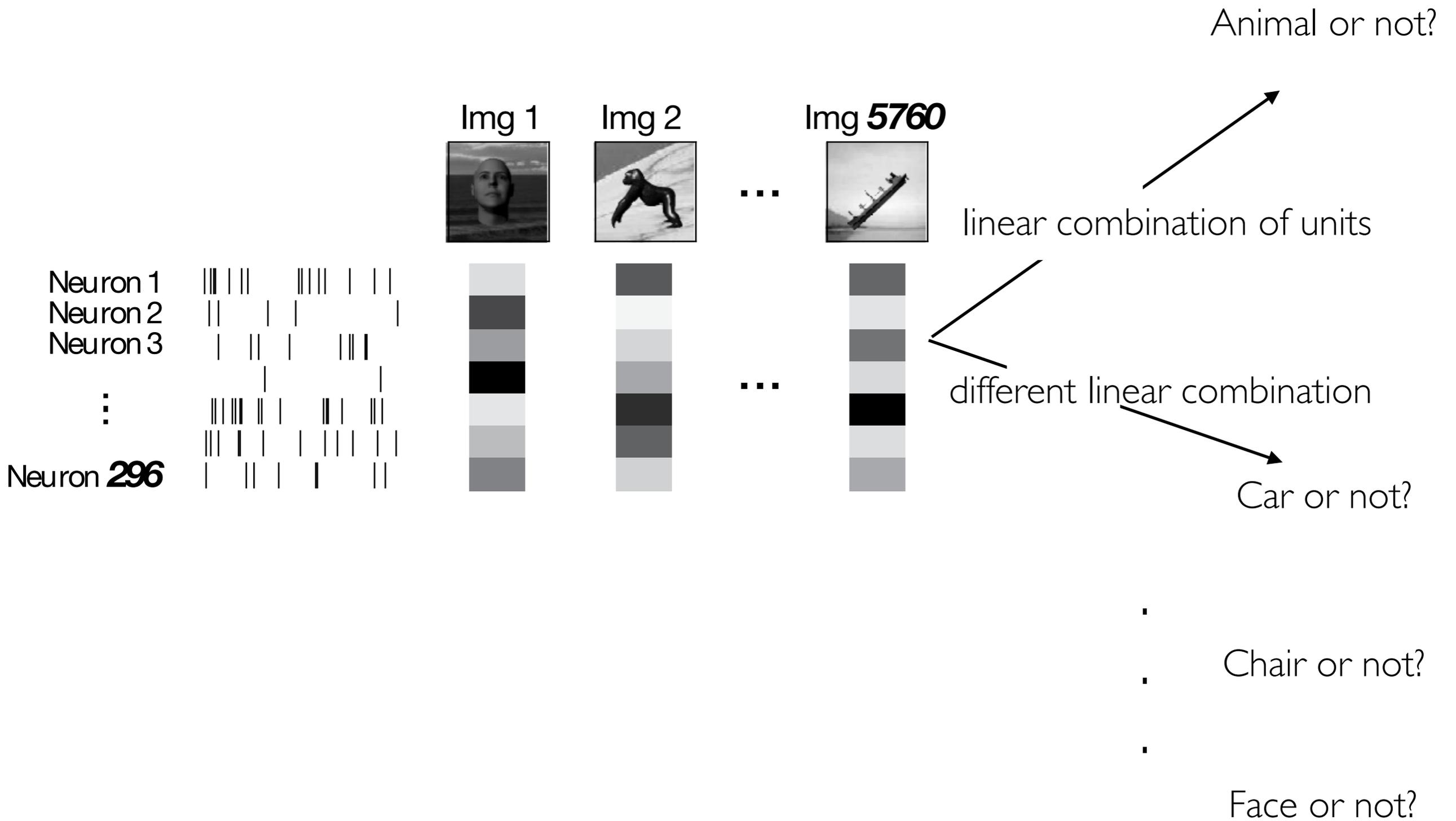


About 300 total sites

*Output = Binned spike counts 70ms-170ms post stimulus presentation averaged over 25-50 reps of each image.*

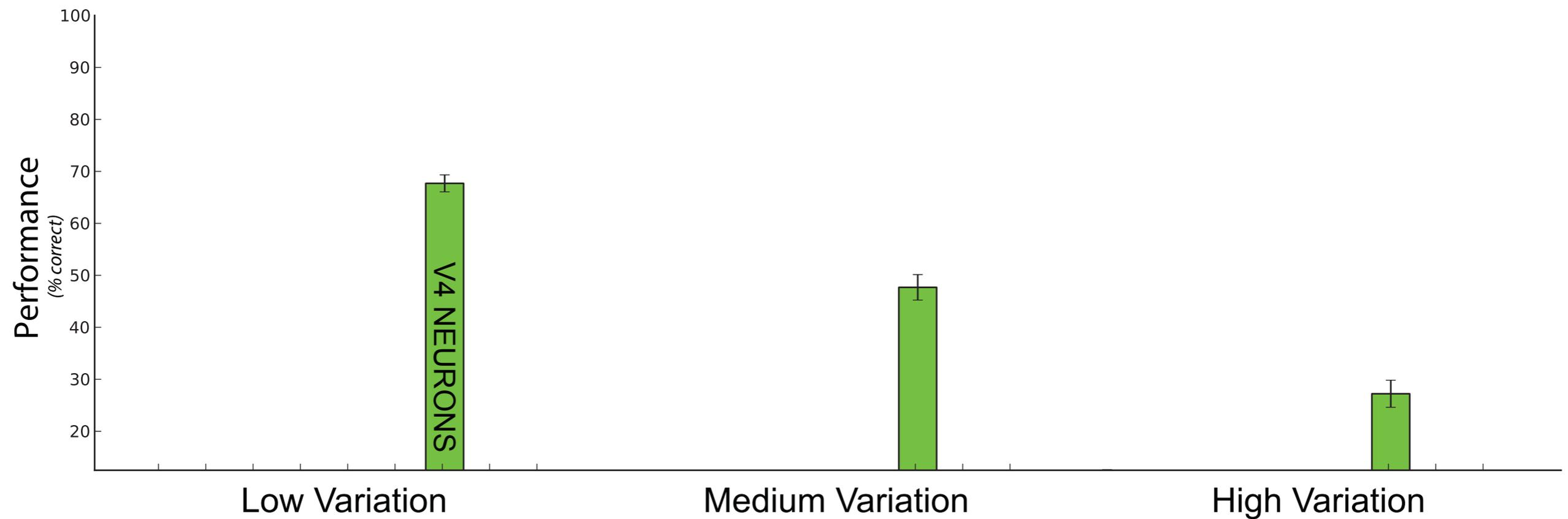
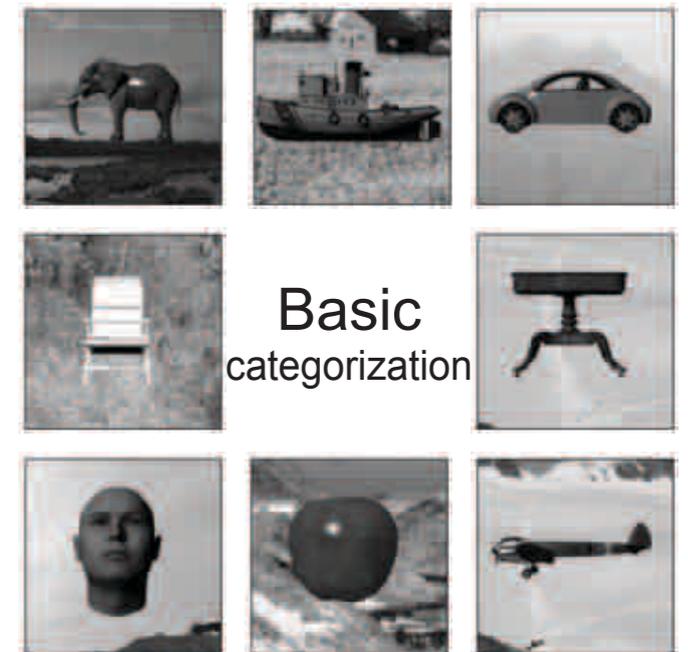


# Neural-Behavior Decoding



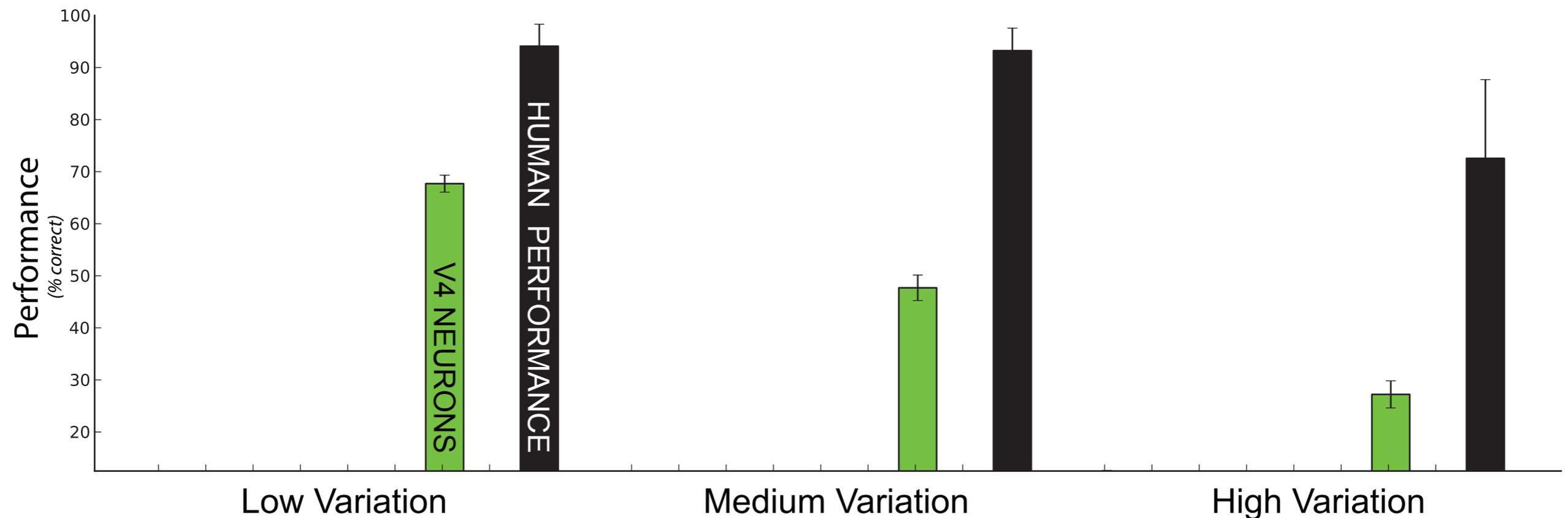
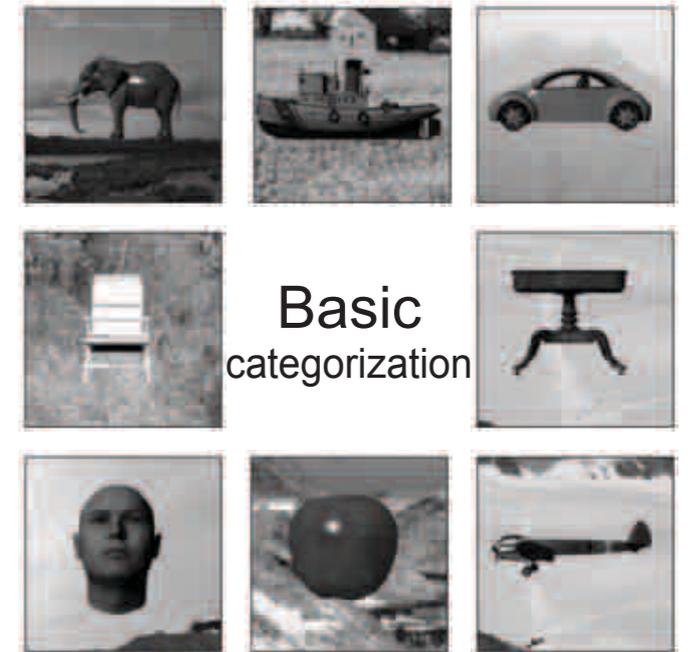
# Decoding Behaviorally Output from Neural Populations

V4 loses out at higher variation:



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V4 loses out at higher variation:  
... but humans are much less affected.

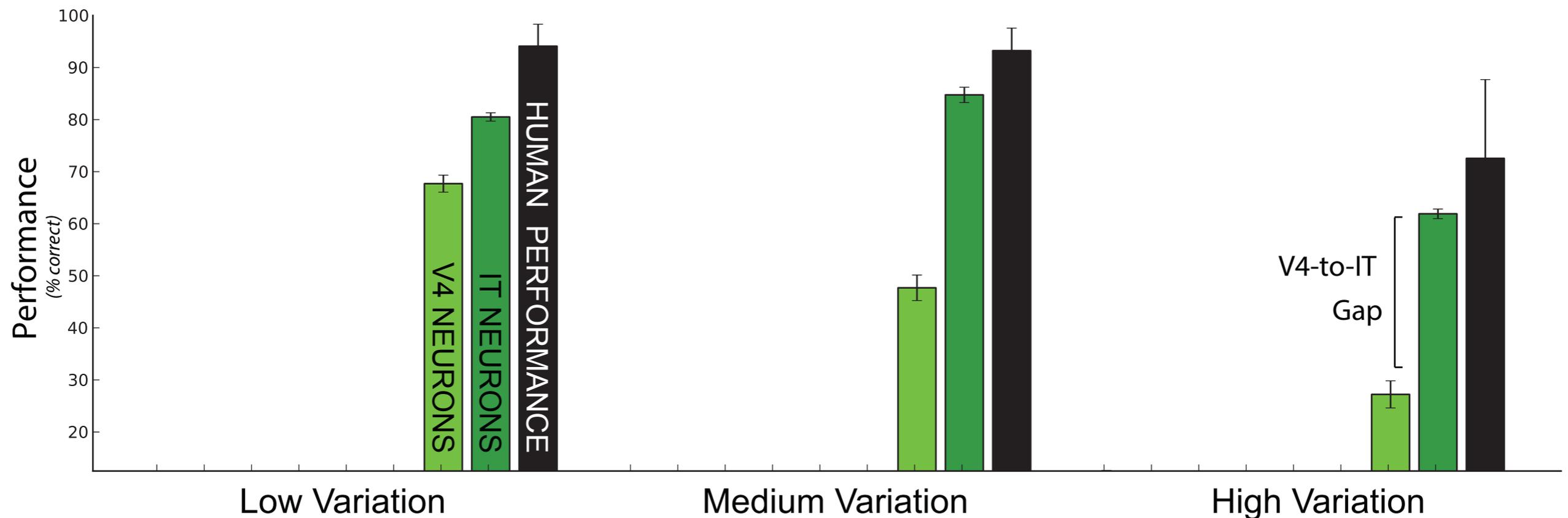
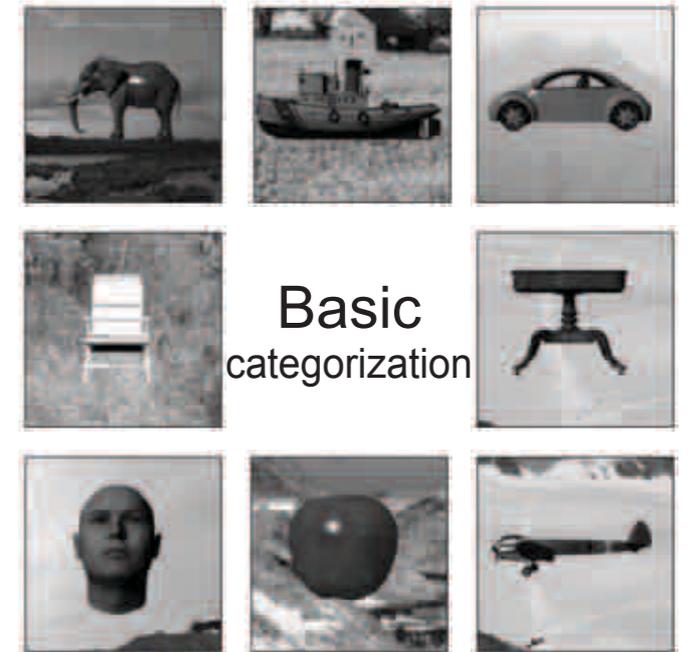


# IT Neurons Track Human Performance

V4 loses out at higher variation:

... but humans are much less affected.

... as is the IT neural population.

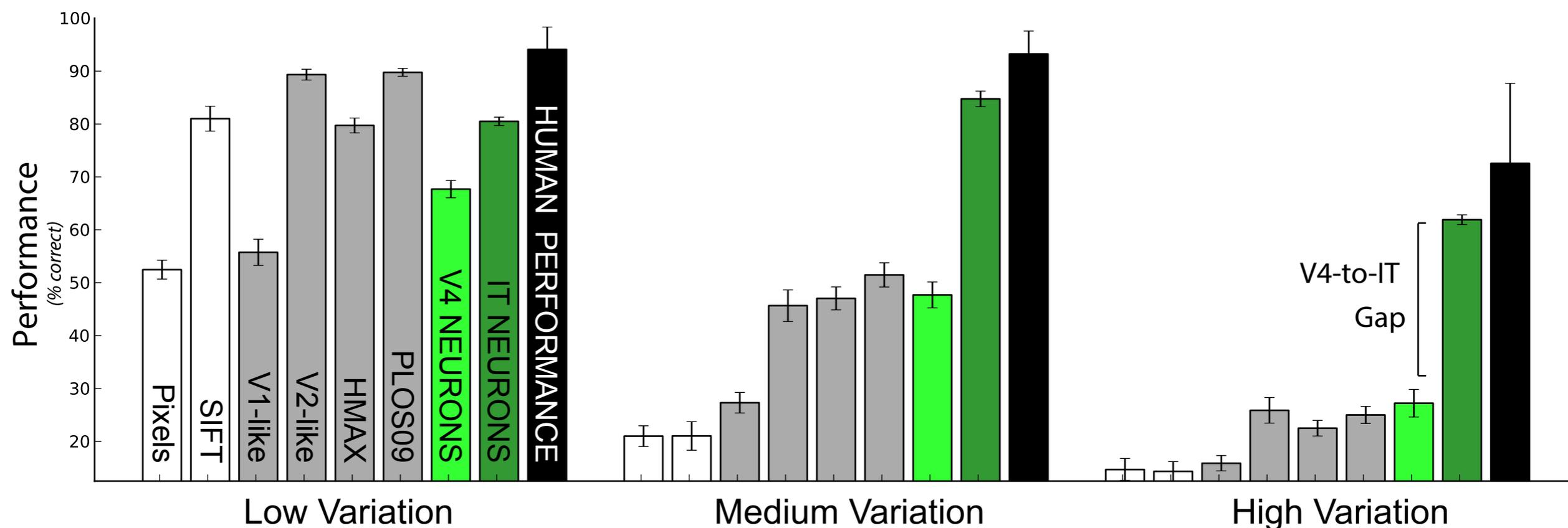
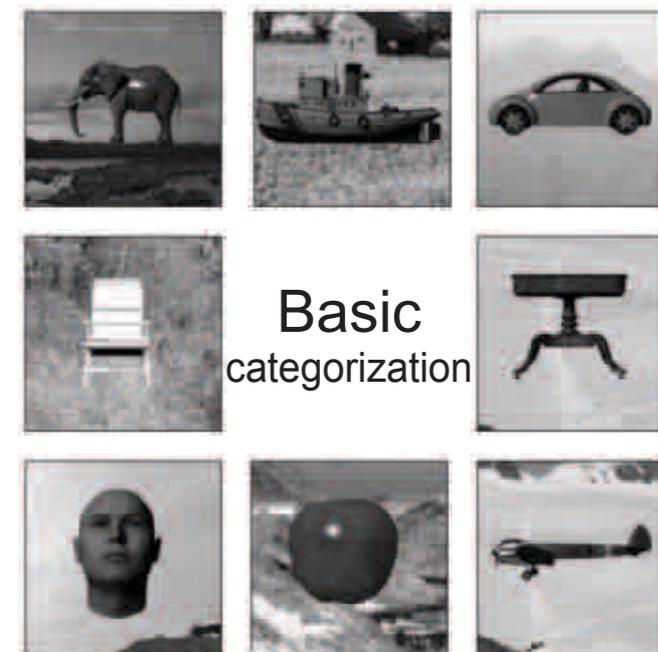


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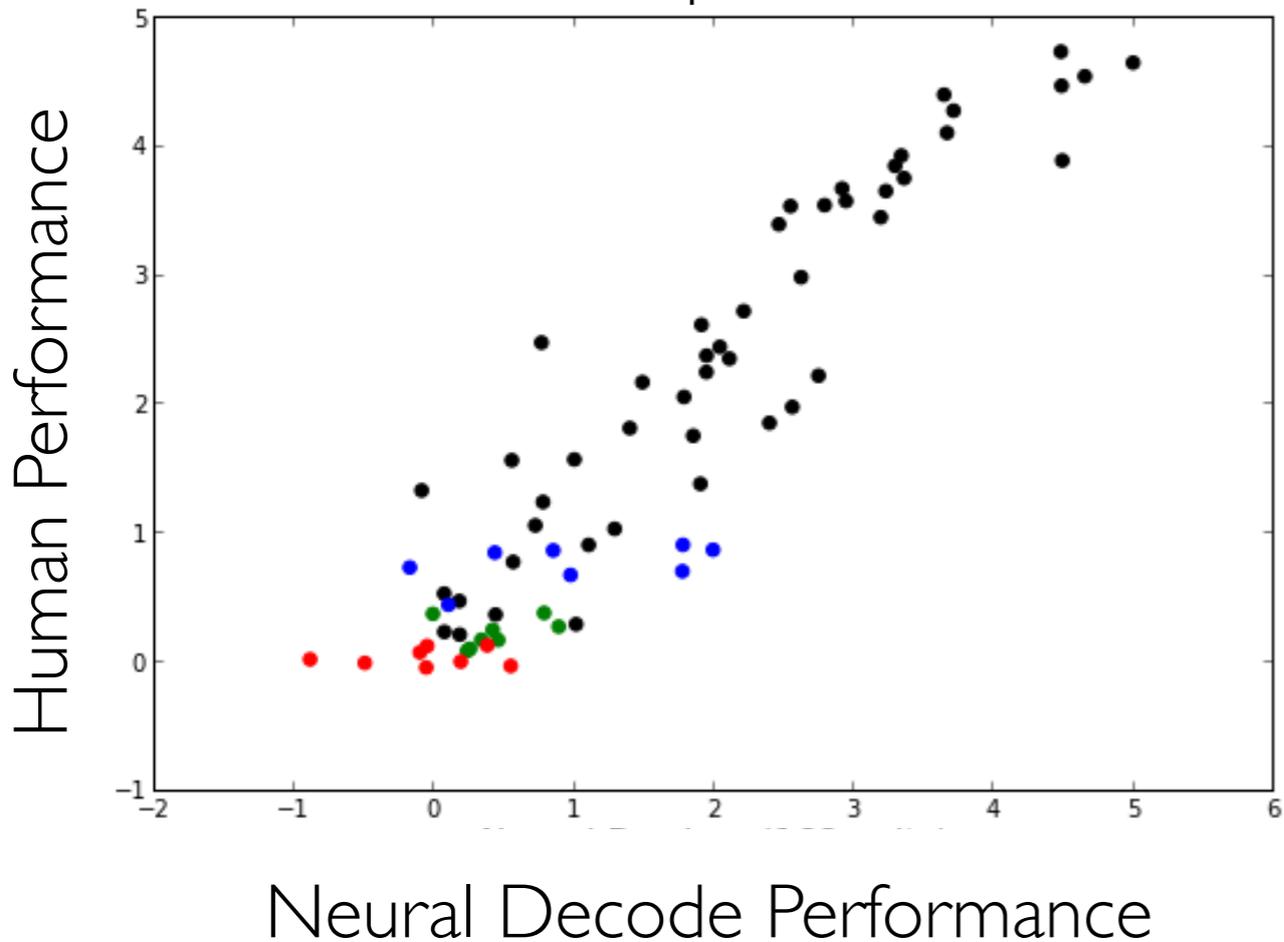
Yamins\* and Hong\* et. al. **PNAS** (2014)

At high variation levels, IT much better than V4 and existing models.

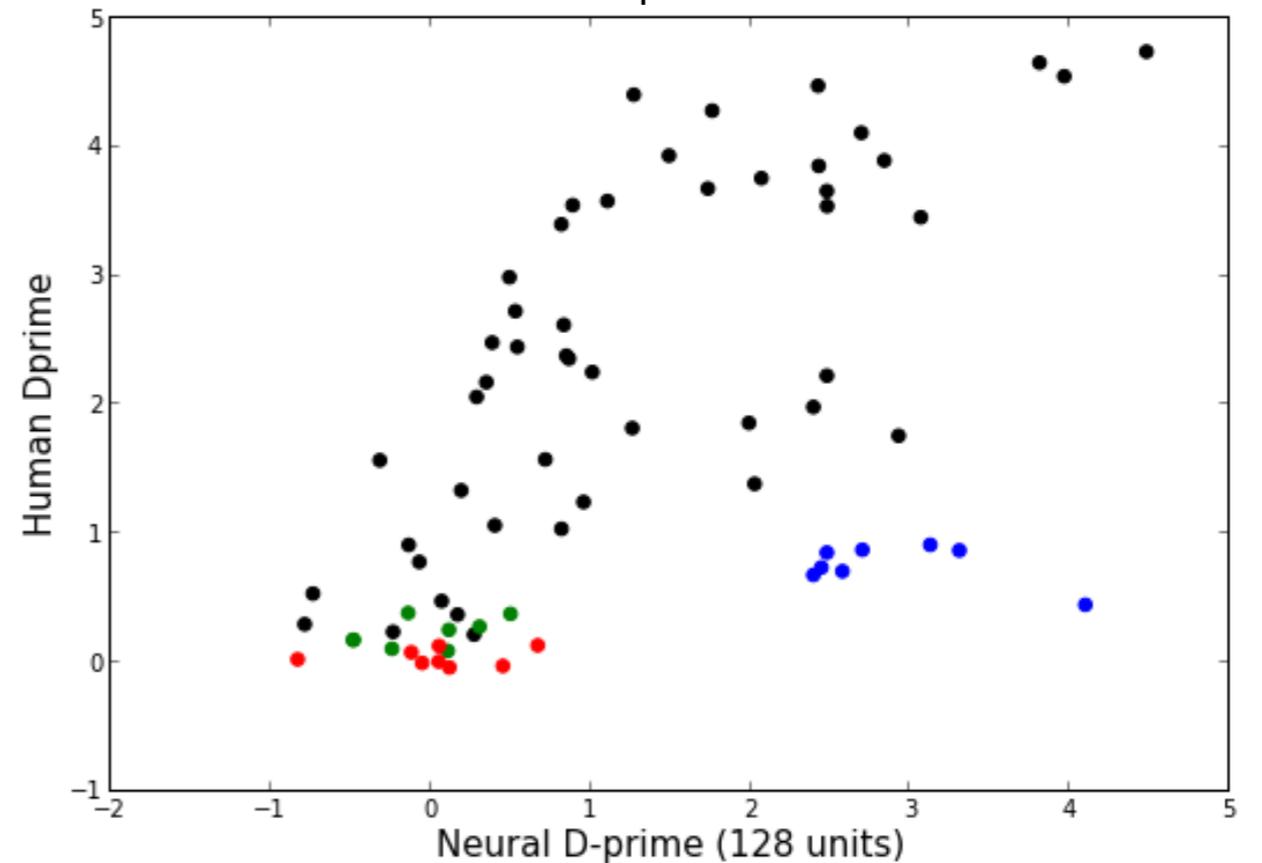
# IT Neurons Track Human Performance

IT matches human error patterns as well as raw performance.

IT Population



V4 Population

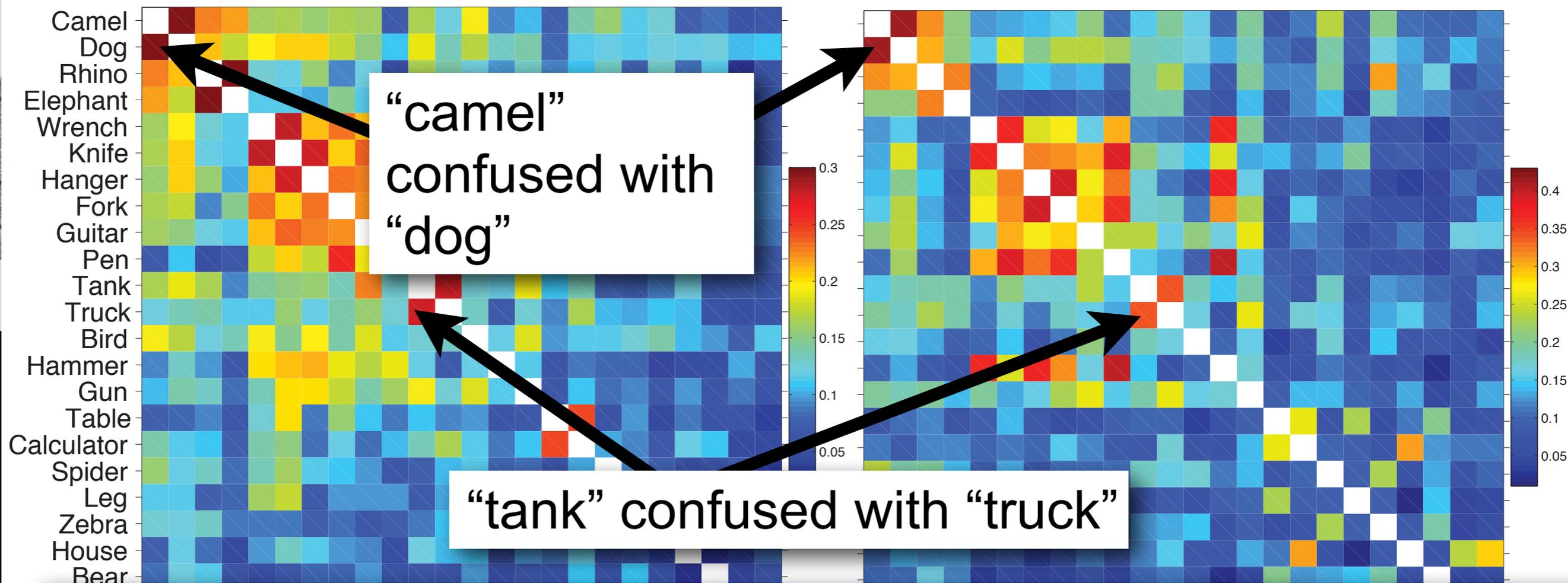


- Low-Variation Face subordinate tasks.

# Human / Monkey similarities

## Human

## Rhesus monkey



**Upshot: human and non-human primate basic level core object percept (sp. identification) are indistinguishable**

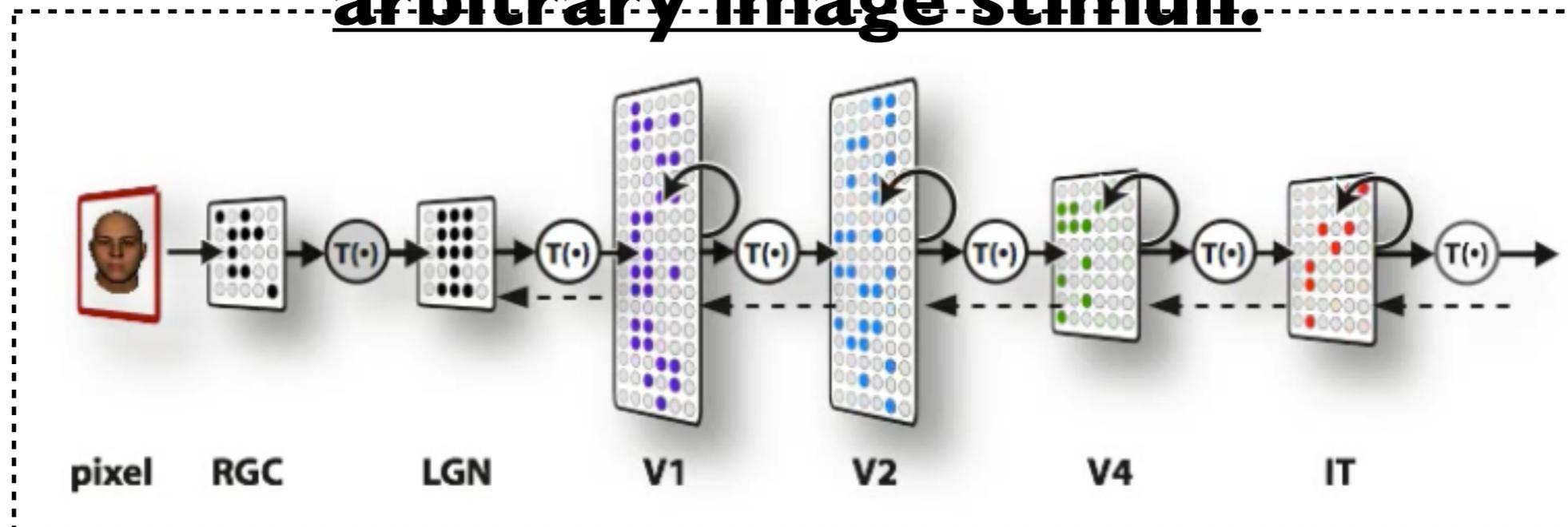
**Does not depend on reporting effector (touch vs. eye movement)**

Comparison of Object Recognition Behavior in Human and Monkey

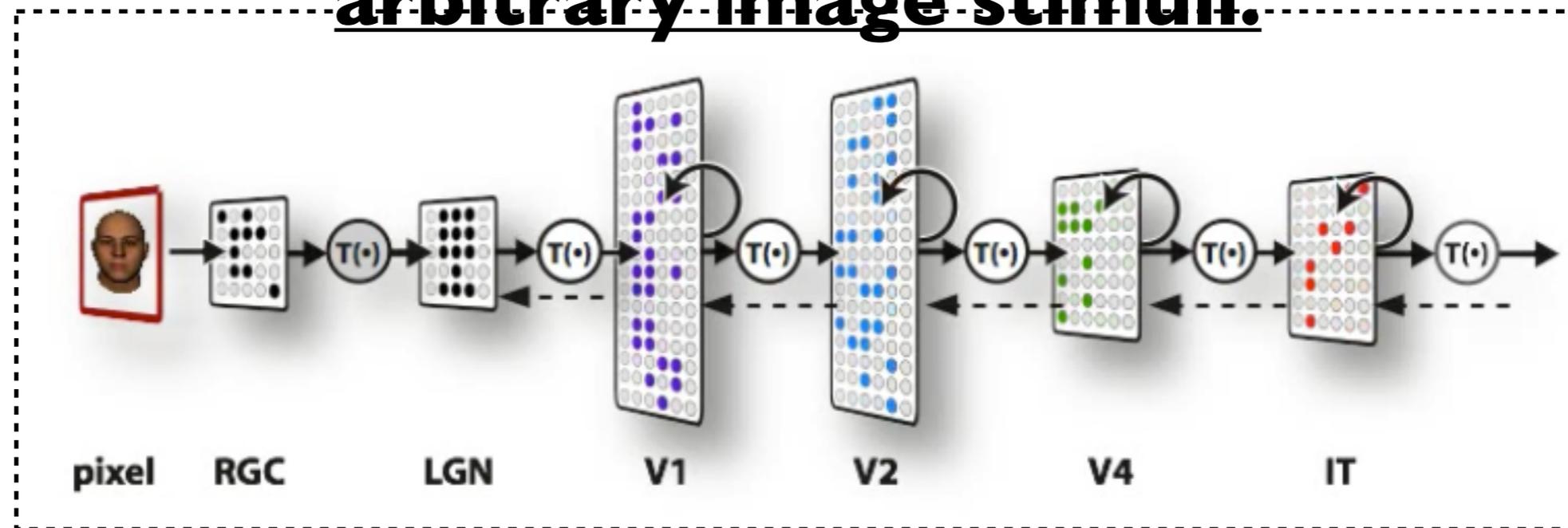
R. Rajalingham, K Schmidt, J.J. DiCarlo, **Vision Sciences Society** (2014)

R. Rajalingham, K Schmidt, J.J. DiCarlo, **J. Neuroscience** (2015)

**GOAL: Predictive model of single-neuron responses throughout the ventral stream to arbitrary image stimuli.**



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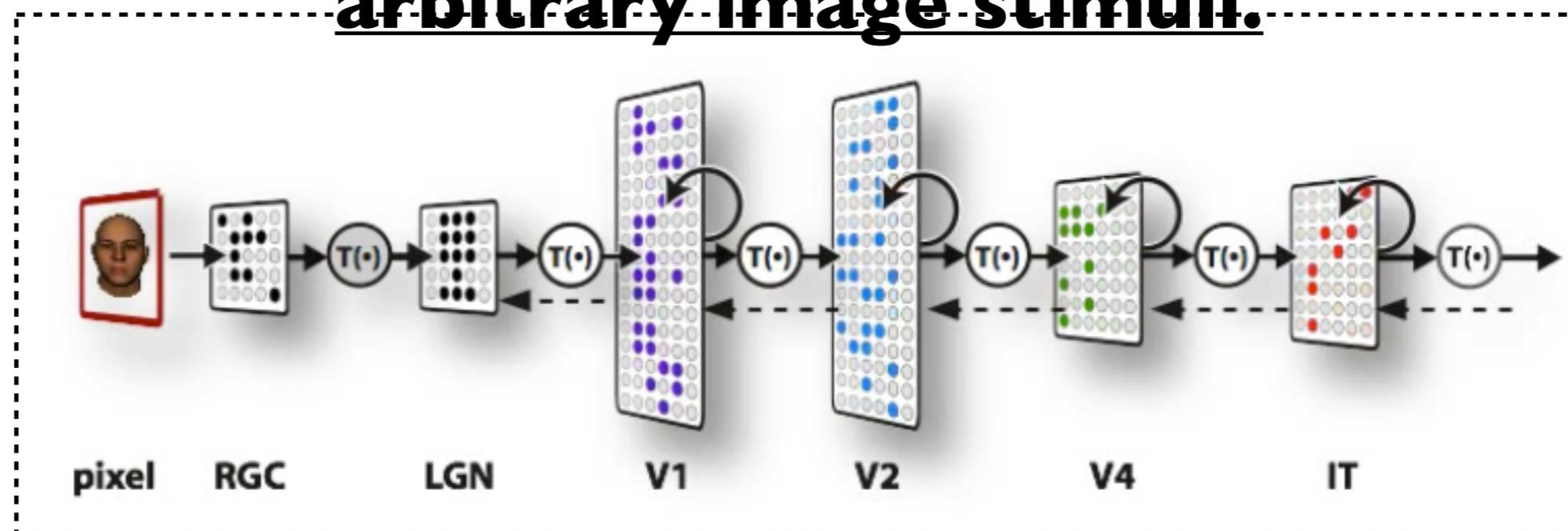


1. image-computable

2. Predictive

3. Mappable

**GOAL: Predictive model of single-neuron responses throughout the ventral stream to arbitrary image stimuli.**



1. image-computable

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→ Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)  
Fukushima, 1980; Lecun, 1995

# Goal: Predictive Model of Ventral Stream



Kunihiko Fukushima!

*Tokyo, November 2015*

# Goal: Predictive Model of Ventral Stream



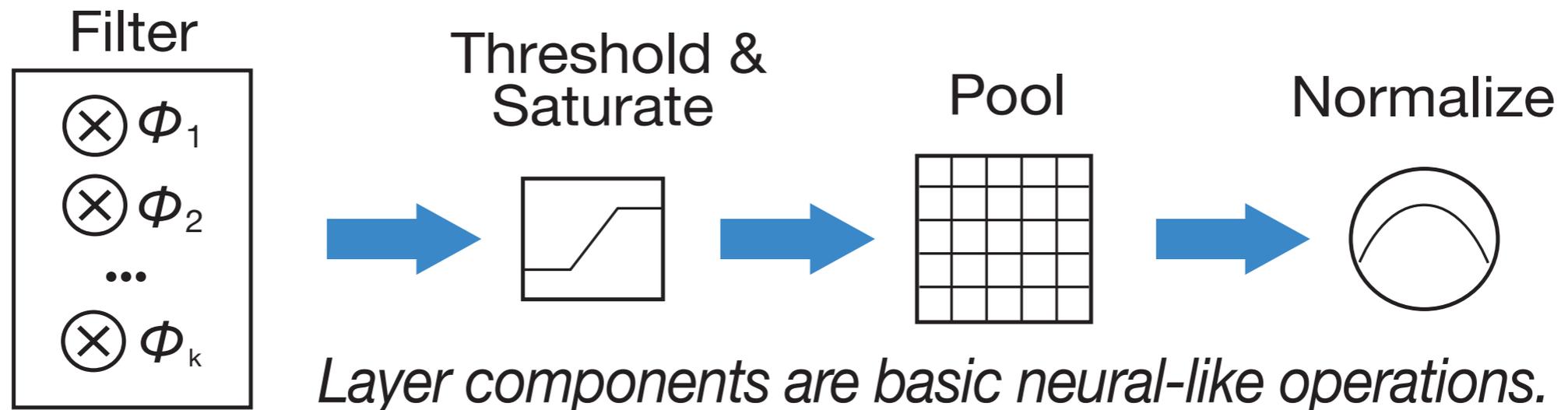
Kunihiko Fukushima!

Developed neocognitron  
while Japan Broadcasting  
Corporation (NHK)  
... office directly next  
door to Keisuke Toyama and  
Keiji Tanaka

*Tokyo, November 2015*

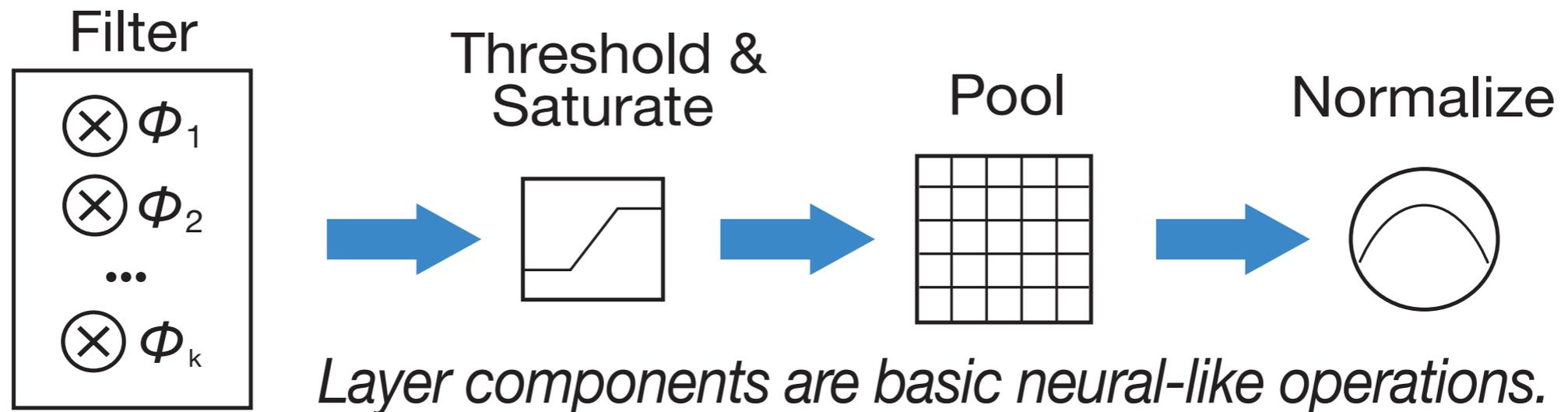
# Hierarchical Convolutional Neural Networks

- ▶ Individual layers of neurally-plausible **basic operations**



# Hierarchical Convolutional Neural Networks

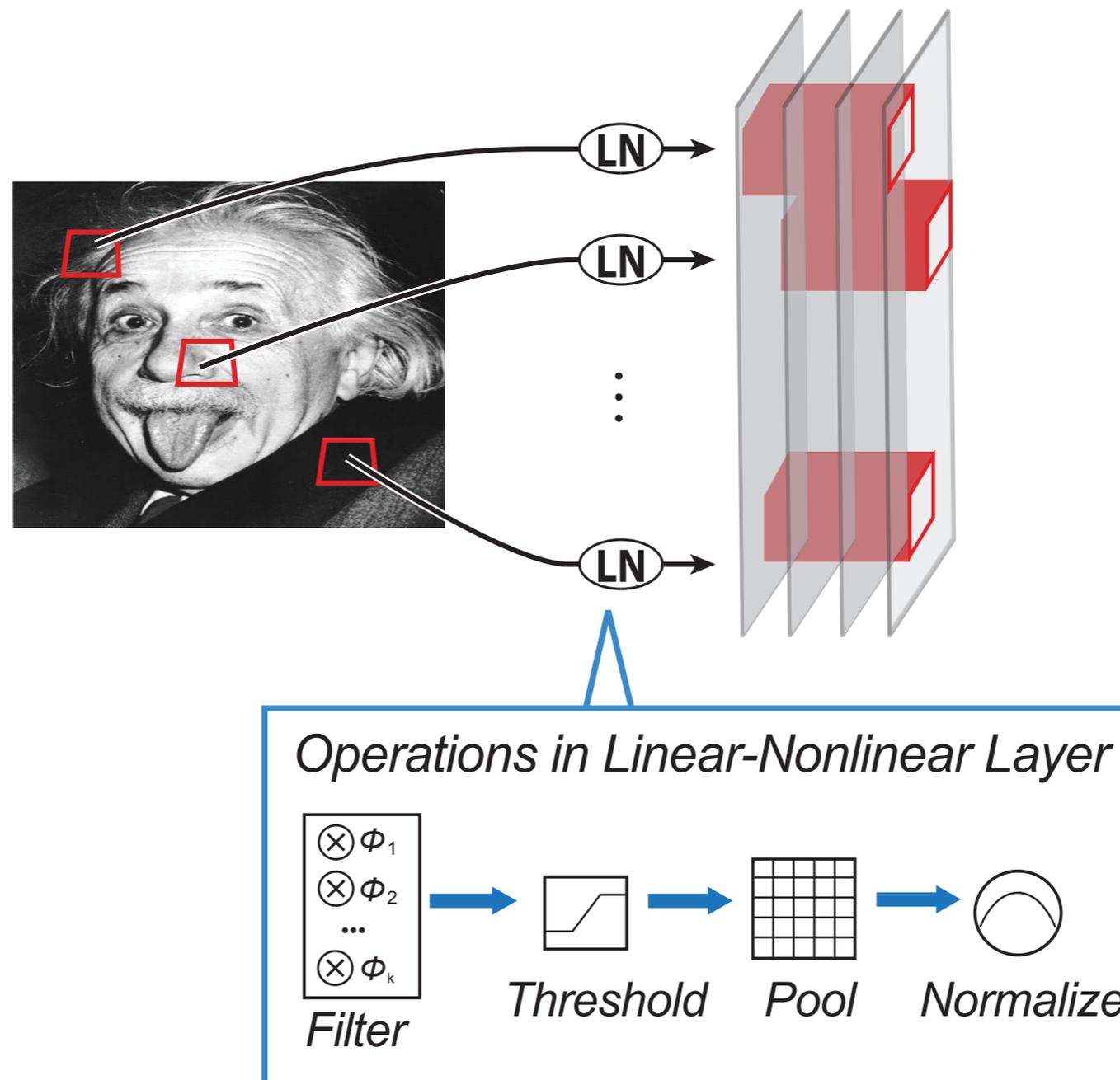
- ▶ Individual layers of neurally-plausible **basic operations**



<b>neuro:</b>	synaptic weights patterns	single-unit activations	complex cells	competitive inhibition
<b>data:</b>	untangling through dimension expansion	“AND” operation by limiting dynamic range	adding robustness by dimension reduction	put results back into standard range

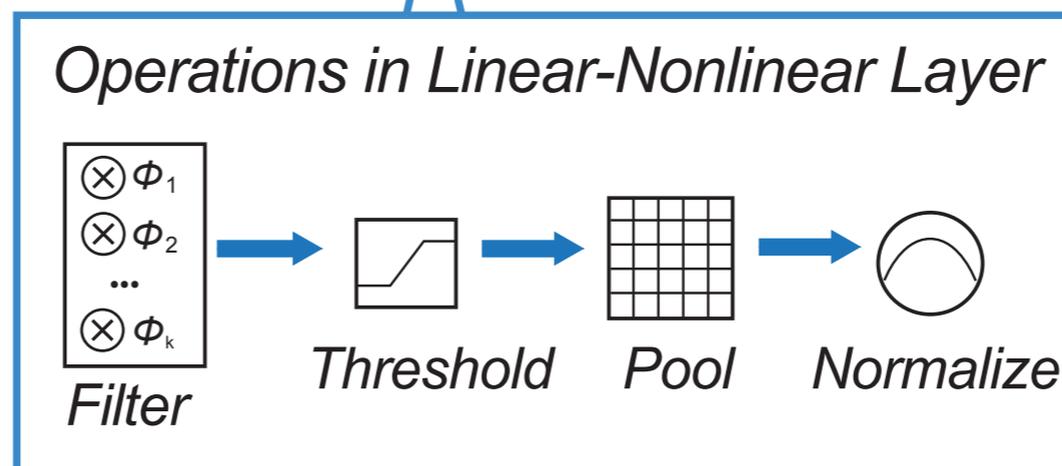
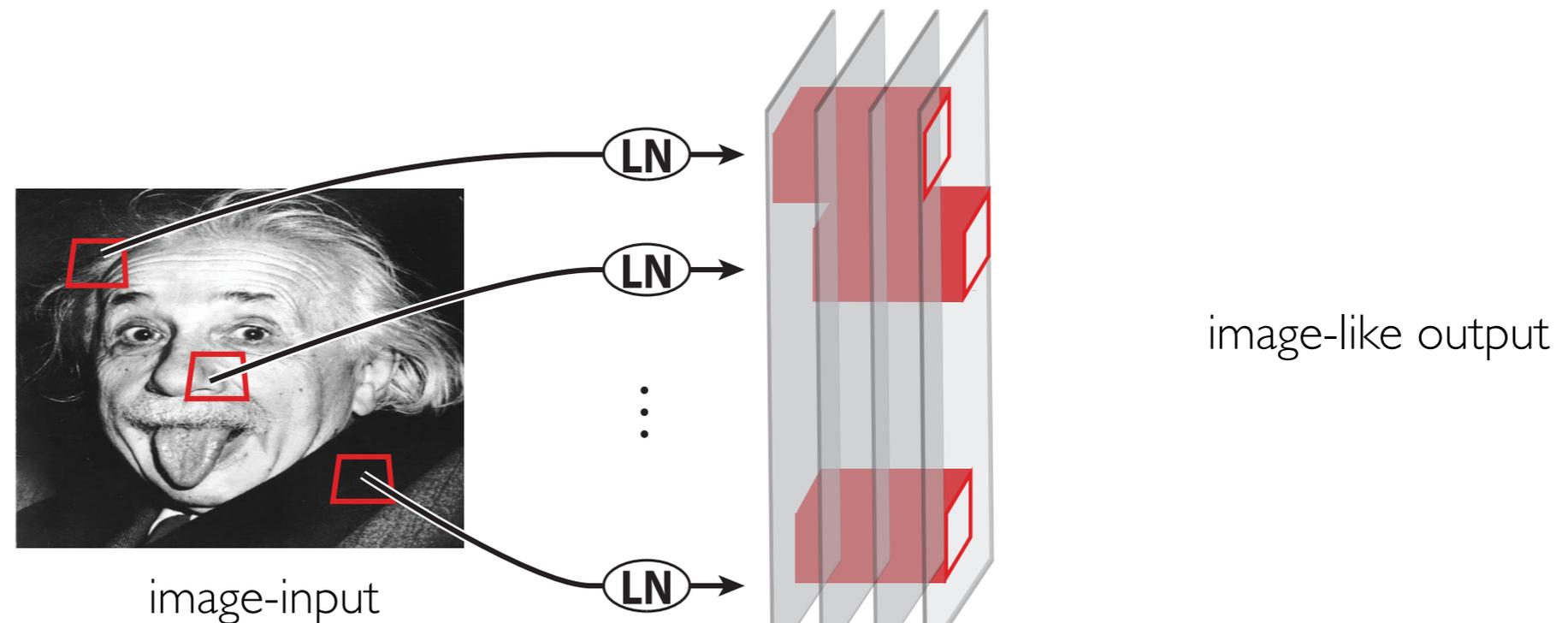
# Hierarchical Convolutional Neural Networks

- ▶ Individual layers of neurally-plausible **basic operations**
- ▶ Applied **convolutionally** — same at all locations: approx. retinopy



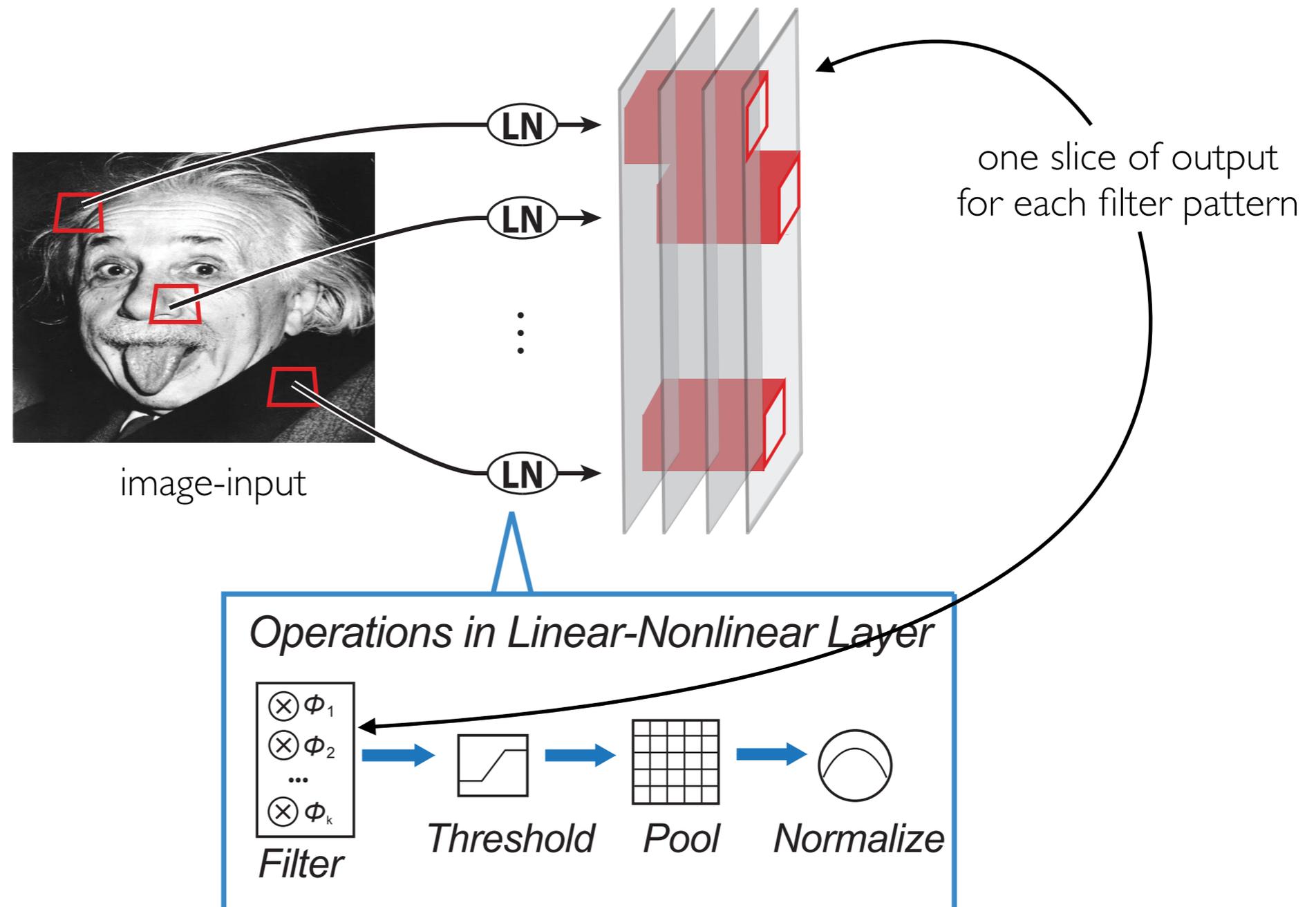
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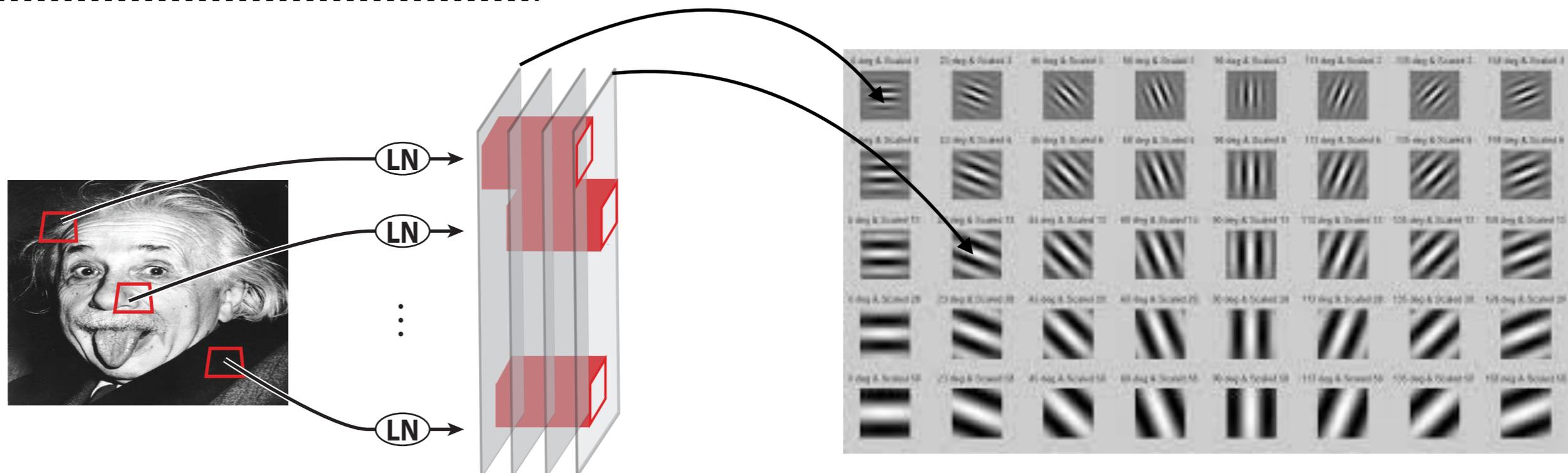
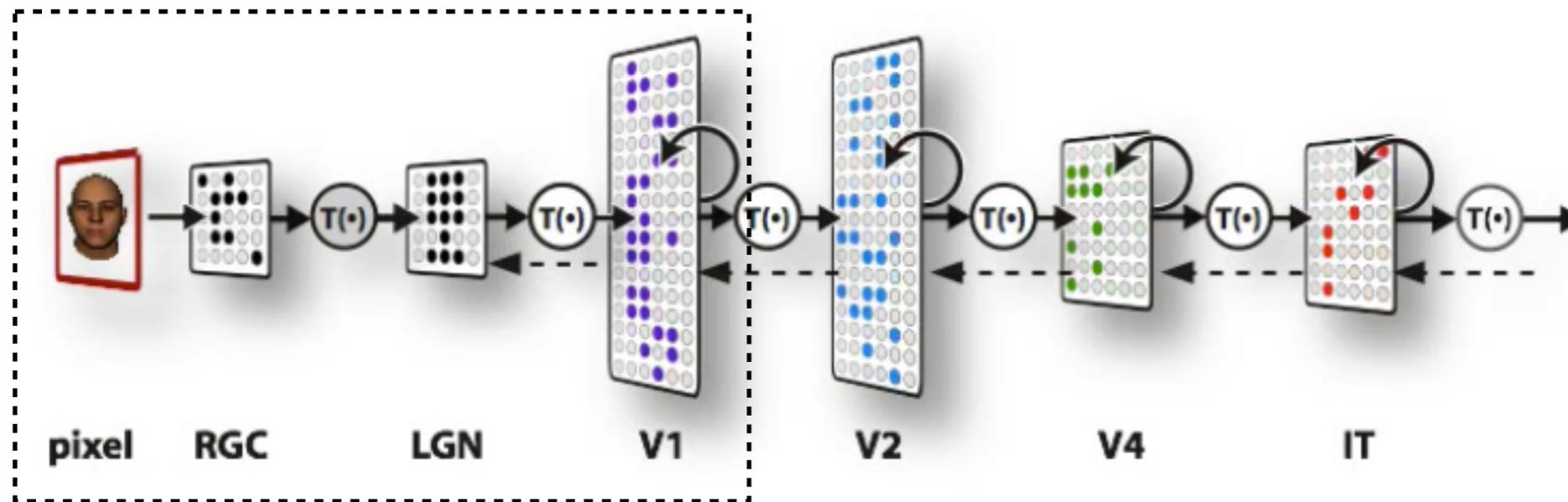
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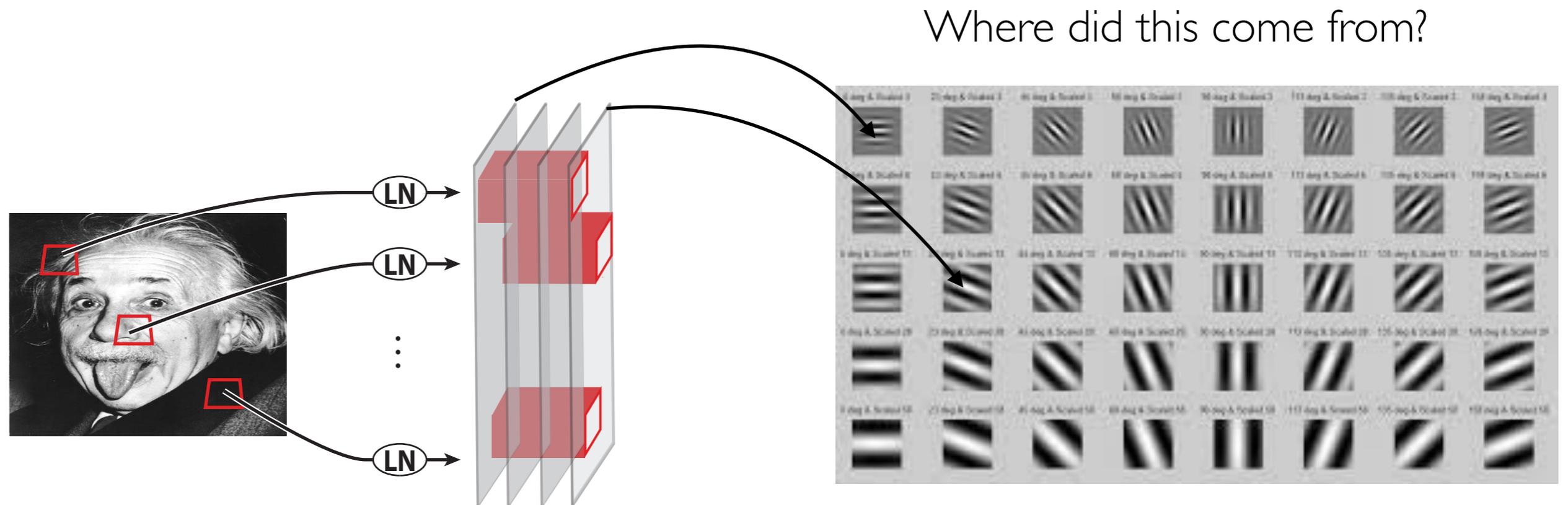


# Hierarchical Convolutional Neural Networks

Lower areas, (RGC, LGN, V1) have been reasonably captured by single-layer convolutional model: ~50% of variance explained. Carandini et. al (2005), Lennie & Movshon (2005)



# Hierarchical Convolutional Neural Networks



(1) “Hubel and Wiesel’s Intuition”  
~1970s and formalized later

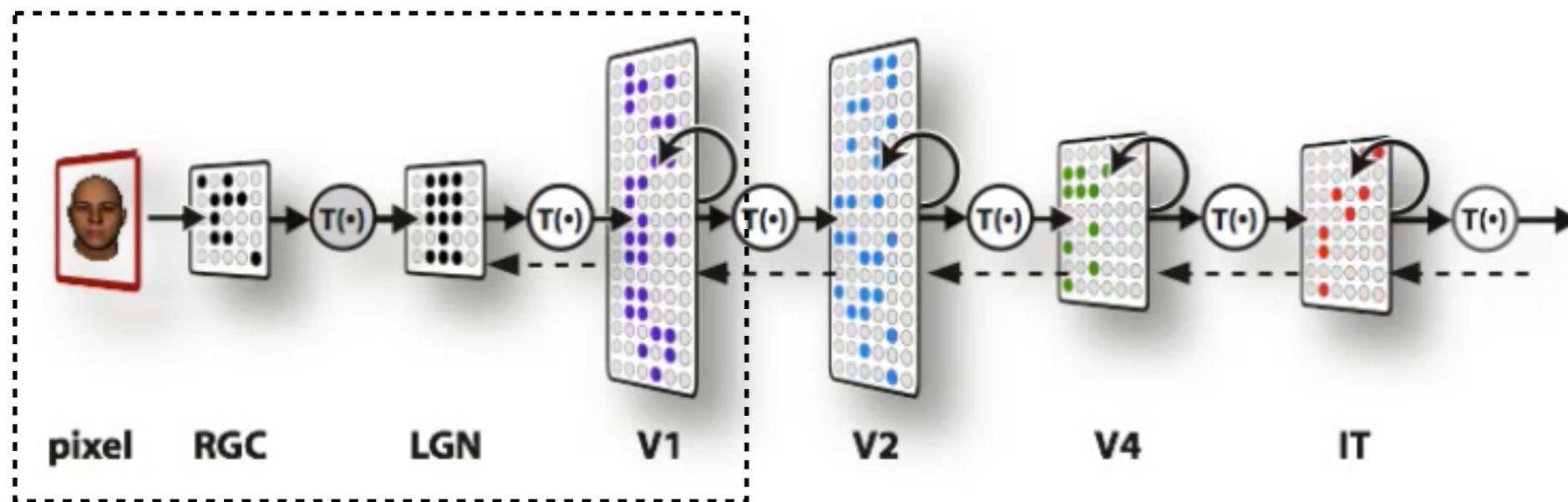
→ e.g. there is a “fixed basis set”  
that just “makes sense” if we’re  
smart enough

(2) Sparse Coding Foldiak, Olshausen,  
mid 1990s

→ neurons have to represent their  
environment, as efficiently as possible

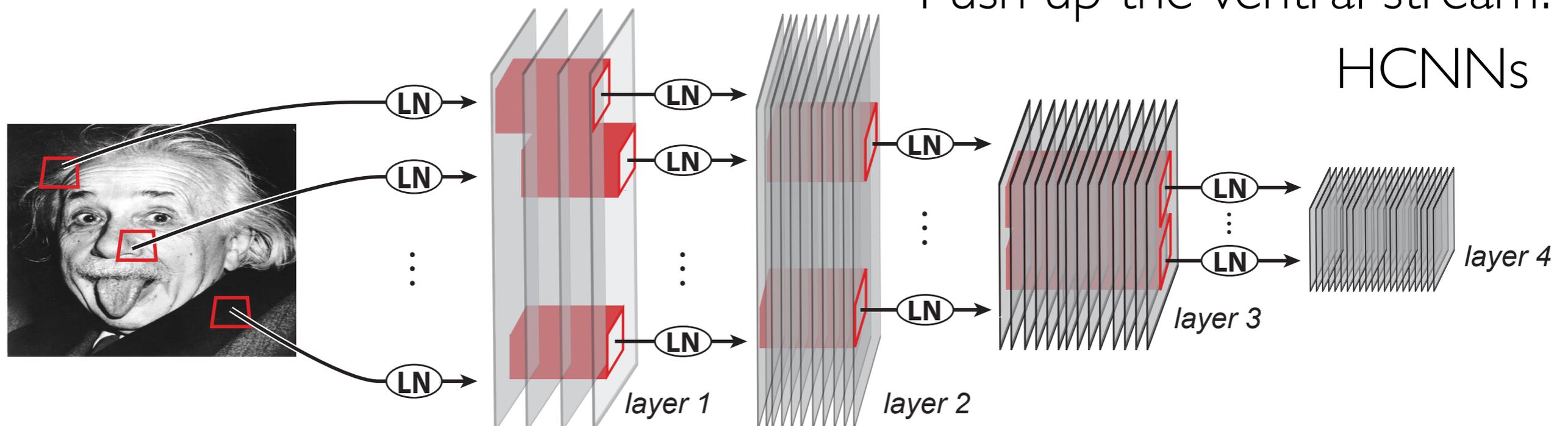
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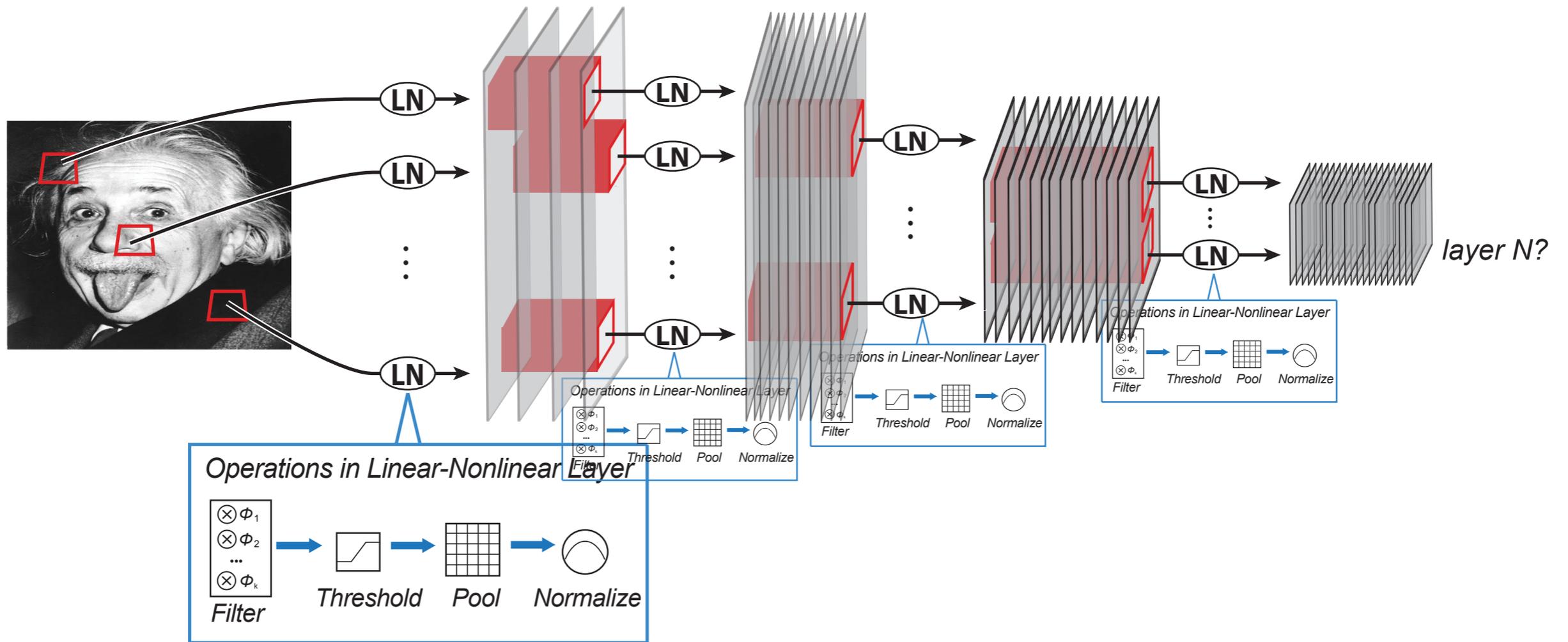
Push up the ventral stream?

HCNNs



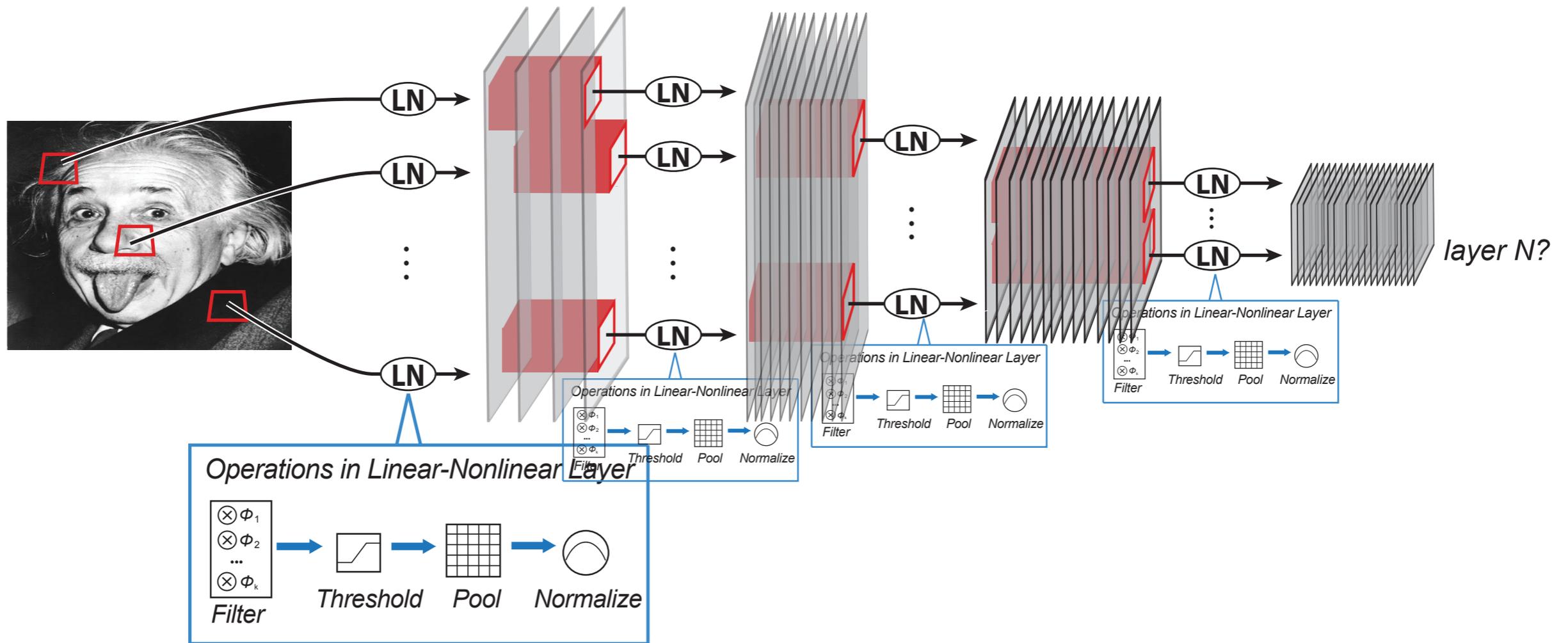
# Neural Fitting Strategy?

Huge number of parameters consistent with HCNN concept.



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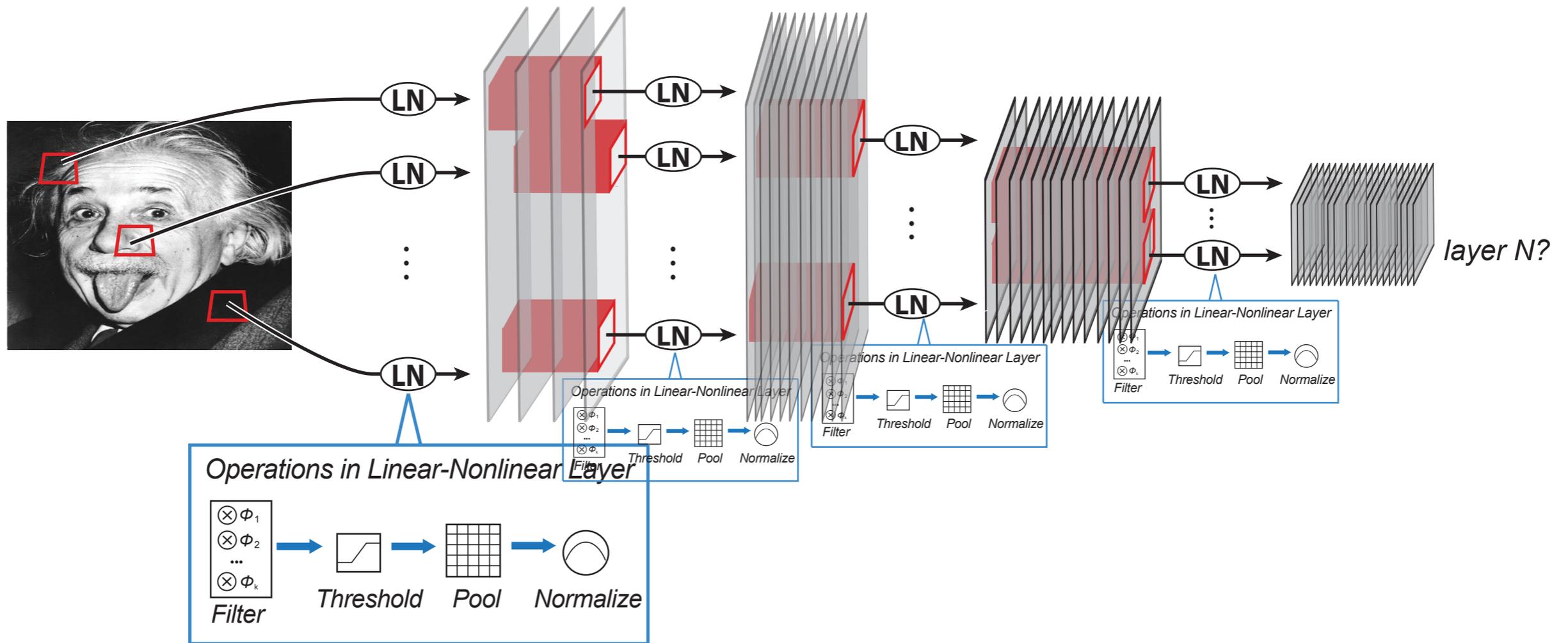
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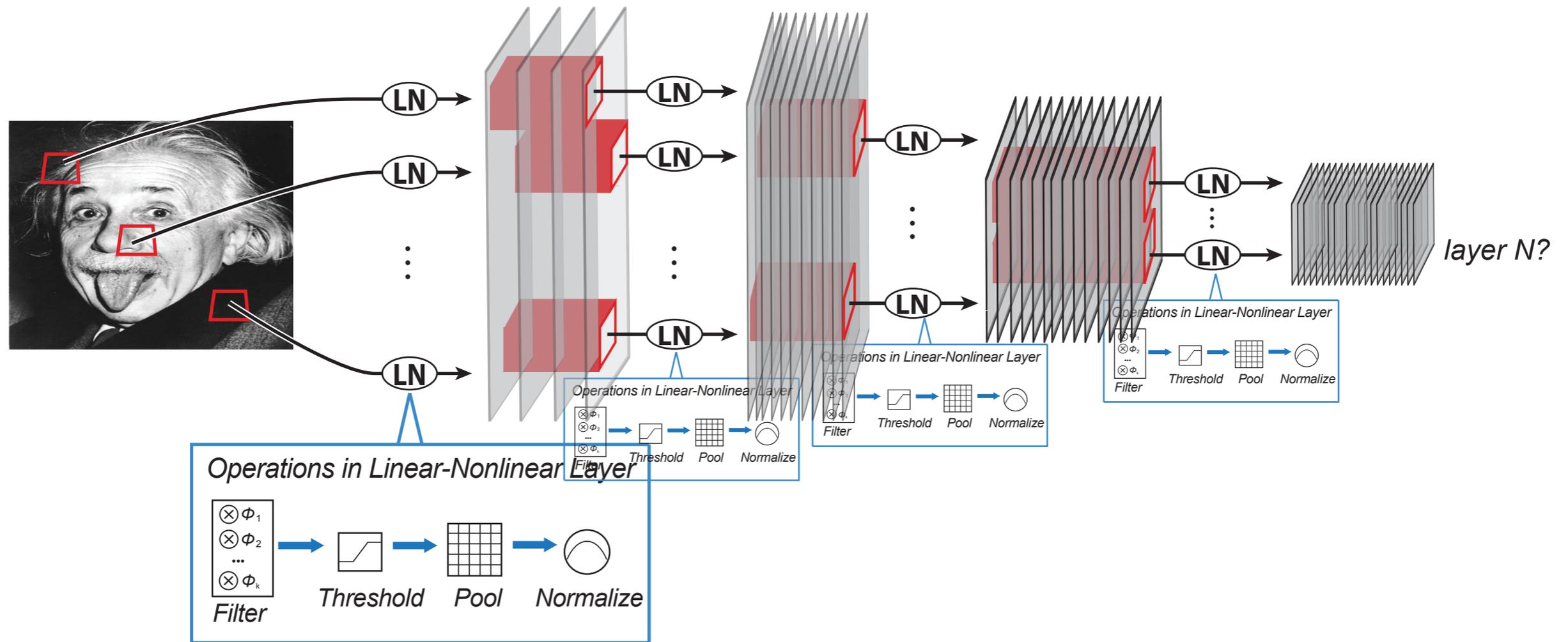


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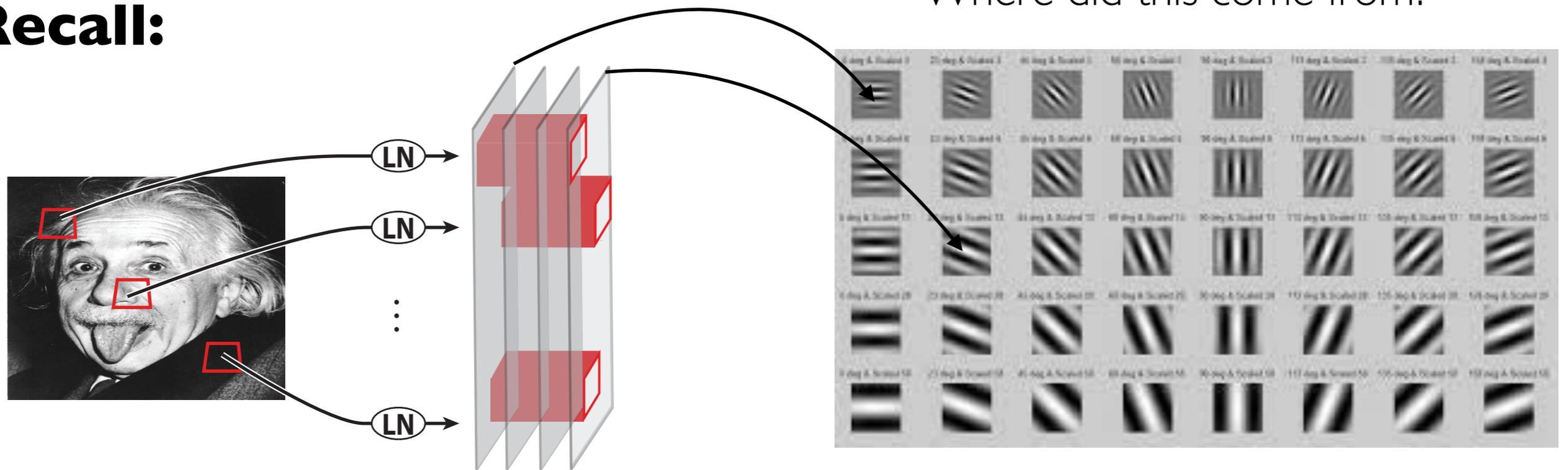
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*Q: How to discover the “right” parameters to understand real cortex?*

# Hierarchical Convolutional Neural Networks

## Recall:



(1) “Hubel and Wiesel’s Intuition”  
~1970s and formalized later

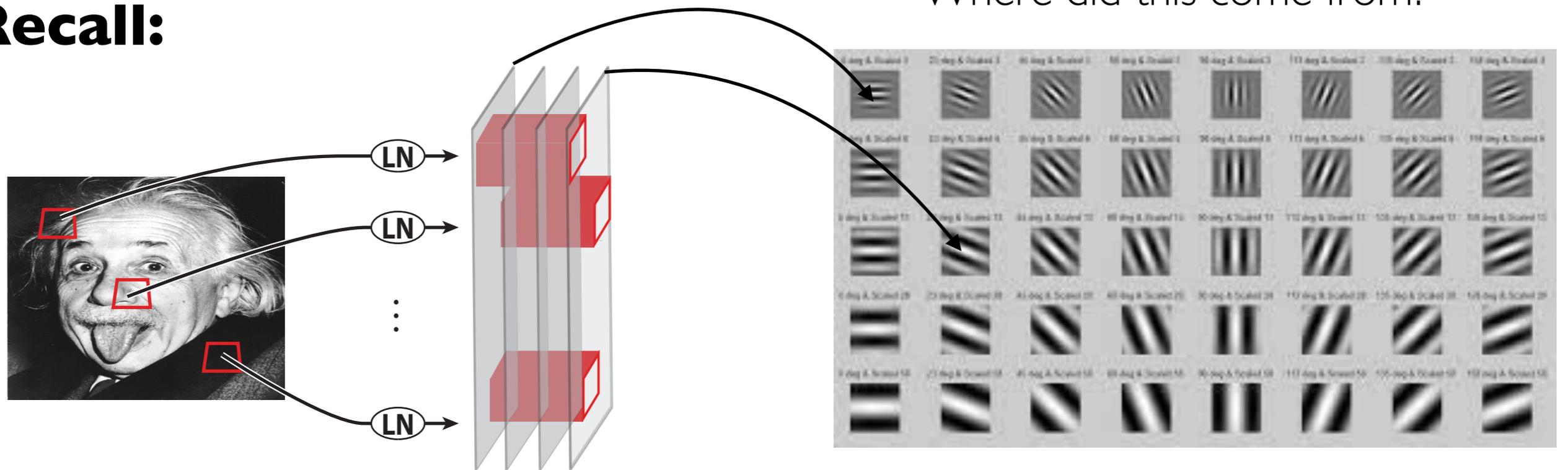
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# Hierarchical Convolutional Neural Networks

## Recall:



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**REALLY HARD TO GENERALIZE**  
**TO MULTI-LAYER NETWORKS**

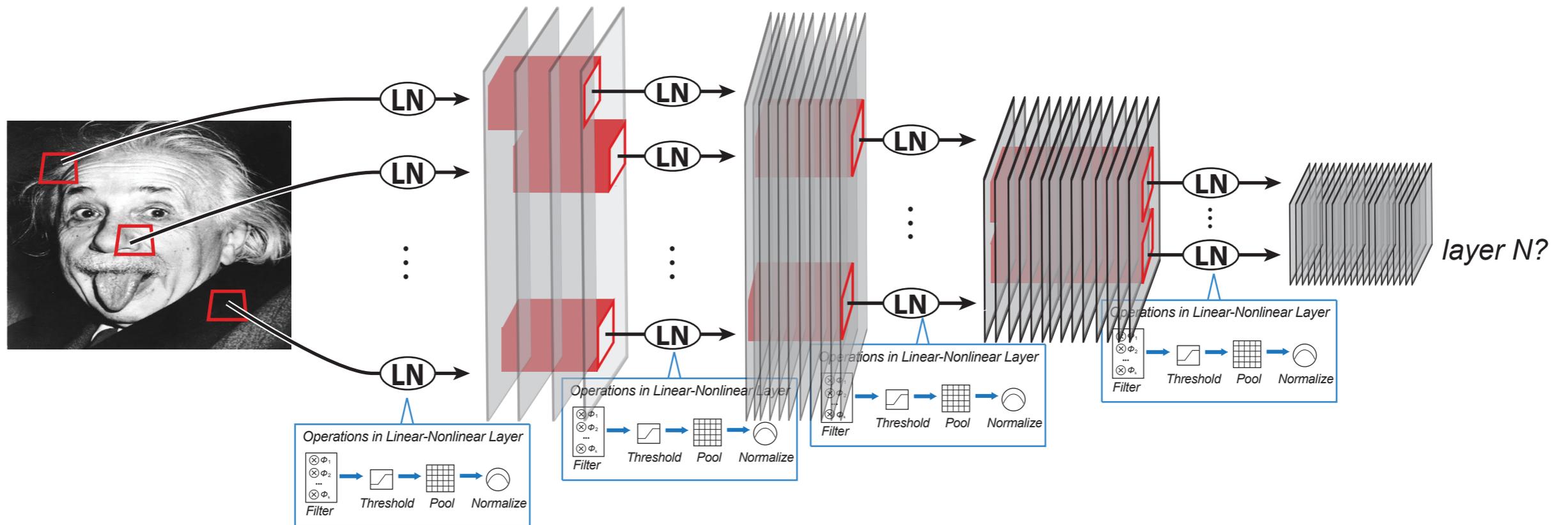
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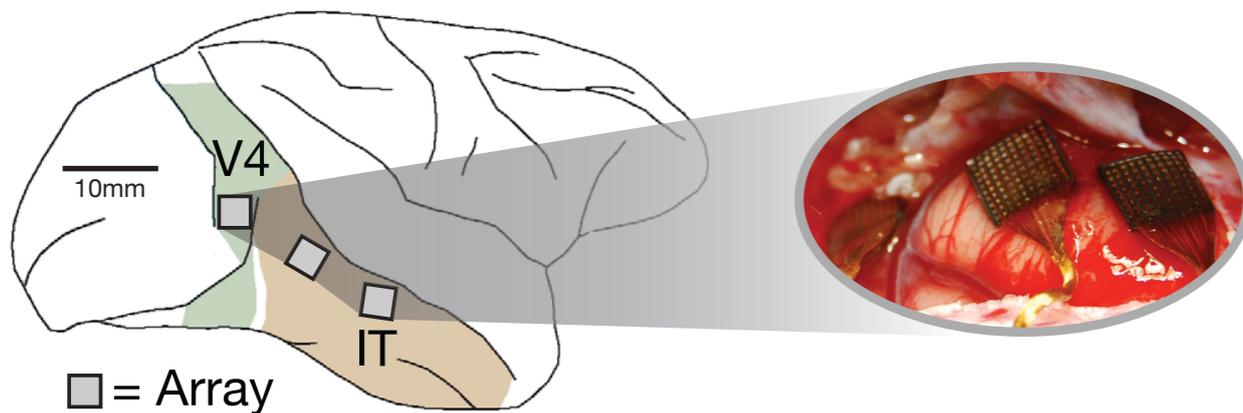
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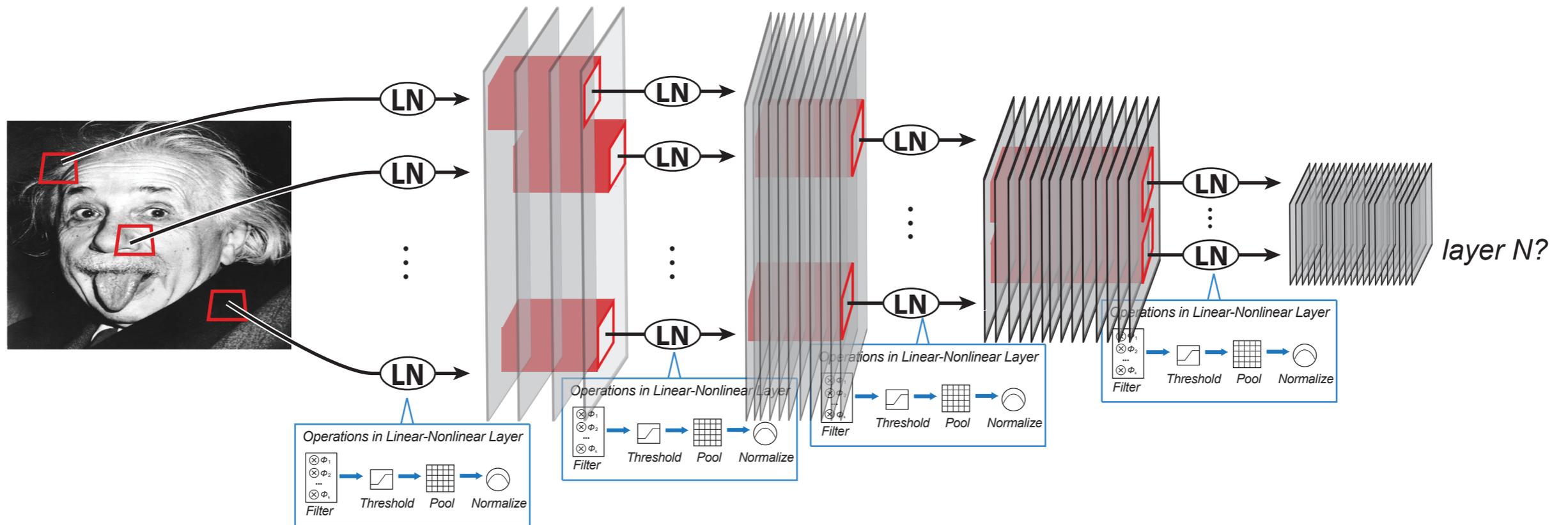


*Obvious alternative strategy: fit parameters to neural data.*

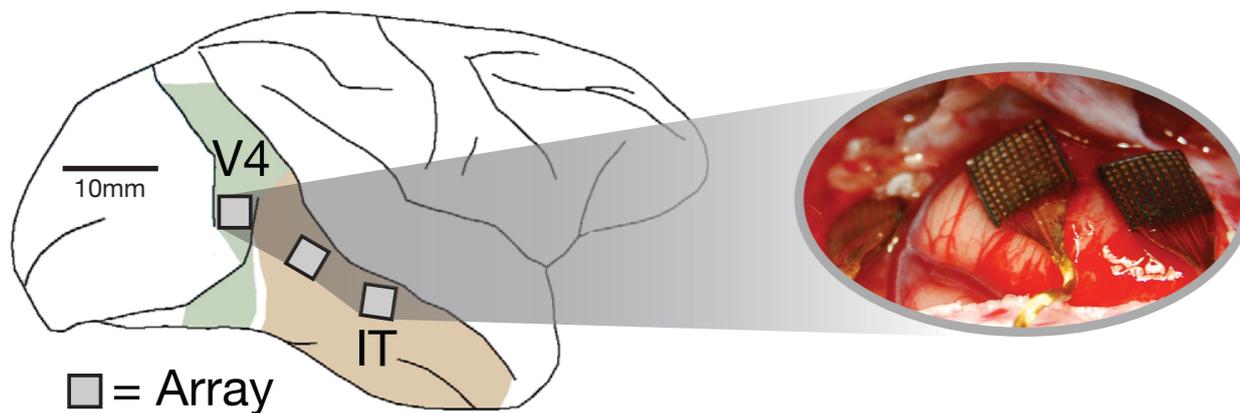


# Neural Fitting Strategy?

Huge number of parameters consistent with HCNN concept.

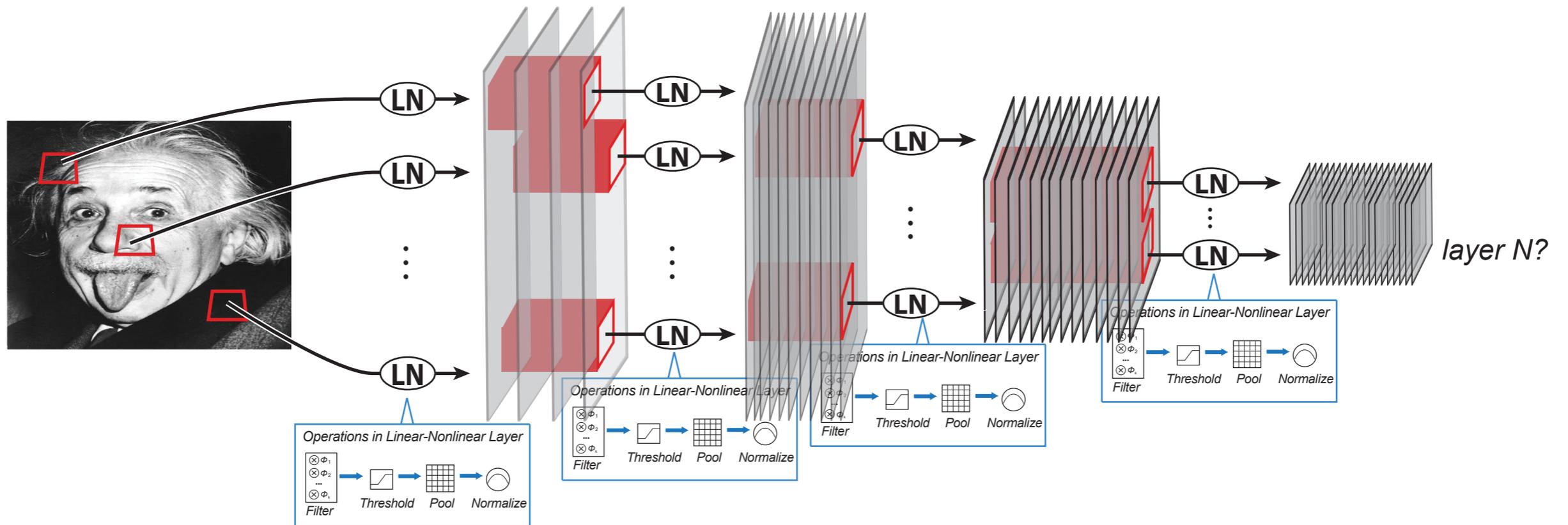


...not enough neural data to constrain model class. Gallant (2007); Rust & Movshon (2006)

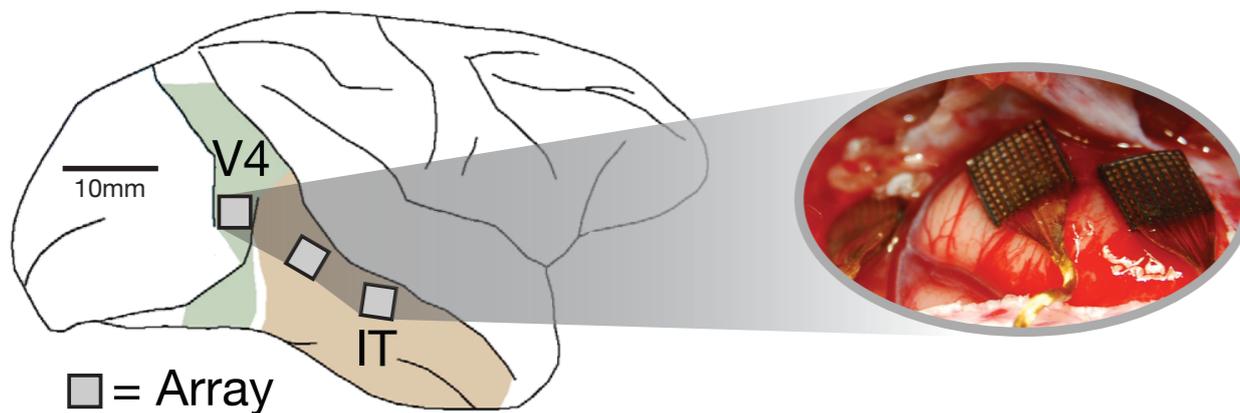


# Neural Fitting Strategy?

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Overfitting.

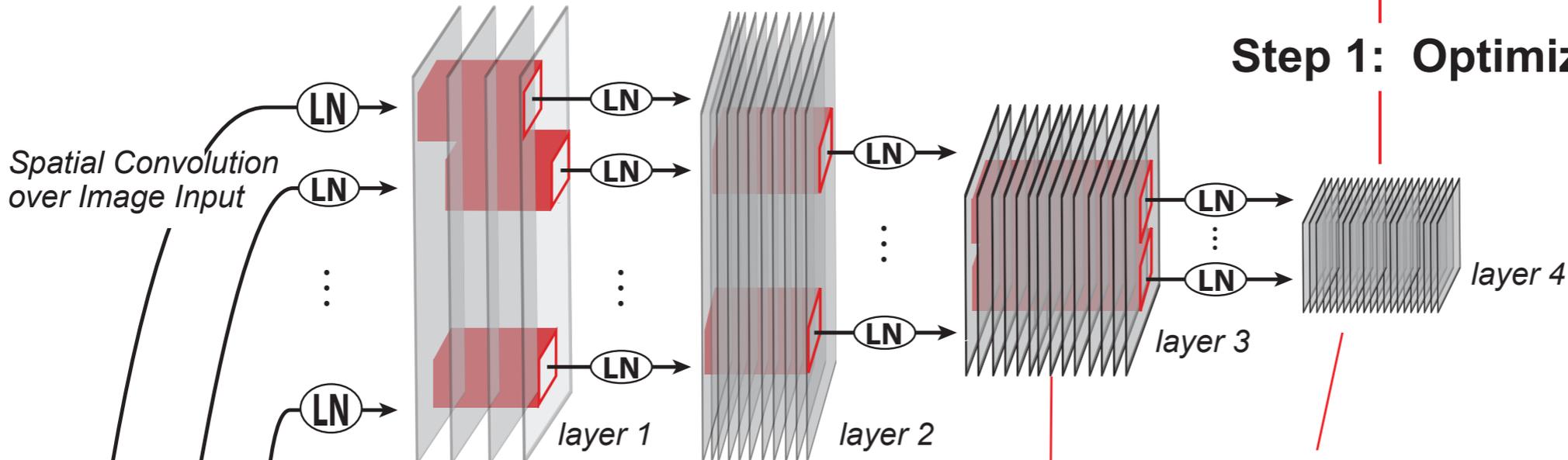


# Optimize for Performance, Test Against Neurons

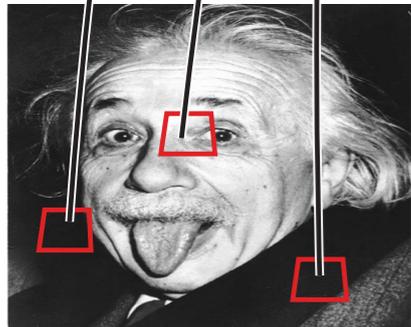
## Visual Recognition Task



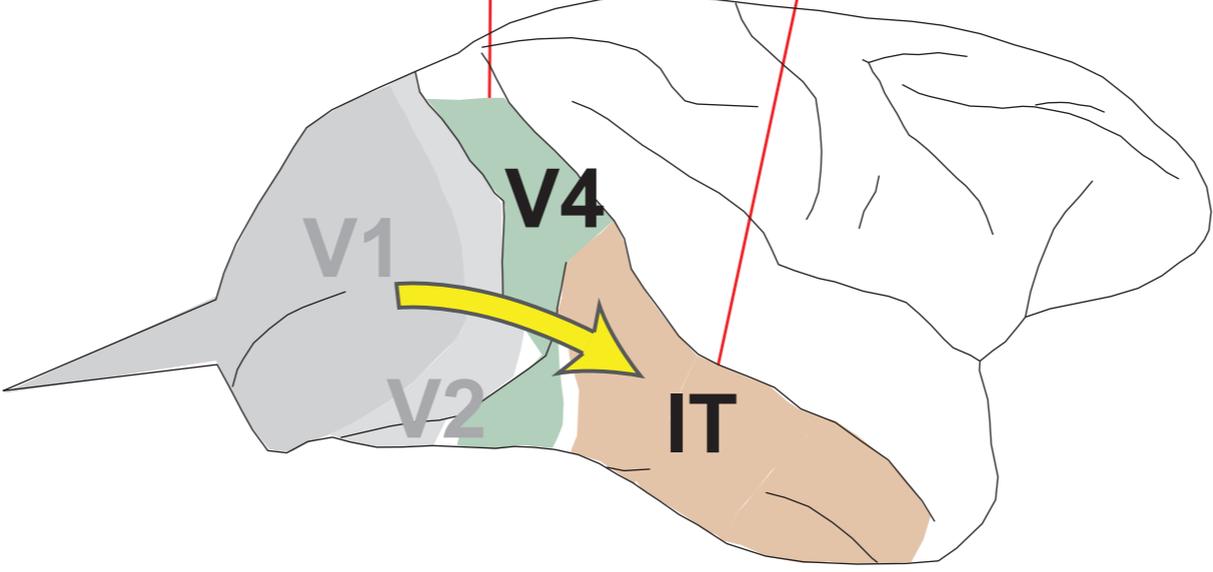
**Step 1: Optimize for Task**



**Step 2: Compare to Neural Data**



100ms  
Visual  
Presentation



# Optimize for Performance, Test Against Neurons

1. **Performance:** accuracy on a challenging, high-variation visual object categorization task.
2. **Neural predictivity:** the ability of model to predict each individual neural site's activity.

# Optimize for Performance, Test Against Neurons

1. **Performance:** accuracy on a challenging, high-variation\* visual object categorization task.

2. **Neural predictivity:** the ability of model to predict each individual neural site's activity.

**\*challenging for neural network engineers, not the animal**

# Optimize for Performance, Test Against Neurons

1. **Performance:** accuracy on a challenging, high-variation\* visual object categorization task.

2. **Neural predictivity:** the ability of model to predict each individual neural site's activity.

Our hypothesis: Performance (1) → neural predictivity (2).

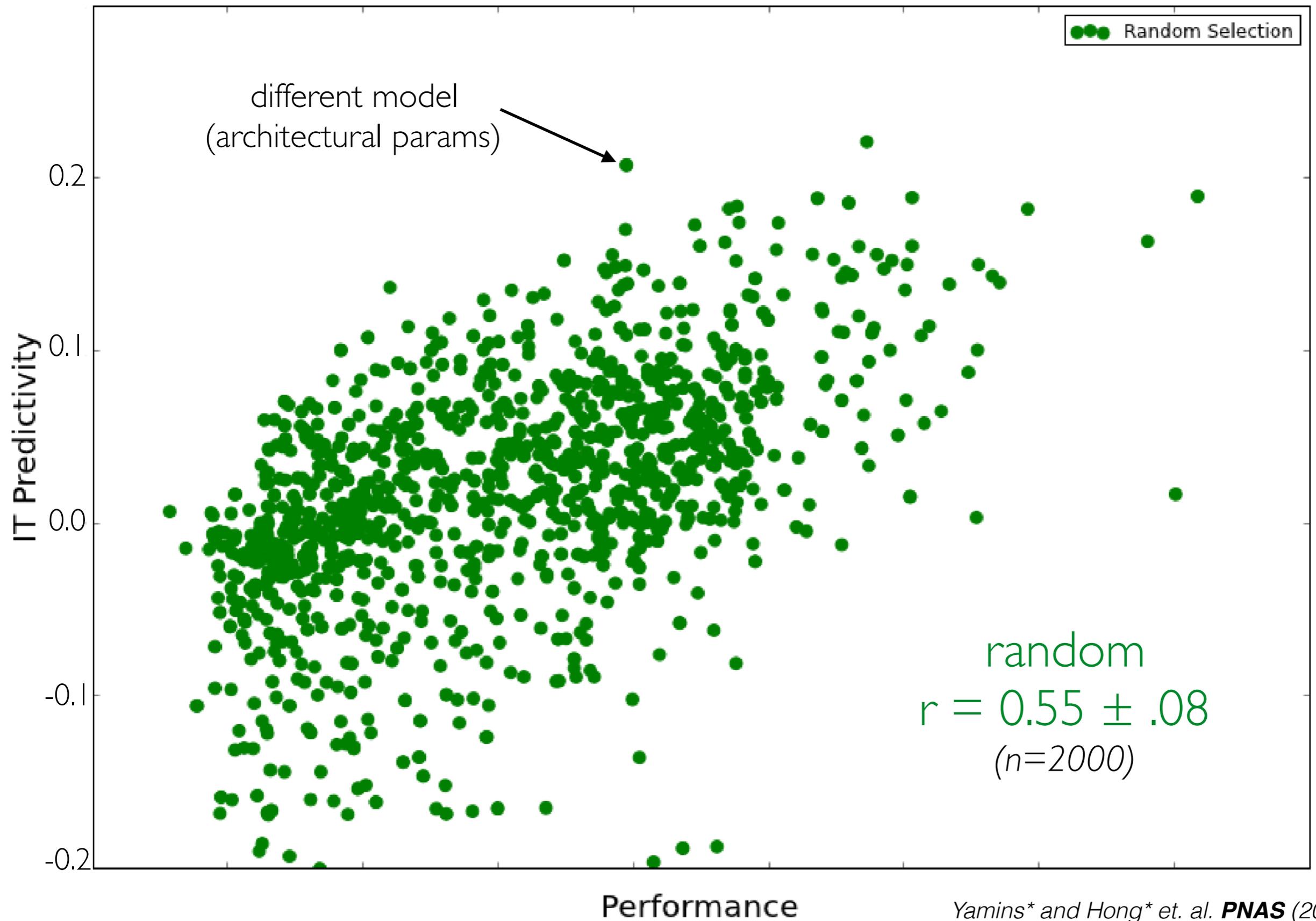
**\*challenging for neural network engineers, not the animal**

# Initial Validation of Idea

High-throughput experiments to directly test the relationship between performance and IT neural predictivity.

- ▶ Random selection of model parameters; measure performance and neural predictivity Pinto et. al (2008, 2009)

# Initial Validation of Idea



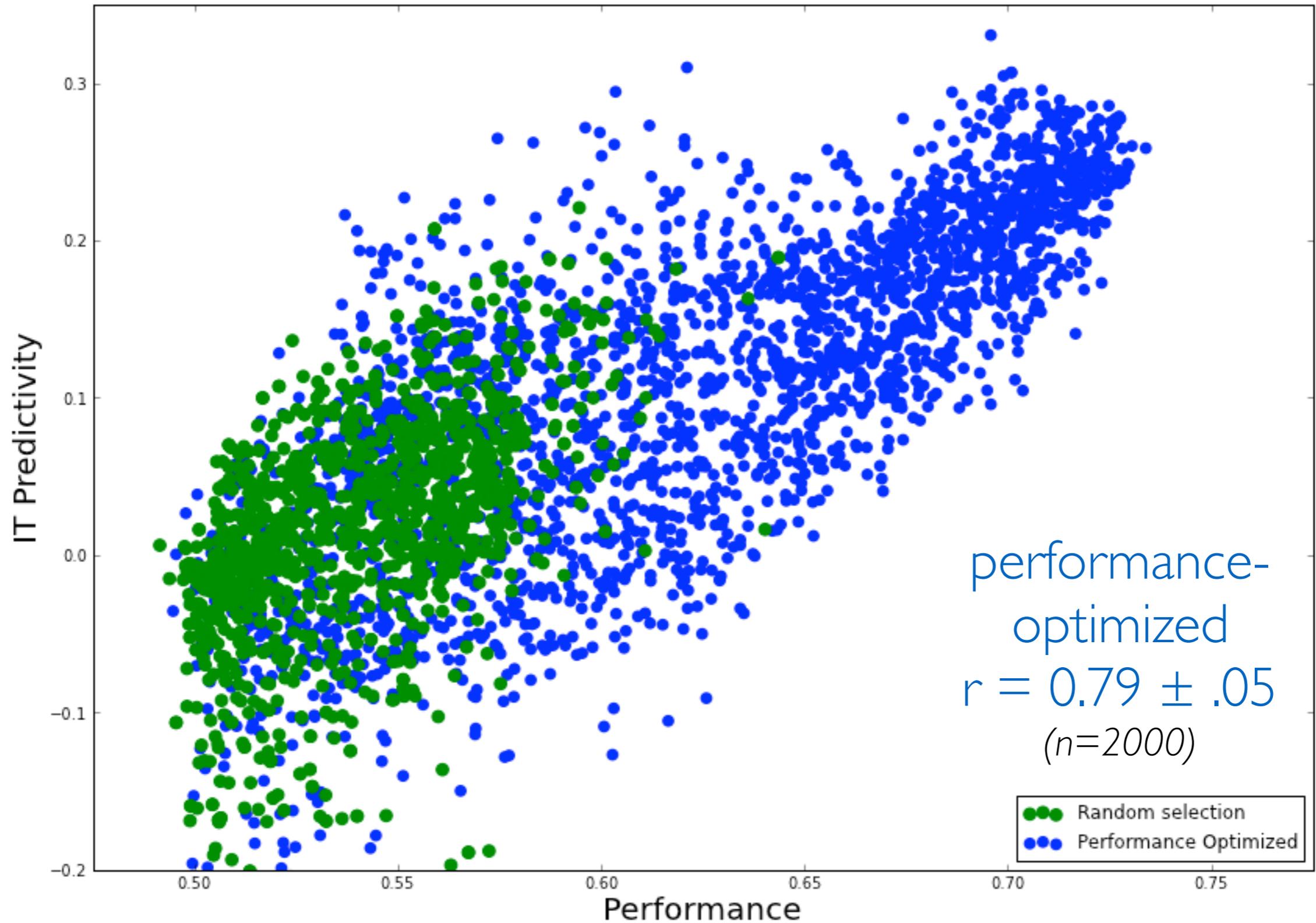
# Initial Validation of Idea

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▶ Optimize parameters for performance; measure neural predictivity. optimization techniques: Bergstra Yamins & Cox (2013)

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# Initial Validation of Idea

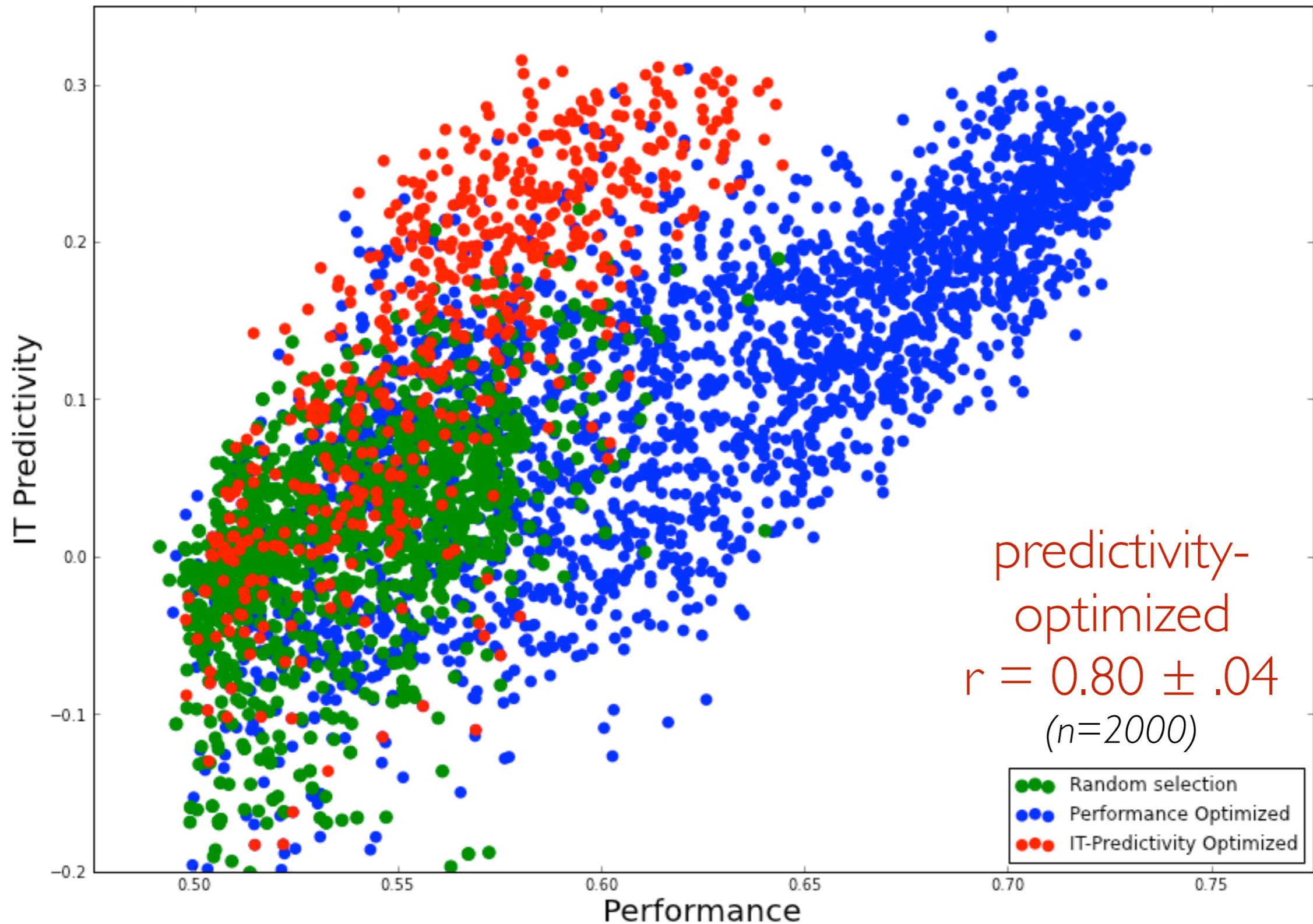
High-throughput experiments to directly test the relationship between neural predictivity and performance.

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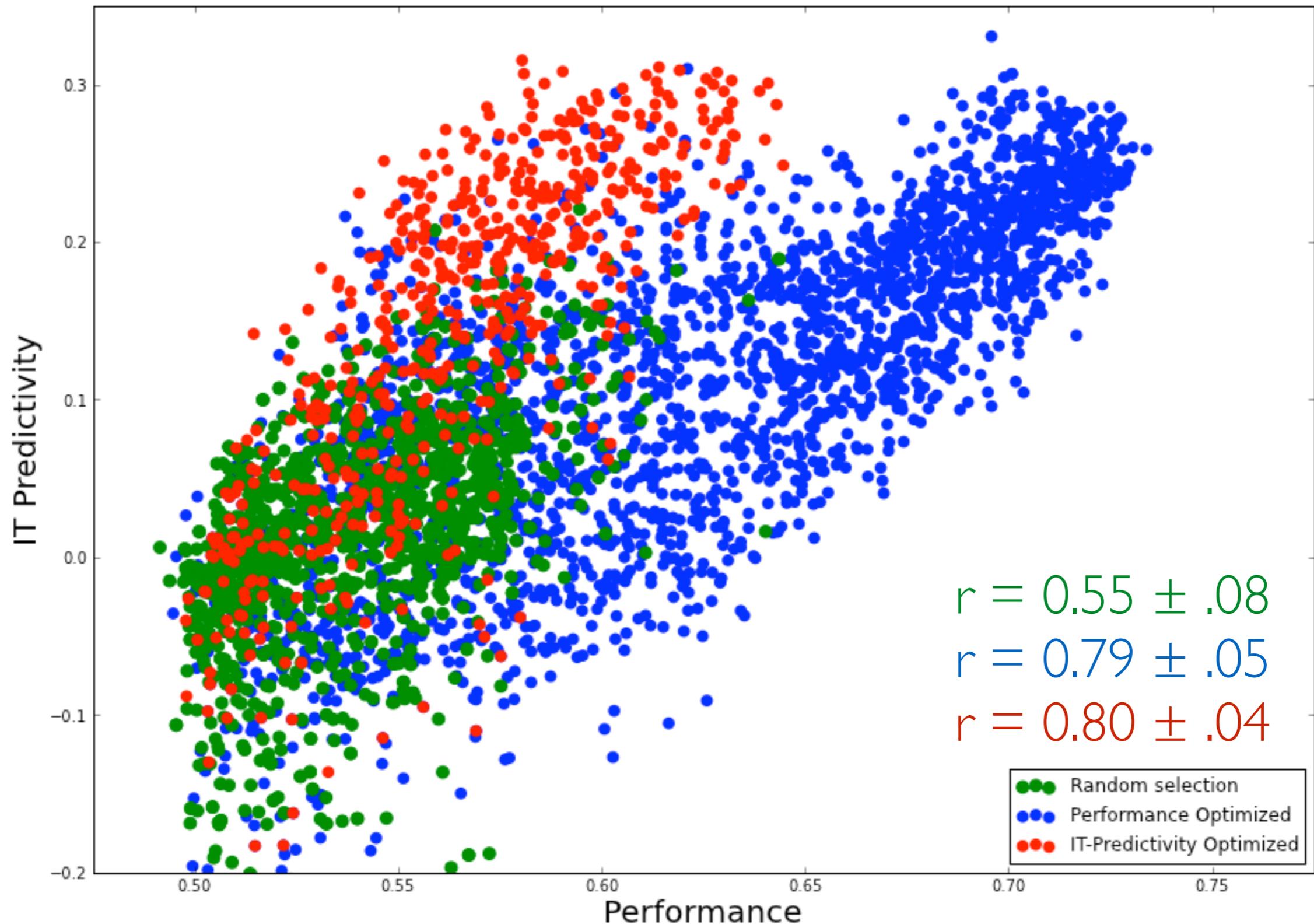
▶ Optimize parameters for neural predictivity; measure performance

# Performance vs IT predictivity: Predictivity-Optimized

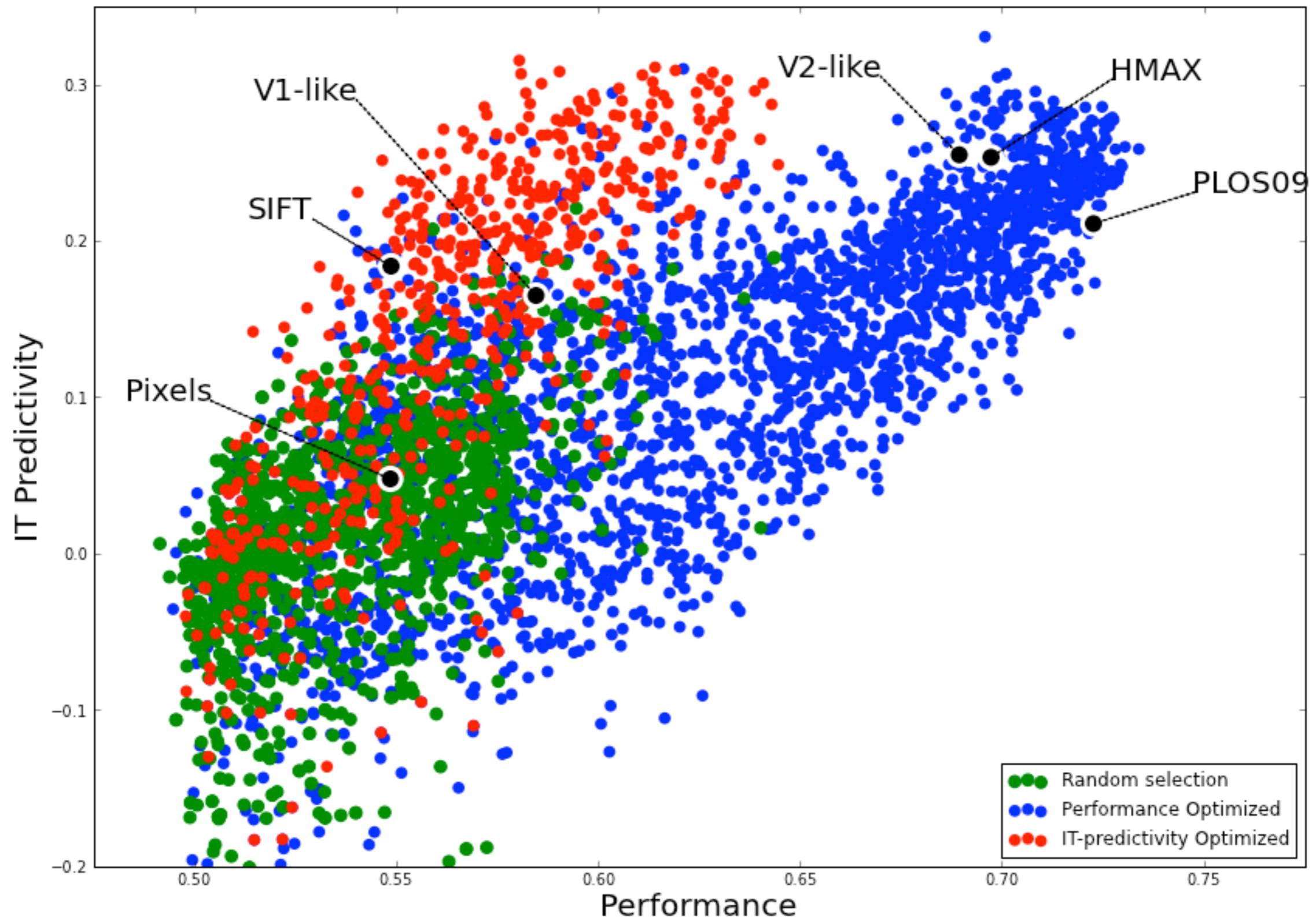


# Performance vs IT predictivity: Predictivity-Optimized

Performance is a potentially very good driver of neural prediction.

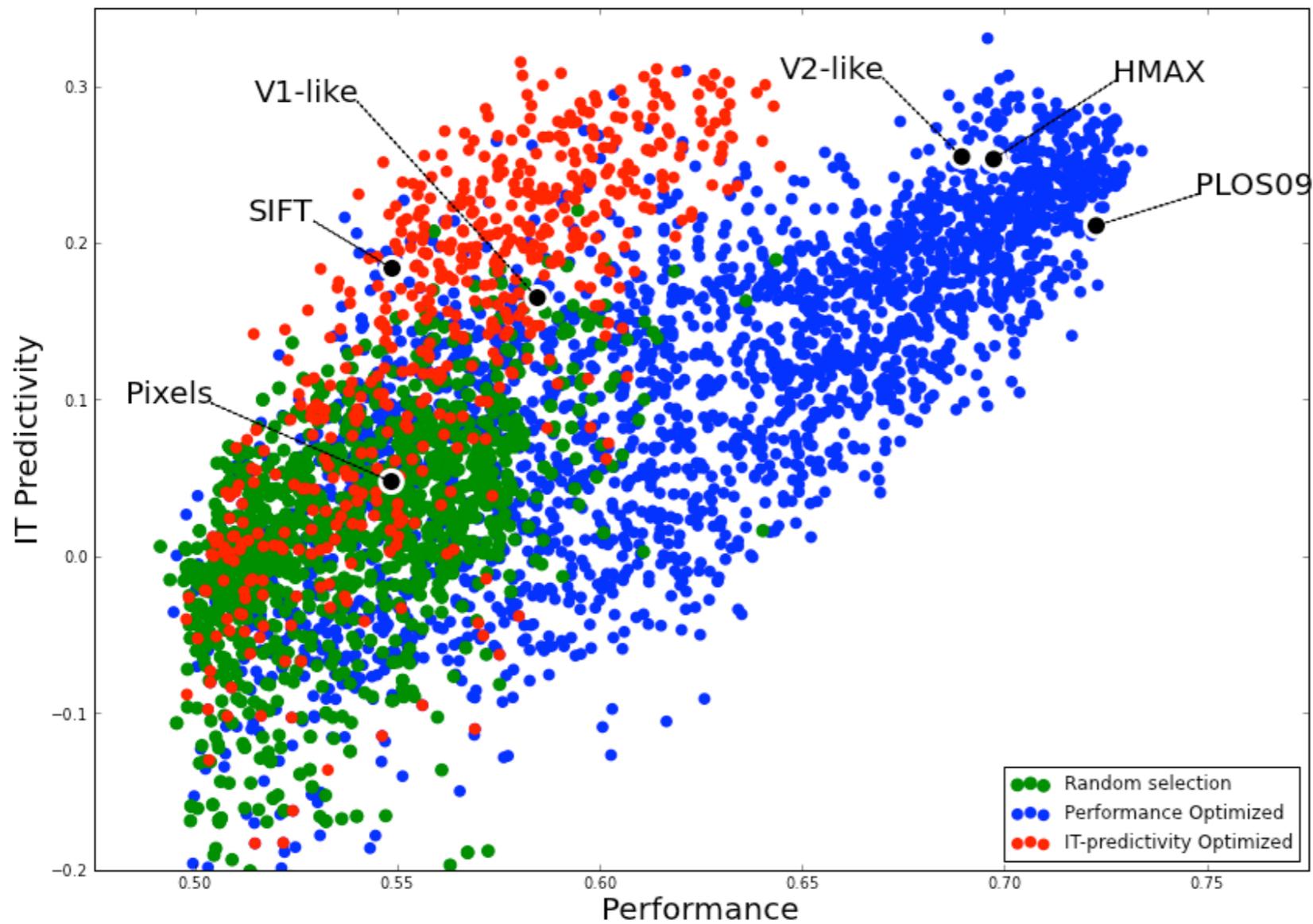
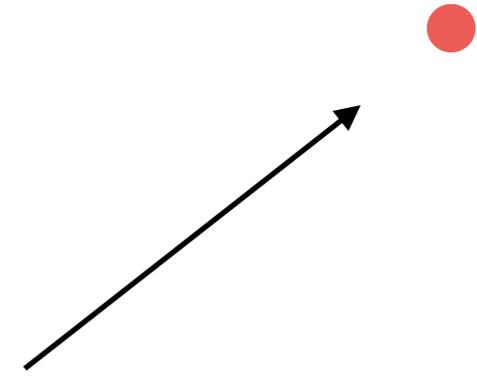


# Performance vs IT predictivity



# Performance vs IT predictivity

But, not doing that well. Really want to be here:



# Optimization Strategy

i. **architectural** params: (# layers, # filters, receptive field sizes, &c) — “network structure”

→ Automated meta-parameter optimization in high-dimensional discrete parameter spaces

Bergstra Yamins & Cox (2013)

→ Ensembles of models chosen through modified boosting Yamins et. al (2013, 2014)

# Optimization Strategy

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ii. **filter** parameters: continuous valued pattern templates — “network contents”

→ GPU-accelerated stochastic gradient descent Pinto et. al., (2009), Krizhevsky et. al. (2012)

Gradient descent eq: 
$$\frac{dp_a}{dt} = -\lambda(t) \cdot \langle \nabla_{p_a} L(x) \rangle_{x \in \mathcal{D}}$$

L = loss function

$\lambda$  = learning rate

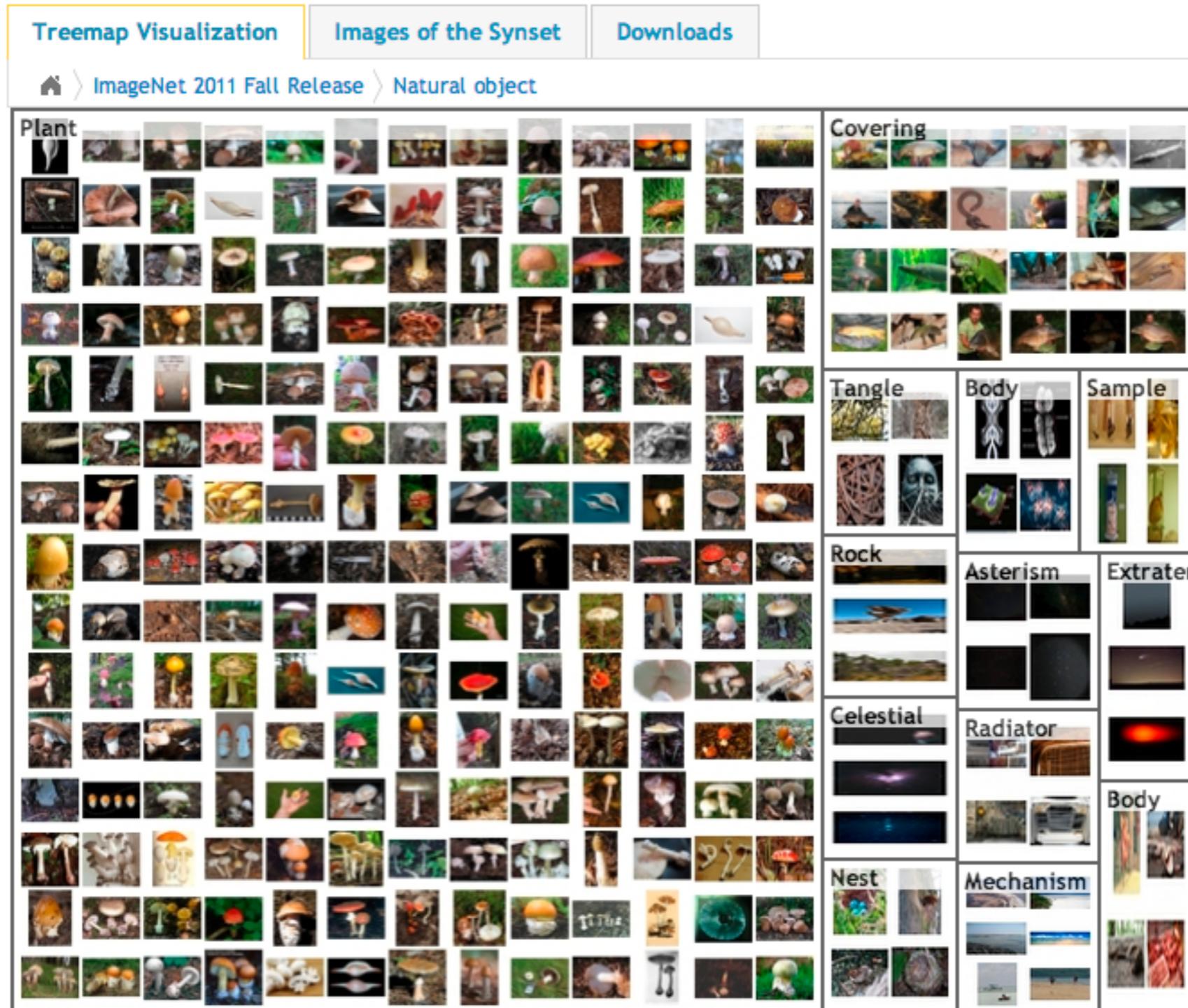
D = dataset

In current practice:

L = loss computed from **large numbers of externally-provided object category labels.**

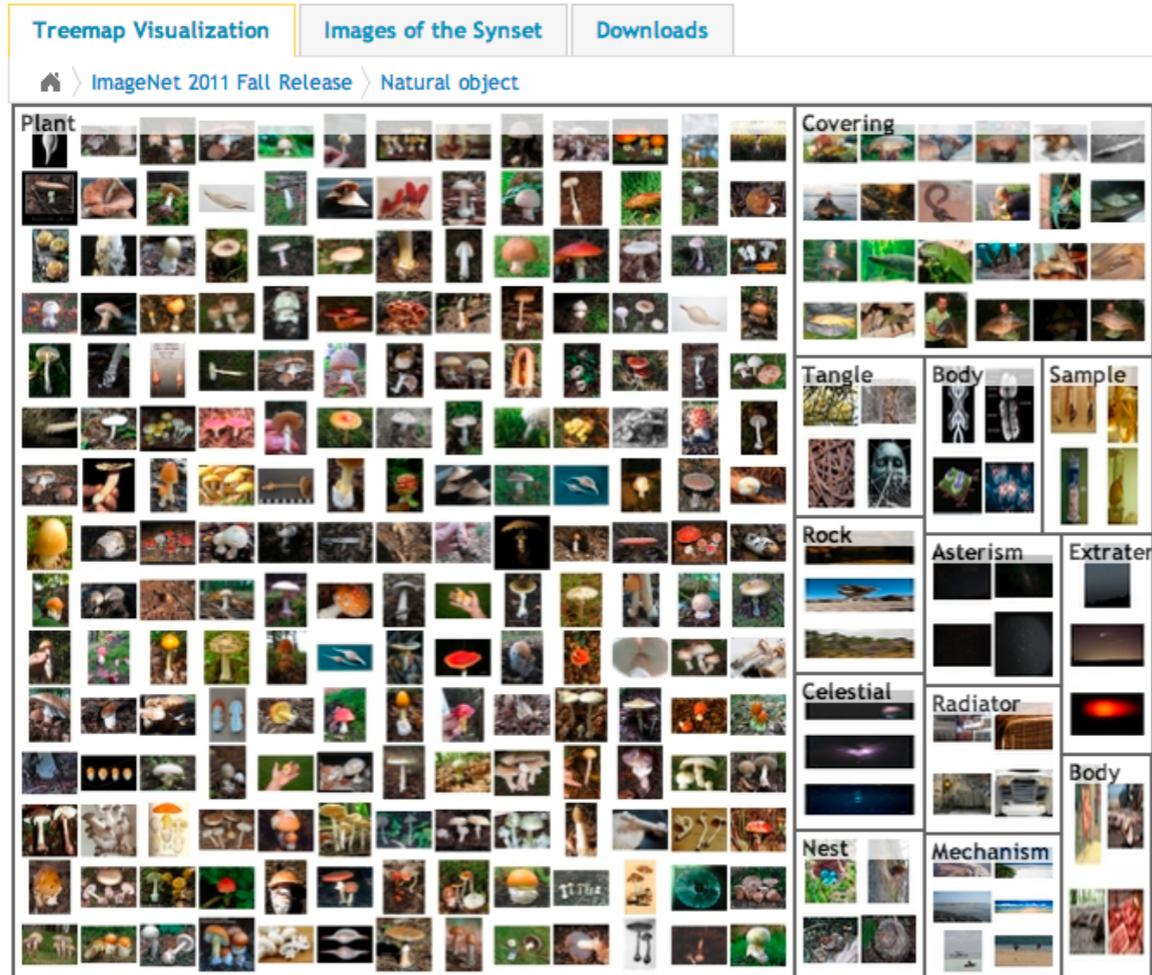
# Model Training Regimen

ImageNet (2012). Thousands of images in thousands of categories.



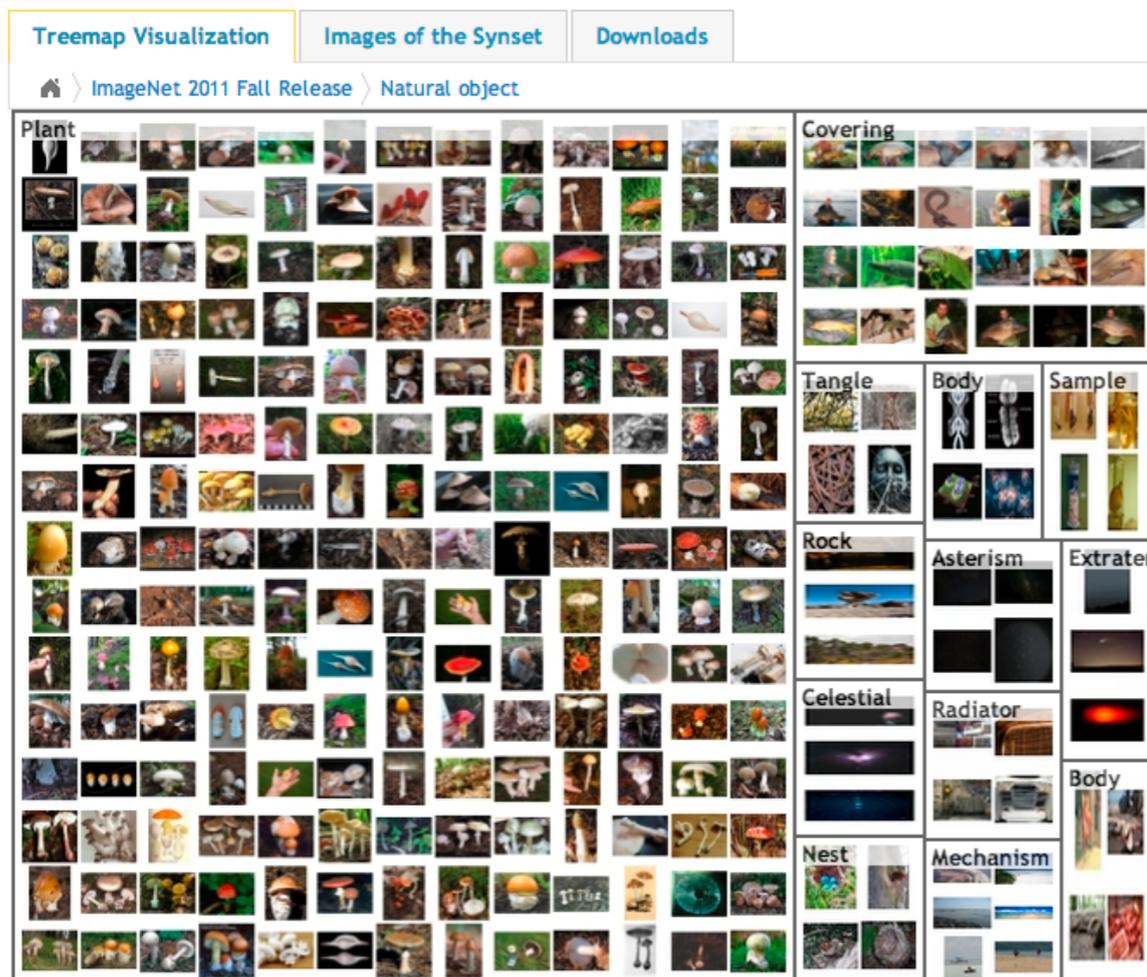
# Model Training Regimen

train: real photos



# Model Training Regimen

**train:** real photos



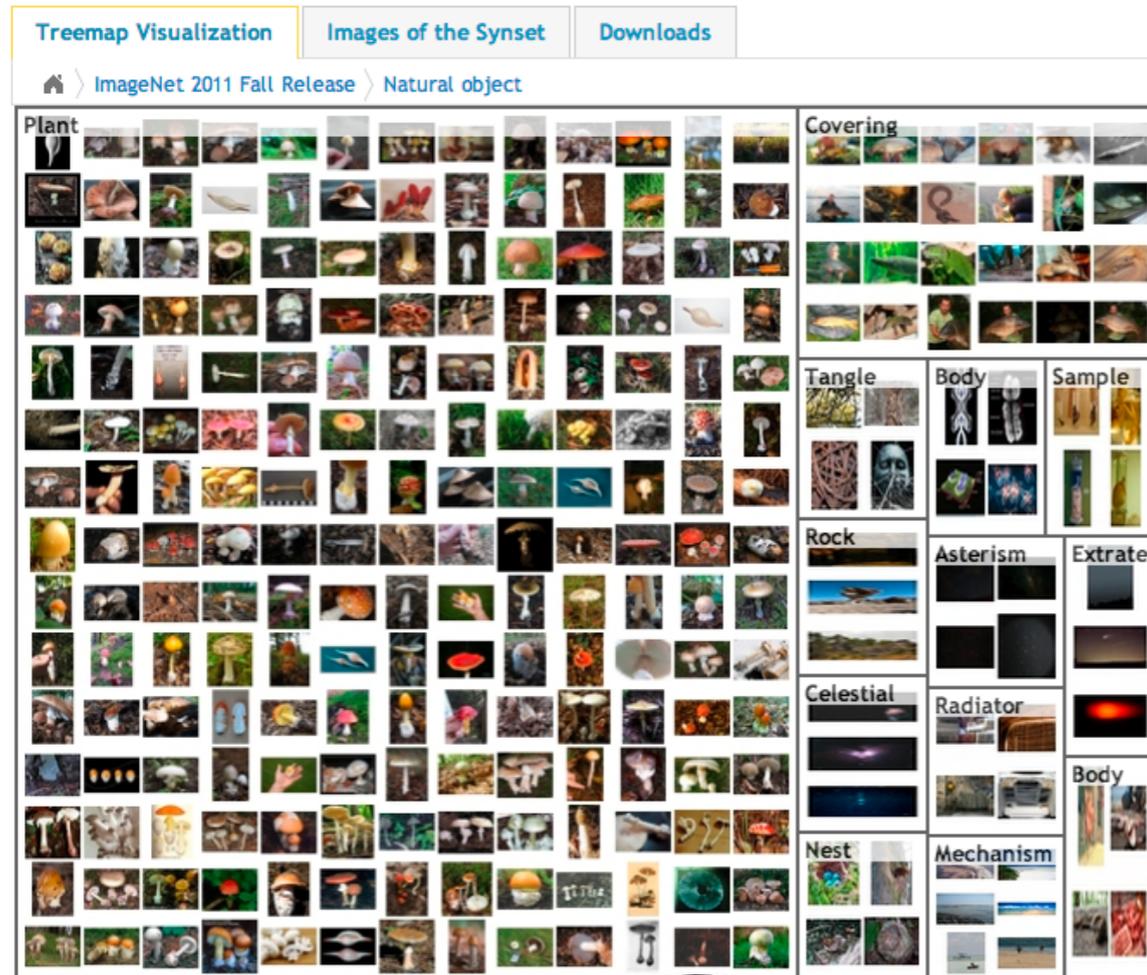
**test:** neural stimuli

generalize?  
→



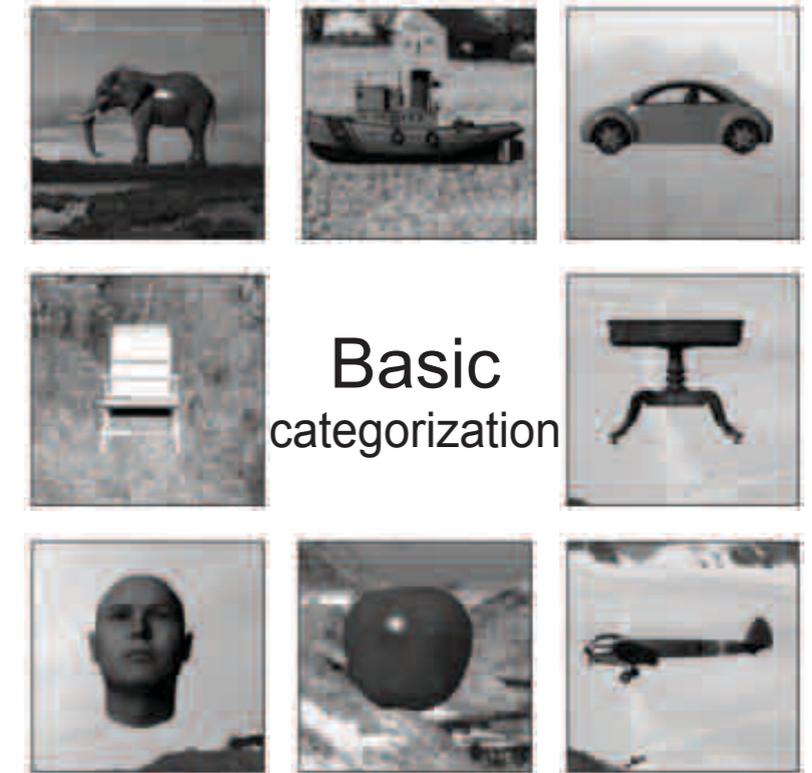
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**train:** real photos



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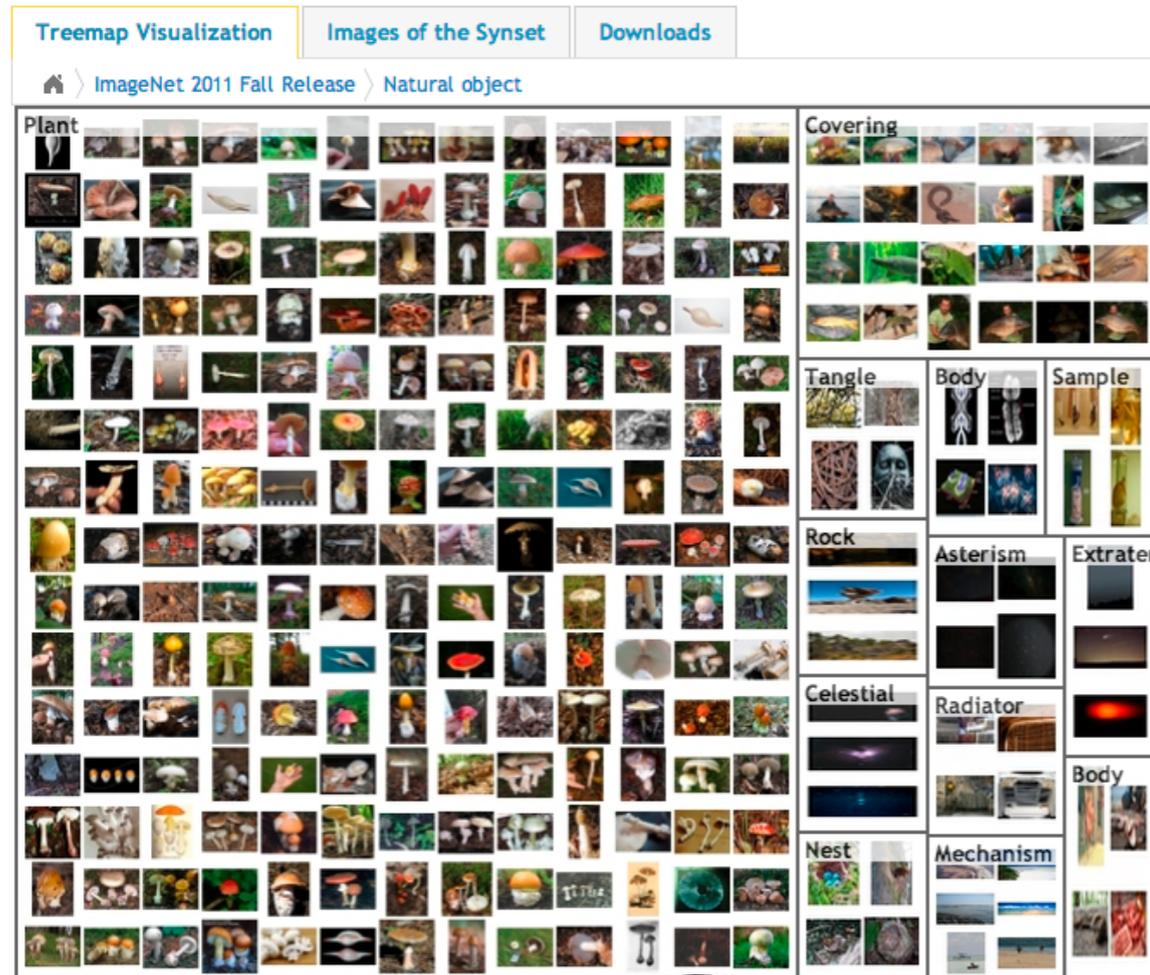
generalize?  
→



removed categories of photos that  
appeared in the test stimuli  
(animals, boats, cars, chairs, faces, fruits, planes, tables)

# Model Training Regimen

**train:** real photos



**test:** neural stimuli

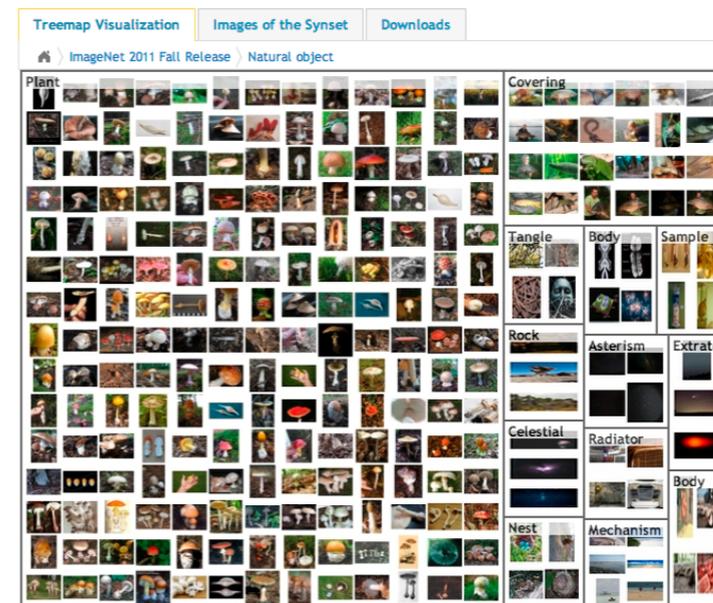
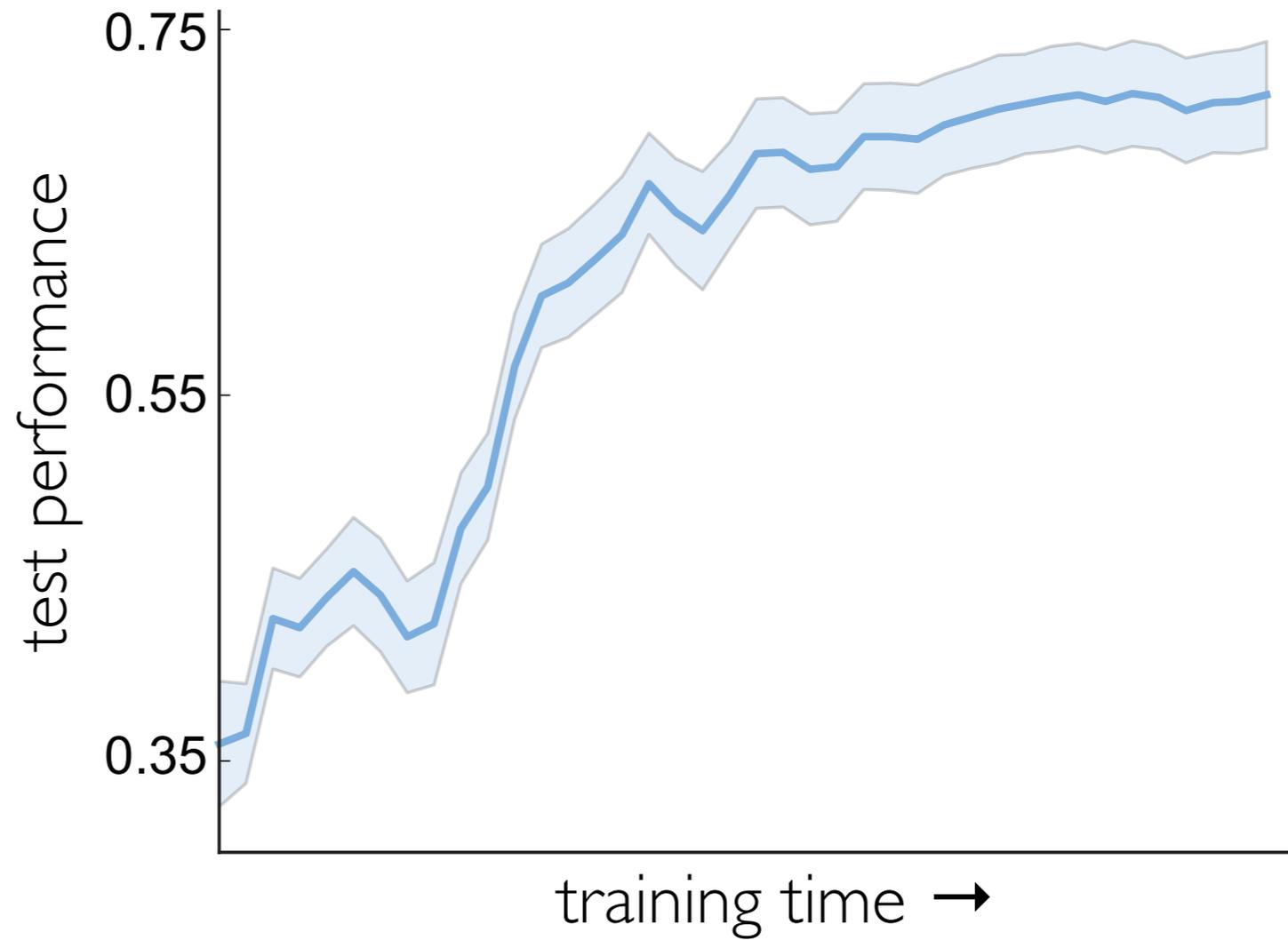
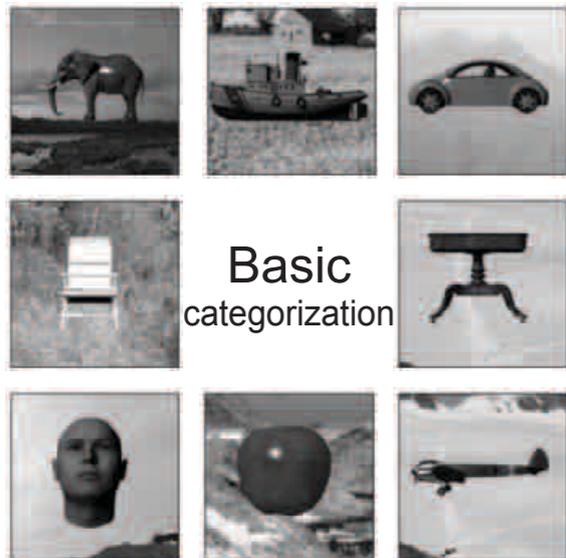
generalize?



removed categories of photos that appeared in the test stimuli  
(animals, boats, cars, chairs, faces, fruits, planes, tables)

→ Specific 4-layer model that achieved high recognition performance.

# Performance Generalization

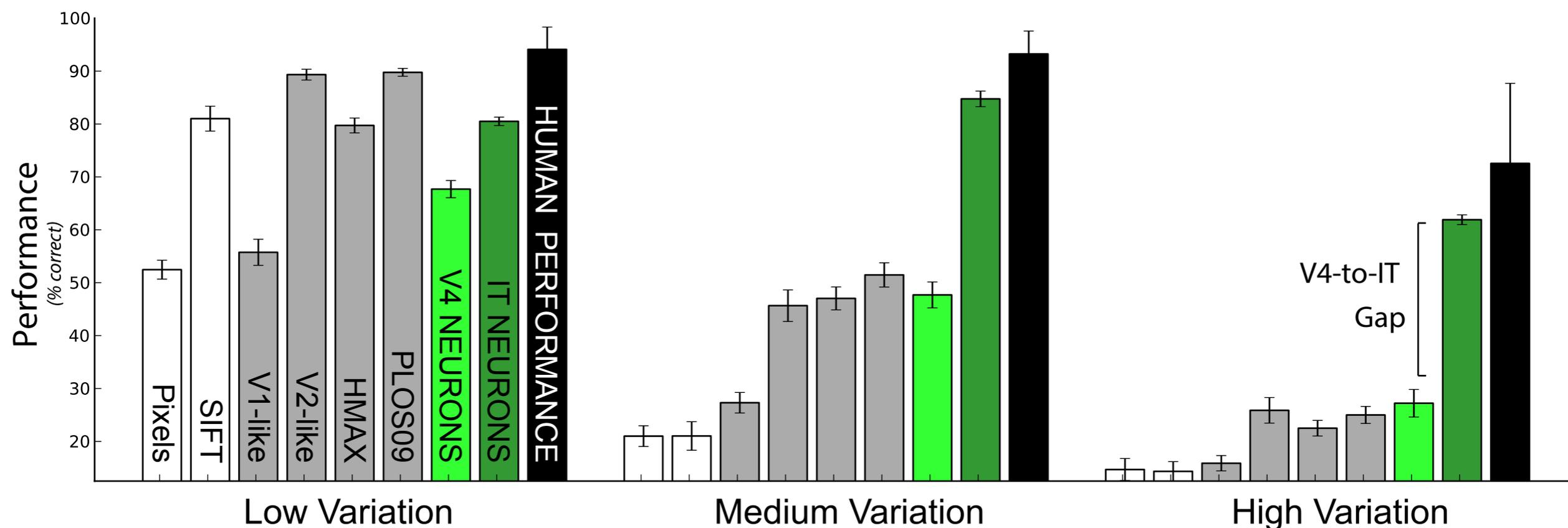
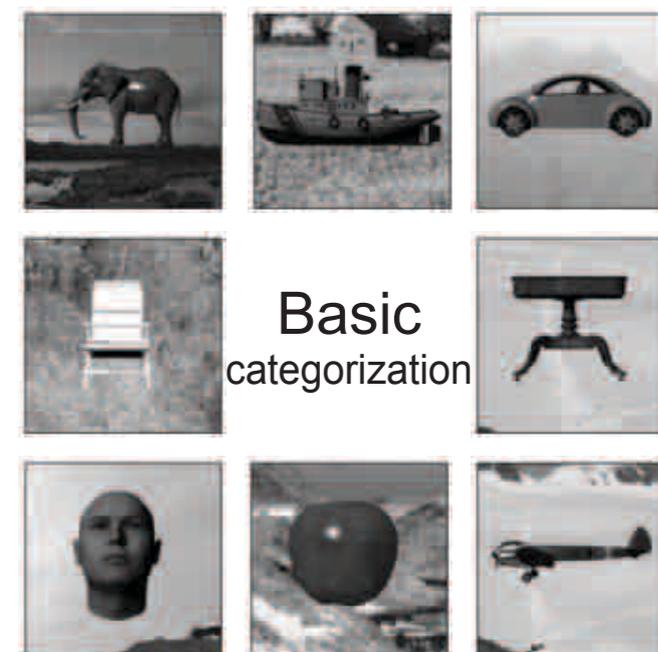


# IT Neurons Track Human Performance

V4 loses out at higher variation:

... but humans are much less affected.

... as is the IT neural population.

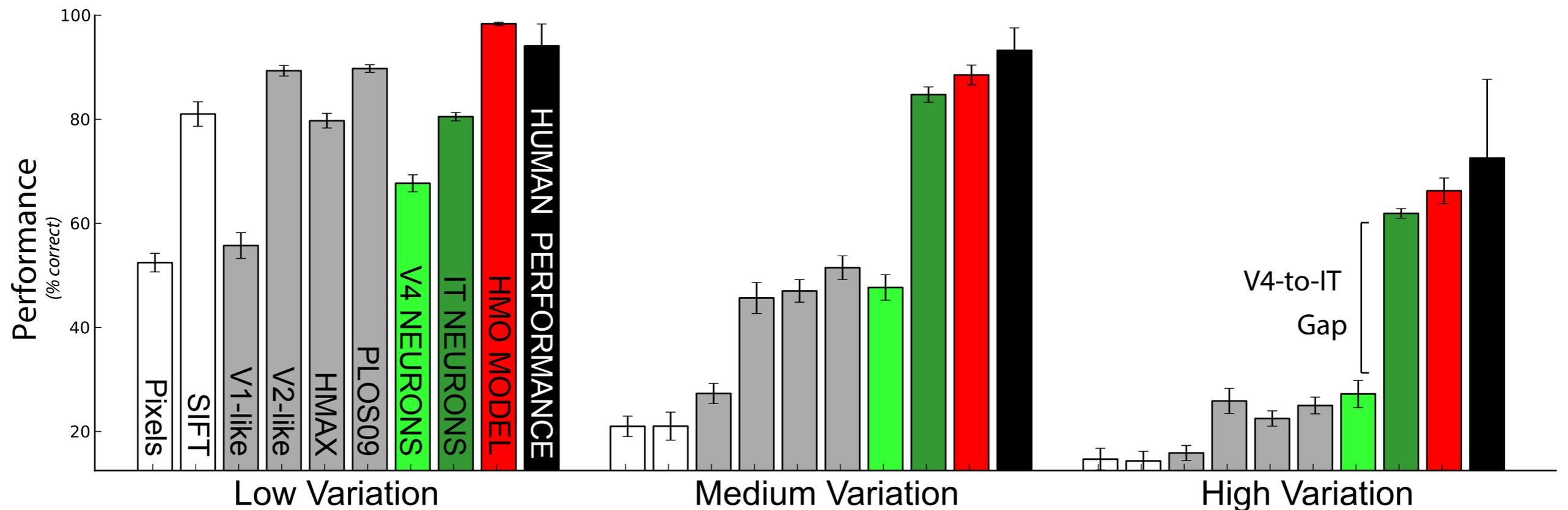


Yamins\* and Hong\* et. al. **PNAS** (2014)

At high variation levels, IT much better than V4 and existing models.

# Performance Comparison

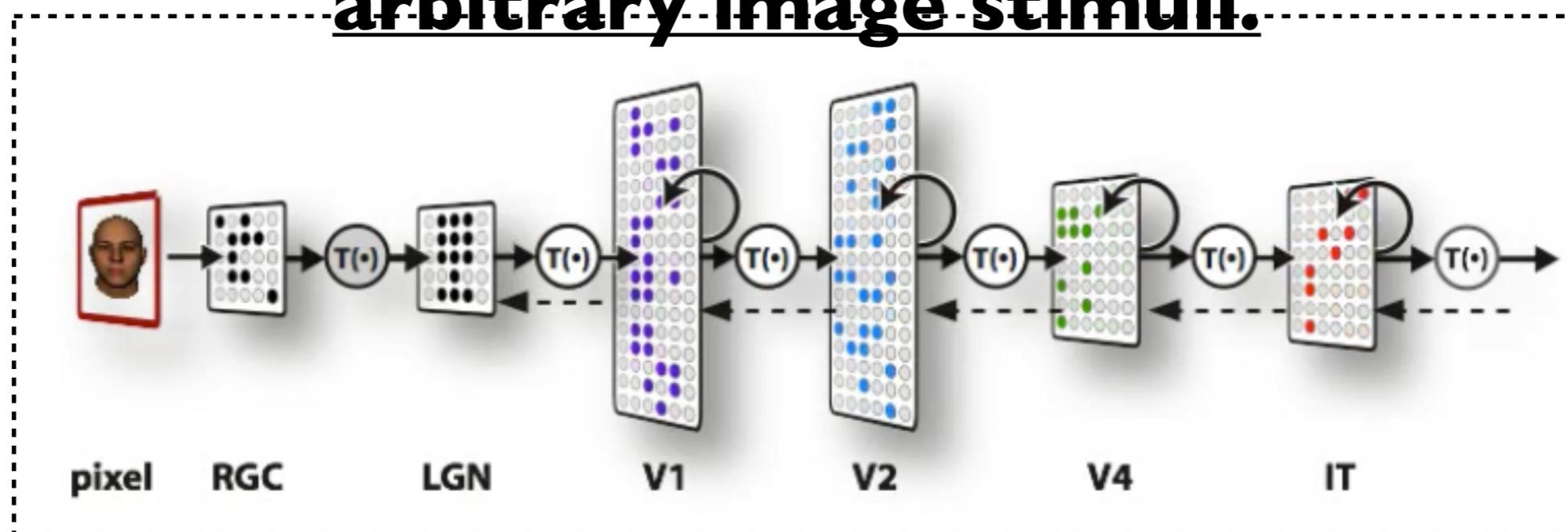
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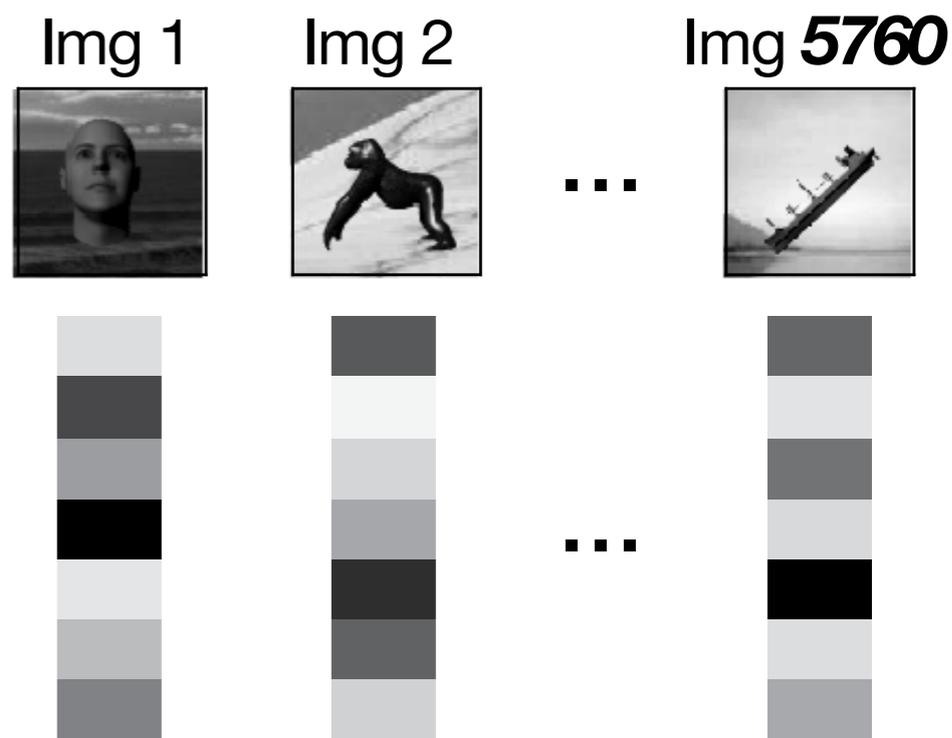
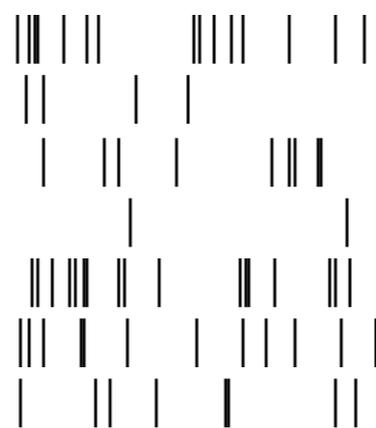
New model comparable to IT / human performance levels.

## GOAL: Predictive model of single-neuron responses throughout the ventral stream to arbitrary image stimuli.

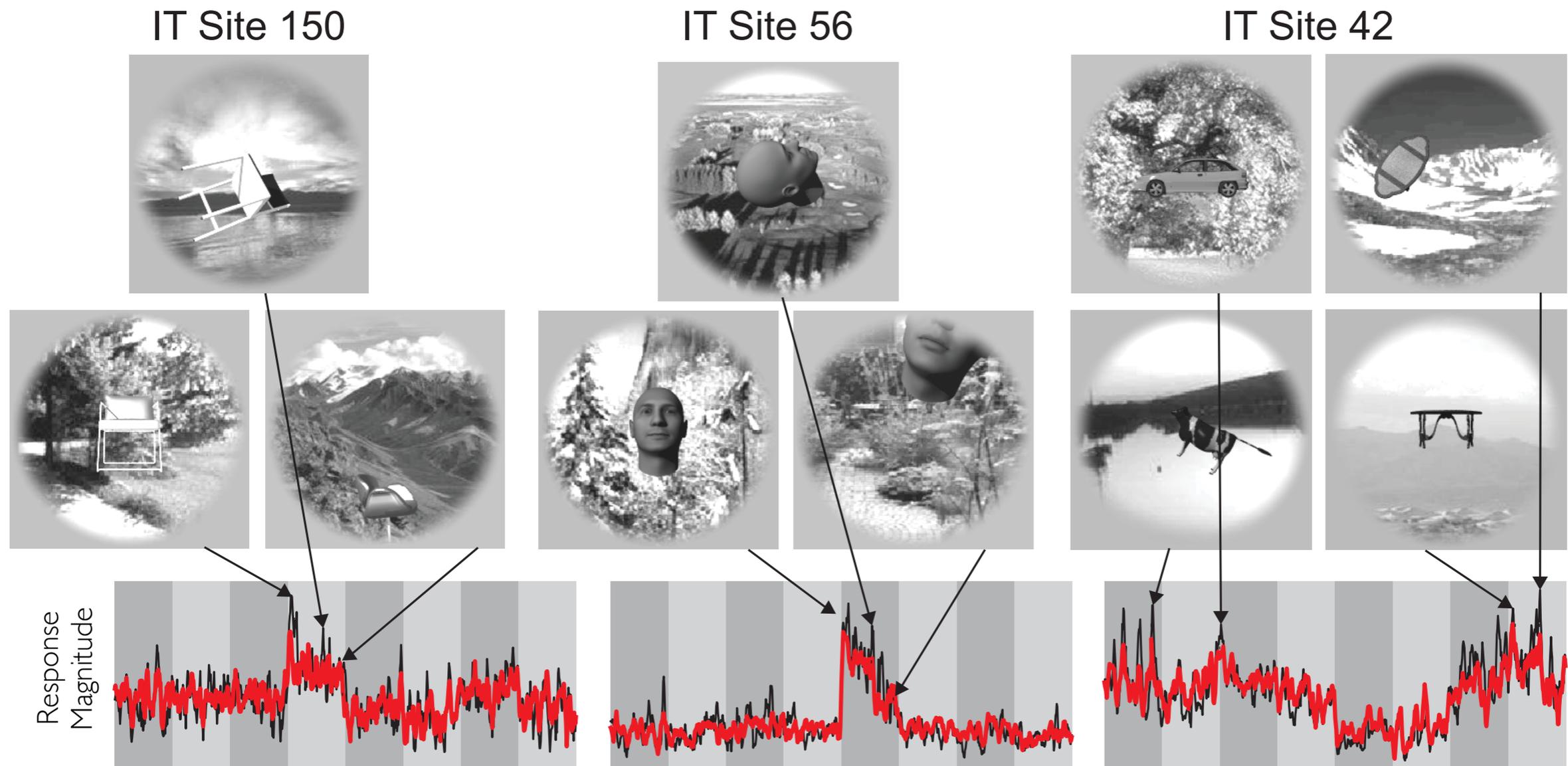


Get quantitative hypothesis for the network that generated this data  $\longrightarrow$

Neuron 1  
Neuron 2  
Neuron 3  
⋮  
Neuron **296**



# Predicting IT Neural Responses

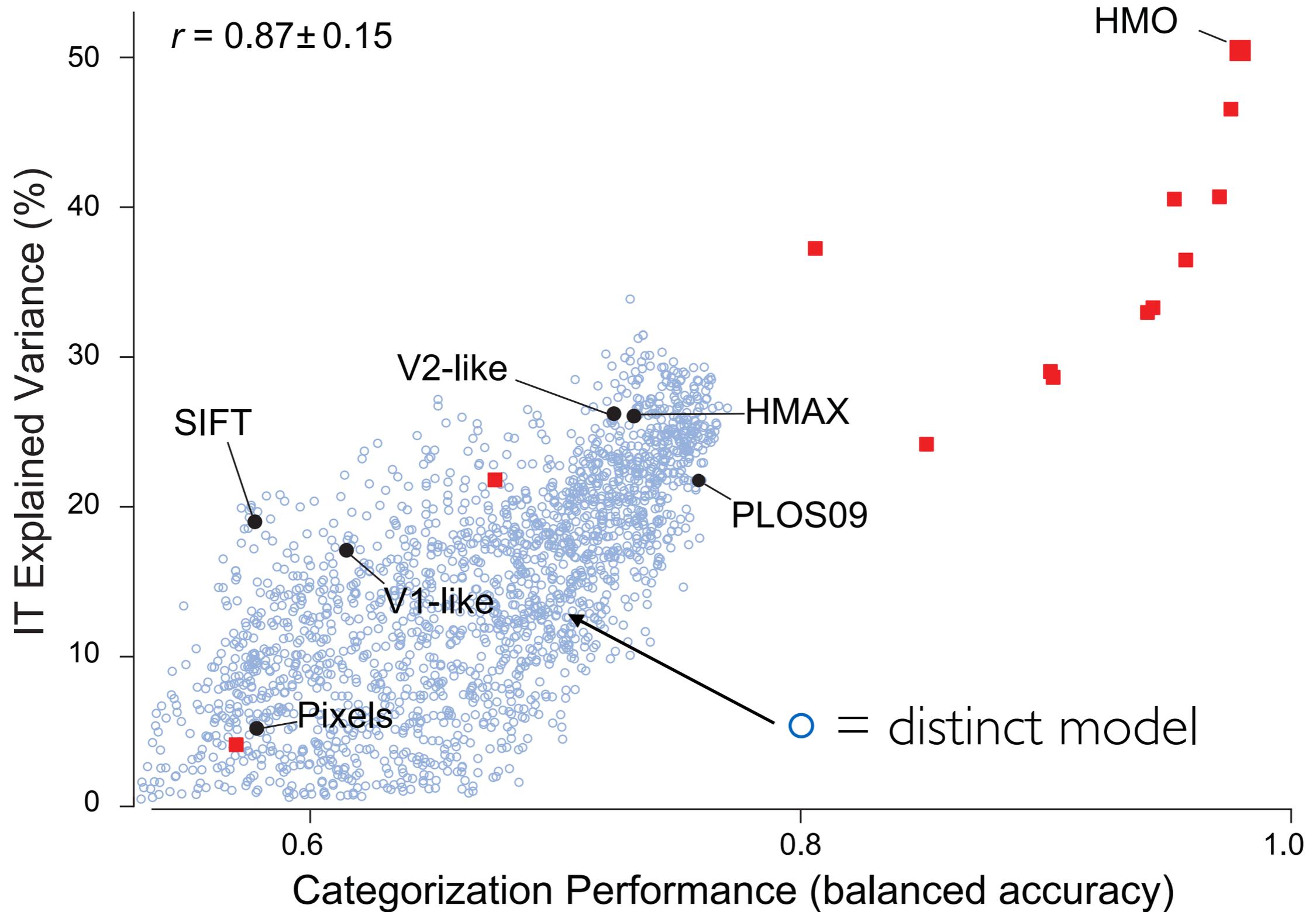


Images sorted first by **category**, then **variation level**.

— Neural data  
— Model prediction

# Key Underlying Principle

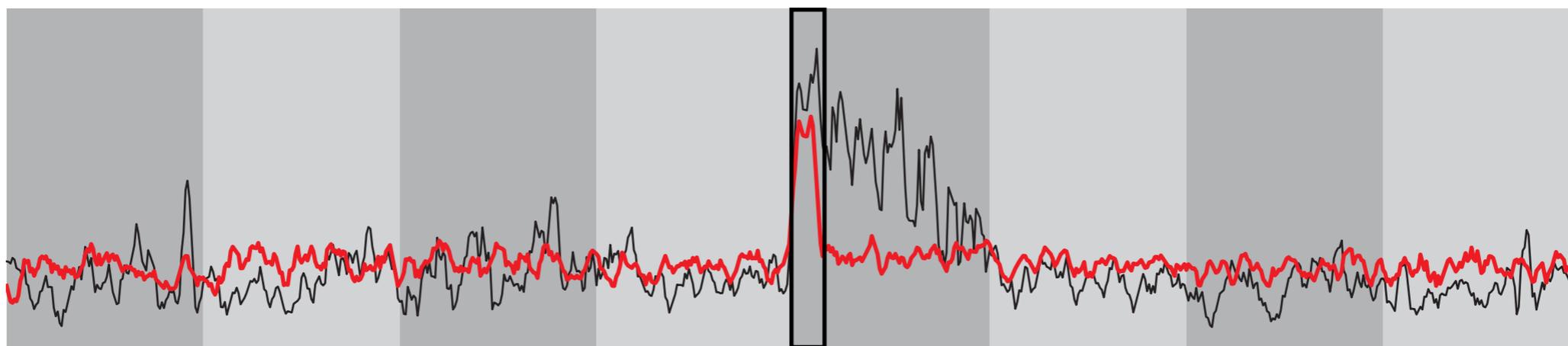
Yamins\* and Hong\* et. al. **PNAS** (2014)





Captures low variation image response patterns ...

Layer



Animals

Boats

Cars

Chairs

Faces

Fruits

Planes

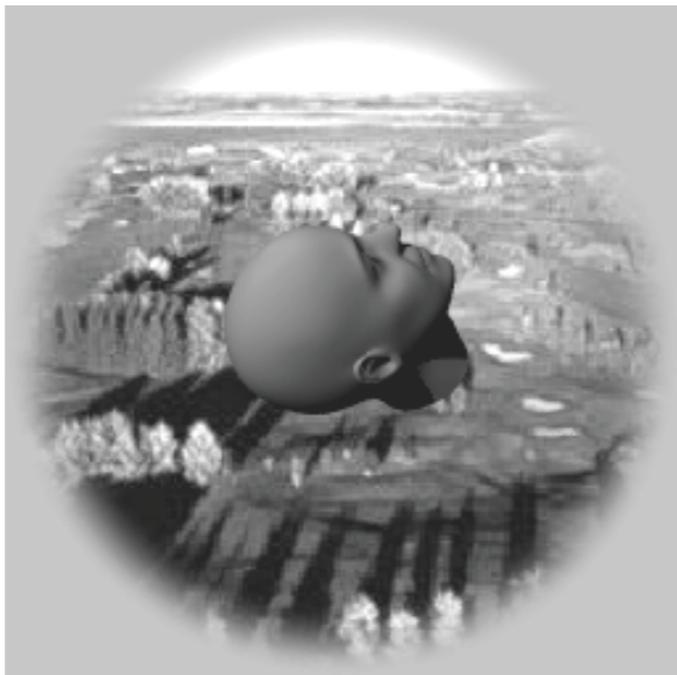
Tables



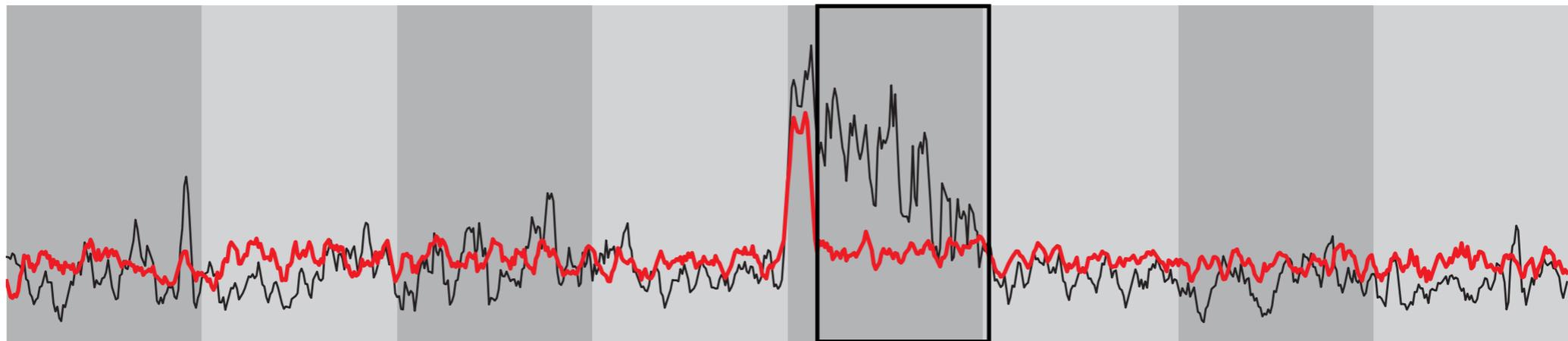
Neural data



Model prediction



Layer



Animals

Boats

Cars

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Tables

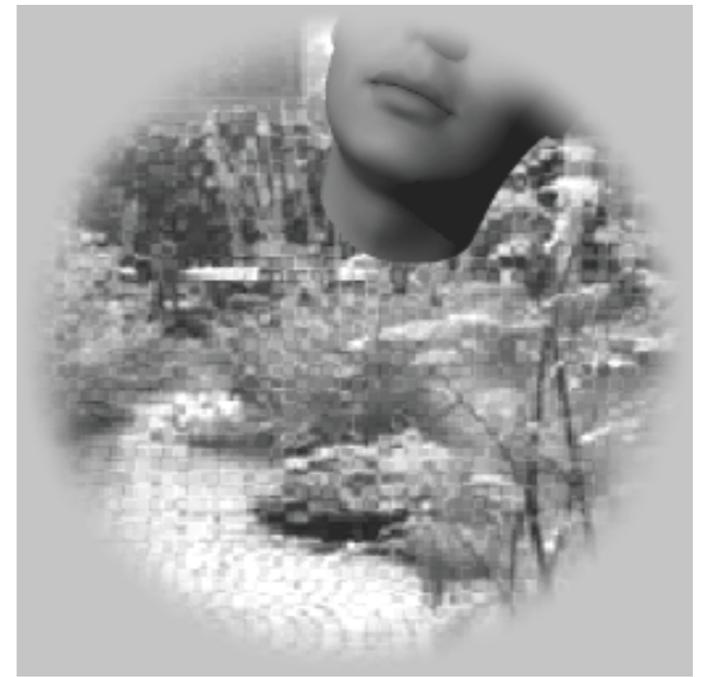
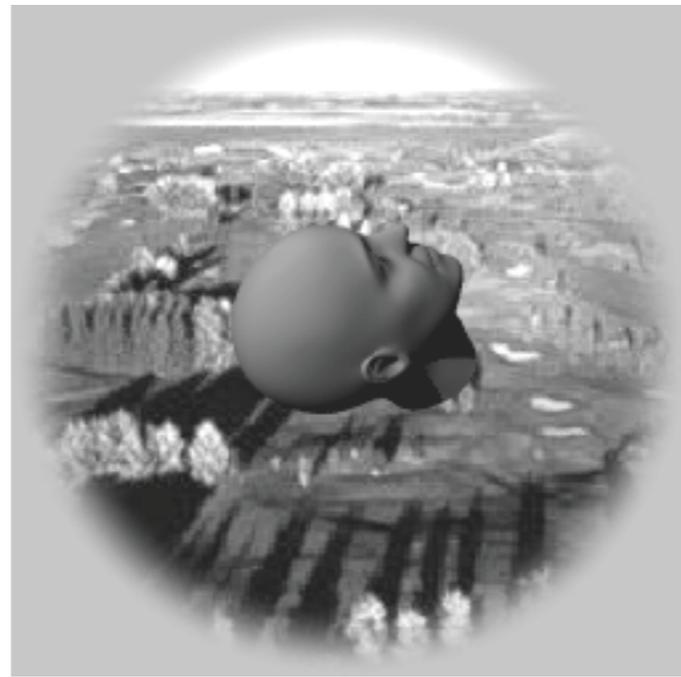


Neural data

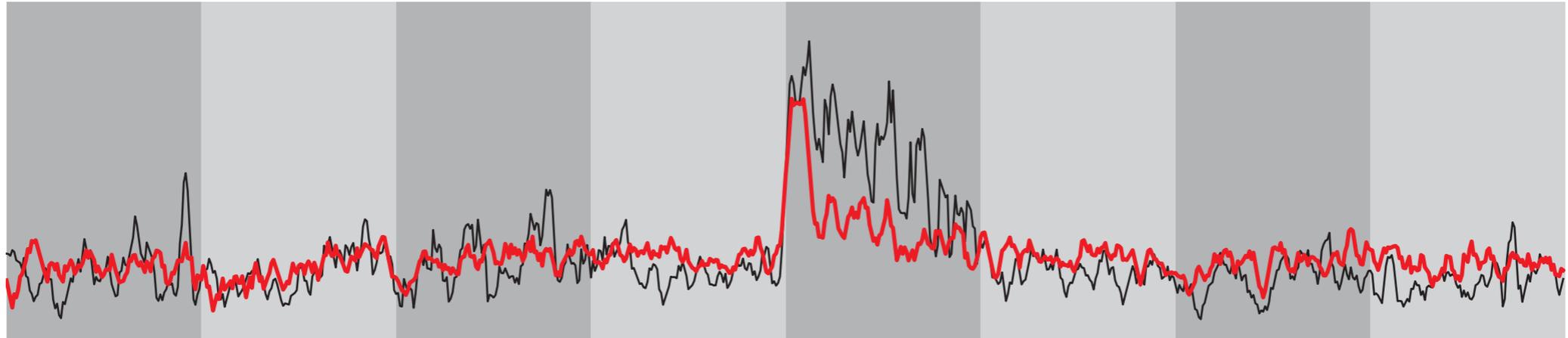


Model prediction

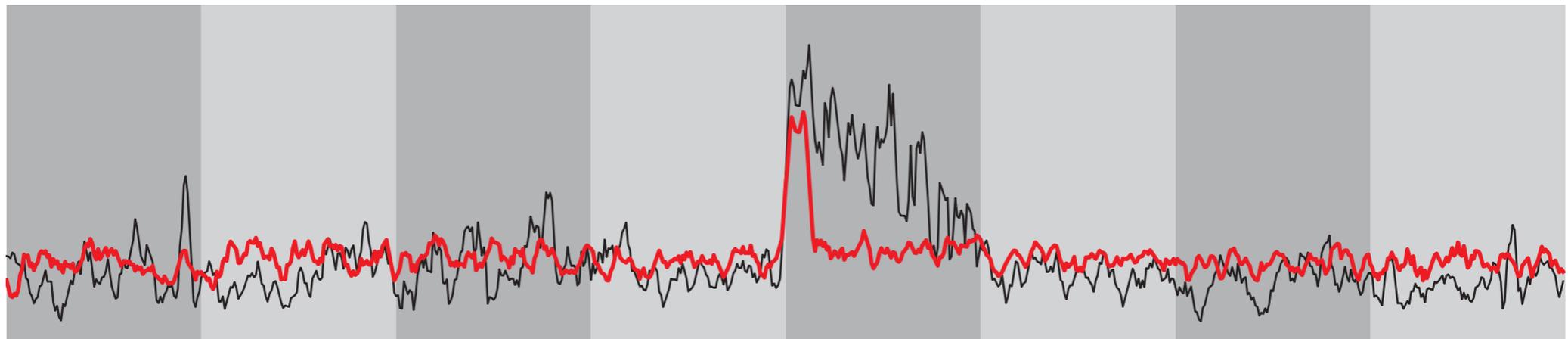
... but fails to capture higher variation response patterns.



Layer  
**2**



Layer  
**1**



Animals

Boats

Cars

Chairs

Faces

Fruits

Planes

Tables

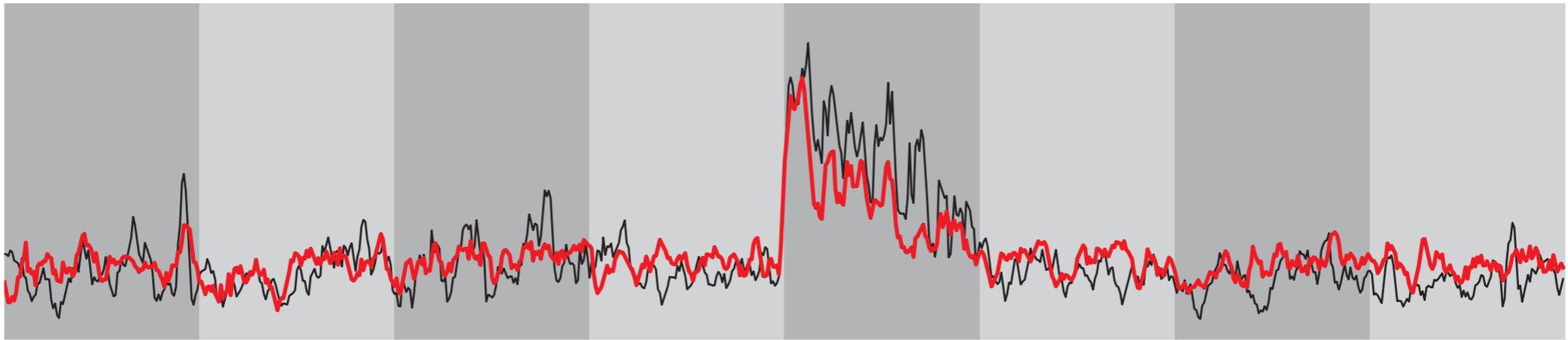


Neural data

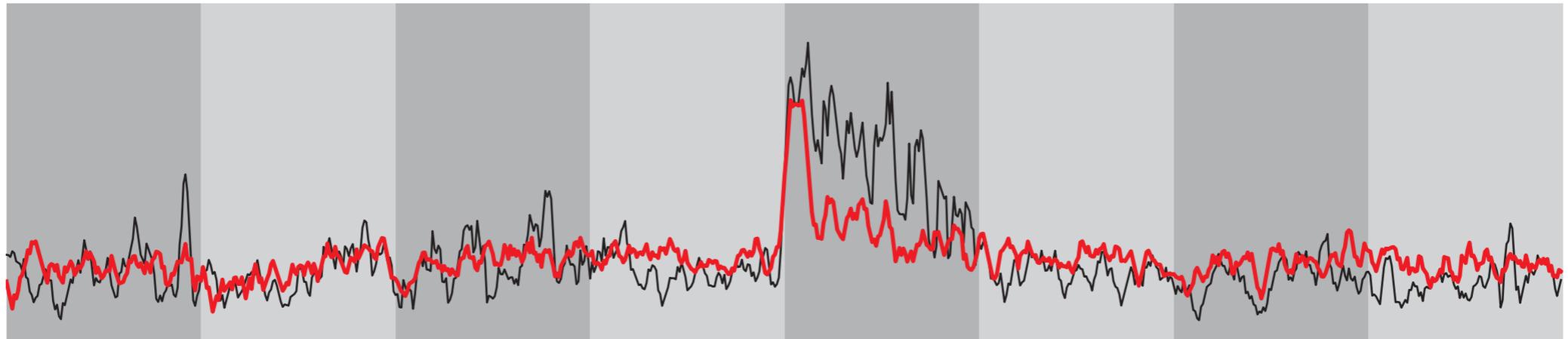


Model prediction

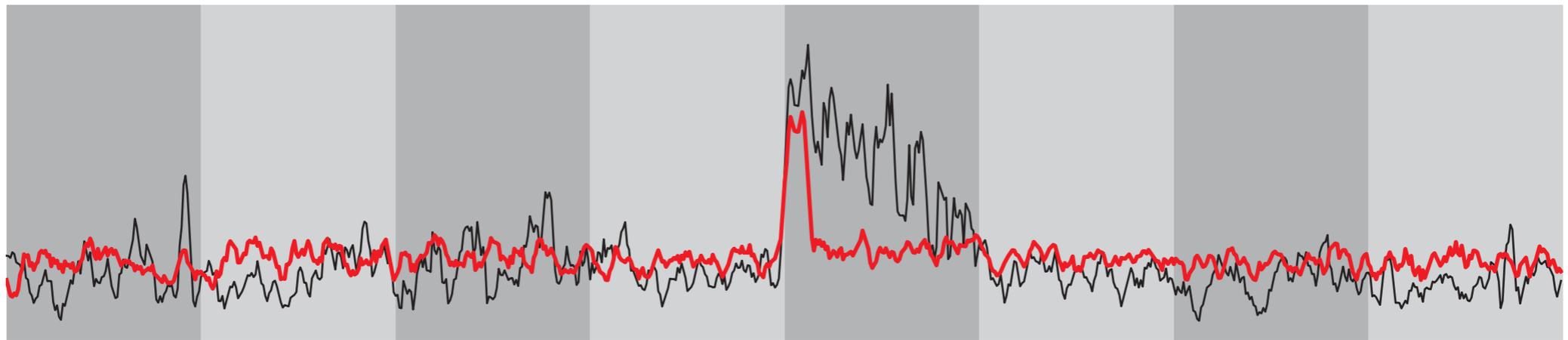
Layer  
**3**



Layer  
**2**



Layer  
**1**



Animals      Boats      Cars      Chairs      Faces      Fruits      Planes      Tables



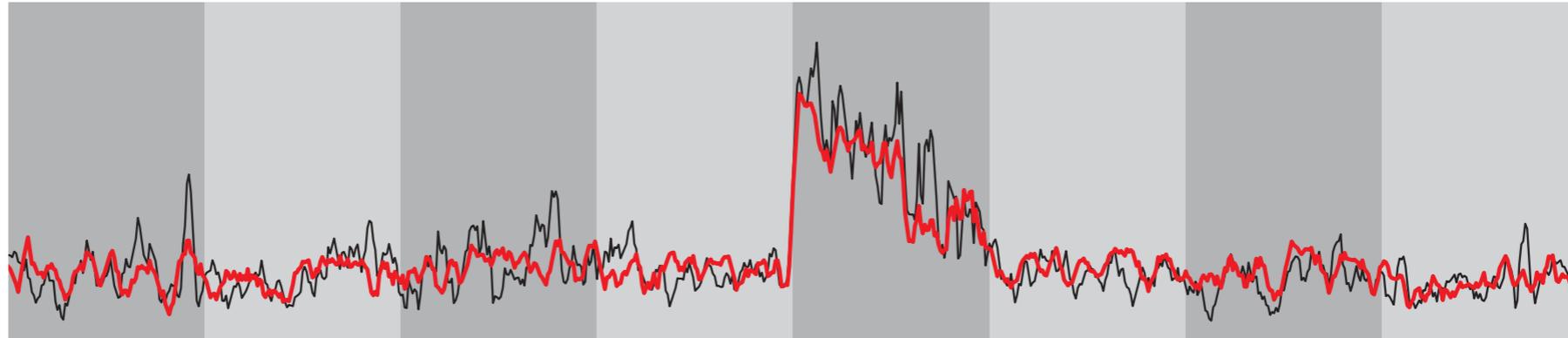
Neural data



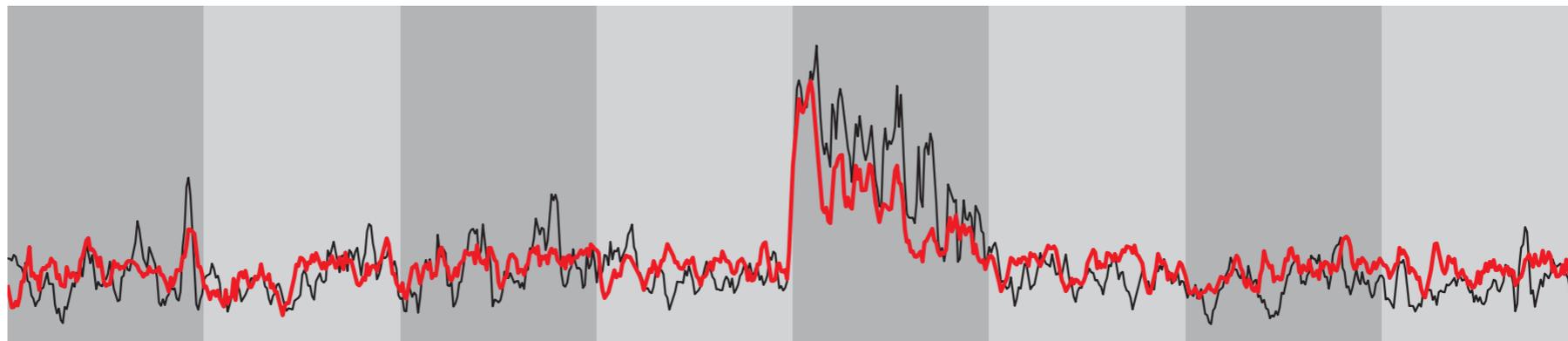
Model prediction

# Building tolerance while maintaining selectivity

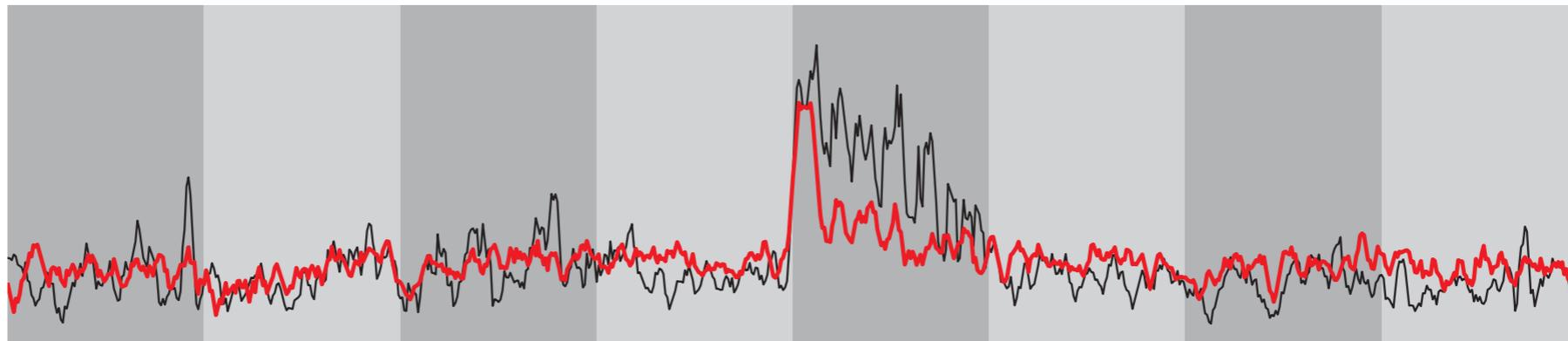
Top  
Layer



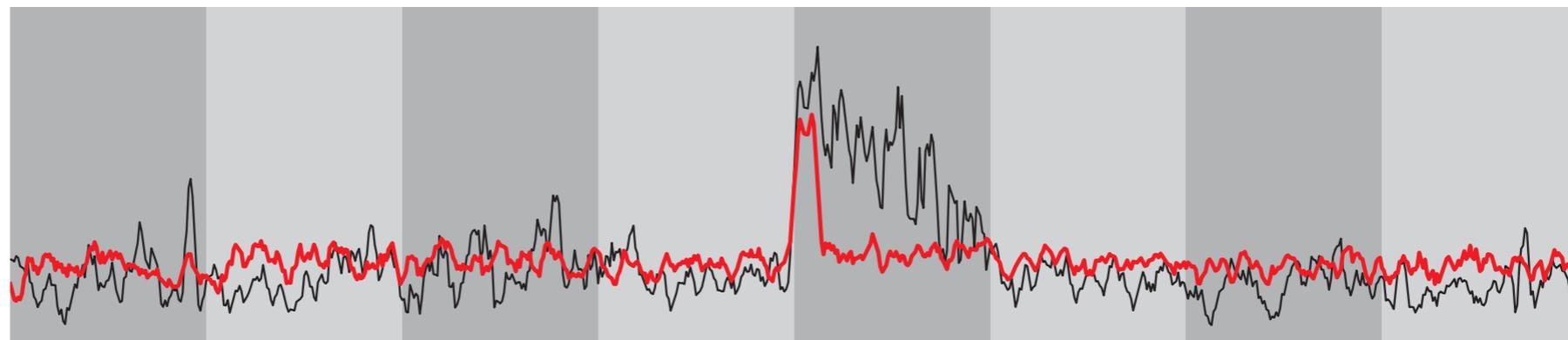
Layer  
**3**



Layer  
**2**



Layer  
**1**



Animals

Boats

Cars

Chairs

Faces

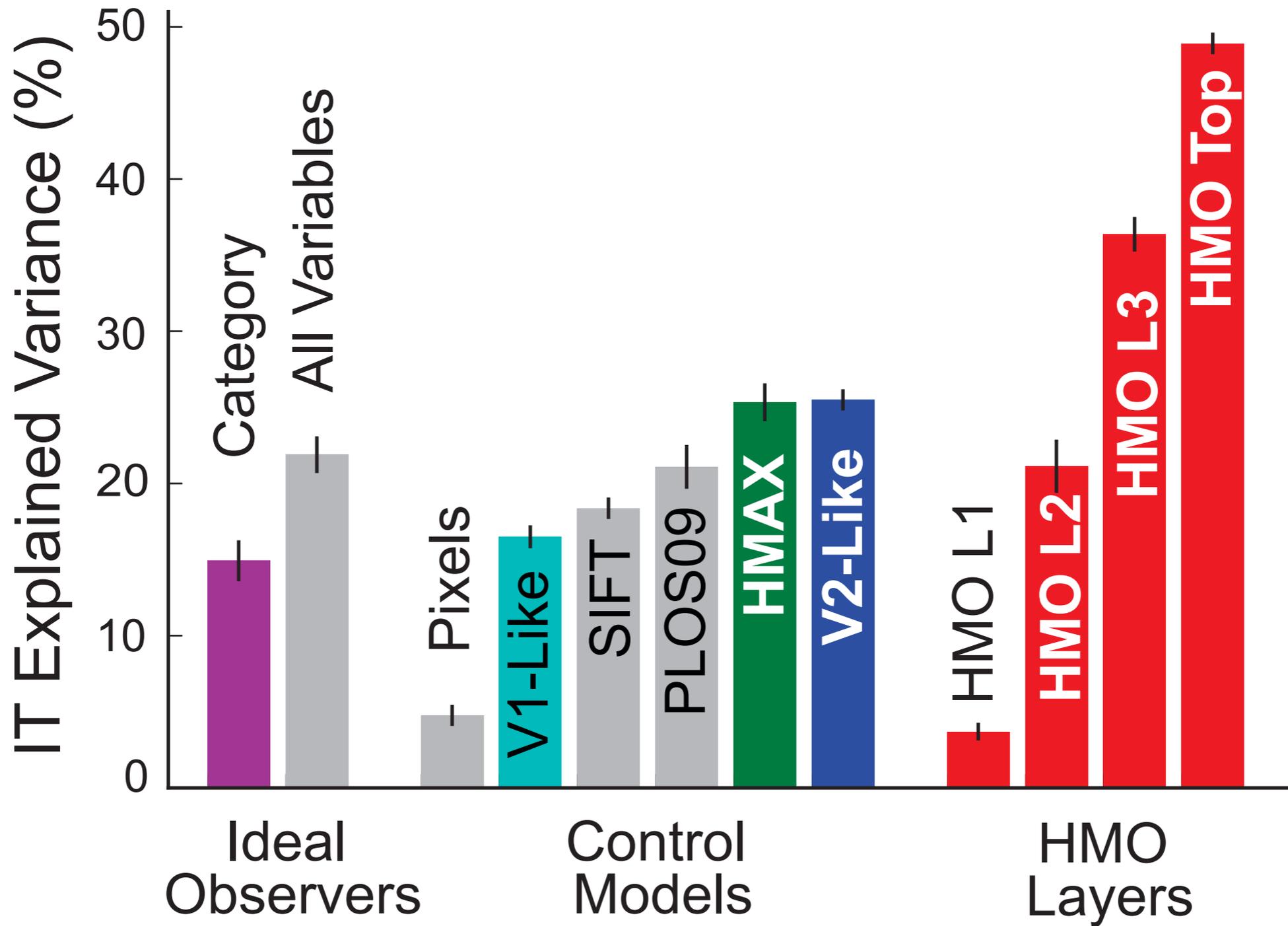
Fruits

Planes

Tables

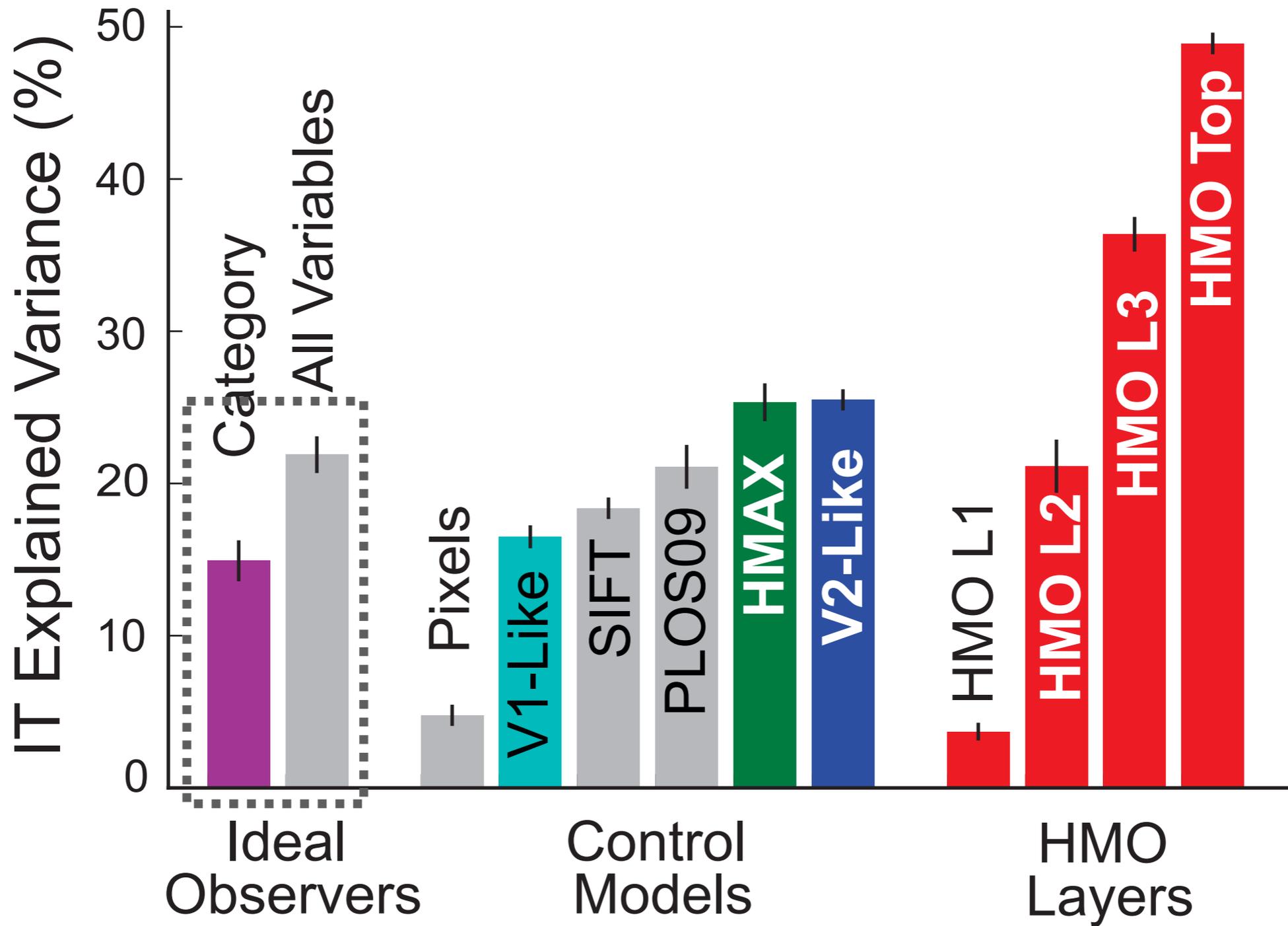
# Predicting IT Neural Responses

Yamins\* and Hong\* et. al. **PNAS** (2014)



# Predicting IT Neural Responses

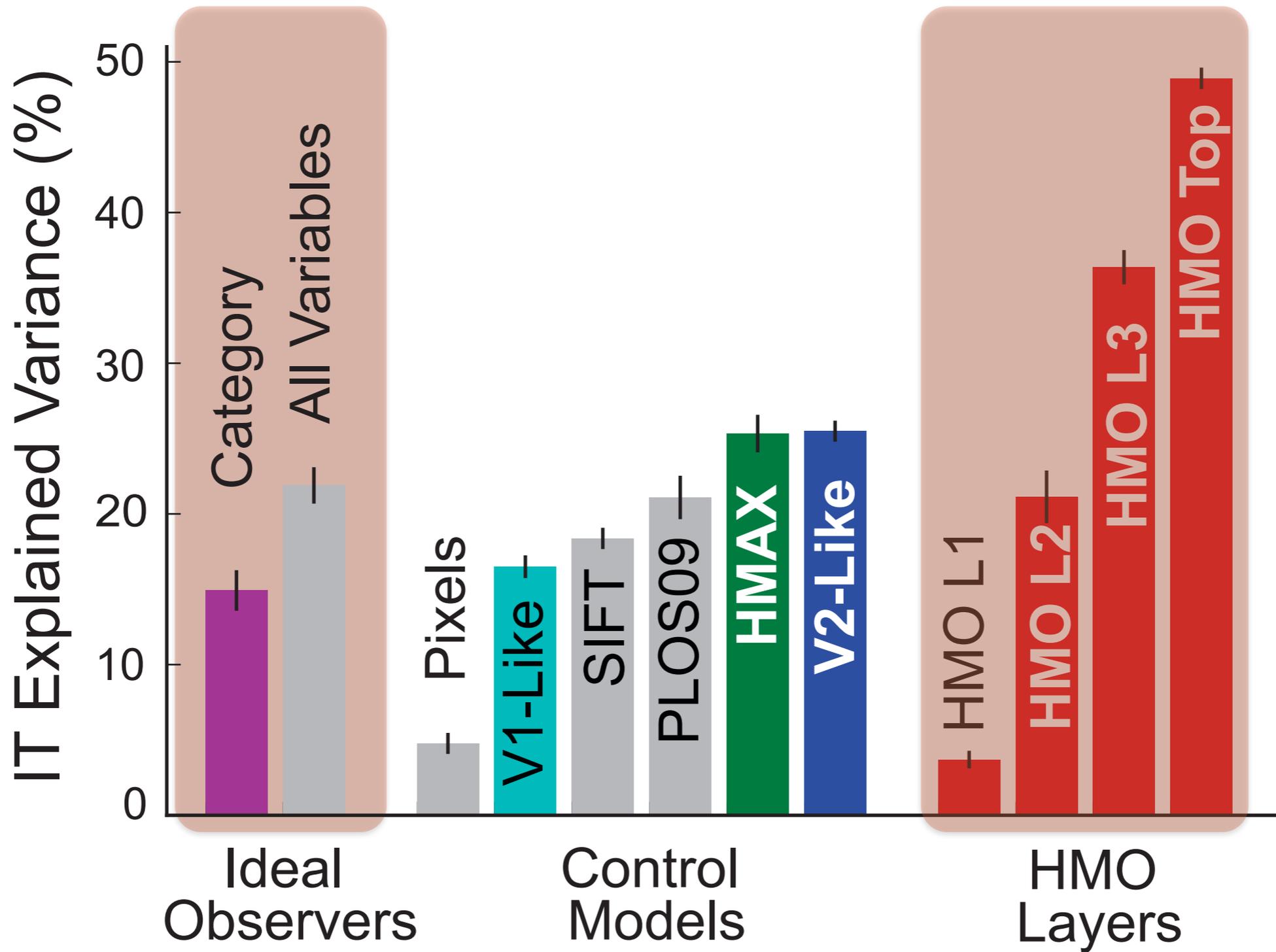
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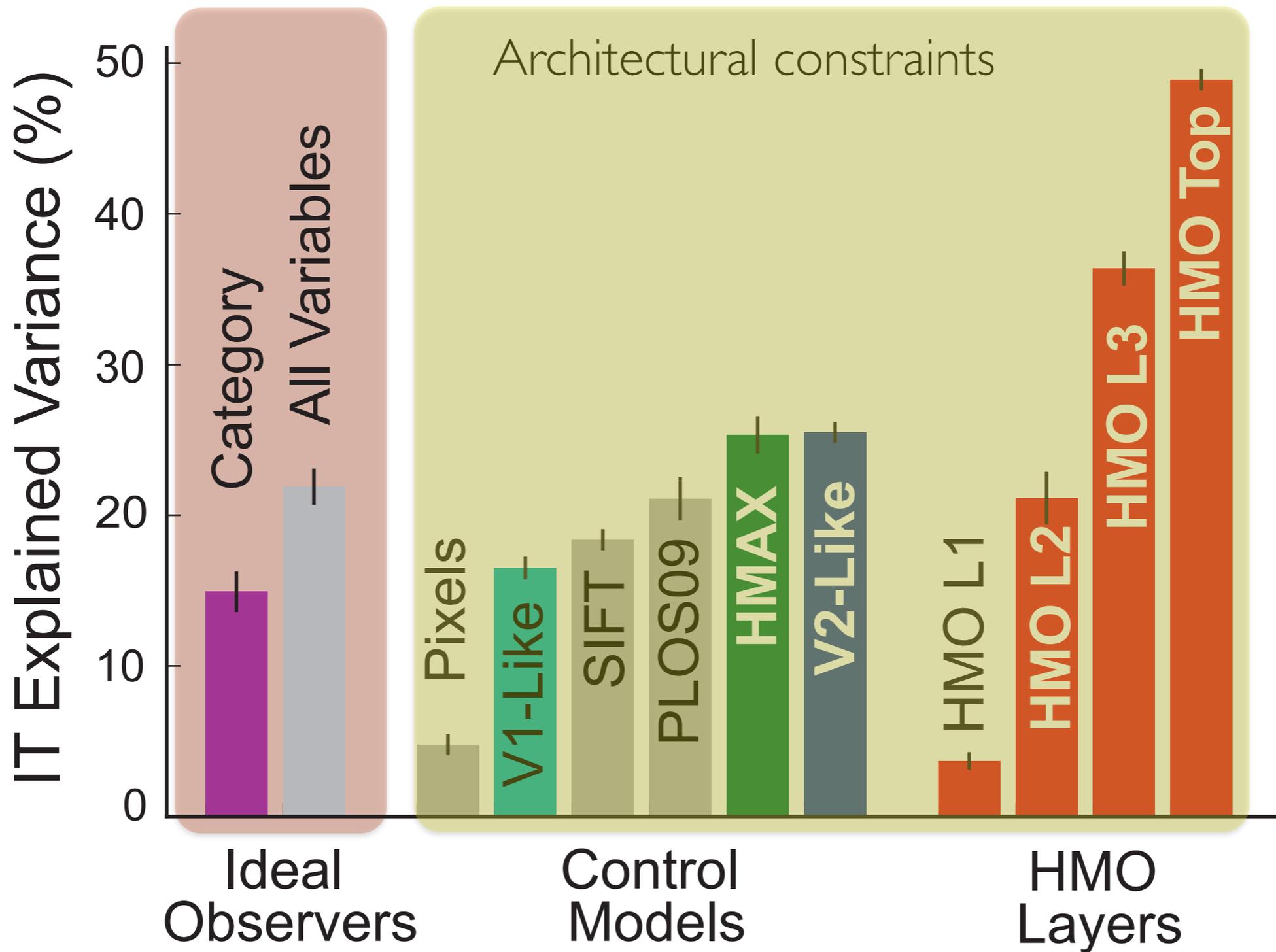
Performance constraints



# Predicting IT Neural Responses

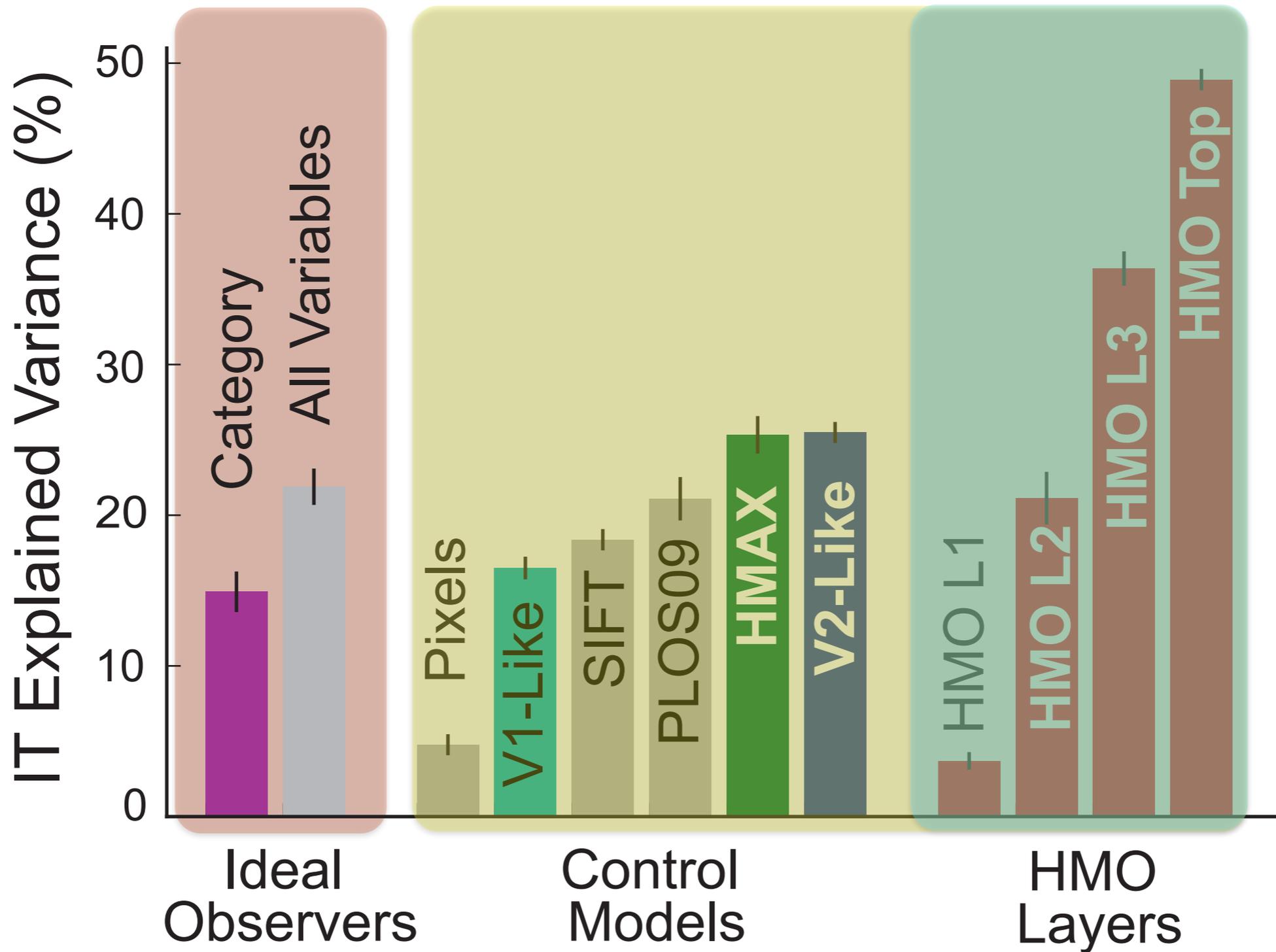
Yamins\* and Hong\* et. al. **PNAS** (2014)

Performance constraints



# Predicting IT Neural Responses

Performance constraints + architectural constraints → better neural prediction



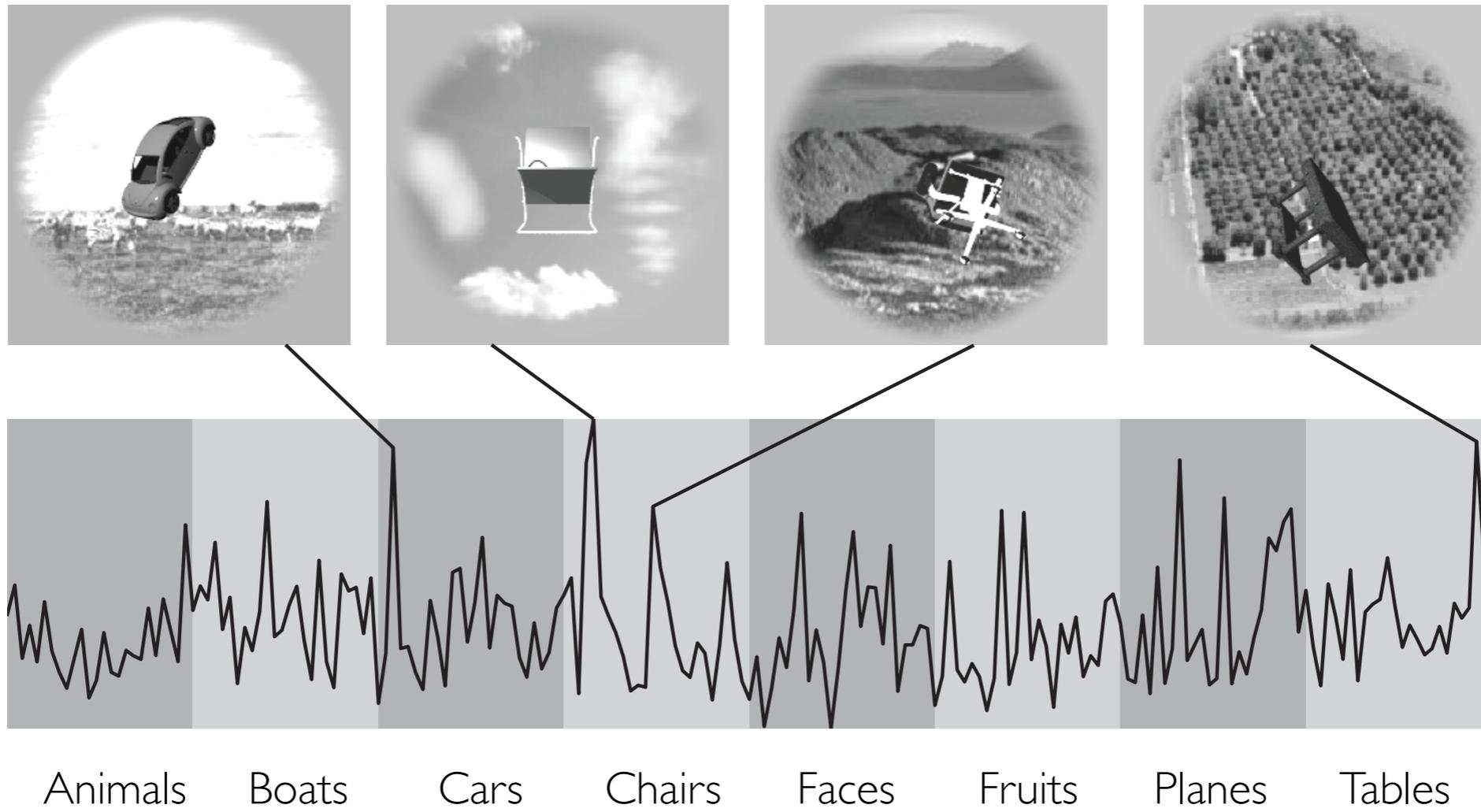
# Predicting IT Neural Responses

What about intermediate layers?

- i. compare intermediate model layers to IT neural data
- ii. compare all model layers to intermediate visual areas (V4)

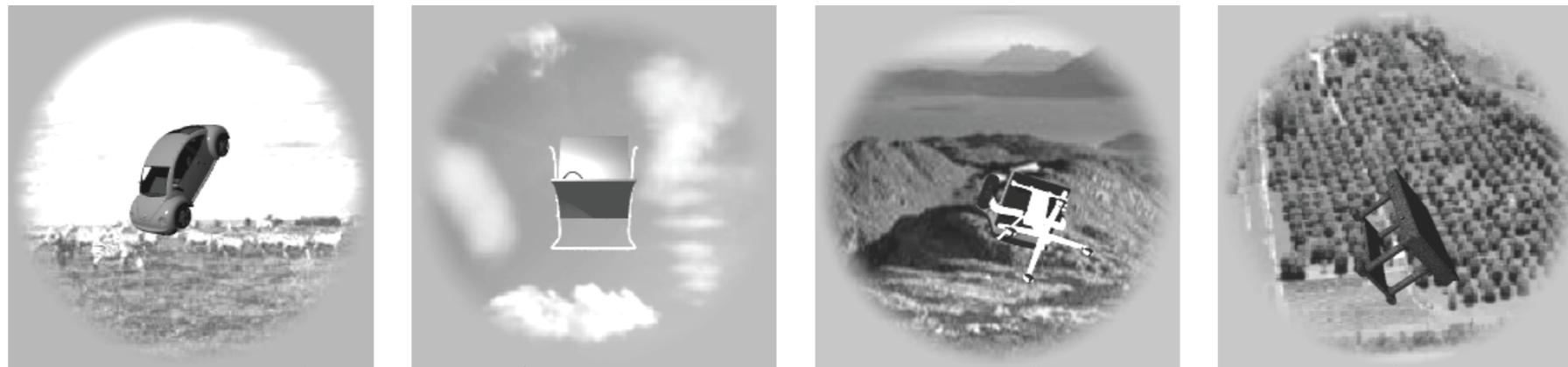
# Predicting V4 Neural Responses

V4 unit 60

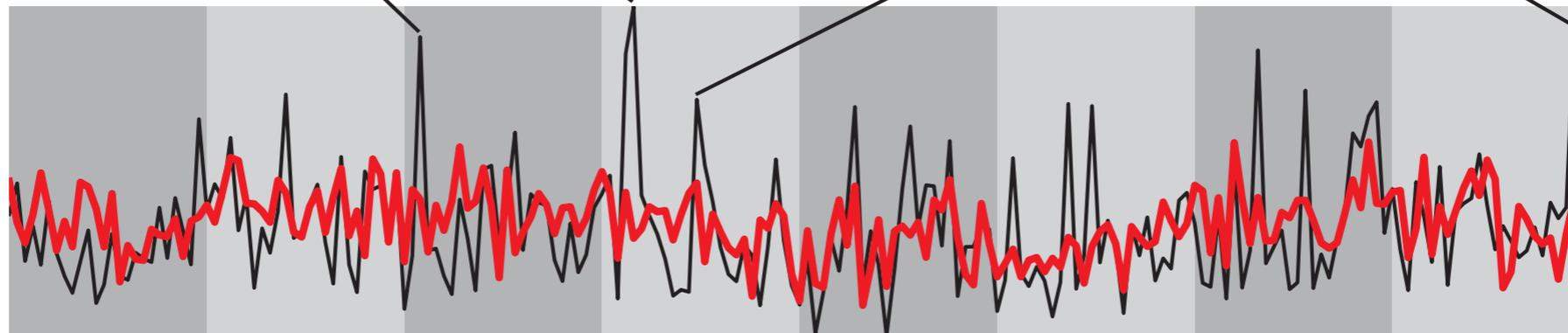


# Predicting V4 Neural Responses

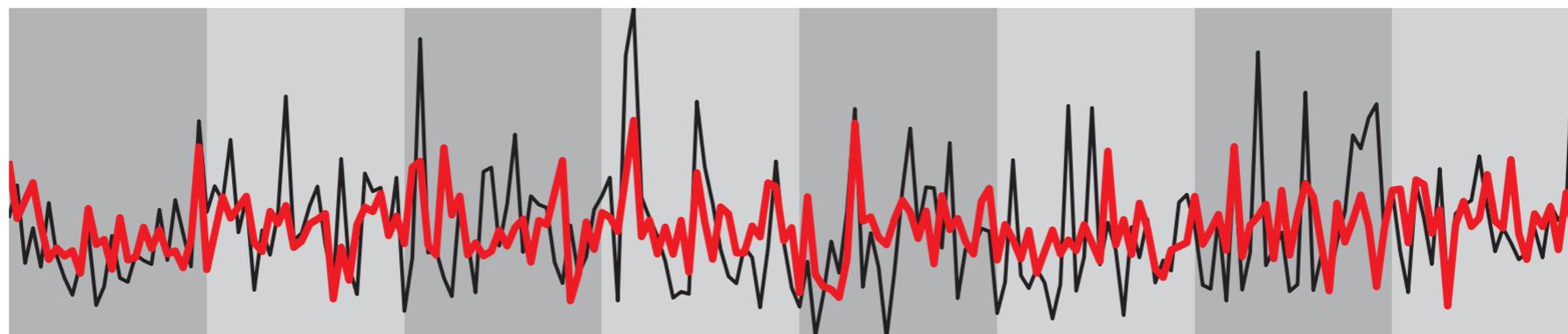
V4 unit 60



Top  
Layer



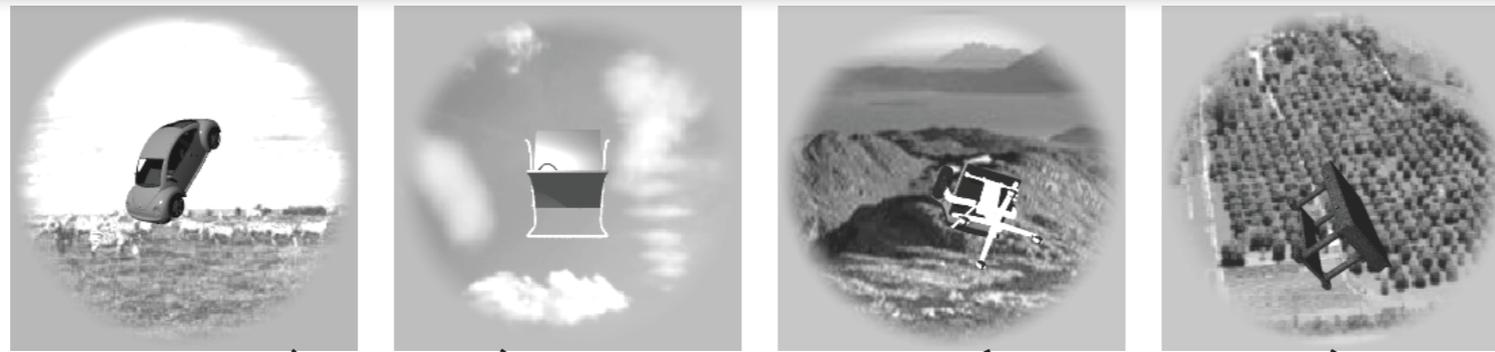
Layer



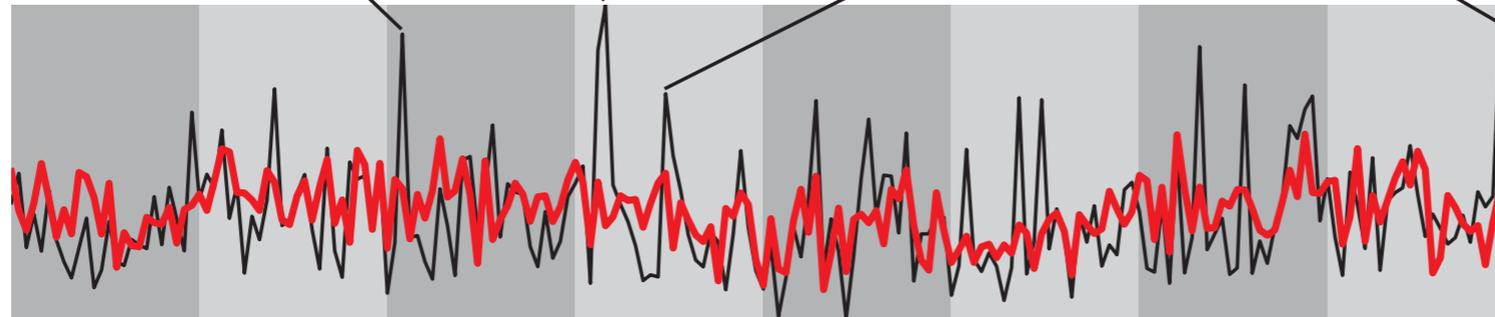
Animals Boats Cars Chairs Faces Fruits Planes Tables

— Neural data — Model prediction

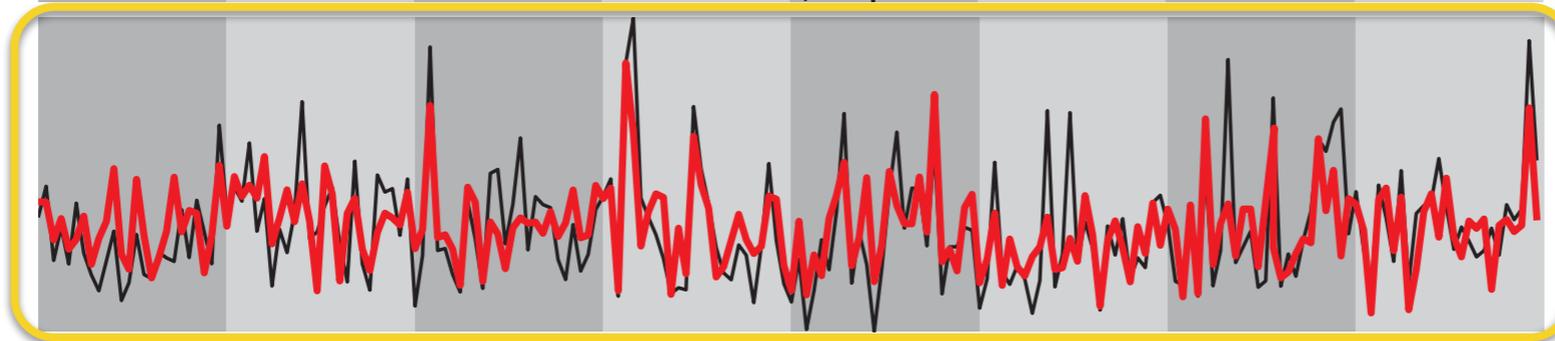
# Predicting V4 Neural Responses



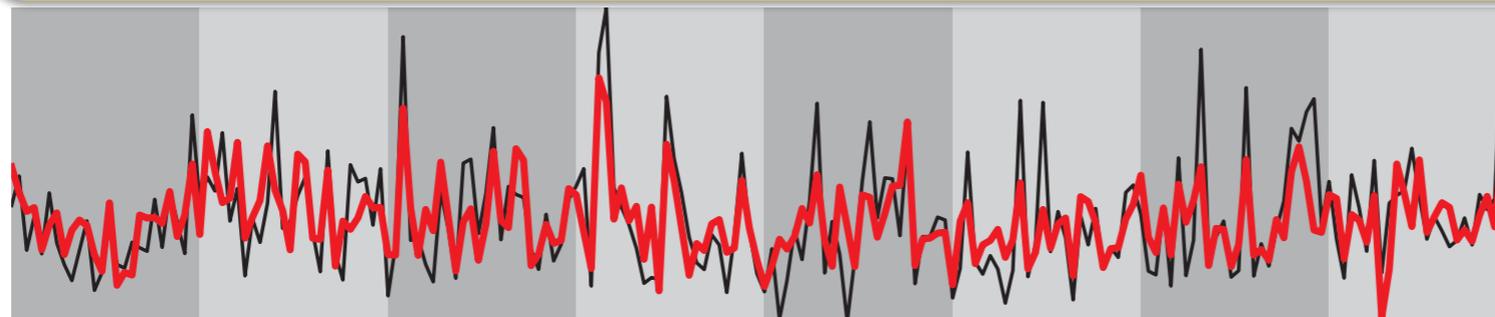
Top  
Layer



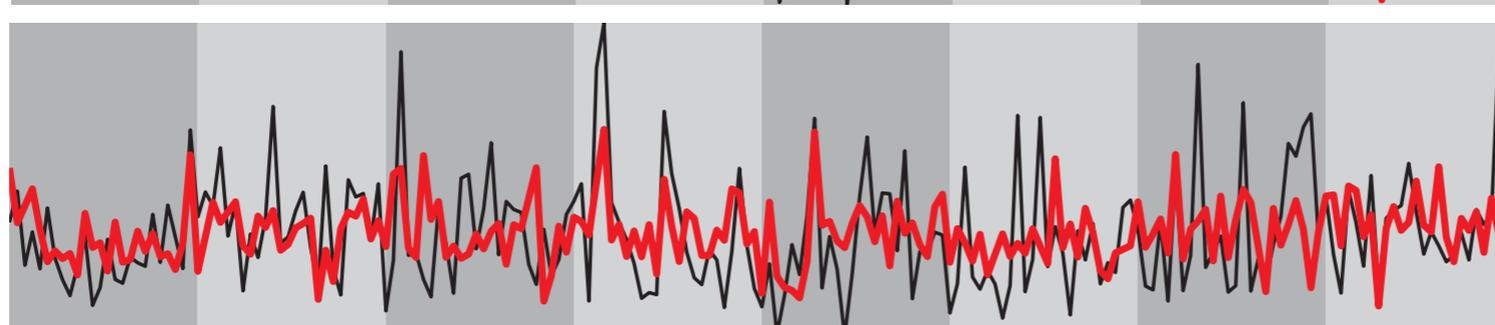
Layer  
**3**



Layer  
**2**



Layer  
**1**

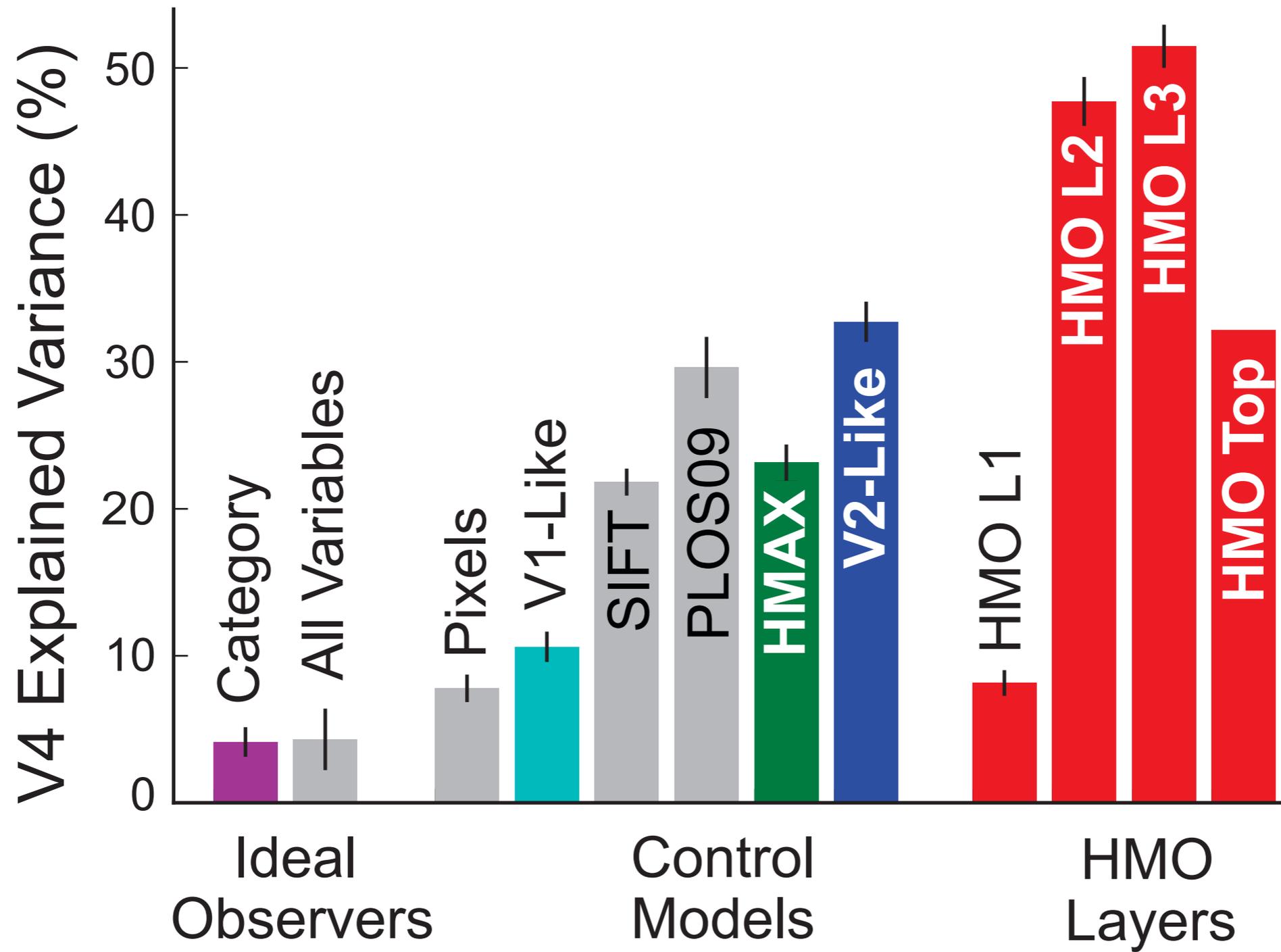


Animals Boats Cars Chairs Faces Fruits Planes Tables

— Neural data  
— Model prediction

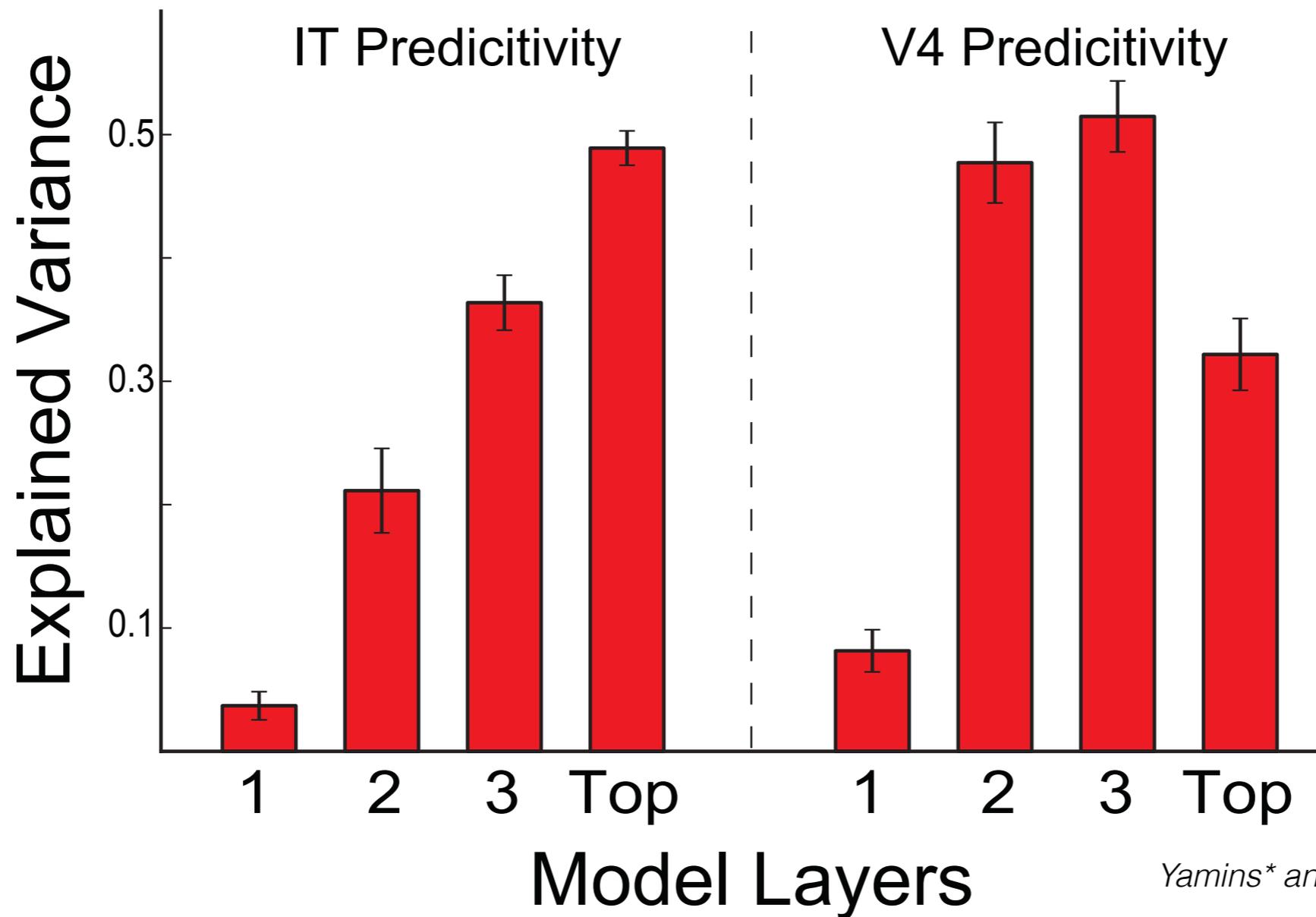
# Predicting V4 Neural Responses

Yamins\* and Hong\* et. al. **PNAS** (2014)



# Layer-area correspondence

Investigating fits as a function of model layer:

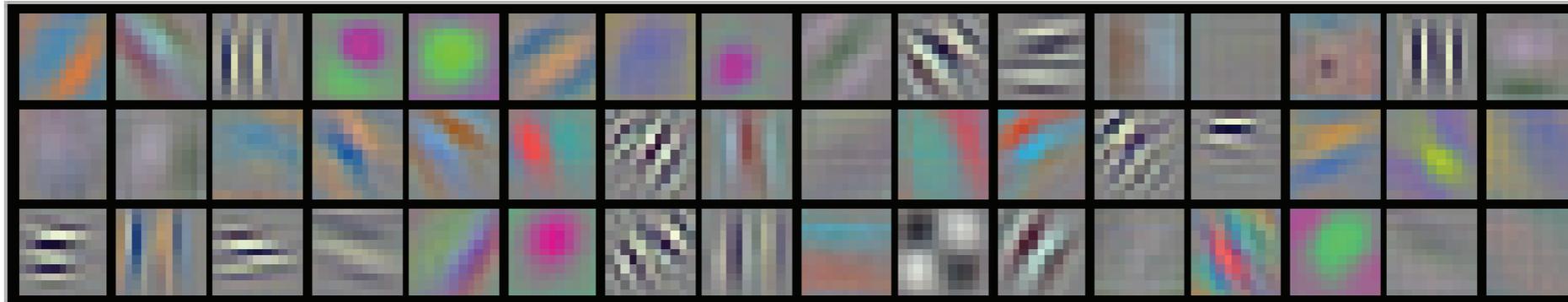


*Yamins\* and Hong\* et. al. **PNAS** (2014)*

IT fit increases at each layer. In contrast, V4 fit peaks and then goes down.

# Layer-area correspondence

Model output at lowest layer resembles Gabor wavelets:

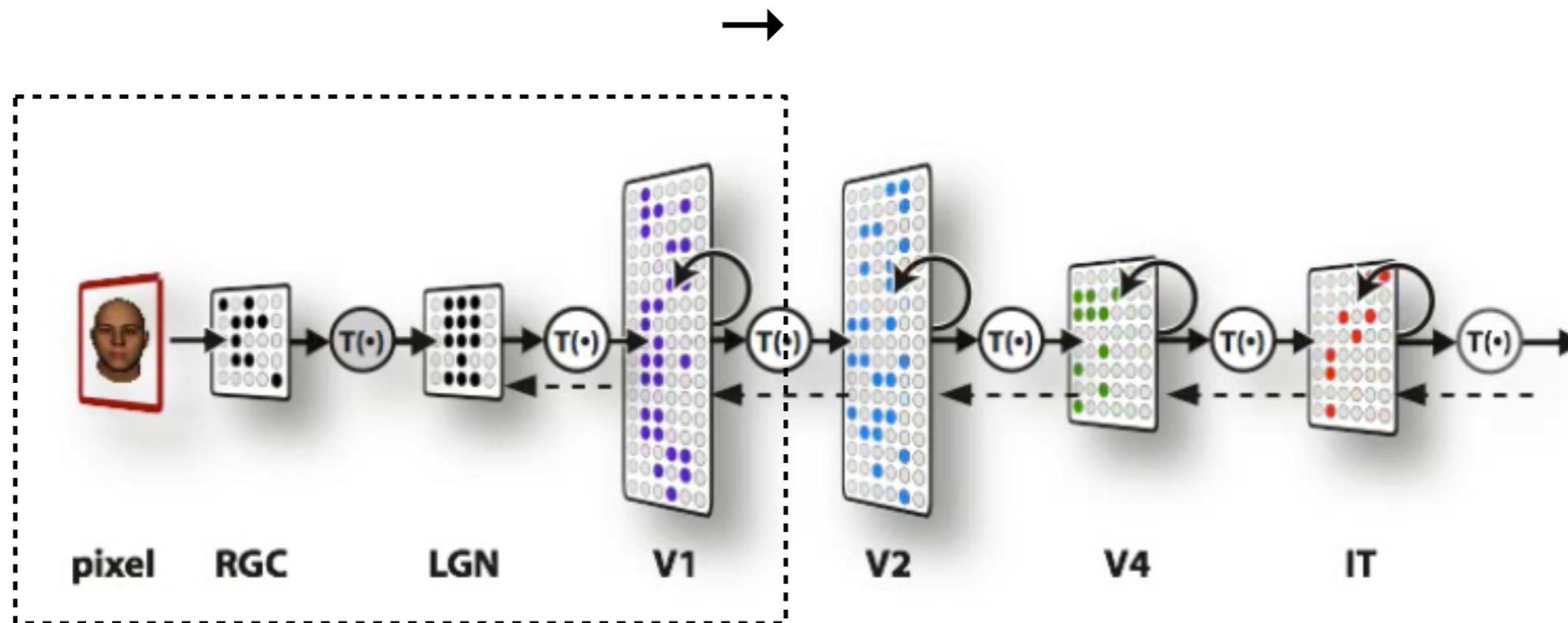


Layer I Filters

In submission: model lowest layer is best explanation of imaging data in V1. (*with Darren Seibert and Justin Gardner*)

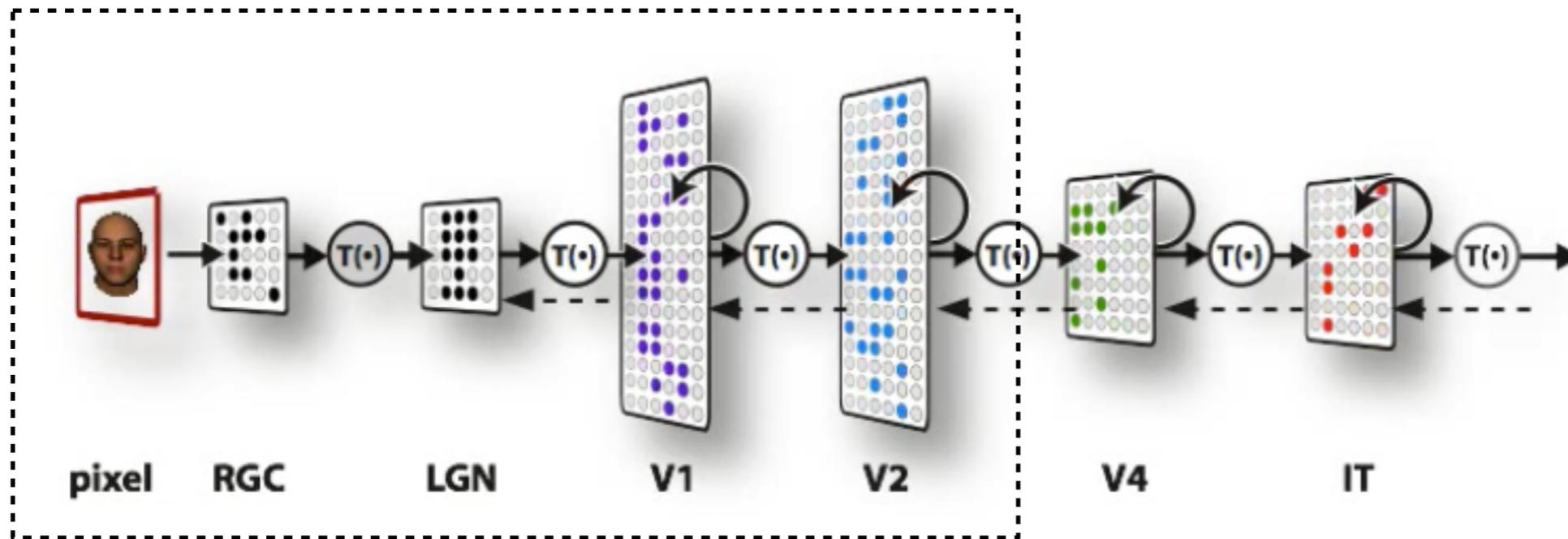
# Behavioral “Top-Down” constraints

Complement standard “from below” approach ...



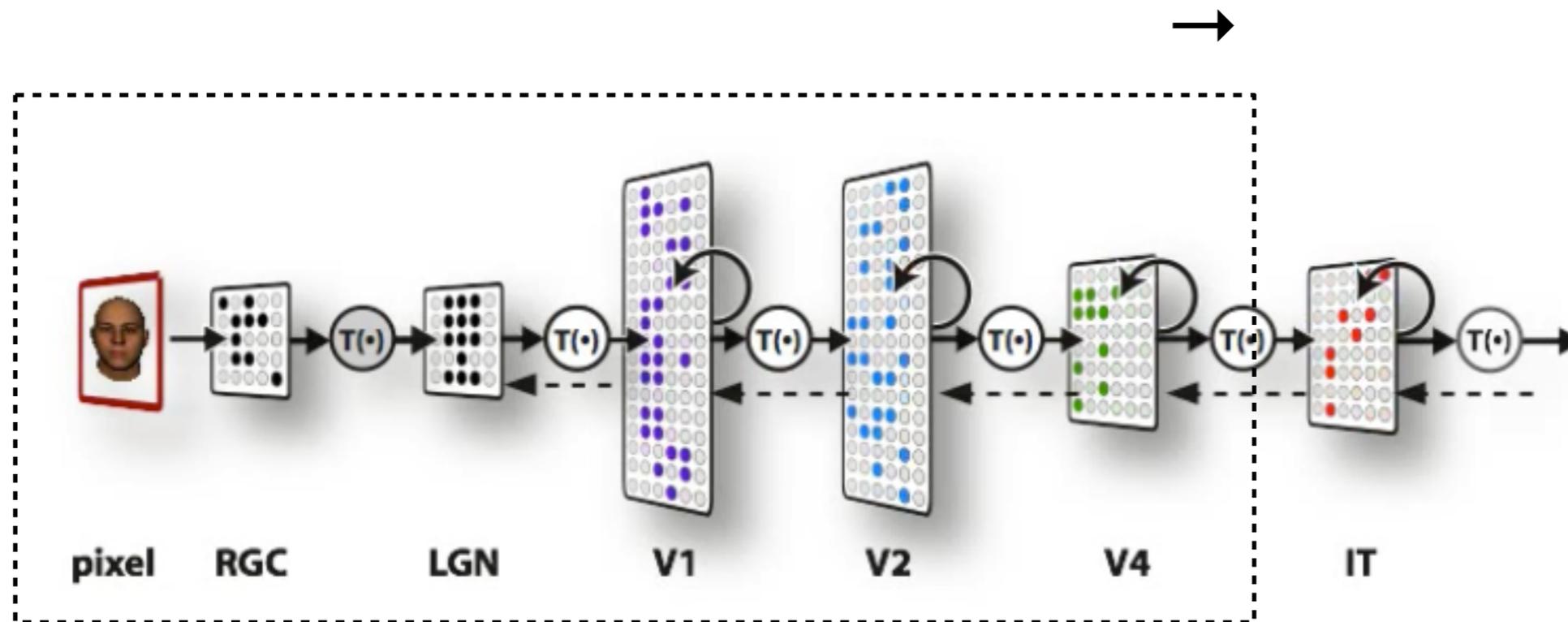
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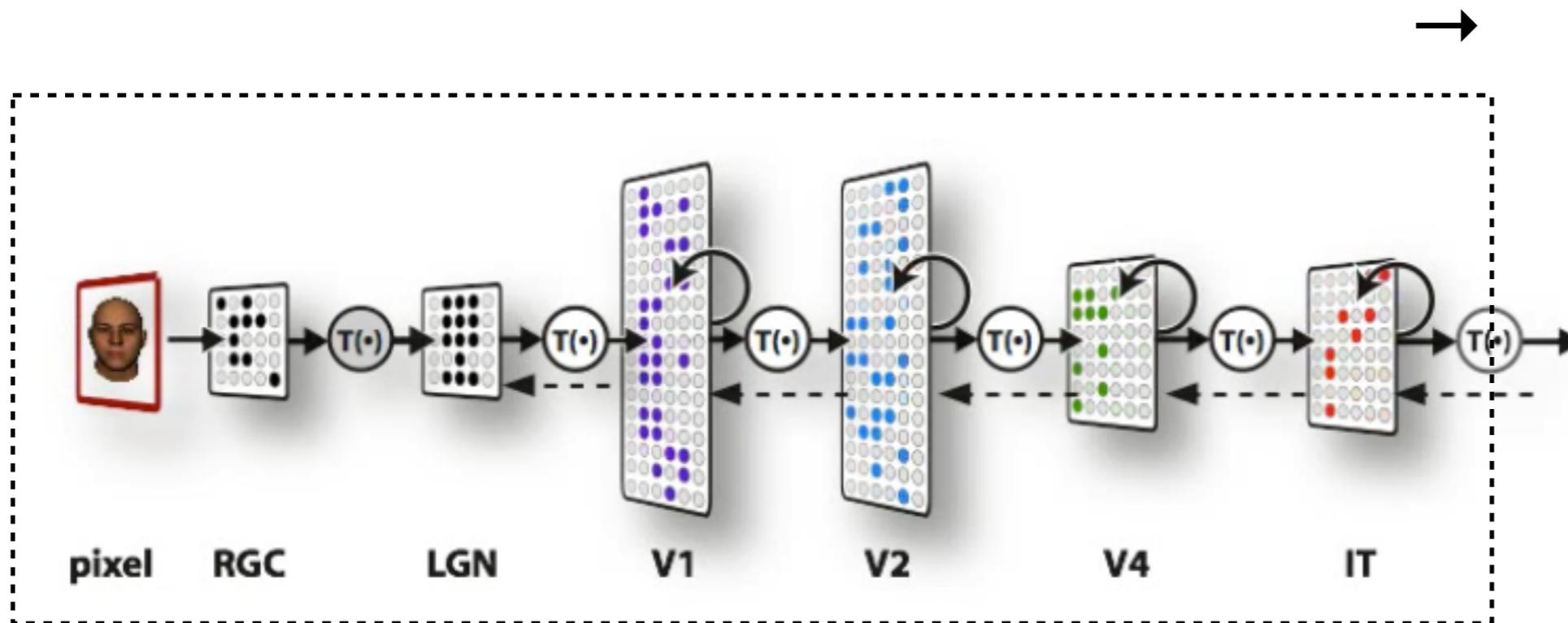
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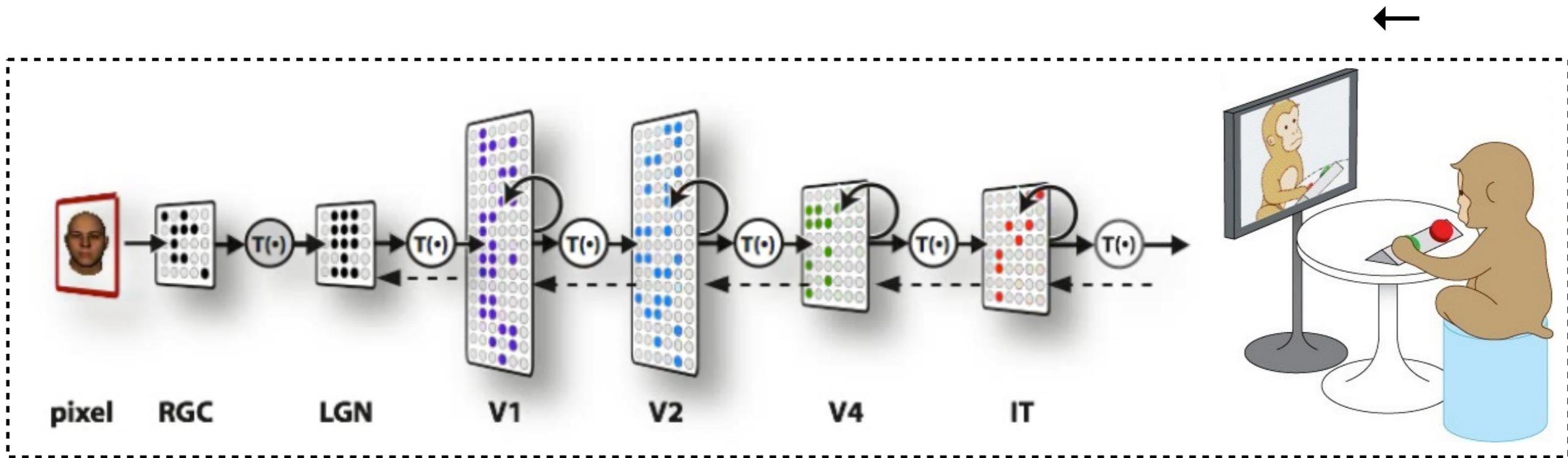
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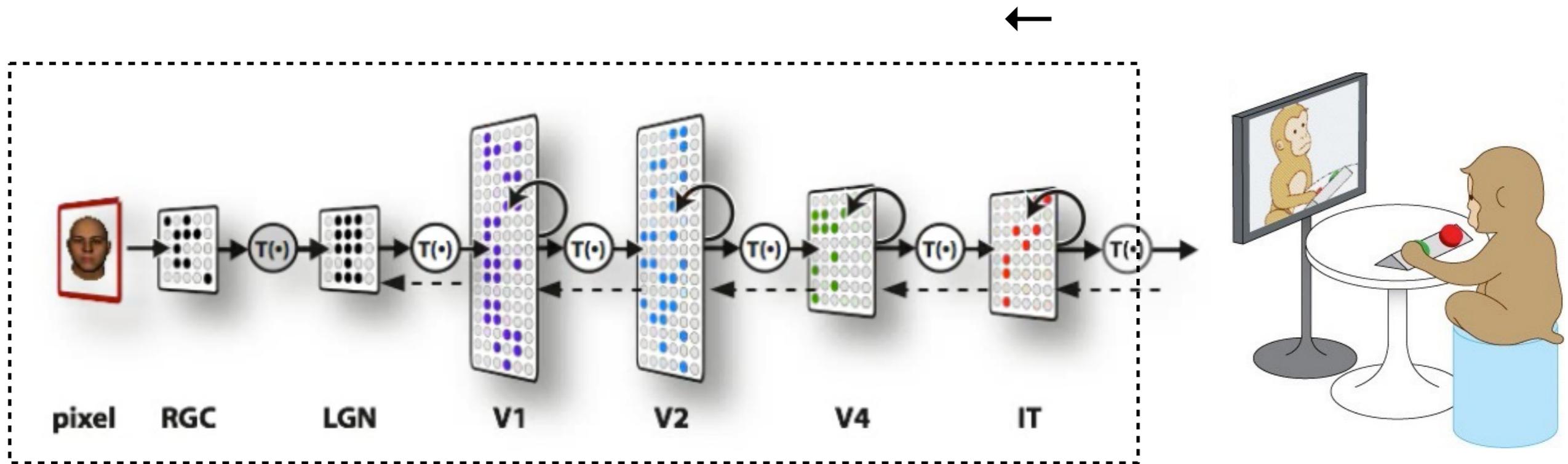
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Complement standard “from below” approach ... with behavioral constraints



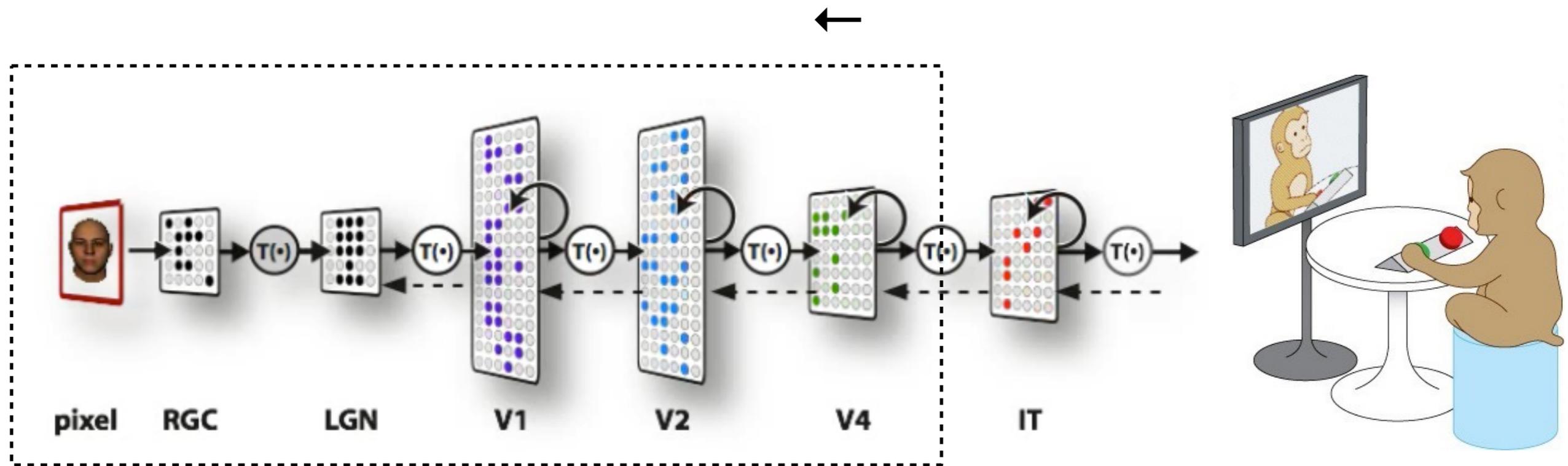
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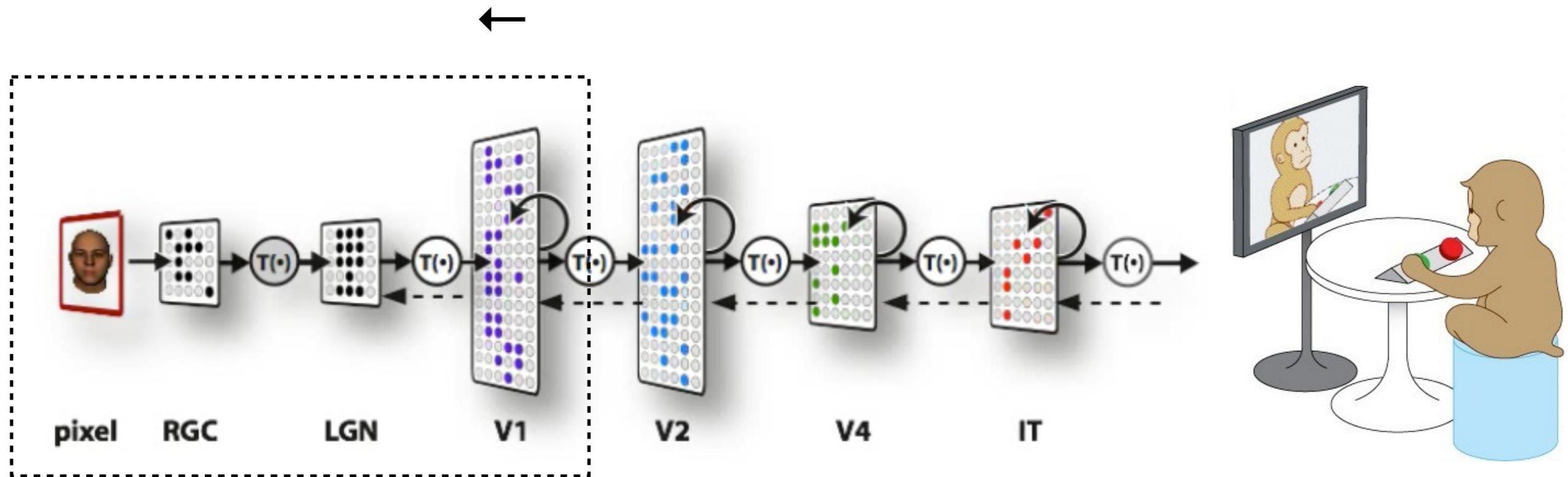
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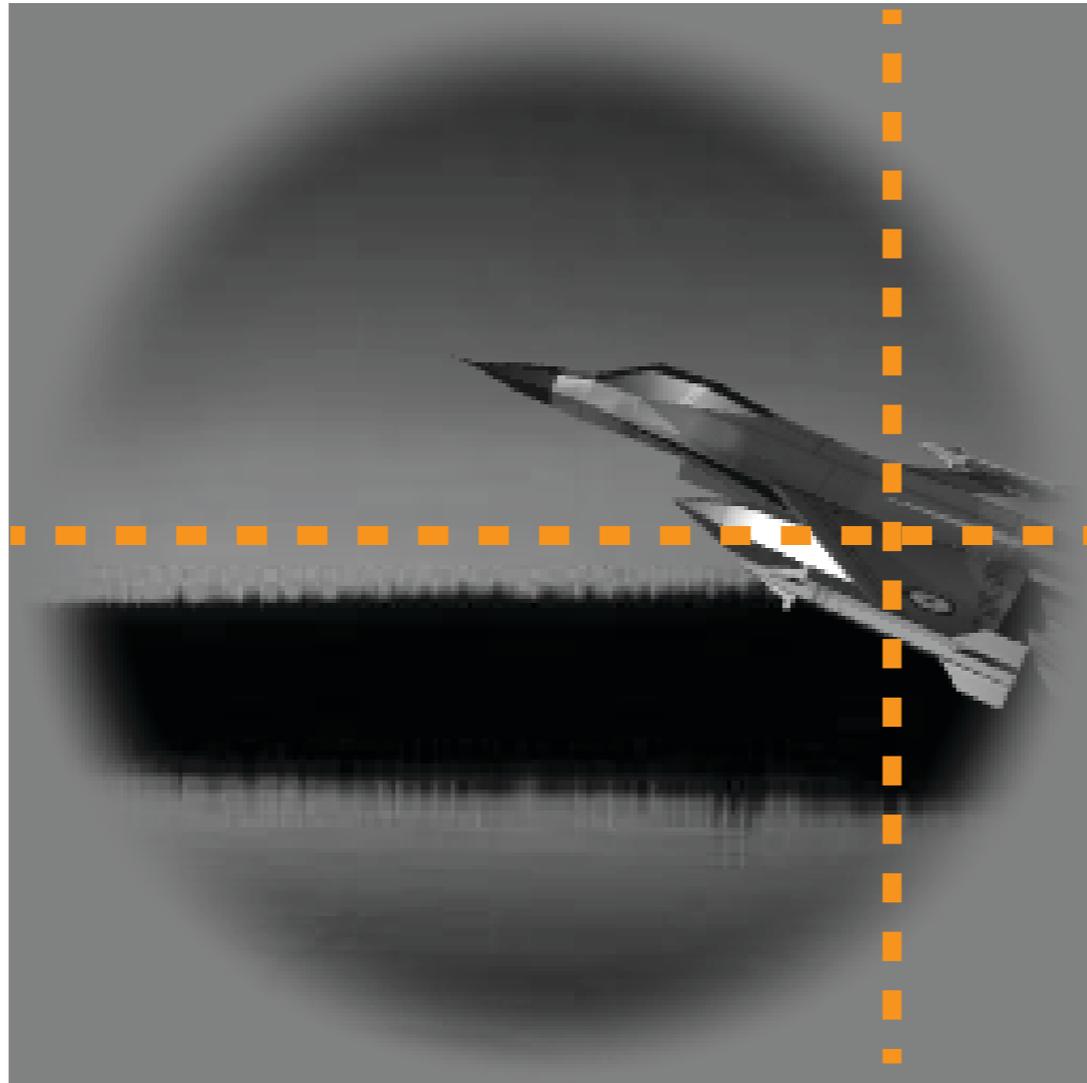
Similar ideas and results:  
Khaligh-Razavi & Kriegeskorte (2014),  
Guclu & Van Gerven (2015), Cichy & Oliva (2015)



*Category*

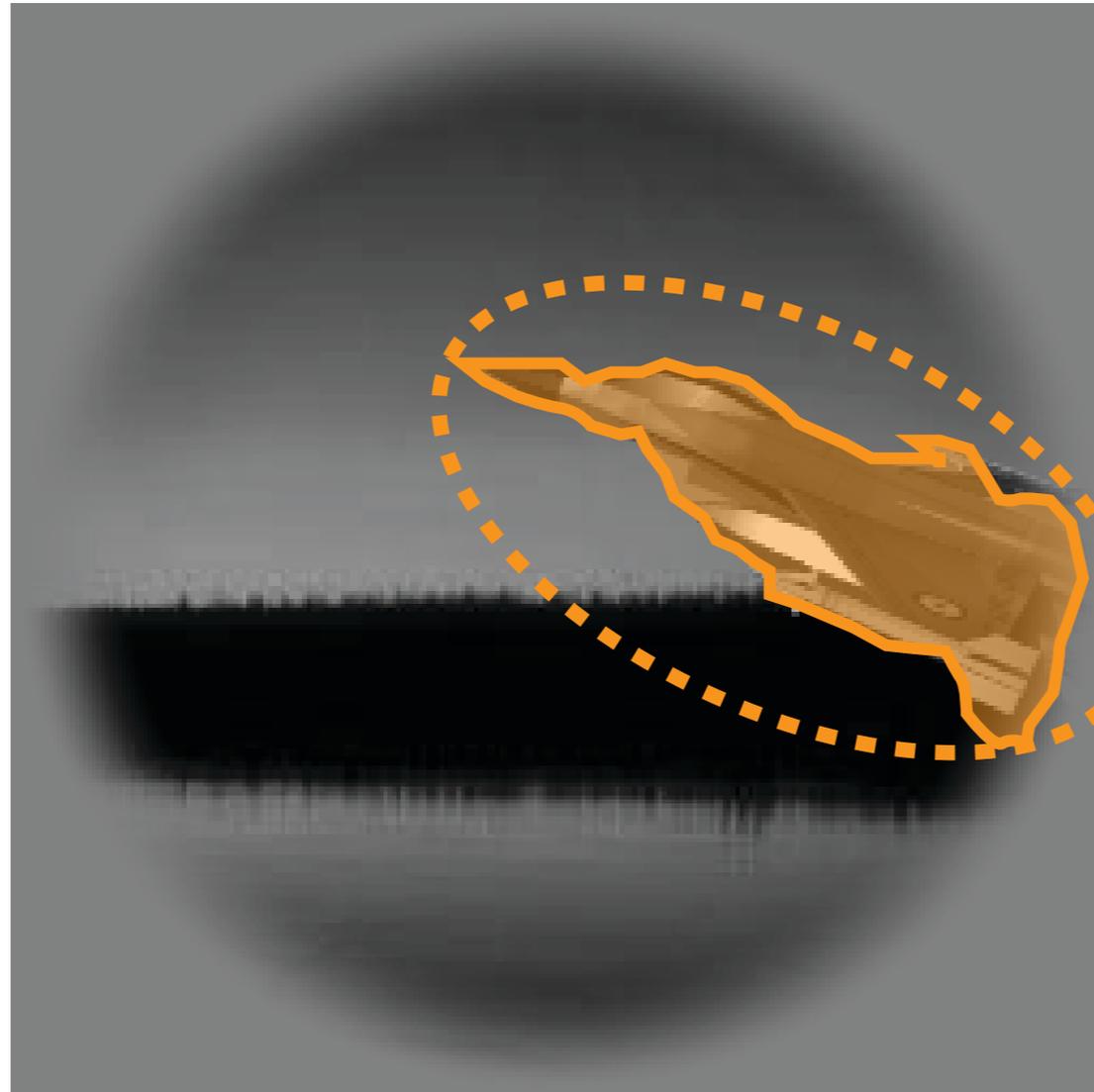
*Identity*

# Beyond categorization

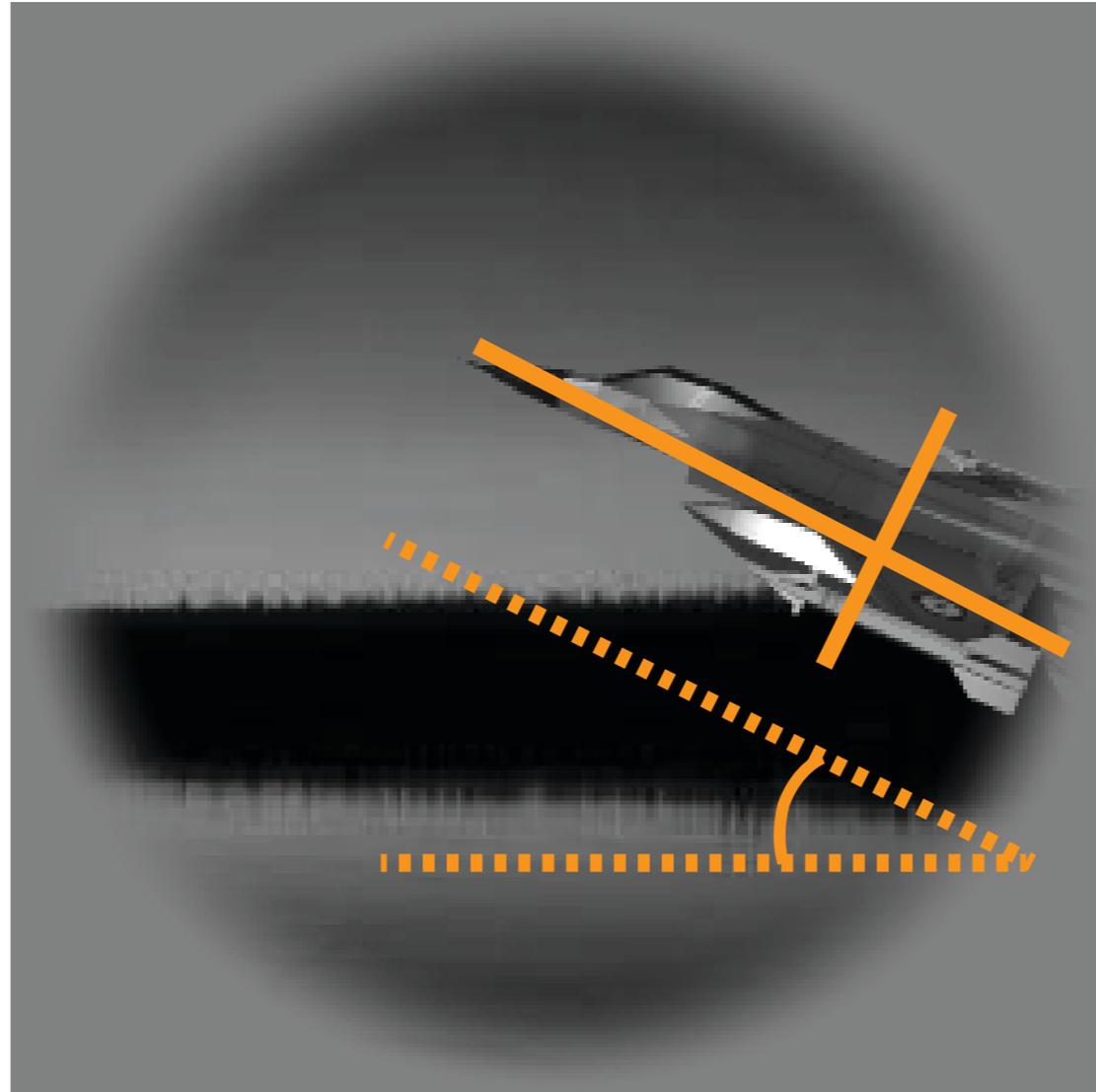


*Position*

# Beyond categorization



*Size*



*Aspect Ratio  
and Angle*

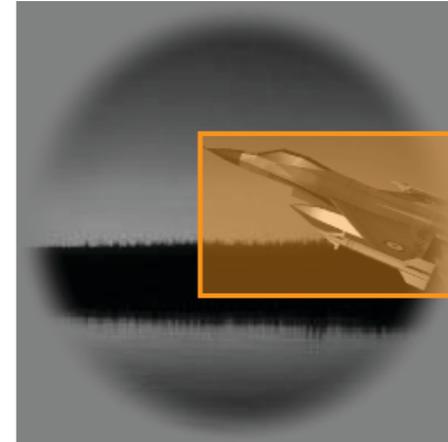
# Beyond categorization

We can quickly assess the scene as a whole.

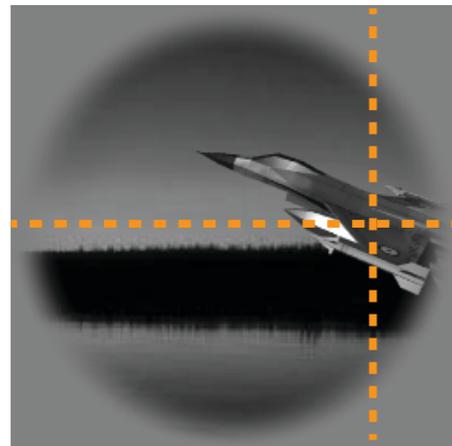


Category

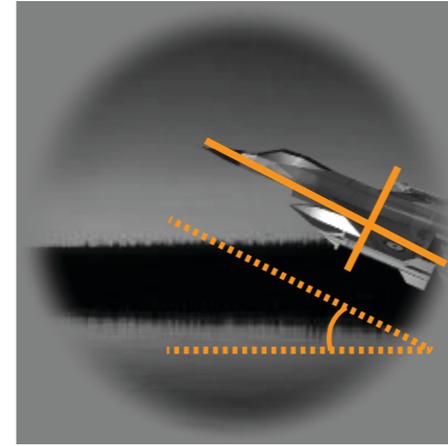
Identity



Bounding Box



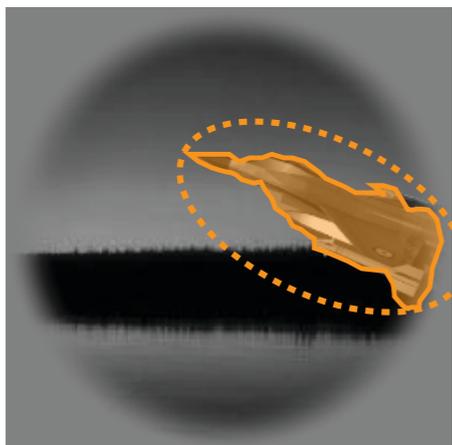
X and Y Axis  
Position



Aspect Ratio

Major Axis Length

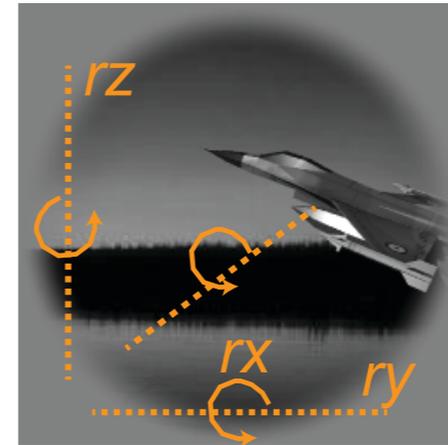
Major Axis Angle



Perimeter

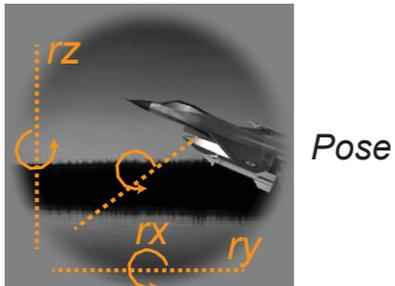
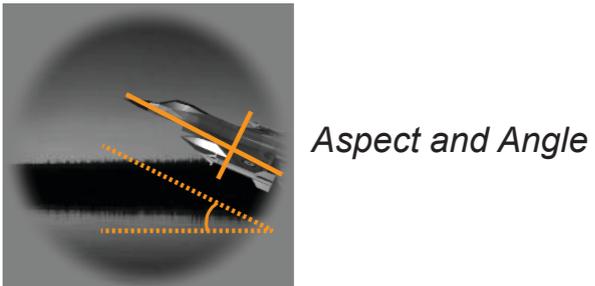
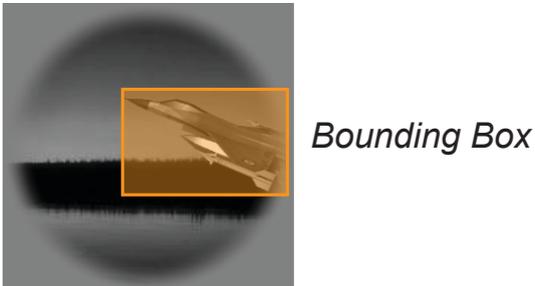
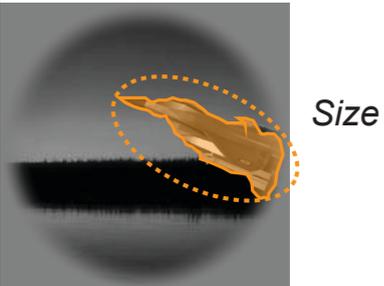
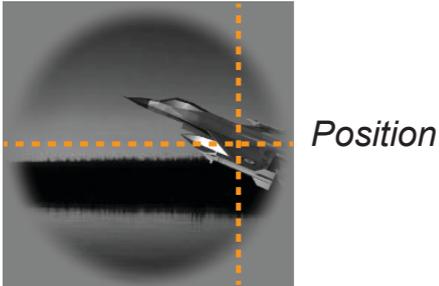
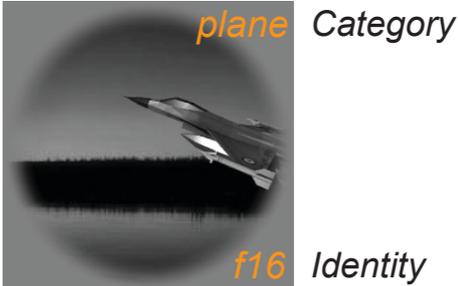
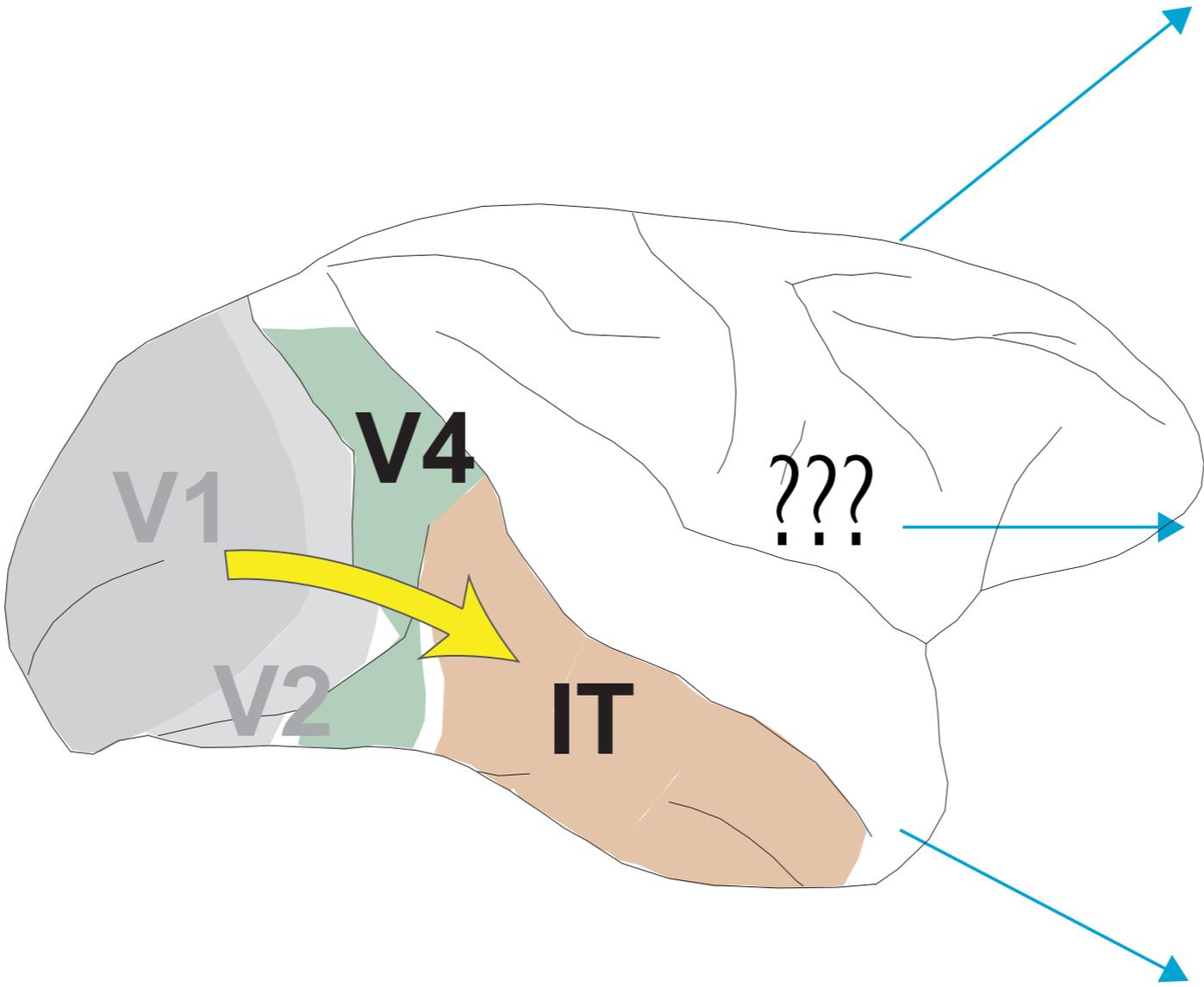
2-D Retinal Area

3-D Object Scale



Pose in  
each axis

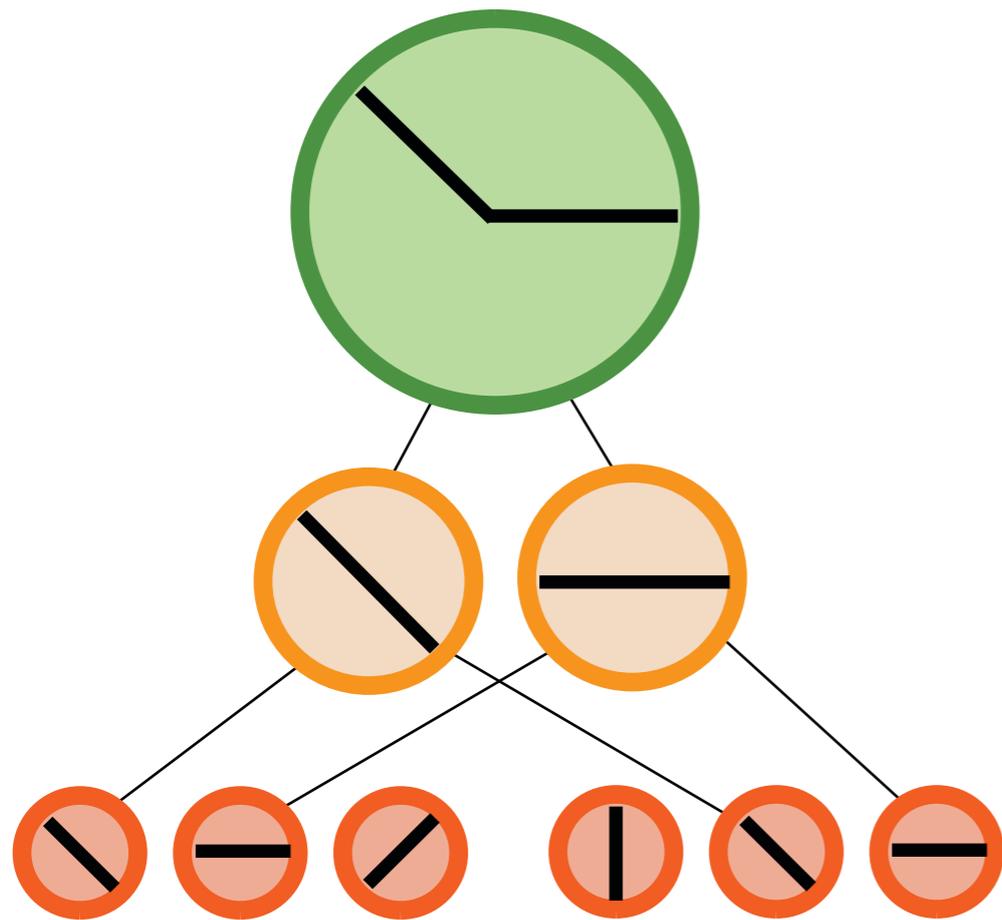
Where and how are all these properties coded neurally?



# Beyond categorization

“Standard word model” predicts: **not at the top of the ventral stream.**

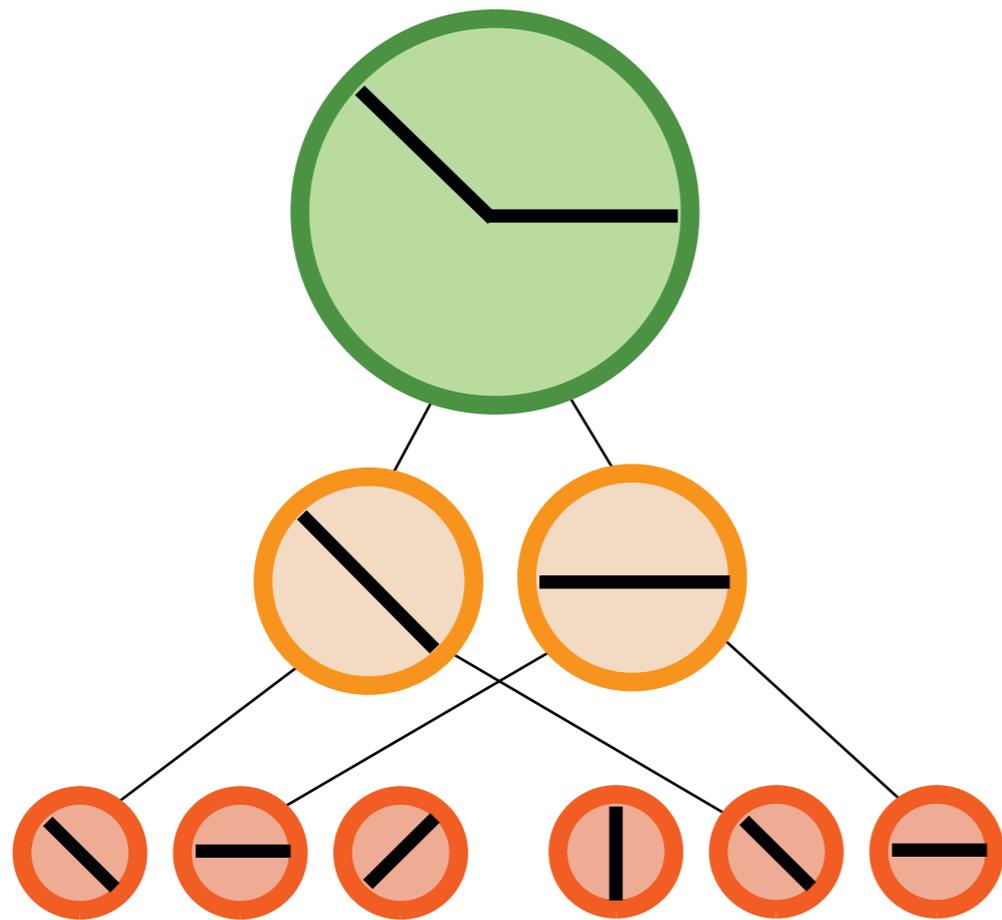
Aggregation over identity-preserving transformations, e.g. translation.



# Beyond categorization

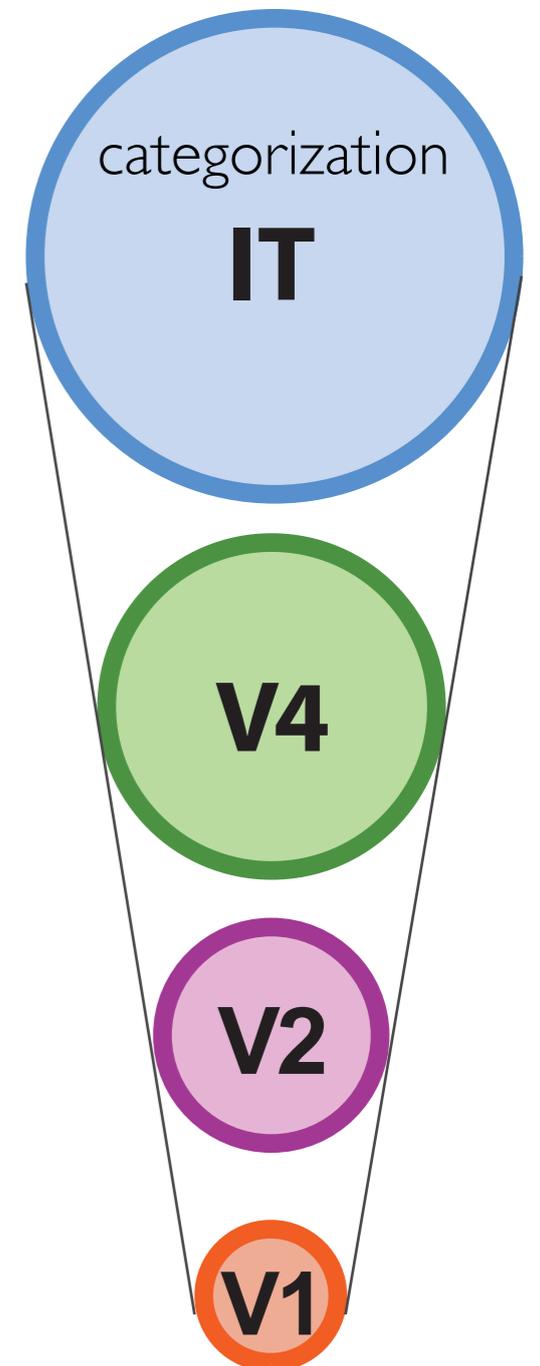
“Standard word model” predicts: **not at the top of the ventral stream.**

Aggregation over identity-preserving transformations, e.g. translation.



Receptive Field Size ↑

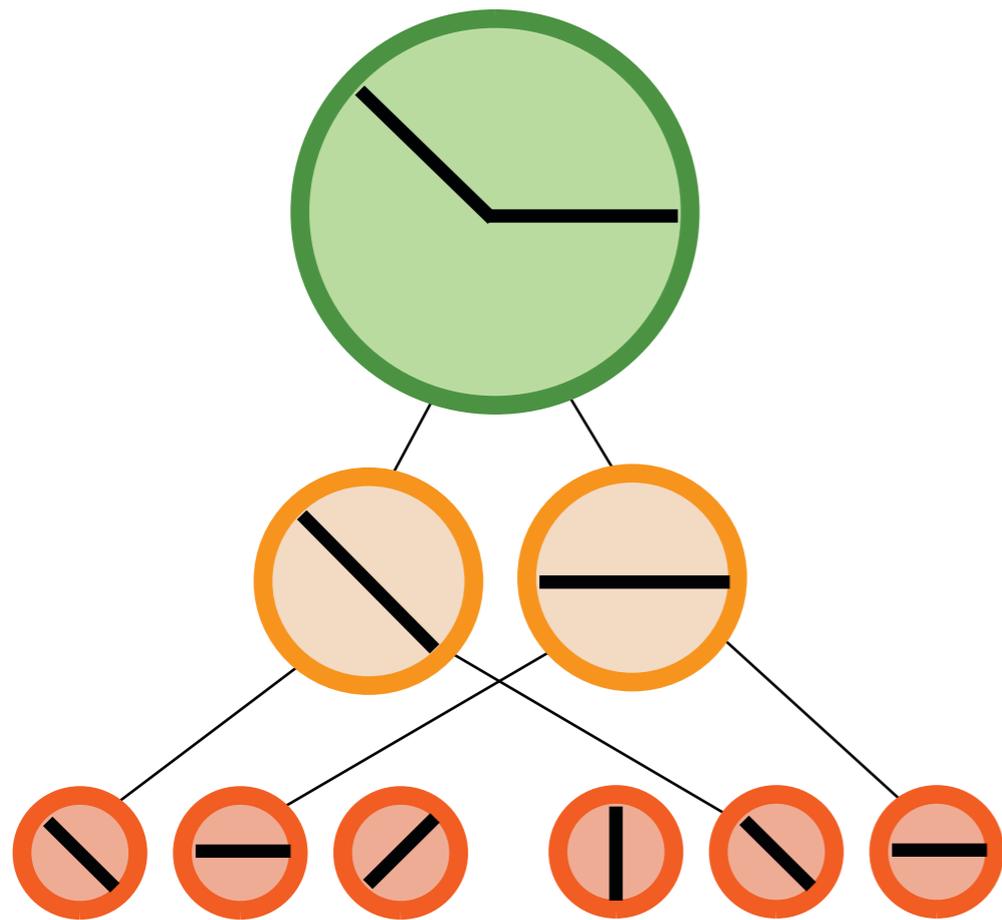
Category Invariance ↑



# Beyond categorization

“Standard word model” predicts: **not at the top of the ventral stream.**

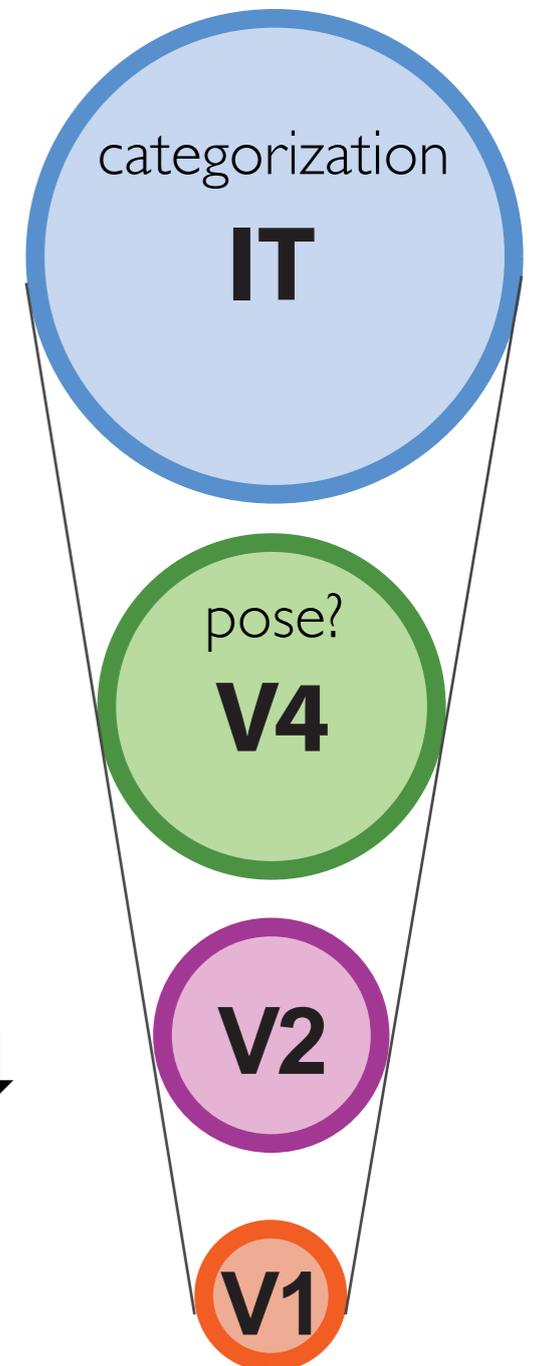
Aggregation over identity-preserving transformations, e.g. translation.



Receptive Field Size ↑

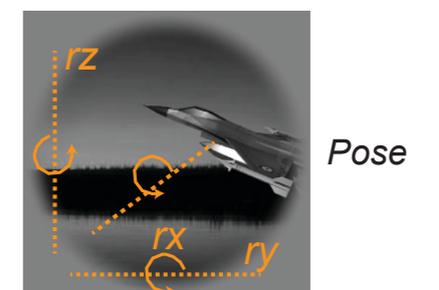
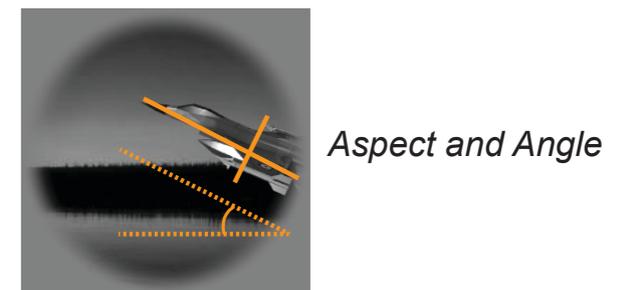
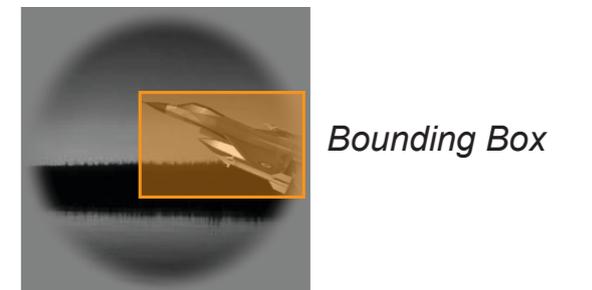
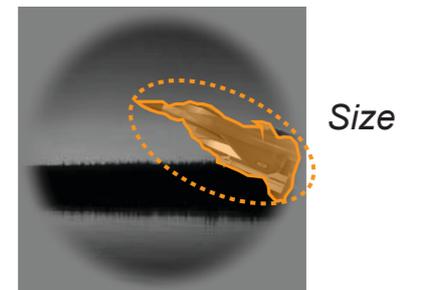
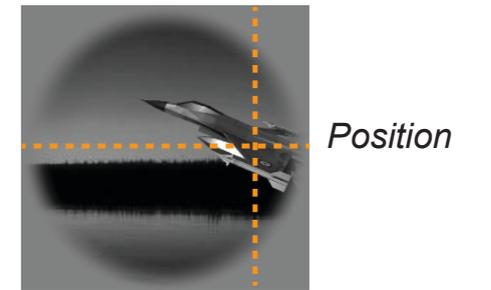
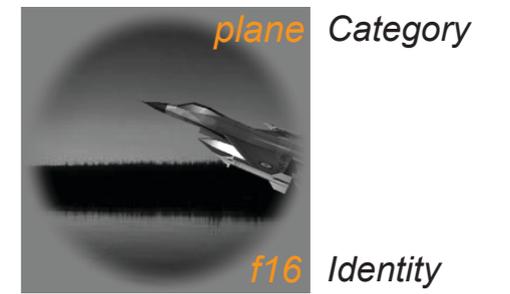
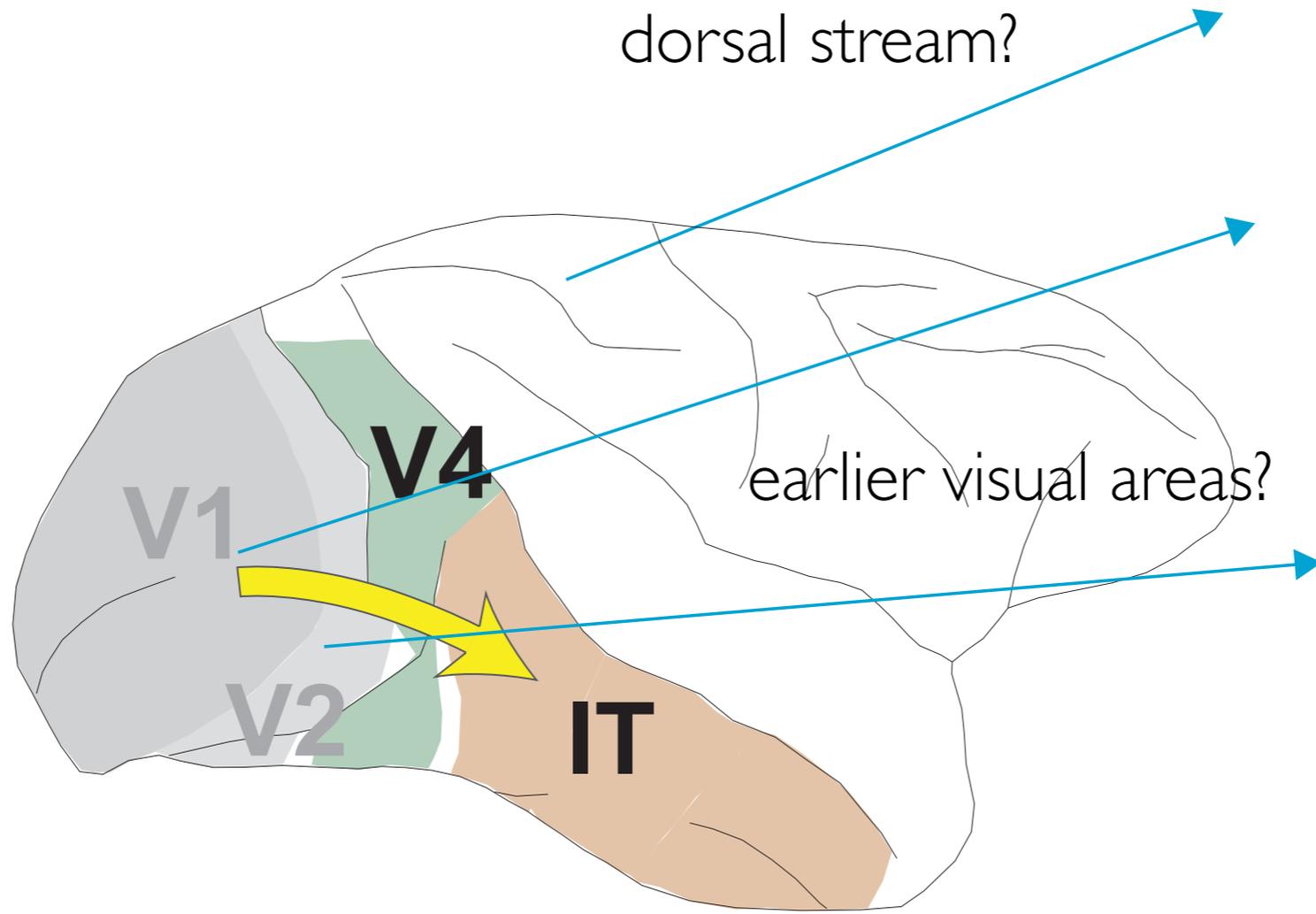
Category Invariance ↑

(e.g.) Position Sensitivity ↓



position / size estimation

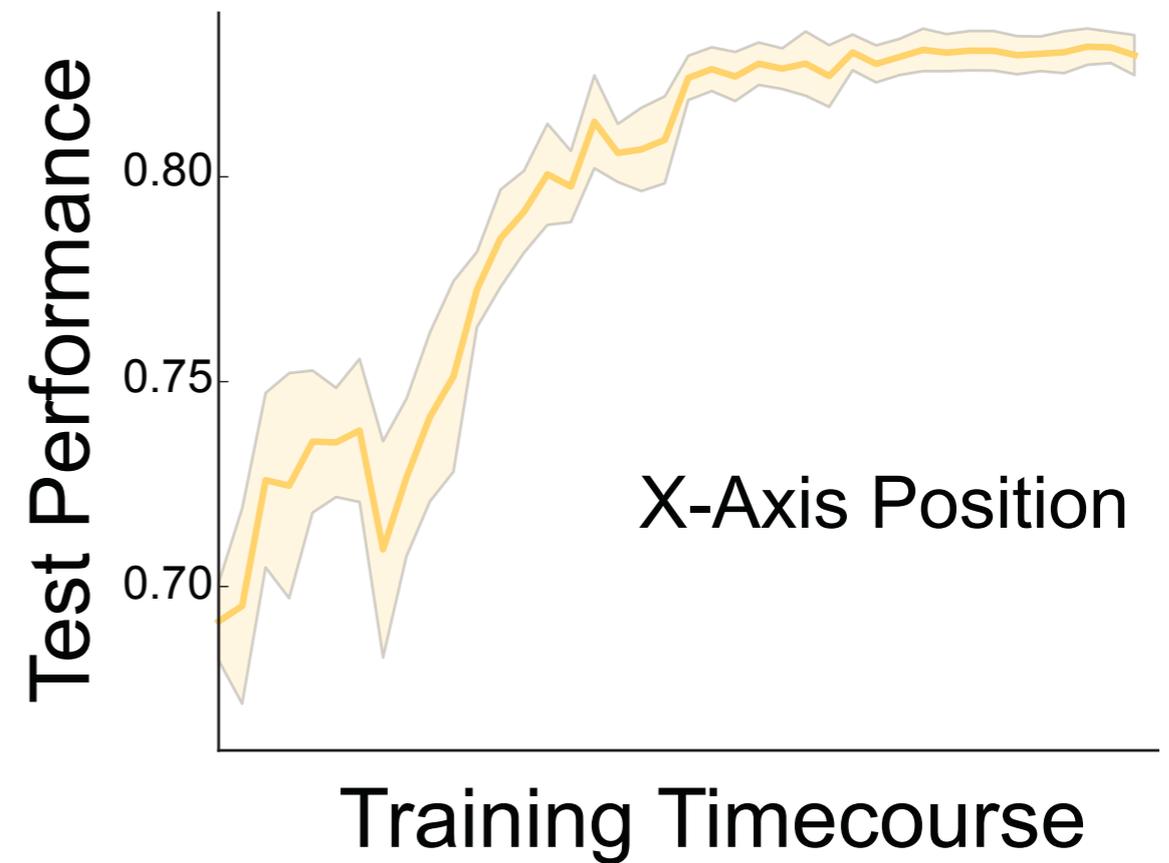
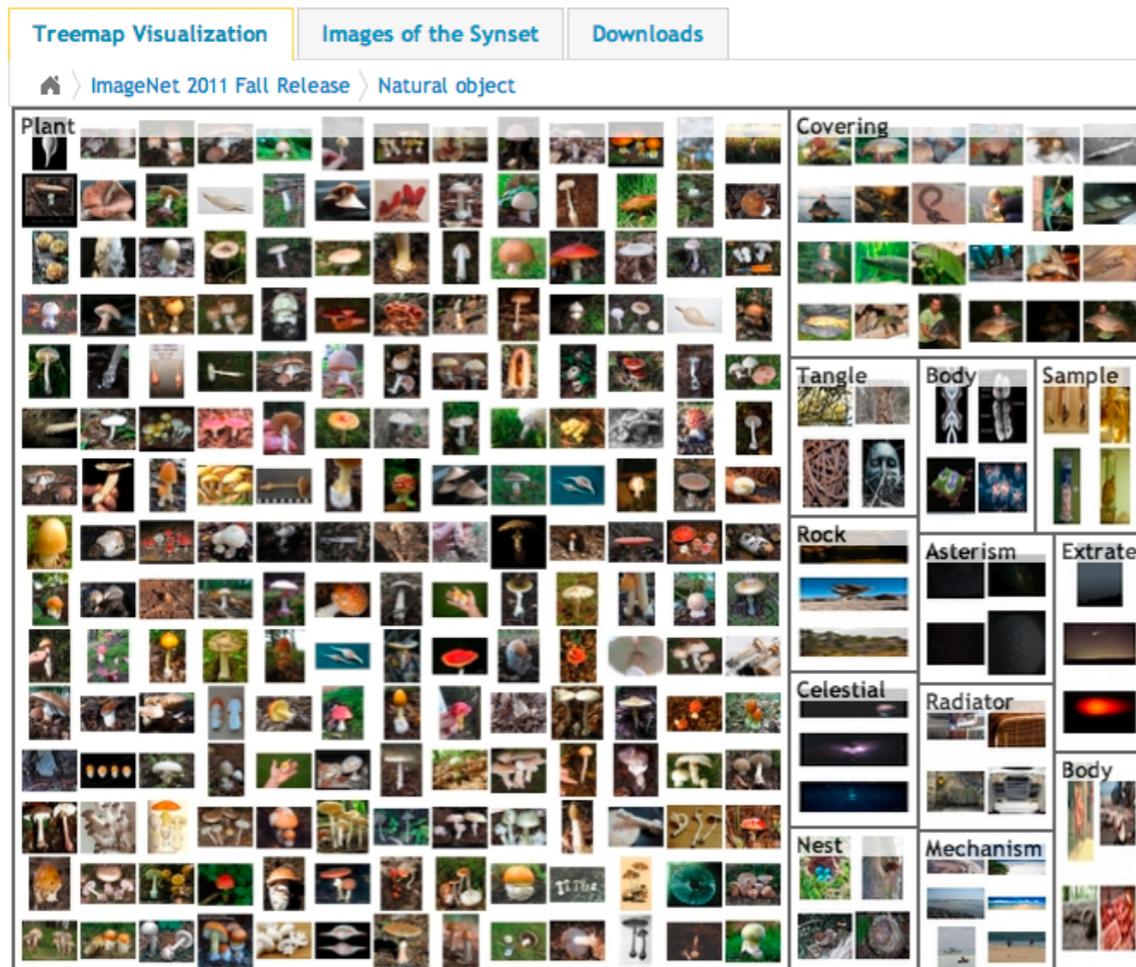
Where and how are all these properties coded neurally?



# Beyond categorization

Unexpected observation:

Hong\*, Yamins\*, Majaj & DiCarlo. **Nat. Neuro.** (2016)



Training on categorization task

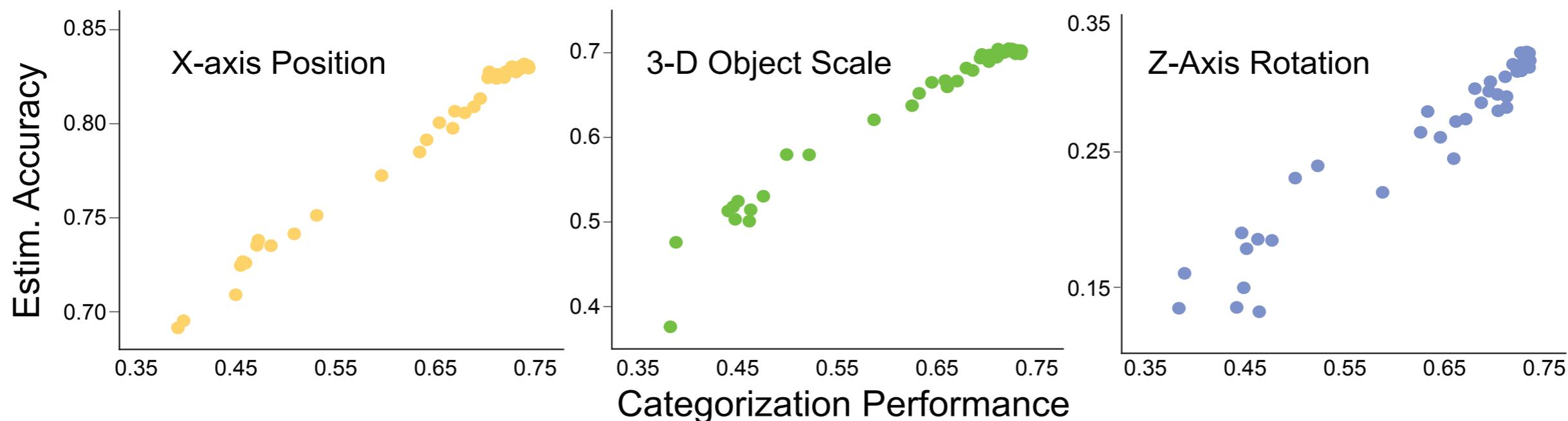


Increased performance on position estimation task.

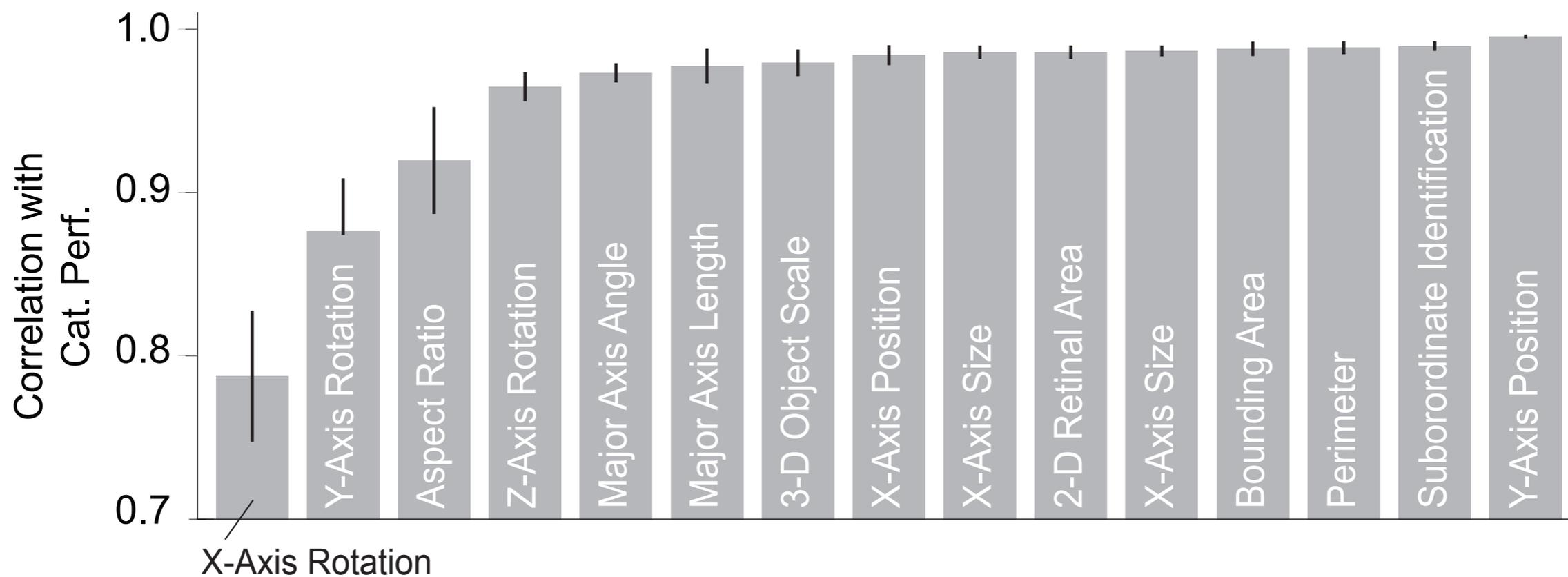
even though the goal was to become INVARIANT to position

# Beyond categorization

Category optimization → improved performance on non-categorical tasks.

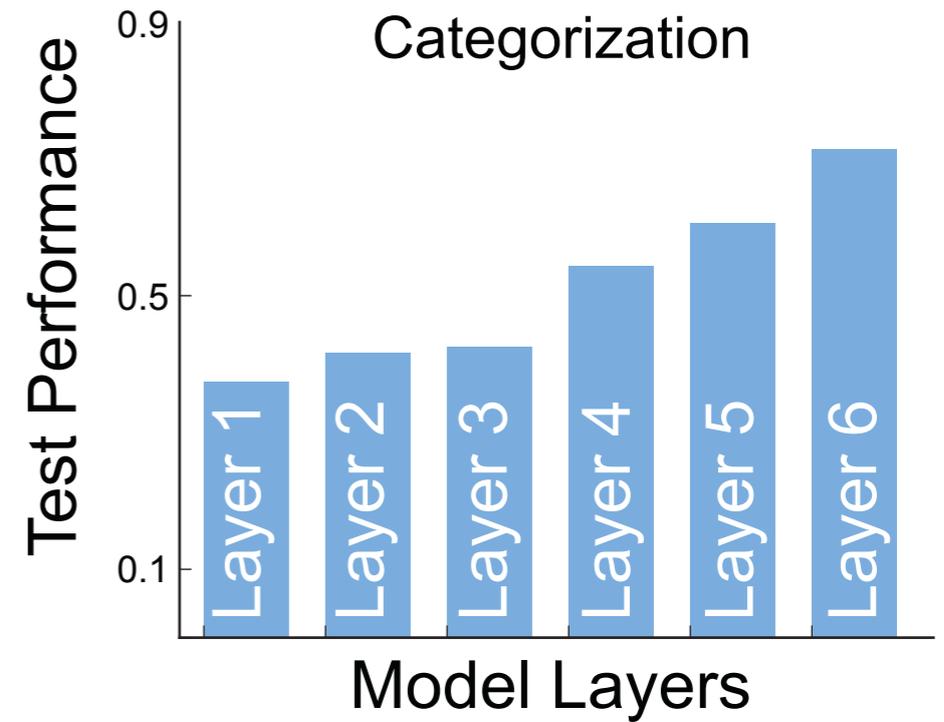
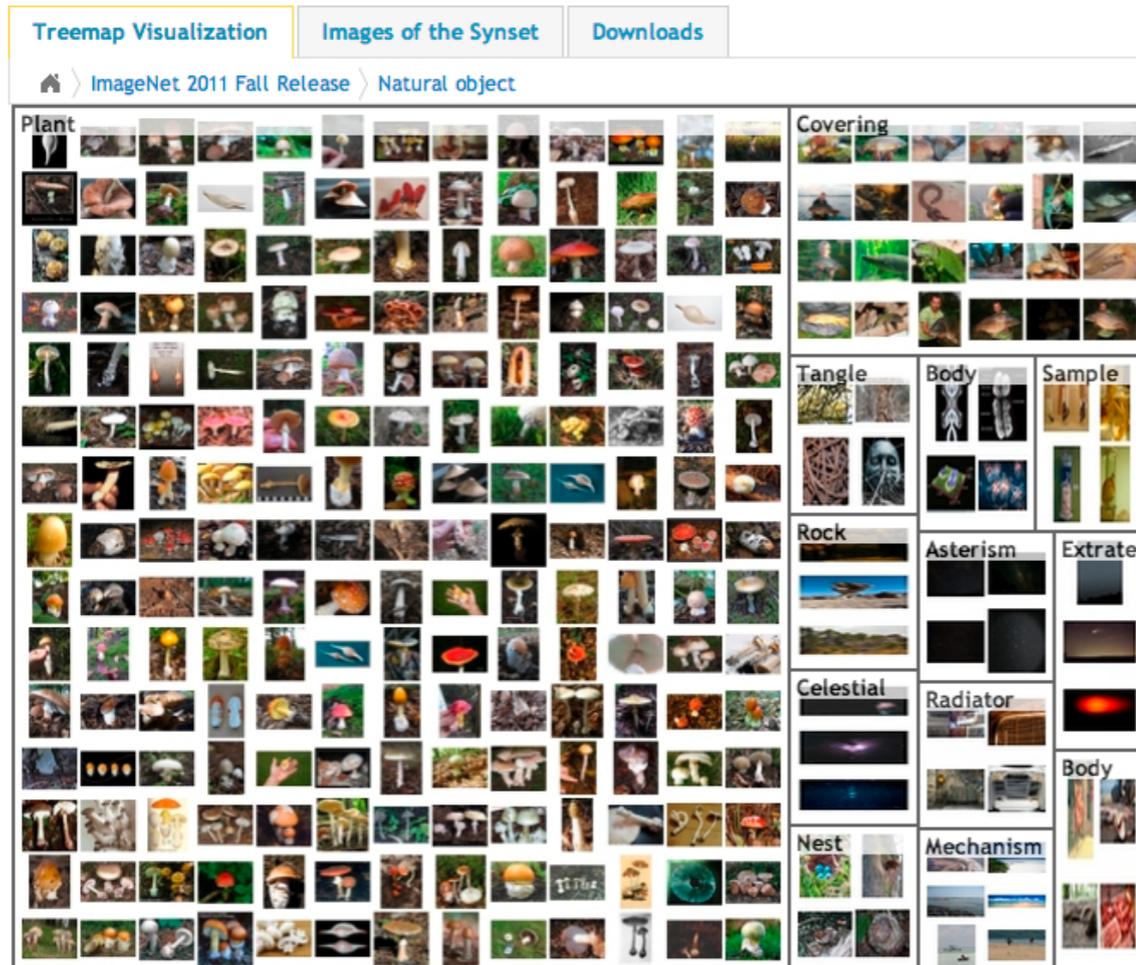


Hong\*, Yamins\*, Majaj & DiCarlo. **Nat. Neuro.** (2016)



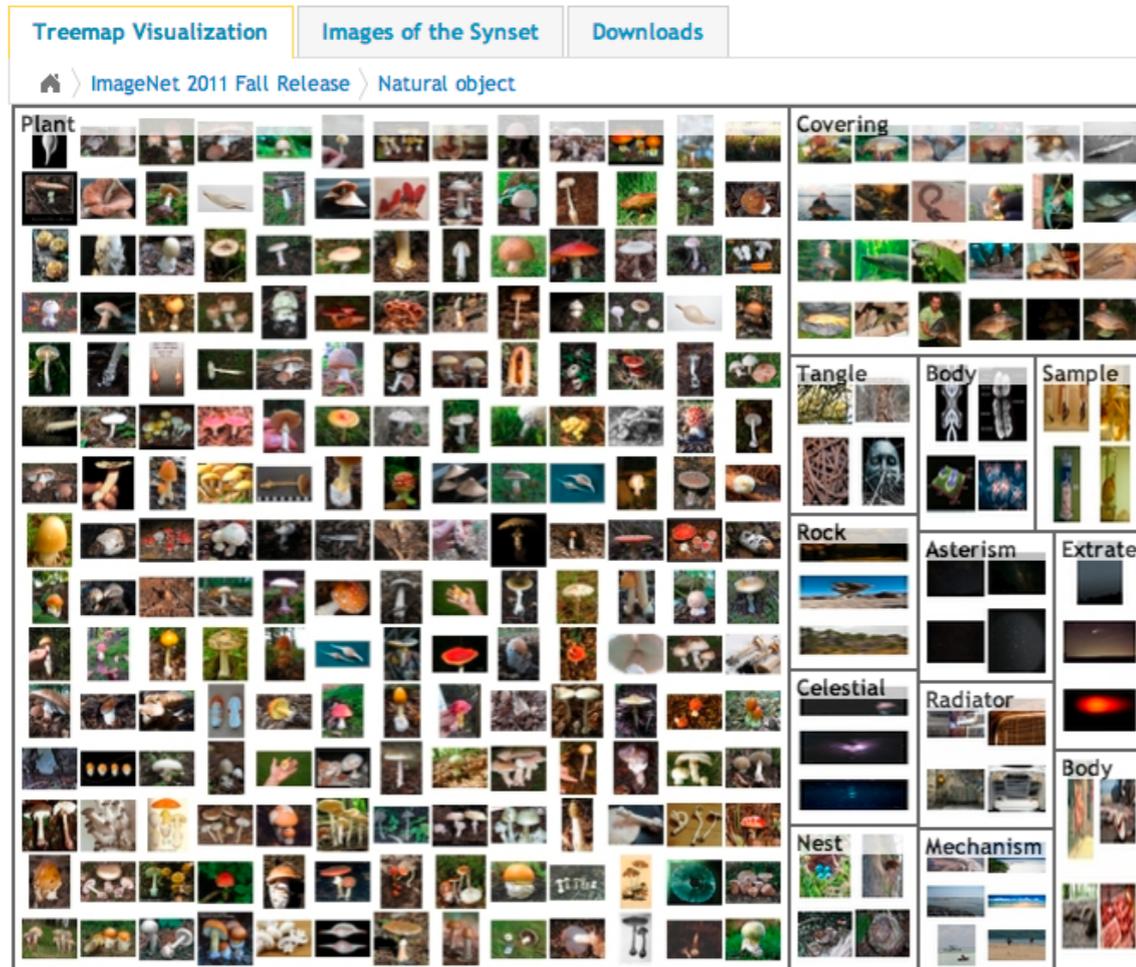
# Beyond categorization

Unexpected observation #2:

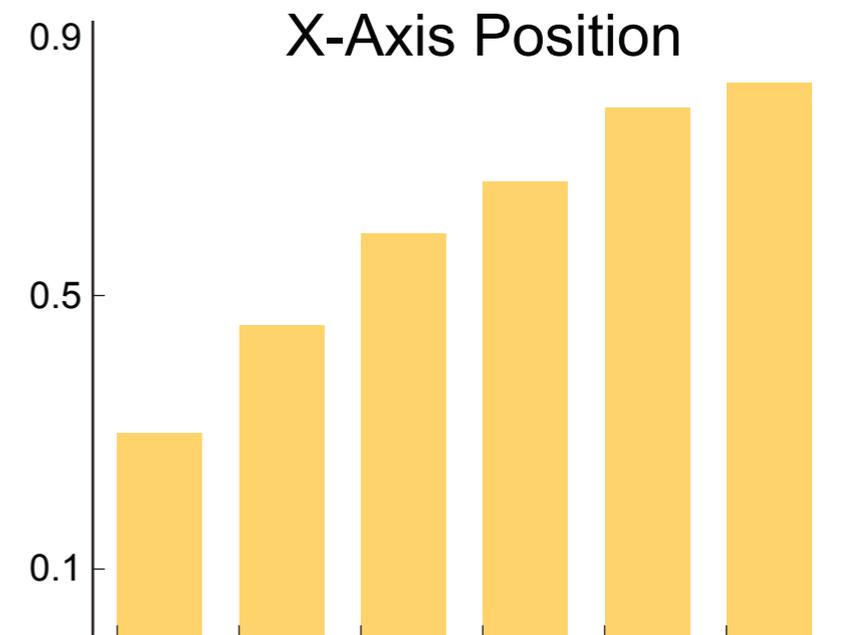
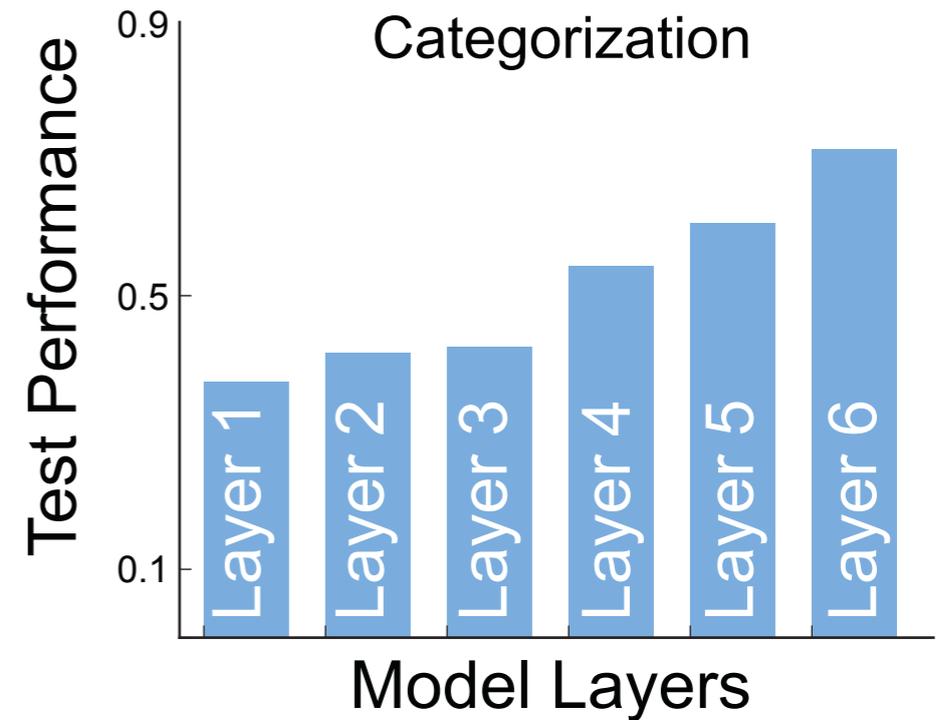


# Beyond categorization

Unexpected observation #2:

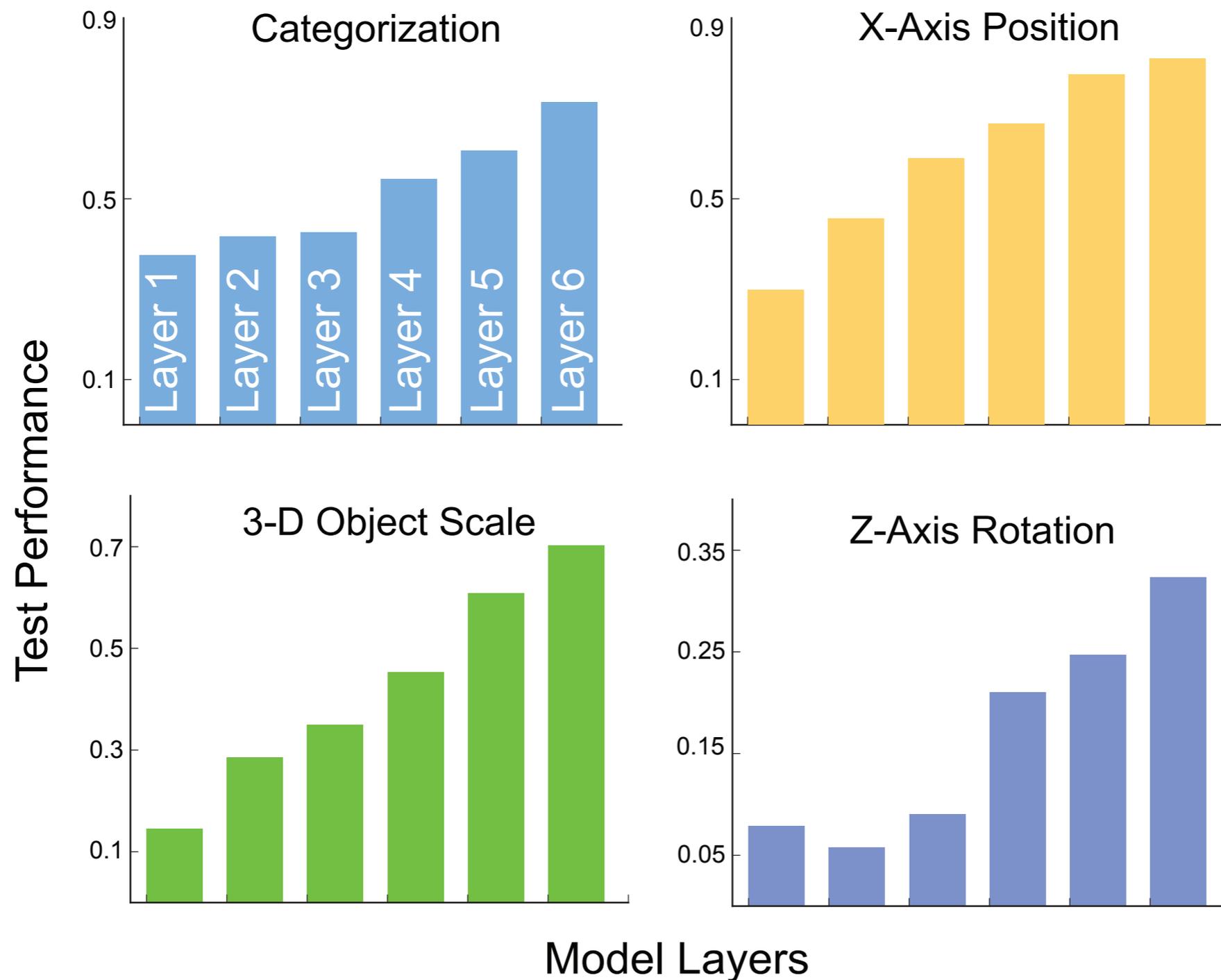


Increased performance on position estimation task at each model layer.



# Beyond categorization

For all tasks of visual interest we could measure in our test dataset:

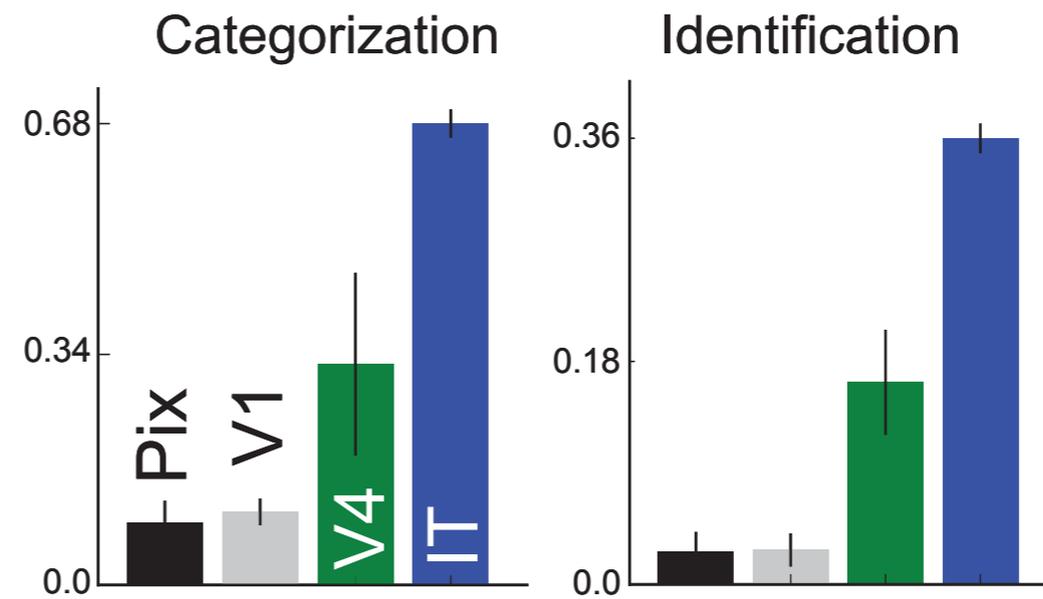
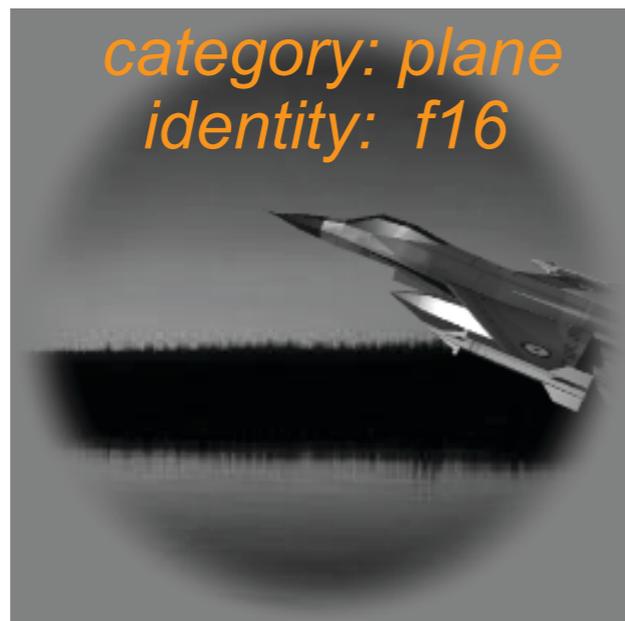


Performance on non-categorical tasks increases at each layer.

# Beyond categorization

What do the data say?

# Population Decoding

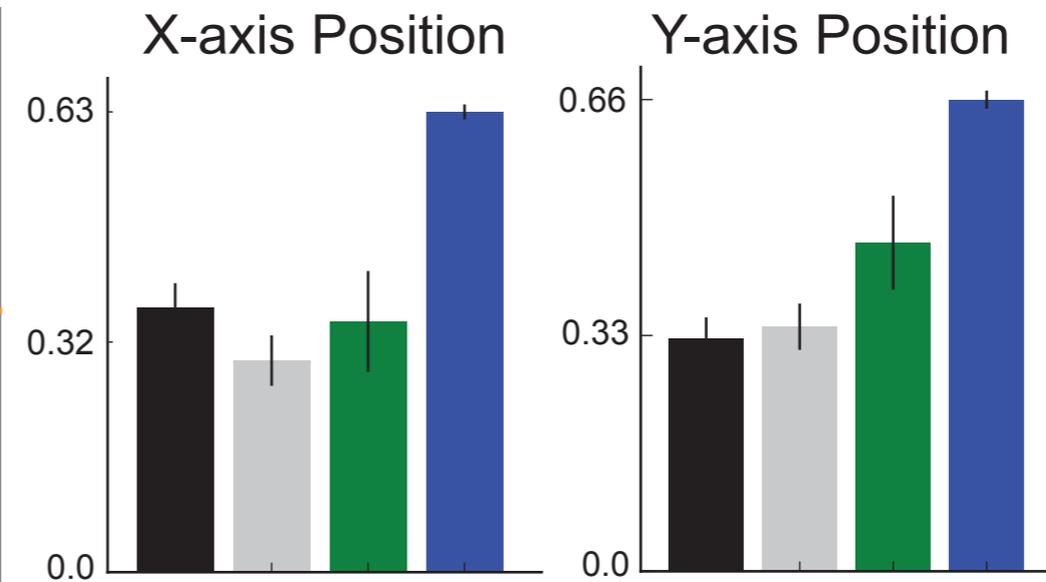
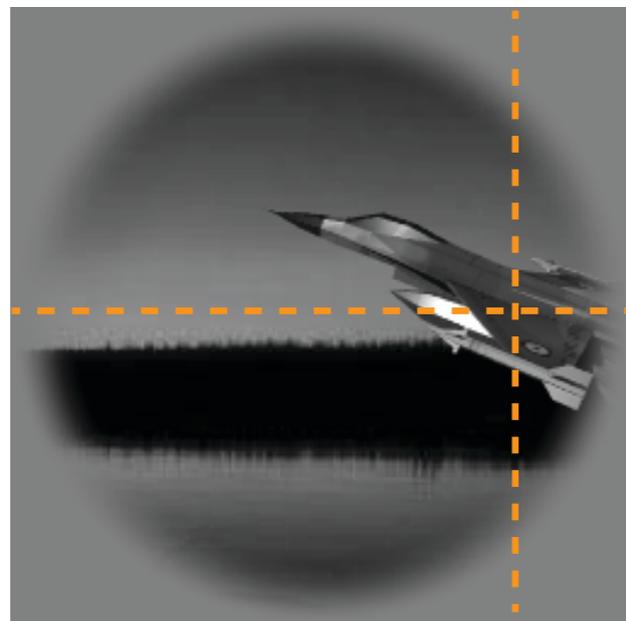
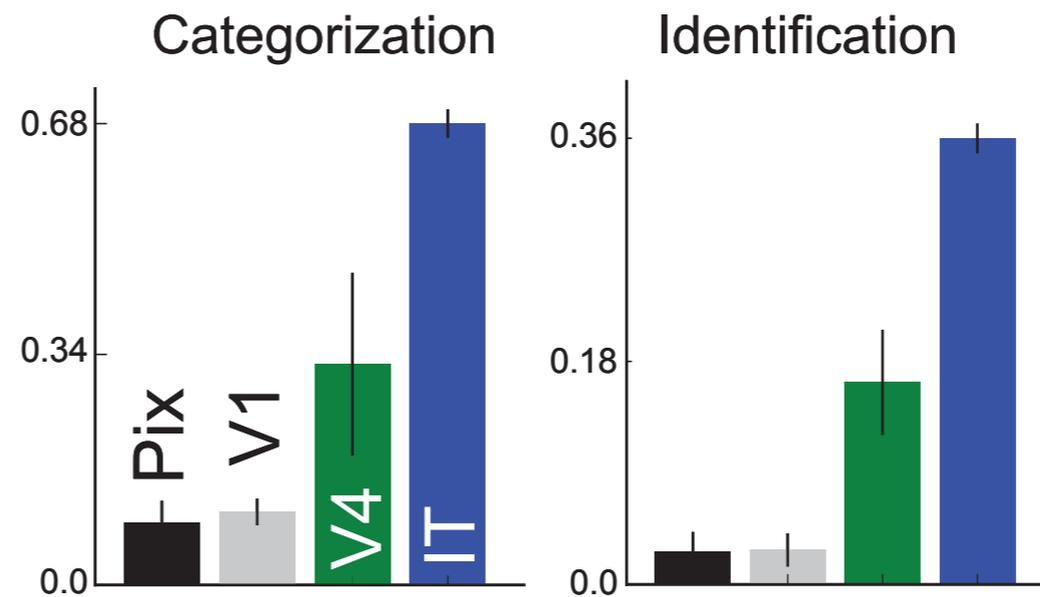


Hong\*, Yamins\*, Majaj & DiCarlo. **Nat. Neuro.** (2016)

IT cortex  
V1-like model

V4 cortex  
pixel control

# Population Decoding



Hong\*, Yamins\*, Majaj & DiCarlo. **Nat. Neuro.** (2016)

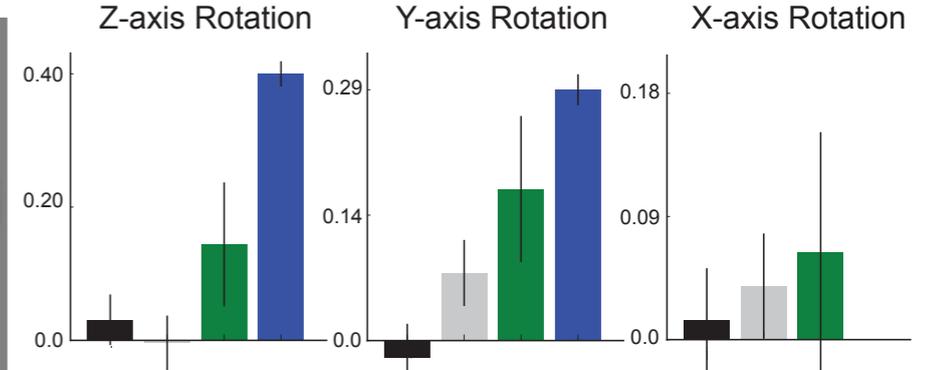
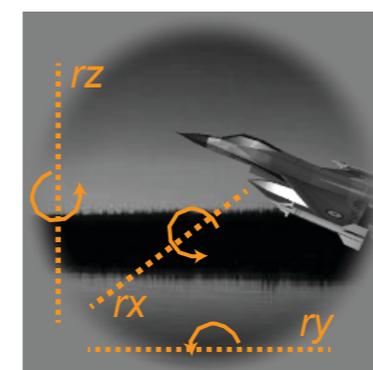
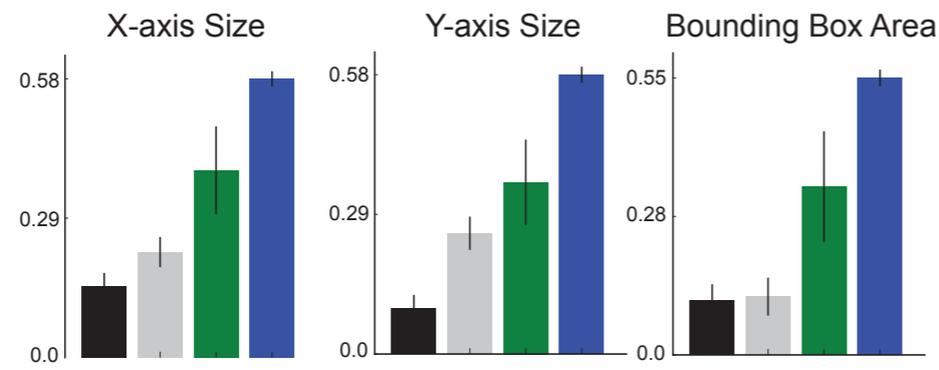
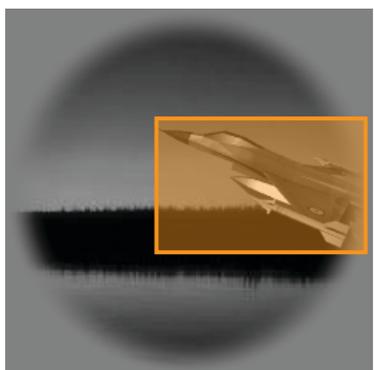
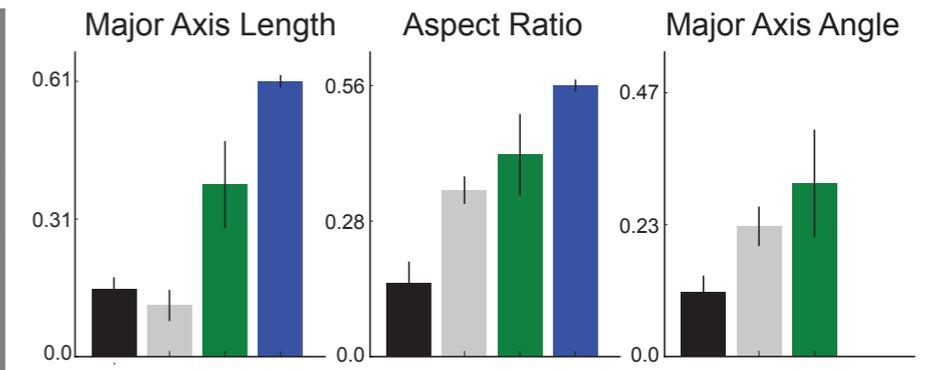
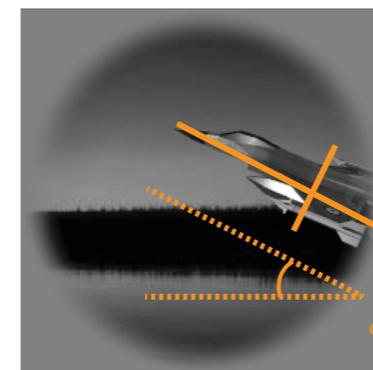
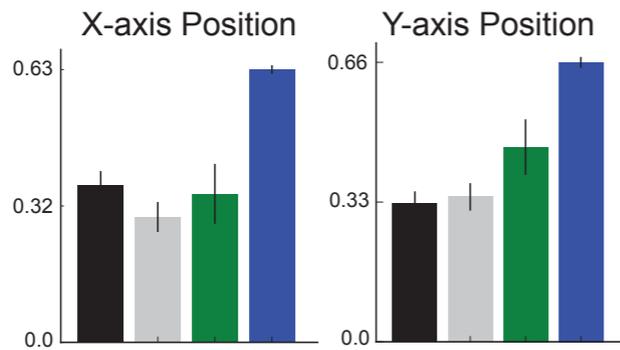
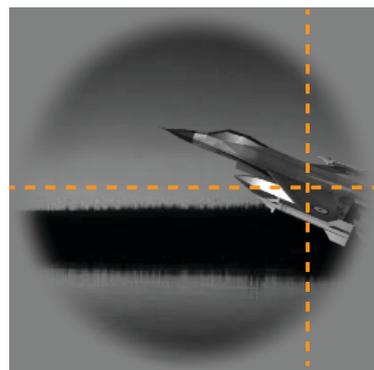
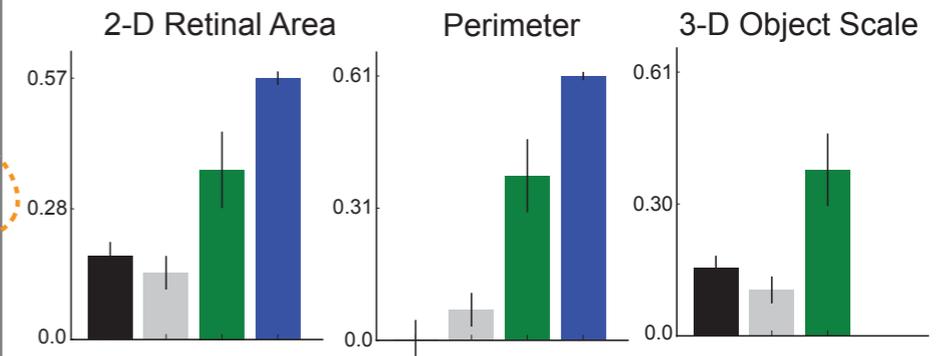
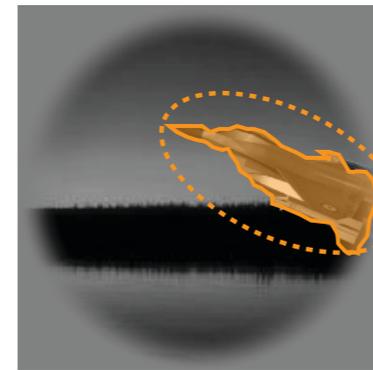
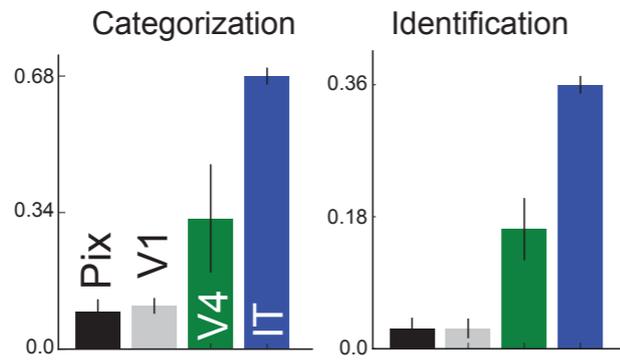
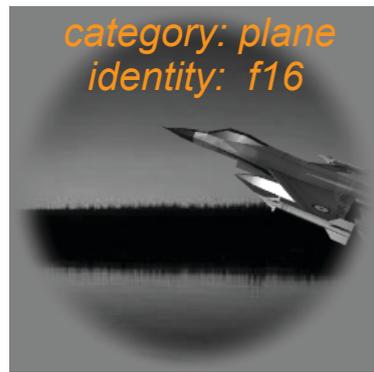
IT cortex  
V1-like model

V4 cortex  
pixel control

# Population Decoding

IT > V4, V1 for all tasks

V4 > V1 for most tasks



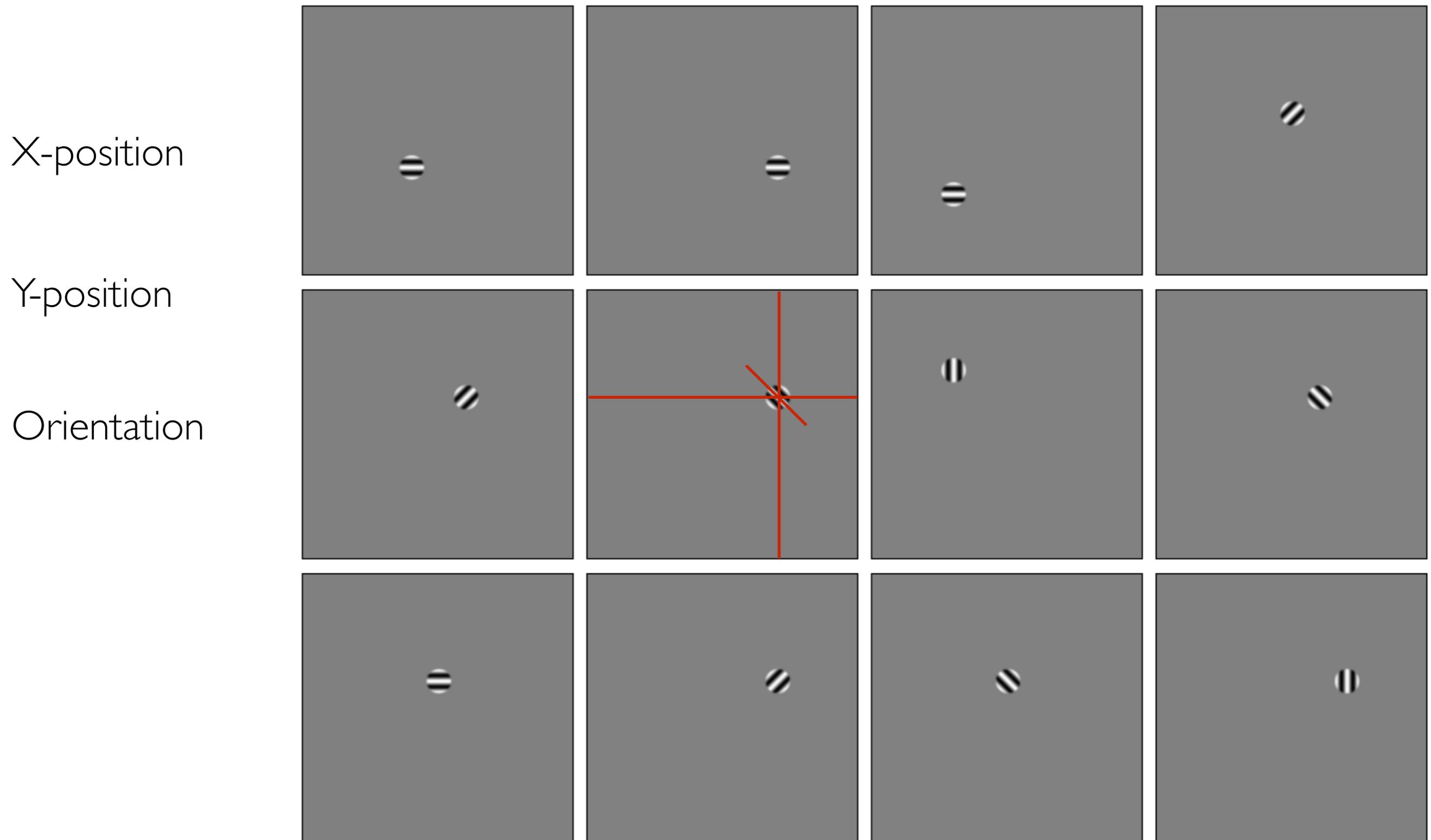
Hong\*, Yamins\*, Majaj & DiCarlo. **Nat. Neuro.** (2016)

IT cortex  
V1-like model

V4 cortex  
pixel control

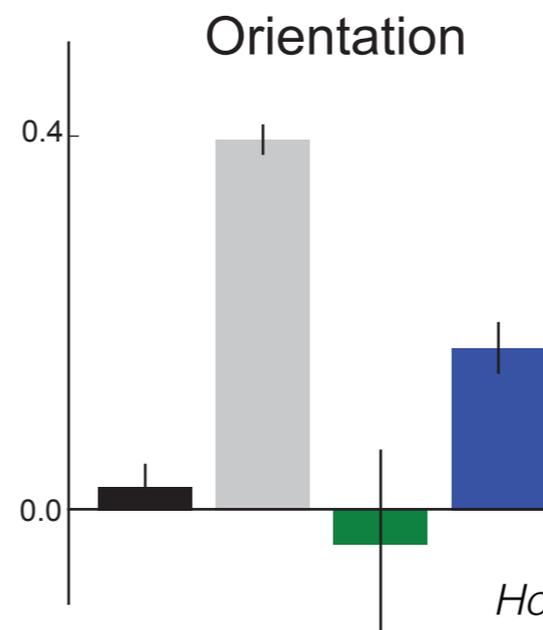
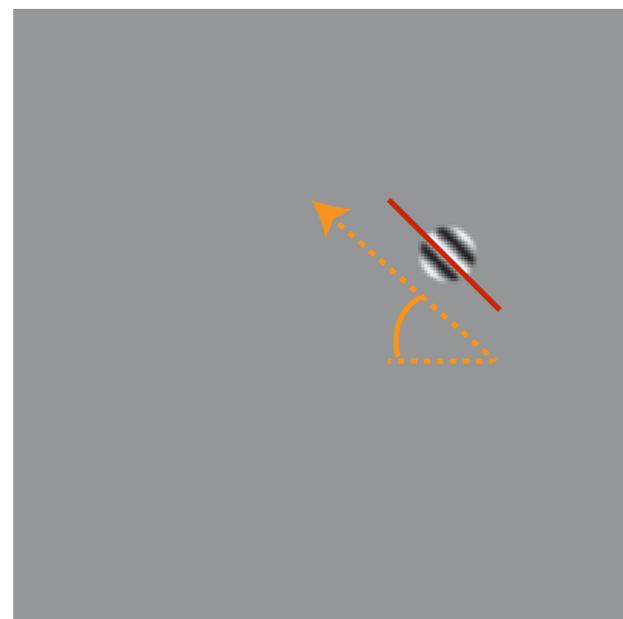
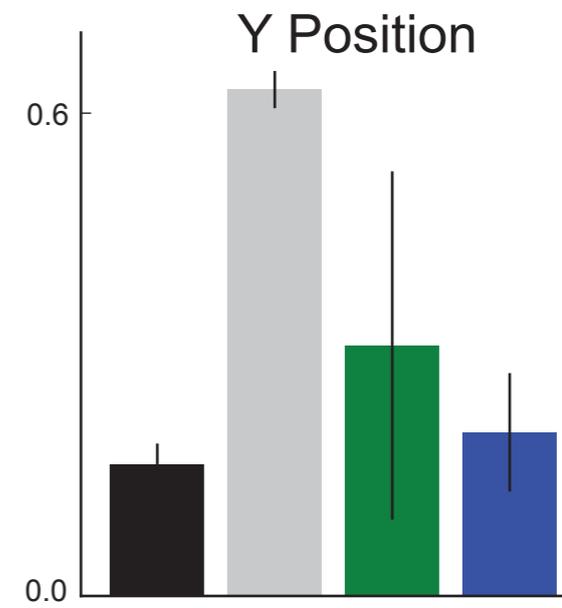
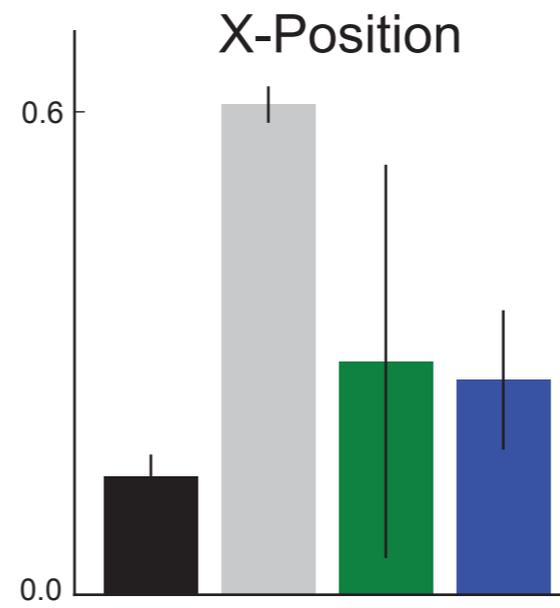
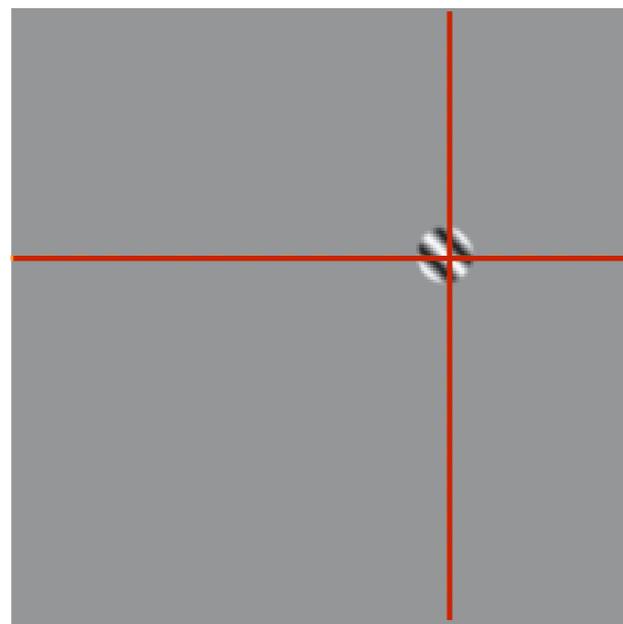
# Population Decoding

“Standard” receptive field-mapping stimuli w/ position and orientation variation:



# Population Decoding

VI > V4, IT for “standard” tasks

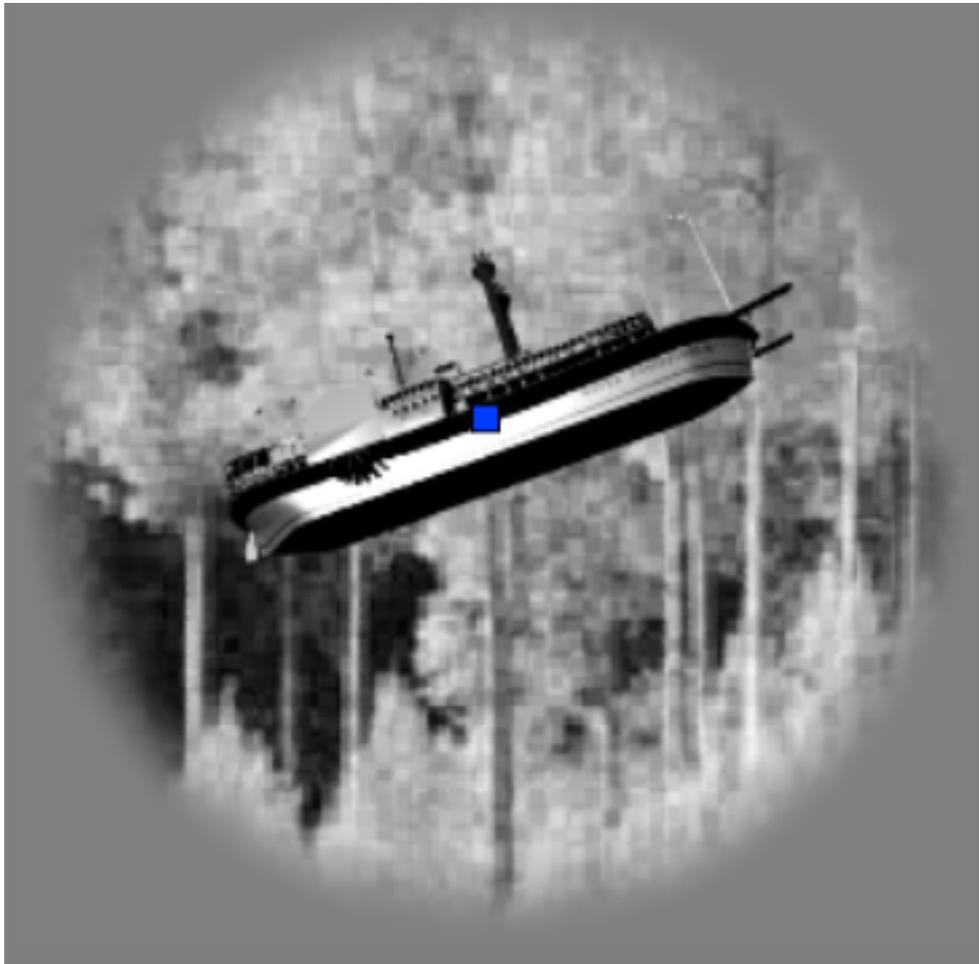


Hong\*, Yamins\*, Majaj & DiCarlo. **Nat. Neuro.** (2016)

IT cortex  
VI-like model

V4 cortex  
pixel control

# Human Psychophysical Measurements

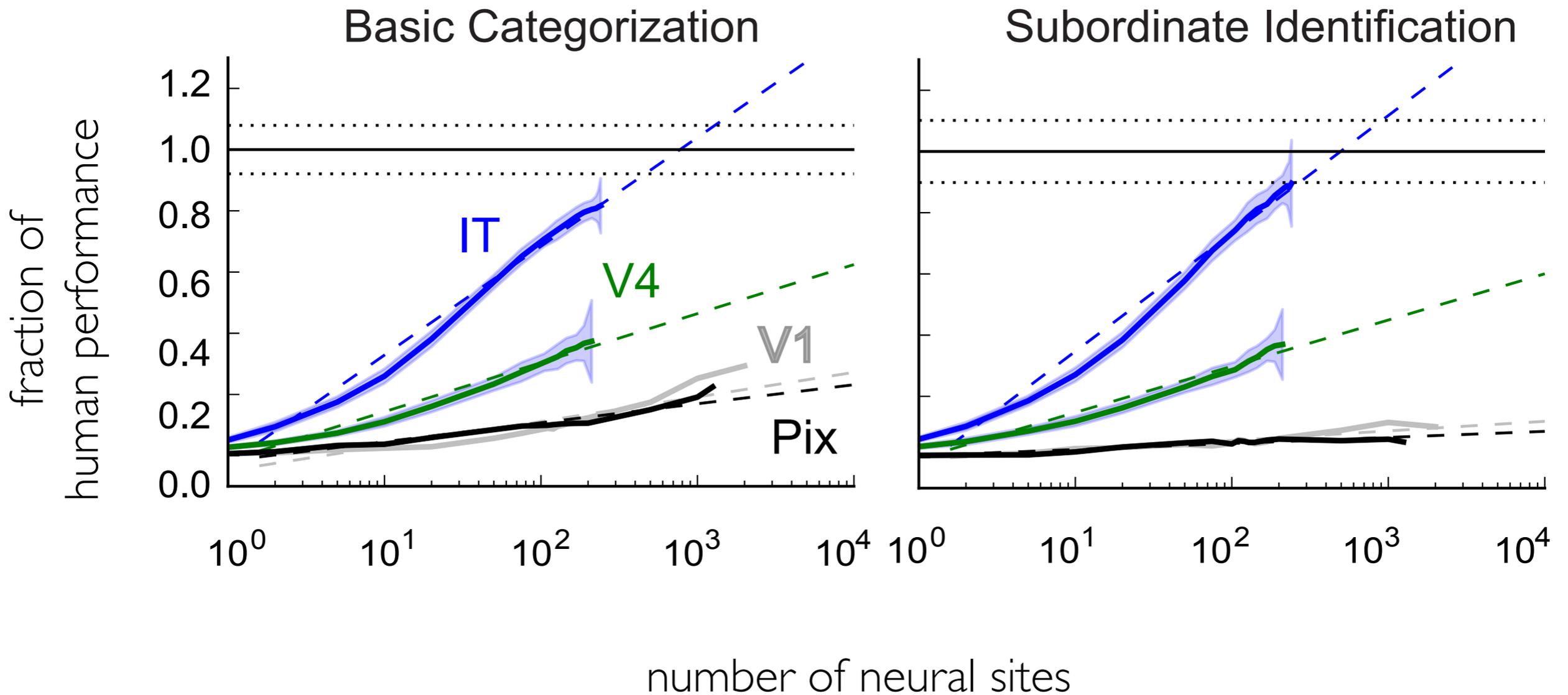


Click where the **boat** was!

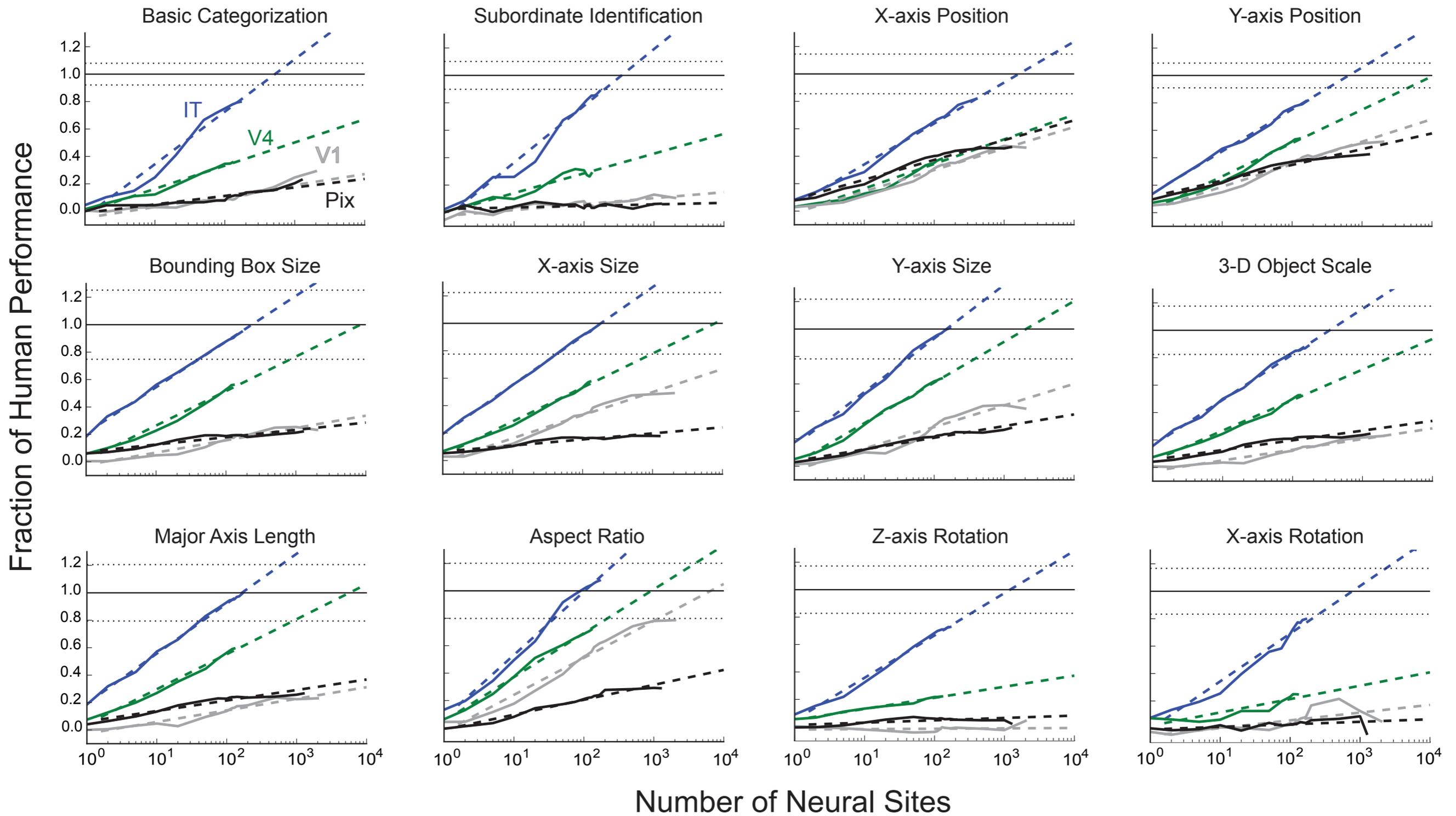
**6 learning trial(s) left** after this.

# Monkey Neurons vs Humans

$$\text{performance} \sim k * \log(N)$$



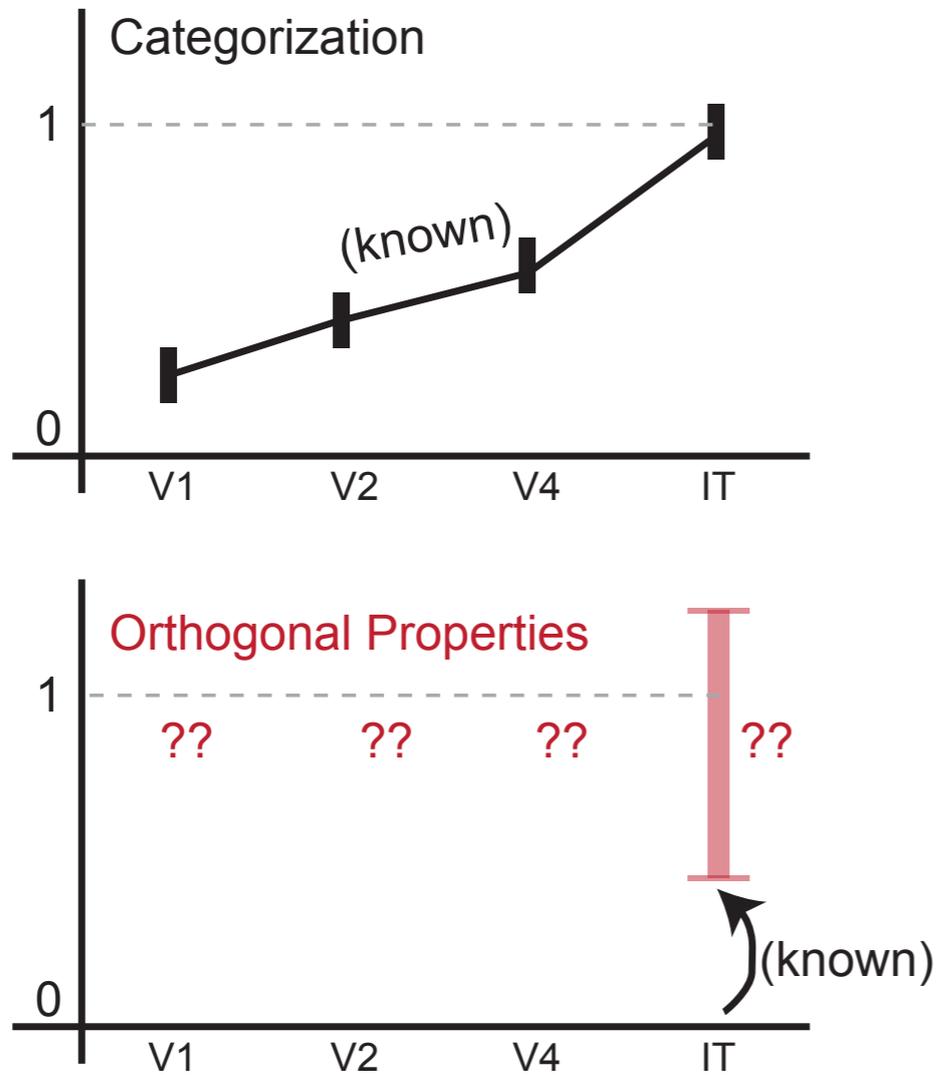
# Monkey Neurons vs Humans



# Somewhat newish ideas about IT?

Population Decode Performance  
(relative to human performance)

State of knowledge  
from previous studies . . .

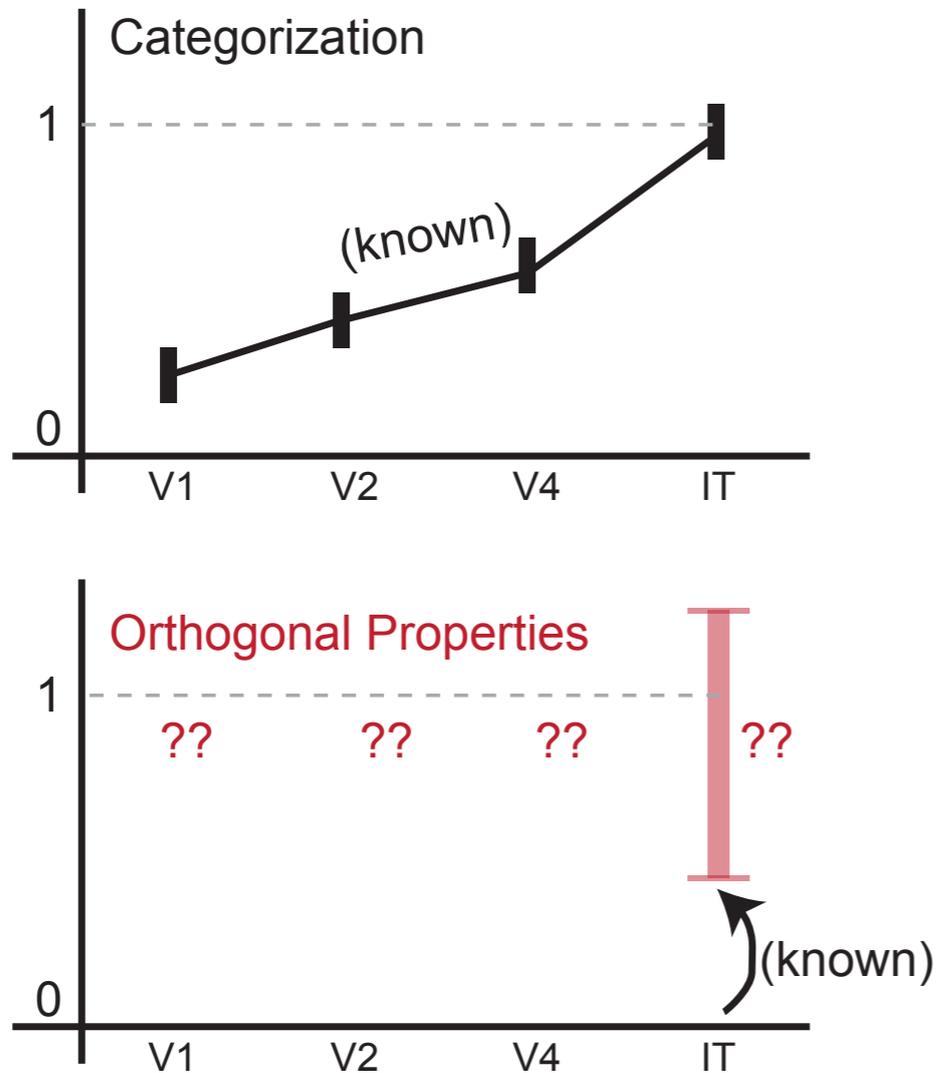


Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

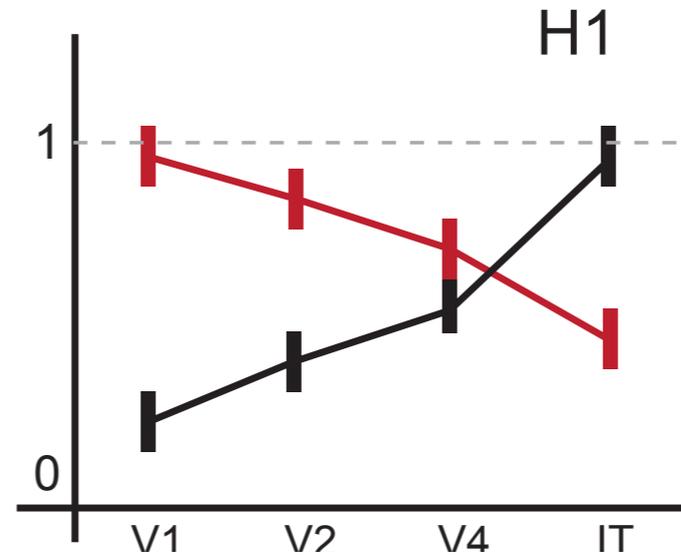
# Somewhat newish ideas about IT?

Population Decode Performance  
(relative to human performance)

State of knowledge from previous studies . . .



Multiple hypotheses consistent with the existing data . . .



**H1**: Tolerance / sensitivity tradeoff?

Orthogonal Properties

?? ?? ?? ??

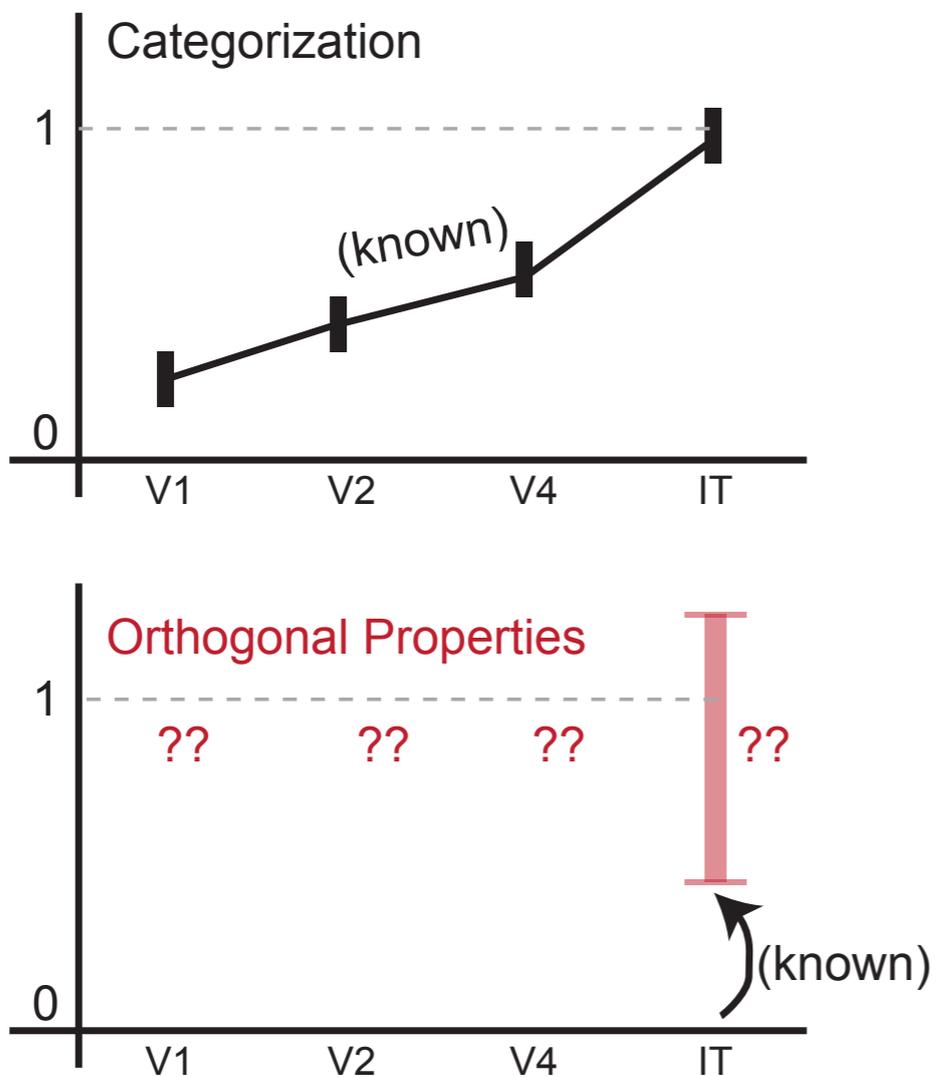
(known)

Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

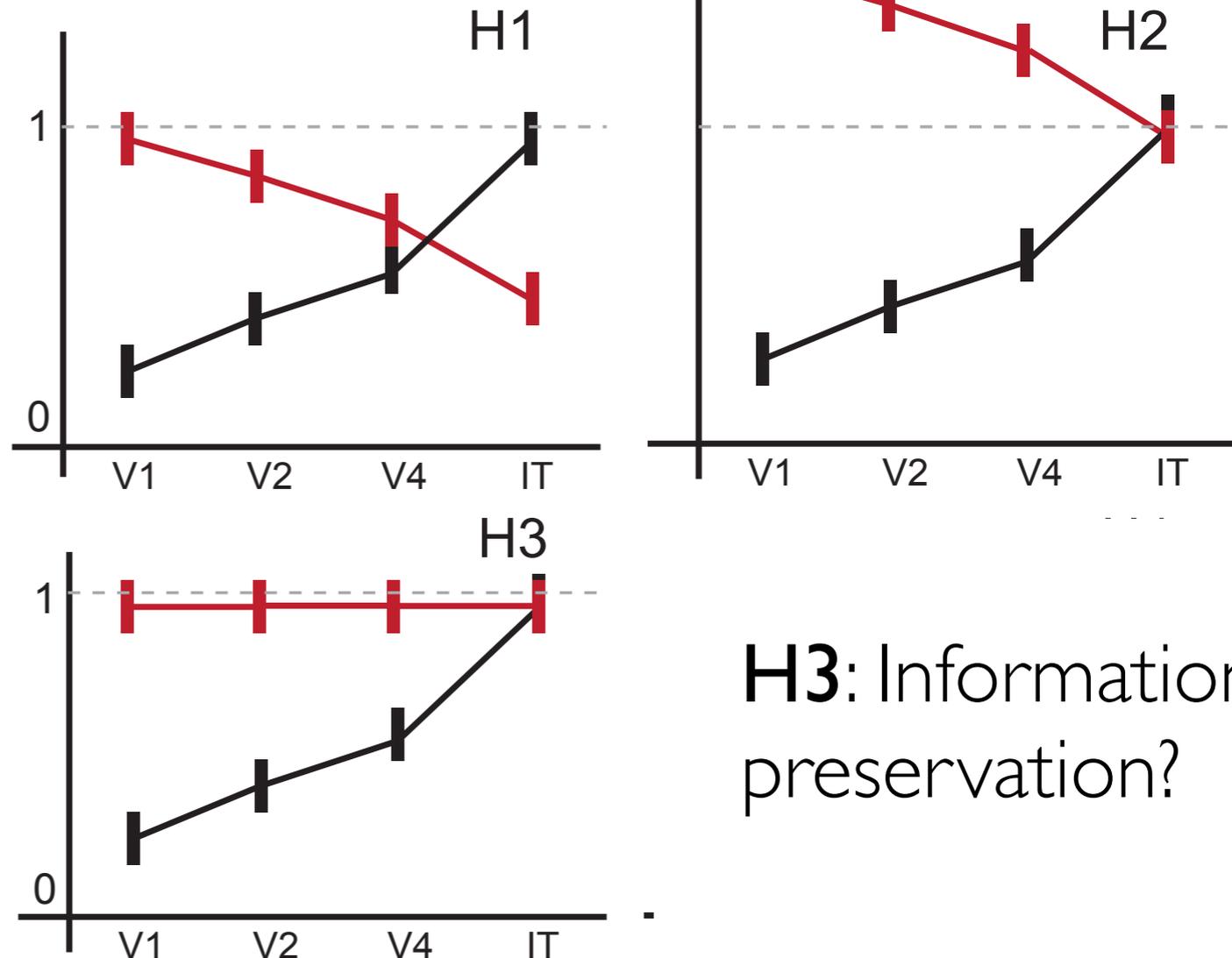
# Somewhat newish ideas about IT?

Population Decode Performance  
(relative to human performance)

State of knowledge from previous studies . . .



Multiple hypotheses consistent with the existing data . . .



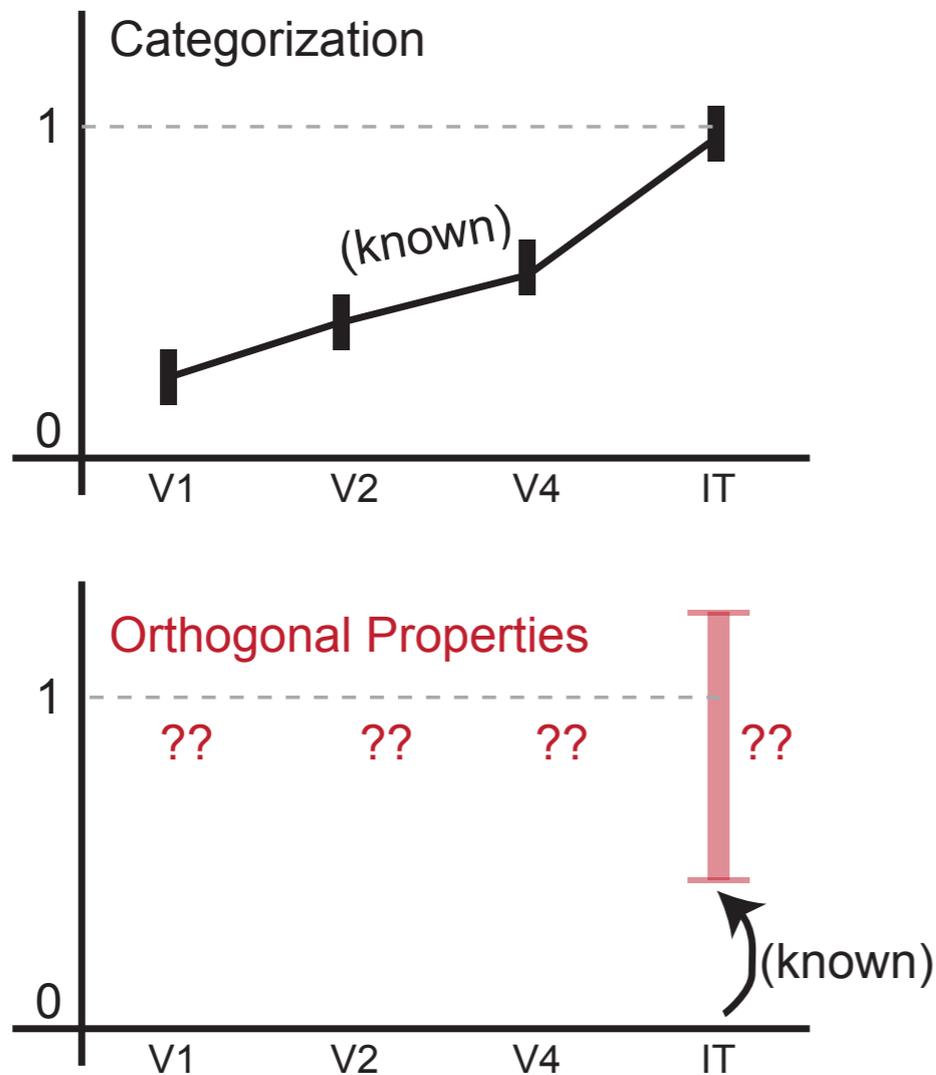
**H3:** Information preservation?

Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

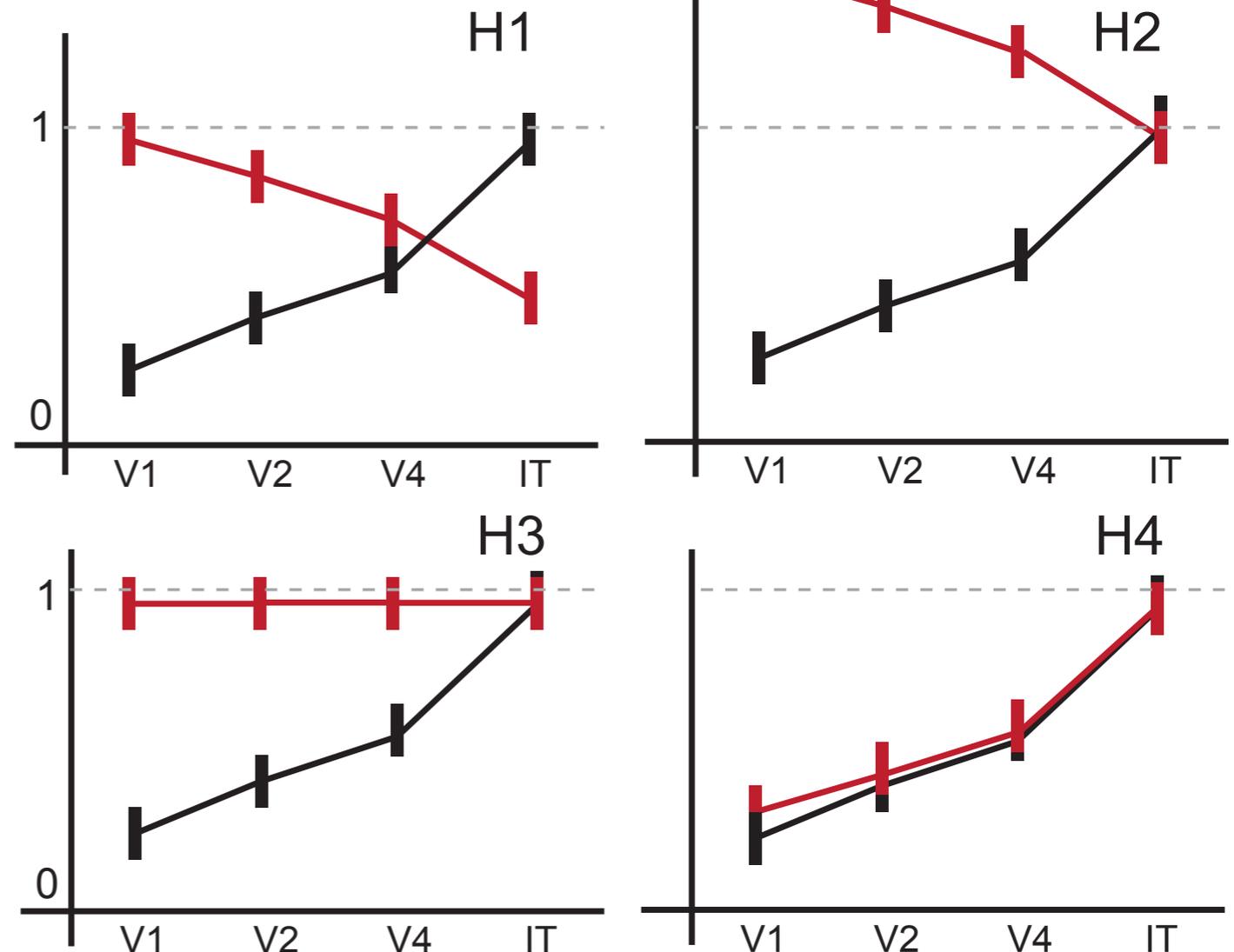
# Somewhat newish ideas about IT?

Population Decode Performance  
(relative to human performance)

State of knowledge  
from previous studies . . .



Multiple hypotheses consistent with  
the existing data . . .

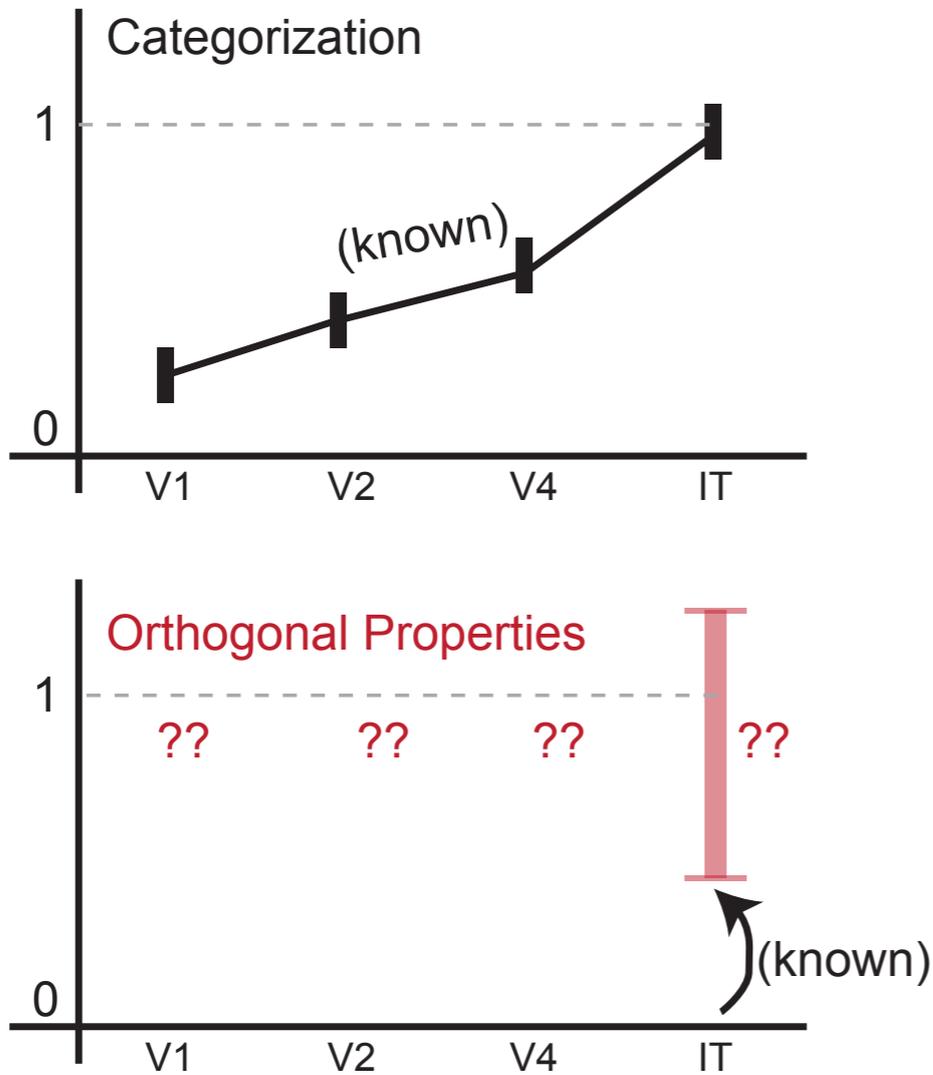


Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

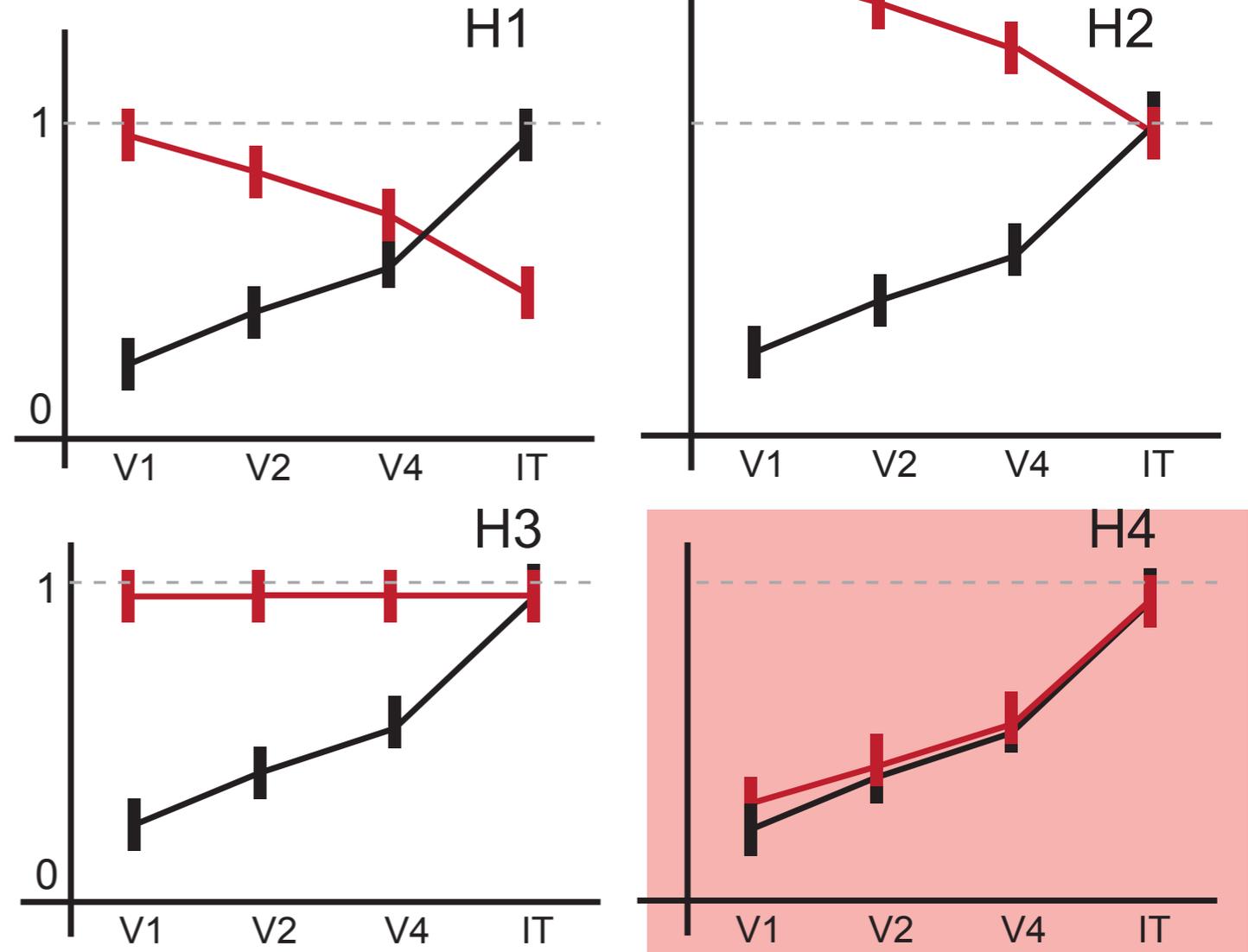
# Somewhat newish ideas about IT?

Population Decode Performance  
(relative to human performance)

State of knowledge from previous studies . . .



Multiple hypotheses consistent with the existing data . . .



Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

**H4:** Simultaneous build-up of encoding

# Somewhat newish ideas about IT?

1. IT is *NOT* invariant. Strict generalization of simple-to-complex cells: **no**.
2. “Lower-level” properties are not that low-level — at least, with complex objects and backgrounds.
3. Categorization and non-categorical properties “go together” — *not* just that “not all (e.g.) position information is lost” (MacEvoy 2013, DiCarlo 2003)

Provides support to a hypothesis for what IT does:

“Inverting the generative model of the scene”

# Auditory Cortex



Alex Kell

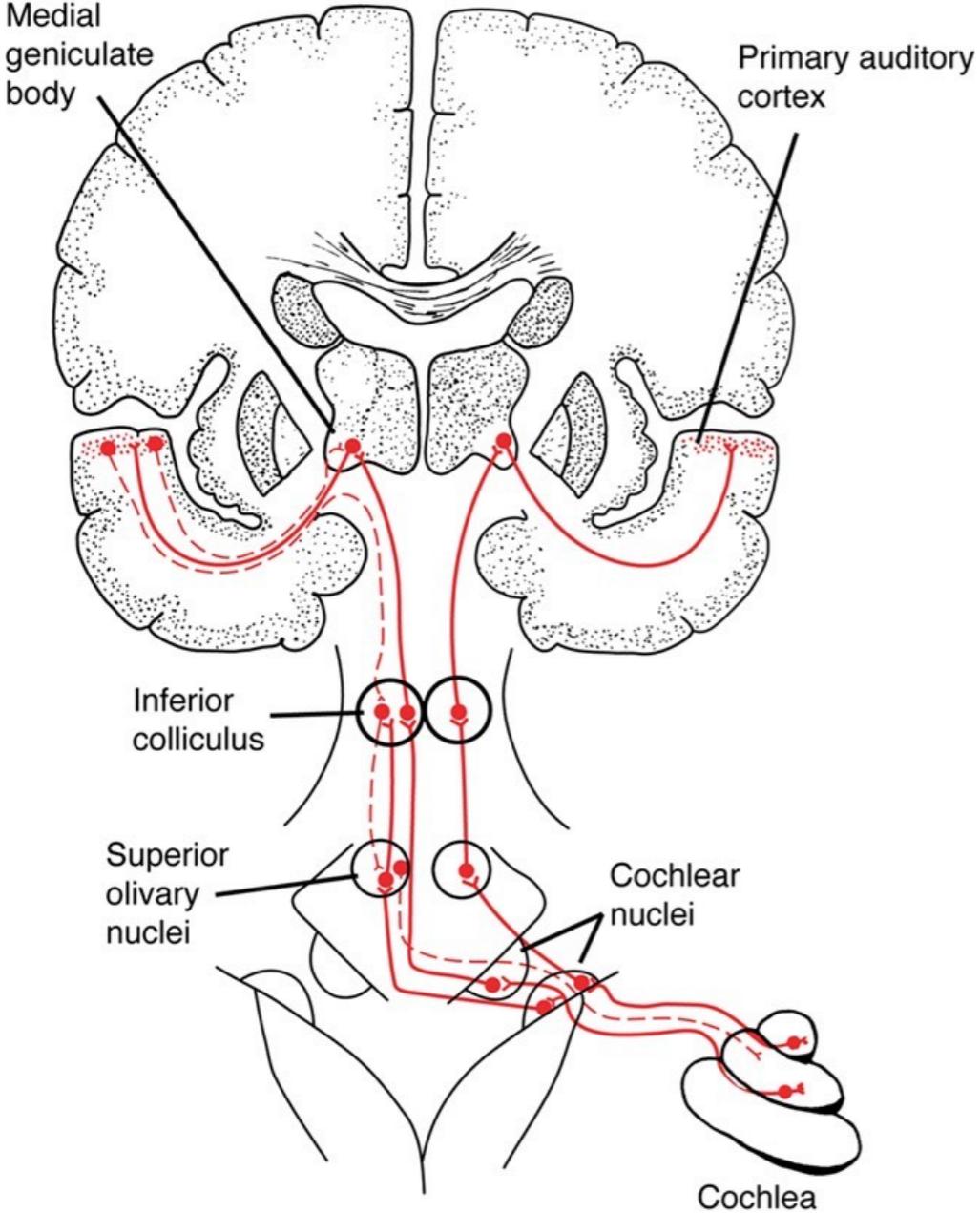


Sam Norman-  
Haignere

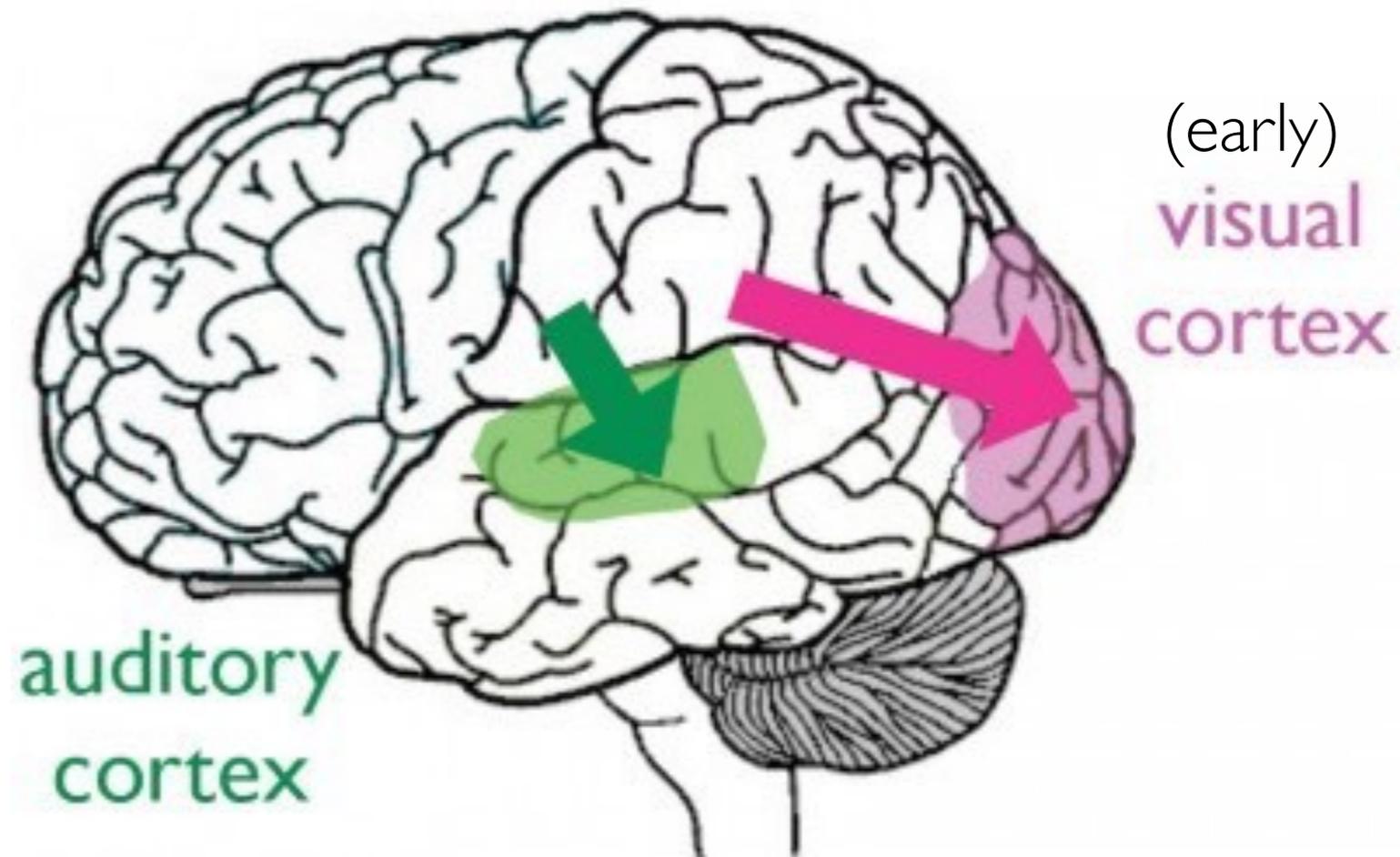
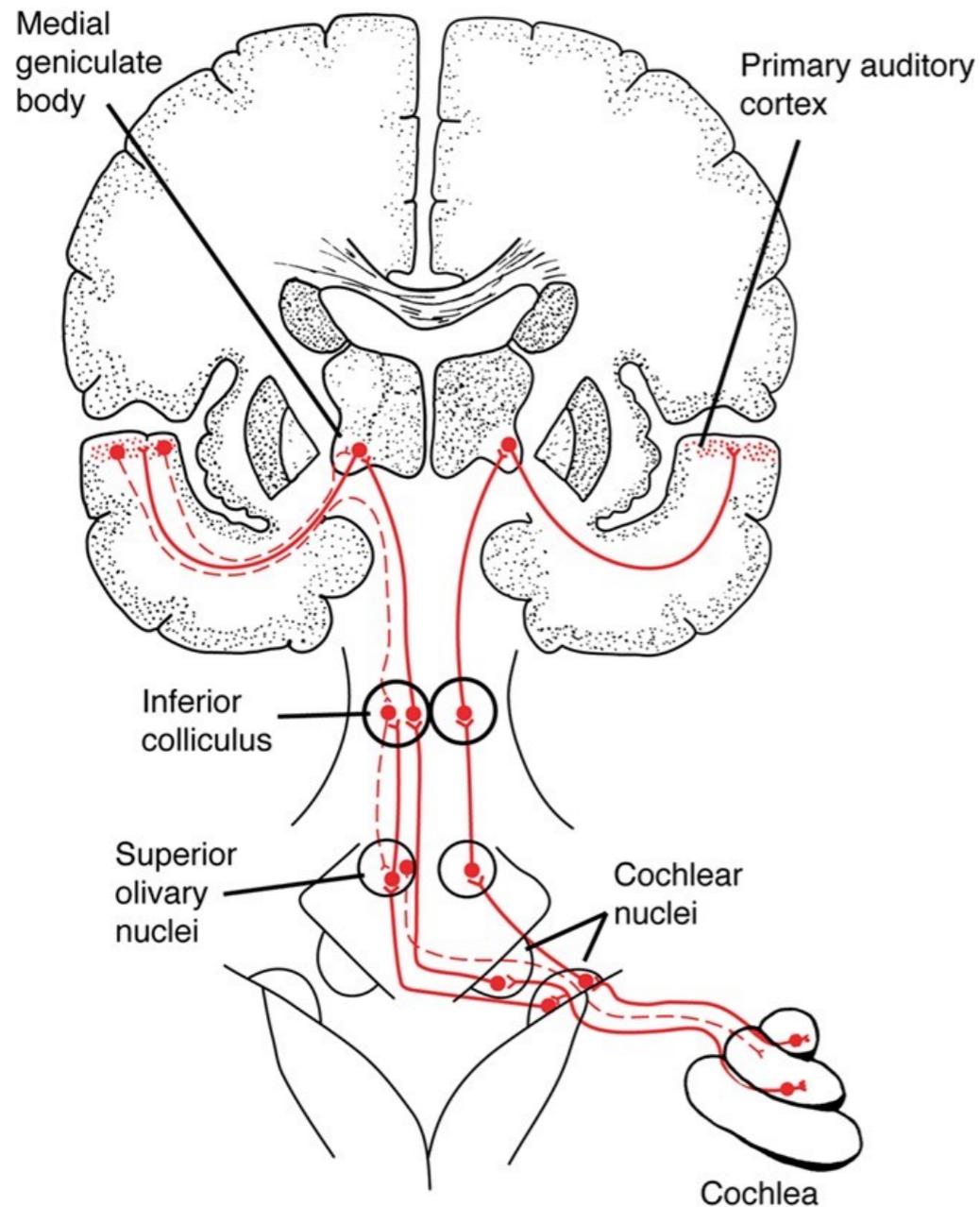


Josh McDermott

# Auditory Cortex Background

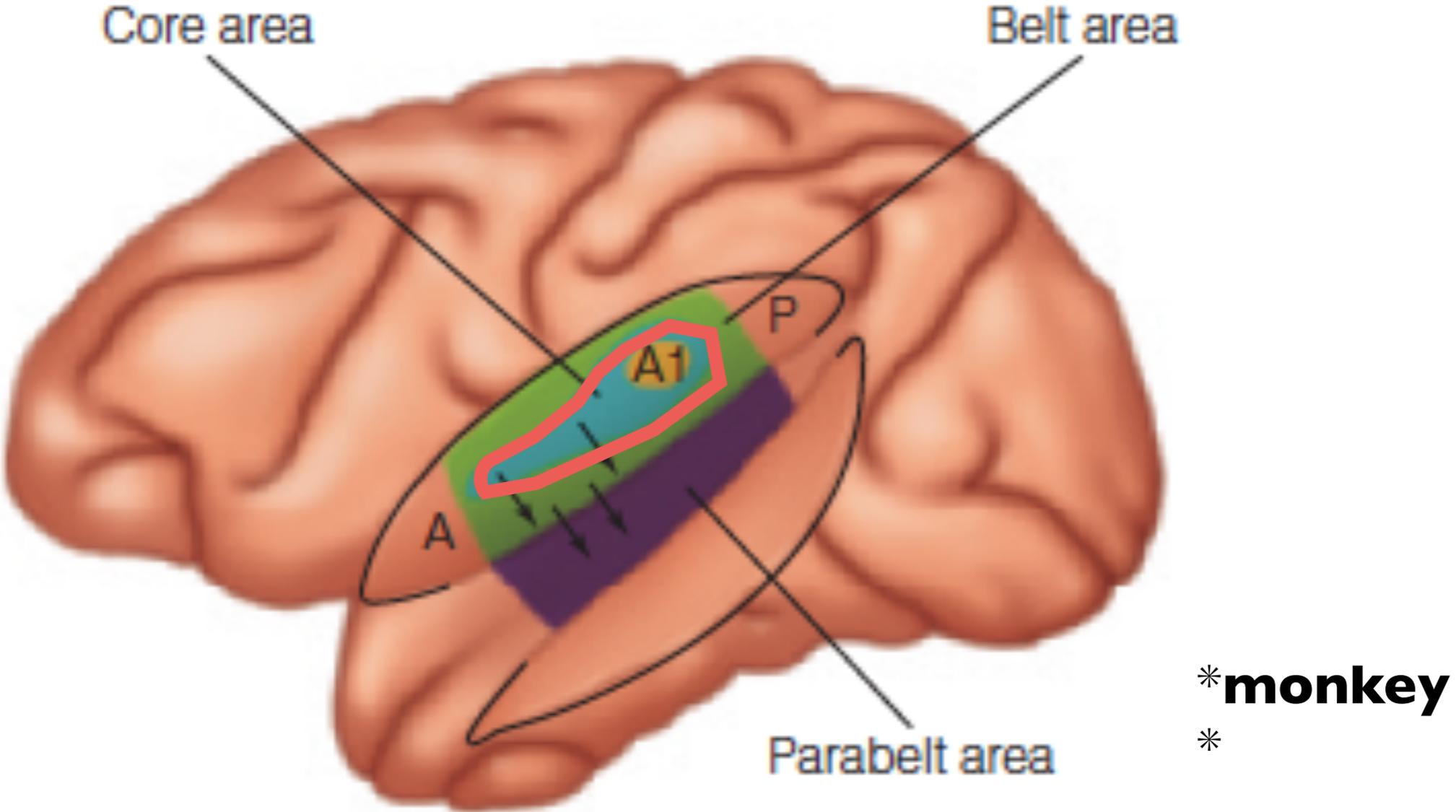


# Auditory Cortex Background



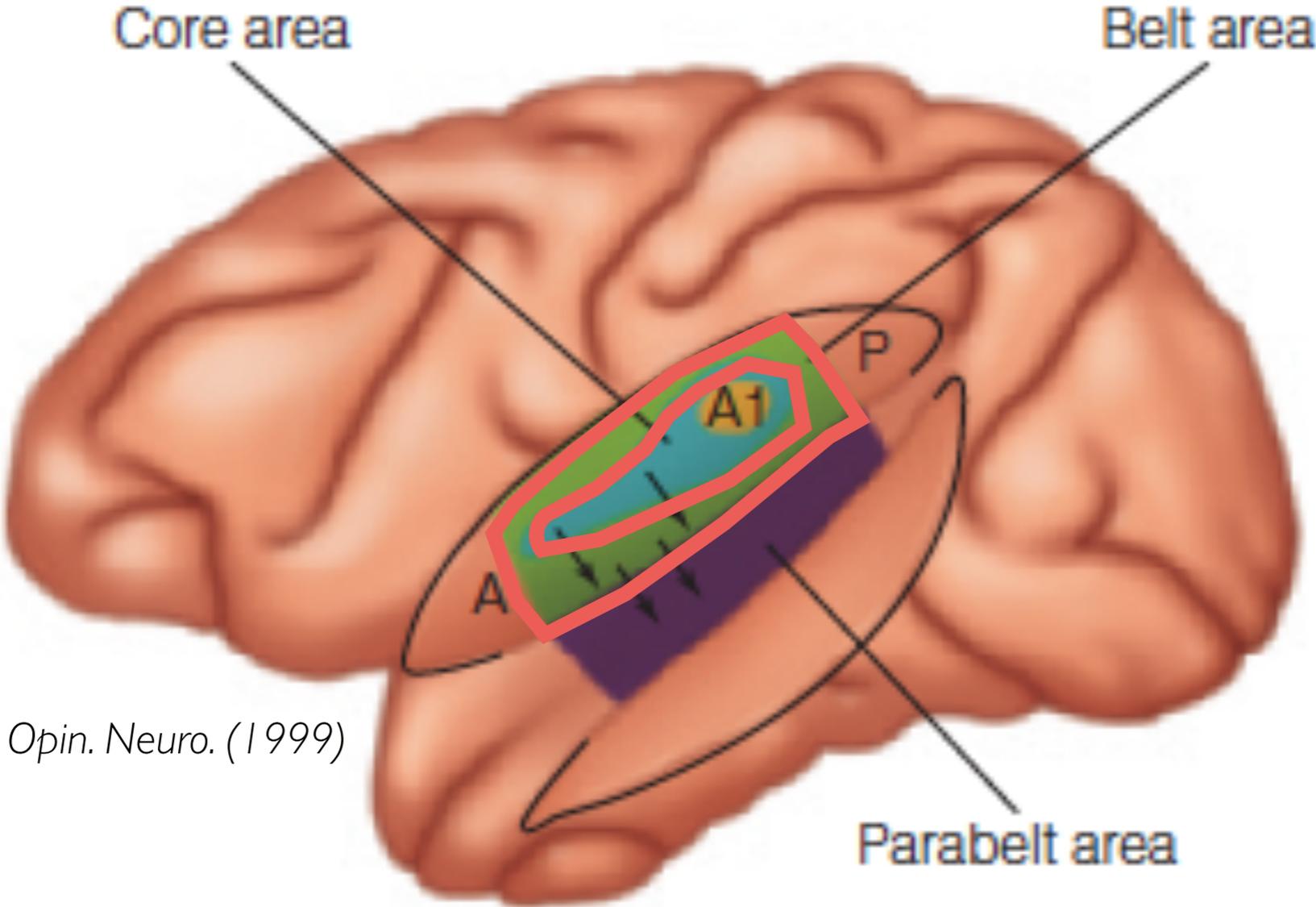
How are circuits making sense of complex sound patterns?

# Core / Belt / Parabelt Structure



*Tramo et. al, Curr. Opin. Neuro. (1999)*

# Core / Belt / Parabelt Structure

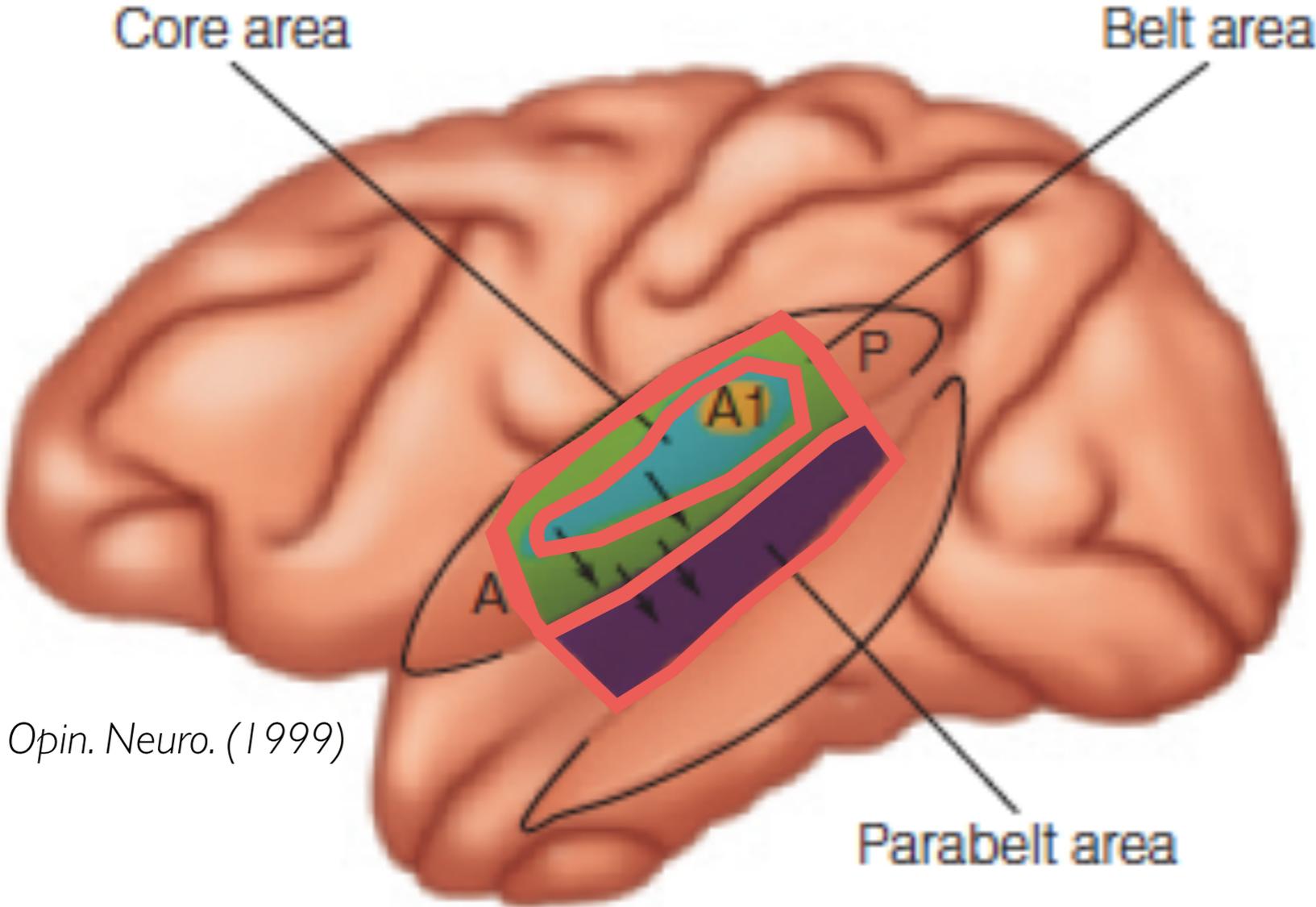


*Tramo et. al, Curr. Opin. Neuro. (1999)*

\***monkey**

\*

# Core / Belt / Parabelt Structure



*Tramo et. al, Curr. Opin. Neuro. (1999)*

\***monkey**

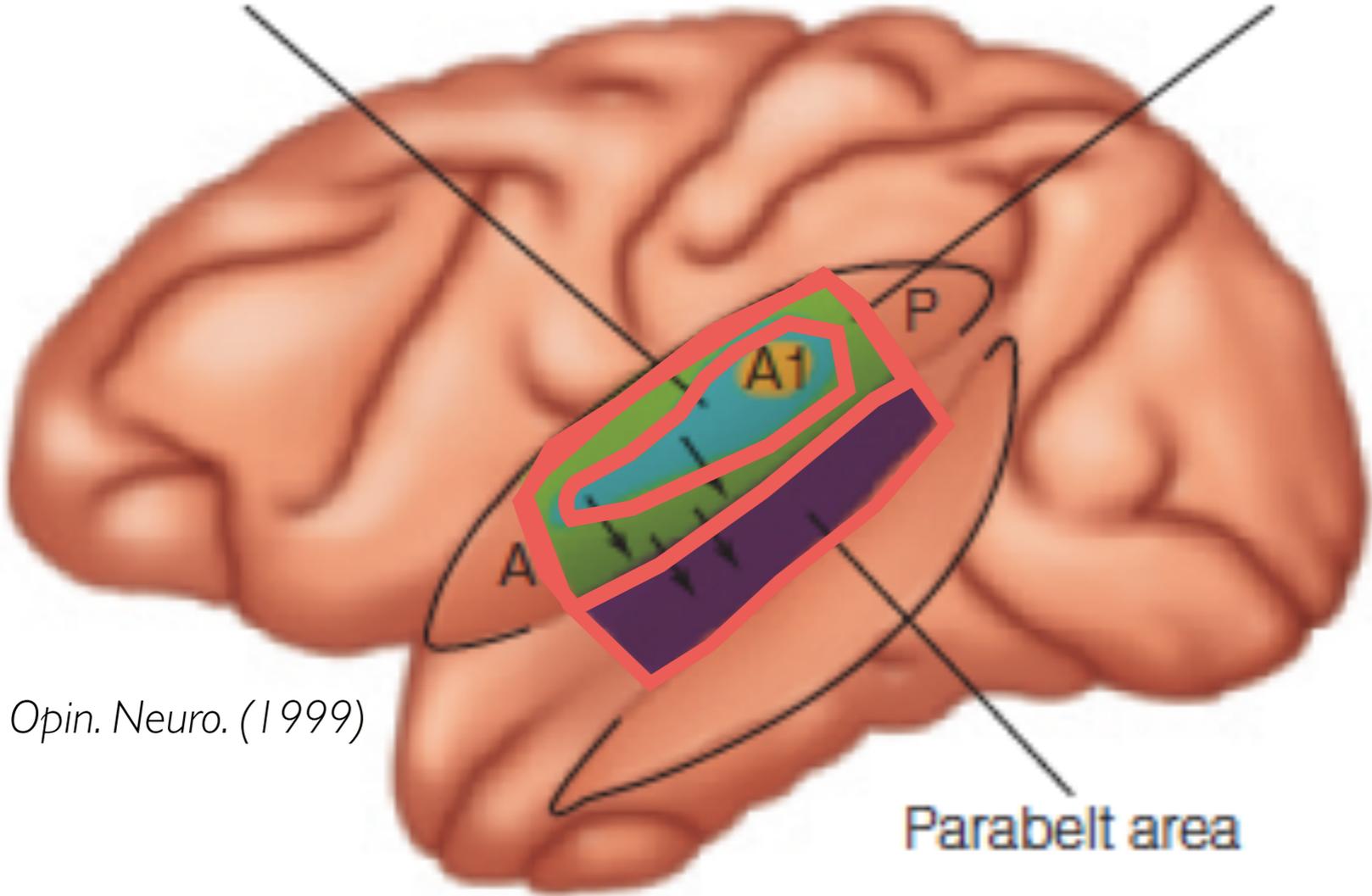
\*

# Core / Belt / Parabelt Structure

Spatiotemporal filtering? *Shamma, 2005*

Core area

Belt area



*Tramo et. al, Curr. Opin. Neuro. (1999)*

\***monkey**

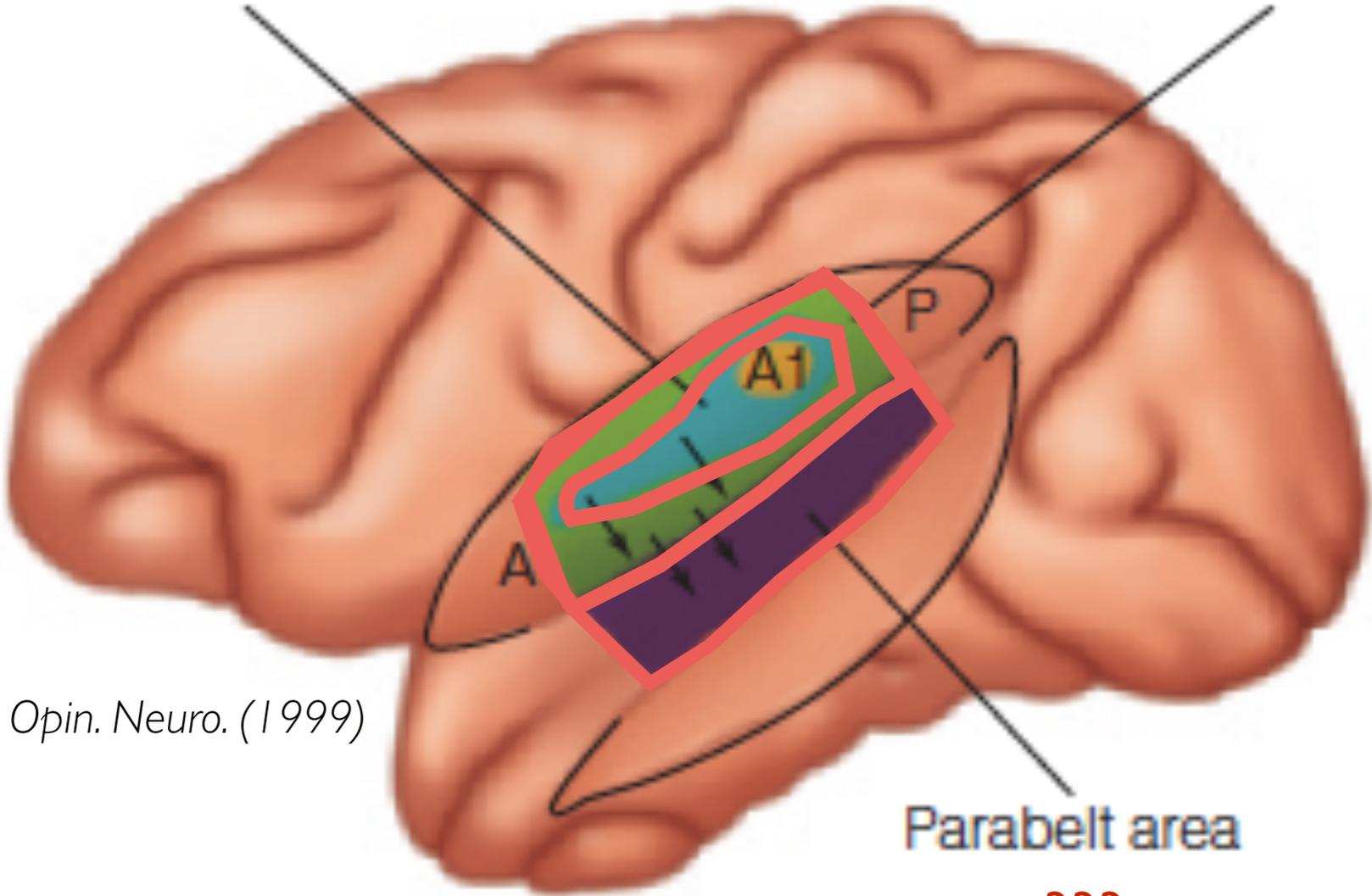
\*

# Core / Belt / Parabelt Structure

Spatiotemporal filtering? *Shamma, 2005*

Core area

???  
Belt area



*Tramo et. al, Curr. Opin. Neuro. (1999)*

\***monkey**

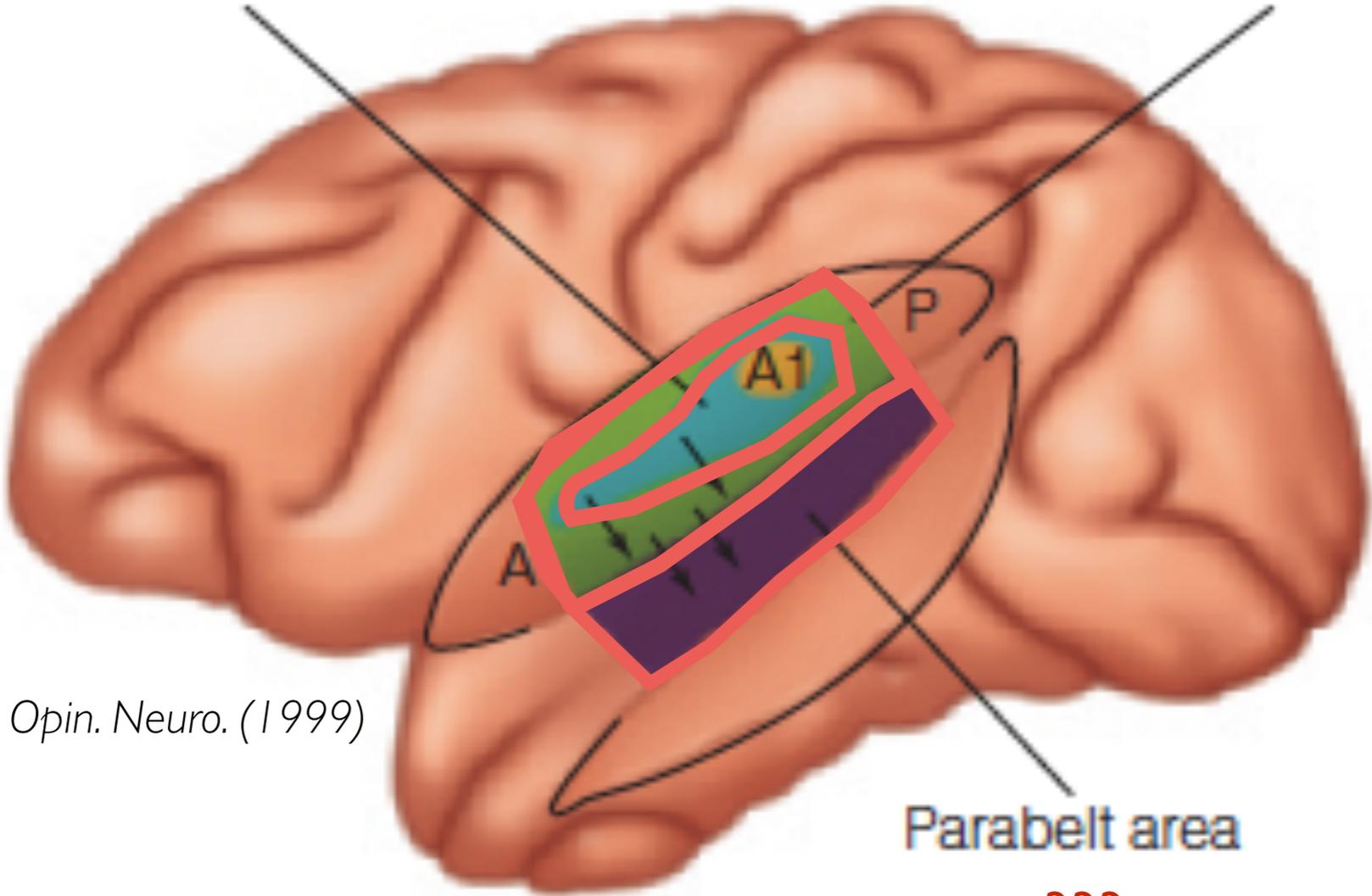
\*

# Core / Belt / Parabelt Structure

Spatiotemporal filtering? *Shamma, 2005*

Core area

???  
Belt area



*Tramo et. al, Curr. Opin. Neuro. (1999)*

\***monkey**

\*

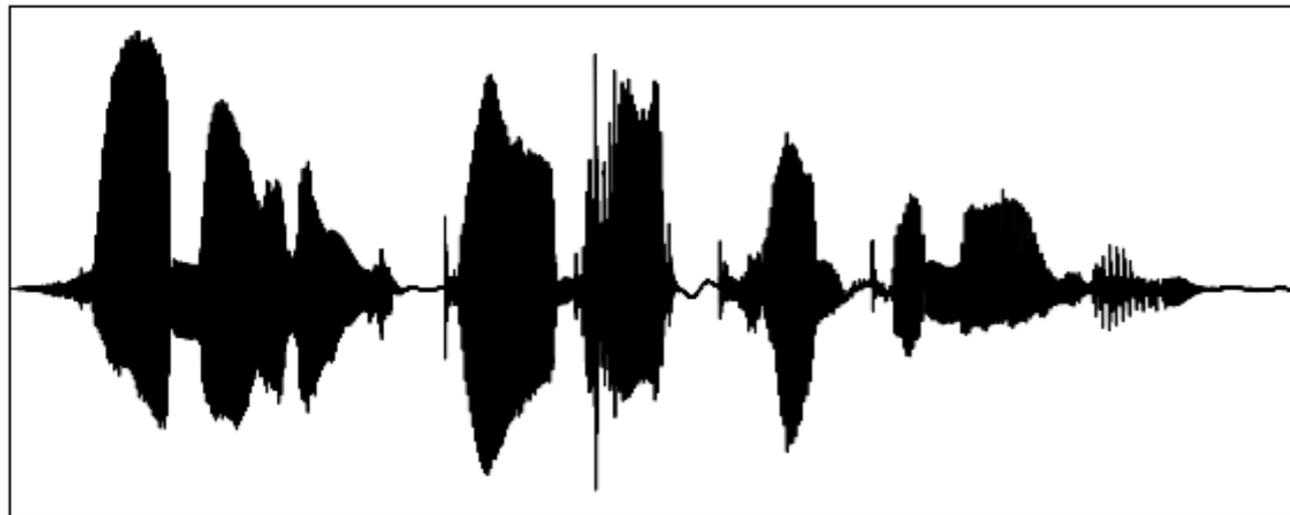
Parabelt area

???

Our goal: use computational models to help deepen understanding of non-primary areas.

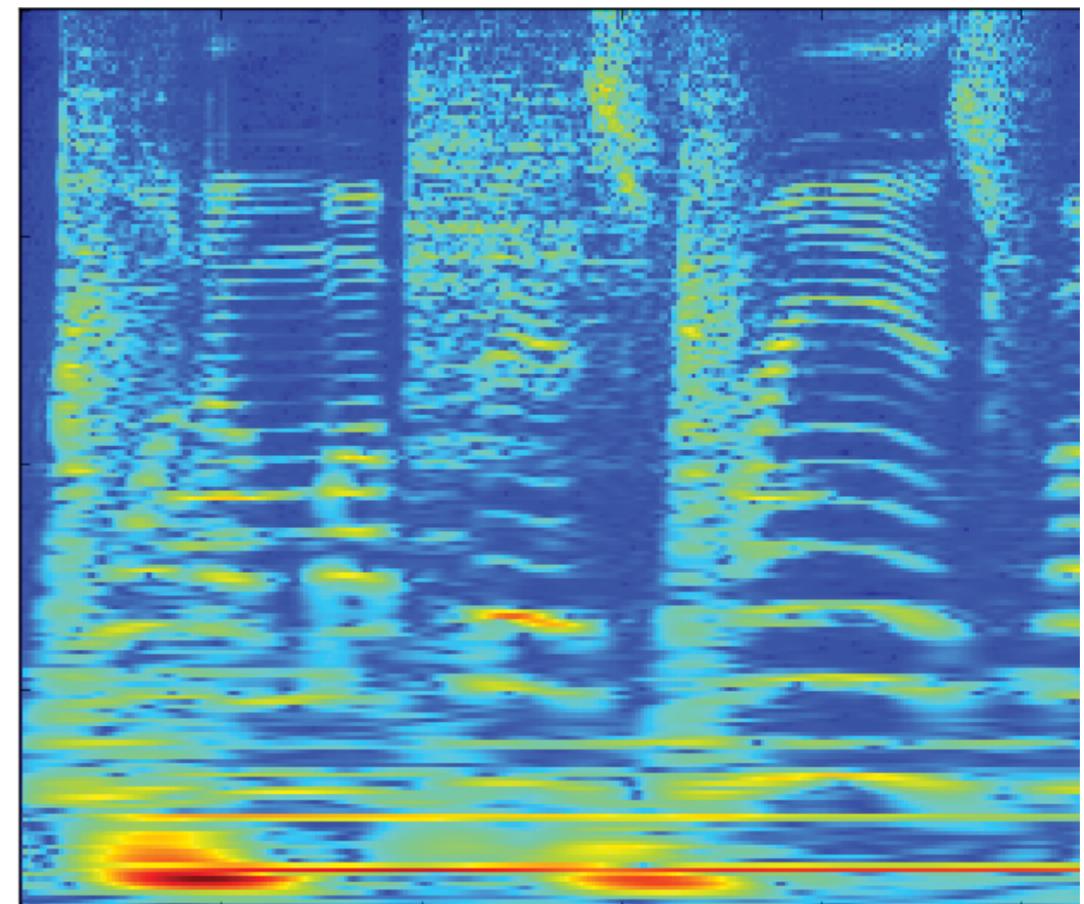
# Convolutional Neural Networks

Waveform representation



Time →

Cochleagram representation

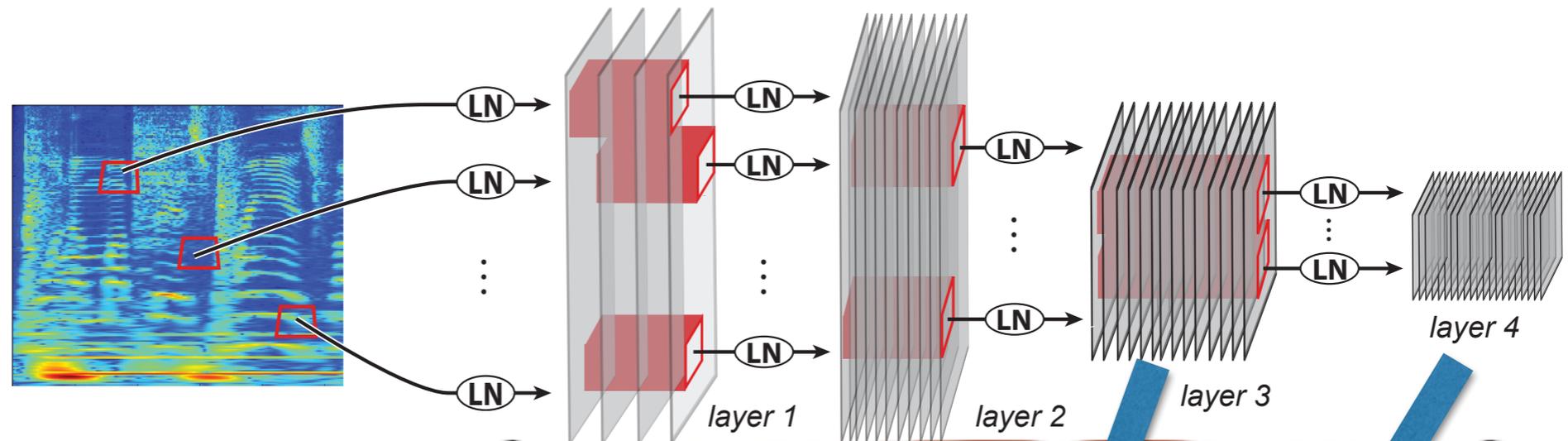


Frequency ↑

Coarse model of the cochlea

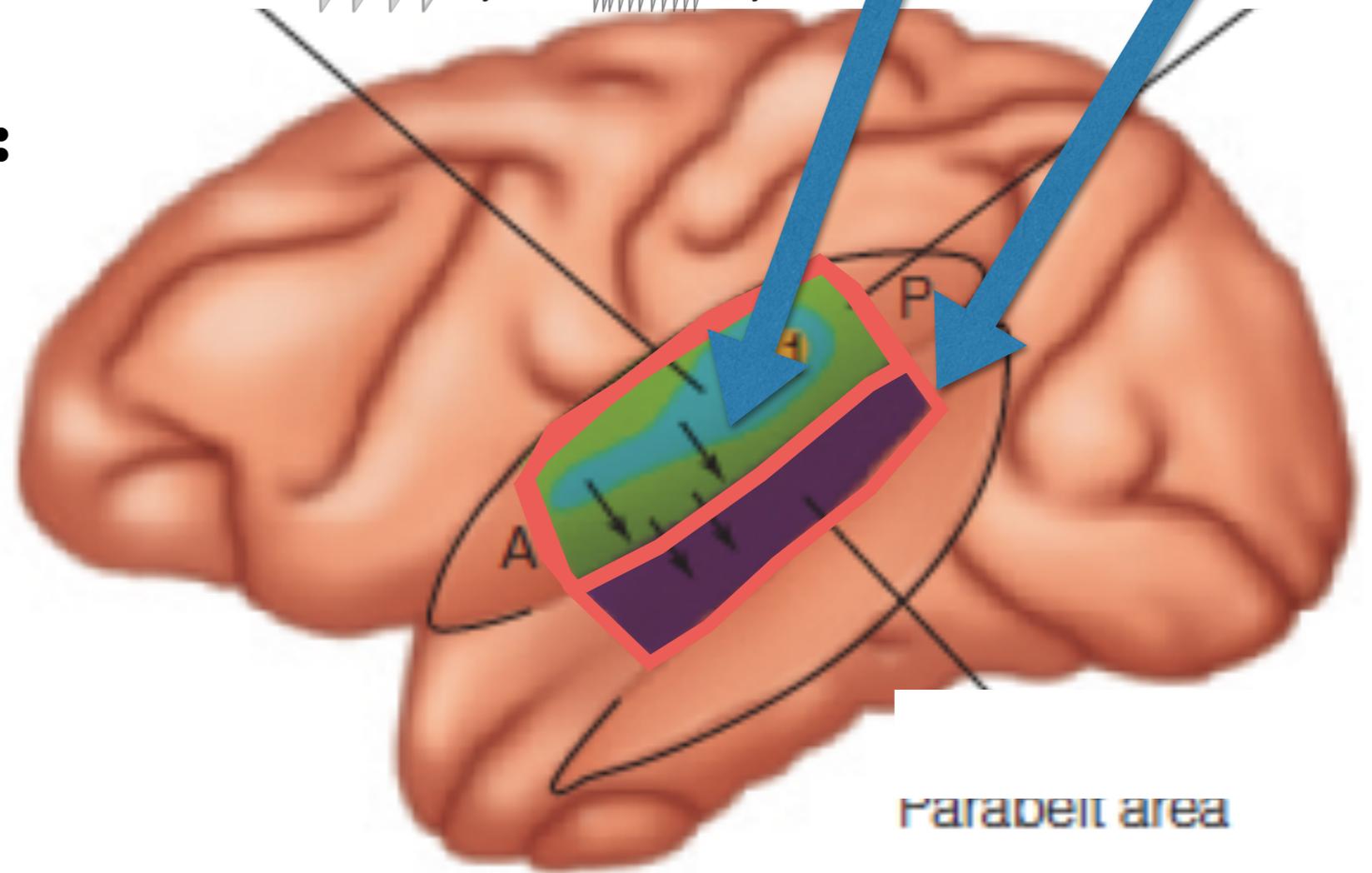
Time →

# Core Task-Driven Modeling Idea



## Task-Driven Modeling:

1. Optimize for performance on a challenging auditory task, fixing parameters
2. Compare to neural data.



Apply to auditory tasks, where the regions themselves are less well known.

# Optimize for Performance: The Task

**600-way** word-recognition task assembled by:

- Recordings from standard speech recognition databases (TIMIT, WSJ) with words spoken at least 20 times
- Combined with significant background noise

▶ auditory scenes

*“She **had** your*

*‘had’*

▶ speech babble

*dark **suit** in*

*‘suit’*

▶ music clips

*greasy **wash** water*

*‘wash’*

*all **year** ... ”*

*‘year’*

# Optimize for Performance: The Task

**600-way** word-recognition task assembled by:

- Recordings from standard speech recognition databases (TIMIT, WSJ) with words spoken at least 20 times
- Combined with significant background noise

▶ auditory scenes

▶ speech babble

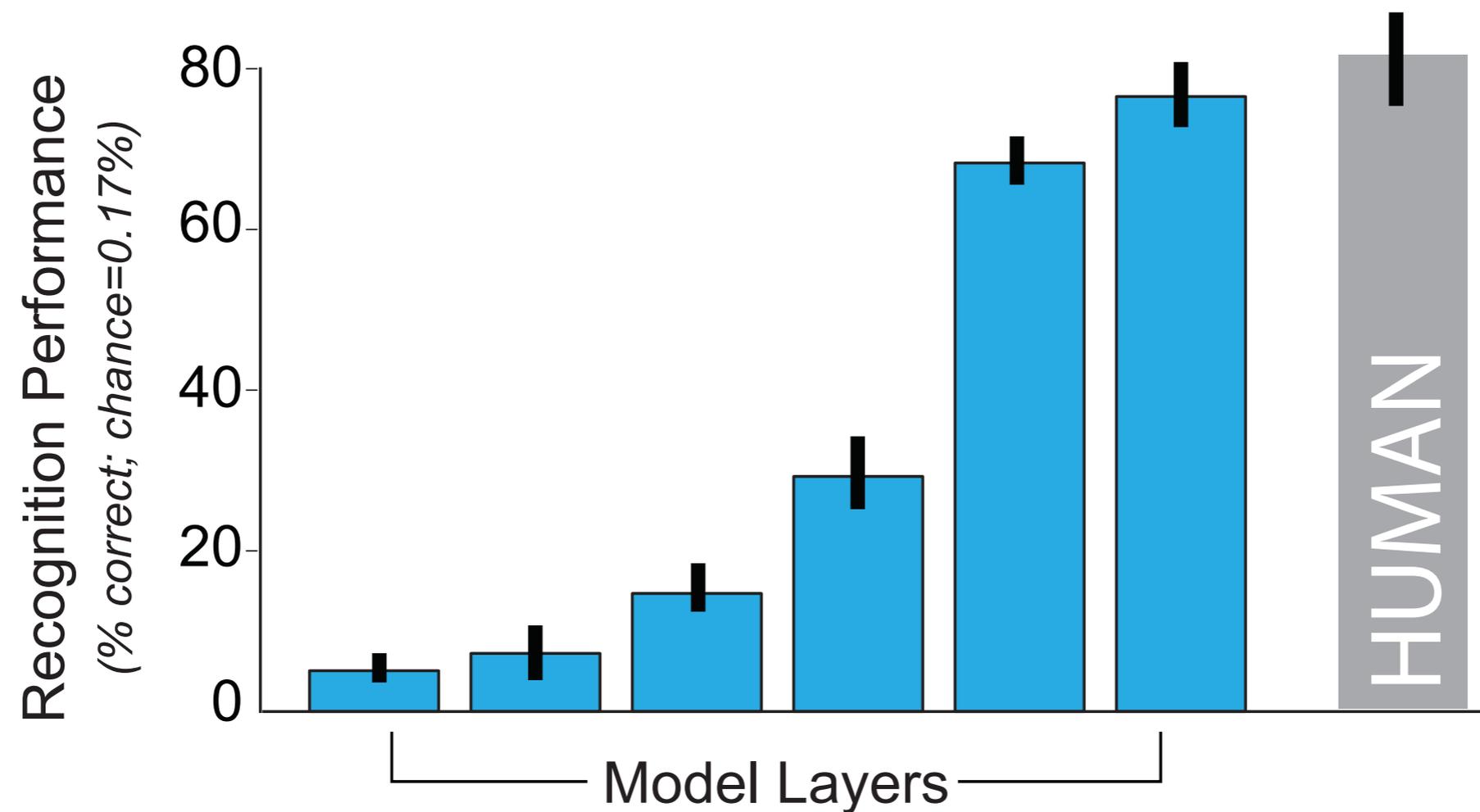
▶ music clips



Backgrounds → humans not close to ceiling.

# Performance Results

Performance on 600-way word-recognition task



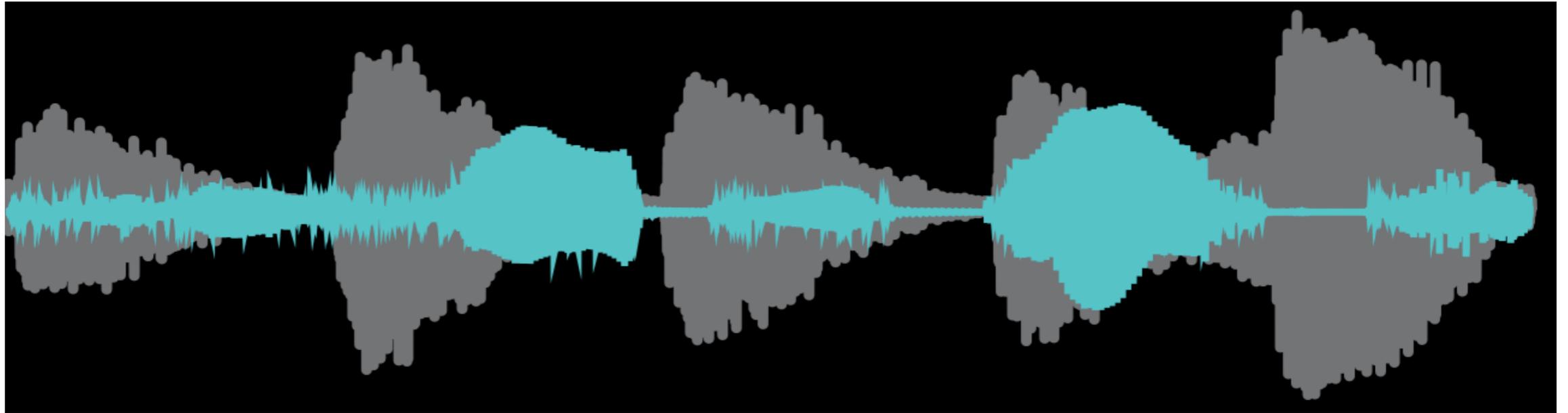
... for model, measured on held-out data with novel speakers and auditory background noise.

# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task



Word recognition in complex backgrounds

# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task



Word recognition in complex backgrounds

21 conditions:

dry  
+

4 different background types at 5 SNR levels:

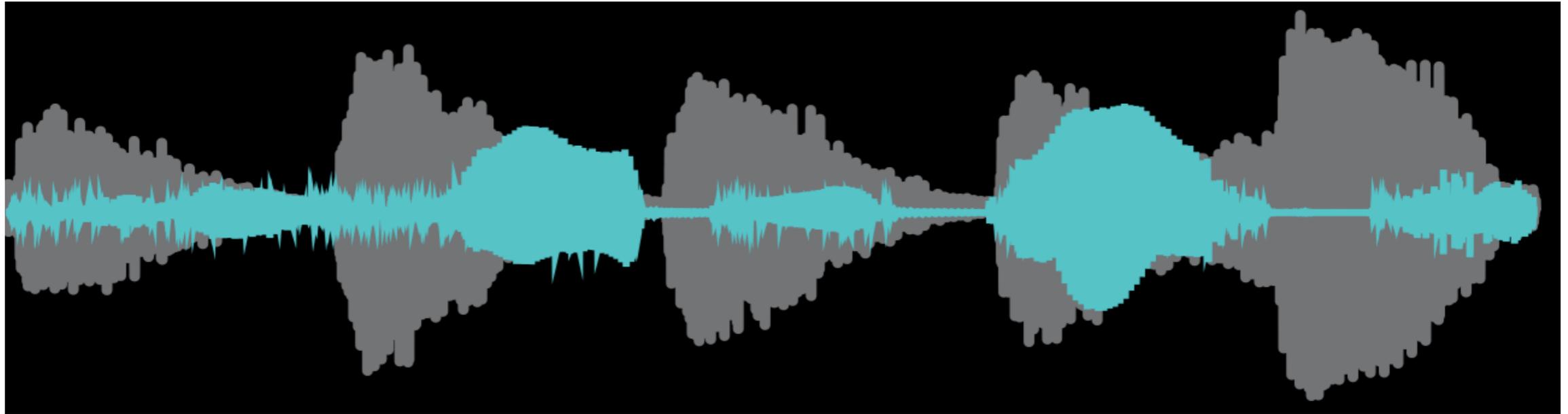
Auditory scenes

Music

Speech babble

Speech-shaped noise

# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task



Word recognition in complex backgrounds

21 conditions:

dry

+

600  
AFC

4 different background types at 5 SNR levels:

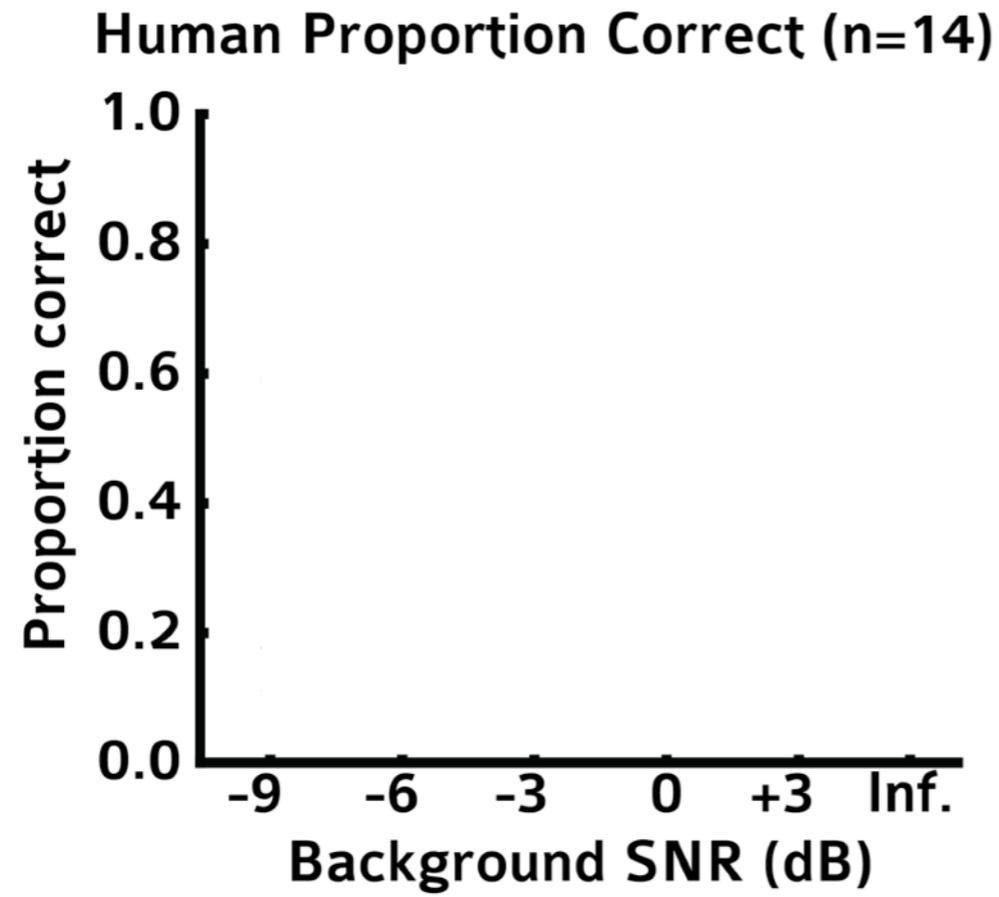
Auditory scenes

Music

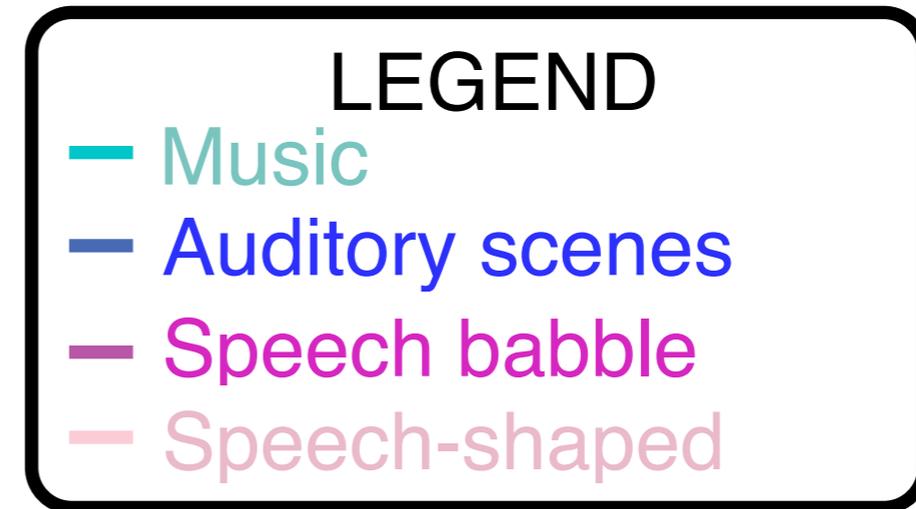
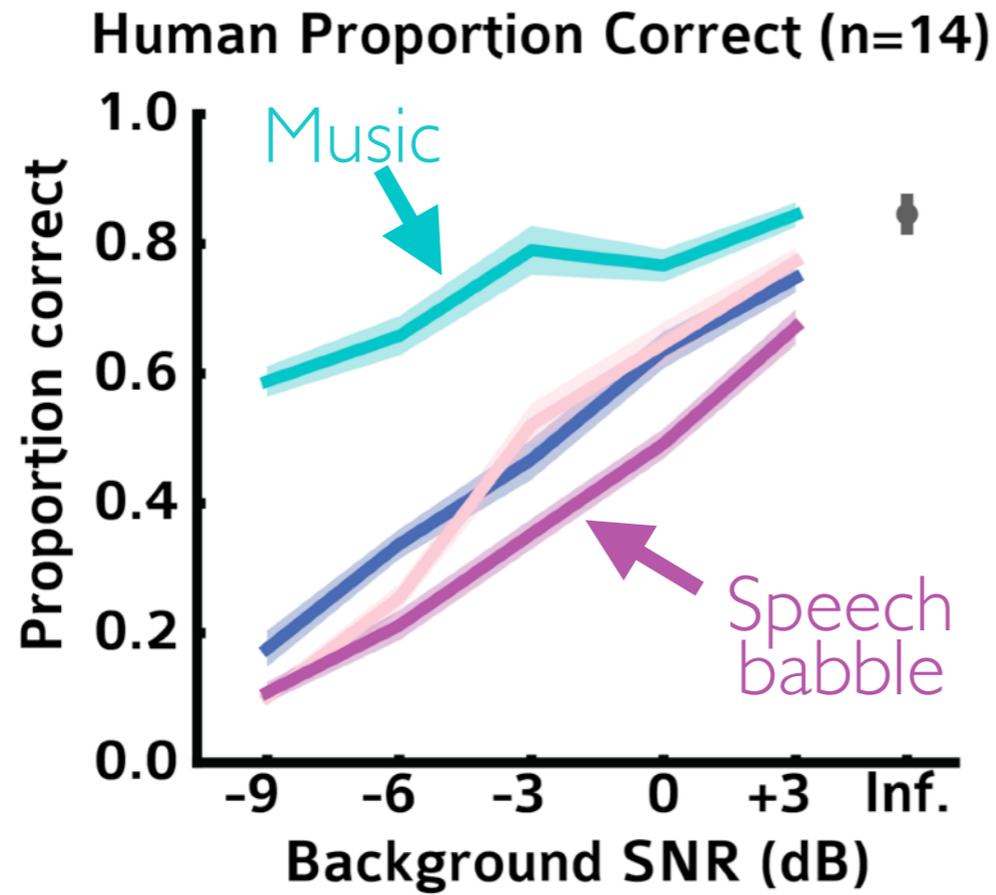
Speech babble

Speech-shaped noise

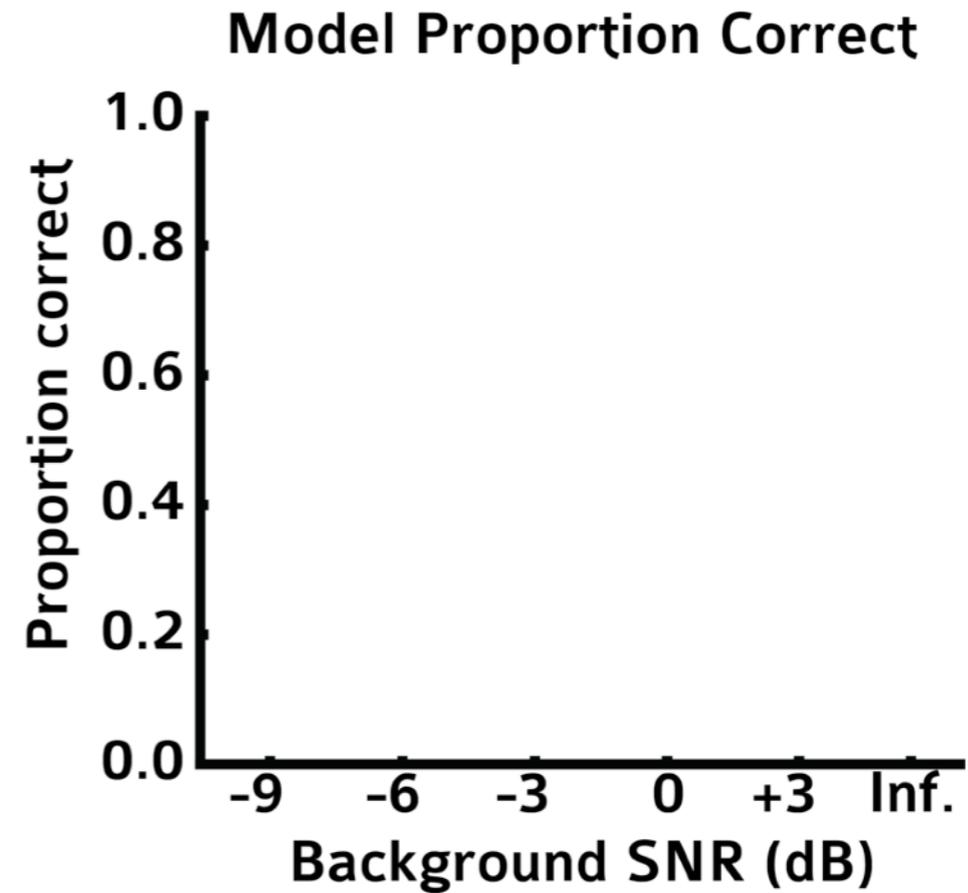
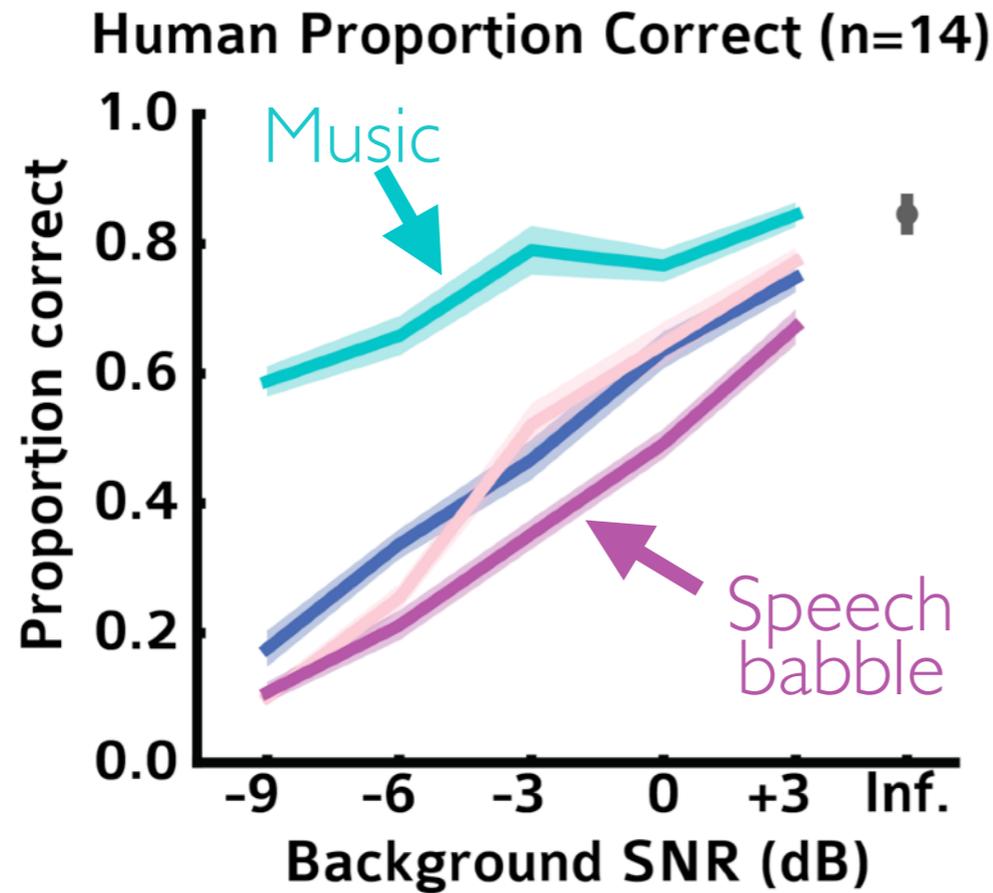
# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task



# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task



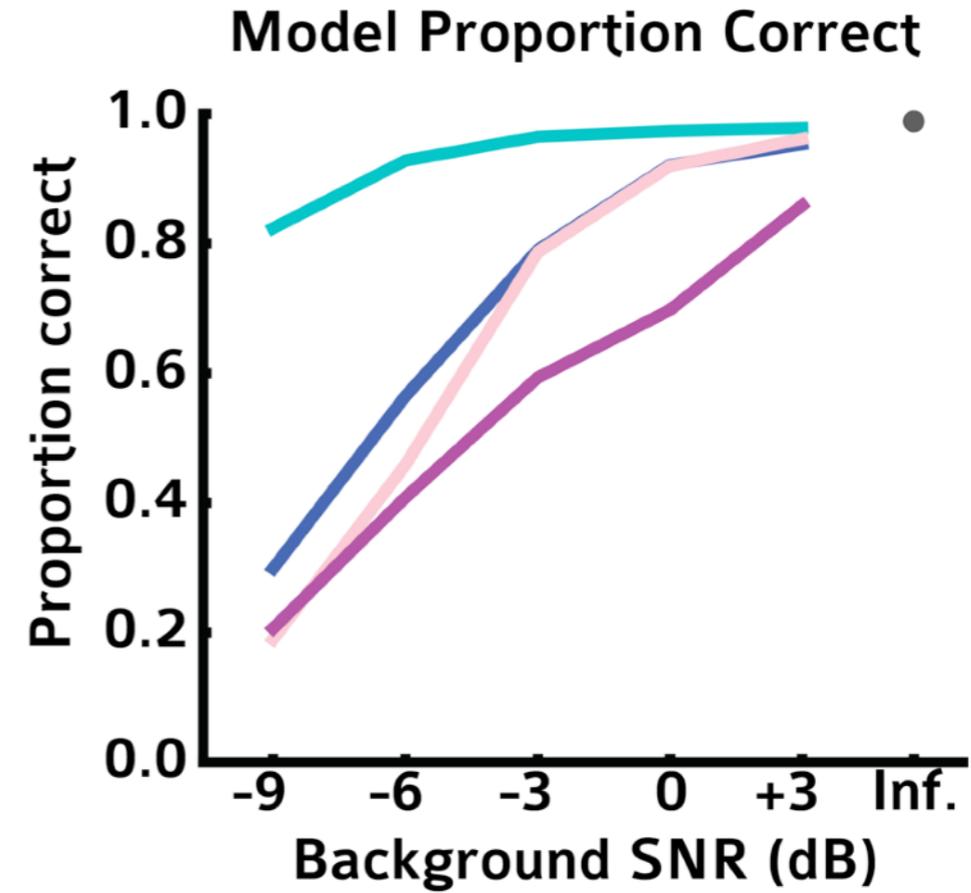
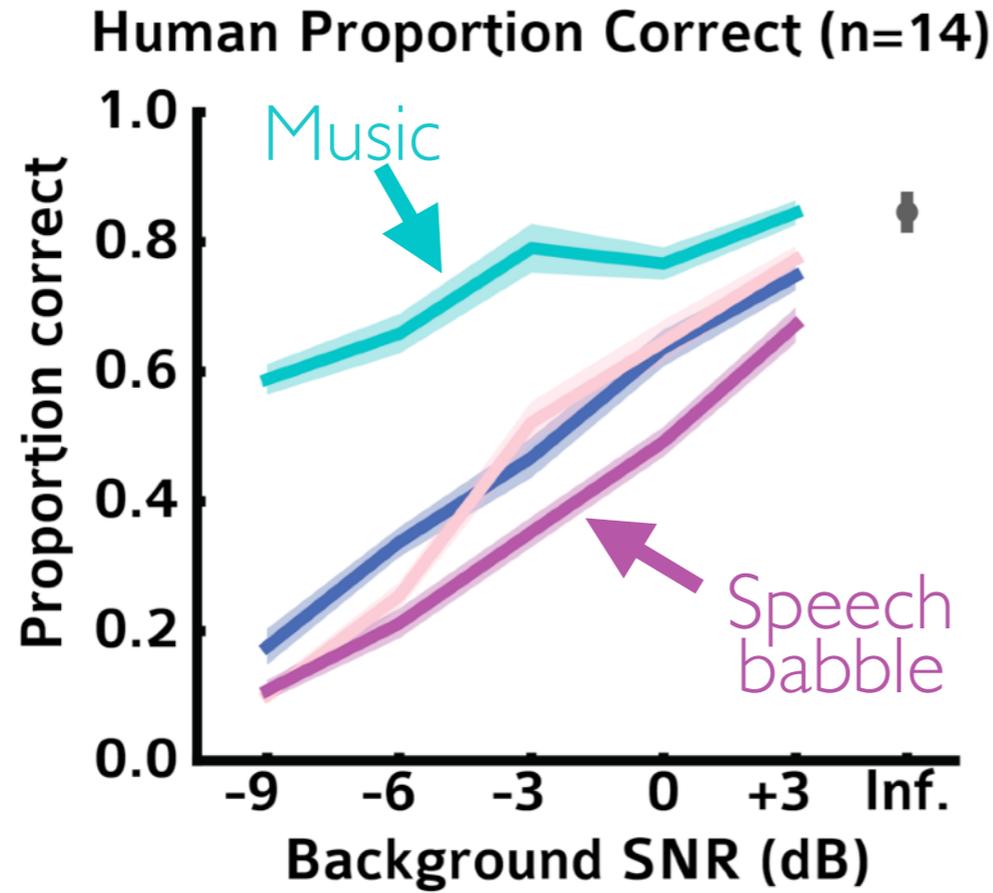
# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task



## LEGEND

- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped

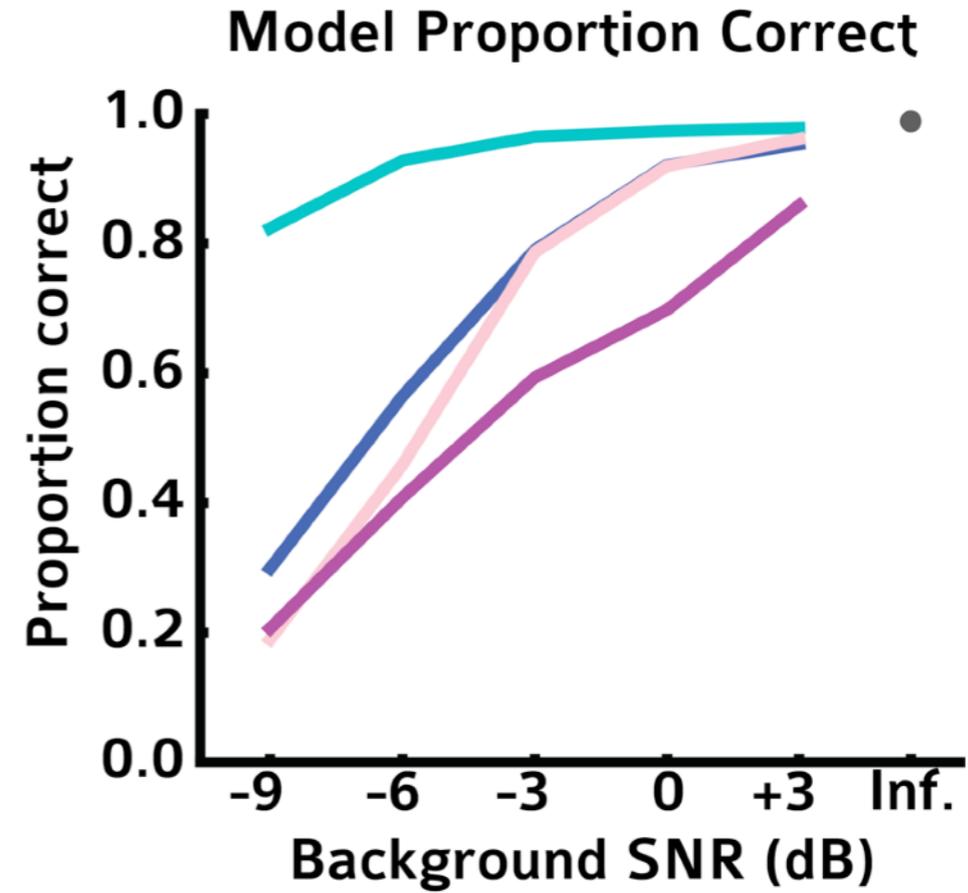
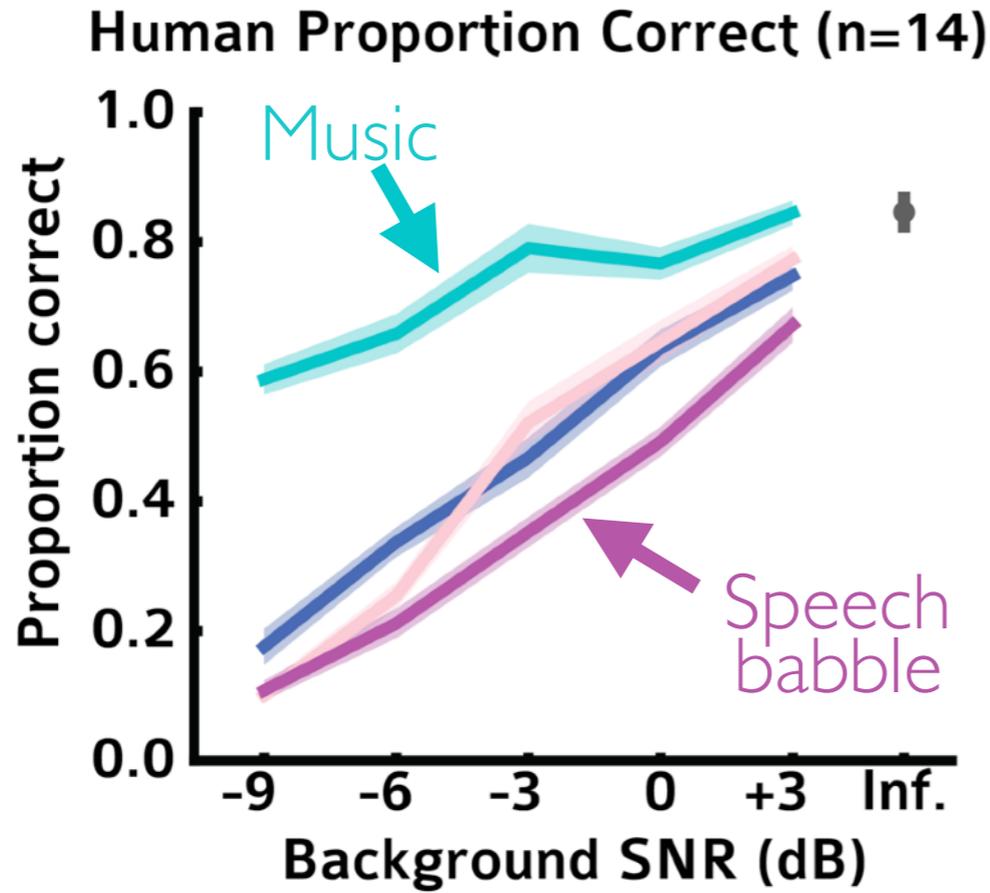
# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task



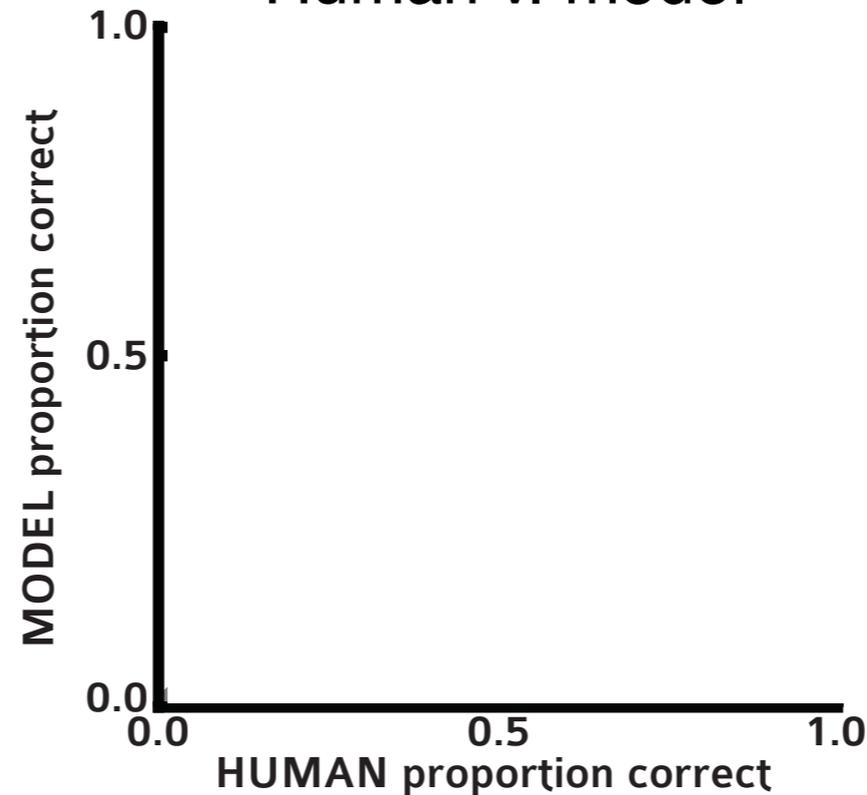
## LEGEND

- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped

# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task



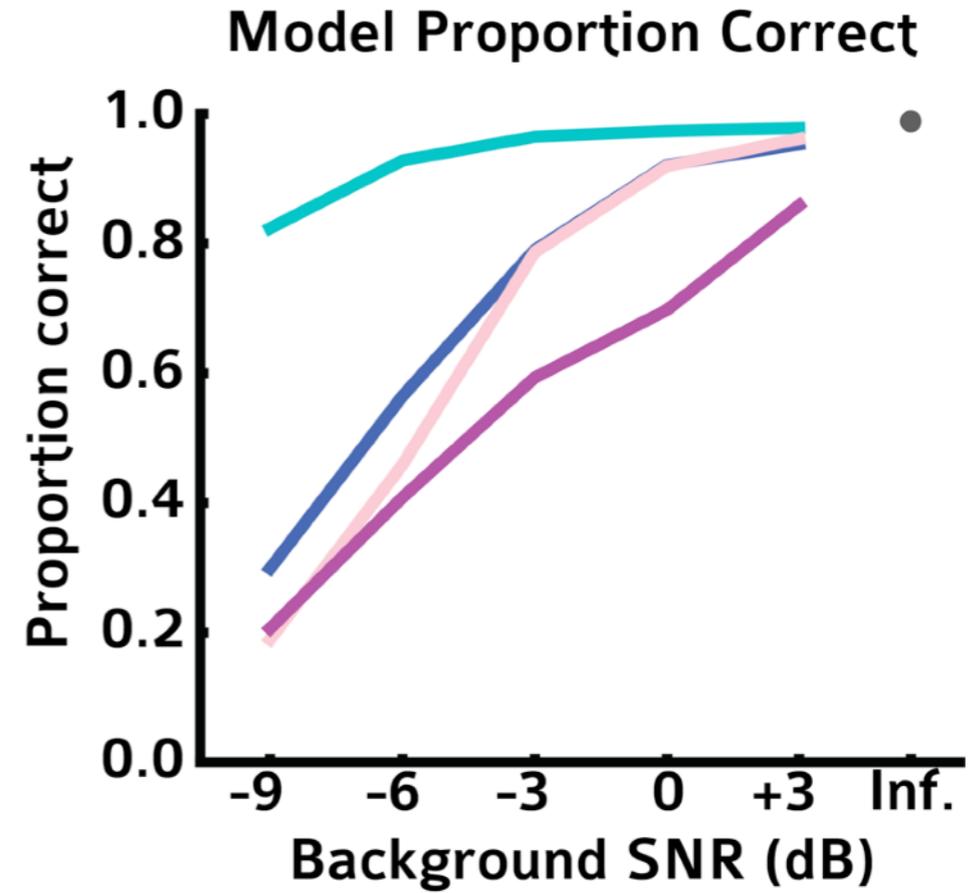
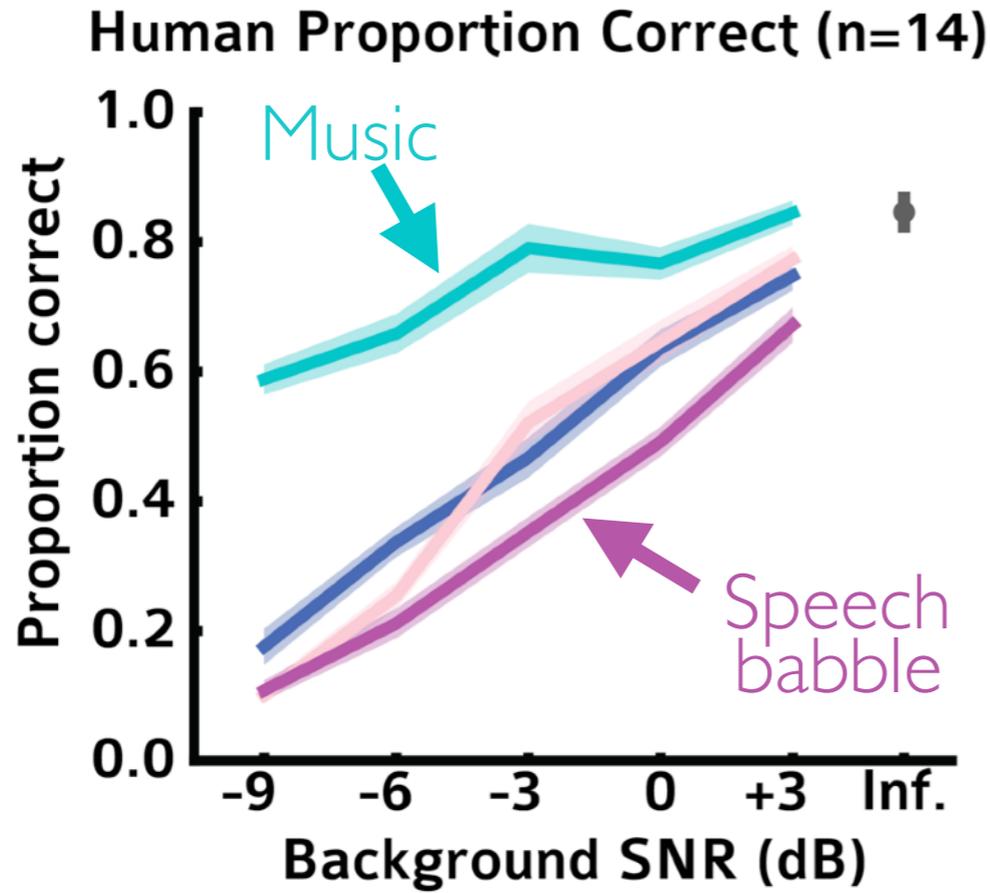
Human v. model



## LEGEND

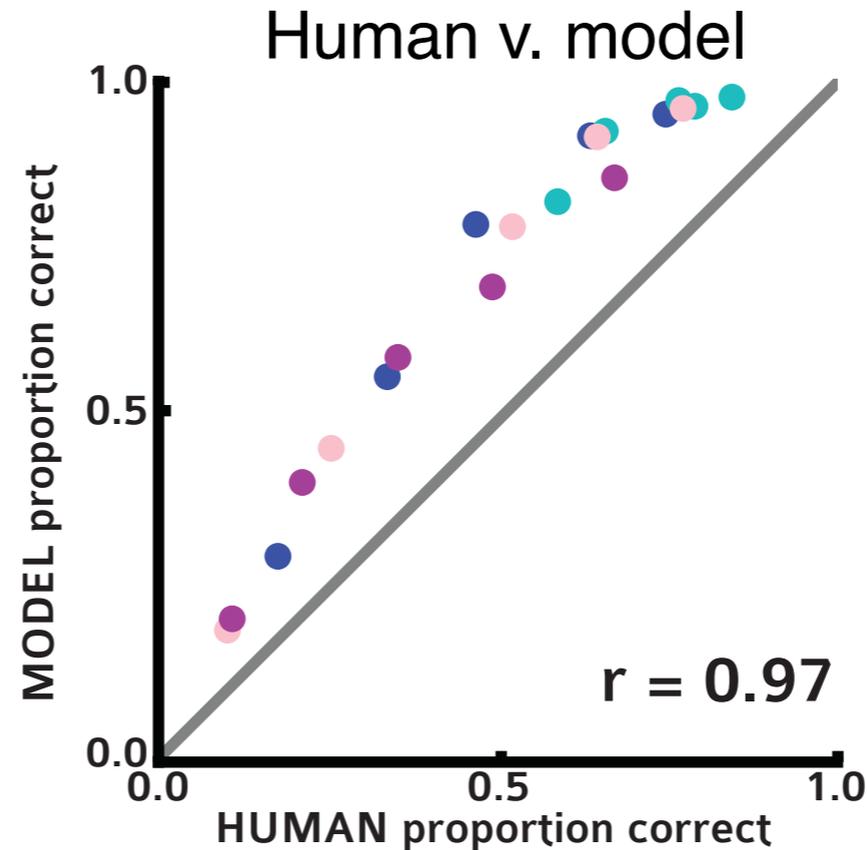
- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped

# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task

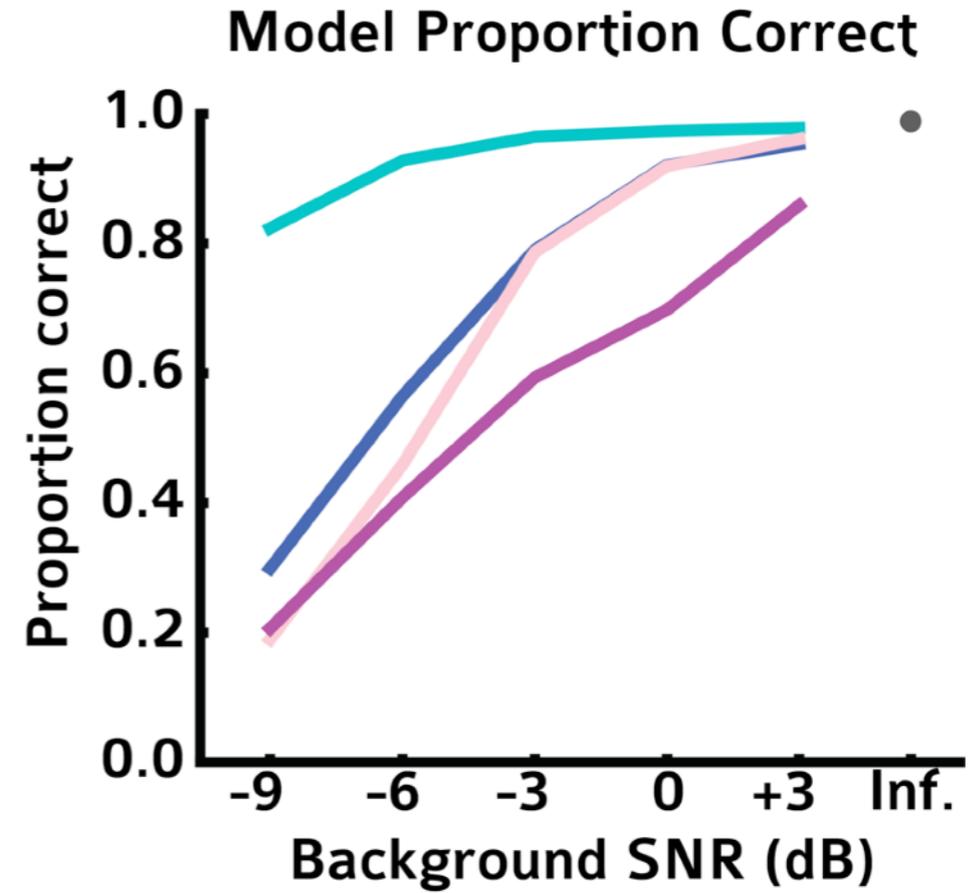
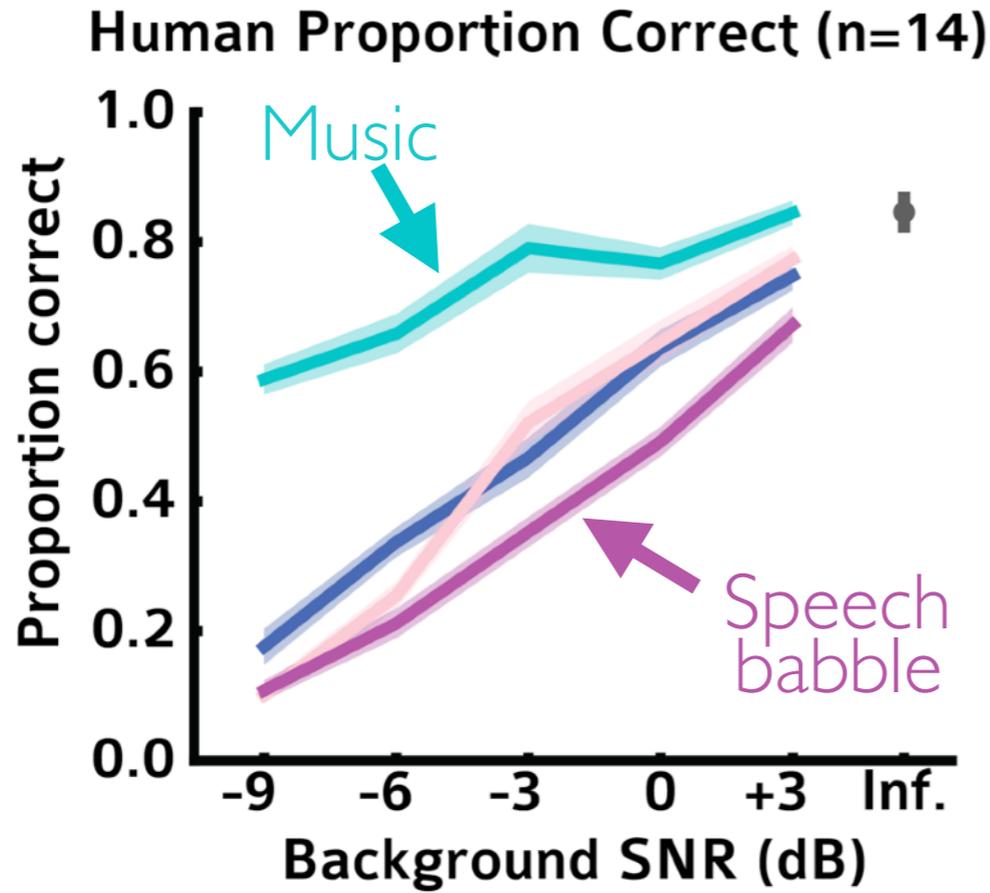


## LEGEND

- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped

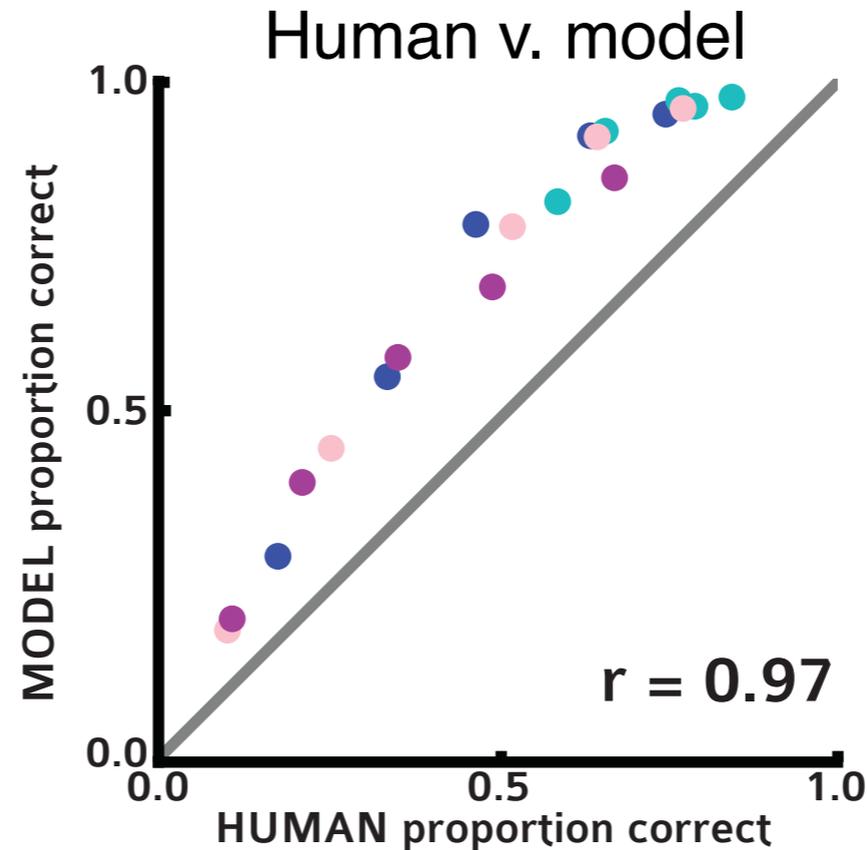


# Behavioral comparison: CNN & humans on same task



## LEGEND

- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped

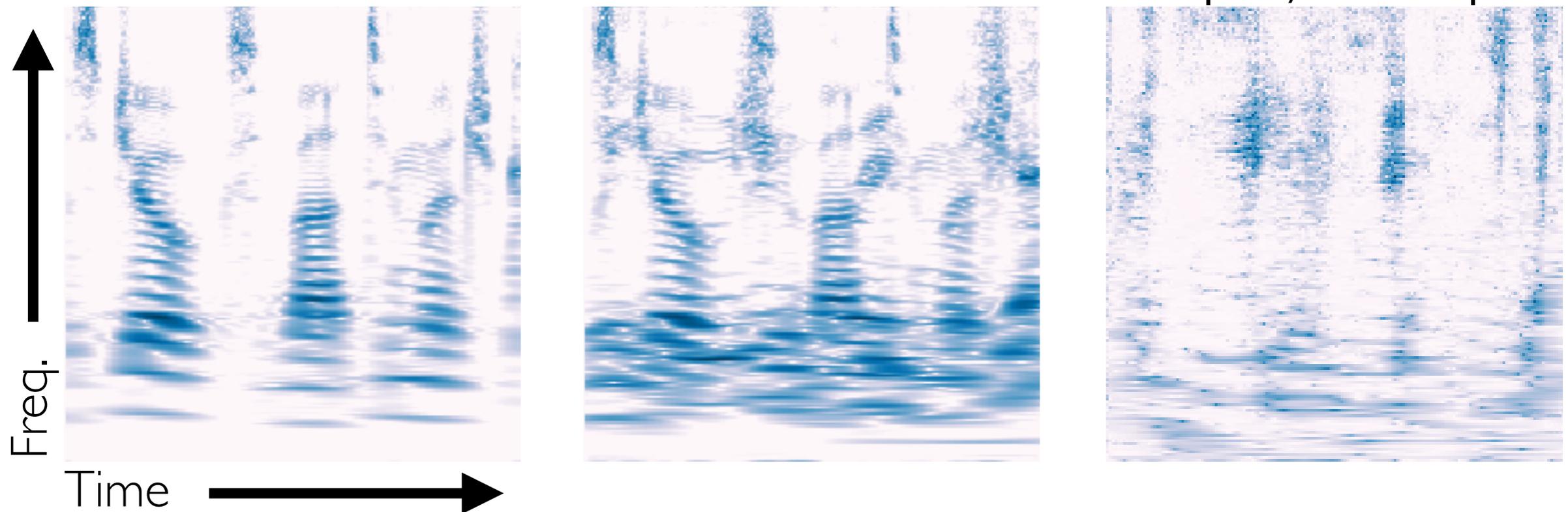


NB:

CNN optimized for task performance *not* for human behavior match

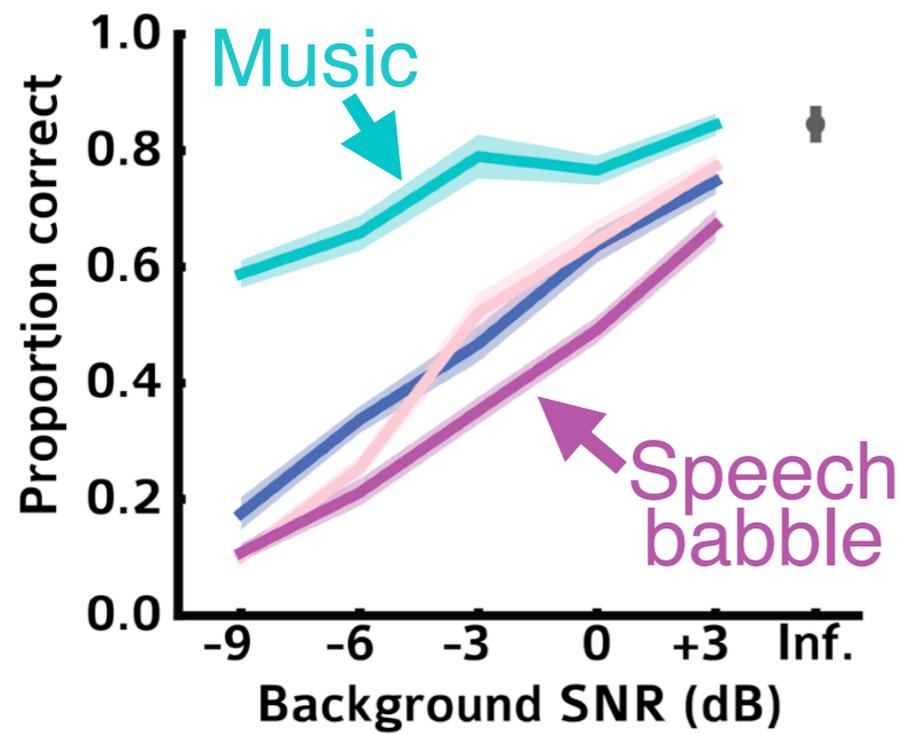
Does distortion in a periphery-like representation explain pattern of performance?

Measure physical distortion of background noise  
Dry                      Wet                      |Dry - Wet|

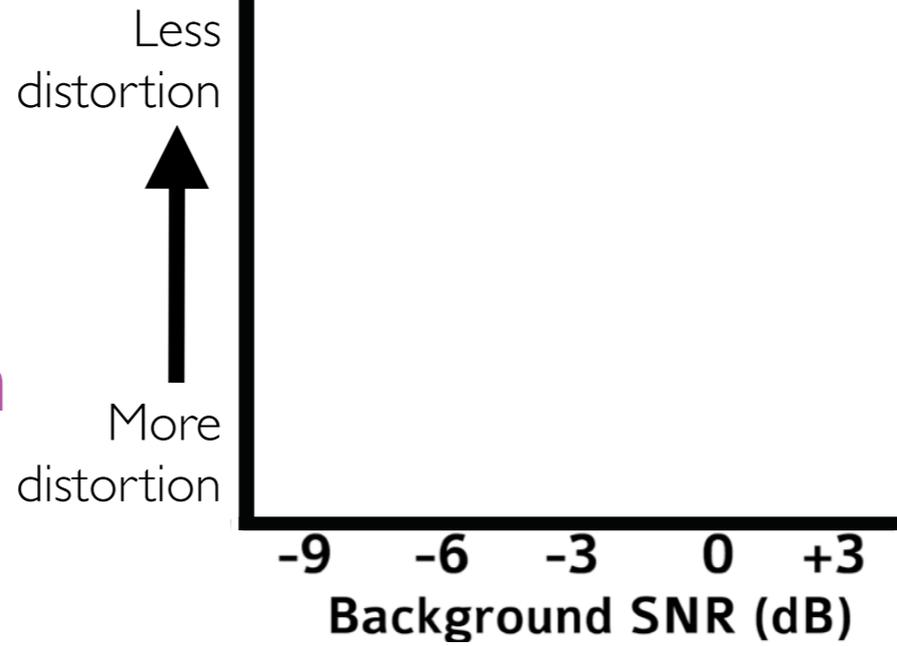


# Distortion and pattern of performance.

Human Proportion Correct (n=14)



Cochleagram distortion by condition

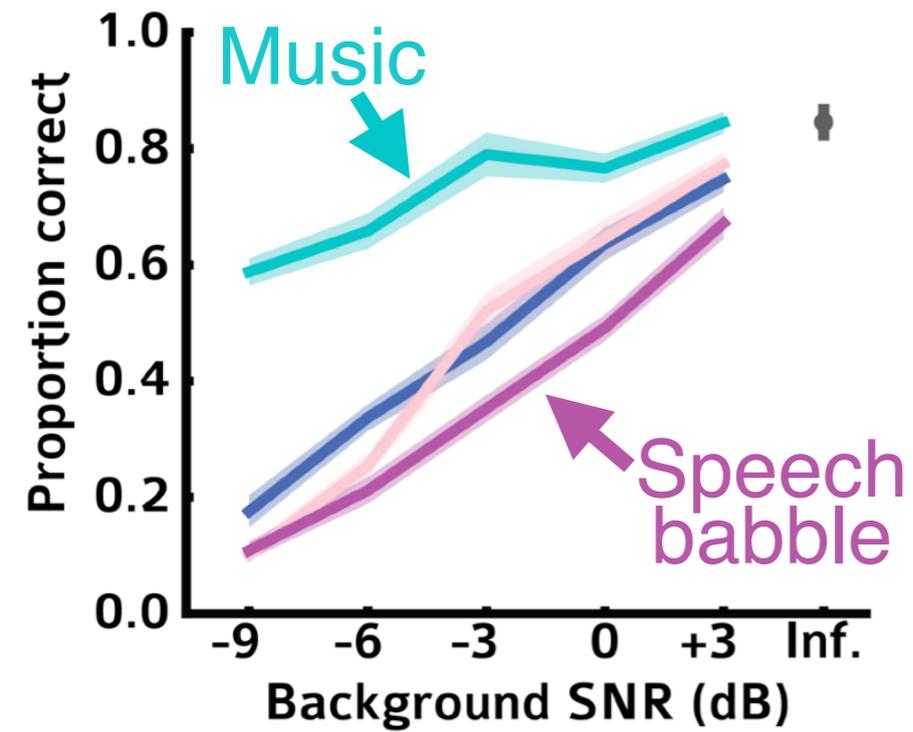


## LEGEND

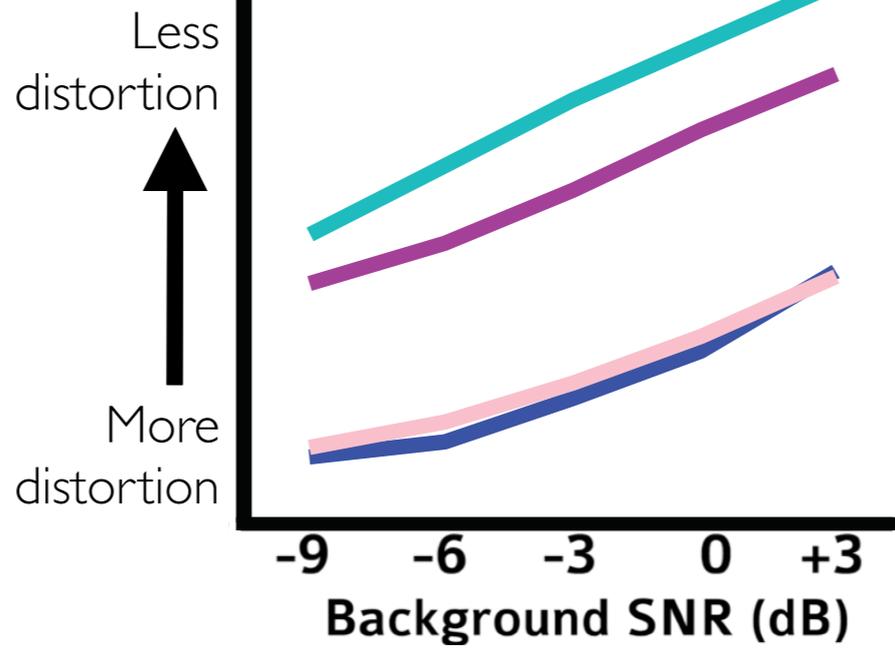
- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped noise

# Distortion and pattern of performance.

### Human Proportion Correct (n=14)



### Cochleagram distortion by condition

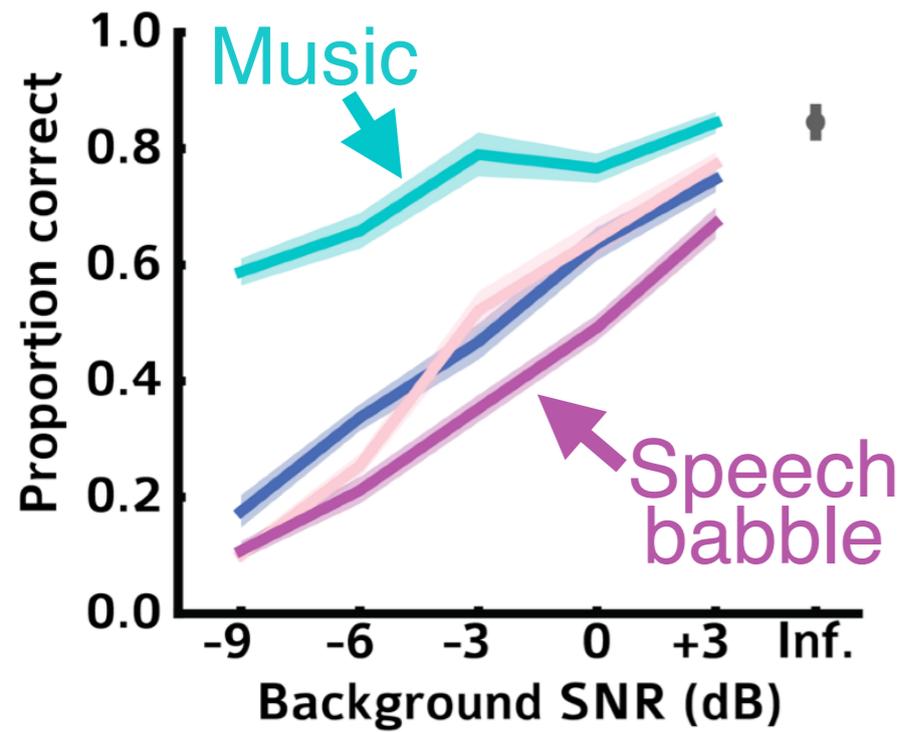


## LEGEND

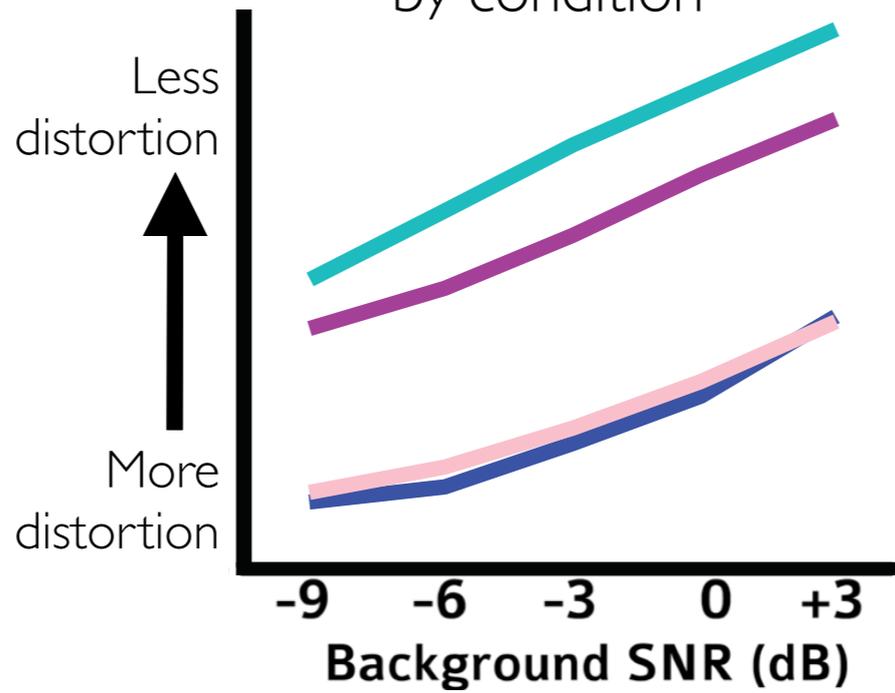
- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped noise

# Distortion and pattern of performance.

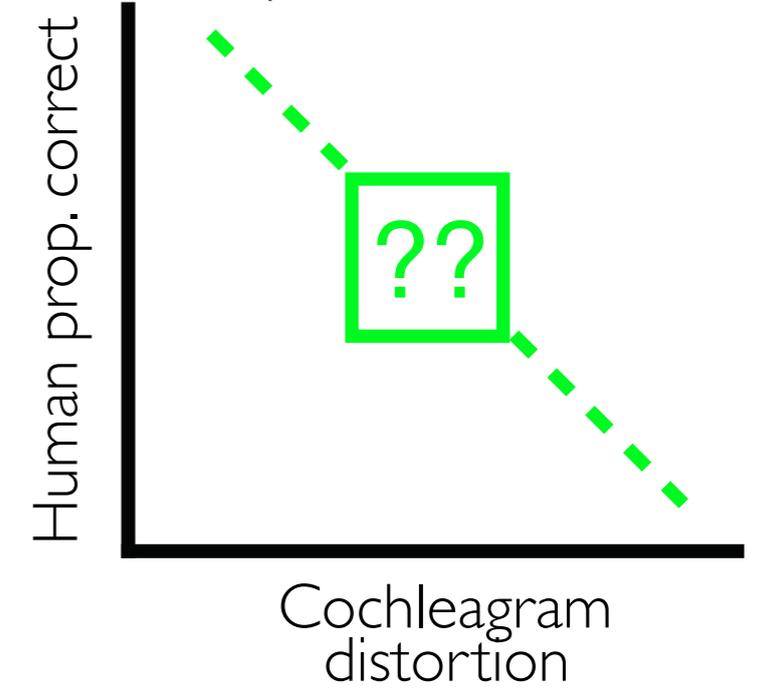
### Human Proportion Correct (n=14)



### Cochleagram distortion by condition



### Cochleagram distortion v. human performance

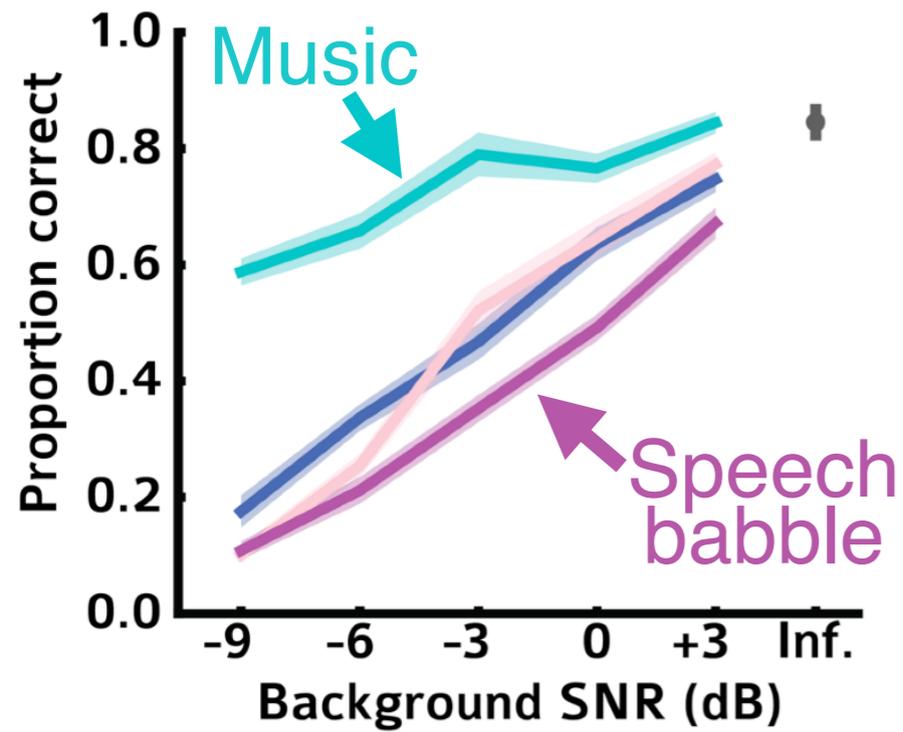


## LEGEND

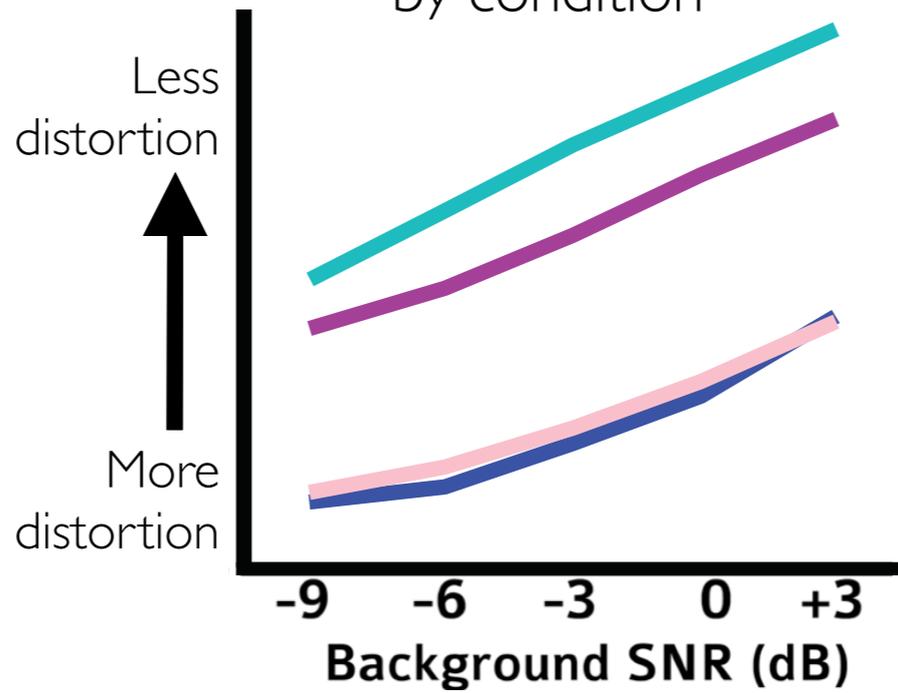
- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped noise

# Distortion and pattern of performance.

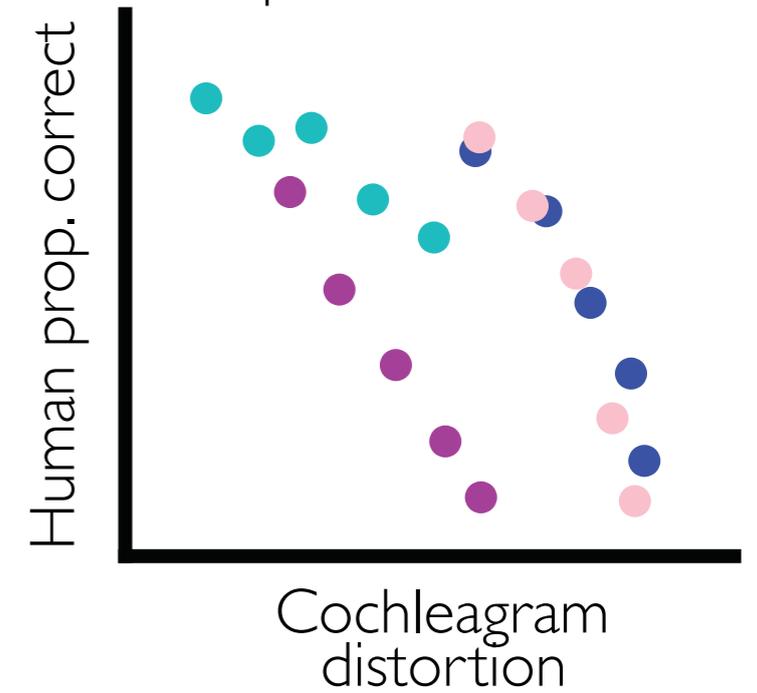
### Human Proportion Correct (n=14)



### Cochleagram distortion by condition



### Cochleagram distortion v. human performance



## LEGEND

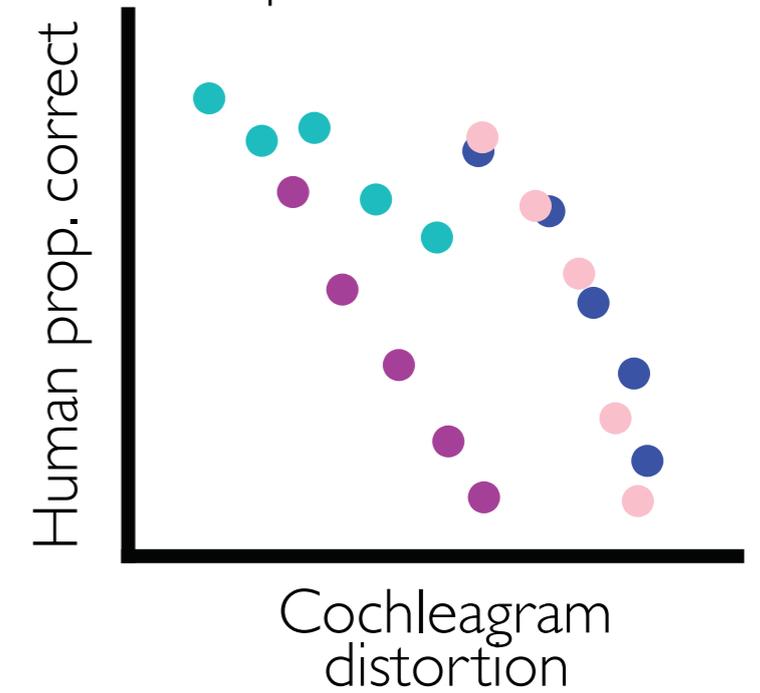
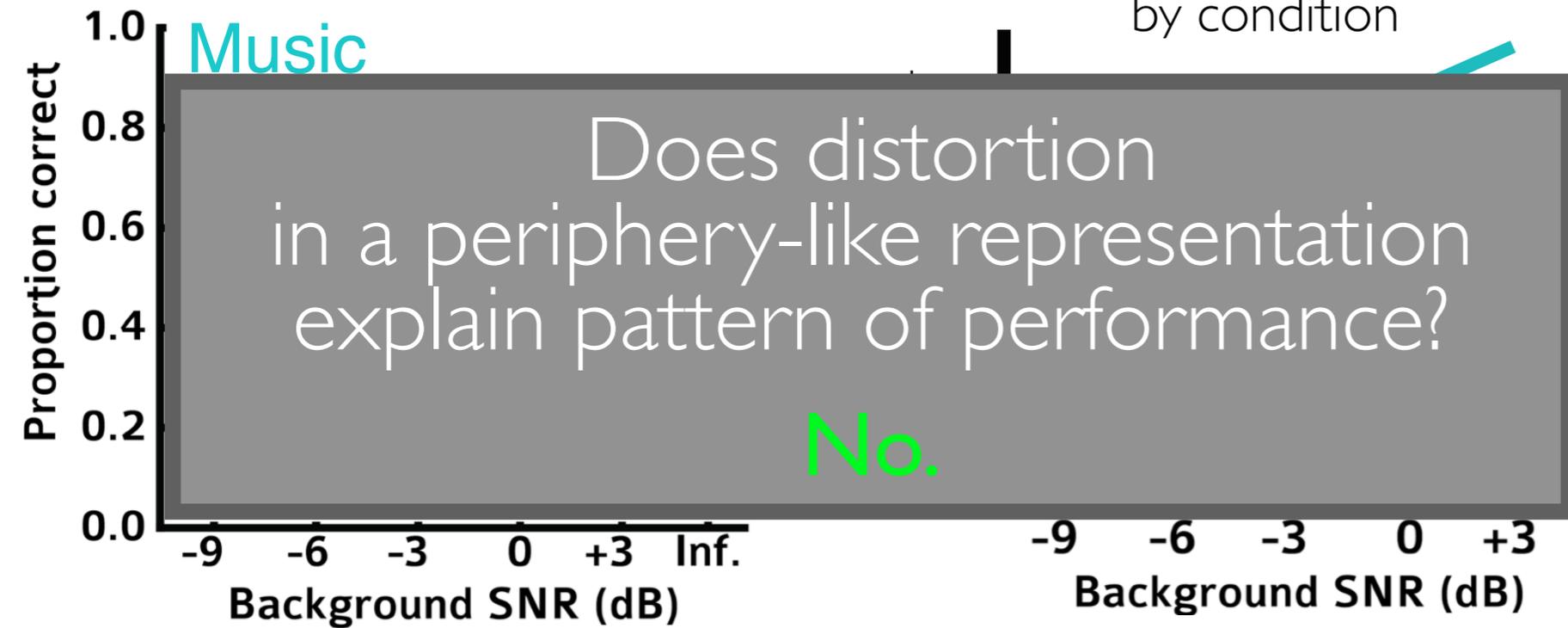
- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped noise

# Distortion and pattern of performance.

Human Proportion Correct (n=14)

Cochleagram distortion  
by condition

Cochleagram distortion v. human  
performance



## LEGEND

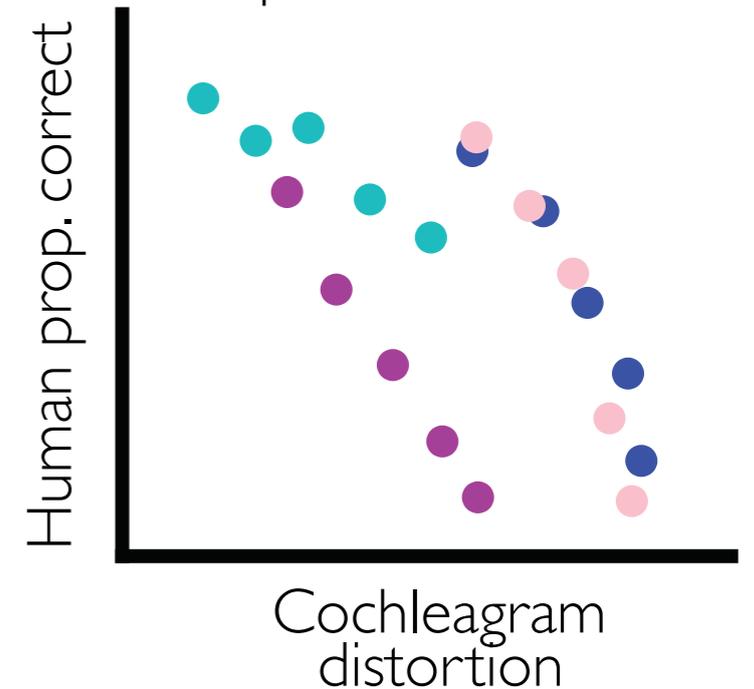
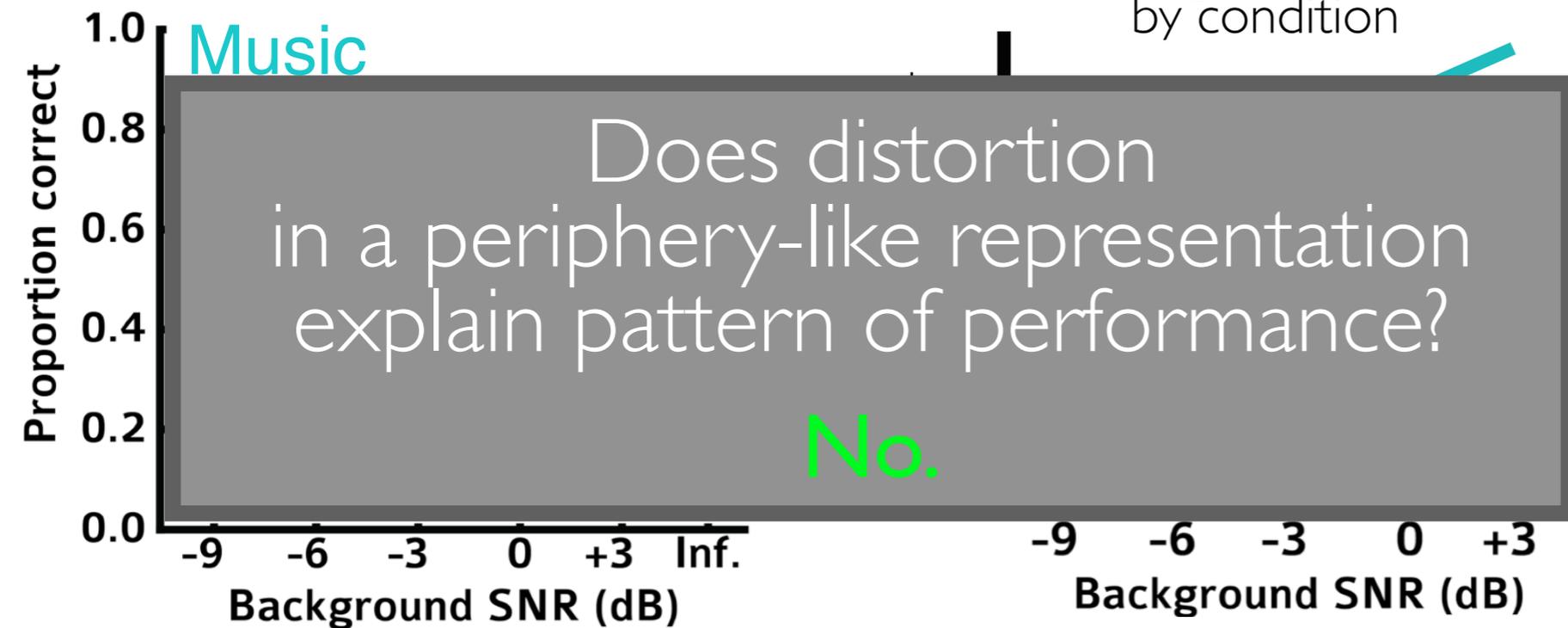
- Music
- Auditory scenes
- Speech babble
- Speech-shaped noise

# Distortion and pattern of performance.

Human Proportion Correct (n=14)

Cochleagram distortion  
by condition

Cochleagram distortion v. human  
performance



## LEGEND

● Music ● Auditory scenes ● Speech babble ● Speech-shaped noise

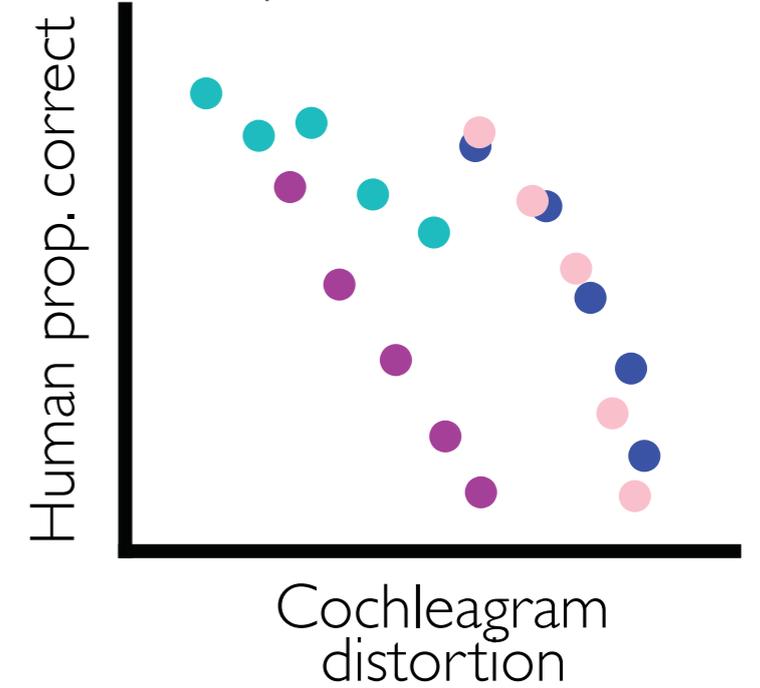
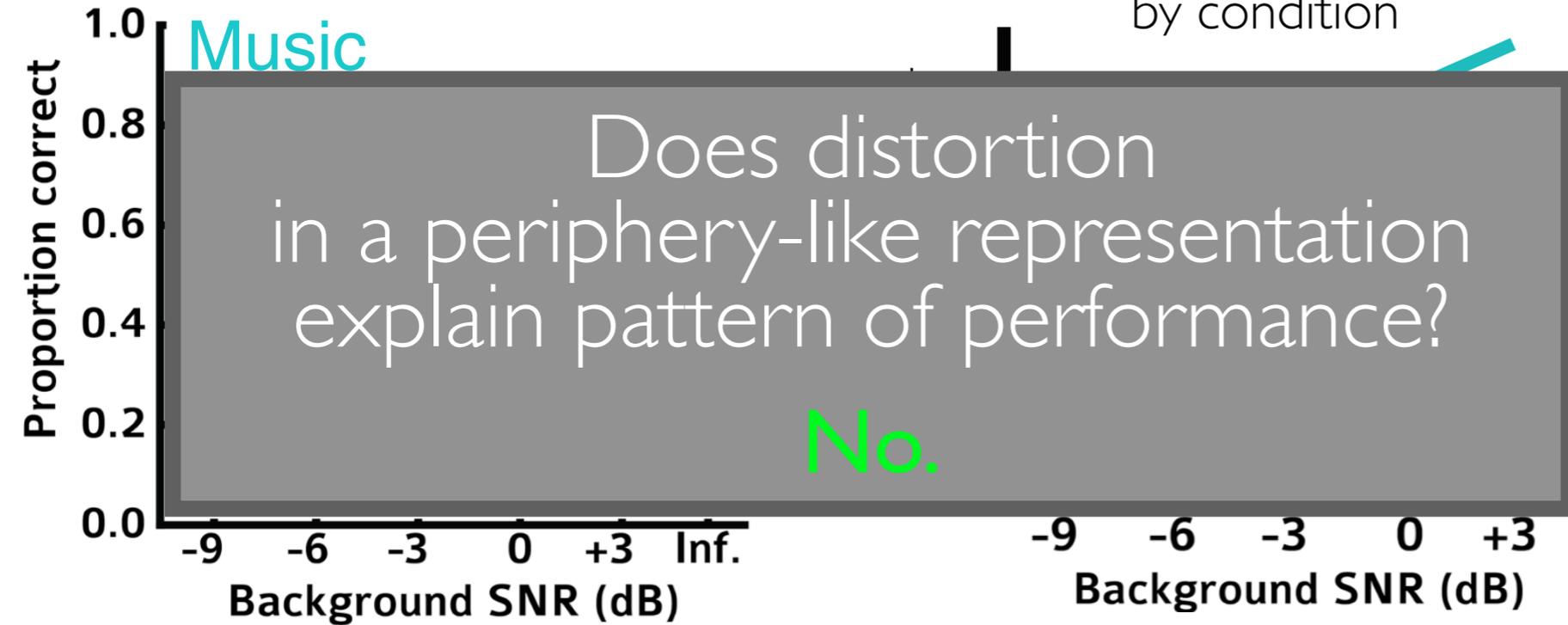
Does distortion of CNN representation explain pattern of performance?

# Distortion and pattern of performance.

Human Proportion Correct (n=14)

Cochleagram distortion  
by condition

Cochleagram distortion v. human  
performance

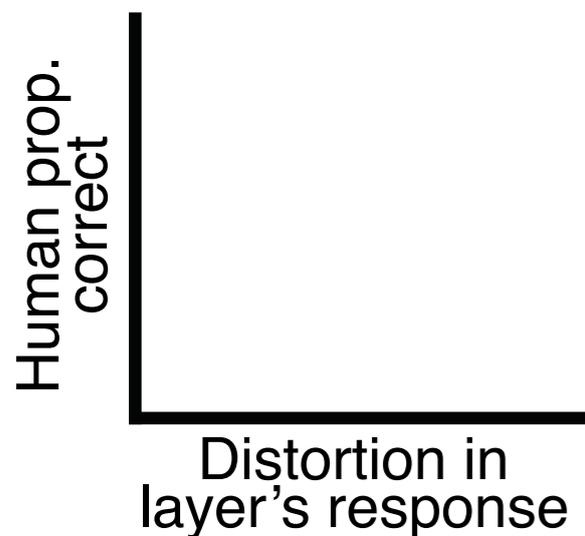


## LEGEND

● Music ● Auditory scenes ● Speech babble ● Speech-shaped noise

Does distortion of CNN representation explain pattern of performance?

## First layer

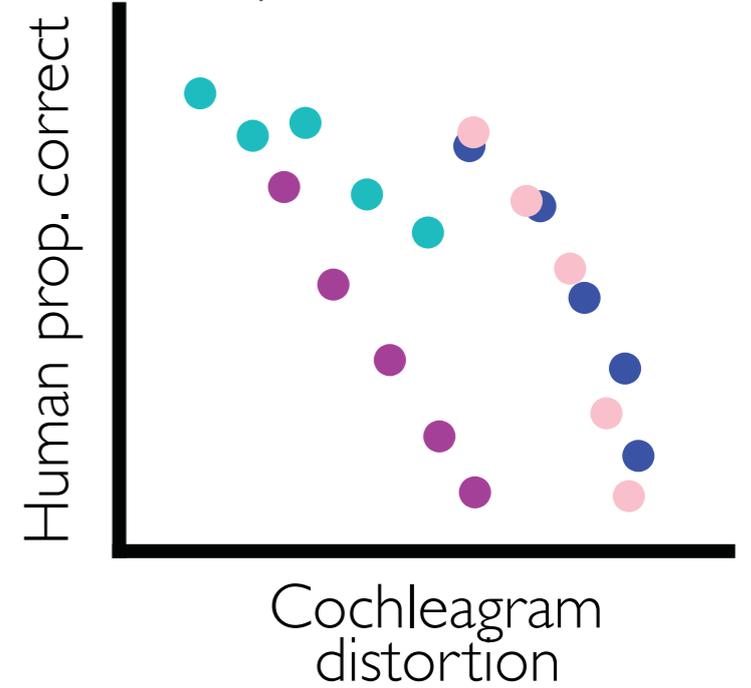
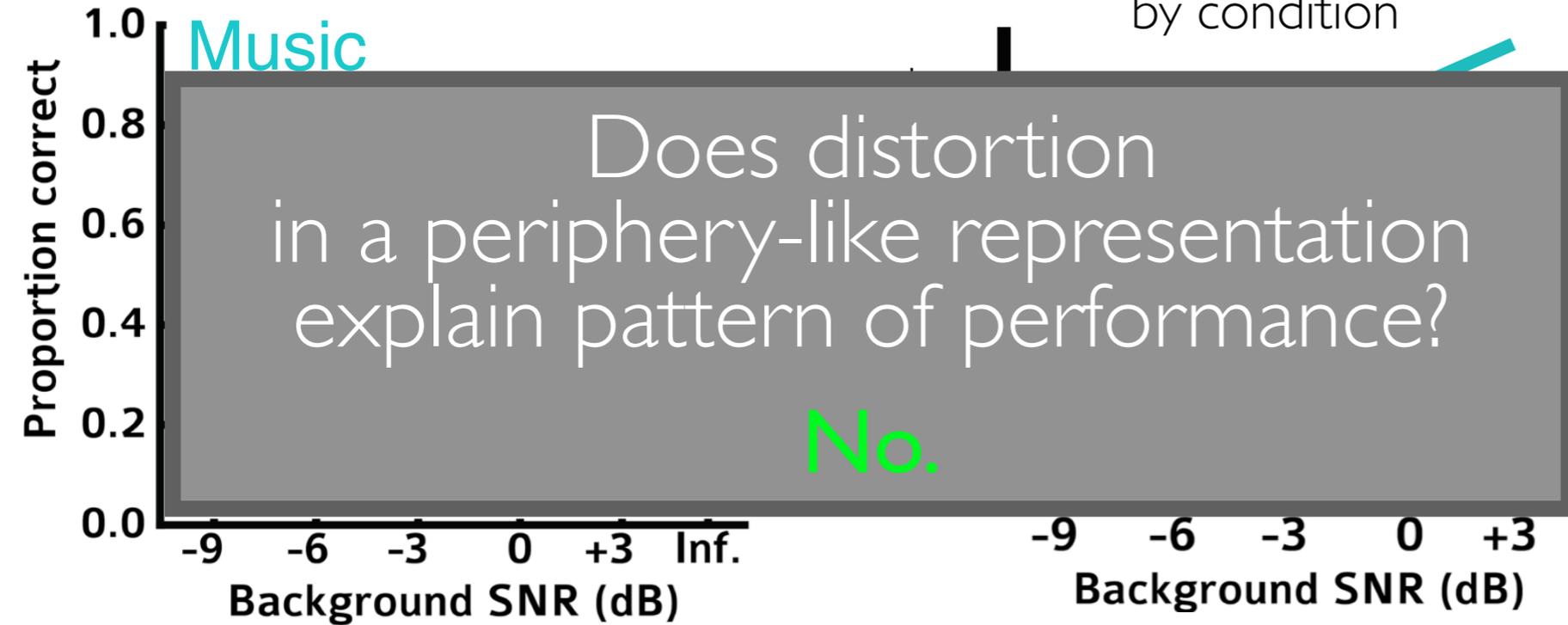


# Distortion and pattern of performance.

Human Proportion Correct (n=14)

Cochleagram distortion by condition

Cochleagram distortion v. human performance

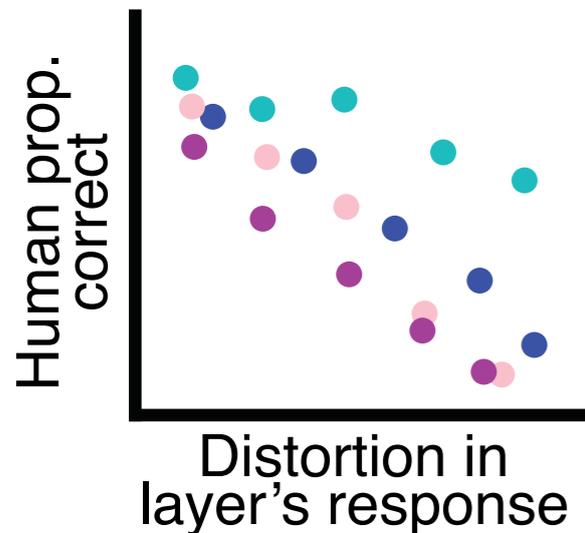


## LEGEND

● Music ● Auditory scenes ● Speech babble ● Speech-shaped noise

Does distortion of CNN representation explain pattern of performance?

## First layer

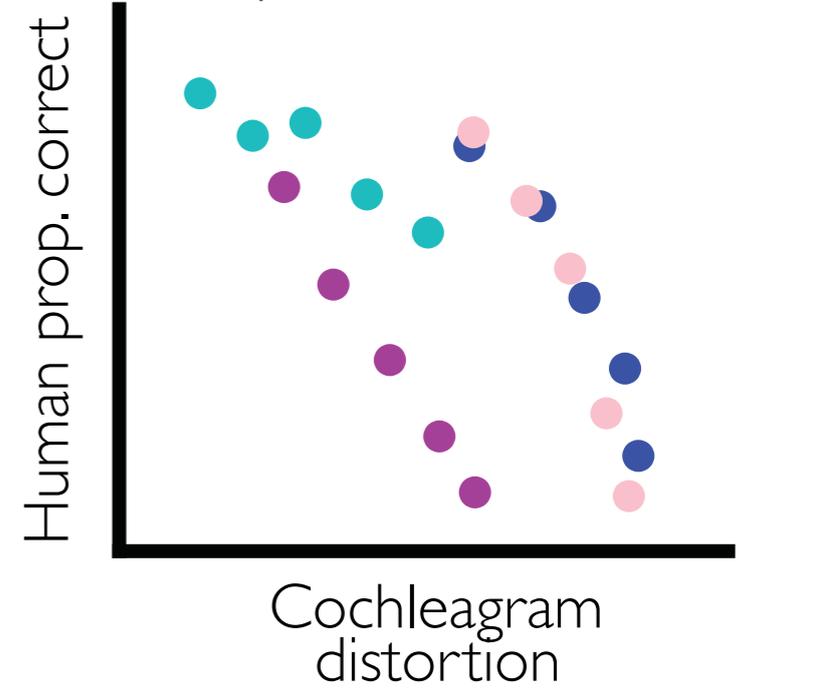
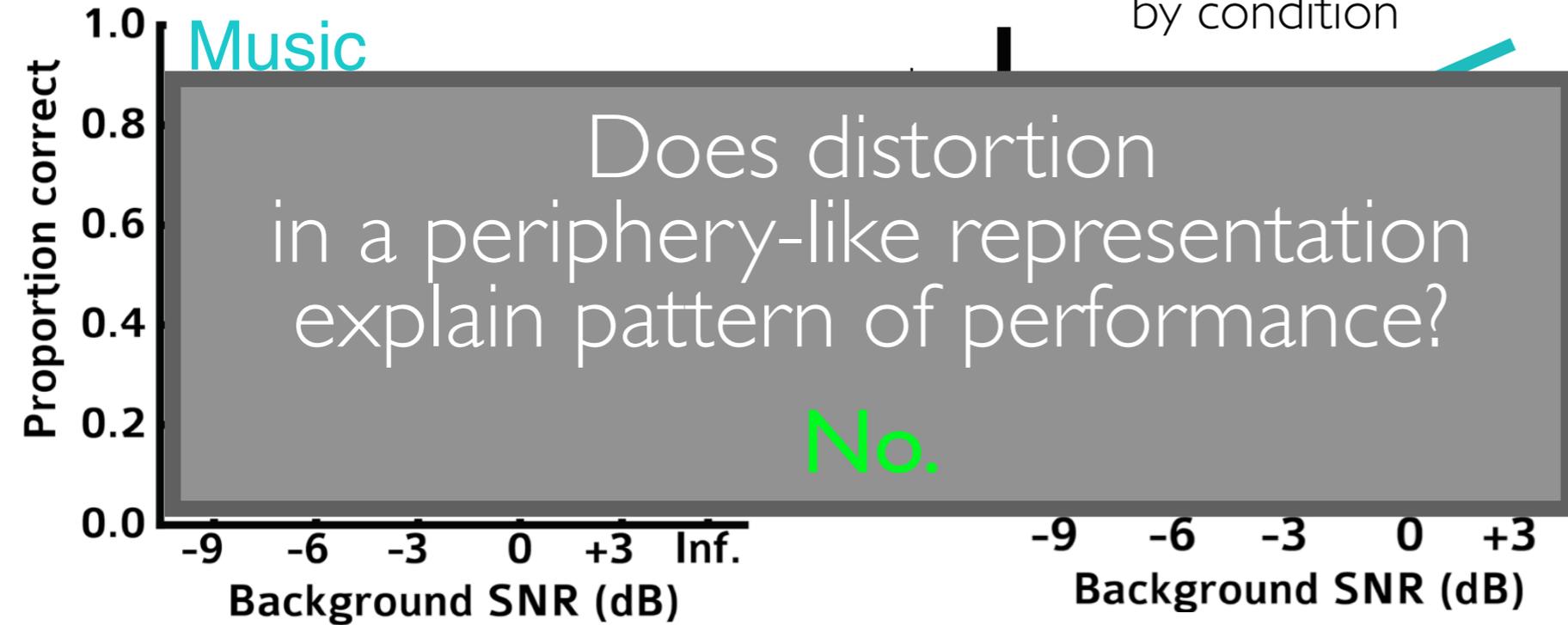


# Distortion and pattern of performance.

Human Proportion Correct (n=14)

Cochleagram distortion by condition

Cochleagram distortion v. human performance



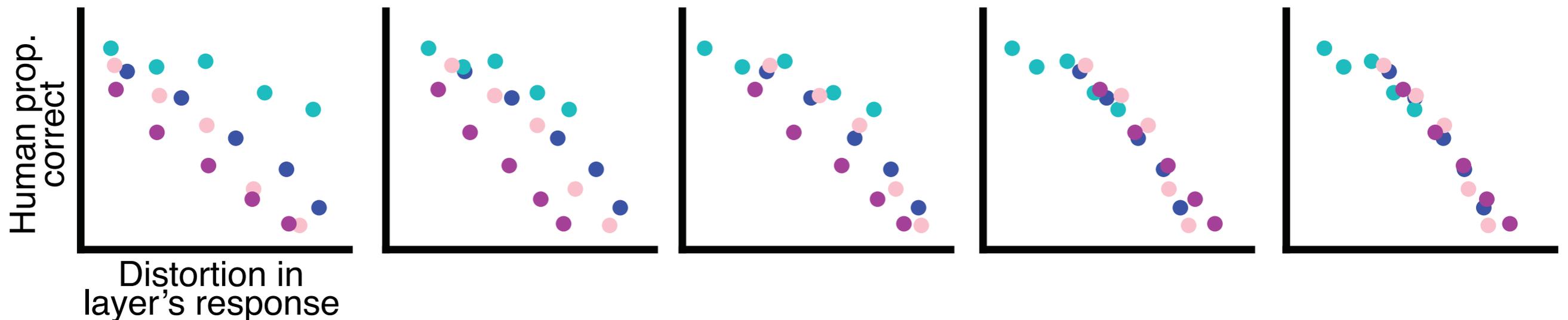
## LEGEND

● Music ● Auditory scenes ● Speech babble ● Speech-shaped noise

Does distortion of CNN representation explain pattern of performance?

First layer

Top layer

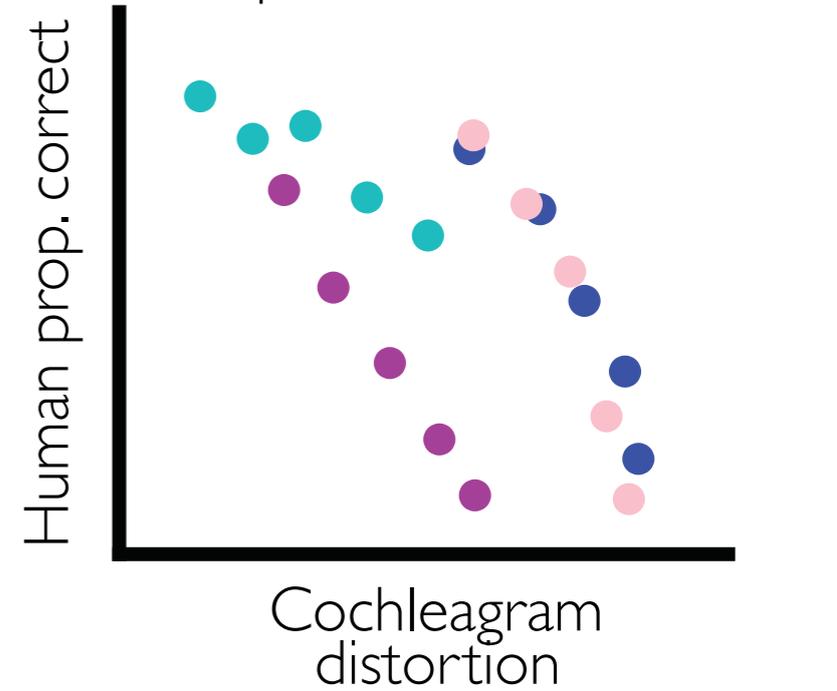
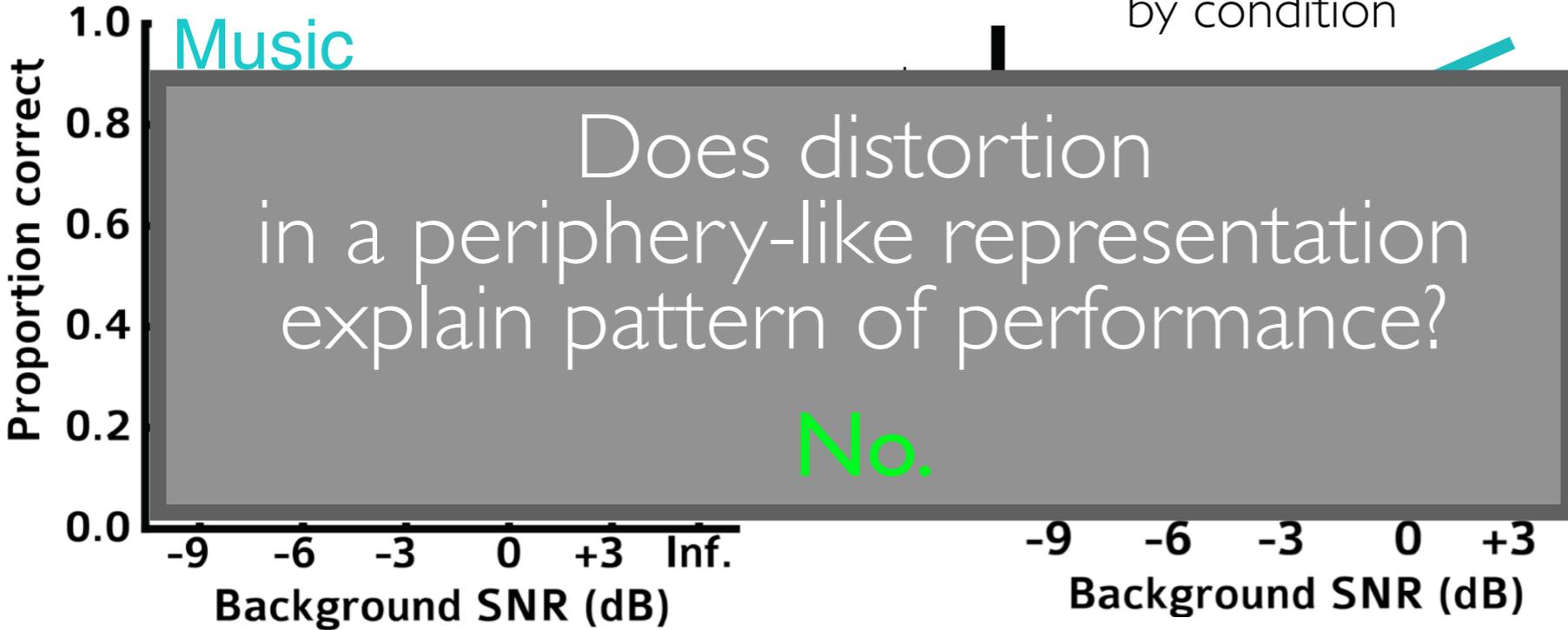


# Distortion and pattern of performance.

Human Proportion Correct (n=14)

Cochleagram distortion by condition

Cochleagram distortion v. human performance

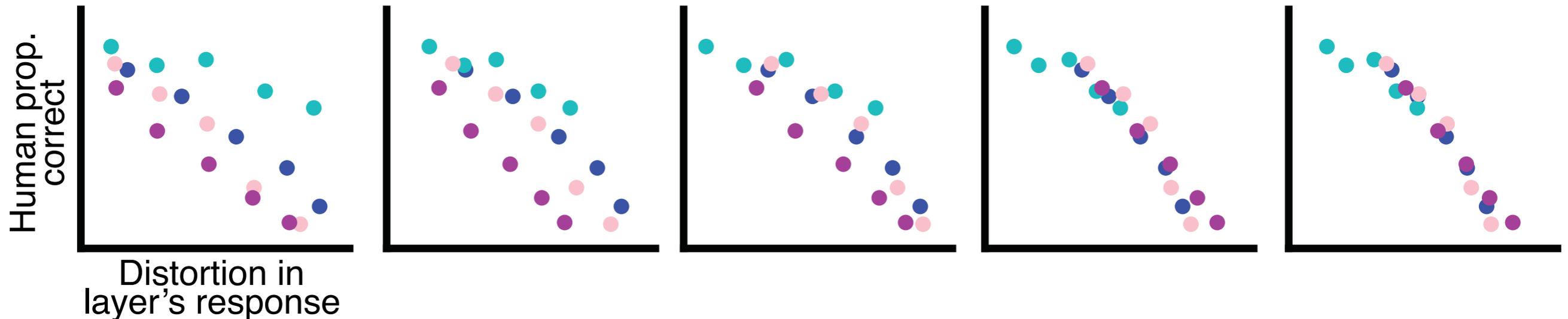


Distortion in a highly nonlinear feature space explains the pattern of performance.

Task-Optimized CNN has discovered proper space.

First layer

Top layer



# Imaging Experiment

fMRI response data collected\* on 165 commonly heard natural sound stimuli.

Man speaking  
Flushing toilet  
Pouring liquid  
Tooth-brushing  
Woman speaking  
Car accelerating  
Biting and chewing  
Laughing  
Typing  
Car engine starting  
Running water  
Breathing  
Keys jangling  
Dishes clanking  
Ringtone  
Microwave  
Dog barking

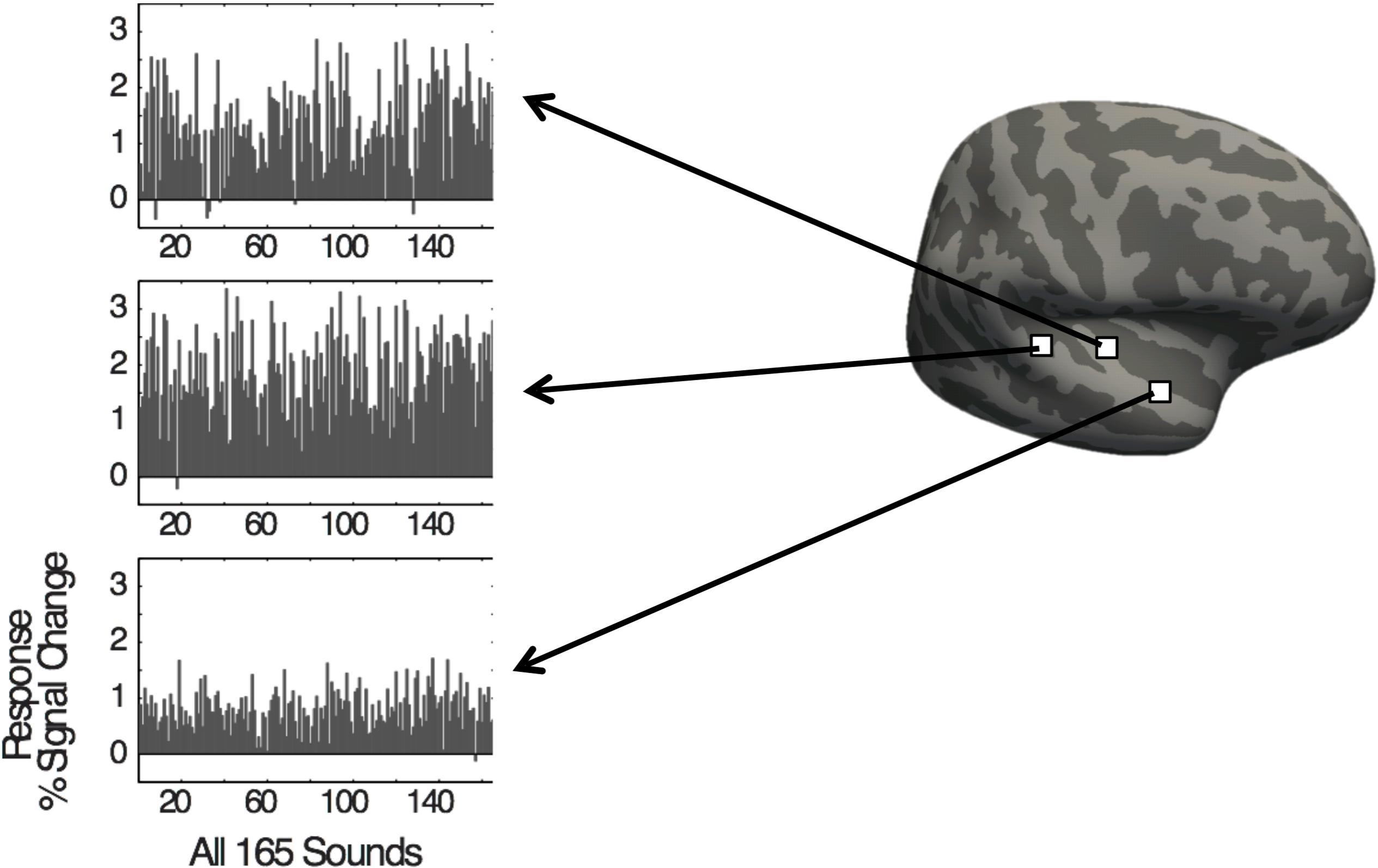
Road traffic  
Zipper  
Cellphone vibrating  
Water dripping  
Scratching  
Car windows  
Telephone ringing  
Chopping food  
Telephone dialing  
Girl speaking  
Car horn  
Writing  
Computer startup sound  
Background speech  
Songbird  
Pouring water  
Pop song  
Water boiling

Guitar  
Coughing  
Crumpling paper  
Siren  
Splashing water  
Computer speech  
Alarm clock  
Walking with heels  
Vacuum  
Wind  
Boy speaking  
Chair rolling  
Rock song  
Door knocking  
●  
●  
●

\*Sam Norman-Haignere, Nancy Kanwisher, and Josh McDermott

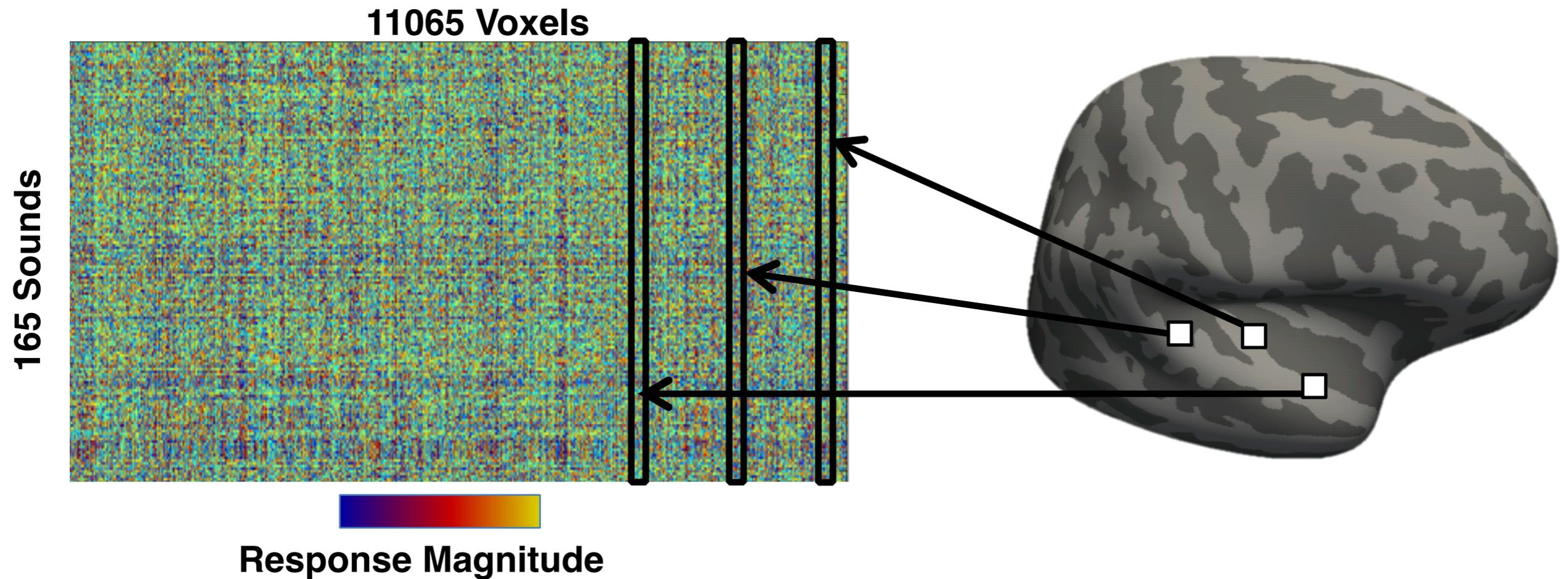
# Imaging Experiment

For each voxel, measured average response to each sound:



# Imaging Experiment

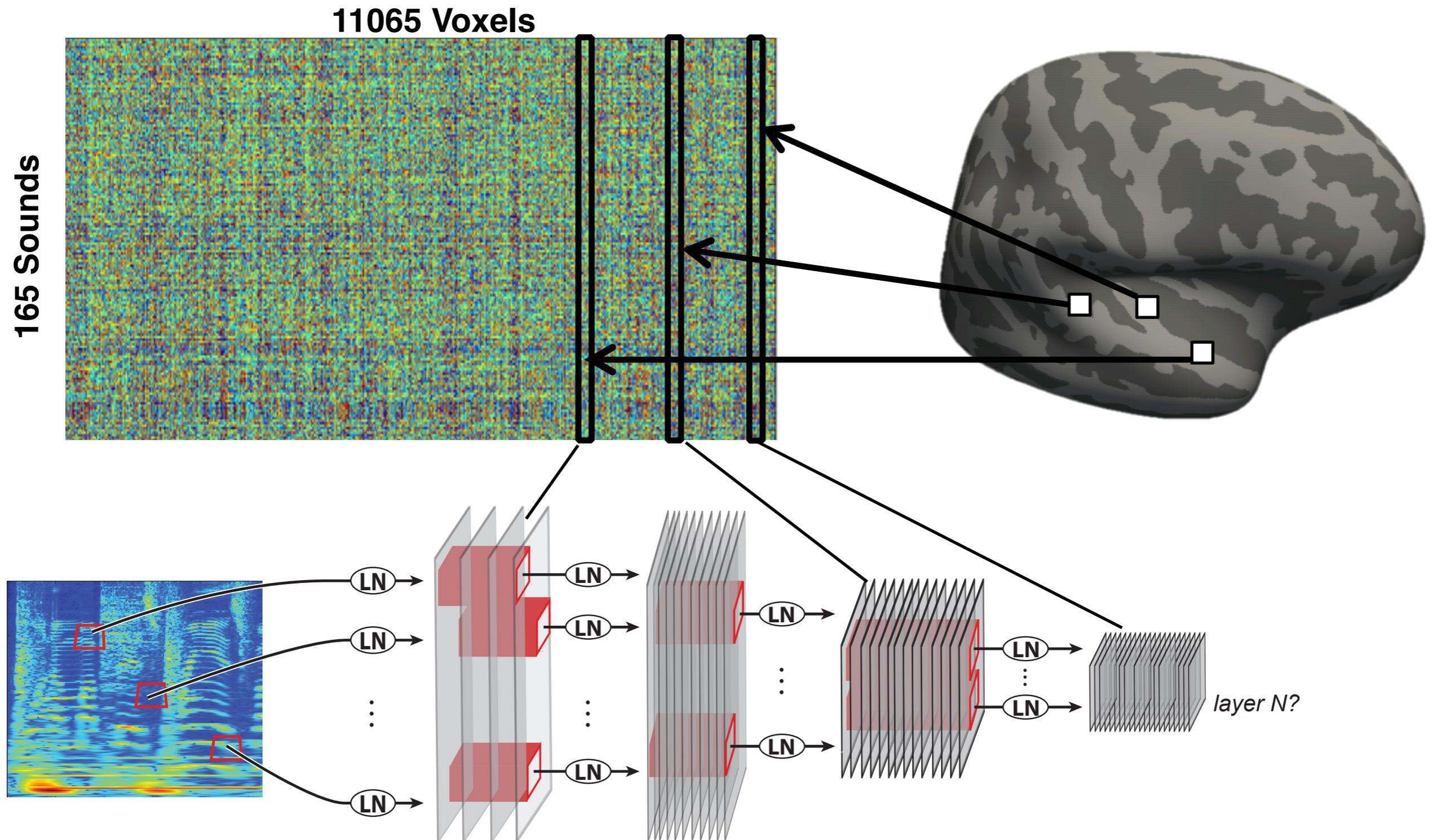
For each voxel, measured average response to each sound:



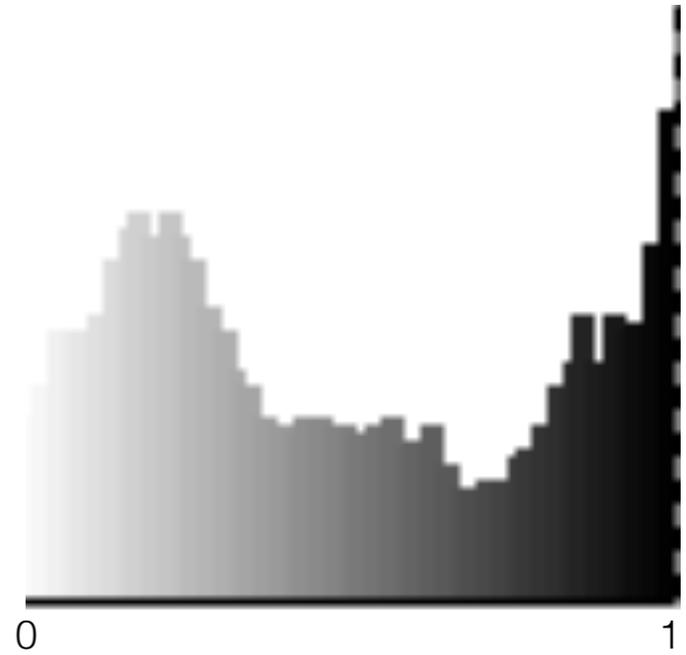
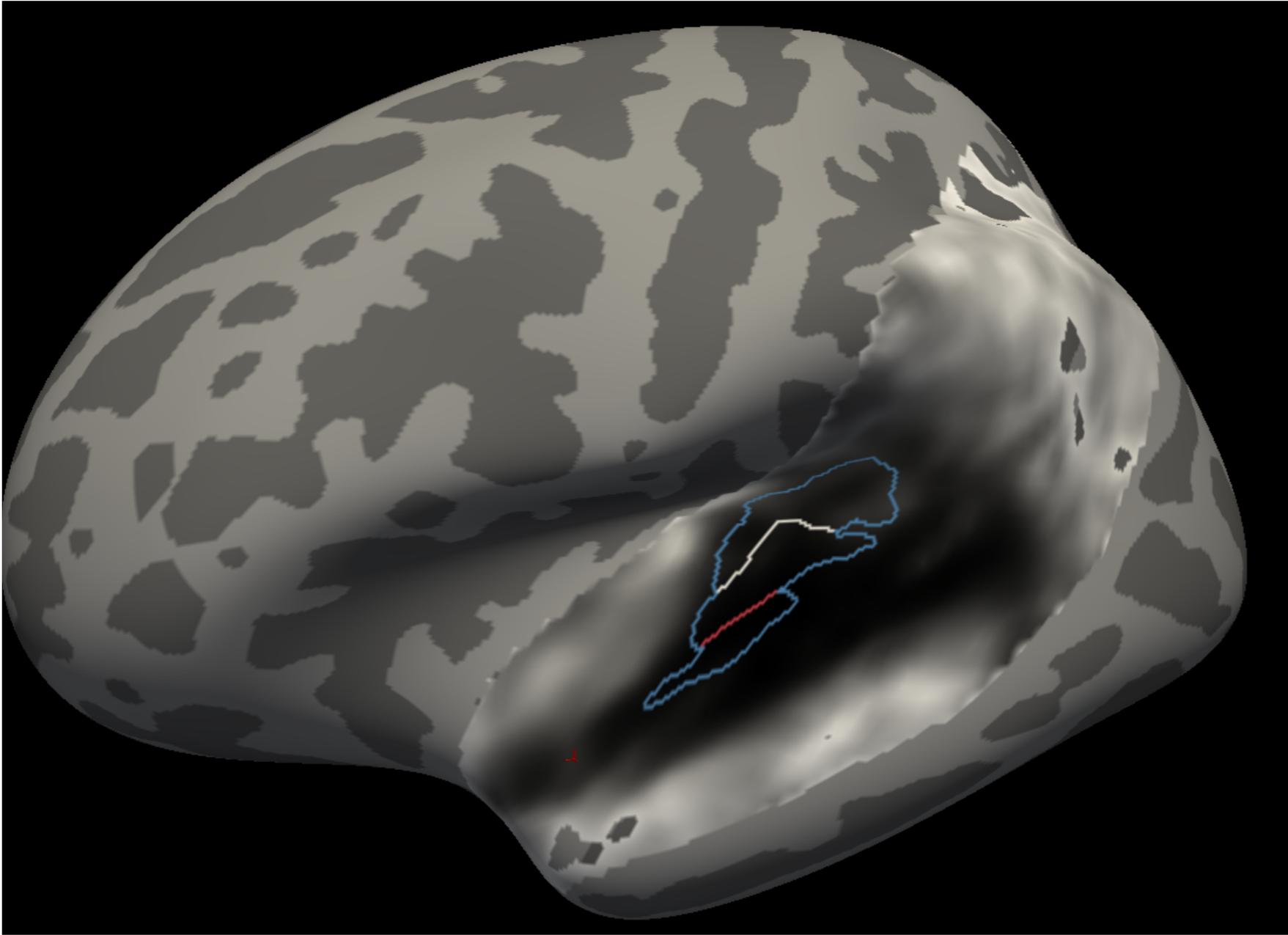
Data matrix: voxels  $\times$  sounds.

# Imaging Experiment

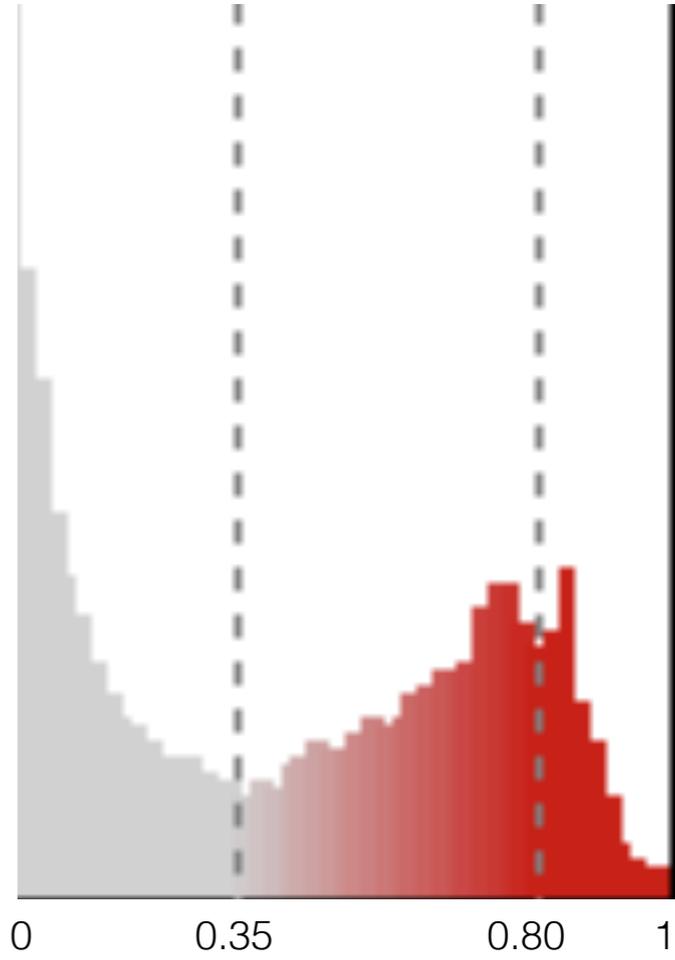
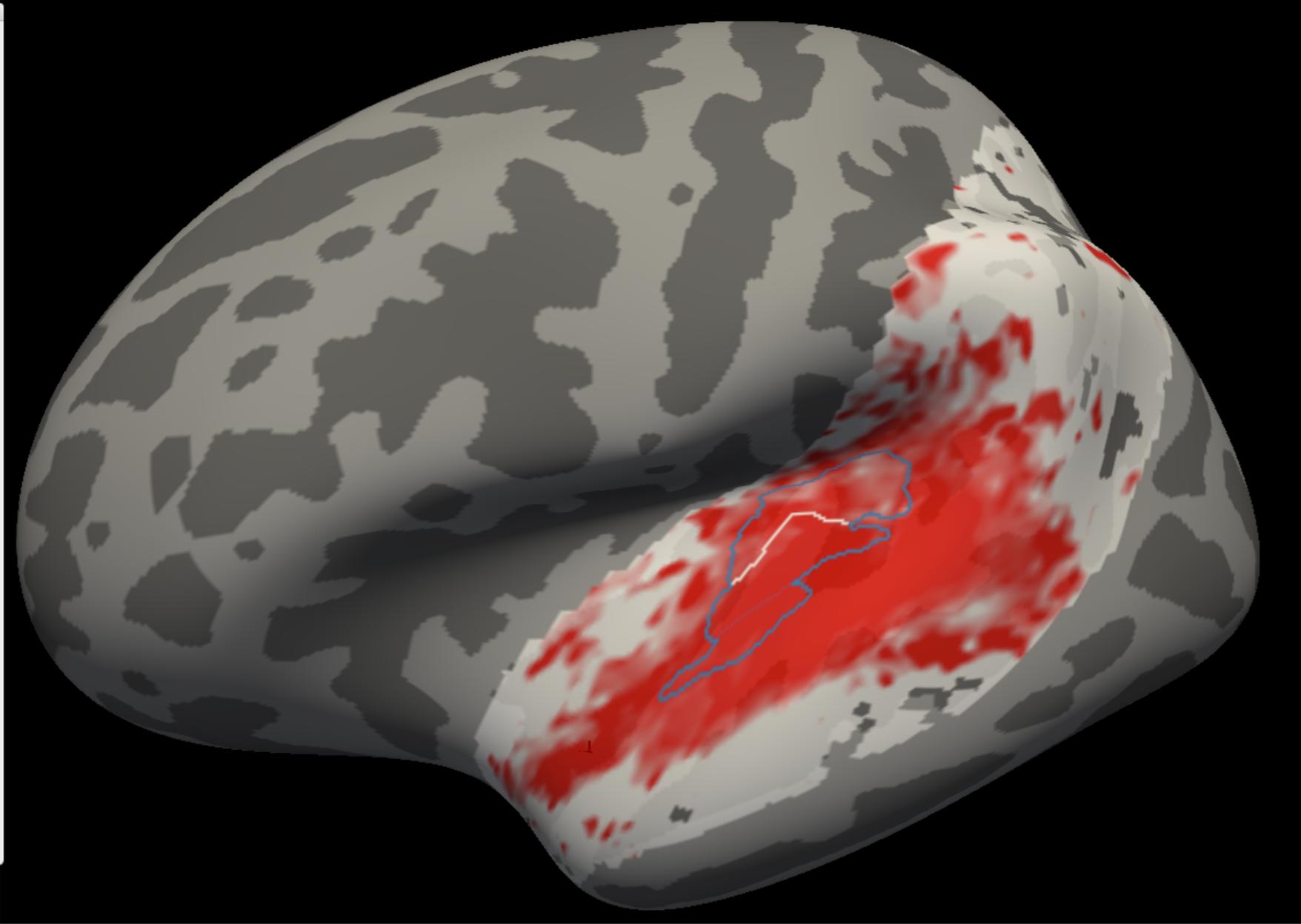
**Neural predictivity:** the ability of model to predict each individual voxel's activity using linear regression.



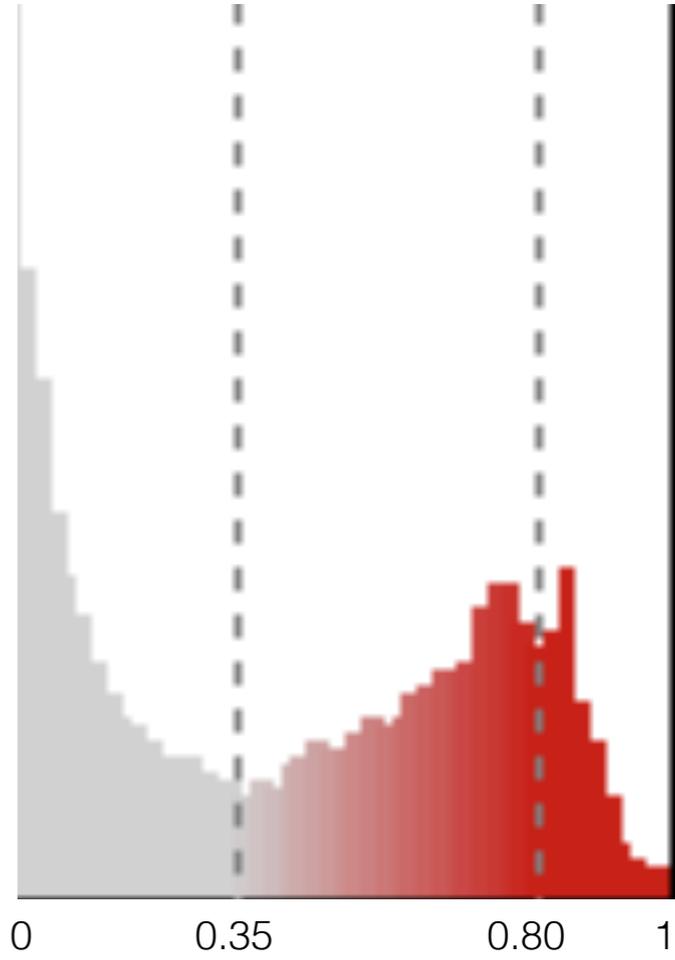
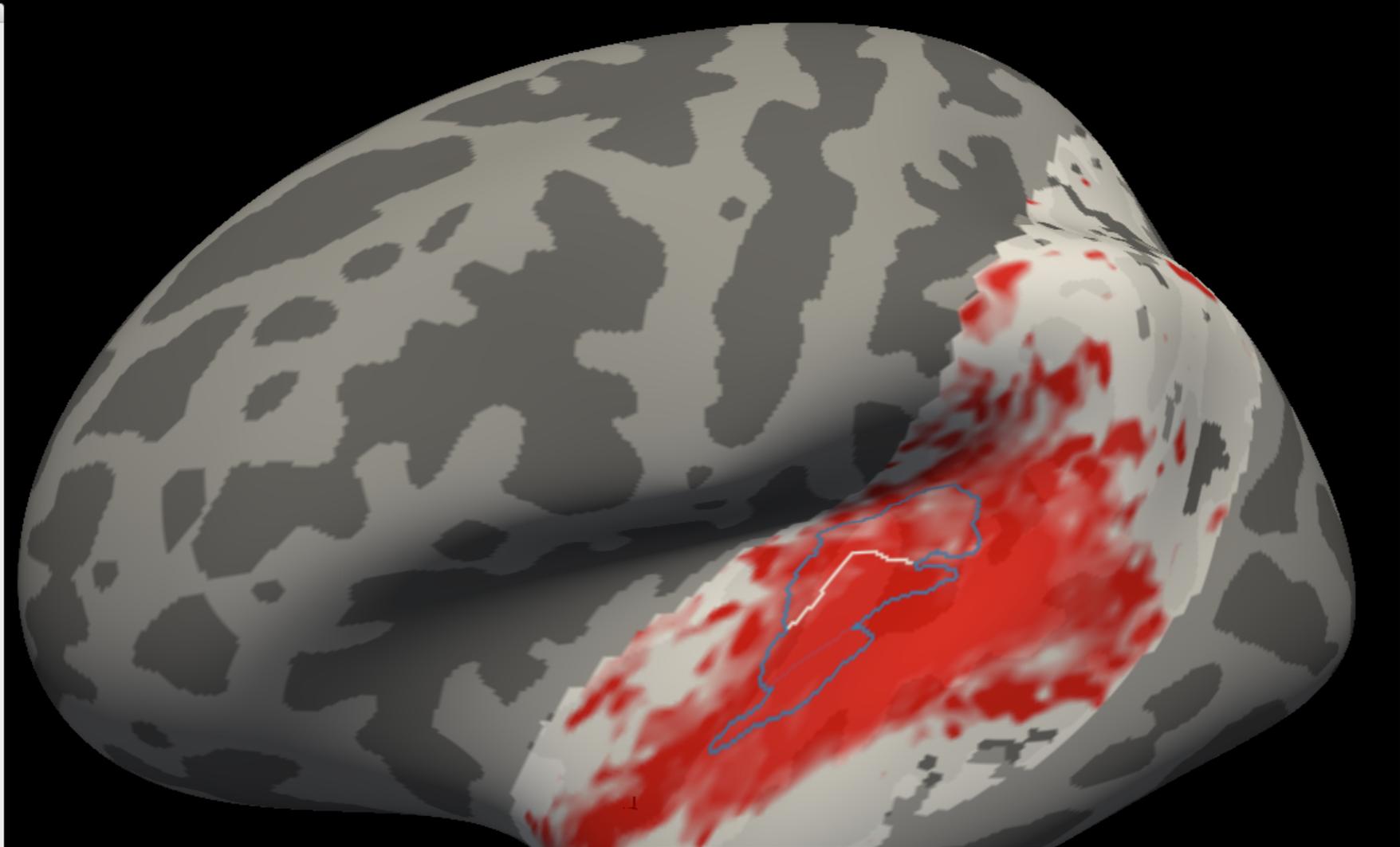
# Response Reliability at Voxel Level



# Model Productivity at Best Layer

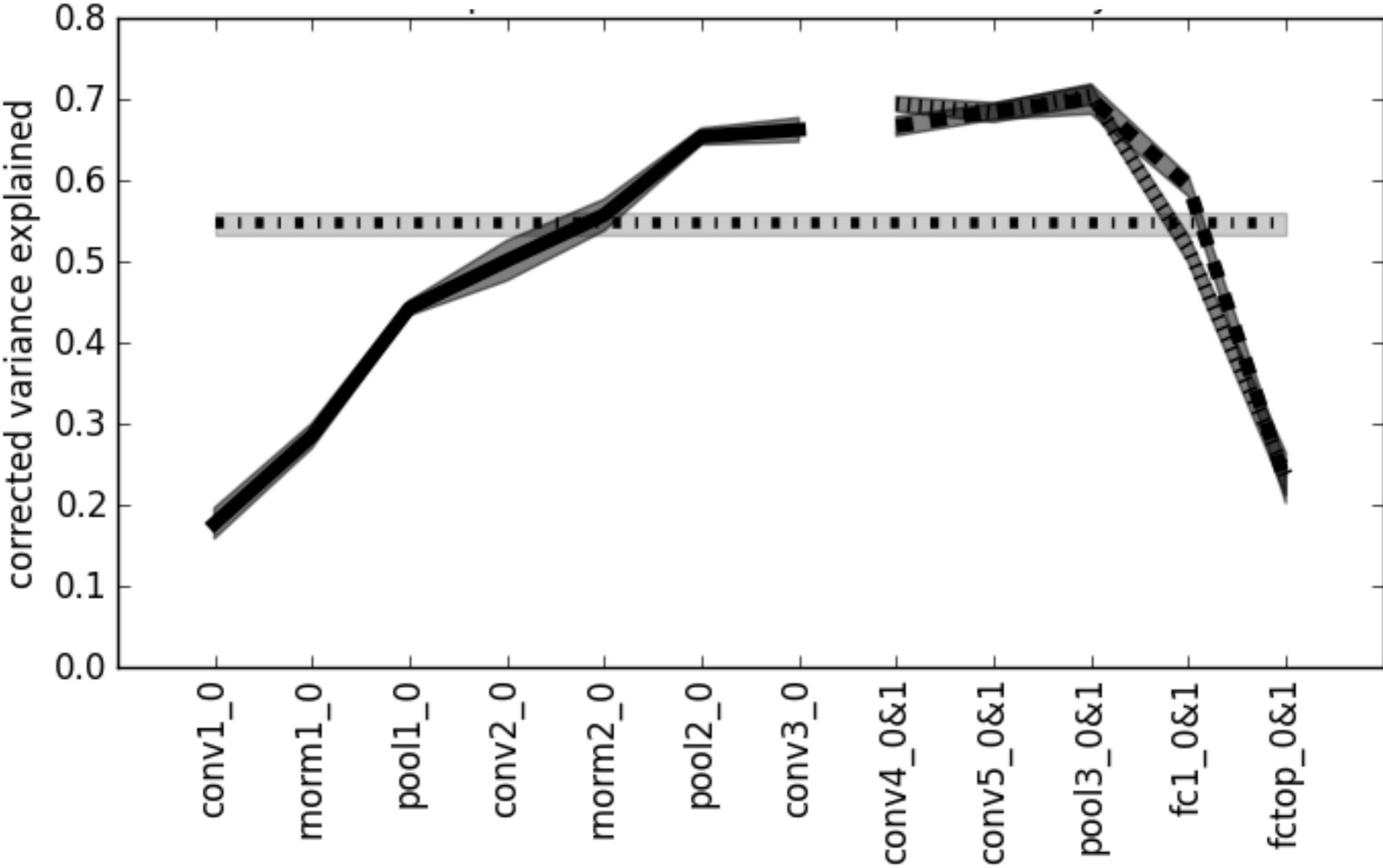


# Model Productivity at Best Layer

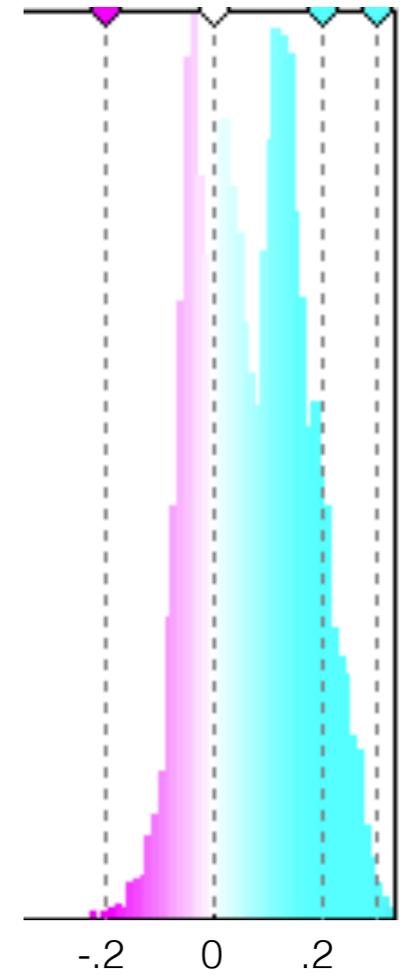
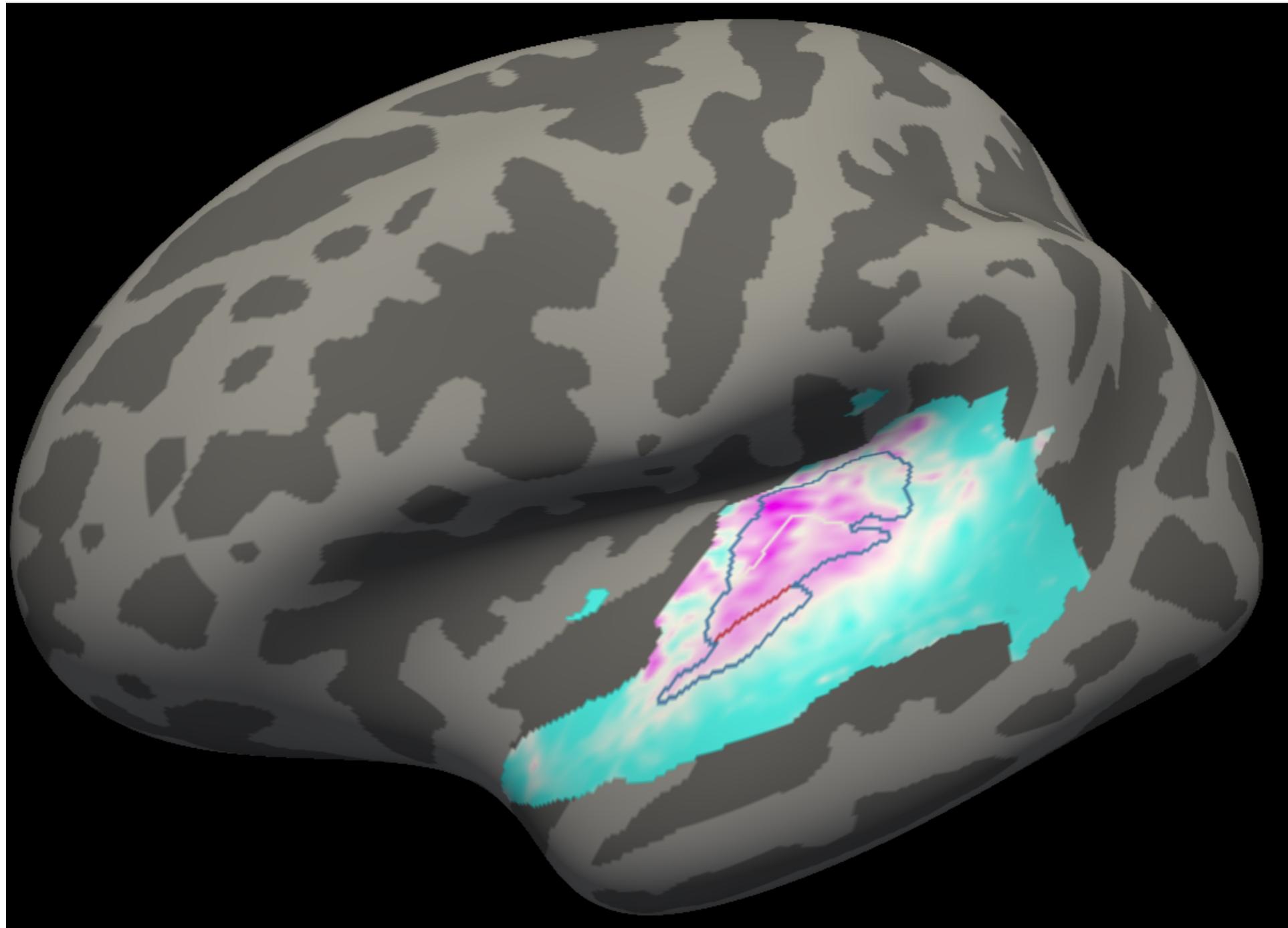


Median Voxel Predictivity  
~80%.

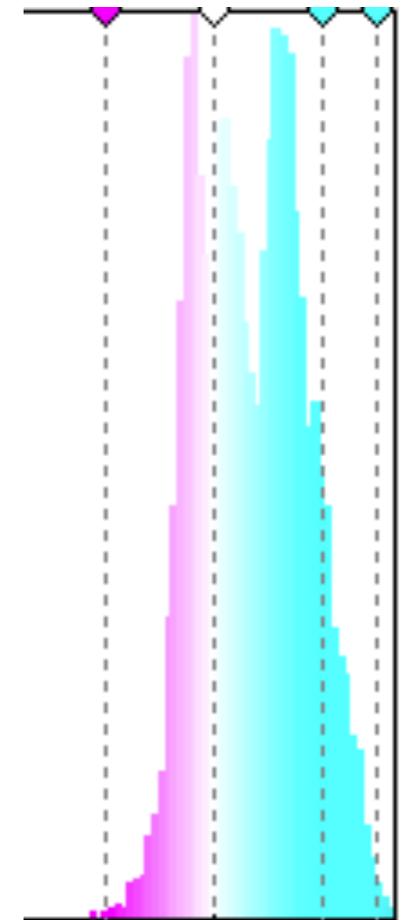
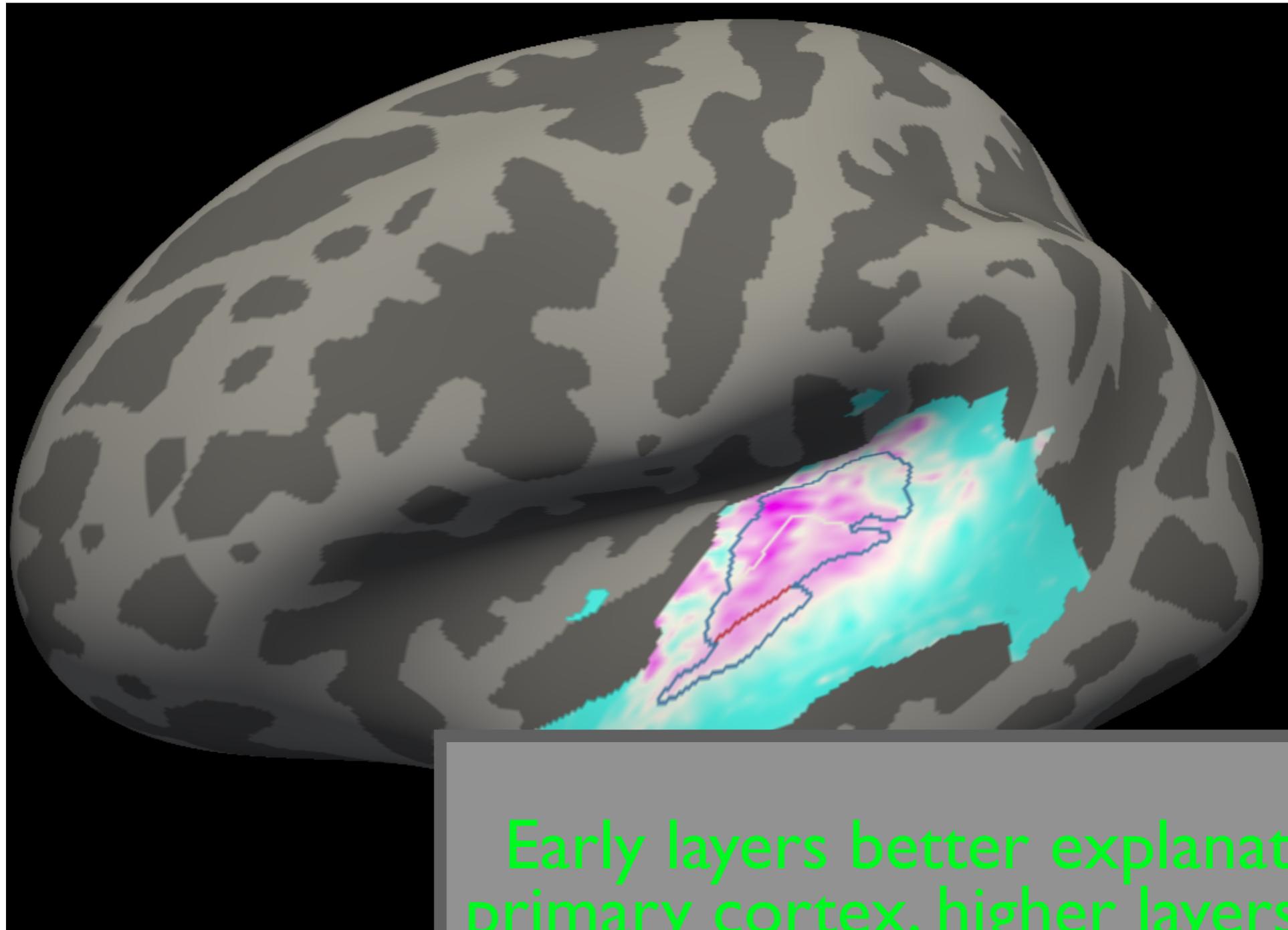
# Median Predictivity as a Function of Model Layer



# Predictivity Difference Between High and Low Model Layers

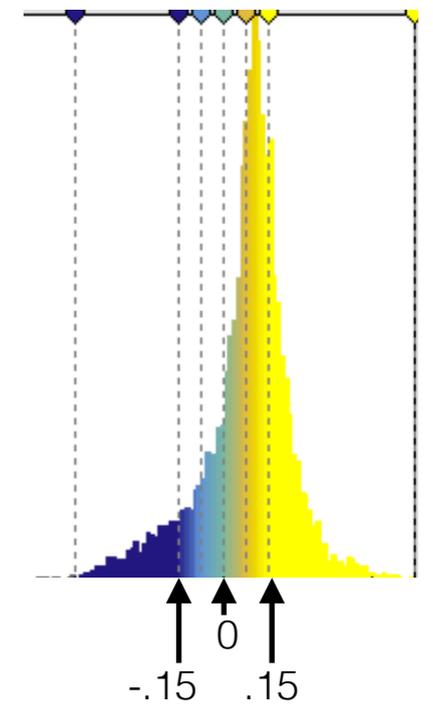
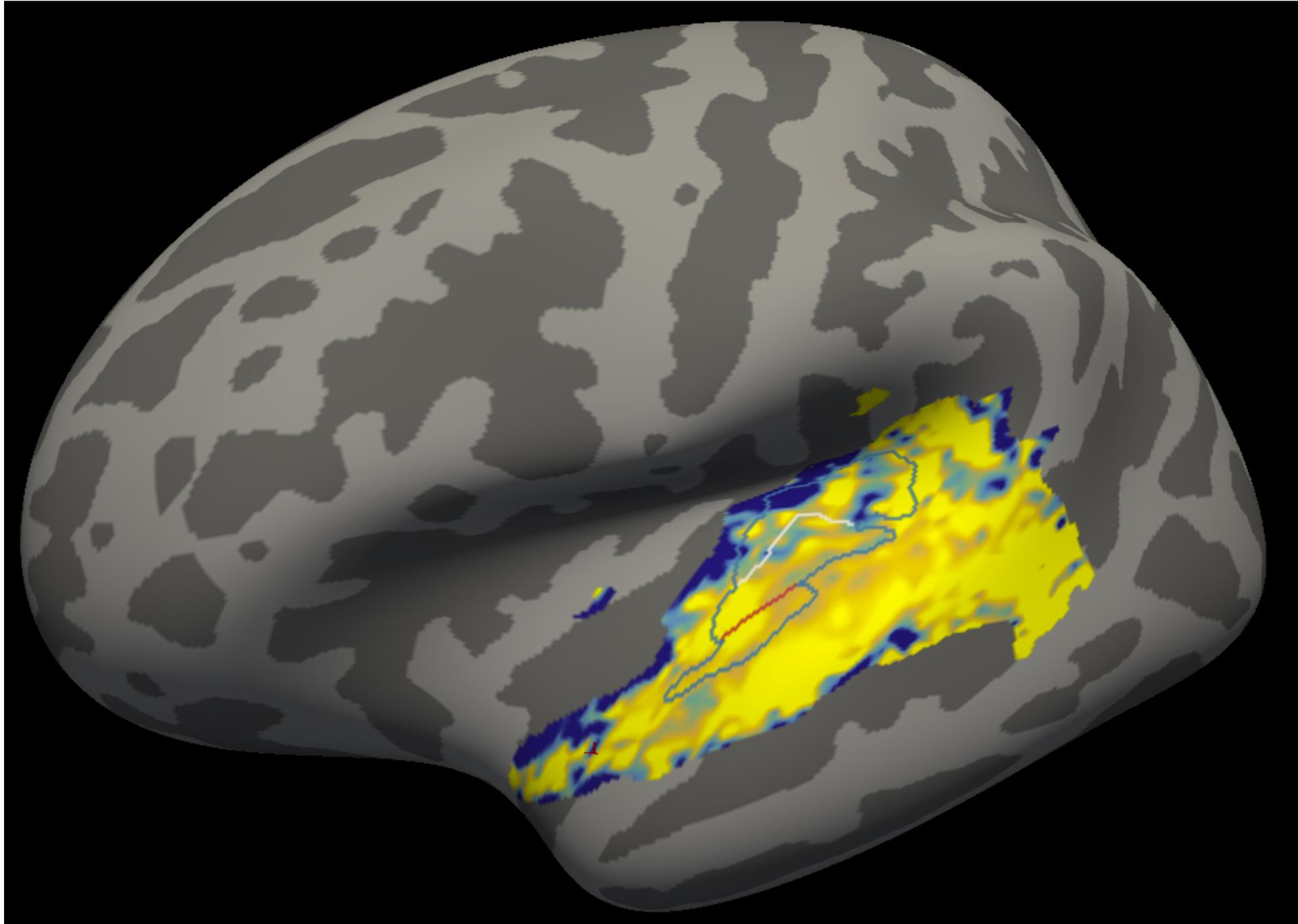


# Predictivity Difference Between High and Low Model Layers

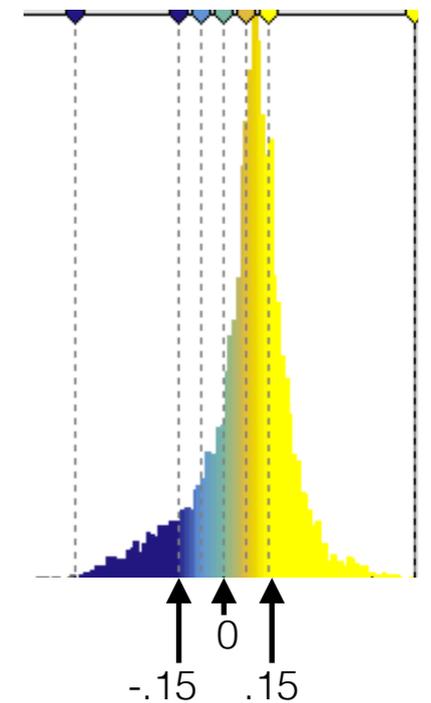
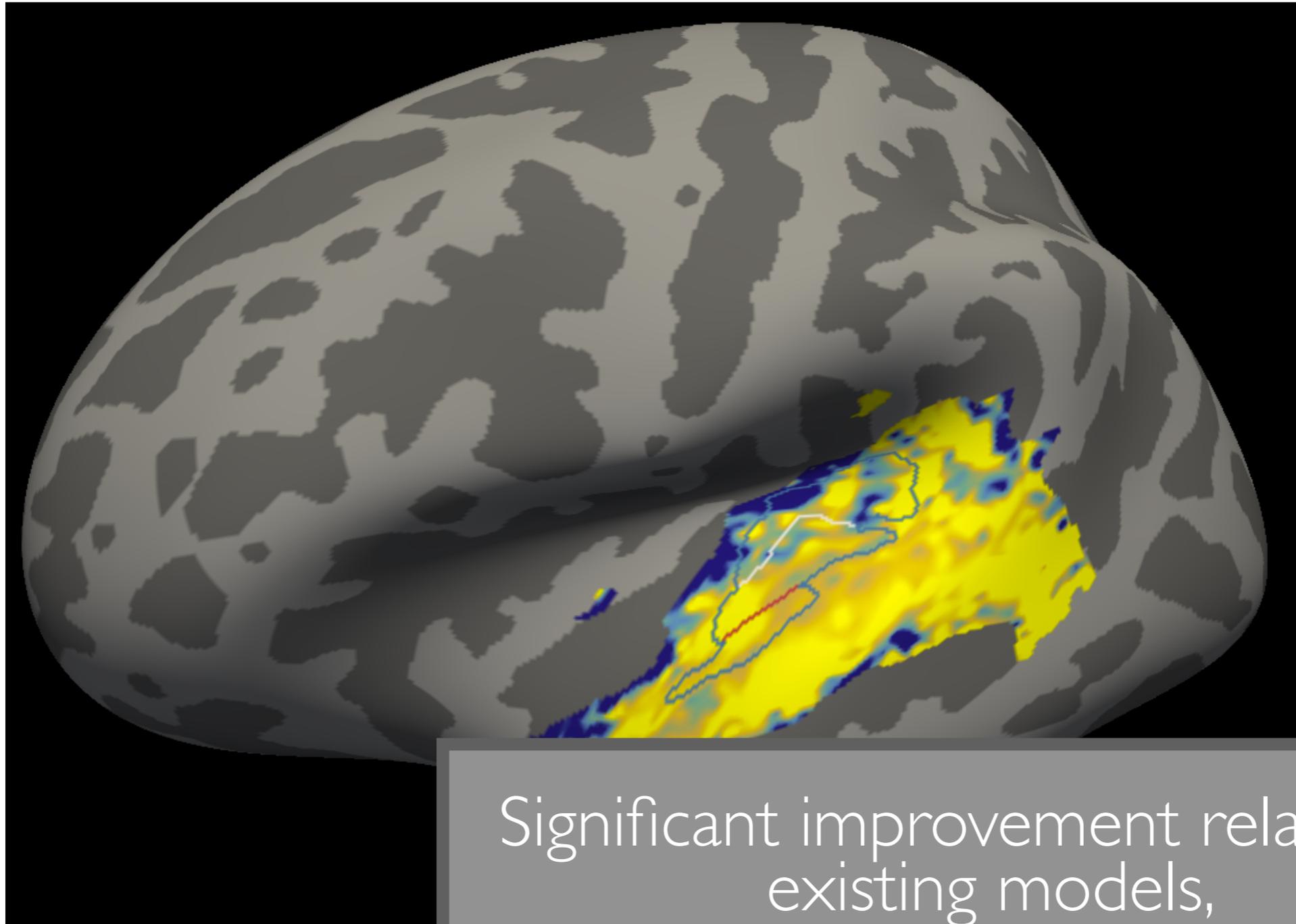


Early layers better explanation of primary cortex, higher layers better explanation of non-primary cortex.

# Comparison to Spectrotemporal Filtering Model



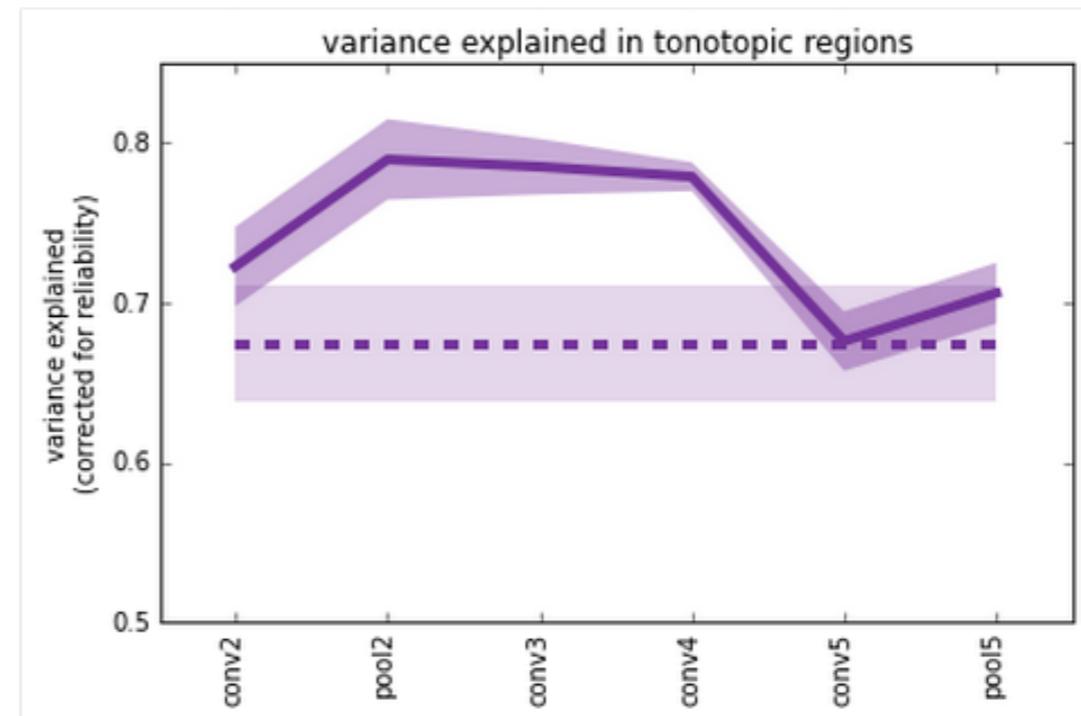
# Comparison to Spectrotemporal Filtering Model



Significant improvement relative to existing models,  
**but especially in non-primary areas.**

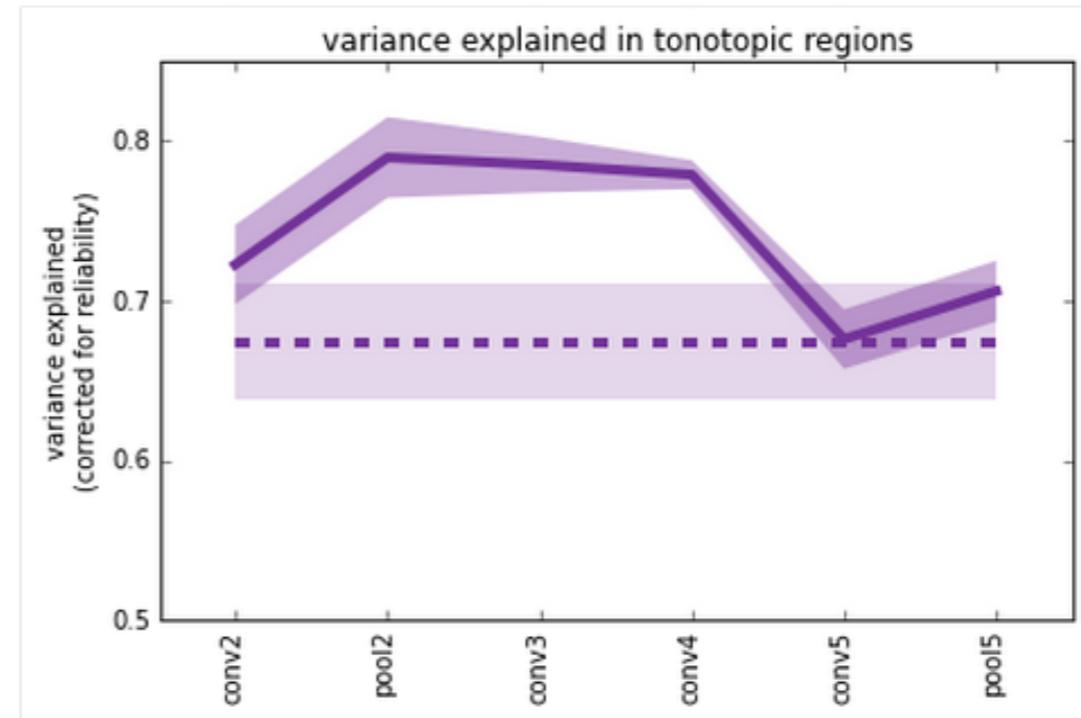
# Differentiation by Region of Interest

Tonotopic  
(c Primary)

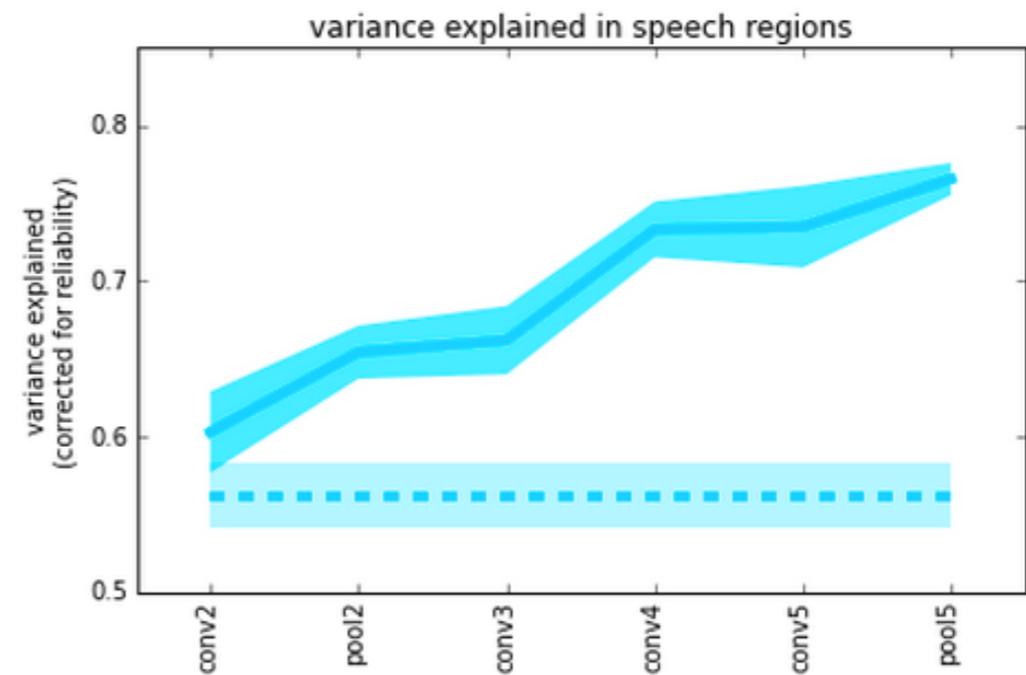


# Differentiation by Region of Interest

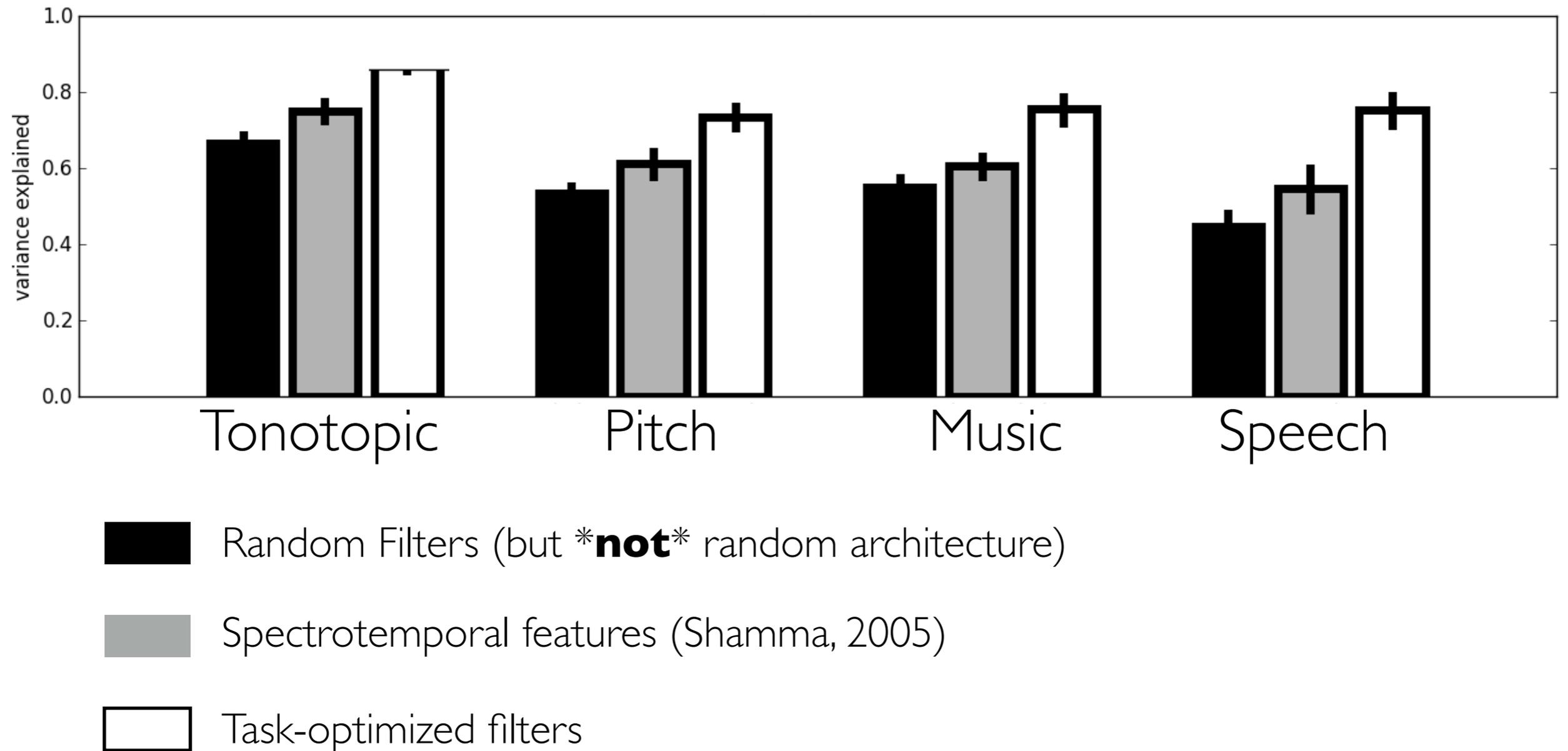
Tonotopic  
(c Primary)



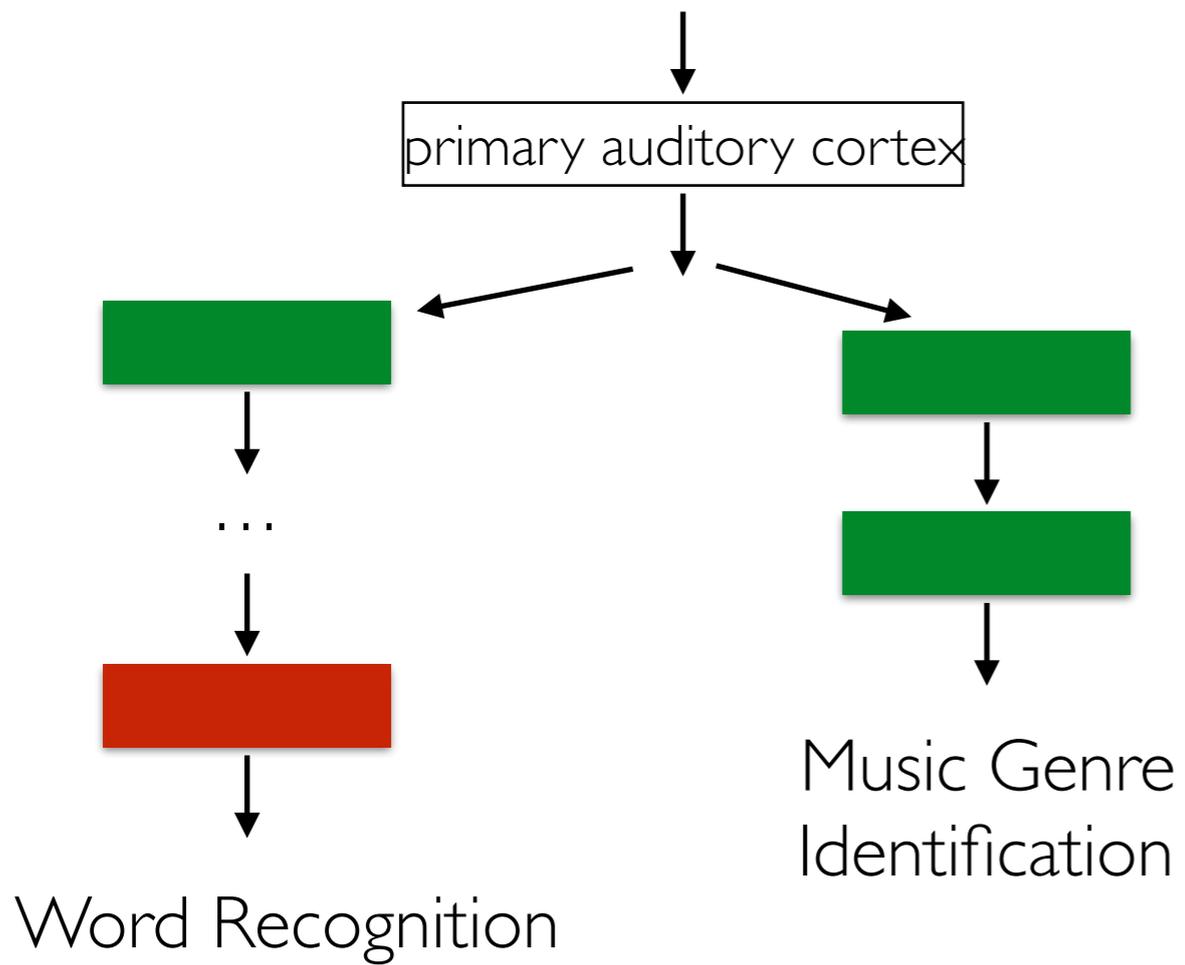
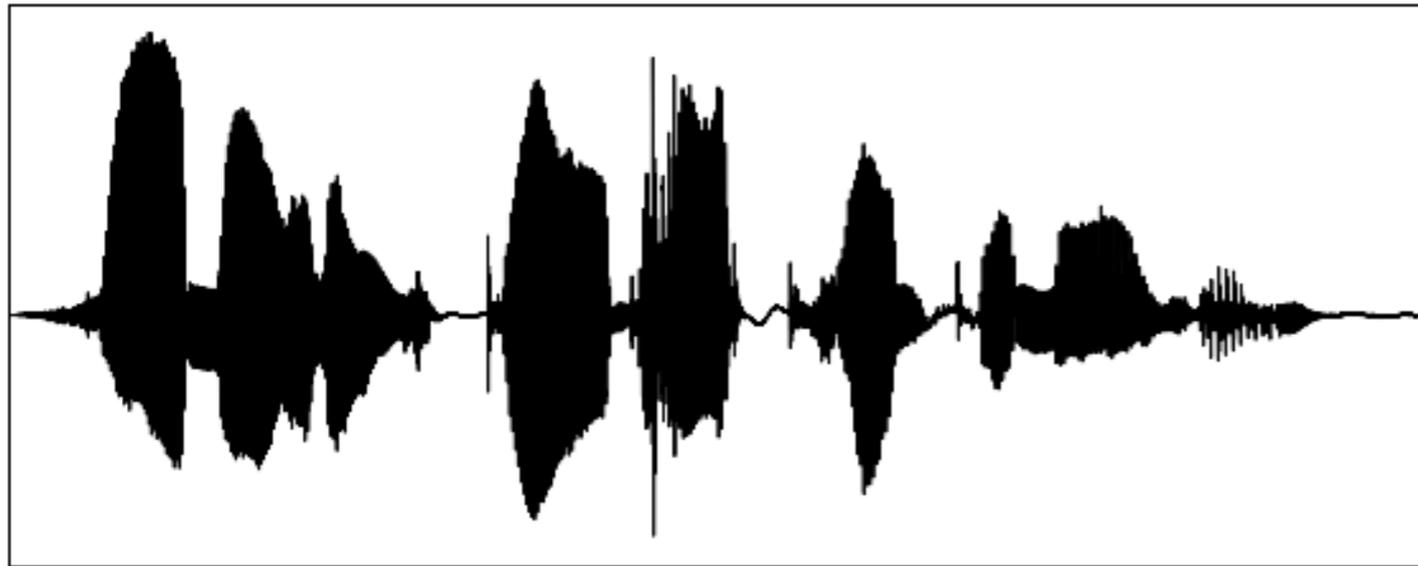
Speech-selective  
(c Non-primary)



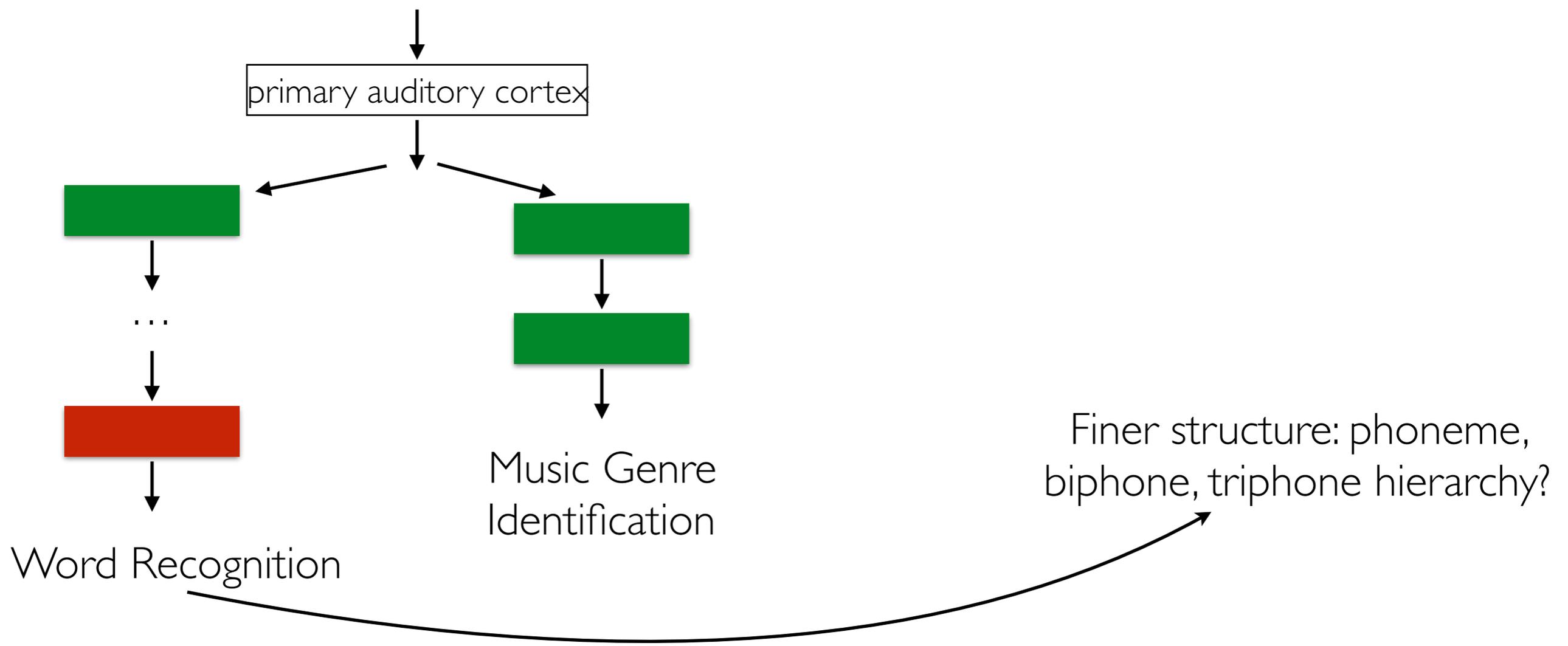
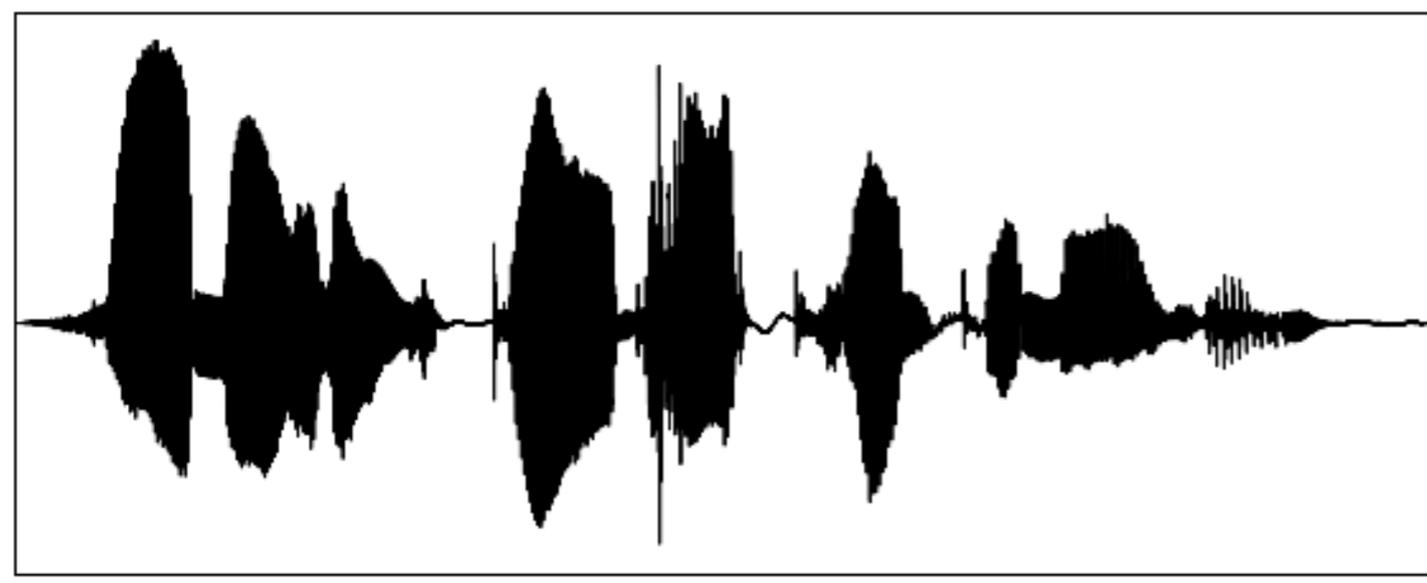
# Comparison of Predictivity by Rol



# Ongoing: Functionality Organization by Task

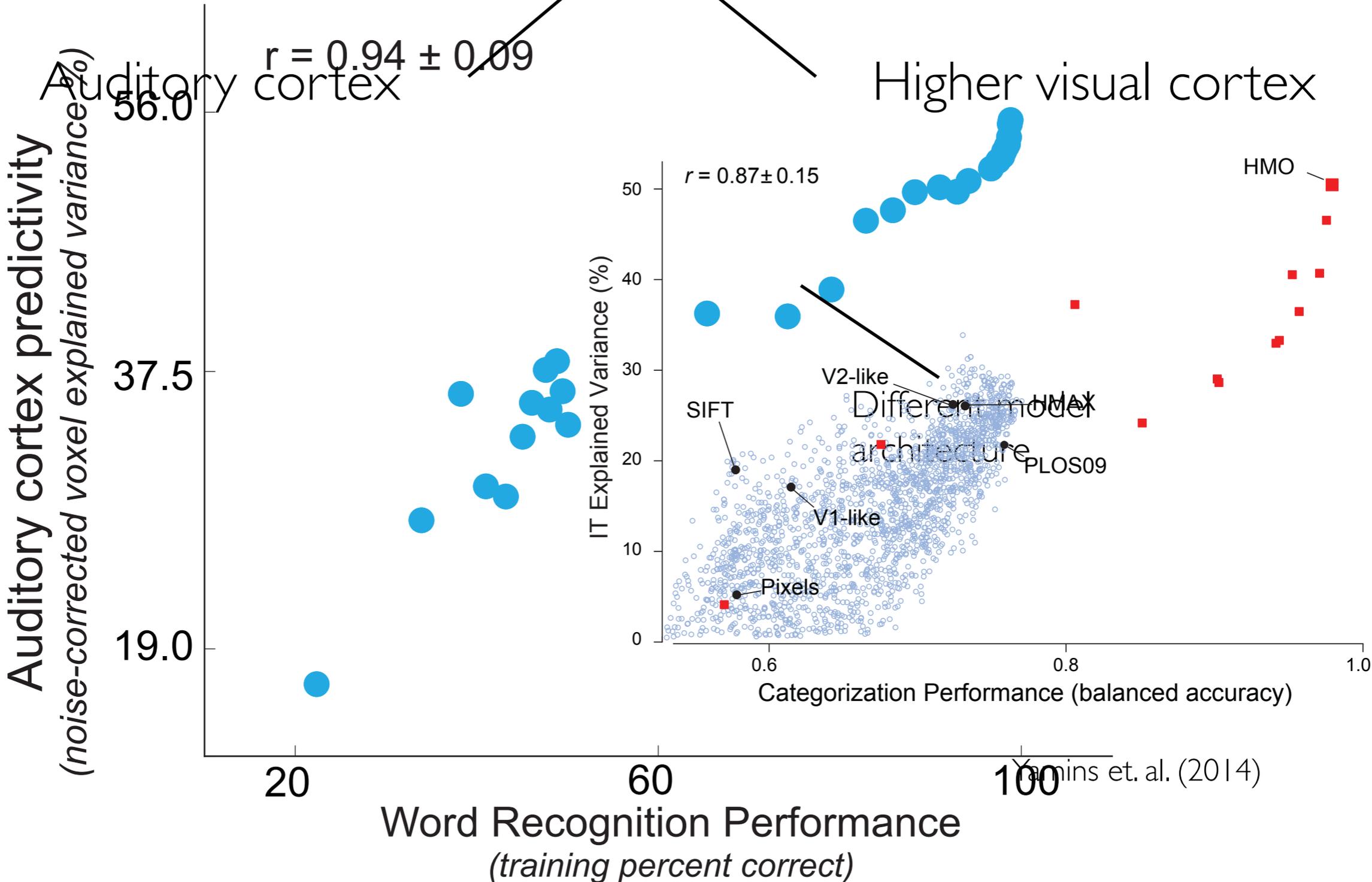


# Ongoing: Functionality Organization by Task



# Analysis of Model Architectures

High-variation task performance vs:



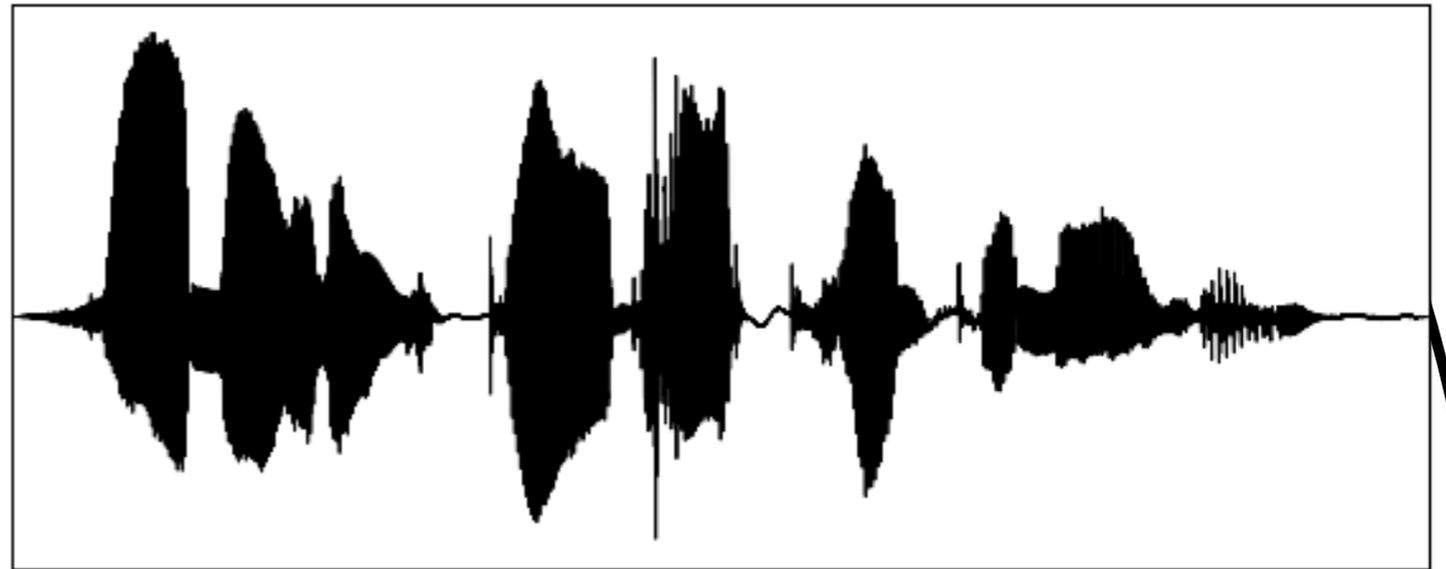
Principle of “Goal-Driven Modeling”

# Heuristic of “Goal-Driven Modeling”



visual  
cortex

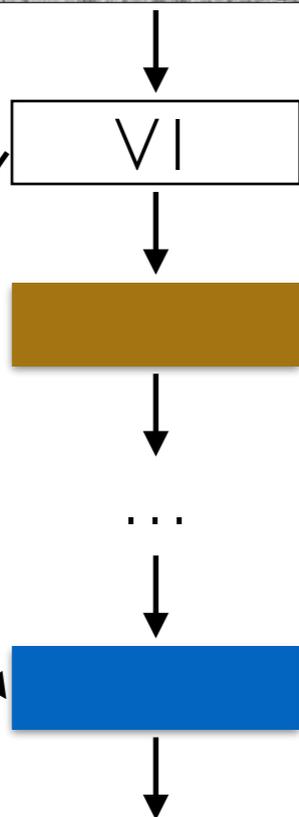
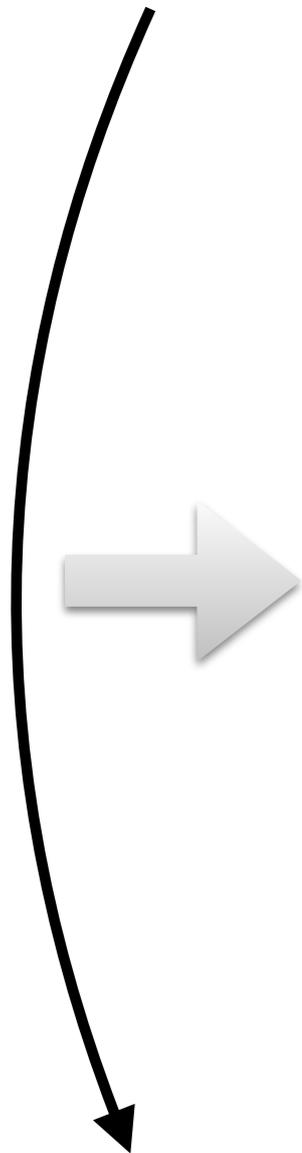
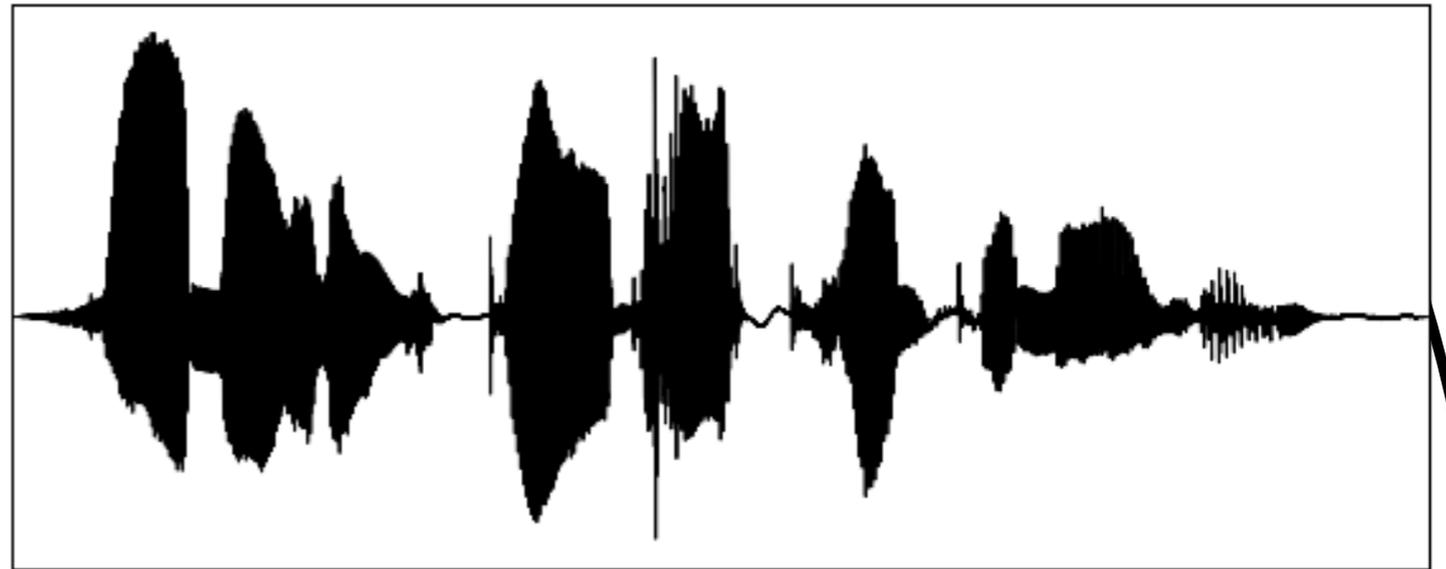
“Mercedes behind  
Lamborghini, on a field  
in front of mountains.”



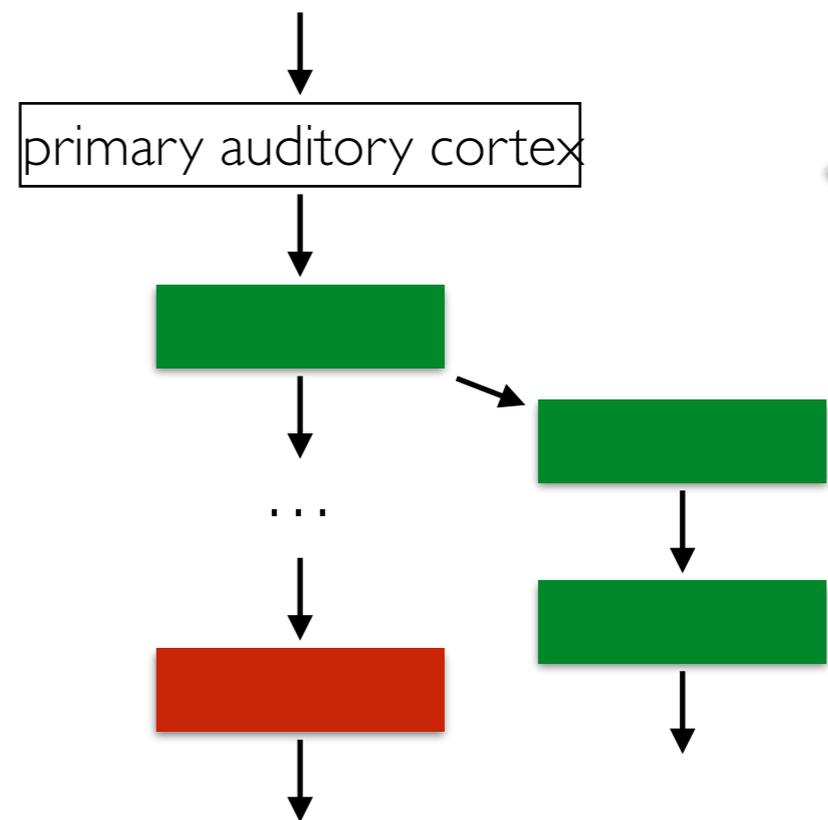
auditory  
cortex

“Hannah is good at  
compromising”

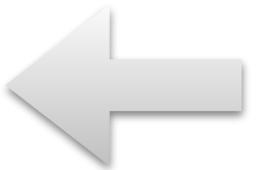
# Heuristic of "Goal-Driven Modeling"



"Mercedes behind  
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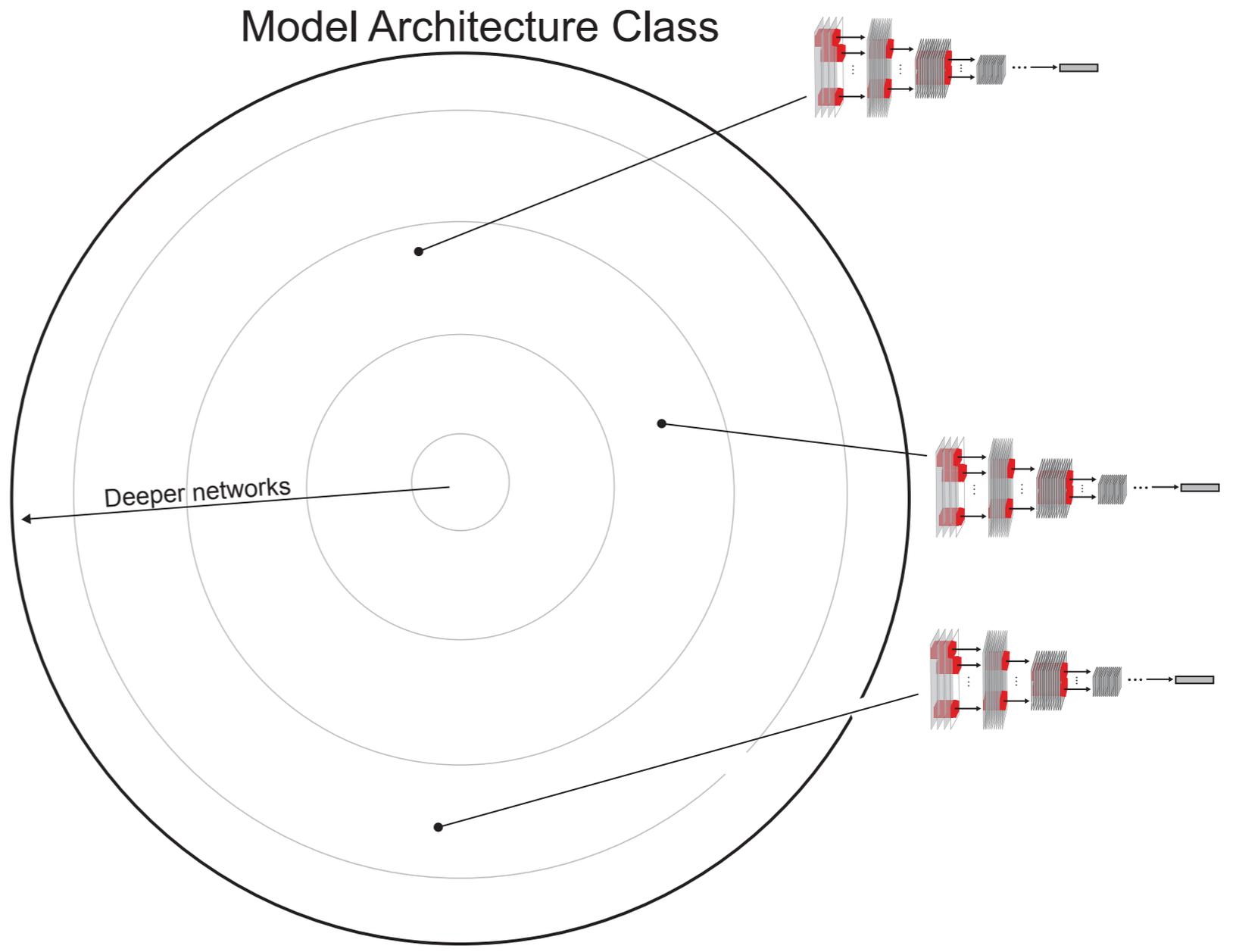
"Hannah is good at  
compromising"



But what type of understanding is this?



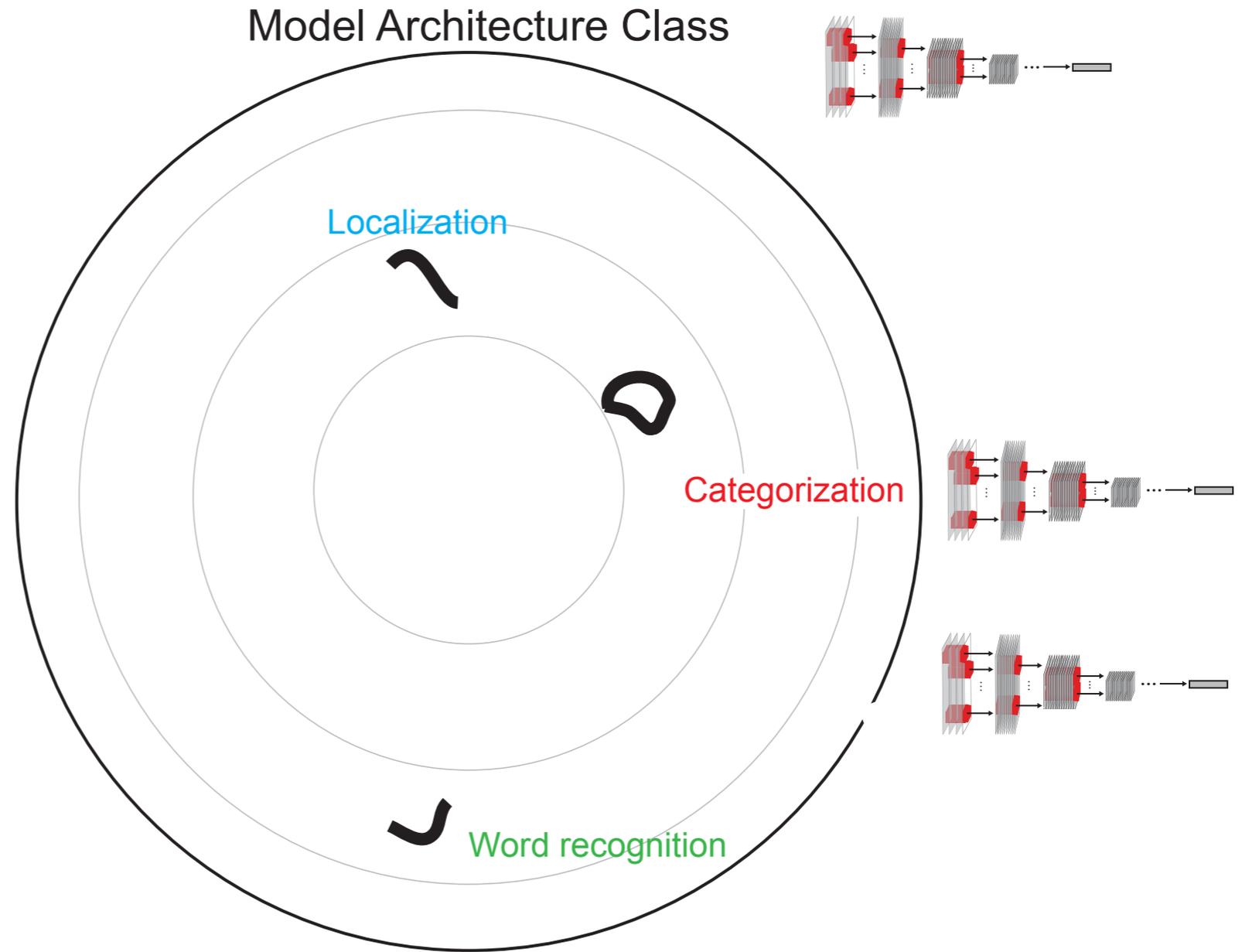
# 1. Formulate comprehensive model class (**CNNs**)



*Yamins & DiCarlo.*  
**Nat. Neuro.** (2016)

1. Formulate comprehensive model class (**CNNs**)

2. Choose challenging, ethologically-valid tasks (**categorization**)

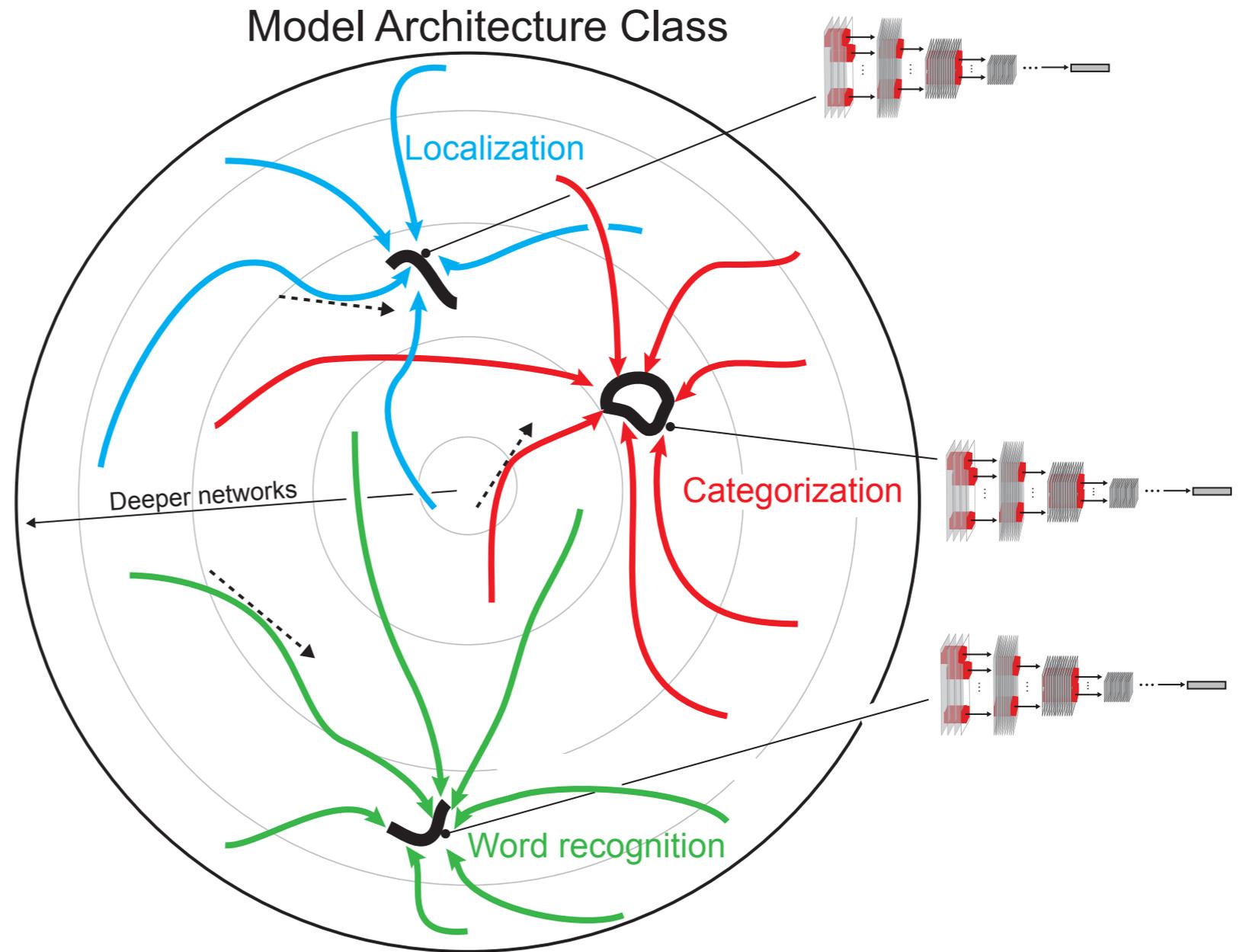


Yamins & DiCarlo.  
**Nat. Neuro.** (2016)

1. Formulate comprehensive model class (**CNNs**)

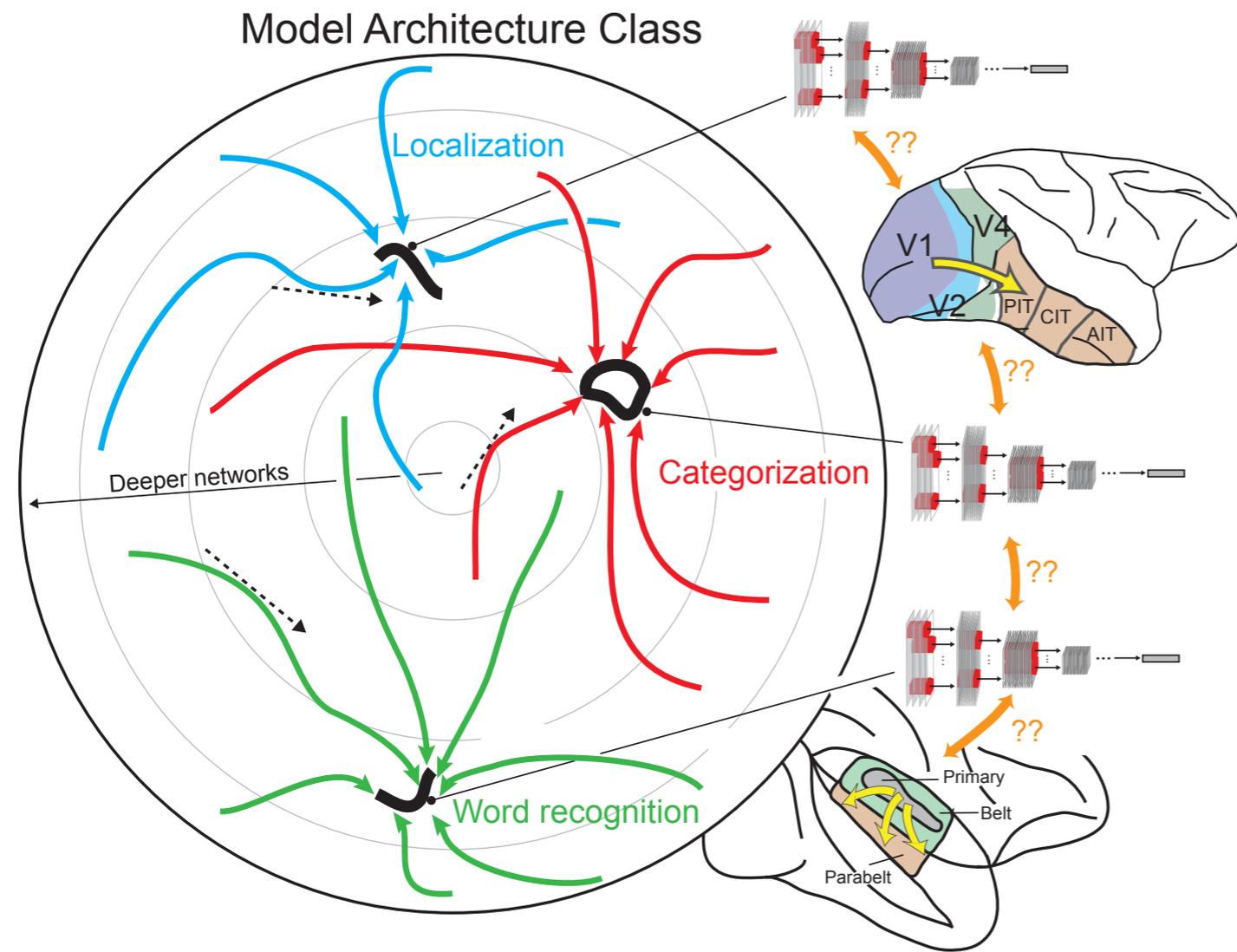
2. Choose challenging, ethologically-valid tasks (**categorization**)

3. Implement generic learning rules (**gradient descent**)



*Yamins & DiCarlo.*  
**Nat. Neuro.** (2016)





**A** = architecture class

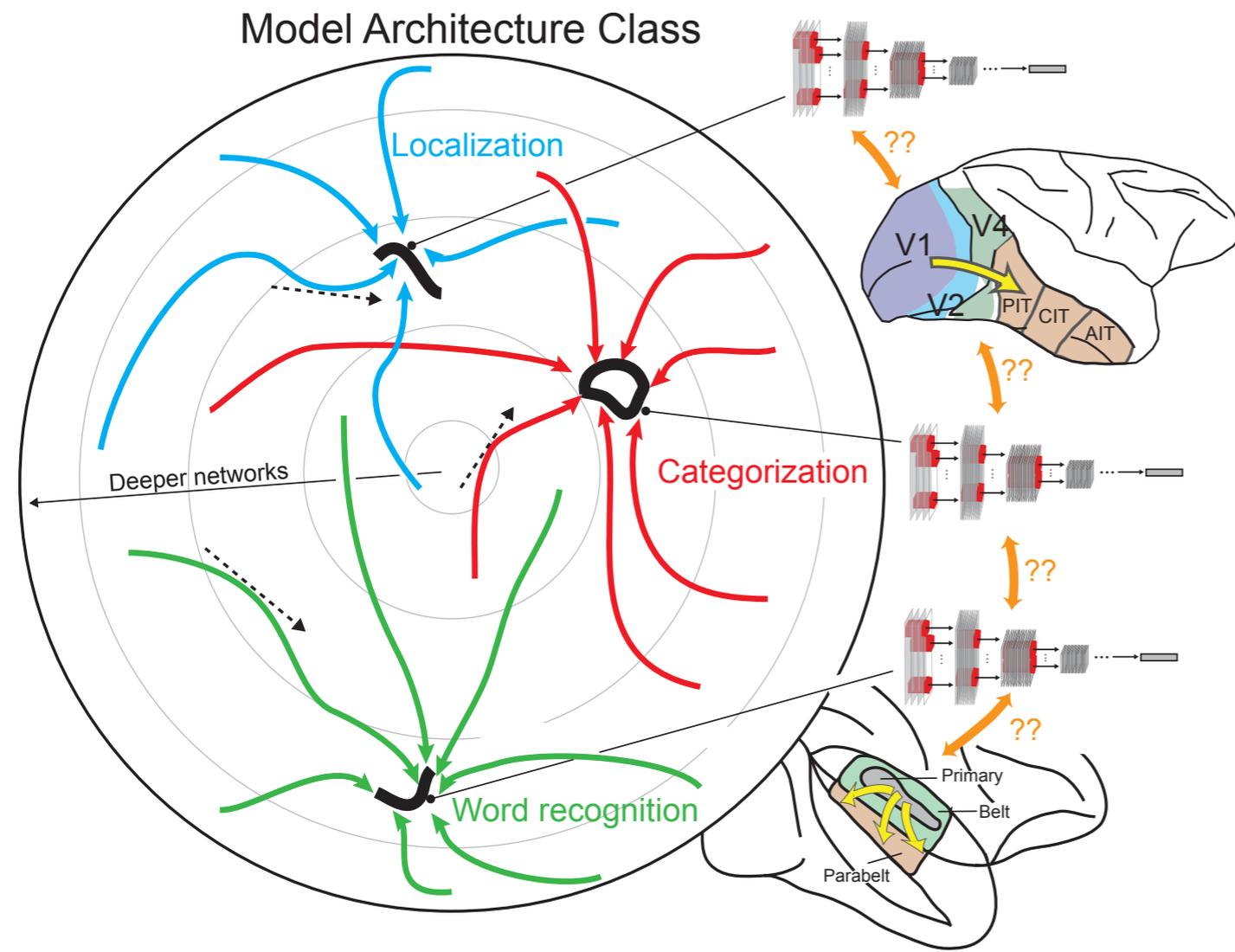
**L** = loss function

**D** = dataset

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{a \in \mathcal{A}} [L(p_a^*)]$$

where  $p^*$  is result of

$$\frac{dp_a}{dt} = -\lambda(t) \cdot \langle \nabla_{p_a} L(x) \rangle_{x \in \mathcal{D}}$$



1.

**A** = architecture class

3.

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{a \in \mathcal{A}} [L(p_a^*)]$$

where  $p^*$  is result of

$$\frac{dp_a}{dt} = -\lambda(t) \cdot \langle \nabla_{p_a} L(x) \rangle_{x \in \mathcal{D}}$$

“learning rule”

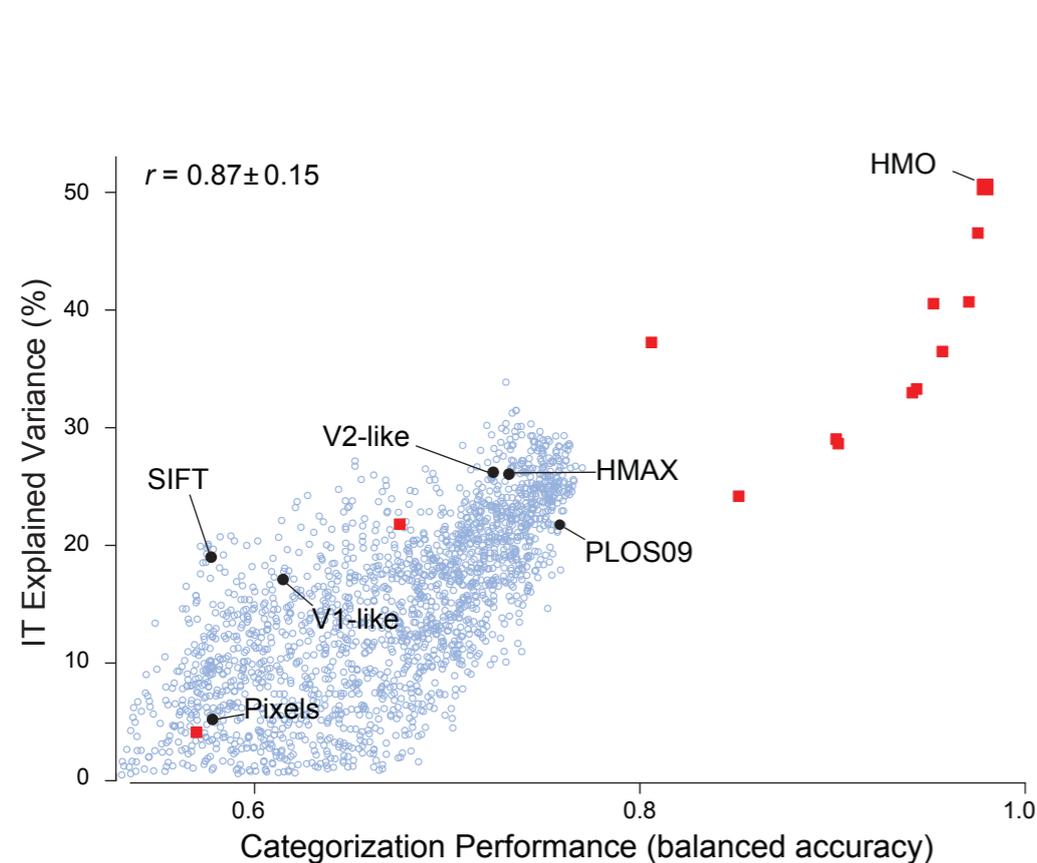
2.

**L** = loss function      **D** = dataset

“task”

Principle of “Goal-Driven Modeling”

Heuristic of “Goal-Driven Modeling”



res-net?

... after all at some point, for any given task,  
you'll probably “go over the hump” ...  
perhaps when you exceed human  
performance or overfit on that task

New Lab: Sep 2016

[dicarlolab.mit.edu](http://dicarlolab.mit.edu)



[neuroailab.stanford.edu](http://neuroailab.stanford.edu)

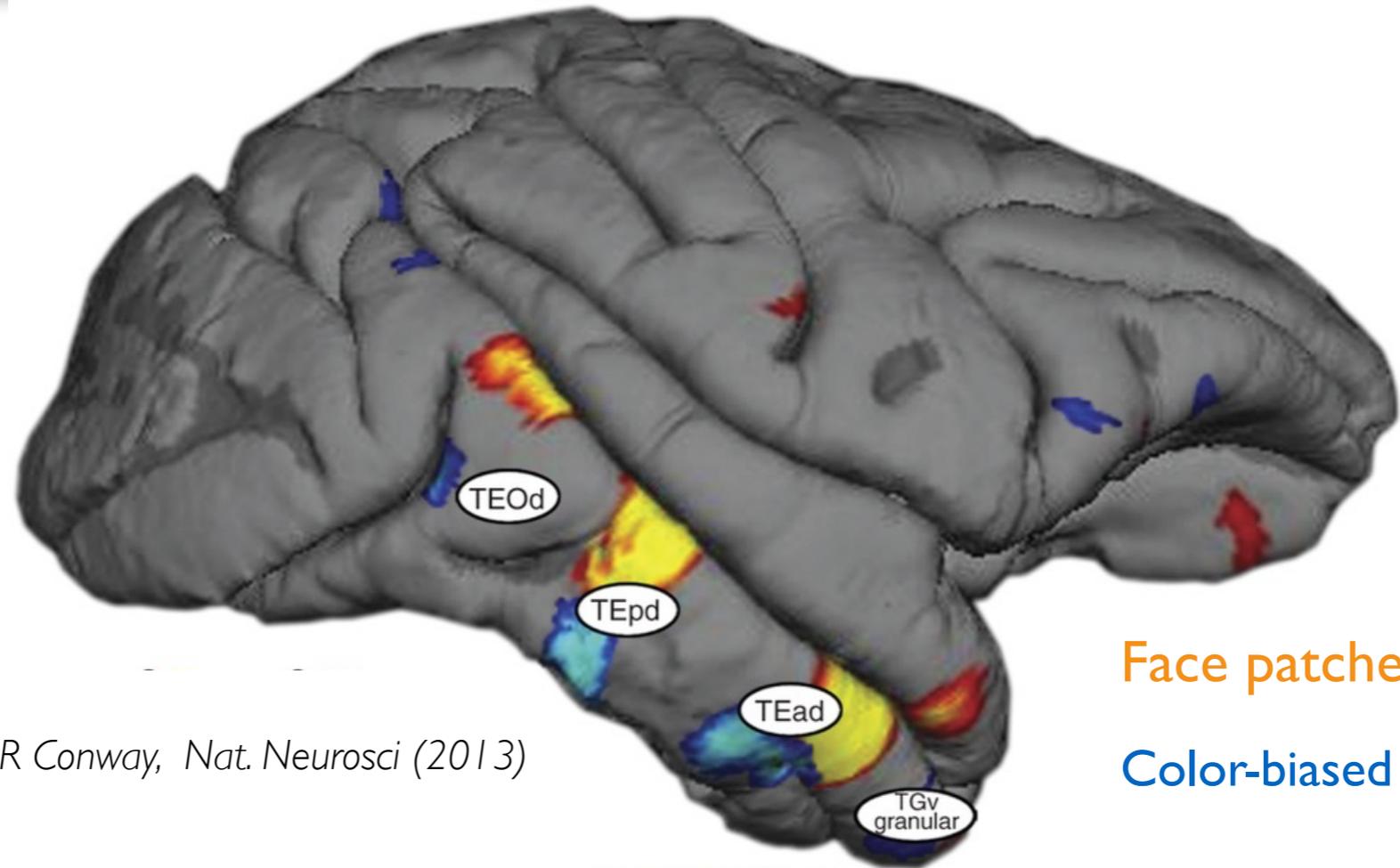


MIT / BCS



Stanford

# Q I: Functional Organization in Higher Visual Cortex



*R. Lafer-Sousa and BR Conway, Nat. Neurosci (2013)*

Face patches

Color-biased regions

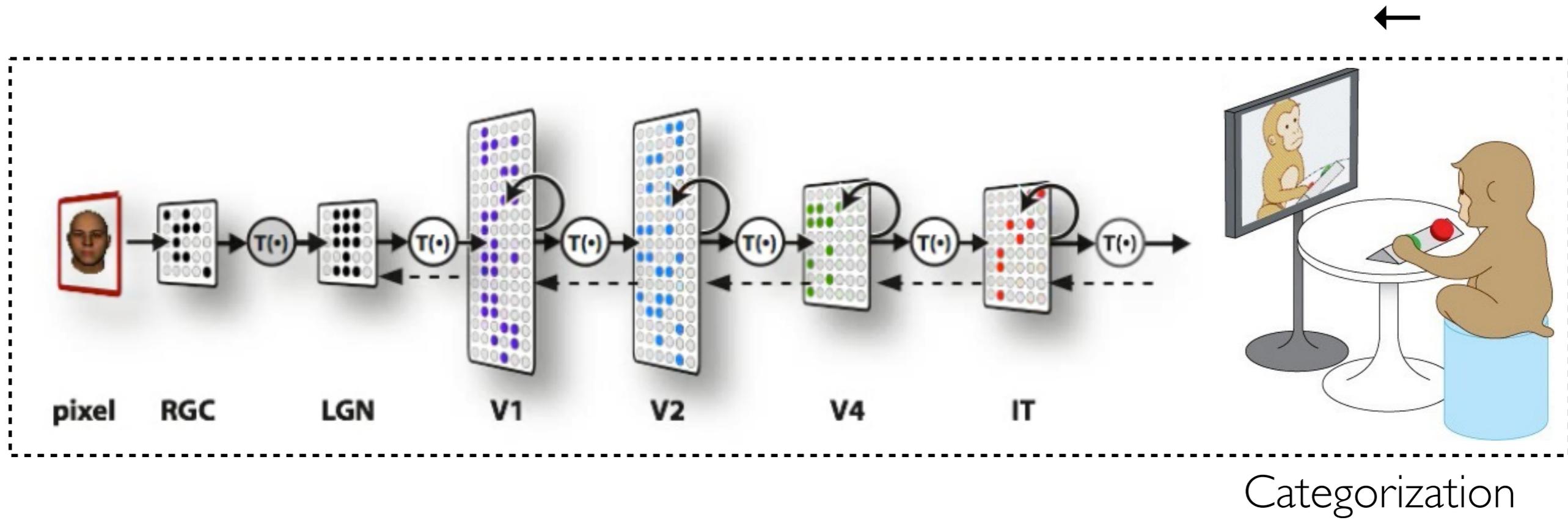
Regions selective for:

- faces
- places
- bodies
- color

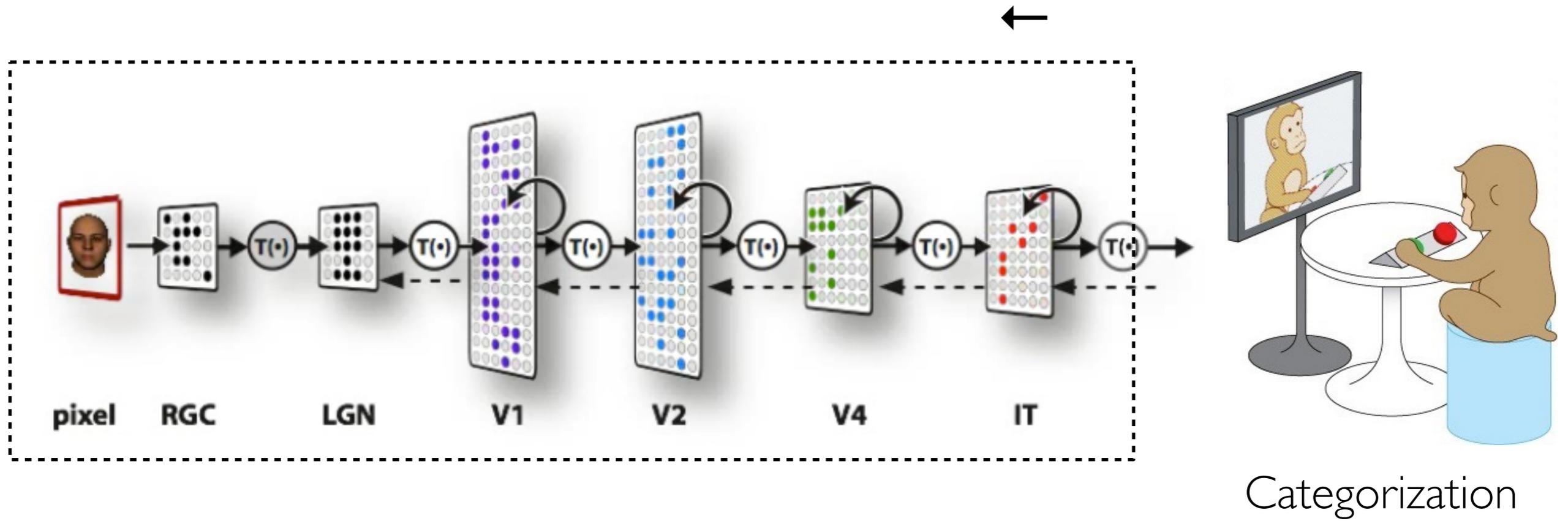
Where do these patches come from?

- In-born built-in structure??
- or developmentally determined by domain-specific experience?

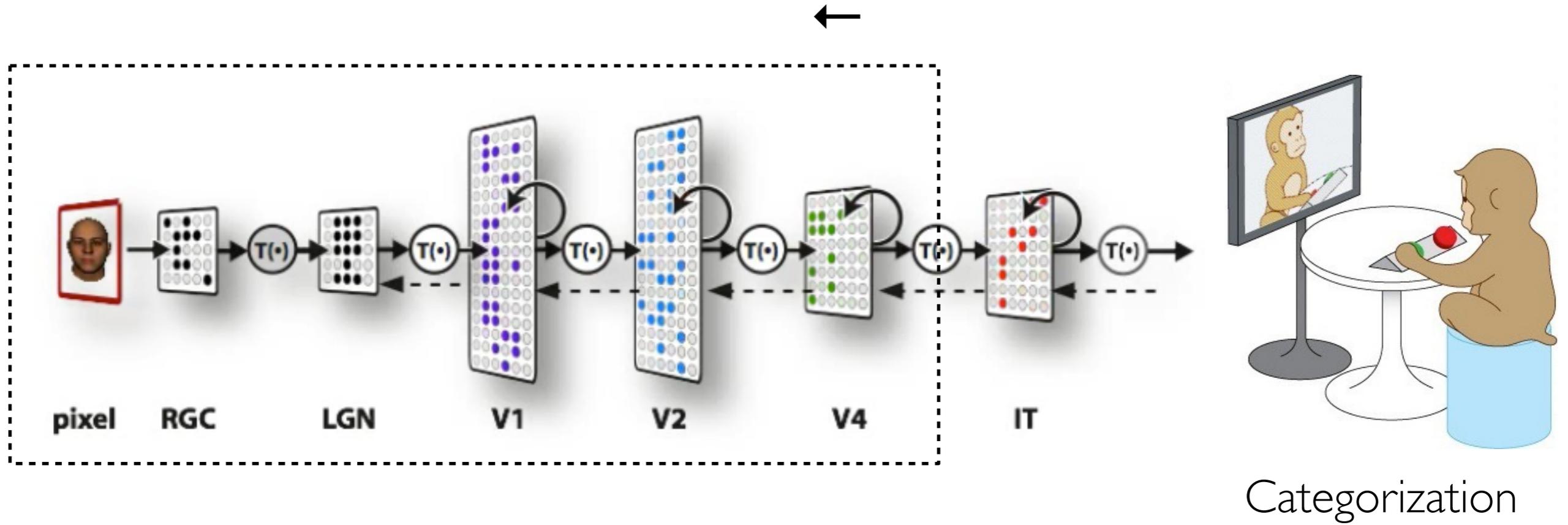
## Q2: Intermediate Visual Tasks/Properties?



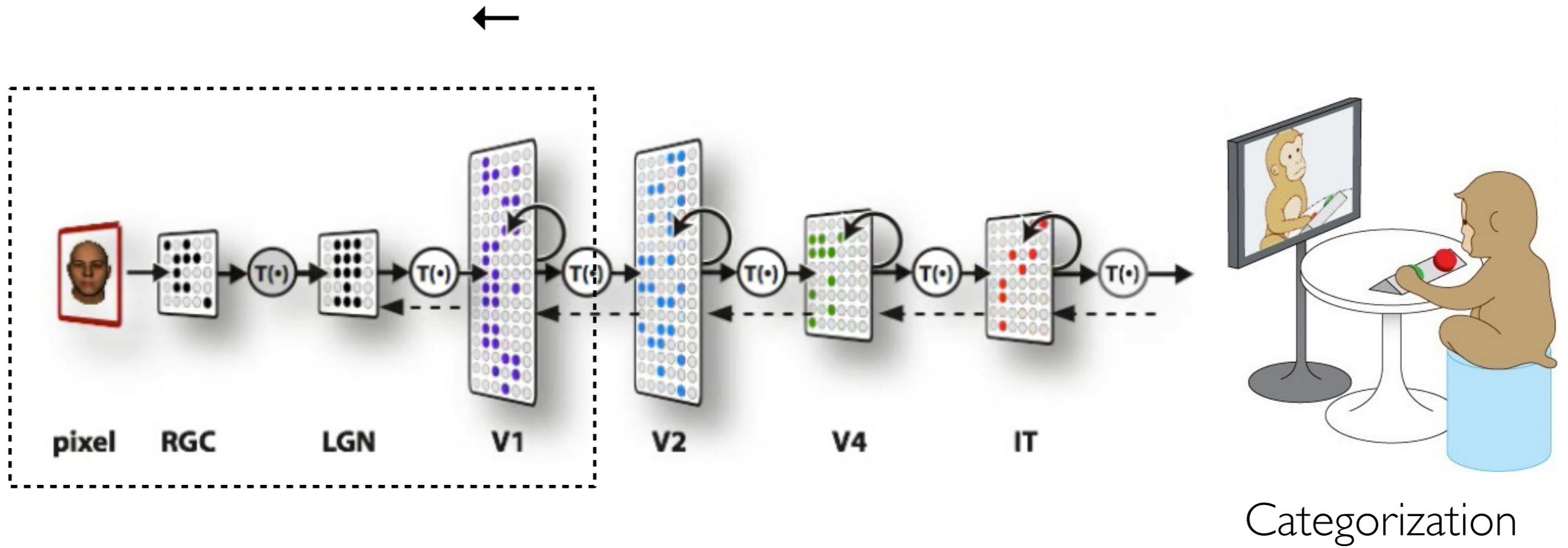
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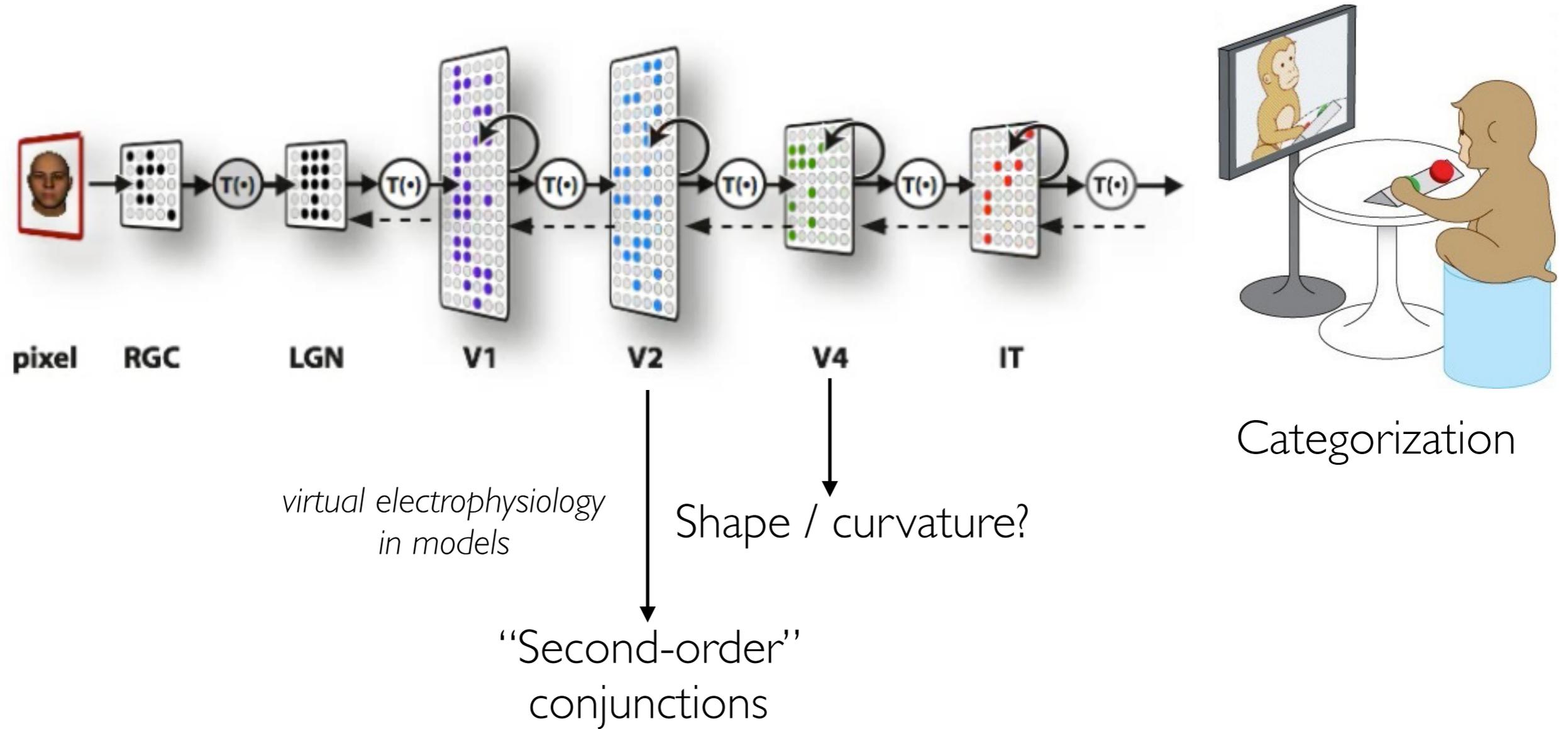
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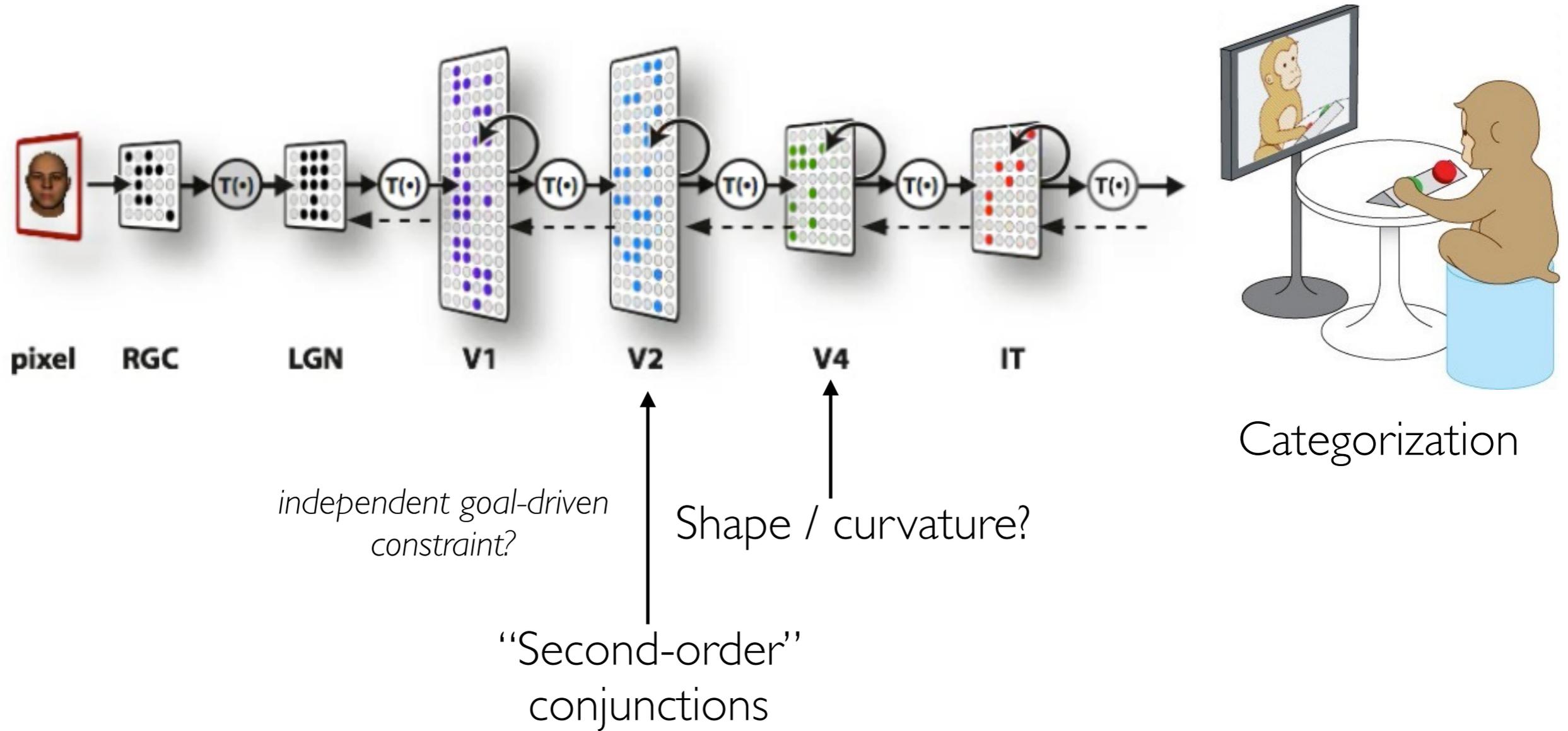
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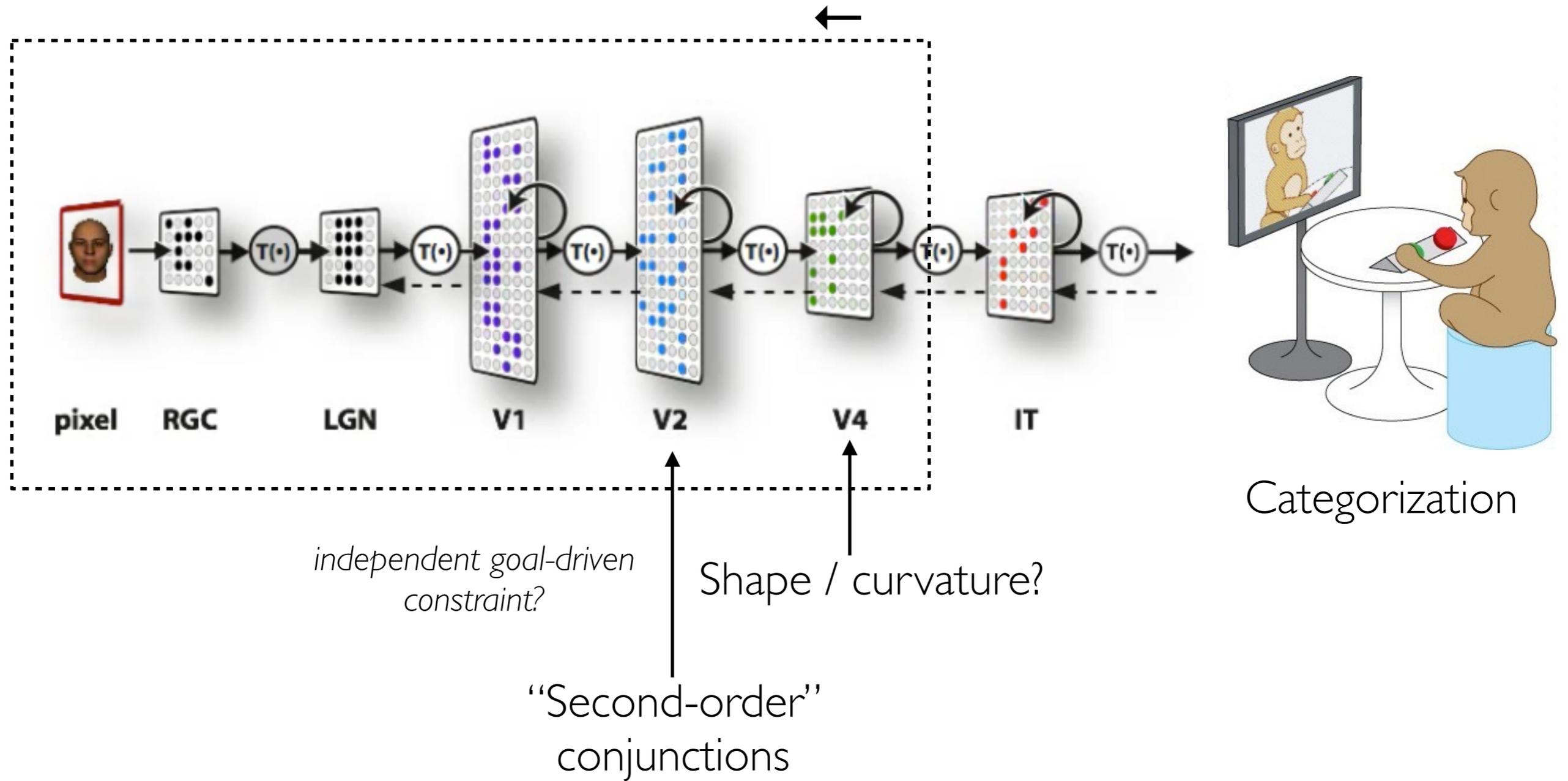
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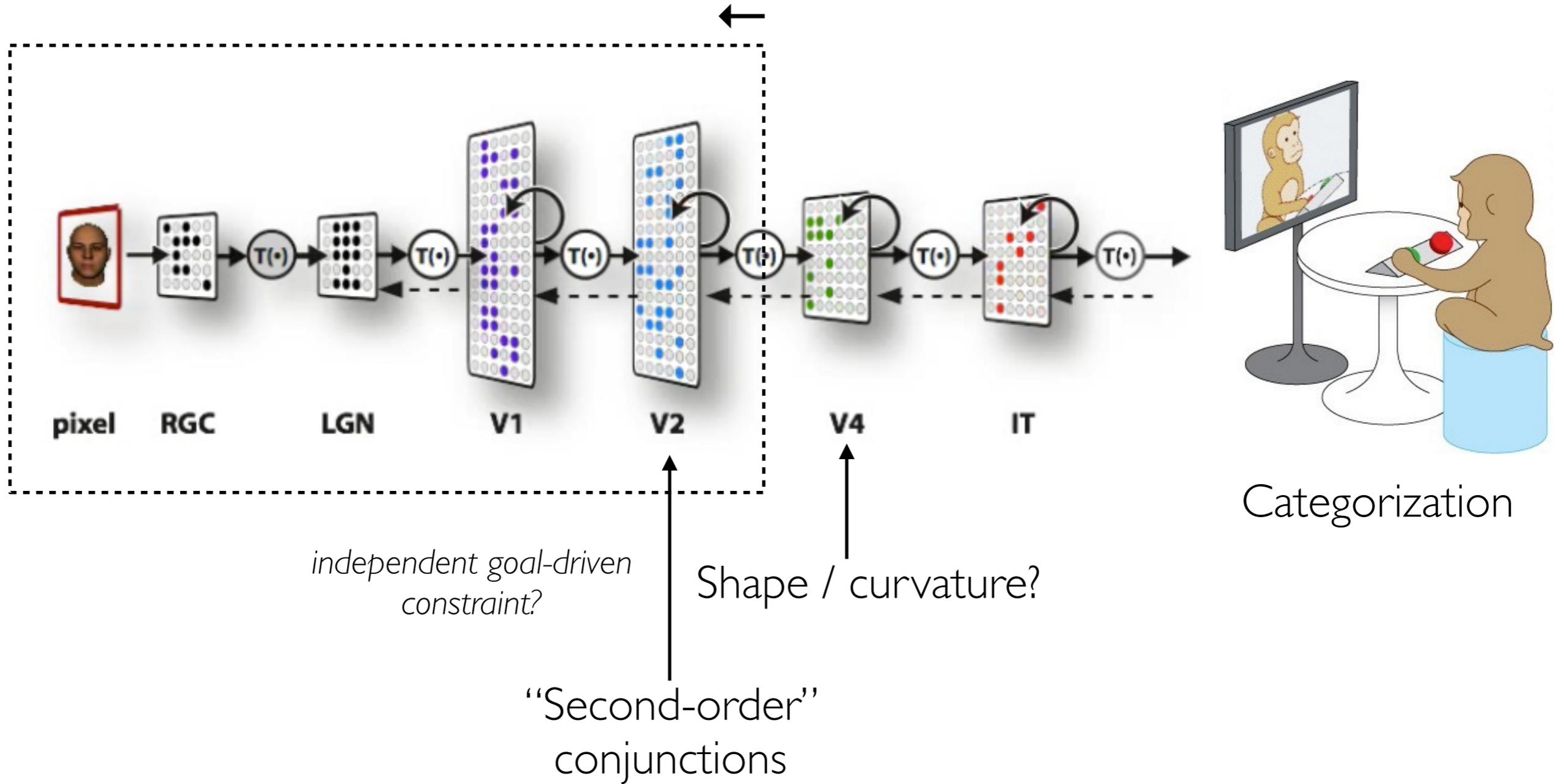
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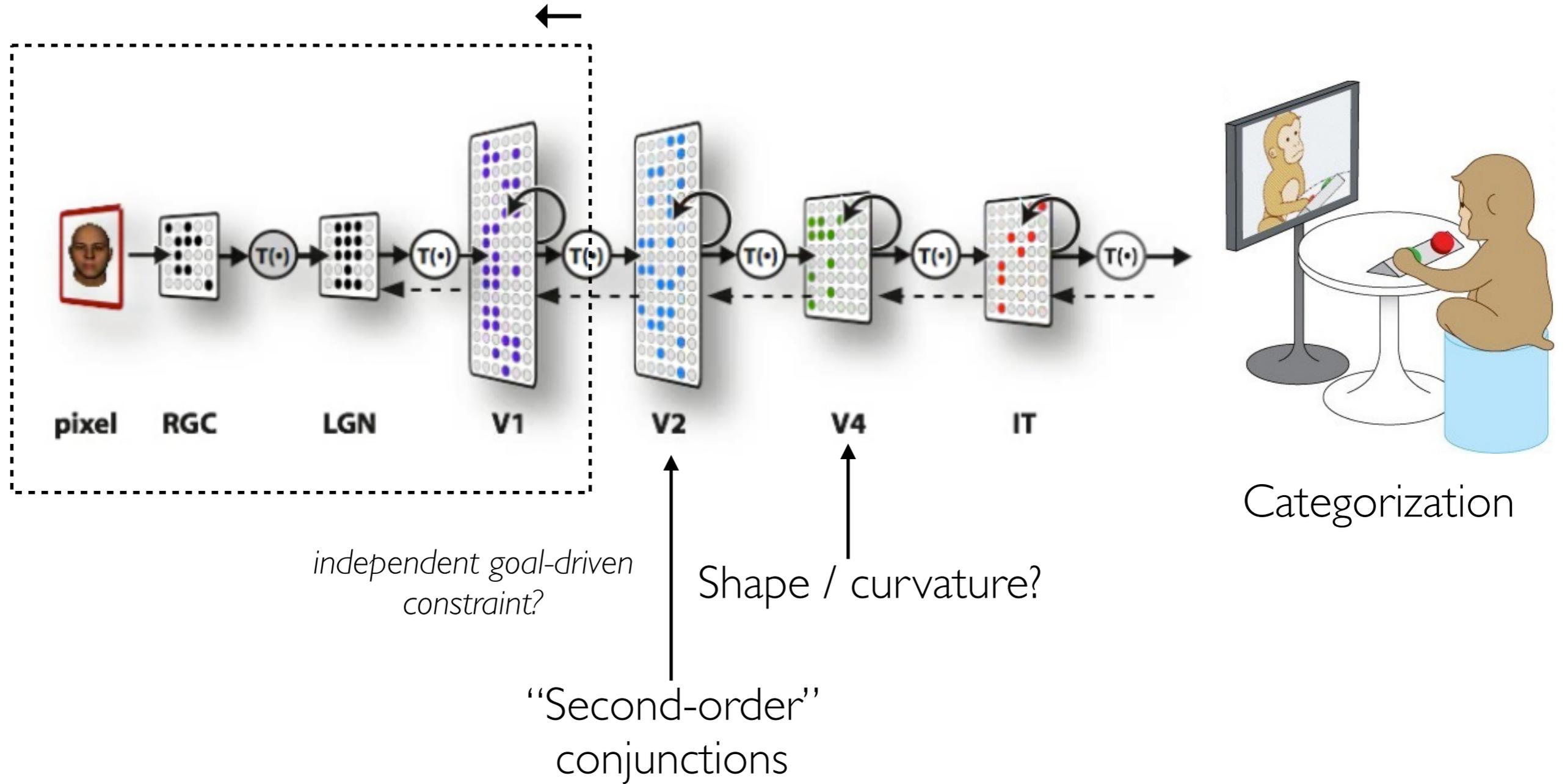
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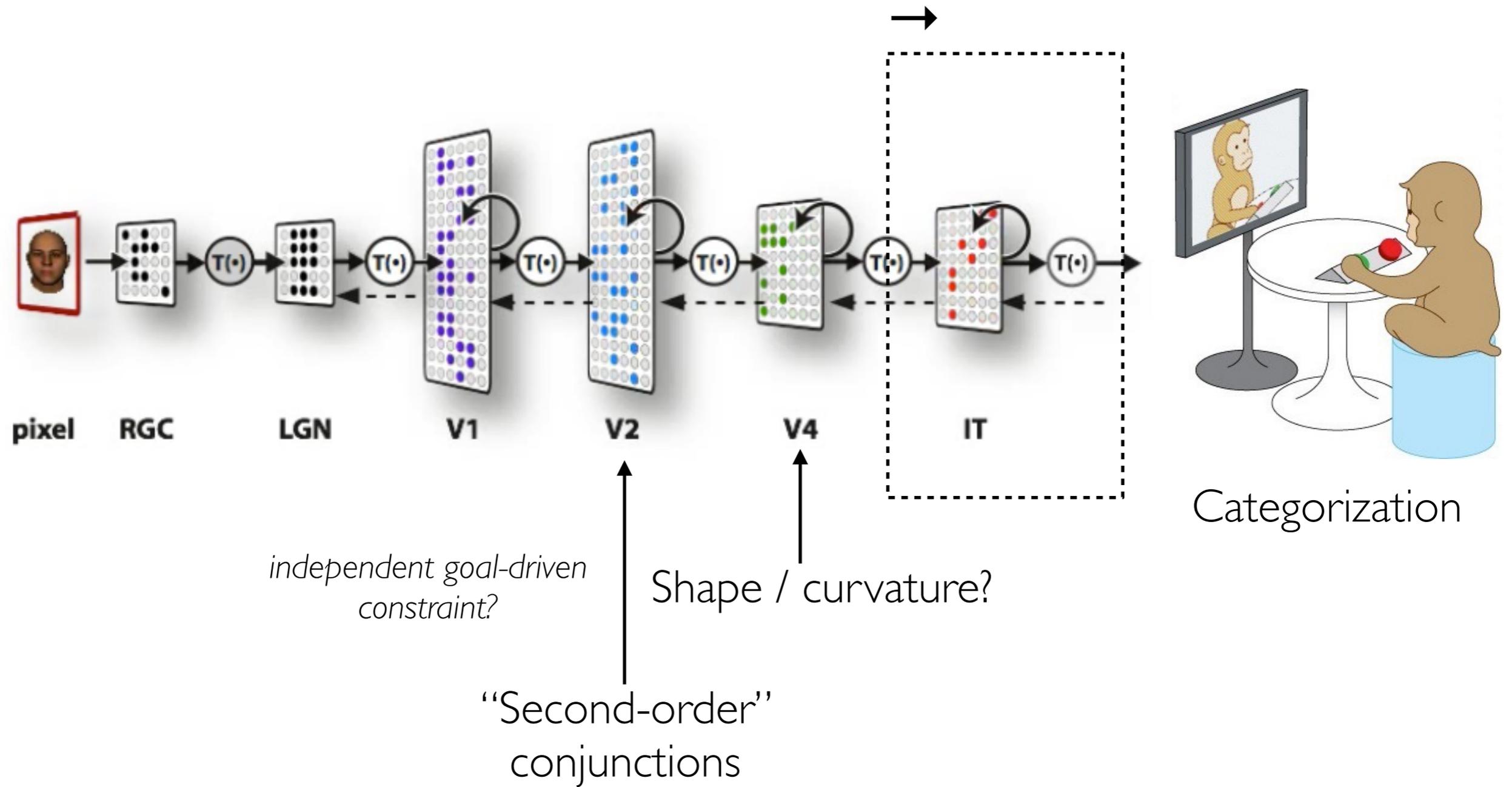
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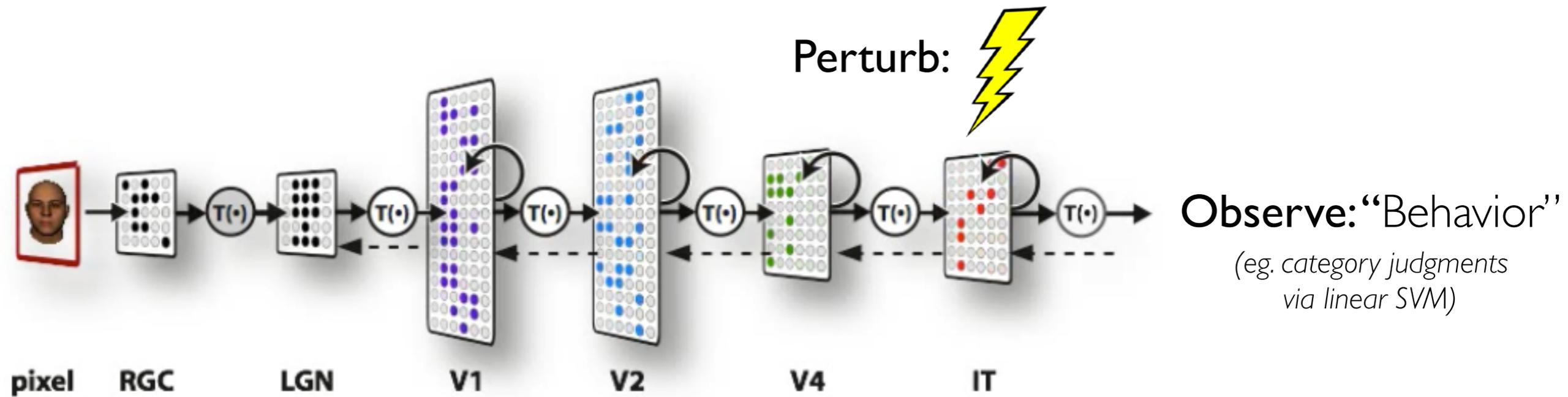
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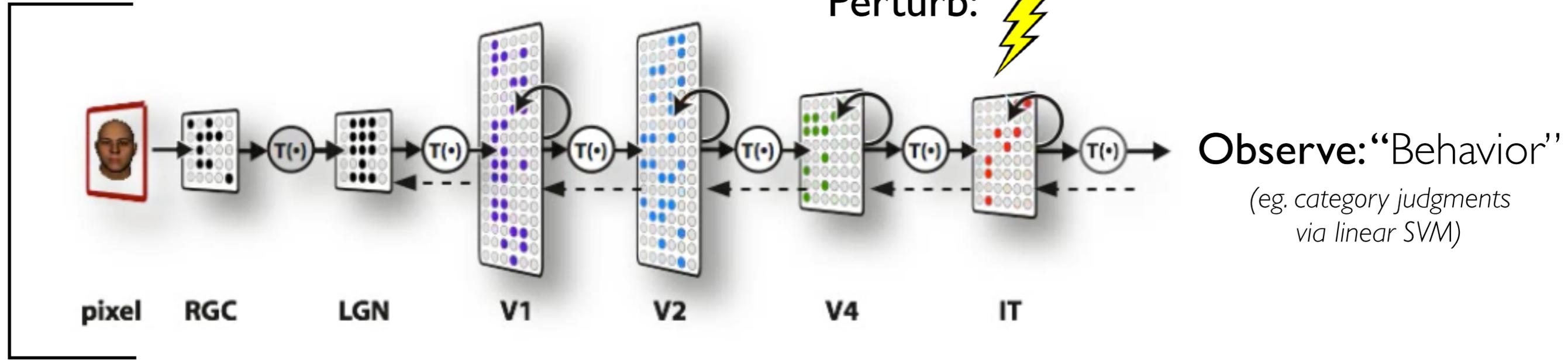


# Q3: Predicting “In-Head” Neural Perturbations



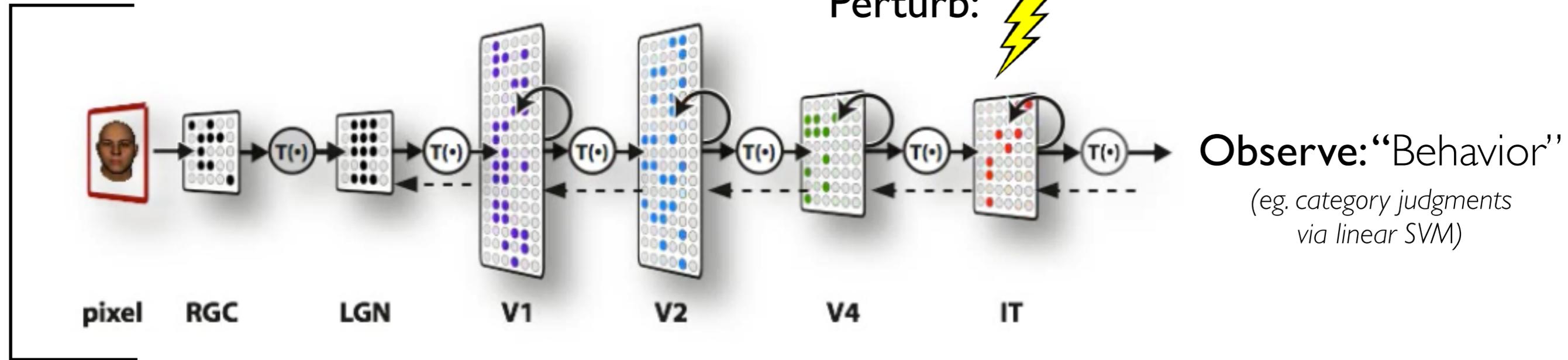
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prediction

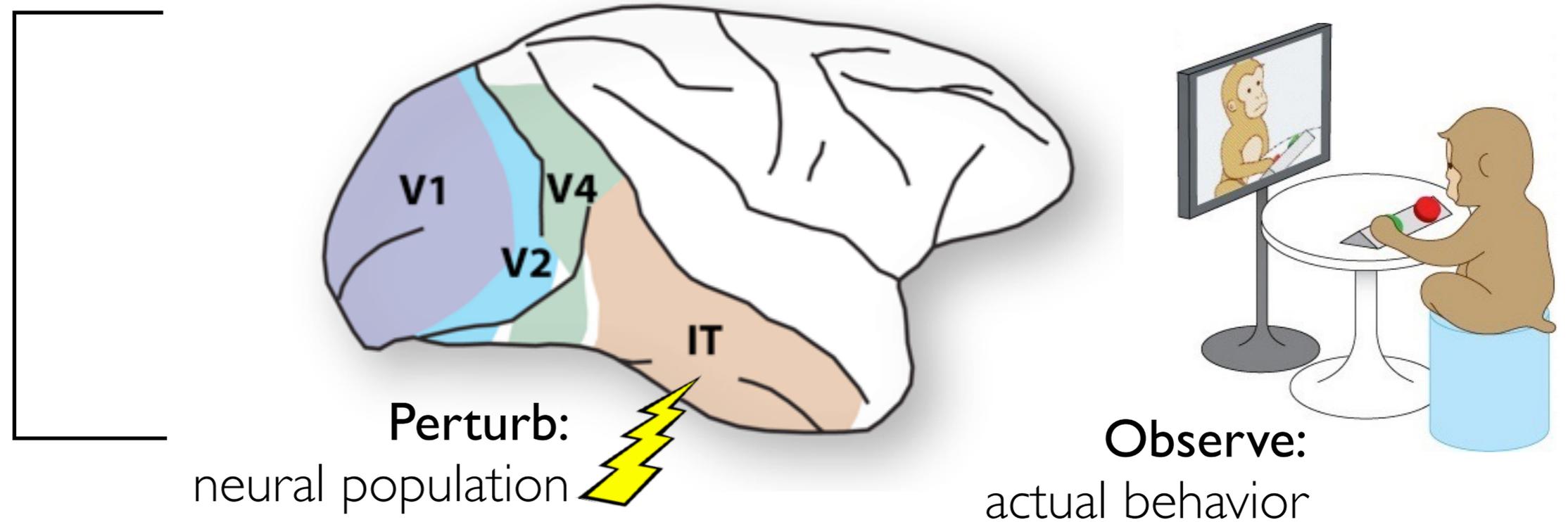


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prediction

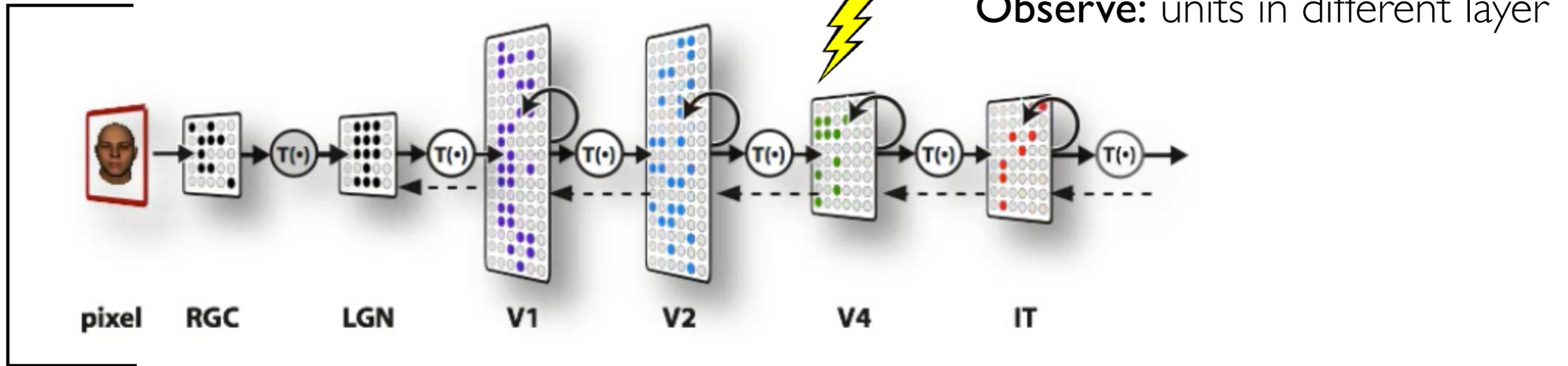


measurement

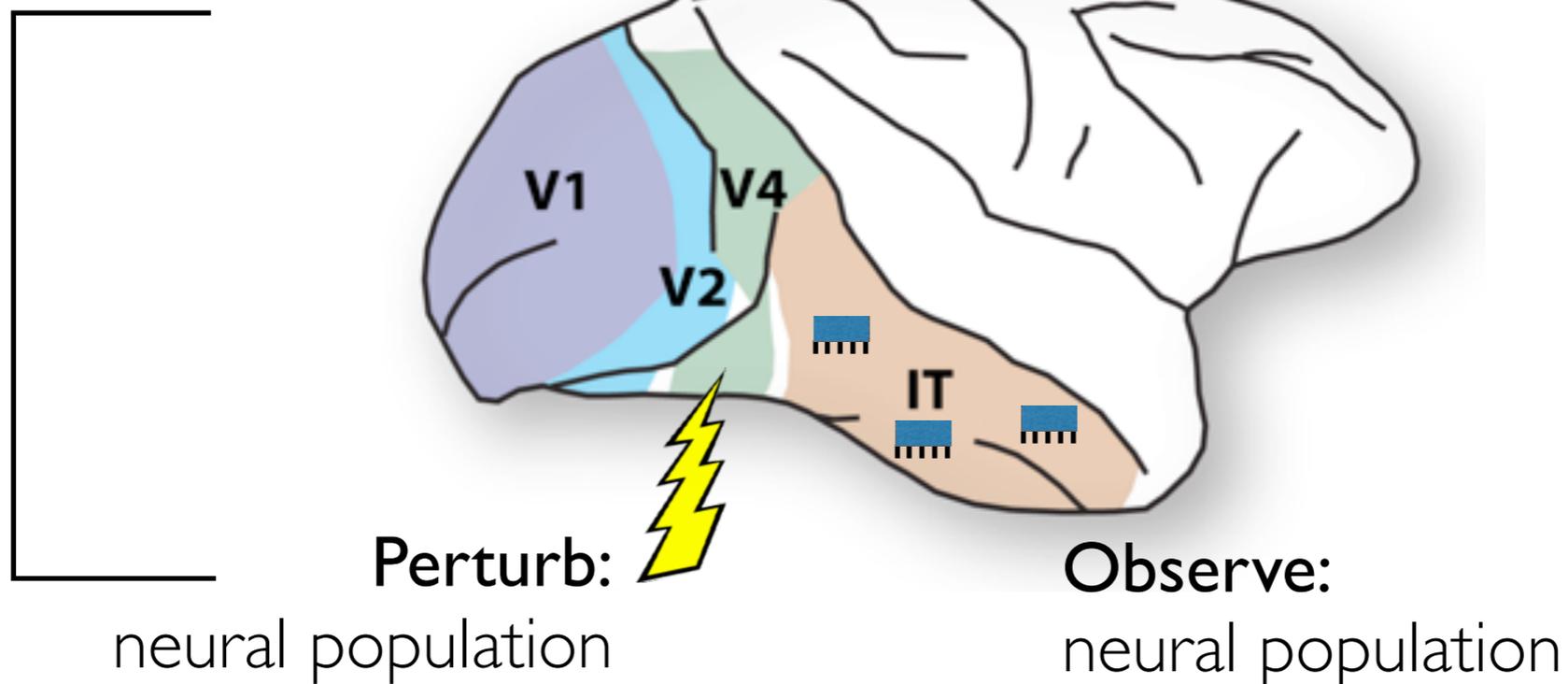


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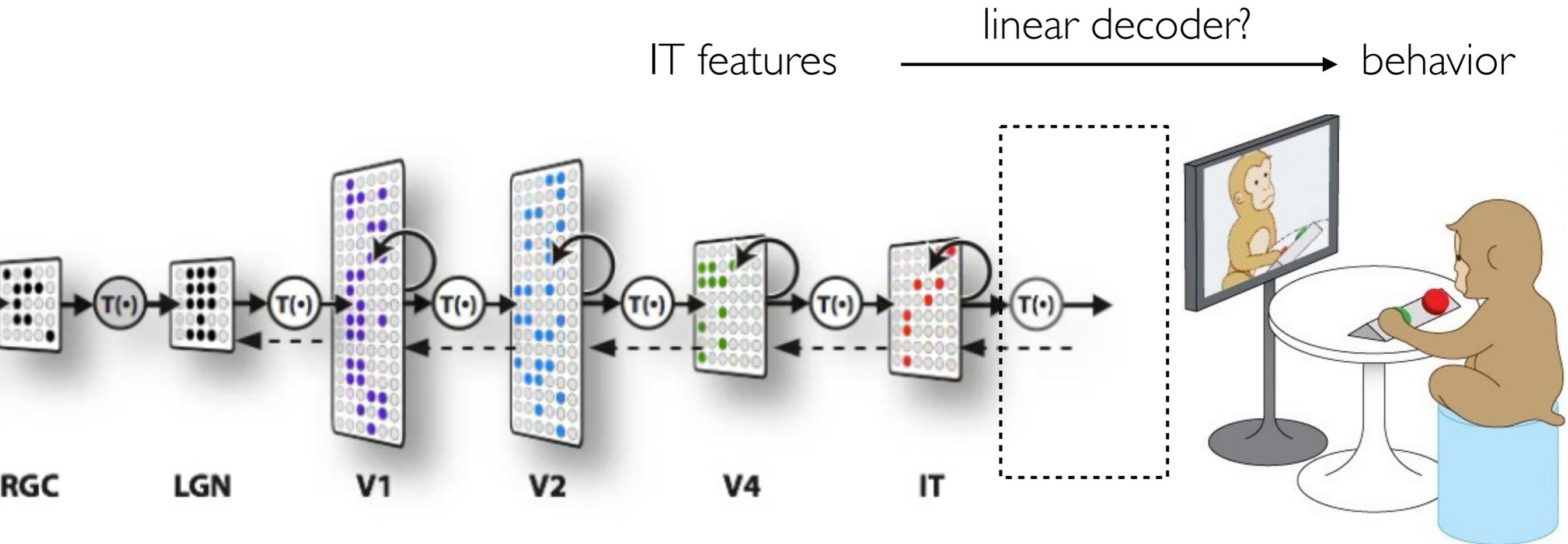
prediction



measurement



# Q4: Linear Readout as a Model of Neural Decoding



▶ Nonlinear? Temporal instead of rate code?

▶ View the process realtime?

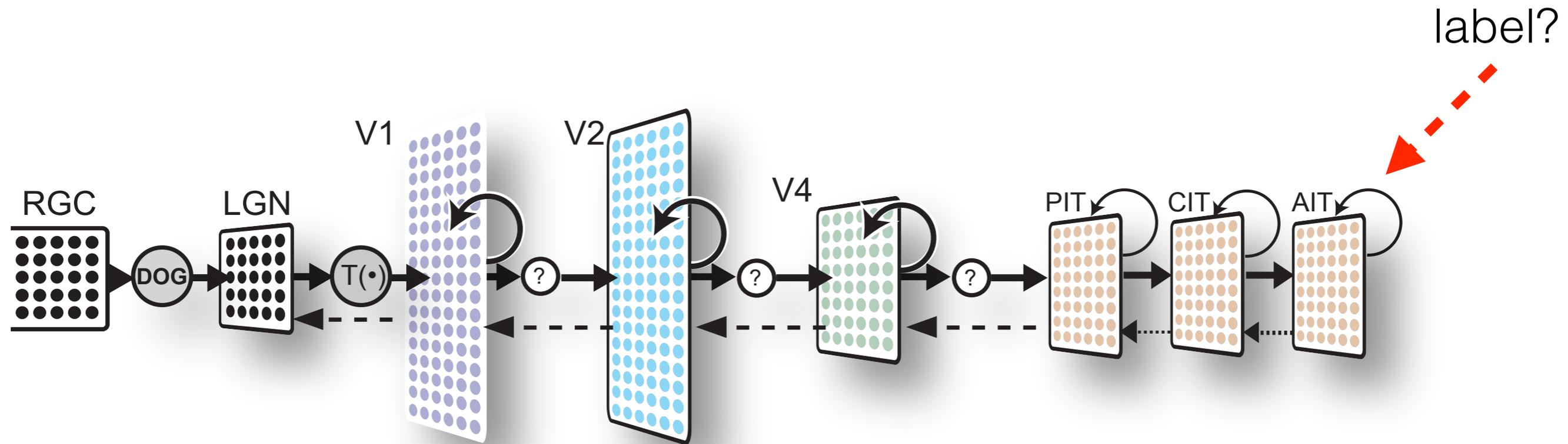
▶ XX Put in Rishi learning slides

▶ How are they learned? What types of (e.g.) regularizations are implemented?

▶ Default readouts and task switching (“hyperplane management”)

# Q5: Role of Top-Down, Recurrent Connections

**H1:** Feedback implements learning of filters — form of long-term memory — not online

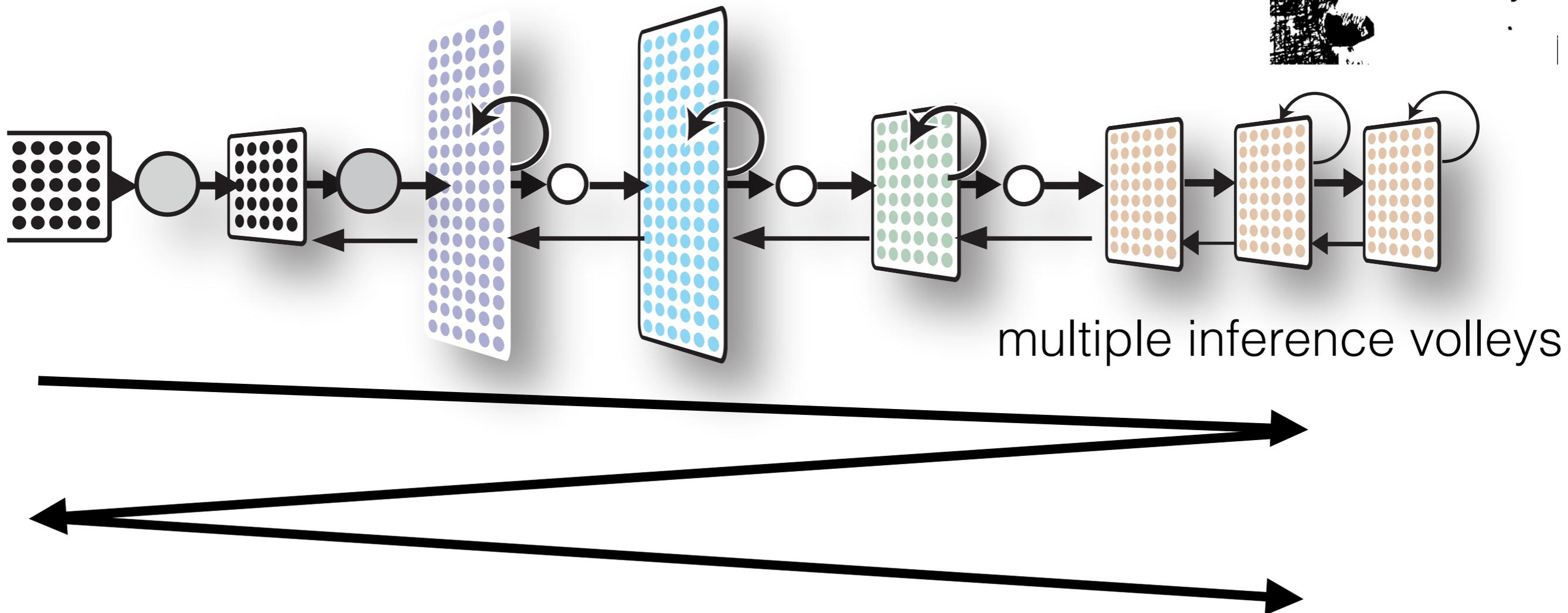


◀ - - - - backprop or other long-term memory error signal

# Q5: Role of Top-Down, Recurrent Connections

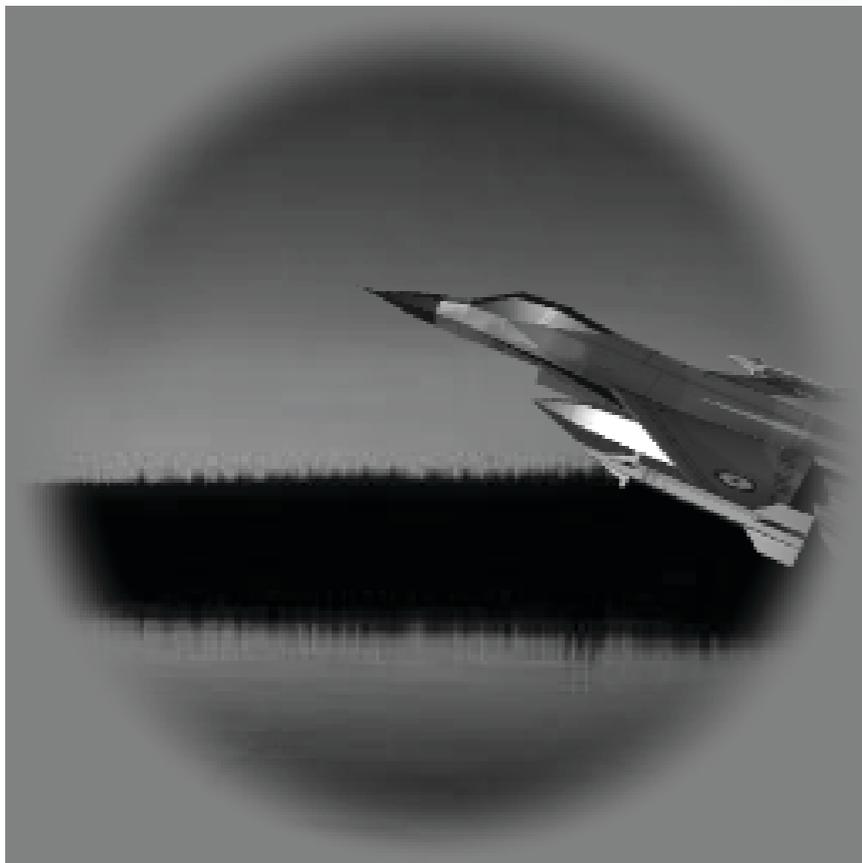
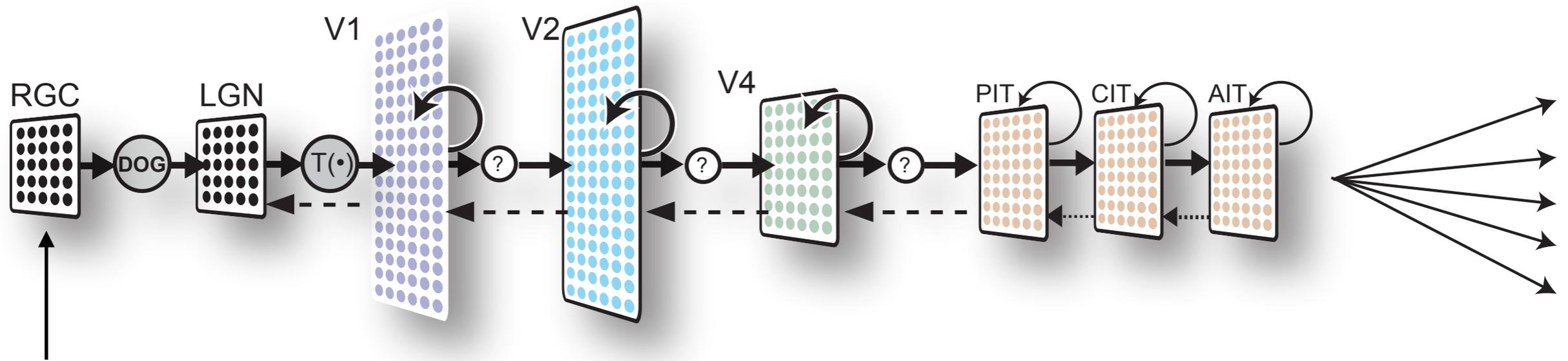
**H2:** Feedback solves hard cases that aren't embedded in single feedforward volley .... like ambiguity. Online inference in the ventral stream.

*(Dallenbach's cow)*



# Q5: Role of Top-Down, Recurrent Connections

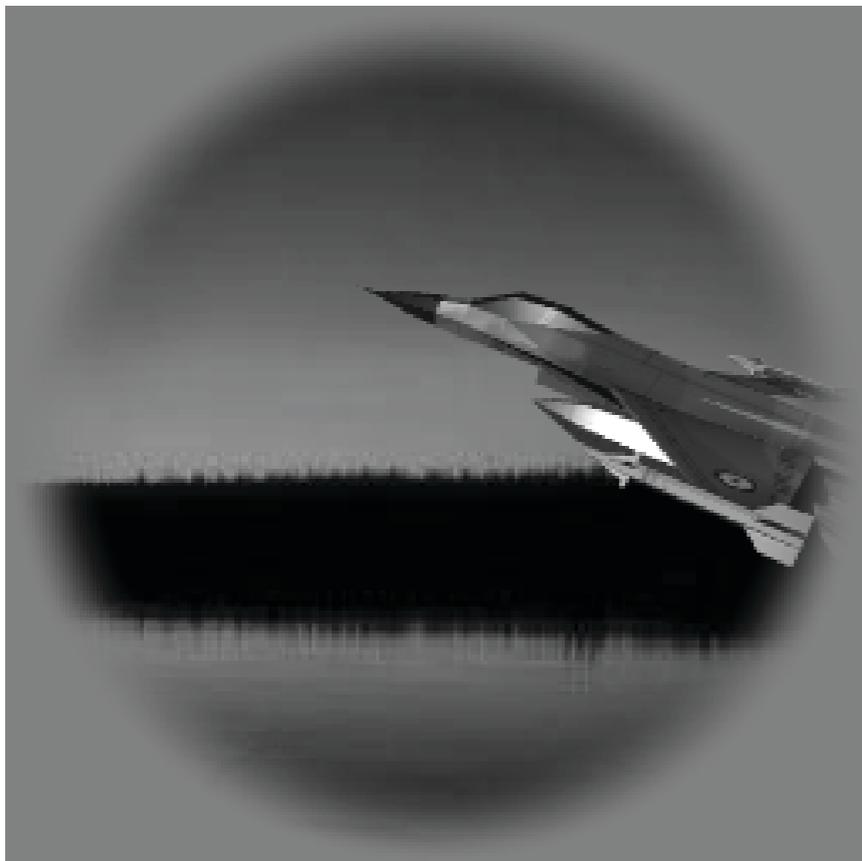
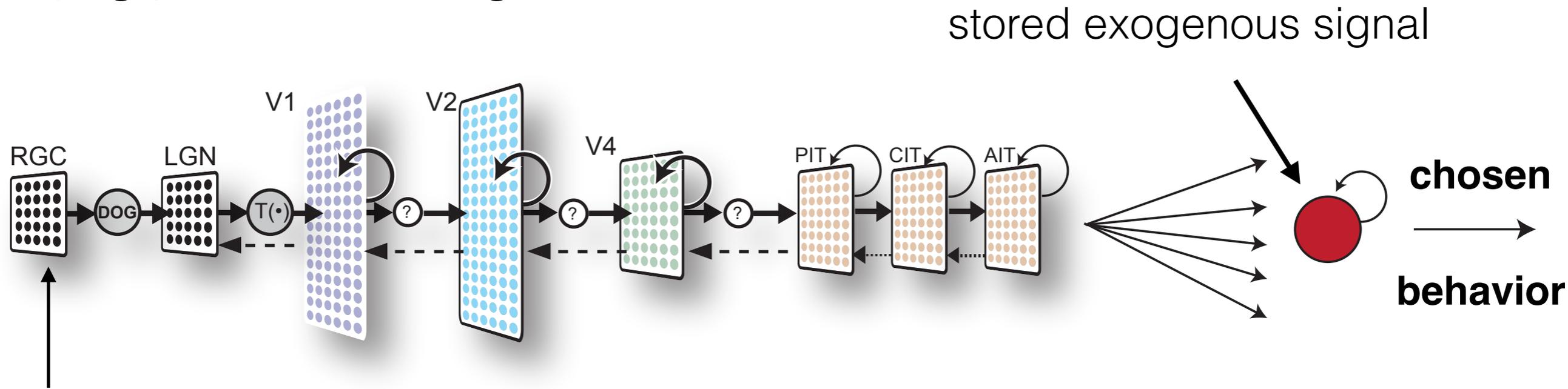
**H3a:** Downstream, online feedback helps solve dynamic problems like (e.g.) task switching.



- ▶ category
- ▶ identity
- ▶ position
- ▶ size
- ▶ pose
- ▶ ...

# Q5: Role of Top-Down, Recurrent Connections

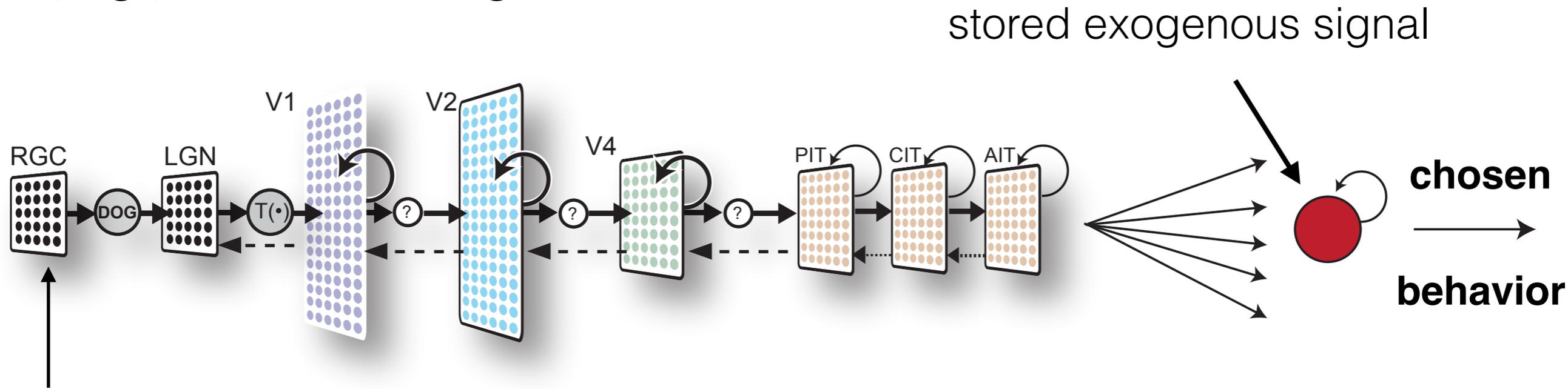
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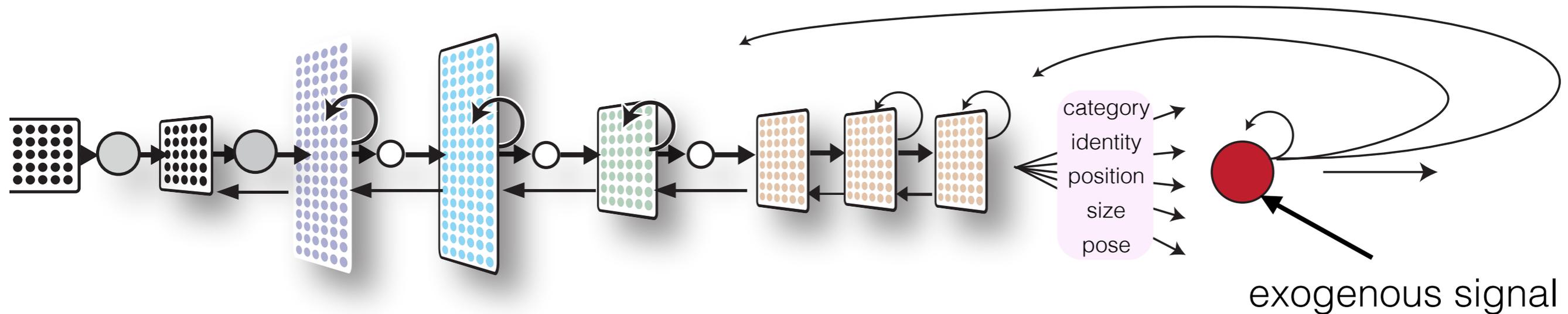


“Hyperplane Management”

- ▶ category
- ▶ identity
- ▶ position
- ▶ size
- ▶ pose
- ▶ ...

## Q5: Role of Top-Down, Recurrent Connections

**H3b:** Task switching algorithms reach down into ventral stream — benefit from nonlinear combinations of gating variable and IT features — e.g., attentional effects



Distinguished ventrally from **H2** (“hard cases”) by the nature of the task that elicits it — (e.g.) pre-cuing (volitional control) instead of (e.g.) passive viewing.

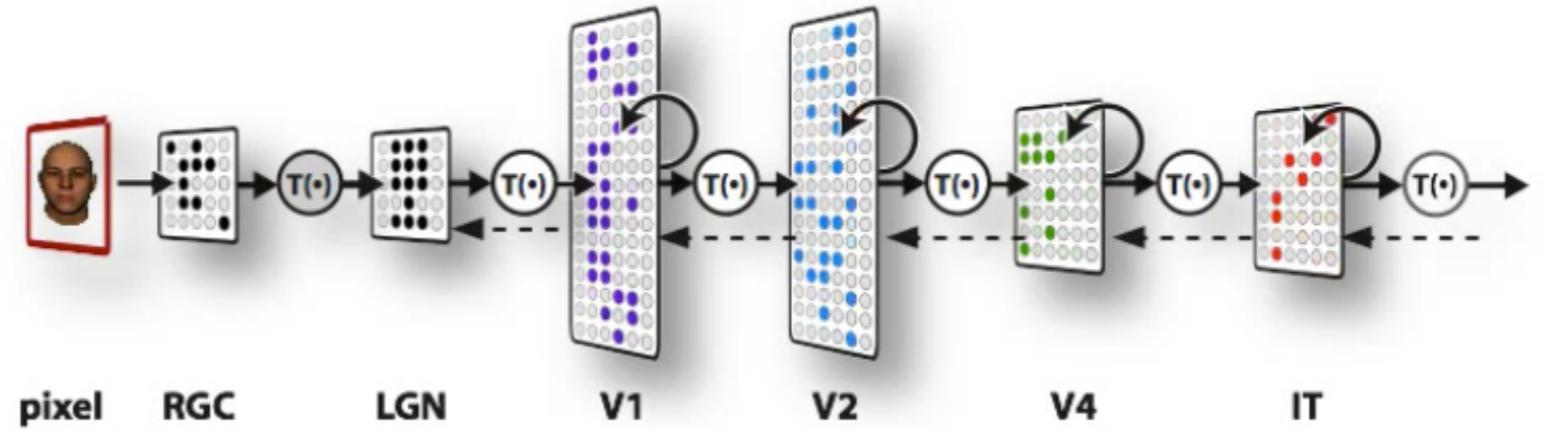
## Q5: Role of Top-Down, Recurrent Connections

**Something about relationship to generative models**

# Q6: How Is Visual Learning Implemented?

Many parameters,  $\mathbf{P}$

How are they learned?



Gradient descent eq:

$$\frac{dp}{dt} = -\lambda(t) \cdot \frac{\partial L}{\partial P}$$

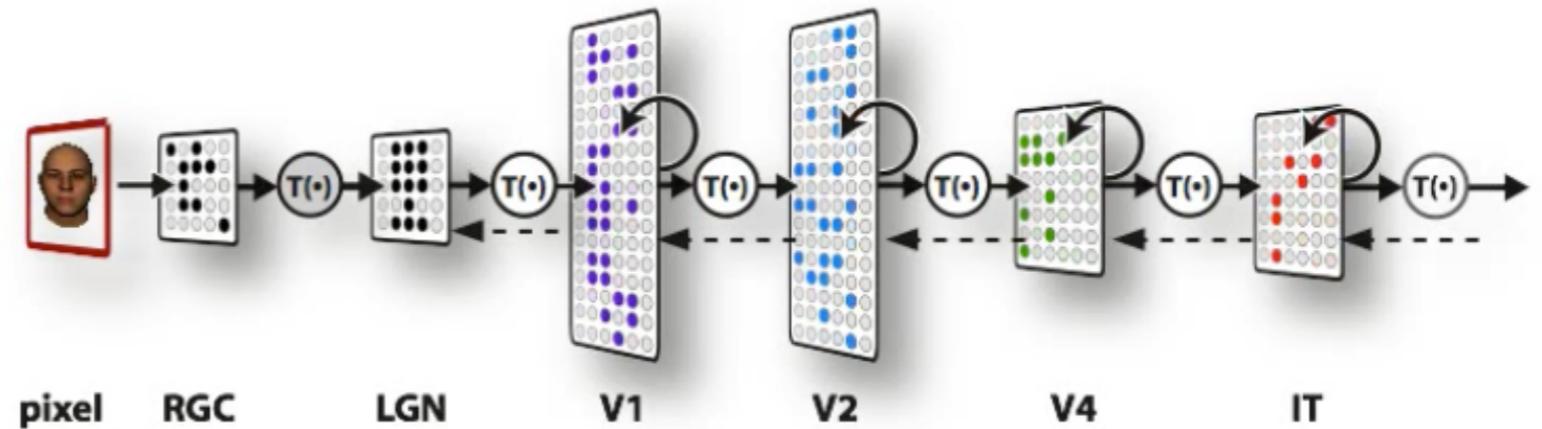
$L$  = loss function

$\lambda$  = learning rate

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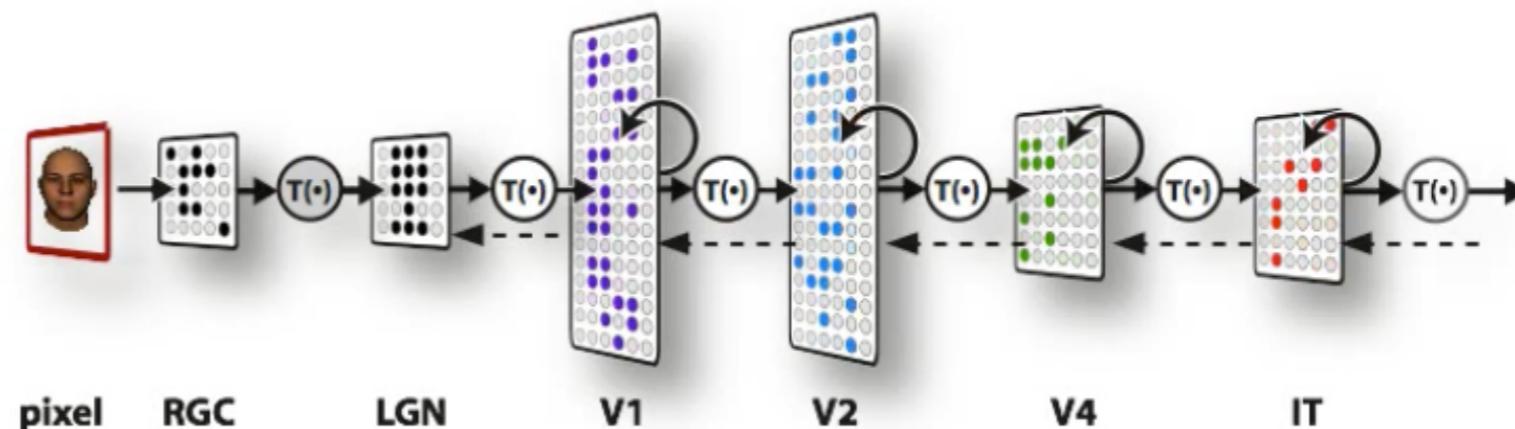
In current standard practice:

$L$  = soft-max loss computed relative large numbers of externally-provided semantic labels.

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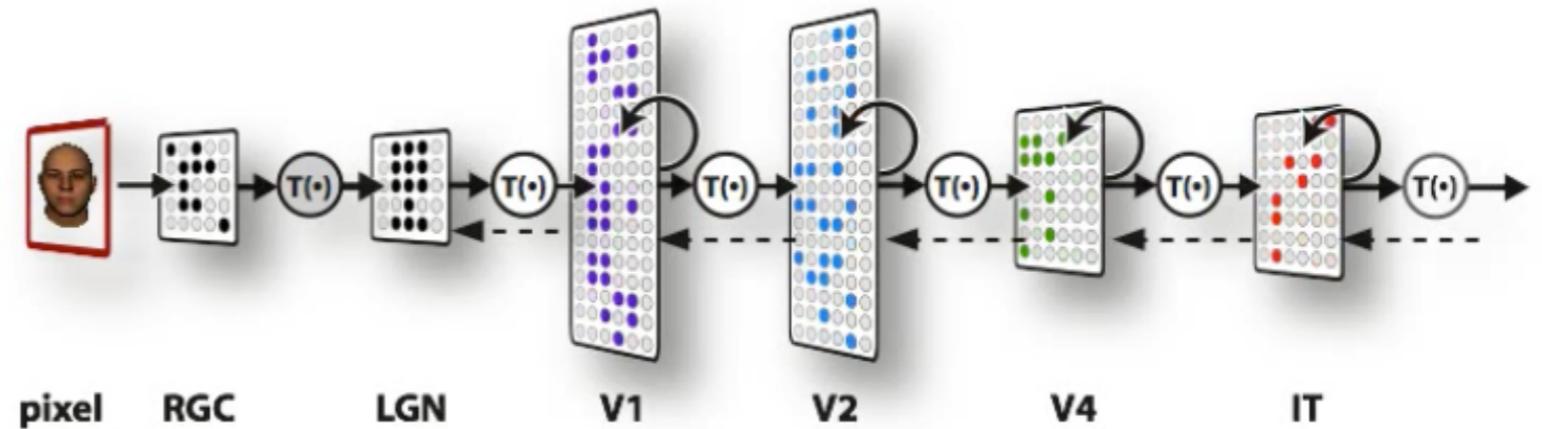
Ideally:

$L$  = un- or semi-supervised function computable from easily accessible data about agent's environment

# Q6: How Is Visual Learning Implemented?

Many parameters,  $\mathbf{P}$

How are they learned?



Gradient descent eq:

$$\frac{dp}{dt} = -\lambda(t) \cdot \frac{\partial L}{\partial P}$$

$L$  = loss function

$\lambda$  = learning rate

(1) Which parameters are learned vs developed or evolved?

(2) What are the right loss functions(s)?

(3) How are the loss functions and the GDE implemented/  
approximated via neural circuits?

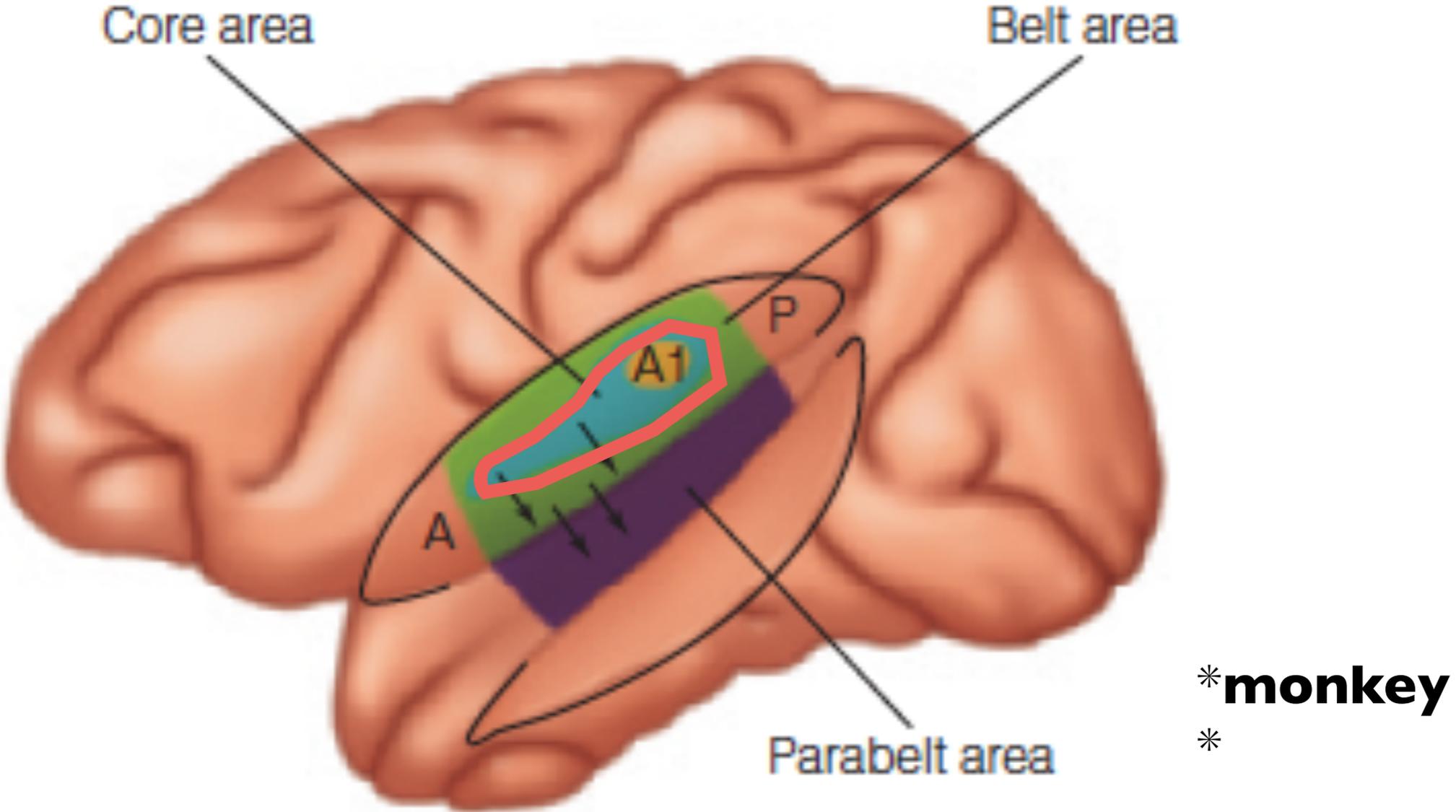
## Q7: Other Sensory Domains?

Can goal-drive modeling approaches generalize to other areas?

For example, in auditory cortex:

- ▶ can HCNN models explain higher auditory cortex?
- ▶ which tasks best explain functional organization of AC?
- ▶ how to auditory-optimized architectures related to visual ones?

# Core / Belt / Parabelt Structure



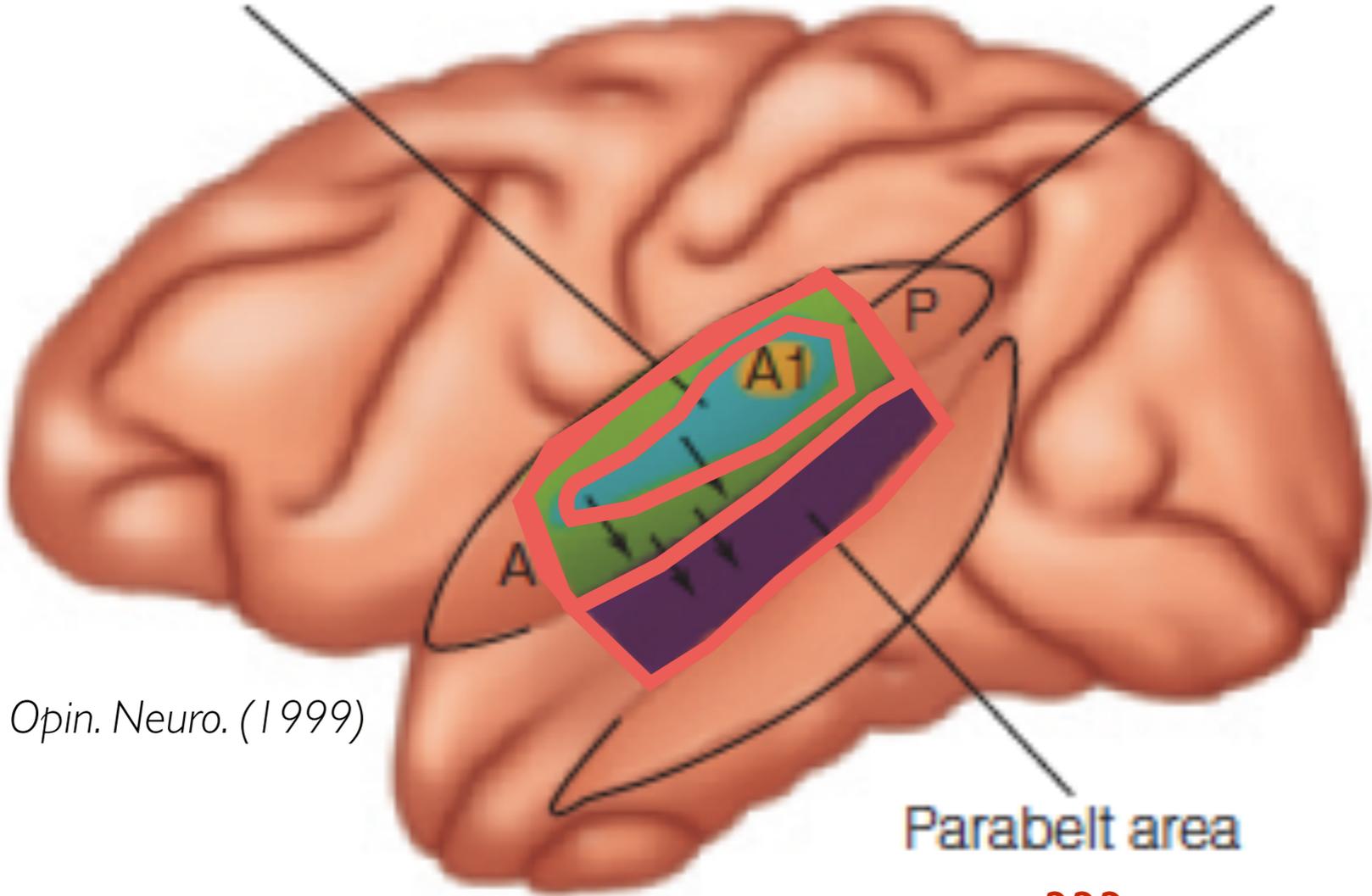
*Tramo et. al, Curr. Opin. Neuro. (1999)*

# Core / Belt / Parabelt Structure

Spatiotemporal filtering?

Core area

???  
Belt area



*Tramo et. al, Curr. Opin. Neuro. (1999)*

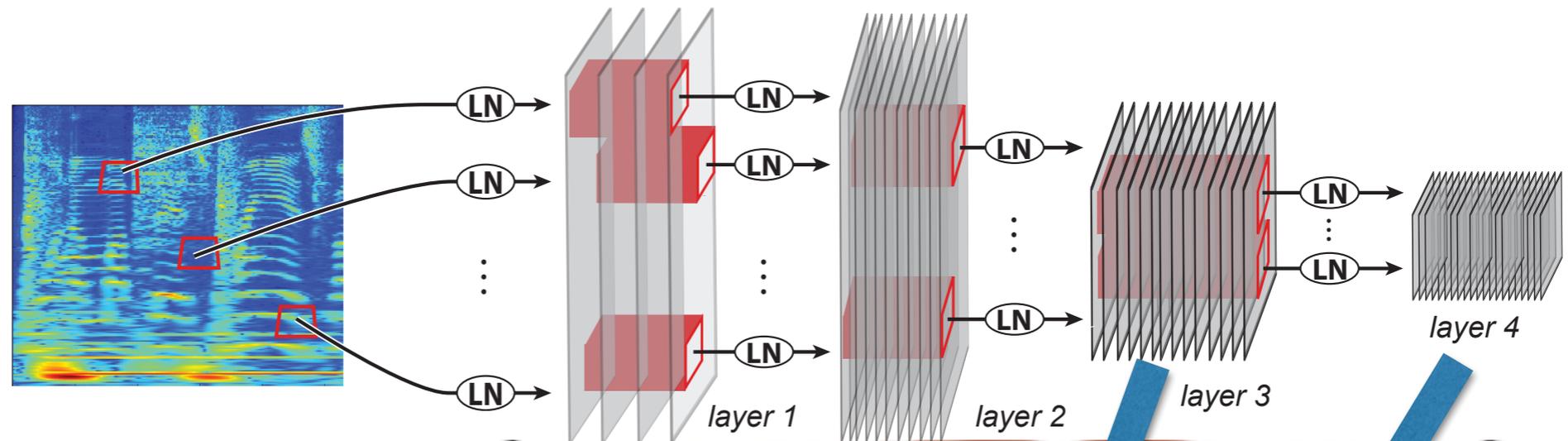
\***monkey**

\*

???

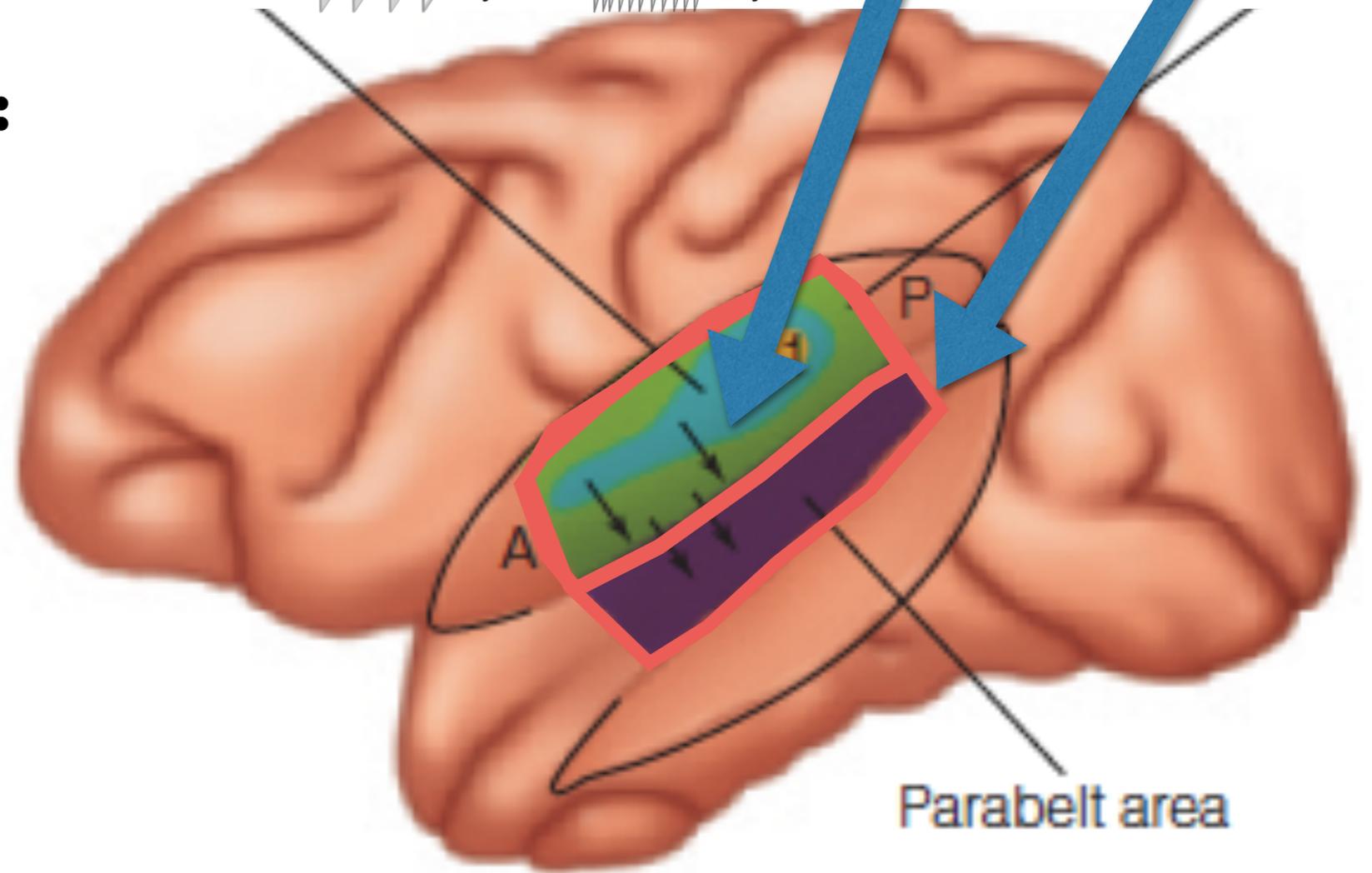
Example: use computational models to help deepen understanding of non-primary areas.

# Core Task-Driven Modeling Idea



## Task-Driven Modeling:

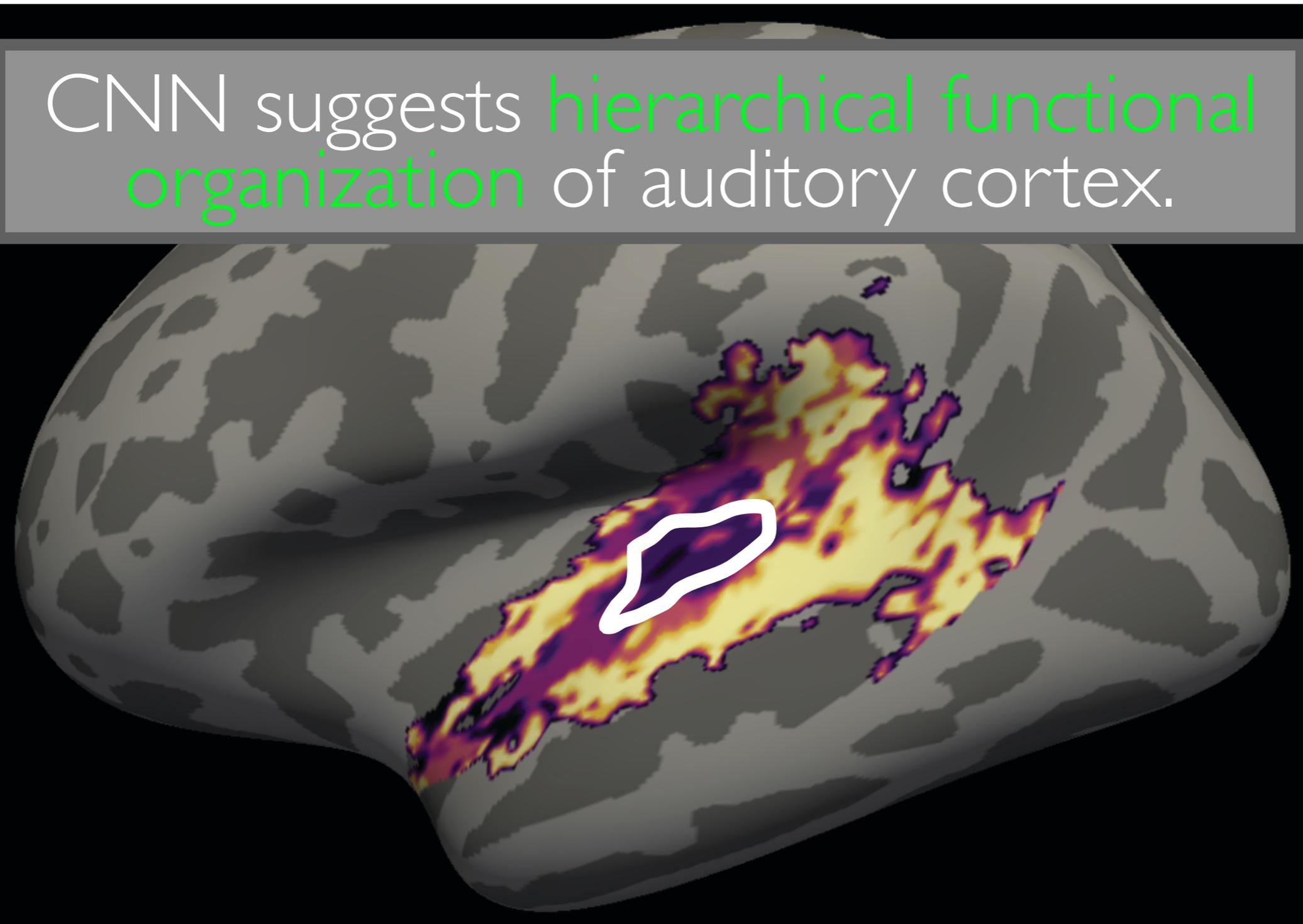
1. Optimize for performance on a challenging auditory task (600-way work recognition in noisy speech)
2. Compare to neural data.



Apply to auditory tasks, where the regions themselves are less well known.

Which layer best predicts each voxel's responses?

CNN suggests **hierarchical functional organization** of auditory cortex.



Higher layer

Layer 6

Layer 5

Layer 4

Layer 3

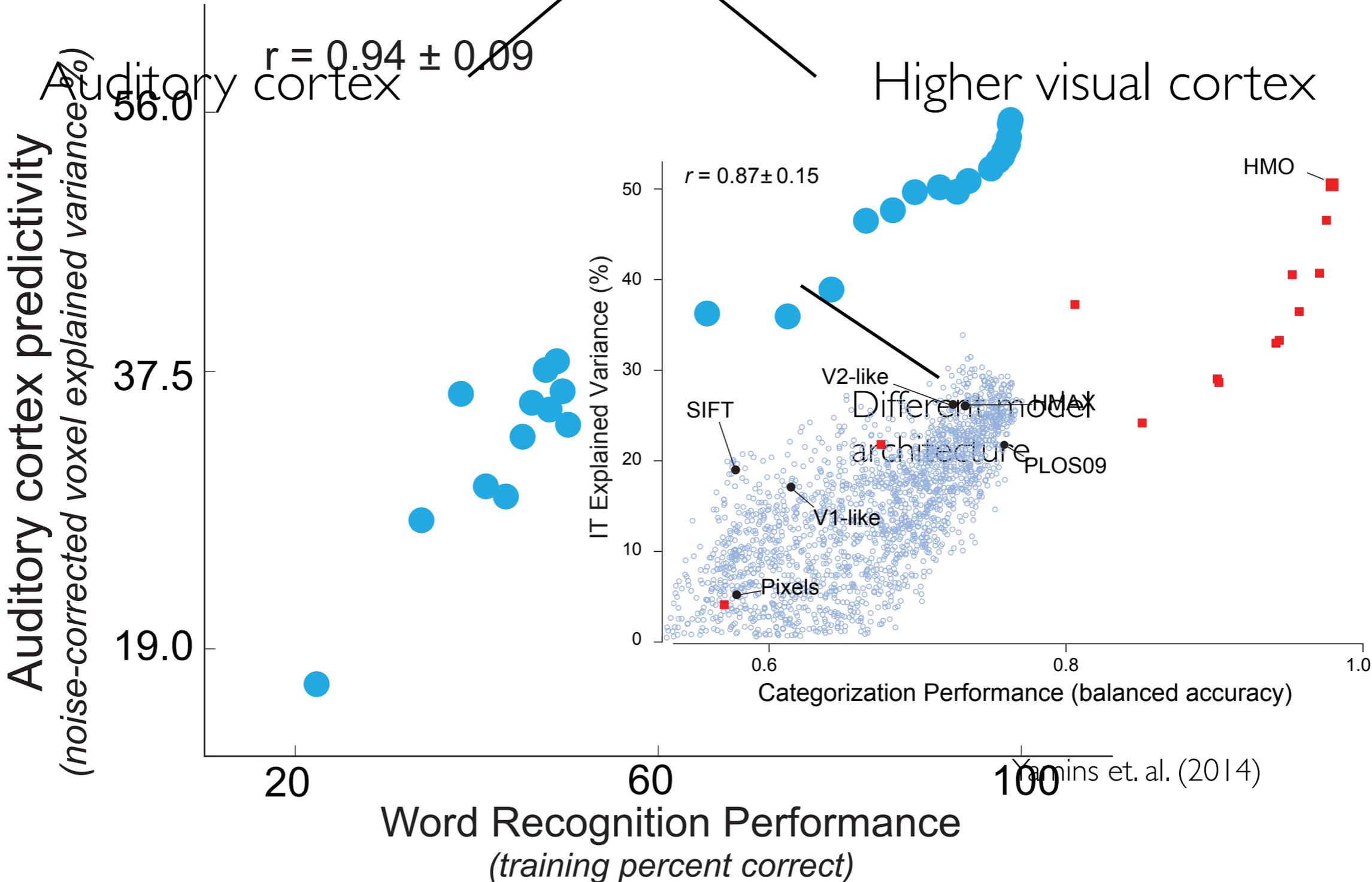
Layer 2

Lower layer

**Primary** auditory cortex: predicted by **lower CNN layers**.  
**Non-primary** auditory cortex: predicted by **higher CNN layers**.

# Analysis of Model Architectures

High-variation task performance vs:

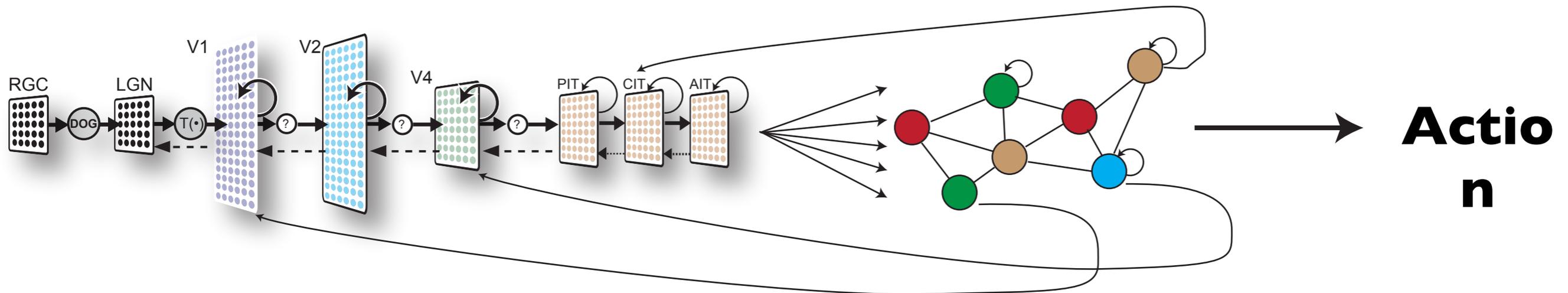


# Q8: Integration of Working Memory

Many visual behaviors beyond vision at a glance (e.g.):

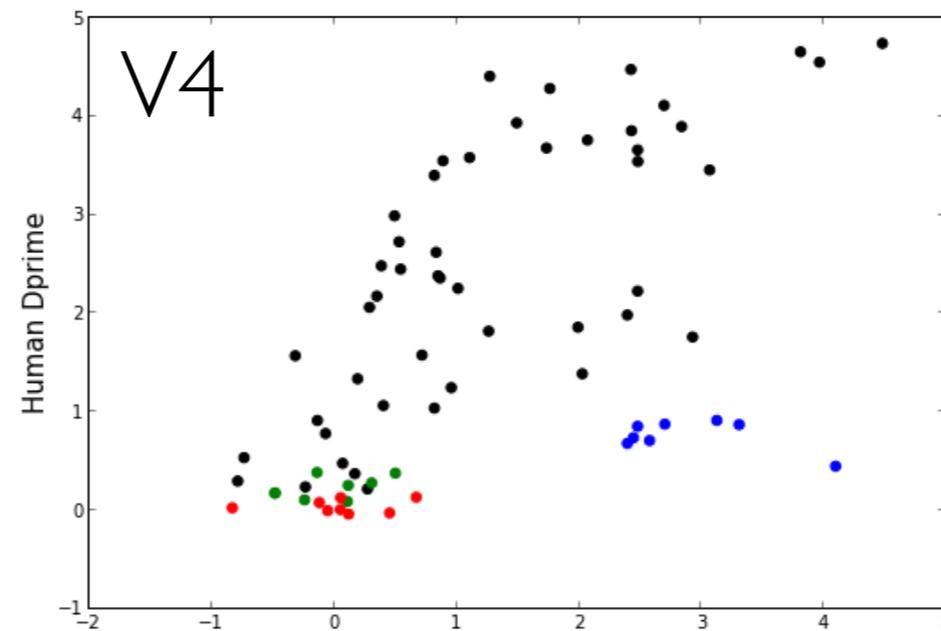
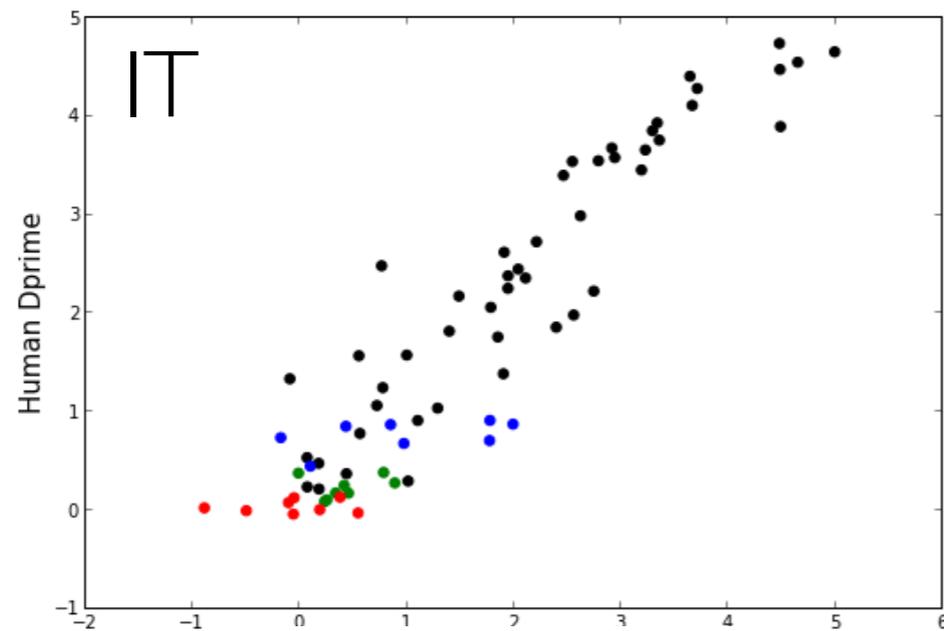
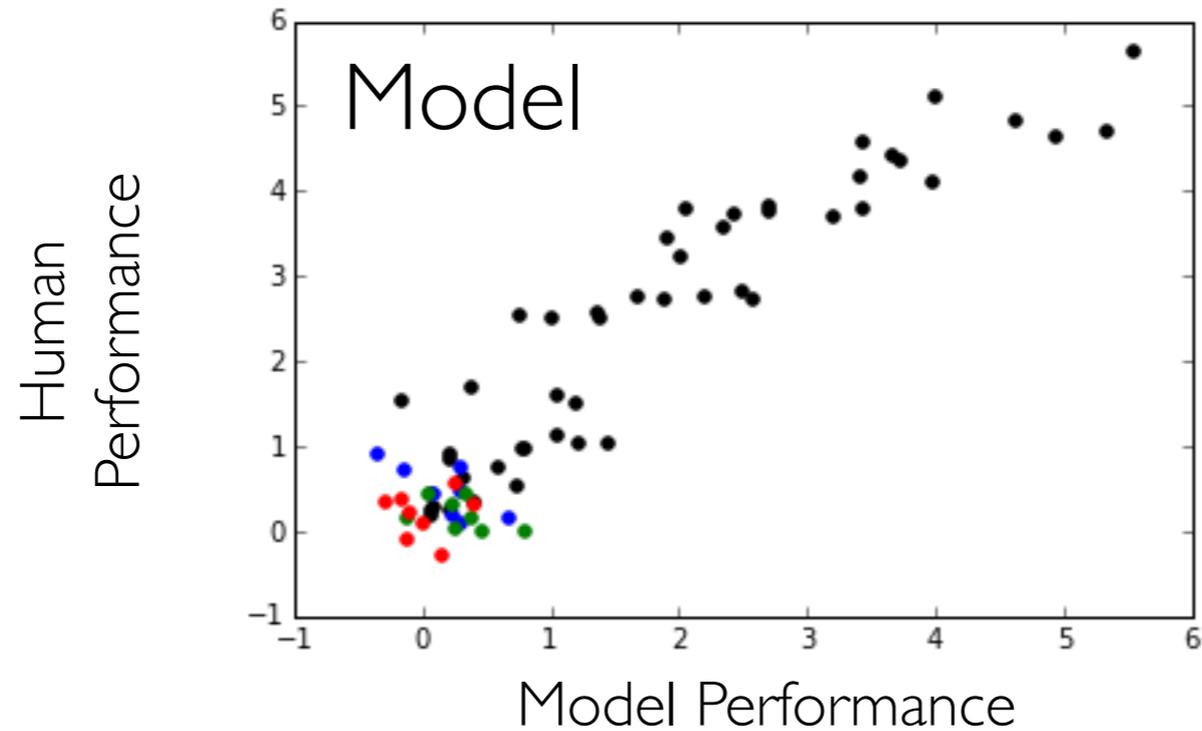
- ▶ Scene understanding over multiple saccades
- ▶ Strategic decision-making in complex environments

Involve integration of working memory, likely via RNNs.



# Digging deeper into understanding visual cortex

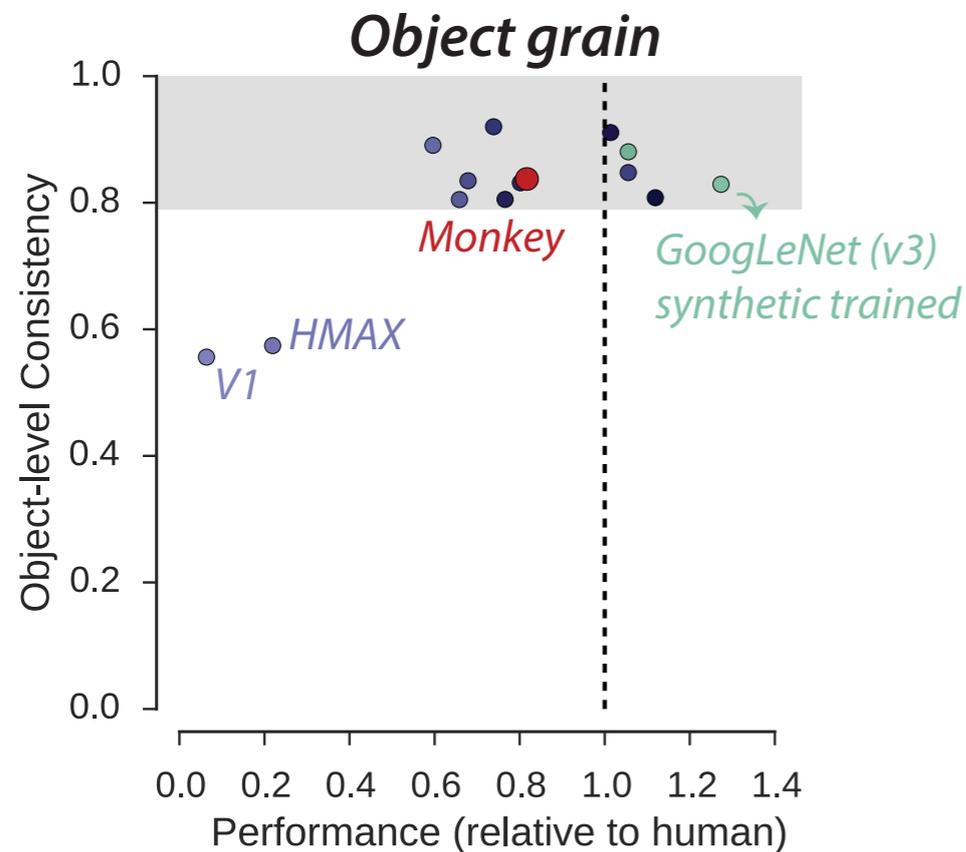
Match between models and data at category confusion level is pretty good ...



Neural Decode Performance

# Digging deeper into understanding visual cortex

Match between models and data at category confusion level is pretty good ...



work of:



Elias  
Issa



Rishi  
Rajalingham



Kohitij  
Kar



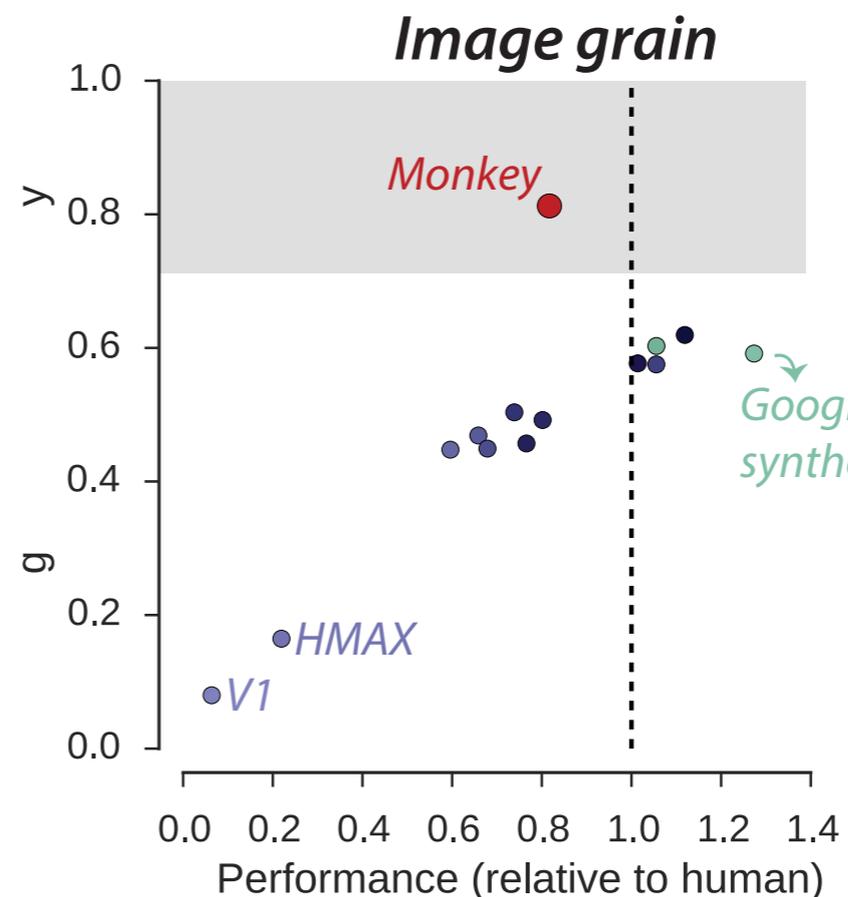
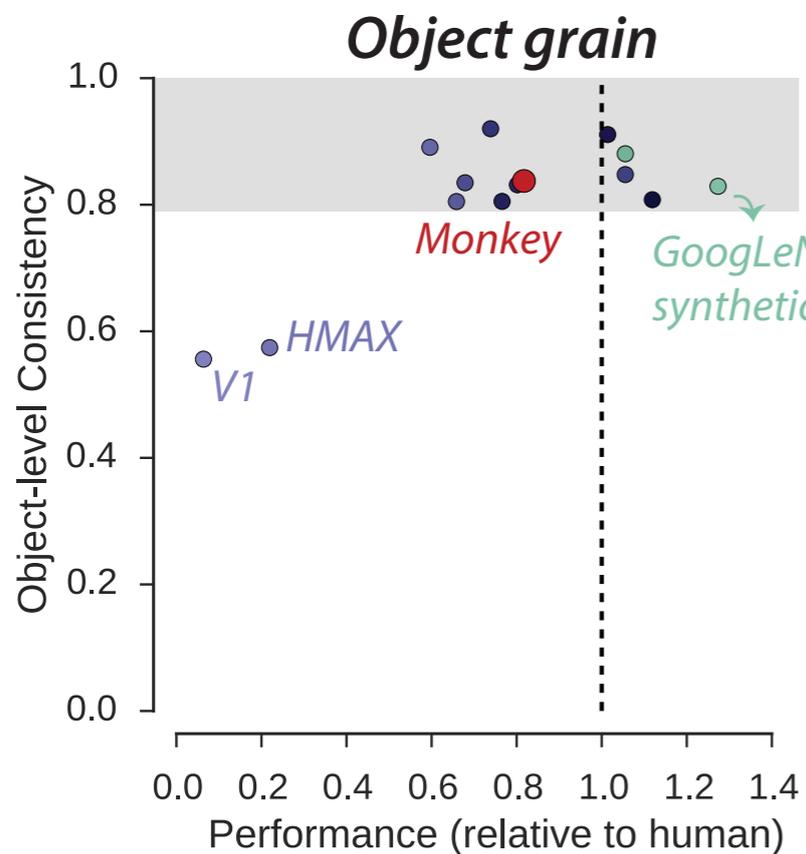
Kailyn  
Schmidt



Jim  
DiCarlo

# Digging deeper into understanding visual cortex

Match between models and data at category confusion level is pretty good ... but less good at \*image\* grain:



work of:



Elias  
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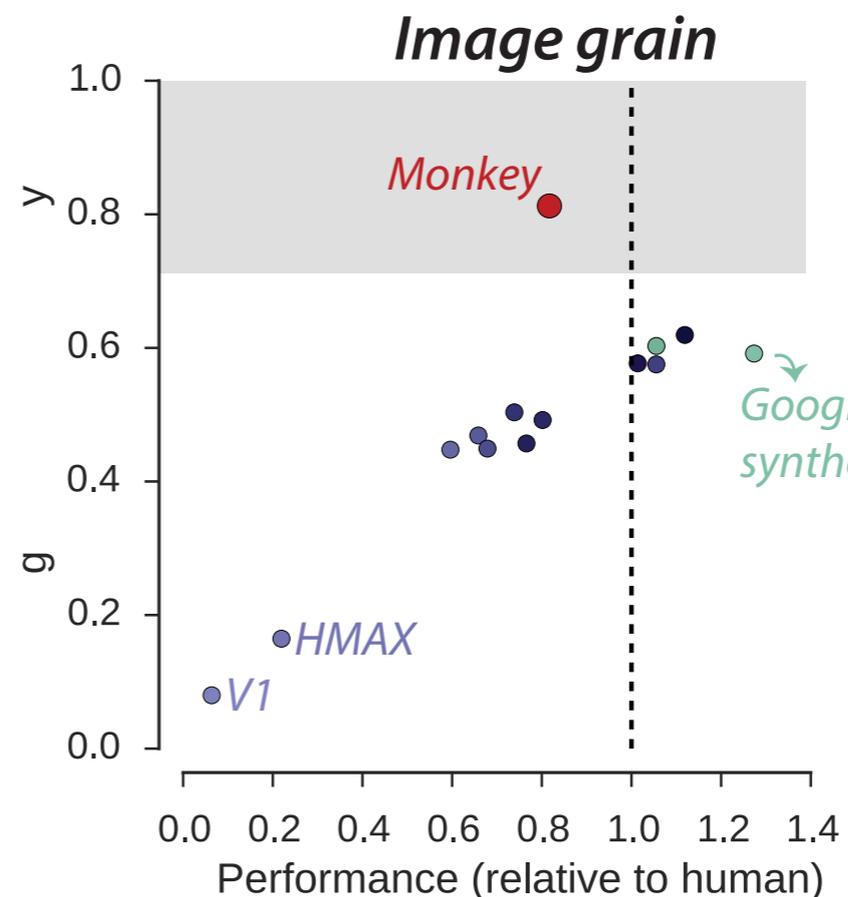
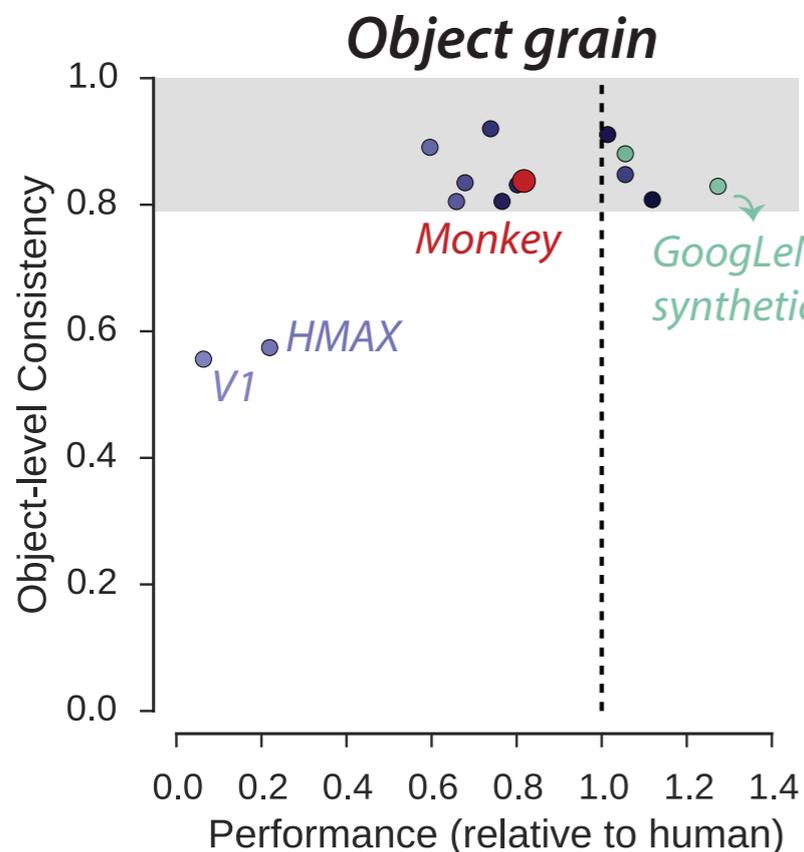
Kailyn  
Schmidt



Jim  
DiCarlo

# Digging deeper into understanding visual cortex

Match between models and data at category confusion level is pretty good ... but less good at \*image\* grain:



*(remember, neural fits only ~50%)...*

work of:



Elias  
Issa



Rishi  
Rajalingham



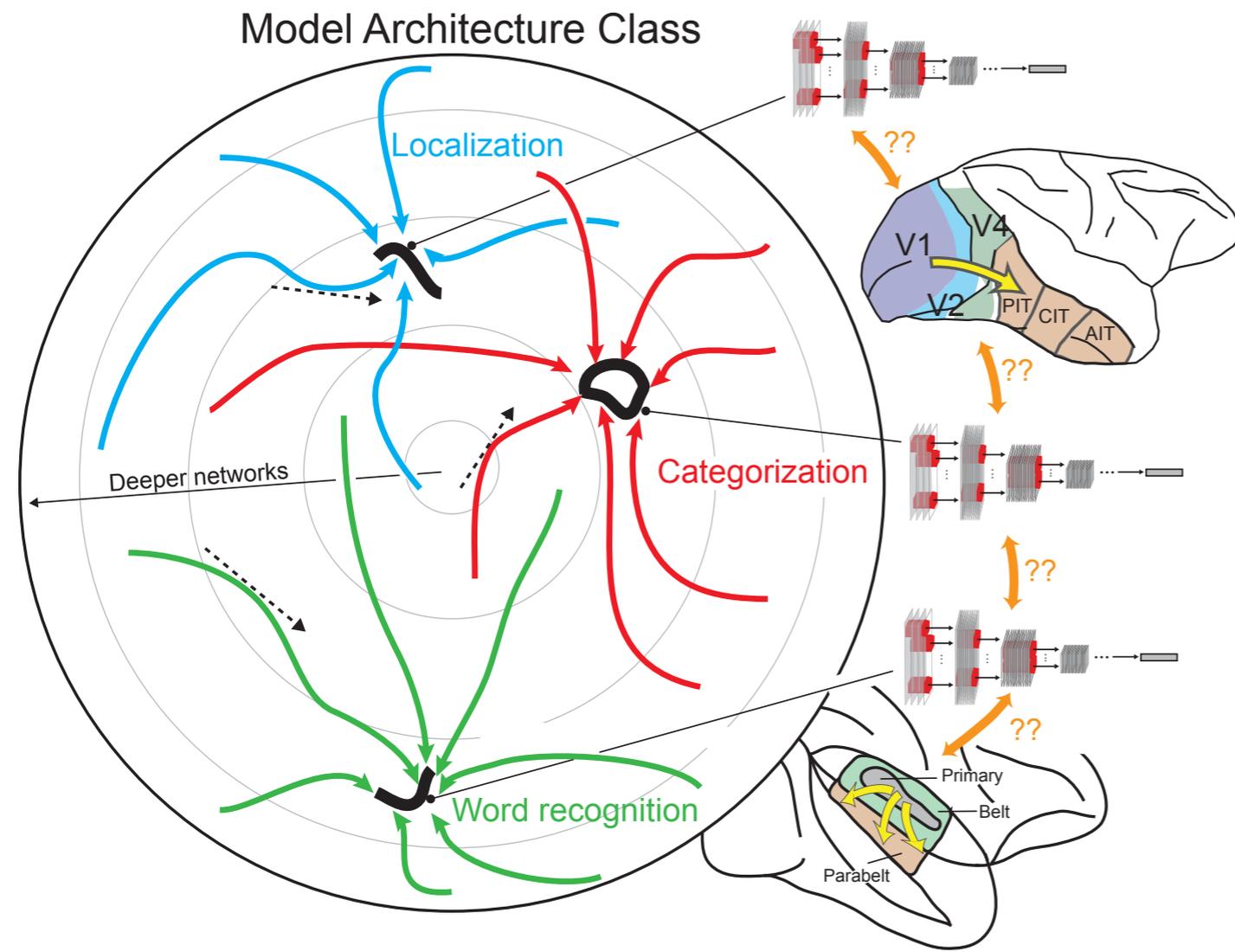
Kohitij  
Kar



Kailyn  
Schmidt



Jim  
DiCarlo



1.

**A** = architecture class

3.

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{a \in \mathcal{A}} [L(p_a^*)]$$

where  $p^*$  is result of

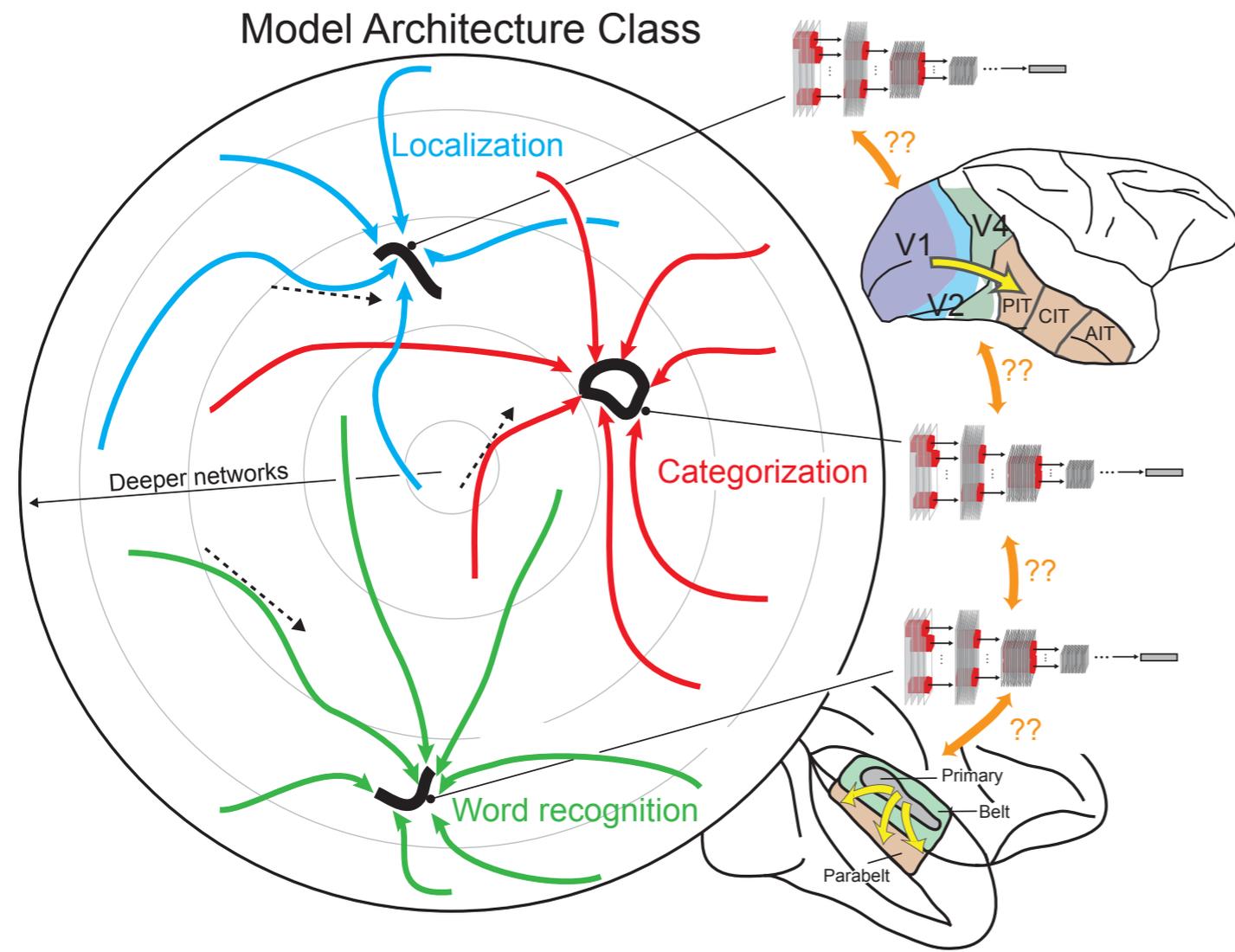
$$\frac{dp_a}{dt} = -\lambda(t) \cdot \langle \nabla_{p_a} L(x) \rangle_{x \in \mathcal{D}}$$

“learning rule”

2.

**L** = loss function      **D** = dataset

“task”



1.

**A** = architecture class

3.

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{a \in \mathcal{A}} [L(p_a^*)]$$

where  $p^*$  is result of

$$\frac{dp_a}{dt} = -\lambda(t) \cdot \langle \nabla_{p_a} L(x) \rangle_{x \in \mathcal{D}}$$

“learning rule”

2.

**L** = loss function      **D** = dataset

“task”

# Digging deeper into understanding visual cortex

Three hypotheses:

1) the task (loss function **L** or dataset **D**) is wrong

2) the architecture class (**A**) is wrong

~~3) the learning rule (argmin, SGD, &c) rule is wrong~~

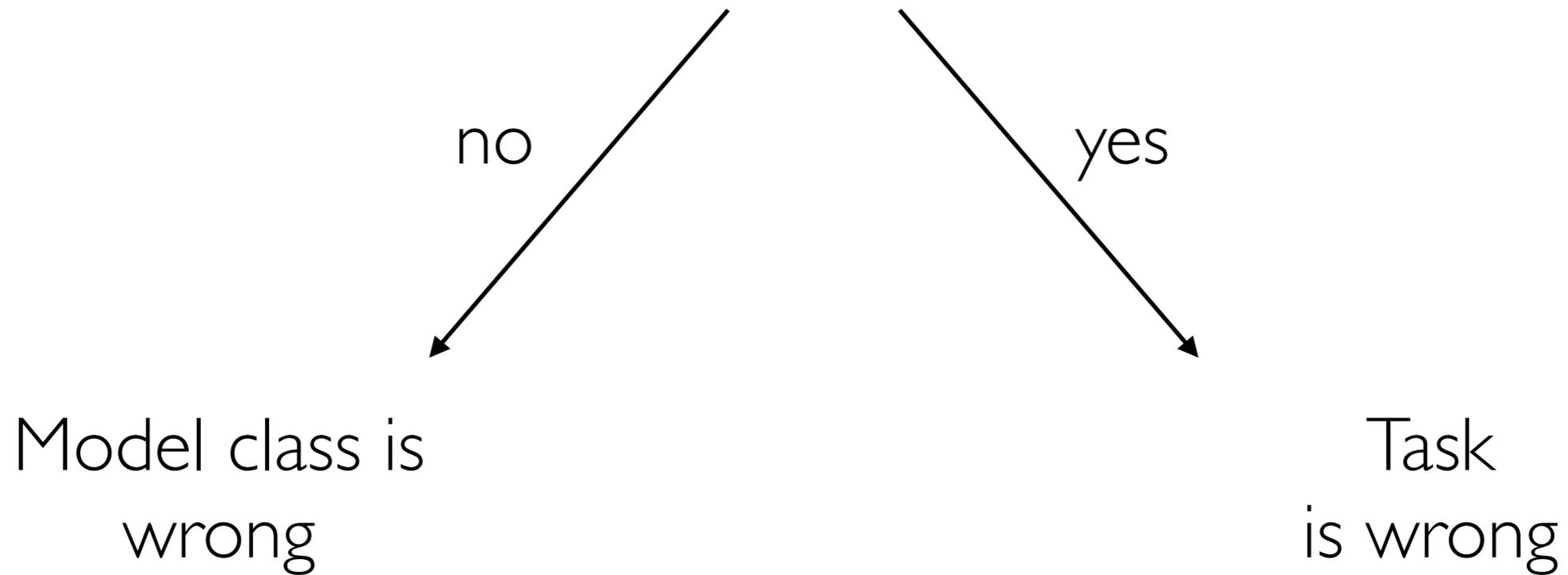
*bet: some version of approximate backprop-like error correction is reasonable*

## Better tasks (loss functions)

Optimize models of the current structure to directly match the neural data ...

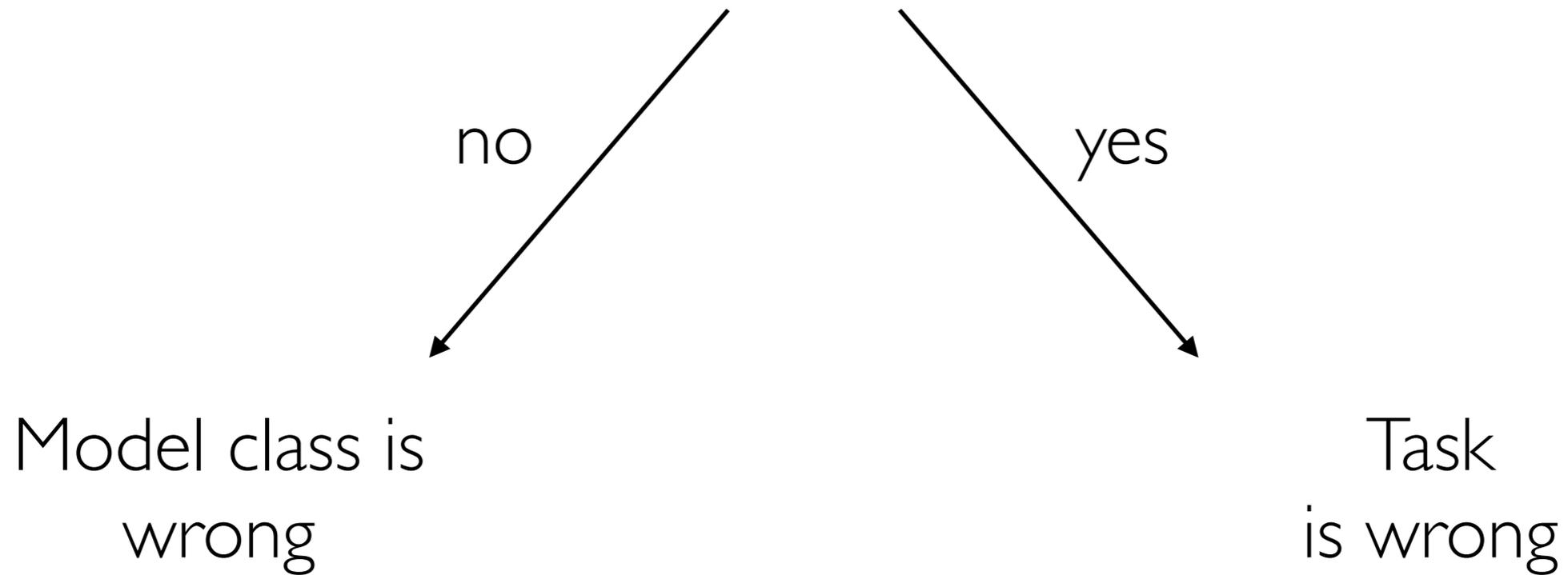
# Better tasks (loss functions)

Optimize models of the current structure to directly match the neural data ...



# Better tasks (loss functions)

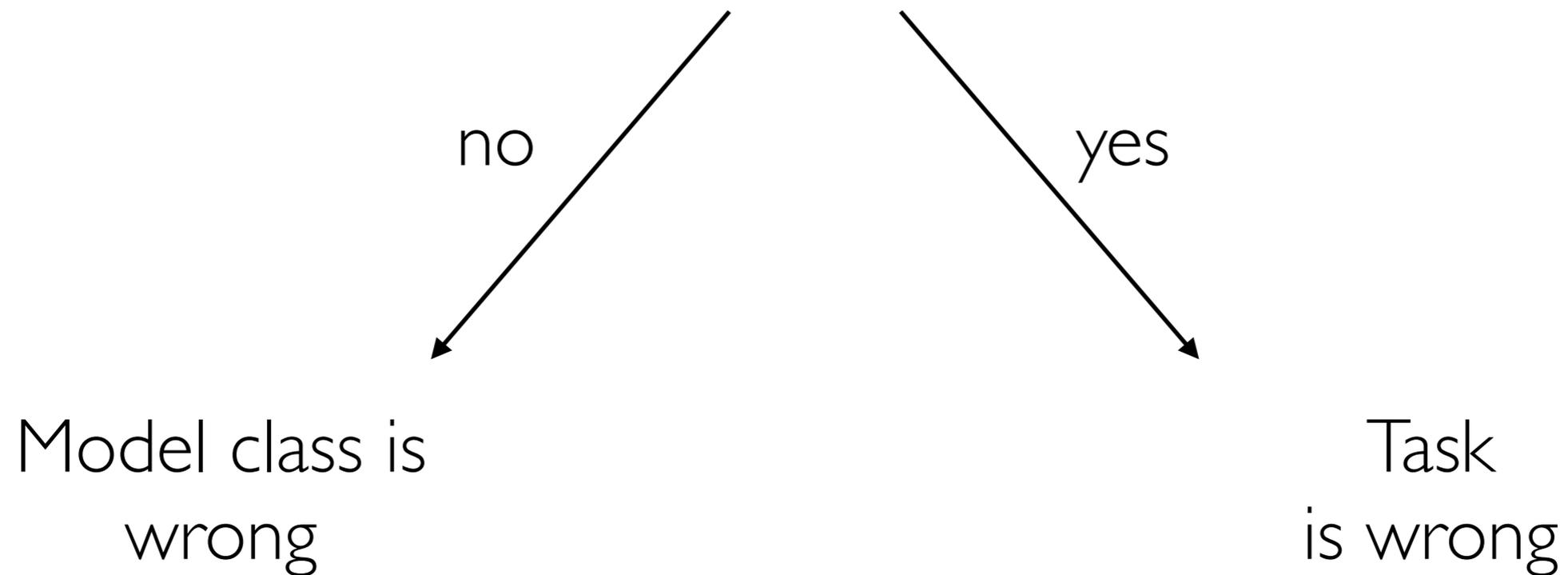
Optimize models of the current structure to directly match the neural data ...



... but not enough neural data?

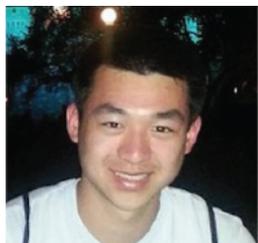
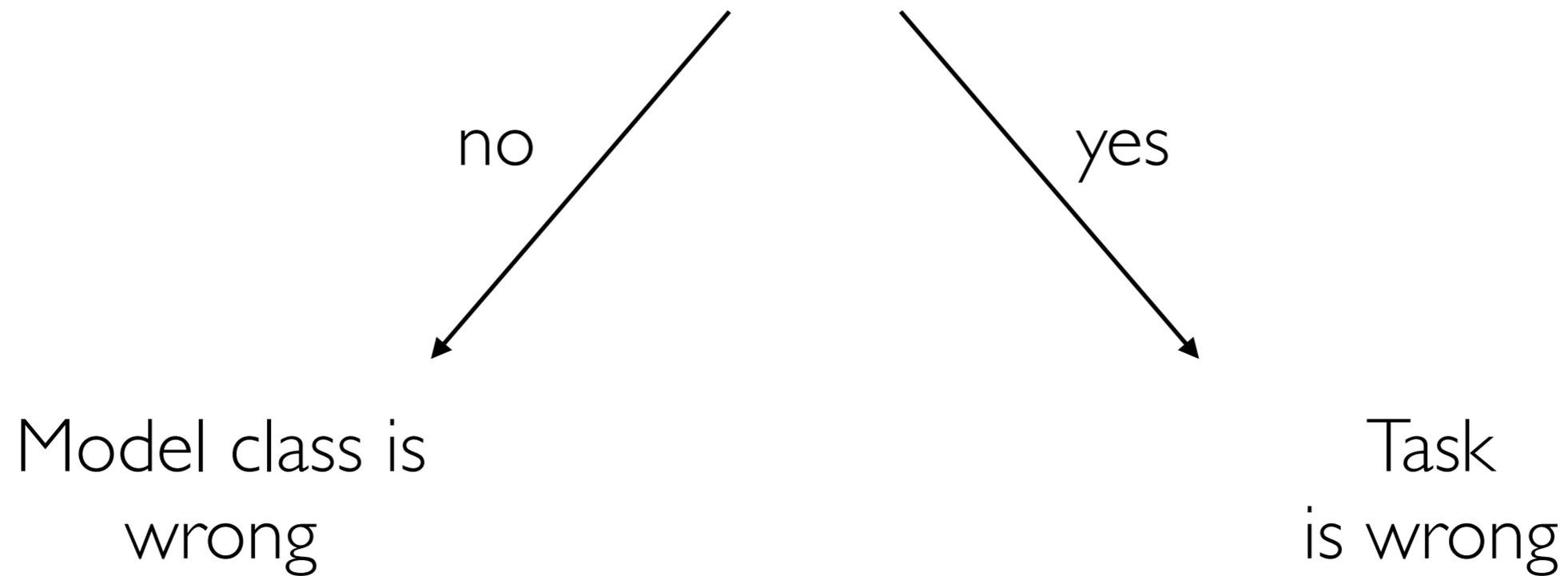
## Better tasks (loss functions)

Optimize models of the current structure to directly match the behavioral data ... then check against neural data.



# Better tasks (loss functions)

Optimize models of the current structure to directly match the behavioral data ... then check against neural data.



Eli Wang



Elias Issa



Rishi Rajalingham



Kohitij Kar



Kailyn Schmidt

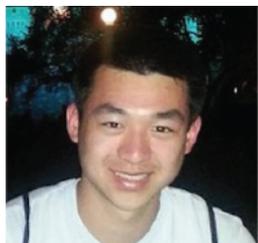
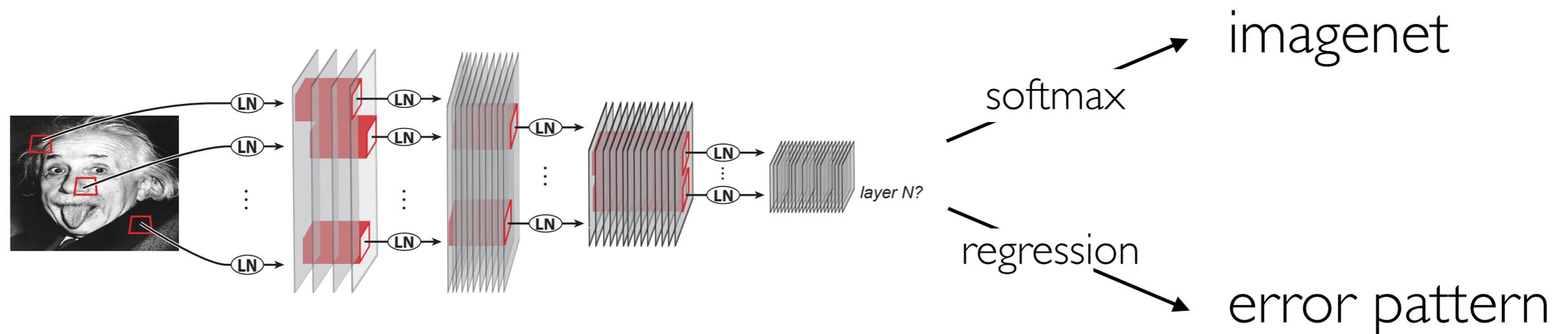


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# Better tasks (loss functions)

Optimize models of the current structure to directly match the behavioral data ... then check against neural data.

(i) predict vector of errors



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Elias Issa



Rishi Rajalingham



Kohitij Kar



Kailyn Schmidt

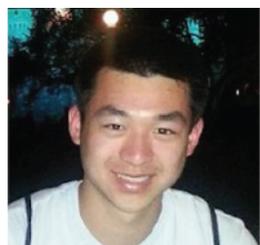
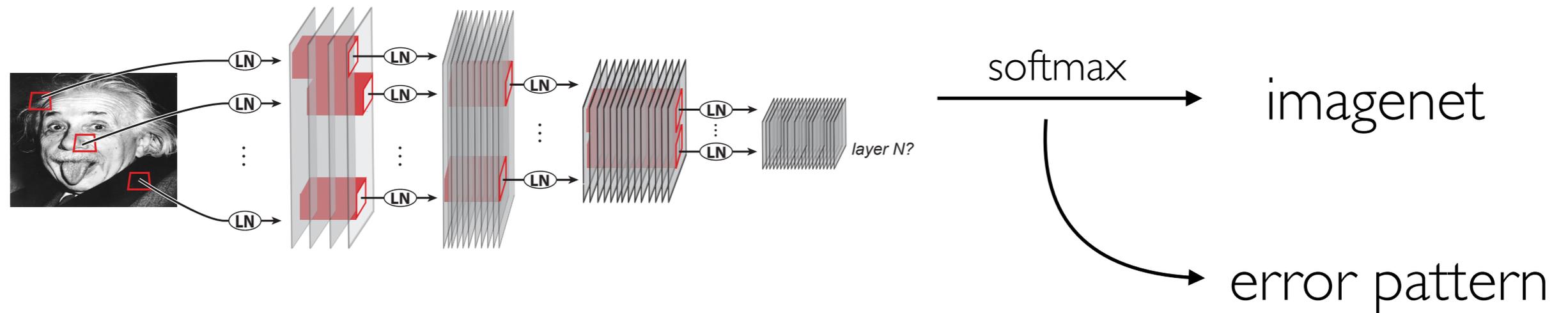


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# Better tasks (loss functions)

Optimize models of the current structure to directly match the behavioral data ... then check against neural data.

(ii) as actual error pattern



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Elias Issa



Rishi Rajalingham



Kohitij Kar



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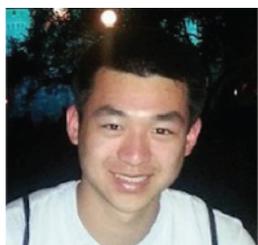
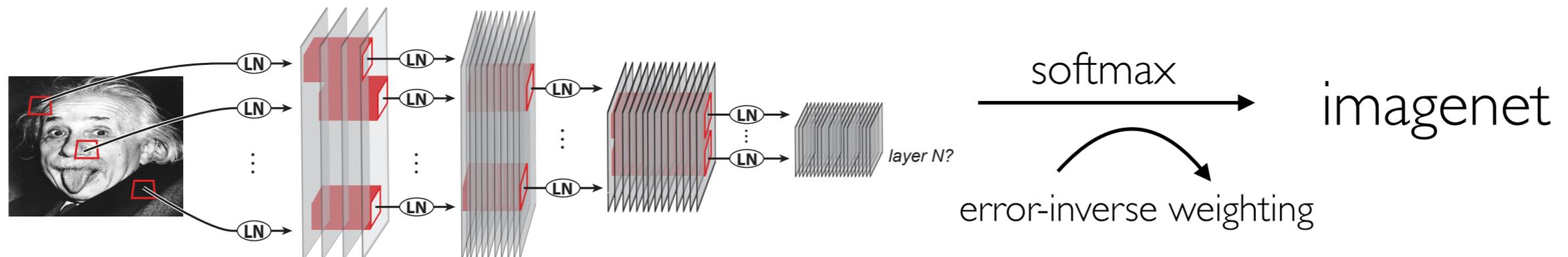


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# Better tasks (loss functions)

Optimize models of the current structure to directly match the behavioral data ... then check against neural data.

(iii) as multiplier — indicator of niche?



Eli Wang



Elias Issa



Rishi Rajalingham



Kohitij Kar



Kailyn Schmidt



Jim DiCarlo

# Better tasks (loss functions)

*less normative "task"*

*more normative "task"*



Fit neural data

# Better tasks (loss functions)

*less normative "task"*

*more normative "task"*



Fit neural data

Fit categorization  
error pattern

...

check against neural  
data

# Better tasks (loss functions)

*less normative "task"*

*more normative "task"*



Fit neural data

Fit categorization  
error pattern

Solve non-  
categorization  
tasks

...

check against neural  
data

...

check against  
neural data

# Better tasks (loss functions)

*less normative "task"*

*more normative "task"*



Fit neural data

Fit categorization  
error pattern

Solve non-  
categorization  
tasks

...

check against neural  
data

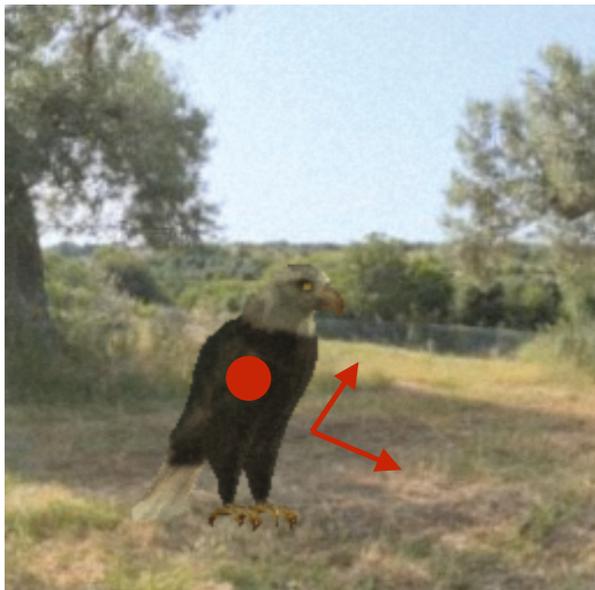
...

check against  
neural data

But which non-categorical tasks?

# Better tasks (loss functions)

Pose / position estimation



Normal/Depth estimation



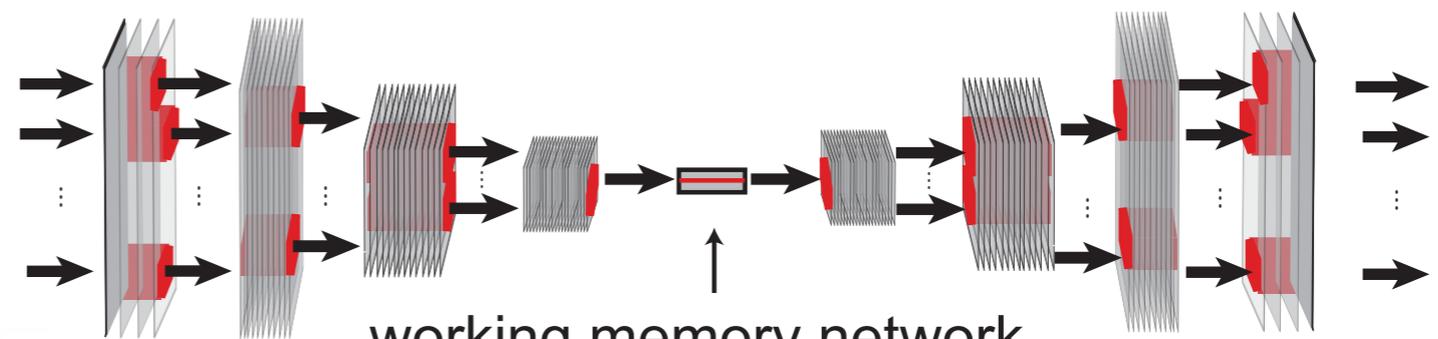
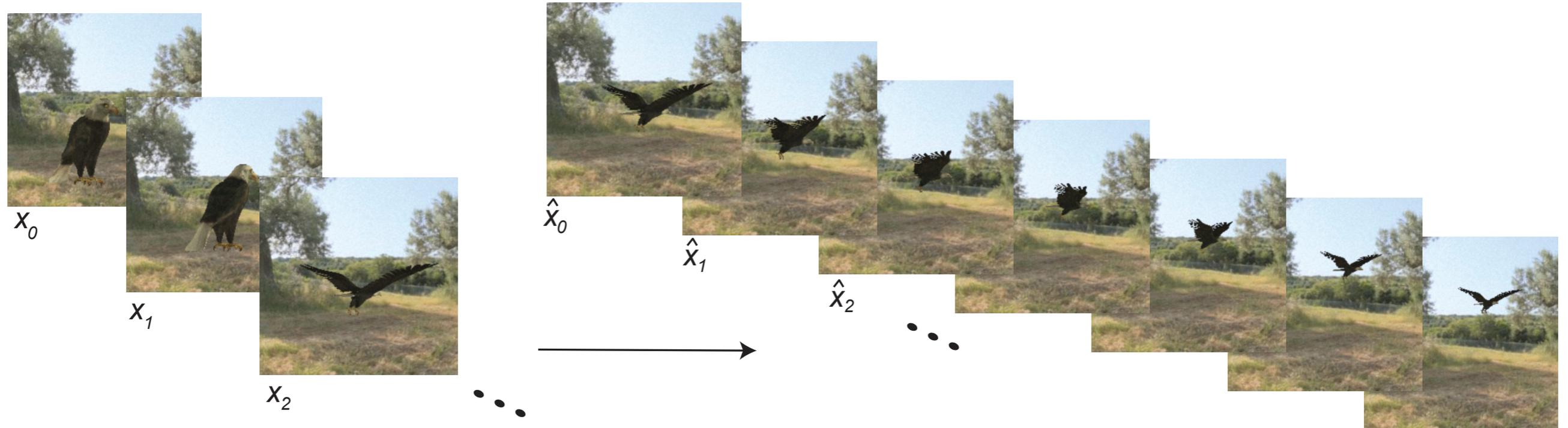
Segmentation



Chengxu Zhuang

# Better tasks (loss functions)

Future prediction under agent-controlled actions



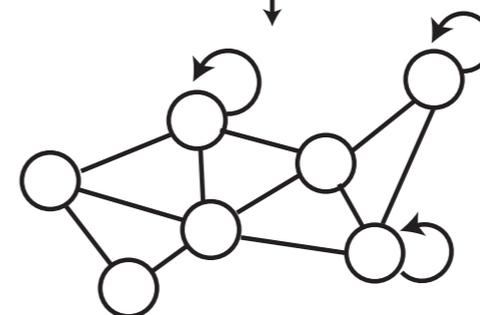
Nick Haber



Damian Mrowca

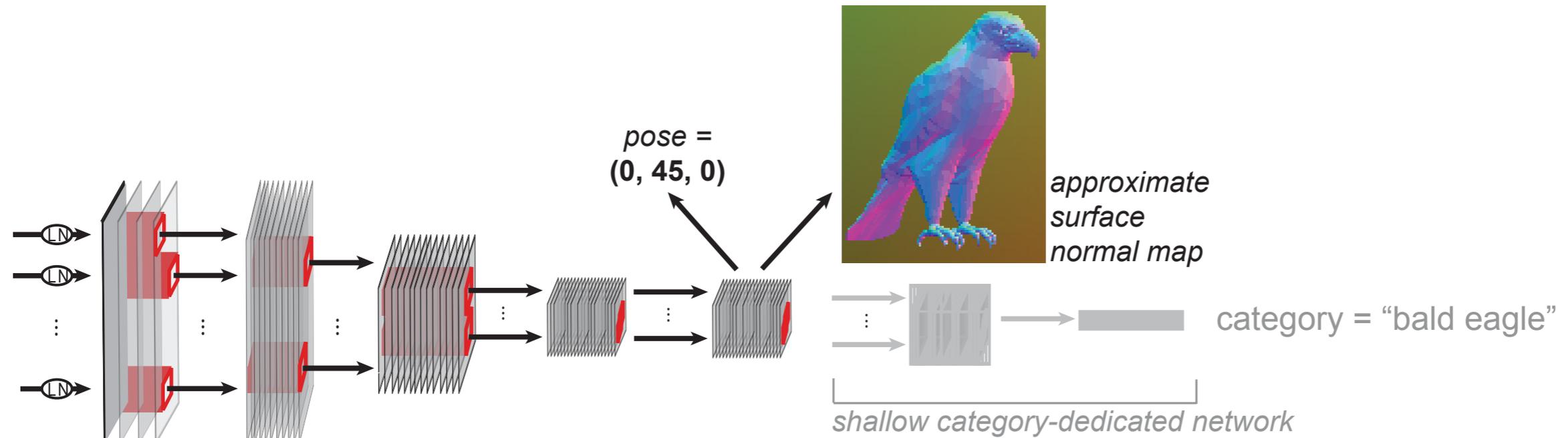


Fei-Fei Li



# Better tasks (loss functions)

Where should the tasks be imposed? (intermediate?)

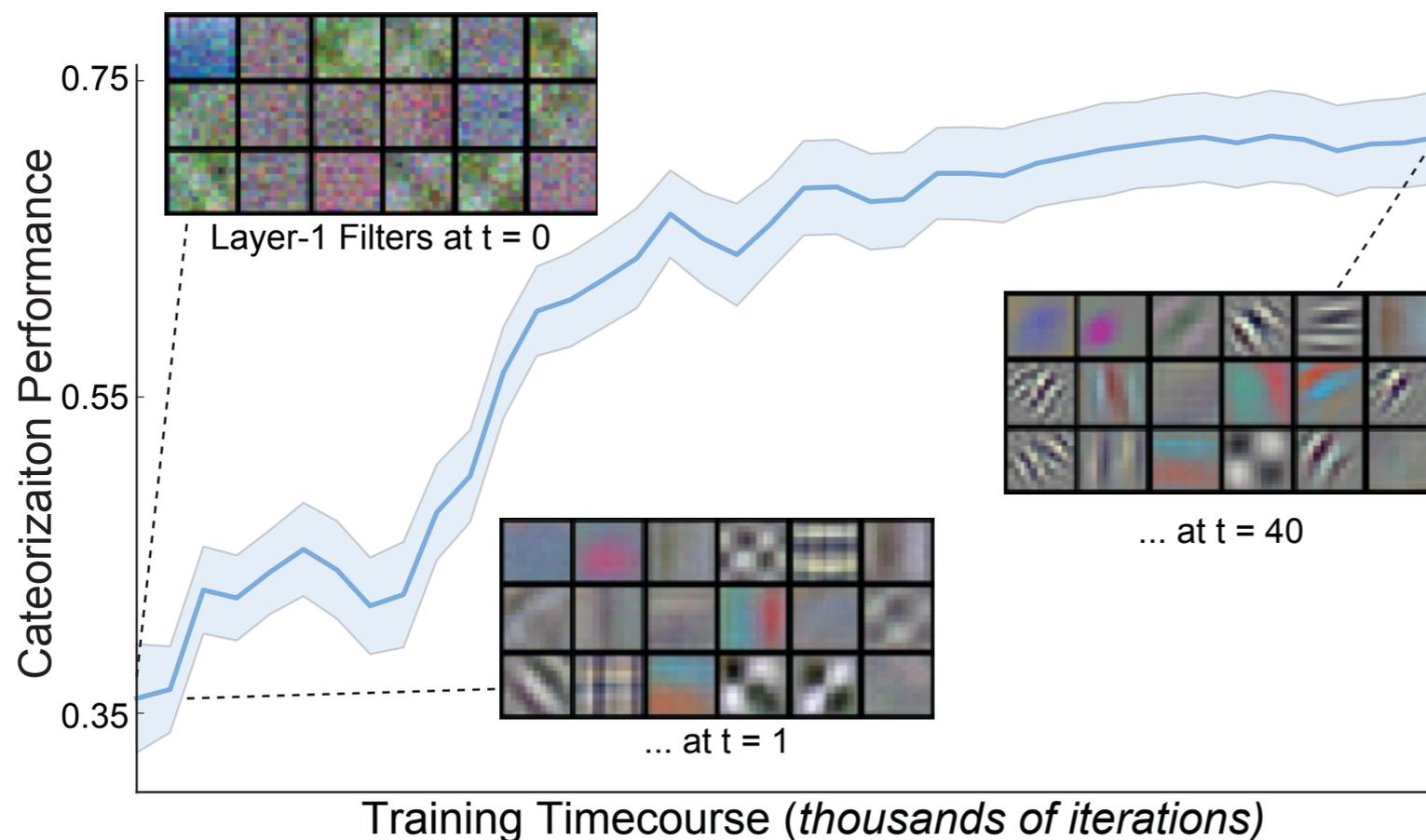


Strategy: optimize over architectures for solving joint tasks, compare to neural data

*How much work can less heavily supervised tasks do?*

# Comparing to Neural Data

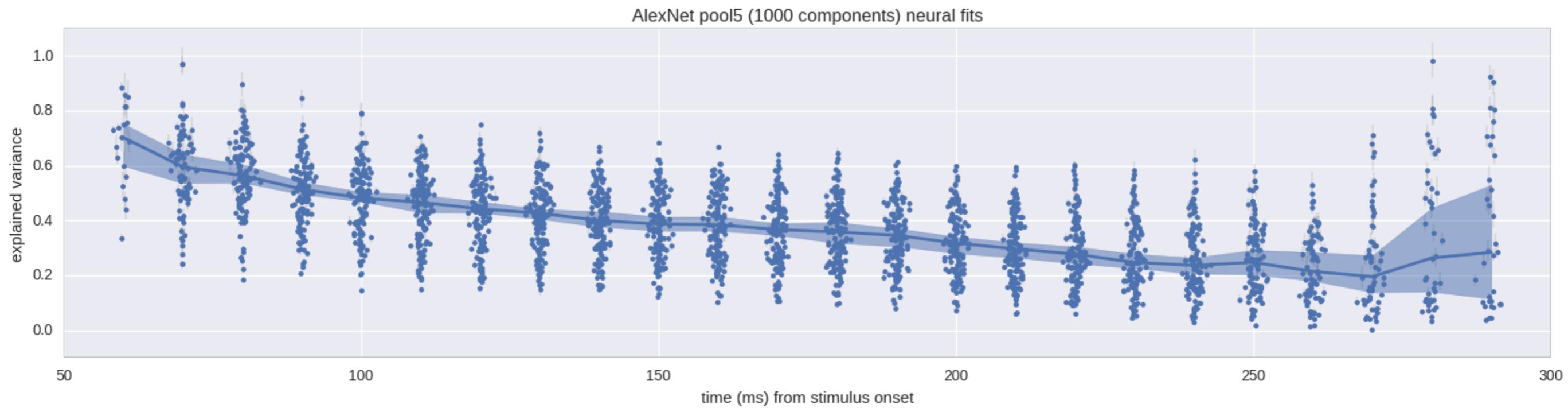
- \* Various second-order metrics: encoding regression, RSAs, etc
- \* Behavioral consistency — pattern of errors at various grains of detail
- \* But really, there is a developmental hypothesis implicit in these models. Time course of all metrics should be matched:



*Use developmental data separate more biologically correct loss functions from less correct ones?*

# Better architectures

# Better architectures



work of



Kohitij  
Kar

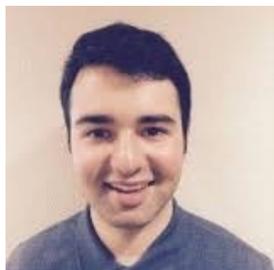
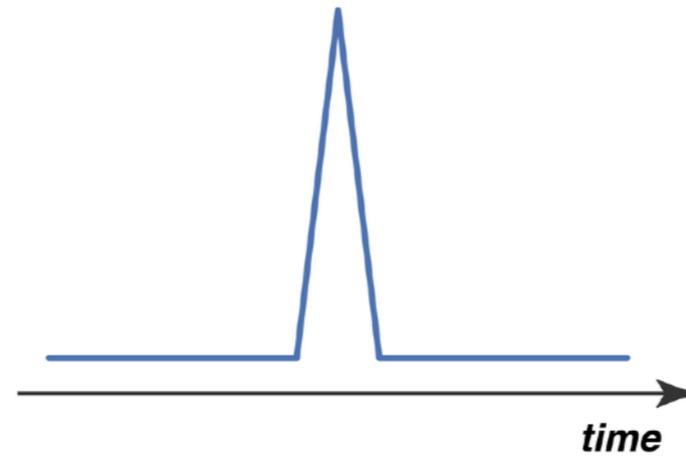
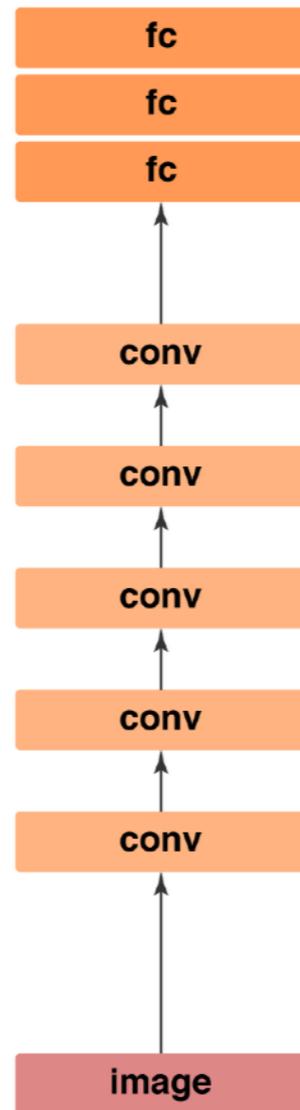


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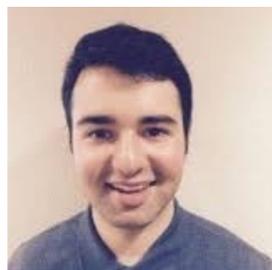
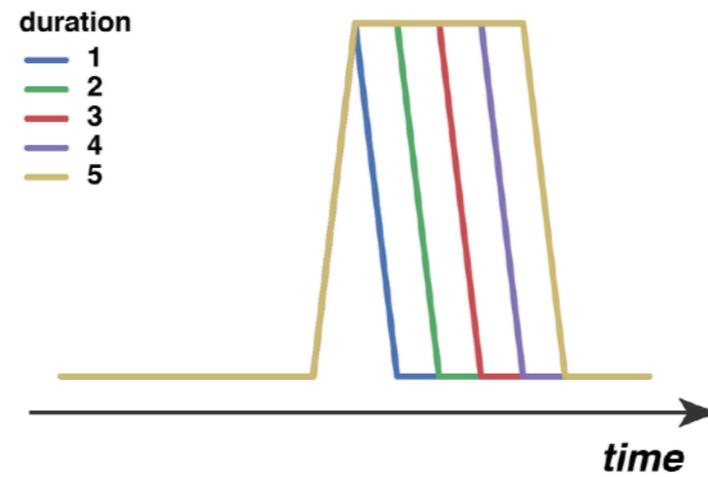
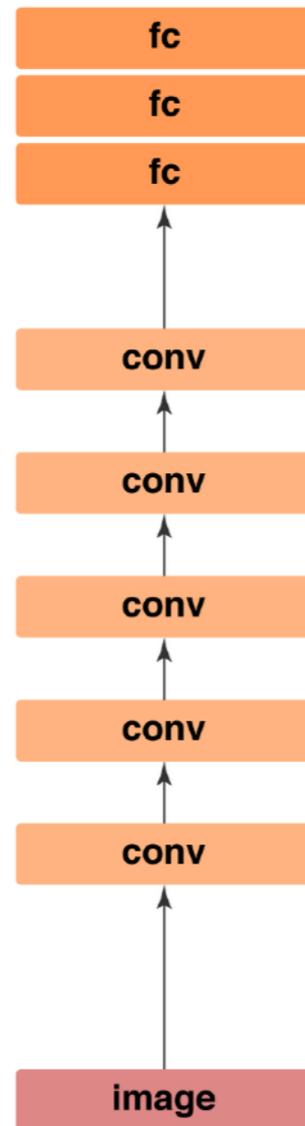


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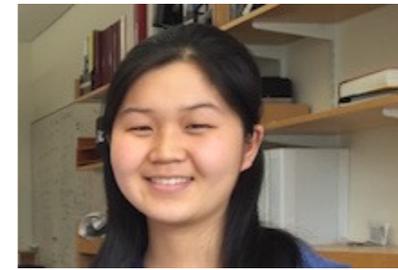
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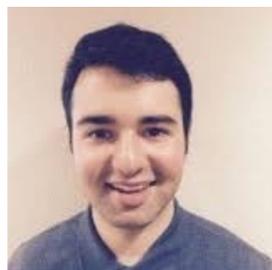
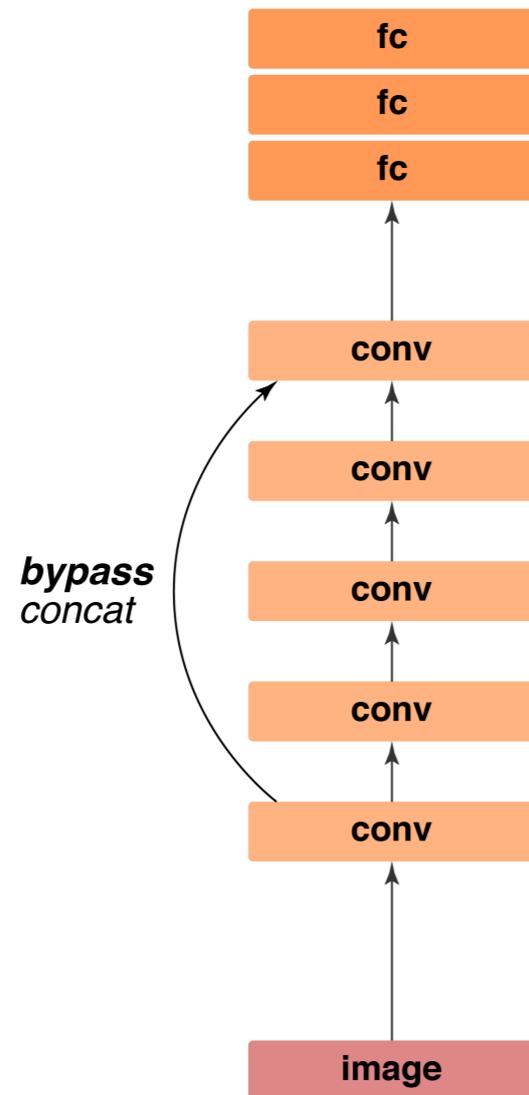


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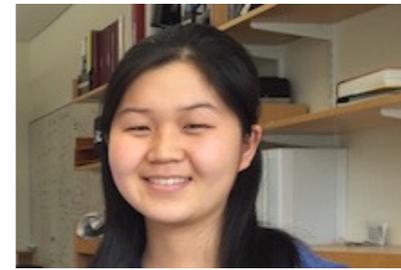
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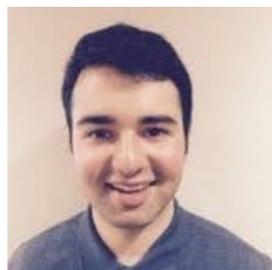
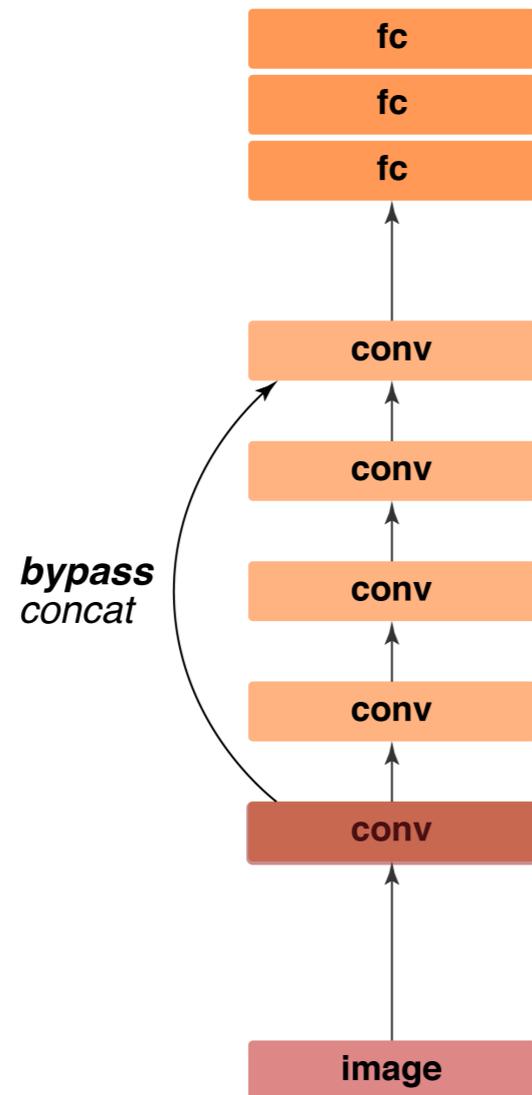


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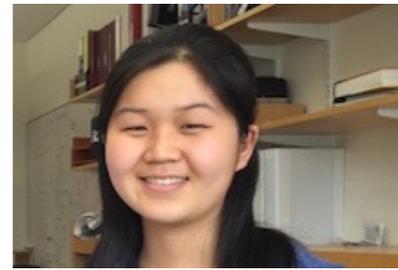
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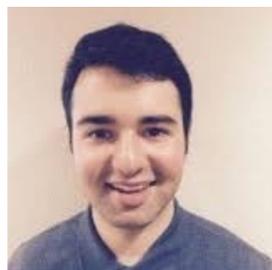
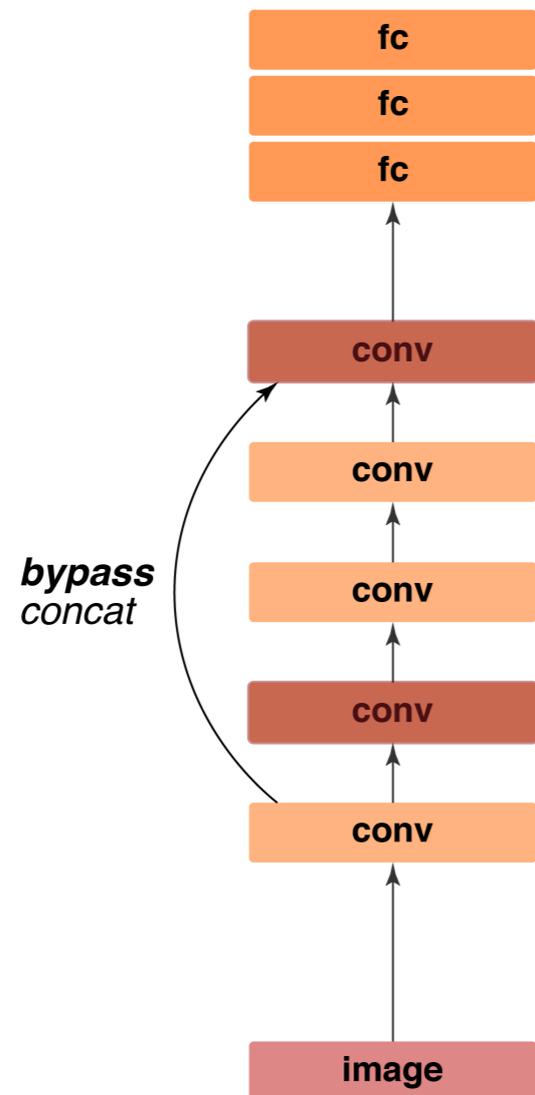


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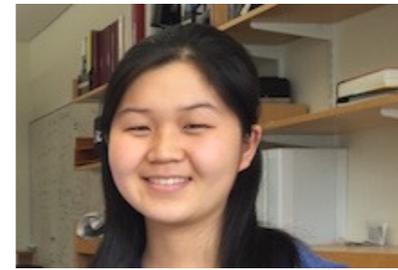
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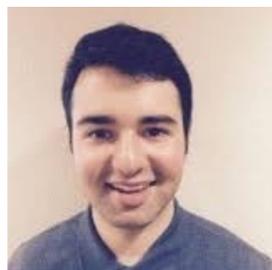
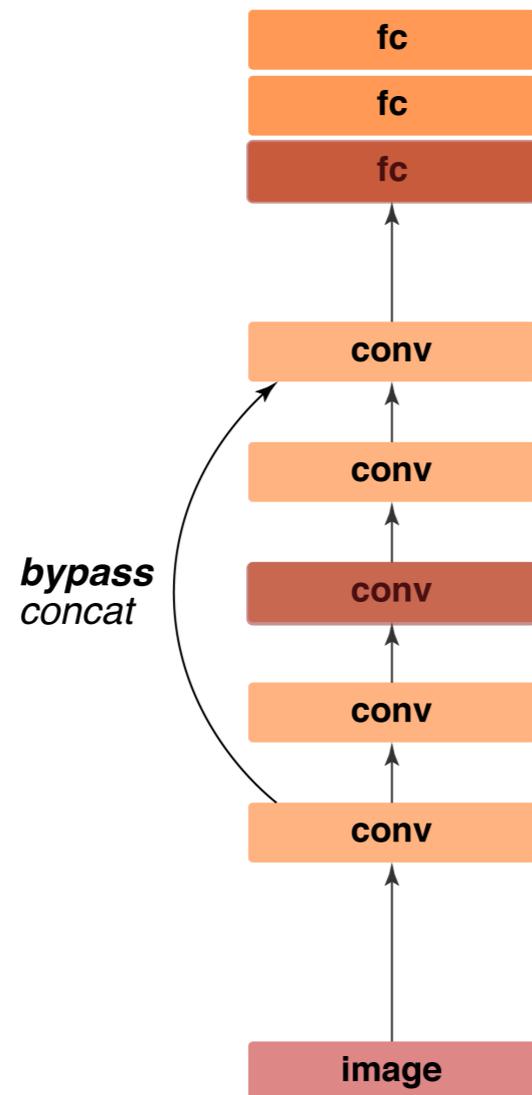


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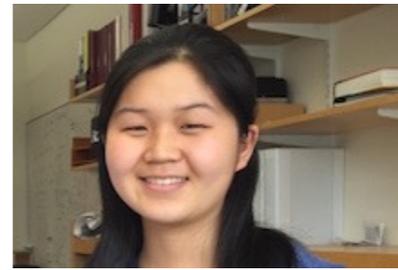
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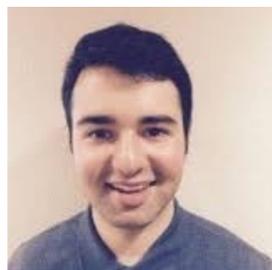
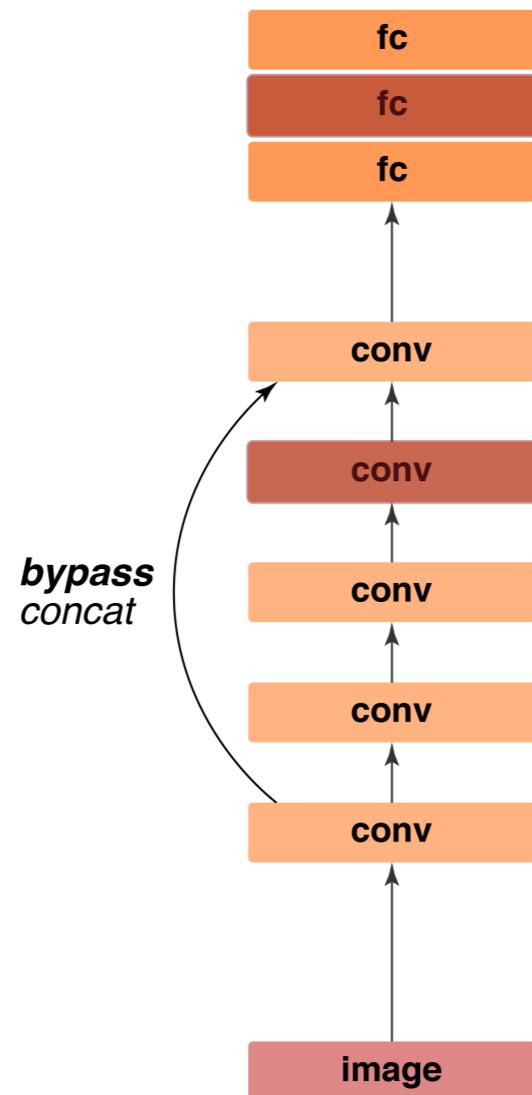


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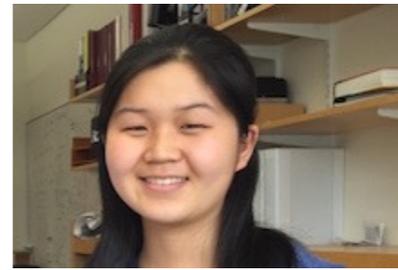
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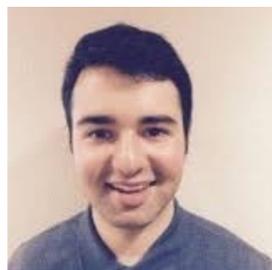
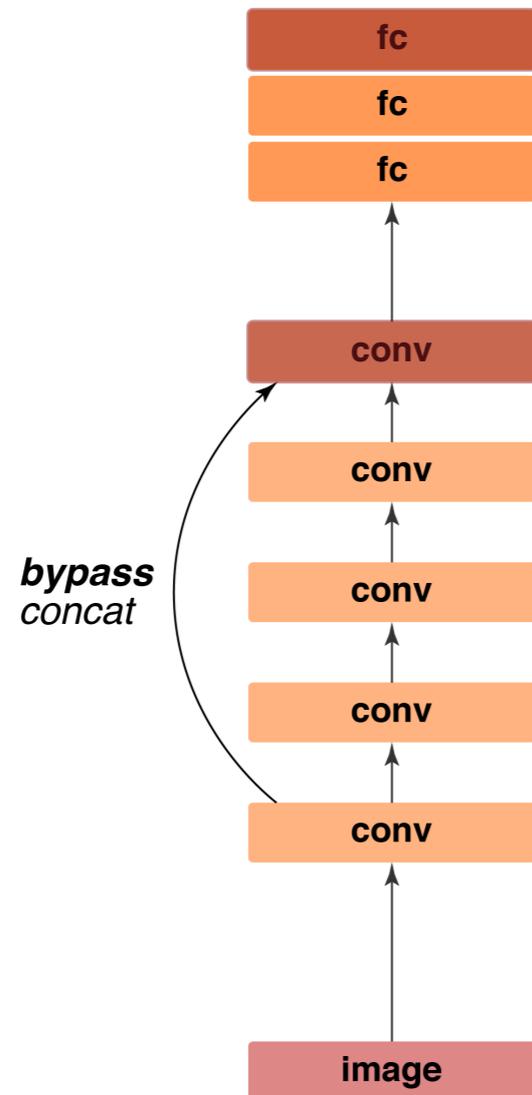


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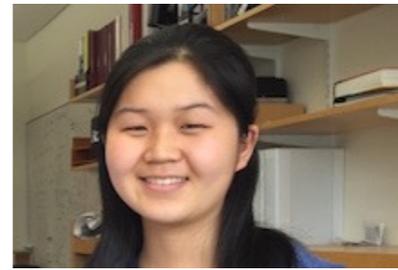
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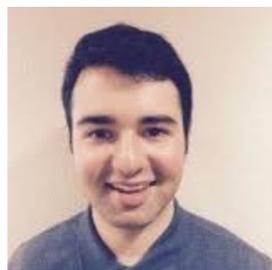
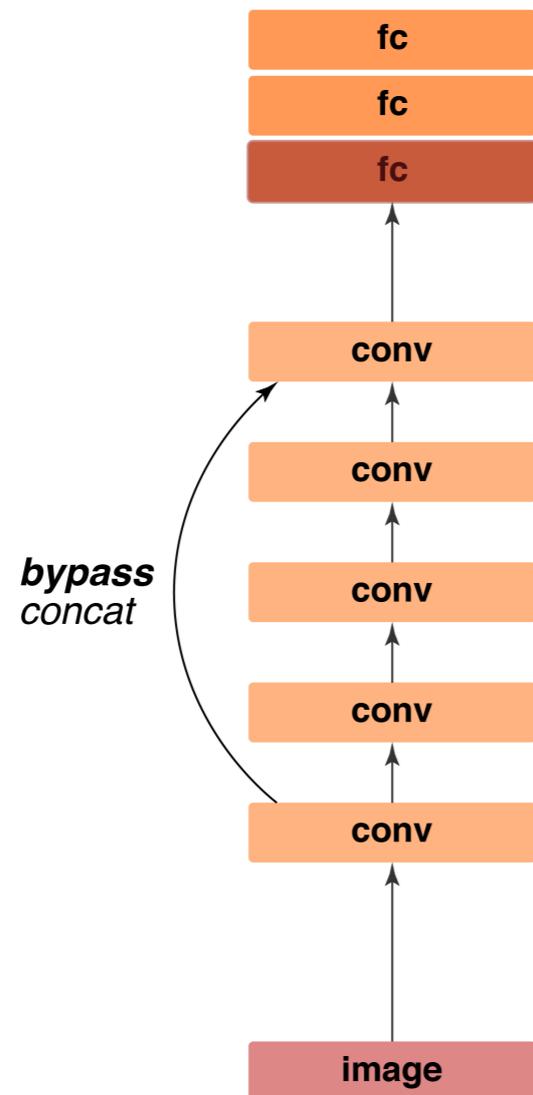


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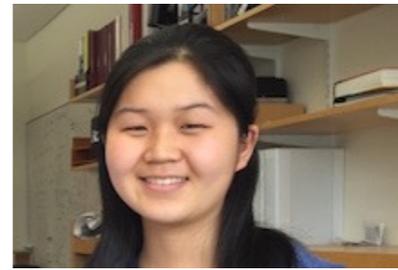
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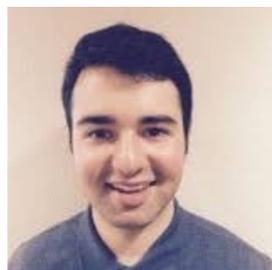
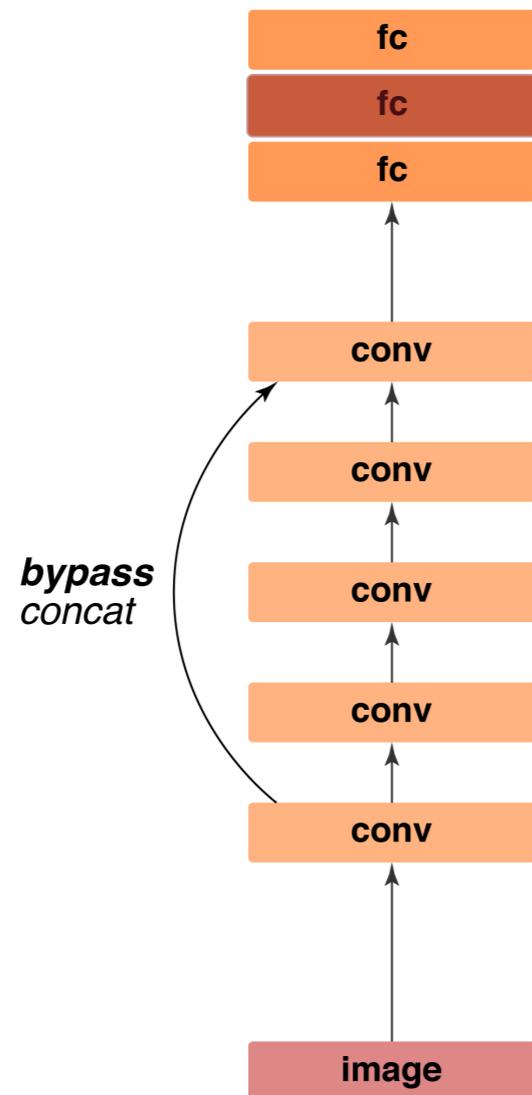


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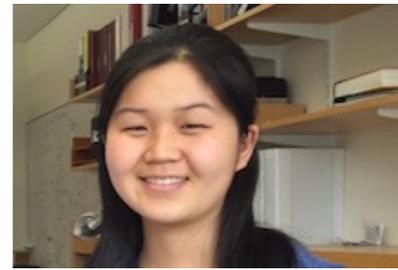
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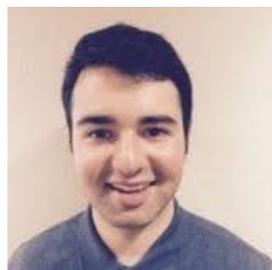
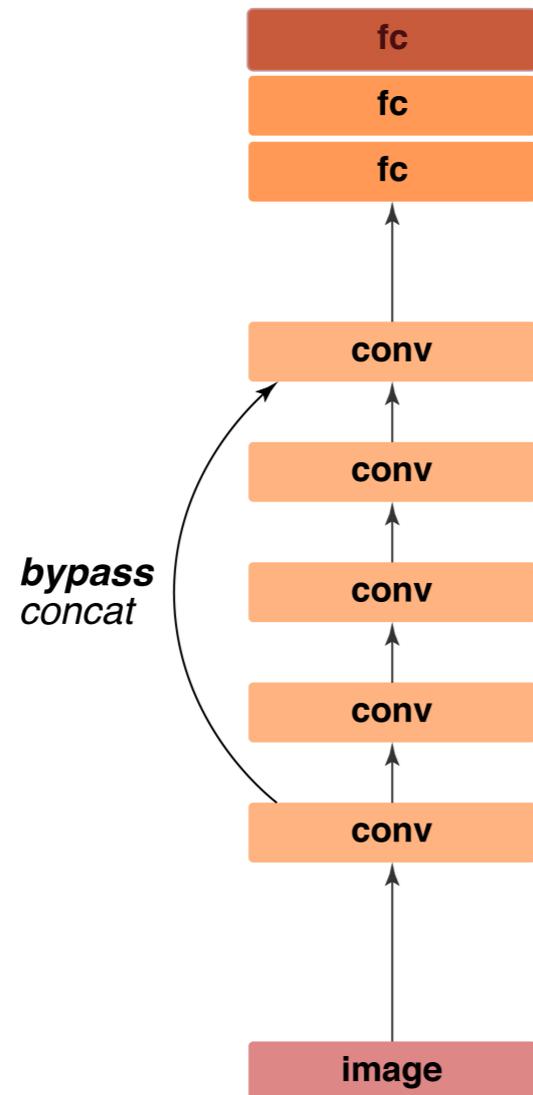


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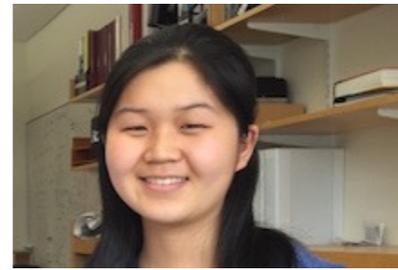
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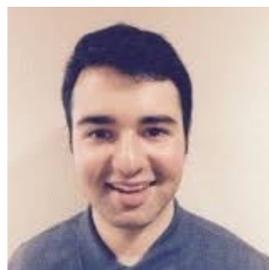
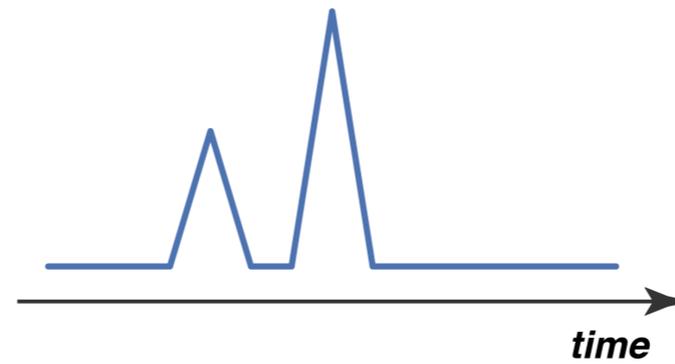
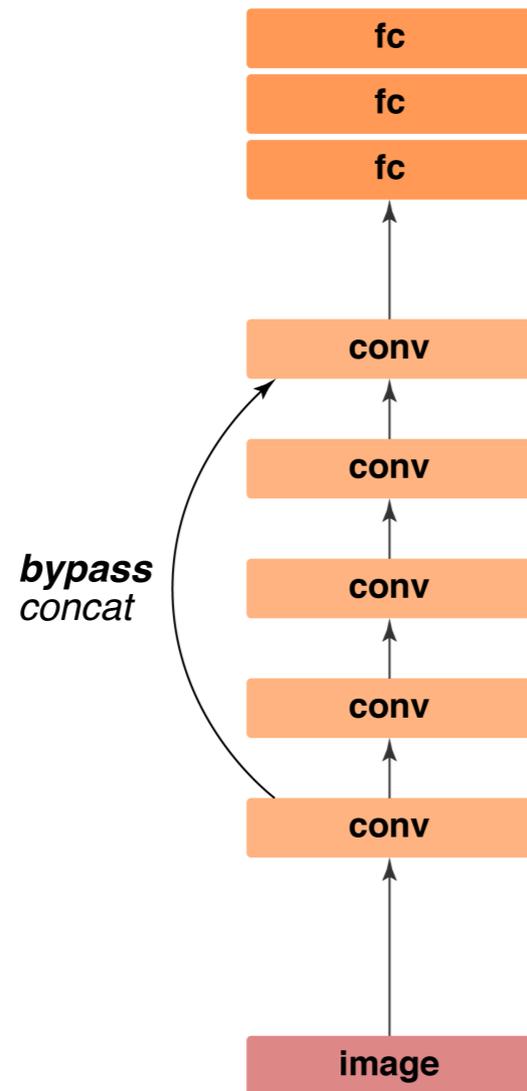


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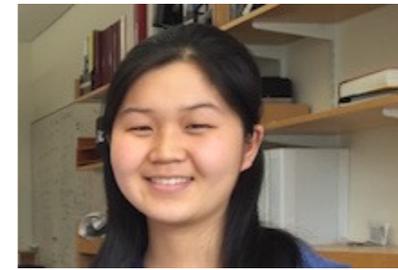
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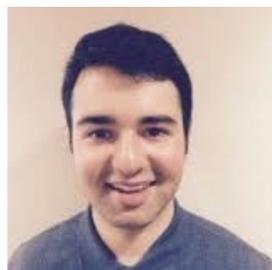
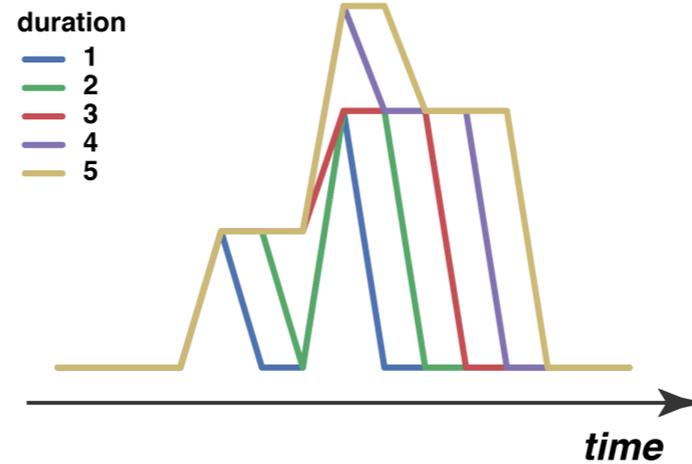
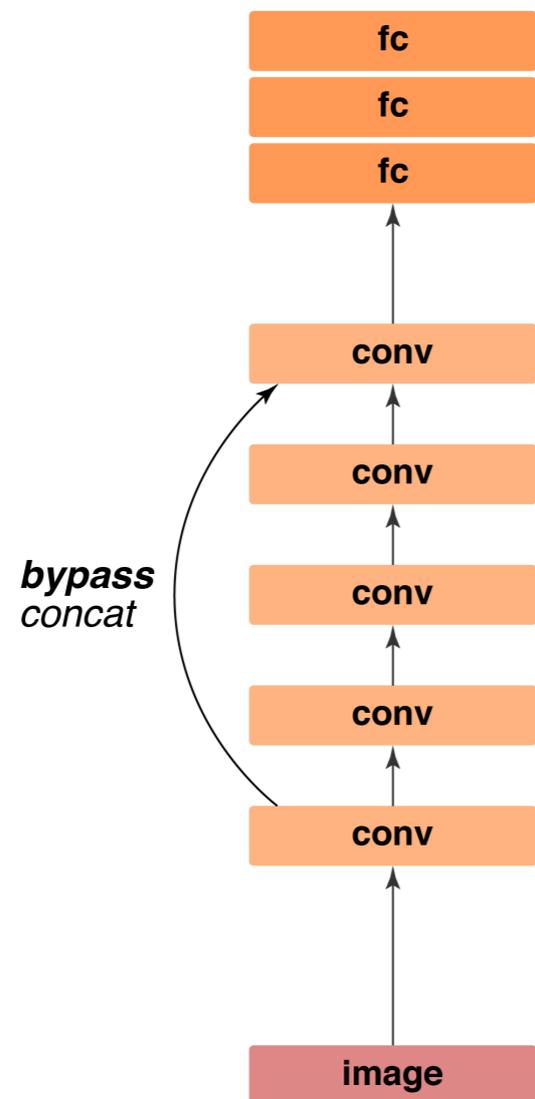


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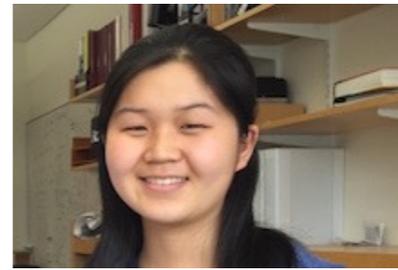
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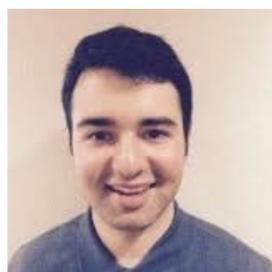
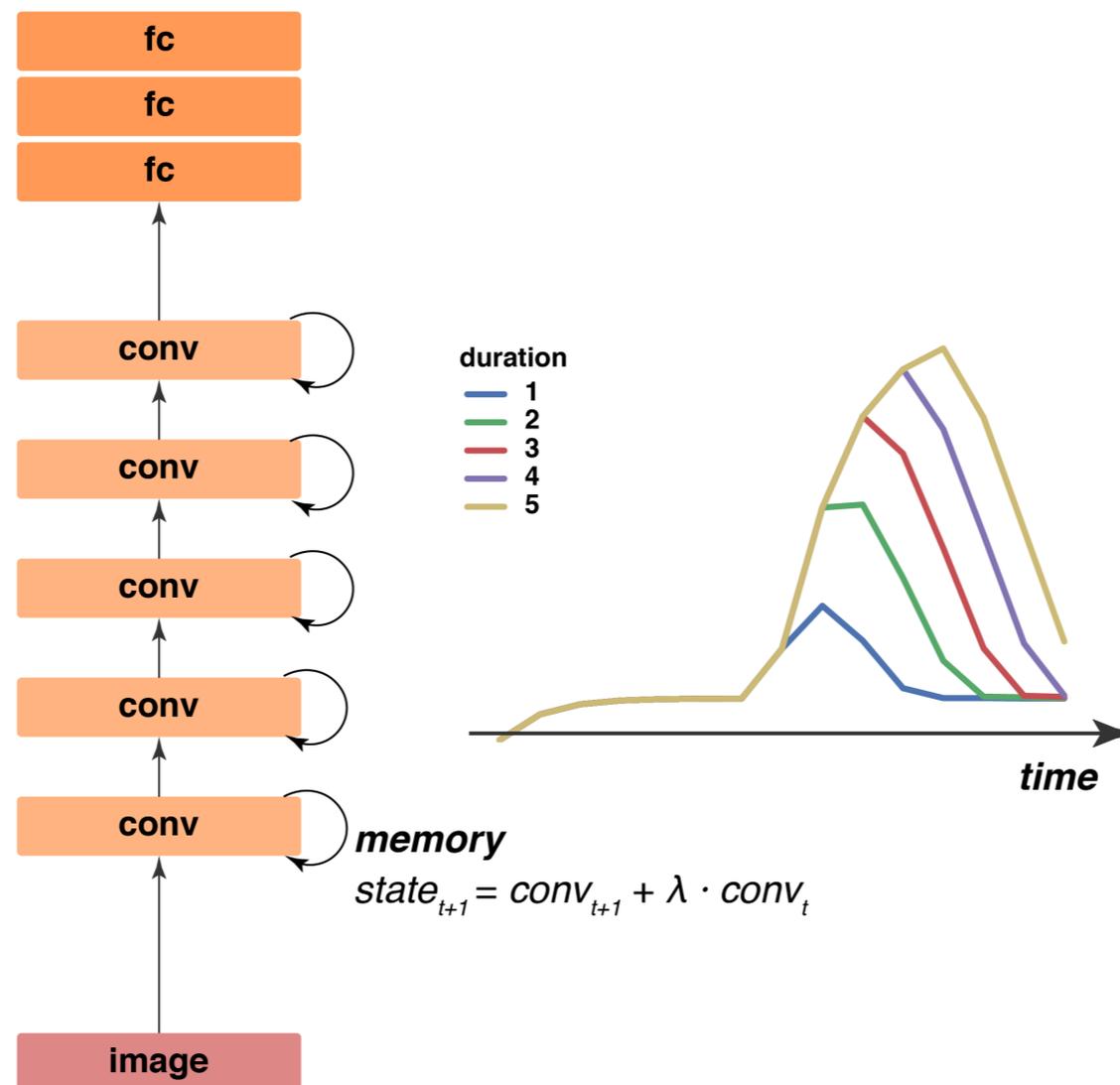


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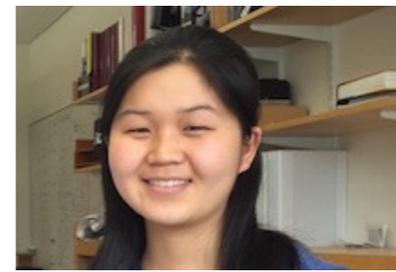
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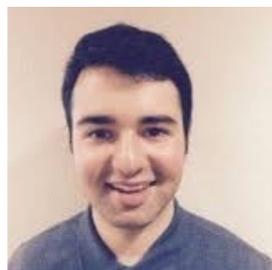
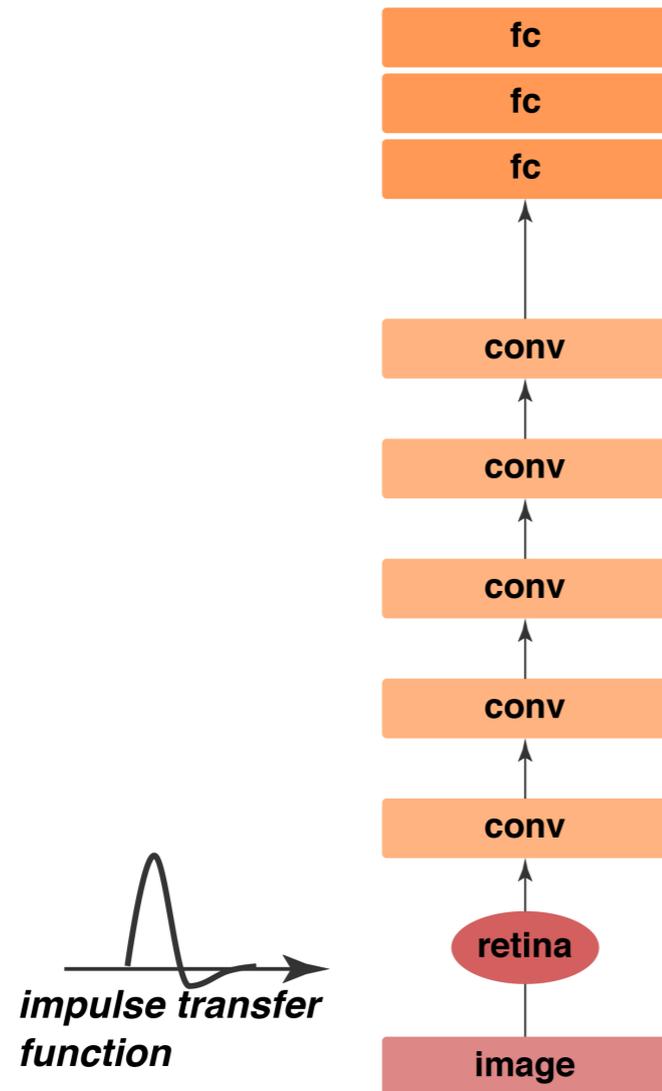


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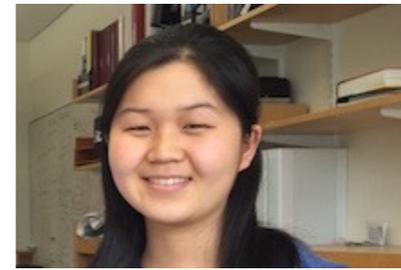
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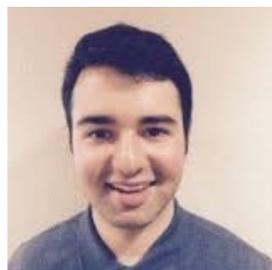
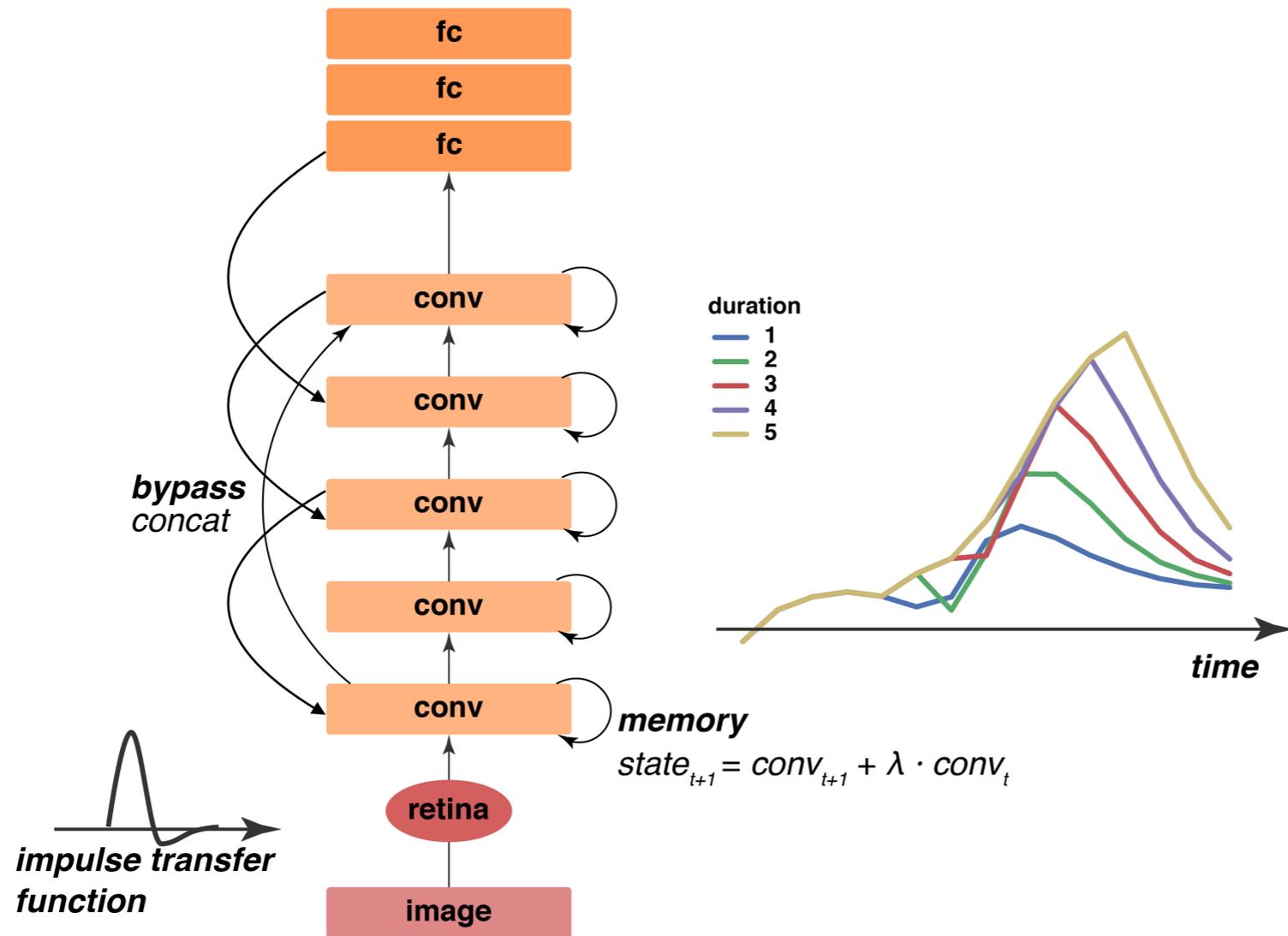


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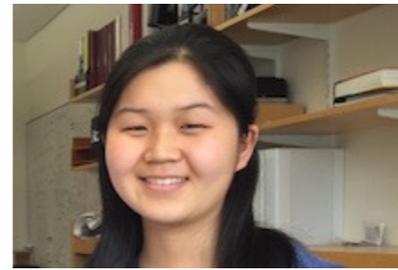
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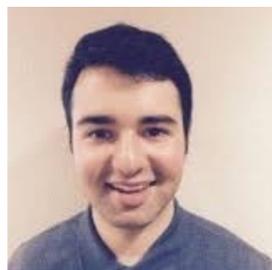
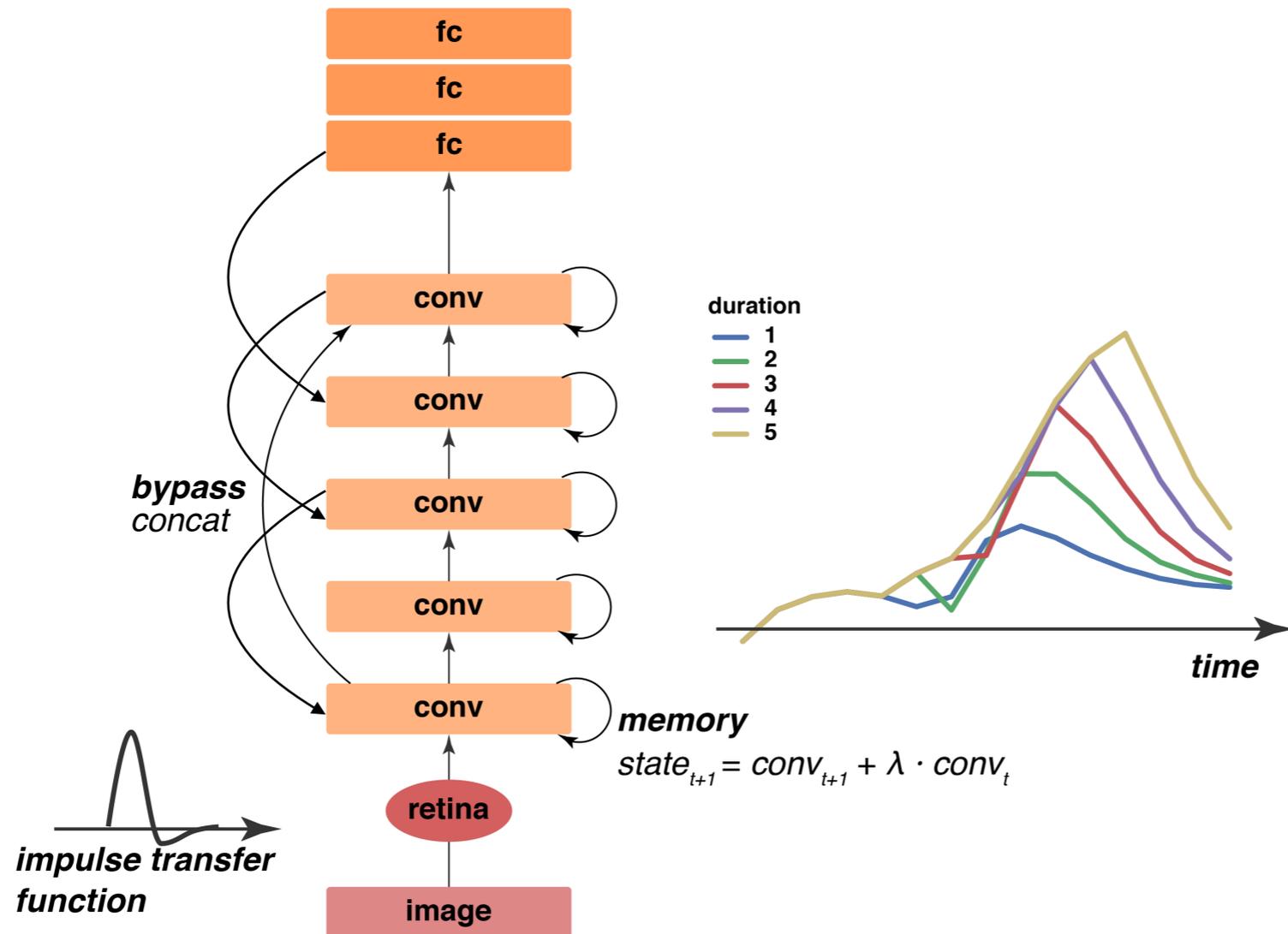


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DiCarlo

# Better architectures



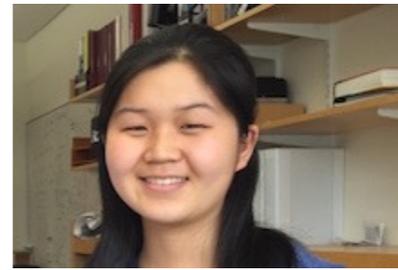
**Aran  
Nayebi**



Surya  
Ganguli



**Jonas  
Kubilius**



Maryann  
Rui

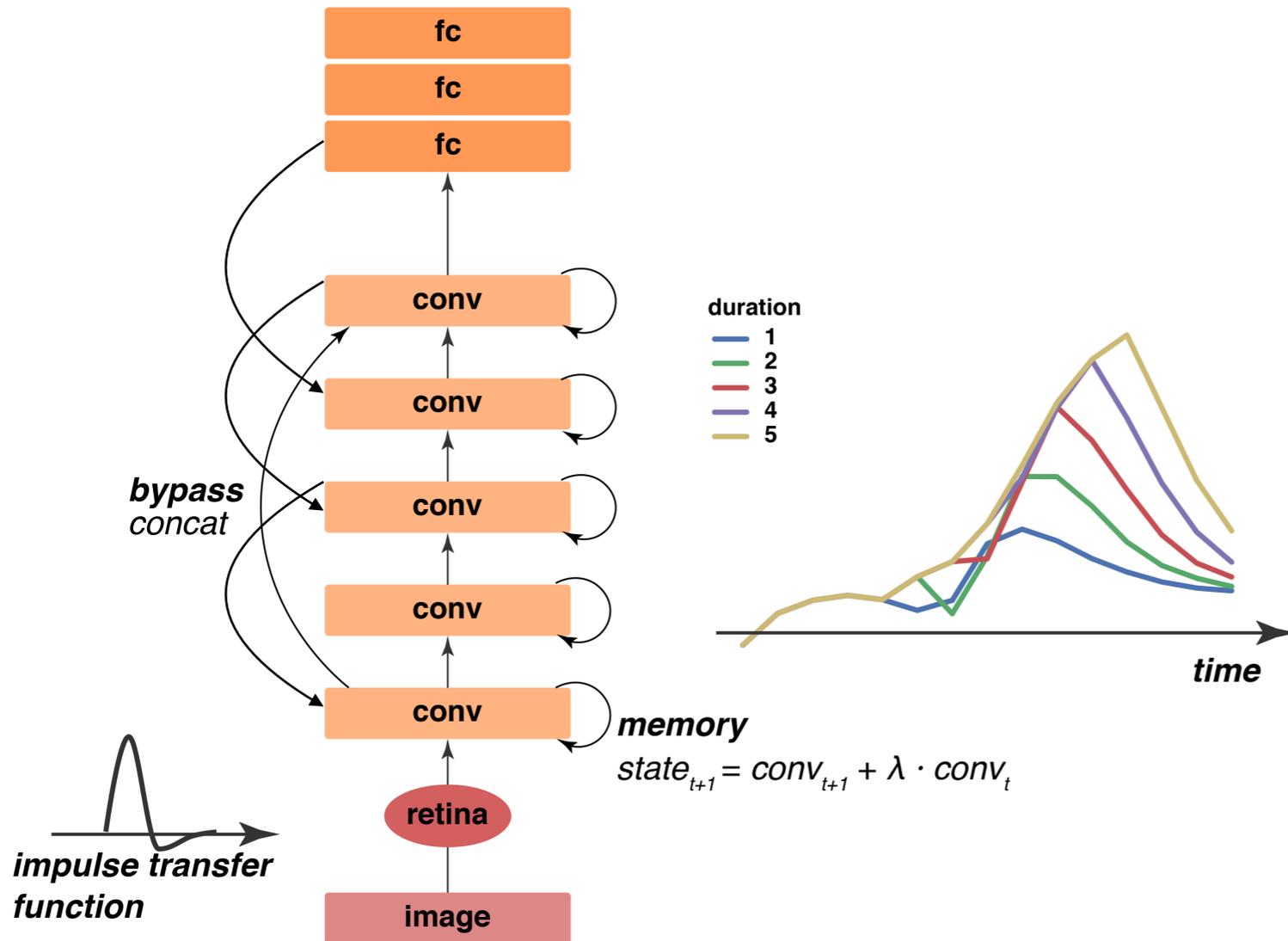


**Kohitij  
Kar**



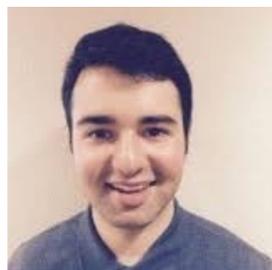
Jim  
DiCarlo

# Better architectures



What task(s)?

a) vanilla categorization



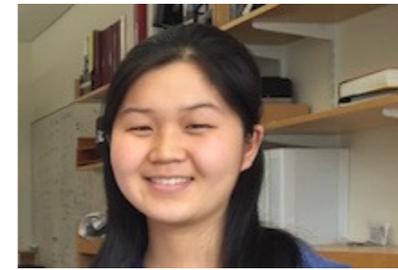
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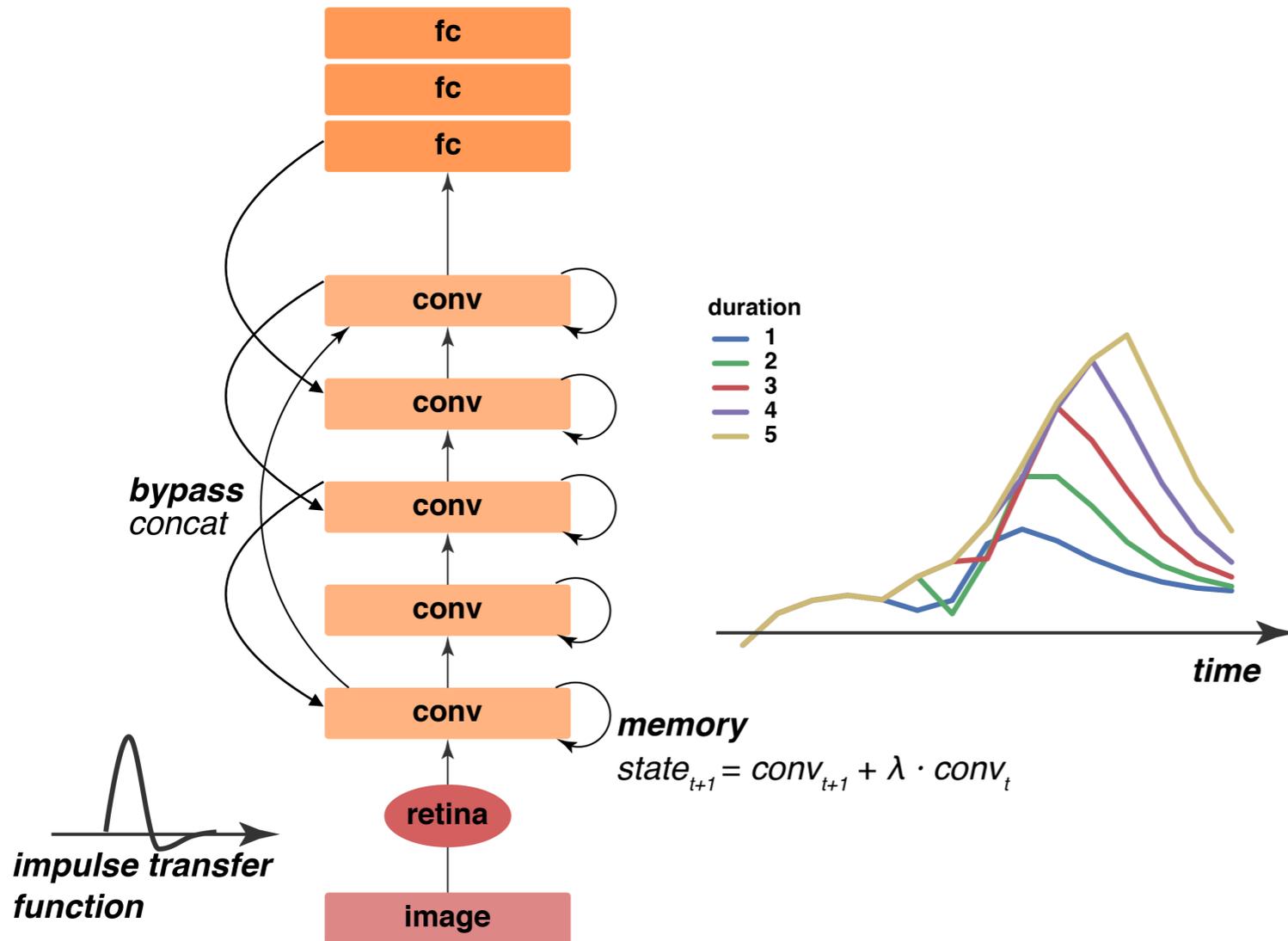


**Kohitij  
Kar**



Jim  
DiCarlo

# Better architectures

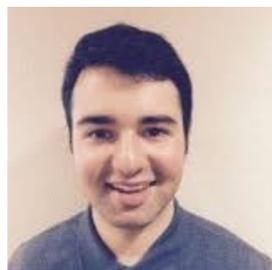


What task(s)?

- a) vanilla categorization
- b) time-discounting

$$L = \sum_t \gamma^t \cdot L_t$$

be accurate but also fast



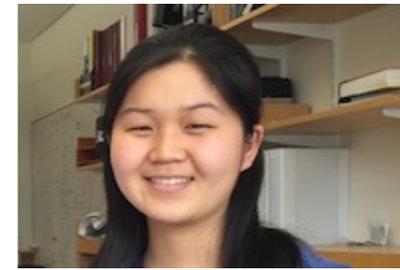
**Aran  
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Surya  
Ganguli



**Jonas  
Kubilius**



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Rui

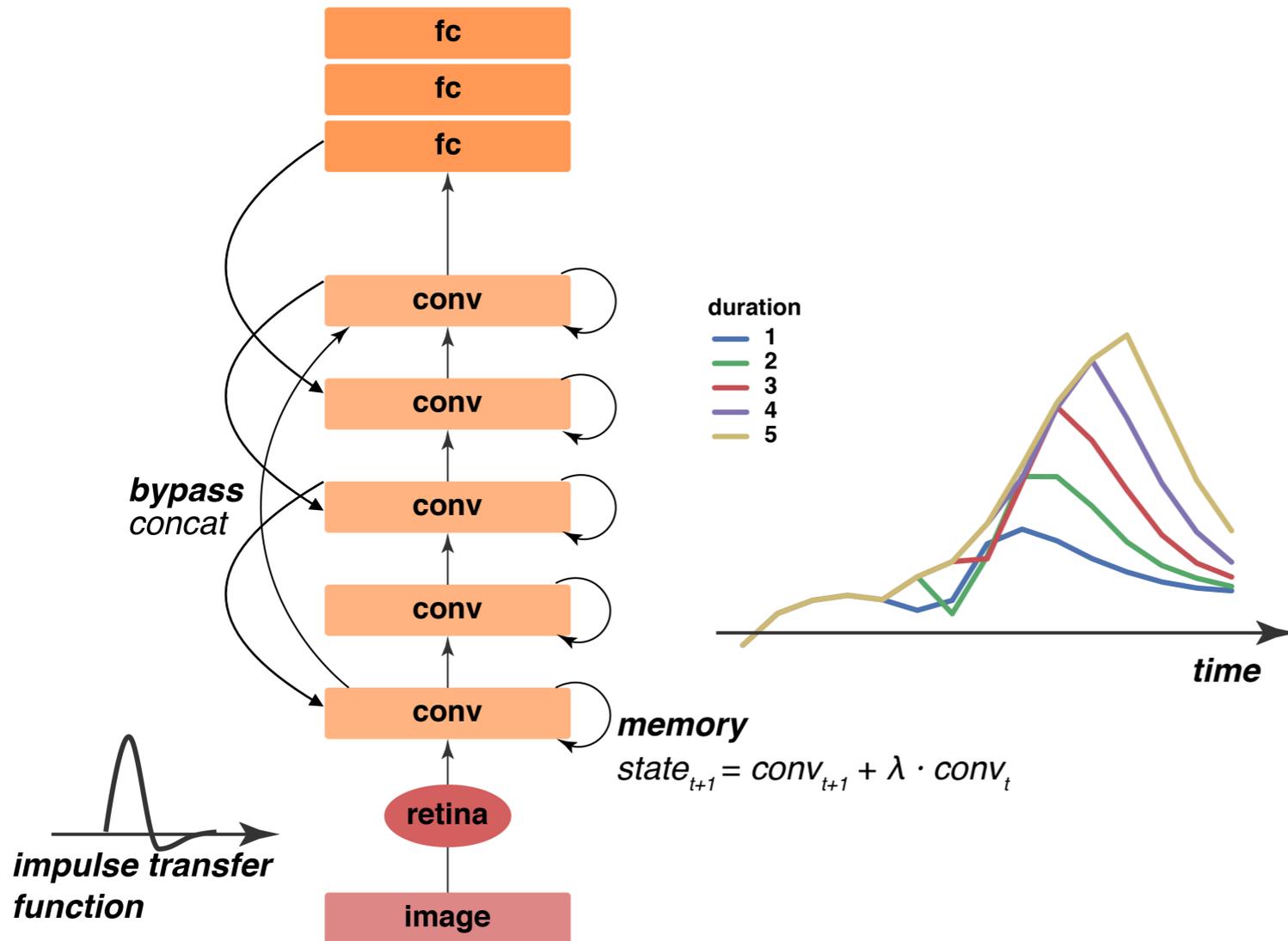


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# Better architectures



What task(s)?

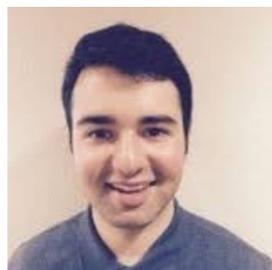
a) vanilla categorization

b) time-discounting

$$L = \sum_t \gamma^t \cdot L_t$$

*be accurate but also fast*

c) heavy occlusion &c



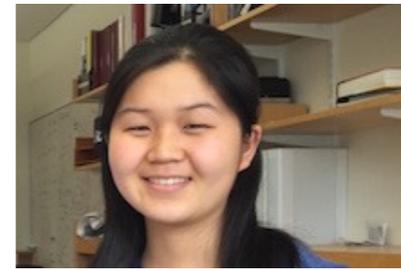
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Maryann  
Rui

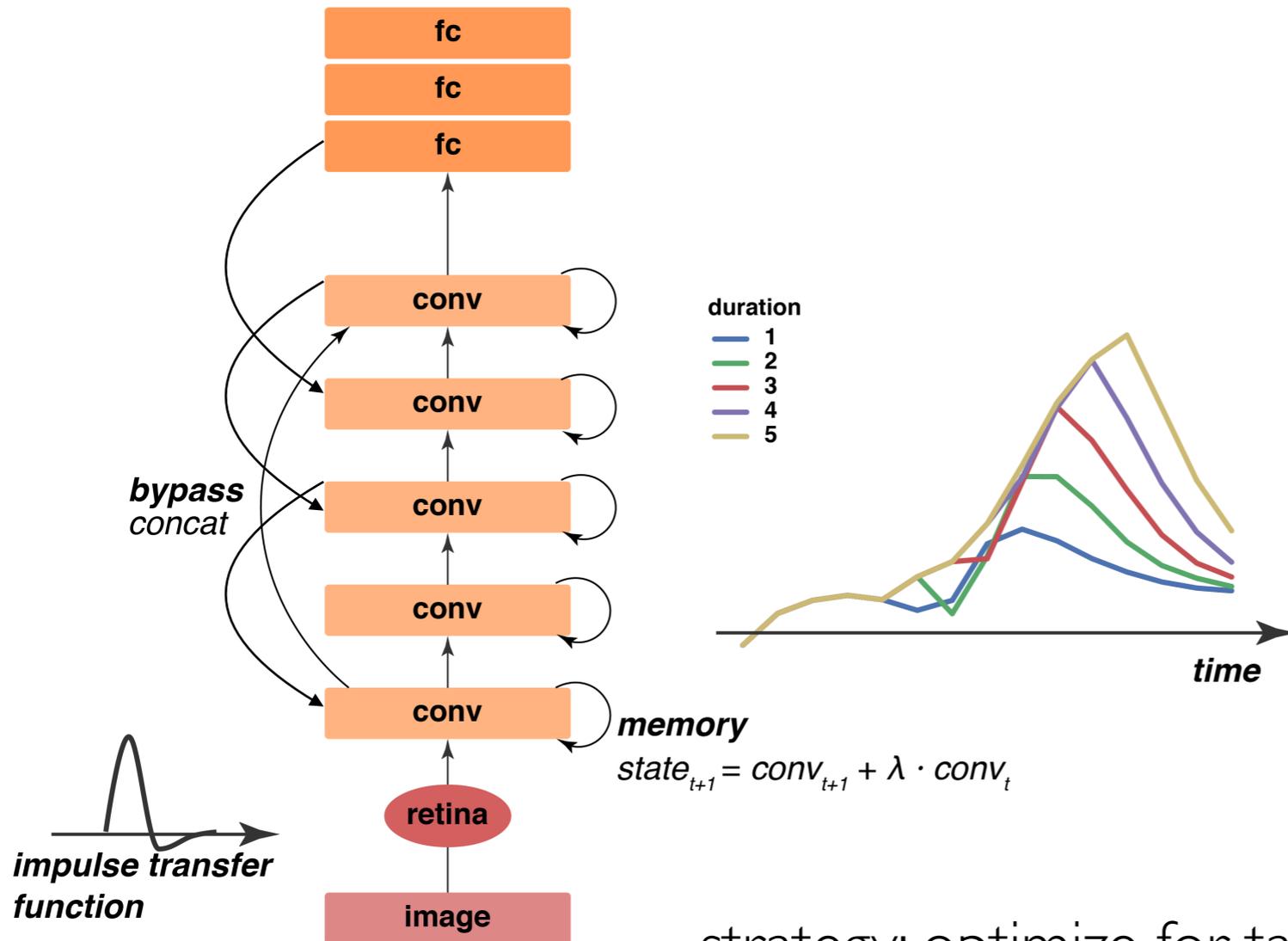


**Kohitij  
Kar**



Jim  
DiCarlo

# Better architectures



What task(s)?

a) vanilla categorization

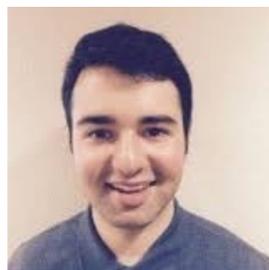
b) time-discounting

$$L = \sum_t \gamma^t \cdot L_t$$

be accurate but also fast

c) heavy occlusion &c

strategy: optimize for tasks check against static & dynamic data



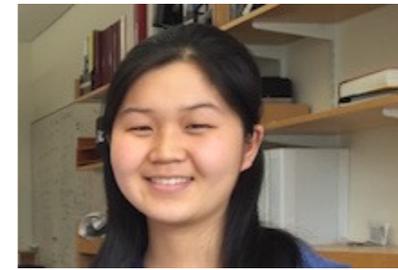
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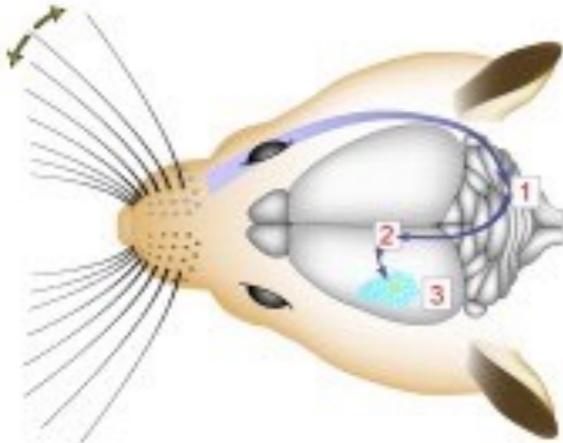


Jim  
DiCarlo

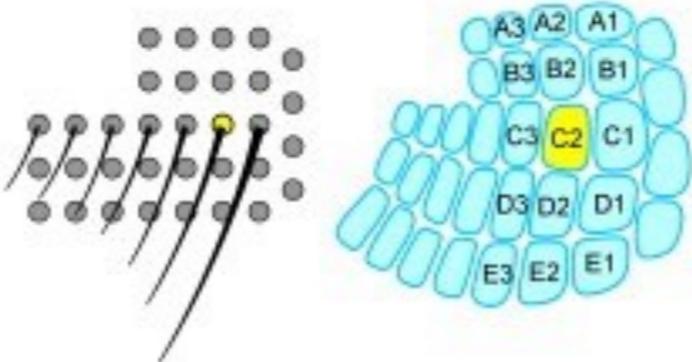
# Rodent Somatosensory Cortex

Petersen, 2007

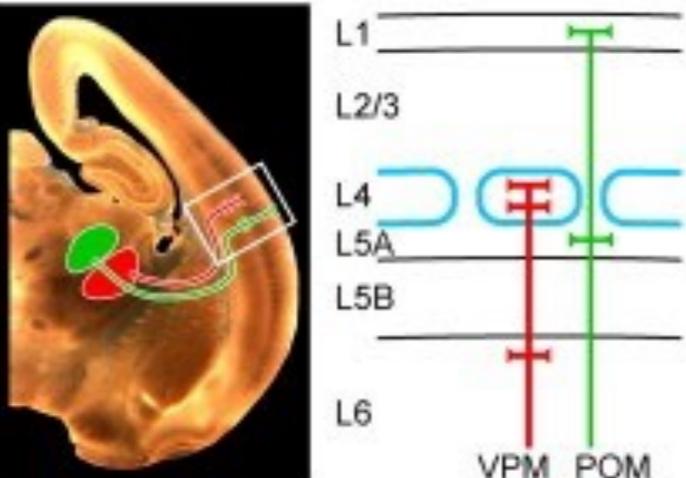
**A** From Whisker to Cortex



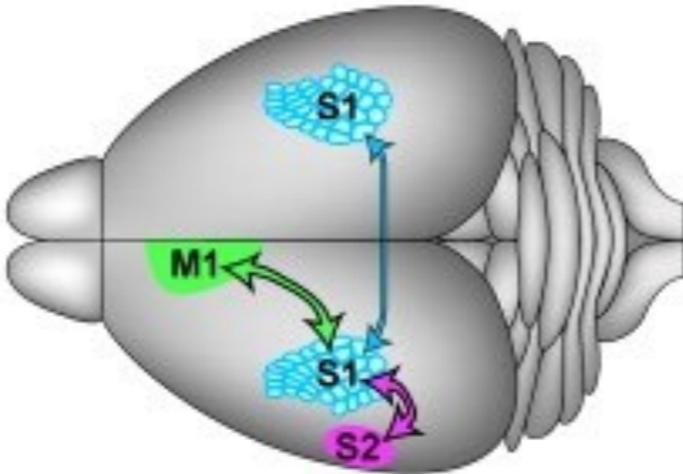
**B** Whiskers and Barrels



**C** Thalamocortical connectivity



**D** Corticocortical connectivity



Chengxu  
Zhuang

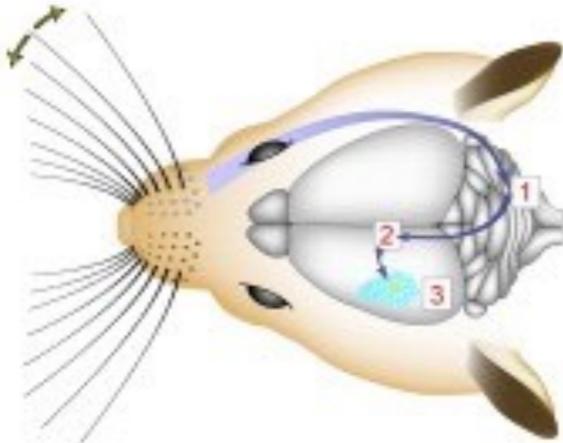


Mitra Hartmann  
& Lab

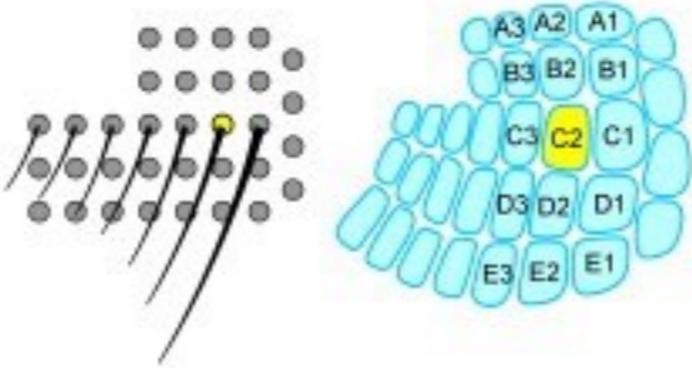
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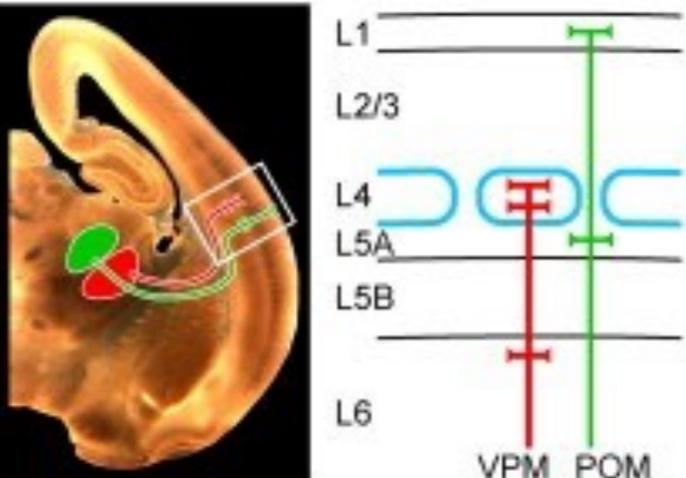


**B** Whiskers and Barrels

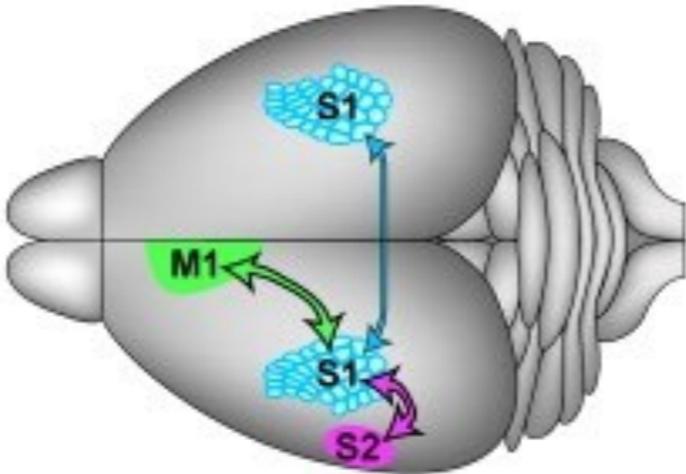


\* Spatially-structured input data

**C** Thalamocortical connectivity



**D** Corticocortical connectivity



Chengxu  
Zhuang

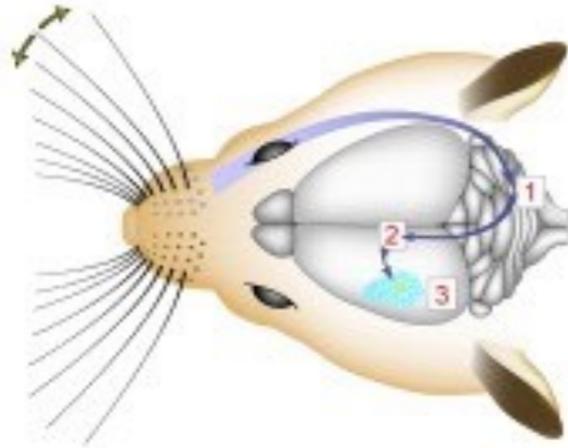


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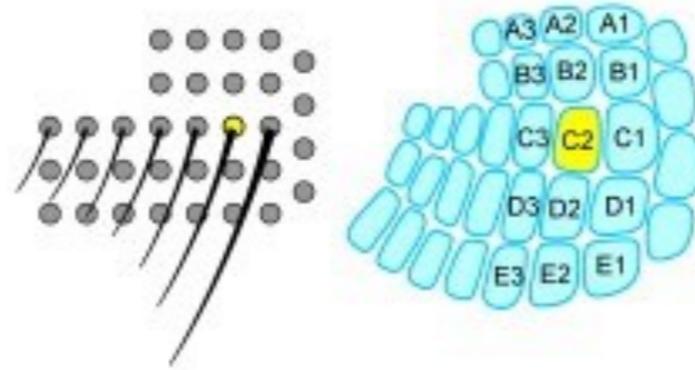
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*Petersen, 2007*

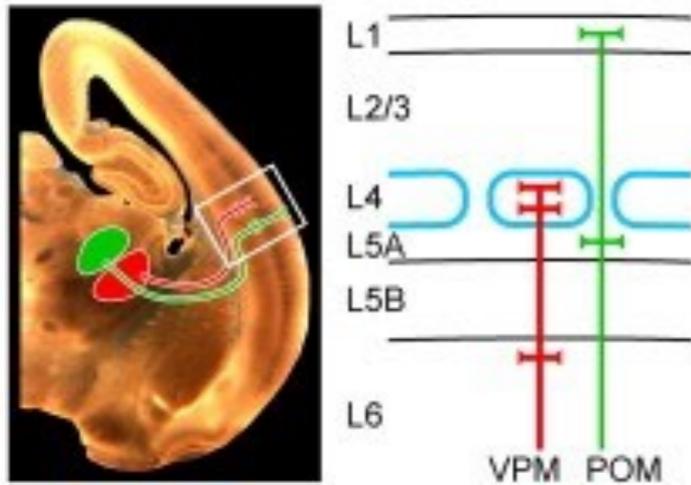
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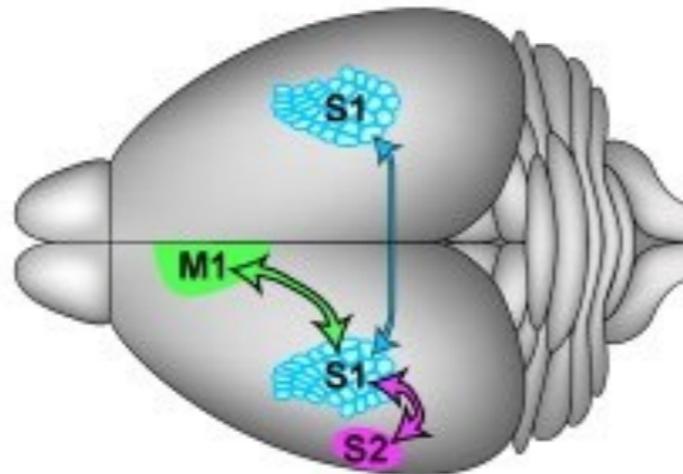
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\* Spatiotopic sensor



Chengxu  
Zhuang

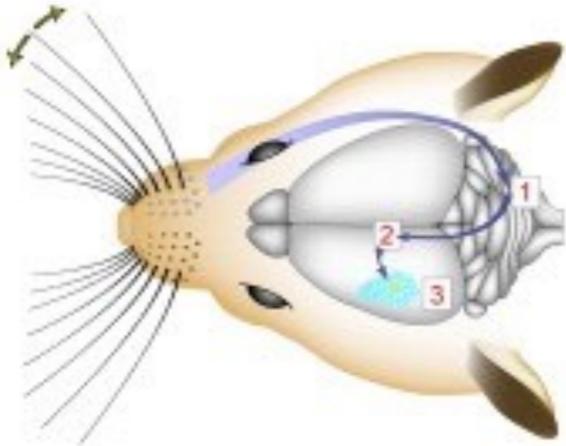


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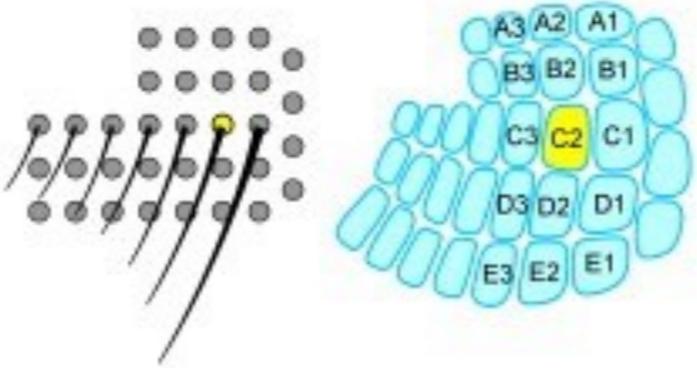
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Petersen, 2007

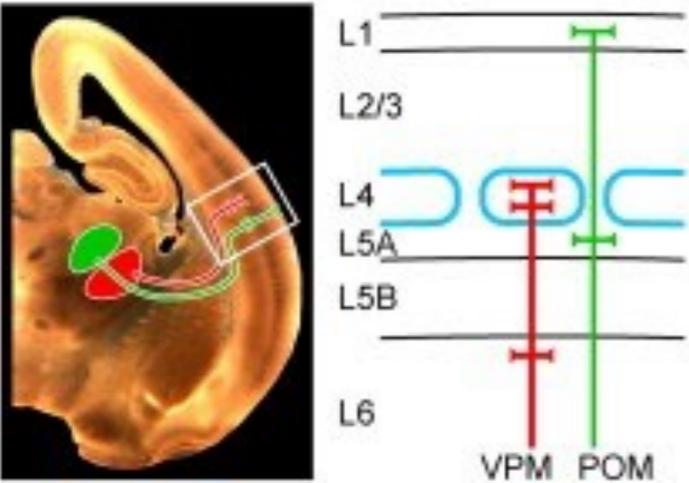
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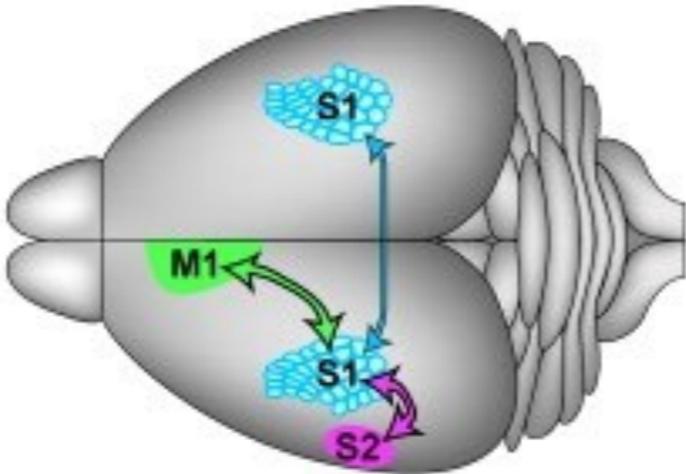
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- \* Spatially-structured input data
- \* Spatiotopic sensor
- \* Potentially hierarchical structure



Chengxu  
Zhuang

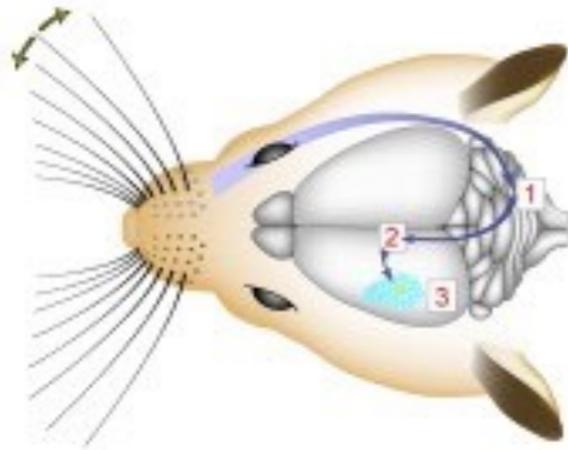


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& Lab

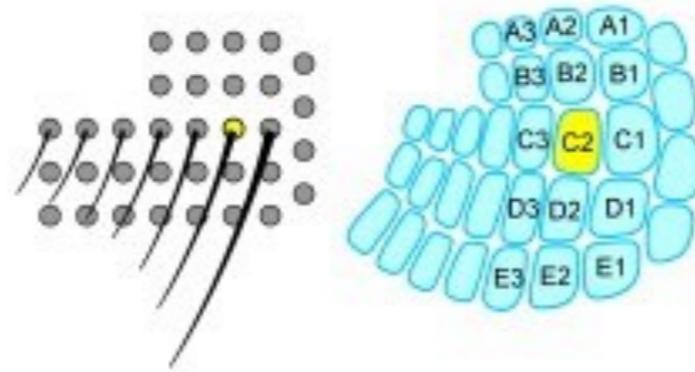
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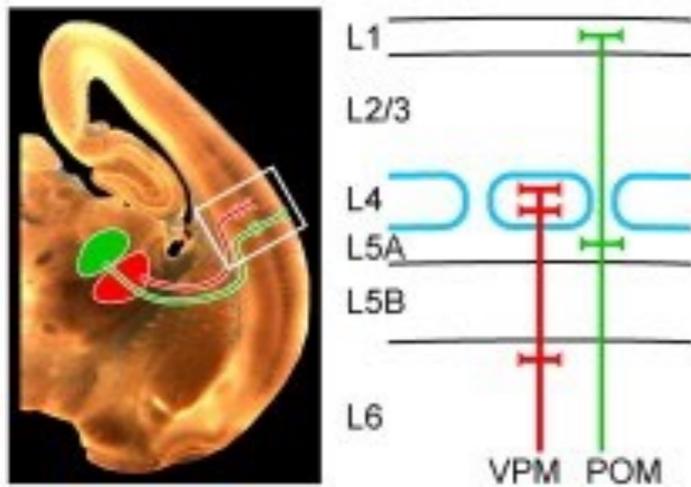
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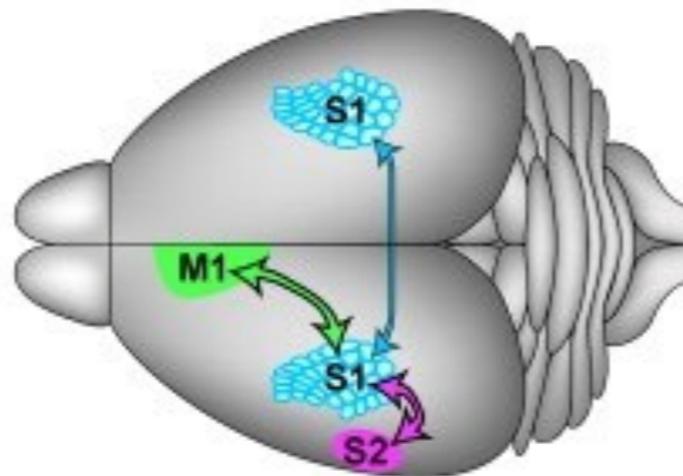
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- \* Spatially-structured input data
- \* Spatiotopic sensor
- \* Potentially hierarchical structure
- \* Poorly understood higher cortical areas



Chengxu  
Zhuang

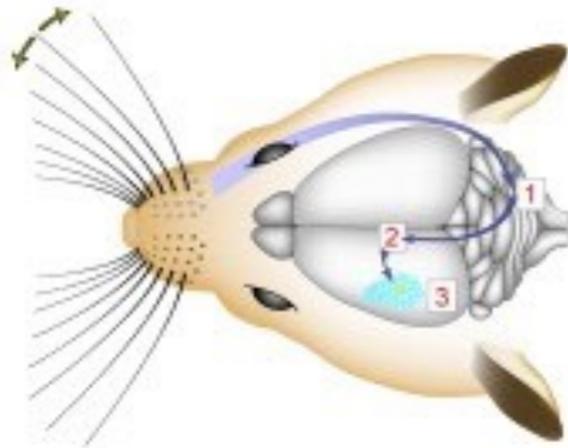


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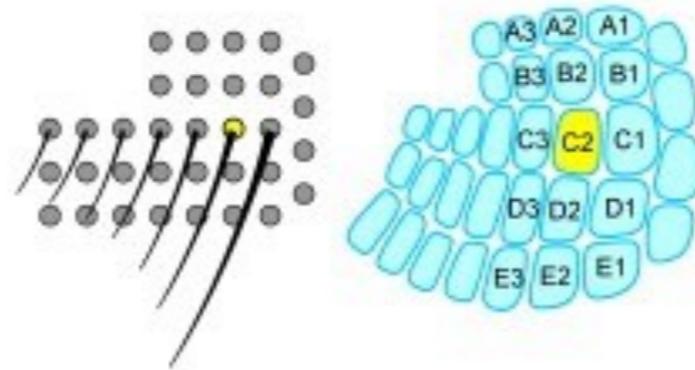
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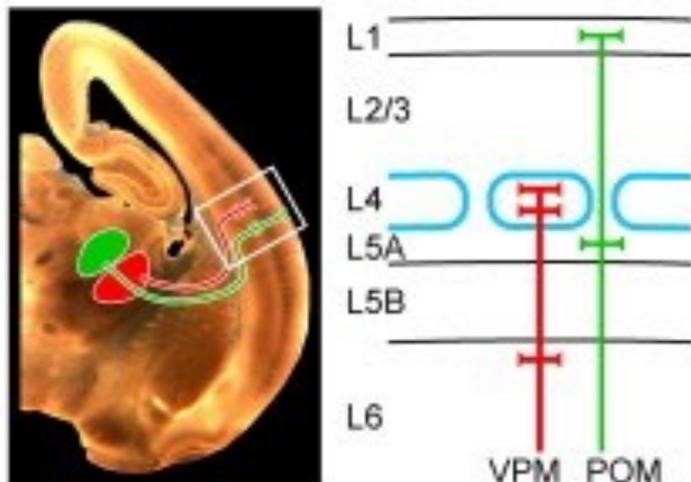
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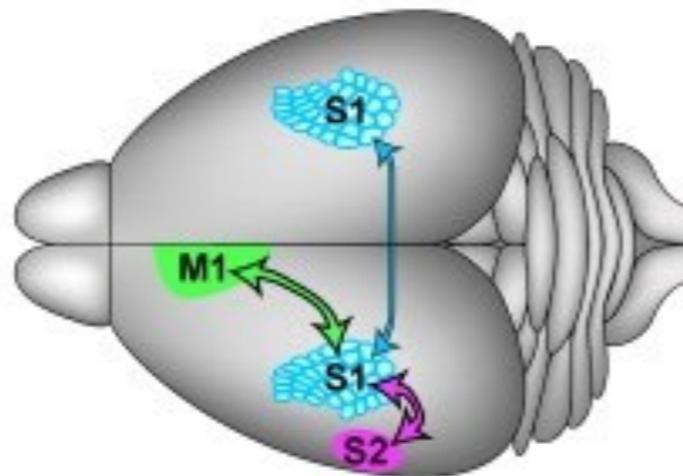
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Chengxu  
Zhuang

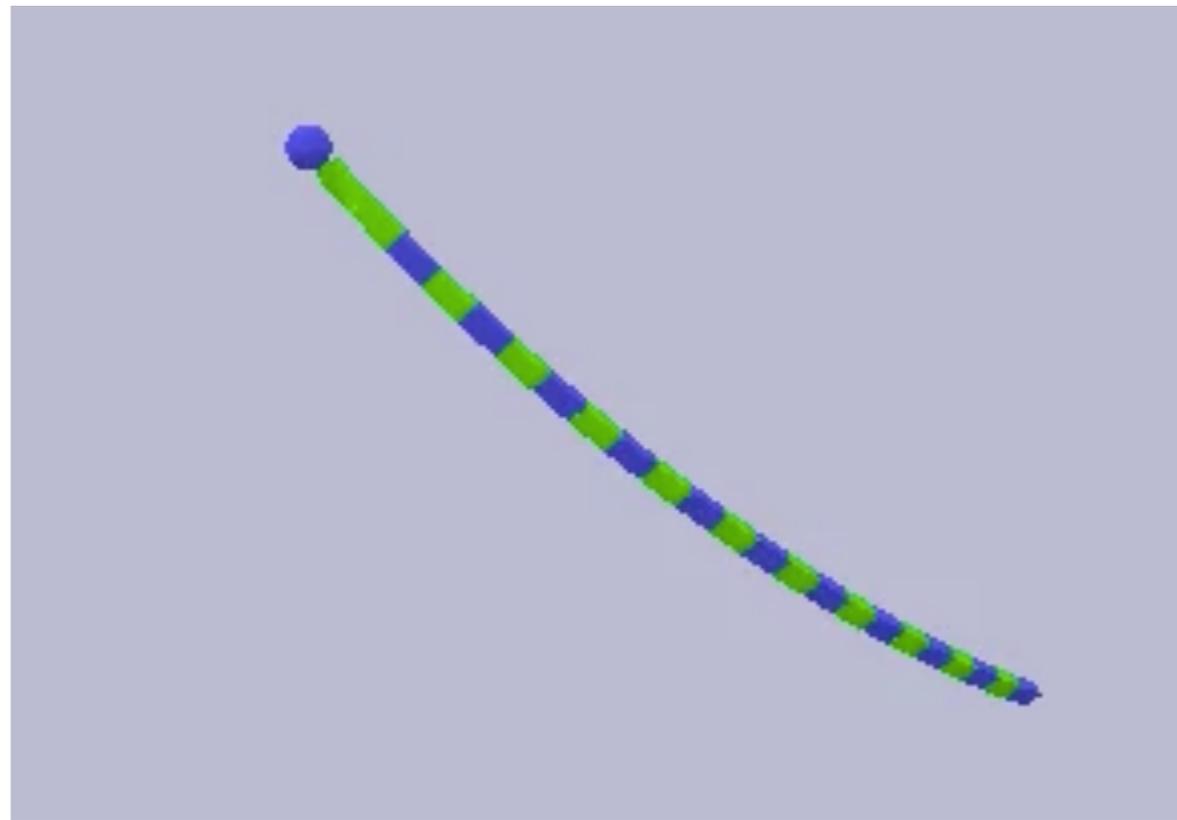


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Hypothesis: can get a model for this cortical cascade by optimizing properly-sized CNN with whisker-like sensor input for some ethologically relevant somatosensory task.

# Rodent Somatosensory Cortex

First have to build a model of the sensory to gather data.



Using published data from Mitra Hartmann's group



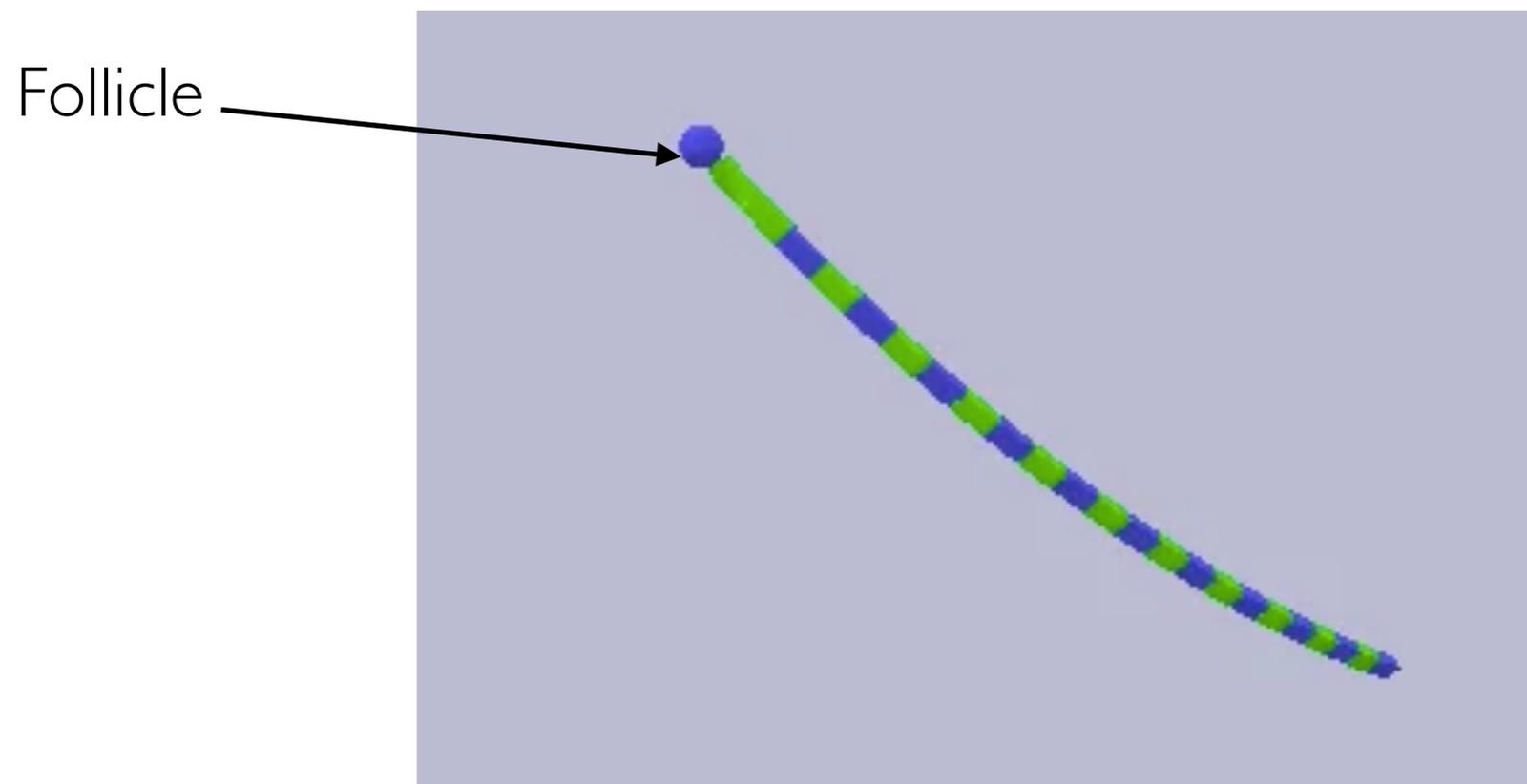
Chengxu  
Zhuang



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& Lab

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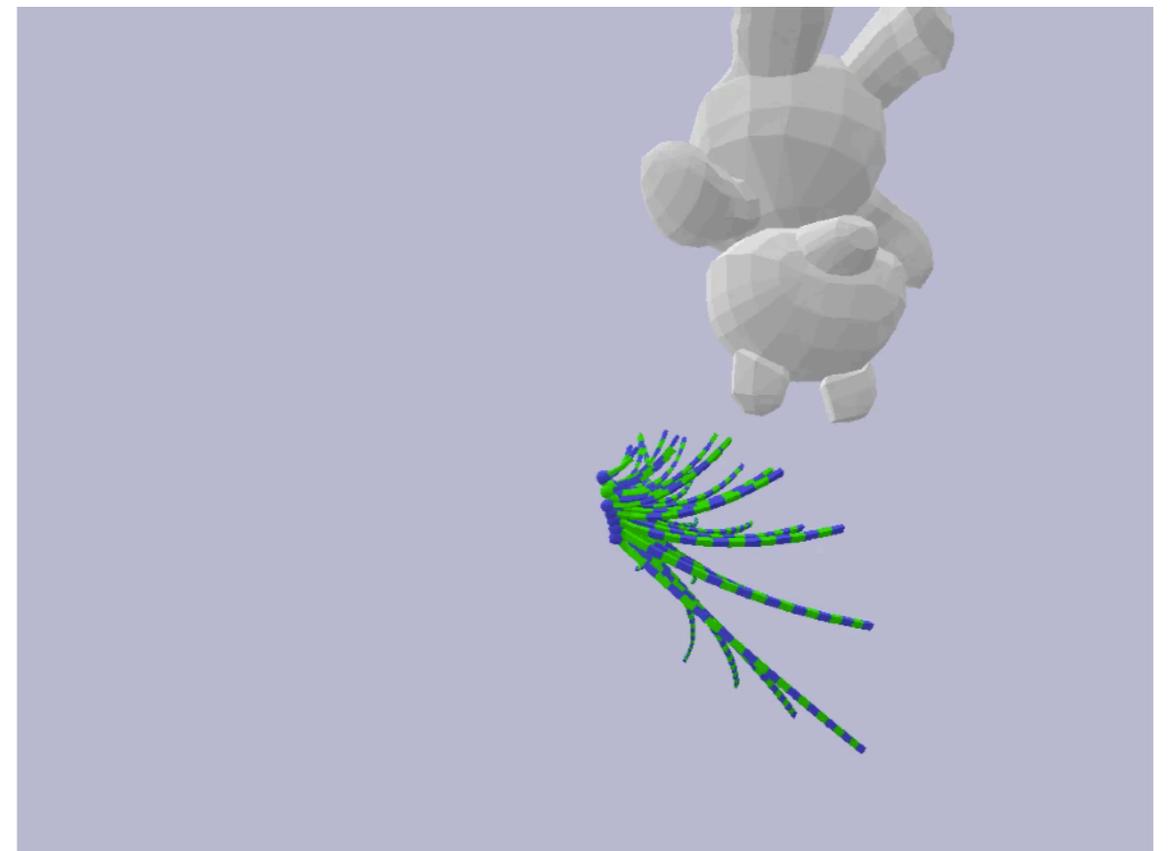
Chengxu  
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# Rodent Somatosensory Cortex

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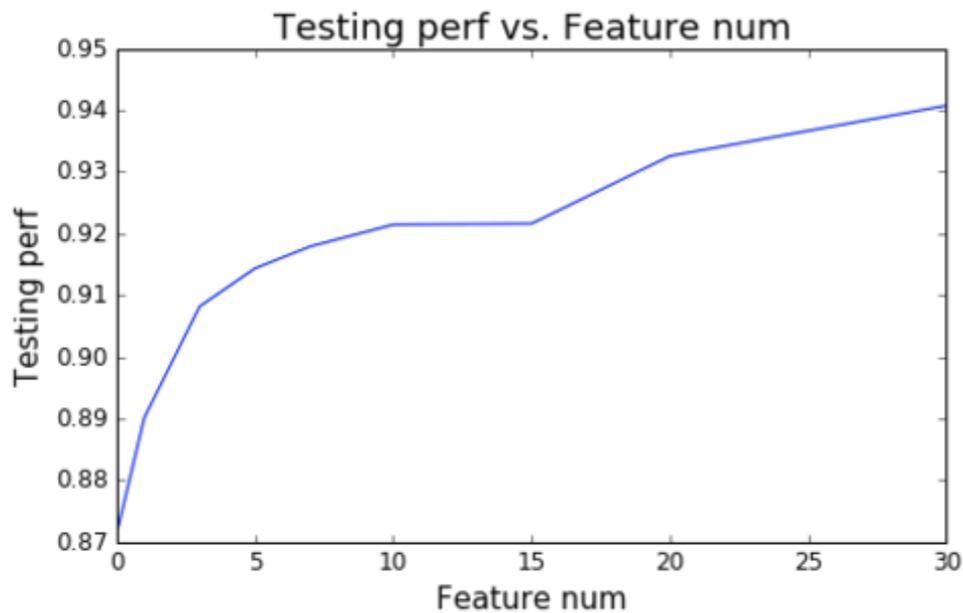
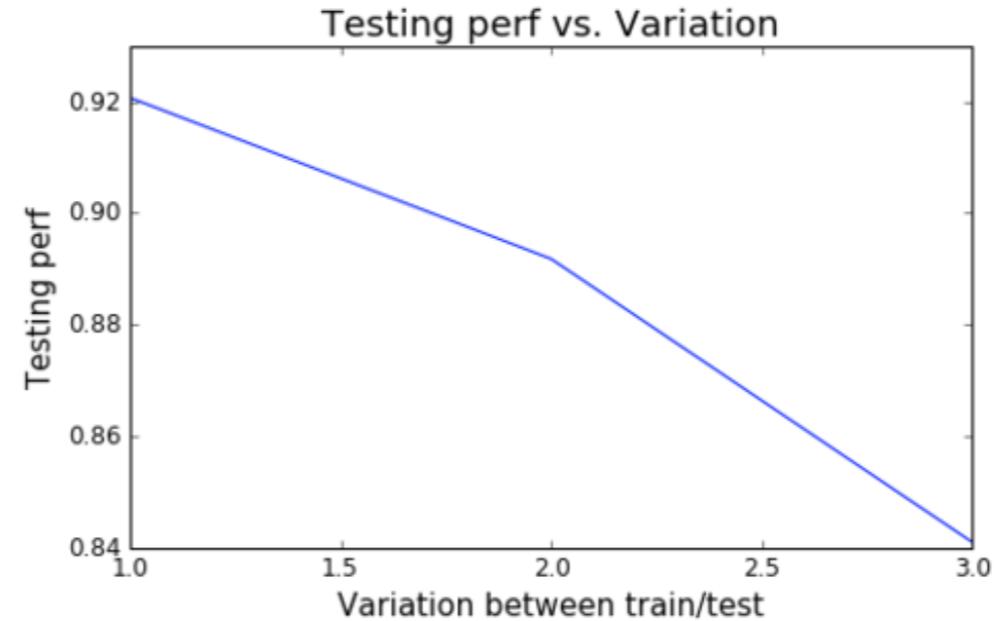
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# Rodent Somatosensory Cortex

Validate sensor on one-object tasks ... (teddy vs. duck)



train/test splits with different:

- \* attack vectors
- \* attack speed
- \* object rotations
- \* object size



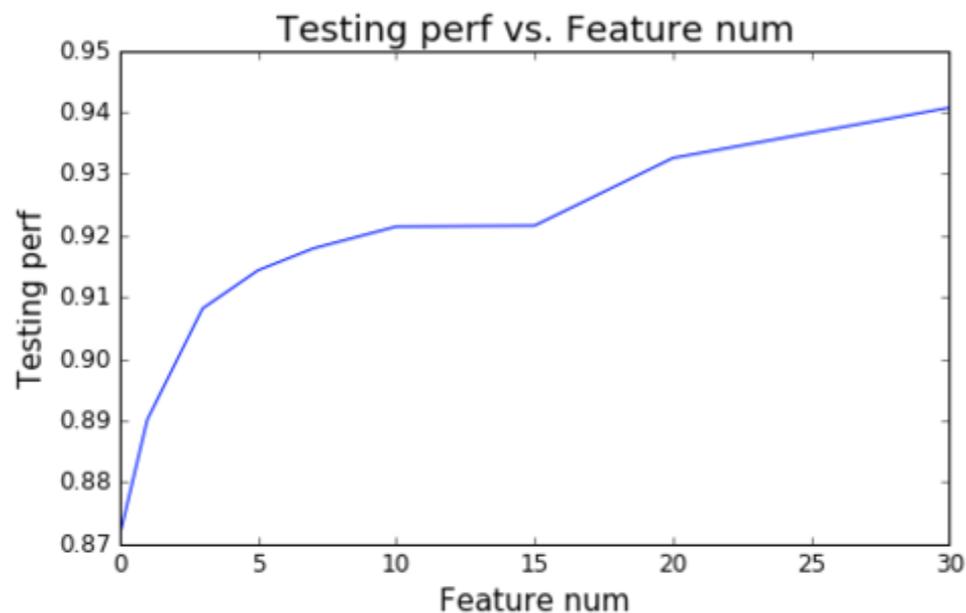
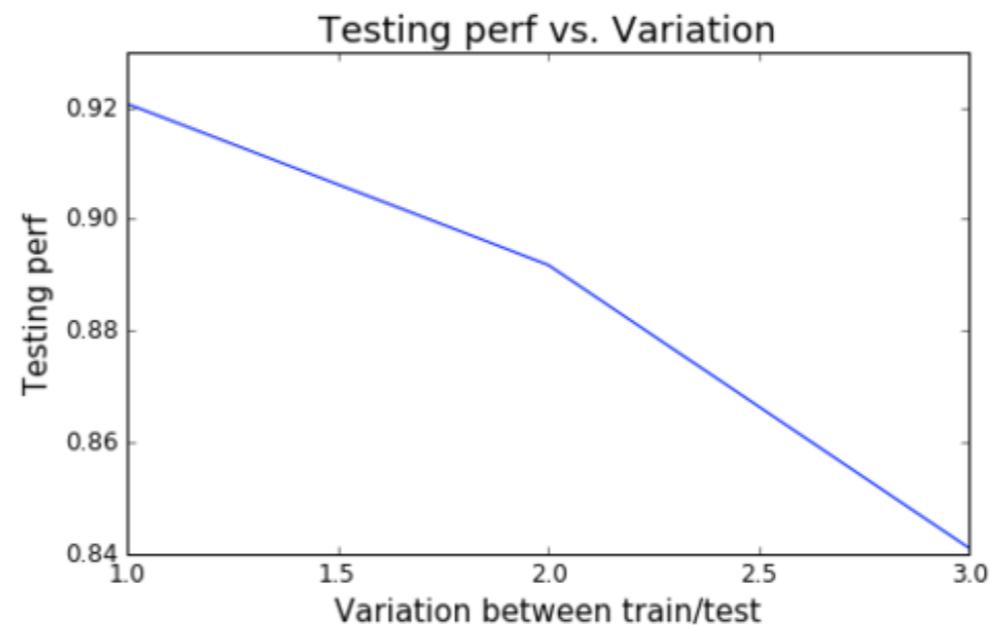
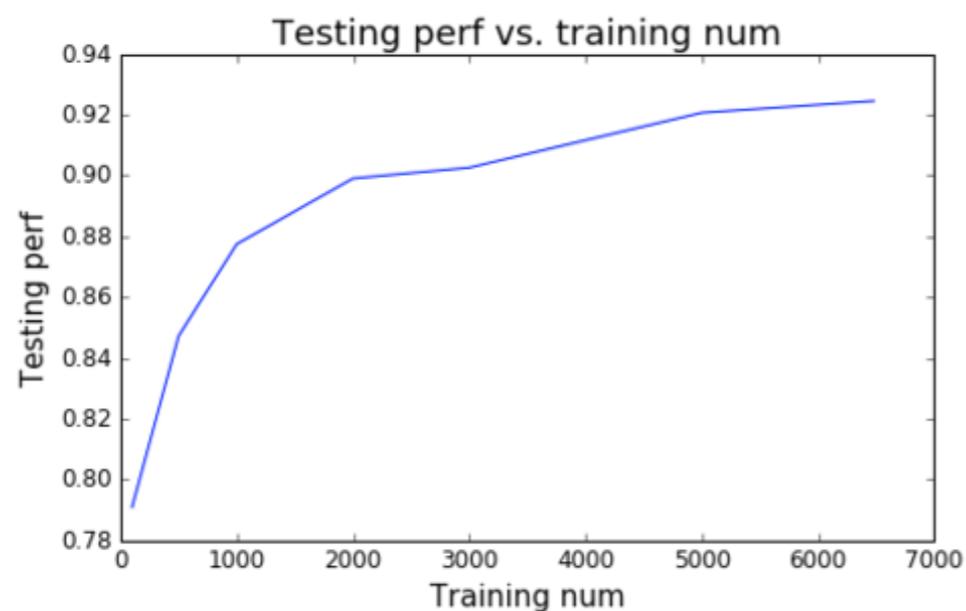
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# Rodent Somatosensory Cortex

Validate sensor on one-object tasks ... (teddy vs. duck)



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Zhuang

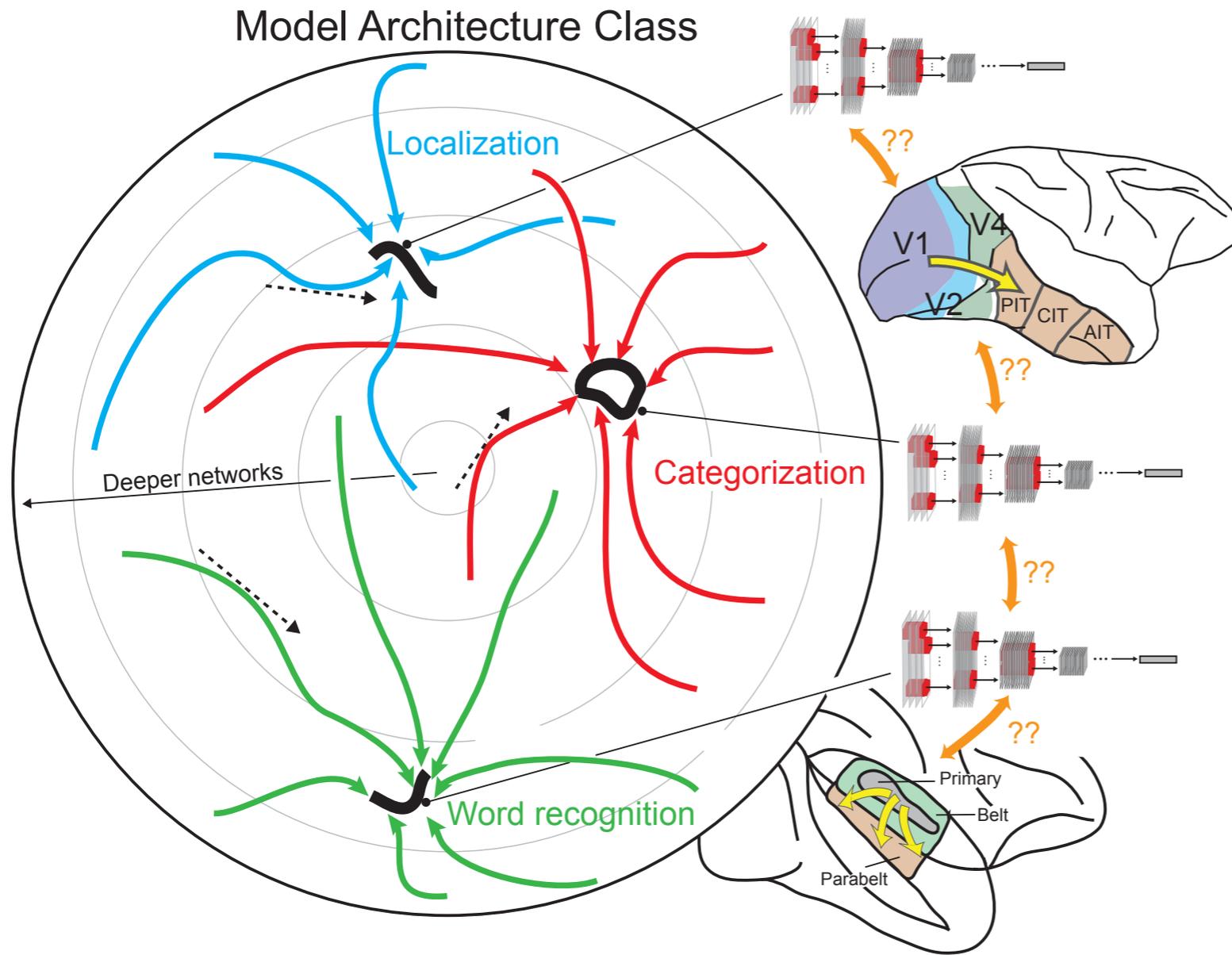


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Train on shape recognition and/or normal estimation task,  
compare to neural data

# Rodent Somatosensory Cortex

***Lf*** successful:



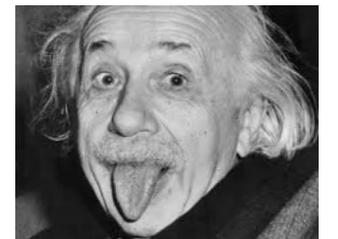
*somatosensation*



*vision*



*audition*

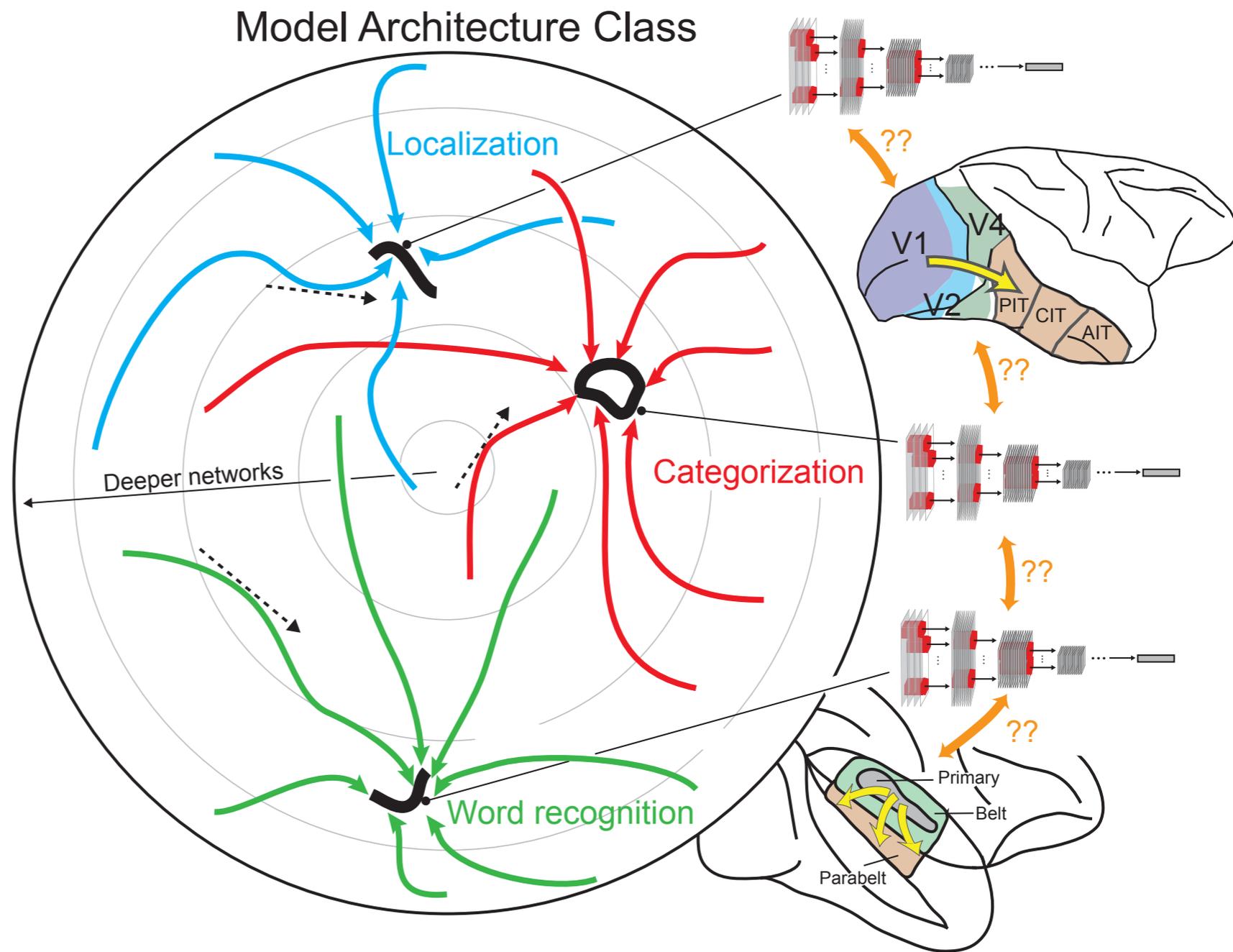


➤ Formulate comprehensive model class (**CNNs**)

➤ Choose challenging, ethologically-valid tasks (**categorization**)

➤ Implement generic learning rules (**gradient descent**)

➤ Map to brain data. (**ventral stream**)

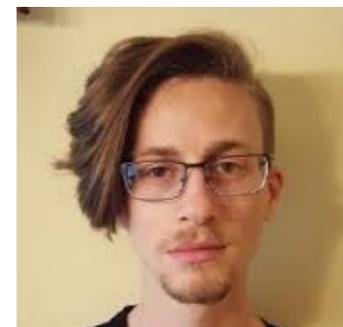
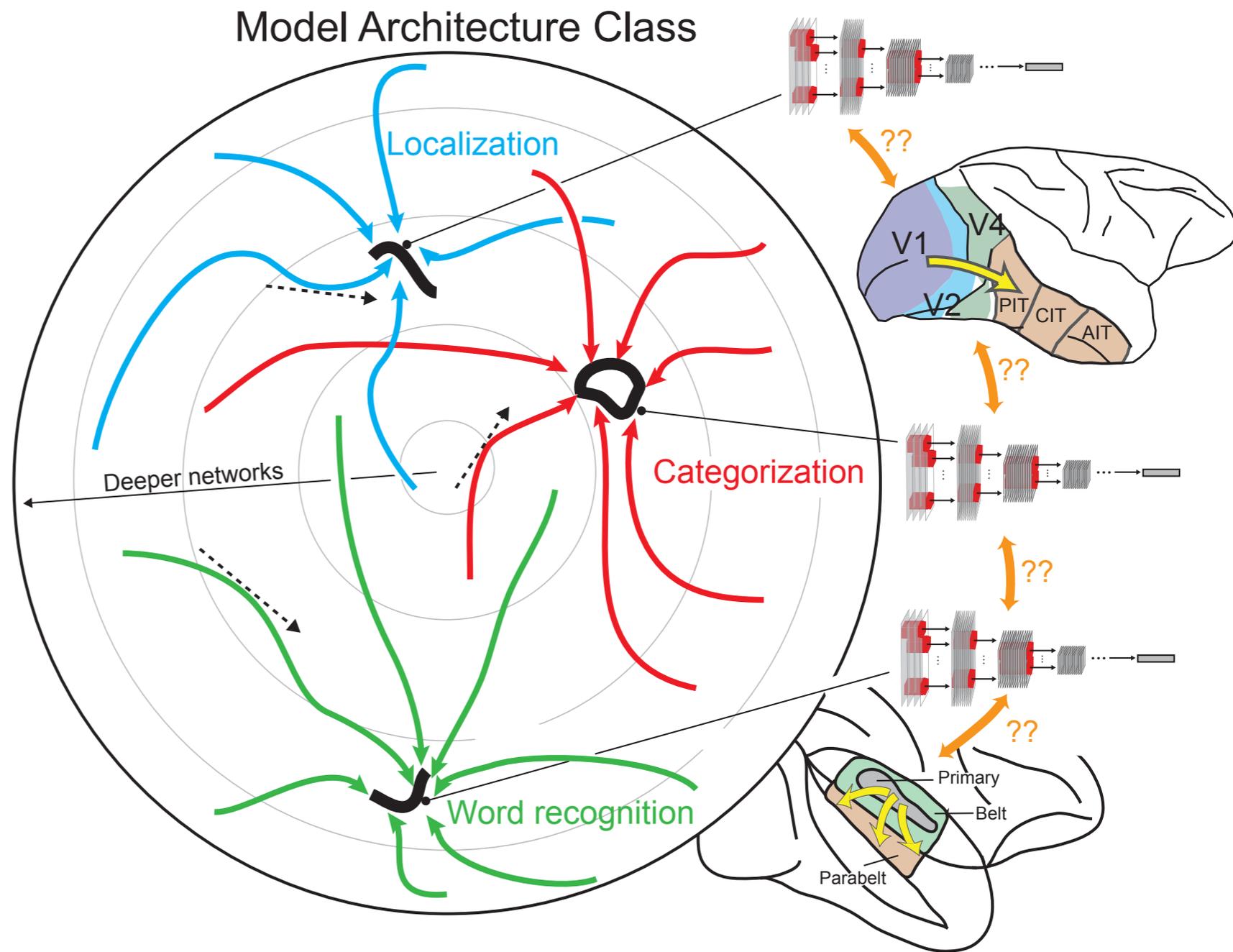


> Formulate comprehensive model class (**CNNs + RNs**)

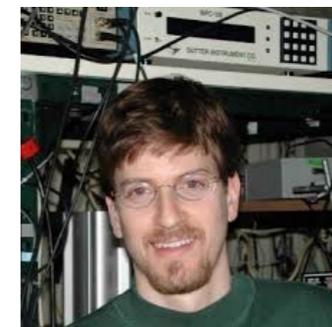
> Choose challenging, ethologically-valid tasks (**task switching/ memory**)

> Implement generic learning **and expansion** rules

> Map to brain data. (**PFC, Hippocampus, &c**)



Kevin Feigelis



Mark Schnitzer



Jim DiCarlo



# Key Results

Task-driven modeling can make greatly improved quantitative models of high-level cortical areas.

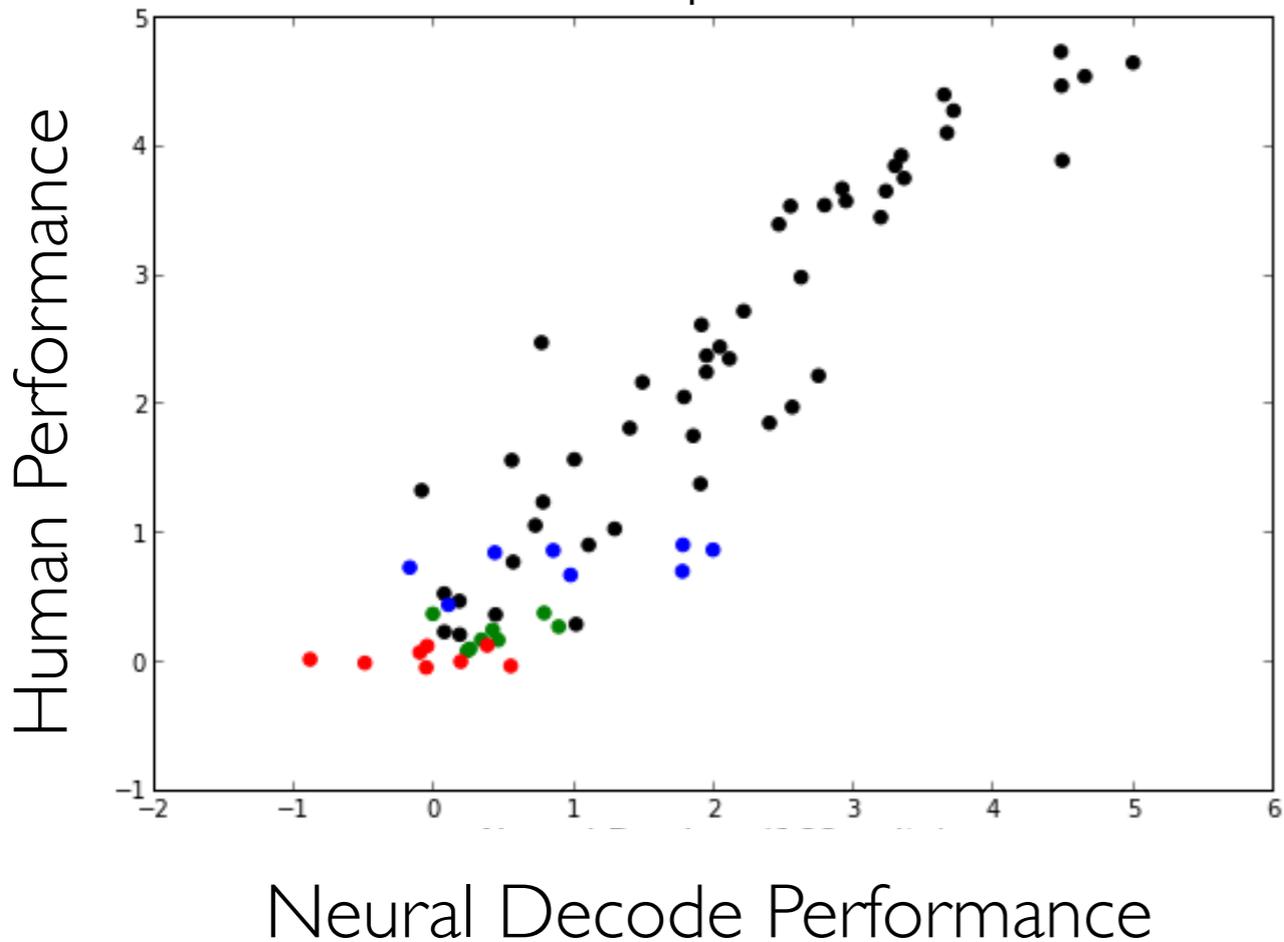
These models can lead to new qualitative insight about how the brain solves sensory tasks.

These concepts are useful across multiple sensory modalities.

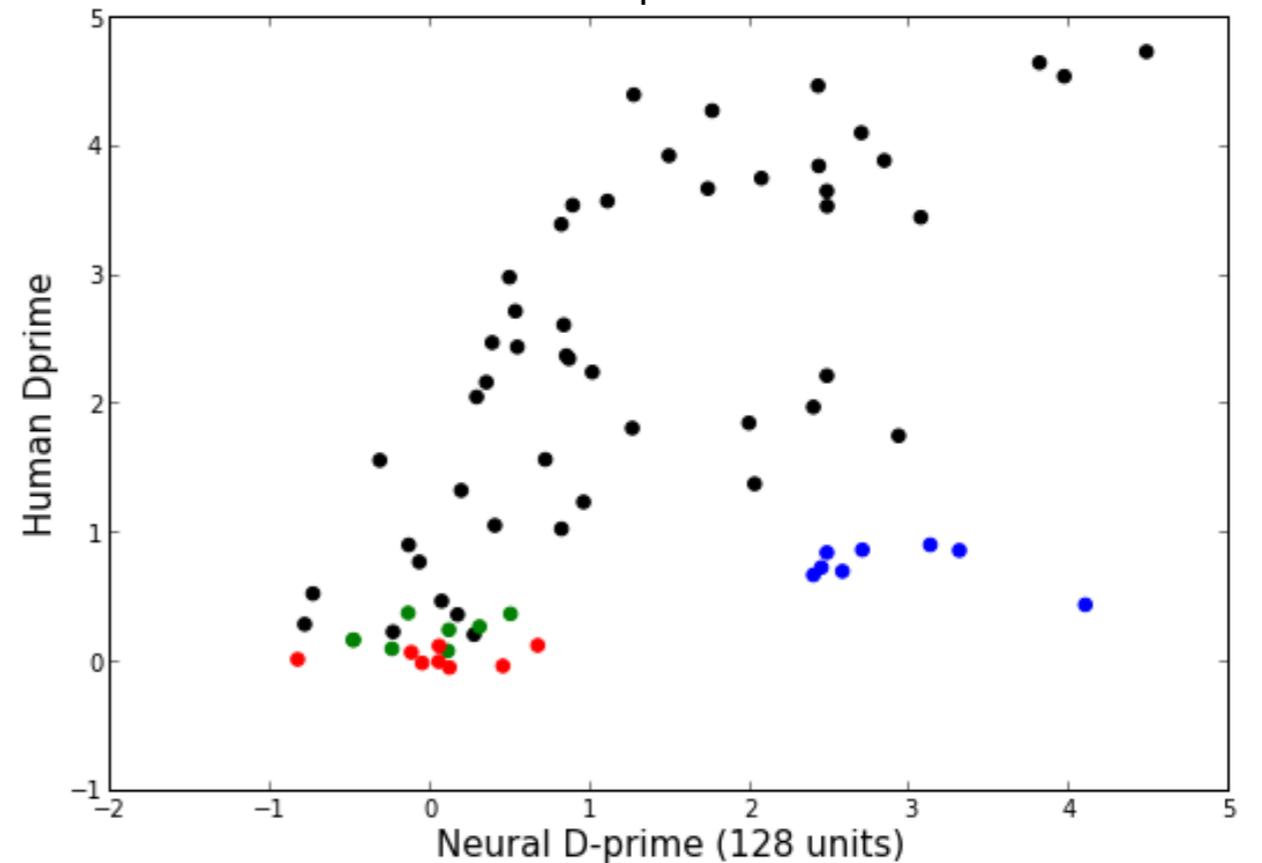
# IT Neurons Track Human Performance

IT matches human error patterns as well as raw performance.

IT Population



V4 Population

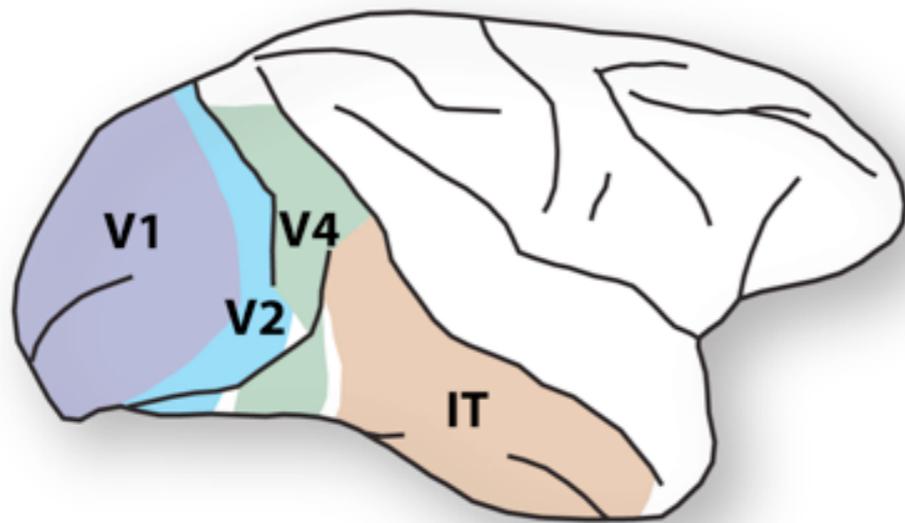


- Low-Variation Face subordinate tasks.

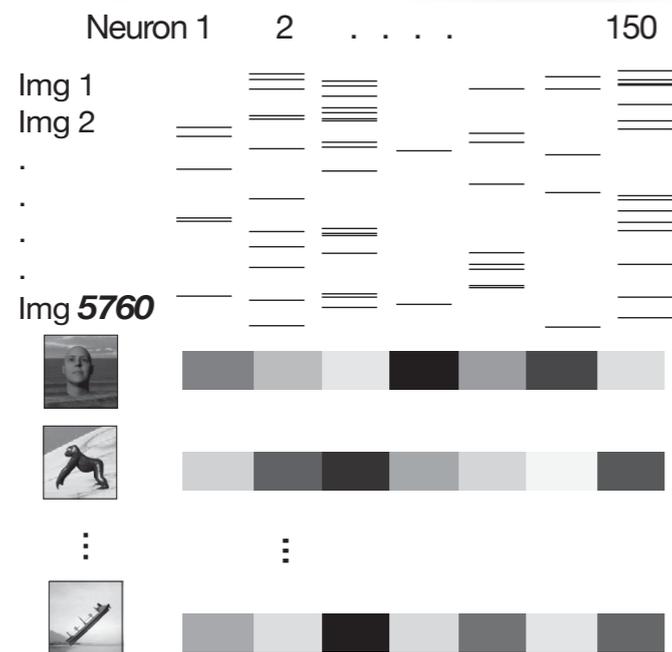
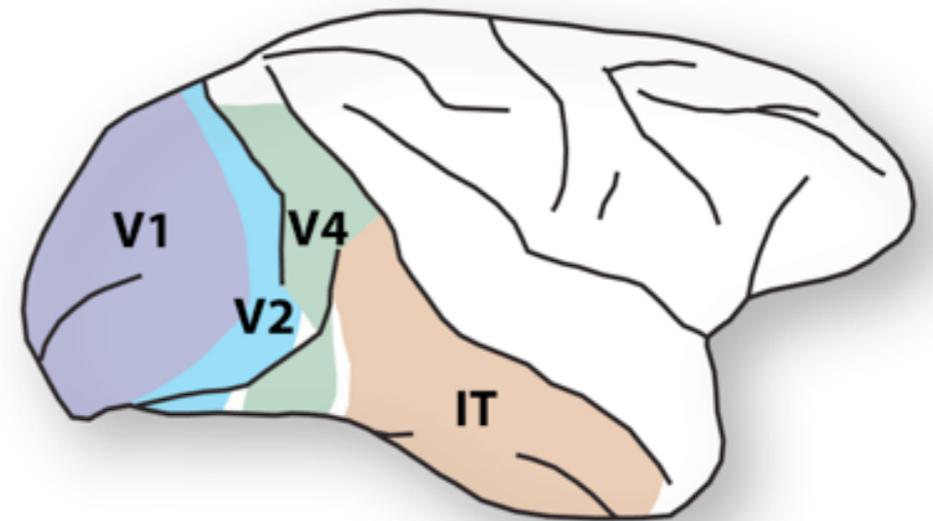
# Neural Response Prediction

Some kind of mapping is necessary.

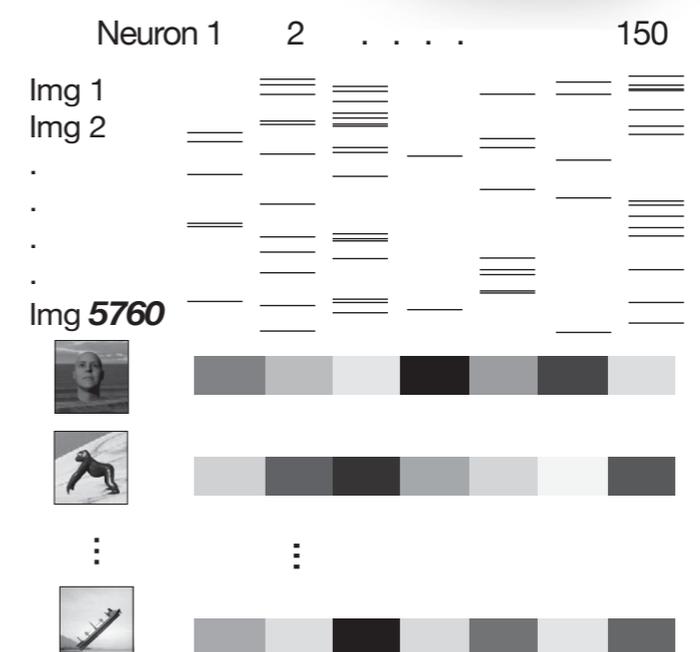
Source Brain



Target Brain



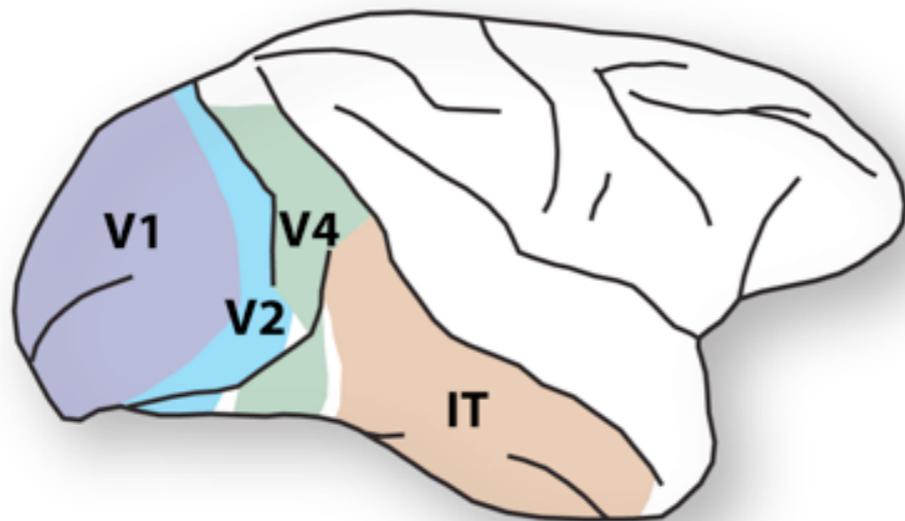
??



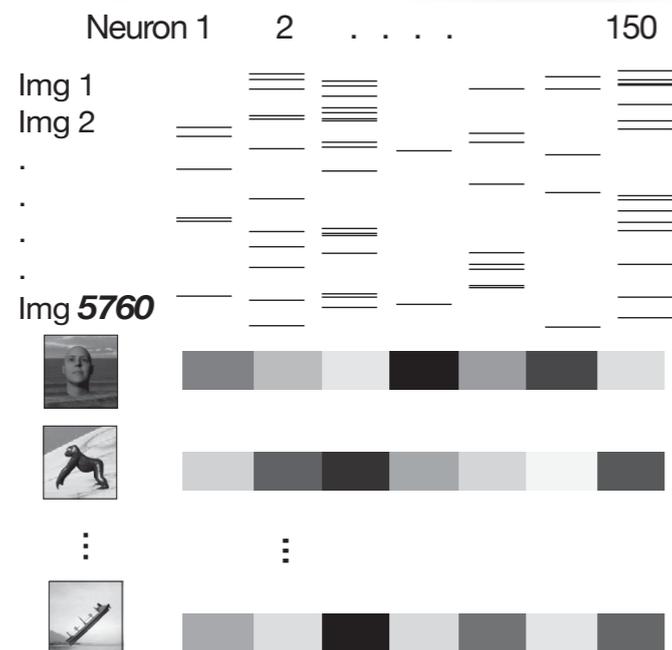
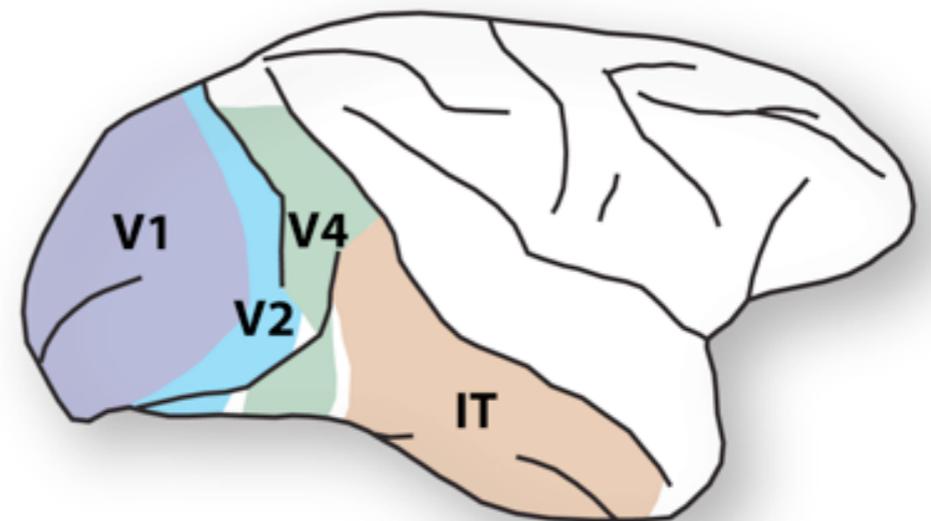
# Neural Response Prediction

Here, we use linear regression.

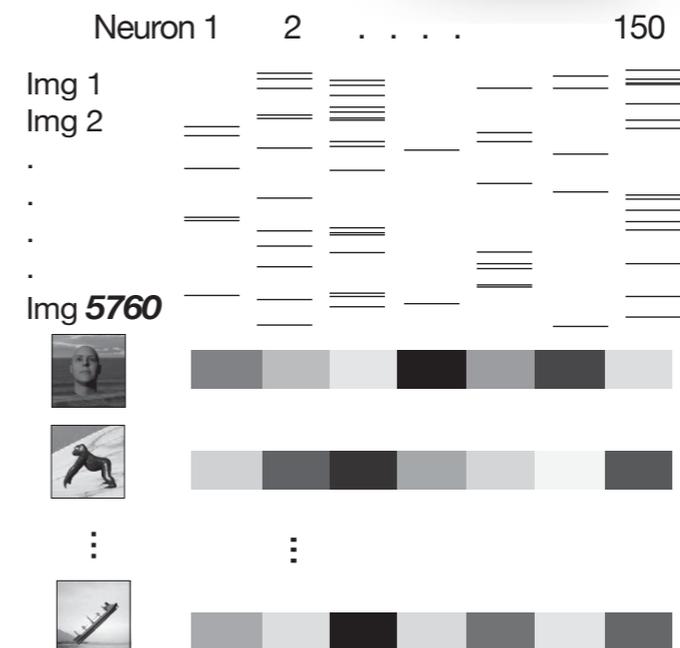
Source Brain



Target Brain



$$T = M * S$$



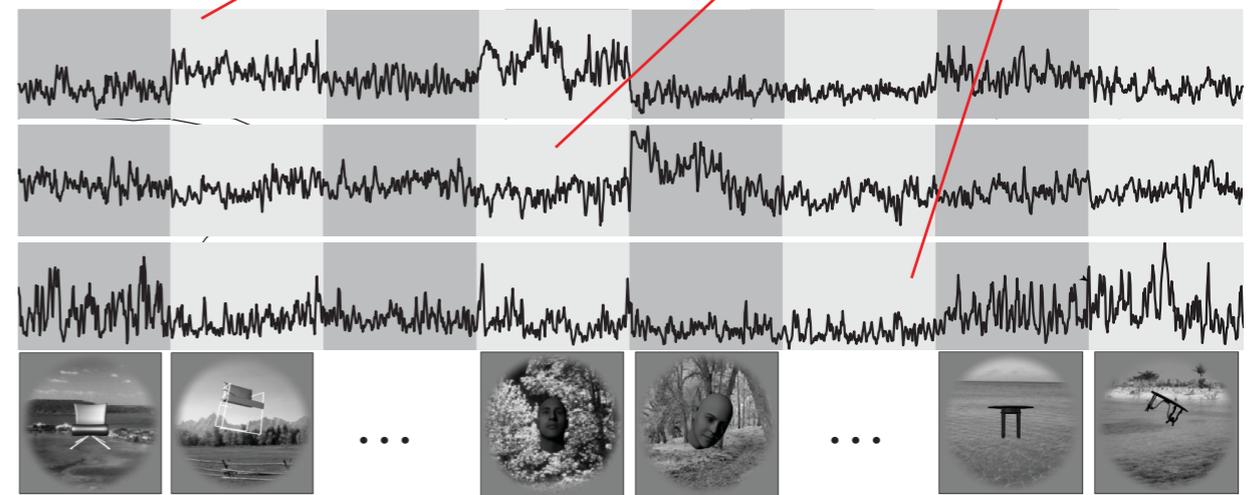
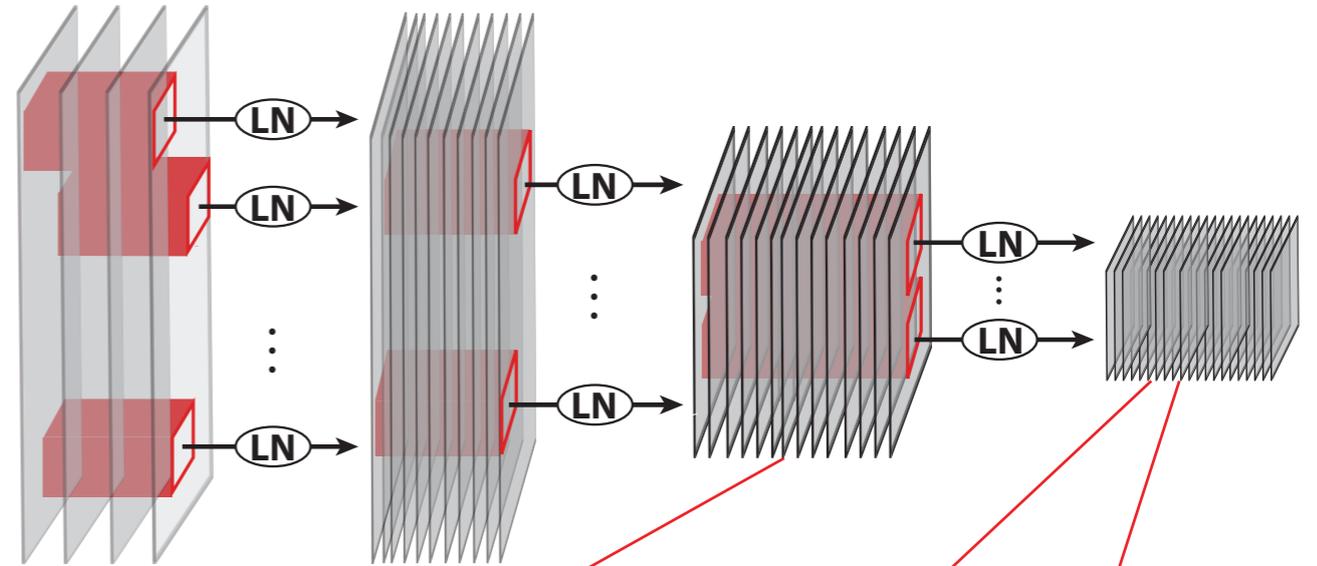
**Neural predictivity:** the ability of model to predict each individual neural site's activity.

Neural site unit  $\sim$  sparse linear combination of model units

Linear regression with fixed training images.

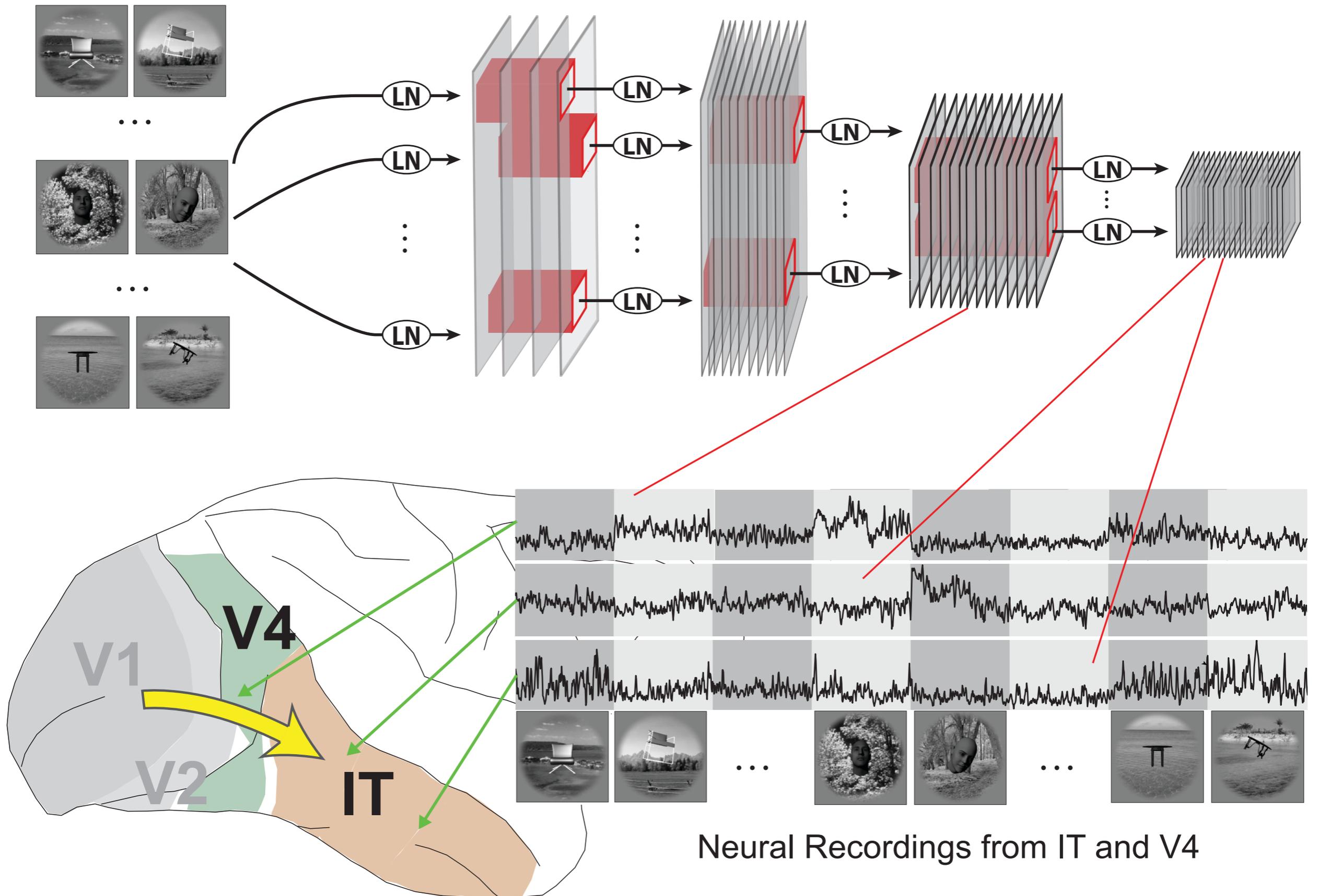
Accuracy = goodness-of-fit on held-out testing images (Cross validated)

Neural predictivity = median accuracy over all units.



Neural Recordings from IT and V4

**Neural predictivity:** the ability of model to predict each individual neural site's activity.



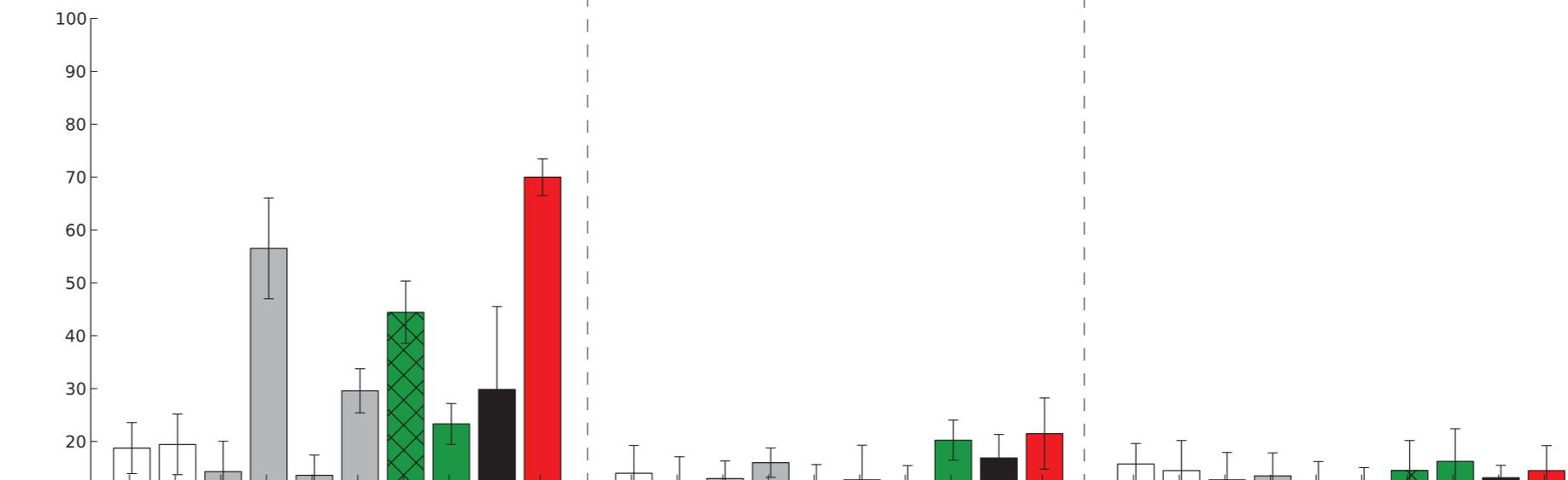
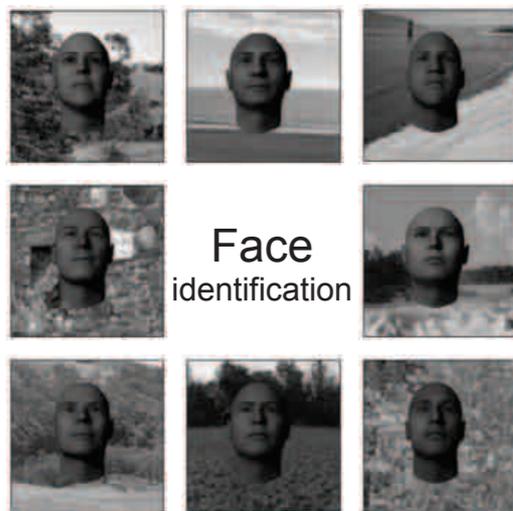
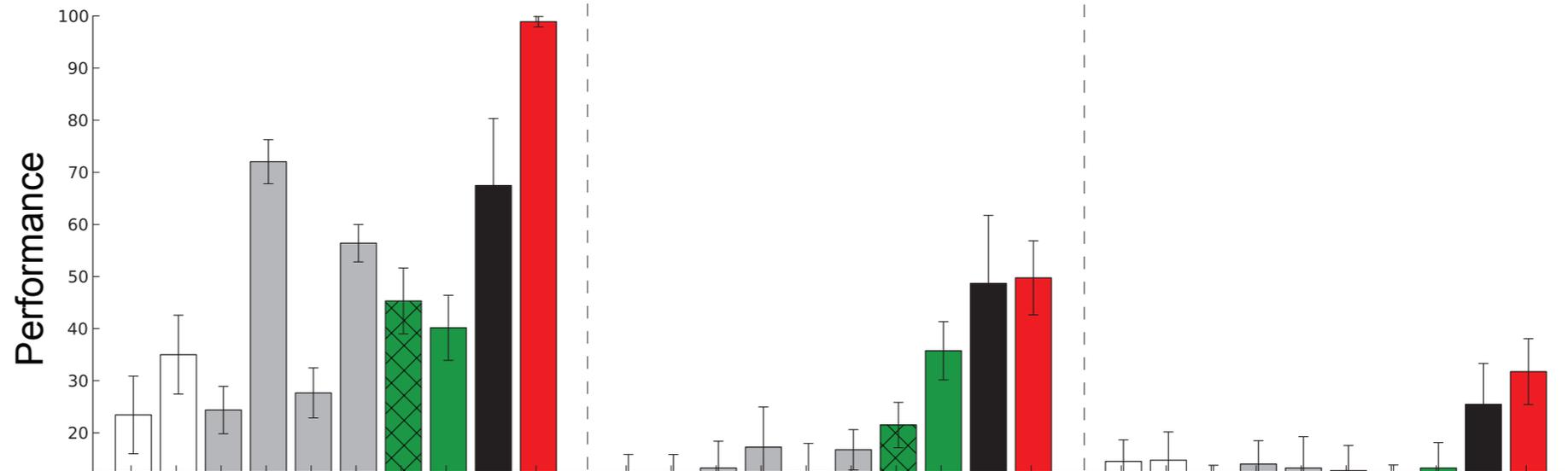
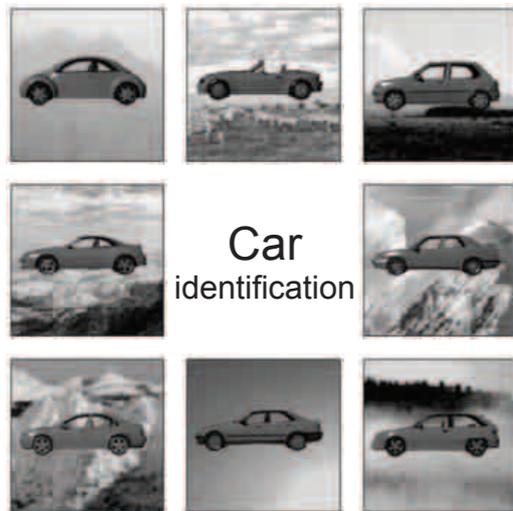
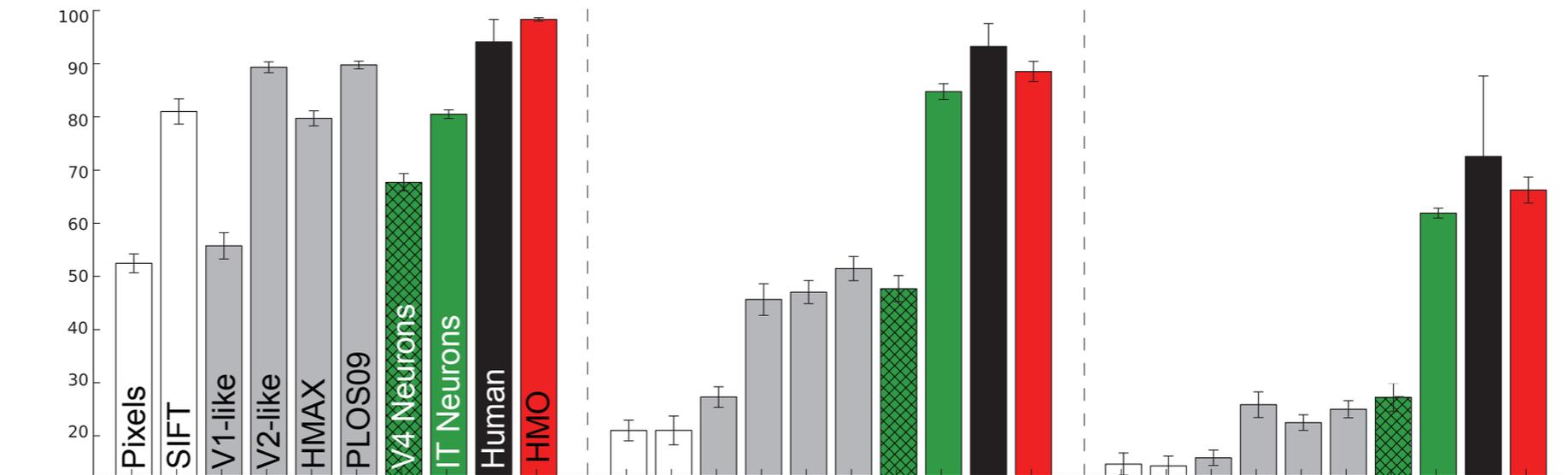
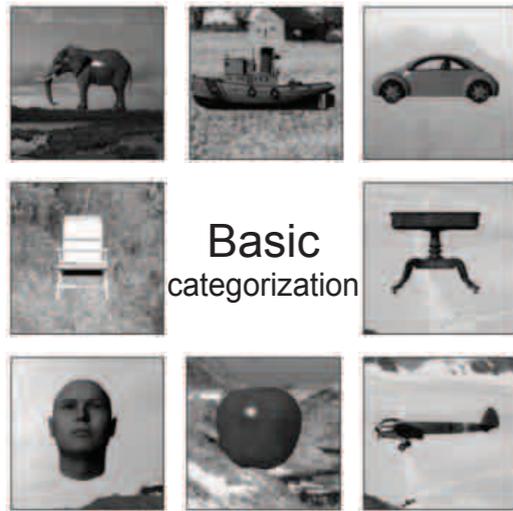
# Performance Comparison

Yamins\* and Hong\* et. al. **PNAS** (2014)

Low Var.

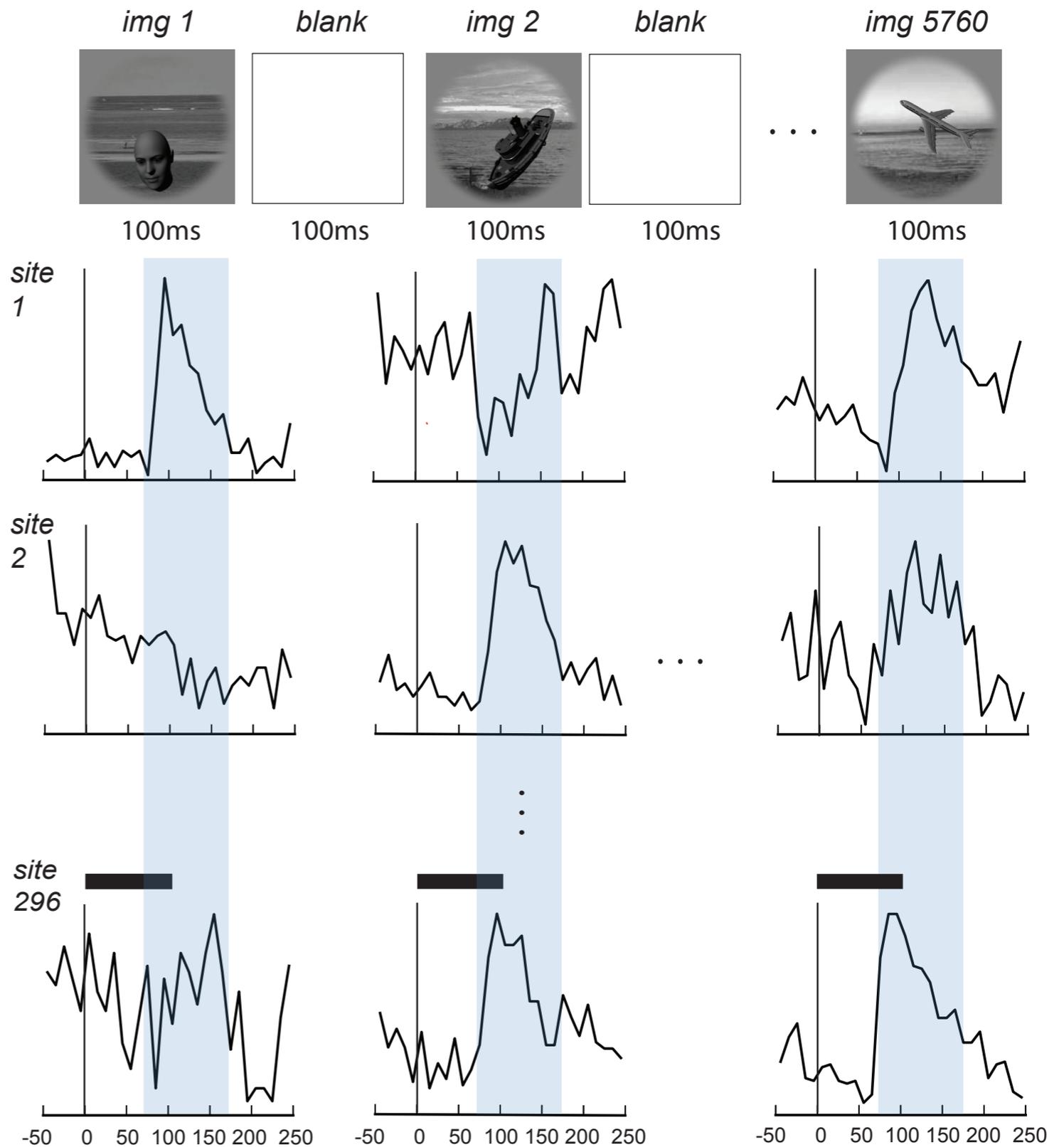
Medium Var.

High Var.

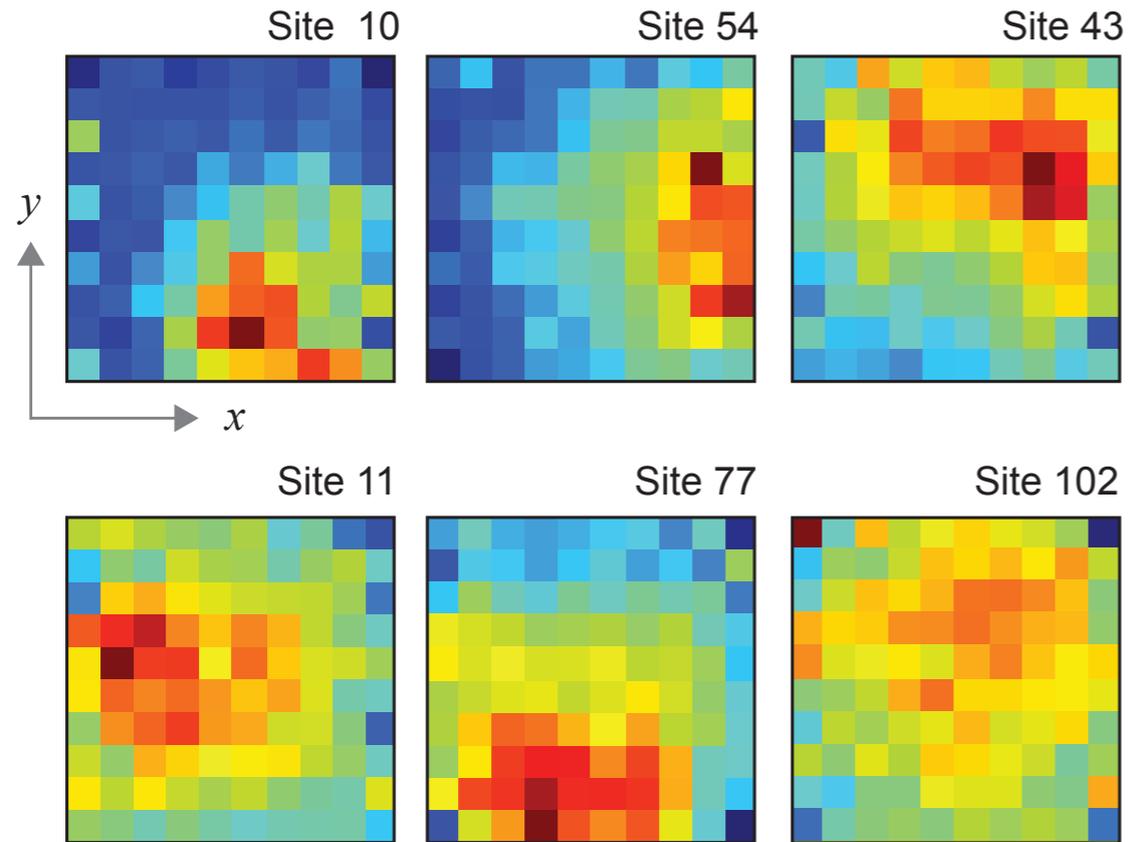


# Neural Data Recording

*Output = Binned spike counts in 70ms-170ms post stimulus presentation; averaged over 25-50 reps of each image.*



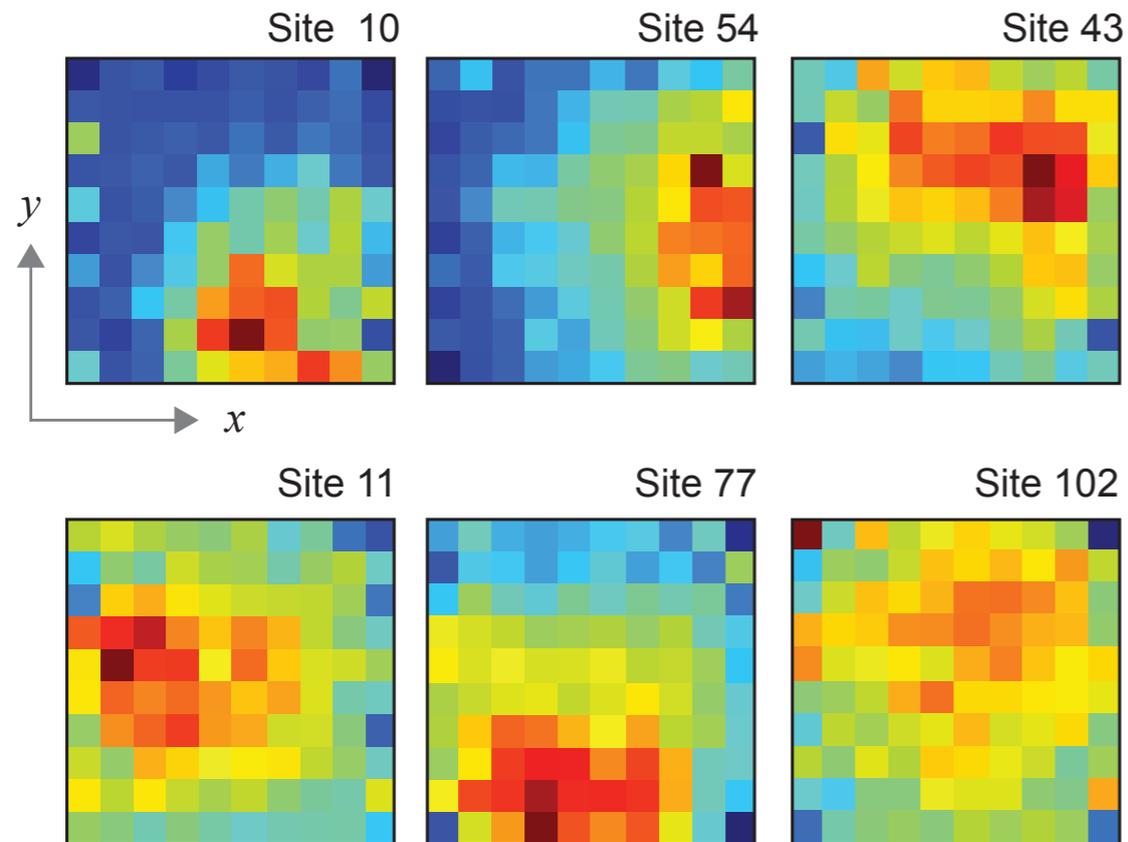
# Single Site Responses



Best single position-encoding sites.

heat map value at  $x, y =$   
response averaged over all  
images where object center is in  
position  $x, y$

# Single Site Responses

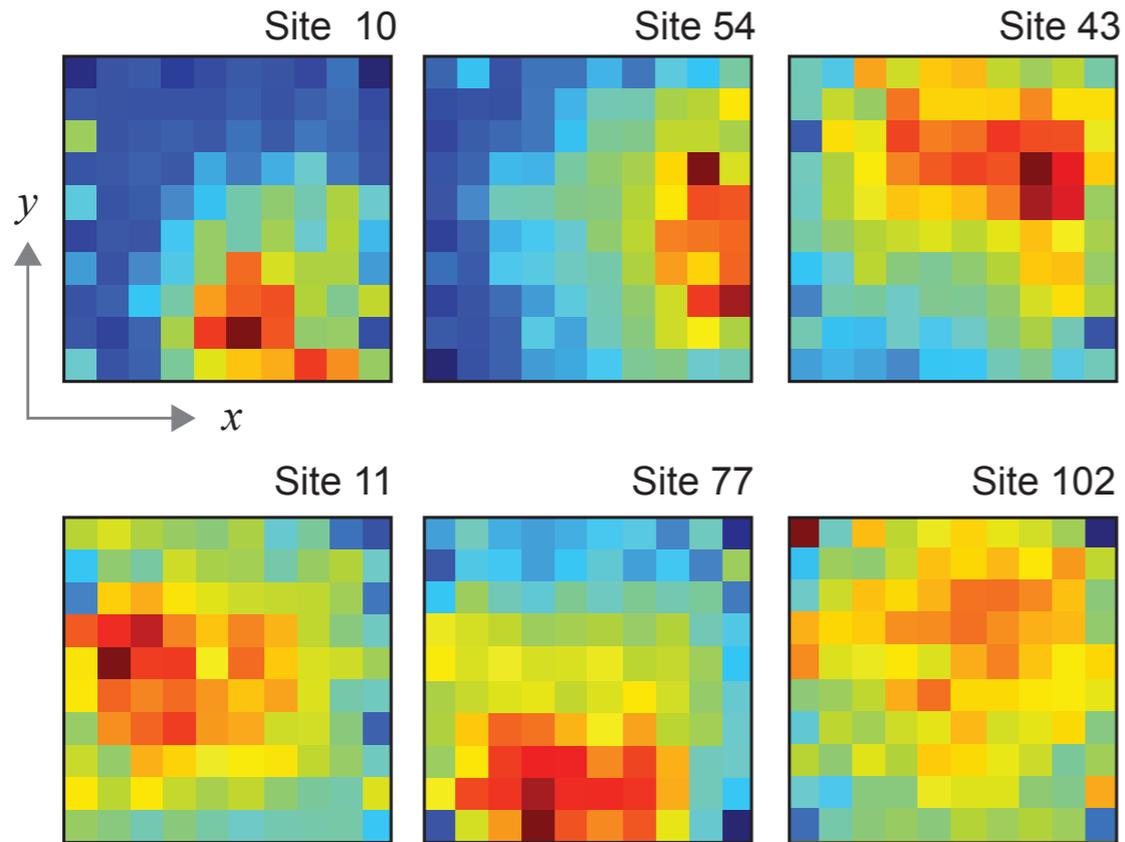


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response averaged over all  
images where object center is in  
position  $x, y$

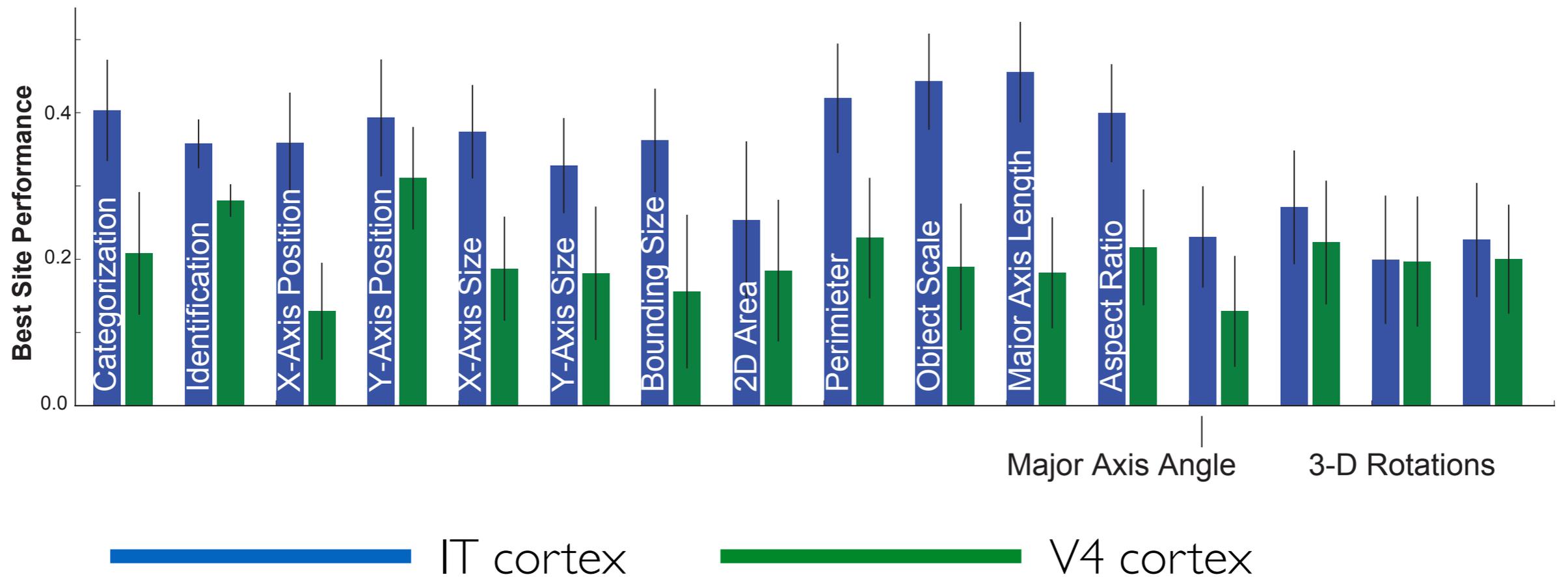
Similar to MacEvoy (2013) and DiCarlo(2003)  
except — dramatically more variation.

# Single Site Responses

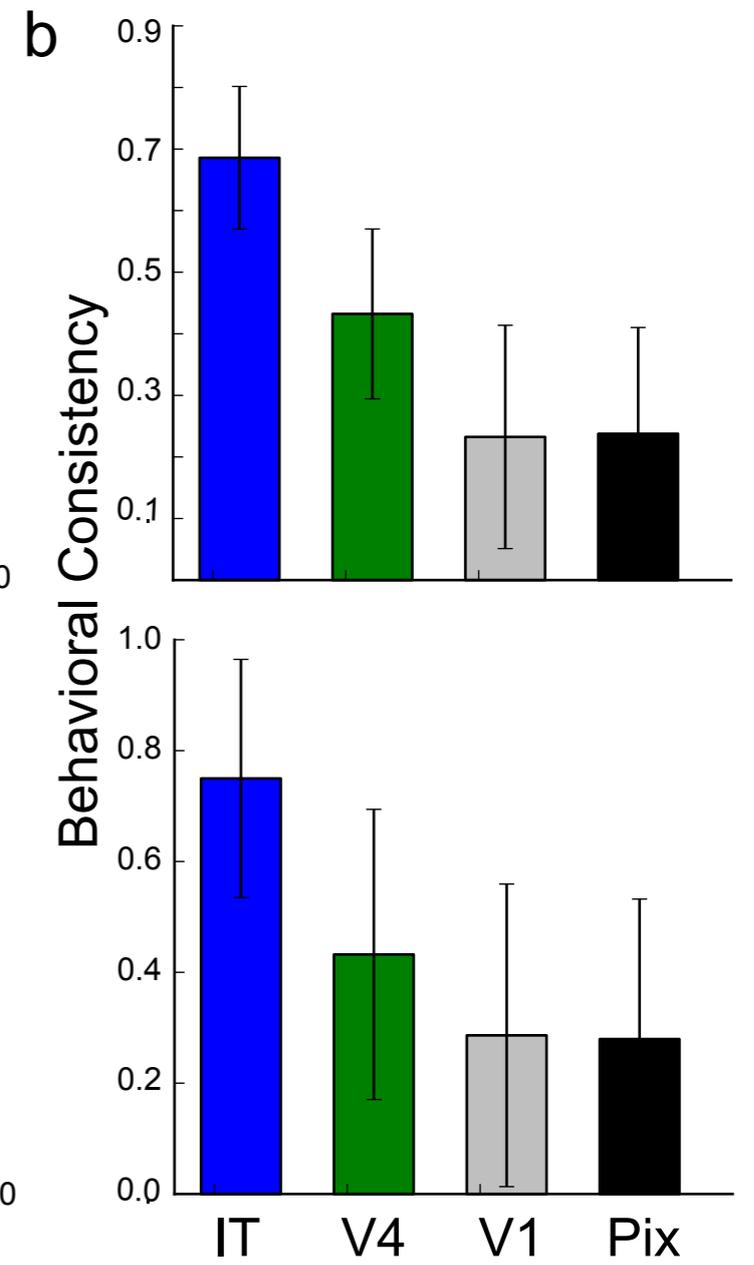
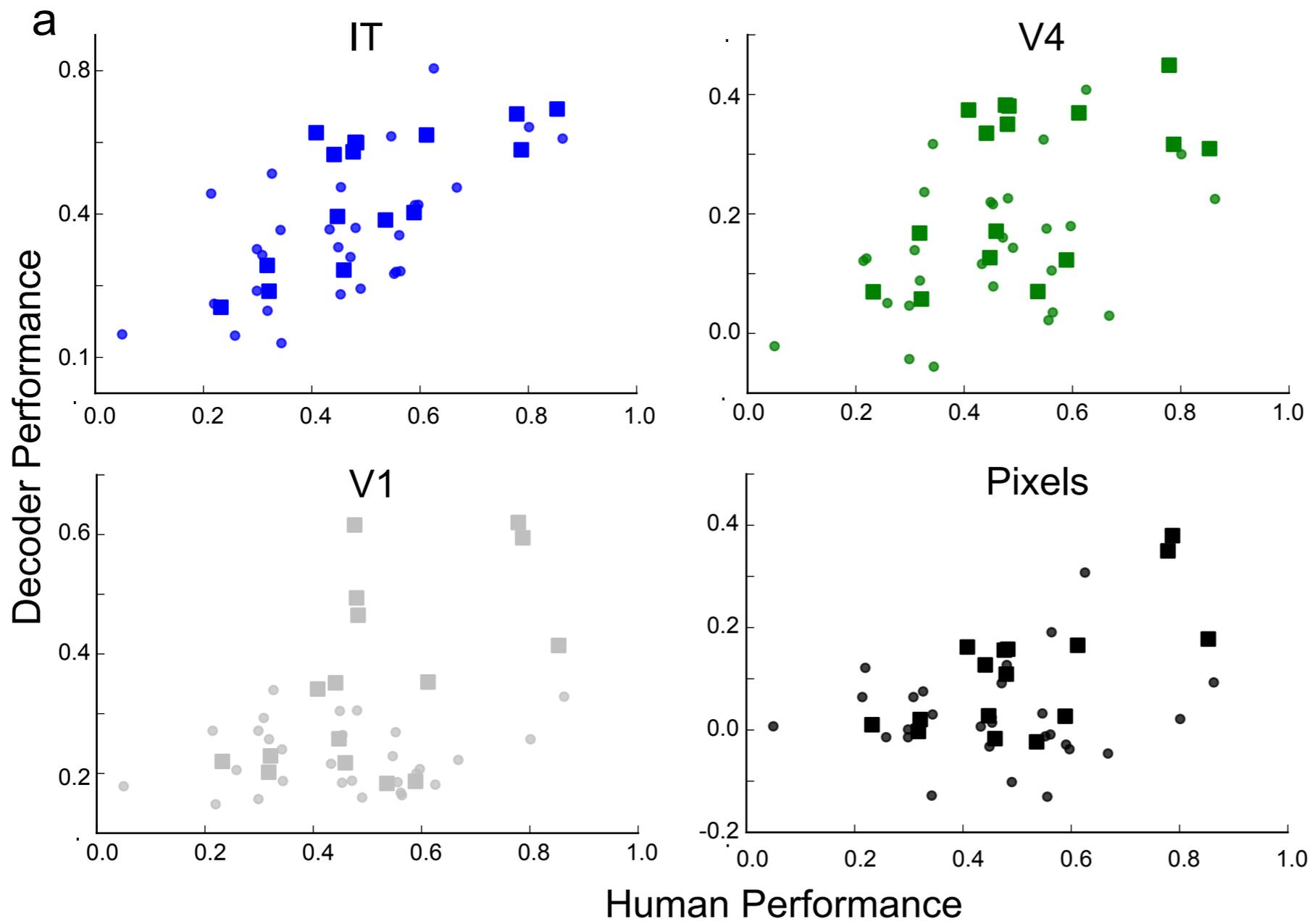


Best single position-encoding sites.

heat map value at  $x, y =$   
 response averaged over all  
 images where object center is in  
 position  $x, y$



# Monkey Neurons vs Humans



# Monkey Neurons vs Humans

	IT	V4	V1	Pix
Basic Categorization	773 ± 185	2.2 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	—	—
Subordinate Identification	496 ± 93	4.4 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	—	—
X-axis Position	1414 ± 403	5.2 × 10 <sup>5</sup>	3.0 × 10 <sup>7</sup>	—
Y-axis Position	918 ± 309	2.5 × 10 <sup>4</sup>	8.7 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	—
Bounding Box Size	322 ± 90	1.7 × 10 <sup>4</sup>	—	—
X-axis Size	256 ± 87	9.8 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	3.4 × 10 <sup>7</sup>	—
Y-axis Size	237 ± 87	3.8 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	9.5 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	—
3-D Object Scale	401 ± 90	3.2 × 10 <sup>4</sup>	—	—
Major Axis Length	201 ± 70	1.1 × 10 <sup>4</sup>	—	—
Aspect Ratio	163 ± 61	951 ± 59	6.5 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	—
Major Axis Angle	804 ± 136	3.2 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	—	—
Z-axis Rotation	1932 ± 1061	—	—	—
Y-axis Rotation	369 ± 115	2.8 × 10 <sup>5</sup>	—	—
X-axis Rotation	1570 ± 530	—	—	—

— = more than 10 billion sites required

*Hong\*, Yamins\*, Majaj & DiCarlo. **Nat. Neuro.** (in press)*

Mean over tasks, human-parity for IT is at ~**700** multi-unit trial-averaged sites.

# Monkey Neurons vs Humans

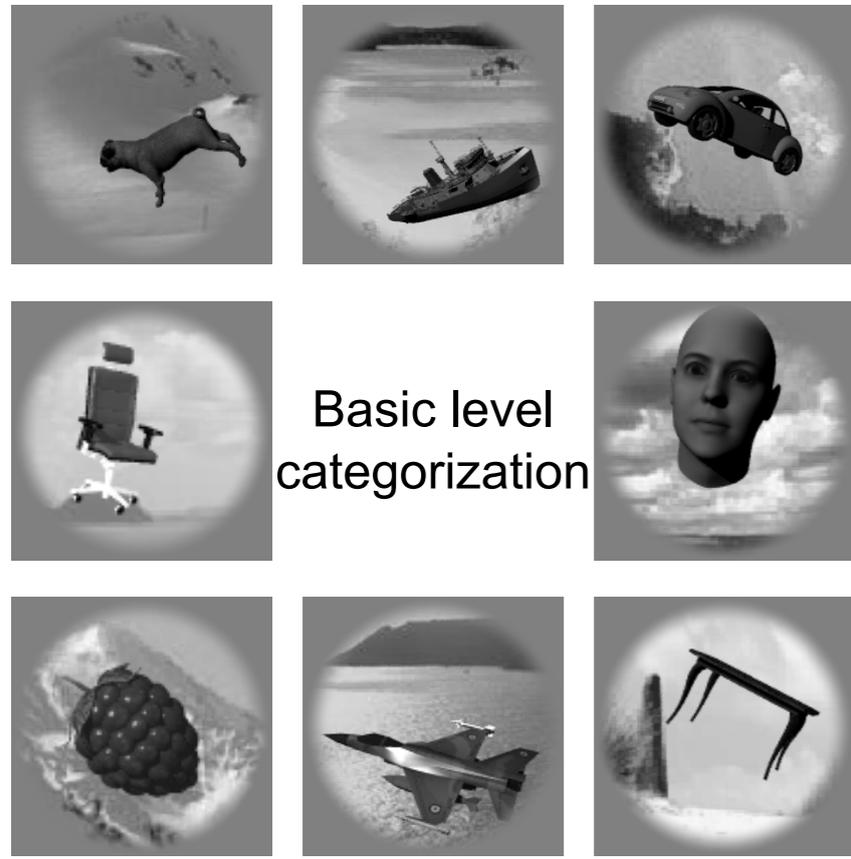
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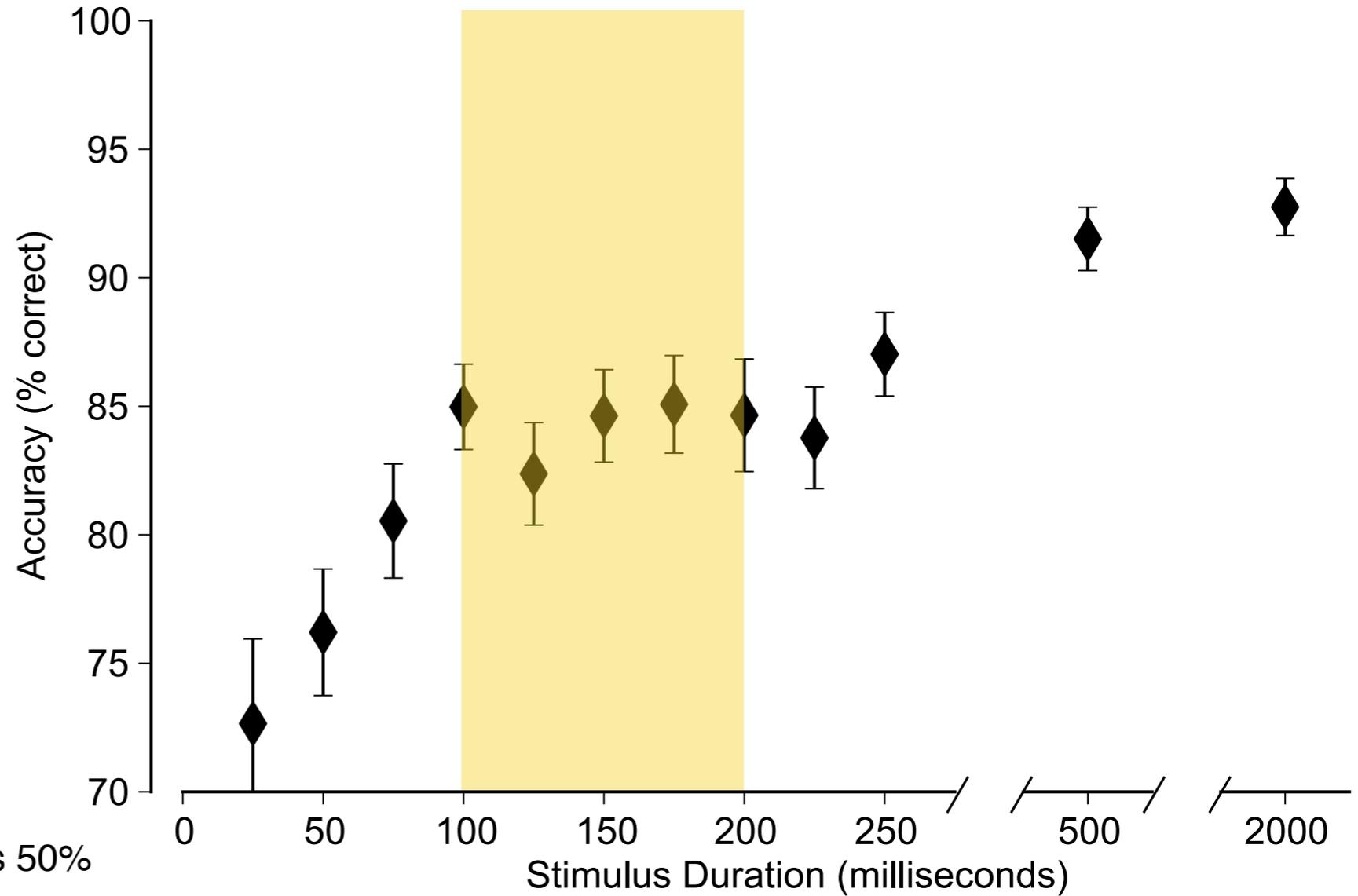
Mean over tasks, human-parity for IT is at ~**350000** single-unit single-trial neurons.

# Example: Human object categorization accuracy as a function of image viewing time



Chance is 50%

“Core object perception” regime



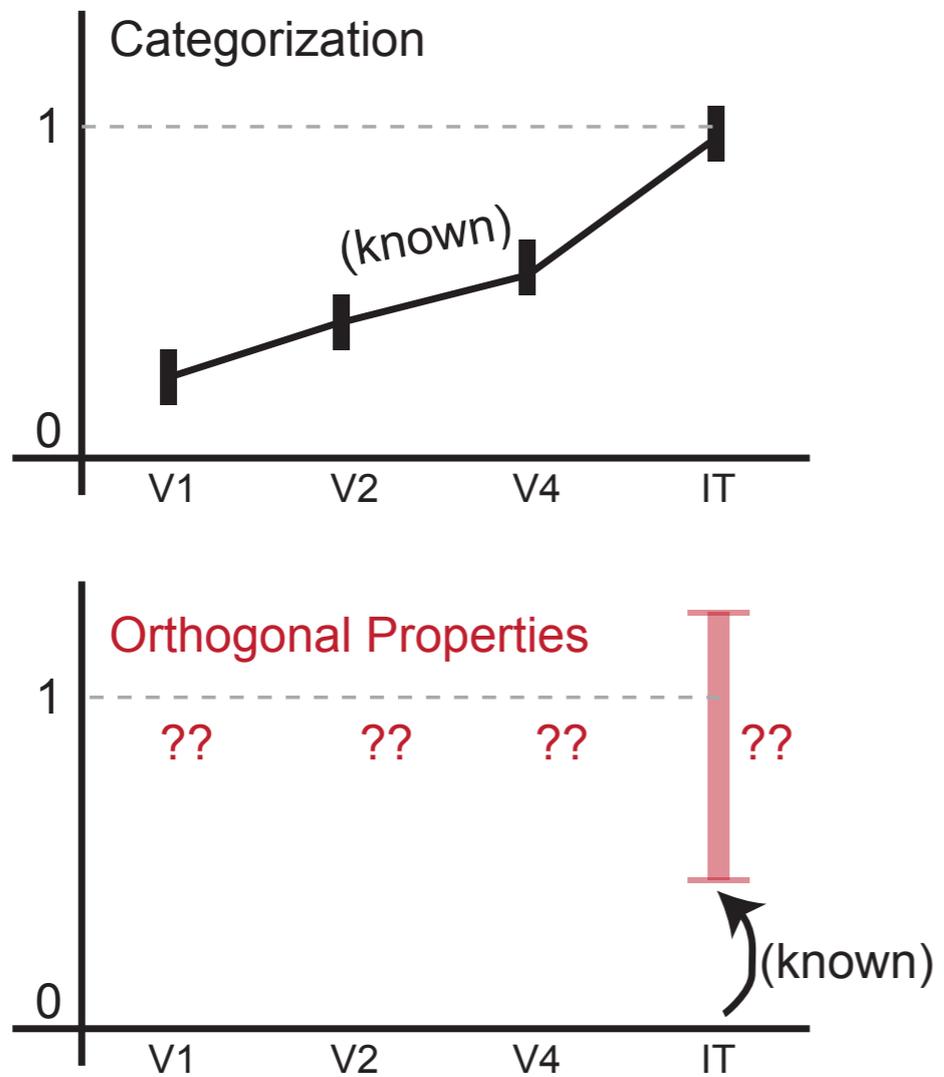
All the data I will show you today

Typical primate fixation duration during natural viewing

# Somewhat newish ideas about IT?

Population Decode Performance  
(relative to human performance)

State of knowledge  
from previous studies . . .

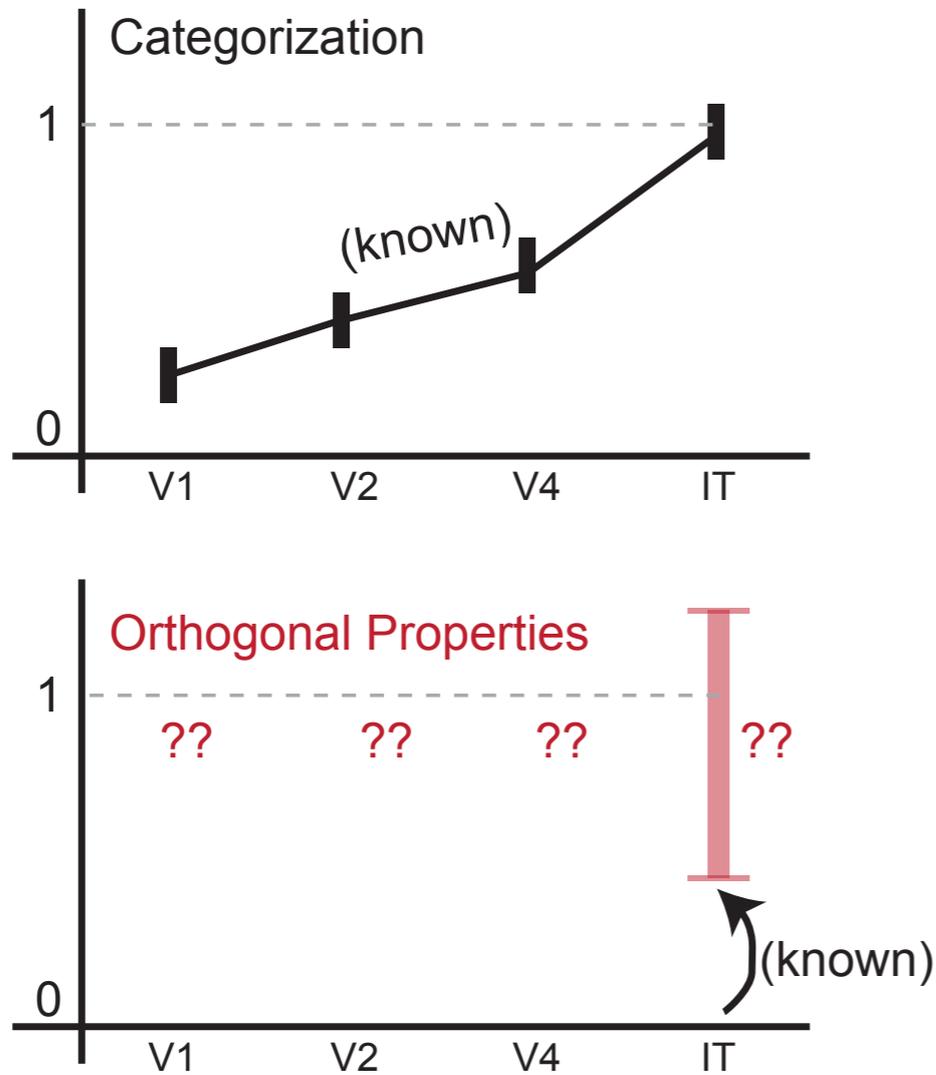


Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

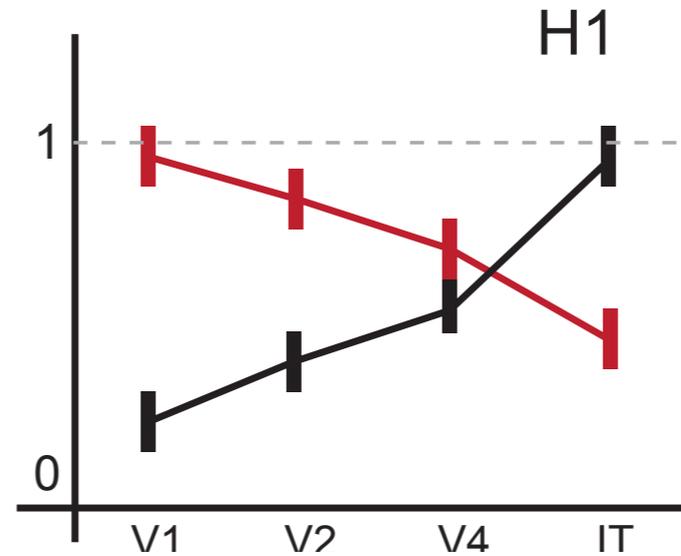
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Multiple hypotheses consistent with the existing data . . .



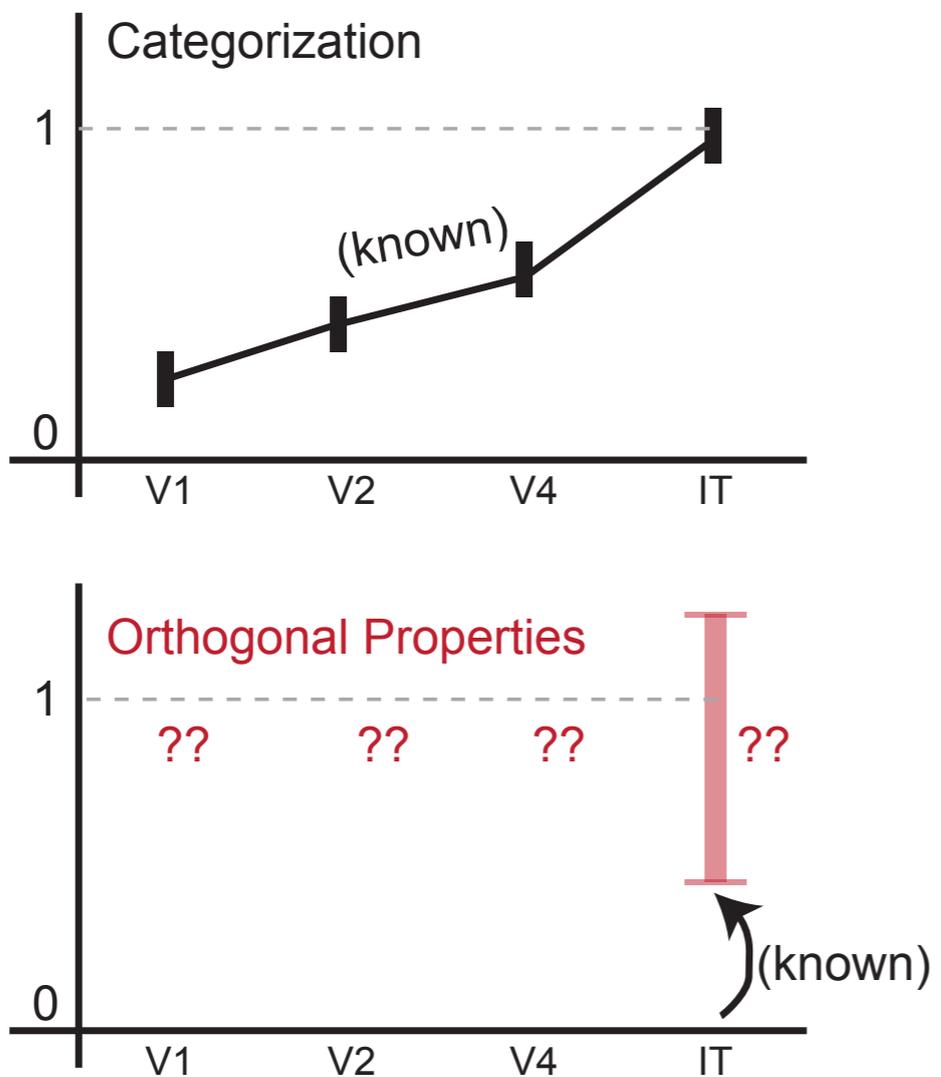
**H1**: Tolerance / sensitivity tradeoff?

Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

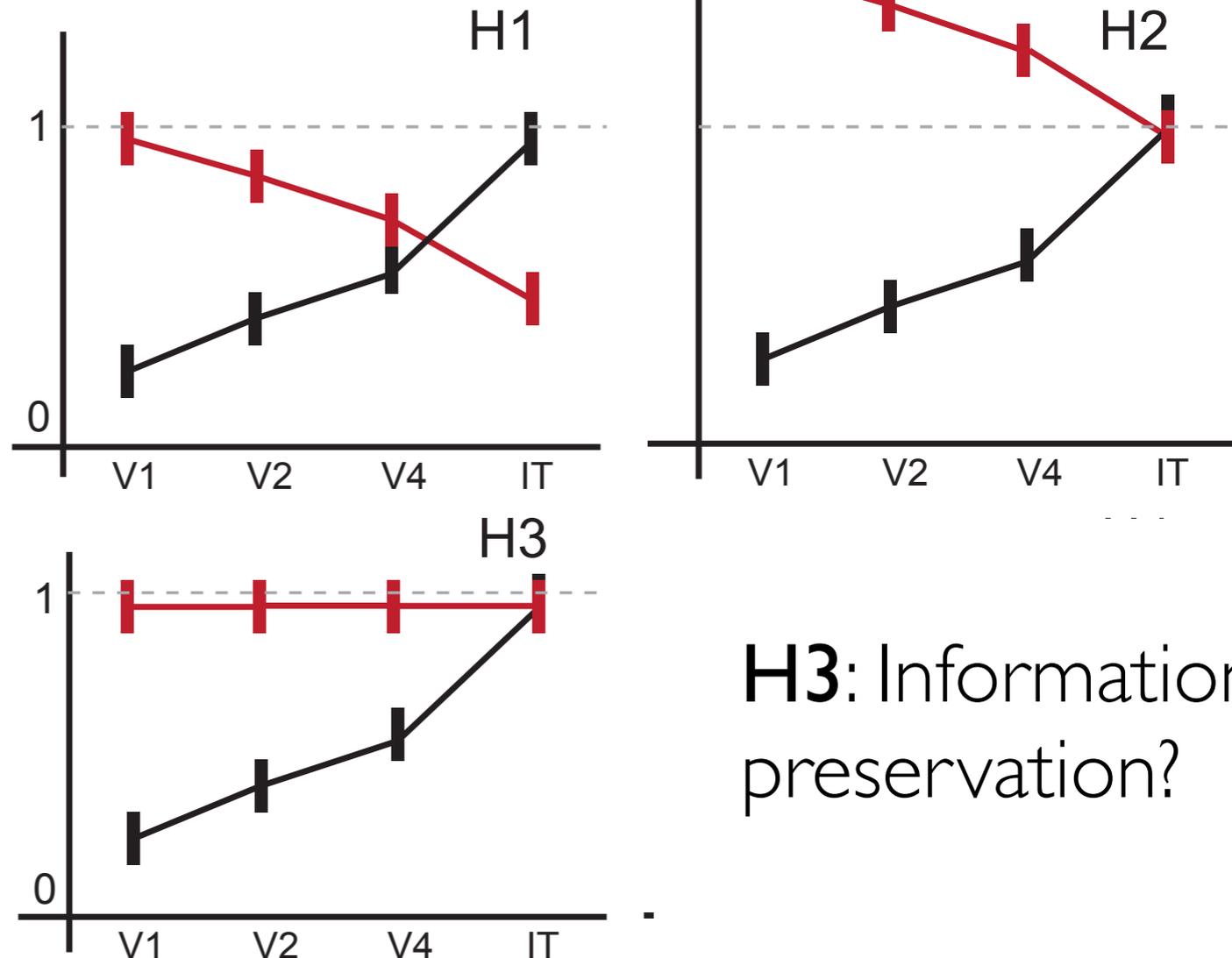
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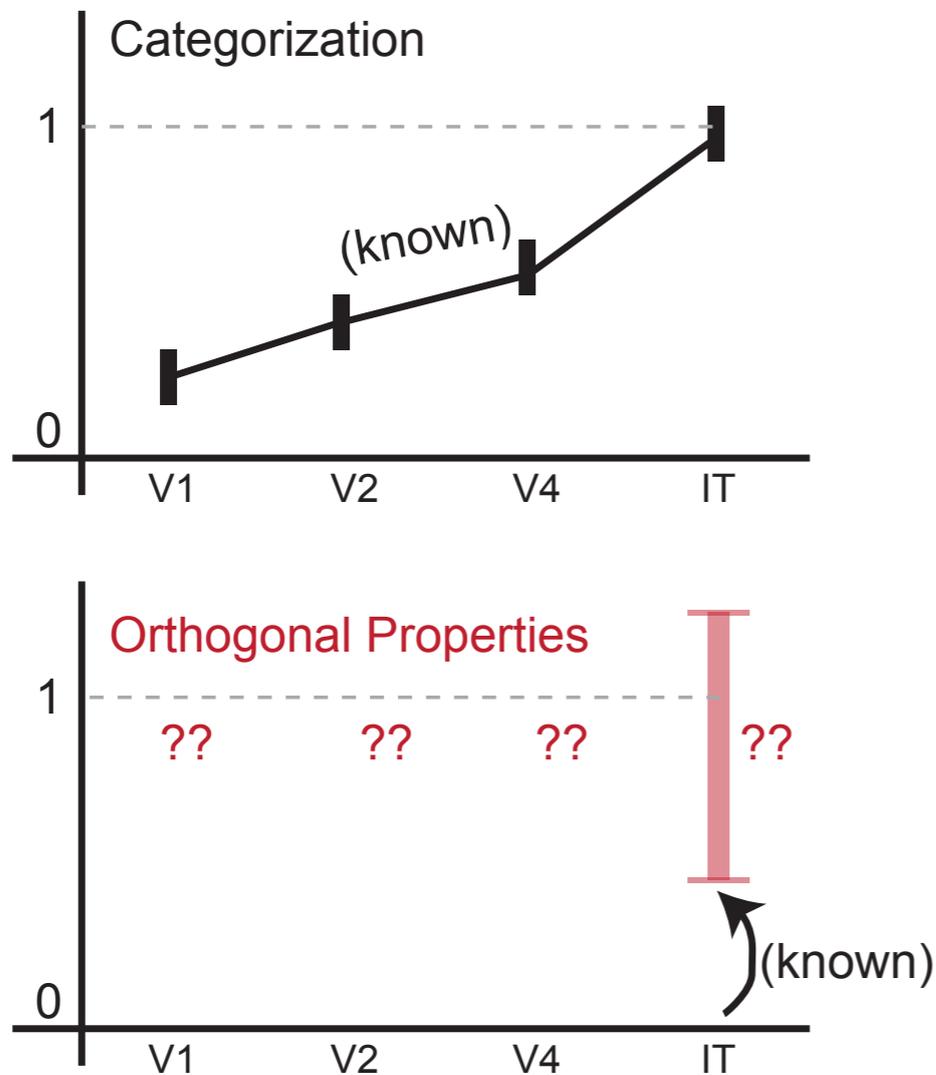
**H3:** Information preservation?

Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

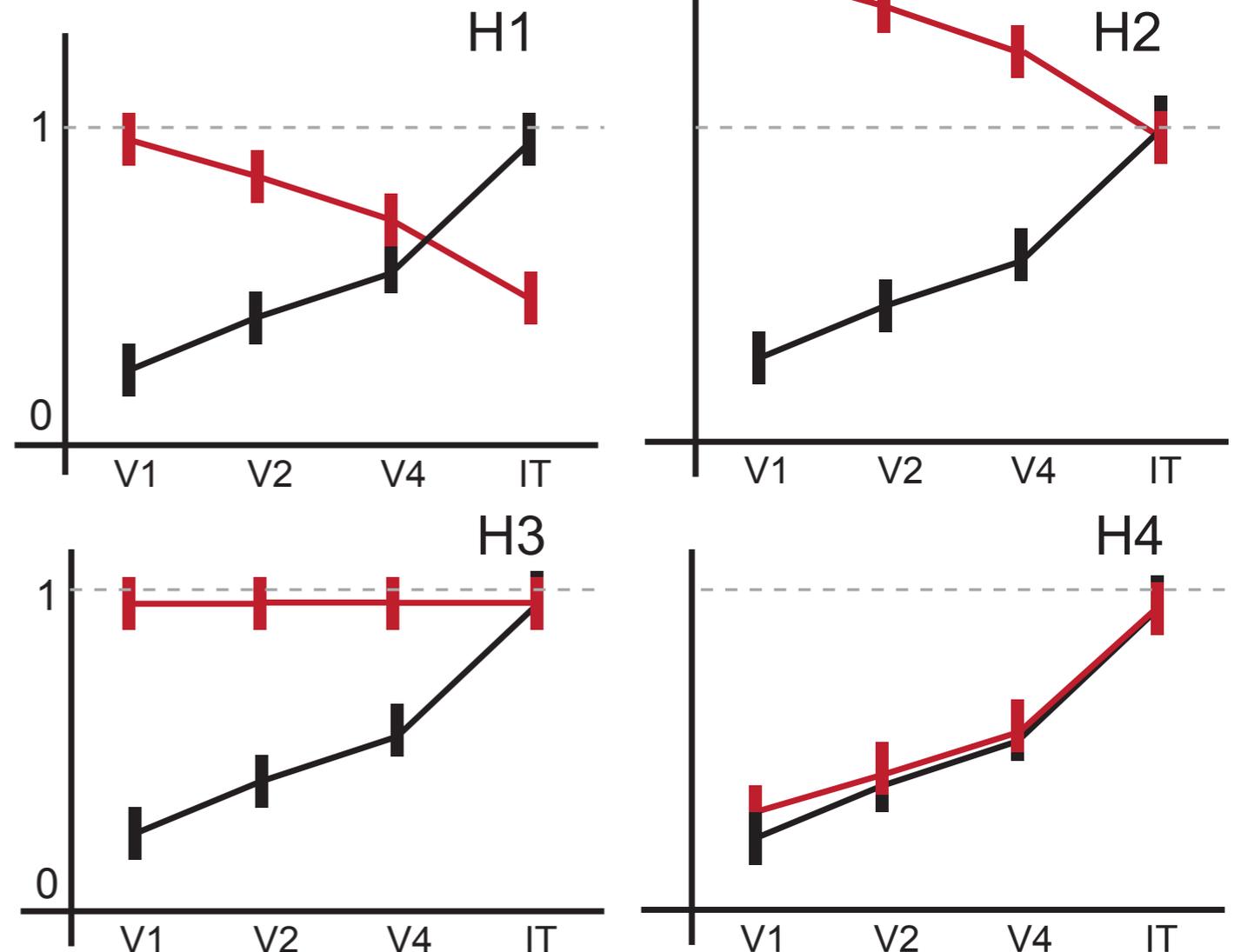
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Population Decode Performance  
(relative to human performance)

State of knowledge from previous studies . . .



Multiple hypotheses consistent with the existing data . . .

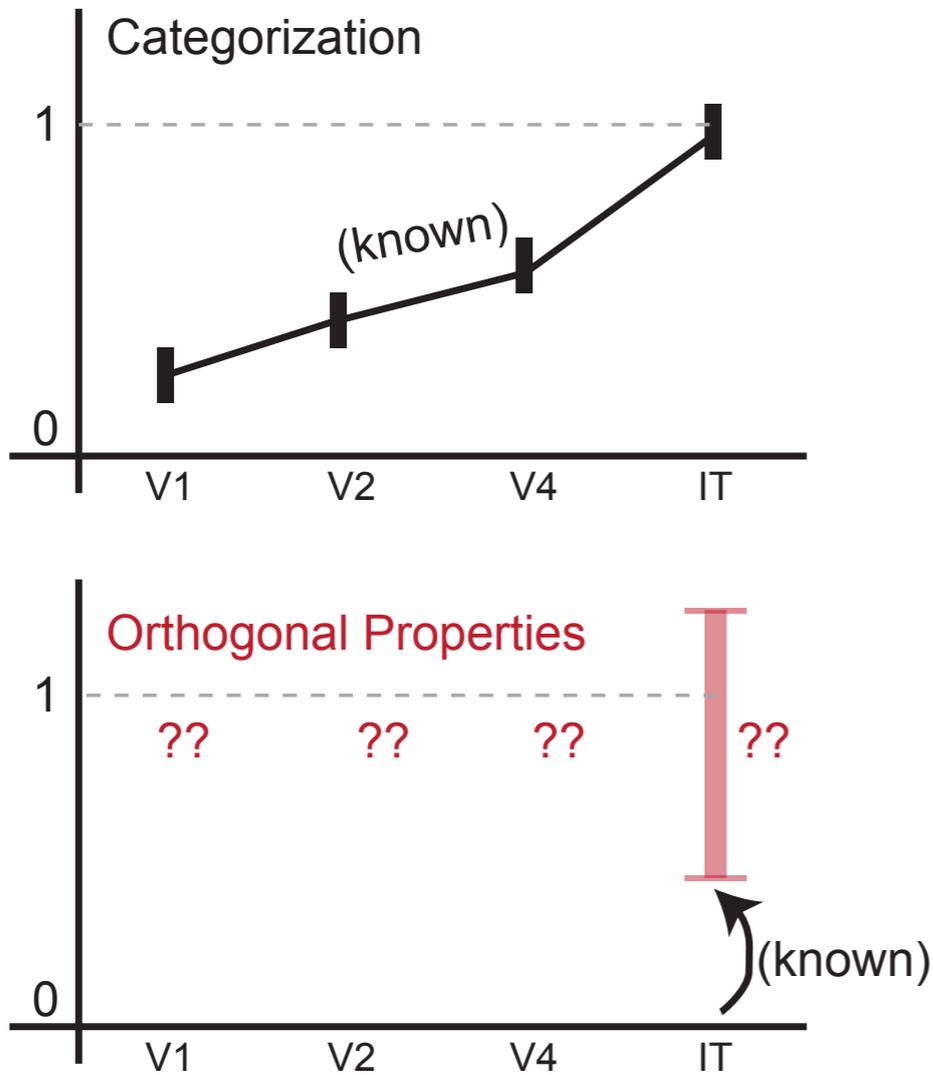


Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

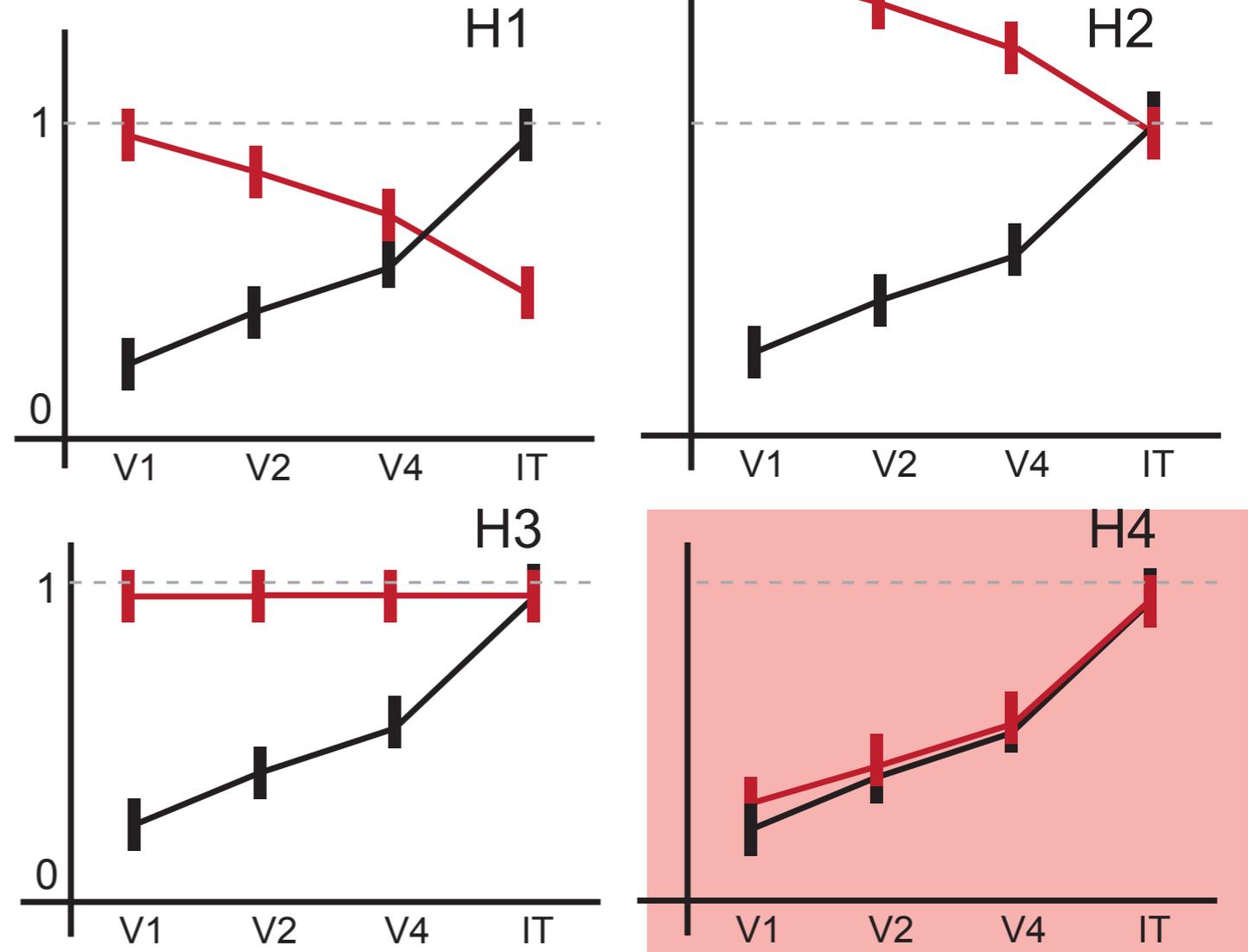
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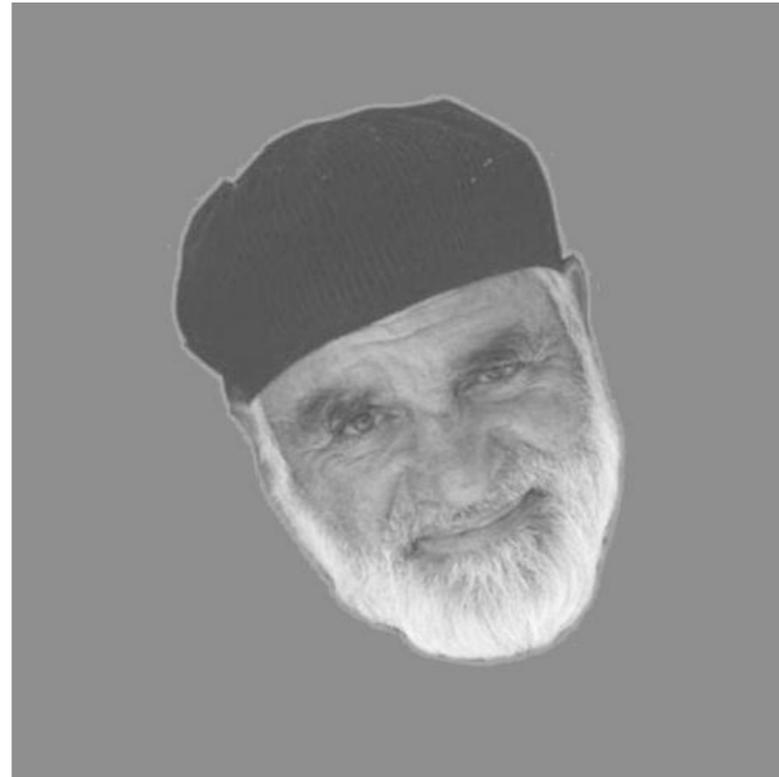
Multiple hypotheses consistent with the existing data . . .



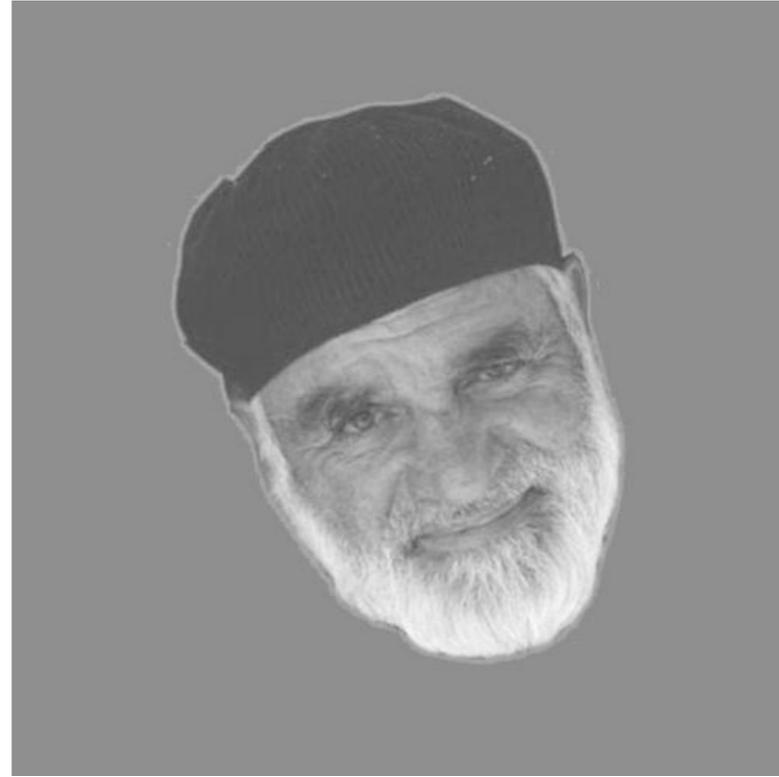
Depth Along Ventral Stream  
(increasing receptive field size →)

**H4:** Simultaneous build-up of encoding

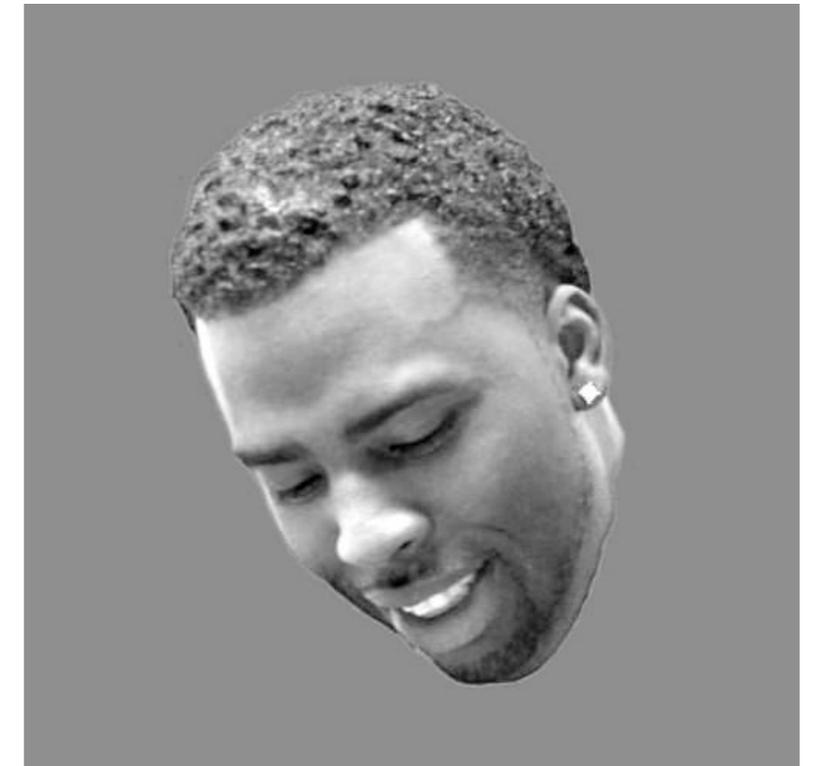
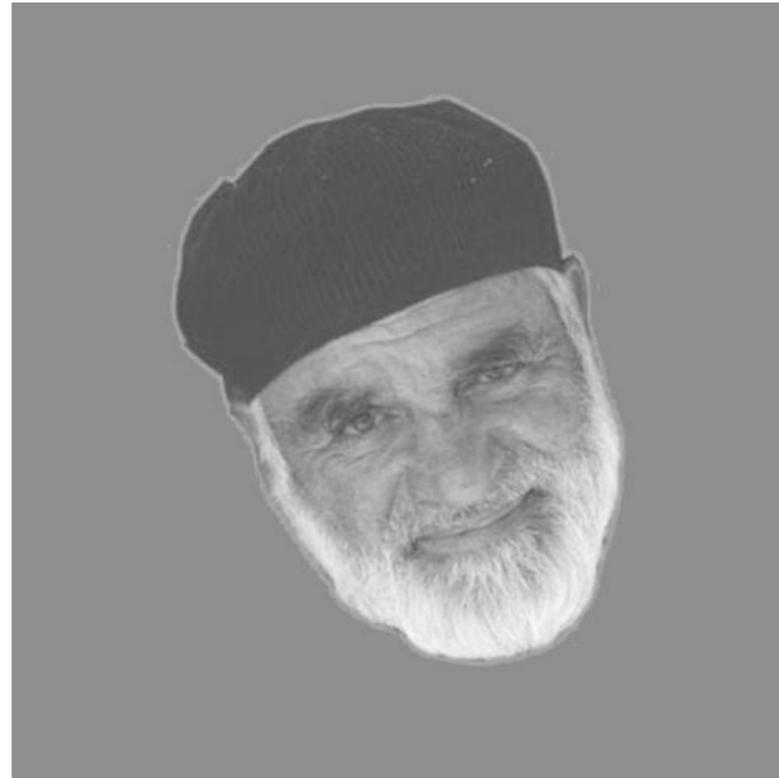
# Face Perception is Fast, Robust, and Accurate



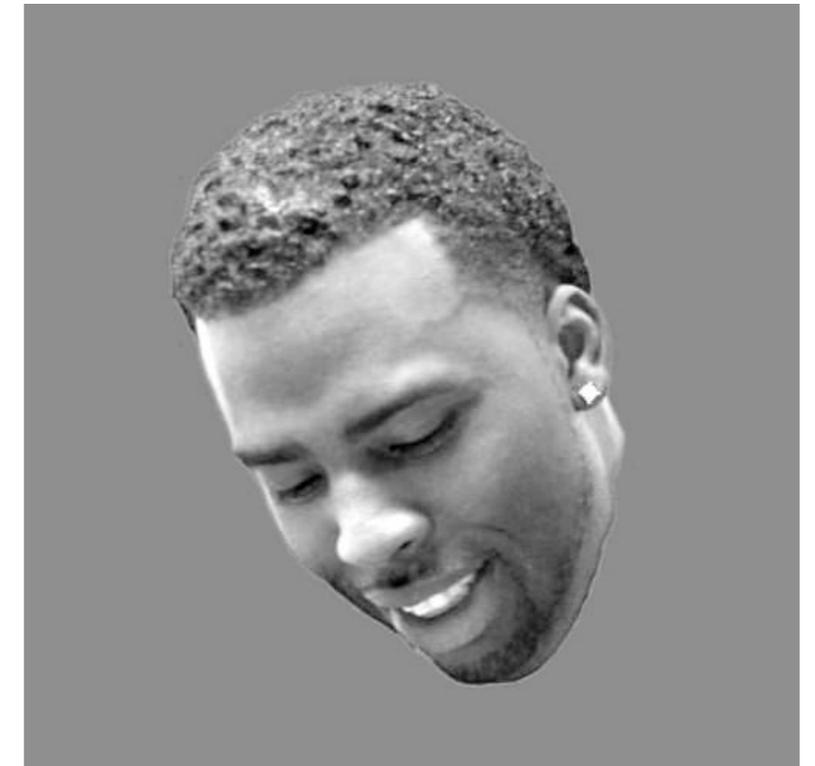
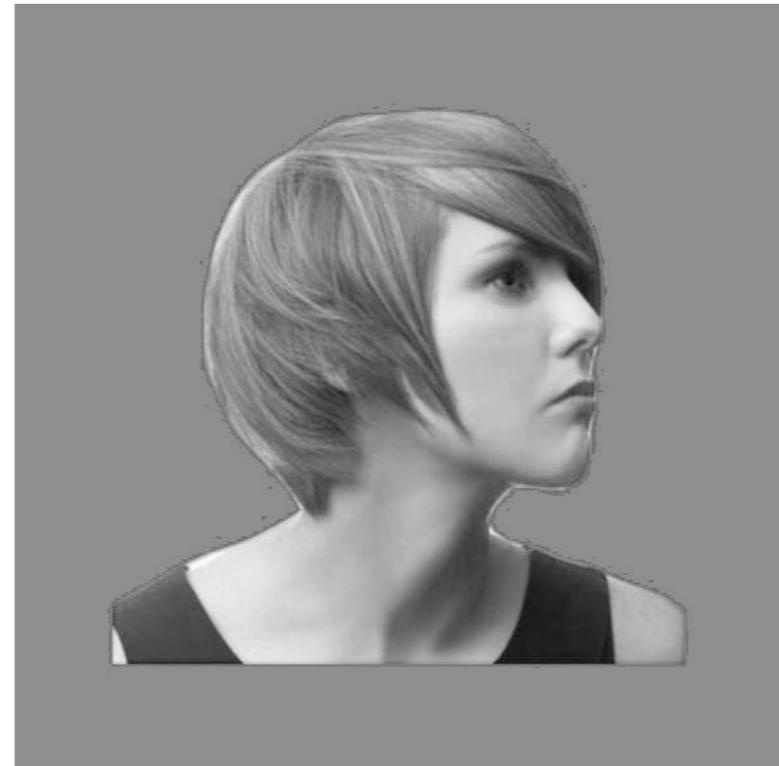
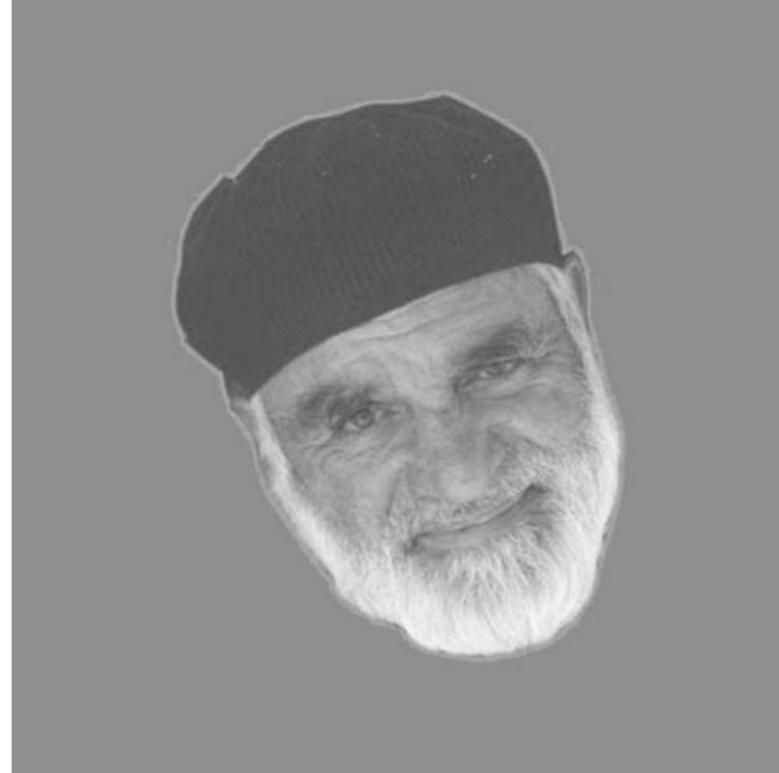
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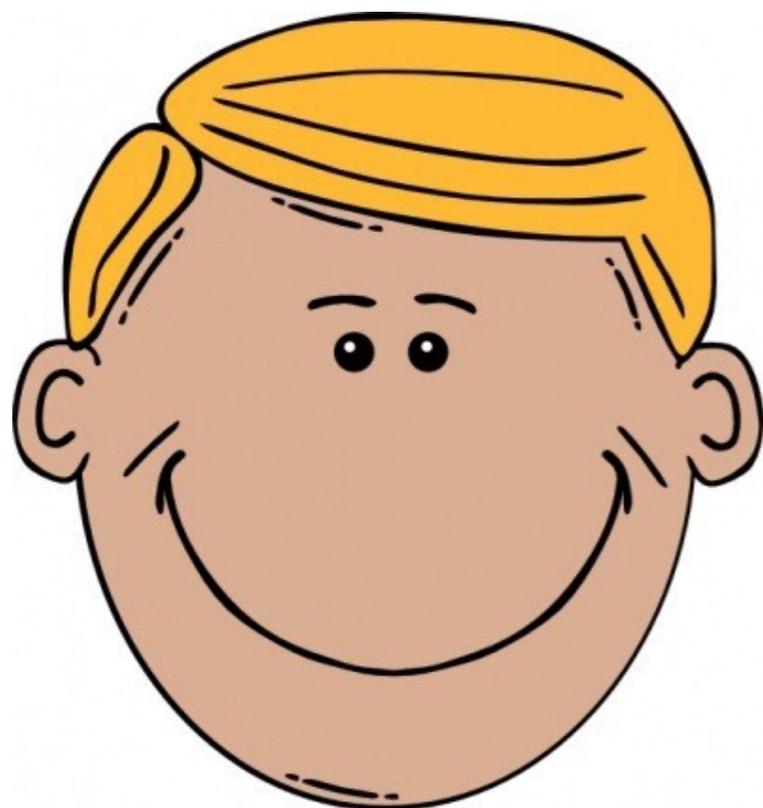
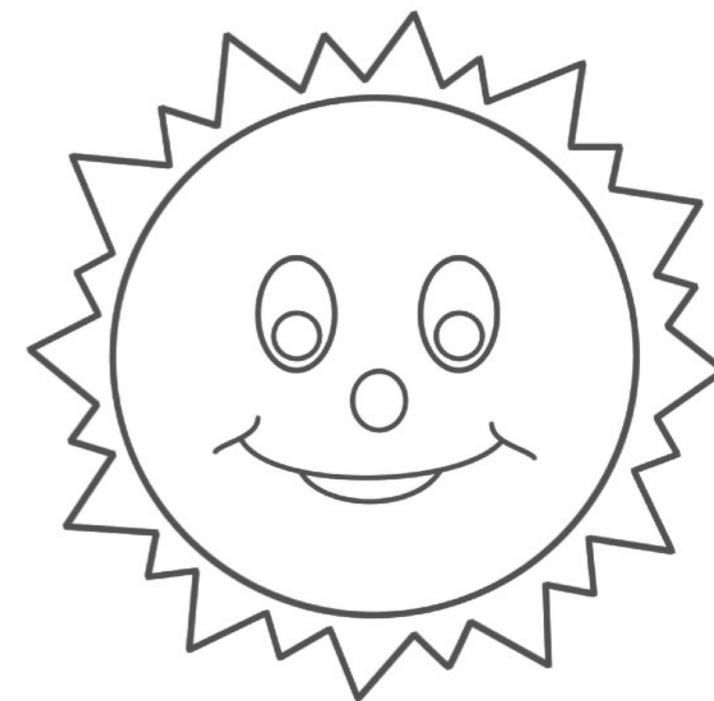
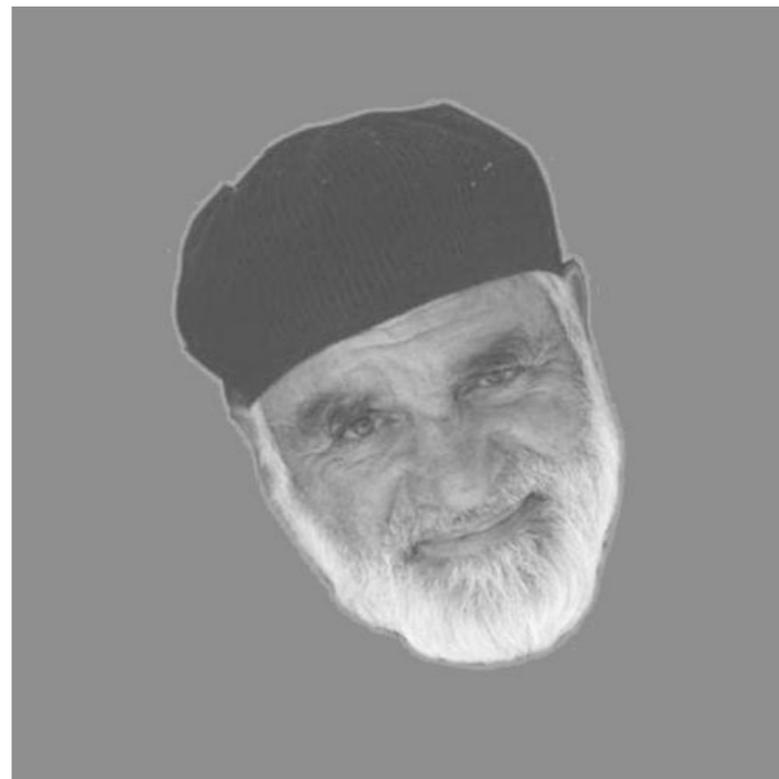
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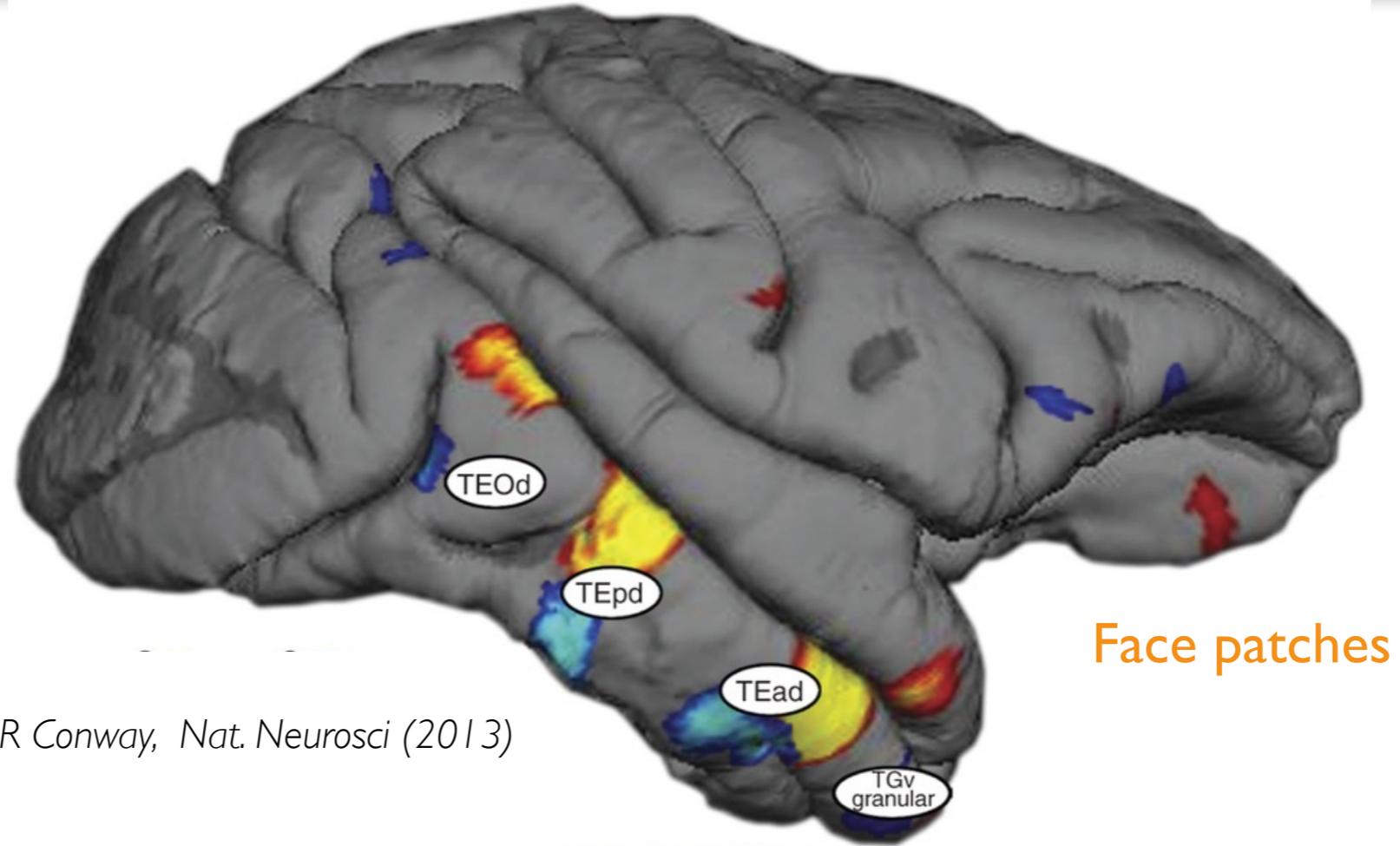
# Face Perception is Fast, Robust, and Accurate



# Face Perception is Fast, Robust, and Accurate



# Selective Patches in Higher Visual Cortex

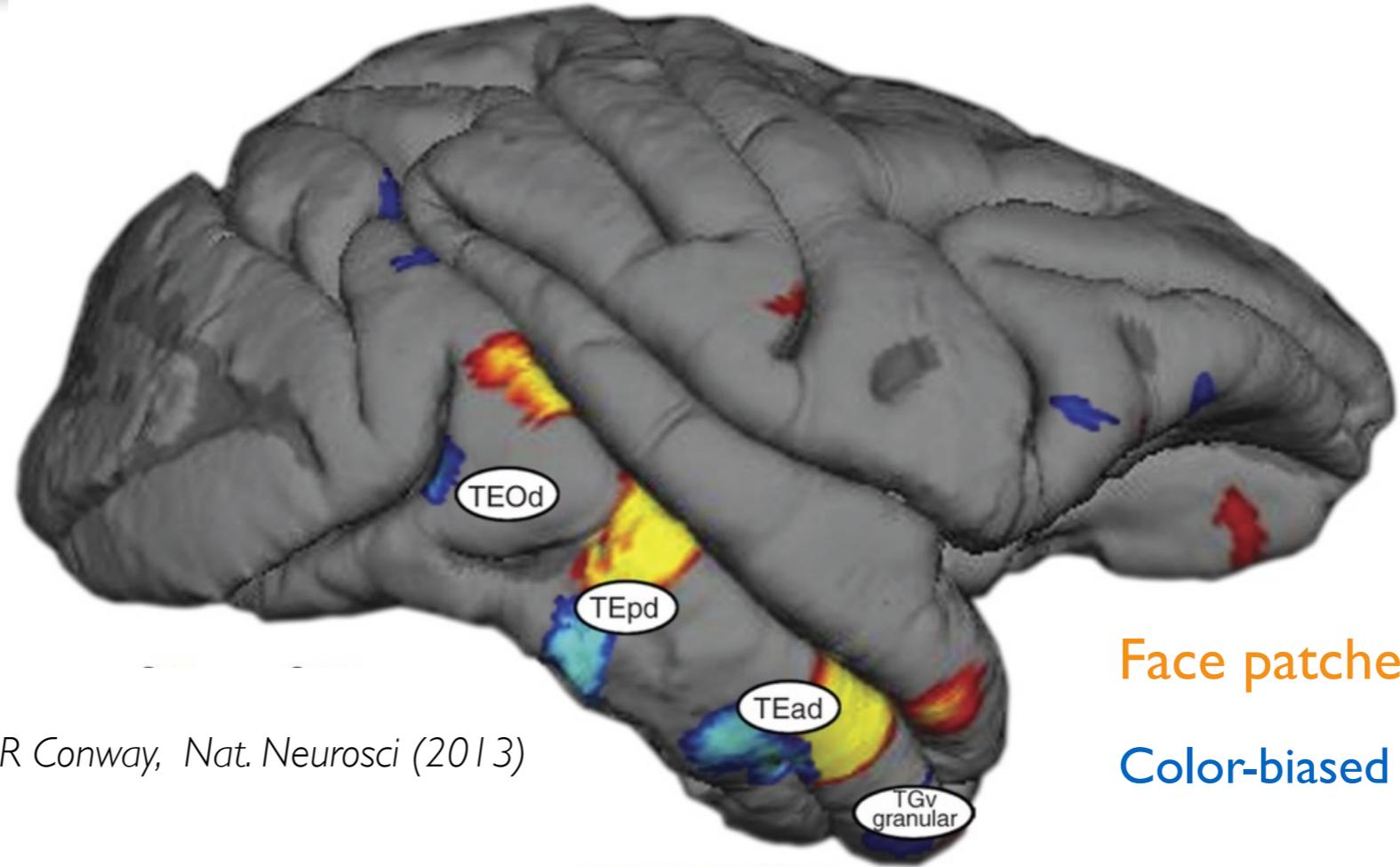


*R. Lafer-Sousa and BR Conway, Nat. Neurosci (2013)*

Regions selective for:

- faces

# Selective Patches in Higher Visual Cortex

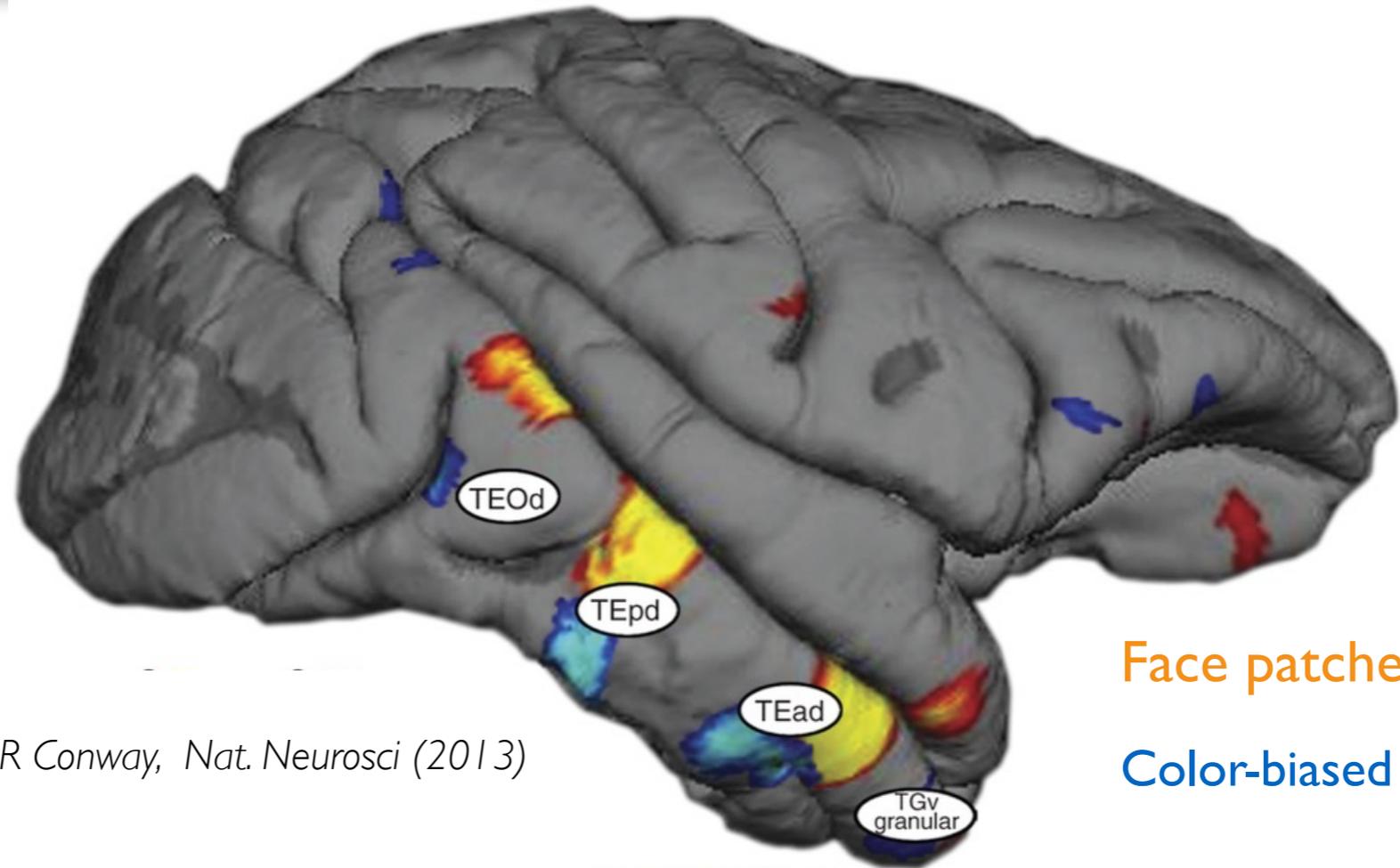


*R. Lafer-Sousa and BR Conway, Nat. Neurosci (2013)*

Regions selective for:

- faces
- places
- bodies
- color

# Selective Patches in Higher Visual Cortex



*R. Lafer-Sousa and BR Conway, Nat. Neurosci (2013)*

Face patches

Color-biased regions

Regions selective for:

- faces
- places
- bodies
- color

Where do these patches come from?

- In-born built-in structure??
- or developmentally determined by domain-specific experience?

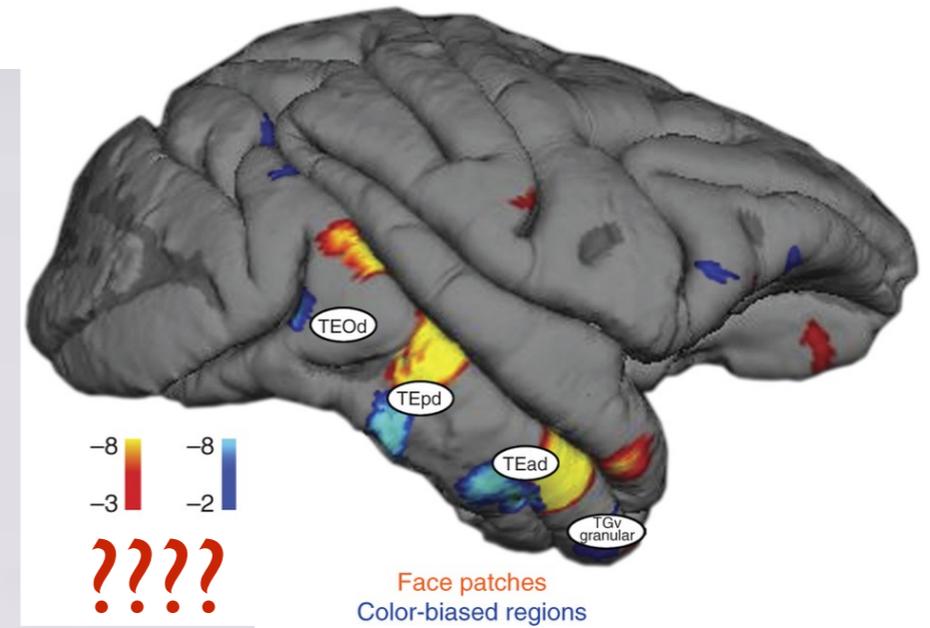
# Selective Patches in Higher Visual Cortex

controlled rearing



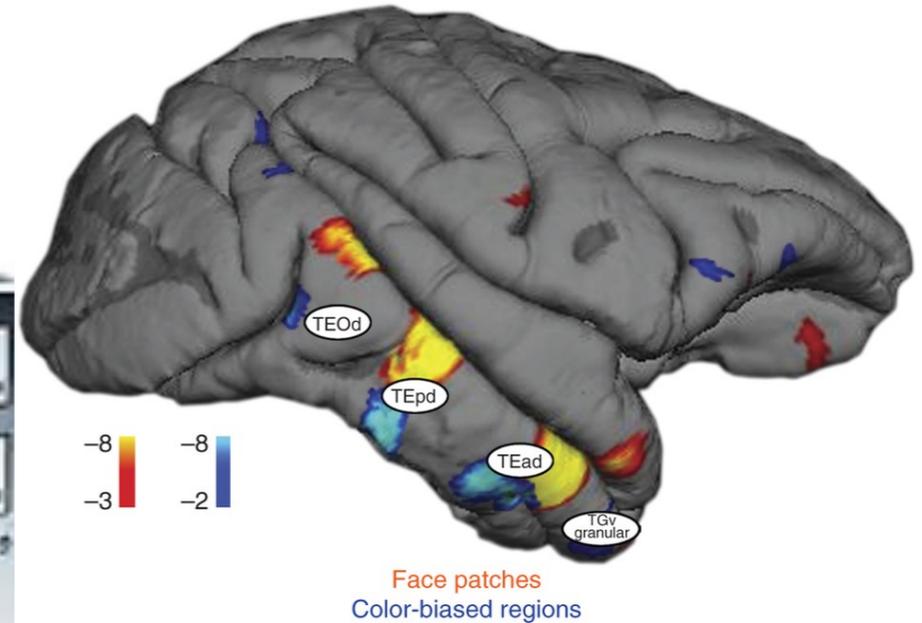
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controlled rearing



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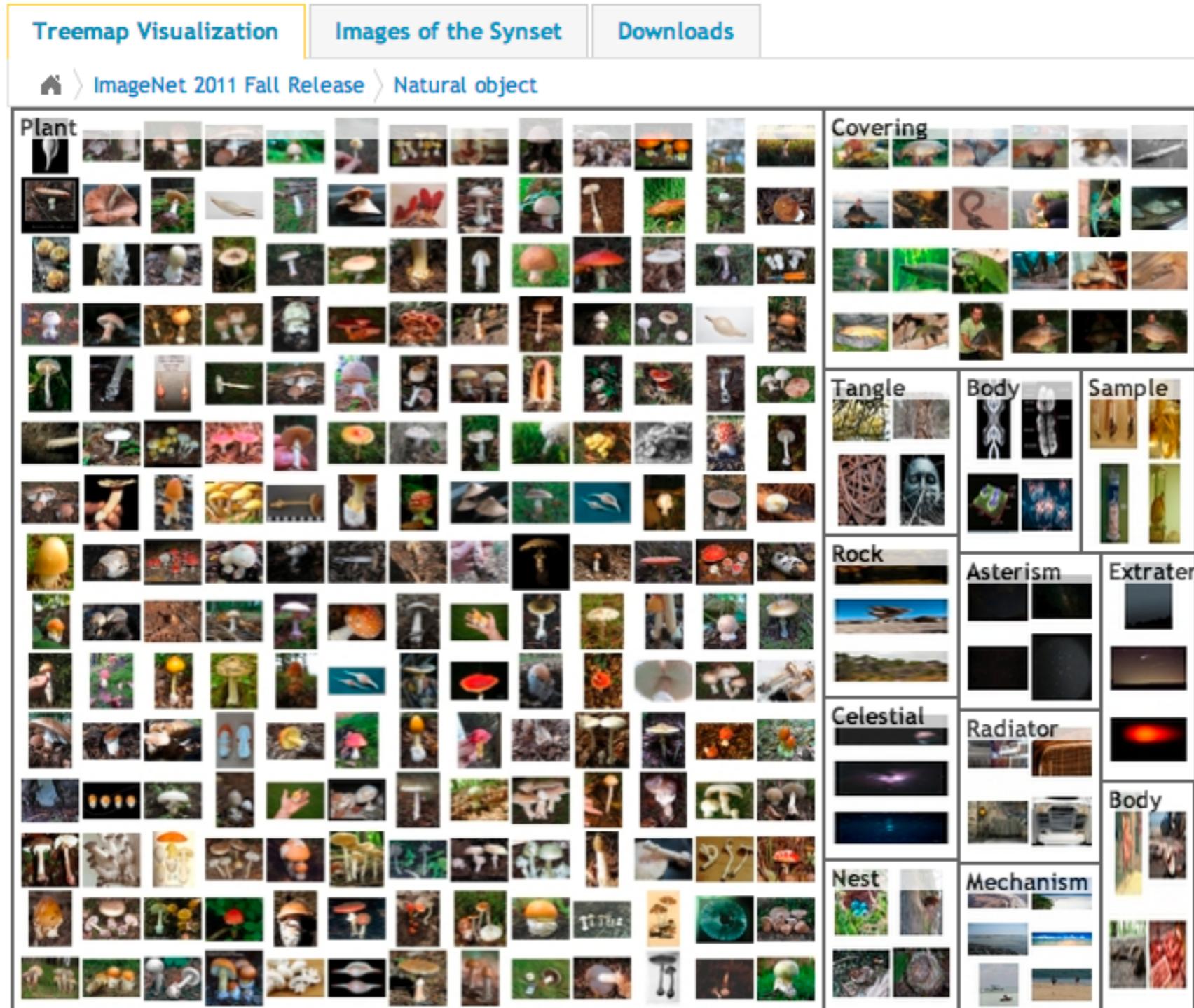


????

... in a computational model

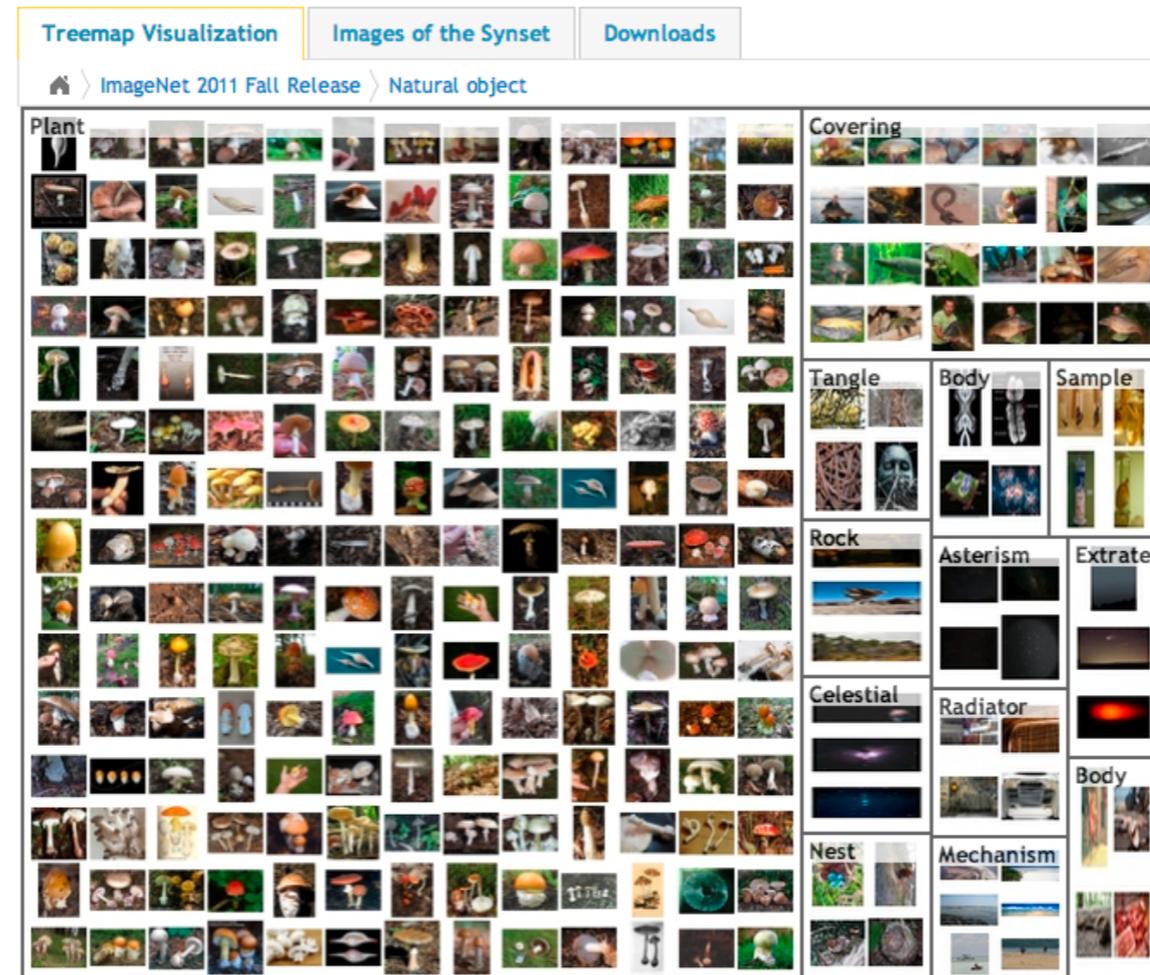
# Model Training Regimen

ImageNet (2012). Thousands of images in thousands of categories.



# Model Training Regimen

controlled rearing



remove all images containing faces  
as well as all categories of photos containing animate objects

**question:** how does removing this content affect the model?

revolver



cheeseburger



tiger



german shepherd



bolete



sycamore



beaker



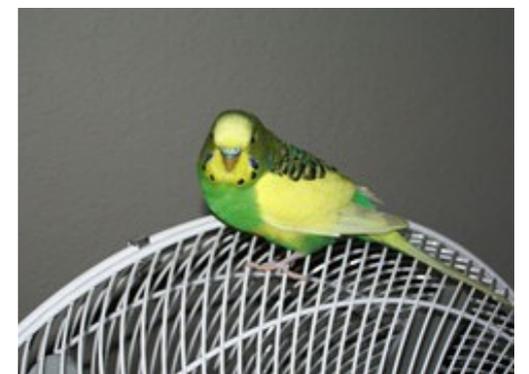
television



laptop



parakeet



catamaran



thatched roof



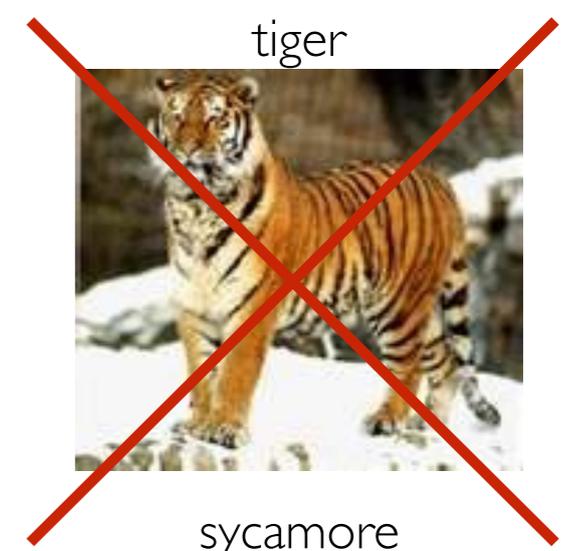
revolver



cheeseburger



tiger



german shepherd



bolete



sycamore



laptop



beaker



television



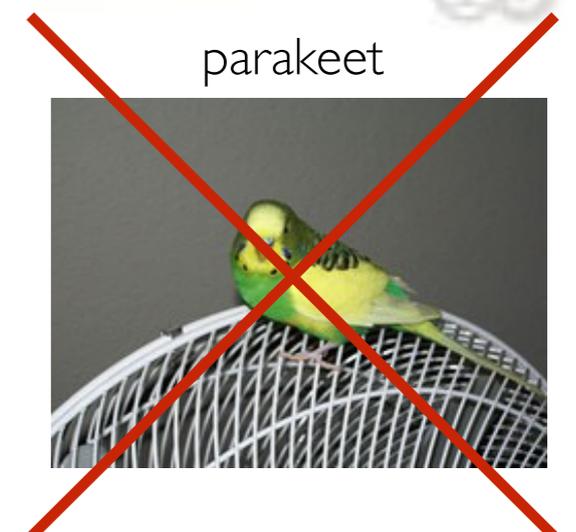
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laptop



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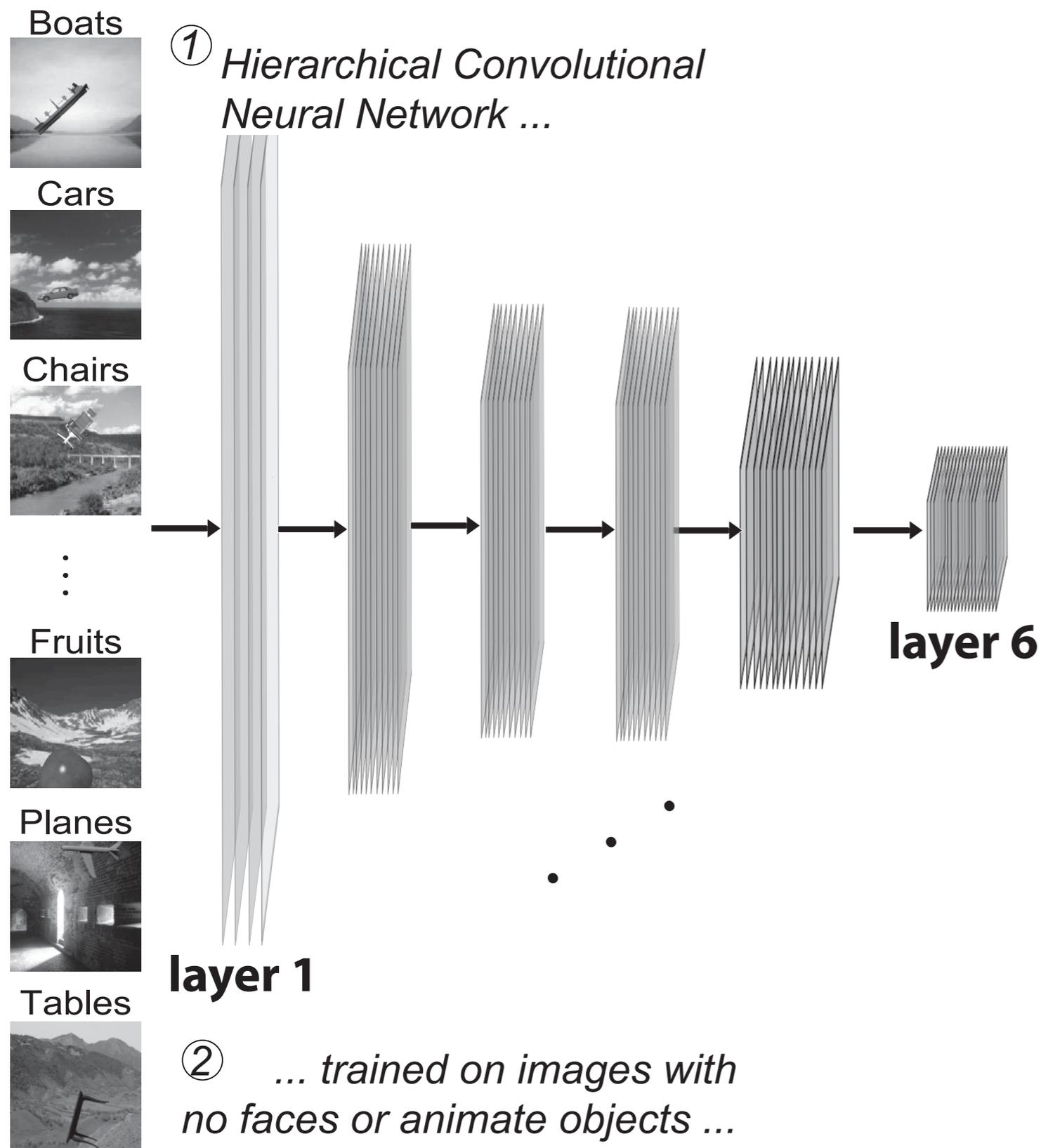
catamaran



thatched roof



# Testing the base-line non-face model.



③ *... face-selective units identified with a standard localizer ...*



## Testing the base-line non-face model.

Original speculation: we won't find any (or statistically significantly many) face selective units because:

Hypotheses for existing of face-selective units:

i. ~~face processing machinery is in born~~

## Testing the base-line non-face model.

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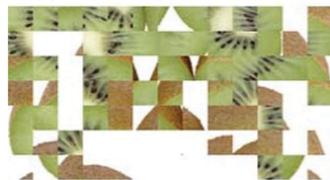
Hypotheses for existing of face-selective units:

~~i. face processing machinery is in-born~~

~~ii. it is due to extensive post natal experience with faces~~

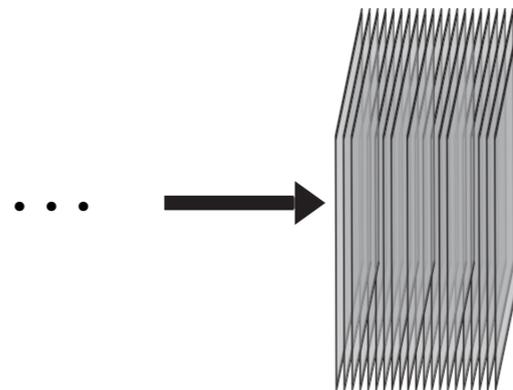
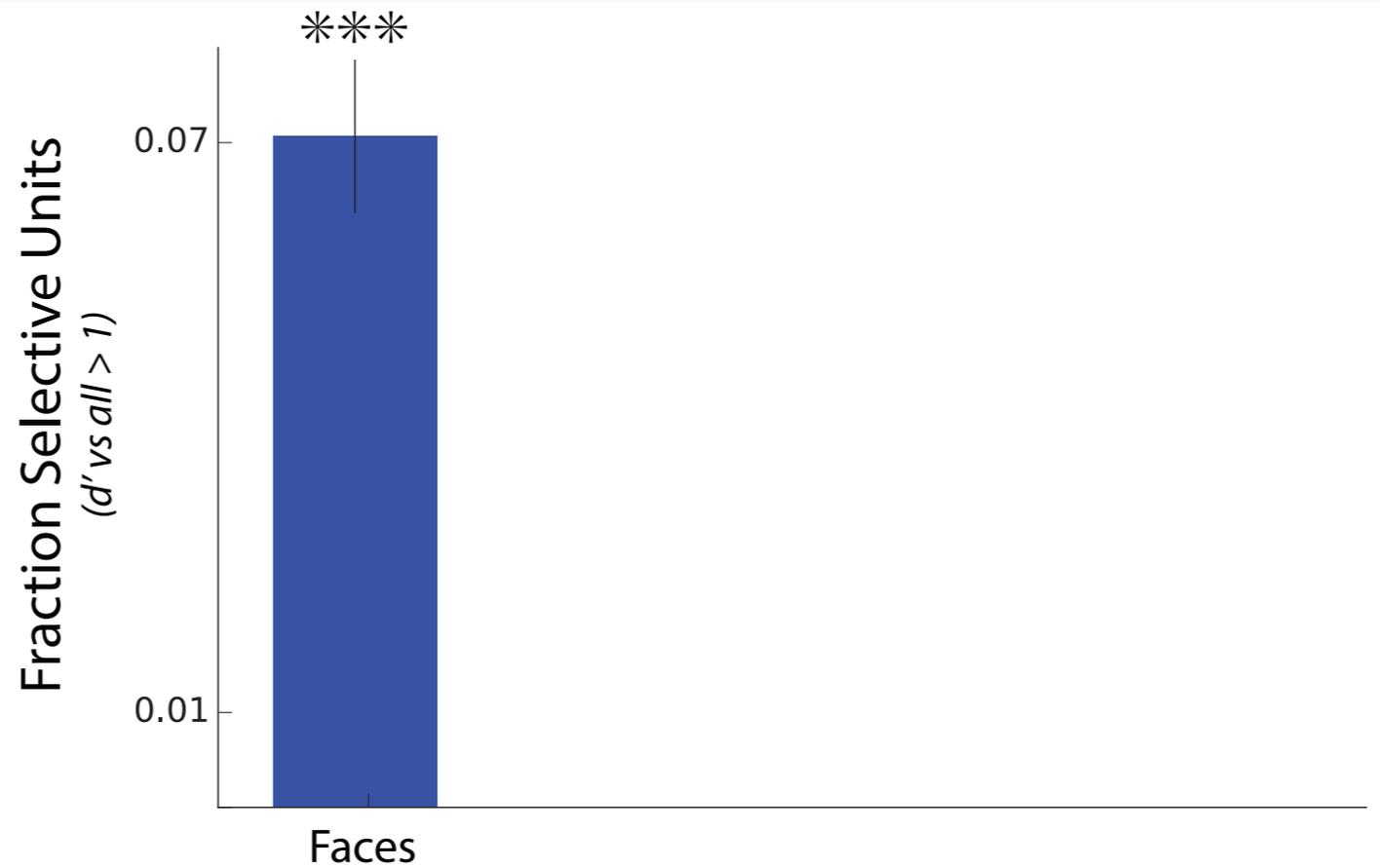
# Testing the base-line non-face model.

face selective  $\Rightarrow d'$  vs non-face  $> 1$



# Testing the base-line non-face model.

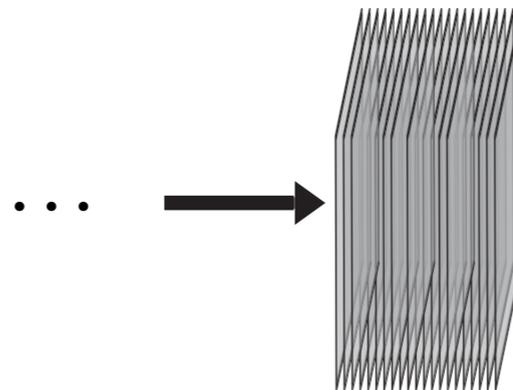
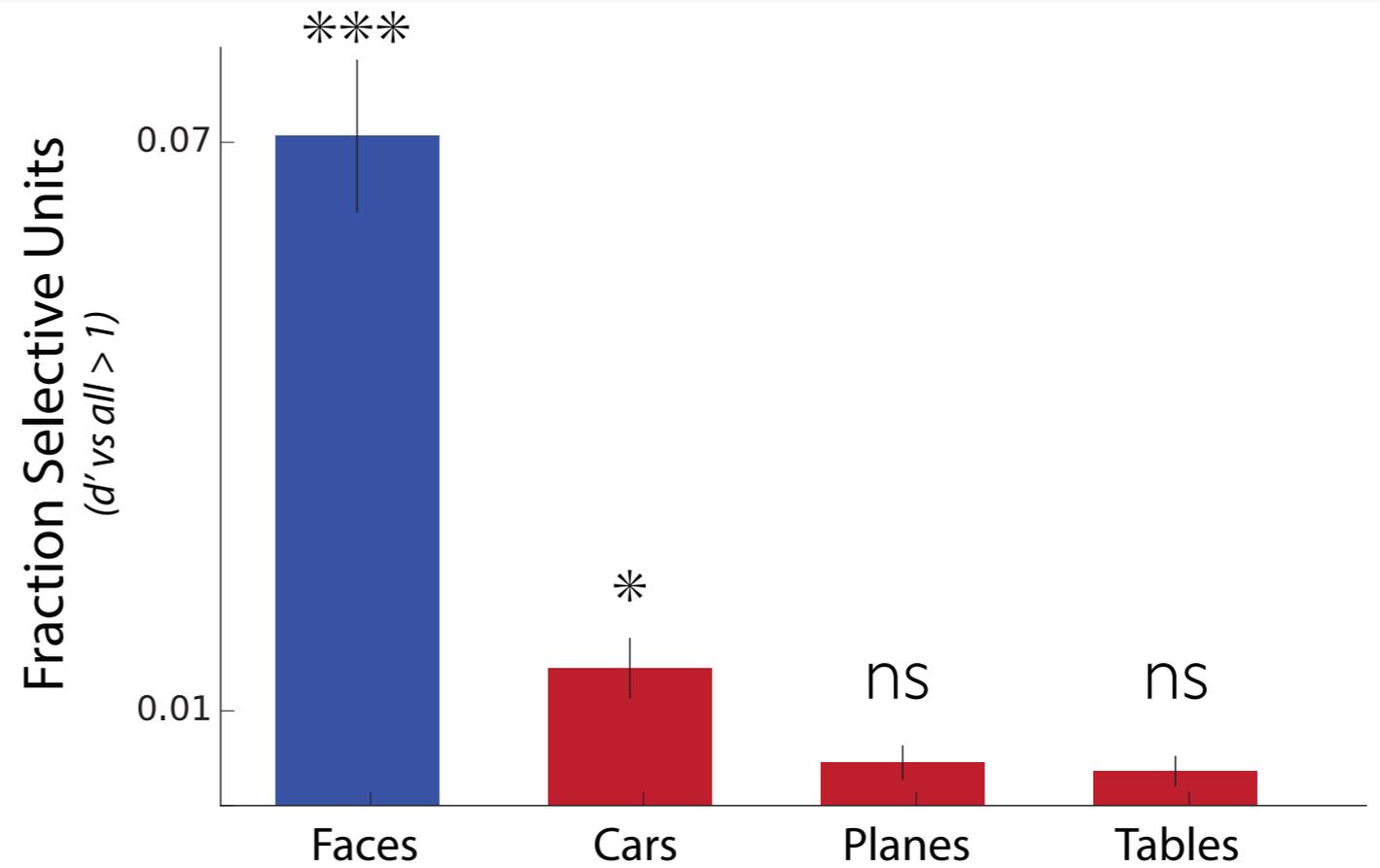
face selective  $\Rightarrow d'$  vs non-face  $> 1$



~7% of units in model were face selective

# Testing the base-line non-face model.

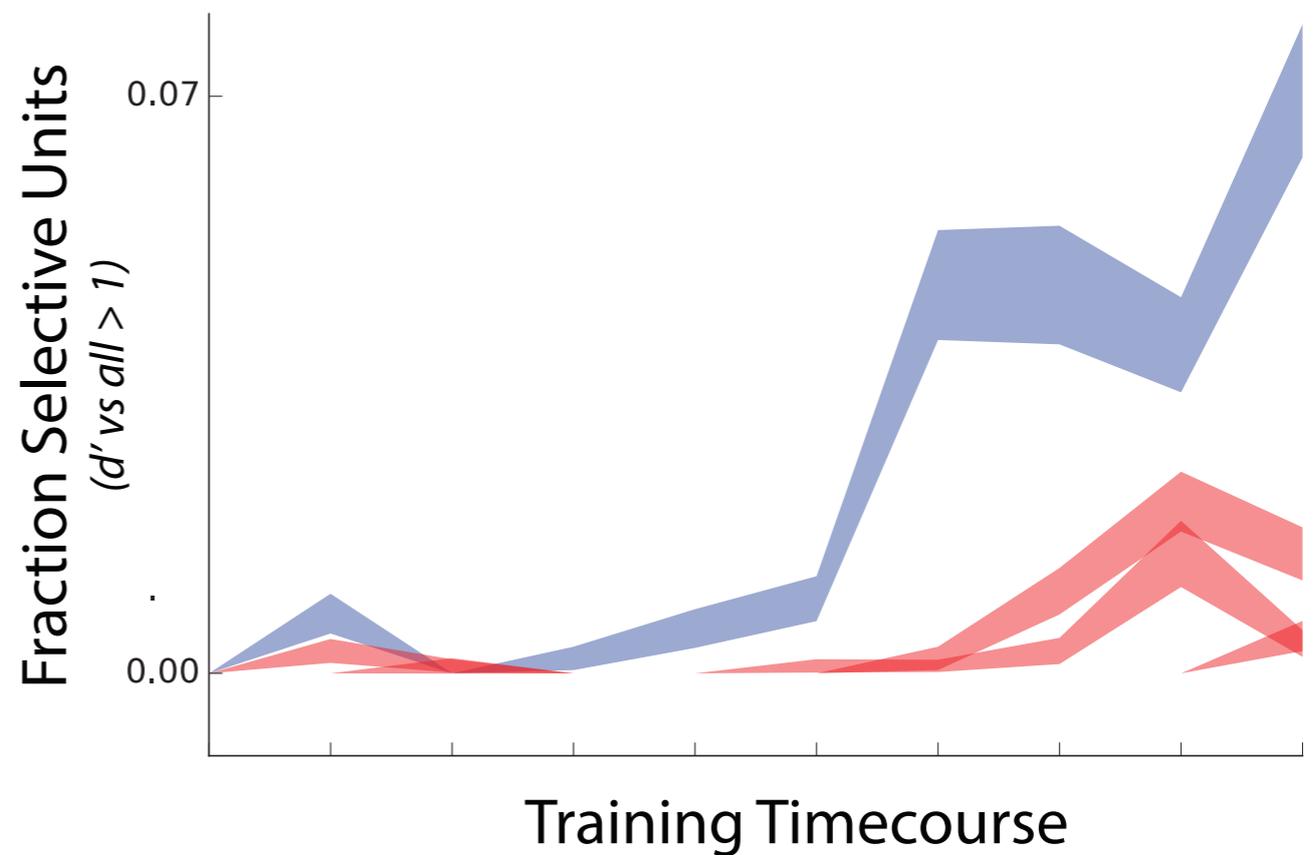
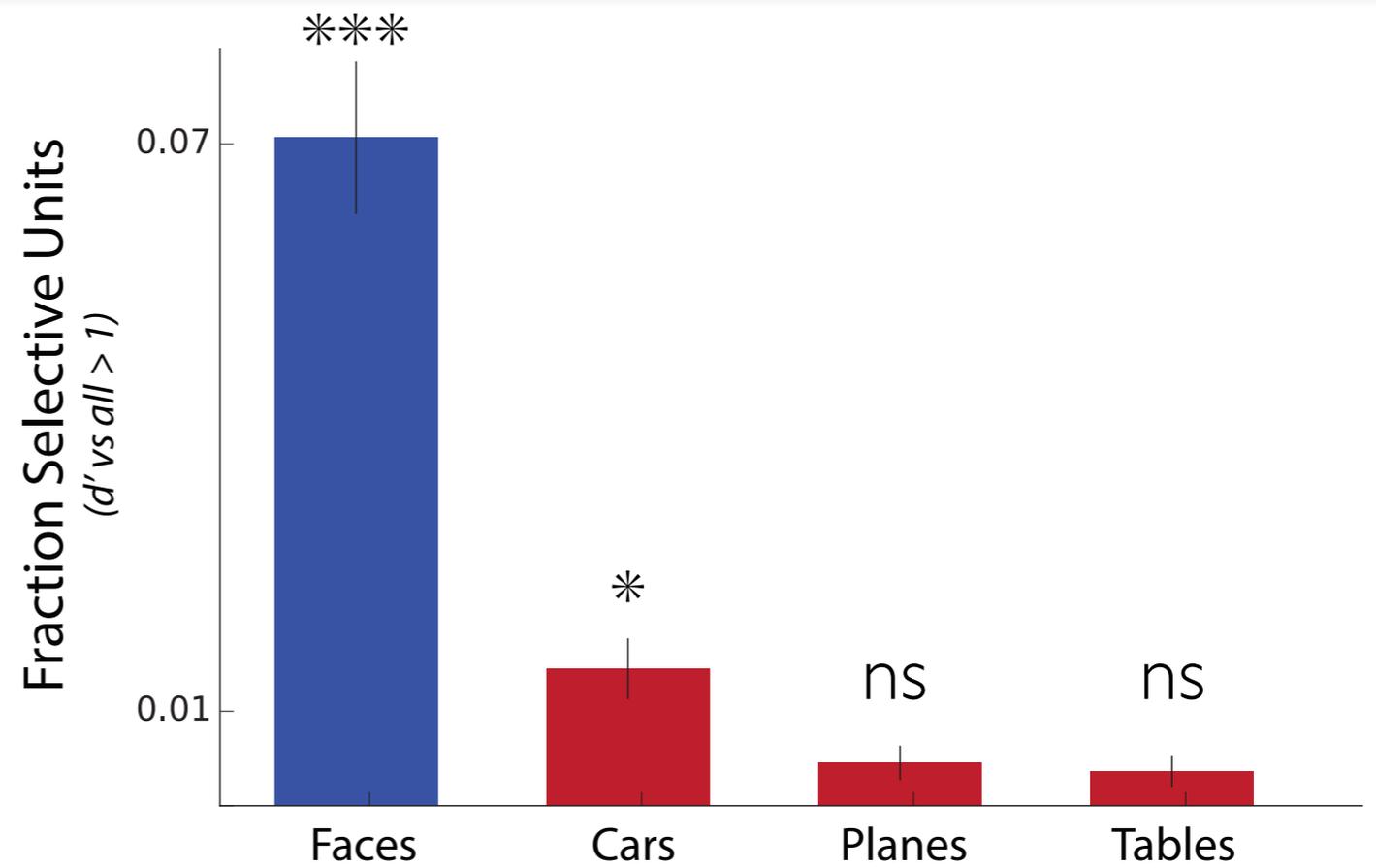
face selective  $\Rightarrow d'$  vs non-face  $> 1$



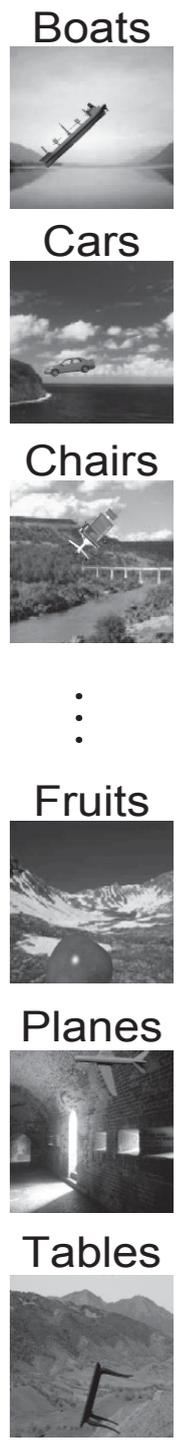
lower (or n.s.)  
numbers for several  
other tested categories

# Testing the base-line non-face model.

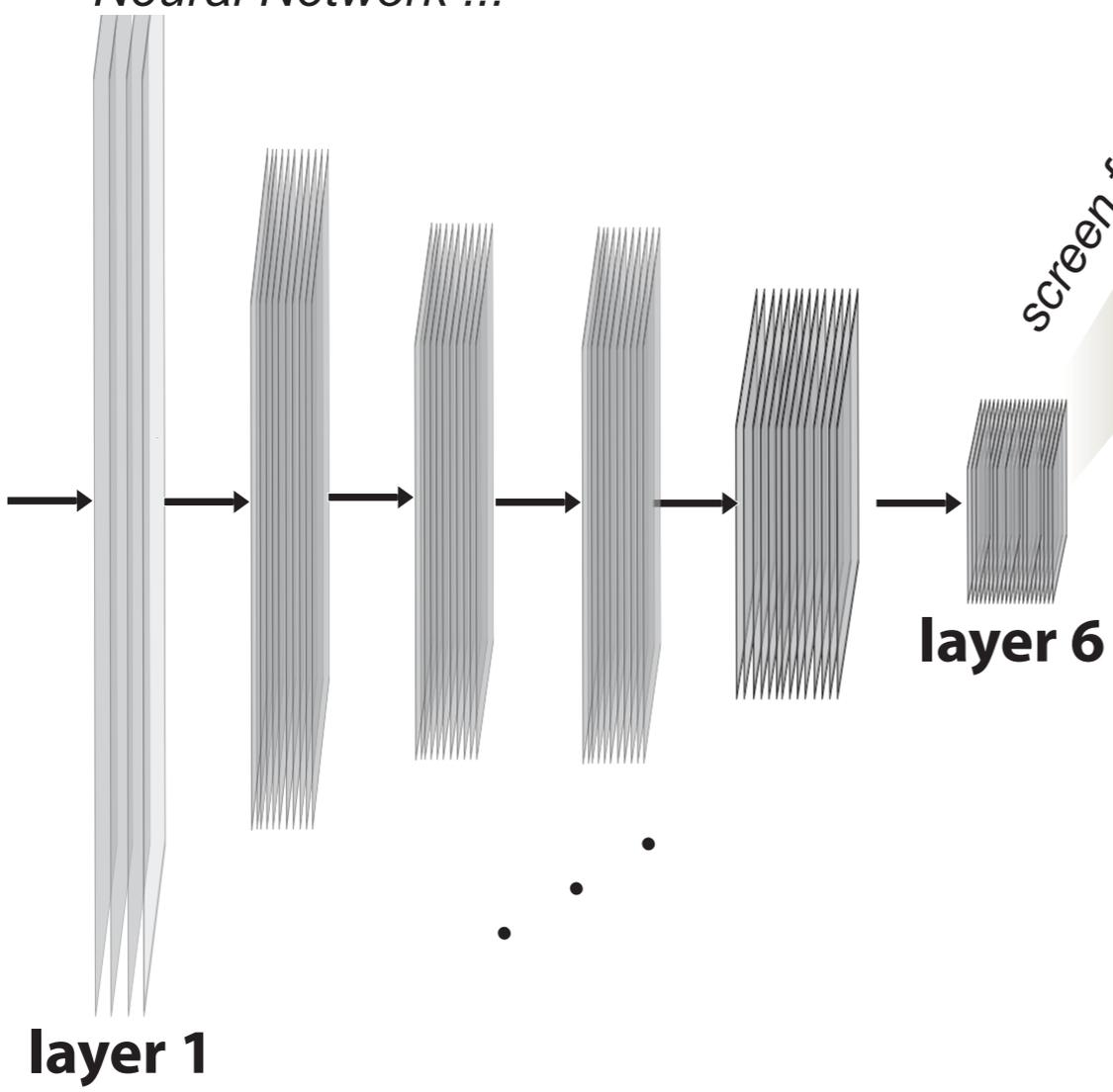
face selective  $\Rightarrow d'$  vs non-face  $> 1$



# Validating the face-selective units



① Hierarchical Convolutional Neural Network ...

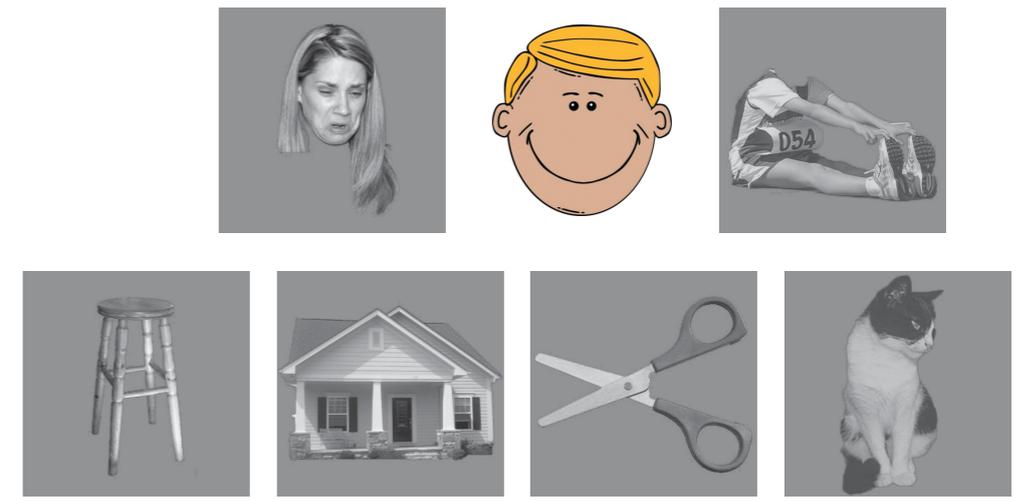


② ... trained on images with no faces or animate objects ...

③ ... face-selective units identified with a standard localizer ...

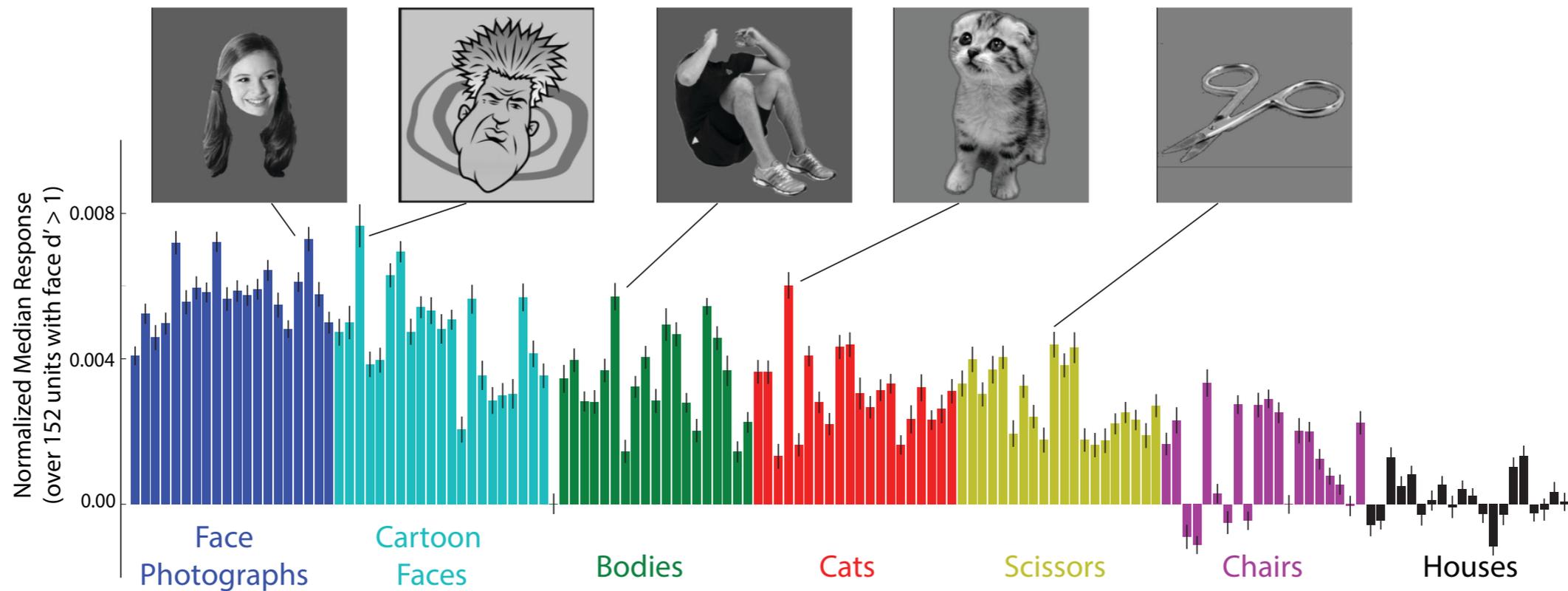


④ ... validated on a distinct set of testing images.

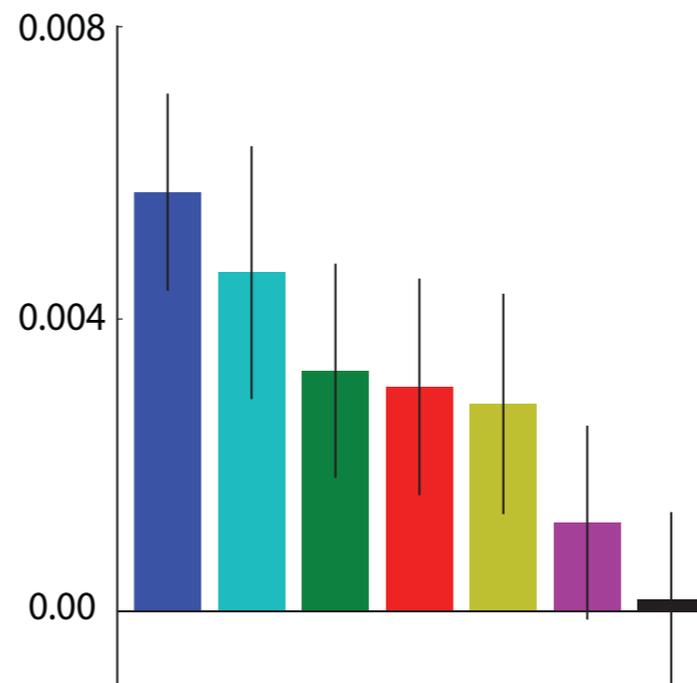


# Validating the face-selective units

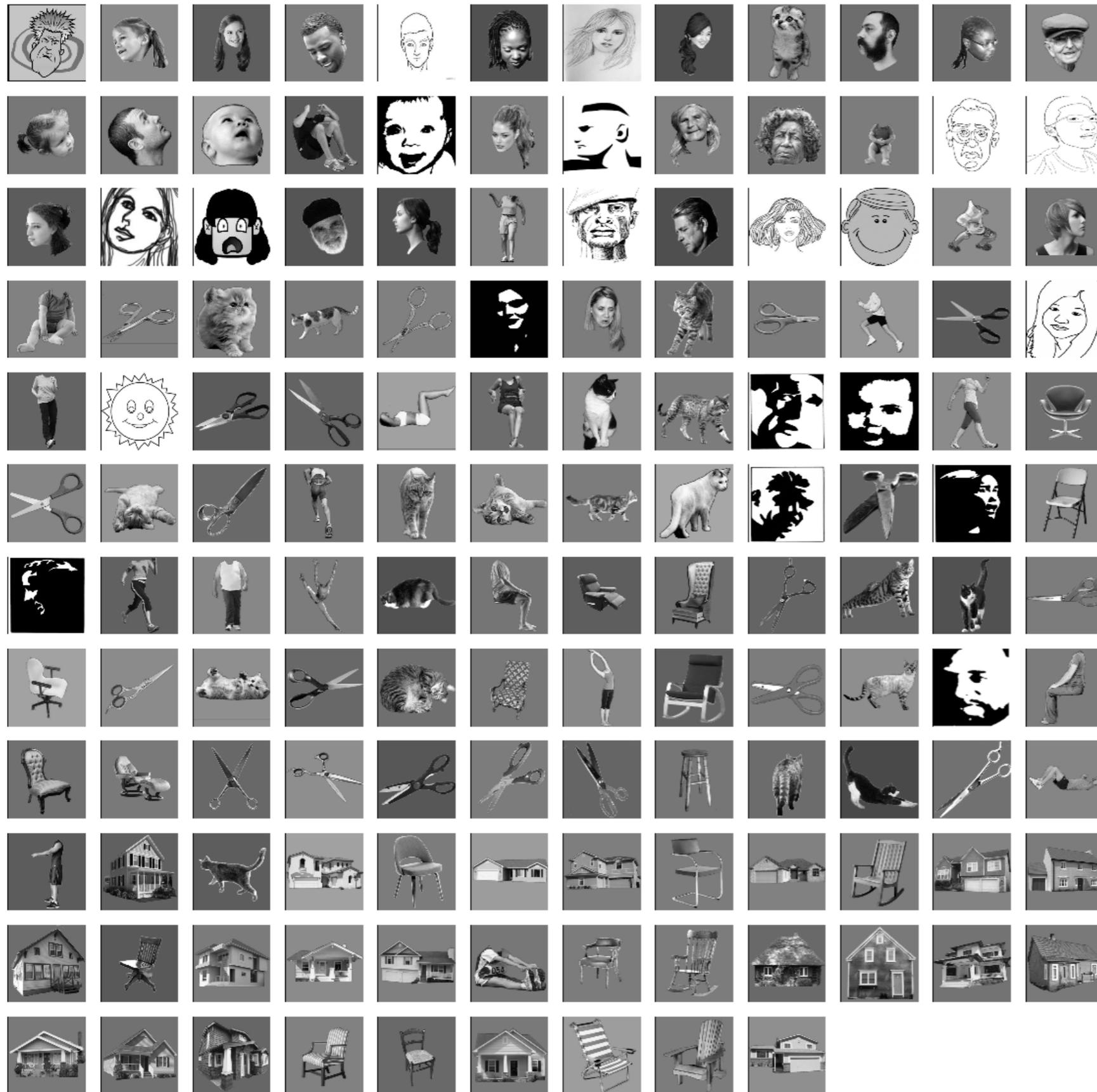
average ranked response over all face-selective units



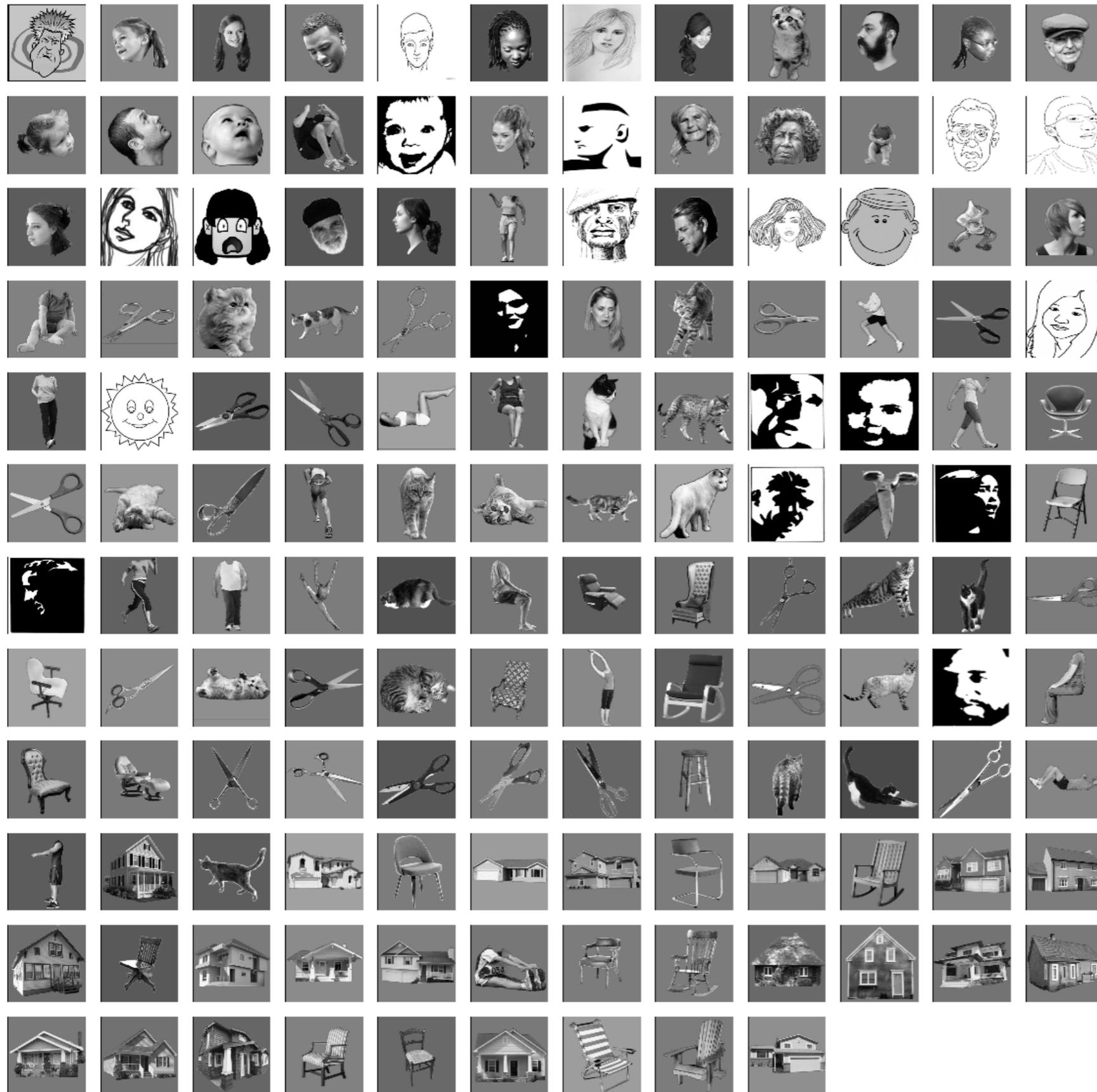
averaged over images within category →



# Validating the face-selective units



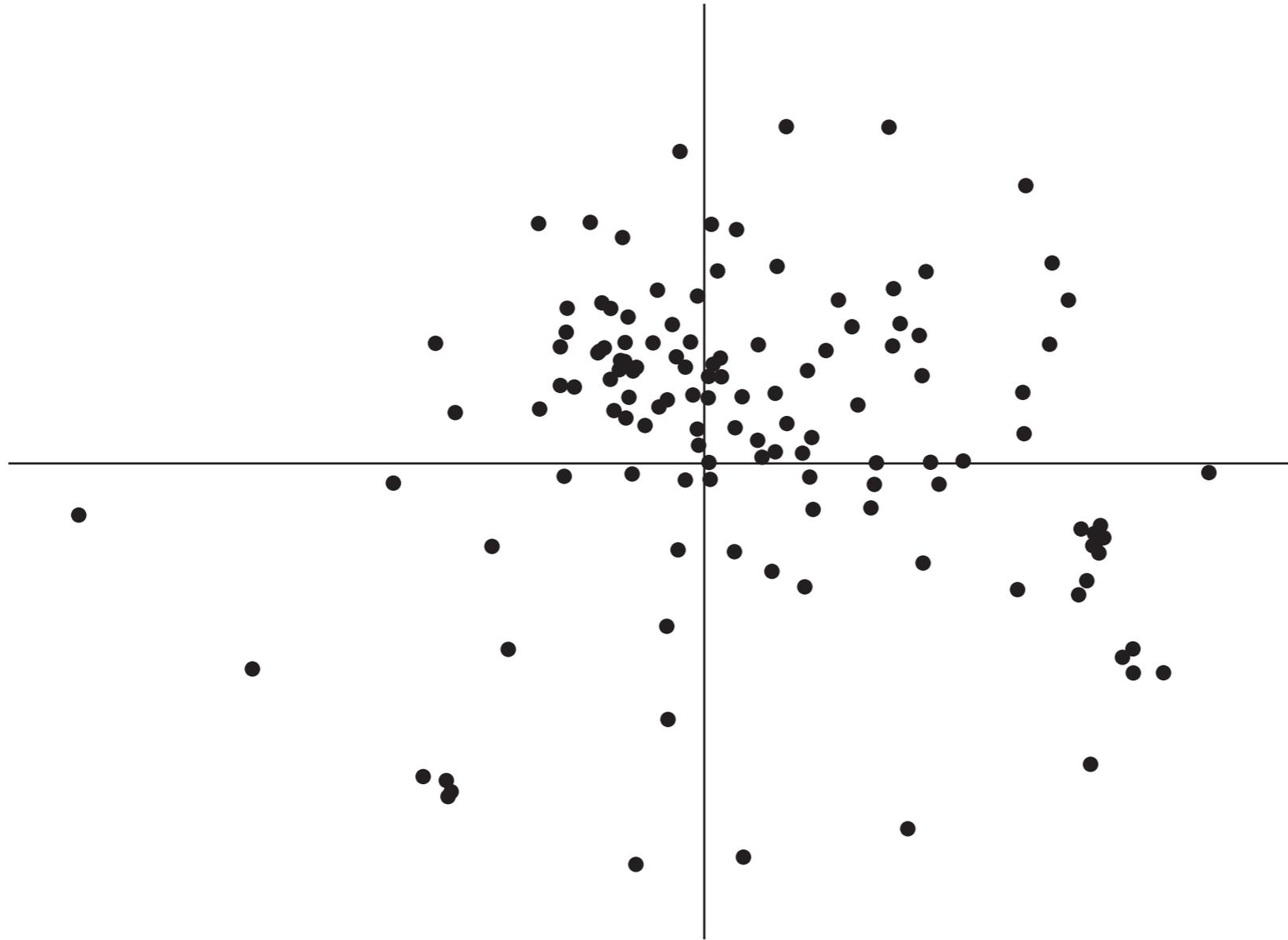
# Validating the face-selective units



How could this result be true?

# Possible explanation

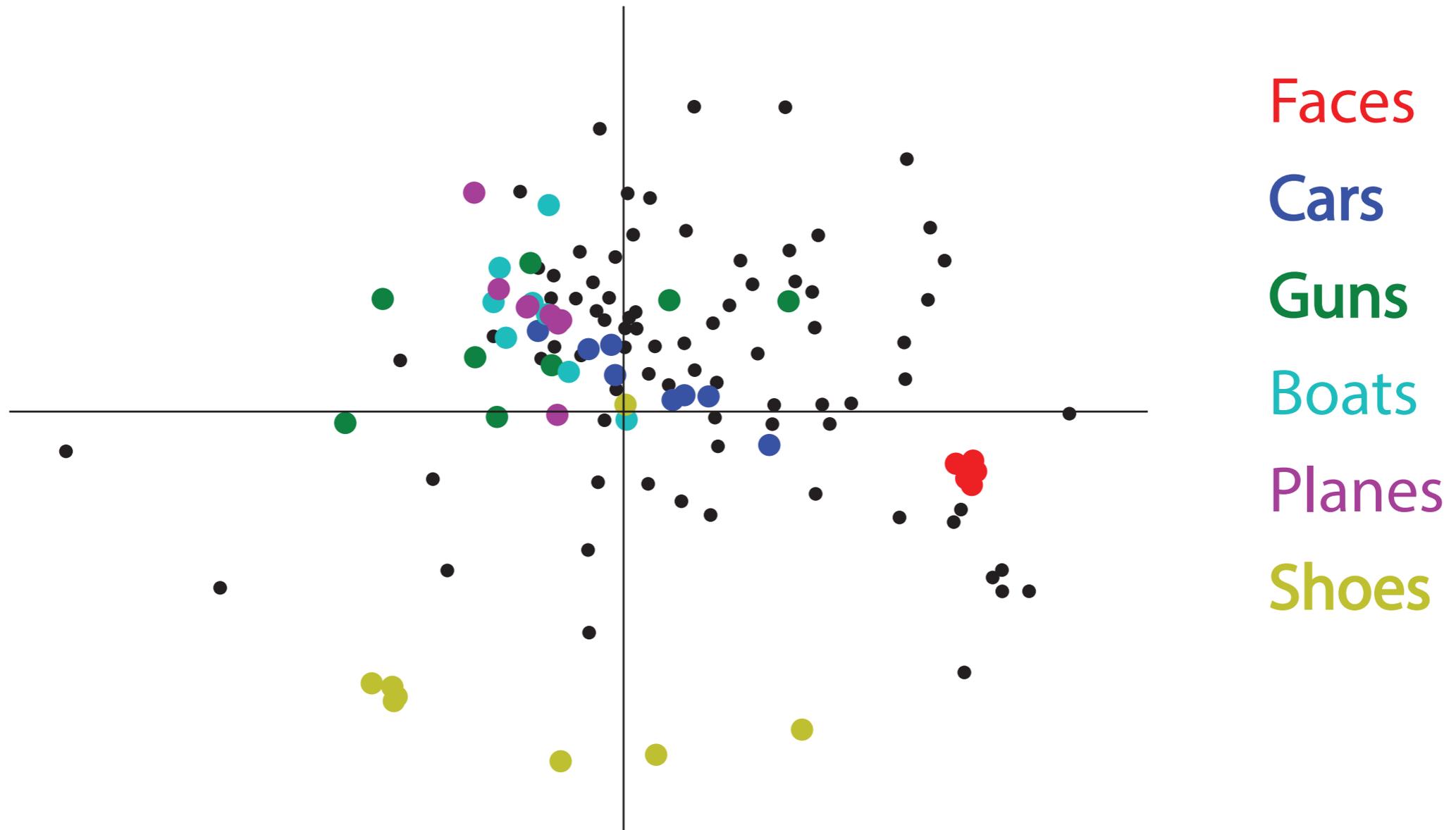
2-d MDS of three-d mesh distances for 128 objects in 16 categories.



How could this result be true?

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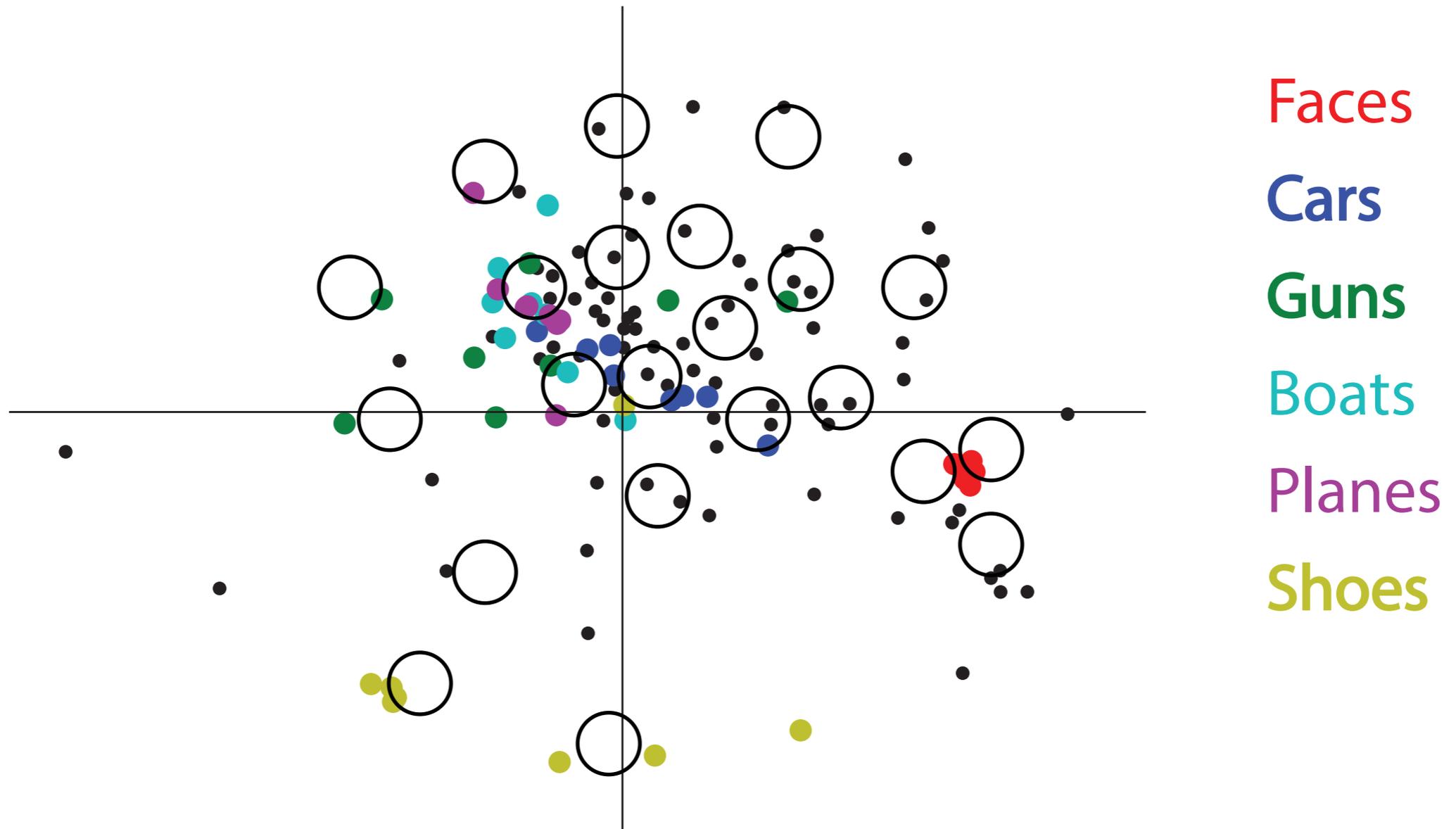
2-d MDS of three-3 mesh distances for 128 objects in 16 categories



- 1) Faces are more clustered in shape space than most other categories
- 2) but they're not totally isolated in shape space.

# Possible explanation

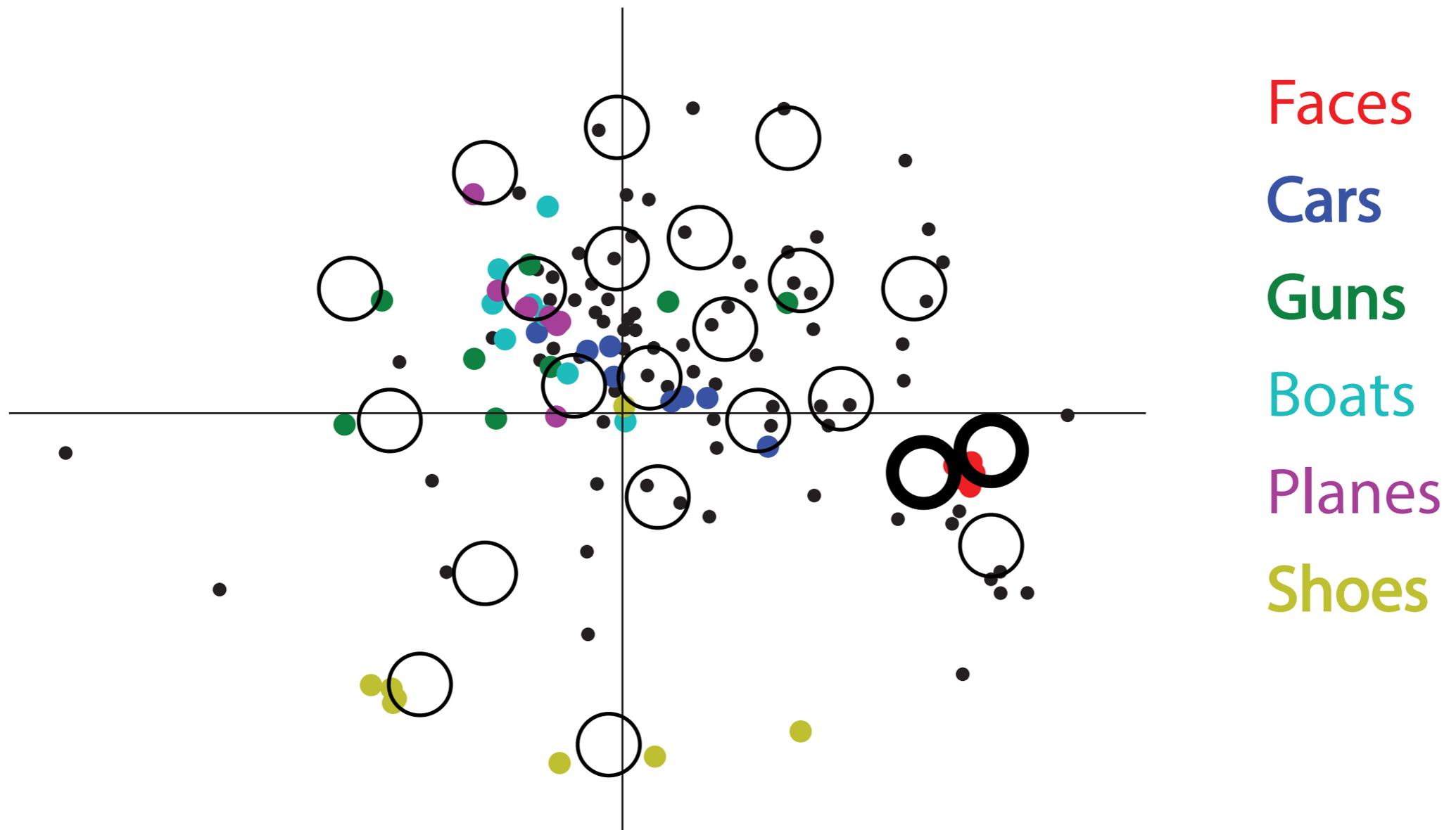
2-d MDS of three-3 mesh distances for 128 objects in 16 categories



○ = unit as gaussian blob in shape space.

# Possible explanation

2-d MDS of three-3 mesh distances for 128 objects in 16 categories



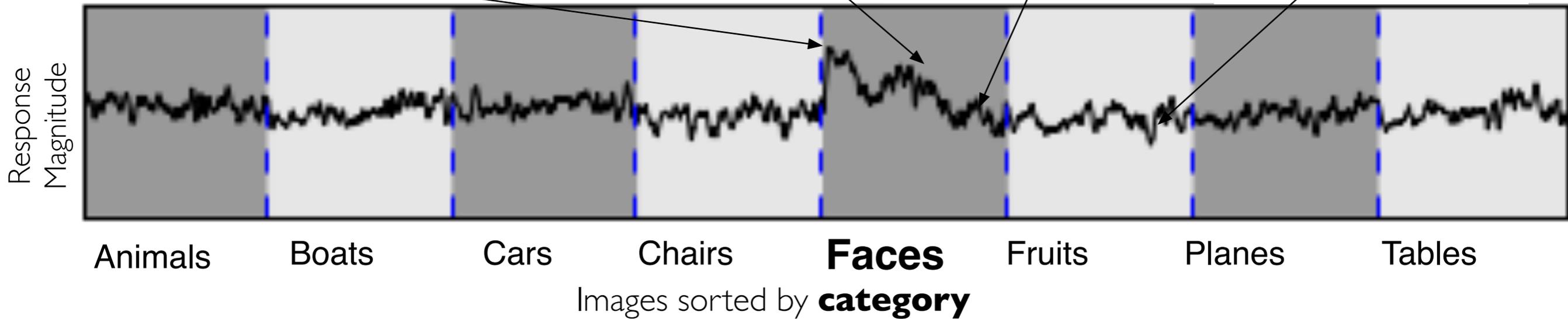
○ = unit as gaussian blob in shape space.

# Multi-array Electrophysiology Experiment

detailed comparison to face neurons

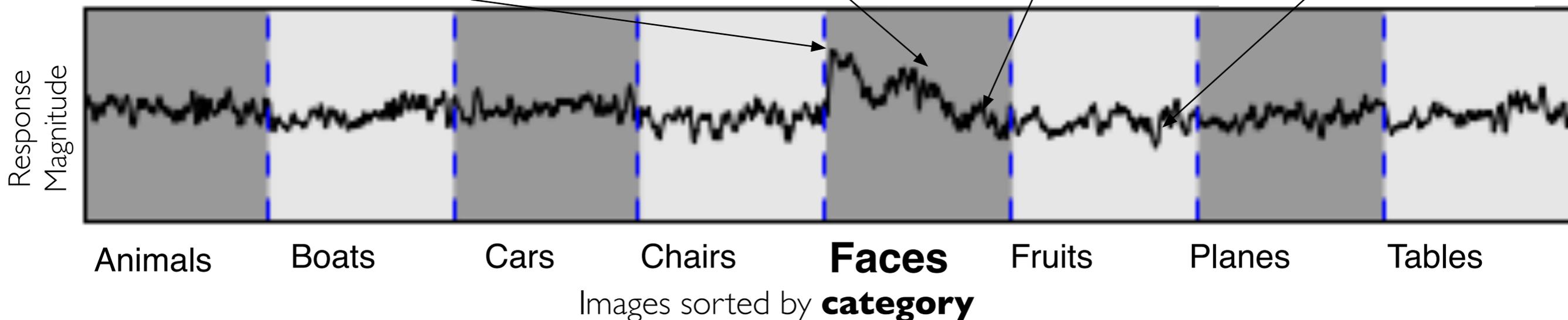
# Predictions of Face-Selective Neural Responses

IT Unit 53



# Predictions of Face-Selective Neural Responses

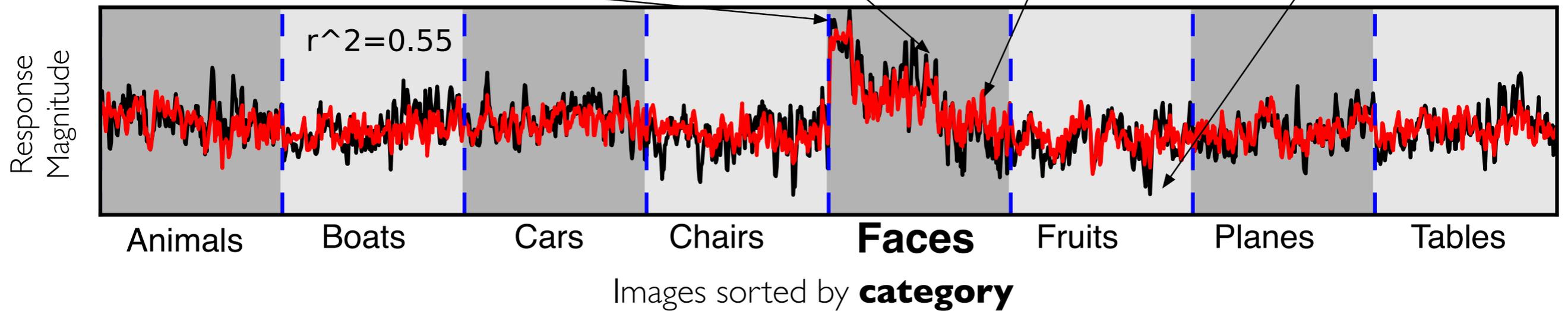
IT Unit 53



Regularized linear regression to map model units to neural units, predictions on held-out testing images.

# Predictions of Face-Selective Neural Responses

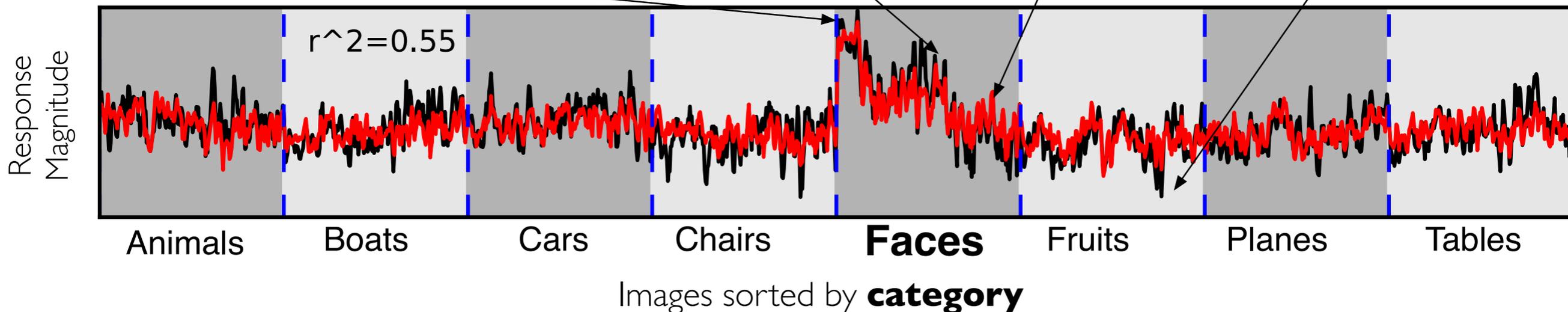
IT Unit 53



- Neural data
- Model prediction

# Predictions of Face-Selective Neural Responses

IT Unit 53



- Neural data
- Model prediction

Explained Variance Across All Face Selective Units:

With Faces in Training: **51.5**  $\pm$  3.9 %

Without Faces in Training: **50.8**  $\pm$  4.4 %

Models “raised” without faces can still have face-selective units.

Consistent with Sugita (2008)

Some aspects of specialized face machinery may be explicable from the “null model” of general object recognition.

A third hypothesis for the development of face (and other) selective regions:

- In-born built-in structure or
- Developmentally determined by particular experience.
- **Developmentally determined by general experience?**

## Future questions / limitations

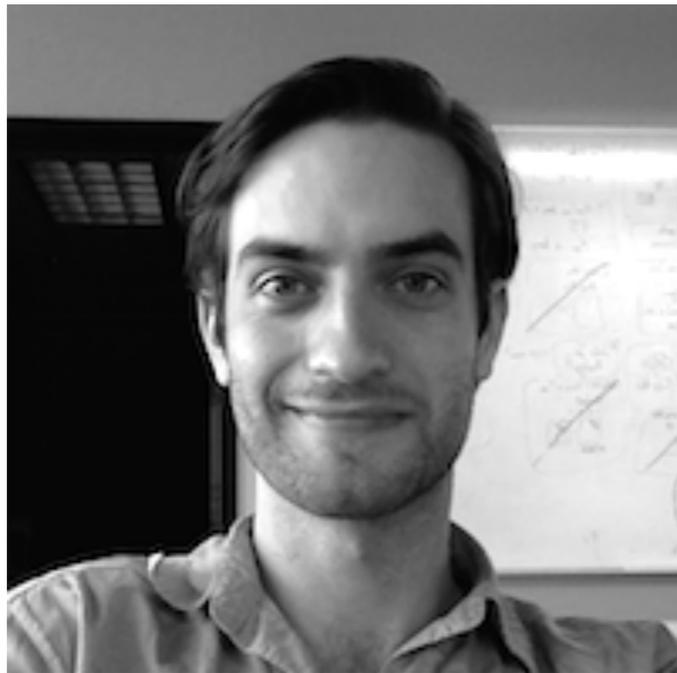
Better exploration of category selective across many categories as a function of contents of training data.

More detailed comparison to neurophysiology of face patch system. Freiwald & Tsao, 2011, Issa & DiCarlo 2014

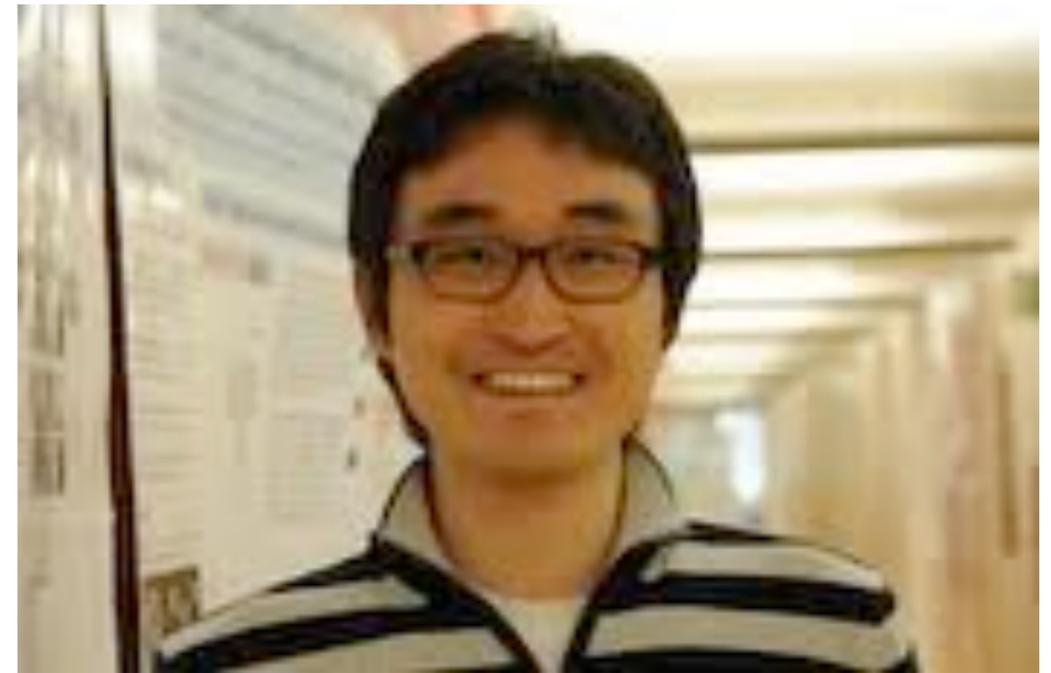
Explicitly address question of spatial layout.

Results here do NOT imply monkeys without face experience will necessarily have a **\*patch\***.

Thanks to great colleagues!



Michael Cohen



Ha Hong



Nancy Kanwisher



Jim DiCarlo