

9.523/6.861: Aspects of a Computational Theory of Intelligence, 2018

Shimon Ullman + Tomaso Poggio

Xavier Boix + Andrew Francis + Yen-Ling Kuo

9.523 overview

- Course description/logistic
- Motivations for this course: the greatest problem in science, CBMM, the MIT Quest
- A bit of history: Neuroscience and AI
- CBMM, the Visual Intelligence moonshot
- Module 1
 - Module 1, theory
 - Module 1, eccentricity
 - Module 1, invariance

GRADING:

- Final project 80%
- Class attendance and participation 20%

FINAL PROJECTS:

~5 pages, equivalent to ~2 weeks work. We + speakers will suggest some topics. You may also propose a topic that to be approved by us. Teams are encouraged (but no larger than 3 members).

9.523/6.861:

Aspects of a Computational Theory of Intelligence

- This class is part of the interdisciplinary educational effort of the Center for Brains, Minds and Machines at MIT.
- This year, the lectures in the course are organized in order to present and discuss the 4 modules of the new CBMM project (2018-2023), which could be called “Visual Intelligence”
 - Visual Stream (module 1),
 - Memory and Executive Function (module 2),
 - The Cognitive Core (module 3),
 - Symbolic Compositional Models (module 4).

9.523/6.861:

Aspects of a Computational Theory of Intelligence

- Each talk will situate their module in the context of the other ones (we will share a couple of slides used in the first class). We asked each speaker
 - to outline the present research plan for the module for the next 5 years, stressing what is already cast in stone and what is still open
 - to provide the necessary background for the students
 - to discuss -- and stimulate students to think about -- possible interactions between modules.
 - to challenge students to contribute ideas
 - to propose 1-2 projects
- The class is an opportunity for developing plans of future CBMM research by faculty, TAs and students working together in the class and in the final projects.

9.523/6.861: Aspects of a Computational Theory of Intelligence

- Of course the class is also an opportunity for future projects including master and PhD theses ... if you like the combination of neuroscience and CS!

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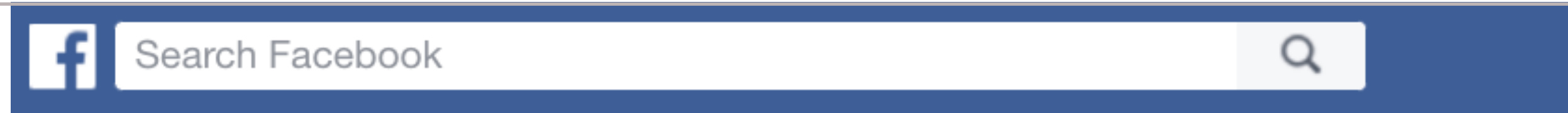
Motivation for 9.523: the Problem of Intelligence

Of course, intelligence is not solved,
not as a scientific problem, not as an engineering problem.

Research is needed:

- for the sake of basic science
- for the engineering of tomorrow

Problem of Intelligence is not yet solved



Building Jarvis



MARK ZUCKERBERG · MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016

My personal challenge for 2016 was to build a simple AI to run my home -- like Jarvis in Iron Man. Within 5-10 years we'll have AI systems that are more accurate than people for each of our senses -- vision, hearing, touch, etc, as well as things like language. It's impressive how powerful the state of the art for these tools is becoming.

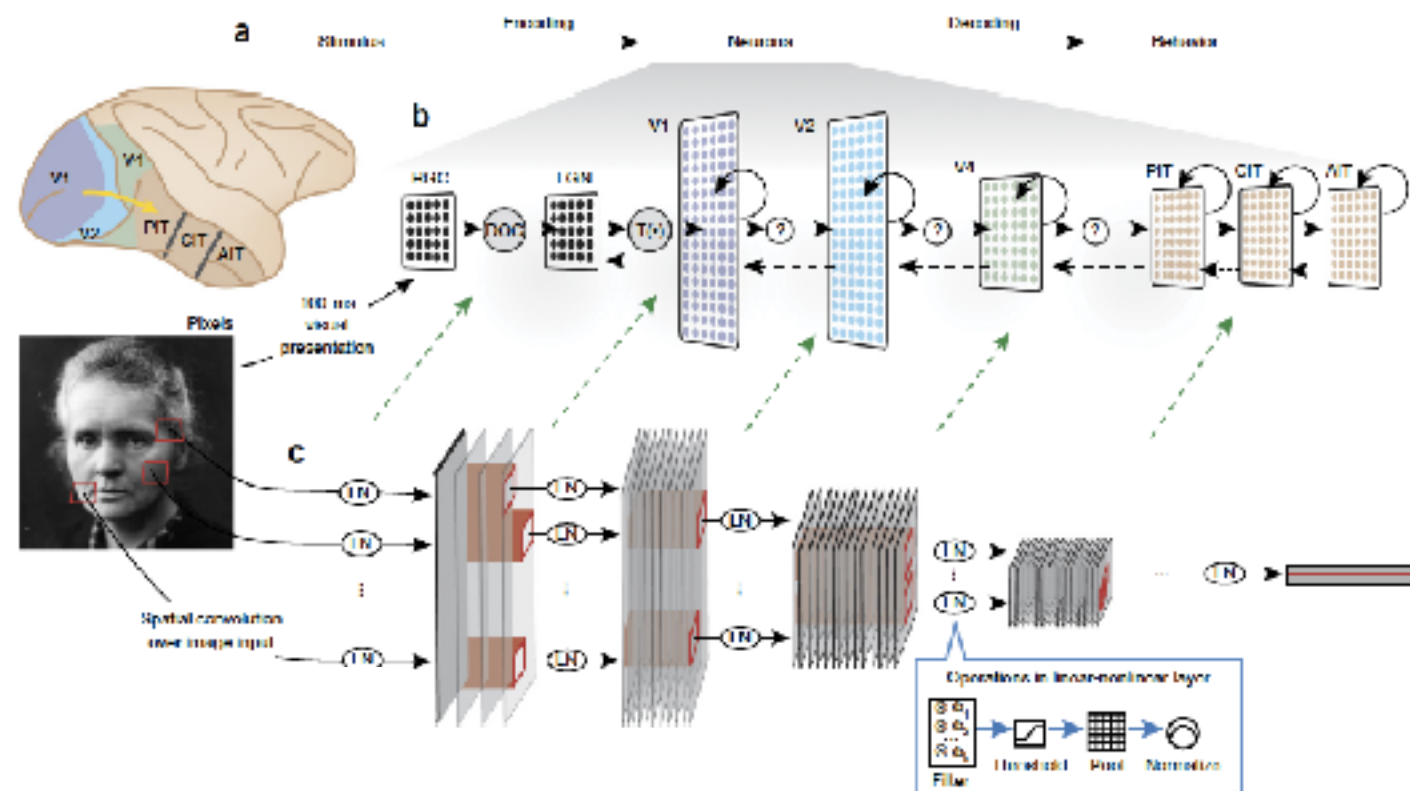
At the same time, we are still far off from understanding how learning works.

Everything I did this year – natural language, face recognition, speech recognition and so on –are all variants of the same fundamental pattern recognition techniques. I spent about 100 hours building Jarvis this year, **but even if I spent 1,000 more hours, I probably wouldn't be able to build a system that could learn completely new skills on its own -- unless I made some fundamental breakthrough in the state of AI along the way.**

In a way, AI is both closer and farther off than we imagine. AI is closer to being able to do more powerful things than most people expect -- driving cars, curing diseases, ... Those will each have a great impact on the world, but **we're still figuring out what real intelligence is.**

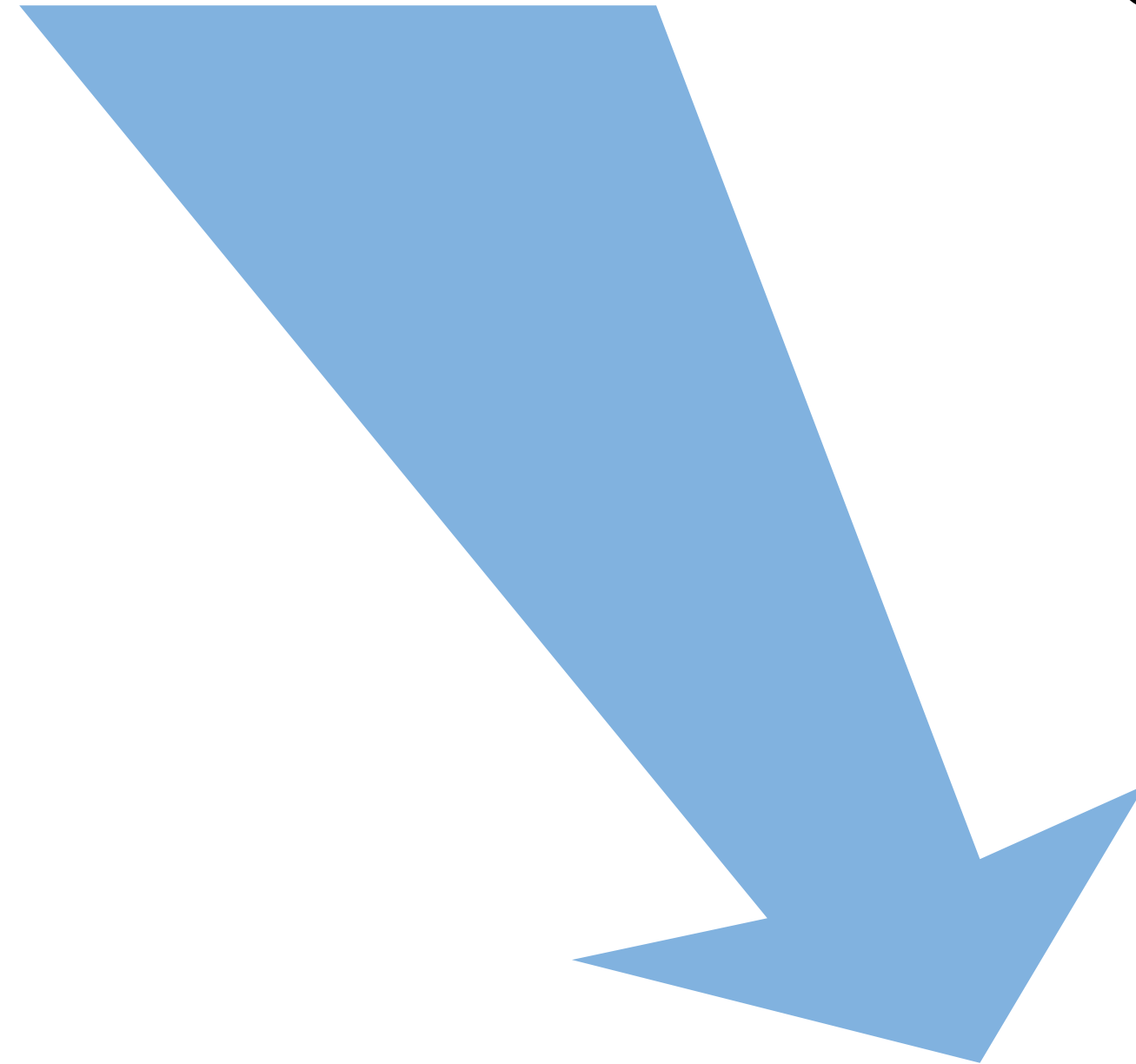
CBMM's focus is the Science and the Engineering of Intelligence

We aim to make progress in understanding intelligence, that is in understanding how the brain makes the mind, how the brain works and how to build intelligent machines. We believe that the science of intelligence will enable better engineering of intelligence.



CBMM approach to the problems of Intelligence

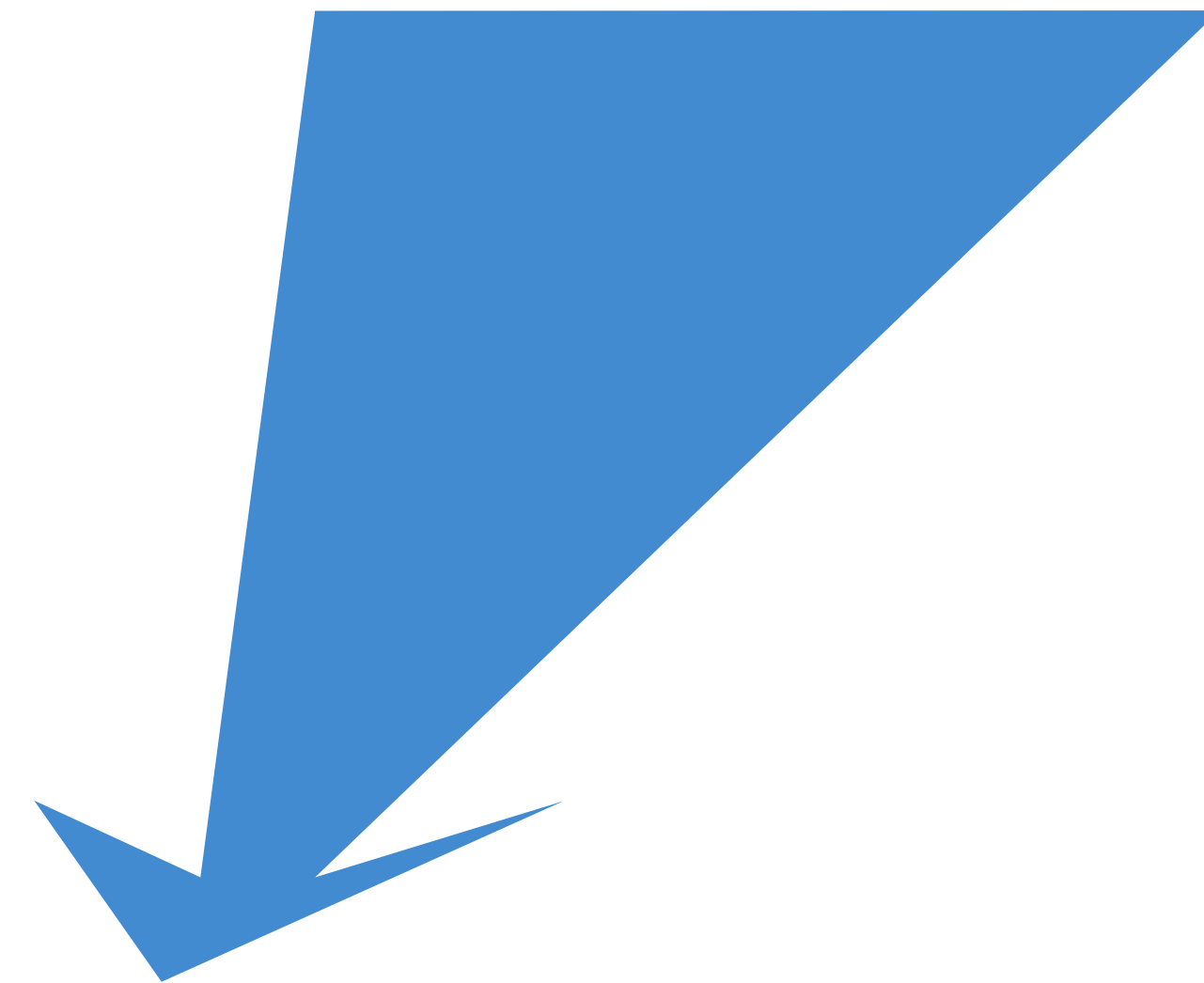
Cognitive Science



Machine Learning,
Computer Science



Neuroscience,
Computational
Neuroscience



**Science + Technology
of Intelligence**



Research, Education & Diversity Partners

MIT

Boyden, Desimone, DiCarlo, Kanwisher, Katz, McDermott, Poggio, Rosasco, Sassanfar, Saxe, Schulz, Tegmark, Tenenbaum, Ullman, Wilson, Winston

Harvard

Blum, Gershman, Kreiman, Livingstone, Nakayama, Sompolinsky, Spelke

Allen Institute

Koch

Howard U.

Chouika, Manaye, Rwebangira, Salmani

Hunter College

Chodorow, Epstein, Sakas, Zeigler

Johns Hopkins U.

Yuille

Queens College

Brumberg

Rockefeller U.

Freiwald

Stanford U.

Goodman

Universidad Central del Caribe (UCC)

Jorquera

University of Central Florida

McNair Program

UMass Boston

Blaser, Ciaramitaro, Pomplun, Shukla

UPR – Mayagüez

Santiago, Vega-Riveros

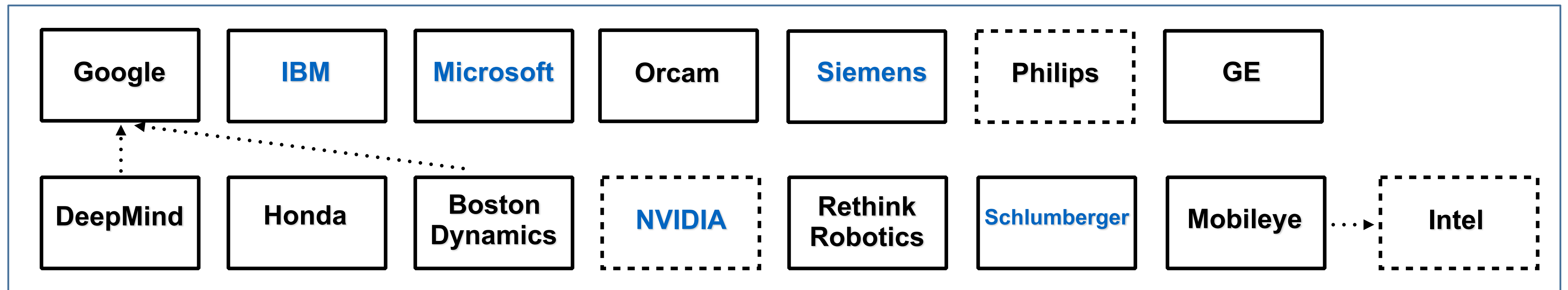
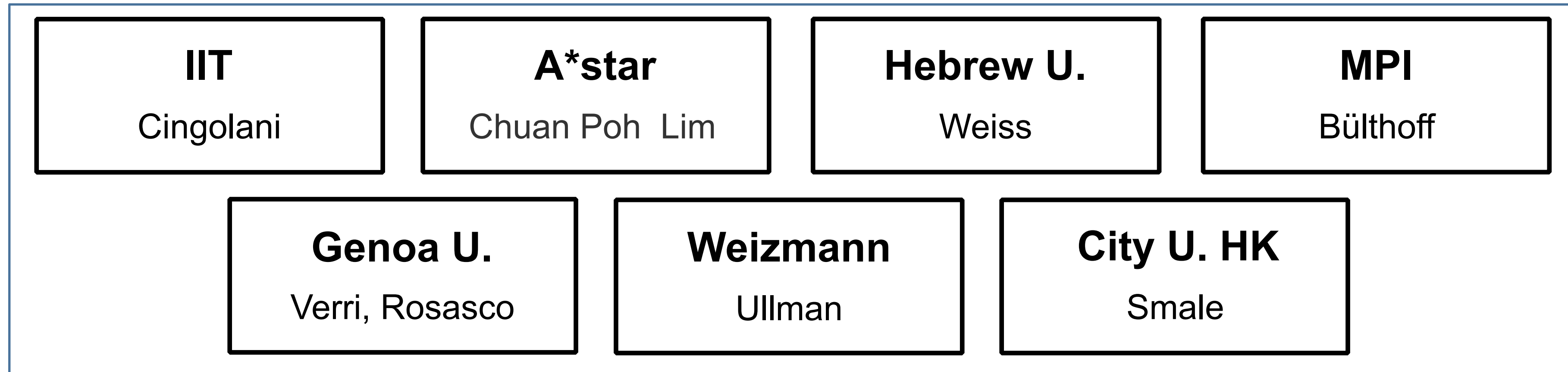
UPR– Río Piedras

Garcia-Arraras, Maldonado-Vlaar, Megret, Ordóñez, Ortiz-Zuazaga

Wellesley College

Hildreth, Wiest, Wilmer

Academic and Corporate Partners



Summer Course at Woods Hole: Our flagship initiative led by G. Kreiman

Brains, Minds & Machines Summer Course

An intensive three-week course gives advanced students a “deep” introduction to the problem of intelligence



A community of scholars is being formed:
First reunion of alumni of summer school Aug. 26-27 in Woodshole, MA

Forging connections between human and machine intelligence research, its applications, and its bearing on society.

The MIT Intelligence Quest will advance the science and engineering of both human and machine intelligence. Launched on February 1, 2018, this effort seeks to discover the foundations of human intelligence and drive the development of technological tools that can positively influence virtually every aspect of society.

The Institute's culture of collaboration will encourage life scientists, computer scientists, social scientists, and engineers to join forces to investigate the societal implications of their work as they pursue hard problems lying beyond the current horizon of intelligence research. By uniting diverse fields and capitalizing on what they can teach each other, we seek to answer the deepest questions about intelligence.



Intelligence: The MIT Quest



CORE: Cutting-Edge Research on the Science + Engineering of Intelligence

Natural Science of Intelligence

Engineering of Intelligence

The Intersection

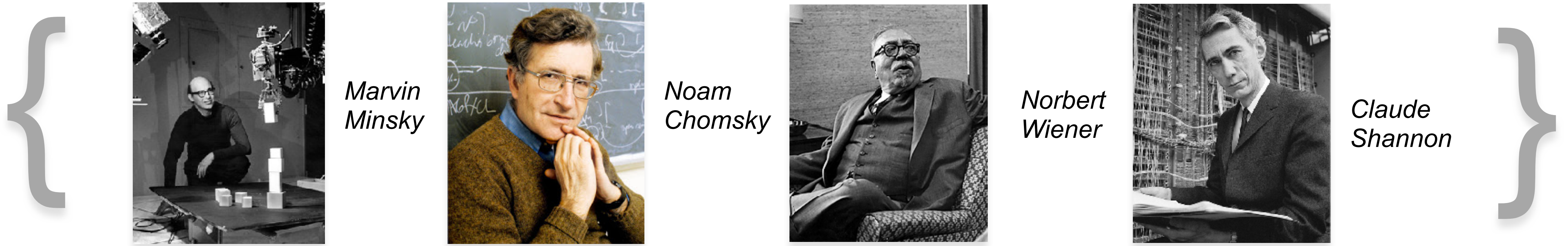
Nobel prize

Turing Award, Fields Medal

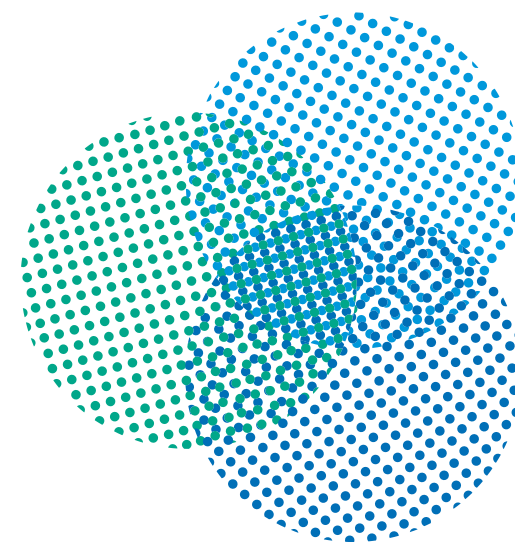
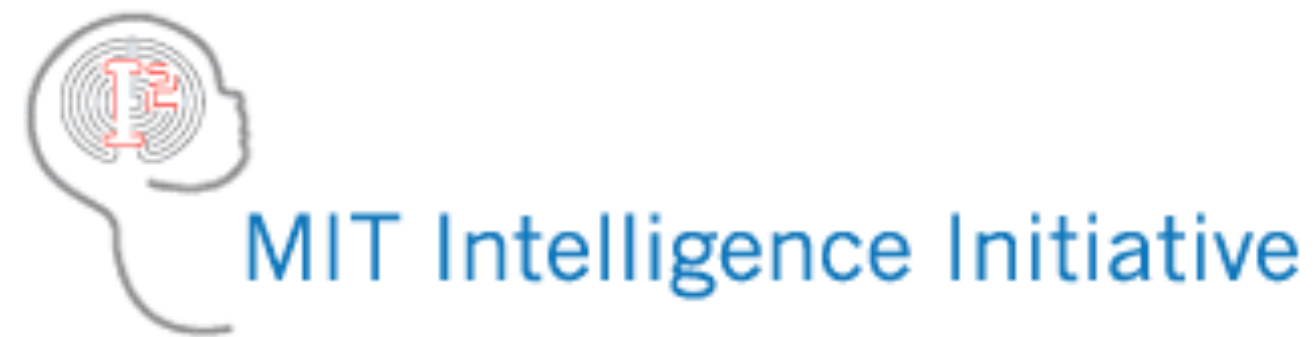


CENTER FOR
Brains
Minds+
Machines

Logical for MIT...



“The Golden Age” 1950 - 1970



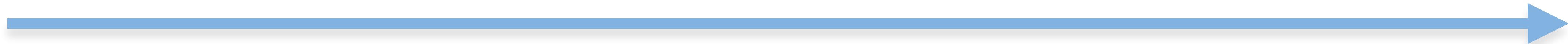
CENTER FOR
Brains
Minds+
Machines

**Intelligence:
The MIT Quest**

2008

2012 - 2013

2018



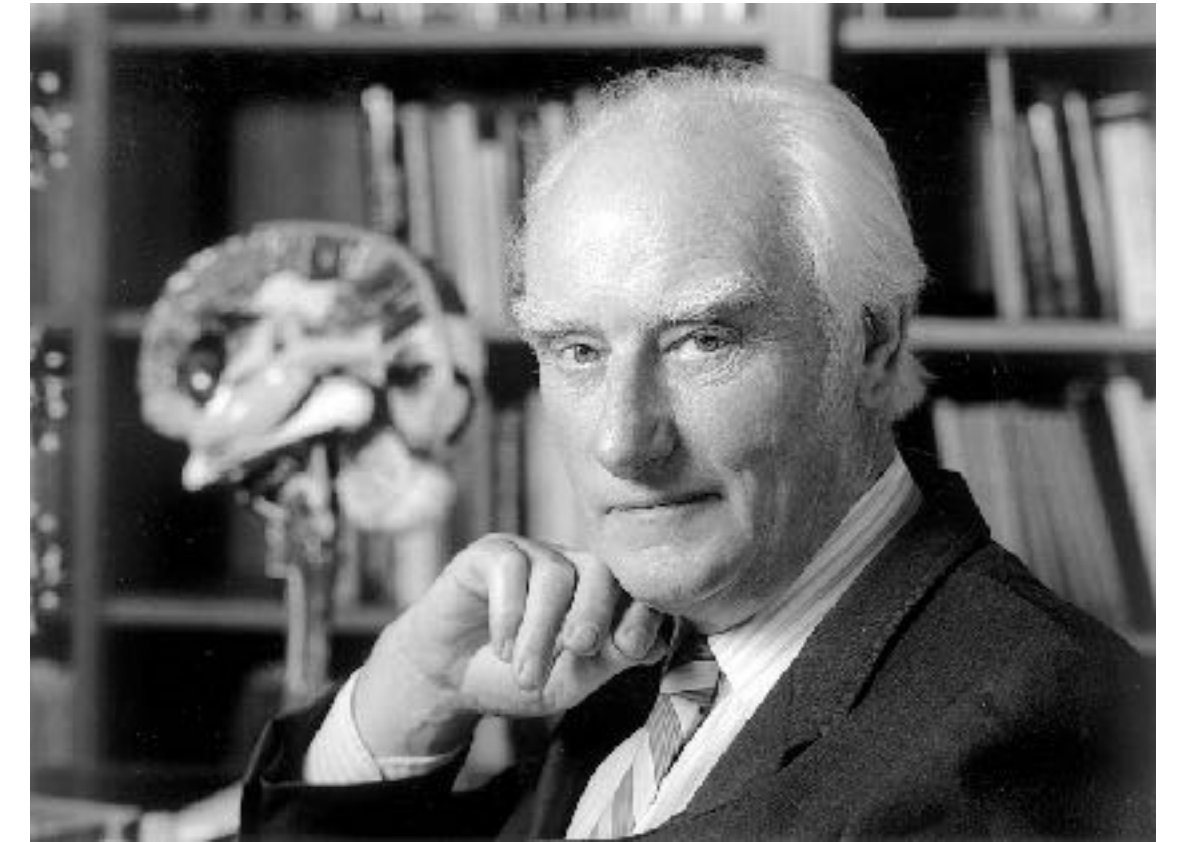
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9.523 and the Problem of Intelligence

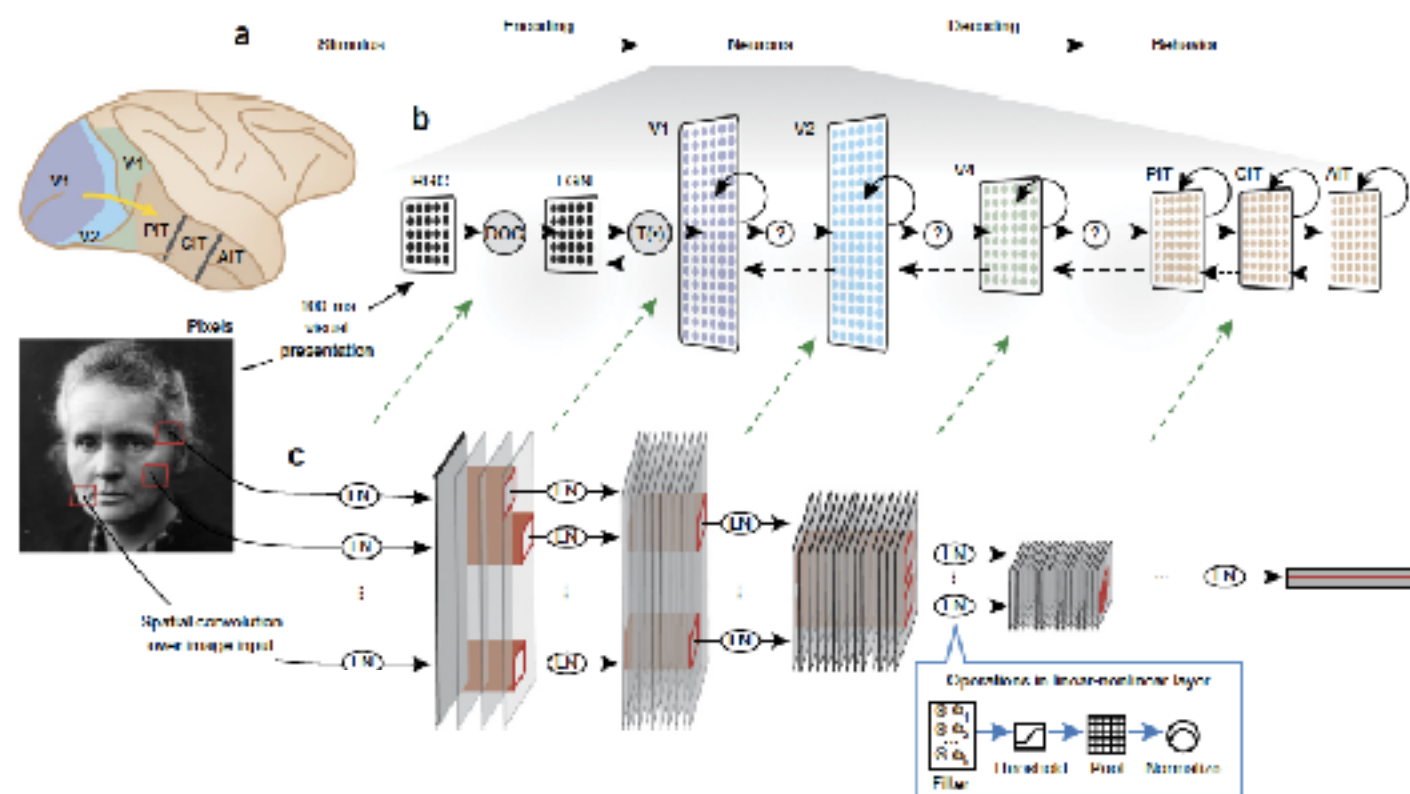
How do we make significant progress?

Just a definition: I use the word *science* to mean *natural science*



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Neuroscience-Inspired Artificial Intelligence

Demis Hassabis,^{1,2,*} Dharshan Kumaran,^{1,3} Christopher Summerfield,^{1,4} and Matthew Botvinick^{1,2}

¹DeepMind, 5 New Street Square, London, UK

²Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit, 25 Howland Street, London, UK

³Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London, 17 Queen Square, London, UK

⁴Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

*Correspondence: dhcontact@google.com

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2017.06.011>

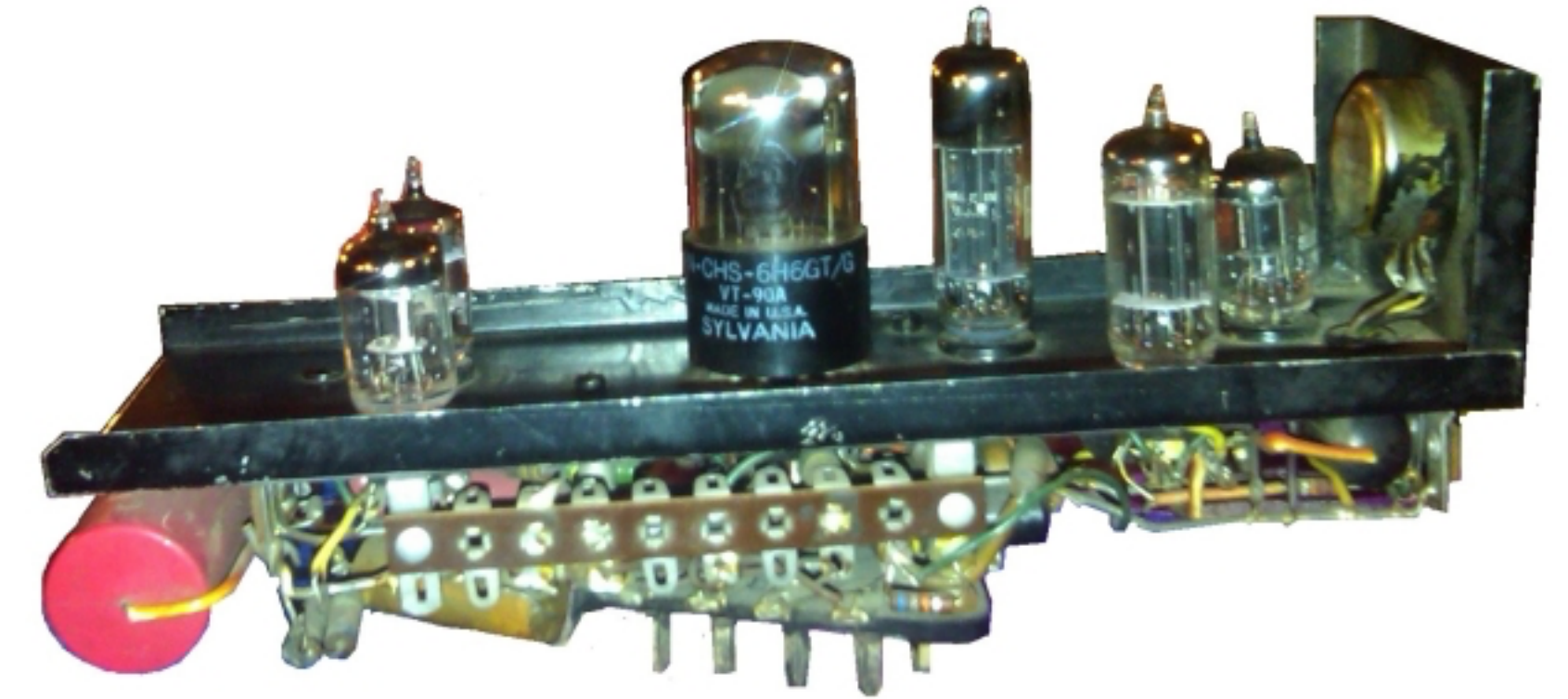
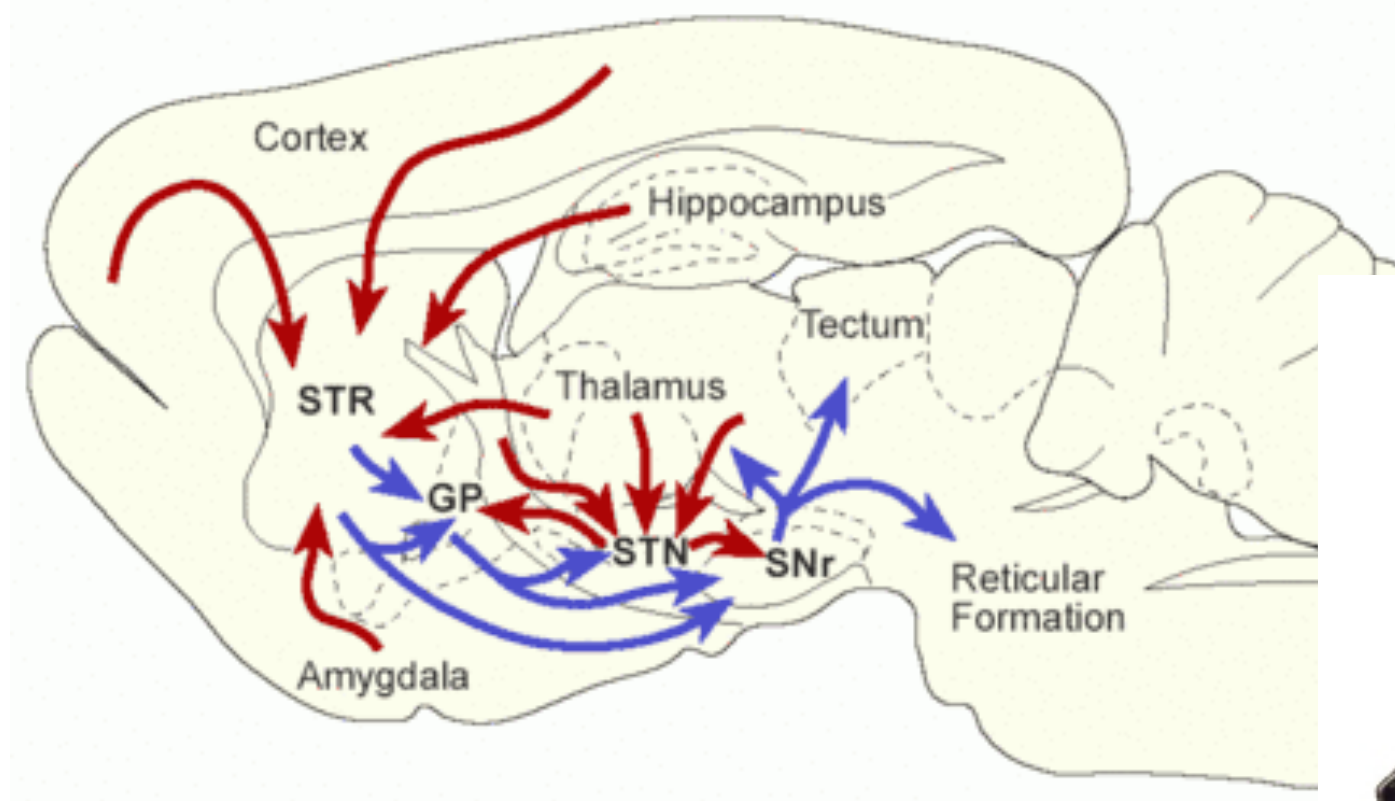
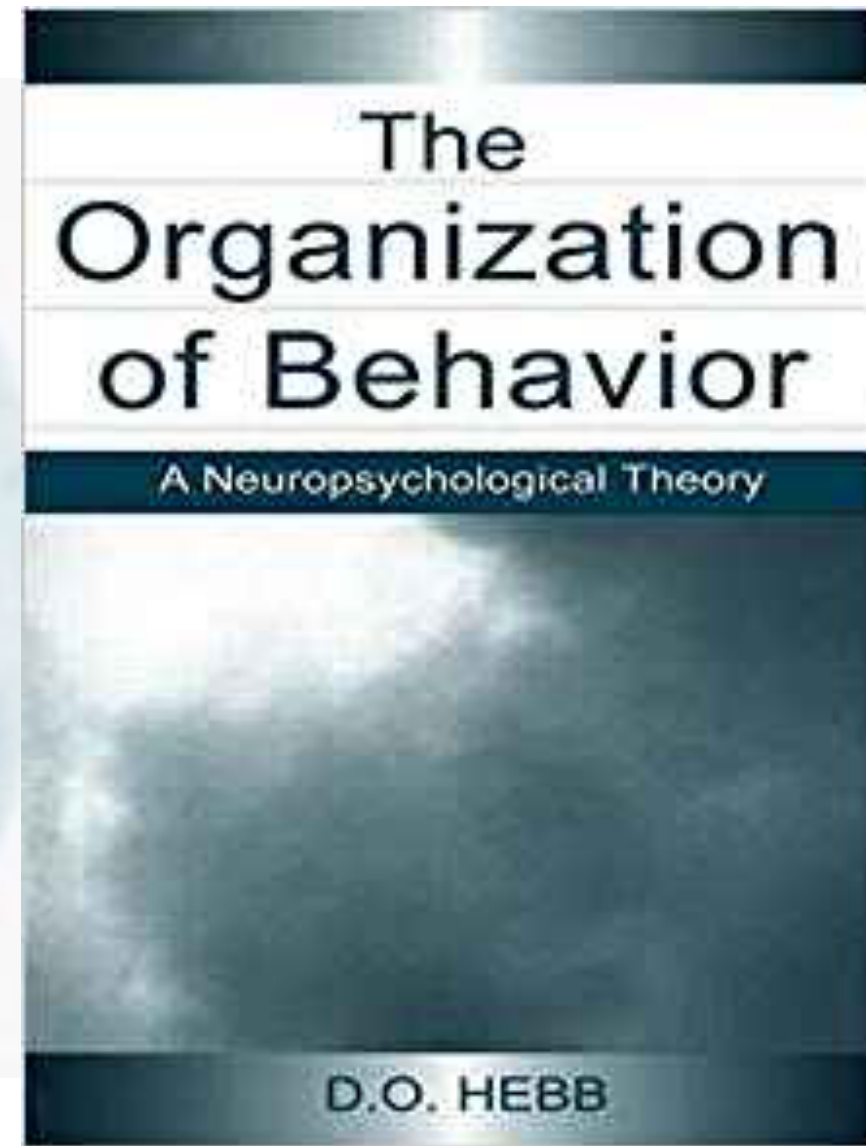
The fields of neuroscience and artificial intelligence (AI) have a long and intertwined history. In more recent times, however, communication and collaboration between the two fields has become less commonplace. In this article, we argue that better understanding biological brains could play a vital role in building intelligent machines. We survey historical interactions between the AI and neuroscience fields and emphasize current advances in AI that have been inspired by the study of neural computation in humans and other animals. We conclude by highlighting shared themes that may be key for advancing future research in both fields.

The successful transfer of insights gained from neuroscience to the development of AI algorithms is critically dependent on the interaction between researchers working in both these fields, with insights often developing through a continual handing back and forth of ideas between fields. In the future, we

Two Main Recent Success Stories in AI



DL and RL come from neuroscience

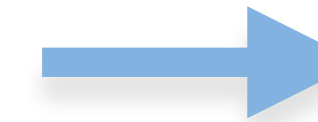
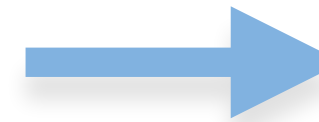
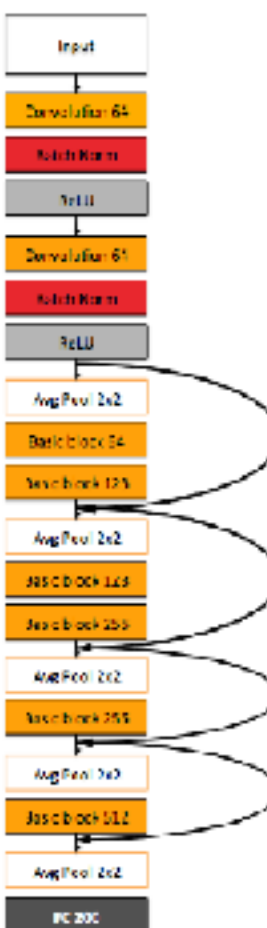
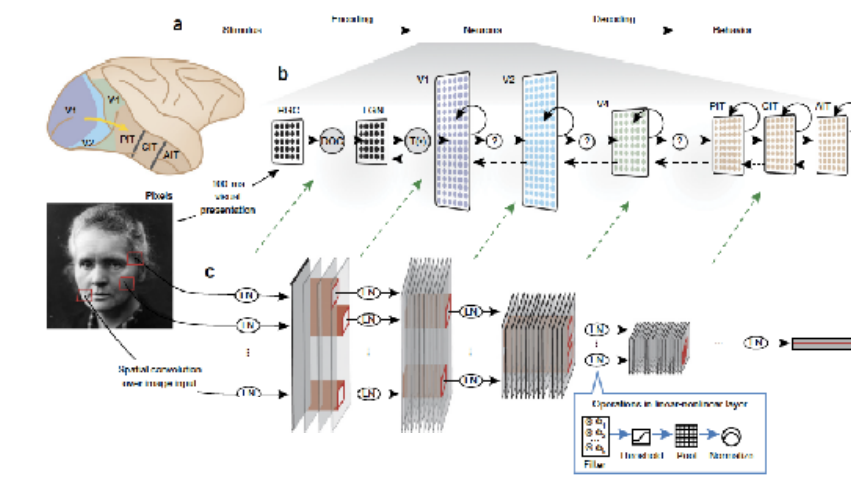
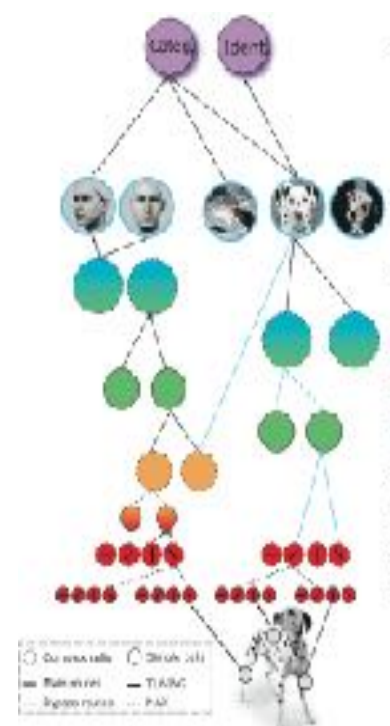
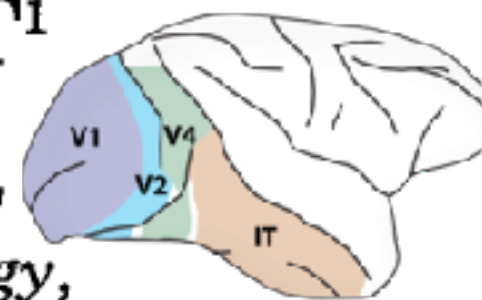


Minsky's SNARC

RECEPTIVE FIELDS AND FUNCTIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN TWO NONSTRIATE VISUAL AREAS (18 AND 19) OF THE CAT¹

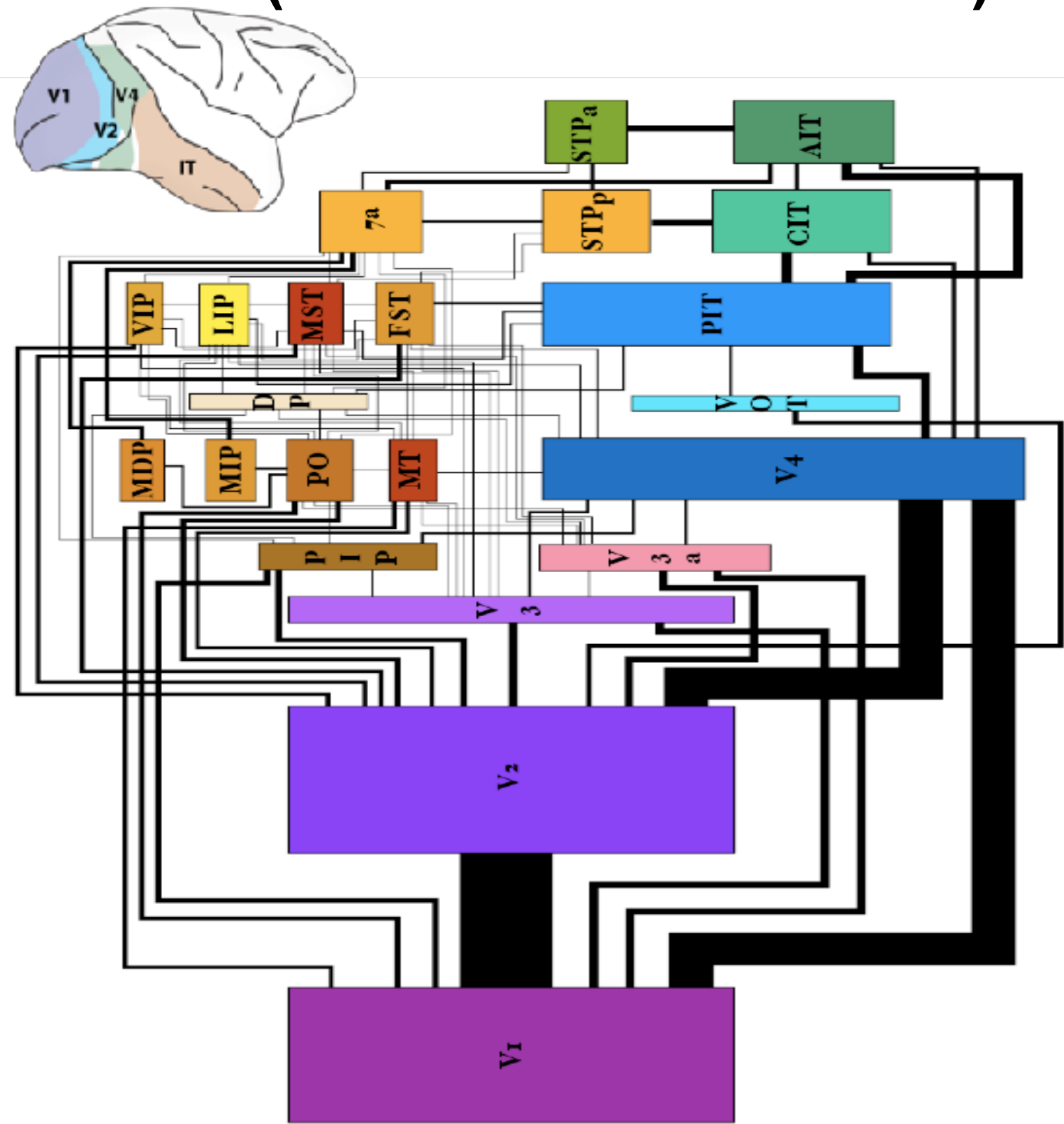
DAVID H. HUBEL AND TORSTEN N. WIESEL
*Neurophysiology Laboratory, Department of Pharmacology,
 Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts*

(Received for publication August 24, 1964)



Background: State-of-the-art Machines (“Deep Learning”) Have Emerged From the Brain’s Visual Processing Architecture

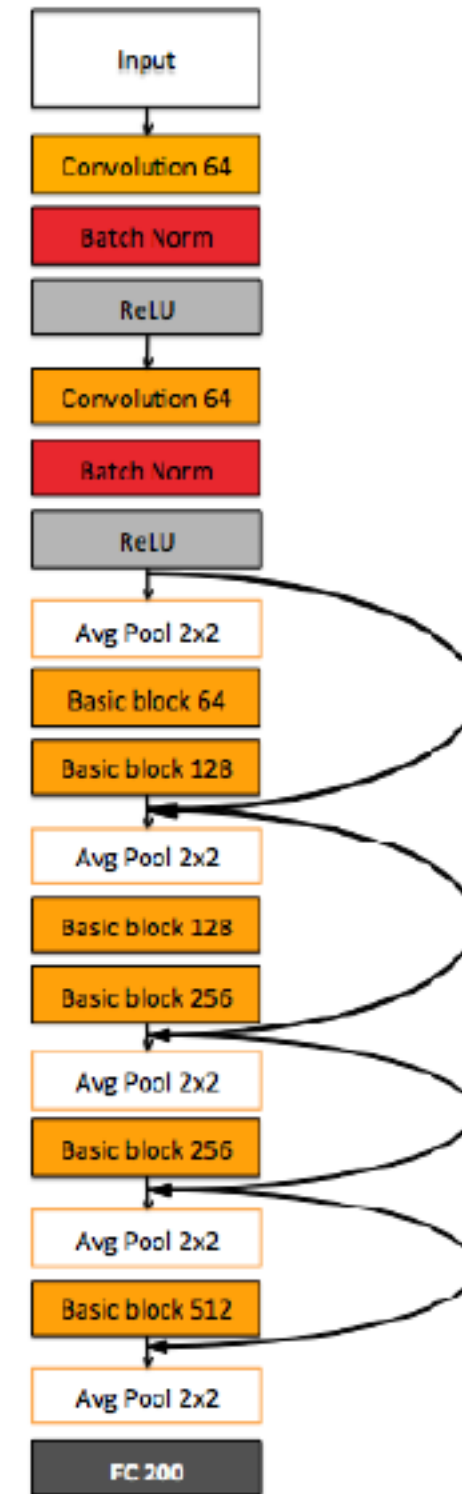
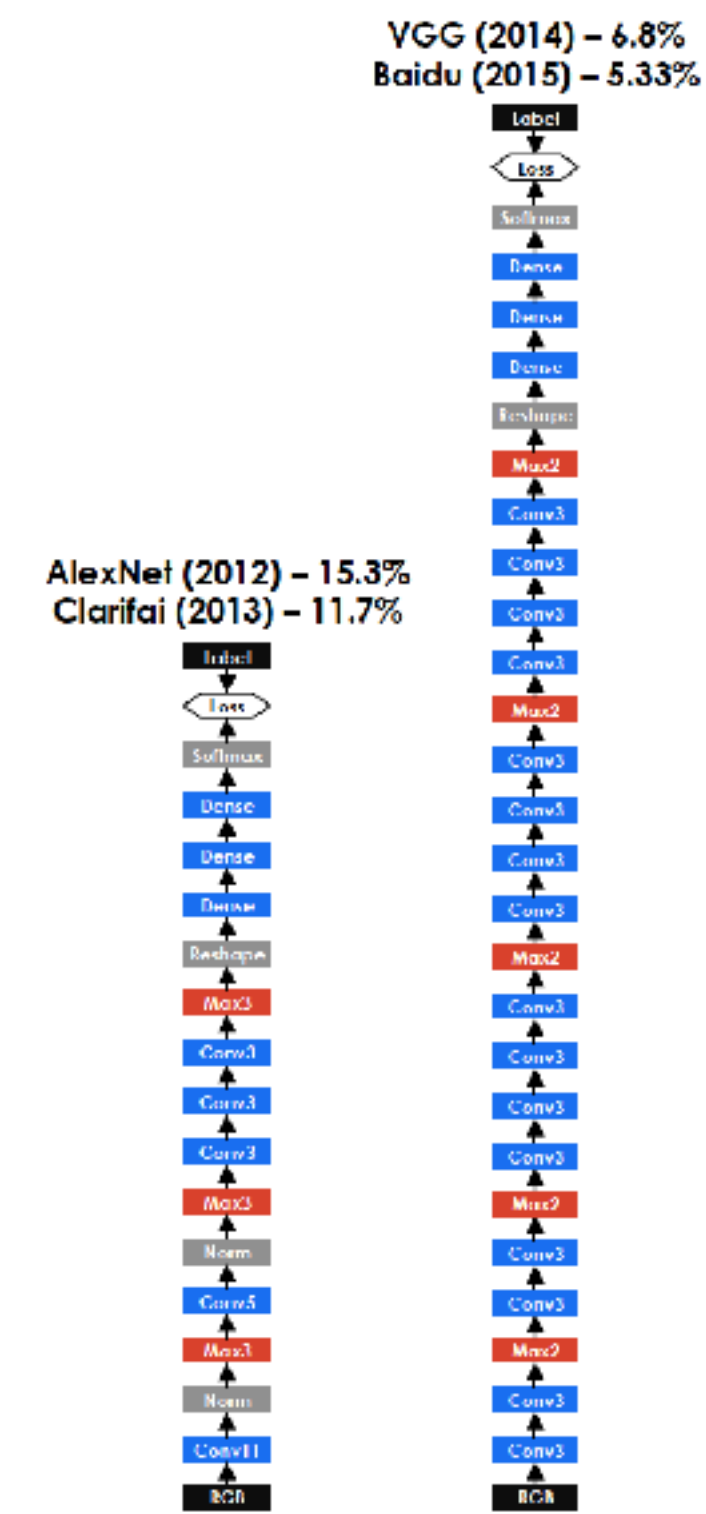
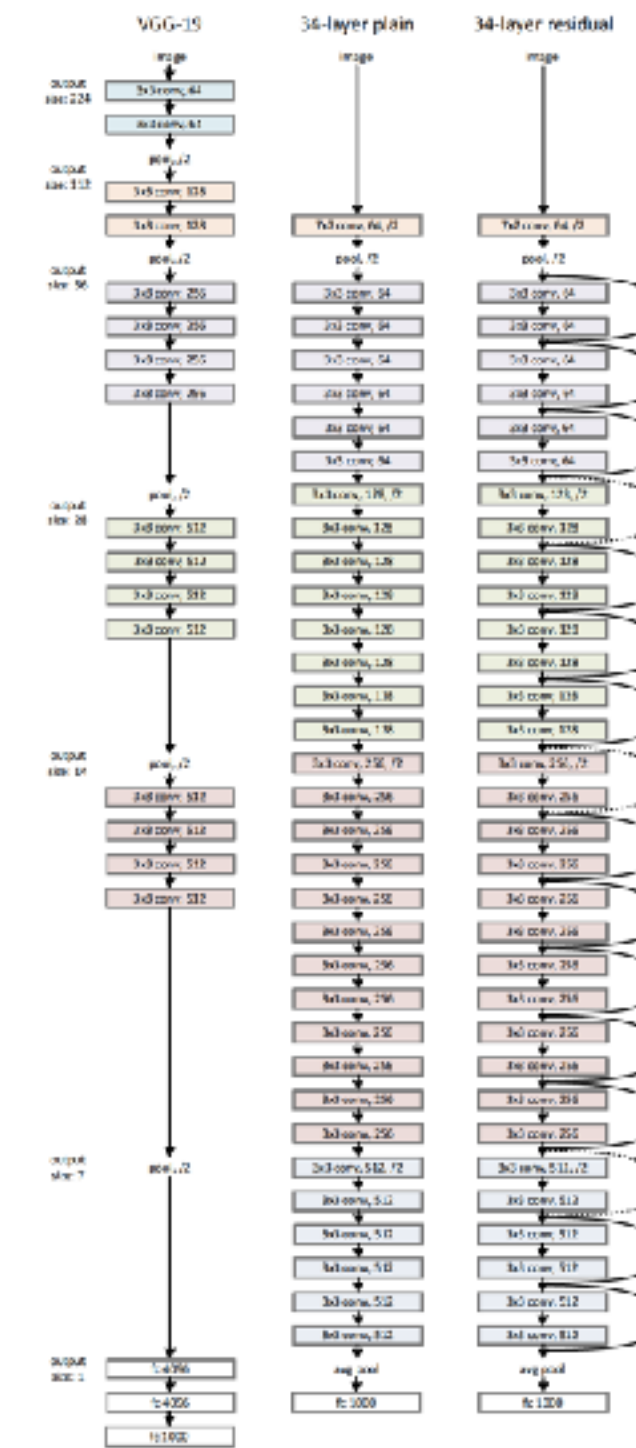
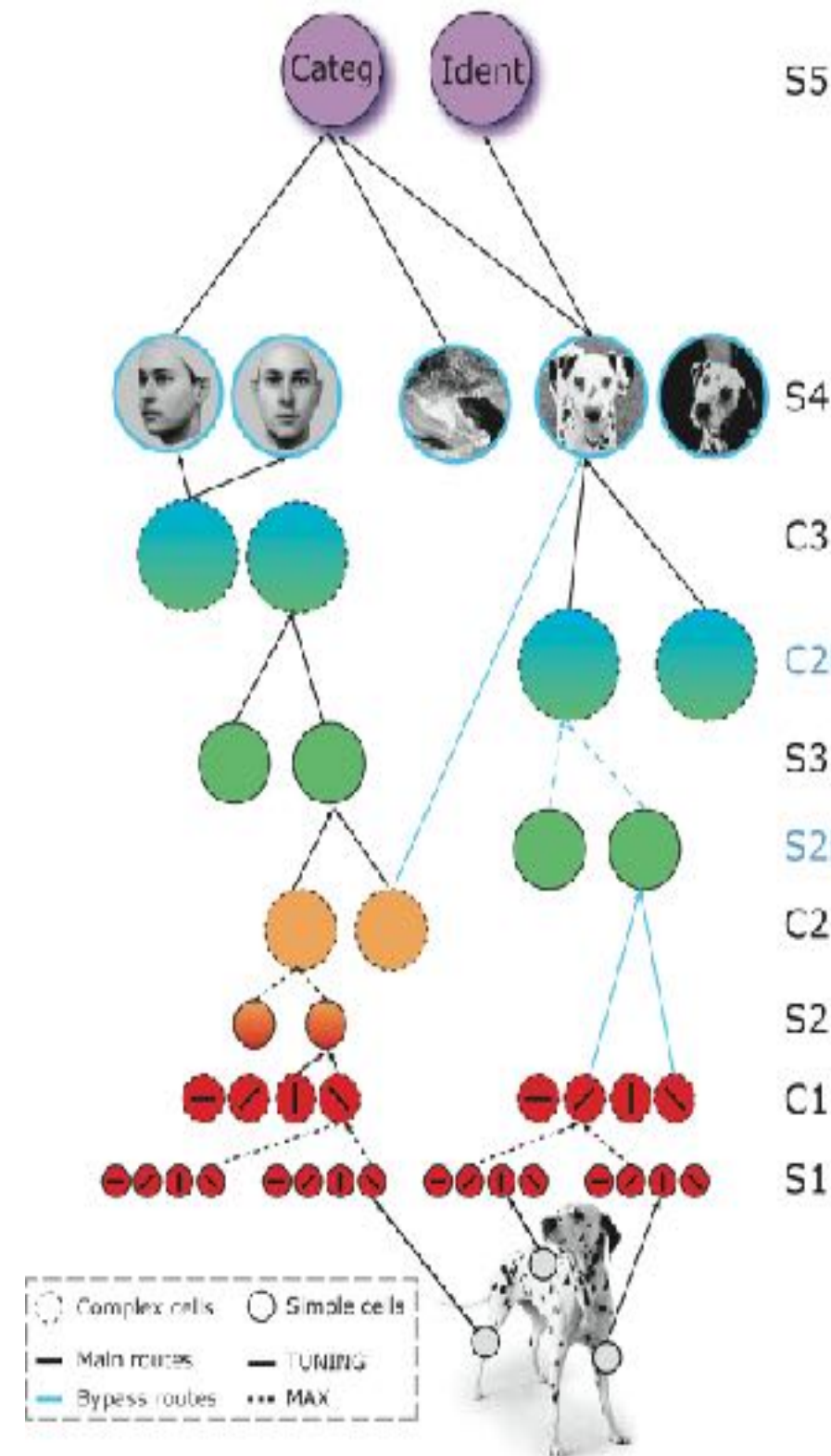
Brains / Minds (ventral visual stream)



What's the engineering of the future?

Machines

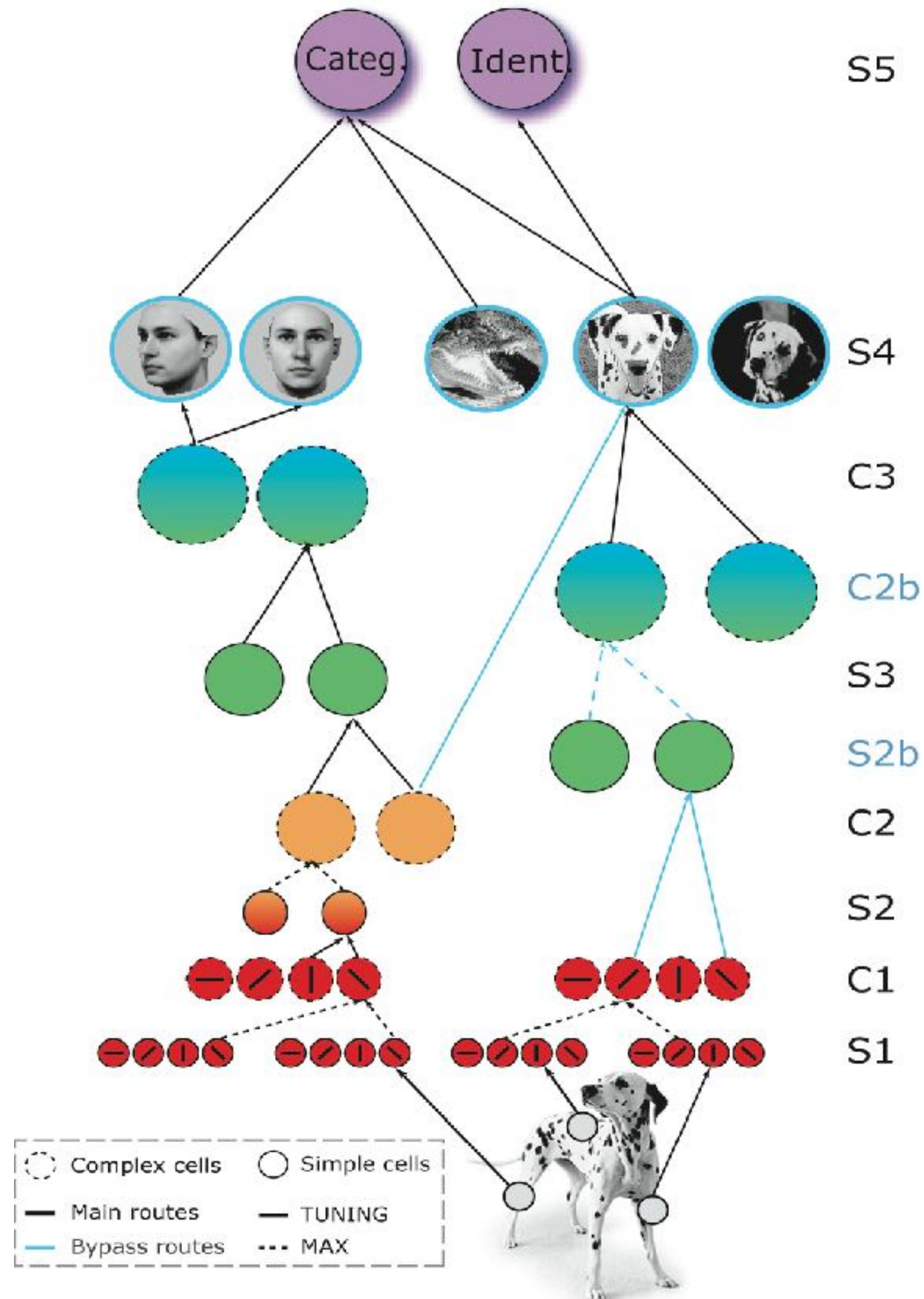
State of the Art ResNets



Desimone & Ungerleider 1989; vanEssen+Movshon



Convolutional networks



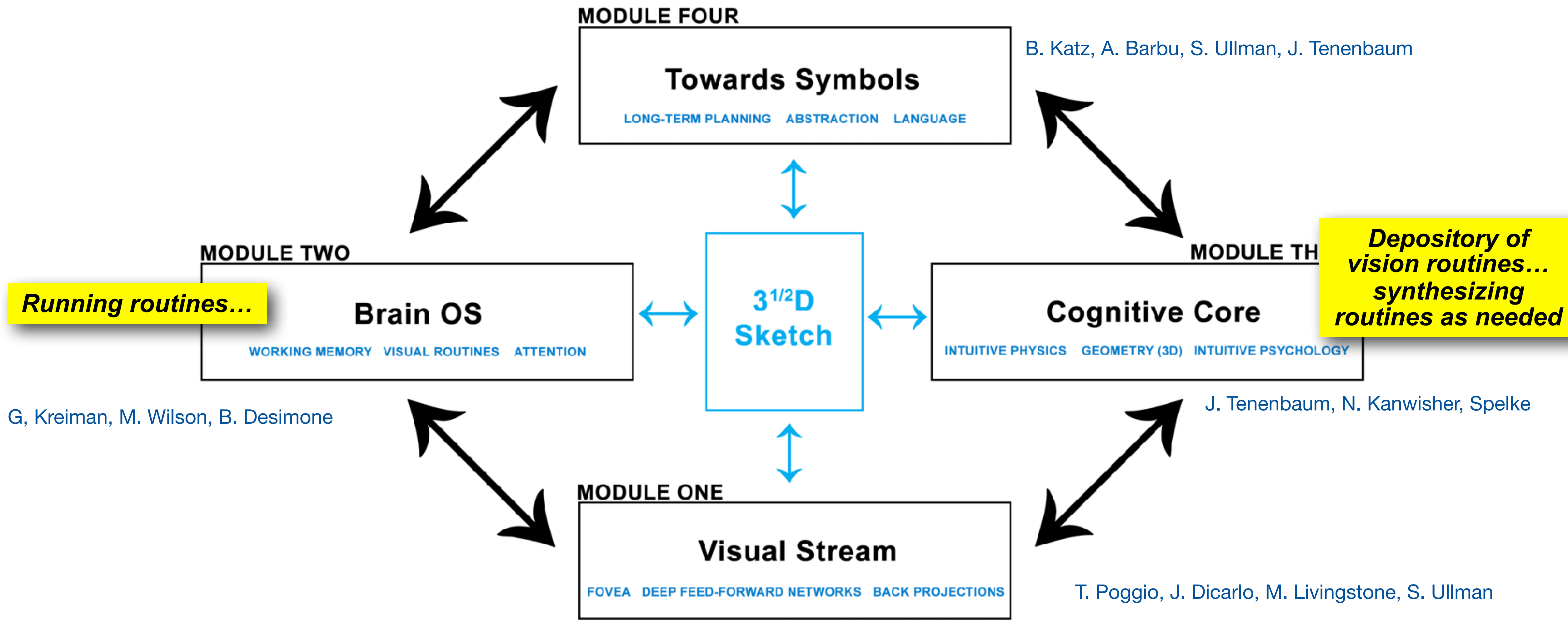
“Hubel-Wiesel” models include

Hubel & Wiesel, 1959;
[Fukushima](#), 1980, Wallis & Rolls, 1997; Mel, 1997;
 LeCun et al 1998;
 Riesenhuber & Poggio, 1999; Thorpe, 2002; Ullman et al., 2002; Wersing and Koerner, 2003; Serre et al., 2007; Freeman and Simoncelli, 2011....

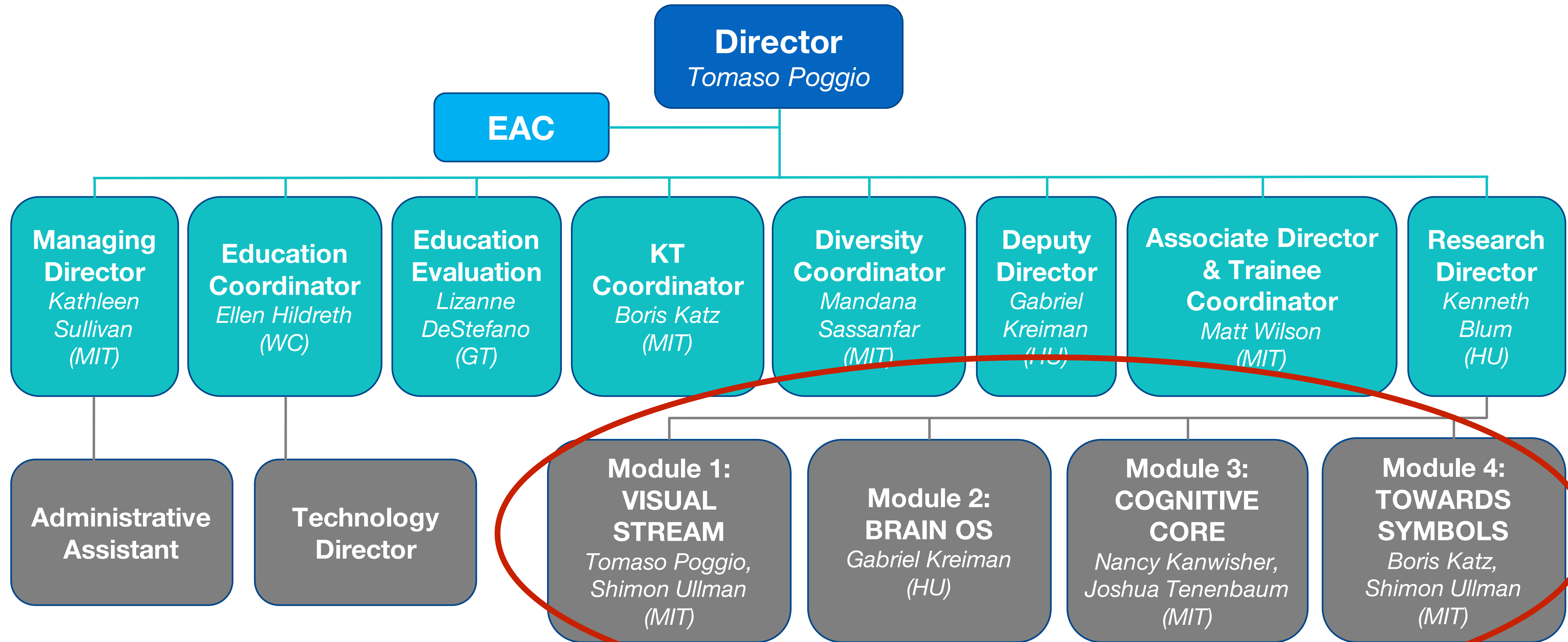
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Understanding the World



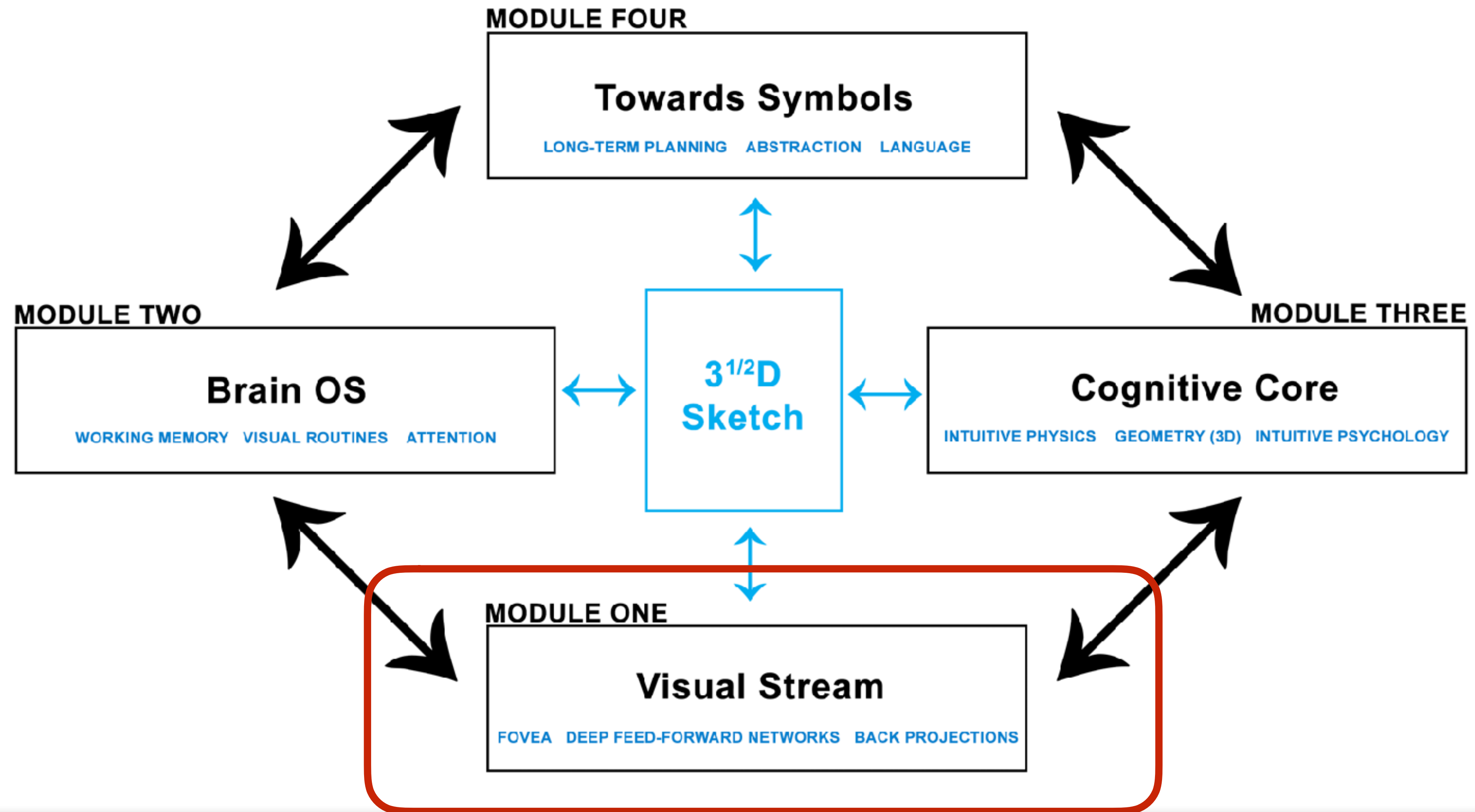
CBMM Organizational Chart (future)



The CBMM Visual Intelligence moonshot

Shimon

Module One: Ventral Visual Stream



Foundation for other modules: Center of visual gaze, first 200 msec of visual processing

9.523 overview

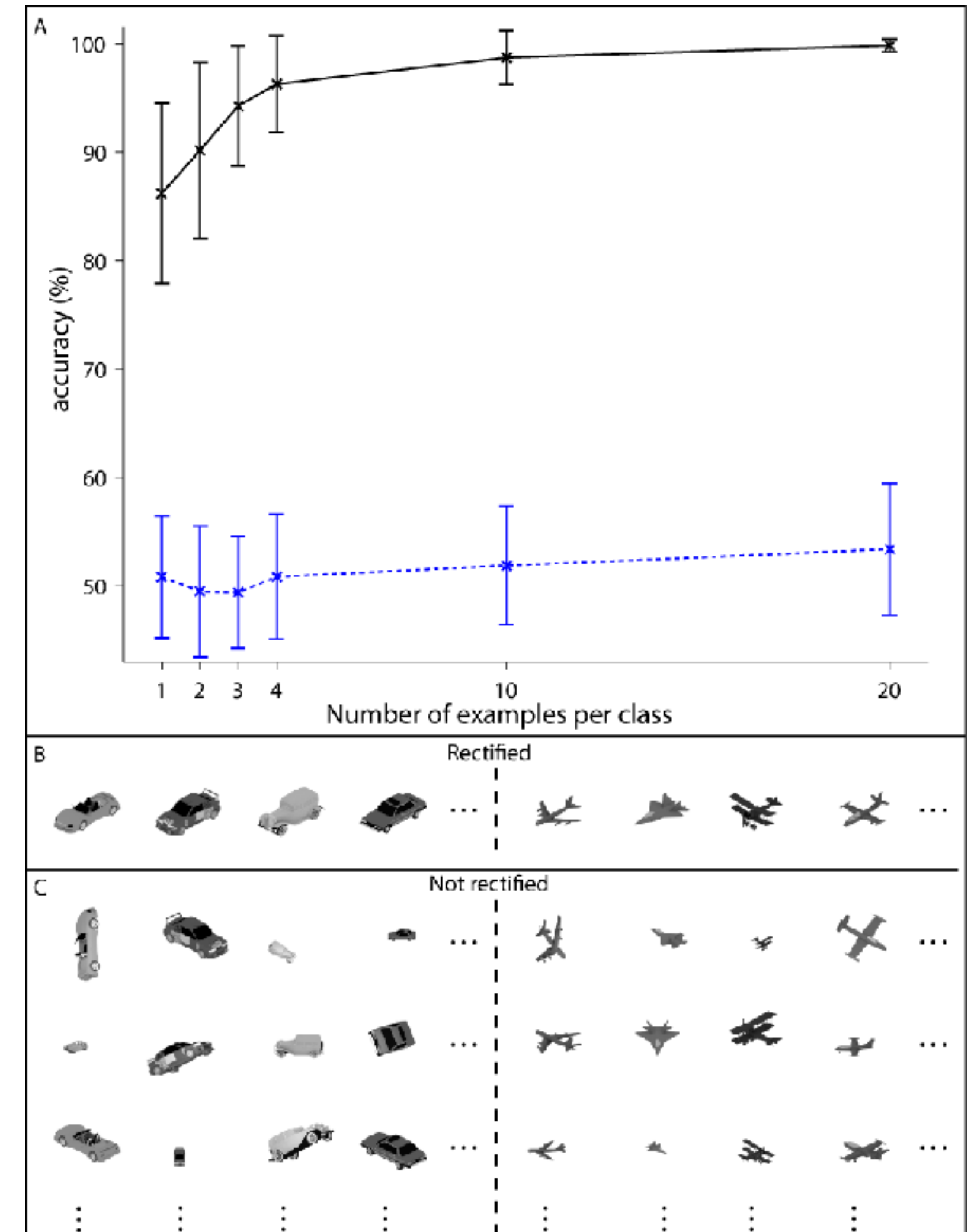
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 - Module 1, invariance

Importance of viewpoint invariance

Invariant Representations Lead to Lower Sample Complexity for a Supervised Classifier

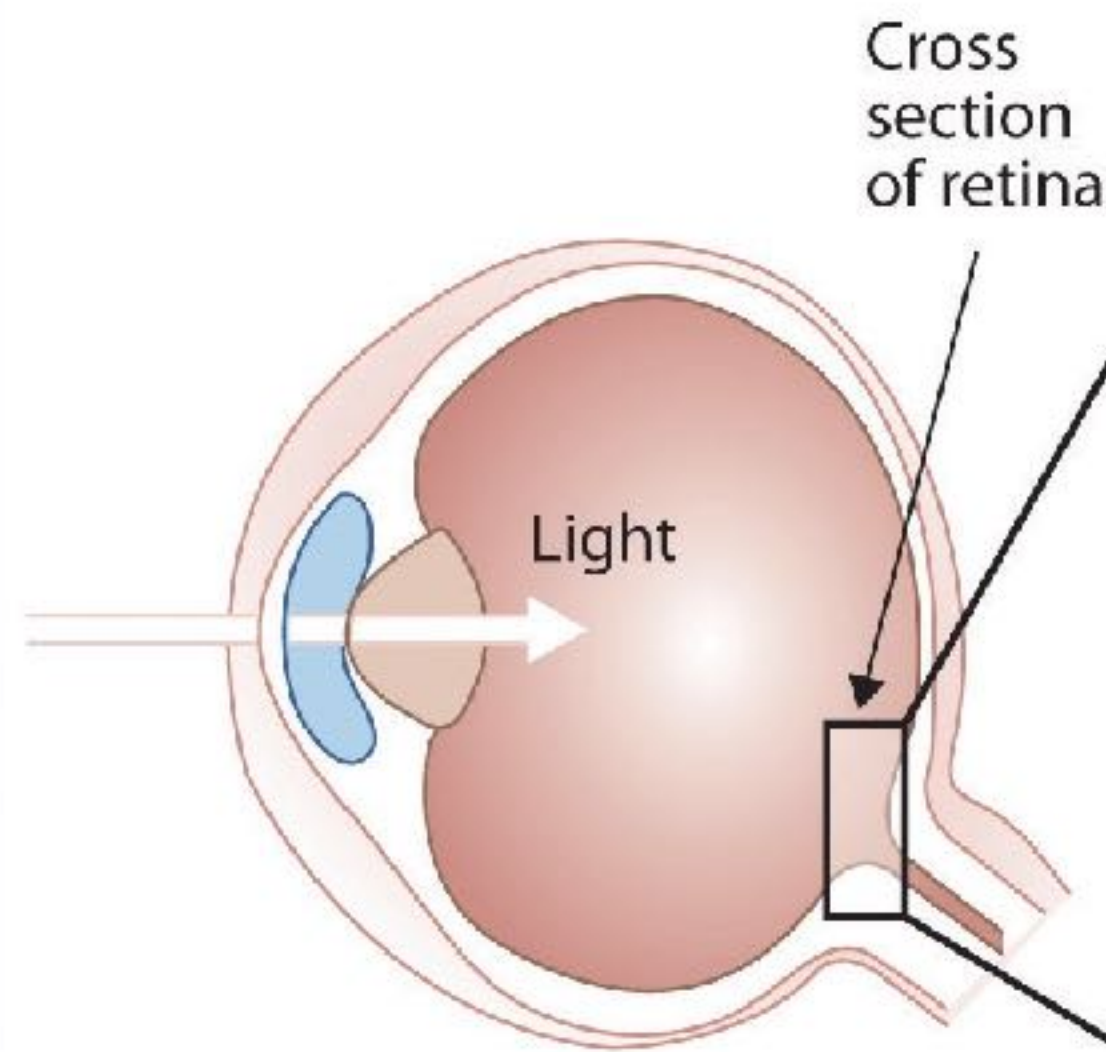
Theorem (*translation case*)

Consider a space of images of dimensions $d \times d$ pixels which may appear in any position within a window of size $rd \times rd$ pixels. The usual image representation yields a sample complexity (of a linear classifier) of order $m = O(r^2 d^2)$; the oracle representation (invariant) yields (because of much smaller covering numbers) a sample complexity of order $m_{oracle} = O(d^2) = \frac{m_{image}}{r^2}$

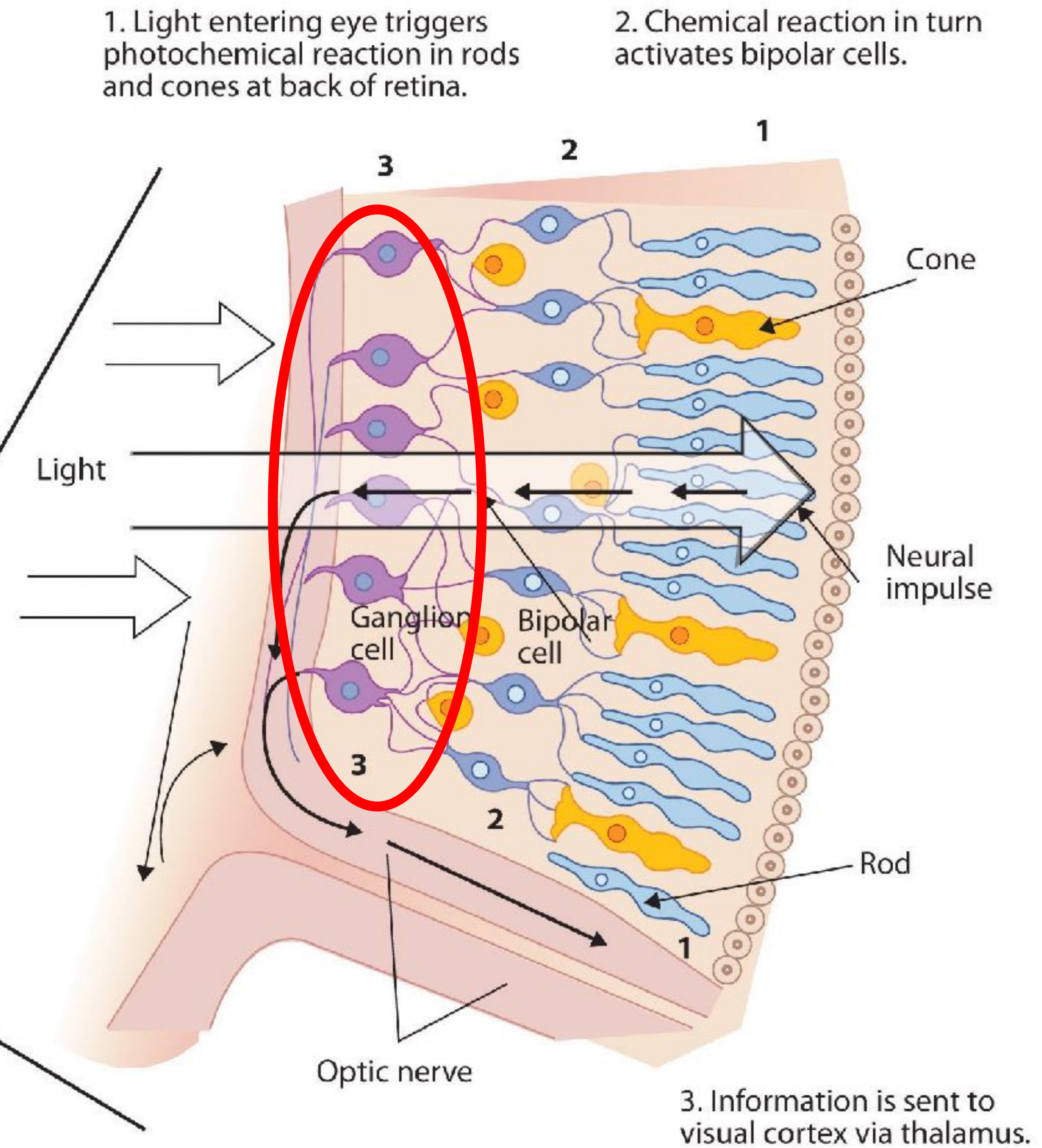


Puzzle of linear dependence of resolution
on eccentricity

Note: we focus on the sampling layout of the retinal ganglion cells (RGCs) - the *outputs* of the retina.



(Also: focusing on the Parvo pathway, ignoring Magno.)



Receptive field size vs. eccentricity - HW

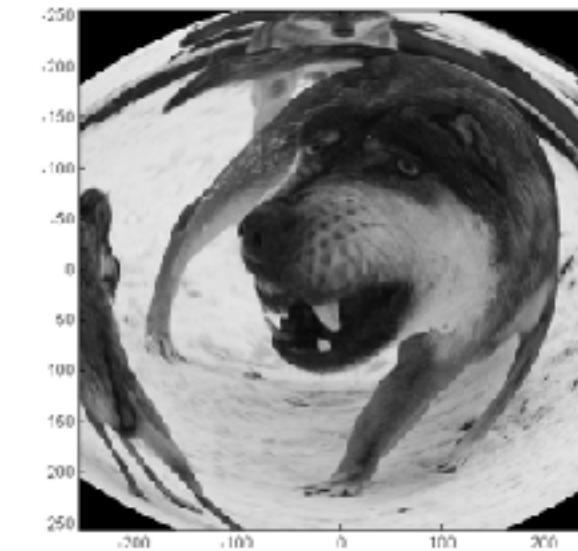
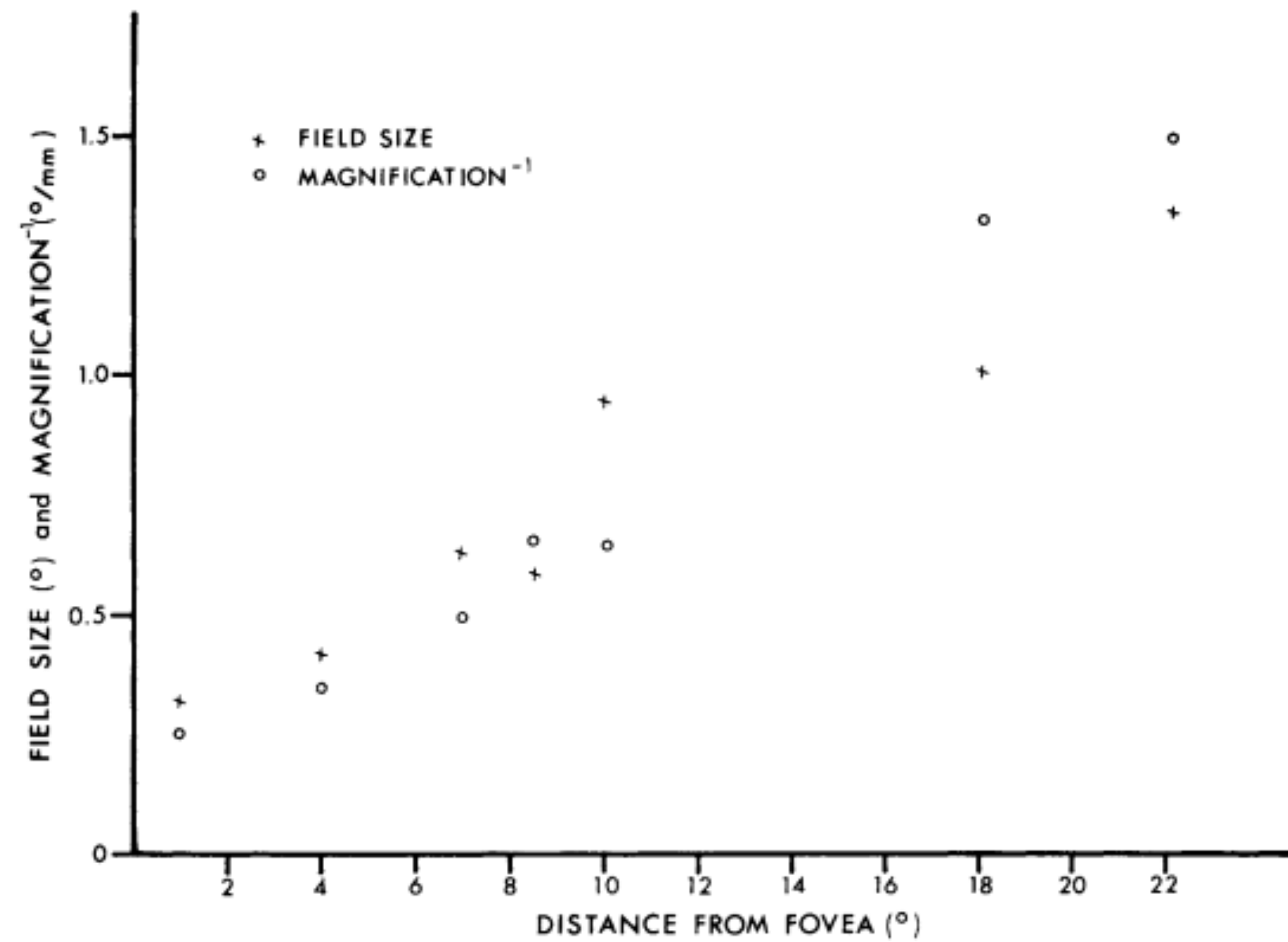
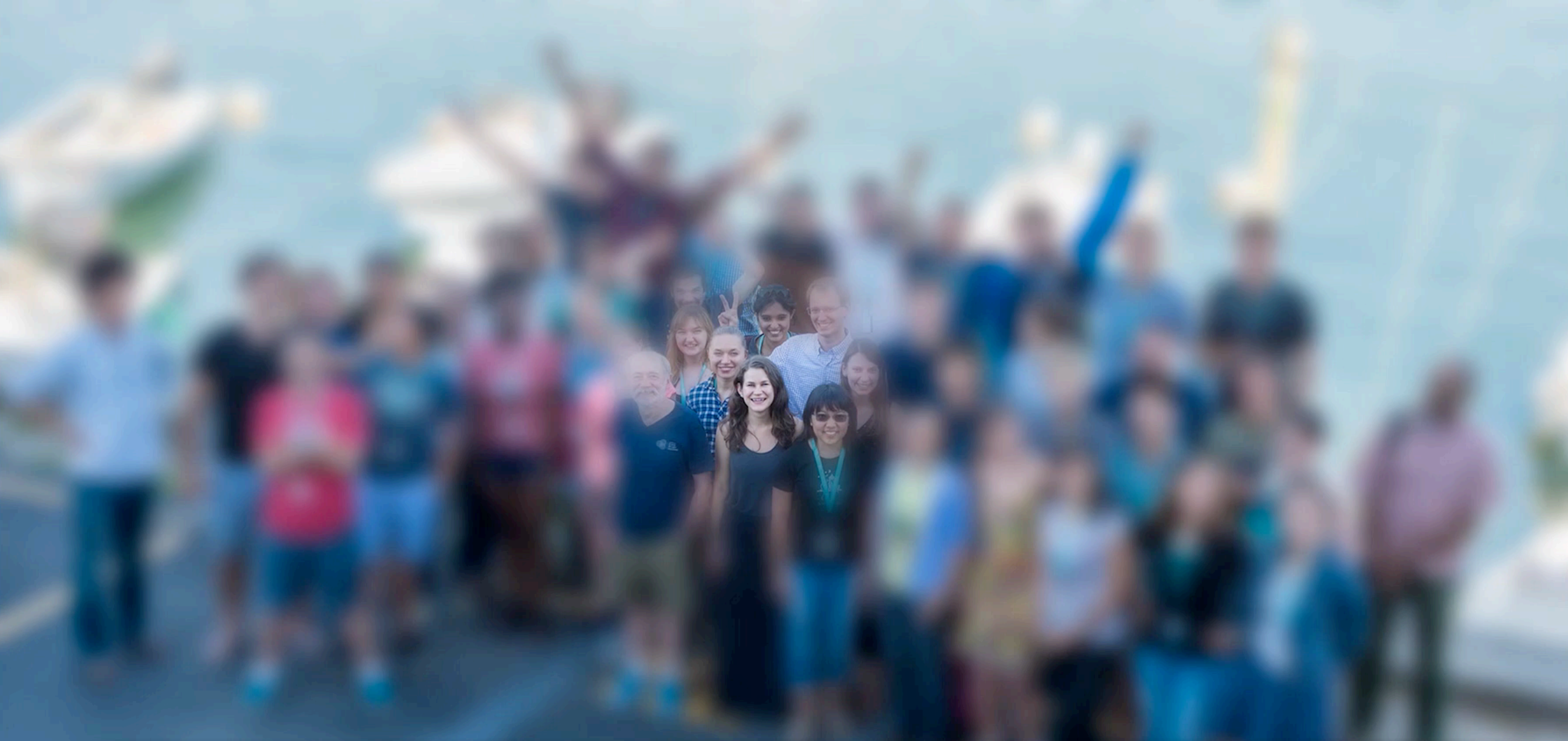


Fig. 6A Graph of average field size (crosses) and magnification⁻¹ (open circles) against eccentricity, for five cortical locations. Points for 4°, 8°, 18° and 22° were from one monkey; for 1°, from a second. Field size was determined by averaging the fields at each eccentricity, estimating size from (length × width)^{0.5}.

Hubel and Wiesel, 1971



***Foundation for other modules ==> eye movements:
Center of visual gaze, first 200 msec of visual processing***

E

N H

N F D

Z X T P

F T D Z U

H T P N F D

Z D T N U H P

H P X T Z F N

P D T N U H Z

Multiple scales?

Scatter of receptive field sizes in V1

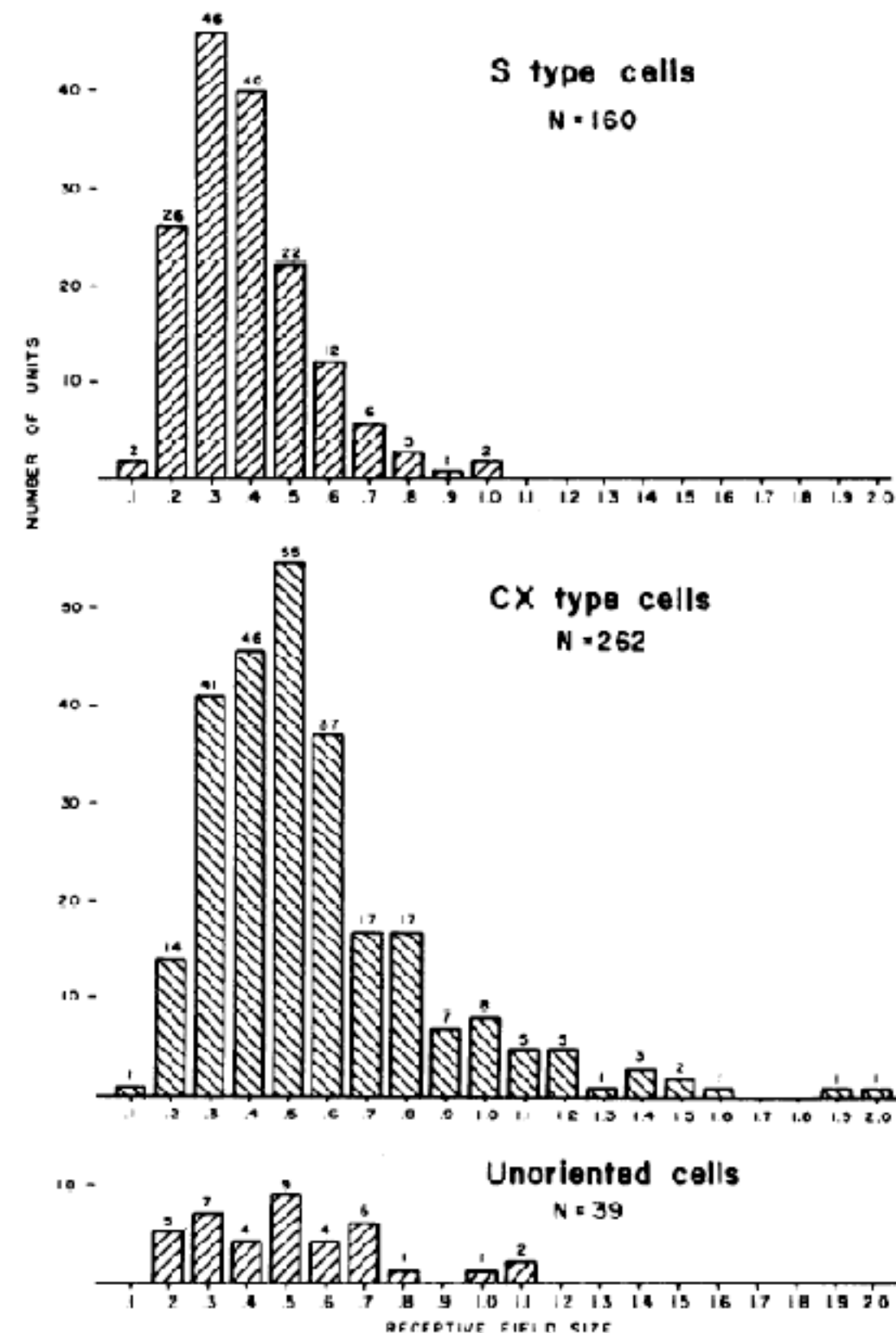


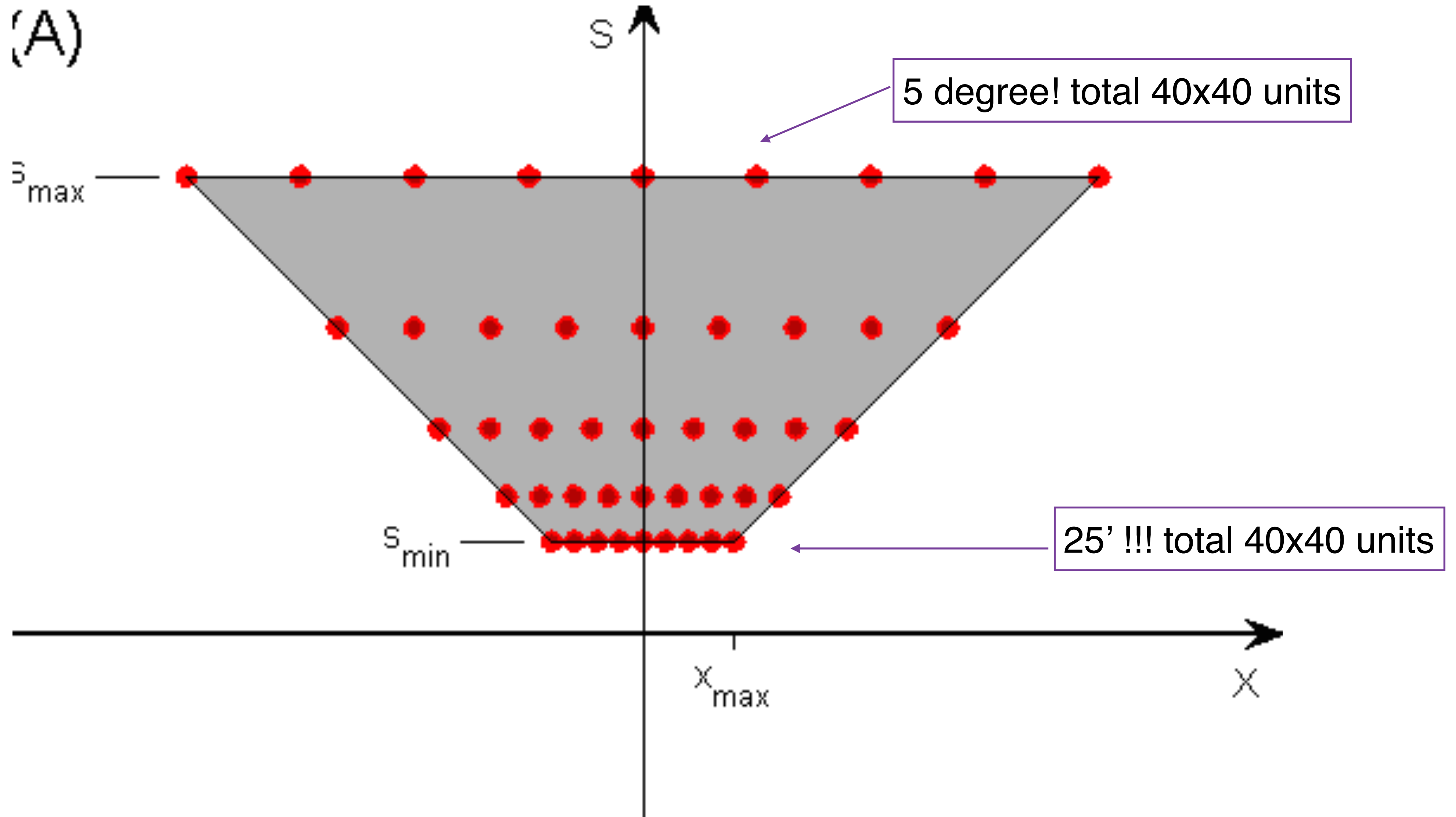
FIG. 18. Distribution of overall receptive-field width.

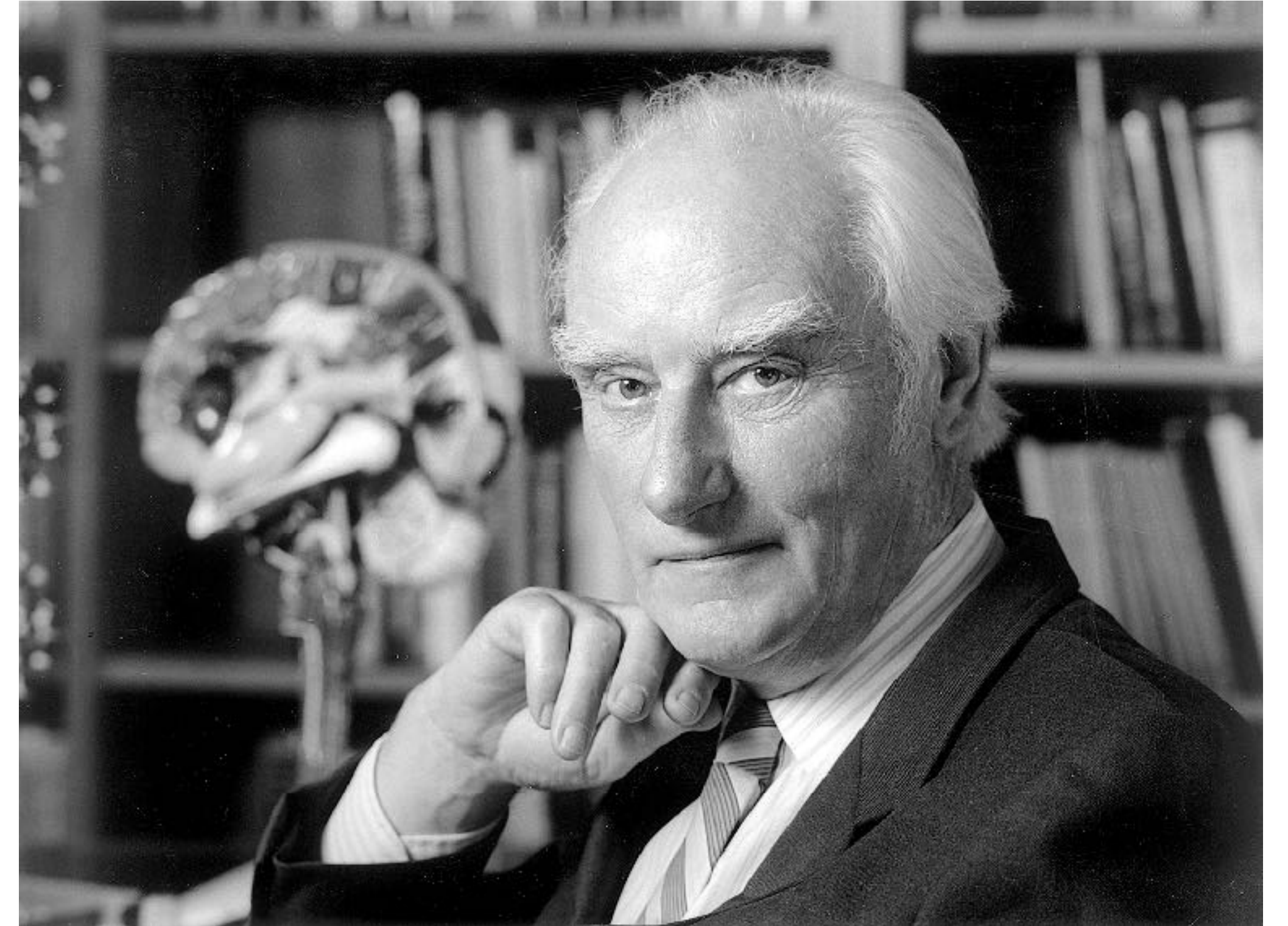
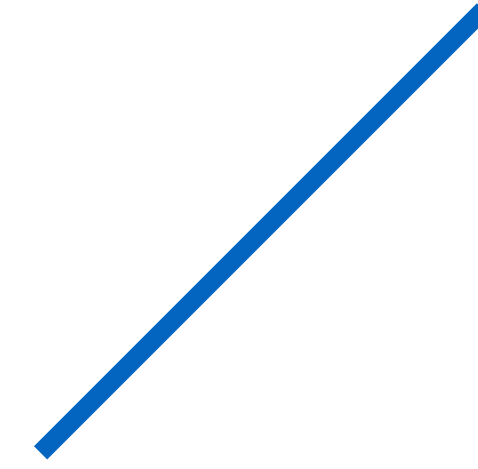
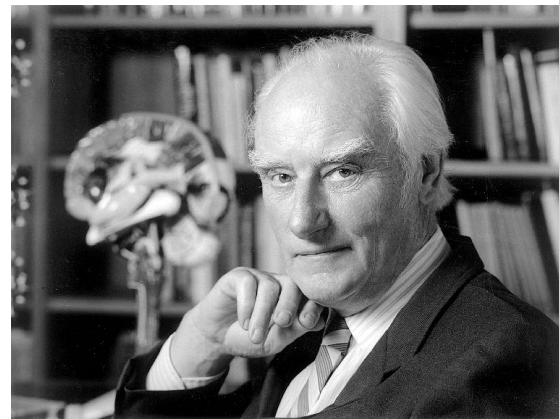
The data in Fig. 18, obtained from 589 cells, show a skewed distribution of sizes which vary over almost a 20-fold range. Only a relatively small fraction of this range is due to variation in retinal eccentricity. Even in a vertical penetration, where receptive fields scatter only over a small area, field size can vary over a large range, with the receptive fields of cells in layer 4 being small and those in layers 5 and 6 often being very large (10, 13).

Figure 18 also shows that CX-type cells, on the whole, have larger receptive fields than do S-type cells. This difference is statistically significant ($F > 0.001$), although there is clearly considerable overlap in these populations. This is due, in part,

Is invariance the computational reason
for linear dependence of
RF size on eccentricity??

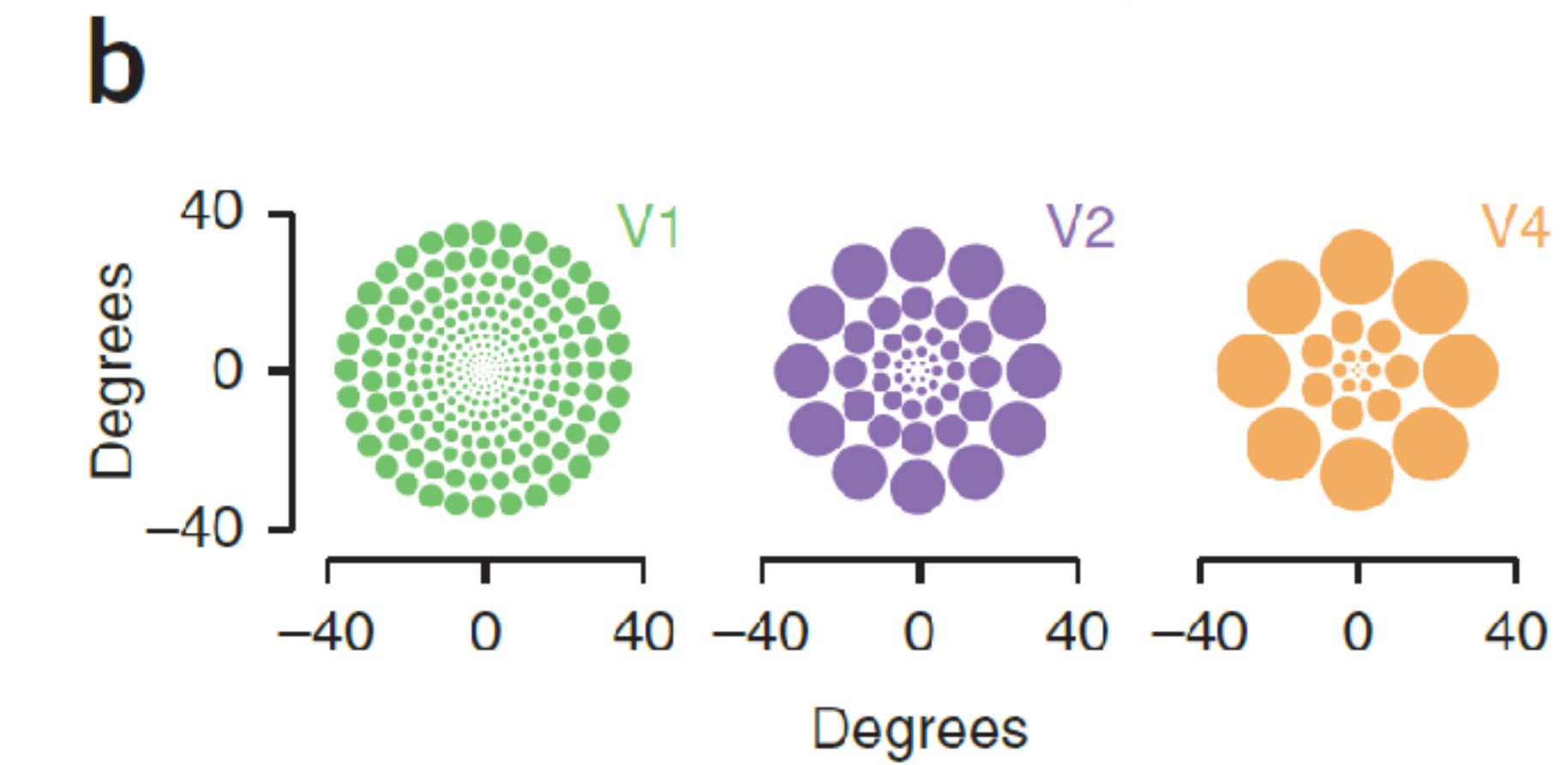
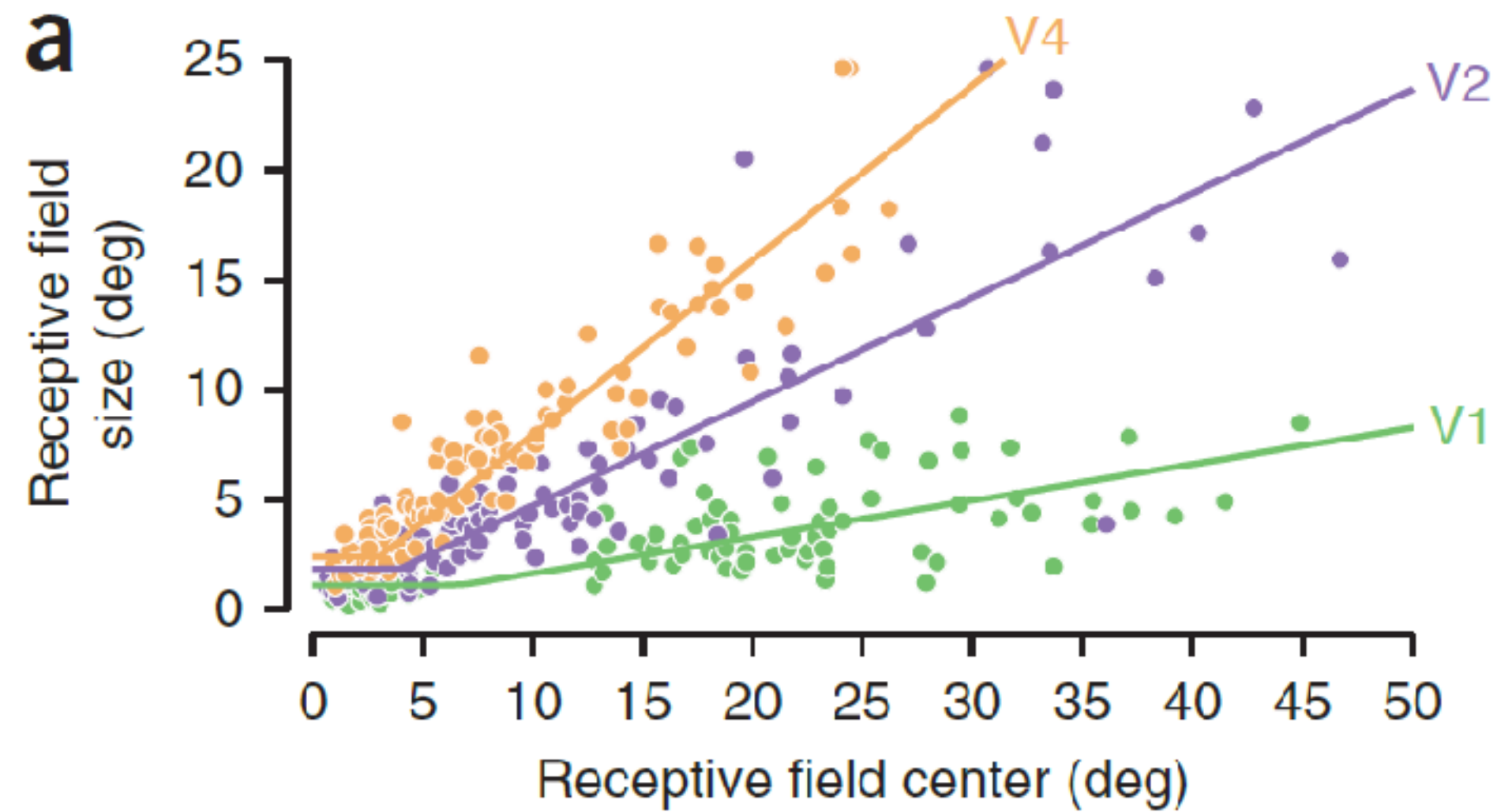
Invariance window







Eccentricity dependence of M in V1, V2, V4, IT

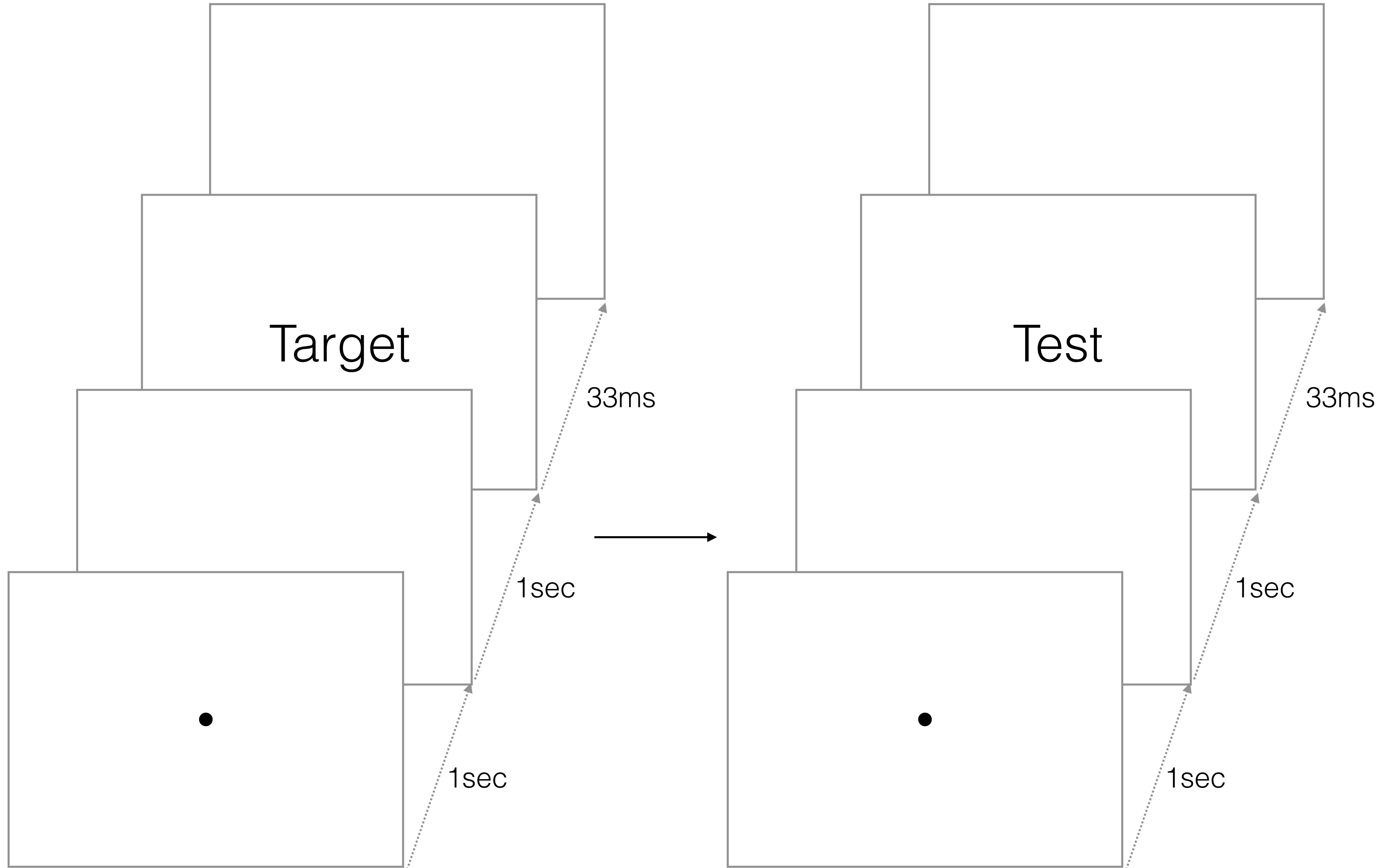


(from Freeman & Simoncelli 2011)

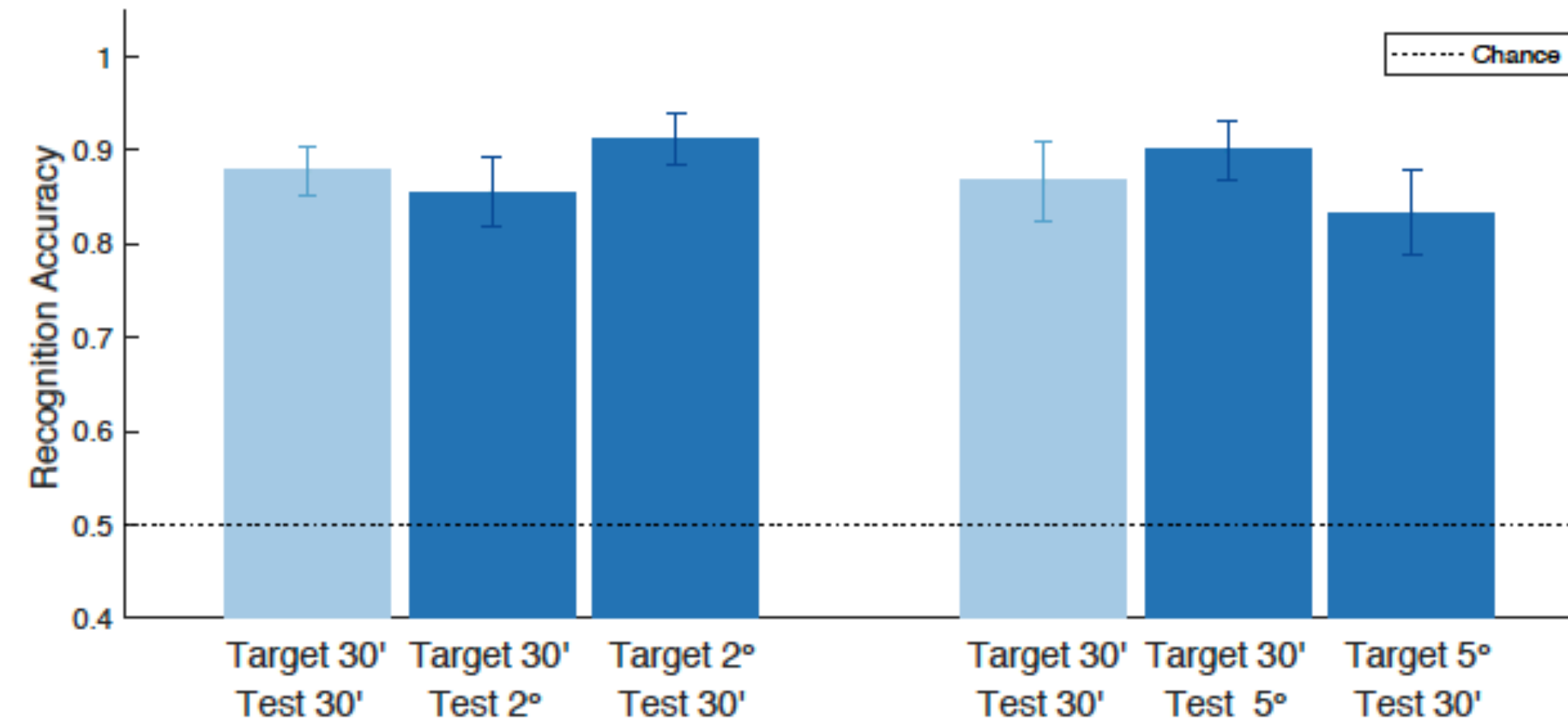


Invariance for new images

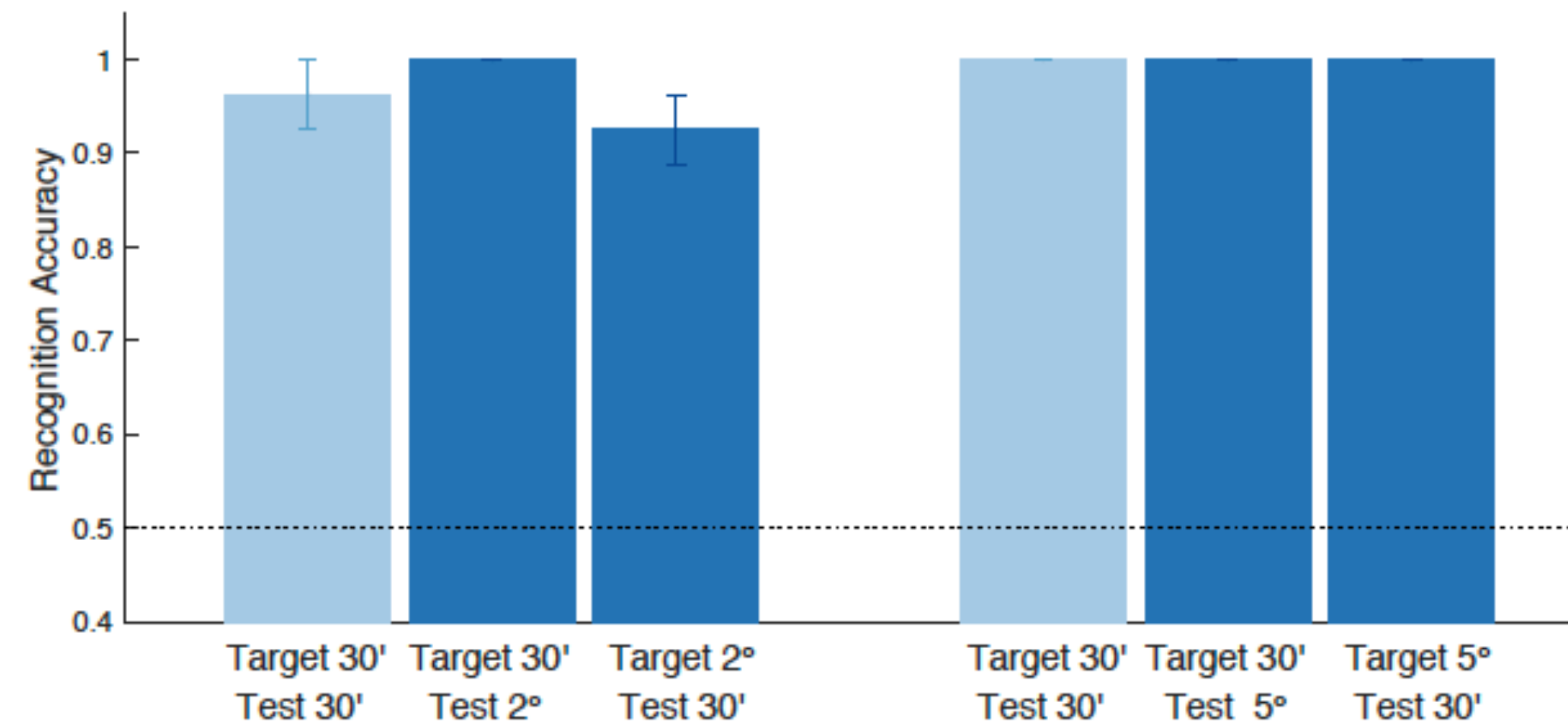
Target	아 드 피 뤼 쉰 선 머 르 타 예 간 방 우 시 켜
Distractor	마 므 티 똬 훈 건 다 브 더 메 산 랑 은 지 려

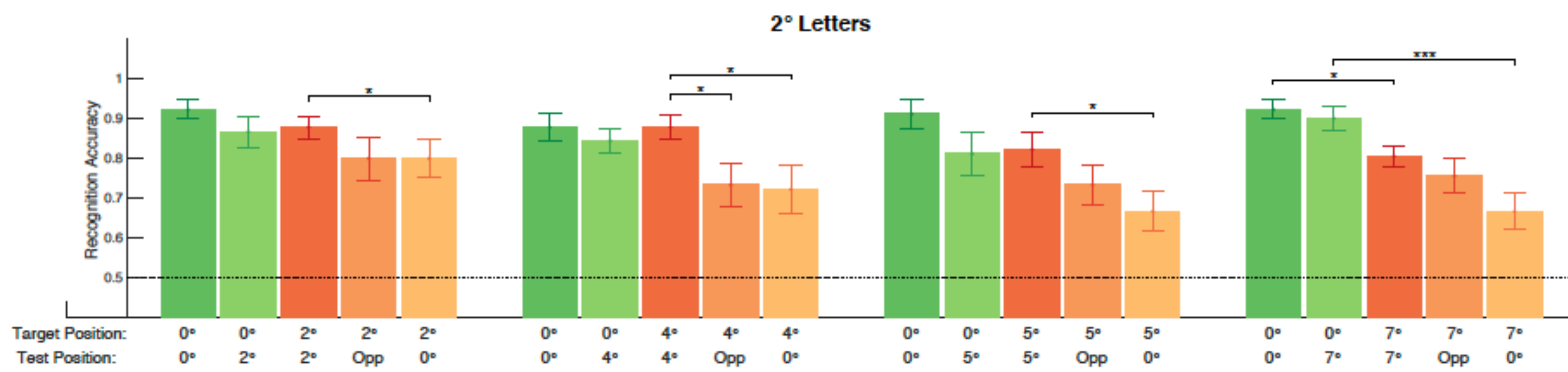
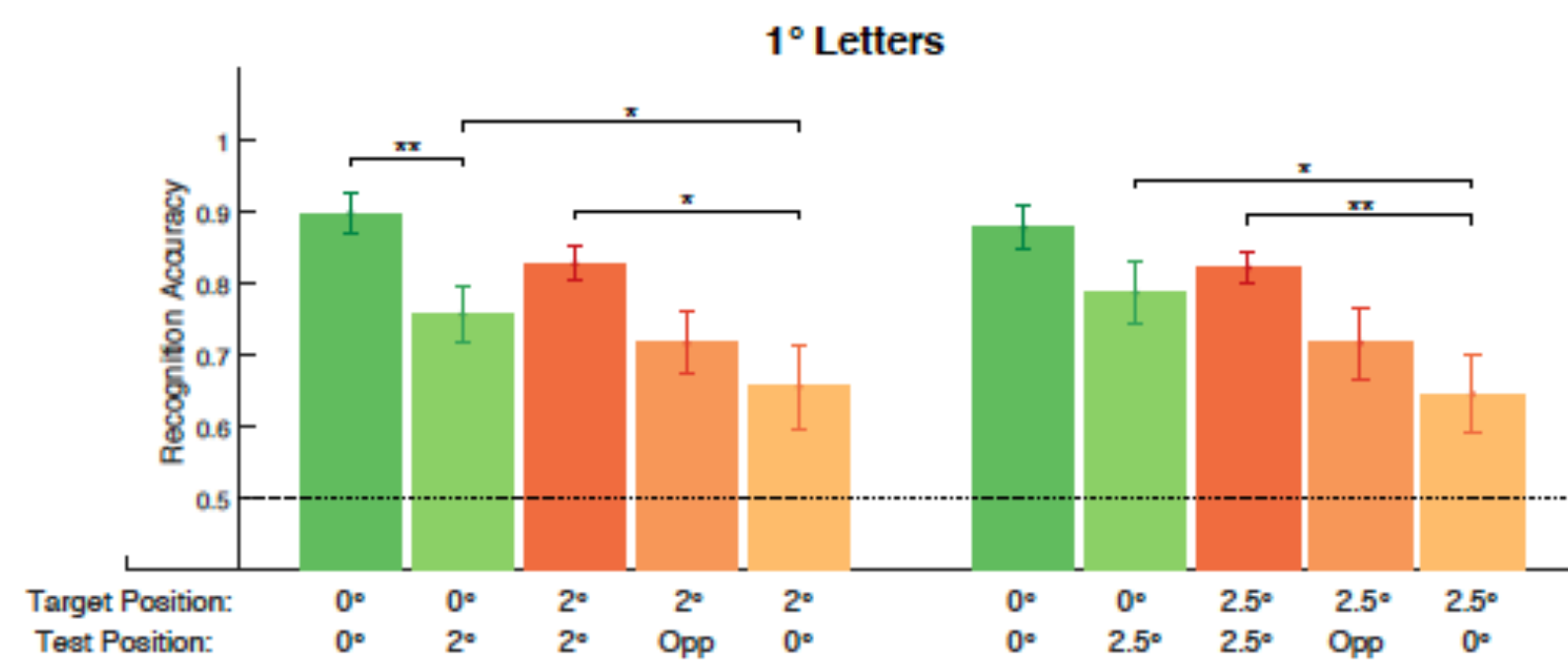
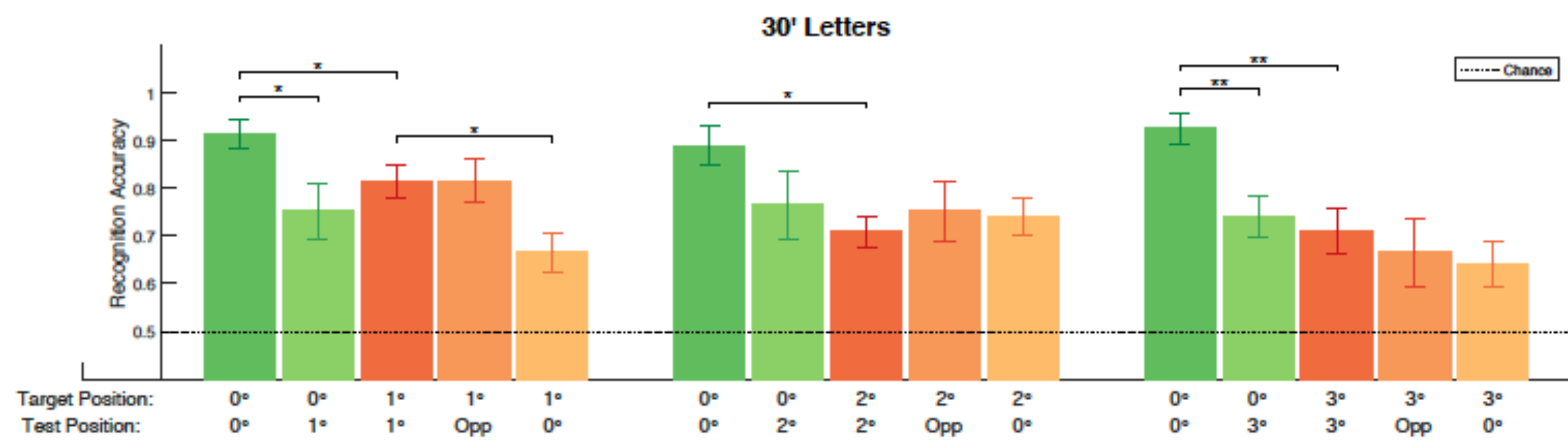


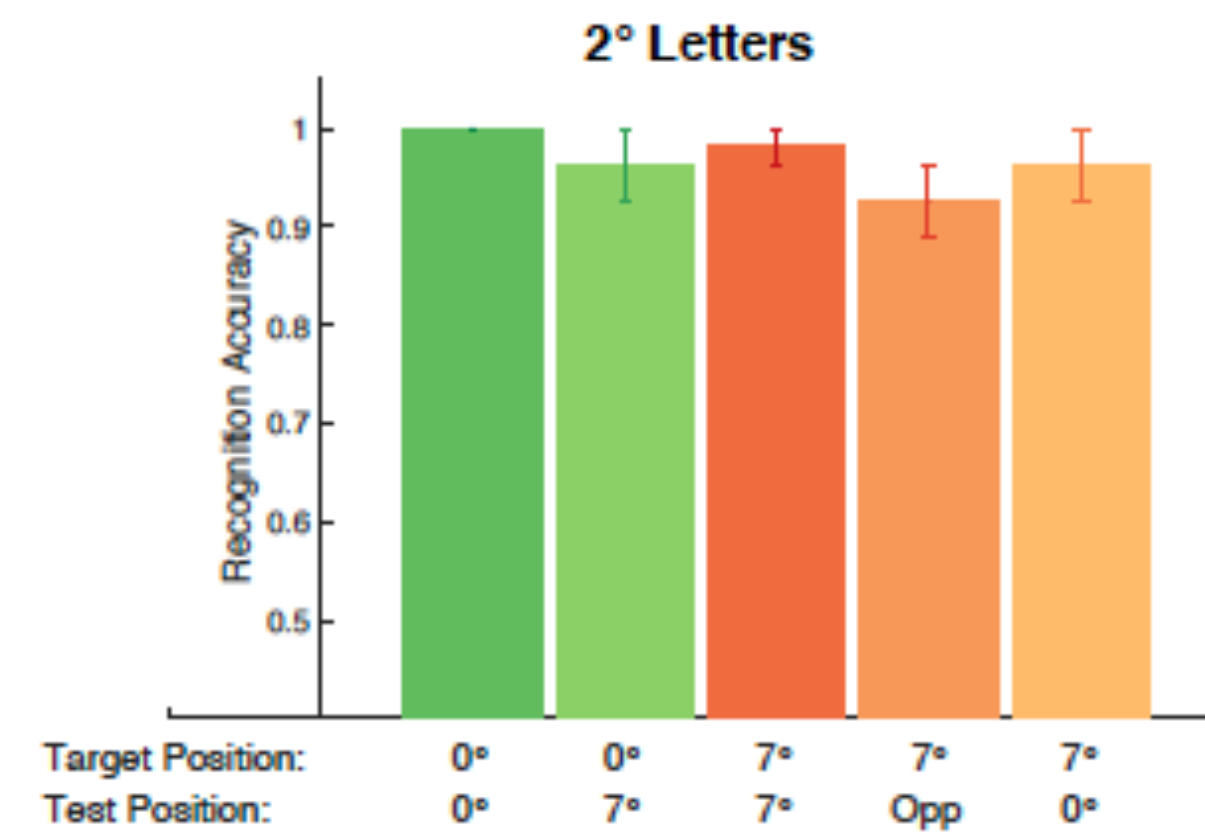
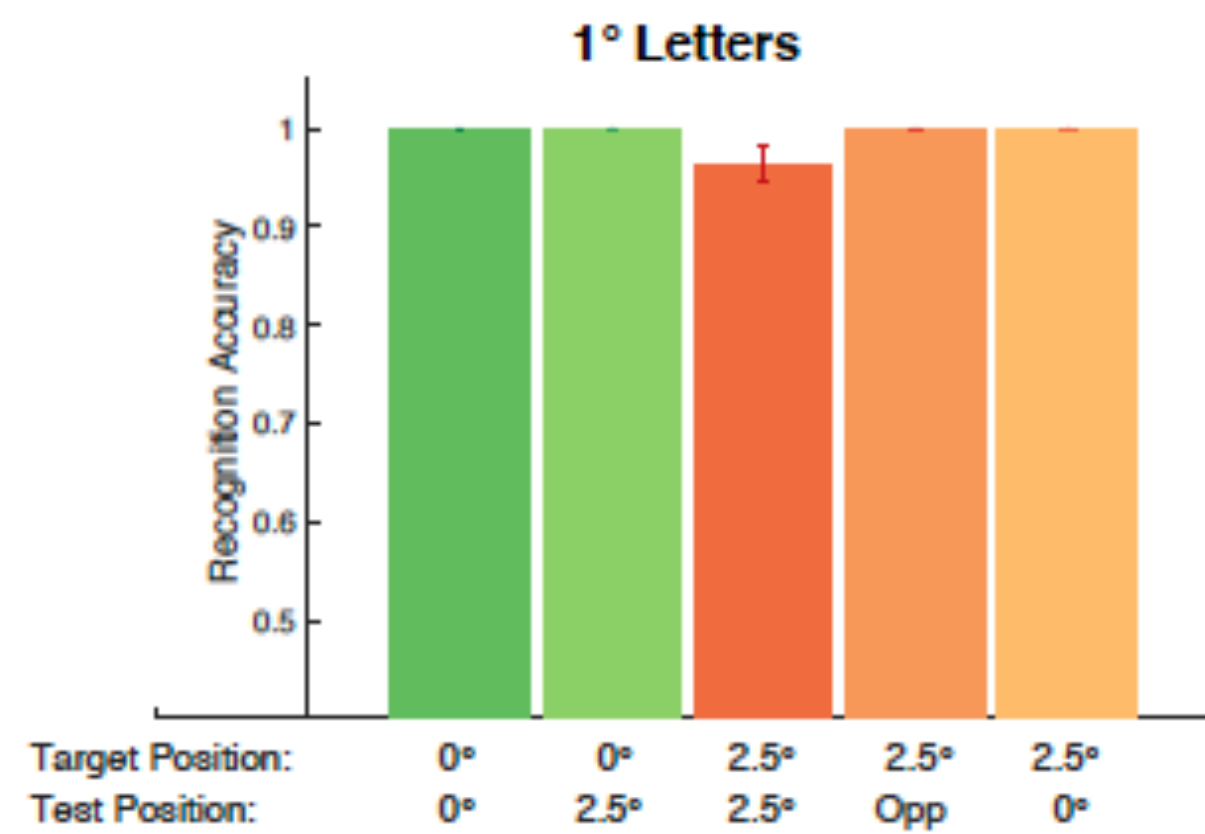
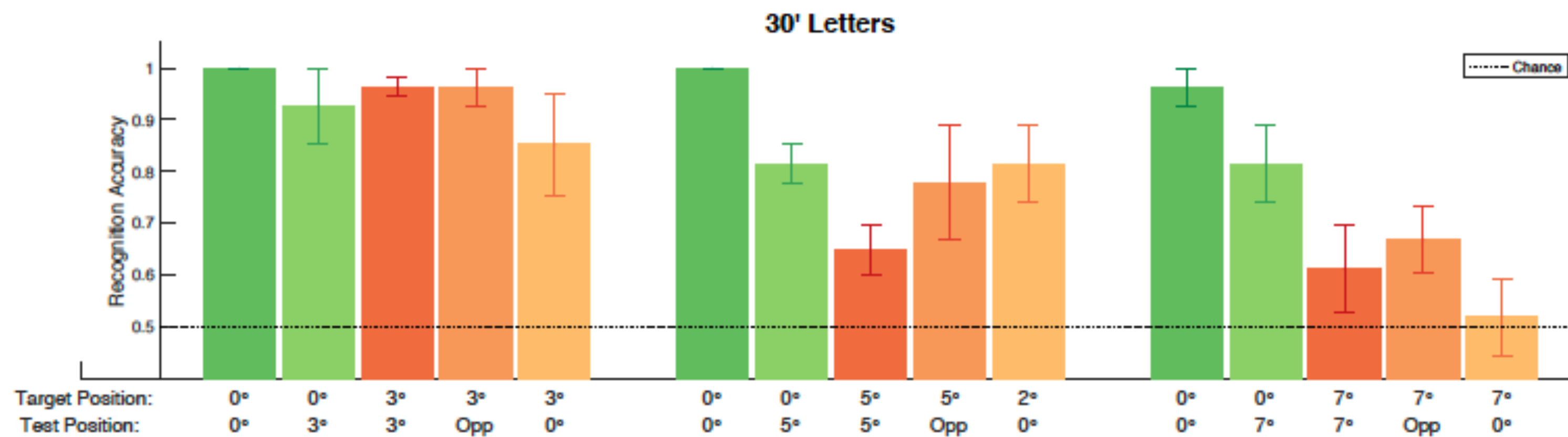
Non-Koreans



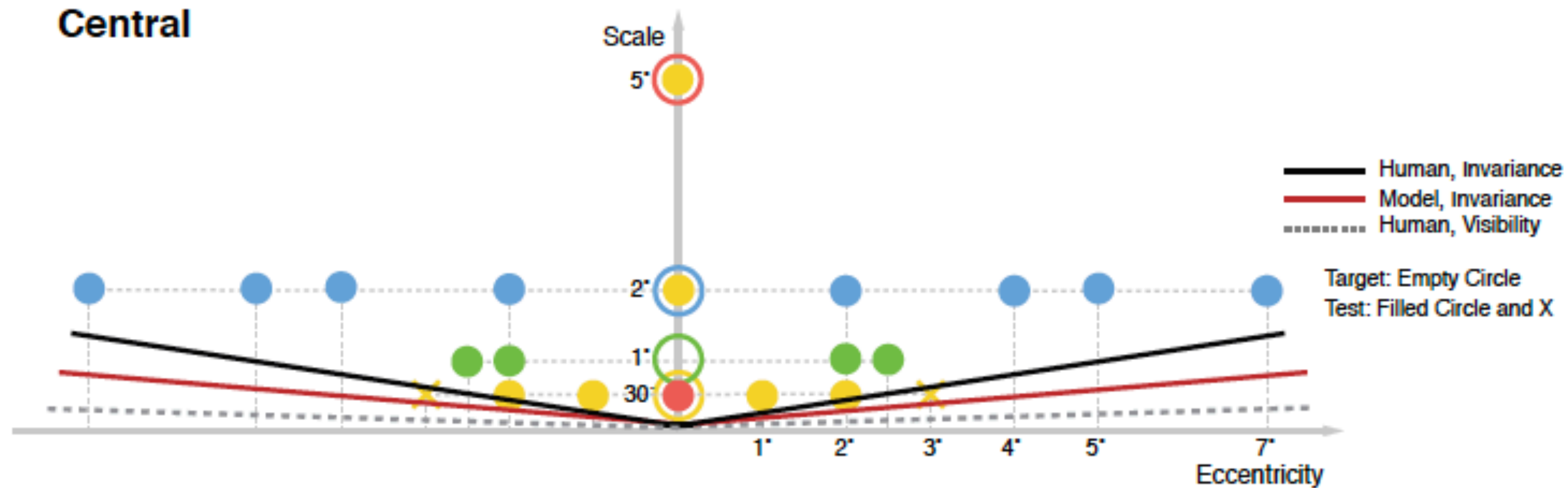
Koreans



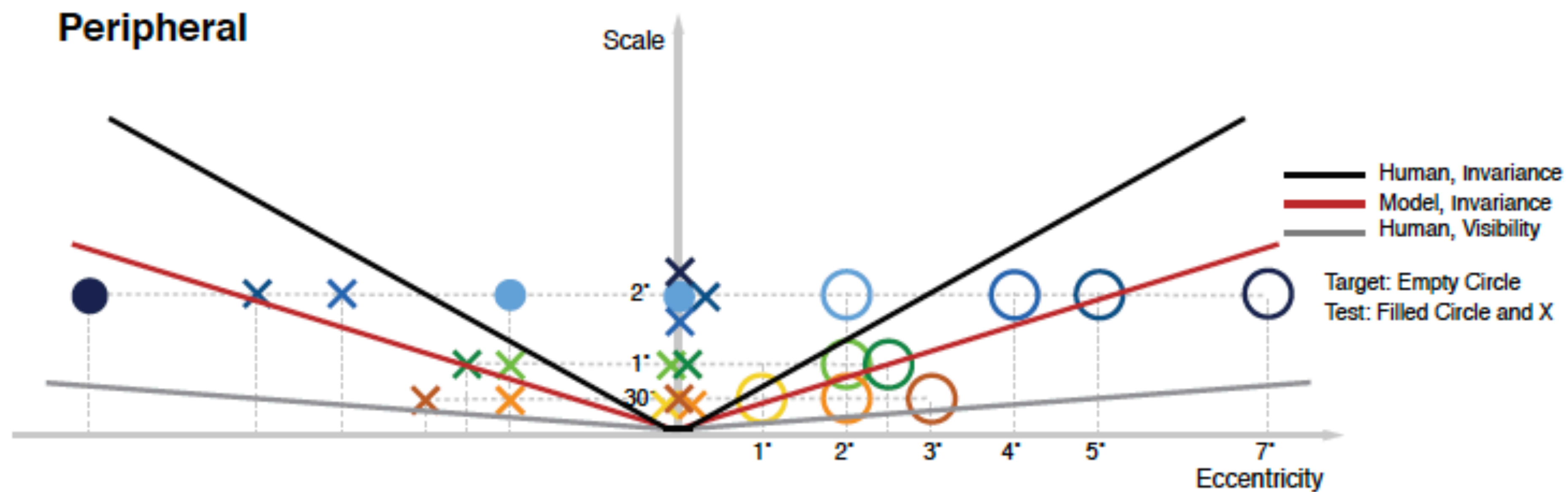


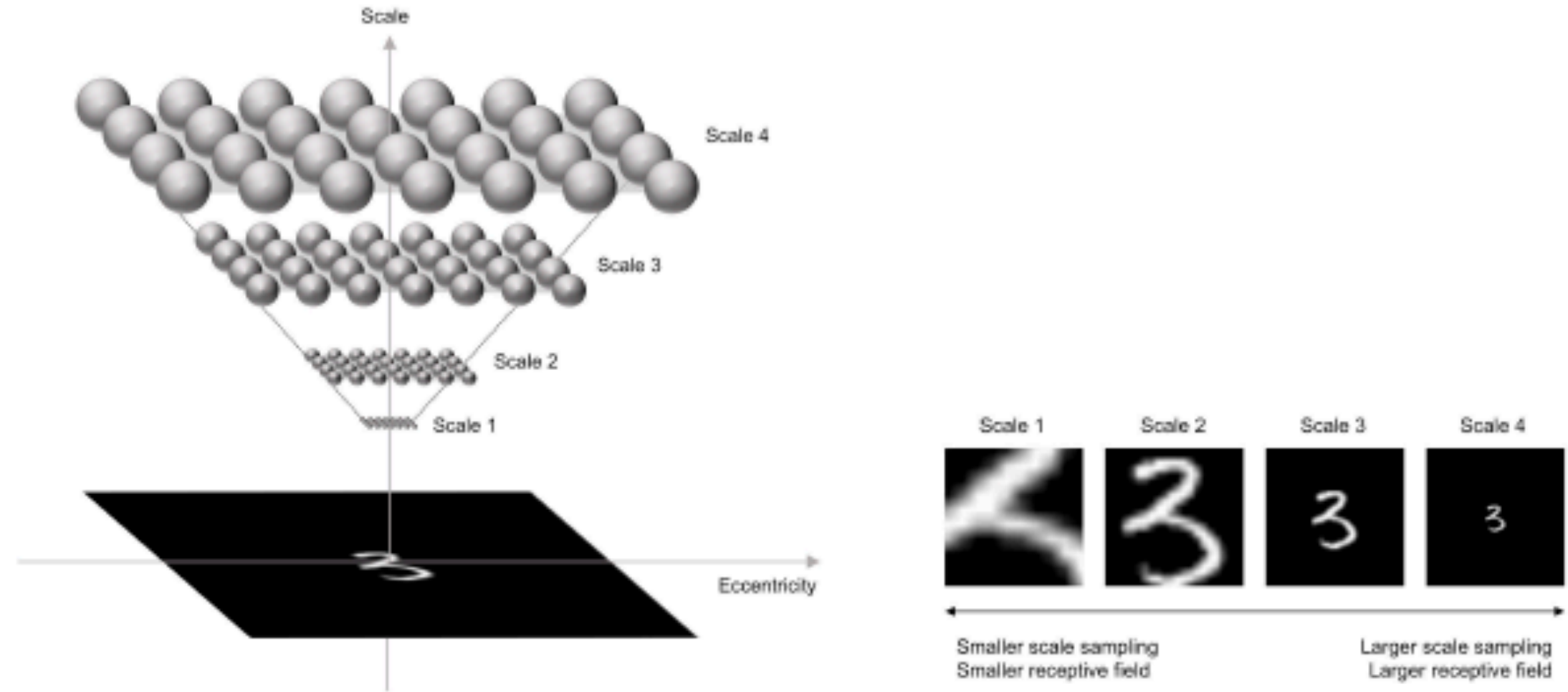


Central



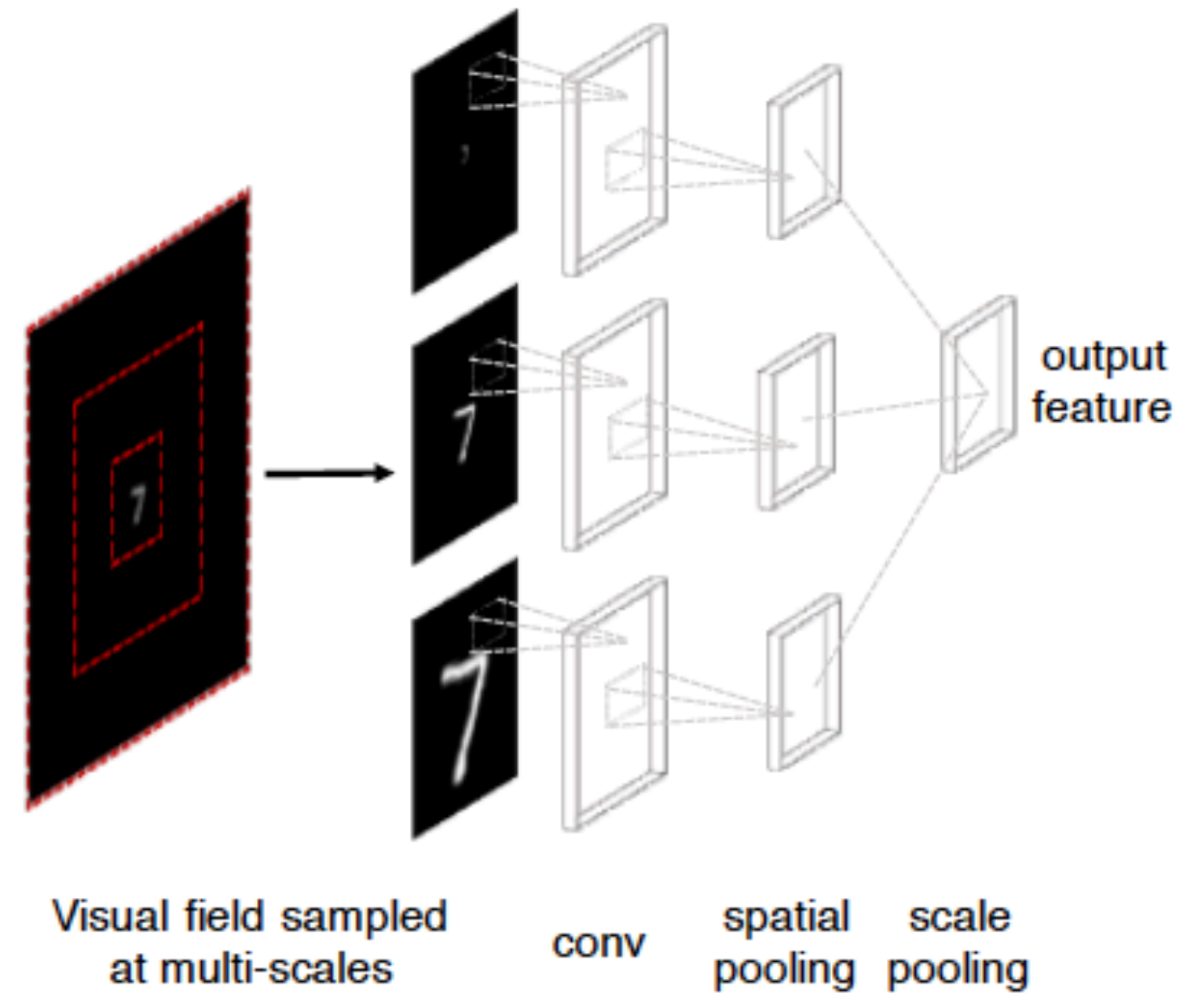
Peripheral

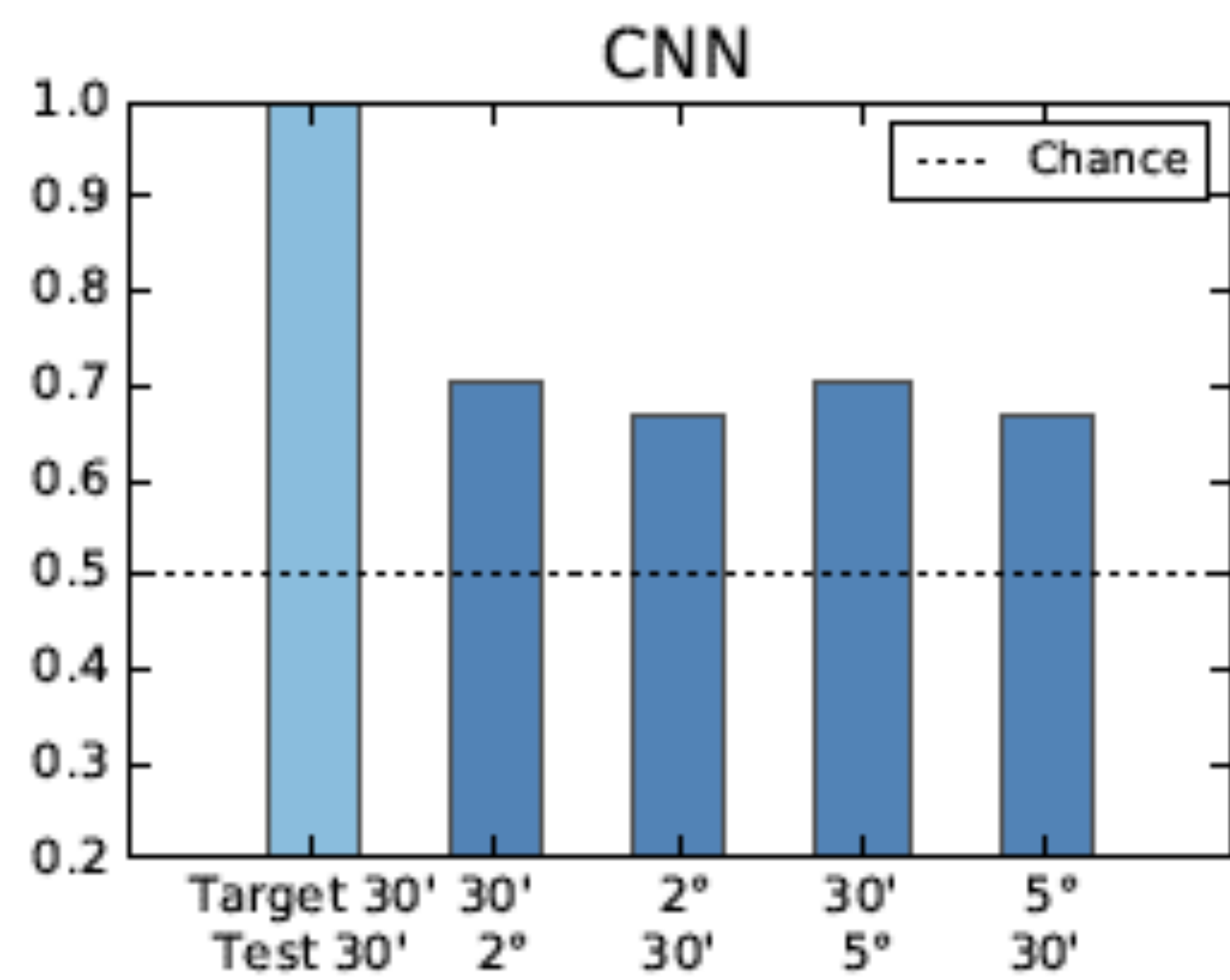
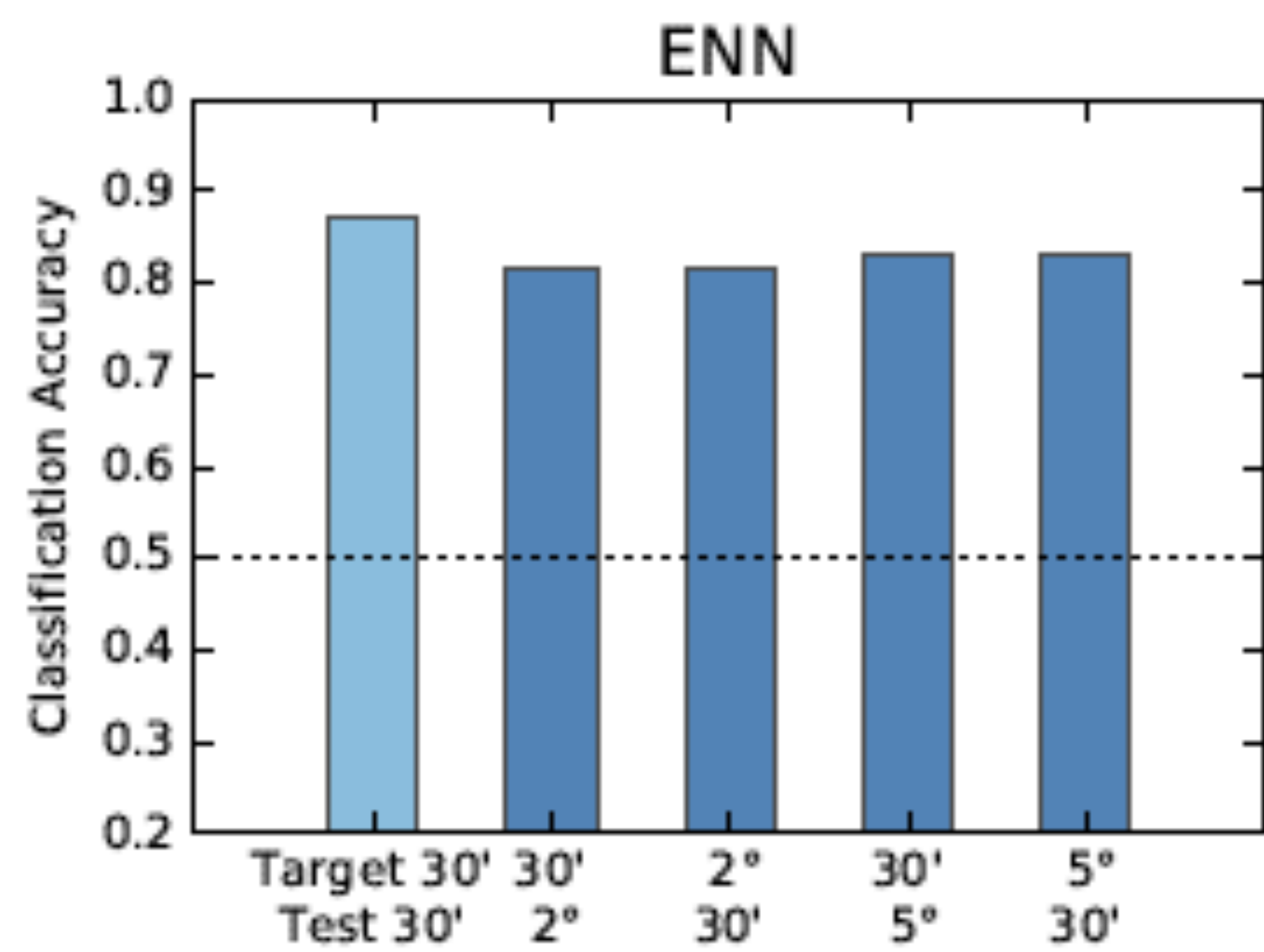


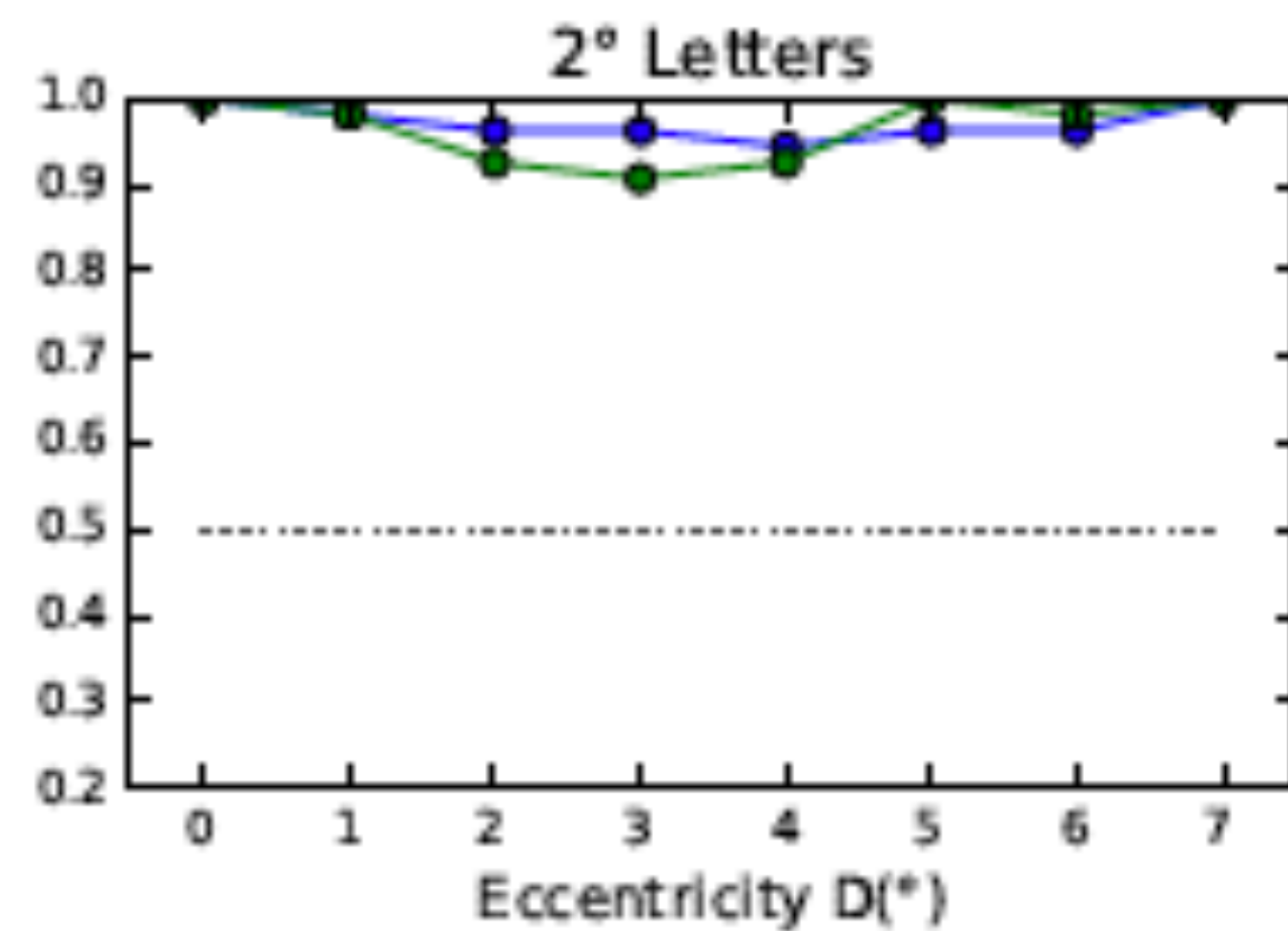
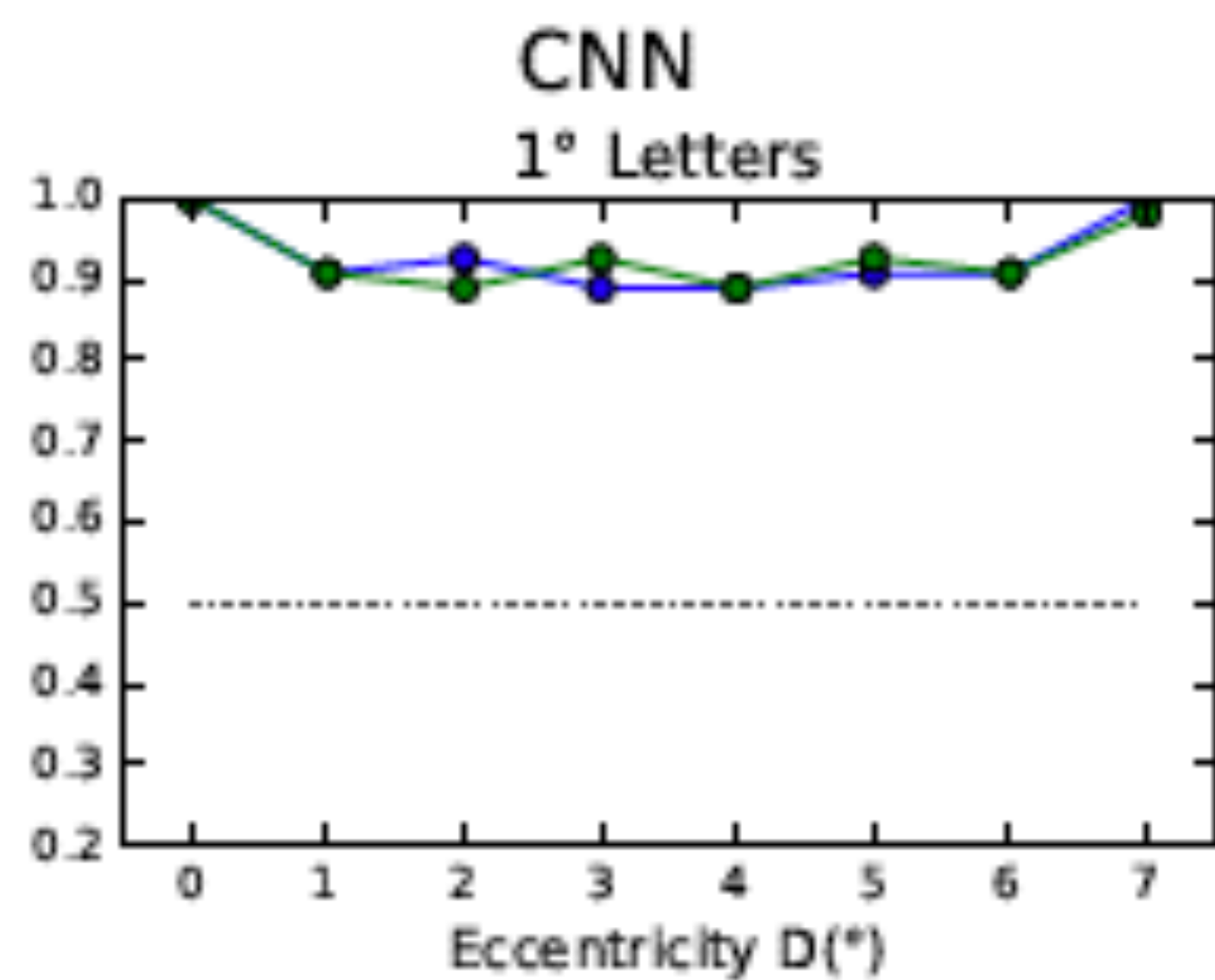
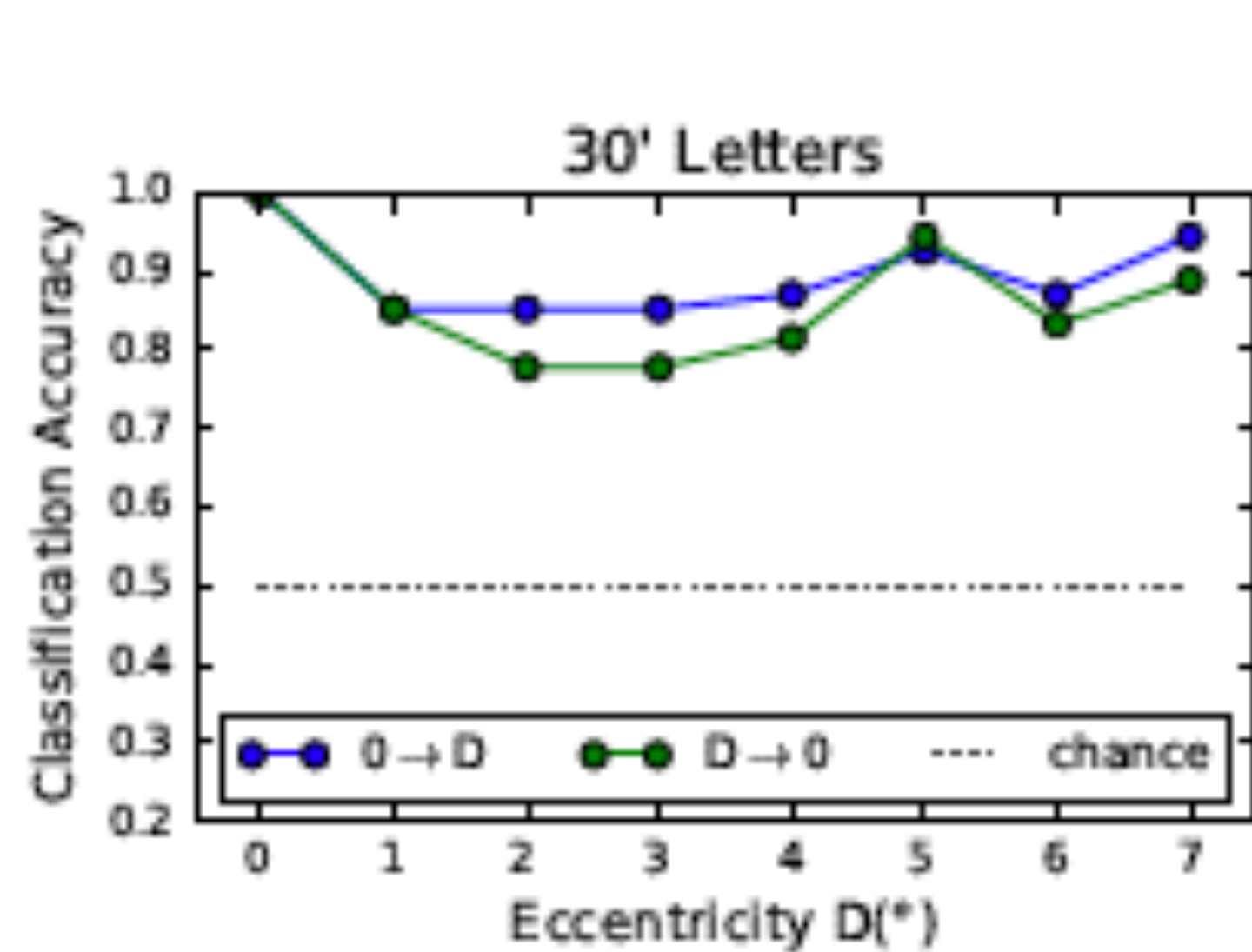
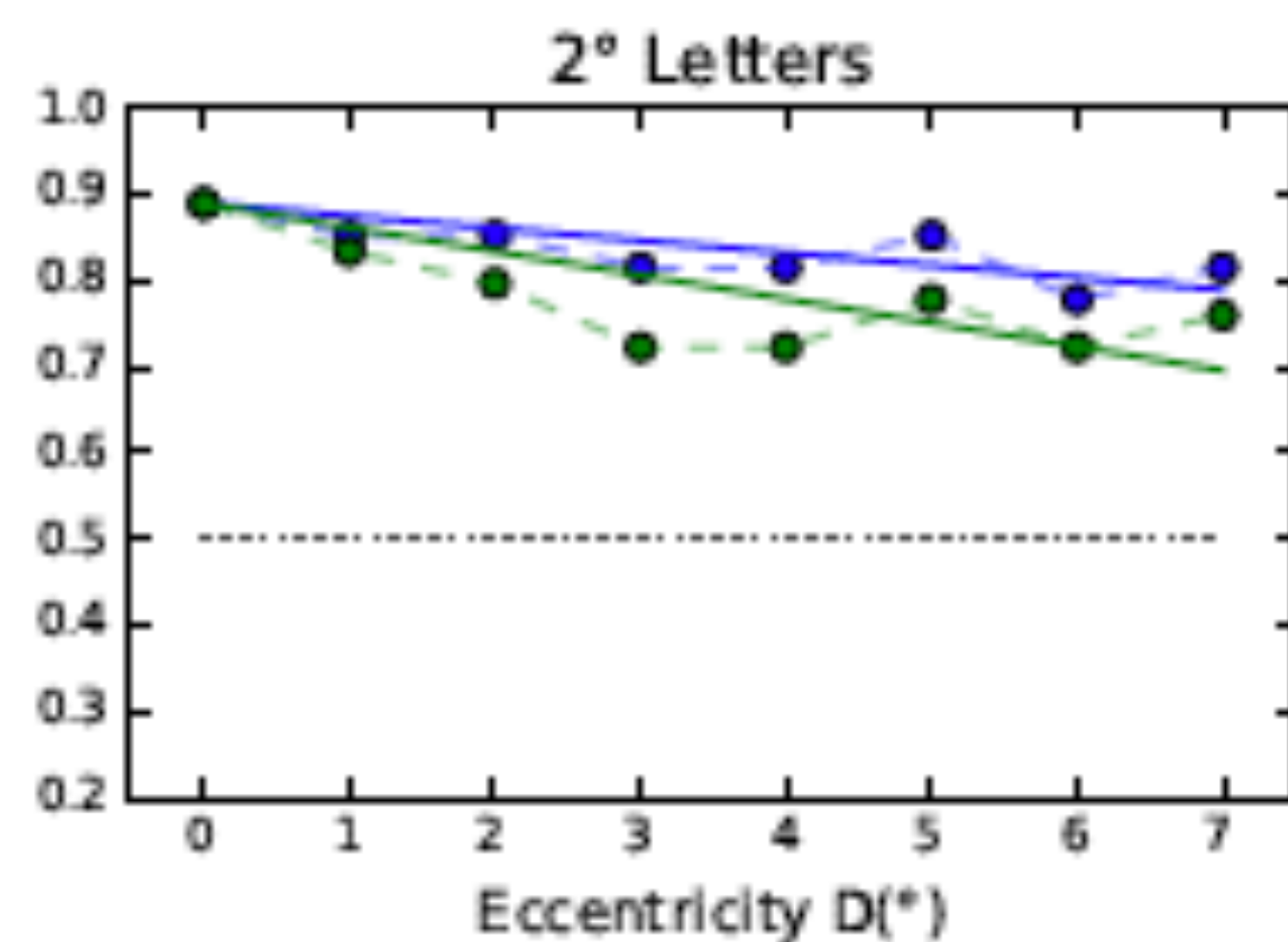
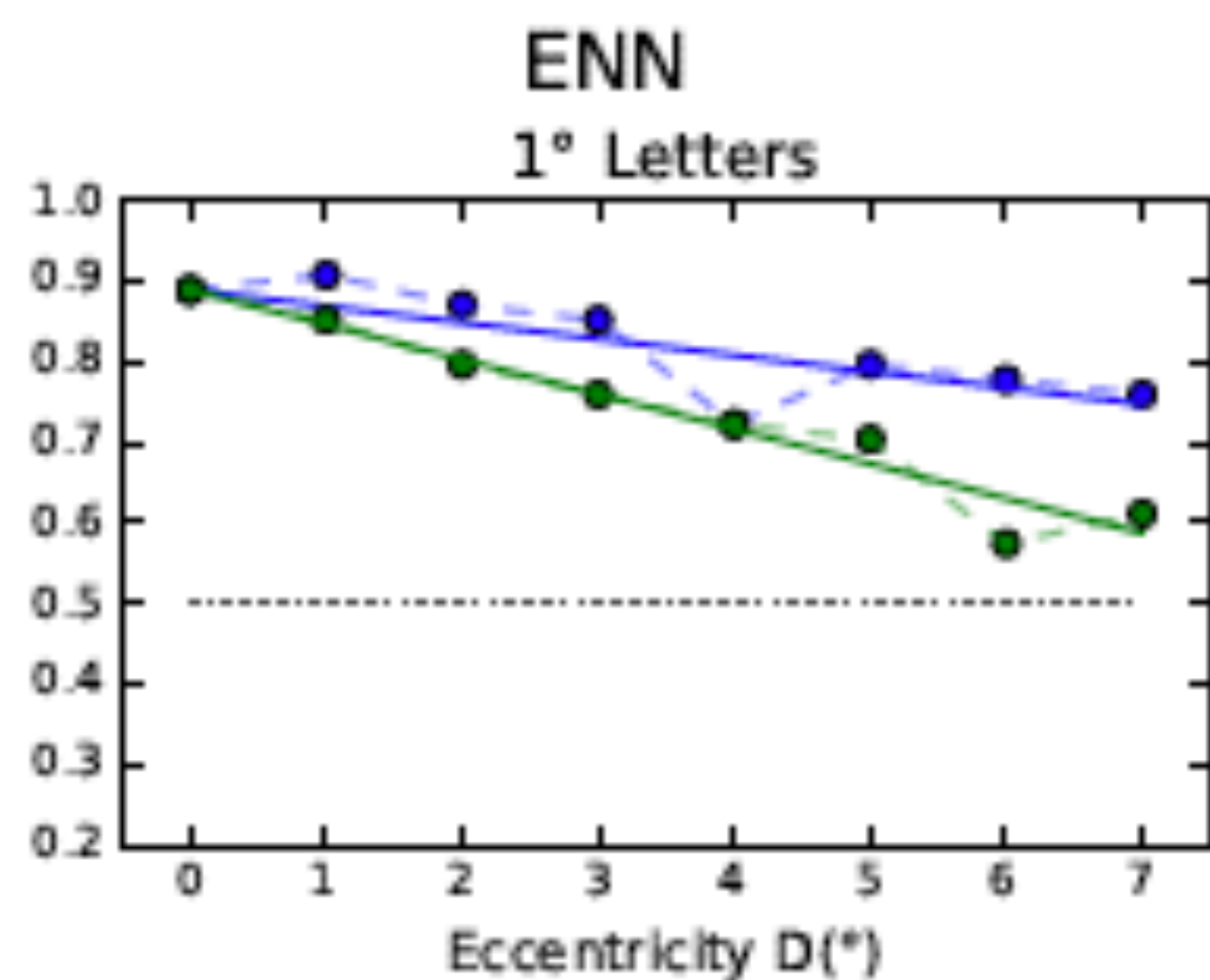
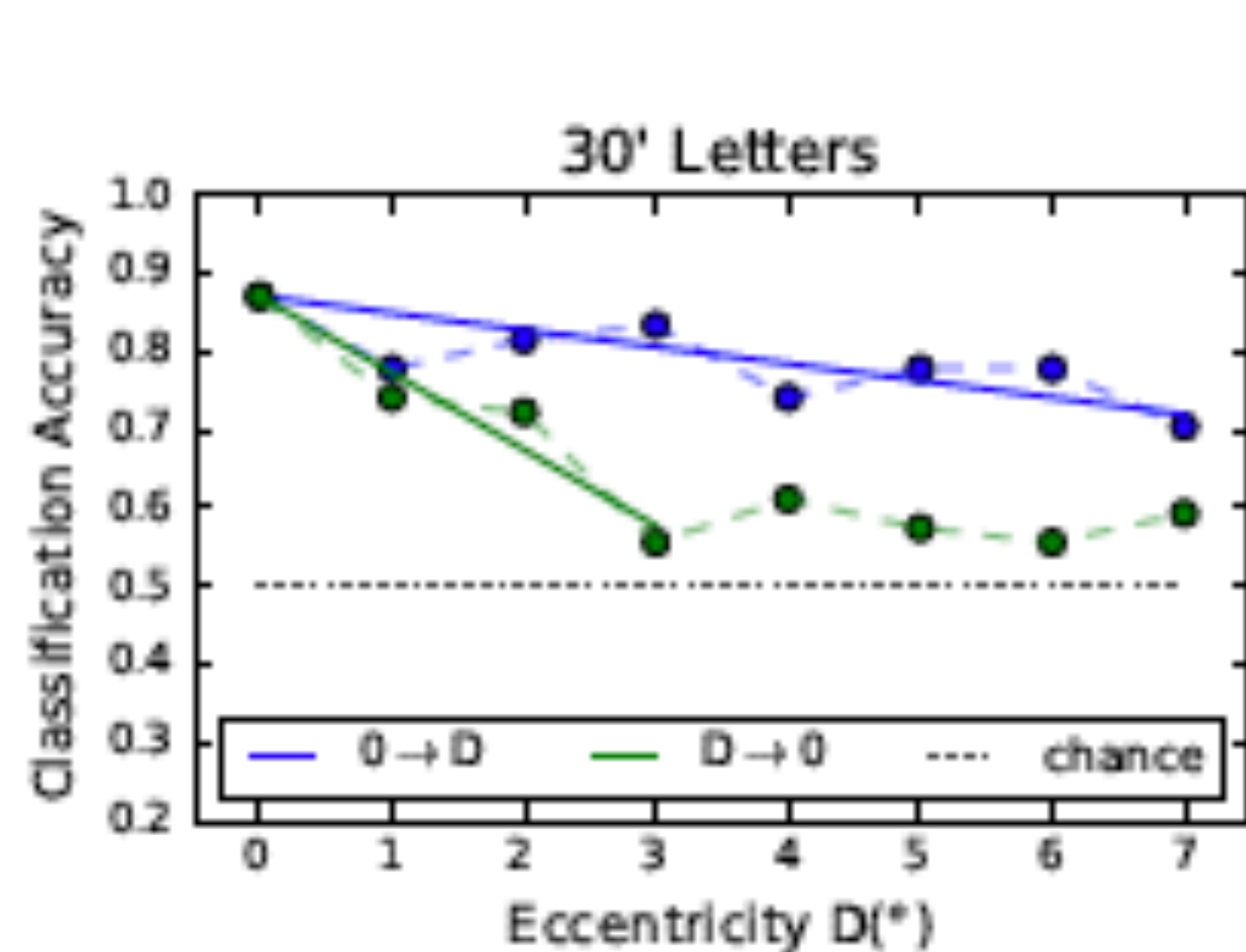


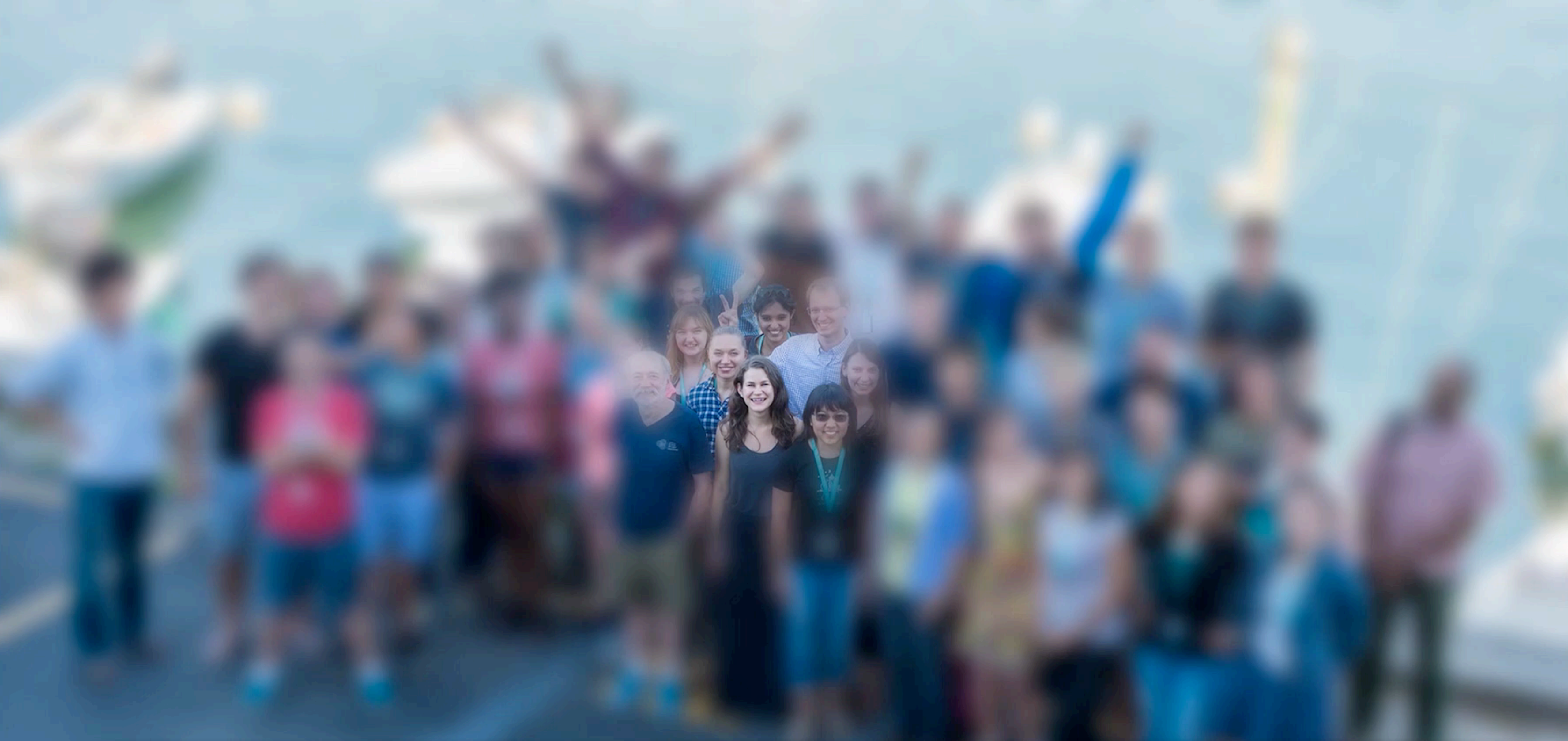
(A)

(B)







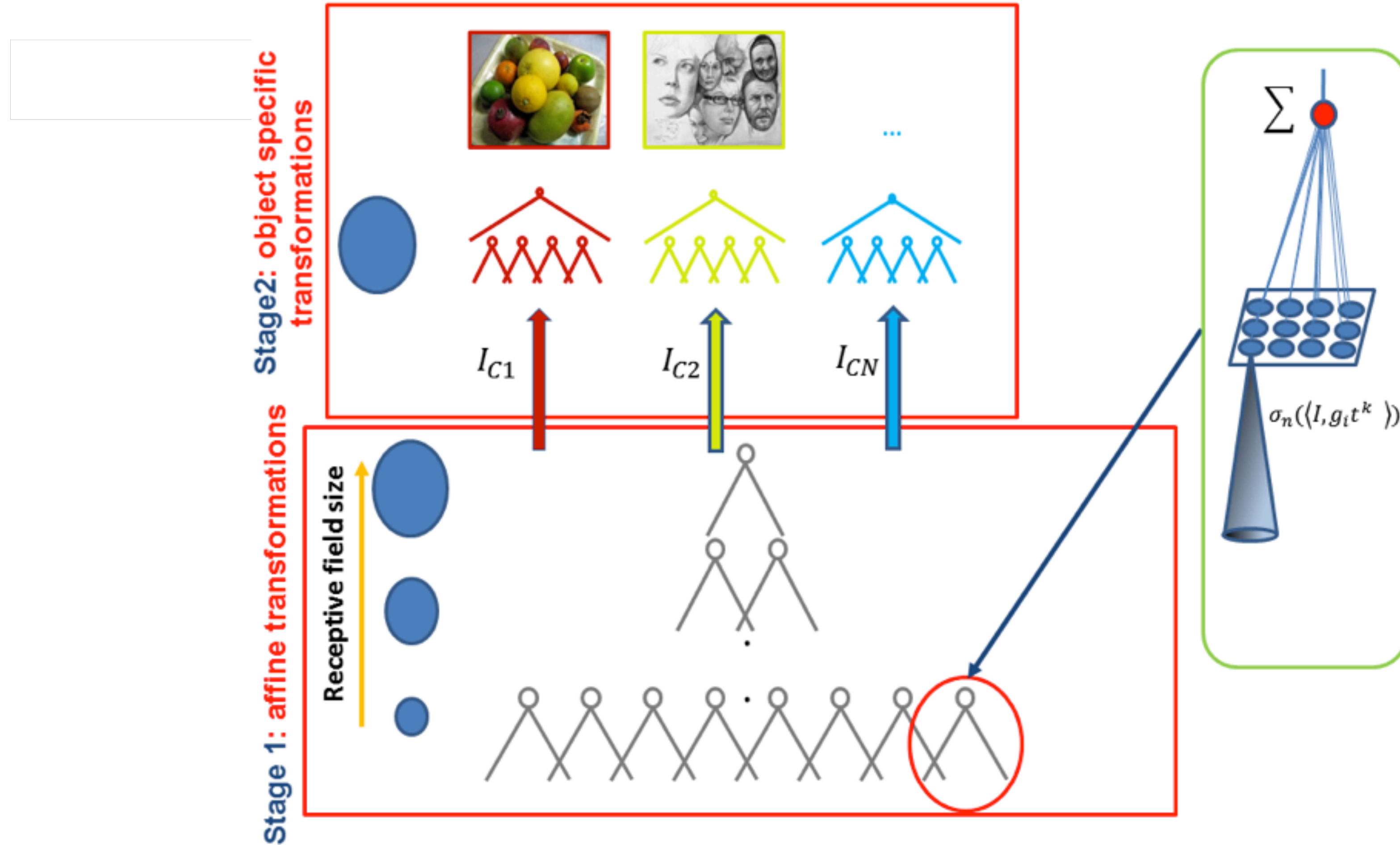


***Module one determines computational strategy of vision (eye movements)
different from today's CNNs***

9.523 overview

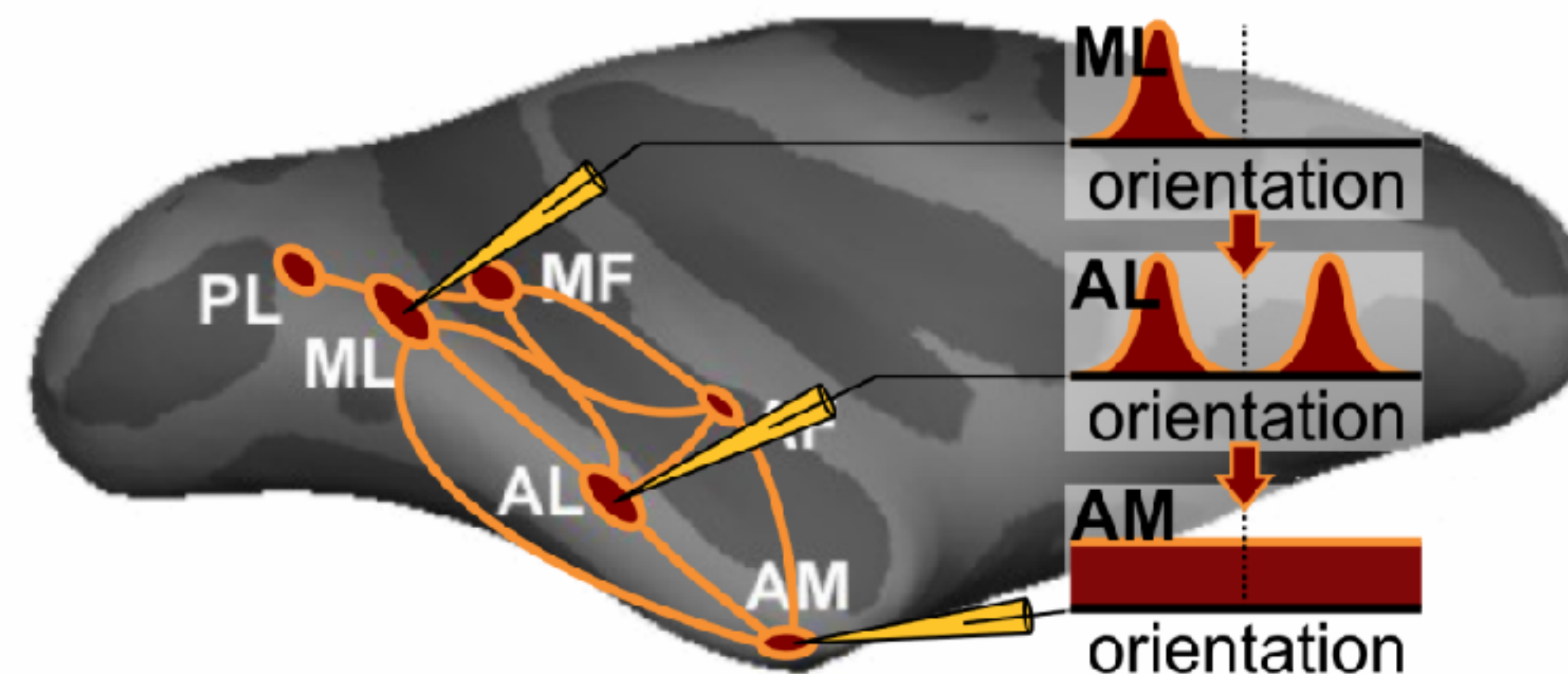
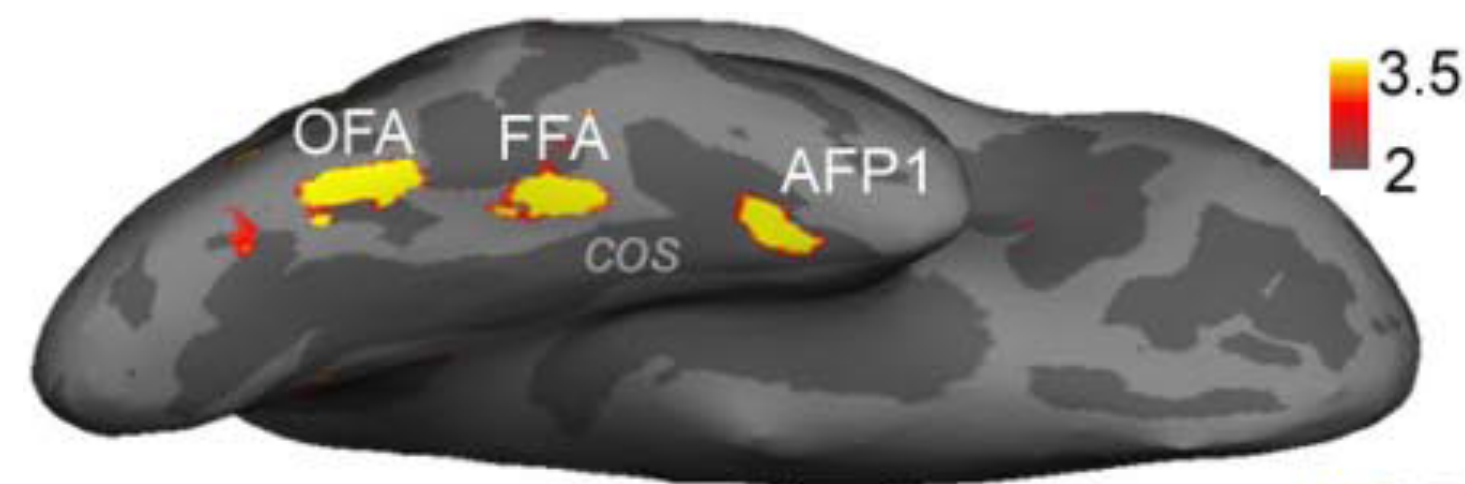
- Course description/logistic
- Motivations for this course: the greatest problem in science, CBMM, the MIT Quest
- Neuroscience and AI
- CBMM, the Visual Intelligence moonshot
- Module 1
 - Module 1, theory
 - Module 1, eccentricity
 - **Module 1, development/invariance**

Prediction: class specific modules (like faces) in visual cortex because of *class-specific* invariances



Leibo, Liao, Poggio, 2015

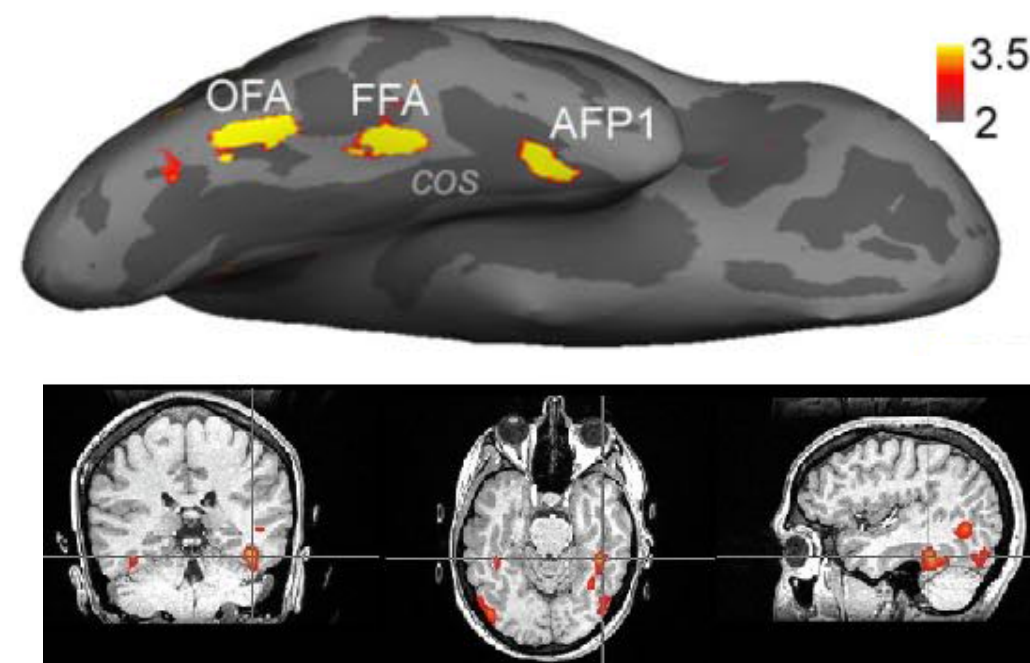
The Who Question: Face Recognition



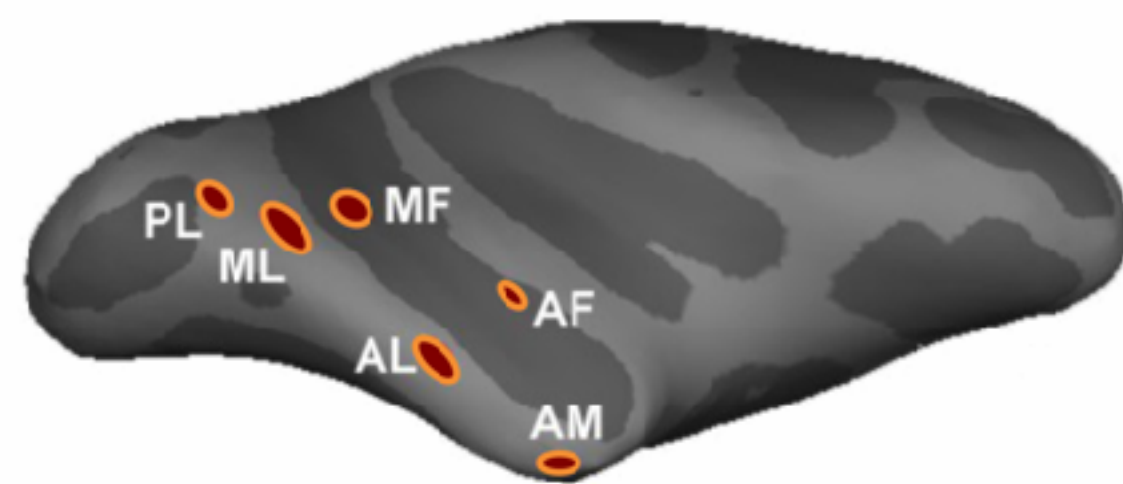
Winrich Freiwald and Doris Tsao

The Who Question: Face Recognition

Adults



Kanwisher



Winrich Freiwald and Doris Tsao

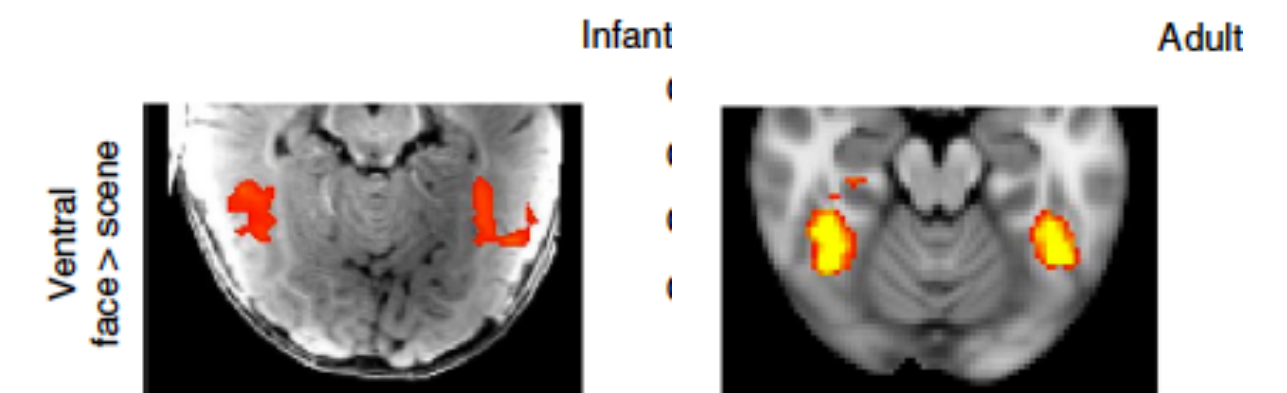


Humans

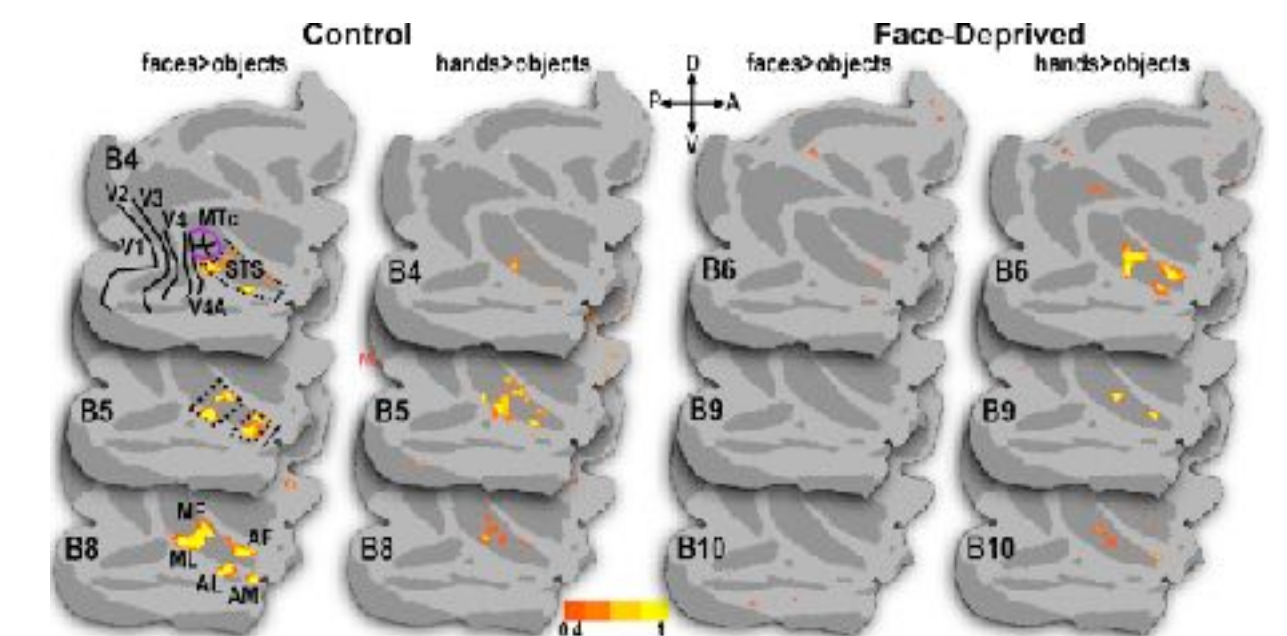


Macaque

Development



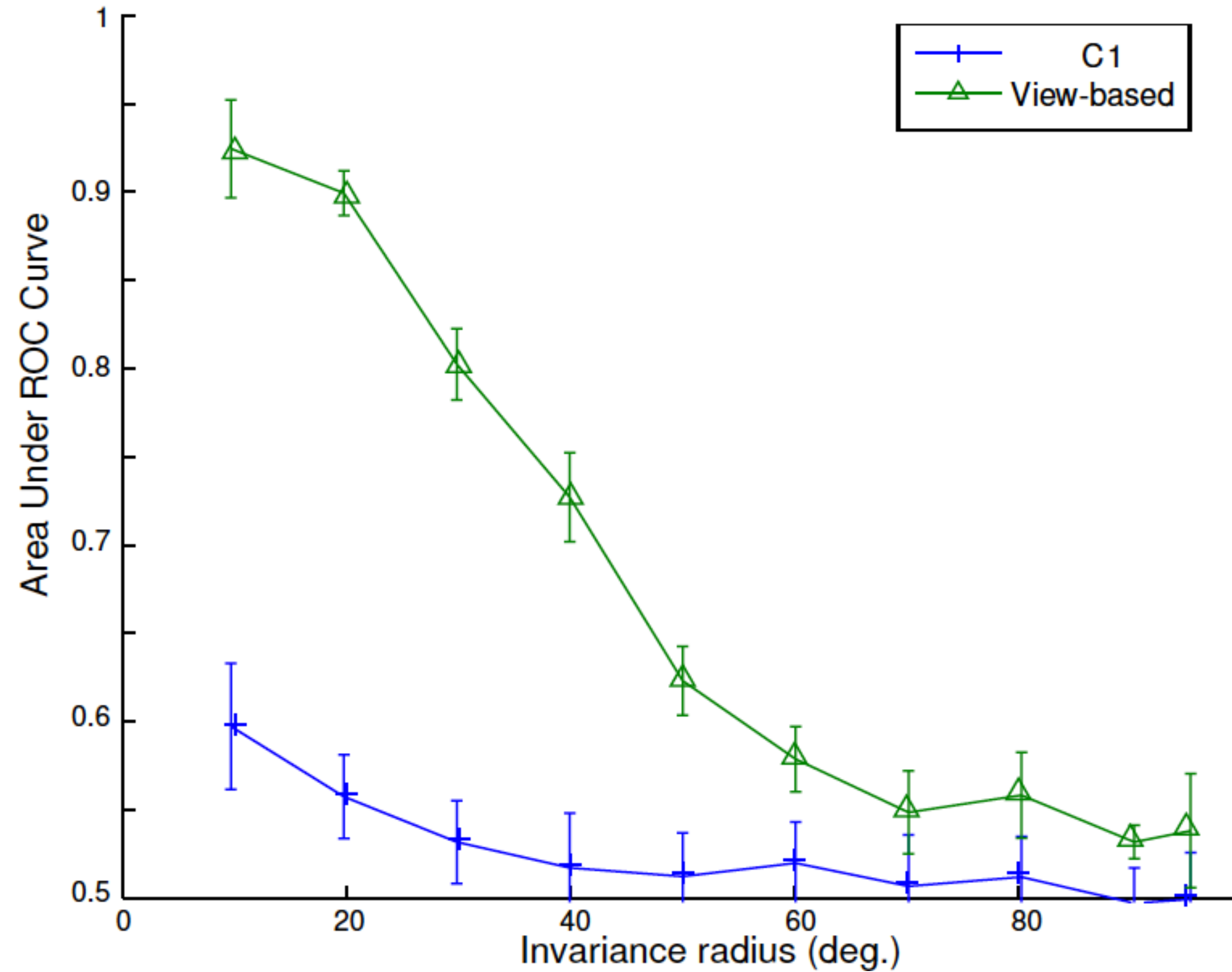
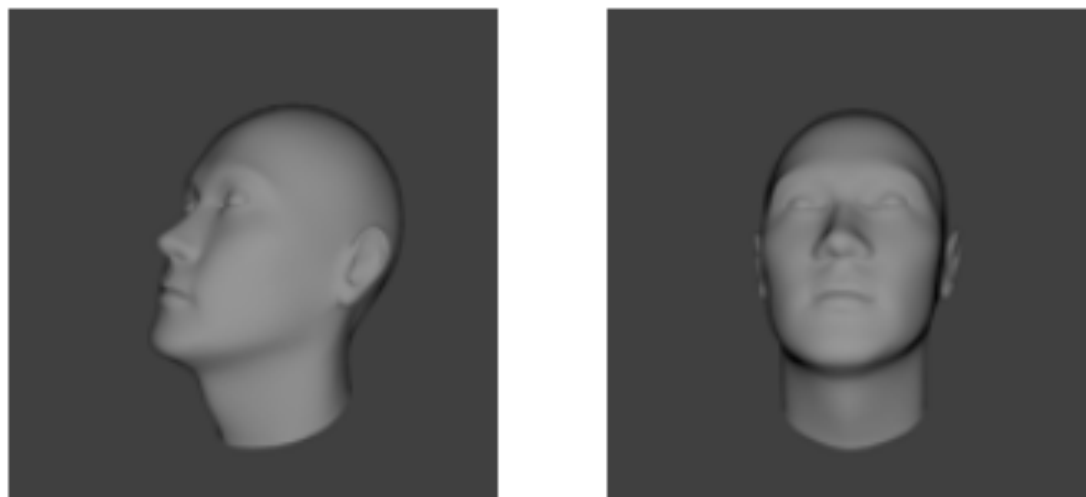
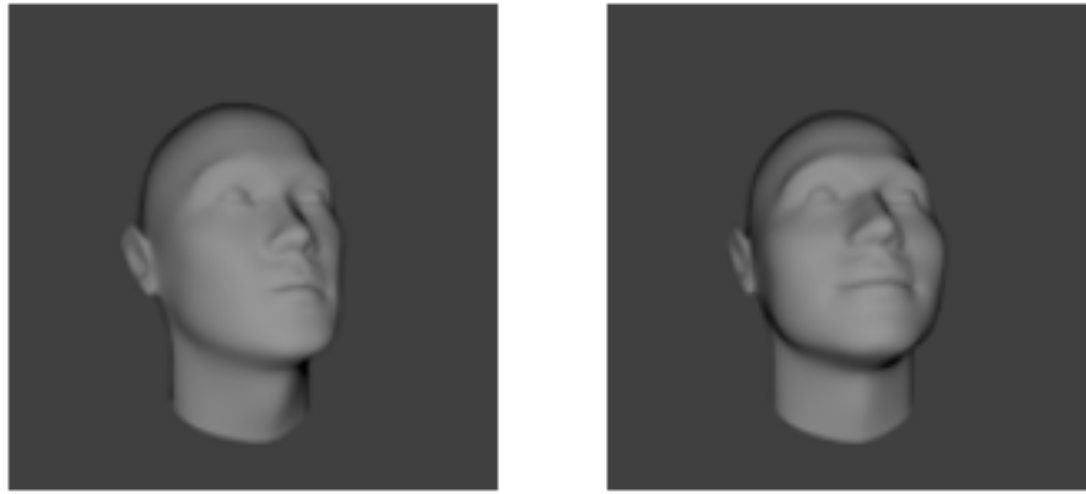
Deen, Richardson, Dilks, Takahashi, Keil, Wald, Kanwisher, Saxe, NN, 2017



Marge Livingstone, 2017 unpublished

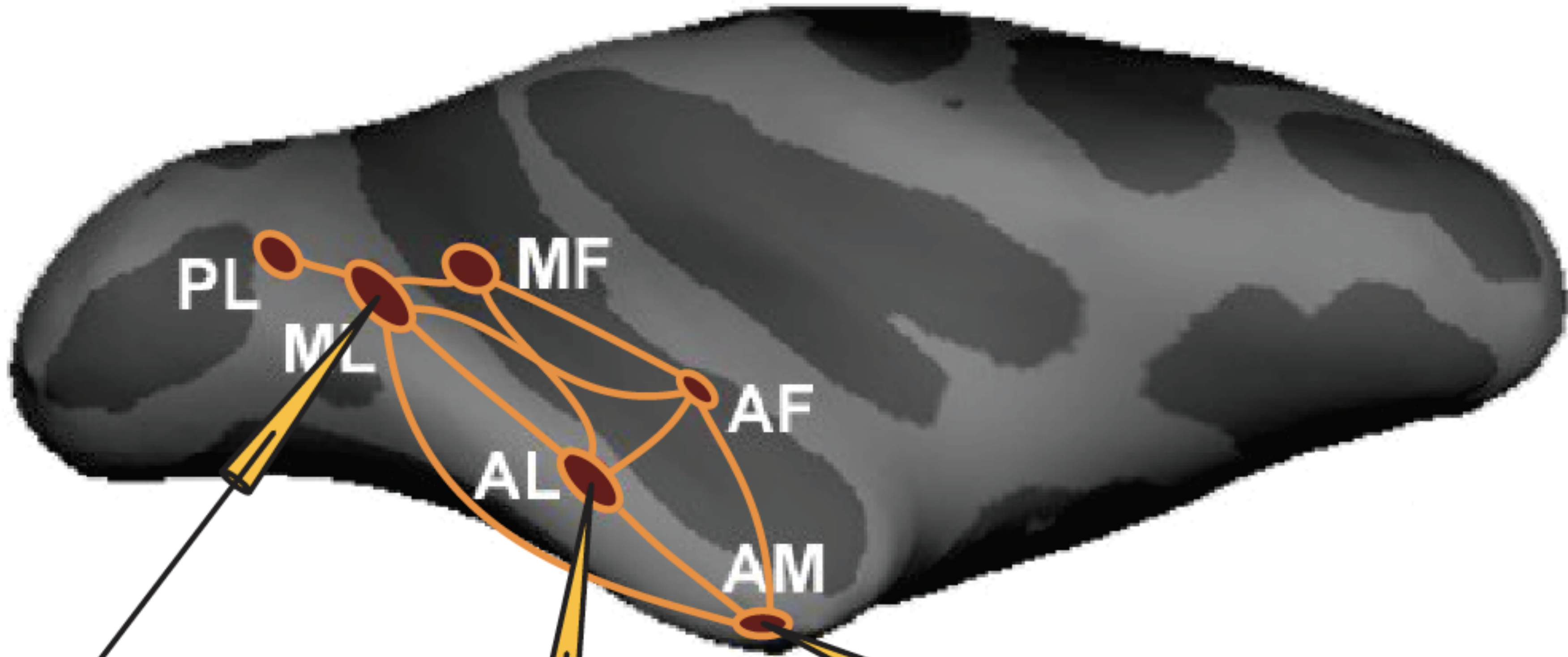
A HW-like module for tolerance to pose of a novel face

Example Test Pairs

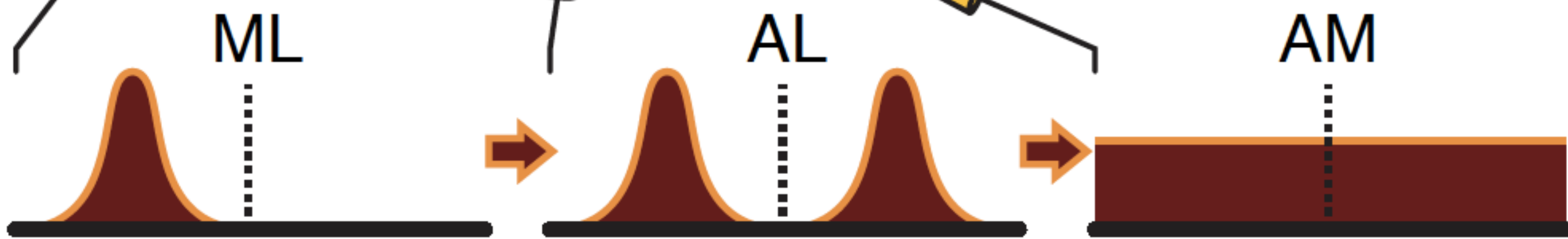


Leibo, Freiwald, Anselmi, Liao, Poggio, 2016

A



B



orientation

Winrich Freiwald and Doris Tsao

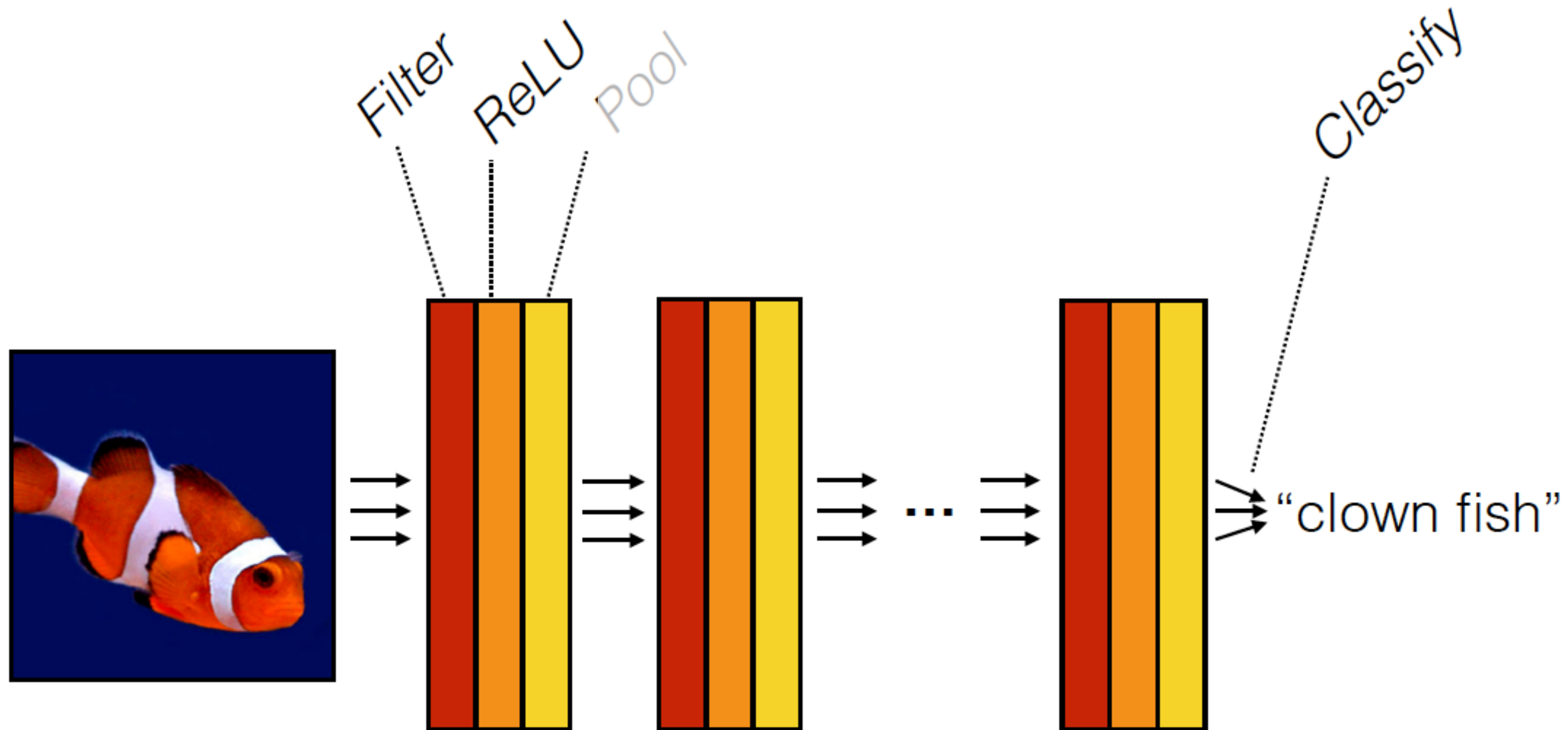
9.523 overview

- Course description/logistic
- Motivations for this course: the greatest problem in science, CBMM, the MIT Quest
- Neuroscience and AI
- CBMM, the Visual Intelligence moonshot
- Module 1
 - **Module 1, theory**
 - Module 1, eccentricity
 - Module 1, invariance

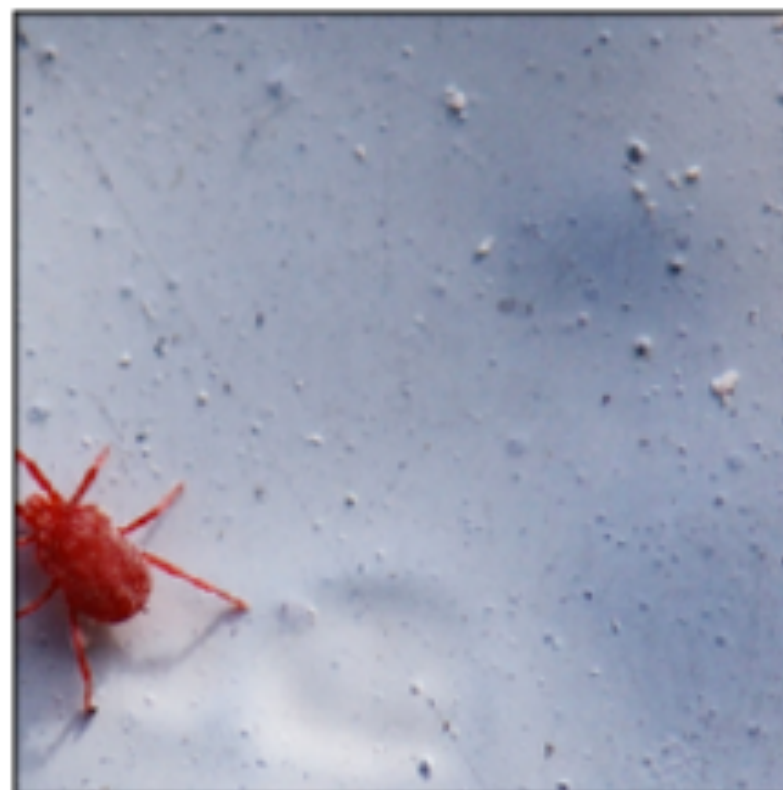
- **Theory of Deep Local Hierarchical Networks**

- When and why are deep networks better than shallow networks?
- What is the landscape of the empirical risk?
- How can deep learning generalize so well?

Computation in a neural net



$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f_L(\dots f_2(f_1(\mathbf{x})))$$



mite

container ship

motor scooter

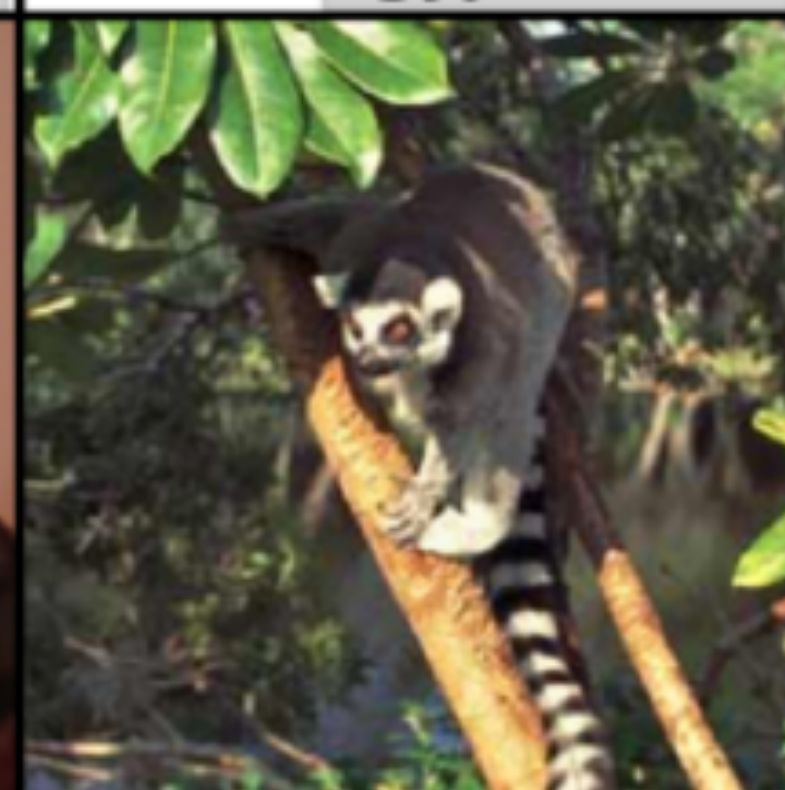
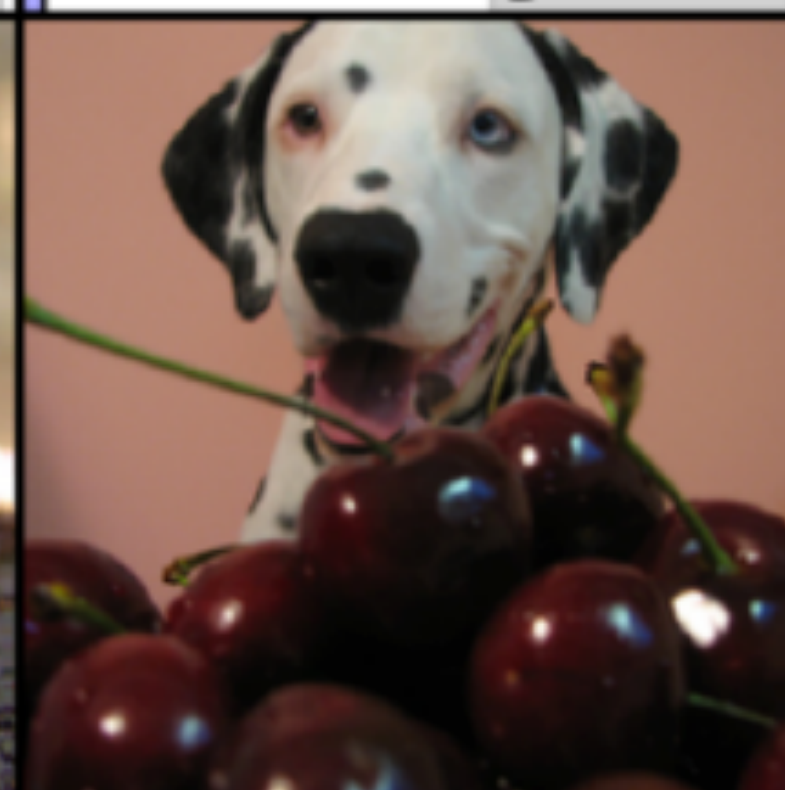
leopard

	mite
	black widow
	cockroach
	tick
	starfish

	container ship
	lifeboat
	amphibian
	fireboat
	drilling platform

	motor scooter
	go-kart
	moped
	bumper car
	golfcart

	leopard
	jaguar
	cheetah
	snow leopard
	Egyptian cat



grille

mushroom

cherry

Madagascar cat

	convertible
	grille
	pickup
	beach wagon
	fire engine

	agaric
	mushroom
	jelly fungus
	gill fungus
	dead-man's-fingers

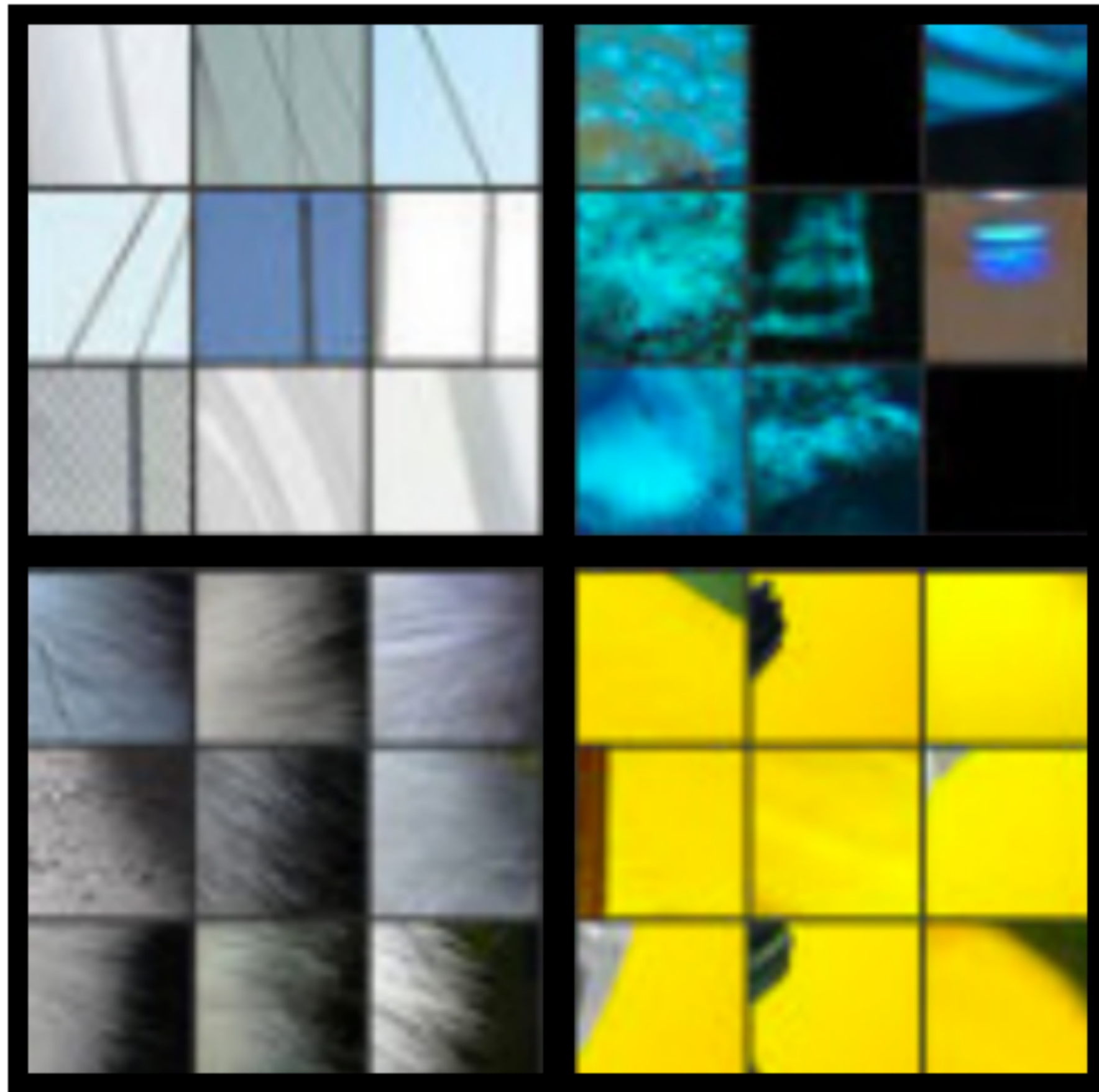
	dalmatian
	grape
	elderberry
	ffordshire bullterrier
	currant

	squirrel monkey
	spider monkey
	titi
	indri
	howler monkey

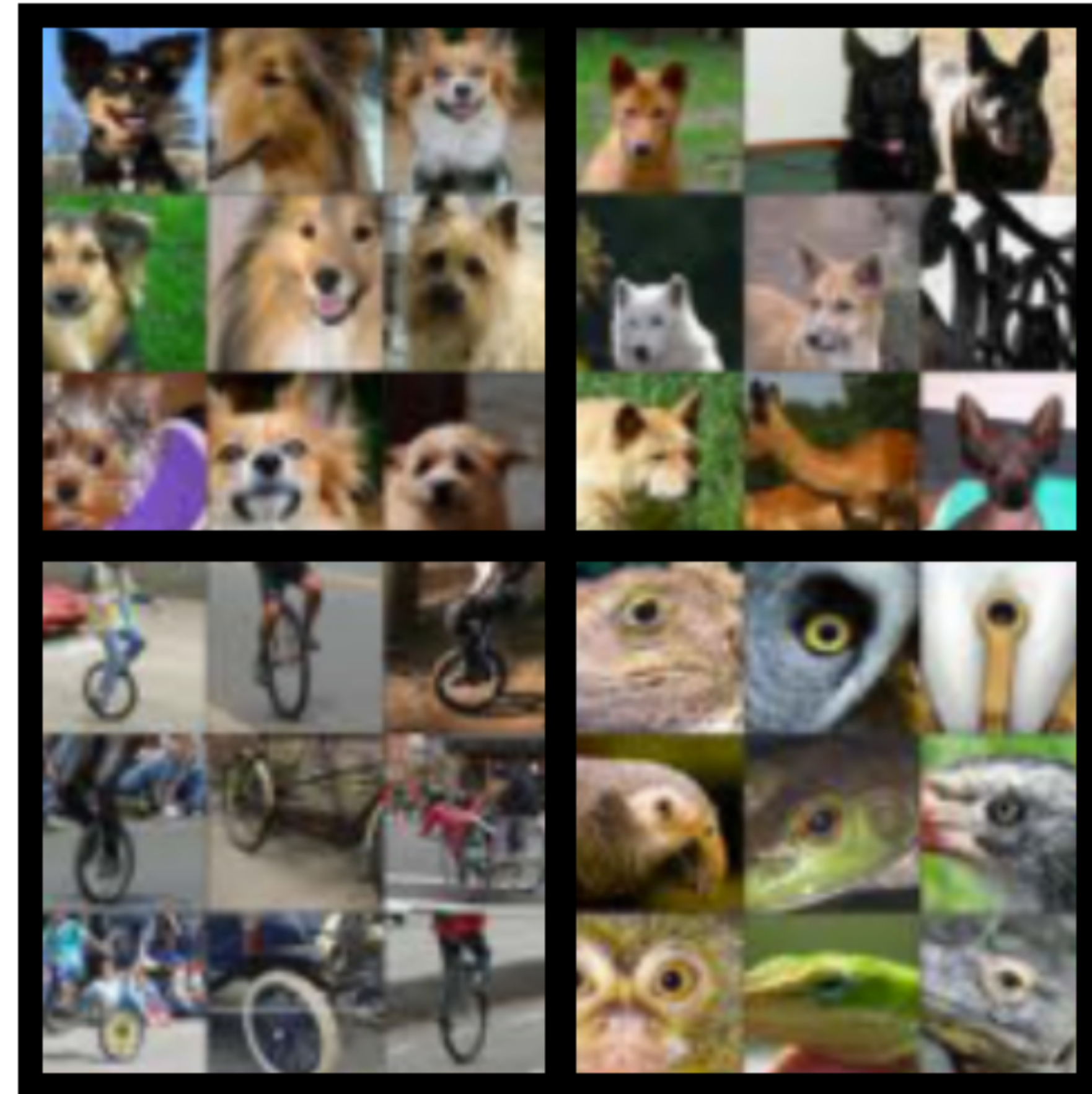


patches that strongly activate first layer filters

Layer 2

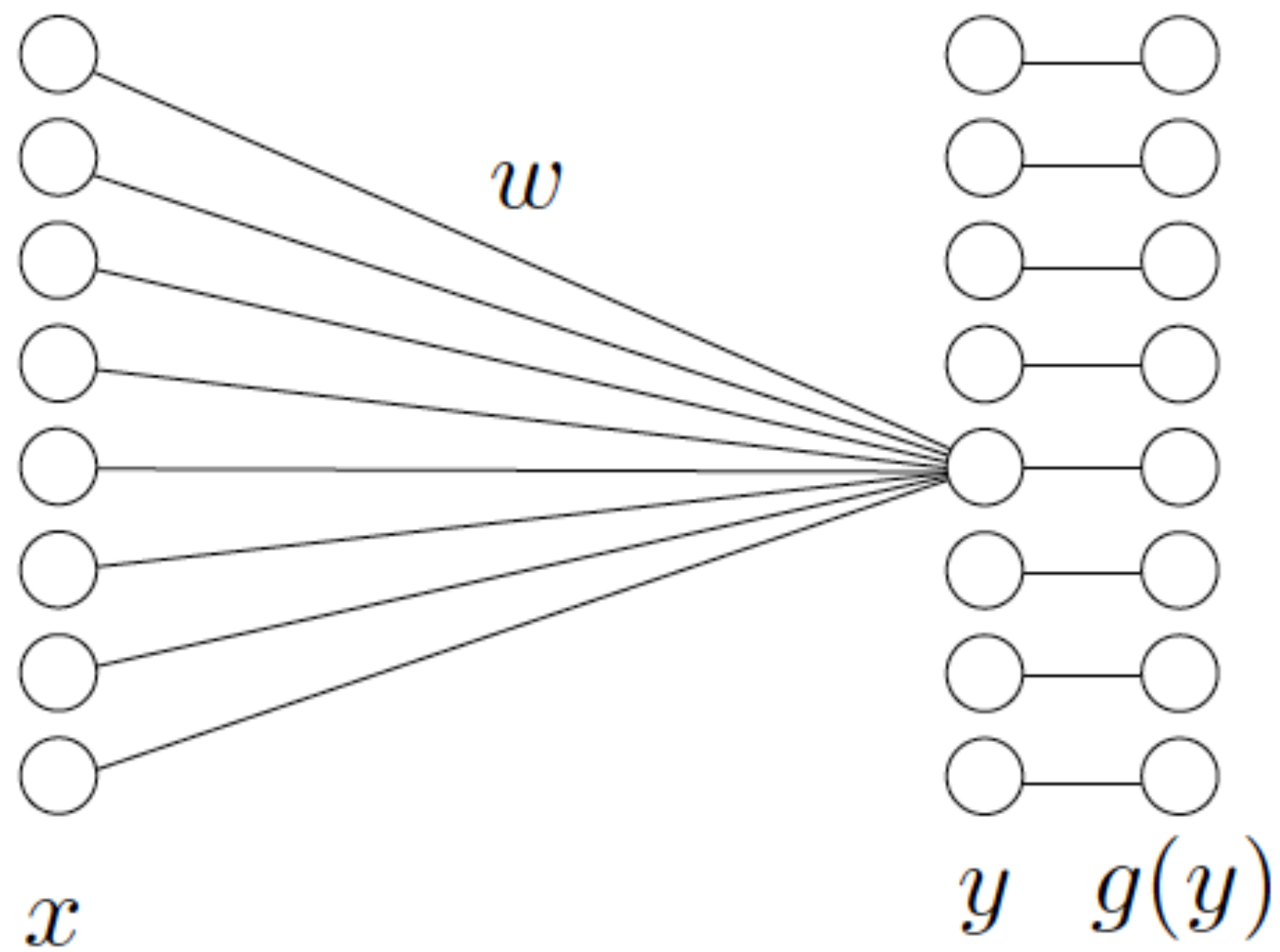


Layer 5

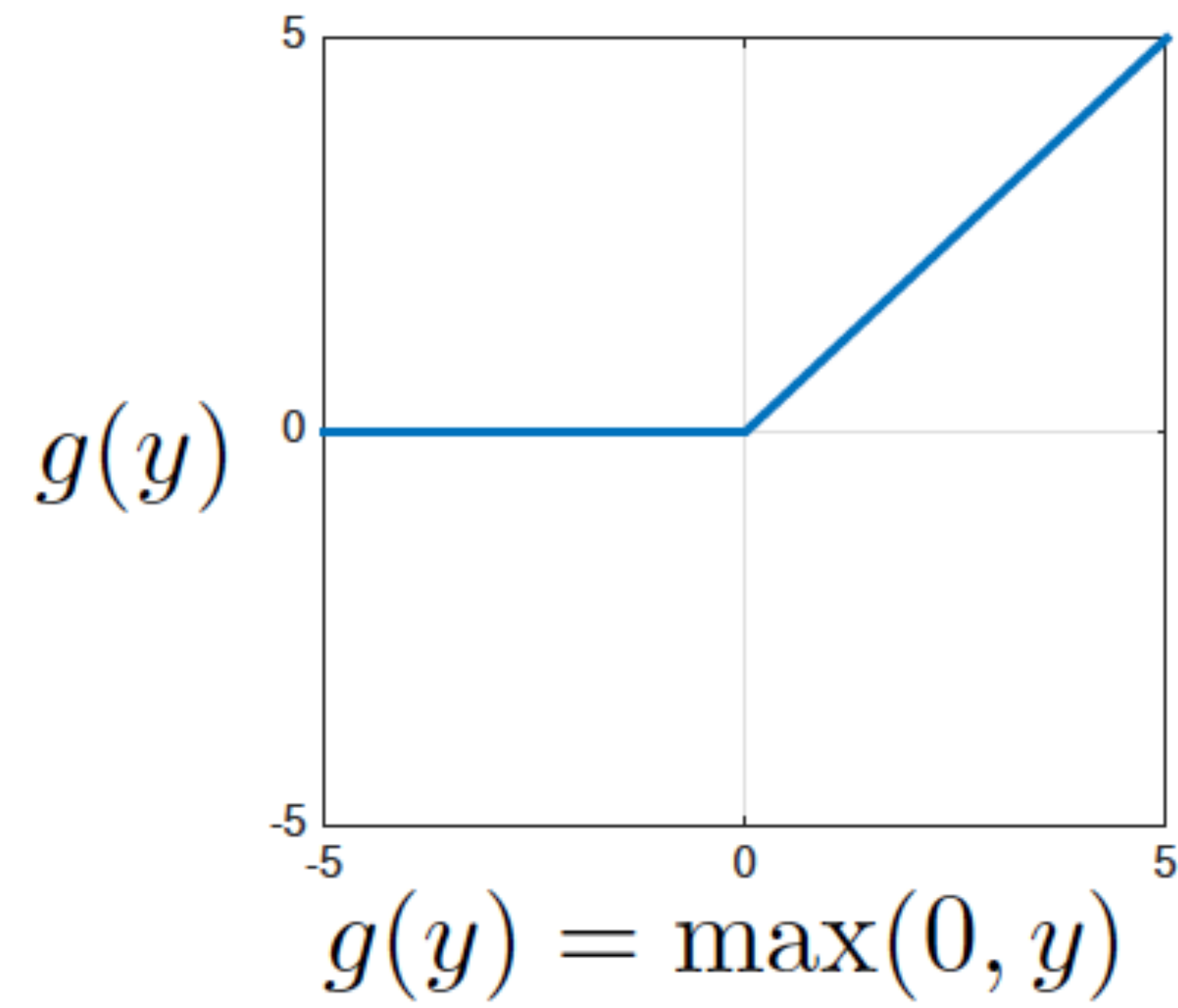


patches that strongly activate neurons on specified layer

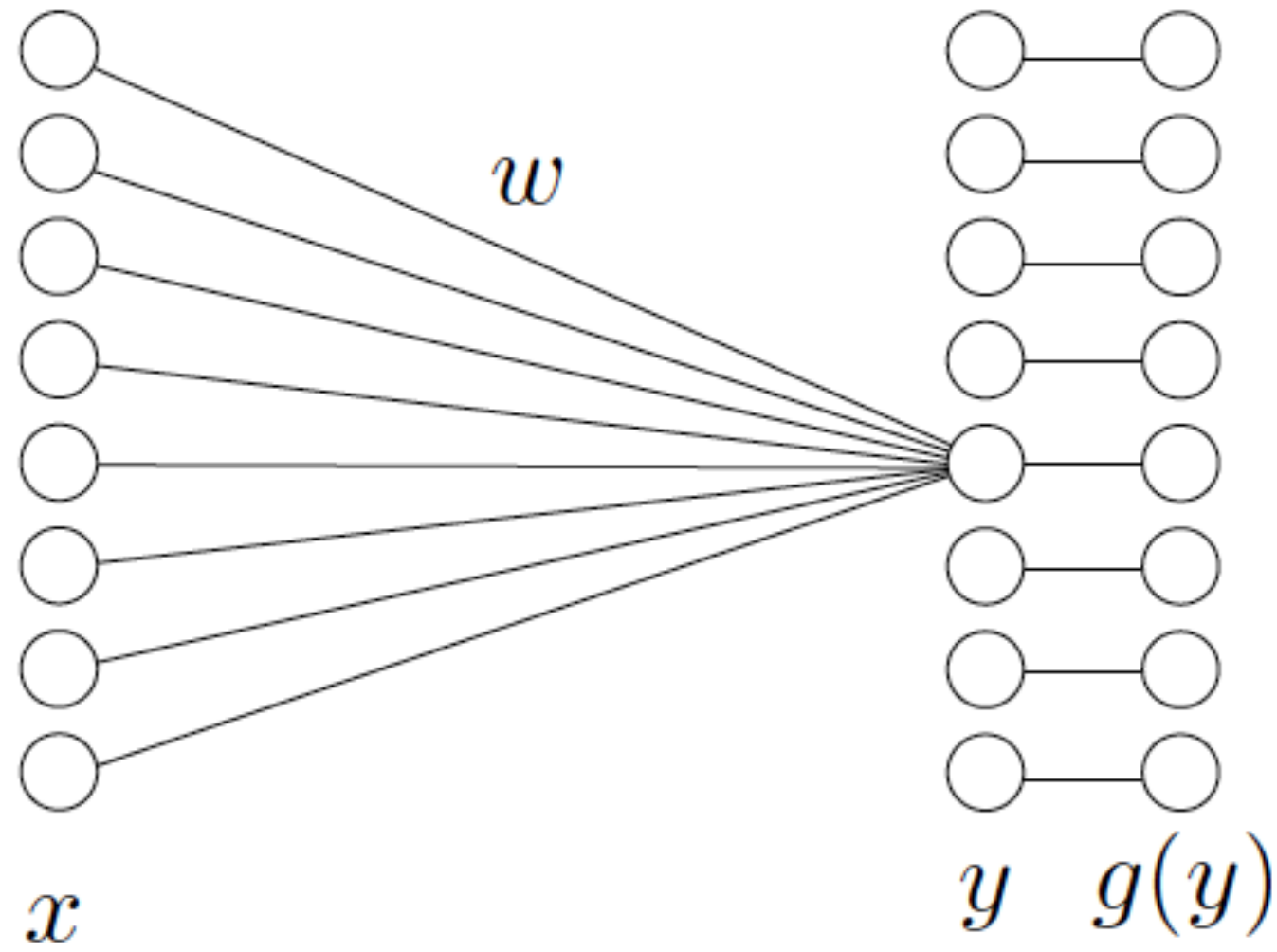
Computation in a neural net



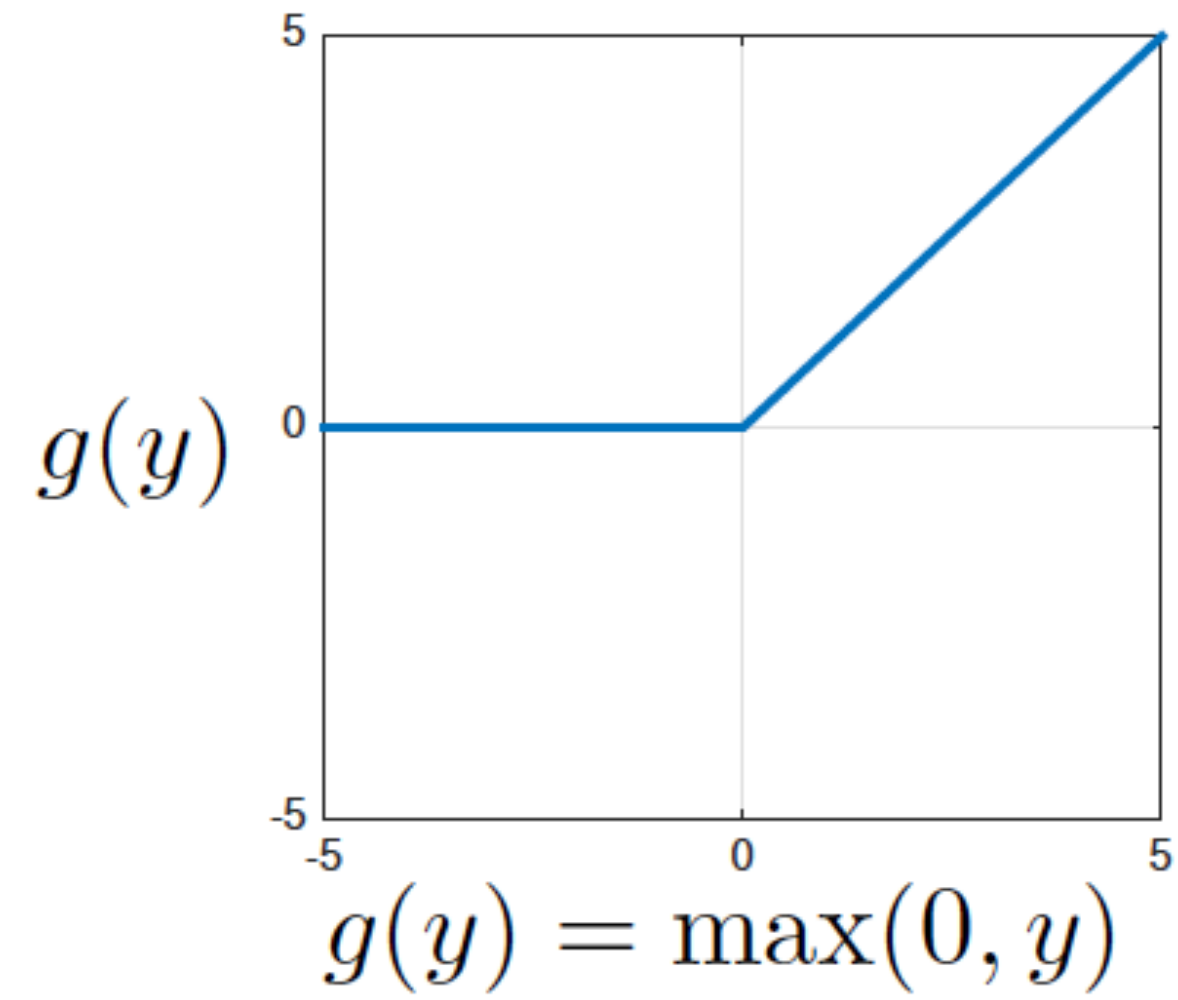
Rectified linear unit (ReLU)



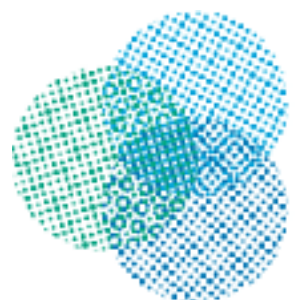
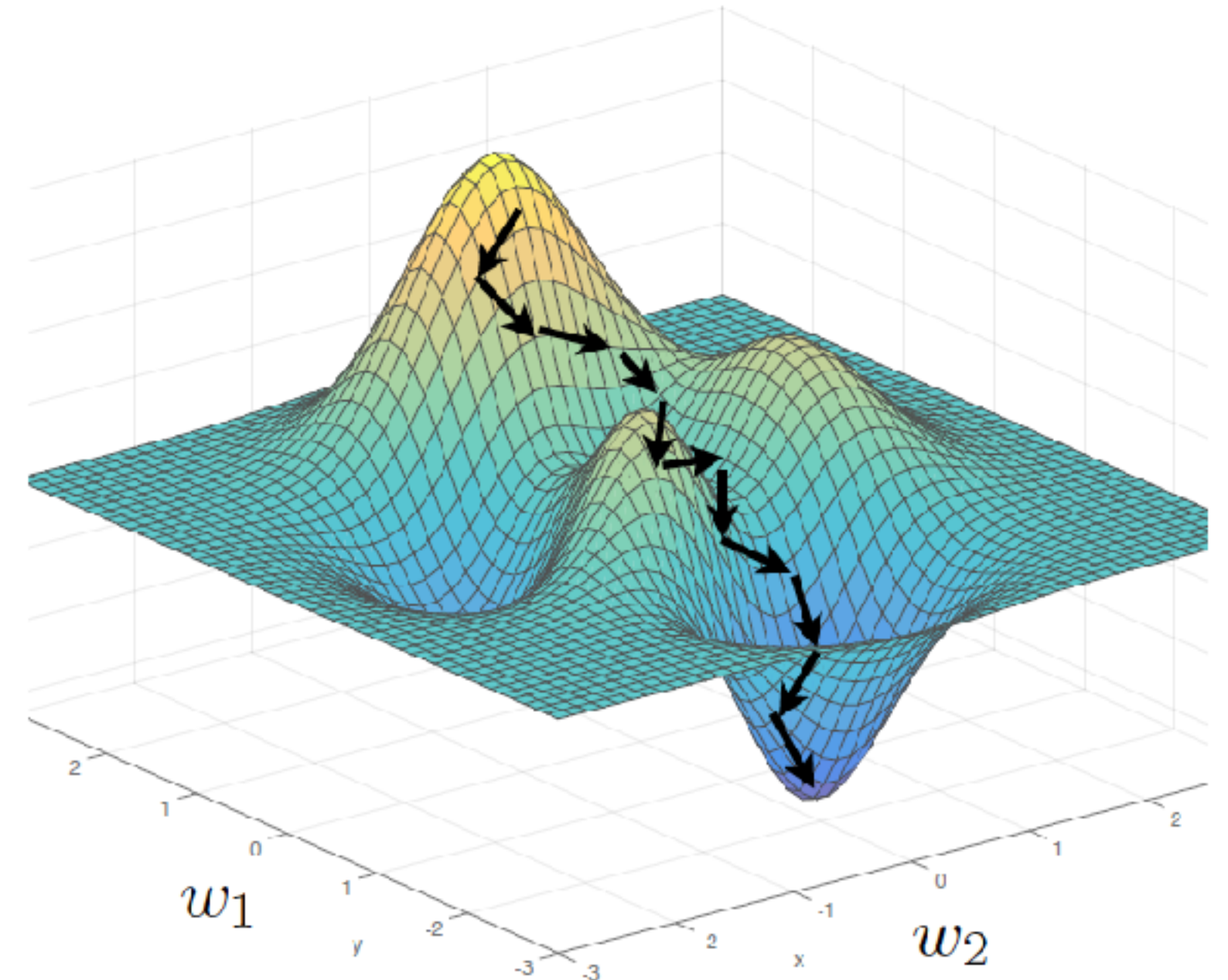
Deep nets architecture and SGD training



Rectified linear unit (ReLU)



$L(\mathbf{w})$



Gradient descent

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{w}} \sum_i \ell(\mathbf{z}_i, f(\mathbf{x}_i; \mathbf{w})) = L(\mathbf{w})$$

One iteration of gradient descent:

$$\mathbf{w}^{t+1} = \mathbf{w}^t - \eta_t \frac{\partial L(\mathbf{w}^t)}{\partial \mathbf{w}}$$

learning rate

Computing the gradients

$$L(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = f_L(\dots f_2(f_1(\mathbf{x}; w_1); w_2) \dots)$$

Chain rule

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{w}_i} = \frac{\partial f_L}{\partial f_{L-1}} \frac{\partial f_{L-1}}{\partial f_{L-2}} \dots \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \mathbf{w}_i}$$

This can be computed efficiently using **back-propagation**.

First run the net forward to see what kinds of errors it makes.

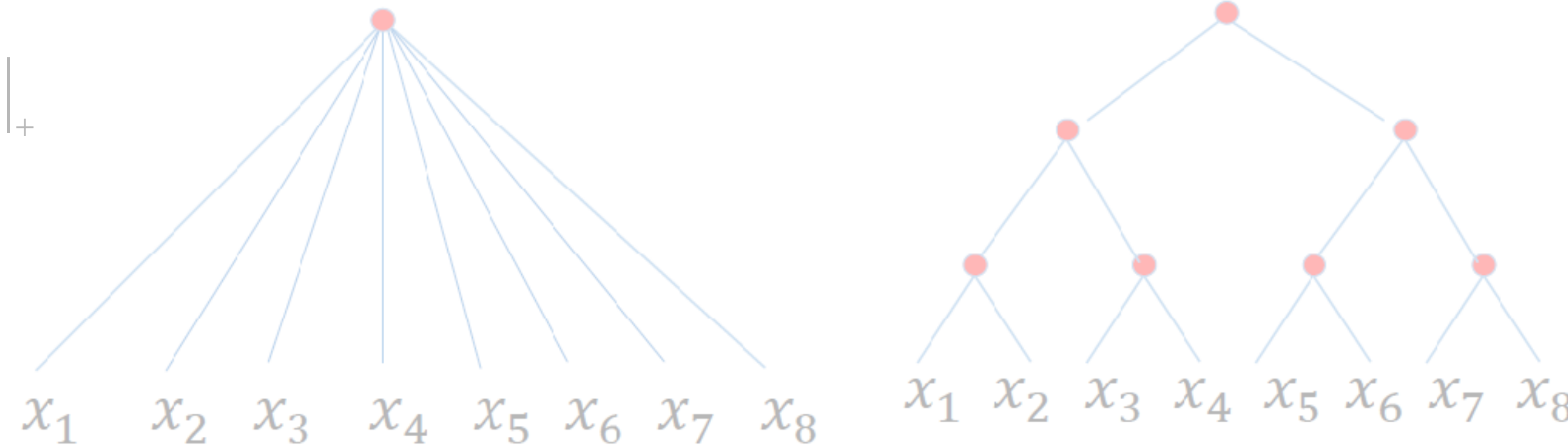
Then propagate errors back, using the chain rule, to tell each layer how to adjust its weights to reduce the error.

Theory I:

Why and when are deep networks better than shallow networks?

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_8) = g_3(g_{21}(g_{11}(x_1, x_2), g_{12}(x_3, x_4))g_{22}(g_{11}(x_5, x_6), g_{12}(x_7, x_8))))$$

$$g(x) = \sum_{i=1}^r c_i |\langle w_i, x \rangle + b_i|_+$$

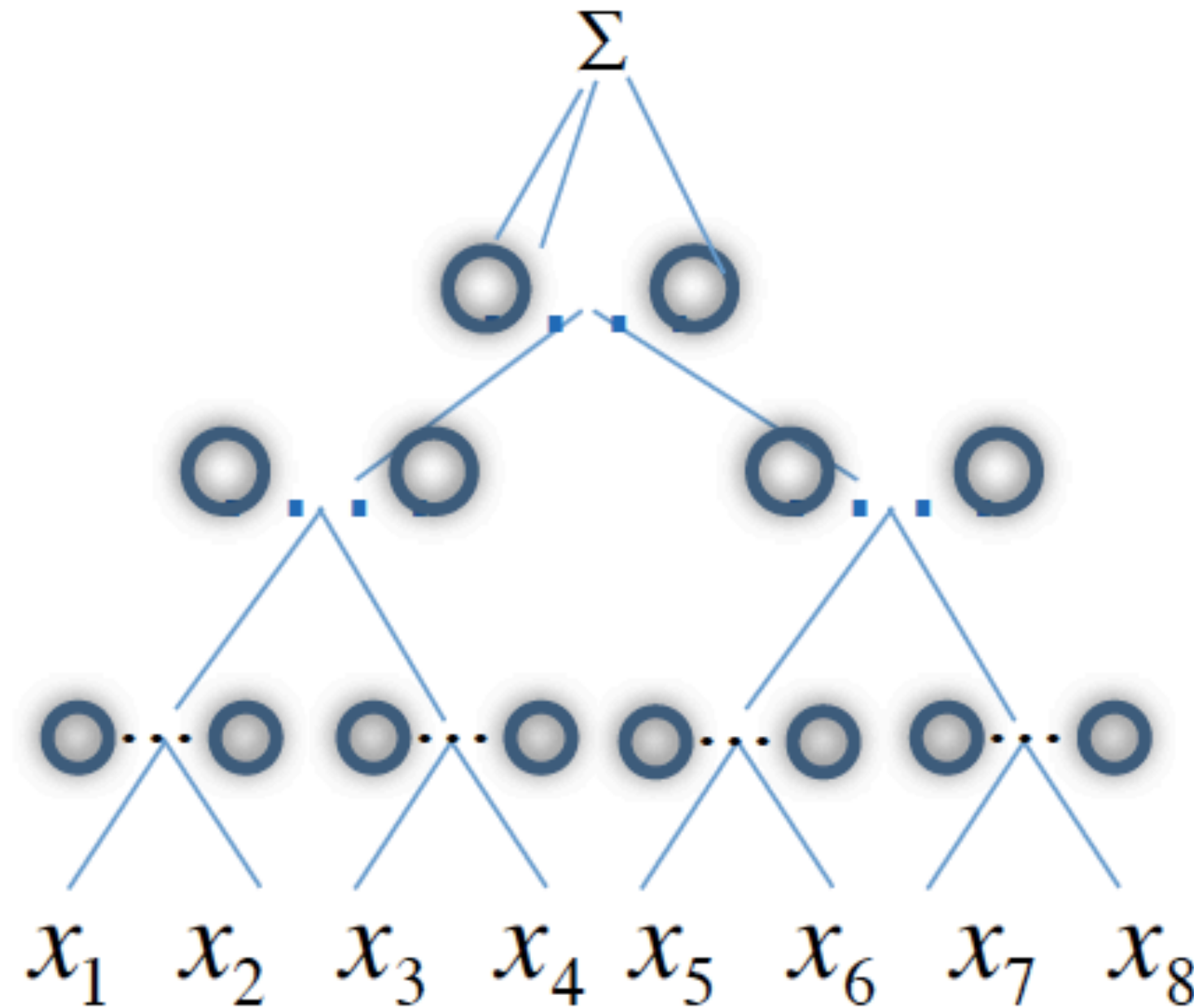
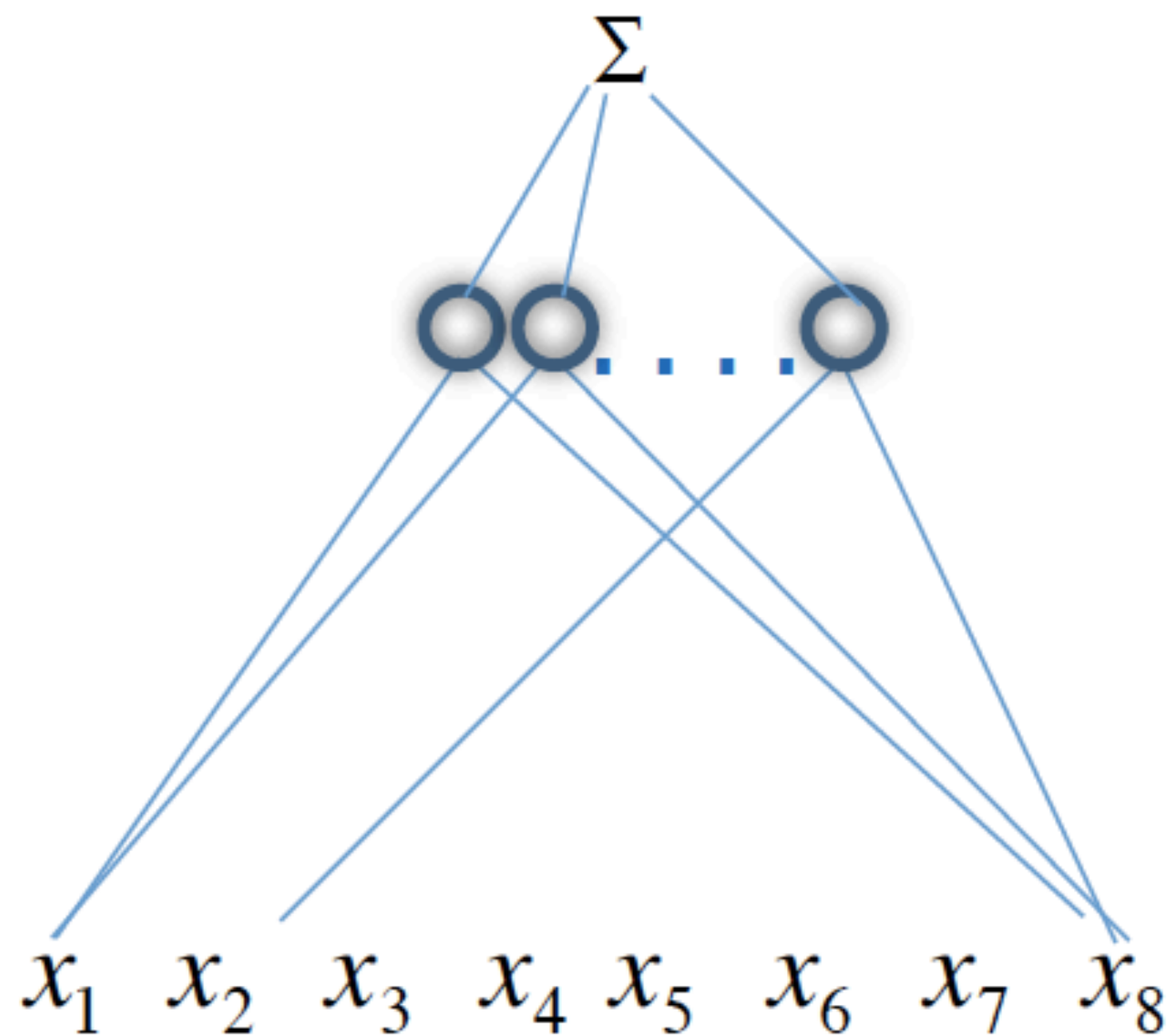


Theorem (informal statement)

Suppose that a function of d variables is compositional. Both shallow and deep network can approximate f equally well. The number of parameters of the shallow network depends exponentially on d as $O(\epsilon^{-d})$ with the dimension whereas for the deep network it is dimension independent, i.e. $O(\epsilon^{-2})$.

Deep and shallow networks: universality

Theorem Shallow, one-hidden layer networks with a nonlinear $\phi(x)$ which is not a polynomial are universal. Arbitrarily deep networks with a nonlinear $\phi(x)$ (including polynomials) are universal.



$$\phi(x) = \sum_{i=1}^r c_i |\langle w_i, x \rangle + b_i|_+$$

Curse of dimensionality

$$y = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d)$$

Both shallow and deep network can approximate a function of d variables equally well. The number of parameters in both cases depends exponentially on d as $O(\epsilon^{-d})$.

When can the curse of dimensionality be avoided

Generic functions

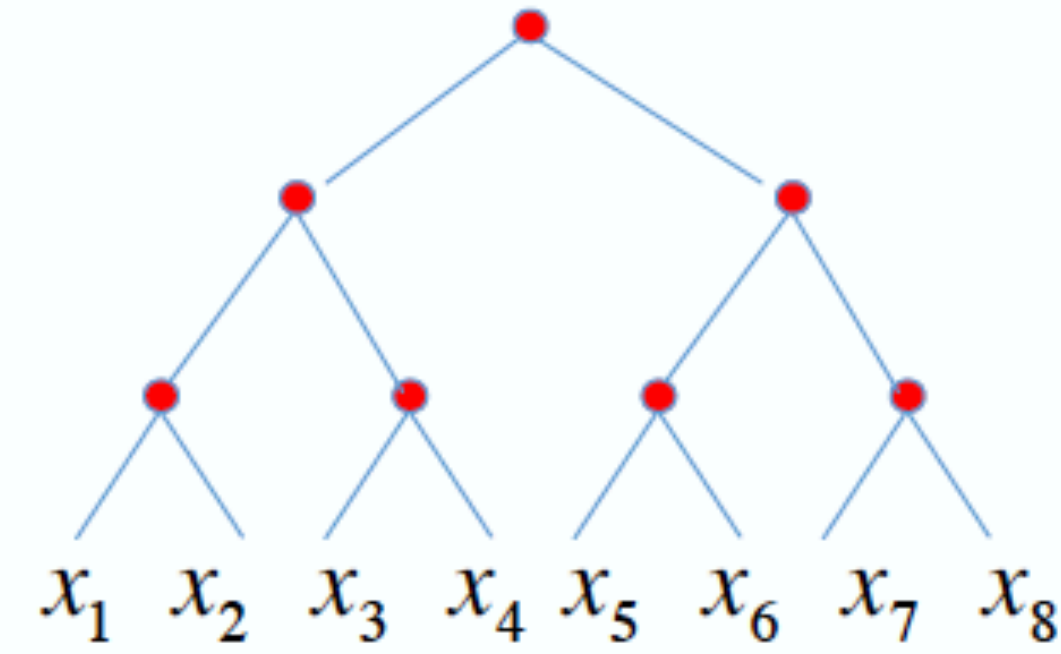
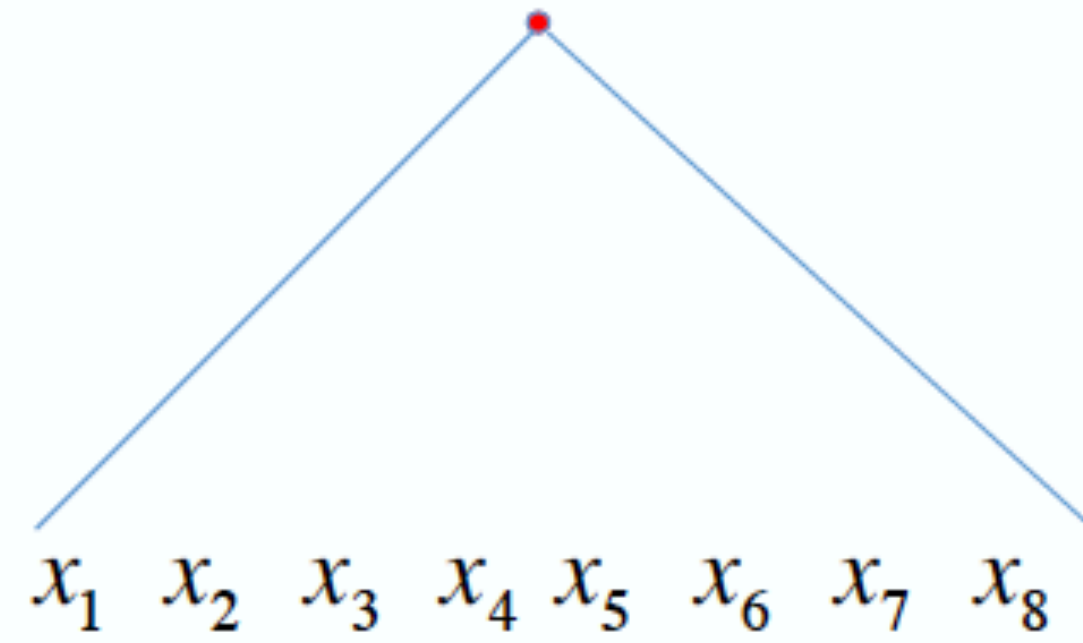
$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_8)$$

Compositional functions

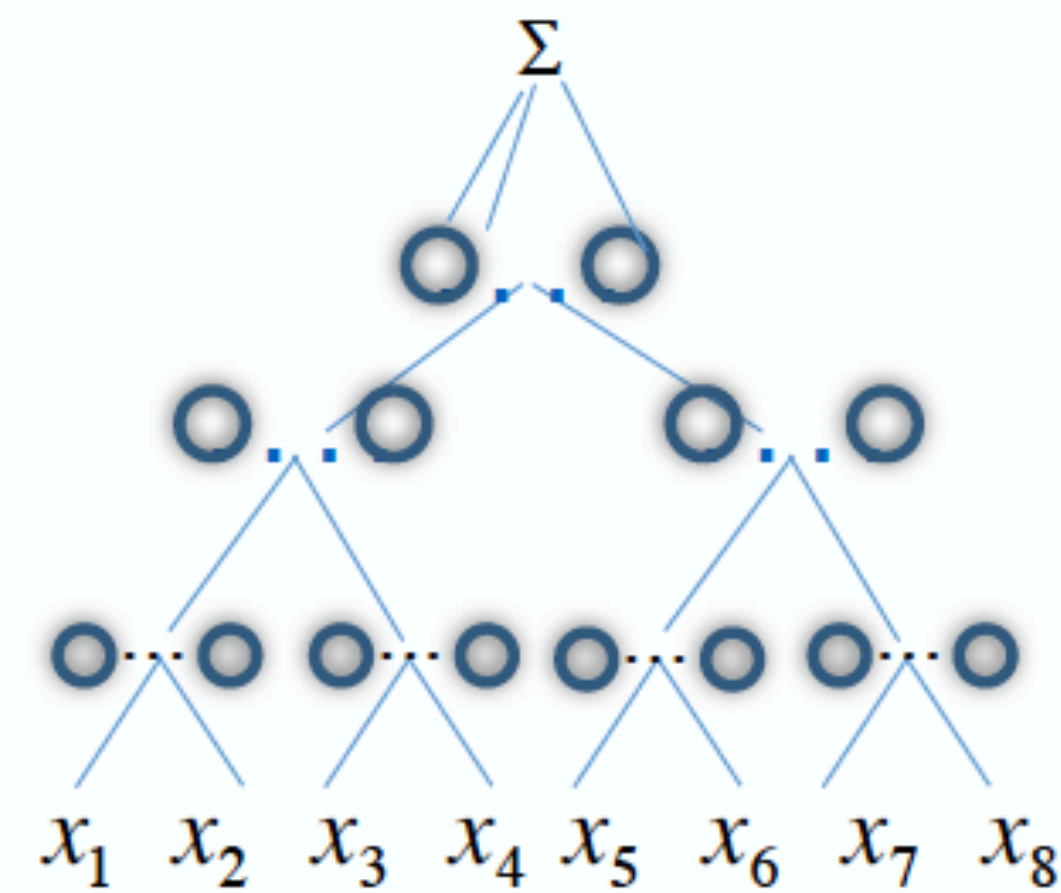
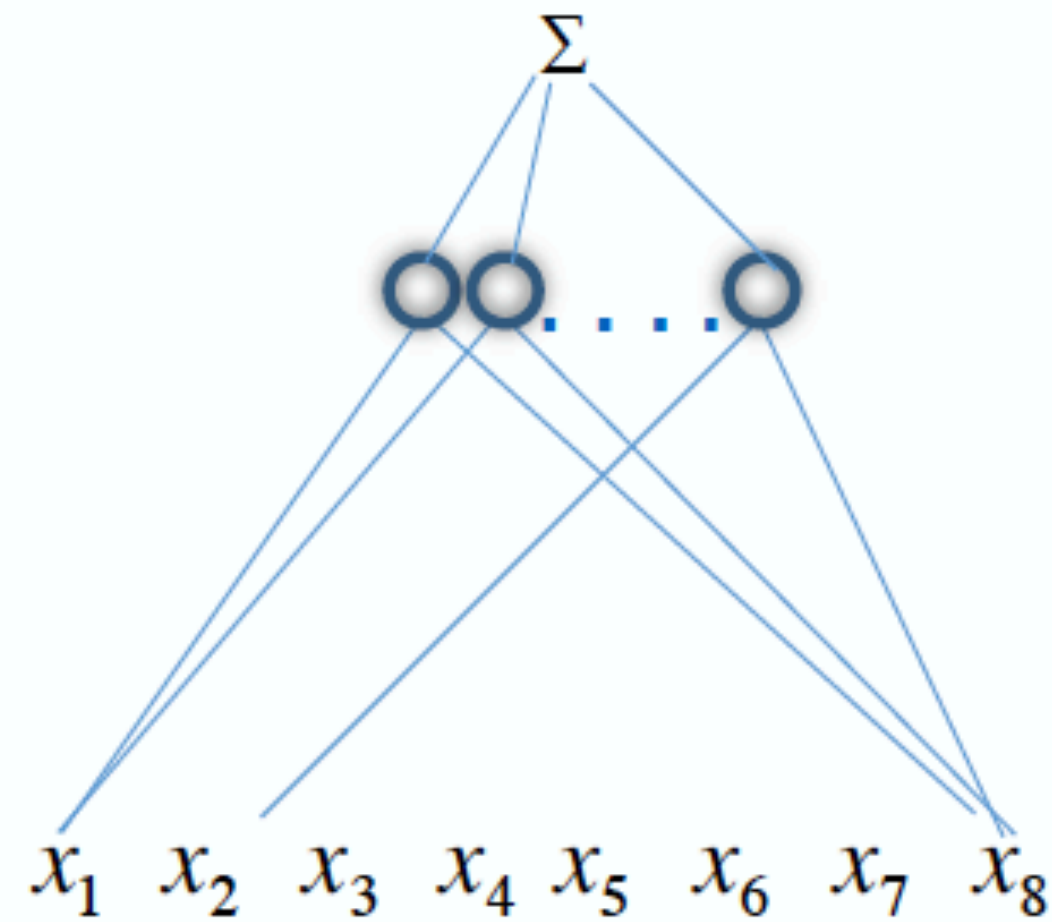
$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_8) = g_3(g_{21}(g_{11}(x_1, x_2), g_{12}(x_3, x_4)), g_{22}(g_{11}(x_5, x_6), g_{12}(x_7, x_8)))$$

Microstructure of compositionality

target function



approximating
function/network

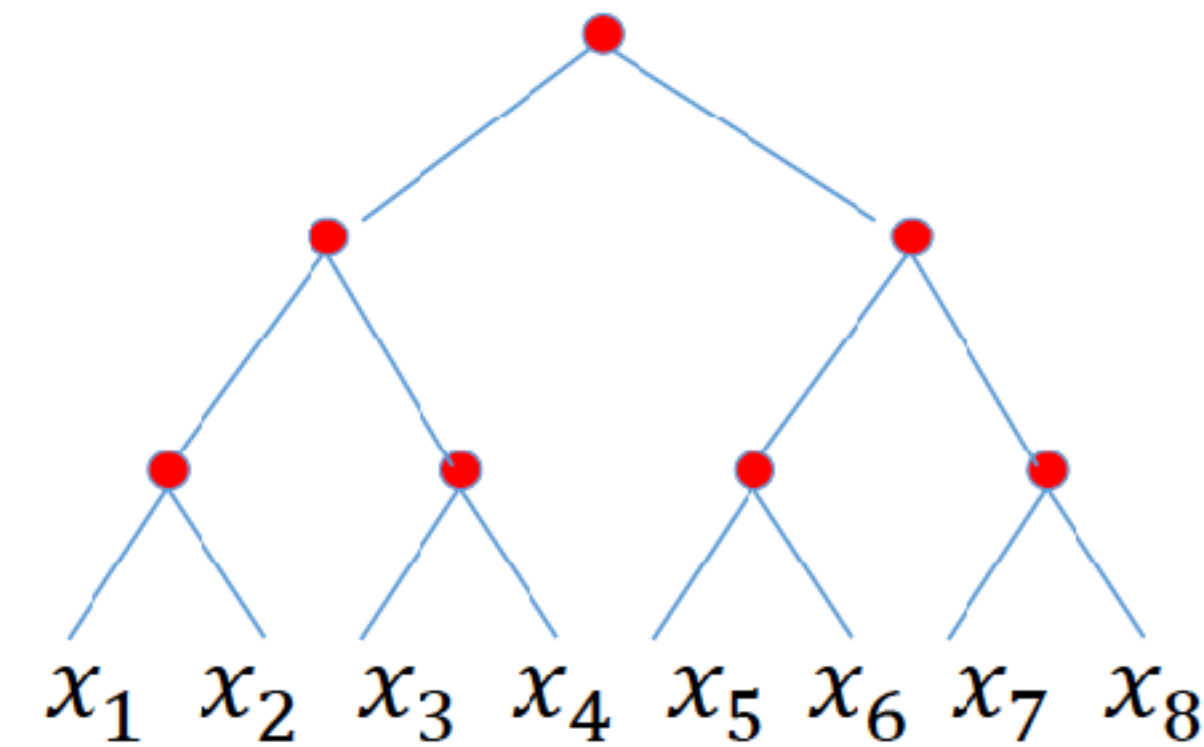


a

b

Hierarchically local compositionality

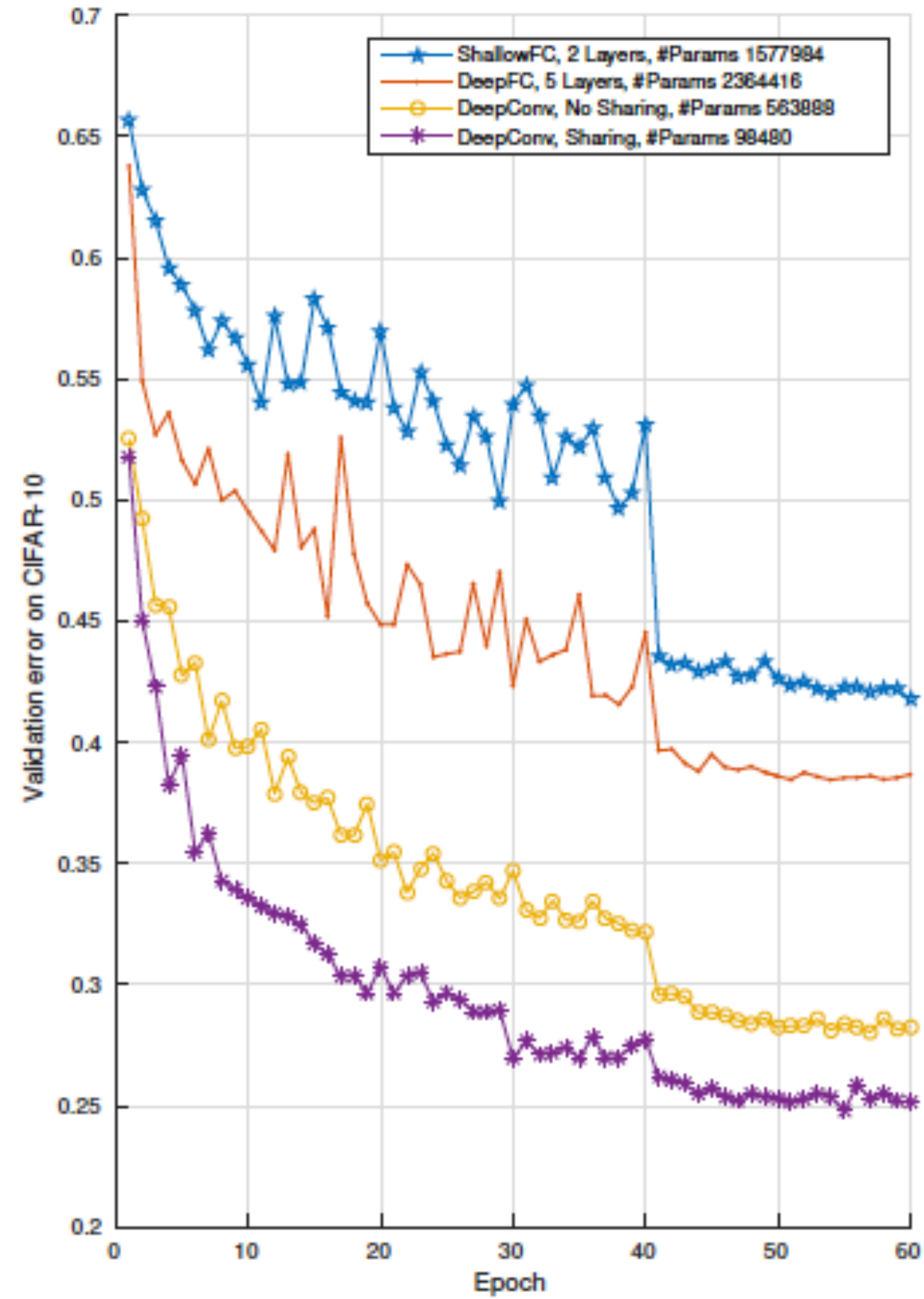
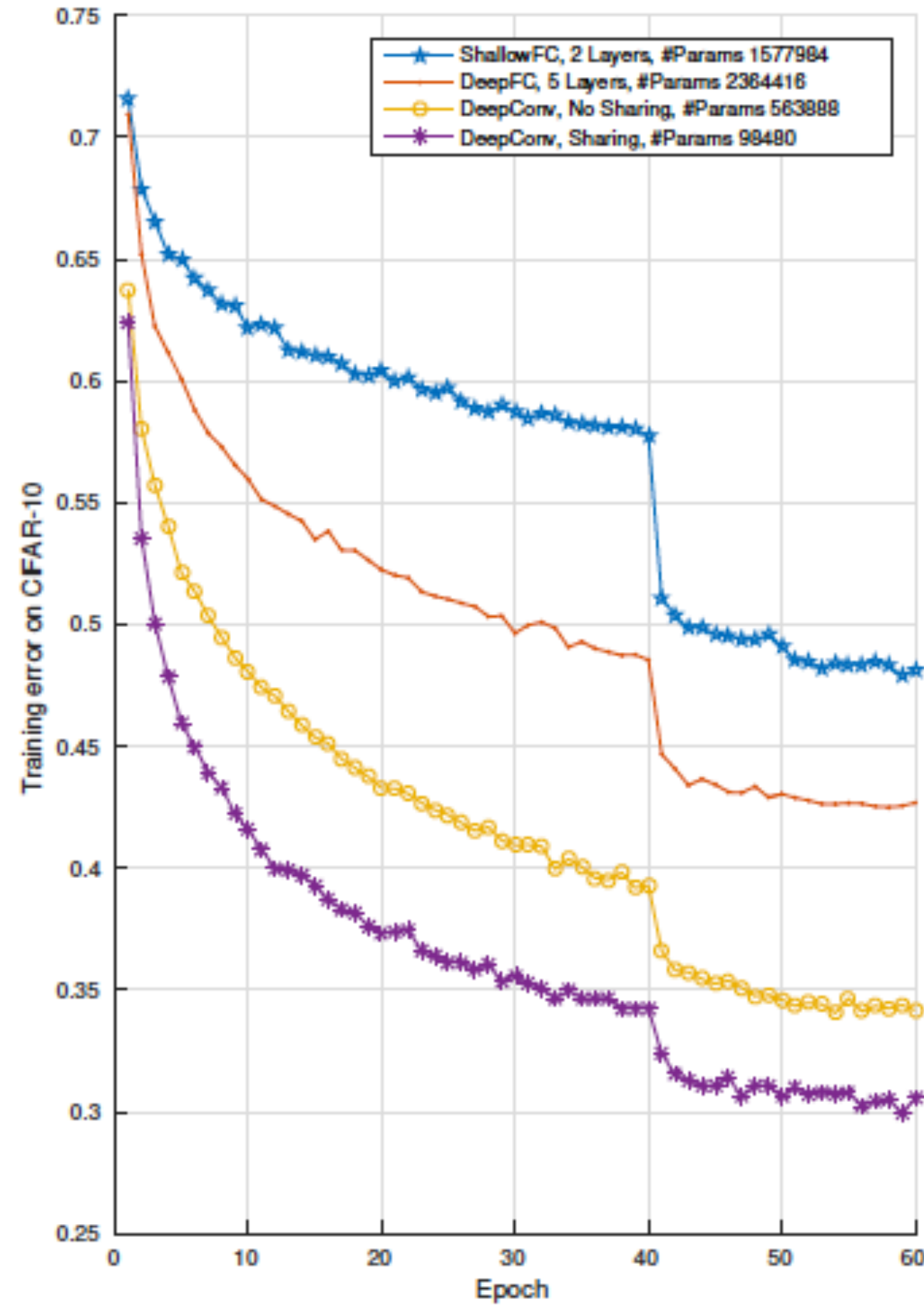
$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_8) = g_3(g_{21}(g_{11}(x_1, x_2), g_{12}(x_3, x_4)), g_{22}(g_{11}(x_5, x_6), g_{12}(x_7, x_8)))$$



Theorem (informal statement)

Suppose that a function of d variables is hierarchically, locally, compositional. Both shallow and deep network can approximate f equally well. The number of parameters of the shallow network depends exponentially on d as $O(\epsilon^{-d})$ with the dimension whereas for the deep network dance is $O(d\epsilon^{-2})$

Locality of constituent functions is key **not** weight sharing: CIFAR



Open problem: why compositional functions are important for perception?

Which one of these reasons:

Physics?

Neuroscience? <===

Evolution?

Opportunity for theory projects!

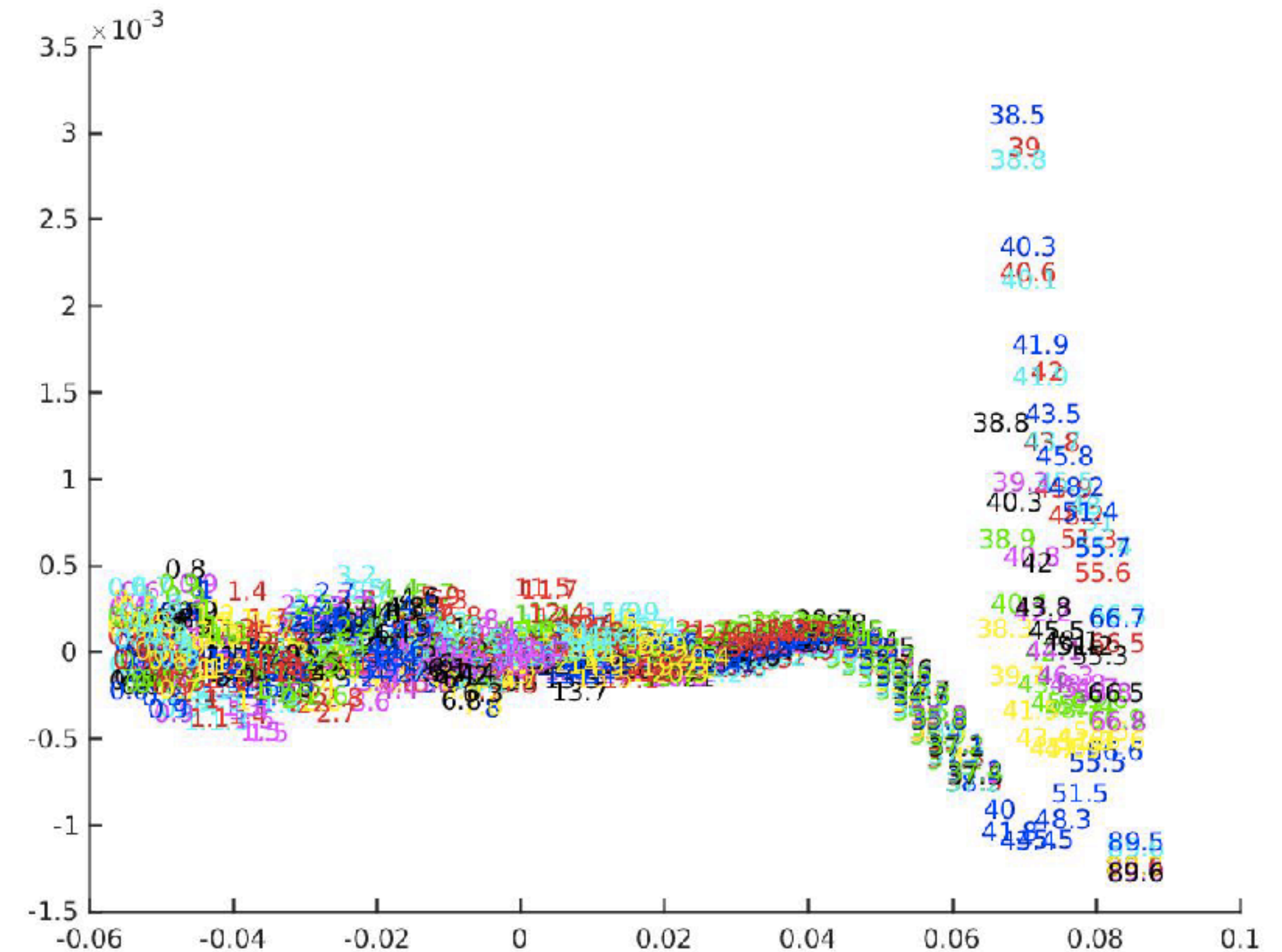
Theory II:

What is the Landscape of the empirical risk?

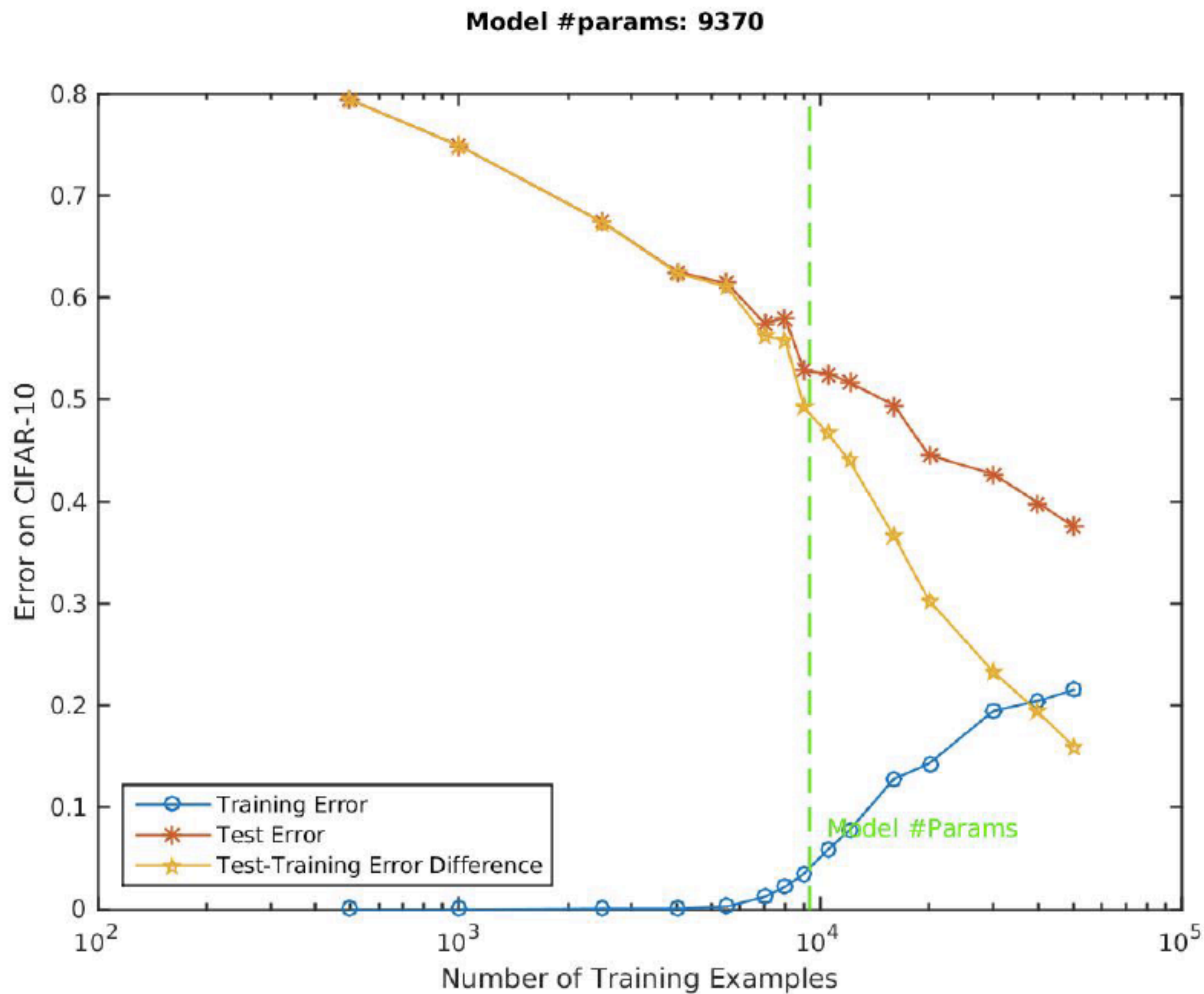
Theorem (informal statement)

Replacing the RELUs with univariate polynomial approximation, Bezout theorem implies that the system of polynomial equations corresponding to zero empirical error has a very large number of degenerate solutions. The global zero-minimizers correspond to flat minima in many dimensions (generically unlike local minima). Thus SGD is biased towards finding global minima of the empirical risk.

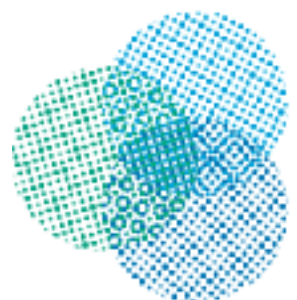
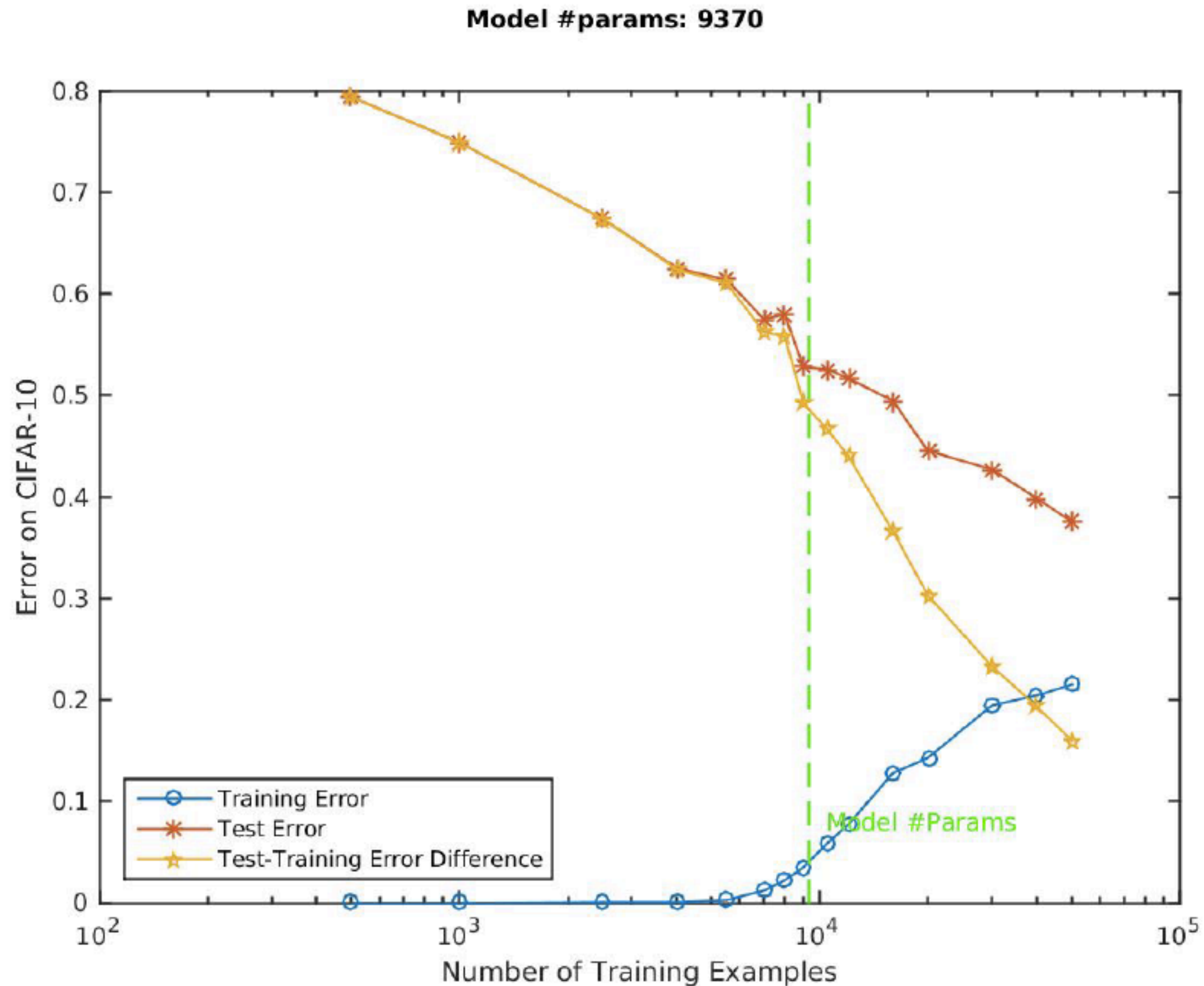
Layer 5, Numbers are training errors



Theory III: How can underconstrained solutions generalize?

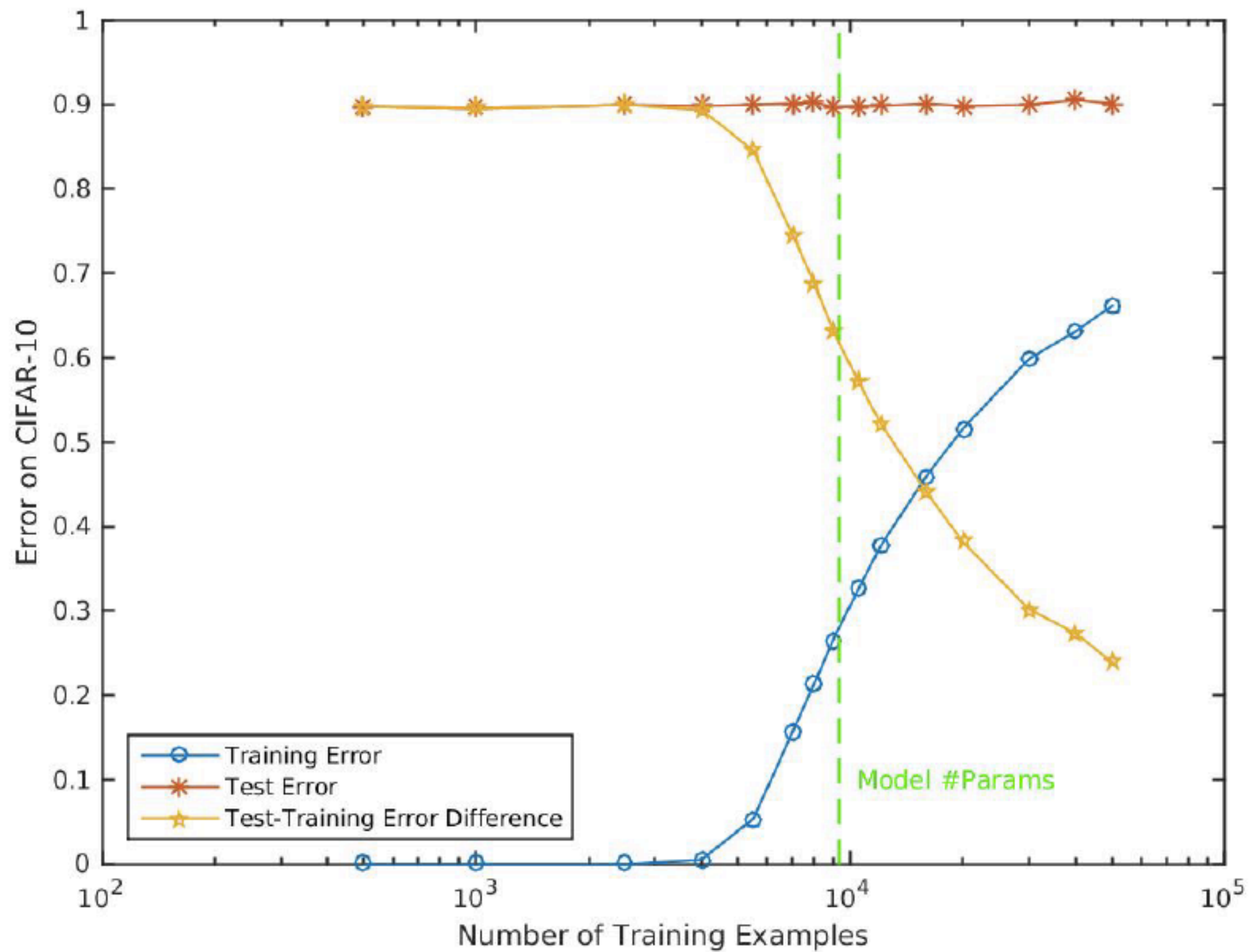


Good generalization with less data than # weights



Randomly labeled data

Model #params: 9370



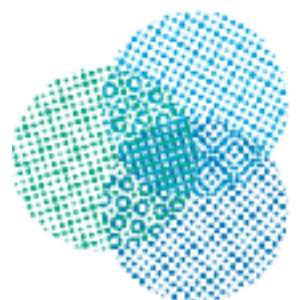
Beyond today's DLNNs:
several scientific questions...

Why do Deep Learning Networks work? ===>

In which cases will they fail?

Is it possible to improve them?

Is it possible to reduce the number of labeled examples?



Module One: Ventral Visual Stream

What we aim to accomplish (years 5-10):

- **A mathematical theory when & how deep networks work: will provide guidance on when networks will succeed (or fail) when applied to other sensory data streams.**
- **An understanding of the role of retinal sampling, and feedback and bypass connections in the success of ventral visual processing**
- **Novel ventral visual stream models: improved visual task performance & improved match/explanation of neurophysiology and behavior.**
- **First systematic data on the development of the primate ventral stream and its dependence on its visual experience “diet”.**

MODULE FOUR

Towards Symbols

LONG-TERM PLANNING ABSTRACTION LANGUAGE

B. Katz, A. Barbu, S. Ullman, J. Tenenbaum

G, Kreiman, M. Wilson, B. Desimone

MODULE TWO

Brain OS

WORKING MEMORY VISUAL ROUTINES ATTENTION

Running routines...

3^{1/2}D Sketch

MODULE THREE

Cognitive Core

INTUITIVE PHYSICS GEOMETRY (3D) INTUITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

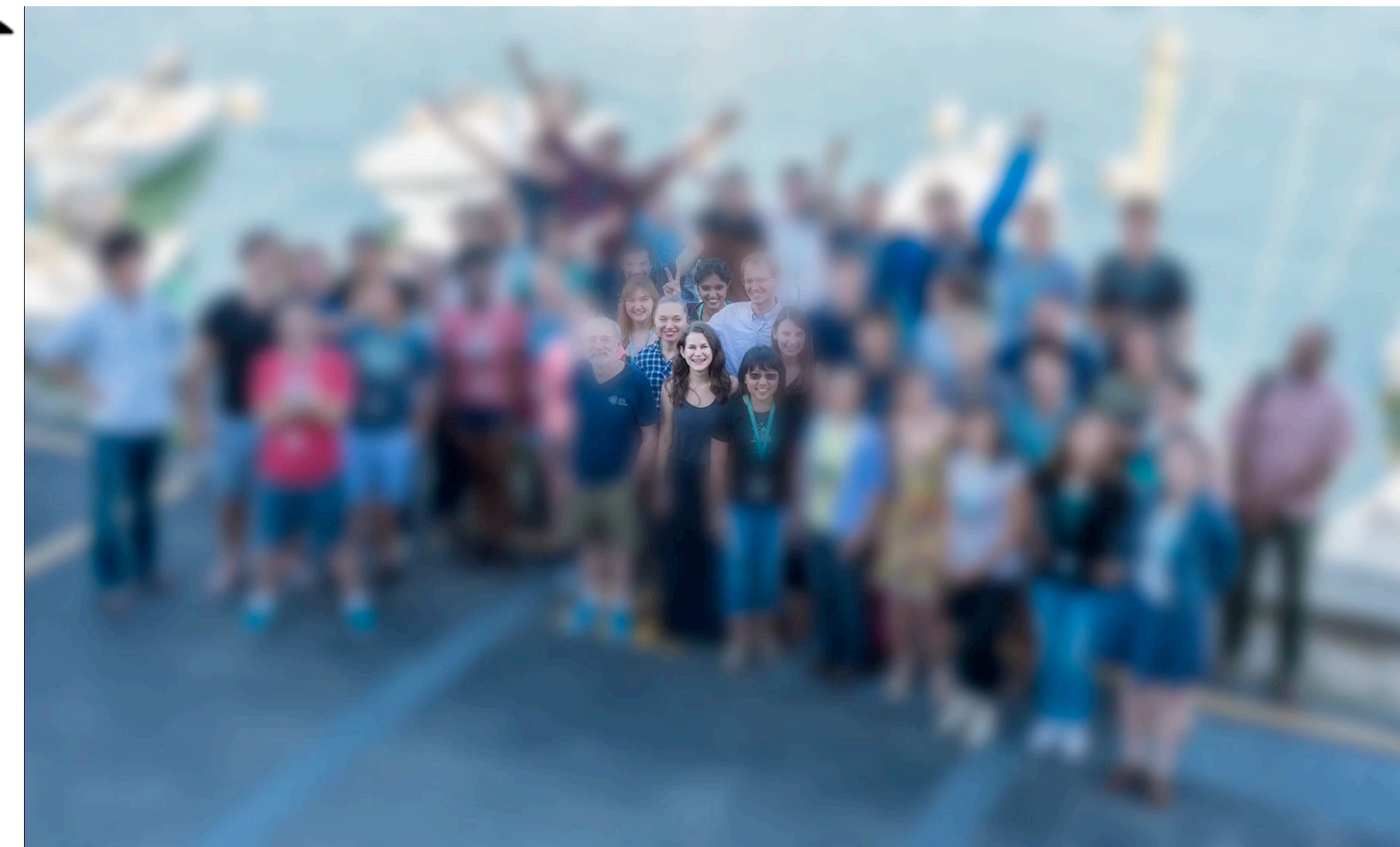
J. Tenenbaum, N. Kanwisher, Spelke

Depository of vision routines... synthesizing routines as needed

MODULE ONE

Visual Stream

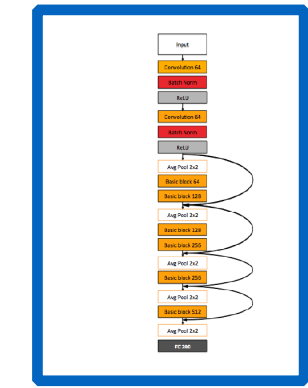
FOVEA DEEP FEED-FORWARD NETWORKS BACK PROJECTIONS



9.523 overview

- Module 1
 - Module 1, theory
 - Module 1, eccentricity
 - Module 1, invariance
- Projects

General projects/proposals



- new architectures/class of applications from basic DCN block (example GAN + RL/DL + ...)
- new semisupervised training framework, avoiding labels: implicit labeling...predicting next “frame”:
 - coloring...
- new learning algorithms instead of SGD, that are biologically plausible:
 - trail and error, genetic algorithms...
 - stream and counter stream
 - ...
- 3 1/2 D sketch specs
- Visual awareness experiment?