


CROWN 85: Visual Perception: A Window to Brain and Behavior

Lecture 6

**Crown 85: Visual Perception:
A Window to Brain and Behavior**



Lecture 6: Central Visual System (Structure and Processing)

lecture 6 outline

Crown 85 Winter 2016
Visual Perception: A Window to Brain and Behavior
Lecture 6: The Central Visual System (structure and processing)

Reading: [Joy of Perception](#)
[Eye, Brain and Vision](#)
[Web Vision](#)

Looking: [Information Processing in the Retina \(Sinauer\)](#)
[Visual Pathways \(Sinauer\)](#)
[Phototransduction \(Sinauer\)](#)
[Several Werblin Videos on Visual Cortex](#)

OVERVIEW: Visual information leaves the retina via the optic nerve and is transmitted to structures in the brain. The aim of this lecture will be to see various cortical sites further of the original "photograph" into new codes which emphasize certain aspects of the image while discarding others. We will discuss how this code is refined as information is transmitted along pathways to the brain.

two important questions about cortical processing

What types of patterns selectively activate cells in the visual system?
[receptive fields]

Are differing aspects of an image processed by different parts of the brain?
[concurrent pathways or streams]

from outline

2. Understand the following functional concepts:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. receptive field b. concentric on-center receptive field c. concentric off-center receptive field d. retinotopic map e. feature detector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. orientationally tuned neuron g. simple cell h. complex cell i. "grandmother" cell j. spatial frequency detector k. what vs where pathways
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receptive field (RF)

Map of how light presented to various positions in the visual field excites or inhibits the firing of a neuron (this map or pattern is the cell's **receptive field**). The **receptive field** indicates the "best" stimulus for the cell (i.e. the feature whose presence in a scene is signaled by the firing of the neuron).

Receptive Field (Kalat figure 6.18)

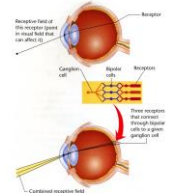
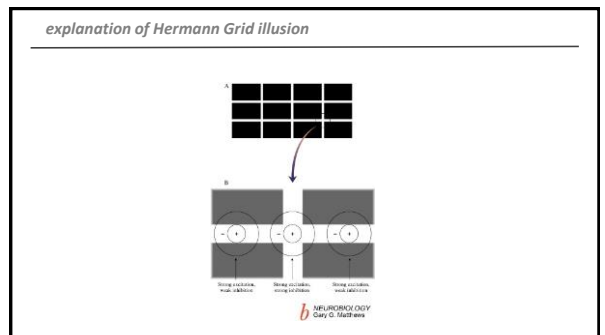
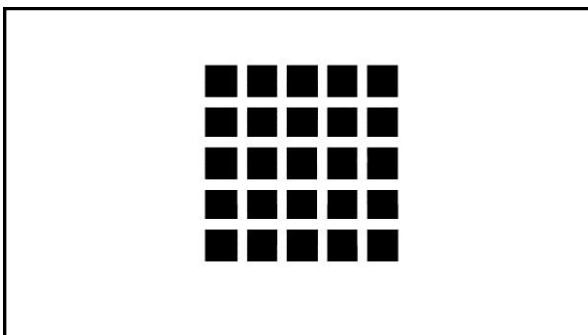
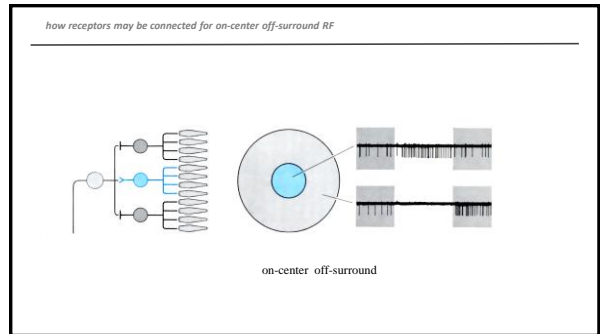
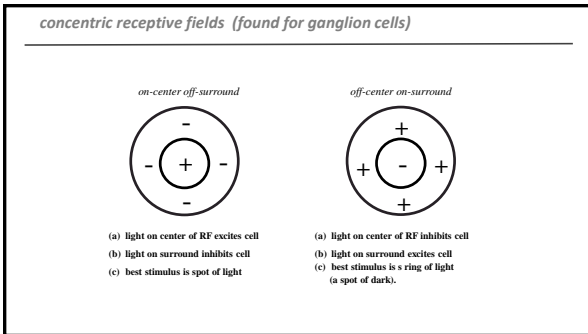
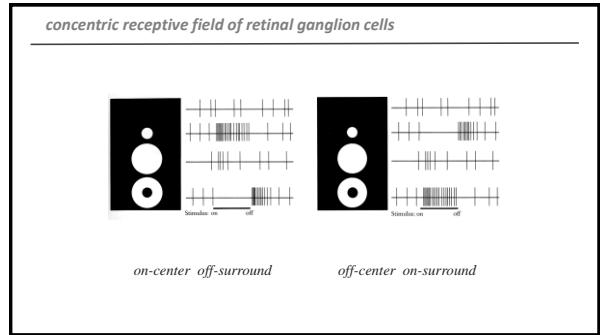
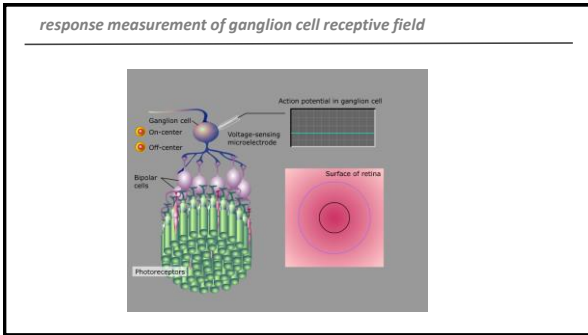


Figure 6.18 Receptive fields
The receptive field of a receptor is simply the area of the visual field from which light enters the receptor. For any other cell in the visual system, the receptive field is determined by which receptor connects to the cell in question.

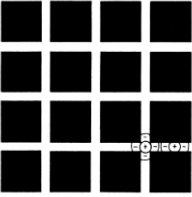
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Lecture 6

explanation of Hermann grid

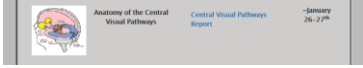


more complex factors: <http://web.mit.edu/boc/schiffman/research/A-Vision/15-2.htm>

anatomy of visual pathways

1. Know the following terms related to the gross anatomy of the central visual system and their general function in visual information processing.

a. optic nerve	f. inferior temporal cortex
b. optic chiasm	g. medial temporal cortex (MT, V5)
c. superior colliculus	h. ventral (temporal cortex)
d. lateral geniculate nucleus (LGN)	i. dorsal (parietal cortex)
e. visual cortex (V1, V2, V4)	j. fusiform area

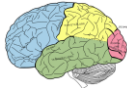


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By Brooke Drury
Anatomy of the Central Visual Pathways

Words to know

- Optic Nerve
- Optic Chiasm
- Superior Colliculus
- Lateral Geniculate Nucleus (LGN)
- Visual Cortex (V1, V2, V4)
- Inferior Temporal Cortex
- Medial Temporal Cortex (MT, V5)
- Parietal Lobe
- Temporal Lobe



Optic Nerve

- Optic Nerve – a bundle of nerve cells that transmits information from the retina to the brain
- The axons of retinal ganglion cells exit the retina via the optic nerve
- “blind spot” is the optic disc – the point where the optic nerve exits the eye due to no photoreceptors being present

Optic Chiasm

- The optic chiasm is the point in which the optic nerves cross
- When nerves are grouped, considered the optic tract
- Vision from left line of sight goes to right optic tract
- Vision from right line of sight goes to left optic tract

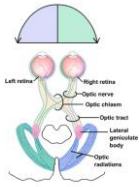
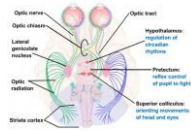


Figure 15.1
The visual pathways with the course of information flow from the right (green) and left (blue) hemifields of the two eye's visual fields.

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Superior Colliculus



- The **superior colliculus** is a paired structure on the roof of the midbrain
 - Coordinates rapid movement of the eye toward a target

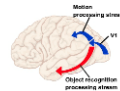
Lateral Geniculate Nucleus (LGN)

- The **lateral geniculate nucleus** is the region in which most optic tracts end
- There are six layers of cells
 - Largest: two magnocellular layers
 - Smaller: four parvocellular layers
- Inputs from eyes maintained in separate layers

Visual Cortex (V1, V2, V4)

- The striate cortex is considered the primary visual cortex or **V1**
 - In charge of initial processing of all visual information necessary for visual perception
 - Most LGN axons relay info here
- V1 sends information to the extrastriate visual cortex and visual association cortex
- **Extrastriate Visual Cortex**
 - includes all of the occipital lobe areas surrounding the primary visual cortex
 - V2 in charge of relaying signals
 - V4 in charge of color and form

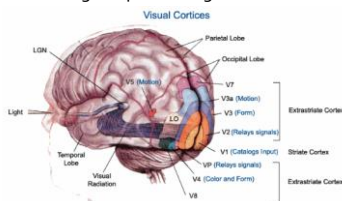
Inferior Temporal Cortex



- The main function is to process information about object color and form
- The neurons are in charge of
 - recognizing objects and colors
 - read text
 - learn and remember visual objects

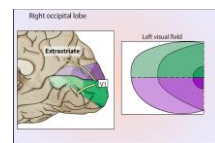
Medial Temporal Cortex (MT, V5)

- **V5 or MT** is in charge of processing motion



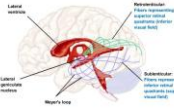
Parietal Lobe

- Main function of the **parietal lobe** is the analysis of motion, and positional relationships between objects in the visual scene
- Receive information from the extrastriate cortex



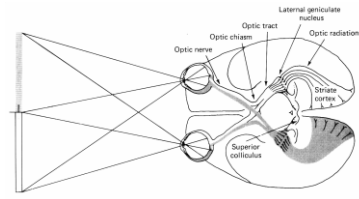
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Temporal Lobe

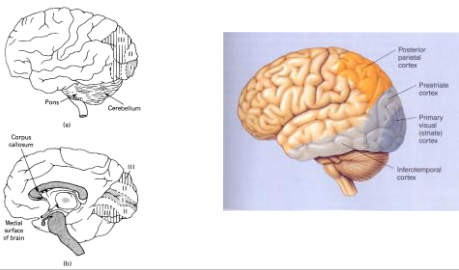


- The **temporal lobe** is responsible for
 - High-resolution imaging
 - Object recognition
- Also receives information from the extrastriate cortex

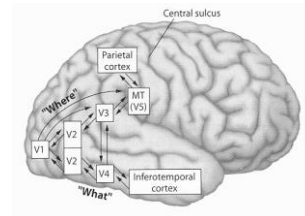
central visual pathways



central visual pathways



V1, V2, IT, MT, MST



anatomy of visual pathways

1. Know the following terms related to the gross anatomy of the central visual system and their general function in visual information processing.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ a. optic nerve | ✓ f. inferior temporal cortex |
| ✓ b. optic chiasm | ✓ g. medial temporal cortex (MT, V5) |
| ✓ c. superior colliculus | ✓ h. ventral (temporal) cortex |
| ✓ d. lateral geniculate nucleus (LGN) | ✓ i. dorsal (parietal) cortex |
| ✓ e. visual cortex (V1, V2, V4) | ✓ j. fusiform area |

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from outline

2. Understand the following functional concepts:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ✓ a. receptive field | f. orientationally tuned neuron |
| ✓ b. concentric on-center receptive field | g. simple cell |
| ✓ c. concentric off-center receptive field | h. complex cell |
| d. retinotopic map | i. "grandmother" cell |
| ✓ e. feature detector | j. spatial frequency detector |
| | k. what vs where pathways |

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what (temporal, ventral) vs where (parietal, dorsal) pathways

Dorsal or "where" stream
Spatial processing
location
movement
spatial transformations
spatial relations

Ventral or "what" stream
Object processing
color
texture
pictorial detail
shape
size

http://www.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/mkozhnevlab/?page_id=663

from outline

- ✓ 4. In the "simple" picture what are the types of information selectively processed by the parvocellular and magnocellular pathways?
- ✓ 5. What types of information are processed by the ventral (temporal) and dorsal (parietal) cortical streams?

pandemonian (a simplified cartoon of neural processing to achieve pattern recognition)

Stimulus Image demons Feature demons Cognitive demons Decision demon

Fig. 10-4. The Pandemonium pattern recognizer of Suddlage (1959).

the what pathway: form perception

In the initial stages of visual processing the visual system analyzes an image by detecting individual features in the image (e by the 'feature demons').
These may be thought of as 'letters' of the image alphabet.

Later, the elementary features are assembled into objects ('words of the image' and complex images (by the cognitive demons).

There are two competing theories on the nature of the individual features:

CLASSICAL FEATURE DETECTION
and
SPATIAL FREQUENCY THEORY

"Classical" Feature Detection

simple cell in V1

spot of light
diffuse light

(a)

(b)

bar of appropriate orientation but in specific location

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complex cell V1, V2

Generalized: bar of specific orientation but in a variety of locations Also may be selective for direction of motion

"hierarchical model" Hubel WWW book <http://hubel.med.harvard.edu/b17.htm>

ganglion & LGN cells with concentric RF's → cortical simple cells in V1 (and V2)

"hierarchical model" Hubel WWW book <http://hubel.med.harvard.edu/b18.htm>

cortical simple cells in V1 (and V2) → cortical complex cells in V2

classical feature model

"letters of the alphabet" lines, angles, etc that get assembled into images

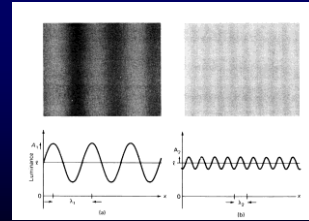
"face cells" in monkey inferotemporal cortex

Fig. 10.4. The Perceptual pattern recognizer of Selfidge (1959).

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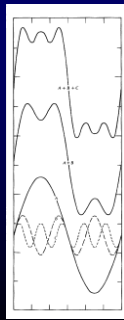
Spatial Frequency "Features"

Sinusoidal Gratings the "letters of the spatial frequency alphabet"



low spatial frequency
high contrast

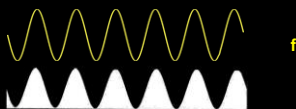
high spatial frequency
low contrast



Demonstration of Adding Sinusoids

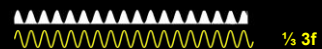
Anstis Demo: low frequency sinusoid (f)

vertical blur yields 'sinusoidal grating'

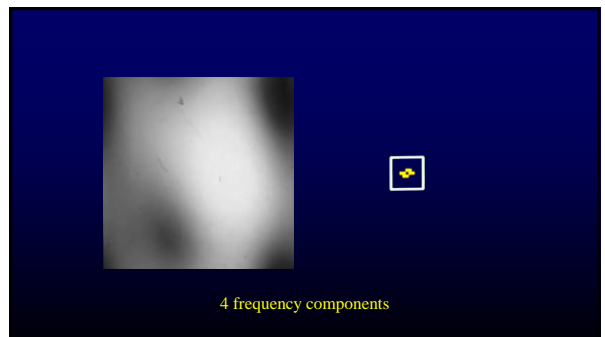
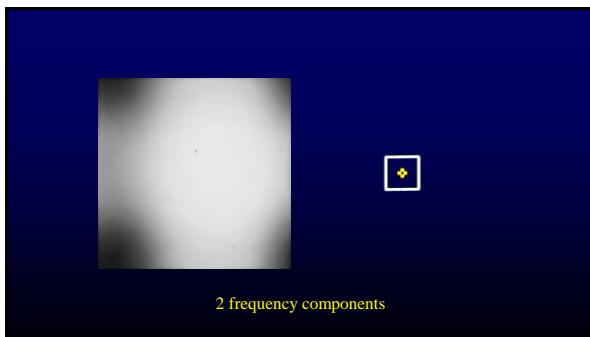
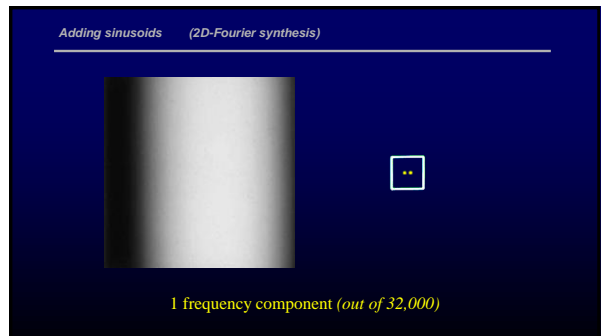
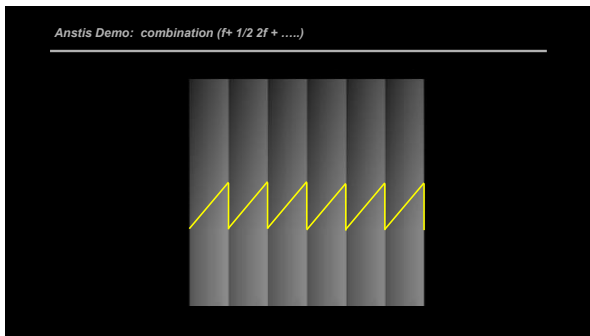
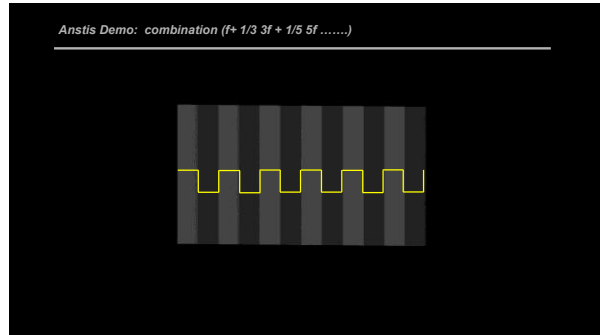
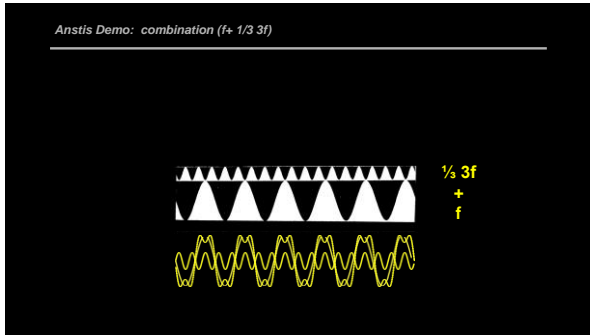


Anstis Demo: high frequency sinusoid ($\frac{1}{3} 3f$)

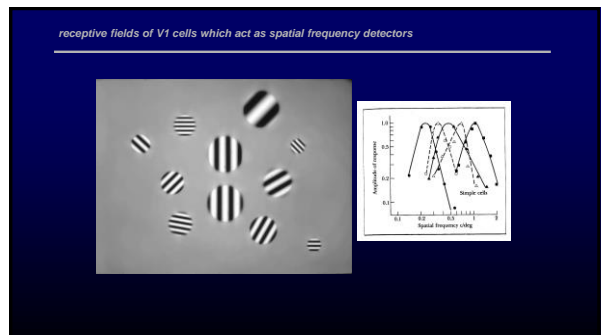
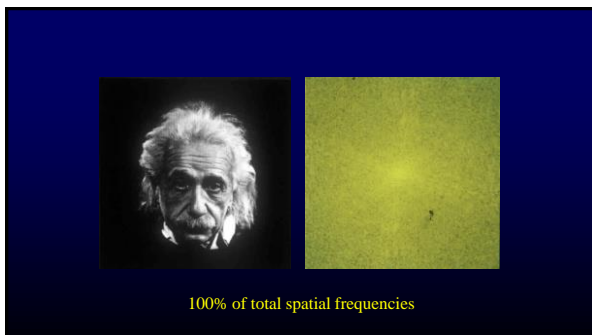
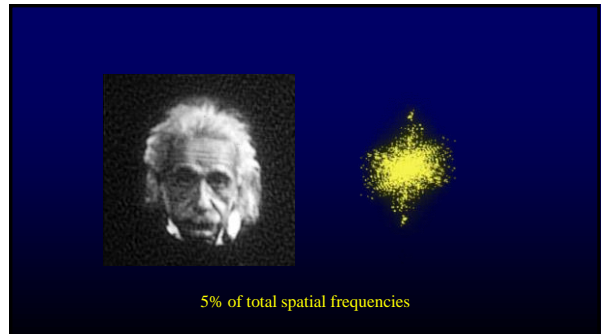
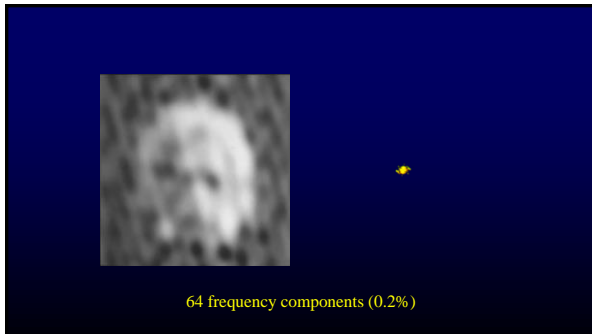
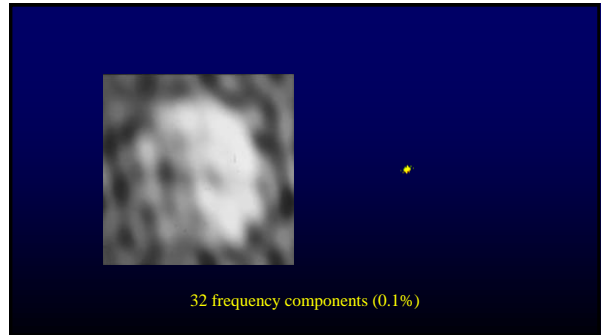
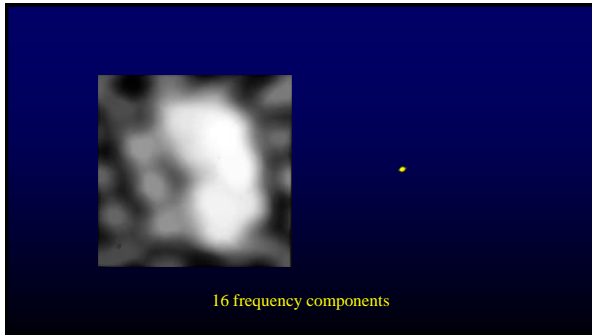
vertical blur yields 'sinusoidal grating'



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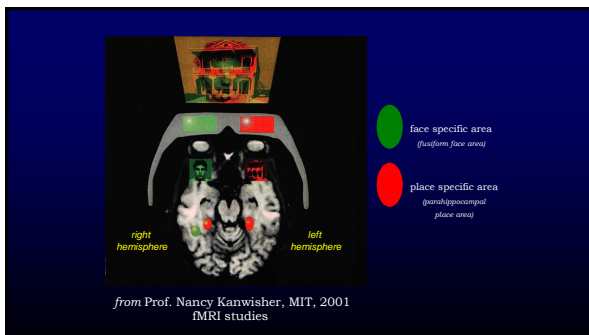
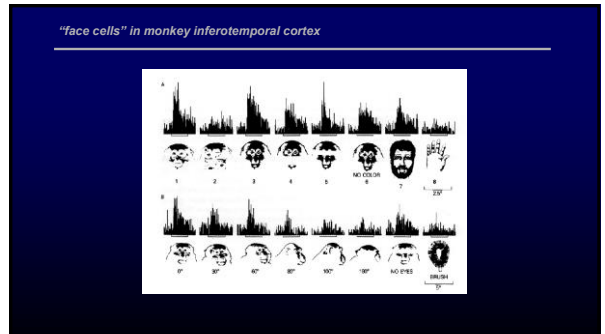
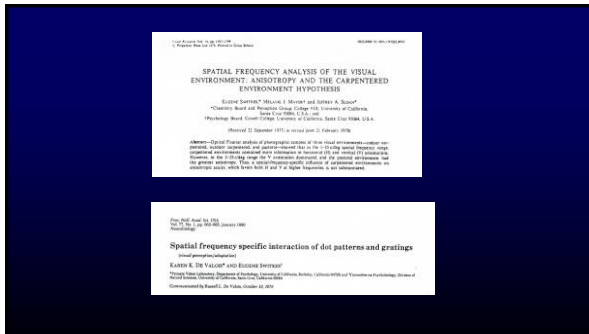
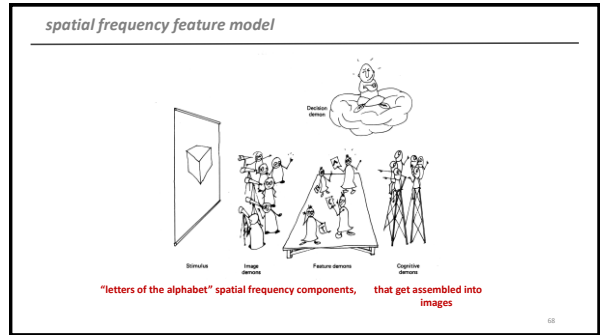
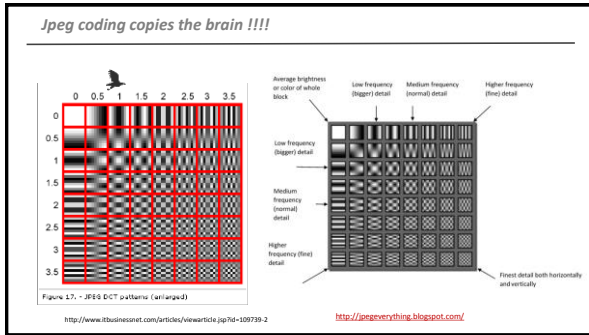


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neural excitation by external stimulus: intracranial electrical stimulation

intracranial electrical stimulation: direct electrical stimulation of brain in awake subjects either with temporary or implanted electrodes (in consenting patients often those with epilepsy) in order to:

- map brain areas to guide surgical procedures
- to monitor brain function in patients
- to explore cognitive responses

<http://gollyah.bwh.harvard.edu/intracranialEEG.html>

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• *neural excitation by external stimulus: intracranial electrical stimulation*

Electrical Stimulation of the Left and Right Human Fusiform Gyrus Causes Different Effects in Conscious Face Perception

Vishva Ranganath^{1,2}, Dora Demekas^{1,2}, Brett L. Foster^{1,2}, Kevin S. O'Keefe^{1,2}, Corwin Jacques^{1,2,3}, Kazuo Gill-Spector^{1,2,3}, and Josef Parvizi^{1,2,3}

Subject 1 (R)

- "Like you weren't you. You were a different person. I noticed the eyes. I was able to see almost your whole body on your right side."

Subject 2 (R)

- "You turned into someone else. Your face metamorphosed... your nose got saggy and went to the left."

Bilateral face-selective ECoG responses in the fusiform gyrus. **a**, Face-selective HFB responses in the FG were measured bilaterally

<http://www.jneurosci.org/content/34/38/12628.full>

Stanford Medicine | Parvizi Lab | Knowledge & Therapeutic Services
<http://med.stanford.edu/parvizi-lab/projects.html>

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VISION SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

presented by

Hossein Esteky, MD, PhD,
Head, School of Cognitive Sciences
Professor of Neural Sciences, Shaheed Beheshti School of Medicine
Director, IPM School of Cognitive Sciences
Tehran, Iran

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A

monkey IT

body face natural obj. artificial obj.

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anatomy of visual pathways

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- ✓ c. superior colliculus
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- ✓ e. visual cortex (V1, V2, V4)
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- ✓ g. medial temporal cortex (MT, V5)
- ✓ h. ventral (temporal cortex)
- ✓ i. dorsal (parietal cortex)
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from outline

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- ✓ c. concentric off-center receptive field
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- ✓ f. orientationally tuned neuron
- ✓ g. simple cell
- ✓ h. complex cell
- ✓ i. "grandmother" cell
- ✓ j. spatial frequency detector
- ✓ k. what vs where pathways

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summaries

- ✓ 4. In the "simple" picture what are the types of information selectively processed by the parvocellular and magnocellular pathways?
- ✓ 5. What types of information are processed by the ventral (temporal) and dorsal (parietal) cortical streams?
- ✓ 6. Compare the "classical feature" and "spatial frequency" models of visual image processing.

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what's left ?

3. What does the Craik-O'Brien-Cornsweet illusion imply about information processing by the visual system?
7. How is psychophysical adaptation used to show feature selectivity in the Blakemore-Sutton demonstration (class report) and the McCulloch effect?
8. What is blindsight and which visual pathway may be implicated?

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what's left ?

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8. What is blindsight and which visual pathway may be implicated?

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I'll leave the rest to YOU !!

	Pattern Specific Adaptation	January 24th
	The Phenomenon of Blindsight	February 2nd
	Craik-O'Brien-Cornsweet Illusion	February 2nd

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Class Demonstration of the Blakemore-Sutton Adaptation Phenomenon

By: Wesley Wu

Experiment

(a)

(b)

(a)

(b)

Experiment

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Adaptation

- The eye's ability to adjust to different light conditions.
 - Can be used to judge shapes (as in this case)
- So why does this happen?
 - Your eyes adapted to the image.
- High/Low Spatial Frequency Resolutions
 - Sensitivity

Another Test

Another Test

Implications

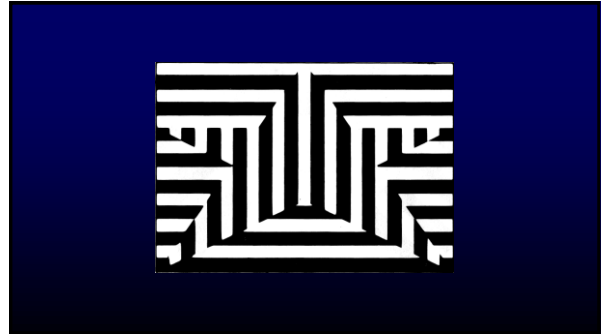
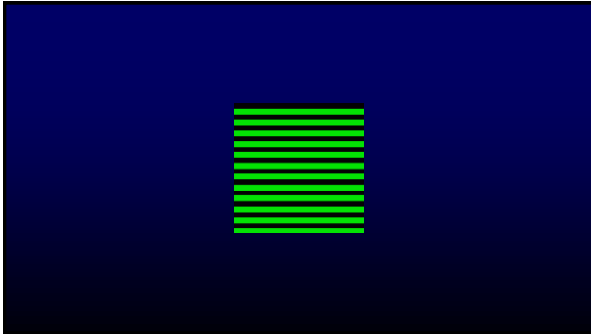
- So?
 - The identical gratings on the right/left appear different after adapting because the adapted channels in the upper retinal field are not the same as the adapted channels in the lower retinal field. (Mathieu Le Corre, 2000)
- Multi-resolution theory
 - Our eyes can process 6 channels
 - Different portions of our eyes can be attuned to different frequencies.

Adapted from Blakemore & Sutton, 1968

Blakemore-Sutton Spatial Frequency Adaptation

McCullough Adaptation to Specific Orientation (colors)

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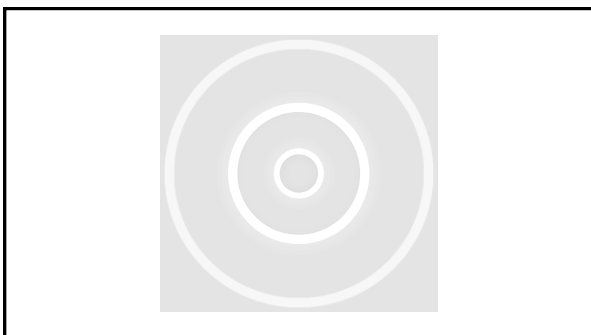
Craik-O'Brien-Cornsweet Illusion

3. What does the Craik-O'Brien-Cornsweet illusion imply about information processing by the visual system?

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Craik-O'Brien-Cornsweet Illusion

A circular diagram illustrating the Craik-O'Brien-Cornsweet illusion. It consists of a large outer circle and a smaller inner circle, both with a white outline. The area between the two circles is filled with a light gray color. The gray is slightly darker in the center and lighter towards the edges, creating a gradient effect.

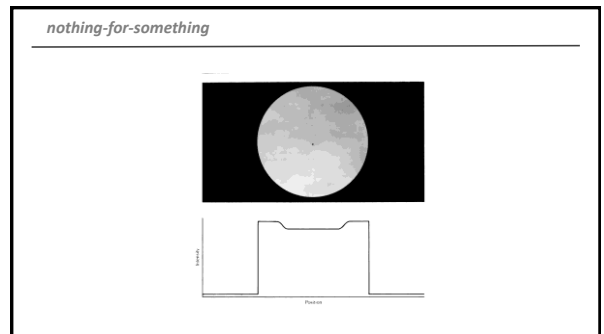
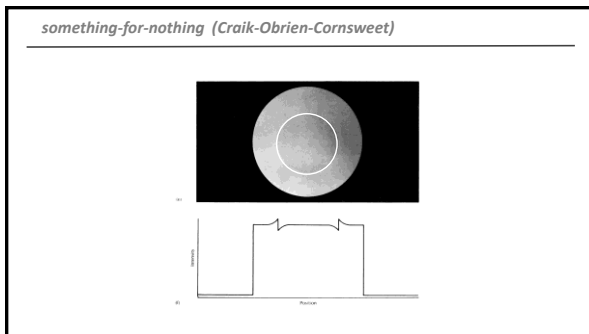
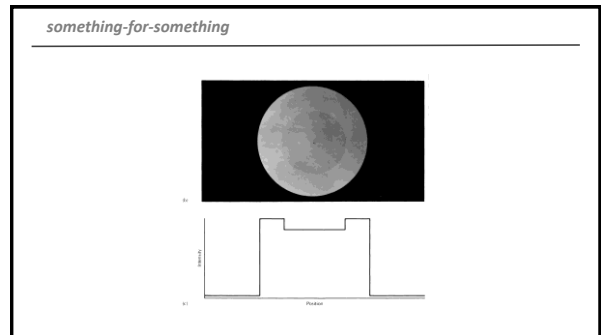
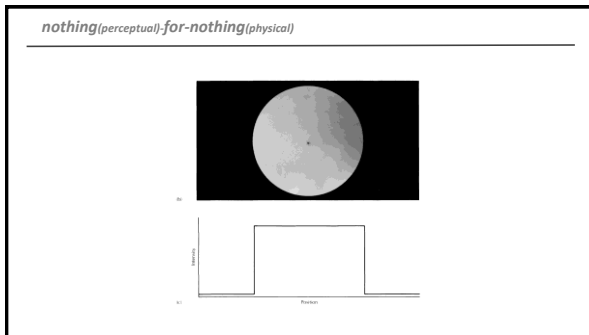


Four illustrations of Physical vs Perceptual Contrast Profiles

(from Visual Perception, by T. Cornsweet, 1970, Academic Press)

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explanation

When two opposite gradients are set side-by-side, it makes the region next to the light gradient appear lighter, and the region next to the dark gradient appear darker. This appears to be perceived based on statistics, rather than reality. The visual system processes images based on prior experience, and our perception mirrors this. If the majority of similar visual gradients seen in the real world have a perceivable difference in brightness, the brain will correct what it sees to fit the pre-established model.

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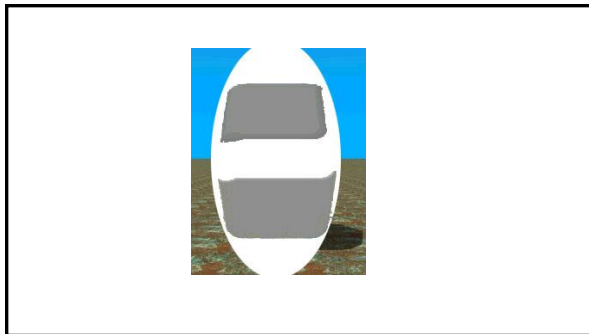
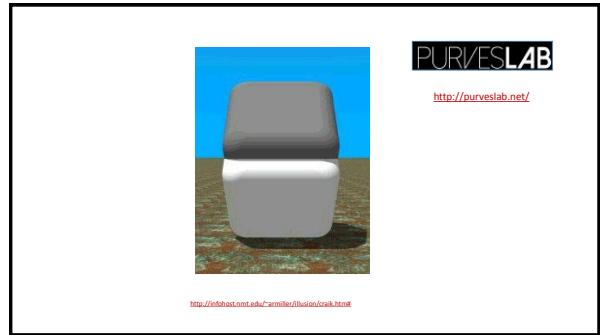
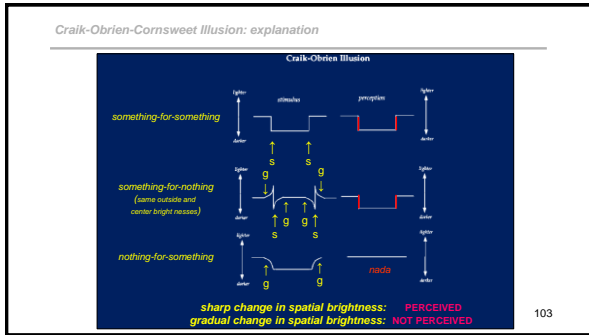
explanation

The visual system will not detect gradual changes in spatial luminance, but emphasizes contrast i.e. rapid changes in luminance at "edges".

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- ### Primary Visual Pathways Involved in Conscious Sight
- The **retina** sends signals to the **primary visual cortex (V1)** via the lateral geniculate nucleus in the midbrain and ultimately to higher areas for conscious processing.
 - Nerves also send visual information to areas such as the **pulvinar nucleus** and **superior colliculus** in the midbrain.
 - These areas do not produce any conscious vision, but may play roles in blindsight.

So...what is "blindsight"?

- The ability to respond to visual information despite having no conscious knowledge of seeing anything

Woah.

Patient TN: An Extreme Instance of Blindsight

- In 2003, TN suffered from two successive strokes, causing him to lose use of his **primary visual cortex** in both his left and right hemispheres
 - The **primary visual cortex** is responsible for processing the visual information that forms our conscious sight
- TN navigated an obstacle course without using his cane despite being completely blind.
 - Most dramatic recorded instance of blindsight
 - <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/blindsight-seeing-without-knowing-it/>

Explanation?

- Research has not yet fully determined the neural structures responsible for blindsight in the cortically blind, but the most likely candidate to play a central role is a brain region called the **superior colliculus** (SC), which sits in the midbrain.
- Some other structures which might be involved include the **pulvinar nucleus** and the **amygdala**

Blindsight Research in Animals

- In 1967 Lawrence Weiskrantz and his collaborators conducted several studies using monkeys with removed visual cortex
 - established that animals retain significant visual abilities, such as detecting movement and discriminating shapes, even without a functioning visual cortex



Monkey Stripe Experiment



Depth Perception and Navigation



Figure 5. She runs for a curtain in the arena.

Early Blindsight Research in Humans

- Lawrence Weiskrantz and his co-workers also began studies in 1973 with a person known as DB, who had lost part of his visual cortex in surgery to remove a tumor, causing him become blind in his left visual field.
 - Could discriminate vertical lines from horizontal and between X and O symbols.
 - Performed well in guessing/pointing tasks
 - Large shapes, as well as very fine detail, seem hard to detect

Blindsight and Emotion



- In 1999, a study on emotional blindsight was conducted on a patient, GY, who had lost all of his primary visual cortex on the left side, rendering him blind on the right side of his visual field.
 - he could reliably guess the **expression appearing on faces**, but was unable to distinguish a variety of nonemotional facial attributes such as personal identity and gender
 - Other patients have also been studied using images of emotional body language, guessing the displayed emotion correctly most of the time

Recognizing Emotions

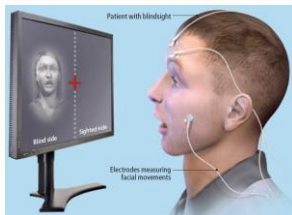


- Cortically blind patients guess the emotion expressed by a face or faceless body position

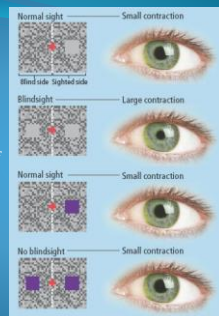


Facial Electromyography

- Electrodes on a subject's face record nerve signals going to muscles involved in smiling or frowning in response to visual emotional stimulus

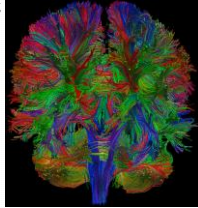


Researchers showed patients gray and purple squares, knowing the *superior colliculus* region in the midbrain receives no signals from the retina about purple objects. Gray squares but not purple ones triggered signs of blindsight such as greater pupil contractions. These results, along with neuroimaging of the patients in action, suggest that the superior colliculus plays a critical role in blindsight



Diffusion Tensor Imaging

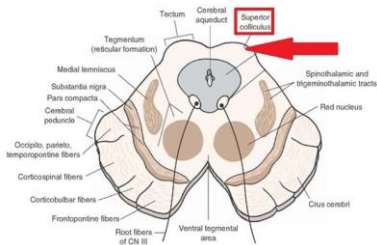
- A magnetic resonance imaging which relies on water diffusing more rapidly along neurons than across them.
- DTI has mapped bundles of neurons that may be responsible for blindsight of emotions.
 - This pathway connects the **pulvinar nucleus** and **superior colliculus** to the **amygdala**.



The Neural Pathways

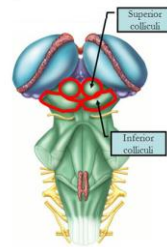
Superior Colliculus
Pulvinar Nucleus
Amygdala

Superior Colliculus (Located in Midbrain)



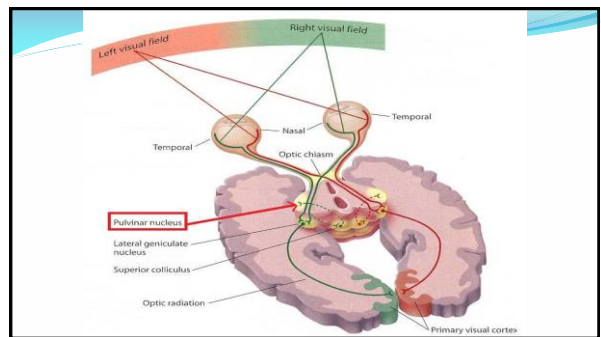
Superior Colliculus (Posterior View)

- **Corpora quadrigemina**
 - superior colliculi
 - inferior colliculi
- coordinate eye movements with visual stimuli
- coordinate head movements with auditory stimuli



Superior Colliculus Functioning

- Receives visual inputs from the **retina** and the **visual cortex**
- Involved in visual reflexes, such as directing **eye movements** toward a visual, auditory, or tactile signal.
- Types of eye motion initiated by SC include:
 - Fast movements
 - tracking of moving objects
 - fixing on motionless objects
- Plays a role in integrating sensory information into motor signals that help orient the head toward various stimuli



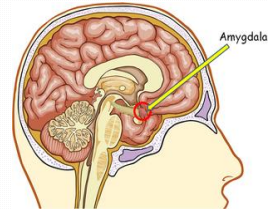
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Pulvinar Nucleus: Also Involved in Blindsight?

- The functions of this structure remain mysterious, but some researchers have suggested that it is involved in:
 - eye movements and saccadic suppression (which allow us to perceive still images when our eyes are rapidly moving)
 - regulating cortico-cortical communication between visual cortical areas
 - visual salience (the ability to perceive contrasting objects) and attention.

Amygdala



Amygdala

- An almond shaped mass of nuclei (mass of cells) located deep within the temporal lobe of the brain.
- Involved in processing emotions and motivations, particularly those that are related to survival, such as fear and anxiety.
- Could be involved in emotional blindsight

Conclusion

- What has been learned about the phenomenon of blindsight so far suggests that several structures of the (human) brain are capable of processing some visual stimuli and prompting motor reactions as such without the conscious awareness and functioning of the visual cortex.

Websites

- <https://kin.450-neurophysiology.wikispaces.com/Blindsight>
- <http://www.nature.com/scientificamerican/journal/v302/n5/pdf/scientificamerican0510-60.pdf>
- <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=98590831>
- <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/blindsight-seeing-without-knowing-it/>
- <http://kobi.nat.unimagdeburg.de/sites/default/files/handouts/NC2014SS-02%20Blindsight.pdf>

The End





FINIS