

Principled, Goal-Driven Models to Investigate Structure and Function in Neural Circuits

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Last updated: 2023.03.06

From Neurons to Behavior

From Neurons to Behavior

Scene Understanding



From Neurons to Behavior

Scene Understanding

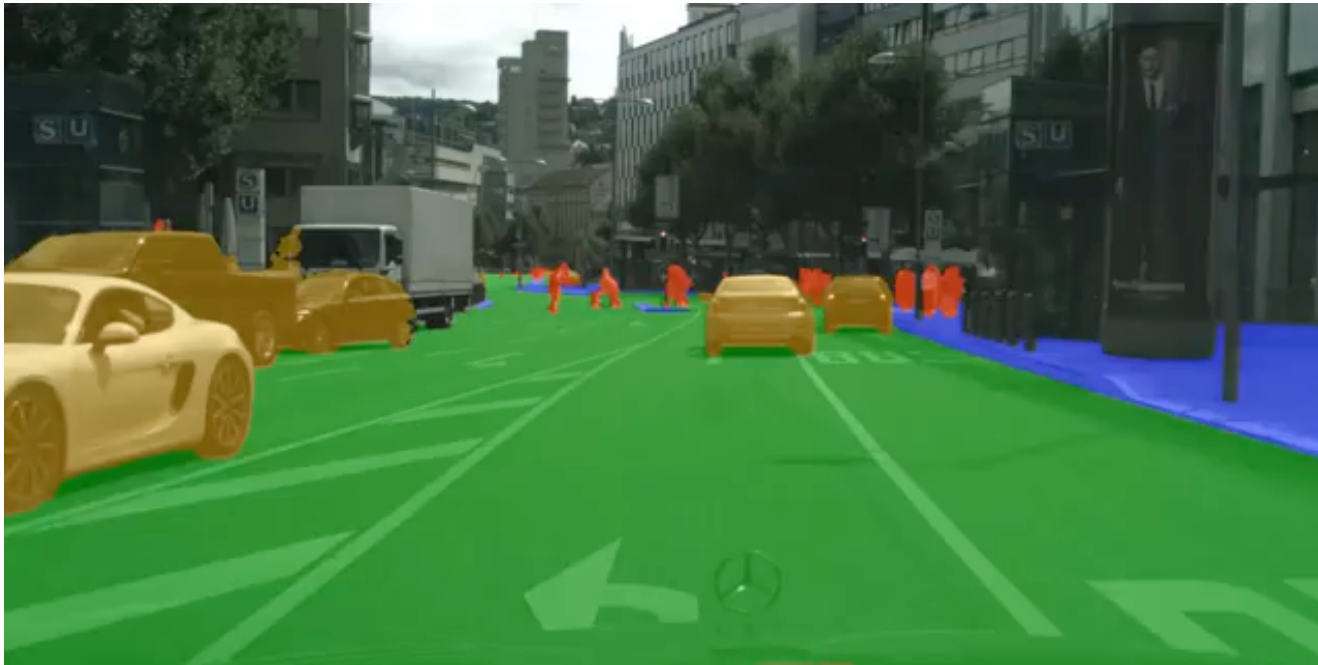


Multi-Step Planning



From Neurons to Behavior

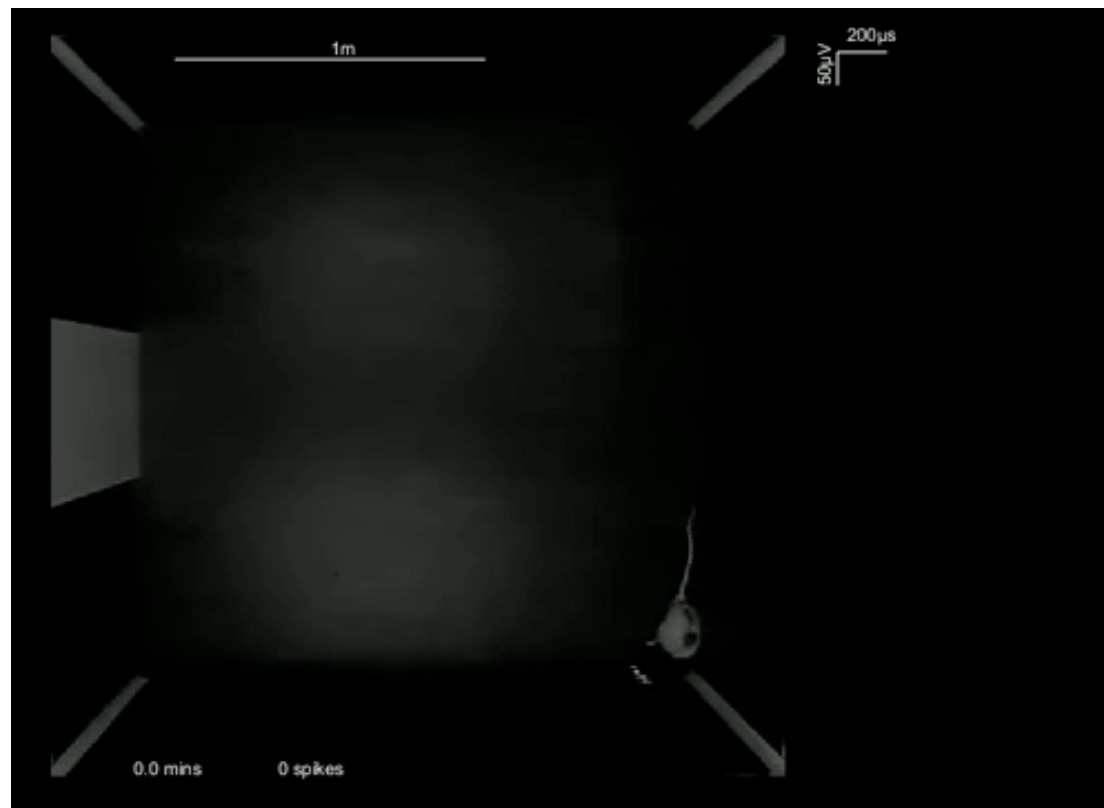
Scene Understanding



Multi-Step Planning



Navigation



From Neurons to Behavior

Scene Understanding



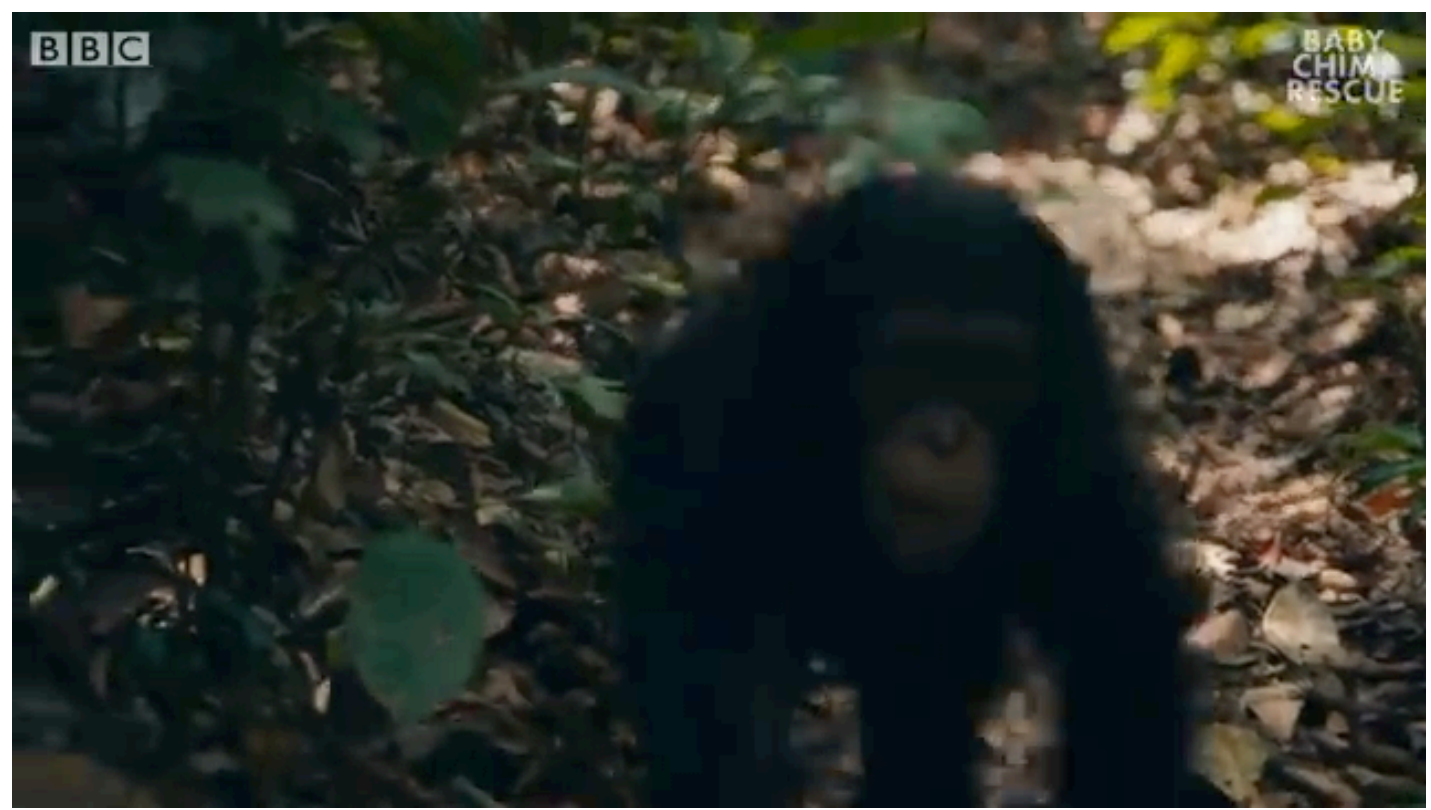
Multi-Step Planning



Navigation



Flexible Embodiment



From Neurons to Behavior

Scene Understanding



Multi-Step Planning

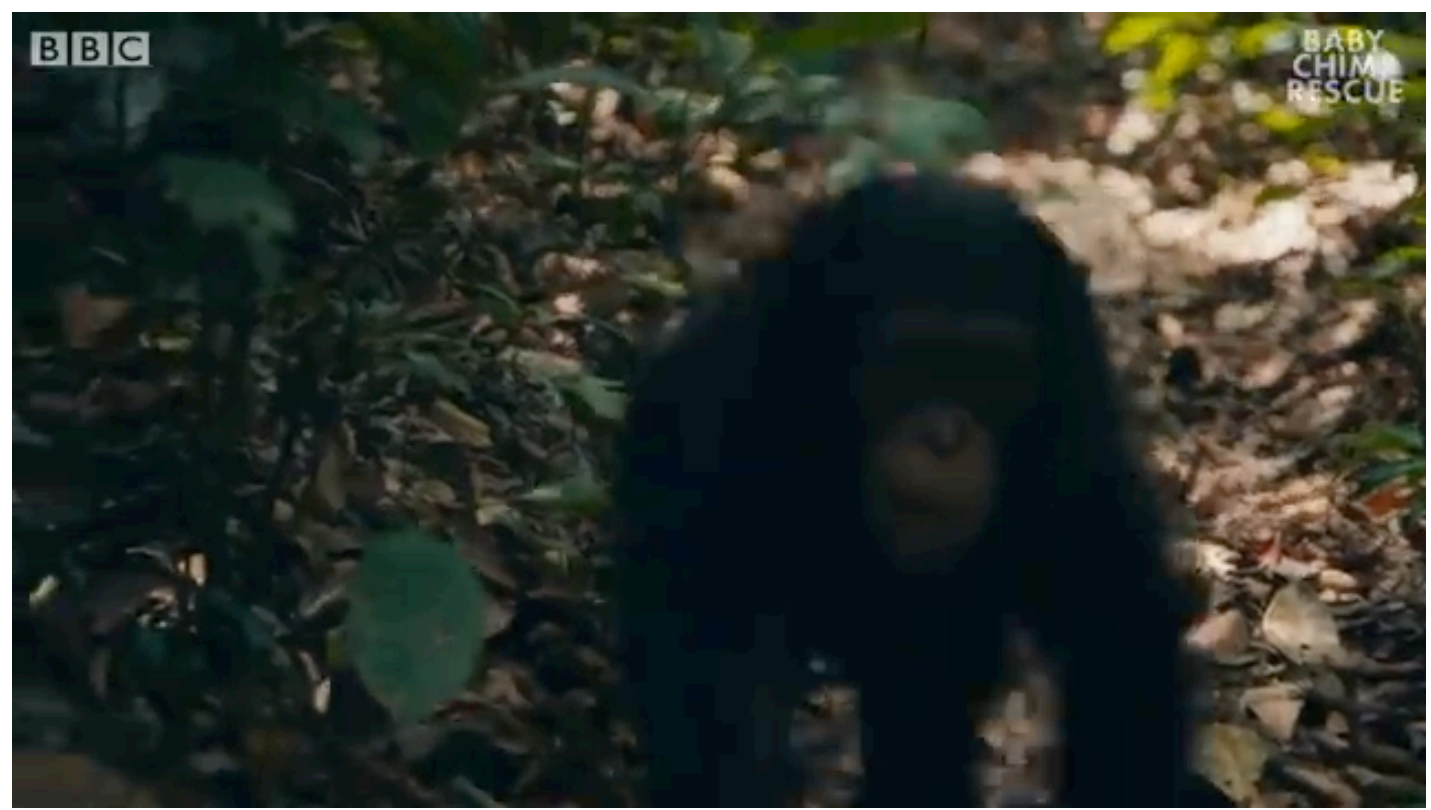


What are the core design principles that give rise to these abilities?

Navigation

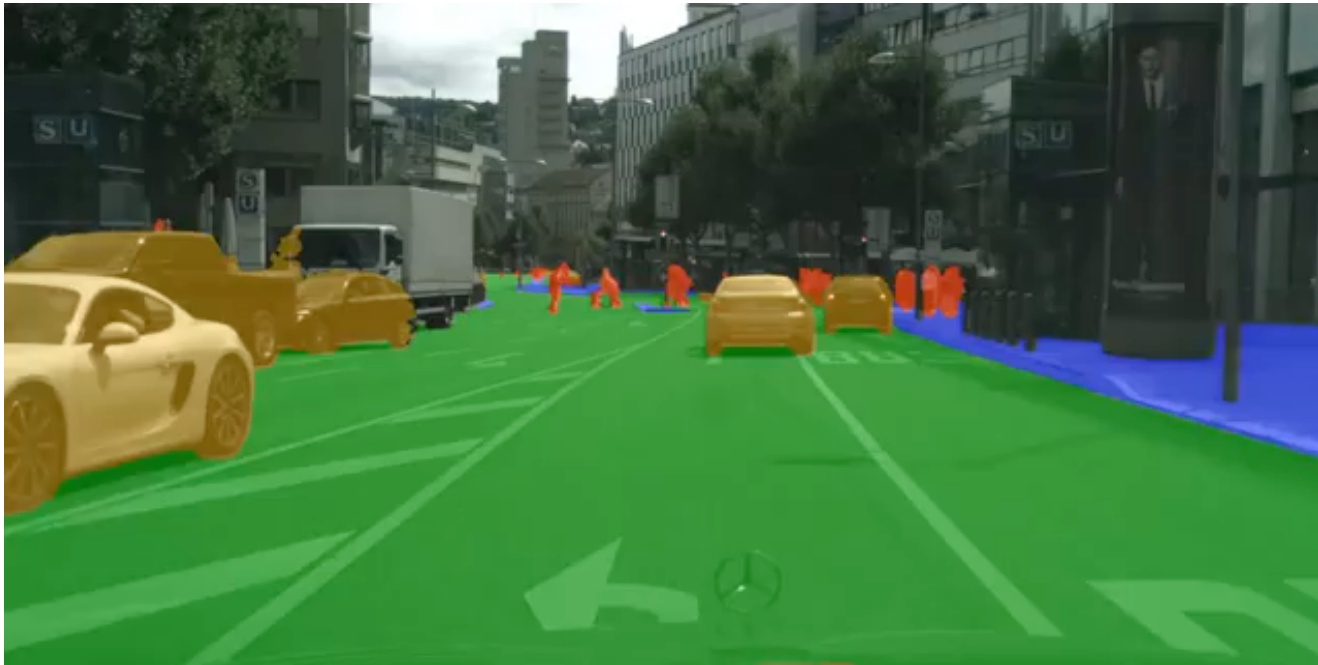


Flexible Embodiment



From Neurons to Behavior

Scene Understanding

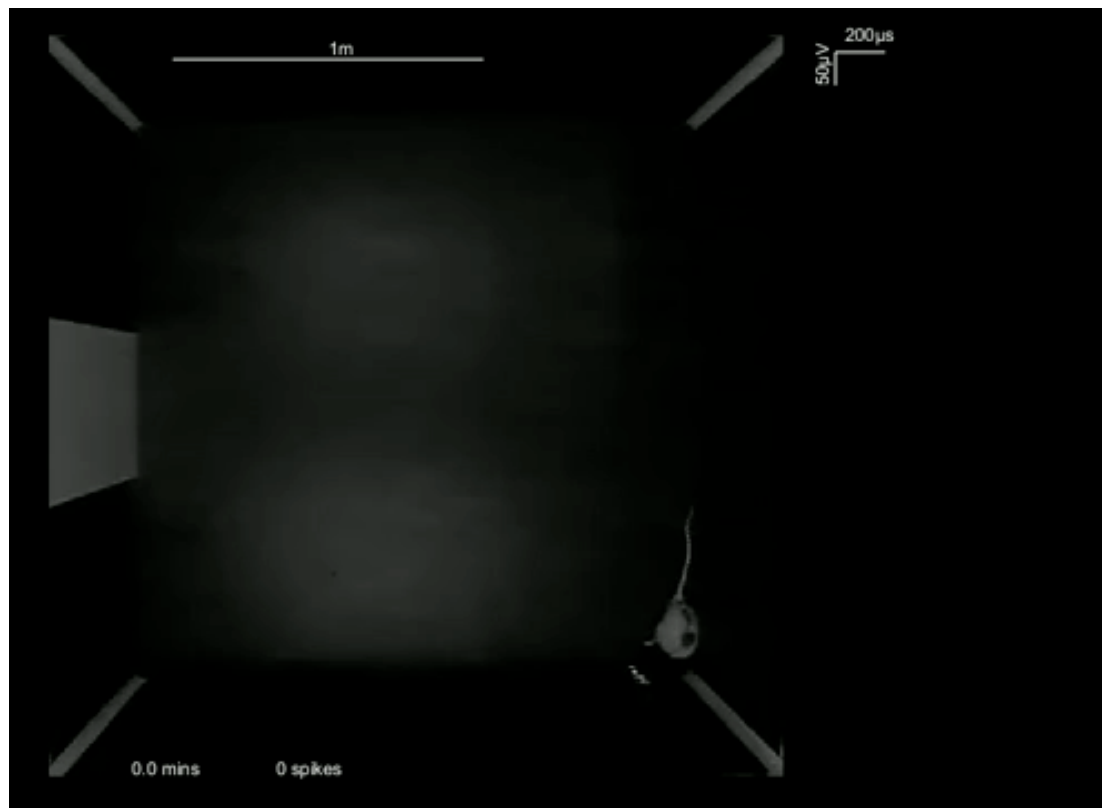


Multi-Step Planning



How do we bridge the gap from neurons to behavior?

Navigation



Flexible Embodiment

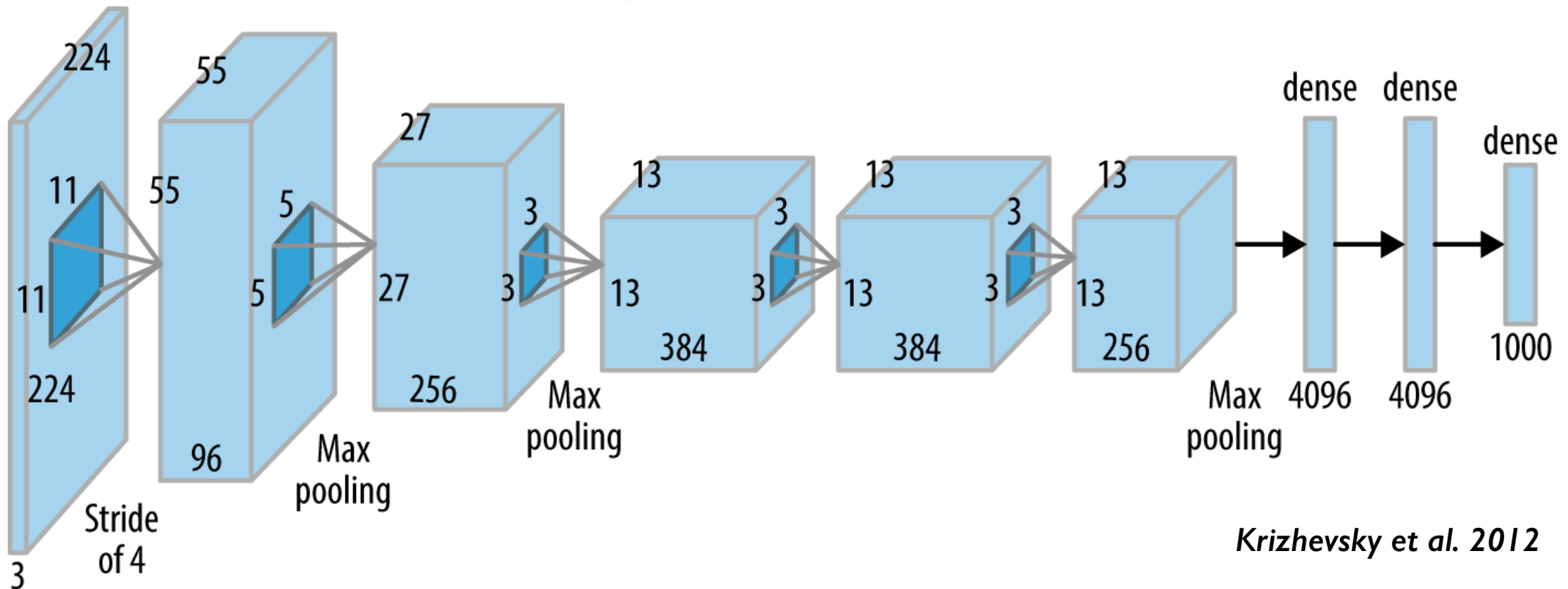
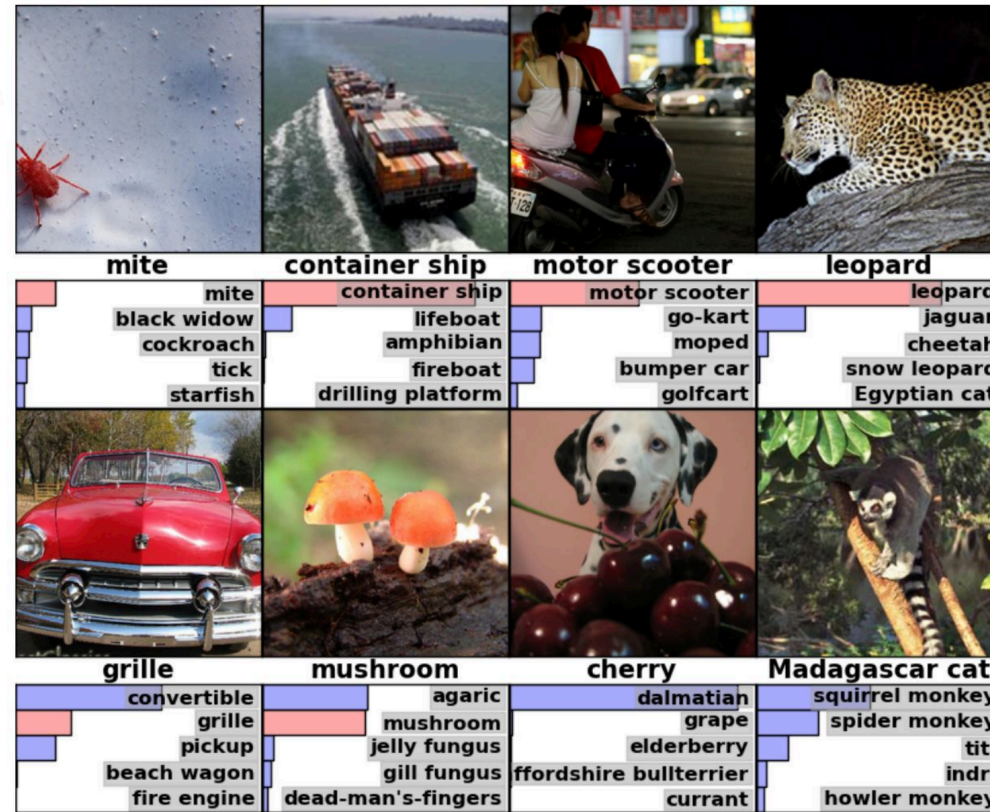


Functional Models: Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)

ImageNet Challenge

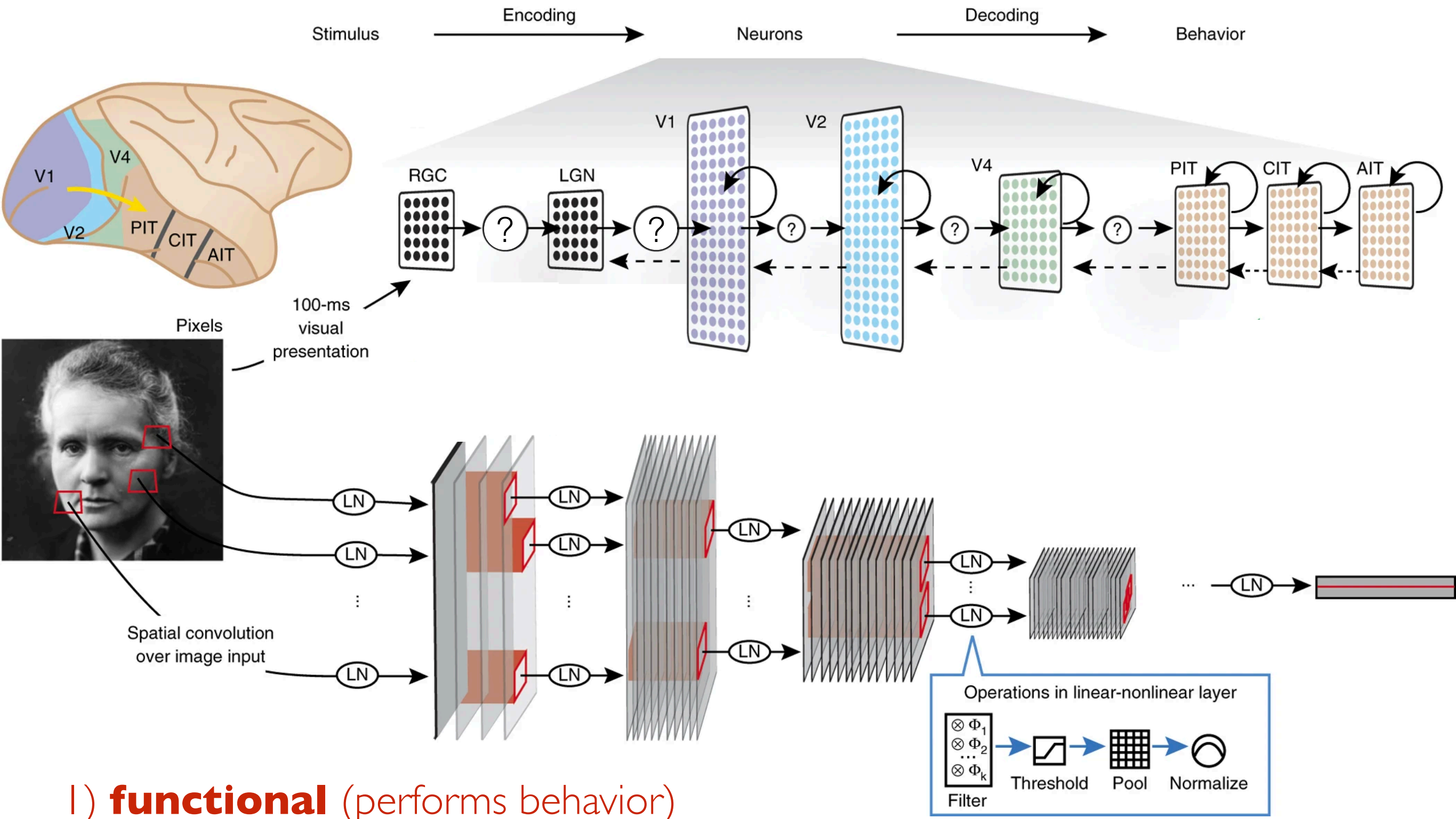
IMAGENET

- 1,000 object classes (categories).
- Images:
 - 1.2 M train
 - 100k test.



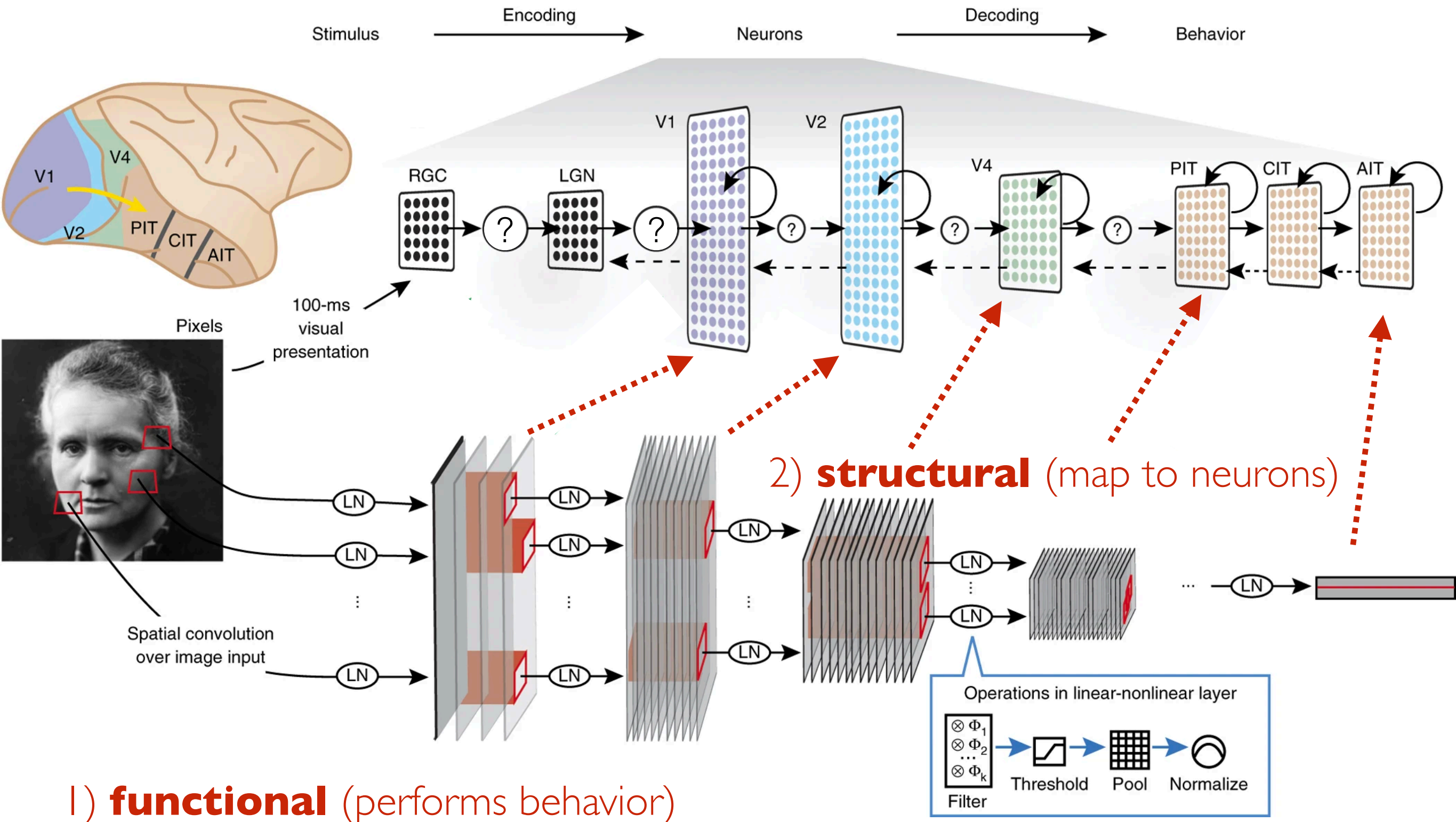
Krizhevsky et al. 2012

CNNs as Functional Models of Object Recognition



1) **functional** (performs behavior)

CNNs as *Structural* Models of Object Recognition



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

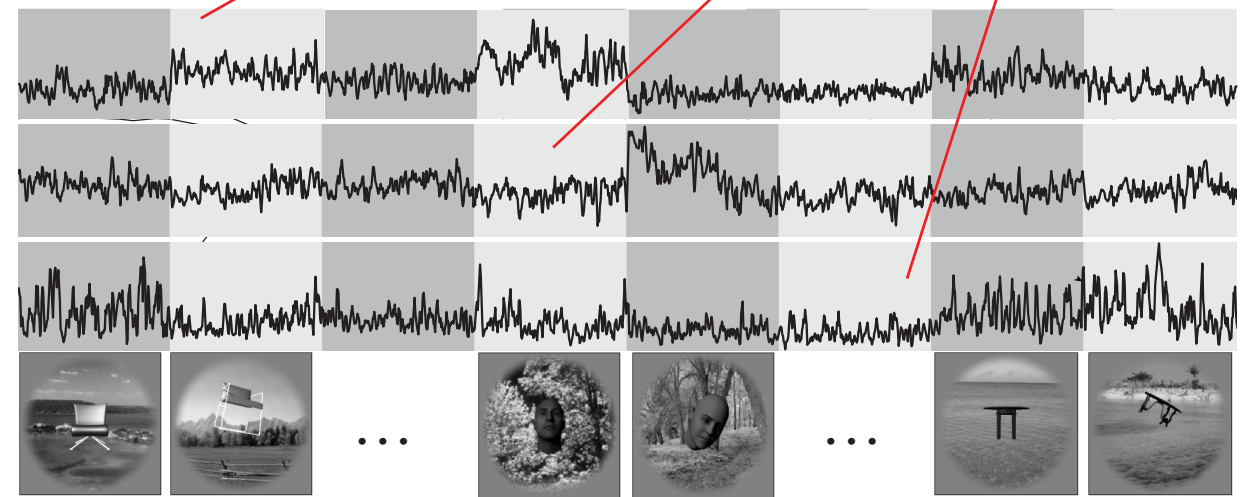
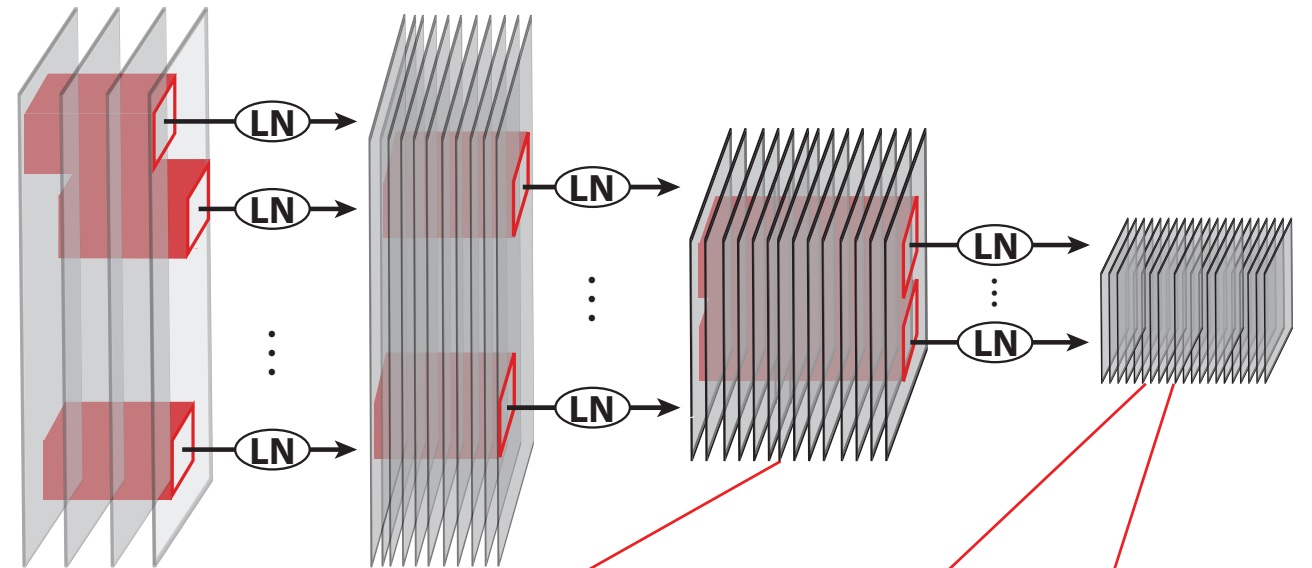
Neural site unit \sim sparse linear combination of model units

Linear regression with fixed training images.

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

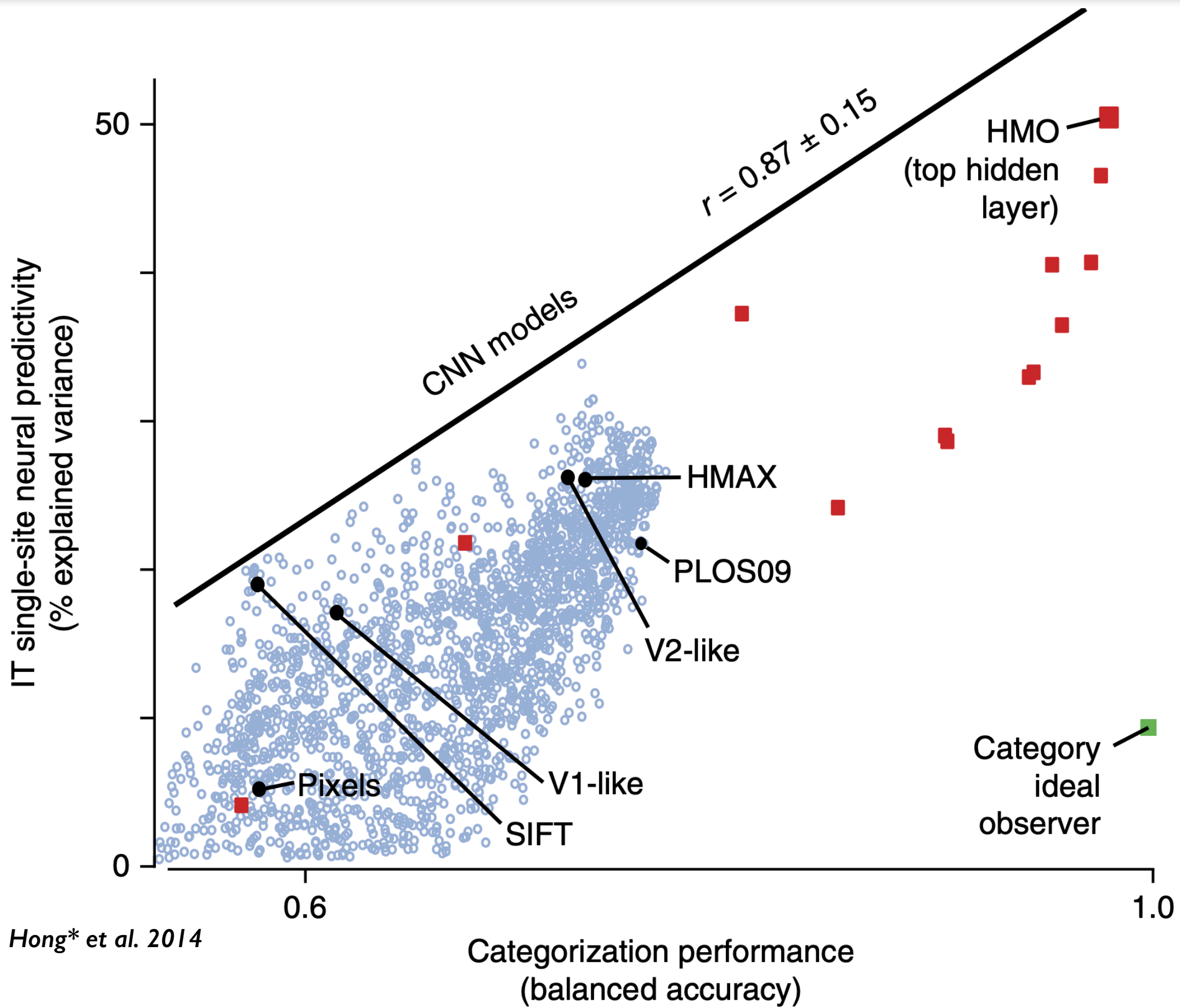
Neural predictivity = median accuracy over all units.

nonlinear parameters fixed by task optimization



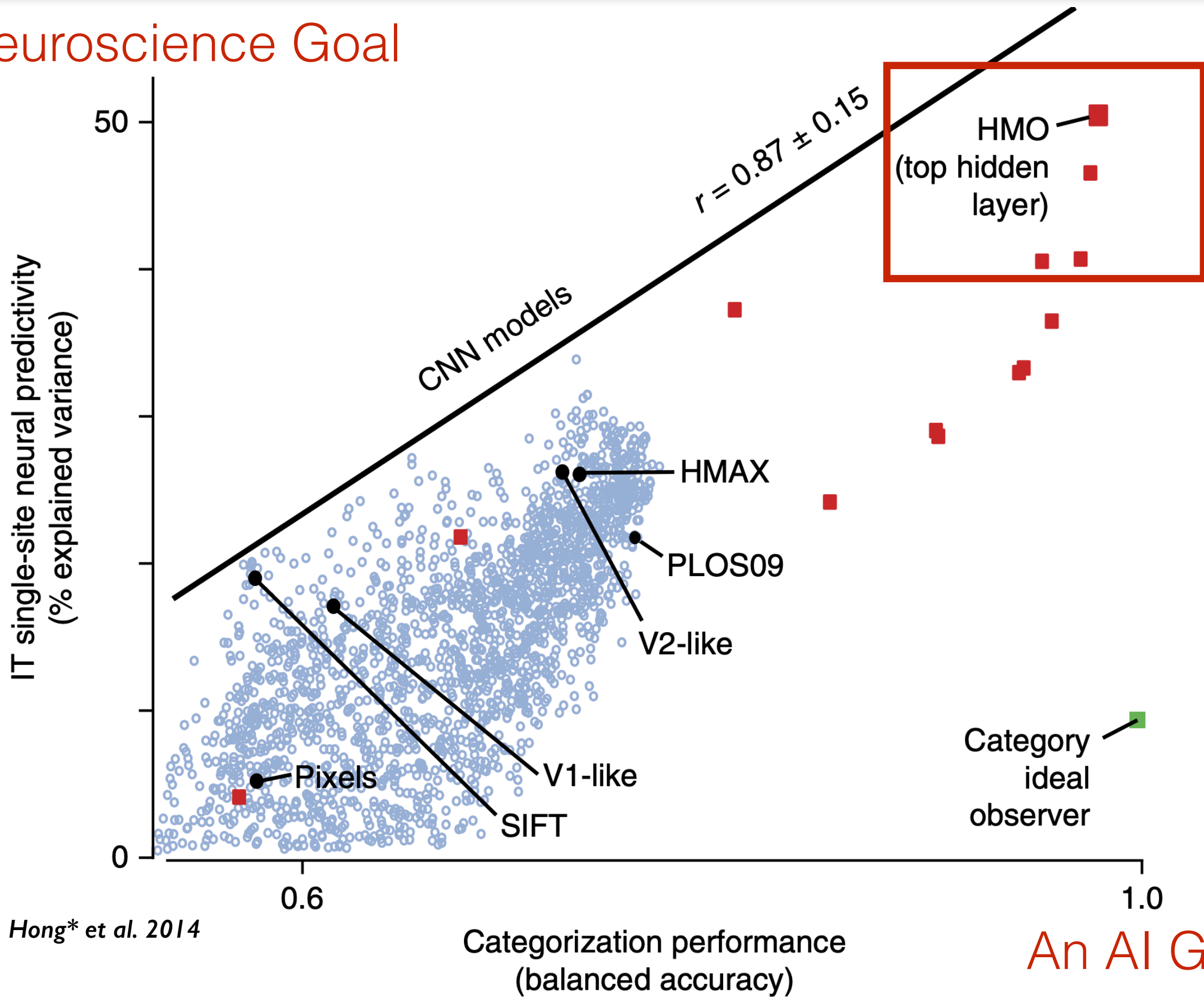
Neural Recordings from IT and V4

Task performance correlated with neural predictivity



Task performance correlated with neural predictivity

A Neuroscience Goal

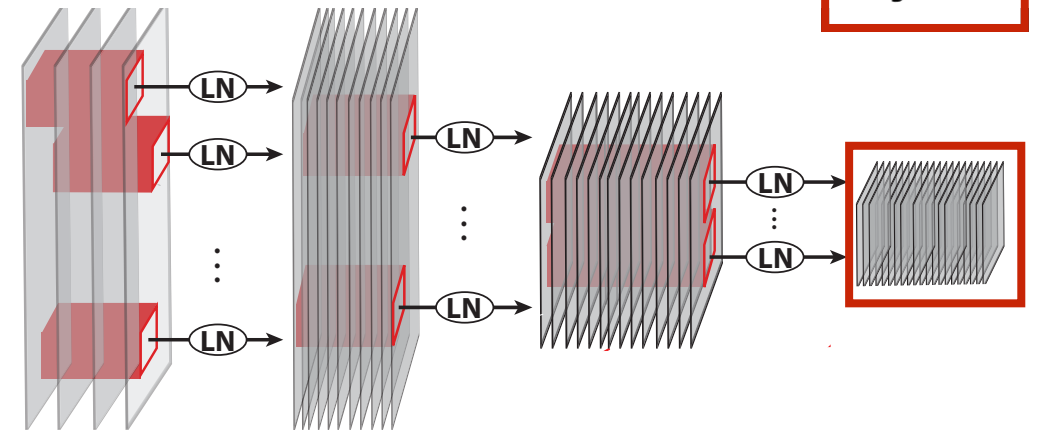
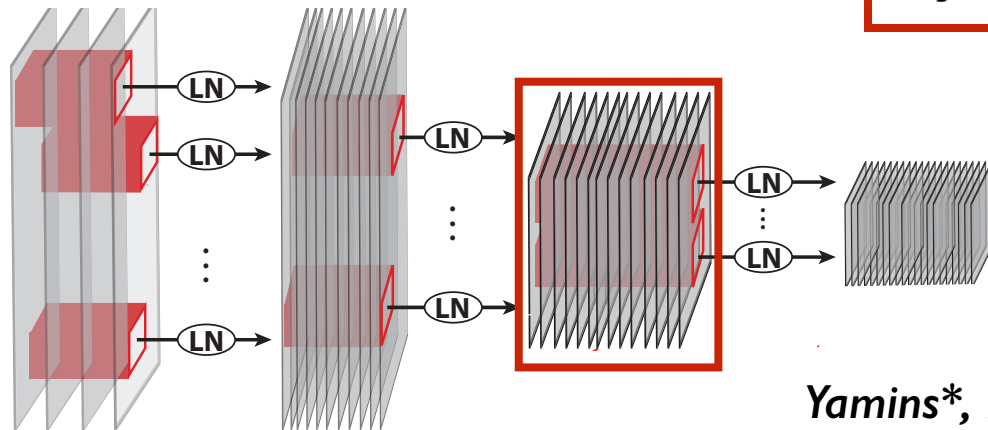
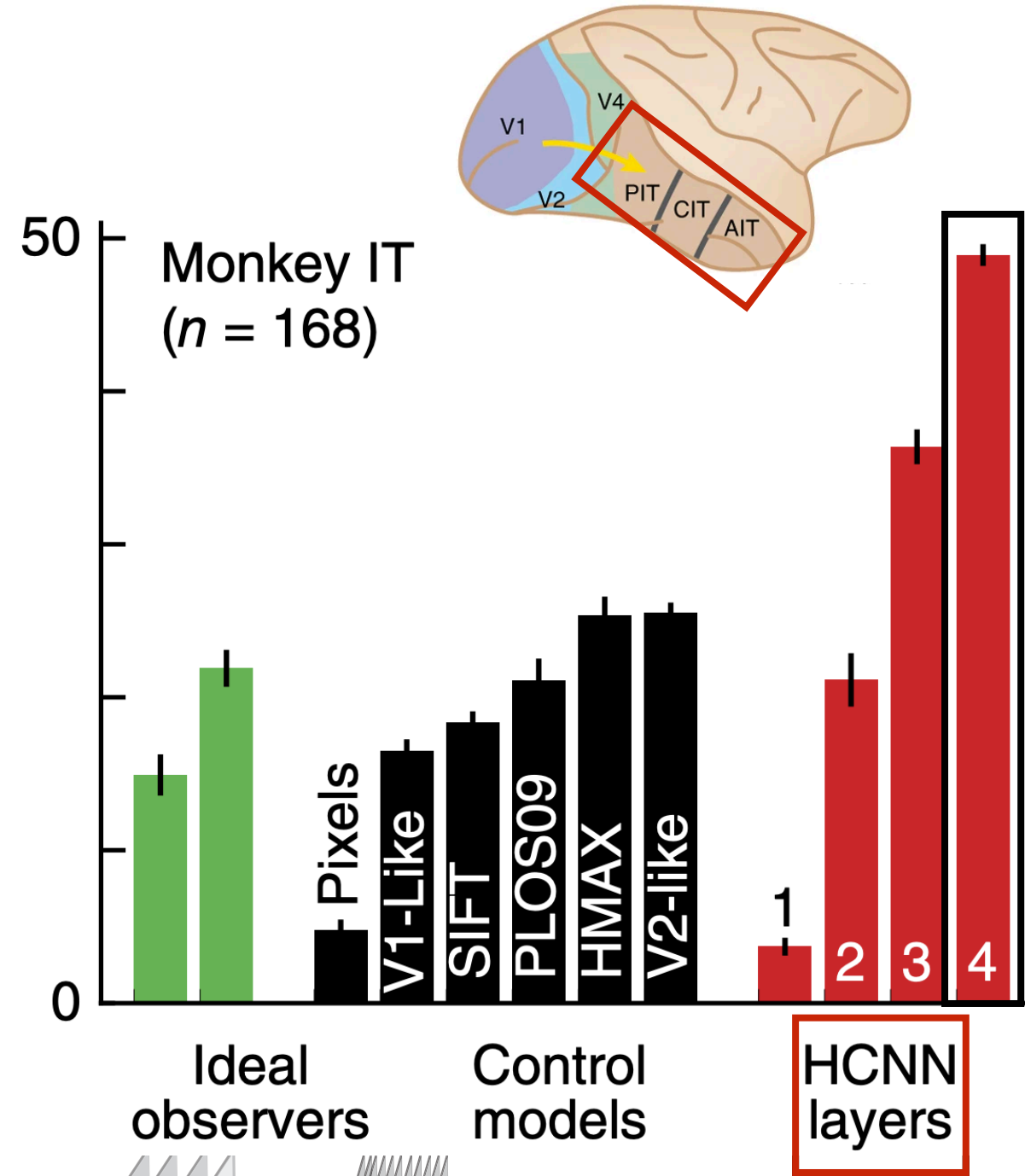
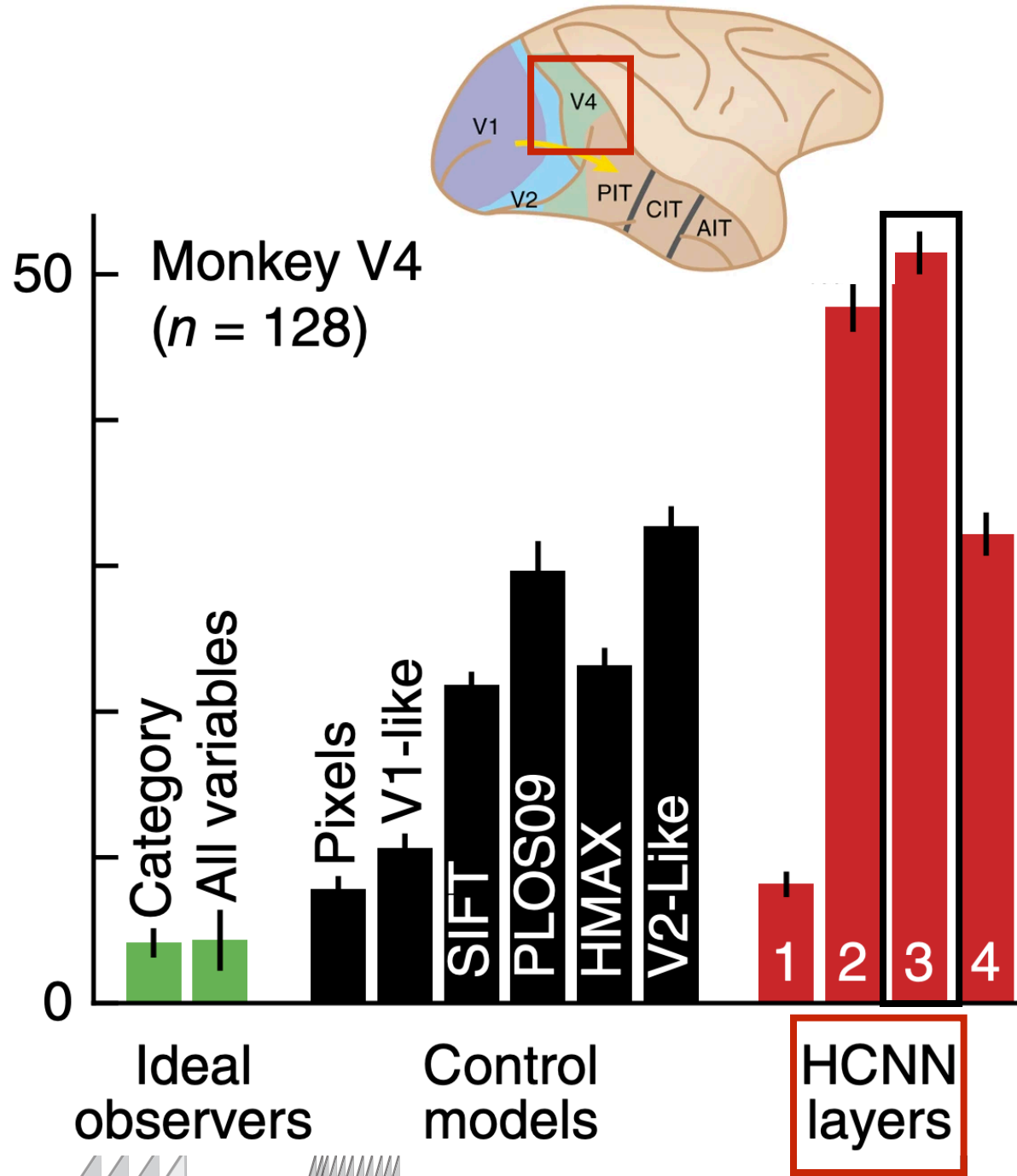


Yamins*, Hong* et al. 2014

An AI Goal

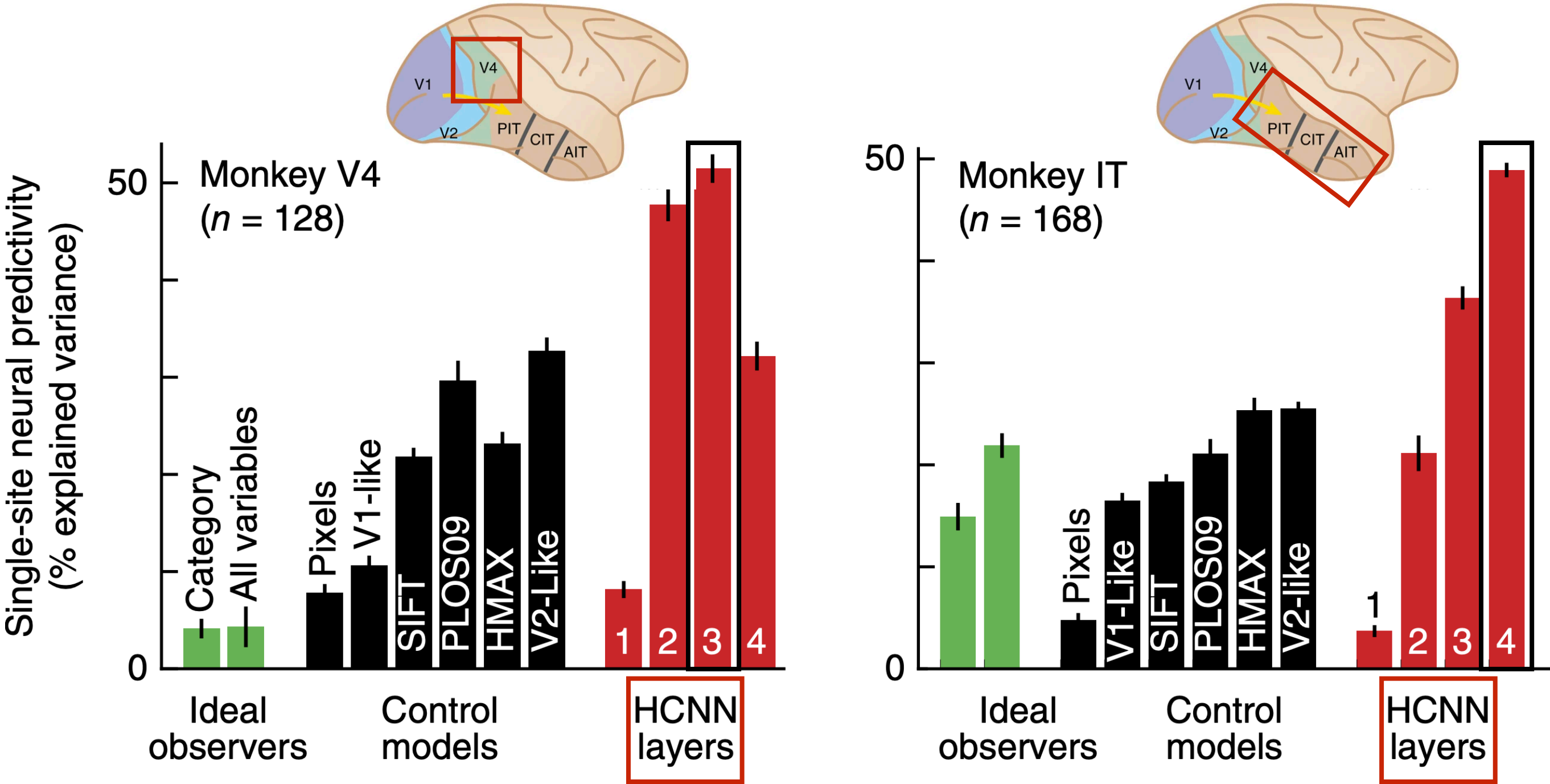
Structural models as a by-product of task optimization

Single-site neural predictivity
(% explained variance)



Yamins*, Hong* et al. 2014

Structural models as a by-product of task optimization



Is this an accident?

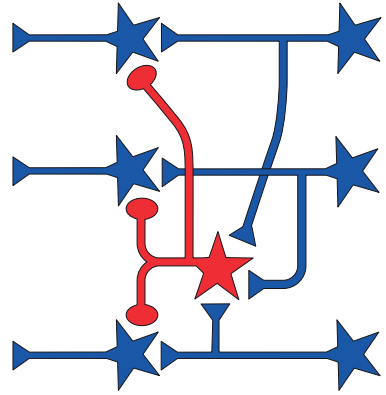
Goal-Driven Modeling - Three Design Principles

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A = *architecture class*

1.

"Circuit"

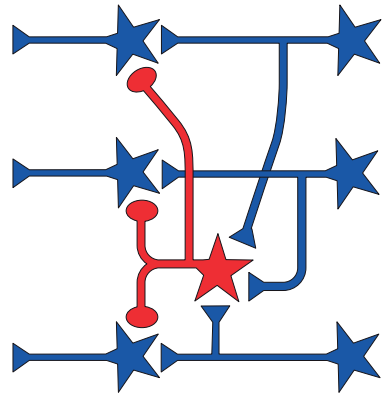


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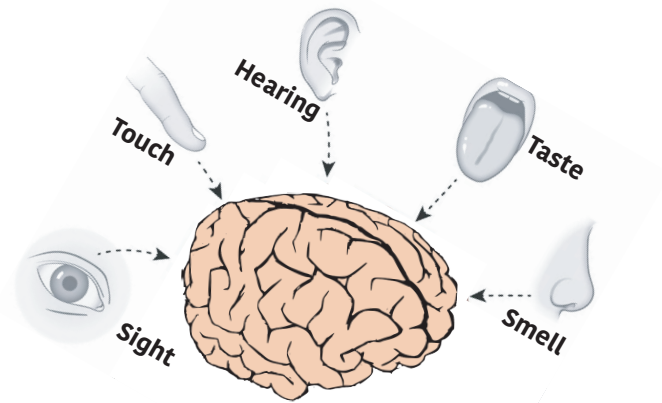
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"Circuit"



2.

"Environment"

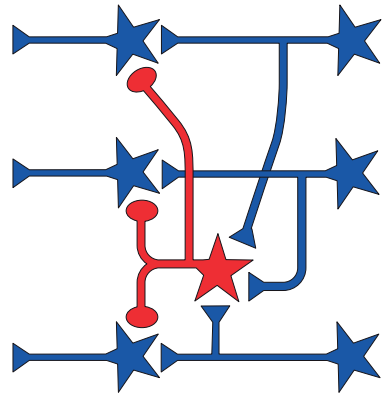


D = *data stream*

Goal-Driven Modeling - Three Design Principles

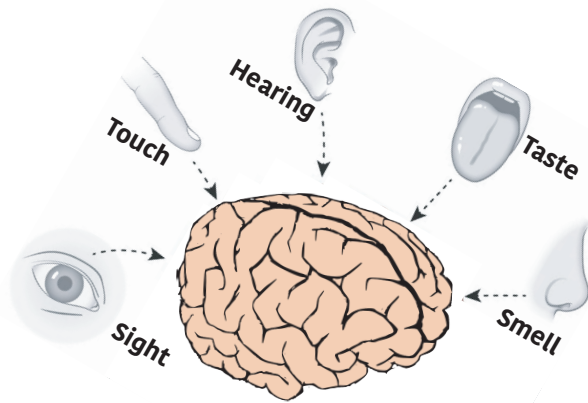
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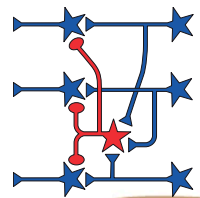
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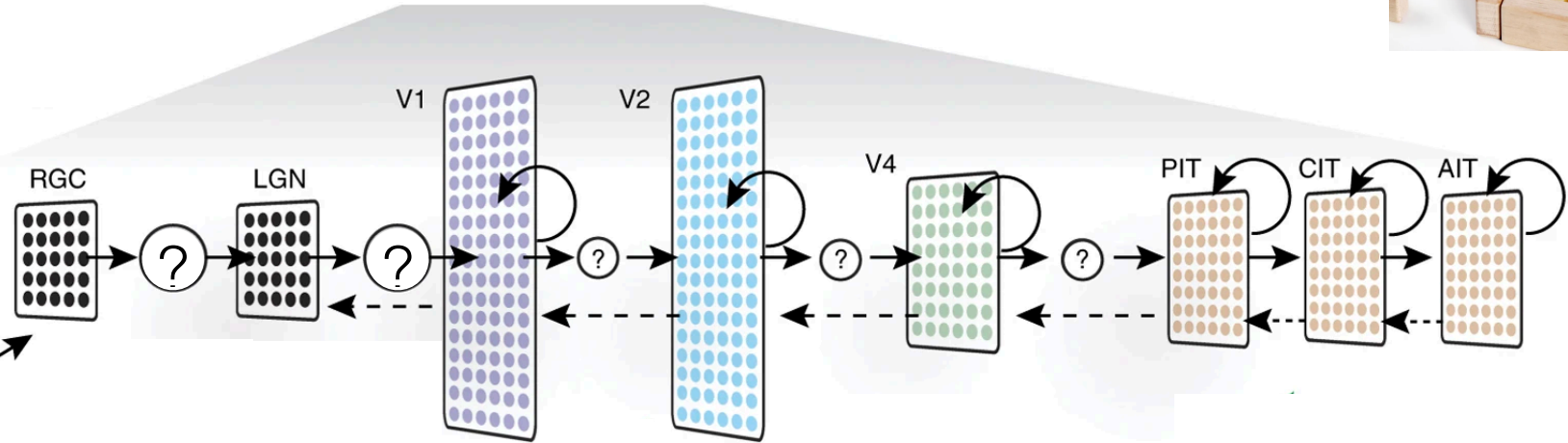
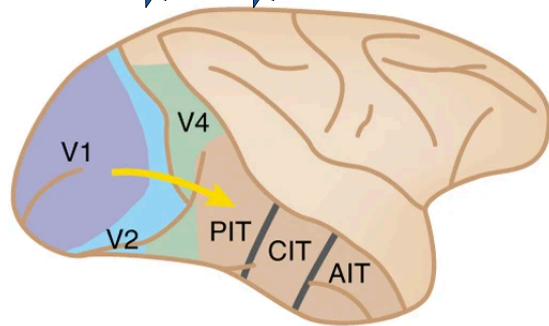
“Circuit”



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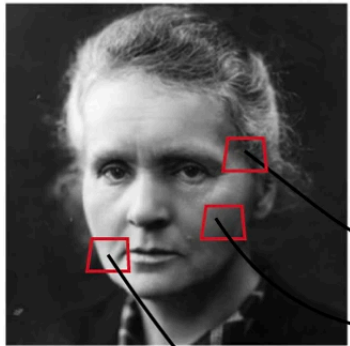


Stimulus → Encoding → Neurons → Decoding → Behavior

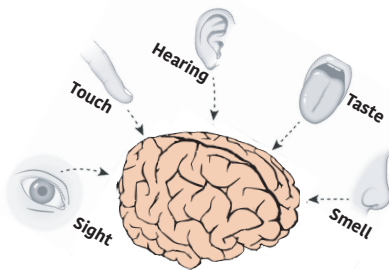


100-ms visual presentation

Pixels



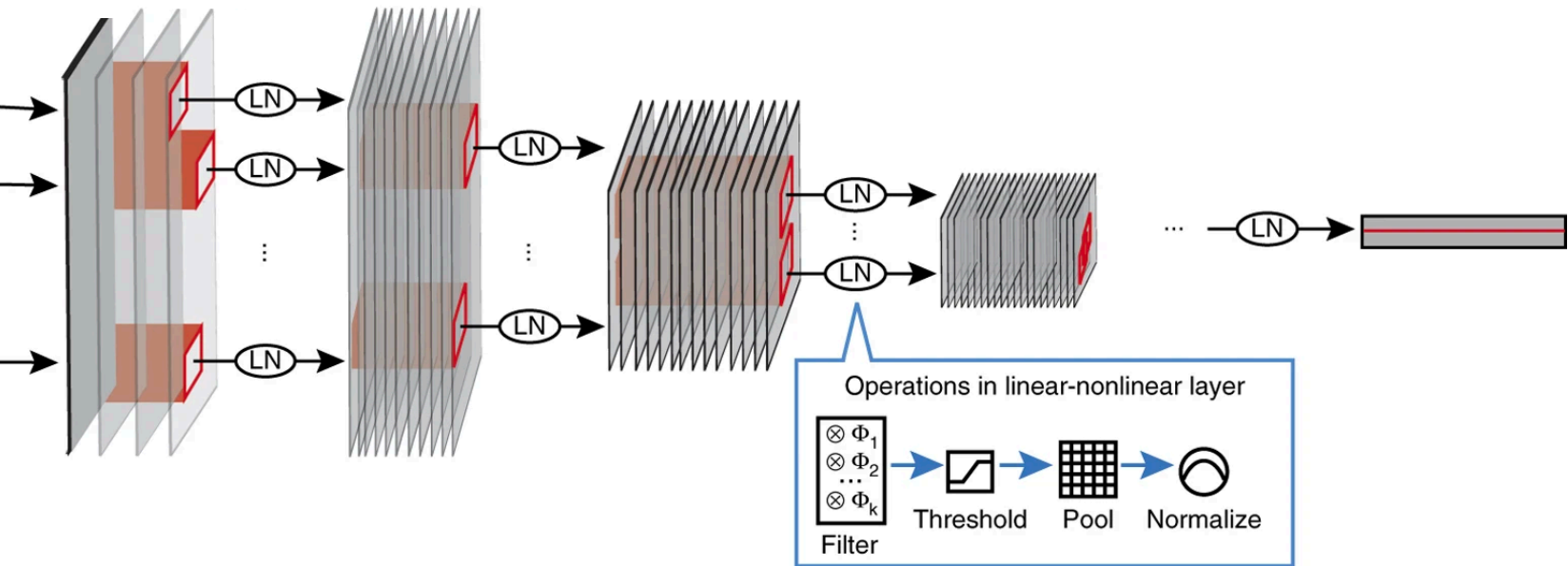
Spatial convolution over image input



2.

“Environment”

D = data stream



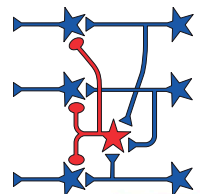
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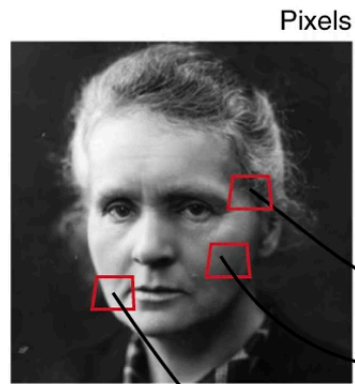
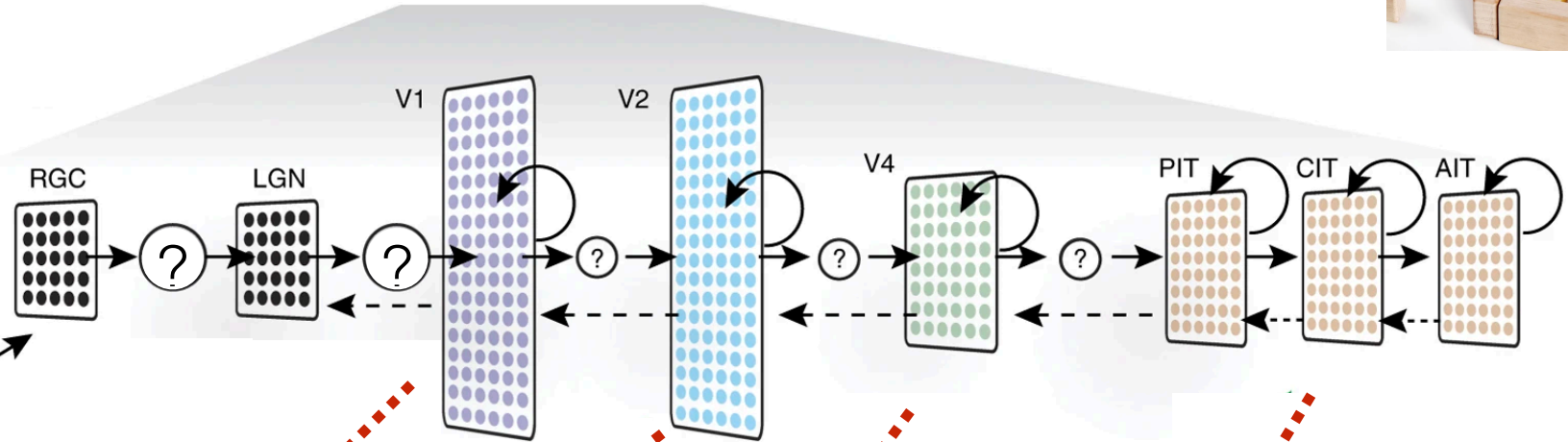
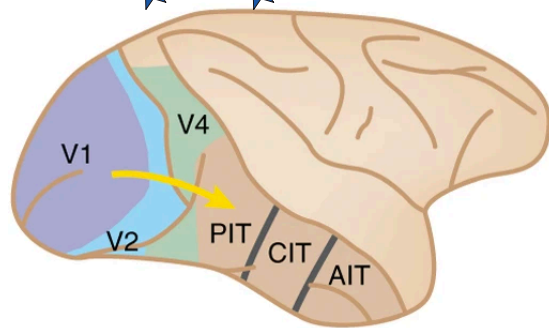
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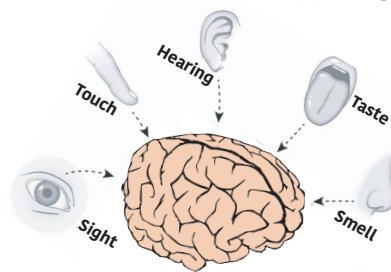
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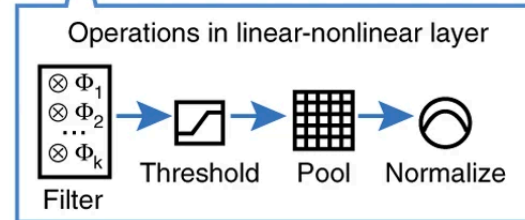
100-ms visual presentation

Spatial convolution over image input



CNNs are inspired by visual neuroscience:

- 1) **hierarchy**
- 2) **retinotopy** (spatially tiled)



2.

“Environment”

D = data stream

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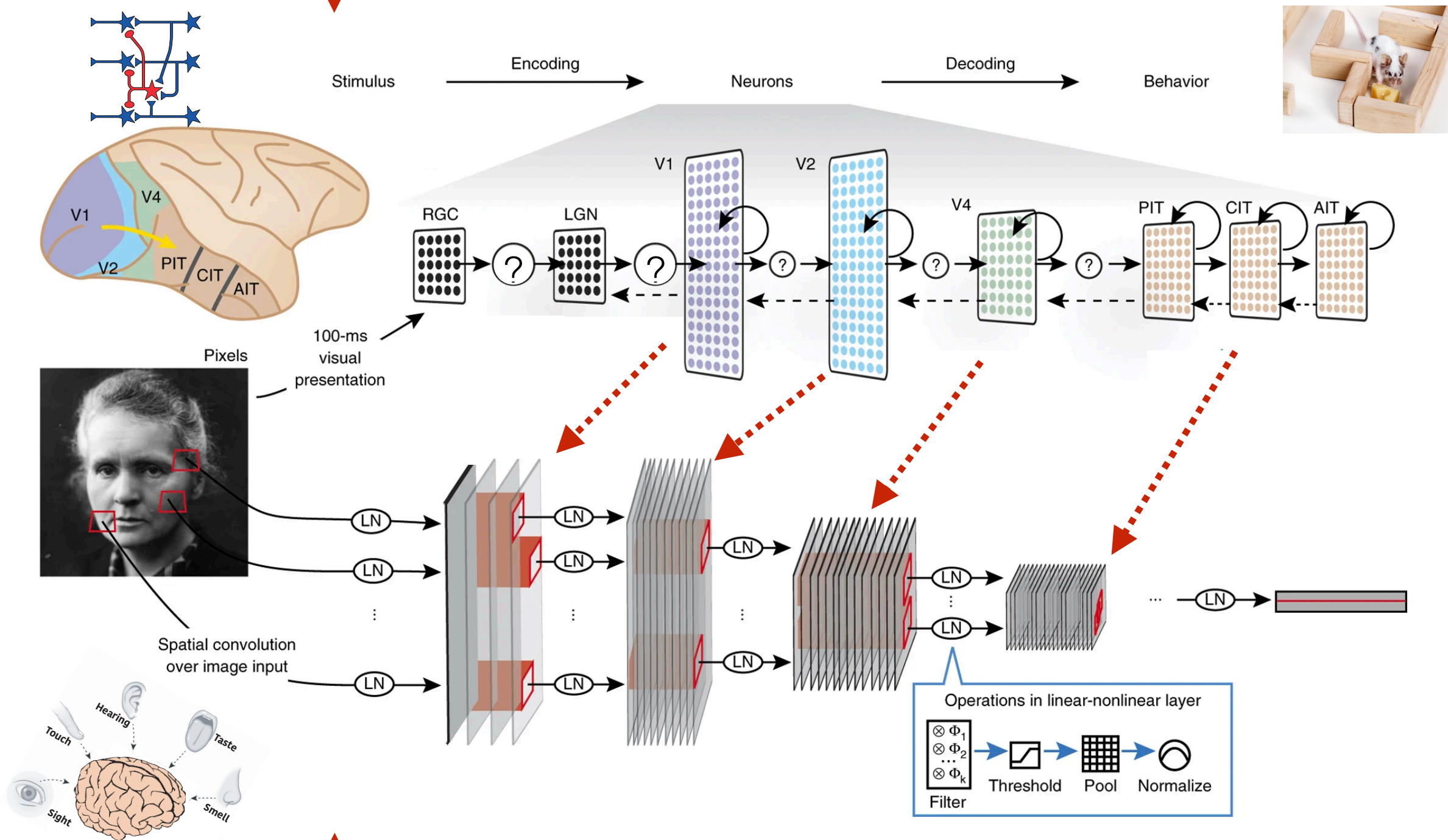
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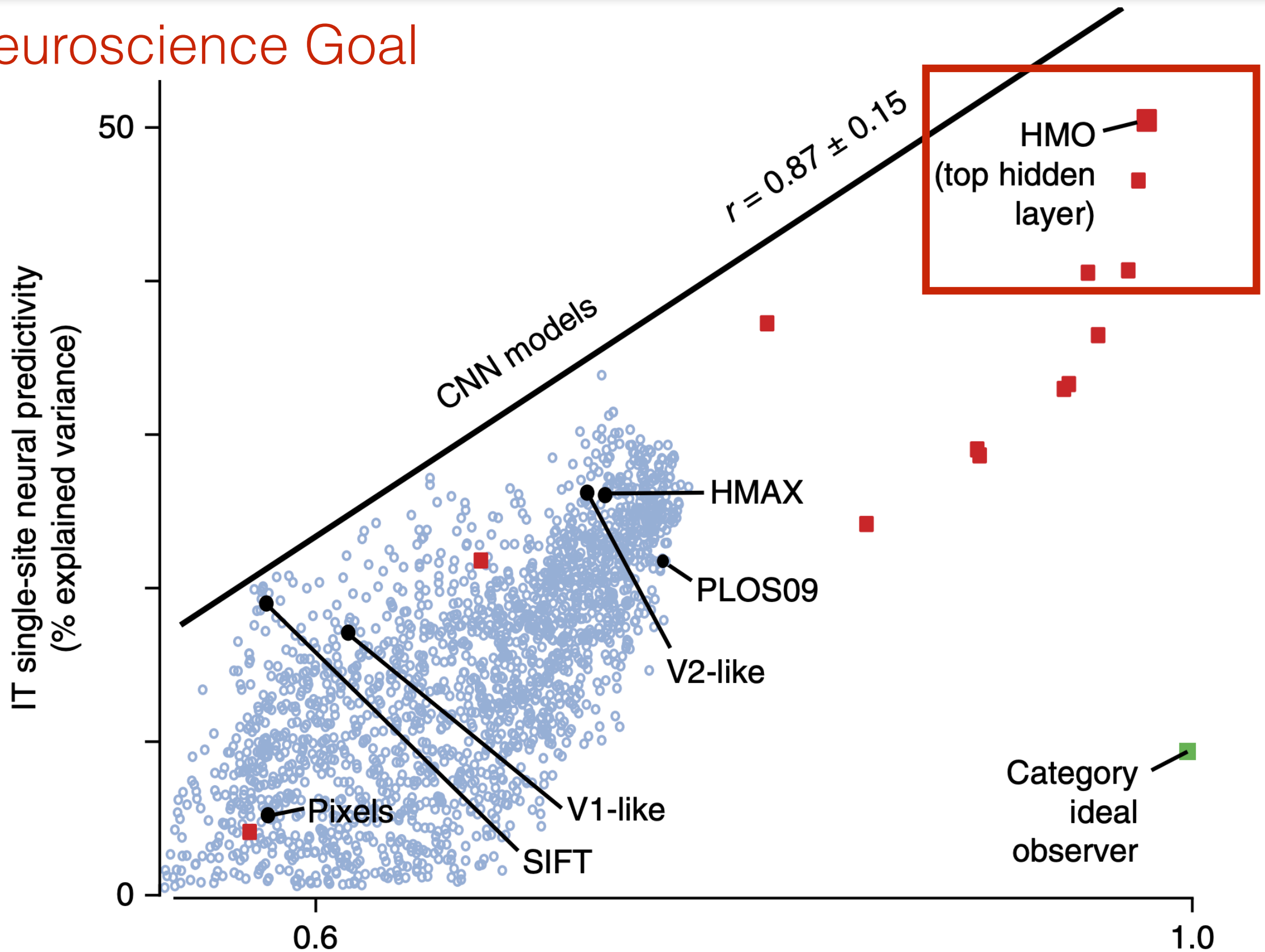
“Environment”

D = data stream

Neuroscience constrains the macroscale **architecture** and **data stream**

Task performance correlated with neural predictivity

A Neuroscience Goal

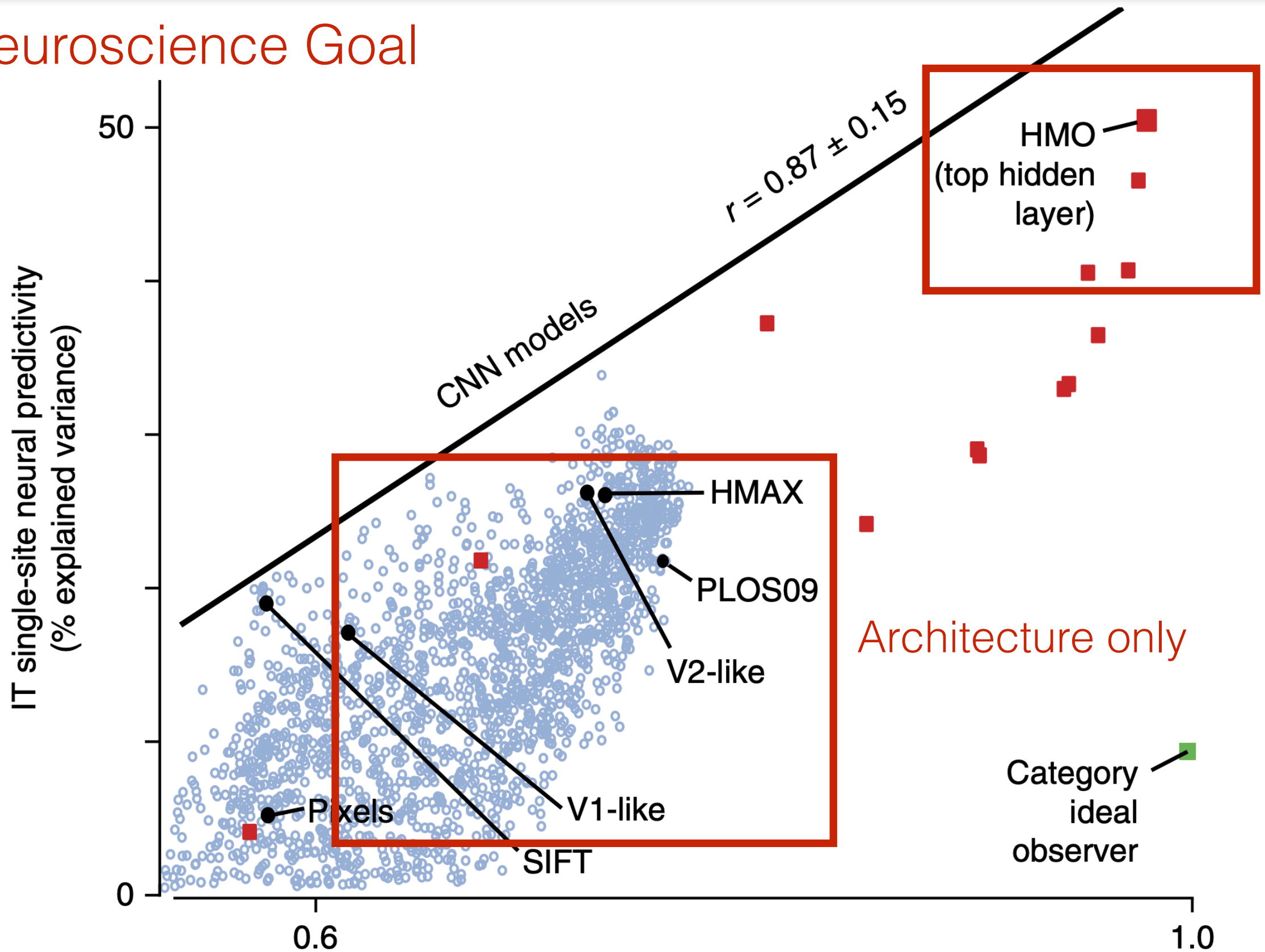


Yamins*, Hong* et al. 2014

An AI Goal

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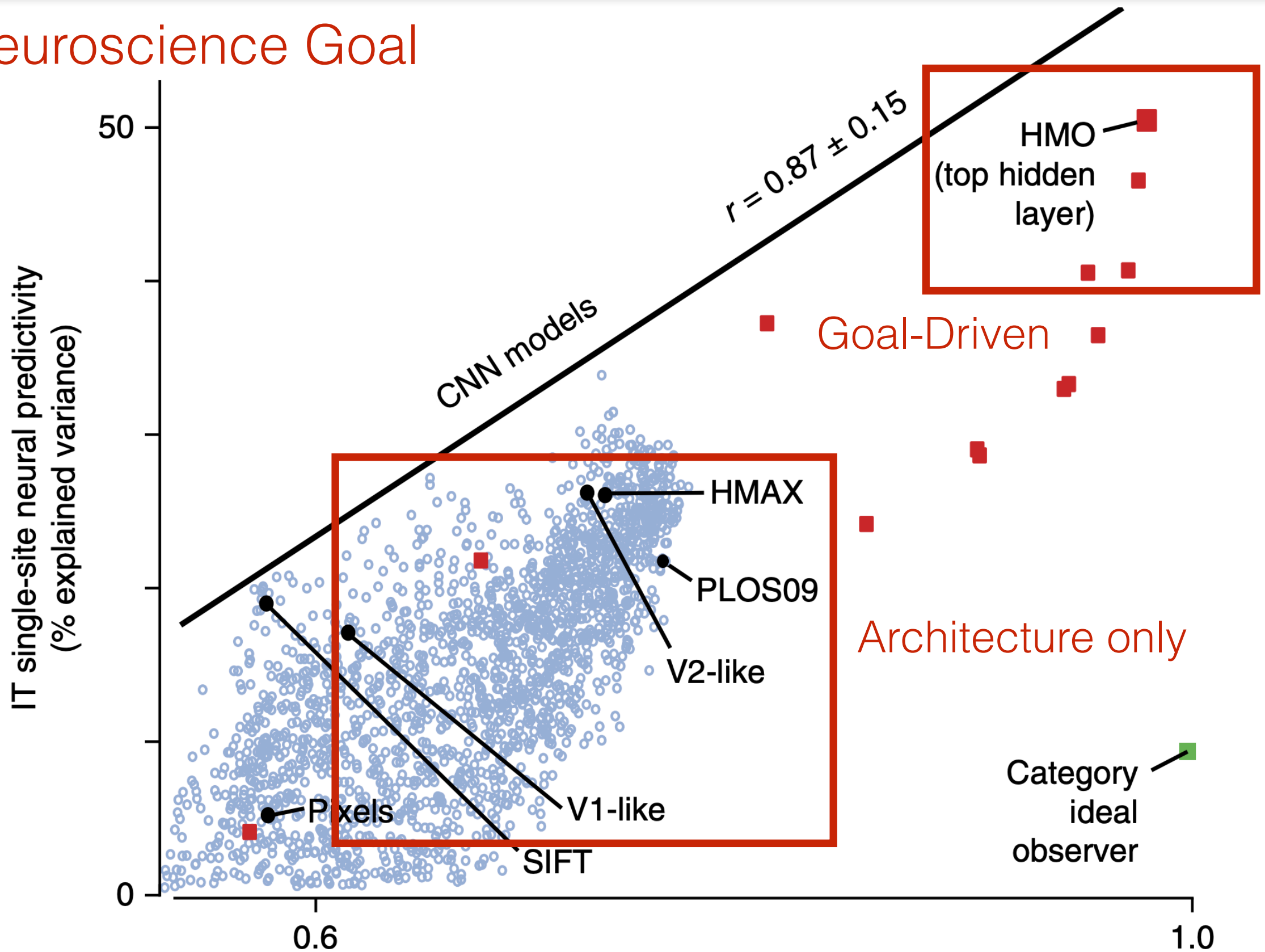
Yamins*, Hong* et al. 2014

Categorization performance (balanced accuracy)

An AI Goal

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A Neuroscience Goal



Yamins*, Hong* et al. 2014

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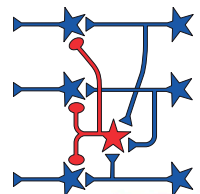
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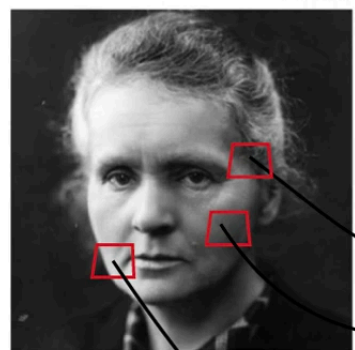
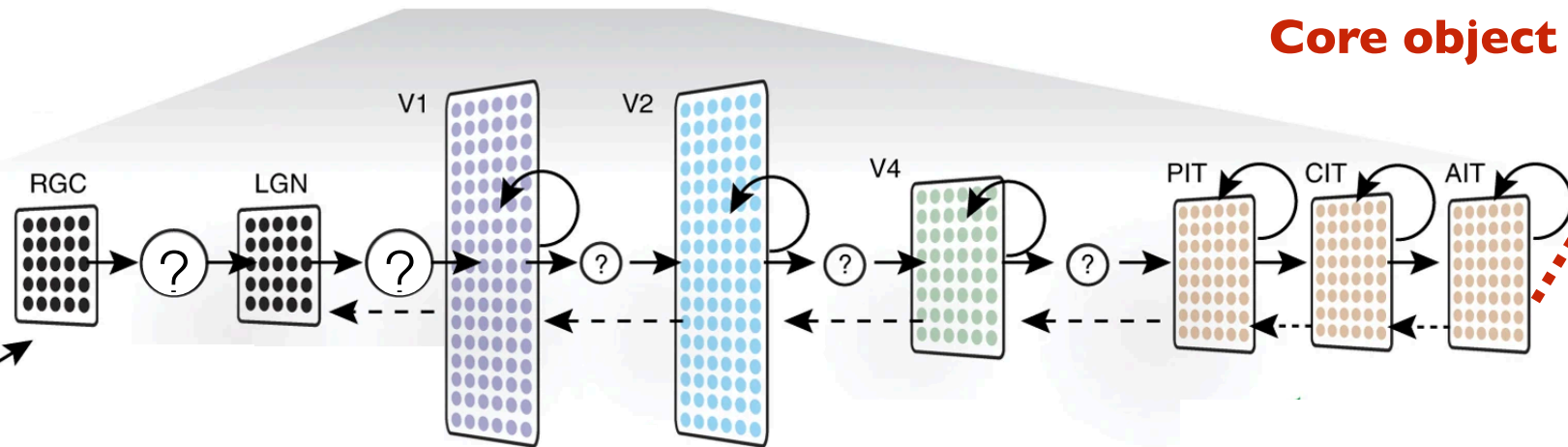
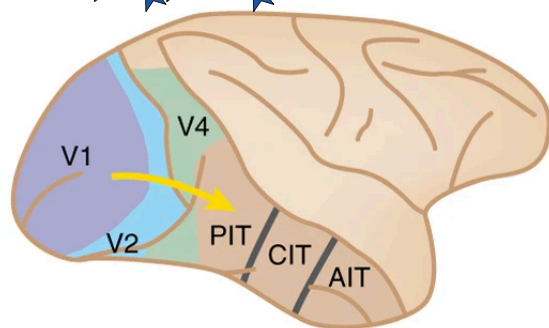


3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



Core object recognition

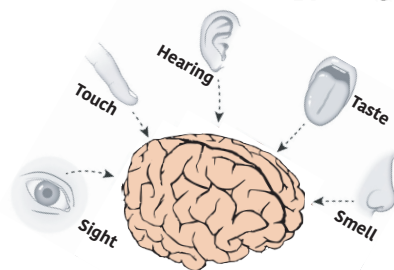
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100-ms visual presentation

Spatial convolution over image input

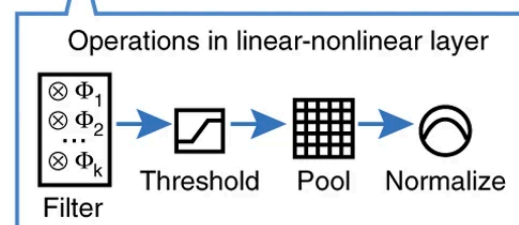


2.

“Environment”

D = data stream

Cognitive science sets the task loss



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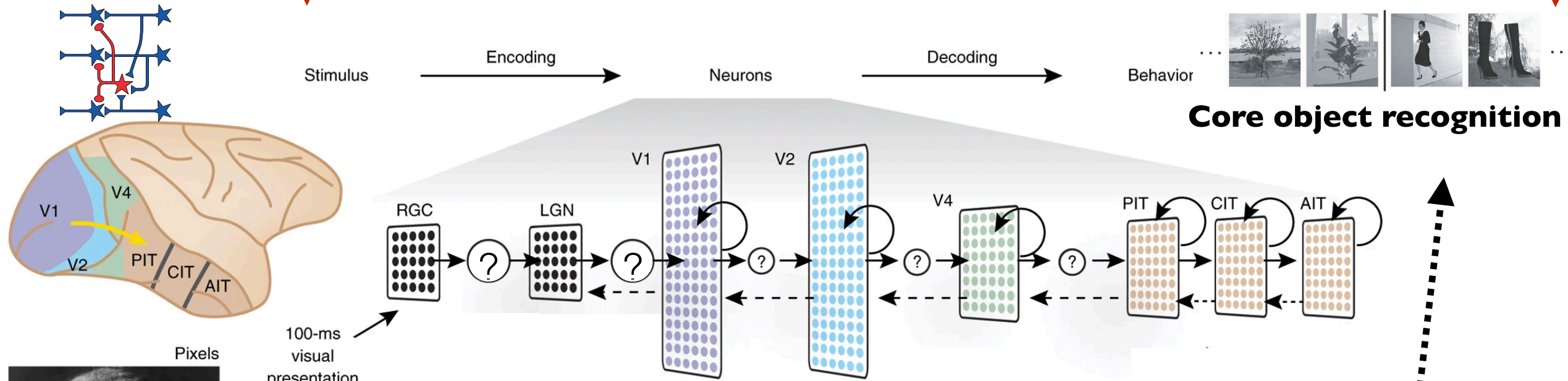
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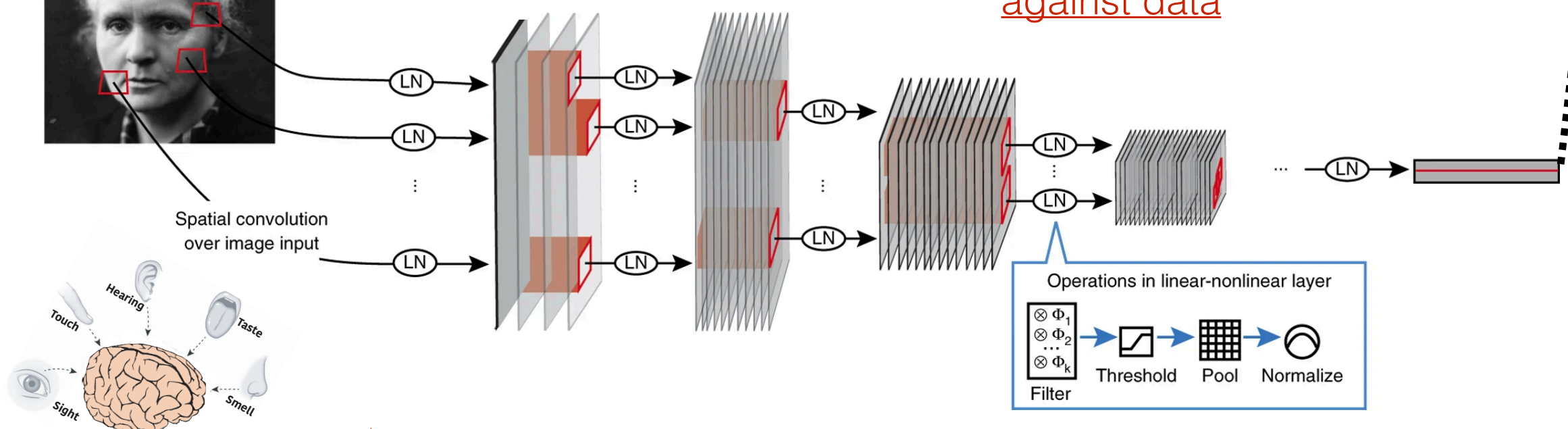
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“Circuit”

3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



Evolution in silico, generating a hypothesis to test against data



2.

“Environment”

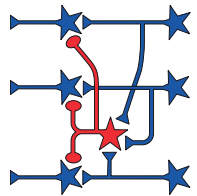
D = data stream

Reverse-Engineering Natural Intelligence

A = *architecture class*

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“Circuit”



Neuroscience
constrained

T = *task loss*

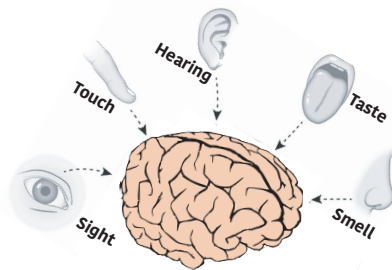
3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



Cognitive science
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I will show that this *general* approach yields a normative understanding of evolutionary constraints *across* species (rodents & primates), and sensory and *non-sensory* areas

Neuroscience
constrained



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“Environment”

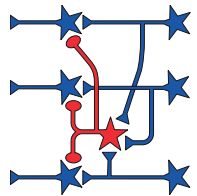
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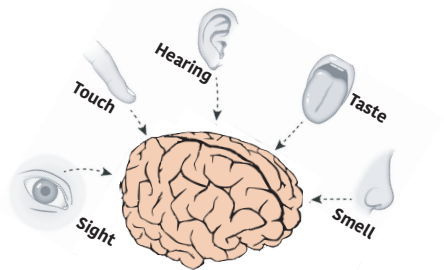
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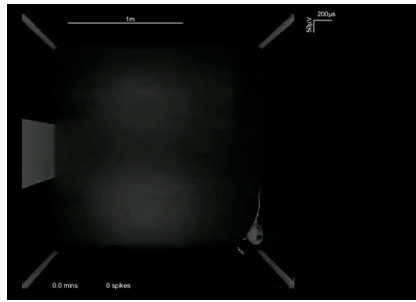
“Environment”

D = *data stream*

- Neurobiological Puzzle
- Core Conceptual Insights

Reverse-Engineering Strategy: Bridging Neurons to Behavior

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Navigation

1. Operationalize a behavioral domain of interest.
Ways in which brains surpass current engineered systems? (e.g. performance, size, energy, etc)



Core object recognition

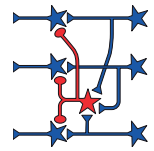
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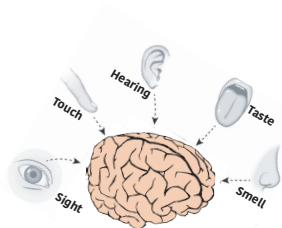
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Ways in which brains surpass current engineered systems? (e.g. performance, size, energy, etc)

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Optimize for task (evolution *in silico*).
Predict held out neural & behavioral data.

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“Environment”

D = data stream



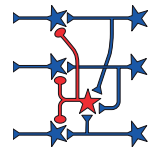
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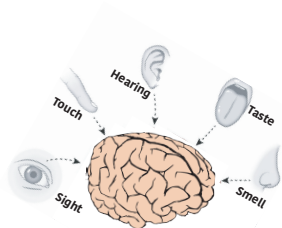
3. Core Conceptual Insights:

Identify the patterns of the best architectures & tasks.

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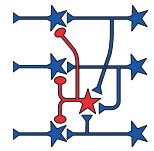
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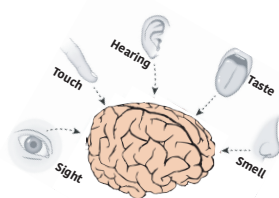
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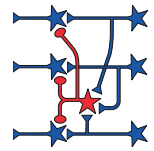
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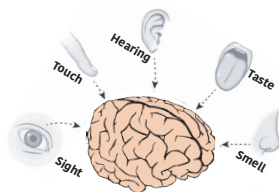
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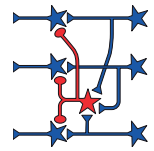
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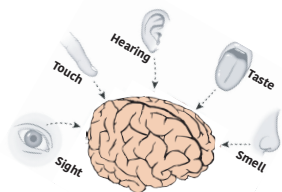
Applications:

Predictions of causal perturbations, interventions
Perceptual control/prediction (BMI)
Hypothesis generation for disruption/degeneration

2.

“Environment”

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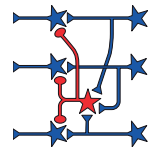
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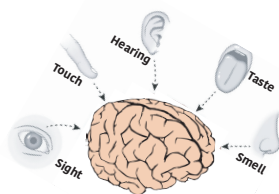
Natural Science

Engineering

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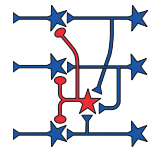
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1.

“Circuit”



1. Operationalize a behavioral domain of interest.
Ways in which brains surpass current engineered systems? (e.g. performance, size, energy, etc)

3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



2. Hypothesize architectures and tasks (loss functions).
Optimize for task (evolution *in silico*).
Predict held out neural & behavioral data.

3. Core Conceptual Insights:

Identify the patterns of the best architectures & tasks.

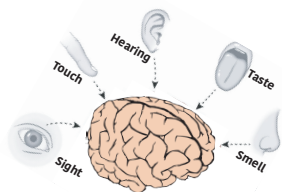
A **structural** & **functional** *normative* understanding of the evolutionary constraints of the biological system to produce the behavior in (1).

Natural Science Engineering

2.

“Environment”

D = data stream



Outline

- ▶ Recurrent Connections in the Primate Ventral Stream
- ▶ Goal-Driven Models of Mouse Visual Cortex
- ▶ Heterogeneity in Rodent Medial Entorhinal Cortex
- ▶ Future Directions

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From Neurons to Behavior

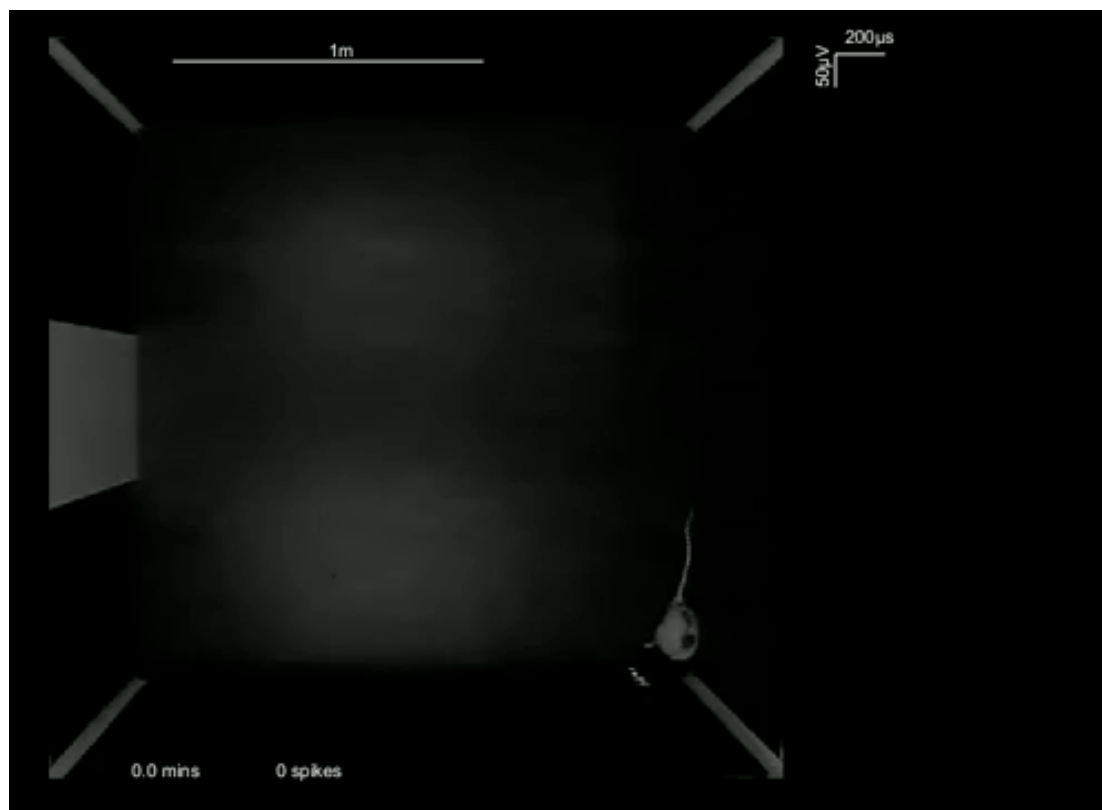
Scene Understanding



Multi-Step Planning



Navigation

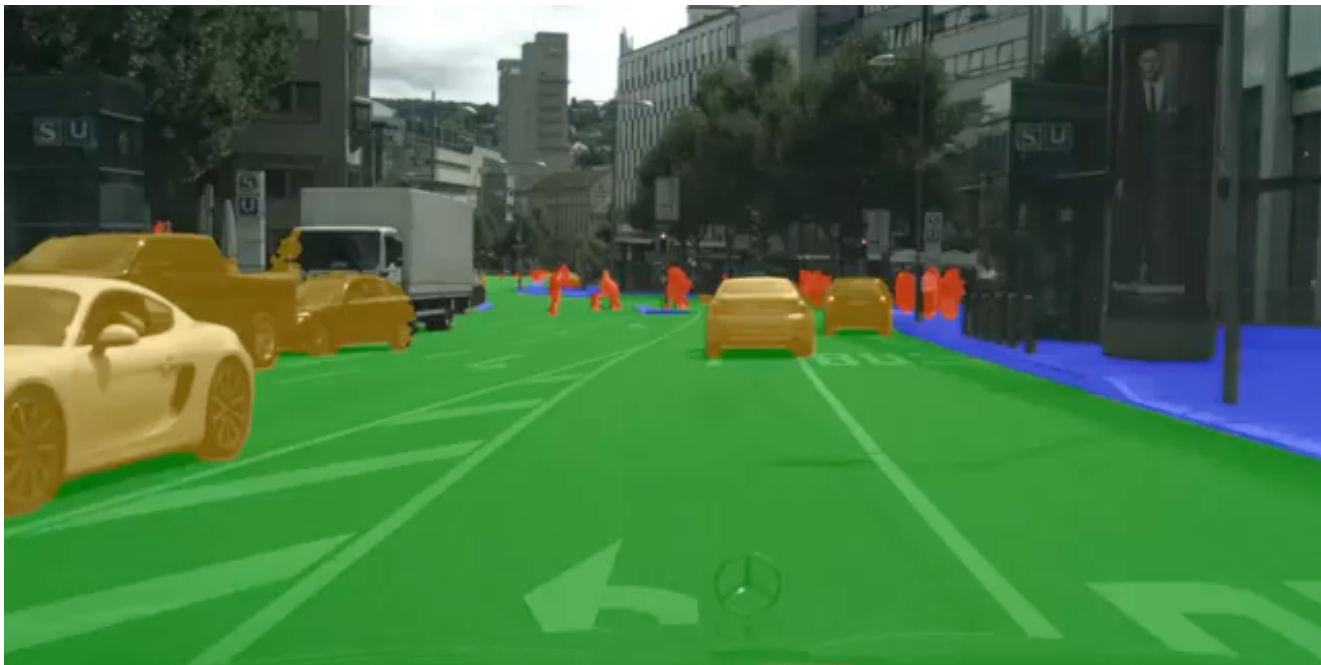


Flexible Embodiment



From Neurons to Behavior

Scene Understanding



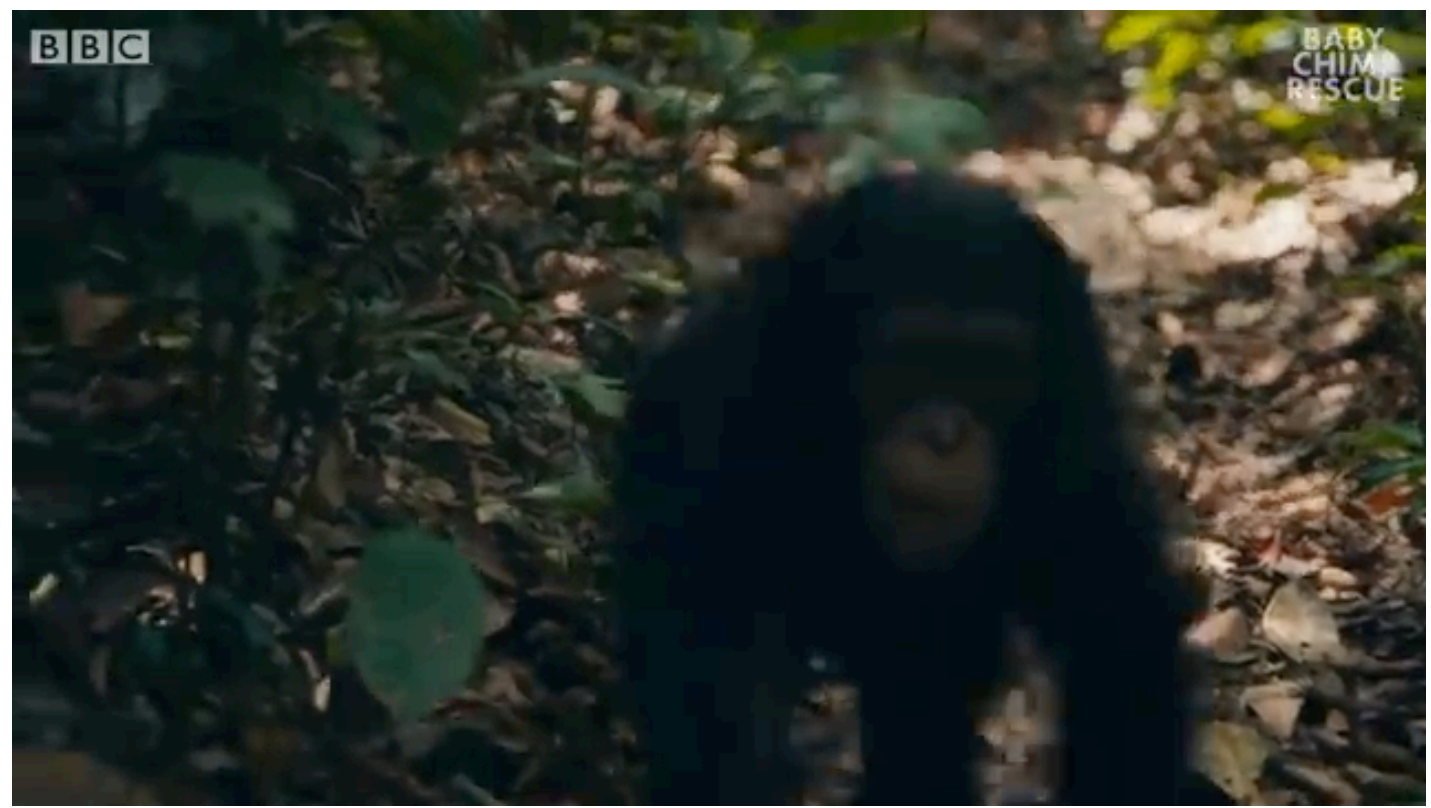
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Navigation



Flexible Embodiment



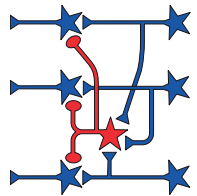
Recurrent Connections in the Primate Ventral Stream

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“Circuit”



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A. Nayebi*, D. Bear*, J. Kubilius*, *et al.*

Task-Driven Convolutional Recurrent Models of the Visual System.
NeurIPS 2018

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Recurrent Connections in the Primate Ventral Visual Stream Mediate a Tradeoff Between Task Performance and Network Size During Core Object Recognition. *Neural Computation 2022*

Daniel Yamins



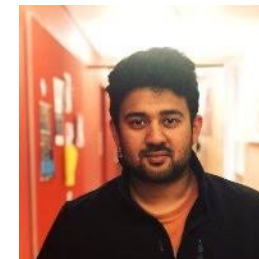
Daniel Bear



Jonas Kubilius



Kohitij Kar



Surya Ganguli



Javier Sagastuy



David Sussillo

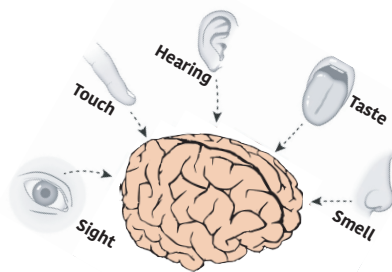


Jim DiCarlo

2.

“Environment”

D = data stream



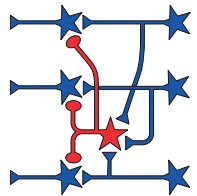
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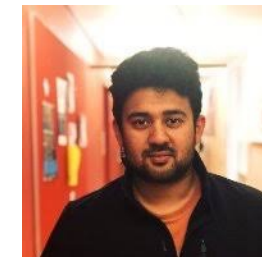
Daniel Bear



Jonas Kubilius



Kohitij Kar



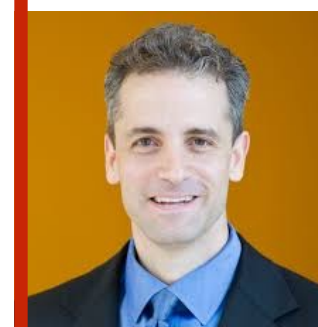
Surya Ganguli



Javier Sagastuy



David Sussillo

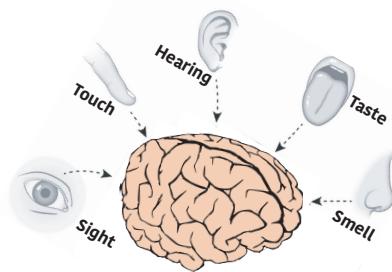


Jim DiCarlo

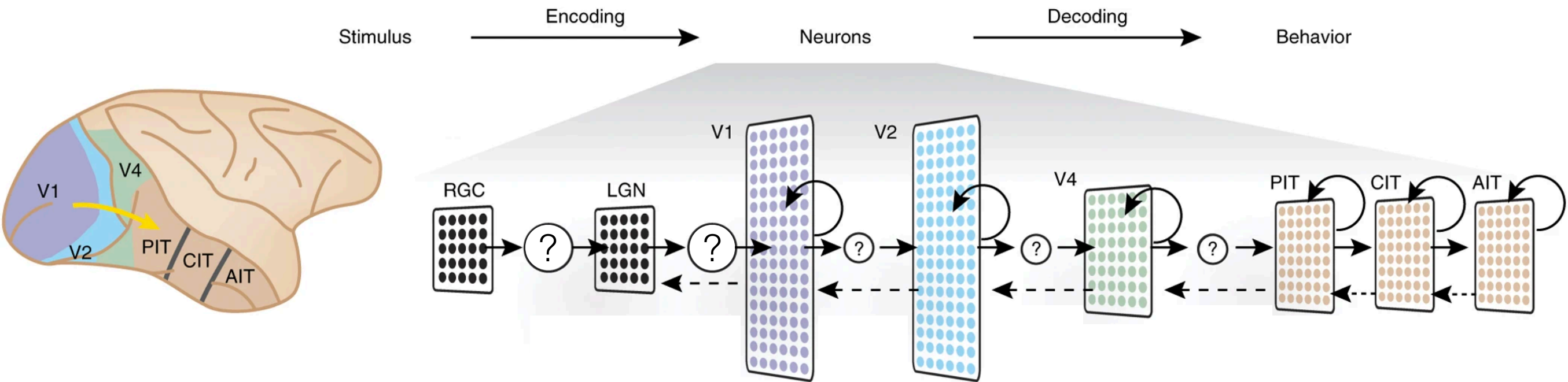
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CNNs as Models of Object Recognition



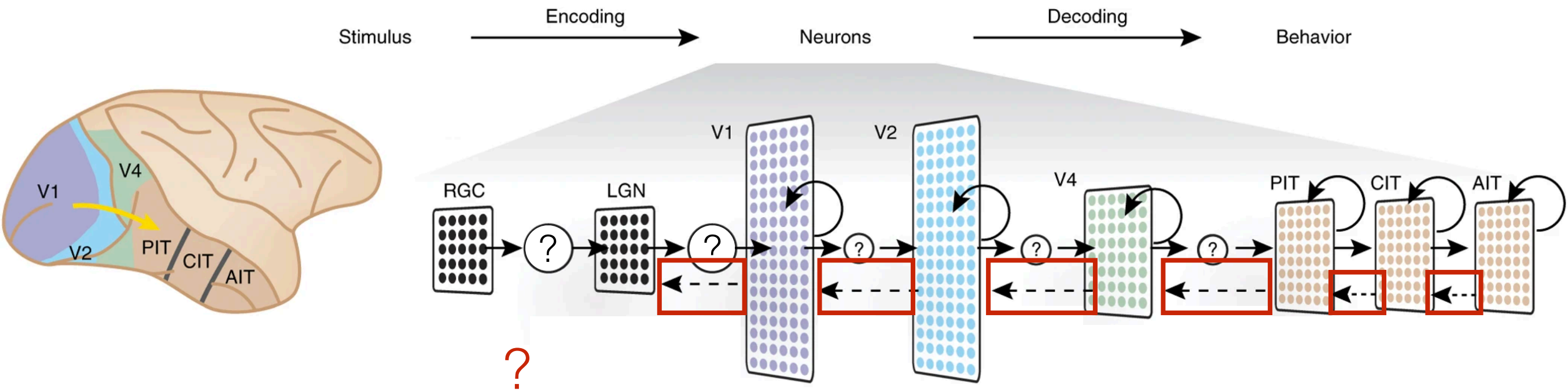
Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)

Fukushima, 1979; Lecun, 1995

CNNs are inspired by visual neuroscience:

- 1) **hierarchy**
- 2) **retinotopy** (spatially tiled)

...but lack feedback connections



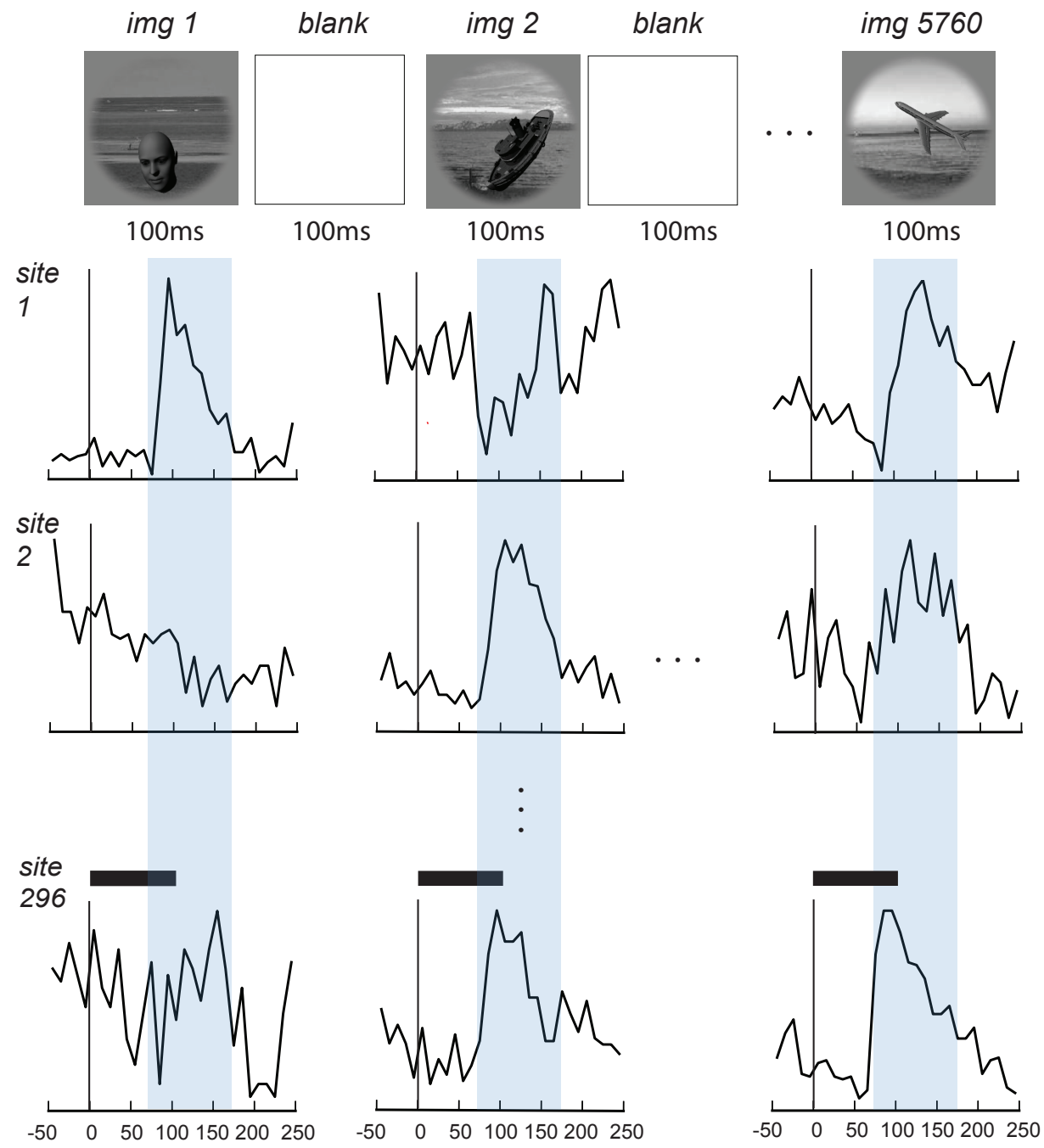
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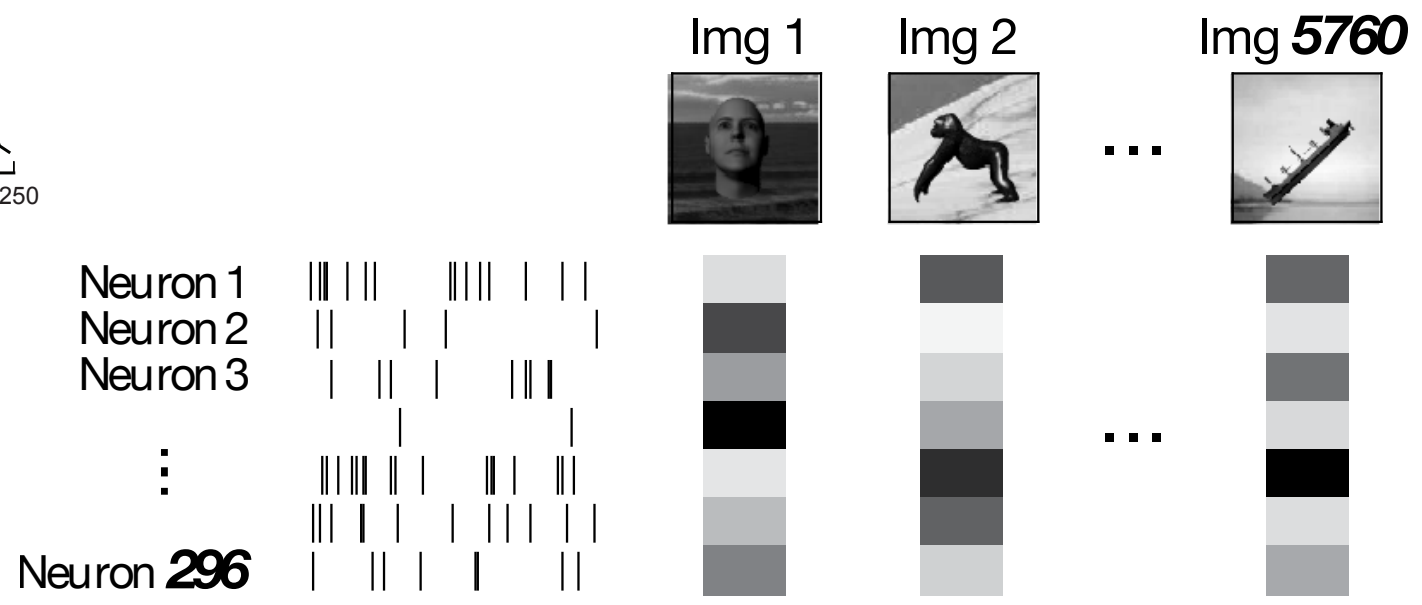
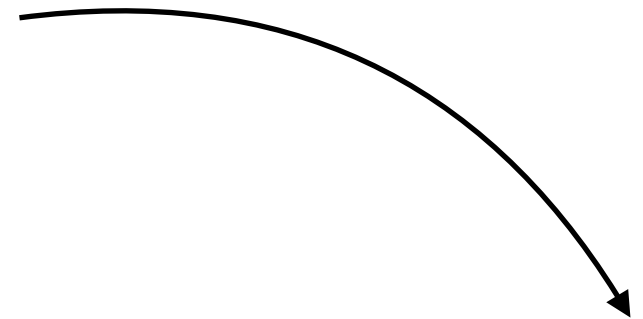
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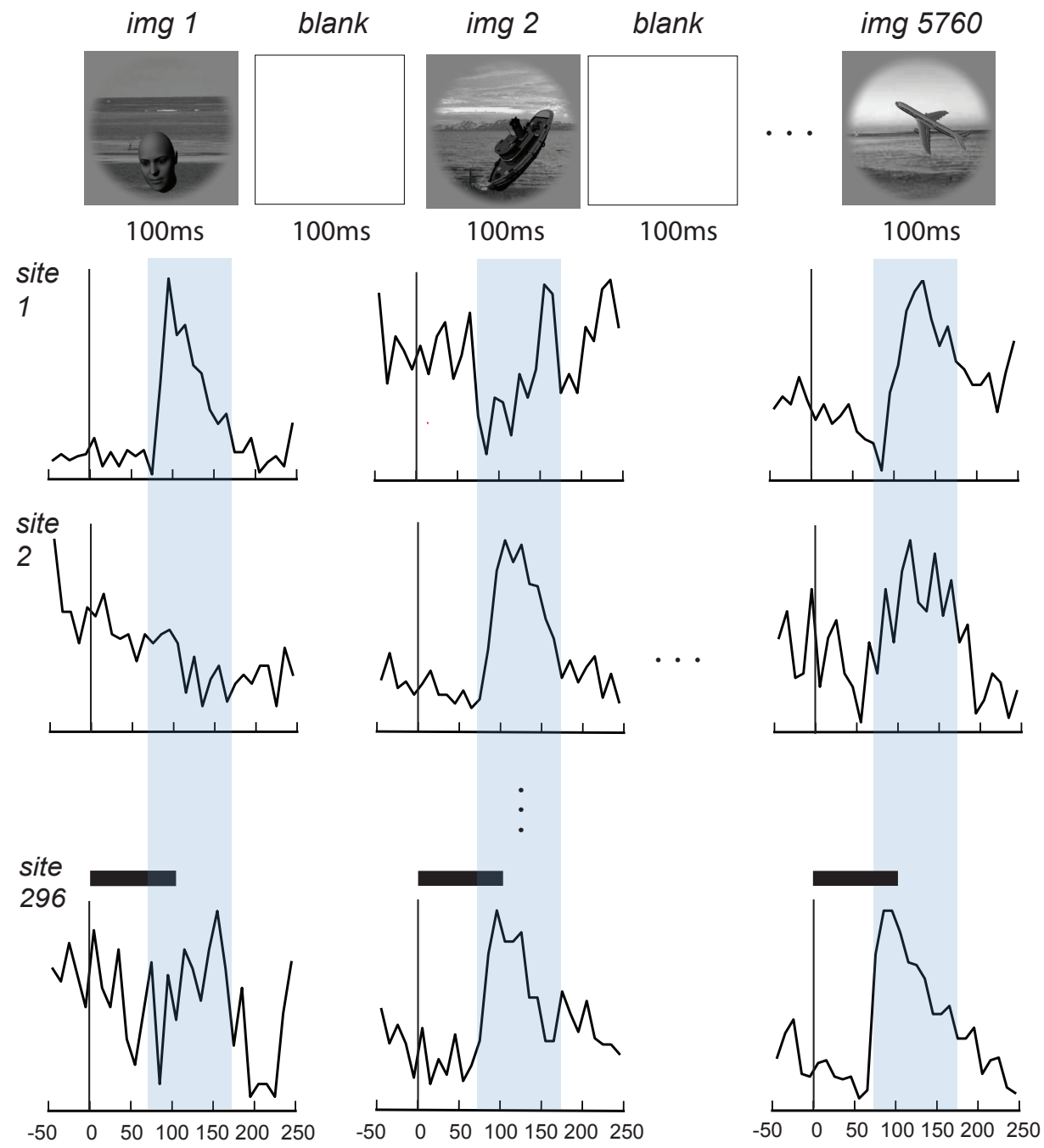
So far, only explaining temporal average of responses



e.g. Binned spike counts 70ms-170ms post stimulus presentation

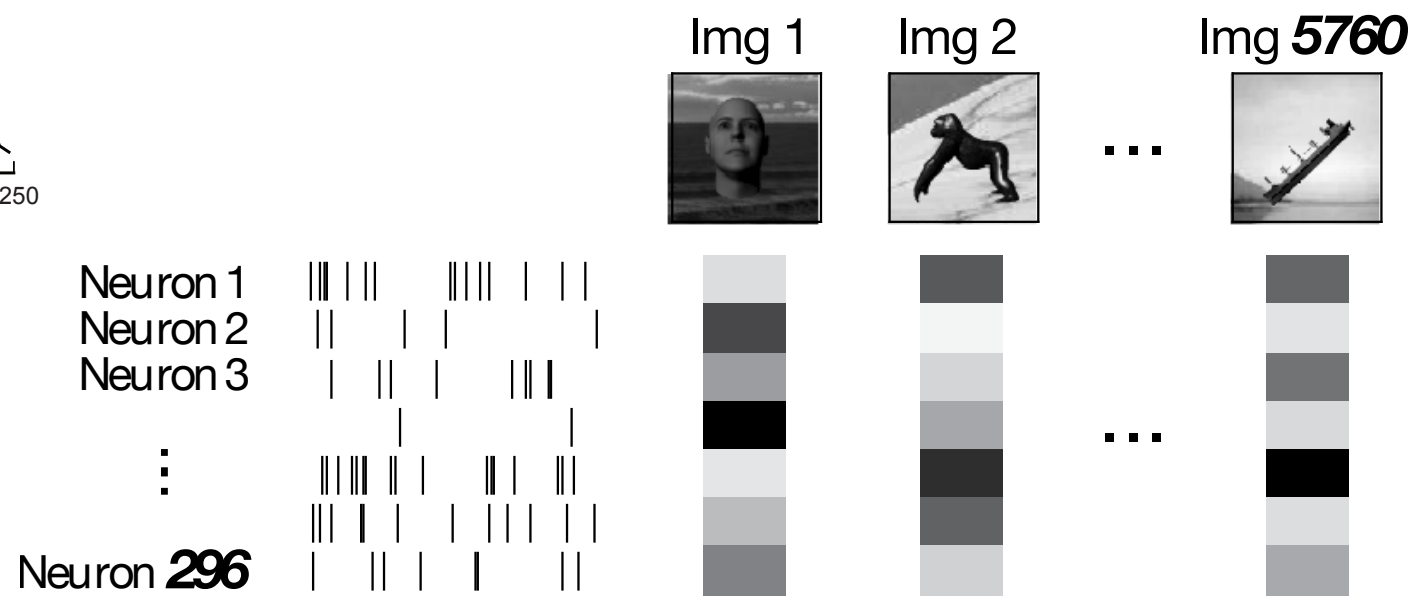
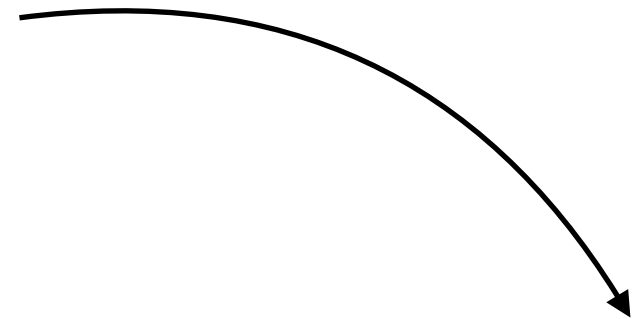


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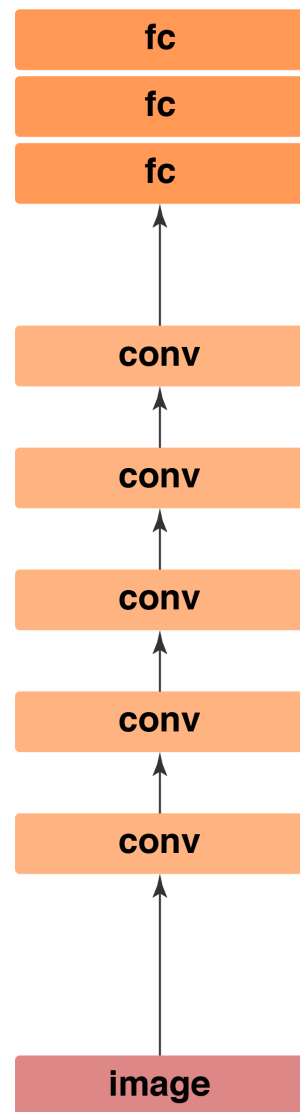
e.g. Binned spike counts 70ms-170ms post stimulus presentation

but actually the data is highly reliable at much finer grain — 10ms bins

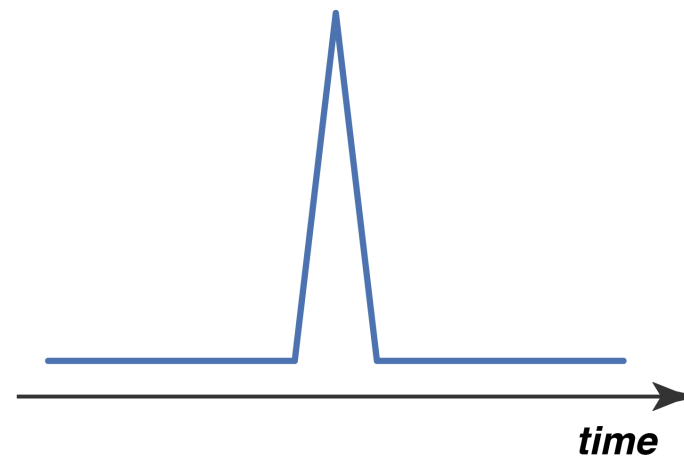


Trajectory possibilities due to recurrent connections

Simple feedforward networks simple dynamics:

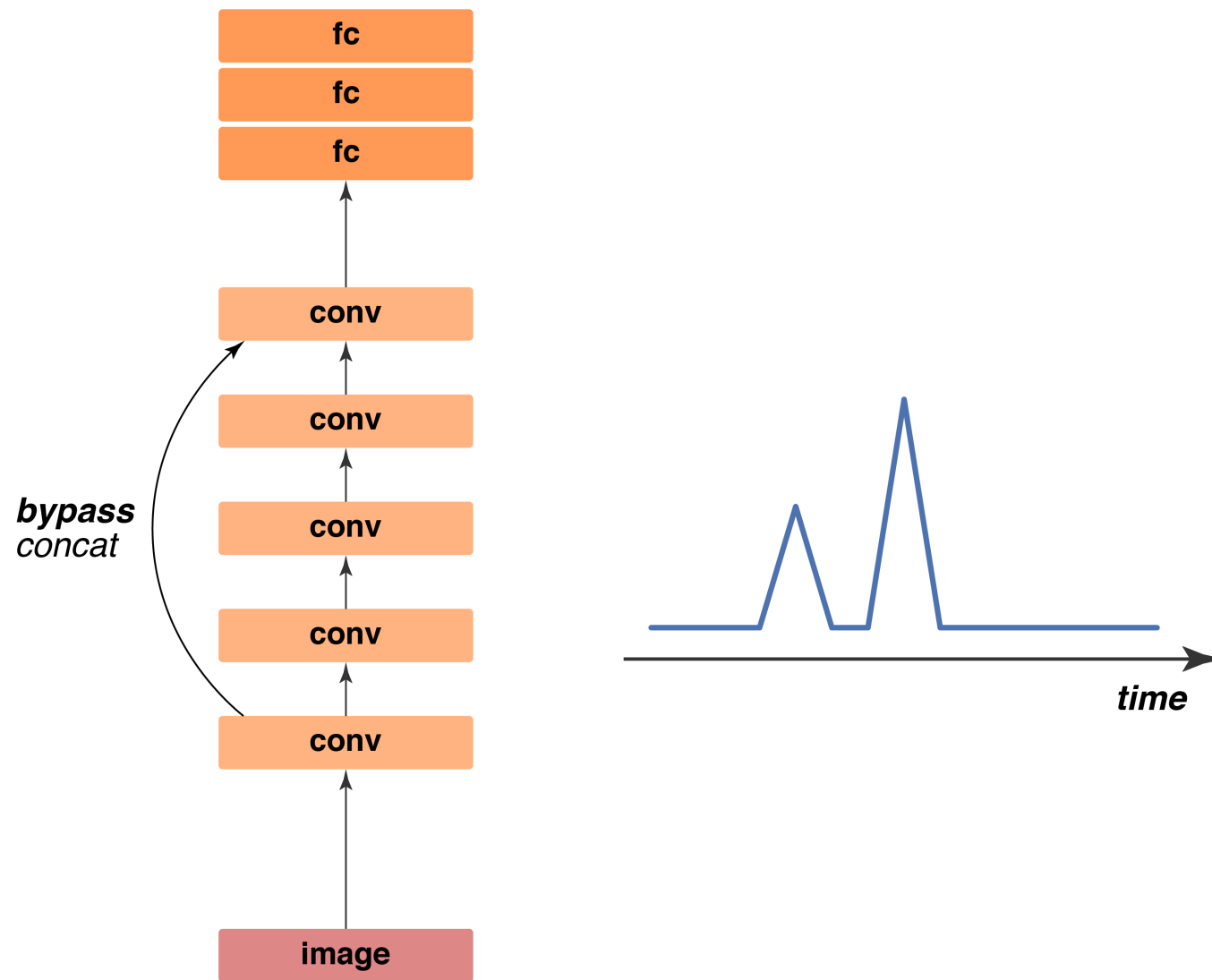


courtesy Jonas Kubilius



Trajectory possibilities due to recurrent connections

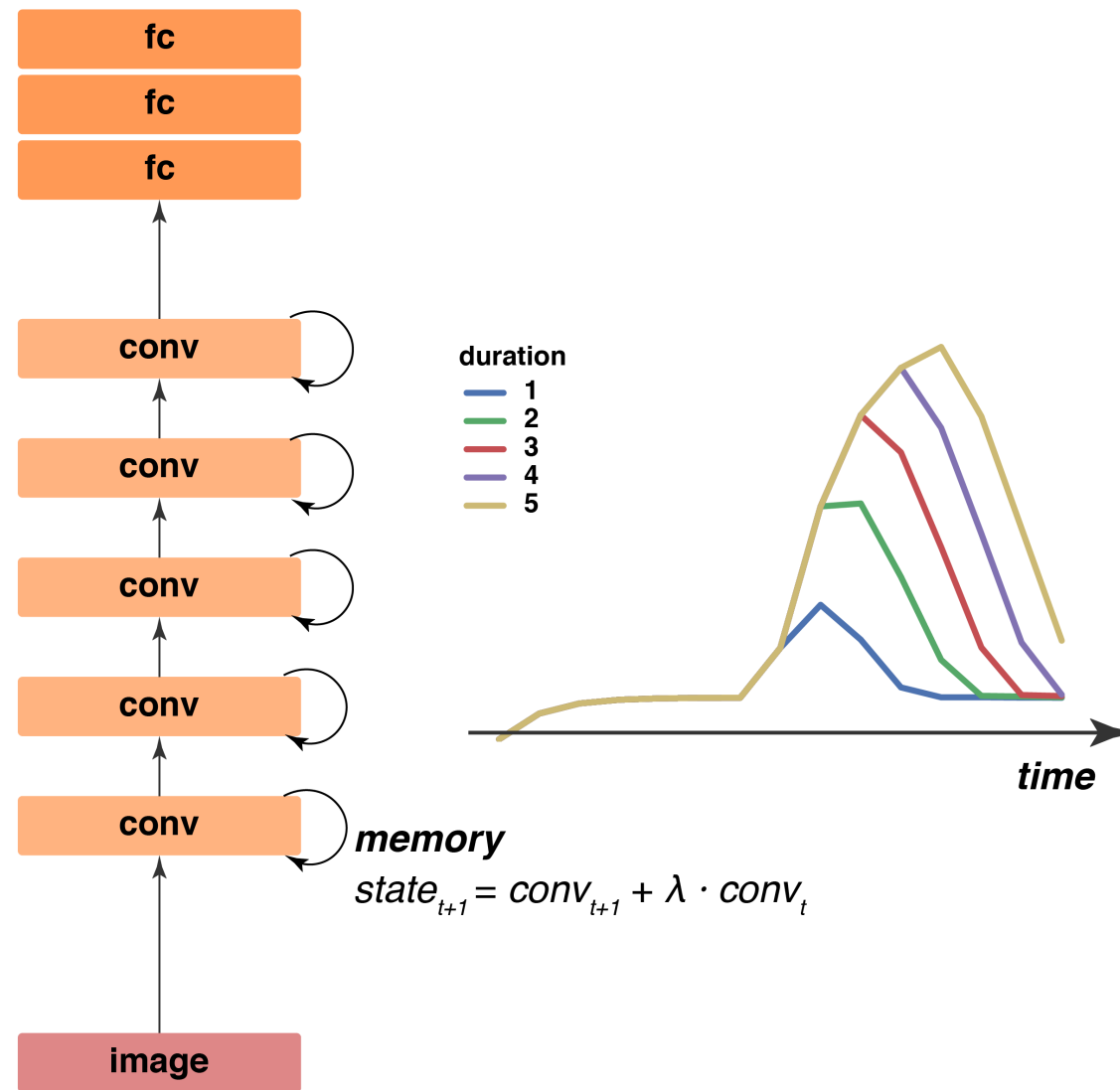
Dynamics more interesting with bypasses:



courtesy Jonas Kubilius

Trajectory possibilities due to recurrent connections

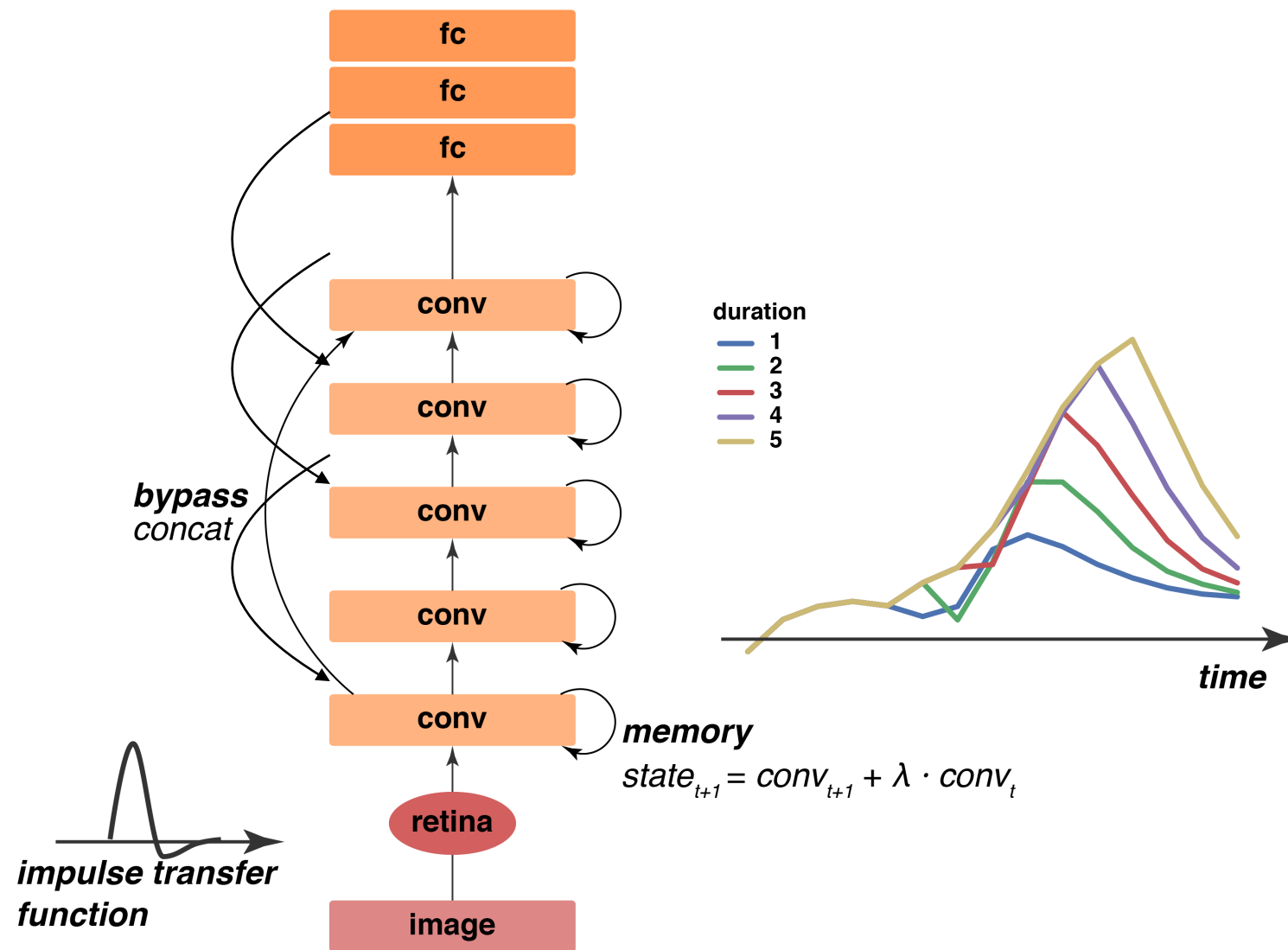
Dynamics more interesting with bypasses, local recurrence:



courtesy Jonas Kubilius

Trajectory possibilities due to recurrent connections

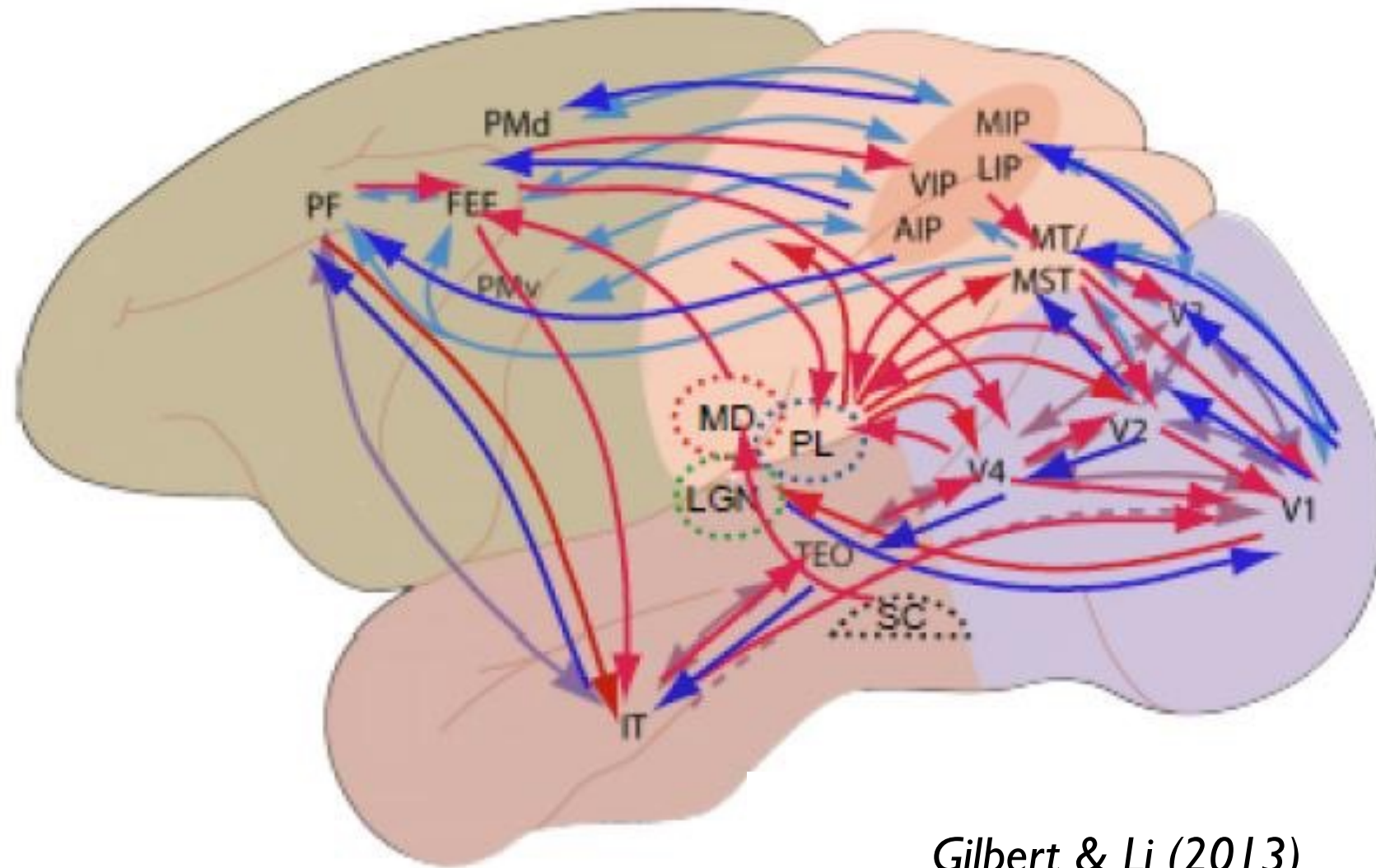
Dynamics more interesting with bypasses, local recurrence, long-range feedback:



courtesy Jonas Kubilius

Recurrent connections are ubiquitous

Recurrent connections are everywhere anatomically:



Gilbert & Li (2013)

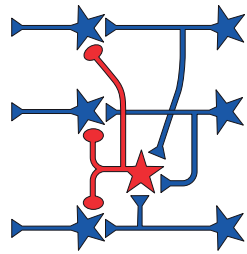
... but what are they for?

Recurrent Connections in the Primate Ventral Stream

A = *architecture class*

1.

“Circuit”



T = *task loss*

3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



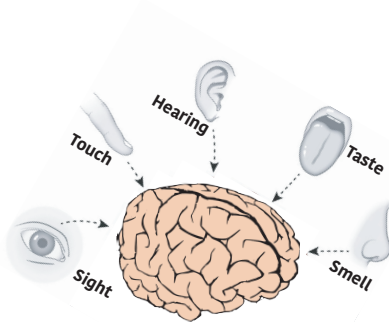
Neurobiological Puzzle:

What is the role of recurrence in the primate ventral stream?

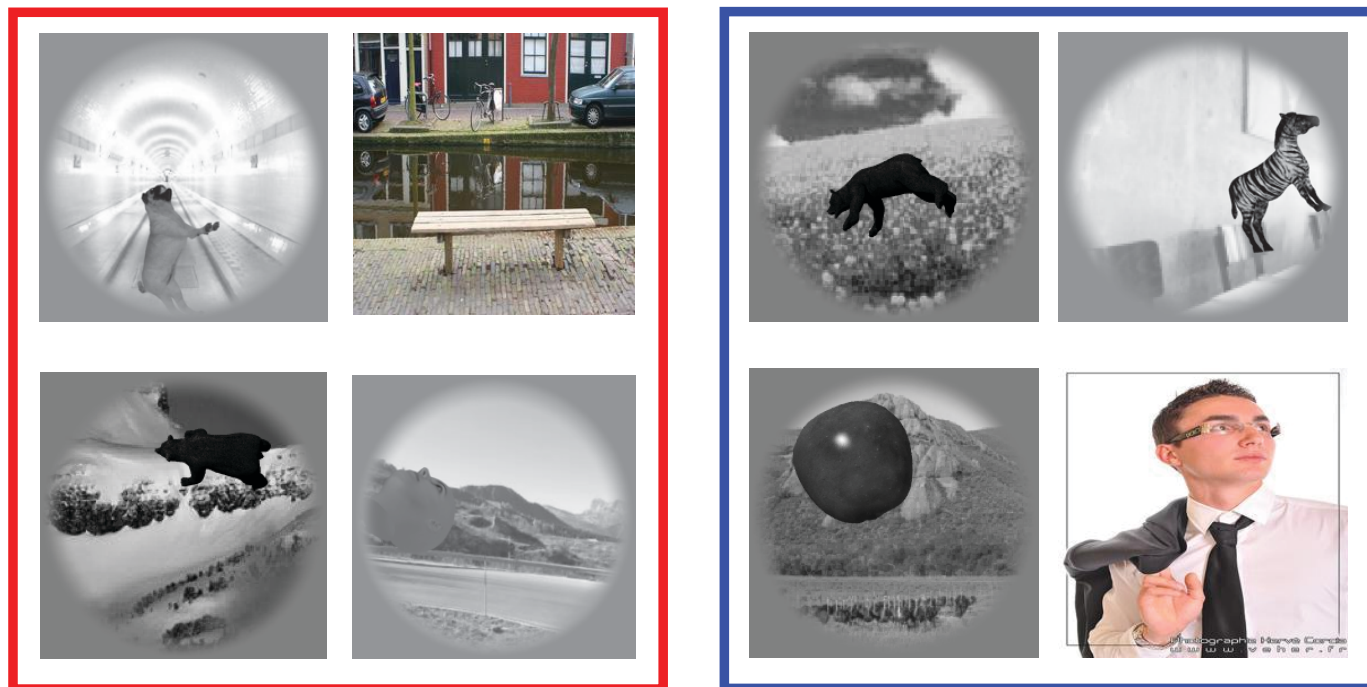
2.

“Environment”

D = *data stream*

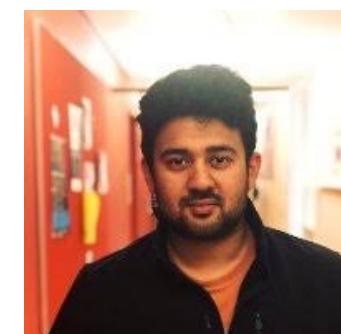
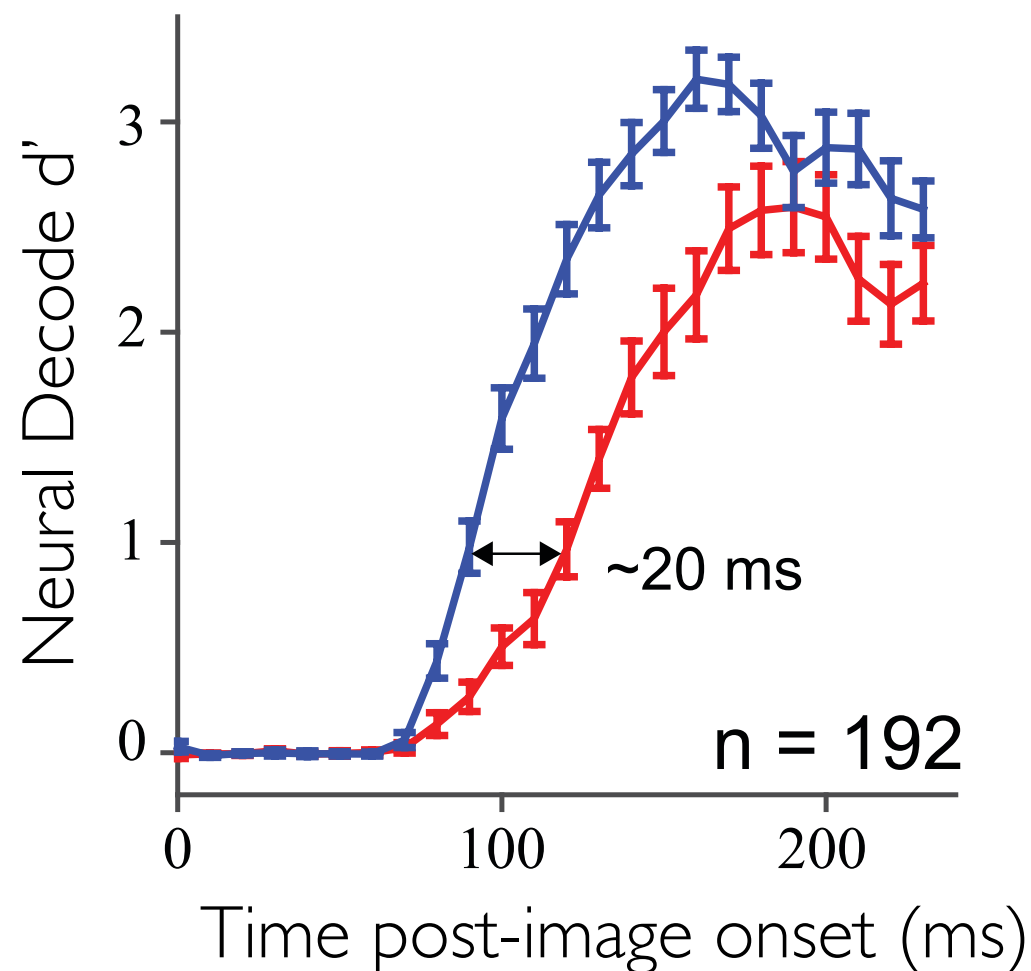
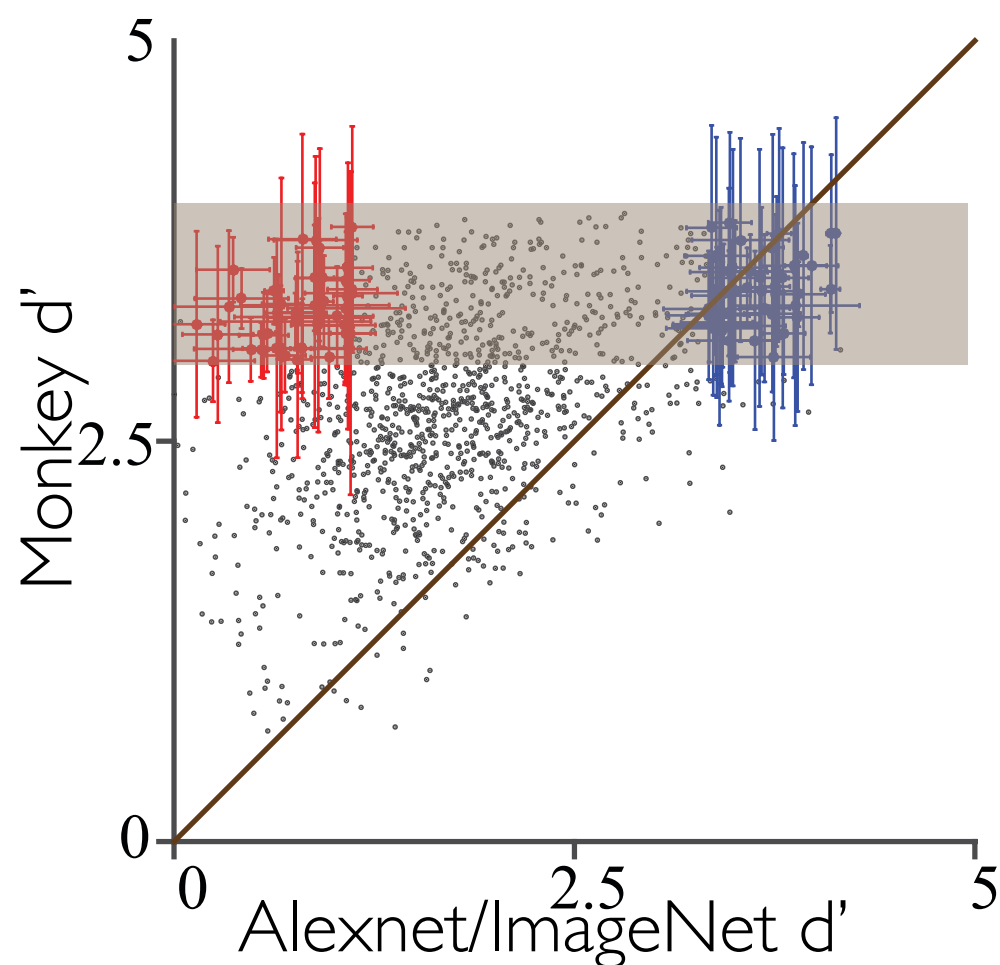


Evidence of Functional Relevance during Core Object Recognition



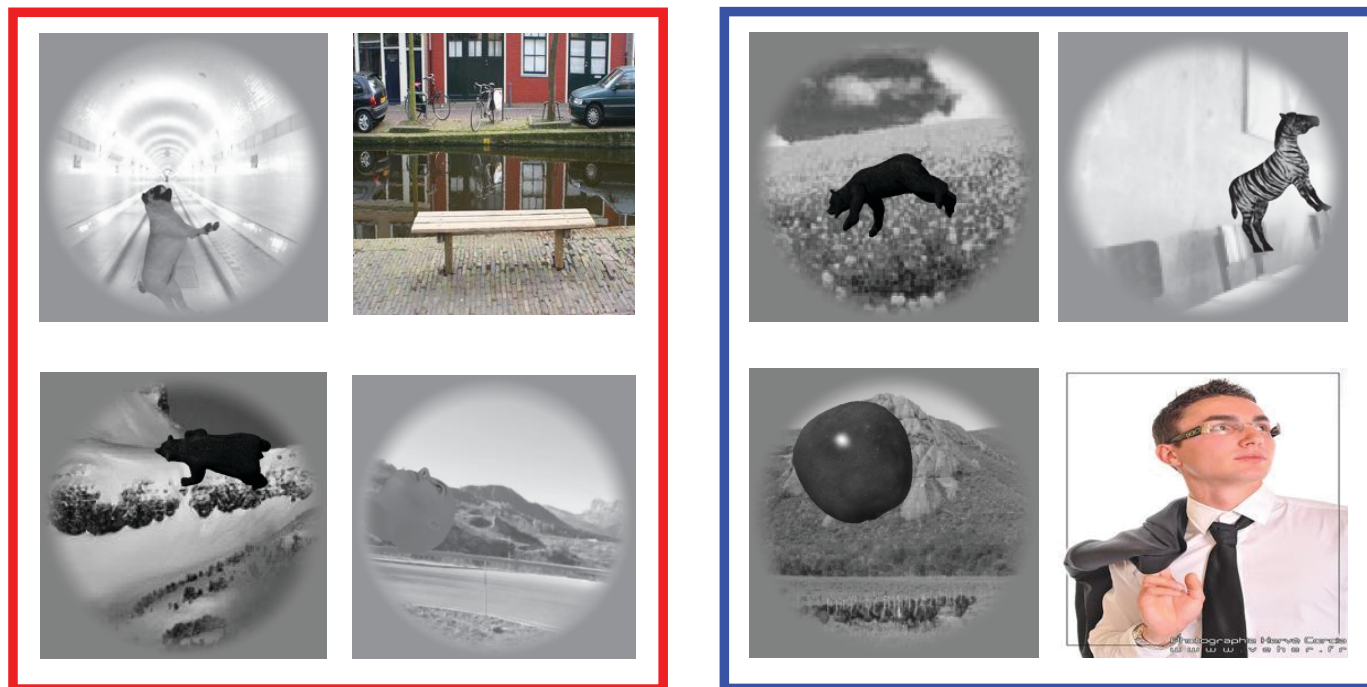
CNN-not-solved images
are solved by the ventral
visual stream

... even in range before 250ms (rough saccade time)



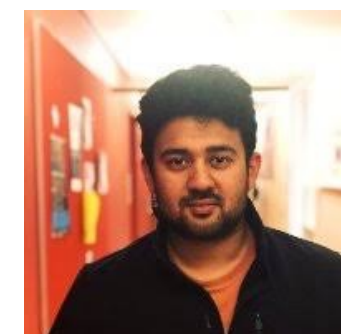
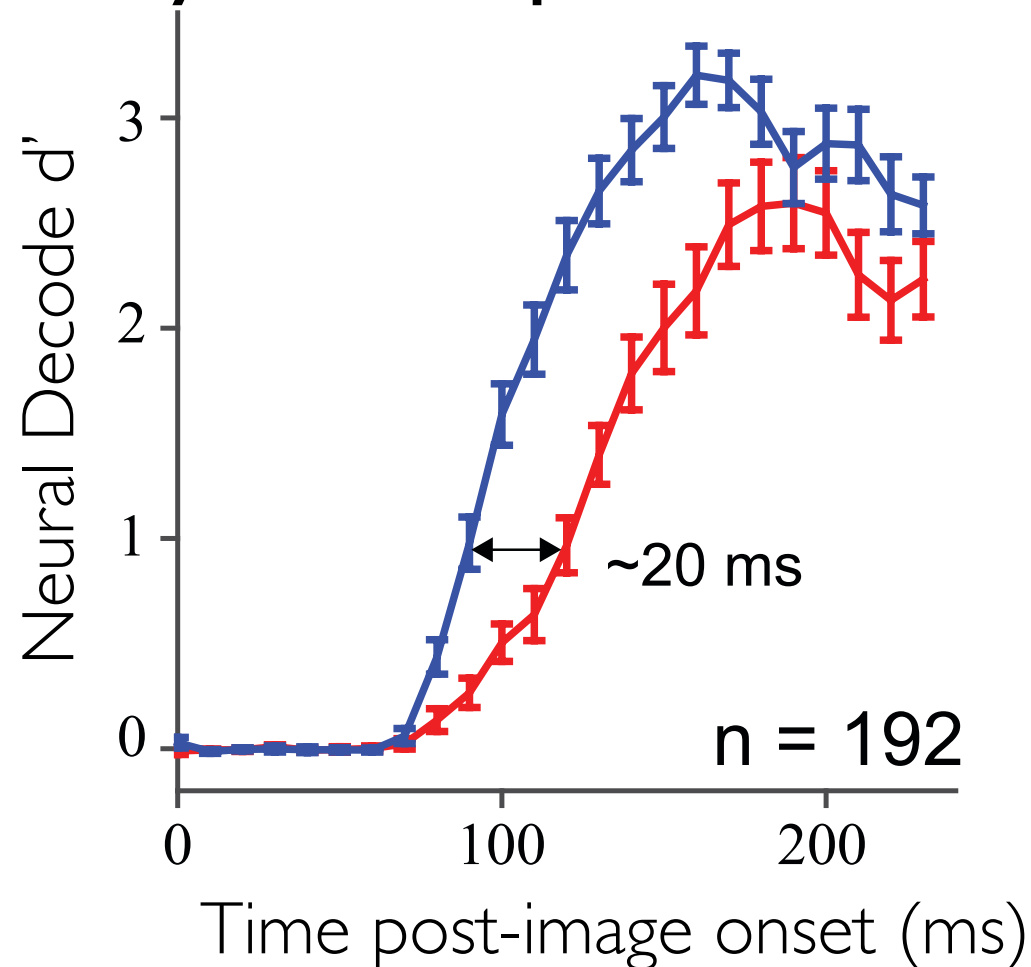
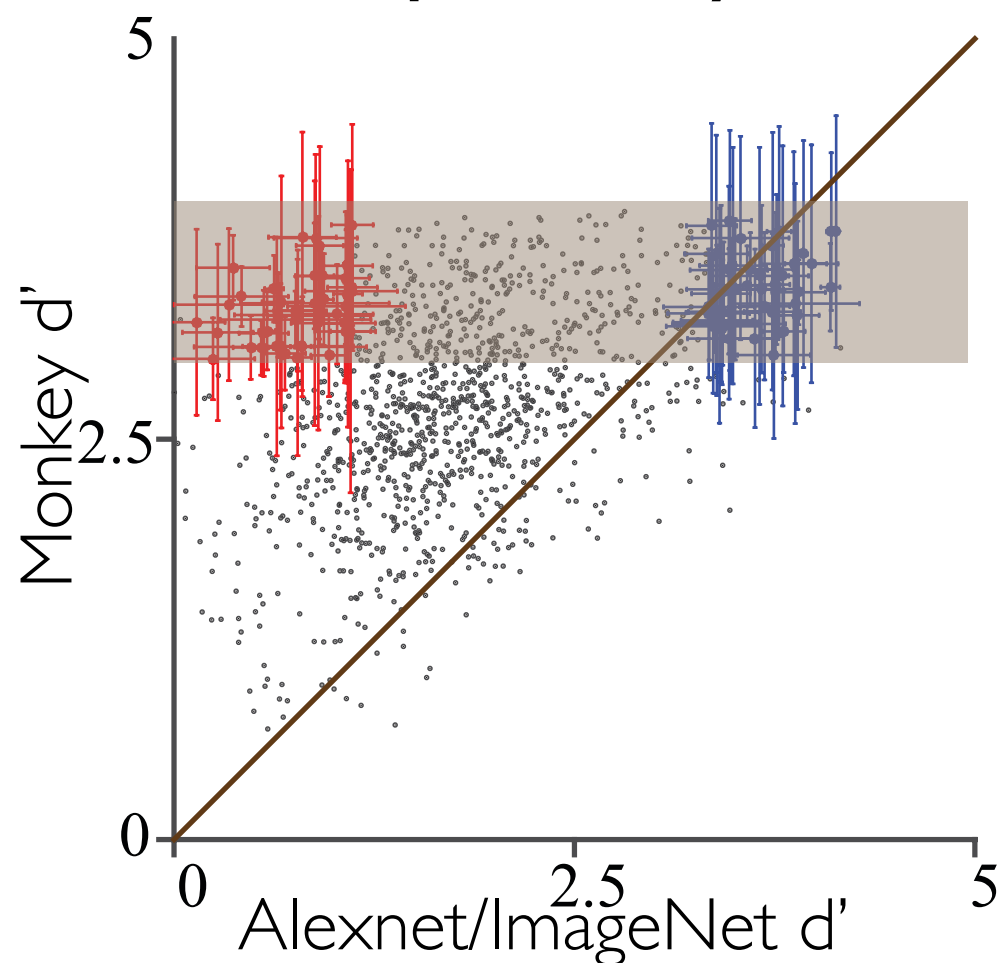
Kar et al. (2019)

Evidence of Functional Relevance during Core Object Recognition



CNN-not-solved images
are solved by the ventral
visual stream

Can we explain *why* we see these dynamical patterns emerge in IT?

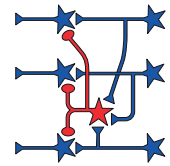


Kar et. al. (2019)

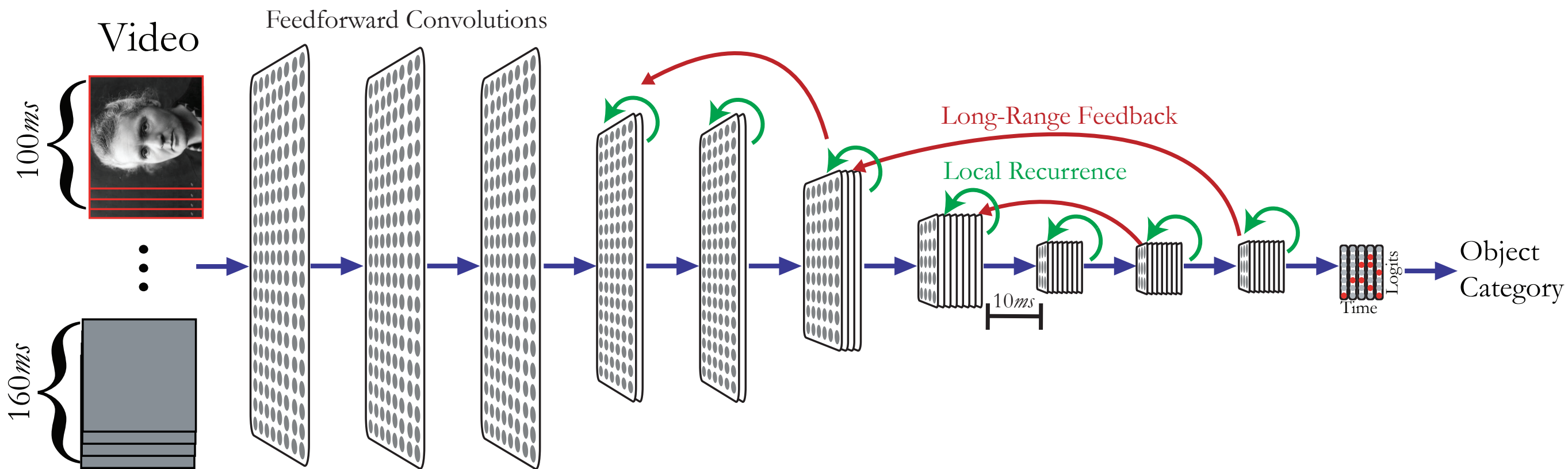
Convolutional Recurrent Networks (ConvRNNs)

A = architecture class

1. "Circuit"

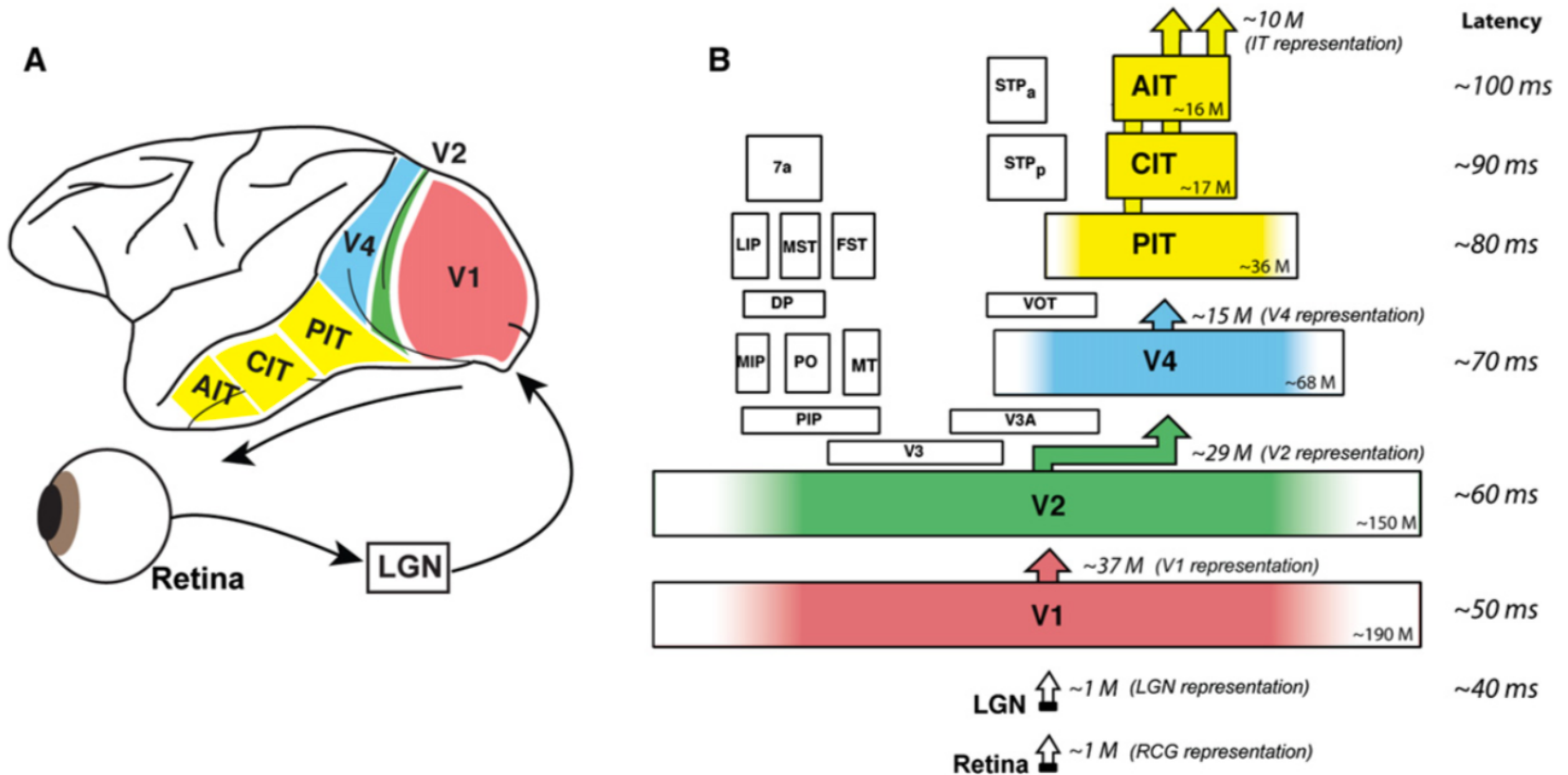


ConvRNNs
~~CNNs~~

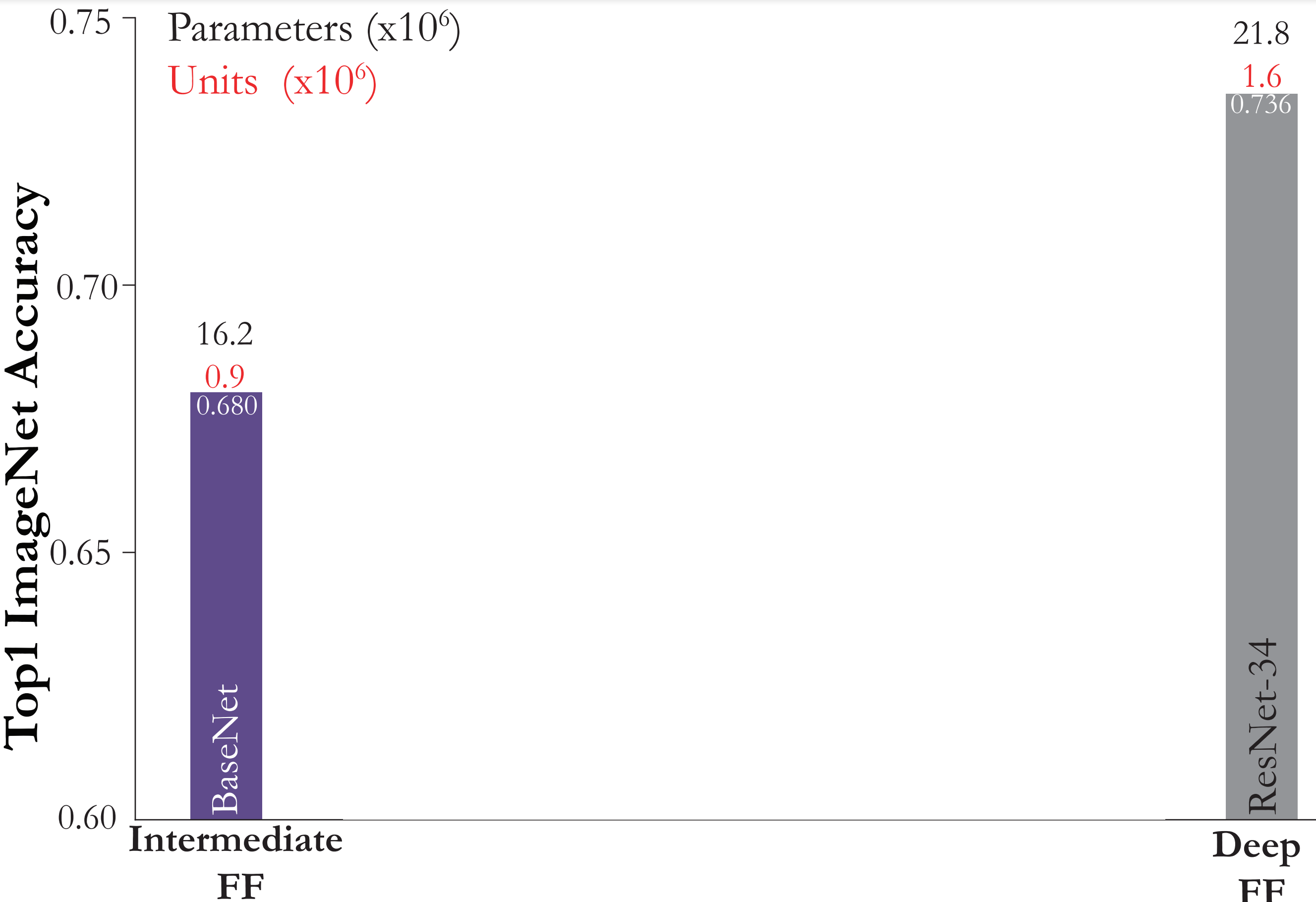


Each time-step (10 ms) is treated equally
— including feedforward steps

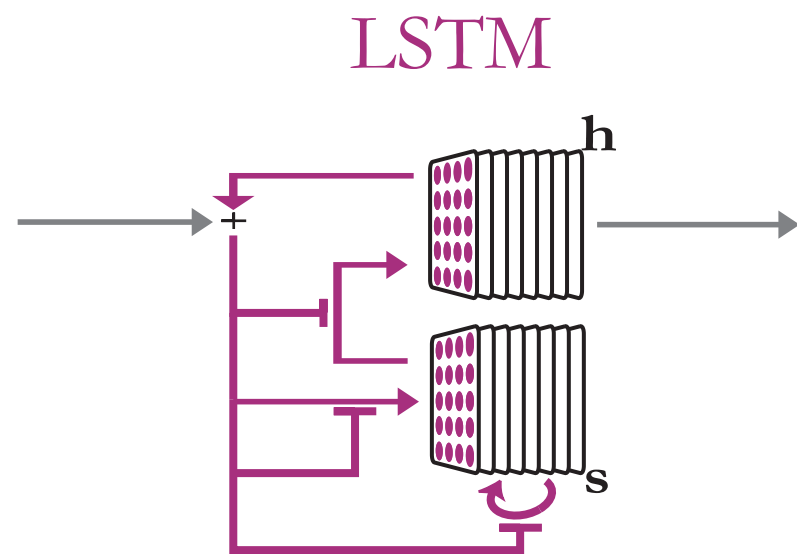
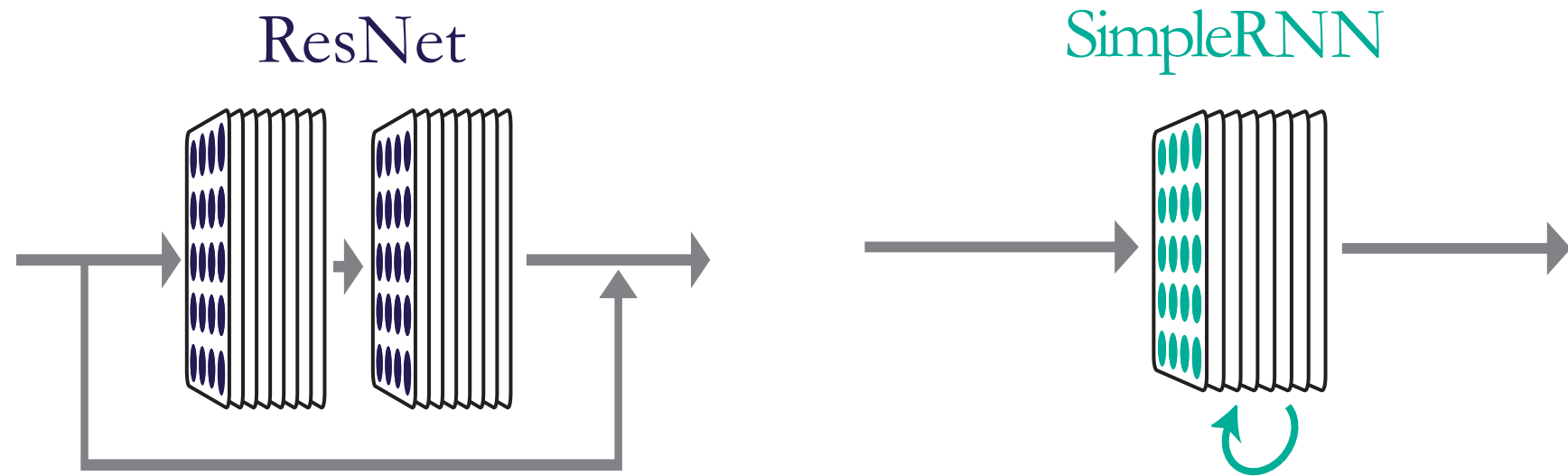
~10-12 “Layers” Plausible based on anatomy and timing



... But, such networks are not the most performant

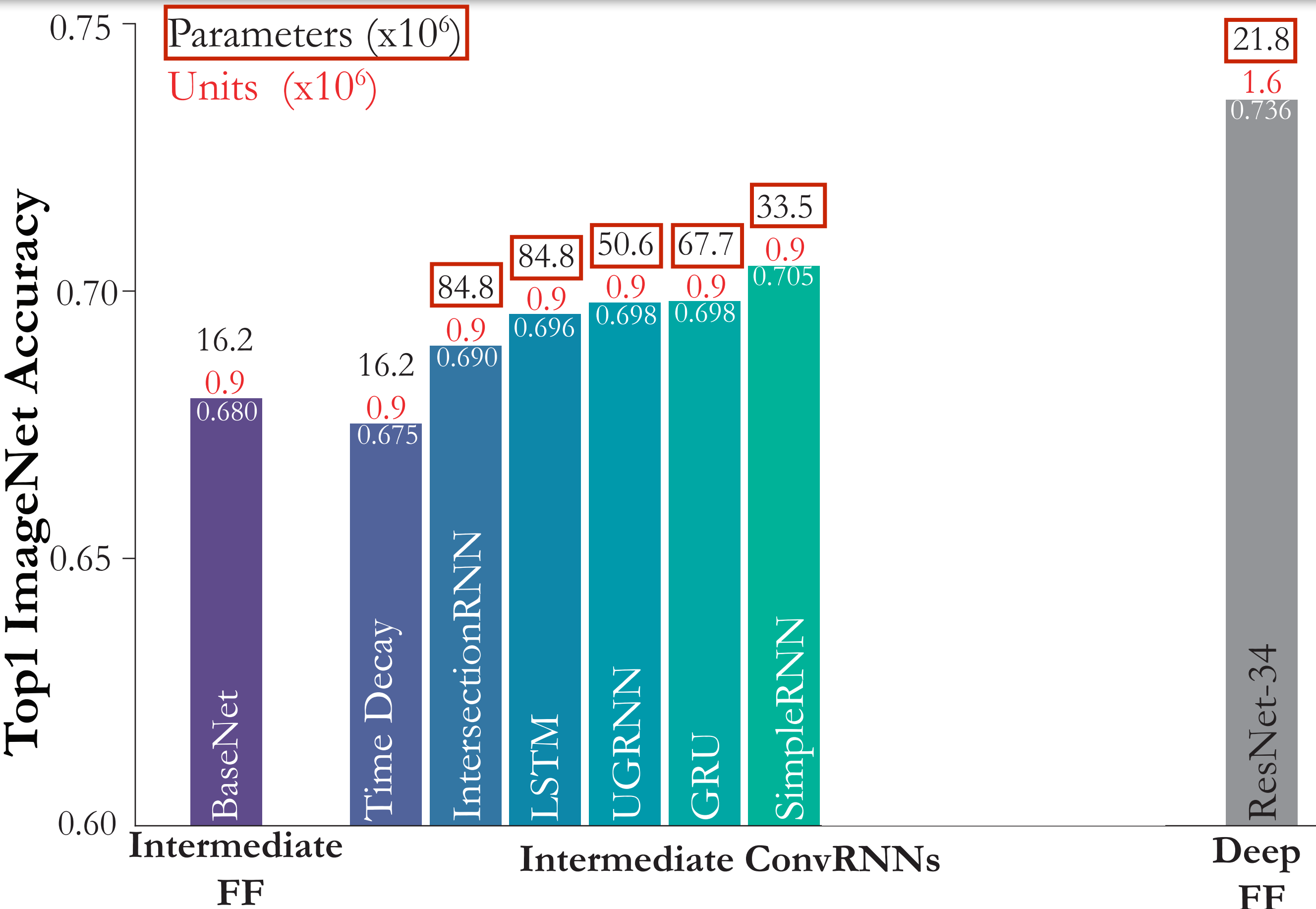


Many Choices of Local Recurrence

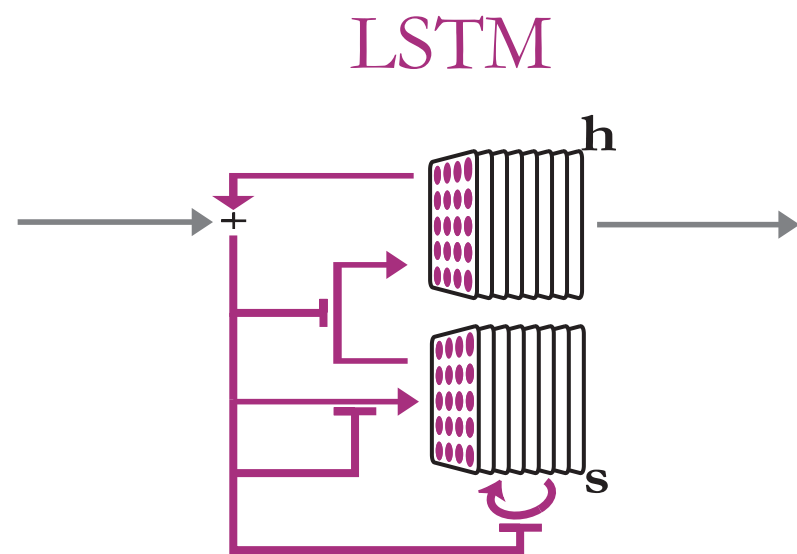
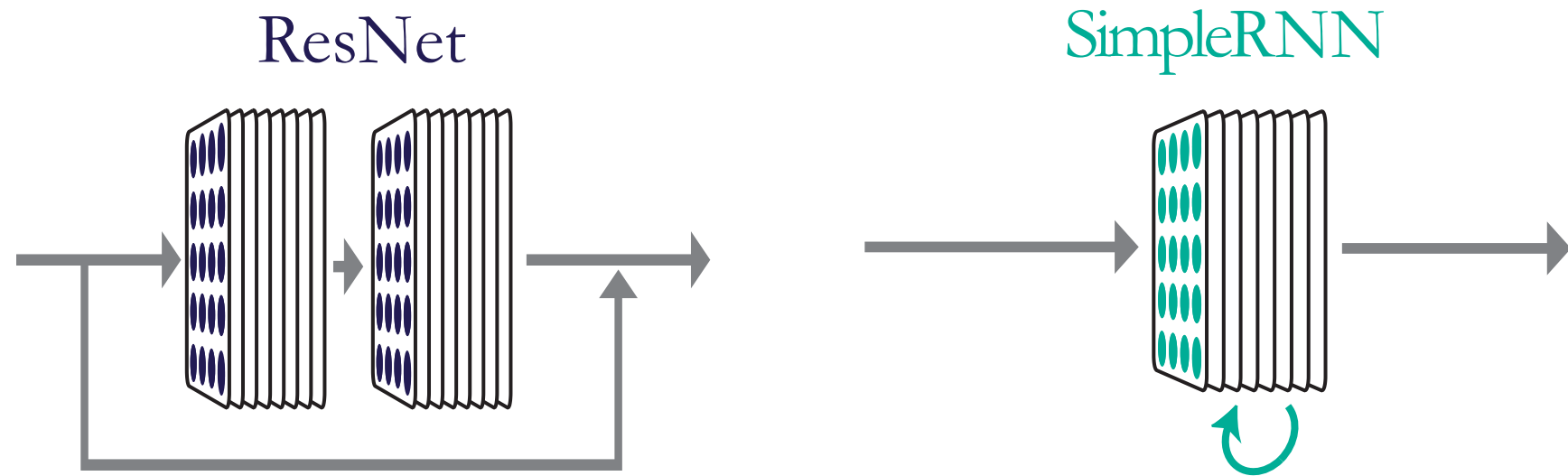


Circuit Diagram

Adding these helps somewhat, but add lots of parameters!



Many Choices of Local Recurrence



Circuit Diagram

Principles of Local Recurrence

Passthrough Mechanism

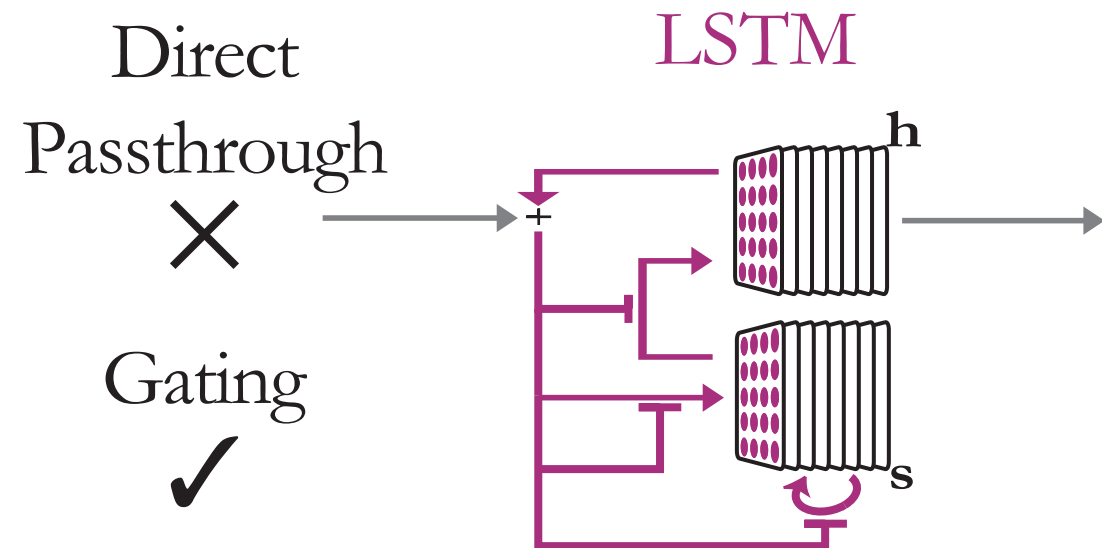
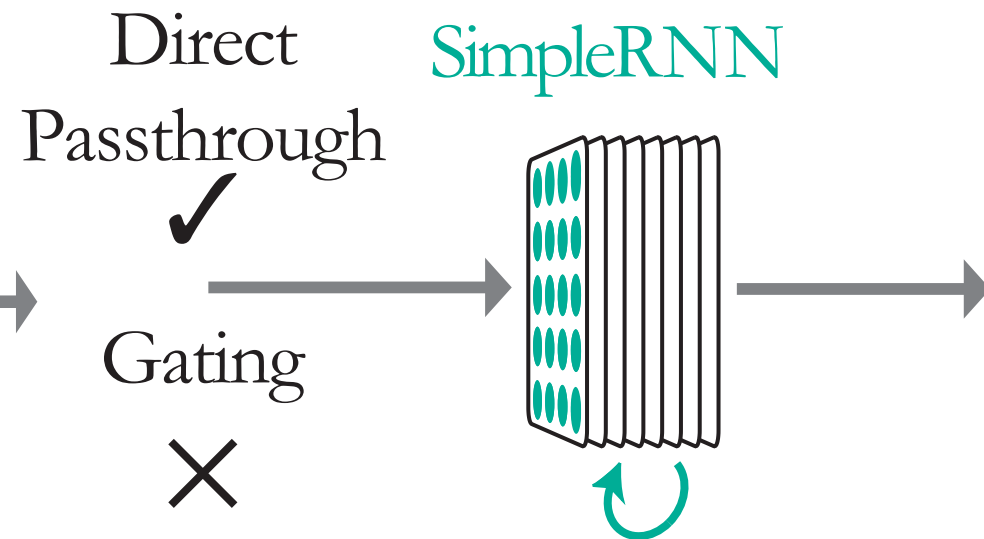
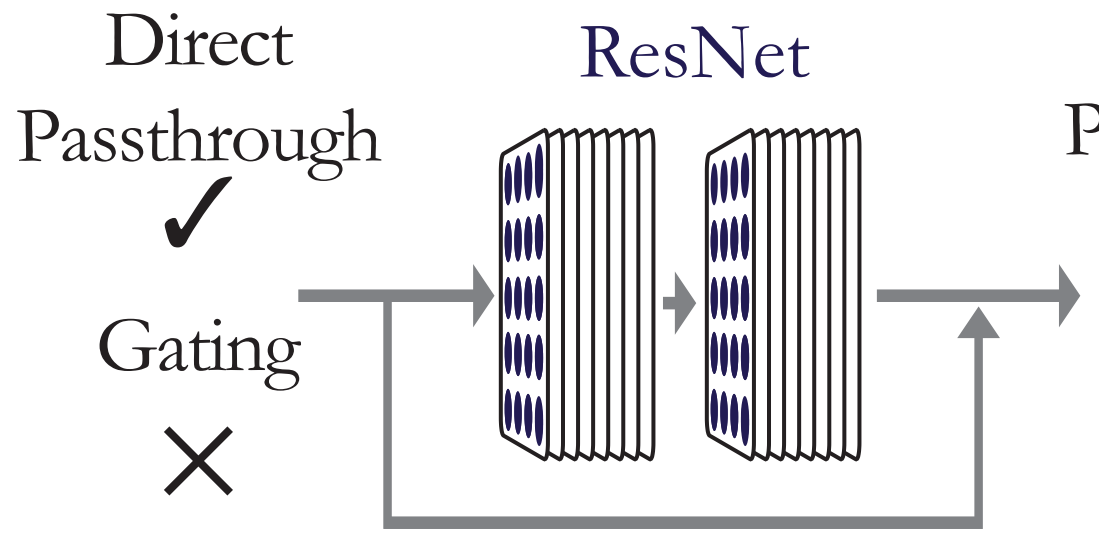
$State = 0:$

Gating Mechanism

Input x_t → Output $f(W^*x_t + b)$

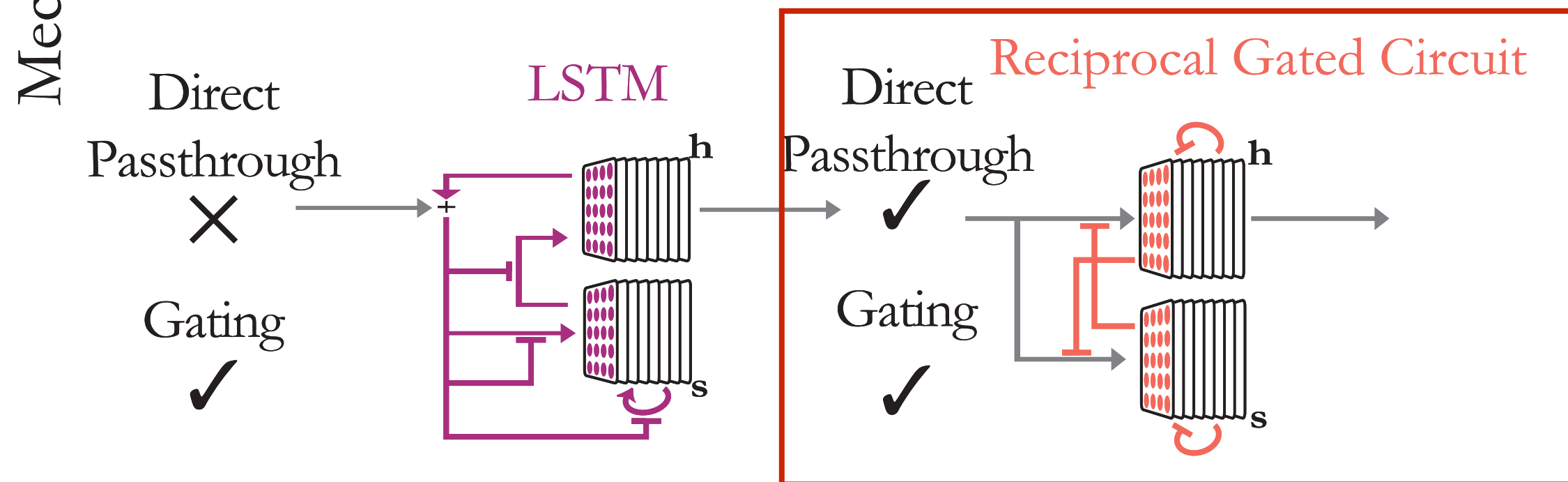
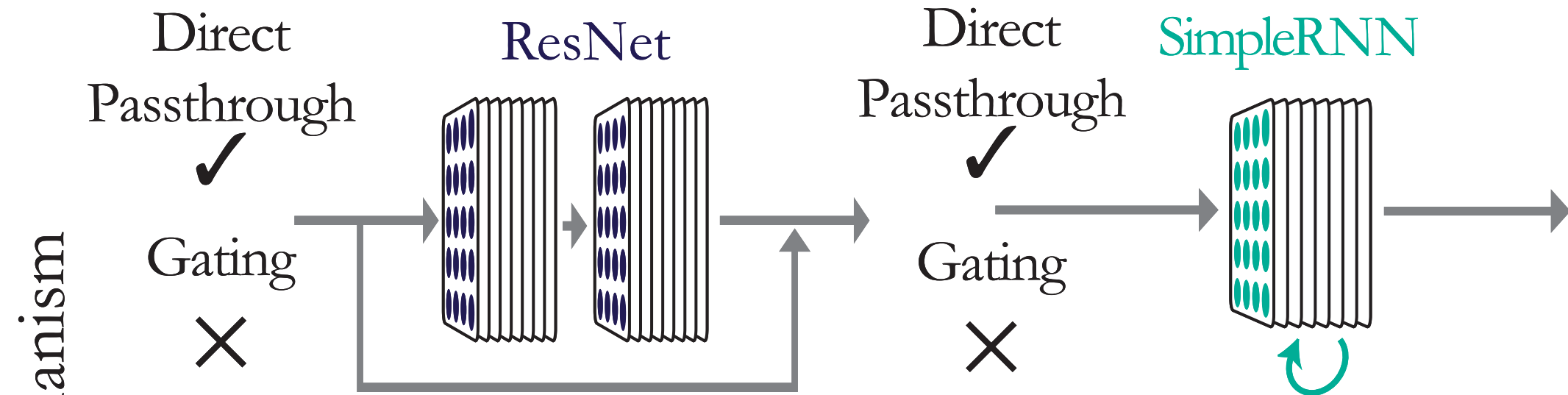
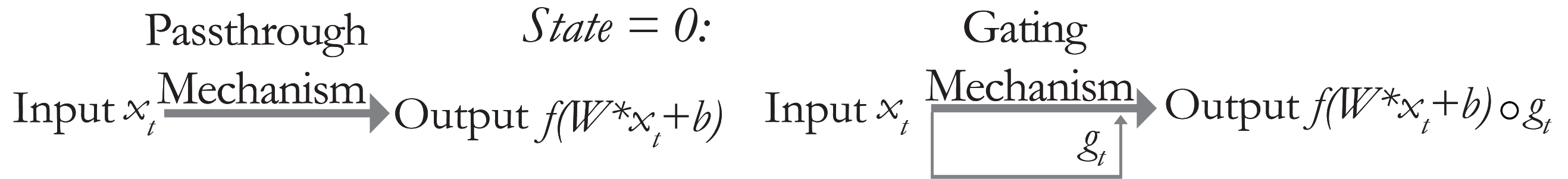
Input x_t → Output $f(W^*x_t + b) \circ g_t$

Mechanism



Circuit Diagram

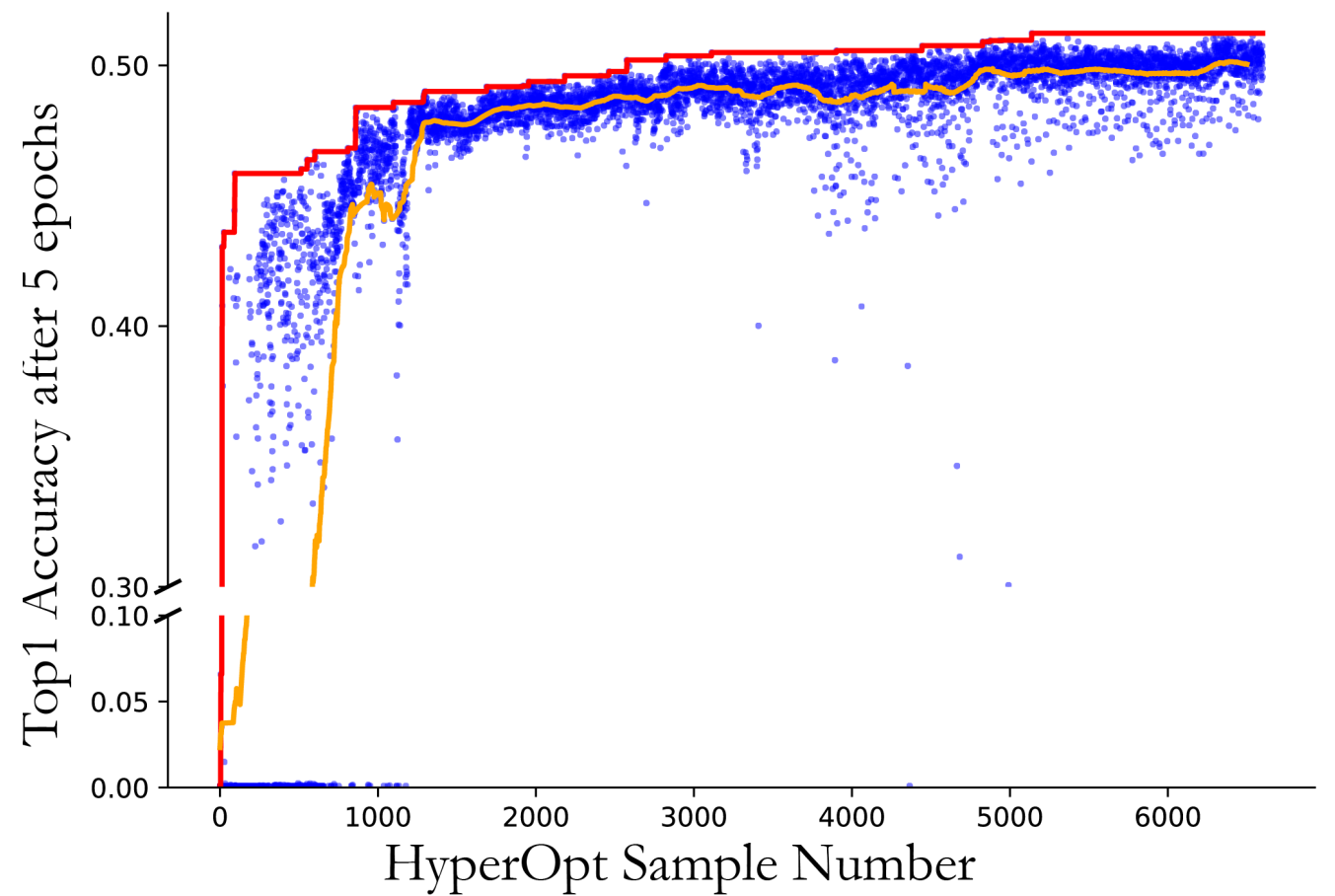
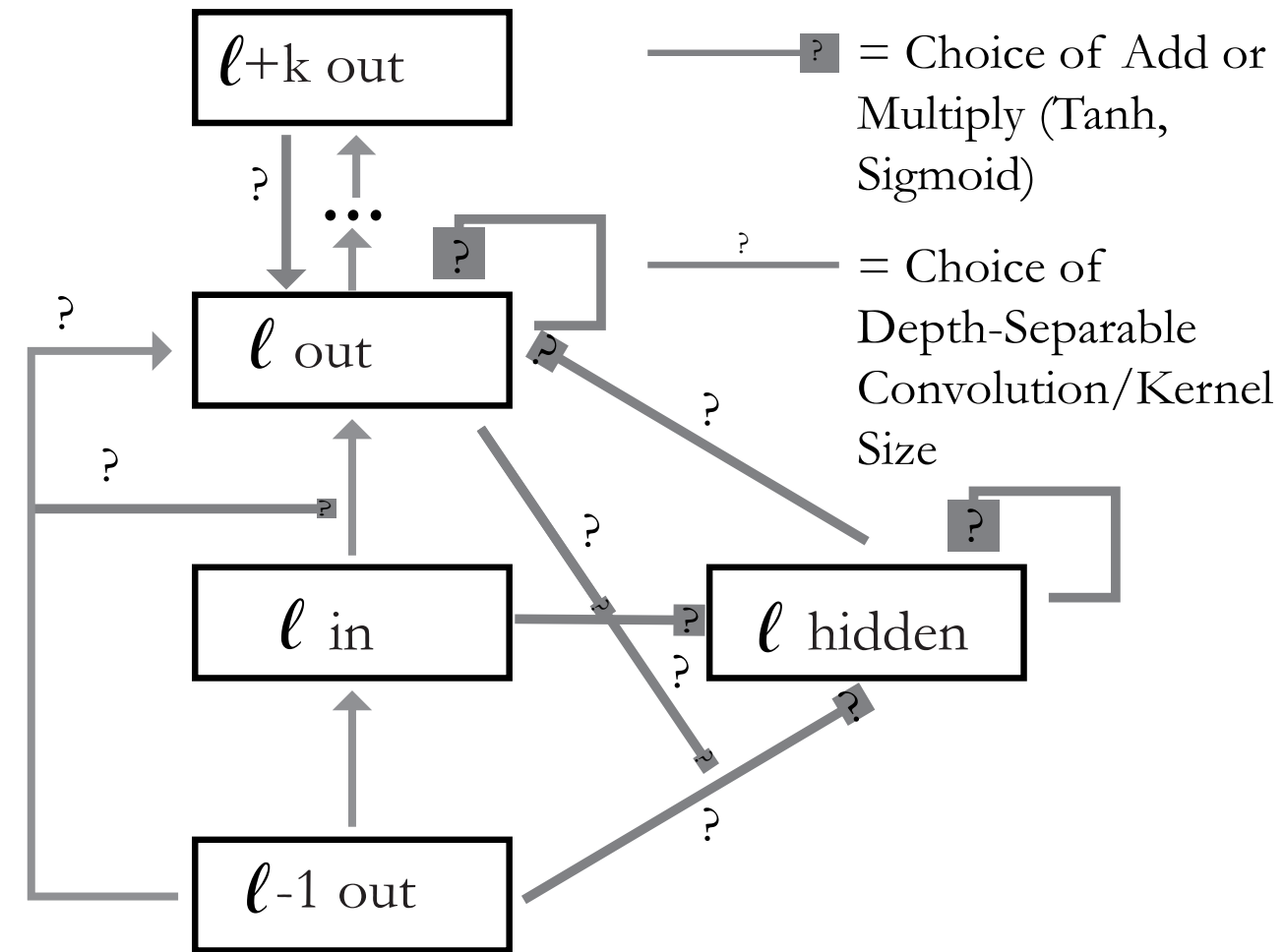
Principles of Local Recurrence: Strong Circuit Constraints



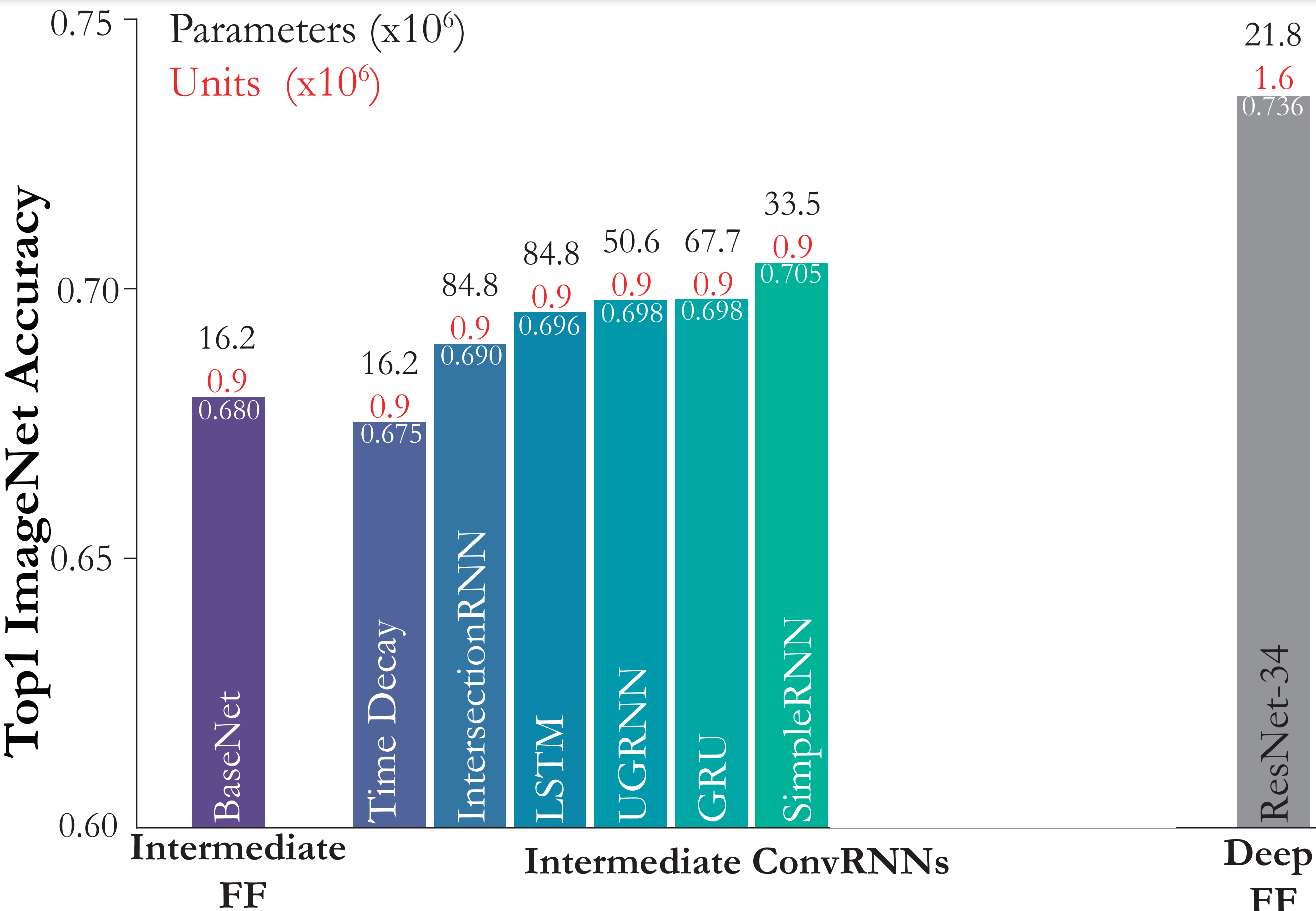
Inspired by cortical microcircuit

Circuit Diagram

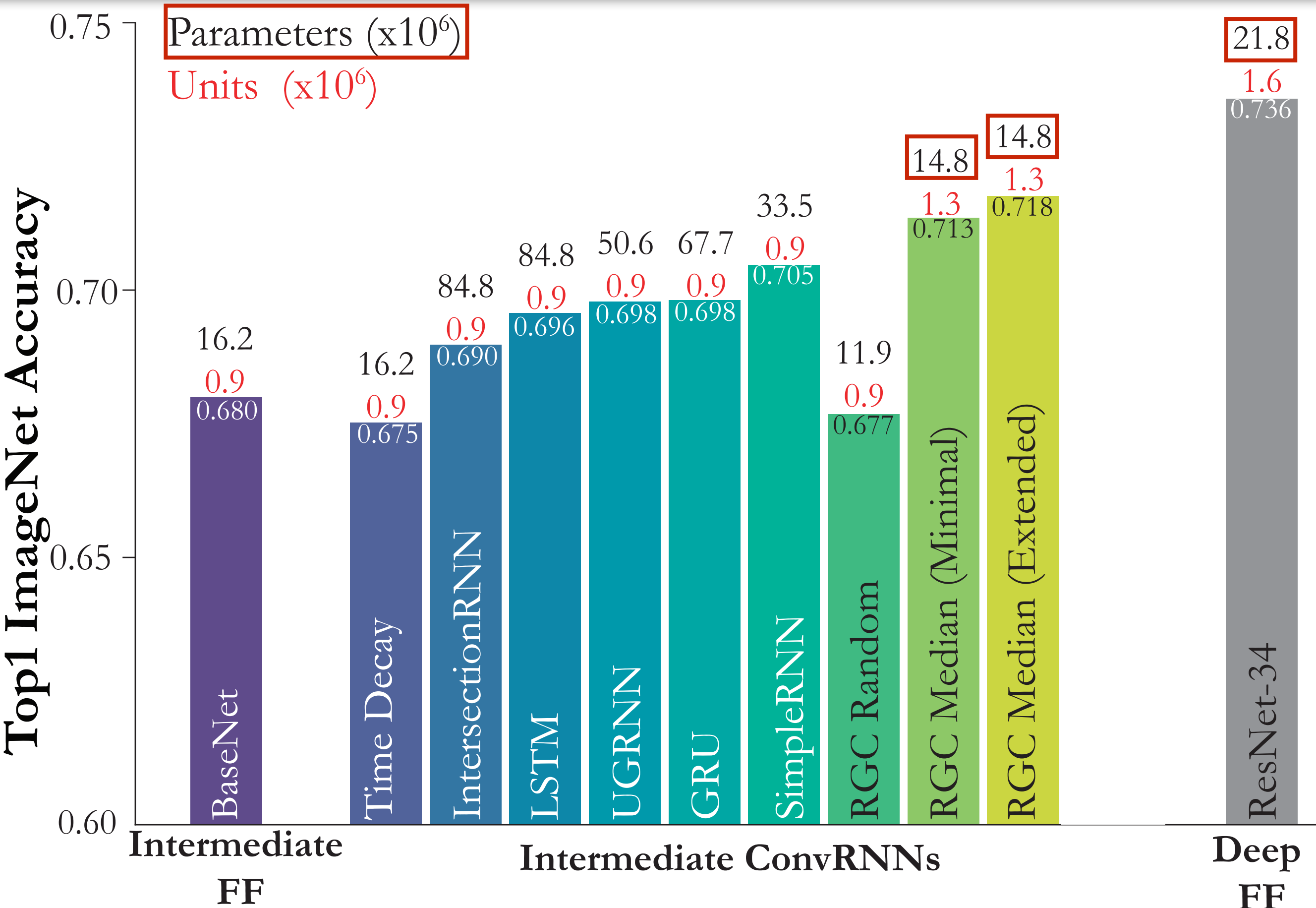
Search Over Local and Global Recurrence



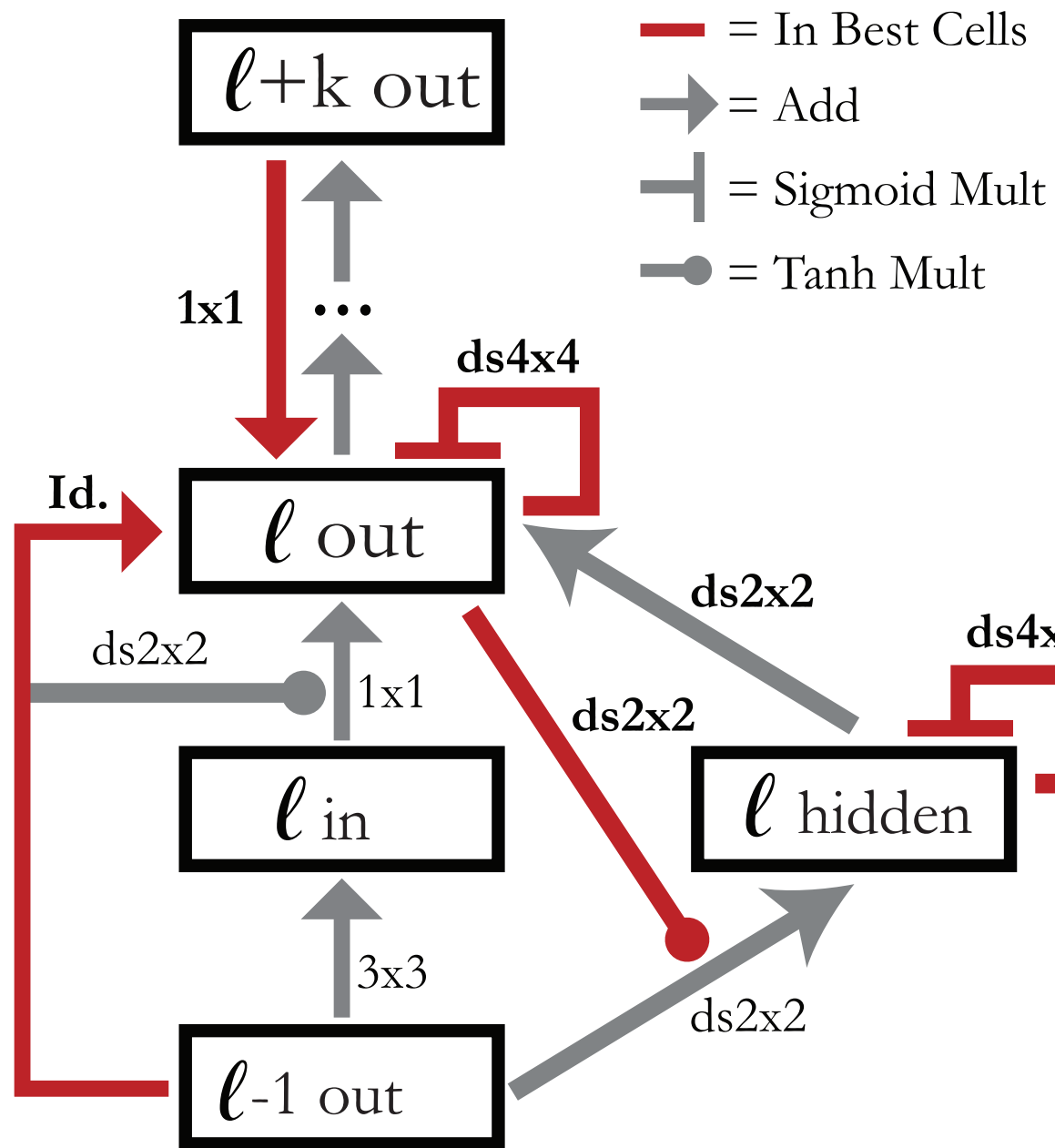
Evolutionary search yields improved performance



Evolutionary search yields improved performance

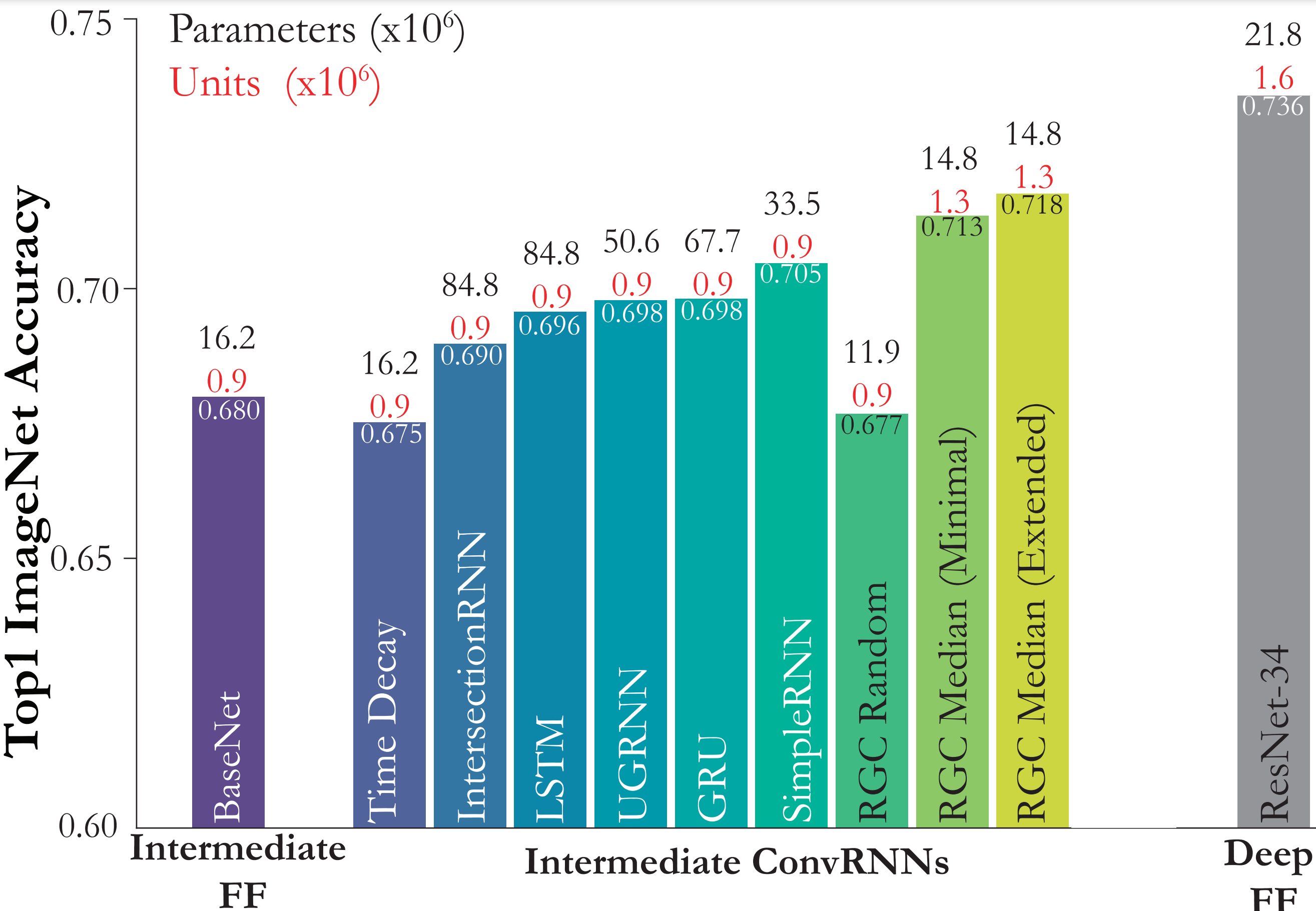


Emergent Local and Global Connectivity Patterns

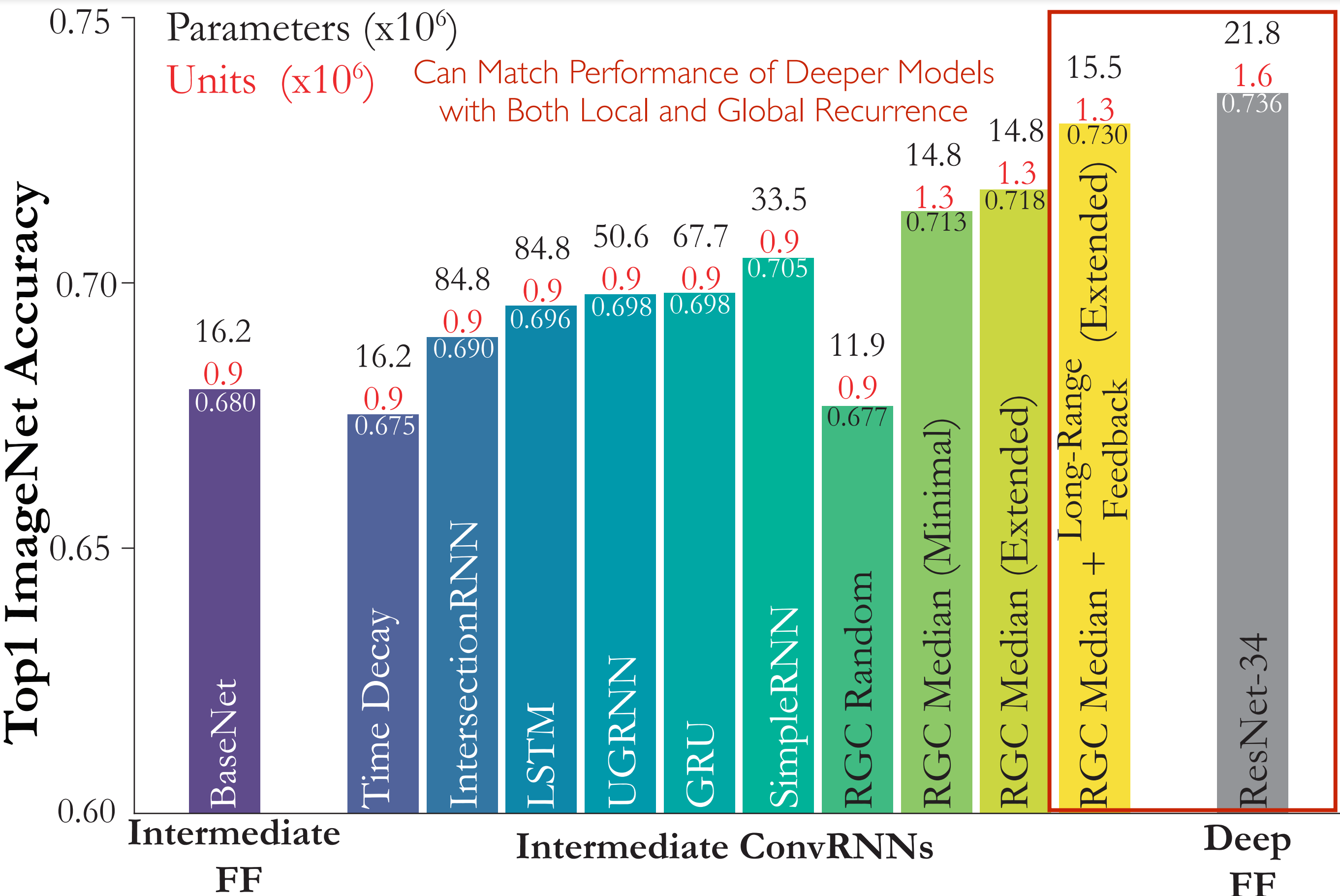


Conservation on parameter count as a byproduct of evolutionary optimization

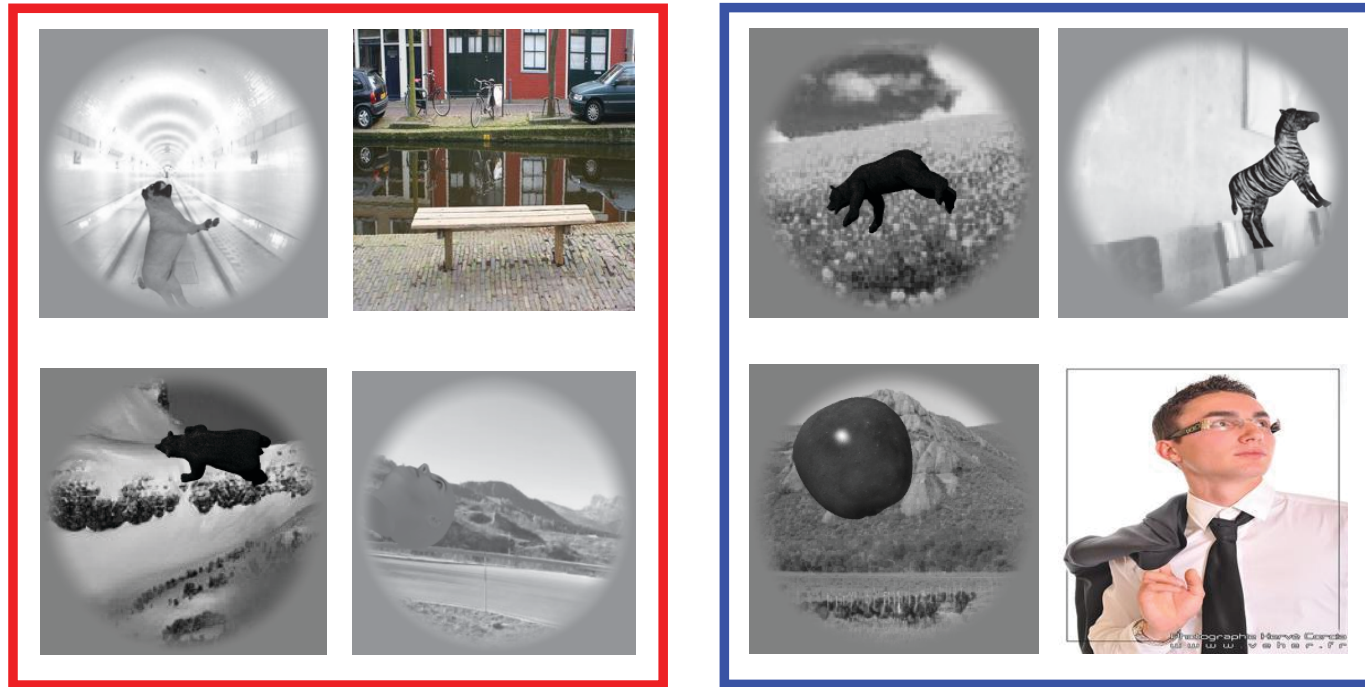
Global Feedback Connections Matter



Global Feedback Connections Matter

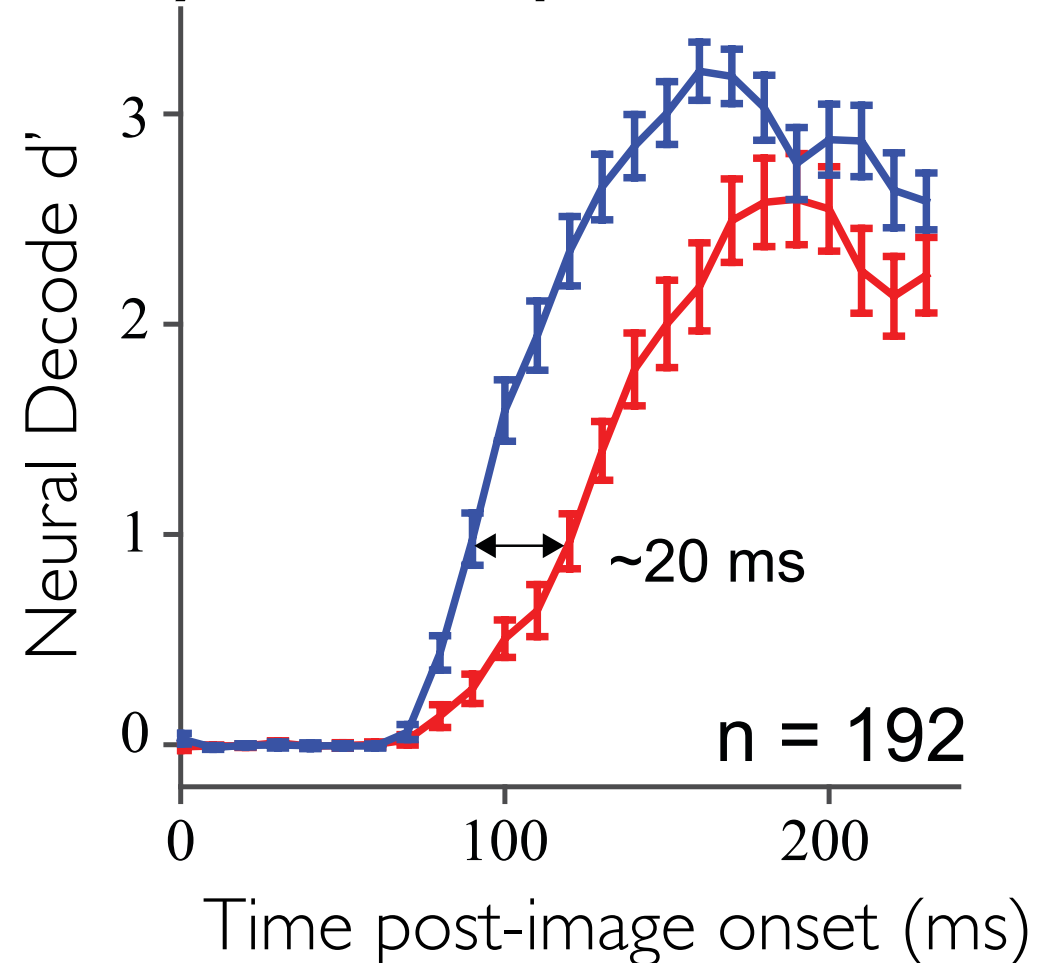
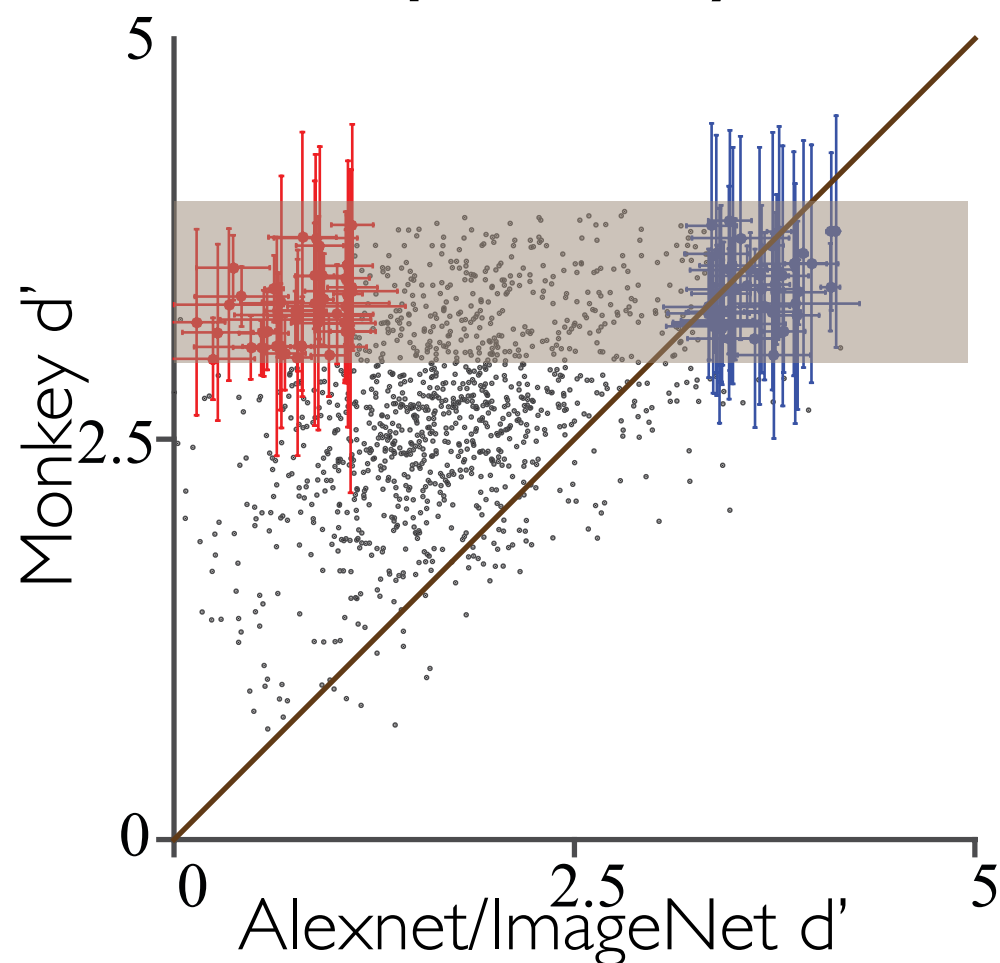


Comparing to Primate Object Solution Times (OSTs)



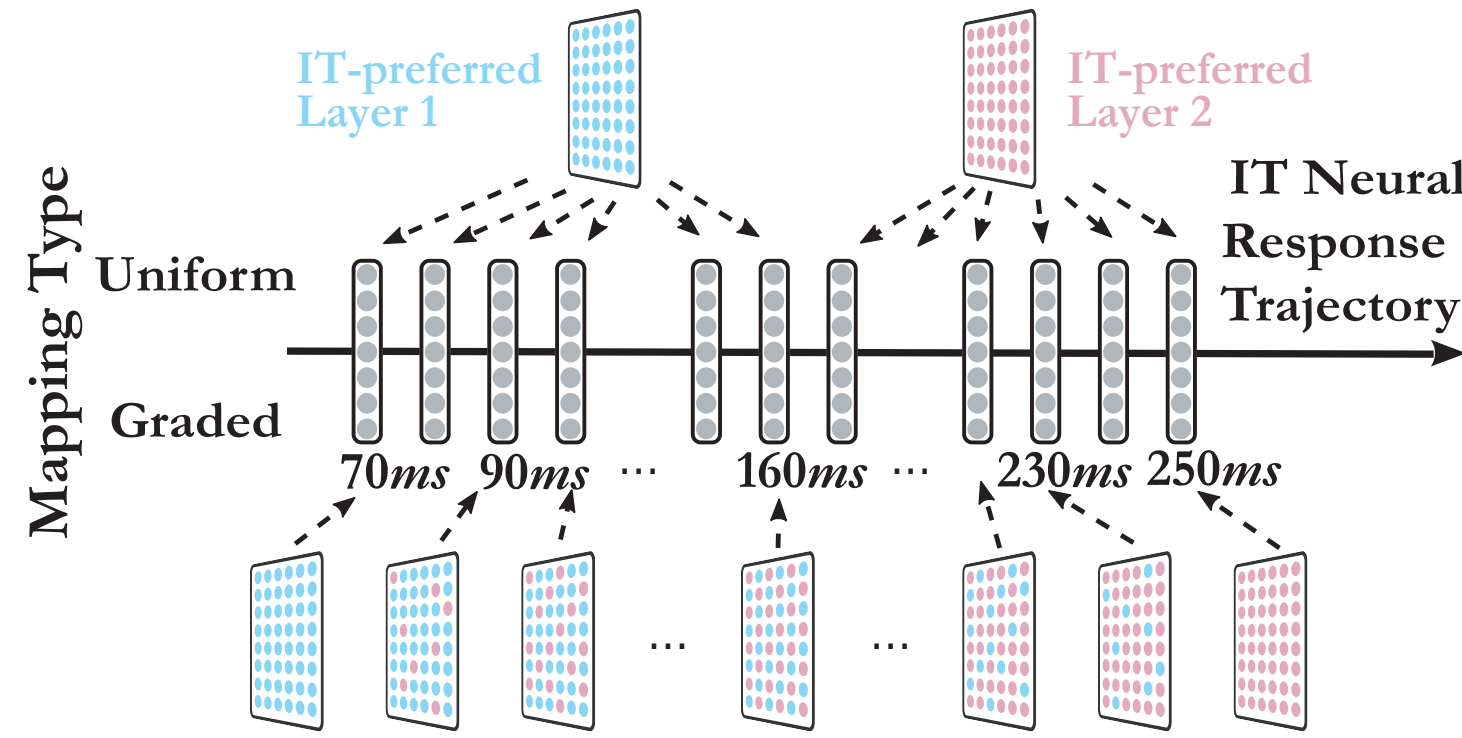
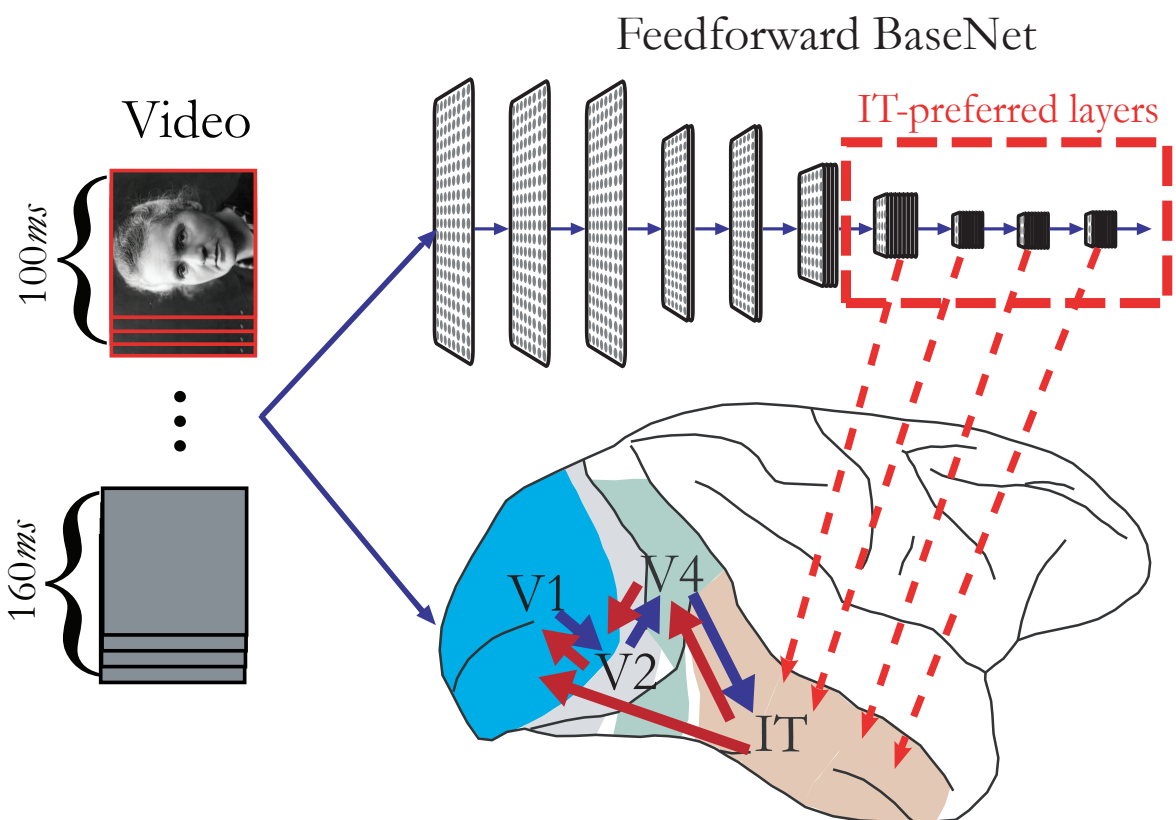
CNN-not-solved images
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Can we explain *why* we see these dynamical patterns emerge in IT?

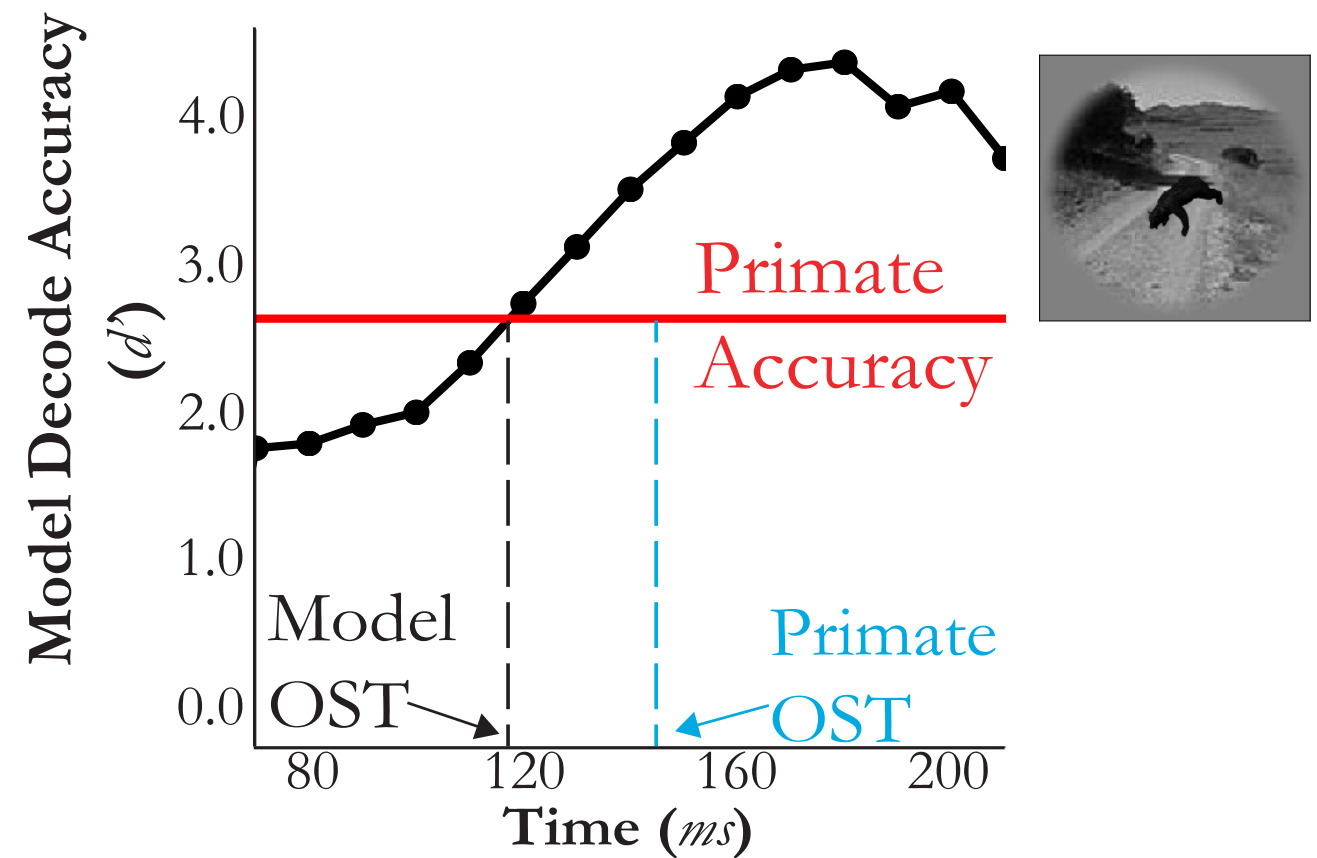
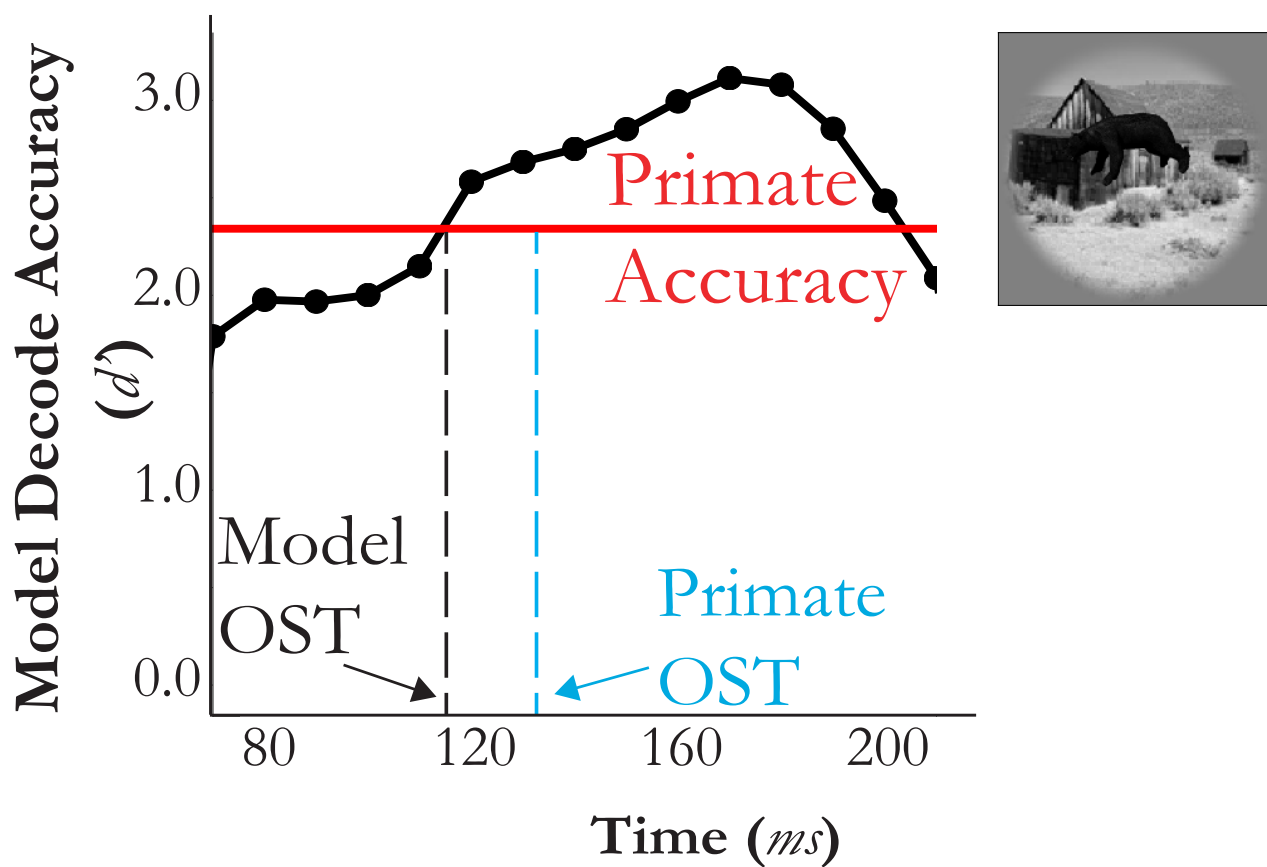
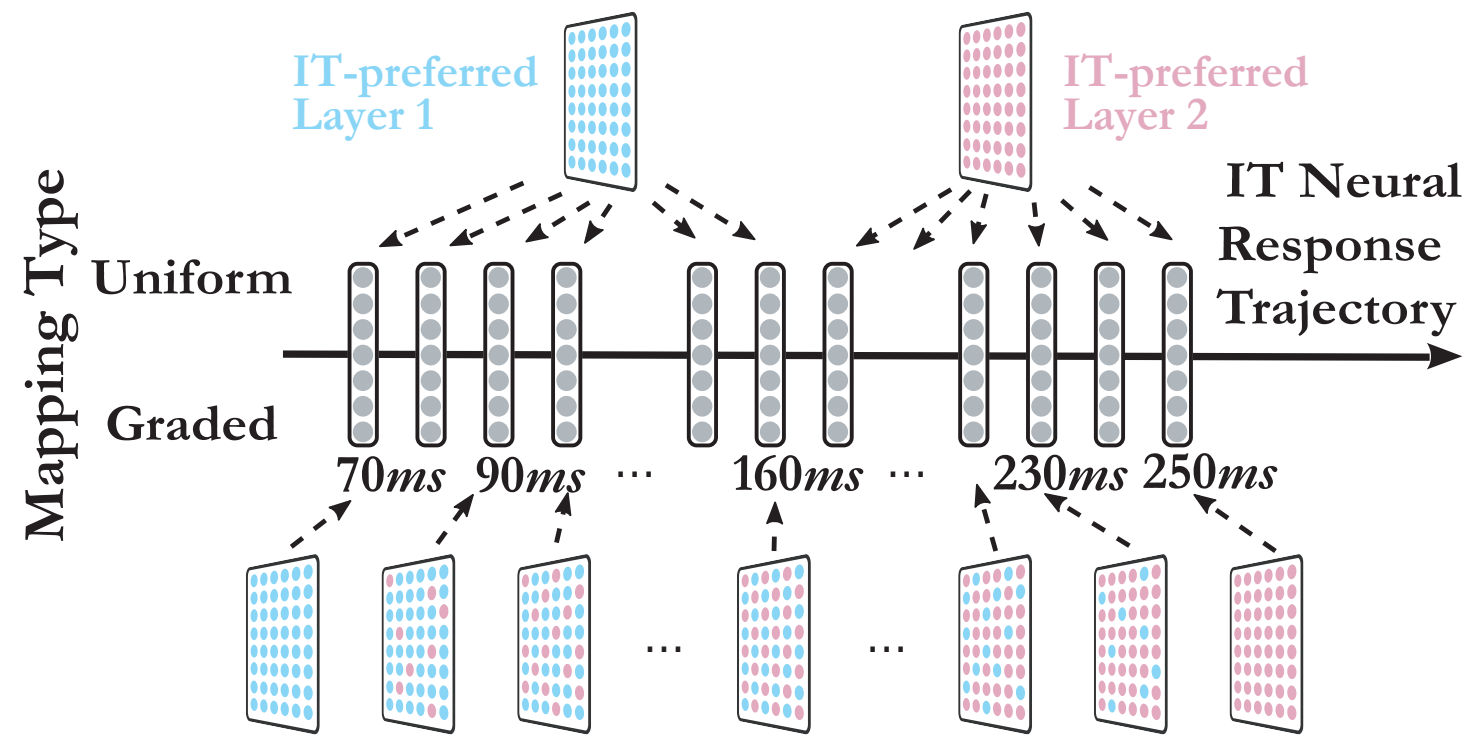
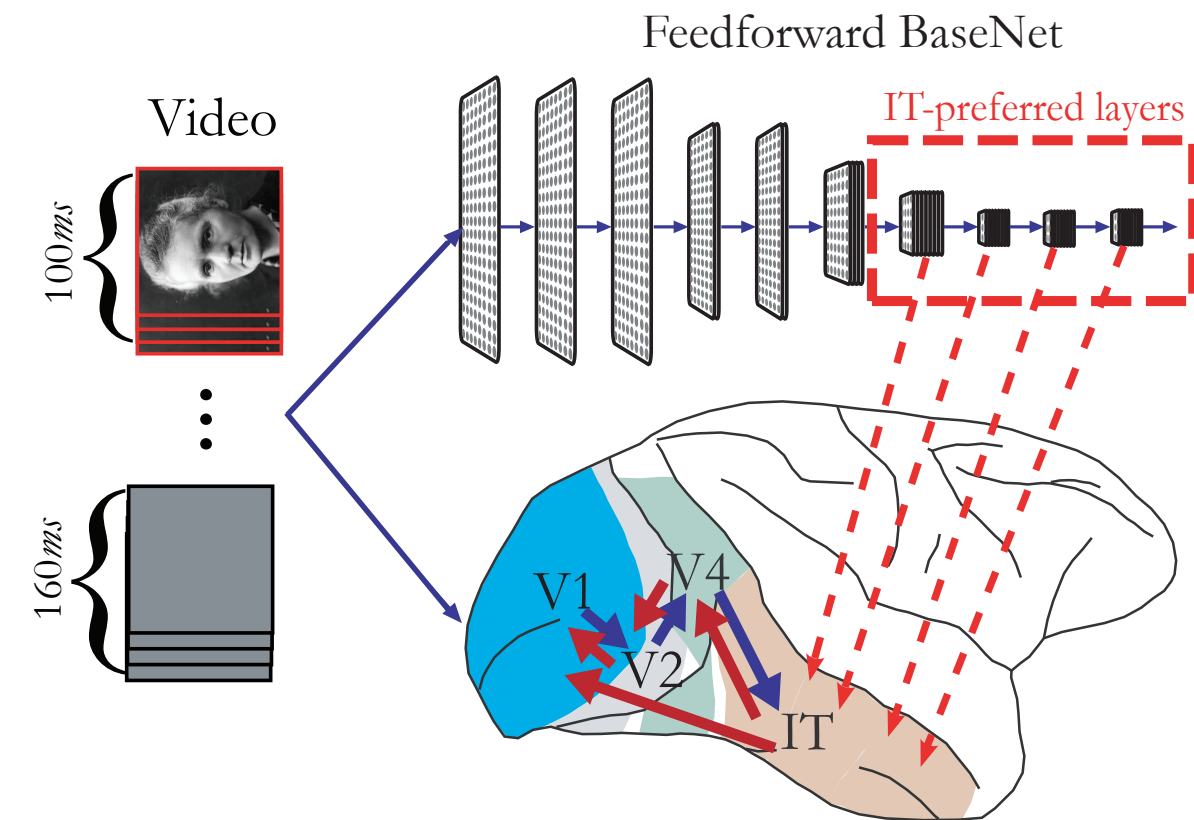


Kar et. al. (2019)

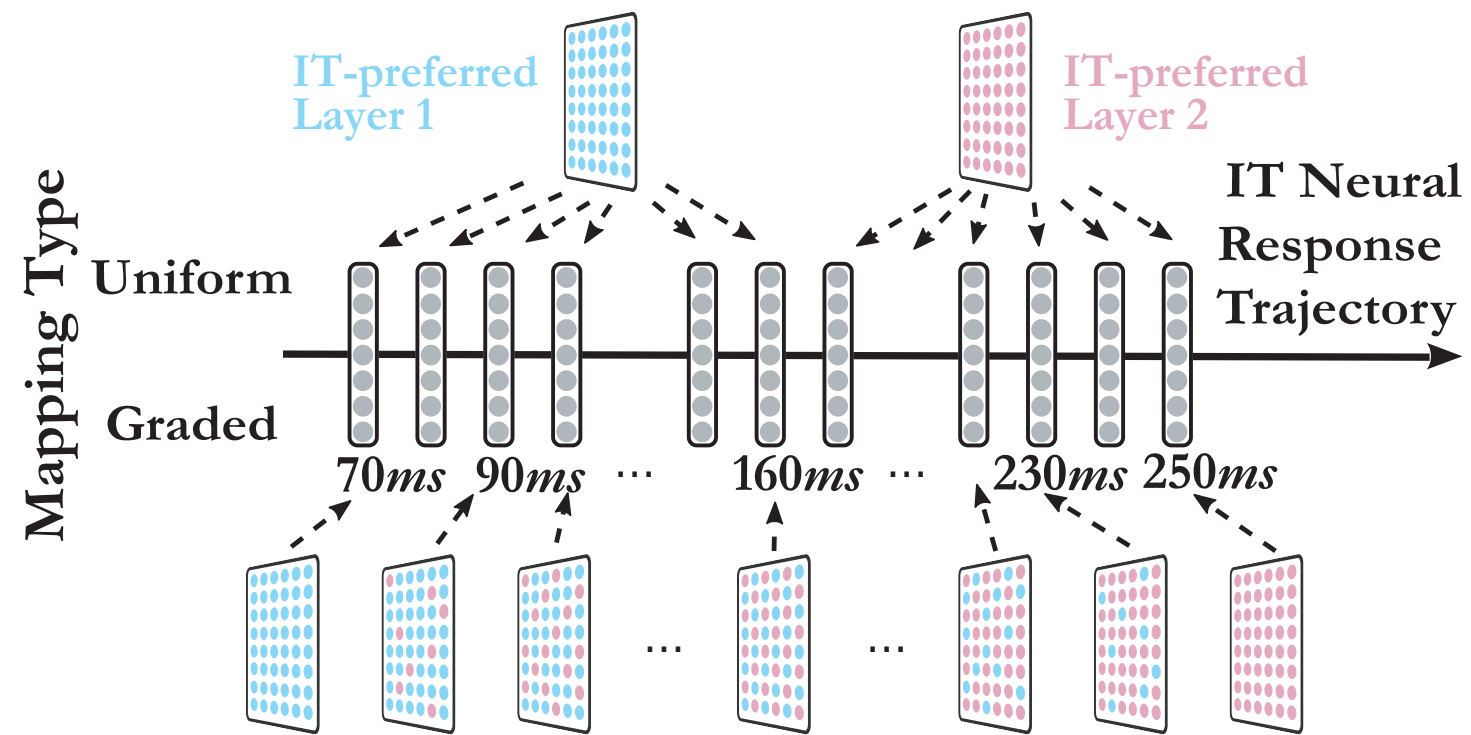
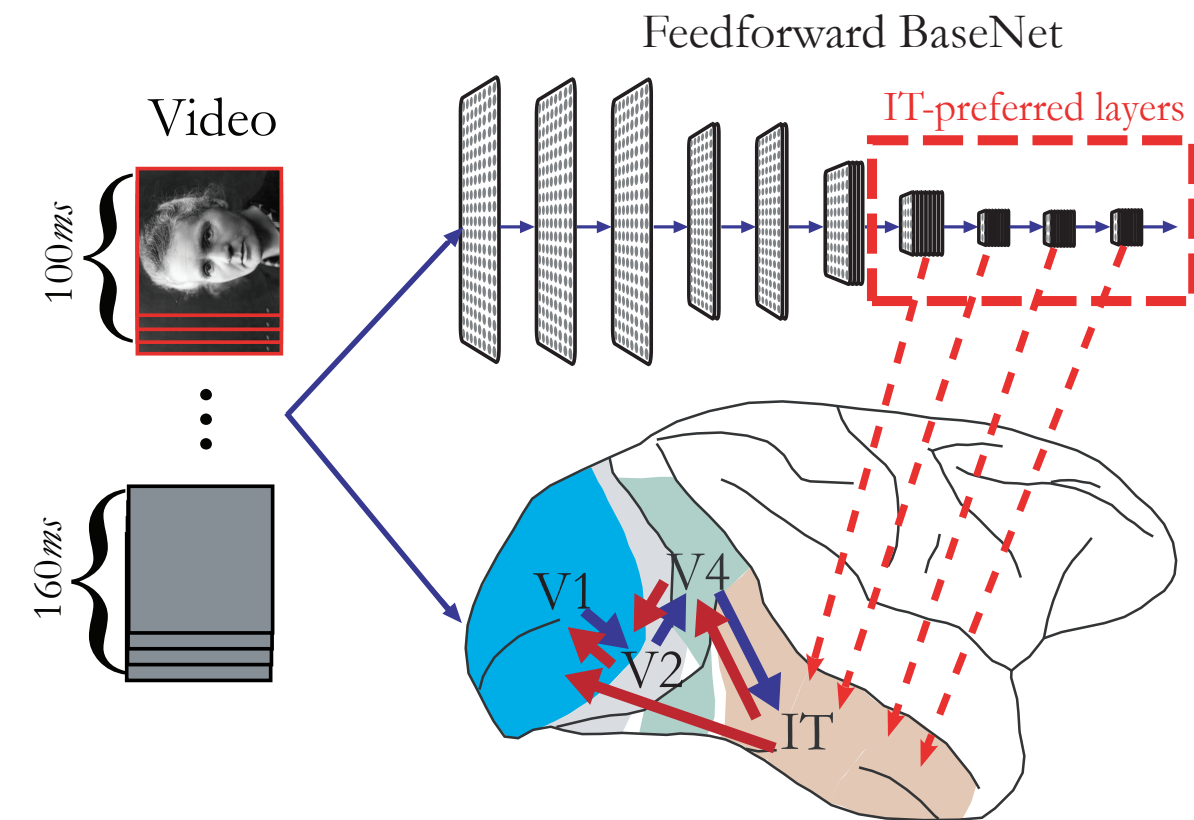
Comparing to Primate Object Solution Times (OSTs)



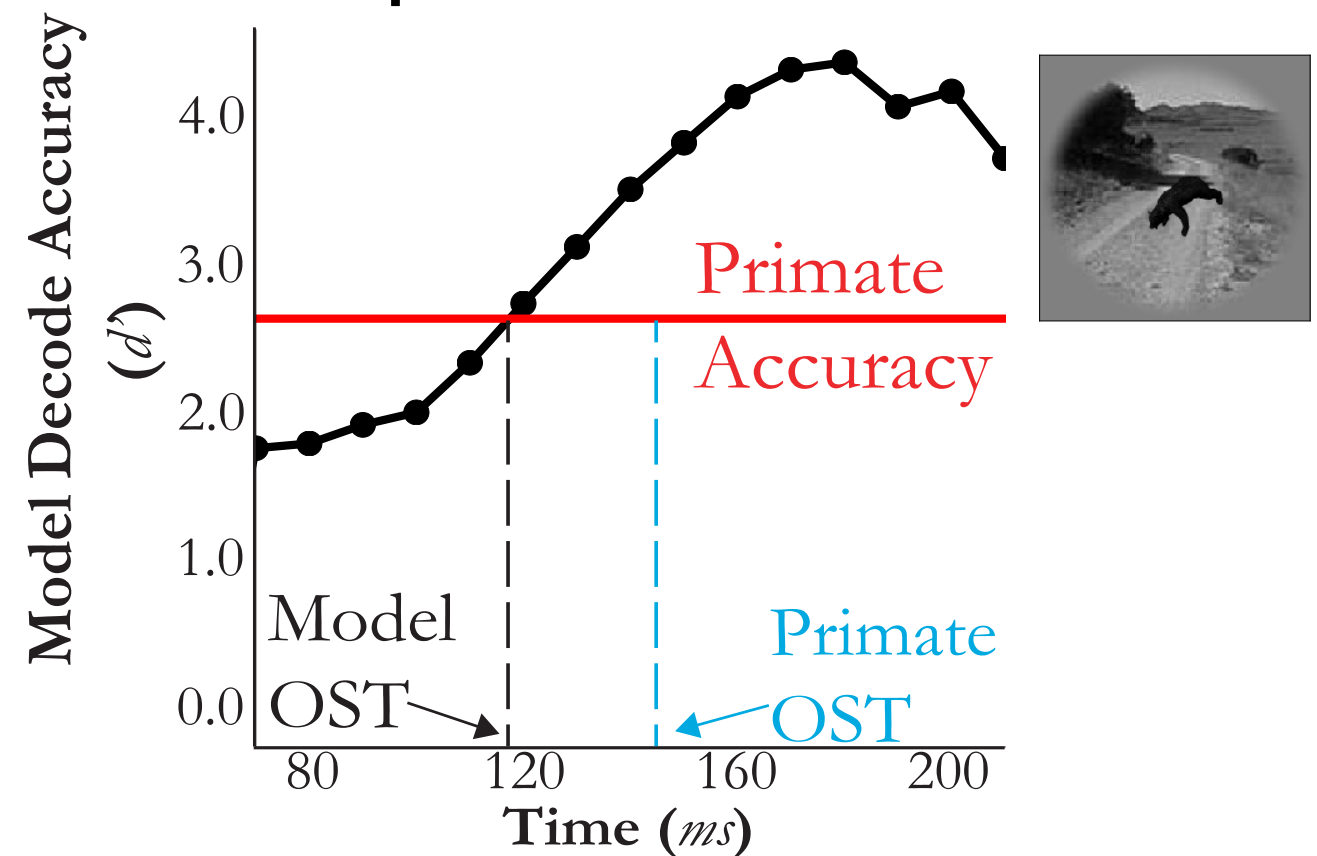
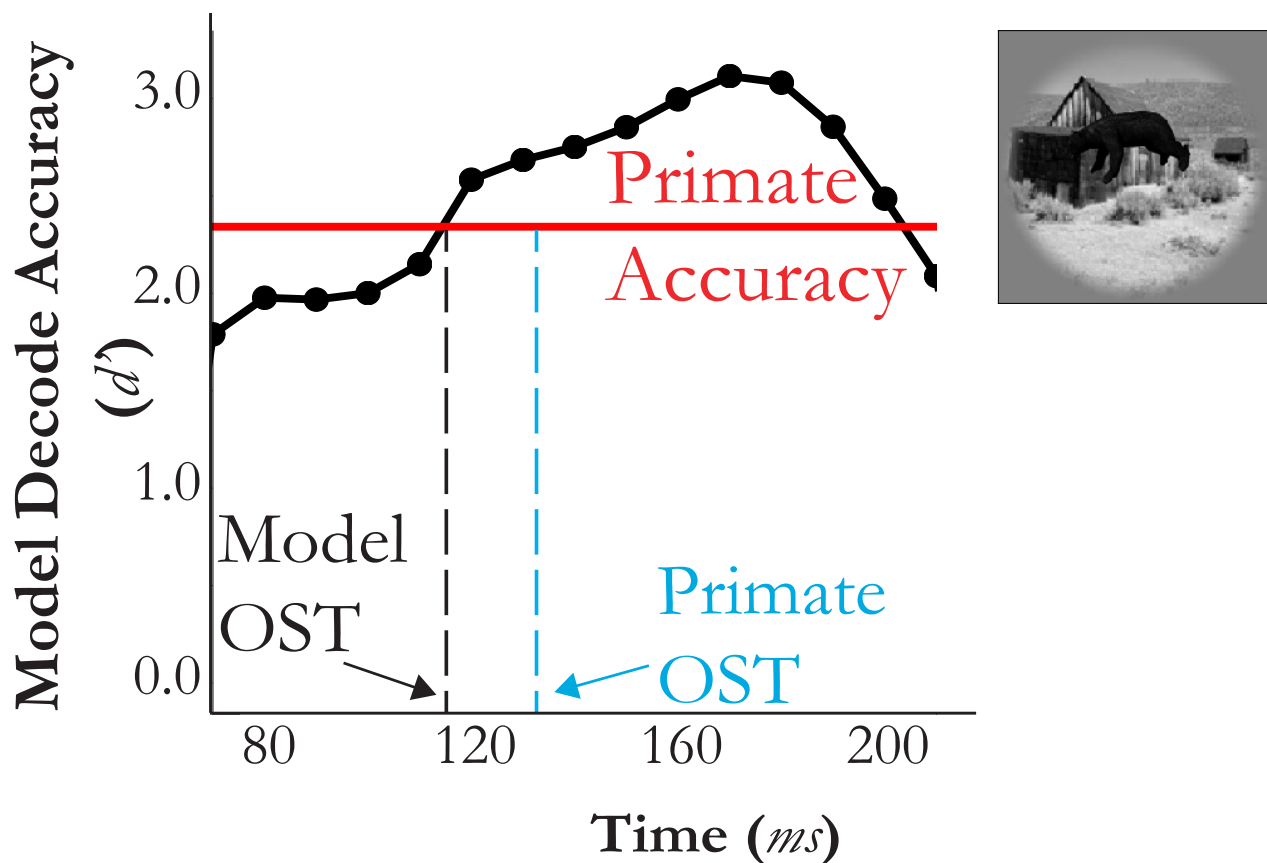
Comparing to Primate Object Solution Times (OSTs)



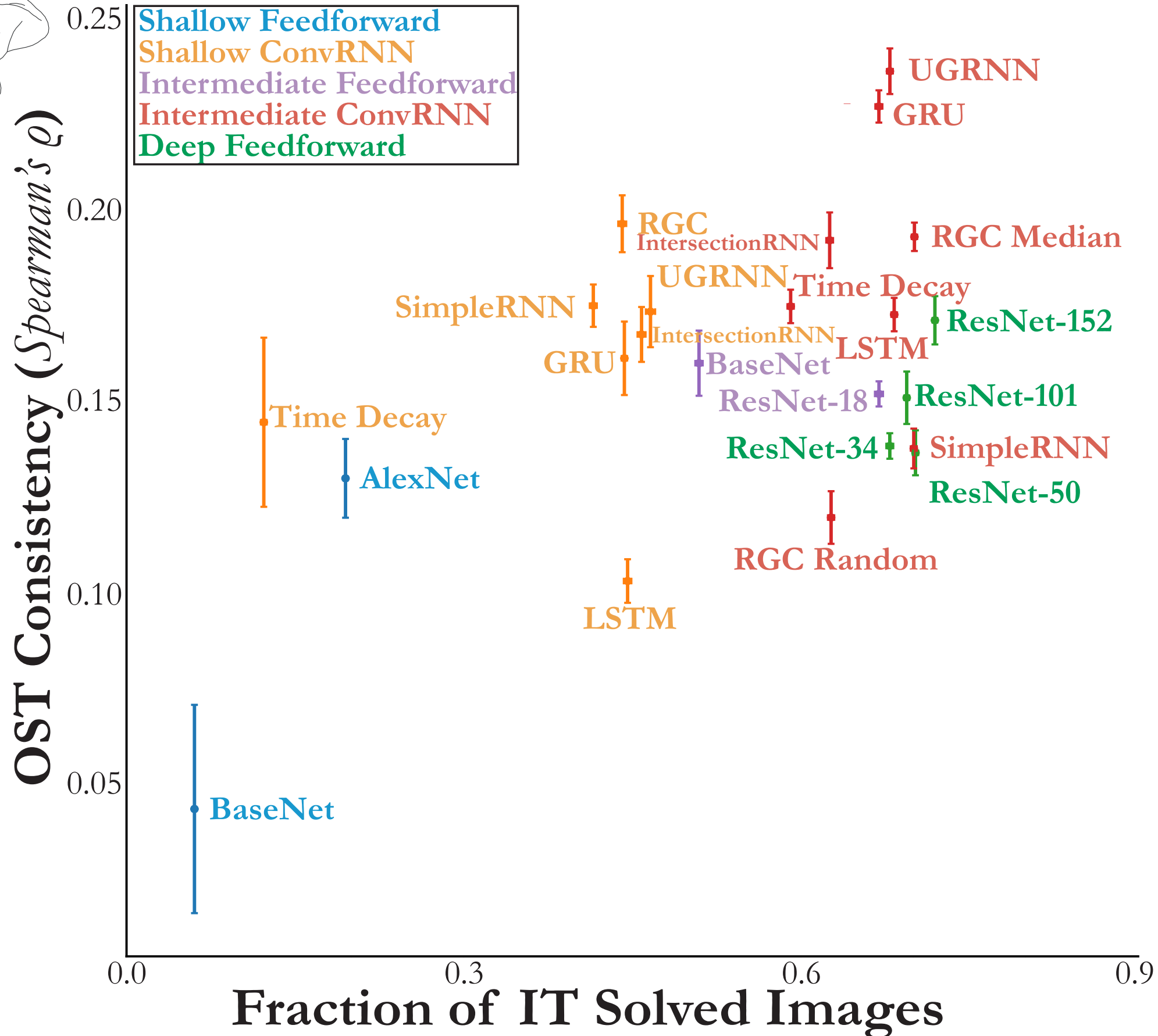
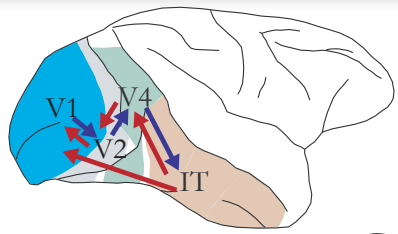
Comparing to Primate Object Solution Times (OSTs)



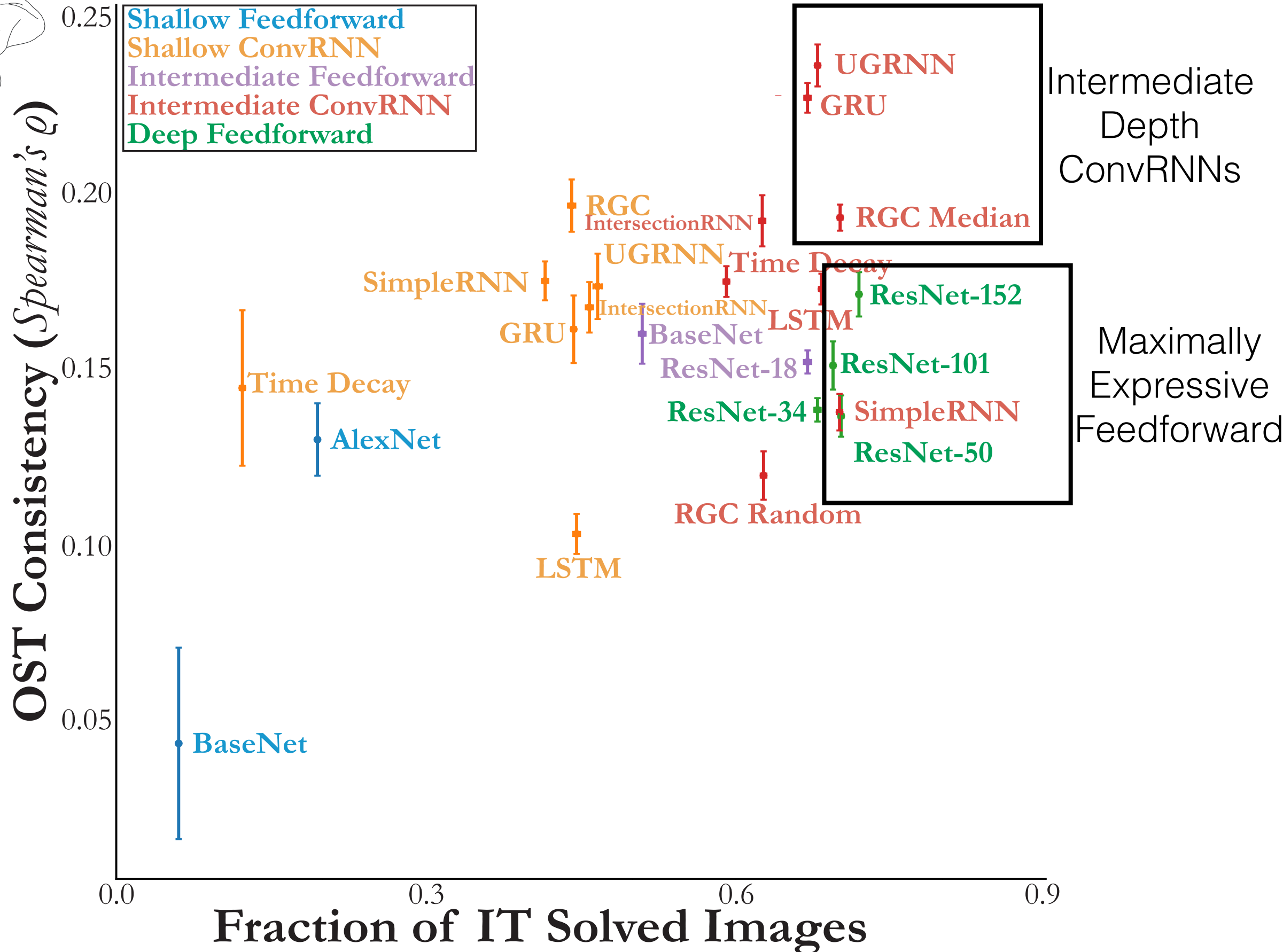
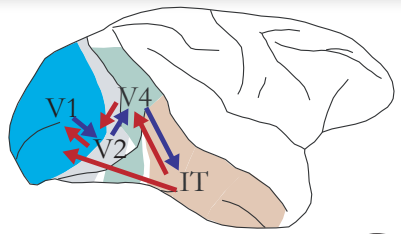
Both ConvRNNs and CNNs can be compared on this metric!



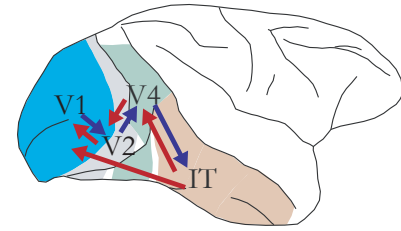
Intermediate ConvRNNs best match OSTs



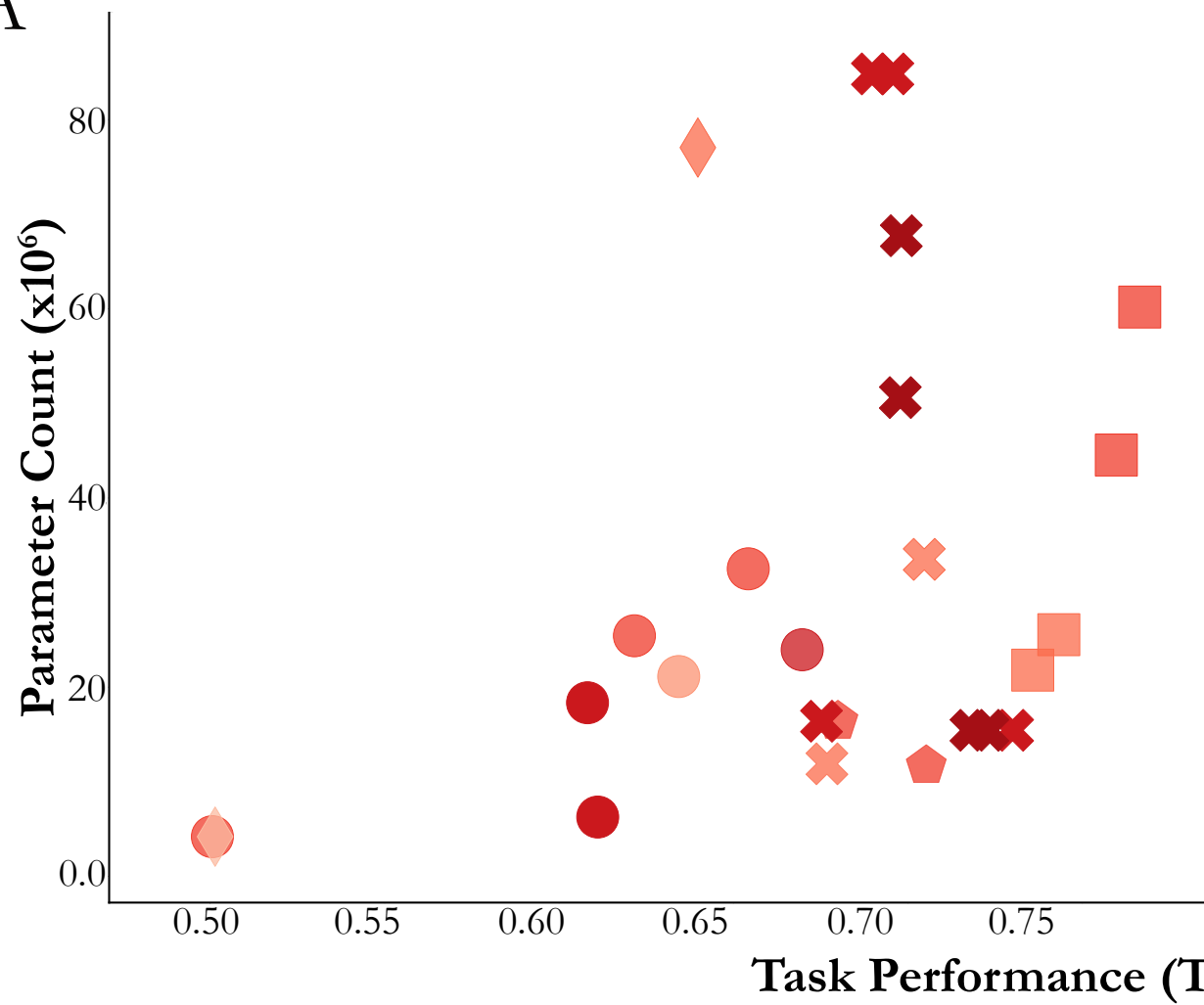
Intermediate ConvRNNs best match OSTs



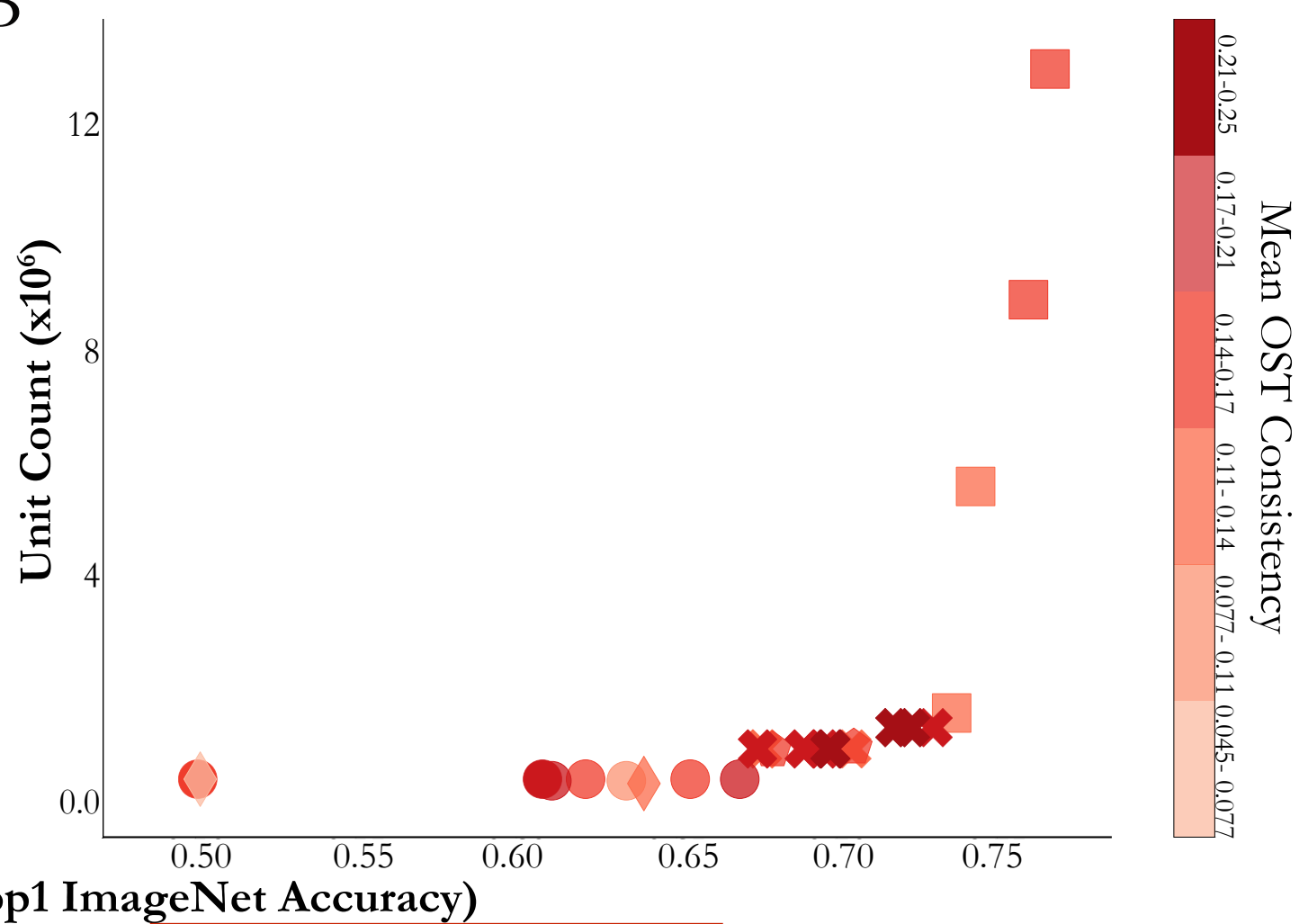
Conservation on network size + performance best matches OST



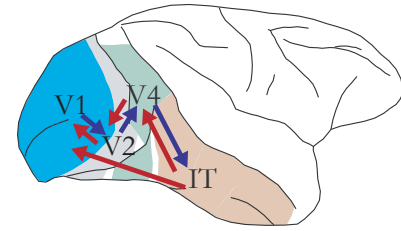
A



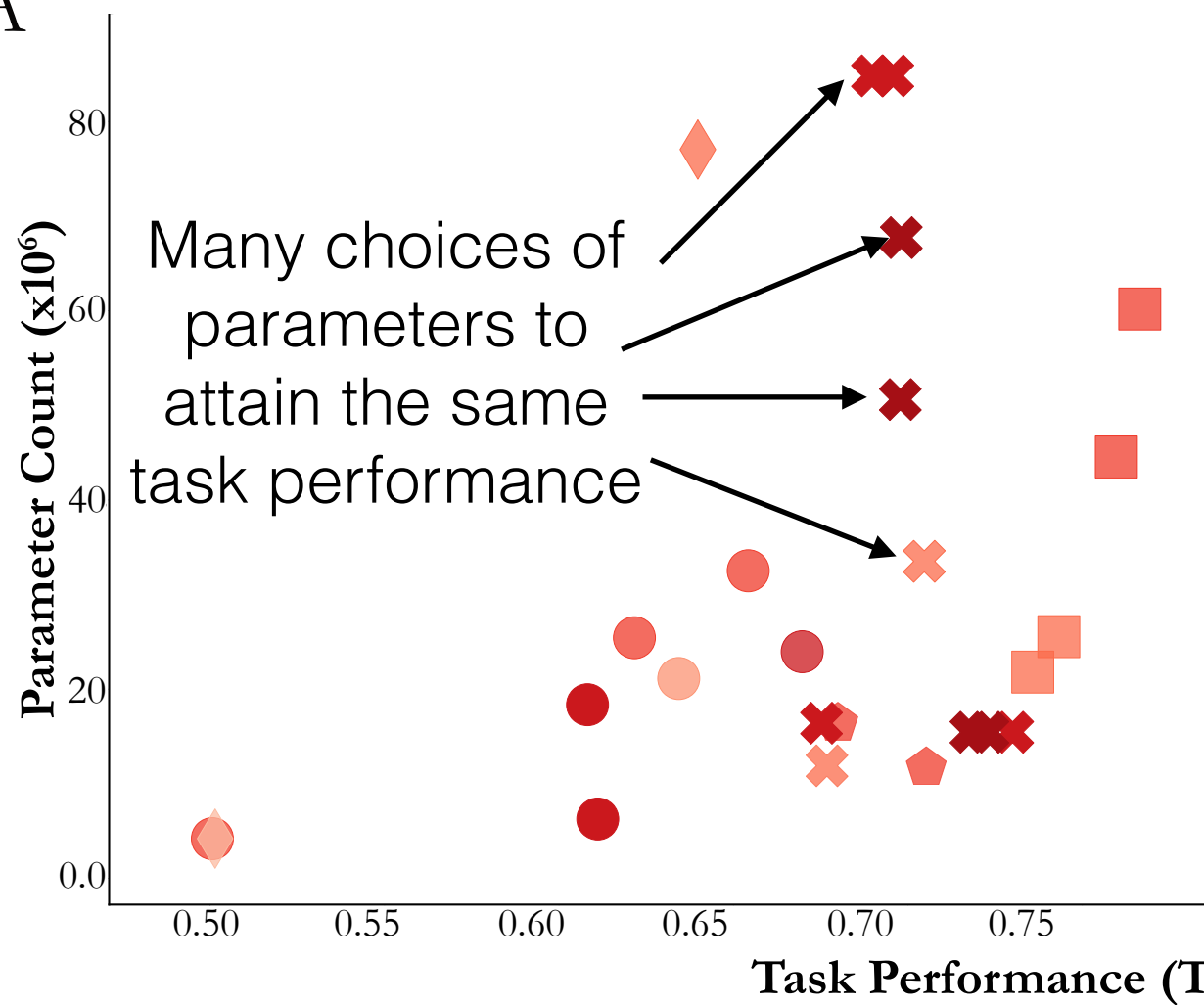
B



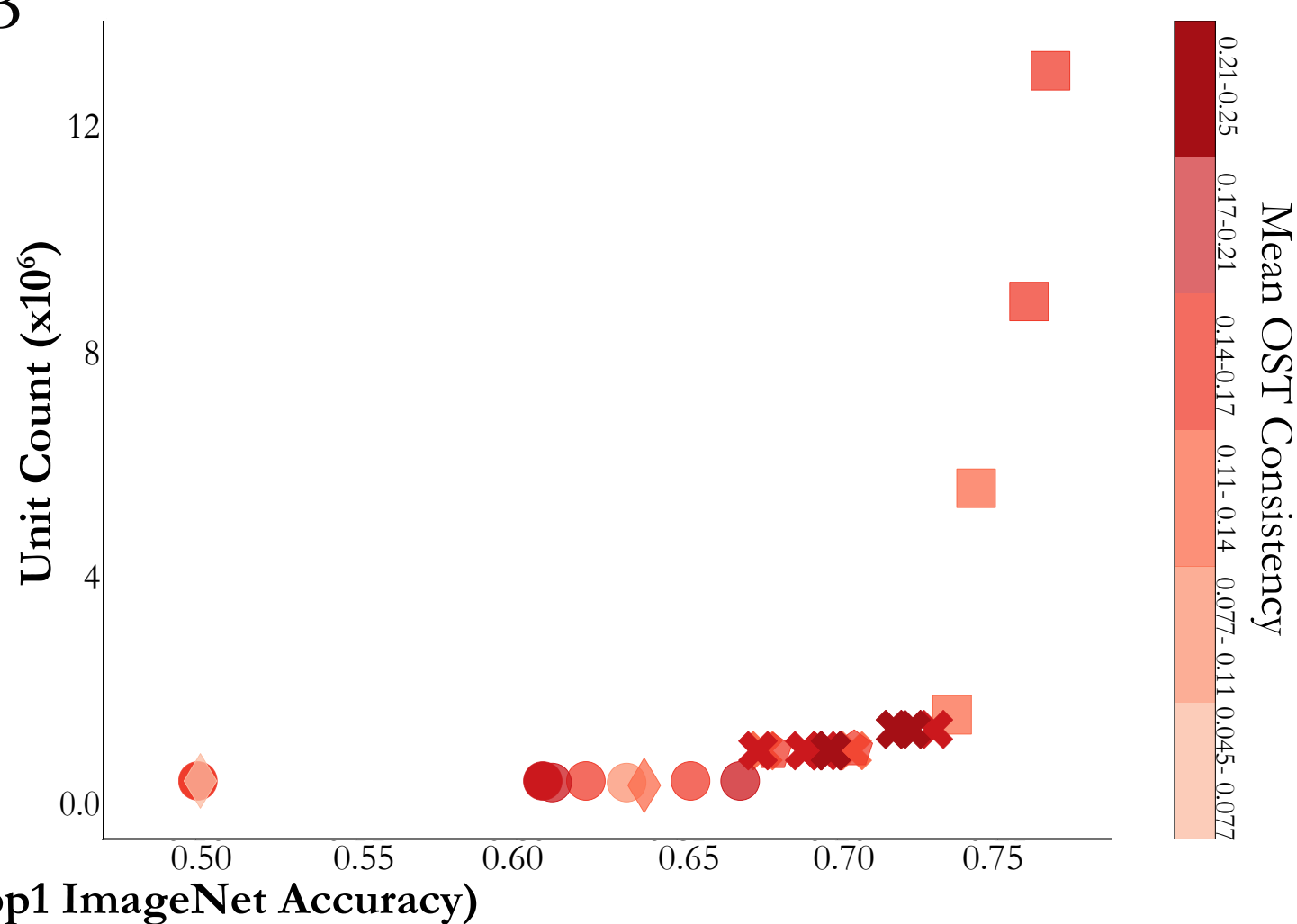
Conservation on network size + performance best matches OST



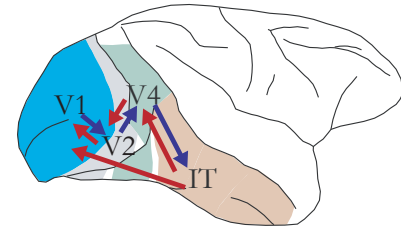
A



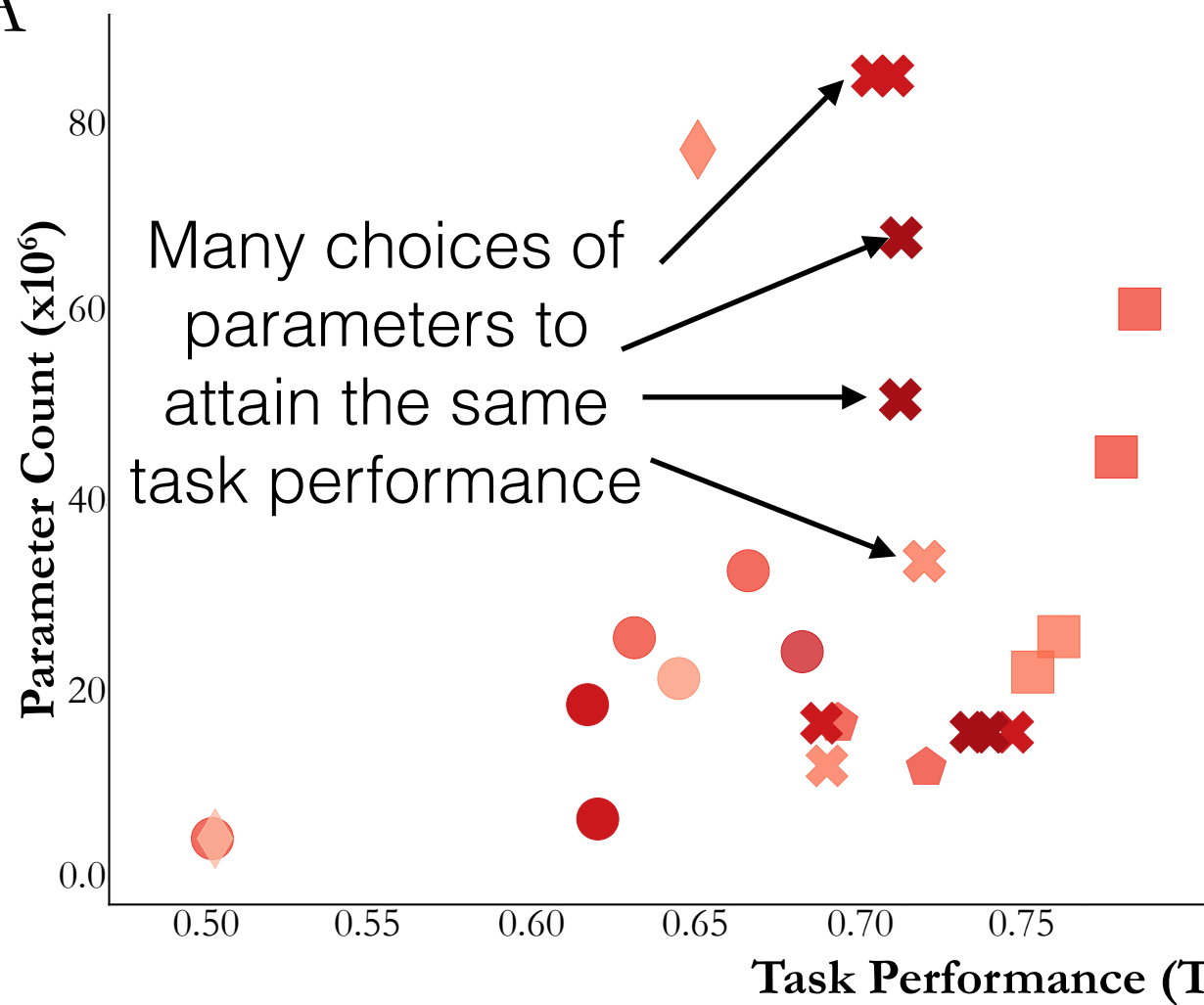
B



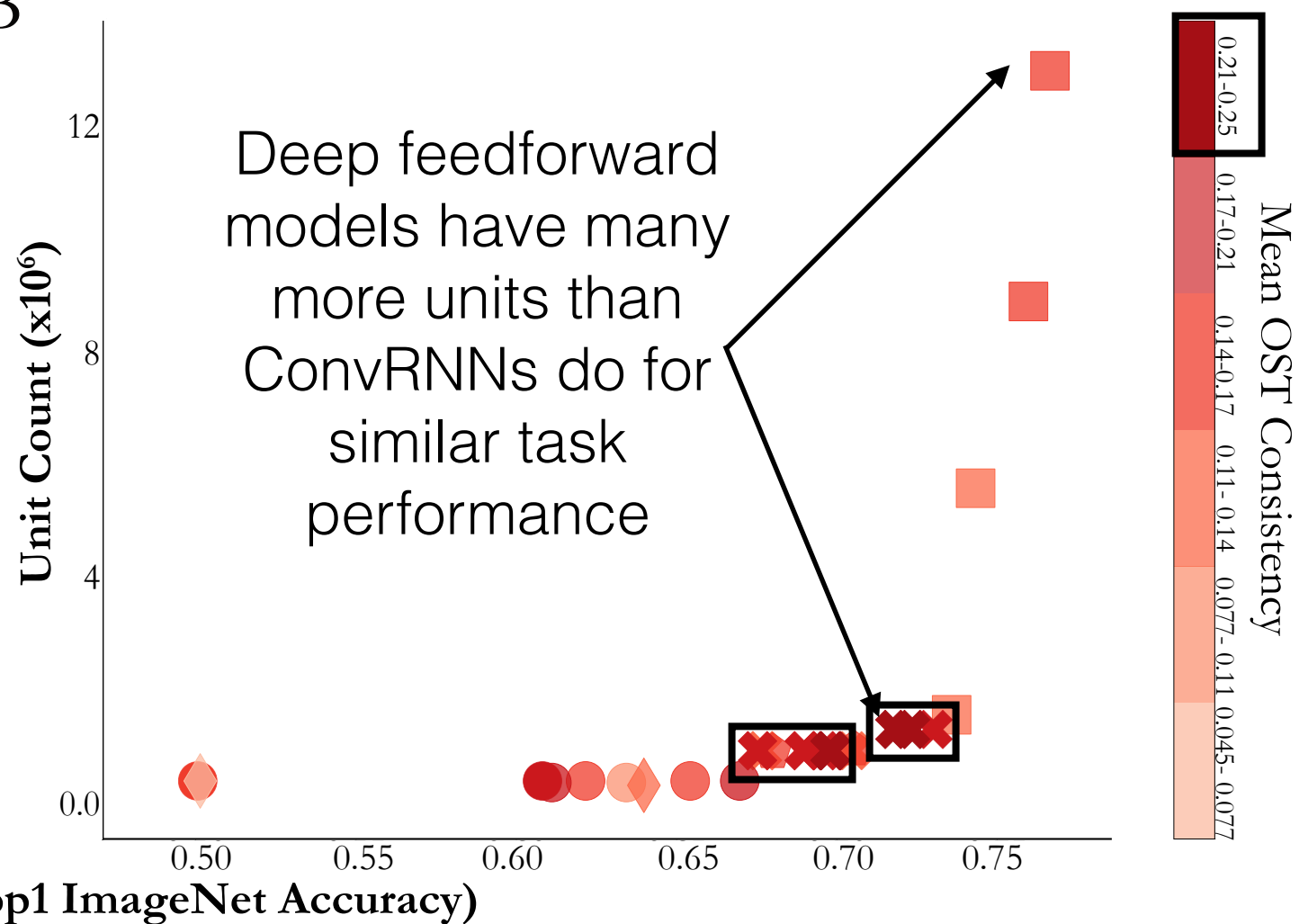
Conservation on network size + performance best matches OST



A



B

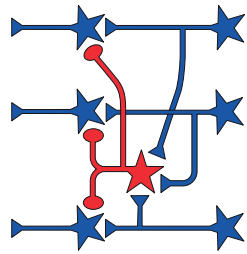


Takeaways

A = *architecture class*

1.

“Circuit”



T = *task loss*

3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



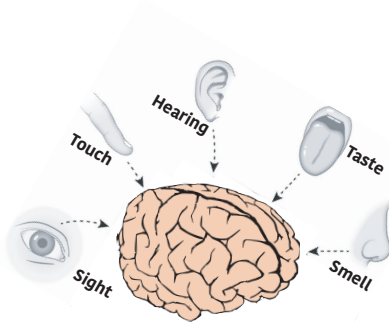
Neurobiological Puzzle:

What is the role of recurrence in the primate ventral stream?

2.

“Environment”

D = *data stream*



Takeaways

A = architecture class

1. "Circuit"
ConvRNNs
CNNs

T = task loss

3. "Ecological niche/behavior"

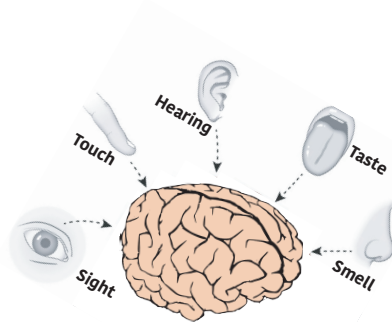


Neurobiological Puzzle:

What is the role of recurrence in the primate ventral stream?

Resolution:

Enables high performance by trading off space with time,
in particular space ~ # of neurons (not # of synapses).



2. "Environment"

D = data stream

Takeaways

A = architecture class

1. "Circuit"
ConvRNNs
CNNs

T = task loss

3. "Ecological niche/behavior"

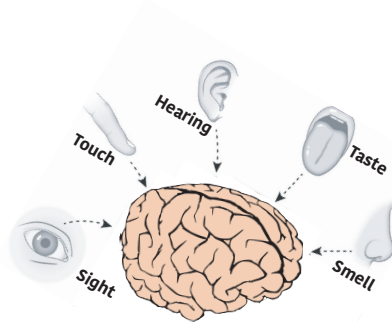


Neurobiological Puzzle:

What is the role of recurrence in the primate ventral stream?

Partial Resolution:

Enables high performance by trading off space with time,
in particular space ~ # of neurons (not # of synapses).



2. "Environment"

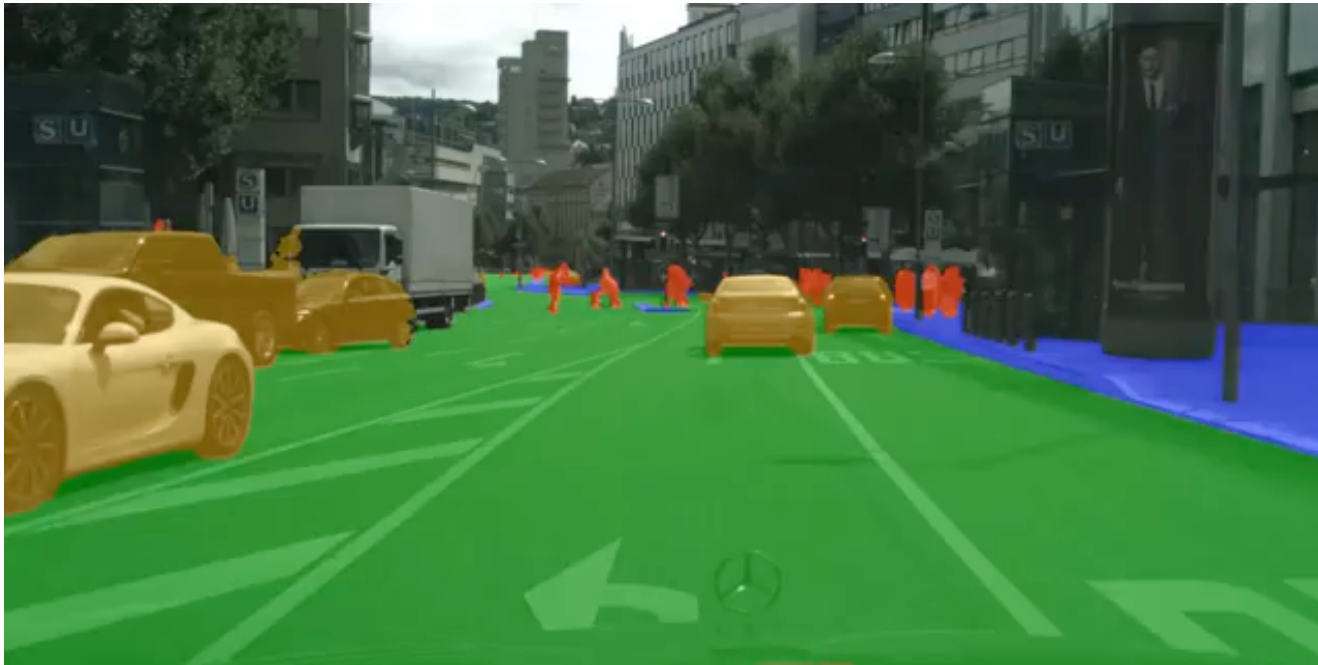
D = data stream

Outline

- ▶ Recurrent Connections in the Primate Ventral Stream
- ▶ Goal-Driven Models of Mouse Visual Cortex
- ▶ Heterogeneity in Rodent Medial Entorhinal Cortex
- ▶ Future Directions

From Neurons to Behavior

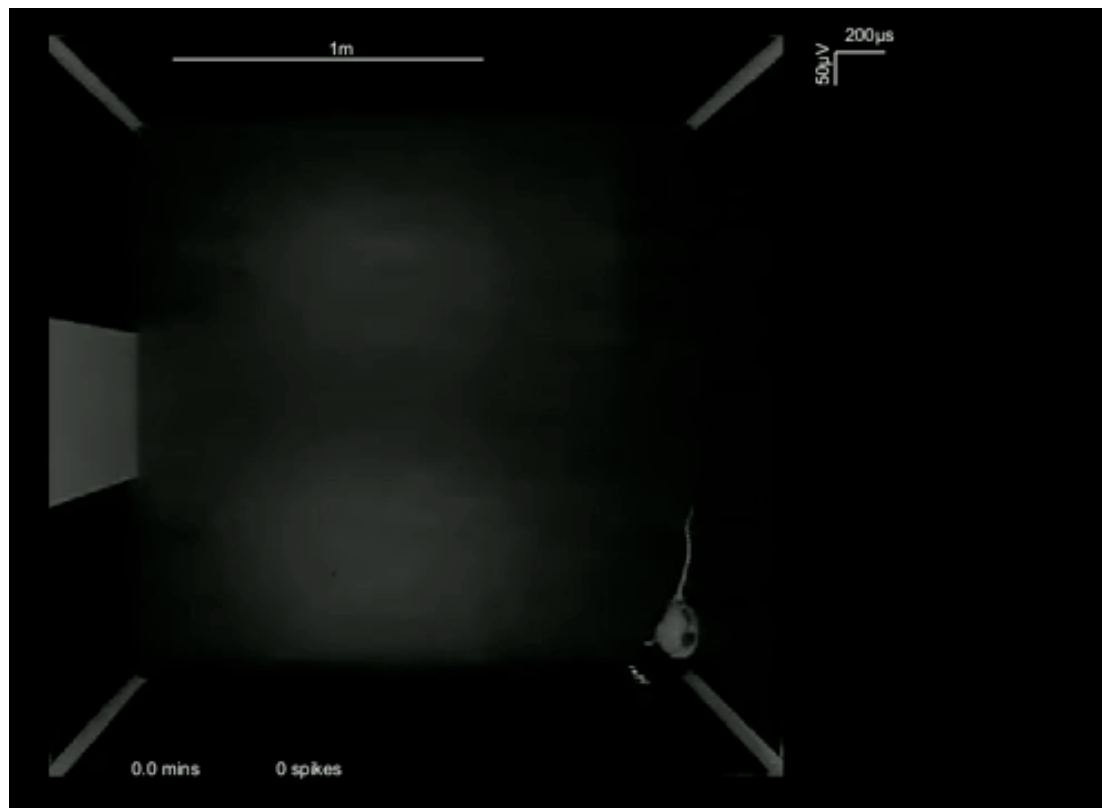
Scene Understanding



Multi-Step Planning



Navigation

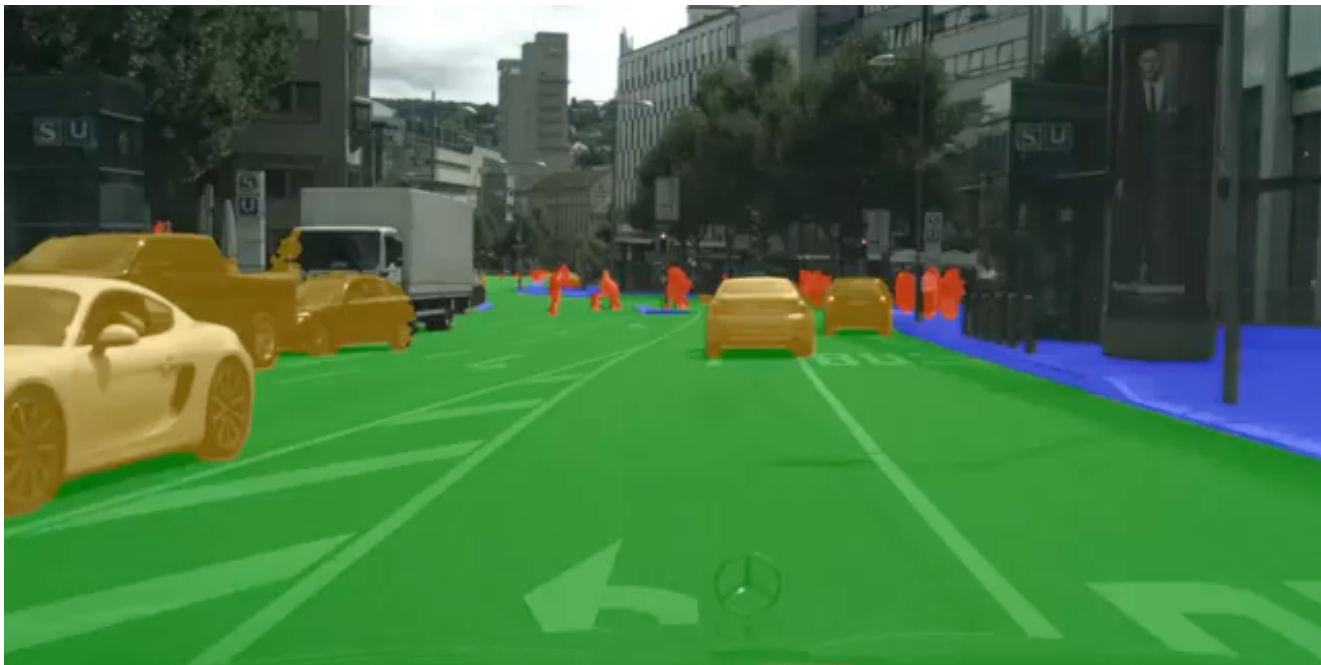


Flexible Embodiment



From Neurons to Behavior

Scene Understanding



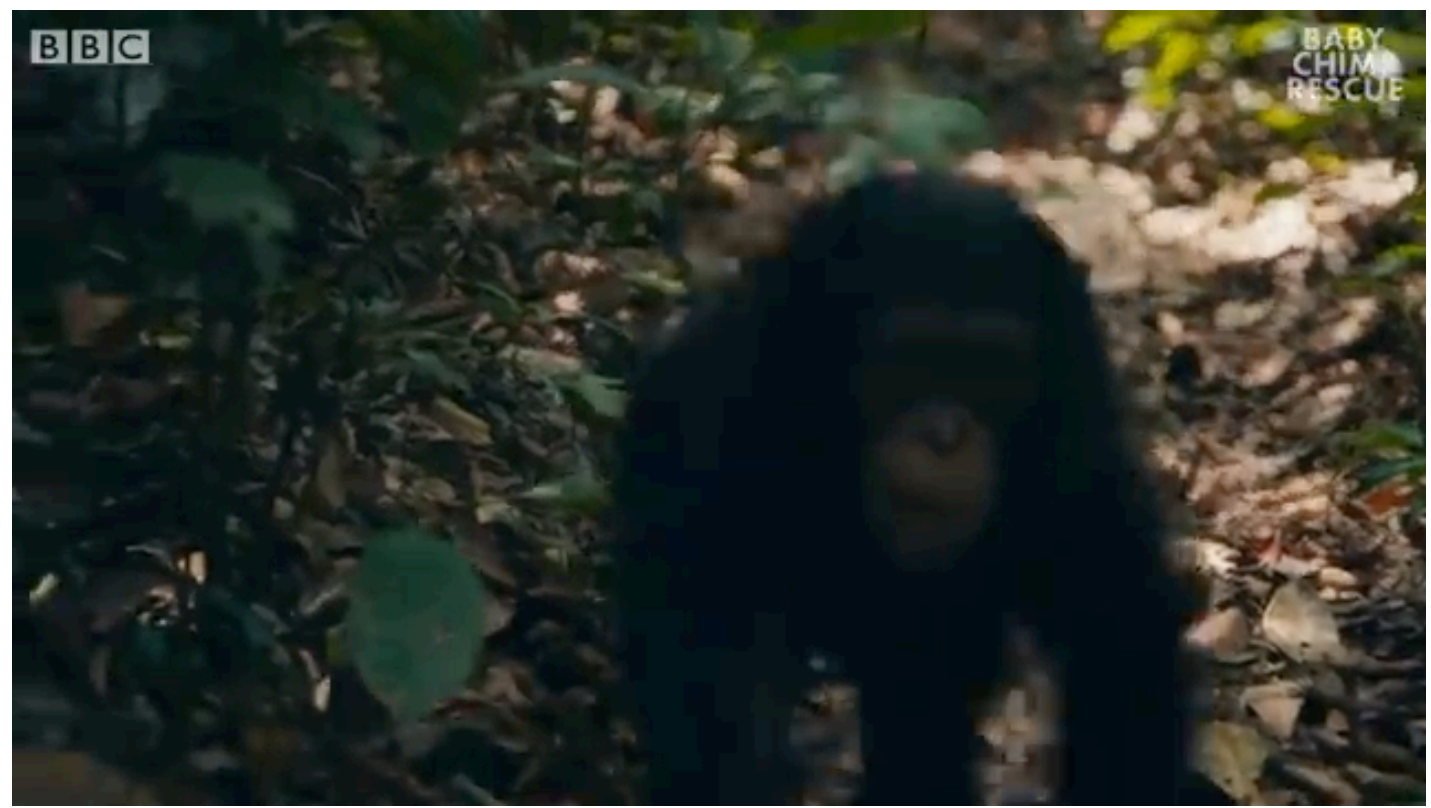
Multi-Step Planning



Navigation



Flexible Embodiment



From Neurons to Behavior

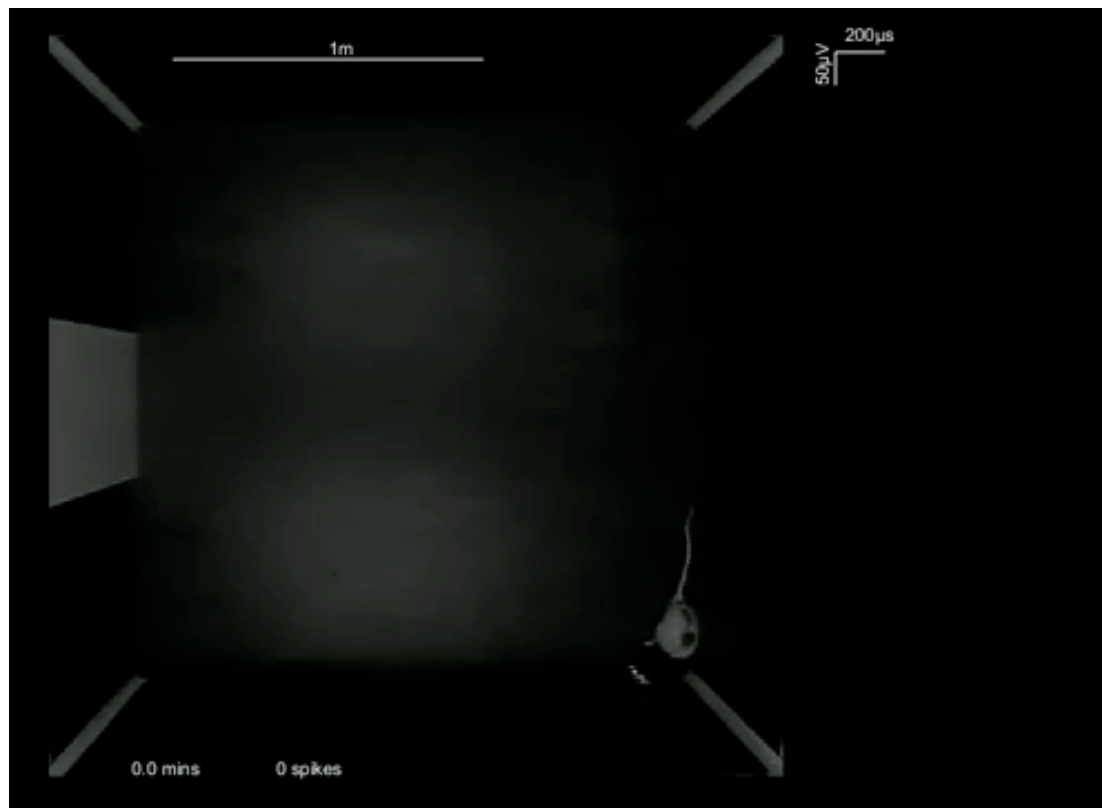
Scene Understanding



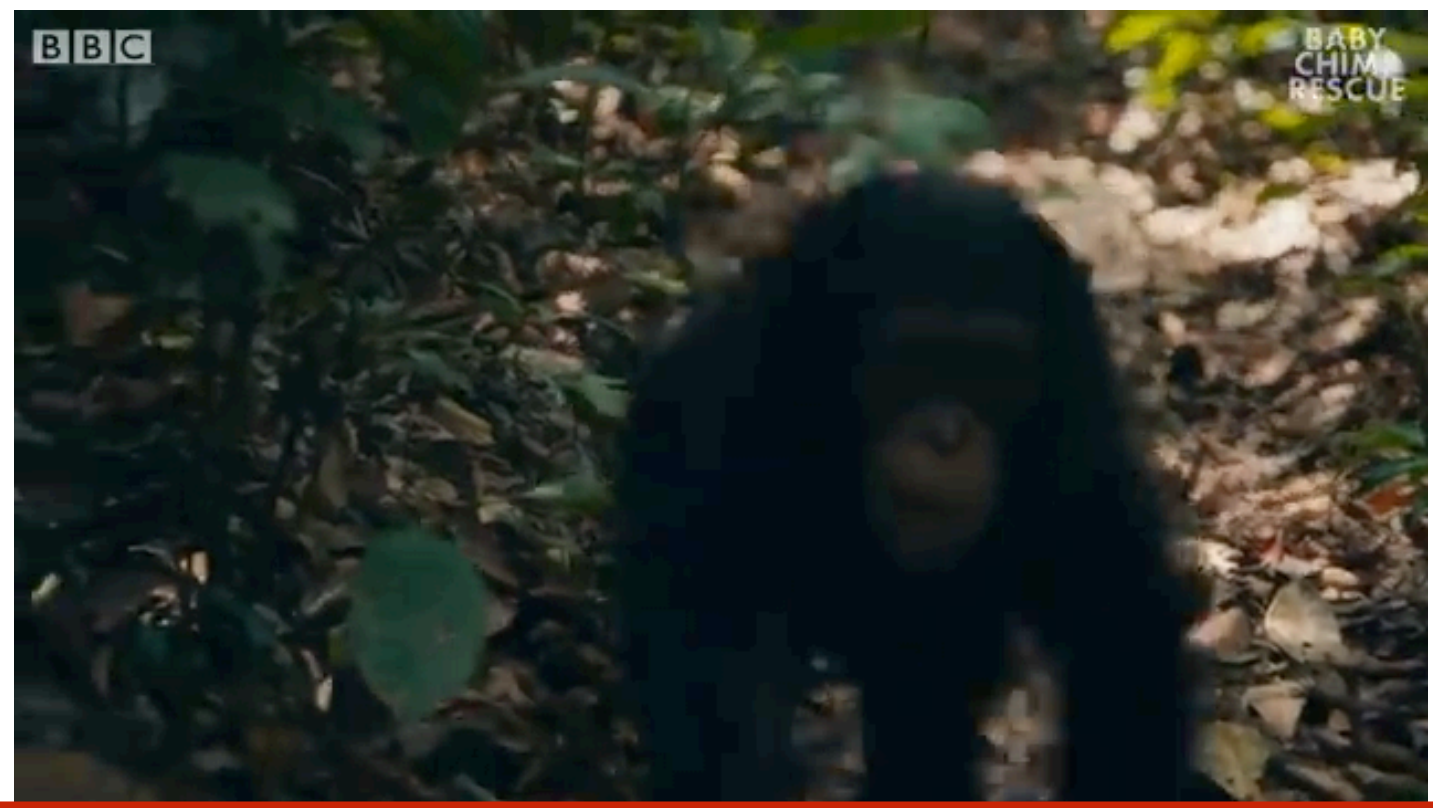
Multi-Step Planning



Navigation



Flexible Embodiment



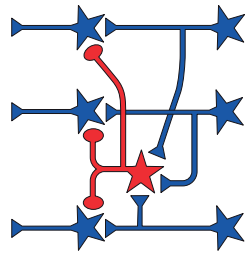
Goal-Driven Models of Mouse Visual Cortex

A = architecture class

T = task loss

1.

“Circuit”

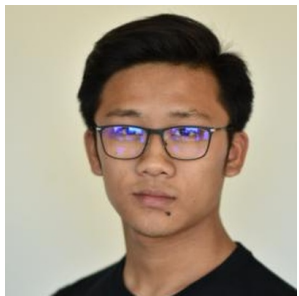


3. “Ecological niche/behavior”

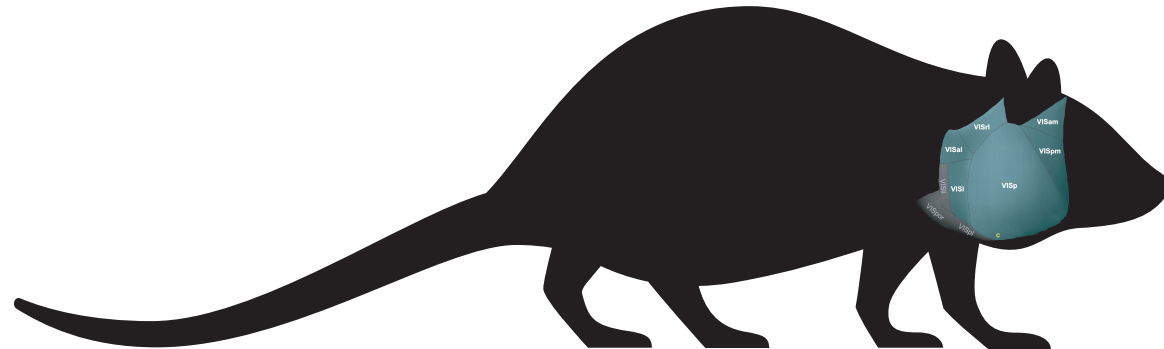


A. Nayebi*, N. Kong* *et al.*

Mouse visual cortex as a limited resource system that self-learns an ecologically-general representation. *bioRxiv* (2021)



Nathan C.L. Kong*



Chengxu Zhuang



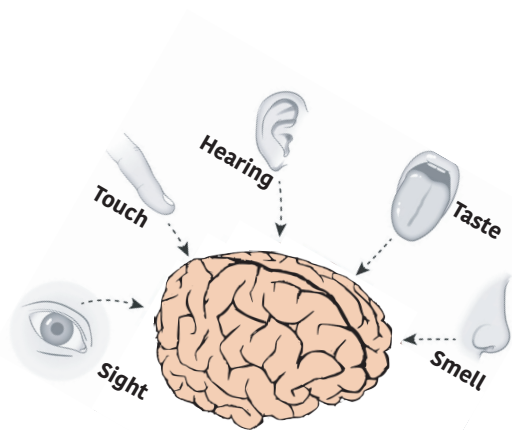
Justin L. Gardner



Anthony M. Norcia



Daniel Yamins

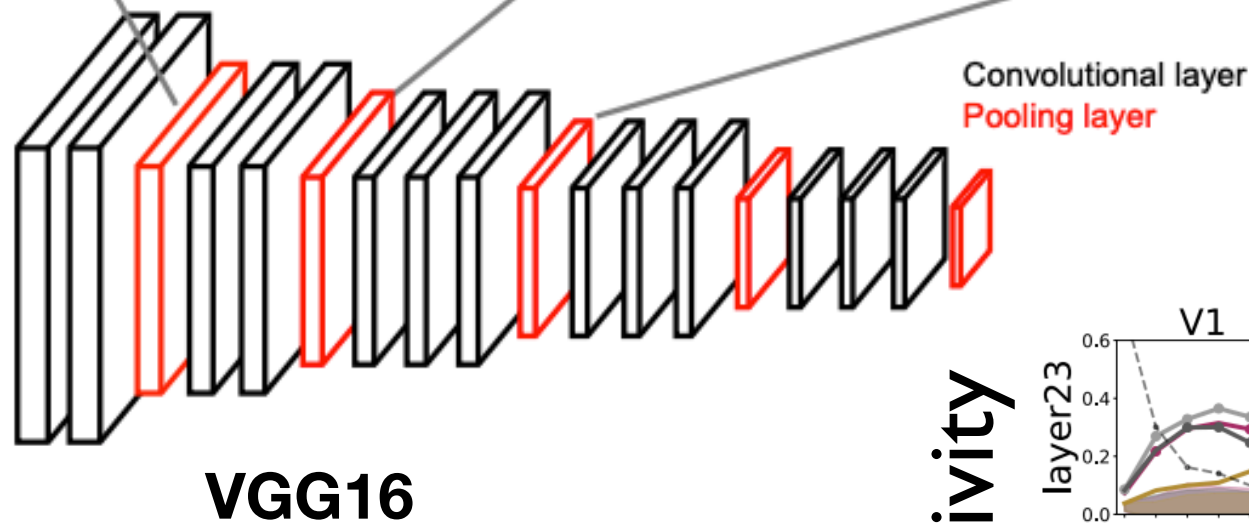
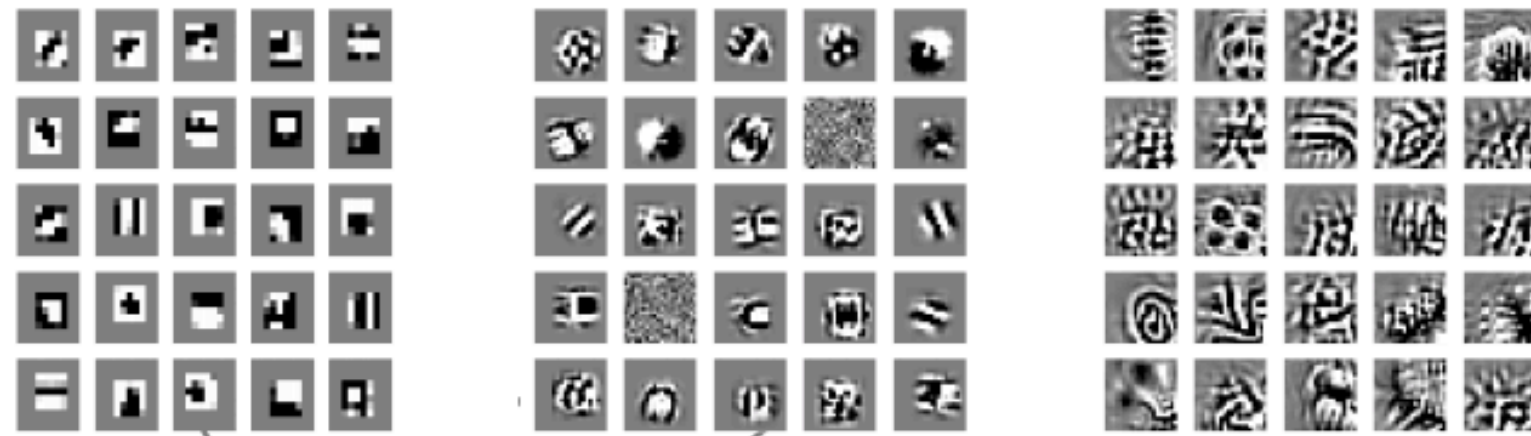


2.

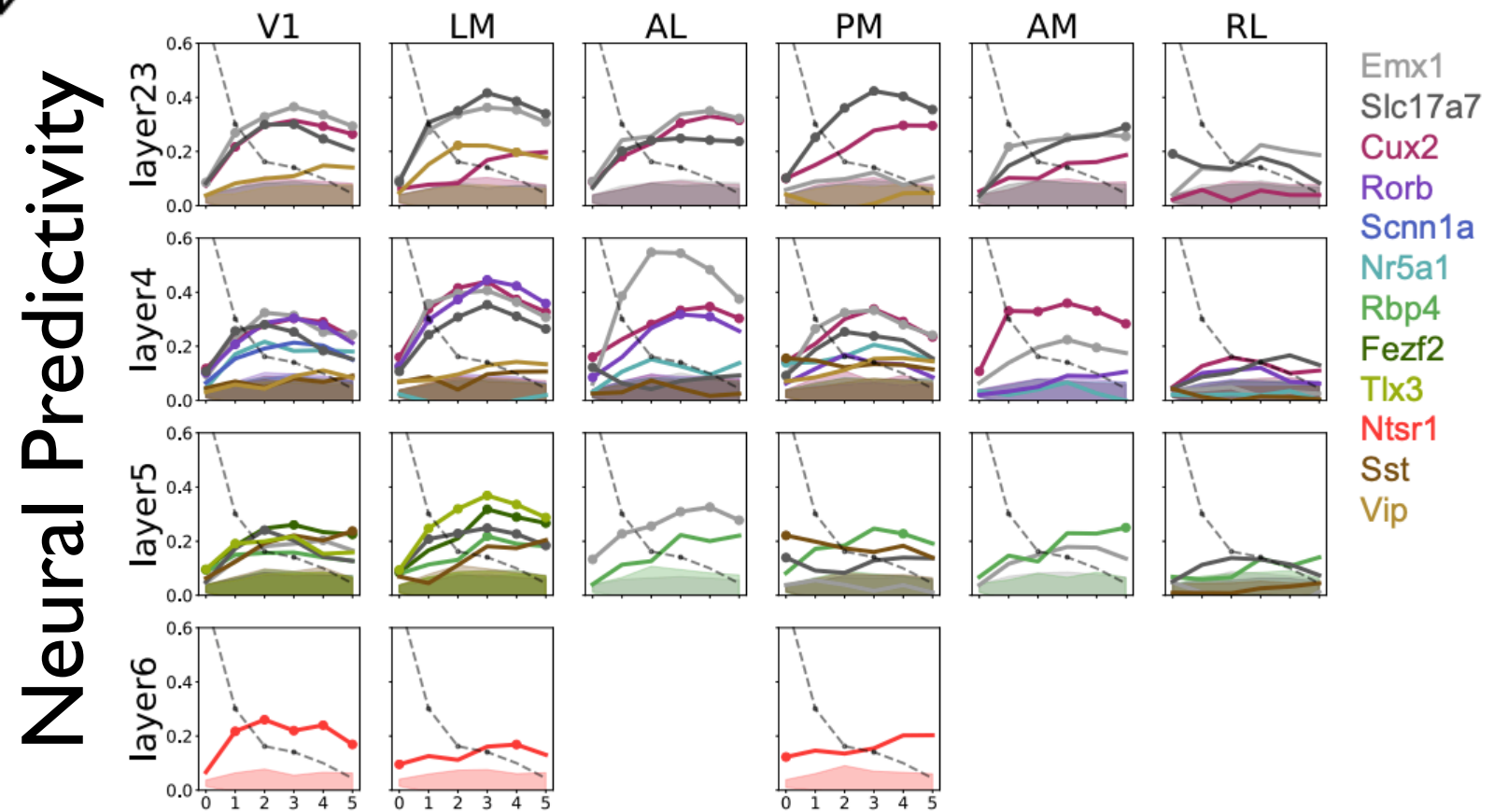
“Environment”

D = data stream

Initial deep neural network models of mouse visual cortex



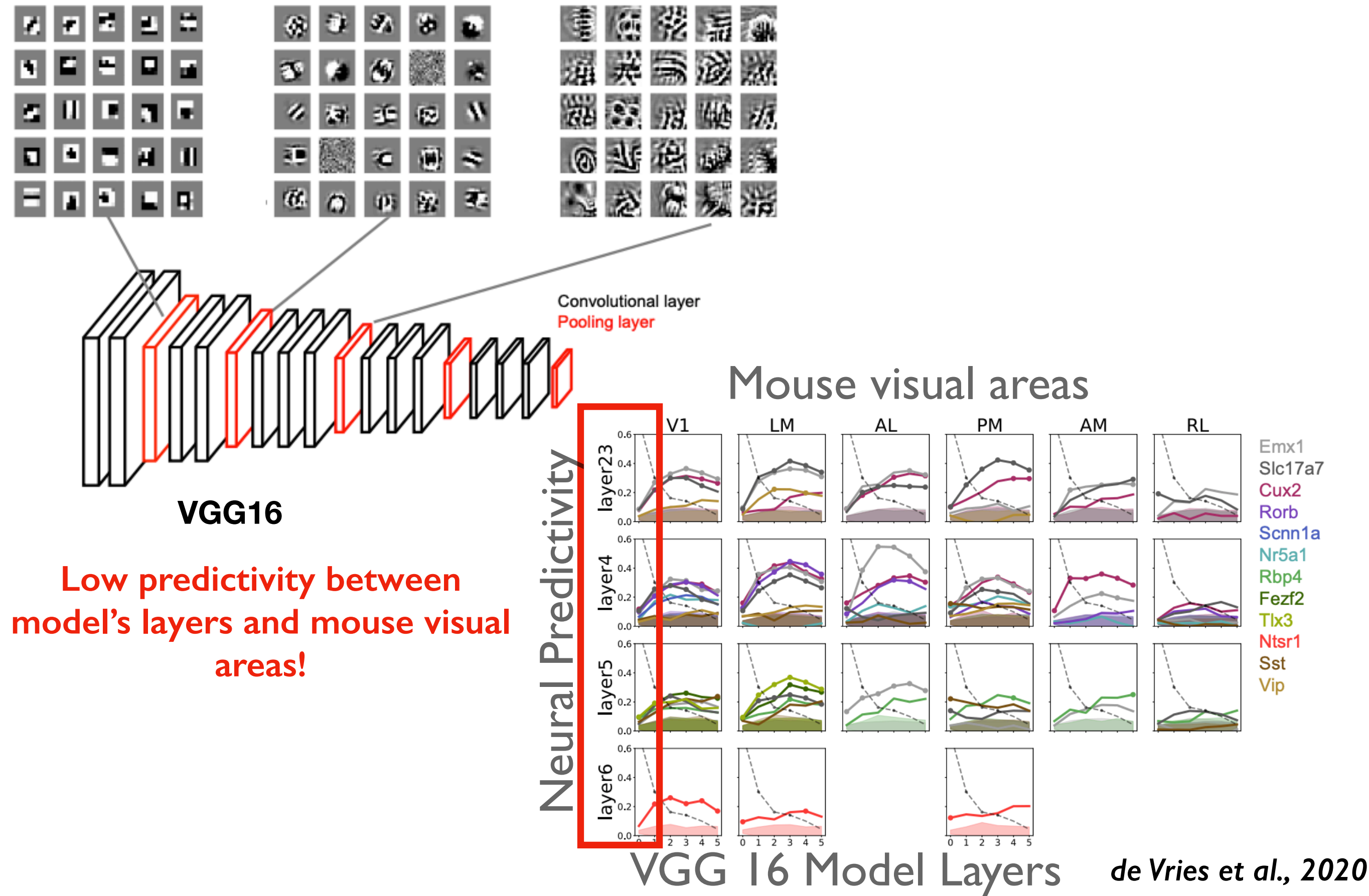
Mouse visual areas



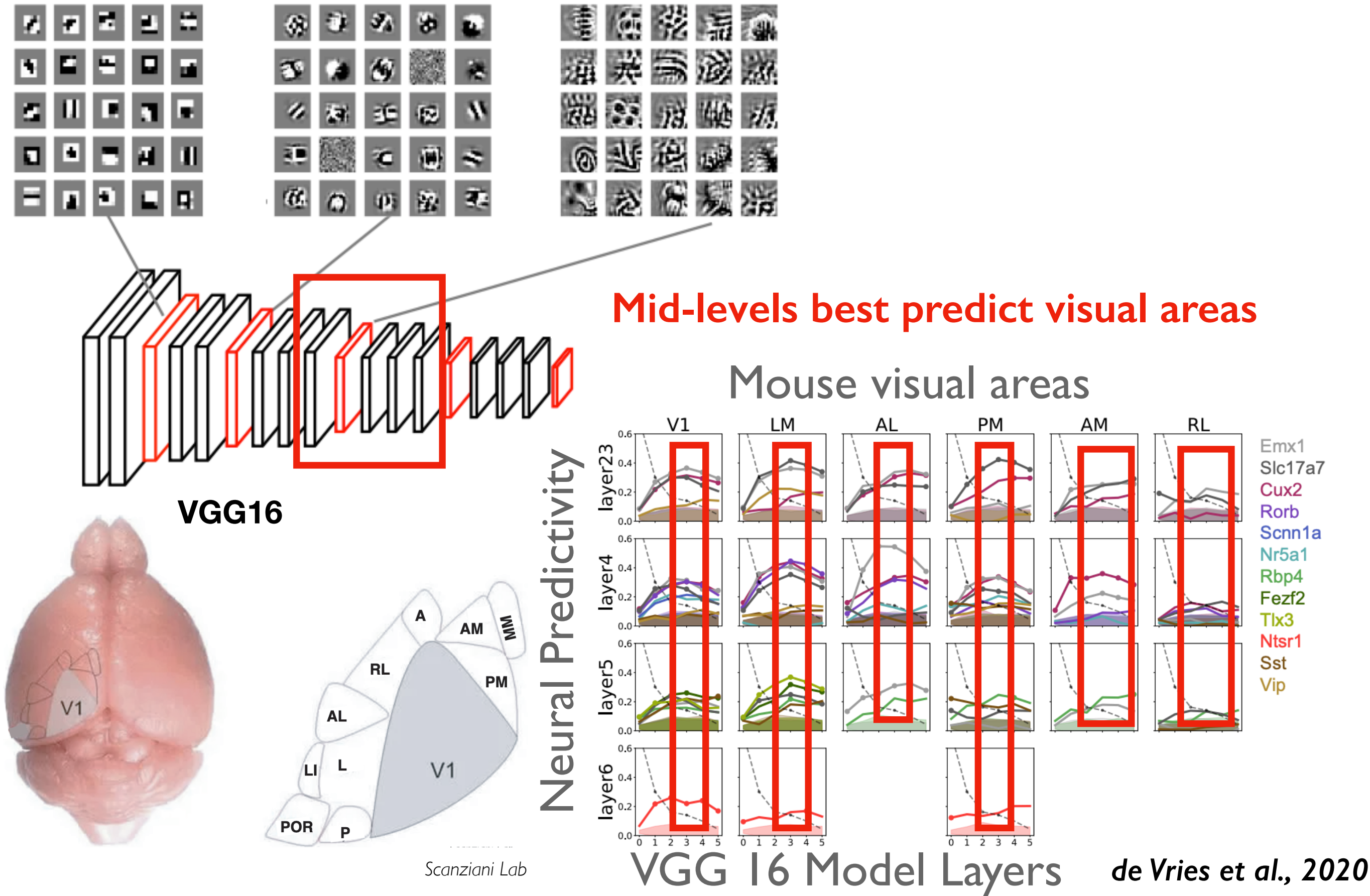
VGG 16 Model Layers

de Vries et al., 2020

Deep models are a poor match to responses



Deep models suggest mouse visual cortex is representationally deep



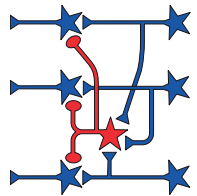
Goal-Driven Models of Mouse Visual Cortex

A = architecture class

L = loss function

1.

“Circuit”



3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



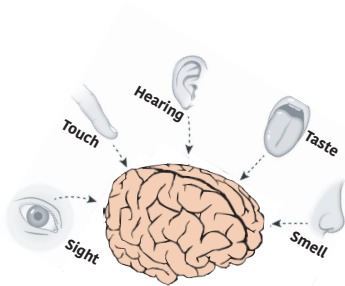
Neurobiological Puzzle:

What are the core differences between mouse visual cortex and the primate ventral stream?

2.

“Environment”

D = data stream



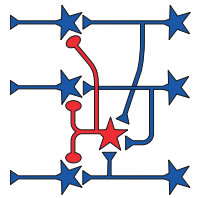
Putting it all together: Circuit, Inputs, Behavior

A = architecture class

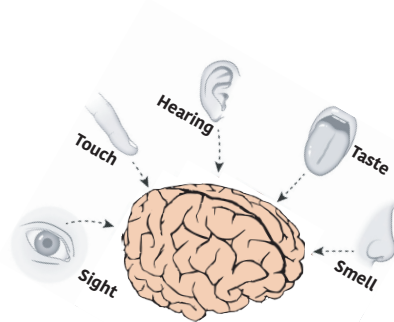
T = task loss

1.

“Circuit”



3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



2.

“Environment”

D = data stream

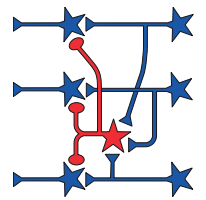
Putting it all together: Circuit, Inputs, Behavior

A = architecture class

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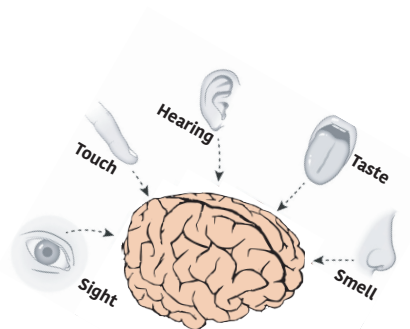
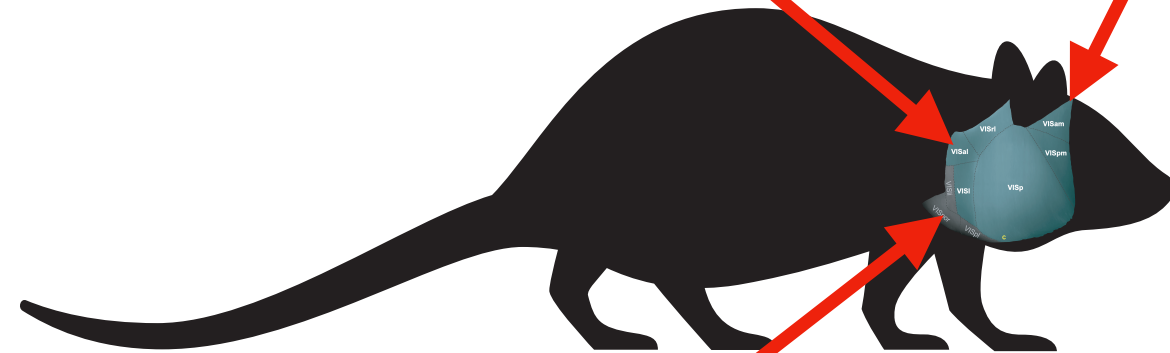
1.

“Circuit”



shallow
deep

3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



2.

“Environment”

D = data stream

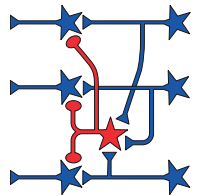
Putting it all together: Circuit, Inputs, Behavior

A = architecture class

T = task loss

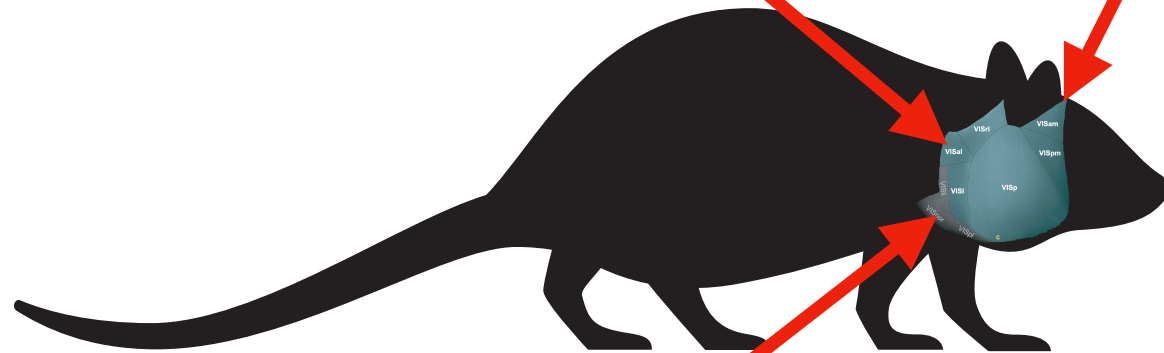
1.

“Circuit”

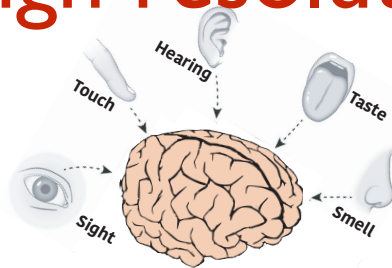


shallow
deep

3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



low resolution
~~high resolution~~



2.

“Environment”

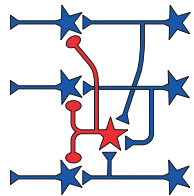
D = data stream

Putting it all together: Circuit, Inputs, Behavior

A = architecture class

1.

“Circuit”



shallow
deep

T = task loss

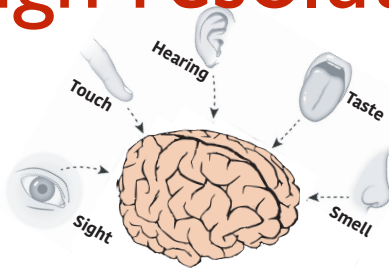
3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



unsupervised
supervised



low resolution
~~high resolution~~

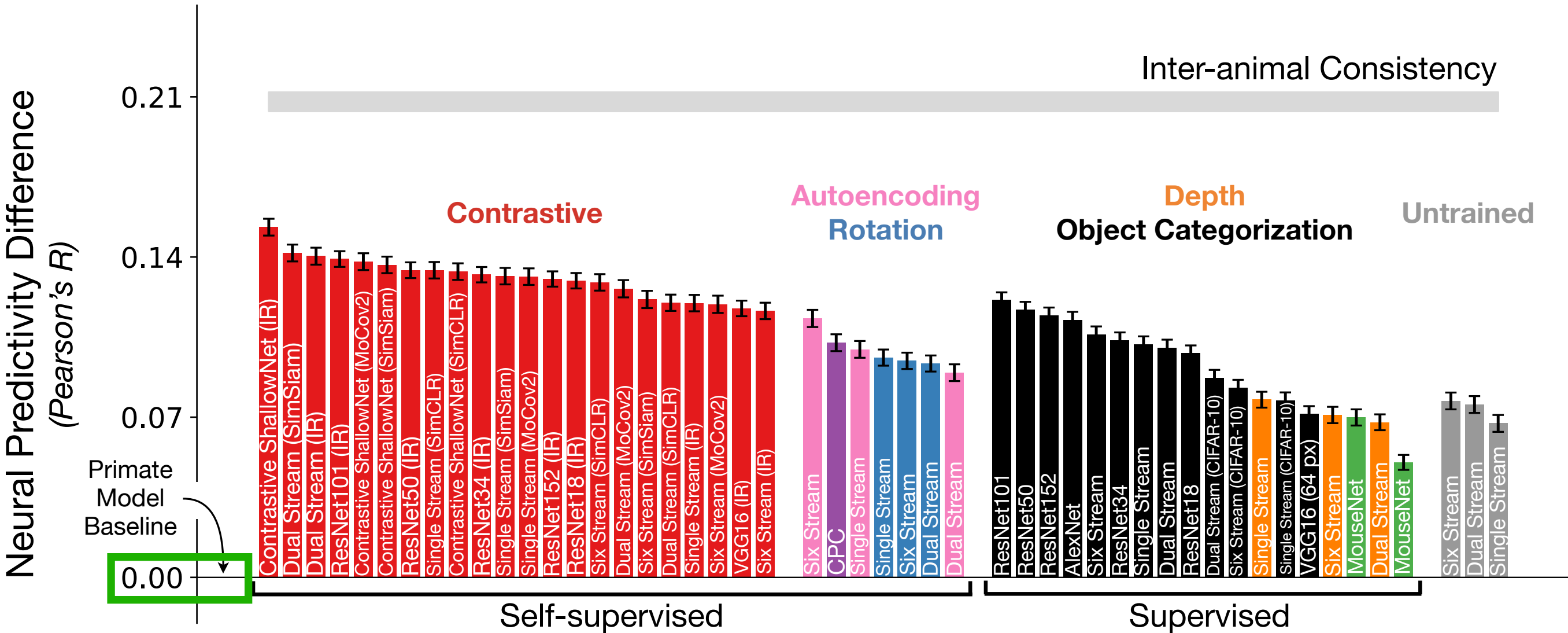
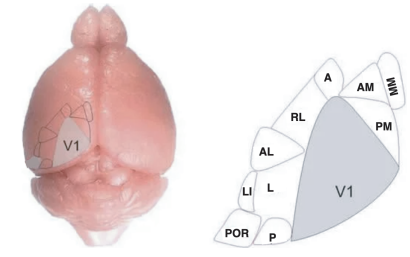


2.

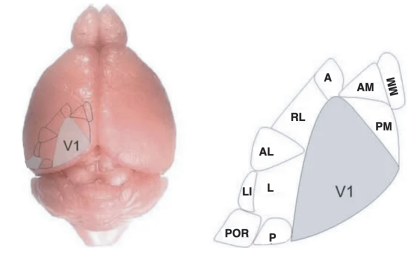
“Environment”

D = data stream

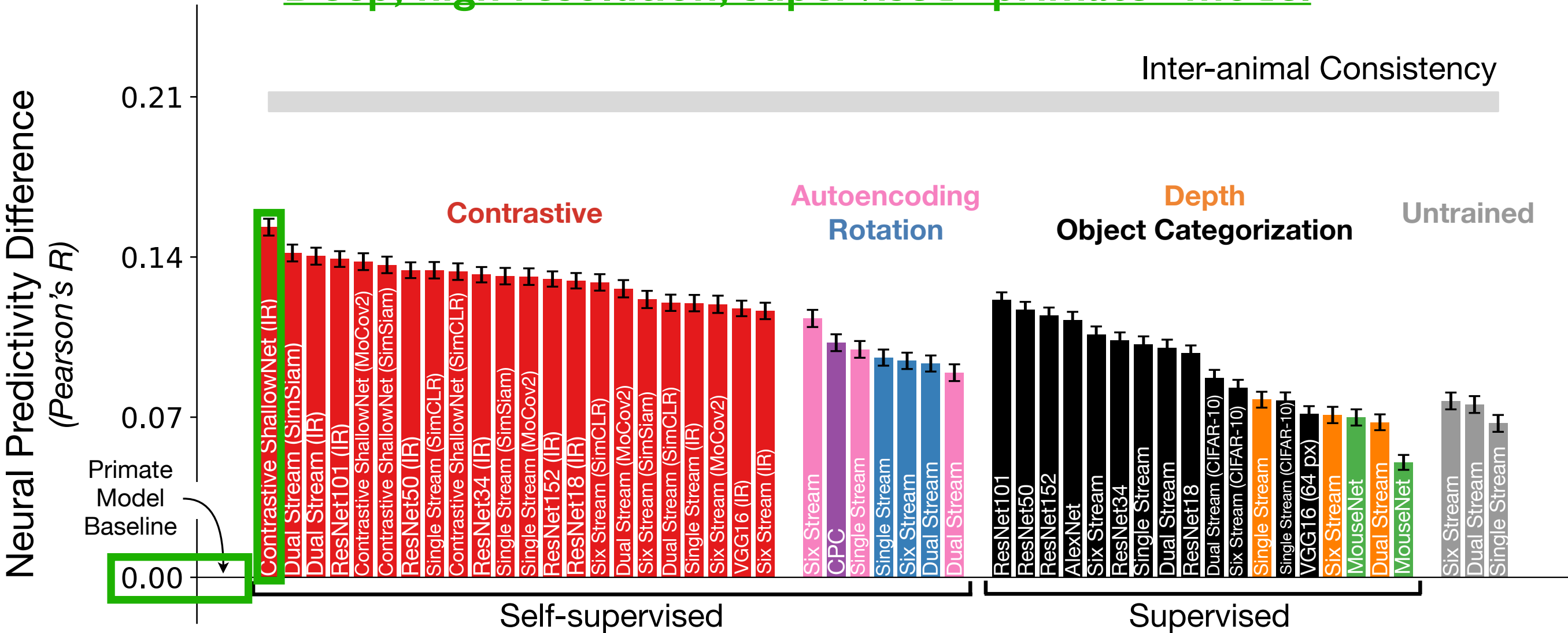
Substantially improving neural response predictivity of models of mouse visual cortex



Substantially improving neural response predictivity of models of mouse visual cortex



Shallow, low resolution, unsupervised model
greatly improves over
Deep, high resolution, supervised “primate” model



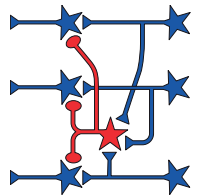
Improves neural predictivity from 56% to 90% of the data noise ceiling

Distilling Constraints: Circuit

A = architecture class

1.

“Circuit”



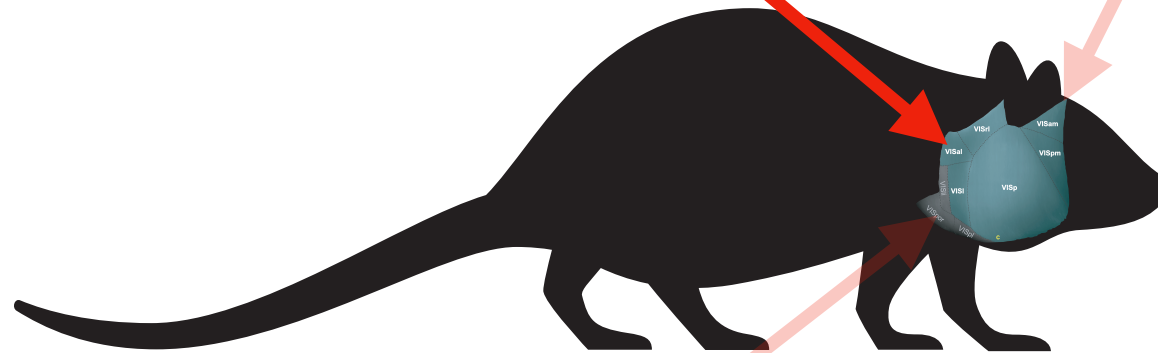
shallow
deep

T = task loss

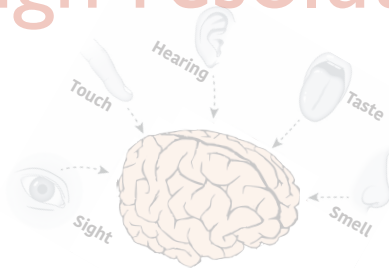
3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



unsupervised
supervised



low resolution
~~high resolution~~

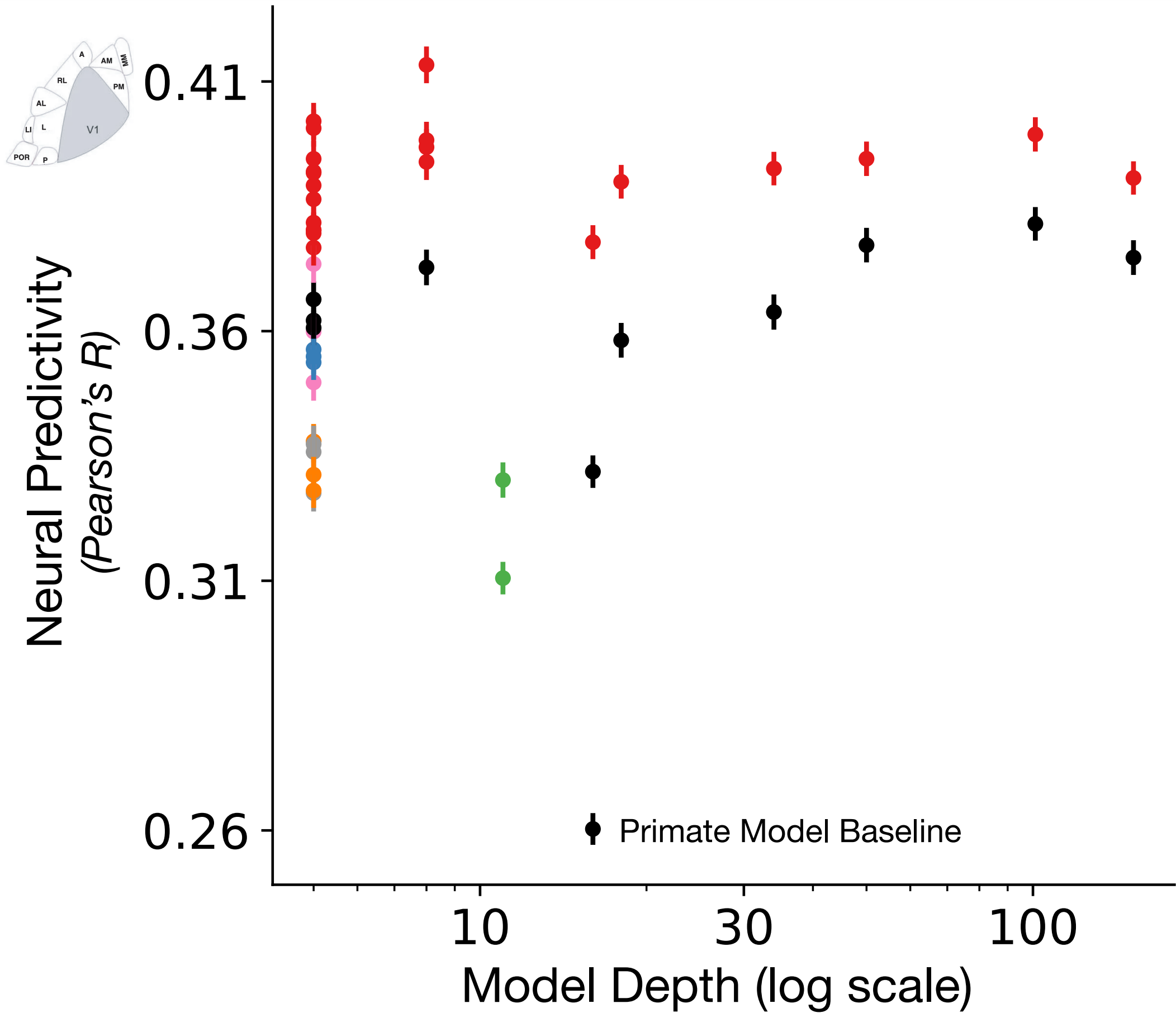
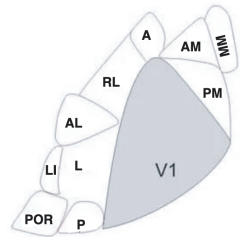
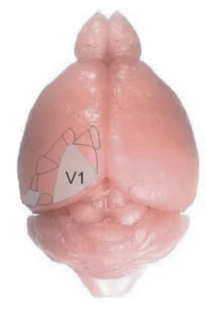


2.

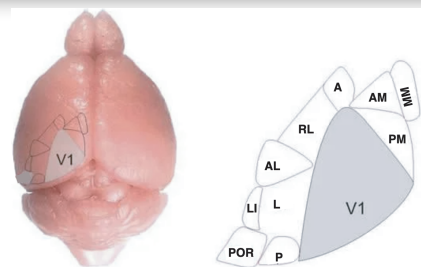
“Environment”

D = data stream

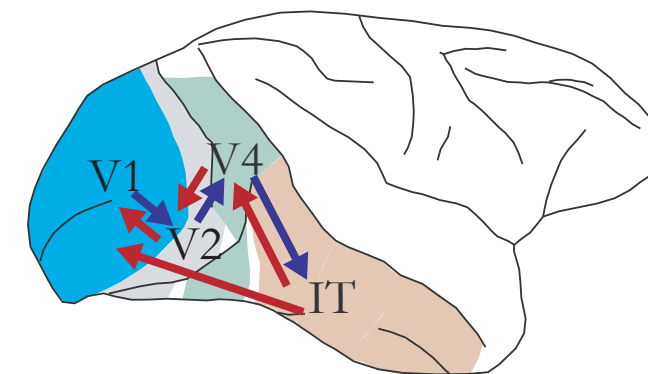
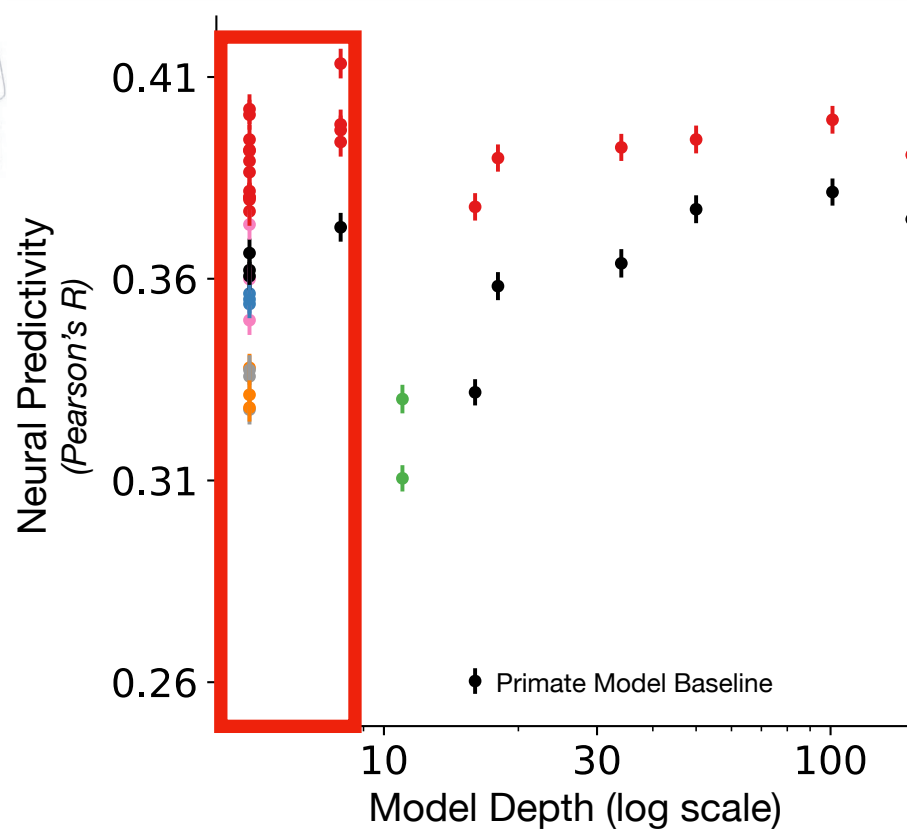
Architectural Choices



...unlike in primates!

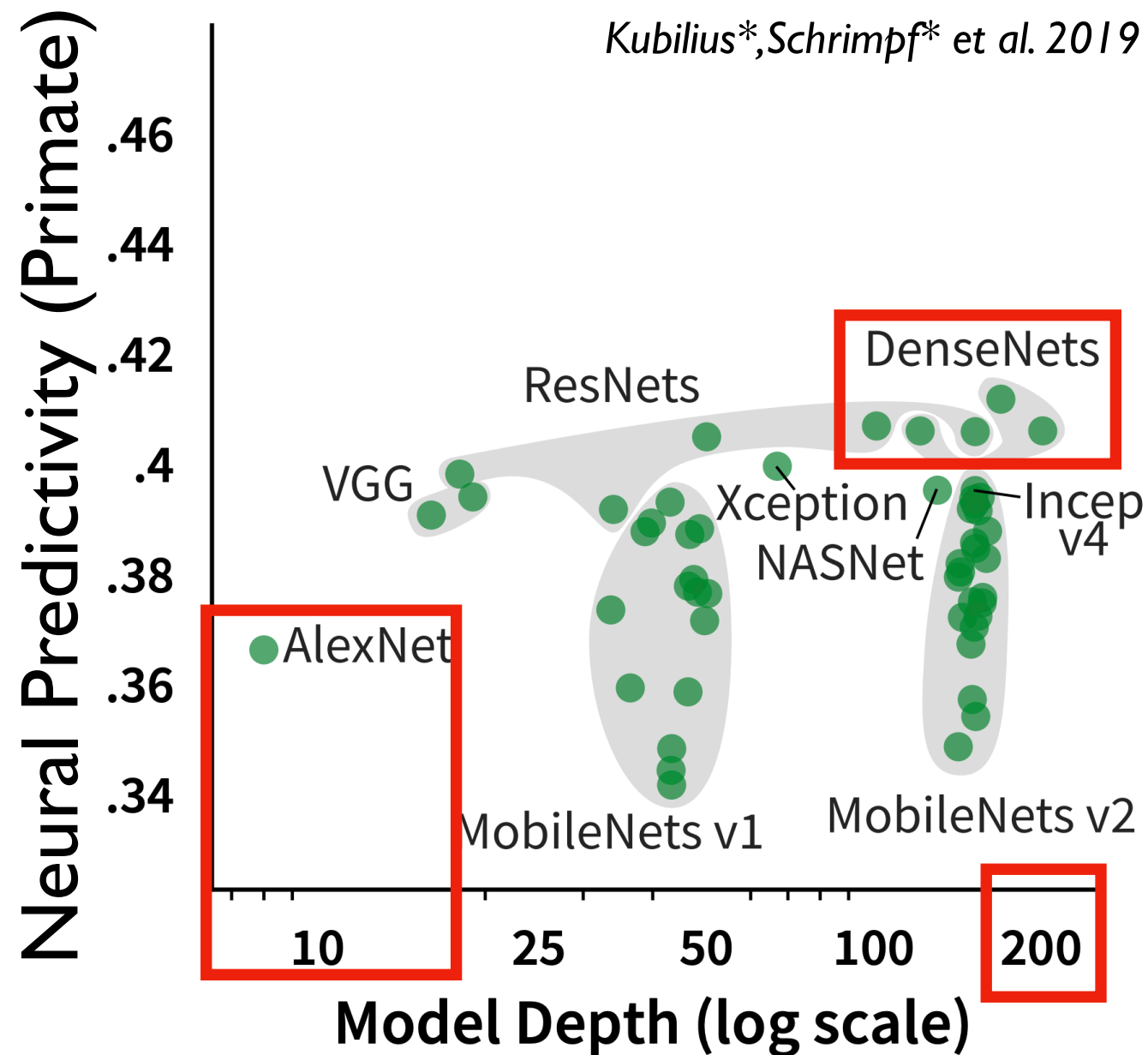


Mouse



Unlike in primates!

Kubilius, Schrimpf* et al. 2019*



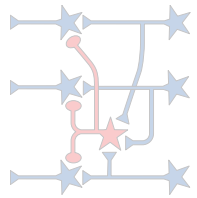
Distilling Constraints: Environment

A = architecture class

T = task loss

1.

“Circuit”



shallow
deep

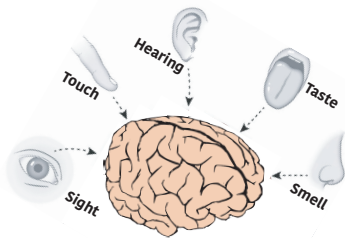
3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



unsupervised
supervised



low resolution
~~high resolution~~

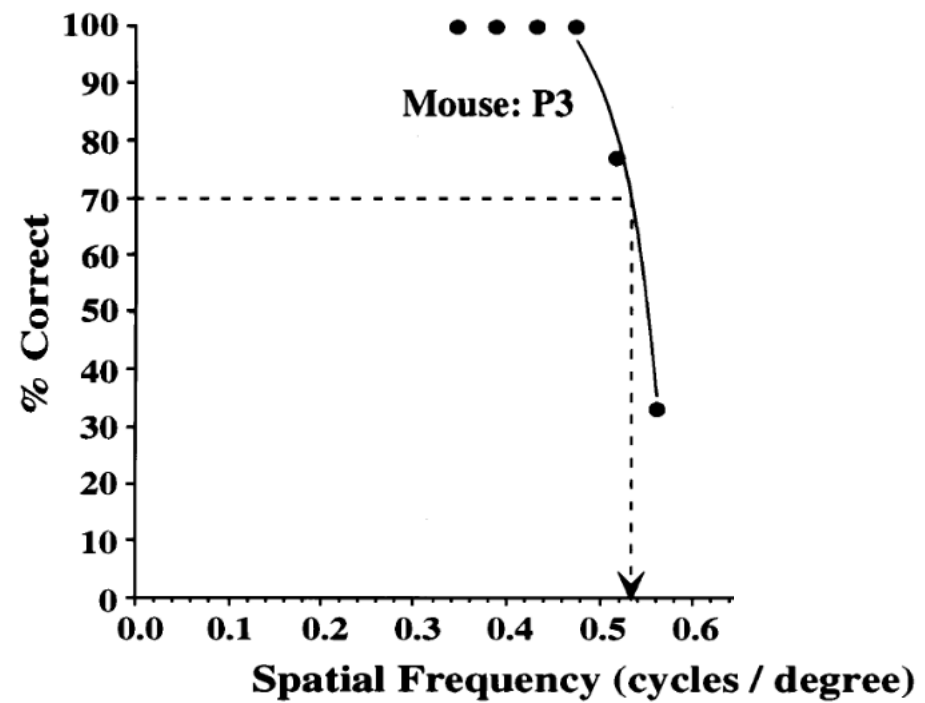


2. “Environment”

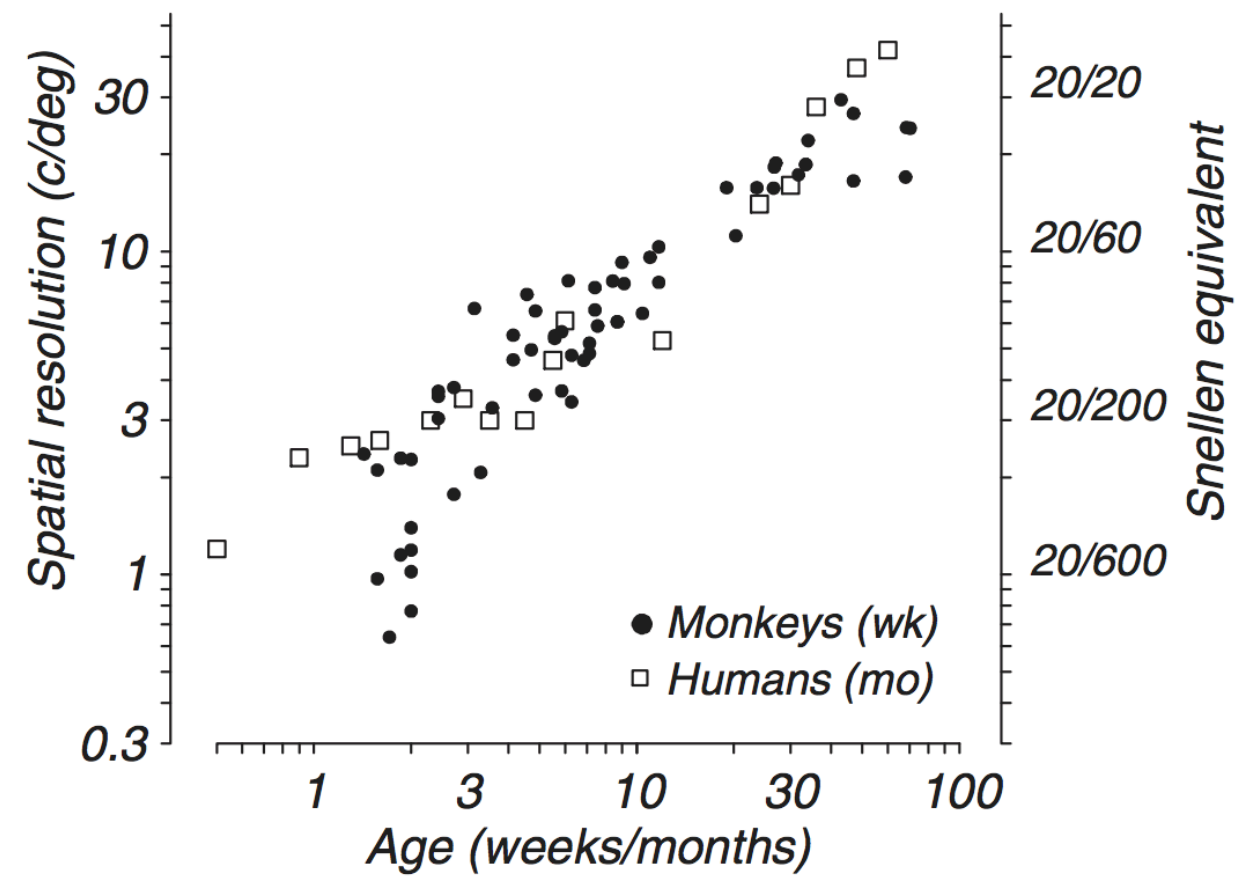
D = data stream

Distilling Constraints: Inputs

Mice

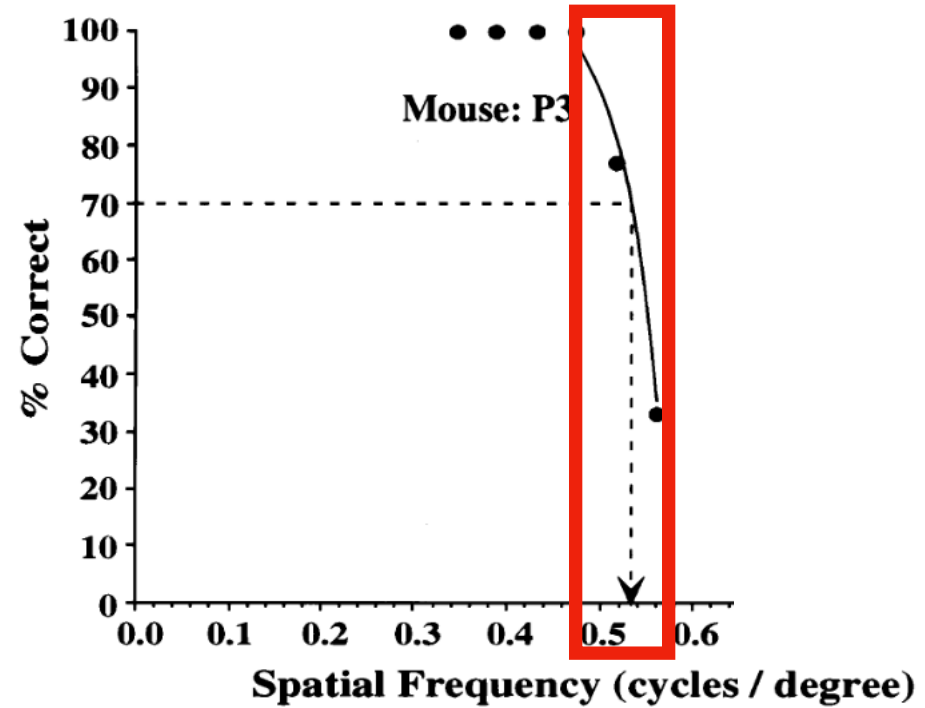


Primates

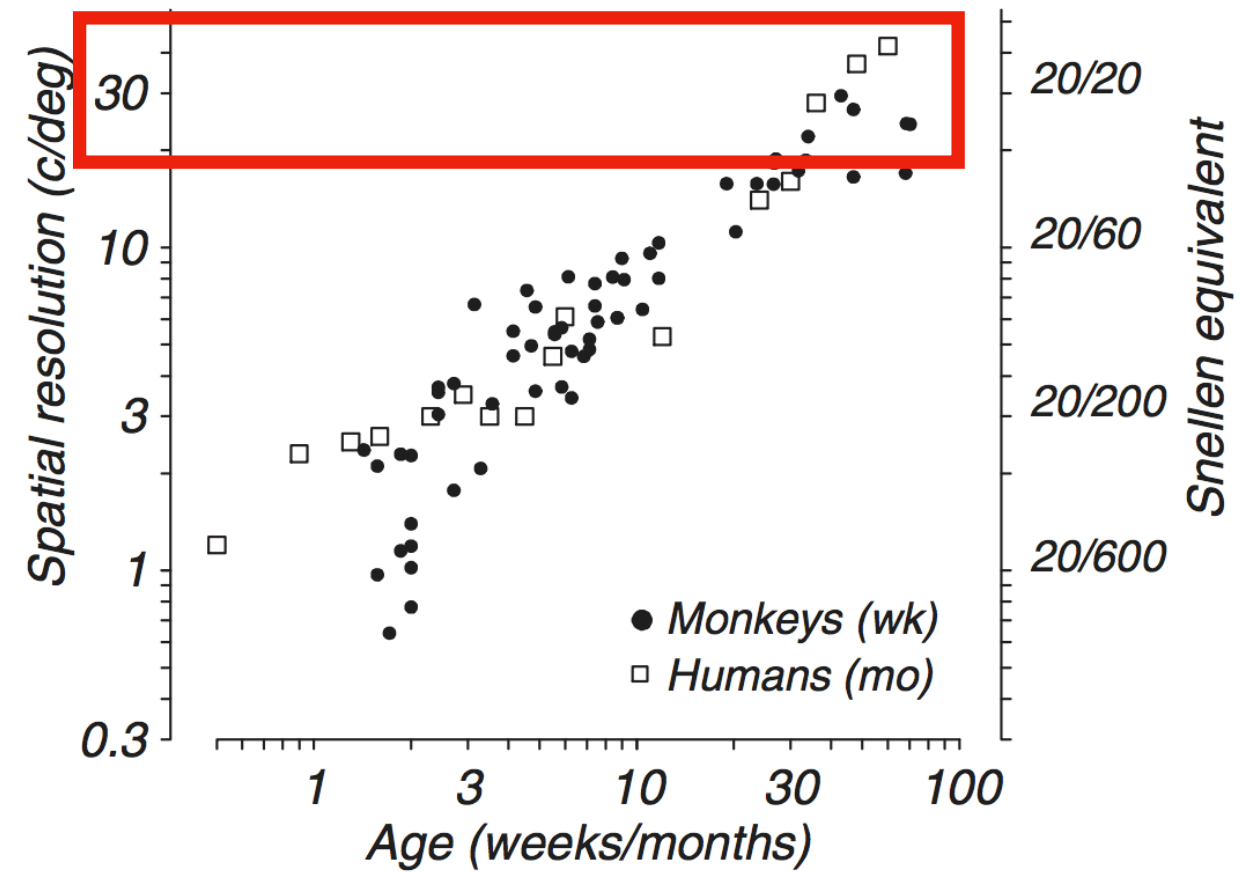


Distilling Constraints: Inputs

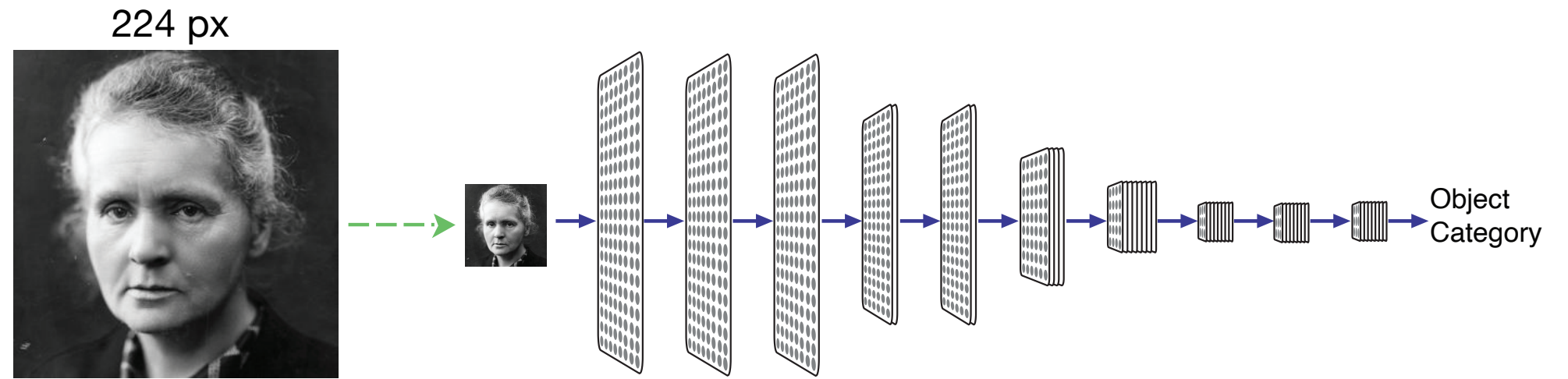
Mice



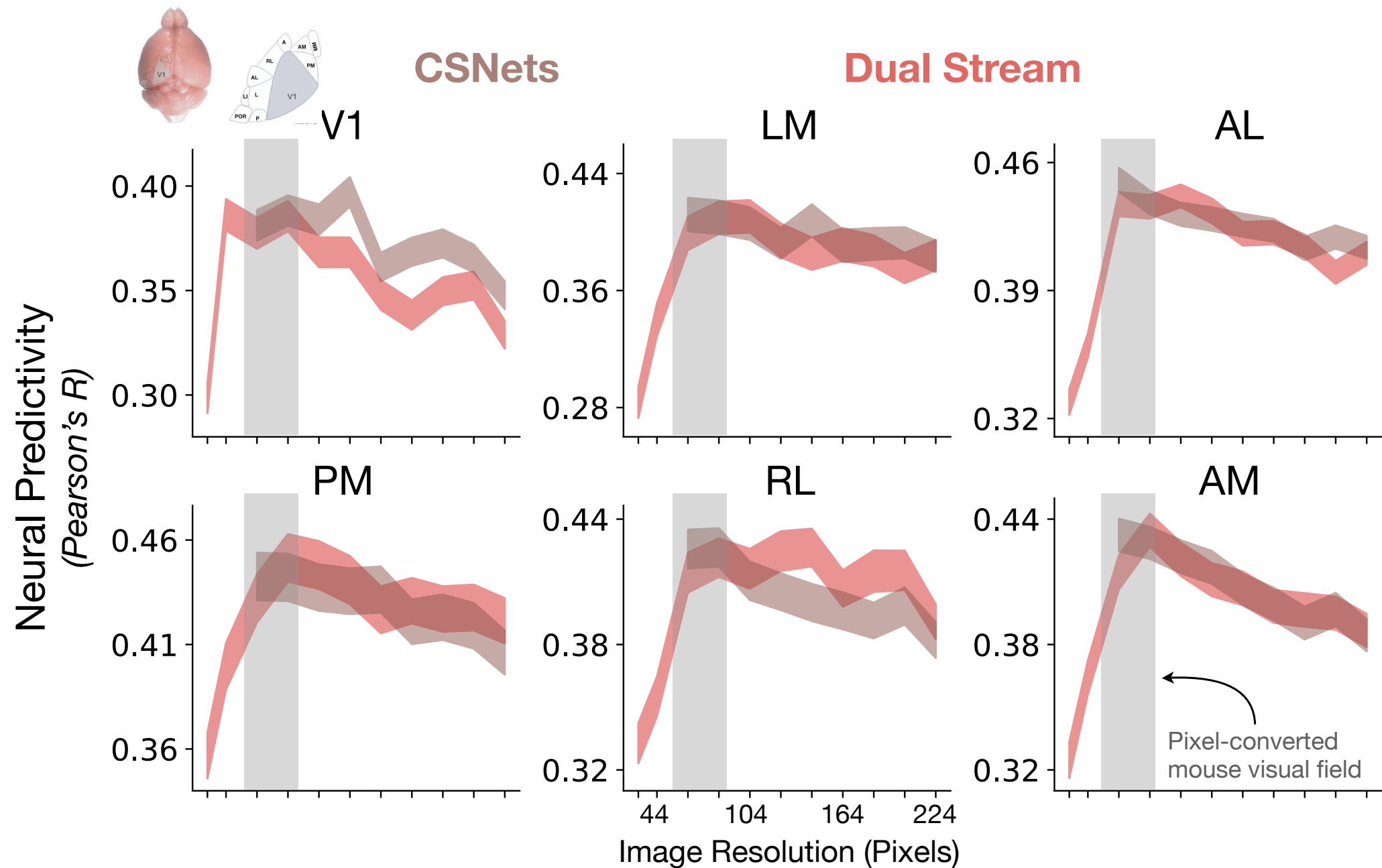
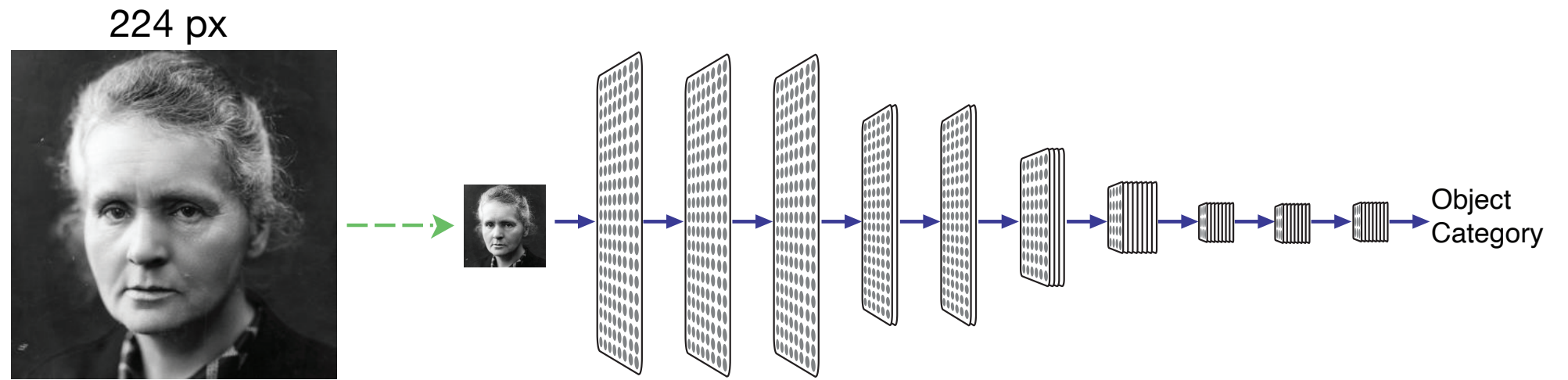
Primates



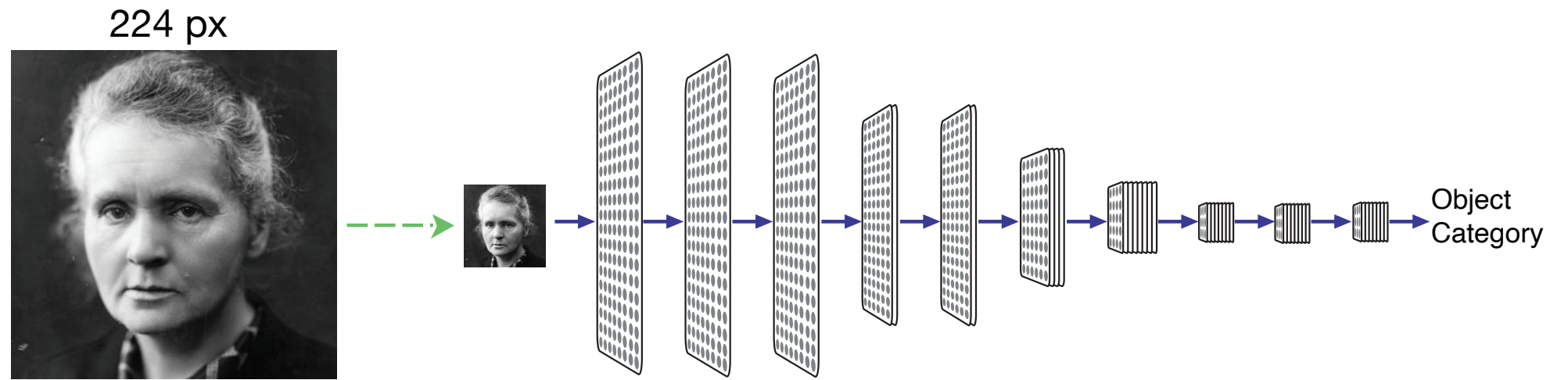
Distilling Constraints: Inputs



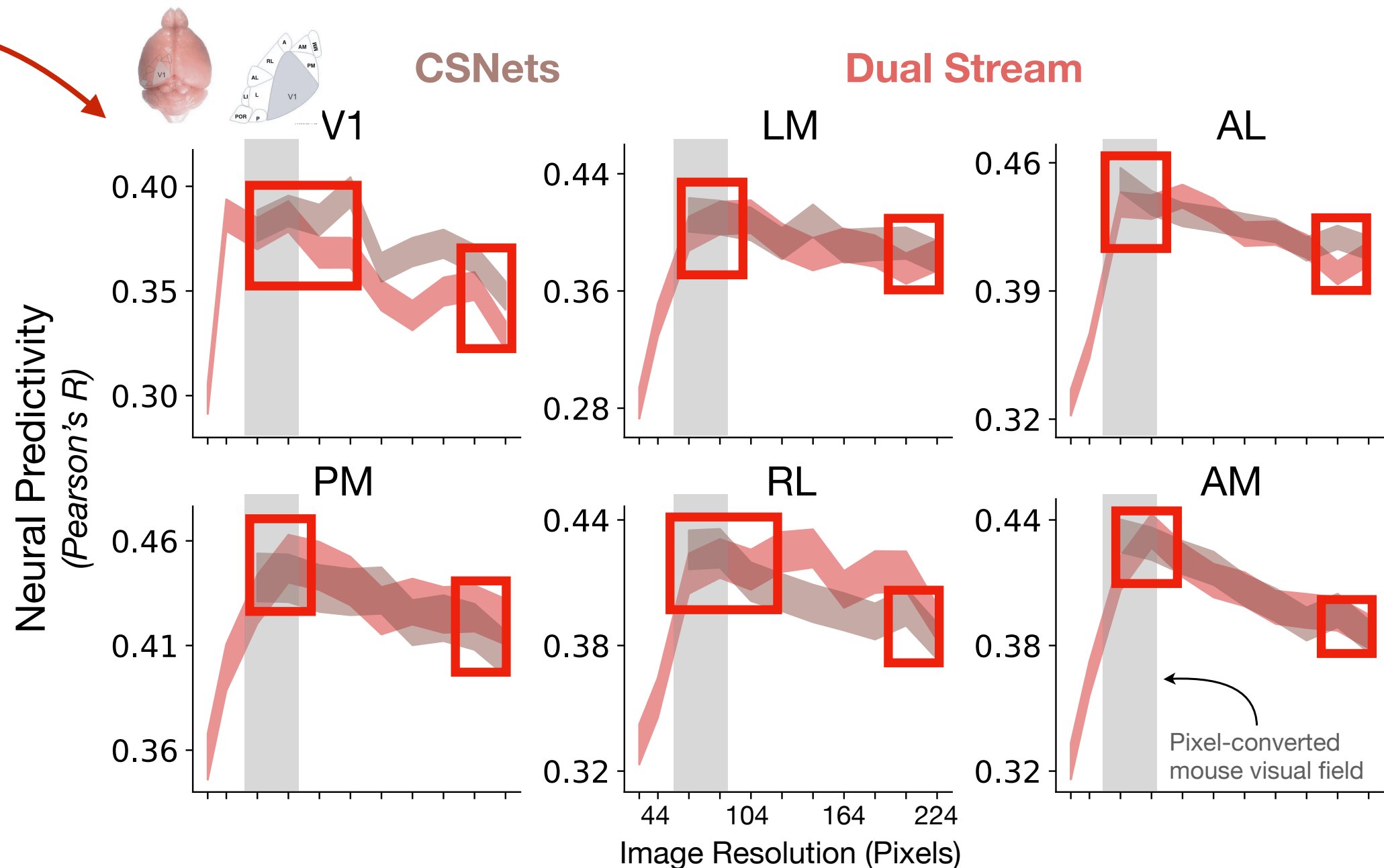
Distilling Constraints: Inputs



Lower resolution improves neural predictivity



Reducing image resolution during training improves neural predictivity across visual areas



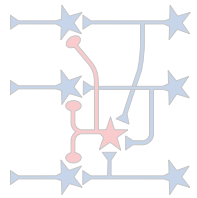
Distilling Constraints: Behavioral Goals

A = architecture class

T = task loss

1.

“Circuit”

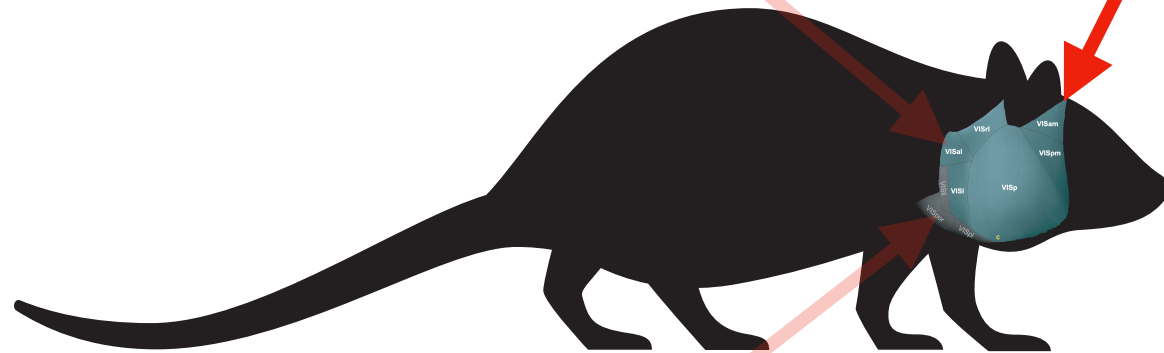


shallow
deep

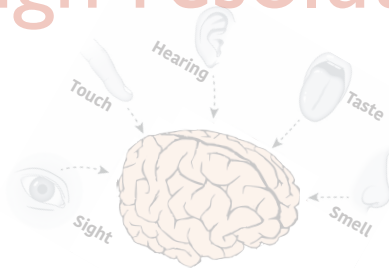
3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



unsupervised
supervised



low resolution
~~high resolution~~



2.

“Environment”

D = data stream

Supervised Losses

Distilling Constraints: Behavioral Goals

Supervised Losses

ImageNet Challenge

IMAGENET

- 1,000 object classes (categories).
- Images:
 - 1.2 M train
 - 100k test.

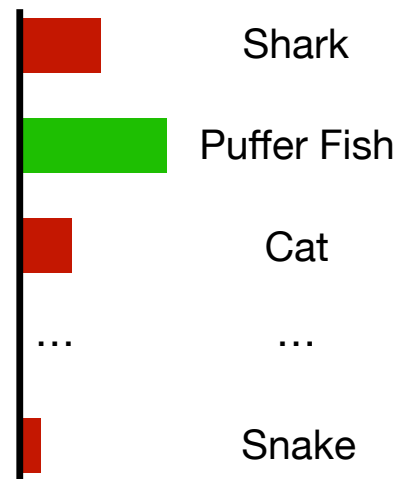


Most Supervision
(1000 classes)

Supervised Objective



Model



Typical setting: supervision with (1000) category labels
...but is very “unnatural” for mice!

Both the type and number of categories is unrealistic for mice

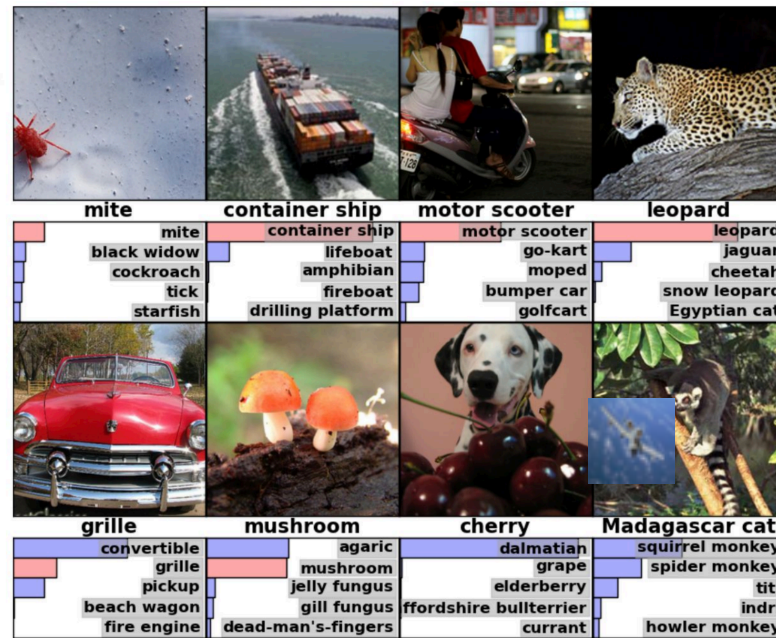
Distilling Constraints: Behavioral Goals

Supervised Losses

ImageNet Challenge

IMAGENET

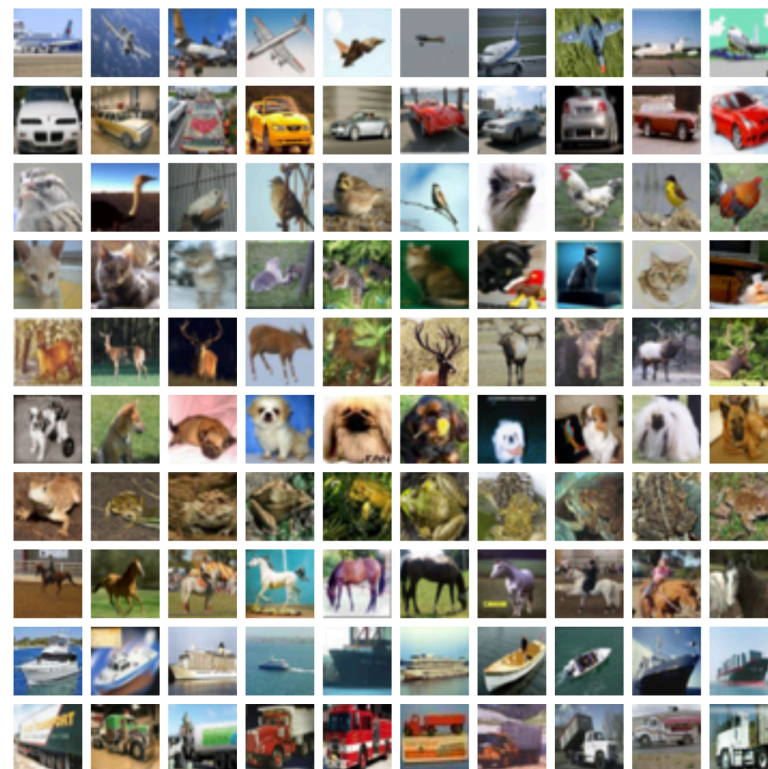
- 1,000 object classes (categories).
- Images:
 - 1.2 M train
 - 100k test.



Most Supervision
(1000 classes)

CIFAR-10

- airplane
- automobile
- bird
- cat
- deer
- dog
- frog
- horse
- ship
- truck



Less Supervision
(10 object classes)

Distilling Constraints: Behavioral Goals

Supervised Losses

ImageNet Challenge

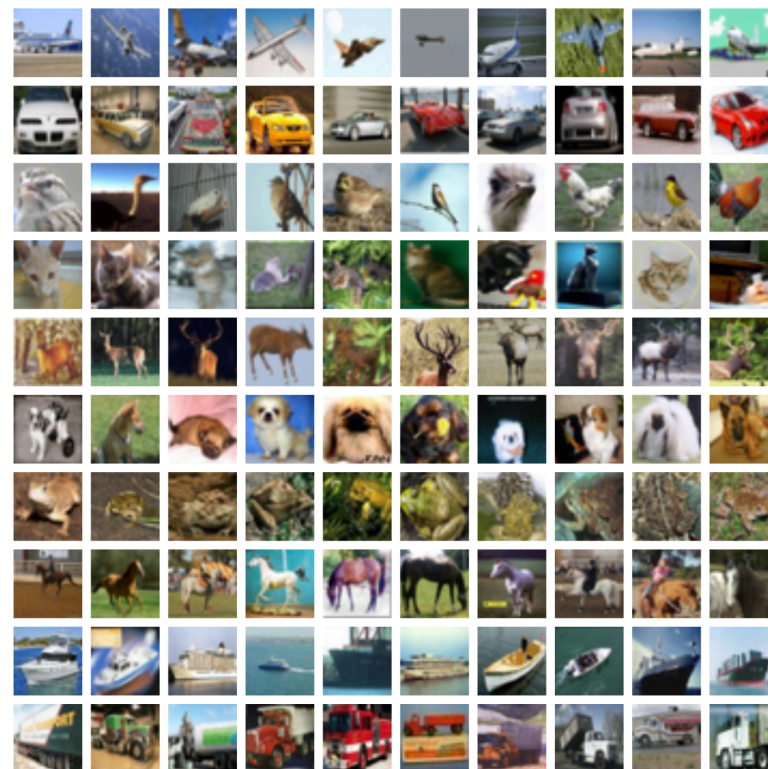
IMAGENET

- 1,000 object classes (categories).
- Images:
 - 1.2 M train
 - 100k test.



CIFAR-10

- airplane
- automobile
- bird
- cat
- deer
- dog
- frog
- horse
- ship
- truck



Depth Map Prediction
(Visual proxy for whisking)

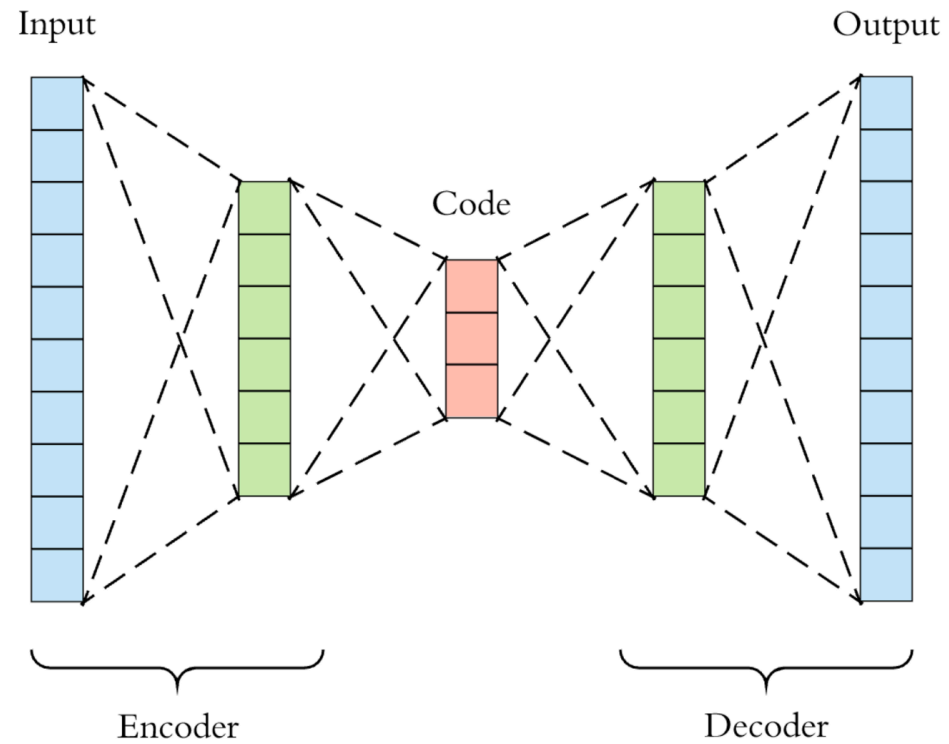
PBRNet (500K images)

Unsupervised Losses

Distilling Constraints: Behavioral Goals

Unsupervised Losses

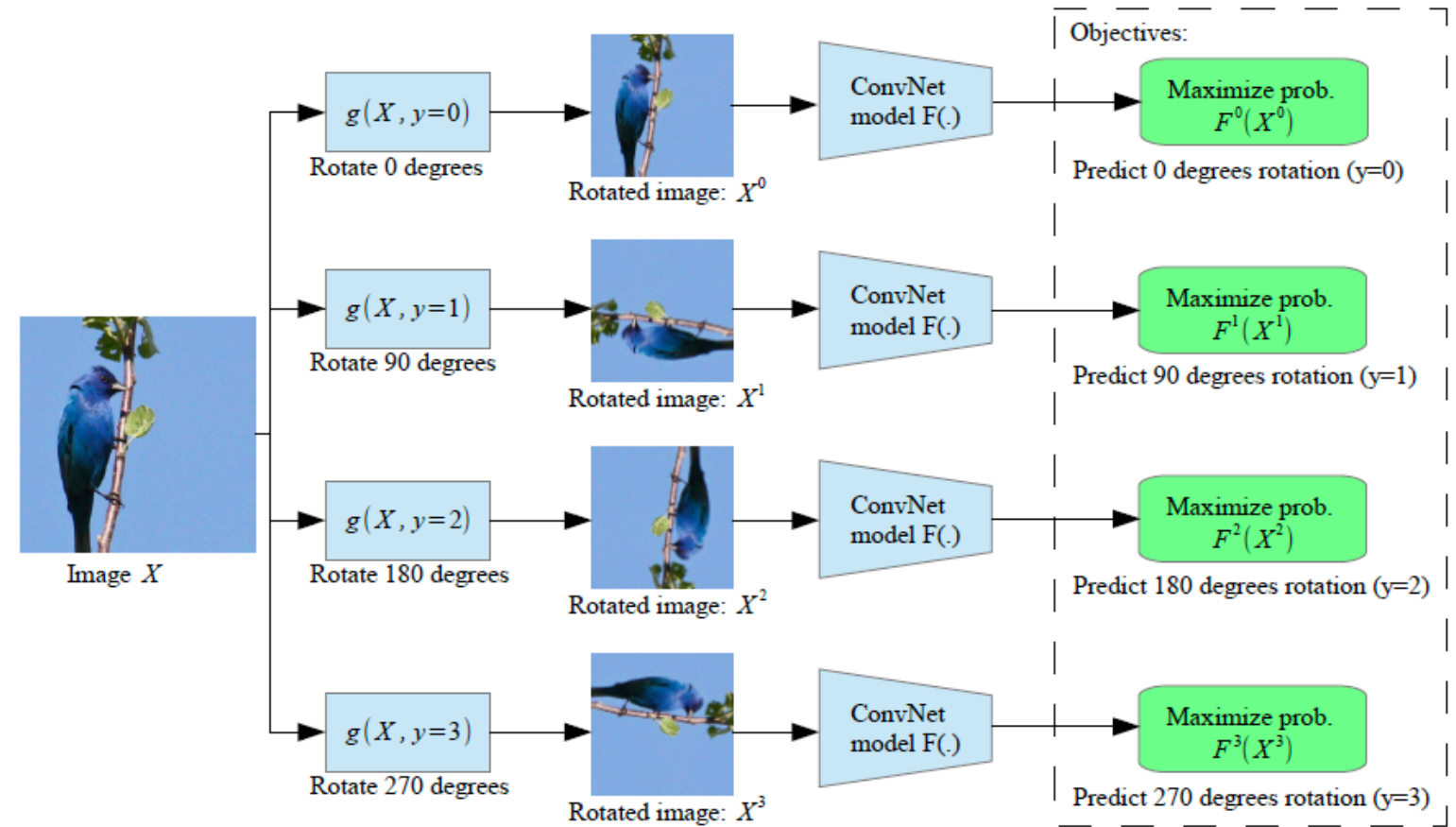
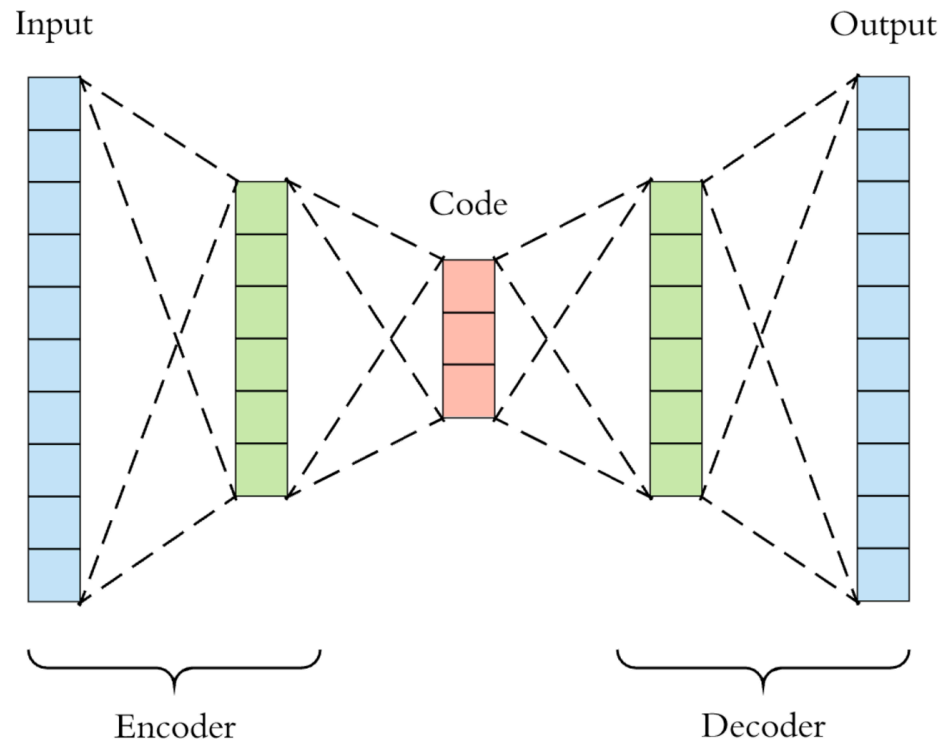
Sparse Autoencoding



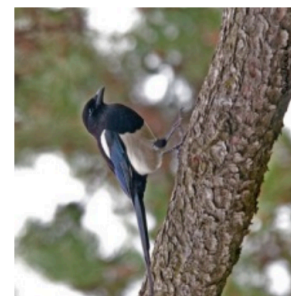
Distilling Constraints: Behavioral Goals

Unsupervised Losses

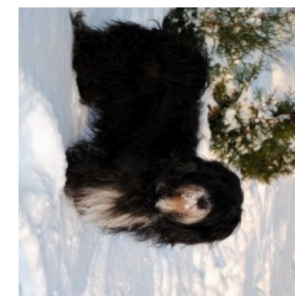
Sparse Autoencoding



Predict Image Rotations (RotNet, Gidaris et al. 2018)



90° rotation



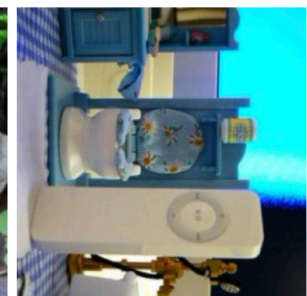
270° rotation



180° rotation



0° rotation



270° rotation

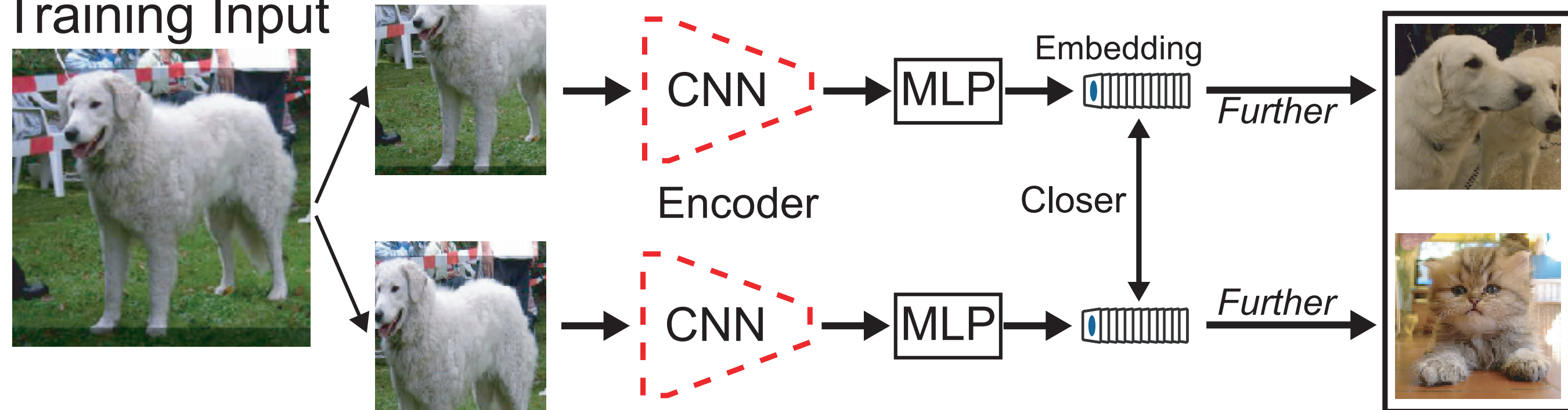
Distilling Constraints: Behavioral Goals

Unsupervised Losses

Contrastive Objectives

courtesy Chengxu Zhuang

Training Input



CNN: Convolutional Neural Network, MLP: Multi-Layer Perceptron

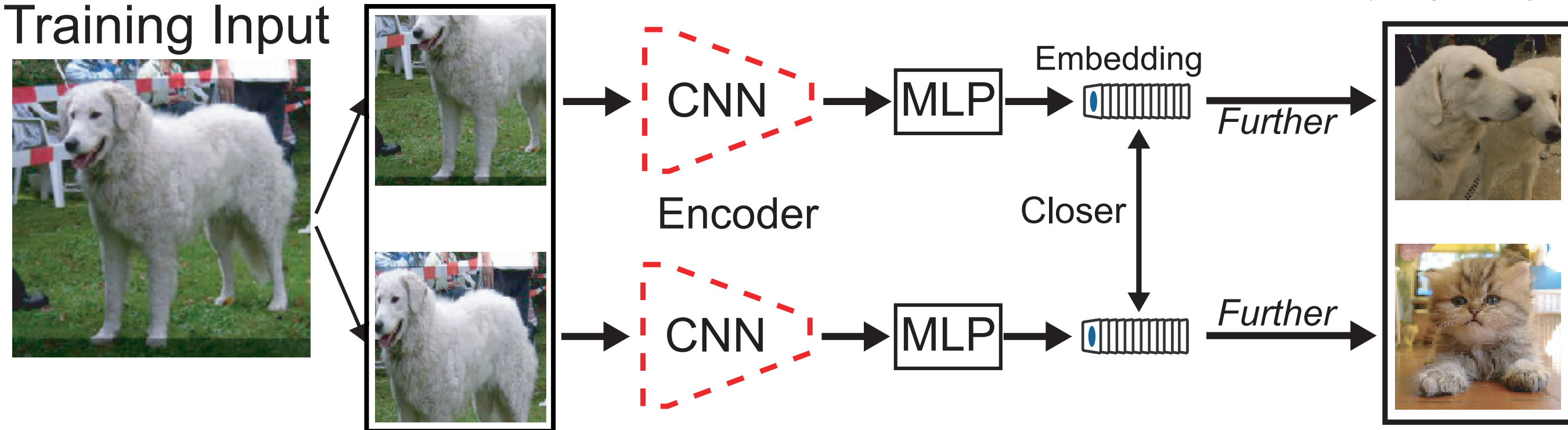
Distilling Constraints: Behavioral Goals

Unsupervised Losses

Contrastive Objectives

courtesy Chengxu Zhuang

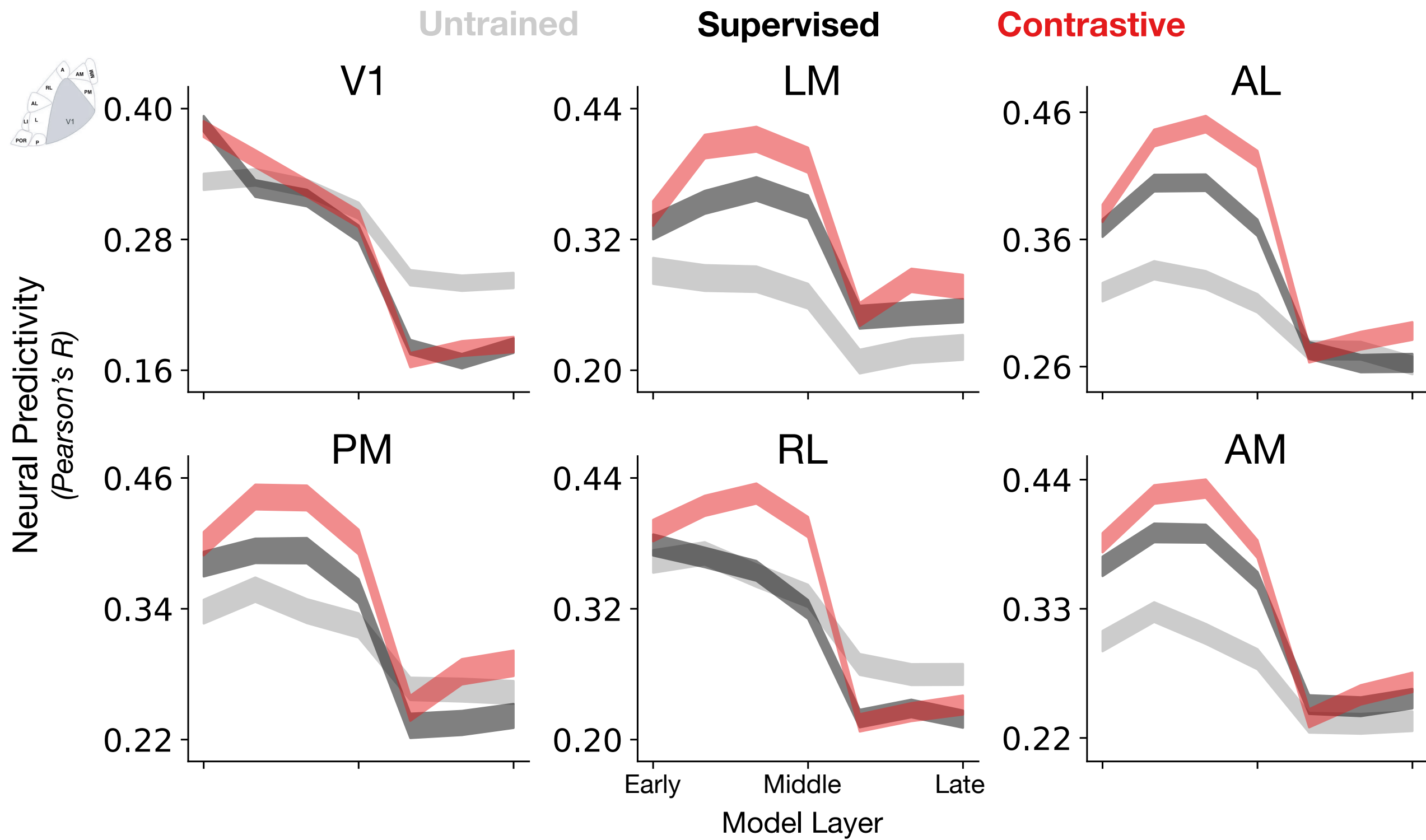
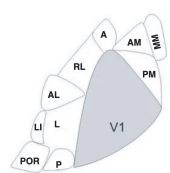
Training Input



CNN: Convolutional Neural Network, MLP: Multi-Layer Perceptron

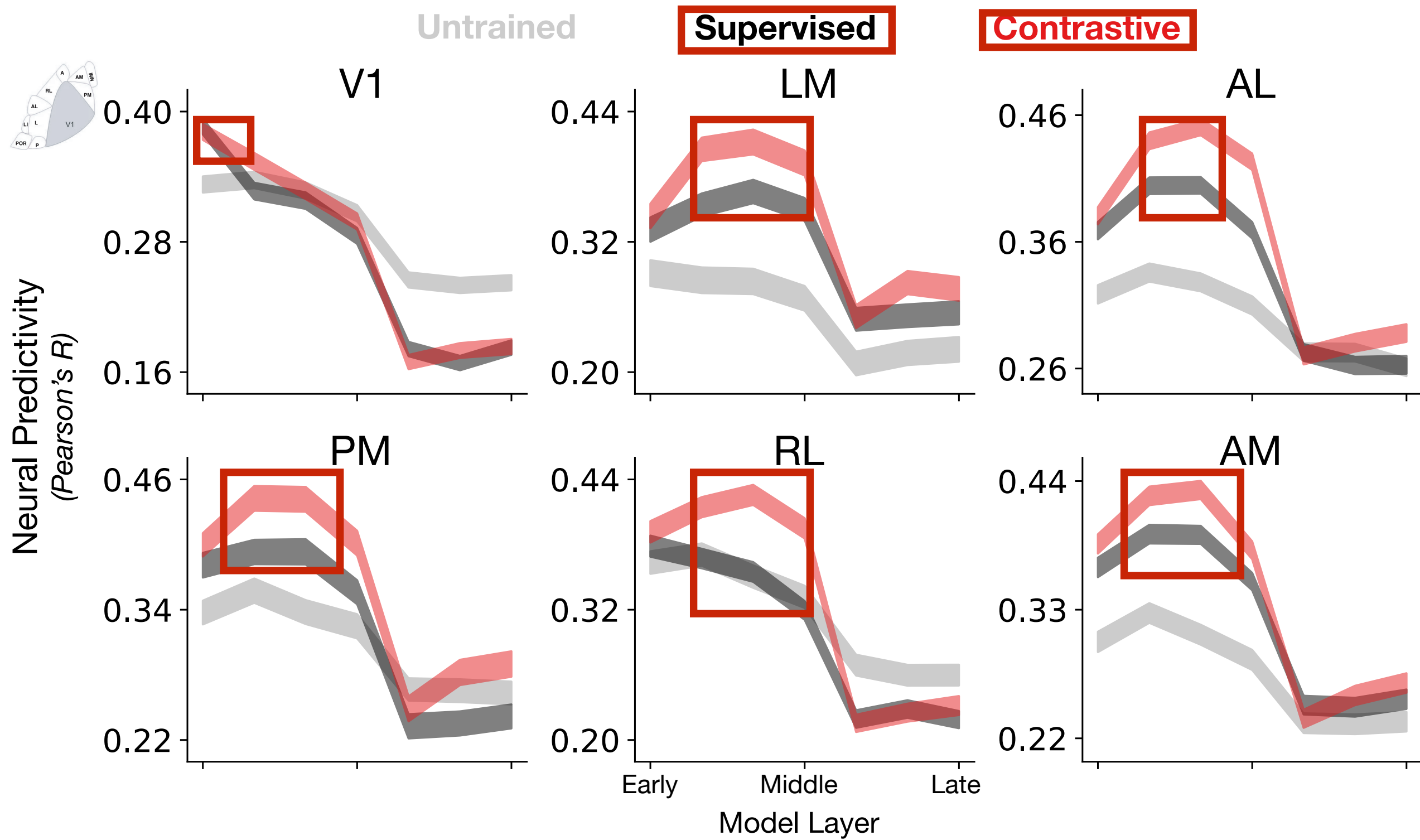
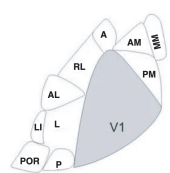
Make the embeddings of different views of the *same* image to be similar, while pushing them apart from different images

Unsupervised > Supervised Losses



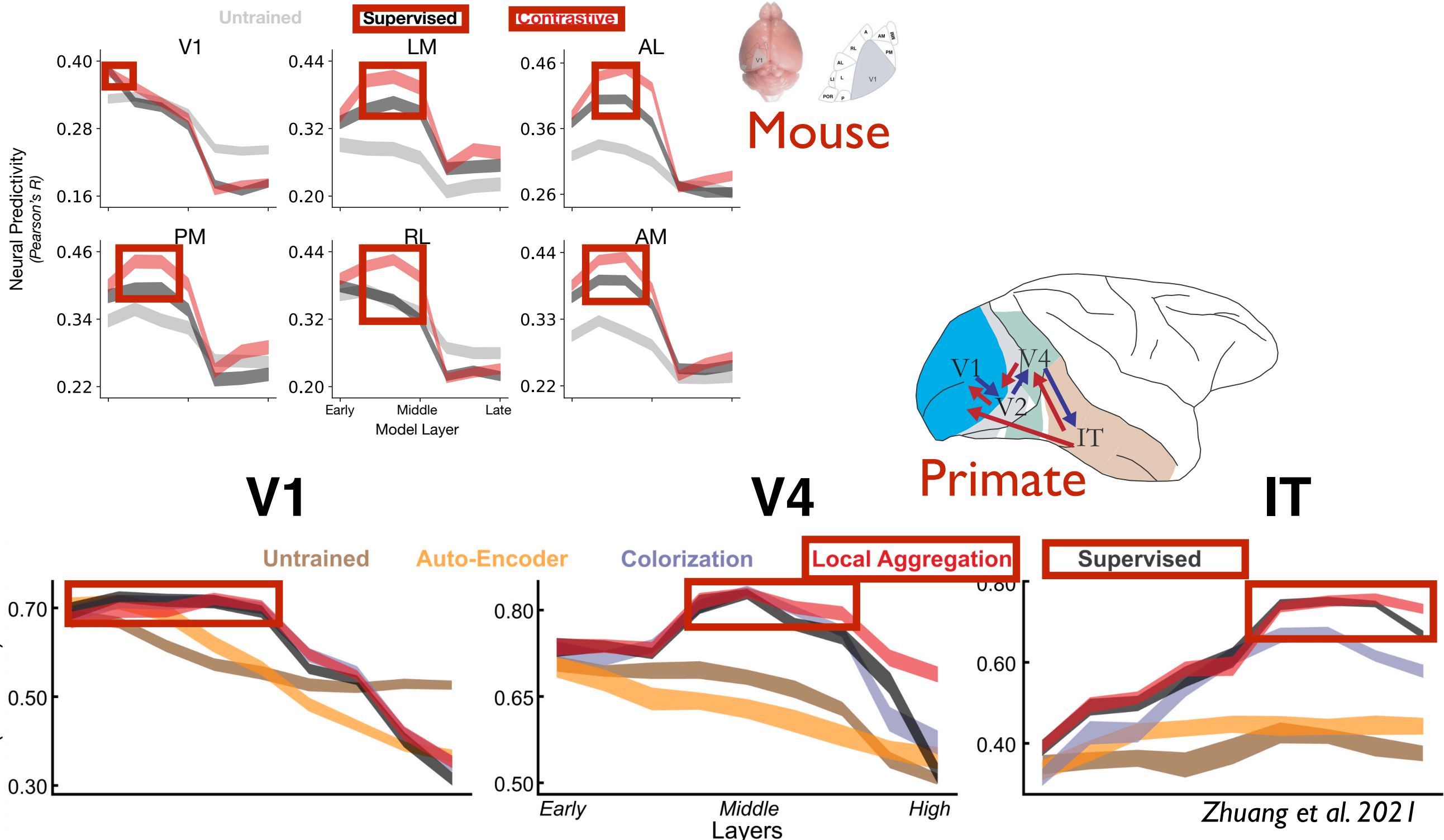
Unsupervised > Supervised Losses

Using an unsupervised, contrastive objective function improves neural predictivity (*best architecture & data stream fixed*)

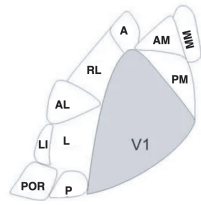


Unsupervised > Supervised Losses

Unlike in primates where contrastive matches supervised!



Contrastive losses are overall the best *unsupervised* loss

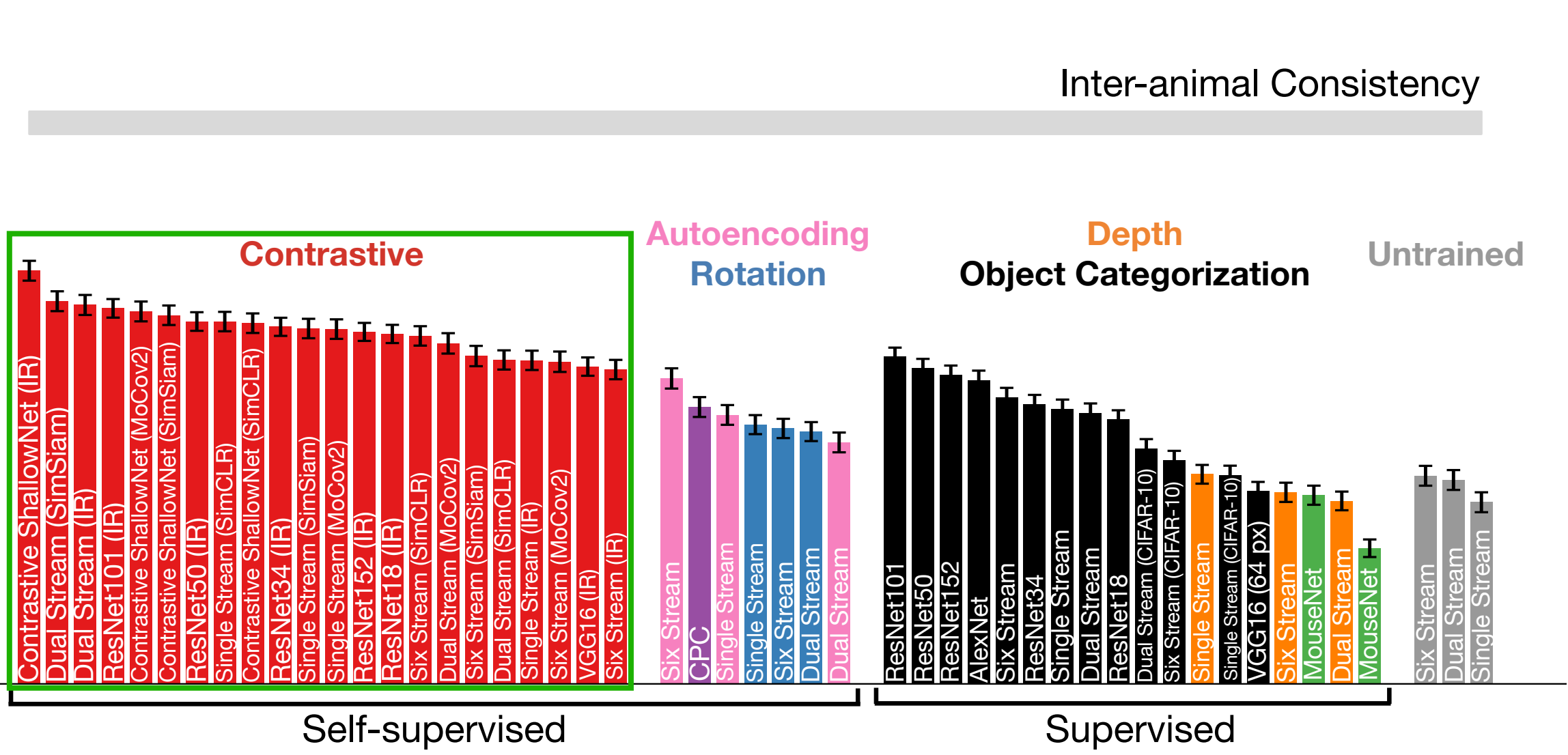


Neural Predictivity Difference
(Pearson's R)

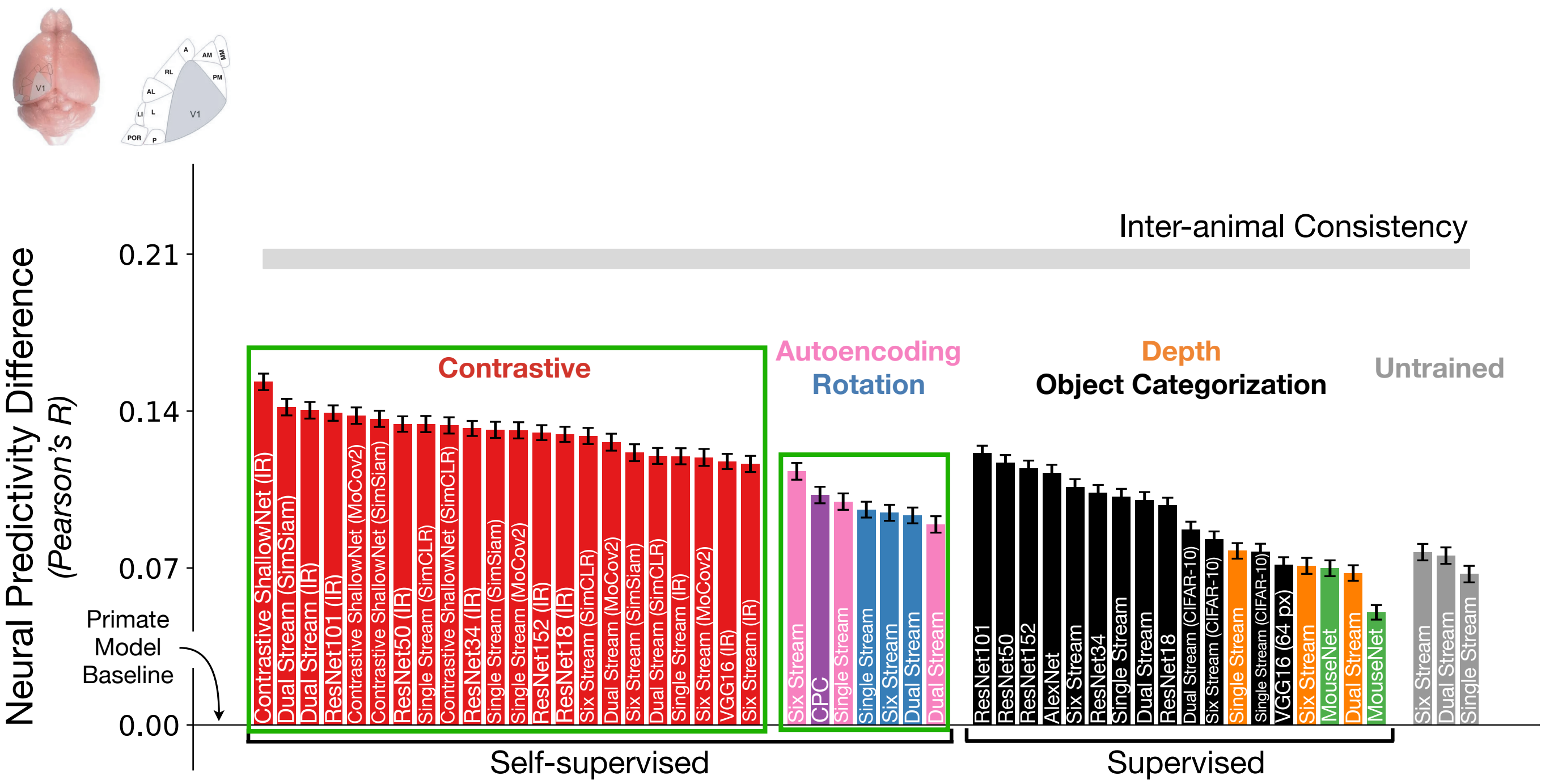
(Pearson's R)

Primate Model Baseline

0.21
0.14
0.07
0.00

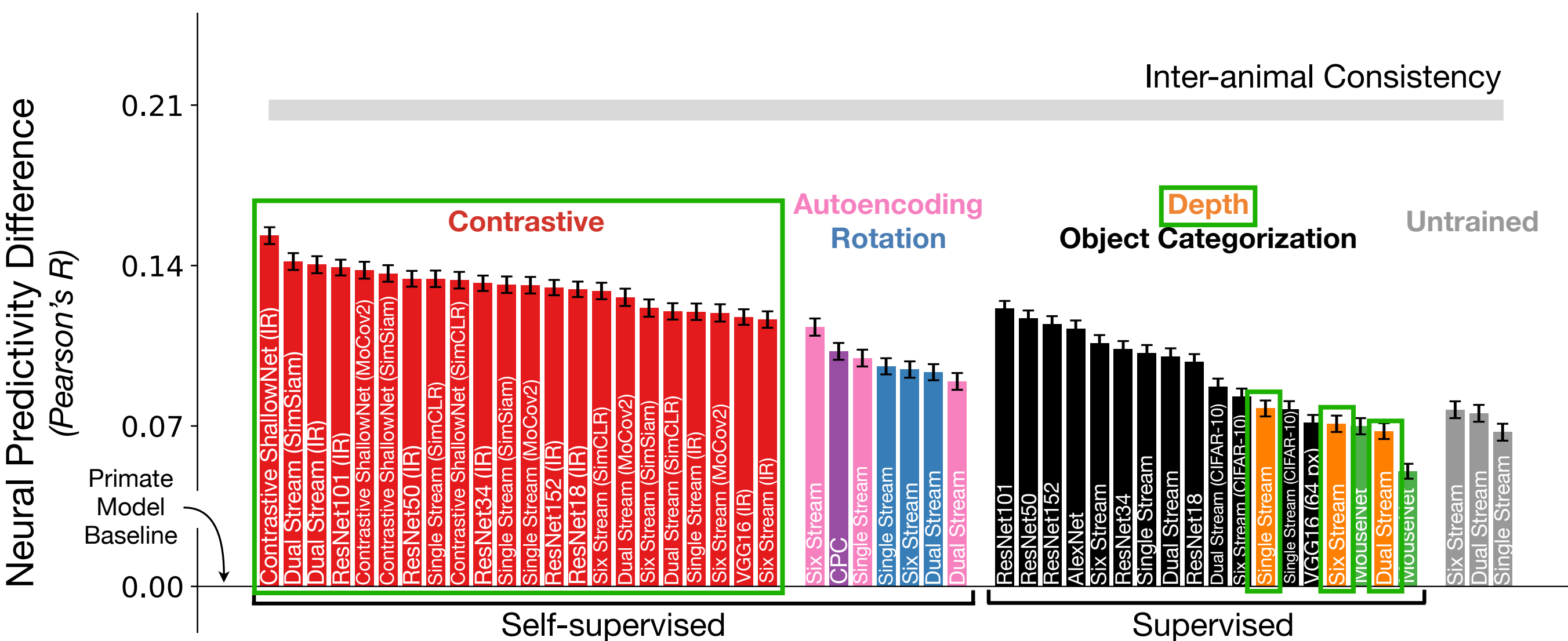
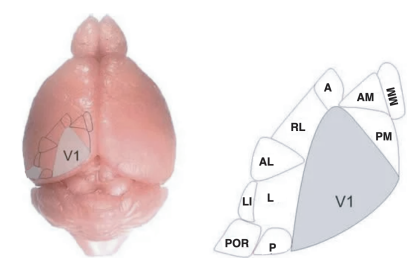


Contrastive losses are overall the best *unsupervised* loss



Contrastive objectives are overall the best compared to other *unsupervised* alternatives

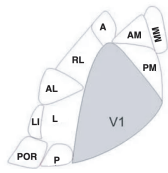
Unsupervised losses outperform behaviorally-driven loss



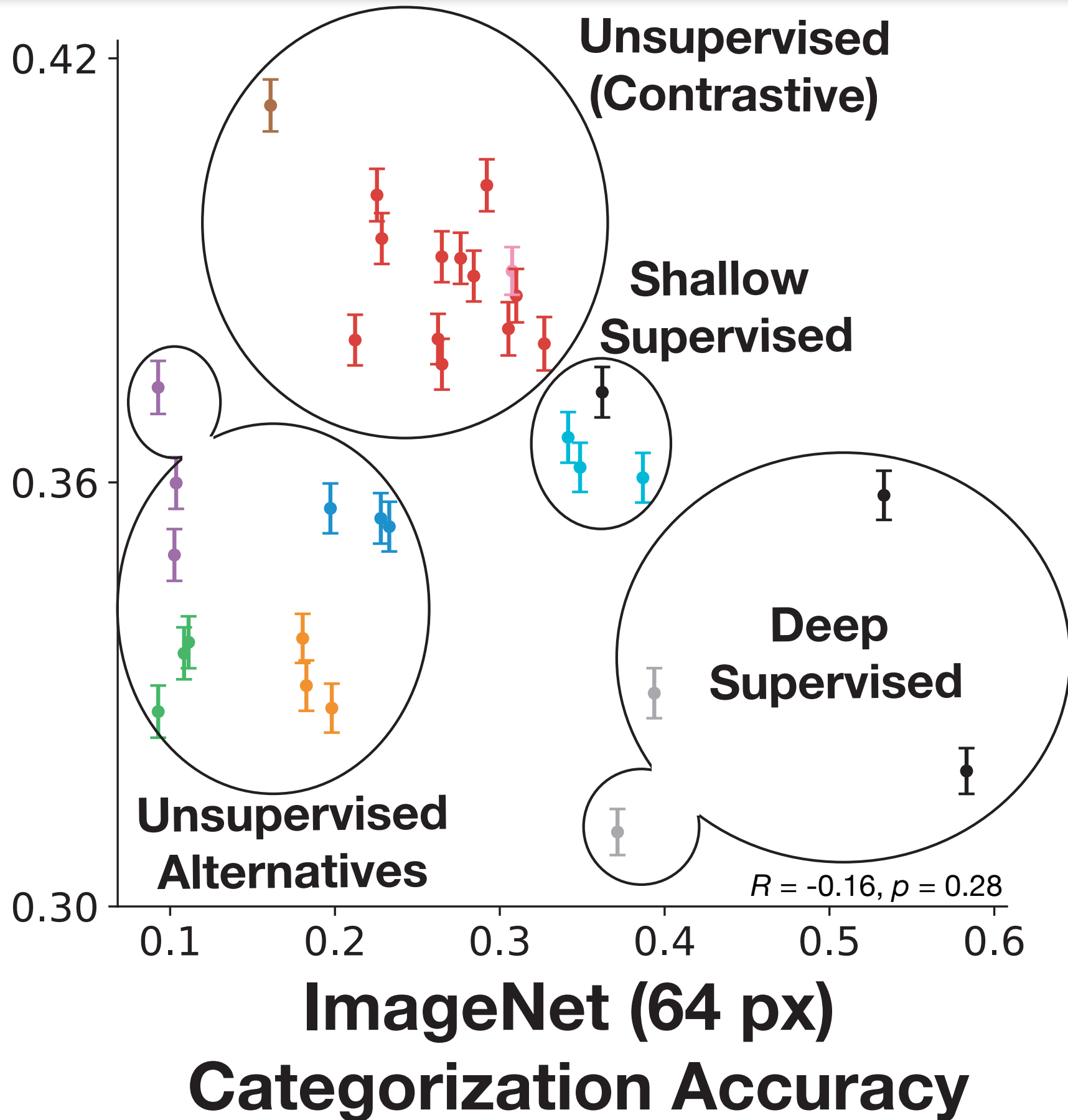
Contrastive objectives outperform “whisking” visual proxy loss

What is the ecological reason for unsupervised nets?

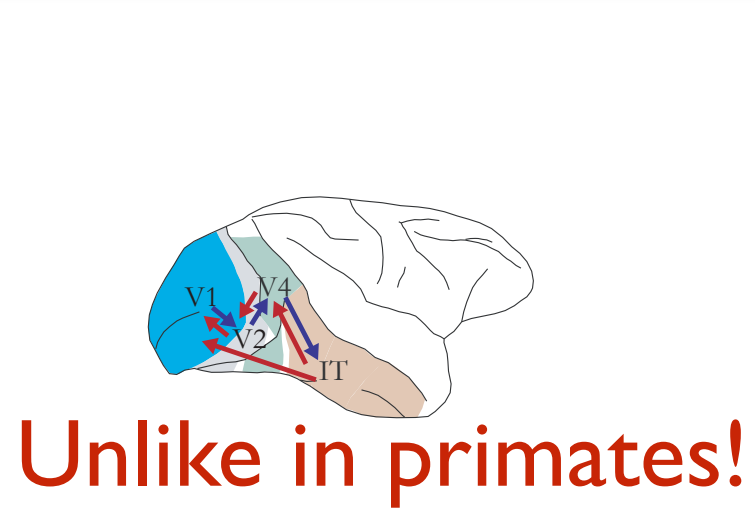
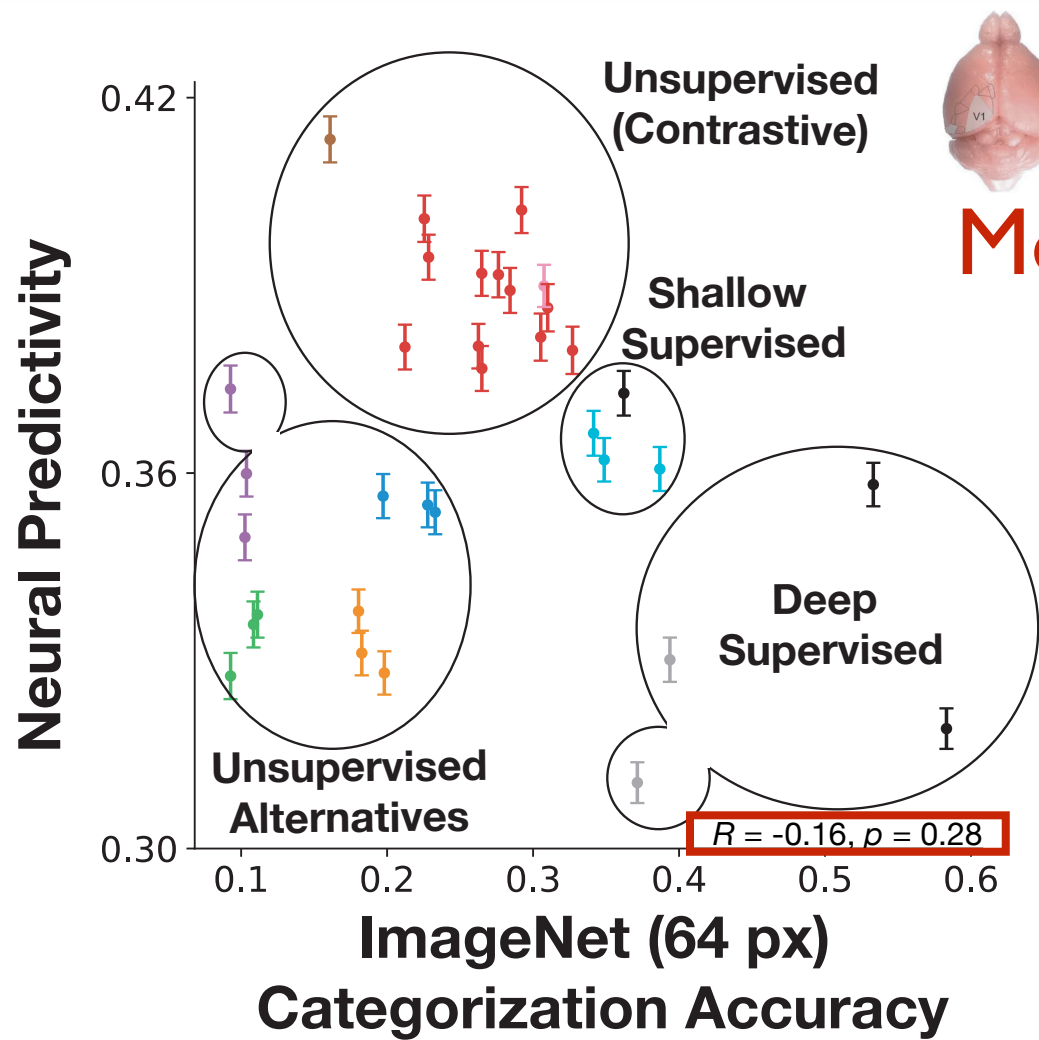
ImageNet categorization performance **NOT** correlated with neural predictivity



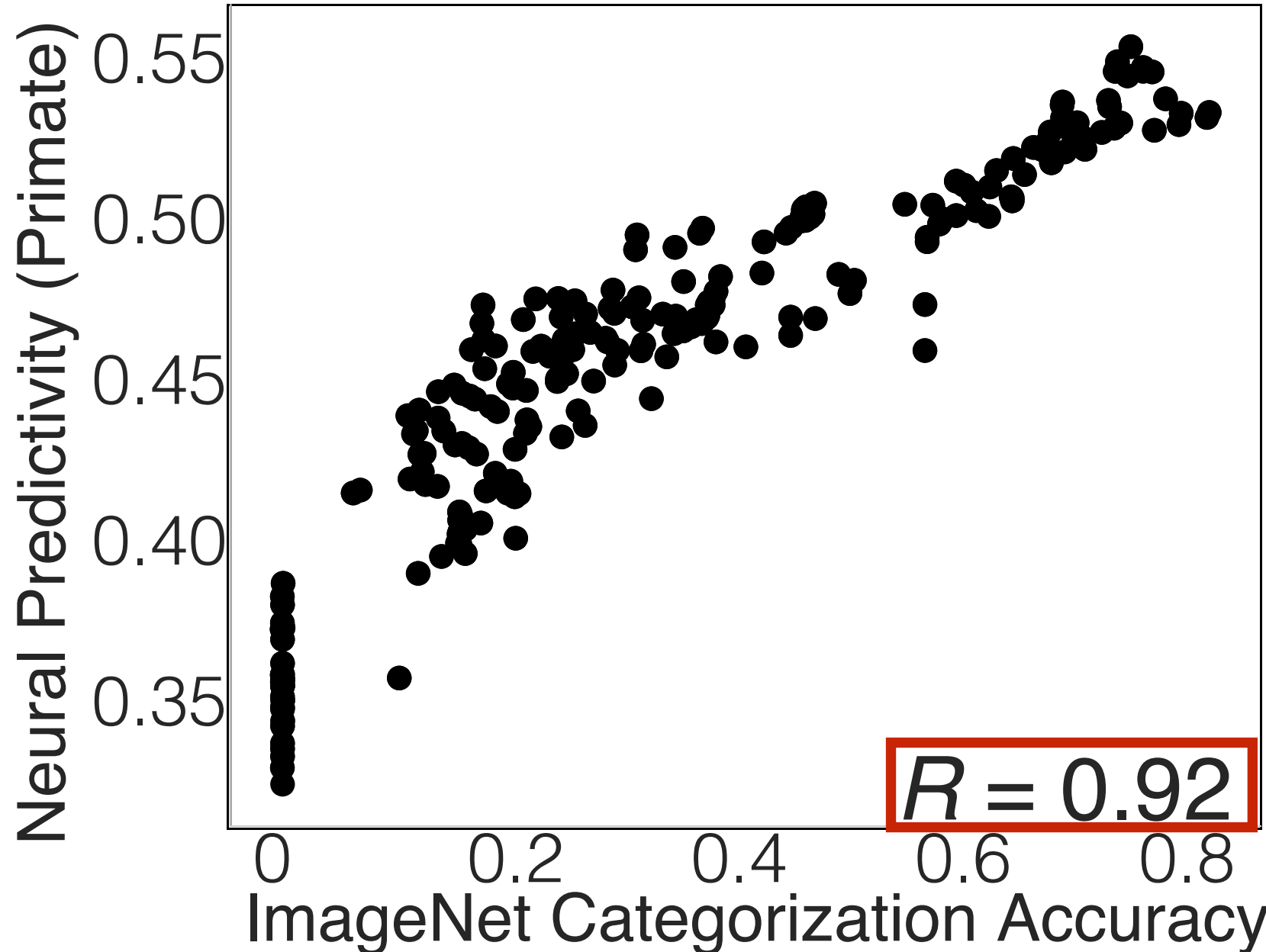
Neural Predictivity



ImageNet categorization performance **NOT** correlated with neural predictivity



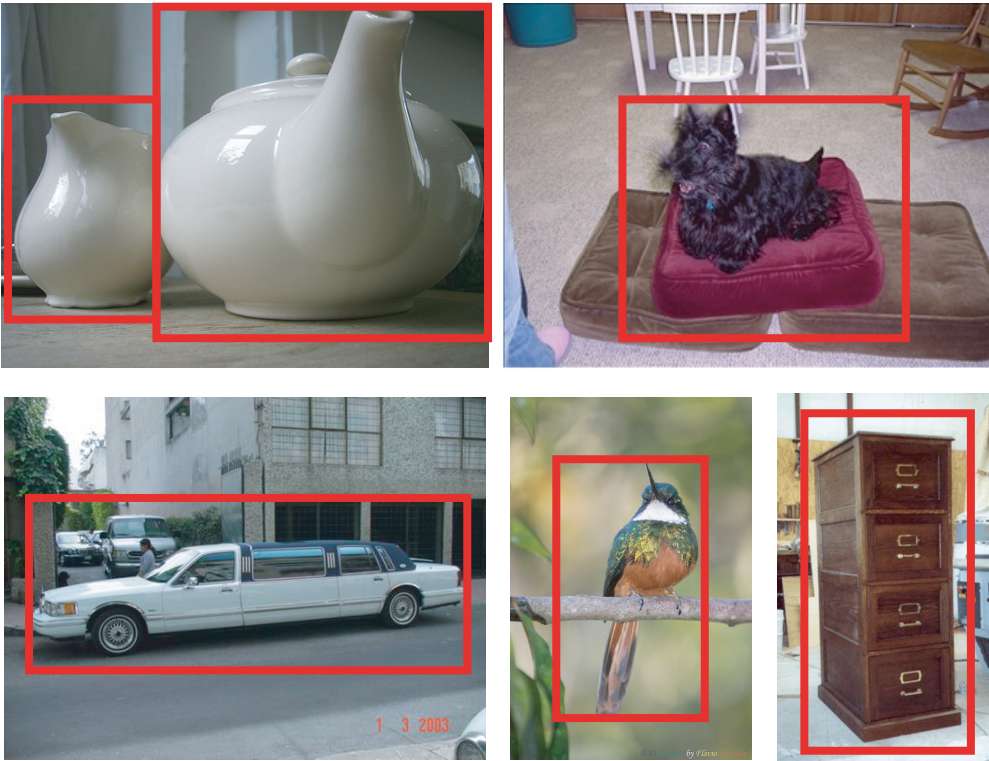
Schrimpf et al. 2018



Assessing Task-Generality

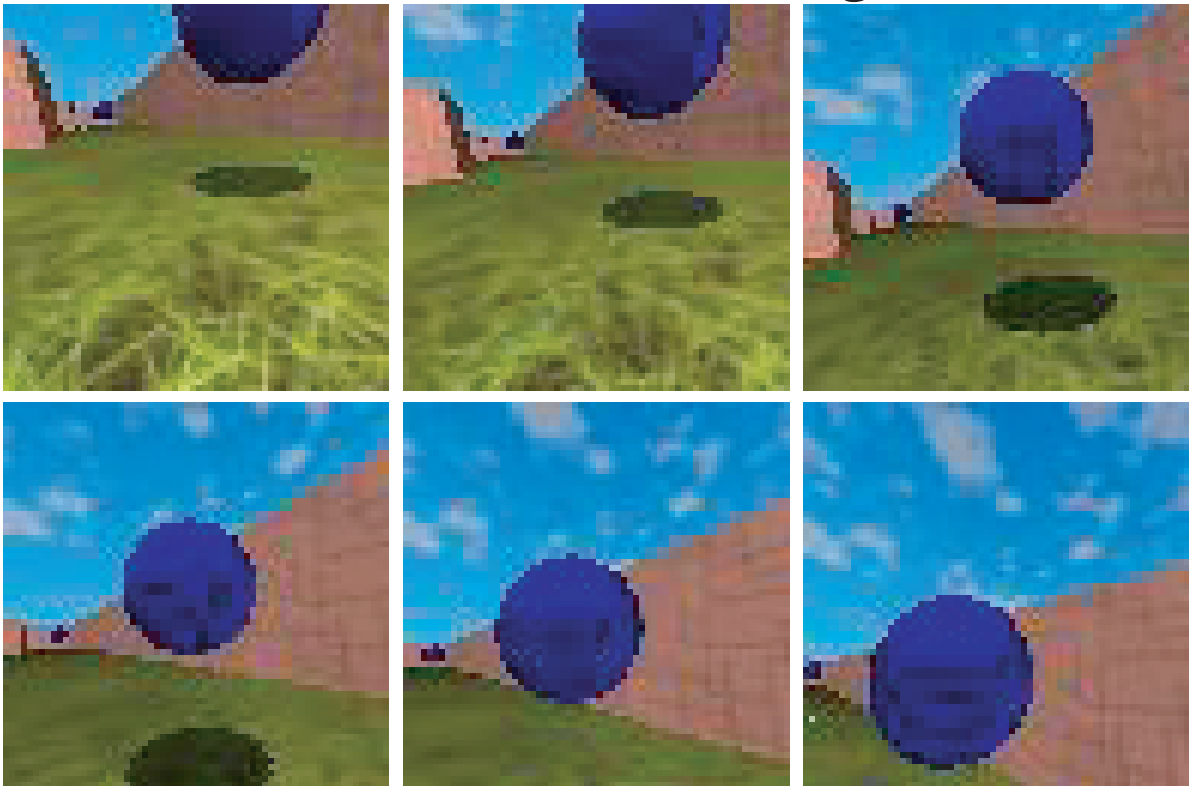
Train

ImageNet

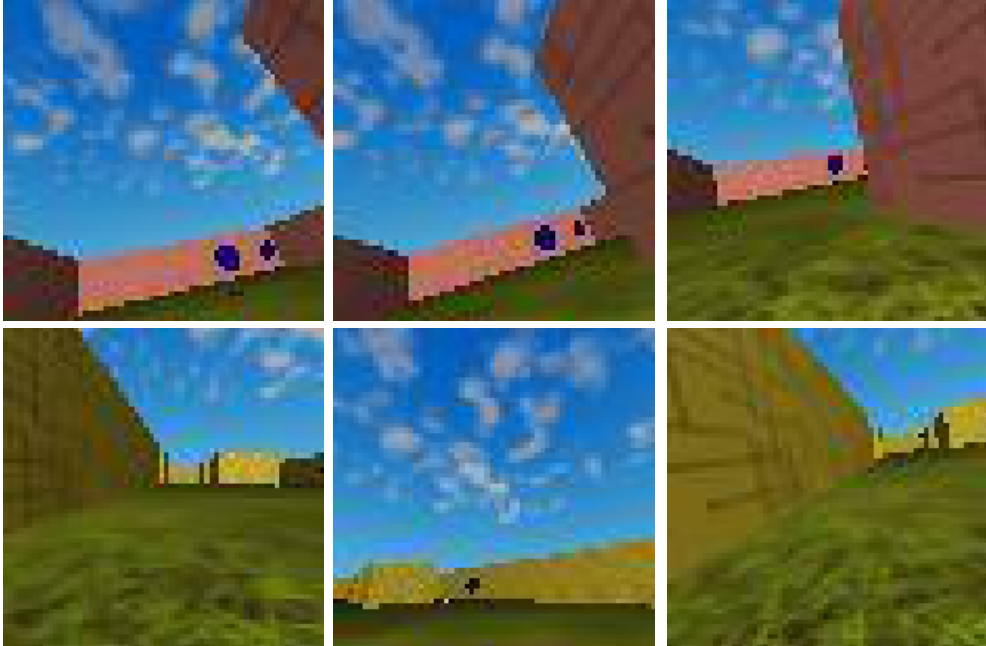


Evaluate

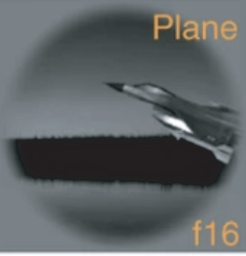
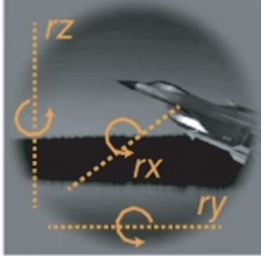

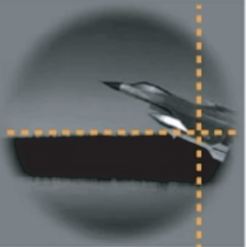
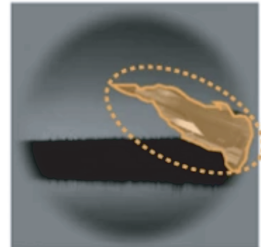

Reward-Based Navigation



Maze Environment



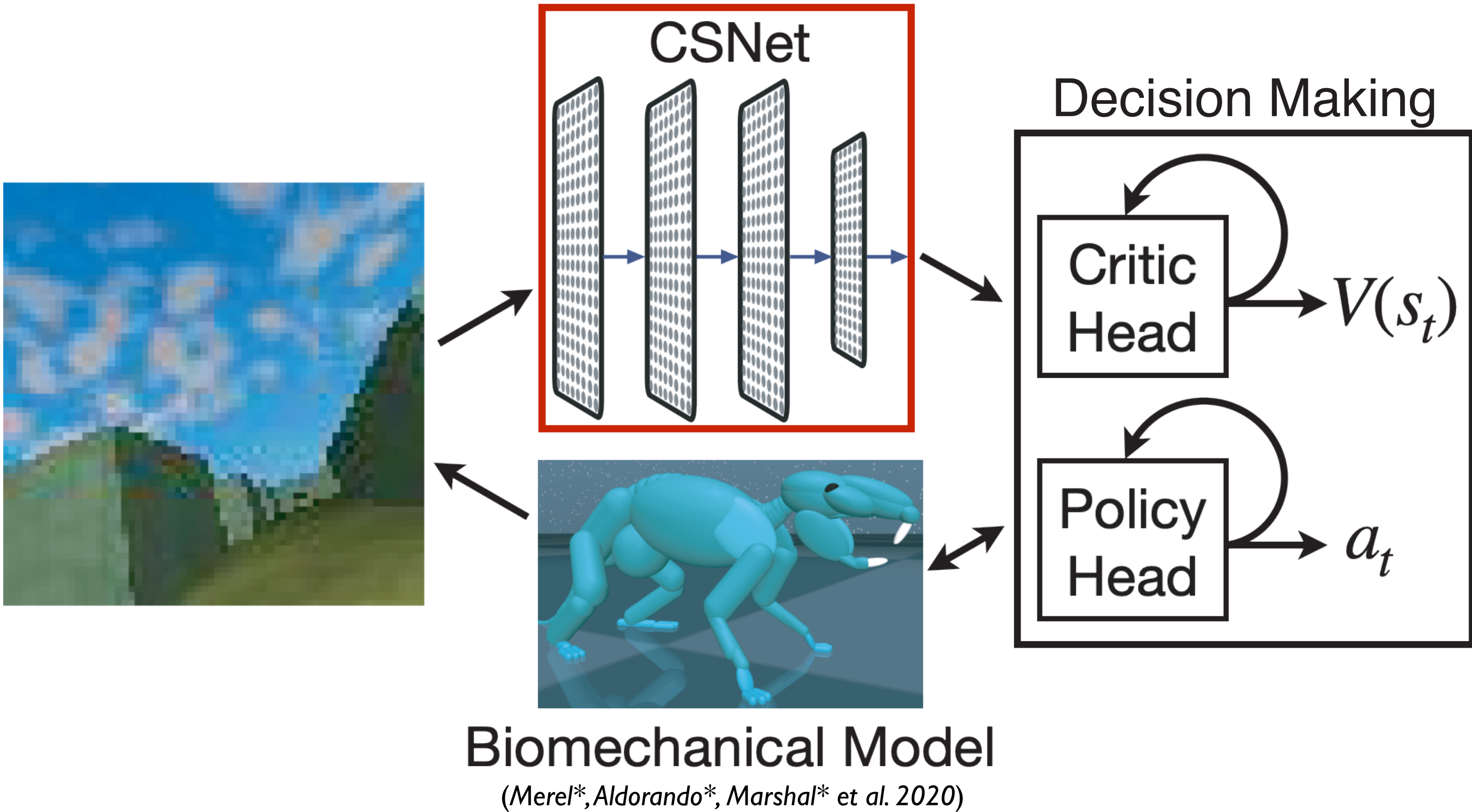
Visual Scene Understanding

 <p>Plane</p>	Category	 <p>z axis rotation x axis rotation y axis rotation</p>	
 <p>f16</p>	Identity	 <p>Perimeter: 78 pix Two-dimensional retinal area: 146 pix Three-dimensional object scale: 1.2x</p>	

Object properties

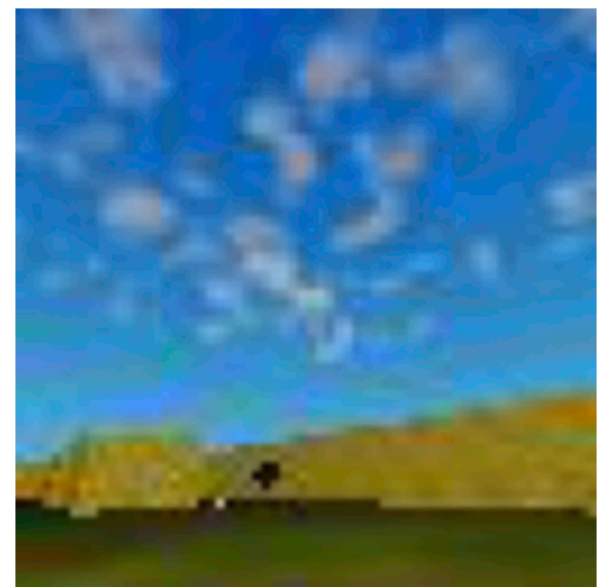
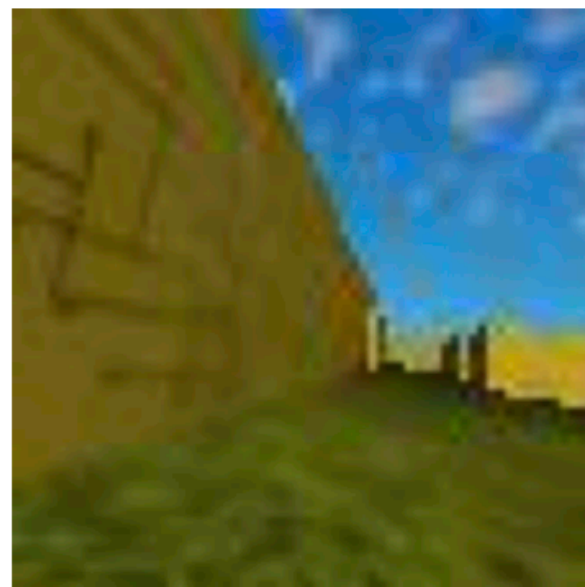
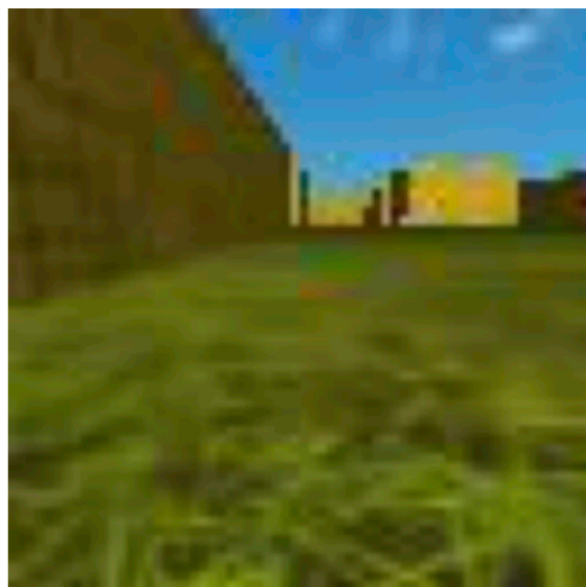
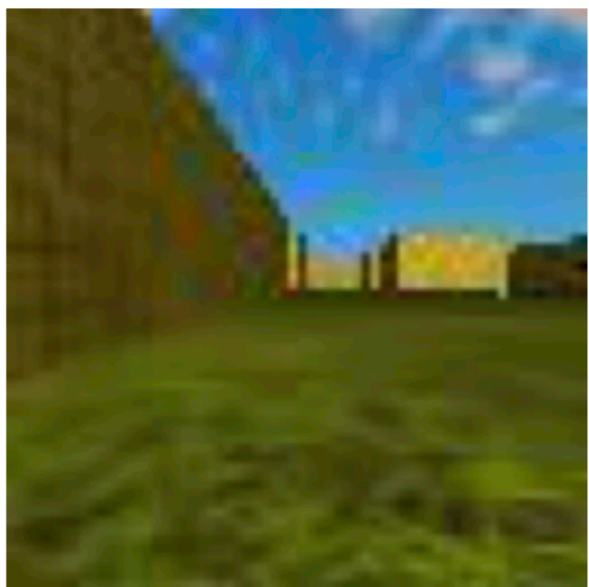
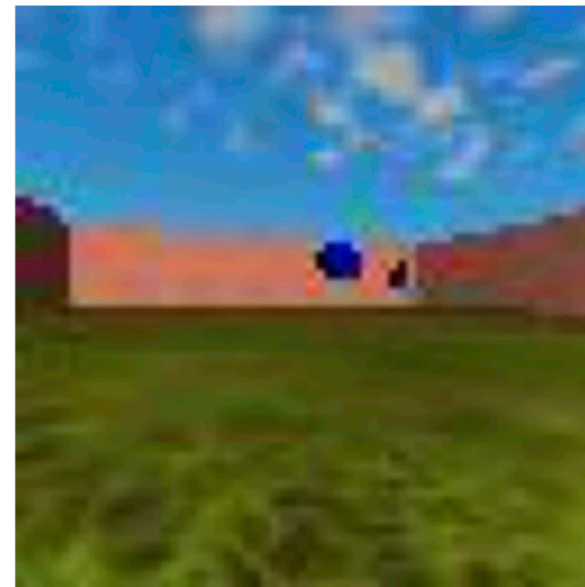
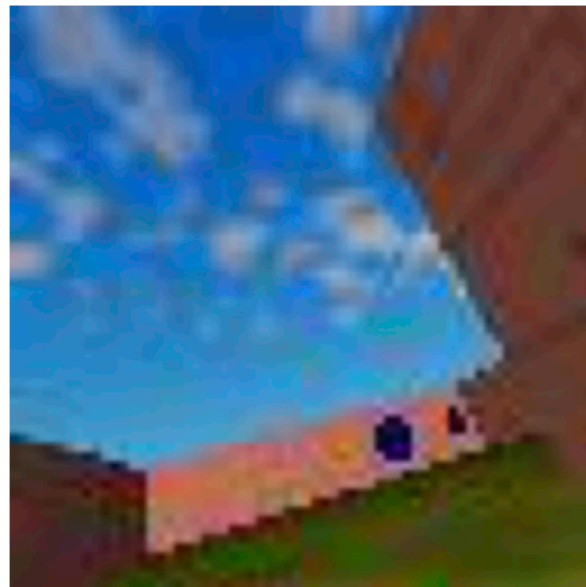
Texture

Schematic of Virtual Rodent



Navigation task in “Rodent Mazes” environment

Merel, Aldorando*, Marshal* et al. 2020; Gulcehre et al. 2021*

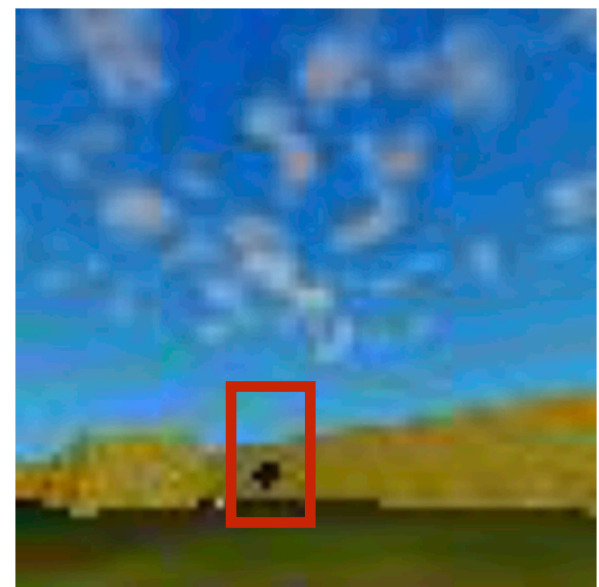
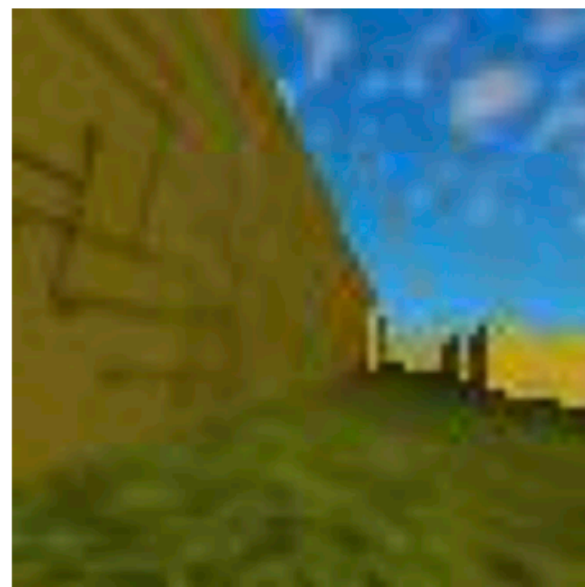
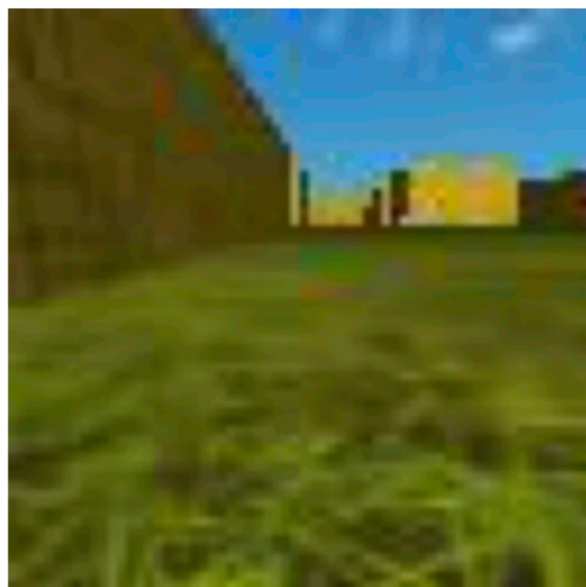
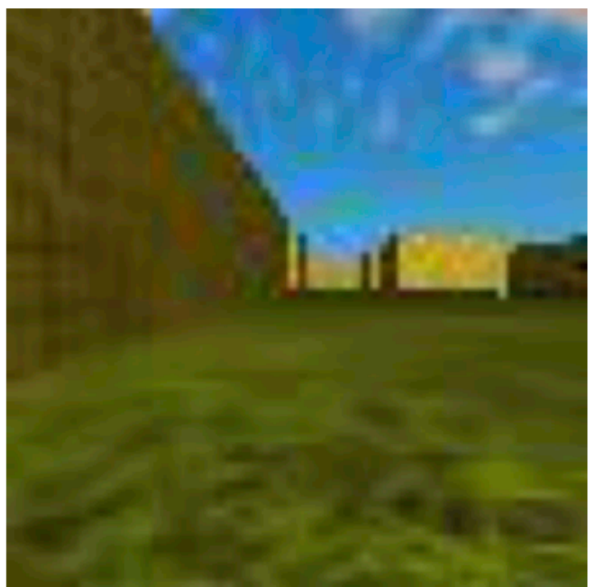
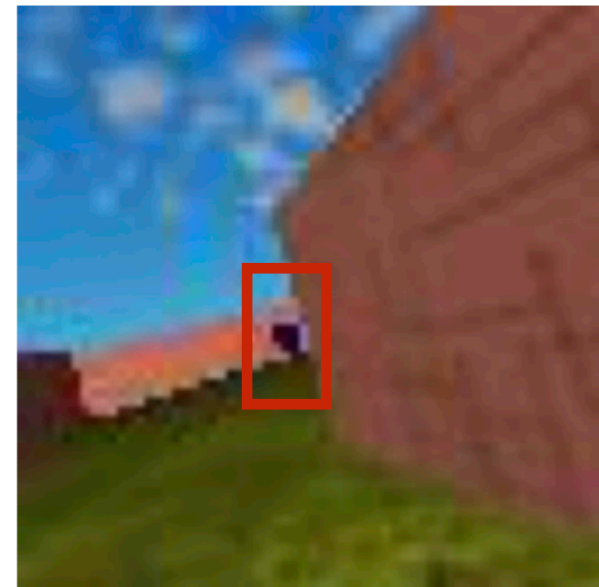
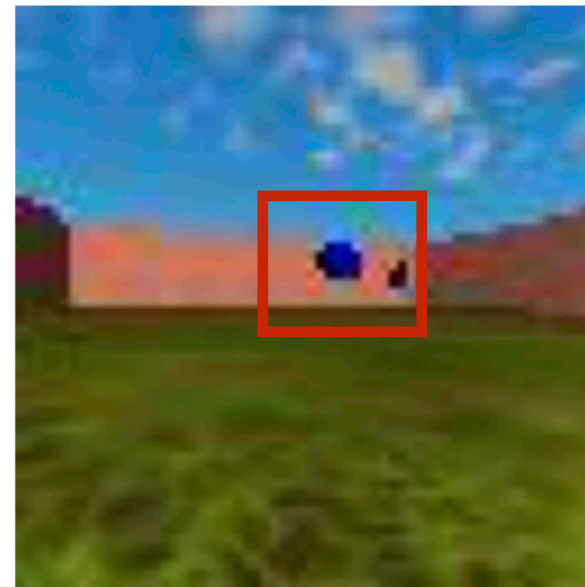
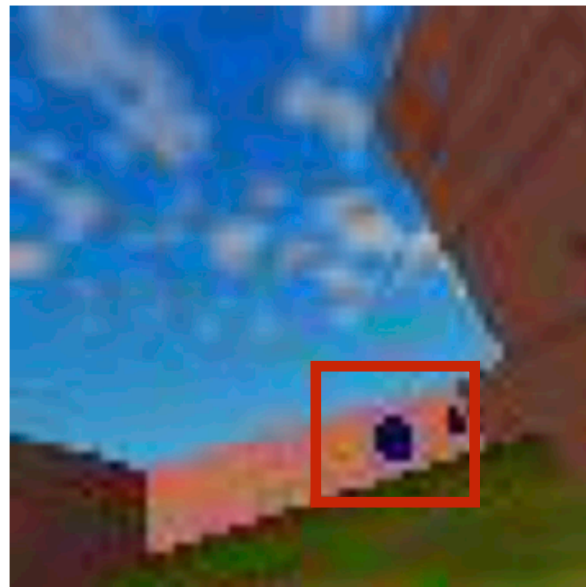
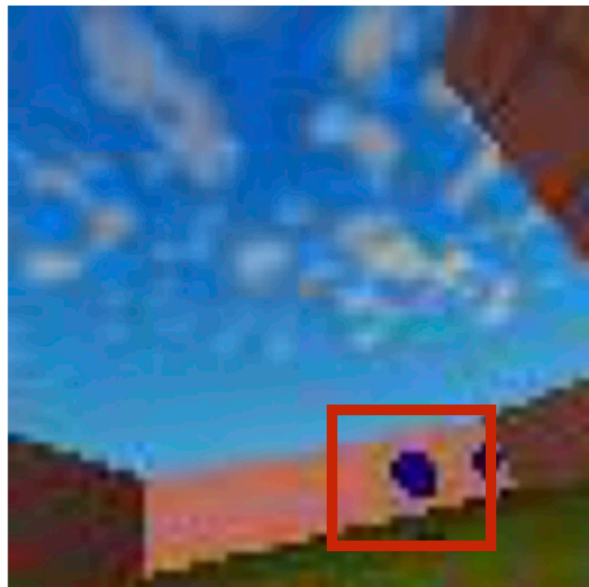


Requires keeping track of history over long timescales with high-dimensional, continuous inputs

Navigation task in “Rodent Mazes” environment



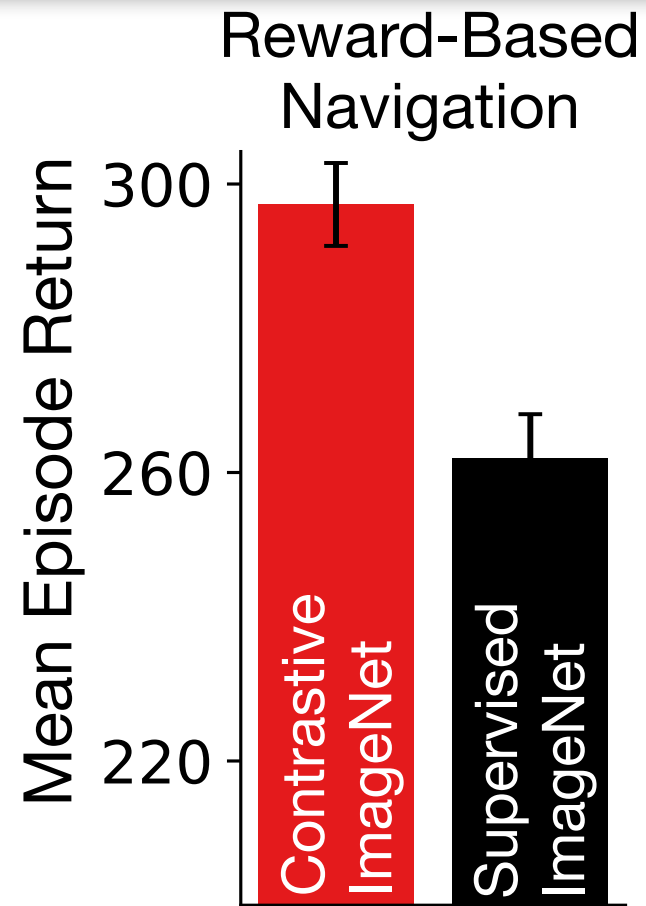
Merel, Aldorando*, Marshal* et al. 2020; Gulcehre et al. 2021*



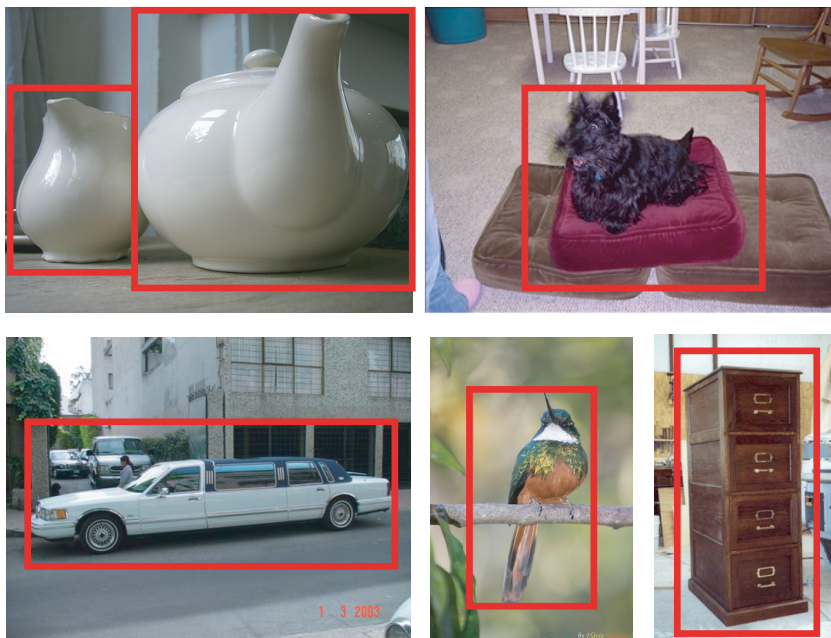
Requires keeping track of history over long timescales with high-dimensional, continuous inputs

Contrastive models yield better transfer performance

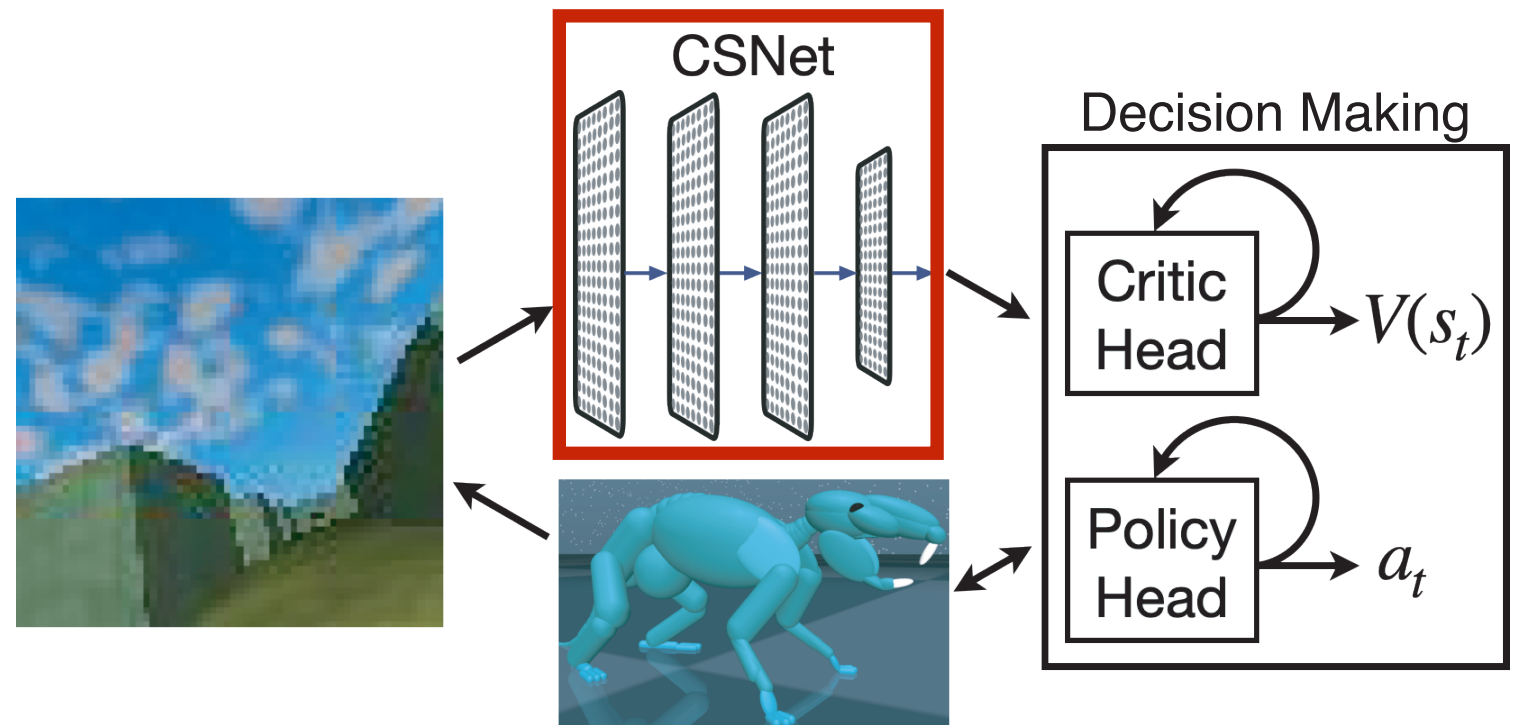
Contrastive models yield better transfer performance



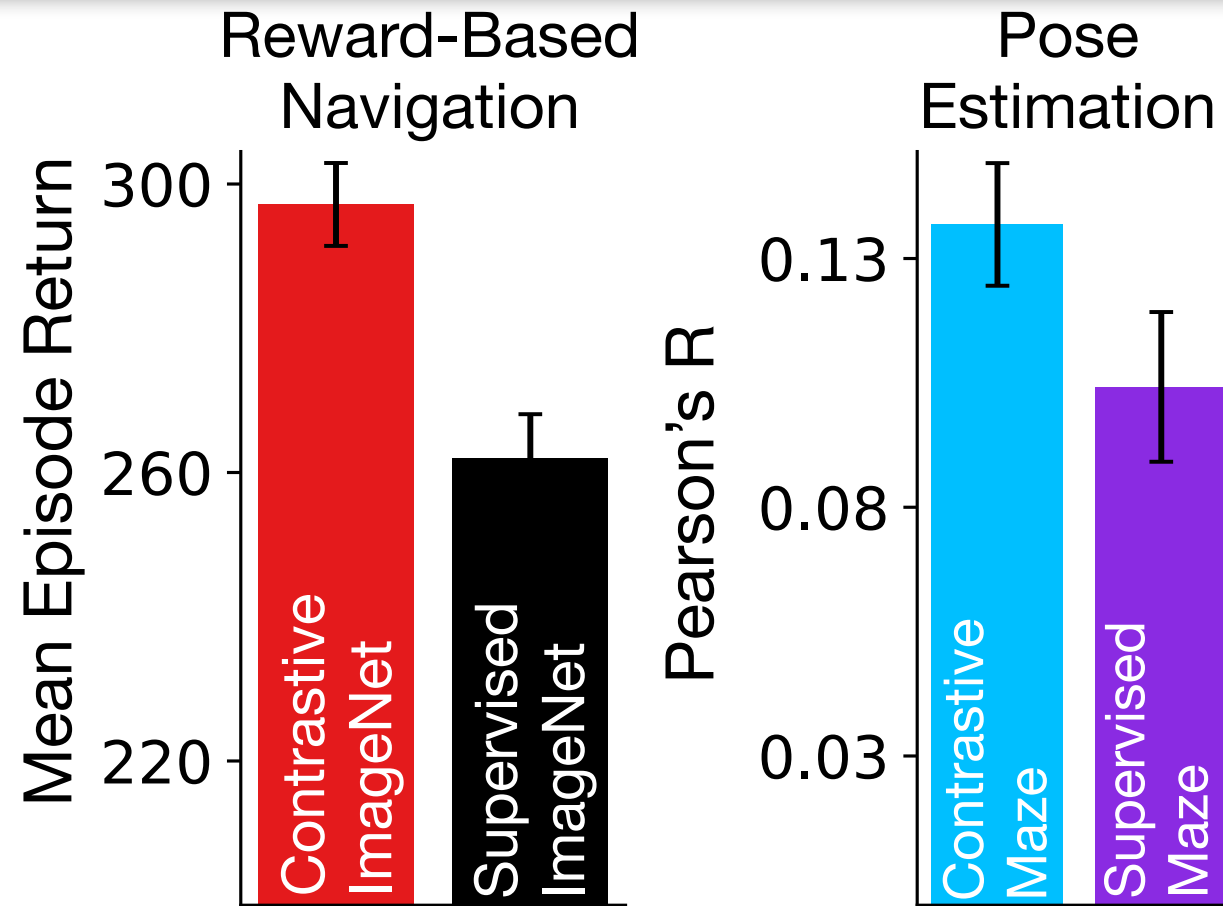
Train *ImageNet*



Evaluate

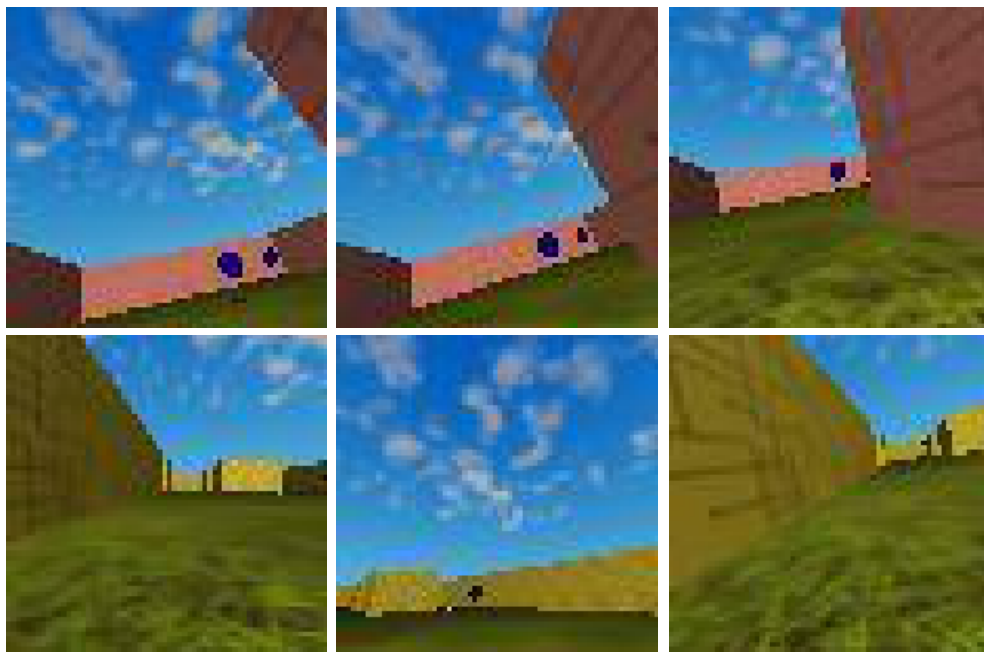


Contrastive models yield better transfer performance



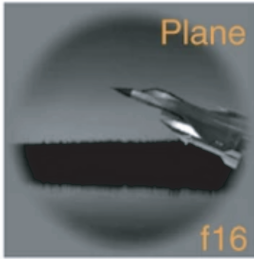
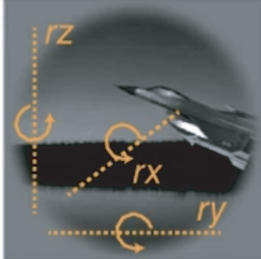

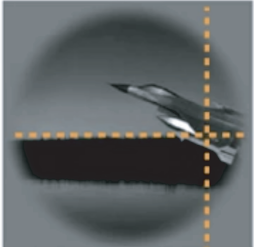
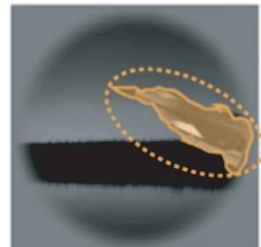

Train

Maze Environment

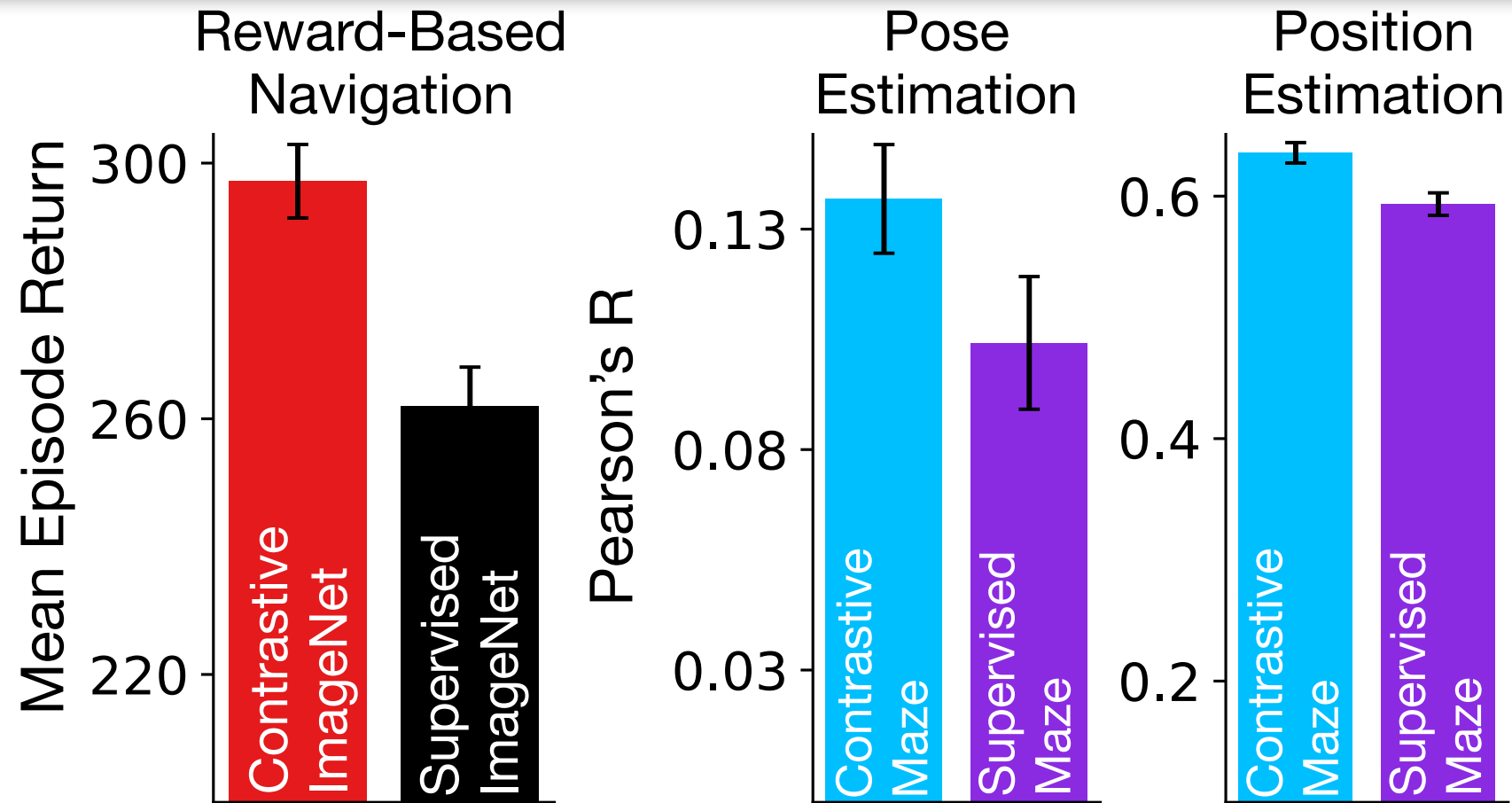


Evaluate

Visual Scene Understanding

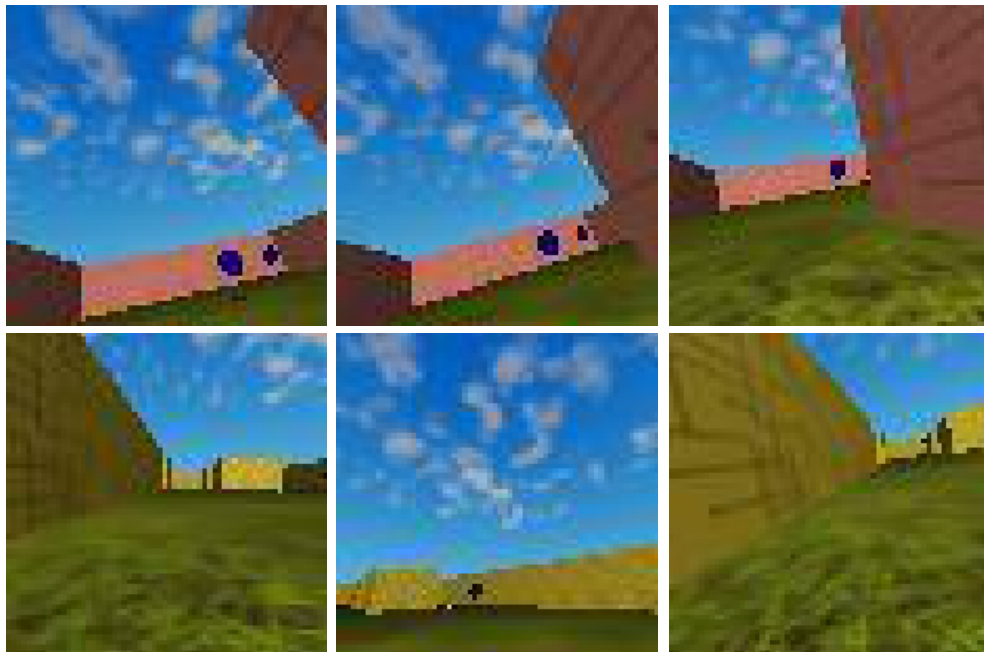
 <p>Plane</p>	Category	 <p>z axis rotation x axis rotation y axis rotation</p>	
 <p>f16</p>	Identity	 <p>Perimeter: 78 pix Two-dimensional retinal area: 146 pix Three-dimensional object scale: 1.2x</p>	
<i>Object properties</i>			<i>Texture</i>

Contrastive models yield better transfer performance



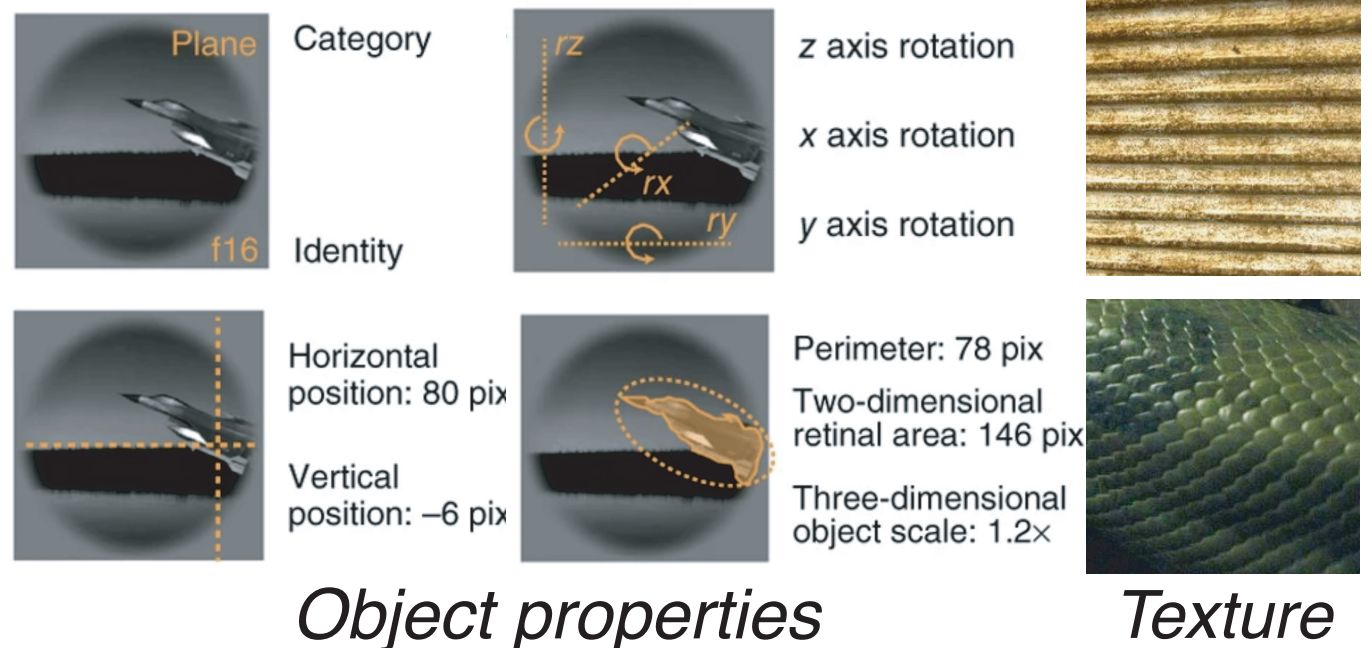
Train

Maze Environment

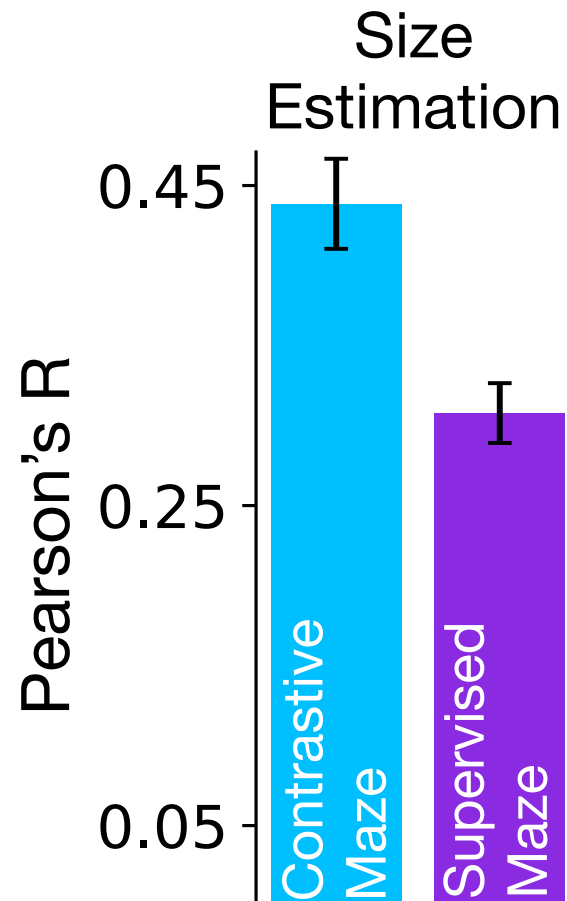
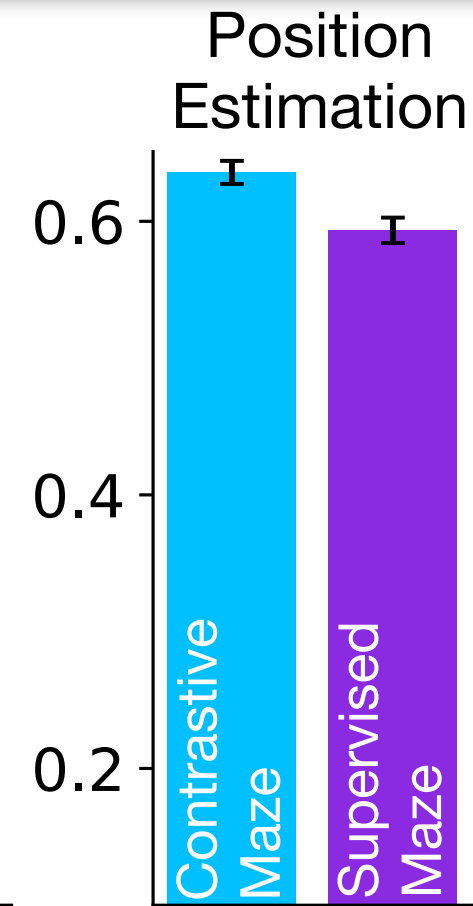
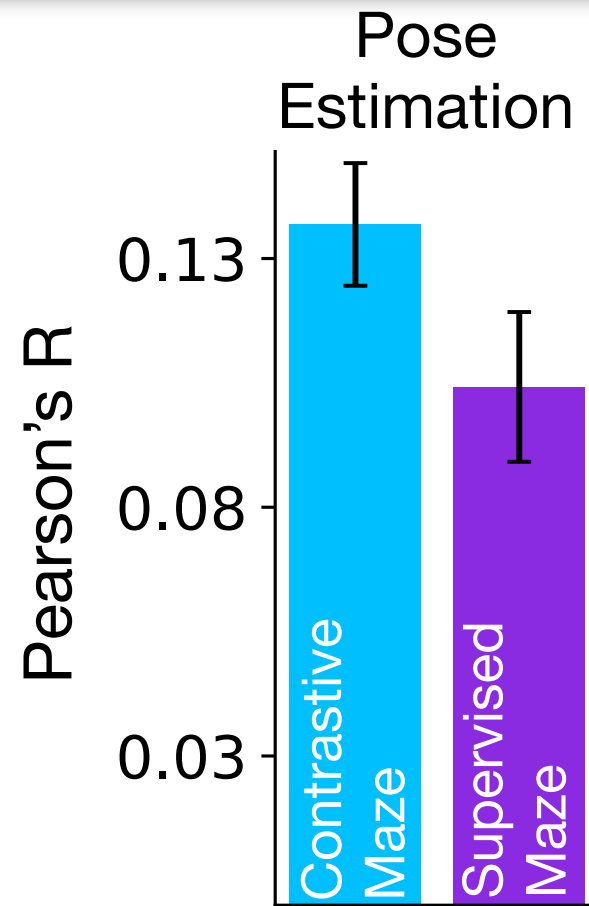
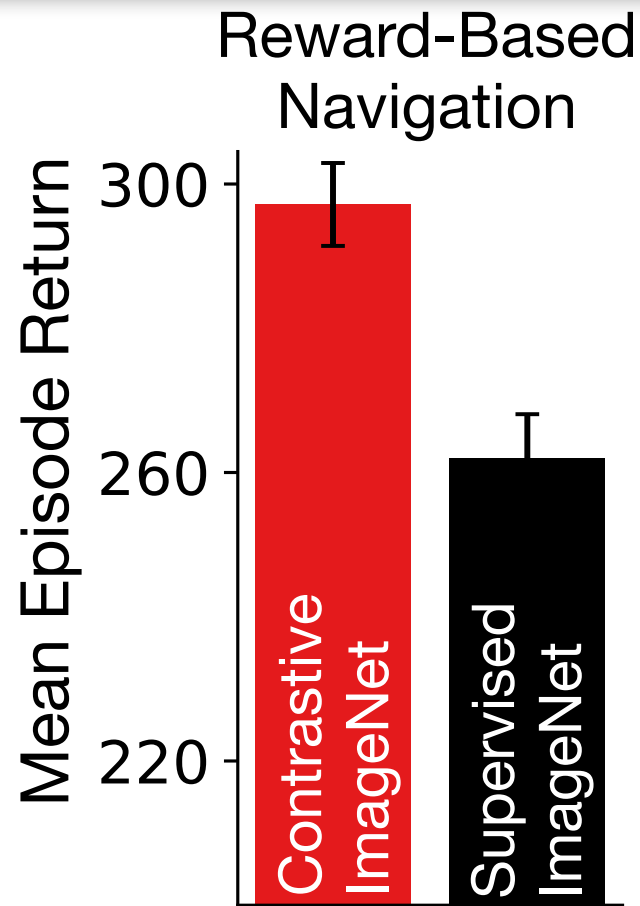


Evaluate

Visual Scene Understanding

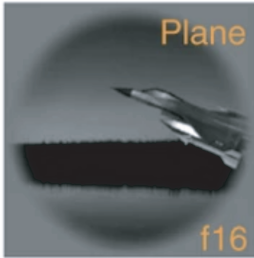
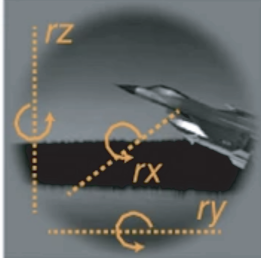

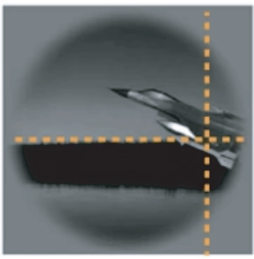
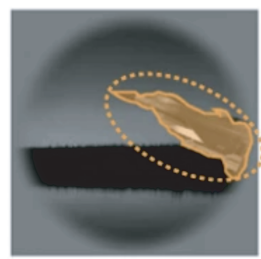



Contrastive models yield better transfer performance

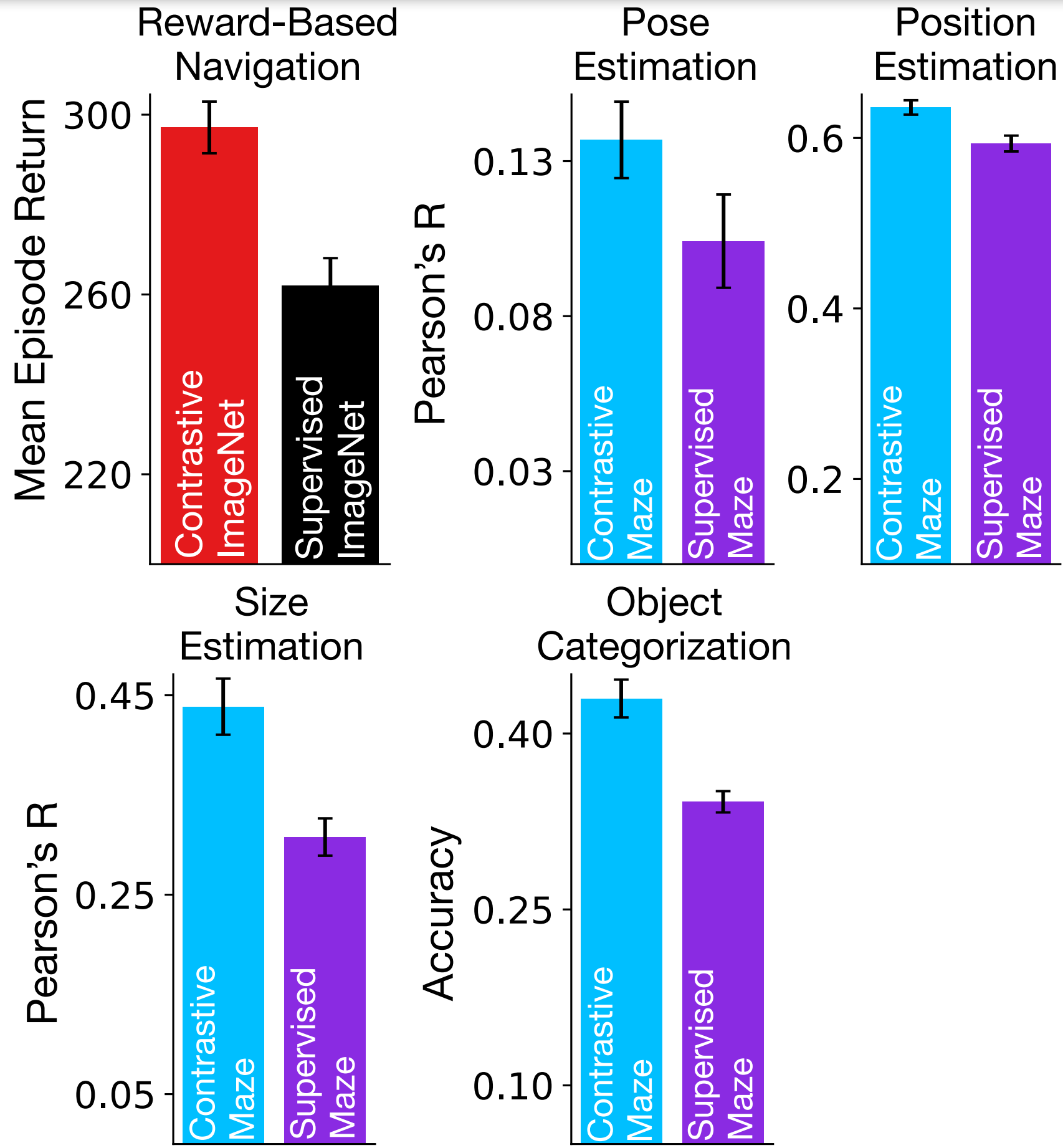


Evaluate

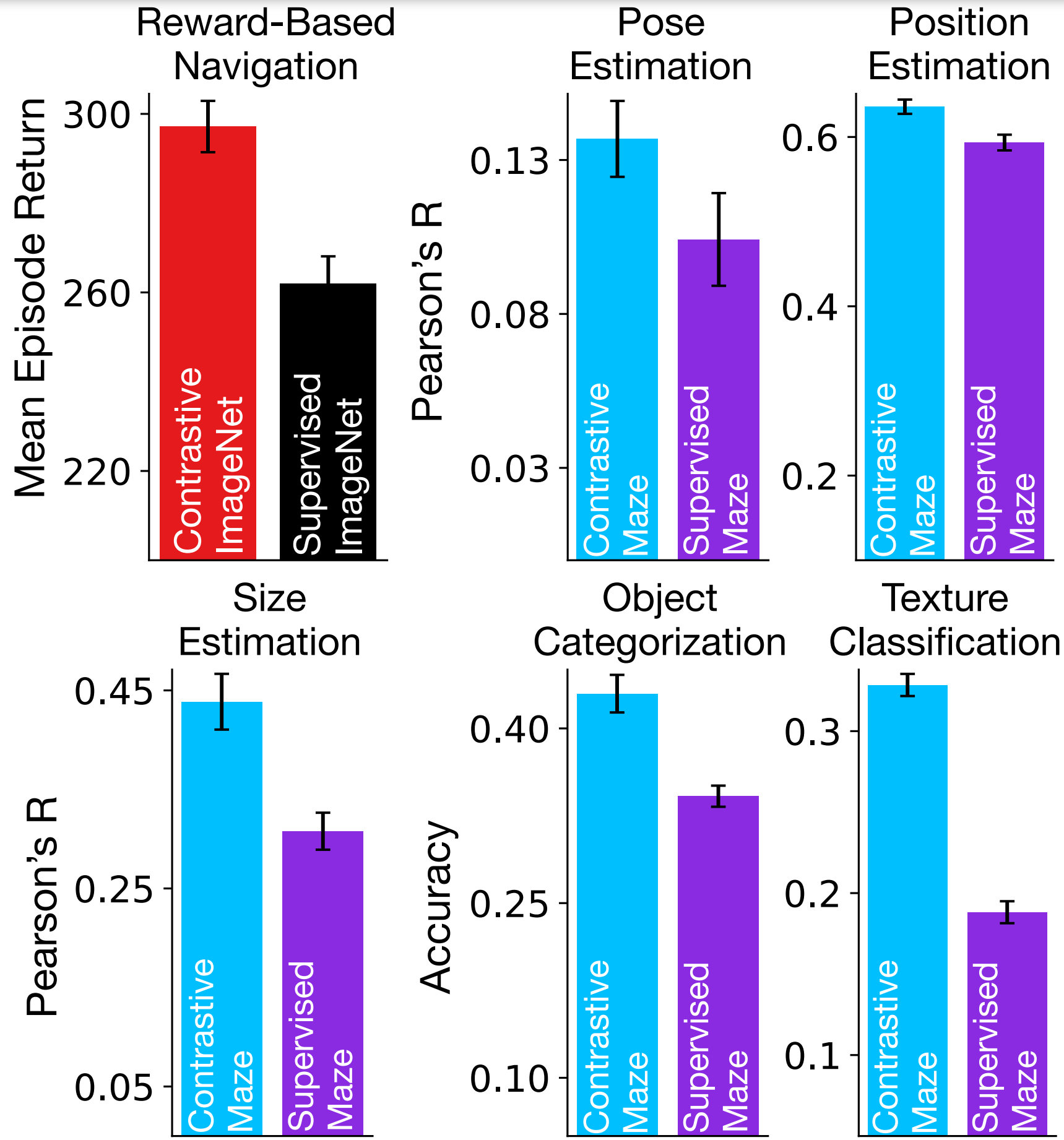
Visual Scene Understanding

 <p>Category</p>	 <p>z axis rotation x axis rotation y axis rotation</p>	
 <p>Identity</p>	 <p>Perimeter: 78 pix Two-dimensional retinal area: 146 pix Three-dimensional object scale: 1.2x</p>	
<p>Horizontal position: 80 pix Vertical position: -6 pix</p>	<p>Object properties</p>	<p>Texture</p>

Contrastive models yield better transfer performance



Contrastive models yield better transfer performance

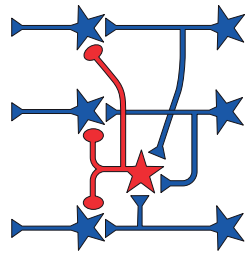


Takeaways

A = architecture class

1.

“Circuit”



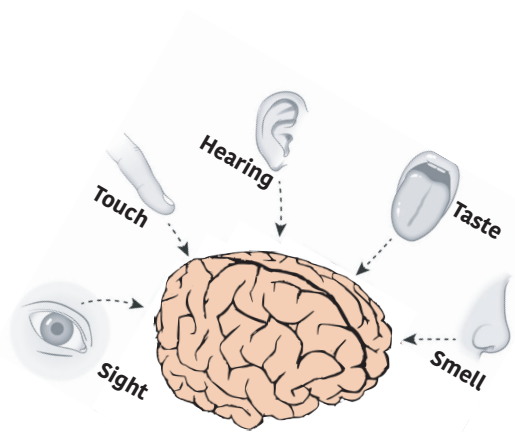
T = task loss

3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



Neurobiological Puzzle:

What are the core differences between mouse visual cortex and the primate ventral stream?



2.

“Environment”

D = data stream

Takeaways

A = architecture class

1. "Circuit"
shallow

T = task loss

3. "Ecological niche/behavior"
unsupervised

Neurobiological Puzzle:

What are the core differences between mouse visual cortex and the primate ventral stream?

Partial Resolution:

Mouse visual cortex is a general-purpose system utilizing its limited resources to perform a variety of visual tasks.

In contrast to the deep, high-resolution, and *task-specific* primate ventral stream.

low resolution

2. "Environment"

D = data stream

Outline

- ▶ Recurrent Connections in the Primate Ventral Stream
- ▶ Goal-Driven Models of Mouse Visual Cortex
- ▶ Heterogeneity in Rodent Medial Entorhinal Cortex
- ▶ Future Directions

From Neurons to Behavior

Scene Understanding



Multi-Step Planning



Navigation



Flexible Embodiment



From Neurons to Behavior

Scene Understanding



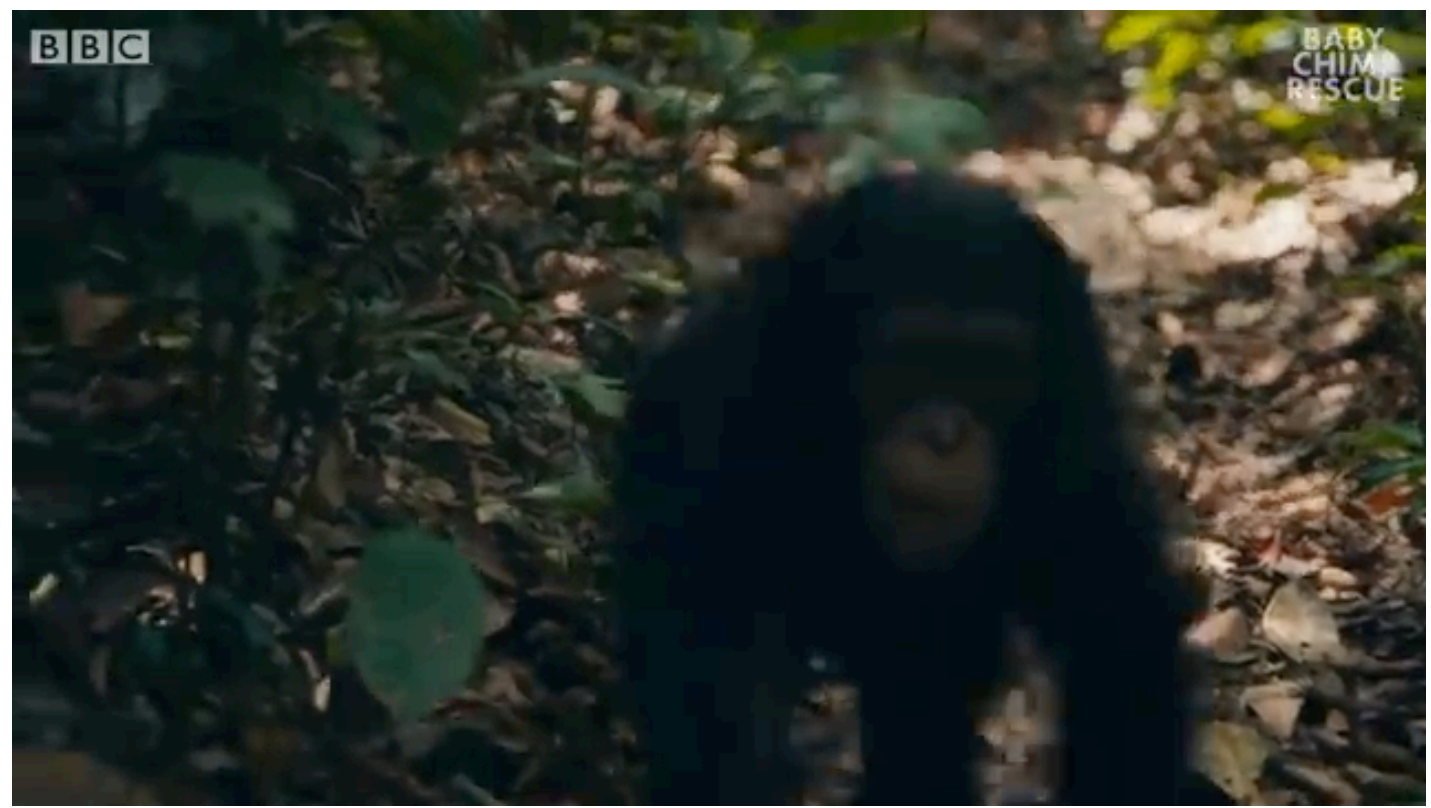
Multi-Step Planning



Navigation



Flexible Embodiment



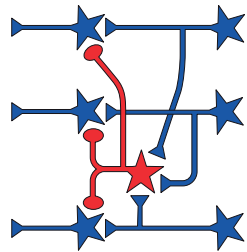
Heterogeneity in Rodent Medial Entorhinal Cortex

A = architecture class

T = task loss

1.

“Circuit”



3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



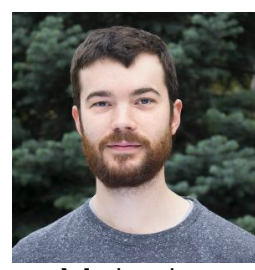
A. Nayebi, et al.

Explaining Heterogeneity in Medial Entorhinal Cortex with Task-Driven Neural Networks.

NeurIPS 2021 (spotlight)



Alex Attinger



Malcolm
Campbell



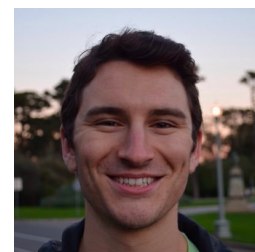
Kiah
Hardcastle



Isabel Low



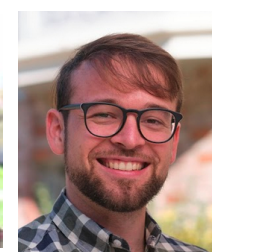
Caitlin Mallory



Gabriel Mel



Ben Sorscher



Alex Williams



Surya Ganguli



Lisa Giocomo

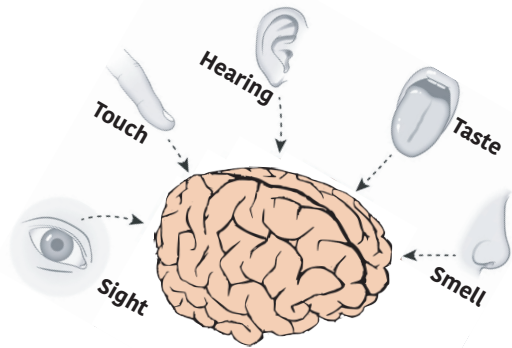


Daniel Yamins

2.

“Environment”

D = data stream



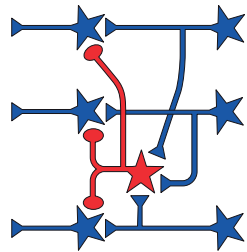
Heterogeneity in Rodent Medial Entorhinal Cortex

A = architecture class

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1.

“Circuit”



3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



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Alex Attinger



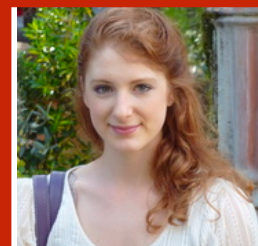
Malcolm
Campbell



Kiah
Hardcastle



Isabel Low



Caitlin Mallory



Gabriel Mel



Ben Sorscher



Alex Williams



Surya Ganguli



Lisa Giocomo

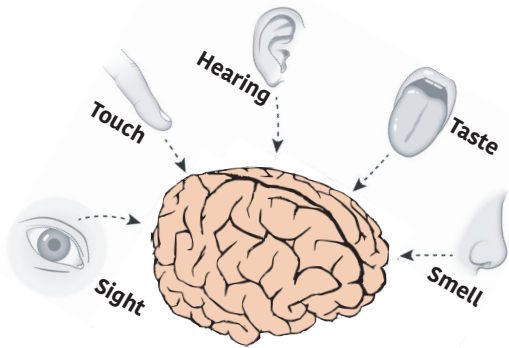


Daniel Yamins

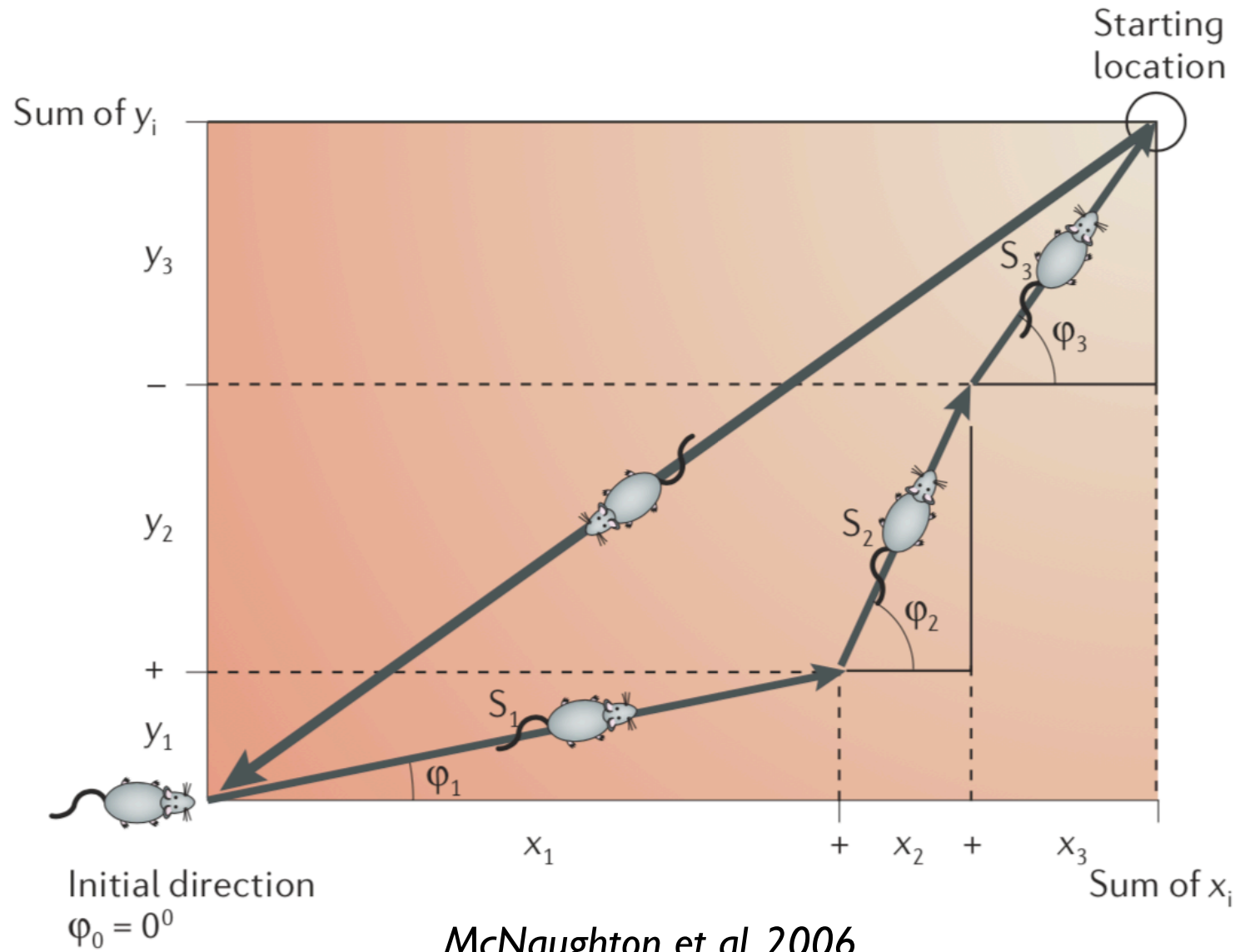
2.

“Environment”

D = data stream

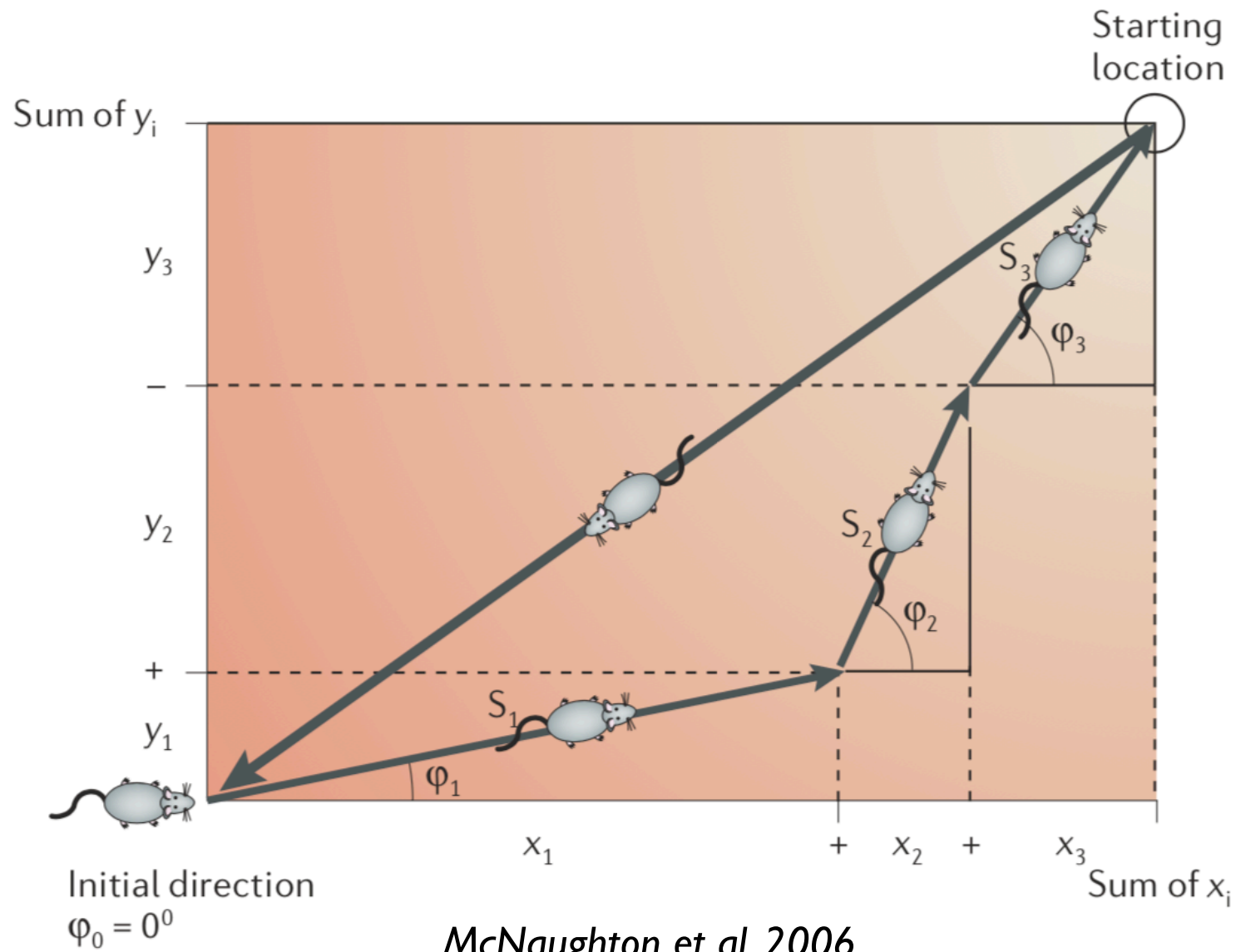


Hippocampal-Entorhinal Spatial Map

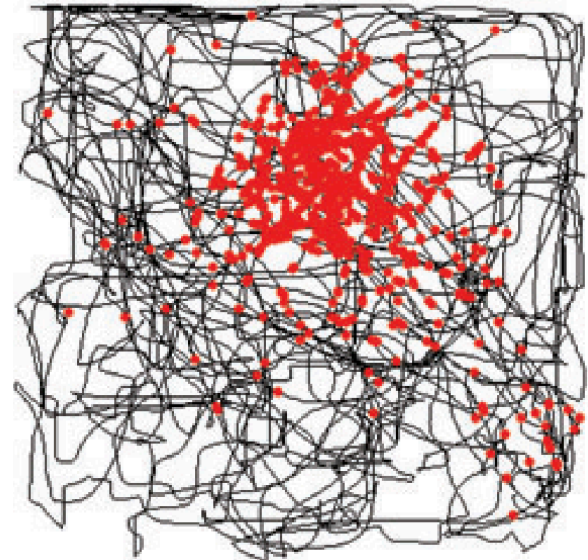


McNaughton et al. 2006

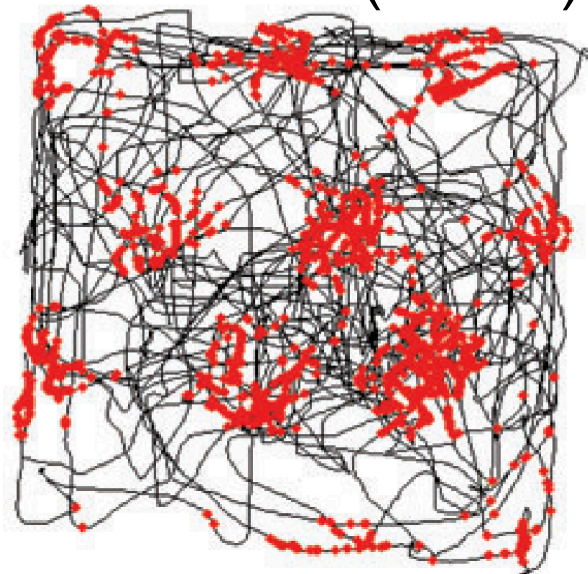
Hippocampal-Entorhinal Spatial Map



Place Cell (HPC)

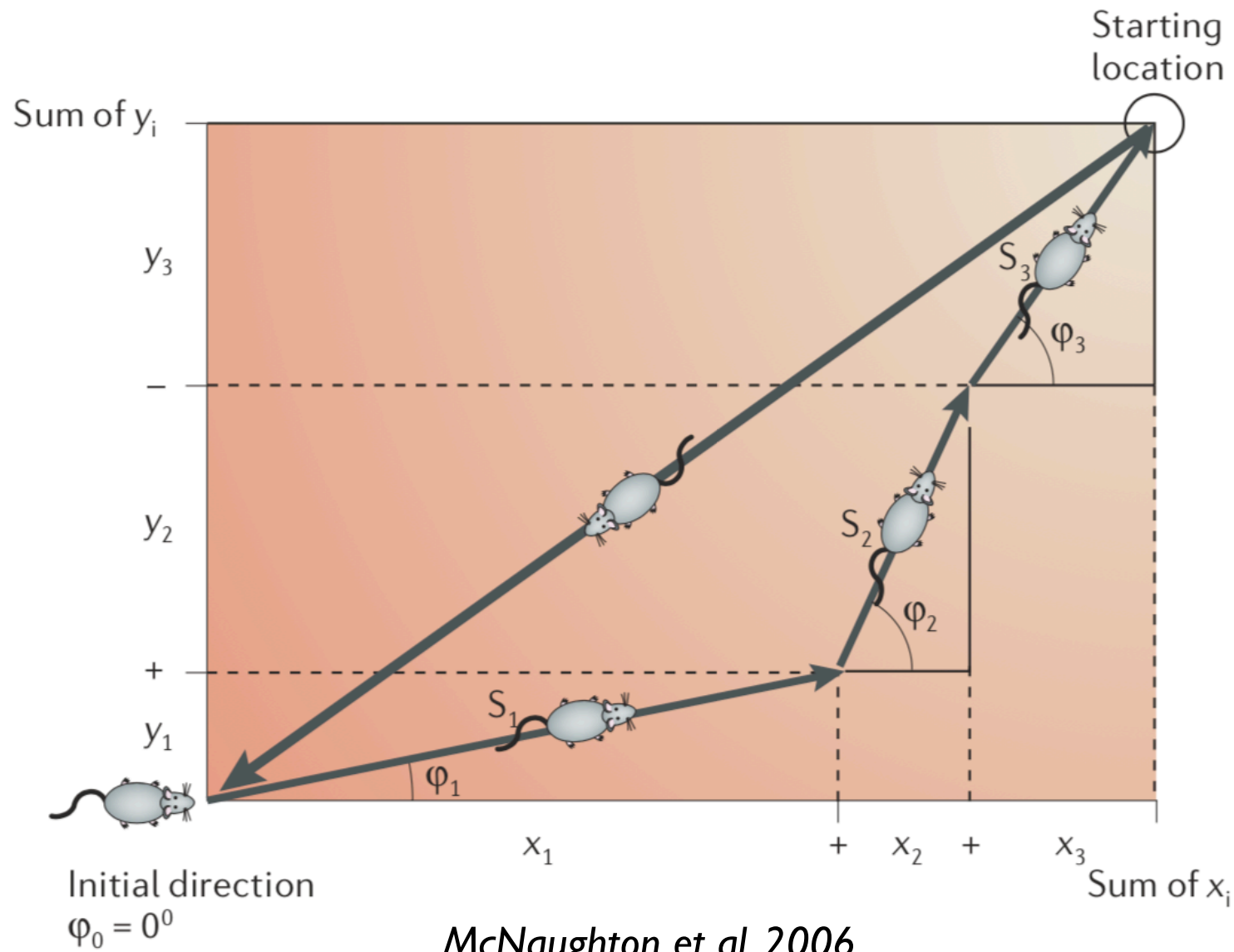


Grid Cell (MEC)

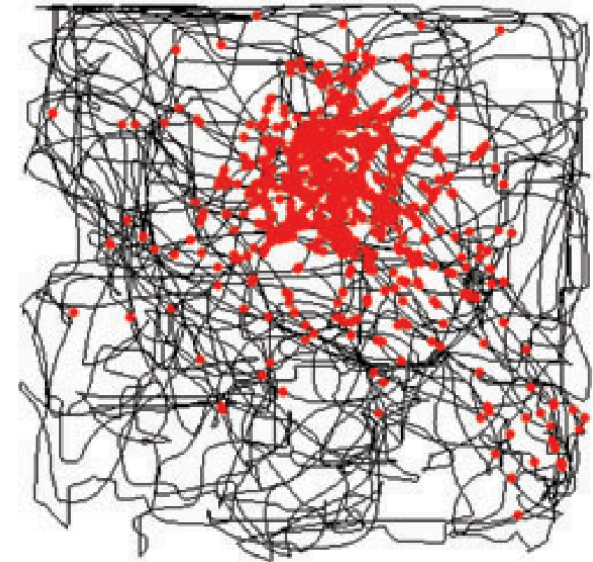


Moser et al. 2008

Hippocampal-Entorhinal Spatial Map



Place Cell (HPC)



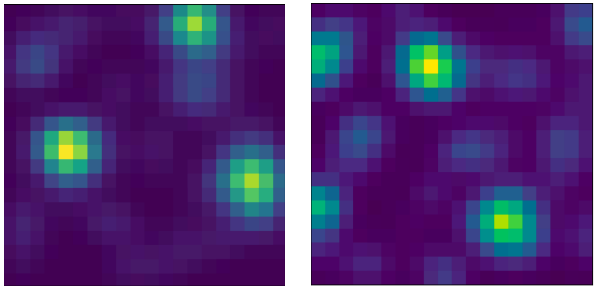
Grid Cell (MEC)



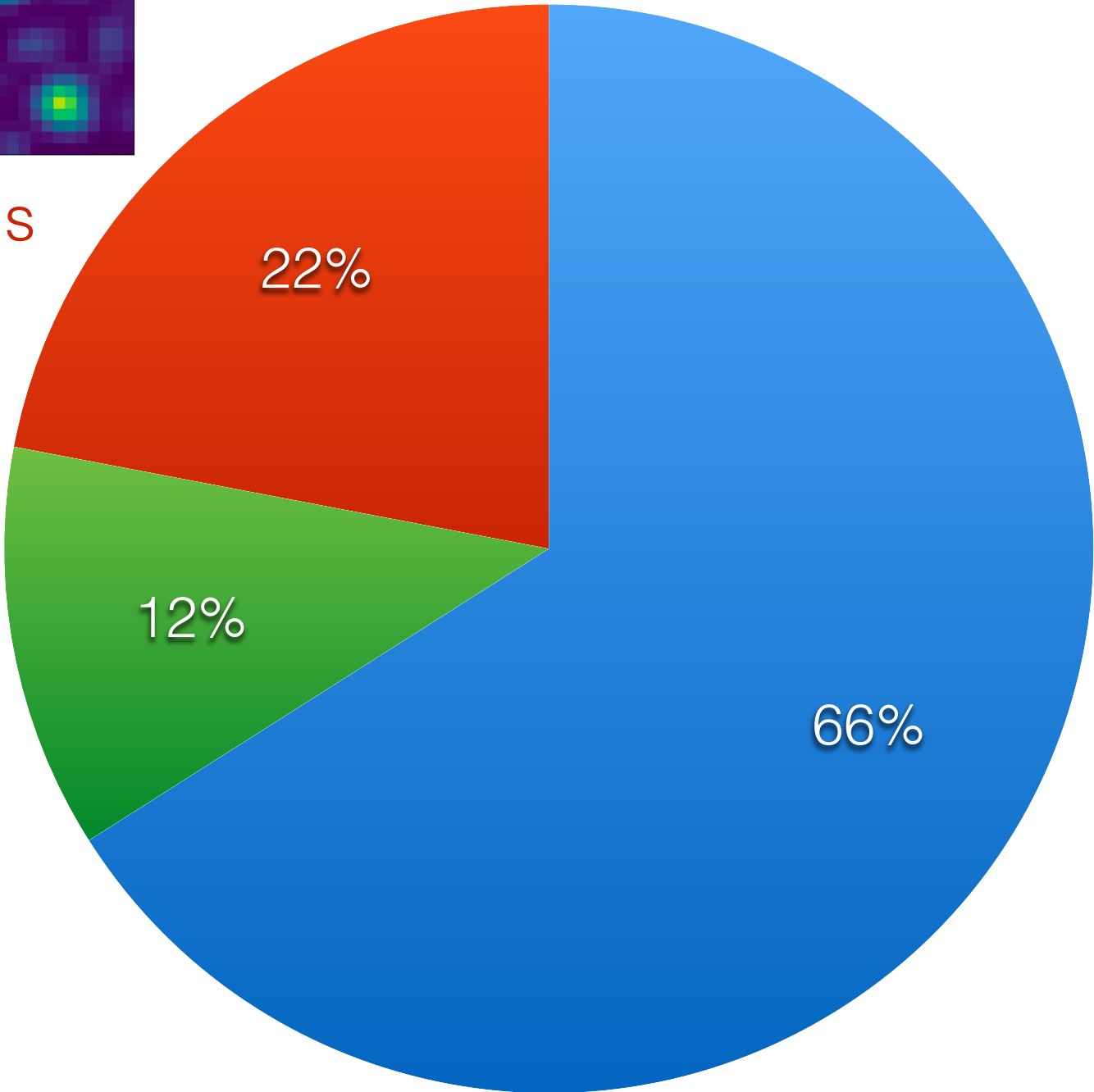
Moser et al. 2008

Accounting for heterogeneous code?

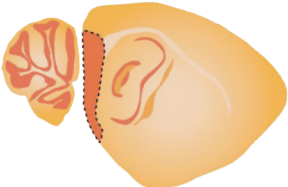
Accounting for heterogeneous code?



Grid Cells



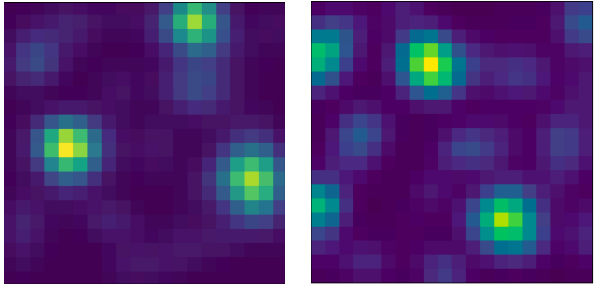
Data from: *Mallory et al. 2021*



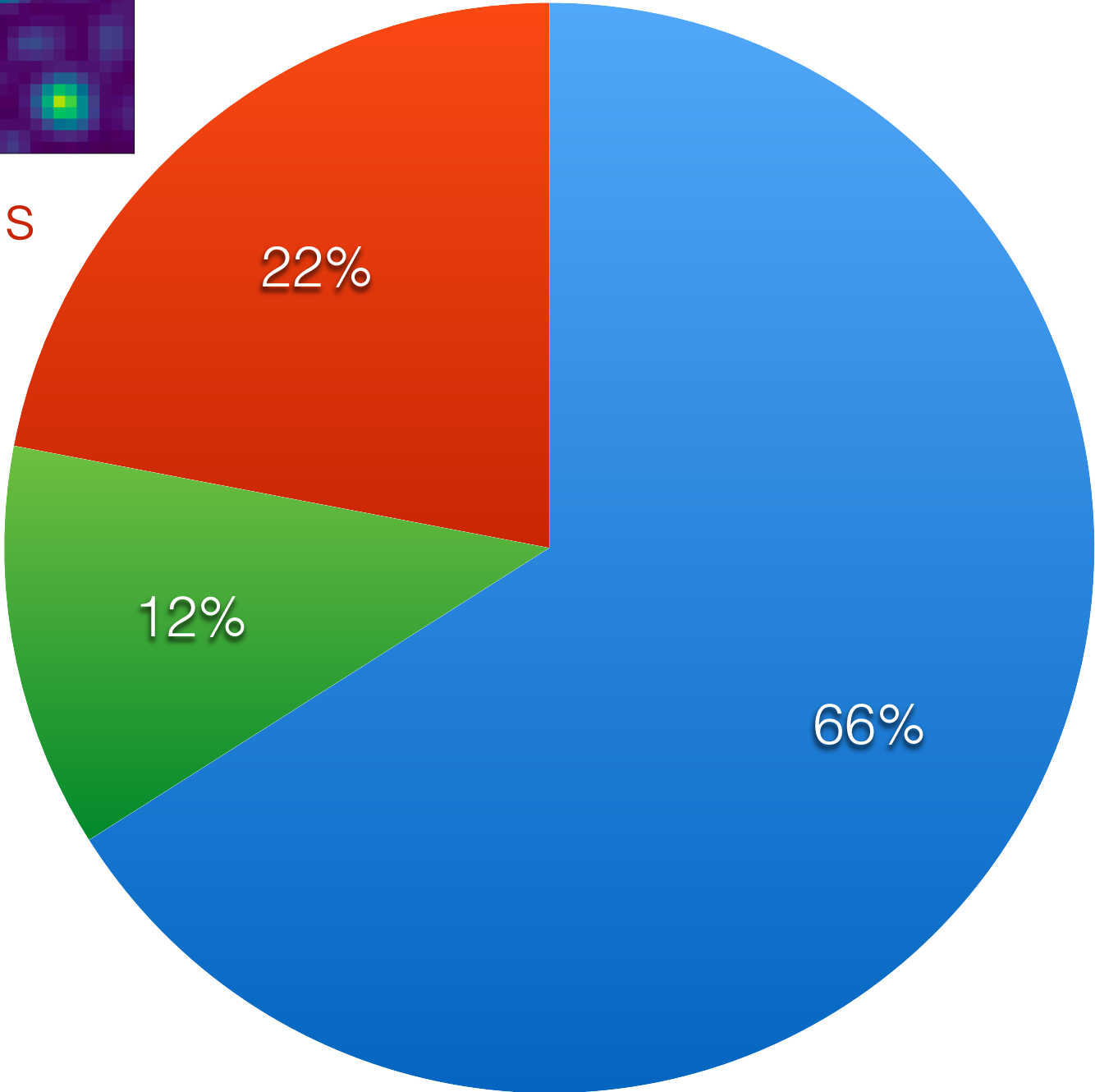
Caitlin Mallory

Accounting for heterogeneous code?

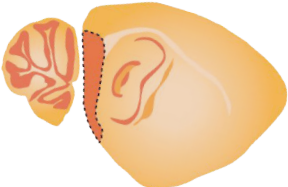
More like ~2-3%!



Grid Cells



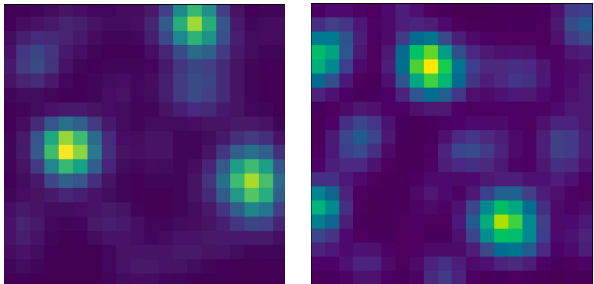
Data from: *Mallory et al. 2021*



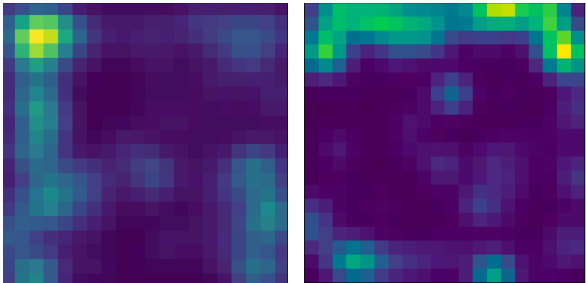
Caitlin Mallory

Accounting for heterogeneous code?

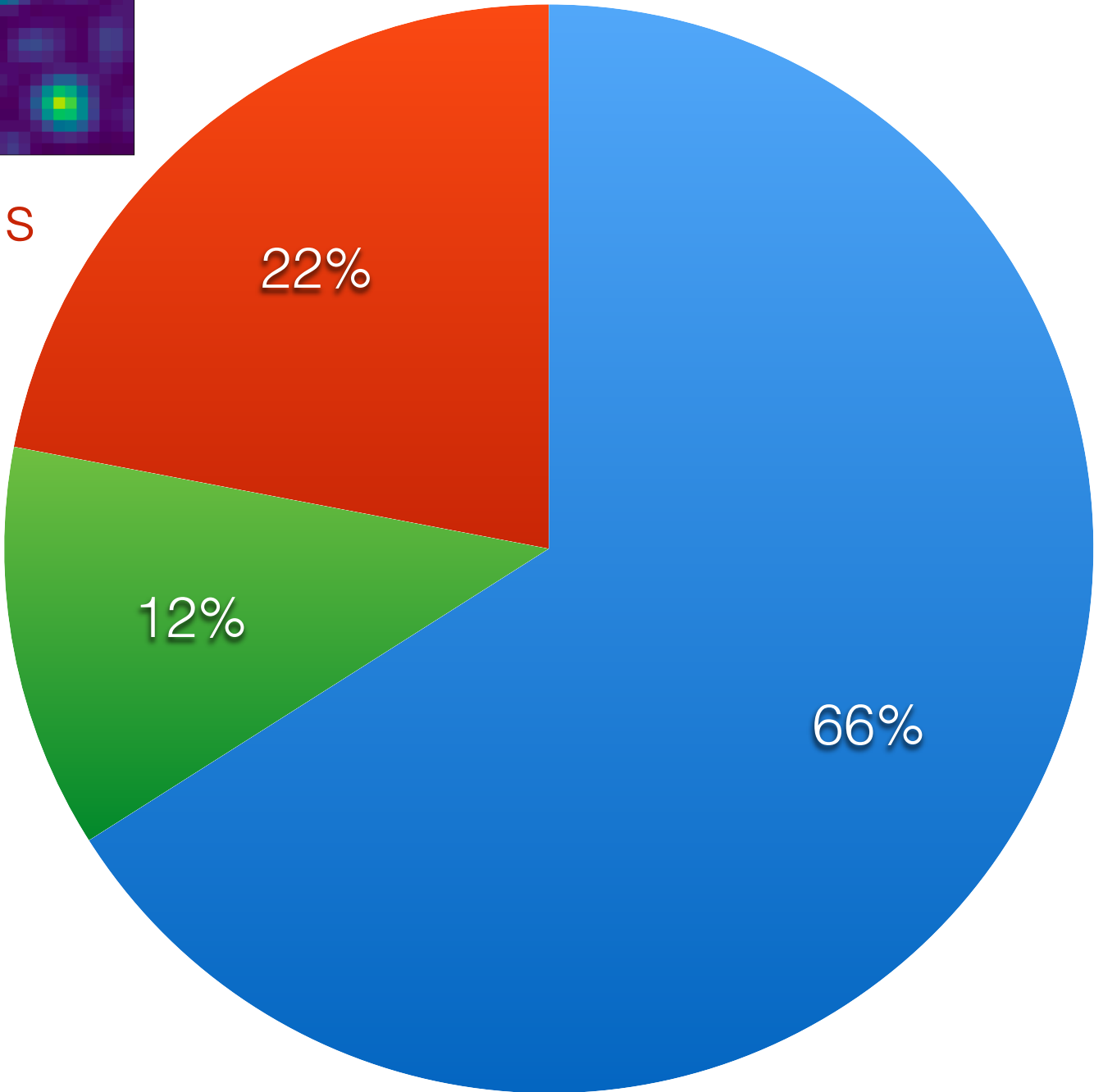
More like ~2-3%!



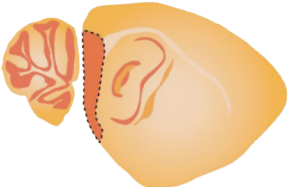
Grid Cells



Border Cells



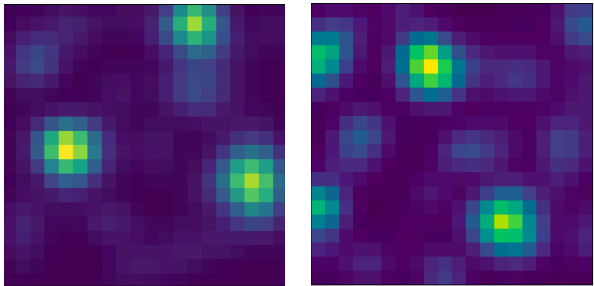
Data from: *Mallory et al. 2021*



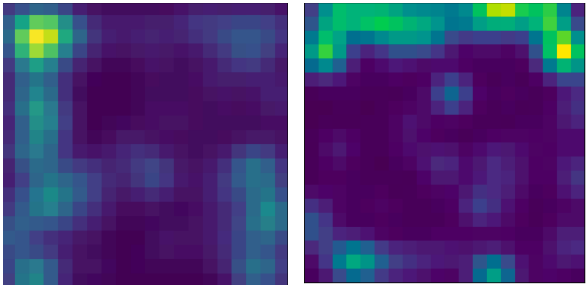
Caitlin Mallory

Accounting for heterogeneous code?

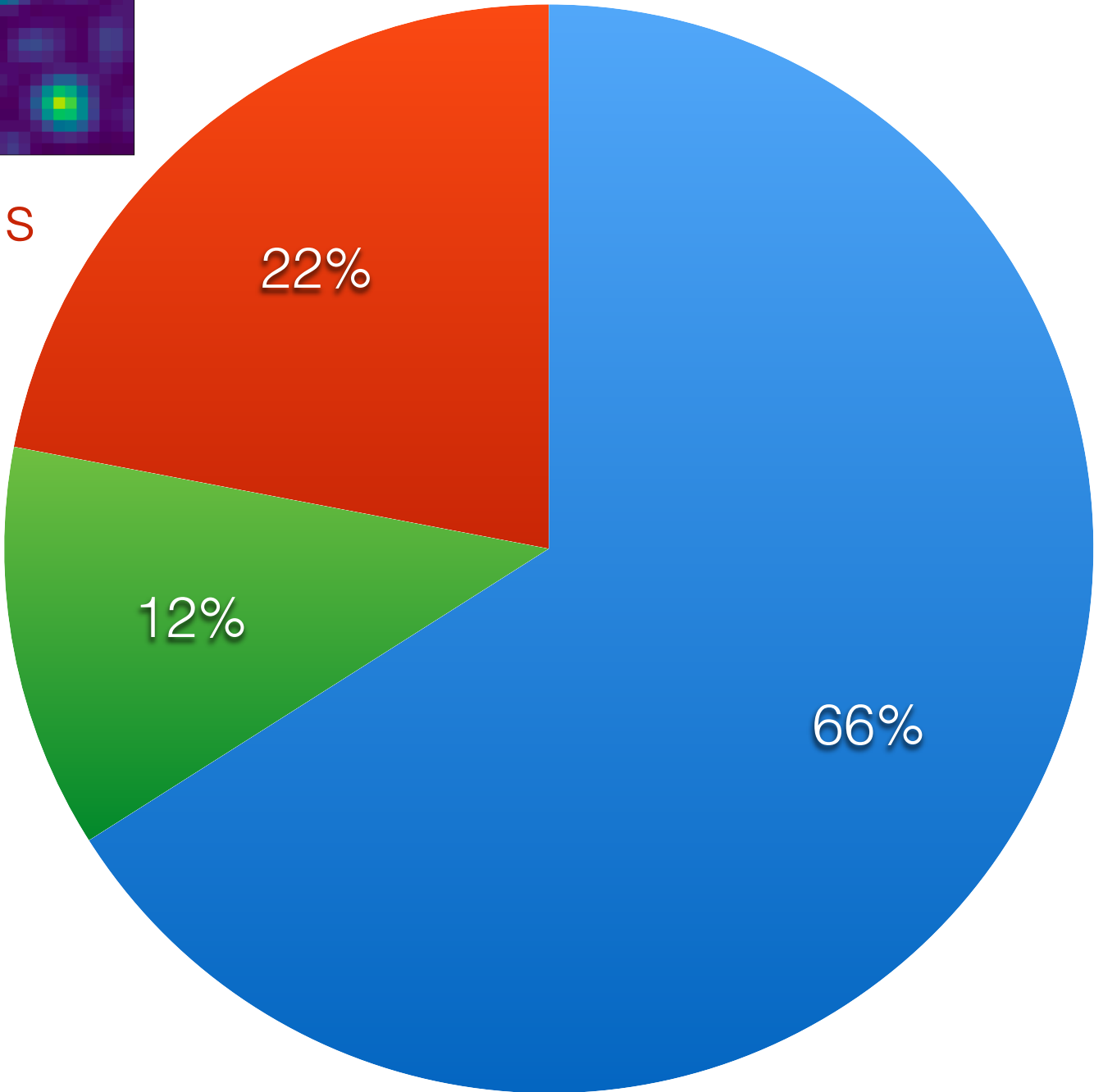
More like ~2-3%!



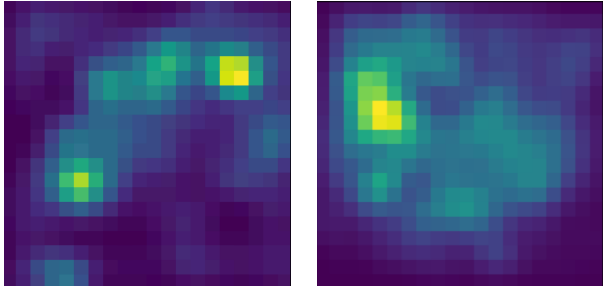
Grid Cells



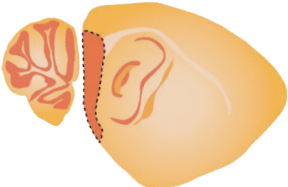
Border Cells



Heterogeneous Cells



Data from: *Mallory et al. 2021*

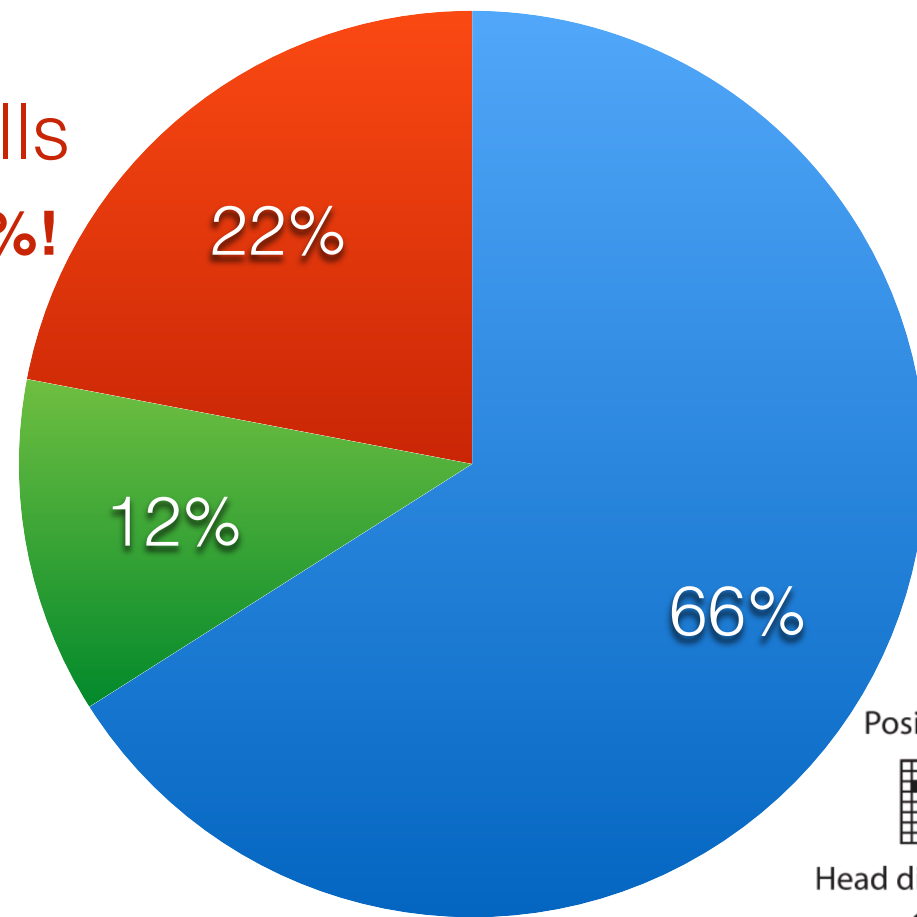


Caitlin Mallory

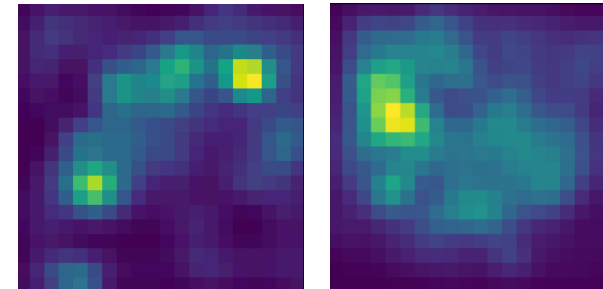
Accounting for heterogeneous code?

Grid Cells
More like ~2-3%!

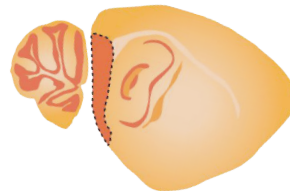
Border Cells



Heterogeneous Cells



Data from: Mallory et al. 2021



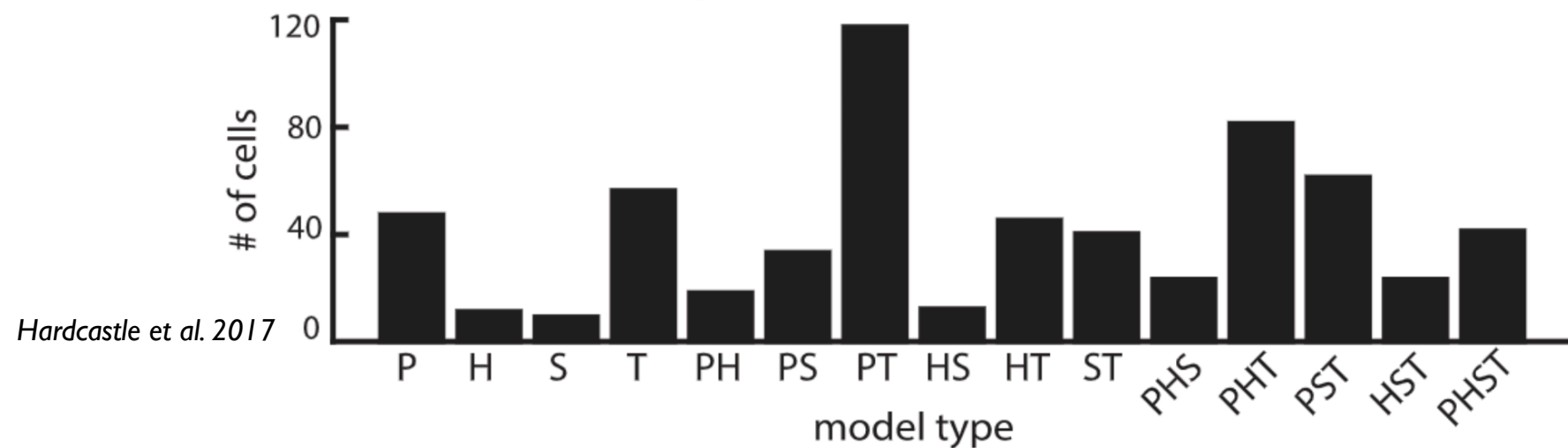
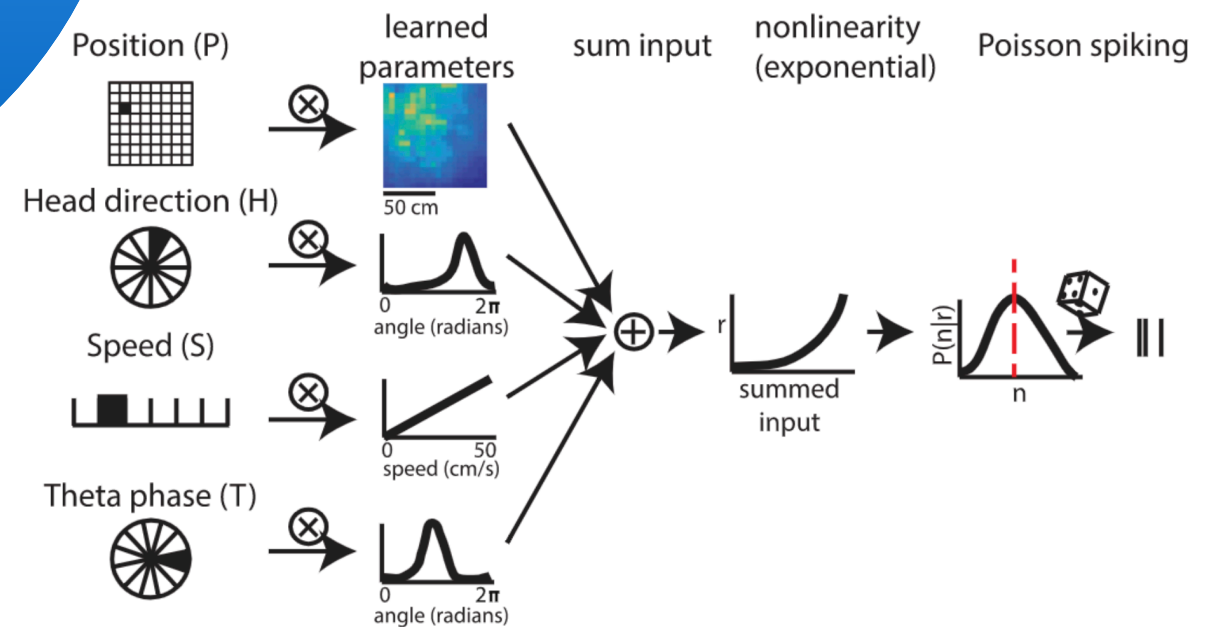
Kiah Hardcastle



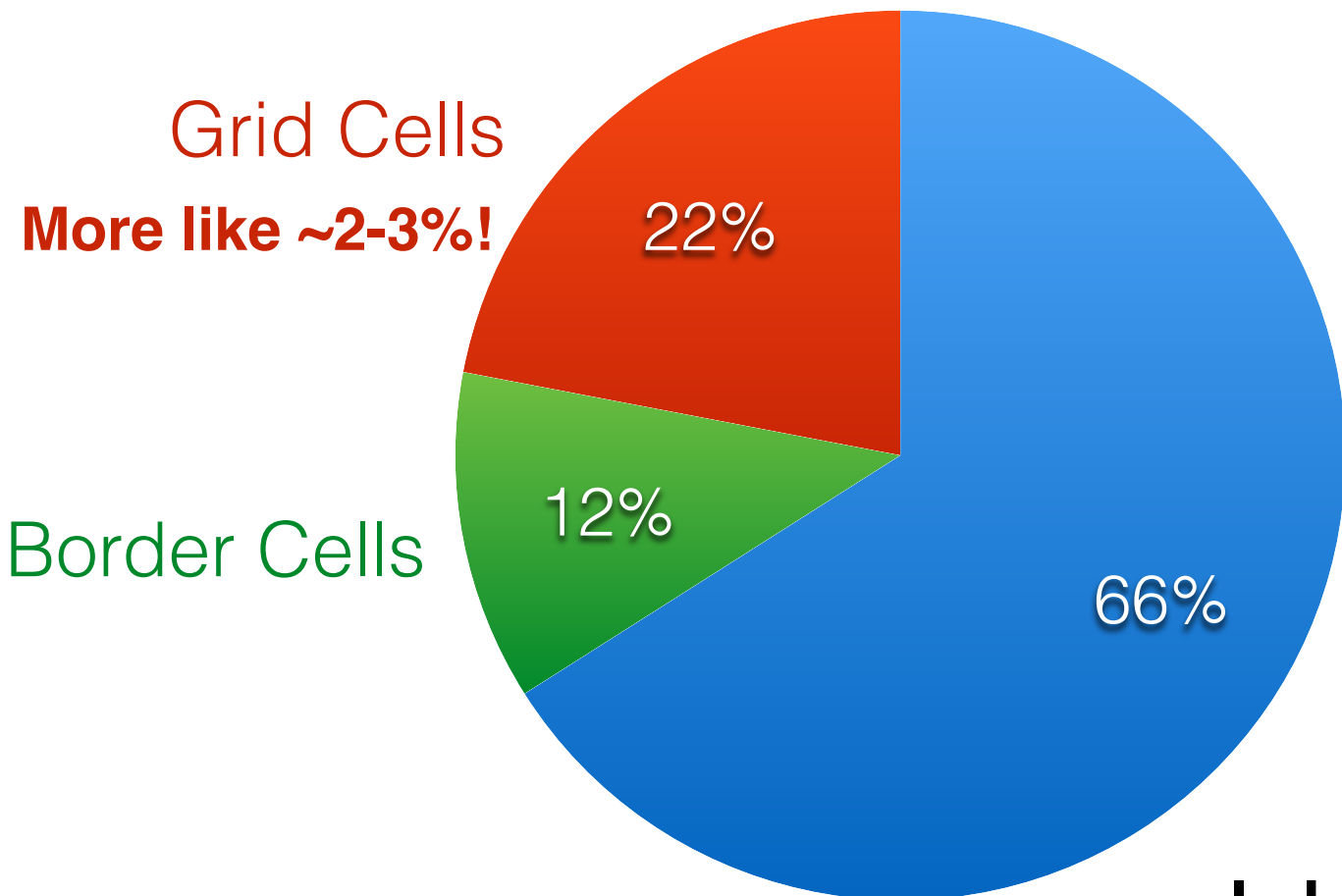
Surya Ganguli



Lisa Giocomo



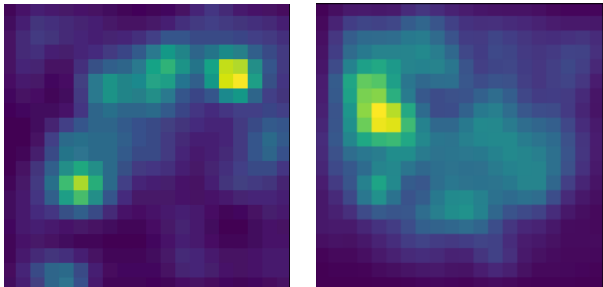
Accounting for heterogeneous code?



Grid Cells
More like ~2-3%!

Border Cells

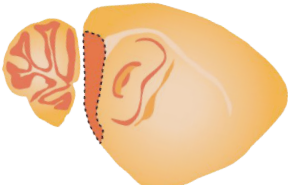
Heterogeneous
Cells



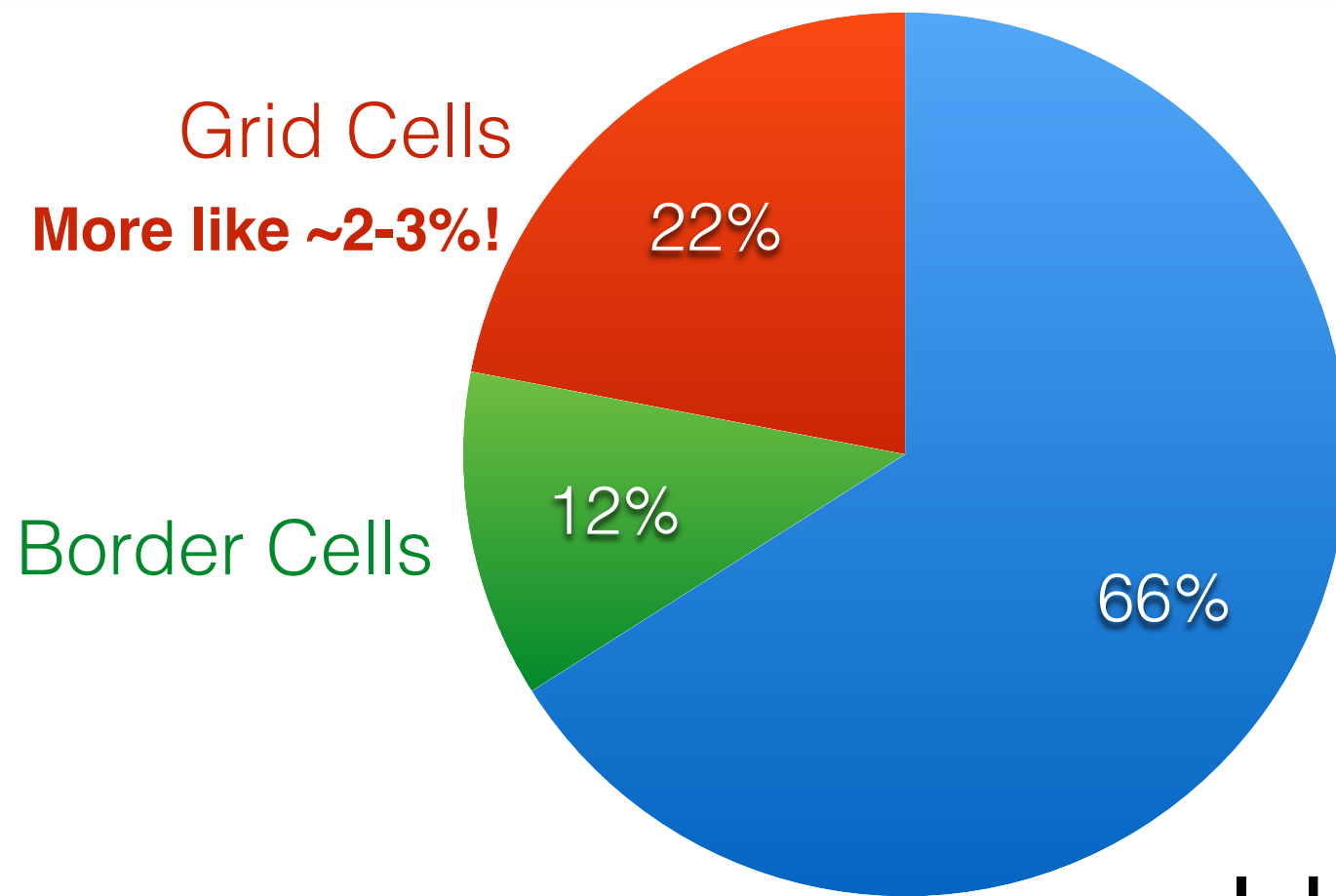
Neurobiological Puzzle(s):

I. How might we characterize what these heterogeneous cells do?

Data from: Mallory et al. 2021



Accounting for heterogeneous code?

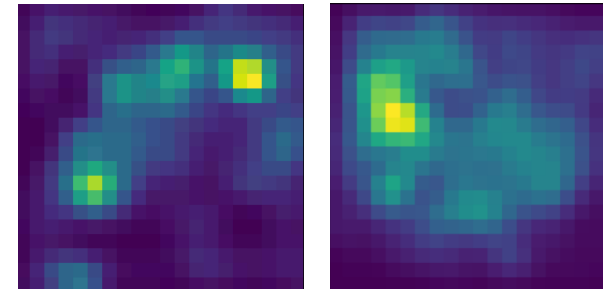


Border Cells

Grid Cells

More like ~2-3%!

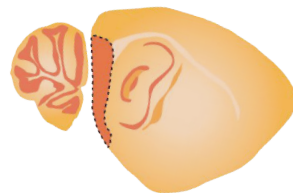
Heterogeneous
Cells



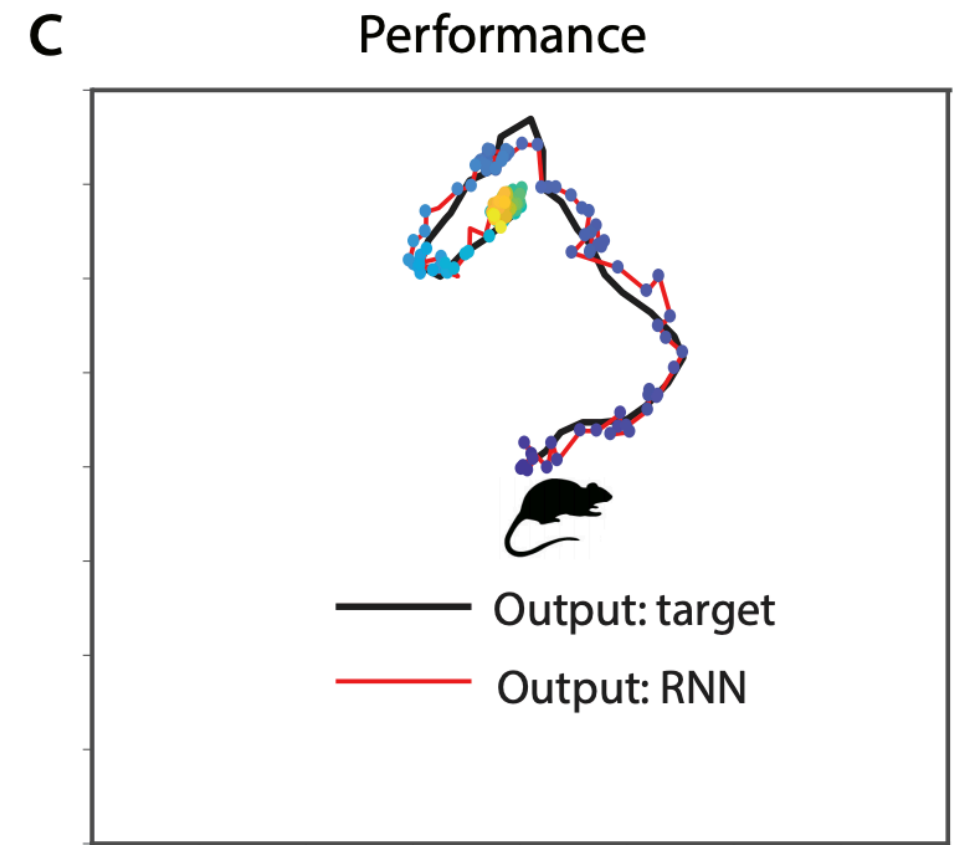
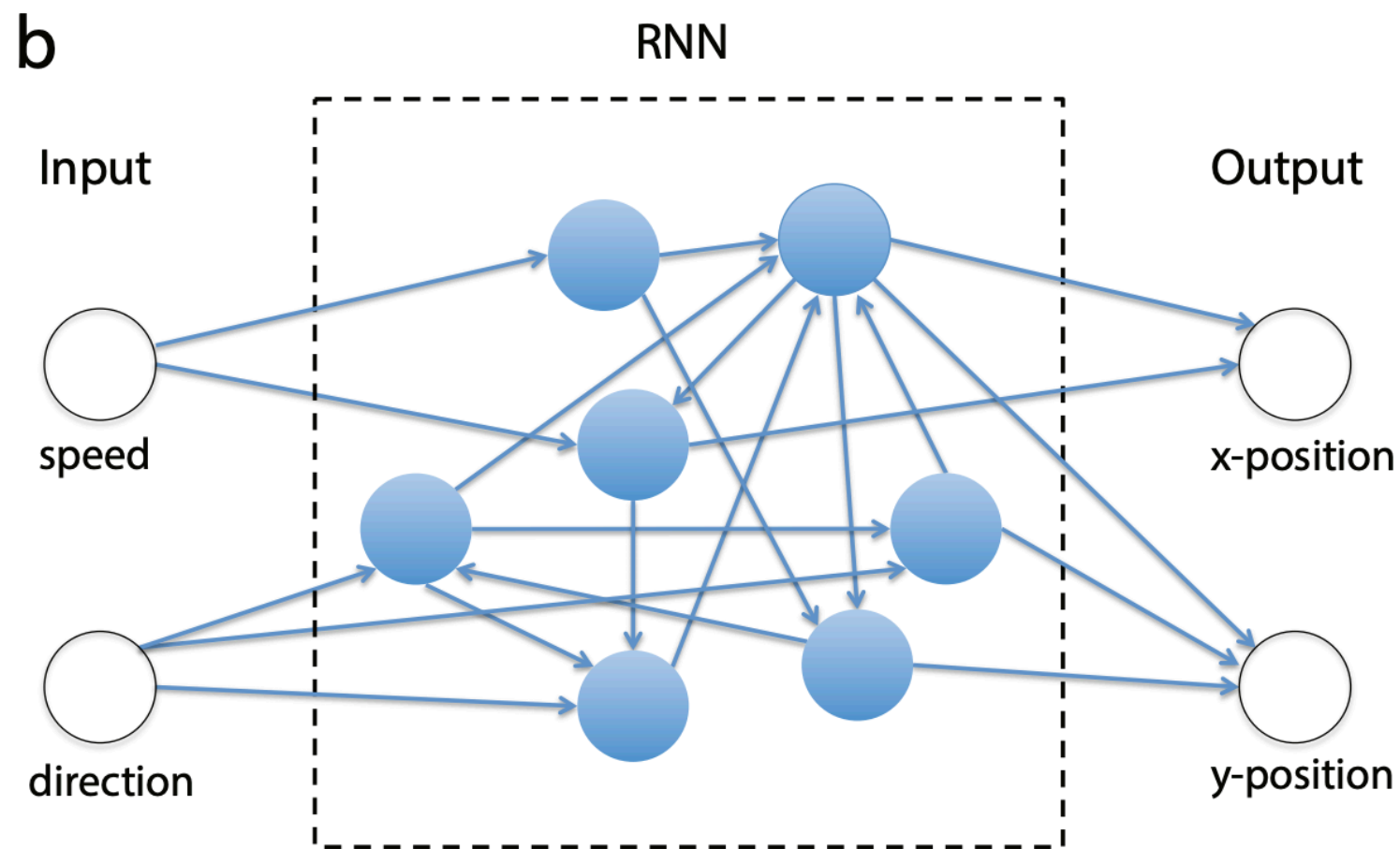
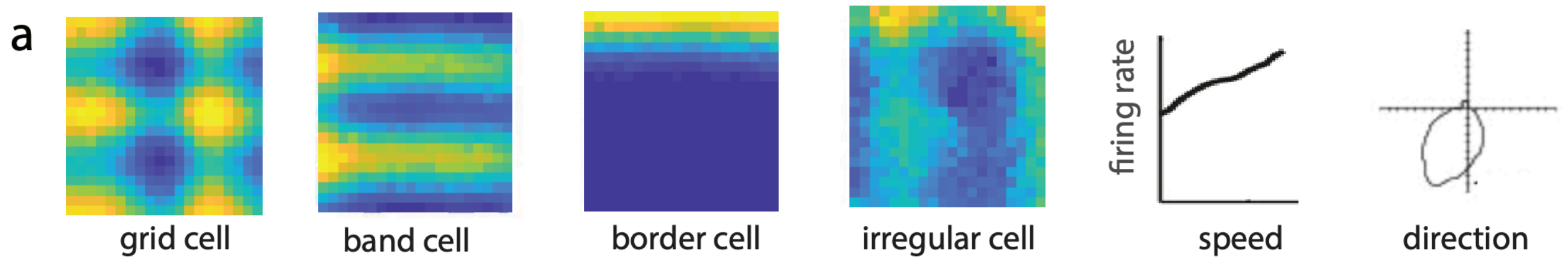
Neurobiological Puzzle(s):

1. How might we characterize what these heterogeneous cells do?
2. What functional role do these cells serve in the circuit, if any?

Data from: Mallory et al. 2021

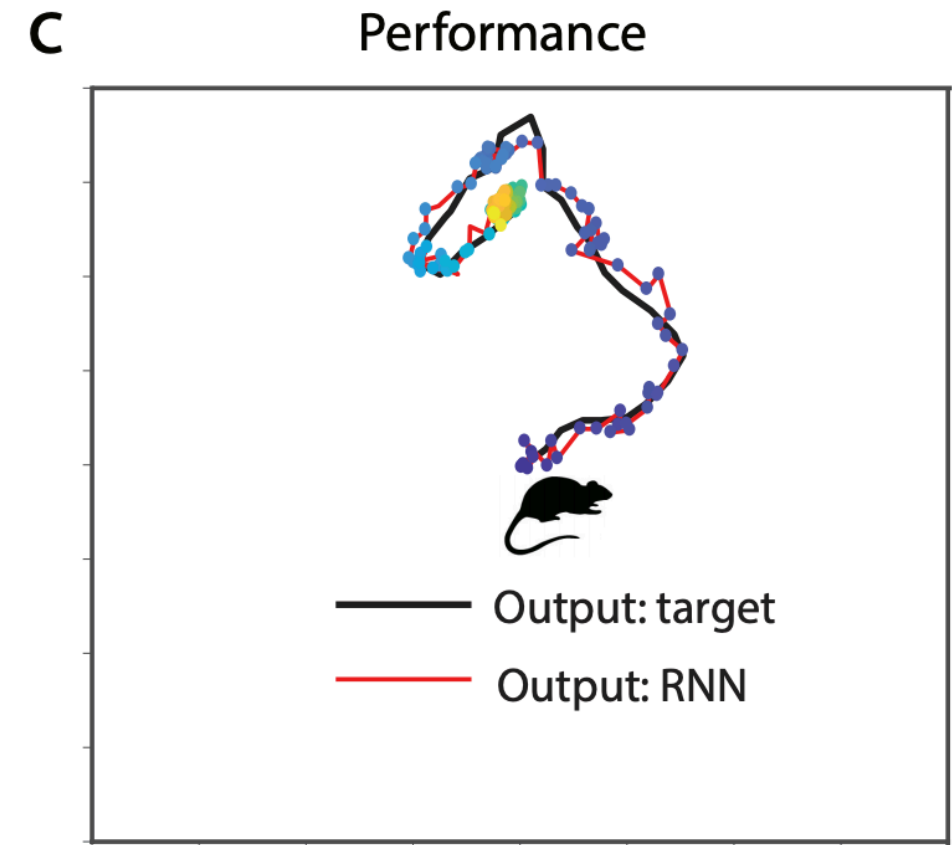
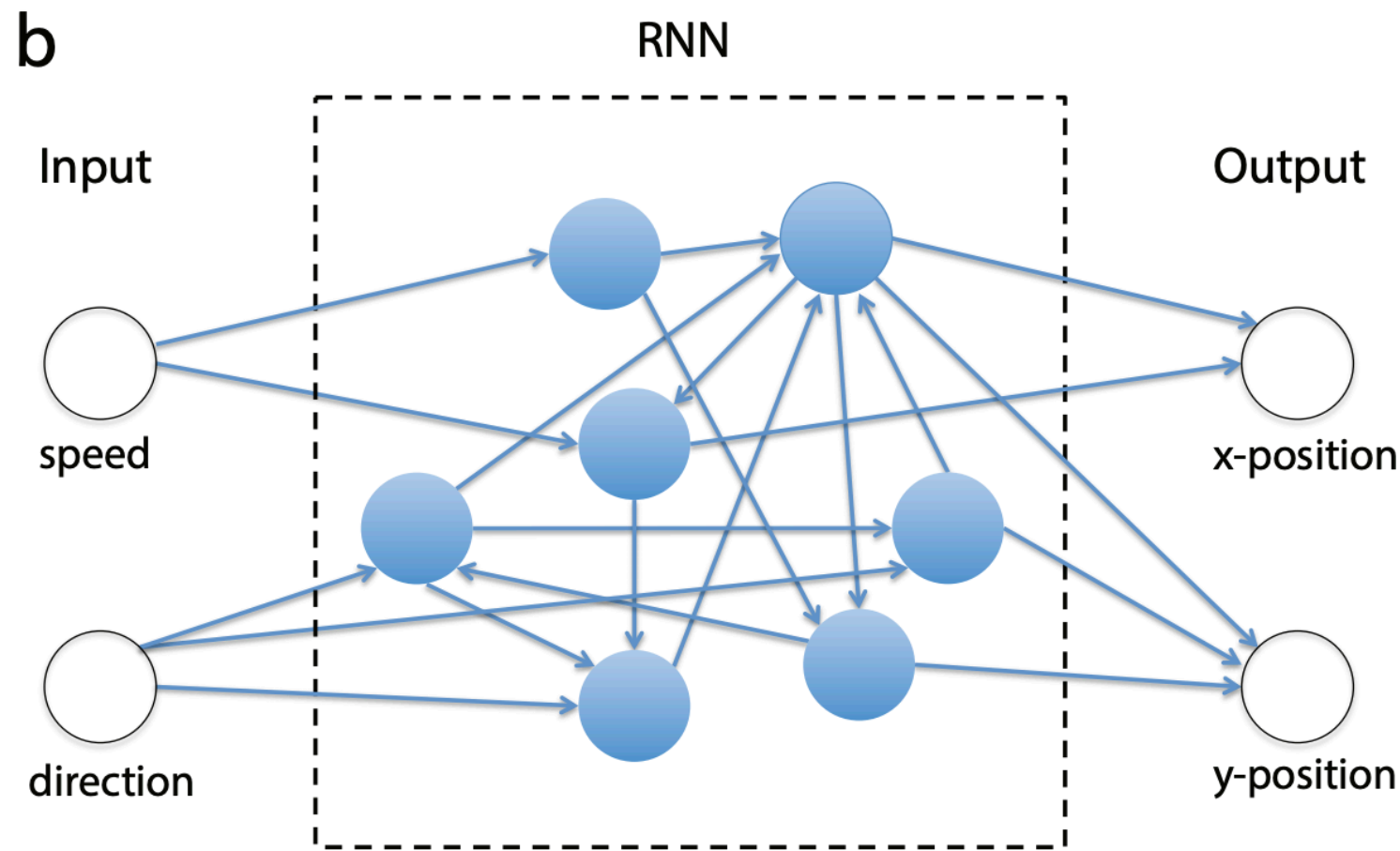
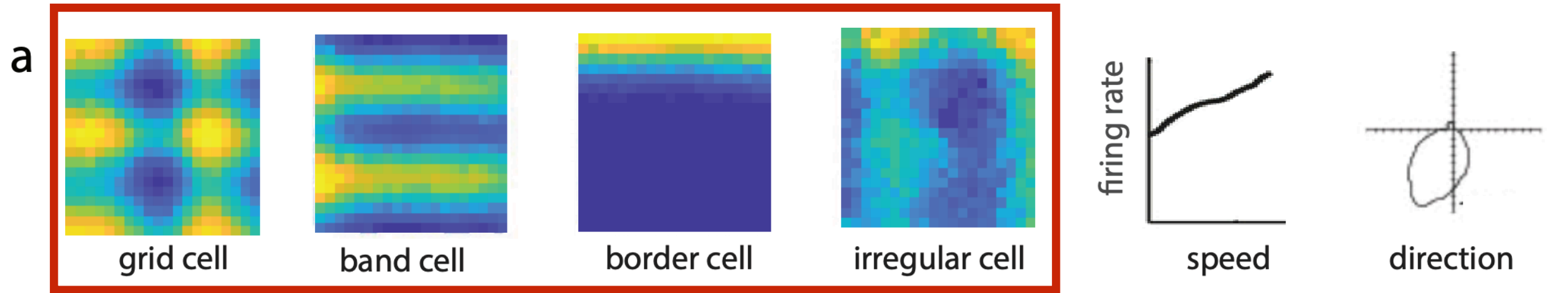


But more recently there are neural network models that “develop” these cells...



Cueva & Wei* 2018*

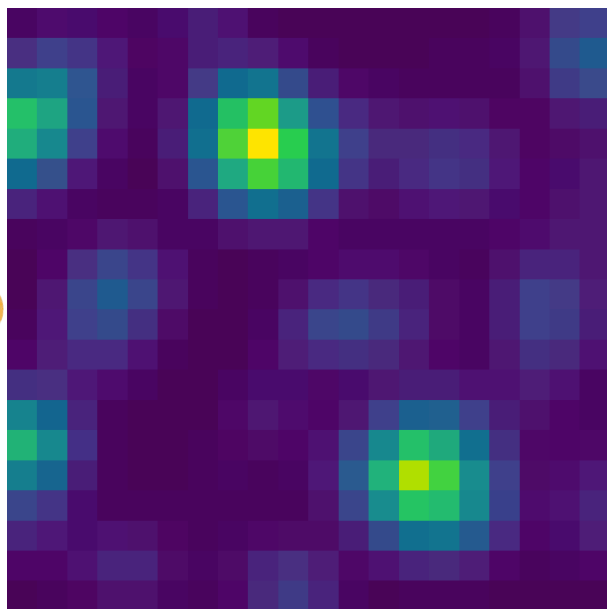
But more recently there are neural network models that “develop” these cells...



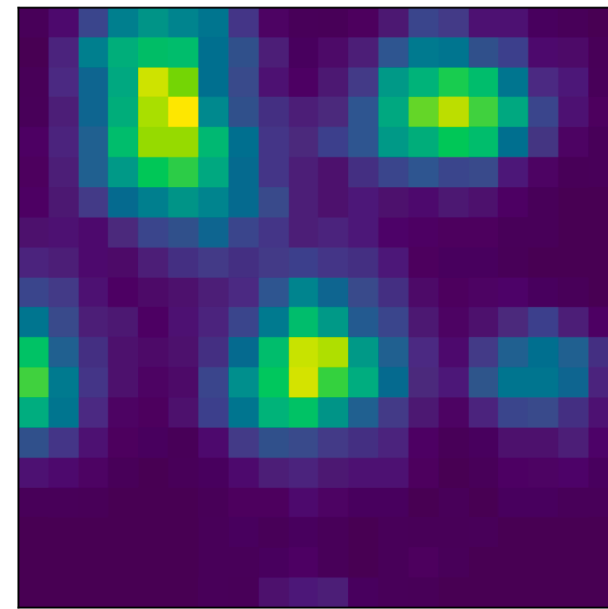
Goal-Driven Approach

But are they a good **quantitative** model of these responses?

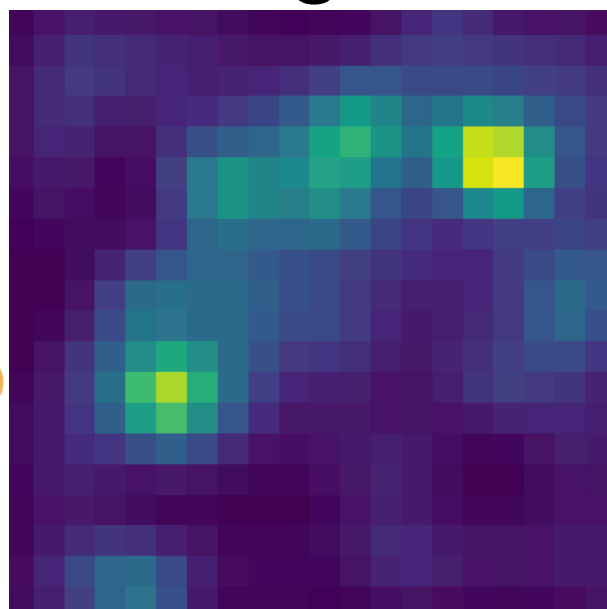
MEC Grid Cell



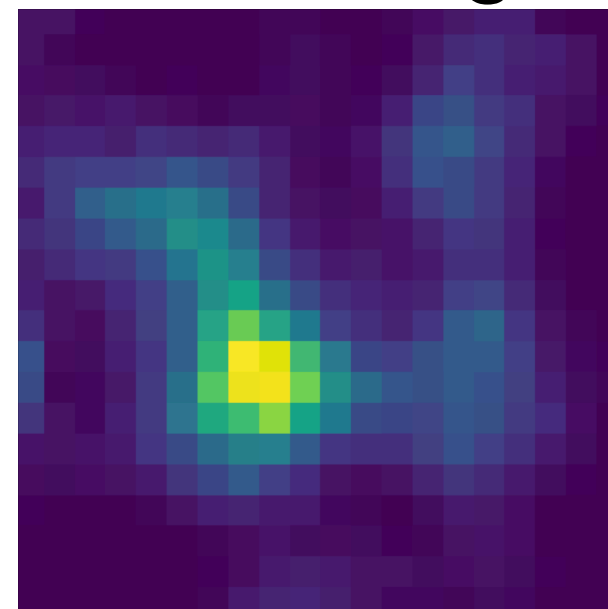
Model Grid Cell



MEC Heterogeneous Cell



Model Heterogeneous Cell

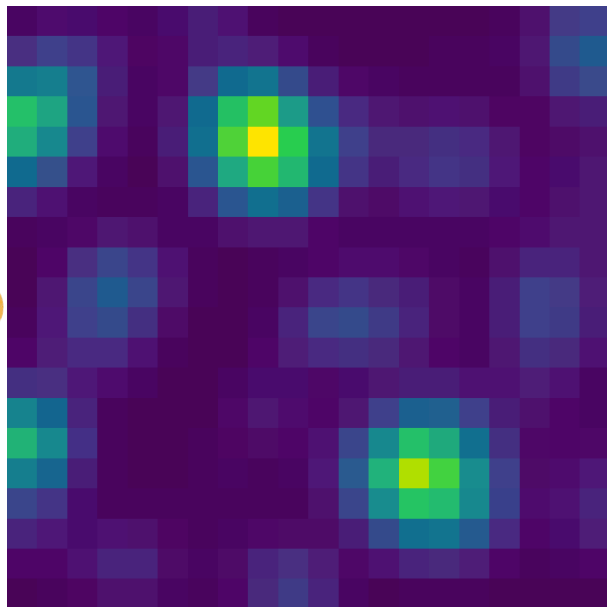


?

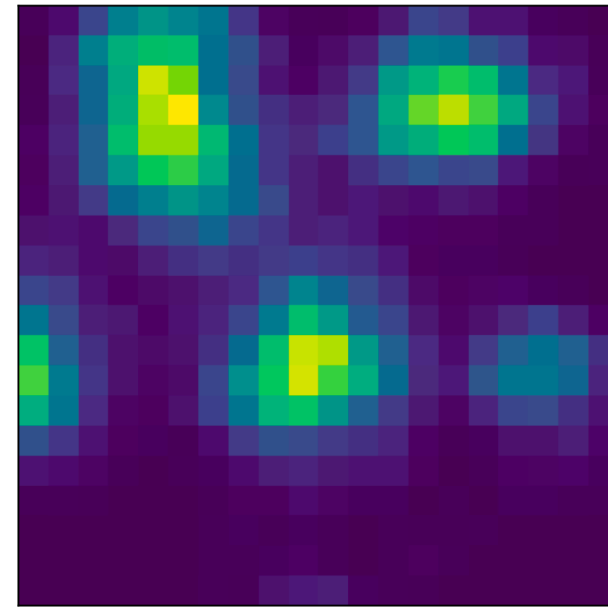
Goal-Driven Approach

But are they a good **quantitative** model of these responses?

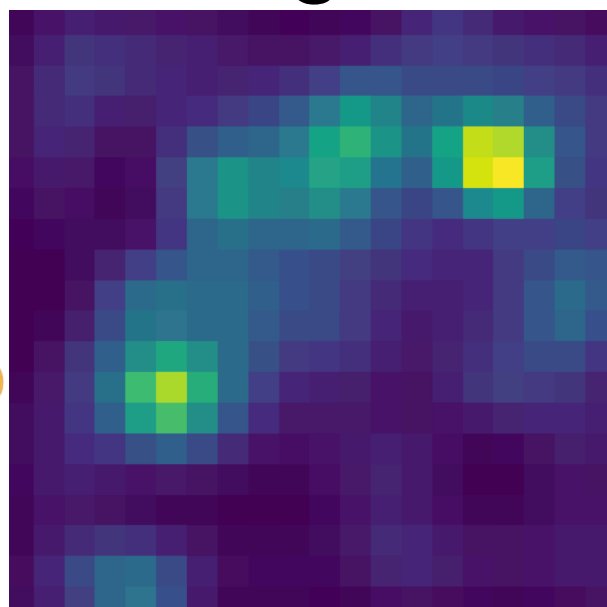
MEC Grid Cell



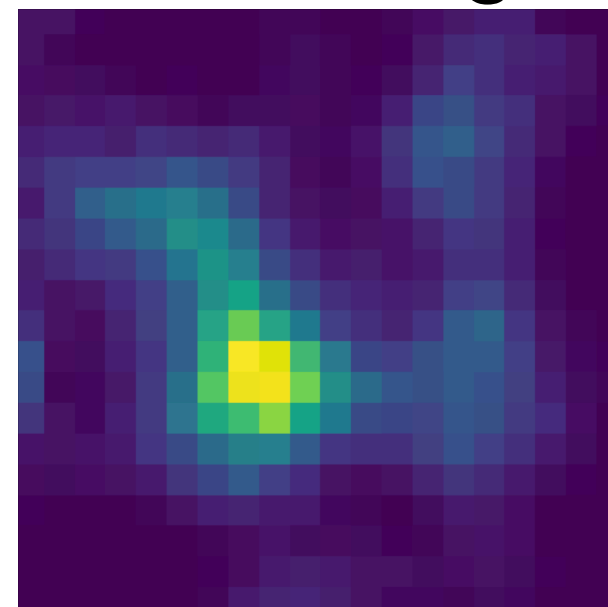
Model Grid Cell



MEC Heterogeneous Cell



Model Heterogeneous Cell



**Not all
models
are equal!**

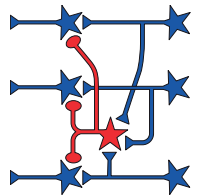
Goal-Driven Approach

A = architecture class

T = task loss

1.

"Circuit"

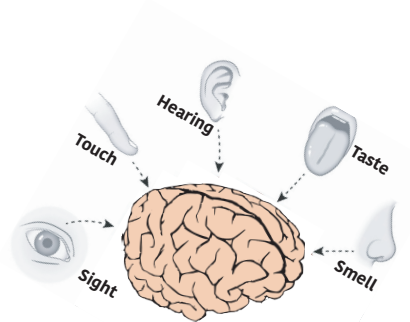
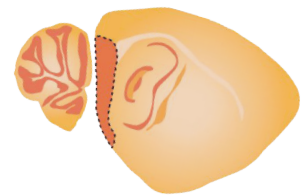
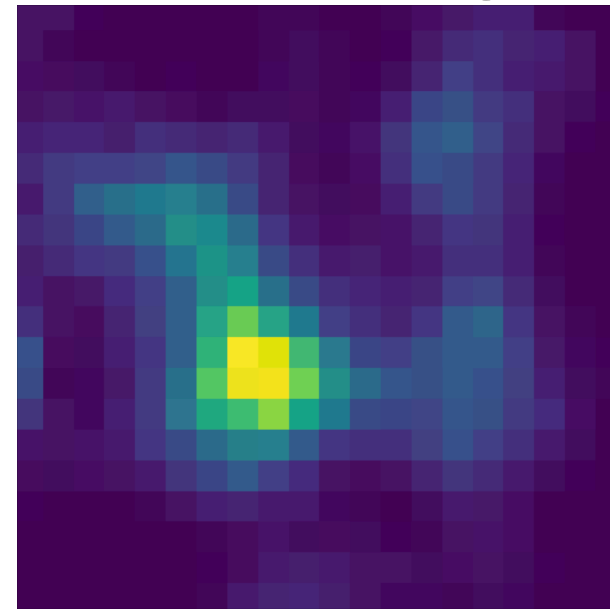
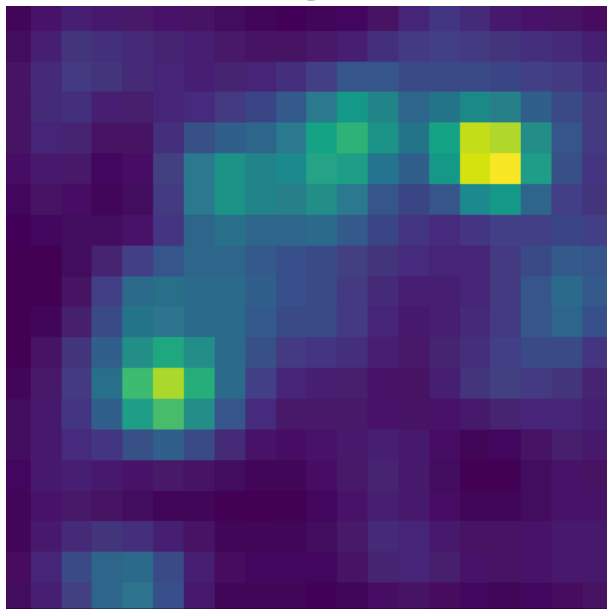


3. "Ecological niche/behavior"



MEC Heterogeneous Cell

Model Heterogeneous Cell



2.

"Environment"

D = data stream



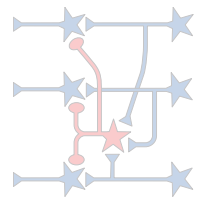
Goal-Driven Approach

A = architecture class

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1.

“Circuit”

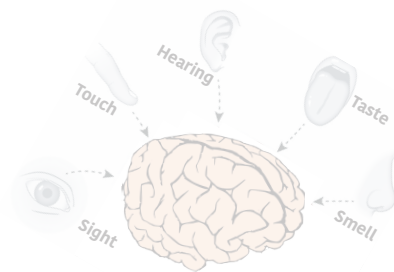
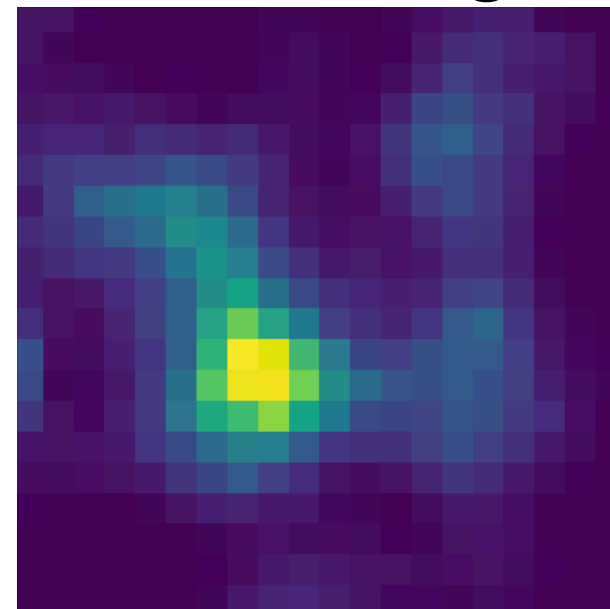
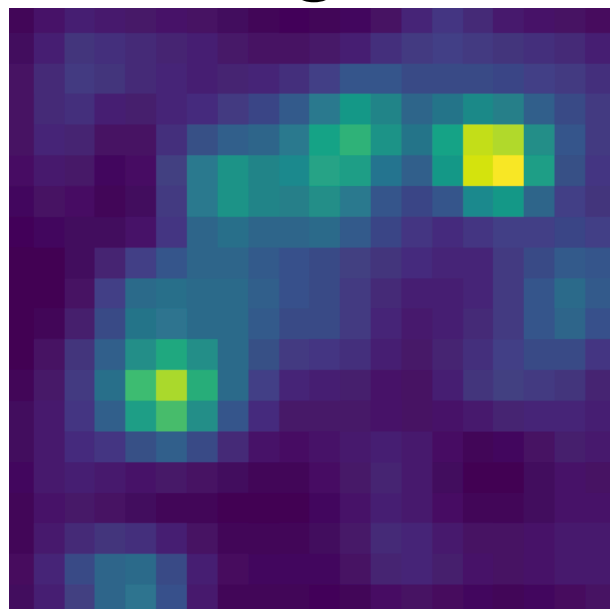
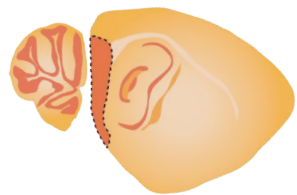


3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



MEC Heterogeneous Cell

Model Heterogeneous Cell



2.

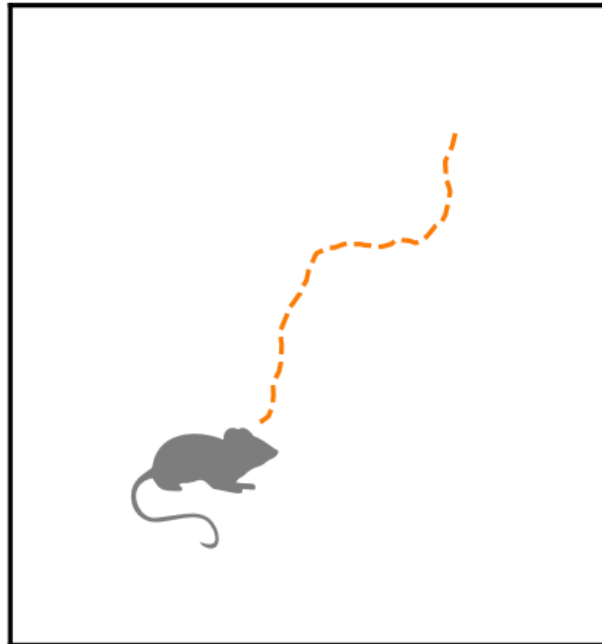
“Environment”



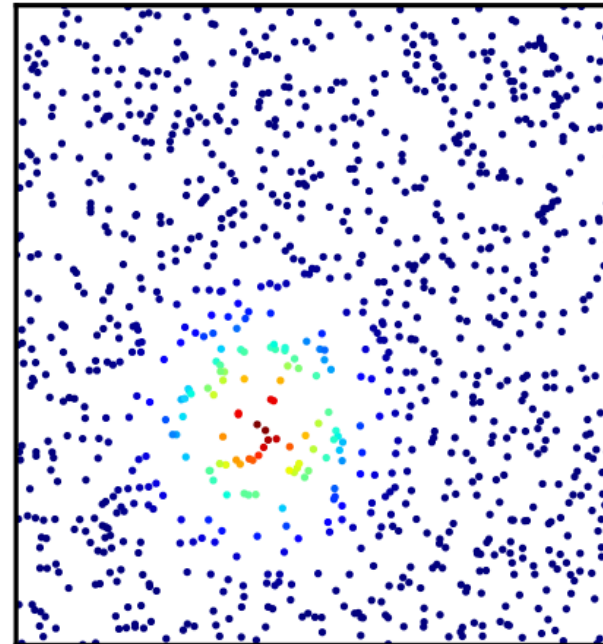
D = data stream

A spectrum of tasks

Simulated trajectory



Place cell centers

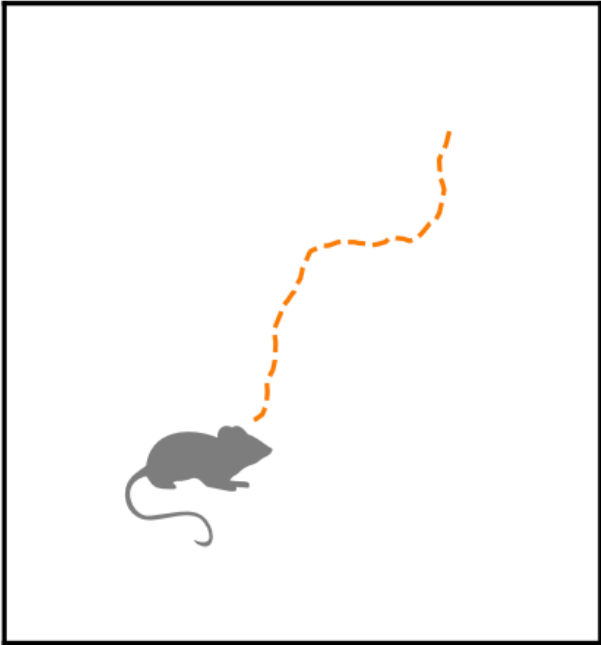


Banino, Barry* et al. 2018*

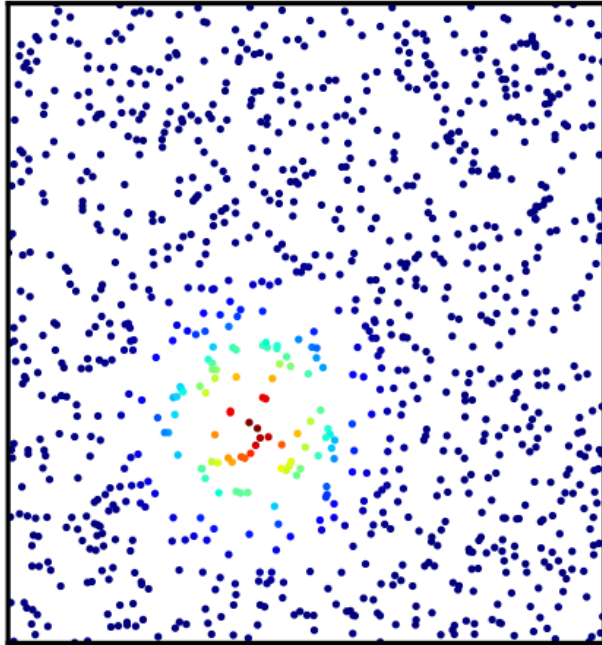
Sorscher, Mel* et al. 2019*

A spectrum of tasks

Simulated trajectory



Place cell centers



Banino, Barry* et al. 2018*

Sorscher, Mel* et al. 2019*



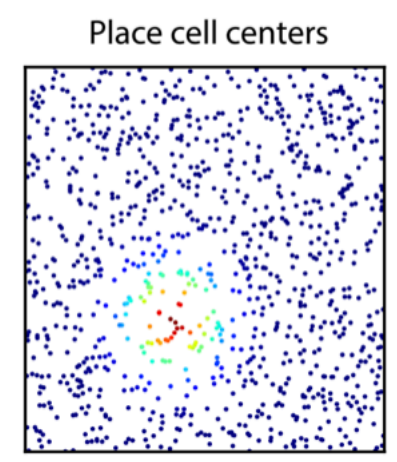
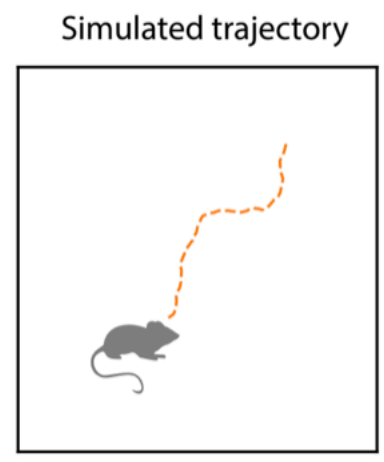
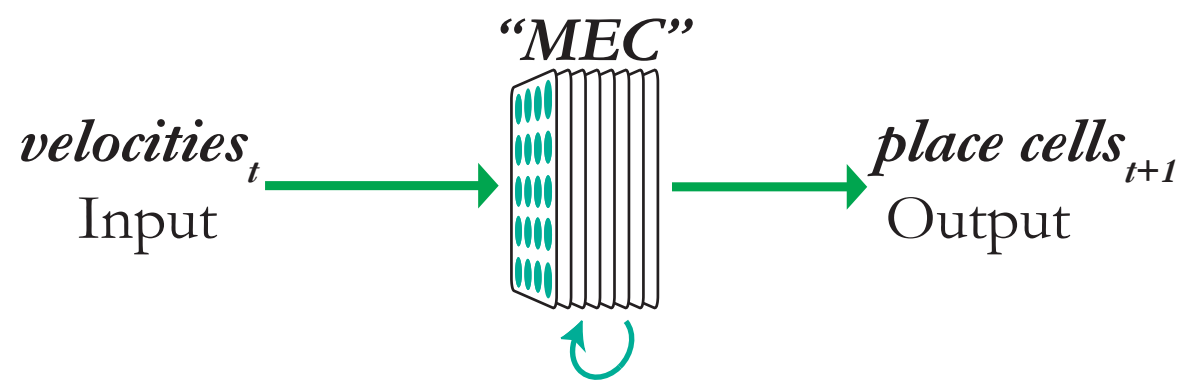
A spectrum of tasks

Simplest “model”



A spectrum of tasks

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} p_i^t \log \hat{p}_i^t \quad \text{Banino}^*, \text{Barry}^* \text{ et al. 2018}$$



Velocity → MEC → Place Cells → Position (x,y)

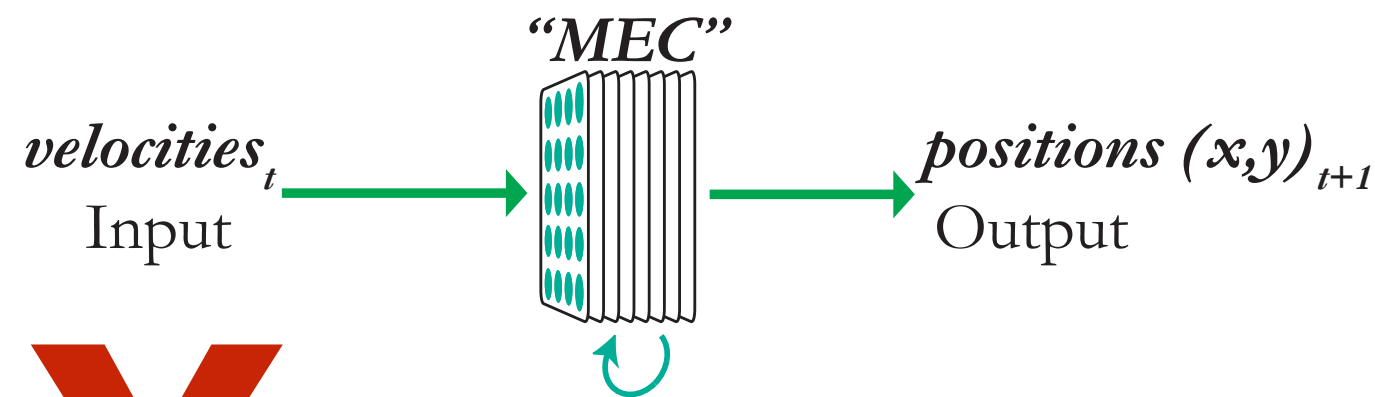
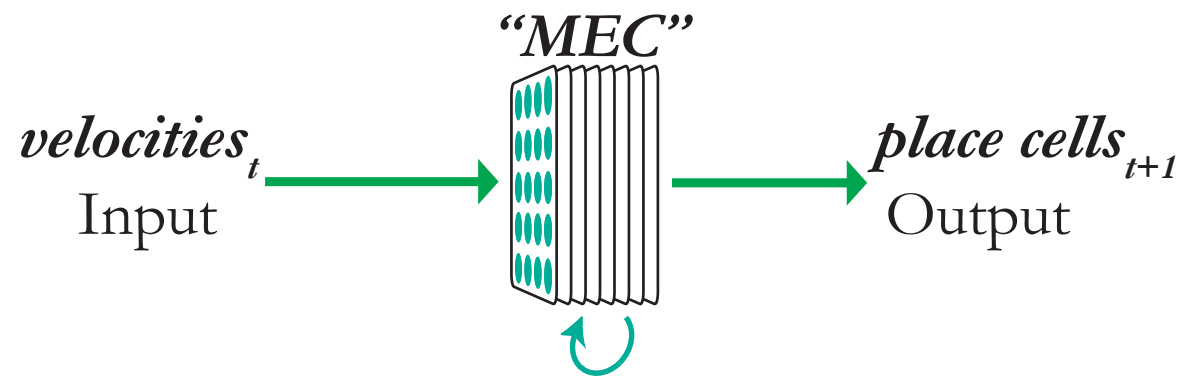
A spectrum of tasks

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} p_i^t \log \hat{p}_i^t$$

Banino*, Barry* et al. 2018

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \left((p_x^t - \hat{p}_x^t)^2 + (p_y^t - \hat{p}_y^t)^2 \right)$$

Cueva* & Wei* 2018



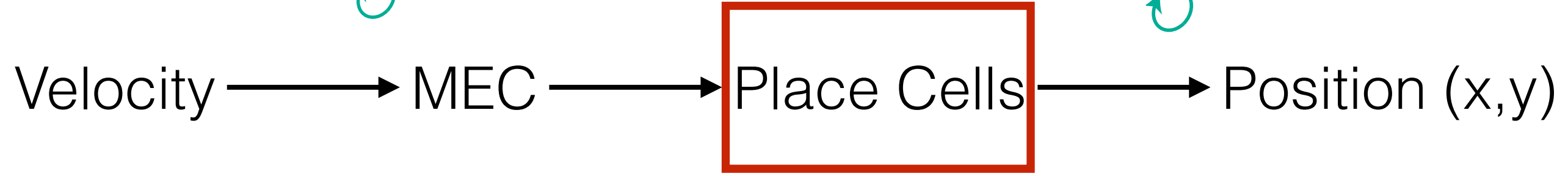
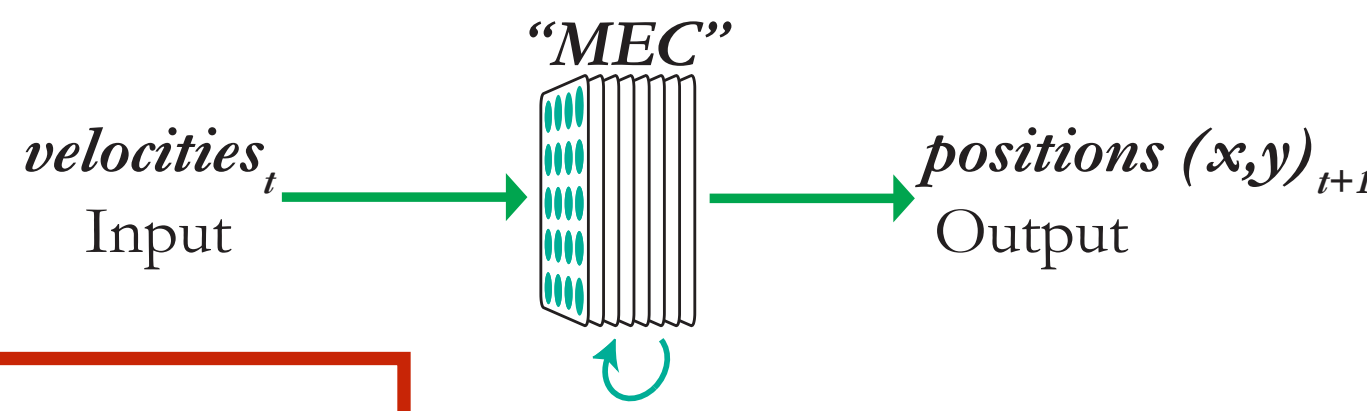
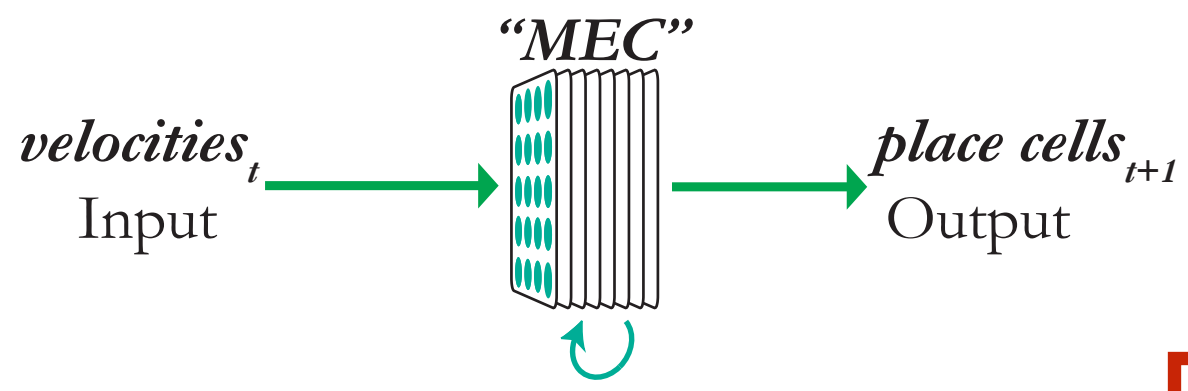
A spectrum of tasks

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Banino*, Barry* et al. 2018

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \left((p_x^t - \hat{p}_x^t)^2 + (p_y^t - \hat{p}_y^t)^2 \right)$$

Cueva* & Wei* 2018



Output-based models

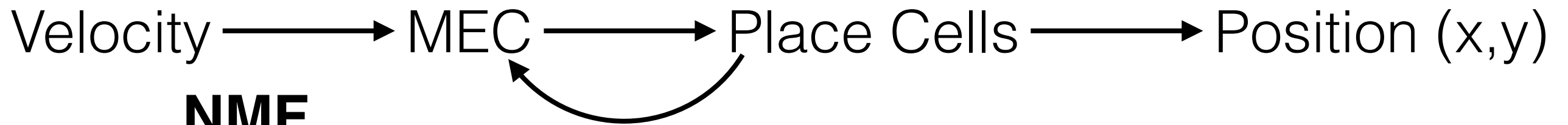
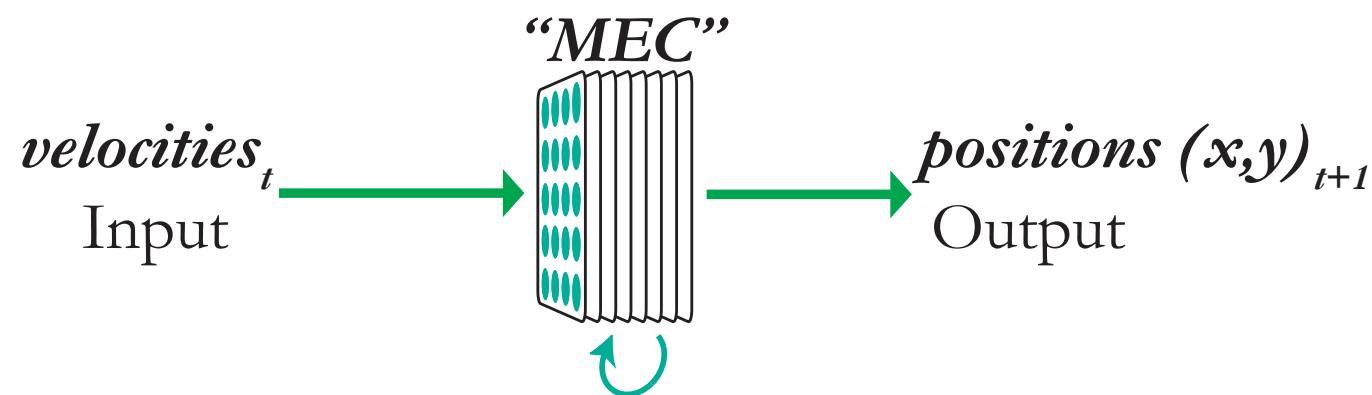
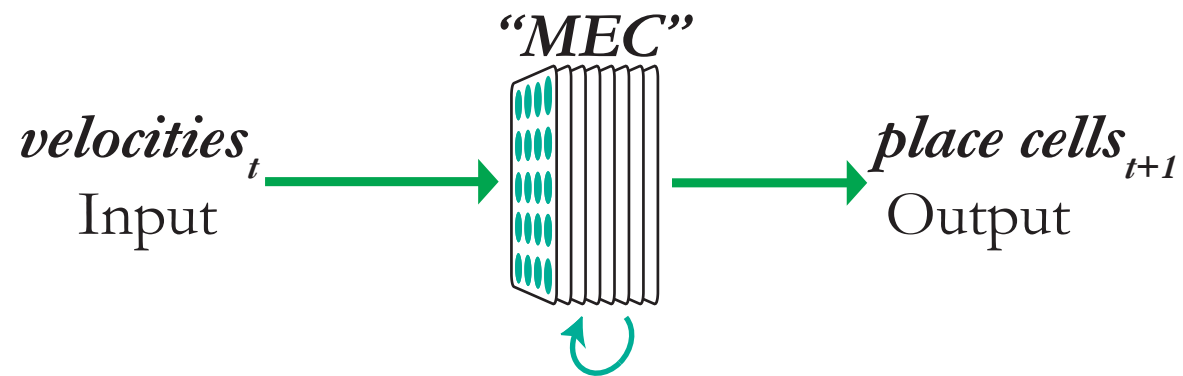
A spectrum of tasks

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} p_i^t \log \hat{p}_i^t$$

Banino*, Barry* et al. 2018

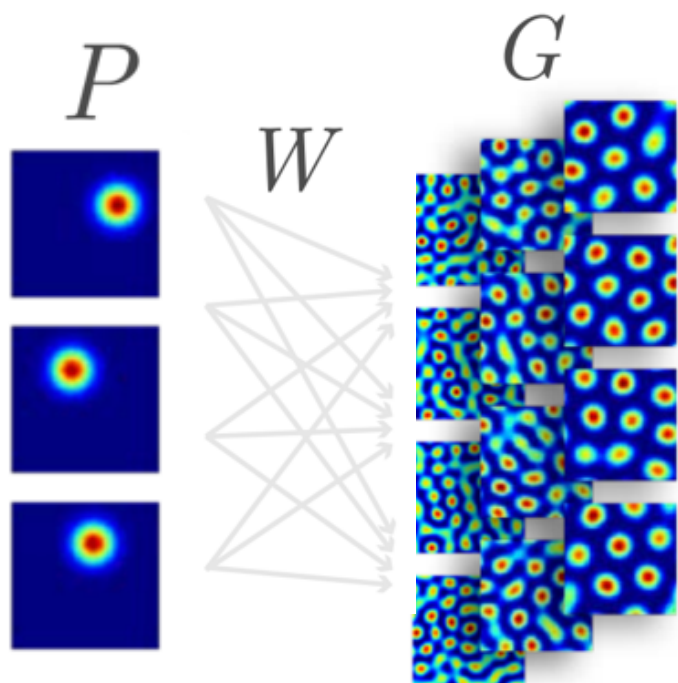
$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \left((p_x^t - \hat{p}_x^t)^2 + (p_y^t - \hat{p}_y^t)^2 \right)$$

Cueva* & Wei* 2018



NMF

(Place Cell Input)



Dordek et al. 2016

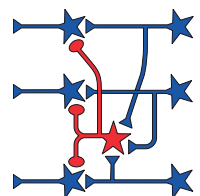
Goal-Driven Approach

A = architecture class

T = task loss

1.

“Circuit”

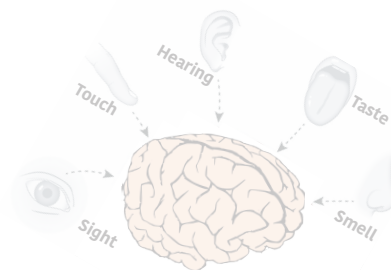
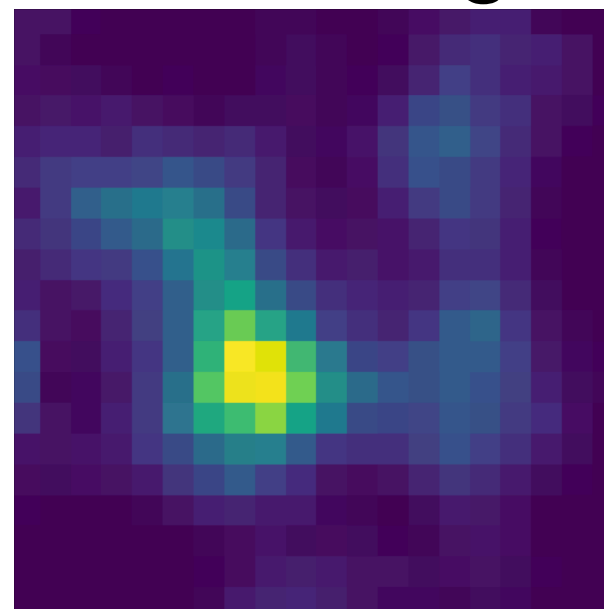
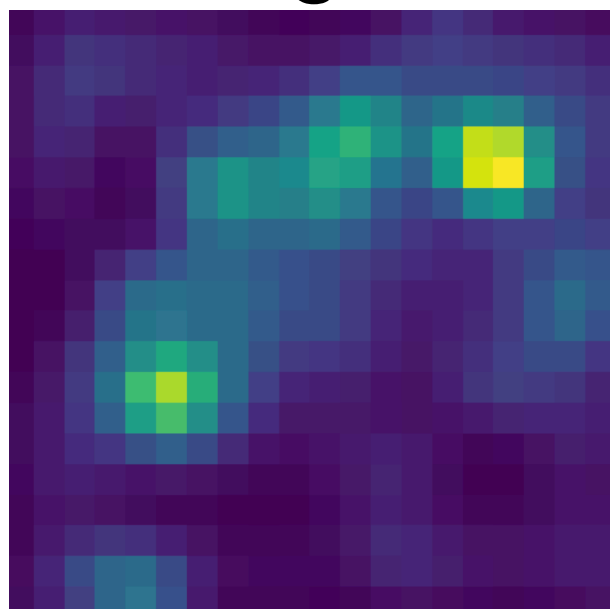
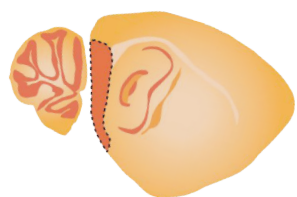


3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



MEC Heterogeneous Cell

Model Heterogeneous Cell

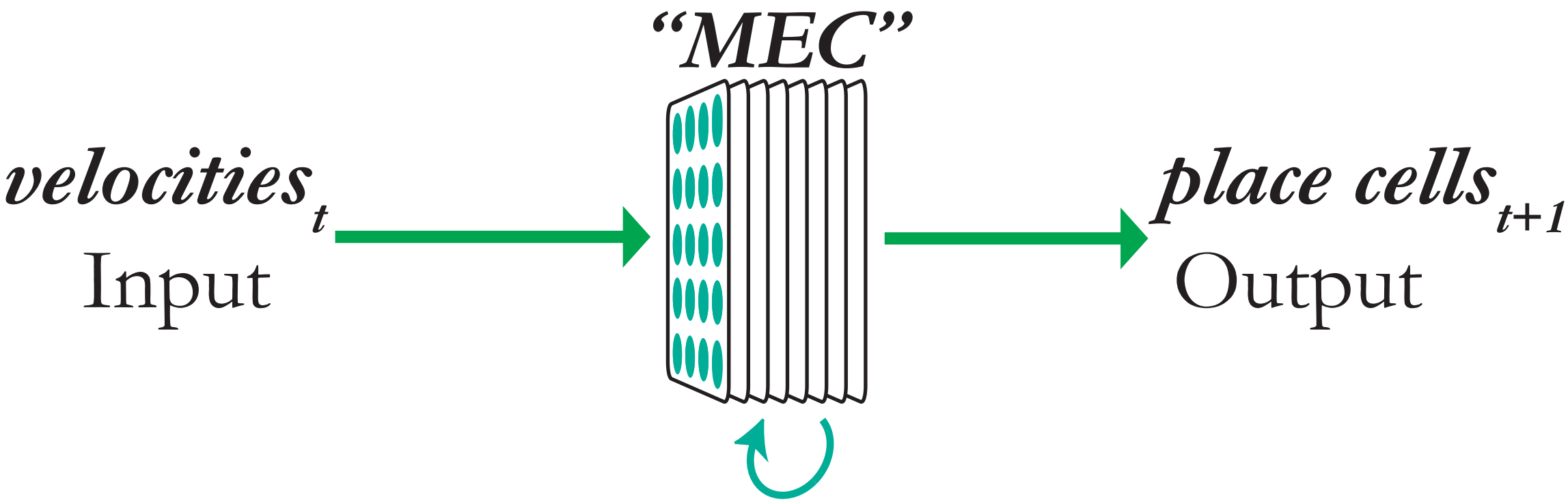


2.

“Environment”

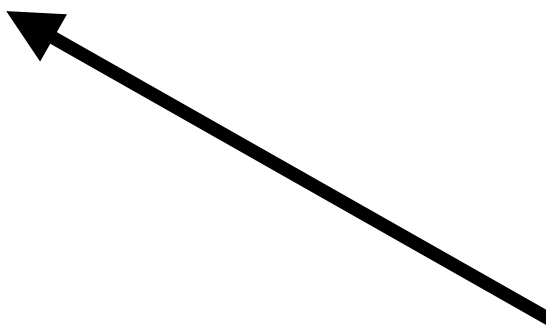
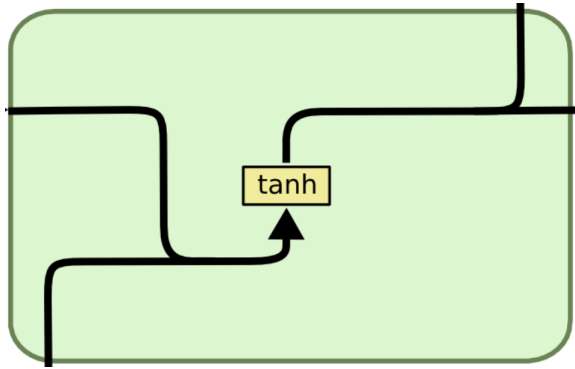
D = data stream

A spectrum of circuits



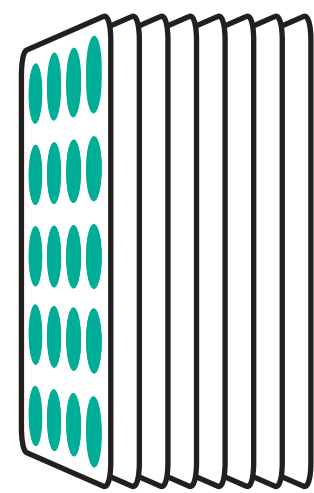
A spectrum of circuits

SimpleRNN



“MEC”

*velocities*_t
Input

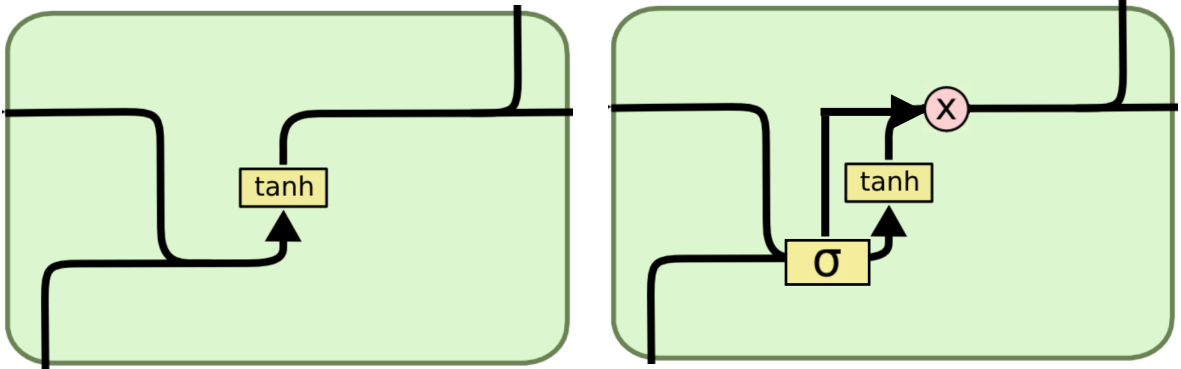


*place cells*_{t+1}
Output

A spectrum of circuits — learnable modulation (“gating”)

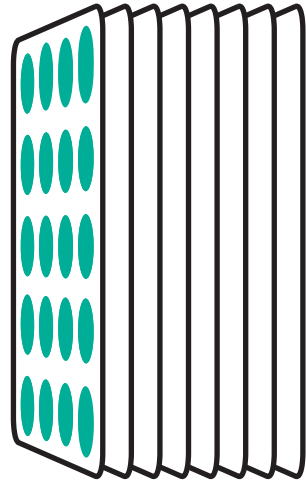
SimpleRNN

UGRNN



“MEC”

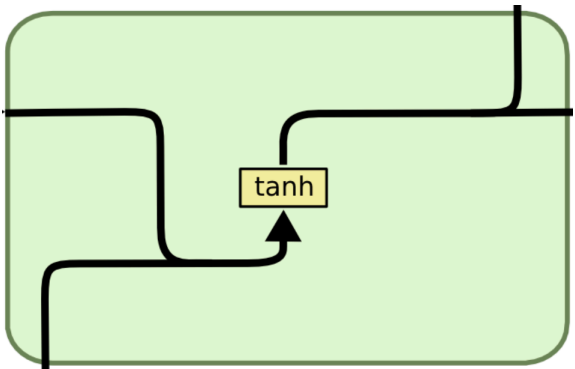
*velocities*_t
Input



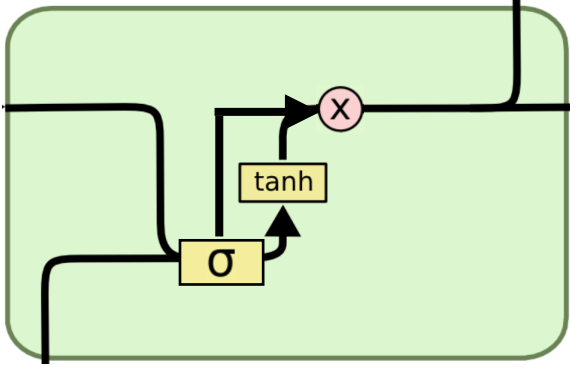
*place cells*_{t+1}
Output

A spectrum of circuits — learnable modulation (“gating”)

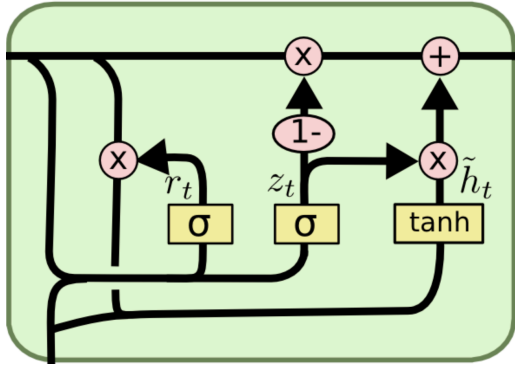
SimpleRNN



UGRNN

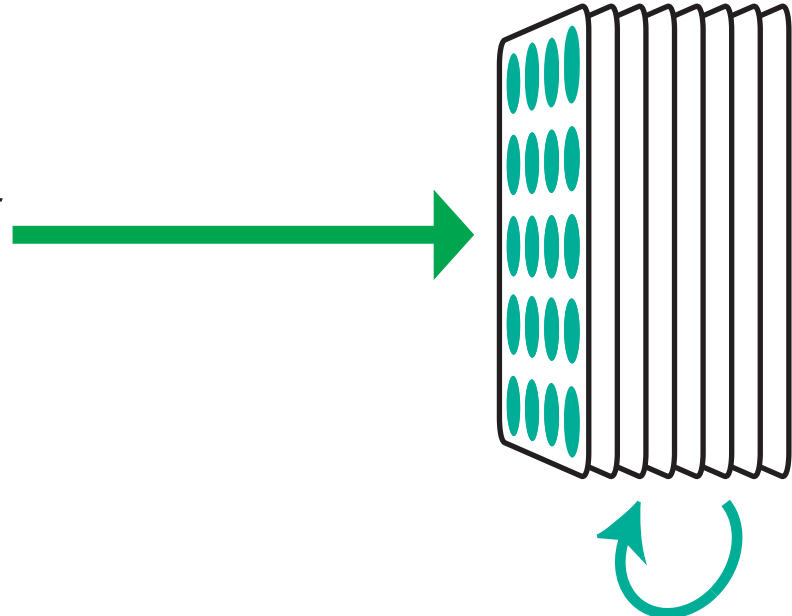


GRU



“MEC”

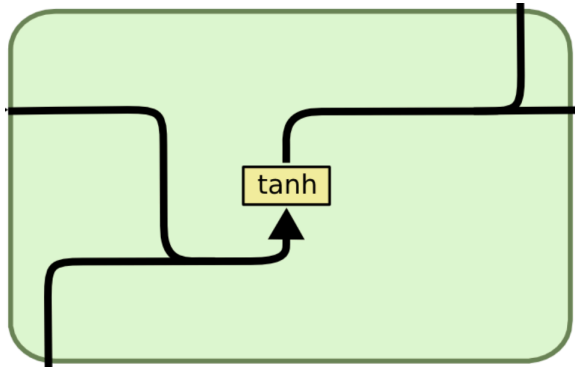
*velocities*_t
Input



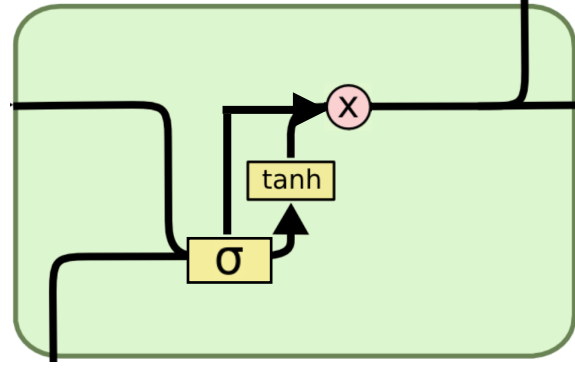
*place cells*_{t+1}
Output

A spectrum of circuits — learnable modulation (“gating”)

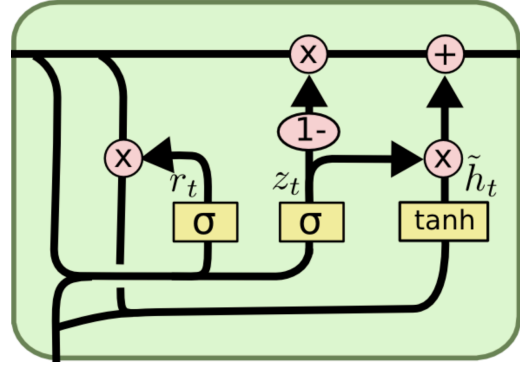
SimpleRNN



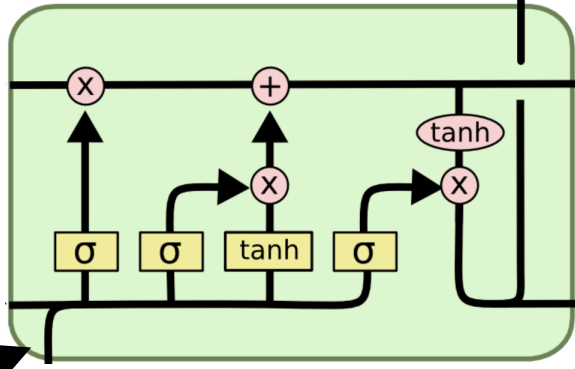
UGRNN



GRU

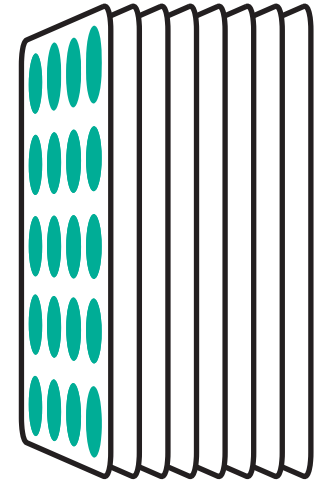


LSTM



“MEC”

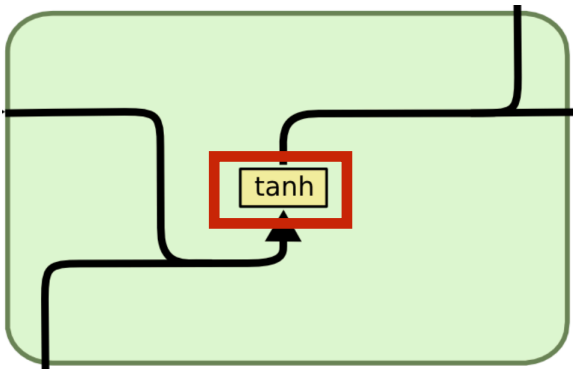
*velocities*_t
Input



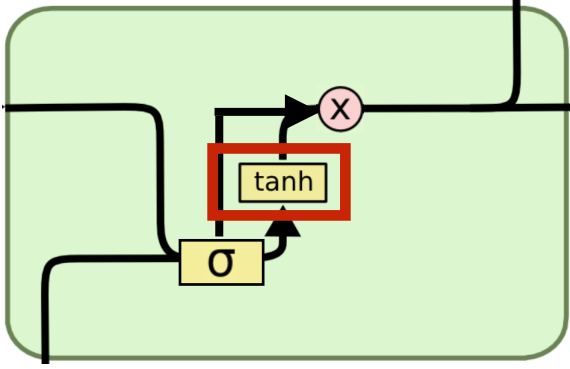
*place cells*_{t+1}
Output

A spectrum of circuits — output nonlinearity

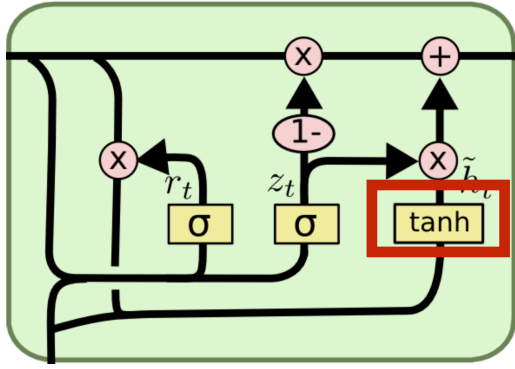
SimpleRNN



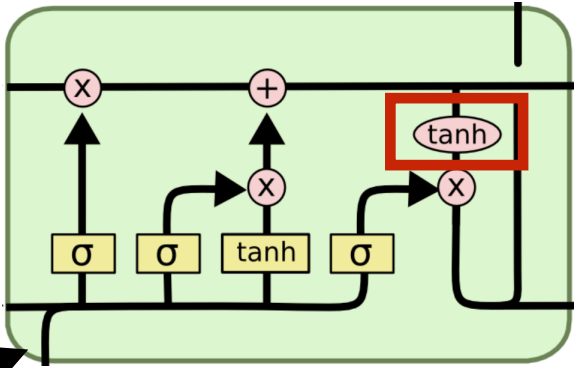
UGRNN



GRU

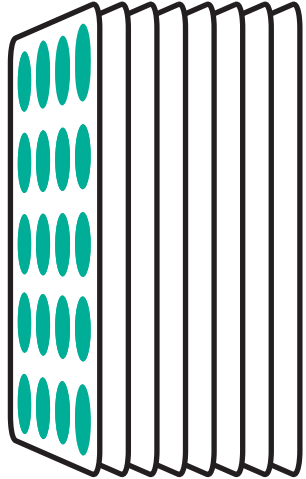


LSTM



“MEC”

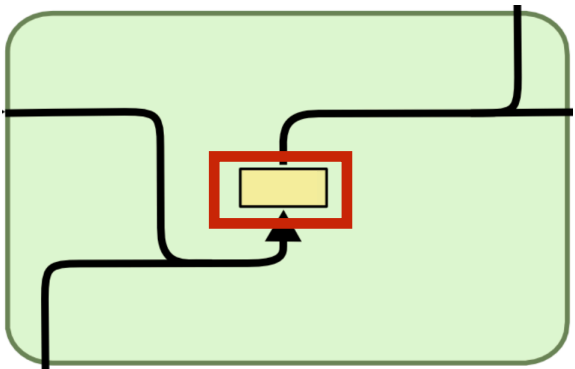
*velocities*_t
Input



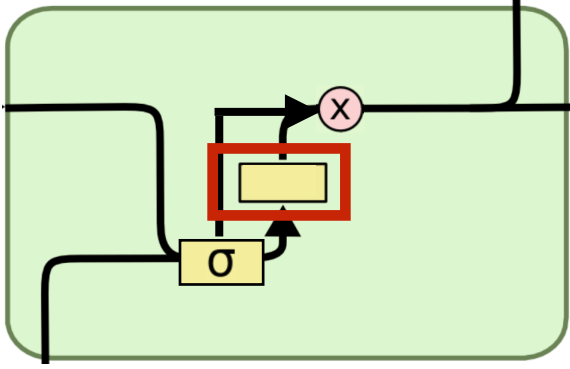
*place cells*_{t+1}
Output

A spectrum of circuits — output nonlinearity

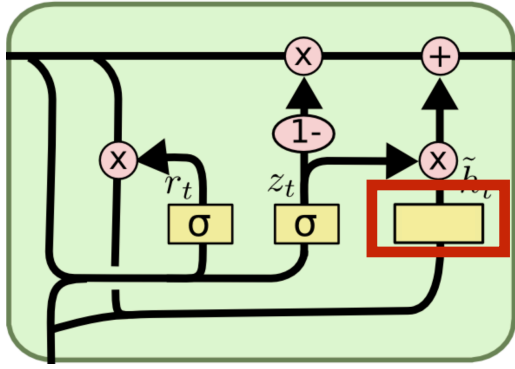
SimpleRNN



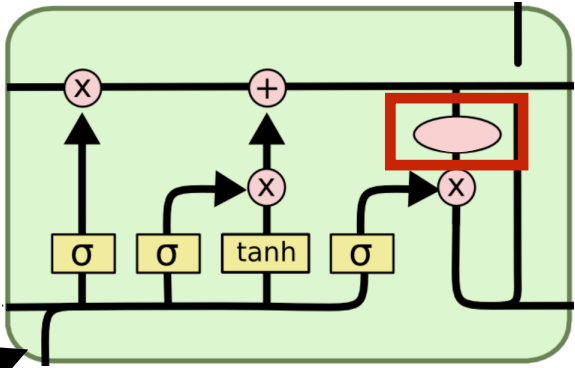
UGRNN



GRU



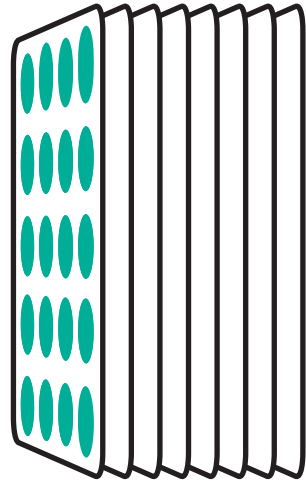
LSTM



- Linear
- Tanh
- Sigmoid
- ReLU

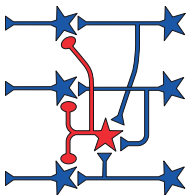
“MEC”

*velocities*_t
Input

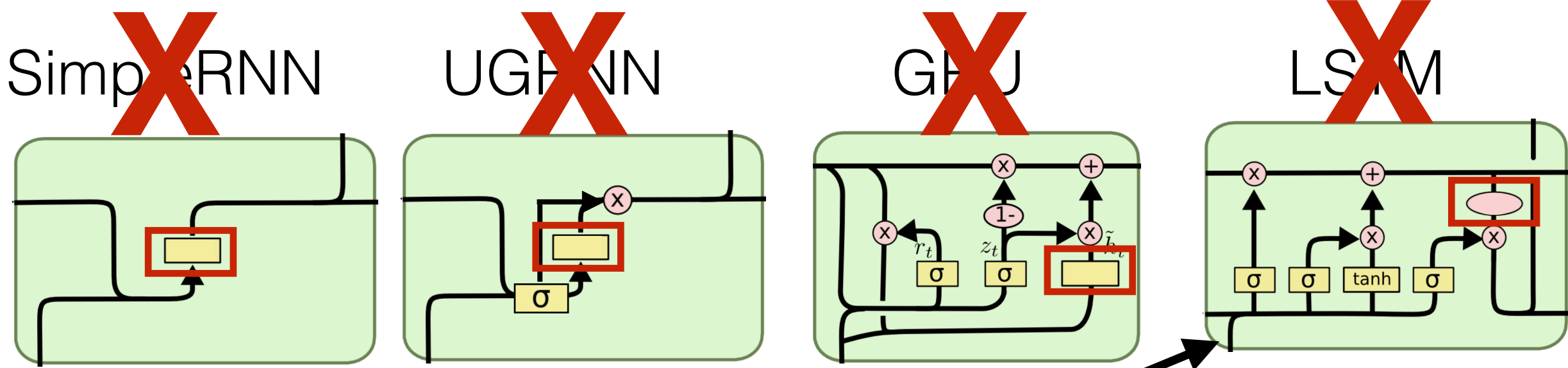


*place cells*_{t+1}
Output

A spectrum of circuits — output nonlinearity

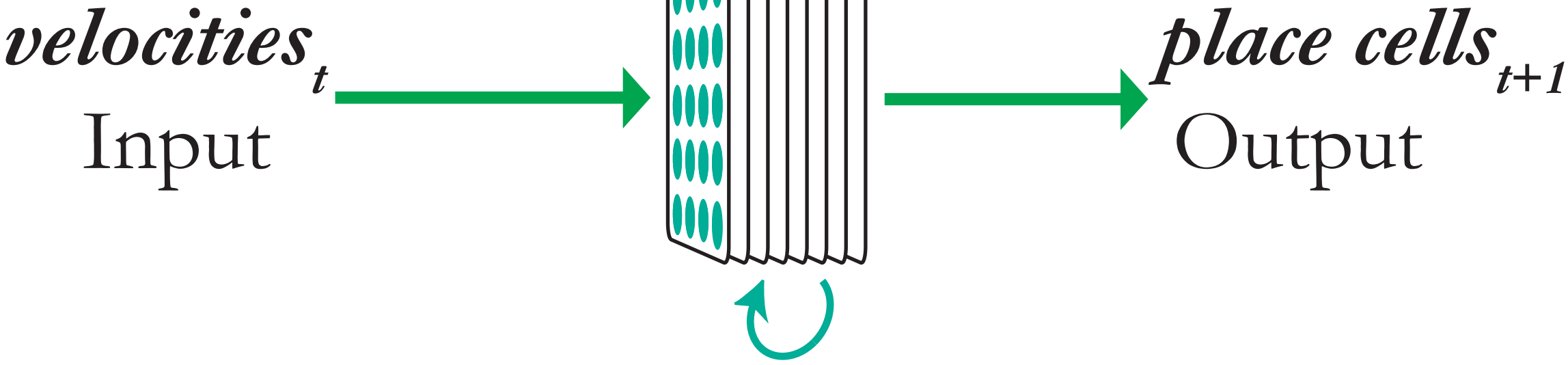


Circuit busting!

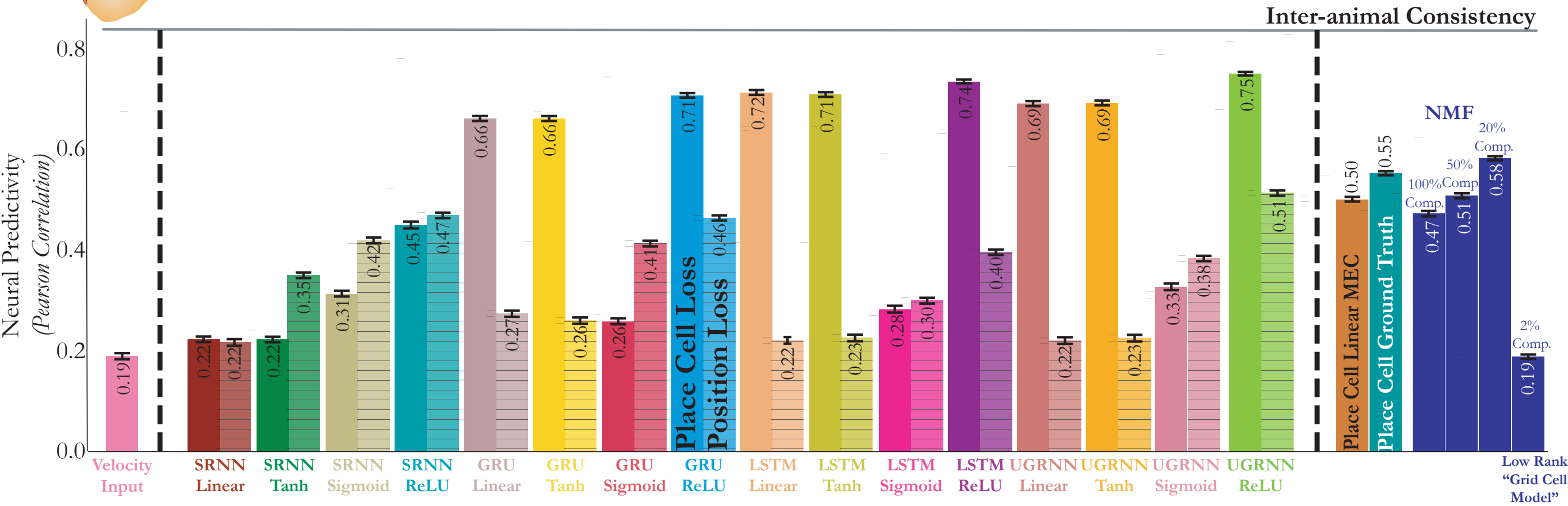
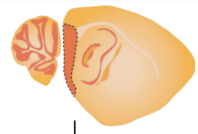


- Linear
- Tanh
- Sigmoid
- ReLU

“MEC”

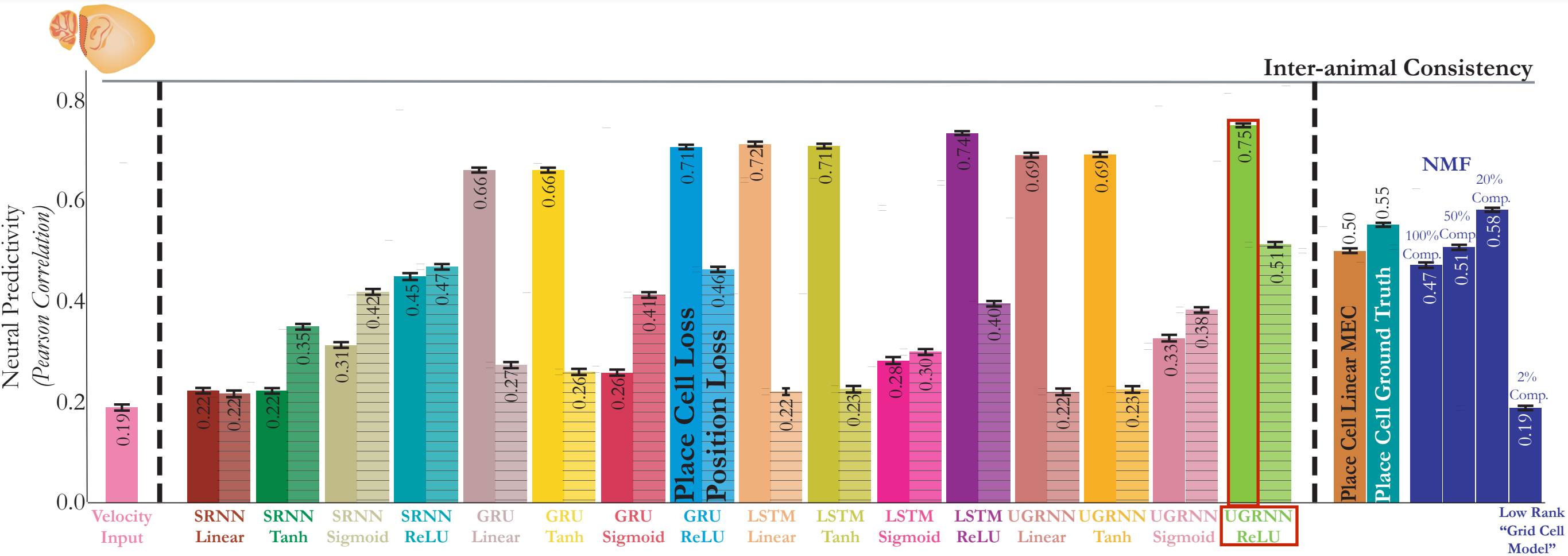


Benchmarking models with the same transform as between animals

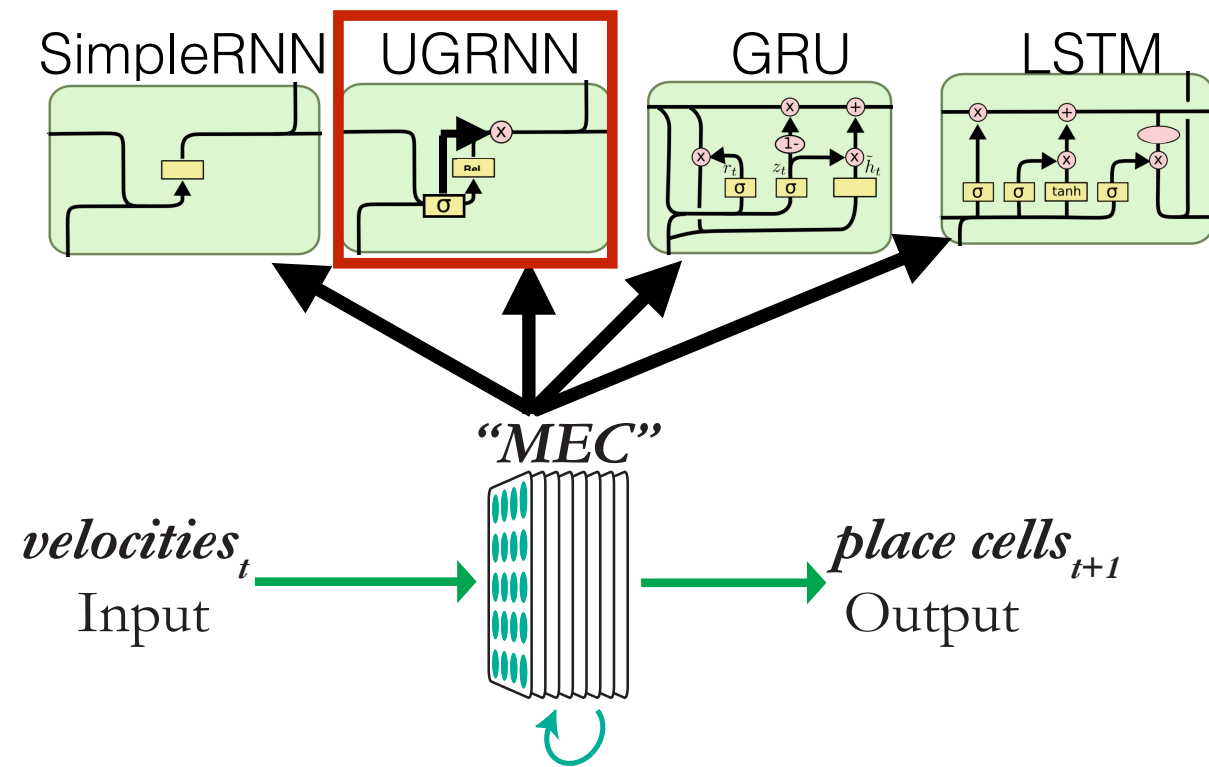


Caitlin Mallory

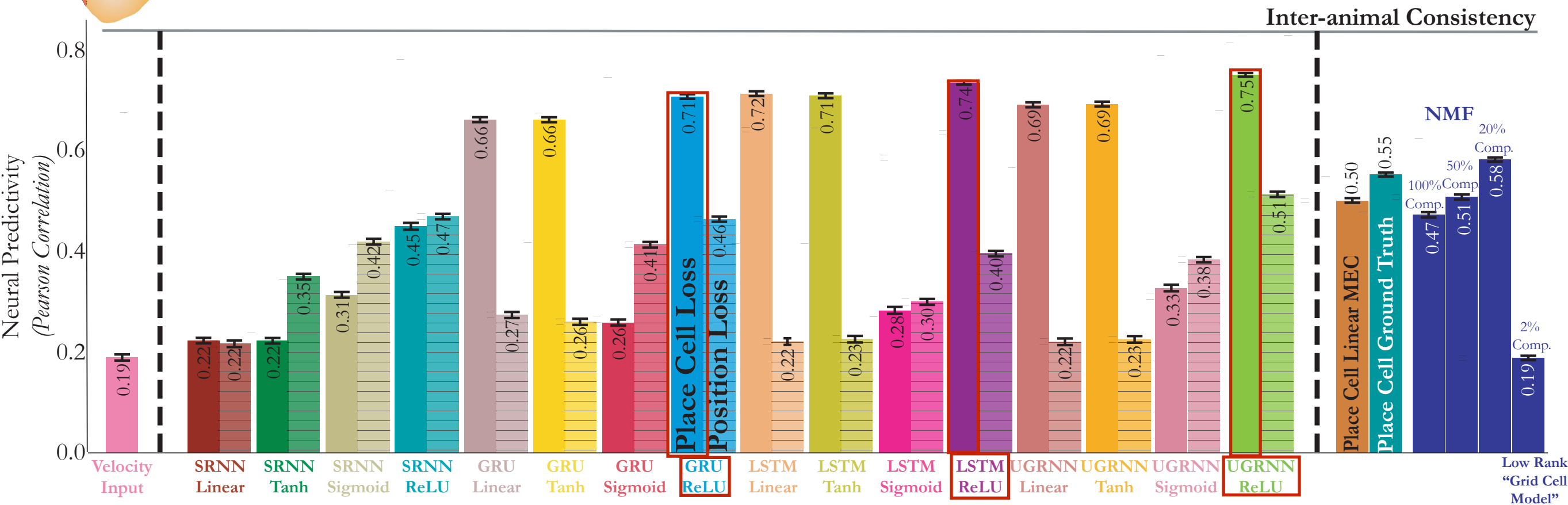
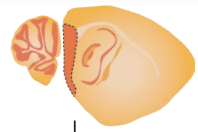
Task-optimized navigational models best predict the *entire* MEC population



Best task-optimized models explain almost all of the neural variability

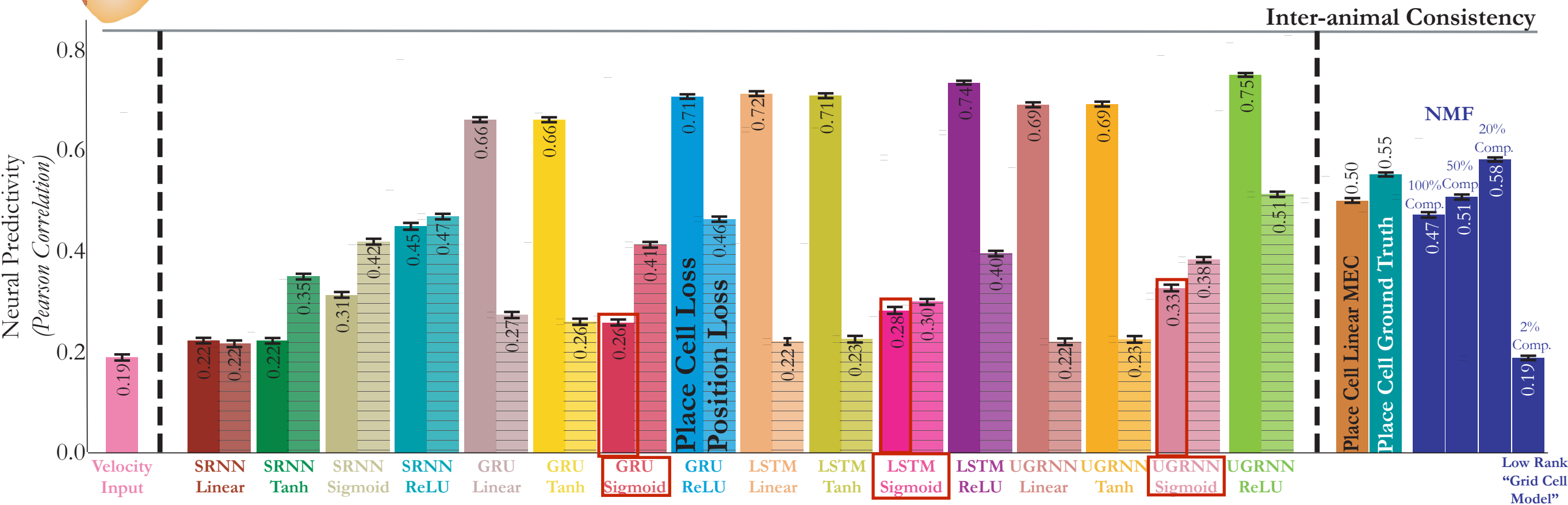
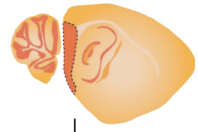


Nonlinearity type affects generalization



Nonnegativity constraint + gating aids in generalization across environments

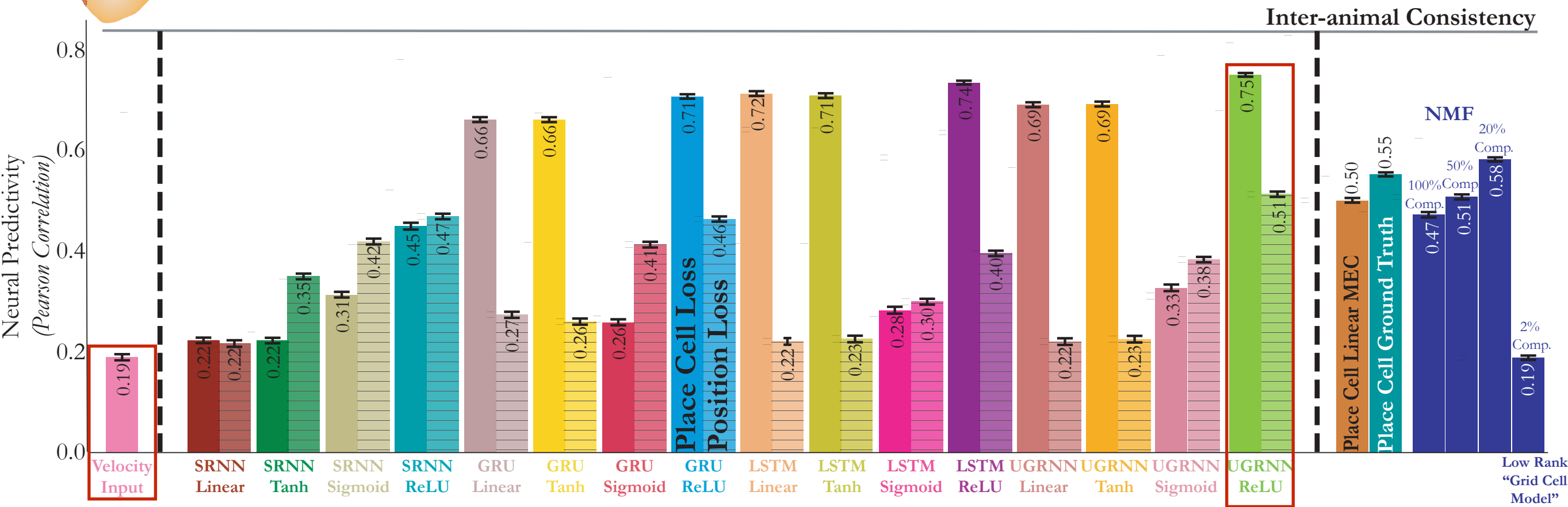
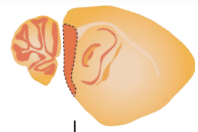
Nonlinearity type affects generalization



Nonnegativity constraint + gating aids in generalization across environments

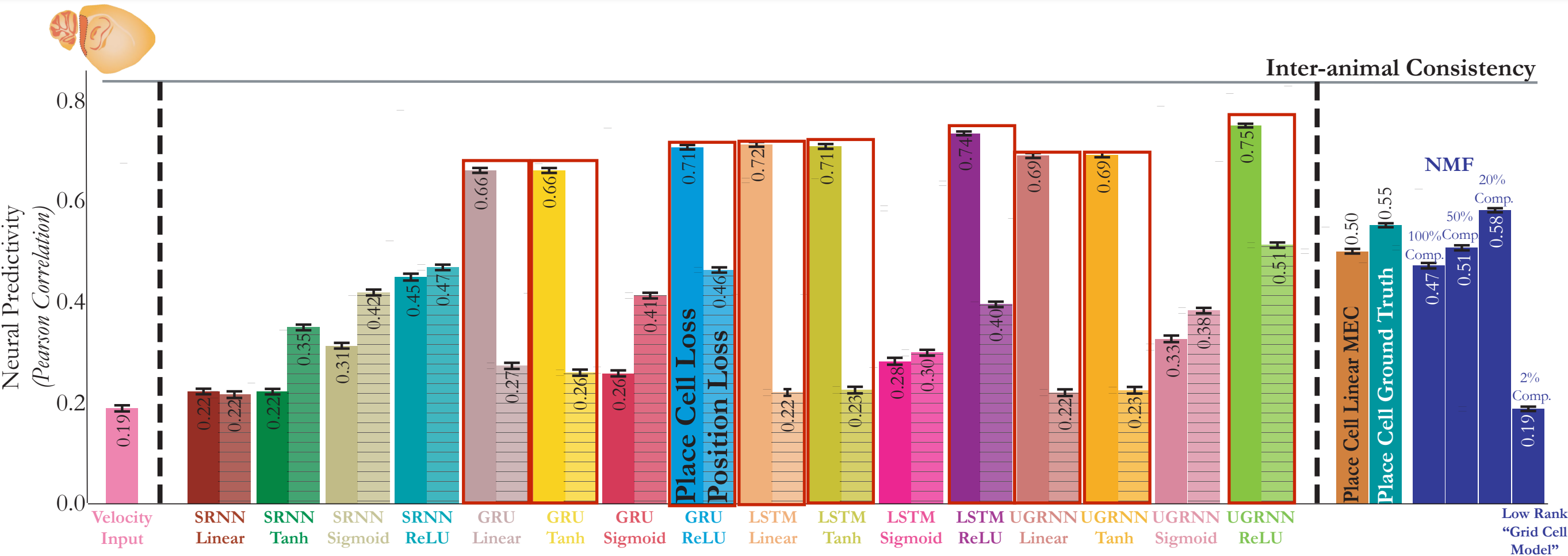
But this nonnegativity constraint must *not* saturate either!

Model input is a poor predictor of population



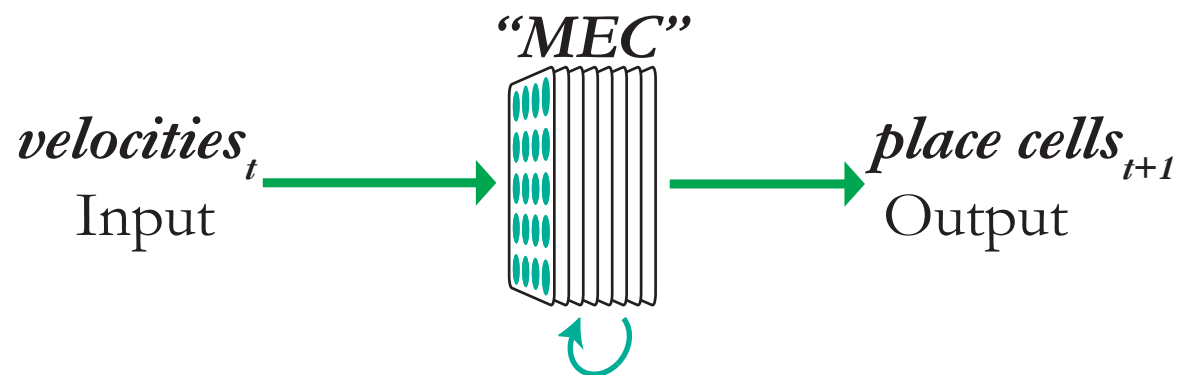
Models add a lot of predictive power to their inputs

Direct path integration *fails* to generalize

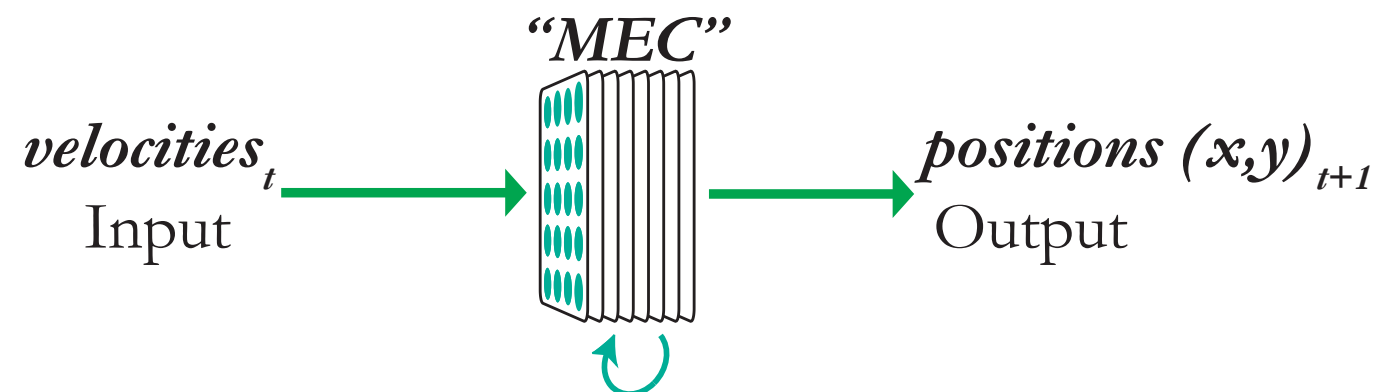


Output place cell supervision provides better generalization over direct supervision of position (path integration)

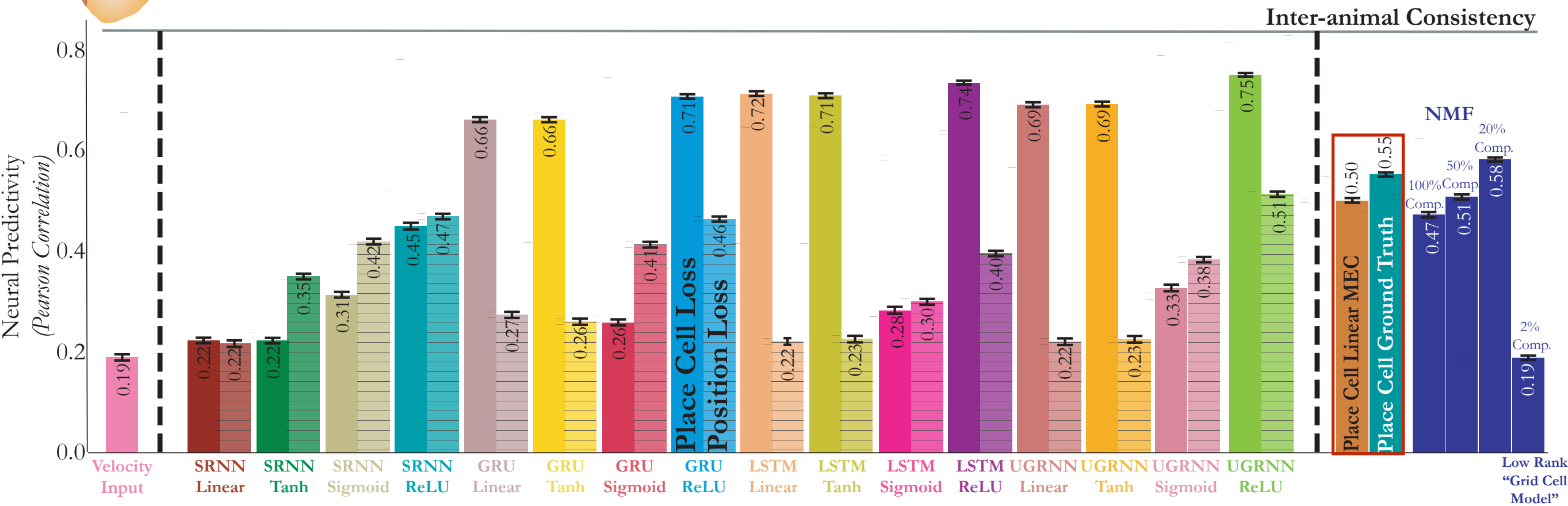
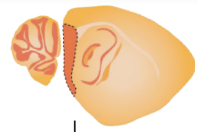
$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} p_i^t \log \hat{p}_i^t$$



$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \left((p_x^t - \hat{p}_x^t)^2 + (p_y^t - \hat{p}_y^t)^2 \right)$$

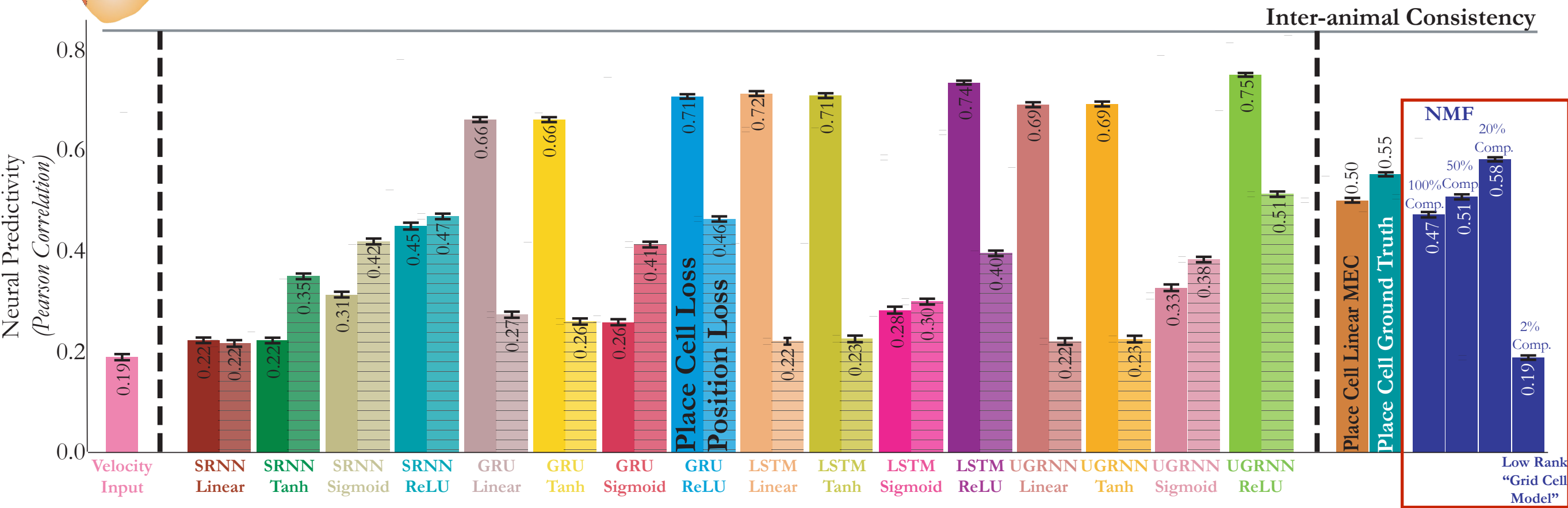
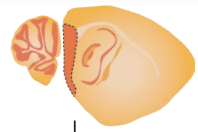


Place cells alone are a poor predictor



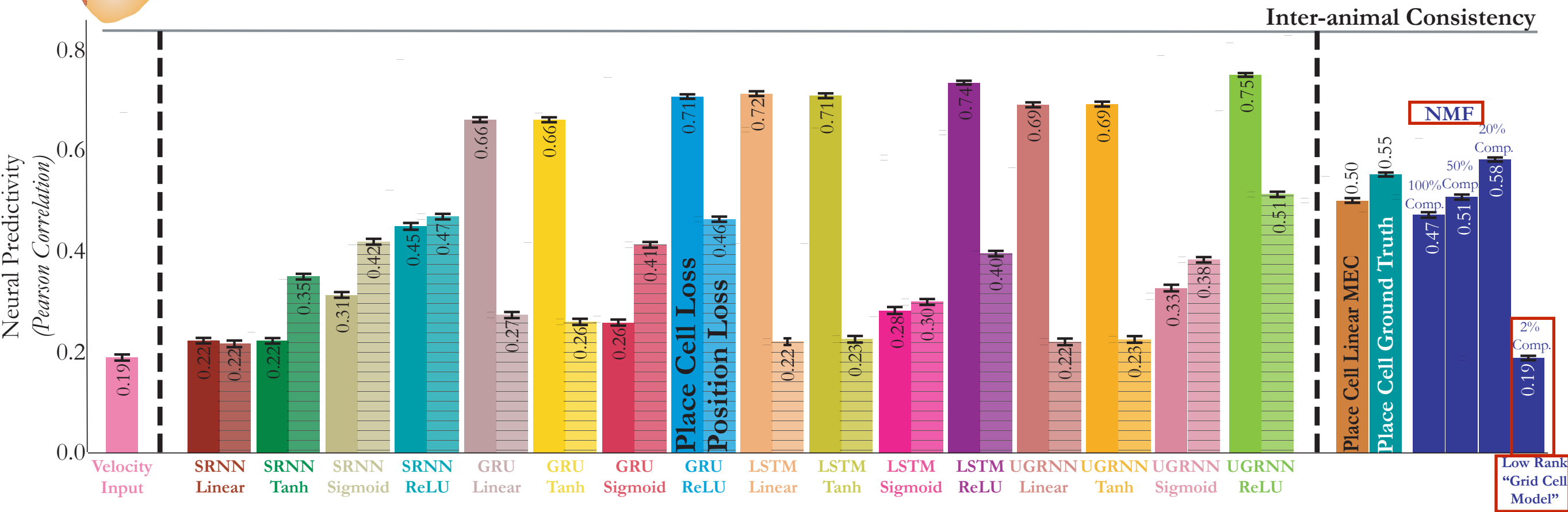
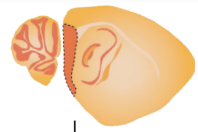
But place cells alone are *not* a good predictor of MEC (good!)
 You actually need to integrate them!

NMF is also a poor predictor



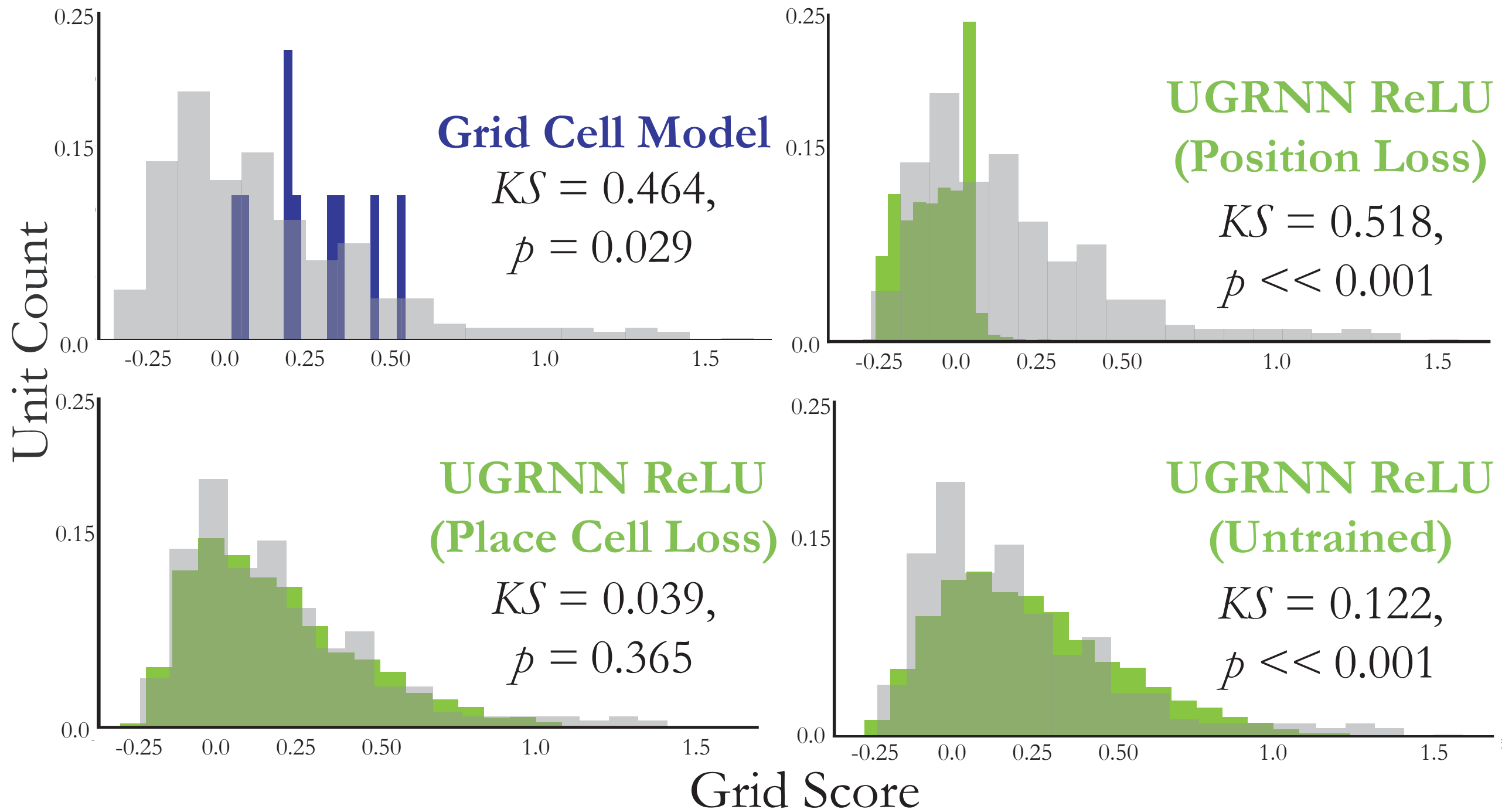
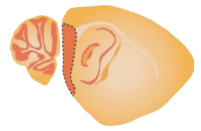
Dimensionality reduction on place cells is *not* a good predictor of MEC either

Grid cell oriented NMF is a poor predictor

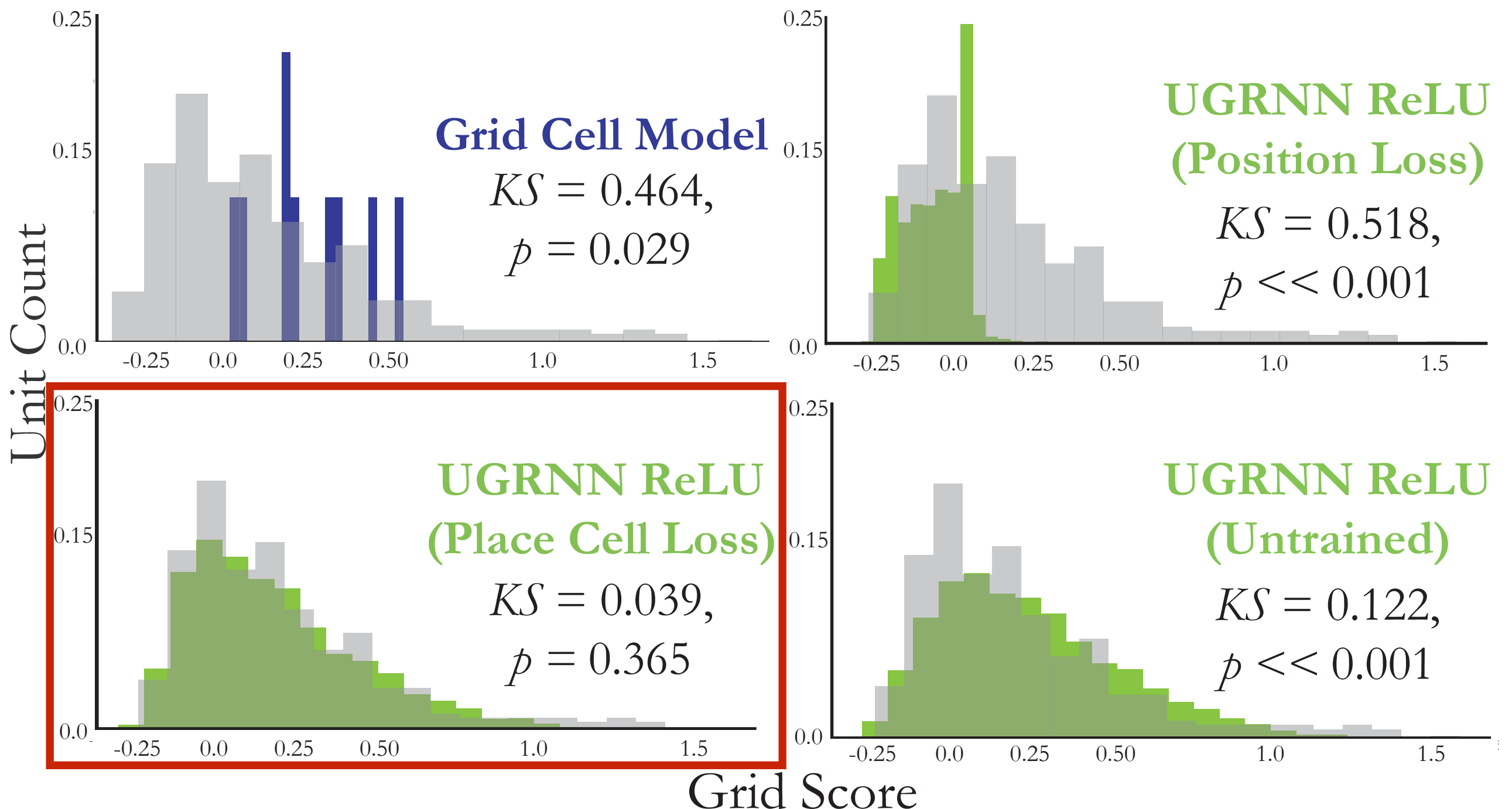
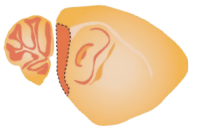


Grid cell oriented model is an especially *poor* predictor!

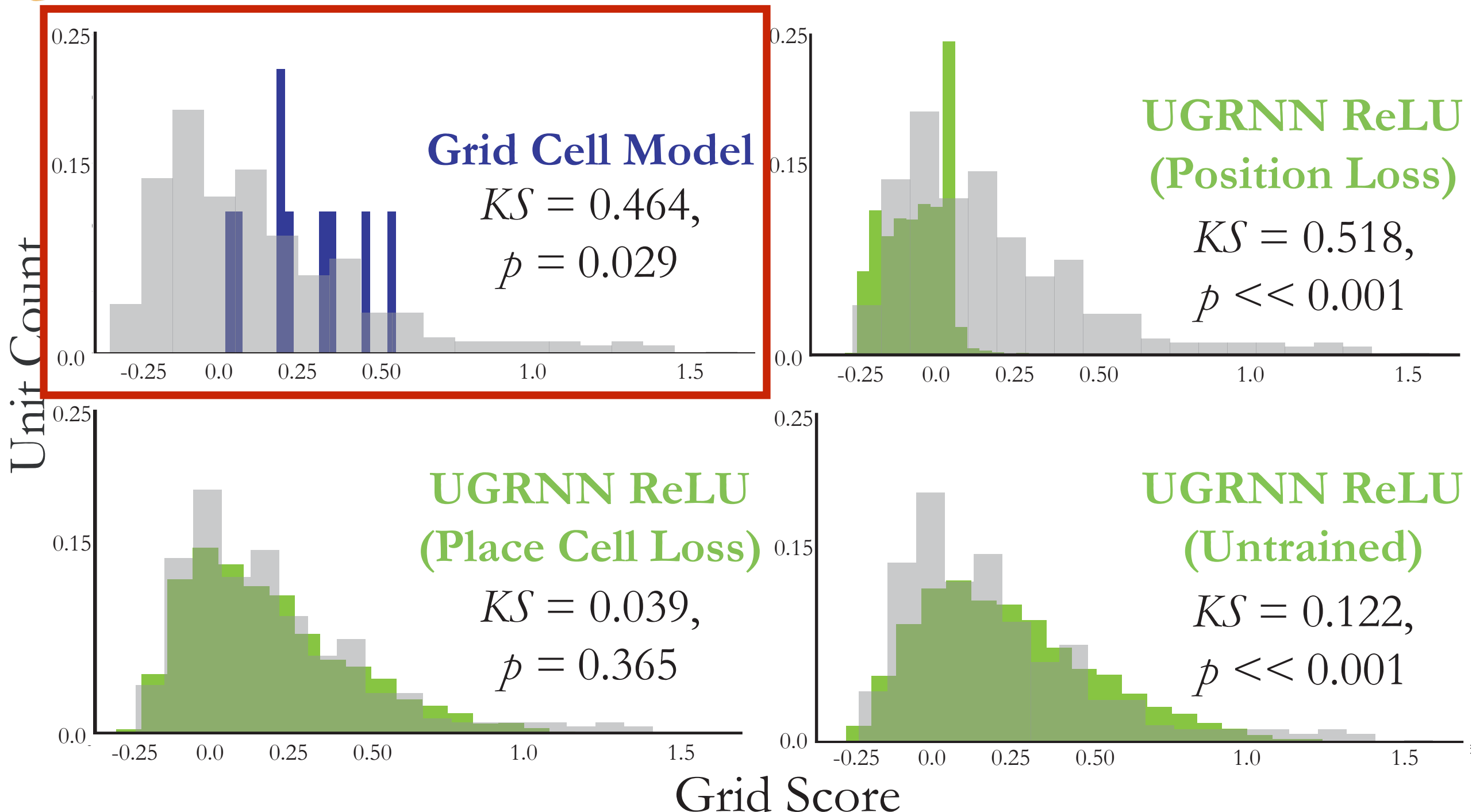
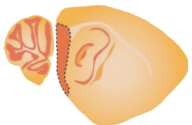
Grid score distribution does not require any parameter fitting



Best model class in terms of neural predictivity also matches grid score distribution in its own synthetic population

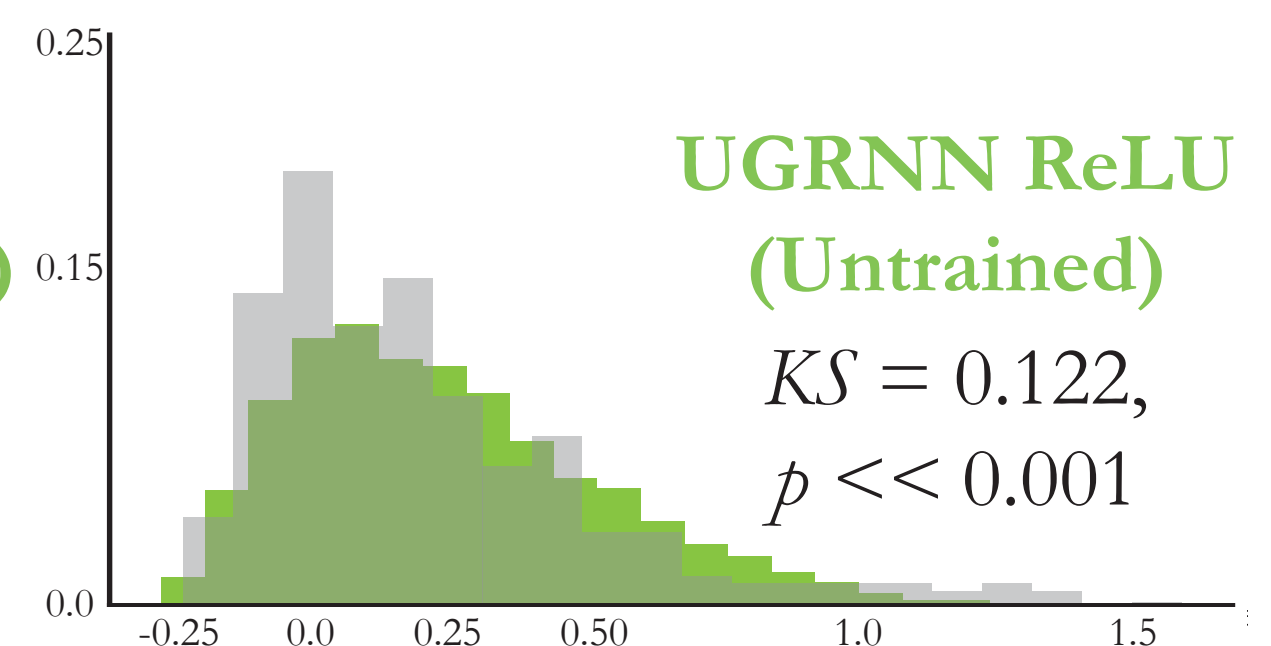
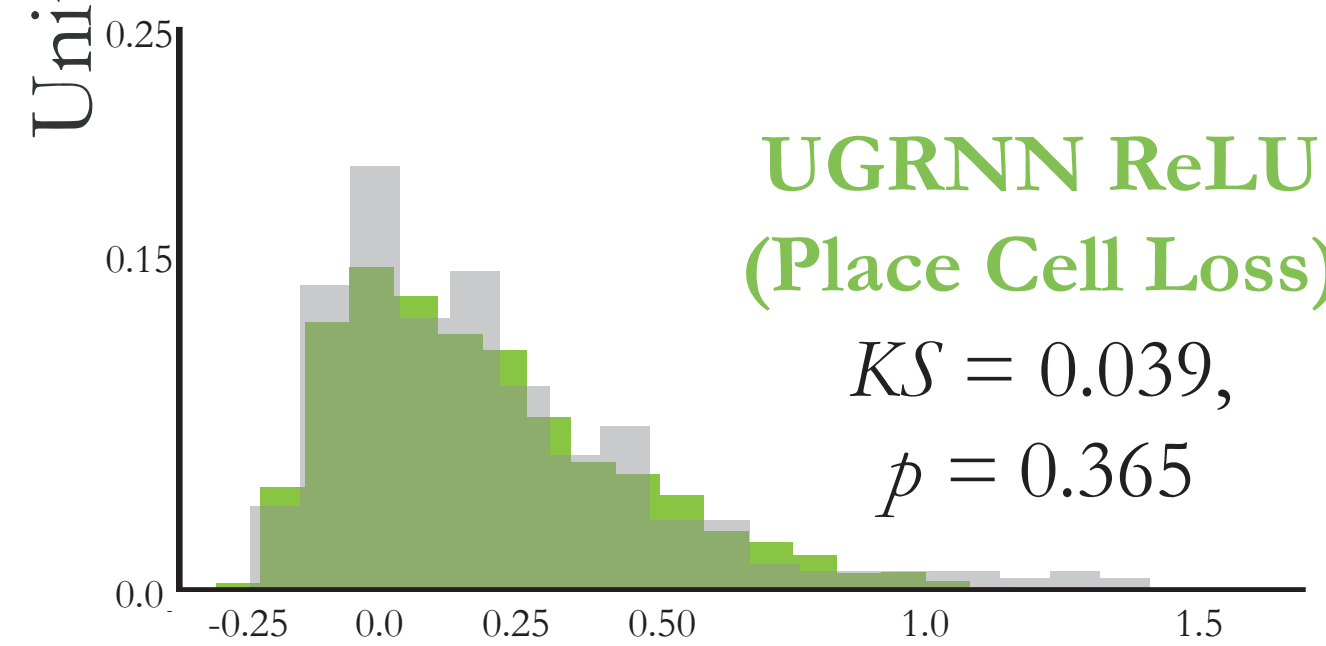
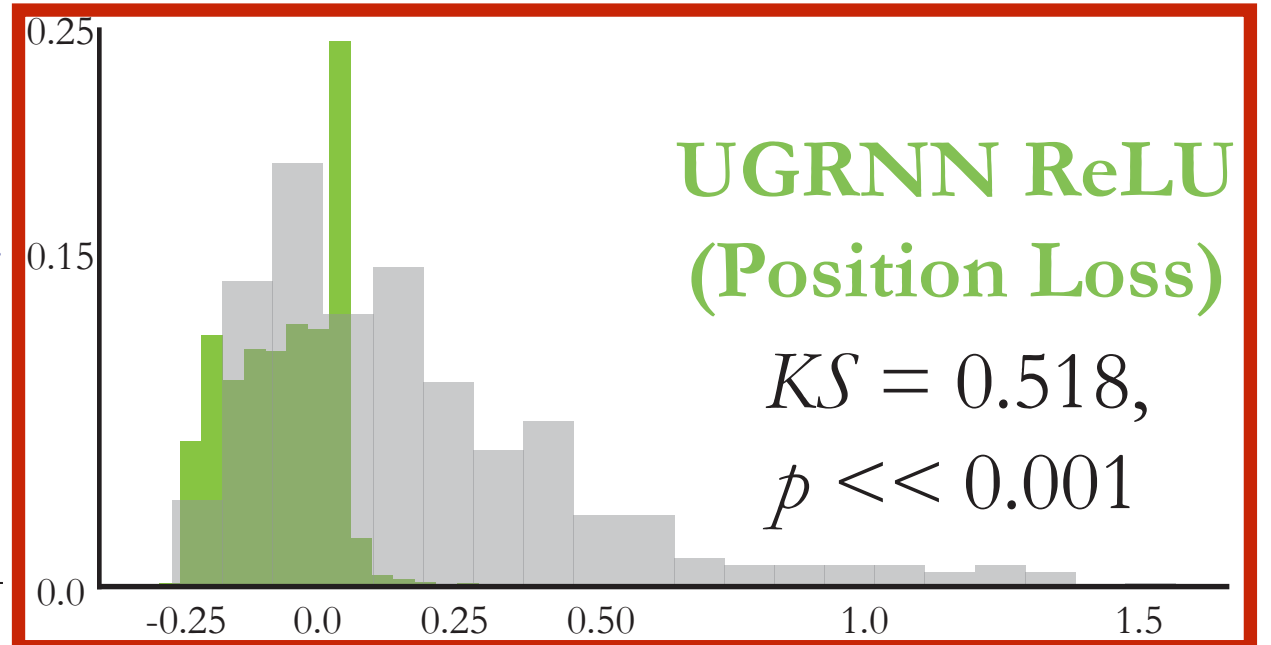
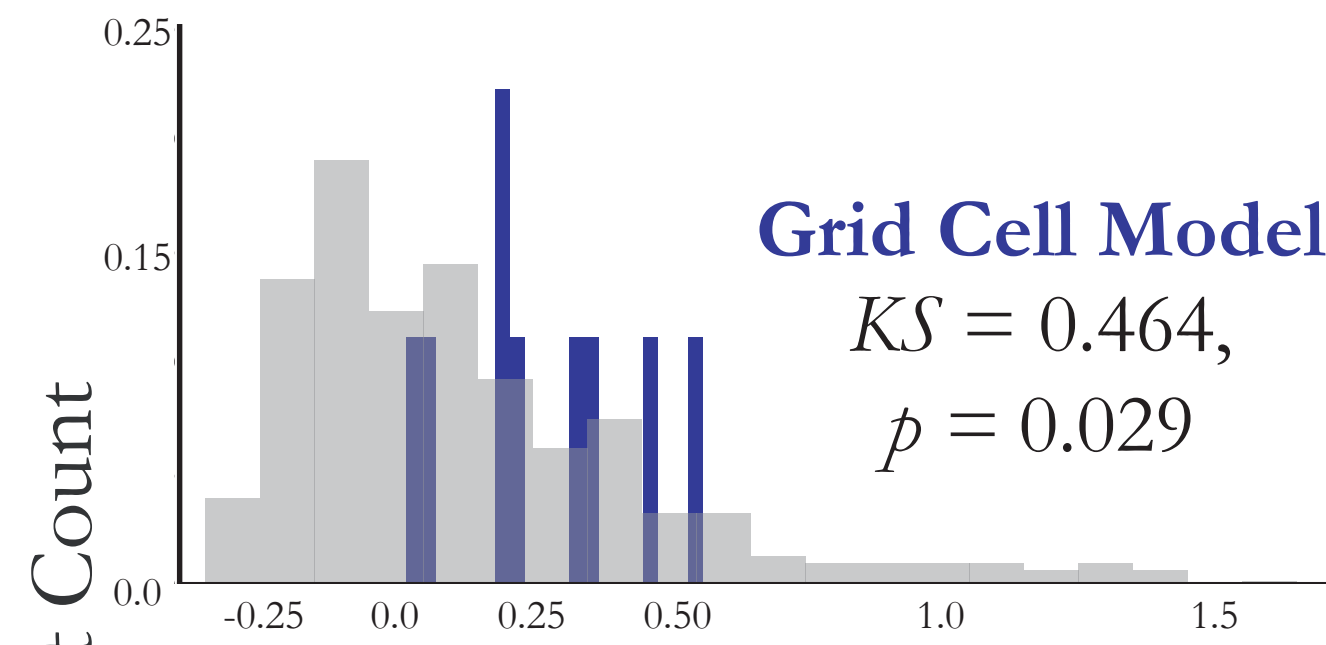
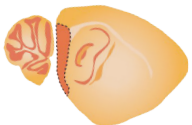


Low-rank model is too biased towards grid-like units



Task-optimized navigational models best predict the *entire* MEC population

Without place cell integration, the model is too biased towards *non* grid-like units



Grid Score

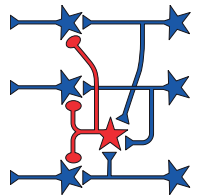
Takeaways

A = architecture class

T = task loss

1.

“Circuit”



3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



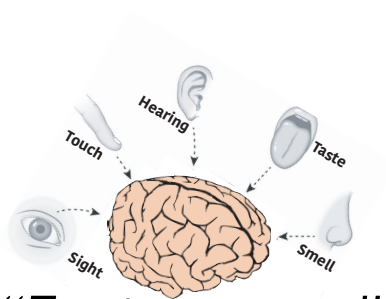
Neurobiological Puzzle(s):

1. How might we characterize what these heterogeneous cells do?
2. What functional role do these cells serve in the circuit, if any?

2.

“Environment”

D = data stream



Takeaways

A = architecture class

1. "Circuit"
gating + nonnegativity

T = task loss

3. "Ecological niche/behavior"
place cell integration
~~path integration~~

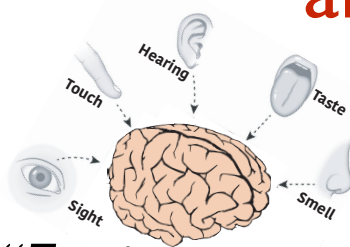
Neurobiological Puzzle(s):

1. How might we characterize what these heterogeneous cells do?
2. What functional role do these cells serve in the circuit, if any?

Partial Resolution:

1. Characterization: Close to perfect neural predictivity with the above constraints — more complex environments are needed!

2. Functional Role: Grid cells are not functionally unique! Both heterogeneous and grid cells arise jointly through task optimization.



2. "Environment"

D = data stream

Broad Takeaways

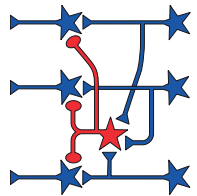
- ▶ Recurrent Connections in the Primate Ventral Stream
Enable a high performing network to fit in cortex, attaining computational power through temporal rather than spatial complexity during core object recognition.
- ▶ Goal-Driven Models of Mouse Visual Cortex
Low-resolution, shallow network that makes best use of the mouse's limited resources to create a light-weight, general-purpose visual system.
- ▶ Heterogeneity in Rodent Medial Entorhinal Cortex
Heterogeneous cells are not functionally segregated from classic cell types, but rather form a continuum of cells, shaped by a process of biological performance optimization.

Building and Identifying Biologically-Plausible Learning Rules

A = architecture class

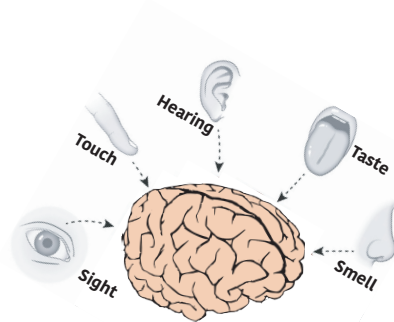
1.

“Circuit”



T = task loss

3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



2.

“Environment”



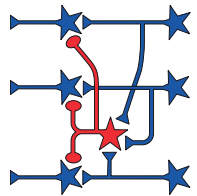
D = data stream

Building and Identifying Biologically-Plausible Learning Rules

A = architecture class

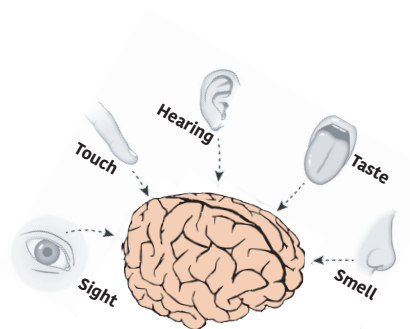
1.

“Circuit”



T = task loss

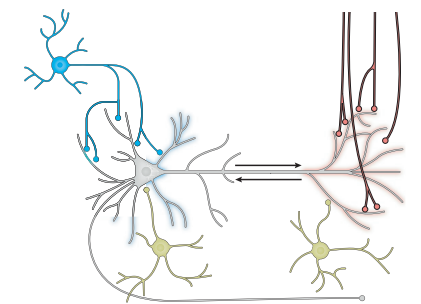
3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



2.

“Environment”

D = data stream



4. “Developmental mechanism”

Learning Rule

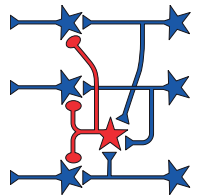
Building and Identifying Biologically-Plausible Learning Rules

A = architecture class

T = task loss

1.

“Circuit”



3. “Ecological niche/behavior”



Goal: Identifying Learning Rules in Neural Circuits



Dan Kunin



Javier Sagastuy-Brena



Jon Bloom

Two Routes to Scalable Credit Assignment without Weight Symmetry

Int'l Conf. Mach. Learn. 2020

- * Making local rules that actually *work* at scale
- * “Localizing” apparently non-local rules



Surya Ganguli



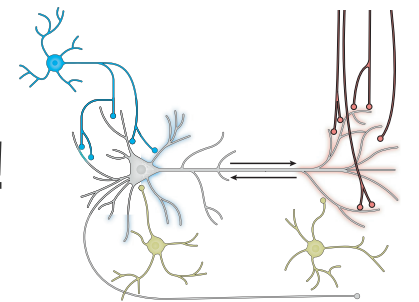
Sanjana Srivastava

Identifying Learning Rules from Neural Network Observables

NeurIPS 2020 (chosen for spotlight presentation)

- * How would you even tell if a given rule was at work from actual neural data?
- * Might actually be possible to tell from activities alone!

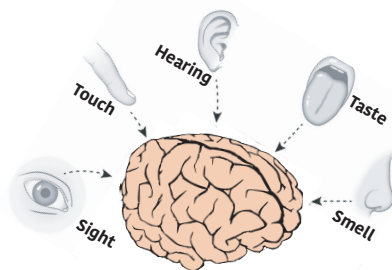
(Hard to record from synapses in vivo)



2.

“Environment”

D = data stream



Joshua Melander

Distinct in vivo dynamics of excitatory synapses onto cortical pyramidal neurons and parvalbumin-positive interneurons

Cell Reports 2021

4. “Developmental mechanism”

Learning Rule

Outline

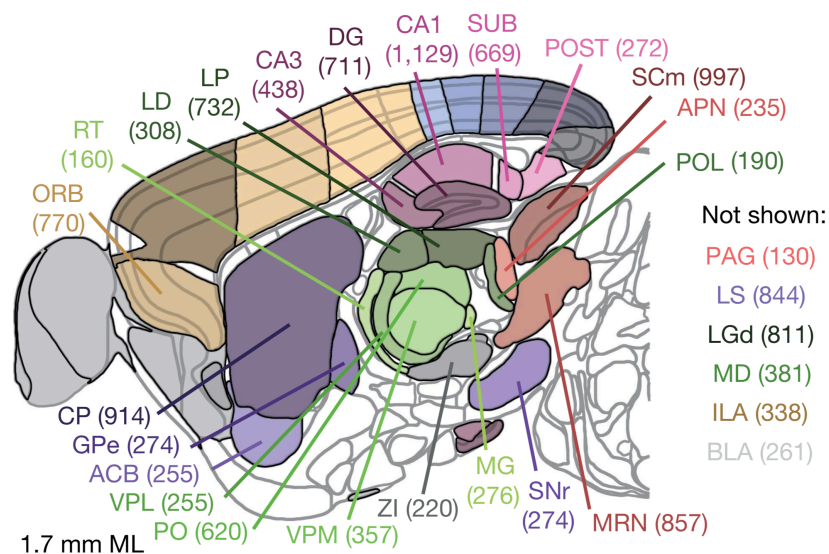
- ▶ Recurrent Connections in the Primate Ventral Stream
- ▶ Goal-Driven Models of Mouse Visual Cortex
- ▶ Heterogeneity in Rodent Medial Entorhinal Cortex
- ▶ Future Directions

Next Steps

Next Steps

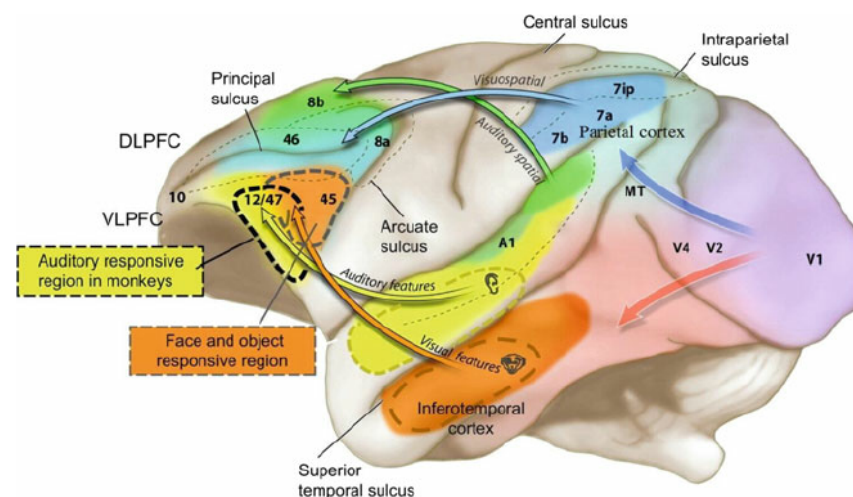
Decades of neuroscience research have revealed that the brain has a modular, integrative design that involves the coordination of multiple subsystems.

Mouse



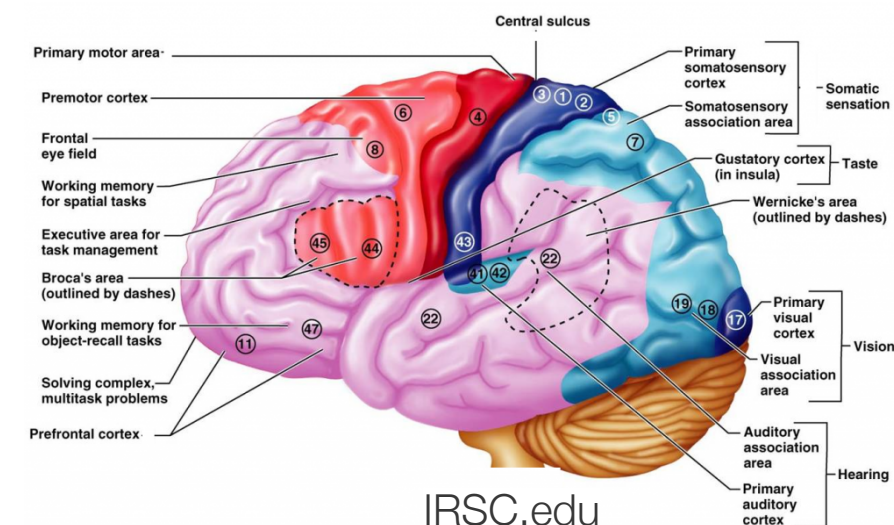
Steinmetz, Zatzka-Haas, Carandini, Harris *Nature* 2019

Macaque



Poon *et al.* 2013

Human



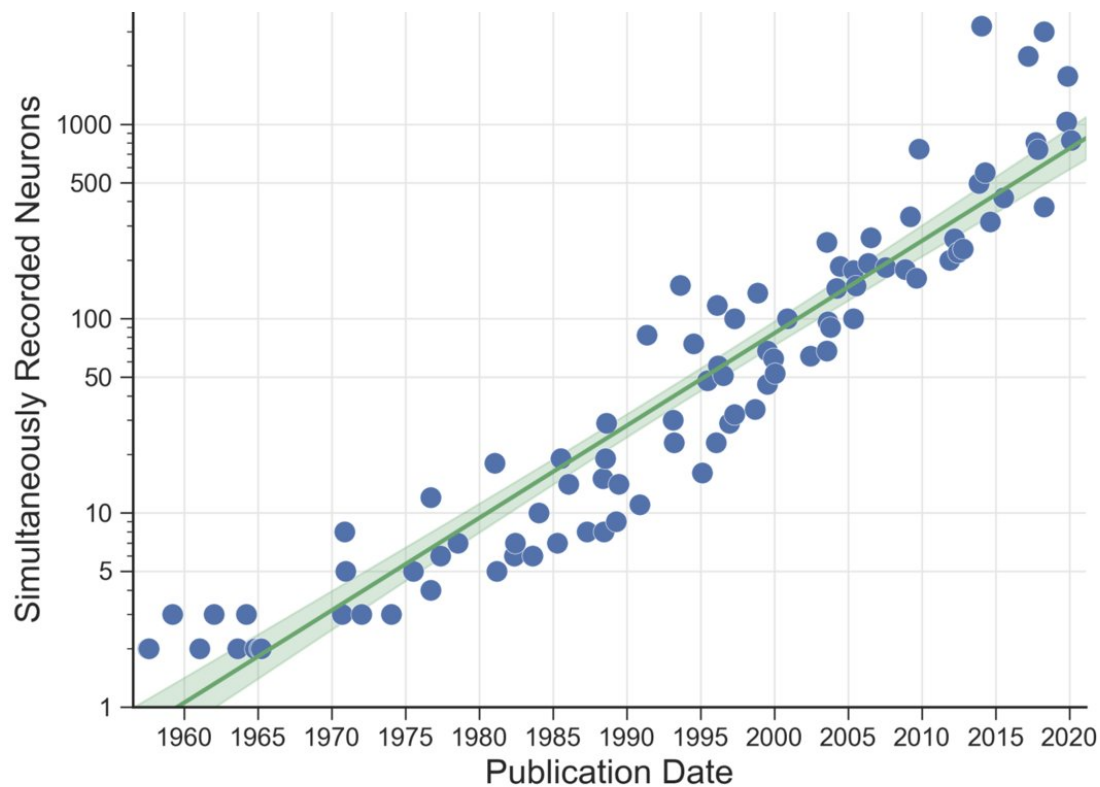
IRSC.edu

Next Steps

Decades of neuroscience research have revealed that the brain has a modular, integrative design that involves the coordination of multiple subsystems.

Large-scale neural data are increasingly collected in awake, behaving animals — our understanding of these data necessitates that we begin to understand how these systems combine together.

Number of neurons recorded doubling every 6 years



Ian Stevenson



Angelaki Lab (New York University)

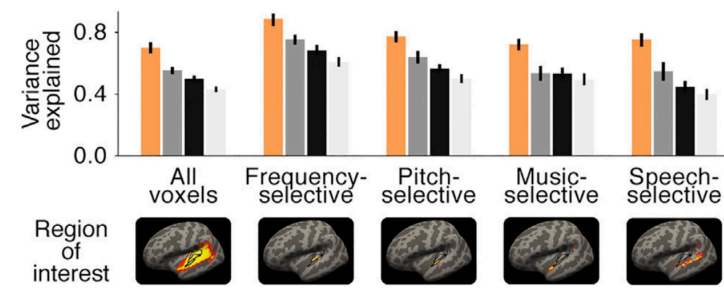
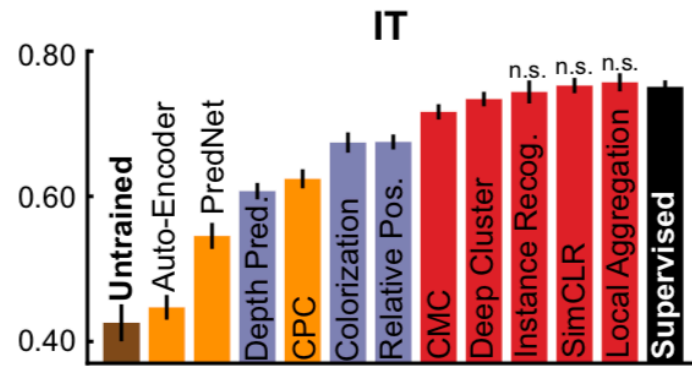
International Brain Laboratory 2022

Next Steps

Goal-driven models have typically been functionally restricted to a single system, and are structurally mapped to one neuroanatomical pathway.

Reasonable models for individual systems

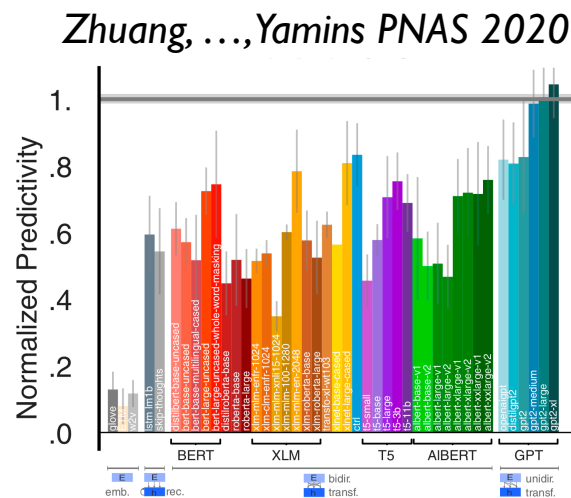
Visual System



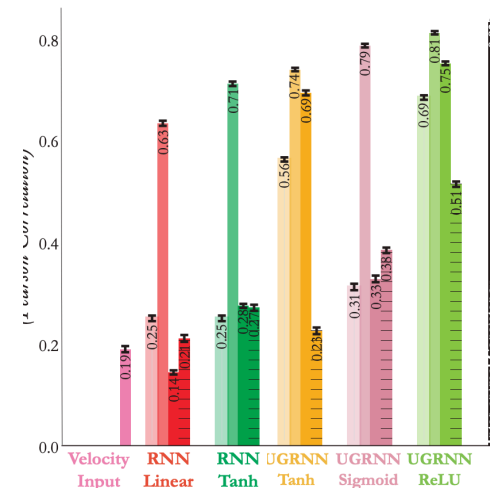
Auditory System

Kell*, Yamins* ..., McDermott Neuron 2018

Language System



Schrimpf, ..., Fedorenko PNAS 2021



Entorhinal-Hippocampal System

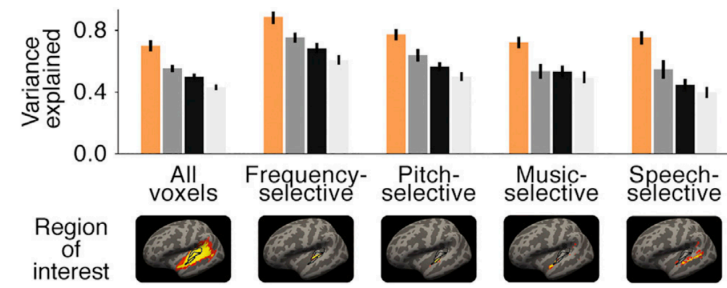
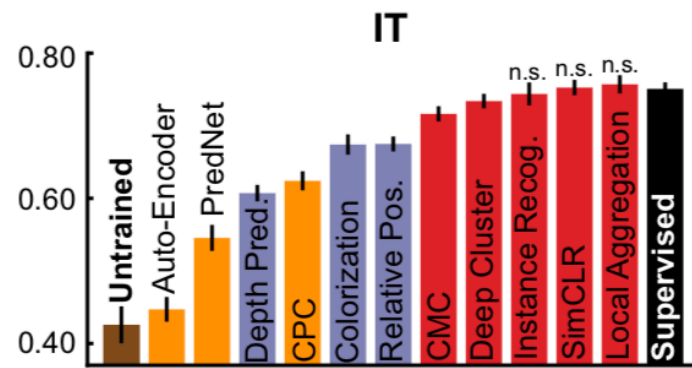
Nayebi, ..., Yamins NeurlPS 2021

Next Steps

Goal-driven models have typically been functionally restricted to a single system, and are structurally mapped to one neuroanatomical pathway.

But these systems do not generate all behaviors on their own!

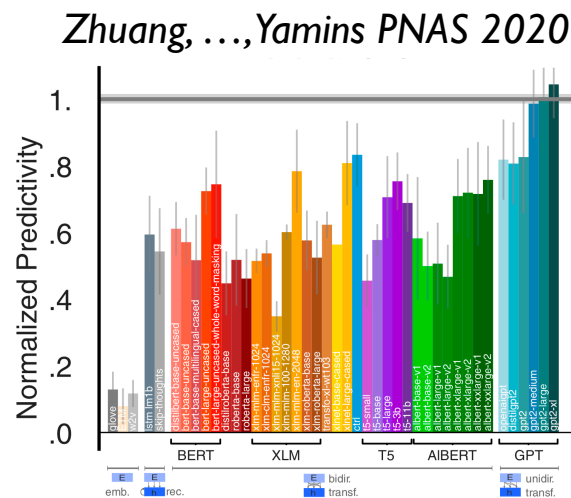
Visual System



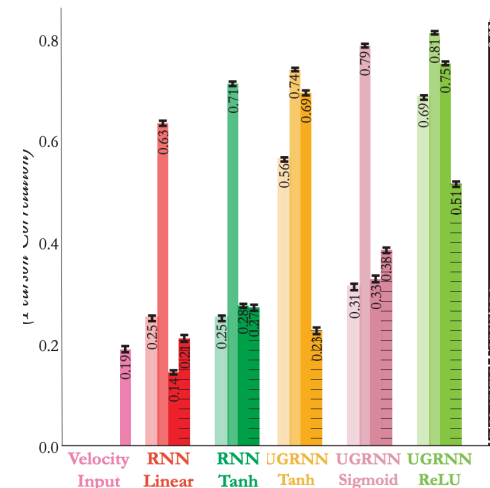
Auditory System

Kell*, Yamins* ..., McDermott Neuron 2018

Language System



Schrimpf, ..., Fedorenko PNAS 2021



Entorhinal-Hippocampal System

Nayebi, ..., Yamins NeurlPS 2021

Complex Behaviors *Require* Integration

Multi-modal perception

(e.g. **vision, audition, olfaction, somatosensory cortices**)

Object manipulation

(requires perception, intuitive physics, and motor coordination —
fronto-parietal network, visual, and motor cortices)

Autonomous navigation in challenging environments

(coordination of e.g. **visual, entorhinal, hippocampus, and motor cortices**)

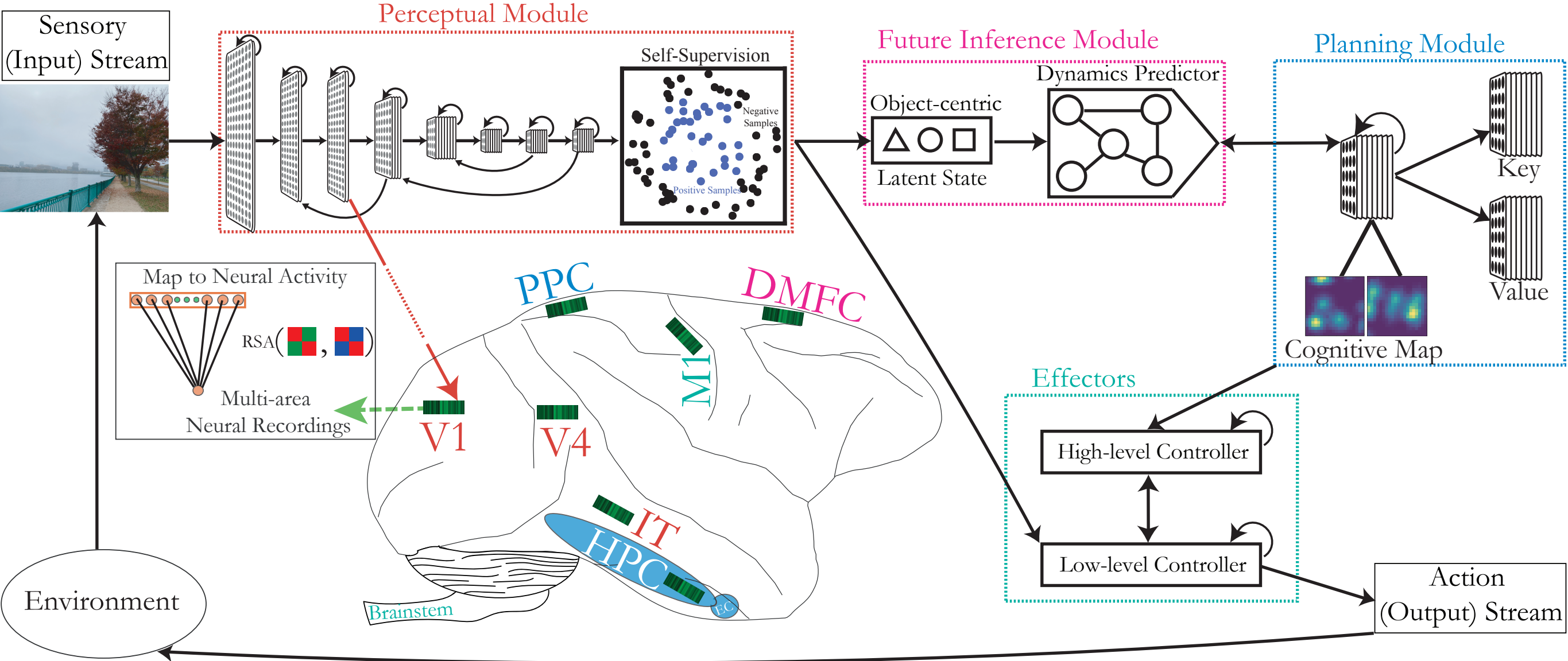
Sensorimotor coordination in complex, unpredictable environments

(**basal ganglia, brainstem, motor cortices**)

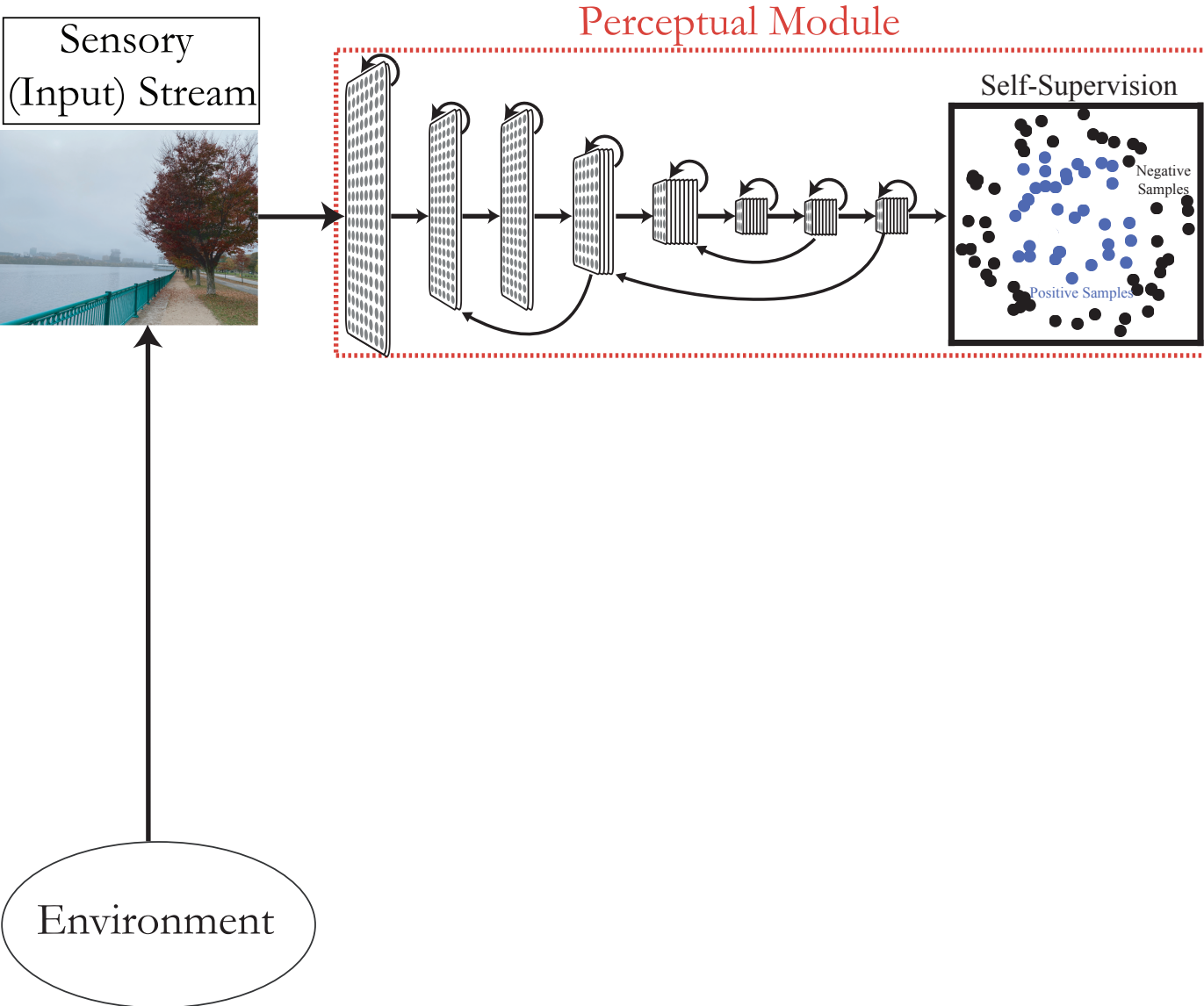
Relational inference and planning

(coordination of e.g. **sensory, hippocampus, and parietal cortices**)

Next Steps: Integrative Agents to Reverse-Engineer Natural Cognition



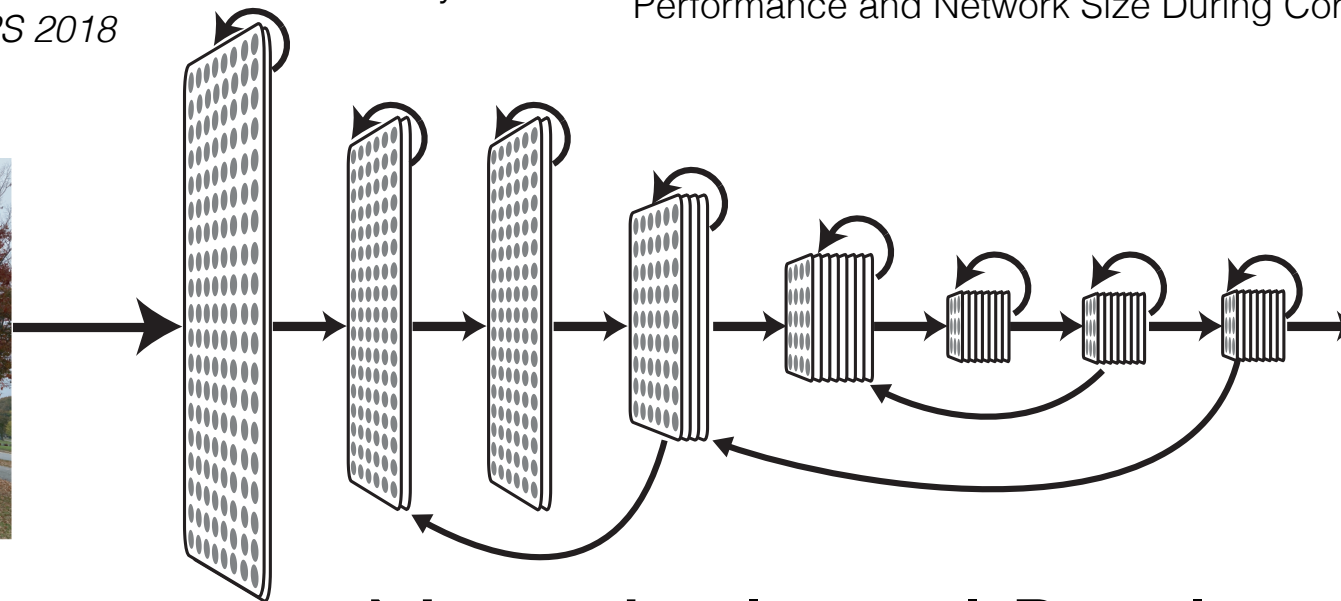
Next Steps: Improving Perceptual Intelligence



Next Steps: Improving Perceptual Intelligence

A. Nayebi*, D. Bear*, J. Kubilius*, *et al.*
Task-Driven Convolutional Recurrent Models of the Visual System.
NeurIPS 2018

A. Nayebi, et al.
Recurrent Connections in the Primate Ventral Visual Stream Mediate a Tradeoff Between Task Performance and Network Size During Core Object Recognition. *Neural Computation 2022*



Neurobiological Puzzle:

What is the role of recurrence in the primate ventral stream?

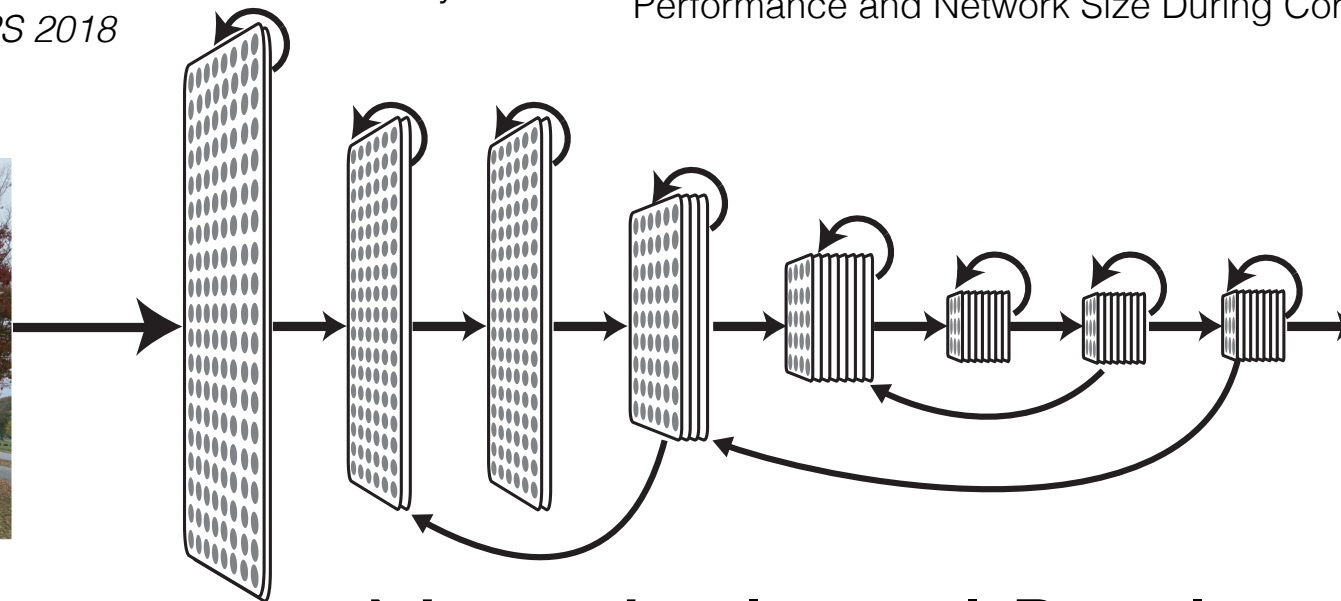
Partial Resolution:

Enables high performance by trading off space with time,
in particular space ~ # of neurons (not # of synapses).

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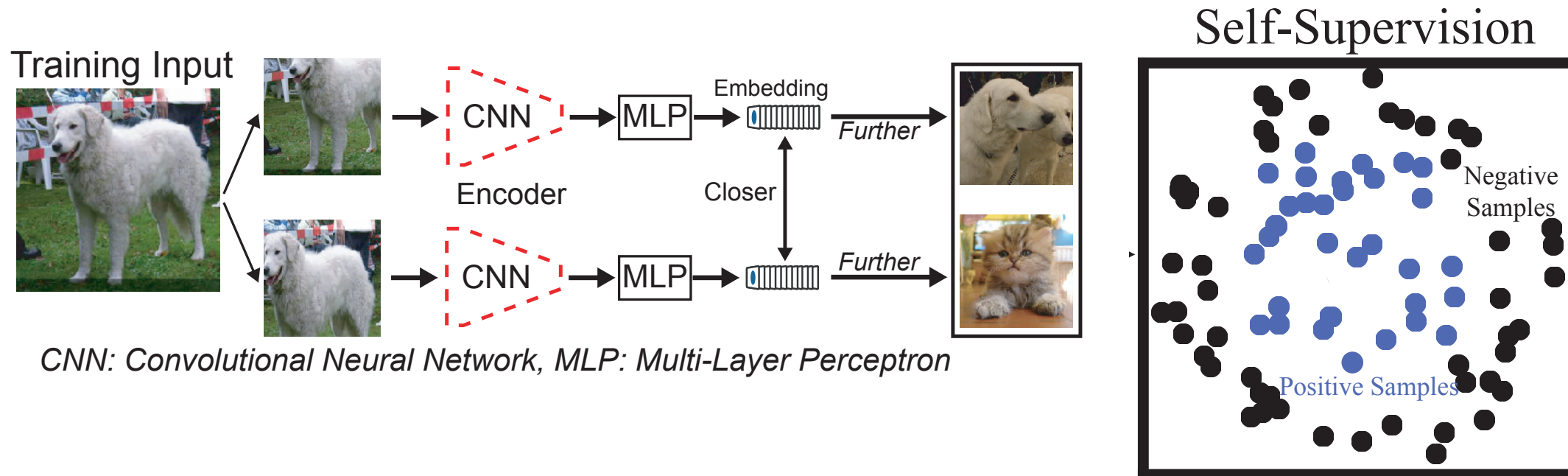
Core Unsolved Question:

What about in dynamic scenes beyond the first 200 ms?

Next Steps: Improving Perceptual Intelligence

A. Nayebi*, N. Kong* *et al.*

Mouse visual cortex as a limited resource system that self-learns an ecologically-general representation. *bioRxiv (2021)*



Neurobiological Puzzle:

What are the core differences between mouse visual cortex and the primate ventral stream?

Partial Resolution:

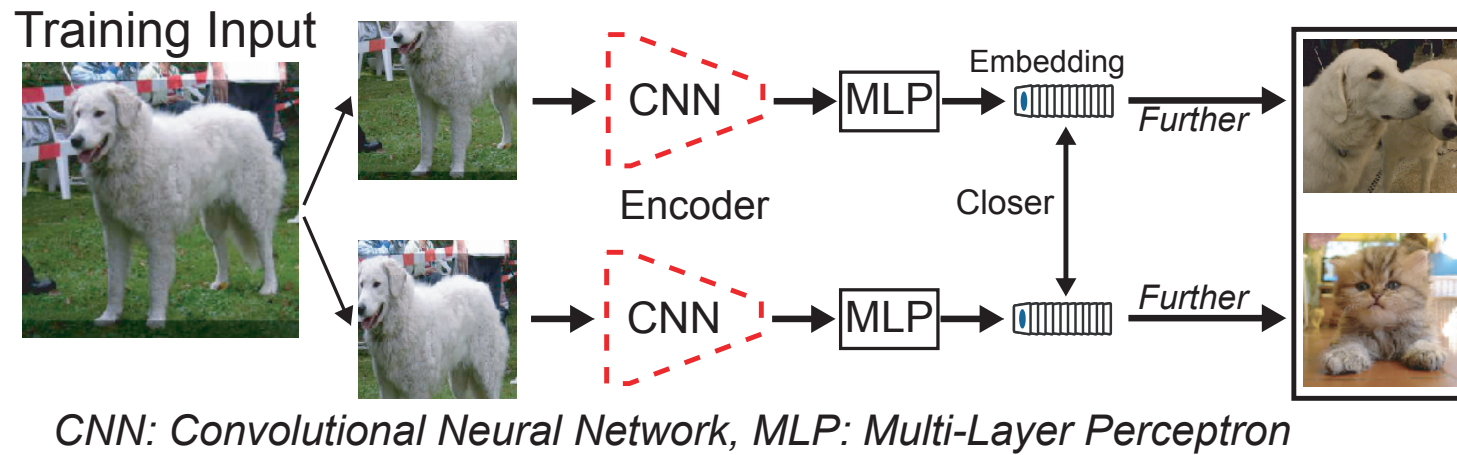
Mouse visual cortex is a general-purpose system utilizing its limited resources to perform a variety of visual tasks.

In contrast to the deep, high-resolution, and *task-specific* primate ventral stream.

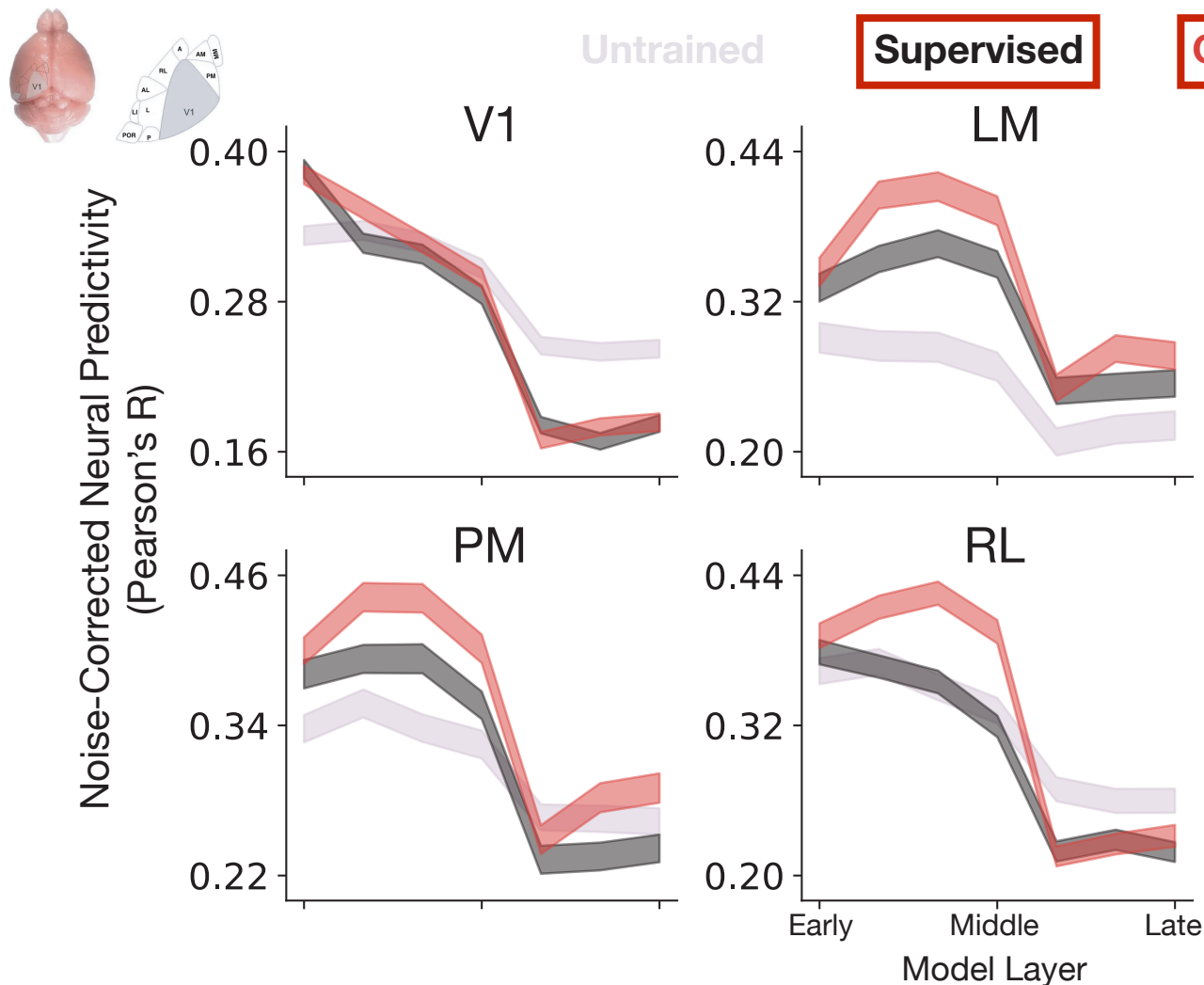
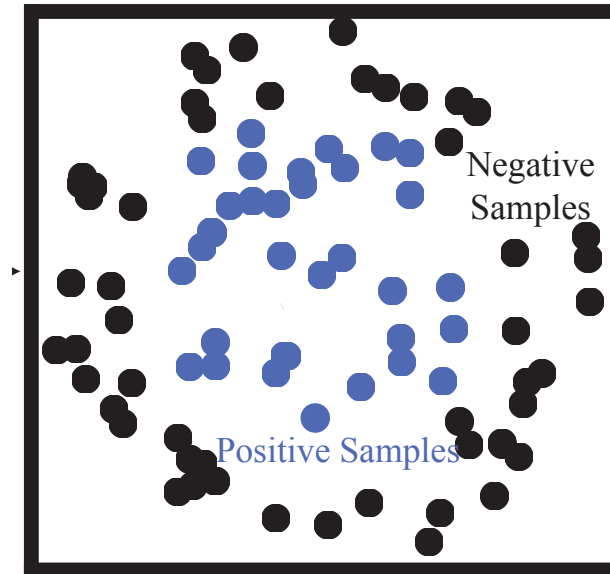
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Self-Supervision

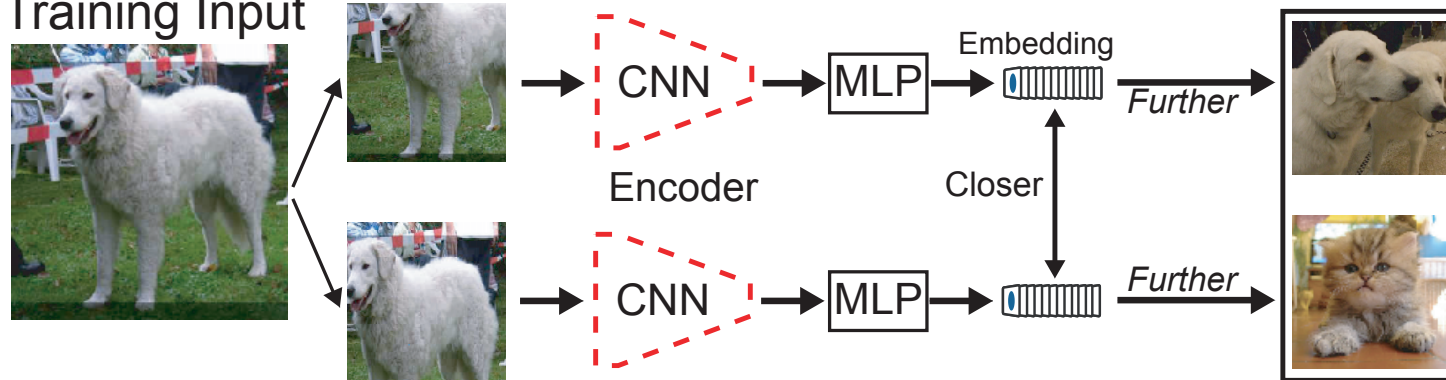


Next Steps: Improving Perceptual Intelligence

A. Nayebi*, N. Kong* *et al.*

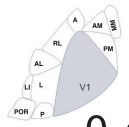
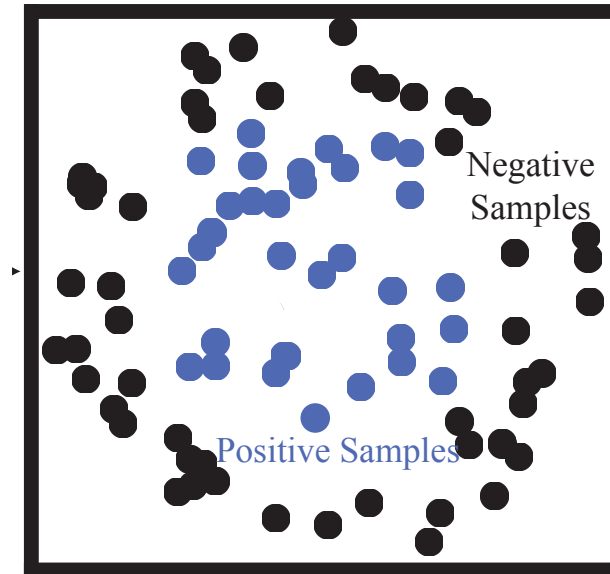
Mouse visual cortex as a limited resource system that self-learns an ecologically-general representation. *bioRxiv (2021)*

Training Input

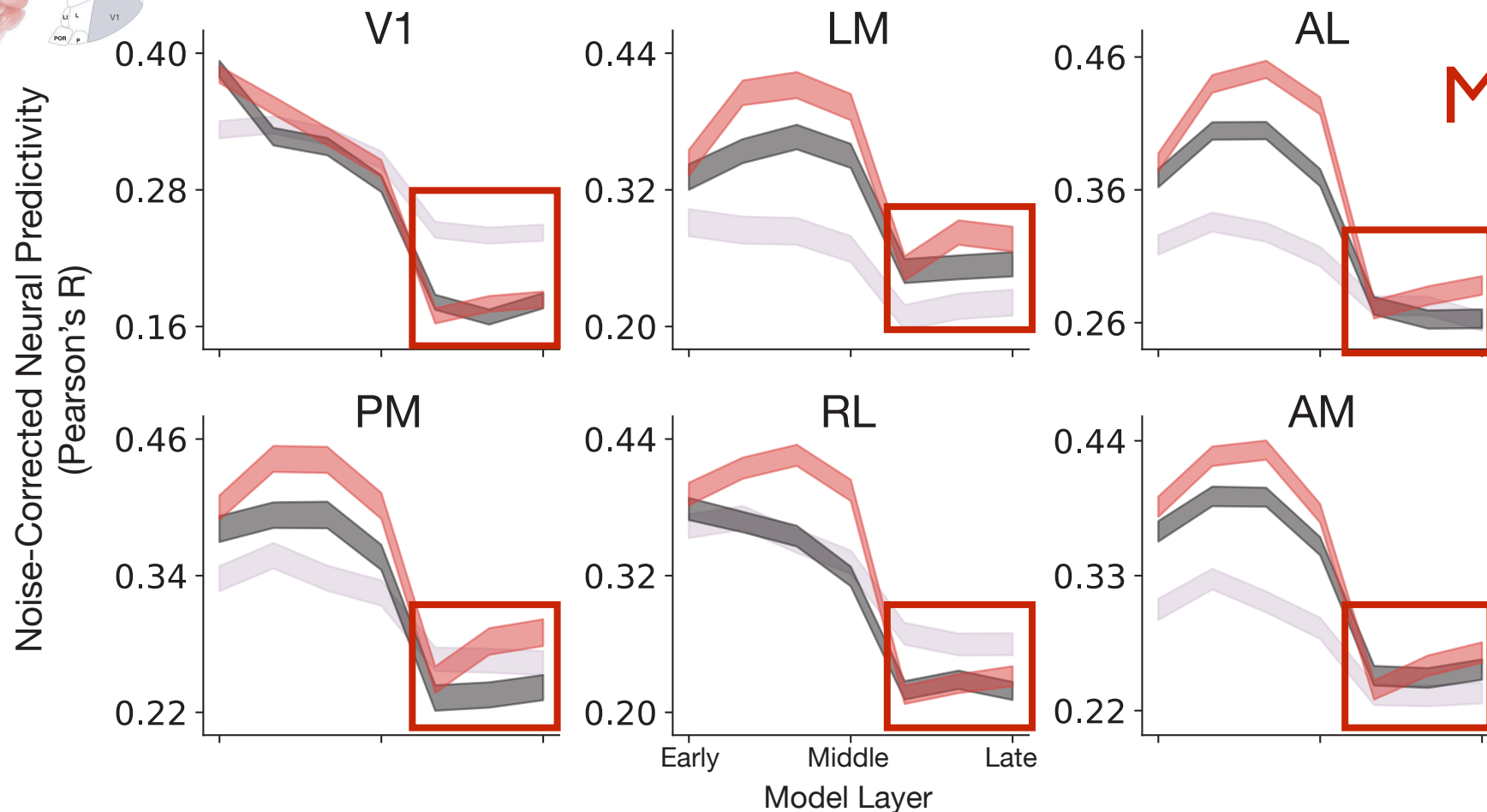


CNN: Convolutional Neural Network, MLP: Multi-Layer Perceptron

Self-Supervision



Untrained Supervised Contrastive

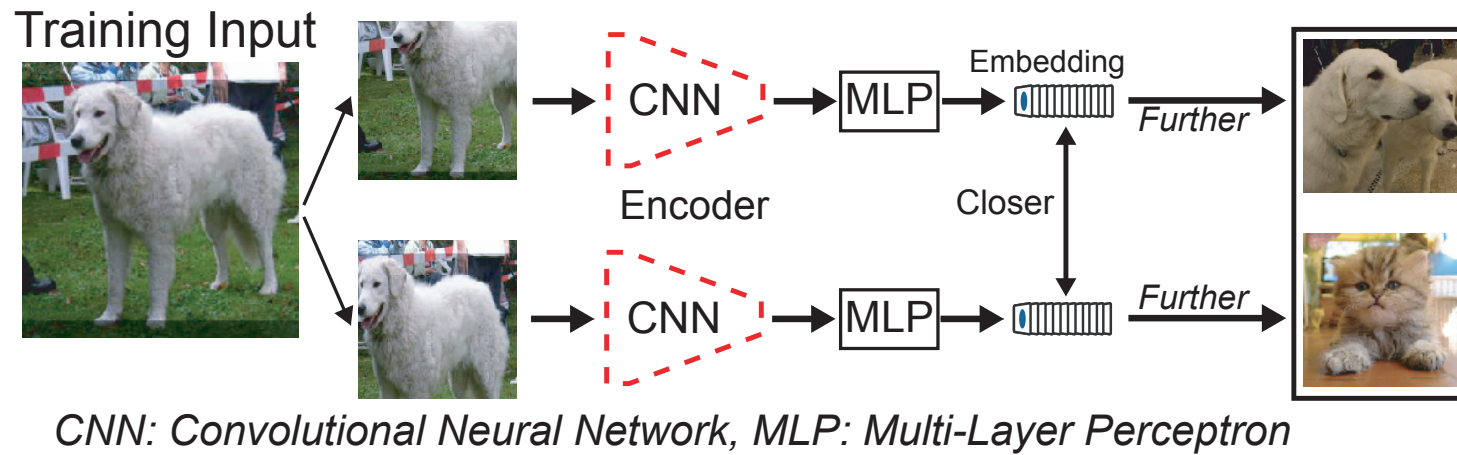


Models are still too deep

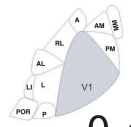
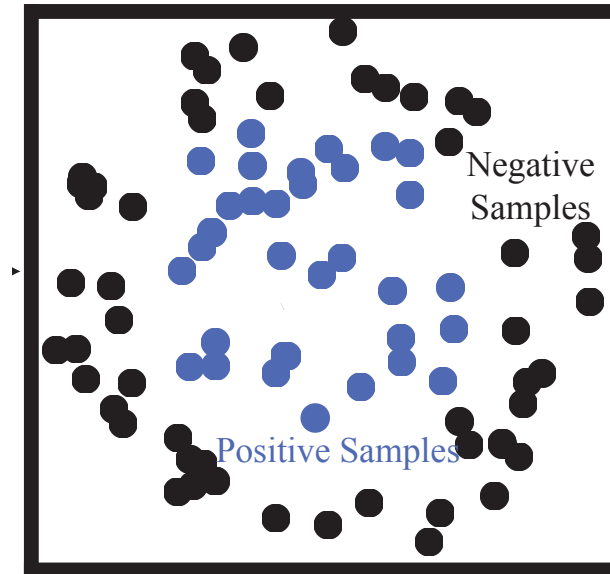
Next Steps: Improving Perceptual Intelligence

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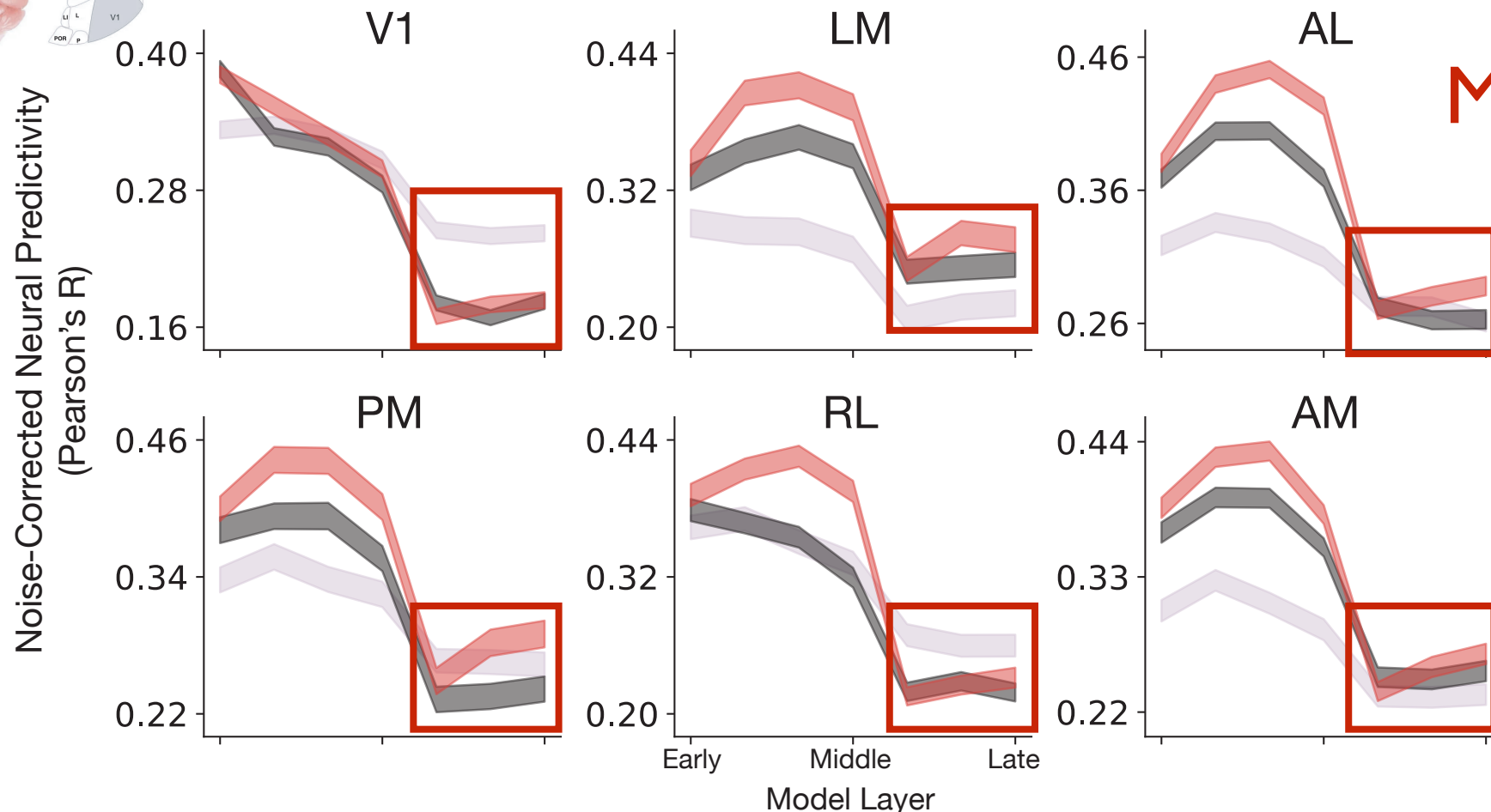
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Self-Supervision



Untrained Supervised Contrastive



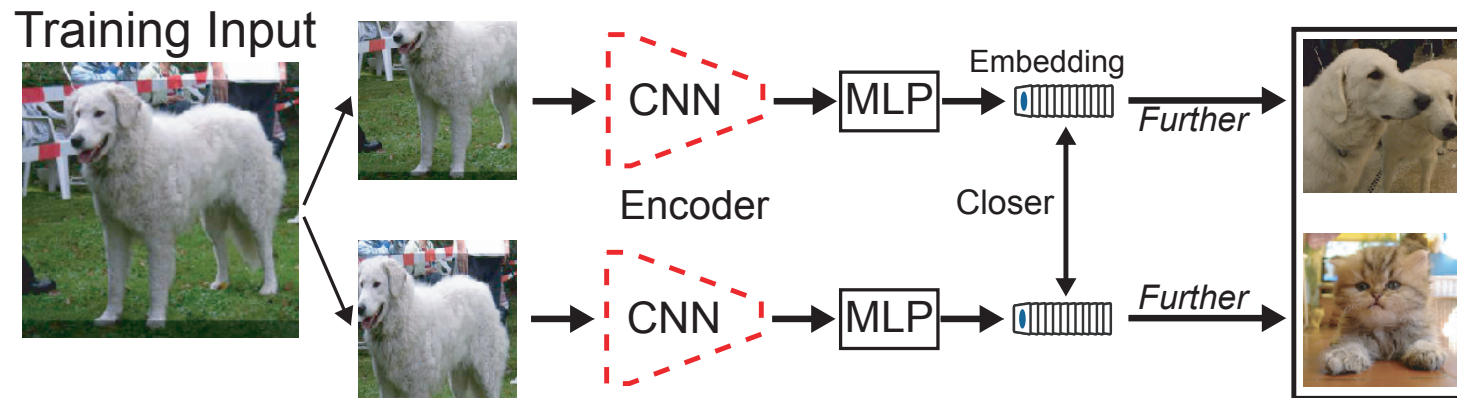
Models are still too deep

Shallower, feedforward models aren't sufficient either!

Next Steps: Improving Perceptual Intelligence

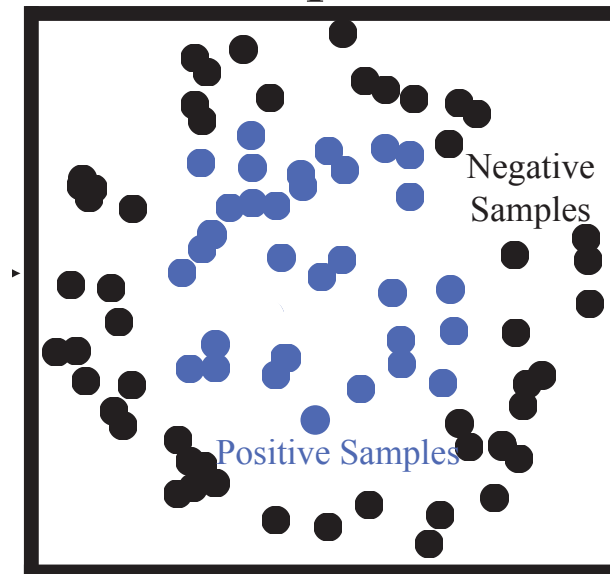
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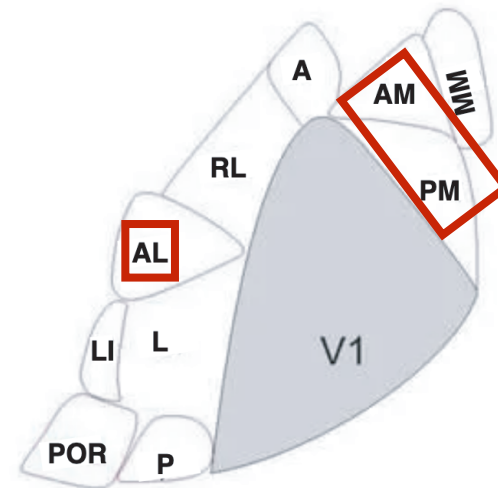
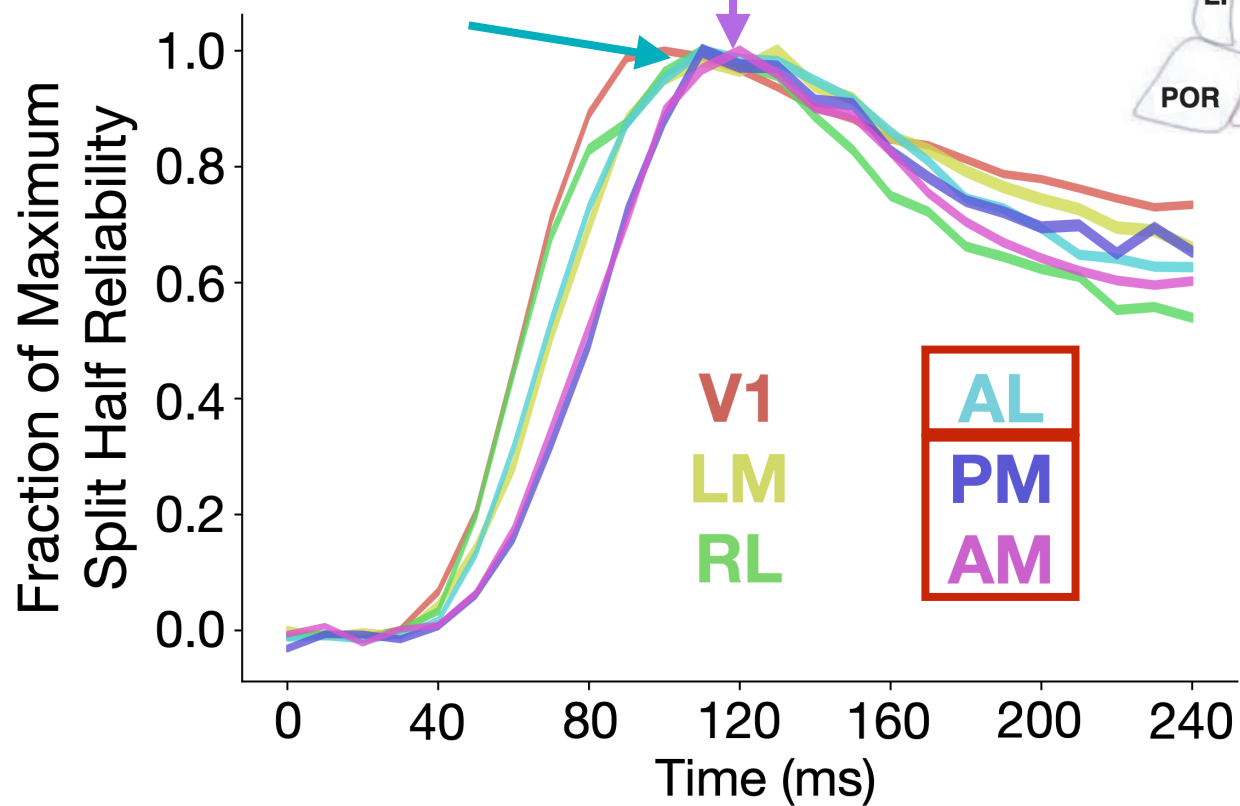


CNN: Convolutional Neural Network, MLP: Multi-Layer Perceptron

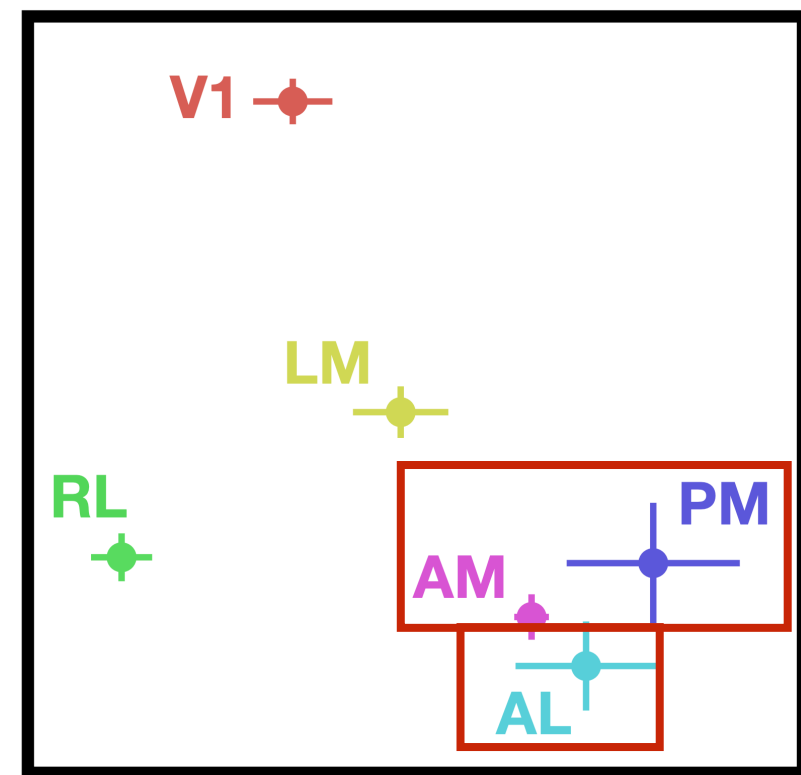
Self-Supervision



Temporal Hierarchy



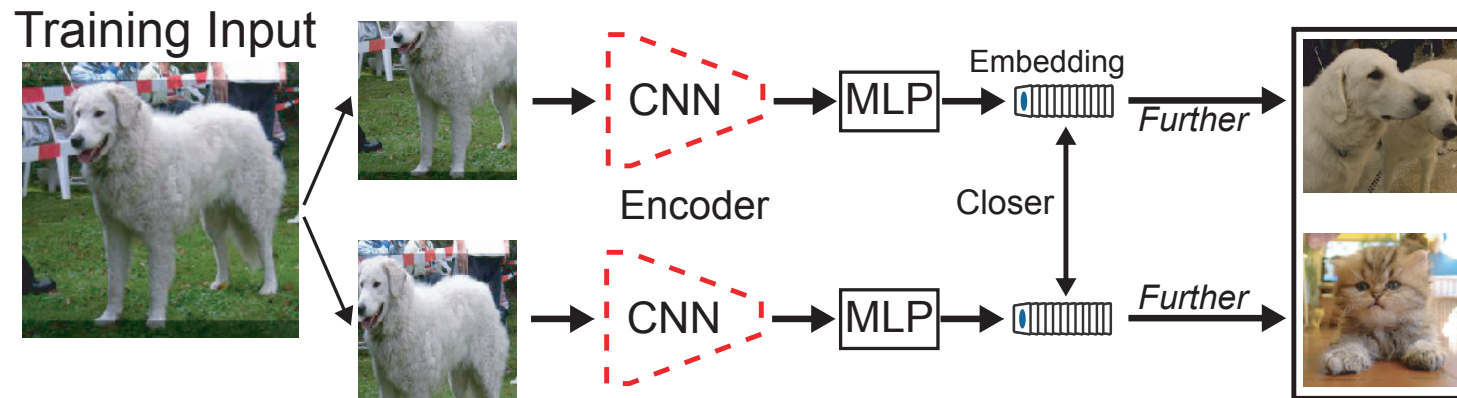
Functional Hierarchy 2D MDS Projection



Next Steps: Improving Perceptual Intelligence

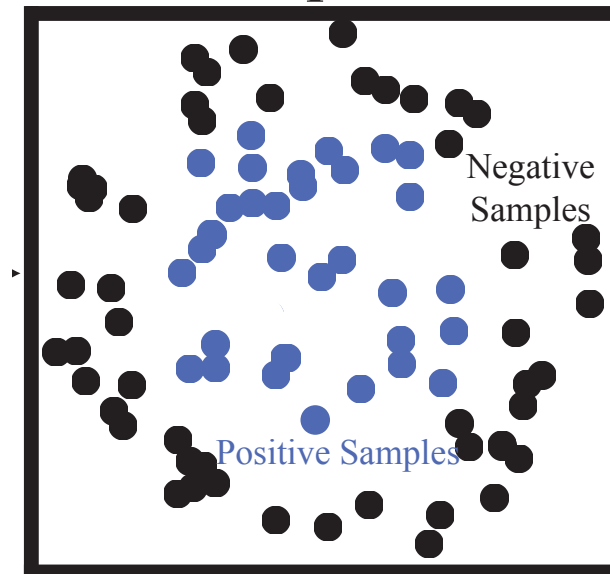
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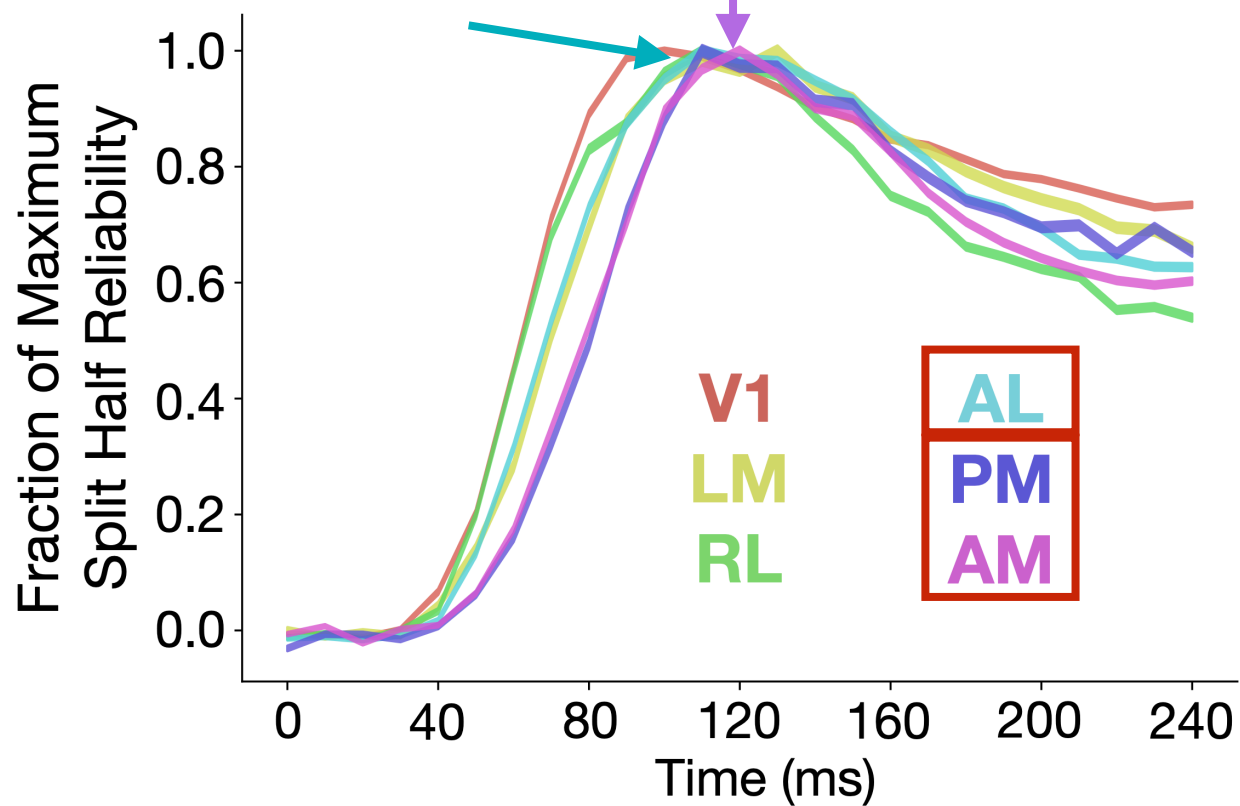
Self-Supervision



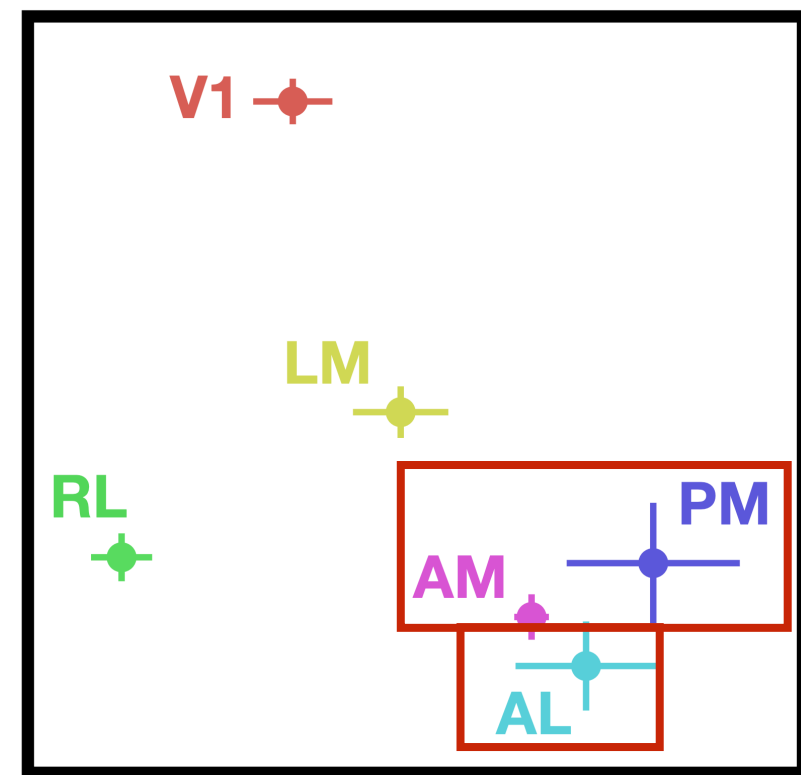
Core Unsolved Question:

Circuit busting with a shallower, recurrent network?

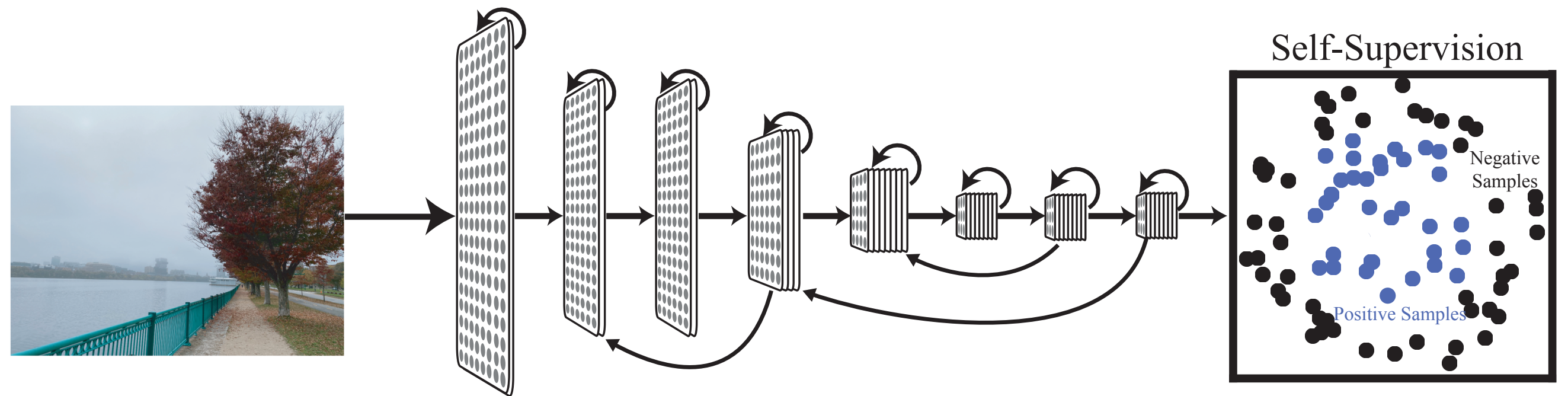
Temporal Hierarchy



Functional Hierarchy 2D MDS Projection

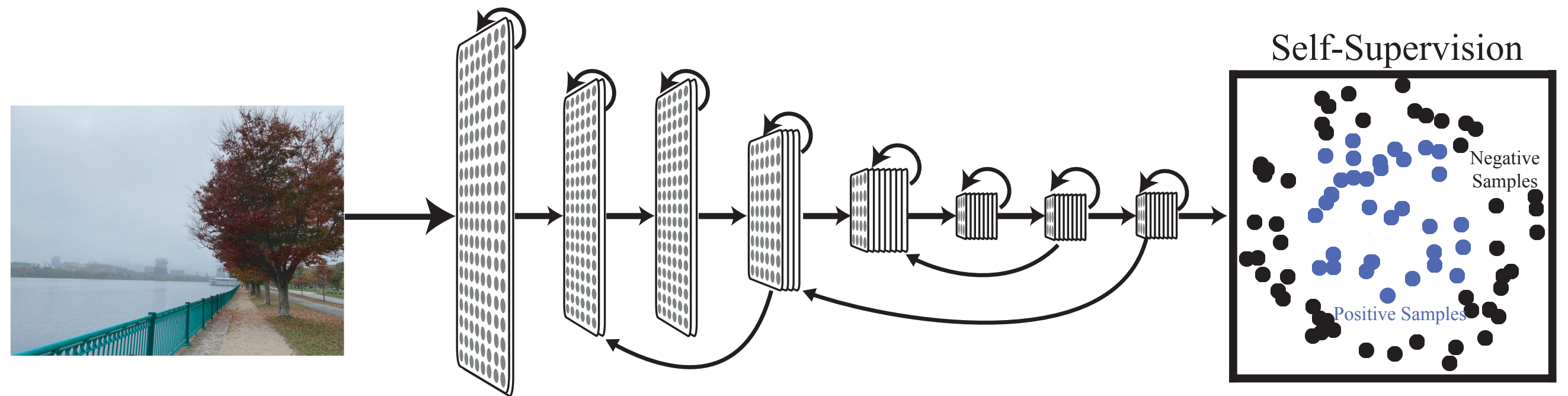


Combined Recurrent, Self-Supervised models



Combined recurrent, self-supervised models

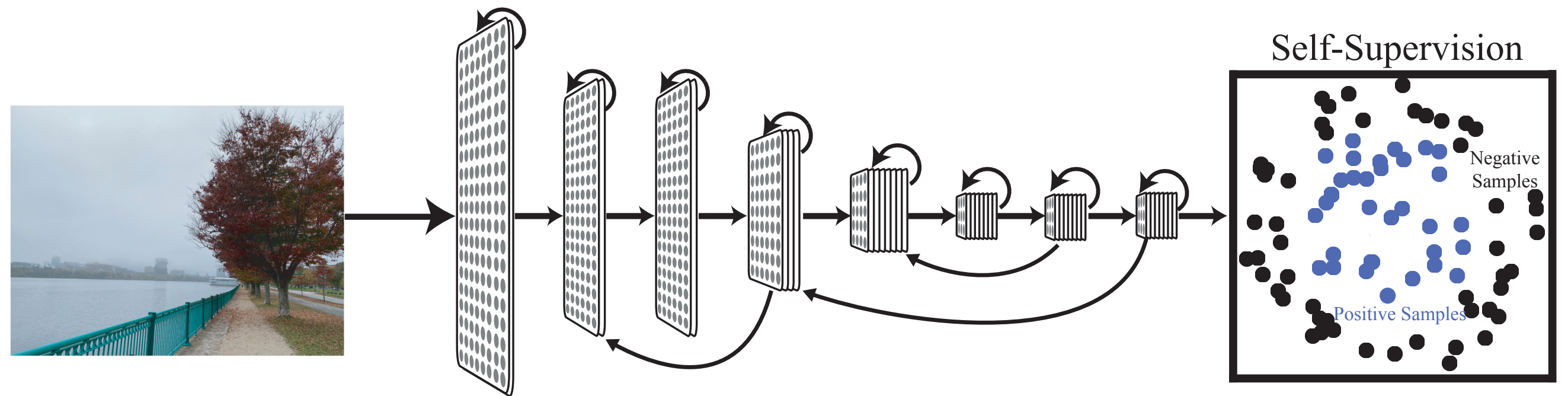
Combined Recurrent, Self-Supervised models



Combined recurrent, self-supervised models

Directly interfaces with the dynamic inputs animals naturally encounter

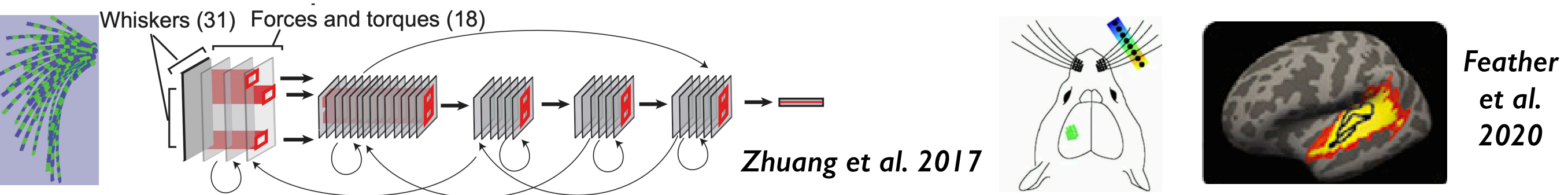
Combined Recurrent, Self-Supervised models



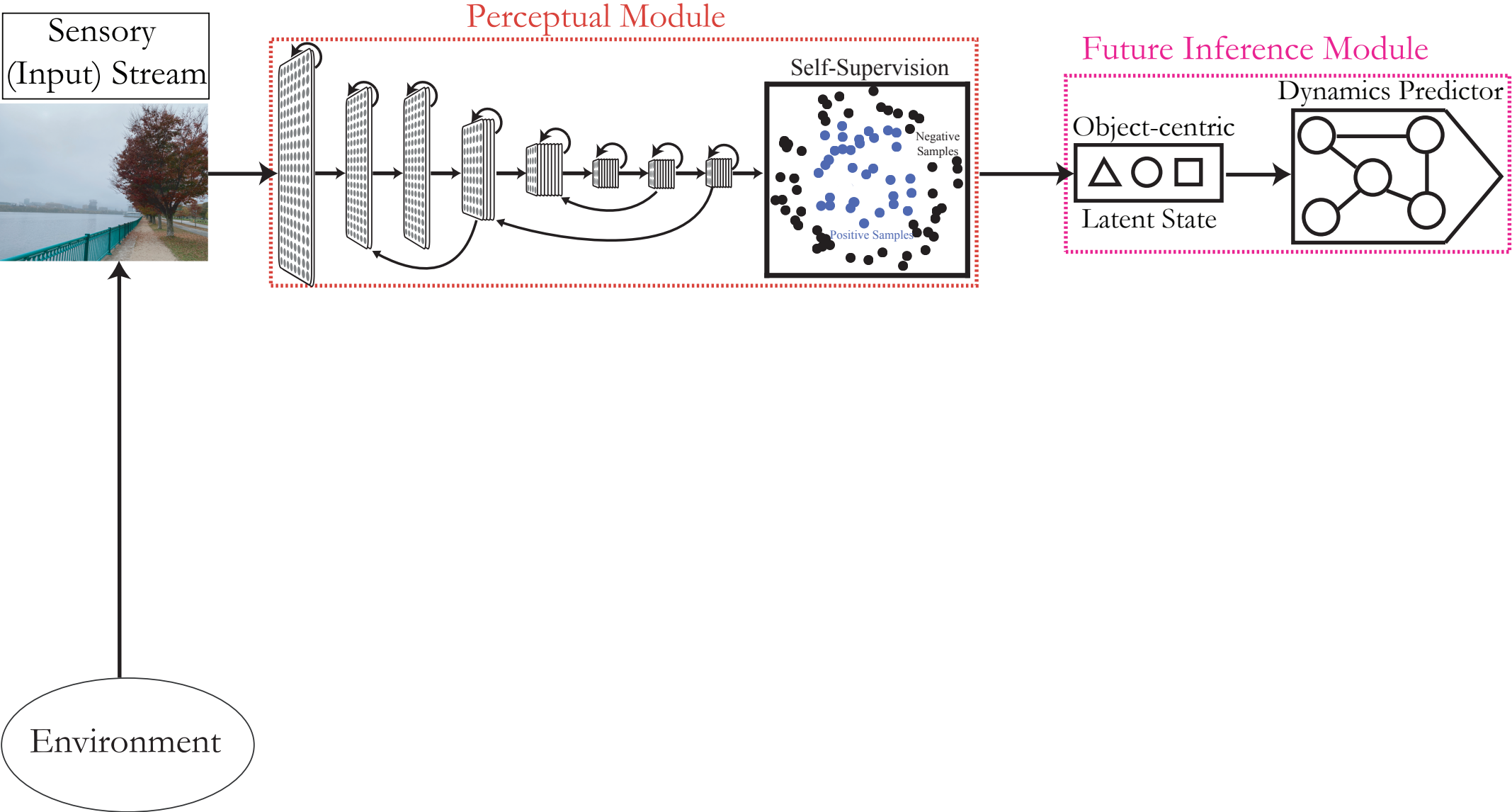
Combined recurrent, self-supervised models

Directly interfaces with the dynamic inputs animals naturally encounter

Parsimony across sensory systems? (e.g. auditory, barrel, and olfactory cortices)

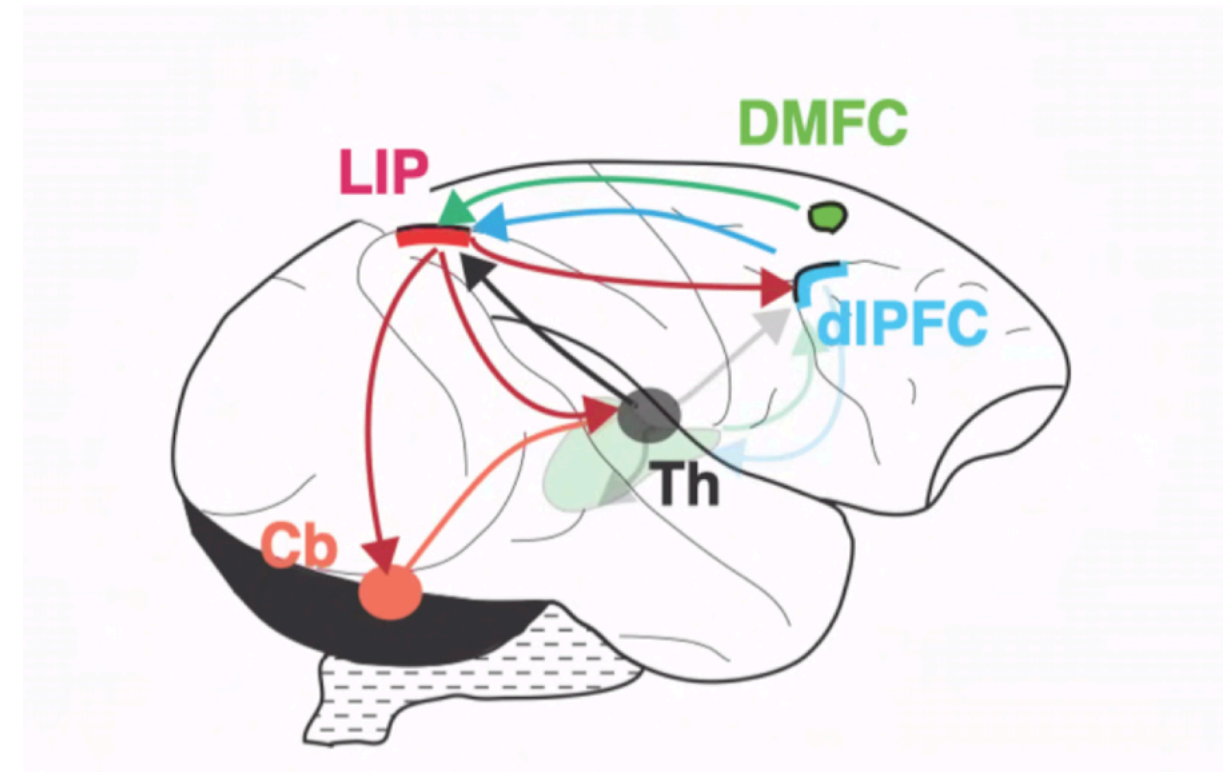


Next Steps: Computational Principles of Future Inference



Next Steps: Computational Principles of Future Inference

What mechanisms enable the FPN to generally perform mental simulation?

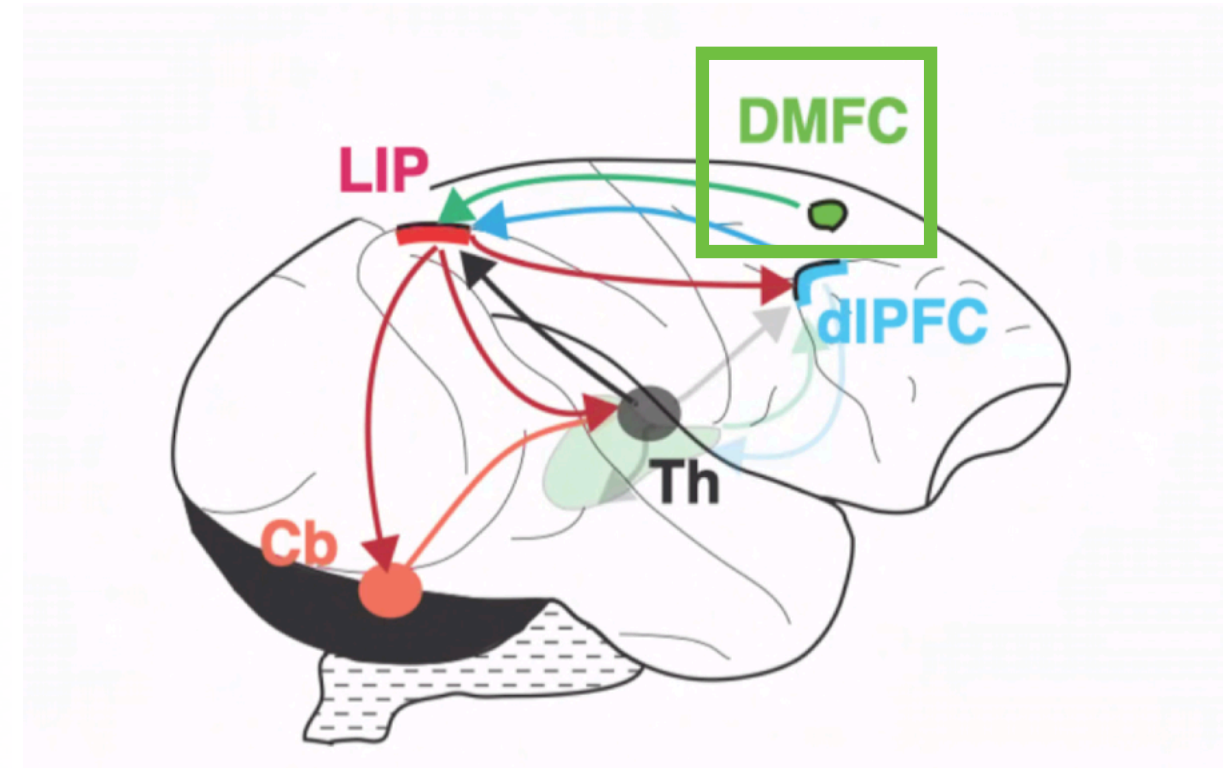
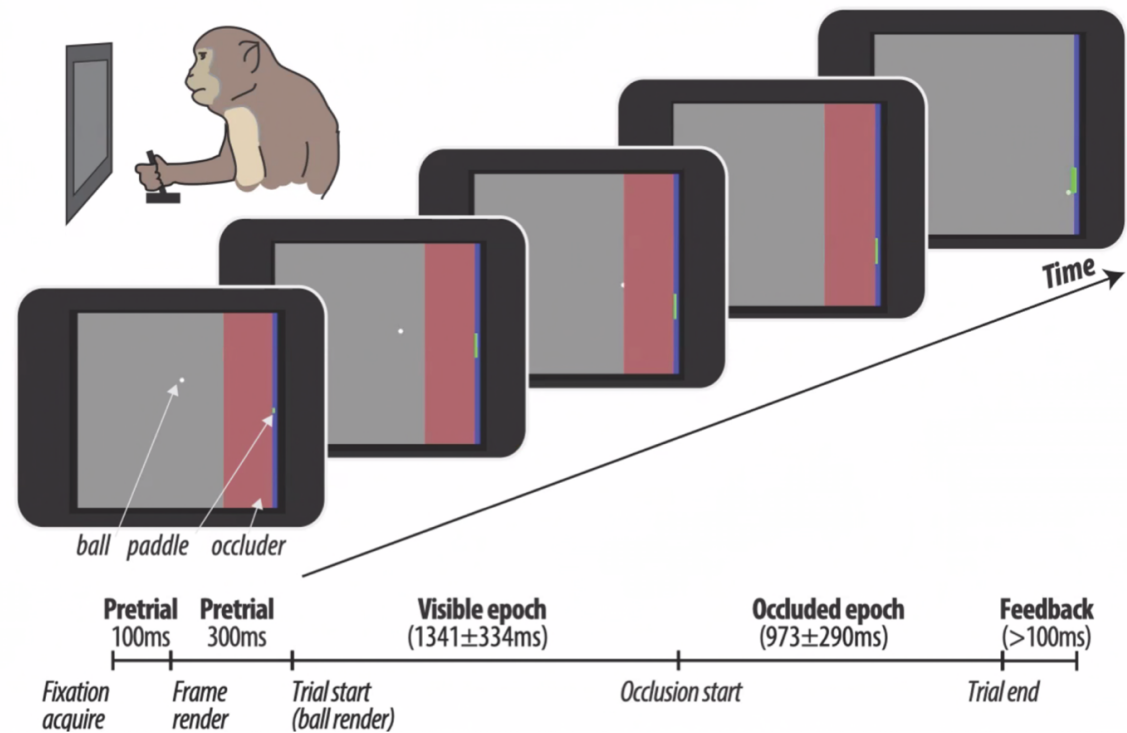


Fronto-Parietal Network (FPN)

Next Steps: Computational Principles of Future Inference

What mechanisms enable the FPN to generally perform mental simulation?

Behavioral task (Mental-Pong)



Fronto-Parietal Network (FPN)

The role of mental simulation in primate physical inference abilities

Rishi Rajalingham, Aida Piccato, Mehrdad Jazayeri

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.01.14.426741>



Rishi Rajalingham



Mehrdad Jazayeri

Dynamic tracking of objects in the macaque dorsomedial frontal cortex

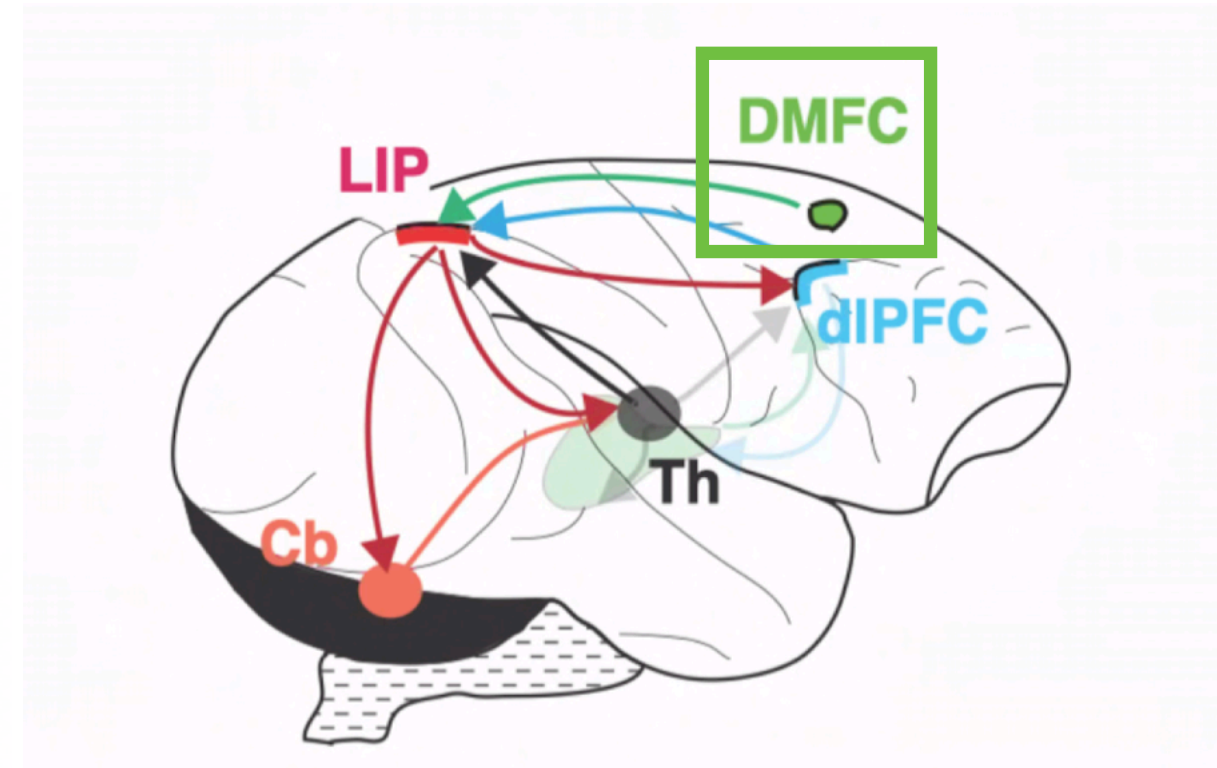
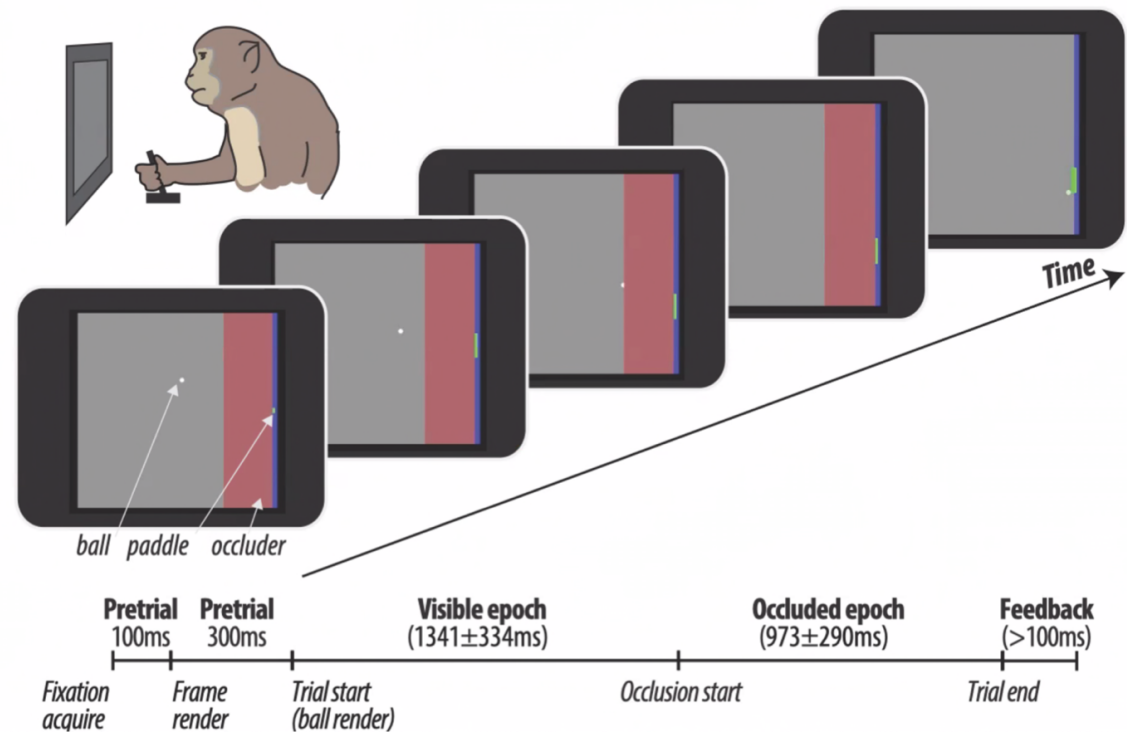
Rishi Rajalingham, Hansem Sohn, Mehrdad Jazayeri

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Next Steps: Computational Principles of Future Inference

What mechanisms enable the FPN to generally perform mental simulation?

Behavioral task (Mental-Pong)



Fronto-Parietal Network (FPN)

Many algorithmic choices to explore:
Are mental simulations object-centric, scene-centric, or more fine-grained?

The role of mental simulation in primate physical inference abilities

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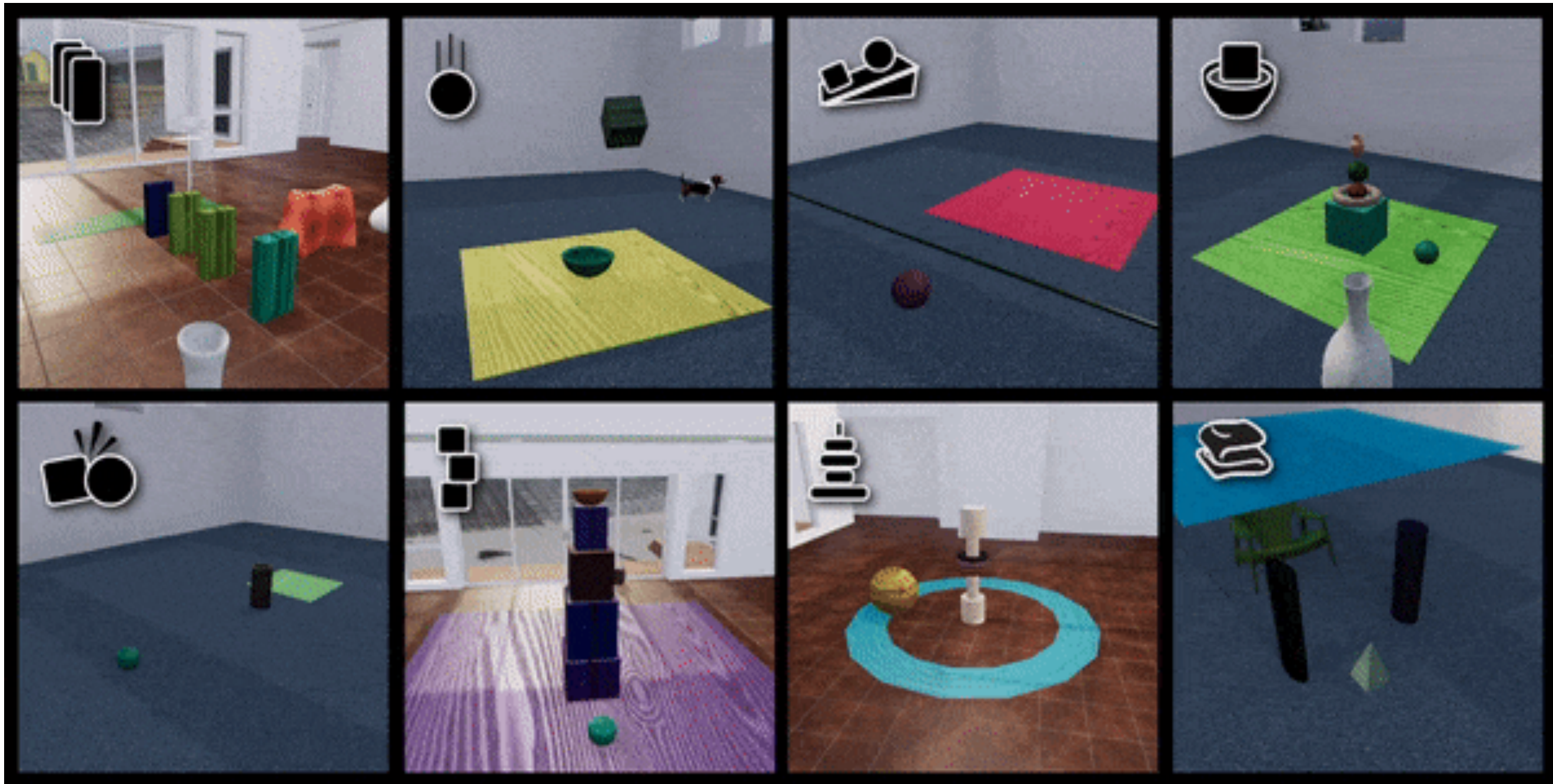
Rishi Rajalingham, Hansem Sohn, Mehrdad Jazayeri

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Dynamics Environment

Physion/ThreeDWorld (TDW)

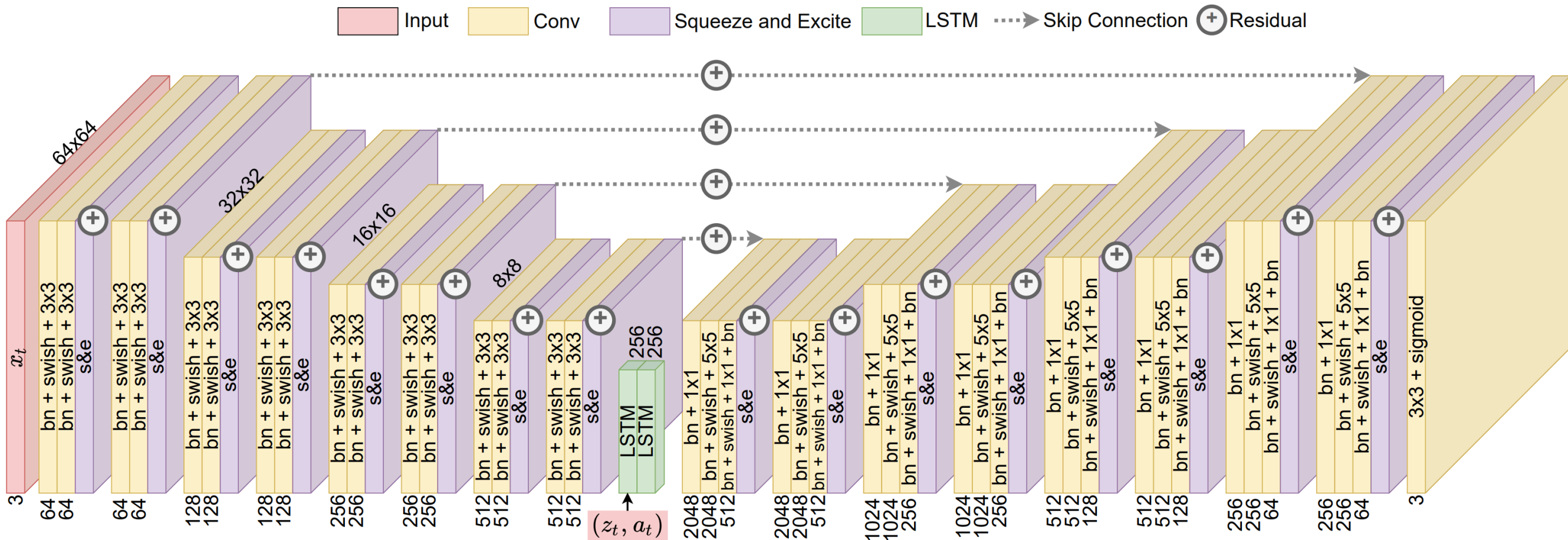
Bear et al. 2021



Focus on everyday physical understanding

Pixel-Wise Frame Prediction: Basic Components

Babaeizadeh et al. 2021

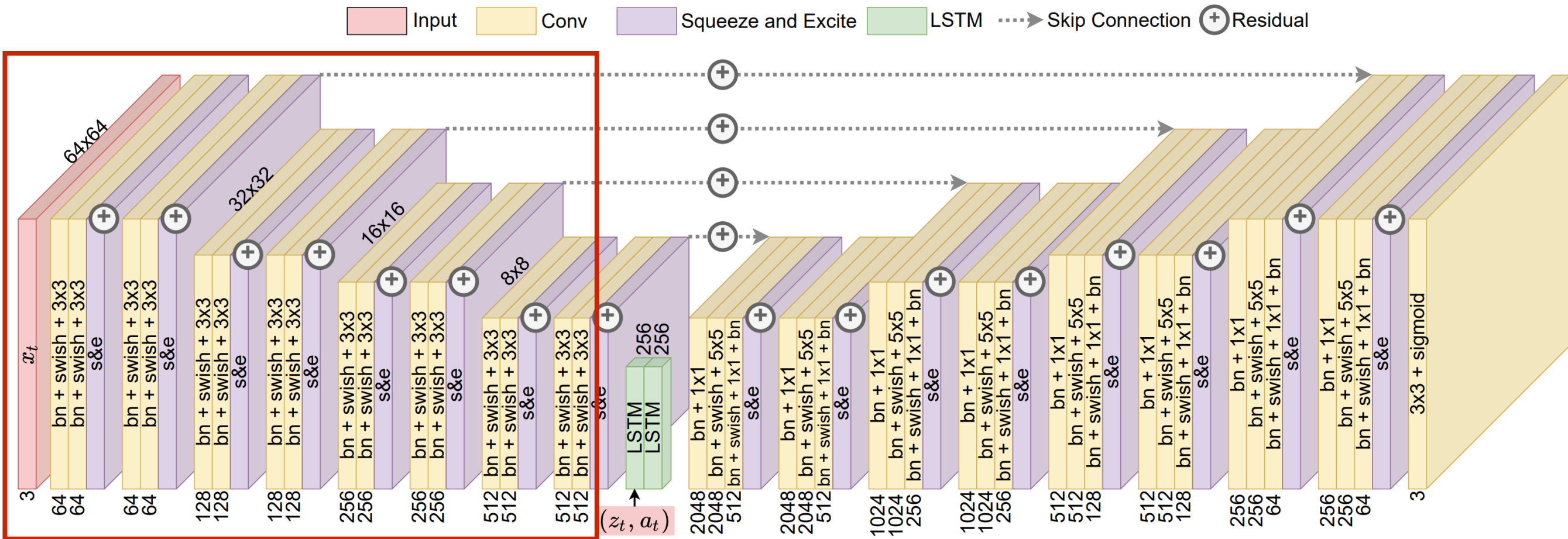


Common AI paradigm:

Self-supervised on future *pixel-wise* frame prediction — can be readily applied to large-scale, real-world video datasets

Pixel-Wise Frame Prediction: Basic Components

Babaeizadeh et al. 2021



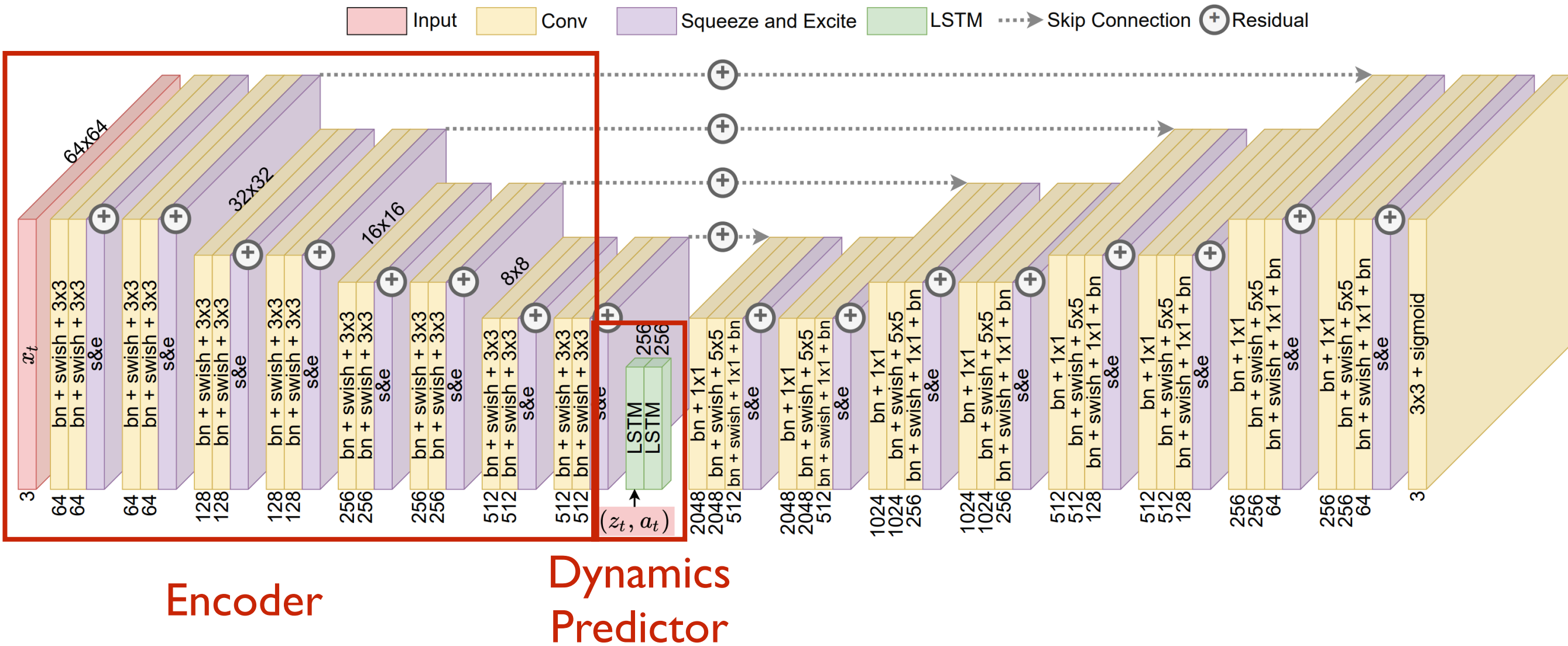
Encoder

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Pixel-Wise Frame Prediction: Basic Components

Babaeizadeh et al. 2021

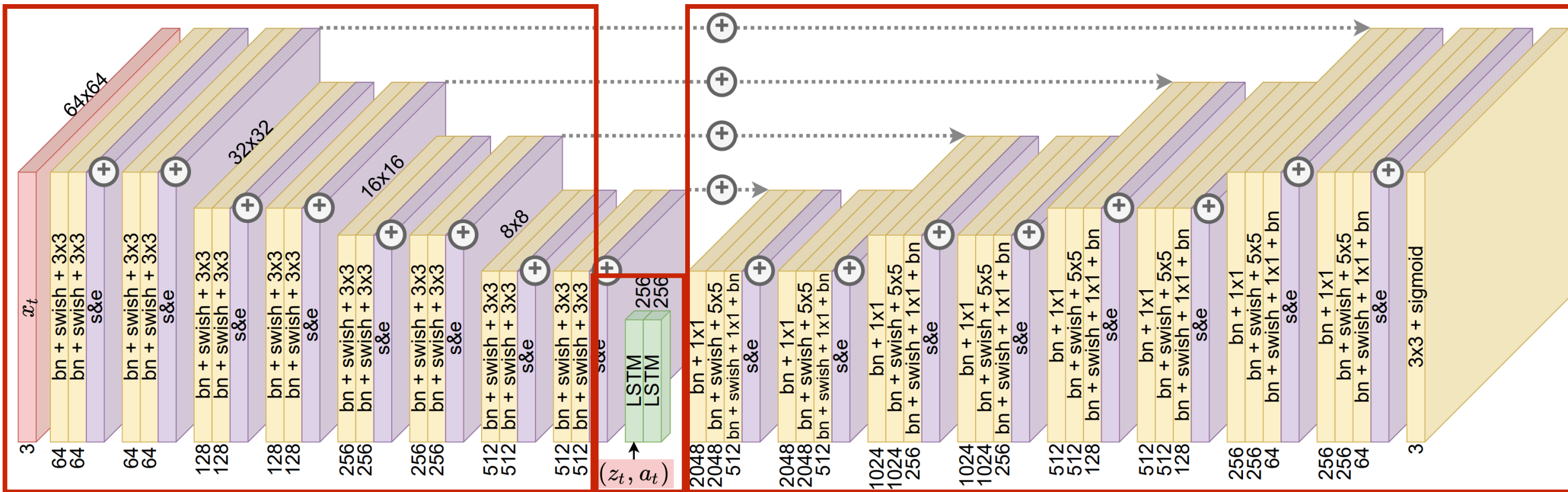


Self-supervised on future *pixel-wise* frame prediction — can be readily applied to large-scale, real-world video datasets

Pixel-Wise Frame Prediction: Basic Components

Babaeizadeh et al. 2021

Input Conv Squeeze and Excite LSTM Skip Connection Residual



Encoder

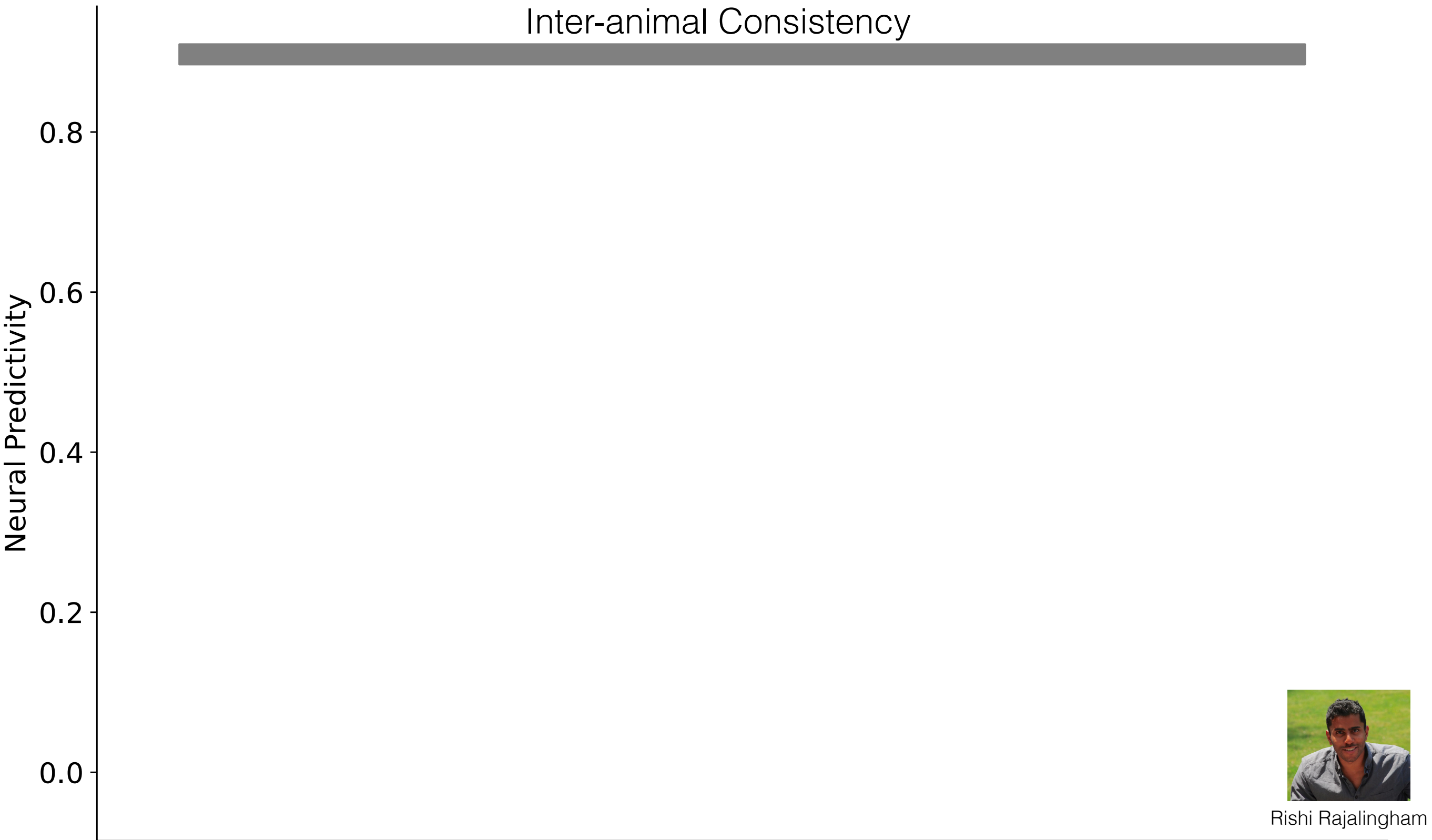
Dynamics
Predictor

Decoder
(Loss function)

Common AI paradigm:

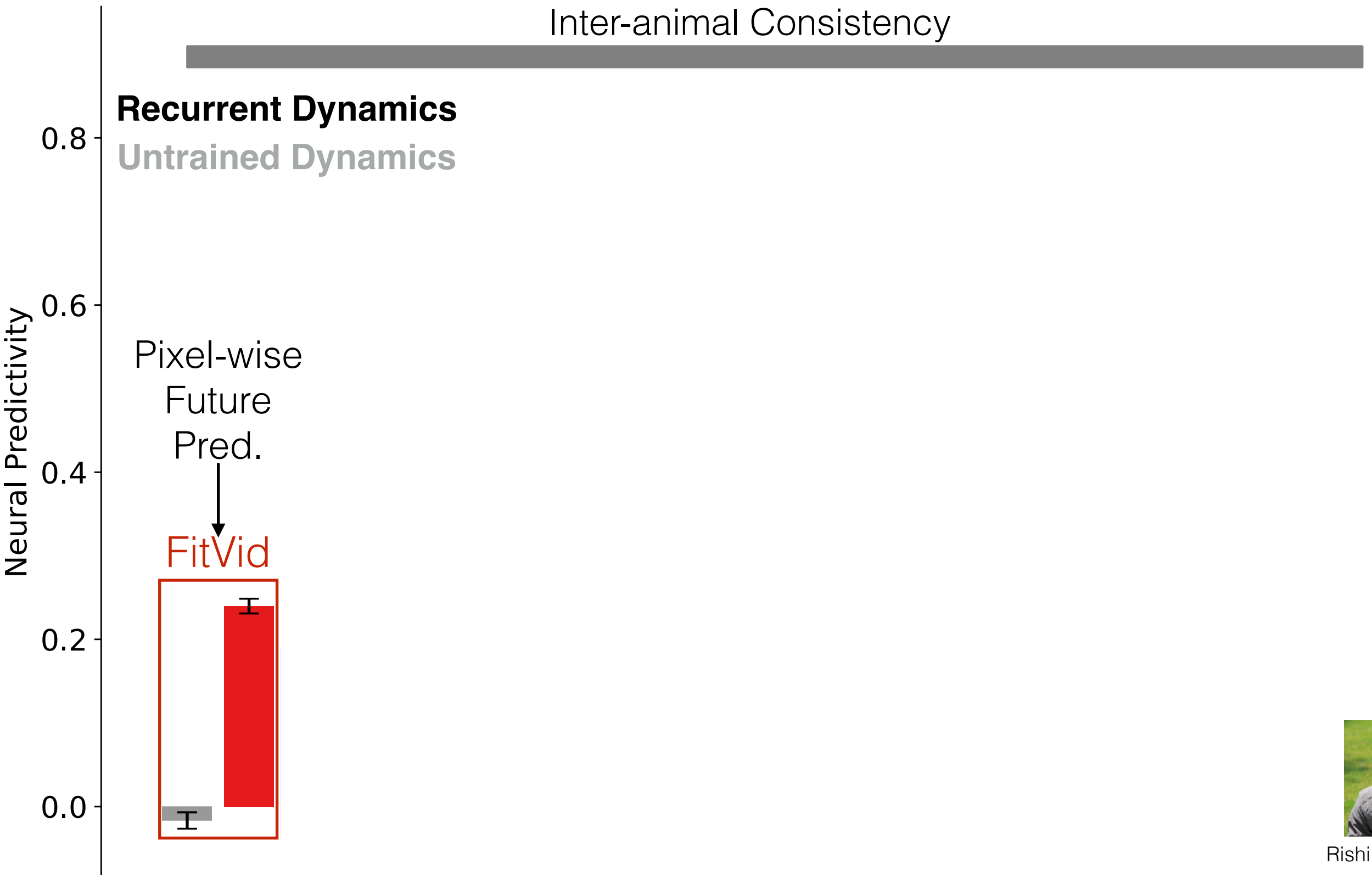
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Preliminary Results Modeling DMFC



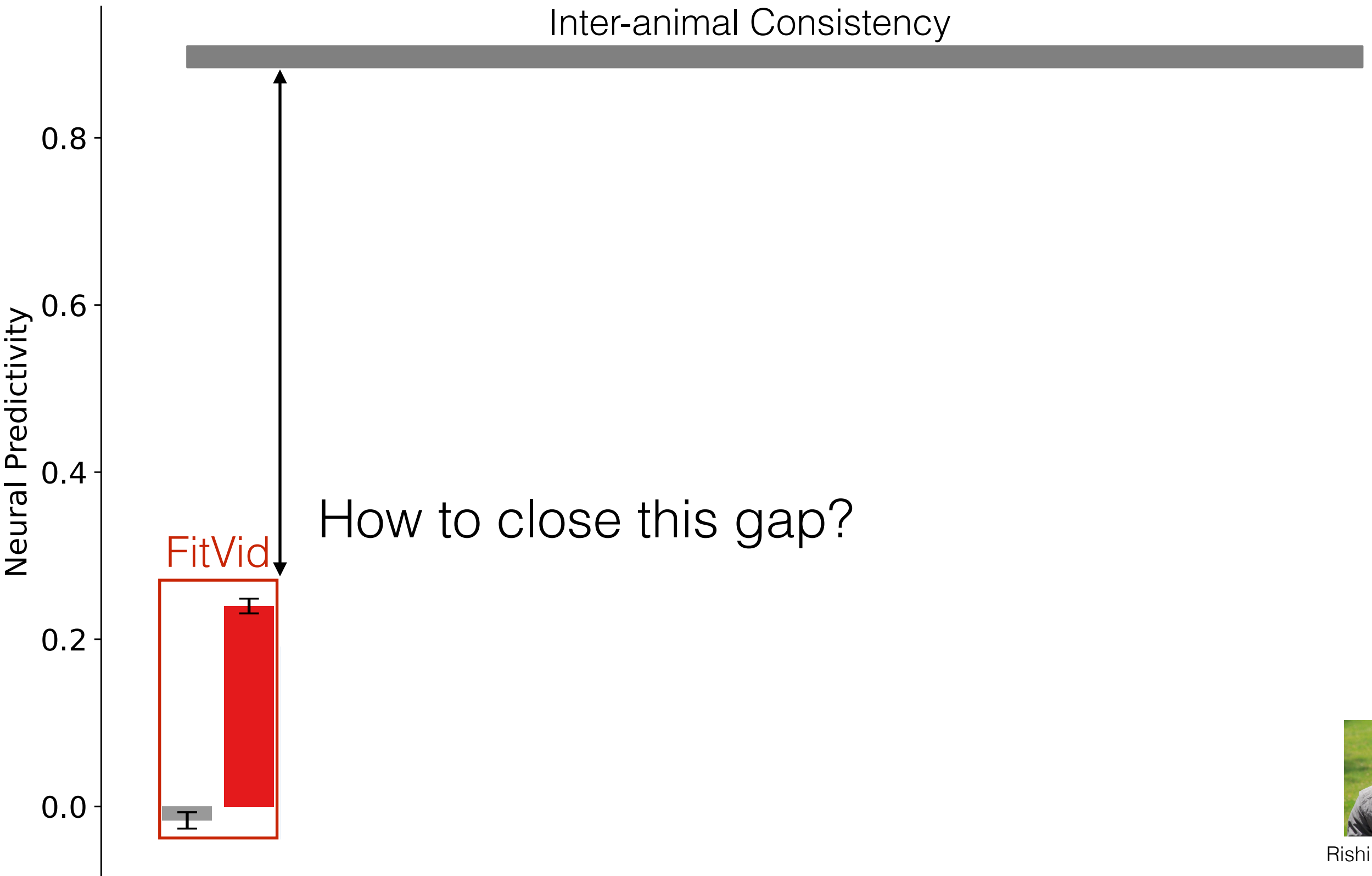
Rishi Rajalingham

Preliminary Results Modeling DMFC



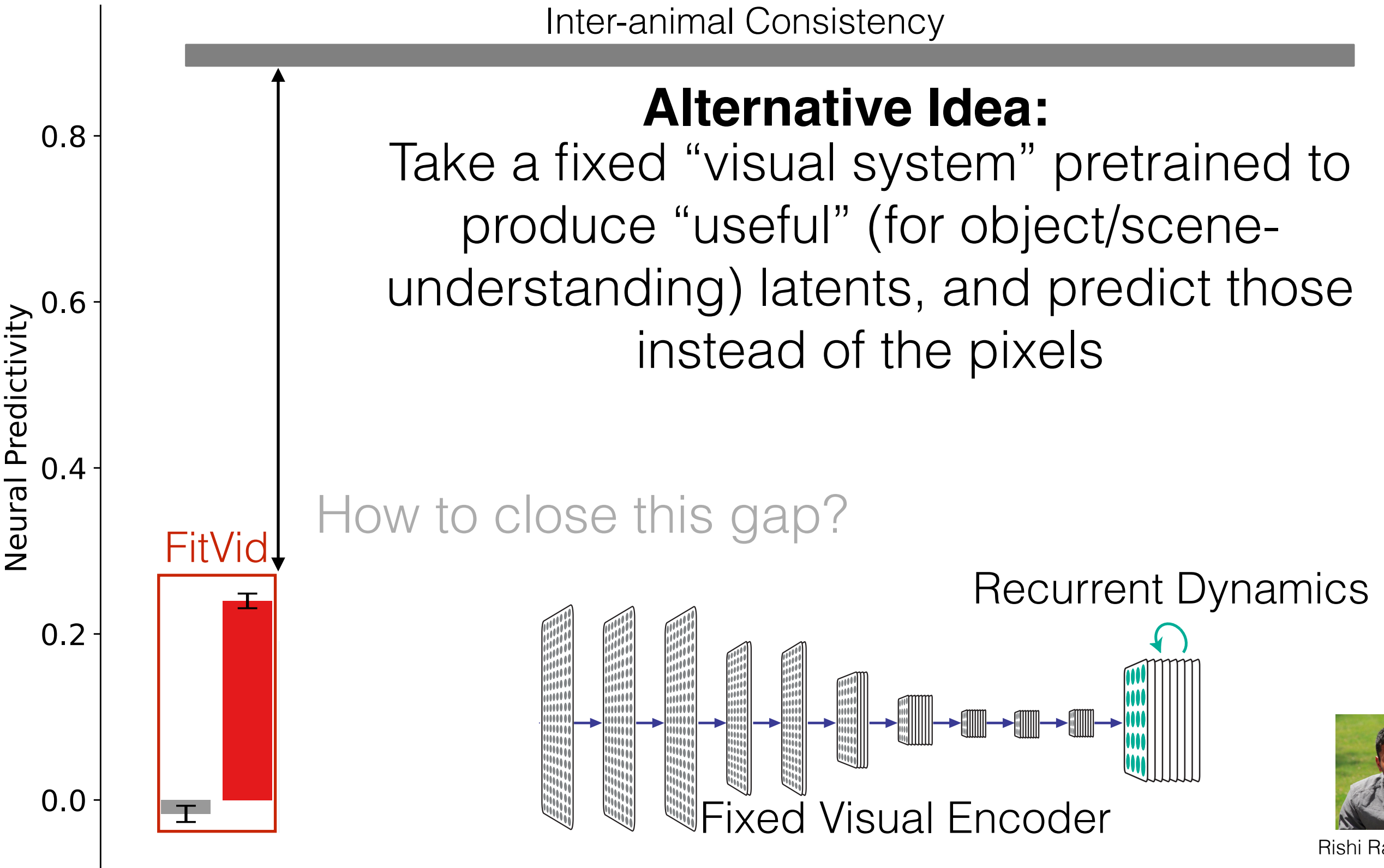
Rishi Rajalingham

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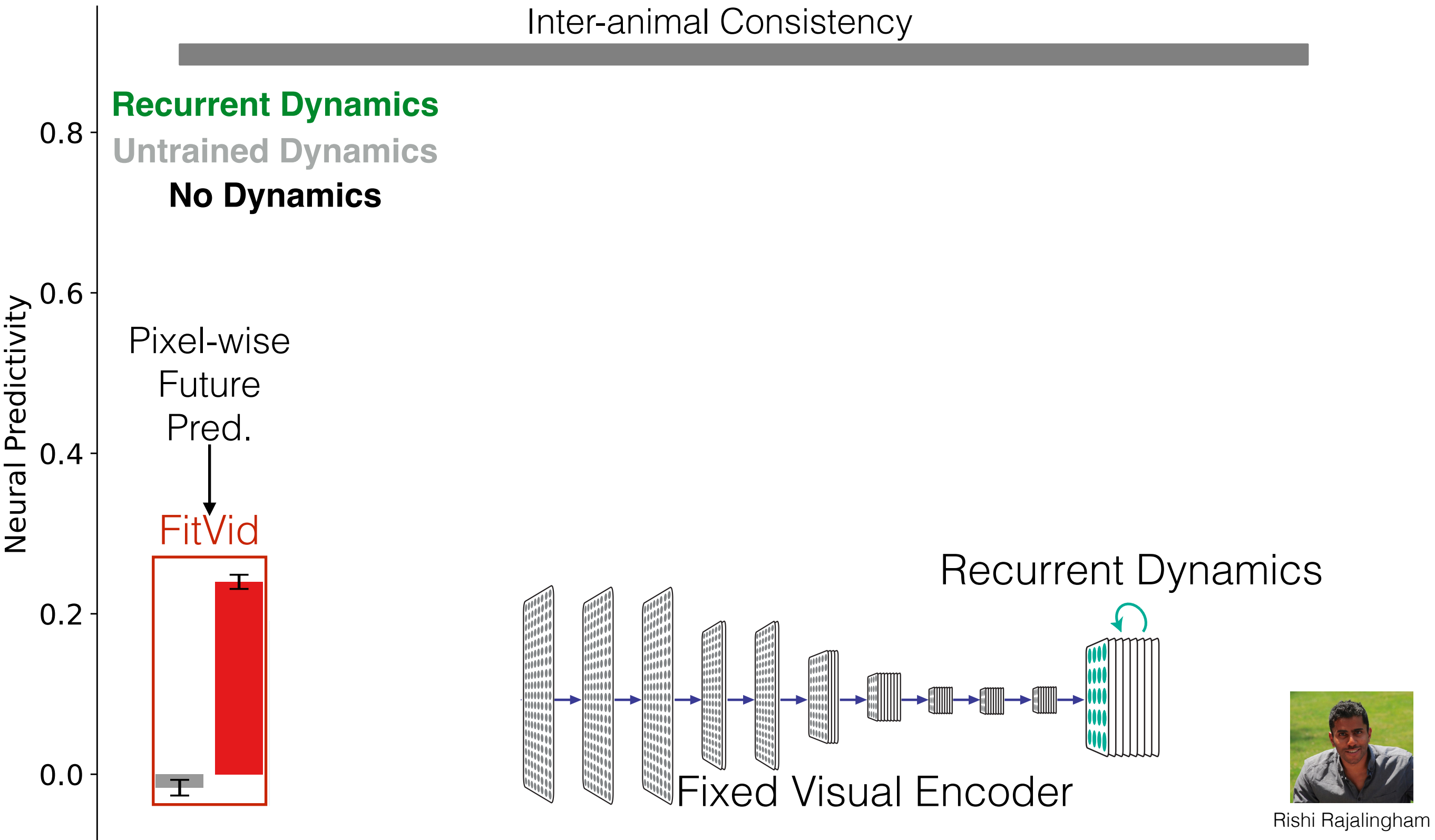
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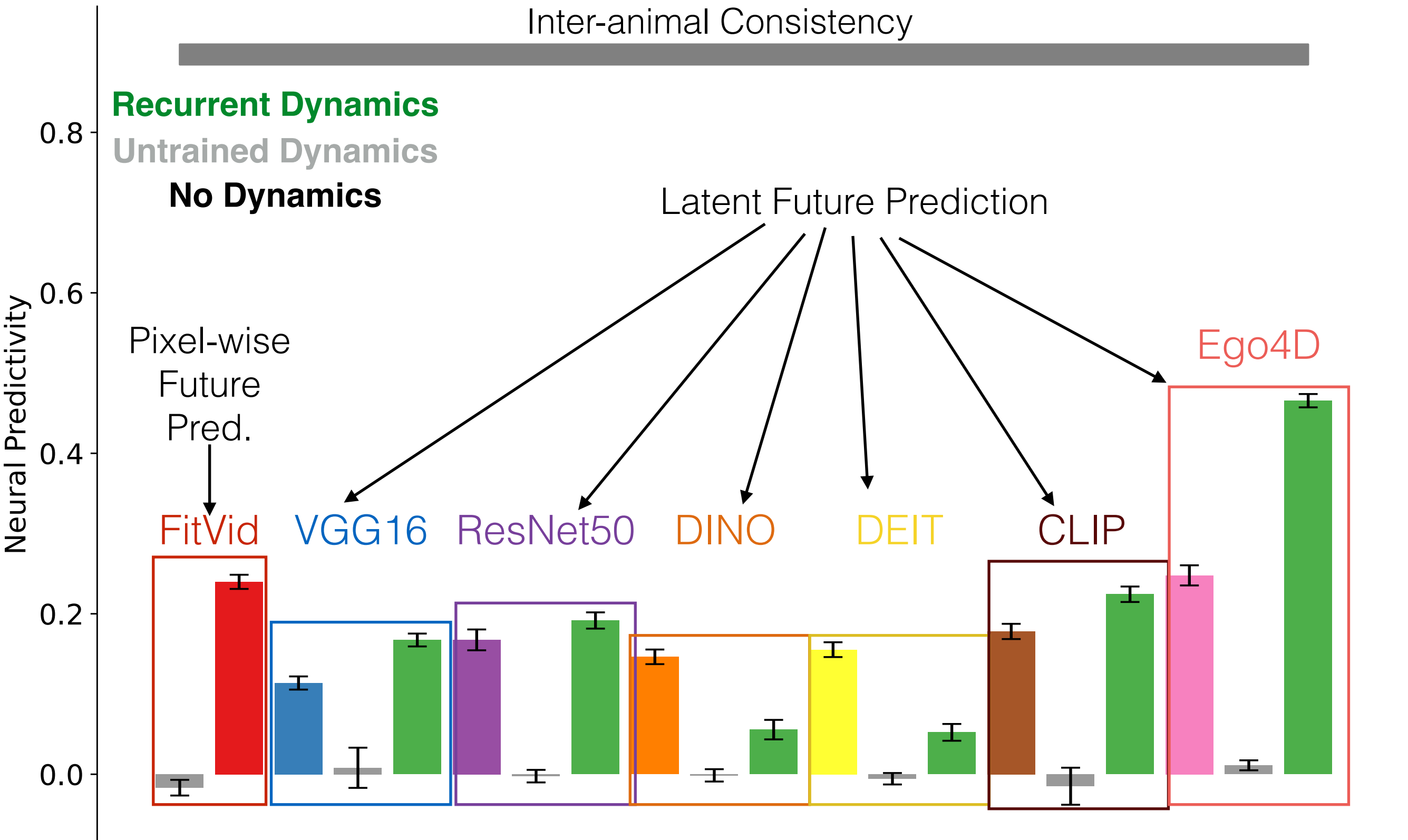


Rishi Rajalingham

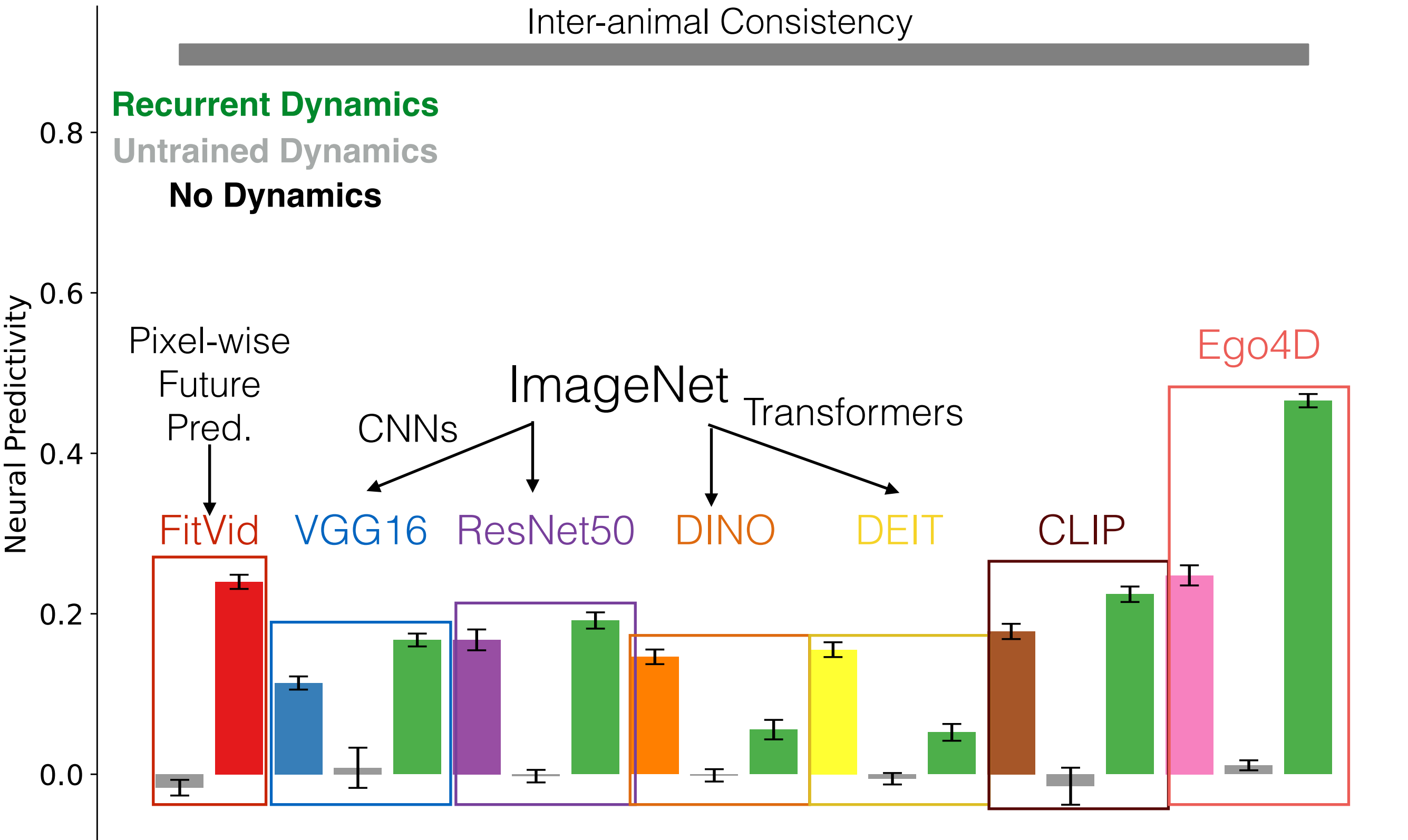
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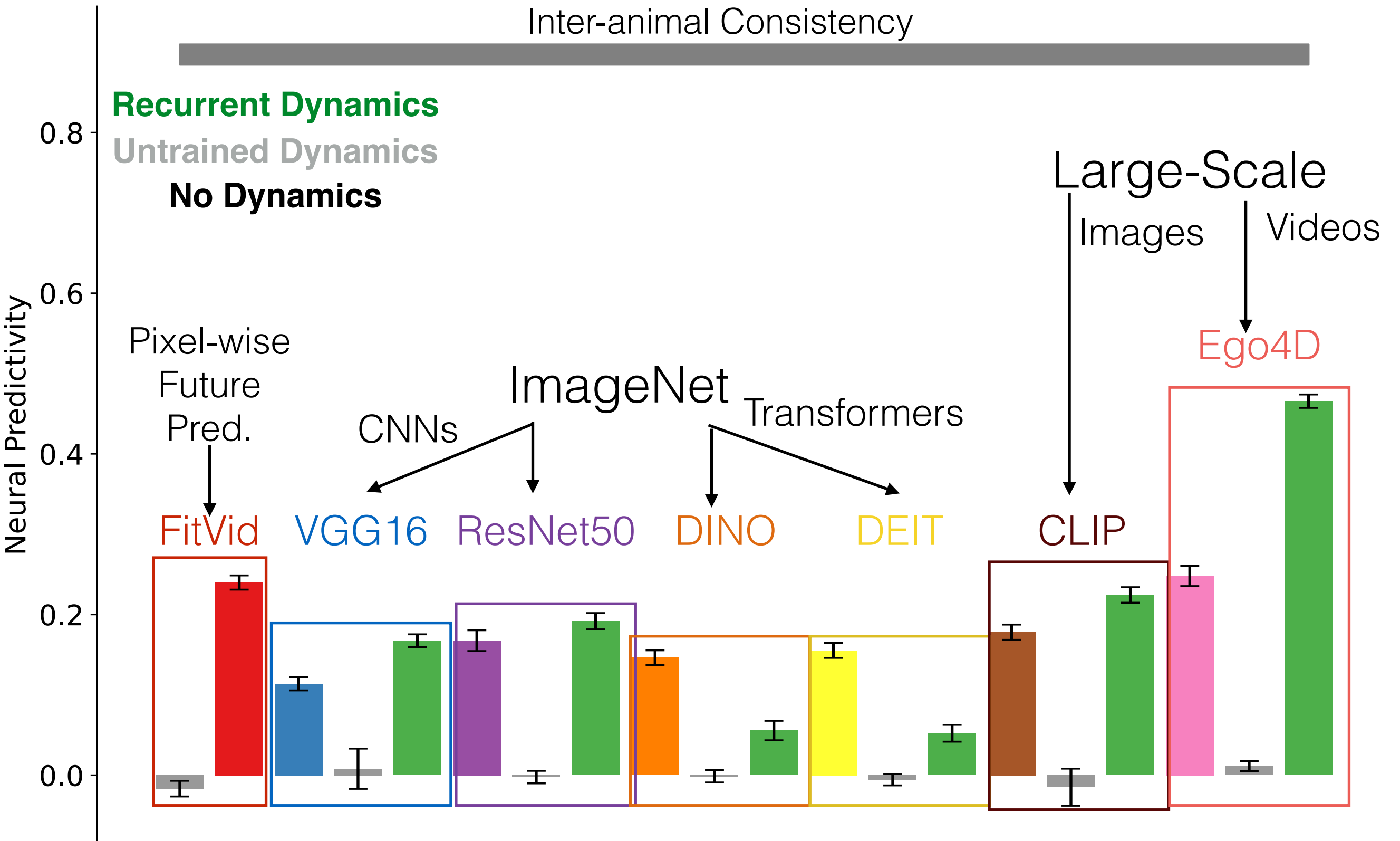
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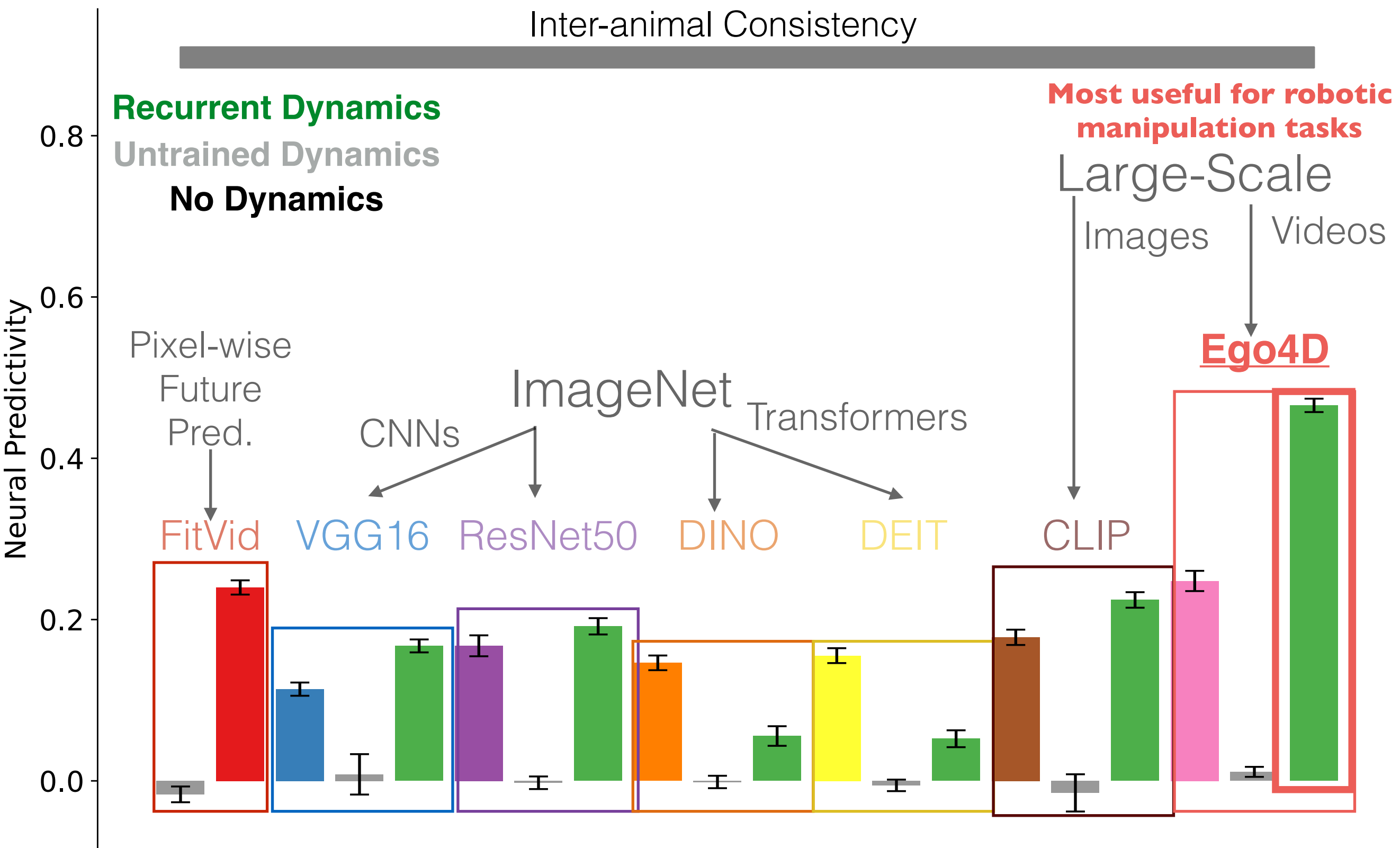
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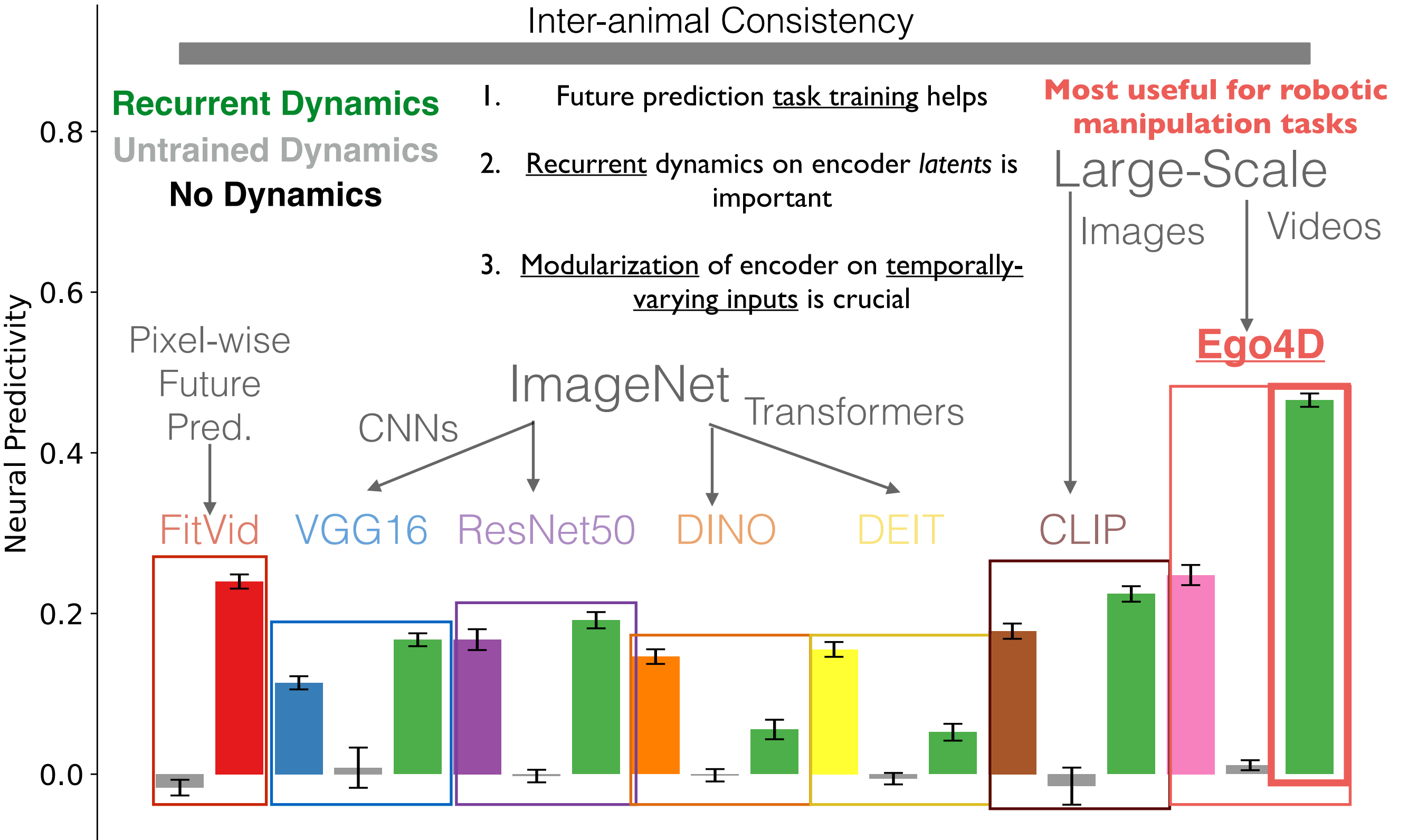
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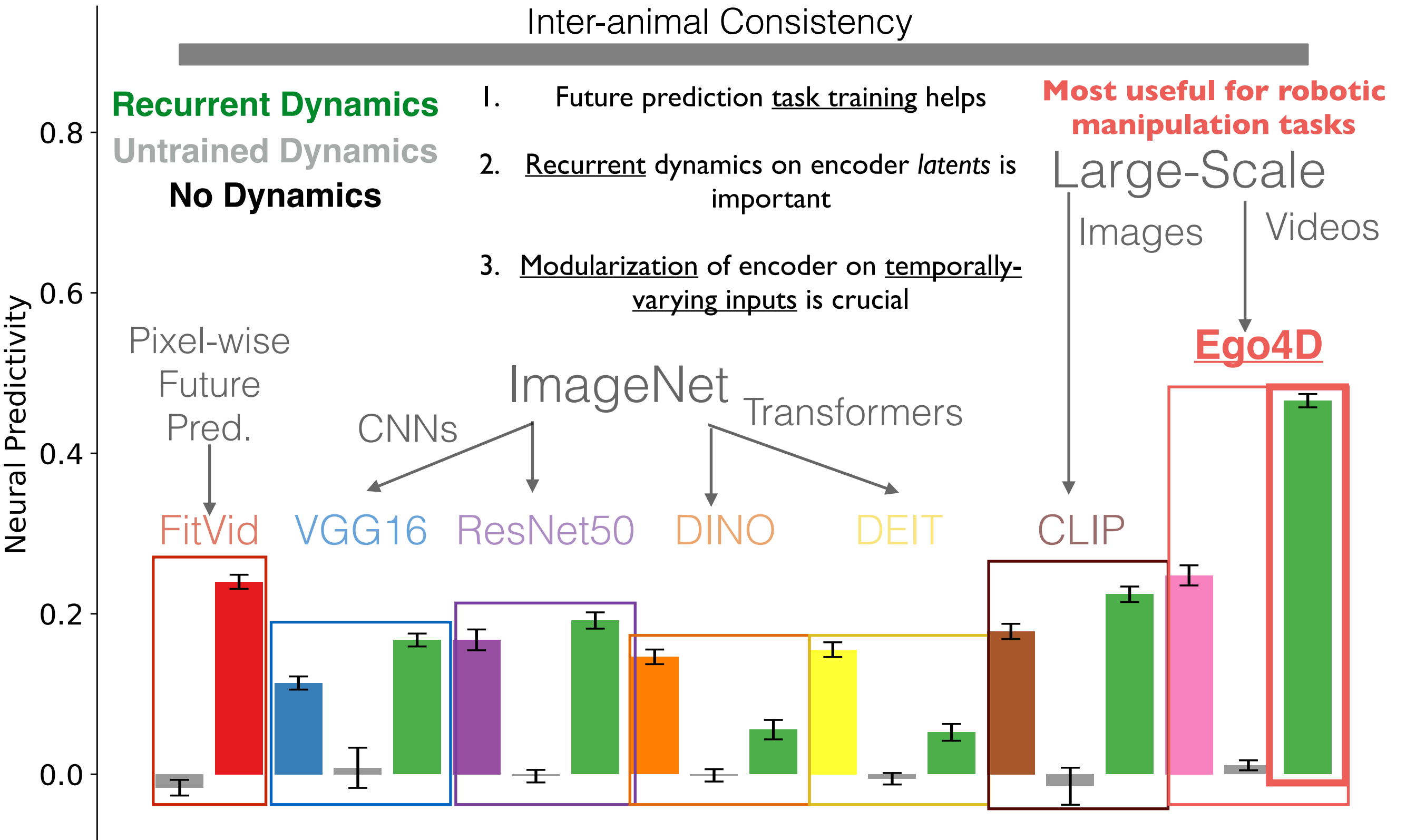


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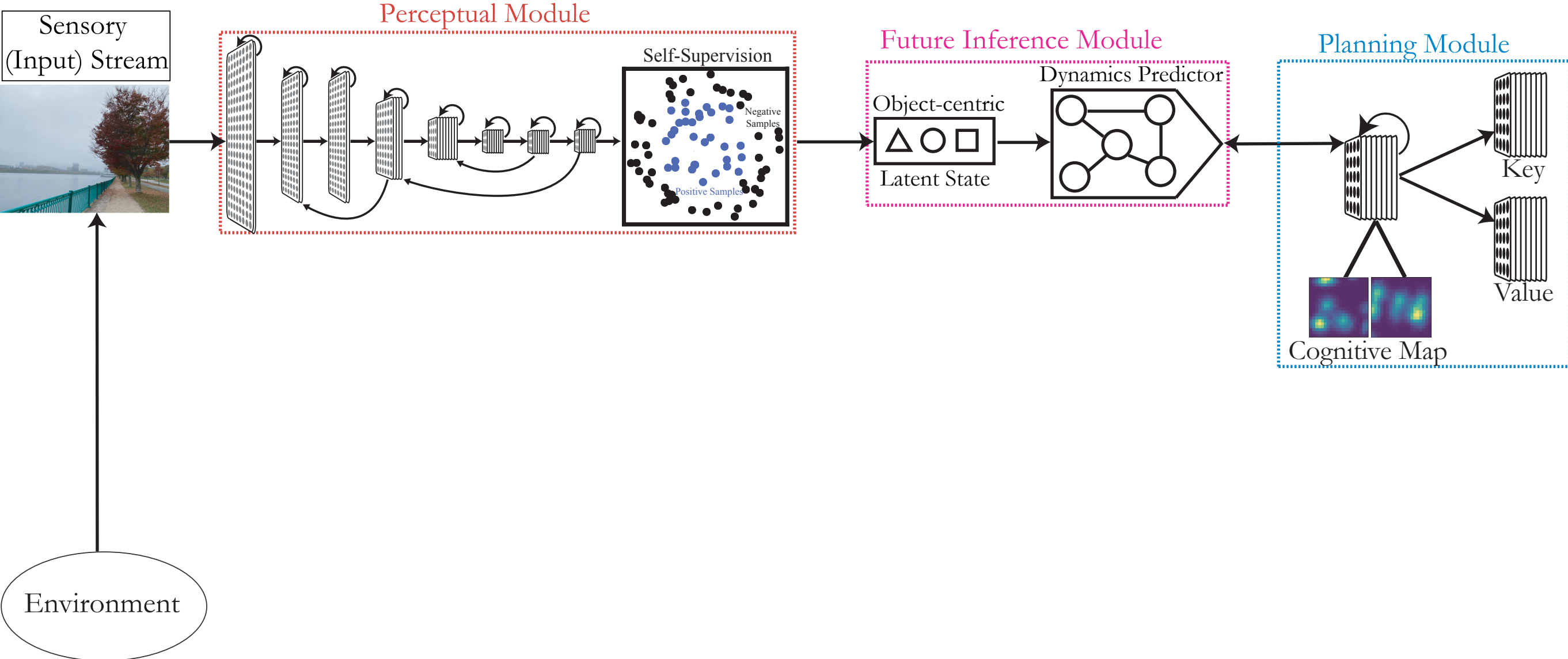


Preliminary Results Modeling DMFC

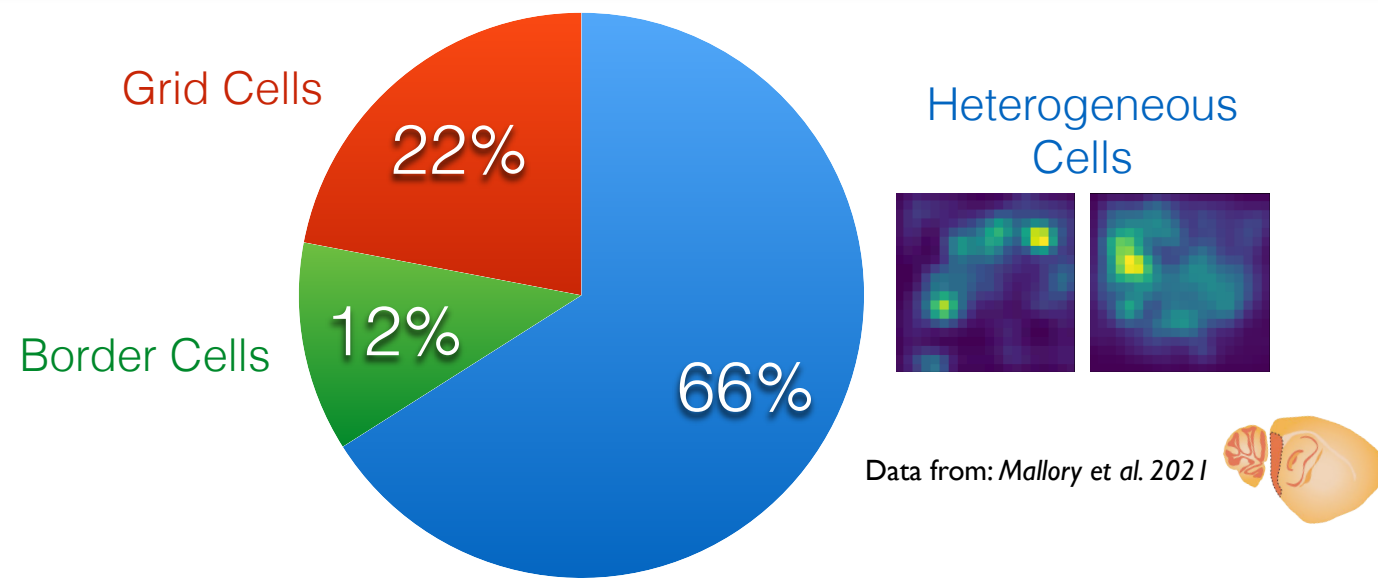
DMFC appears to be optimized to future predict on *dynamic, scene-centric* representations



Next Steps: Cognitive Maps to Enable Navigation and Long-Range Planning



Next Steps: Cognitive Maps to Enable Navigation and Long-Range Planning



Neurobiological Puzzle(s):

1. How might we characterize what these heterogeneous cells do?
2. What functional role do these cells serve in the circuit, if any?

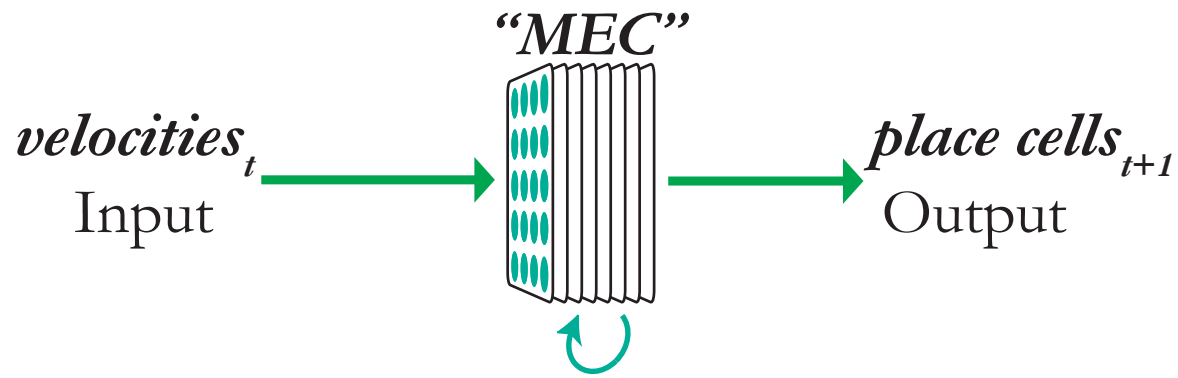
Partial Resolution:

1. Characterization: Close to perfect neural predictivity with the above constraints — more complex environments are needed!

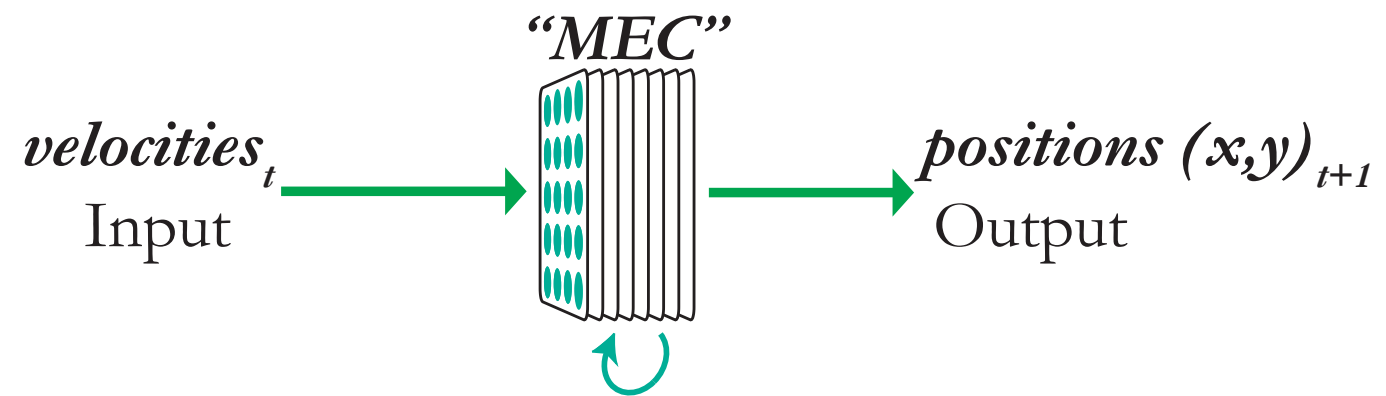
2. Functional Role: Grid cells are not functionally unique! Both heterogeneous and grid cells arise jointly through task optimization.

Next Steps: Cognitive Maps to Enable Navigation and Long-Range Planning

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} p_i^t \log \hat{p}_i^t$$



$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{p}, p) := \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \left((p_x^t - \hat{p}_x^t)^2 + (p_y^t - \hat{p}_y^t)^2 \right)$$



A. Nayebi, et al.

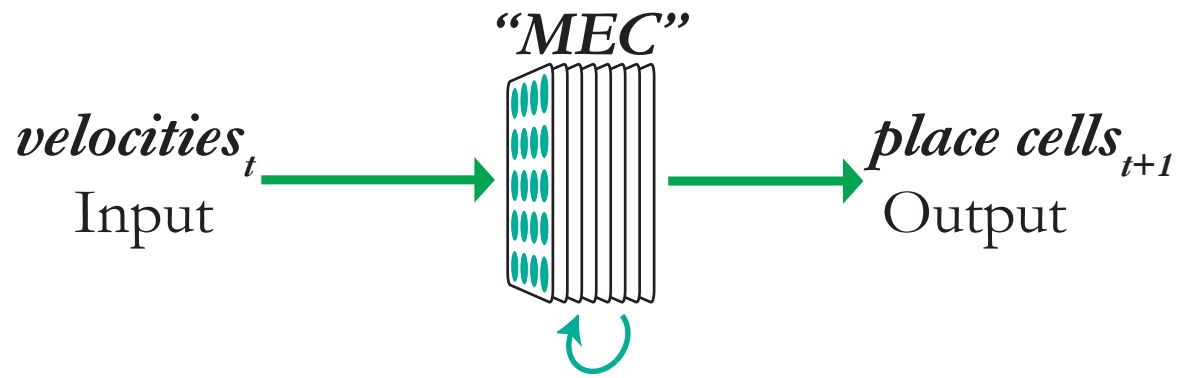
Explaining Heterogeneity in Medial Entorhinal Cortex with Task-Driven Neural Networks.
NeurIPS 2021 (spotlight)

Core Unsolved Question:

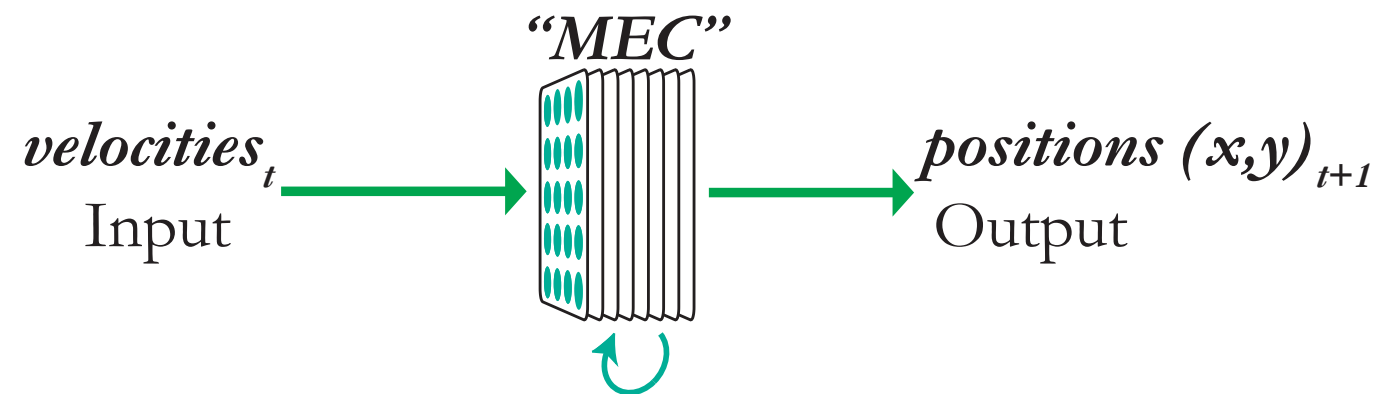
Direct path integration fails to match MEC, intermediate place cell representation is needed. For what normative purpose?

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A. Nayebi, et al.

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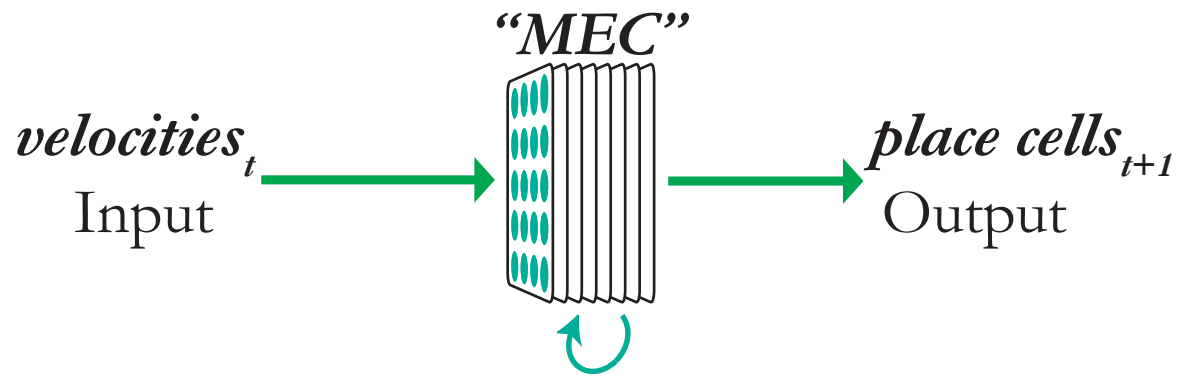
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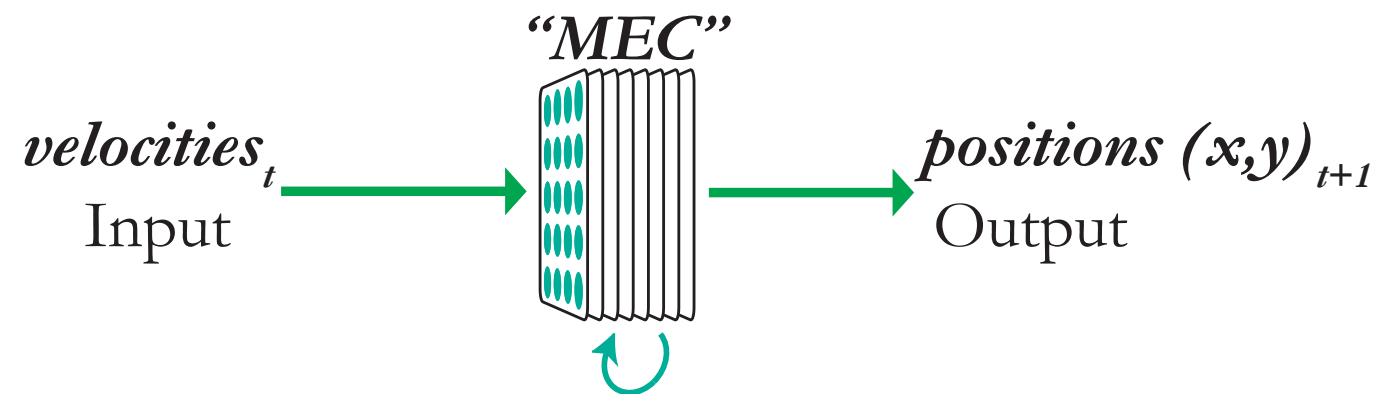
Can this coordination help enable long-range planning, despite intervening events over long time horizons?

Next Steps: Cognitive Maps to Enable Navigation and Long-Range Planning

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A. Nayebi, et al.

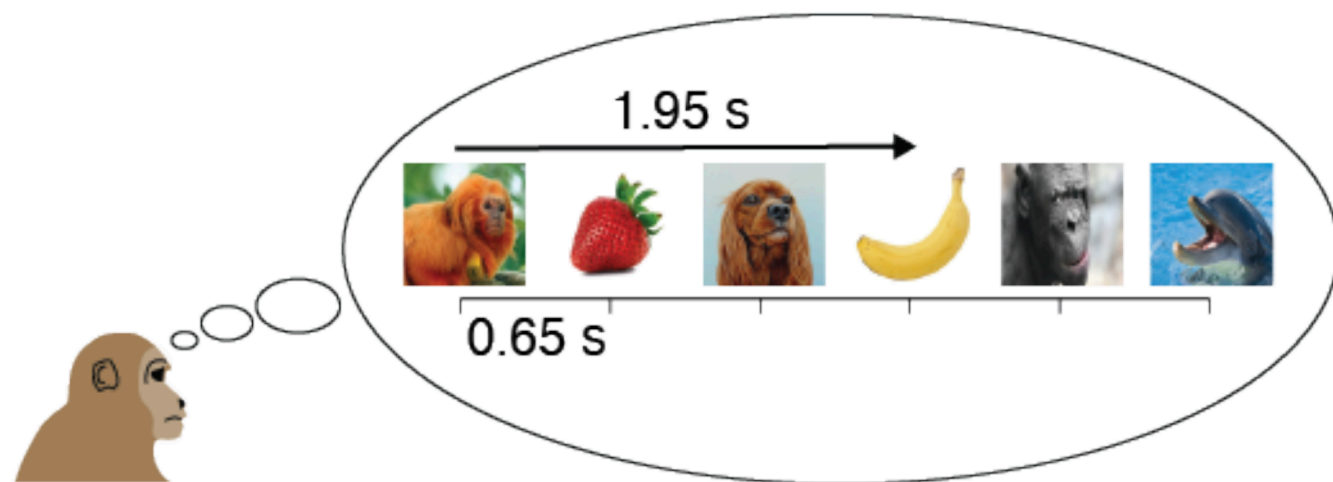
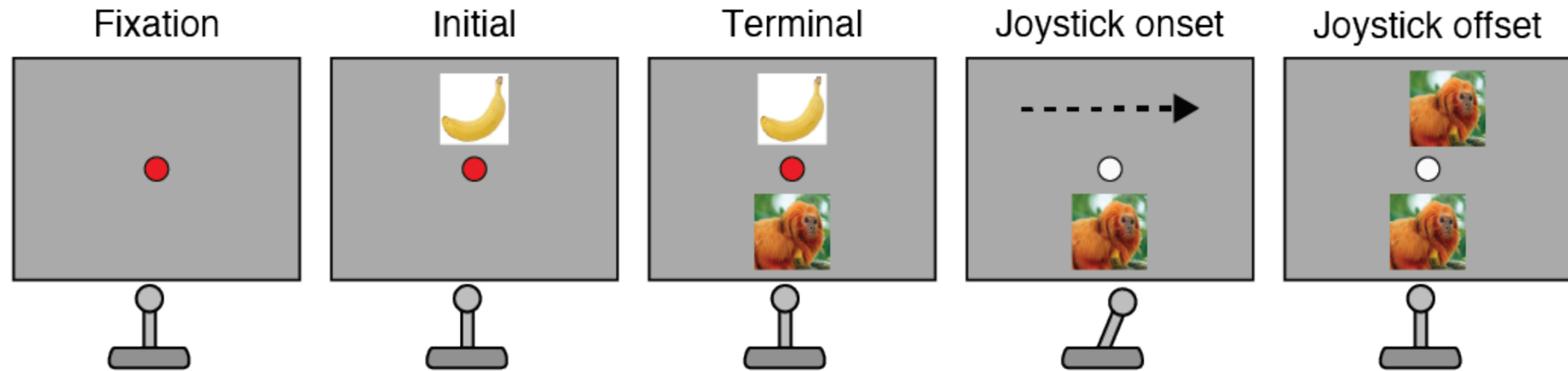
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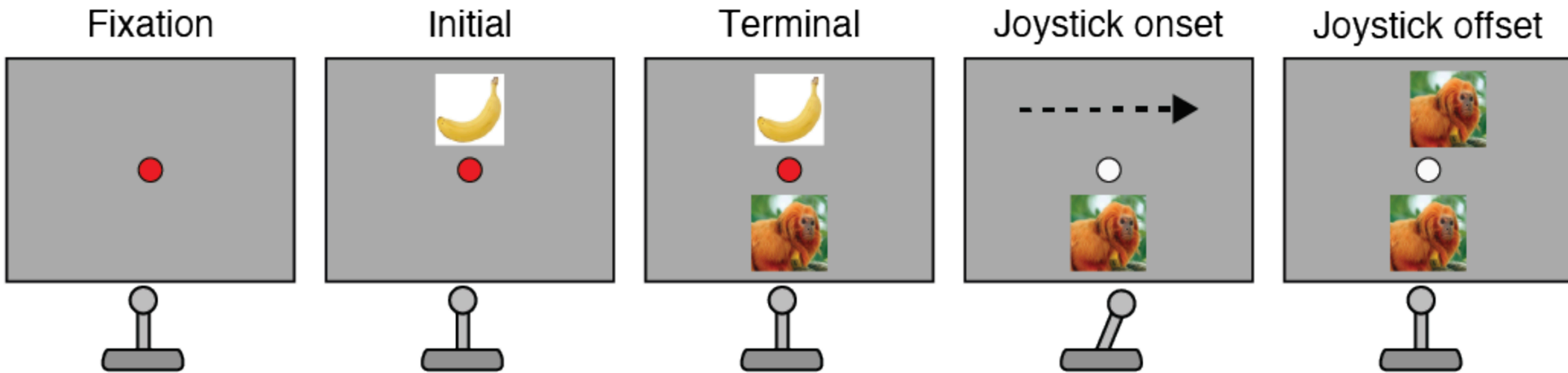
Next Steps: Cognitive Maps to Enable Navigation and Long-Range Planning



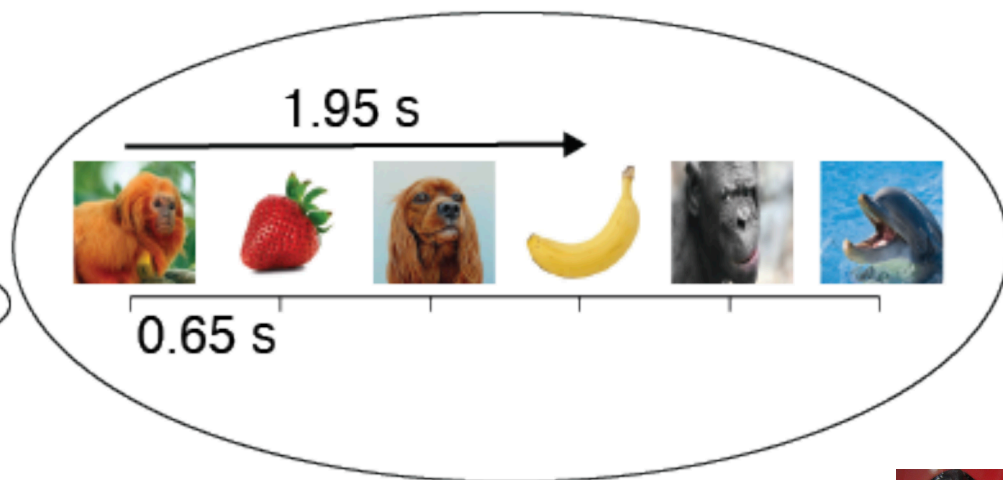
Sujaya Neupane Mehrdad Jazayeri

Can this coordination help enable long-range planning, despite intervening events over long time horizons?

Next Steps: Cognitive Maps to Enable Navigation and Long-Range Planning

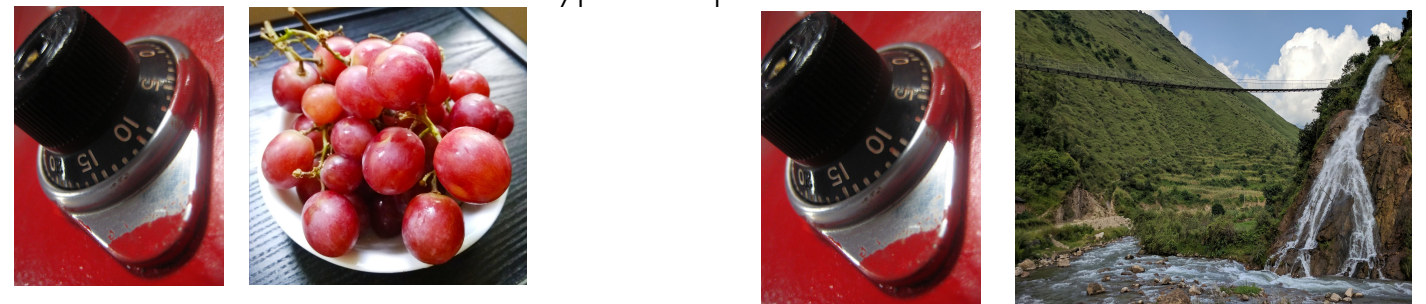


Paired Associative Inference (PAI) Task:



A B C

Two types of queries:



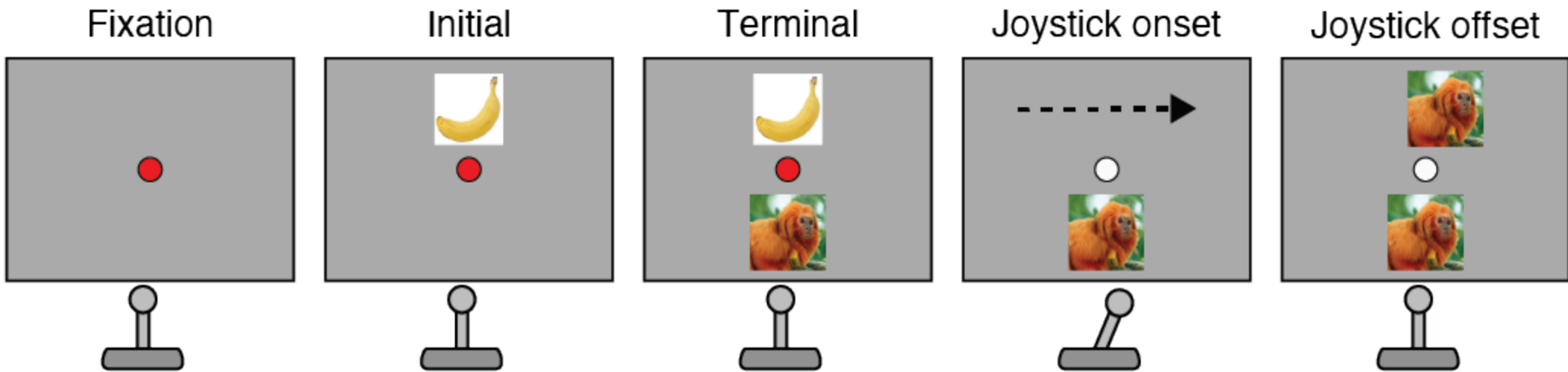
A B "Direct" A C "Indirect"



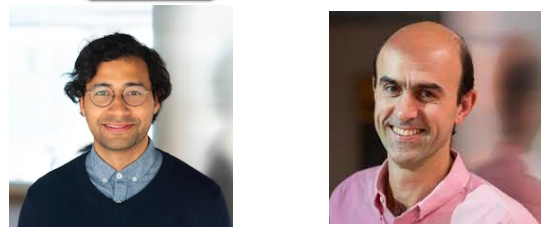
Sujaya Neupane Mehrdad Jazayeri

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Paired Associative Inference (PAI) Task:

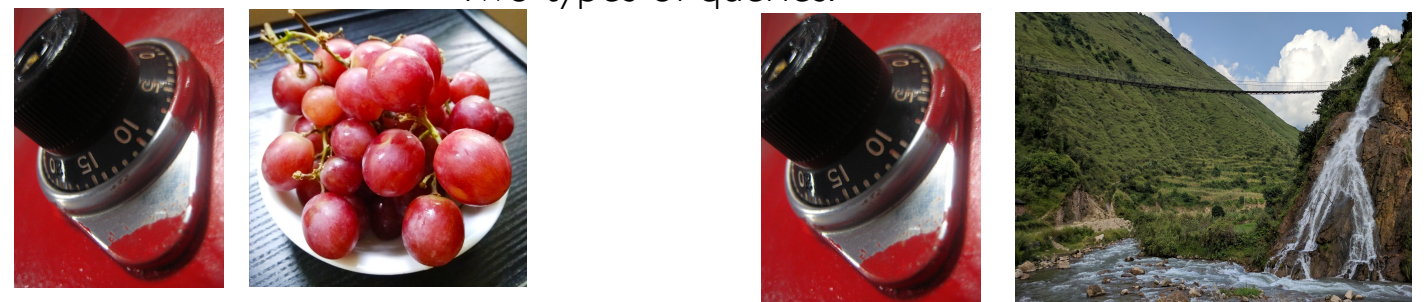


Sujaya Neupane Mehrdad Jazayeri



A B C

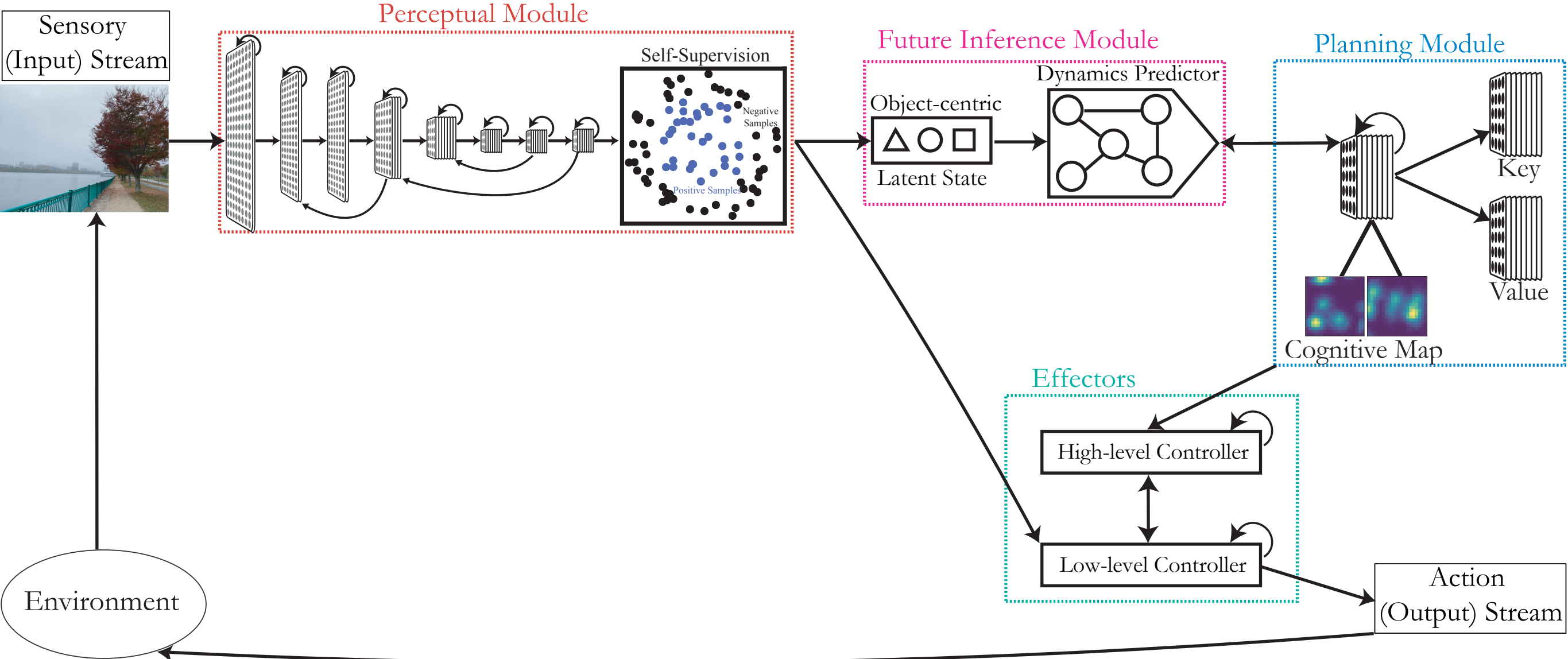
Two types of queries:





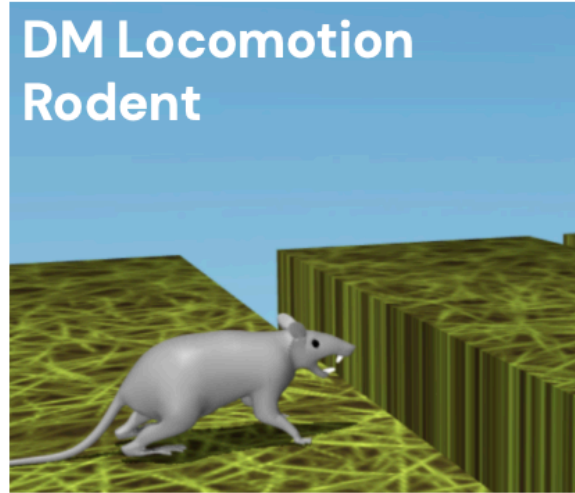
A B "Direct" A C "Indirect"

Can this coordination help enable long-range planning, despite intervening events over long time horizons?

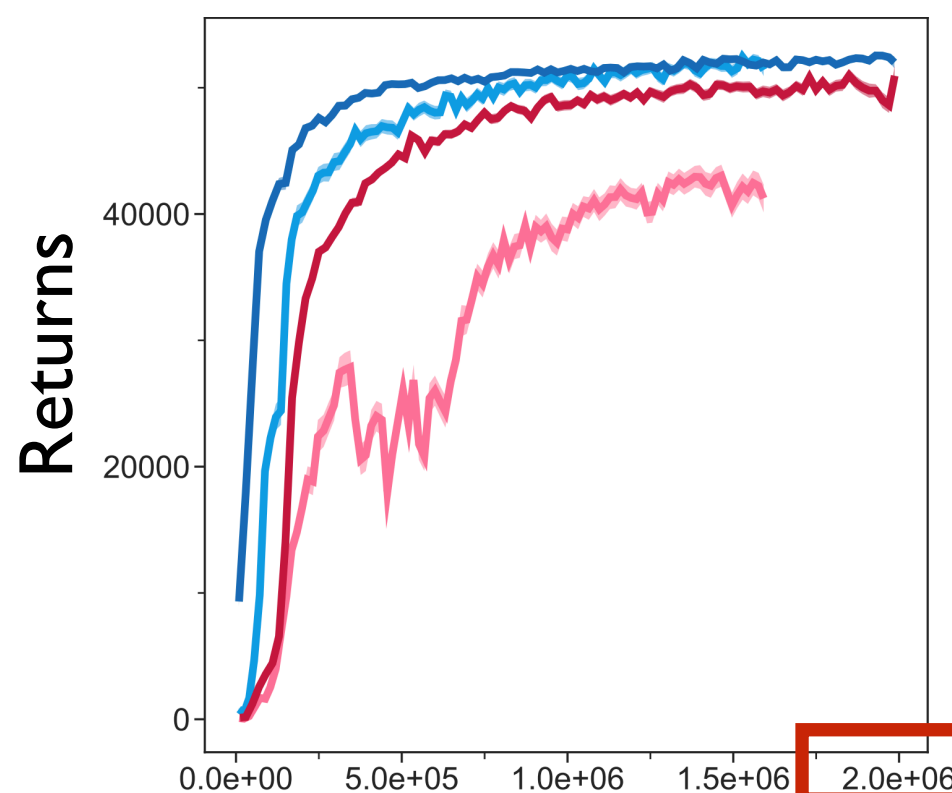
Next Steps: Sensorimotor Coordination in Ethologically-Relevant Environments



Model-free Control of Animal-like Bodies is Hard



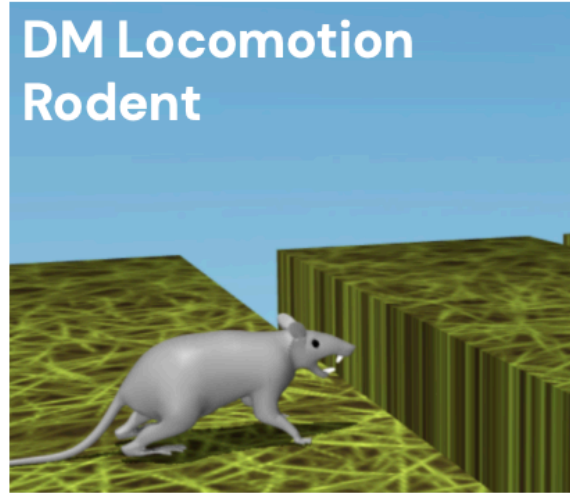
Task domain	 DM Control Suite / Real World RL Suite	 DM Locomotion Humanoid	 DM Locomotion Rodent
Action space	continuous	continuous	continuous
Observation space	state	pixels	pixels
Exploration difficulty	low to moderate	high	moderate
Dynamics	deterministic / stochastic	deterministic	deterministic

Merel, Aldorando*, Marshal* et al. 2020; Gulcehre et al. 2021*

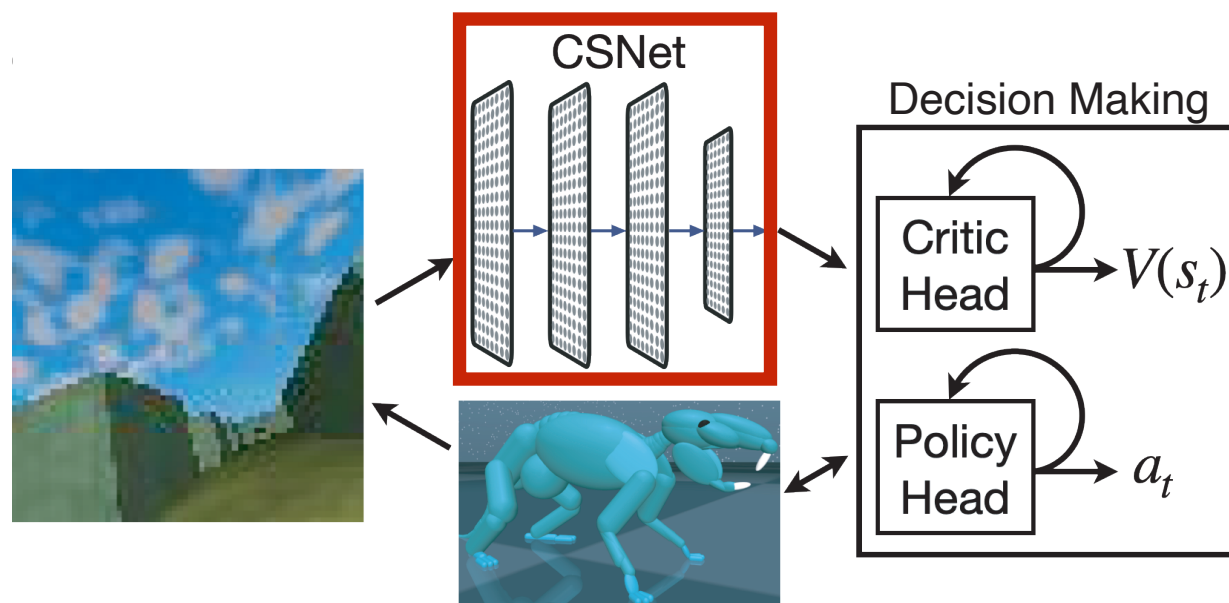


**Millions of
iterations from
scratch!**

Self-supervised pre-training of encoders seems to help

Task domain	 DM Control Suite / Real World RL Suite	 DM Locomotion Humanoid	 DM Locomotion Rodent
Action space	continuous	continuous	continuous
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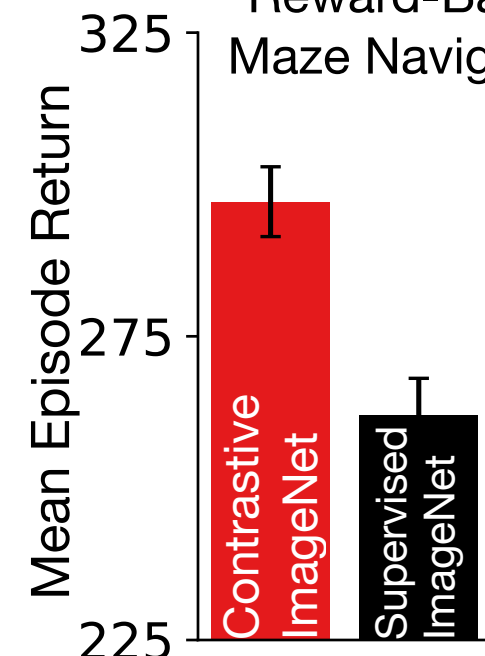
Merel, Aldorando*, Marshal* et al. 2020; Gulcehre et al. 2021*



Biomechanical Model

(Merel, Aldorando*, Marshal* et al. 2020)*

Reward-Based
Maze Navigation



Nayebi, Kong* et al. 2022*

Effector architectures



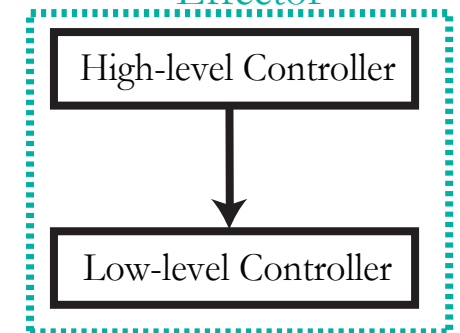
Shallow, Feedforward Effector



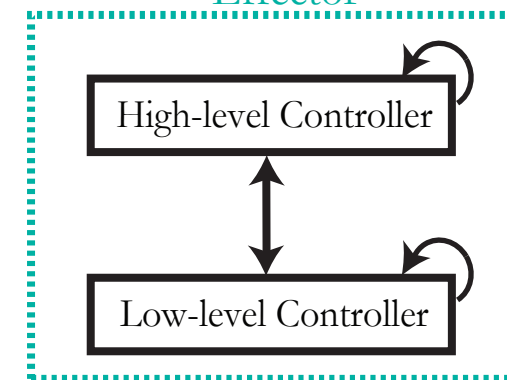
Shallow, Recurrent Effector



Hierarchical, Feedforward Effector

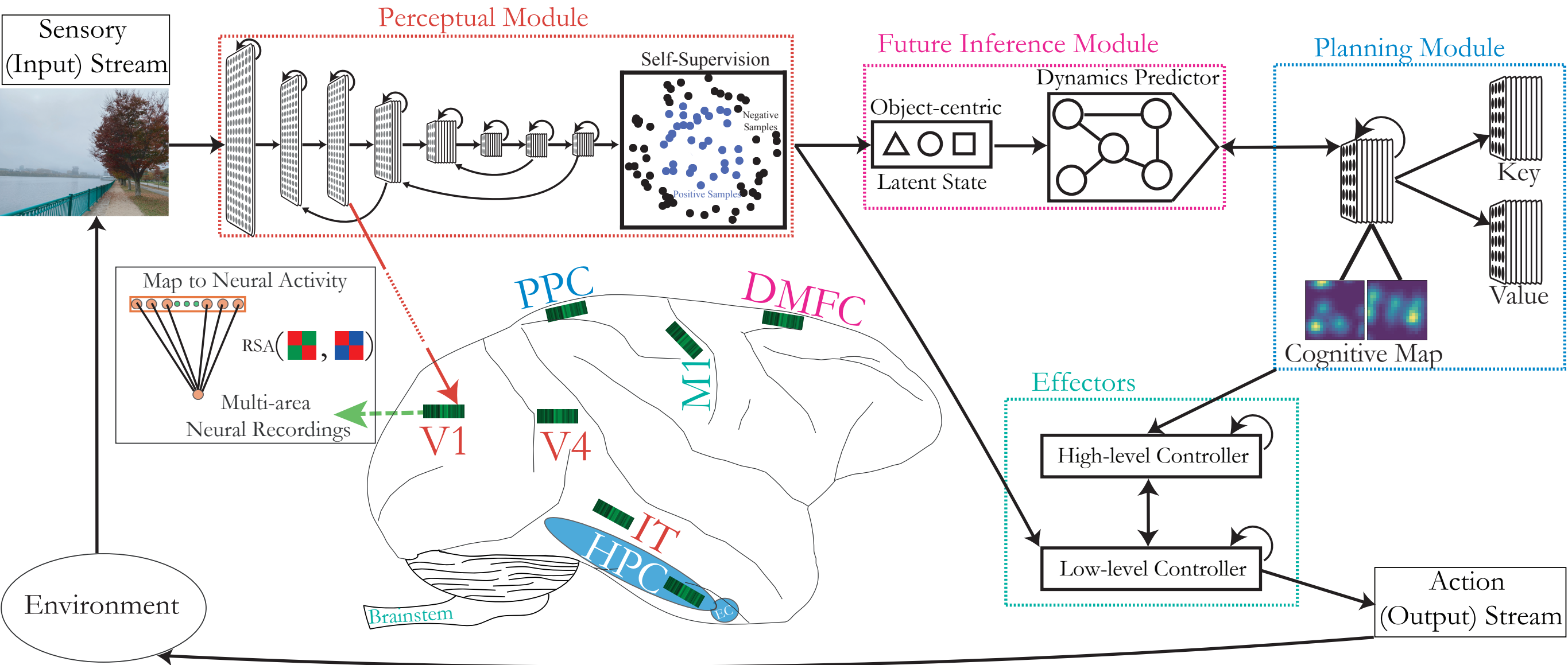


Hierarchical, Recurrent Effector



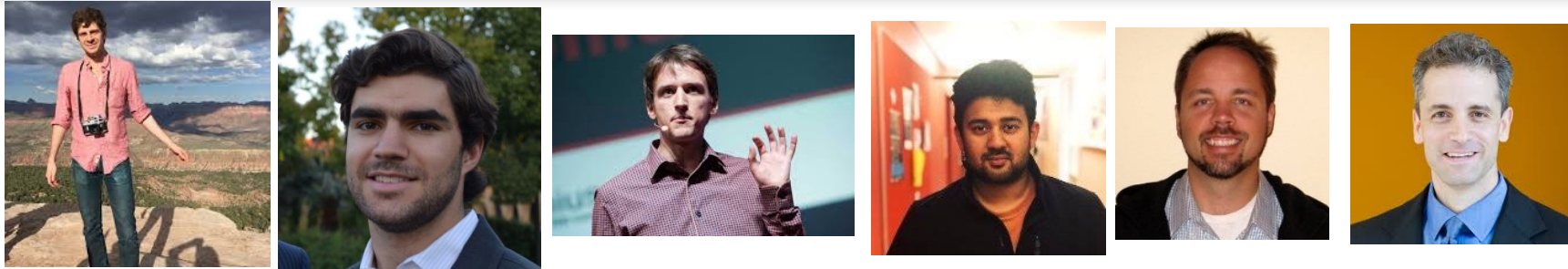
Normative basis of motor coordination (e.g. involving the interaction of higher motor cortices, basal ganglia, and the brainstem)

Integrative Agents to Reverse-Engineer Natural Cognition



Building integrative agents in rich, ethologically-relevant environments will be the basis for the evolutionary design principles of natural cognition

Acknowledgements



Contact:
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Funding:

K. Lisa Yang ICoN Postdoctoral Fellowship,
McGovern Institute, MIT

Stanford Neurosciences PhD Program

Stanford Mind, Brain, Computation and
Technology Training Program,
Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute

