

Why NeuroAI Needs **NeuroAgents**

Aran Nayebi

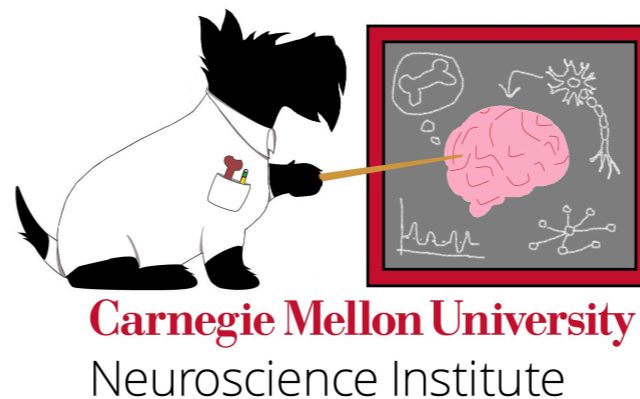
Carnegie Mellon University

Machine Learning Department

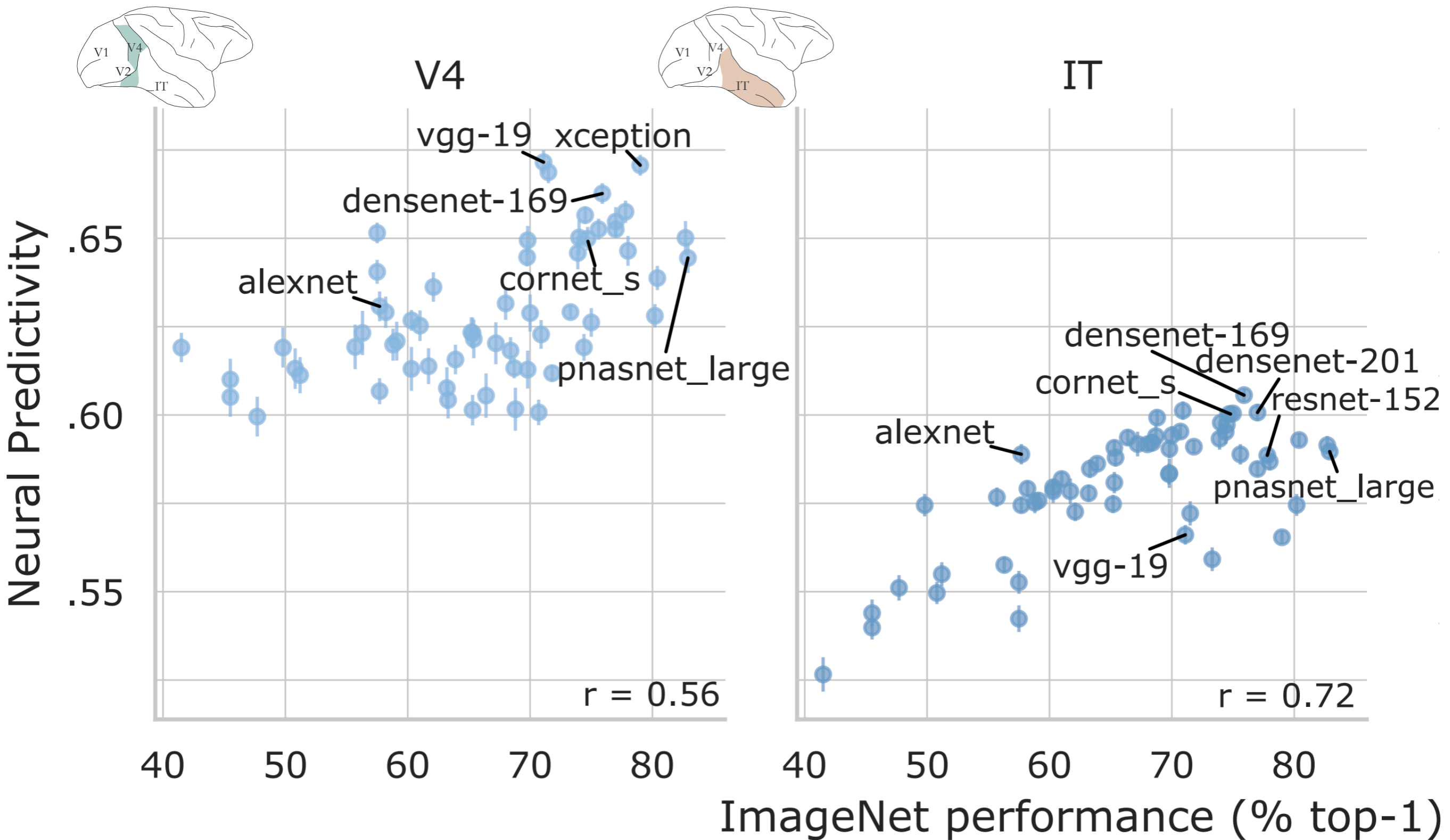
Neuroscience Institute (core faculty), Robotics Institute (courtesy)

Cosyne 2025 Agents Workshop

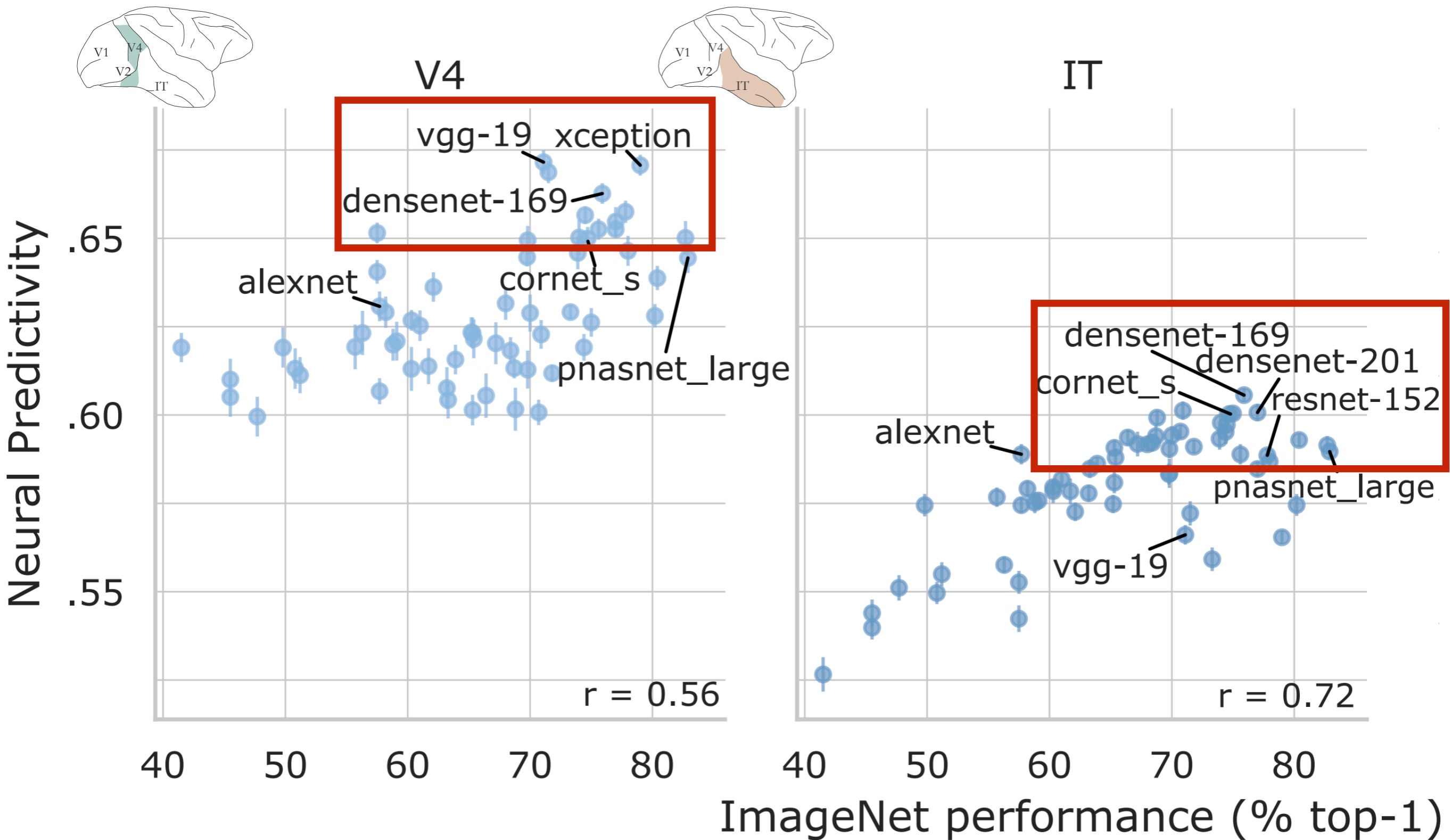
2025.03.31



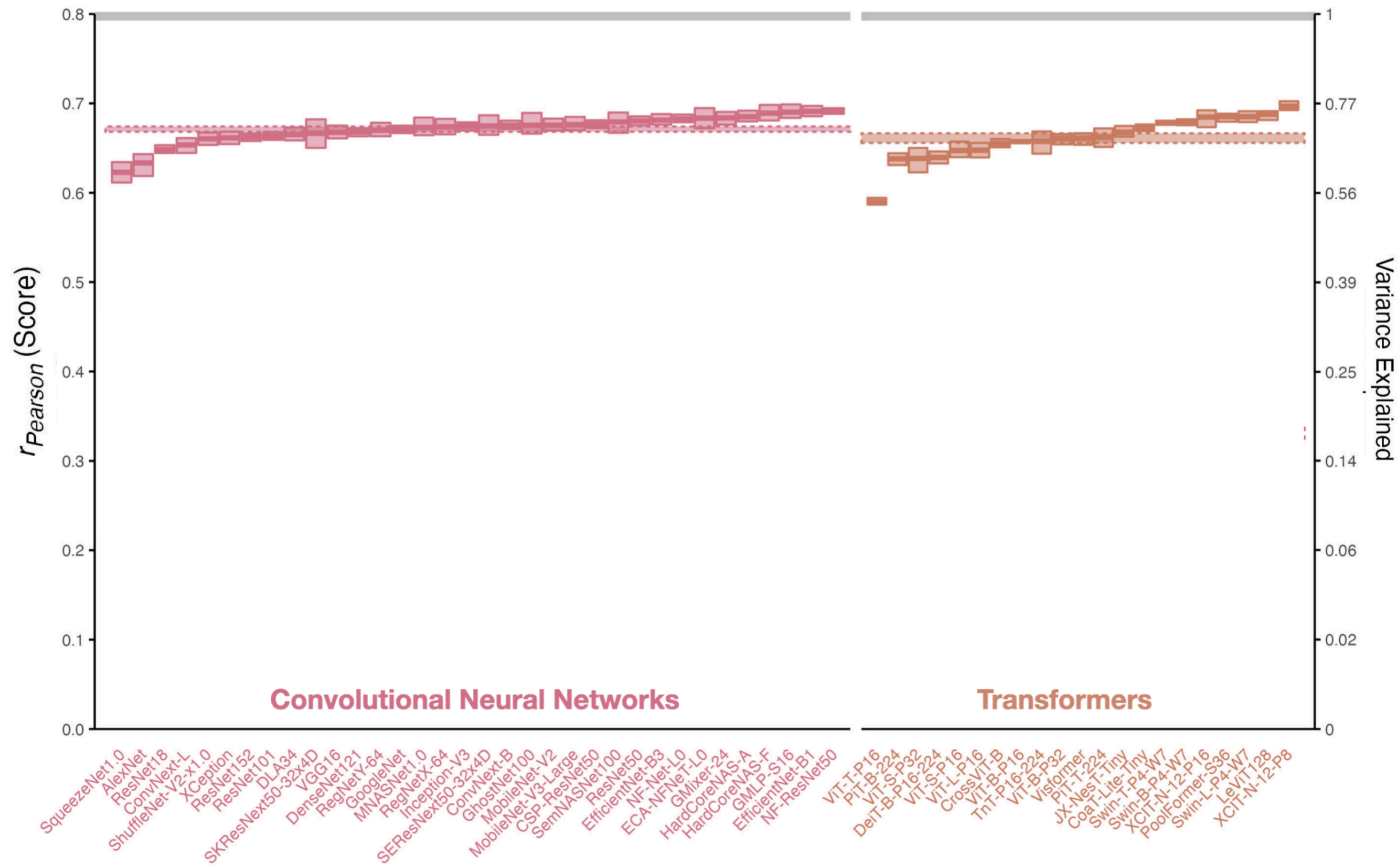
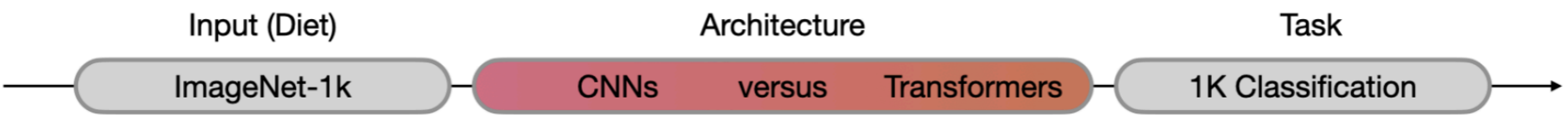
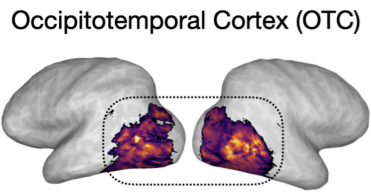
Similar predictivities among very different CNN architectures



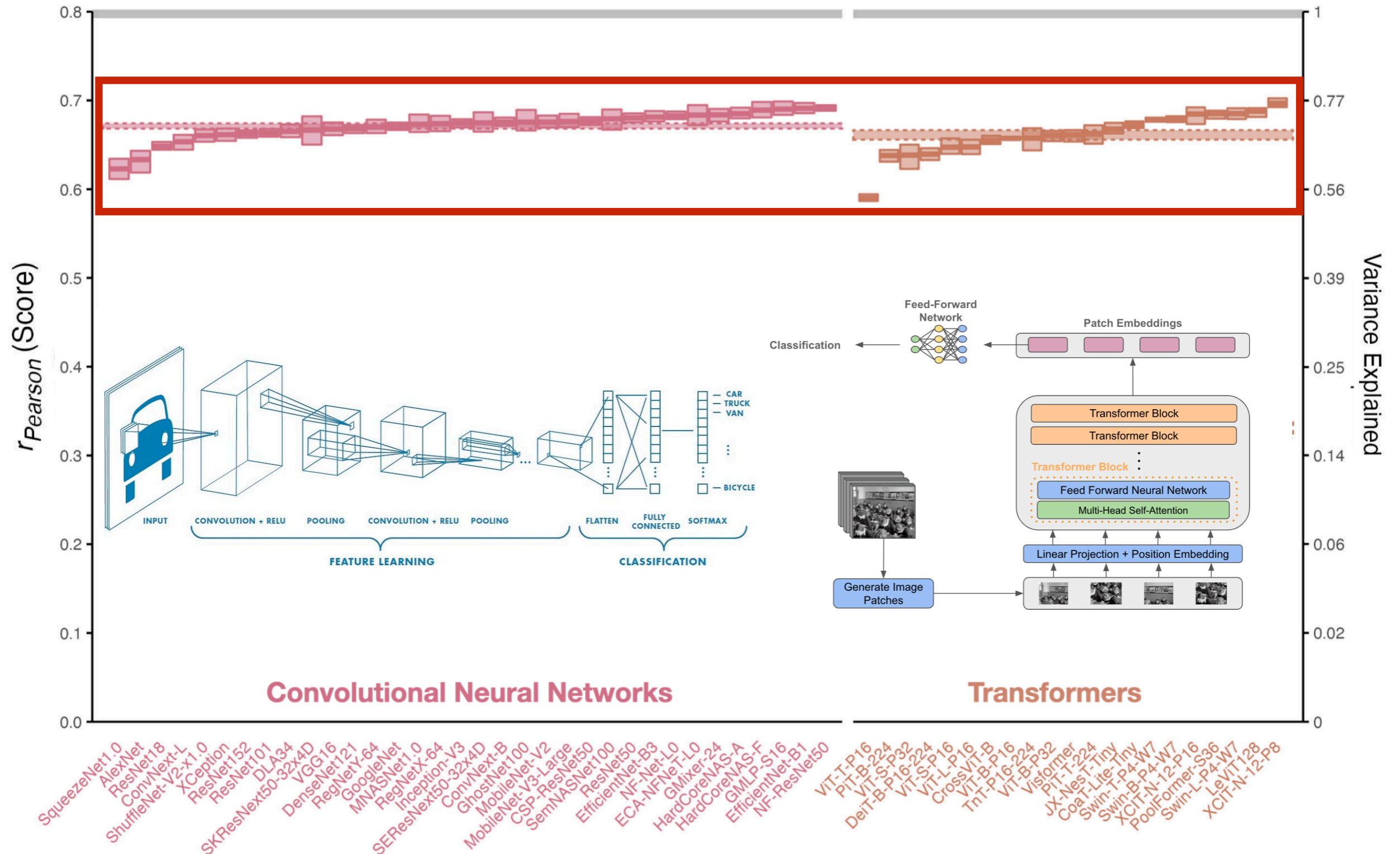
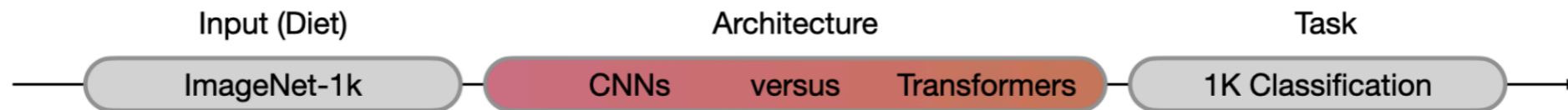
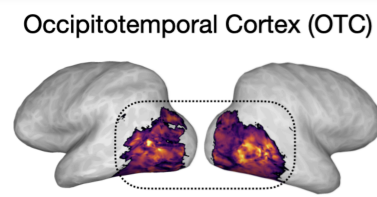
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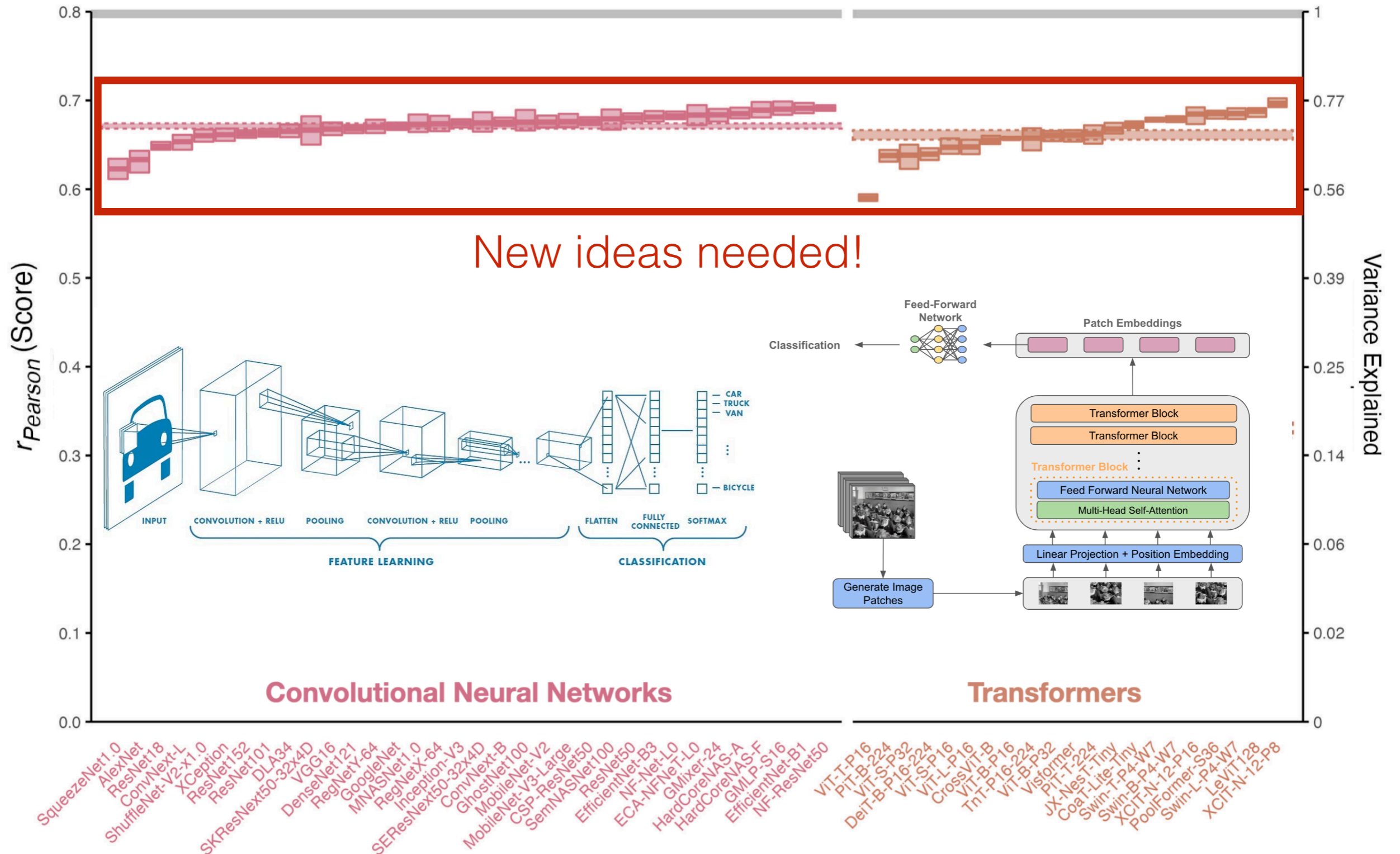
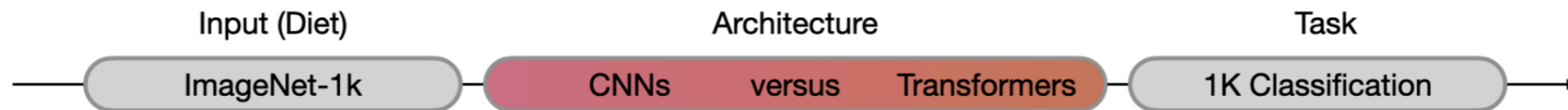
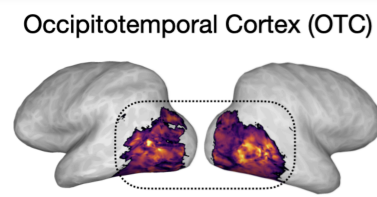
Similar predictivities between CNNs vs. Transformers



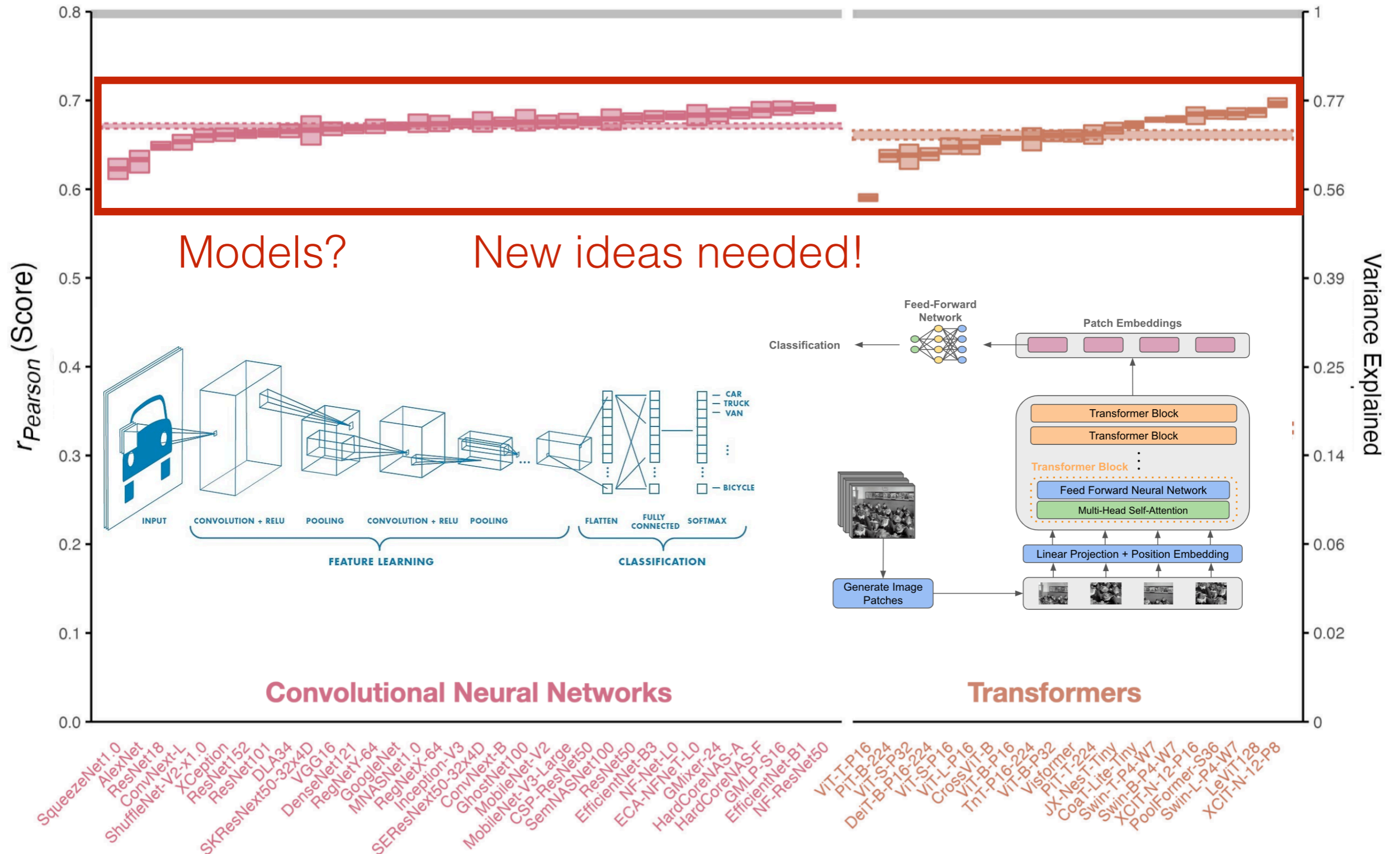
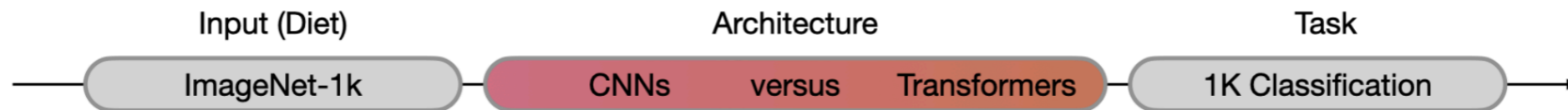
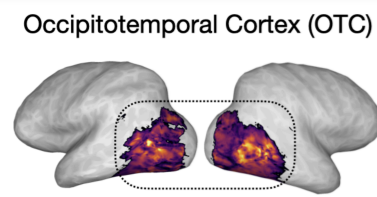
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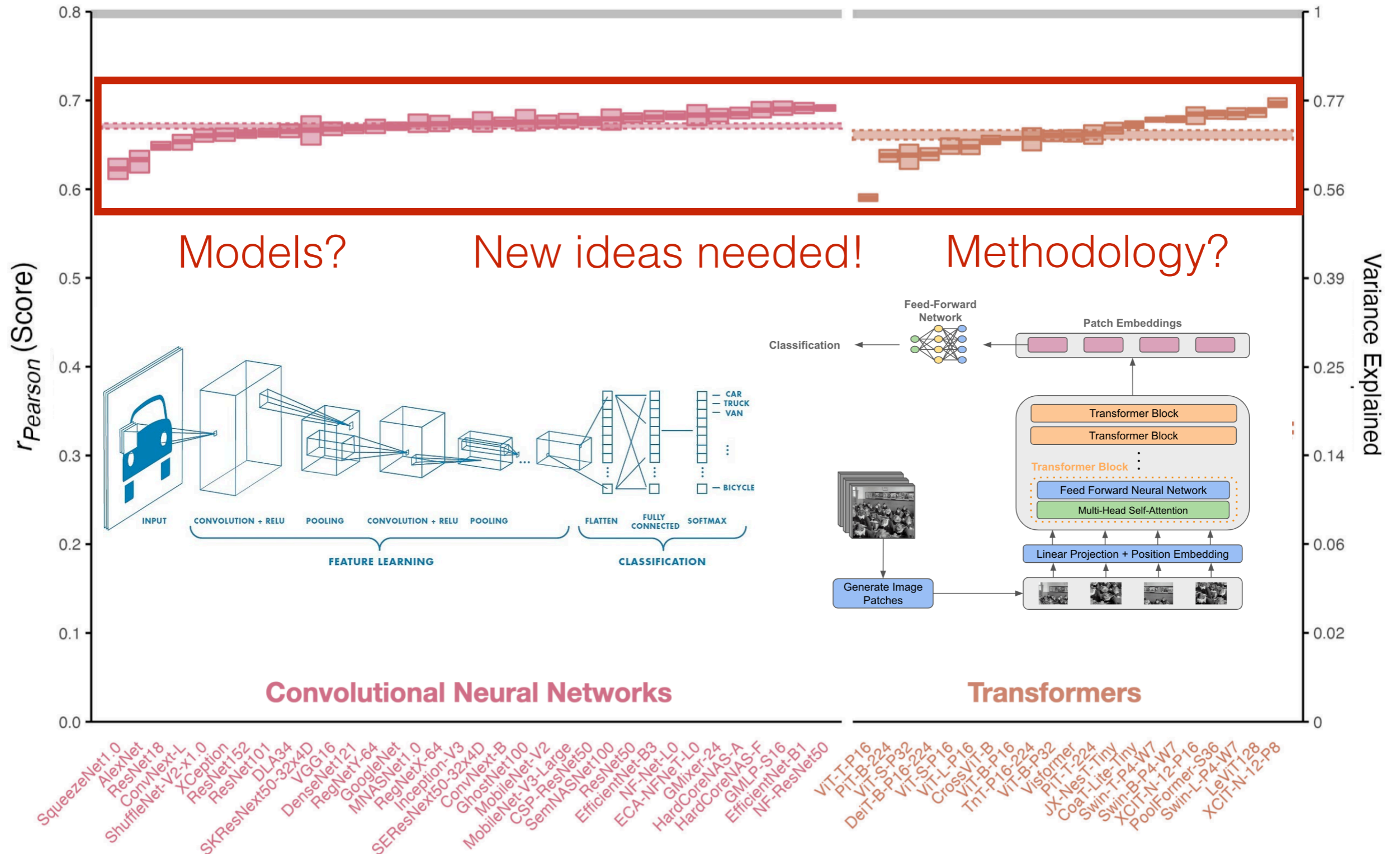
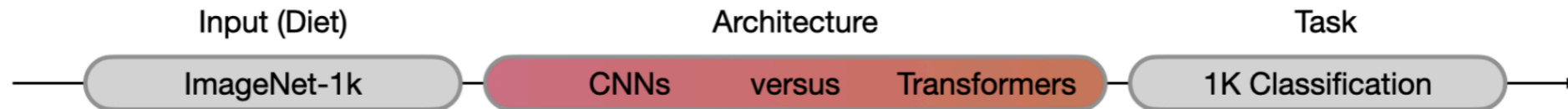
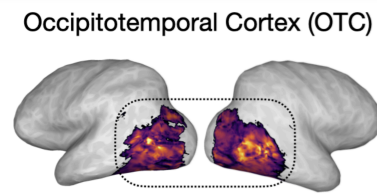
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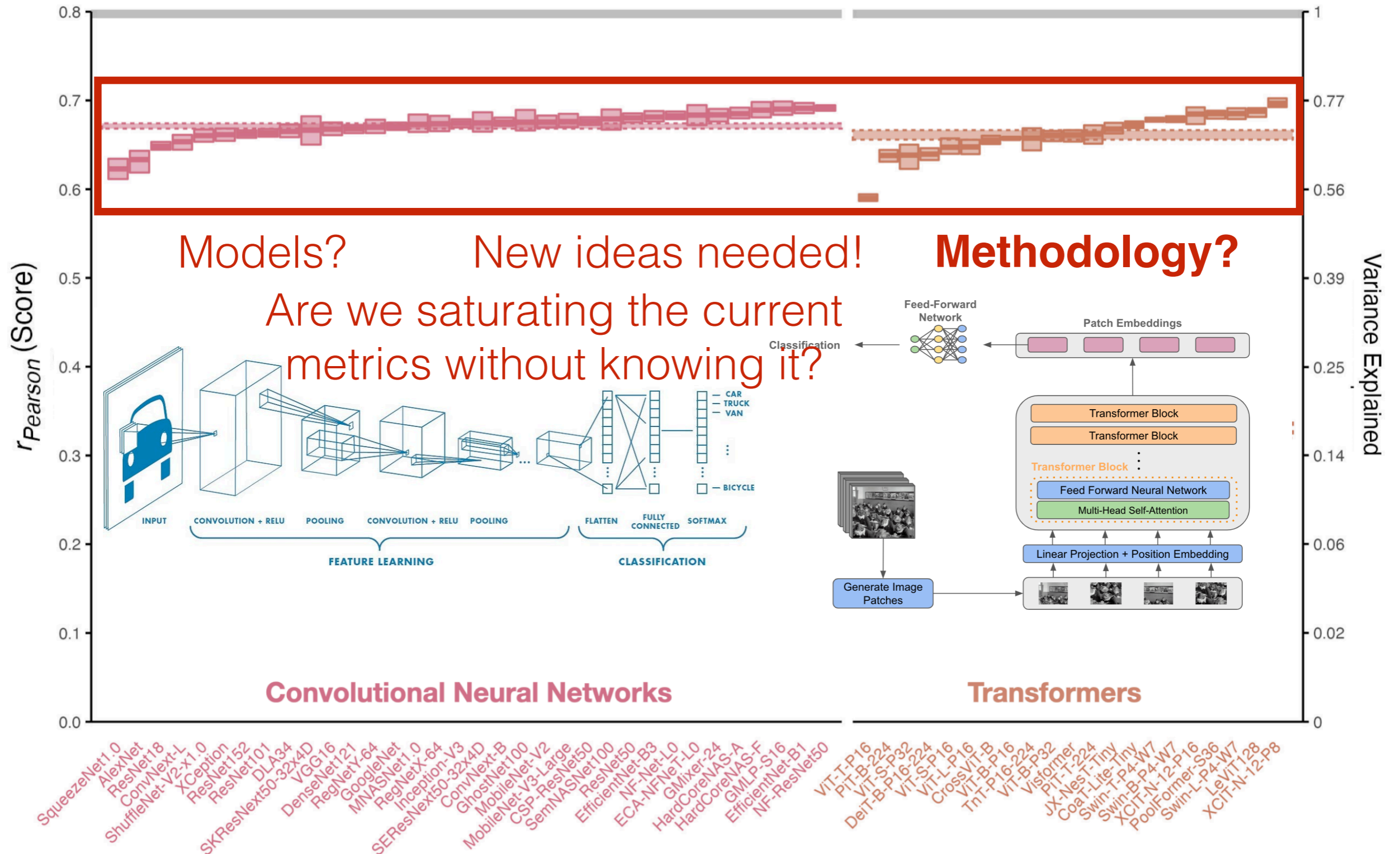
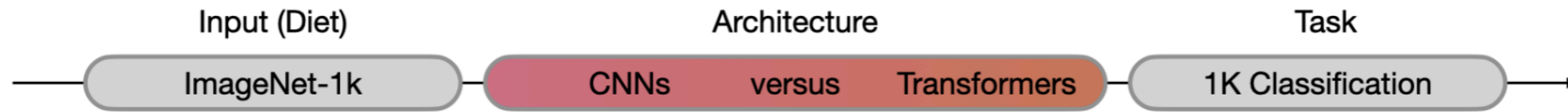
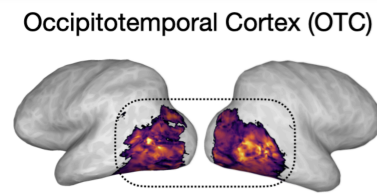
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Determining the Methodology

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Determining the Methodology

Brain-Model Evaluations Need the NeuroAI Turing Test

Jenelle Feather^{*1} **Meenakshi Khosla**^{*2} **N. Apurva Ratan Murty**^{*3} **Aran Nayebi**^{*4}

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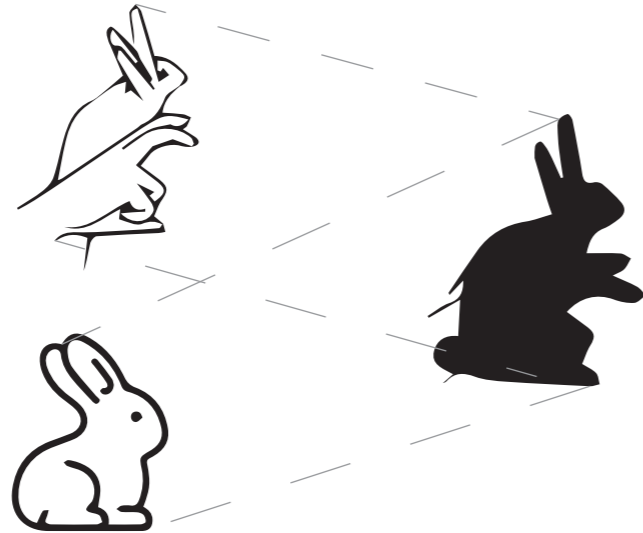
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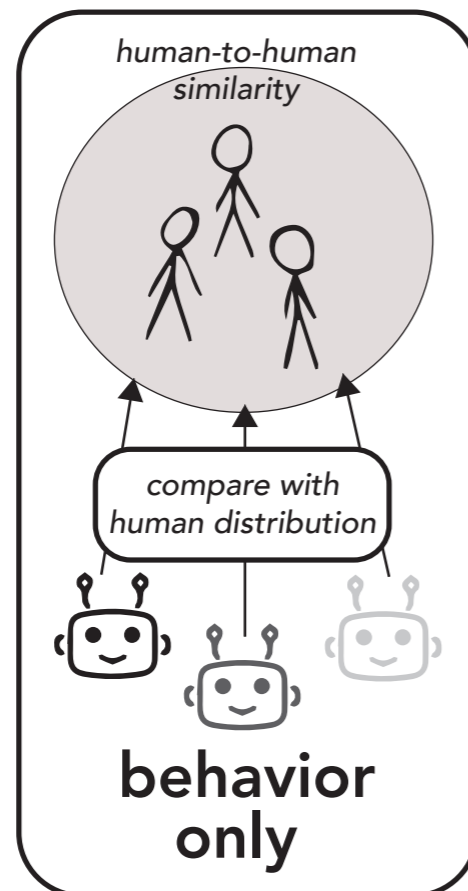
But, we do know that animals/subjects contain those
desired properties (even if we can't describe them), so
we instead take a *relative* perspective

NeuroAI Turing Test

Just as distinct objects
can cast the same shadow...

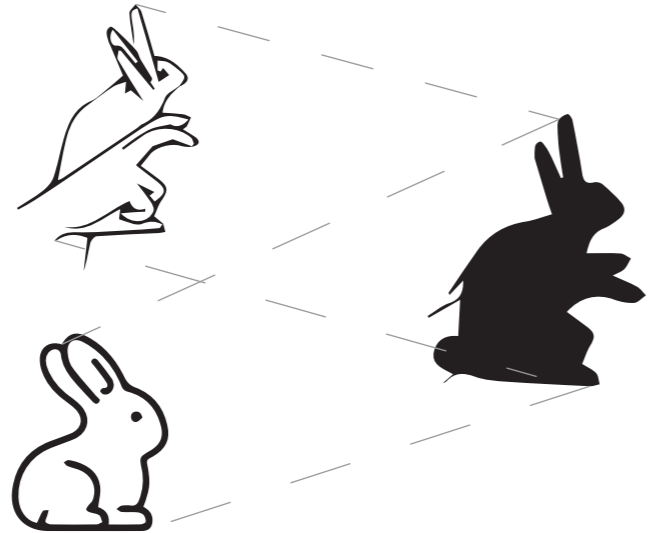


Turing Test

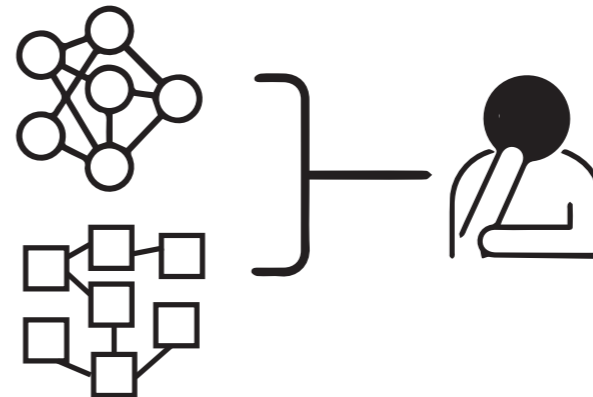


NeuroAI Turing Test

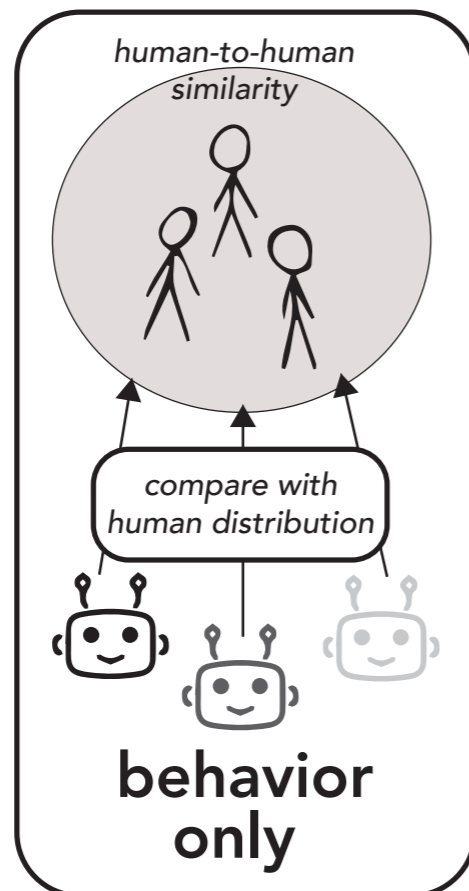
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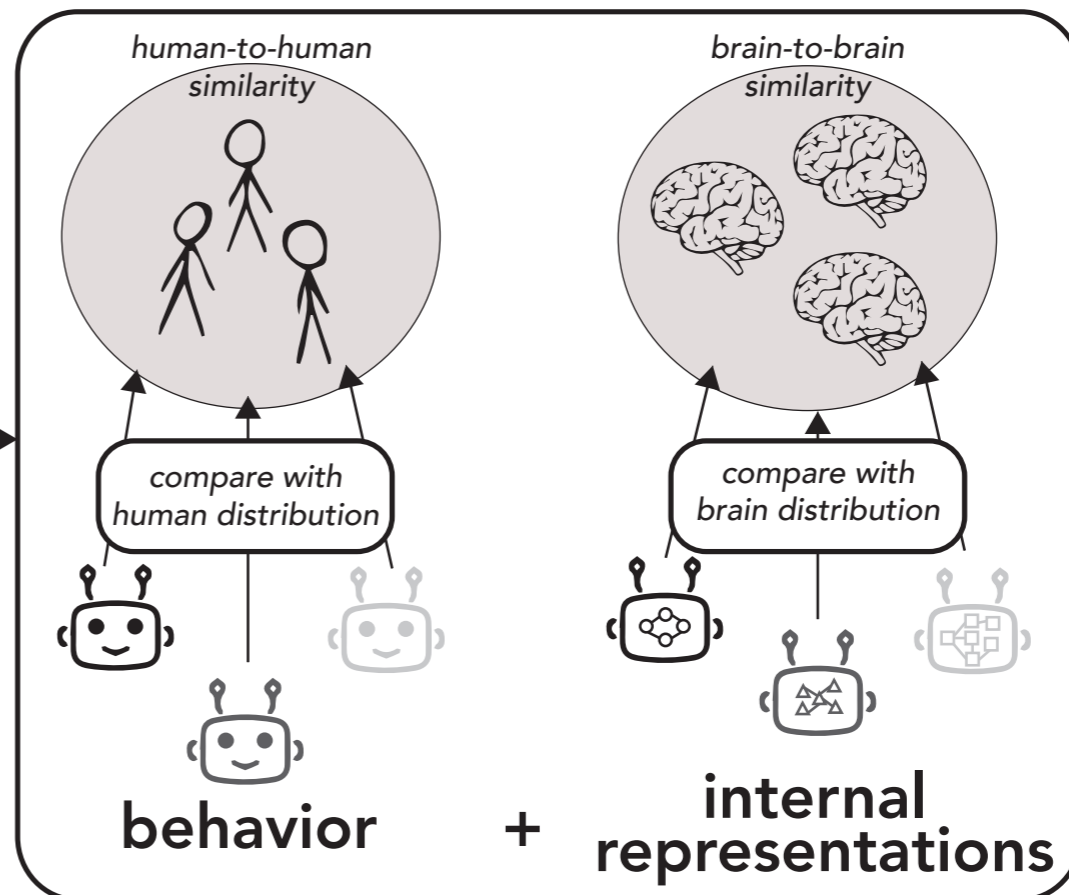
...distinct internal processes
(representations) can produce
similar outputs (behavior)



Turing Test

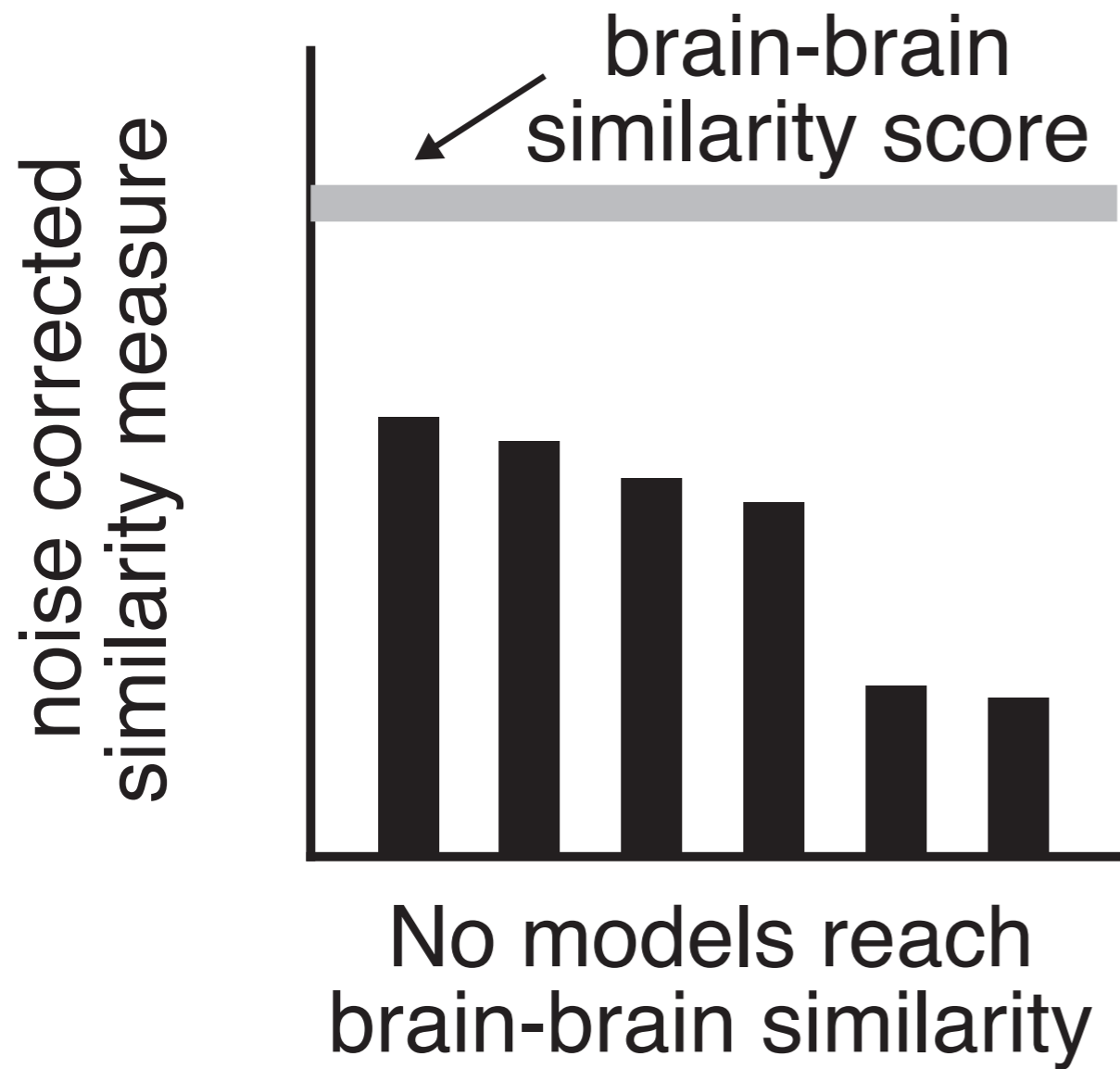


The NeuroAI Turing Test

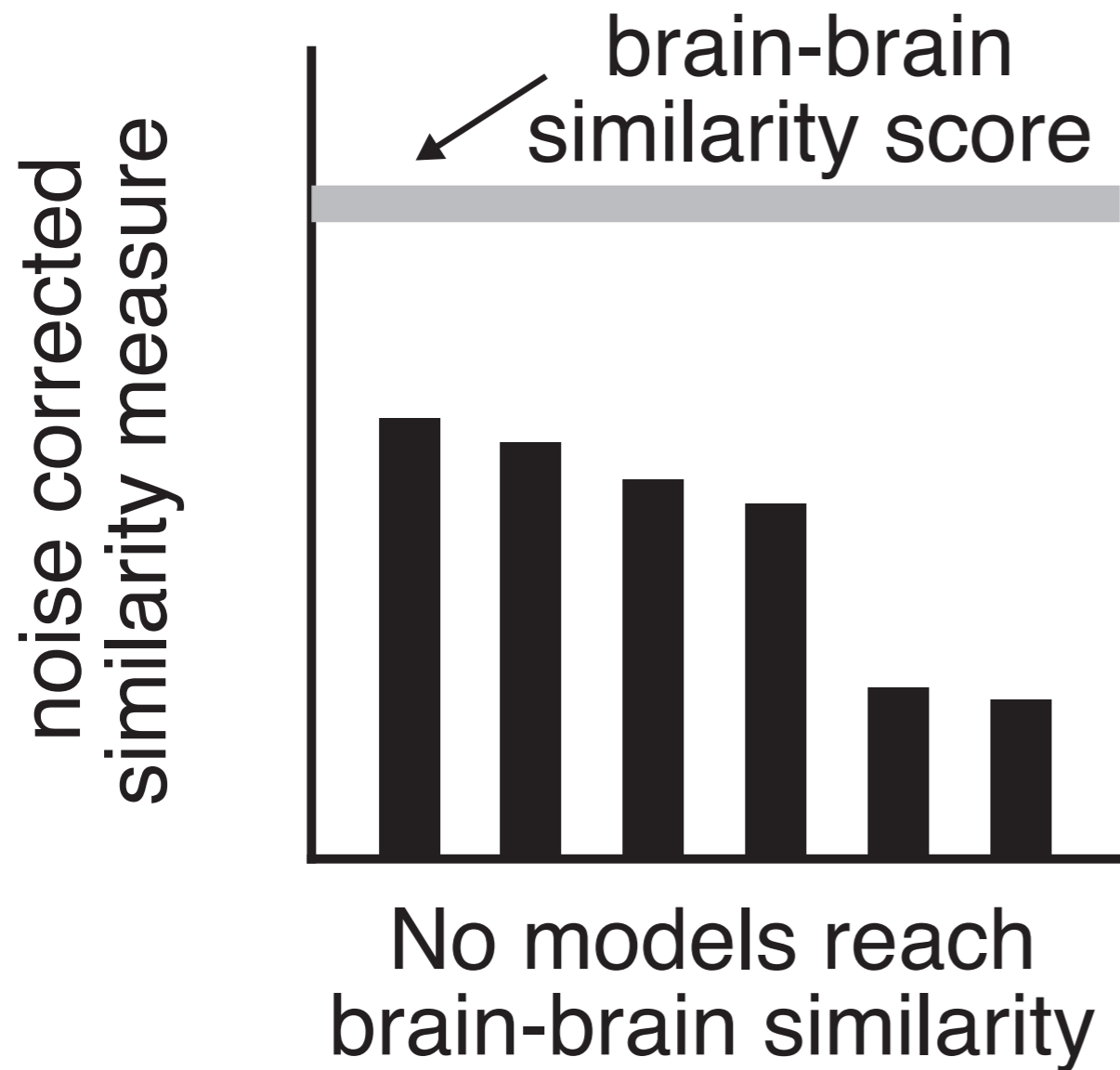


NeuroAI Turing Test: Possible Scenarios

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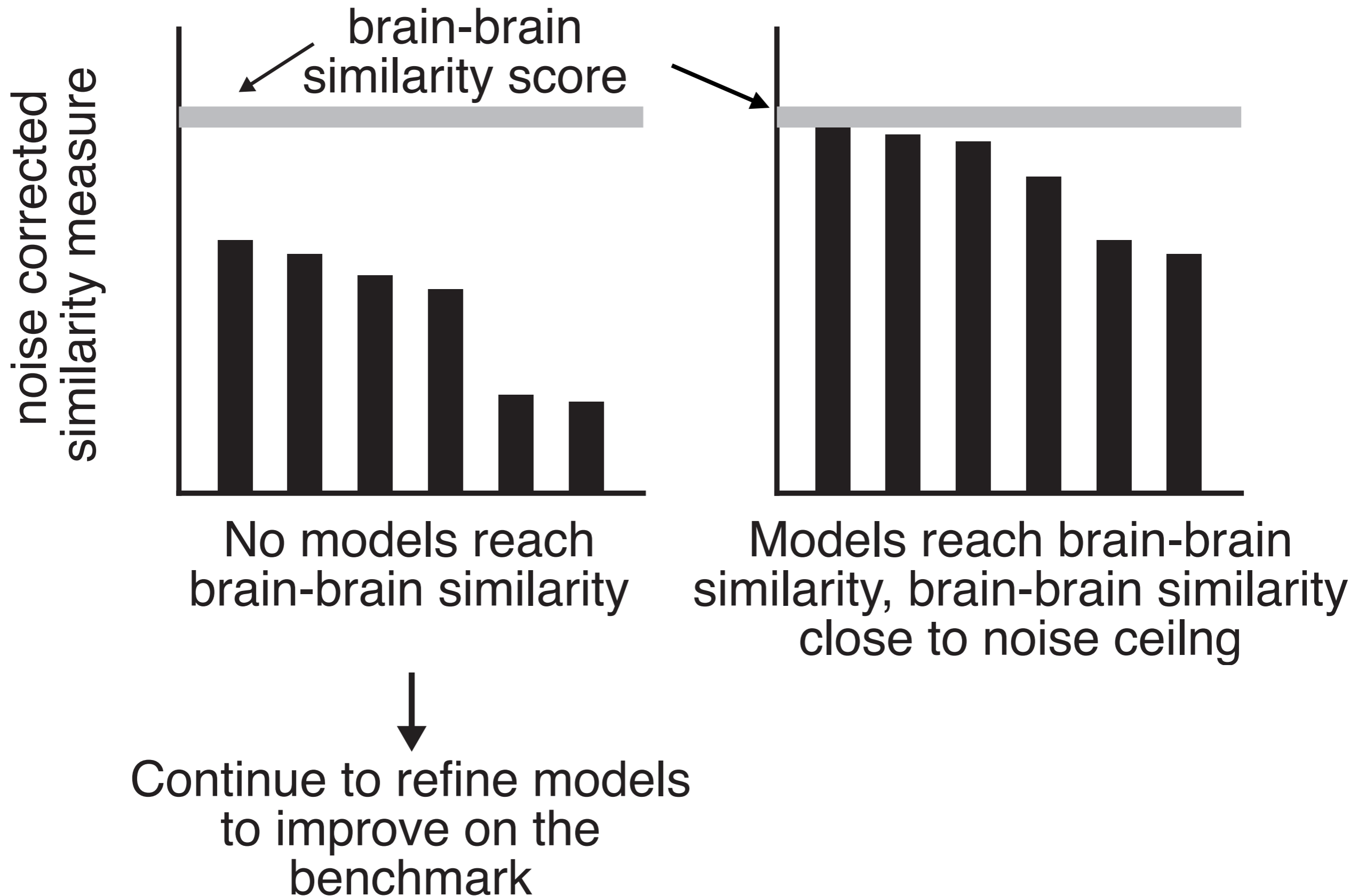


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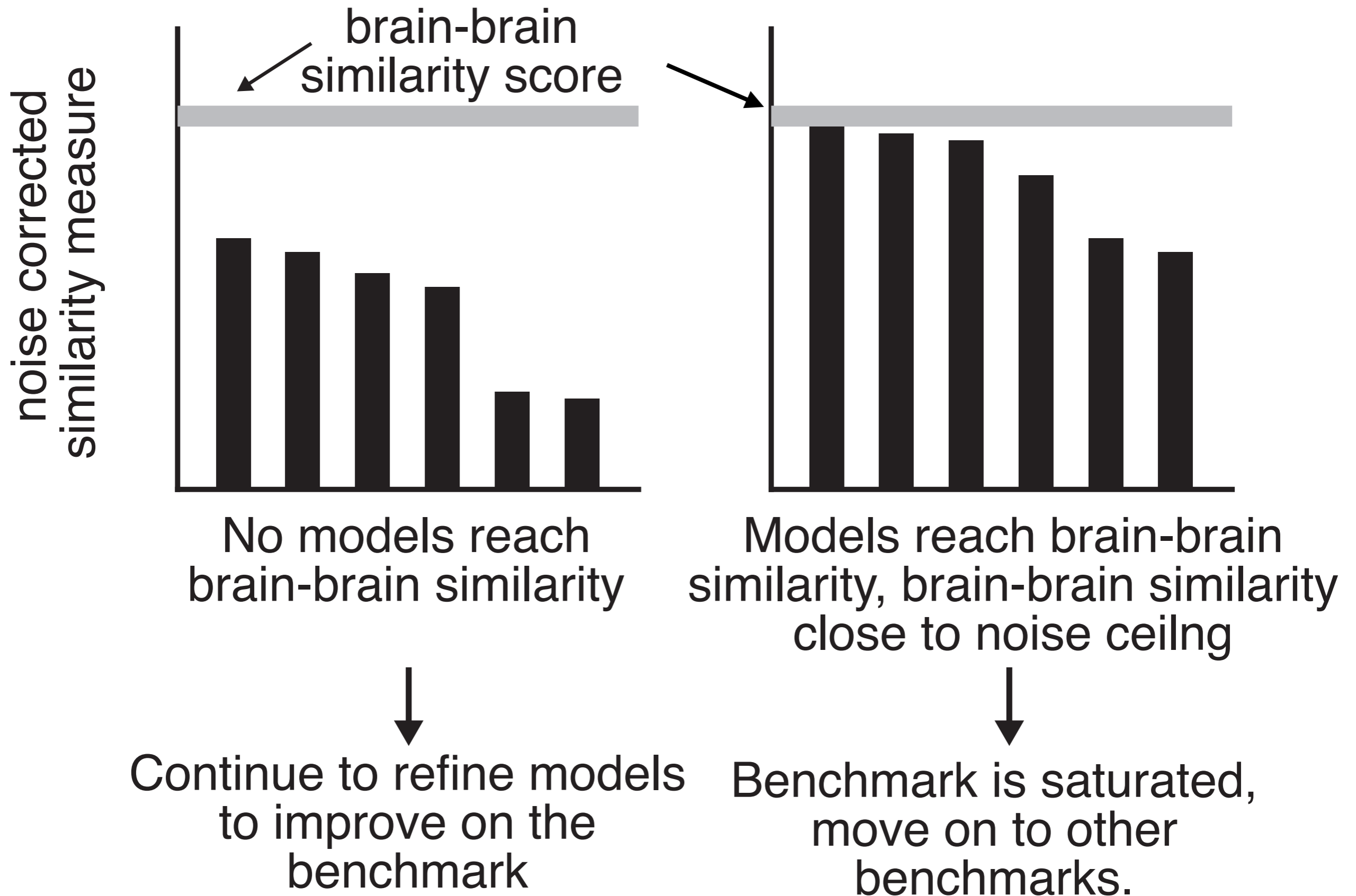


↓
Continue to refine models
to improve on the
benchmark

NeuroAI Turing Test: Possible Scenarios

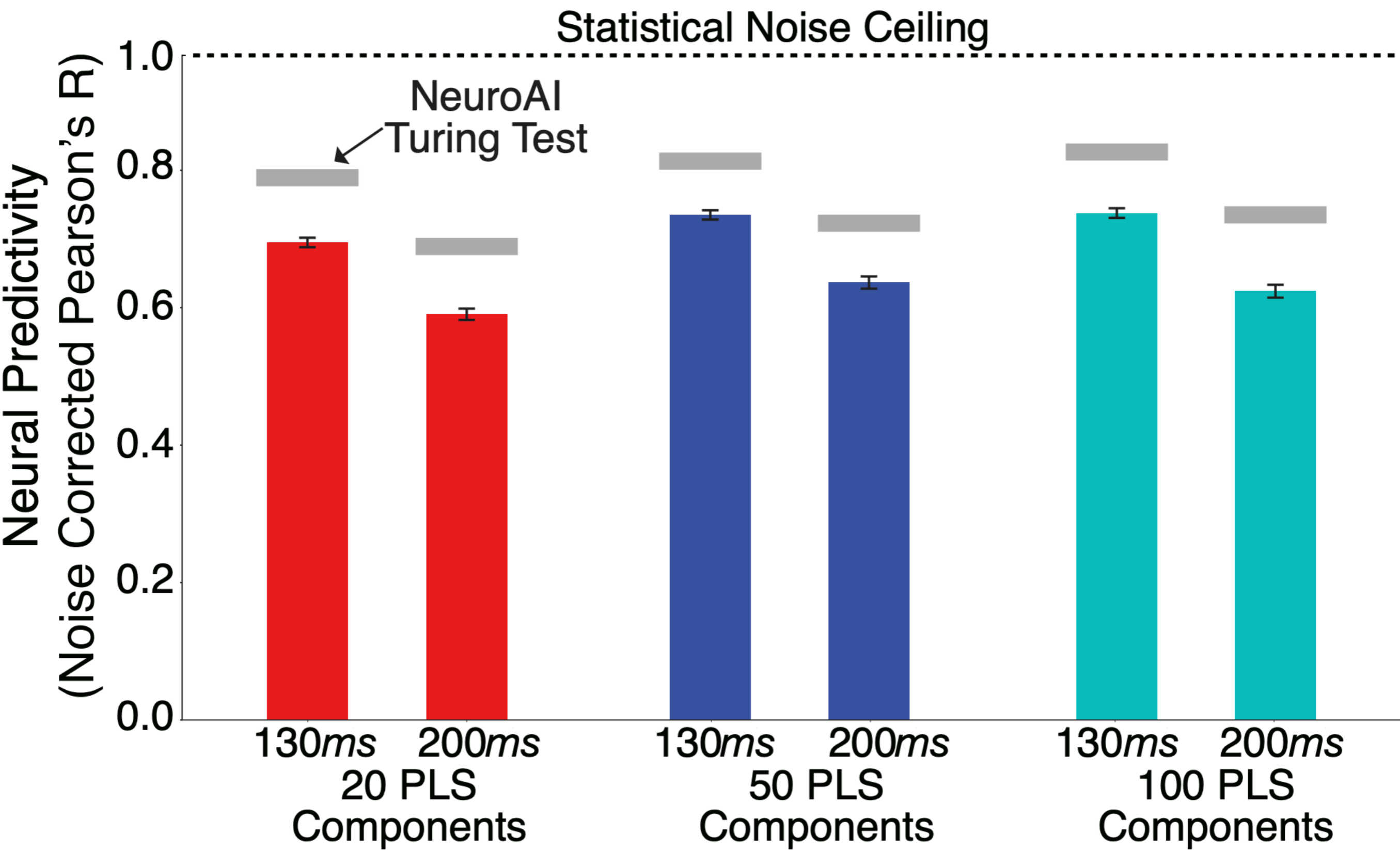


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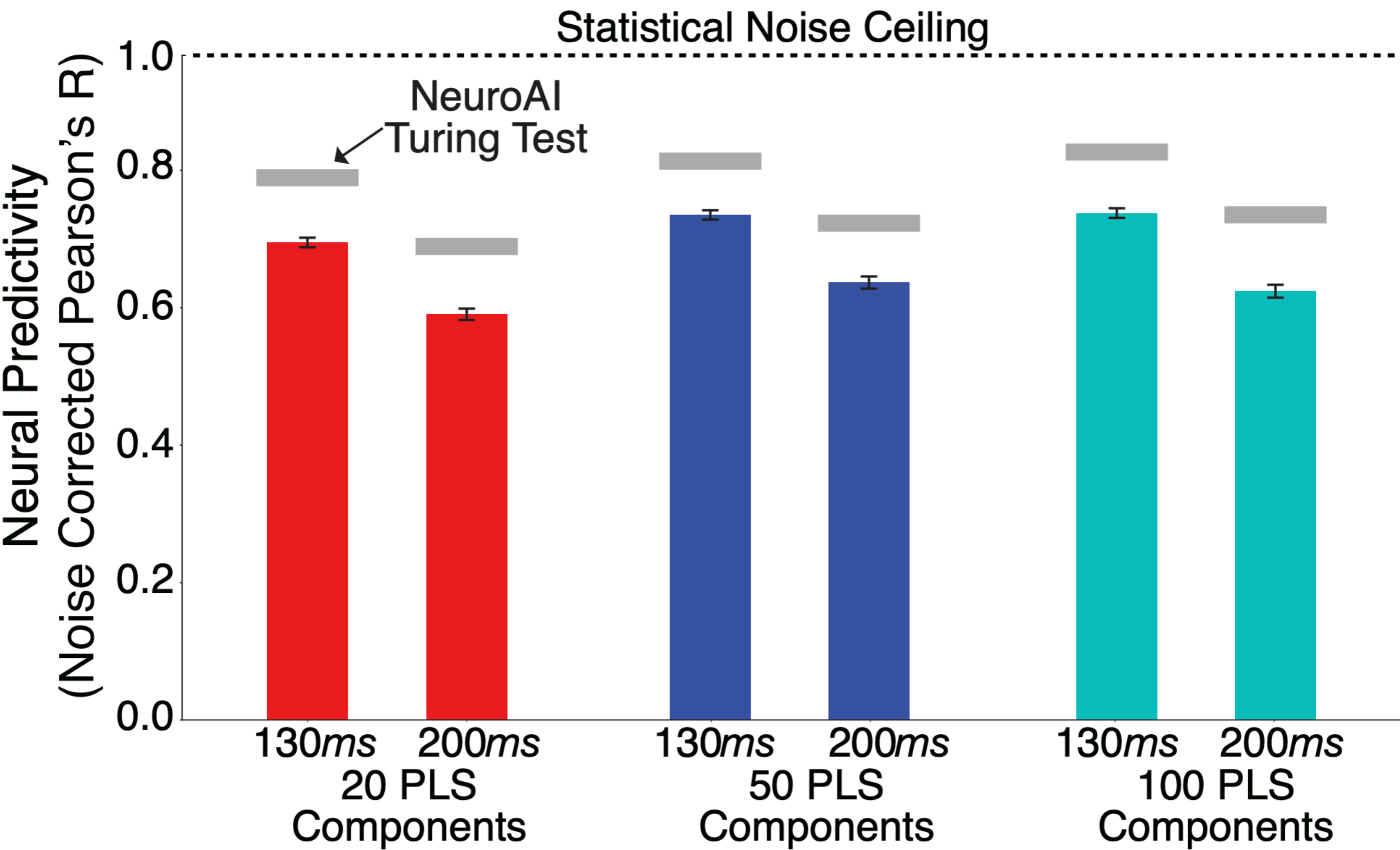


NeuroAI Turing Test: An Example in Primate Object Recognition

adapted from Nayebi et al. 2022, Fig S7B

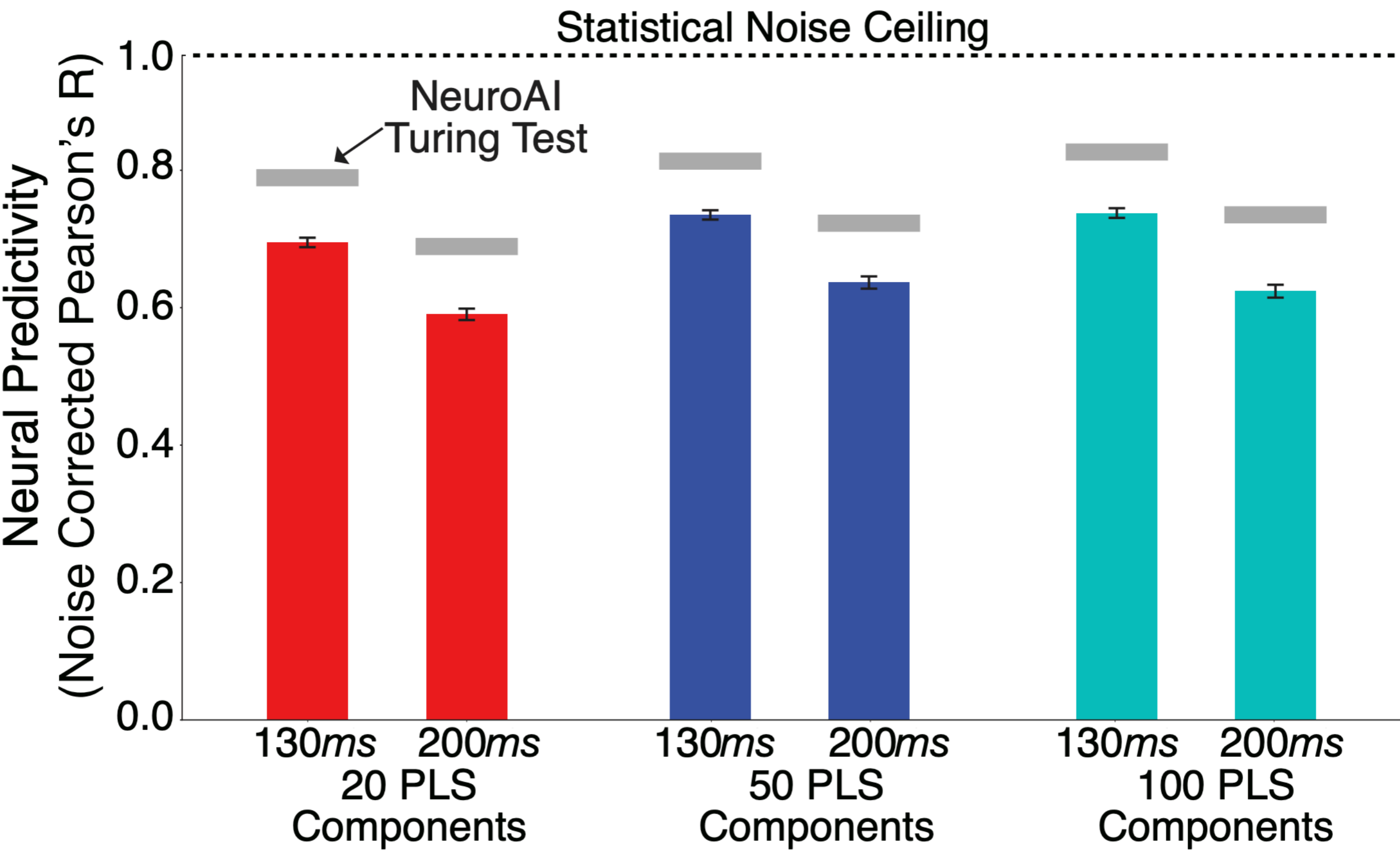


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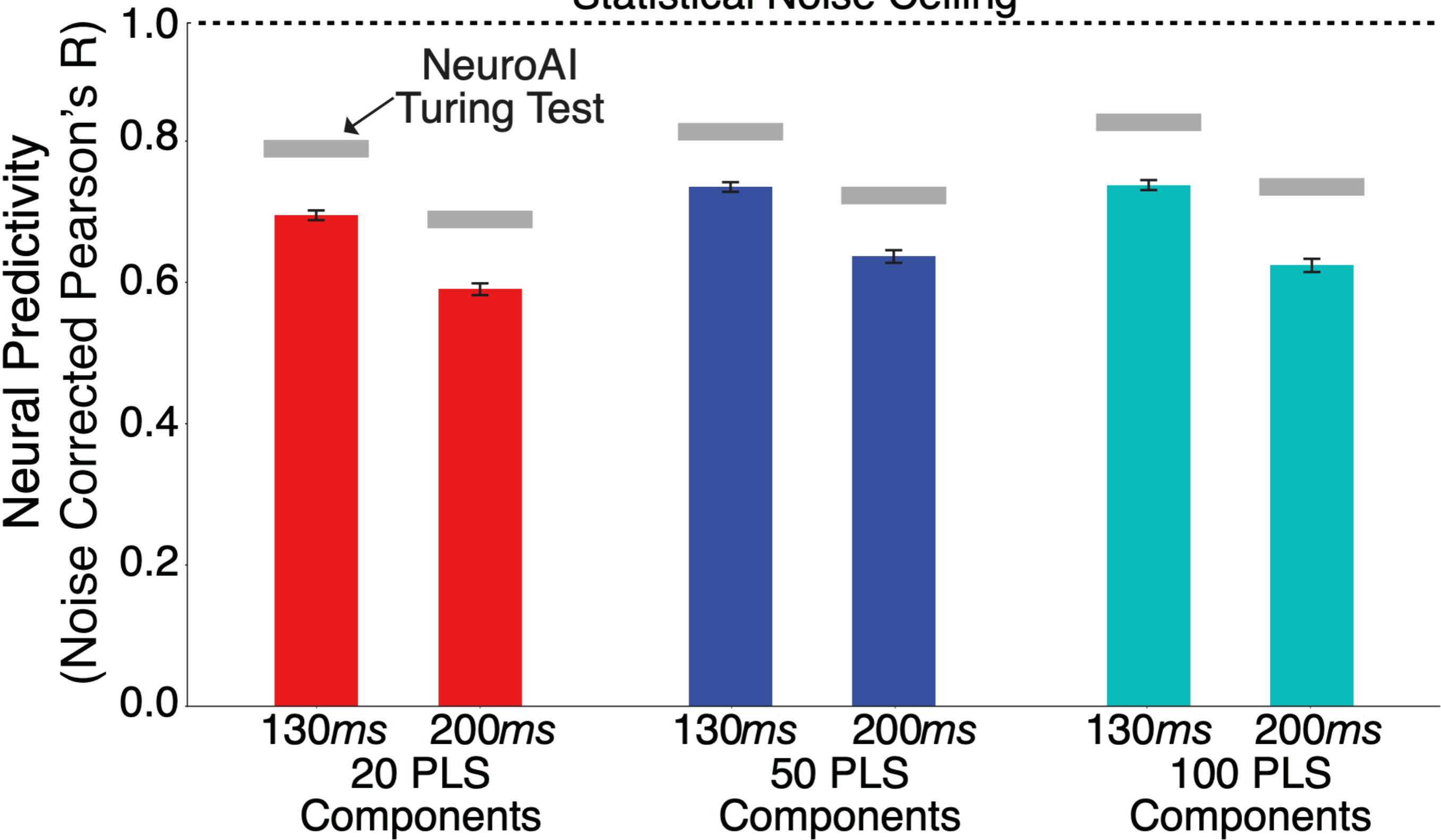
So we may have achieved it for the classic “HvM” dataset (it’s tapped out!)



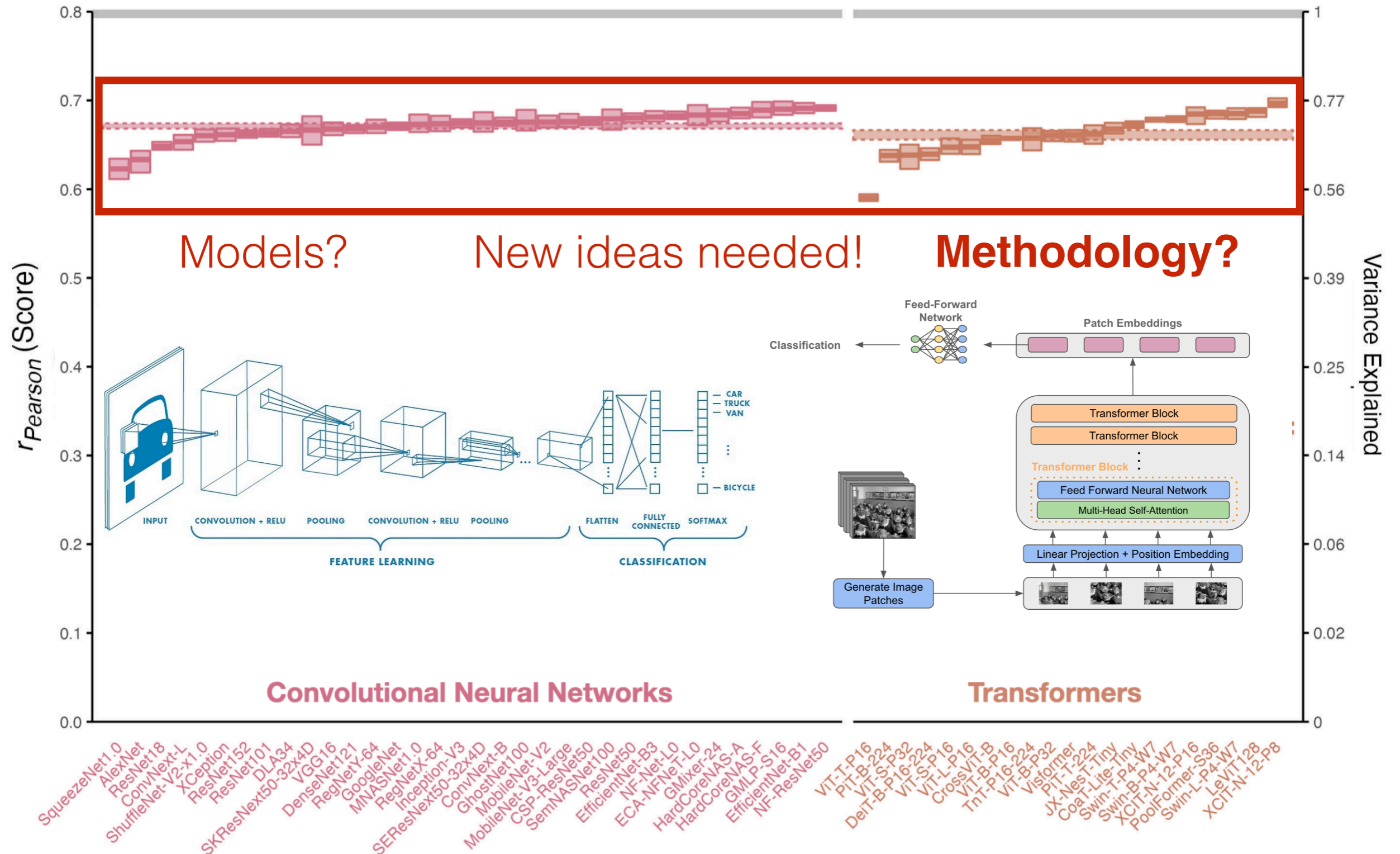
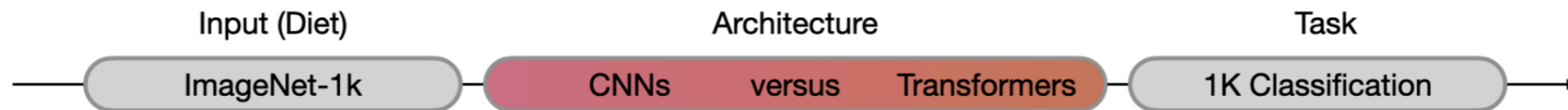
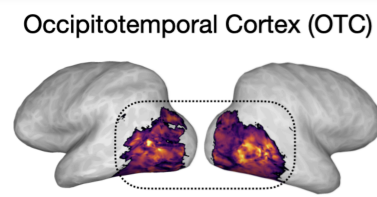
NeuroAI Turing Test: An Example in Primate Object Recognition

So we may have achieved it for the classic “HvM” dataset (it’s tapped out!)
But I will show you that we haven’t yet in embodied intelligence...

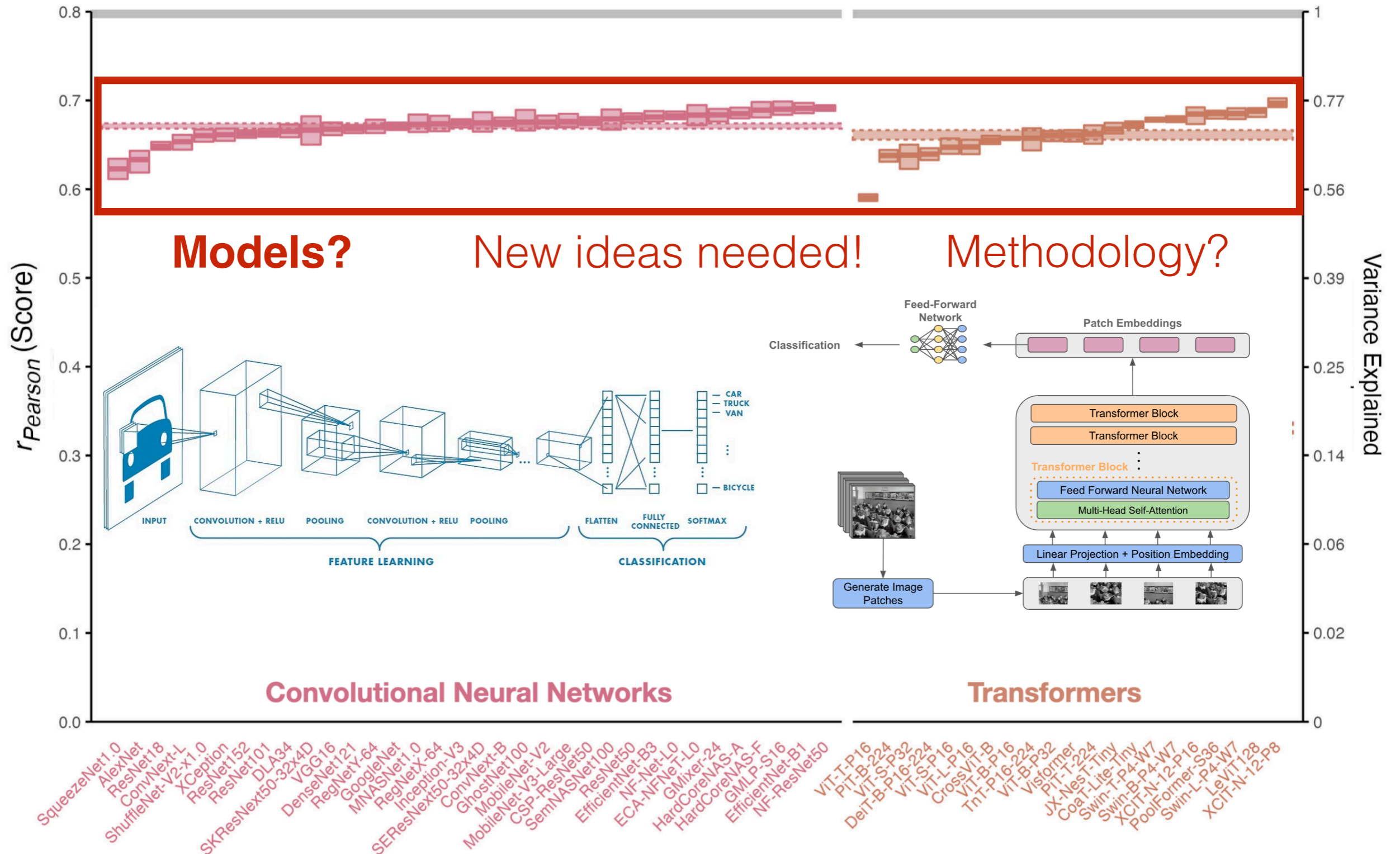
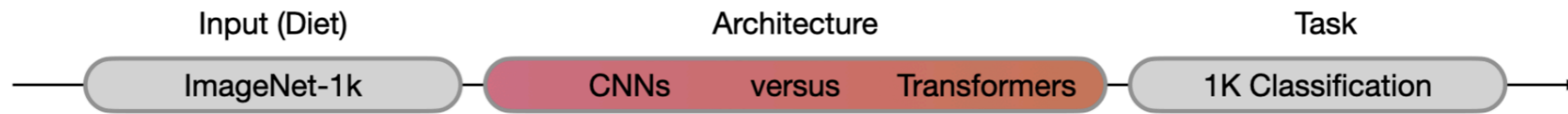
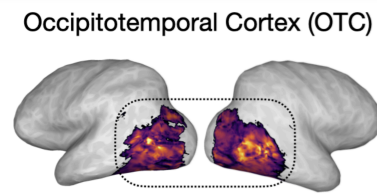
Statistical Noise Ceiling



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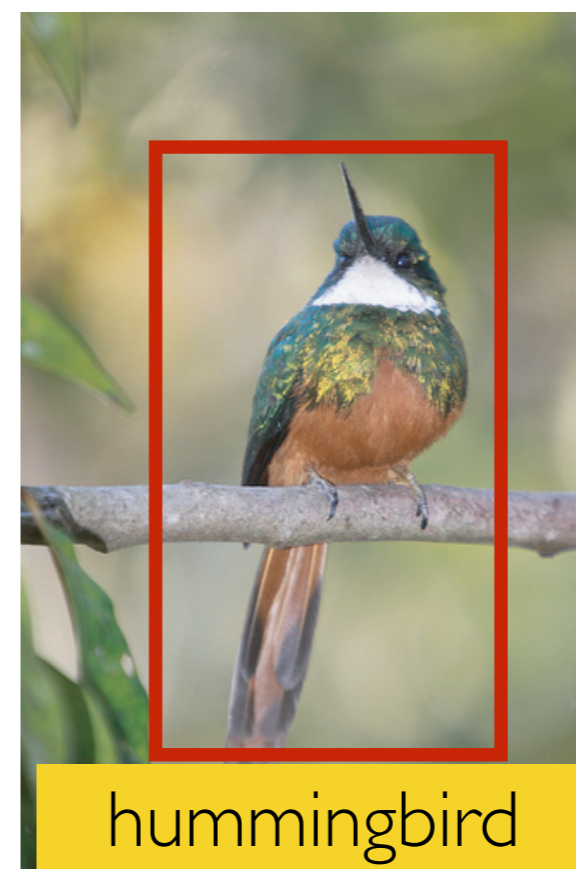
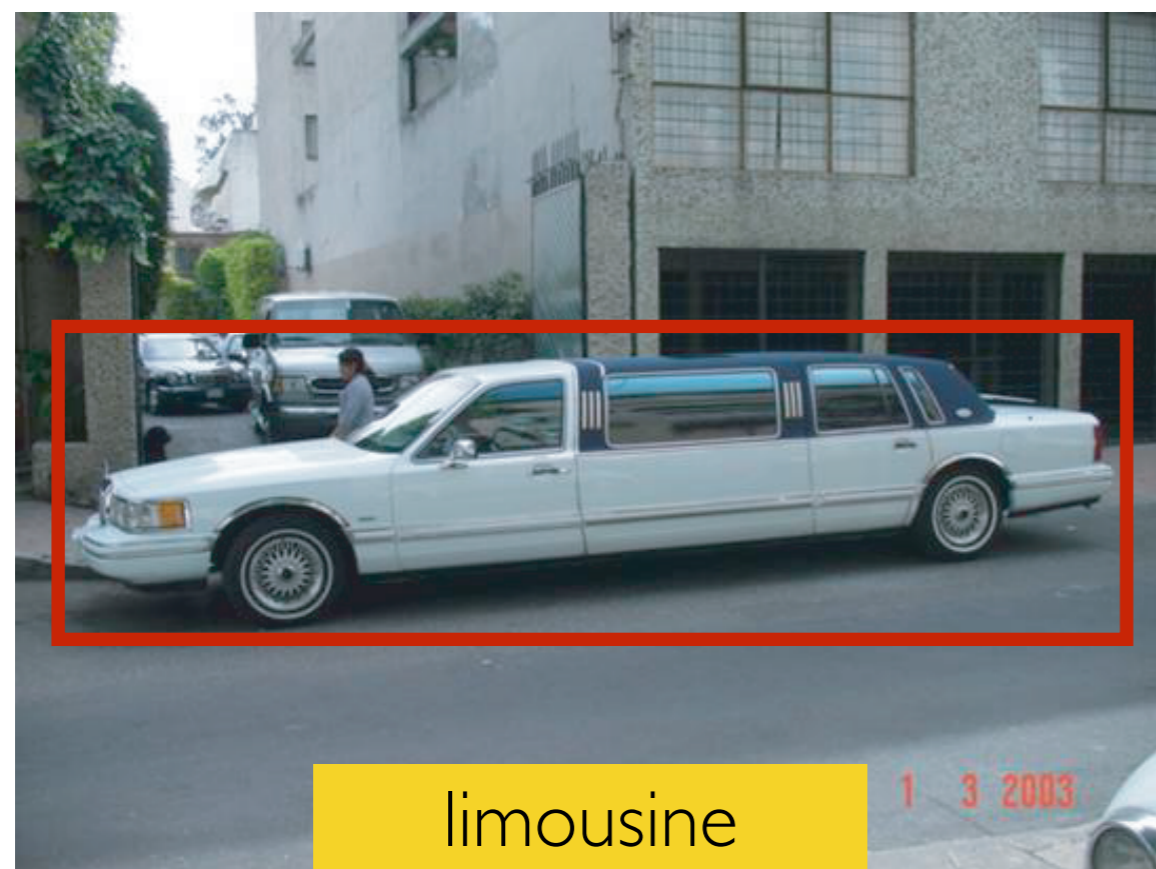
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We do a lot more than passive viewing...

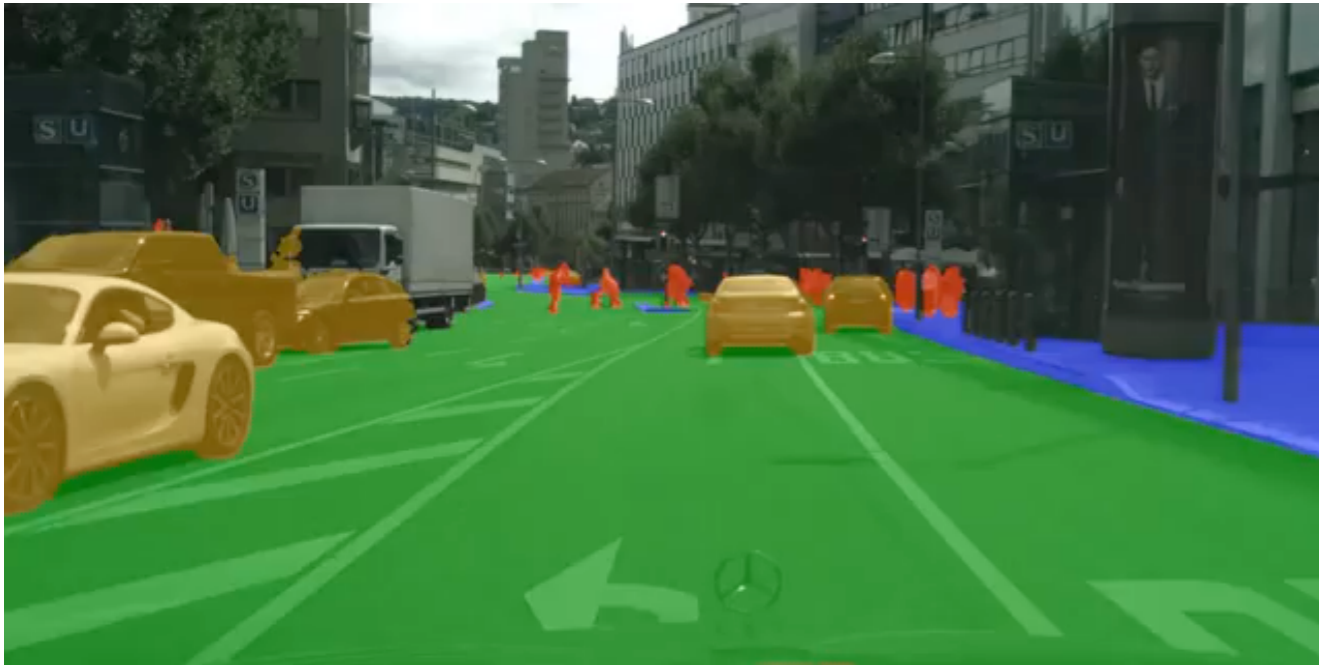


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Scene Understanding



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Multi-Step Planning



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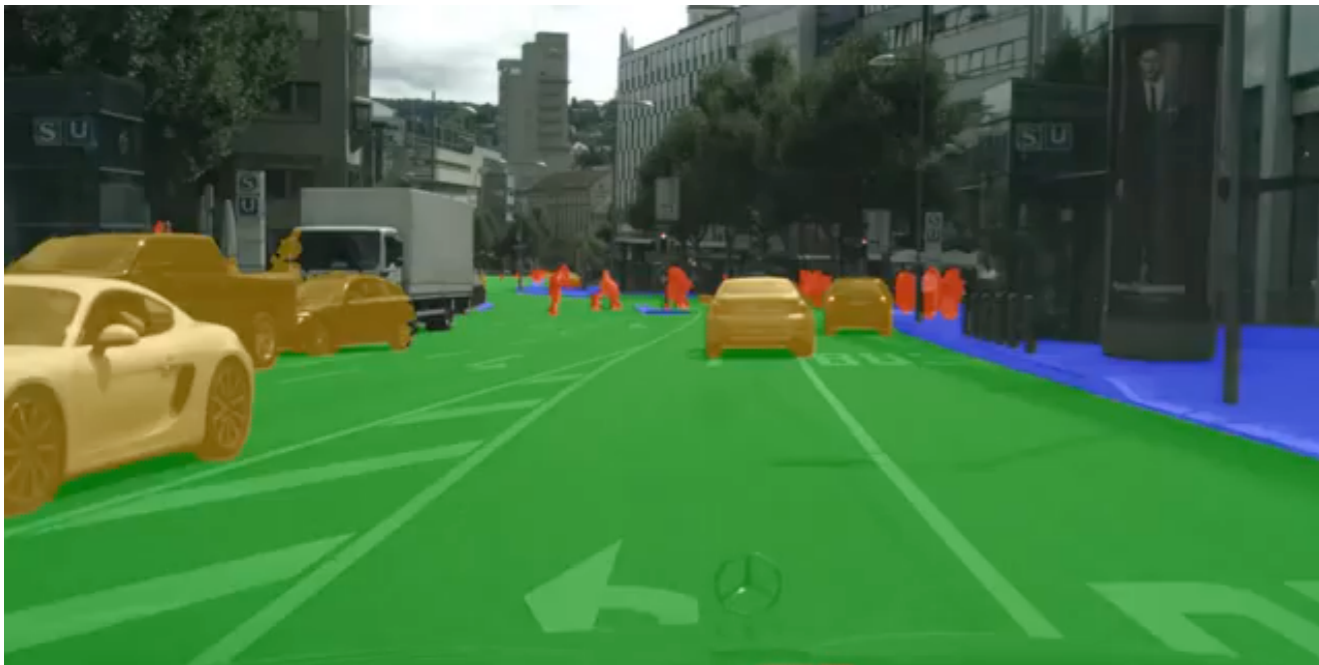


Multi-Step Planning



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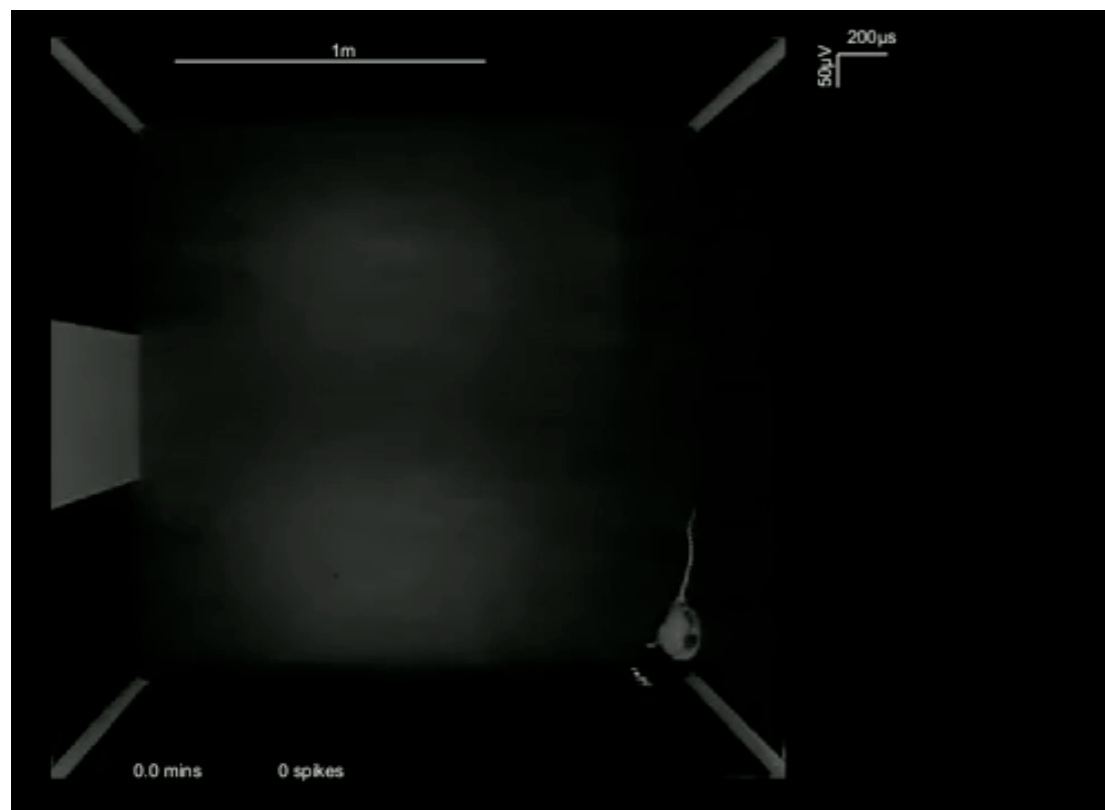
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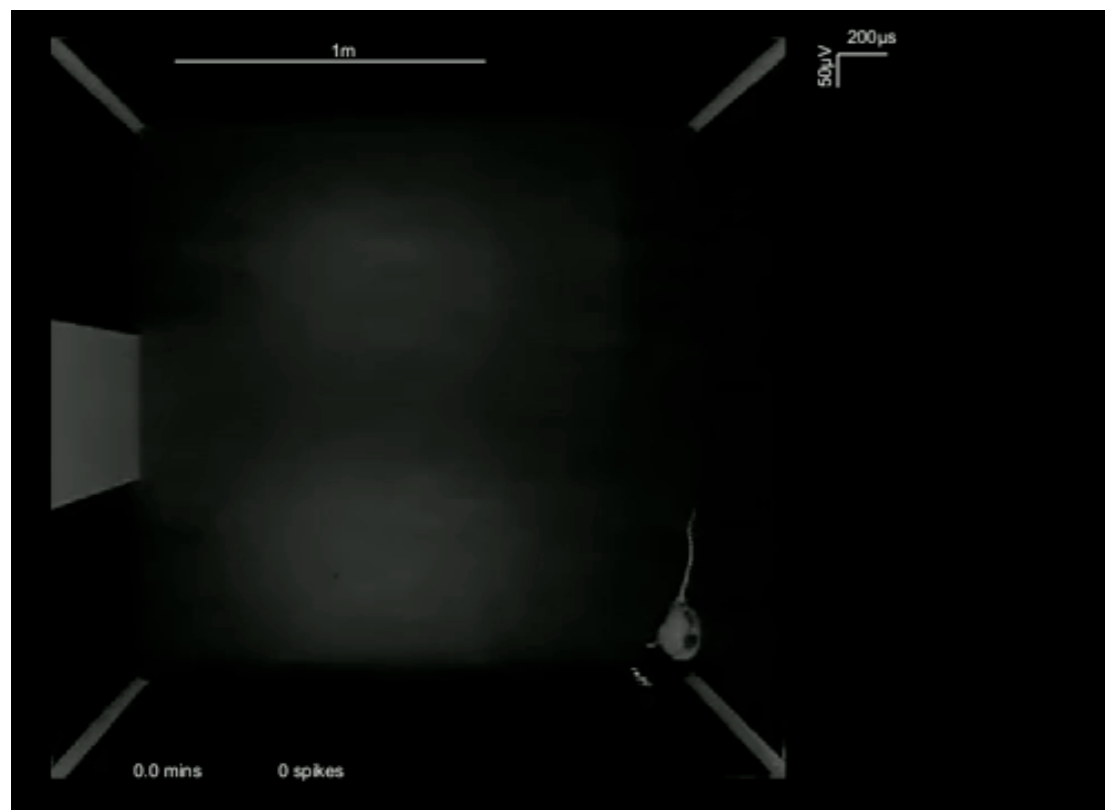
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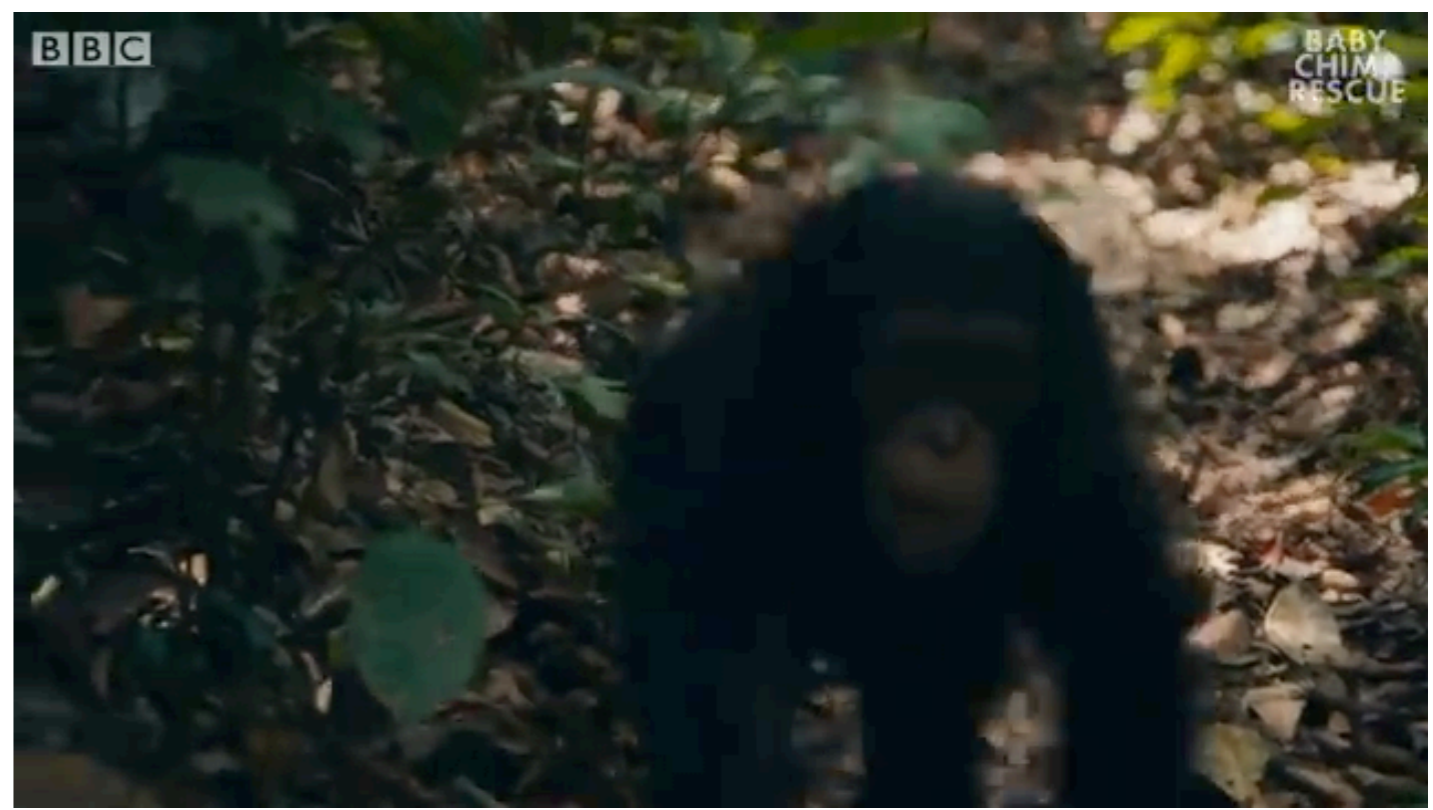
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Flexible Embodiment



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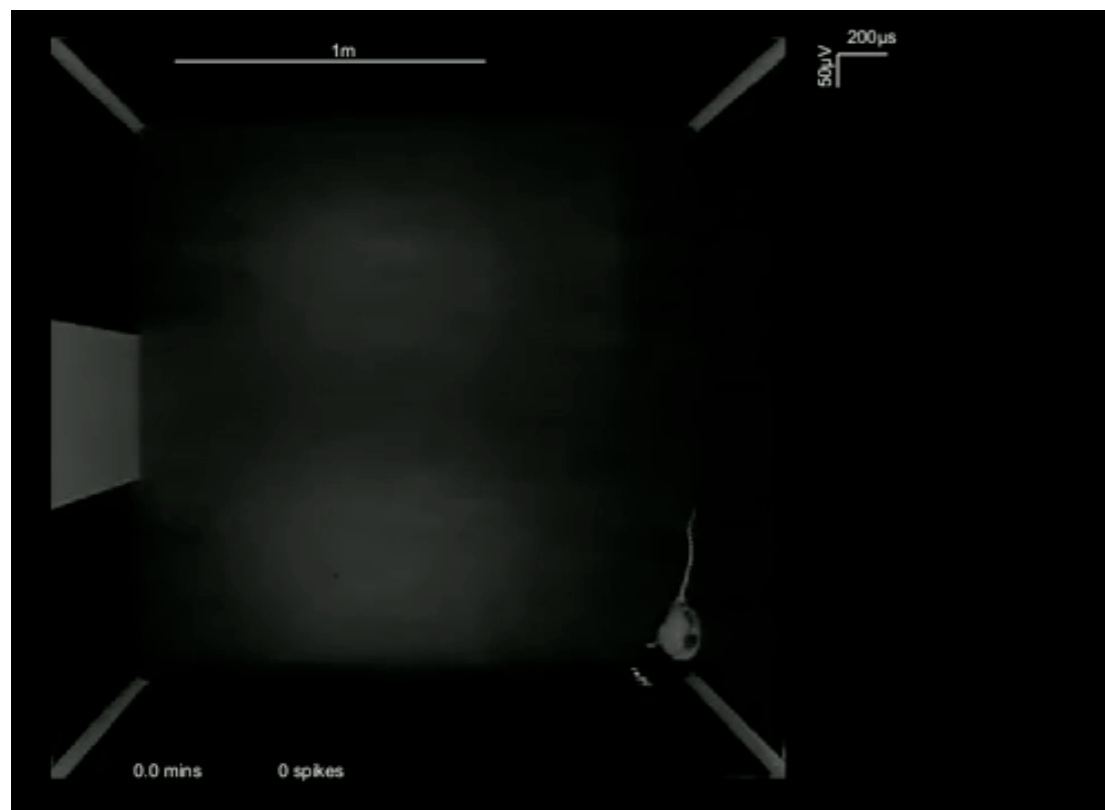
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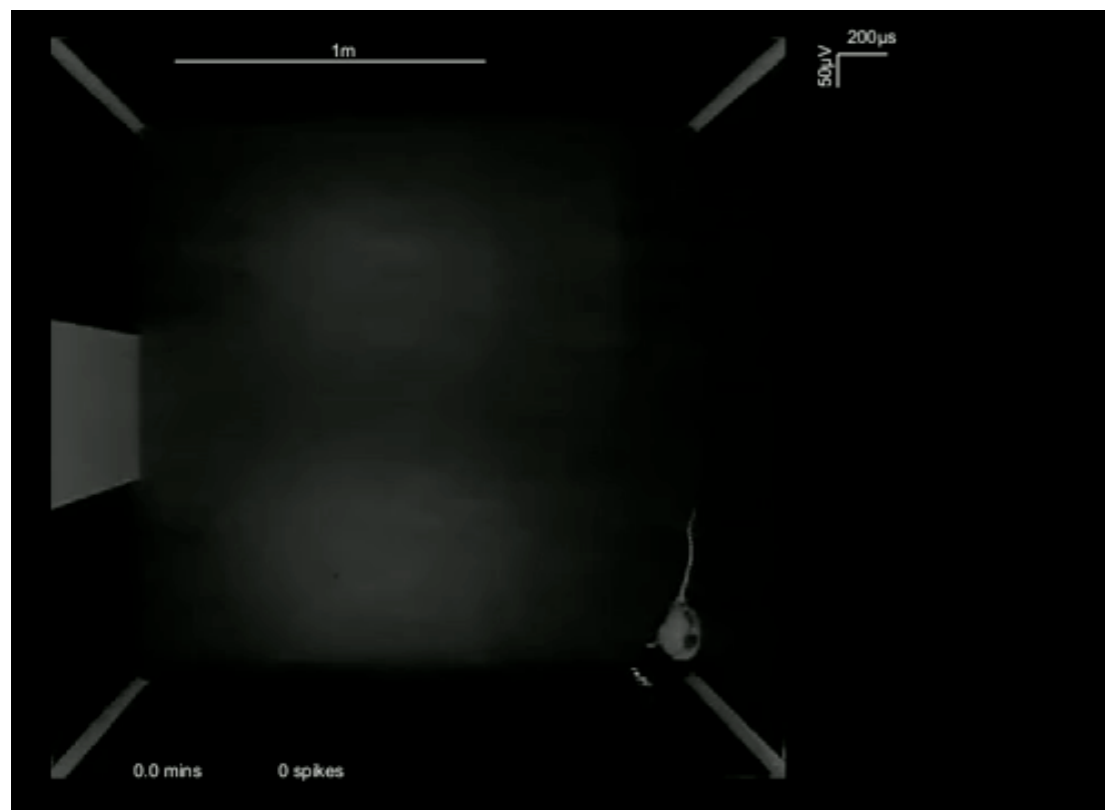


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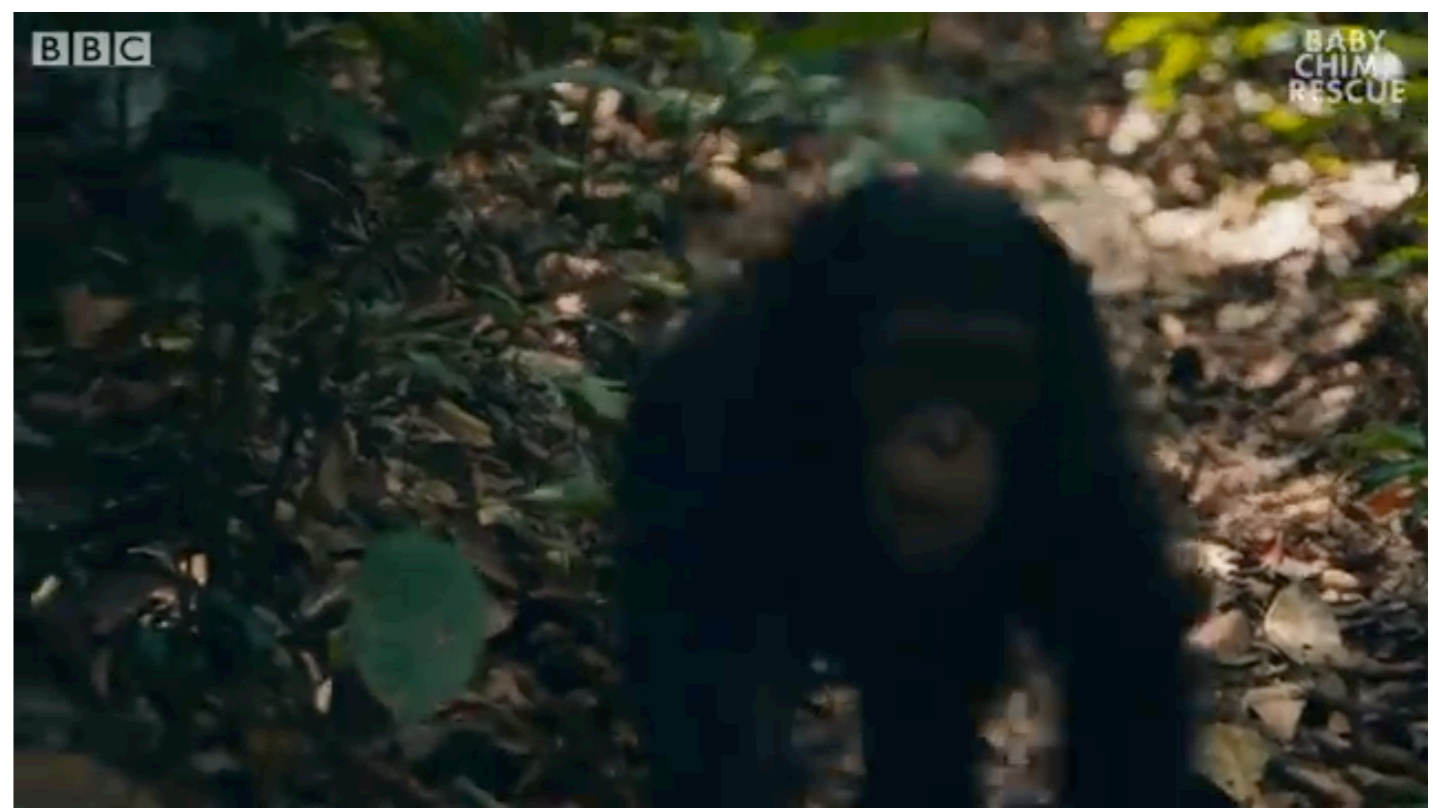


All of these behaviors are done in a body!

Navigation



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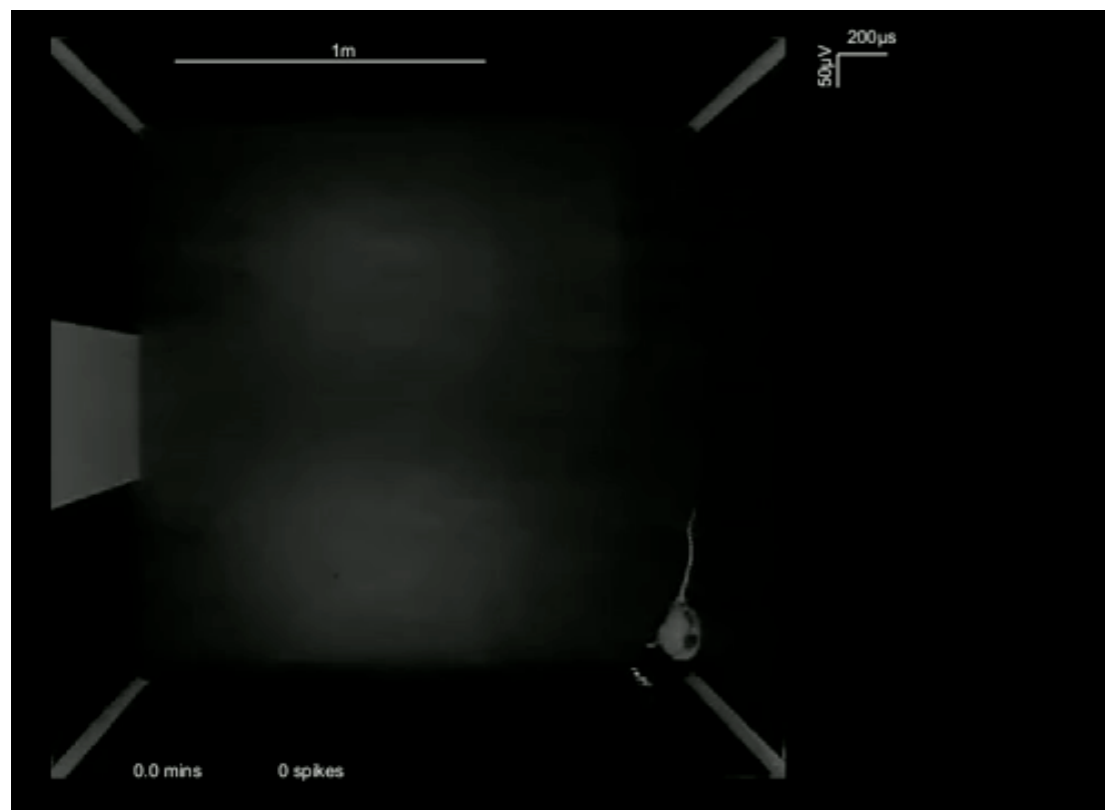


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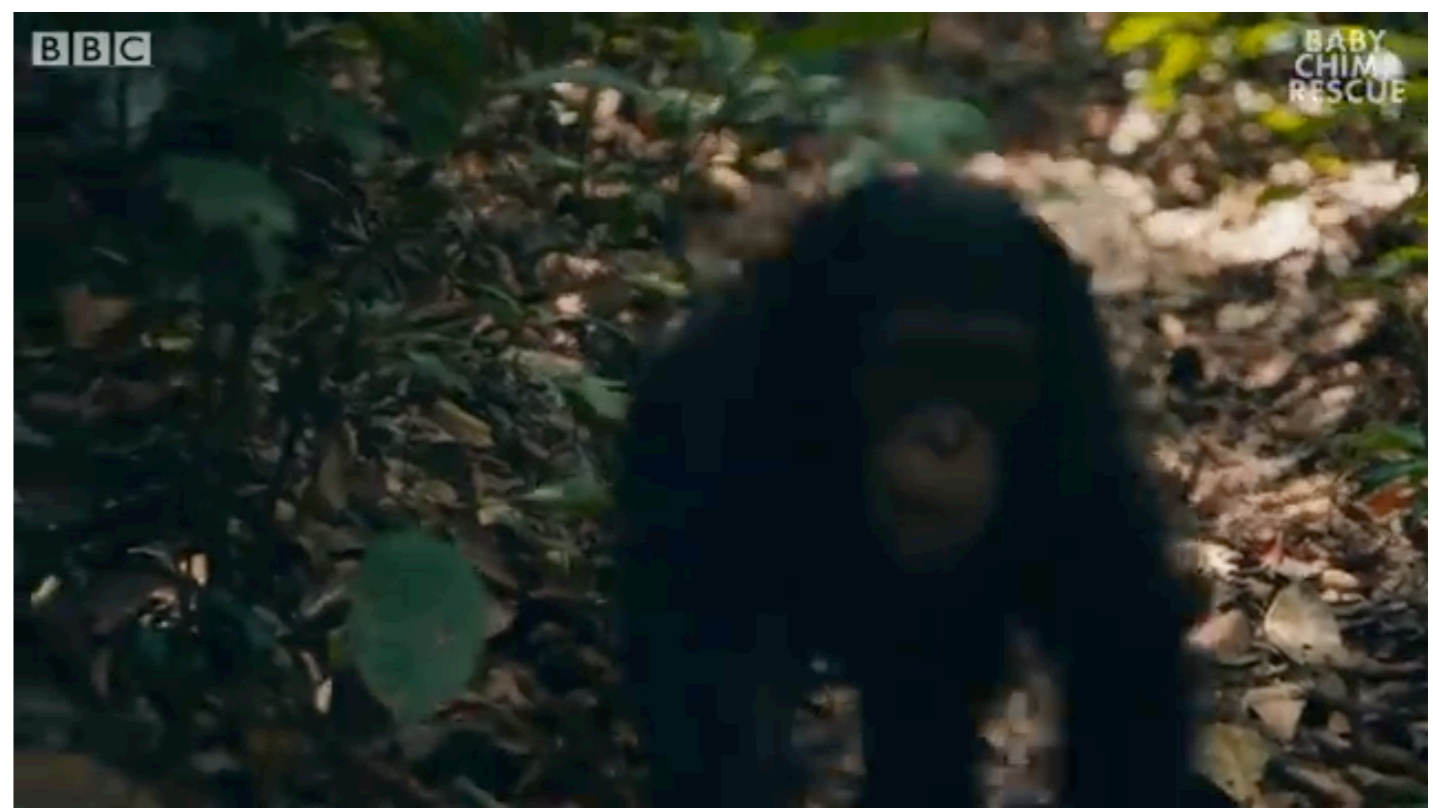


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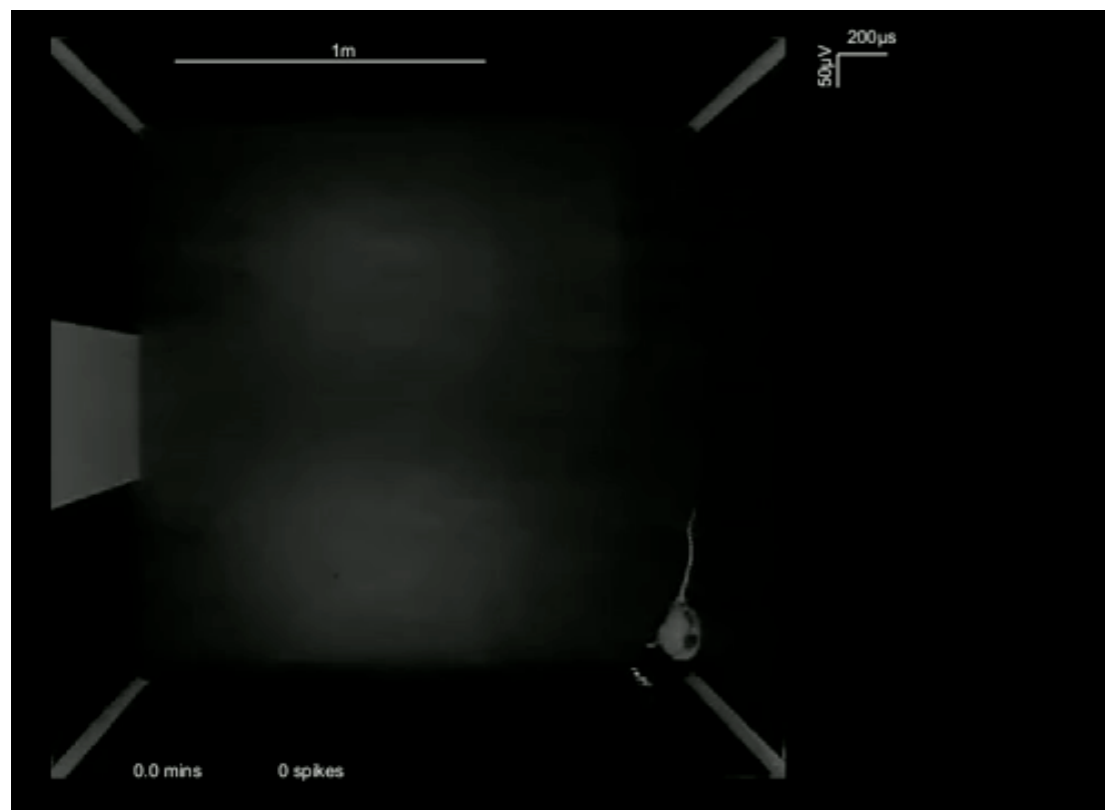


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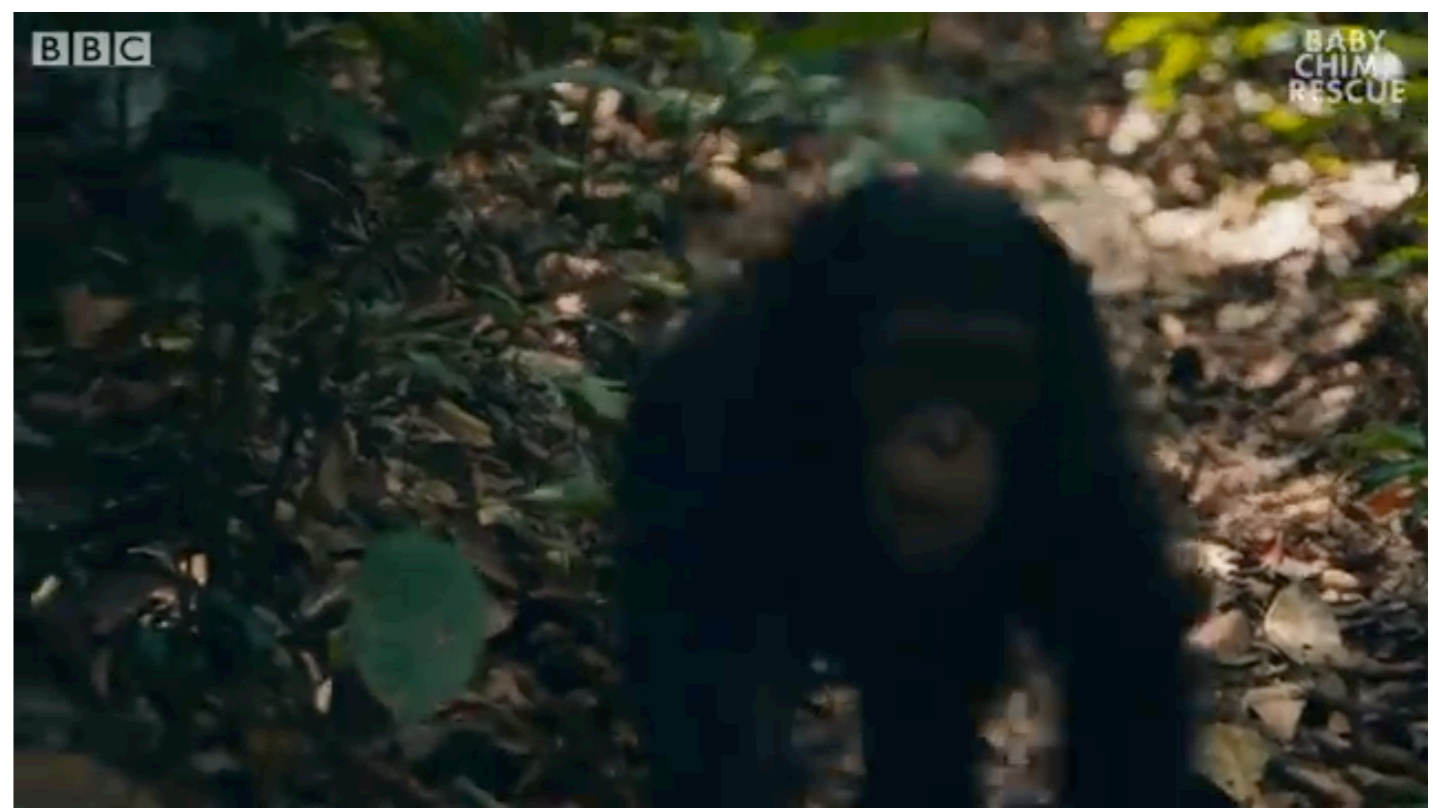


What are the core design principles that give rise to these abilities?

Navigation



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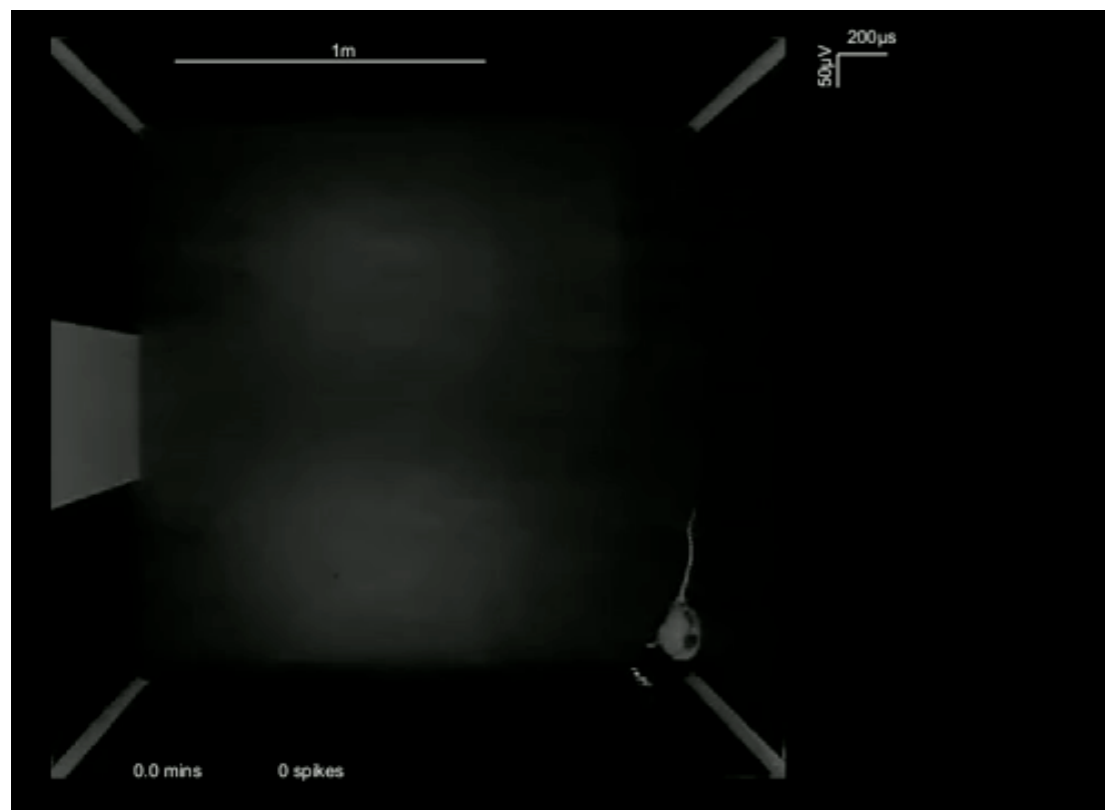


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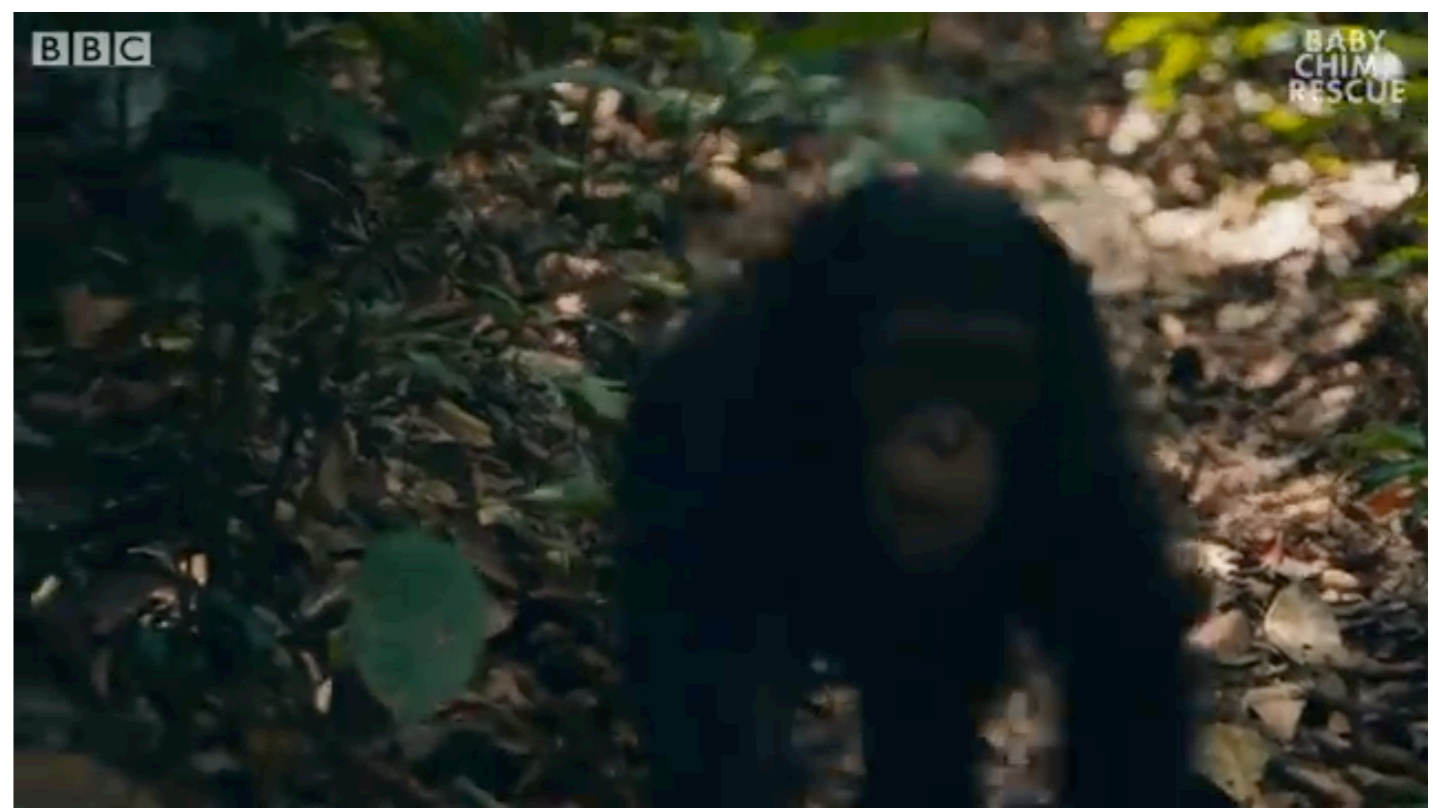


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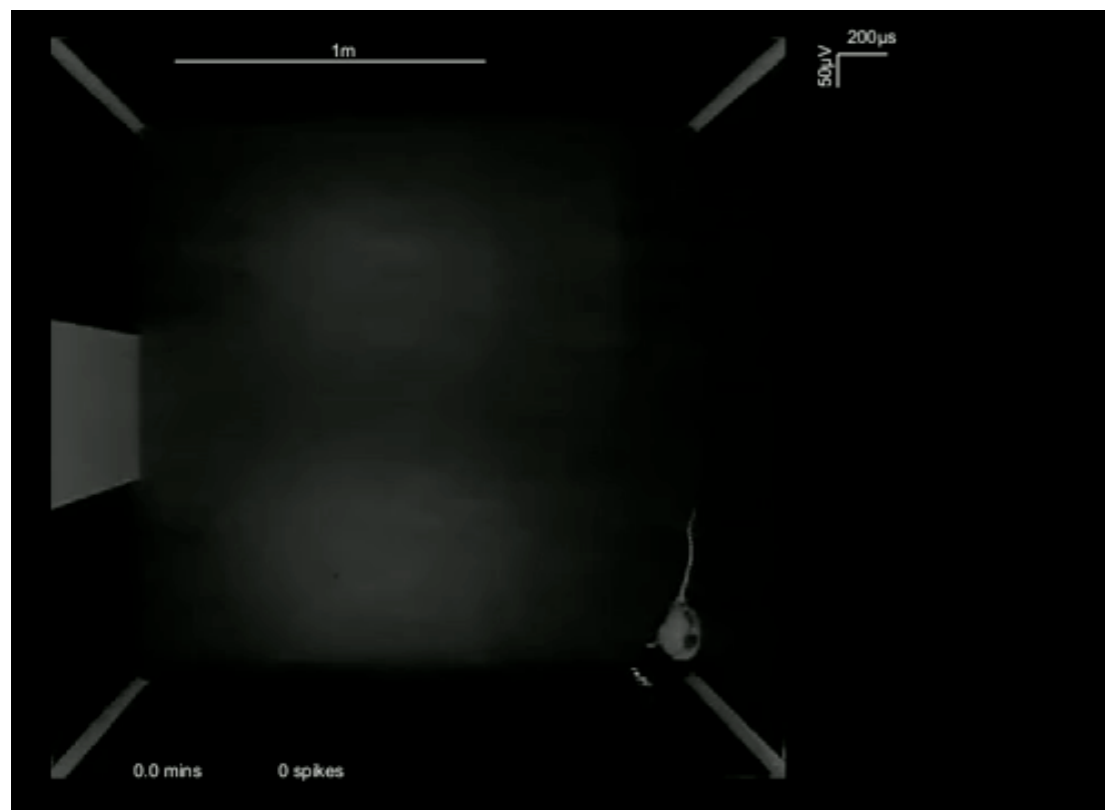


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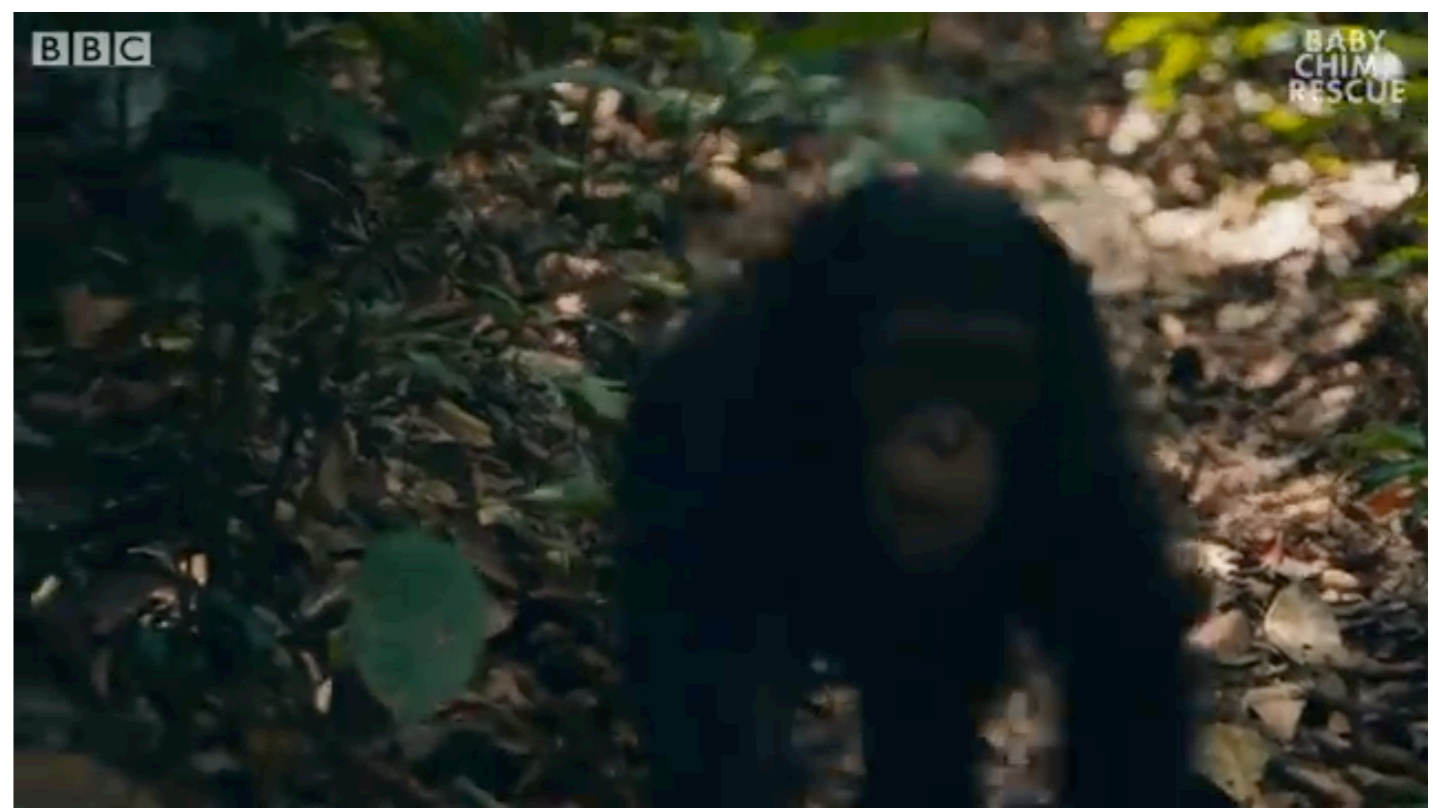


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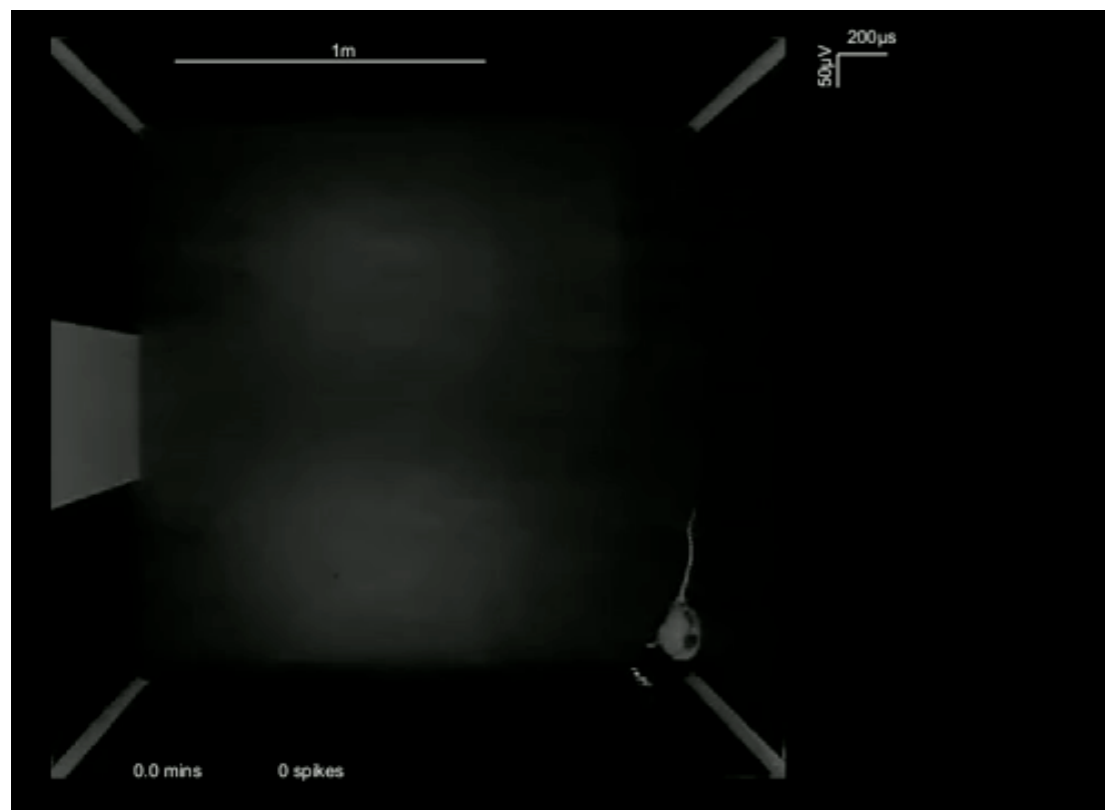


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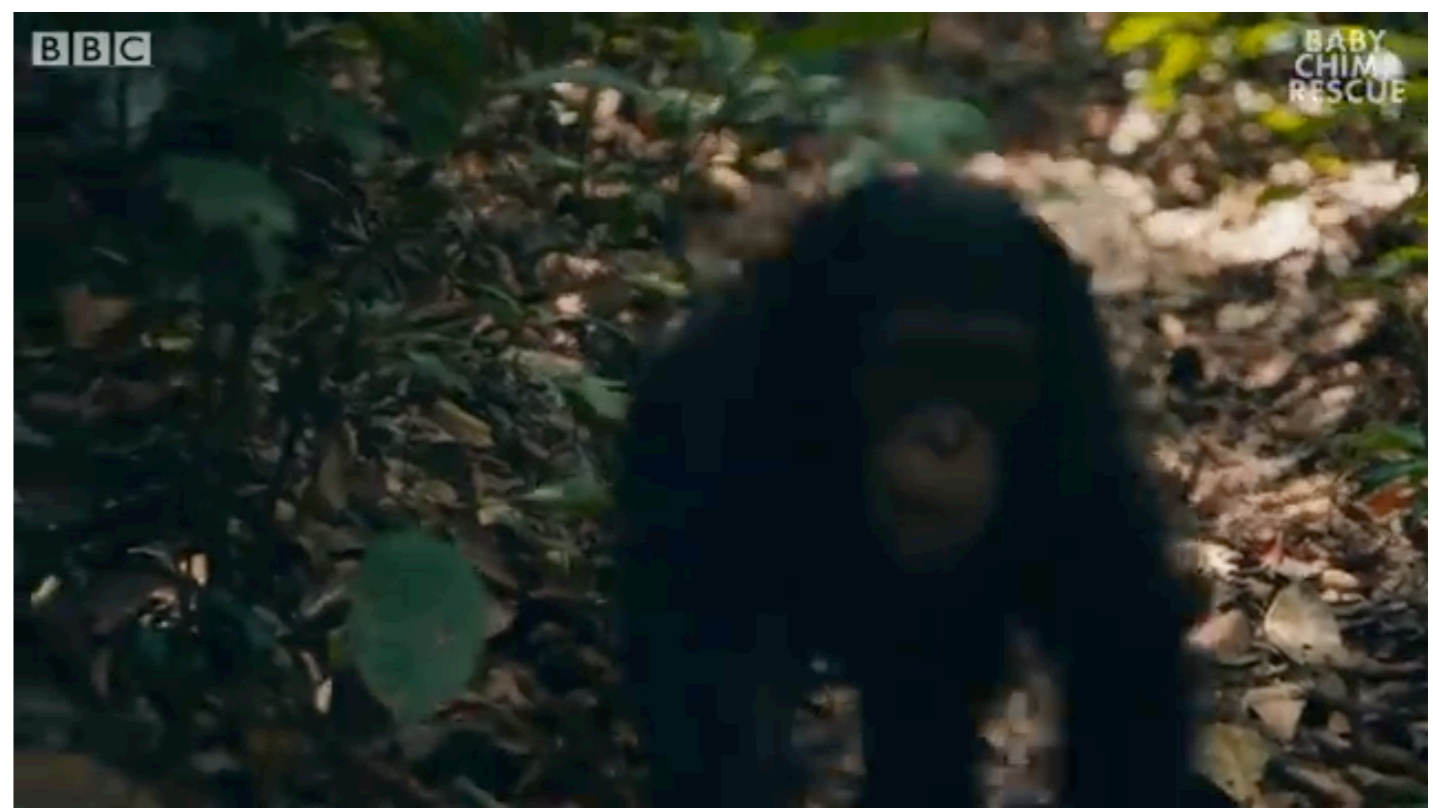


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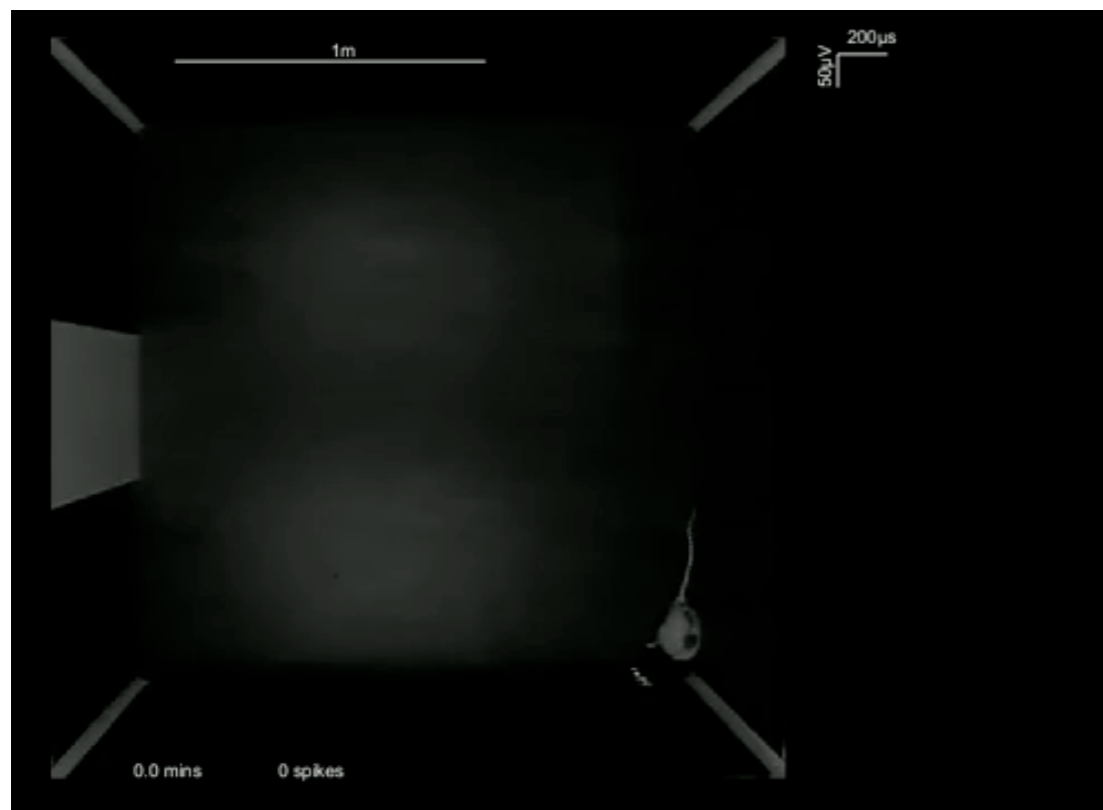


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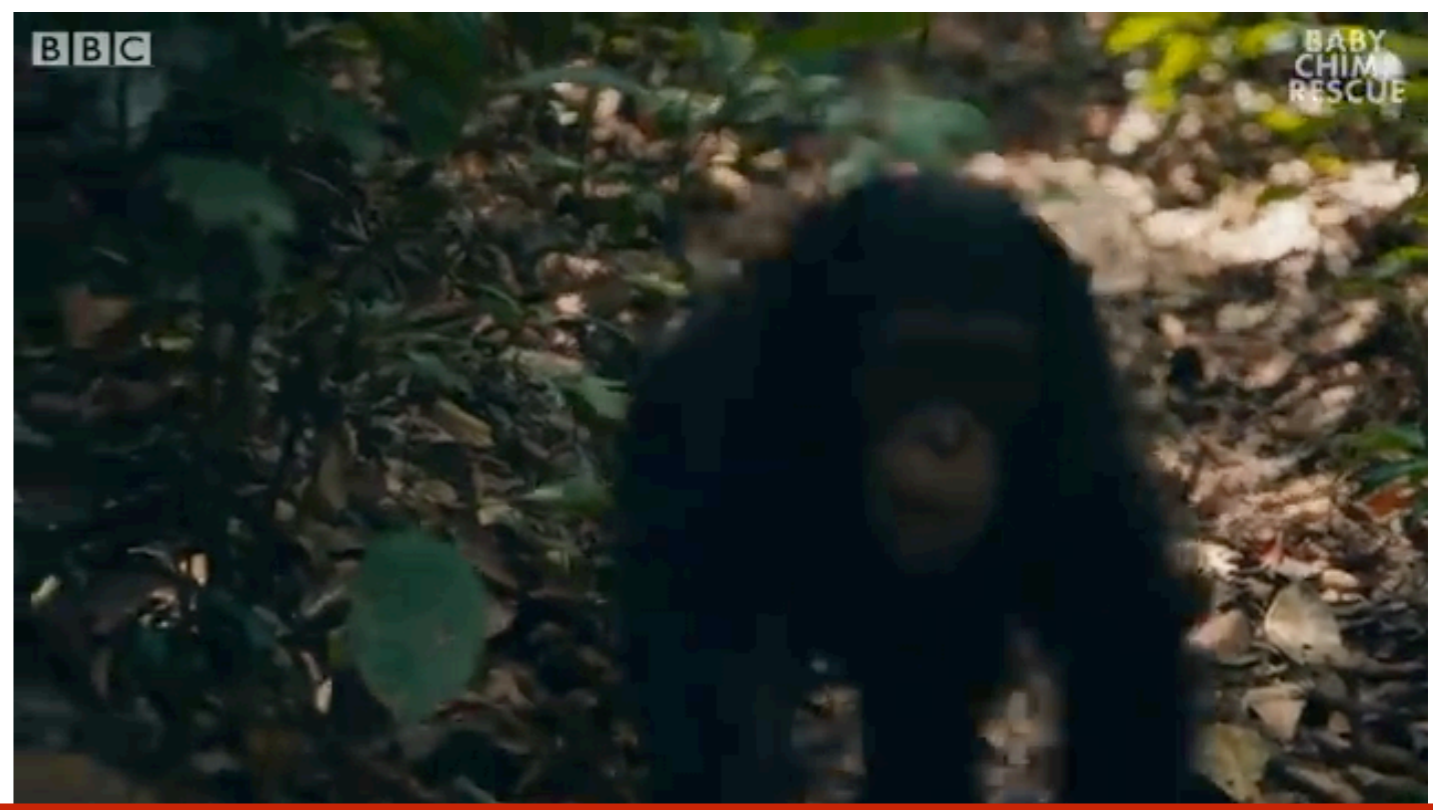


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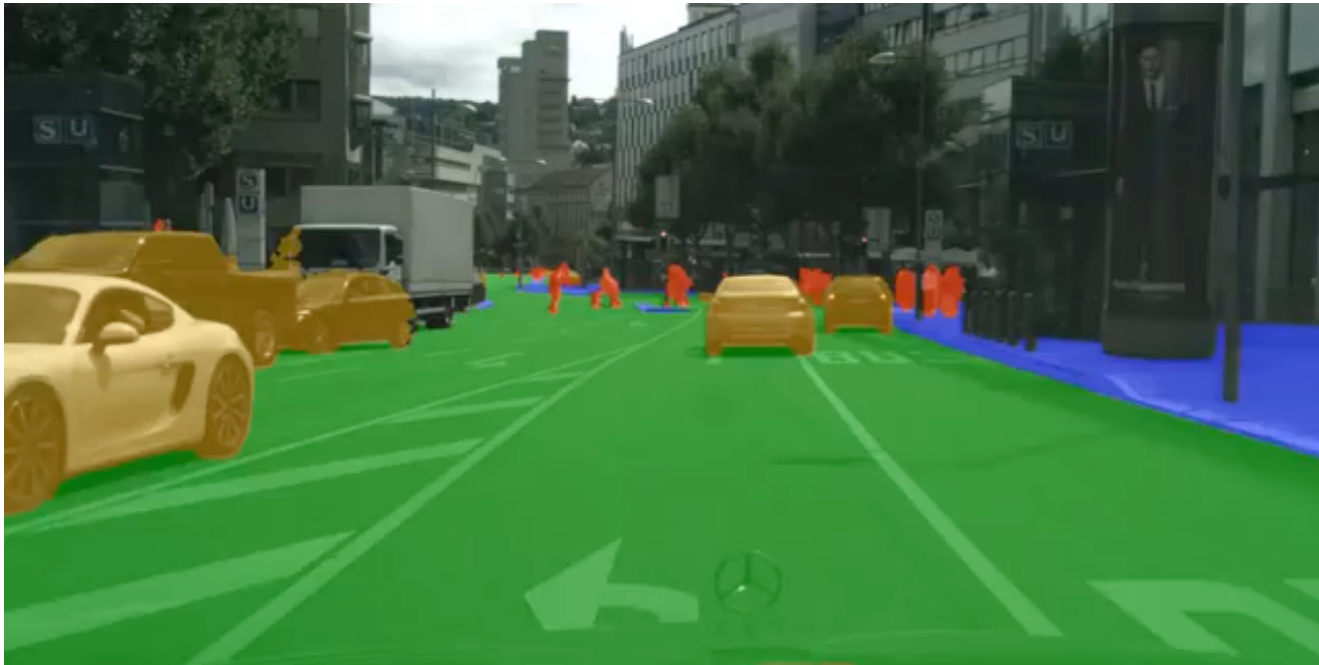


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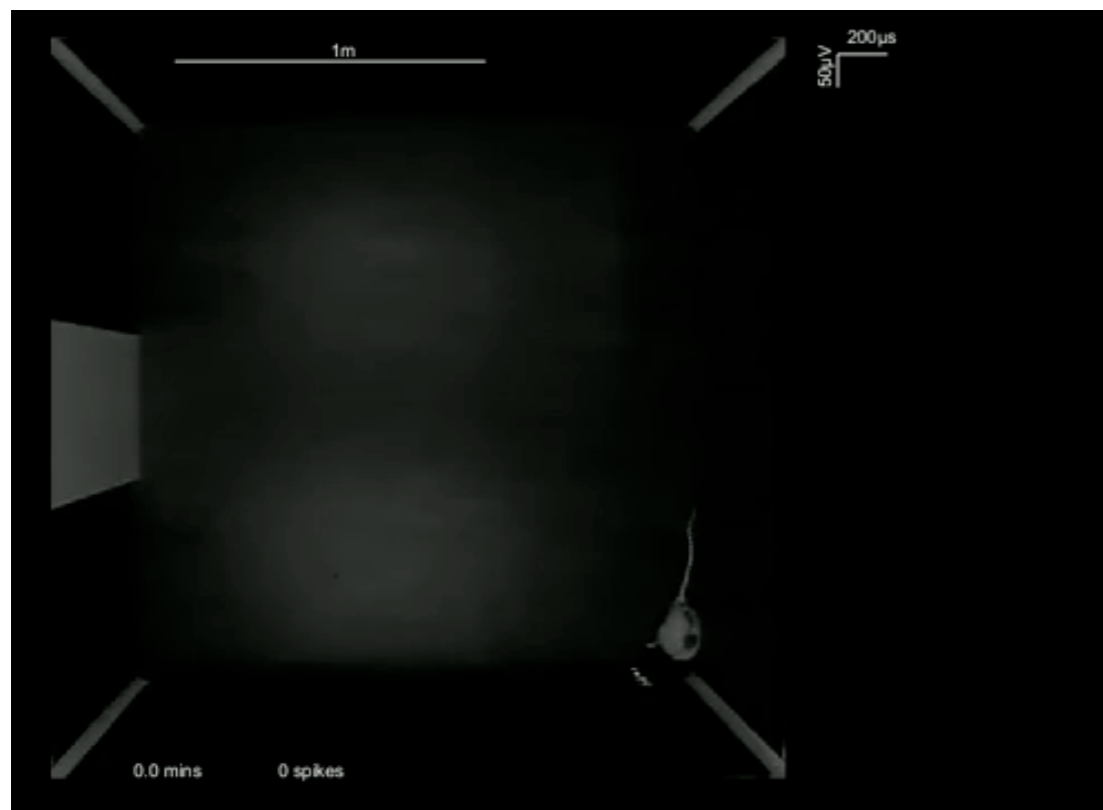


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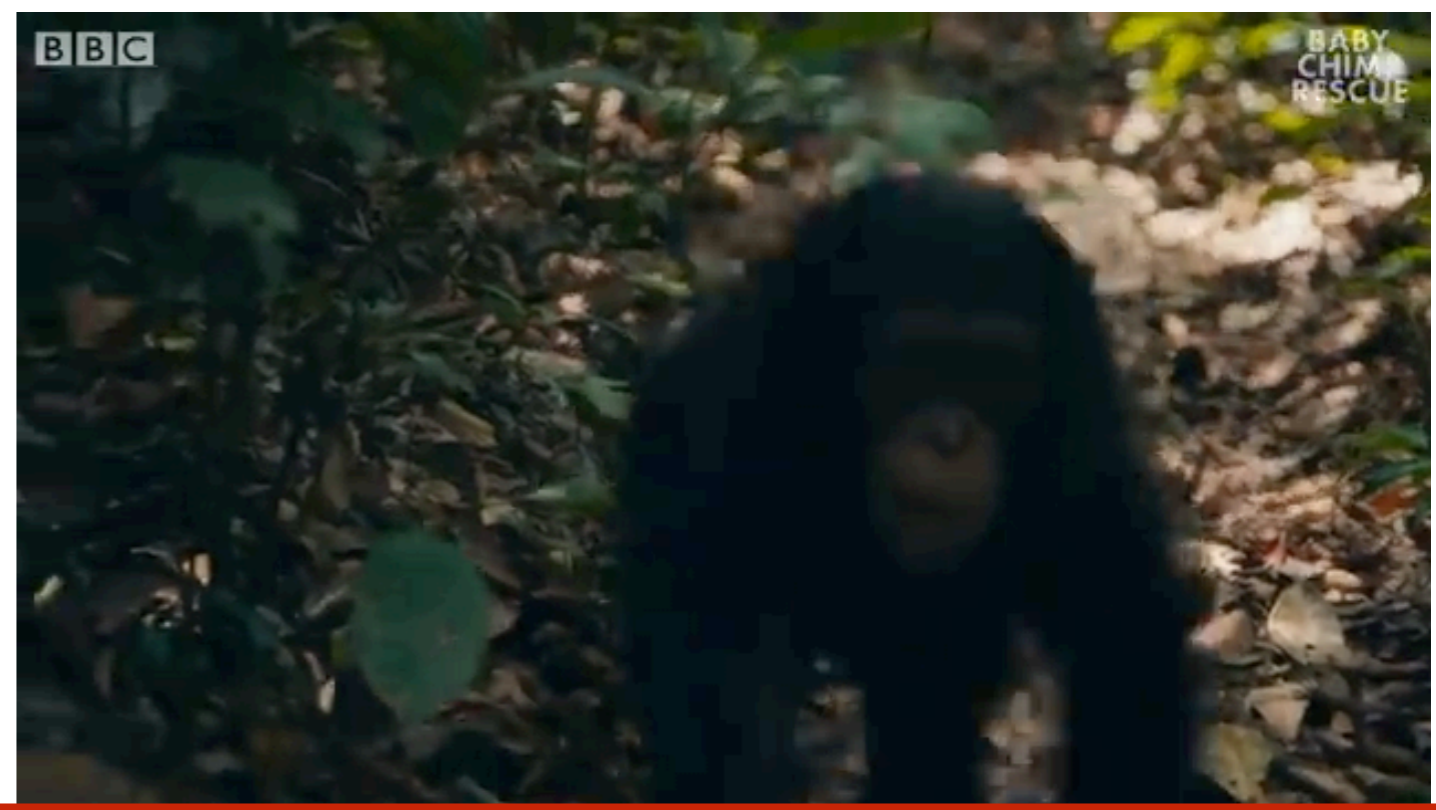


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Flexible Embodiment



Outline

- ▶ Mouse Visual Cortex as a Task-General, Limited Resource System
- ▶ Reusable Latent Representations for Primate Mental Simulation
- ▶ Heuristics for Interrogating Natural Intelligence

Outline

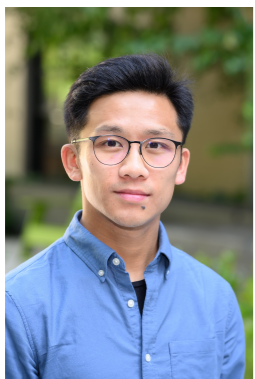
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Mouse Visual Cortex as a Task-General, Limited Resource System

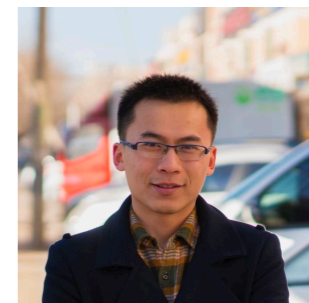
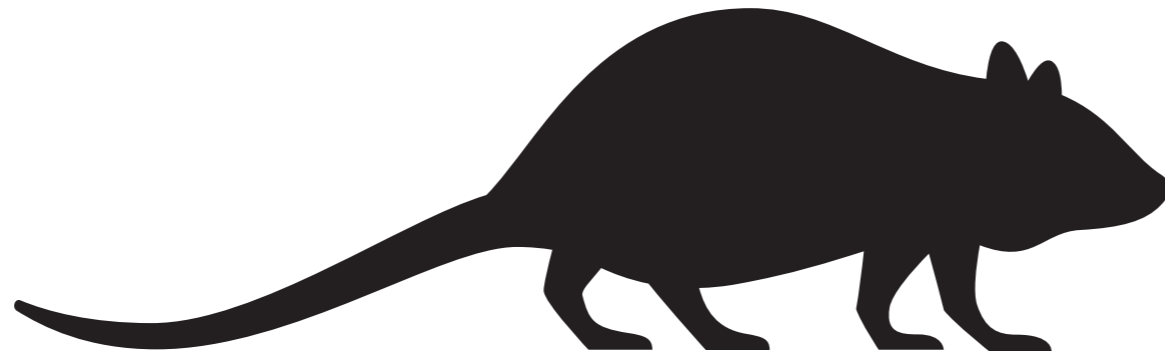
A. Nayebi*, N.C.L. Kong*, C. Zhuang, J.L. Gardner, A.M. Norcia, D.L.K. Yamins

Mouse visual cortex as a limited resource system that self-learns an ecologically-general representation.

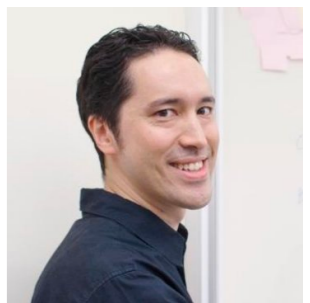
PLOS Computational Biology 2023



Nathan C.L. Kong*



Chengxu Zhuang



Justin L. Gardner



Anthony M. Norcia



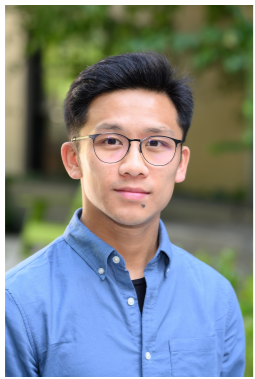
Daniel Yamins

Mouse Visual Cortex as a Task-General, Limited Resource System

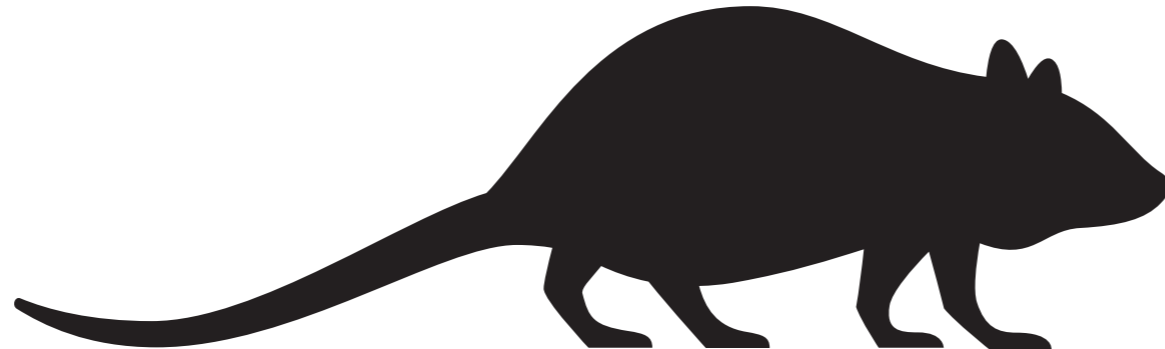
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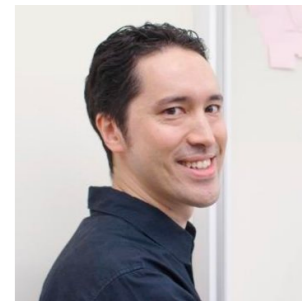
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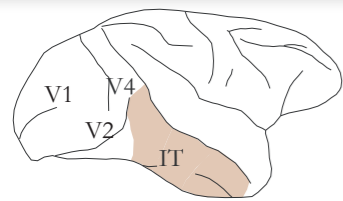


Anthony M. Norcia



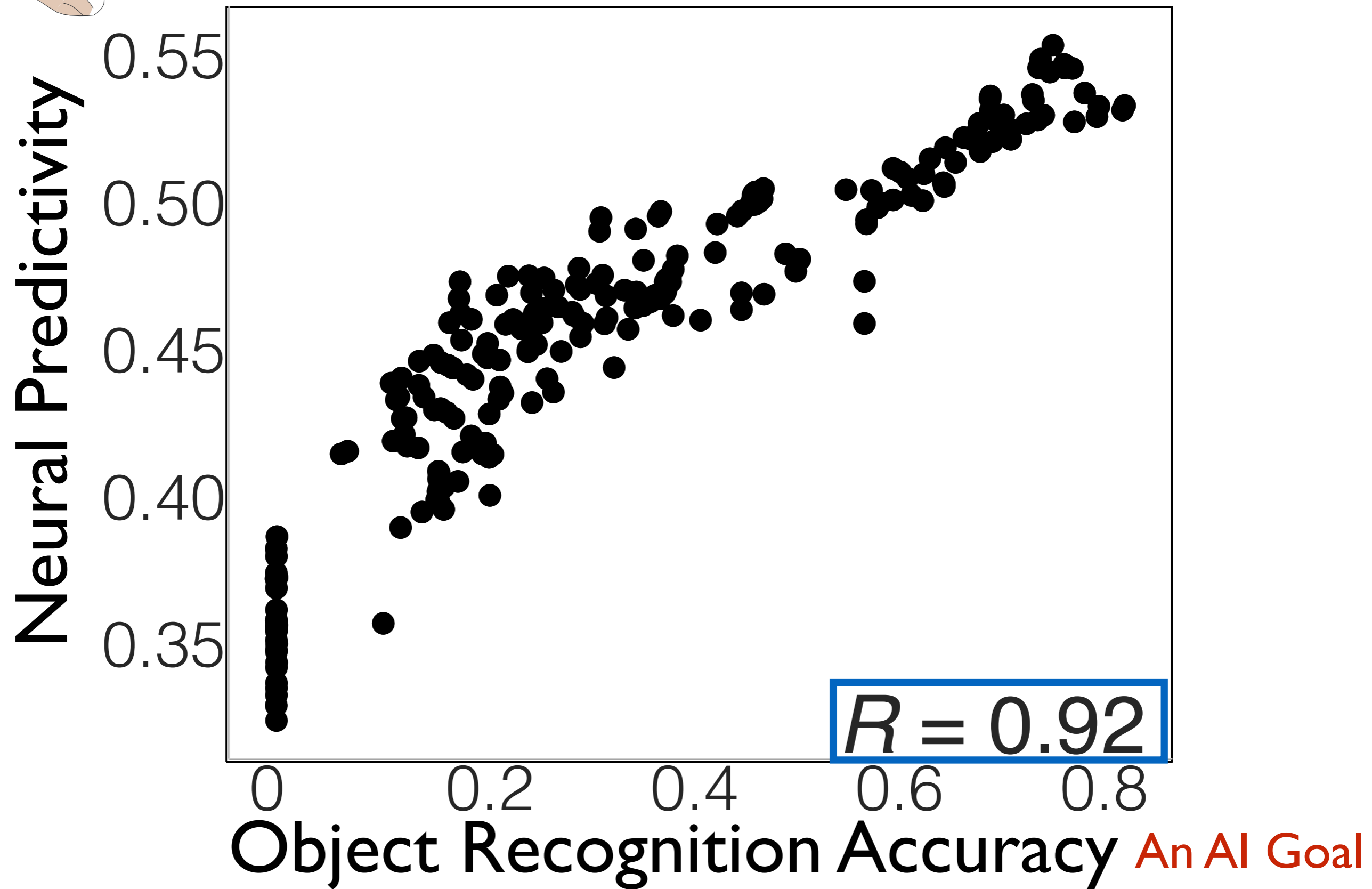
Daniel Yamins

Task Performance Correlated with Neural Predictivity

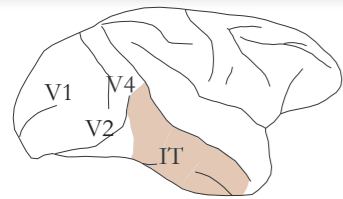


A Neuroscience Goal

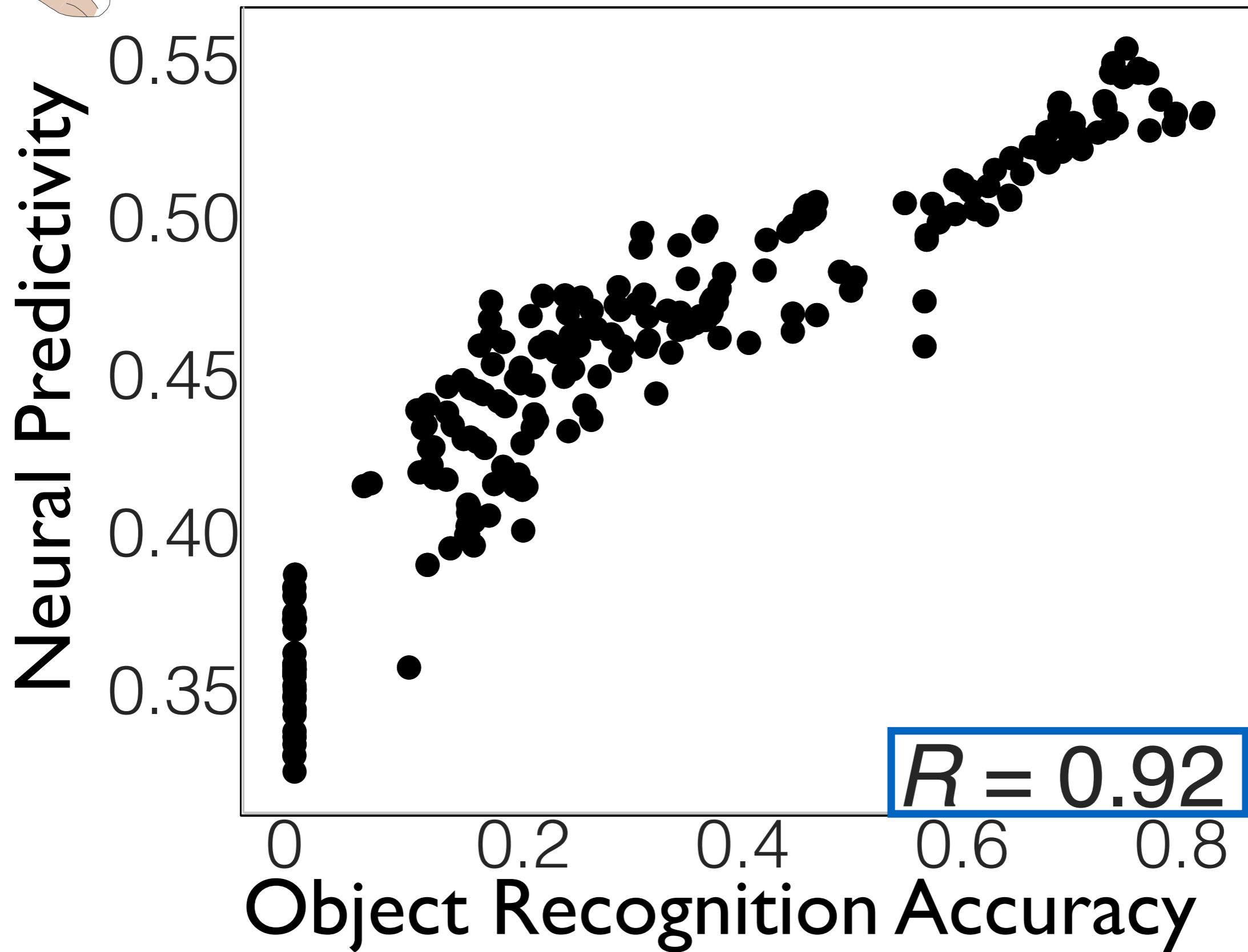
Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018



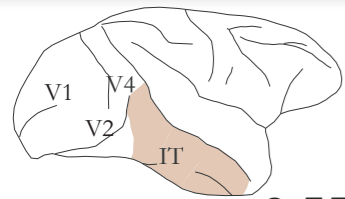
Task Performance Correlated with Neural Predictivity



Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018

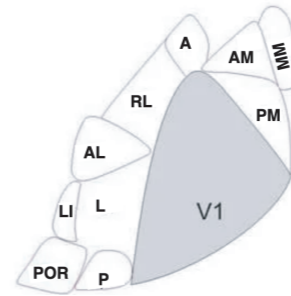
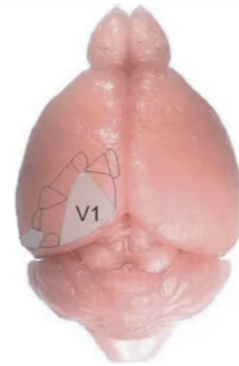
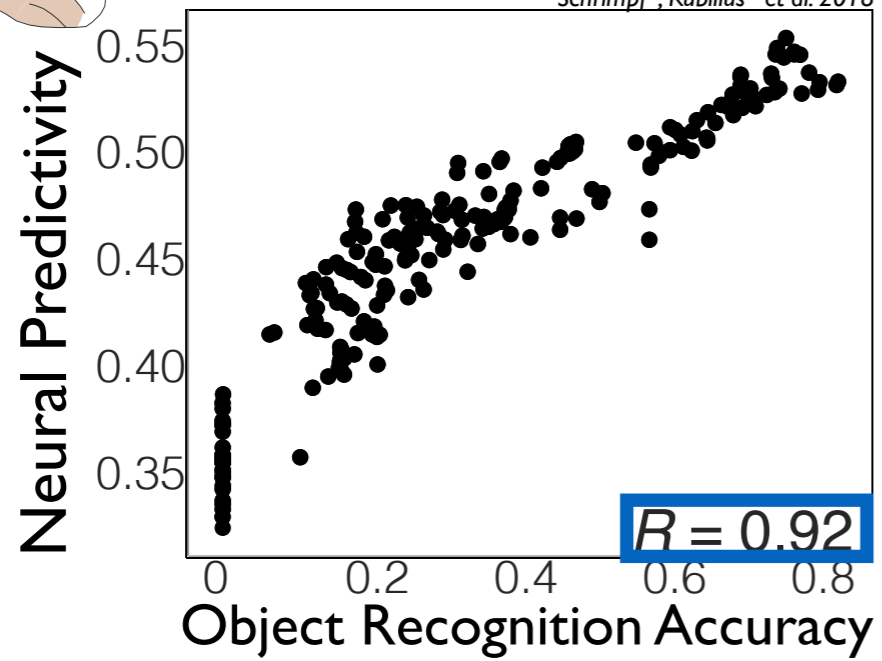


Task Performance Correlated with Neural Predictivity



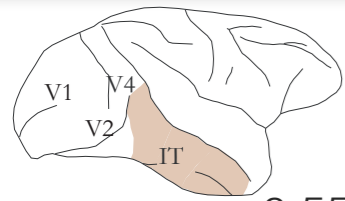
Primates

Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018



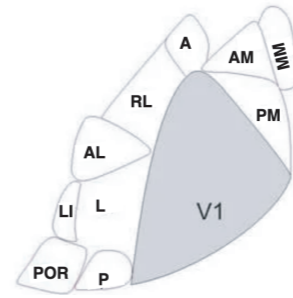
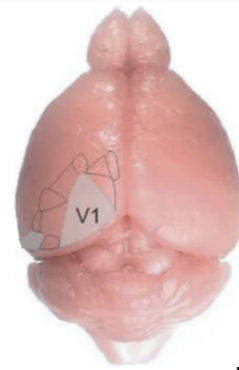
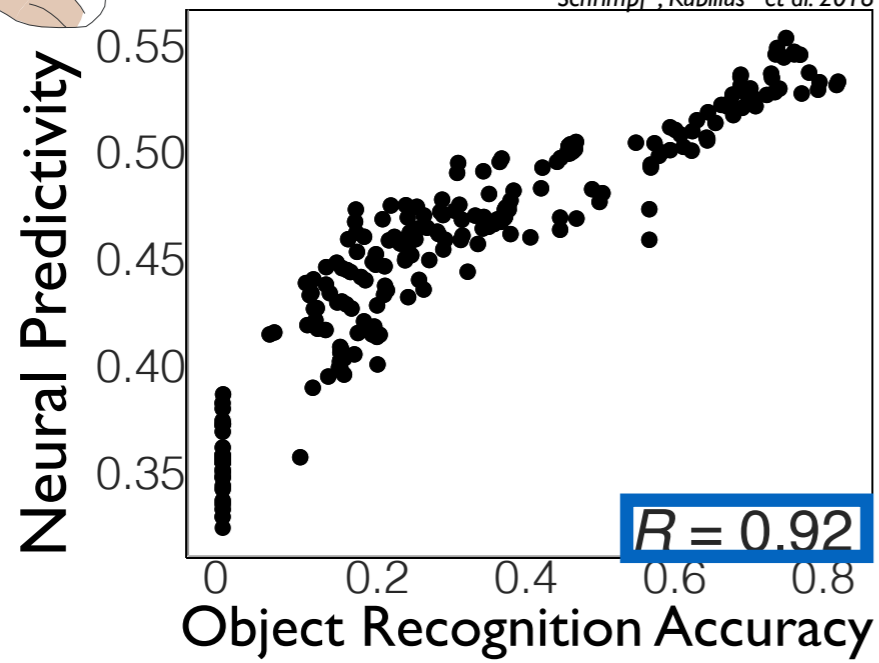
Mouse?

Object Categorization Ability **NOT** Correlated with Neural Predictivity

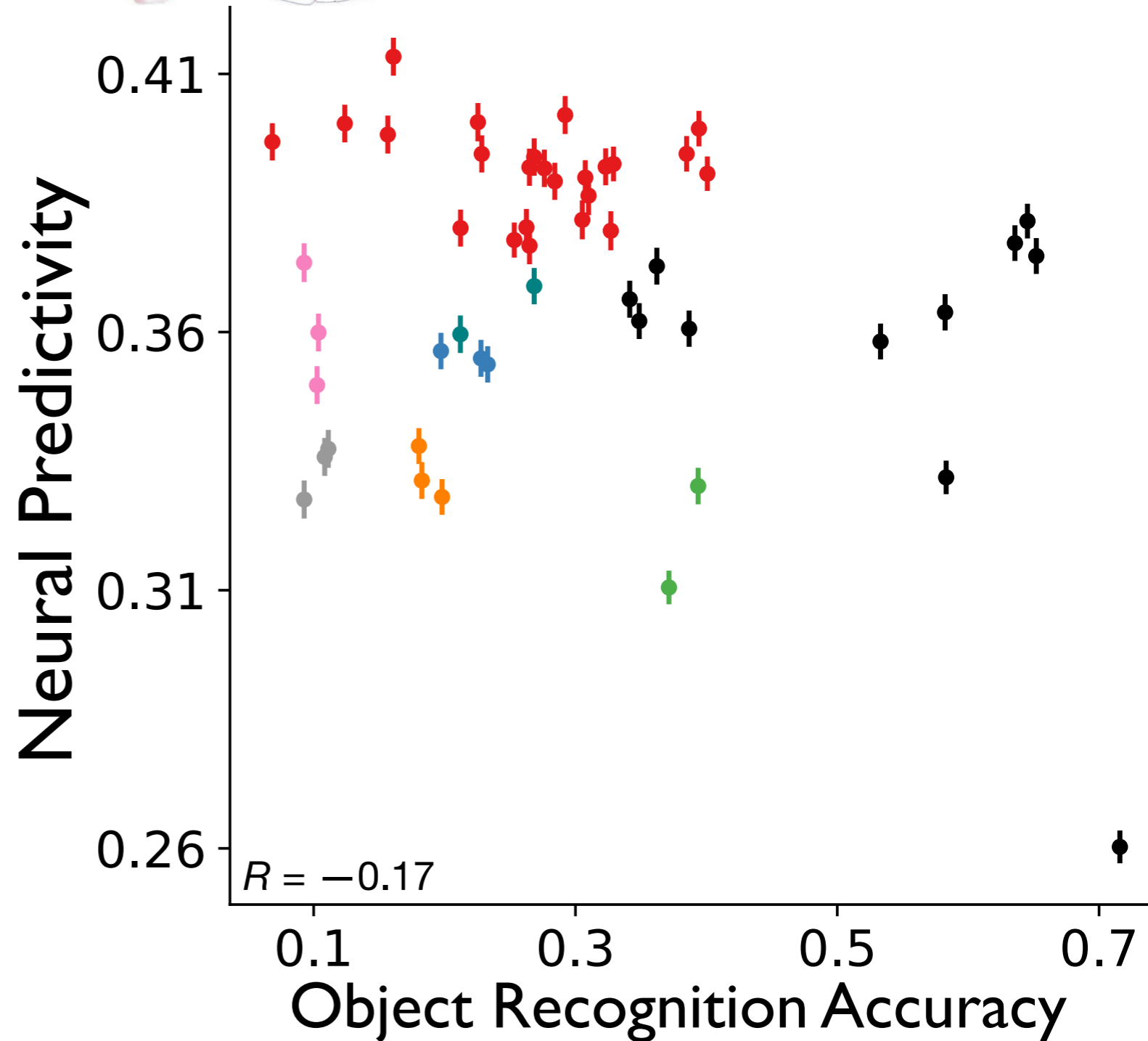


Primates

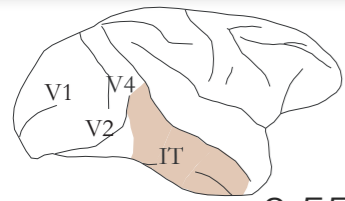
Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018



Mouse

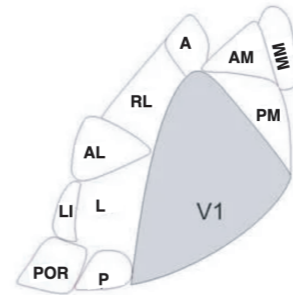
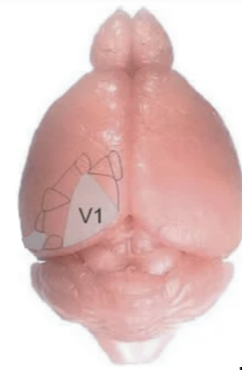
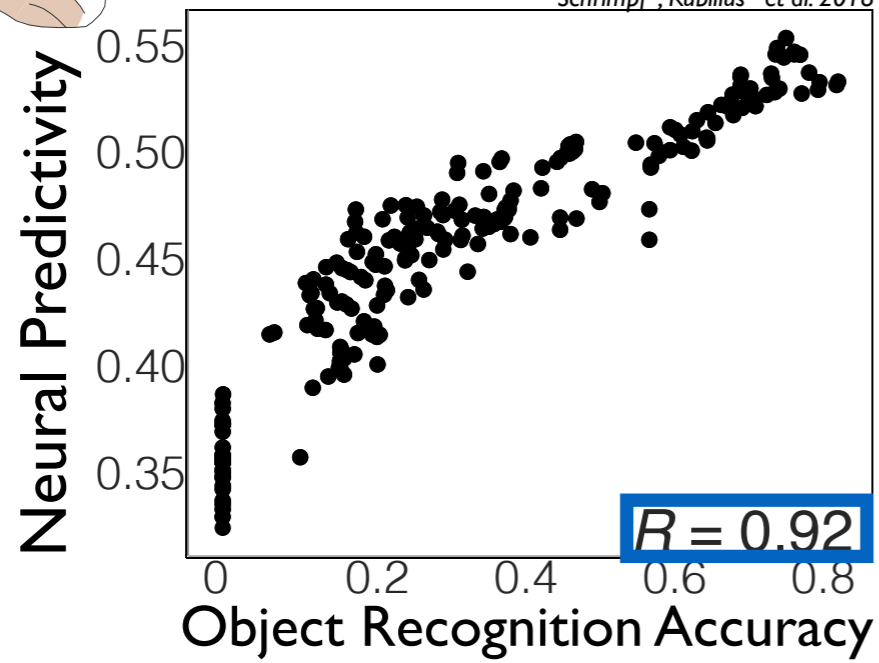


Object Categorization Ability **NOT** Correlated with Neural Predictivity

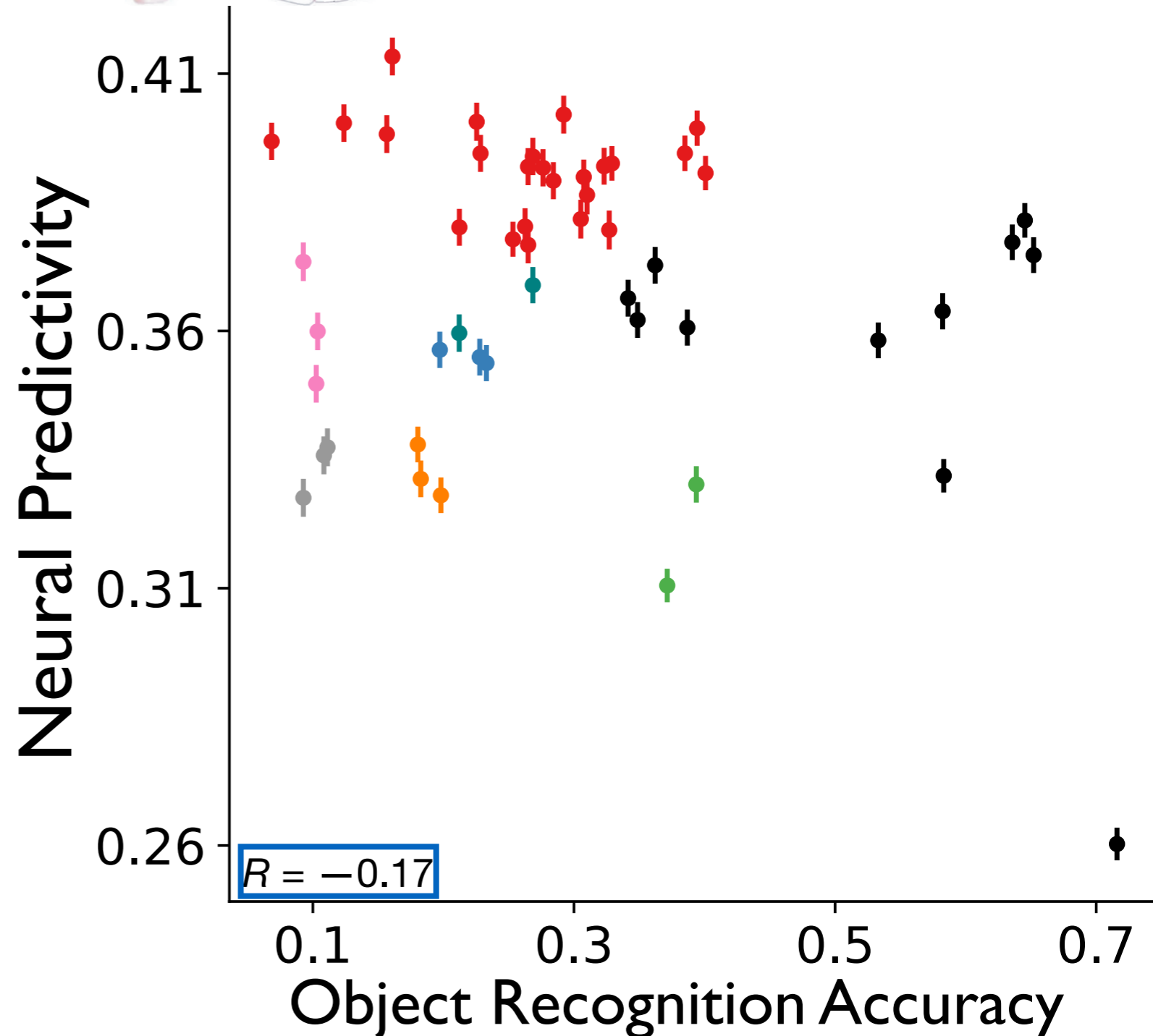


Primates

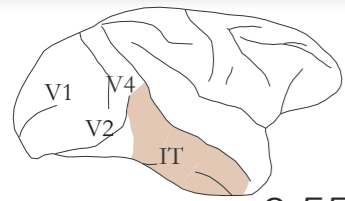
Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018



Mouse

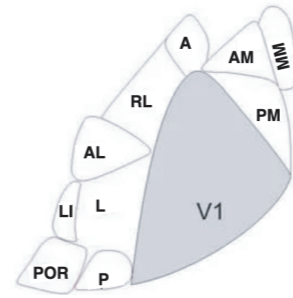
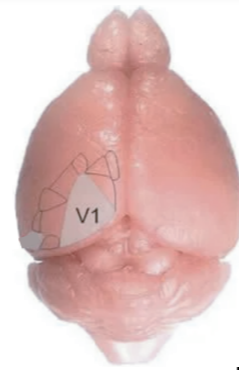
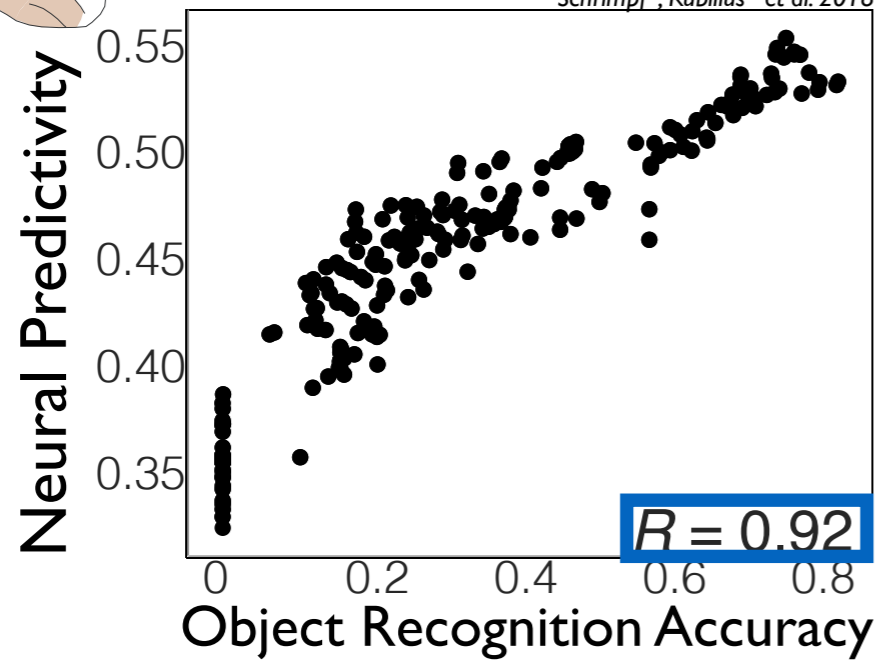


Object Categorization Ability **NOT** Correlated with Neural Predictivity

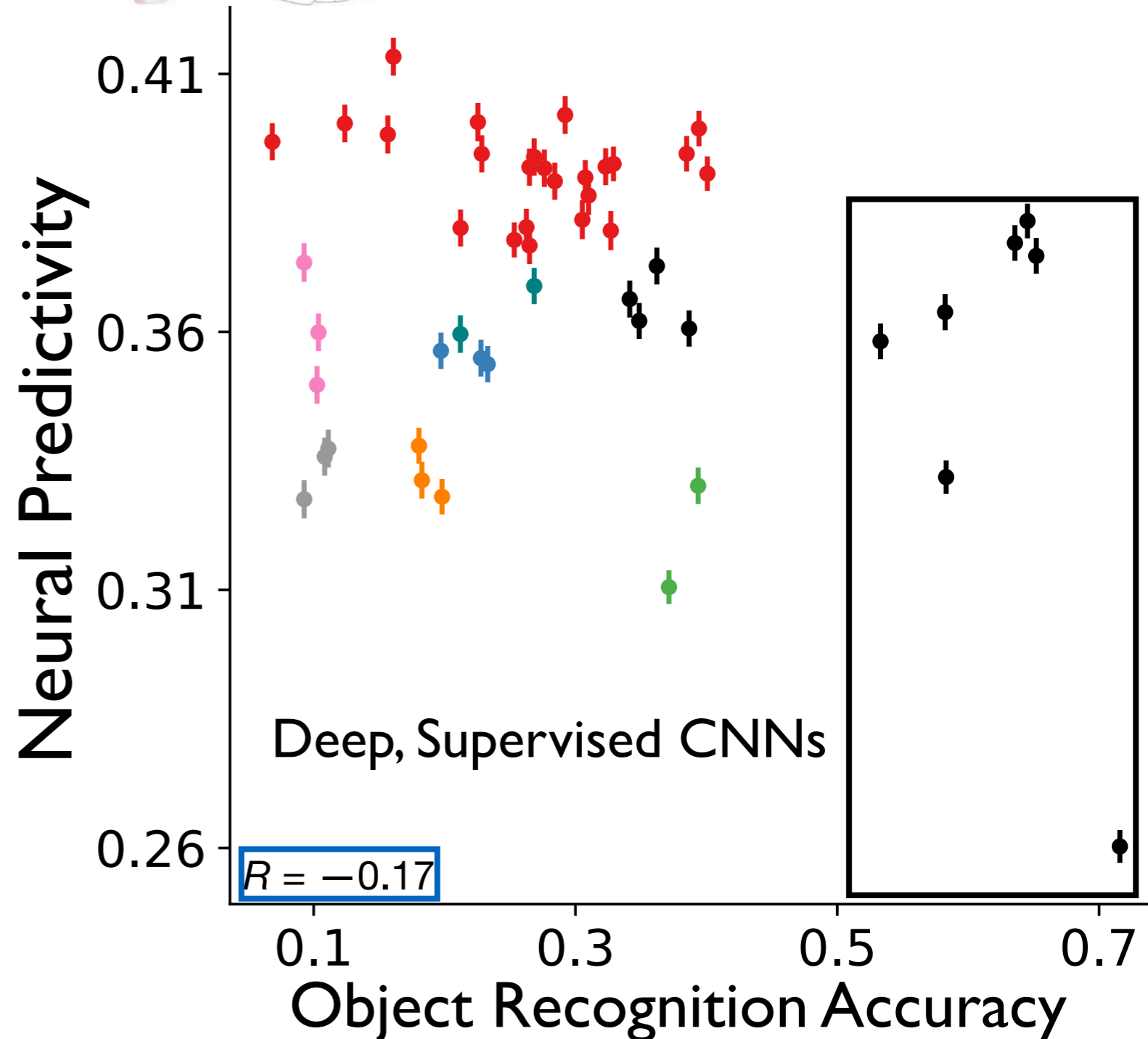


Primates

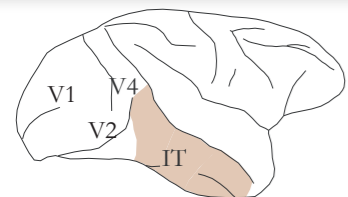
Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018



Mouse

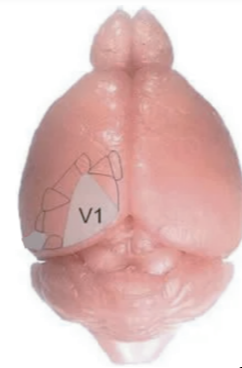
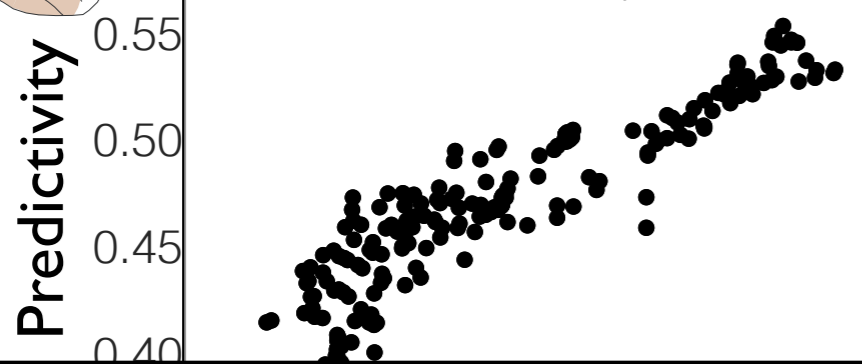


Object Categorization Ability **NOT** Correlated with Neural Predictivity

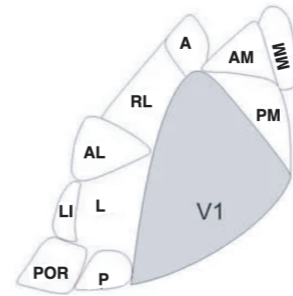


Primates

Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018



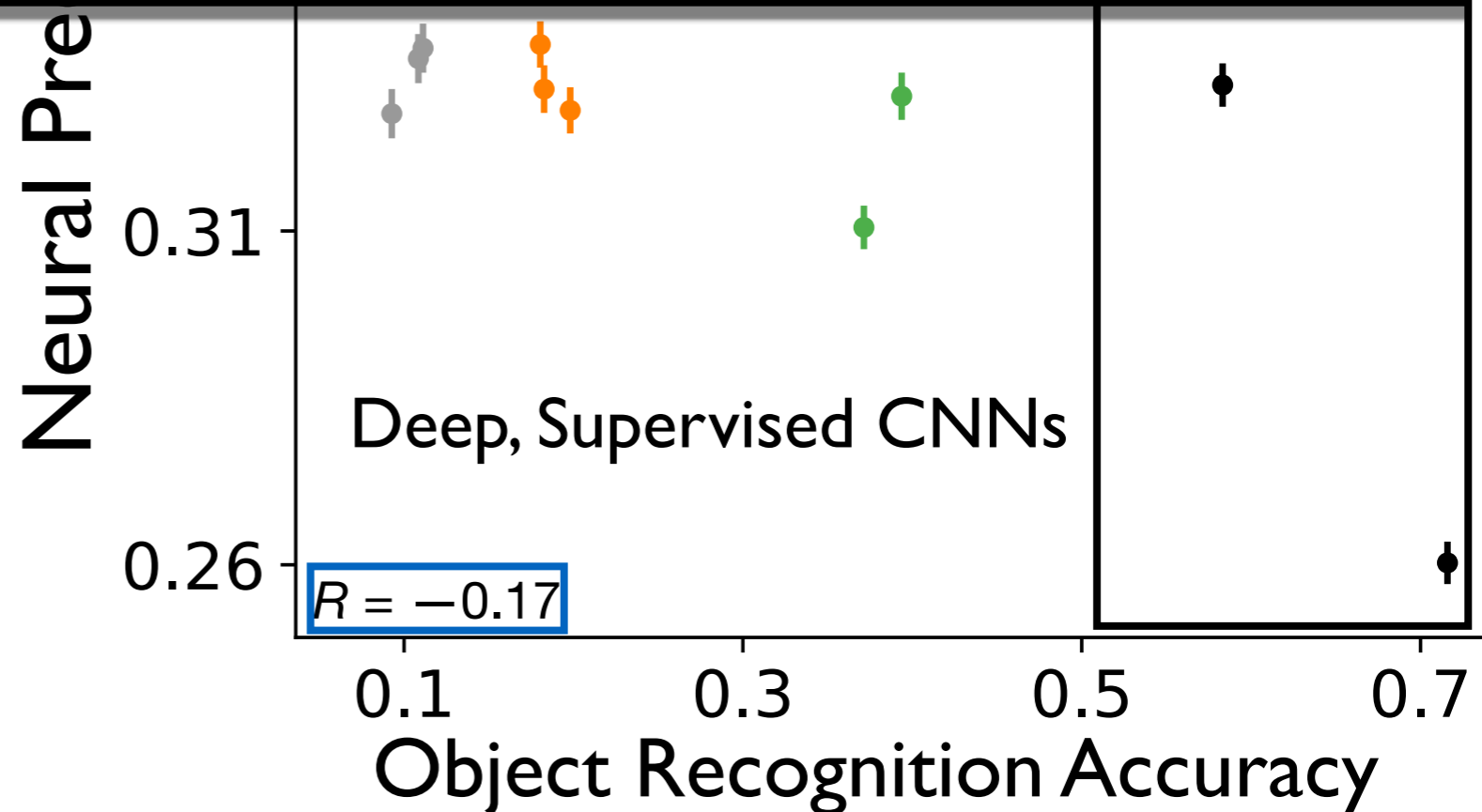
0.41



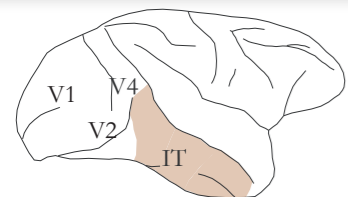
Mouse



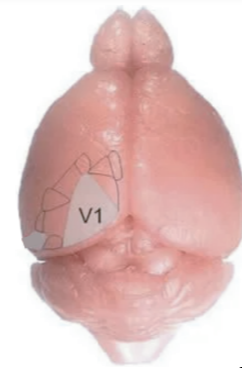
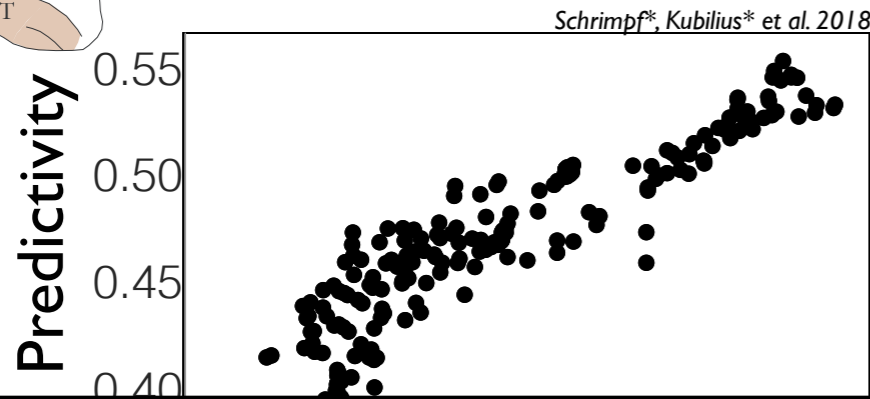
Neurobiological Puzzle:
Does task-optimization apply to rodents?



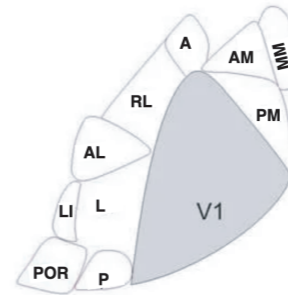
Object Categorization Ability **NOT** Correlated with Neural Predictivity



Primates



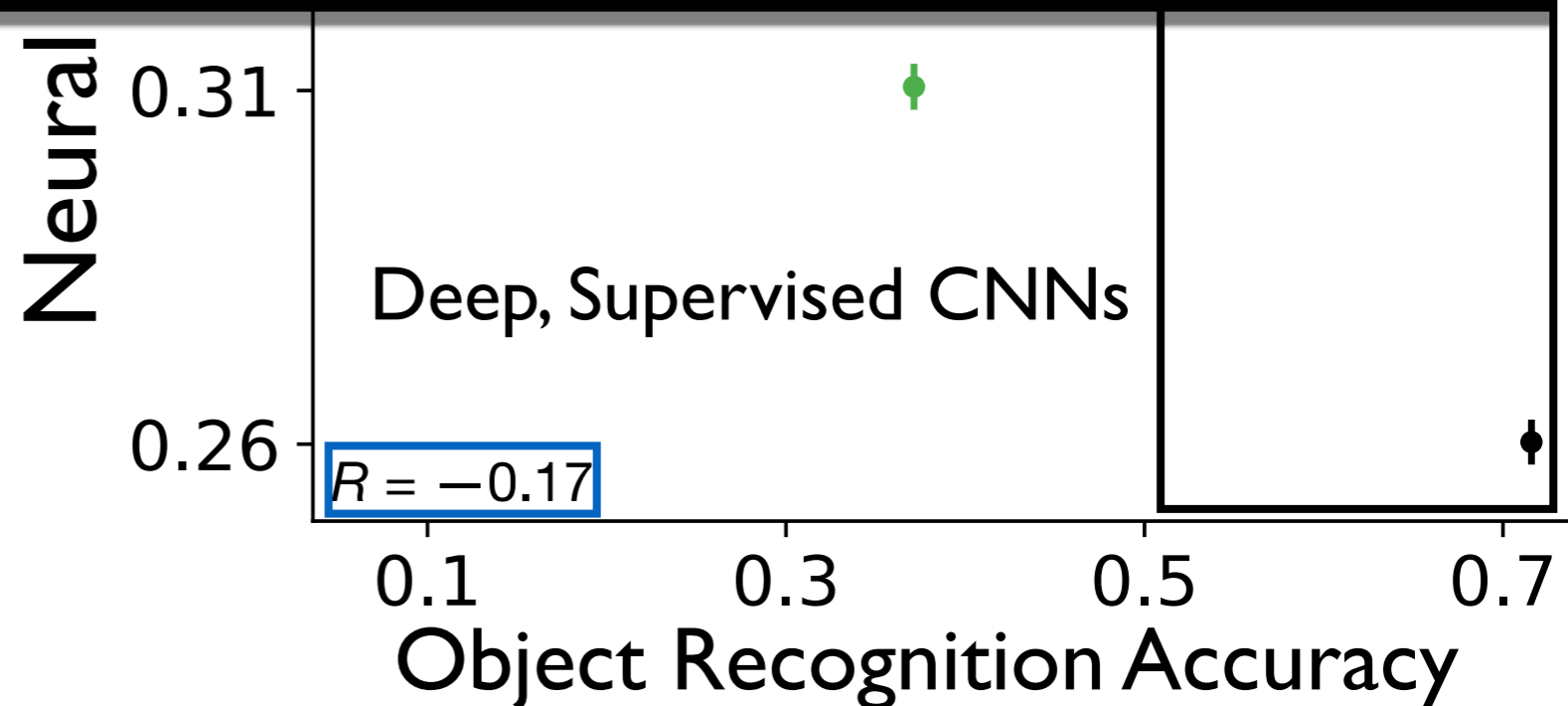
0.41



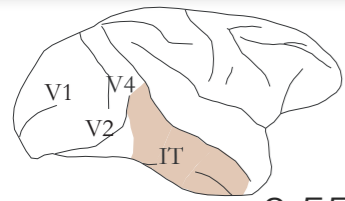
Mouse

Neurobiological Puzzle:
Does task-optimization apply to rodents?

Yes!

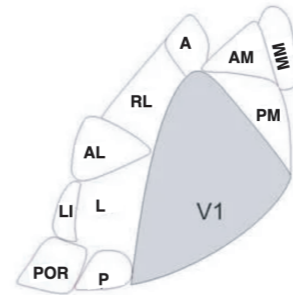
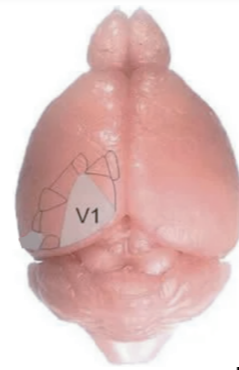
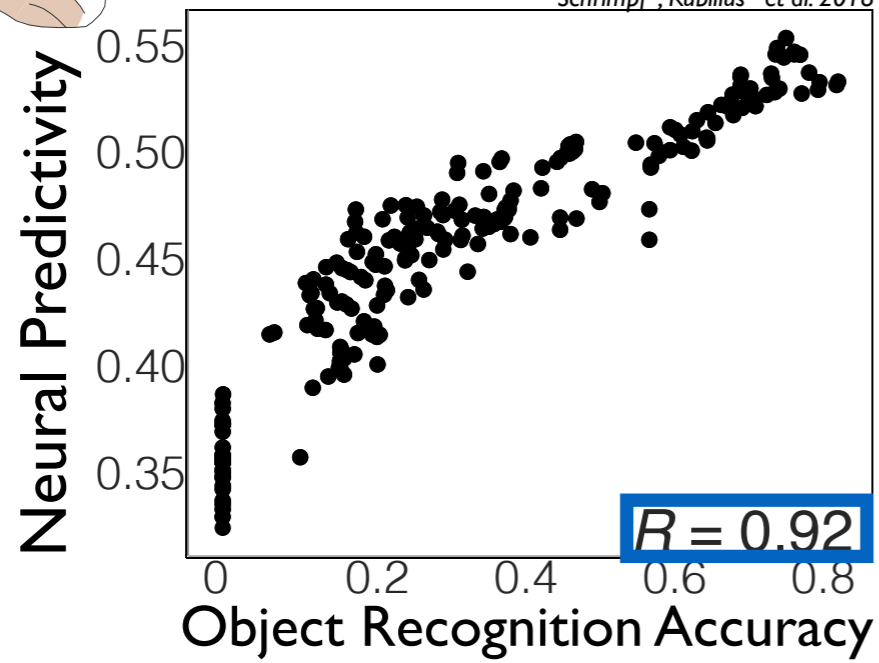


Object Categorization Ability **NOT** Correlated with Neural Predictivity

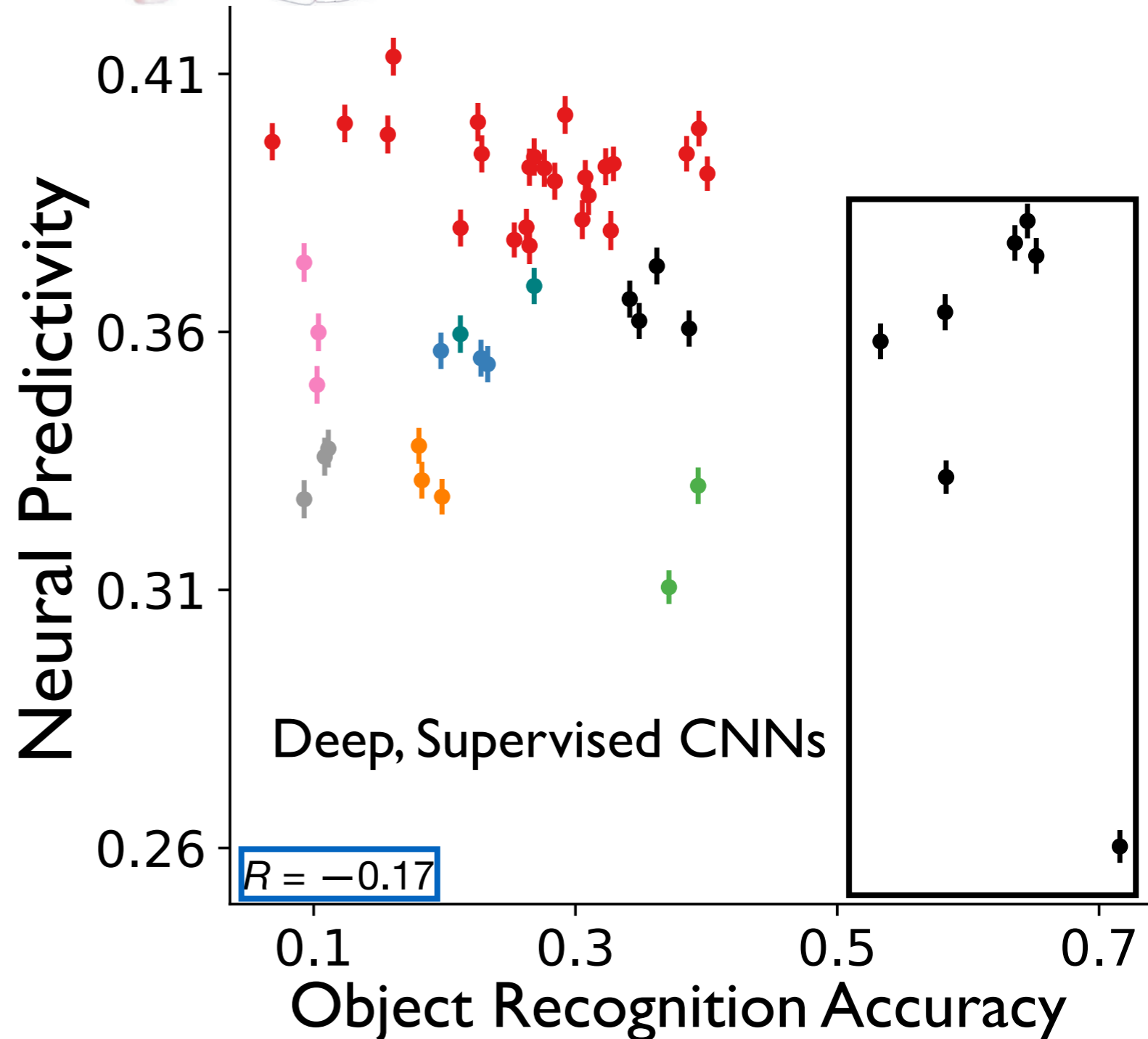


Primates

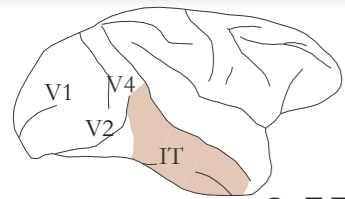
Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018



Mouse

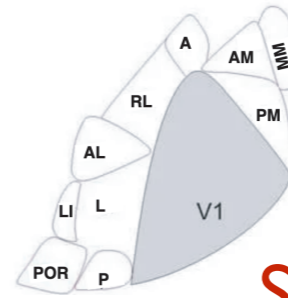
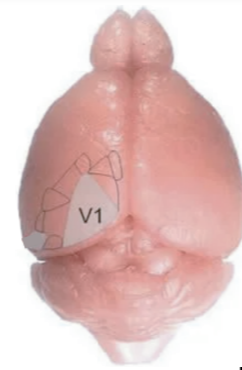
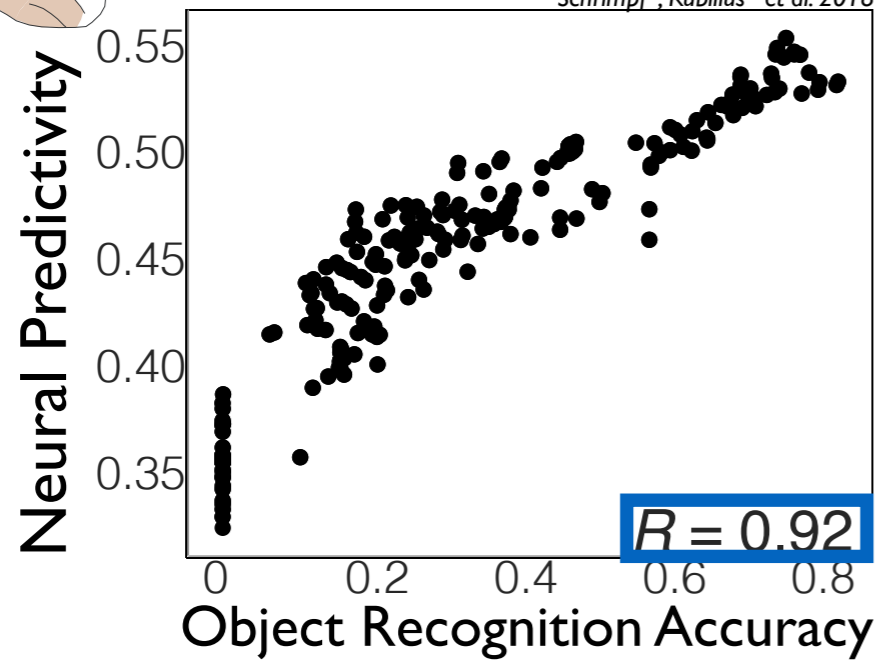


Object Categorization Ability **NOT** Correlated with Neural Predictivity



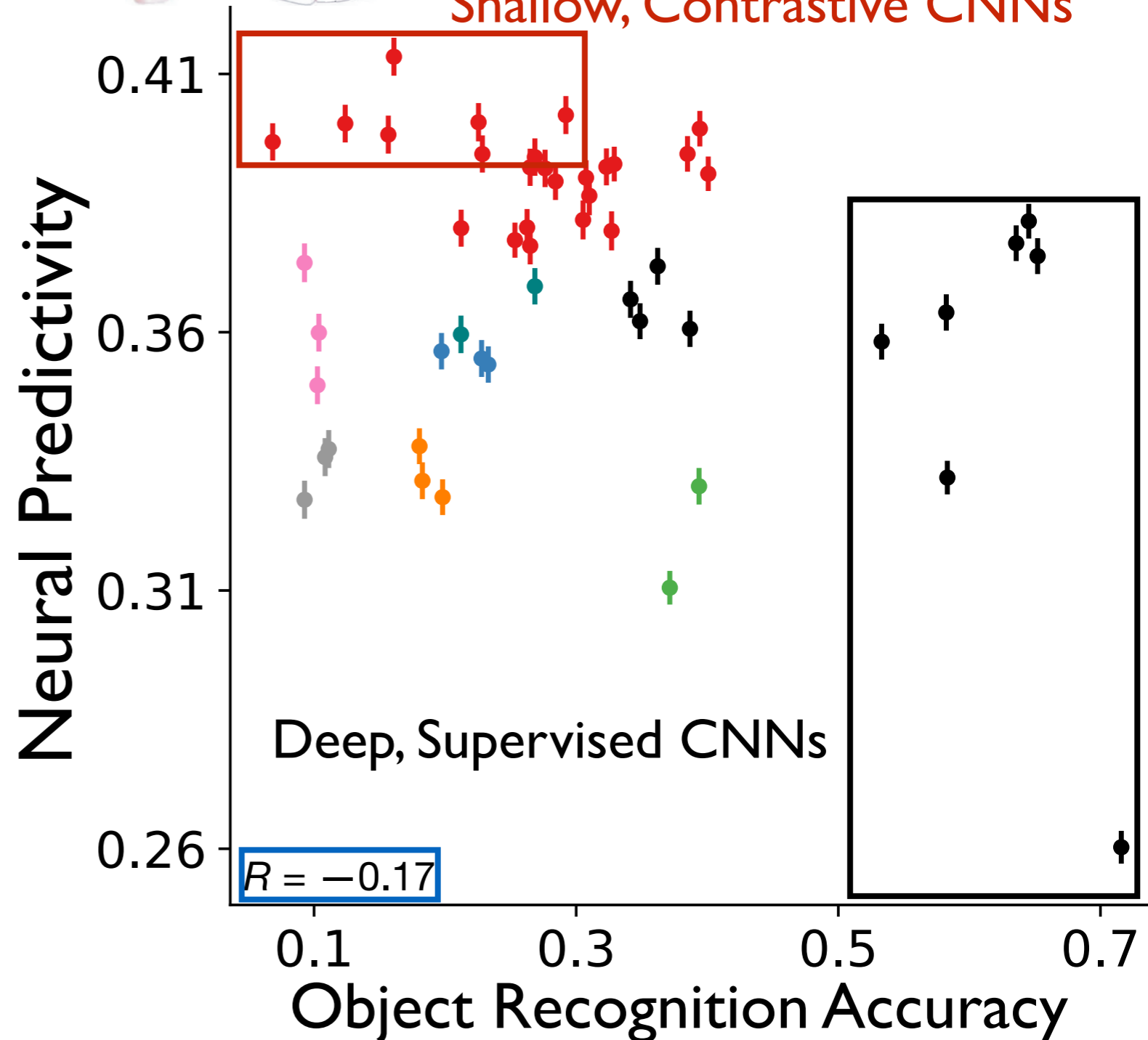
Primates

Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018

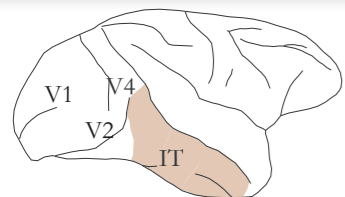


Mouse

Shallow, Contrastive CNNs

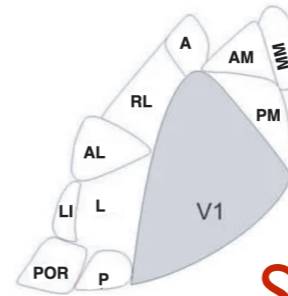
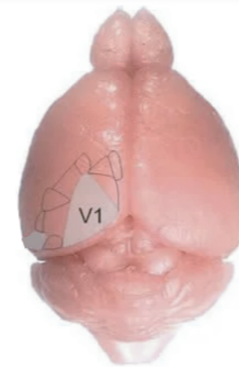
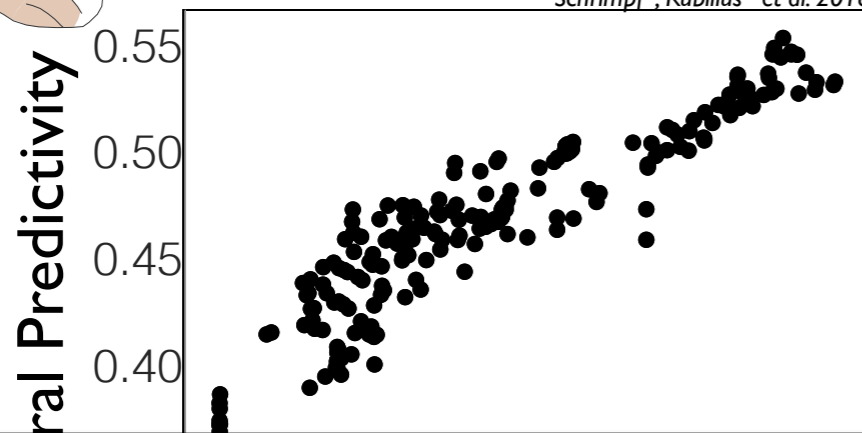


Object Categorization Ability **NOT** Correlated with Neural Predictivity



Primates

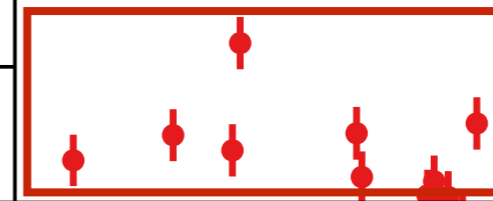
Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018



Mouse

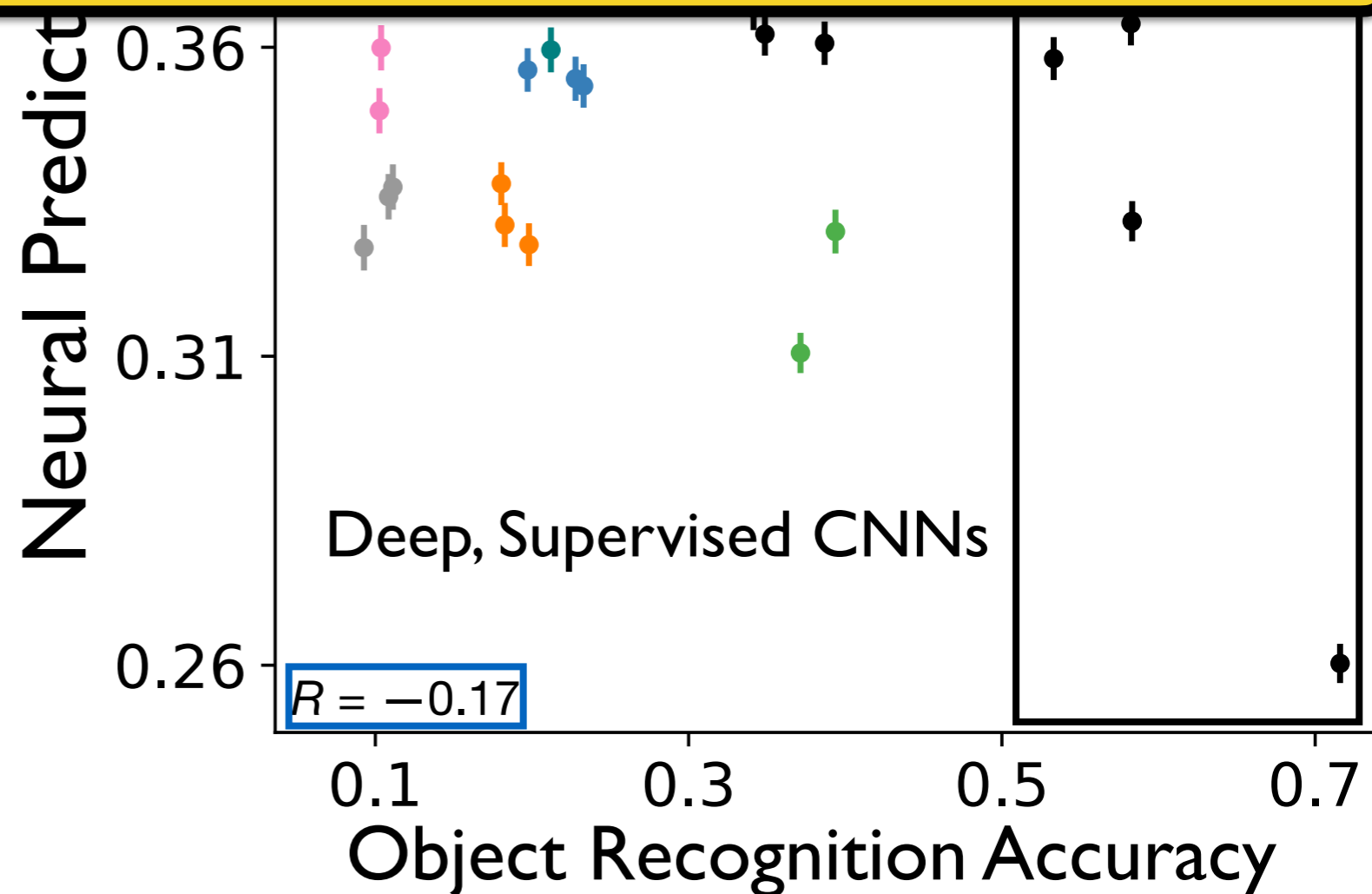
Shallow, Contrastive CNNs

0.41

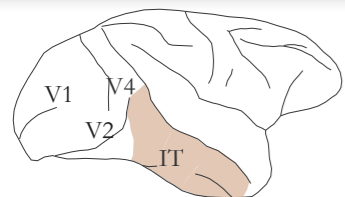


What is the ecological reason *why* the mouse visual system prefers self-supervision?

Object Recognition Accuracy

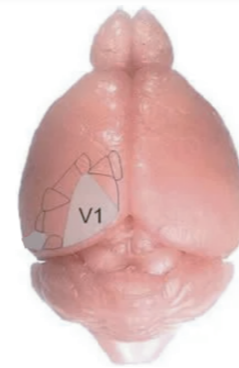
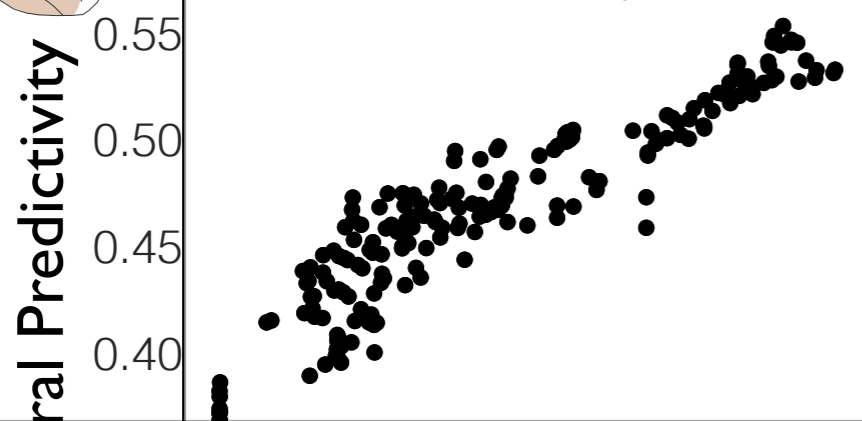


Object Categorization Ability **NOT** Correlated with Neural Predictivity

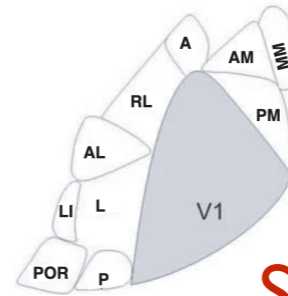


Primates

Schrimpf*, Kubilius* et al. 2018

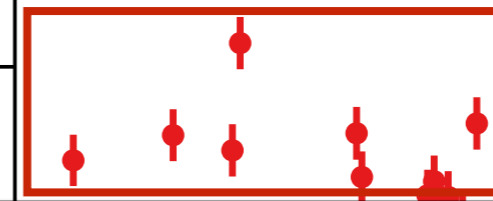


Mouse



Shallow, Contrastive CNNs

0.41



What is the ecological reason *why* the mouse visual system prefers self-supervision?
Hypothesis: *task-generality* rather than functional specialization.

Neural Predi

0.31

0.26

Deep, Supervised CNNs

$R = -0.17$

0.1

0.3

0.5

0.7

Object Recognition Accuracy

Assessing Task-Generality

Assessing Task-Generality

Train

ImageNet



Assessing Task-Generality

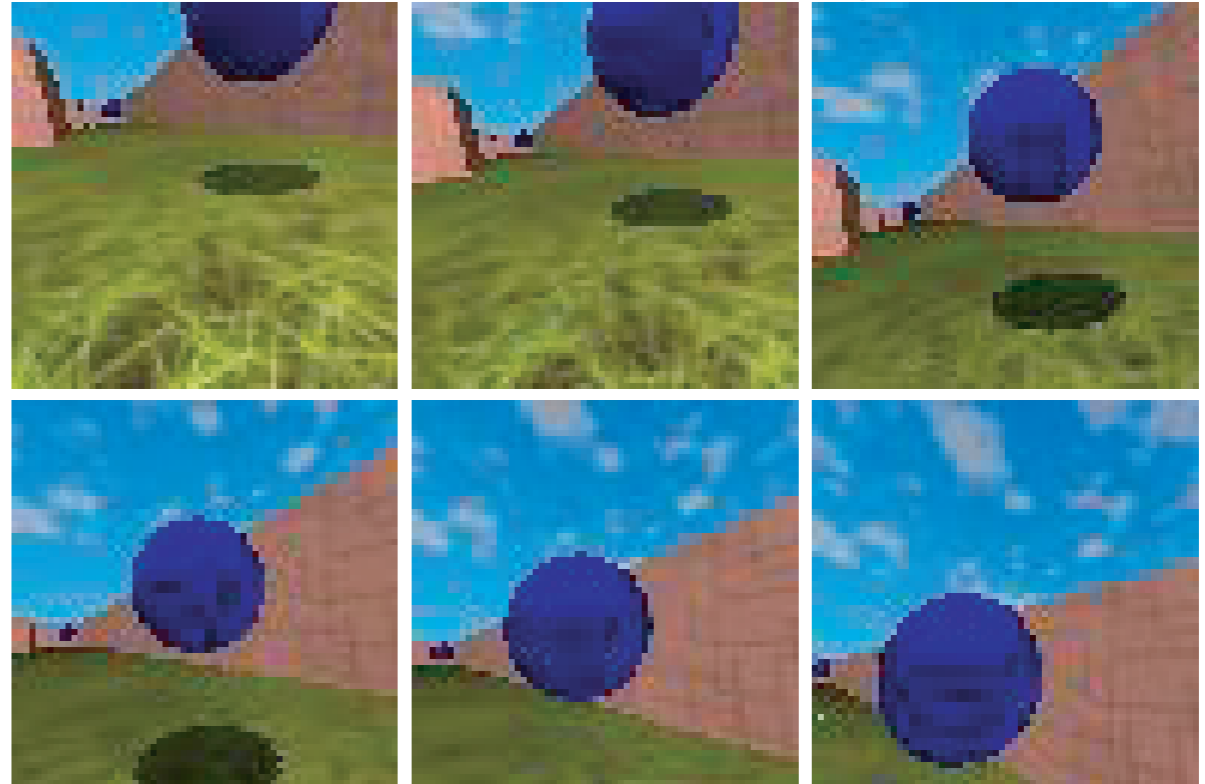
Train

ImageNet



Evaluate

Reward-Based Navigation



Assessing Task-Generality

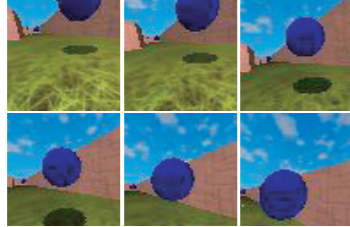
Train

ImageNet



Evaluate

Reward-Based Navigation



Assessing Task-Generality

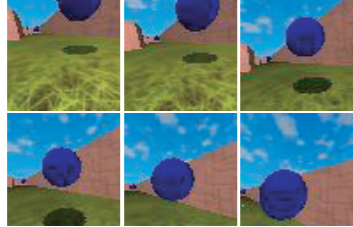
Train

ImageNet



Evaluate

Reward-Based Navigation



Embodied Virtual Rodent Navigation

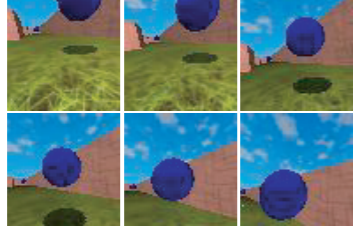
Train

ImageNet



Evaluate

Reward-Based Navigation



Embodied Virtual Rodent Navigation

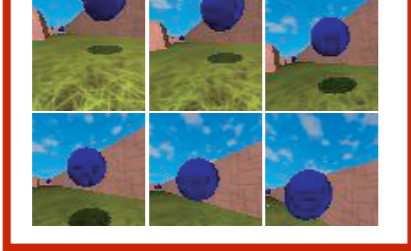
Train

ImageNet

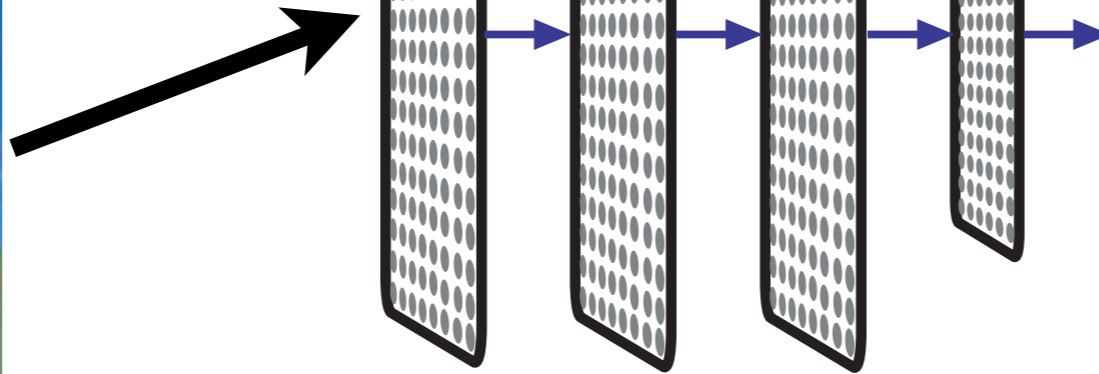


Evaluate

Reward-Based Navigation



Vision Network



Embodied Virtual Rodent Navigation

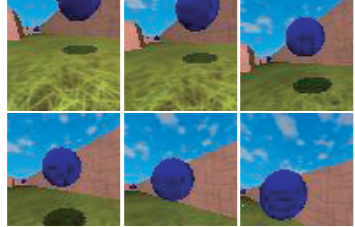
Train

ImageNet

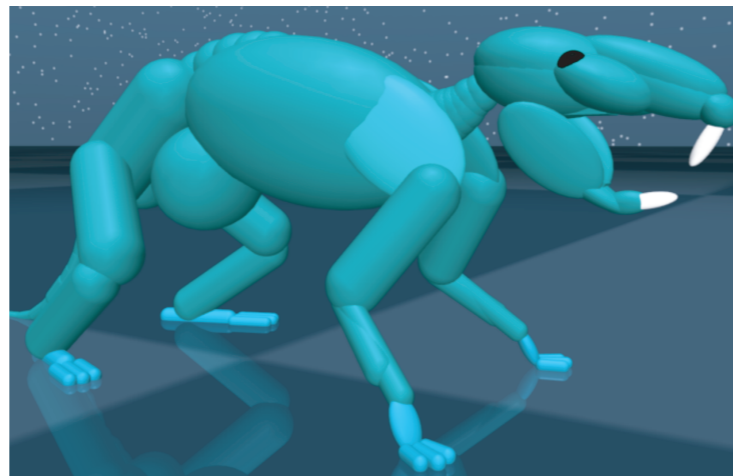
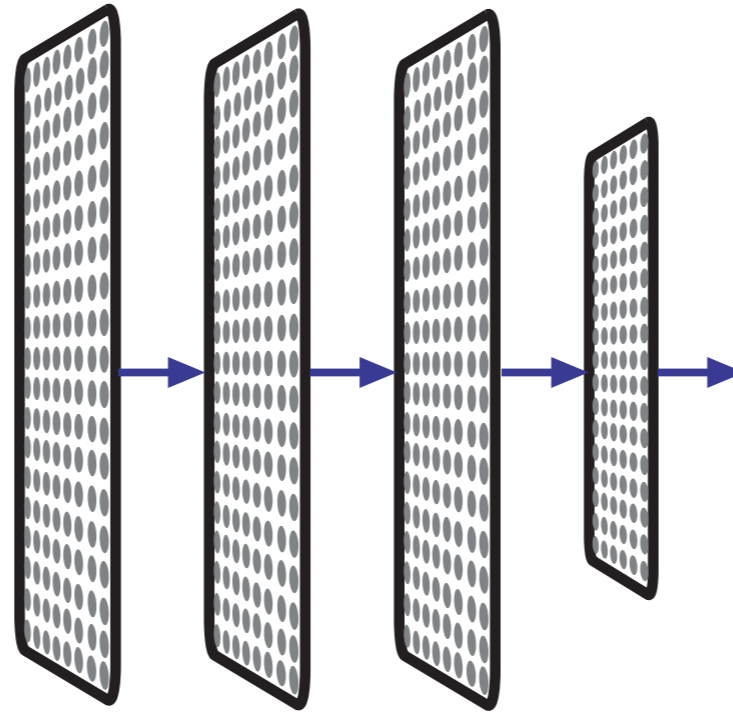


Evaluate

Reward-Based Navigation



Vision Network



Biomechanical Model

(Joint angles, accelerometer, etc.)



Bence Ölveczky

Embodied Virtual Rodent Navigation

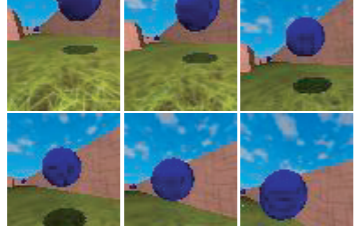
Train

ImageNet

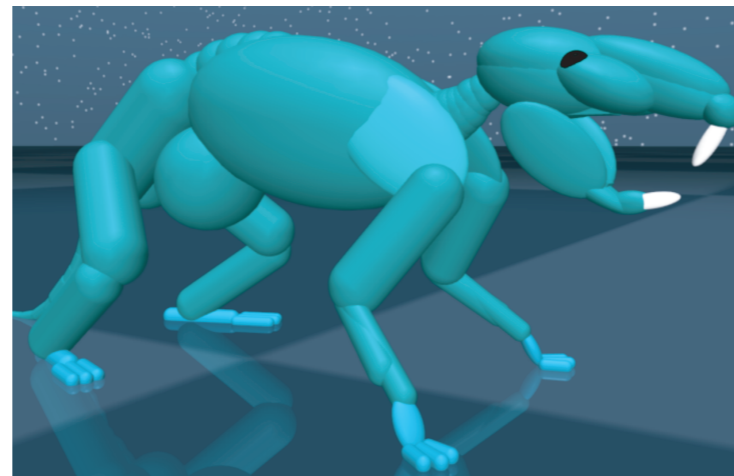
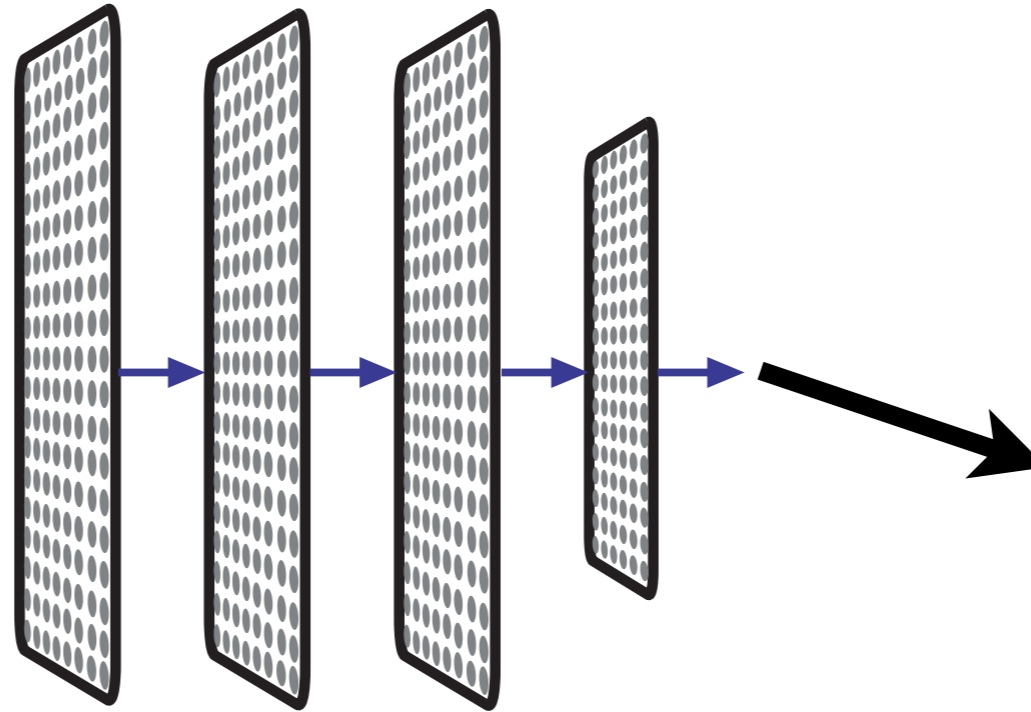


Evaluate

Reward-Based Navigation



Vision Network



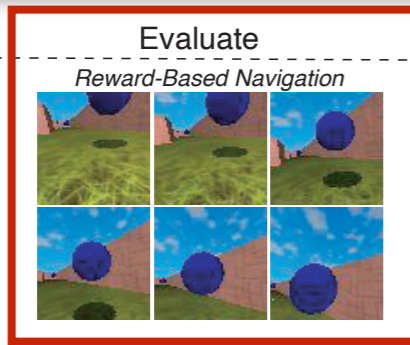
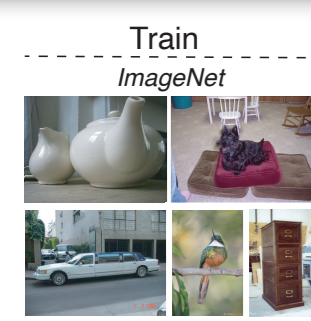
Biomechanical Model

(Joint angles, accelerometer, etc.)

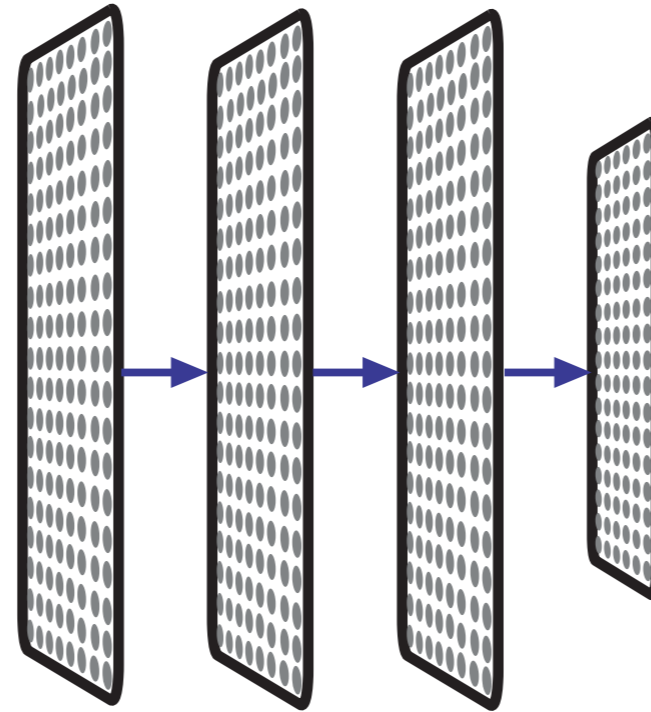


Bence Ölveczky

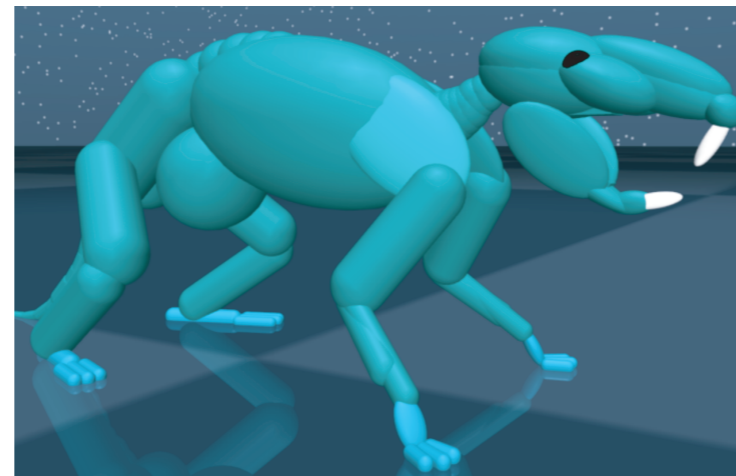
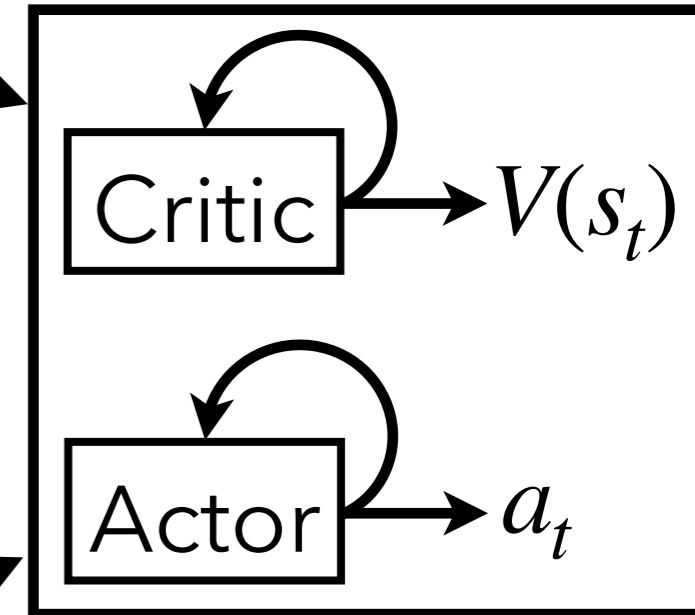
Embodied Virtual Rodent Navigation



Vision Network



Decision Making



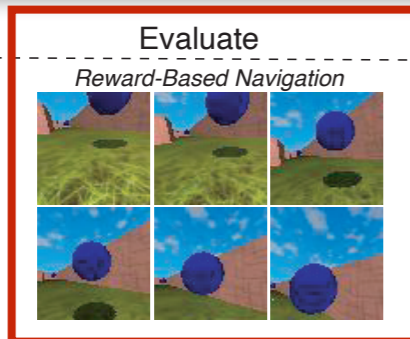
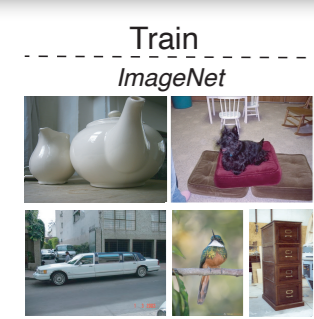
Biomechanical Model

(Joint angles, accelerometer, etc.)

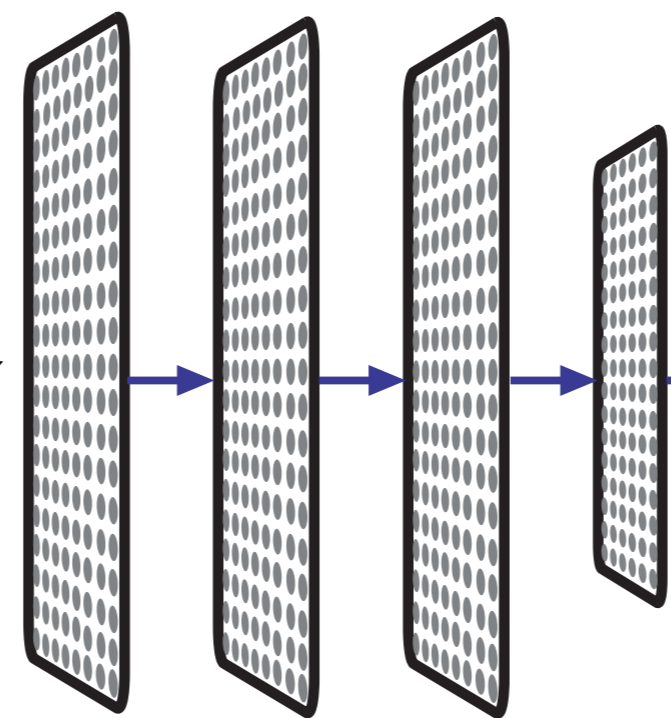


Bence Ölveczky

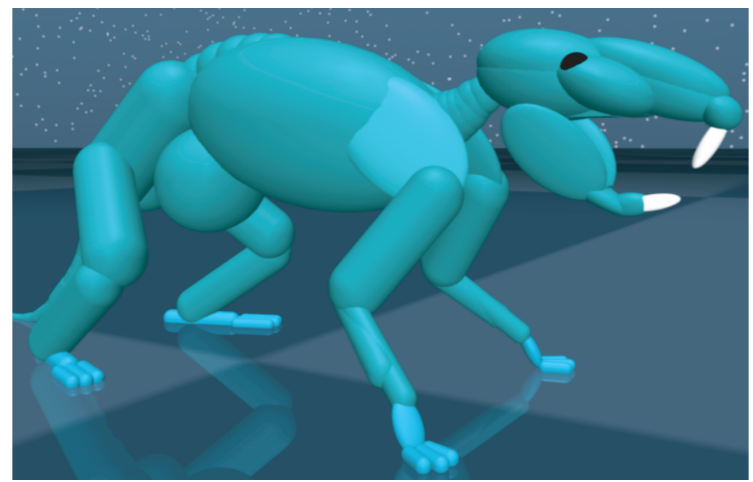
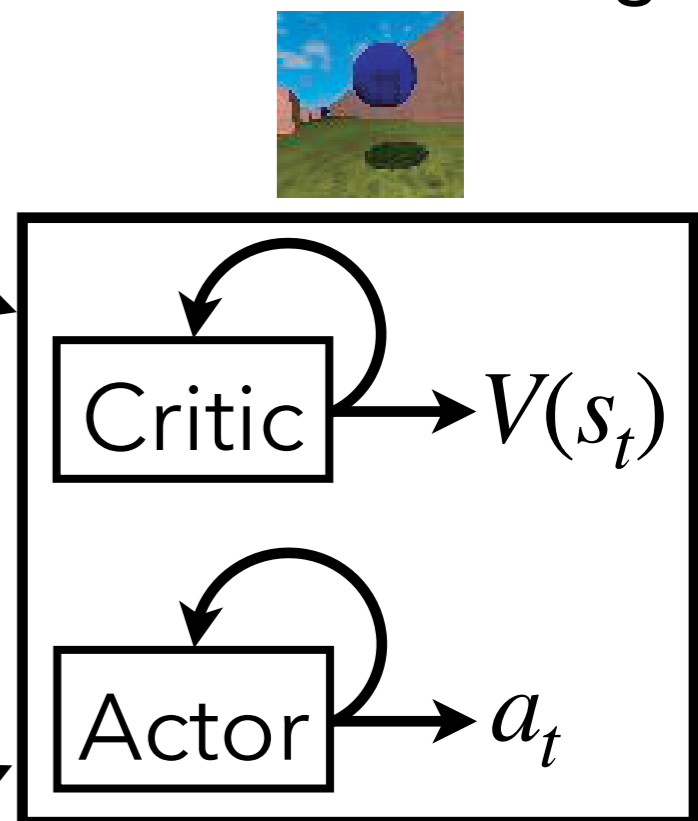
Embodied Virtual Rodent Navigation



Vision Network



Decision Making

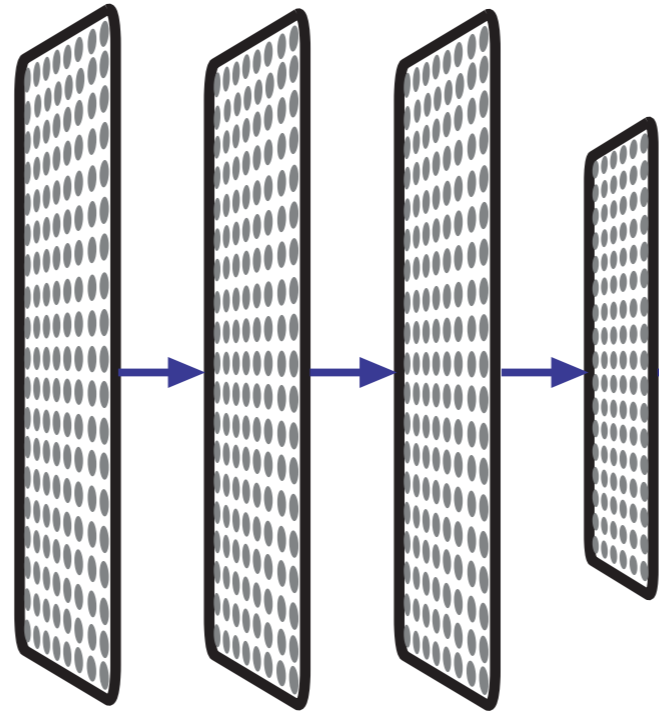
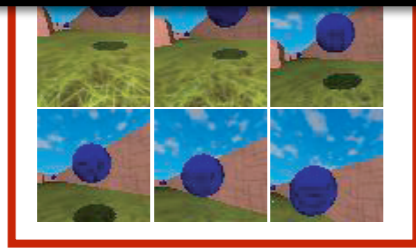
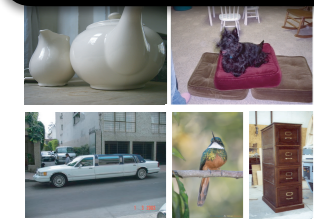


Biomechanical Model
(Joint angles, accelerometer, etc.)

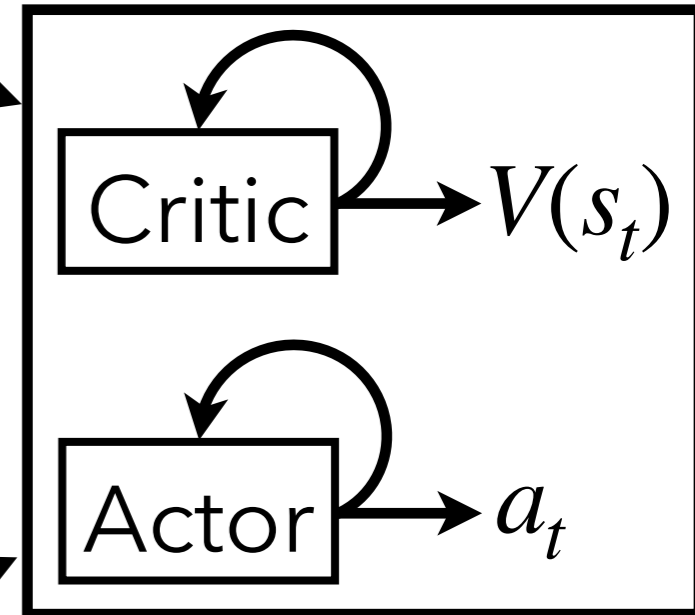


Bence Ölveczky

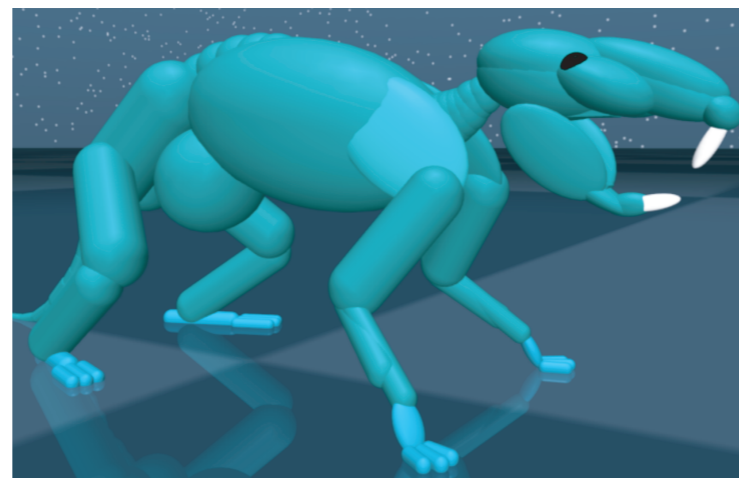
High degree-of-freedom body, keeping track of history over long timescales with high-dimensional, continuous inputs



Decision Making



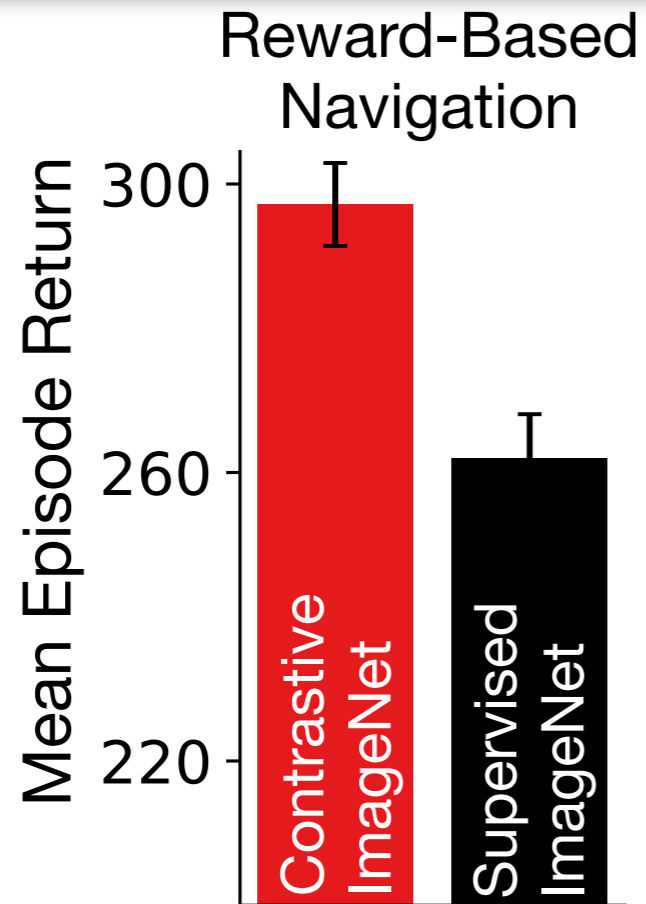
Bence Ölveczky



Biomechanical Model
(Joint angles, accelerometer, etc.)

Contrastive Models Yield Better Transfer Performance

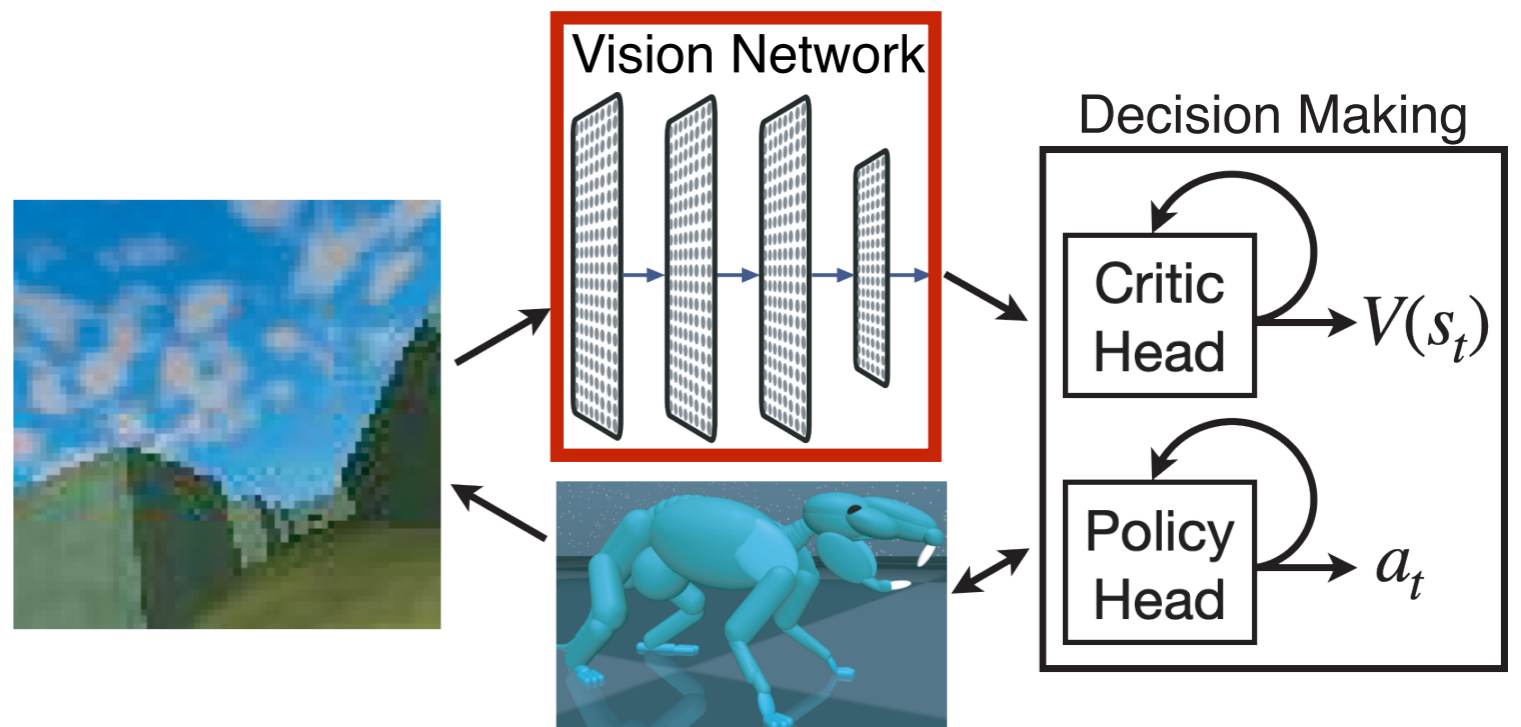
Contrastive Models Yield Better Transfer Performance



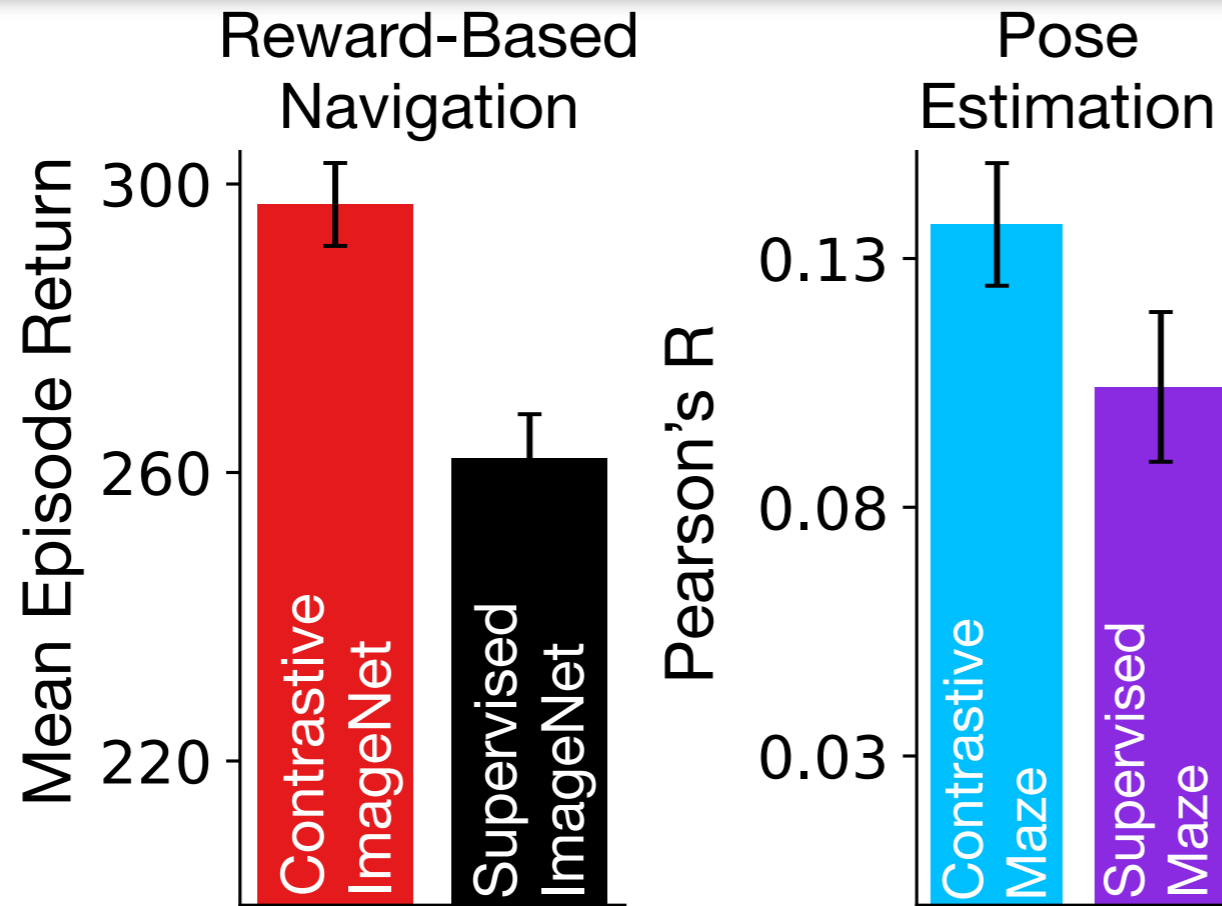
Train *ImageNet*



Evaluate

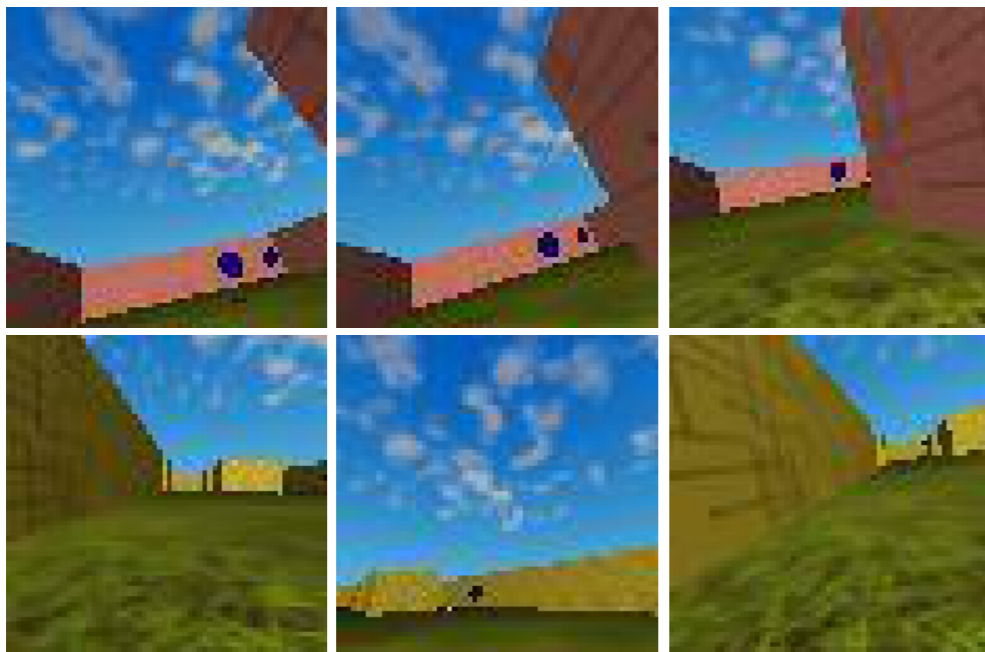


Contrastive Models Yield Better Transfer Performance



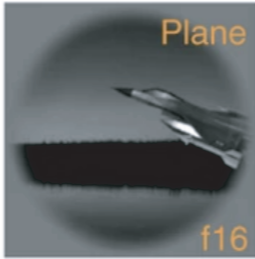
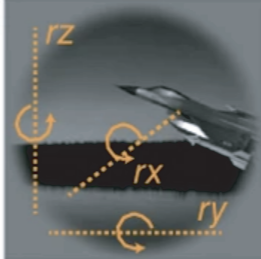

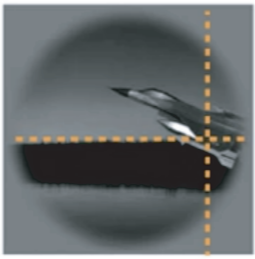
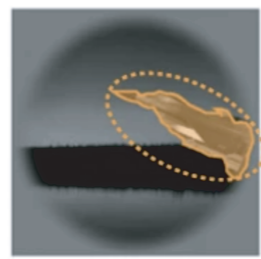
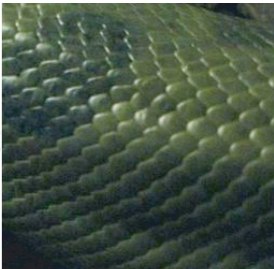
Train

Maze Environment

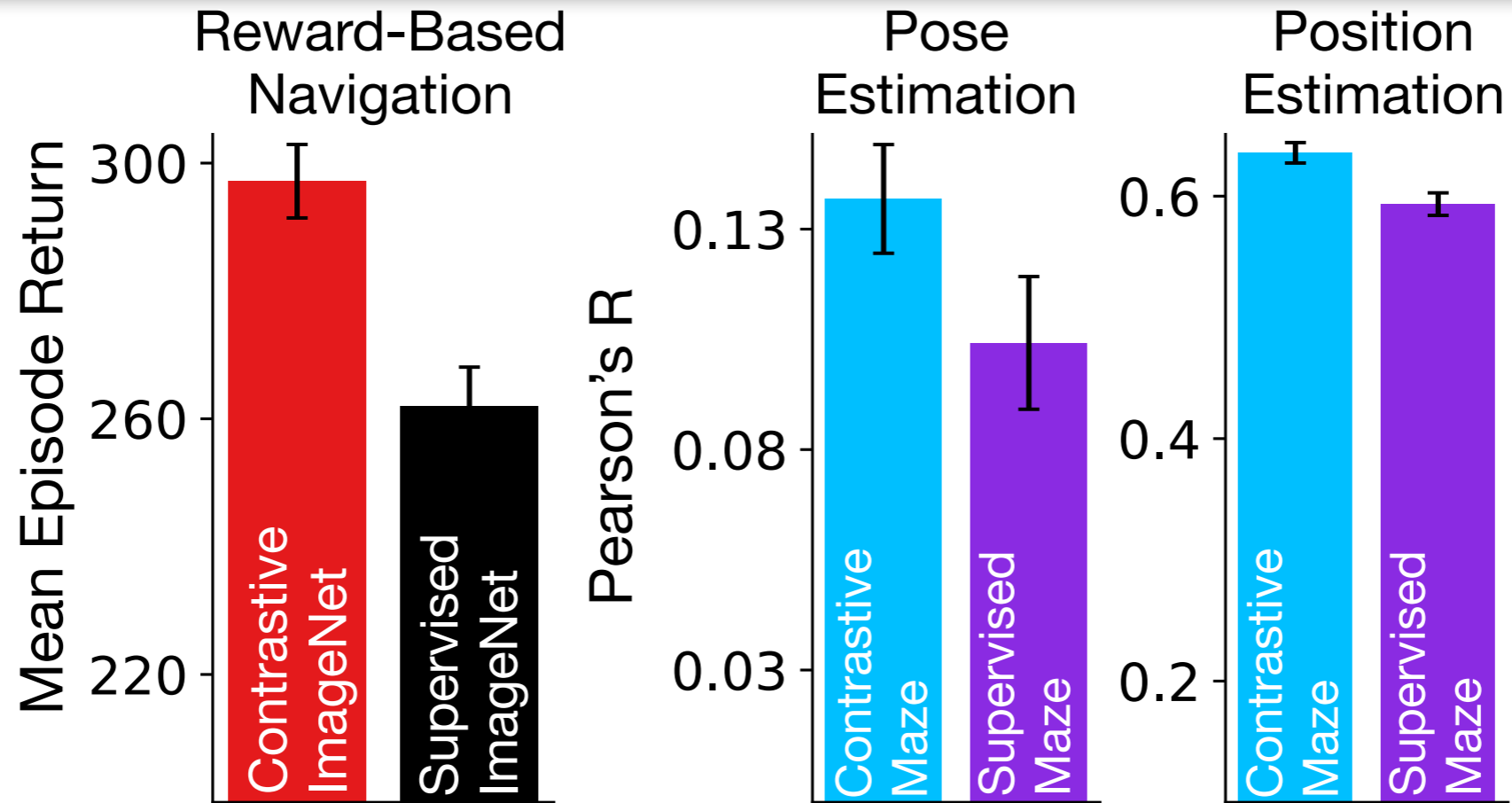


Evaluate

Visual Scene Understanding

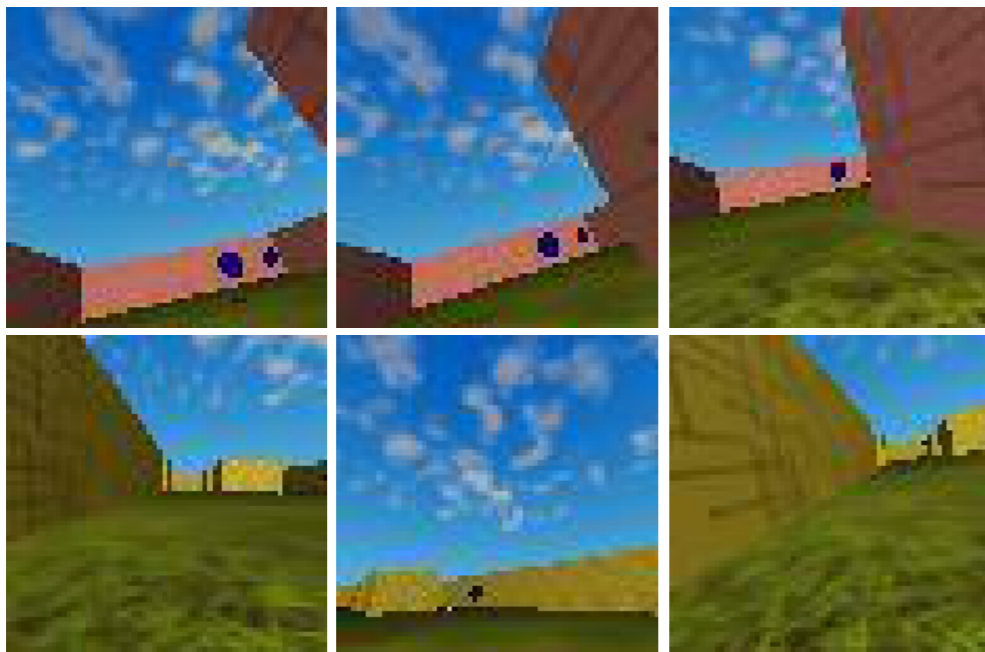
 <p>Plane</p>	Category	 <p>z axis rotation x axis rotation y axis rotation</p>	
 <p>f16</p>	Identity	 <p>Perimeter: 78 pix Two-dimensional retinal area: 146 pix Three-dimensional object scale: 1.2x</p>	
<i>Object properties</i>			<i>Texture</i>

Contrastive Models Yield Better Transfer Performance



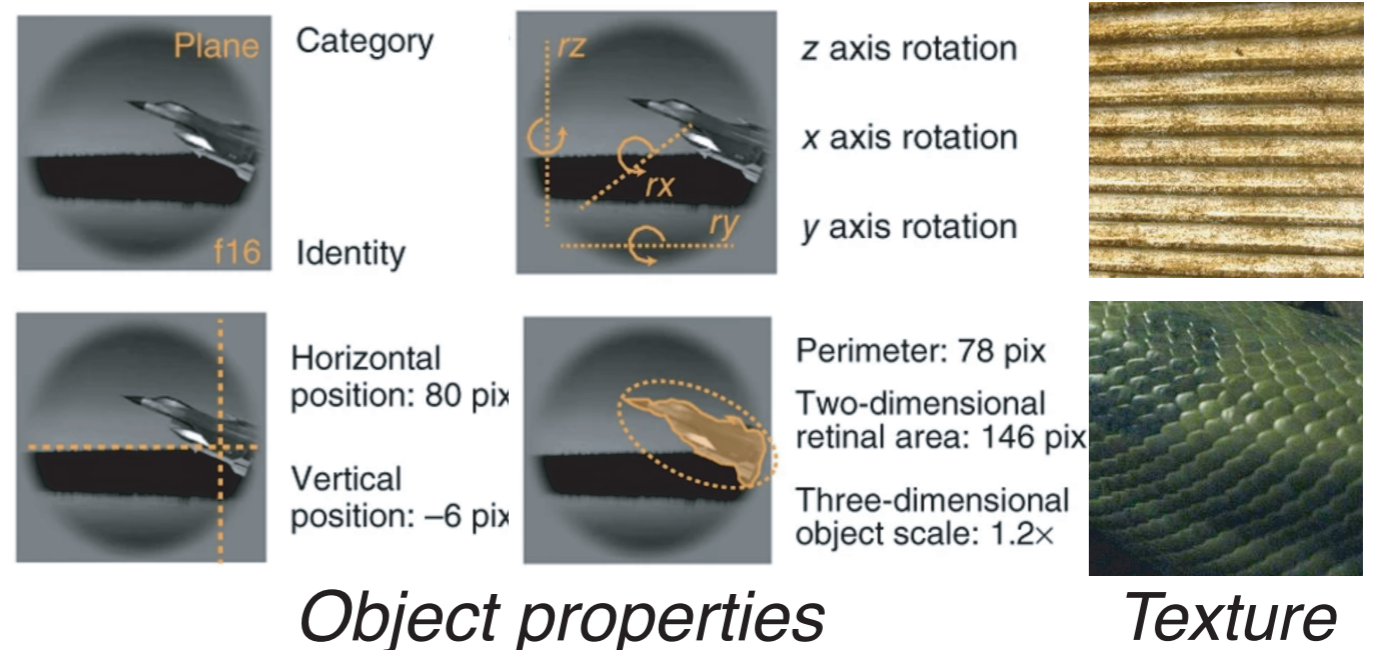
Train

Maze Environment

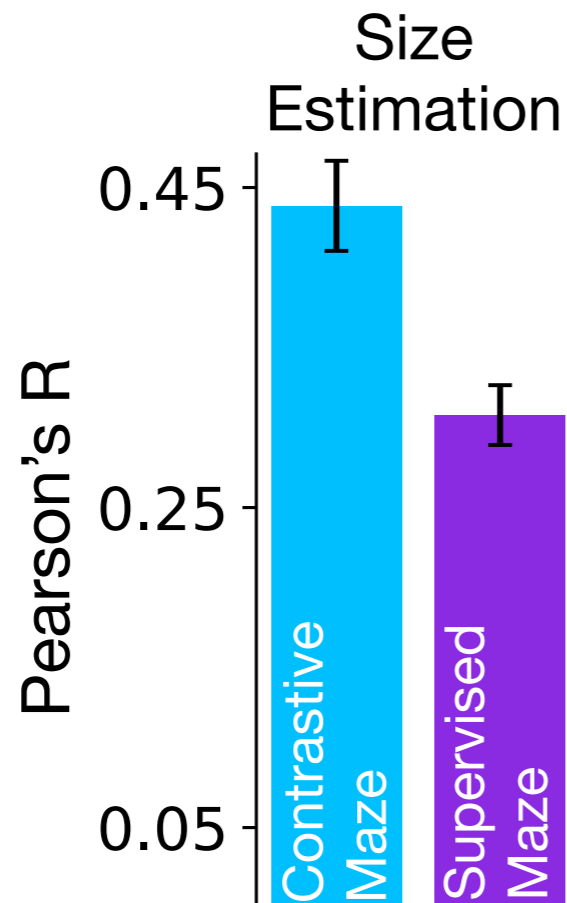
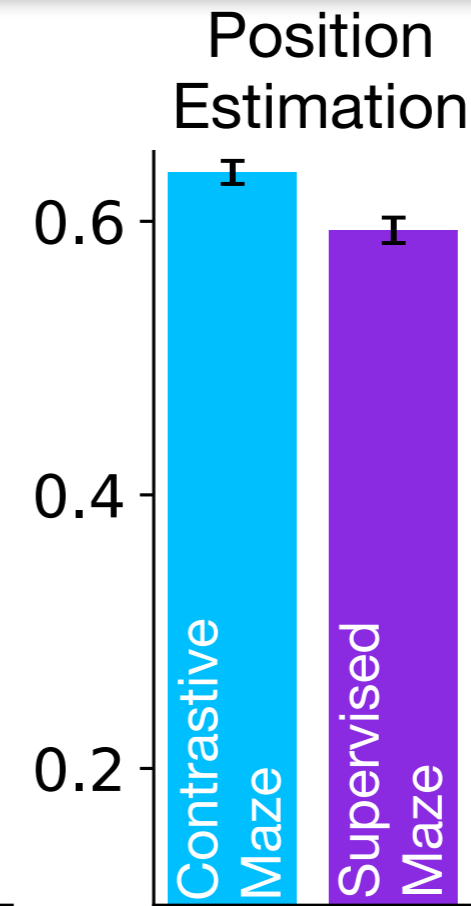
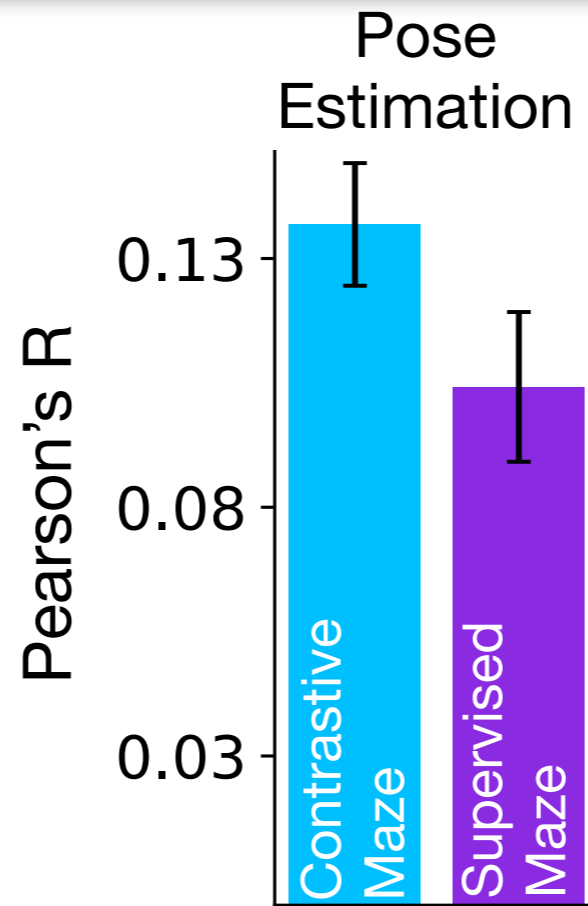
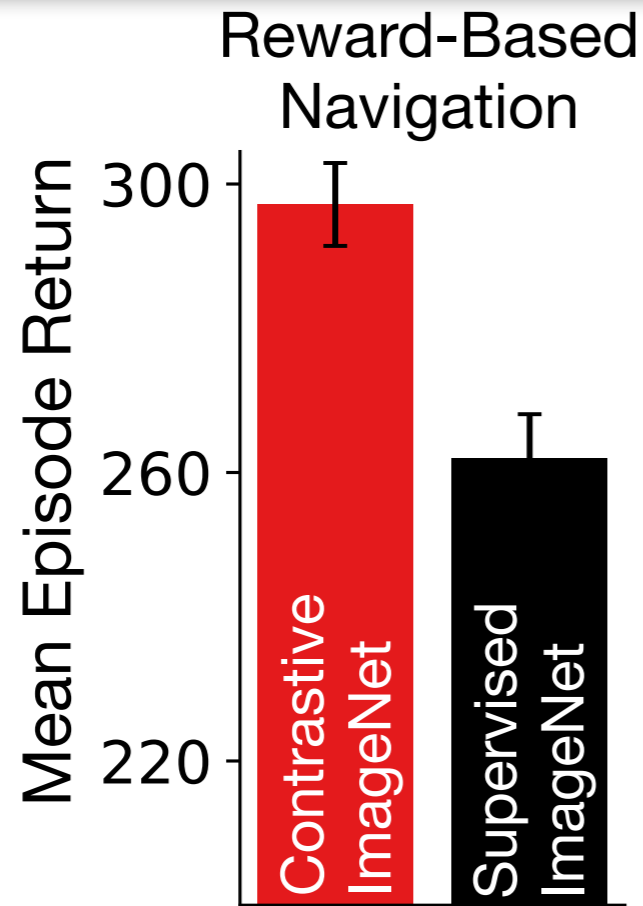


Evaluate

Visual Scene Understanding



Contrastive Models Yield Better Transfer Performance

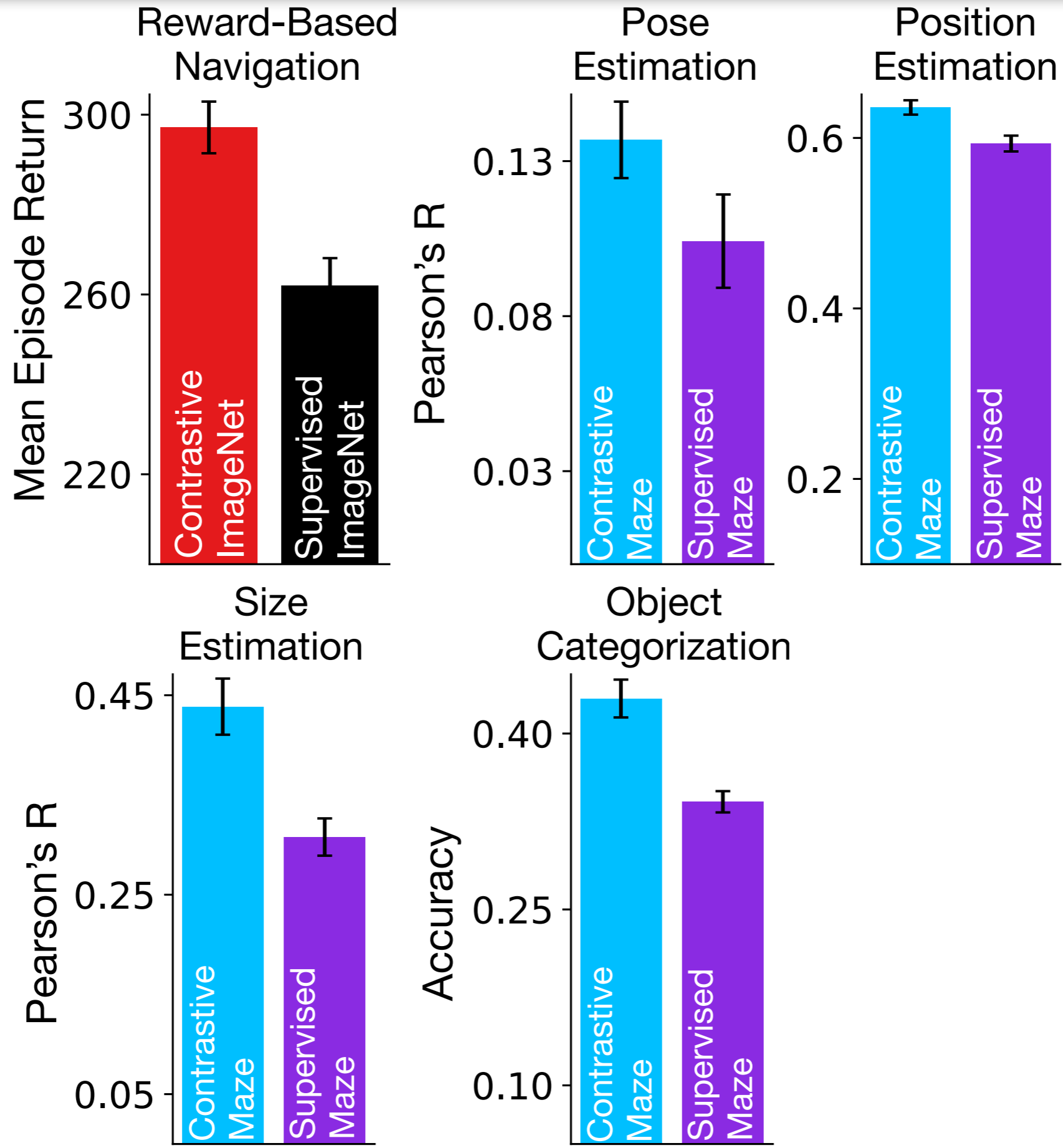


Evaluate

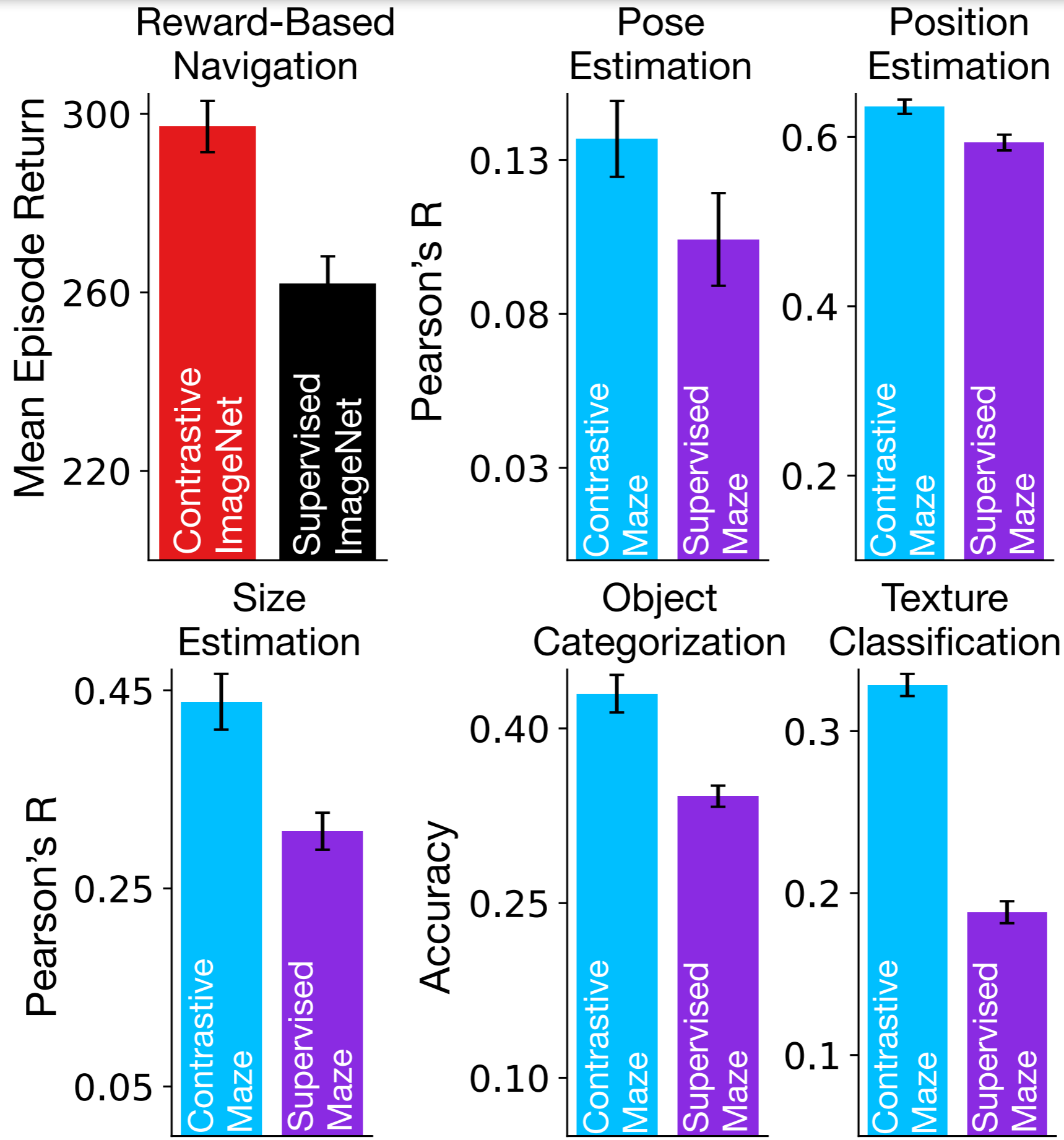
Visual Scene Understanding

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

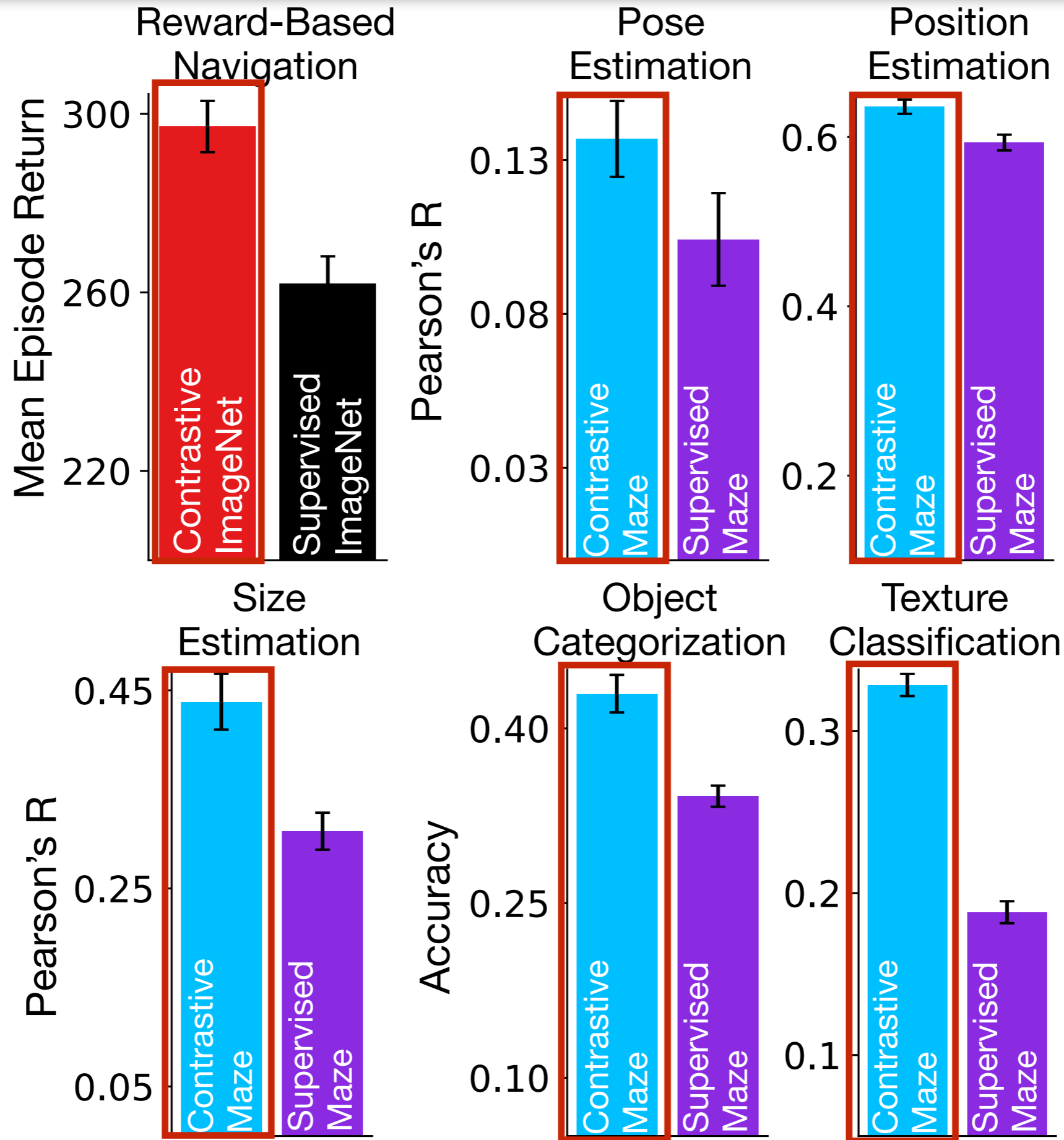
Contrastive Models Yield Better Transfer Performance



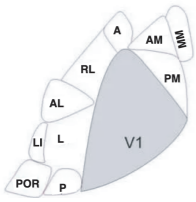
Contrastive Models Yield Better Transfer Performance



Contrastive Models Yield Better Transfer Performance



The best neural models have the best task transfer



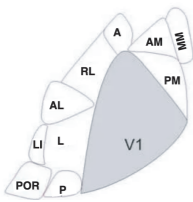
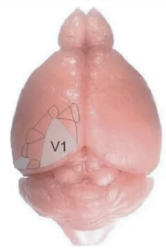
Noise-Corrected Neural
Predictivity (Pearson's R)

0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2

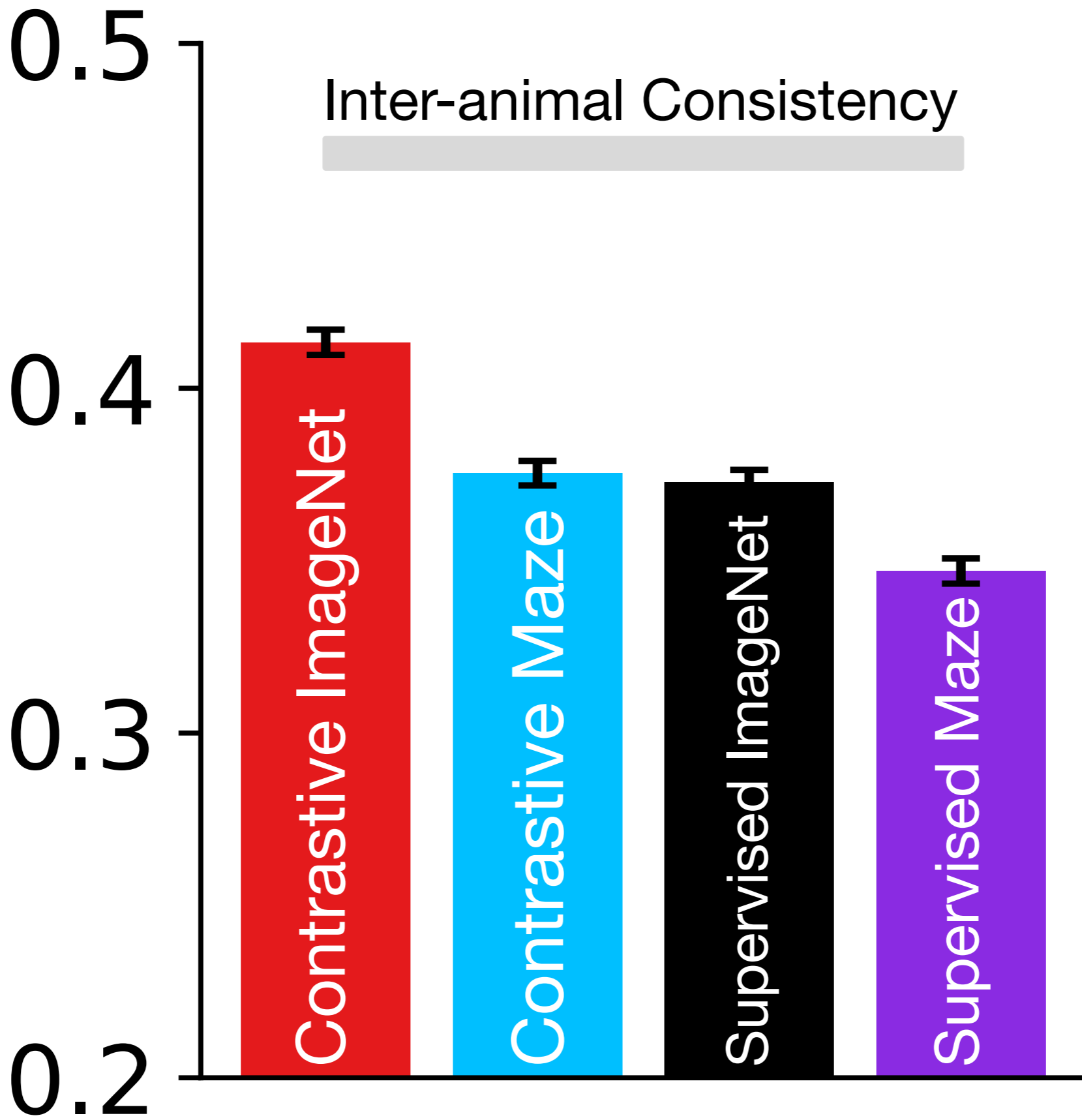
Inter-animal Consistency

Do the contrastive methods
that task generalize best,
also match the neurons better?

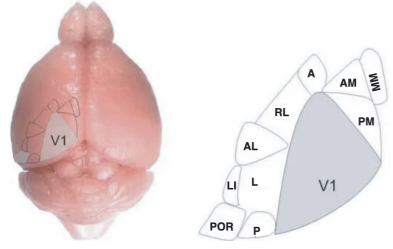
The best neural models have the best task transfer



Noise-Corrected Neural
Predictivity (Pearson's R)



The best neural models have the best task transfer



Noise-Corrected Neural
Predictivity (Pearson's R)

0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5

Contrastive ImageNet H

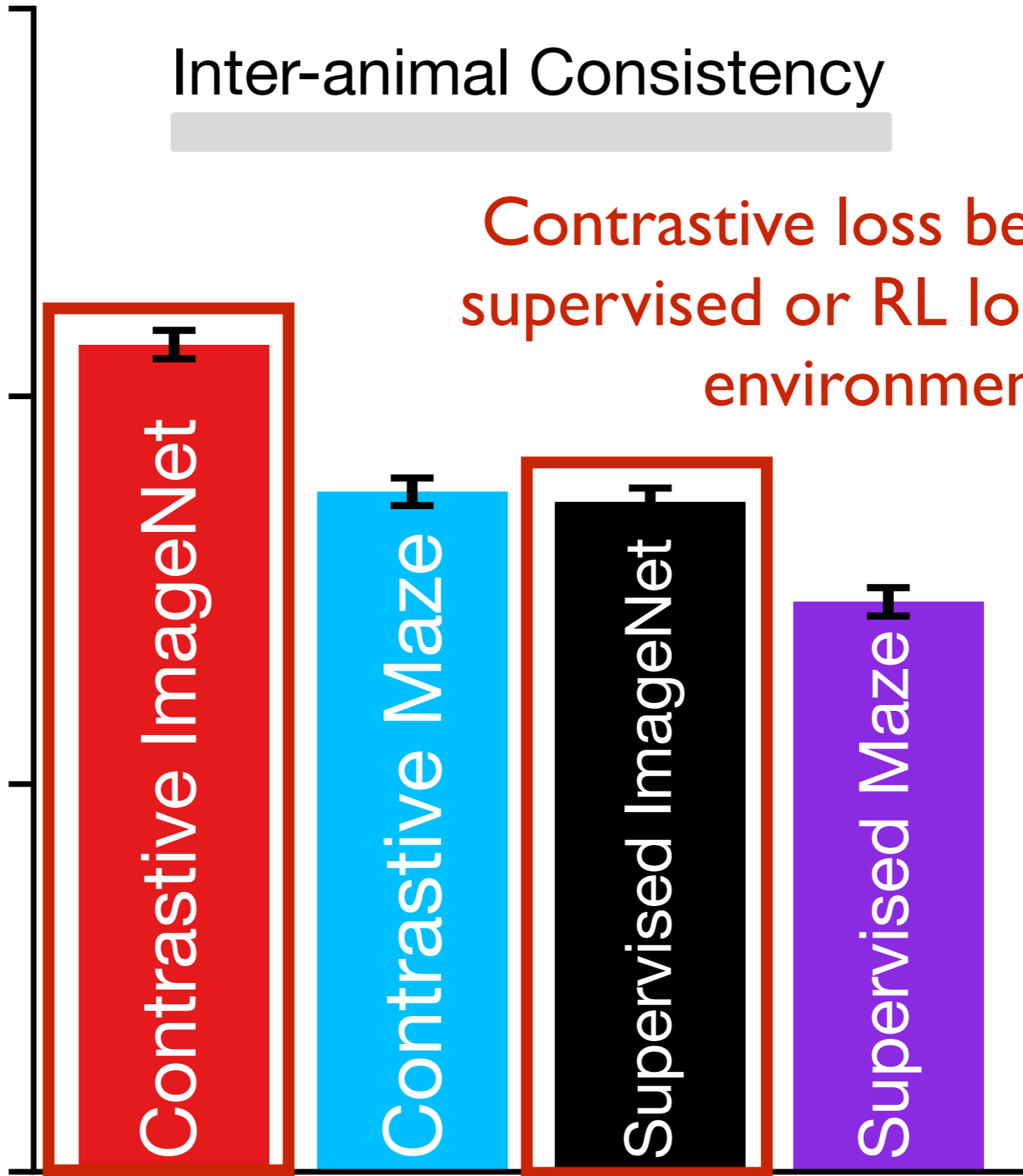
Contrastive Maze H

Supervised ImageNet H

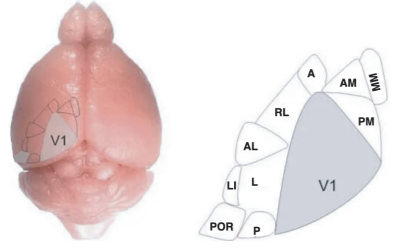
Supervised Maze H

Inter-animal Consistency

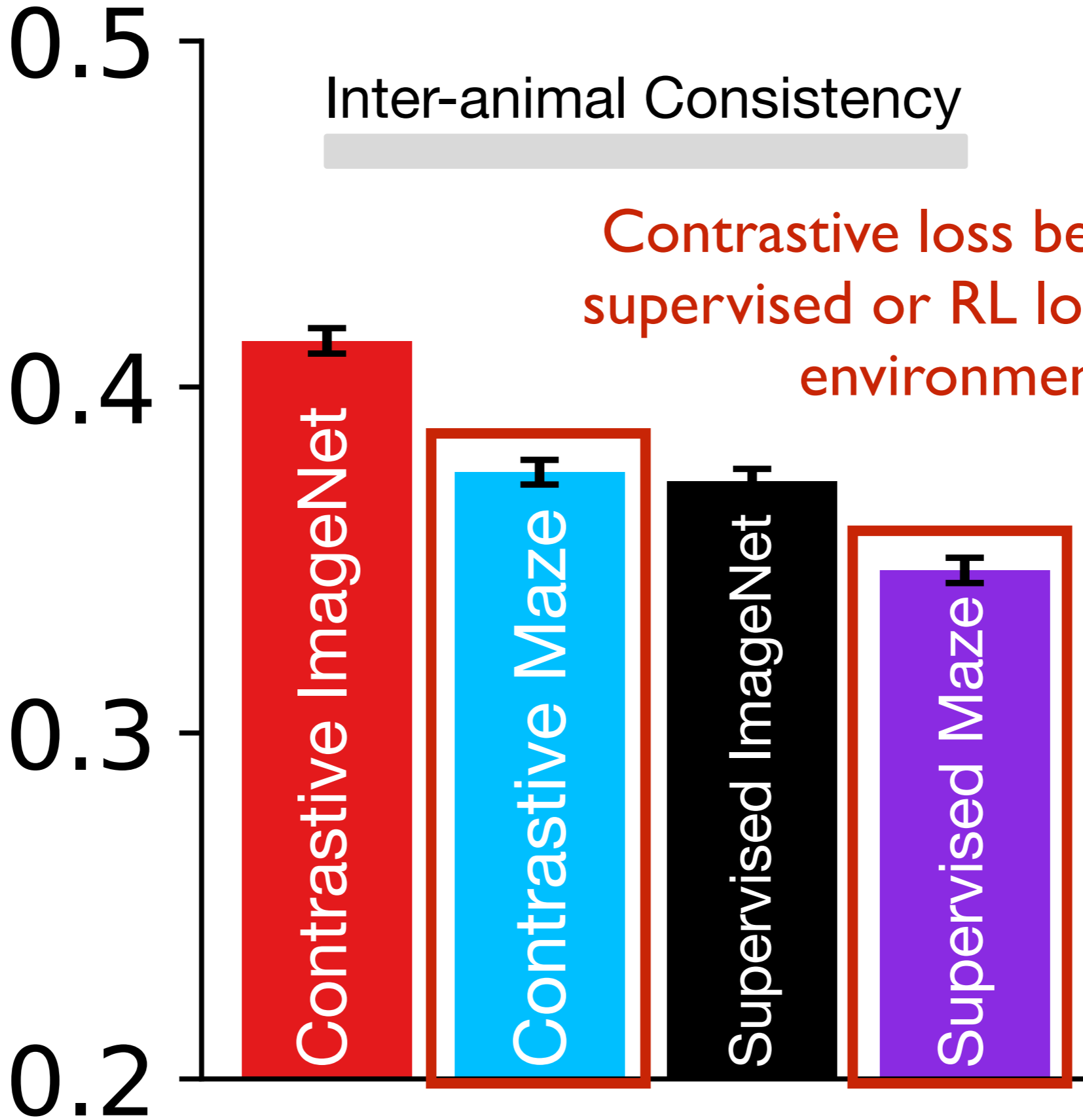
Contrastive loss better than supervised or RL loss in *same* environment



The best neural models have the best task transfer



Noise-Corrected Neural
Predictivity (Pearson's R)



Inter-animal Consistency

Contrastive loss better than supervised or RL loss in *same* environment

Outline

- ▶ Mouse Visual Cortex as a Task-General, Limited Resource System
- ▶ Reusable Latent Representations for Primate Mental Simulation
- ▶ Heuristics for Interrogating Natural Intelligence

Outline

▶ Mouse Visual Cortex as a Task-General, Limited Resource System

Mouse visual cortex (so far) is a low-acuity, shallow network that makes best use of the mouse's limited resources to create a general-purpose visual system, that can be deployed in novel environments and embodied contexts.

▶ Reusable Latent Representations for Primate Mental Simulation

▶ Heuristics for Interrogating Natural Intelligence

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- ▶ Reusable Latent Representations for Primate Mental Simulation

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Reusable Latent Representations for Primate Mental Simulation

A. Nayebi, R. Rajalingham, M. Jazayeri, G.R. Yang

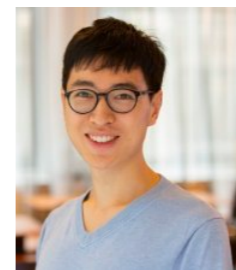
Neural foundations of mental simulation: future prediction of latent representations on dynamic scenes.
NeurIPS 2023 (spotlight)



Rishi Rajalingham



Mehrdad Jazayeri



Guangyu Robert Yang

Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation

Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation



Infer:

Has this ice block been out longer?

Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation



Infer:

Has this ice block been out longer?

Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation



Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation

Infer:
Has this ice block been out longer?



Predict:
Will this box support me?

Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation

Infer:

Has this ice block been out longer?



Plan:

How would I take these hats off the rack?



Predict:

Will this box support me?

Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation

Infer:

Has this ice block been out longer?



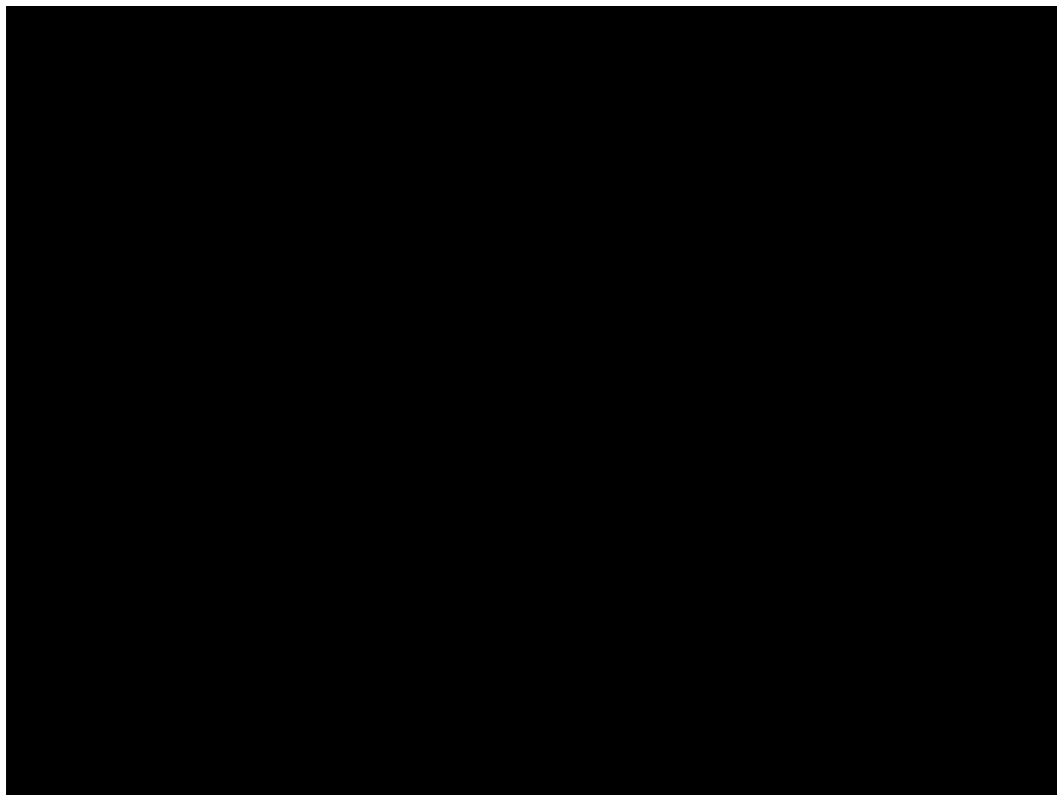
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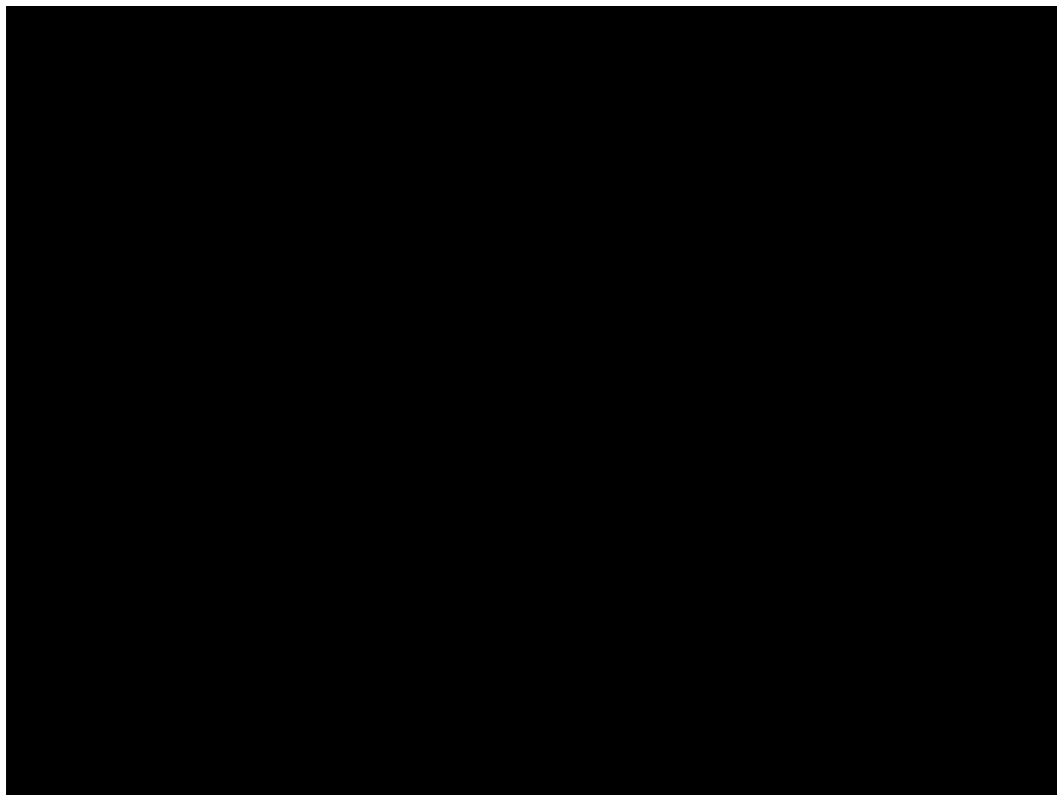
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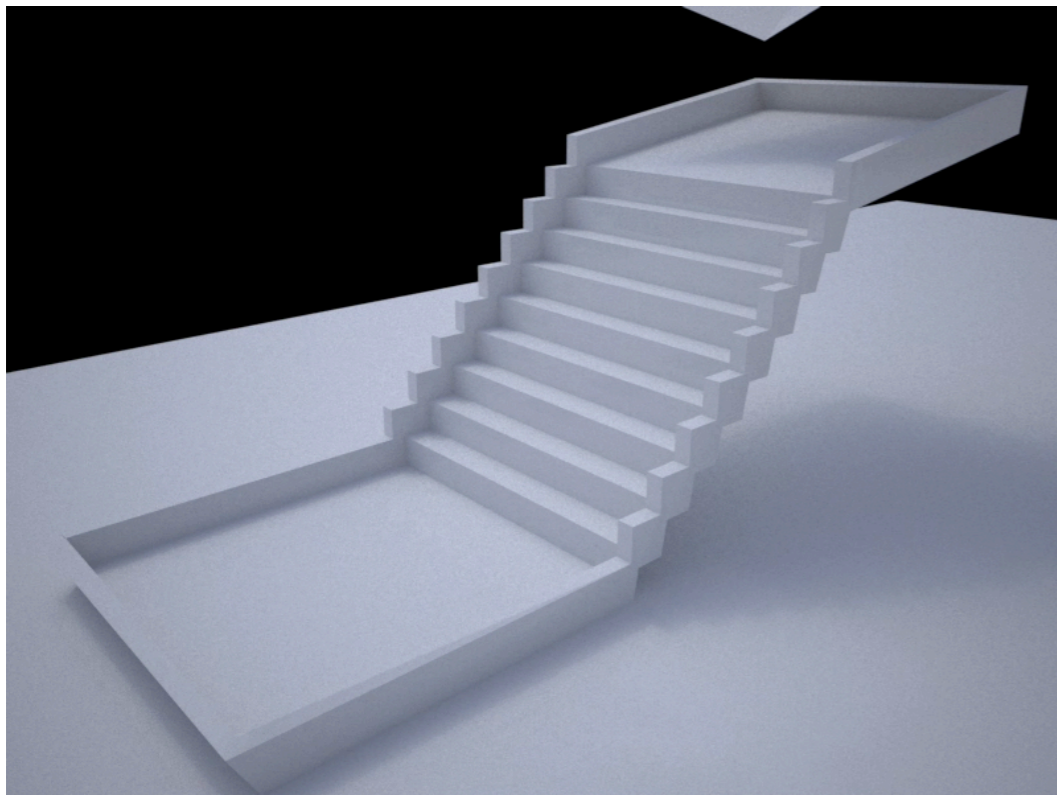
Plan:

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Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation

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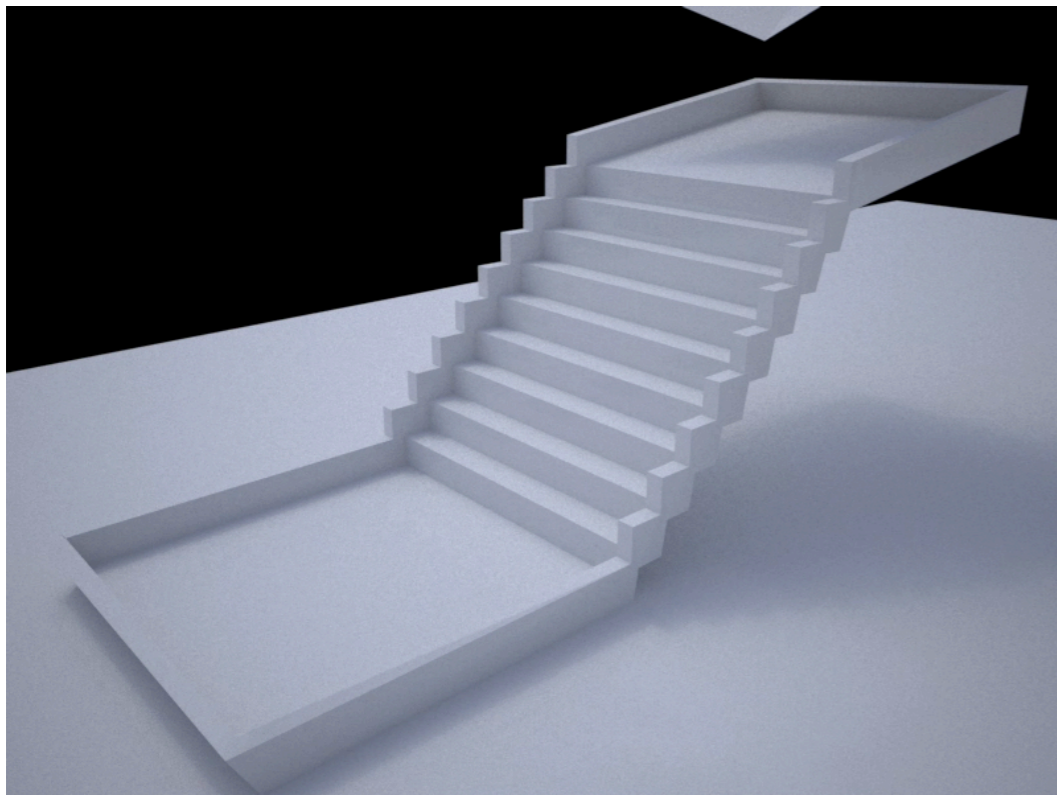
Plan:

How would I take these hats off the rack?



Predict:

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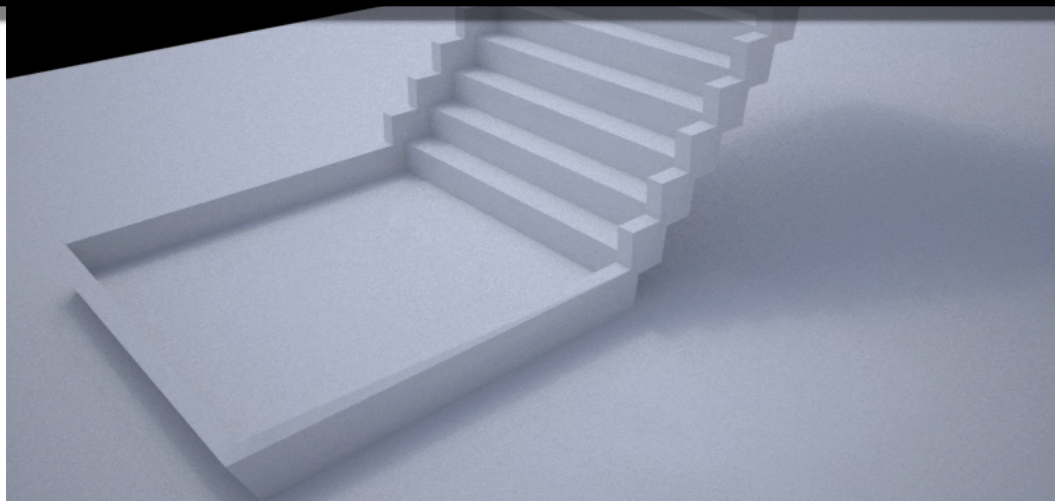


Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation



Neurobiological Puzzle:

What are the functional constraints that enable the brain's “future-simulation-like” computations *across* diverse environments?

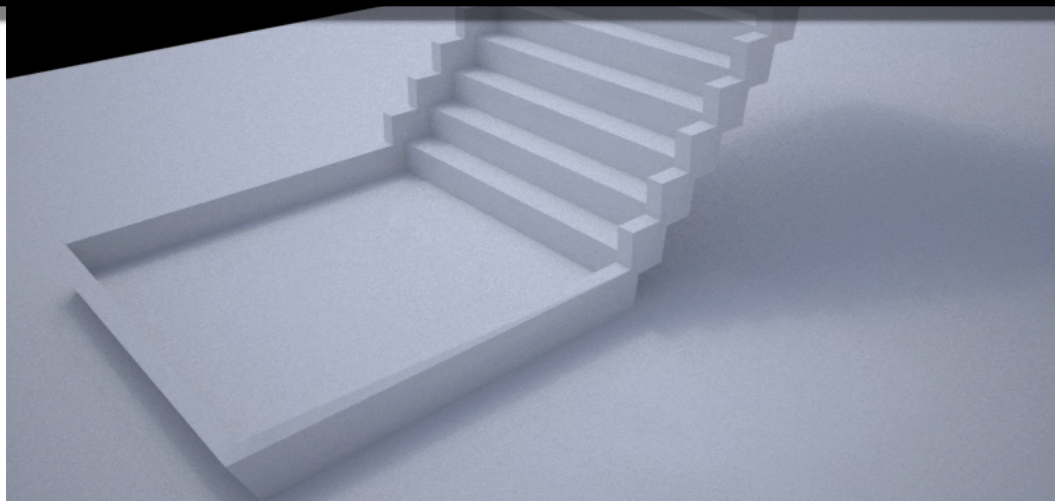


Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation



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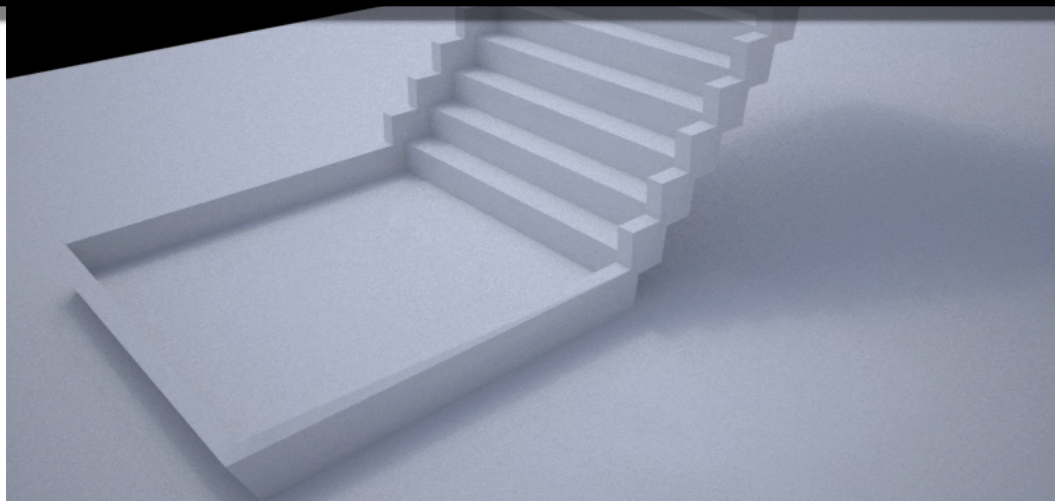


Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation



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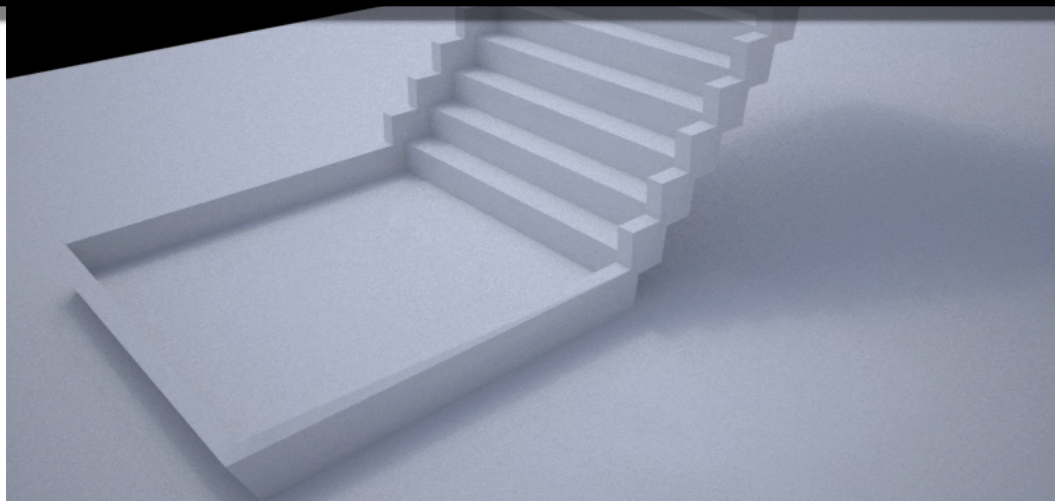


Visually-Grounded Mental Simulation



Neurobiological Puzzle:

What are the **functional constraints** that enable the brain's “future-simulation-like” computations *across* diverse environments?



Defining Hypotheses

Defining Hypotheses

“Sensory-Cognitive Networks”

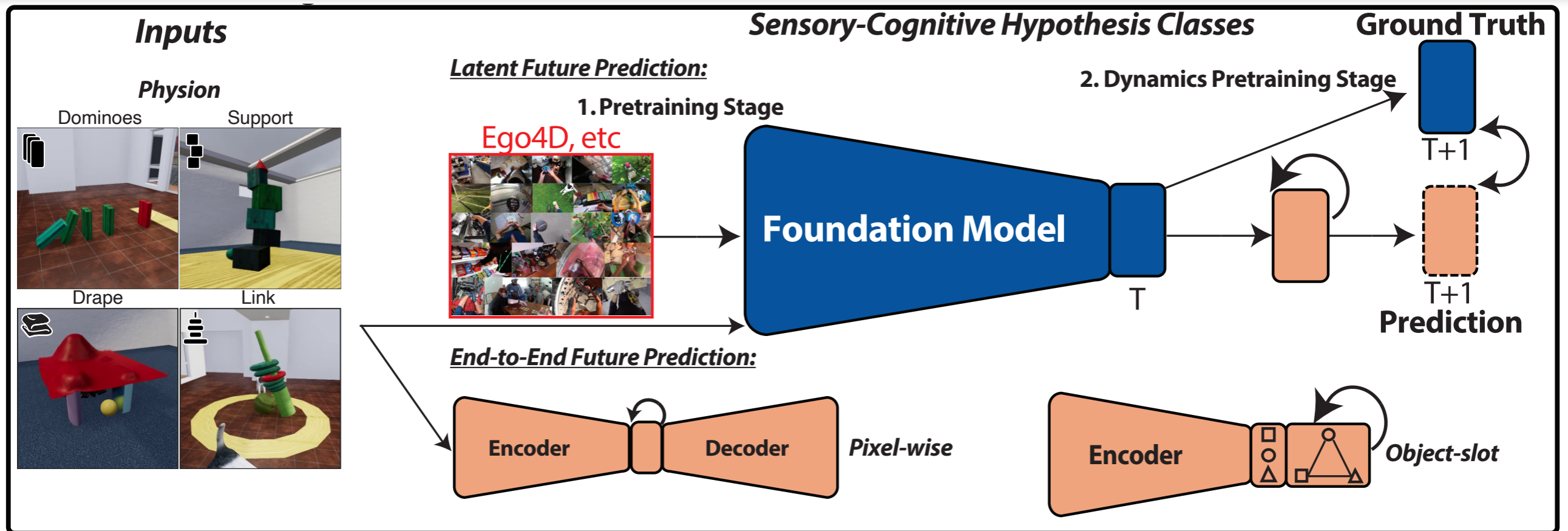
R1 (Input-Driven): Take in unstructured visual inputs across a range of physical phenomena.

R2 (Behavioral Outputs): Generate physical predictions for each scenario (“behavior”).

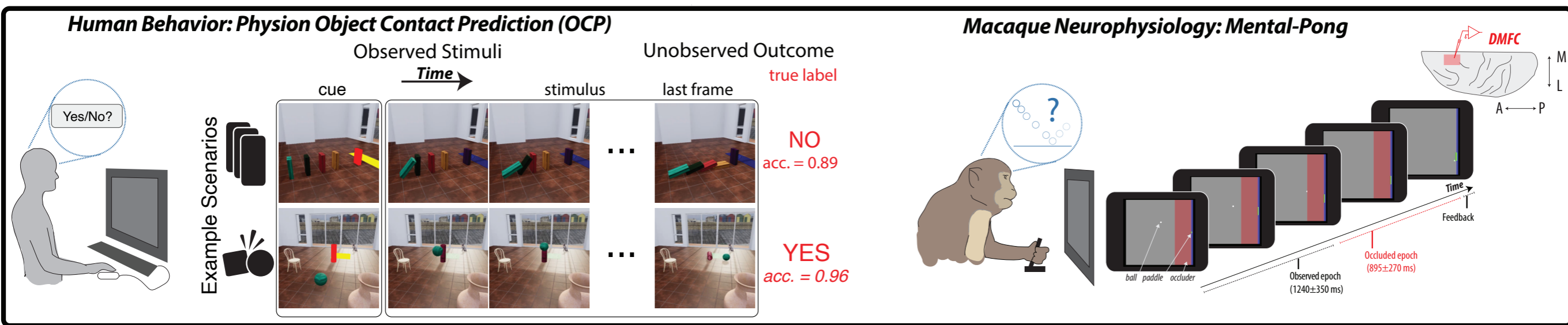
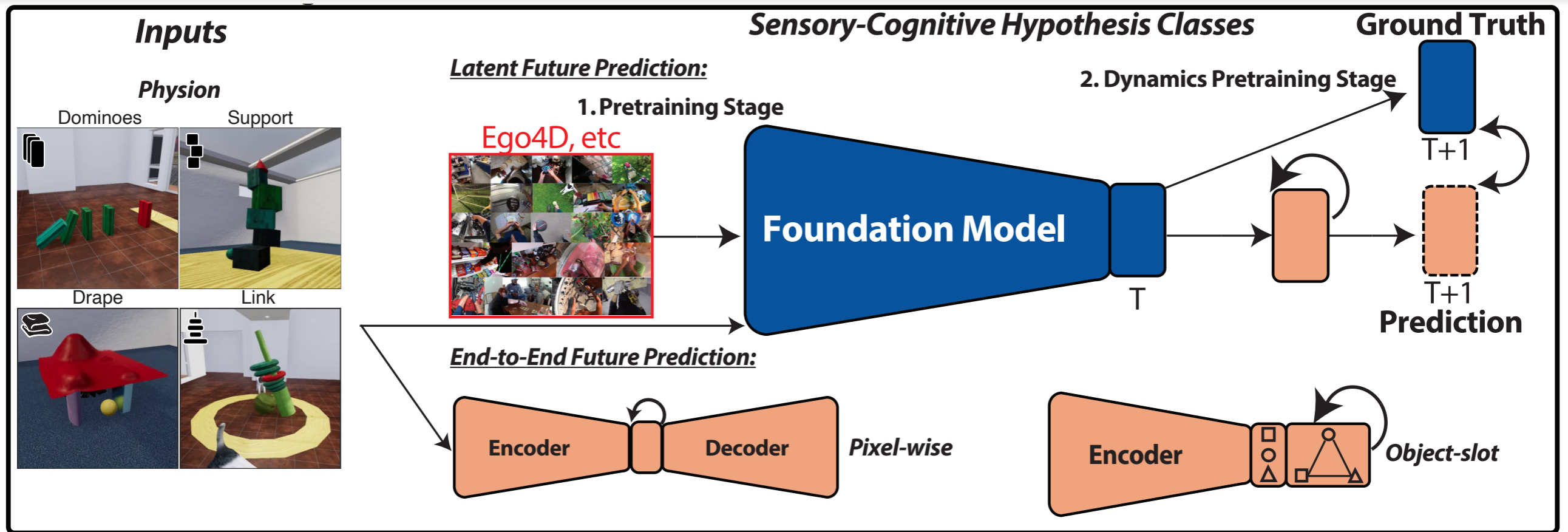
R3 (Neural Representations): Consist of internal units that can be compared to biological units (e.g. containing “artificial neurons”).

Overall Approach: Sensory-Cognitive Hypotheses

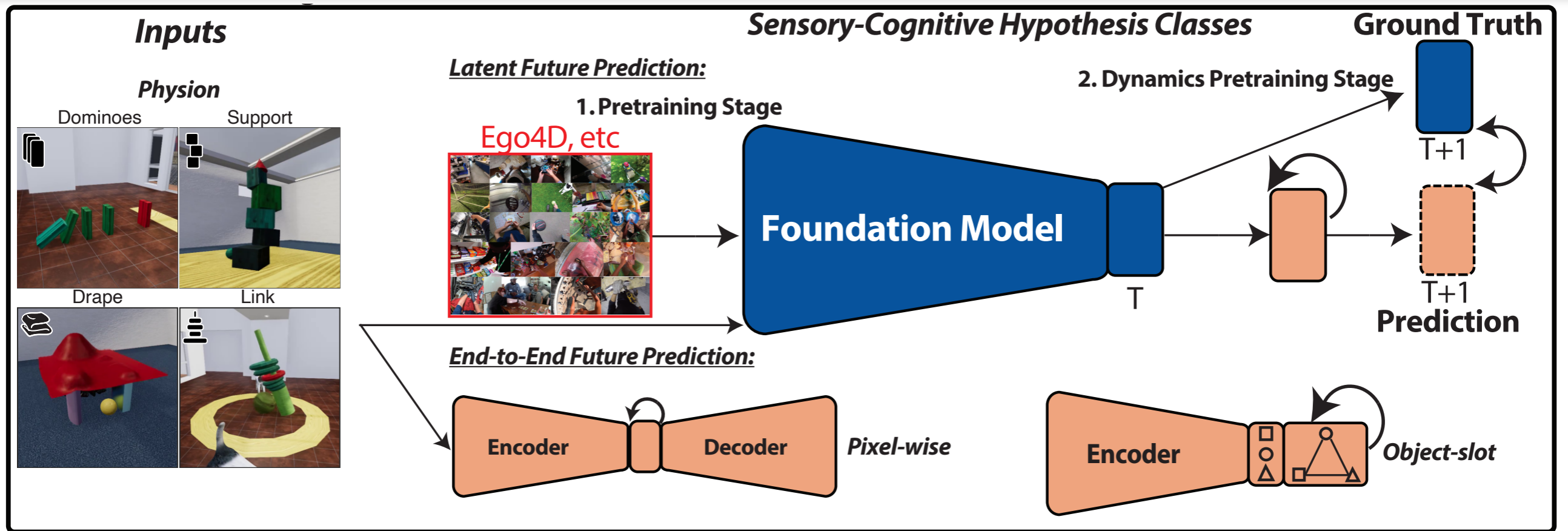
Overall Approach: Sensory-Cognitive Hypotheses



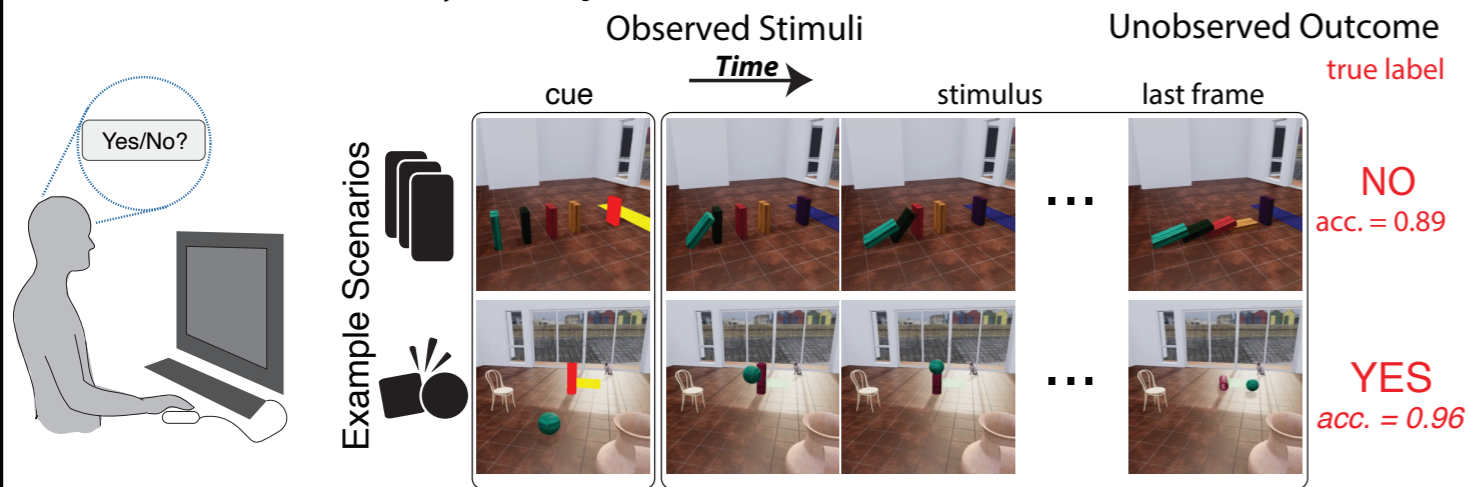
Overall Approach: Sensory-Cognitive Hypotheses



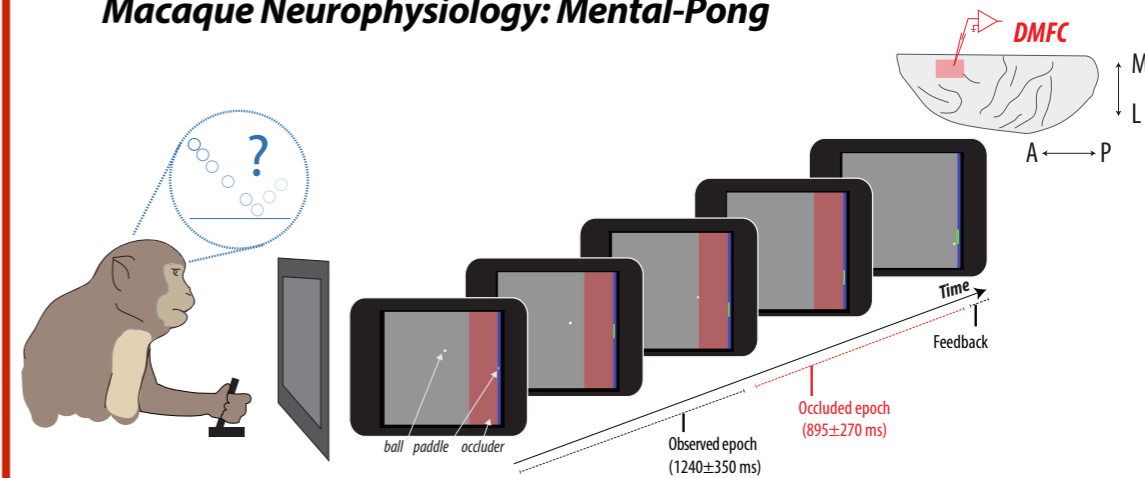
Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental Pong



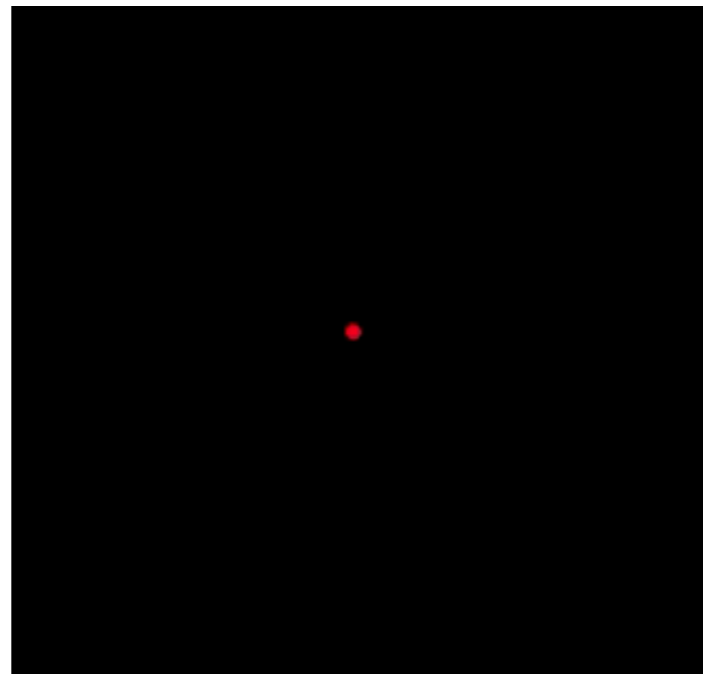
Human Behavior: Physion Object Contact Prediction (OCP)



Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental-Pong

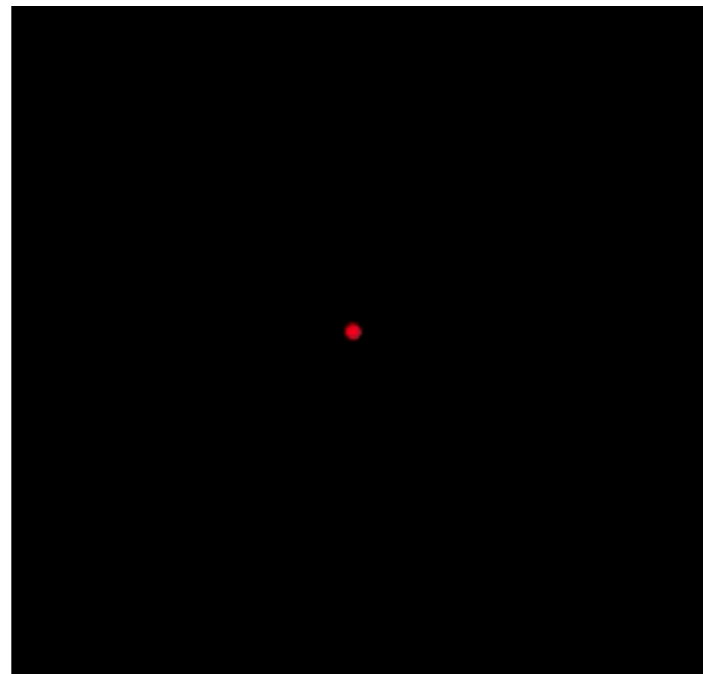


Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental Pong



Rishi Rajalingham

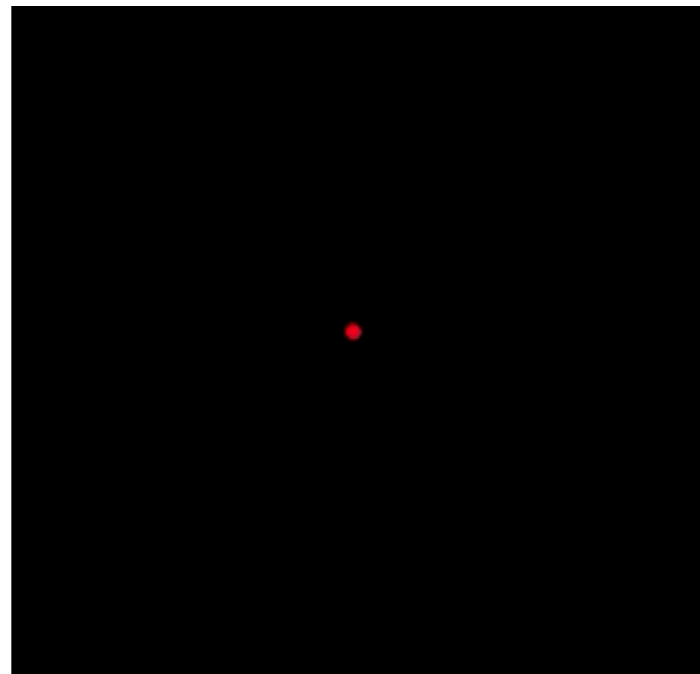
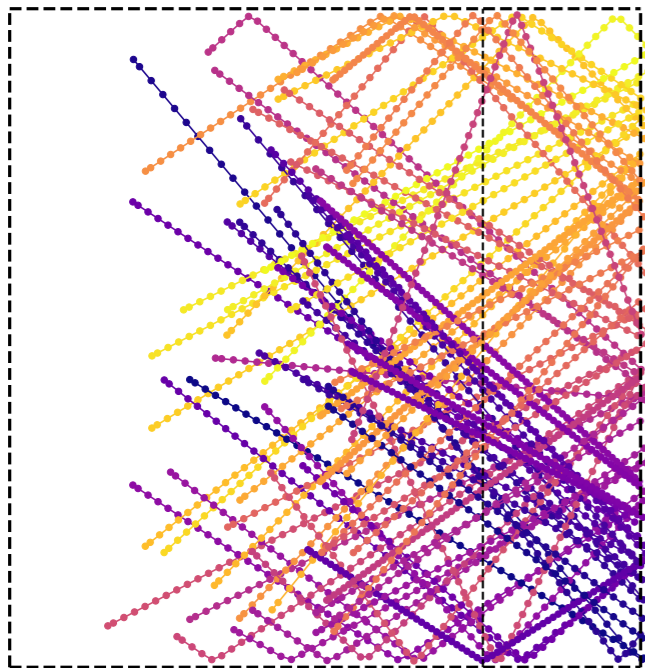
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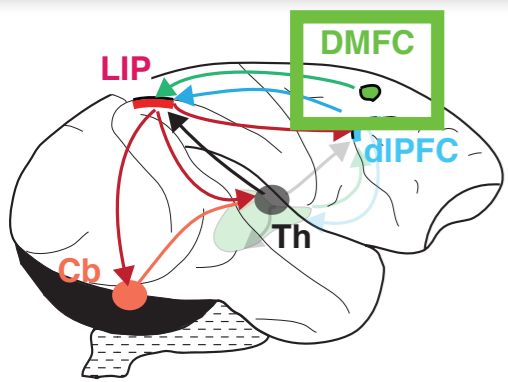
Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental Pong

79 conditions



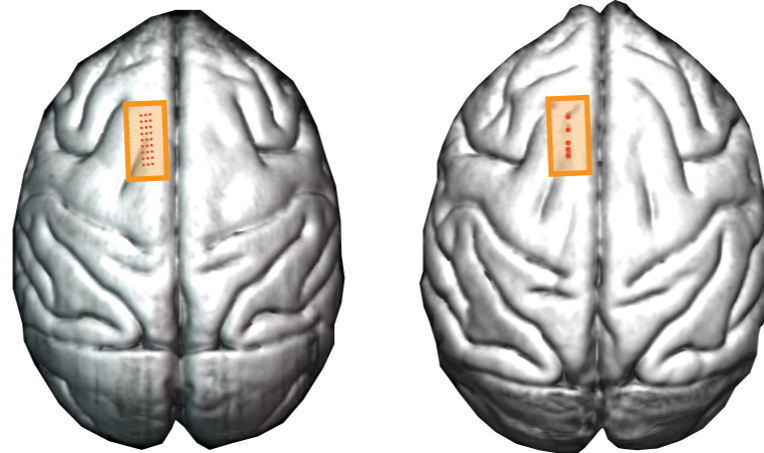
Rishi Rajalingham

Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental Pong



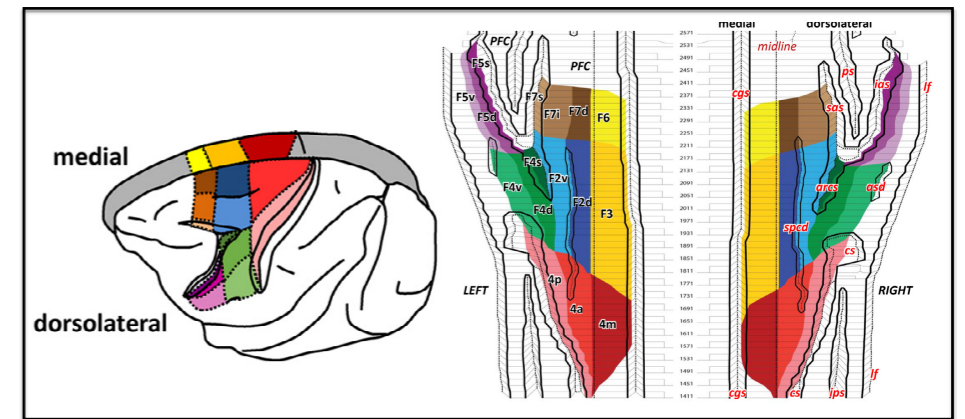
Fronto-Parietal Network

Dorsomedial frontal cortex (DMFC)

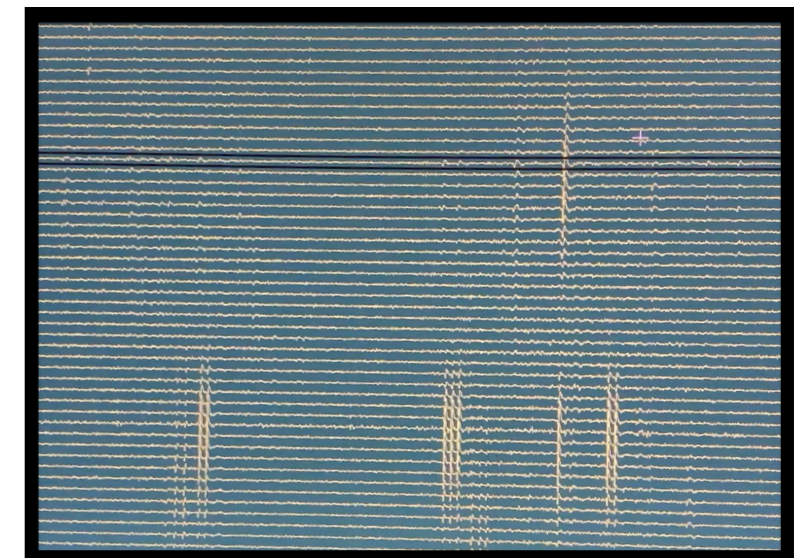
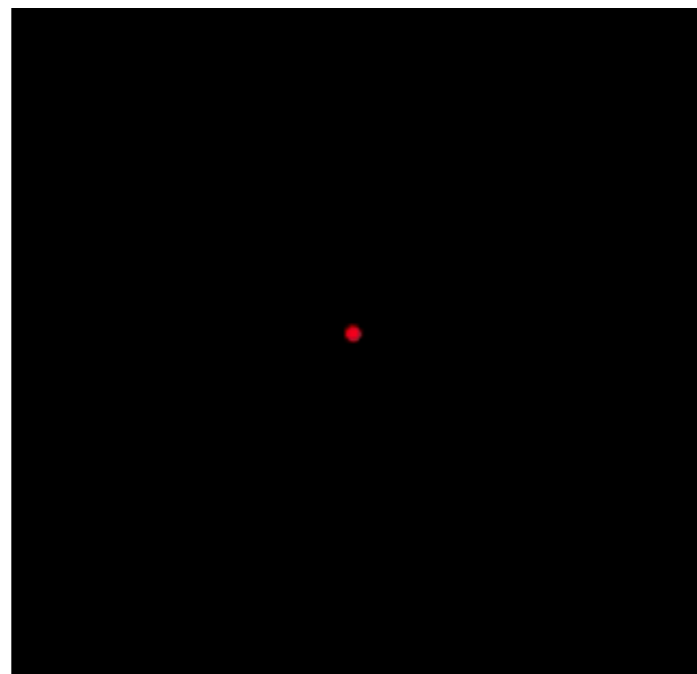
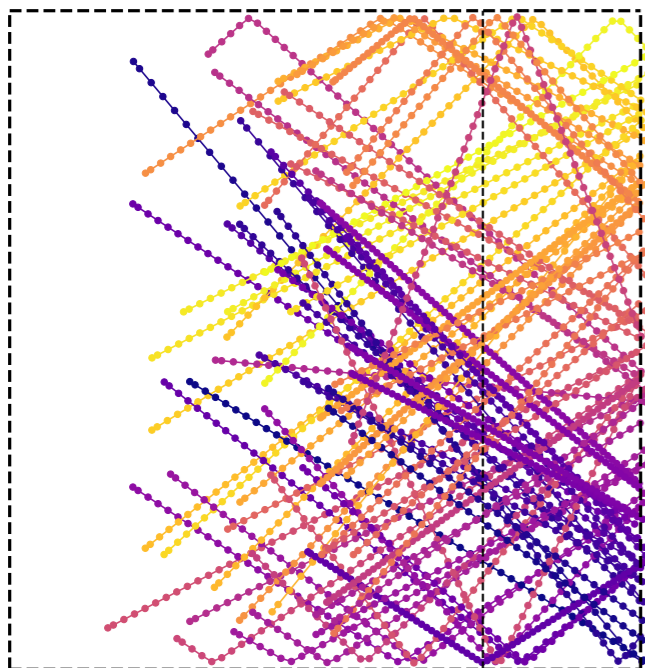


Monkey P

Monkey M

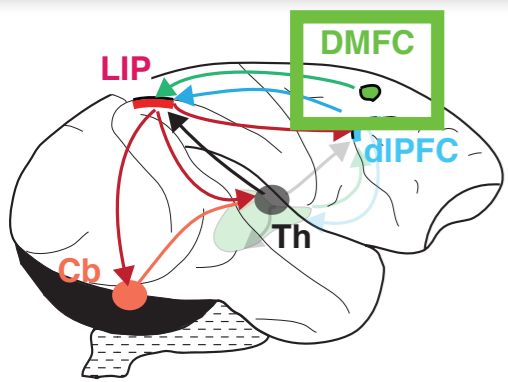


79 conditions



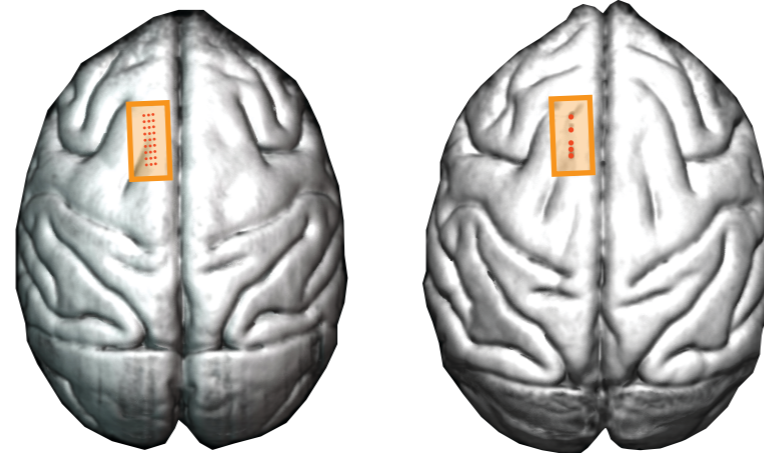
Rishi Rajalingham

Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental Pong



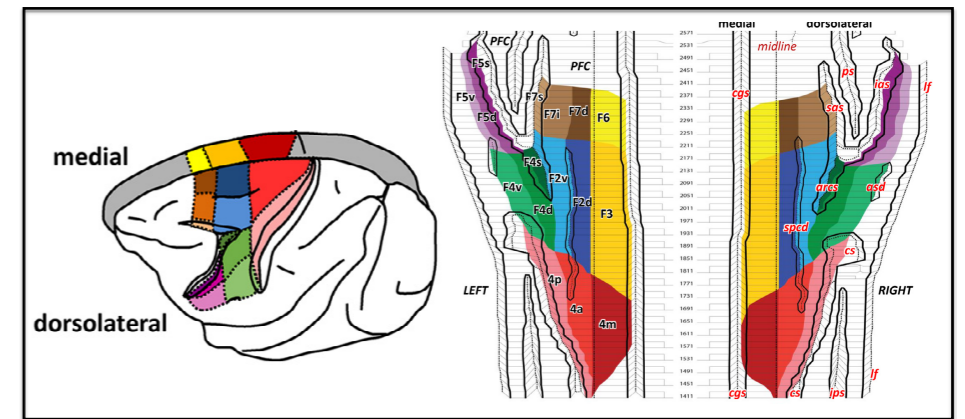
Fronto-Parietal Network

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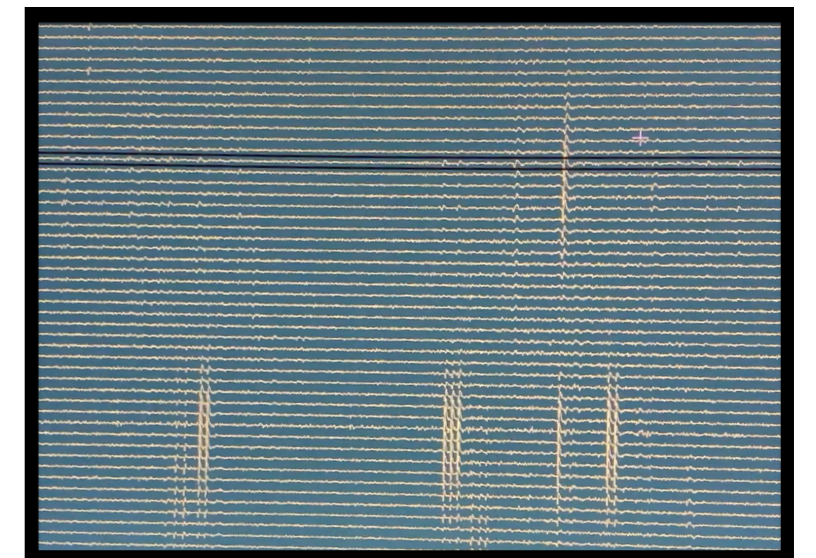
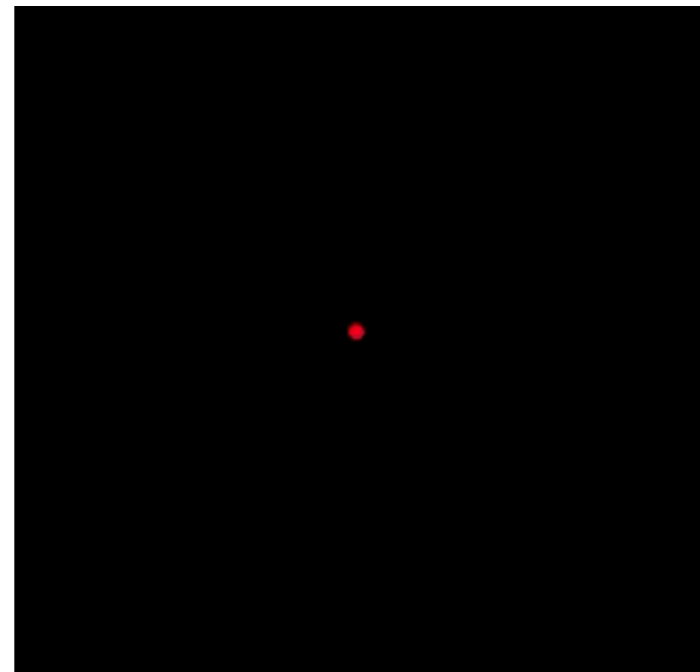
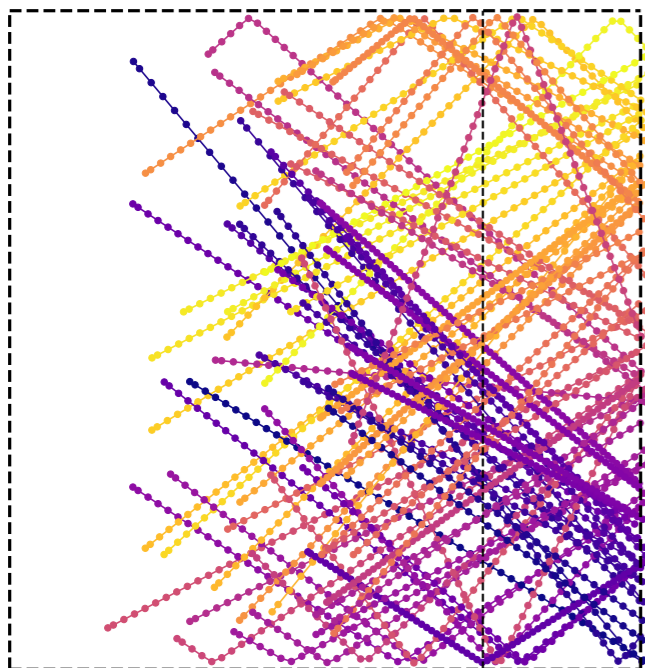


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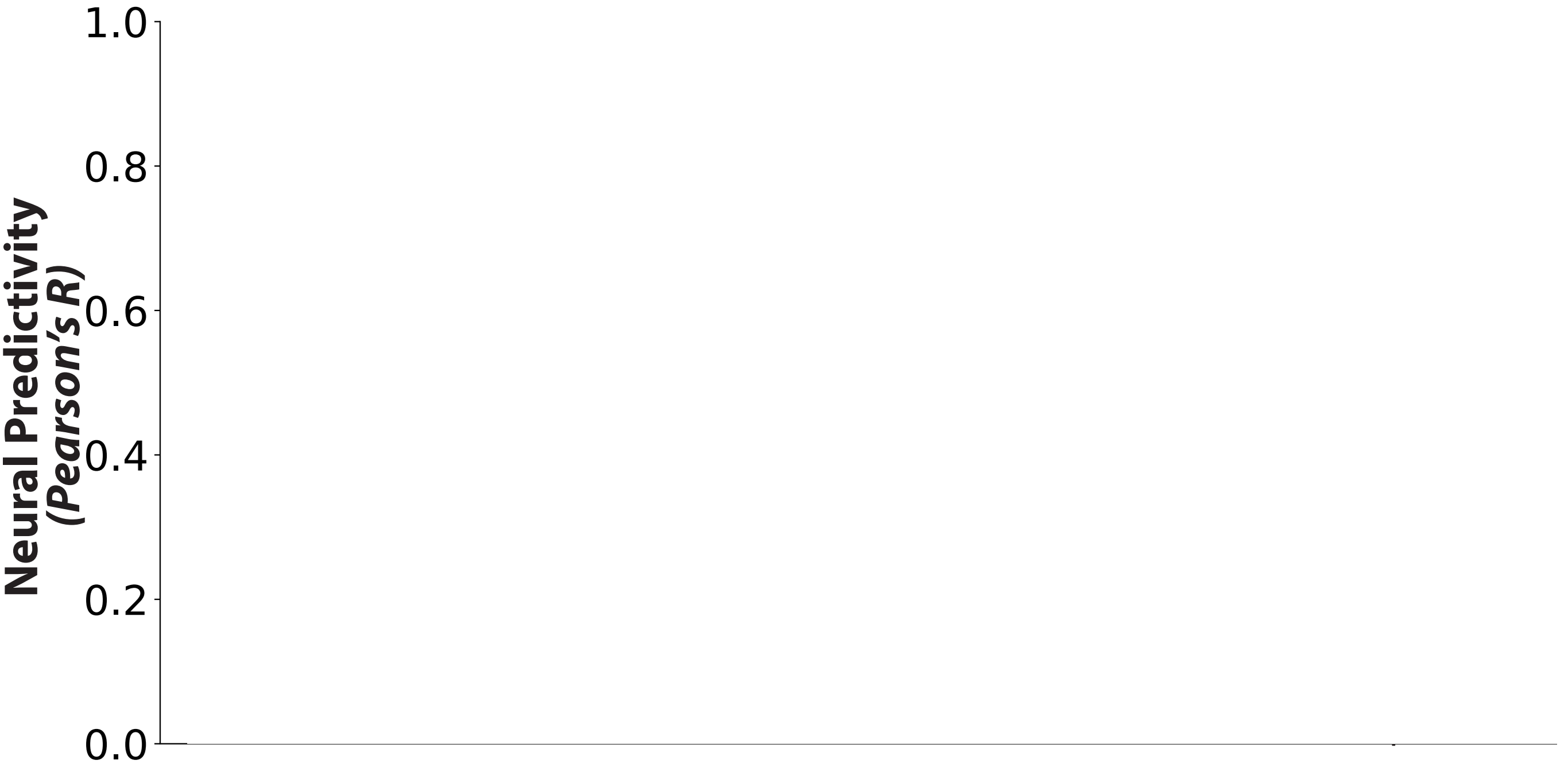
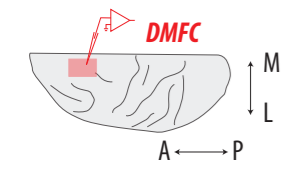


- Data from two male adult monkeys
- 79 subsampled M-Pong conditions
- 64 channel v-probe (monkey P) and 384-channel Neuropixel probe (monkey M)
- Total of 1889 stable & reliable neurons recorded from DMFC

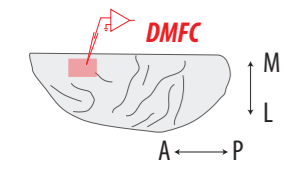


Rishi Rajalingham

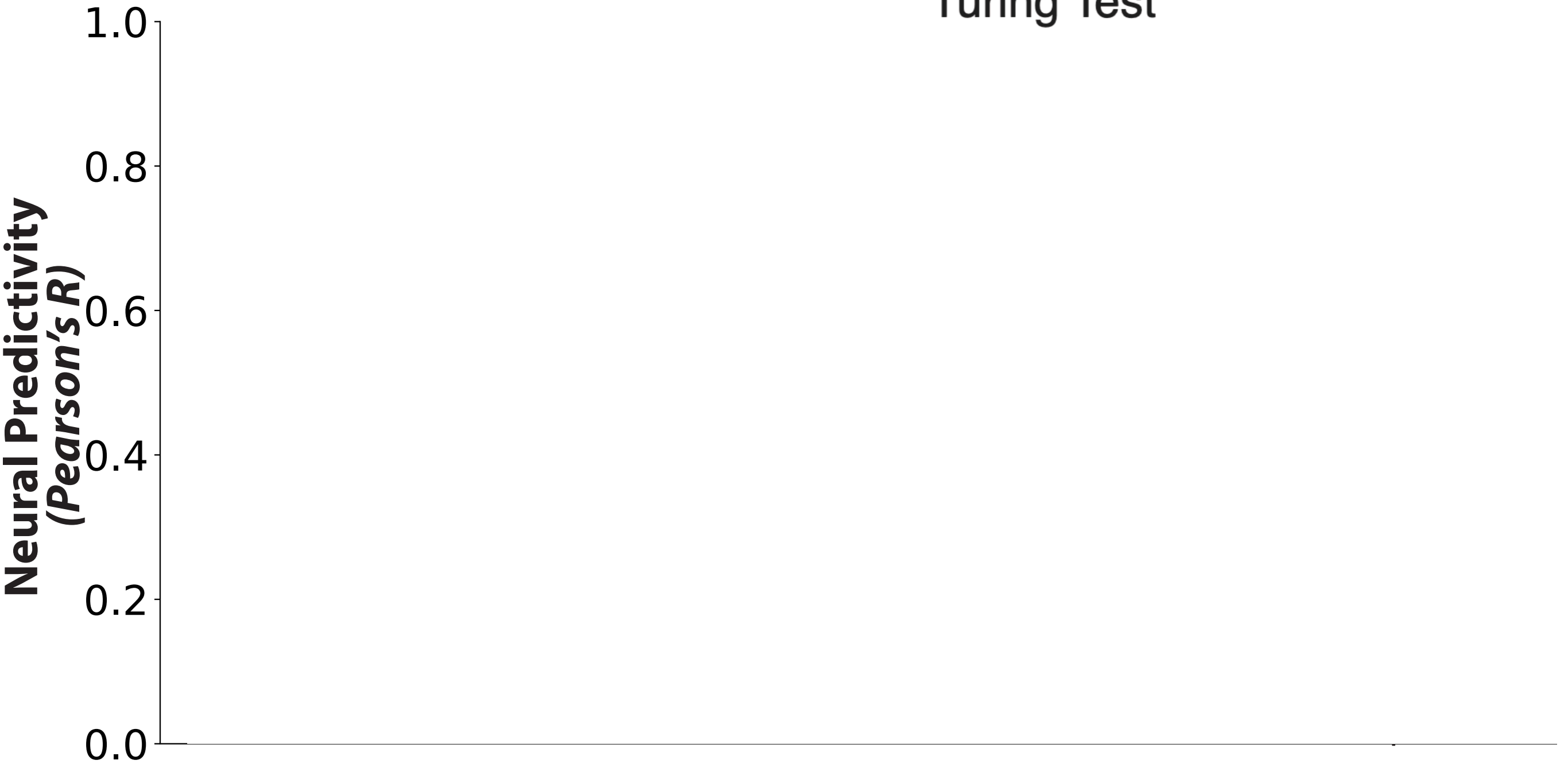
Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental Pong



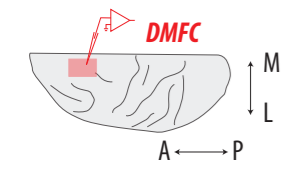
Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental Pong



NeuroAI
Turing Test



Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental Pong



**Neural Predictivity
(Pearson's R)**

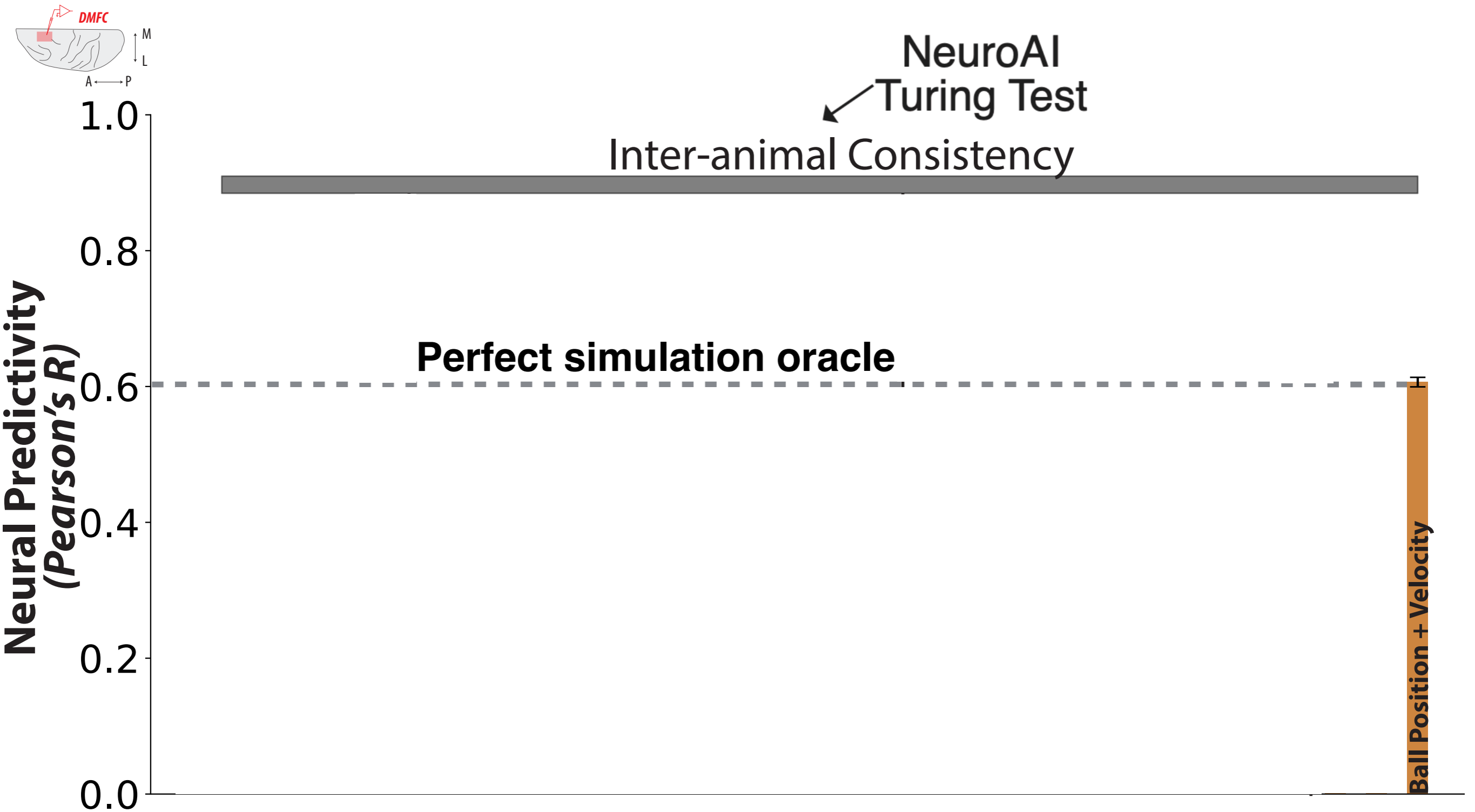
1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0.0

NeuroAI
Turing Test

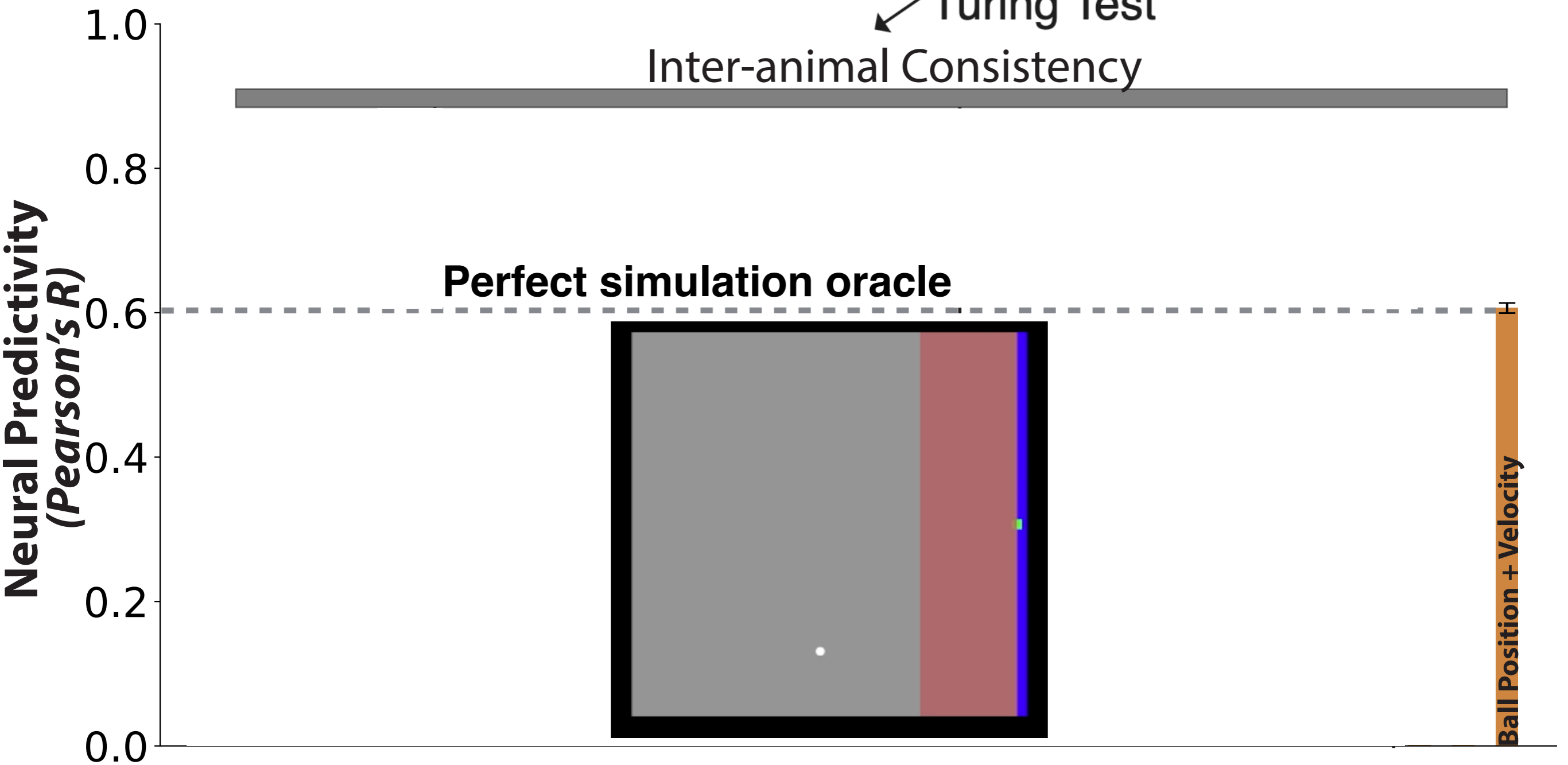
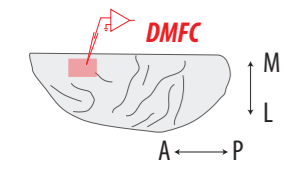
Inter-animal Consistency



Perfect Simulation Oracle Predicts Neural Data Well



Perfect Simulation Oracle Predicts Neural Data Well

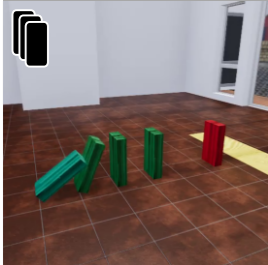


Functional Constraint Hypotheses

Inputs

Physion

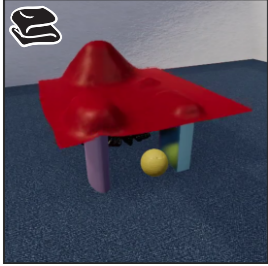
Dominoes



Support



Drape



Link



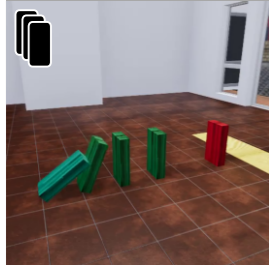
Sensory-Cognitive Hypothesis Classes

Hypothesis Class I: Pixel-wise Future Prediction

Inputs

Physion

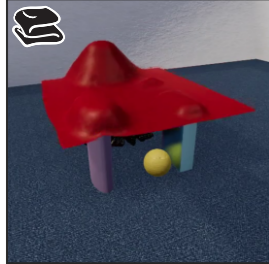
Dominoes



Support



Drape

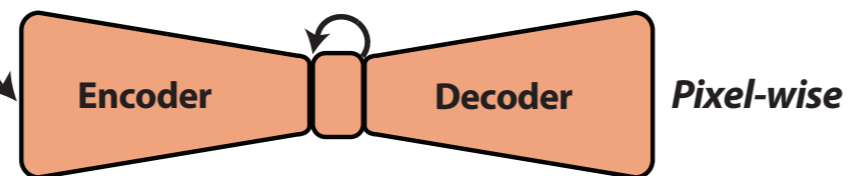


Link

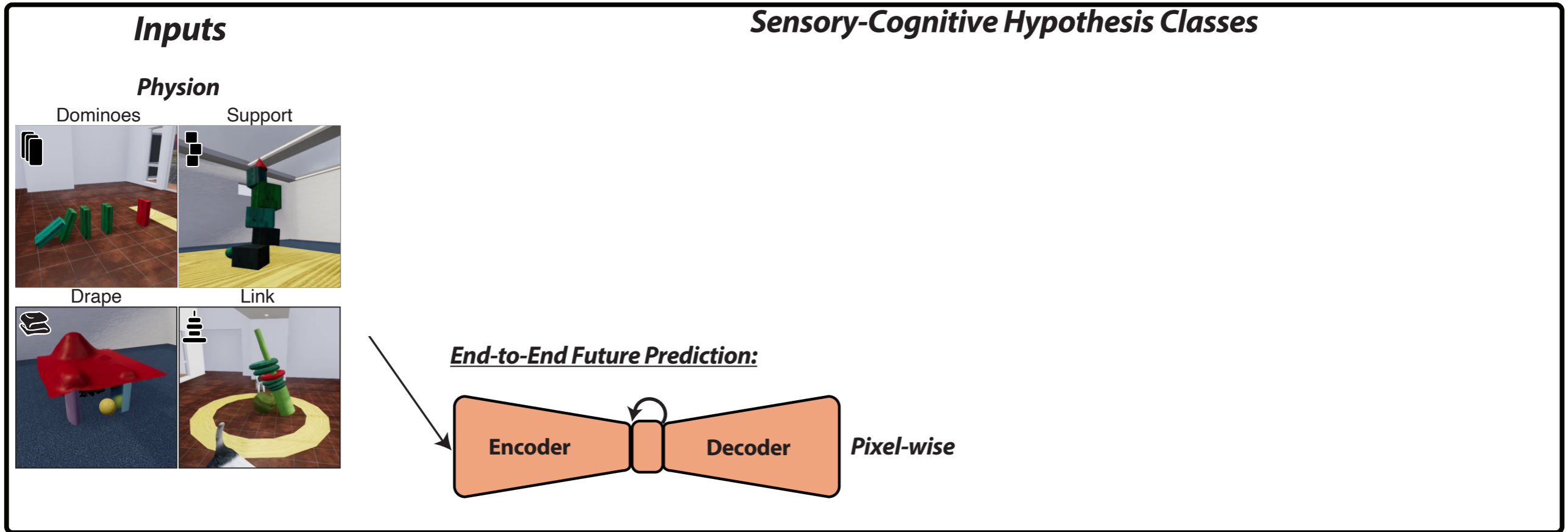


Sensory-Cognitive Hypothesis Classes

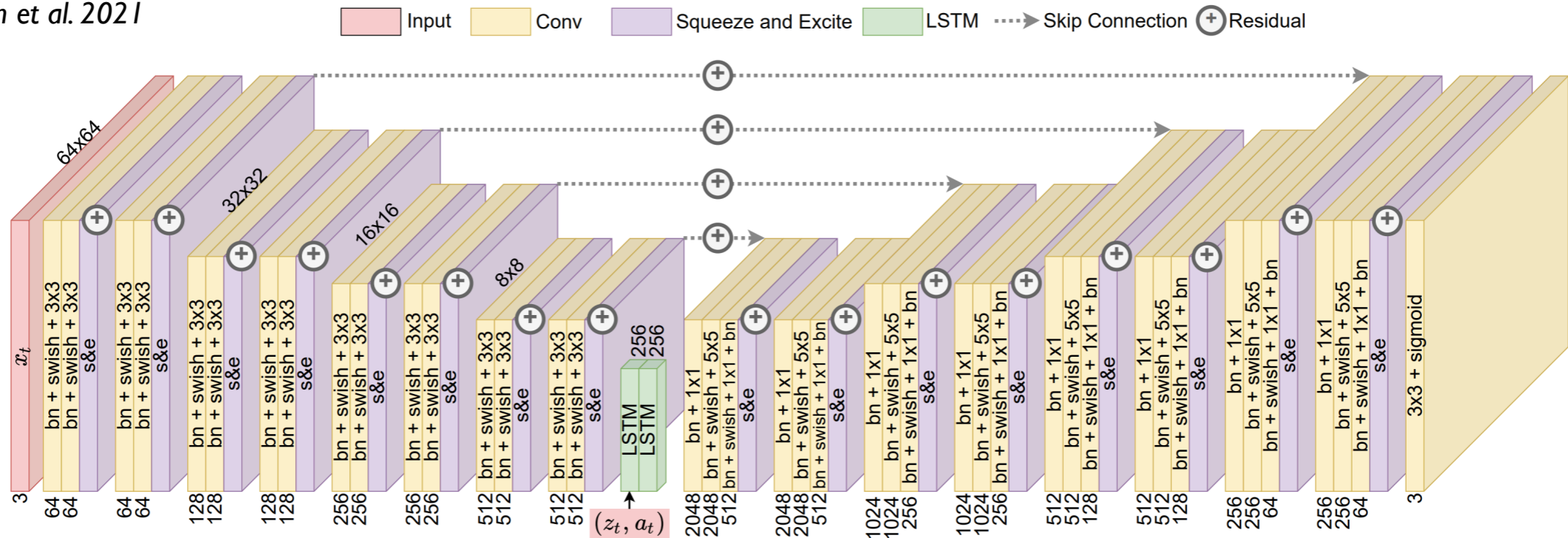
End-to-End Future Prediction:



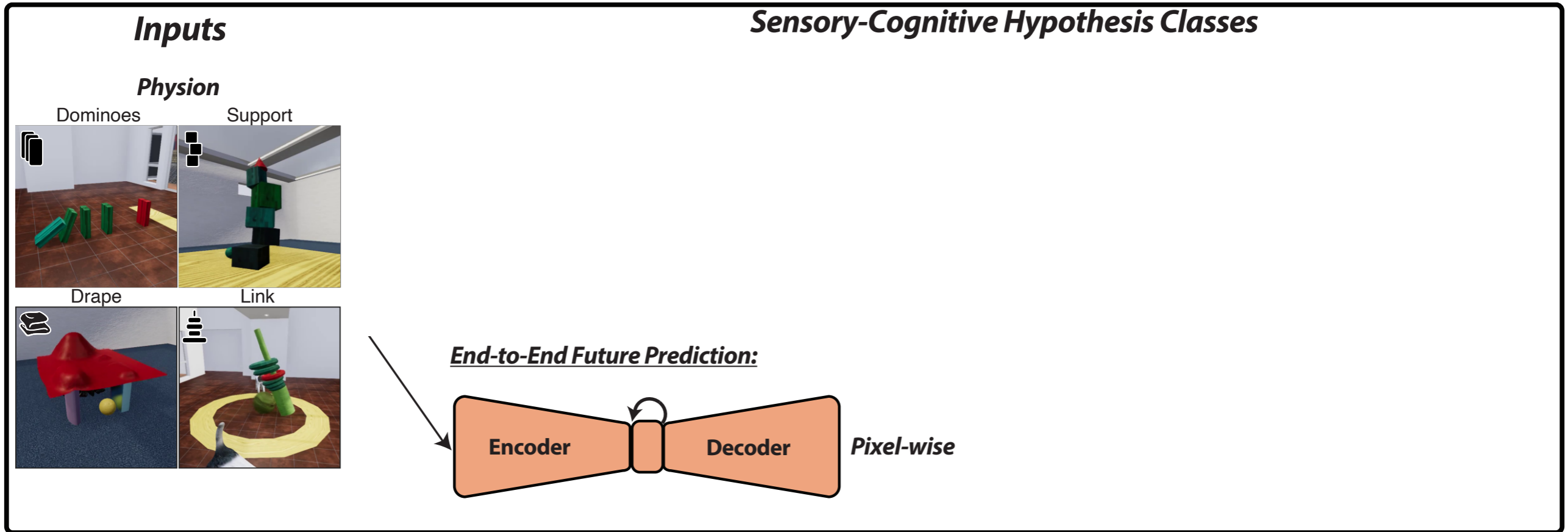
Hypothesis Class I: Pixel-wise Future Prediction



Babaeizadeh et al. 2021

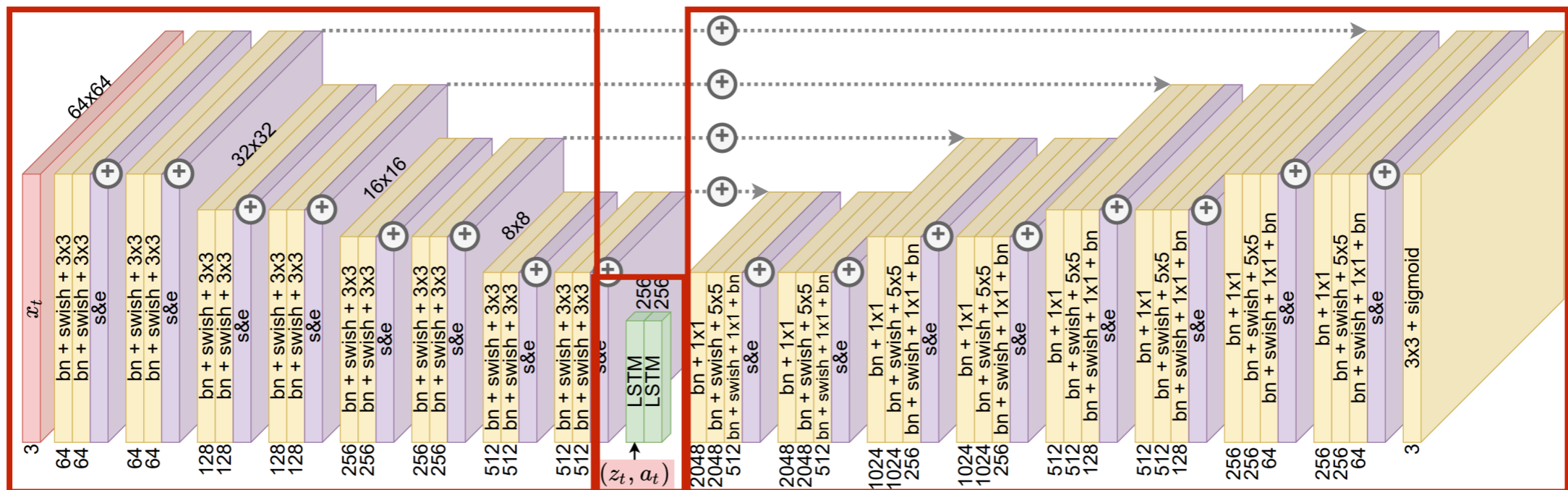


Hypothesis Class I: Pixel-wise Future Prediction



Babaeizadeh et al. 2021

Input Conv Squeeze and Excite LSTM Skip Connection Residual

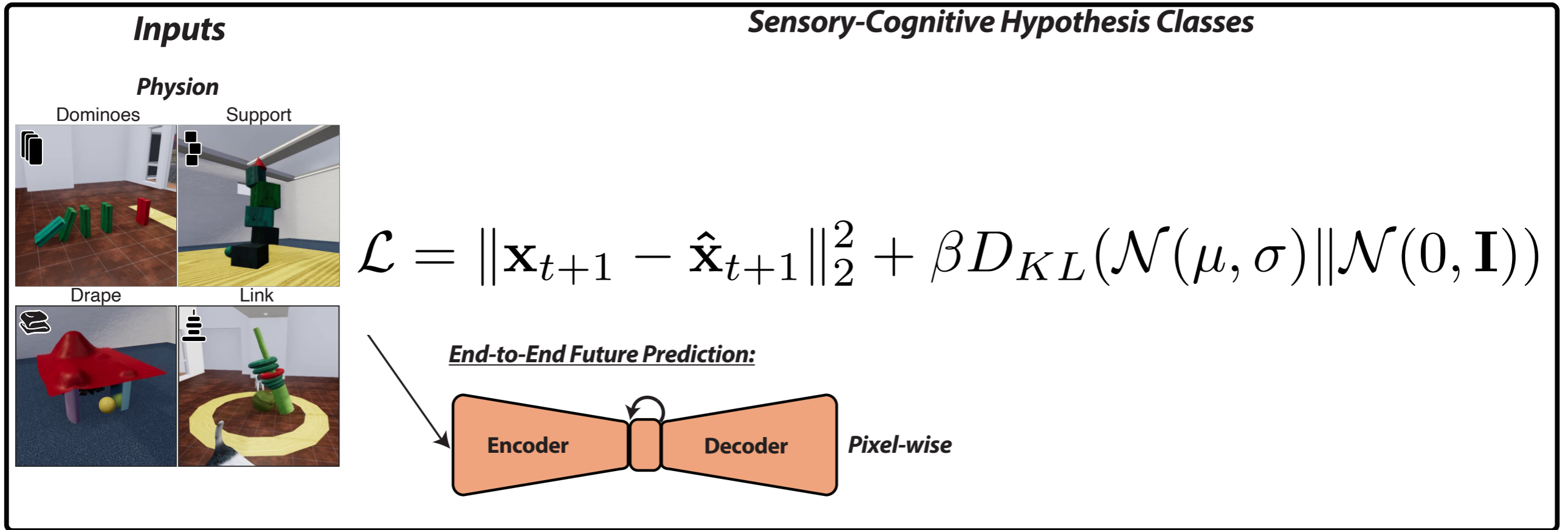


Visual Encoder
("Sensory")

Dynamics Predictor
("Cognitive")

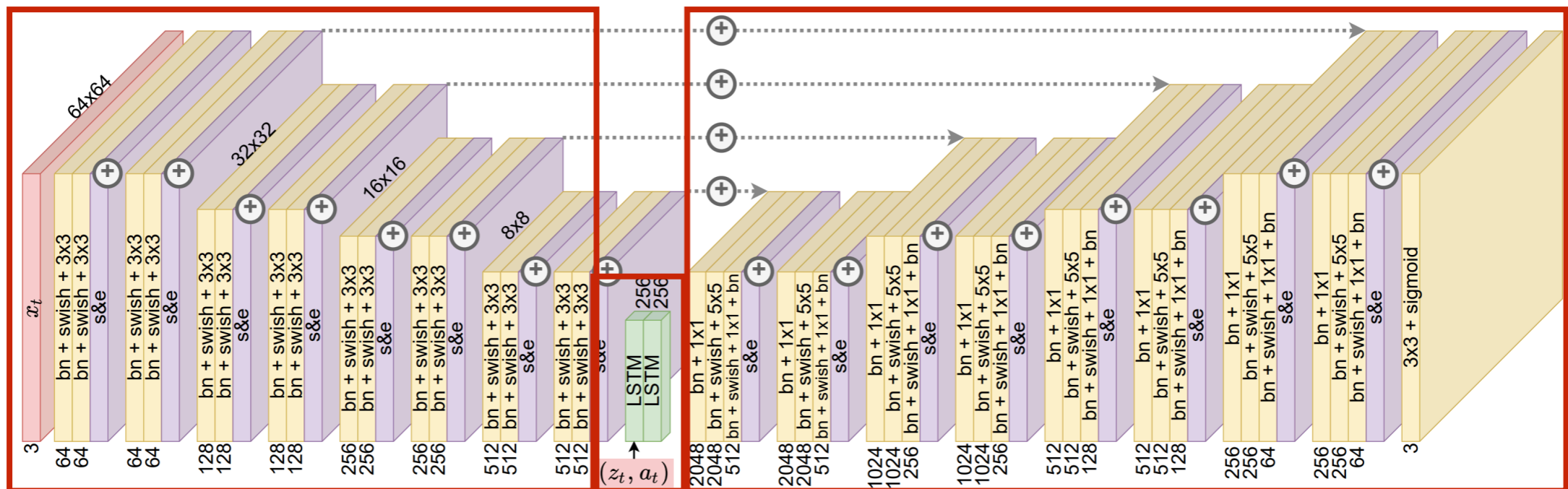
Frame Decoder
("Objective/Behavior")

Hypothesis Class I: Pixel-wise Future Prediction

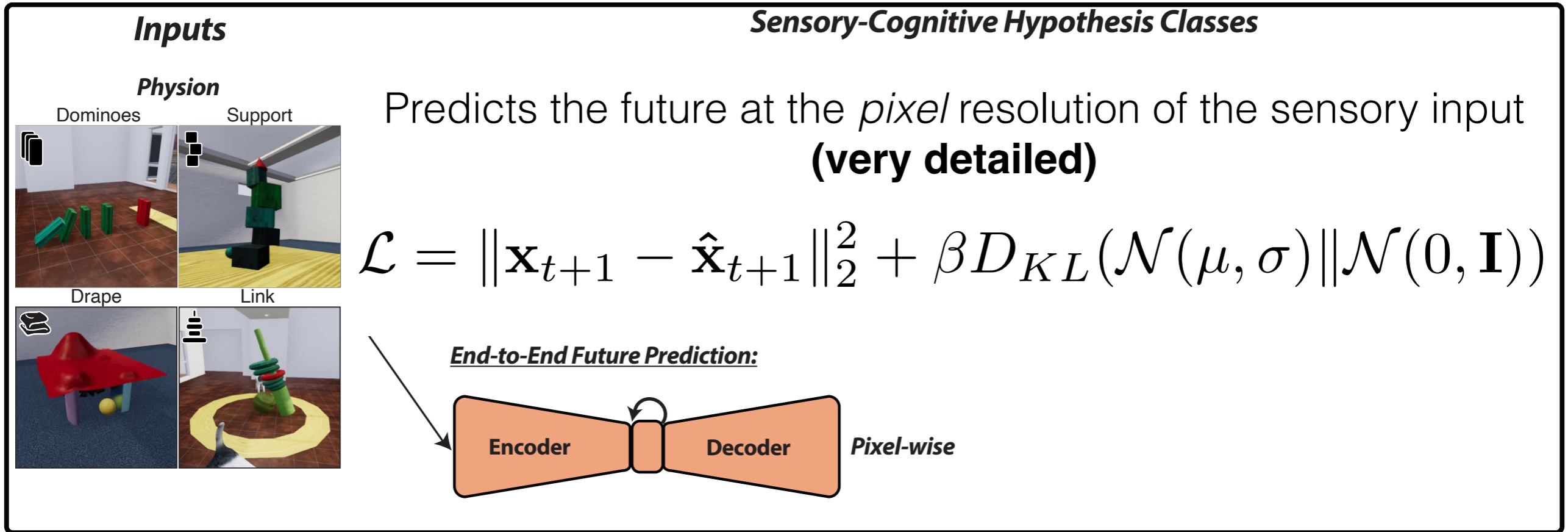


Babaeizadeh et al. 2021

Input Conv Squeeze and Excite LSTM Skip Connection Residual

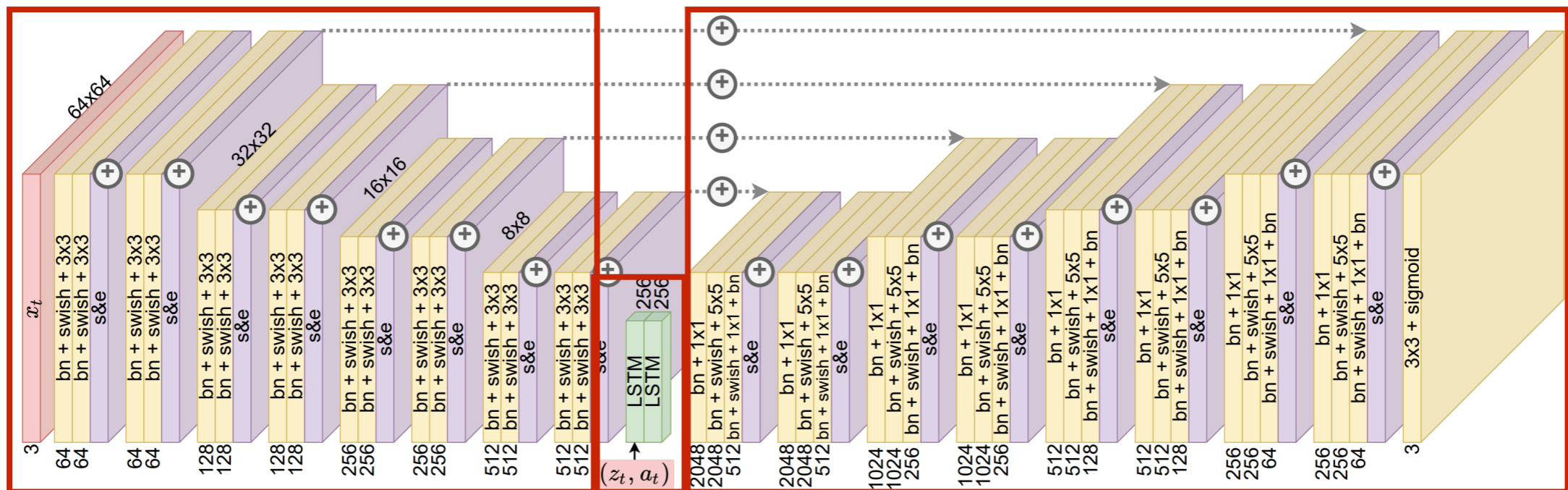


Hypothesis Class I: Pixel-wise Future Prediction



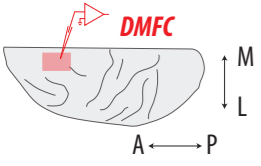
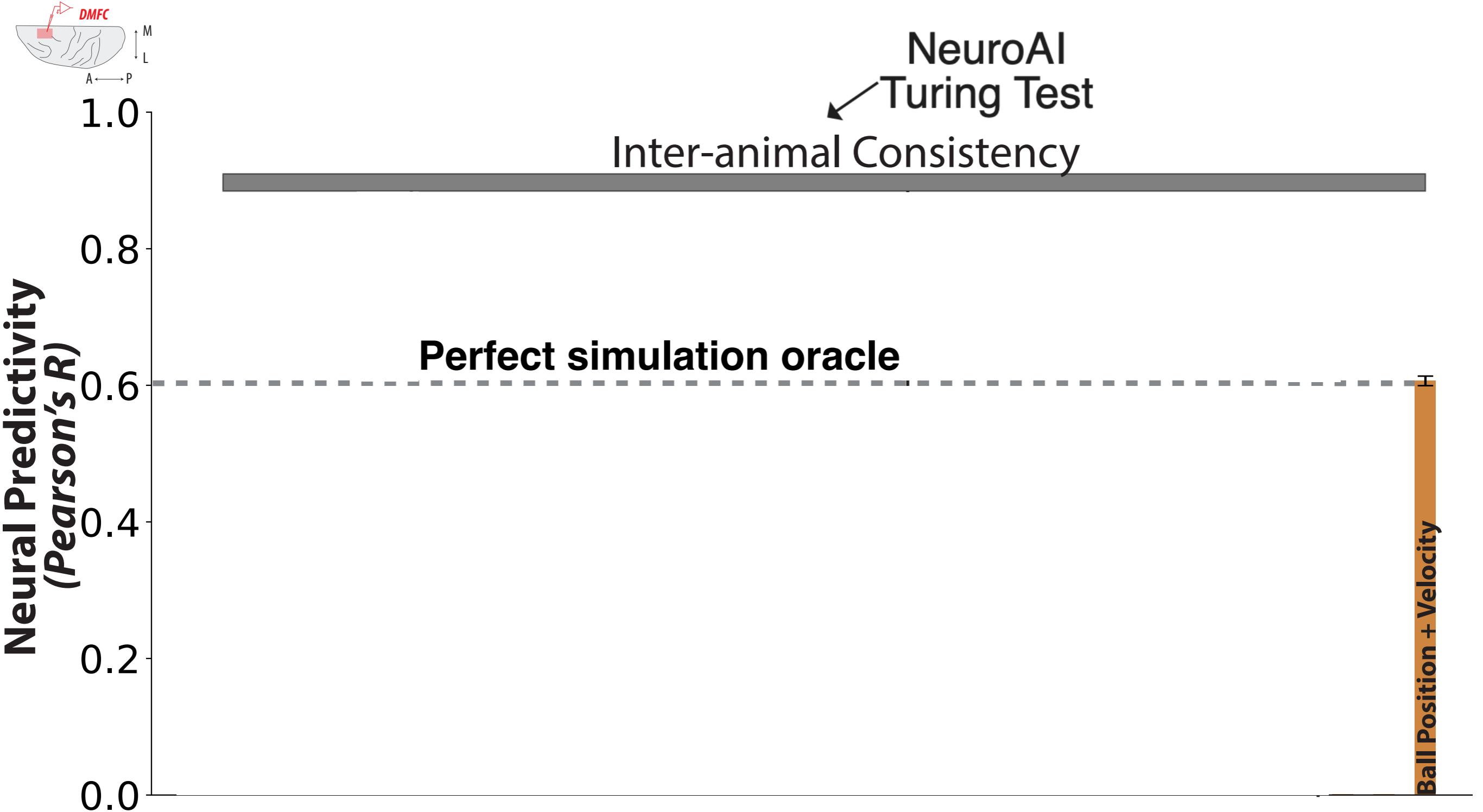
Babaeizadeh et al. 2021

Input Conv Squeeze and Excite LSTM Skip Connection Residual

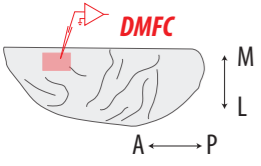


Visual Encoder ("Sensory") Dynamics Predictor ("Cognitive") Frame Decoder ("Objective/Behavior")

Physical Simulation Oracles Predict Neural Data Well



Pixel-wise Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons



NeuroAI
Turing Test

Inter-animal Consistency

Perfect simulation oracle

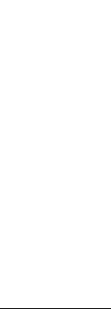
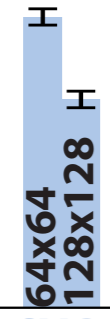
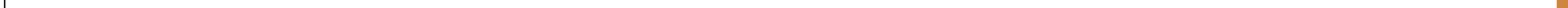
Neural Predictivity
(Pearson's R)

1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0.0

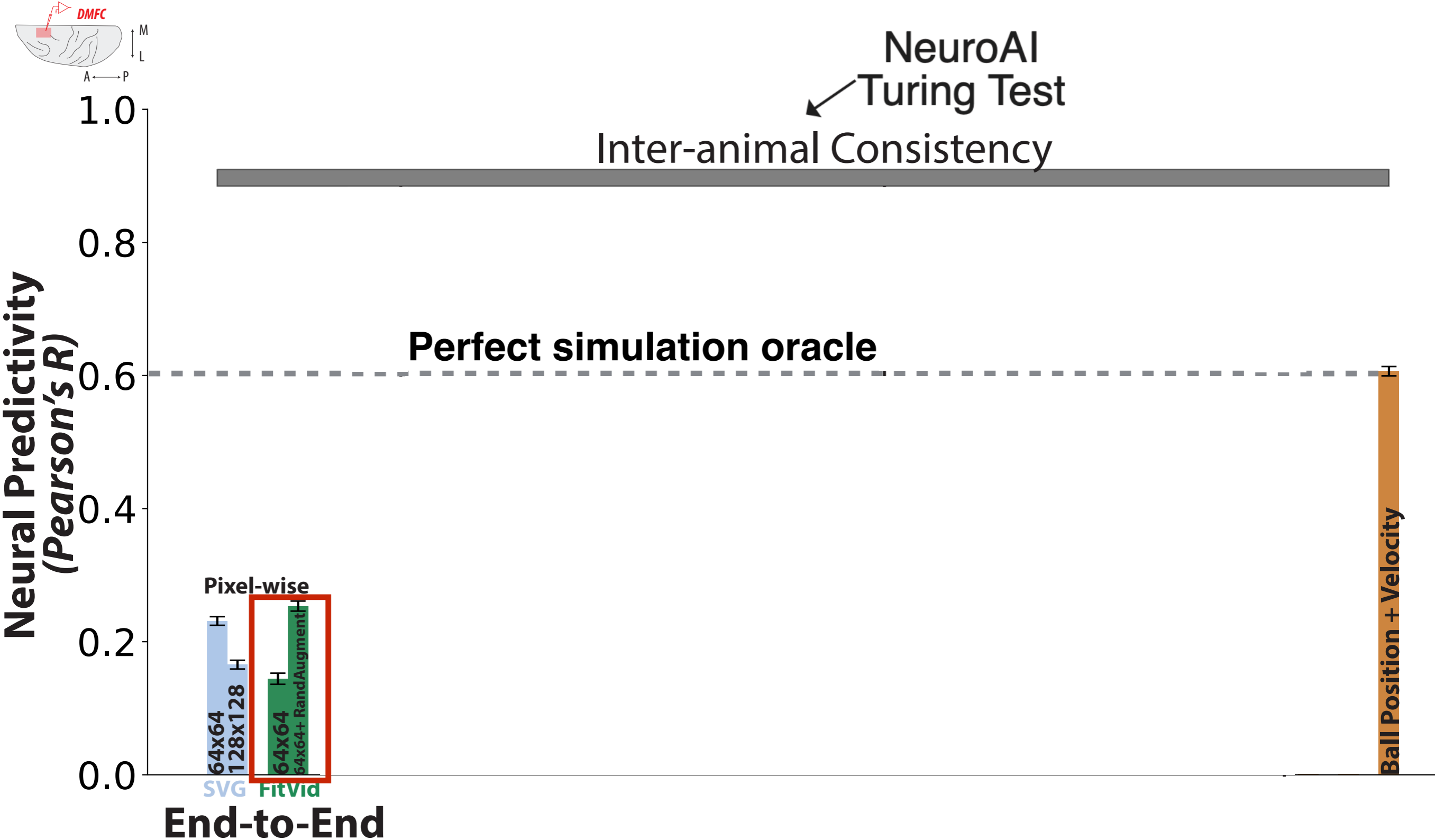
End-to-End

Pixel-wise
64x64 SVG
128x128
64x64 FitVid
64x64+ RandAugment

Ball Position + Velocity



Pixel-wise Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons

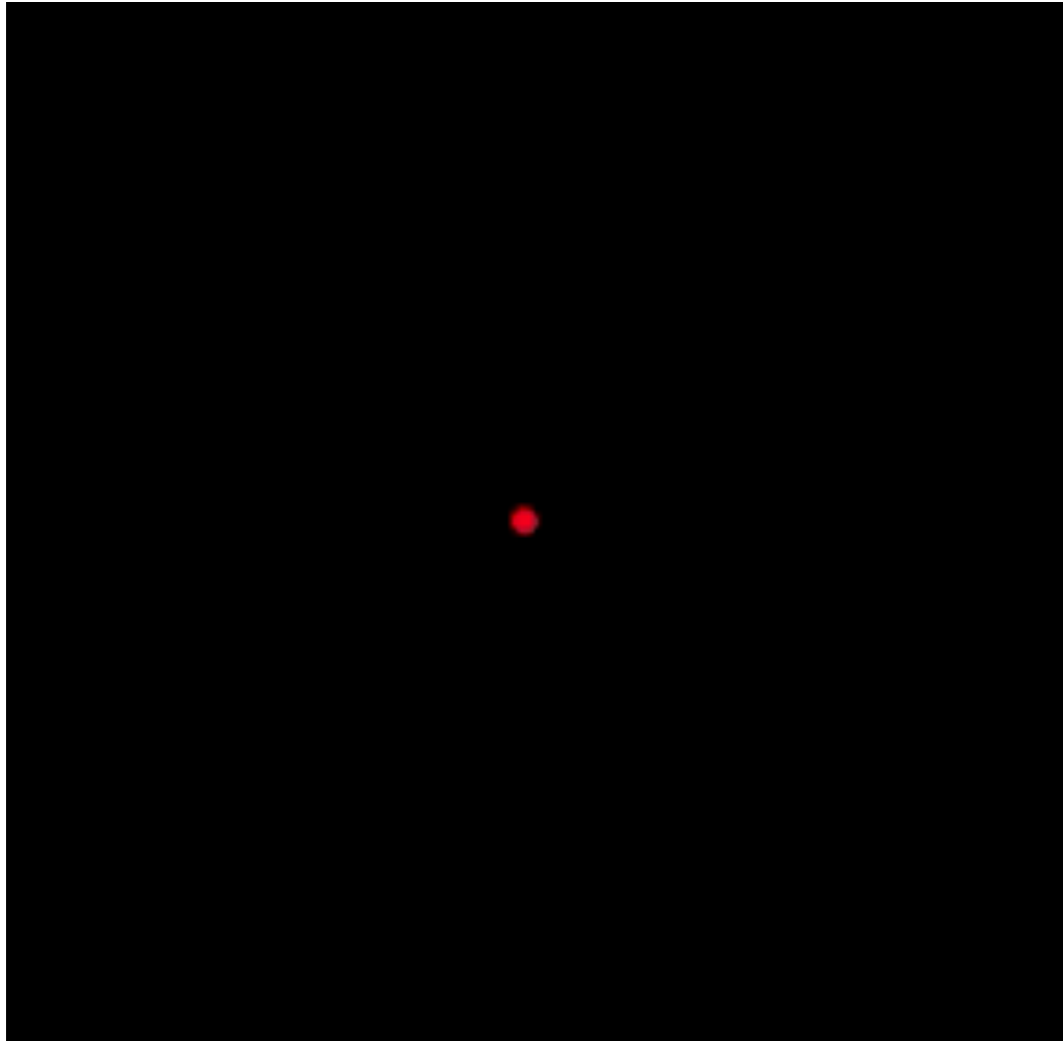


...and they struggle to generalize to Pong

Input Frames

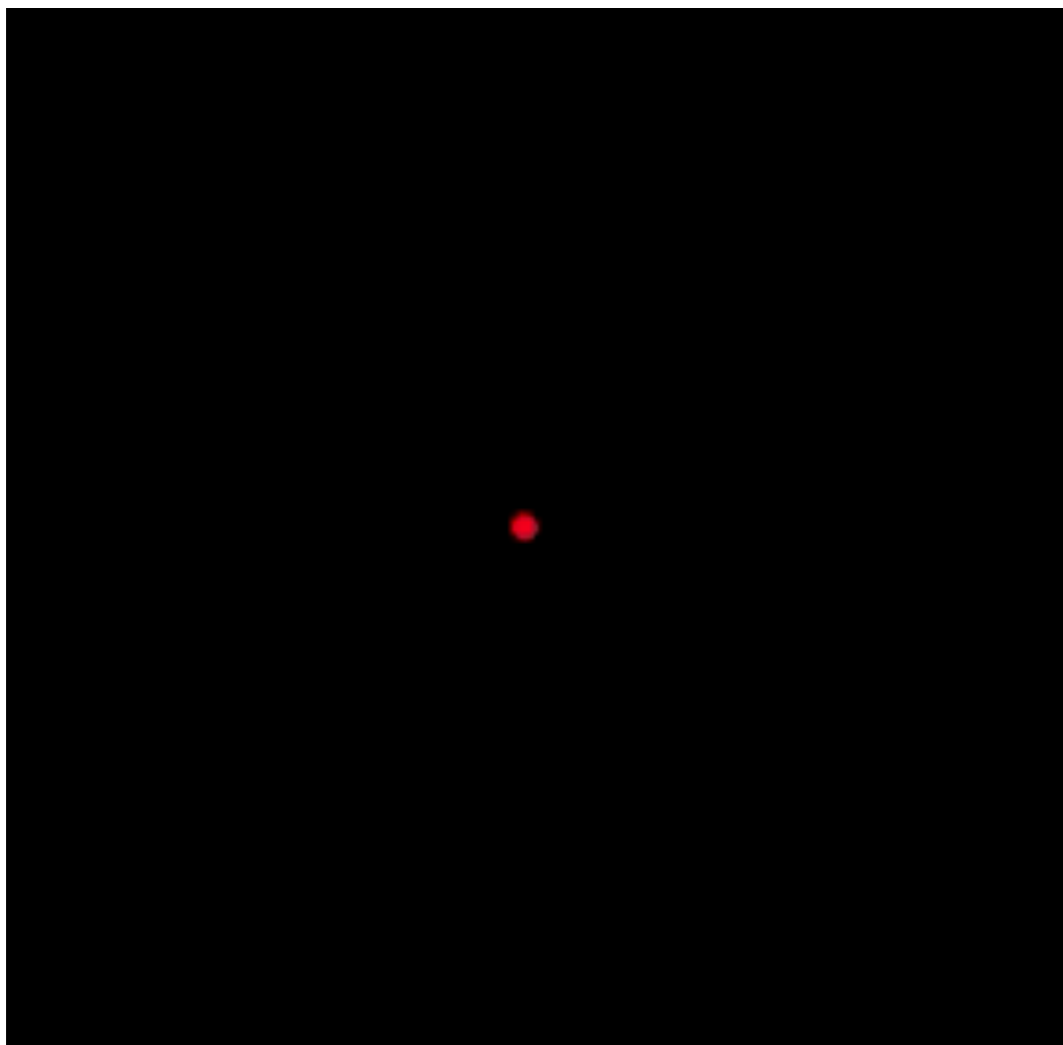
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Input Frames



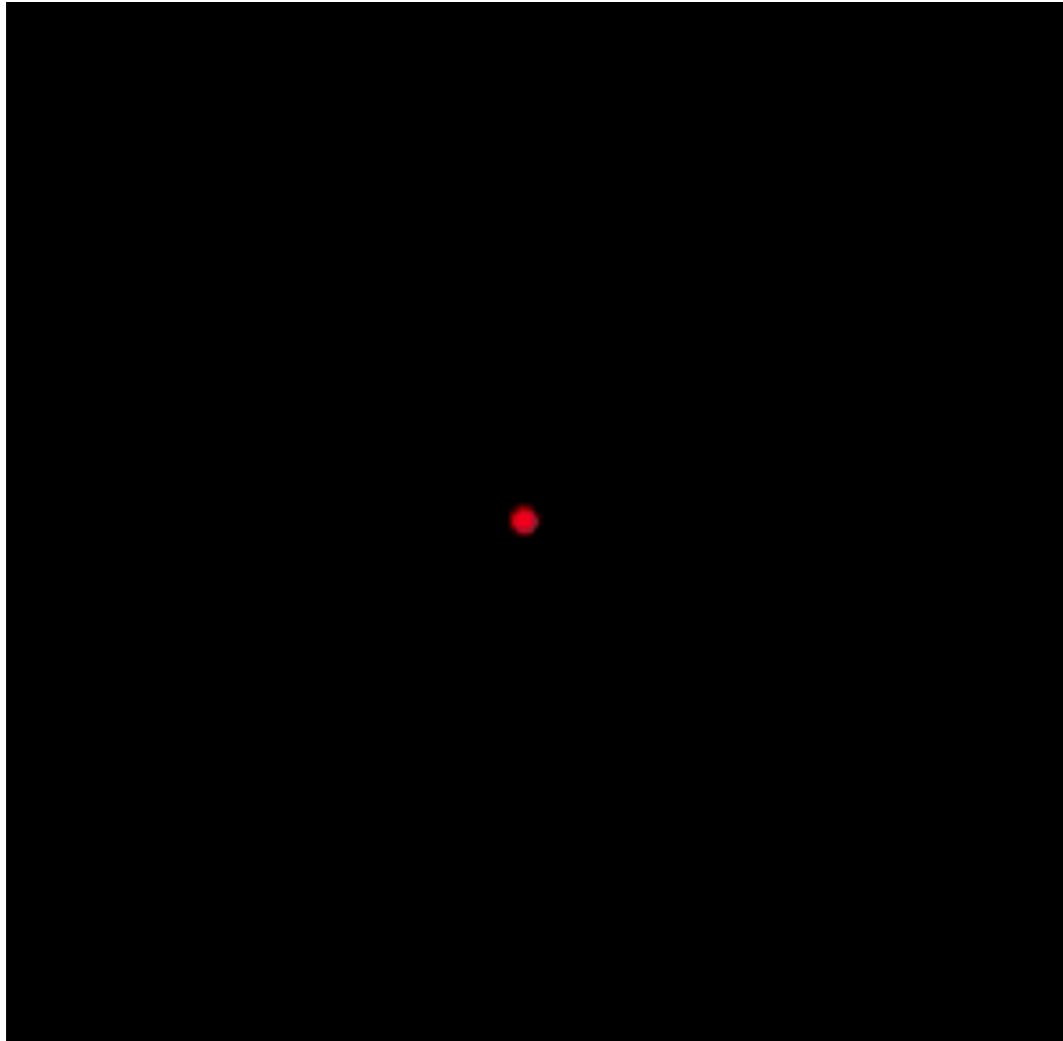
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Input Frames



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Input Frames

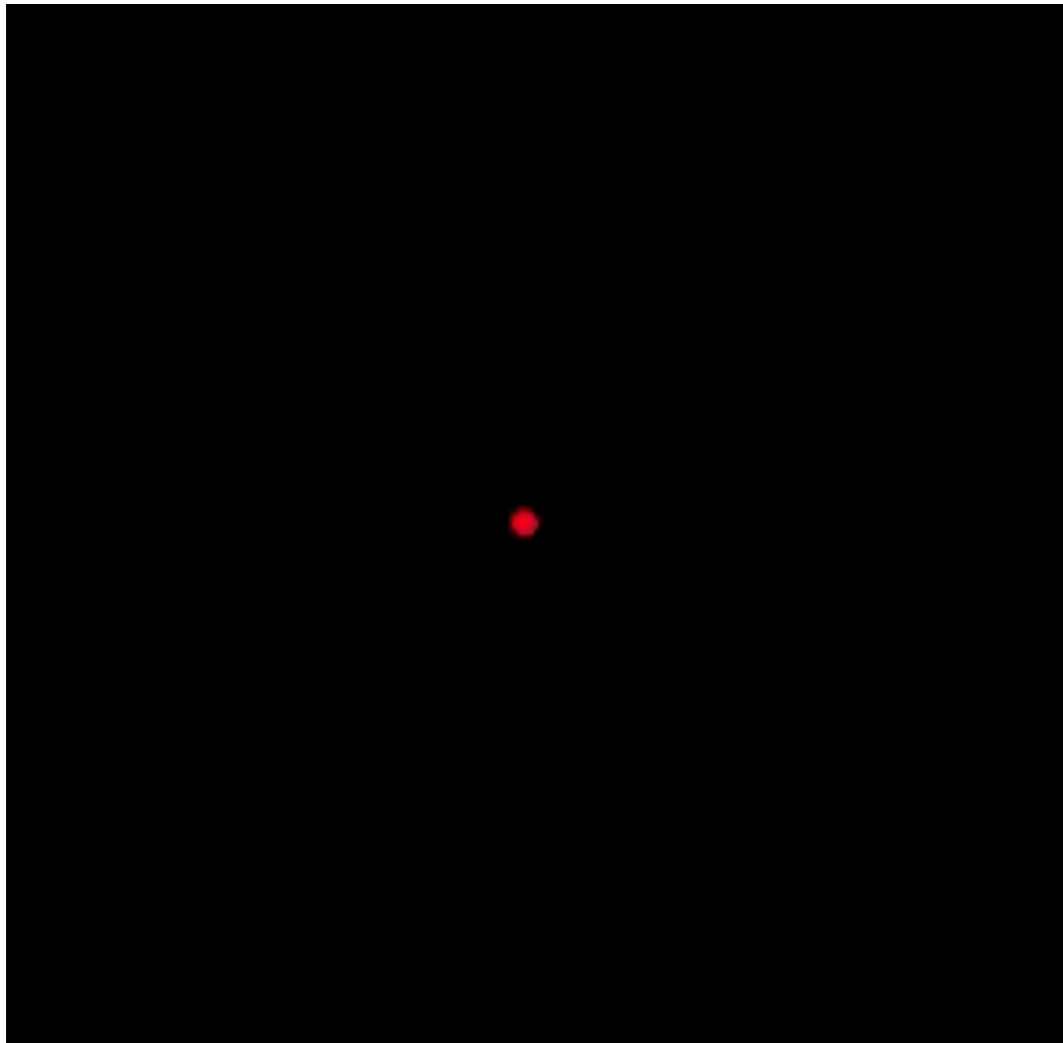


Predicted Frames

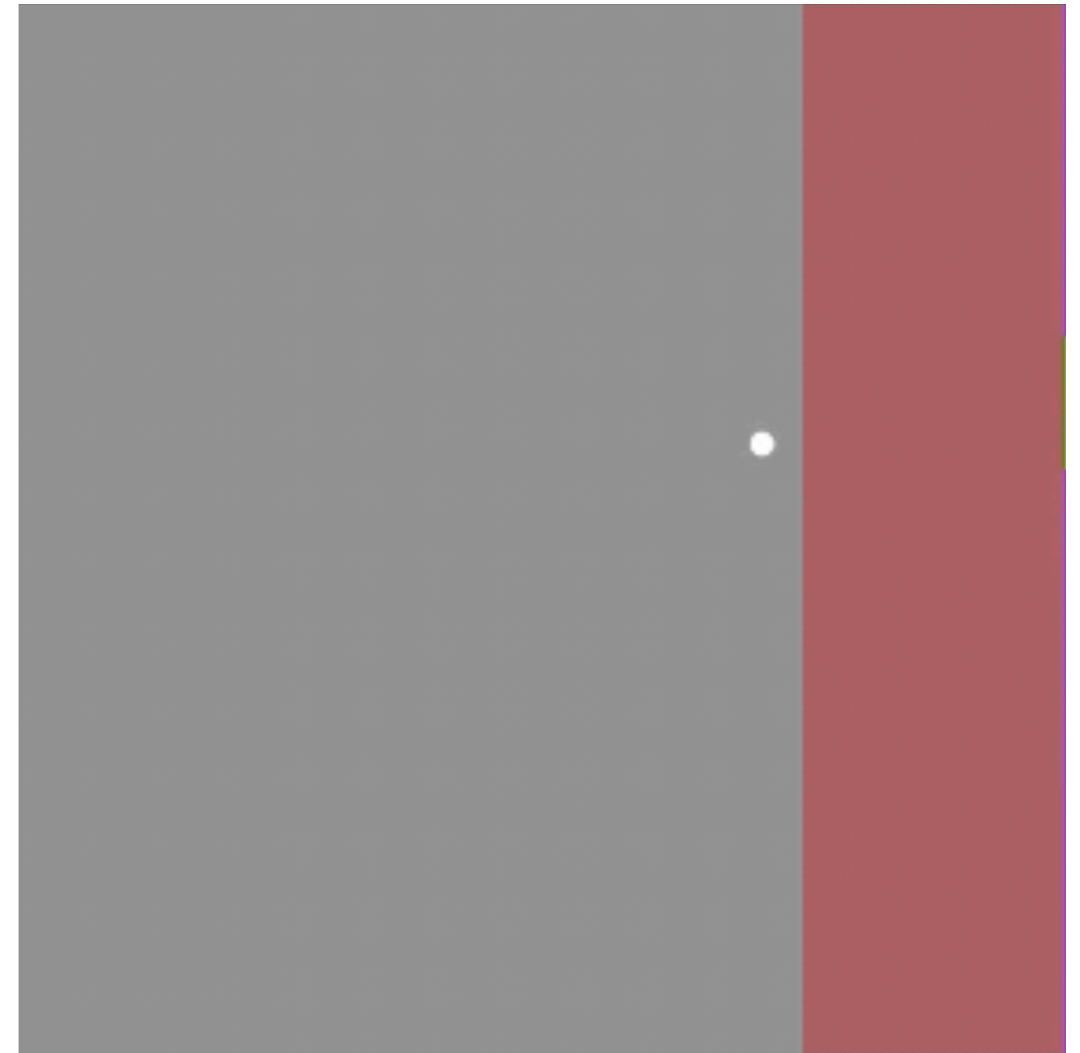


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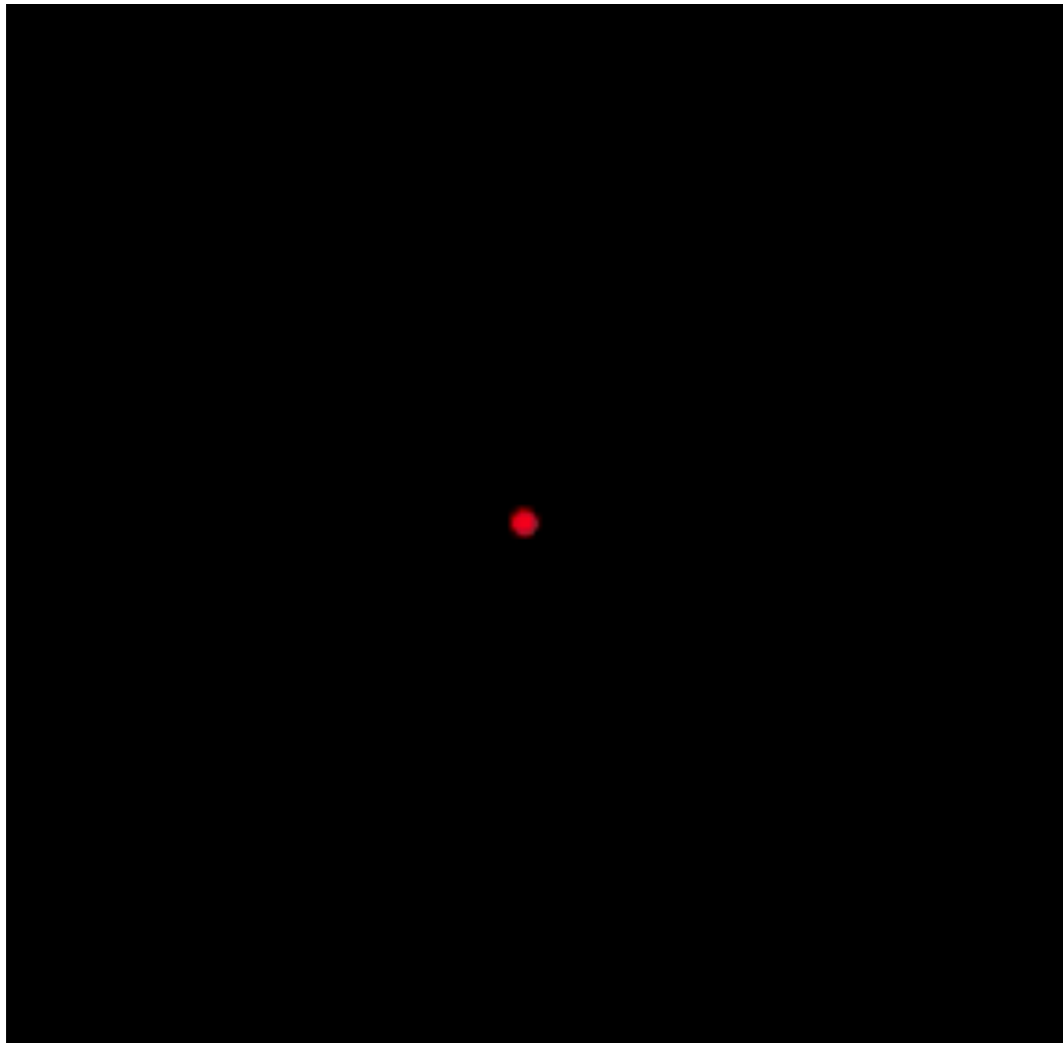


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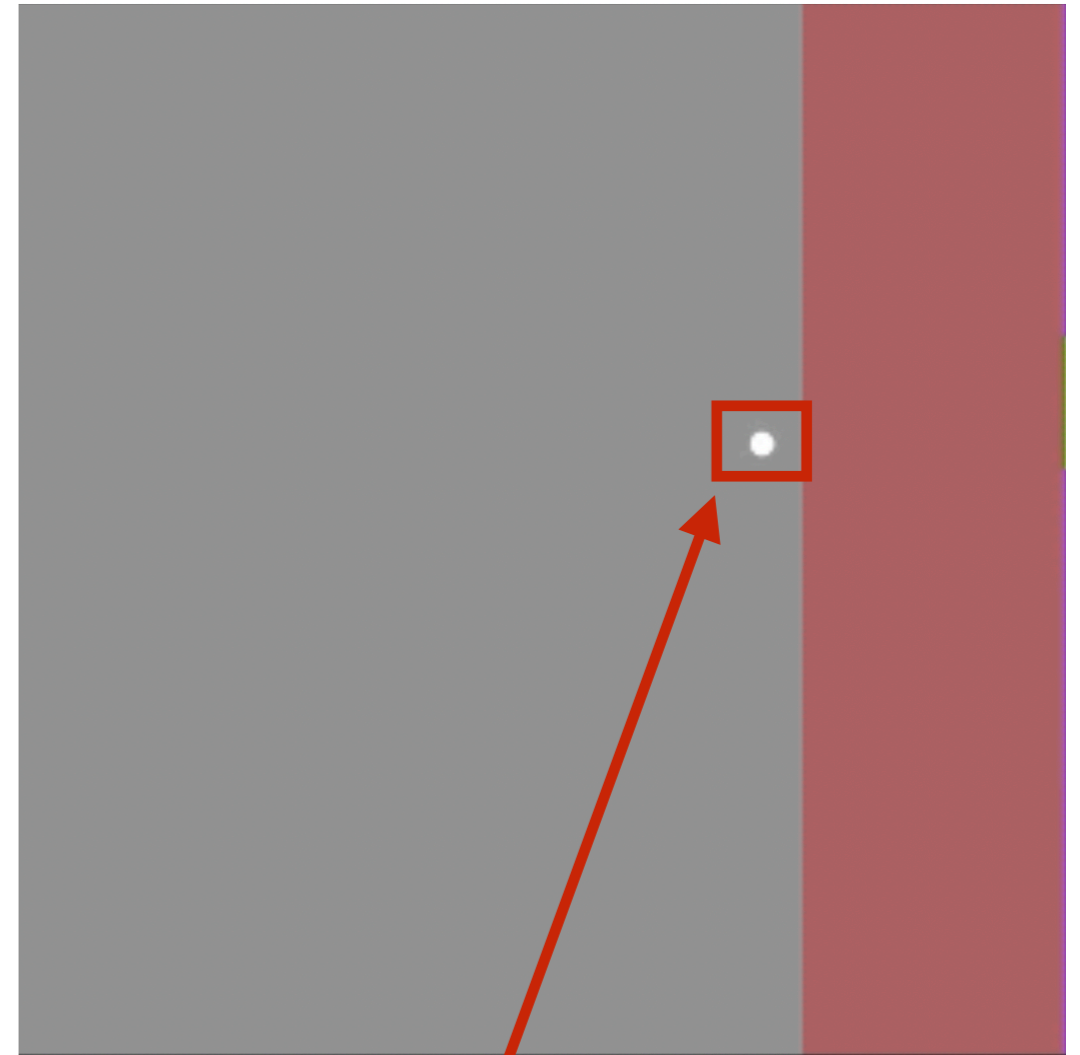


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Input Frames

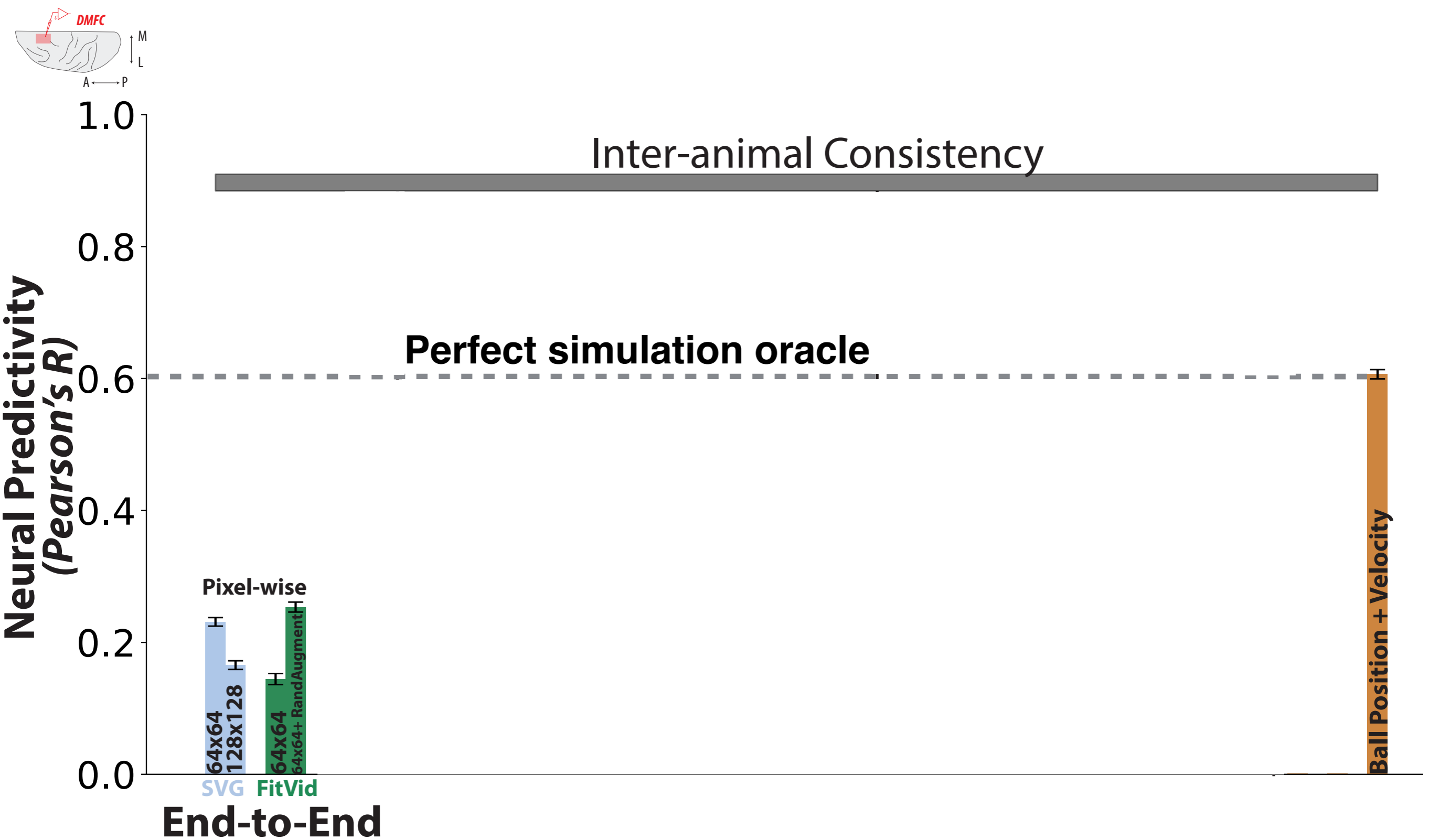


Predicted Frames



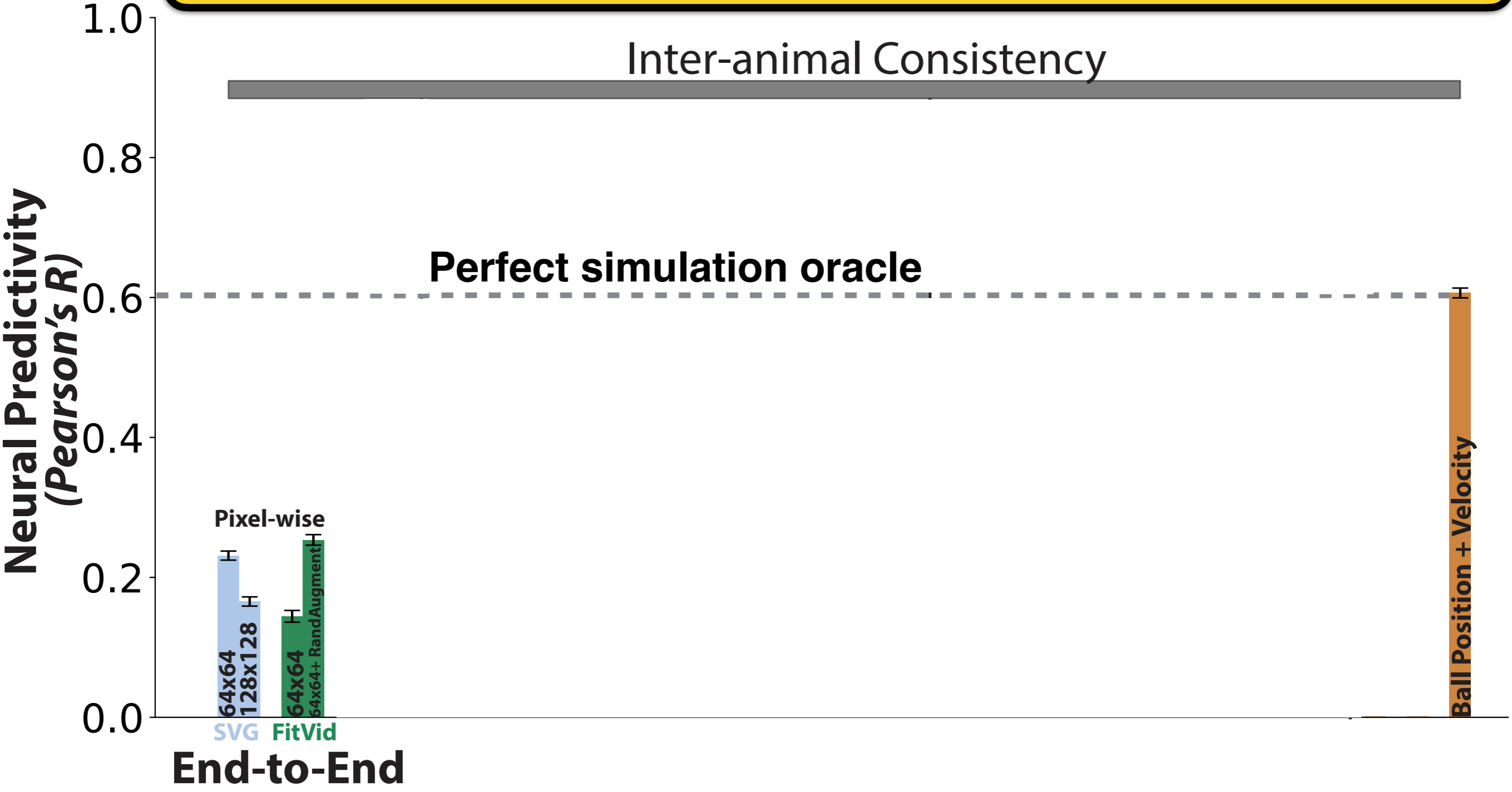
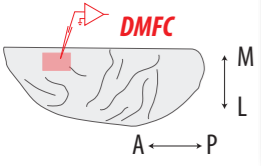
Ball stops at final input frame, in the model's "imagination"

Pixel-wise Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons

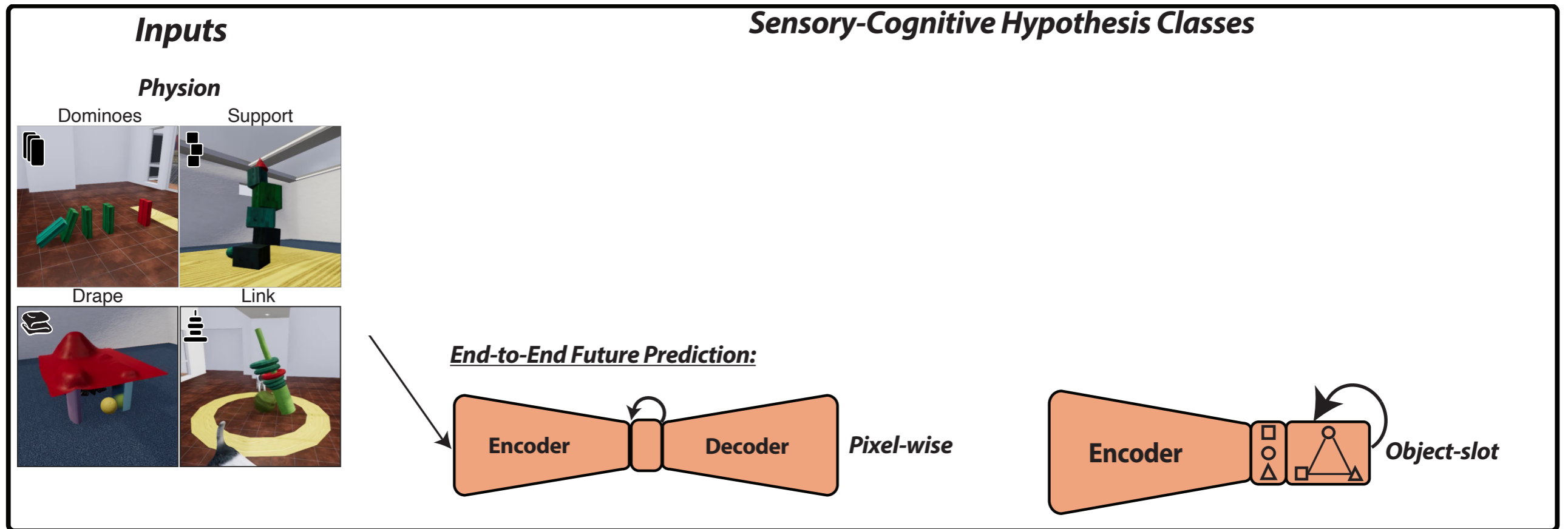


Pixel-wise Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons

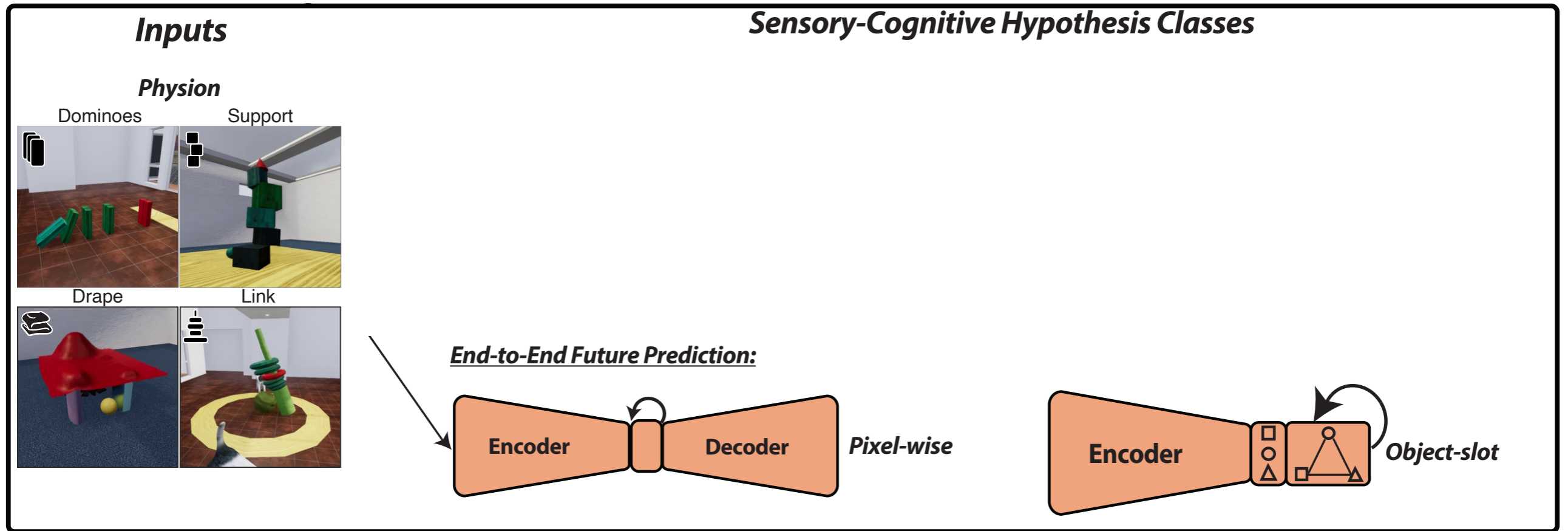
Perhaps DMFC predicts a “factorized” version of the scene?
How?



Hypothesis Class 2: Object Slots

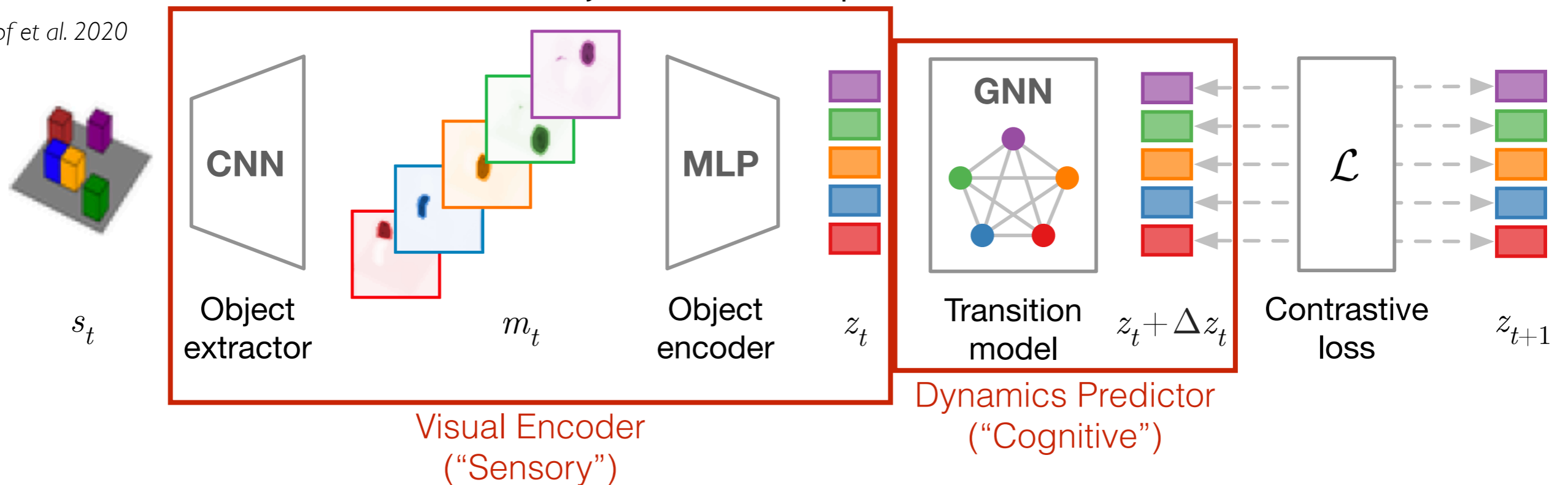


Hypothesis Class 2: Object Slots

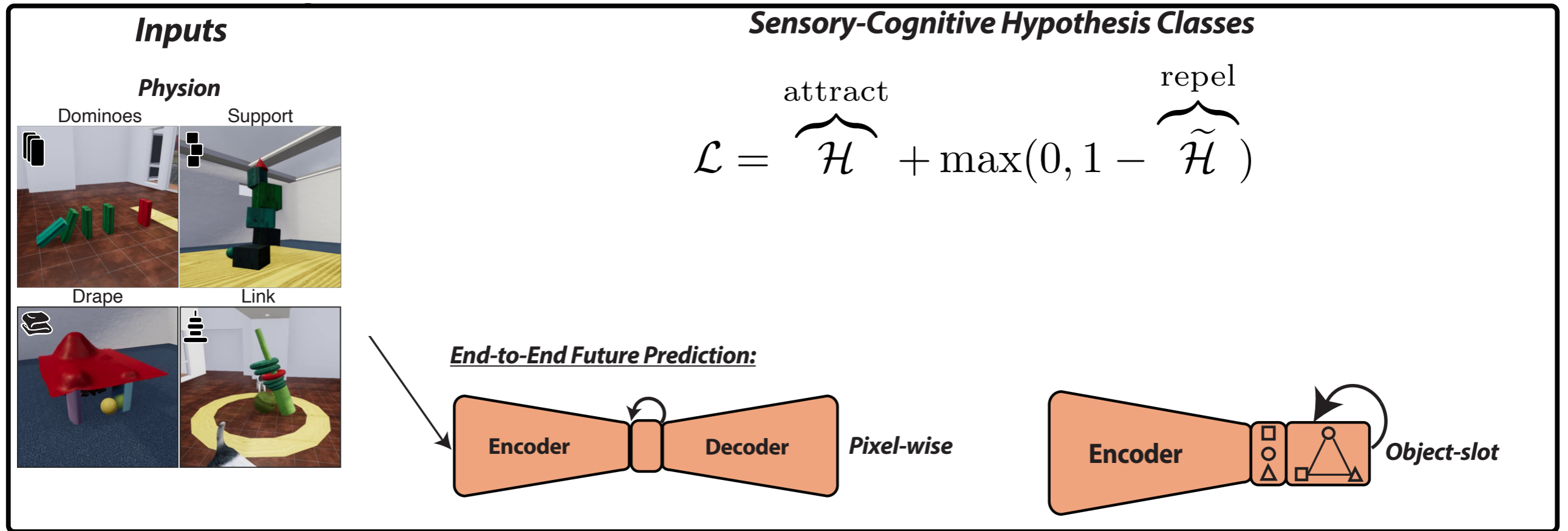


Predicts at the level of object slot representations and their relations

Kipf et al. 2020

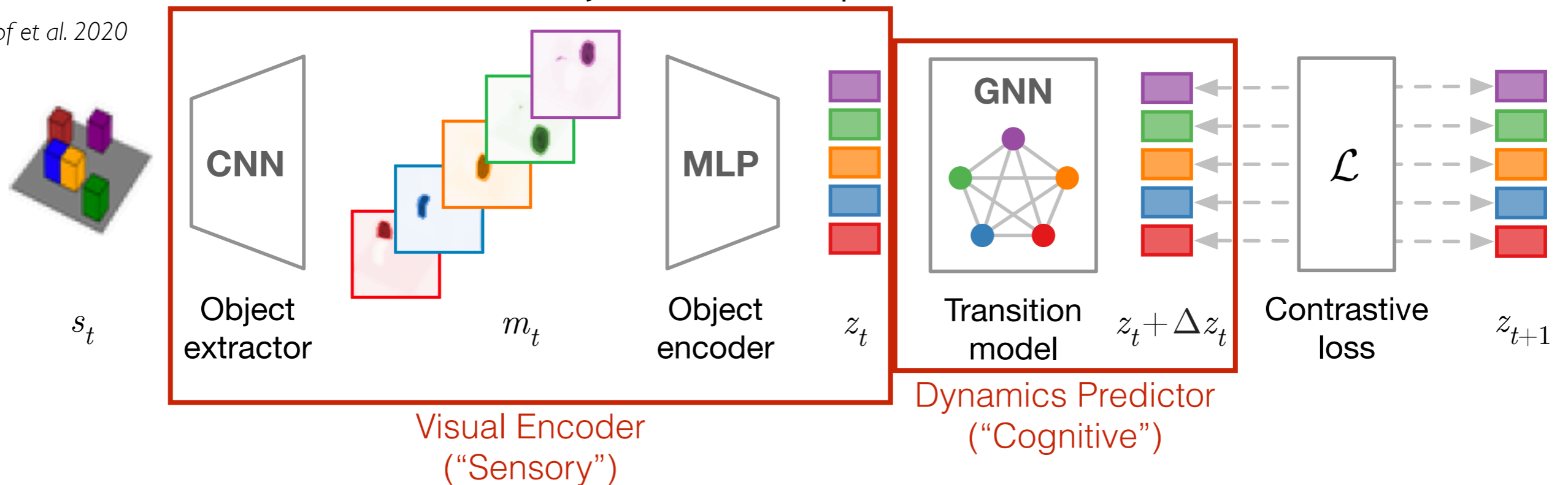


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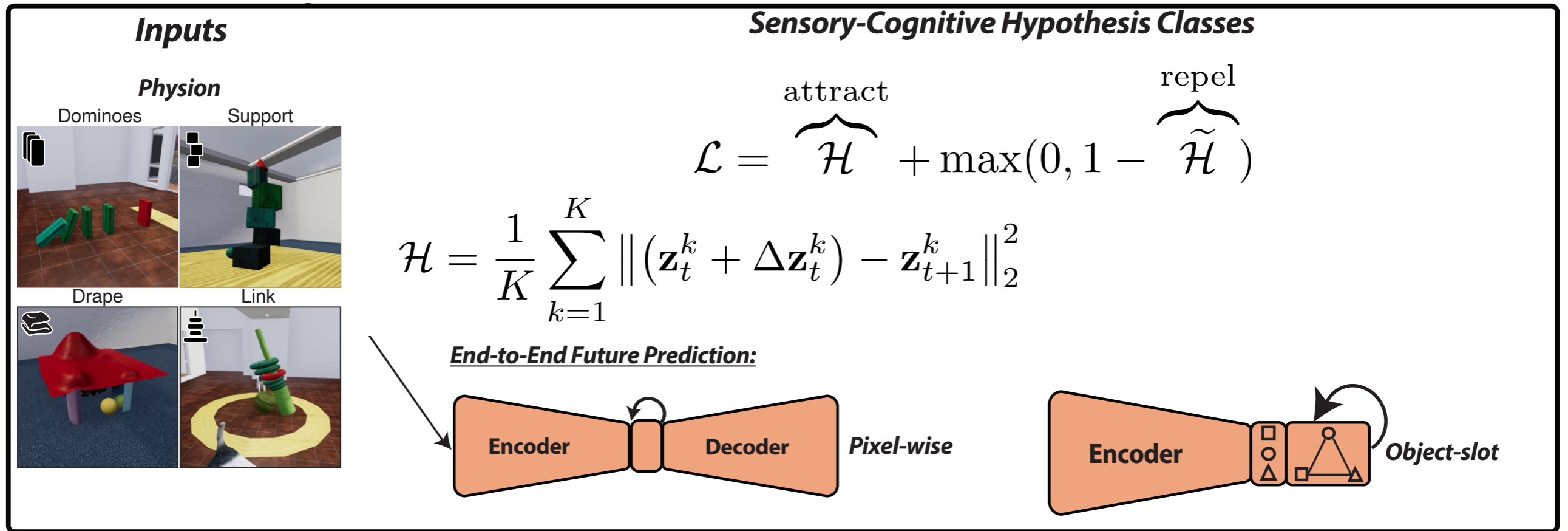


Predicts at the level of object slot representations and their relations

Kipf et al. 2020

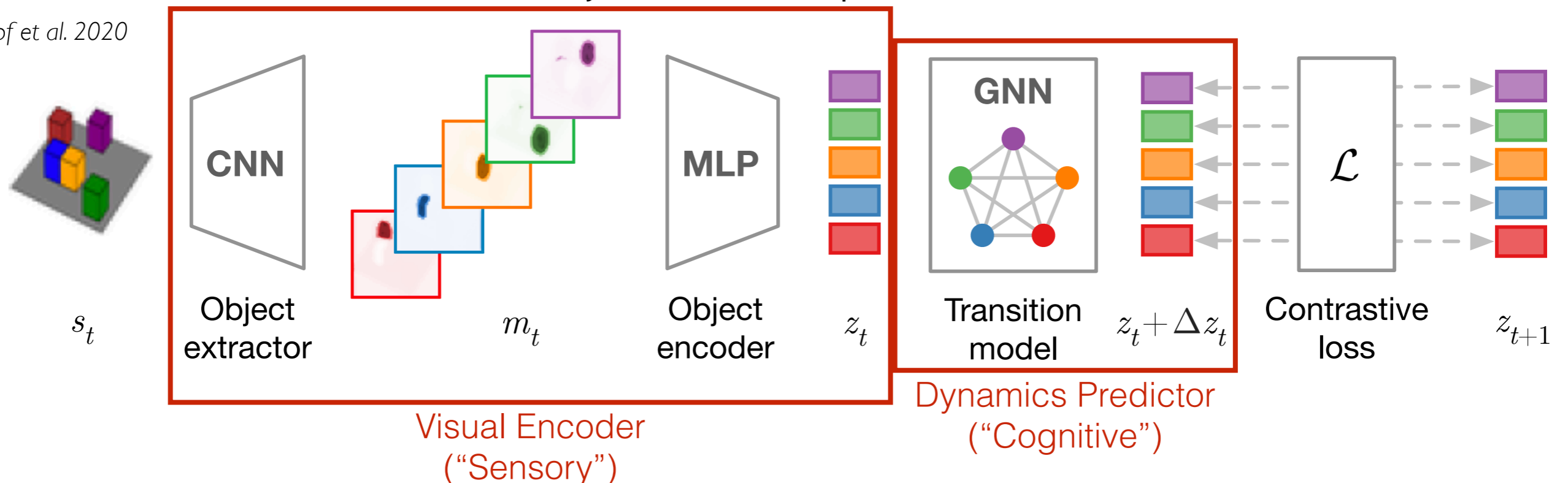


Hypothesis Class 2: Object Slots

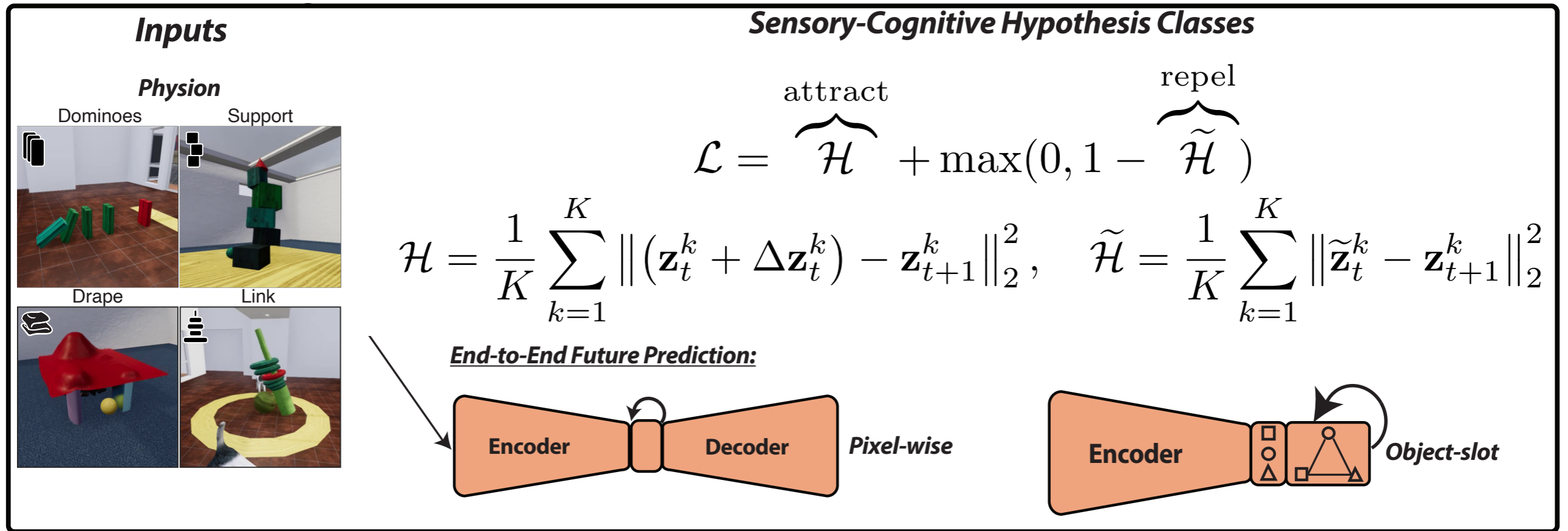


Predicts at the level of object slot representations and their relations

Kipf et al. 2020

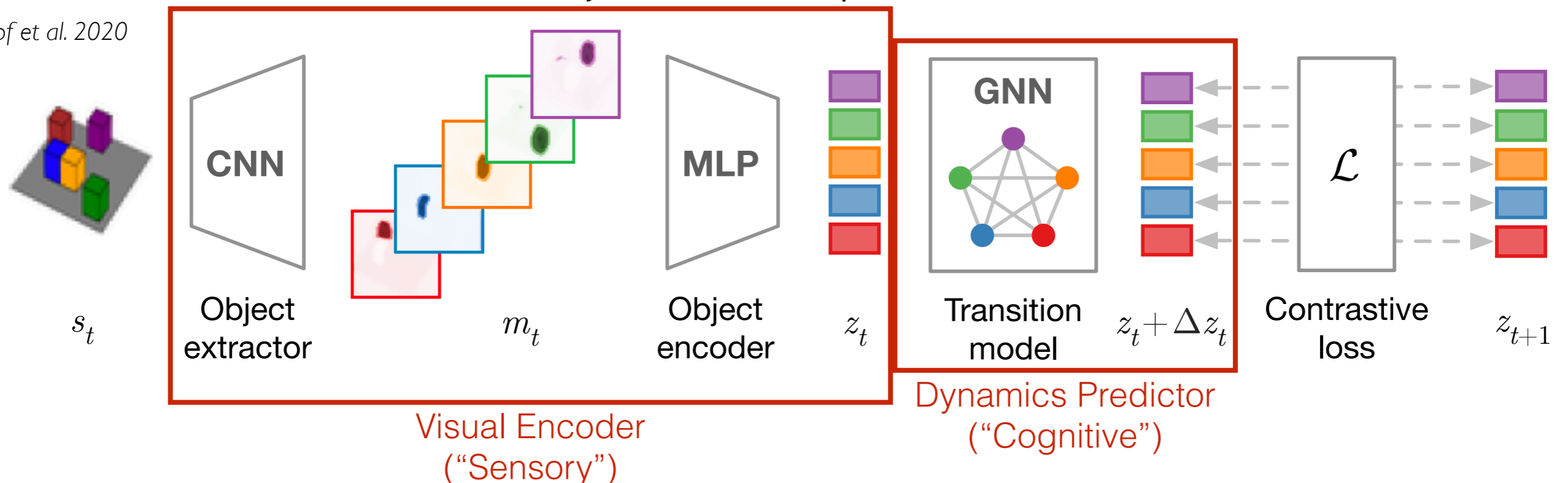


Hypothesis Class 2: Object Slots

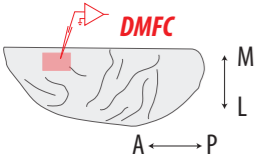


Predicts at the level of object slot representations and their relations

Kipf et al. 2020



Pixel-wise Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons



NeuroAI
Turing Test

Inter-animal Consistency

Perfect simulation oracle

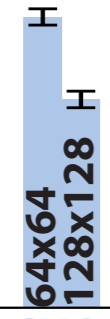
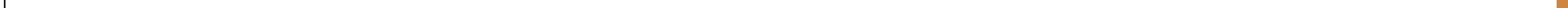
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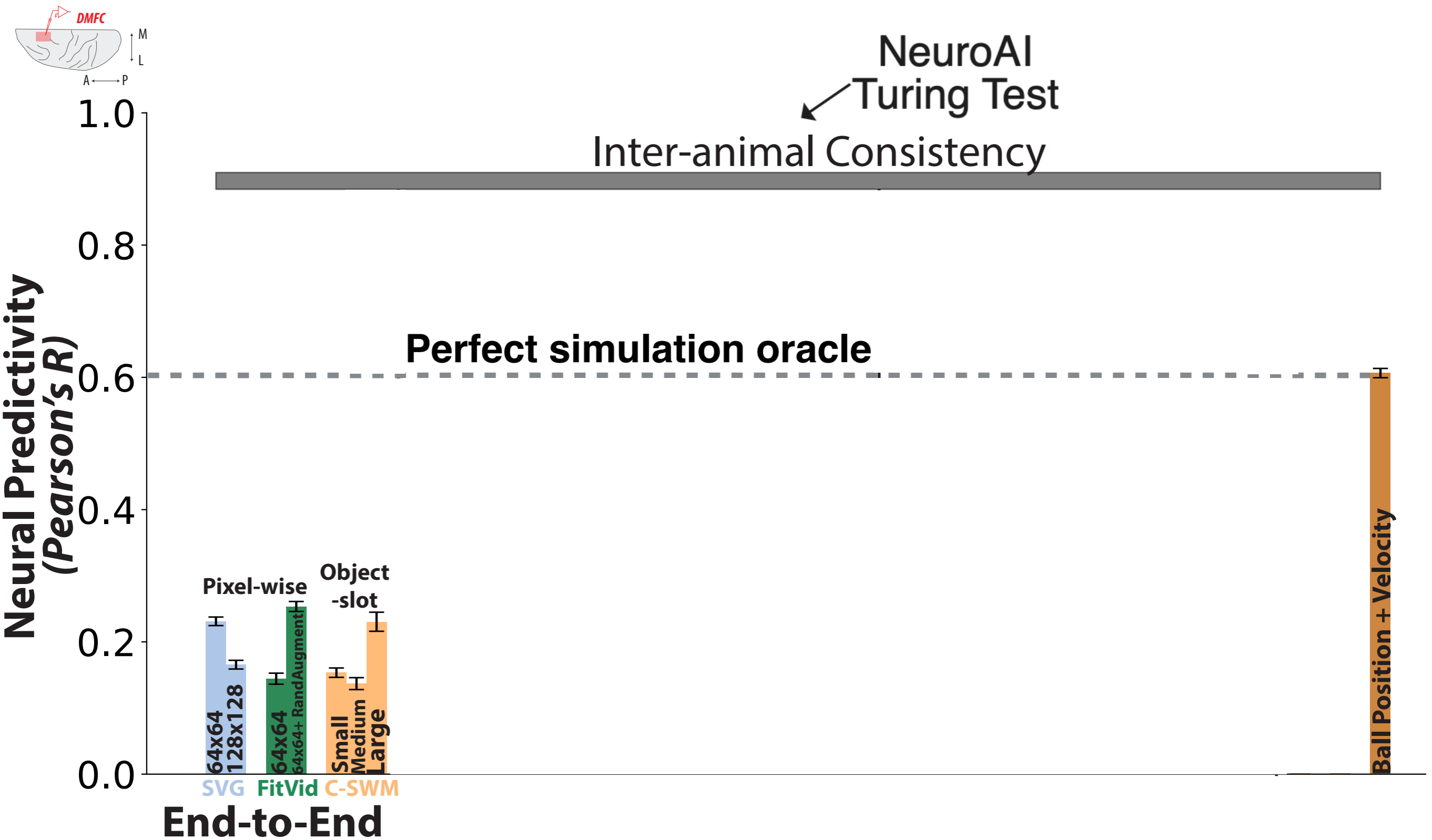
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Pixel-wise
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Ball Position + Velocity

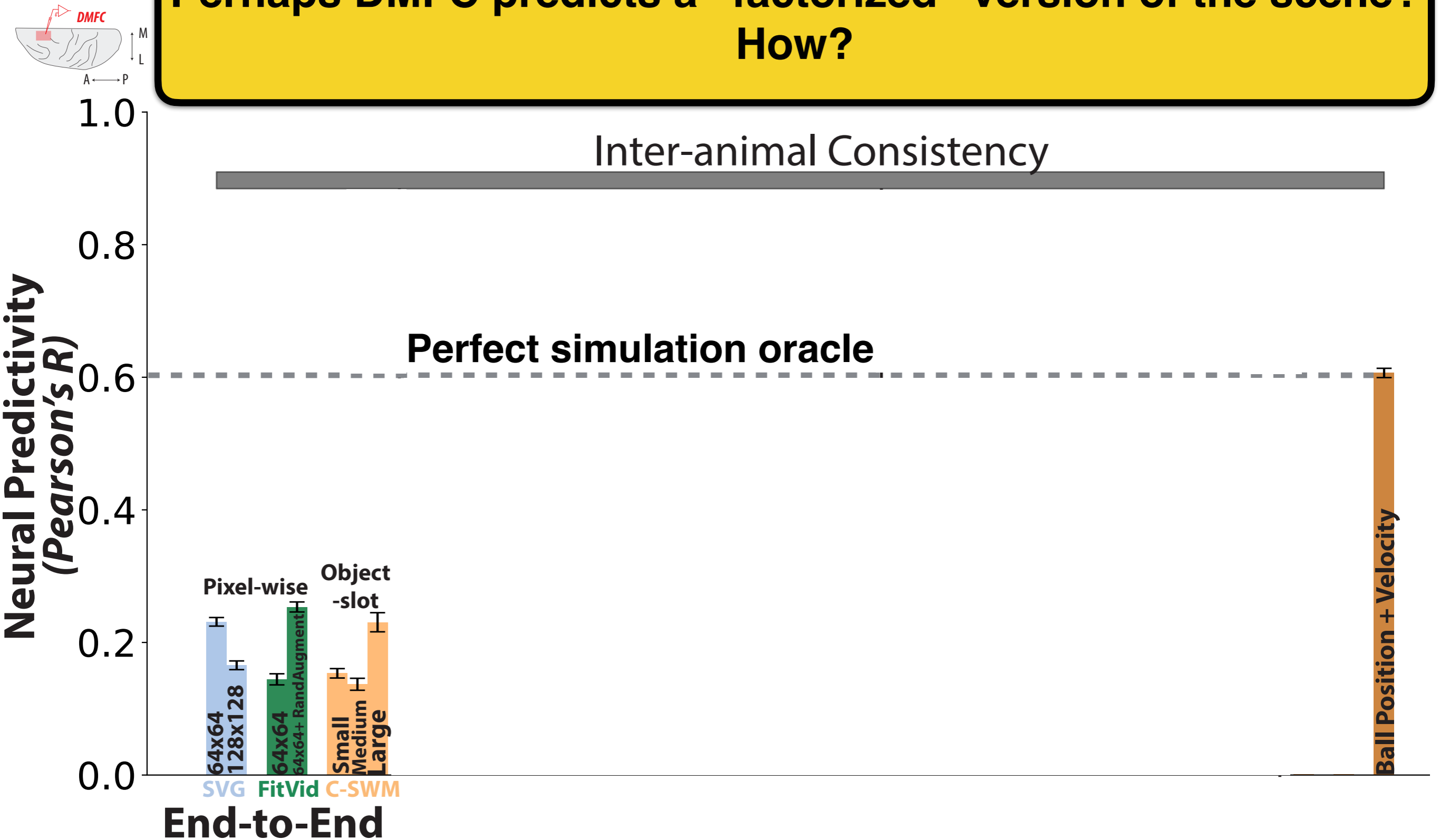


Object Slot Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons



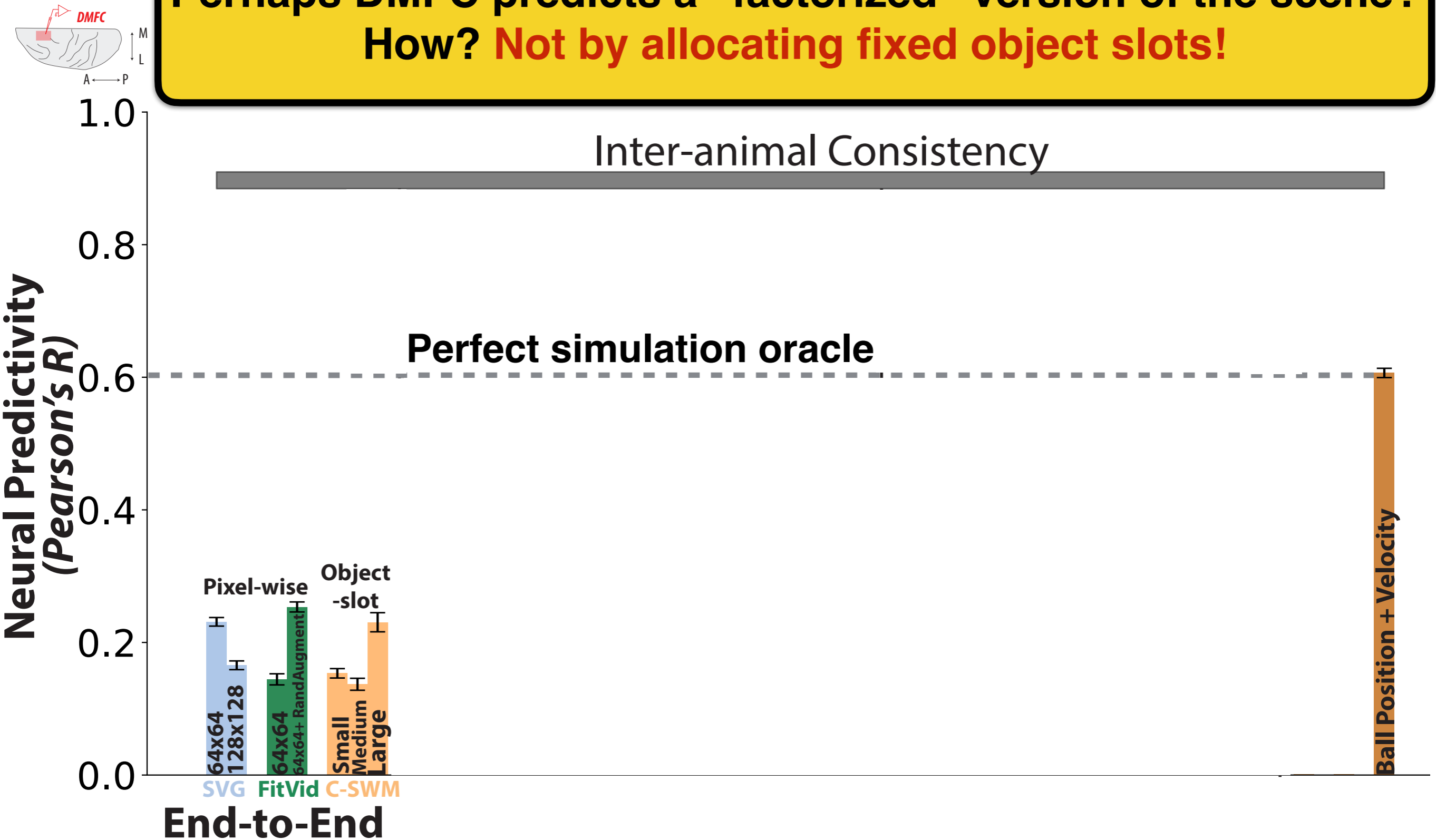
Object Slot Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons

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How?

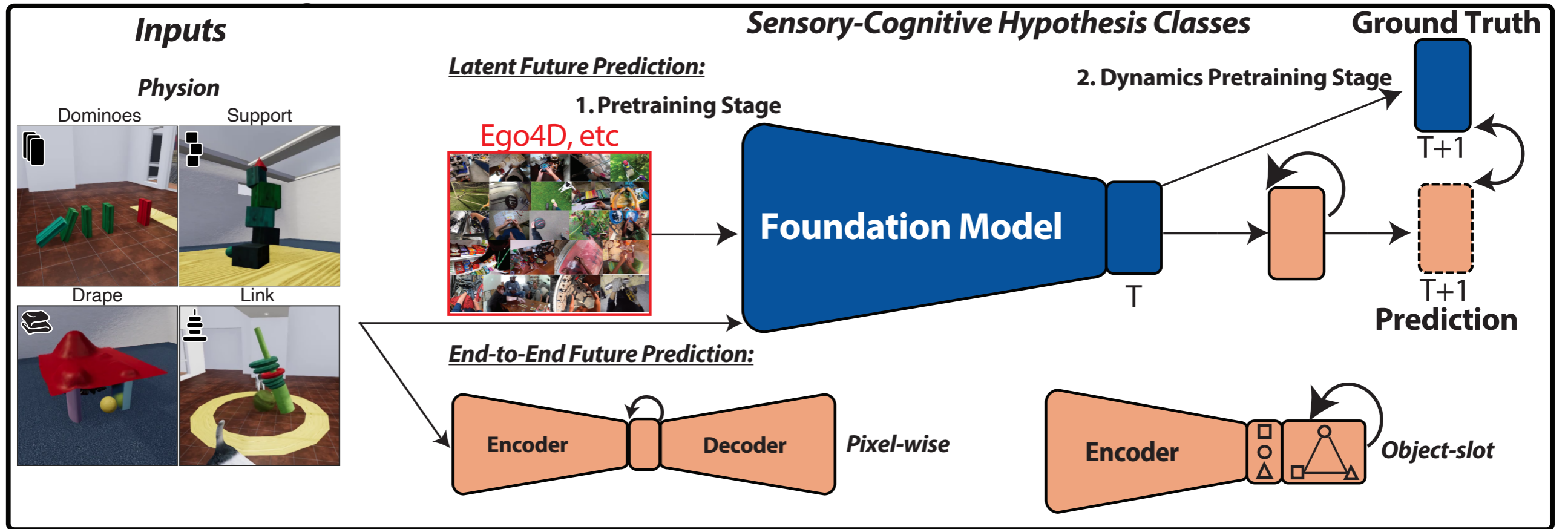


Object Slot Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons

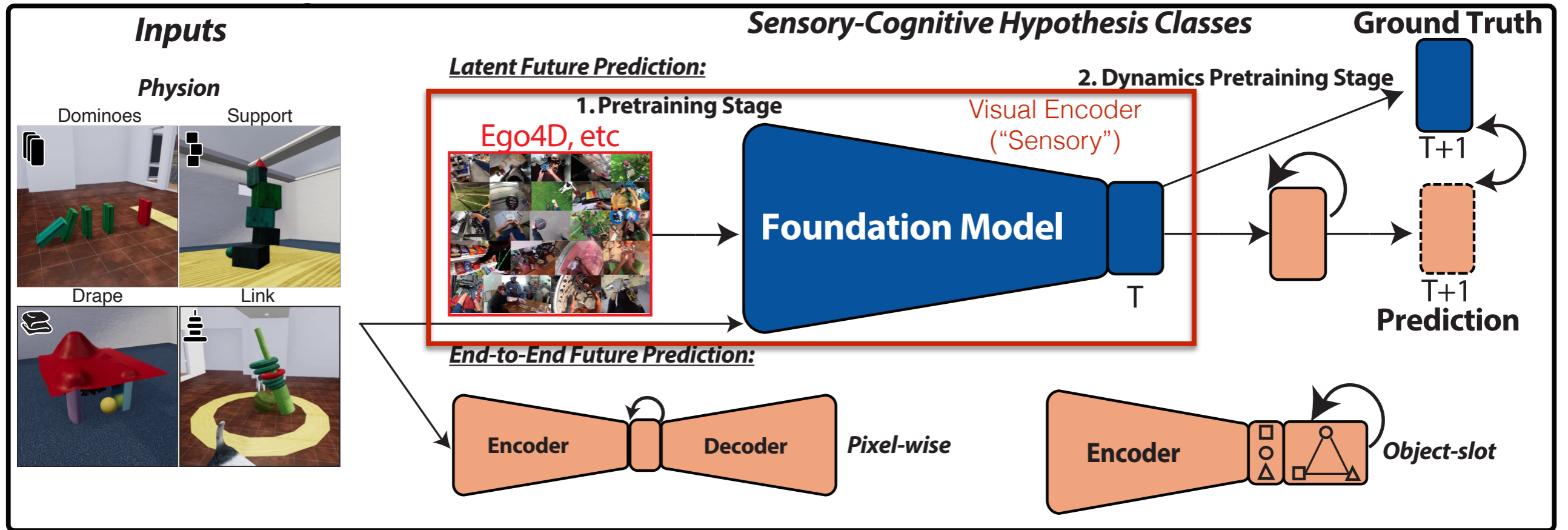
Perhaps DMFC predicts a “factorized” version of the scene?
How? **Not by allocating fixed object slots!**



Hypothesis Class 3: Latent Future Prediction

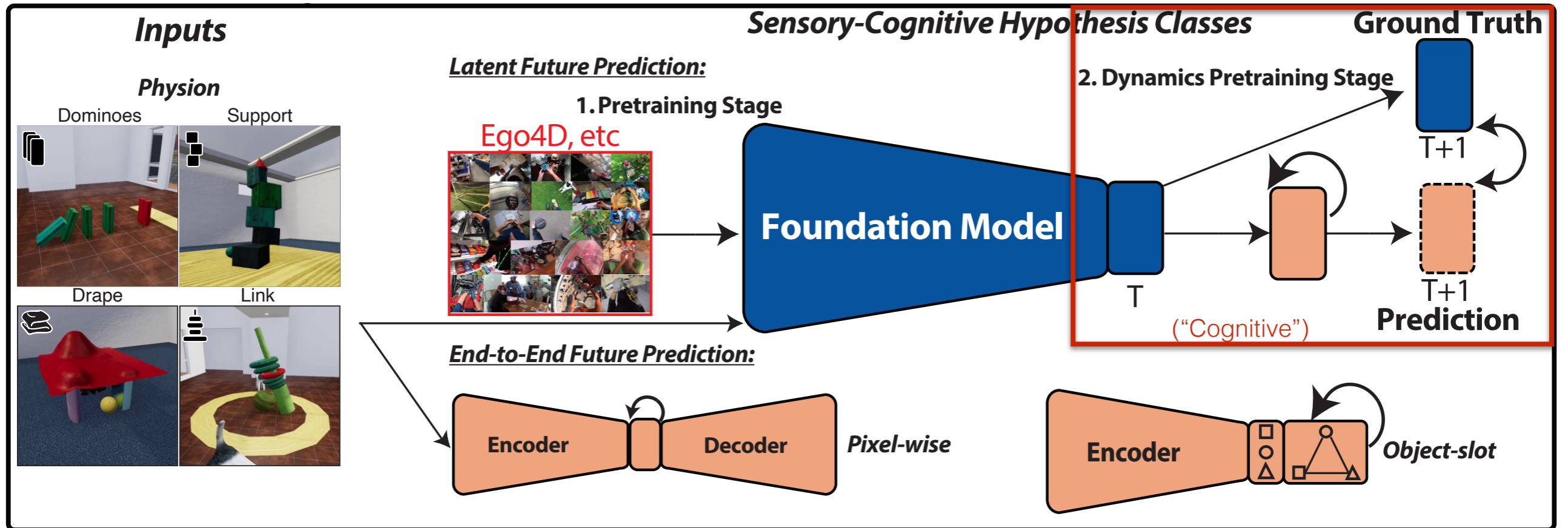


Hypothesis Class 3: Latent Future Prediction



Learn a partial, *implicit* representation of the physical world by performing a challenging vision task (“foundation model”)

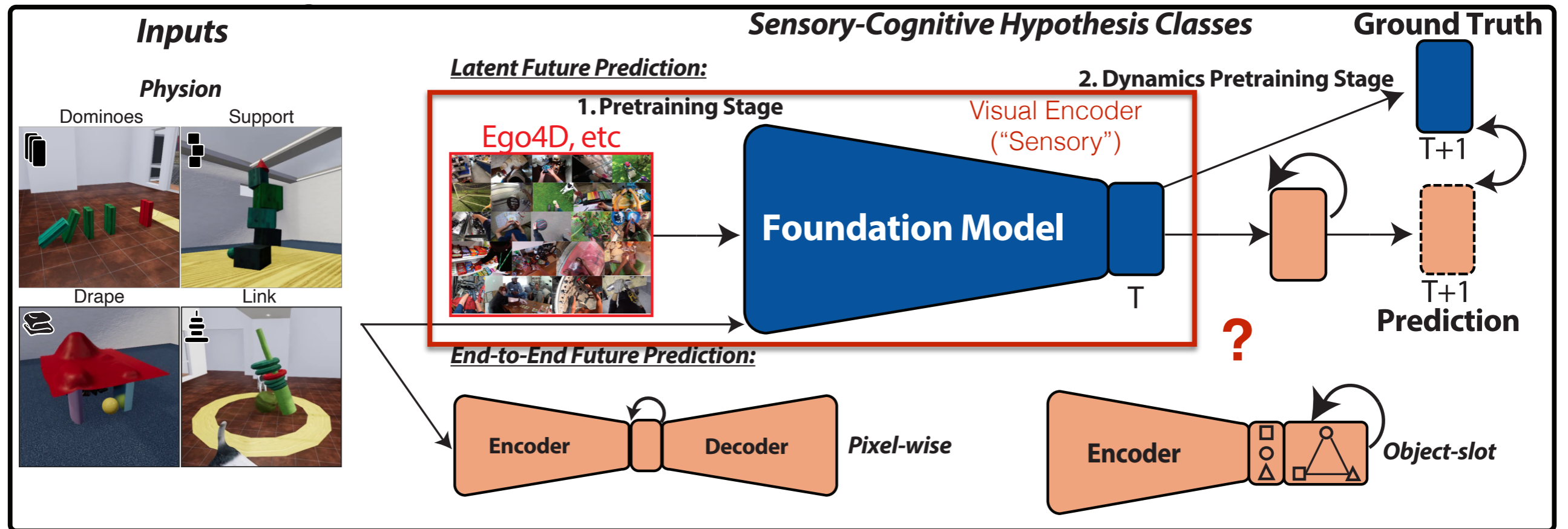
Hypothesis Class 3: Latent Future Prediction



Learn a partial, *implicit* representation of the physical world by performing a challenging vision task (“foundation model”)

Leverage these dynamics to do explicit future prediction

Hypothesis Class 3: Foundation Models



Learn a partial, *implicit* representation of the physical world by performing a challenging vision task ("foundation model")

What vision task?

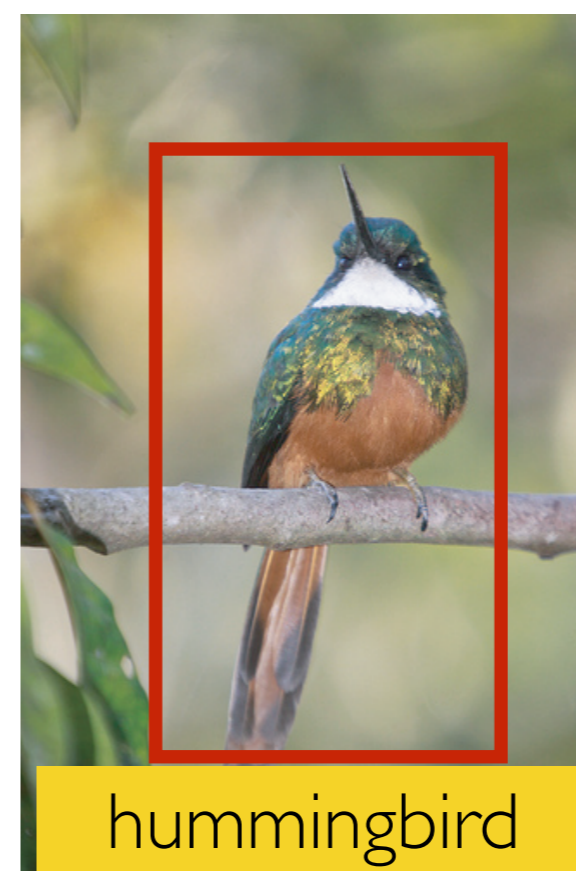
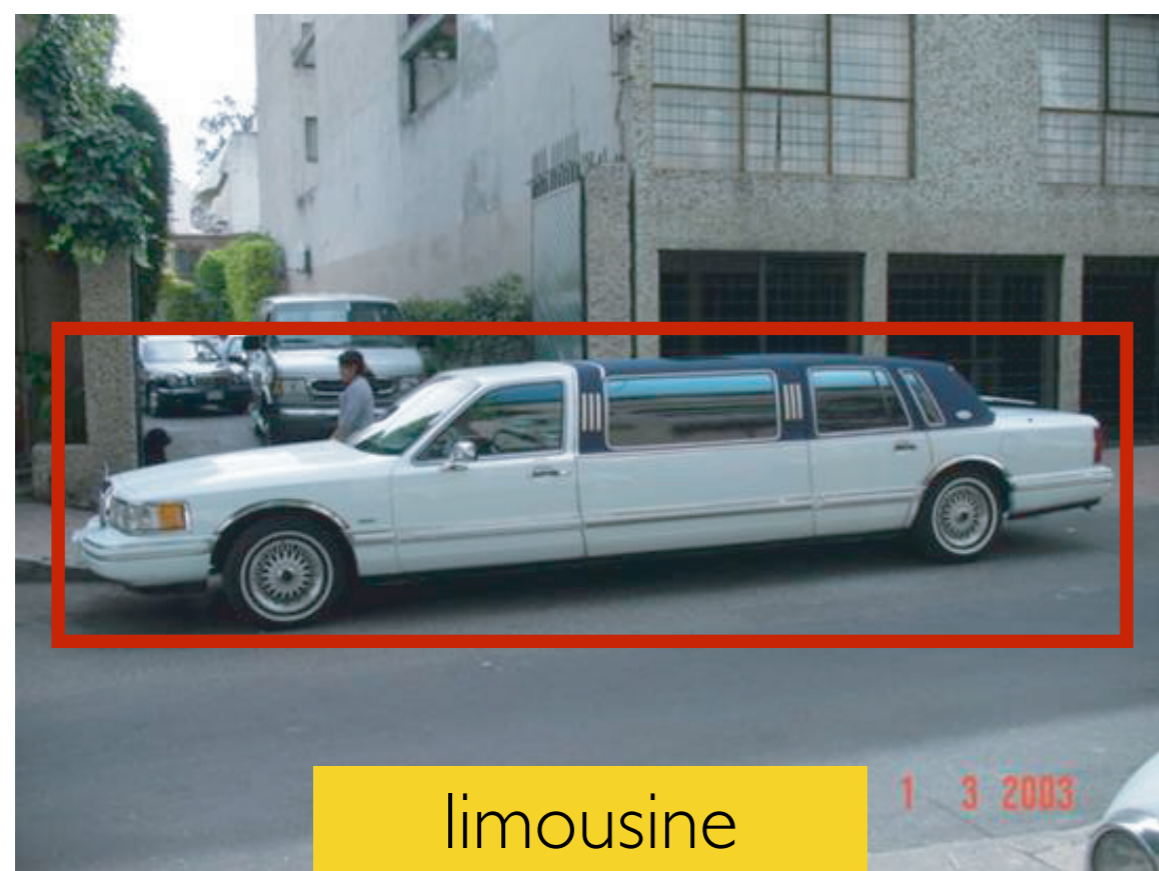
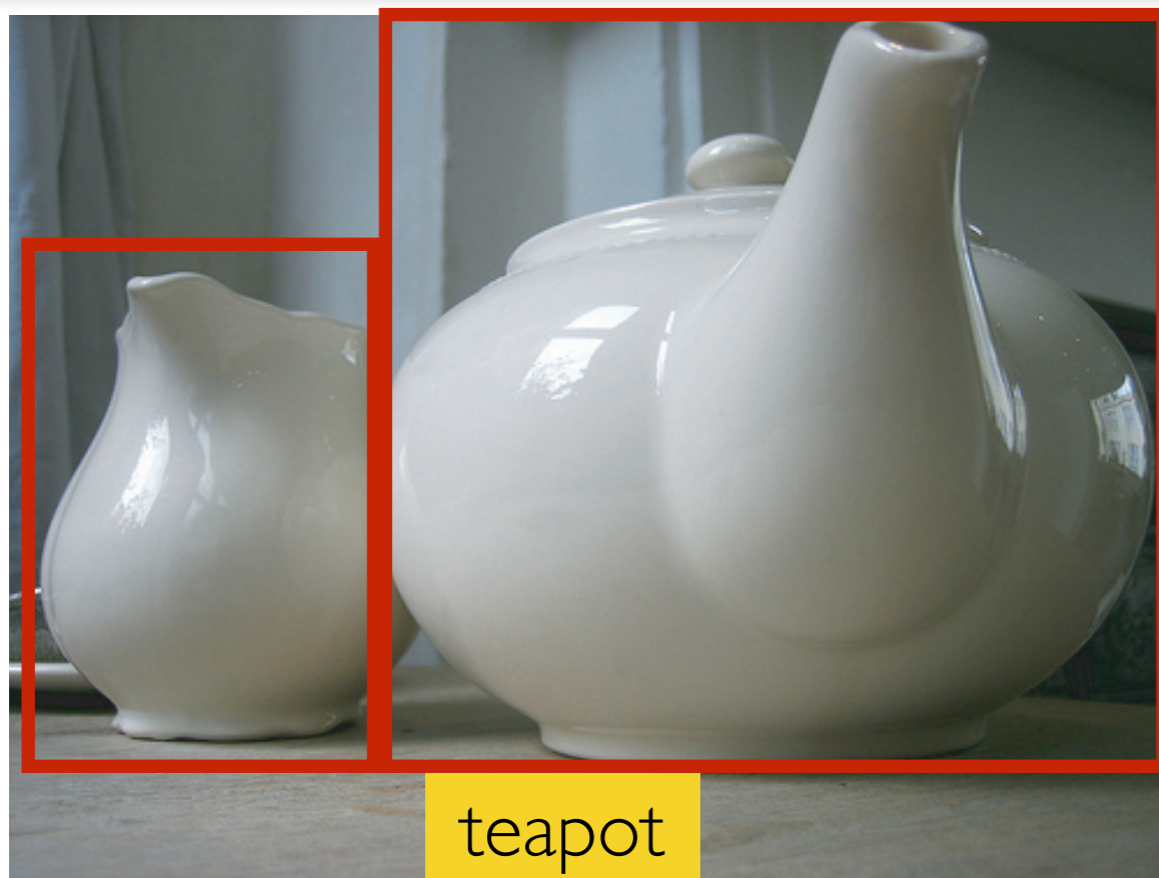
Leverage these dynamics to do explicit future prediction

Hypothesis Class 3: Static Image Foundation Models

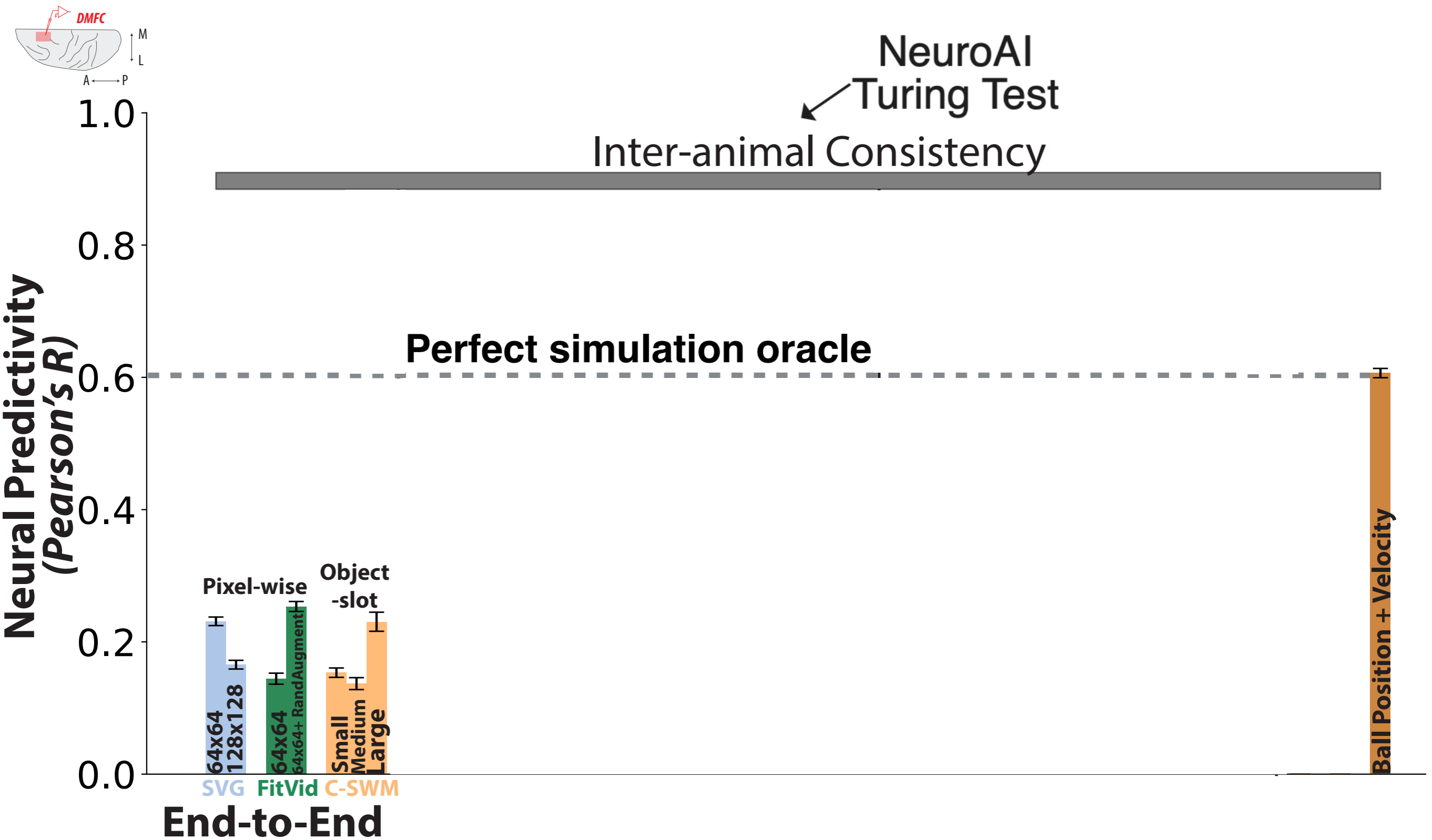
Hypothesis Class 3: Static Image Foundation Models



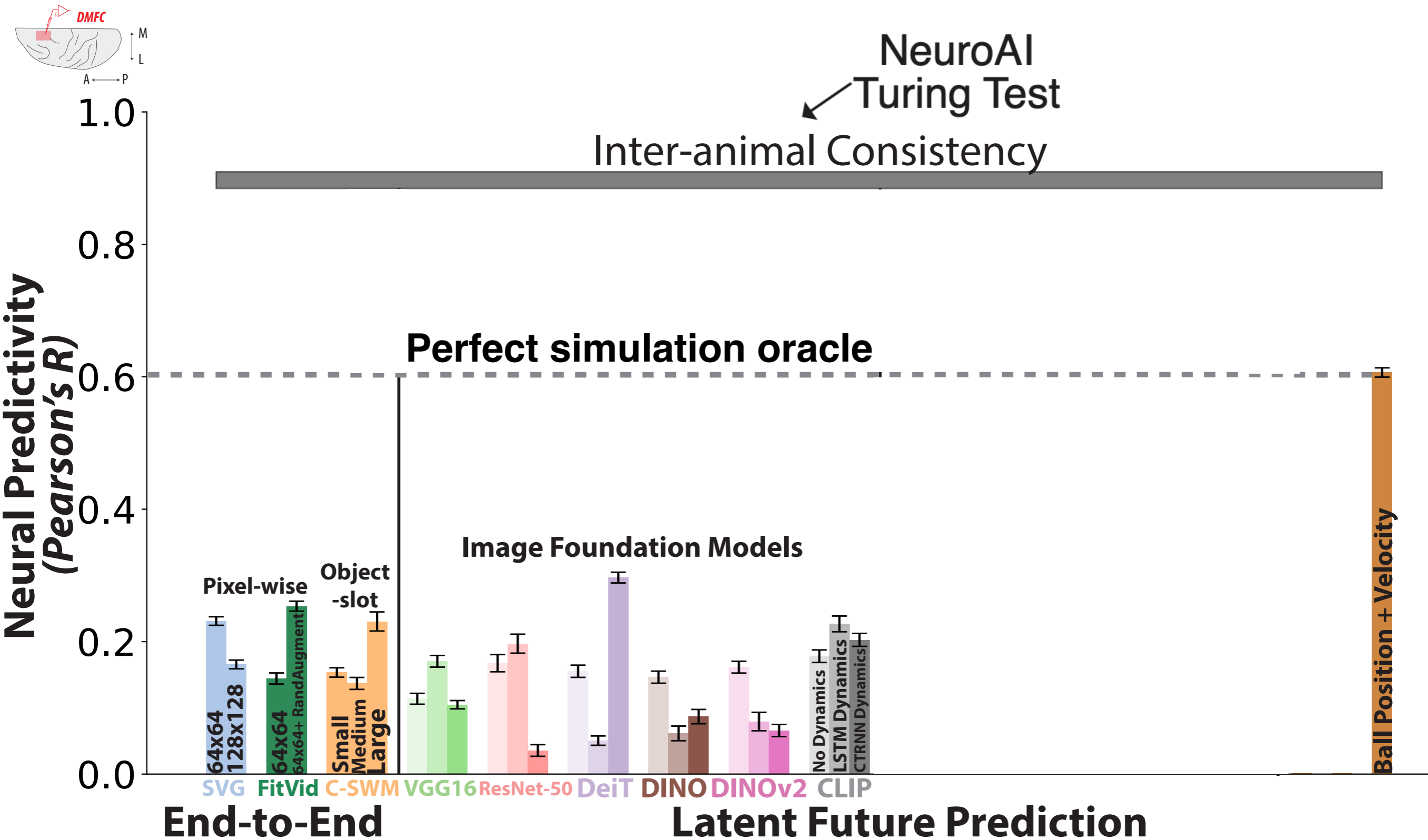
Hypothesis Class 3: Static Image Foundation Models



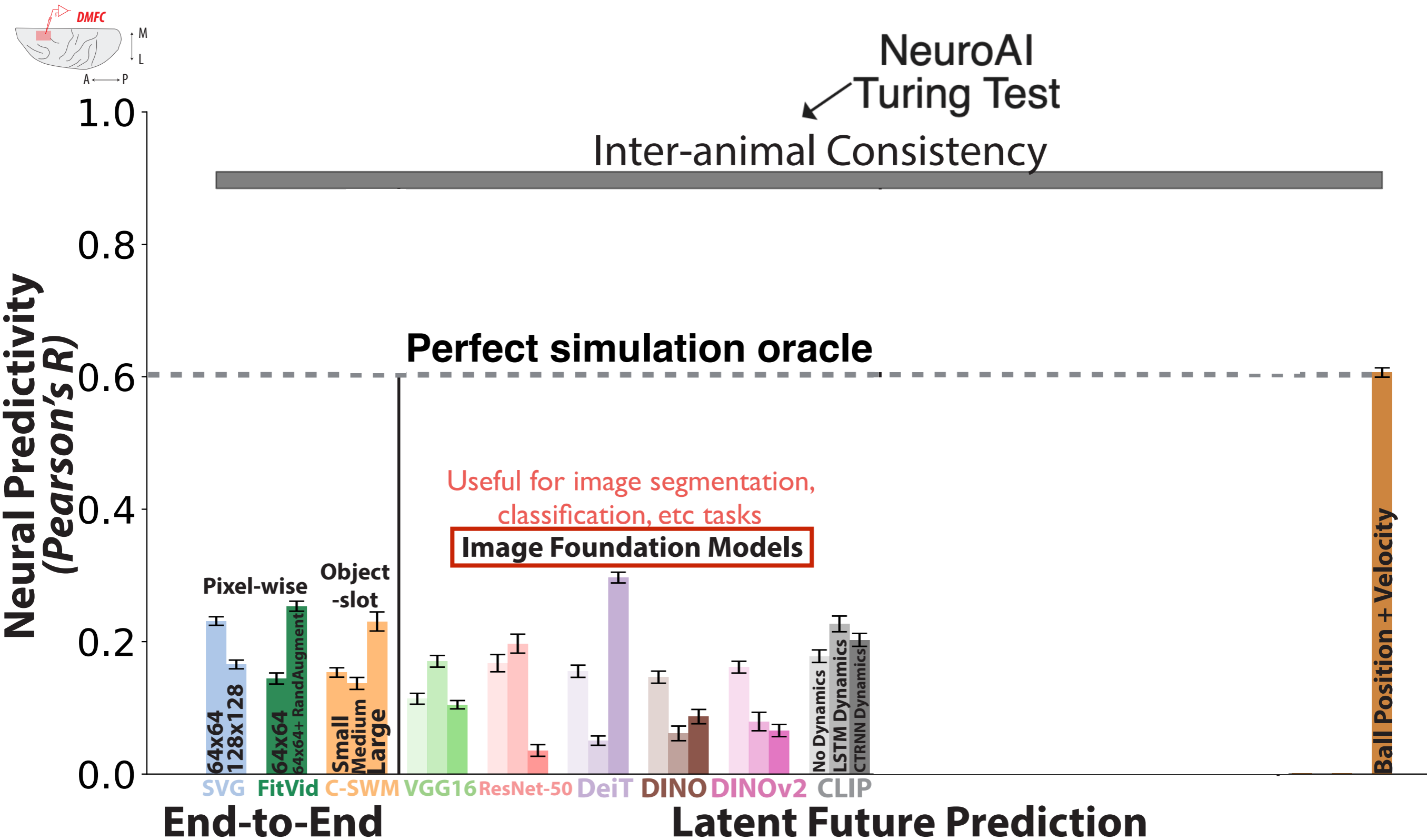
Object Slot Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons



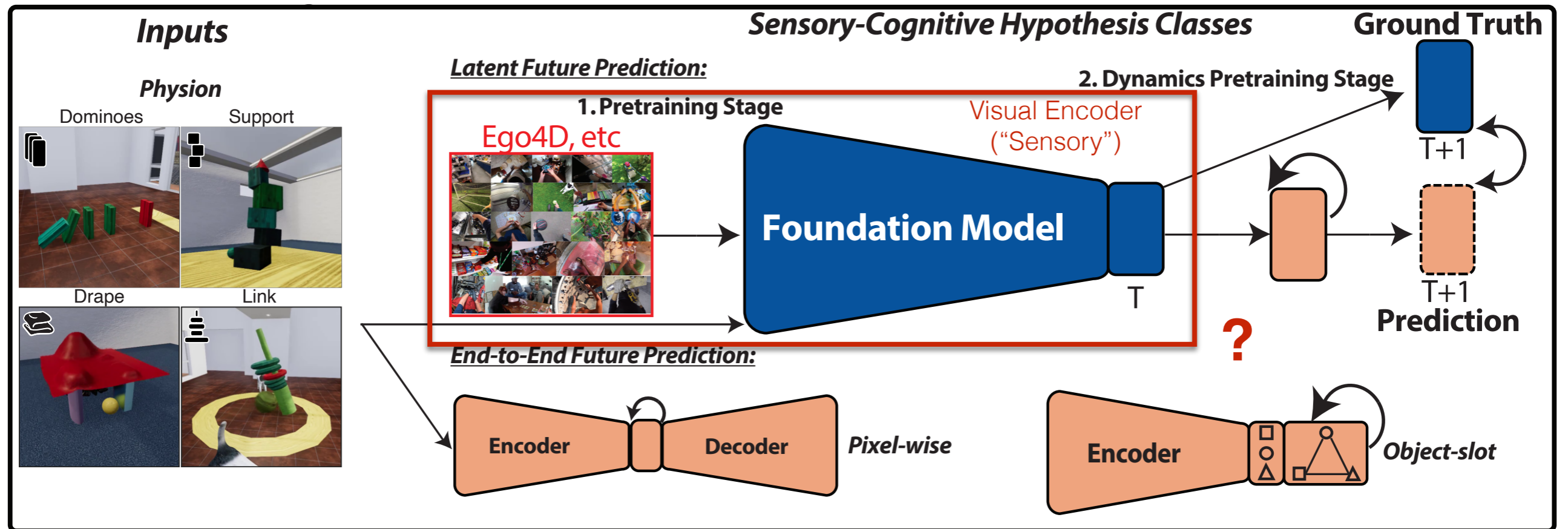
Static Image Foundation Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons



Static Image Foundation Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons



Hypothesis Class 3: Foundation Models

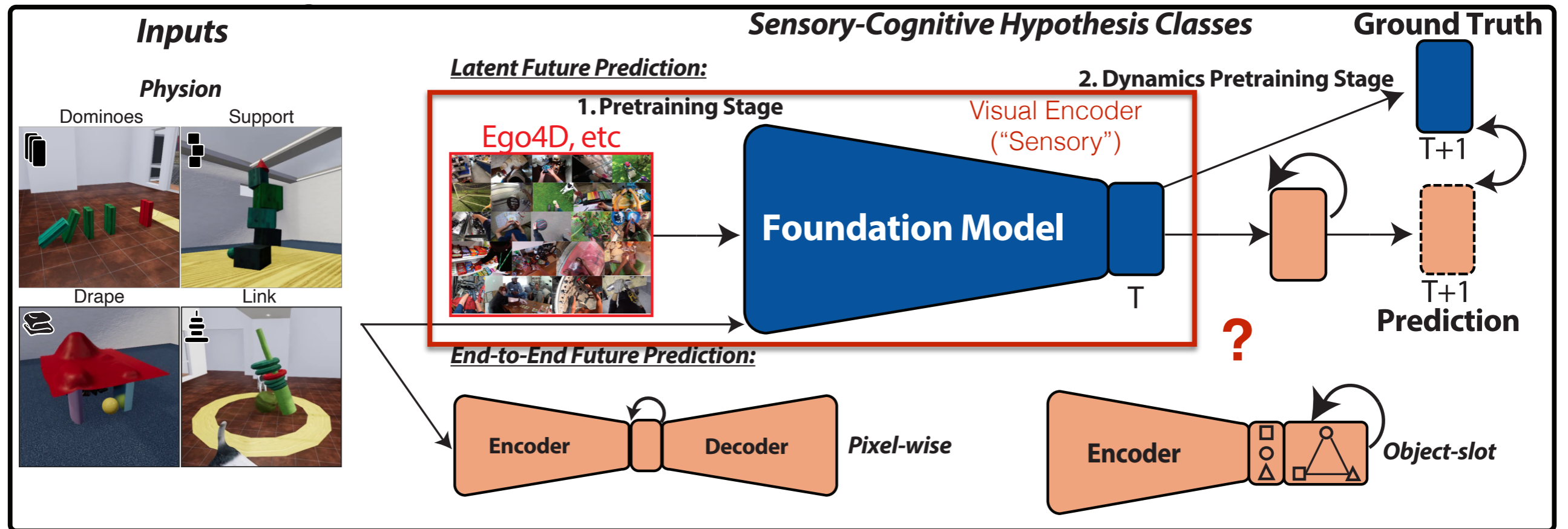


Learn a partial, *implicit* representation of the physical world by performing a challenging vision task ("foundation model")

What vision task?

Leverage these dynamics to do explicit future prediction

Hypothesis Class 3: Foundation Models



Learn a partial, *implicit* representation of the physical world by performing a challenging vision task ("foundation model")

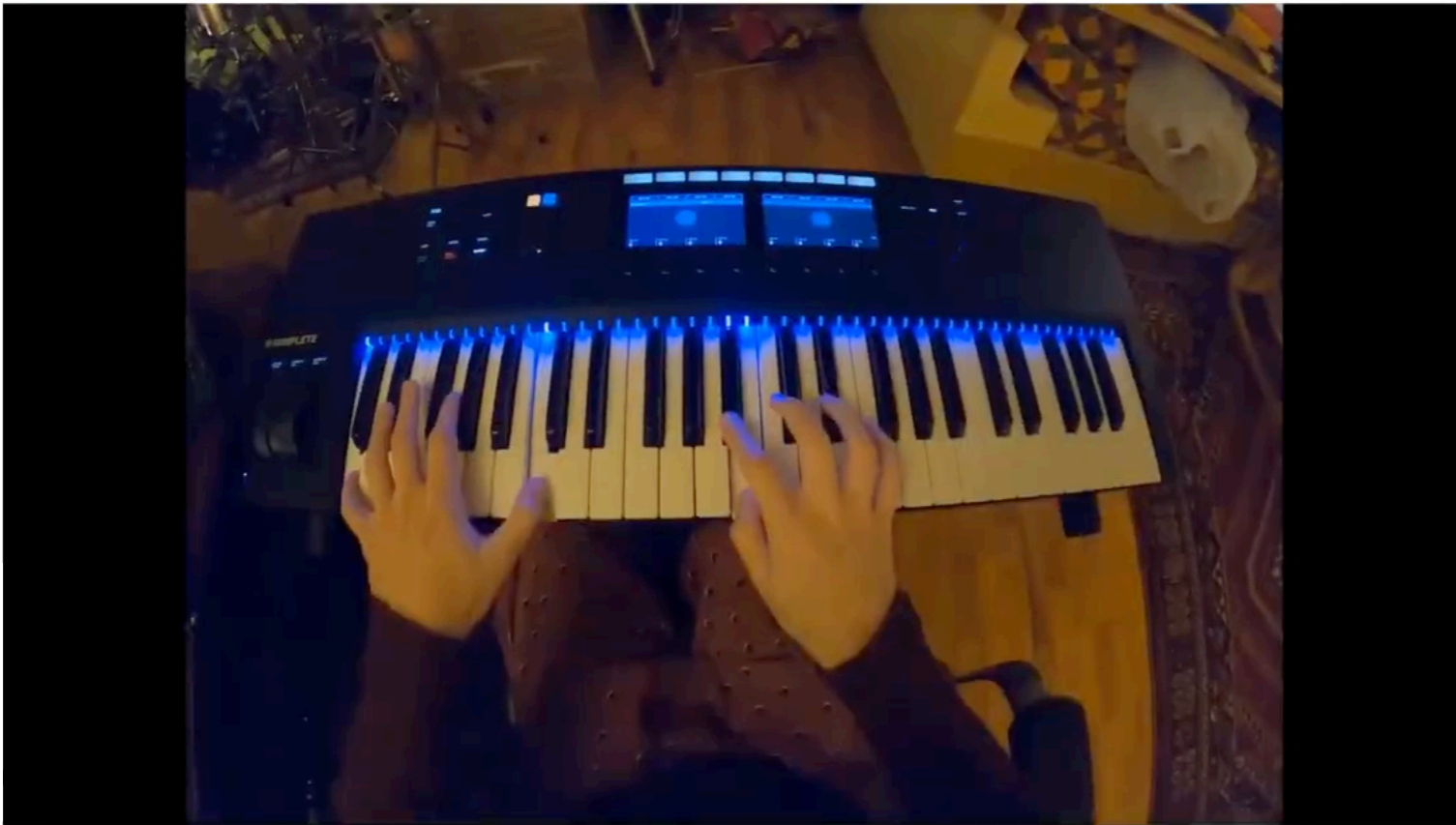
What vision task?

We do far more than engage with static images!

Leverage these dynamics to do explicit future prediction

Hypothesis Class 3: Video Foundation Models

Ego4D: everyday activity around the world



Ego4D: A massive-scale egocentric dataset

3,670 hours of in-the-wild daily life activity

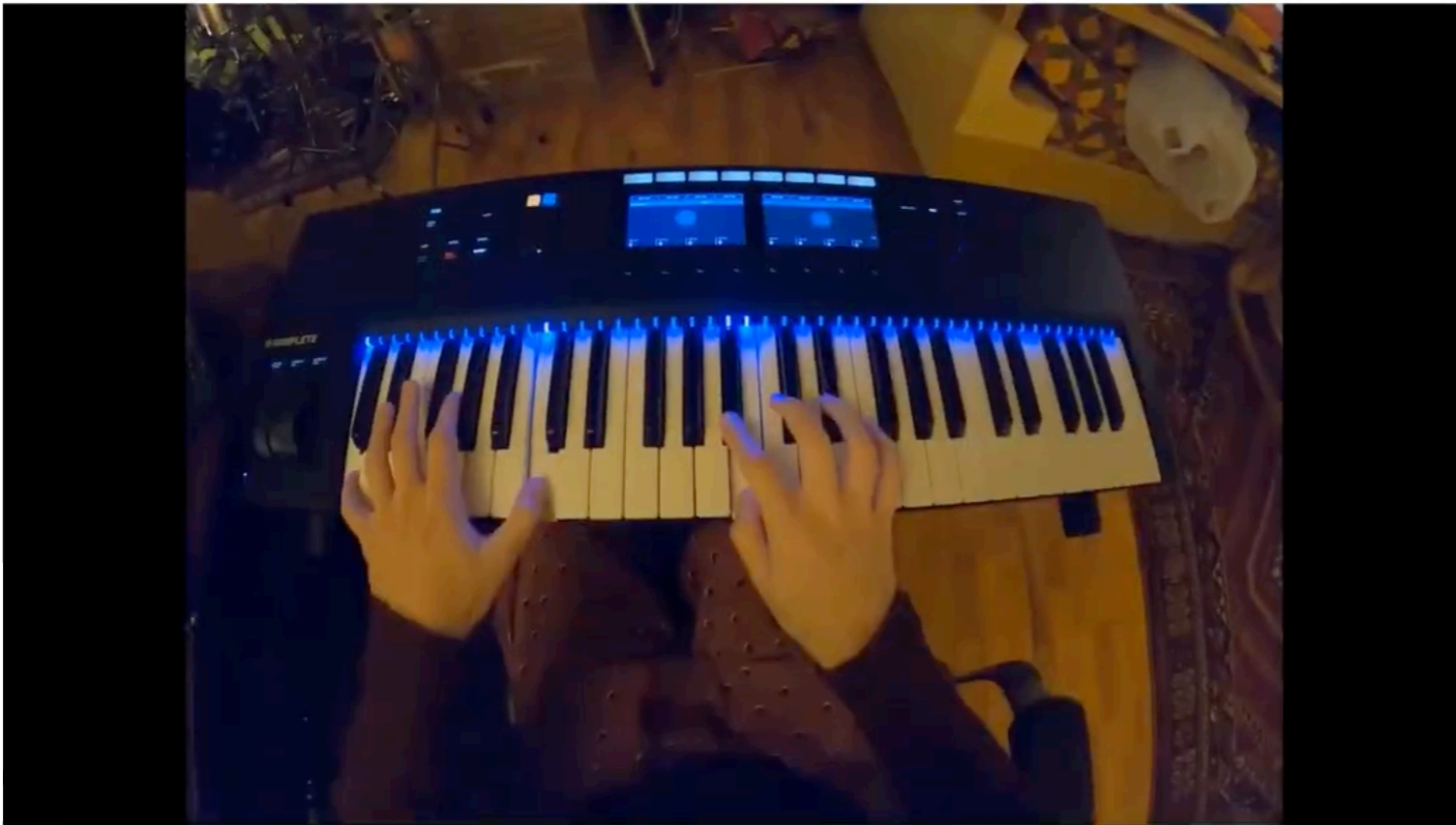
931 participants from 74 worldwide locations

Multimodal: audio, 3D scans, IMU, stereo, multi-camera



Hypothesis Class 3: Video Foundation Models

Ego4D: everyday activity around the world



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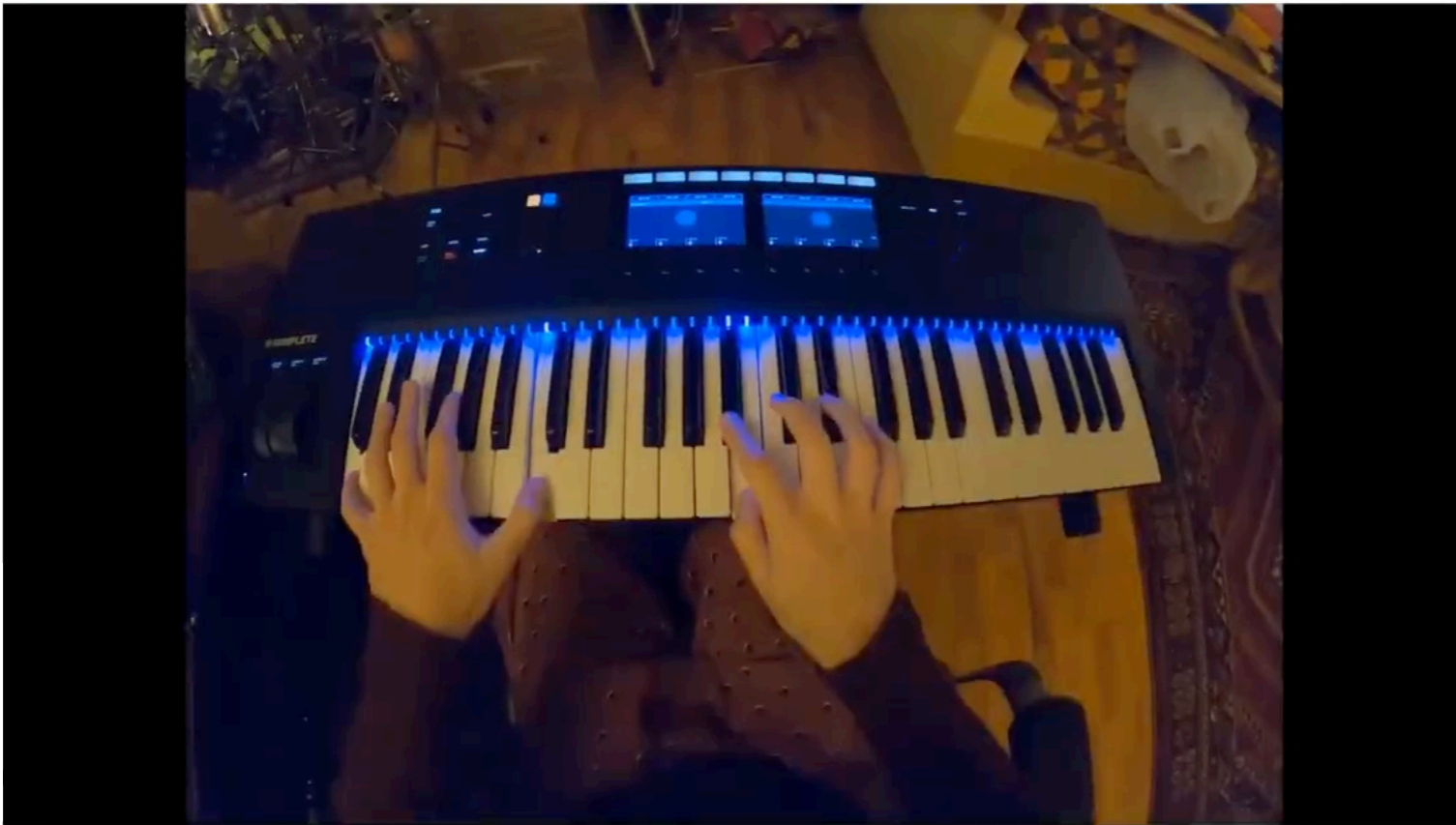
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Hypothesis Class 3: Video Foundation Models

Ego4D: everyday activity around the world



$$\mathcal{L}_{contrastive} = \sum_{b \in B} \log \frac{\overbrace{e^{\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{z}_i^b, \mathbf{z}_j^b)}}^{\text{attract}}}{e^{\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{z}_i^b, \mathbf{z}_j^b)} + \overbrace{e^{\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{z}_i^b, \mathbf{z}_k^b)}}^{\text{repel}} + \overbrace{e^{\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{z}_i^b, \tilde{\mathbf{z}}_i^b)}}^{\text{repel}}}$$
$$[I_i, I_{j>i}, I_{k>j}]^{1:B}$$

Ego4D: A massive-scale egocentric dataset

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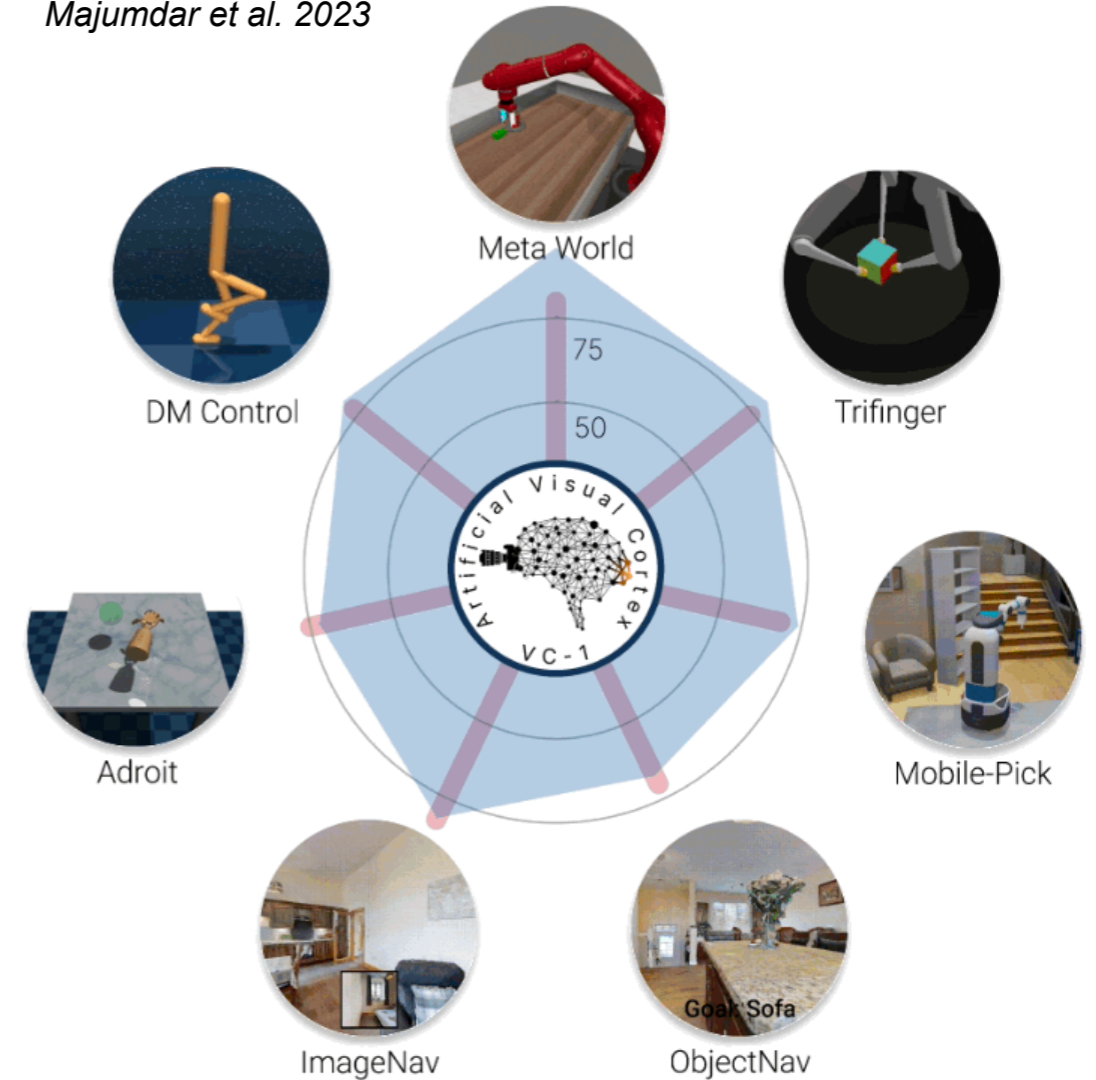


Hypothesis Class 3: Video Foundation Models

Ego4D: everyday activity around the world



Majumdar et al. 2023



Ego4D: A massive-scale egocentric dataset

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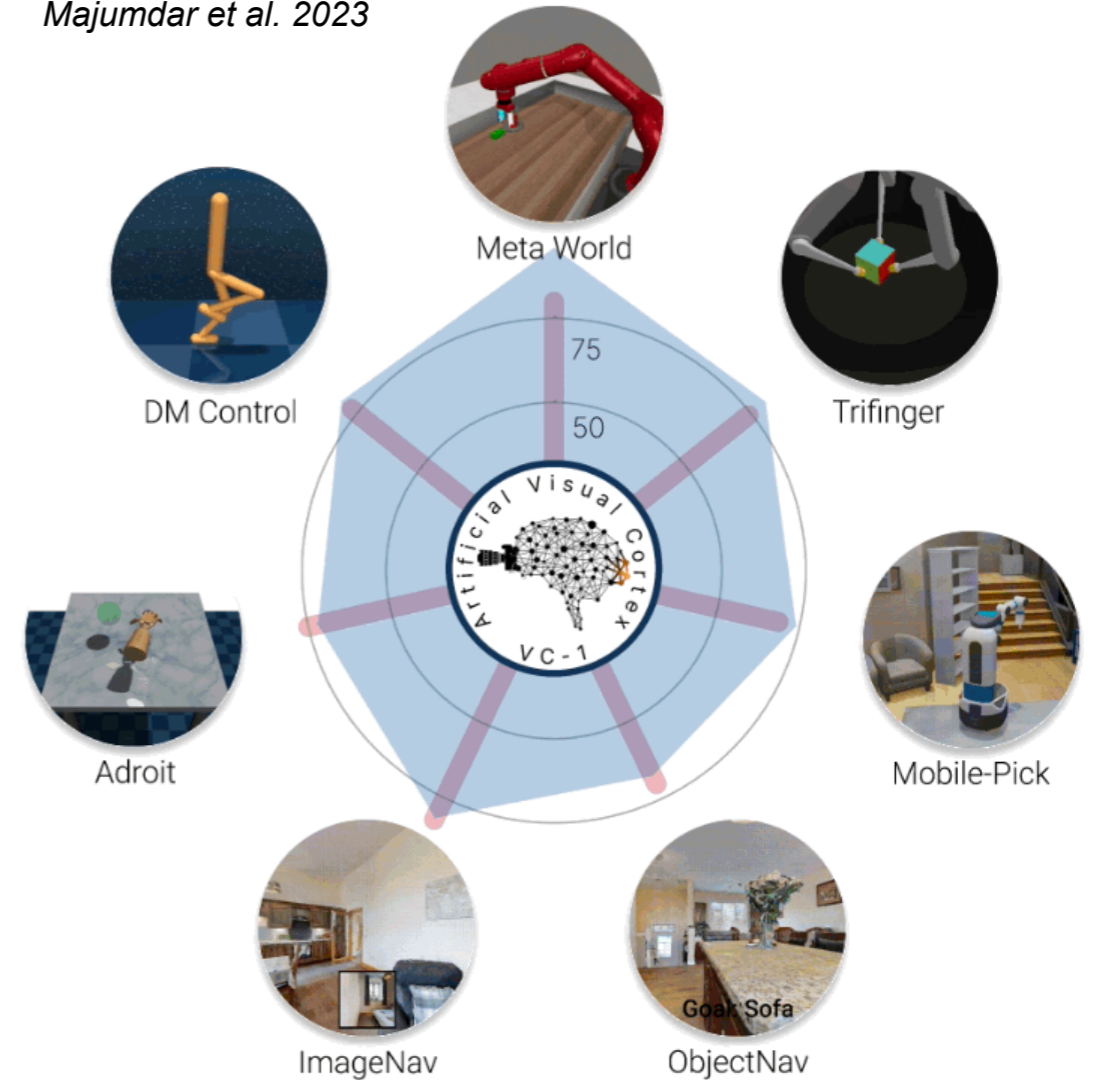


Hypothesis Class 3: Video Foundation Models

Ego4D: everyday activity around the world



Majumdar et al. 2023



Ego4D: A massive-scale egocentric dataset

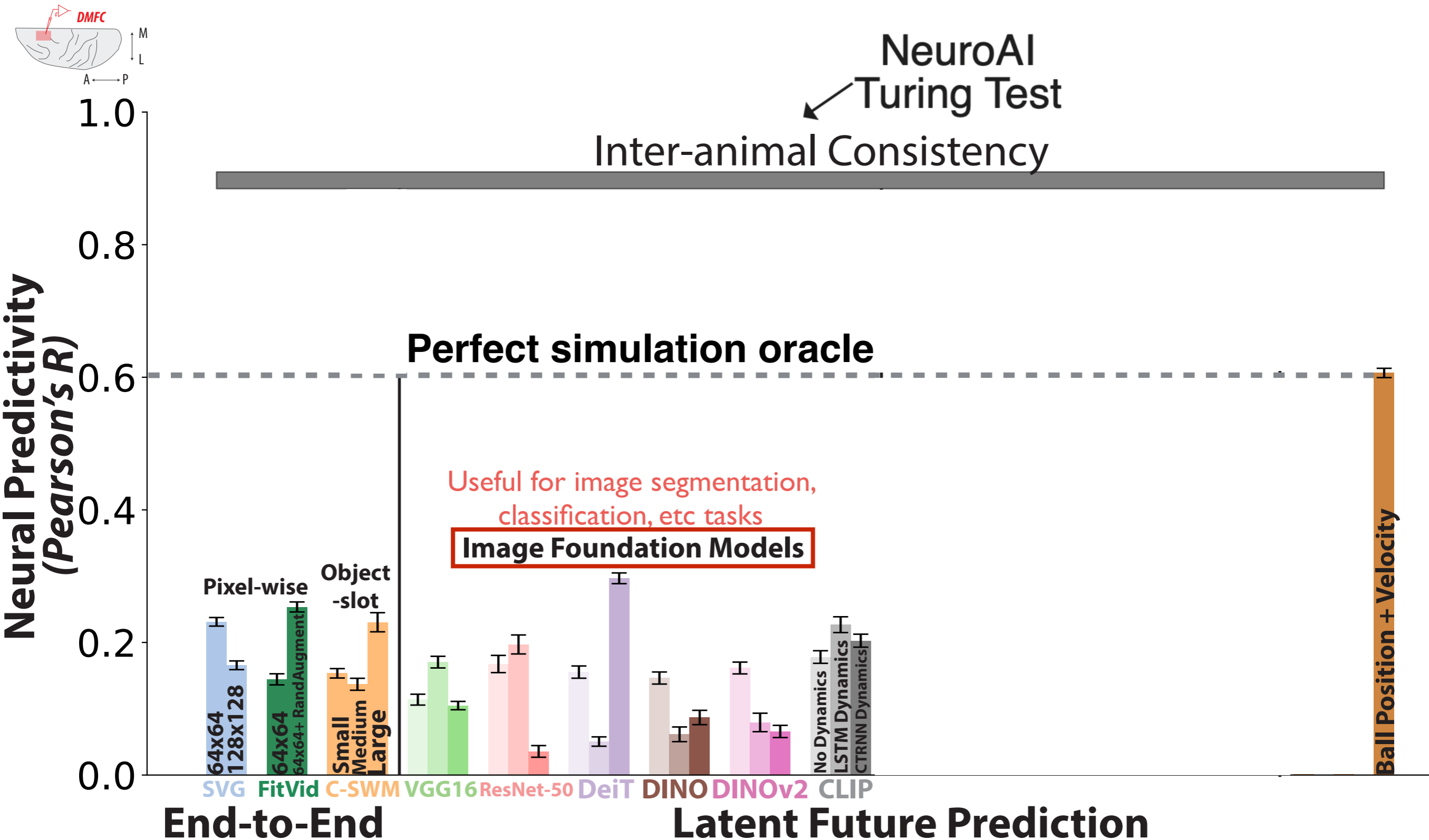
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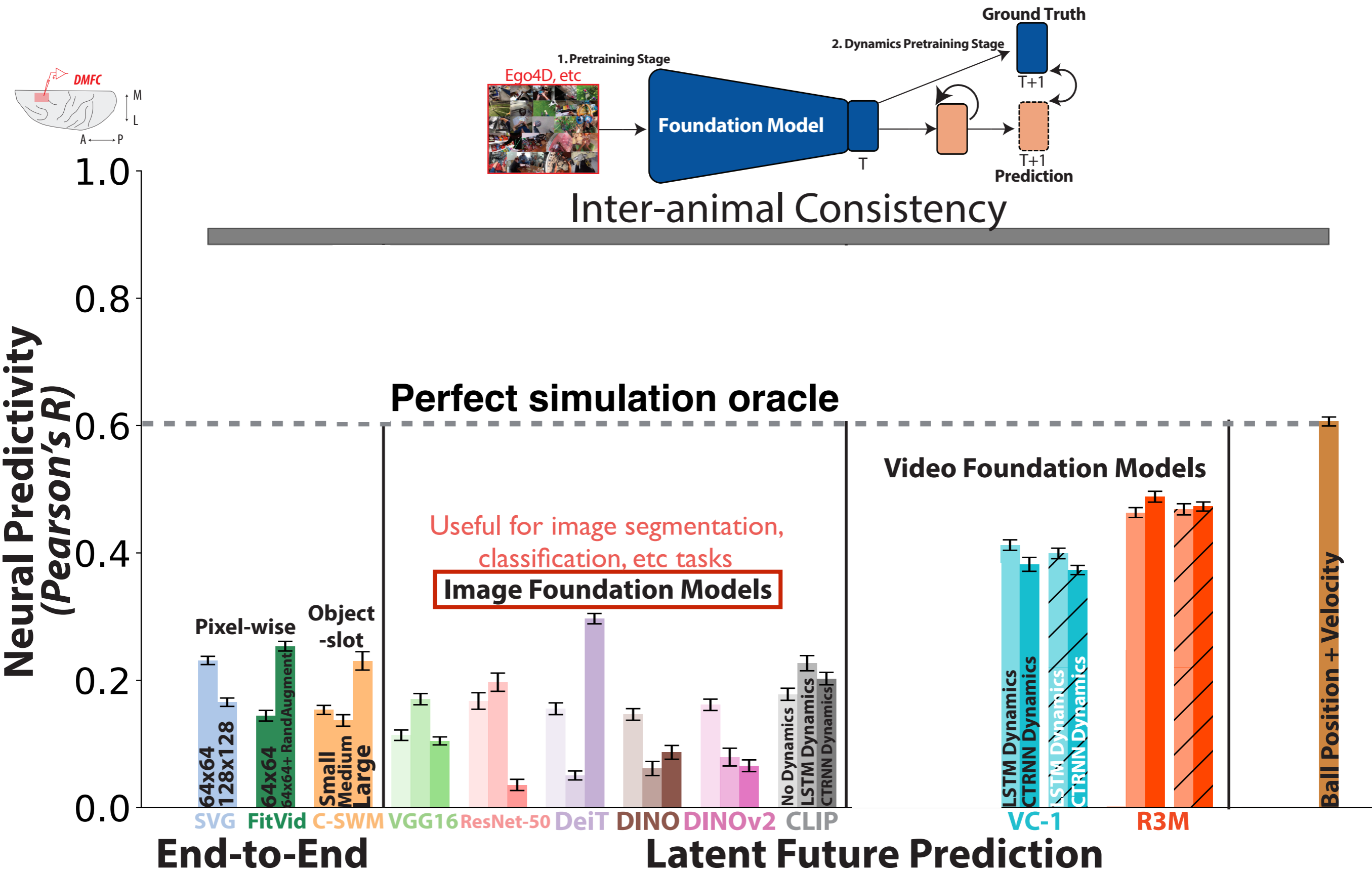
Multimodal: audio, 3D scans, IMU, stereo, multi-camera



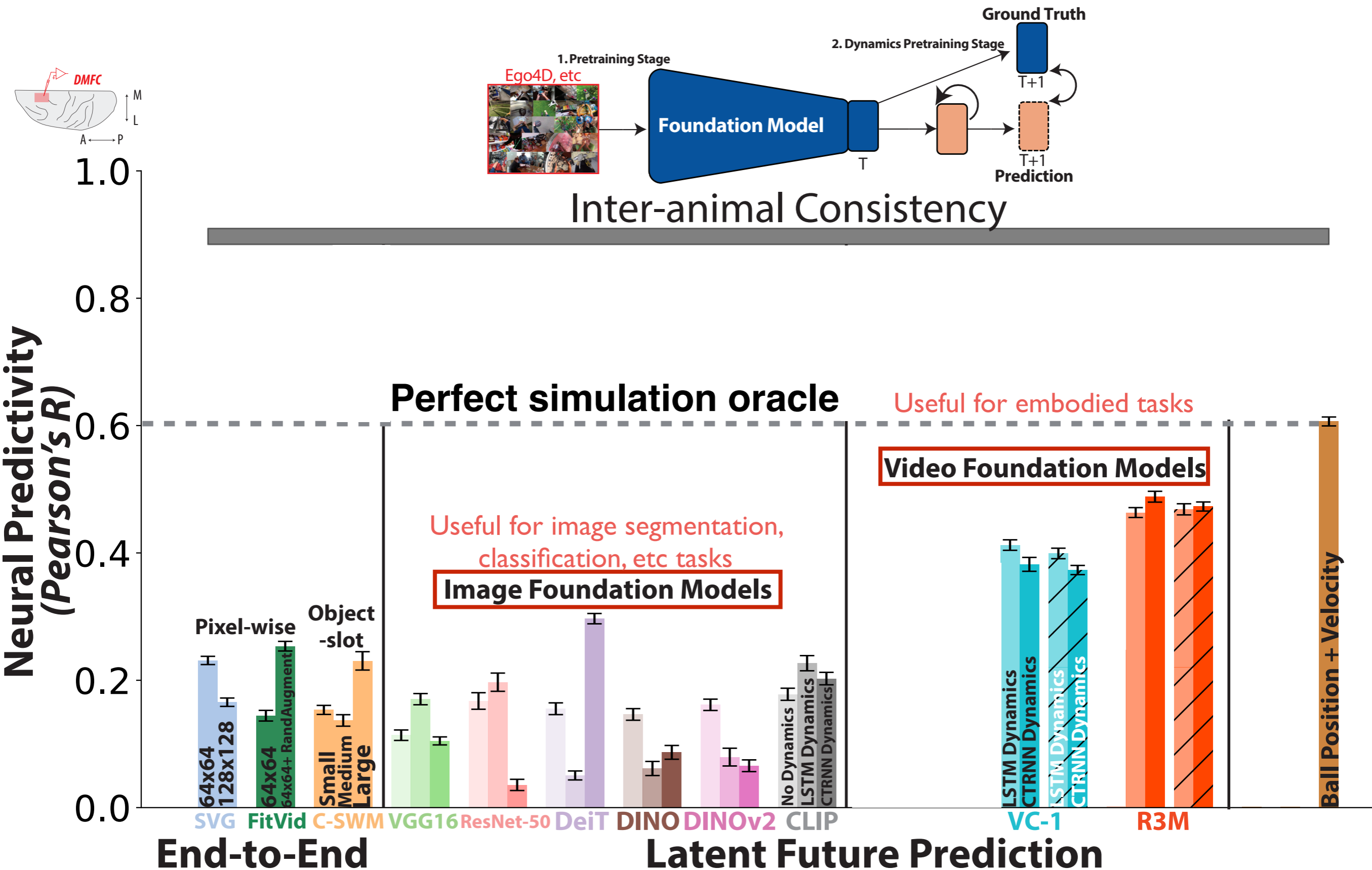
Static Image Foundation Future Prediction Poorly Predicts Neurons



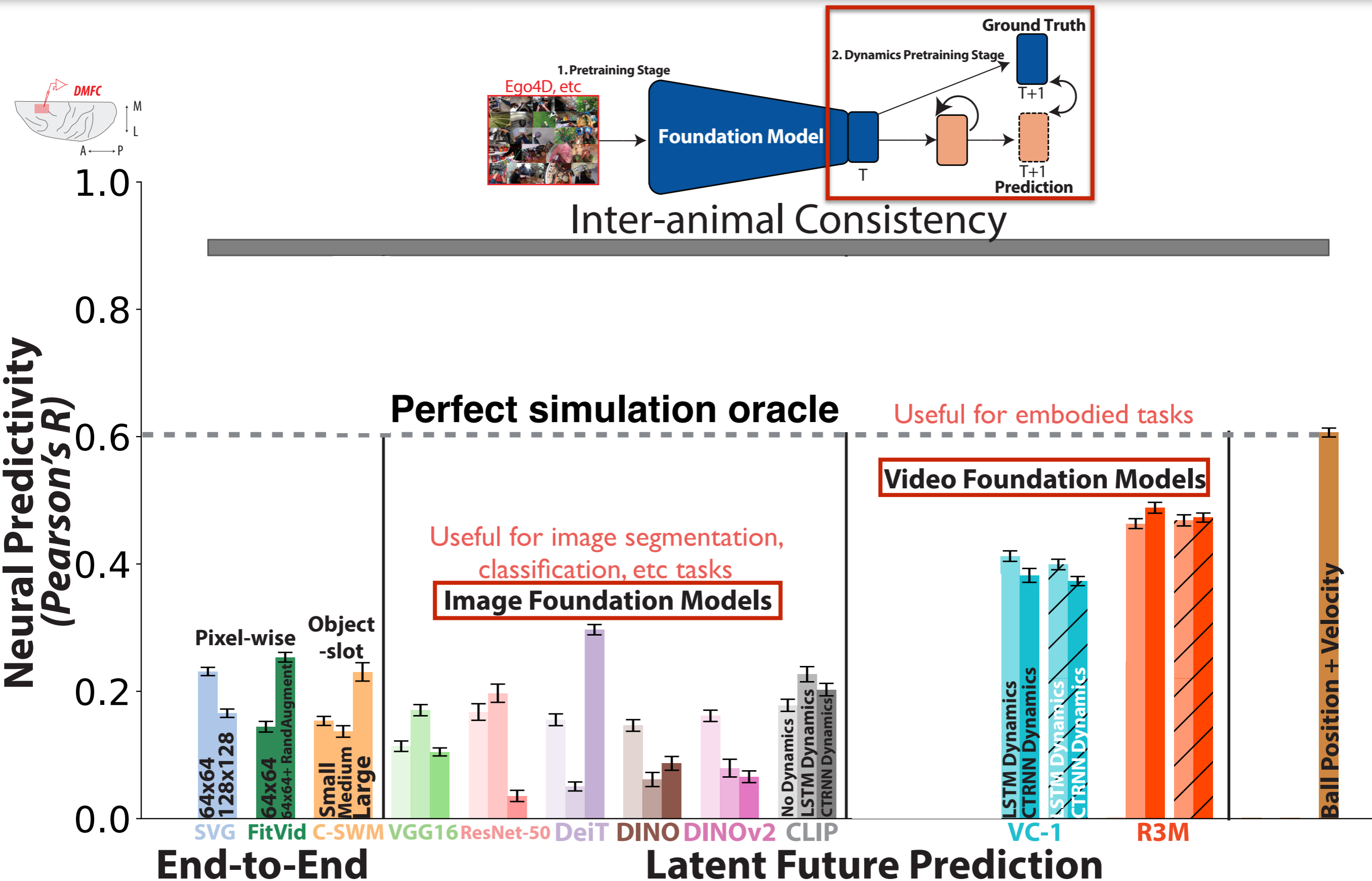
Video Foundation Future Prediction Best Predict Neurons



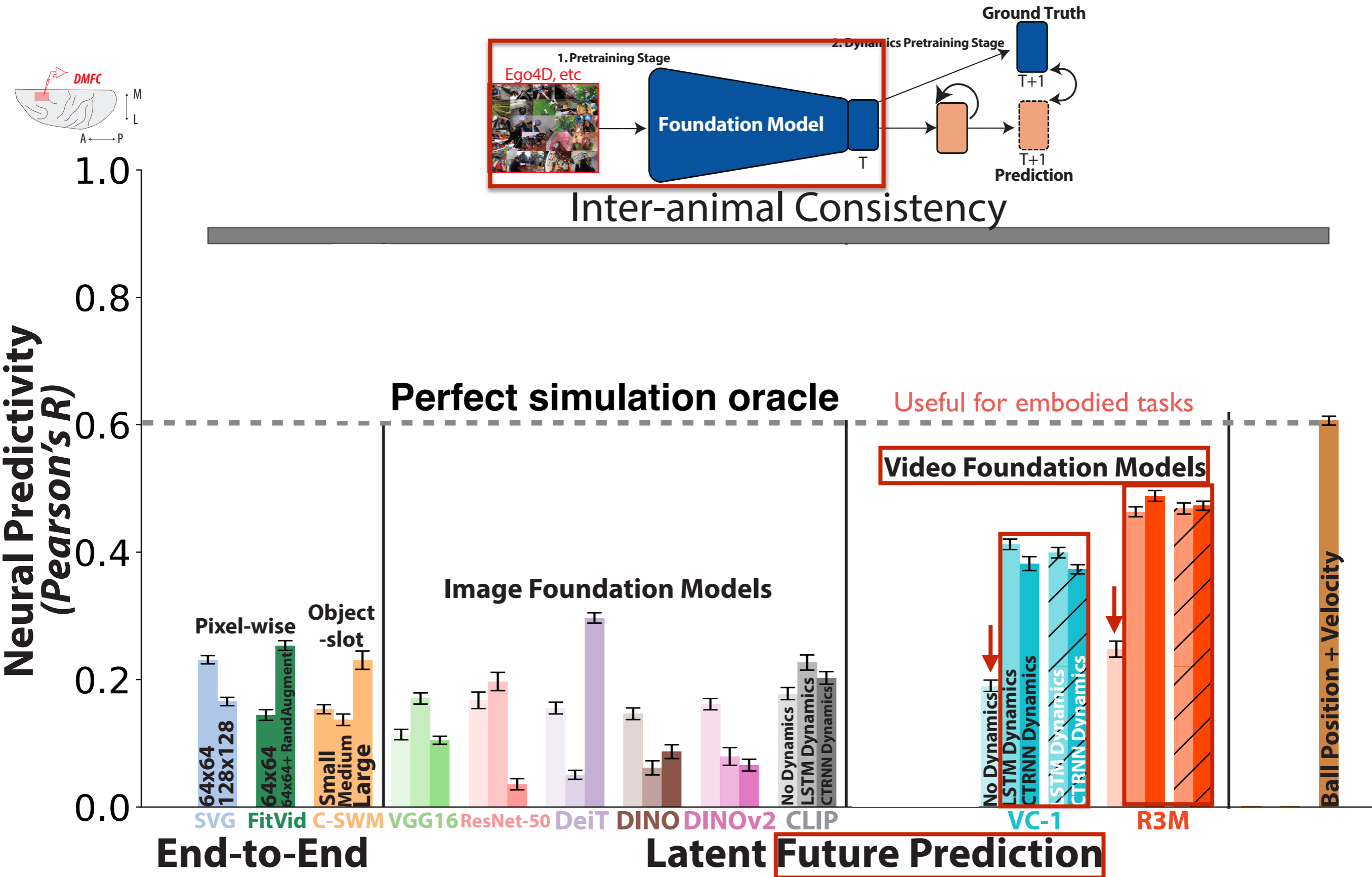
Video Foundation Future Prediction Best Predict Neurons



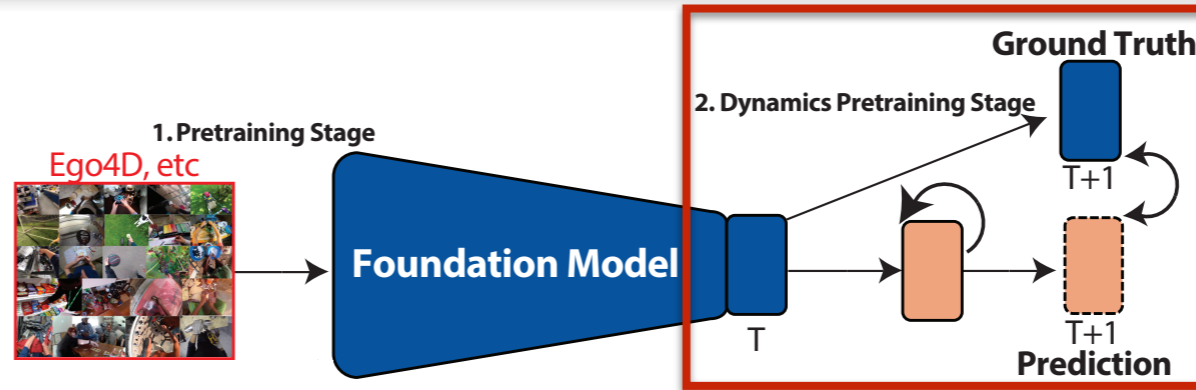
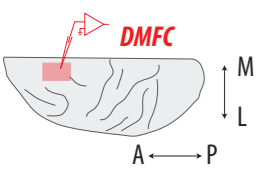
Video Foundation Future Prediction Best Predict Neurons



Video Foundation Future Prediction Best Predict Neurons



Video Foundation Future Prediction Best Predict Neurons



**Pretraining on Ego4D is not enough on its own:
Need explicit future prediction!**

Neural Predictivity
(Pearson's R)

1.0

0.8

0.6

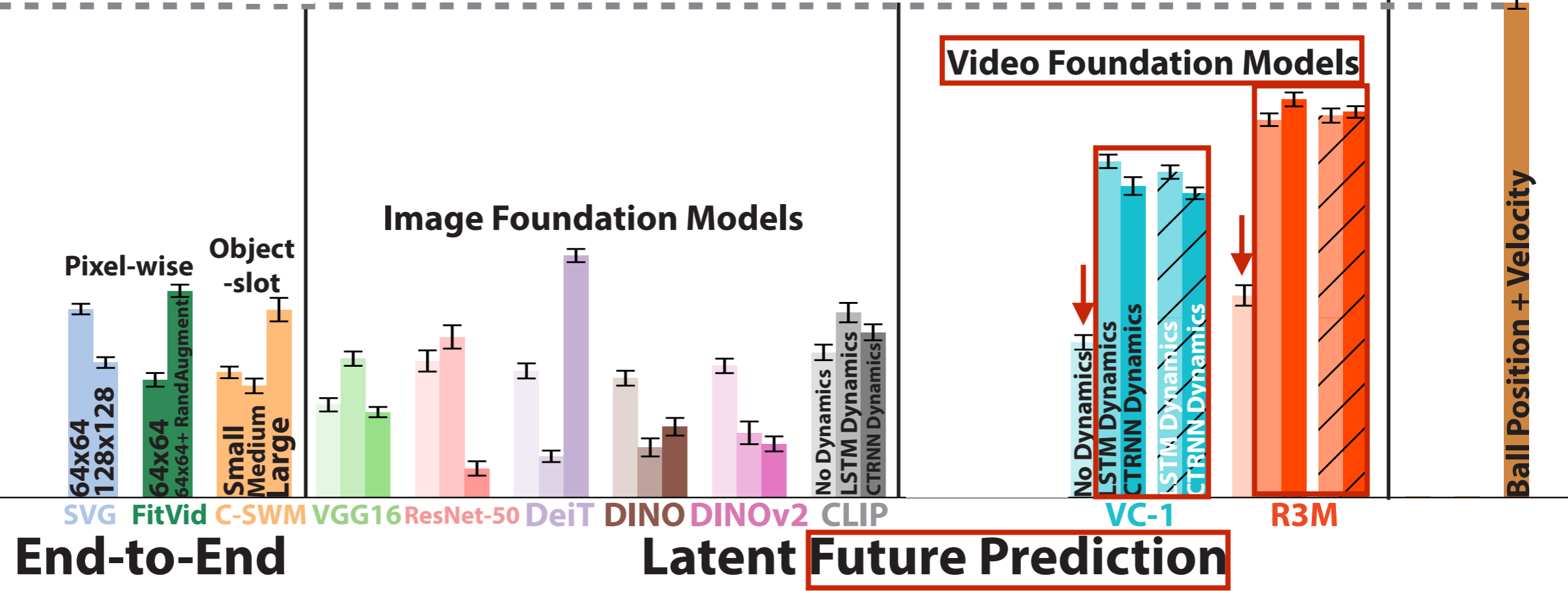
0.4

0.2

0.0

Perfect simulation oracle

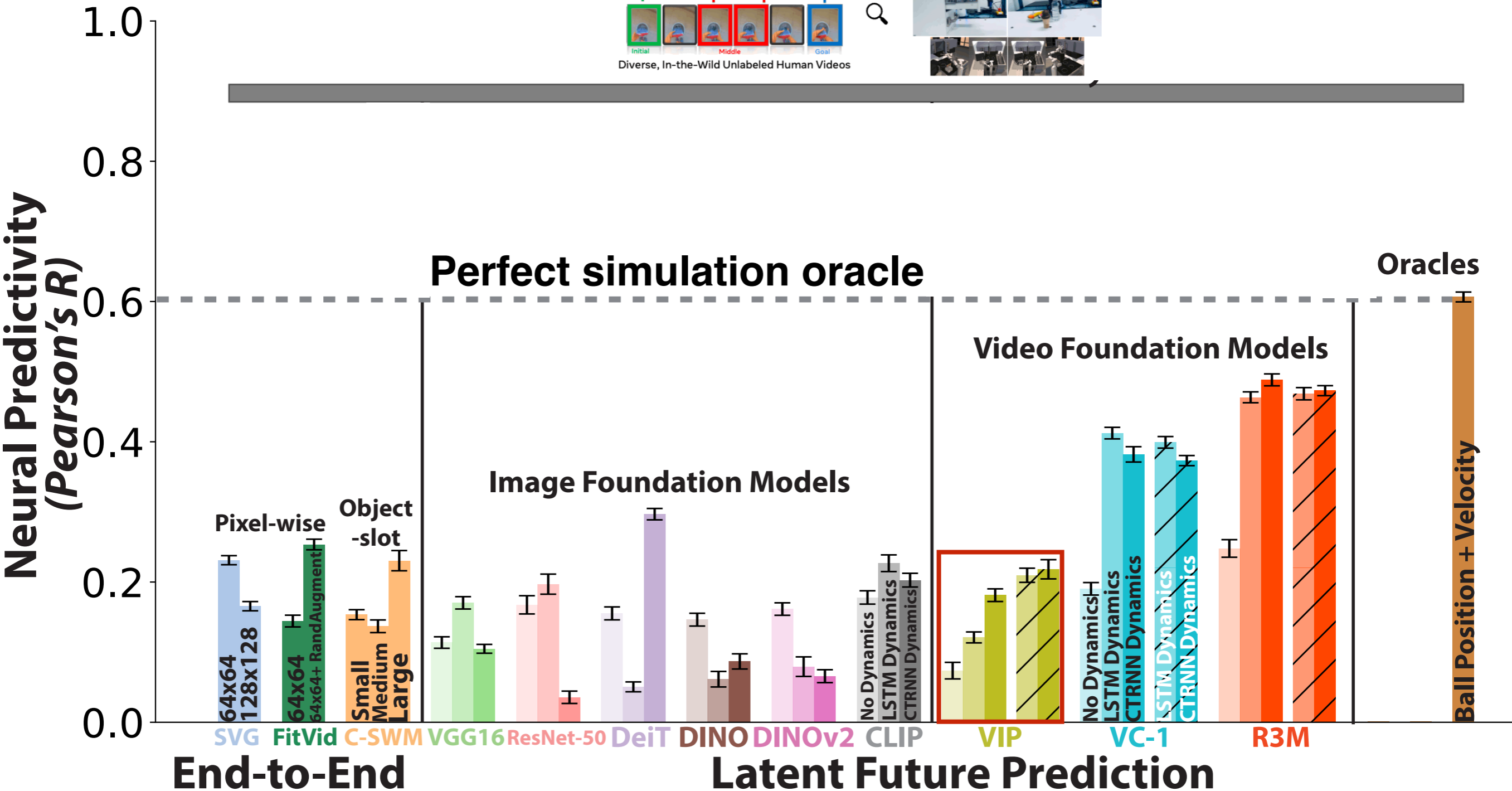
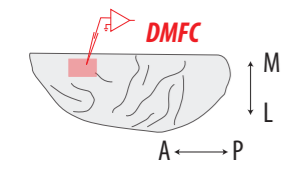
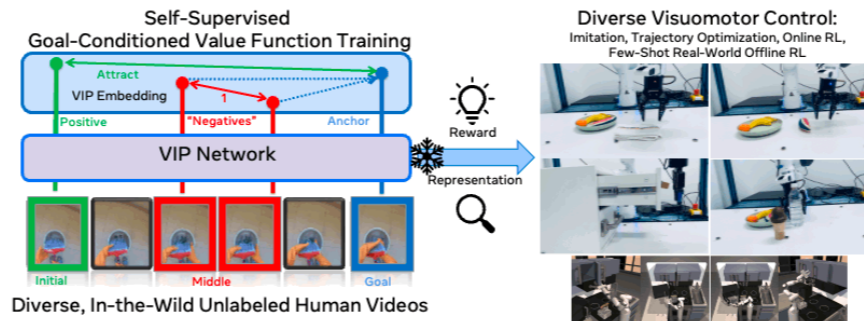
Useful for embodied tasks



Video Foundation Future Prediction Best Predict Neurons

VIP: Towards Universal Visual Reward and Representation Via Value-Implicit Pre-Training

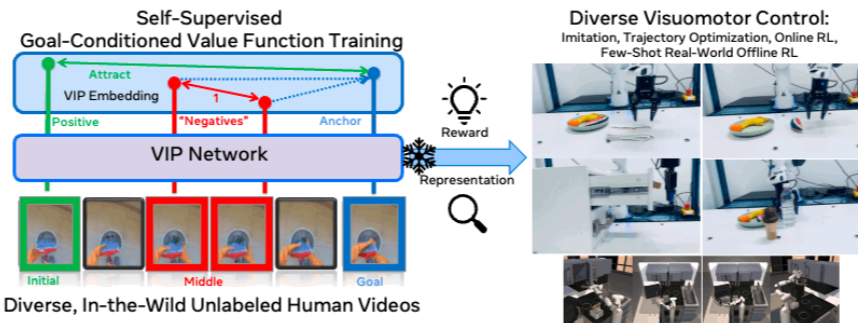
Ma et al. 2023



Video Foundation Future Prediction Best Predict Neurons

VIP: Towards Universal Visual Reward and Representation Via Value-Implicit Pre-Training

Ma et al. 2023



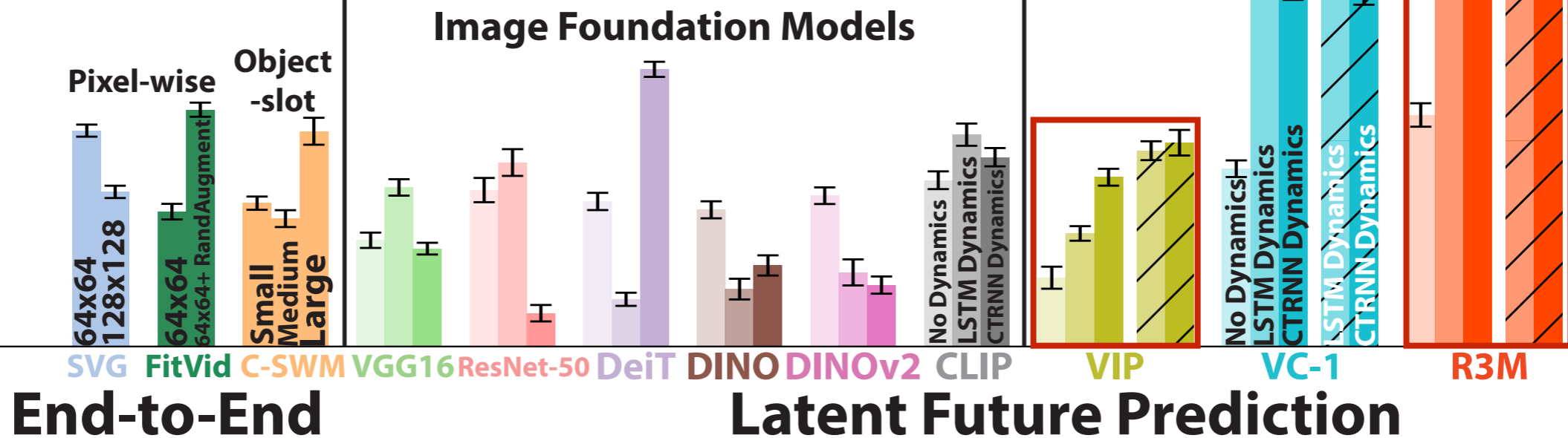
High-throughput neural response data strongly arbitrates cognitive hypotheses (SSL > offline RL *again* here!)

Neural Predictivity
(Pearson's R)

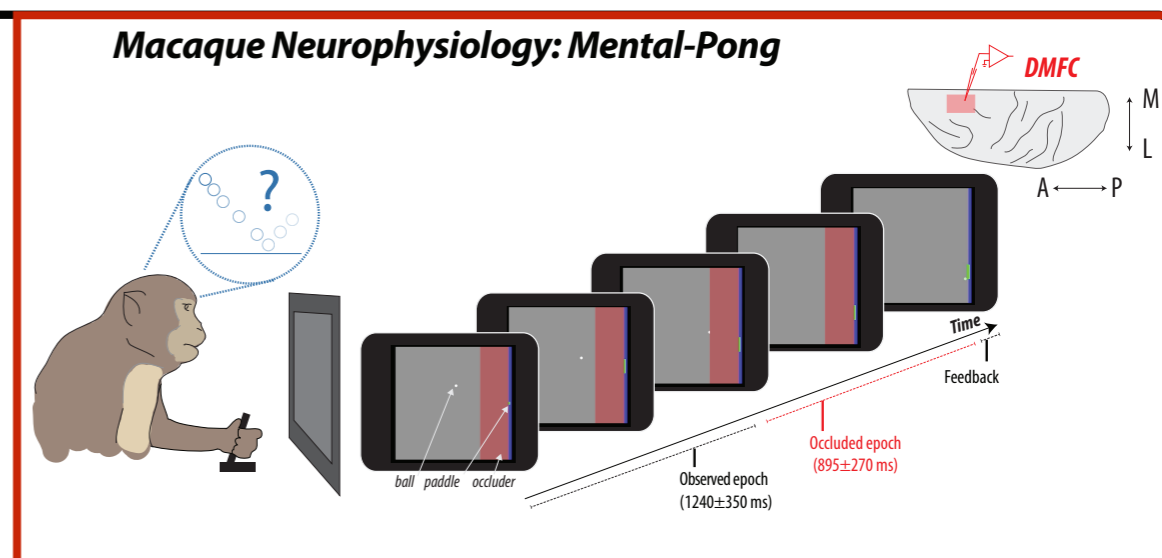
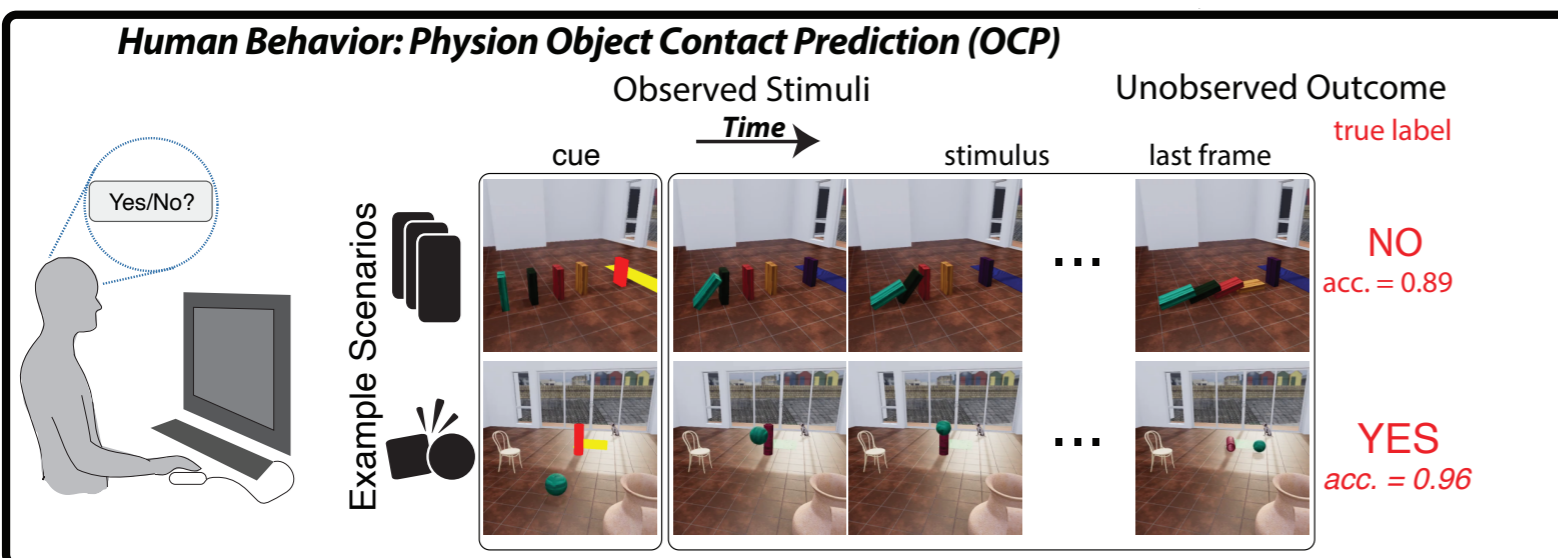
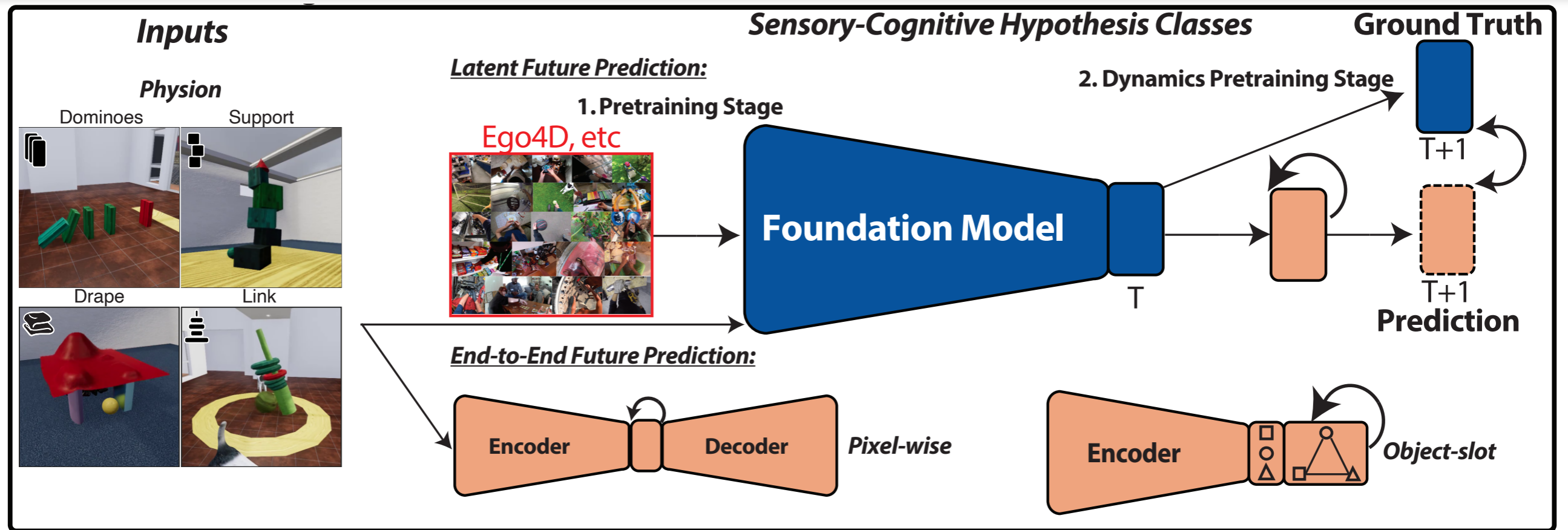
1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0.0

Perfect simulation oracle

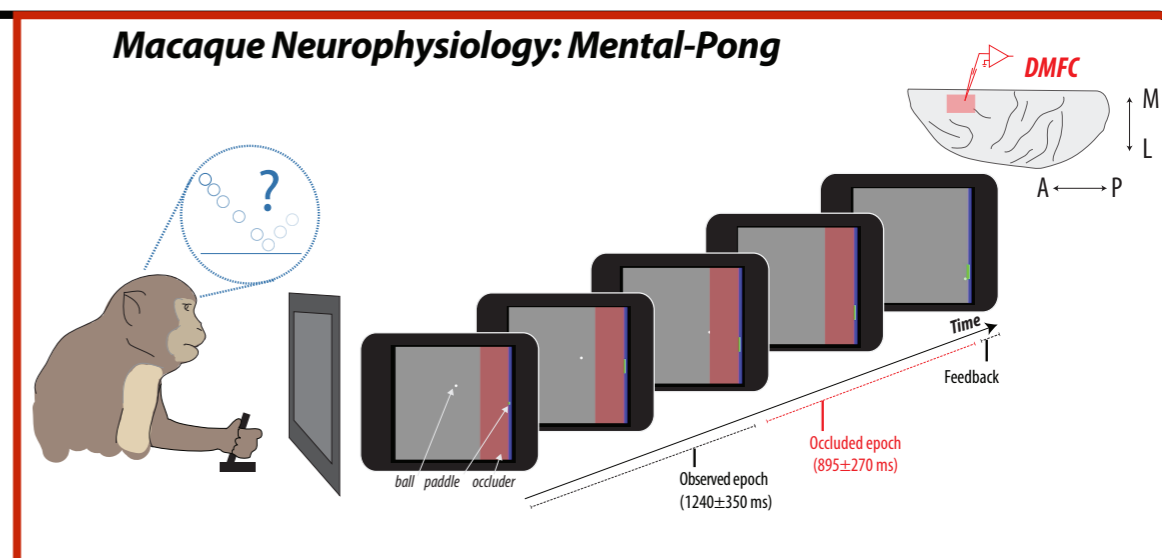
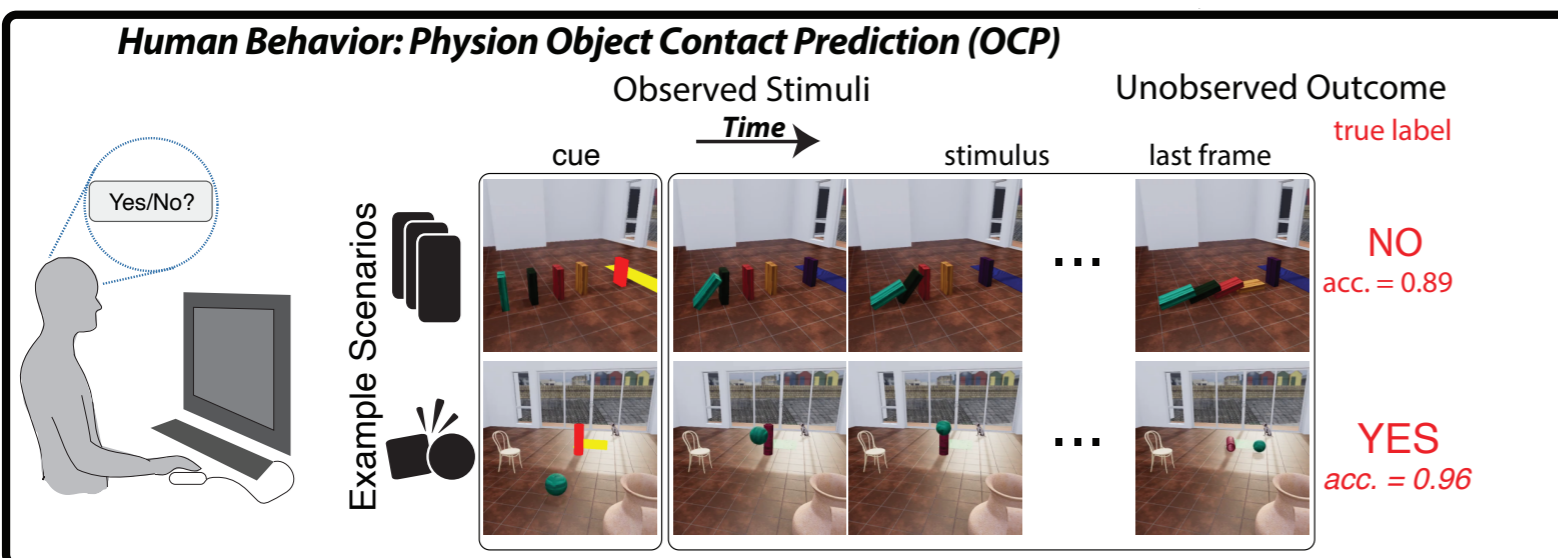
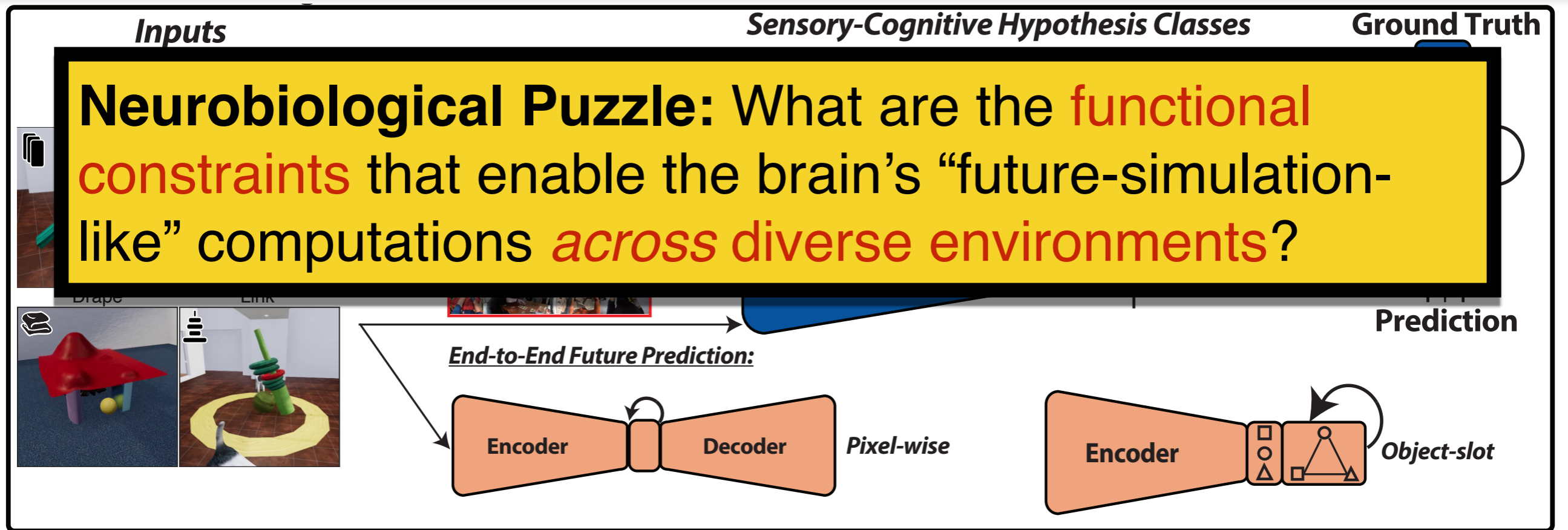
Oracles



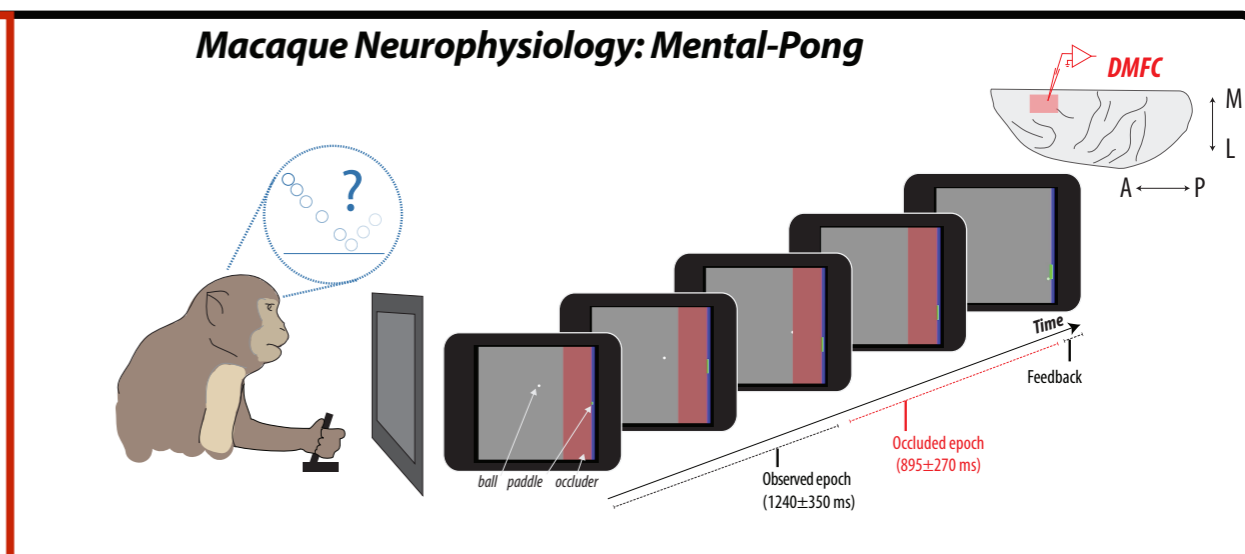
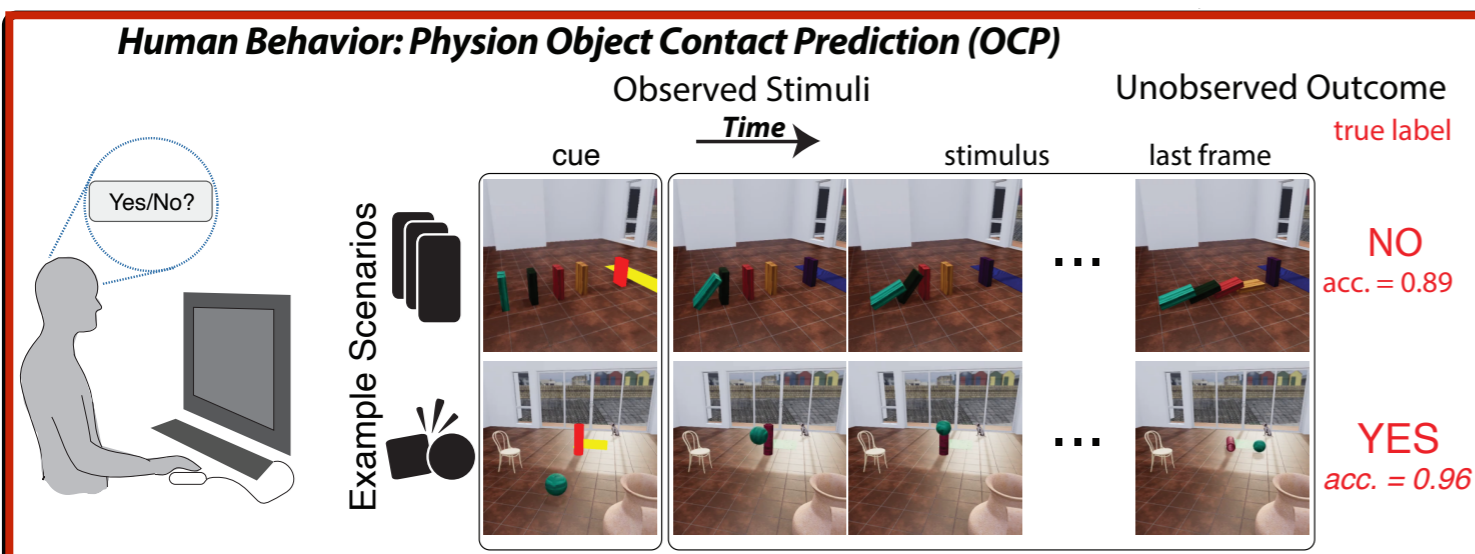
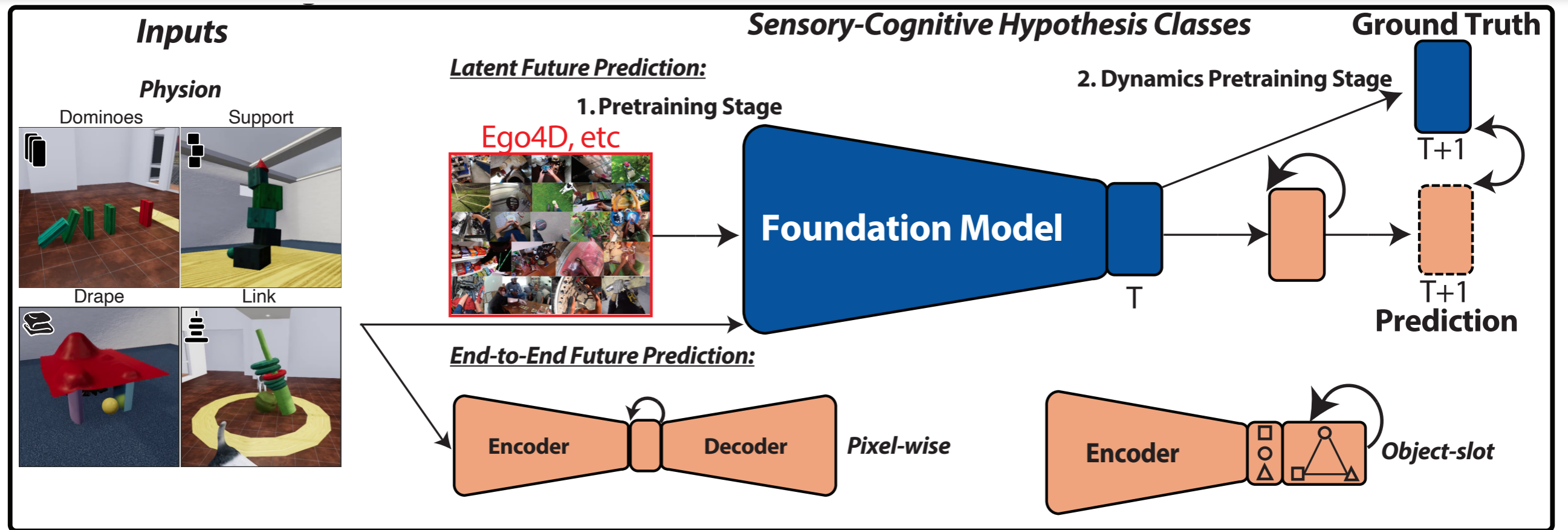
Macaque Neurophysiology: Mental Pong



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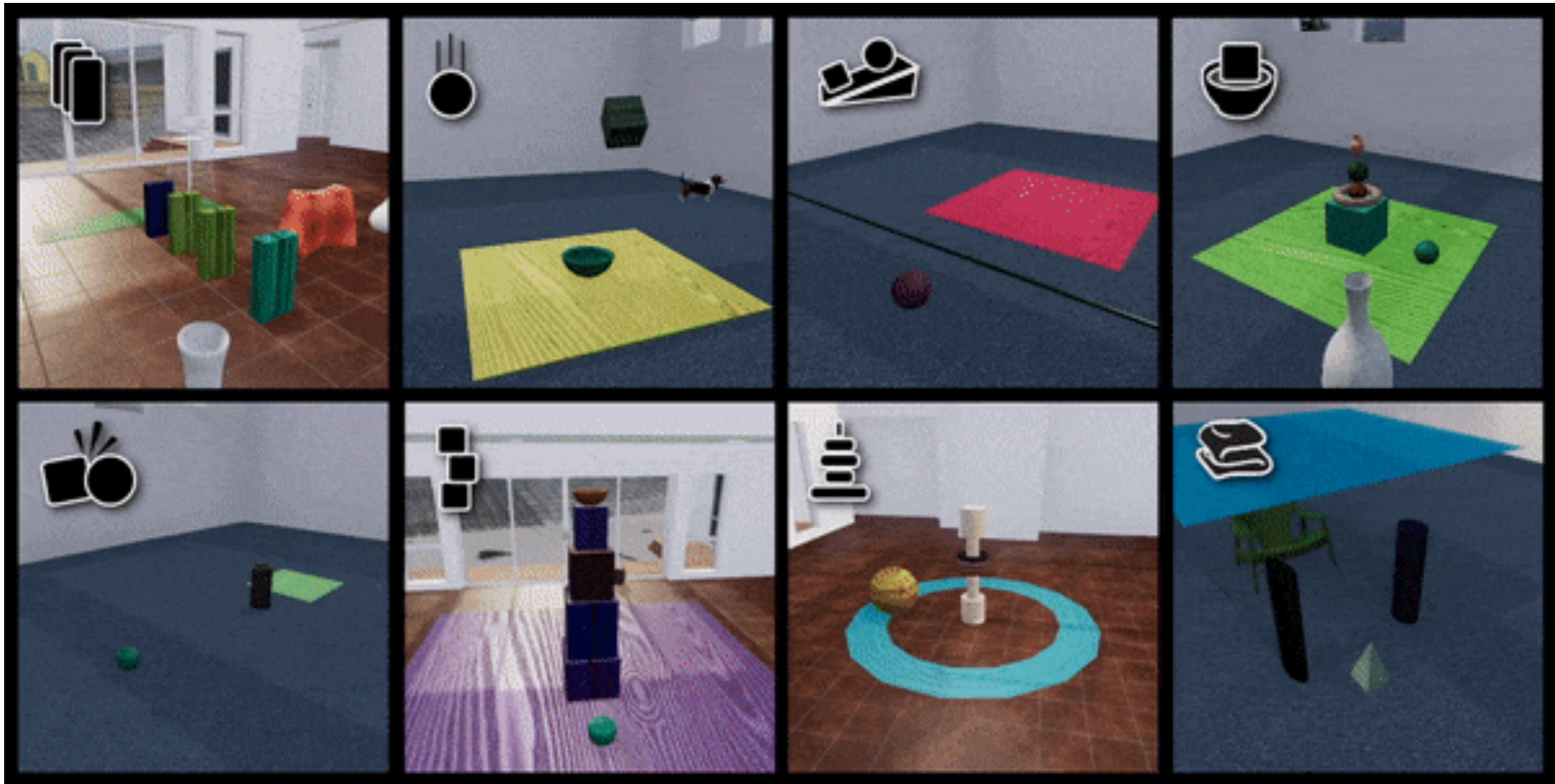
Human Behavior: Object Contact Prediction



Object Contact Prediction Environment

Physion/ThreeD World (TDW)

Bear et al. 2021



Focus on everyday physical understanding



Daniel Bear



Joshua Tenenbaum



Daniel Yamins

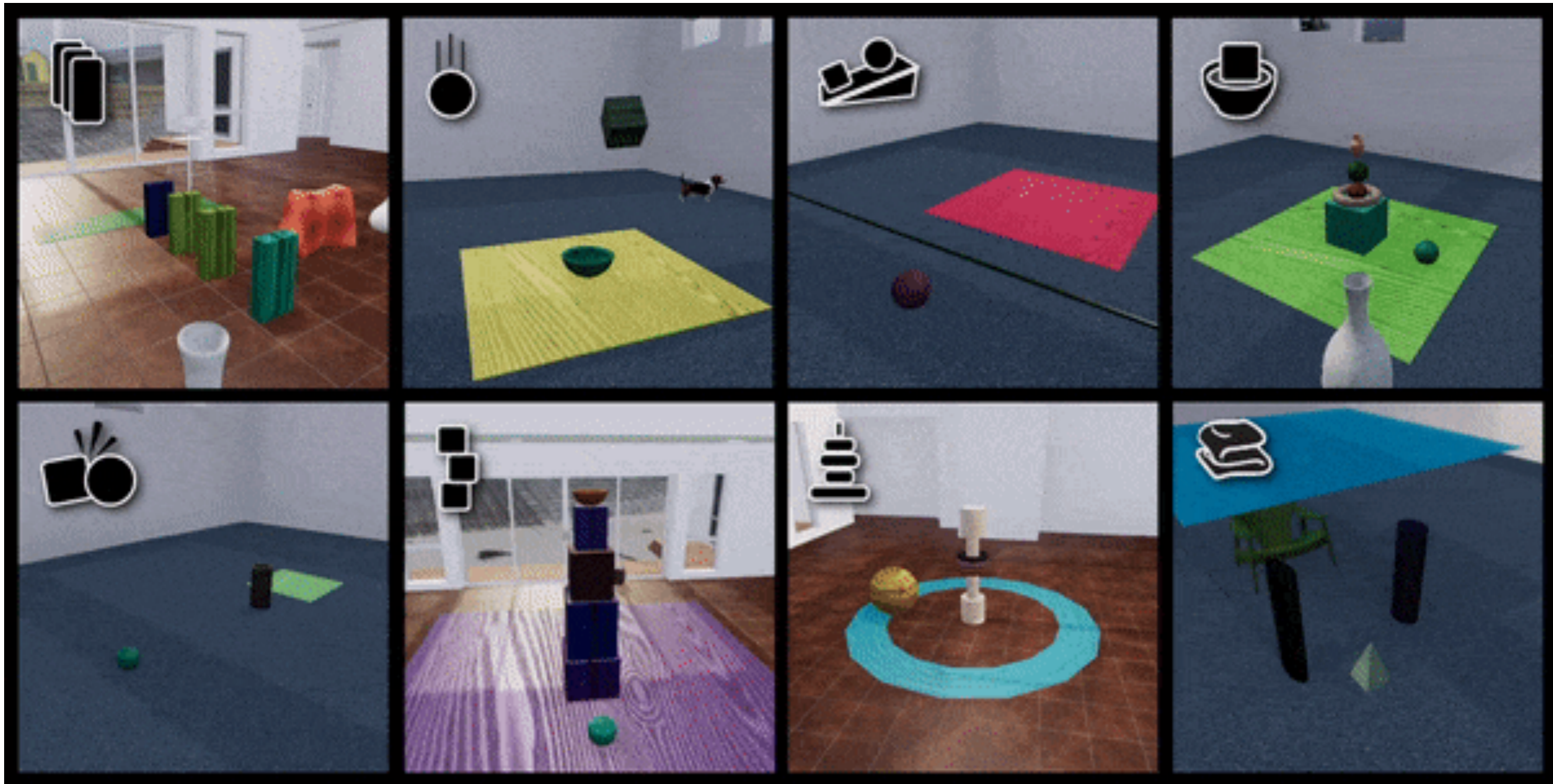


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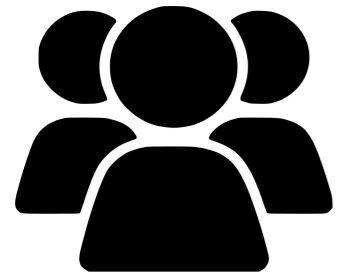
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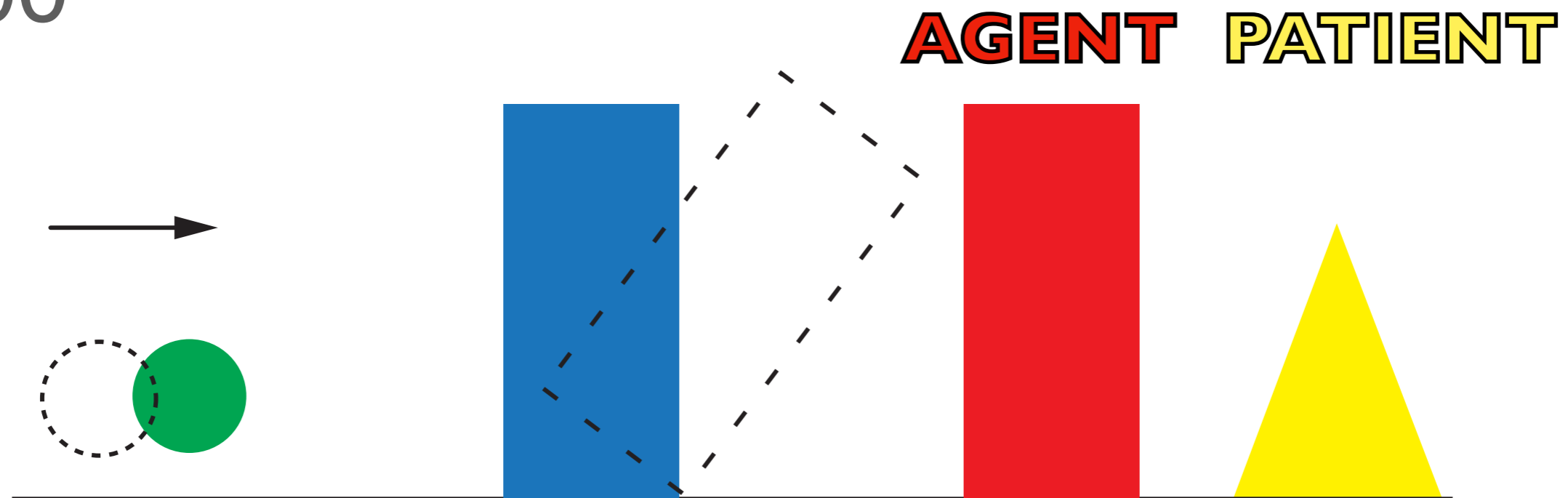
Human Behavior: Object Contact Prediction

Bear et al. 2021



“Will the *agent* object contact the *patient* object?”

n=100



Daniel Bear



Joshua Tenenbaum



Daniel Yamins



Judith Fan

Bear et al. 2021



YES

NO

Is the red object going to hit the yellow area?

Bear et al. 2021



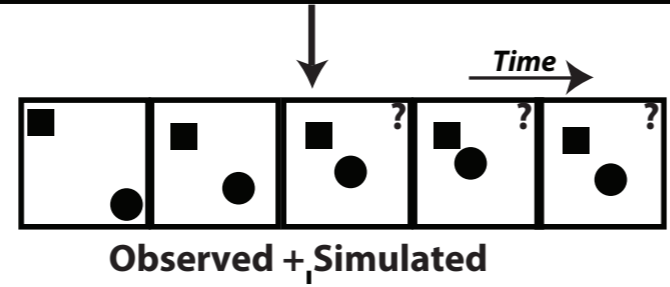
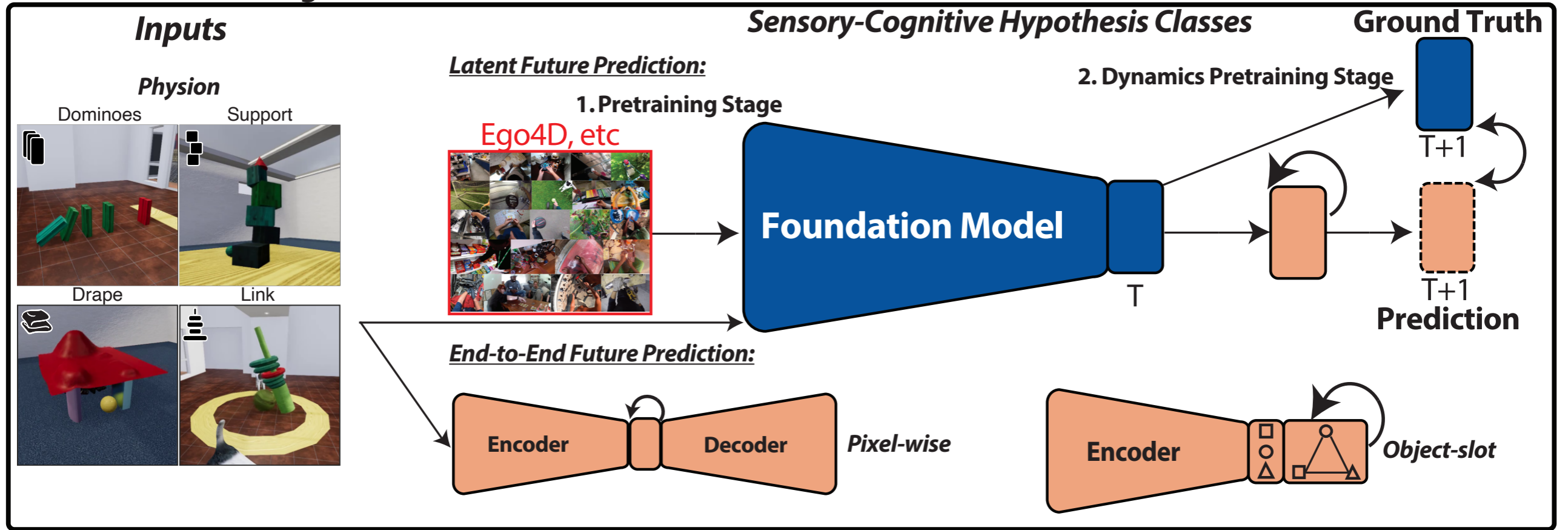
YES

NO

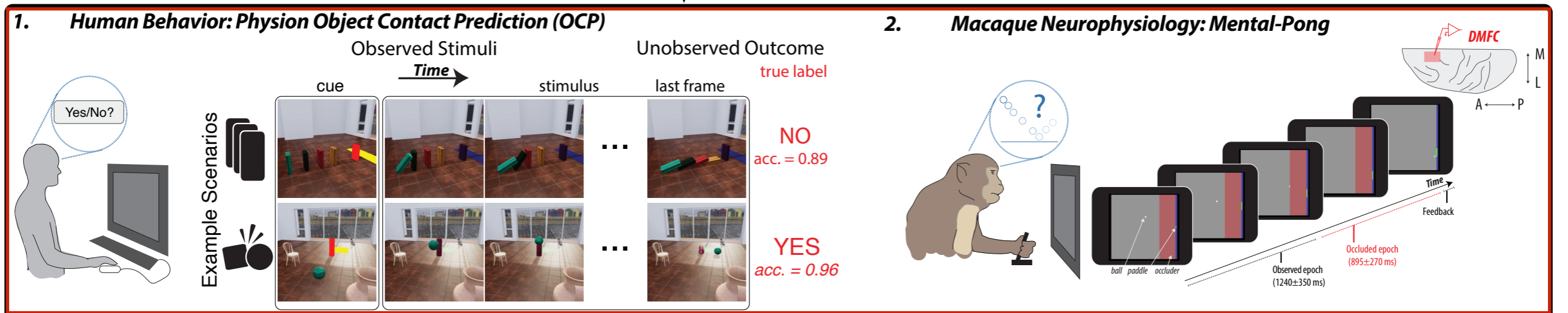
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Model Evaluations: Both Metrics

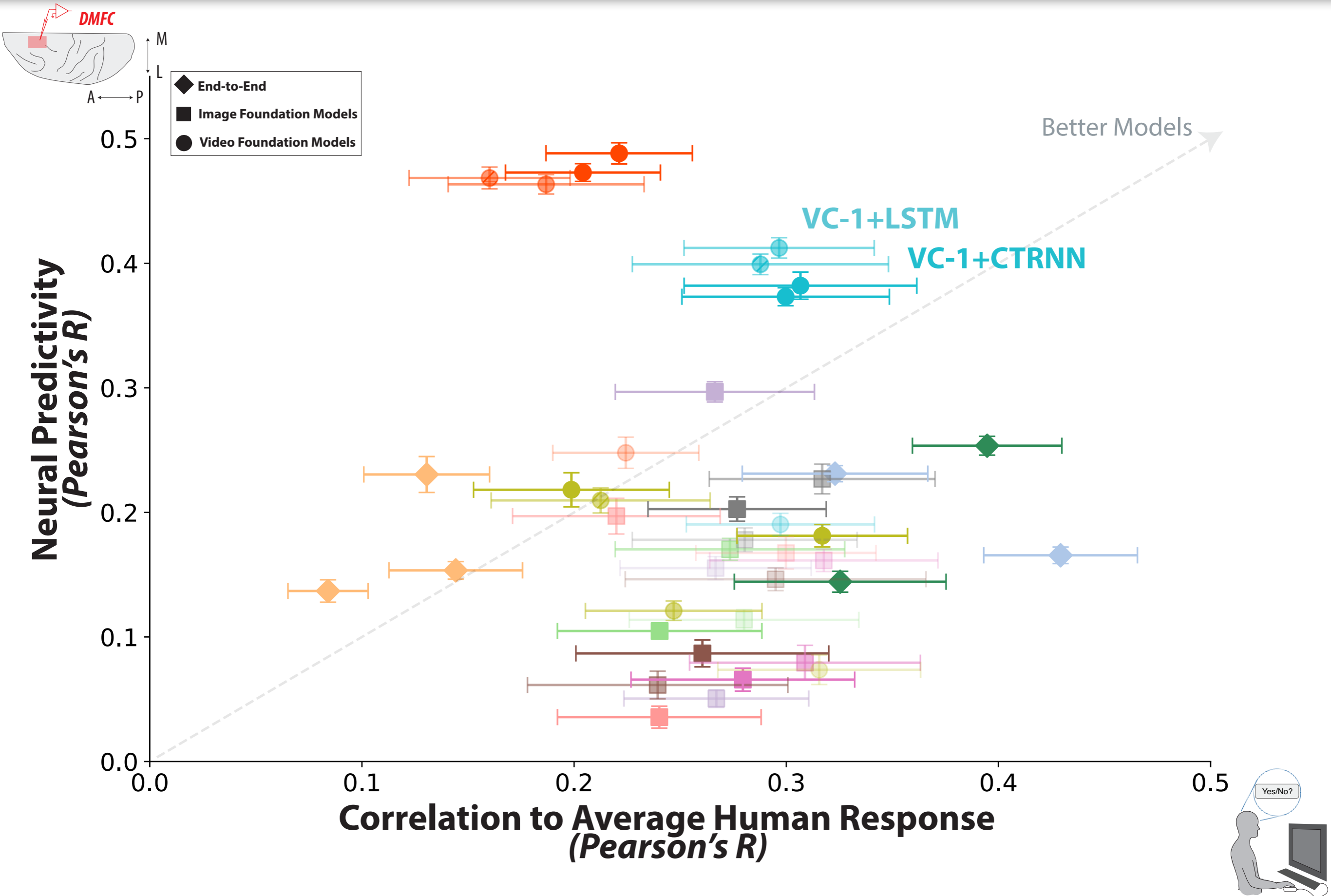
(A) Model Pretraining



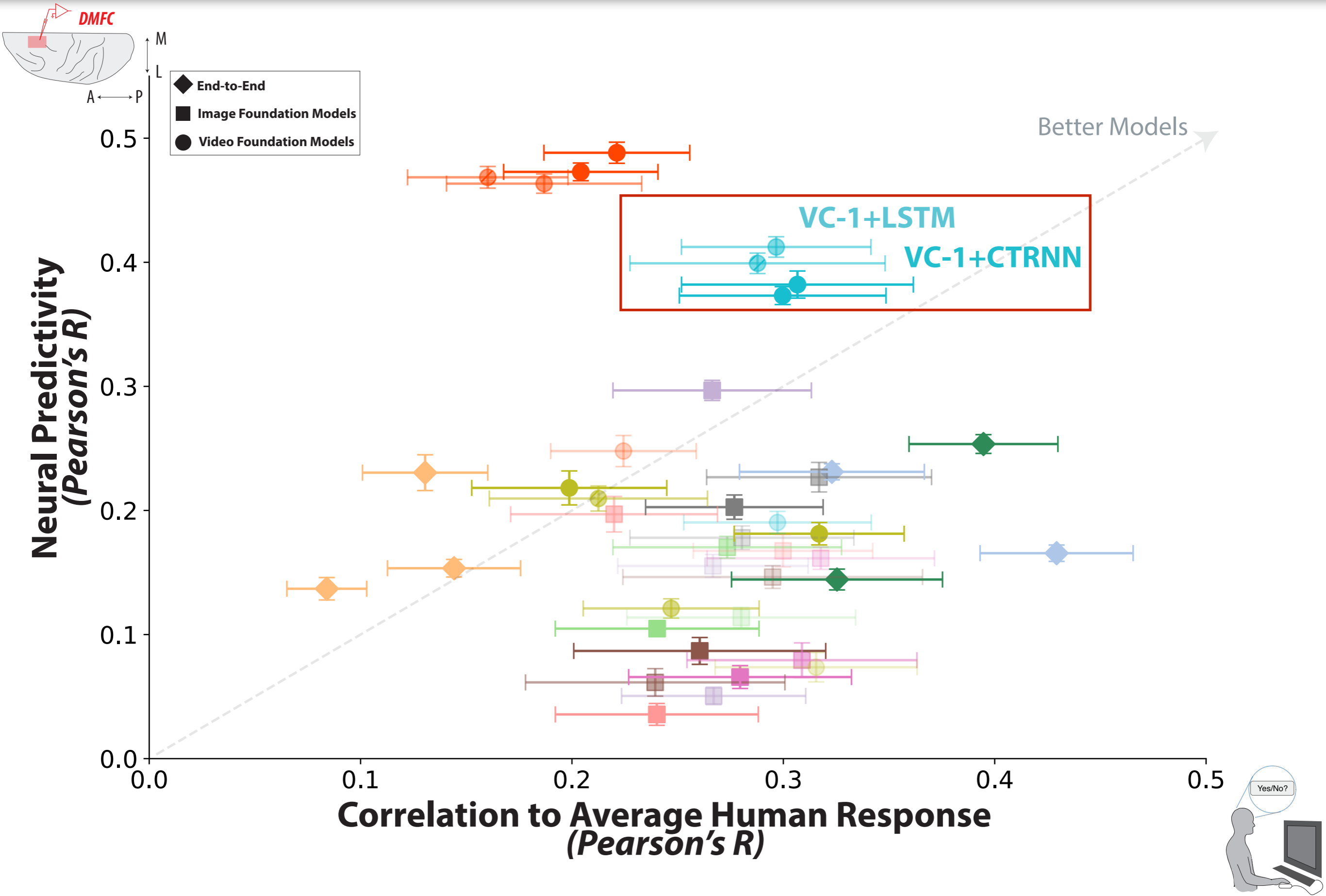
(B) Model Evaluations



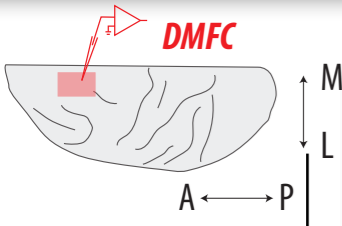
Dynamically-Equipped Video Foundation Models Can Match Both



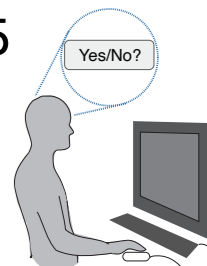
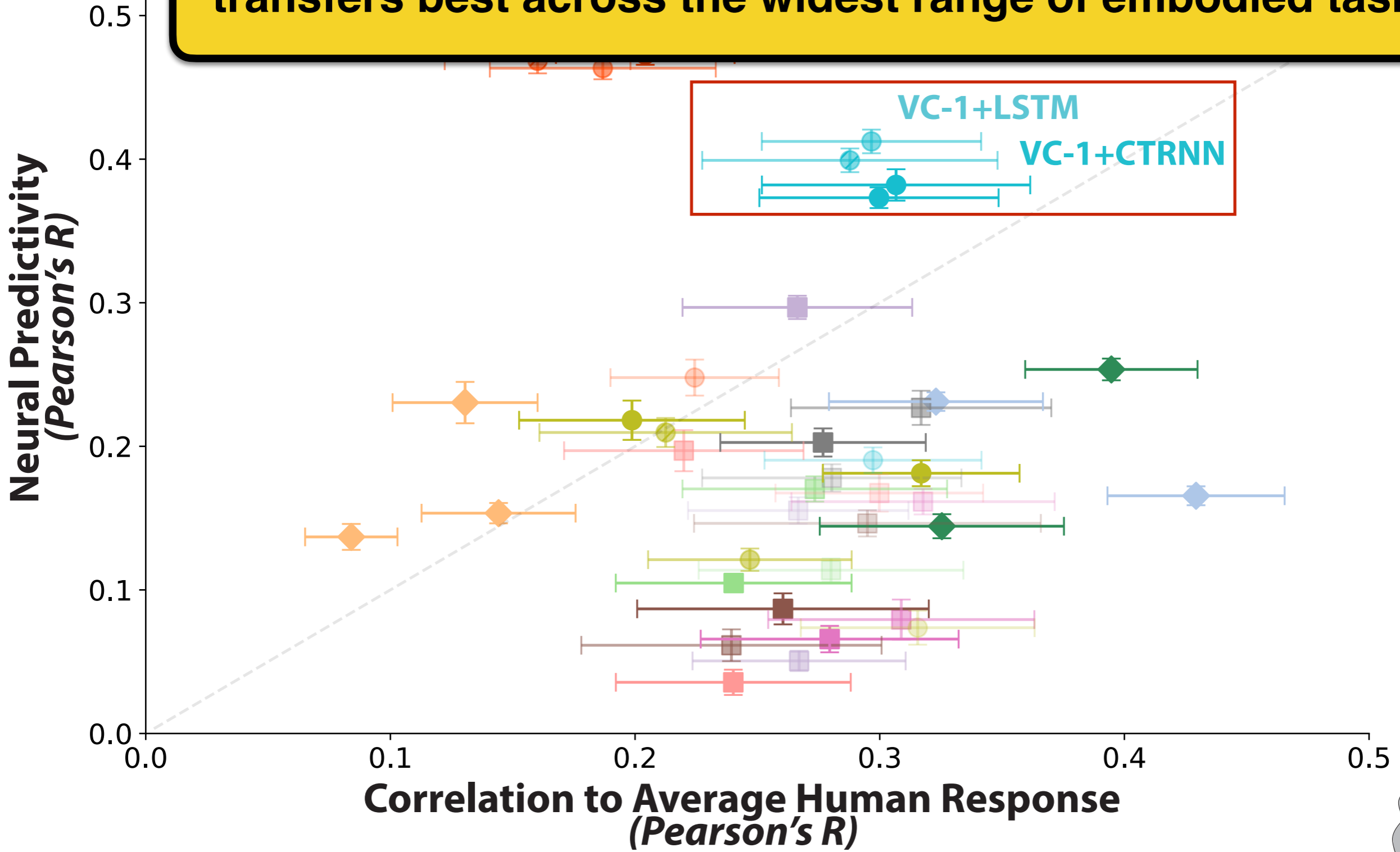
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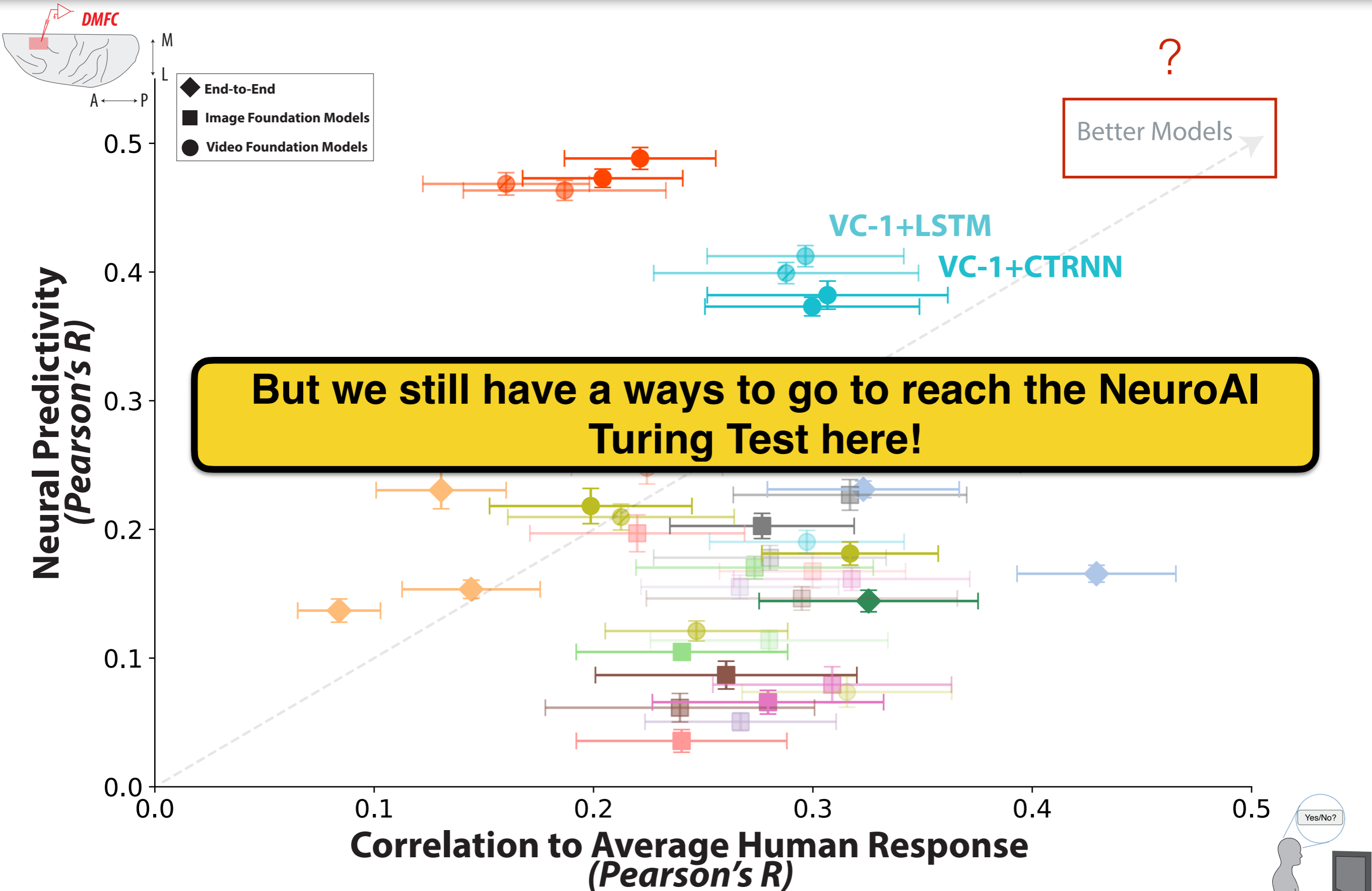
Dynamically-Equipped Video Foundation Models Can Match Both



Exposed to the largest variety of egocentric video sources & transfers best across the widest range of embodied tasks.



Future Directions: The Need for New World Models



Outline

- ▶ Mouse Visual Cortex as a Task-General, Limited Resource System

Mouse visual cortex (so far) is a low-acuity, shallow network that makes best use of the mouse's limited resources to create a general-purpose visual system, that can be deployed in novel environments and embodied contexts.

- ▶ Reusable Latent Representations for Primate Mental Simulation

- ▶ Heuristics for Interrogating Natural Intelligence

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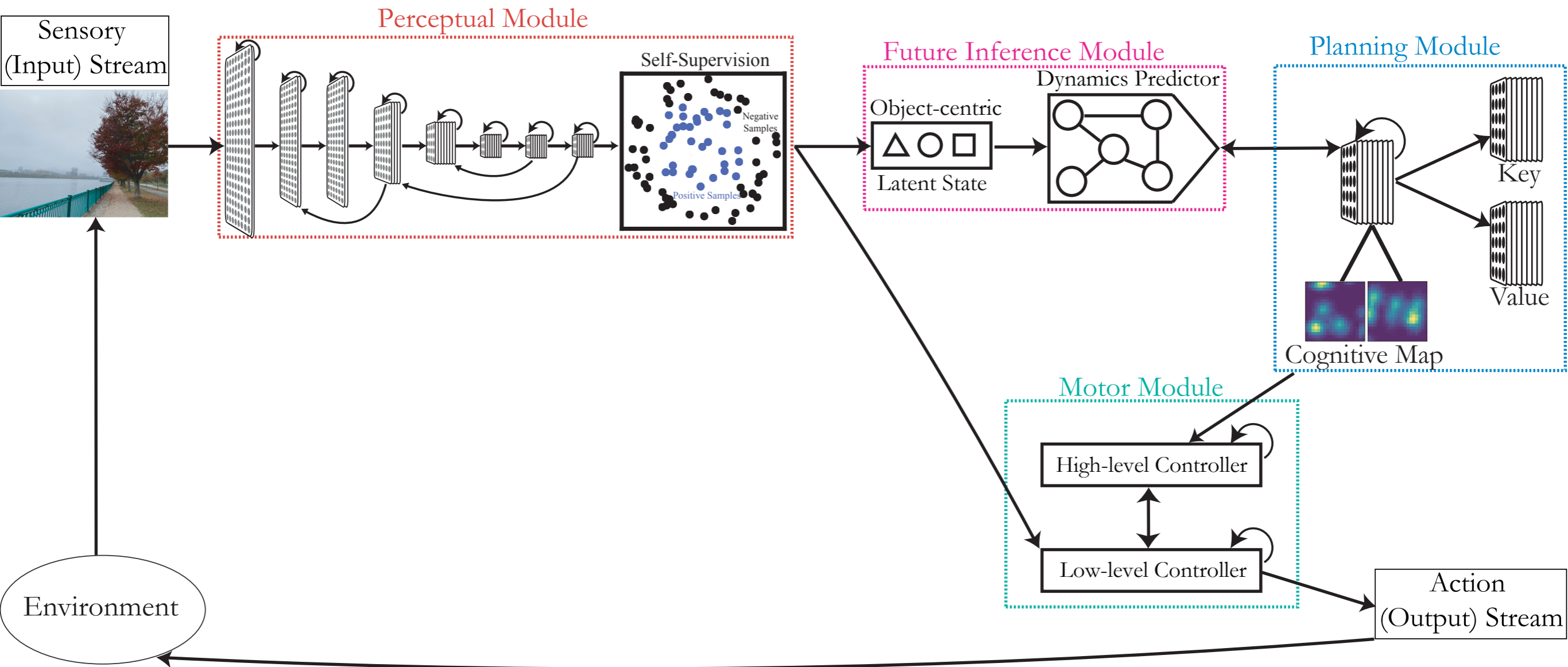
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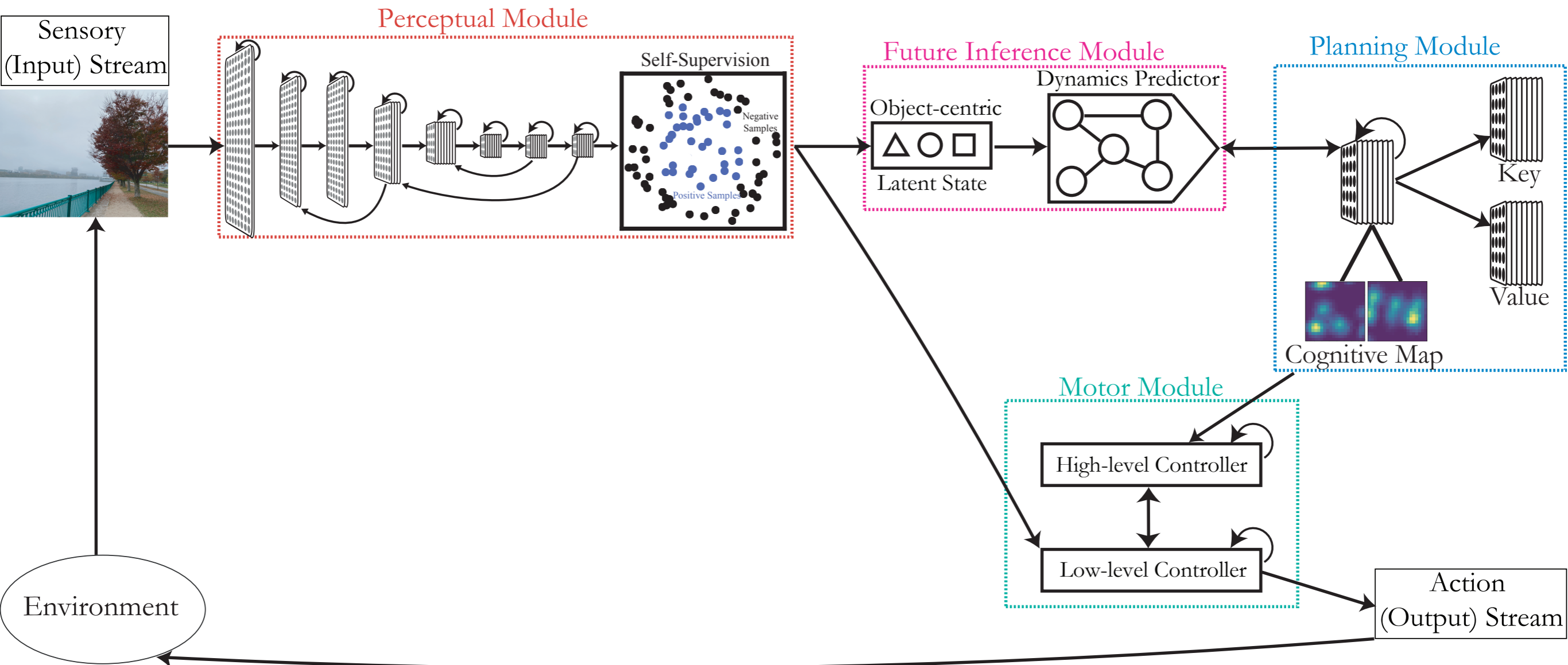
Next Steps: Modularized, Embodied Agents?

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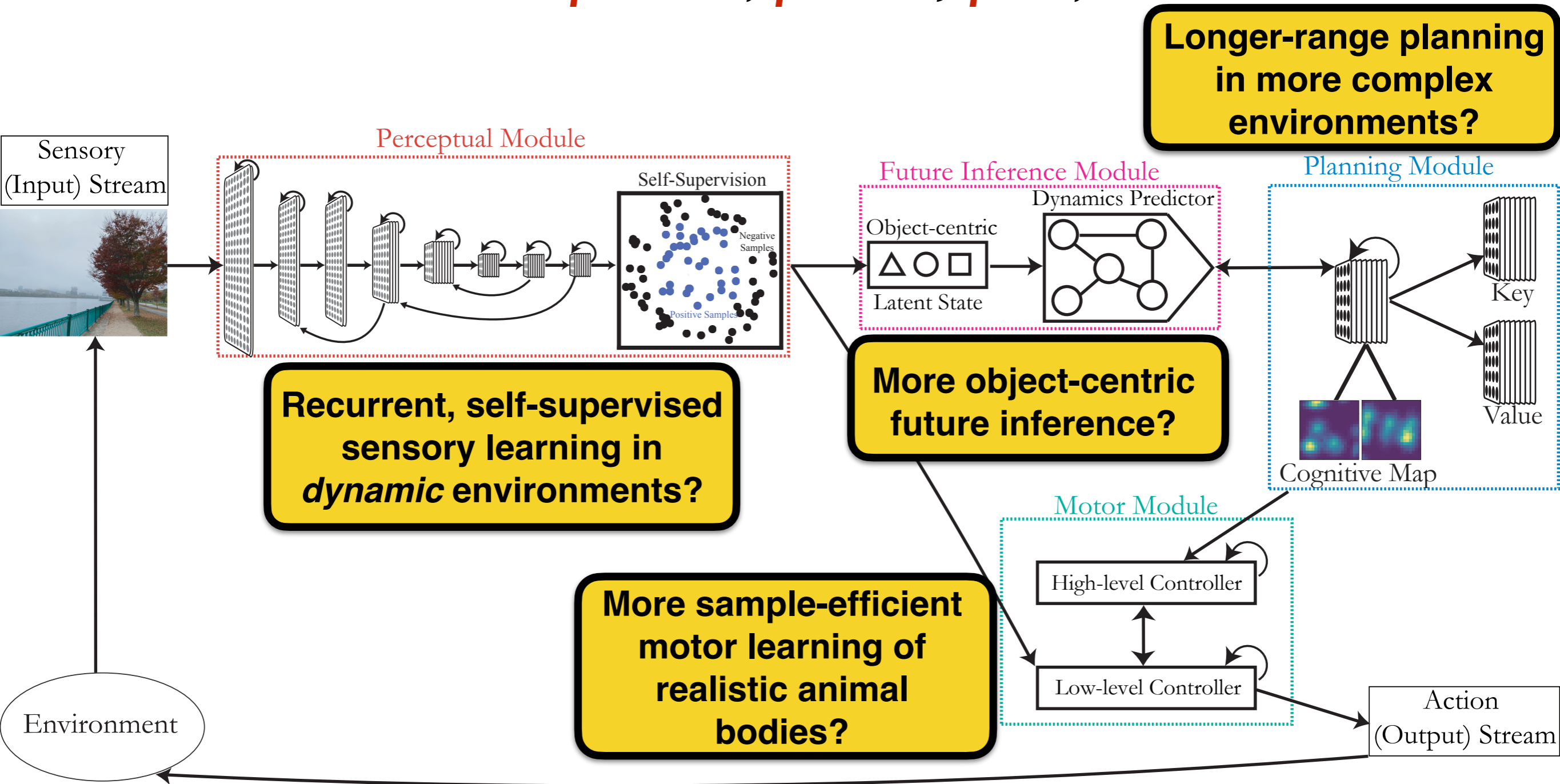
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How does the brain *represent*, *predict*, *plan*, and enable *action*?



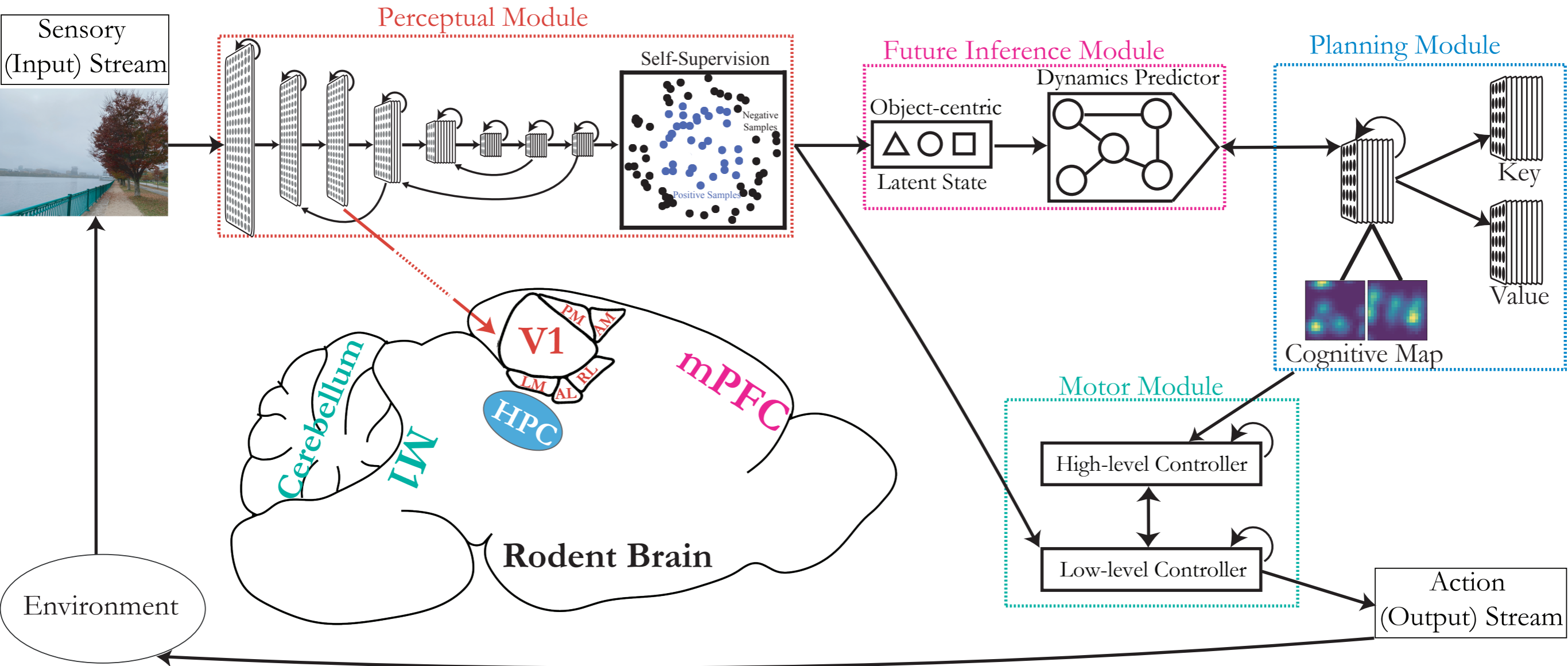
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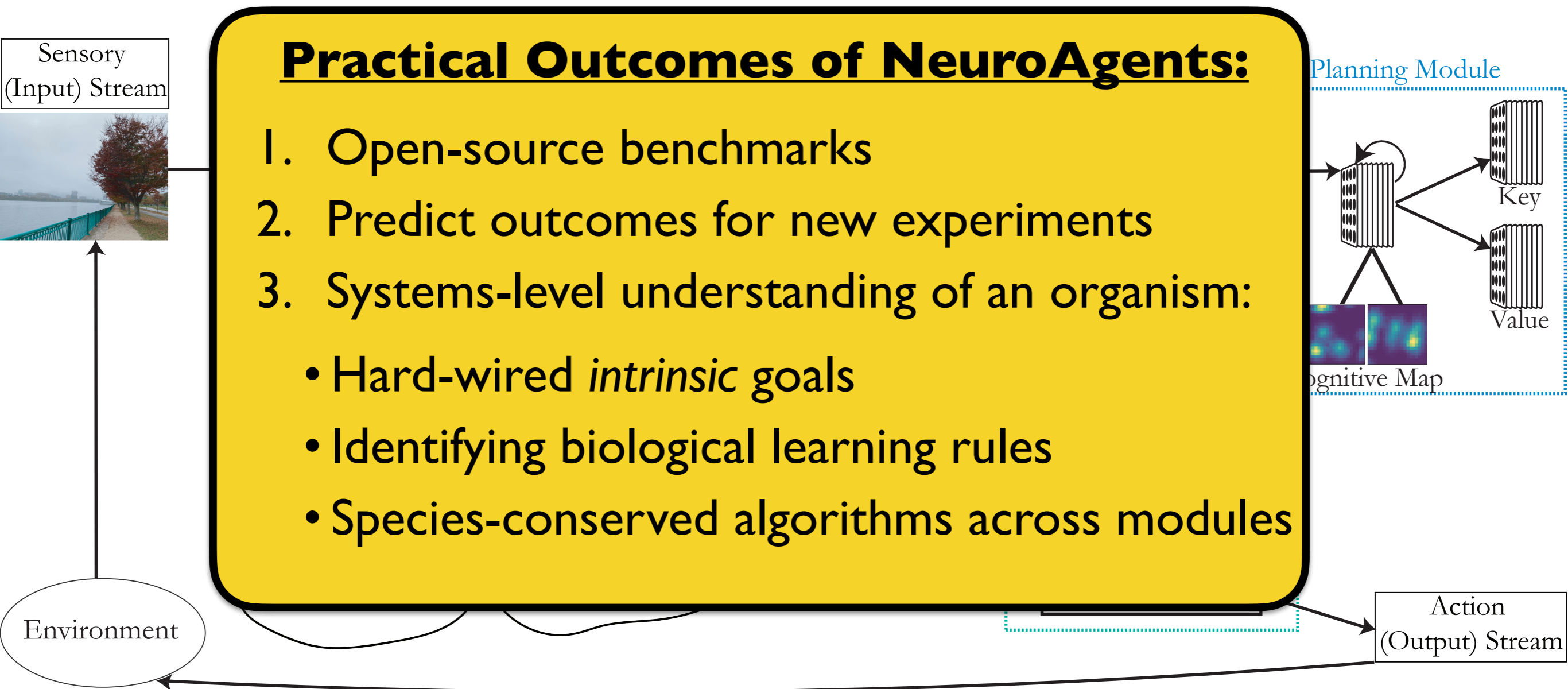
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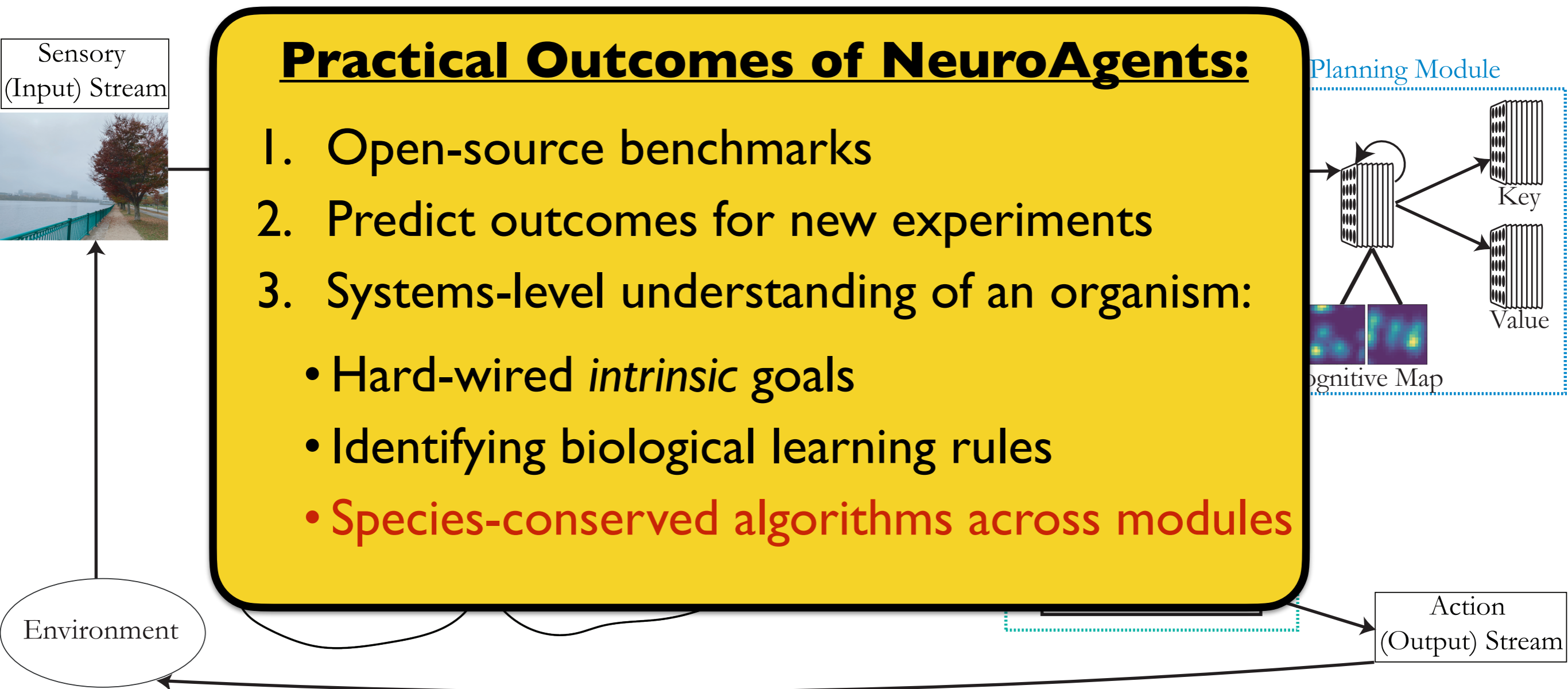
Next Steps: *Applying* Integrative, Embodied Agents

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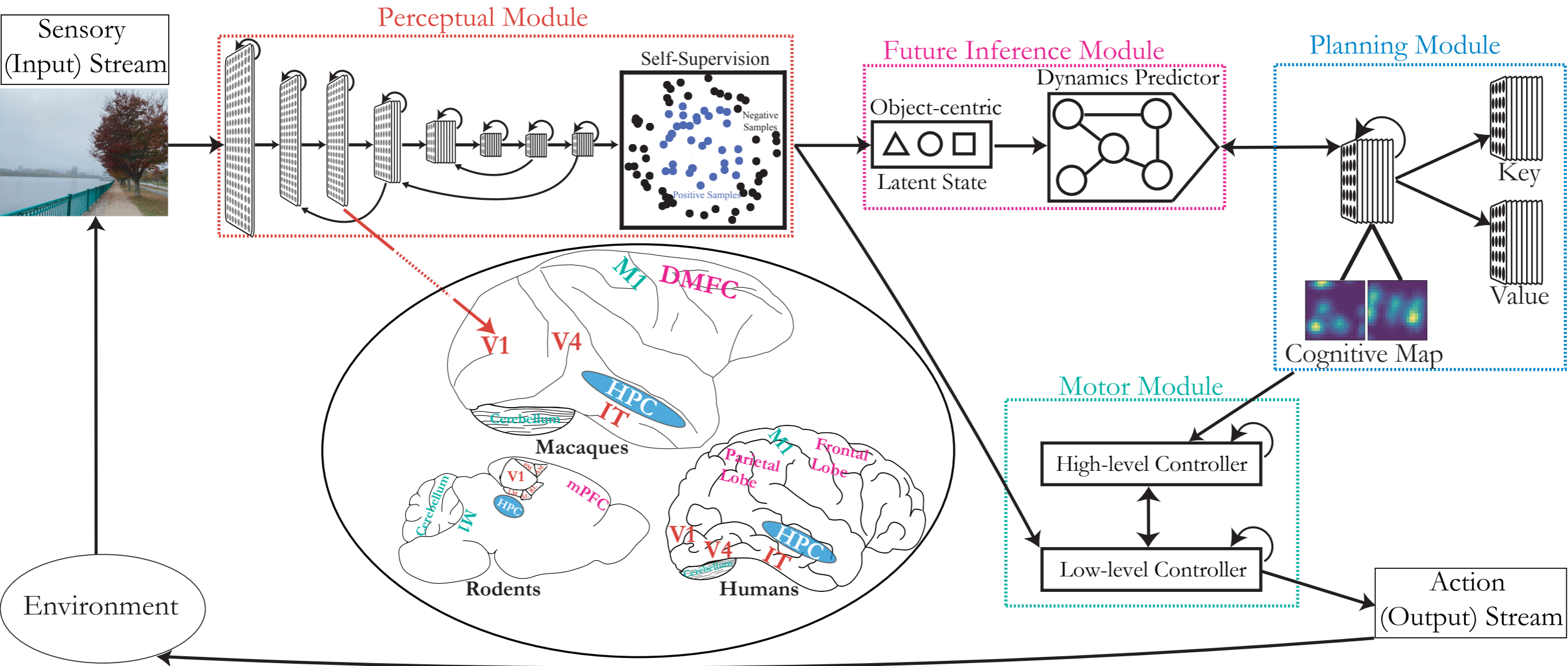
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Long-Term Outcome: Artificial **Organisms**

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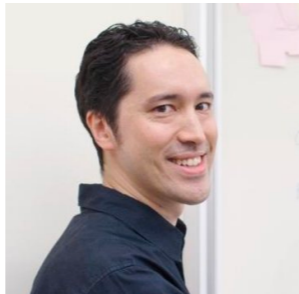
Acknowledgements



Nathan C.L. Kong



Chengxu Zhuang



Justin L. Gardner



Anthony M. Norcia



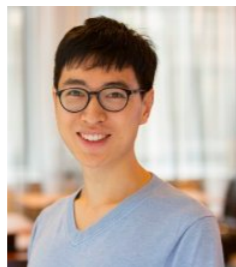
Daniel Yamins



Rishi Rajalingham

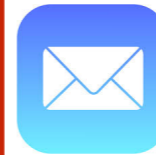


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Guangyu Robert Yang

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<https://cs.cmu.edu/~anayebi>



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Technology Training Program,
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