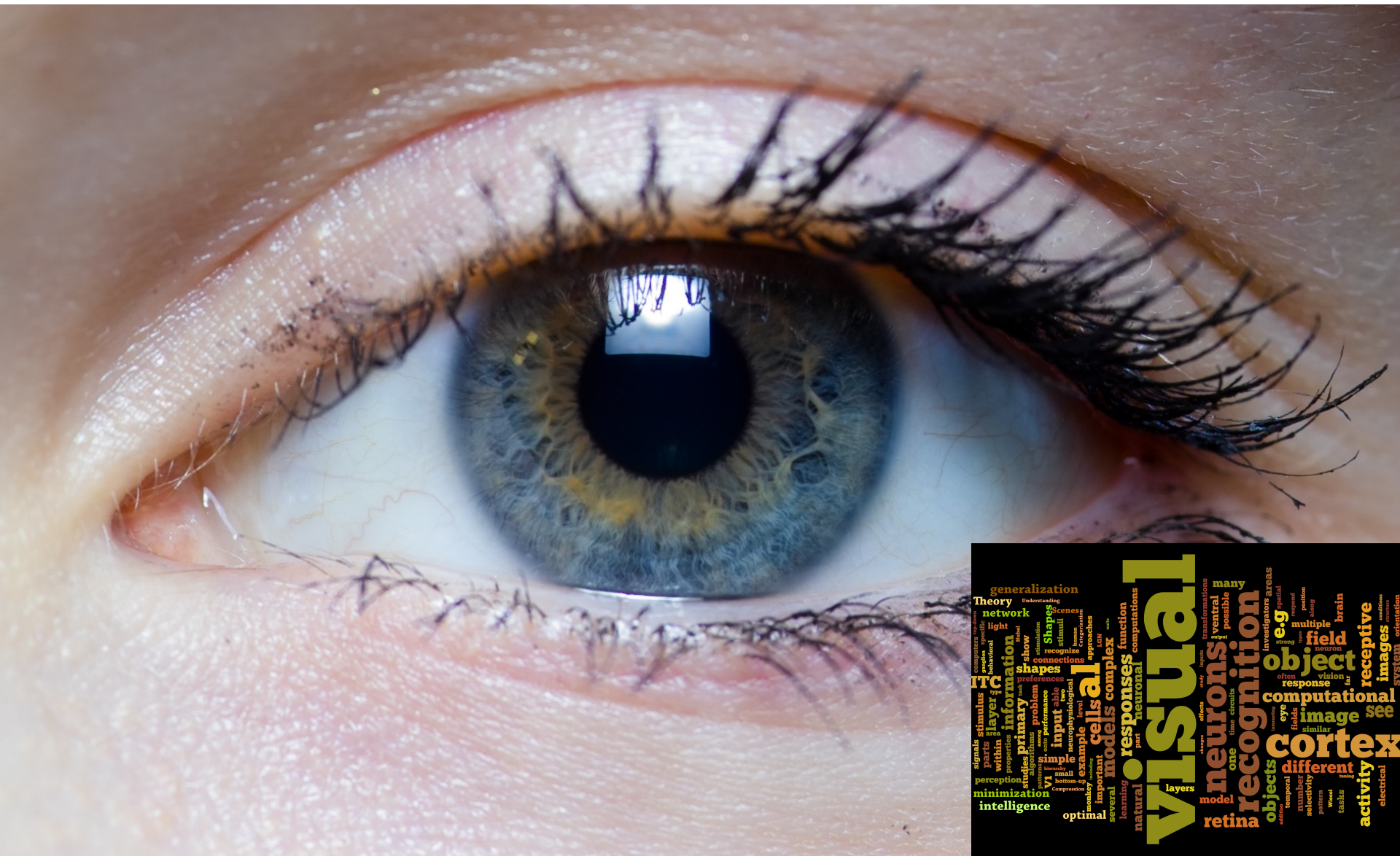


Visual Object Recognition

Computational Models and Neurophysiological Mechanisms

Neuro 130/230. Harvard College/GSAS 78454



Visual Object Recognition

Computational Models and Neurophysiological Mechanisms

Neurobiology 230. Harvard College/GSAS 78454

Class 1 [09/01/2021]. Introduction to Vision

Note: no class on 09/06/2021

Class 2 [09/13/2021]. Natural image statistics and the retina

Class 3 [09/20/2021]. The Phenomenology of Vision

Class 4 [09/27/2021]. Learning from Lesions

Class 5 [10/04/2021]. Primary Visual Cortex

Note: no class on 10/11/2021

Class 6 [10/18/2021]. Adventures into *terra incognita*

Class 7 [10/25/2021]. From the Highest Echelons of Visual Processing to Cognition

Class 8 [11/01/2021]. First Steps into in silico vision [Will Xiao]

Class 9 [11/08/2021]. Teaching Computers how to see

Class 10 [11/15/2021]. Computer Vision

Class 11 [11/22/2021]. Connecting Vision to the rest of Cognition

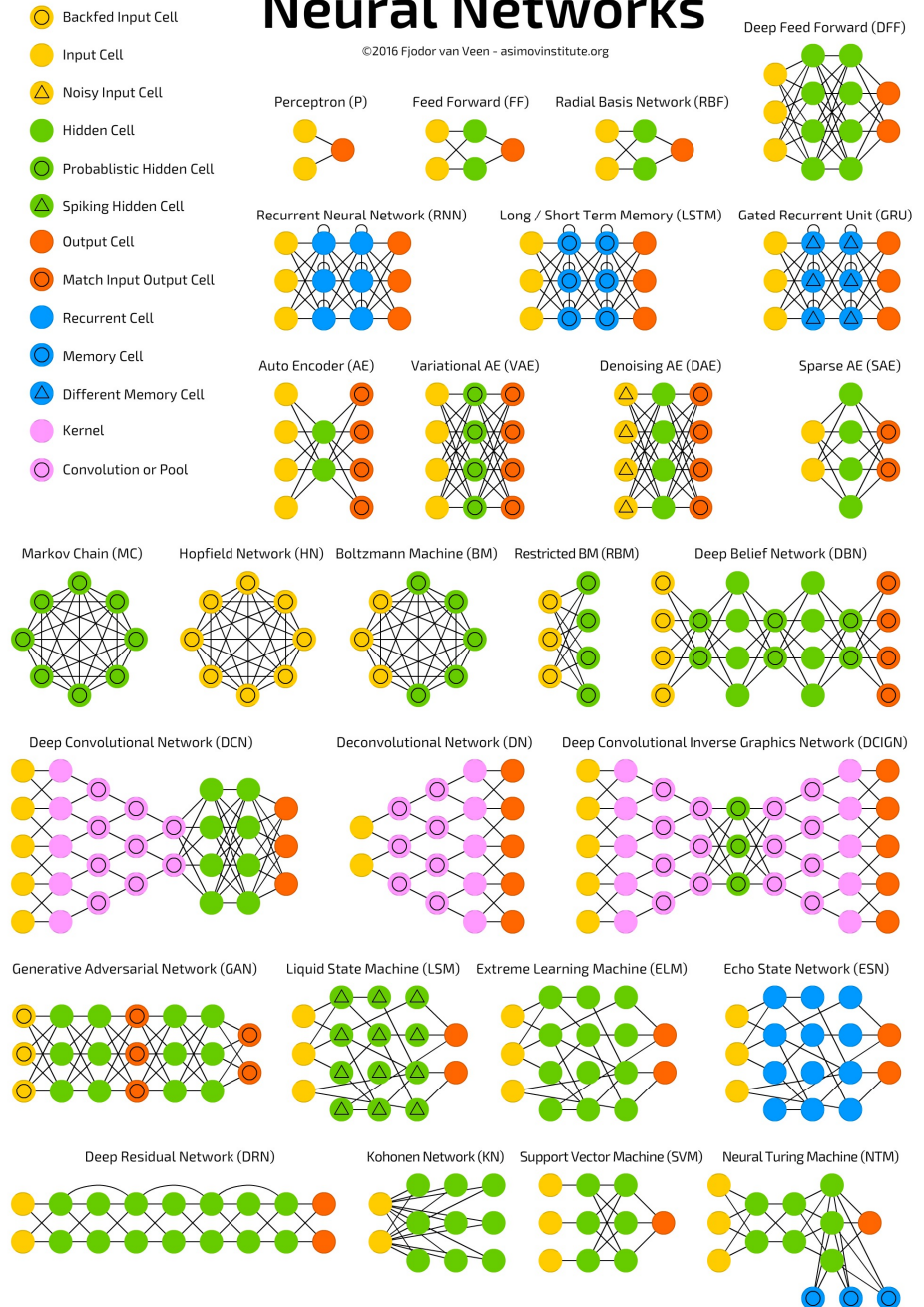
Class 12 [11/29/2021]. Visual Consciousness

FINAL EXAM, PAPER DUE 12/14/2021. No extensions.

A big happy family of neural networks

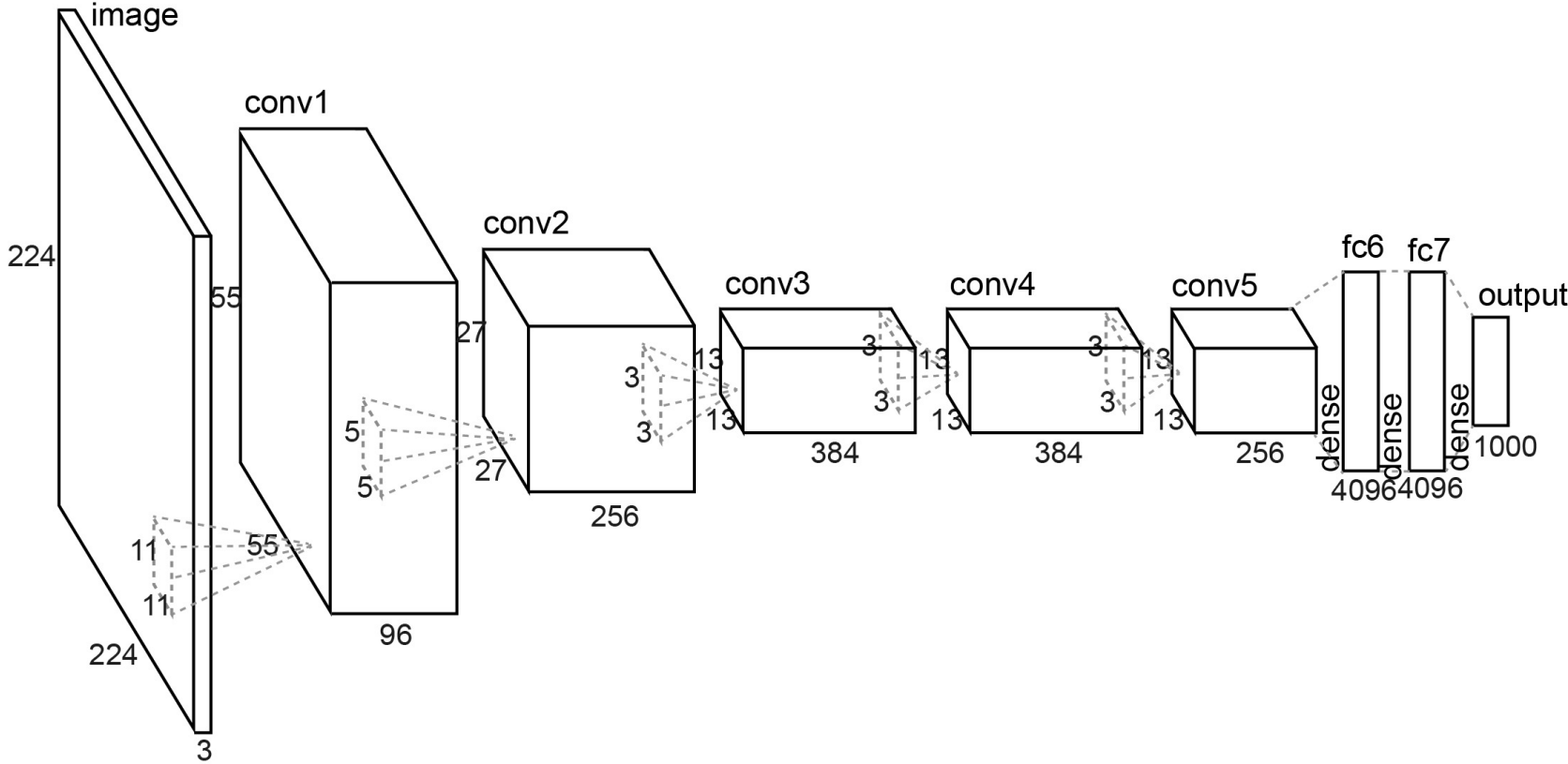
A mostly complete chart of Neural Networks

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<https://towardsdatascience.com/the-mostly-complete-chart-of-neural-networks-explained-3fb6f2367464>

Deep convolutional neural networks: AlexNet



A brief history of computational models

Hubel and Wiesel, simple and complex cells (1950s')

Neocognitron (Fukushima 1980)

HMAX (Poggio 1999), Work on MNIST (LeCun 1998)

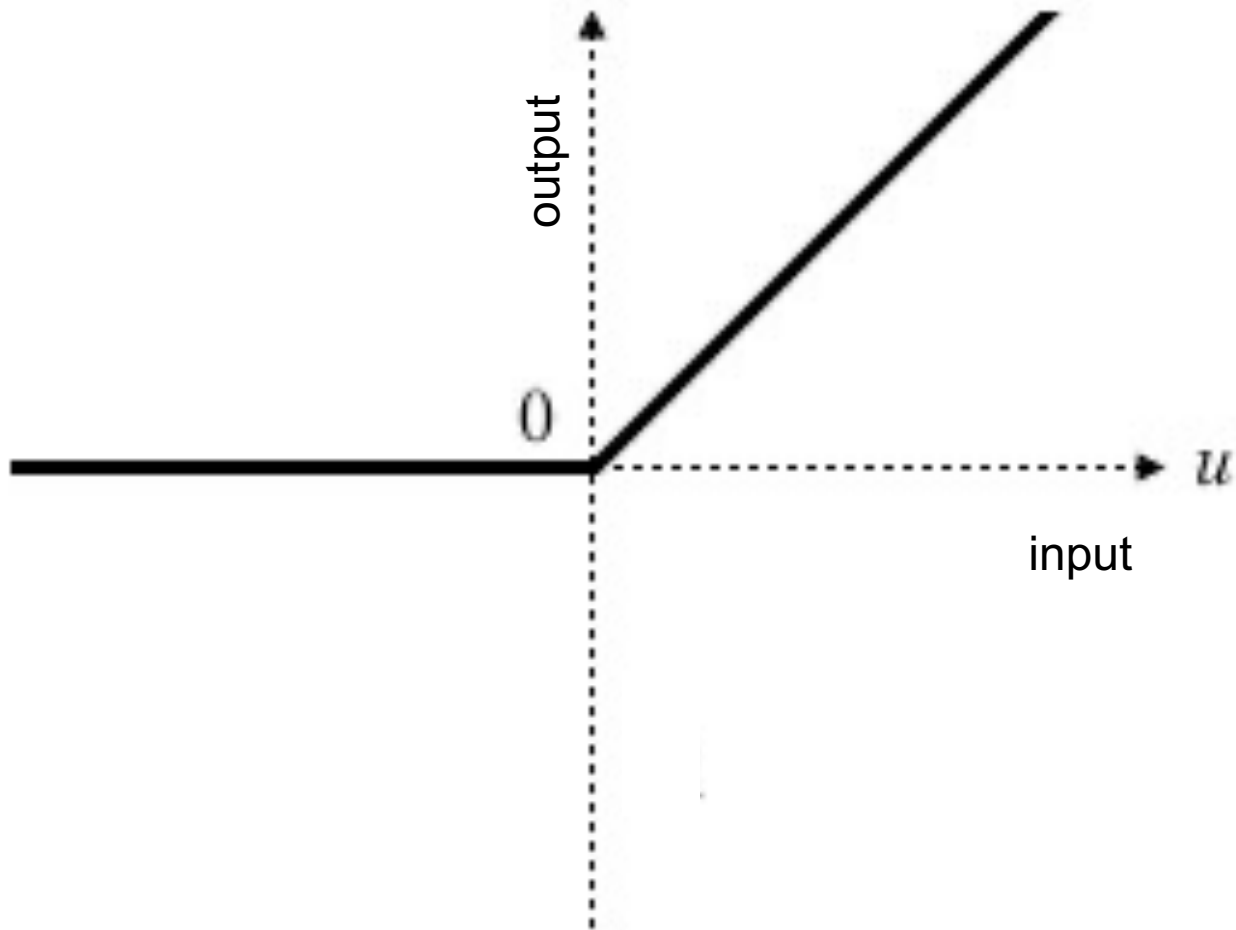
Deep convolutional neural networks (circa 2012)

Some of the typical computational operations

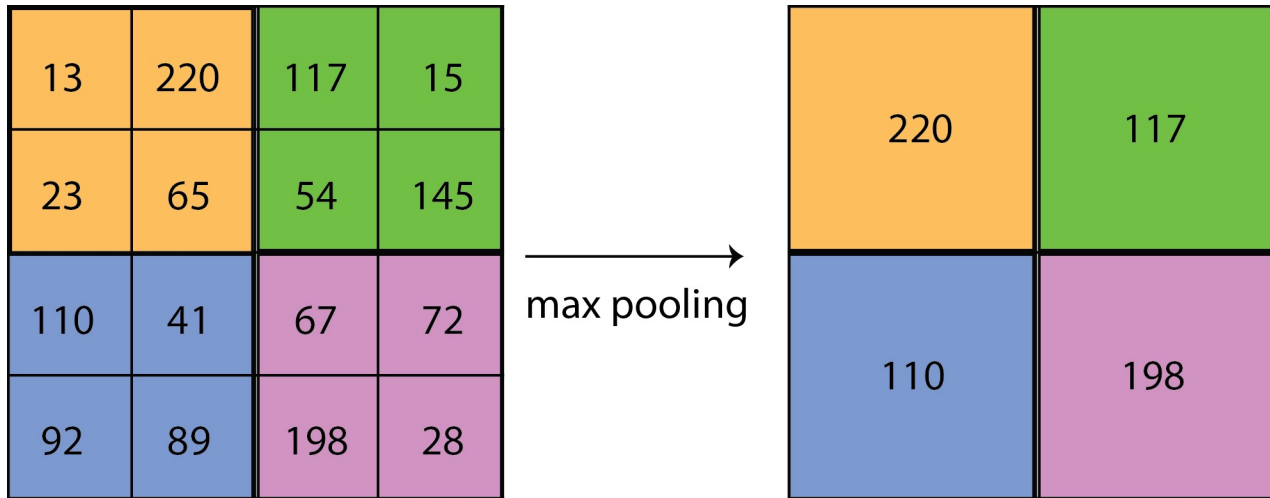
- Convolution
- Normalization
- ReLU
- Pooling

ReLU

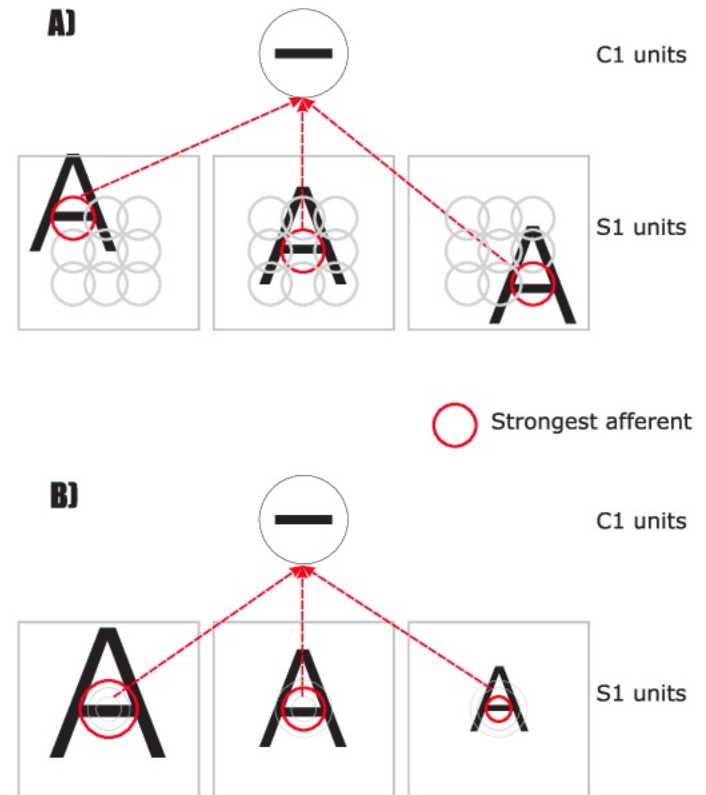
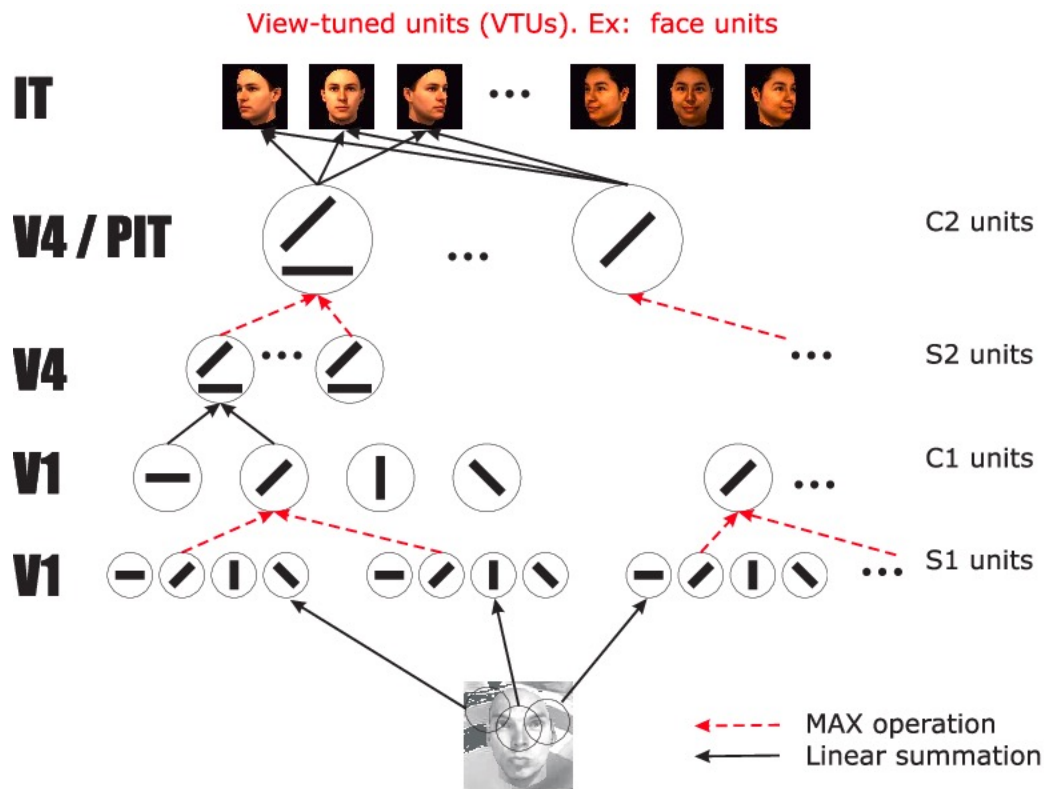
$$f(u) = \max(0, u)$$



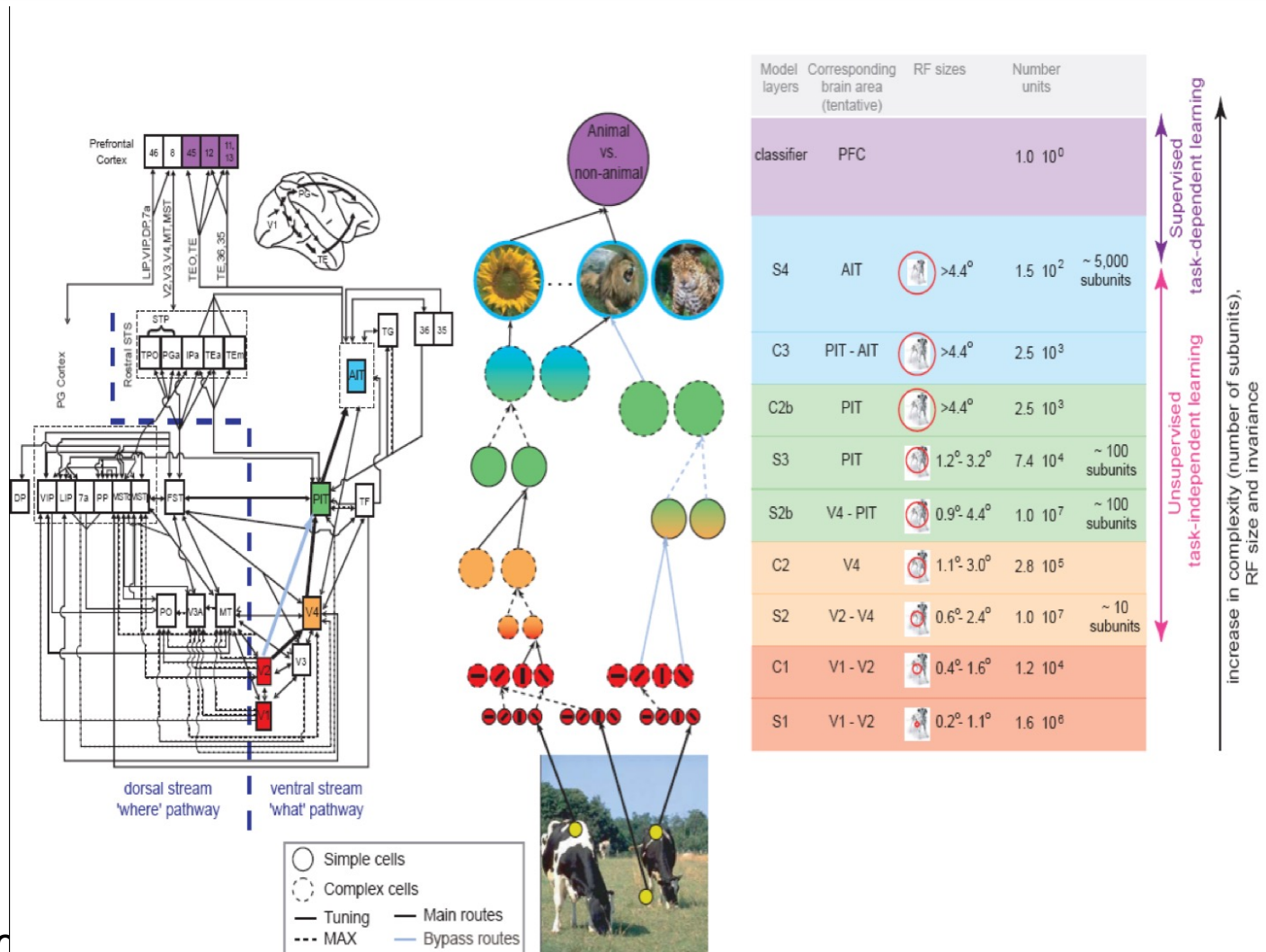
Max pooling



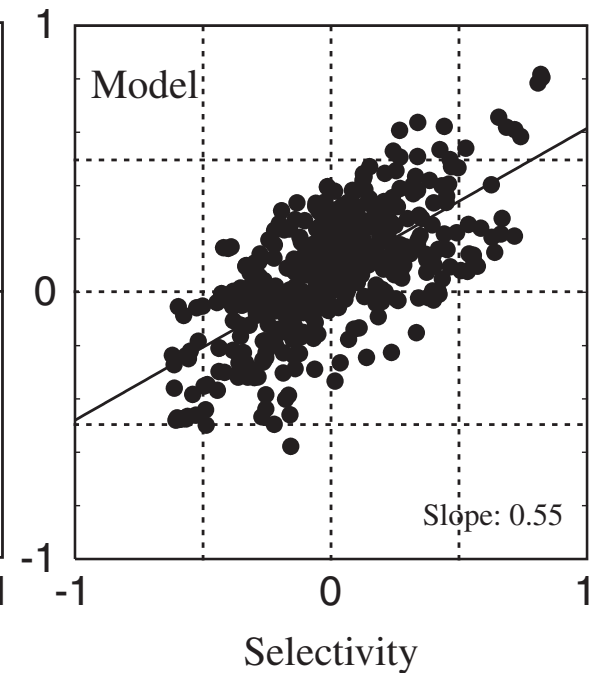
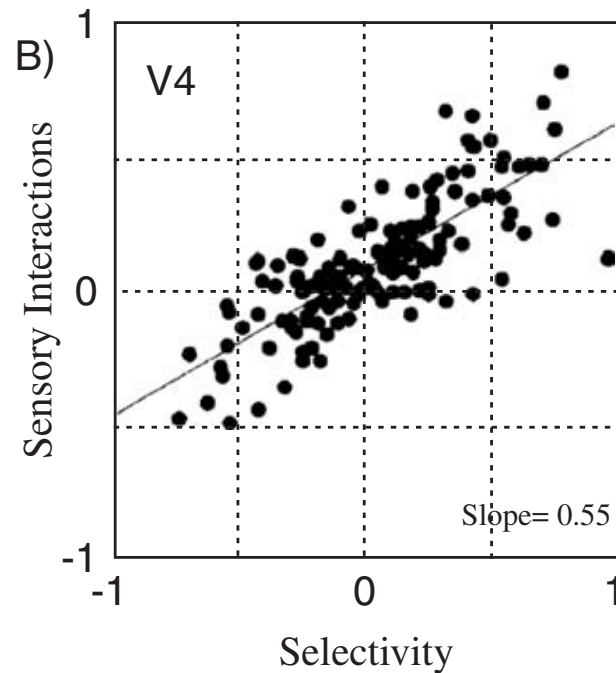
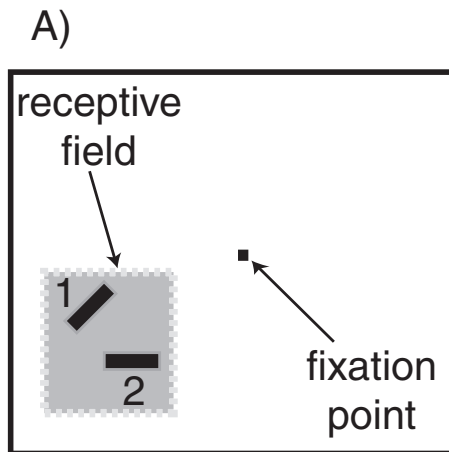
The HMAX model



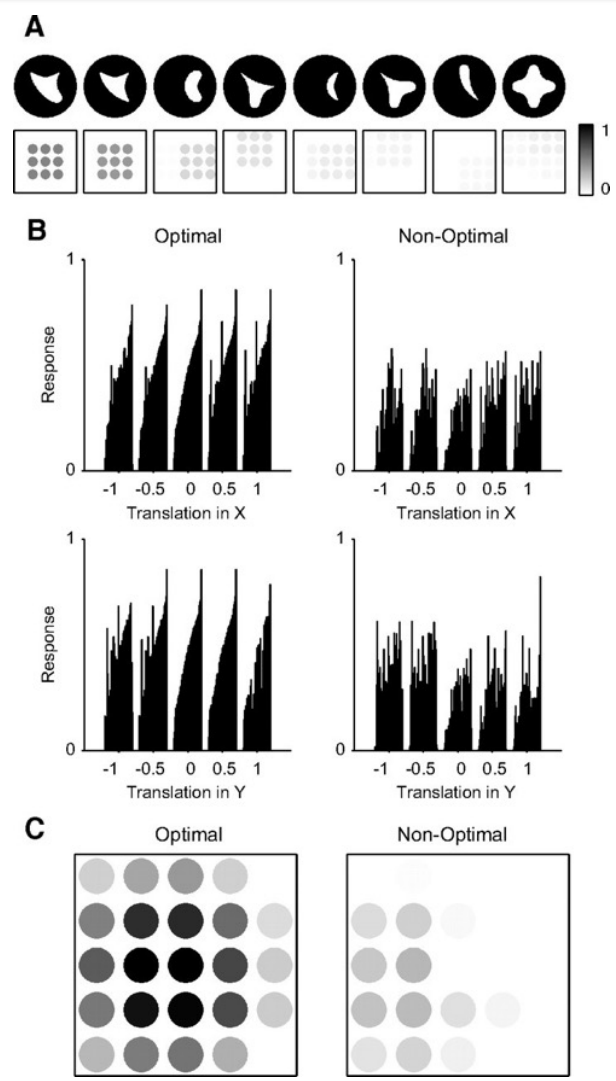
The HMAX model



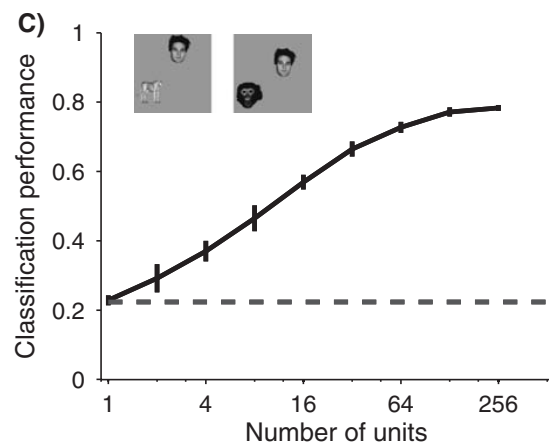
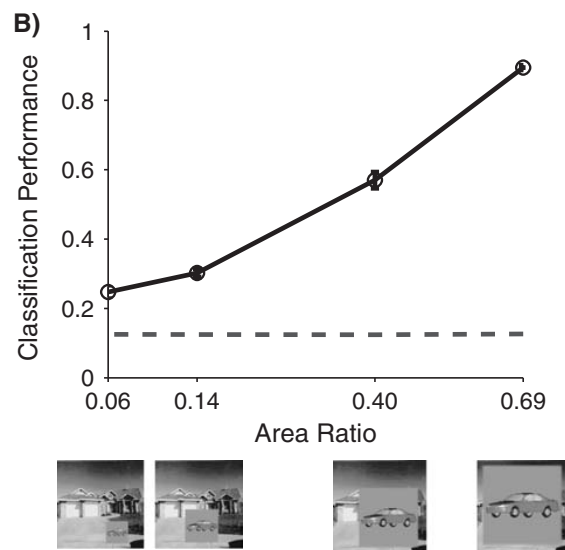
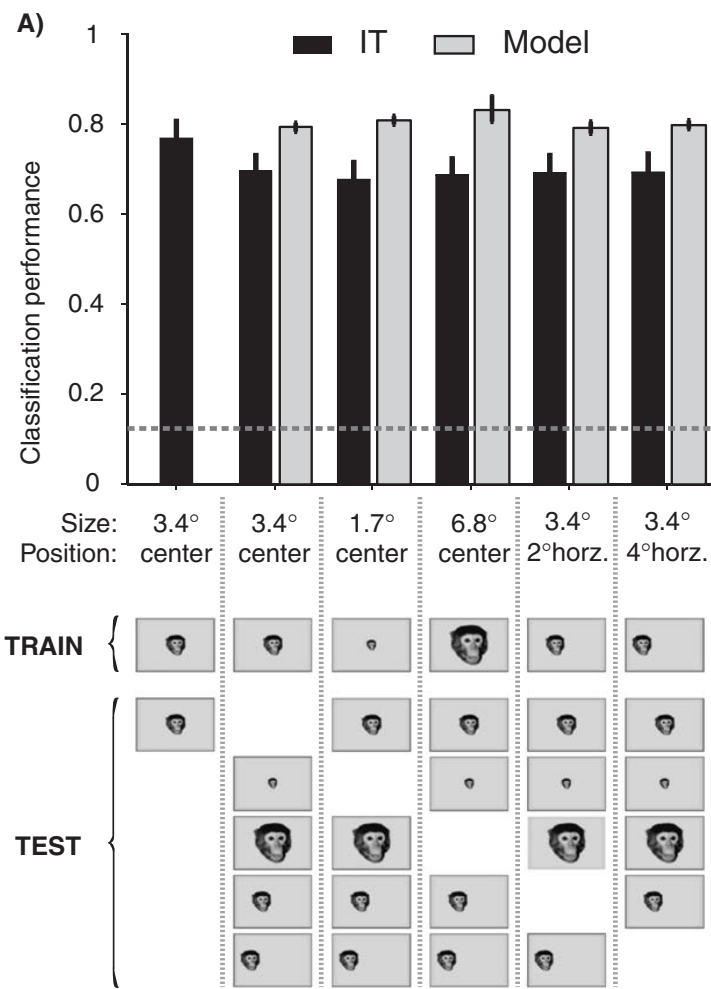
The model captures the effects of clutter in visual responses



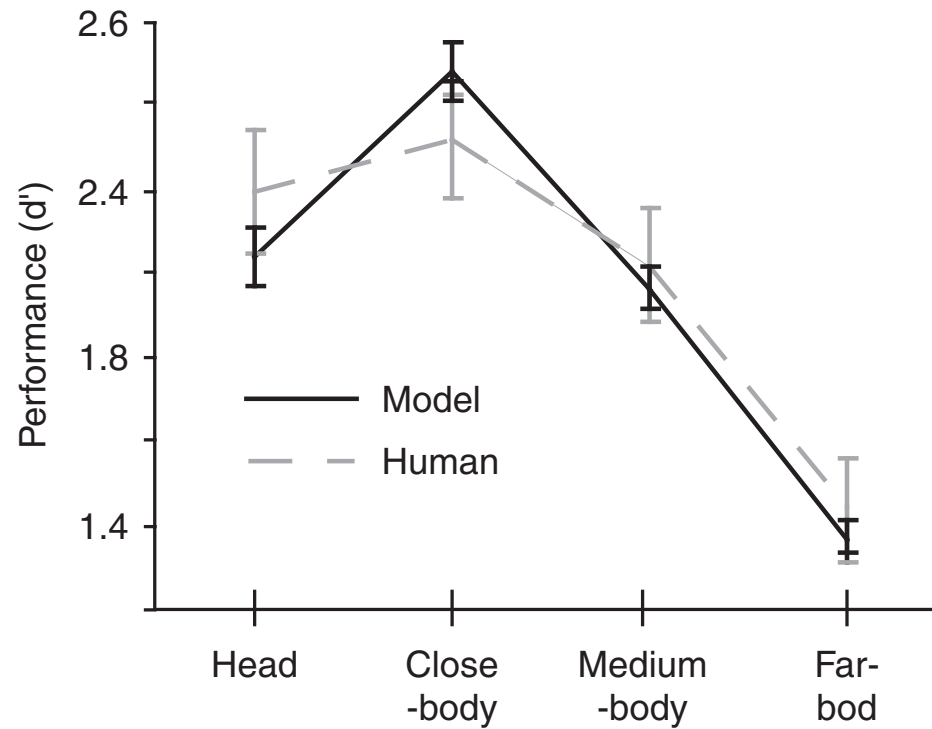
The model captures selectivity and invariance in V4 responses to curvatures



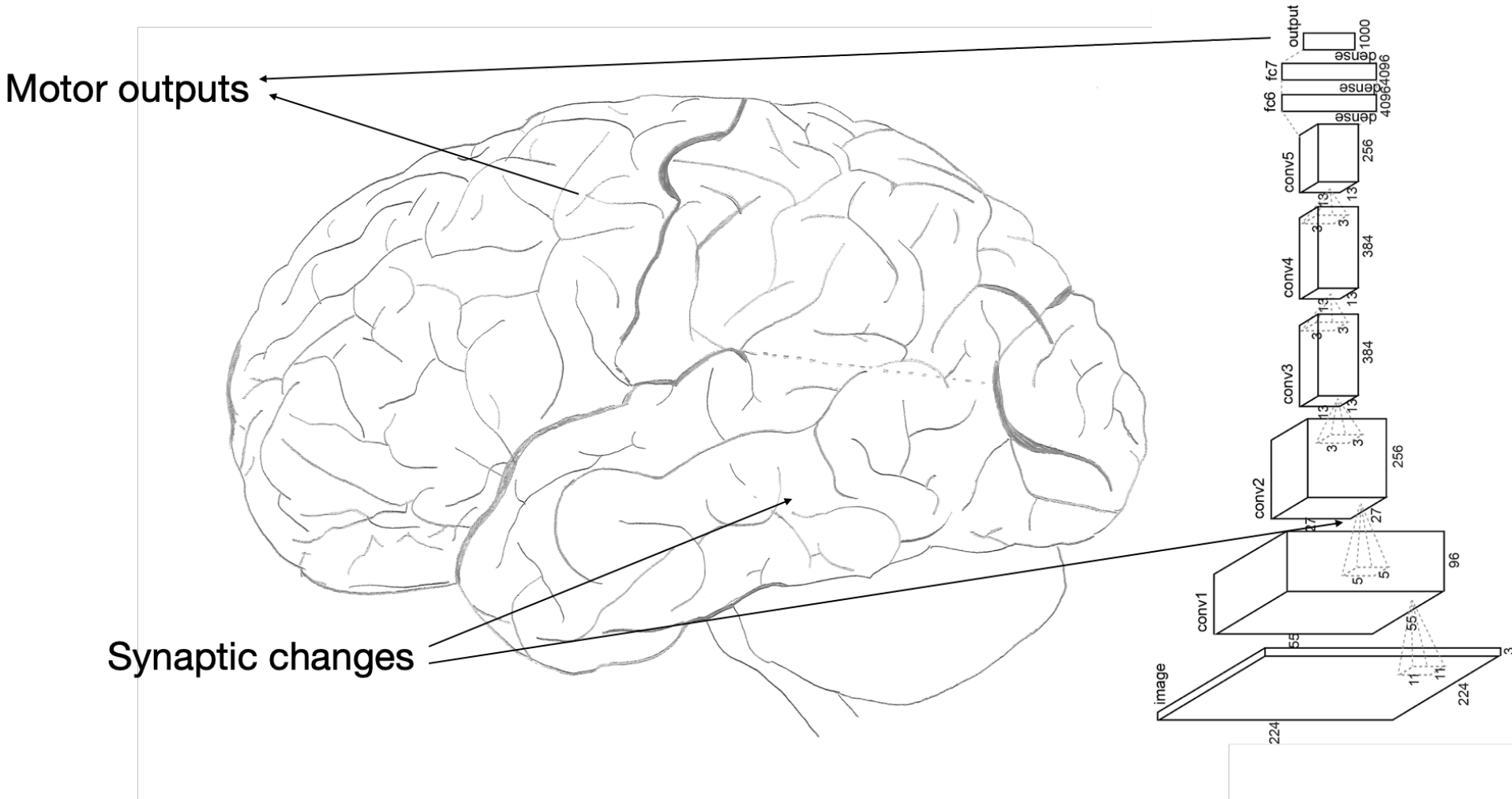
The model approximates decoding of object information from IT cortex



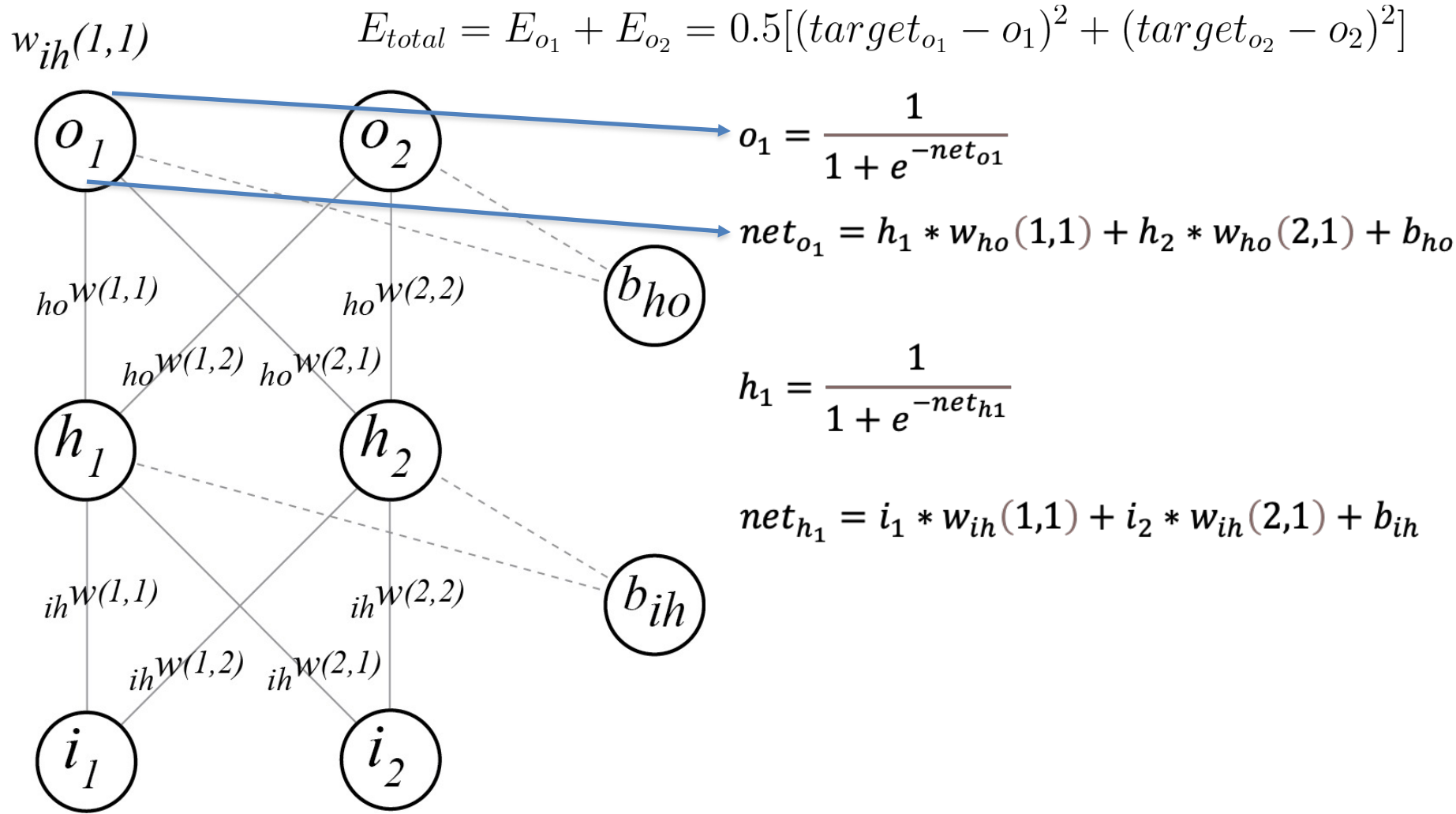
The model captures rapid recognition behavior



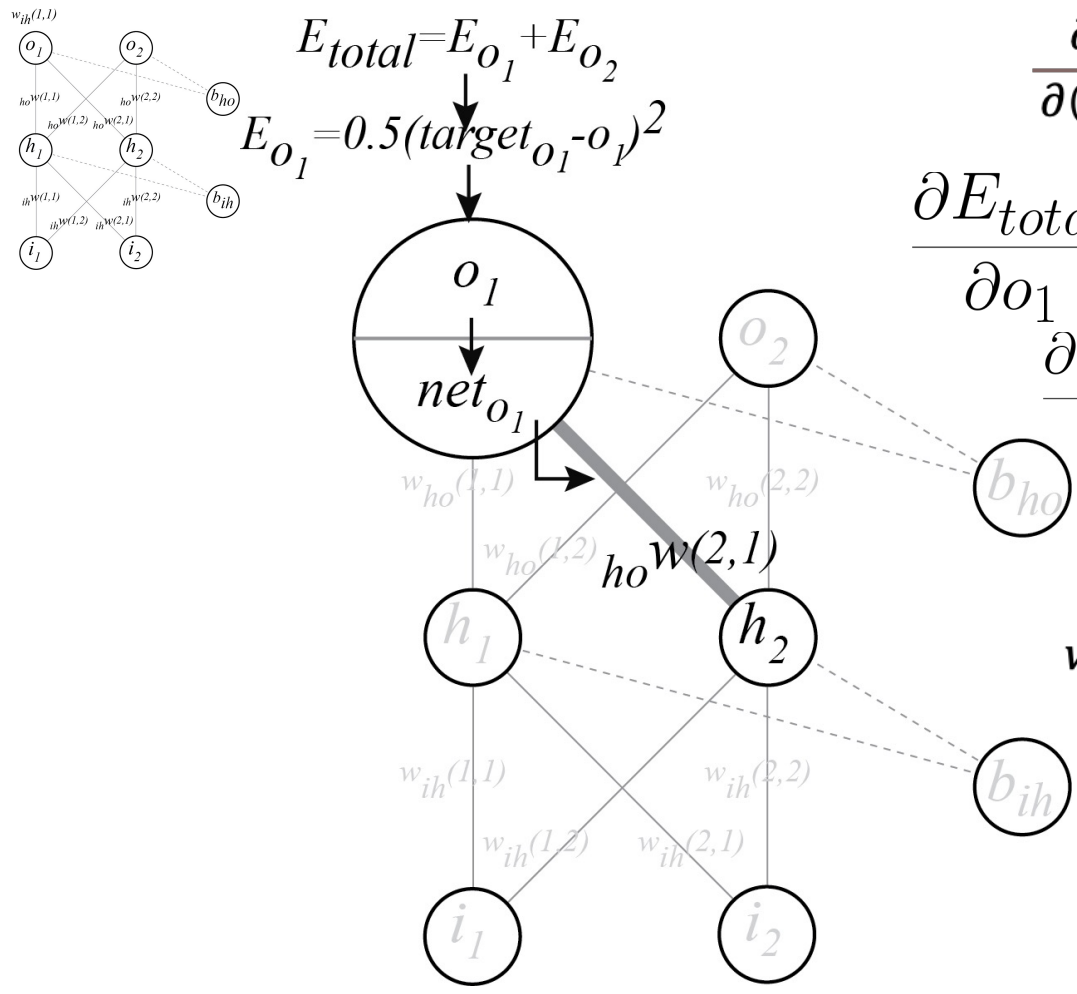
The credit assignment problem



Back-propagation



Back-propagation



$$\frac{\partial E_{total}}{\partial (w_{ho}^{2,1})} = \frac{\partial E_{total}}{\partial o_1} \frac{\partial o_1}{\partial \text{net}_{o_1}} \frac{\partial \text{net}_{o_1}}{\partial (w_{ho}^{2,1})}$$

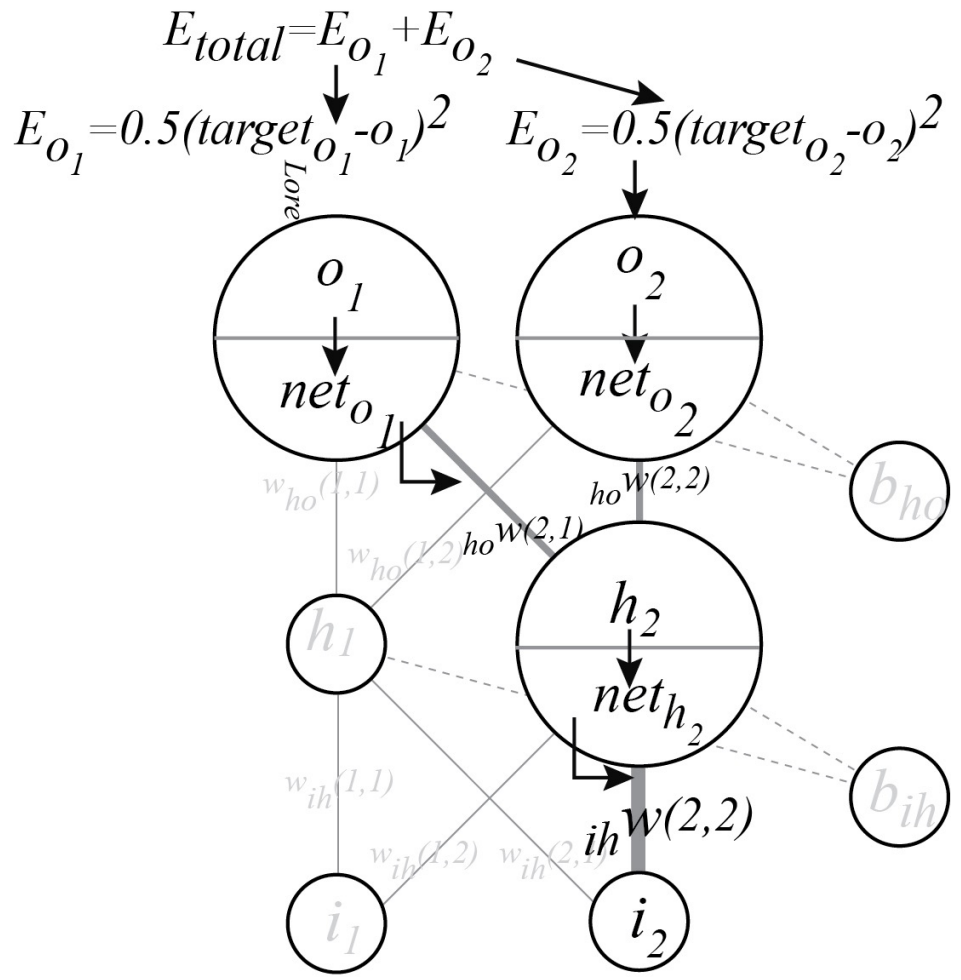
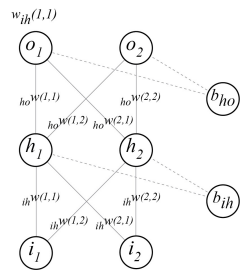
$$\frac{\partial E_{total}}{\partial o_1} = 2 * 0.5 * (o_1 - \text{target}_{o_1})$$

$$\frac{\partial E_{total}}{\partial o_1} = 2 * 0.5 * (o_1 - \text{target}_{o_1})$$

$$\frac{\partial \text{net}_{o_1}}{\partial (w_{ho}^{2,1})} = h_2$$

$$w_{ho}^{(2,1)} \rightarrow w_{ho}^{(2,1)} - \epsilon \frac{\partial E_{total}}{\partial w_{ho}^{(2,1)}}$$

Back-propagation



Is back-propagation biologically plausible?

Symmetric feed-forward and feed-back weights

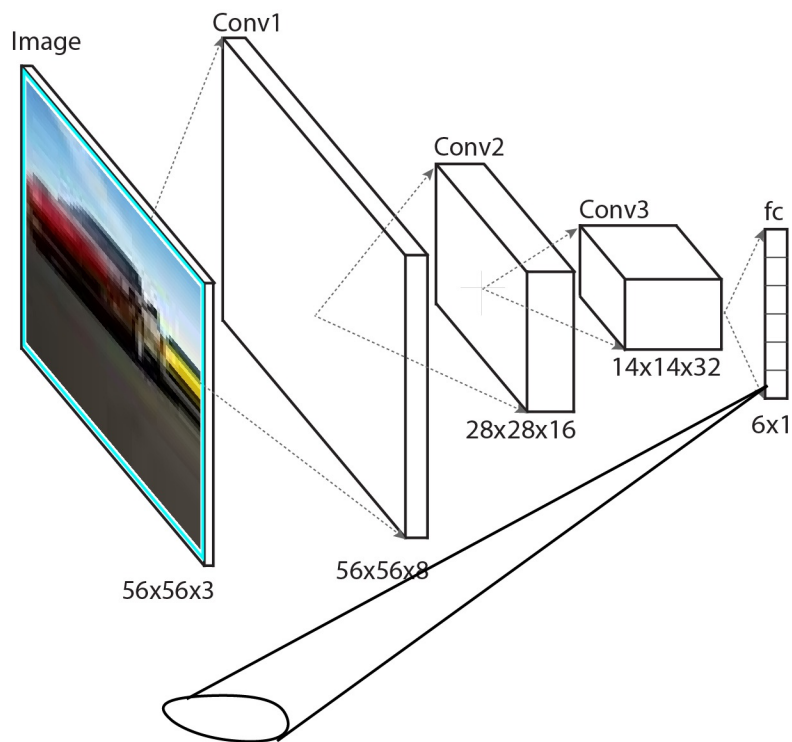
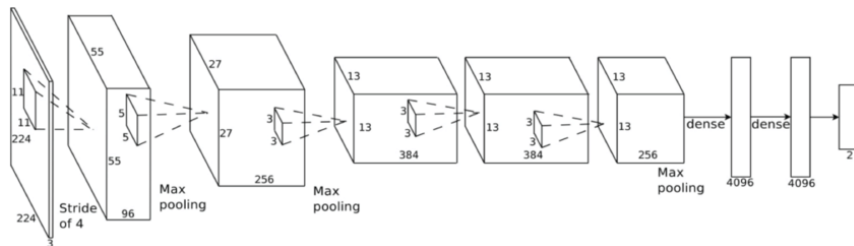
Signed error signals

Large gradients

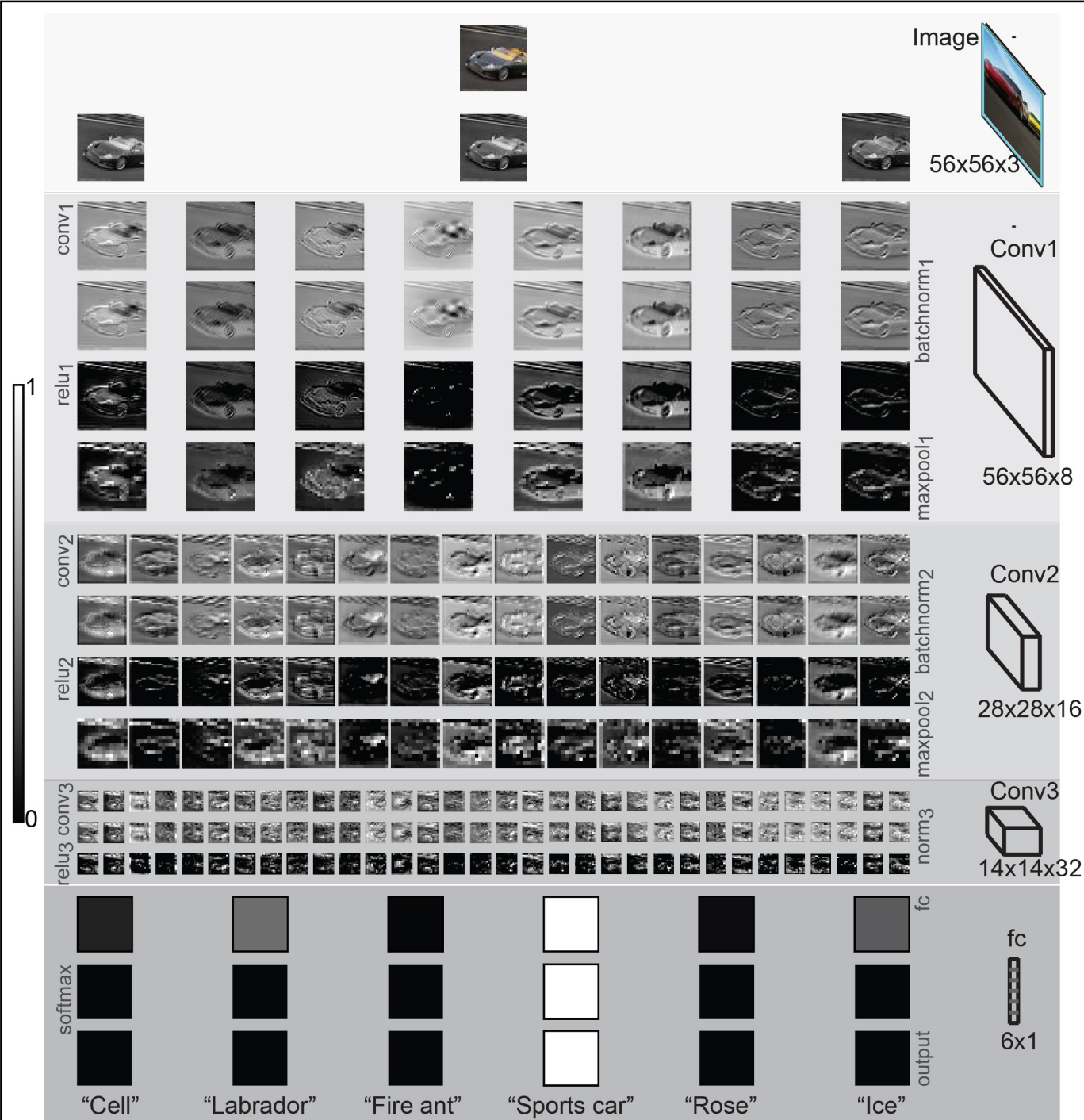
Feedback alters neuronal activity (and weights only indirectly)

Supervised learning requires many training examples

Putting it all together

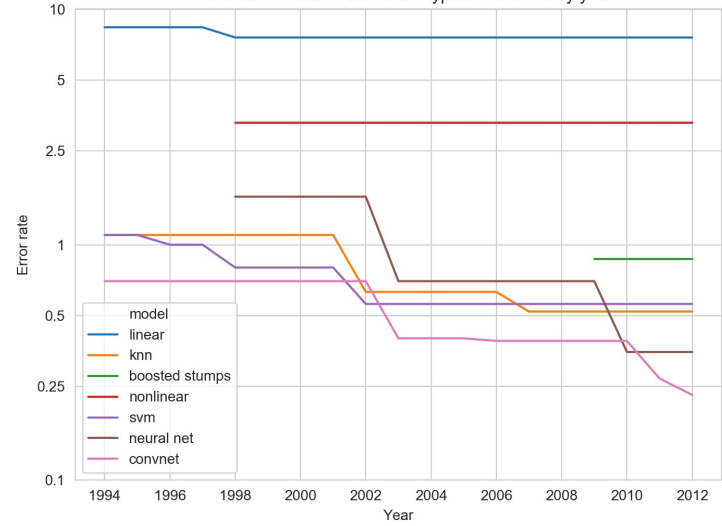


A CNN in action



To err is human and algorithmic

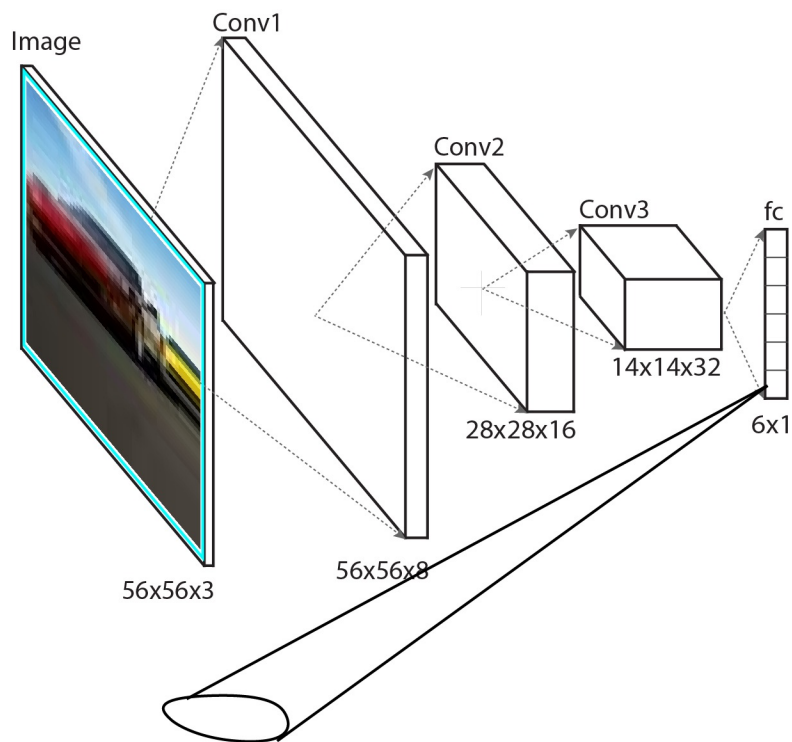
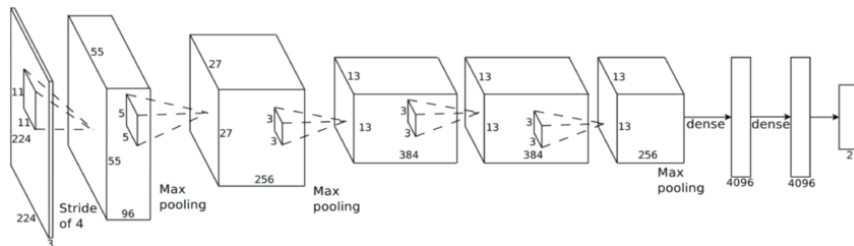
Performance of different model types on MNIST by year



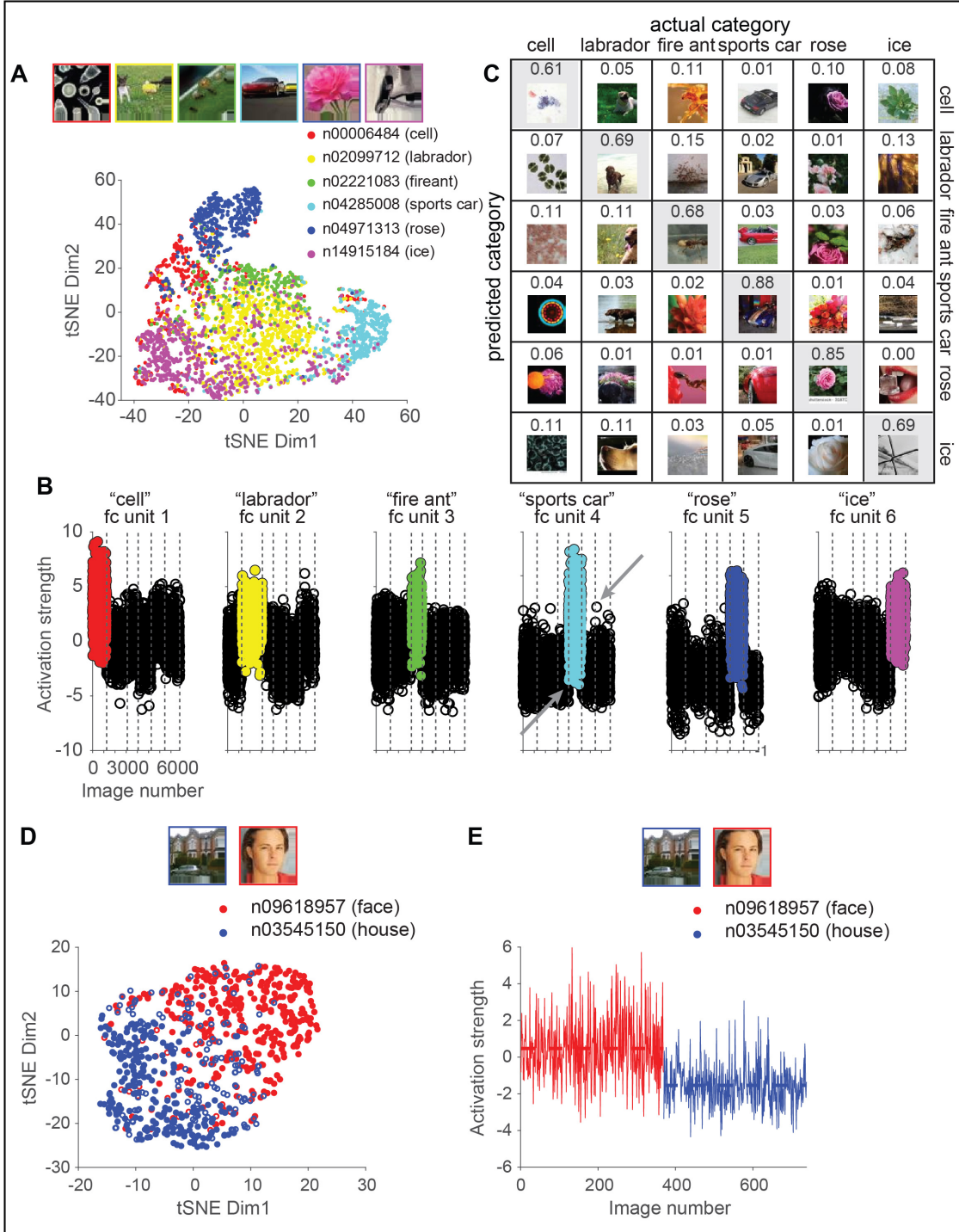
	actual category									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6	3.7	0.9	0.0	5.1	0.9	95.6
8	0.5	0.4	2.7	1.0	0.4	1.5	0.4	0.2	94.3	0.3
7	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	89.3	0.5	0.3
6	0.8	0.3	1.1	0.1	0.8	1.3	97.0	0.2	0.8	0.2
5	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	91.7	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	94.7	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.8
3	0.0	0.3	1.2	95.9	0.0	2.4	0.0	1.0	1.5	1.3
2	0.0	0.1	91.8	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	98.9	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	1.6	0.6	0.7
0	98.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.2	1.2	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.7

predicted category

Putting it all together



CNNs in action: example



Computational models versus biology

	Biology	Computer vision
Hierarchy	✓	✓
Receptive field increase through hierarchy	✓	✓
Convolution-like operations	✓	✓
Backpropagation	?	✓
Supervised learning	~	✓
Unsupervised learning	✓	~
Interactions between areas	✓	~

Summary

- Visual recognition ~ extraction of task-dependent adequate features plus read-out
- Computation emerges from combination of simple elementary functions: convolution, normalization, rectification, pooling
- Hierarchical models capture essential neural and behavioral properties of visual processing
- Weights can be learned via back-propagation
- Current models provide only a coarse approximation to the complexities of the visual system

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