

# Visual pathway

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U2IS - ENSTA - IPParis

ecampus moodle: MI210 - Modèles neuro-computationnels de  
la vision (P4 - 2020-21)

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1. Visual Pathway
2. A systems architecture perspective on the visual system
3. Hierarchical vs Parallel visual system
  1. Organizational structures
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# Sensing: the eye (outside)

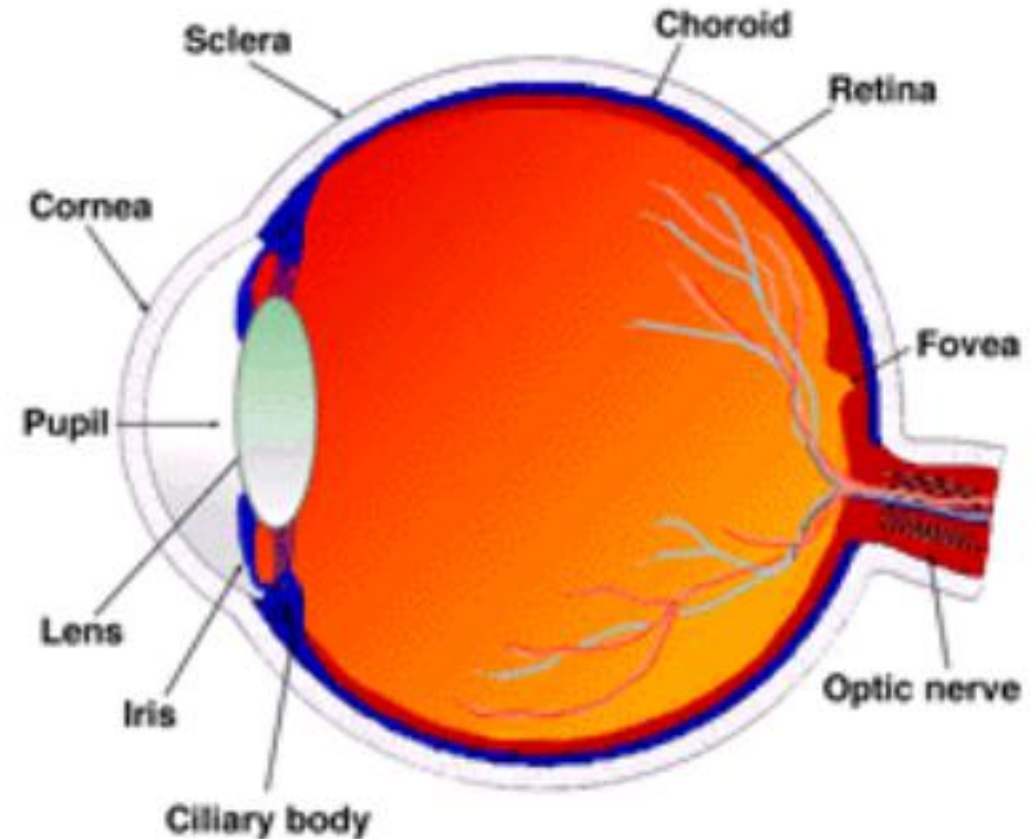
**Pupil:** black-looking aperture, that allows light to enter the eye

**Iris:** colored circular muscle, which is pigmented giving us our eye's color. It controls the size of the pupil so that more or less light

**Cornea:** transparent external surface that covers both the pupil and the iris. This is the first and most powerful lens of the optical system of the eye

**Crystalline Lens:** secondary lens

**Sclera:** The “white of the eye”, which forms part of the supporting wall of the eyeball.



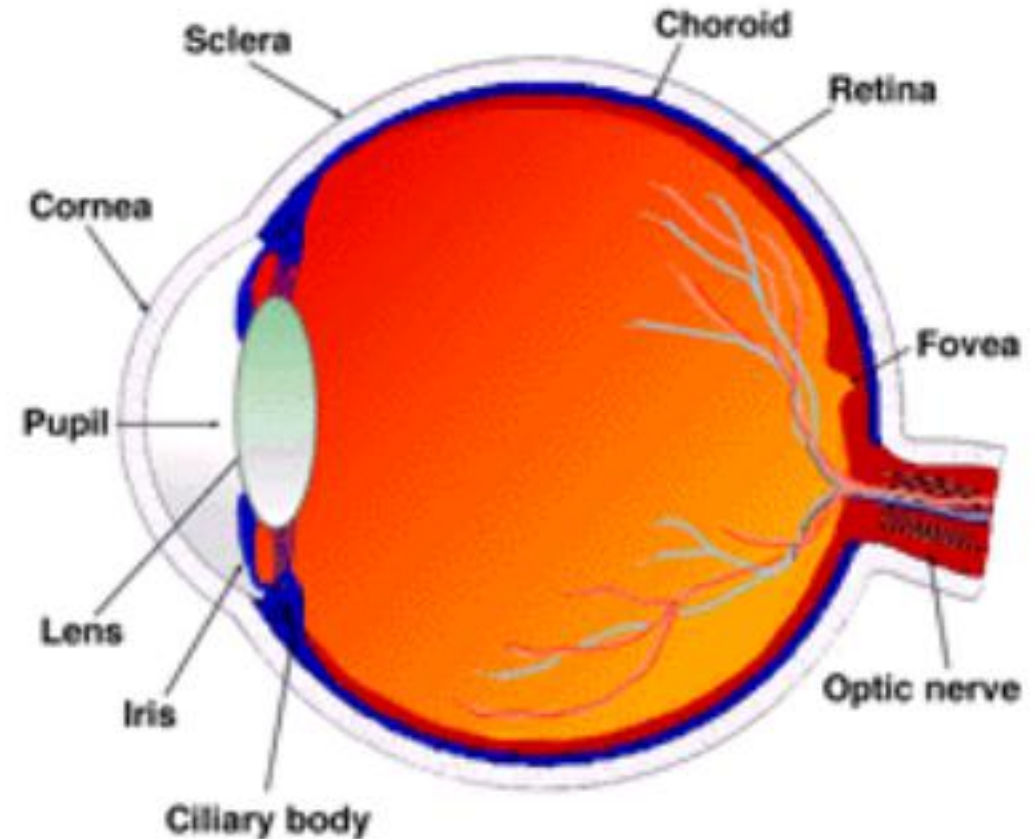
# Sensing: the eye (inside)

**Ciliary body:** accommodation, aqueous humor production and resorption (providing oxygen, nutrients, and metabolic waste removal), and maintenance of the lens

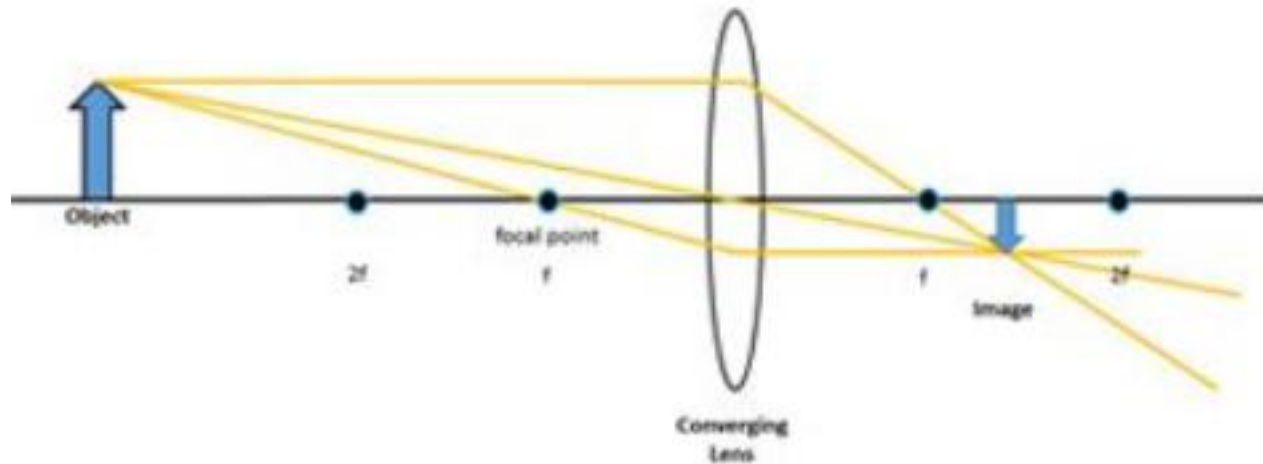
**Choroid:** the vascular layer

**Retina:** light-sensitive layer of tissue of the eye, where the neurons are

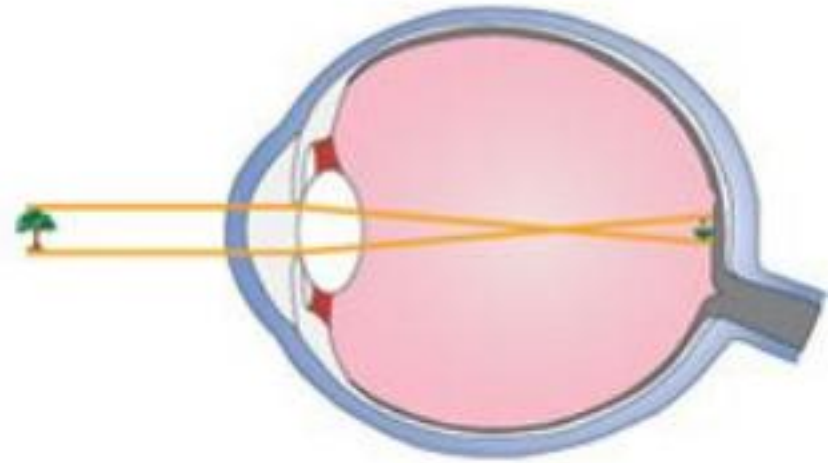
**Fovea:** central pit composed of closely packed cones (one type of photoreceptors)



# Sensing : the eye (optics)



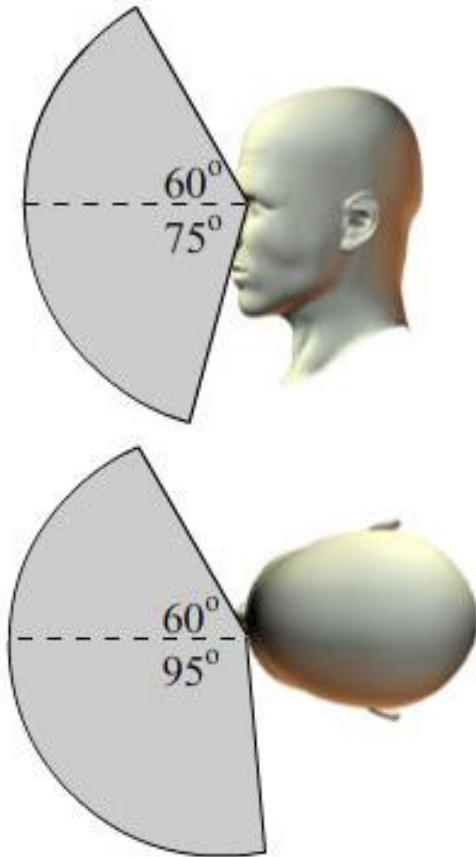
Ray diagram for a converging lens.



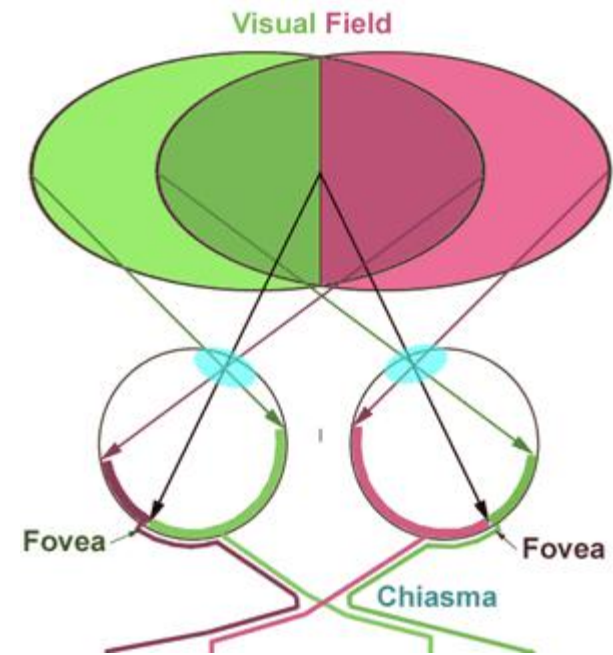
Ray diagram for the human eye.

# Sensing: the eye (visual field)

Monocular

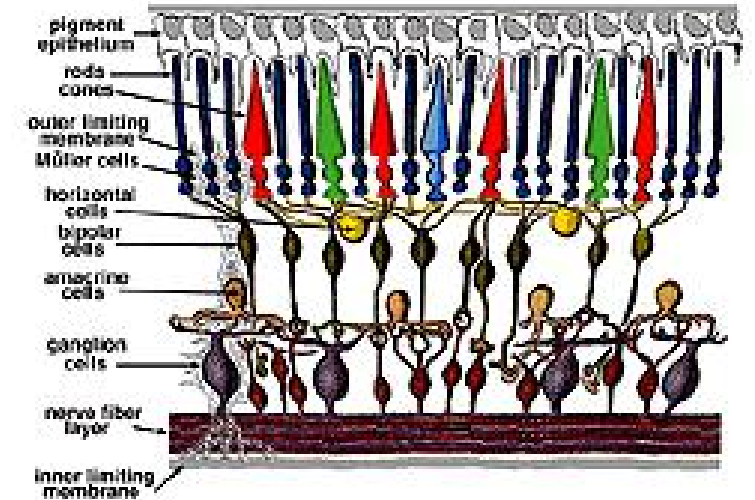
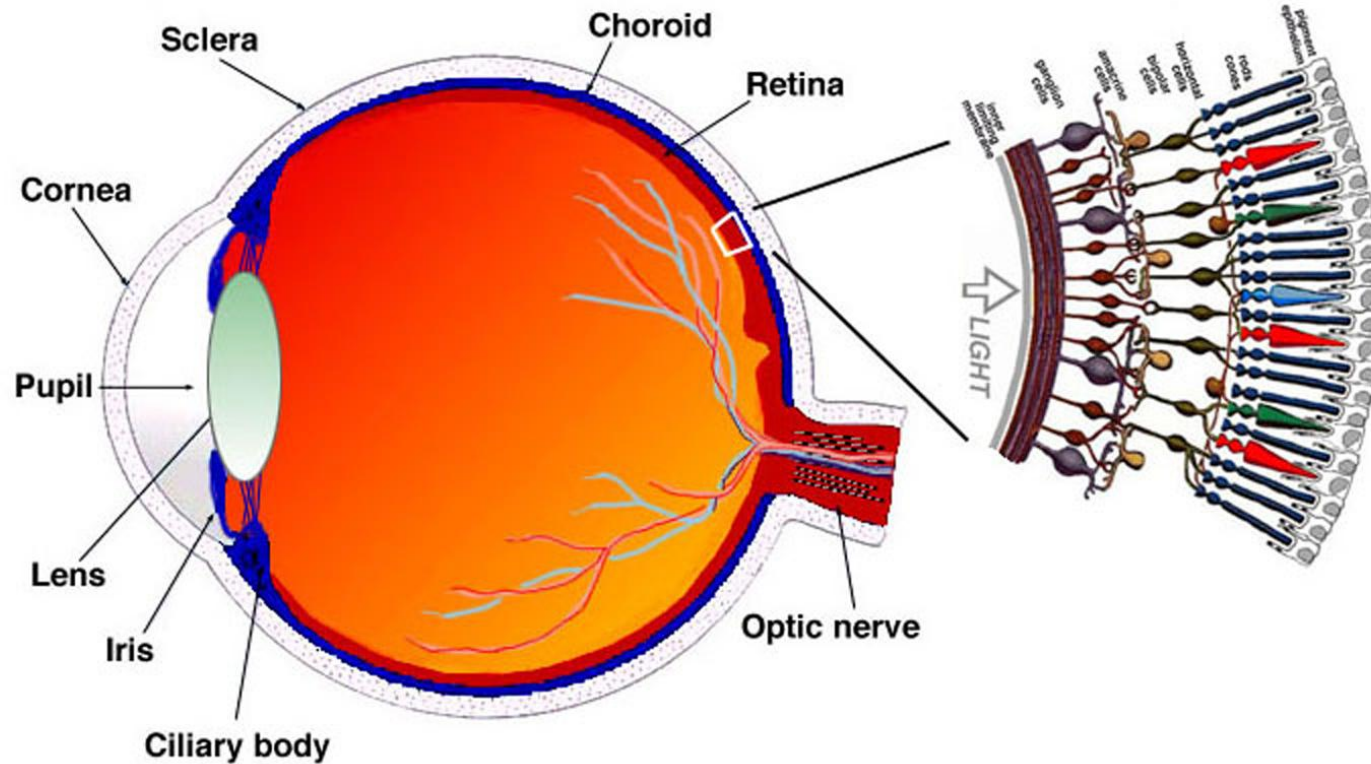


Binocular

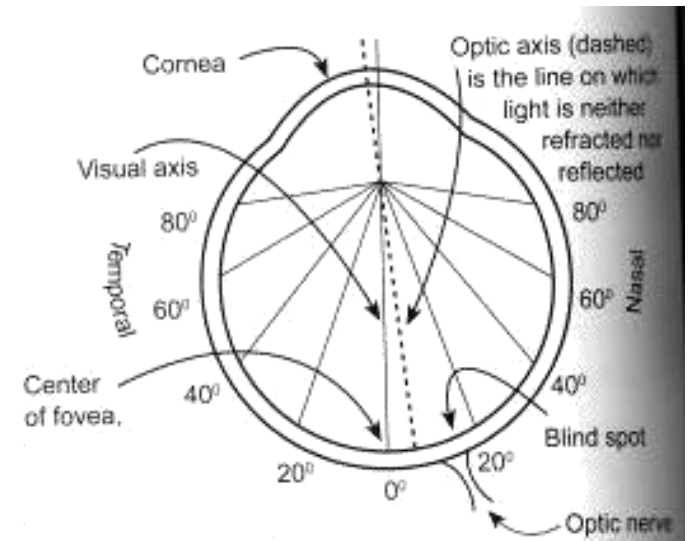




# Retina: structure

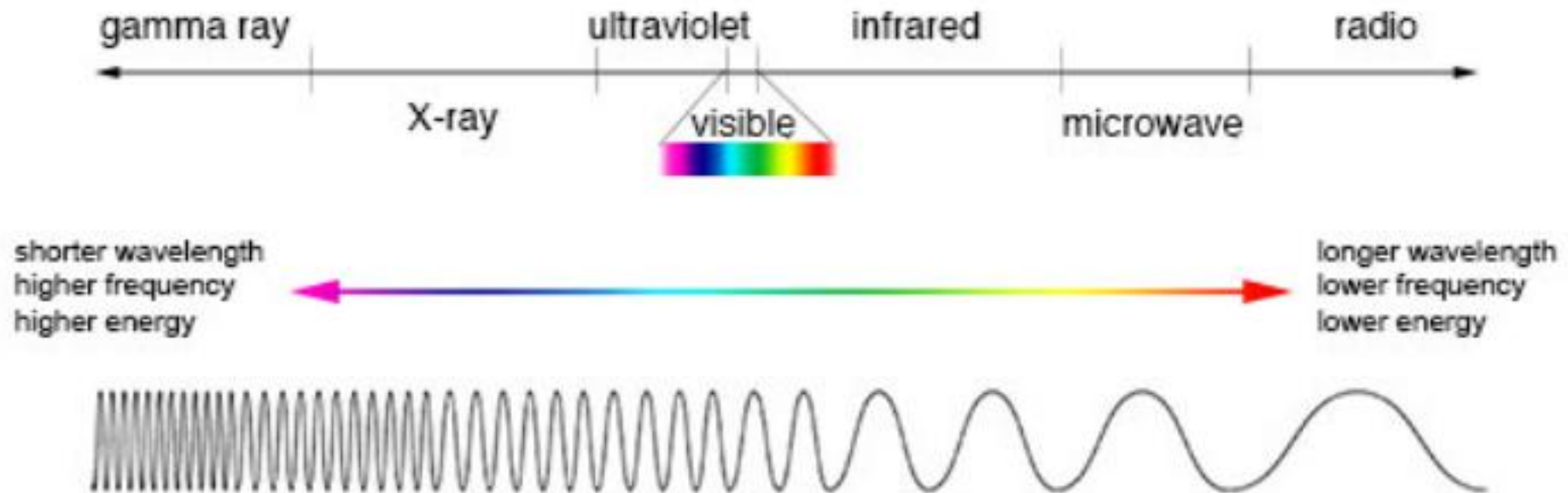


**Fig. 1.1. A drawing of a section through the human eye with a schematic enlargement of the retina.**





# Retina: Visual Spectrum



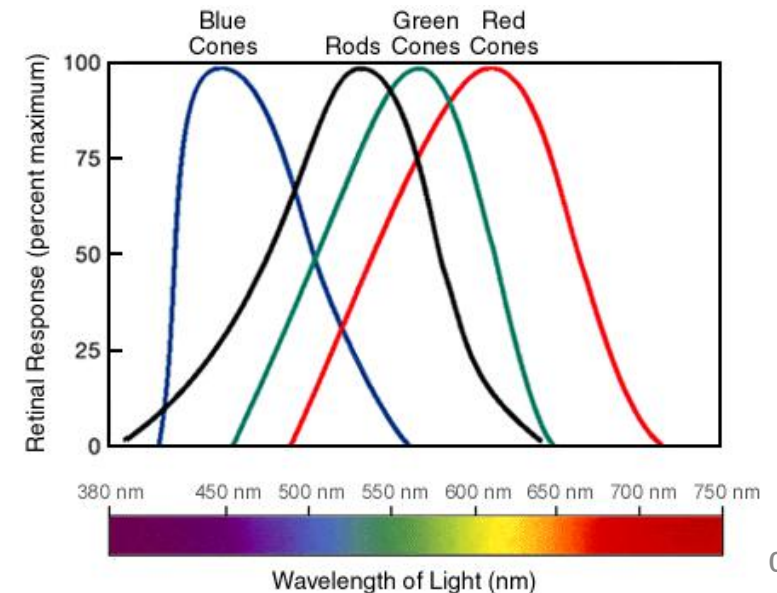
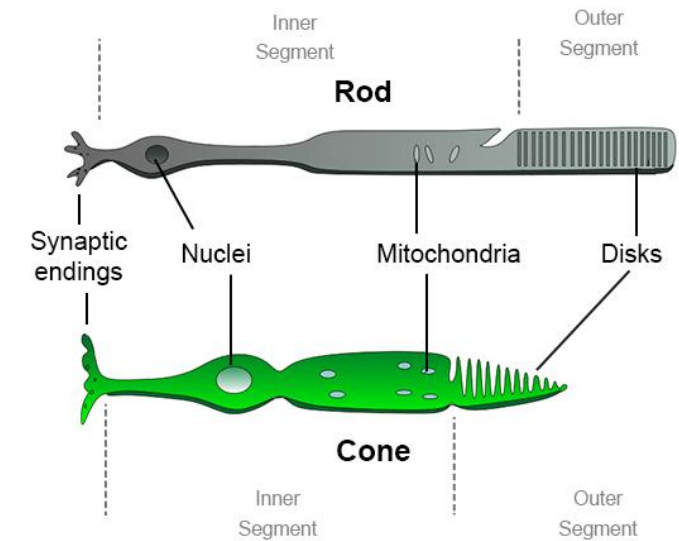
Comparison of wavelength, frequency and energy for the electromagnetic spectrum. (Credit: NASA's Imagine the Universe)

# Retina: Photoreceptors

**Cones:** cone-shaped, operate in high light, color vision: Red, Green and Blue

**Rods:** rod-shaped, operate at night gray-scale vision

- Rods are 100 times more sensitive to a single photon than cones, but they respond slower



# Retina: Photoreceptors

- 20 times more rods than cones in the retina
- The cones density decreases exponentially with the eccentricity
- The rods density decreases “linearly” from the peak

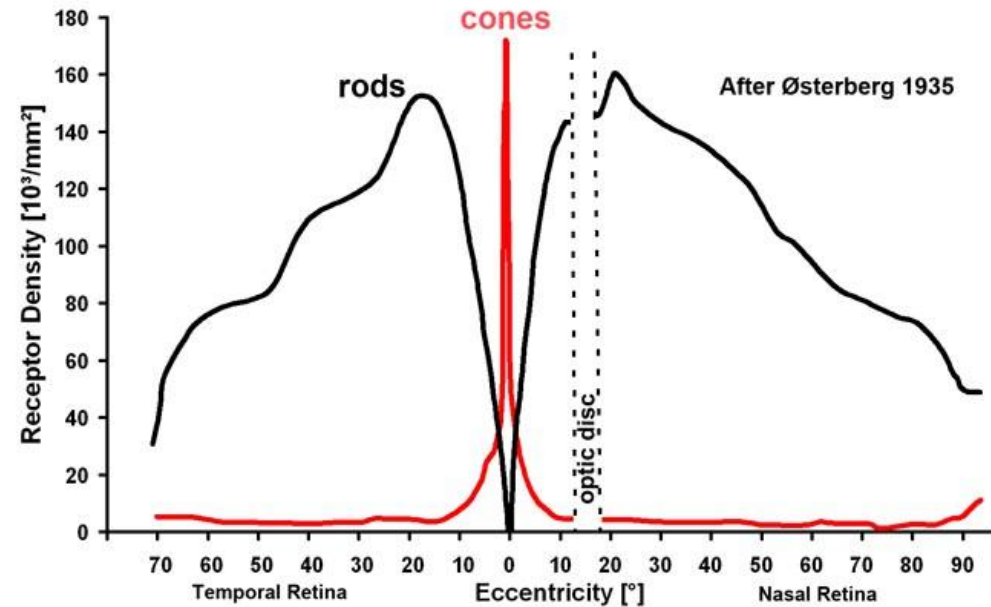
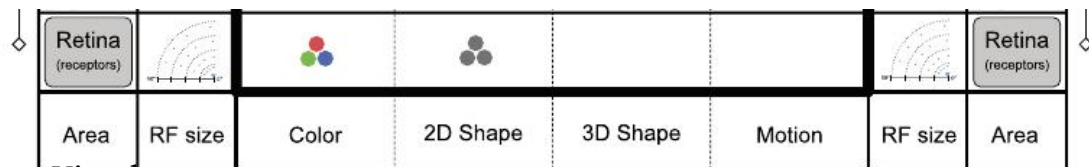


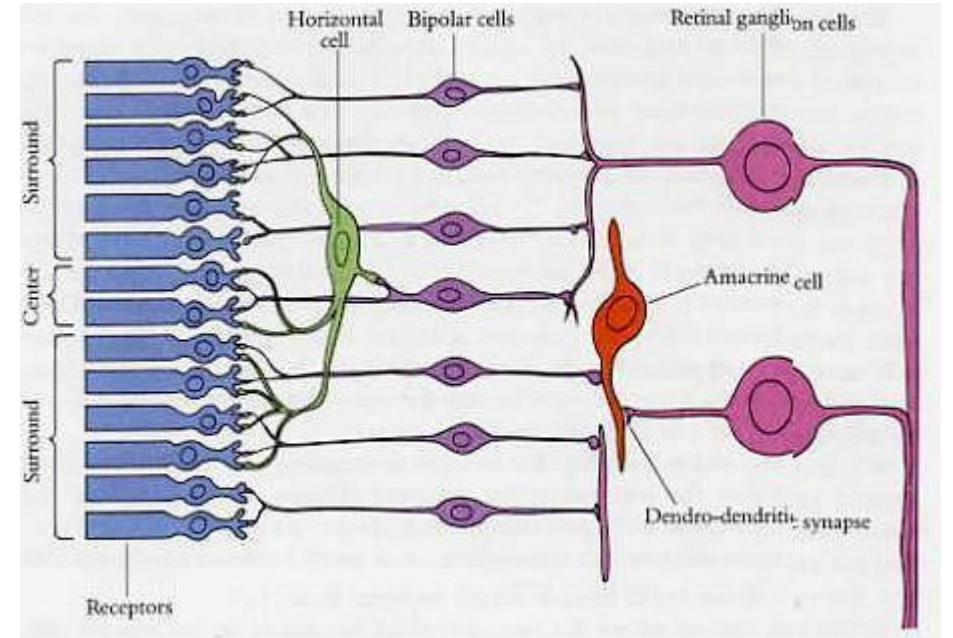
Fig. 20. Graph to show rod and cone densities along the horizontal meridian.

# Summary



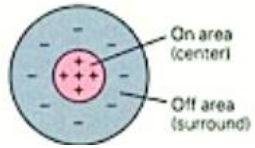
# Retina: Interneurons

- **Bipolar Cells:** send information directly to Ganglion Cells or to Amacrine. Gates for circuitry in the retina. Contrast sensitivity
- **Horizontal Cells:** illumination adaptation, large range connectivity, contribute to the Ganglion Cells (surround Receptive Field)
- **Amacrine Cells:** detection of directional motion, modulate light adaption and circadian rhythm, and control high sensitivity in scotopic (low light) vision

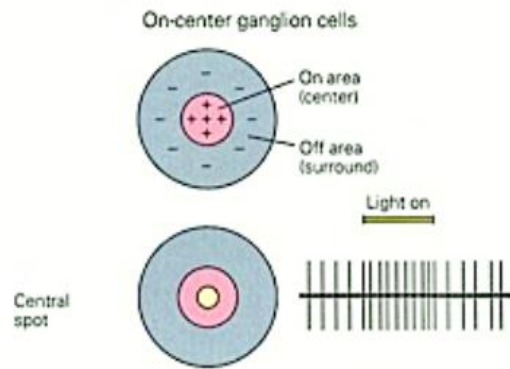


# Retina: Ganglion Cells Receptive Fields Spatial Shape

On-center ganglion cells

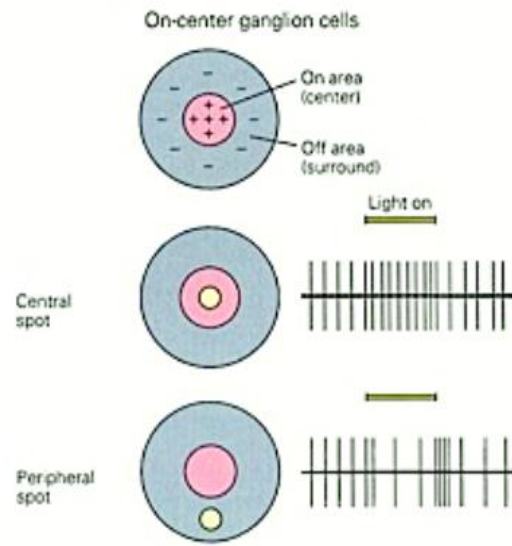


# Retina: Ganglion Cells Receptive Fields Spatial Shape

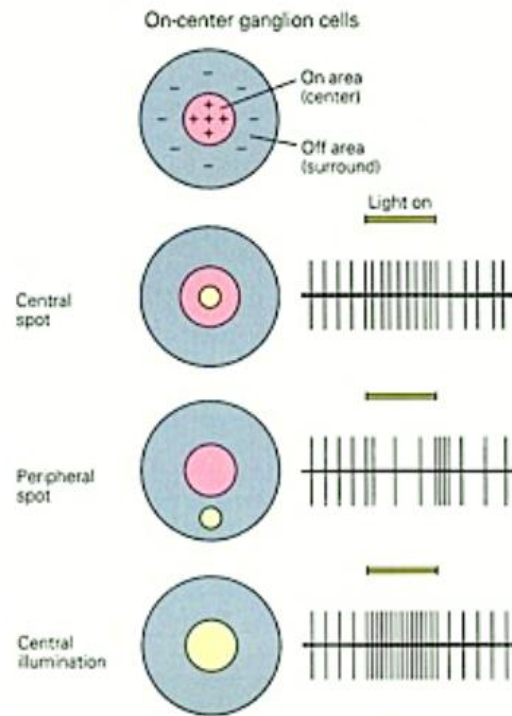




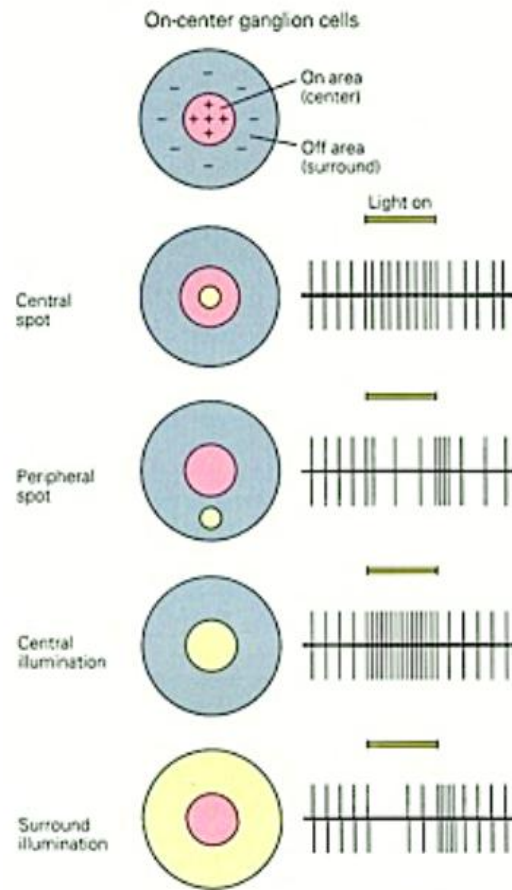
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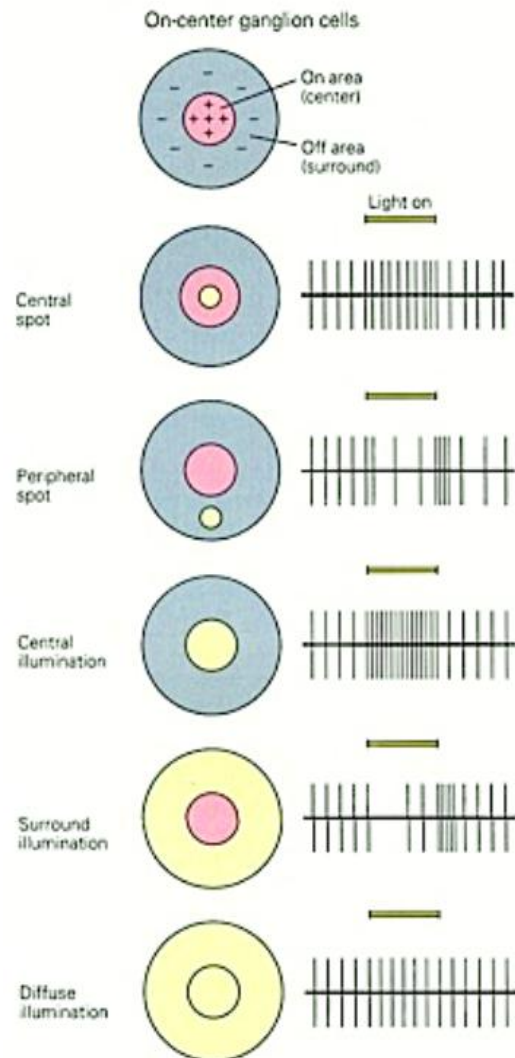
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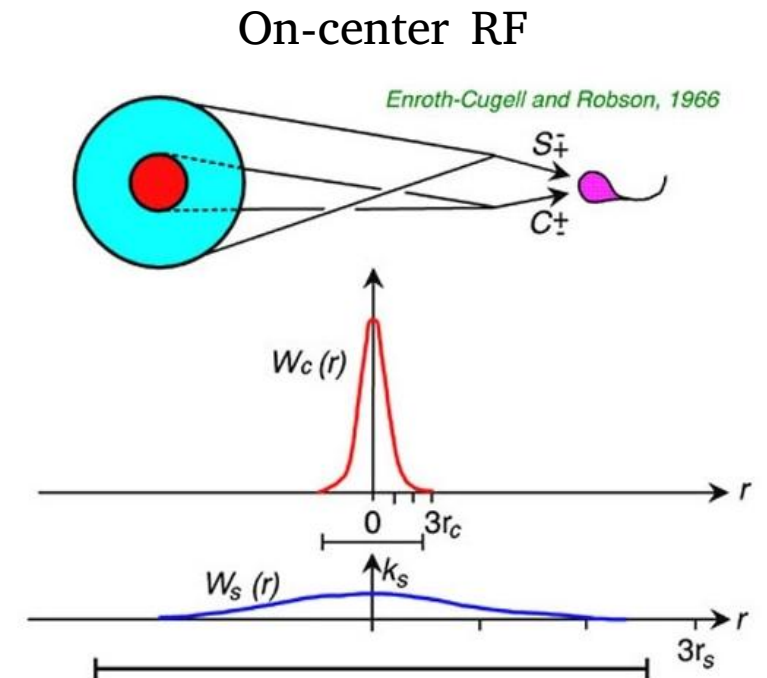
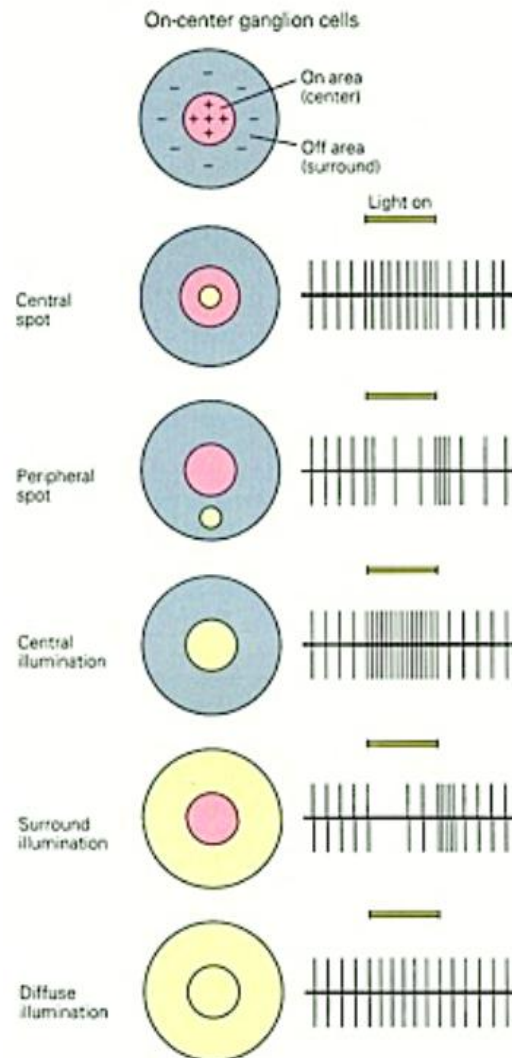
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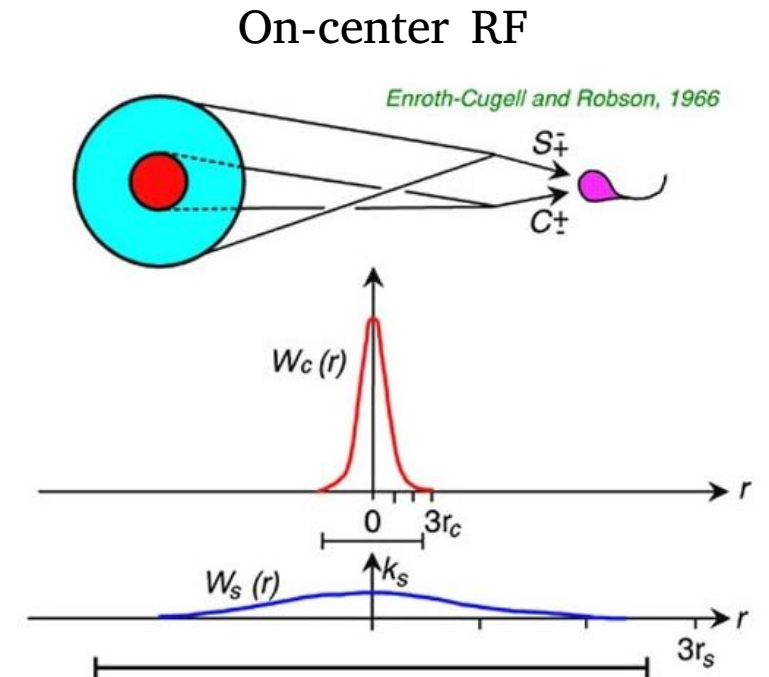
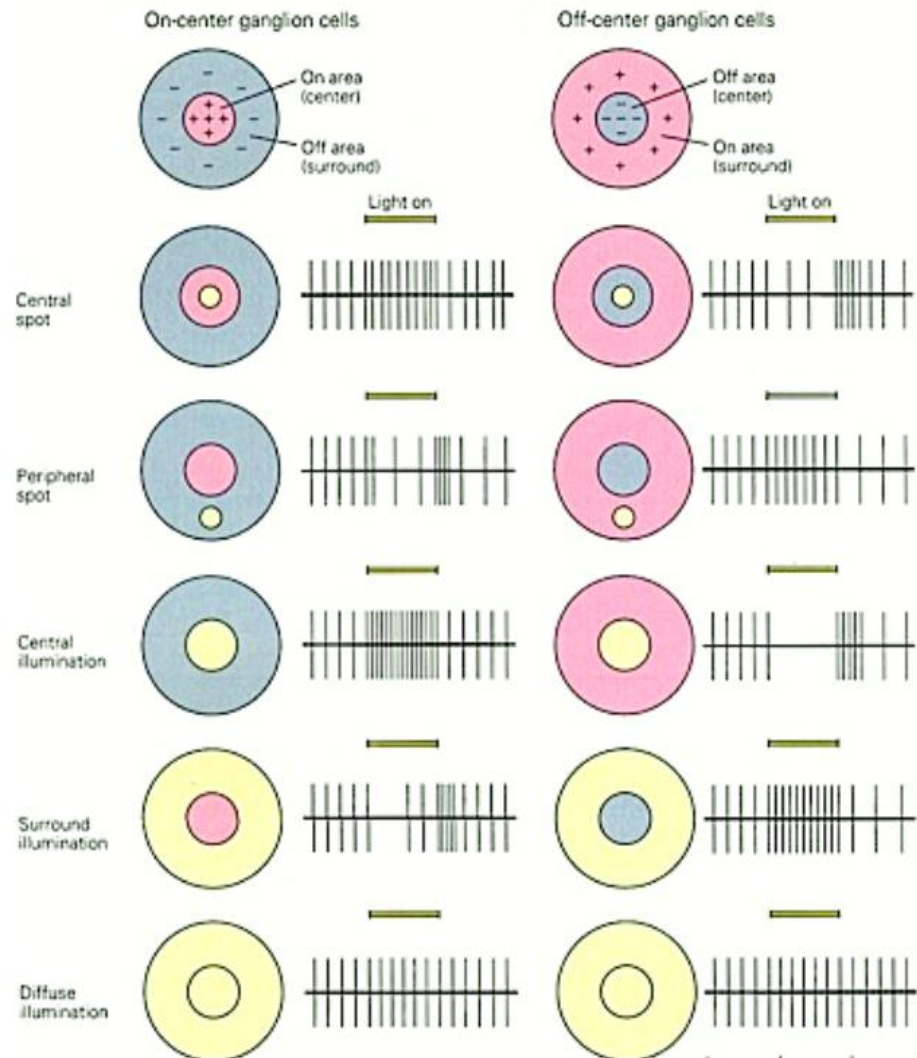
# Retina: Ganglion Cells Receptive Fields Spatial Shape



# Retina: Ganglion Cells Receptive Fields Spatial Shape



# Retina: Ganglion Cells Receptive Fields Spatial Shape



# Retina: Ganglion Cells Receptive Fields Spatial Shape Across the Visual Field

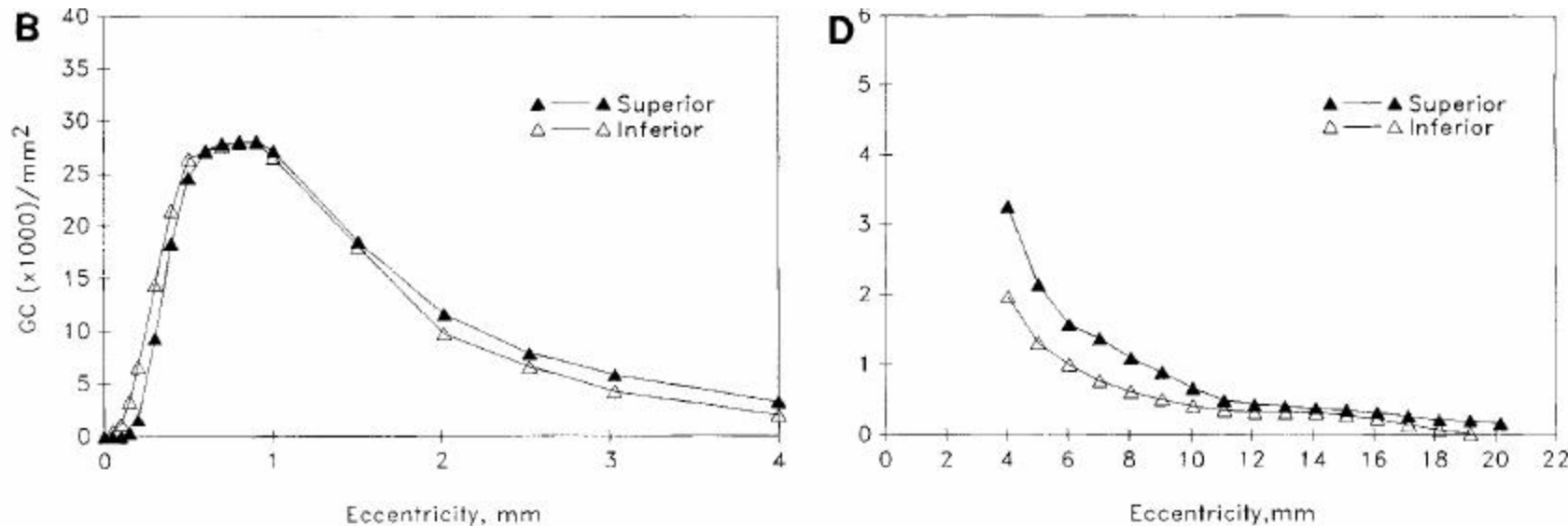
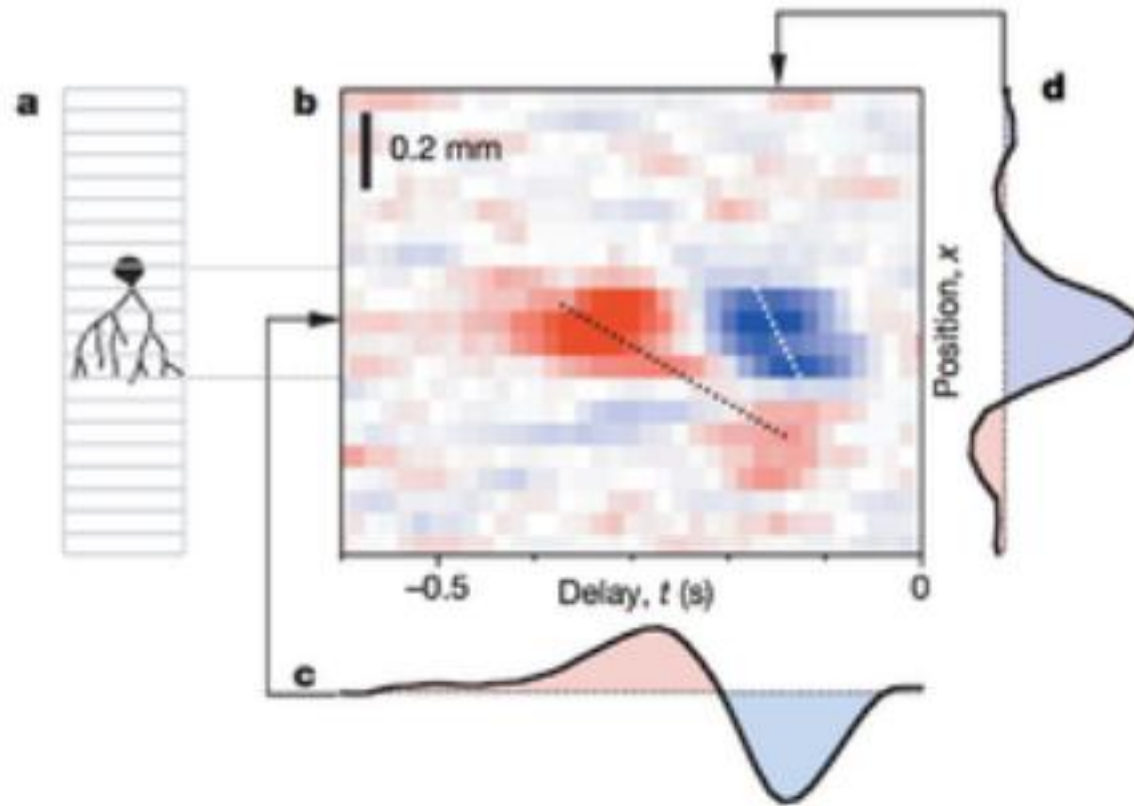


Fig. 6. Ganglion cell (GC) density as a function of eccentricity along the horizontal (A, C) and vertical (B, D) meridians of the composite retina. A, B show foveal and C, D show peripheral ganglion cell density at appropriate scales. The gap in the nasal curve at 4 mm represents the site of the optic disk.

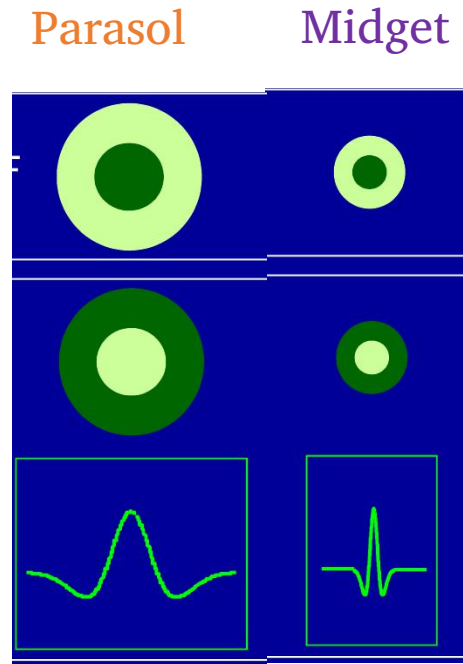


# Retina: Ganglion Cells Receptive Fields

## Temporal Shape

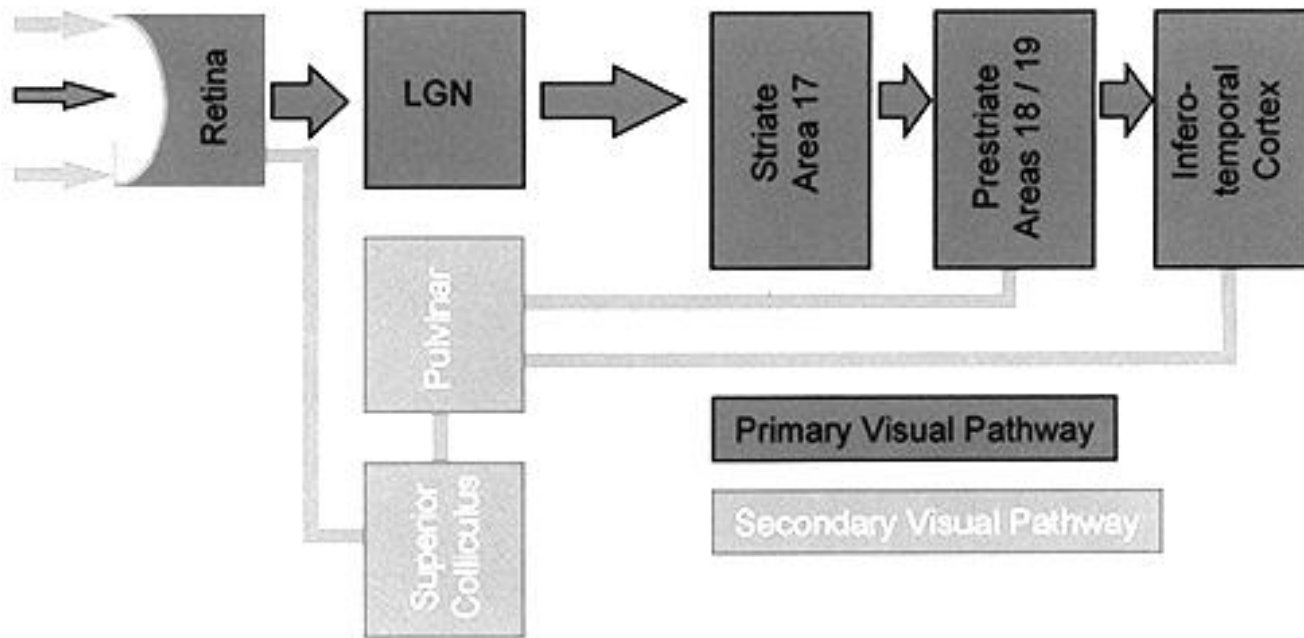


# Retina: Ganglion Cells types



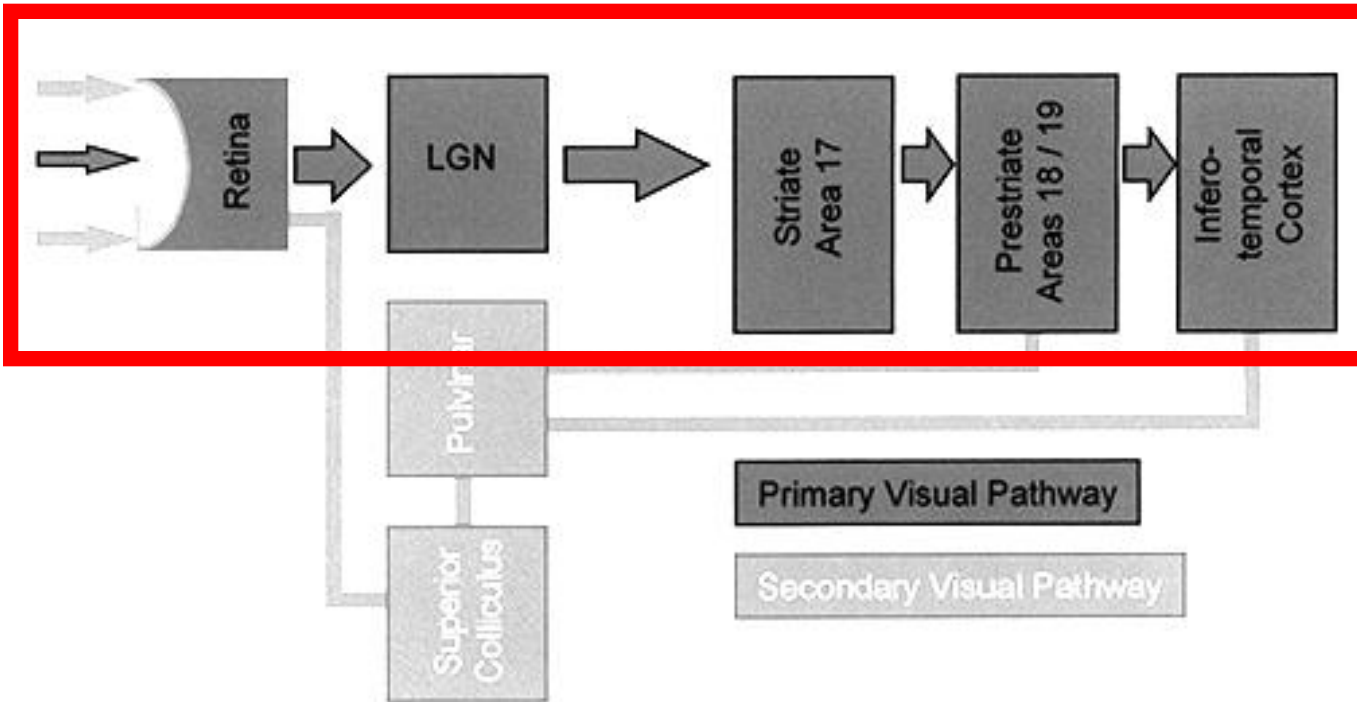
NAME	PROP	DENDRITIC SIZE	CONDUCTION	RECEPTIVE FIELD SIZE	RECEPTIVE FIELD SHAPE	COLOR SENSITIVITY	CONTRAST SENSITIVITY
Midget	80%	Small	Slow	Small	Center-Surround	Strong	Weak
Parasol	10%	Large	Fast	Large	Center-Surround	Weak	Strong
Bistratified	5%	Very Small	Moderate	Very Large	Center	?	Medium

# Primary and Secondary Pathways



Primary	Secondary
focal	global
attentive	pre-attentive
what	where
scrutinizing	early warning
internal	external

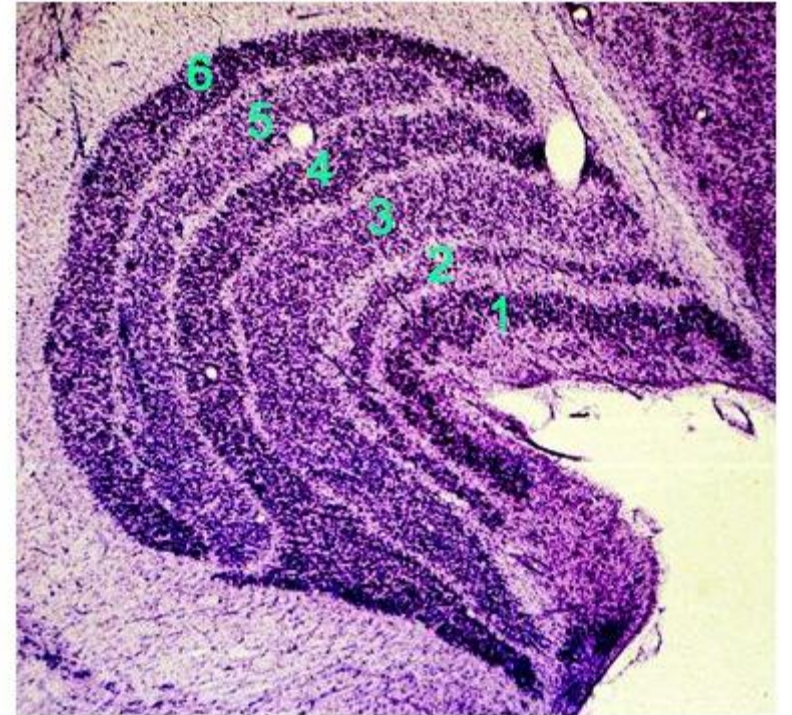
# Primary and Secondary Pathways



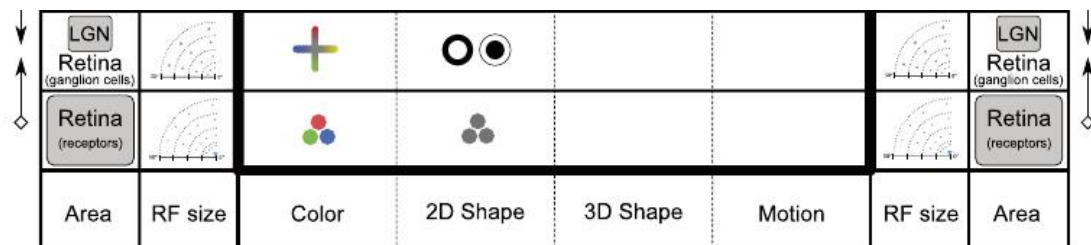
Primary	Secondary
focal	global
attentive	pre-attentive
what	where
scrutinizing	early warning
internal	external

# Lateral Geniculate Nucleus

- Function and RFs associated with RGC
- Clear pathway division
- Strong feedback connections from V1
- 6 cellular layers organised as a stack of pancakes bent around the optic trackow
- Layers 1, 4 and 6 are related to the opposite eye (contralateral) whereas 2,3 and 5 relate the the eye on the same side (ipsilateral)

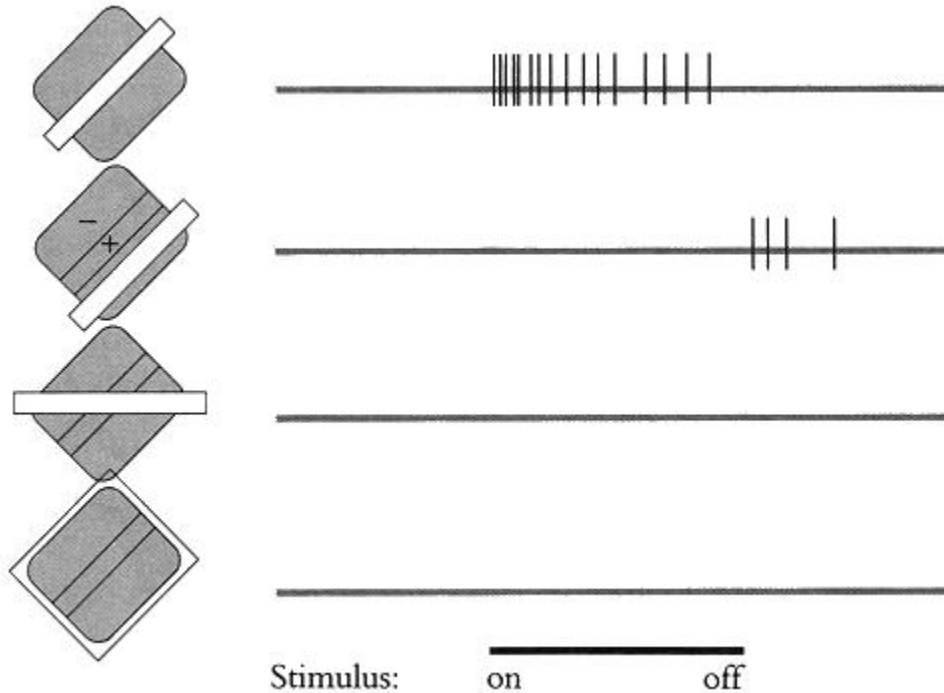


# Summary



# Simple cells and complex cells in V1

## Simple Cells



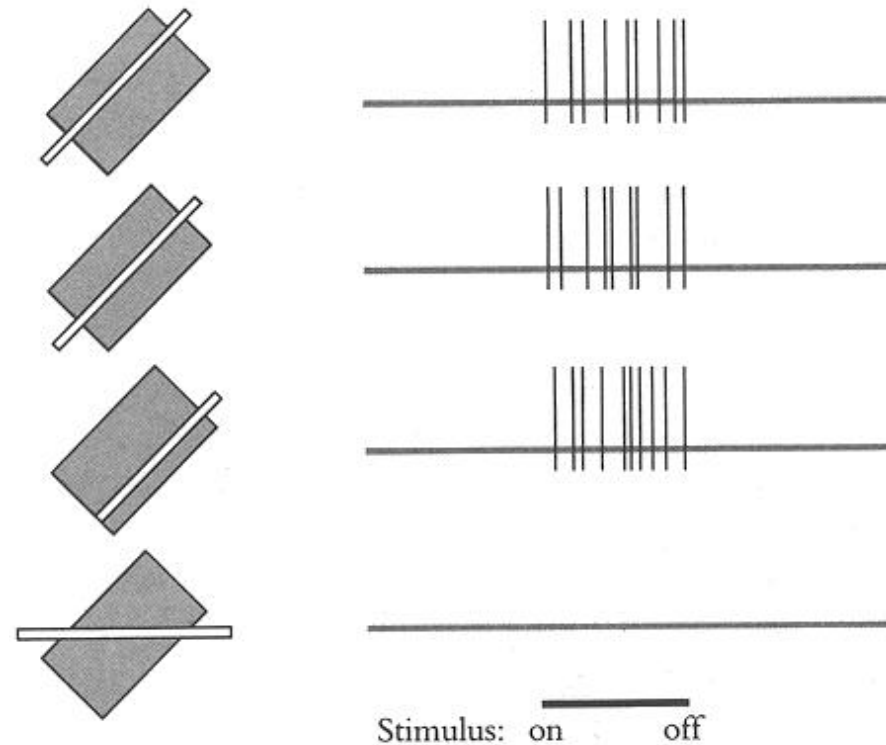
- 10% of V1 cells
- Probably the most studied cells in vision
- Shape like Gabors varying orientation, phase and frequency



# Simple cells and complex cells in V1

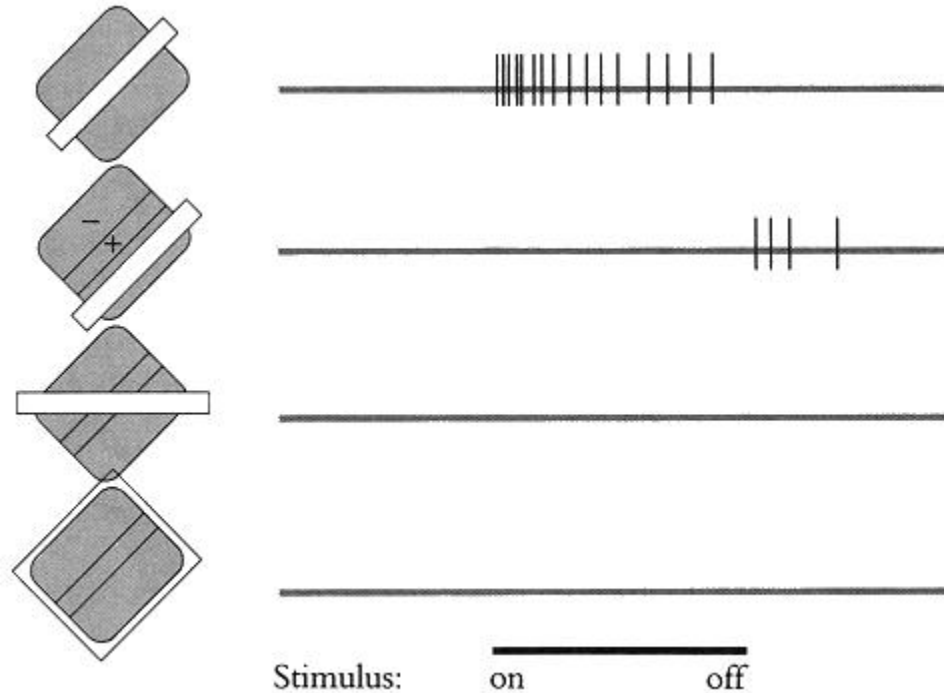
- Nonlinear summation
- Spatial invariance
- Some direction selectivity

## Complex cells

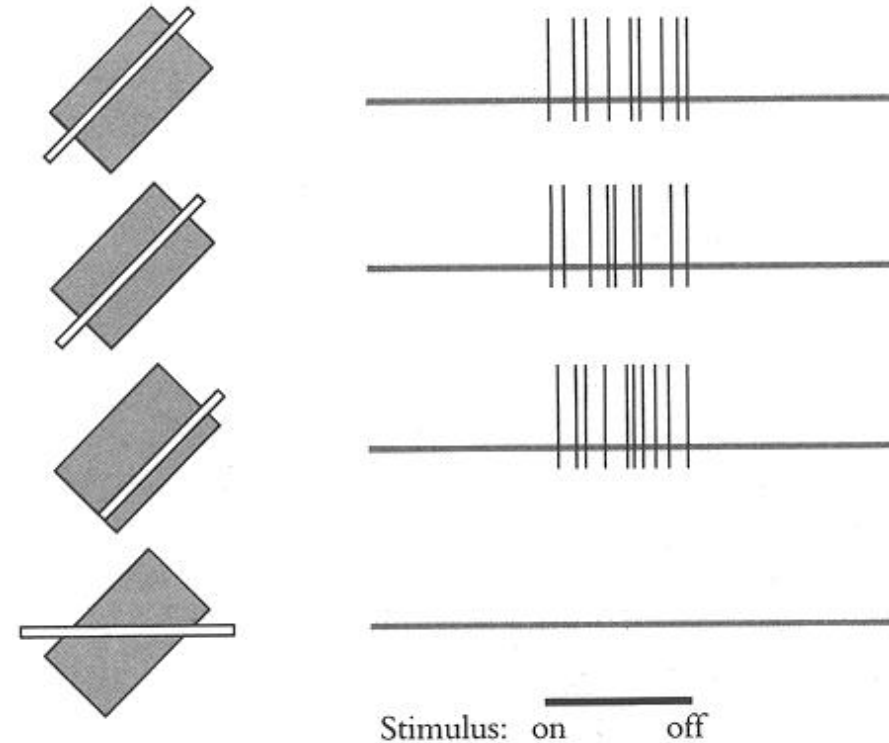


# Simple cells and complex cells in V1

## Simple Cells



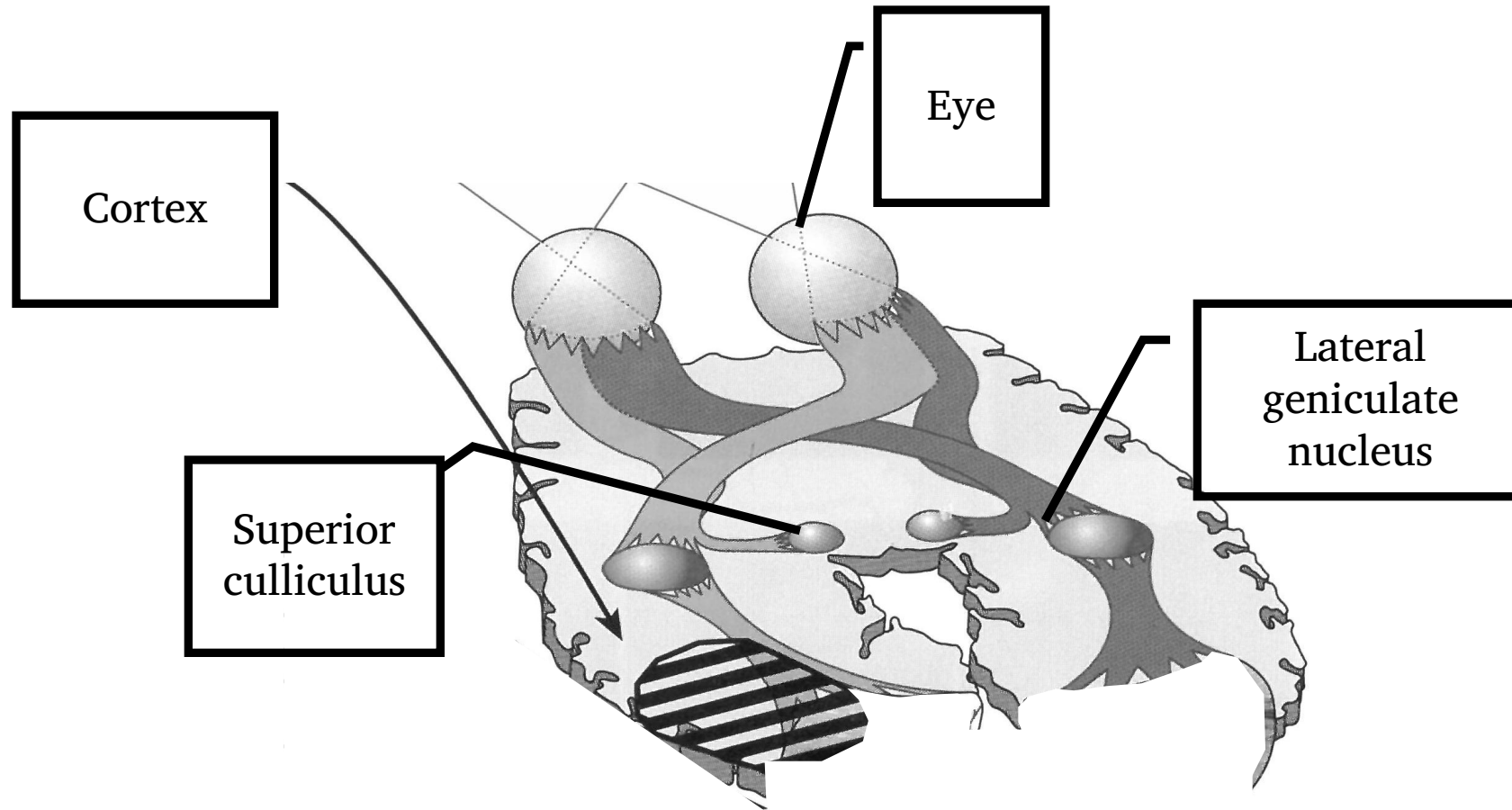
## Complex cells



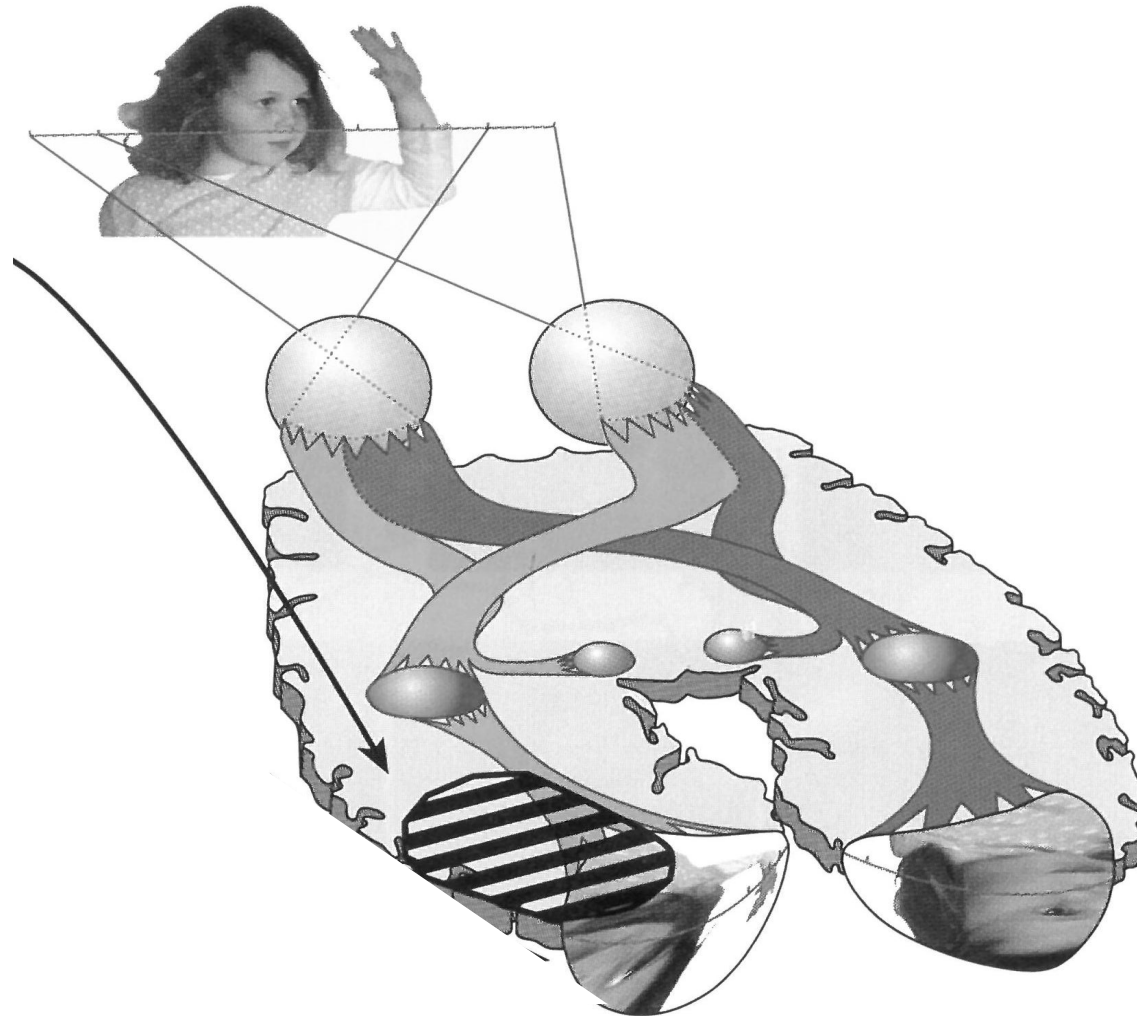
# V1: other properties

- Binocular neurons
- local motion detectors
- Center surround (similar to retinal ganglion cells)

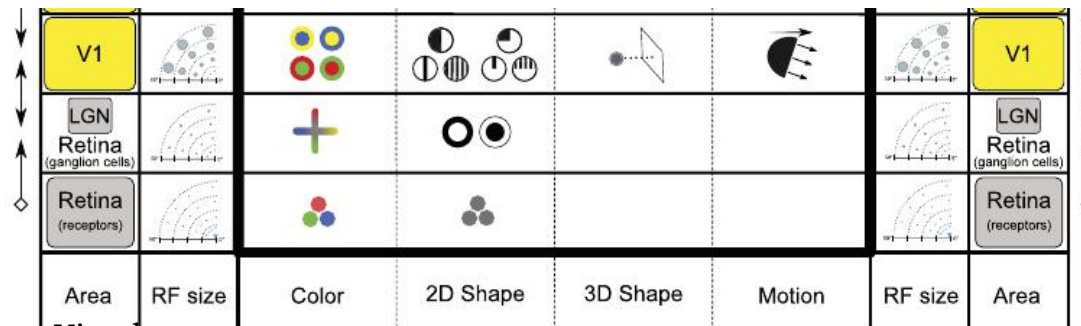
# V1: retino-cortical map



# V1: retino-cortical map



# Summary

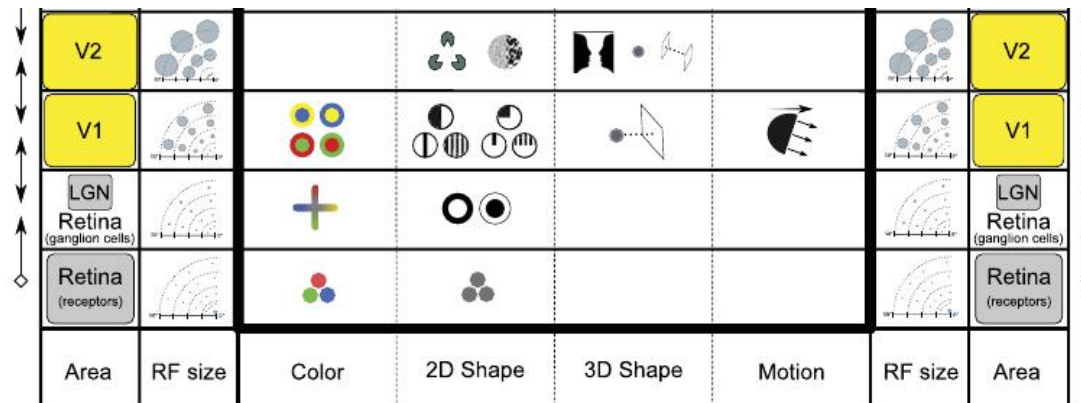


# V2

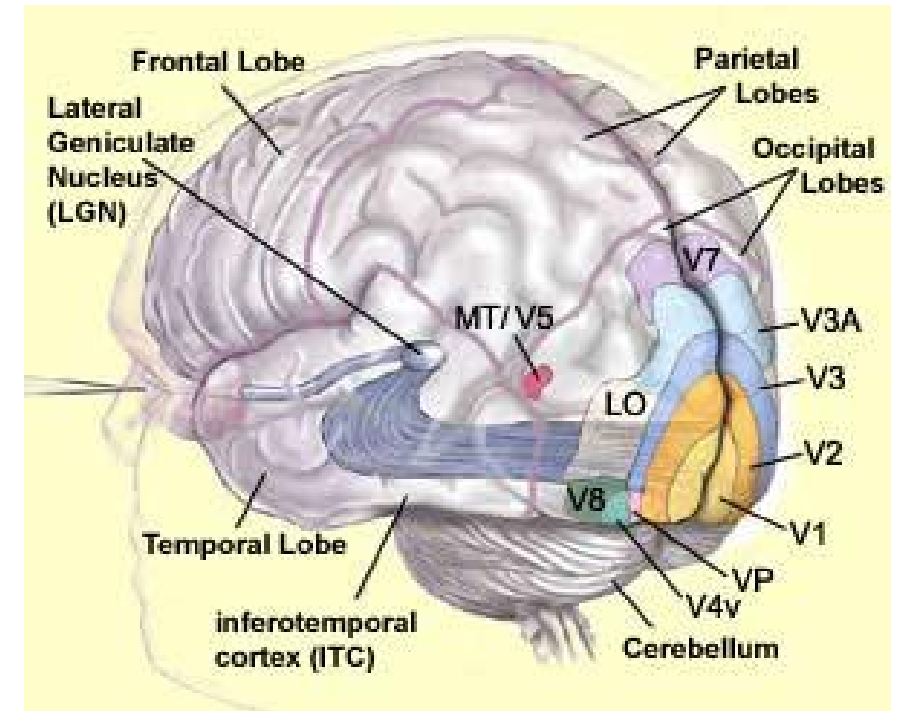
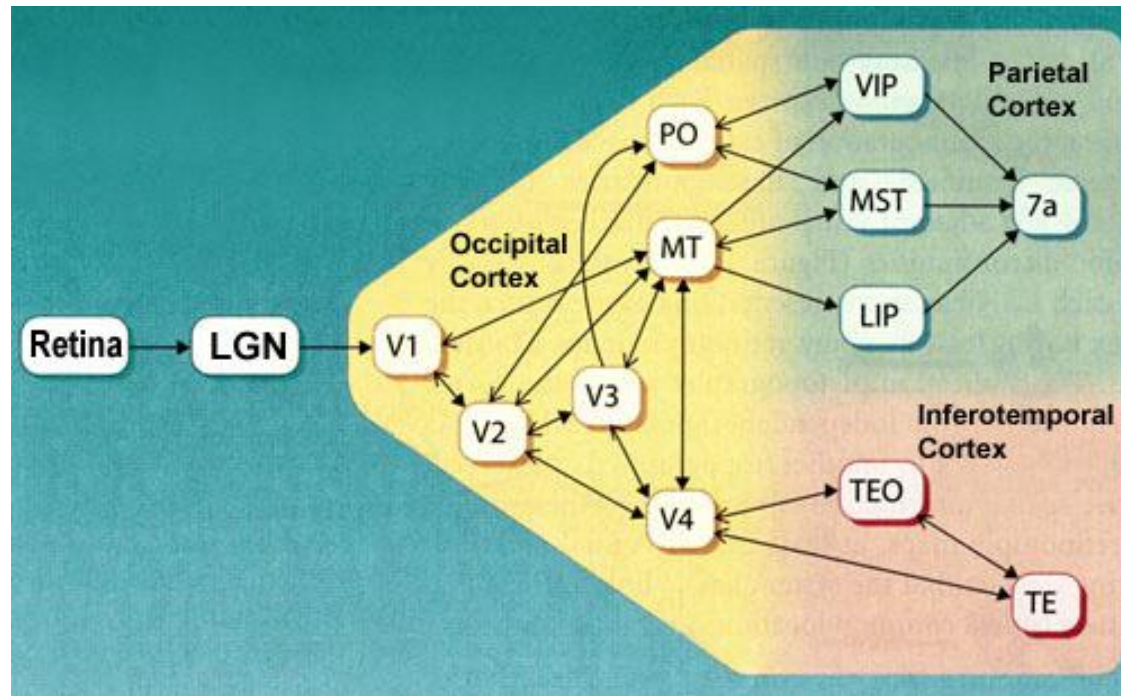
- Receptive fields similar to V1
- Detect texture-defined contours
- Relative disparity (in V1 is absolute)
- Border ownership
- Many illusions can be explained in function of the cells of this area



# Summary



# More pathways



# V4

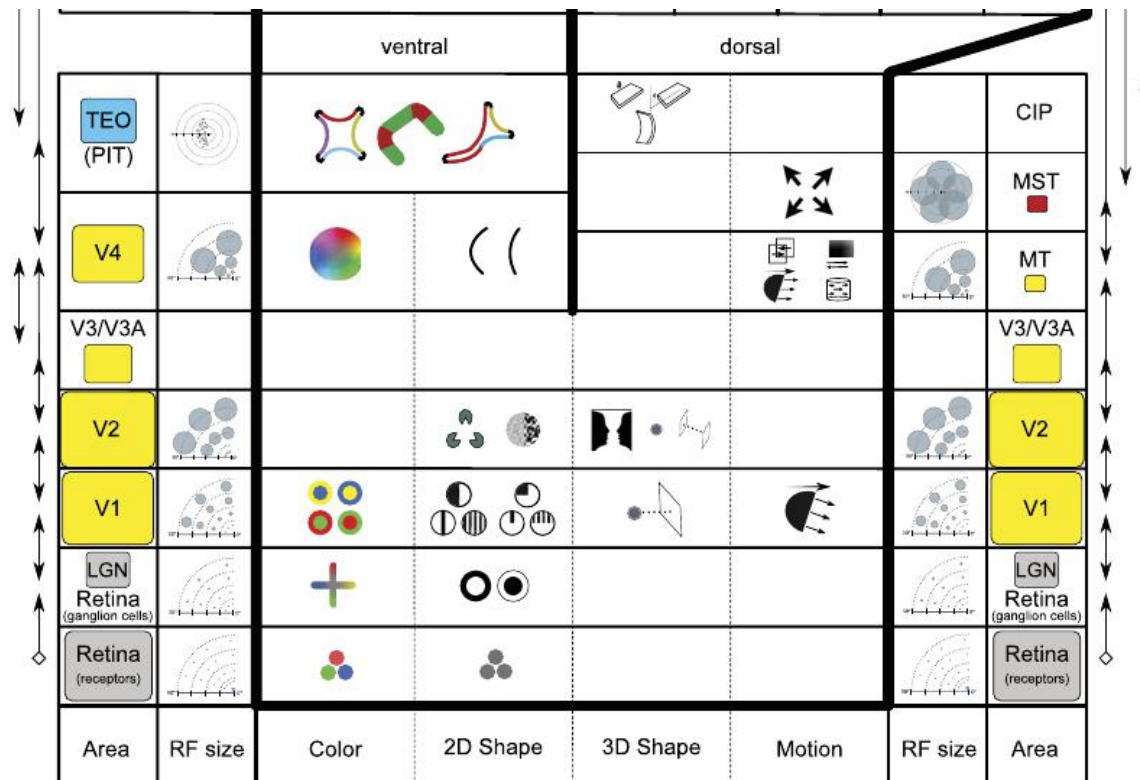
- Shape detection
- Curvature selectivity
- Luminance invariance/  
color consistency by  
coding the hue (instead  
of RGB opponency)



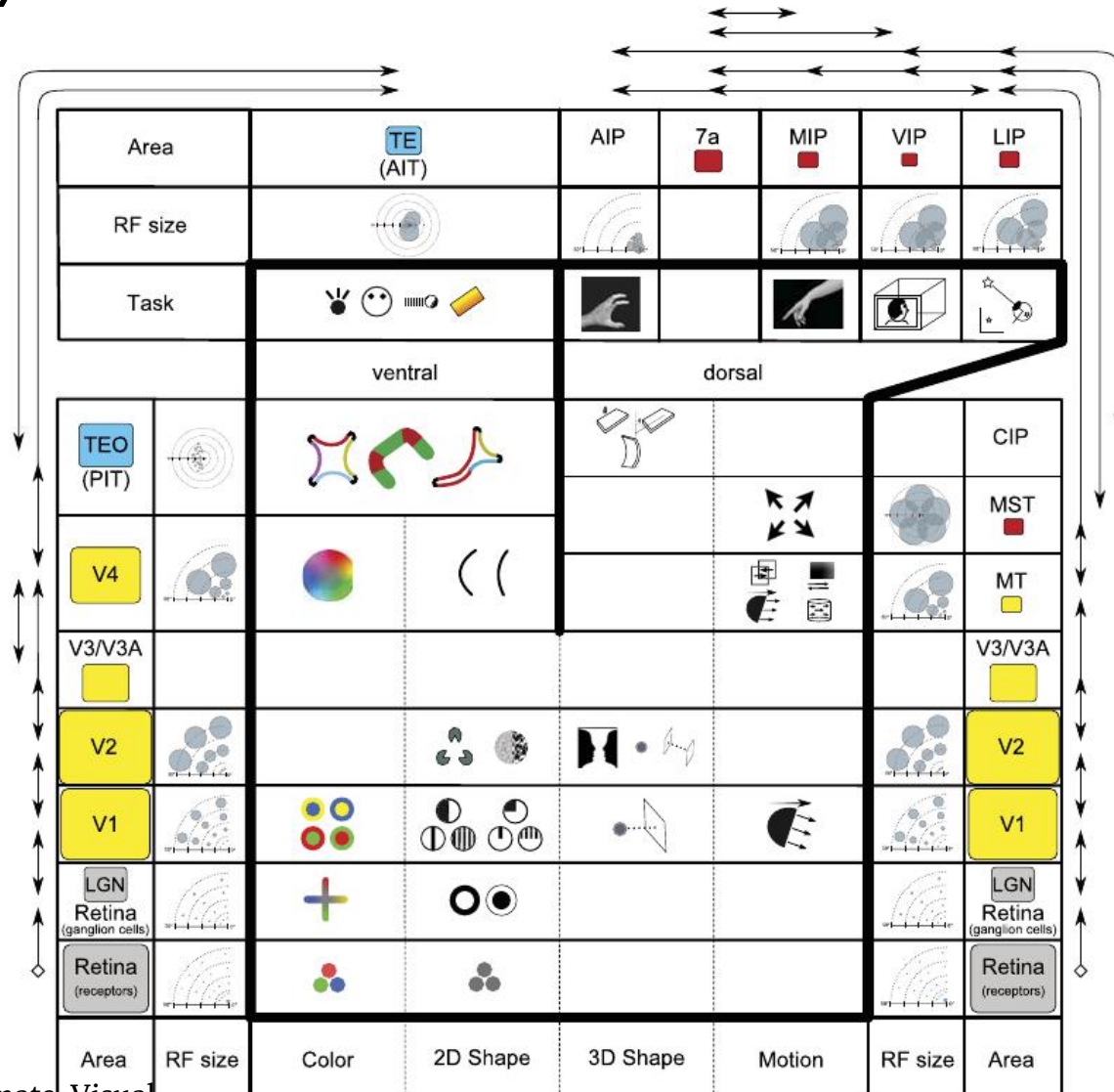
# V5 ( Middle Temporal visual)

- Motion in 2D (direction and speed)
- Binocular depth

# Summary



# Summary



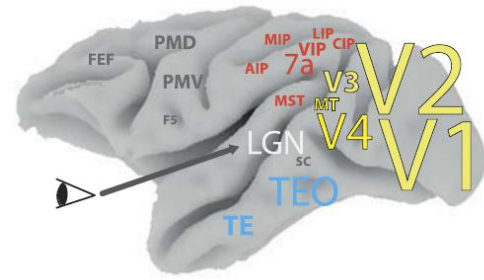
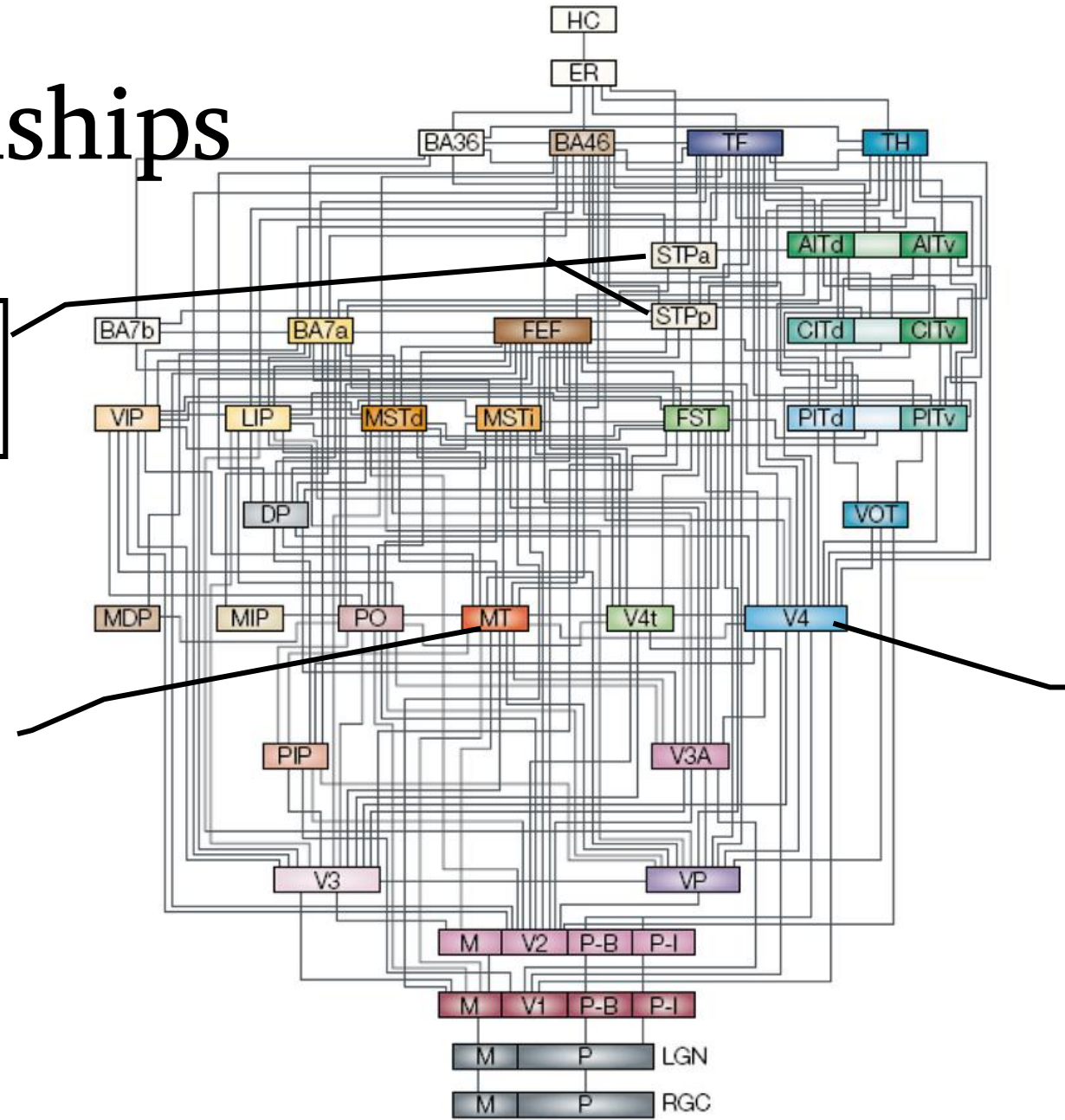


# Relationships

human face  
recognition

motion

color



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1. Visual Pathway
- 2. A systems architecture perspective on the visual system**
3. Hierarchical vs Parallel visual system
  1. Organizational structures
  2. Example 1: Hierarchical visual system
  3. Example 2: Flat retina

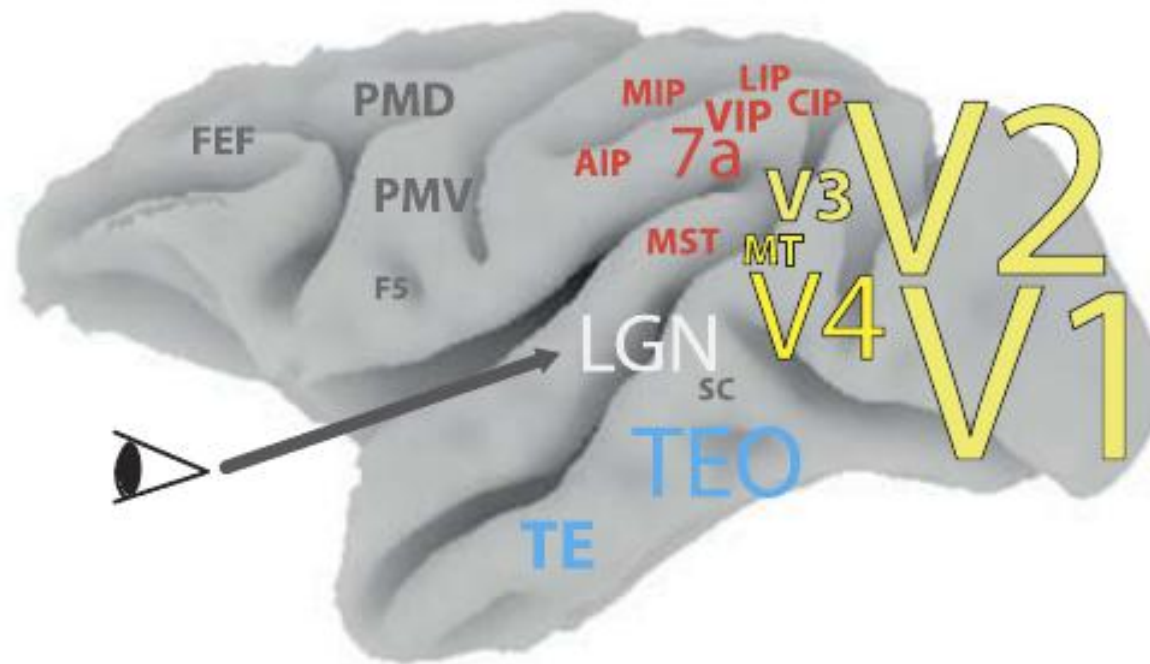


# Systems Architecture

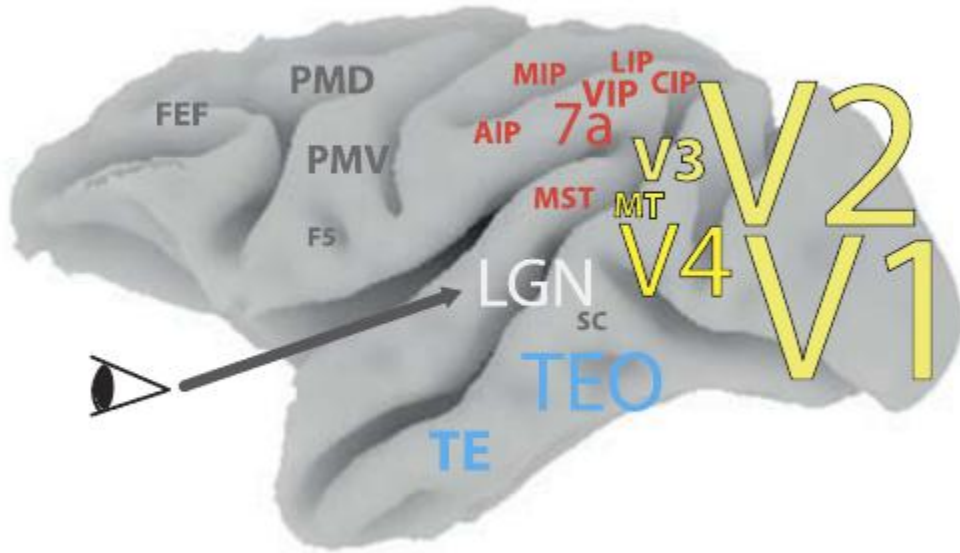
Architecture of a system is a global model of the system consisting of:

- structure
- properties of various elements involved
- relationships between various elements
- behaviors & dynamics
- multiple views of the system: complementary and consistent

# Structure: What are the areas responsible for visual processing



# Properties: What are their physiological properties?



Area	Size (mm <sup>2</sup> )	RFS
Sub-cortical		
Retina	1018	0.01
LGN		0.1
Occipital		
V1	1120	3
V2	1190	4
V3/V3A/VP	325	6
V4/VOT/V4t	650	8
MT	55	7
Sum	3340	

Ventral Pathway		
TEO	590	3-5
TE	180	10-20
Sum	770	

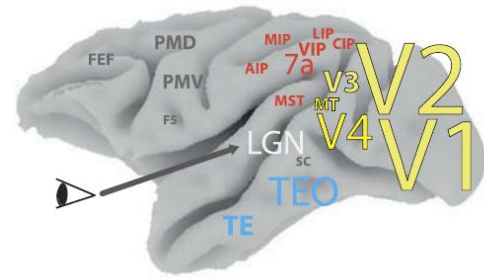
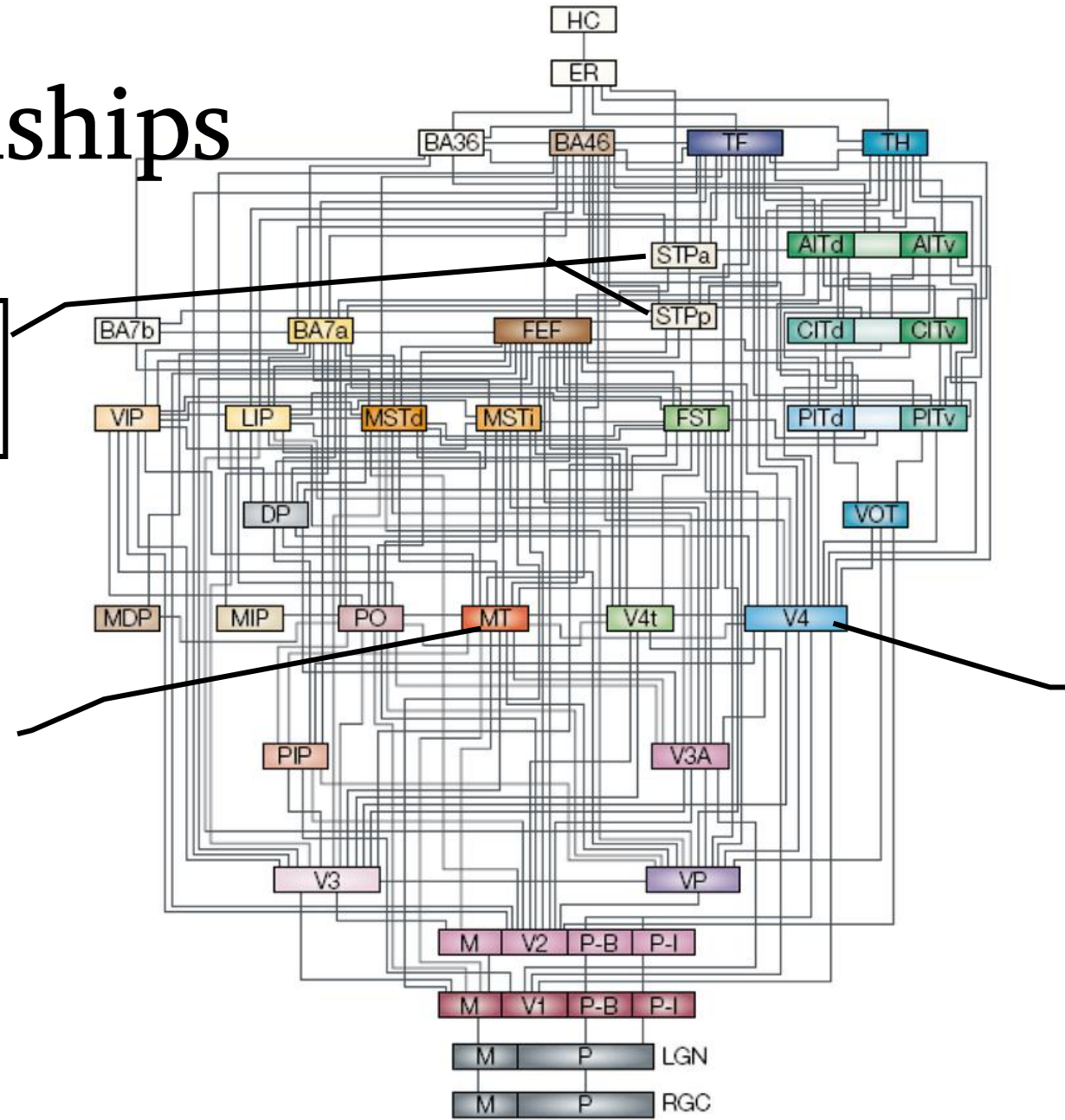
Dorsal Pathway		
MST	60	>30
CIP	?	?
VIP	40	10-30
7a	115	>30
LIP	55	12-20
AIP	35	5-7
MIP	55	10-20
Sum	585	

# Relationships

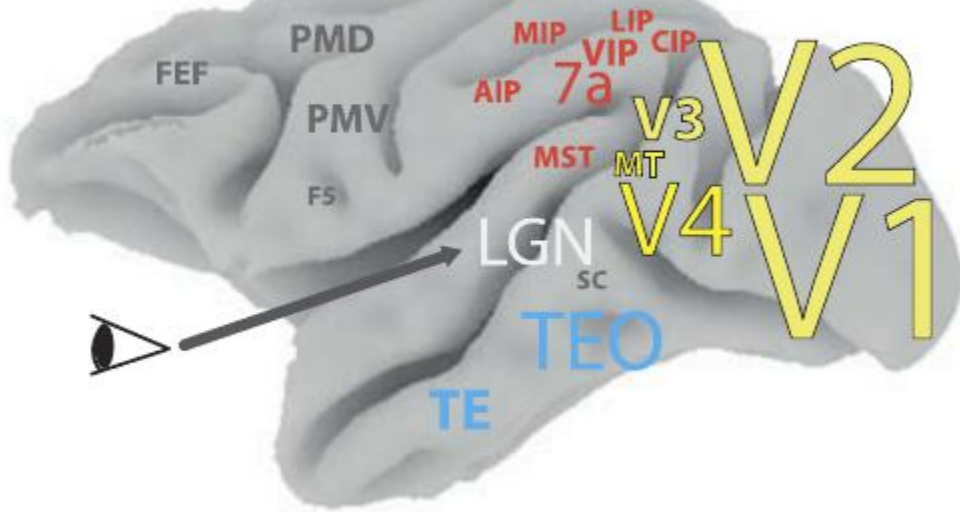
human face  
recognition

motion

color



# Dynamics



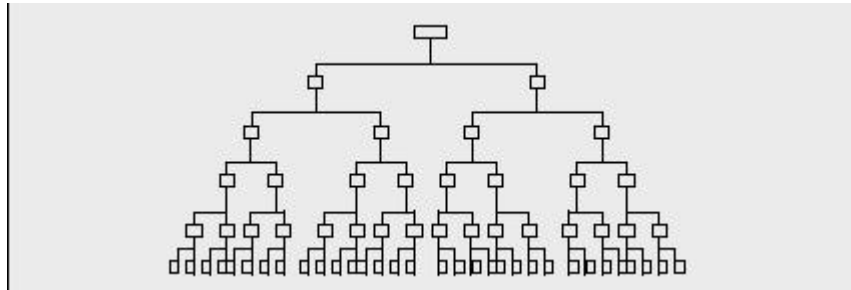
Area	Size (mm <sup>2</sup> )	RFS	Latency (ms)
Sub-cortical			
Retina	1018	0.01	20-40
LGN		0.1	30-40
Occipital			
V1	1120	3	30-40
V2	1190	4	40
V3/V3A/VP	325	6	50
V4/VOT/V4t	650	8	70
MT	55	7	50
Sum	3340		
Ventral Pathway			
TEO	590	3-5	70
TE	180	10-20	80-90
Sum	770		
Dorsal Pathway			
MST	60	>30	60-70
CIP	?	?	?
VIP	40	10-30	50-60
7a	115	>30	90
LIP	55	12-20	50
AIP	35	5-7	60
MIP	55	10-20	100
Sum	585		

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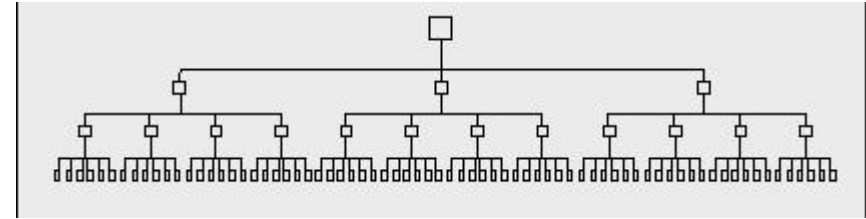
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# Hierarchical vs Flat Organizations

Hierarchical Organization

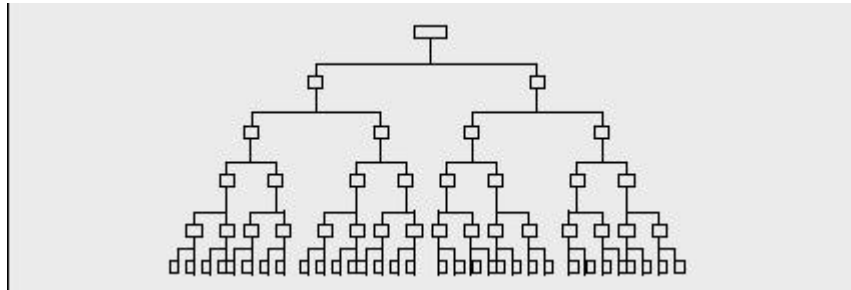


Flat Organization

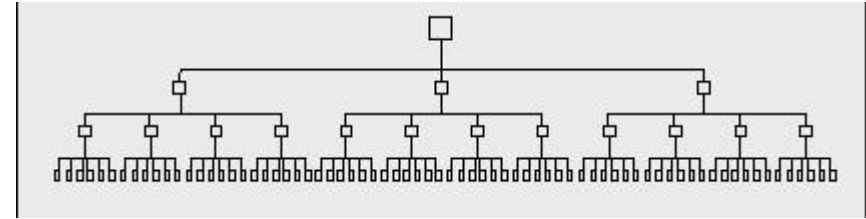


# Hierarchical vs Flat Organizations

Hierarchical Organization



Flat Organization



## Pros:

- clarity and managerial control;
- close supervision of employees;
- clear, distinct layers with obvious lines of responsibility and control; ...

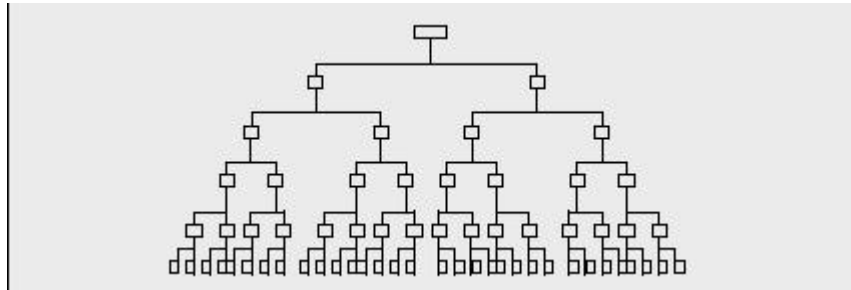
## Cons:

- communication take too long;
- slow decision-making;
- obstruct progress; ...

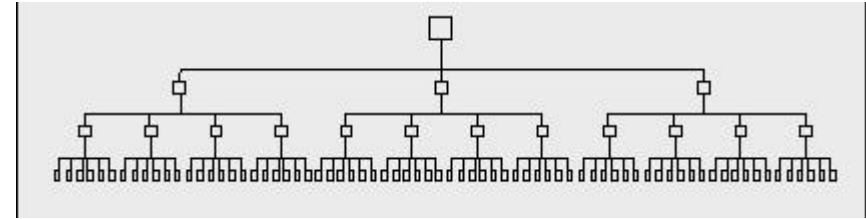


# Hierarchical vs Flat Organizations

Hierarchical Organization



Flat Organization



## Pros:

- clarity and managerial control;
- close supervision of employees;
- clear, distinct layers with obvious lines of responsibility and control; ...

## Cons:

- communication take too long;
- slow decision-making;
- obstruct progress; ...

## Pros:

- flexible and better able to adapt to changes;
- faster communication;
- quicker decisions;
- more democratic style; ...

## Cons:

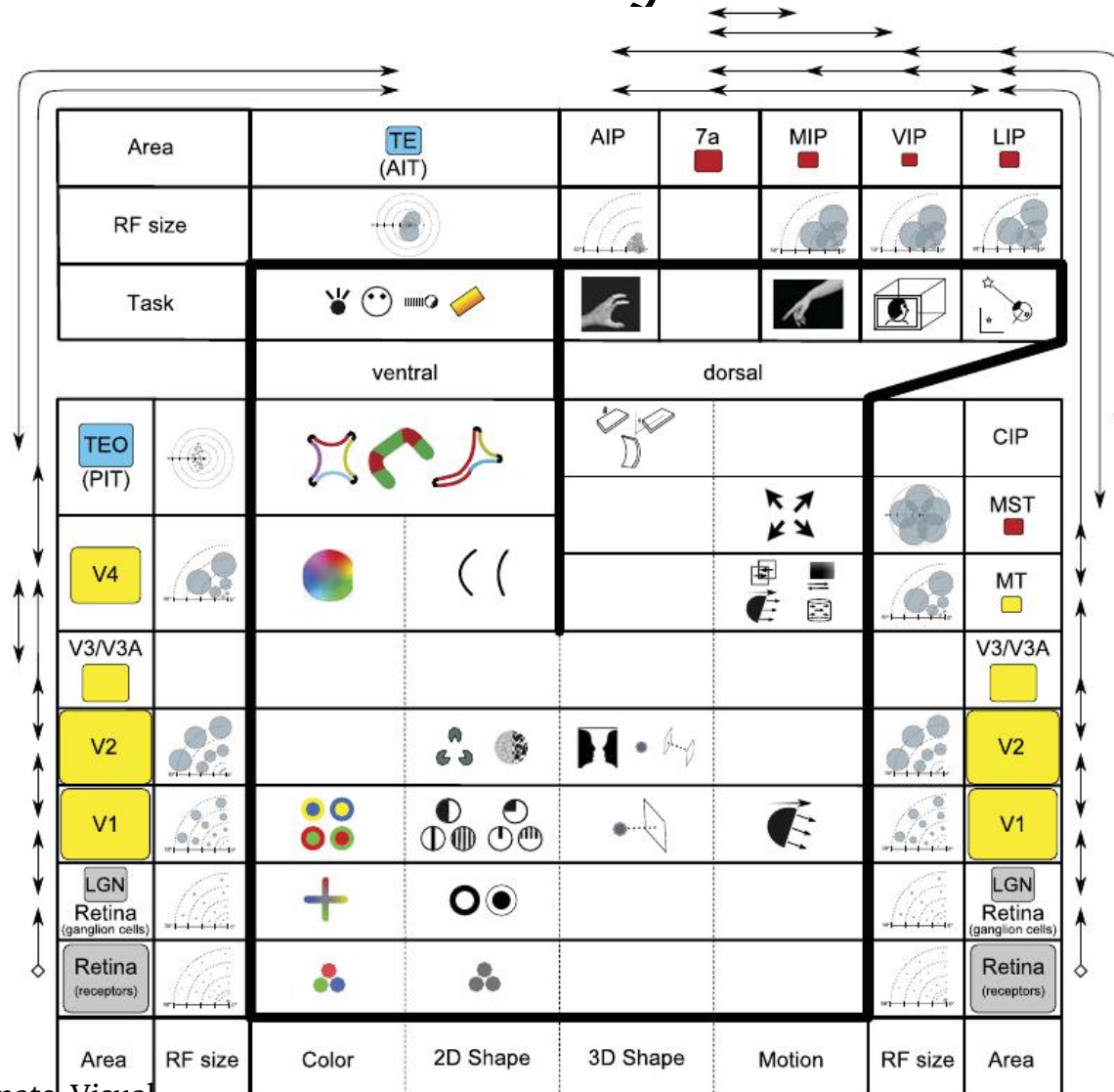
- confusion over roles;
- managers with a heavier workload; ...

# Hierarchical vs flat hierarchies

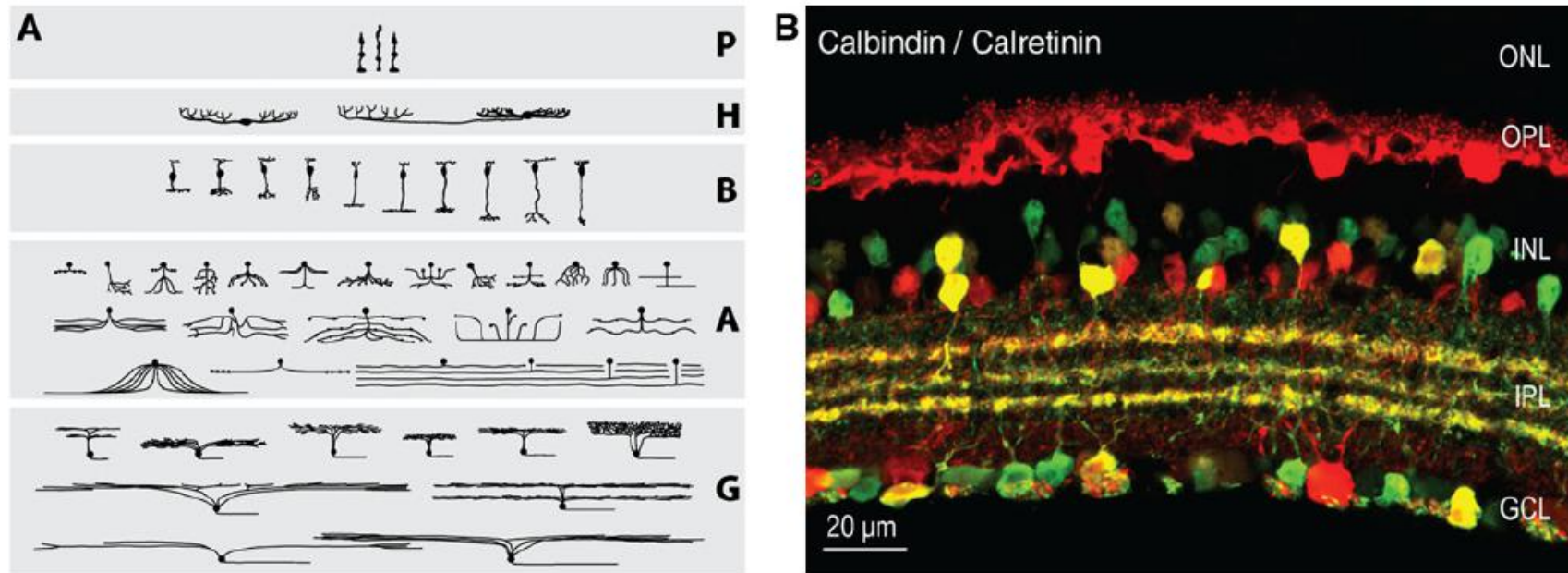
Task A1	Task A2	Task A3	Task An	Task B1	Task B2	Task B3	Task Bn
Level 5A				Level 5B			
Level 4							
Level 3							
Level 2							
Level 1							

Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	Task 7	Task 8	Task n
Some kind of Features								

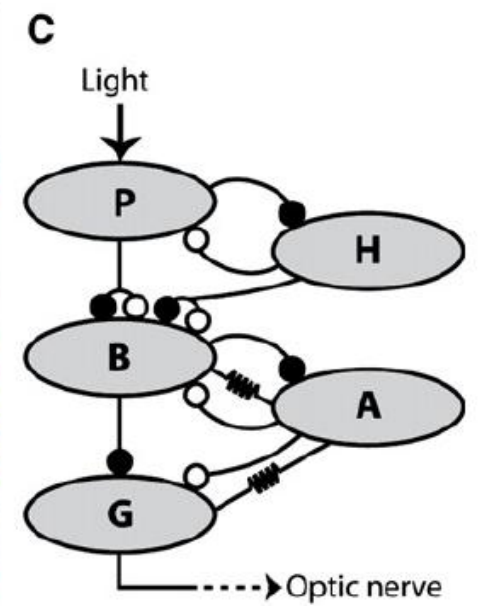
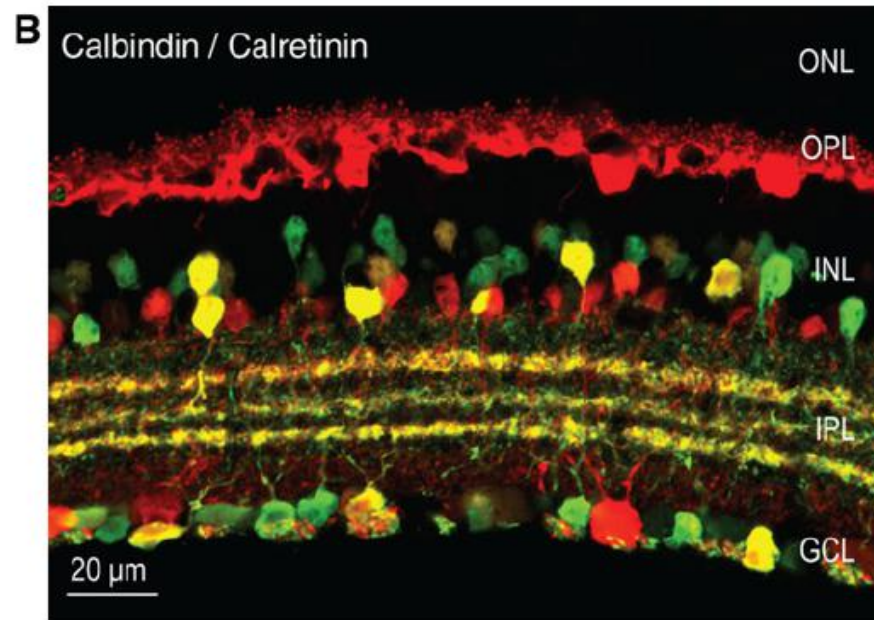
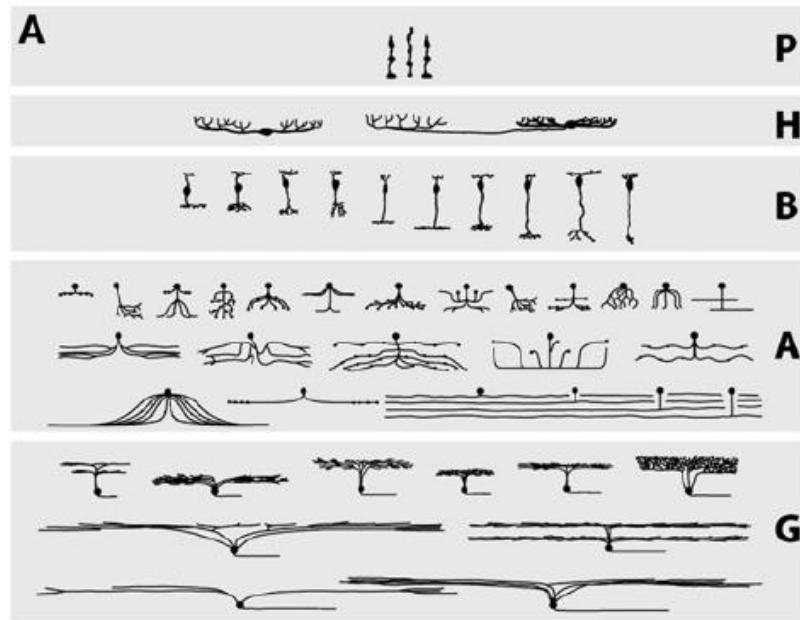
# Hierarchical visual system



# Flat retina



# Flat retina



# Flat retina: many functions on the base level

- Light detection (photo-receptors)

# Flat retina: many functions on the base level

- Light detection
- Whitening: remove 2nd order correlations (next class)

# Flat retina: many functions on the base level

- Light detection
- Whitening
- Contrast and pattern adaptation



# Contrast adaptation



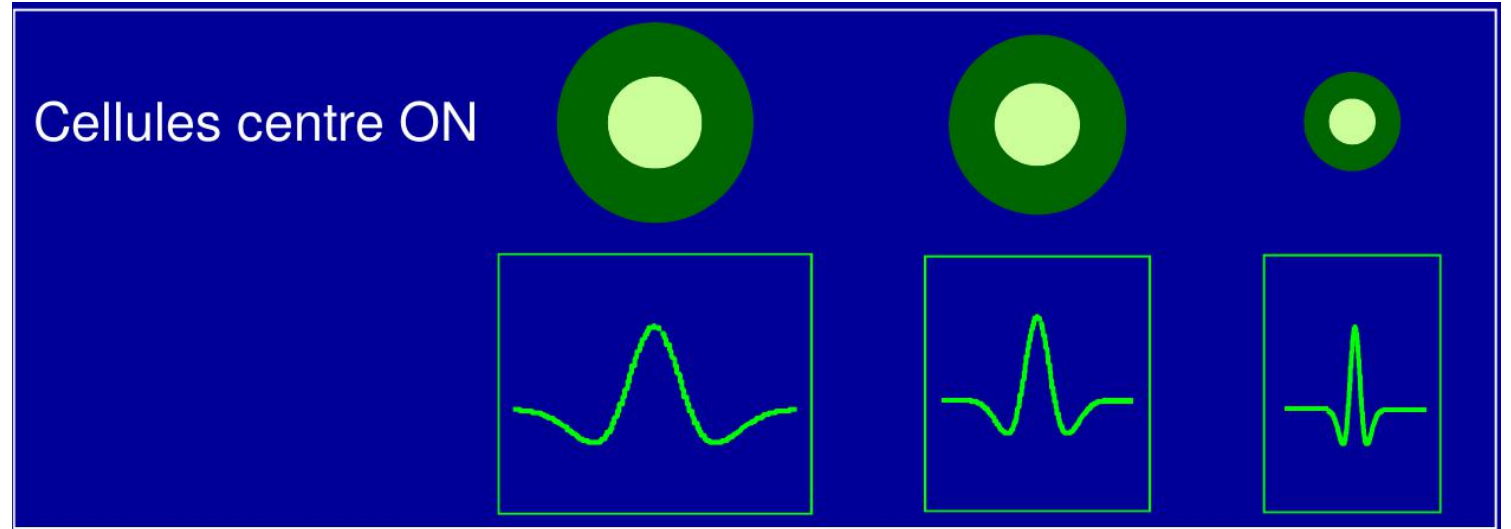
# Contrast adaptation



# Flat retina: many functions on the base level

- Light detection
- Whitening
- Contrast and pattern adaptation
- Texture motion

# Texture Motion



If the bars do not move the cells do not respond (the gray values cancel out)

If the bars move the cells respond

# Flat retina: many functions on the base level

- Light detection
- Whitening
- Contrast and pattern adaptation
- Texture motion
- Object motion

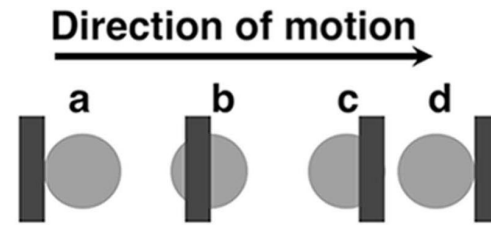
# Flat retina: many functions on the base level

- Light detection
- Whitening
- Contrast and pattern adaptation
- Texture motion
- Object motion
- Approaching motion

# Flat retina: many functions on the base level

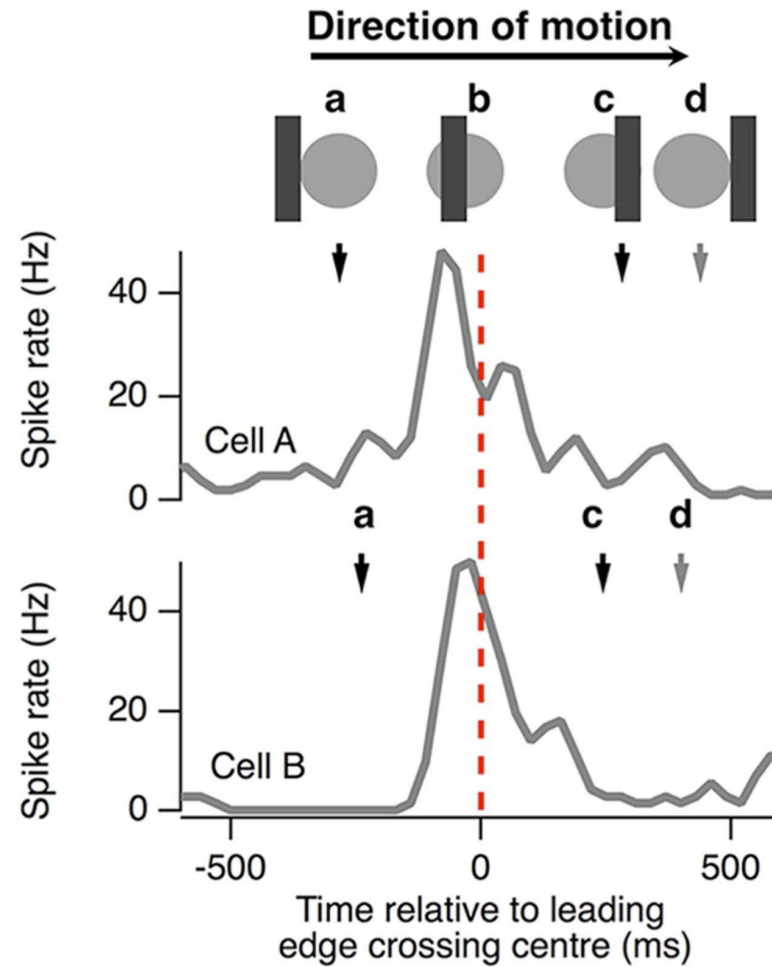
- Light detection
- Whitening
- Contrast and pattern adaptation
- Texture motion
- Object motion
- Approaching motion
- Motion extrapolation

# Motion extrapolation





# Motion extrapolation



Johnston and Lagnado, General features of the retinal connectome determine the computation of motion anticipation

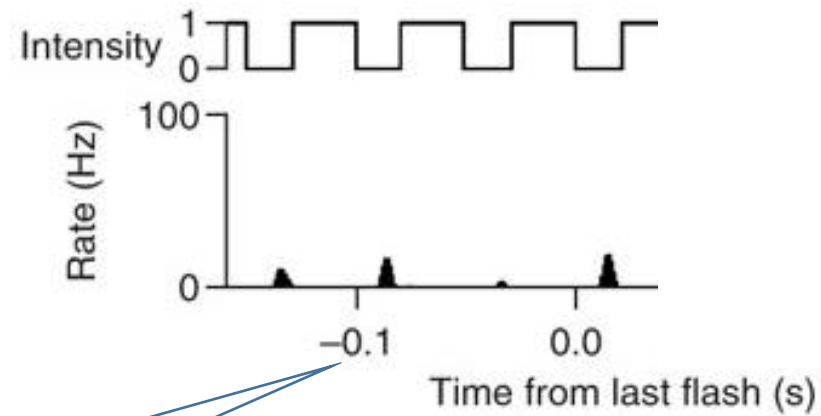
# Flat retina: many functions on the base level

- Light detection
- Whitenening
- Contrast and pattern adaptation
- Texture motion
- Object motion
- Approaching motion
- Motion extrapolation
- Omitted stimulus response

# Omitted stimulus response

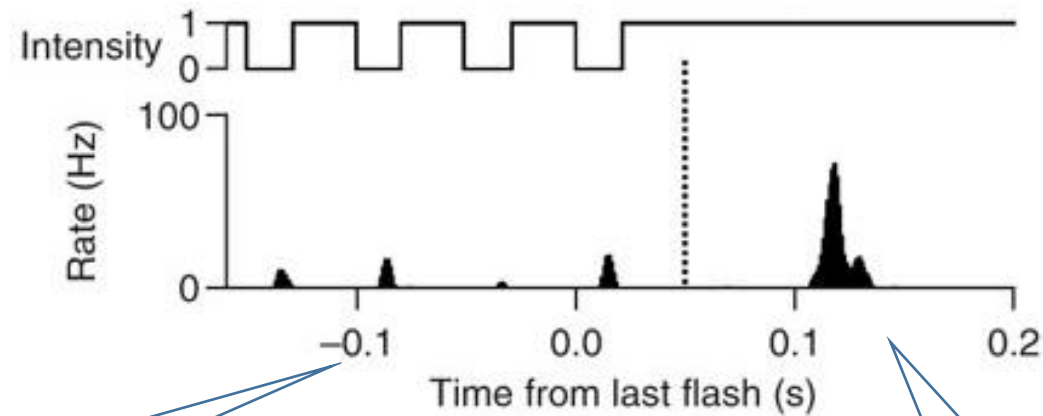


# Omitted stimulus response



Off-center cell?

# Omitted stimulus response



Off-center cell?

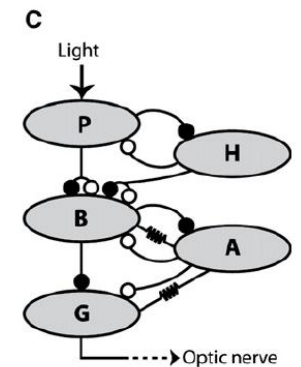
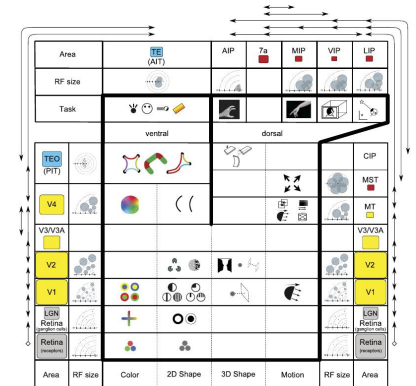
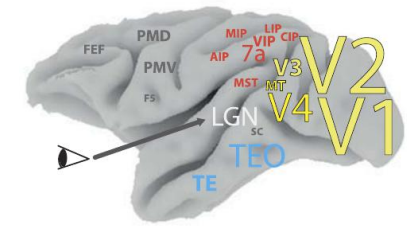
No!

# Flat retina: many functions on the base level

- Light detection
- Whitening
- Contrast and pattern adaptation
- Texture motion
- Object motion
- Approaching motion
- Motion extrapolation
- Omitted stimulus response
- ...

# Summary

- Visual Pathway
- Hierarchical view of the visual system
- Flat view of the retina



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