

# Flexible Learning Reading Group @TU Berlin

## 2nd Session: 7th of August 2019

---

# Task-Driven Convolutional Recurrent Models of the Visual System

---

**Aran Nayebi<sup>1,\*</sup>, Daniel Bear<sup>2,\*</sup>, Jonas Kubilius<sup>5,7,\*</sup>, Kohitij Kar<sup>5</sup>, Surya Ganguli<sup>4,8</sup>, David Sussillo<sup>8</sup>, James J. DiCarlo<sup>5,6</sup>, and Daniel L. K. Yamins<sup>2,3,9</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Neurosciences PhD Program, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

<sup>3</sup>Department of Computer Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

<sup>4</sup>Department of Applied Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

<sup>5</sup>McGovern Institute for Brain Research, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139

<sup>6</sup>Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139

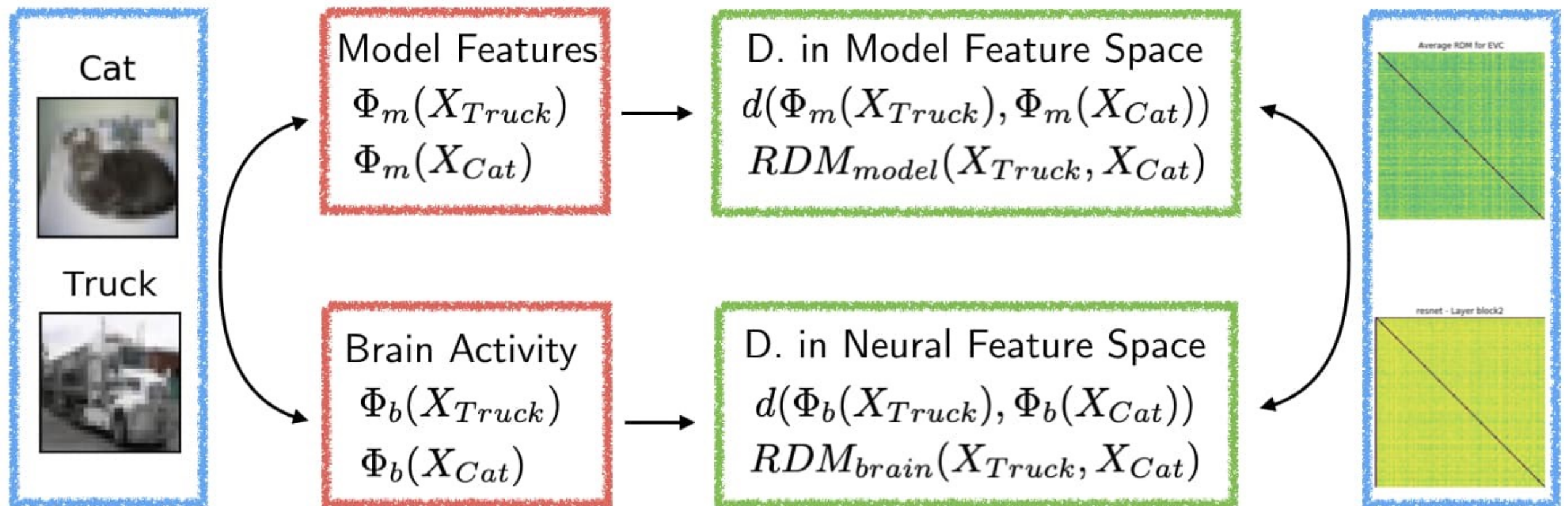
<sup>7</sup>Brain and Cognition, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

<sup>8</sup>Google Brain, Google, Inc., Mountain View, CA 94043

<sup>9</sup>Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute, Stanford, CA 94305

\*Equal contribution. {anayebi,dbear}@stanford.edu; qbilius@mit.edu

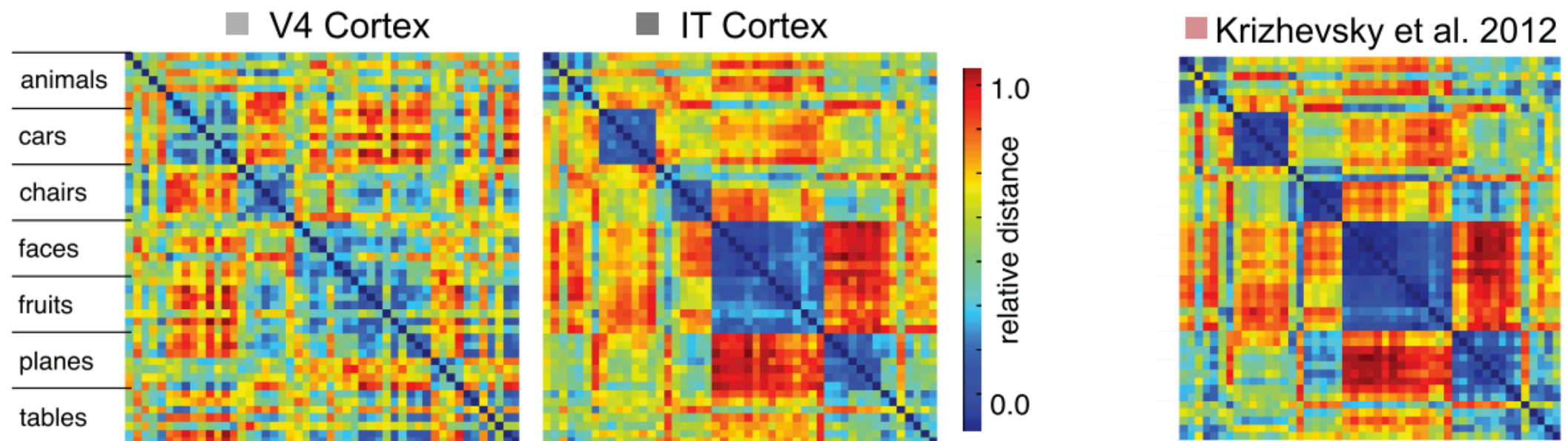
# How it all started: Representational Similarity Analysis



Kriegeskorte, et al (2008 - Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience)

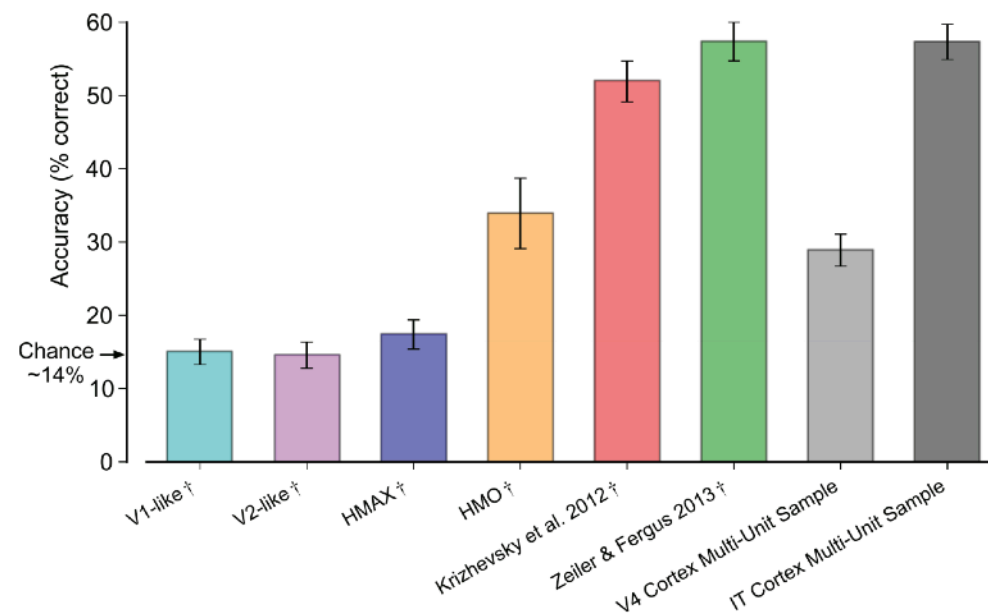
# CNNs Predict Time-Averaged Neural Responses

Cadieu et al. (2014 - PLoS CompBio) & Yamins et al. (2014 - PNAS)



Neural Representations

AlexNet Representations



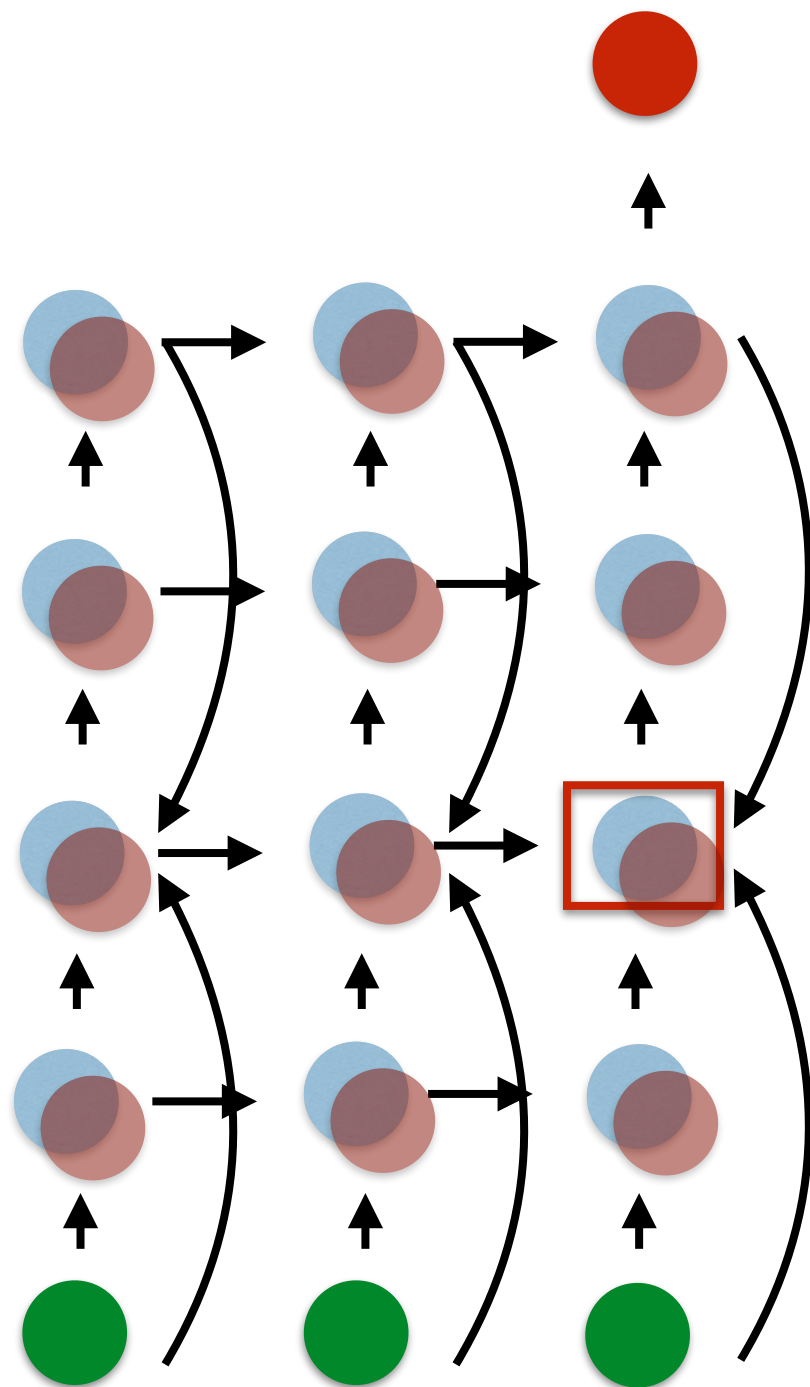
Using Features/Activity to Classify

A lot of follow up work!  
But: No temporal dynamics!

This paper:

1. Local recurrence
2. Long-range feedback

# Feedback & Recurrence Architecture



$$R_t^l = A_l(H_t^l)$$

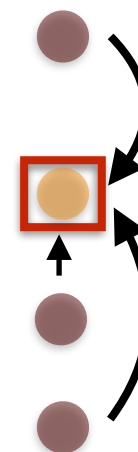
$$H_{t+1}^l = C_l \left( \boxed{F_l(\oplus_{j \neq l} R_t^j)}, H_t^l \right)$$

Embed FFW/FB

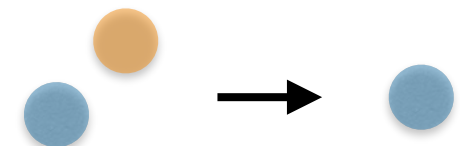
Recurrent Cell

$$X_t^l := \text{orange circle} \quad R_t^j := \text{brown circle} \quad H_t^l := \text{blue circle}$$

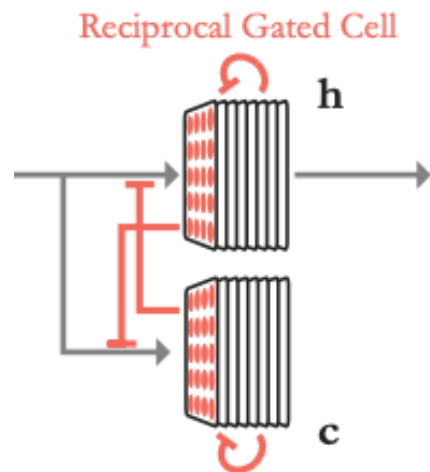
FFW/FB  $F^l$



Recurrence  $C^l$



# Gradient flow via Gating & Bypassing



$$H_{t+1}^l, c_{t+1}^l := C^l(X_t^l, H_t^l, c_t^l; \phi)$$

$$H_{t+1}^l = f(a_t^l) \quad c_{t+1}^l = f(\hat{c}_t^l)$$

$$a_{t+1}^l = (1 - \sigma(W_{ch} * c_t^l)) \odot X_t^l + (1 - \sigma(W_{hh} * H_t^l)) \odot H_t^l$$

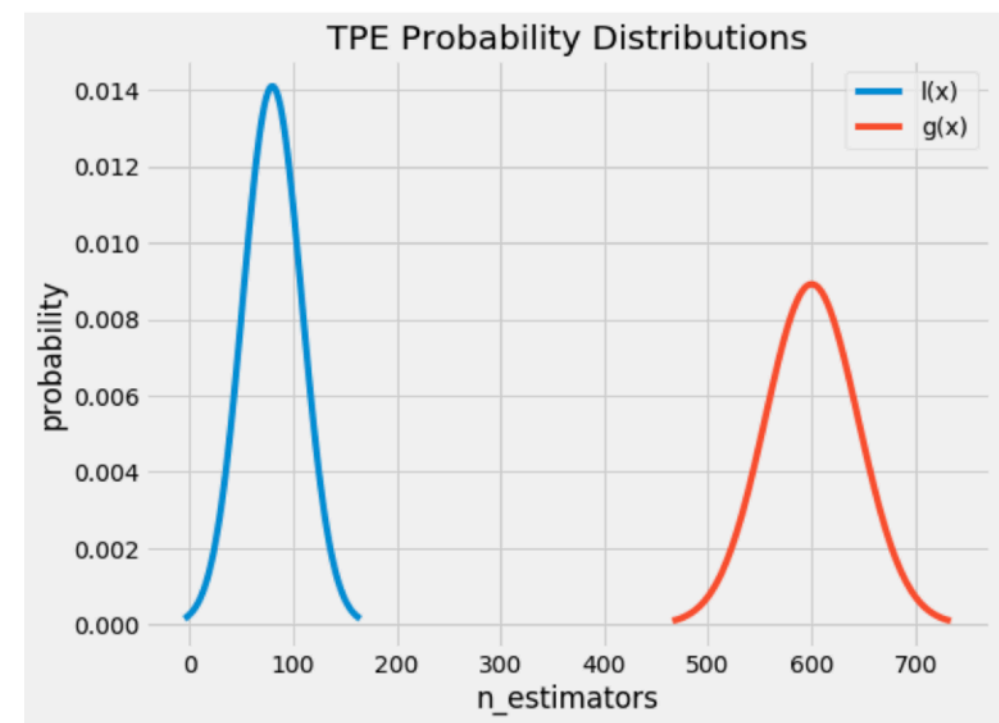
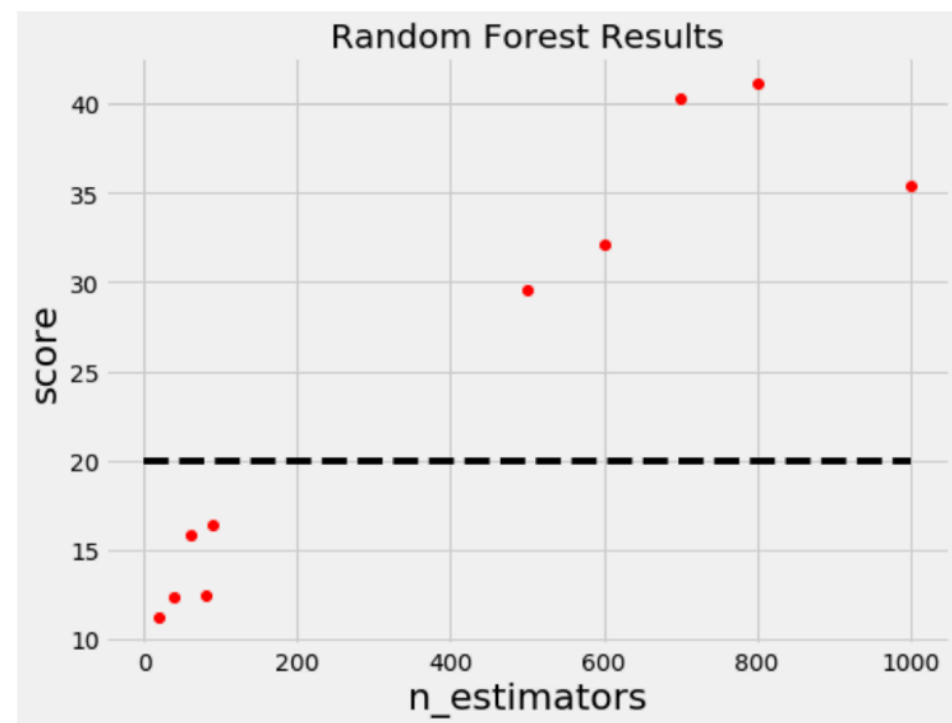
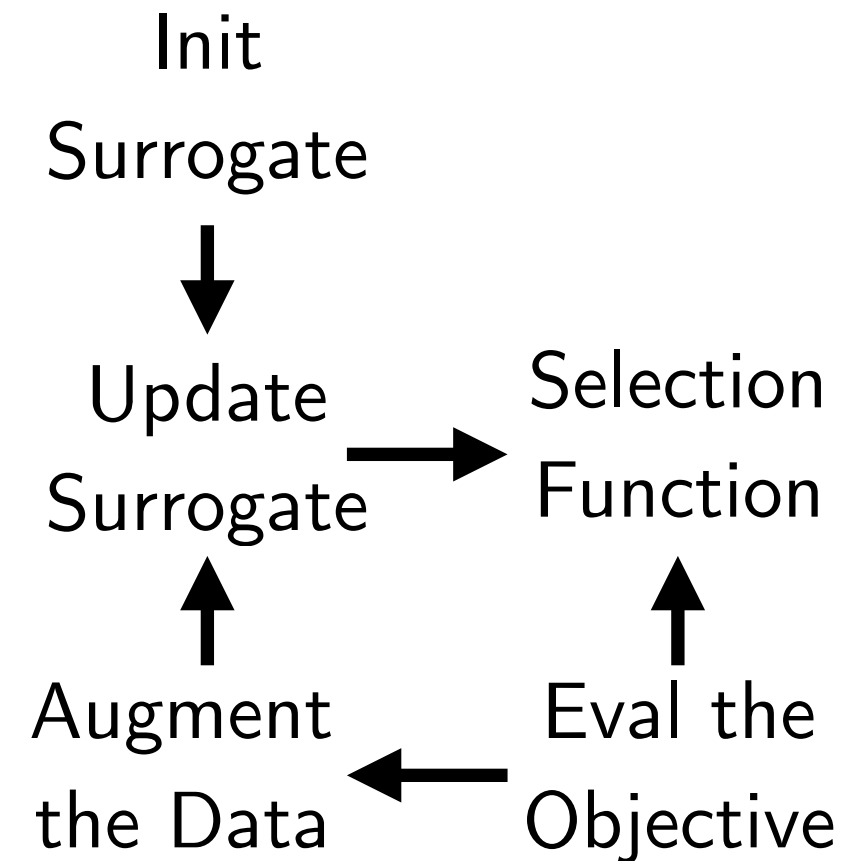
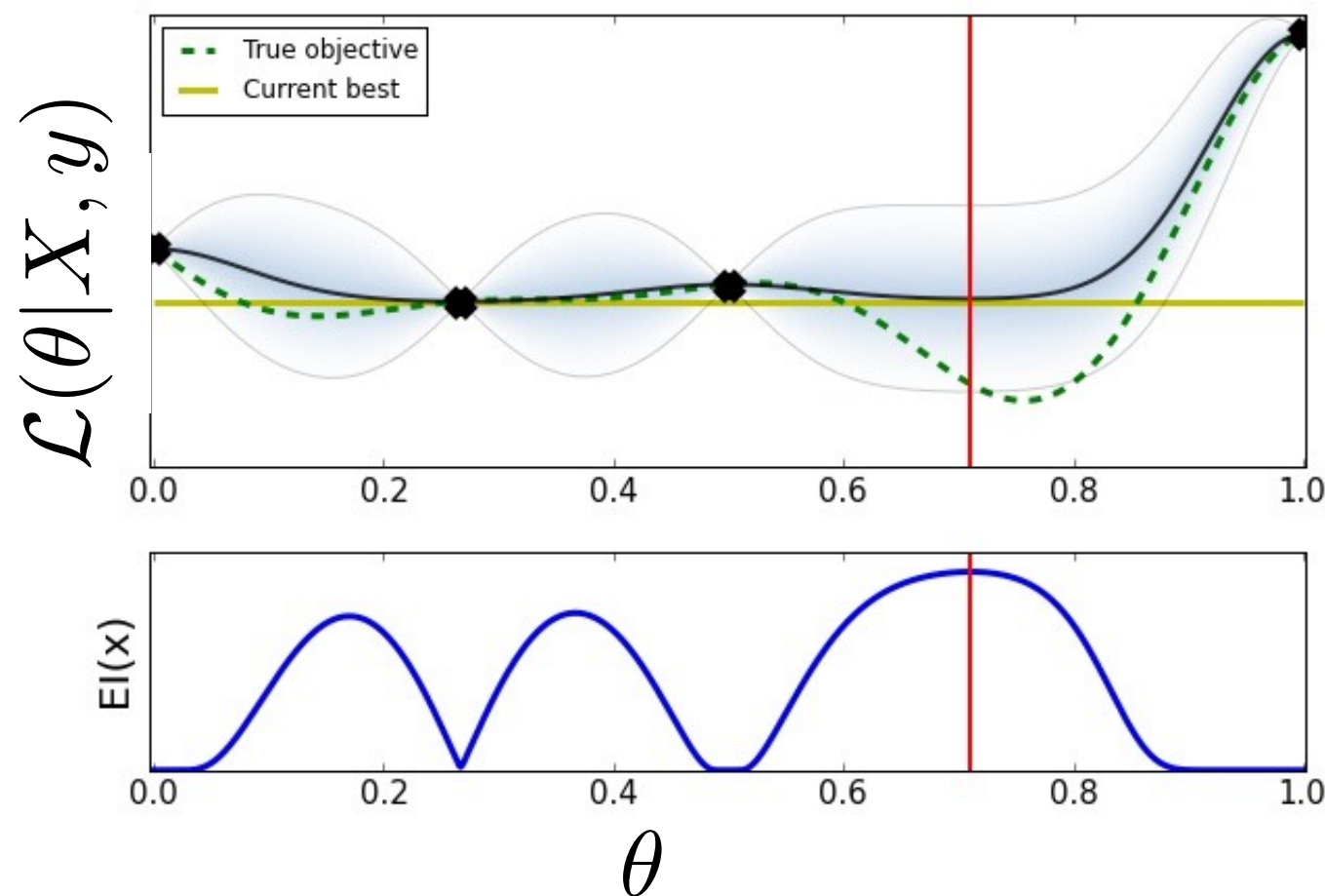
$$\hat{c}_{t+1}^l = (1 - \sigma(W_{hc} * H_t^l)) \odot X_t^l + (1 - \sigma(W_{cc} * c_t^l)) \odot c_t^l$$

GRU Cell:  $H_{t+1}^l = u_t^l \odot H_t^l + (1 - u_t^l) \odot c_{t+1}^l$

$$c_{t+1}^l = g(W_{ch}(r_t \odot H_{t-1}^l) + W_{cx}X_t^l) + b^c$$

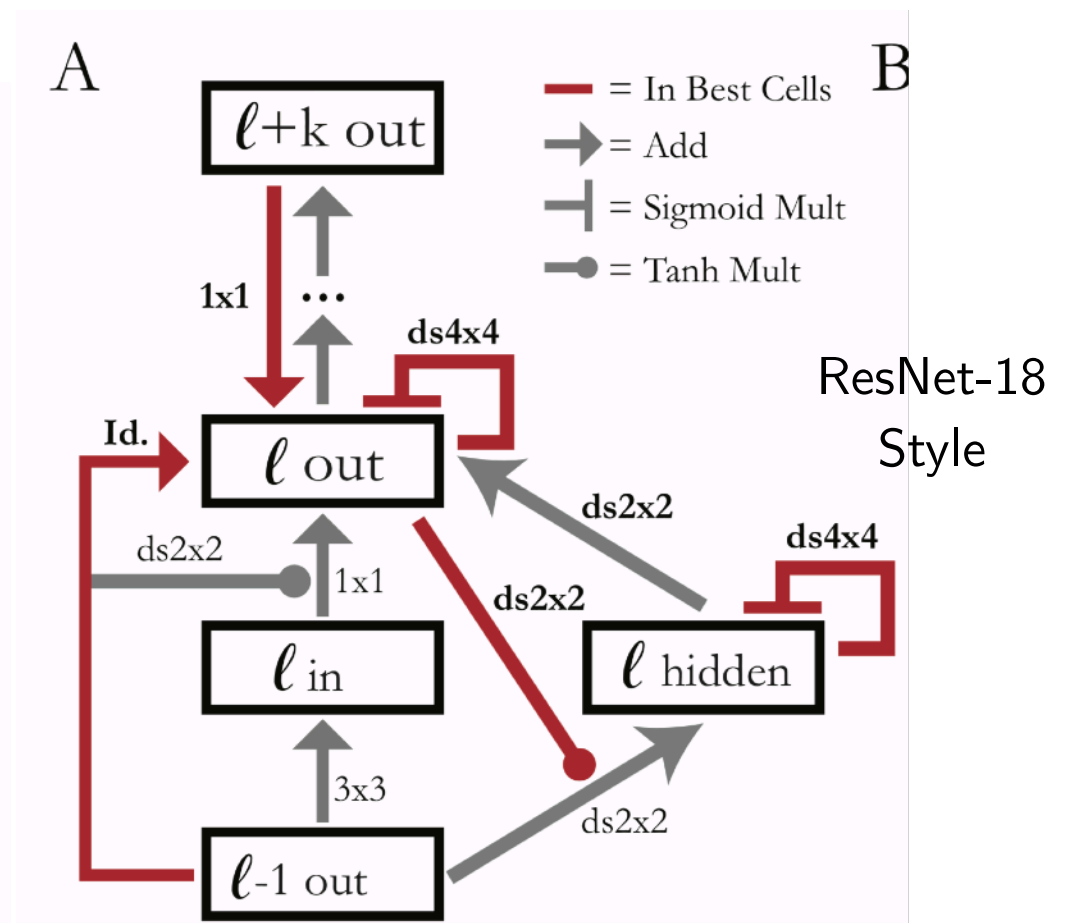
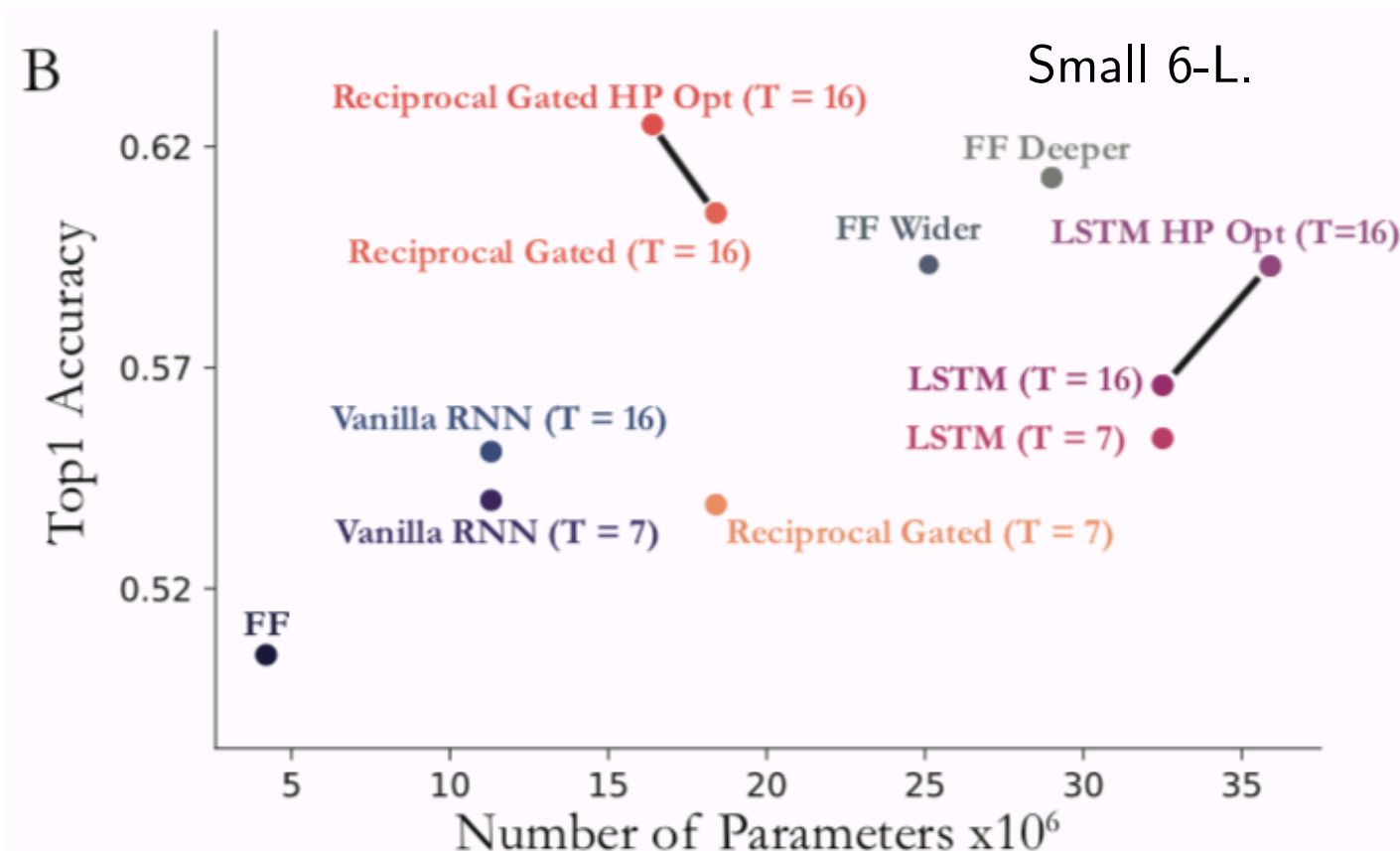


# Sequential Model-Based Optimization rocks... TPUs!



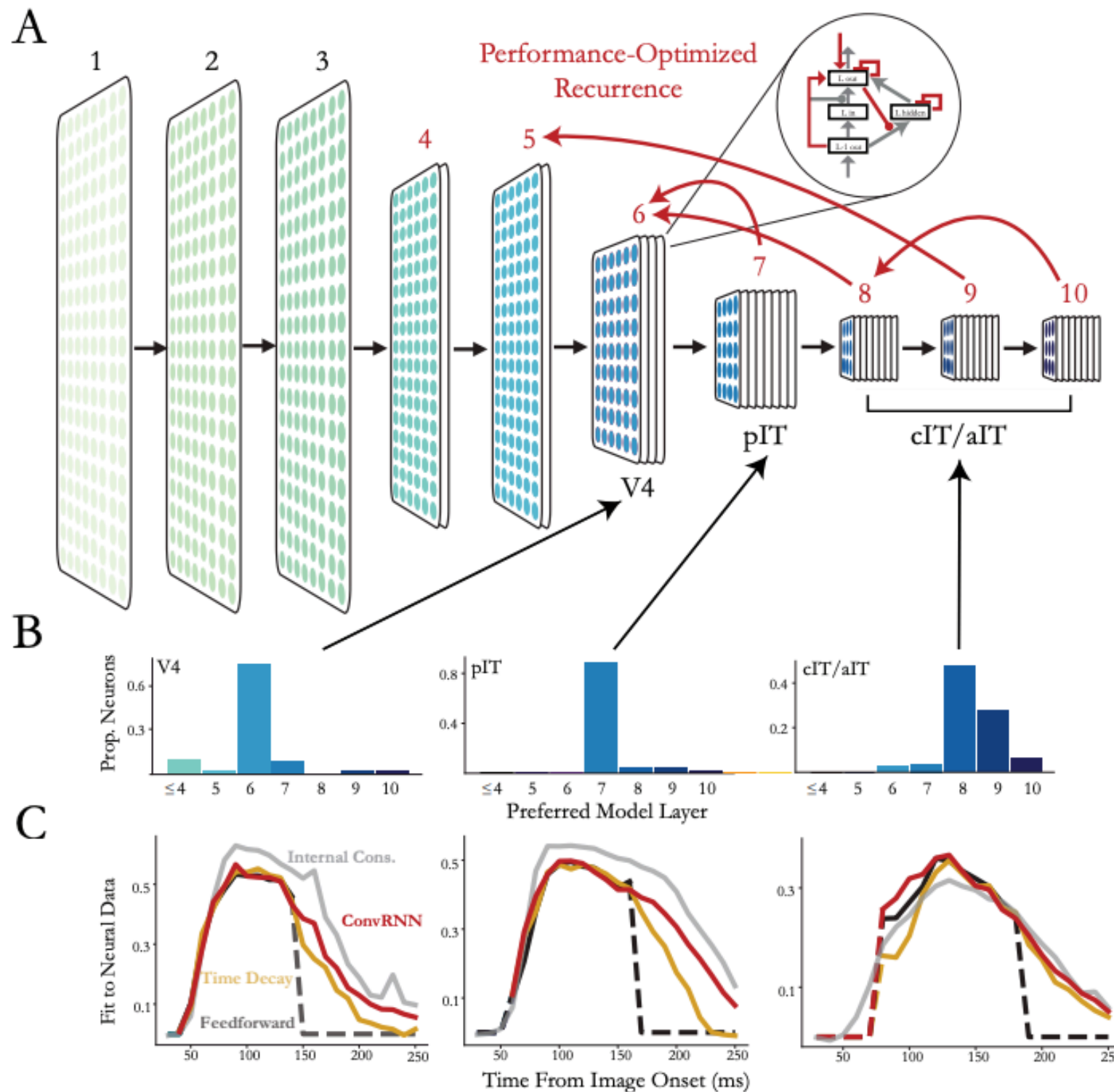
# Best Models use Bypassing & Gating

- Input/Hidden State Aggregation
- Linear operations applied to input
- Non-Linearities/Activations
- Value of Biases, Lrate, Time



1. Depth-separable convolutions for updating hidden states
2. Classic convolutions for connecting bottom-up input
3. Key long-range feedback connections

# Recurrence + FB Fit Late Neural Processing Dynamics



Fit linear model: determine  
Net L.  $\leftrightarrow$  Cortex L.

Results:

1. Fitting of entire trajectory
2. Recurrence excels in later stages



# Questions

1. Gating+Bypass Recurrence - Only used for gradient flow!
2. How much can we learn/predict about Neural Computations?
3. How to translate into experiments?
4. Look at Top-1 ImageNet Accuracy! How does distribution look like?

# References

- Bergstra, J. S., Bardenet, R., Bengio, Y., & Kégl, B. (2011). Algorithms for hyper-parameter optimization. In Advances in neural information processing systems (pp. 2546-2554).
- Cadieu, Charles F., et al. "Deep neural networks rival the representation of primate IT cortex for core visual object recognition." PLoS computational biology 10.12 (2014): e1003963.
- Kriegeskorte, N., Mur, M., & Bandettini, P. A. (2008). Representational similarity analysis-connecting the branches of systems neuroscience. Frontiers in systems neuroscience, 2, 4.
- Nayebi, Aran, et al. "Task-Driven convolutional recurrent models of the visual system." Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems. 2018.

# Session 3: 22nd of August 2019 (Thursday!)

## TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE ACROSS LEARNING PROCESSES

**Sebastian Flennerhag\***

The Alan Turing Institute  
London, UK

sflennerhag@turing.ac.uk

**Pablo G. Moreno**

Amazon

Cambridge, UK

morepabl@amazon.com

**Neil D. Lawrence**

Amazon

Cambridge, UK

lawrennd@amazon.com

**Andreas Damianou**

Amazon

Cambridge, UK

damianou@amazon.com

### ABSTRACT

In complex transfer learning scenarios new tasks might not be tightly linked to previous tasks. Approaches that transfer information contained only in the final parameters of a source model will therefore struggle. Instead, transfer learning at a higher level of abstraction is needed. We propose Leap, a framework that achieves this by transferring knowledge across learning processes. We associate each task with a manifold on which the training process travels from initialization to final parameters and construct a meta-learning objective that minimizes the expected length of this path. Our framework leverages only information obtained during training and can be computed on the fly at negligible cost. We demonstrate that our framework outperforms competing methods, both in meta-learning and transfer learning, on a set of computer vision tasks. Finally, we demonstrate that Leap can transfer knowledge across learning processes in demanding reinforcement learning environments (Atari) that involve millions of gradient steps.