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# **Scene Statistics**

## **Part 2**

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University of Miami  
Summer 2016

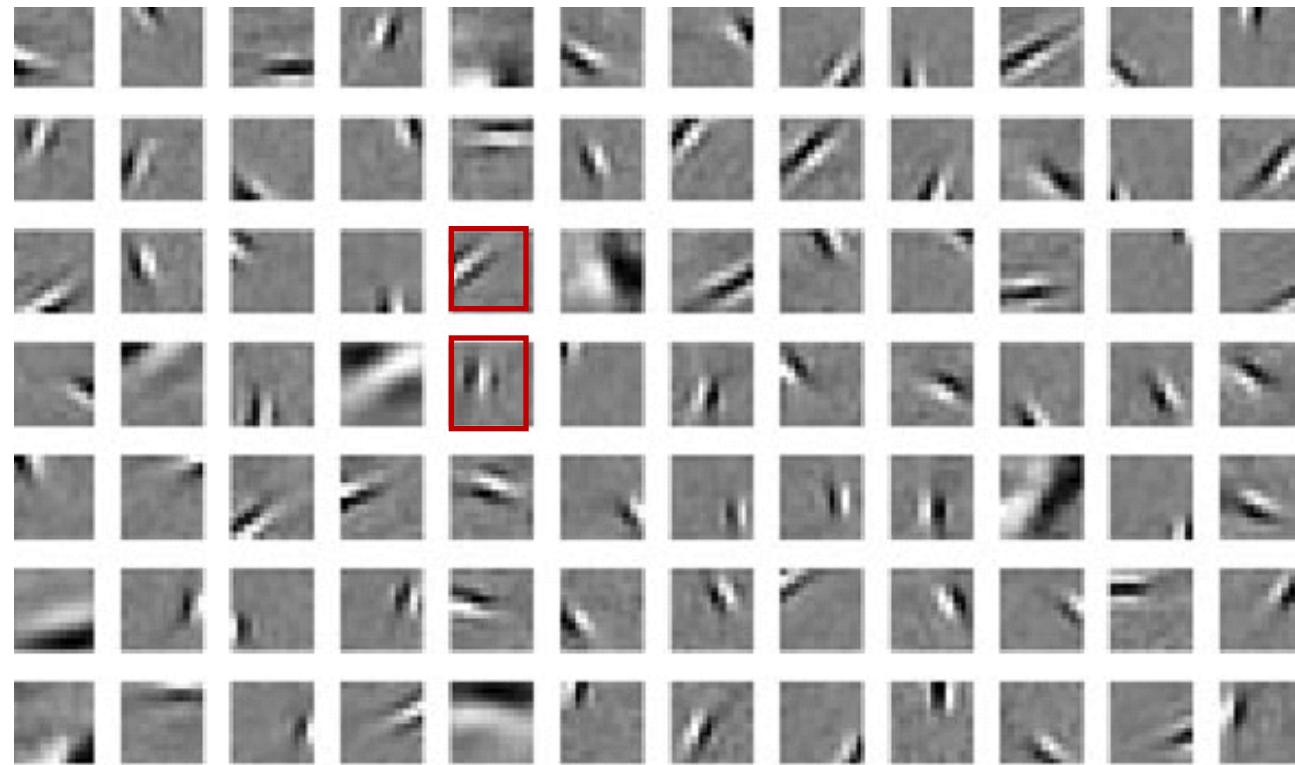
# **Summary**

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- We've considered bottom-up scene statistics, efficient coding, and relation of linear transforms to visual filters
- This class: nonlinearities
- This class: generative, top-down, perspective

# Beyond linear

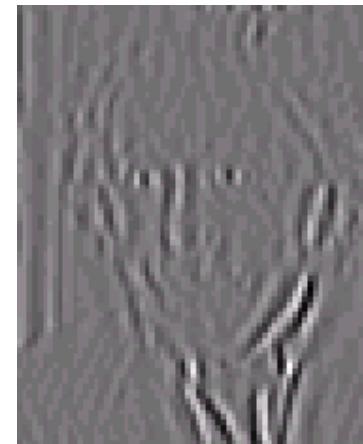
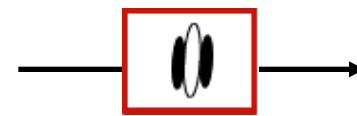
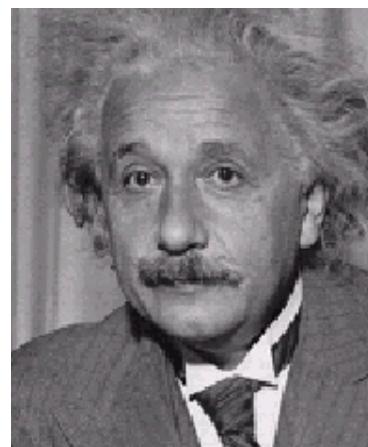
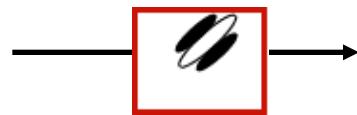
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- Filter responses as independent as possible assuming a linear transform
- But are they independent?

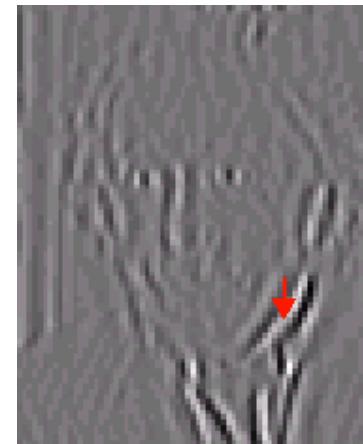
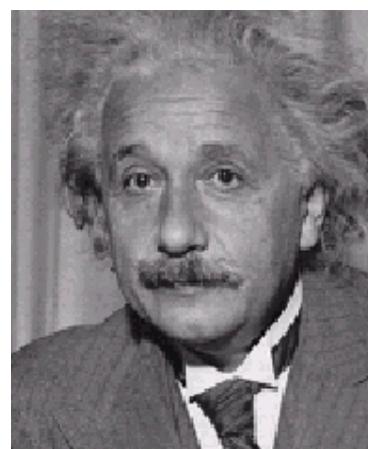
# **Bottom-up Joint Statistics**

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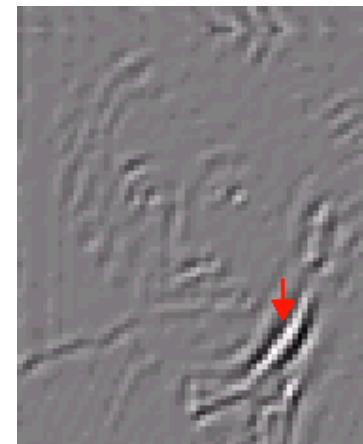
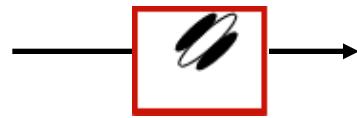
 $X_1$  $X_2$

# **Bottom-up Joint Statistics**

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$X_1$

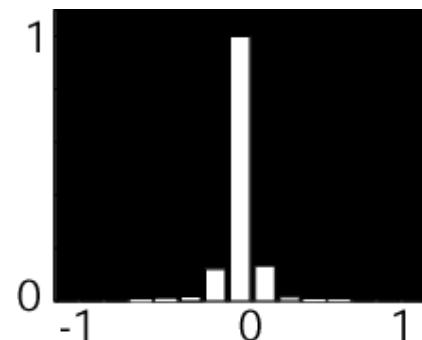


$X_2$

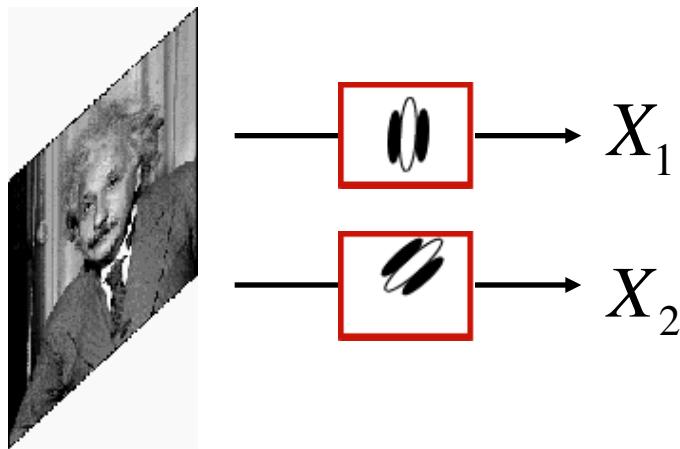
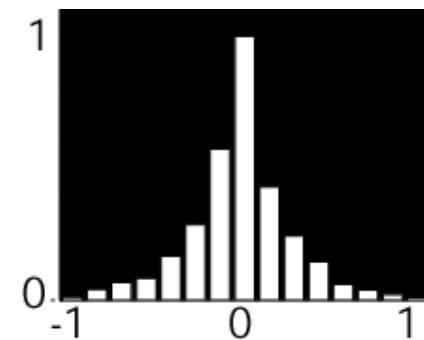
# Bottom-up Joint Statistics

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$histo(X_1 | X_2 \approx 0.1)$

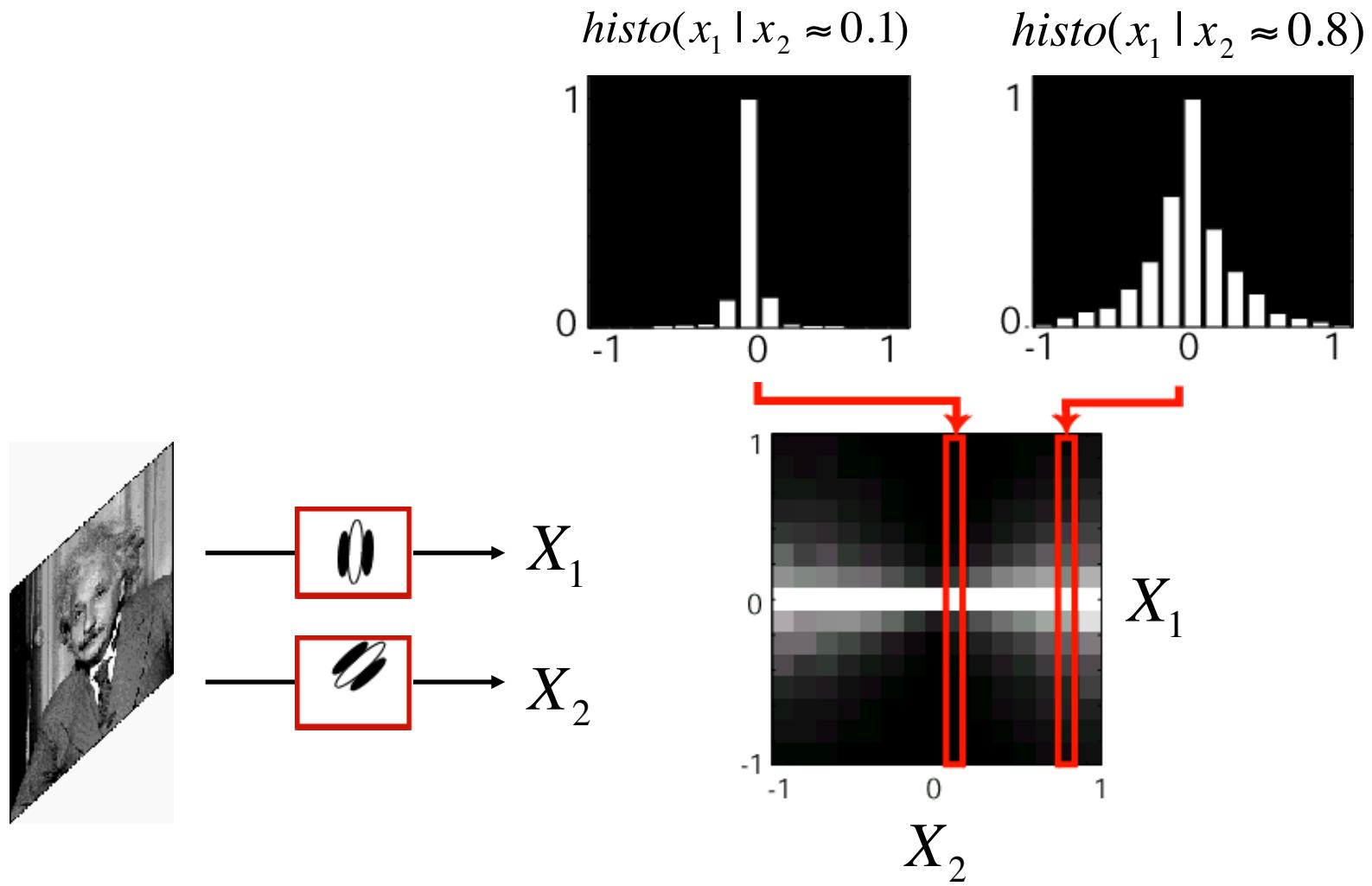


$histo(X_1 | X_2 \approx 0.8)$



Are  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  statistically independent?

# Bottom-up Joint Statistics

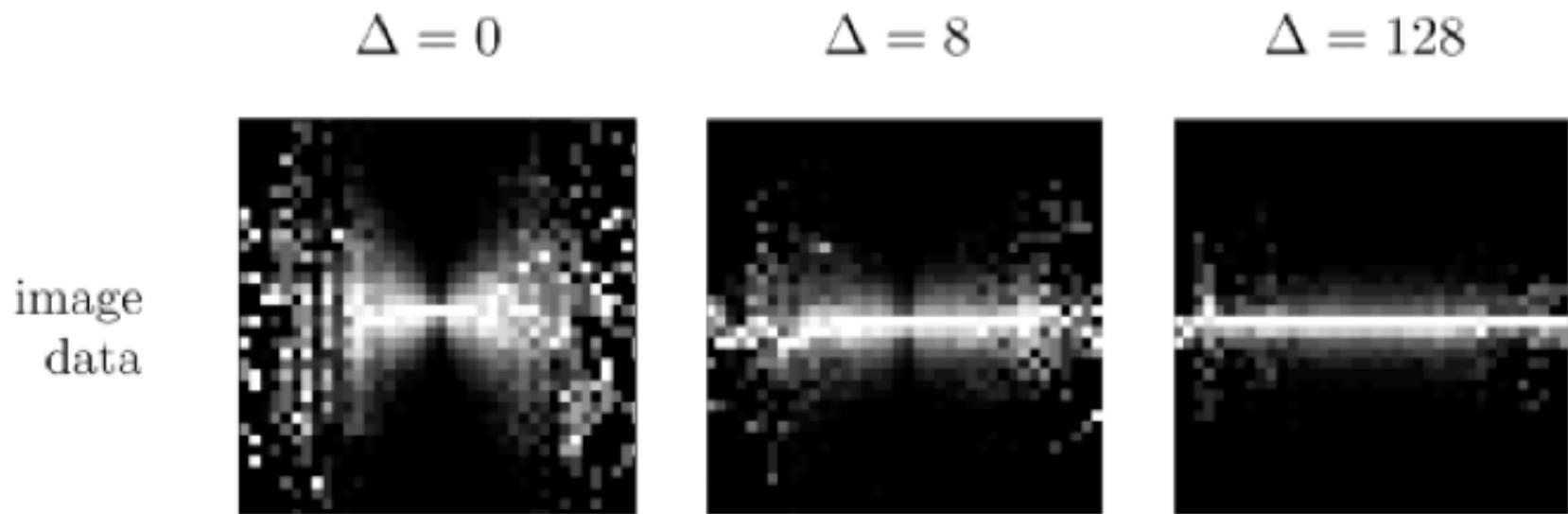


$X_1$  and  $X_2$  are **not** statistically independent

# **Bottom-up (contour plots)**

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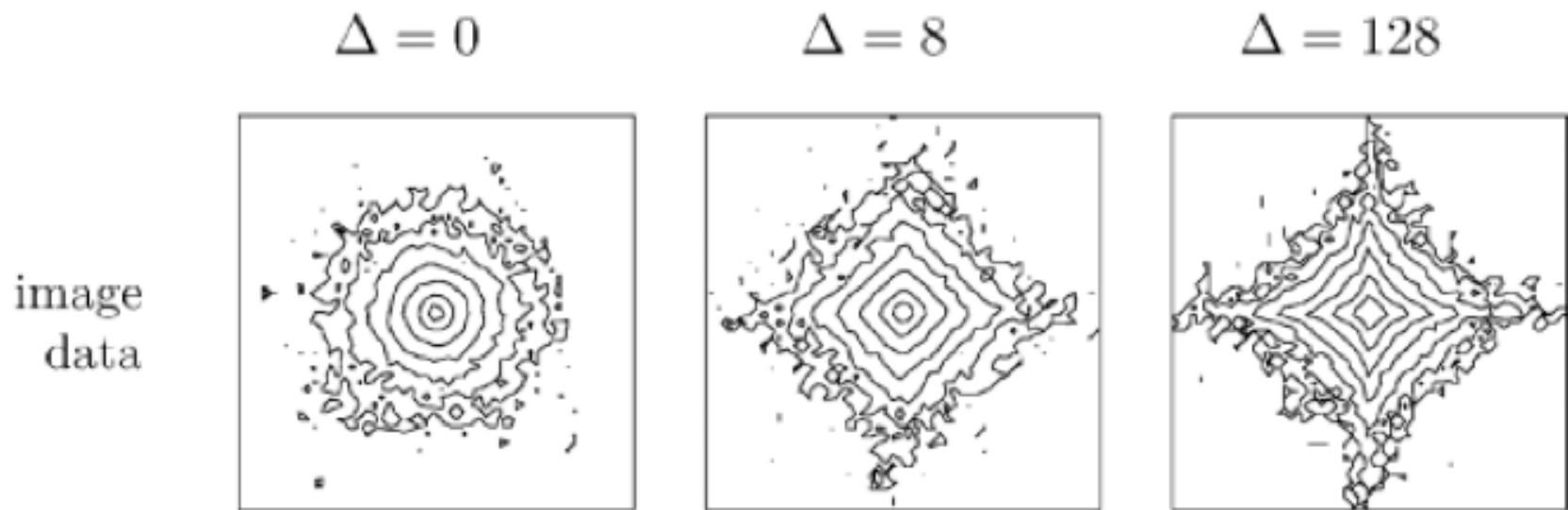
Image patch and different filter pairs (even and odd  
Phase at different distances) ...



# **Bottom-up (contour plots)**

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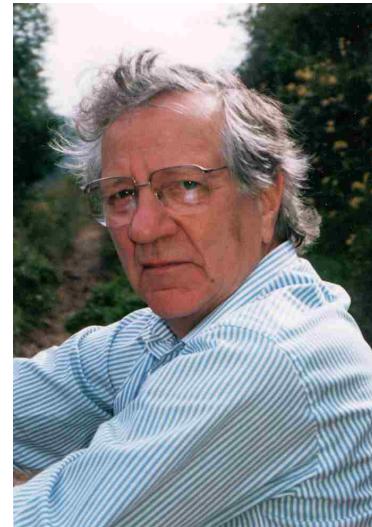
Image patch and different filter pairs (even and odd  
Phase at different distances) ...



# Theoretical Approaches

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- Sensory systems aim to form an *efficient code* by reducing the redundancies and statistical dependencies of the input; influenced by information theory in the 1950s



Barlow (also Attneave)

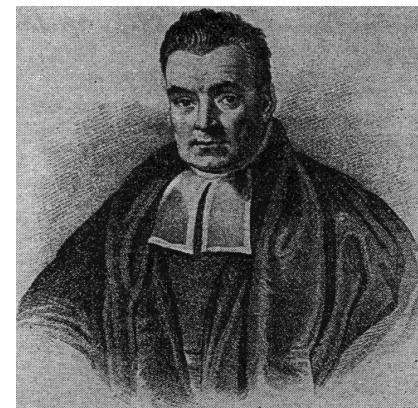
# Theoretical Approaches

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- Sensory processing as inference of properties of the input (can be formalized via probabilistic *Bayesian inference*)

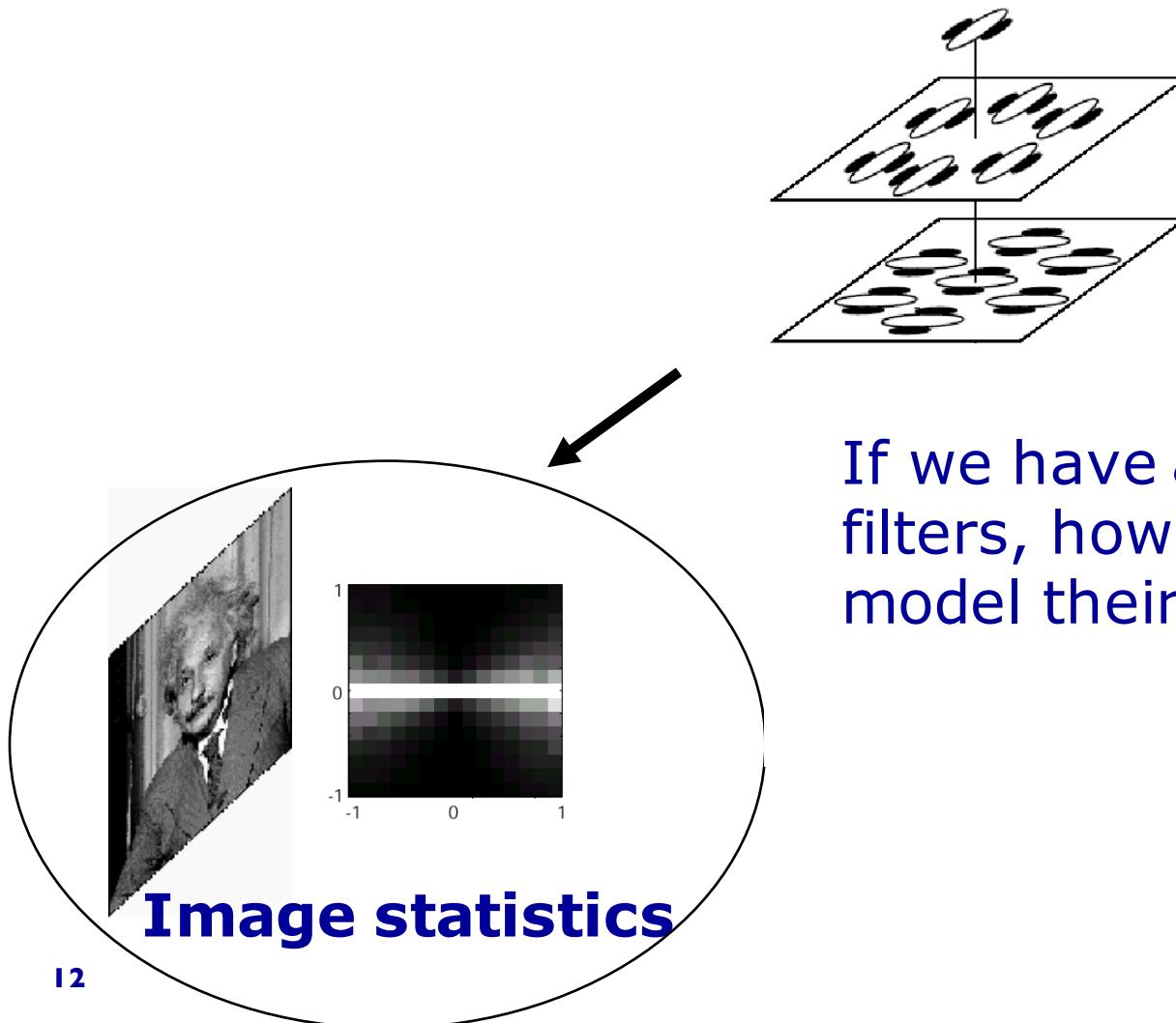


Helmholtz



Bayes

# Generative Model (nonlinear)

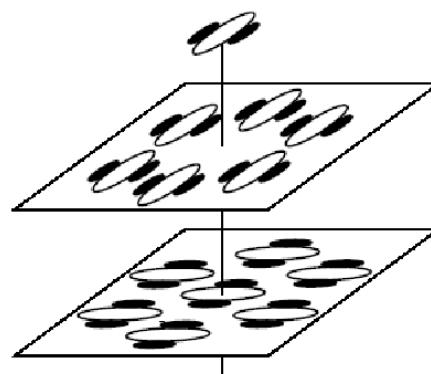


If we have a front end of filters, how do we statistically model their coordination?

# **Generative Model (nonlinear)**

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Modeling filter coordination in images

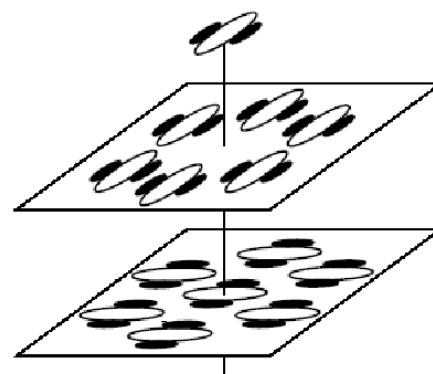


- Learning how more complex representations build up from the structure of images
- Understanding spatial contextual effects in visual processing and how they relate to the coordinated filter structure in images

# **Generative Model (nonlinear)**

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Modeling filter coordination in images

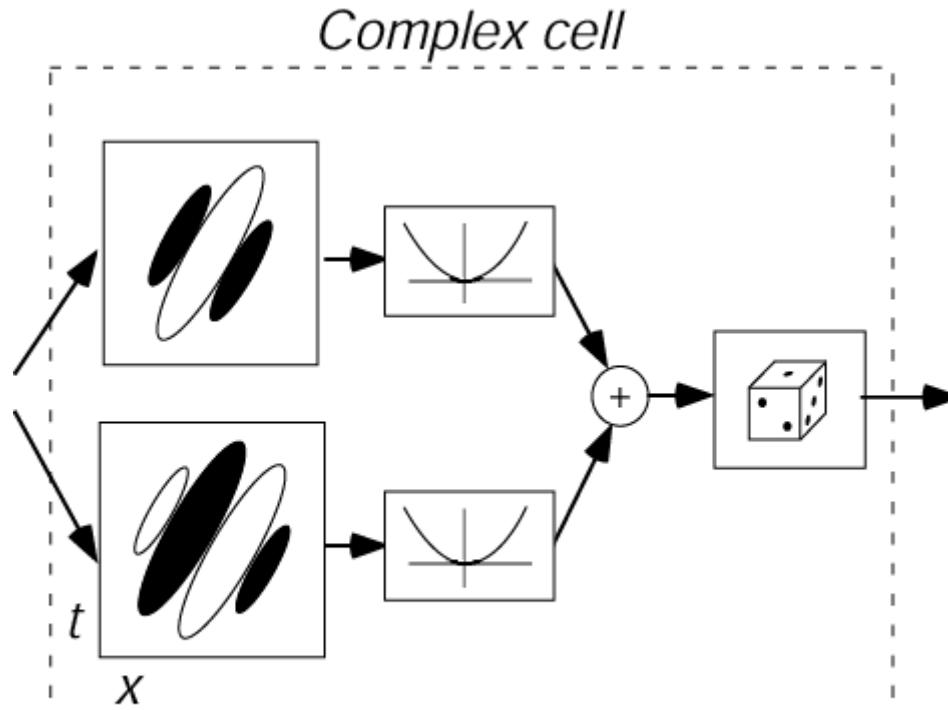


**What kind of complex representations?**

# More complex representations

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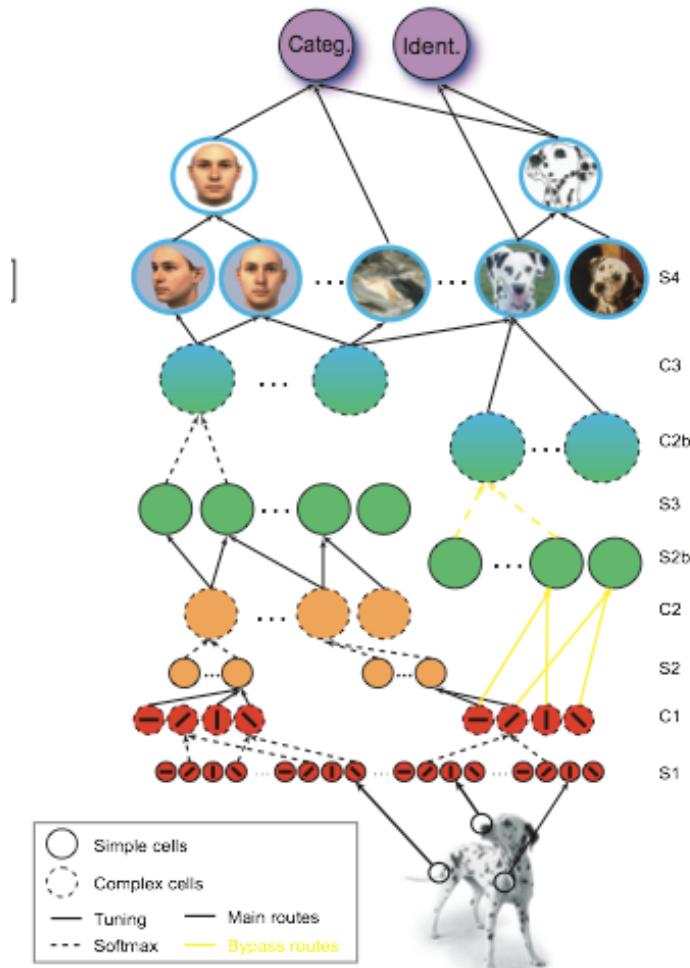
**Descriptive models** (capturing an invariance)



*Adelson & Bergen (1985)*

# More complex representations

**Descriptive models** (selectivity and invariance)

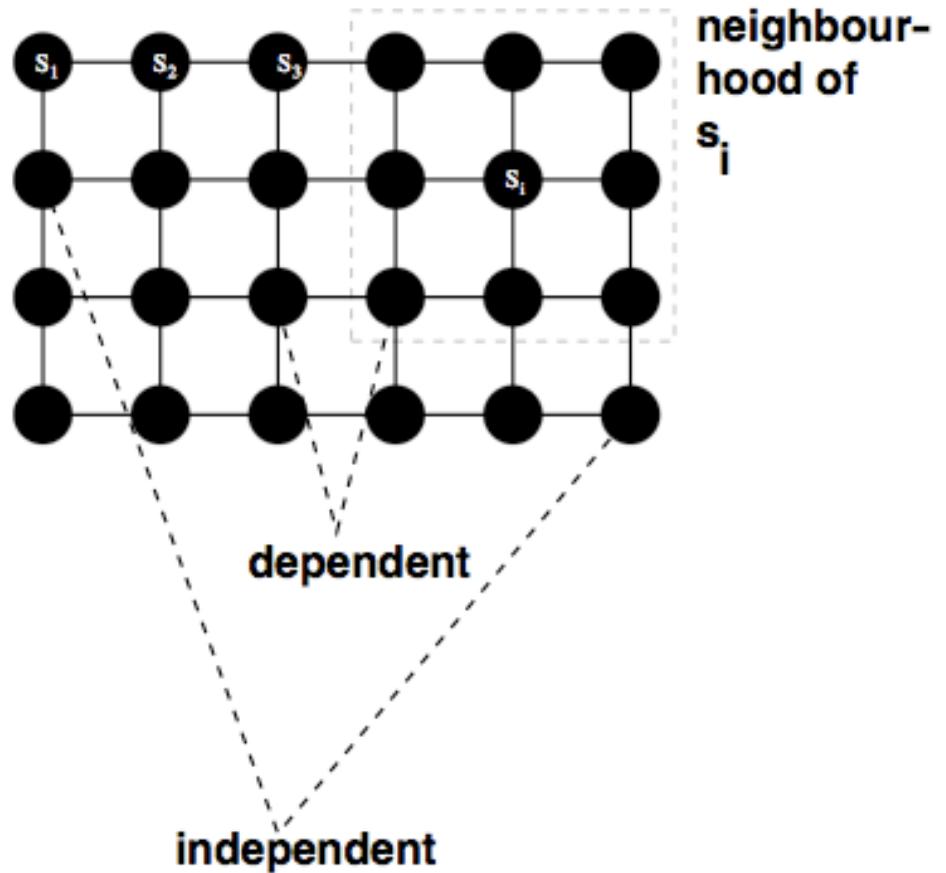
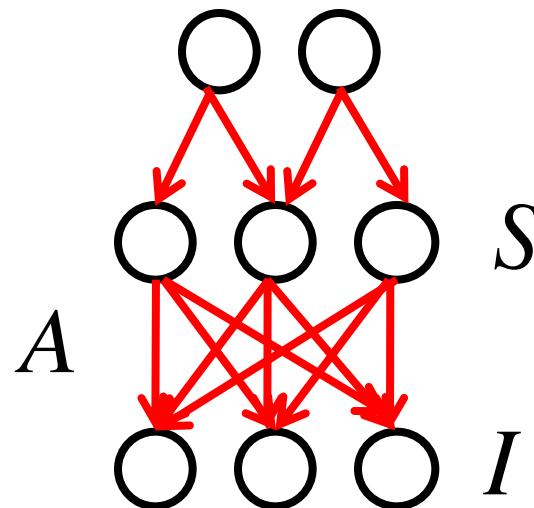


# More complex representations

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**What about learning from natural scenes?**

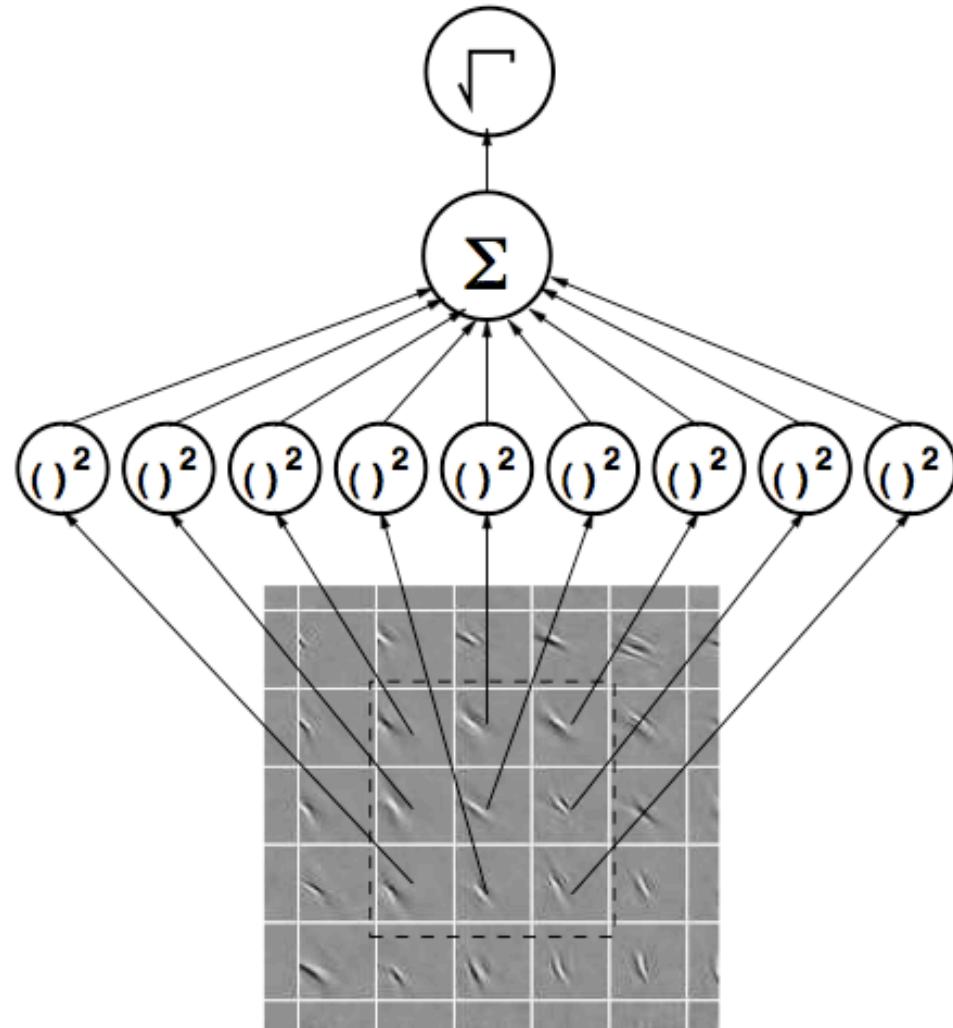
# Extensions to ICA



- from Hyvarinen and Hoyer: relax independence assumption; nearby hidden variables  $S$  no longer independent; but different neighborhoods independent of one another...

# Extensions to ICA

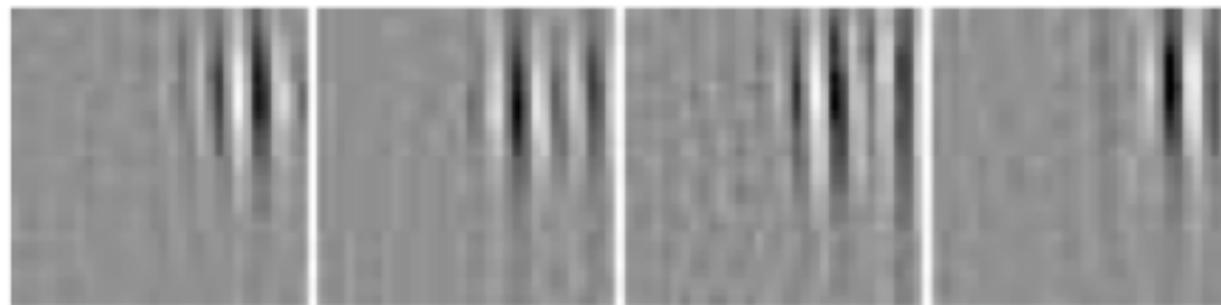
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- Hyvarinen and Hoyer, 2001: Invariant features (complex cell outputs) from summing squares of linear (simple cell outputs)

# Extensions to ICA

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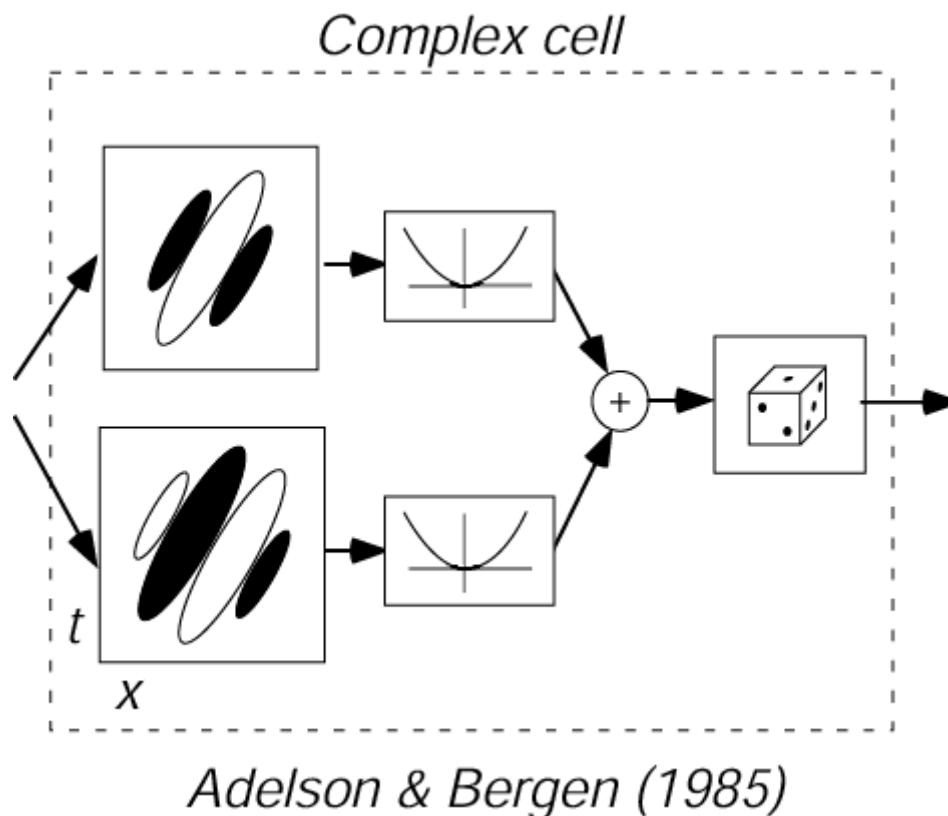


<sup>20</sup>

- Hyvarinen book: shown smaller group of dependent filters

# **Complex cell**

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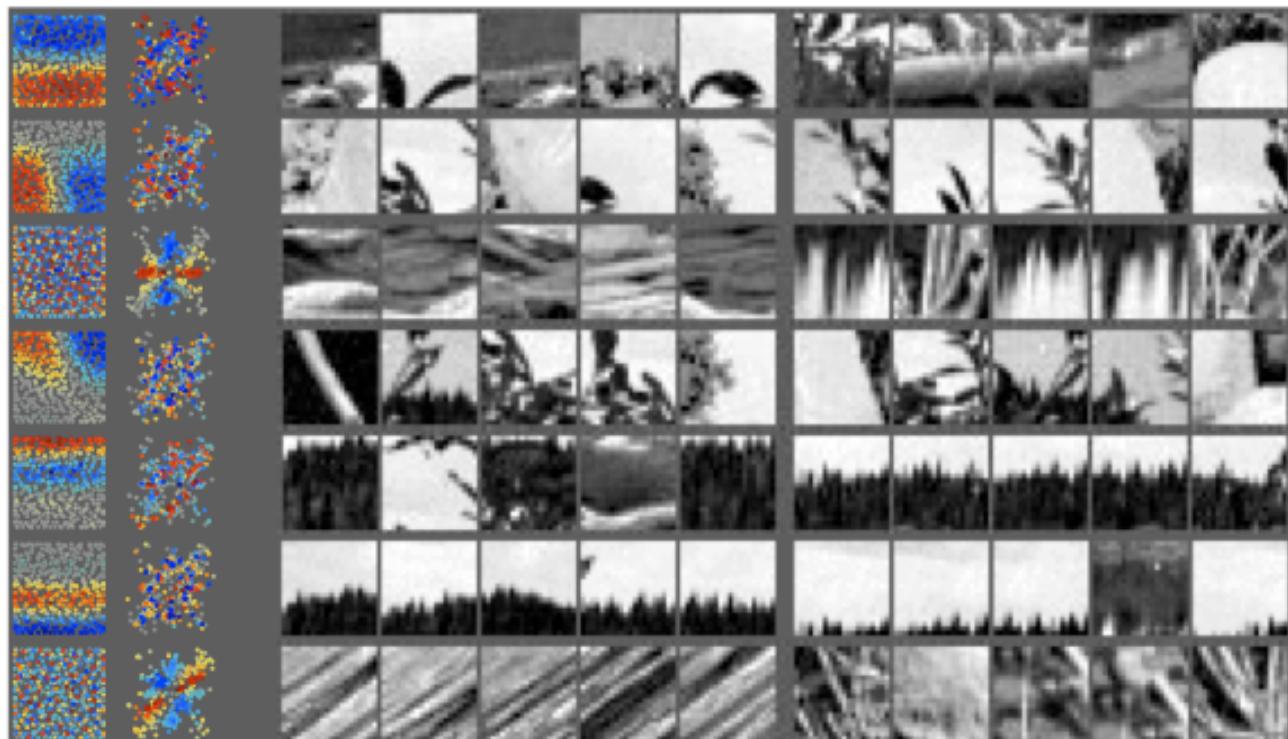


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Relates to complex cells and invariances...

# Hierarchical ICA

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Karklin & Lewicki, 2003; 2005: variance of each unit in the first (ICA) layer arises from an additive combination of a set of basis functions in a higher layer (more complex patterns of  
<sup>22</sup> dependencies)

# **Hierarchical representations**

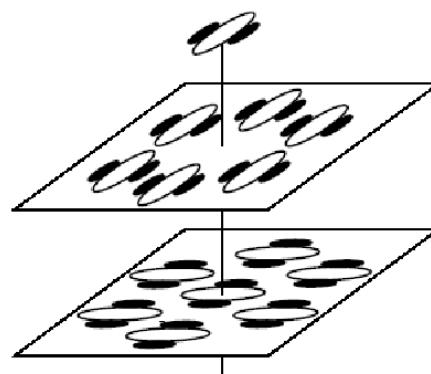
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We will look at recent advances in learning hierarchical structure more later in the context of deep learning

# **Generative Model (nonlinear)**

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Modeling filter coordination in images

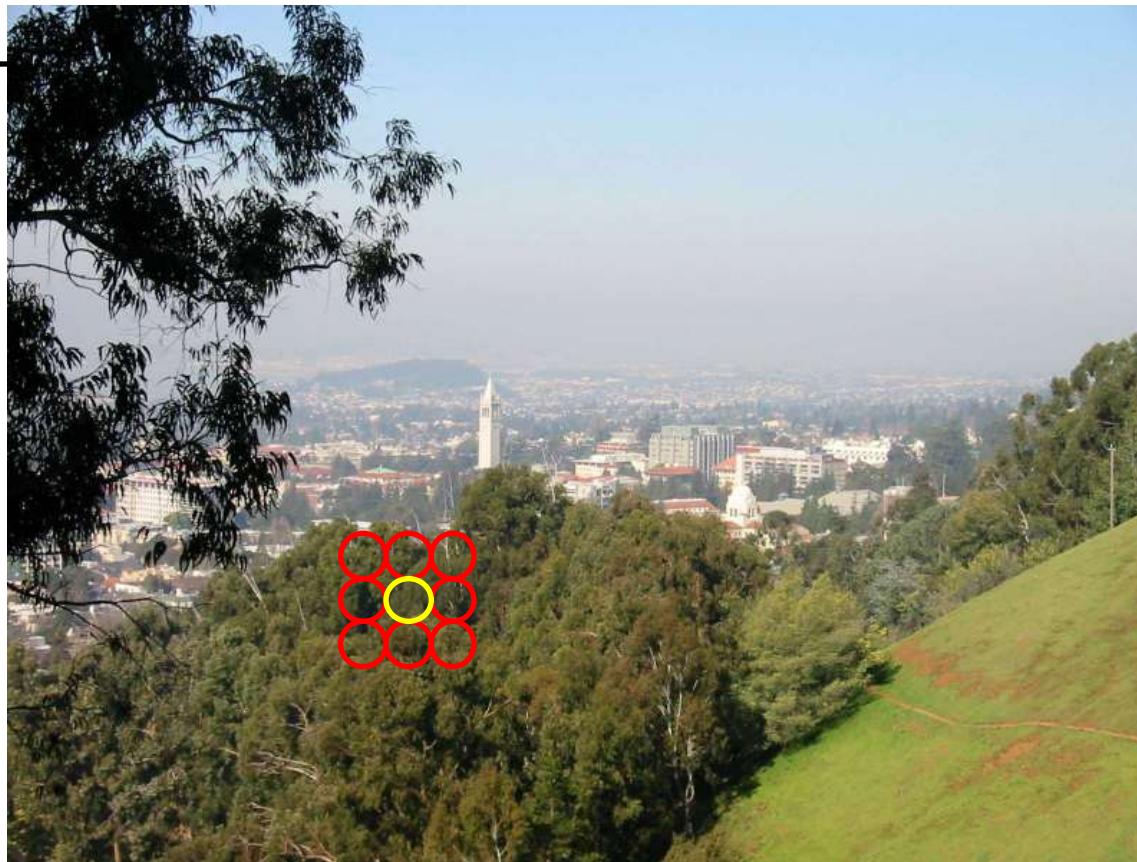


- Learning how more complex representations build up from the structure of images
- Understanding spatial contextual effects in visual processing and how they relate to the structure of images – will connect to neural nonlinearities and specifically divisive normalization

# Motivation

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- Spatial context plays critical role in object *grouping* and recognition, and in *segmentation*. It is key to everyday behavior; deficits have been implicated in neurological and developmental disorders and aging
- Range of existing experimental data on spatial context (neural; perceptual). Lacking principled explanation
- Poor understanding for how we (and our cortical neurons) process complex, natural images



- Spatial context in scenes
- Temporal context in image sequences
- Context given by attention and task

# Contextual influences

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Perceptual illusions:



# Contextual influences

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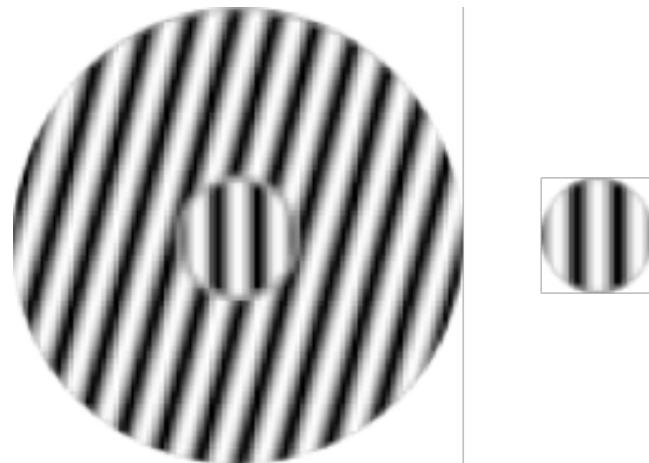
Perceptual illusions:



# Spatial context

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## Perceptual illusions



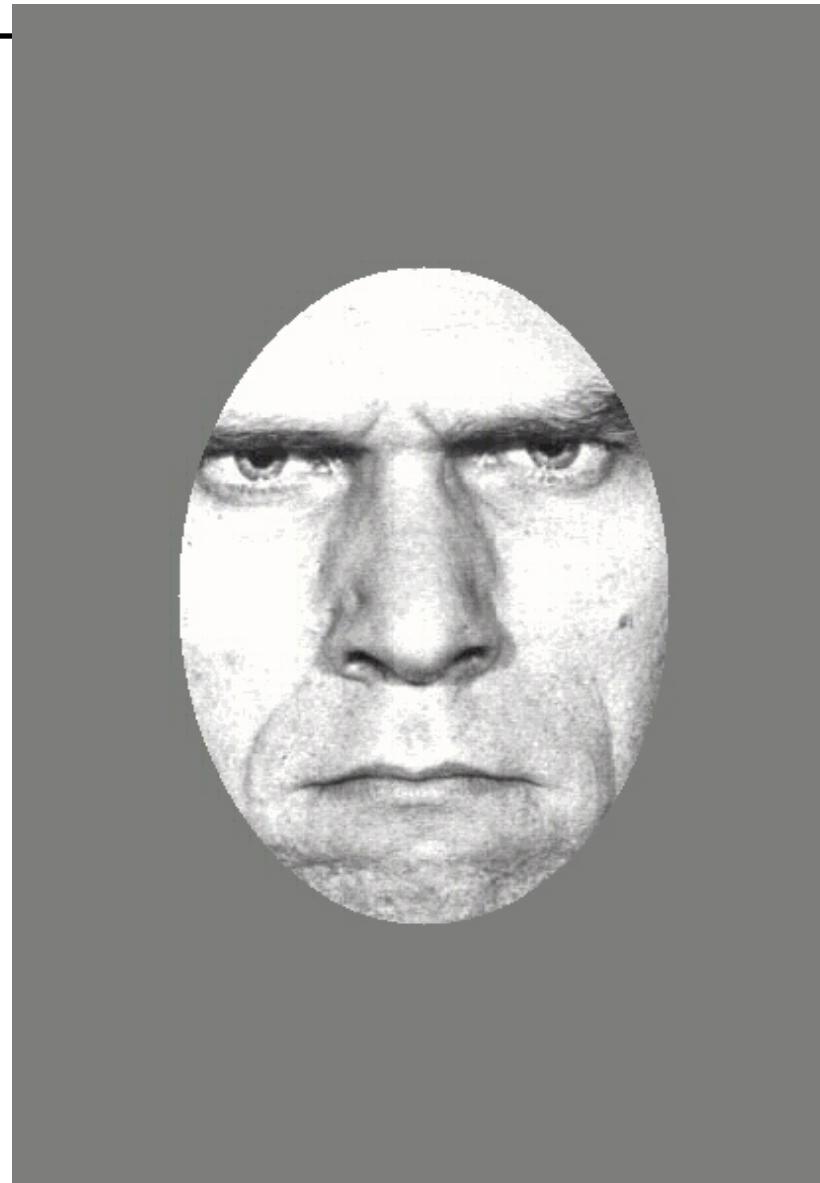
## Contextual effects in time...

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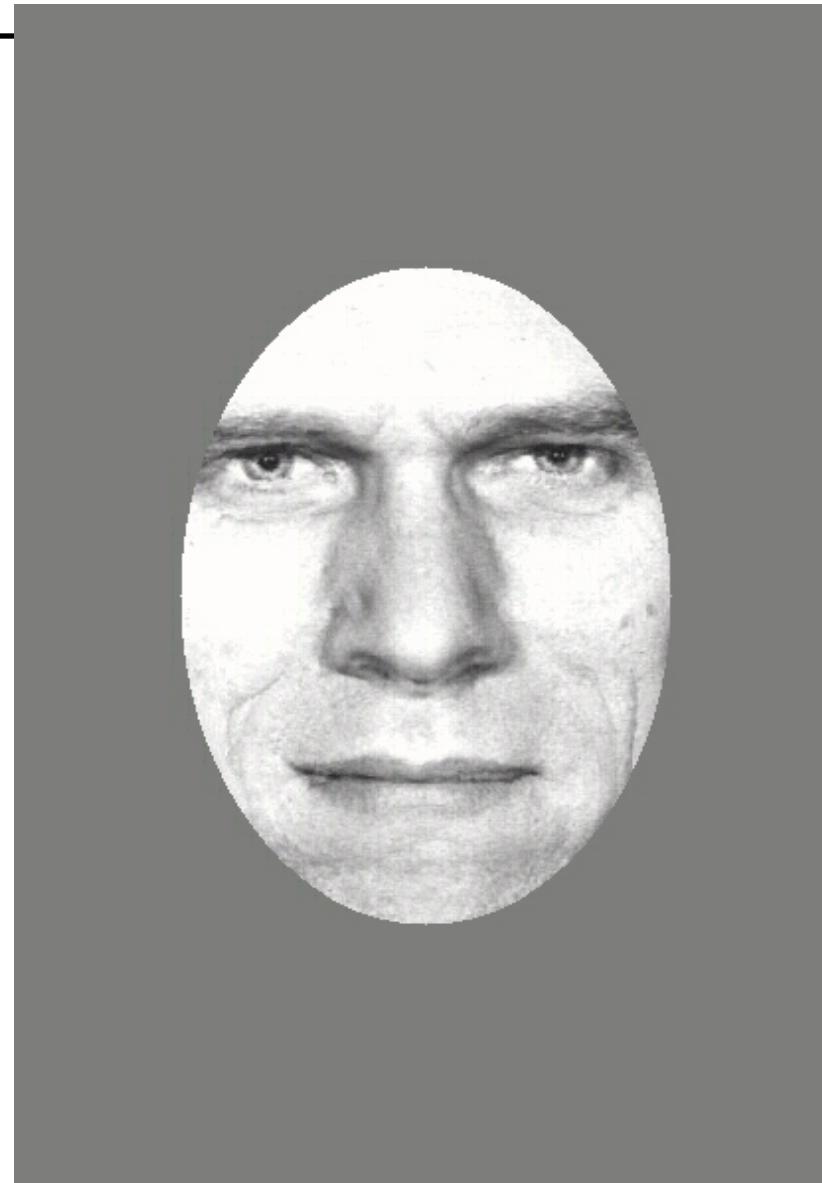


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Adaptation to expression: pre-adapt (from Michael Webster)



adapt

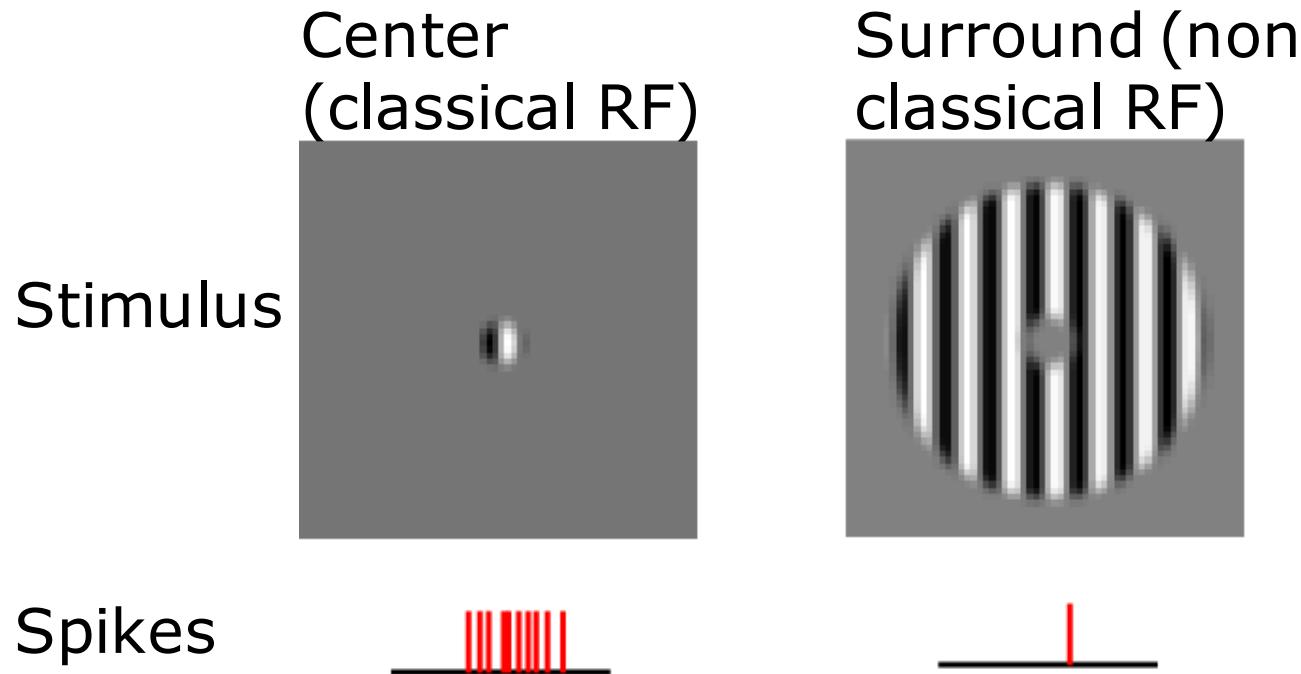


post-adapt

# Spatial context

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## Cortical neurons



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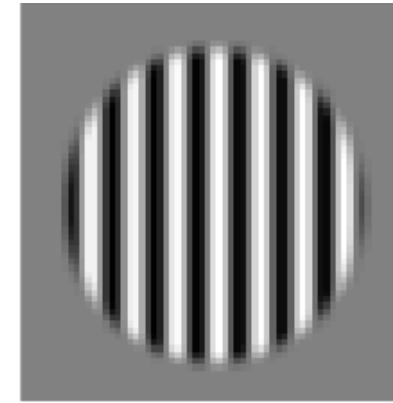
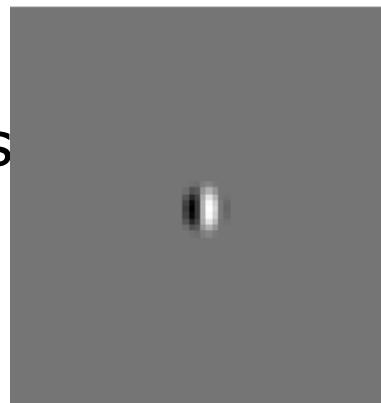
Surround stimulus is defined such that by itself elicits no response

# Spatial context

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## Cortical neurons

Stimulus



Spikes

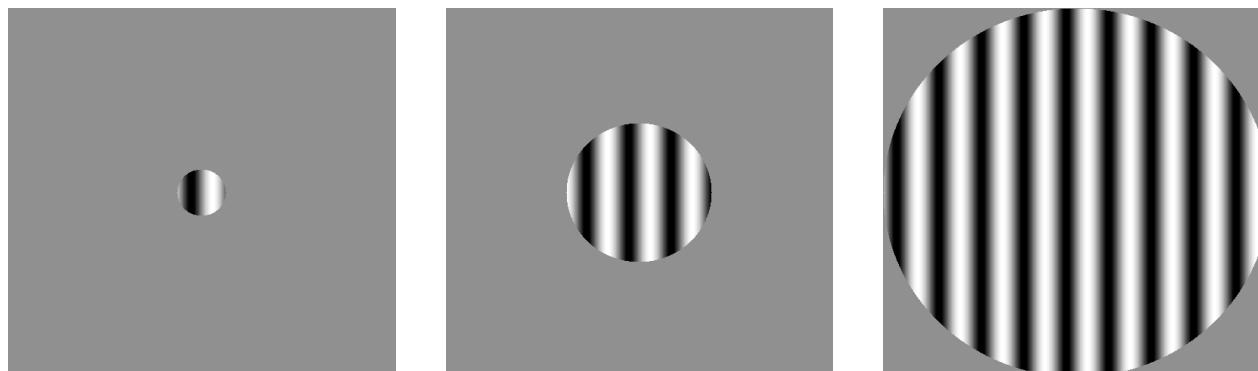
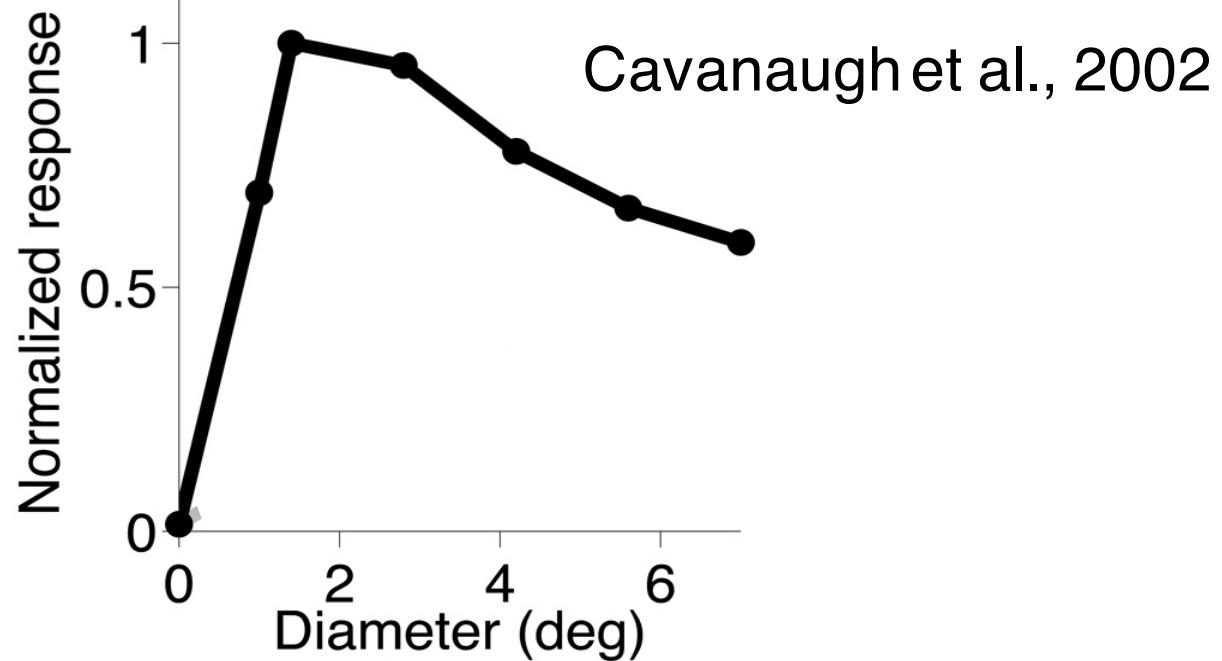


But surround stimulus can modulate response to center. Cortical neurons are affected by spatial context.

# Spatial context

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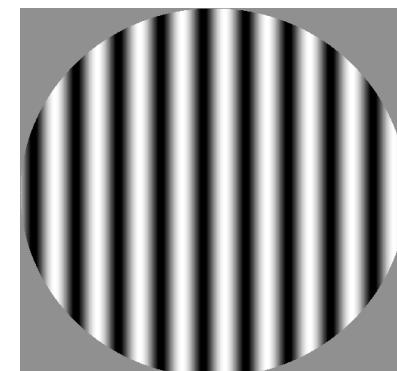
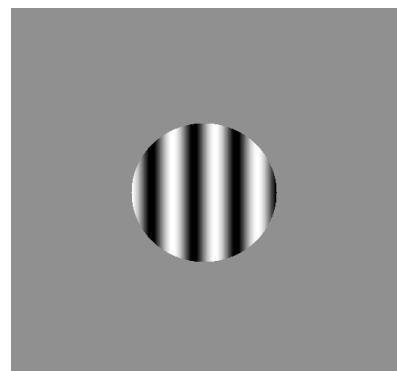
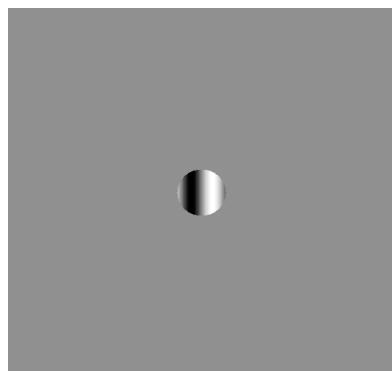
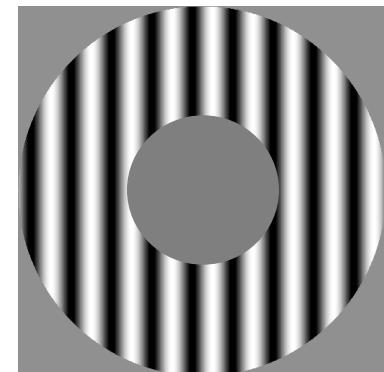
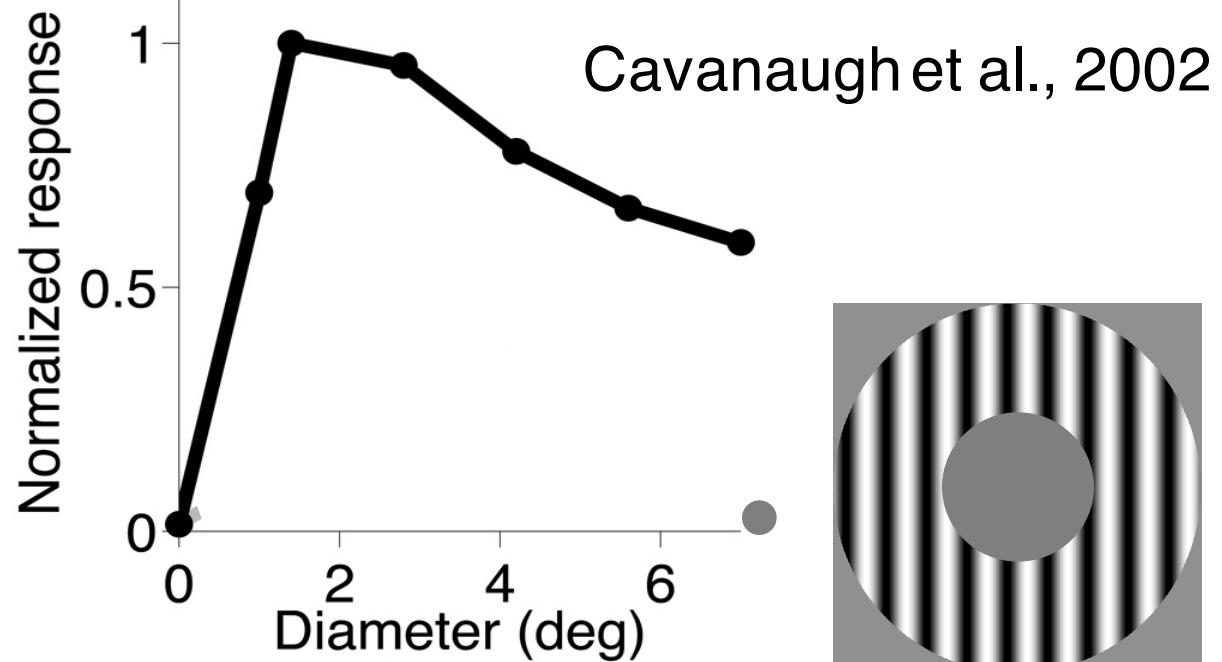
## Cortical neurons



# Spatial context

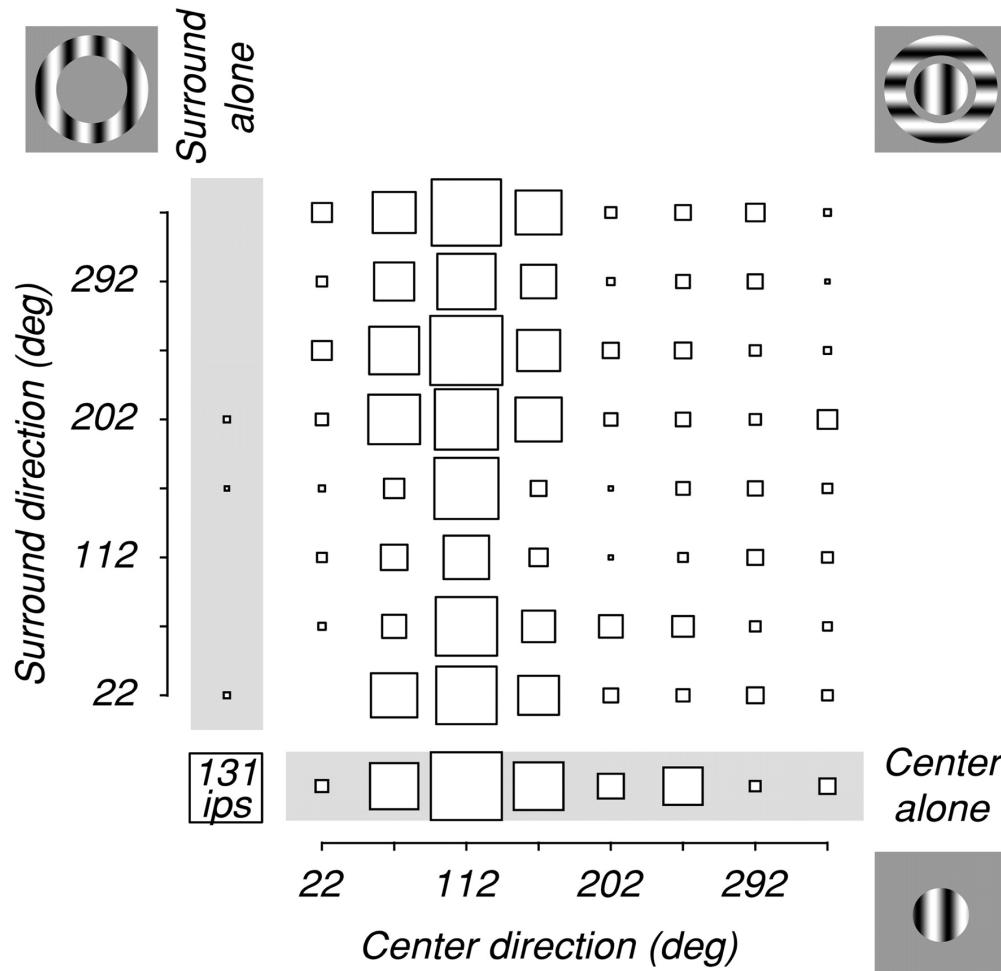
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## Cortical neurons



# Spatial context

## Cortical neurons

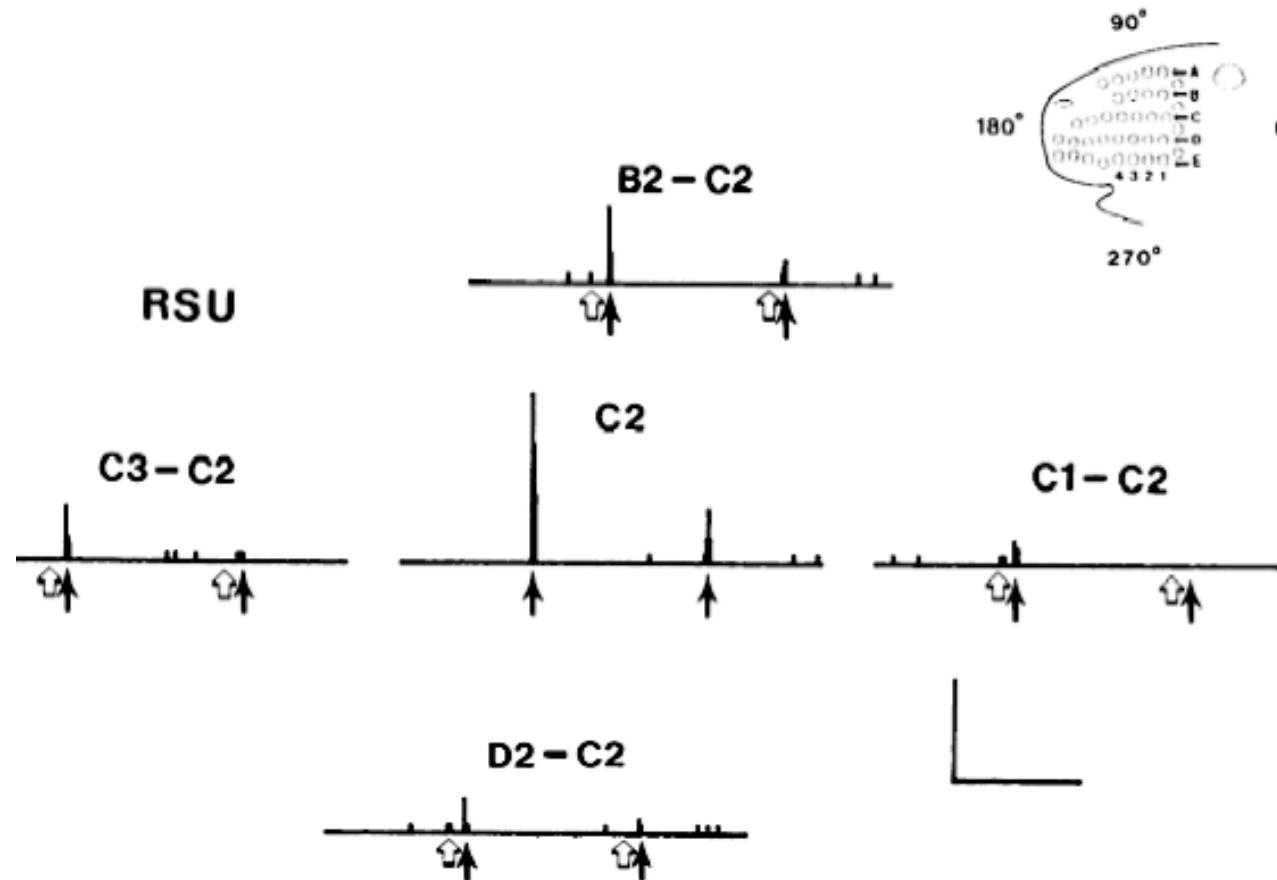


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In what other sensory systems  
might we expect contextual effects?

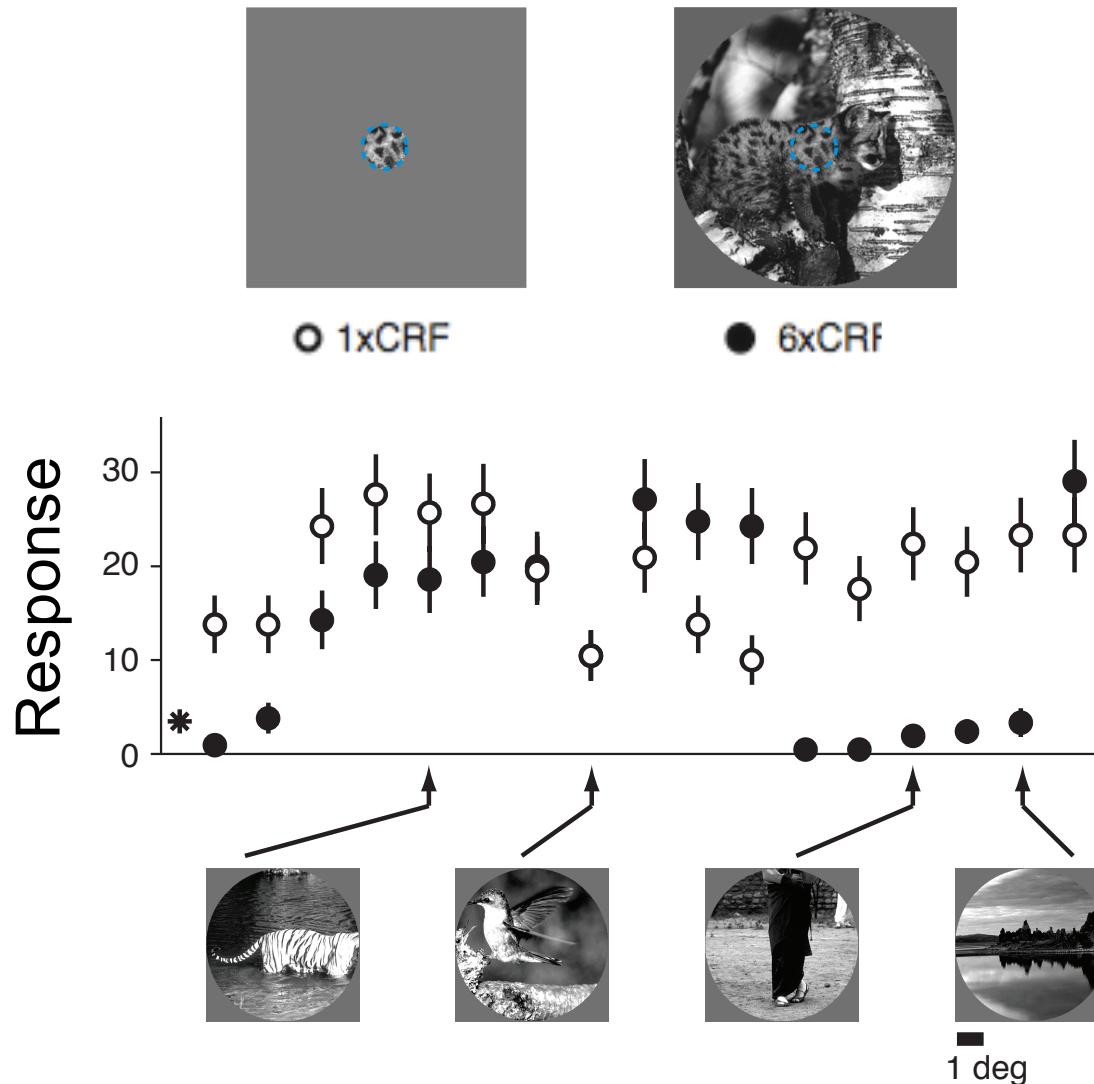
# Spatial context

Cortical neurons: other modalities...



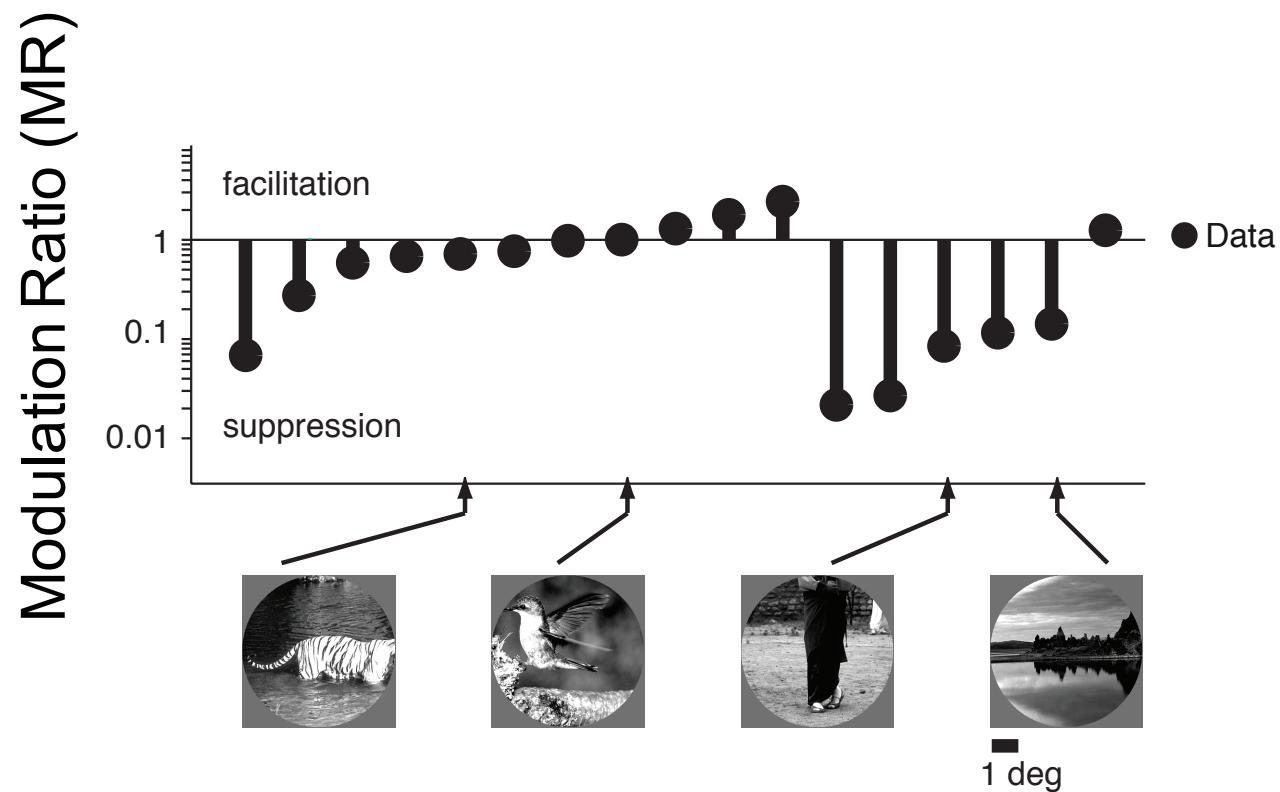
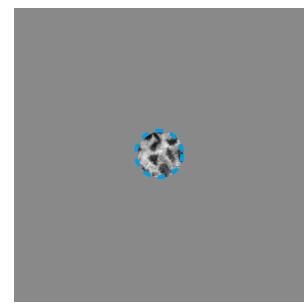
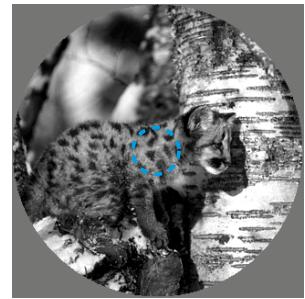
# Cortical Neurons

- Spatial context and natural scenes



# Cortical Neurons

- Spatial context and natural scenes



# Cortical Neurons

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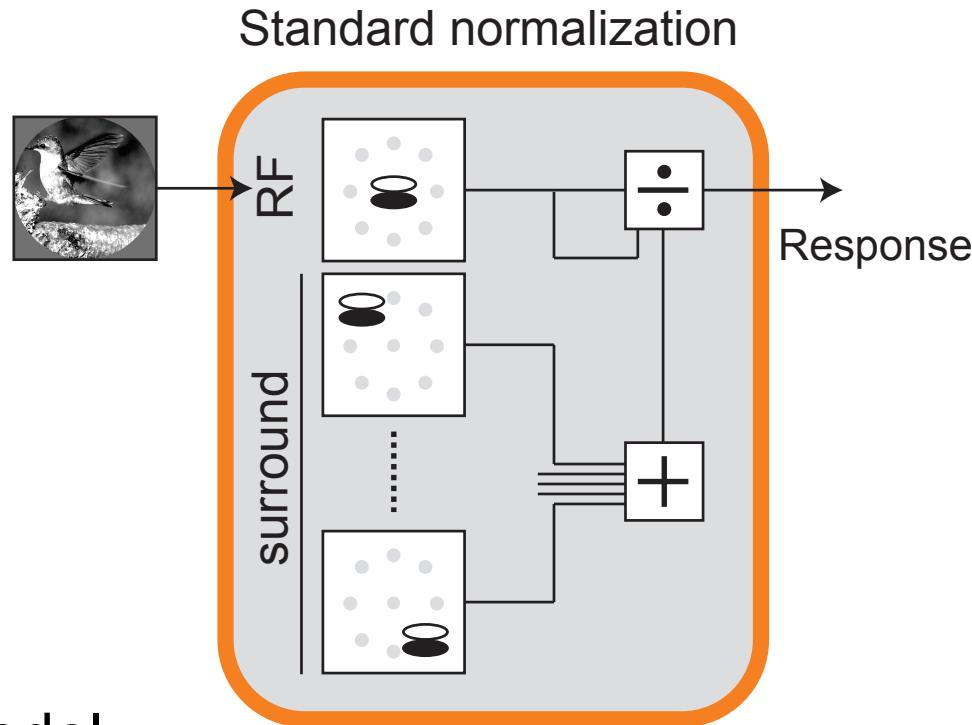
- Spatial context and natural scenes



Can we capture data with  
**canonical divisive normalization?**  
**(descriptive model)**

# Divisive normalization

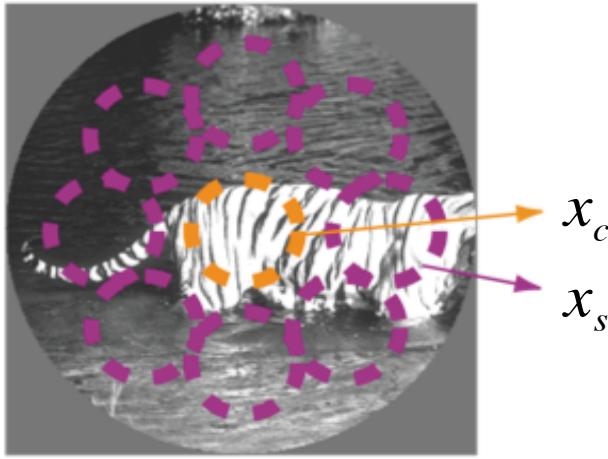
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- Descriptive model
- Canonical computation (Carandini, Heeger, Nature Reviews Neuro, 2012)
- Has been applied to visual cortex, as well as other systems and modalities, multimodal processing, value encoding, etc

# Cortical Neurons

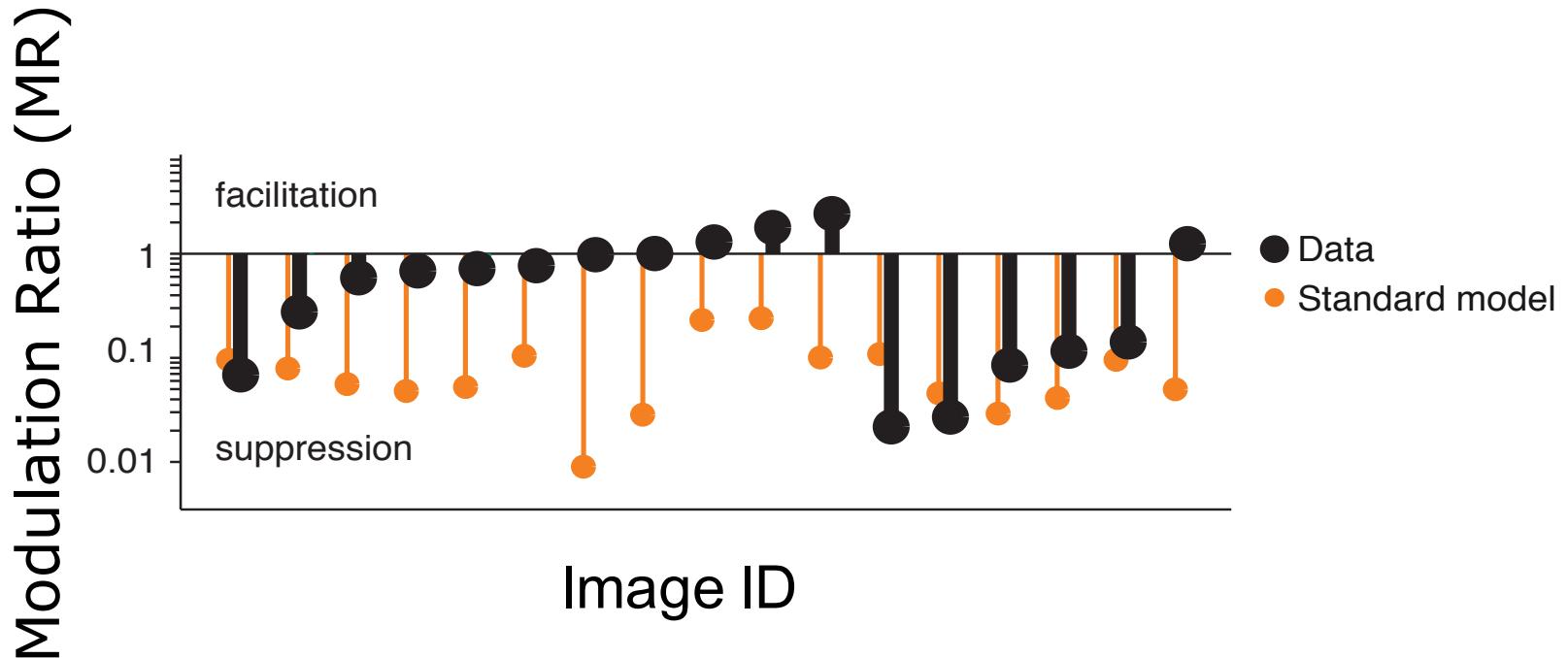
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Canonical divisive normalization:

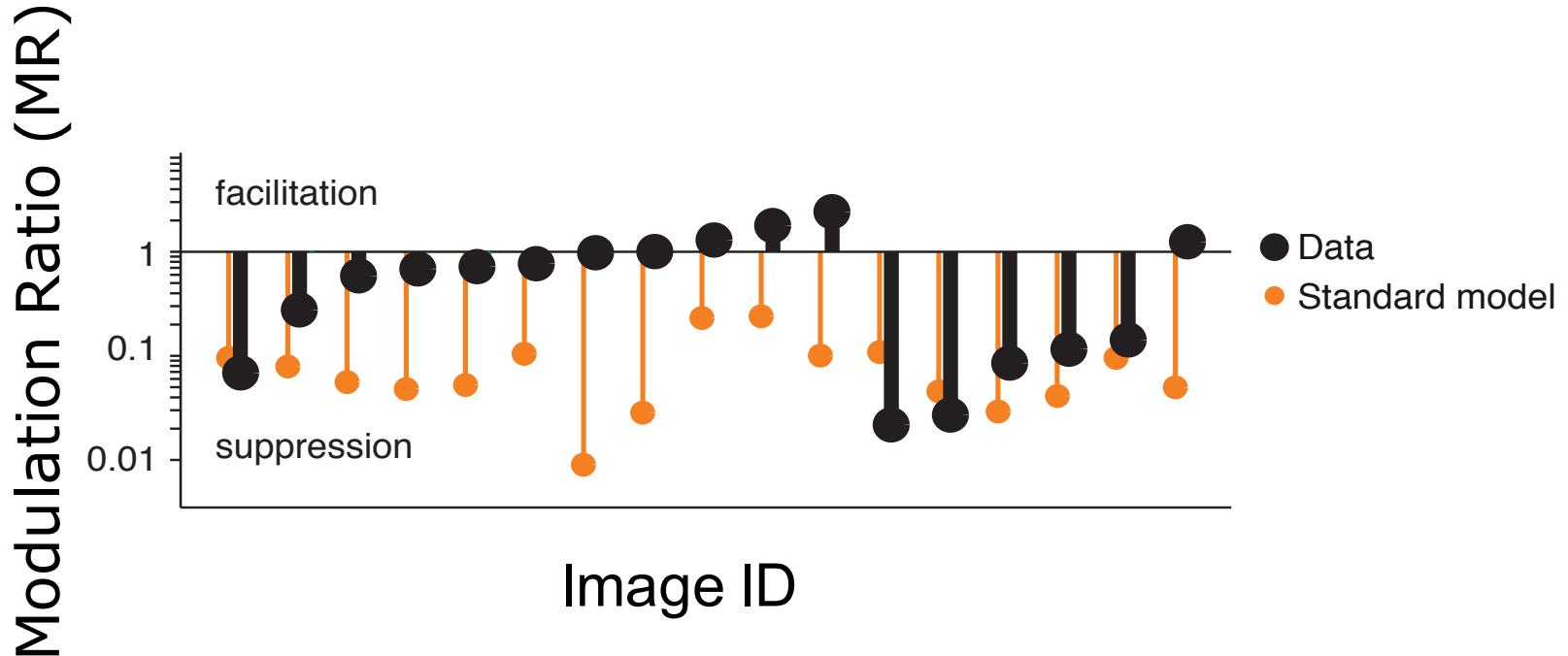
$$R_c \leftarrow \frac{x_c}{\sqrt{x_c^2 + x_s^2}}$$

# Cortical responses to natural images



- We fit the standard normalization model to neural data
- Poor prediction quality

# Cortical responses to natural images



- Can we explain as strategy to encode natural images optimally based on expected contextual regularities?

Data: Adam Kohn lab  
Coen-Cagli, Kohn, Schwartz, 2015

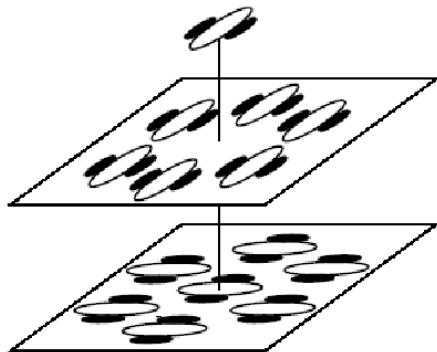
# Outline

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- Generative model that captures the joint statistics and its relation to cortical neural processing
- Application and testing on biological data

# Generative model

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Generative model  
of the coordination of  
filter activations

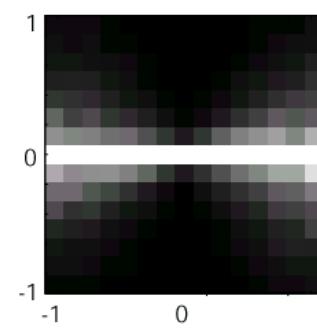
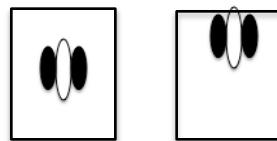
# Generate filter coordination

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Hidden variables

↓  
generative

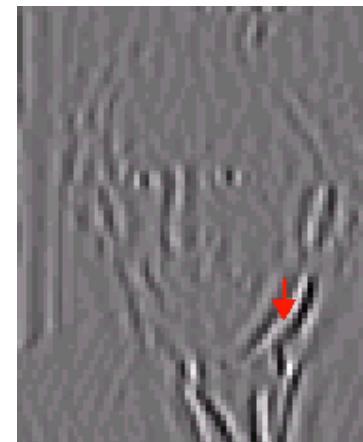
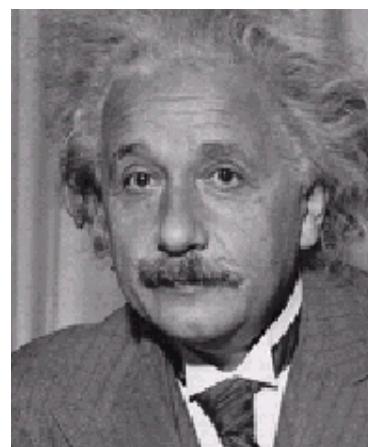
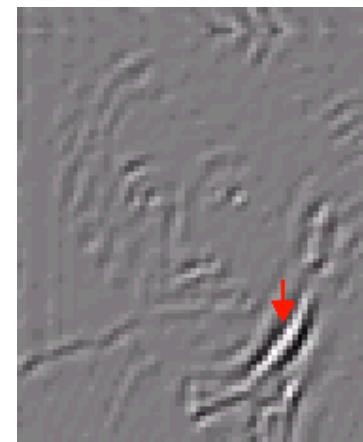
Filter activations



# **Bottom-up Joint Statistics**

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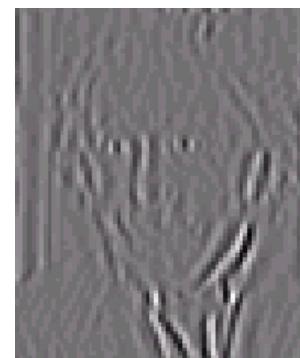
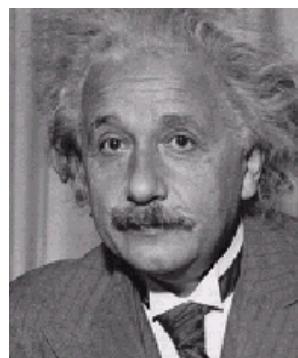
## **Reminder**

 $X_1$  $X_2$

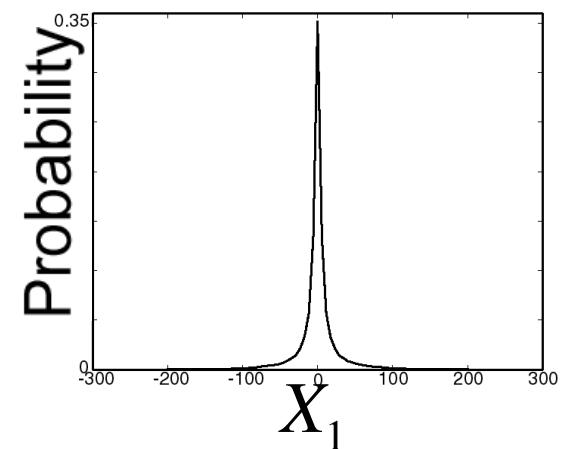
# Bottom-up Statistics

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## Reminder



$X_1$



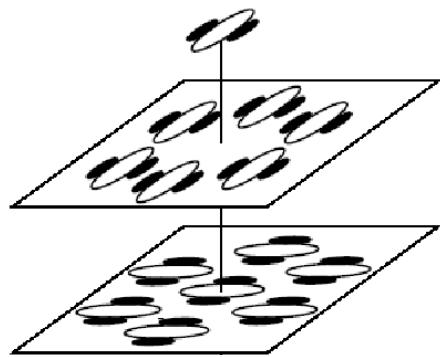
# GSM Generative model

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**Gaussian Scale Mixture (GSM) – multiplicative model**

(Andrews & Mallows, 1974. Wainwright & Simoncelli, 2000 )

$$x_1 = v g_1$$
$$x_2 = v g_2$$



Coordinating  
filter activations  
via a *common*  
*multiplicative hidden*  
*variable*

# Analogy... Brightness percept as multiplicative

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Observed brightness = illuminant times reflectance

global

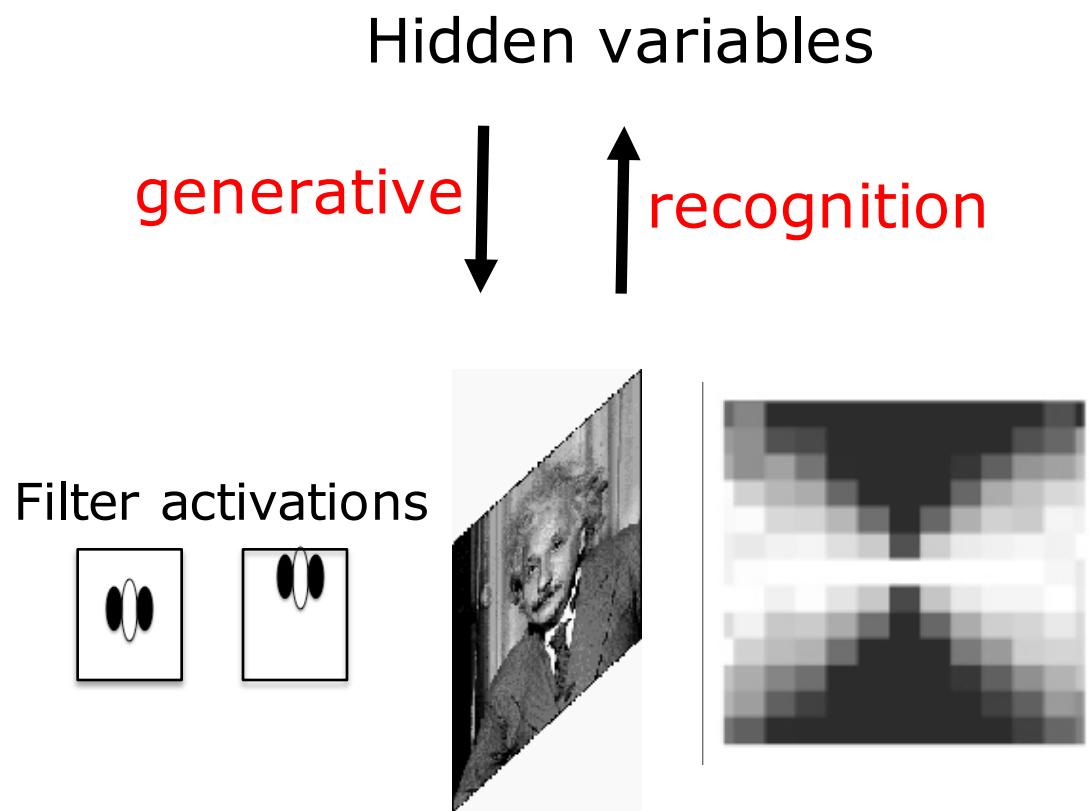
local

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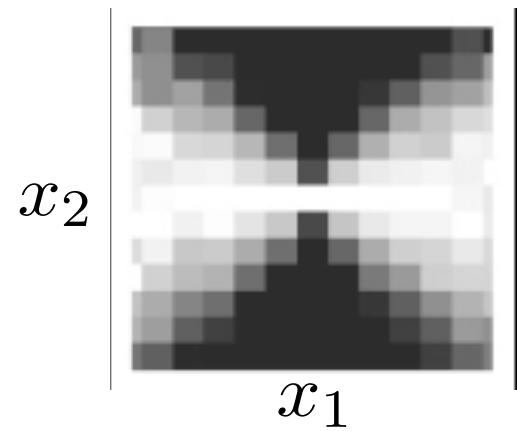
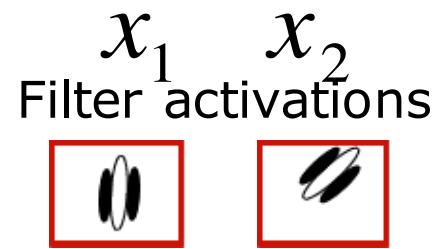
From Adelson 1993

# GSM Generative model

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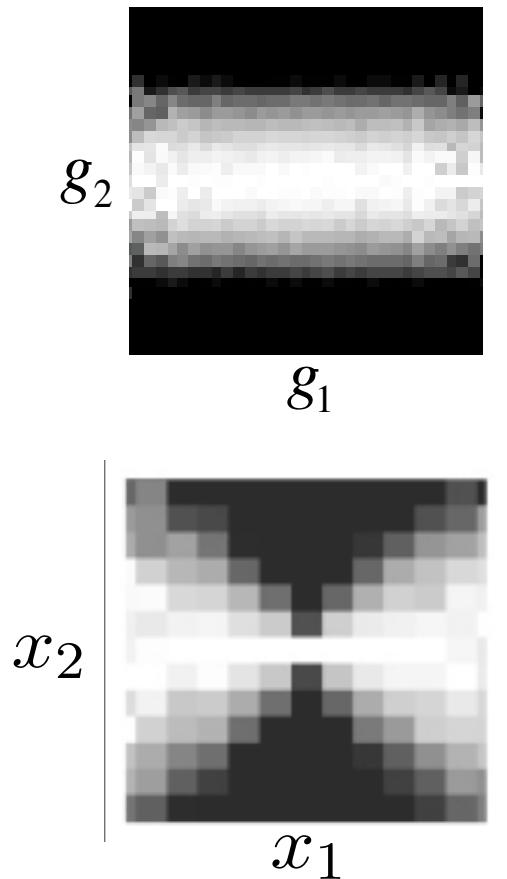
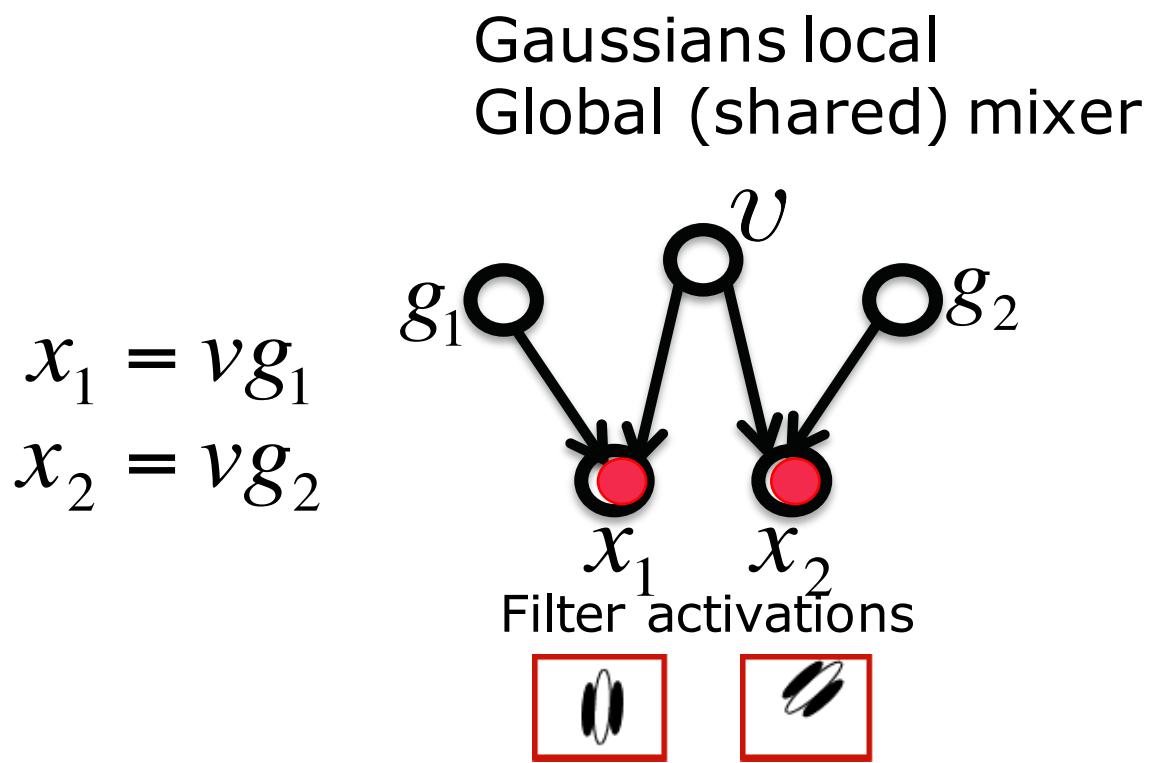
# Modeling Statistical dependencies: Gaussian Scale Mixture (GSM)



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Andrews & Mallows, 1974; Wainwright & Simoncelli, 2000

# Modeling Statistical dependencies: Gaussian Scale Mixture (GSM)

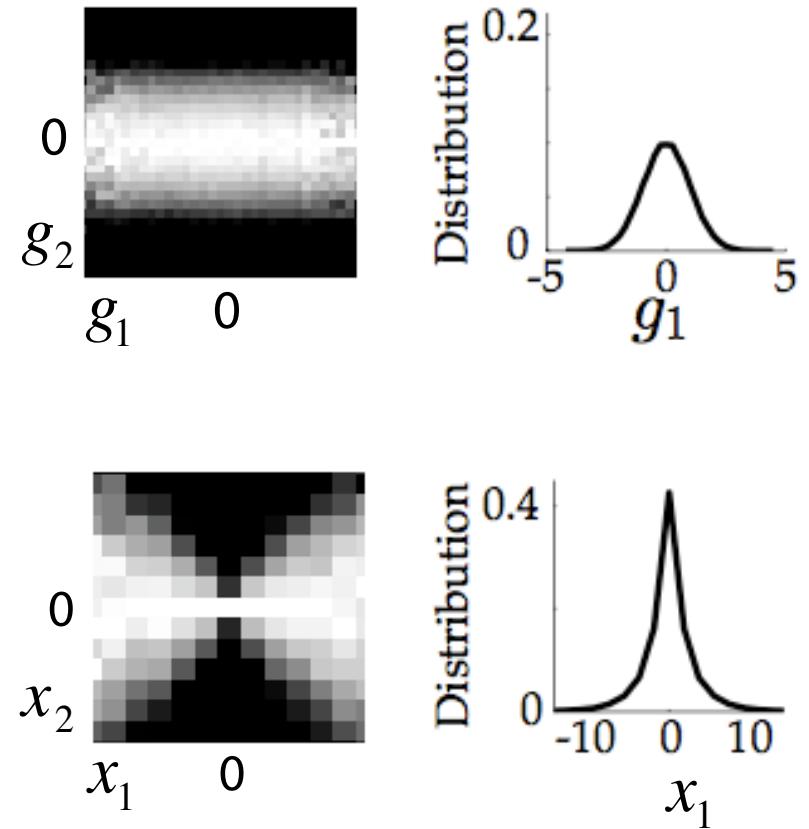
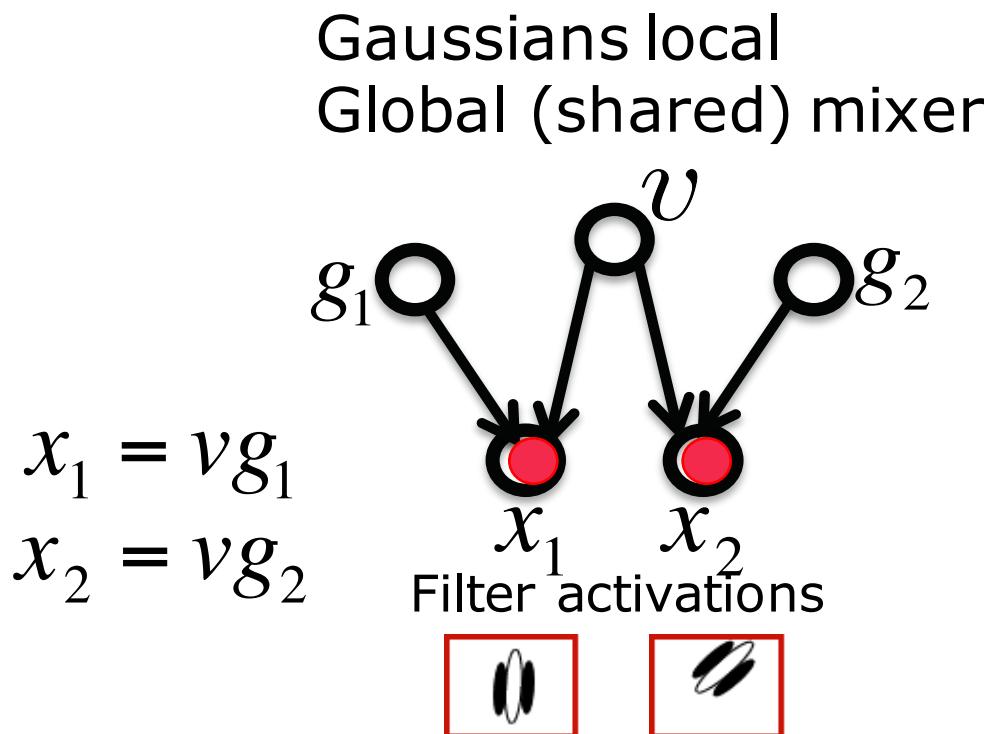


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Andrews & Mallows, 1974; Wainwright & Simoncelli, 2000

# GSM Generative model

**Gaussian Scale Mixture (GSM) – multiplicative model**  
Also generates sparse marginal...

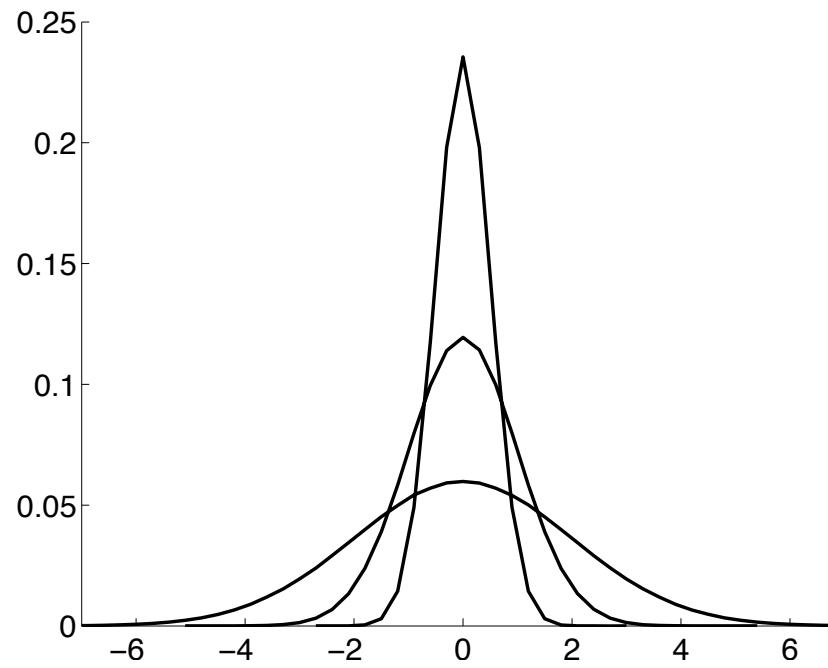


# GSM Generative model

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**Gaussian Scale Mixture (GSM) – multiplicative model**  
**Also generates sparse marginal...**

Example: mixing few zero mean Gaussians multiplied  
By different scale factors or mixer values:

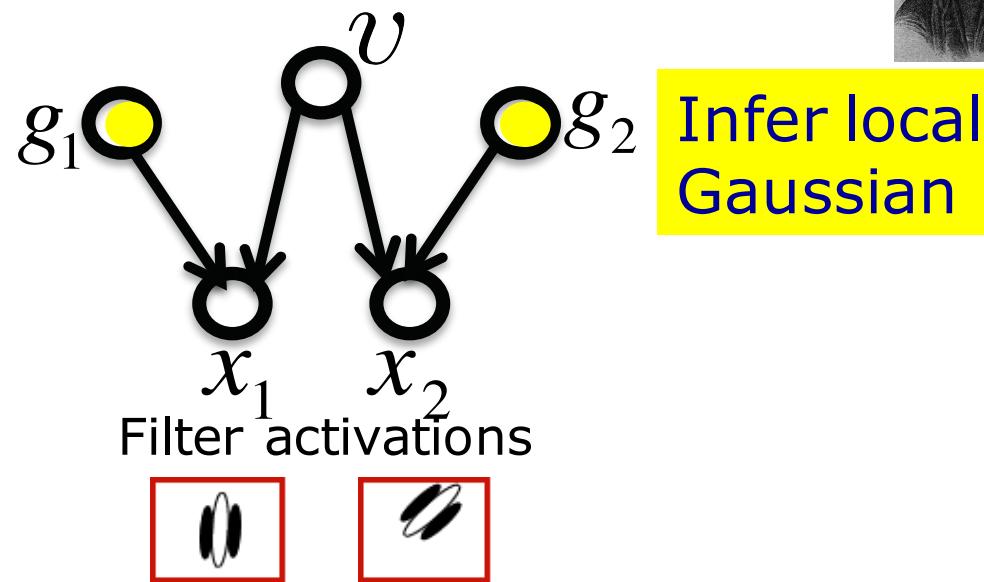


# Modeling Statistical dependencies: Gaussian Scale Mixture (GSM)

Gaussians local  
Global (shared) mixer



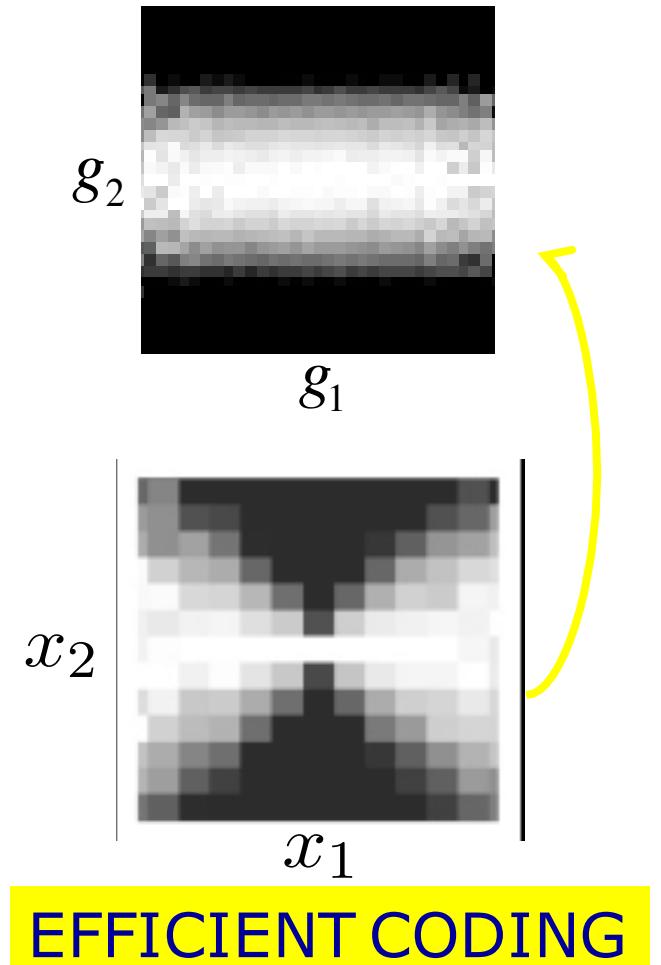
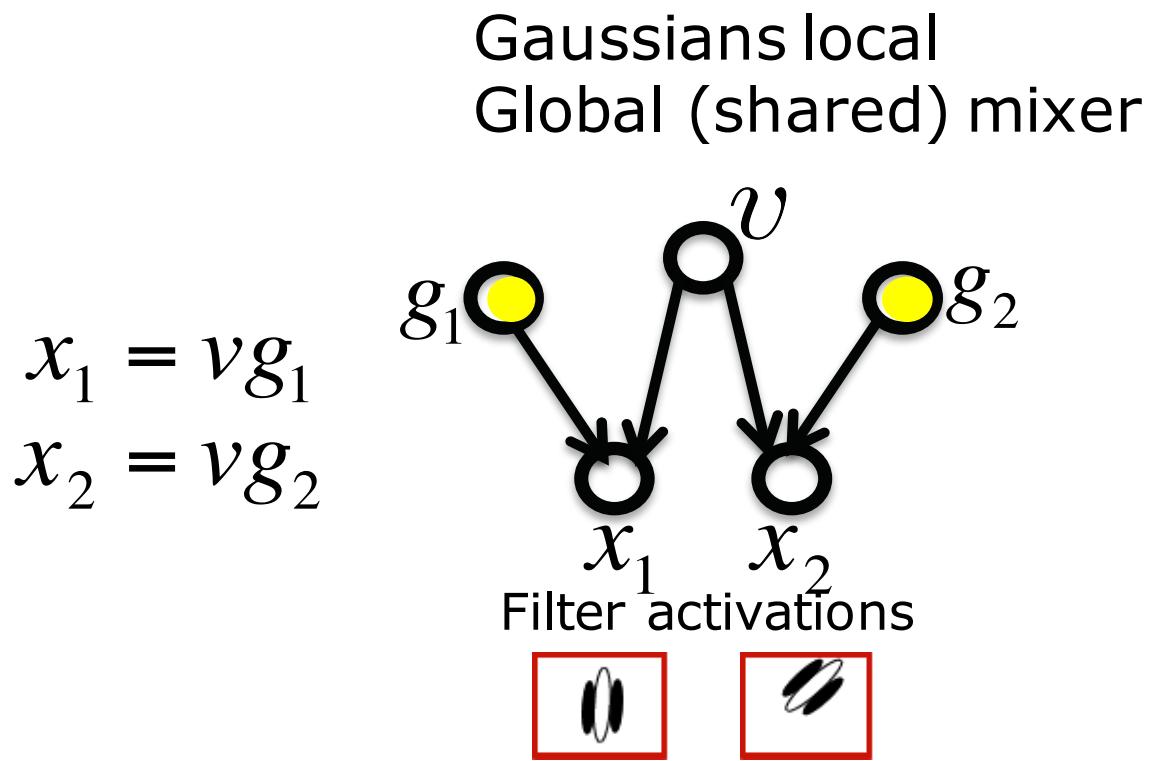
$$x_1 = \nu g_1$$
$$x_2 = \nu g_2$$



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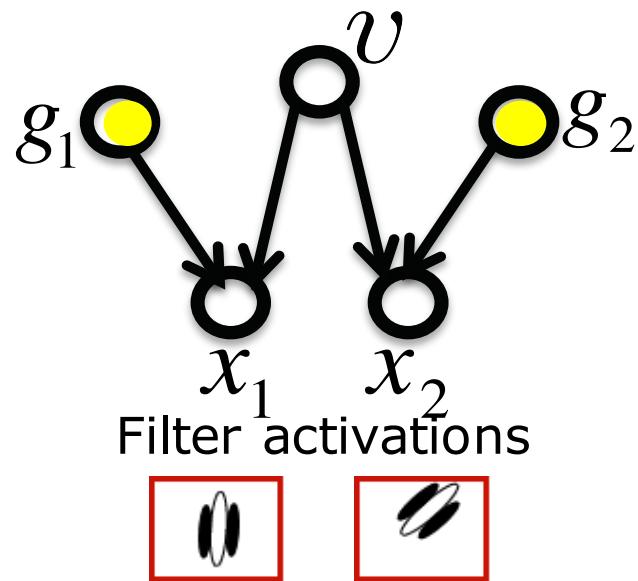
$E(g_1 | x_1, x_2)$  = Model neuron activity

# Modeling Statistical dependencies: Gaussian Scale Mixture (GSM)



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Global (shared) mixer



Computed via Bayes rule

$$E(g_1 | x_1, x_2) \leftarrow \frac{x_1}{\sqrt{l}};$$

$$l = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$$

DIVISIVE  
NORMALIZATION

# **Divisive Normalization Canonical Model**

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Divisive normalization *descriptive* models have been applied in many neural systems. Here we provide a *principled explanation*. We will next show that it also leads to a **richer model** based on image statistics and makes predictions

# **GSM Generative model**

---

- We'll pause for a moment and take a more detailed look at the math...

# GSM Generative model

---

- Mixer and Gaussian component estimation is formally ill-posed, but regularized through prior distributions.

Mixer prior:

$$P(v) \propto [v \exp(-v^2/2)]$$

Gaussian prior:

$$P(g_i) \propto \text{Gauss}(0,1)$$

- Posterior statistics have closed form expressions!

# **Generative model (GSM)**

---

- **Mixer** and **Gaussian** component estimation is formally ill-posed, but regularized through prior distributions.

**Mixer prior:**

$$P(v) \propto [v \exp(-v^2/2)]$$

**Gaussian prior:**

$$P(g) \propto \text{Gauss}(0,1)$$

- Posterior statistics have closed form expressions!

Let  $l = \sqrt{\sum_i x_i^2}$  sum of squared filter responses

$$E(v|x) = \sqrt{l} \frac{\text{Besselk}\left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{n}{2}, l\right)}{\text{Besselk}\left(1 - \frac{n}{2}, l\right)}$$

$$E(g_1|x) = \text{sign}(x_1) \sqrt{|x_1|} \sqrt{\frac{|x_1|}{l}} \frac{\text{Besselk}\left(\frac{n}{2} - \frac{1}{2}, l\right)}{\text{Besselk}\left(\frac{n}{2} - 1, l\right)}$$

# GSM Generative model

---

**Gaussian Scale Mixture (GSM) – multiplicative model**

(Andrews & Mallows, 1974. Wainwright & Simoncelli, 2000 )

$$p(v) = v \exp(-v^2/2);$$

$$p(g_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp(-g_1^2/2);$$

$$x_1 = vg_1; x_2 = vg_2$$

Use Bayesian inference to get out the Gaussian estimate:

$$p(g_1 | x_1) \propto p(g_1) p(x_1 | g_1);$$

$$p(x_1 | g_1) \propto p(v = x_1 / g_1) = \frac{|x_1| \exp(-x_1^2 / 2g_1^2)}{g_1^2};$$

# GSM Generative model

---

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Mixer prior:

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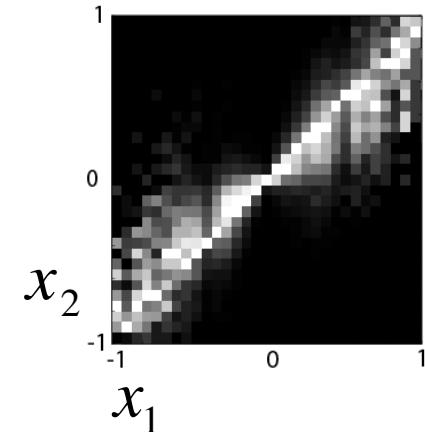
$$p(g_1 | x_1, x_2) \propto p(g_1) p(x_1, x_2 | g_1) = p(g_1) p(x_1 | g_1) p(x_2 | v = x_1 / g_1)$$

$$E(g_1 | x_1, x_2) = \text{sign}(x_1) \sqrt{|x_1|} \sqrt{\frac{|x_1|}{l}} \frac{B(\frac{n}{2} - \frac{1}{2}, l)}{B(\frac{n}{2} - 1, l)}$$
$$l = \sqrt{\sum_i x_i^2}$$

# Extension 1: include linear correlations

$$x_1 = \nu g_1$$

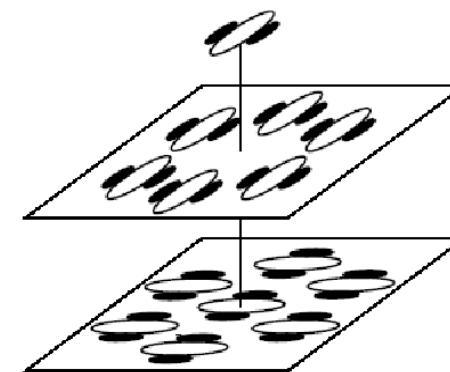
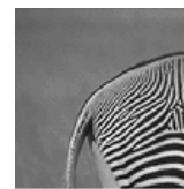
$$x_2 = \nu g_2$$



$$l = \sqrt{\sum_i x_i^2} \quad \longrightarrow \quad l = \sqrt{\sum_{i,j} \Sigma_{i,i}^{-1} x_i^2 + \Sigma_{i,j}^{-1} x_i x_j}$$

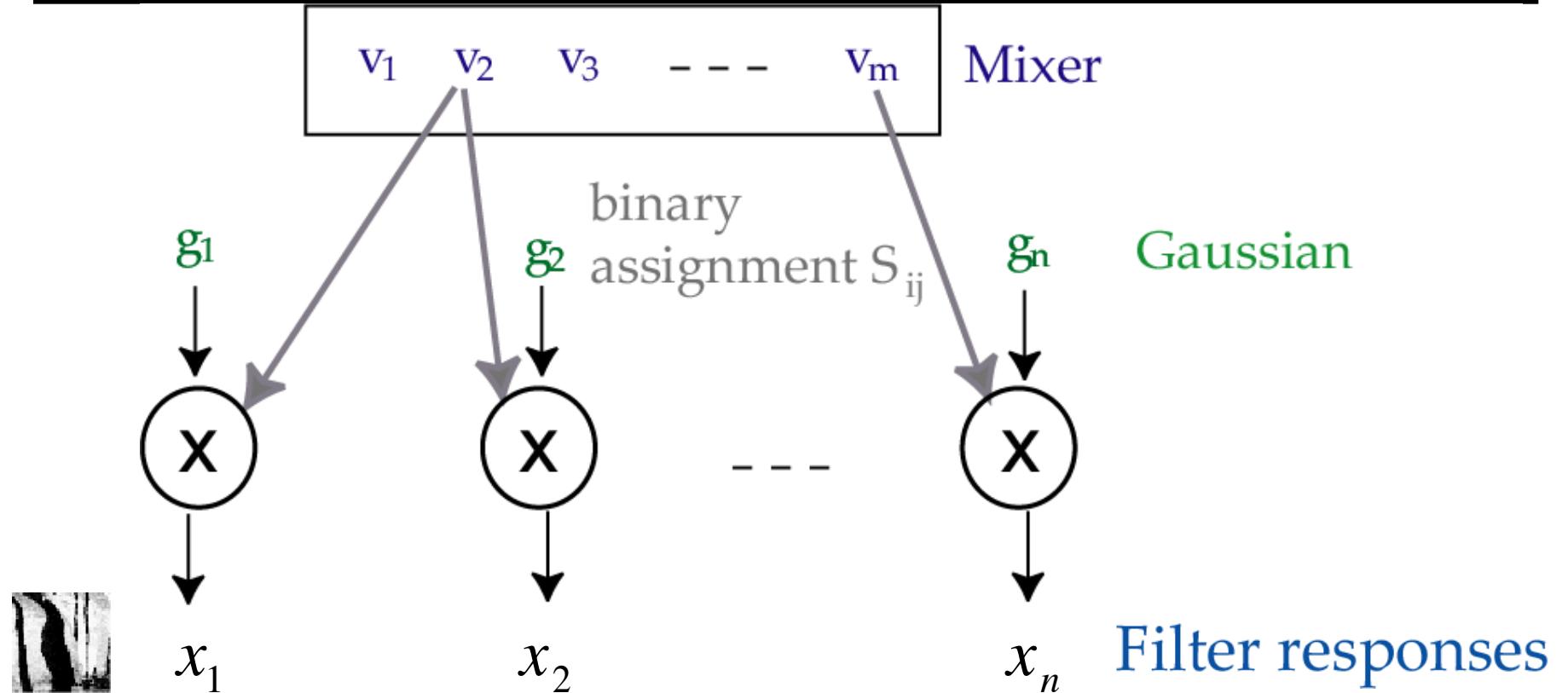
$$E(g_1 | x_1, x_2) = sign(x_1) \sqrt{x_1} \frac{\sqrt{|x_1|}}{l} \frac{B\left(\frac{n}{2} - \frac{1}{2}, l\right)}{B\left(\frac{n}{2} - 1, l\right)}$$

## **Extension 2: Non homogeneity of scenes**



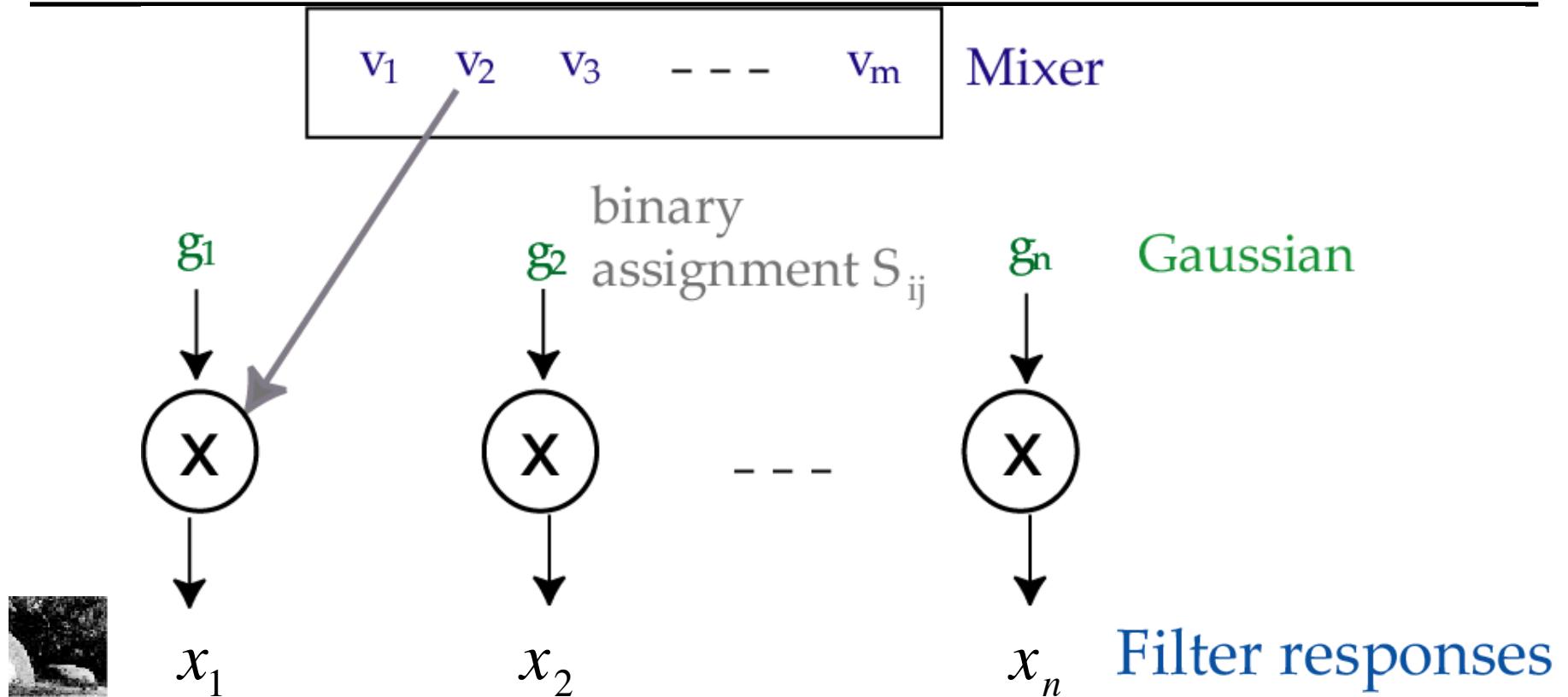
Just one common mixer for all filters  
and image patches ??

## Extension 2: Non homogeneity of scenes



- From Schwartz, Sejnowski, Dayan, 2006
- Wainwright, Simoncelli & Willsky, 2001: dependence arising from tree.
- Karklin & Lewicki, 2003: generating mixer value for each filter as linear combination of the values of a small number of underlying components.
- Williams & Adams, 1999; 2003: similar assignment problem in dynamical tree.
- Lyu & Simoncelli, NIPS 2006: Mixers in a MRF.

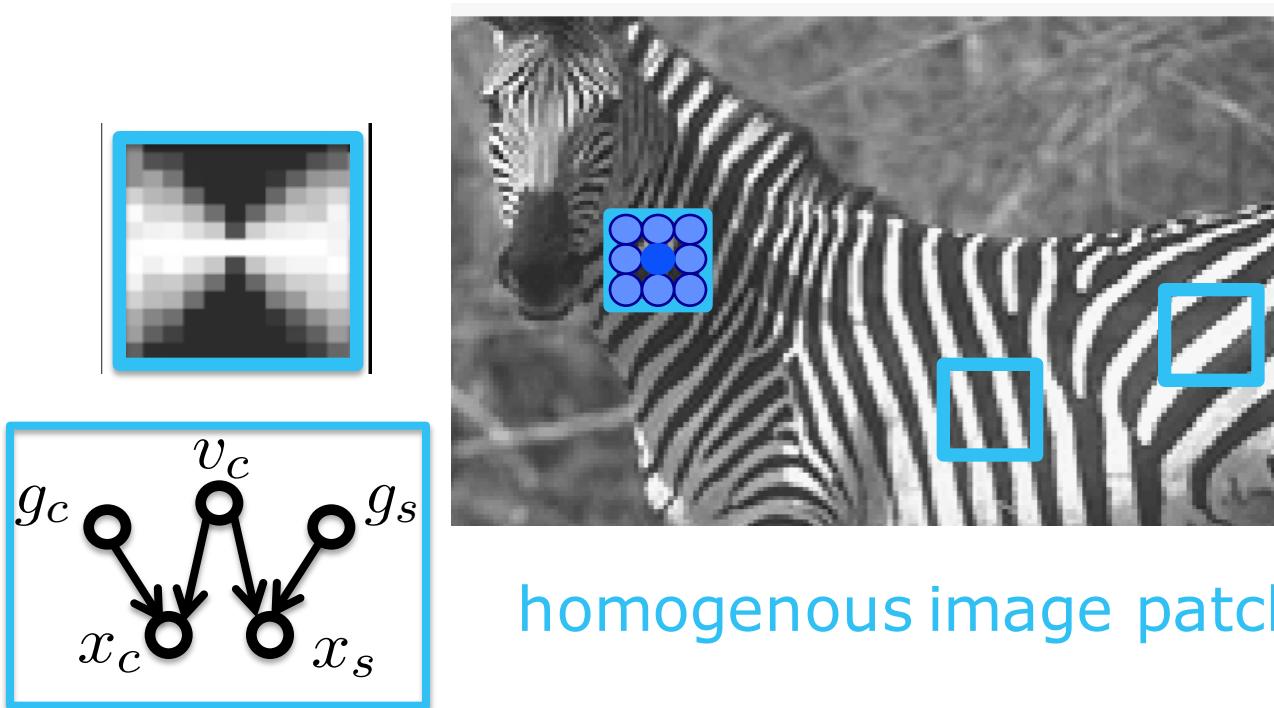
## Extension 2: Non homogeneity of scenes



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# Non-homogeneity of Scenes

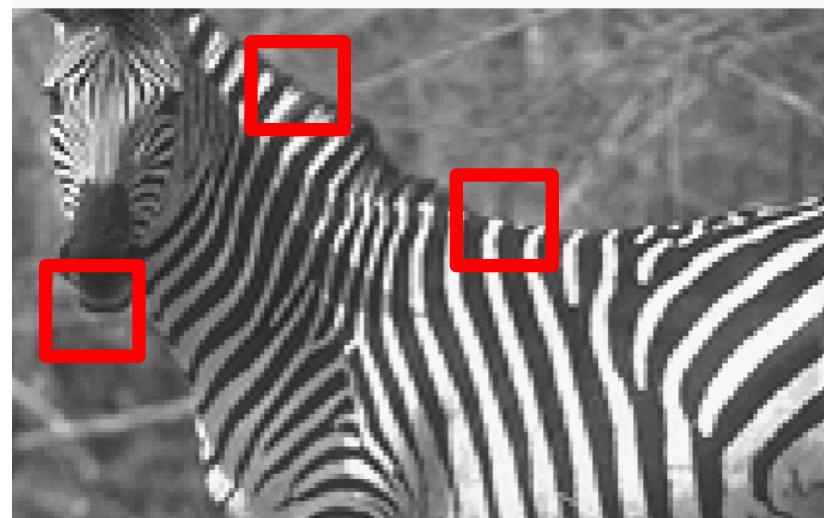
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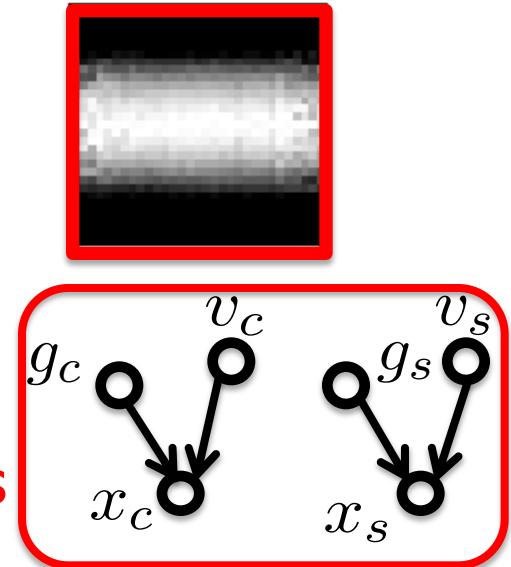
Schwartz, Sejnowski, Dayan, 2006; Coen-Cagli, Dayan, Schwartz, 2012  
☞(See also: Karklin, Lewicki 2005; Guerrero-Colon, Simoncelli, Portilla 2008)

# Non-homogeneity of Scenes

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non-homogenous image patches

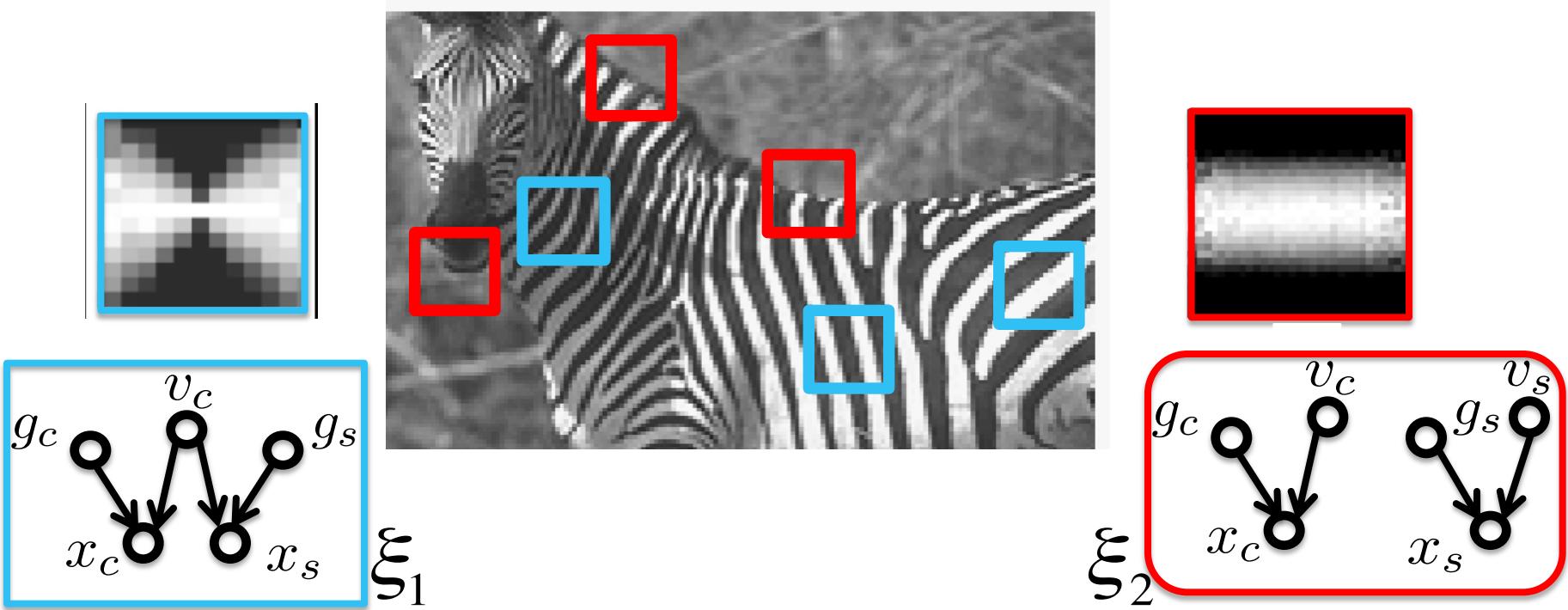


Schwartz, Sejnowski, Dayan, 2006; Coen-Cagli, Dayan, Schwartz, 2012  
See also: Karklin, Lewicki 2005; Guerrero-Colon, Simoncelli, Portilla 2008)

# Non-homogeneity of Scenes



# Flexible Divisive Normalization



divisive  
normalization  
ON

divisive  
normalization  
OFF

75

$$E[g_c | x_c, x_s] = p(\xi_1 | x_c, x_s) E[g_c | x_c, x_s, \xi_1] + p(\xi_2 | x_c, x_s) E[g_c | x_c, \xi_2]$$

Coen-Cagli, Dayan, Schwartz, 2012

# Non-homogeneity of images



$$E[g_c | x_c, x_s] = p(\xi_1 | x_c, x_s) E[g_c | x_c, x_s, \xi_1] + p(\xi_2 | x_c, x_s) E[g_c | x_c, \xi_2]$$

$$p(\xi_1 | x) \prec p(\xi_1) p(x | \xi_1) = p(\xi_1) \int dv_c p(v_c) p(x | v_c, \xi_1);$$

$$p(\xi_2 | x) \prec p(\xi_2) p(x | \xi_2) = p(\xi_2) \int dv_c p(v_c) p(x_c | v_c, \xi_2) \int dv_s p(v_s) p(x_s | v_c, \xi_2)$$

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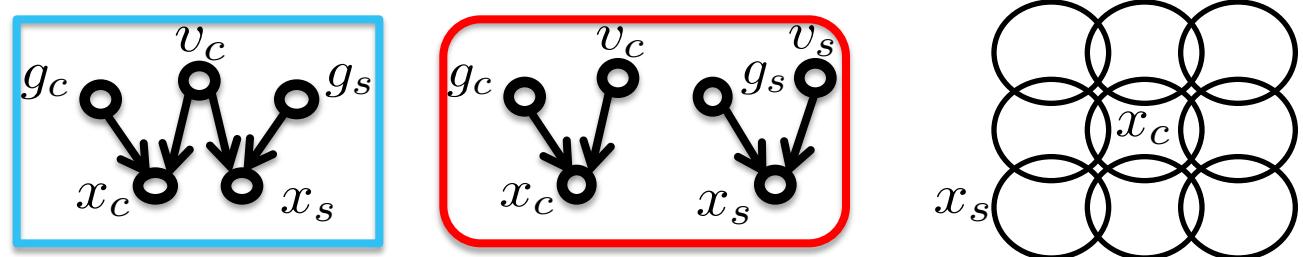
Schwartz, Sejnowski, Dayan, 2009; Coen-Cagli, Dayan, Schwartz, PLoS Comp Biology 2012

# **Related to...**

---

- Related to divisive normalization bottom-up approach (via estimating the Gaussian)
- But allows richer characterization (linear dependencies and non homogeneity of scenes)
- Related to hierarchical ICA (eg, in Karklin and Lewicki mixer is given by a linear combination of small number of underlying components).

# Optimizing Scene Ensemble

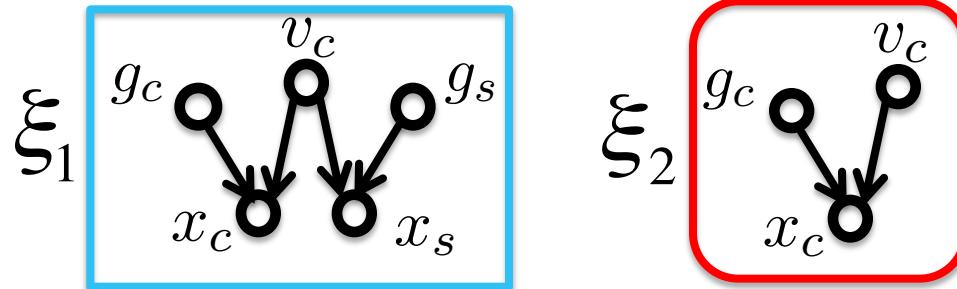


- 3x3 spatial positions, 6px separation
- 4 orientations in the center
- 4 orientations in the surround
- 2 phases (quadrature)
- model parameters (prior probability  $\xi_1, \xi_2$  and also linear covariance matrices) optimized to maximize the likelihood of a database of natural images using Expectation Maximization



# Optimizing scene ensemble

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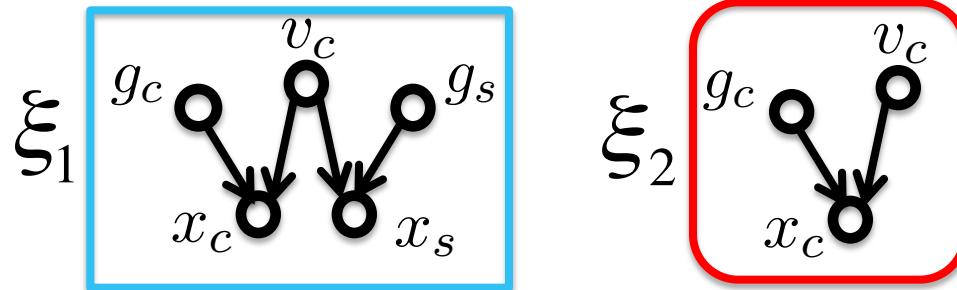
$$p(x) = p(\xi_1)p(x | \xi_1) + p(\xi_2)p(x | \xi_2)$$

We would like to find the model parameters from an ensemble of images:

- (1) The prior probabilities  $p(\xi_1)$  and  $p(\xi_2) = 1 - p(\xi_1)$
- (2) The linear covariance matrices

# Optimizing scene ensemble

---

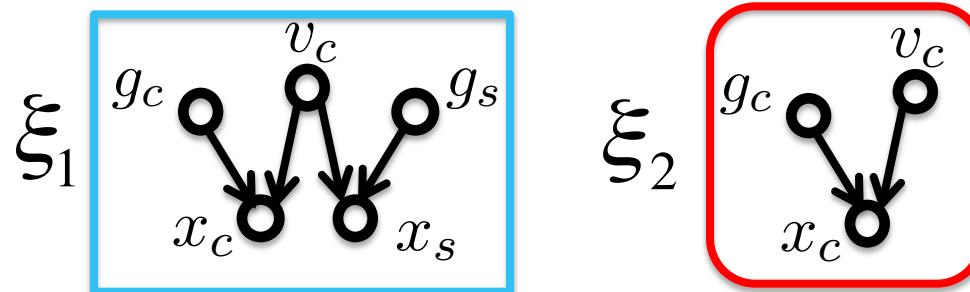


$$p(x) = p(\xi_1)p(x | \xi_1) + p(\xi_2)p(x | \xi_2)$$

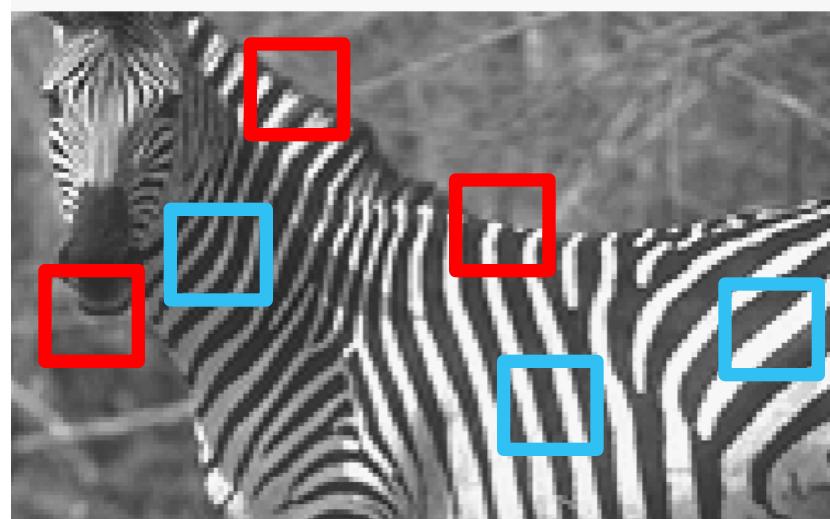
We maximize the average log likelihood of the observed filter responses with respect to the parameters of the model:

- (1) The prior probabilities  $p(\xi_1)$  and  $p(\xi_2) = 1 - p(\xi_1)$
- (2) The linear covariance matrices

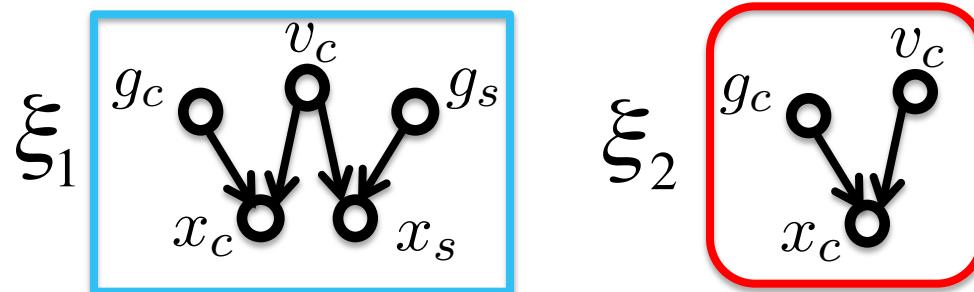
# Optimizing scene ensemble



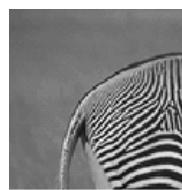
If we knew the posterior assignment probabilities  $p(\xi_1 \mid x); p(\xi_2 \mid x)$  (which assignment group each patch belonged to)  
we could find the model parameters...



# Optimizing scene ensemble



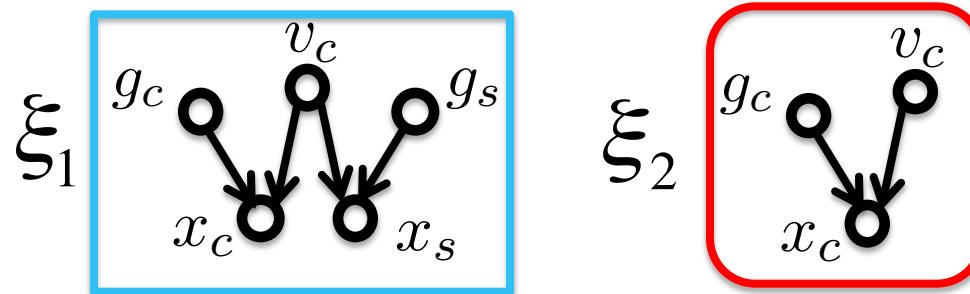
If we knew the parameters of the model, we could calculate the posterior assignments  $p(\xi_1 | x); p(\xi_2 | x)$  for each patch and its filter activations



...

# Optimizing scene ensemble

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Expectation Maximization:

E-step: calculate  $p(\xi_1 | x); p(\xi_2 | x)$  given current estimate of model parameters

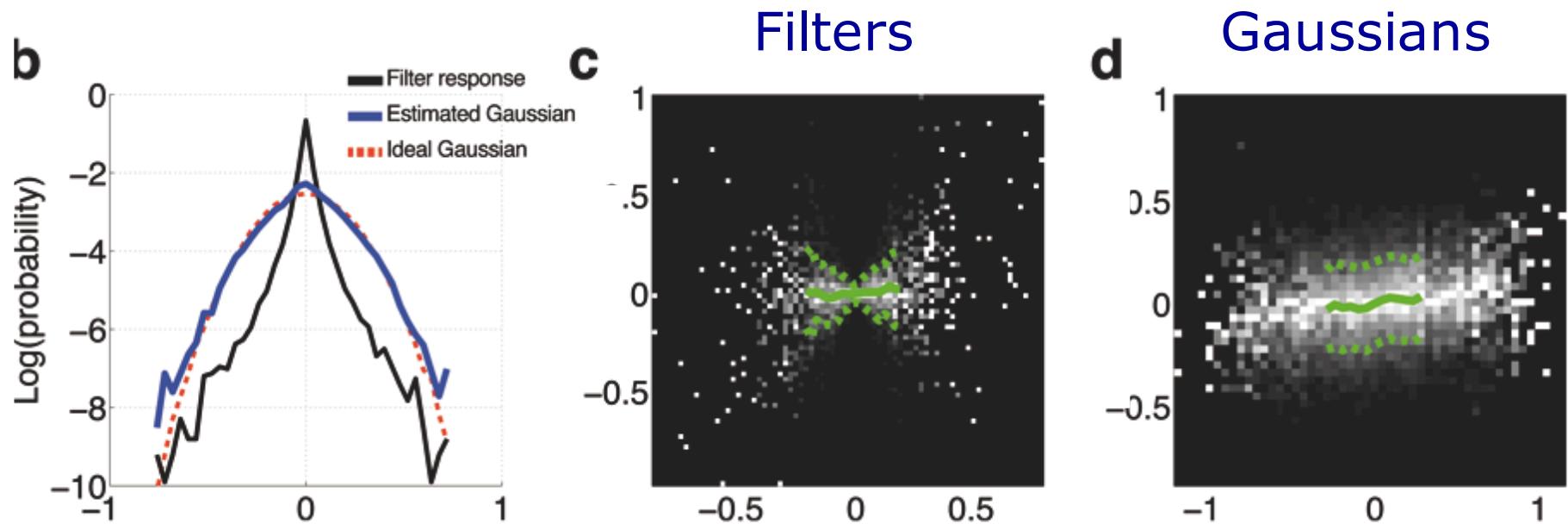
M-step: update the model parameters by maximizing the log likelihood

# **Optimizing scene ensemble**

---

When estimating a statistical model, need to go back and check that model estimates match statistical assumptions...

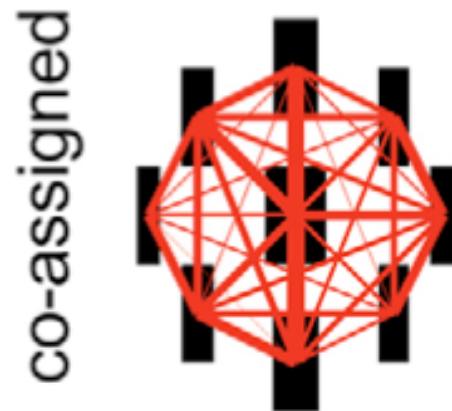
# Optimizing scene ensemble



# Optimizing scene ensemble

---

Learned linear correlations (covariance)



# Outline

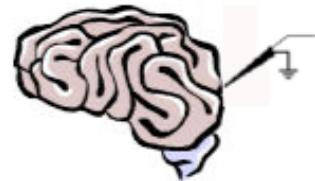
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- Generative that captures the joint statistics and its relation to cortical neural processing
- Application and testing on biological data

# **Application to biological data**

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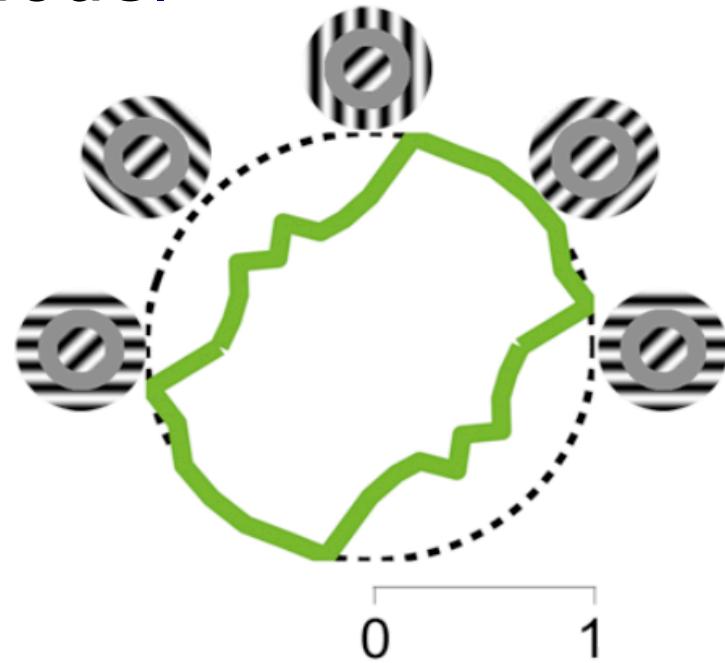
## **Neurophysiology**



# Gratings: Examples

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Model



Probability center  
and surround  
dependent

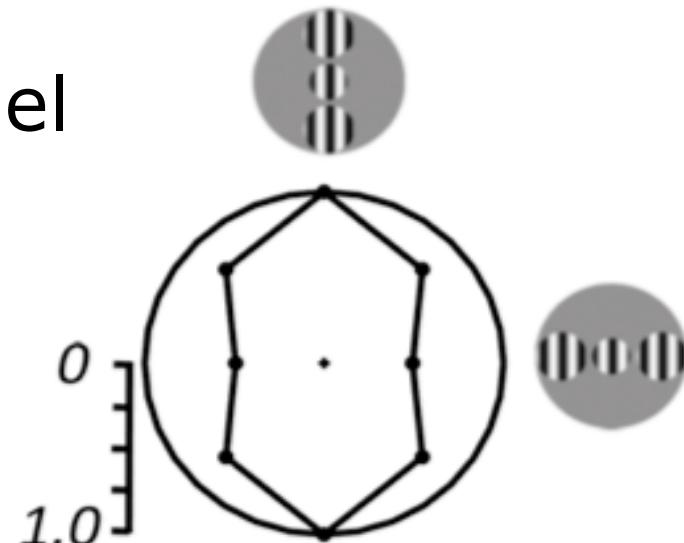
89

Coen-Cagli, Dayan, Schwartz, 2012

# Gratings: Examples

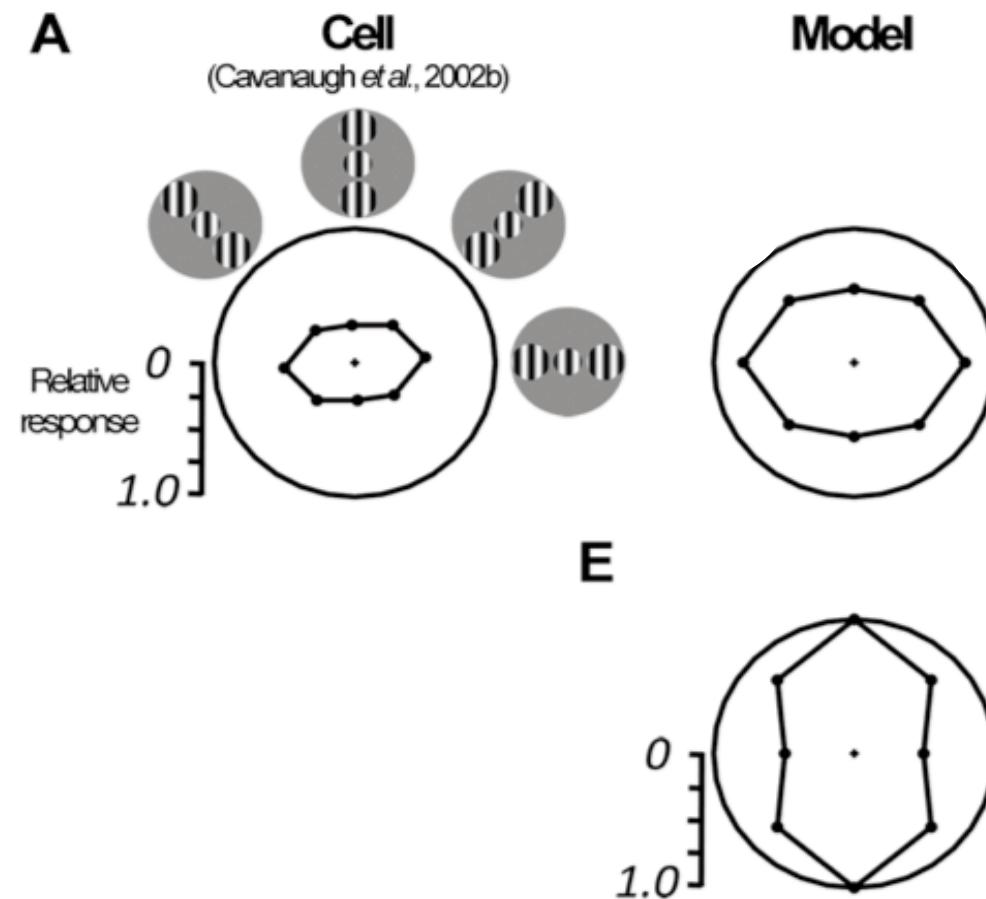
Probability center  
and surround  
dependent

Model



# Gratings: Examples

## Cortical neurons



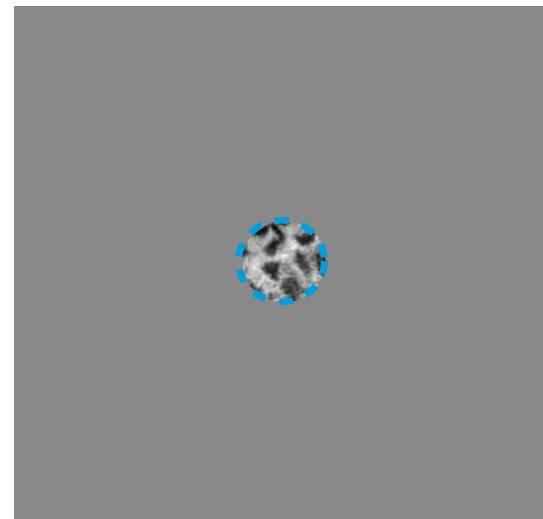
# Application to data

---

**Simple stimuli:** spatial context effects (suppression and facilitation) as a function of orientation, size, spatial position, and contrast.

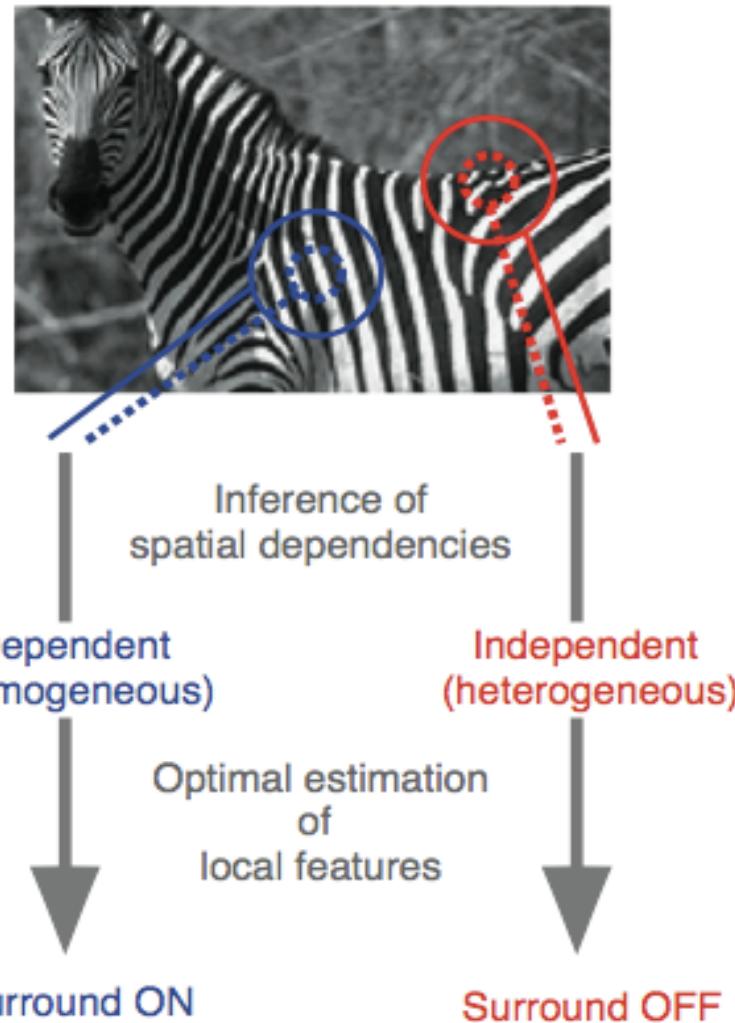
## Model Makes Predictions

**Natural images:**

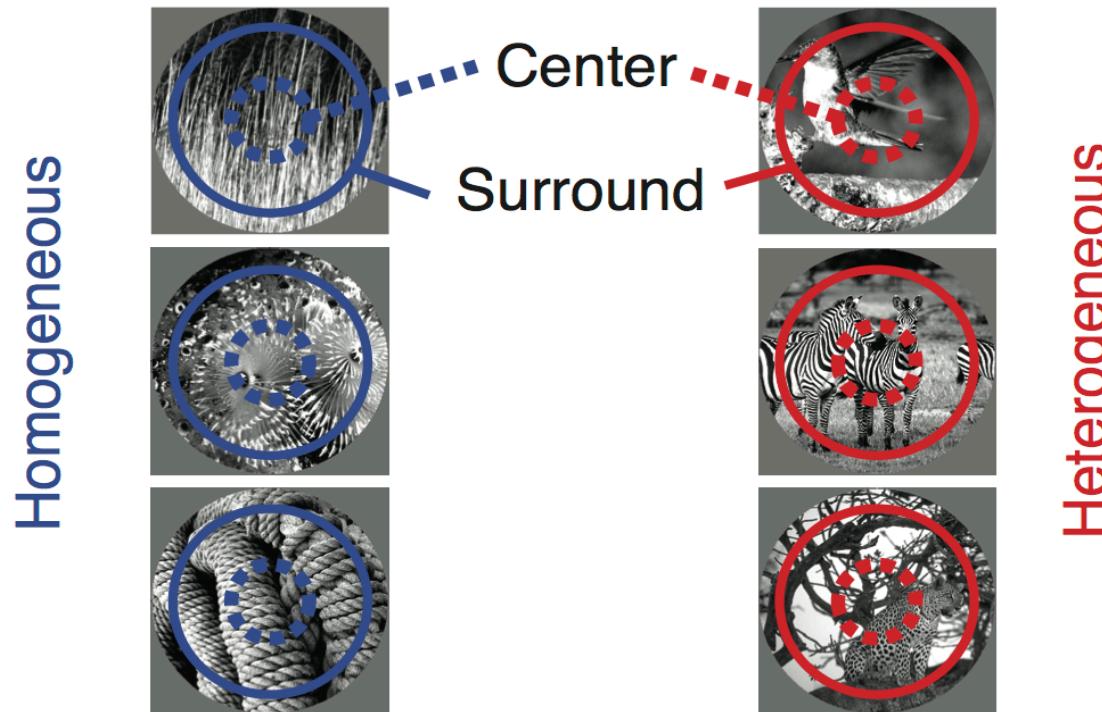


# Flexible Divisive Normalization

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# Model predictions for natural images

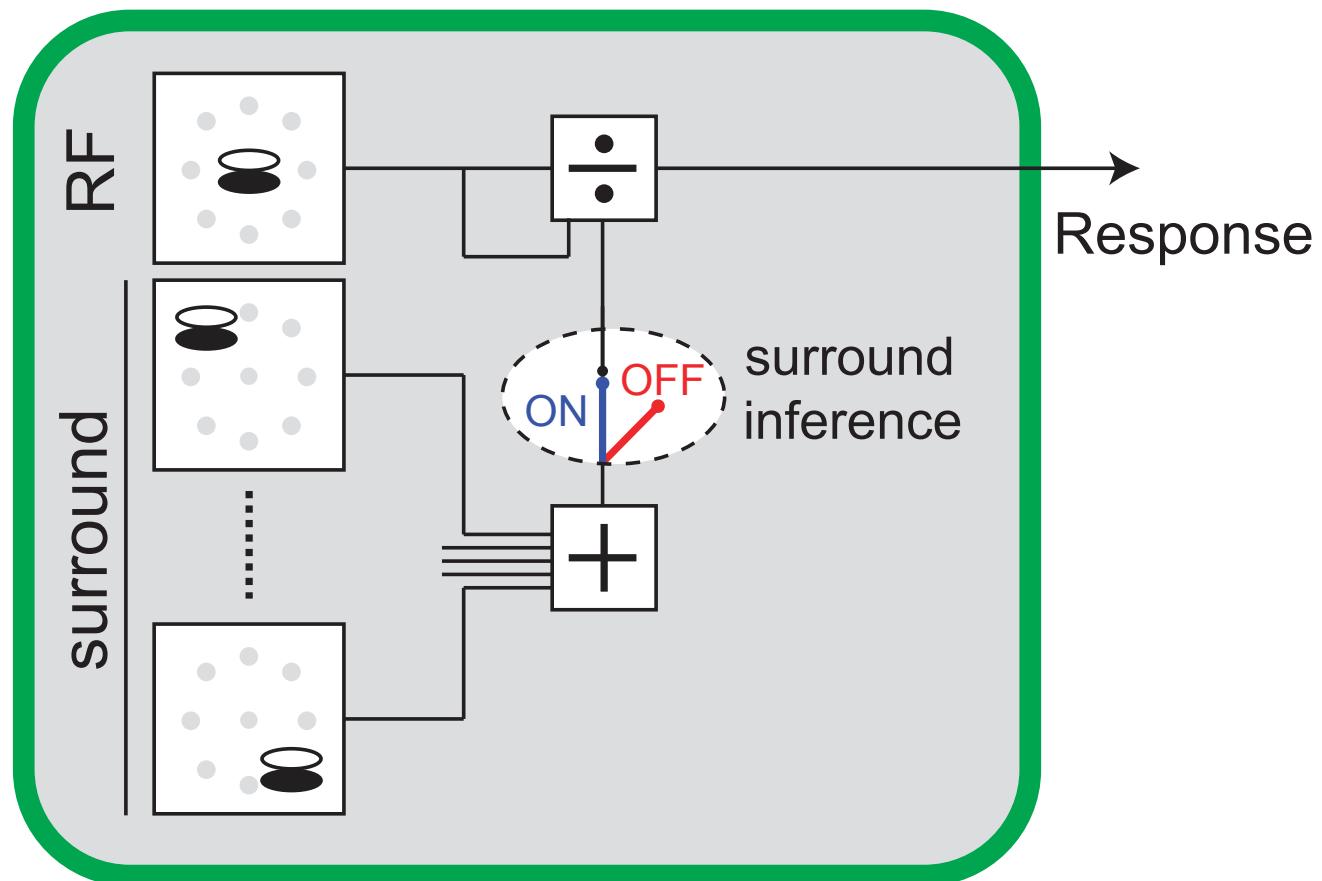


- **Homogeneous** and **heterogeneous** determined by model!
- Expect more suppression in neurons for homogeneous
- Related to salience (eg, Zhaoping)

<sup>94</sup> Coen-Cagli, Kohn, Schwartz, 2015; in review

# Model summary

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Inference determined by model

# Model Predictions for Natural Scenes

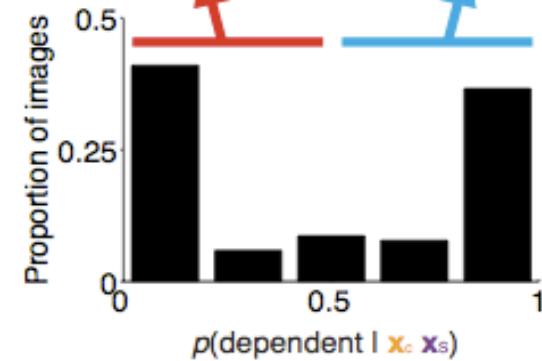
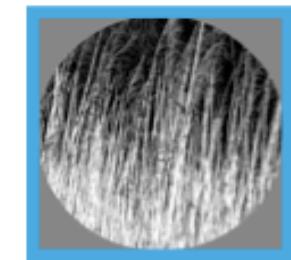
*EXPERIMENTAL STIMULI*



*MODEL INFERENCE*

heterogeneous

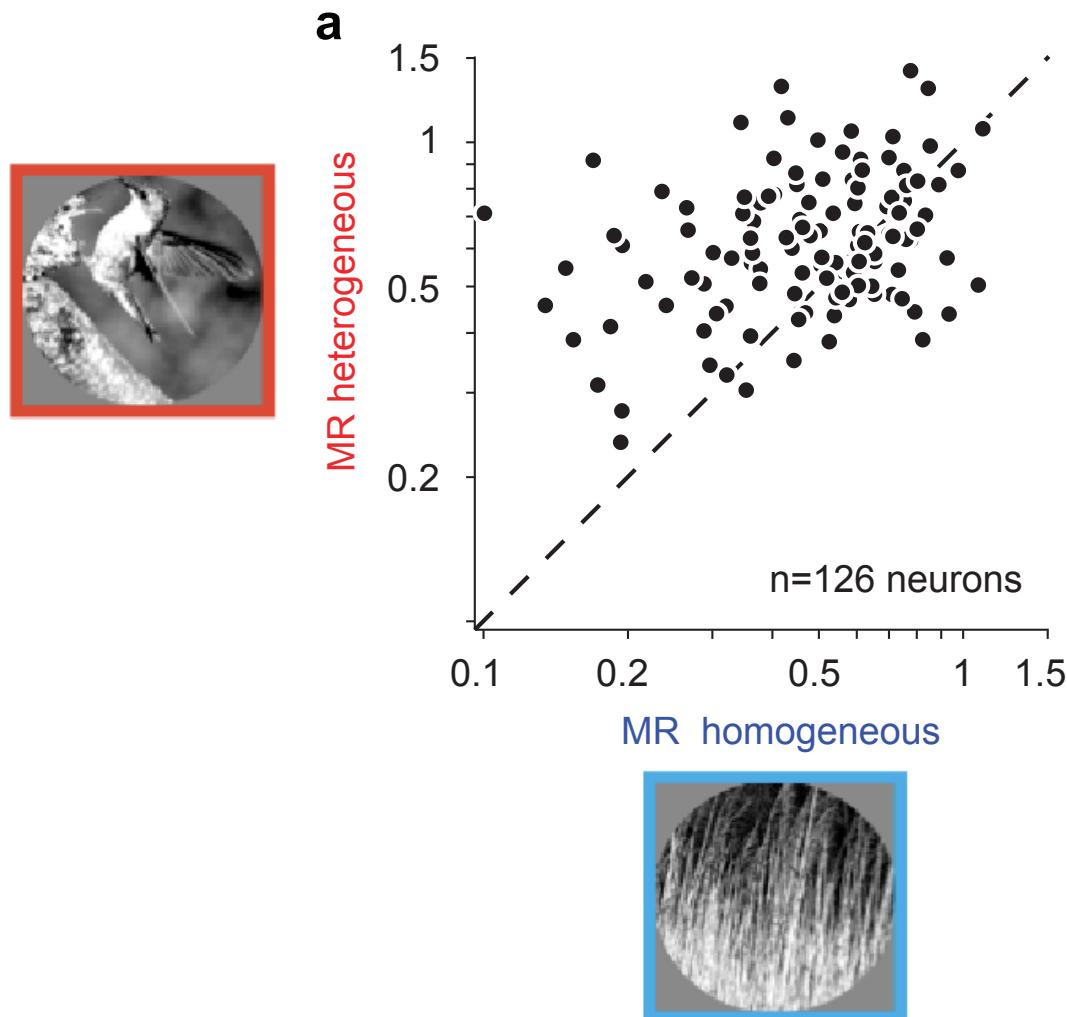
homogeneous



homogeneous versus heterogeneous determined by the model

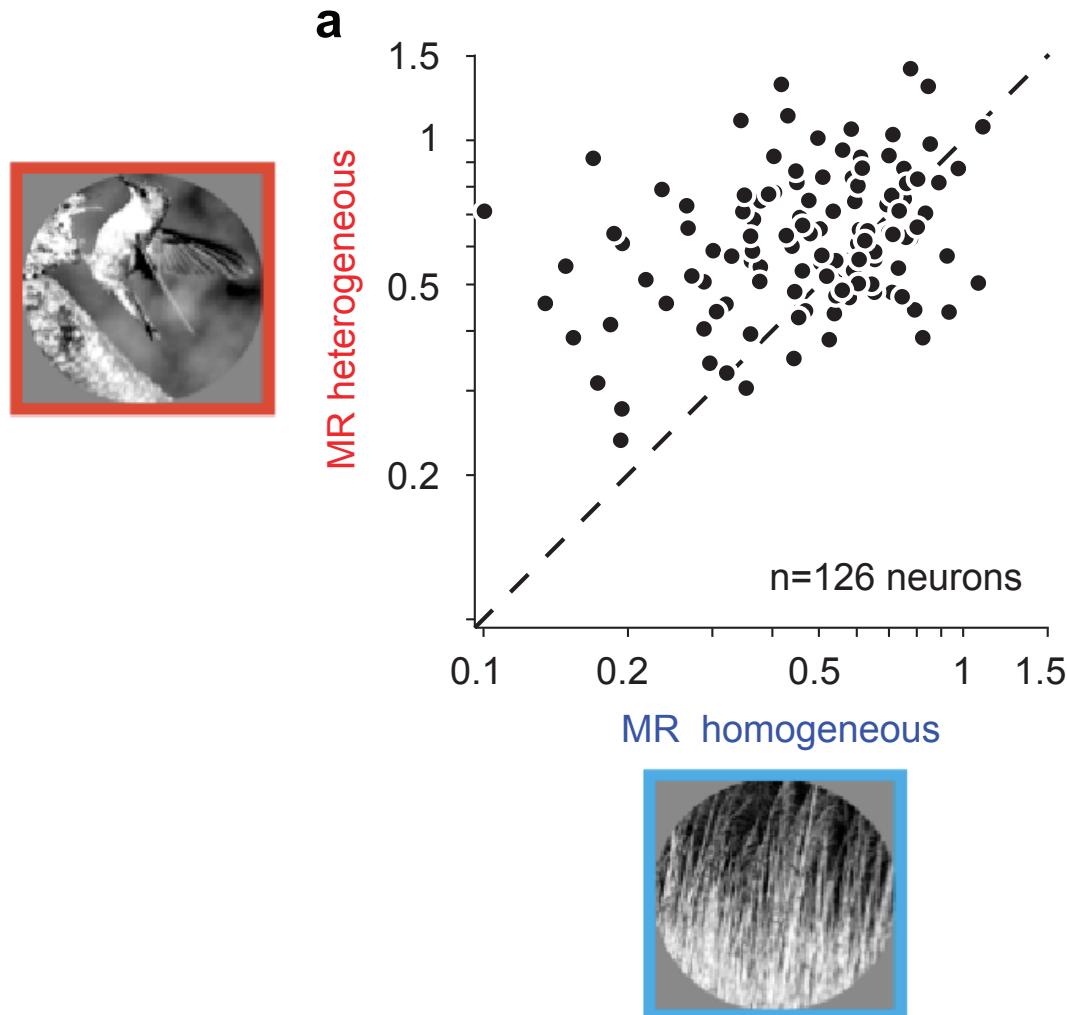
# Model Predictions for Natural Scenes

Cortical V1 data:



# Model Predictions for Natural Scenes

Cortical V1 data:

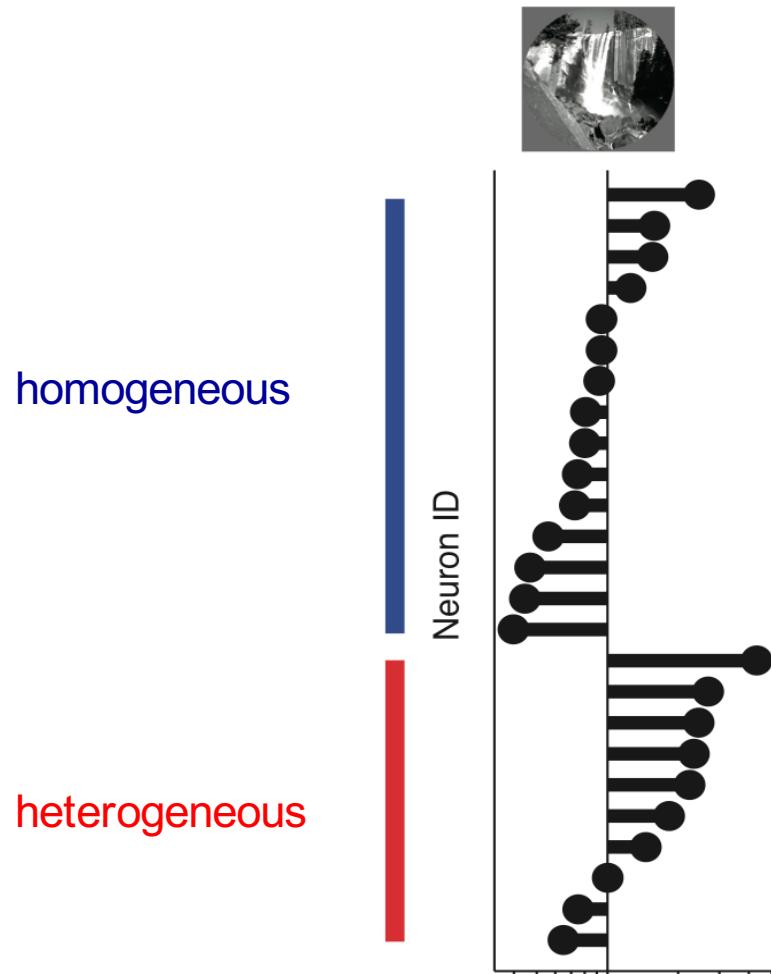


Not explained by:

- firing rate with small frames
- surround energy

# Model predictions for natural images

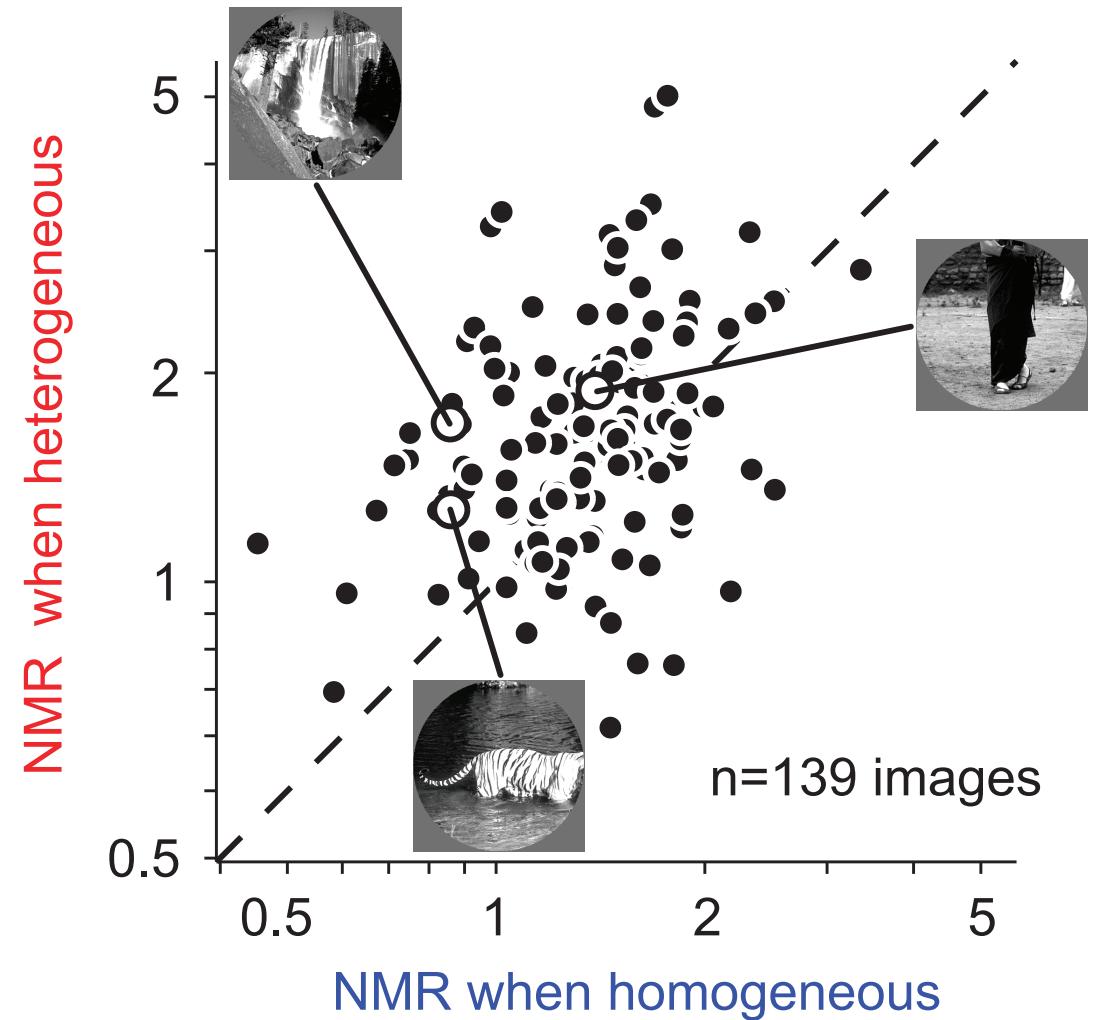
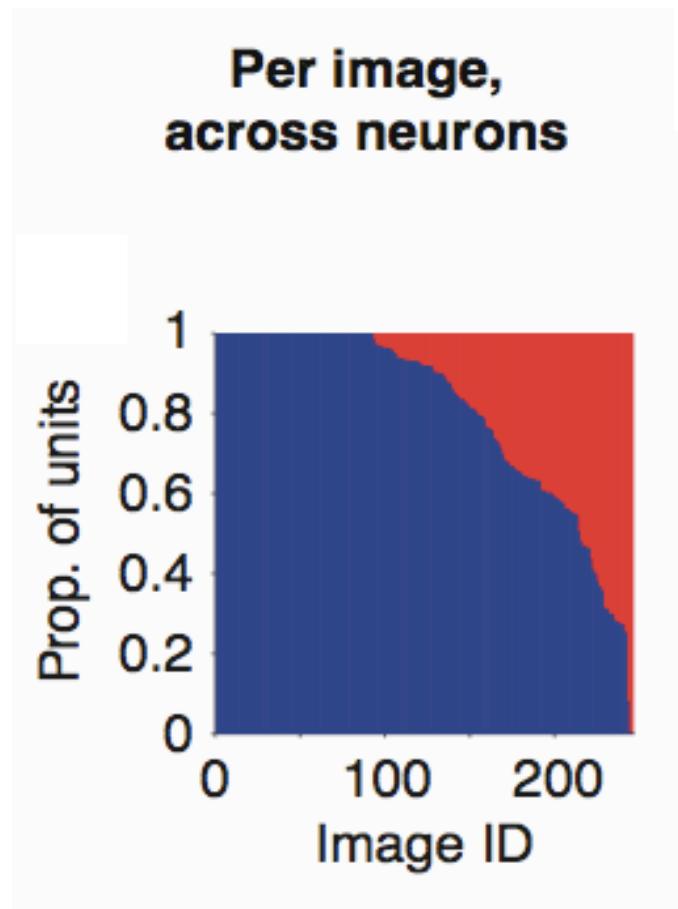
- Per image, across neurons



<sup>99</sup> Coen-Cagli, Kohn, Schwartz, 2015

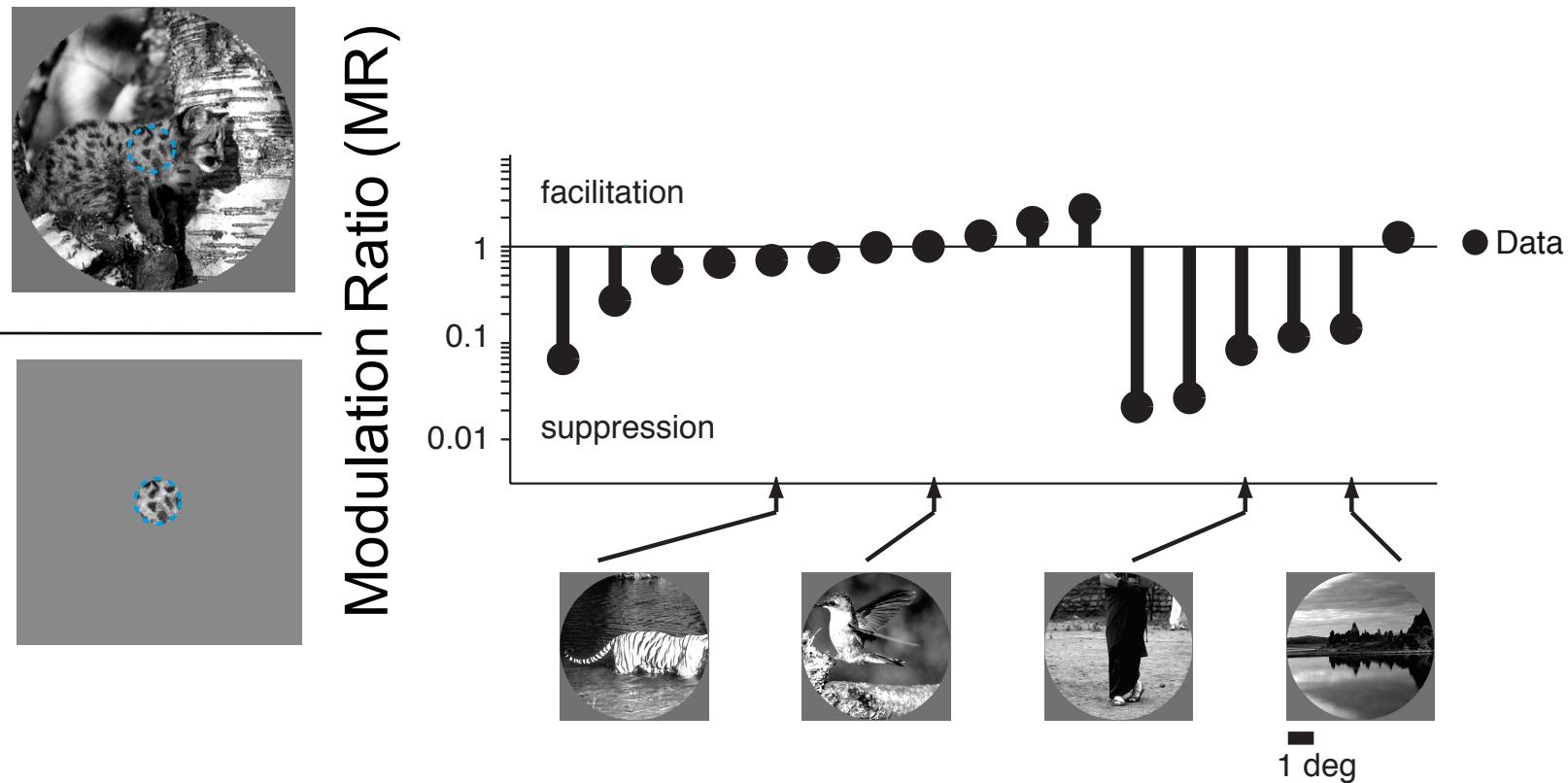
# Model predictions for natural images

- Testing predictions with cortical data

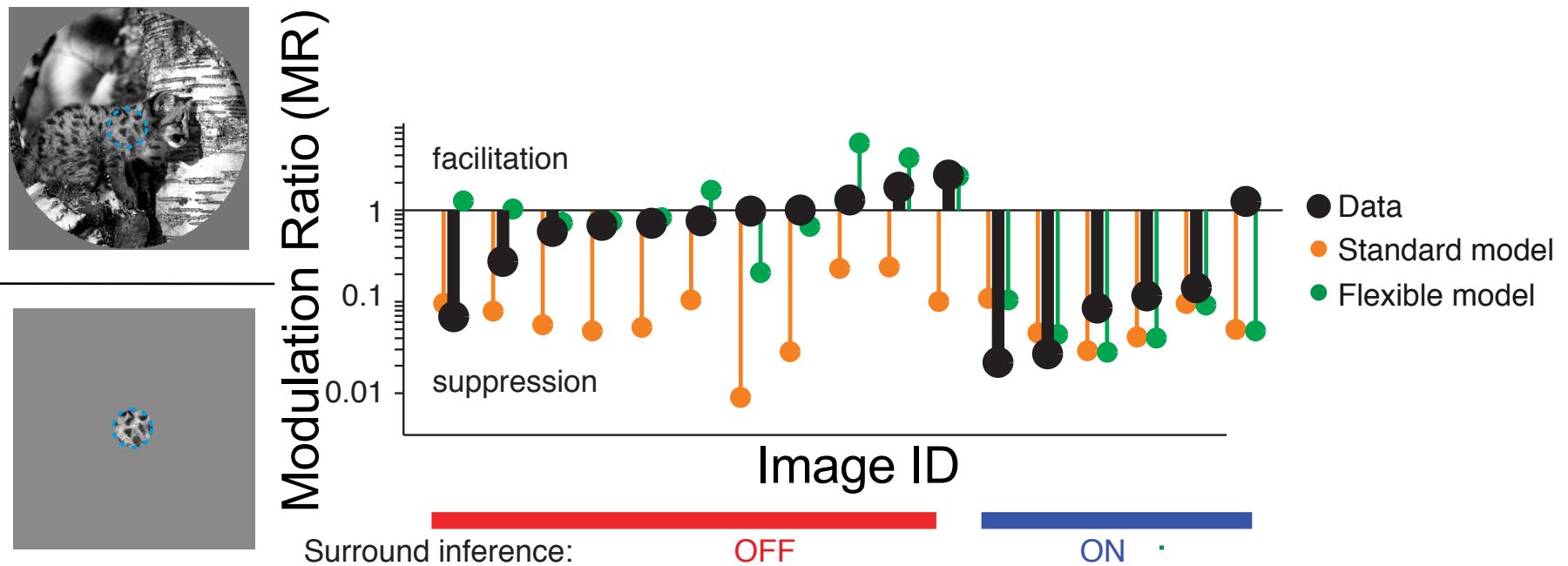


<sup>100</sup>Coen-Cagli, Kohn, Schwartz, 2015

# Natural scenes data



# Natural scenes data



# Model fit for Natural Scenes

---

$$R_i = \alpha \left( \frac{E_{c,\phi_{pref}}}{\varepsilon + \beta E_c + \gamma E_s} \right)^n$$

$$R_i - O_i \quad \text{Gaussian distribution}$$

$$X^2 = \sum_i \frac{(R_i - O_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} \quad O_i \quad \text{Observed mean firing rate}$$

$$\sigma_i^2 = a O_i^b \quad \text{Fit to the data}$$

Minimize chi-squared error

# Model predictions for natural images

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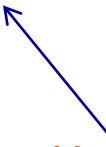
- Comparing model performance for cortical data

Standard divisive normalization

$$R_i = \alpha \left( \frac{E_{c,\phi_{pref}}}{\varepsilon + \beta E_c + \gamma E_s} \right)^n$$

Flexible divisive normalization:

$$R_i = \alpha \left( \frac{E_{c,\phi_{pref}}}{\varepsilon + \beta E_c + q(c,s) \gamma E_s} \right)^n$$



Determined by the model (not fit!)

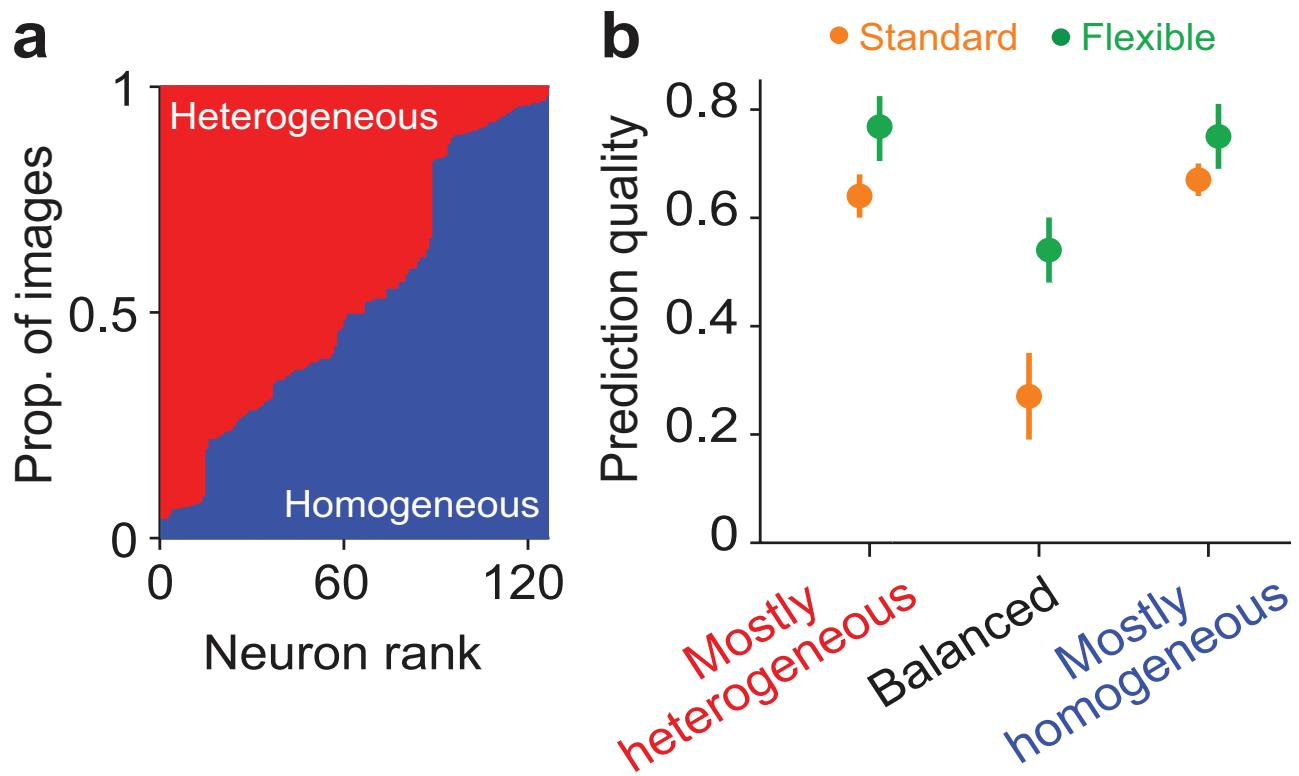
1 if  $p(\xi_1 | c, s) \geq 0.5$

0 otherwise

(similar results if non binary)

# Natural scenes data

---



# Model Mechanisms

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Divisive normalization:

- Feedback inhibition
- Distal dendrite inhibition
- Depressing synapses
- Internal biochemical adjustments
- Non-Poisson spike generation

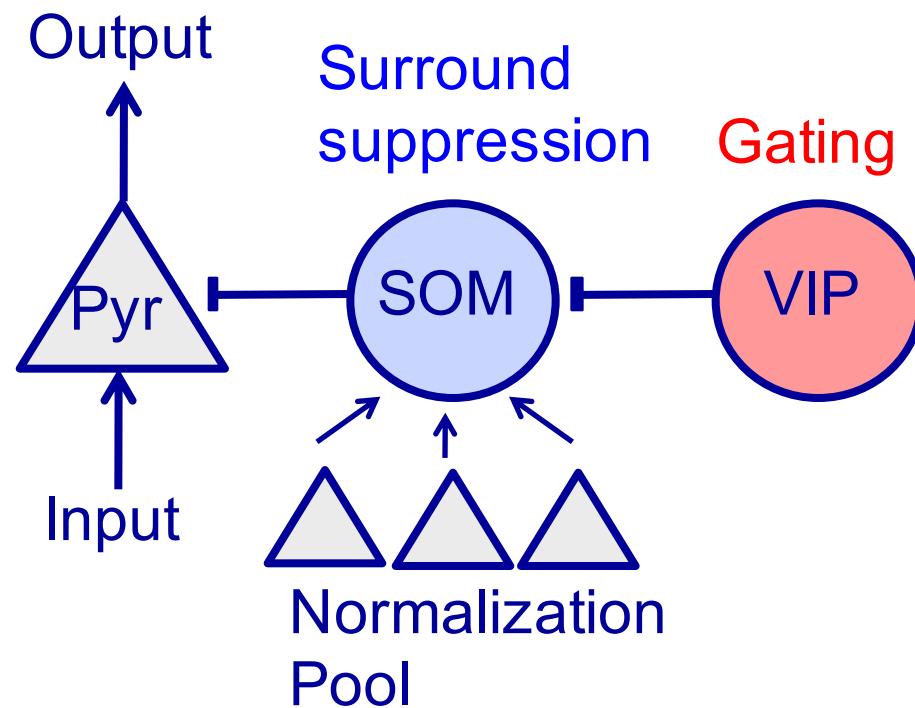
Flexible normalization pools, possibly:

- Inhibitory interneurons pooling outputs of subpopulations
- Stimulus-dependent switching between cortical network states

# Flexible Normalization Mechanism?

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- Adjusting gain by circuit or postsynaptic mechanisms?
- Distinct classes of inhibitory interneurons? (eg, Adesnik, Scanziani et al. 2012; Pfeffer, Scanziani et al. 2013; Pi, Kepecs et al. 2013; Lee, Rudy et al. 2013)



# Key take-home points

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- New approach to understanding cortical processing of natural images. Rather than fitting more complicated models, use insights from image statistics
- Connects to neural computations that are ubiquitous, but enriches the “standard” model
- Our results suggest flexibility of contextual influences in natural vision, depending on whether center and surround are deemed statistically homogeneous—a kind of gating

# Generative models summary

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- Progress in building generative probabilistic models of scenes (e.g., based on joint statistics)
- Generative and bottom-up can be closely tied
- Applied largely to building more complex visual representations and to contextual effects, and addressing nonlinearities such as complex cells and divisive normalization in a richer way
- Testing statistical models in experiments with naturalistic stimuli (using scene statistics to enrich models; going beyond descriptive models)
- Next: Deep (discriminative, supervised) learning  
109