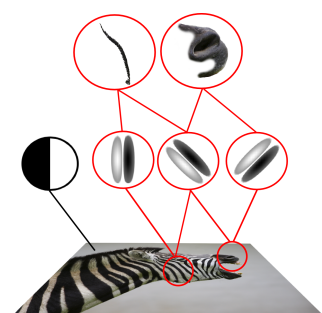# Sampling in a hierarchical model of images reproduces top-down effects in visual perception

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## Introduction

- Higher-order statistics
- Gestalt effect
- CSM model



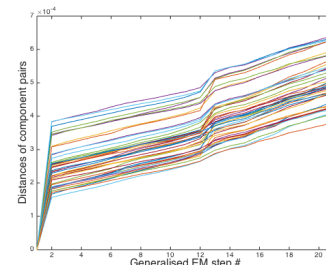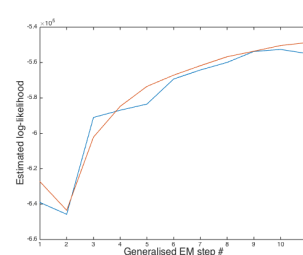$$p(v \mid g) = \mathcal{N}\left(v; 0, \sum_{j=1}^{K} g_j C_j\right)$$

$$p(x \mid v, z) = \mathcal{N}(x; zAv, \sigma_x I)$$
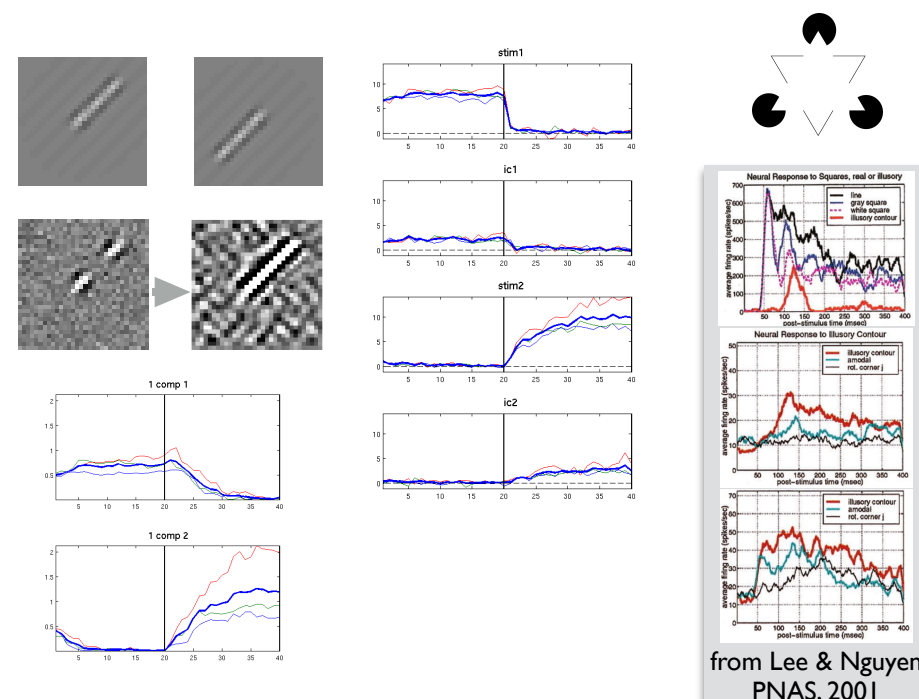
## Learning the components

$$C_v = \sum_{k=1}^{K} g_k U_k^T U_k$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial [U_k]_{i,j}} = \sum_{l=1}^{NL} \text{Tr}\left[\frac{\partial \log p(x^l, v^l, g^l \mid U_{1...K})}{\partial C_v^l} \frac{\partial C_v^l}{\partial [U_k]_{i,j}}\right]$$

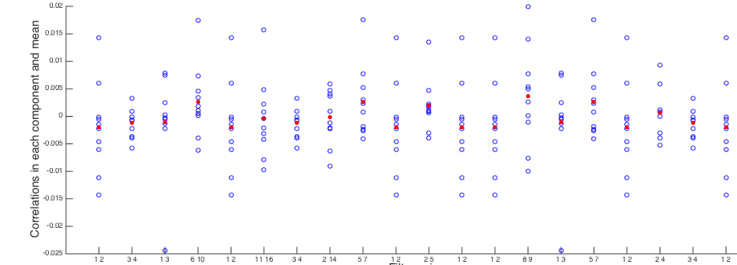$$[U_k]_{i,j}^{new} = [U_k]_{i,j}^{old} + \epsilon \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial [U_k]_{i,j}}$$



## Predicted response to illusory contours



from Lee & Nguyen
PNAS, 2001

## Relation to GSM

- Wainwright & Simoncelli, NIPS, 2000
- Not only second-order statistics of coefficients
- Selective activation of correlation patterns
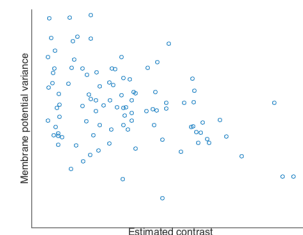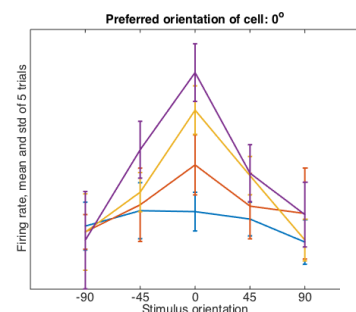- Learnability of context-dependent correlations
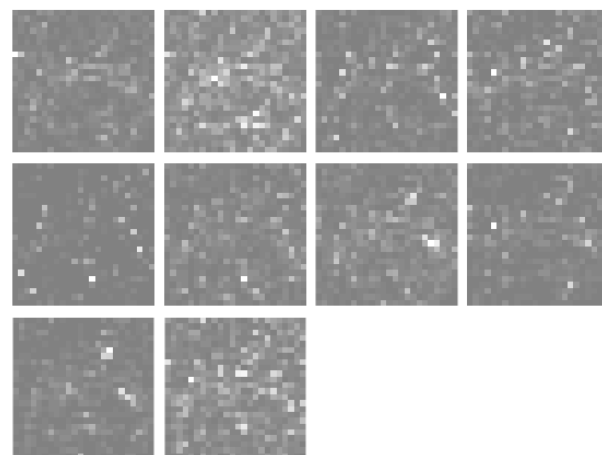


## Sampling the posterior

$$p(v \mid x, g, z) = \mathcal{N}\left(v; \frac{z}{\sigma_x} C_{v|x,g,z} A^T x, C_{v|x,g,z}\right), \quad C_{v|x,g,z} = \left(\frac{z^2}{\sigma_x} A^T A + \left(\sum_{j=1}^{K} g_j C_j\right)^{-1}\right)^{-1}$$

$$\log p(g \mid x, v, z) \sim -\frac{1}{2}\left[\log\left(\det\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} g_k C_k\right)\right) + v^T \left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} g_k C_k\right)^{-1} v\right] + \log p(g)$$

$$\log p(z \mid x, v, g) \sim -\frac{1}{2}\left[D_x \log(\sigma_x) + \frac{1}{\sigma_x}(x - zAv)^T (x - zAv)\right] + \log p(z)$$
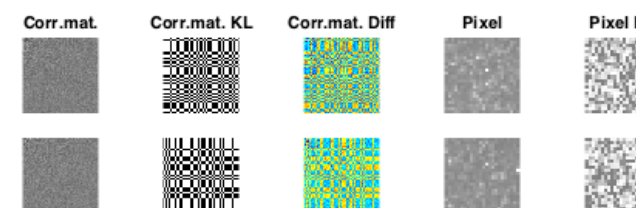


## Correlations implied by natural statistics



## Relation to component models

- Karklin & Lewicki, Nature, 2008
- Full posterior sampling
- Representation of contrast
- Parametrisation allows the independent setting of variances and correlations in components



## Conclusions

- Contextual effects on perception are formalised in a generative model of images
- Sampling from the full posterior enables predictions about variance and covariance
- The model gives predictions for noise correlations between V1 simple cells when fitted to natural image statistics
- The model predicts V1 responses to illusory contours
- CSM generalises GSM and previous component-based image models

### Acknowledgement