



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

ICOS 7710

09/05/2024

Vision

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Assistant Professor (Tenure Track)

Department of Neurology

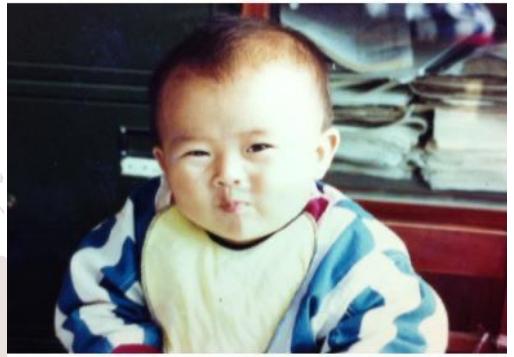
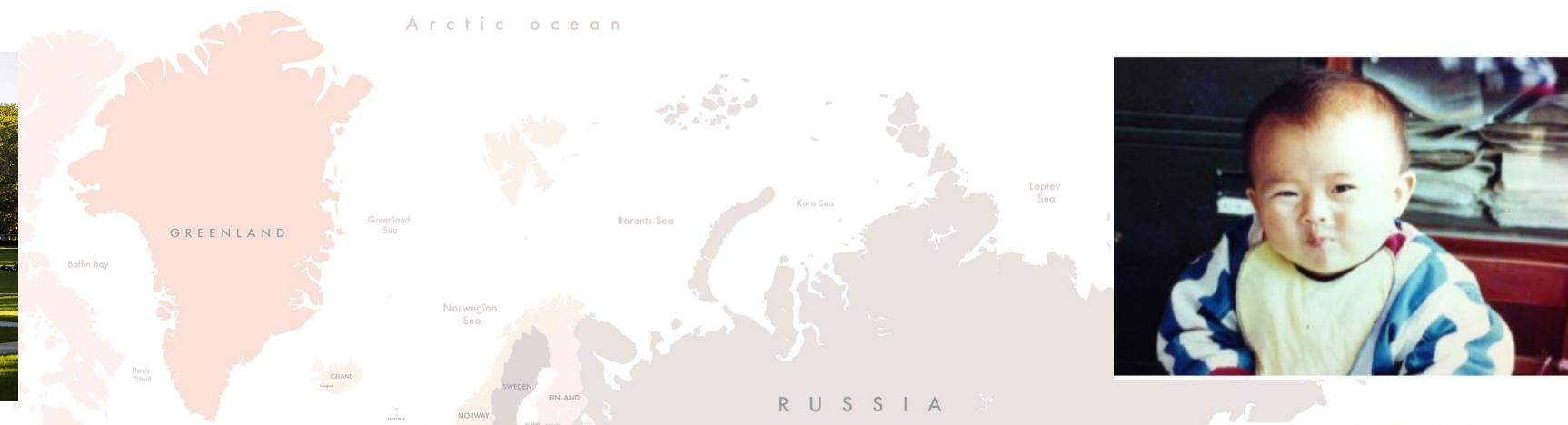
Georgetown University Medical Center

Director, Visual Perception and Plasticity (VPP) Lab

How did I get here?

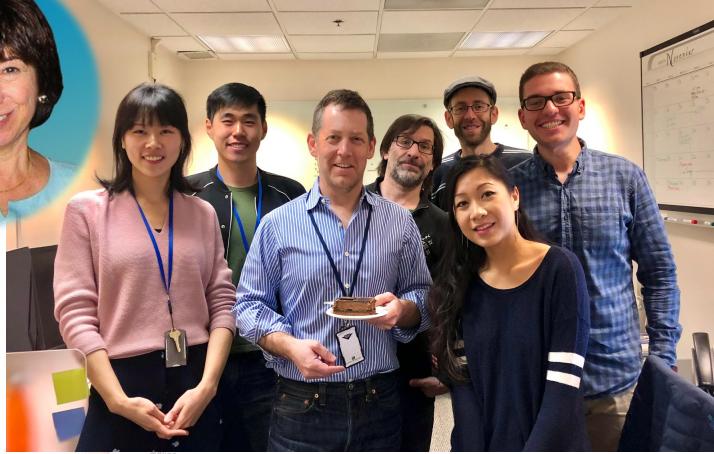


Urbana-Champaign, IL



Pittsburgh, PA

Bethesda, MD
Washington, DC



f i c
a n



"cradle of
diplomats"



Nanjing
Hong Kong

Trainee Map



Jason Fu
New York Medical College



Lanie Bachmann
Columbia University



Bing Li
Princeton University

Eye tracking:

- Hsiao & Liu (2012). *Journal of Vision*.
- Kronemer, Gobo, Japee, Merriam, Osborne, Bandettini, & Liu (SfN 2024; in prep)

Psychophysics:

- Liu & Behrman (2014). *Front Hum Neurosci*.
- Liu et al. (2014). *Visual Cognition*.
- Ventura, Liu, Cruz, & Pereira (2022). *Mem Cognit*.
- Cavanaugh, Liu, Merriam, Duje, & Huxlin (VSS 2023; in prep).

Online crowdsourcing “big data”:

- Bachmann, Japee, Merriam[#], & Liu[#] (2023). *Emotion*.

Computational methods:

- Liu et al. (2022). *Nature Communications*.
- Ventura*, Liu* et al. (2023). *Psychol. Aesthet.*

Meta-analysis:

Led by Kyungji Moon

Bibliometric analysis:

Led by Emma Gatewood

Transcranial brain stimulation:

the VIBRANT STUDY

Visual behavior

Development

Lit Review/Journal club:

- Liu & Behrman (2017). *Neuropsychologia*
- Liu (2024). *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*

Computation

Neuroimaging

Typical developing children (ABCD):

- Yang, Liu, & Wang (2022). *Hum Brain Mapp*.
- Yang, Liu, & Wang (2023). *J Child Psychol & Psychiatry*.

Pediatric epilepsy/3T fMRI:

- Liu et al. (2018). *Cell Reports*.
- Liu*, Freud* et al. (2019). *J Neuroscience*.
- Maallo, Freud, Liu et al. (2020). *Neuroimage*.
- Simmons, Granovetter, Robert, Liu, Patterson, & Behrman (2024). *Neuropsychologia*.
- Liu*, Granovetter* et al. (in prep).

7T (layer) fMRI:

- Chai, Liu et al., (2021). *Prog Neurobiol*.
- Liu et al. (2022). *Nature Communications*.
- Ock, Jones, Liu, & Merriam (in prep).
- Liu, Li, Bachmann, Cavanaugh, Fahrenhold, Melnick, Japee, Huxlin, & Merriam. (VSS 2023; in prep)

Learning objectives

- Understand the roles of the early visual cortex and higher-order visual areas in visual processing
- Explain the functional distinctions between the ventral and dorsal visual pathways (Mishkin, Ungerleider, & Macko, 1983, *TINS*)
- Evaluate the evidence in the debate on the development of category selectivity in the ventral pathway (Arcaro & Livingstone, 2021, *NRN*)

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VISION



David Marr

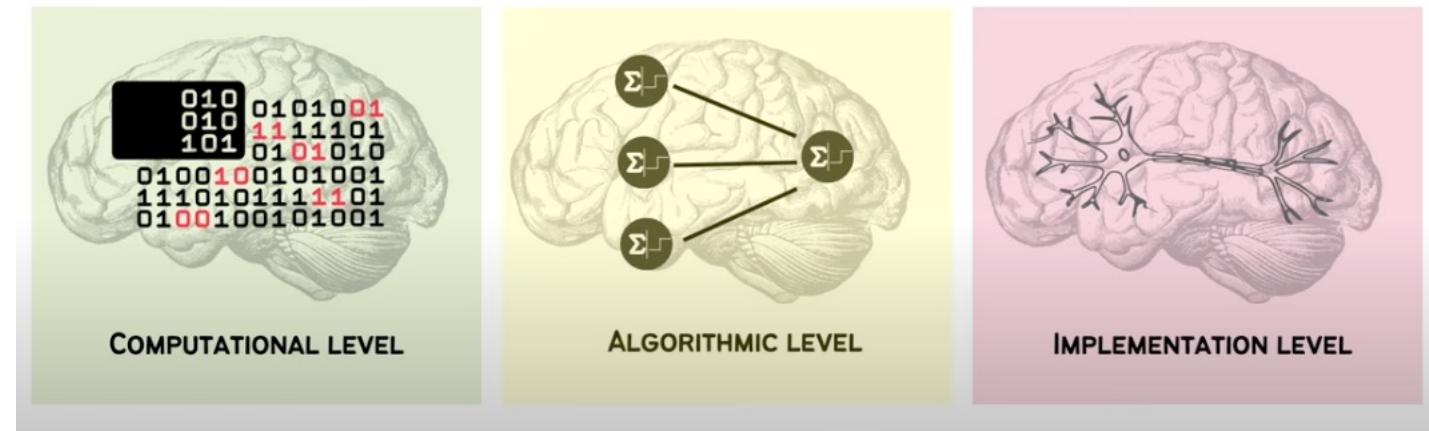
FOREWORD BY
Shimon Ullman

AFTERWORD BY
Tomaso Poggio

David Marr (Vision, 1982, p. 27): "[...] trying to understand perception by studying only neurons is like trying to understand bird flight by studying only feathers: It just cannot be done."

3 LEVELS OF ANALYSES

of brain, behaviour and cognition



"Vision is the process of discovering from images **what** is present in the world, and **where** it is."

-- David Marr (Vision, 1982, p. 3)

Visual field



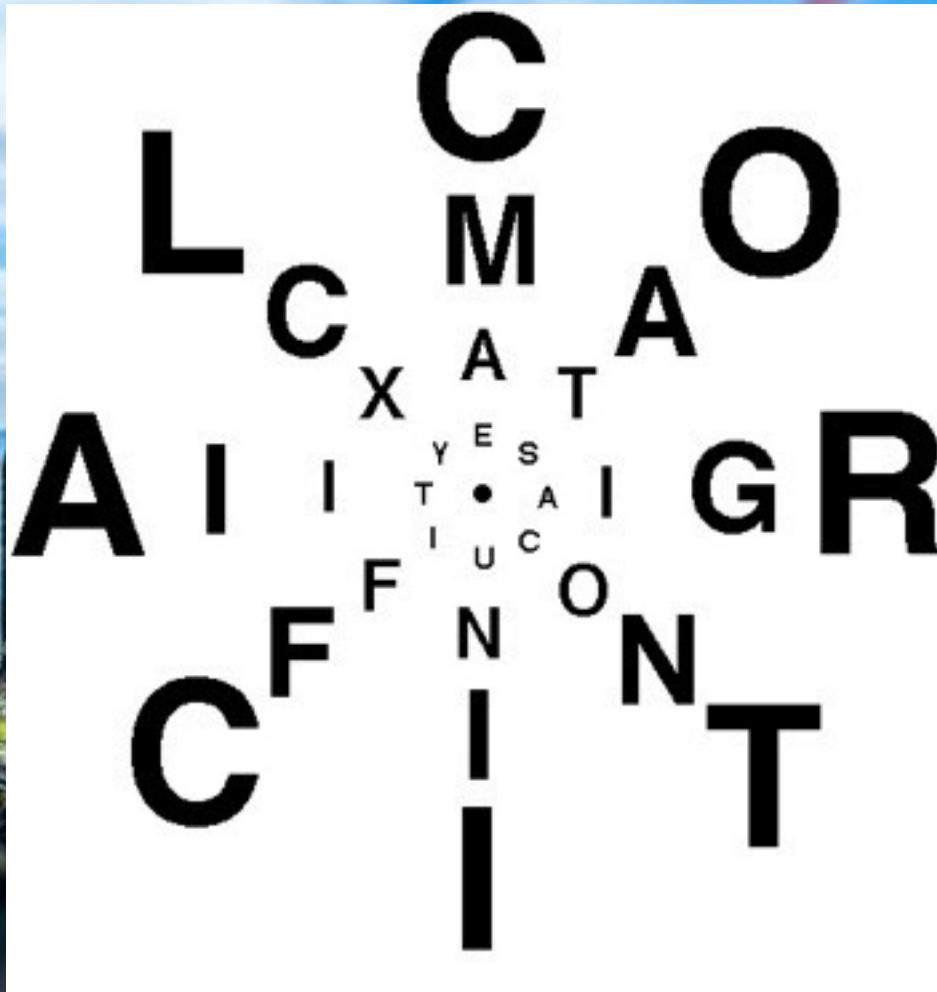
Source: CVI Scotland

Visual field



Source: CVI Scotland

Visual field



Source: CVI Scotland

Left homonymous hemianopia

hemi = half

anopia = without vision

Hemianopia

=

without vision in one half



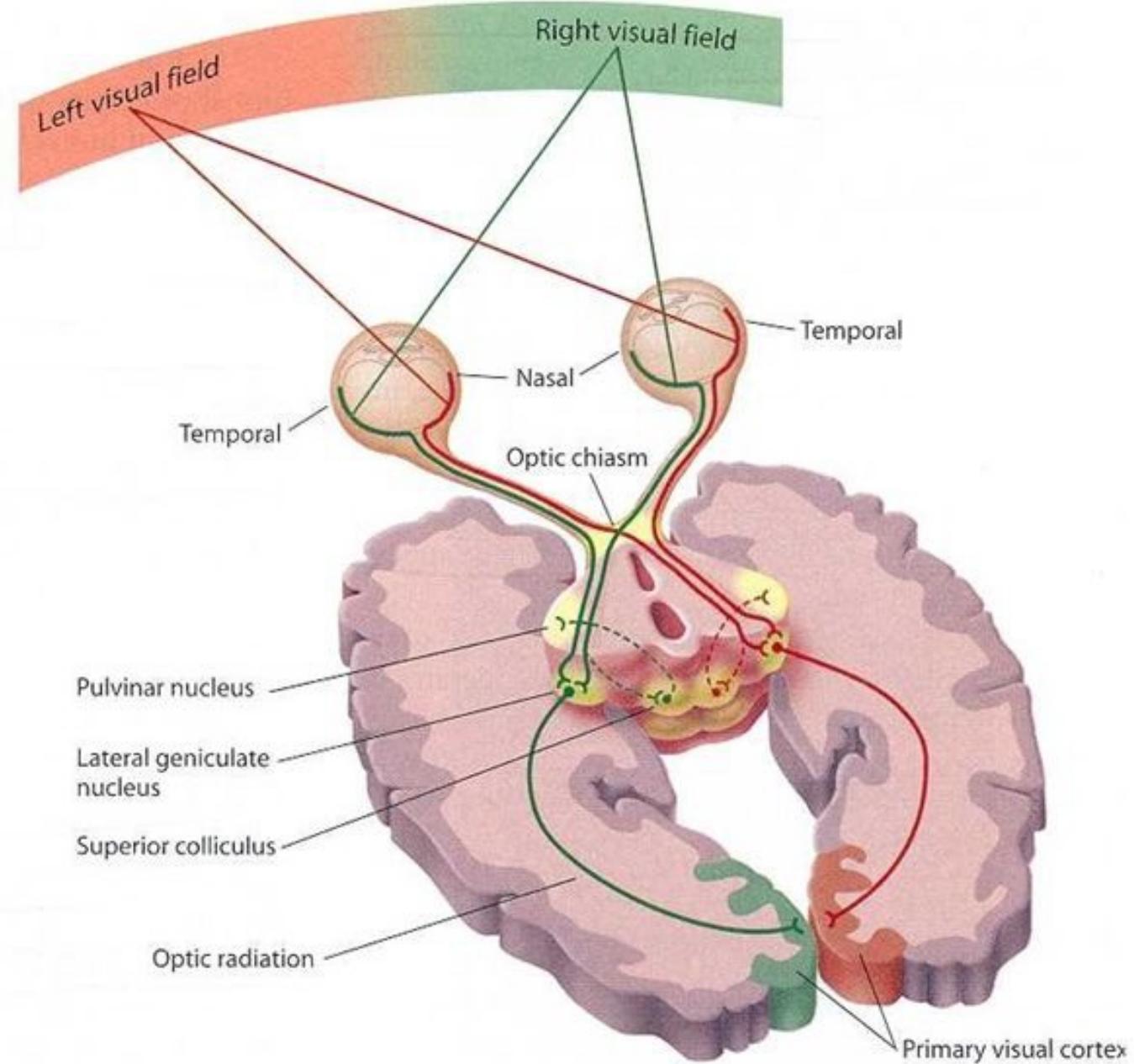
Pathway to brain

Geniculostriate pathway

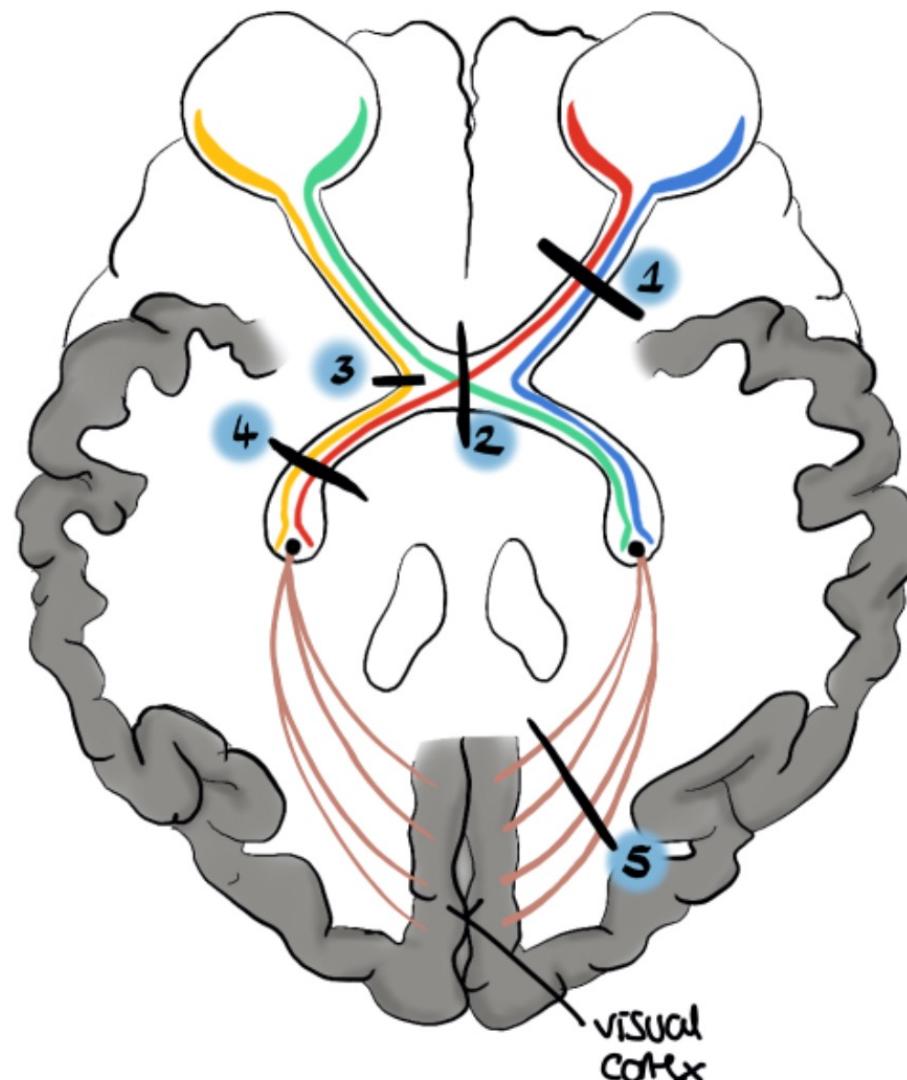
- Retina → LGN → V1
- about 90% of visual info

Tectopulvinar pathway

- Retina → SC → Pulvinar
- Dotted lines



Visual field defects

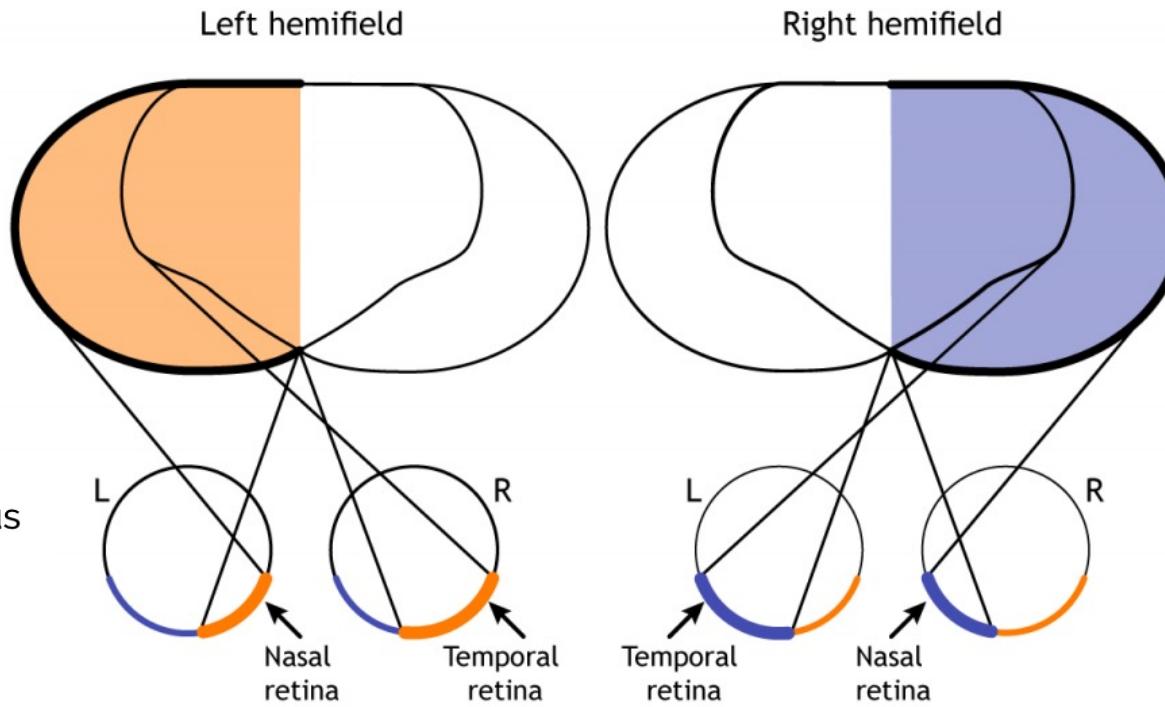


1	○	●	Total right eye visual loss
2	●	●	Bitemporal hemianopia
3	●	○	Left nasal hemianopia
4	●	●	Right homonymous hemianopia
5	●	●	Left homonymous hemianopia with macular sparing

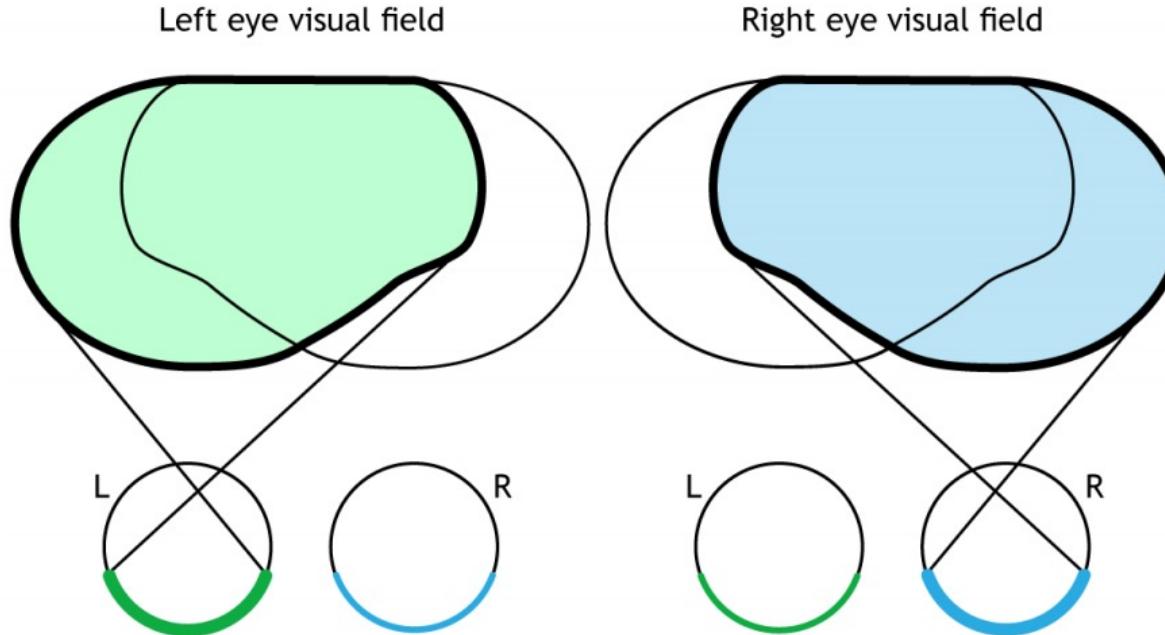
Cortical blindness



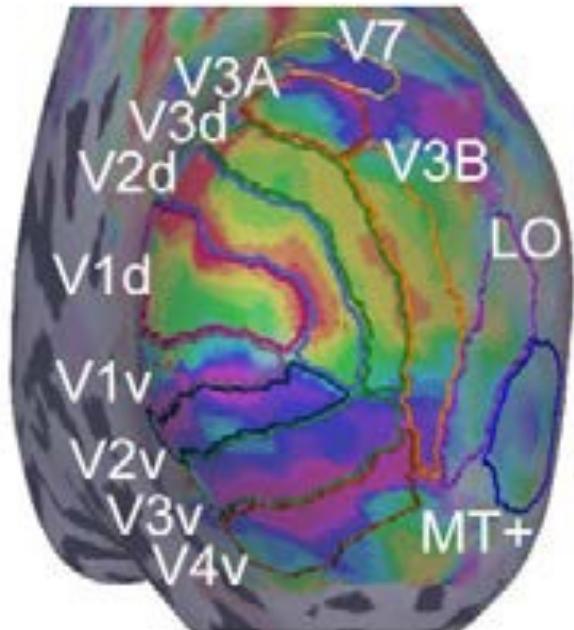
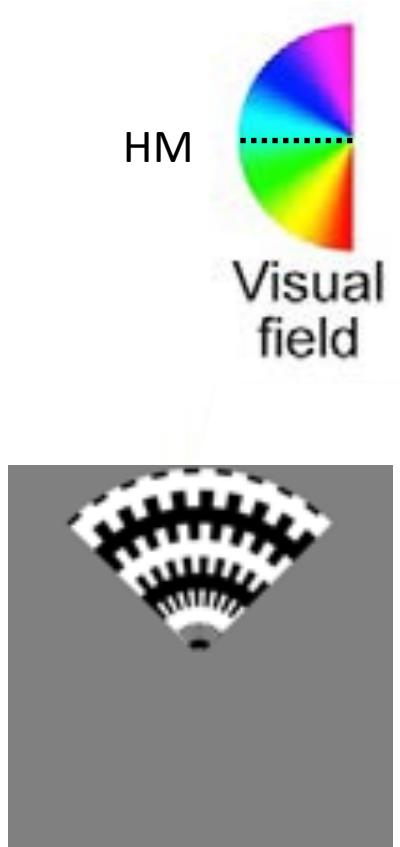
Right homonymous hemianopia



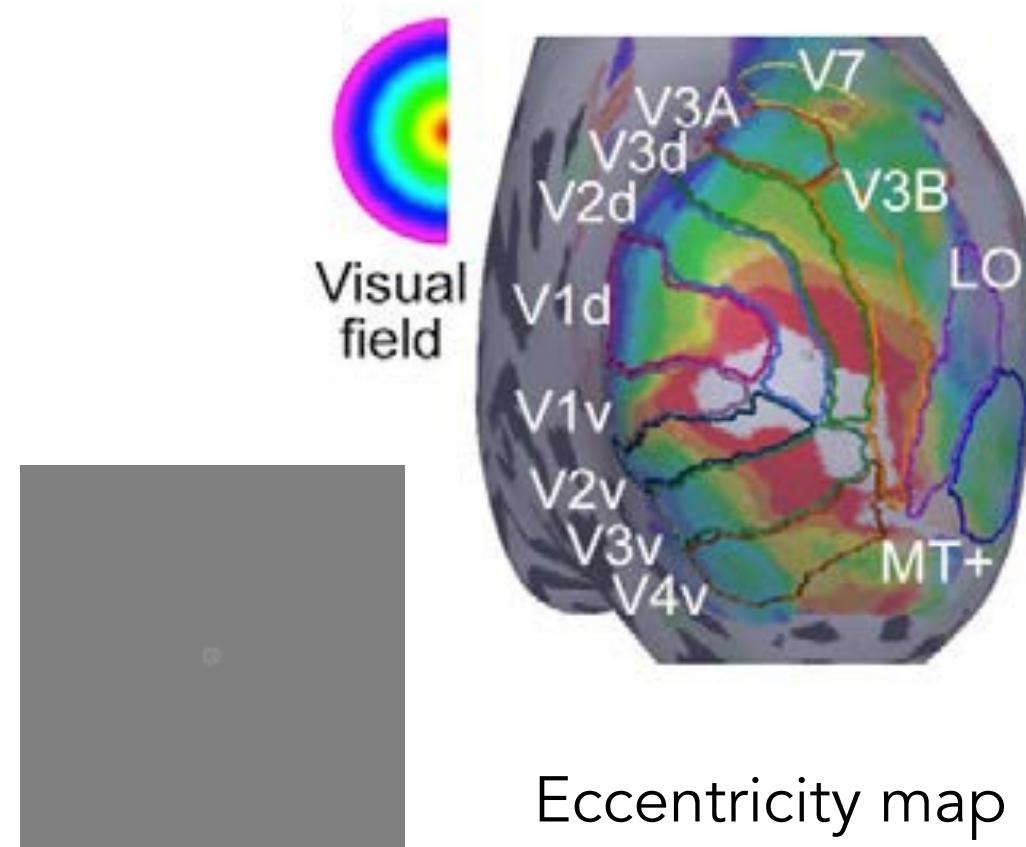
Total right eye visual loss



Retinotopic mapping in fMRI (EVC)



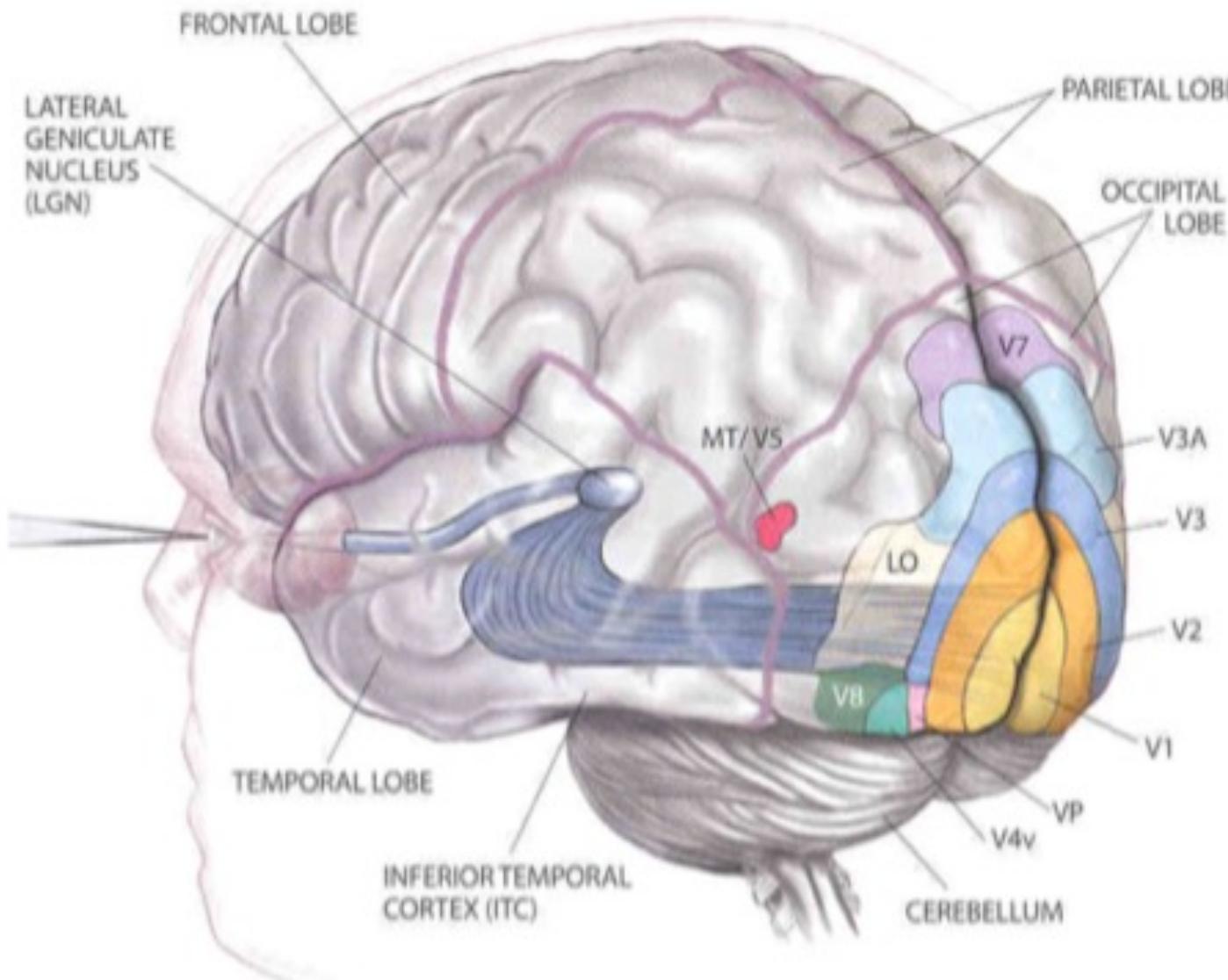
Polar angle map



Eccentricity map

Sereno, Dale, Reppas, Kwong, ... & Tootell. (1995). *Science*.

Early Visual Cortex



KEY TO FUNCTION

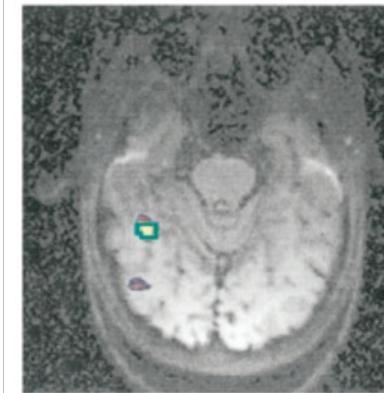
- **V1:** Primary visual cortex; receives all visual input. Begins processing of color, motion and shape. Cells in this area have the smallest receptive fields.
- **V2, ■ V3 and ■ VP:** Continue processing; cells of each area have progressively larger receptive fields.
- **V3A:** Biased for perceiving motion.
- **V4v:** Function unknown.
- **MT/V5:** Detects motion.
- **V7:** Function unknown.
- **V8:** Processes color vision.
- **LO:** Plays a role in recognizing large-scale objects.

Note: A V6 region has been identified only in monkeys.

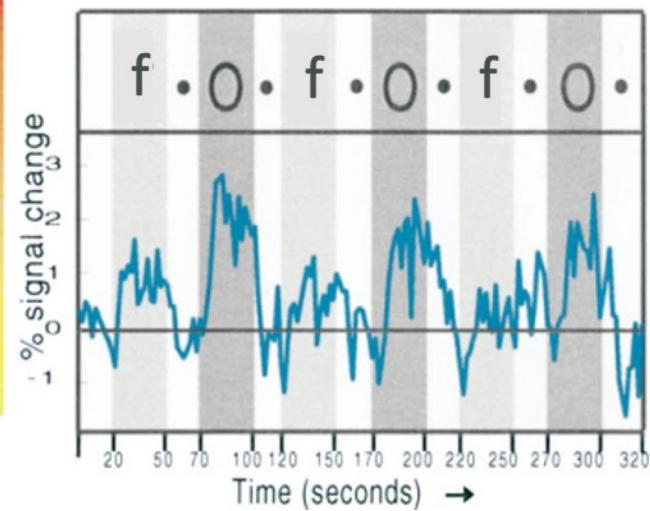
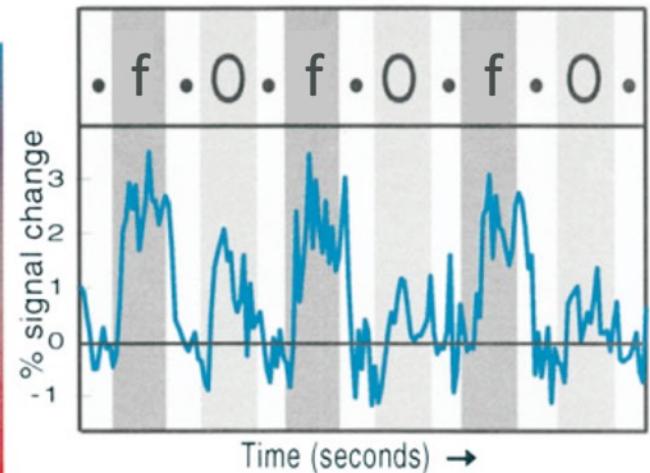
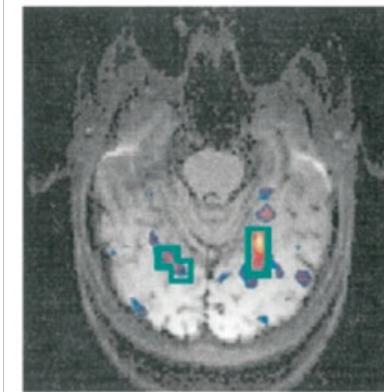
Functional localizer in fMRI (higher-order visual areas)



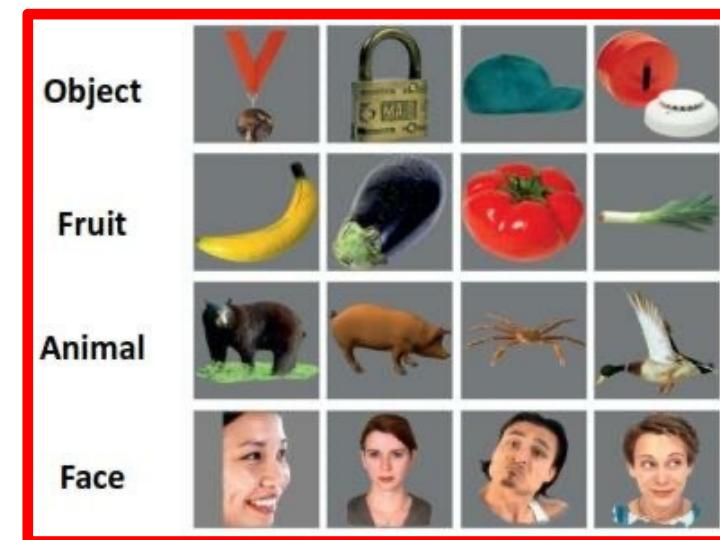
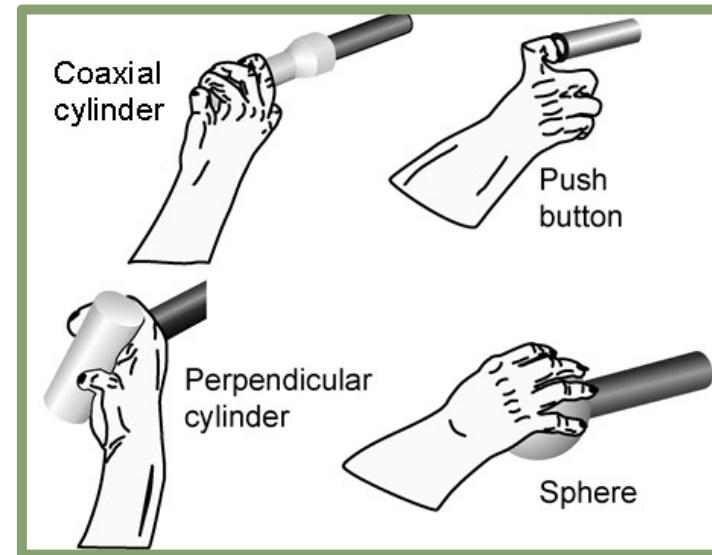
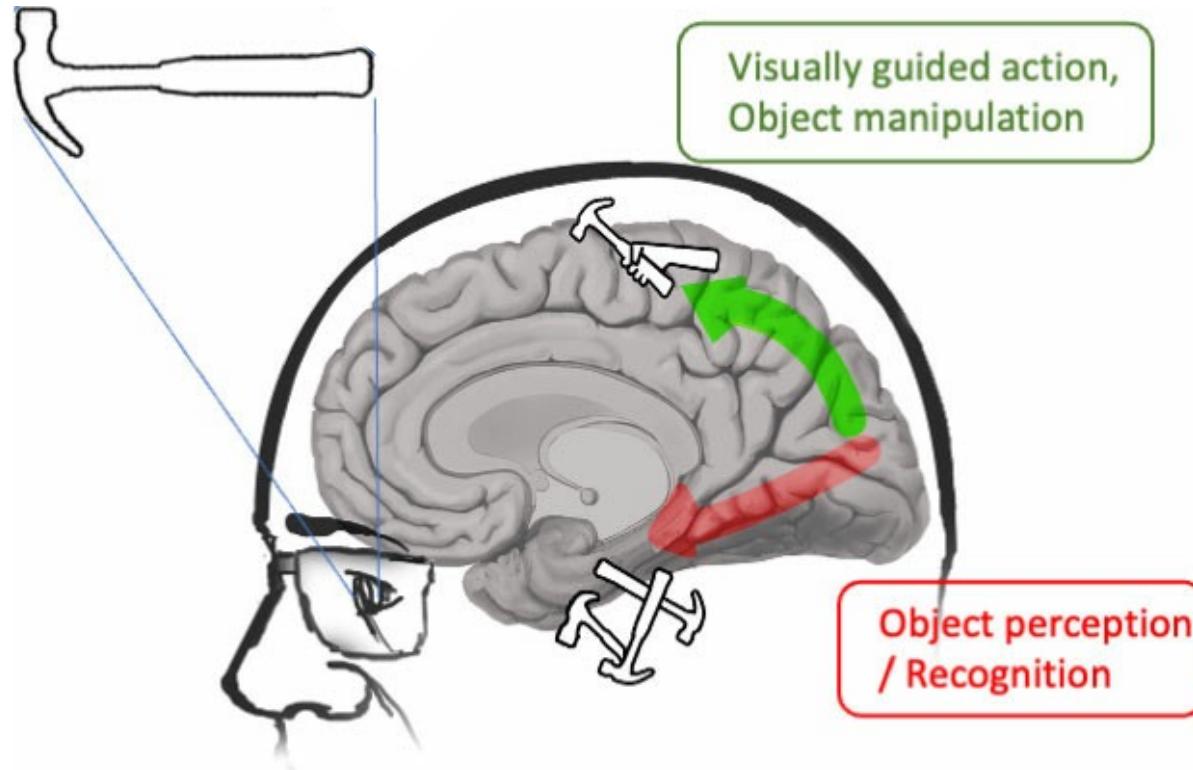
1a. faces > Objects



1b. Objects > faces



Higher-order visual areas



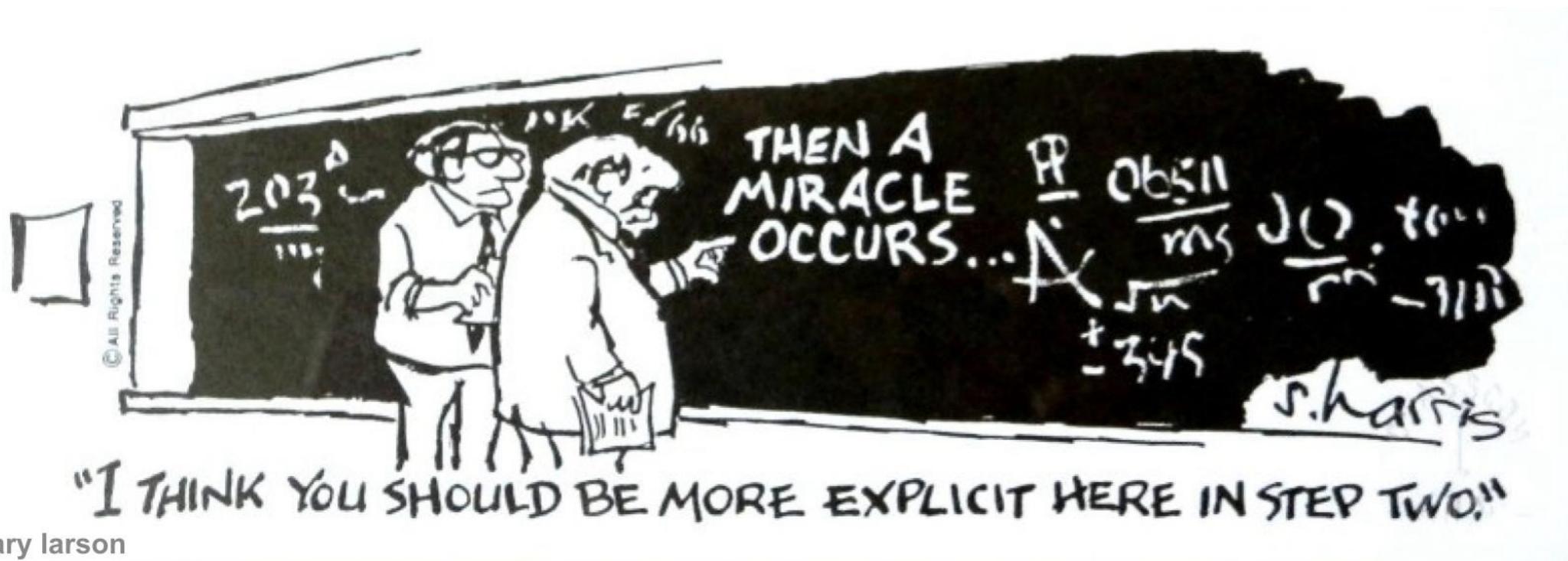
early visual cortex (low-level vision)



higher-order visual cortex (high-level vision)

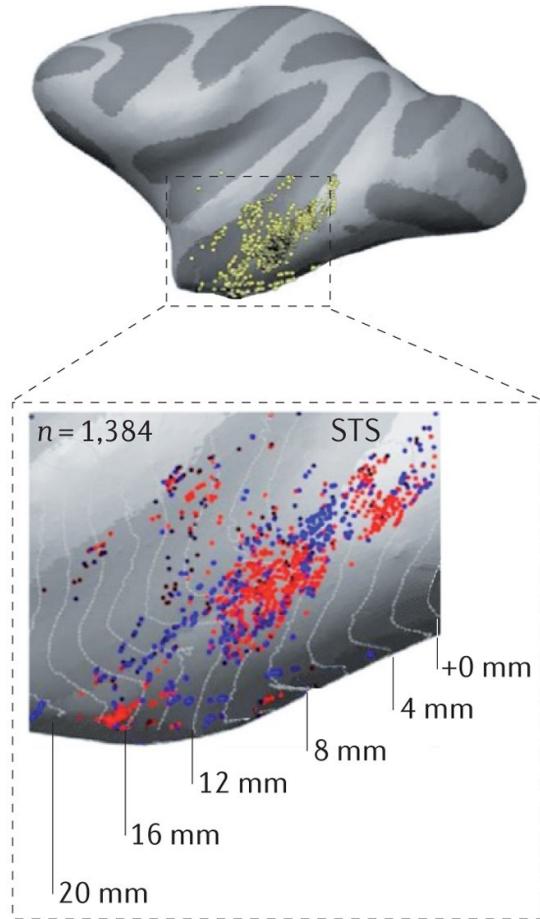
- Organized retinotopically
- V1: orientation selective and contrast & spatial frequency sensitive
- Beyond V1: depth, color, & motion perception

- Visually guided actions (dorsal)
- Object recognition (ventral)
- Face recognition (ventral)
- Scene perception (ventral)

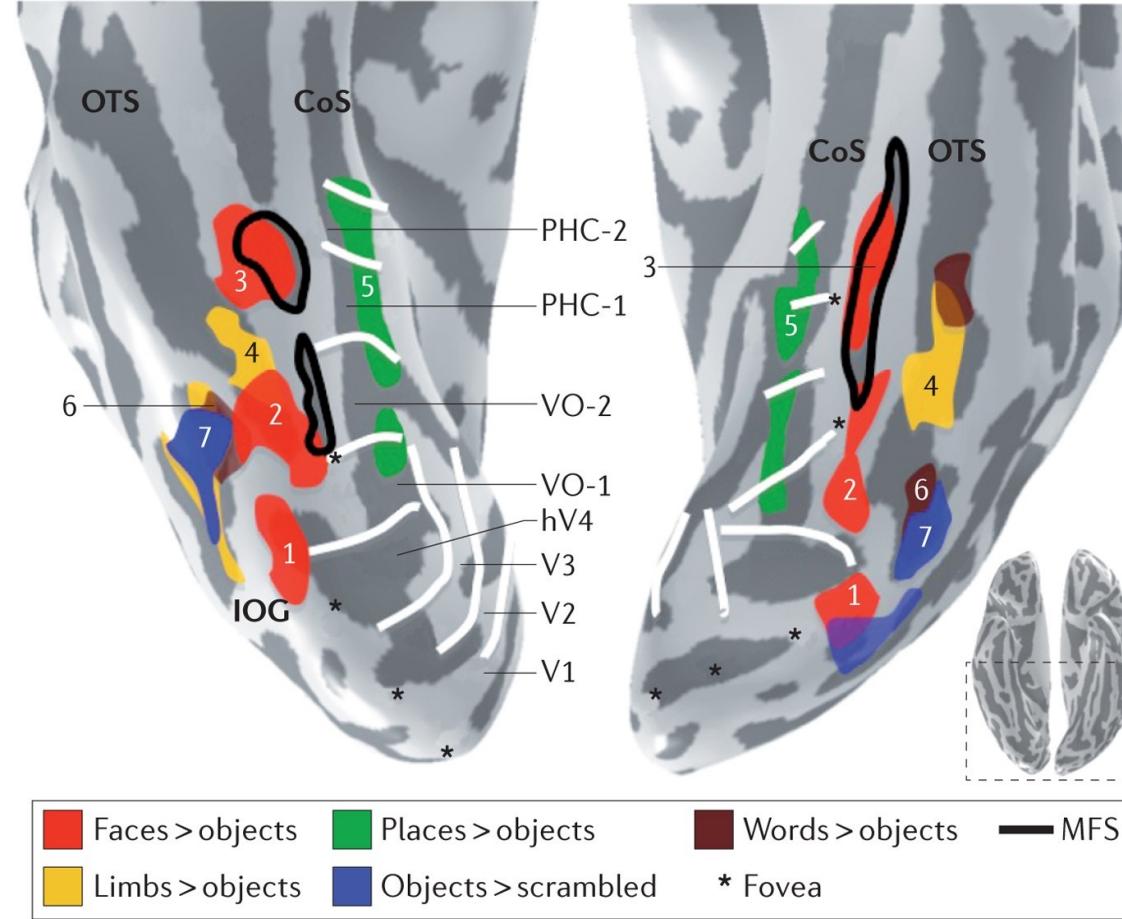


early visual cortex (low-level vision)

a Neuronal clustering



b Topological organization and superimposition

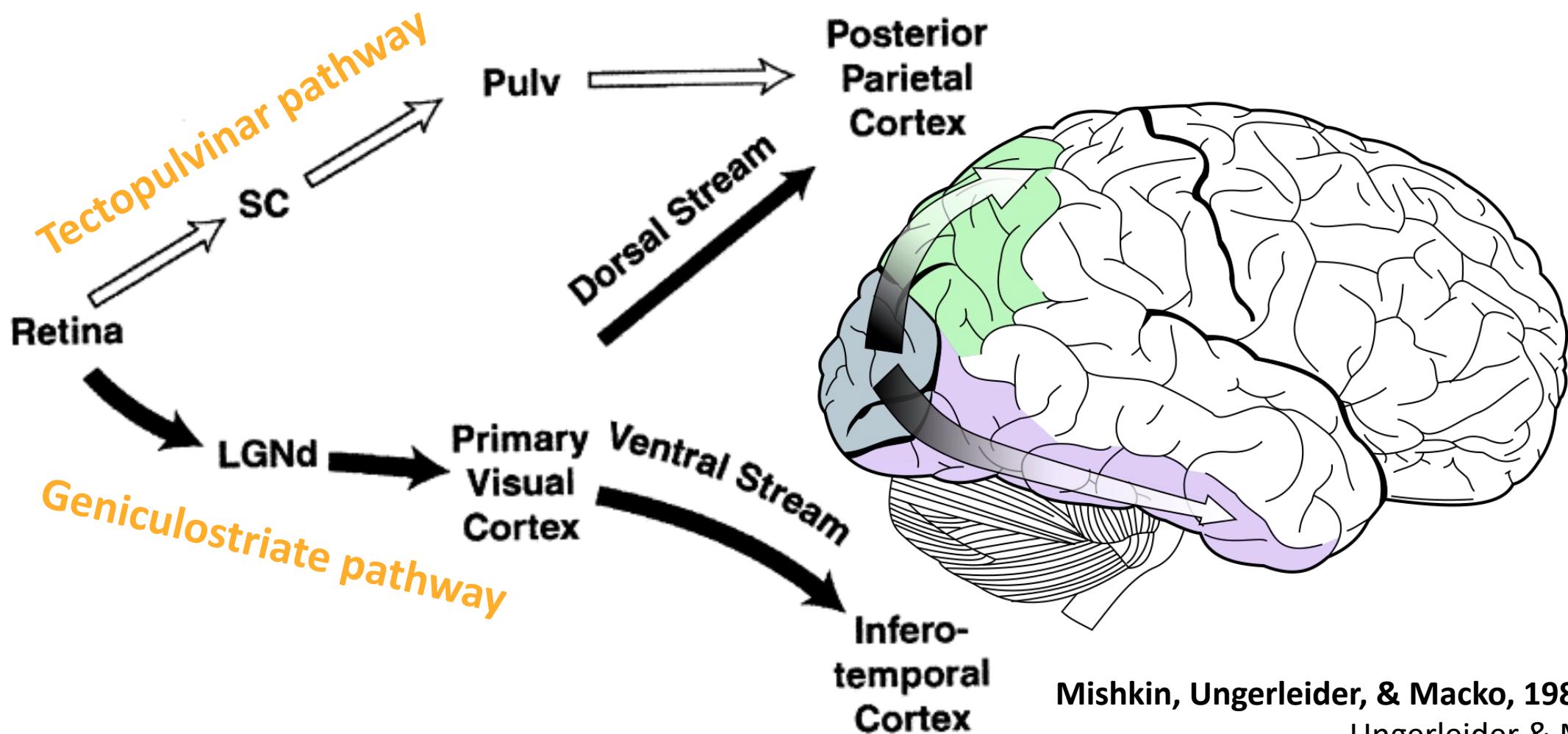


higher-order visual cortex (high-level vision)

Learning objectives

- Understand the roles of the early visual cortex and higher-order visual areas in visual processing
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Visual Pathways

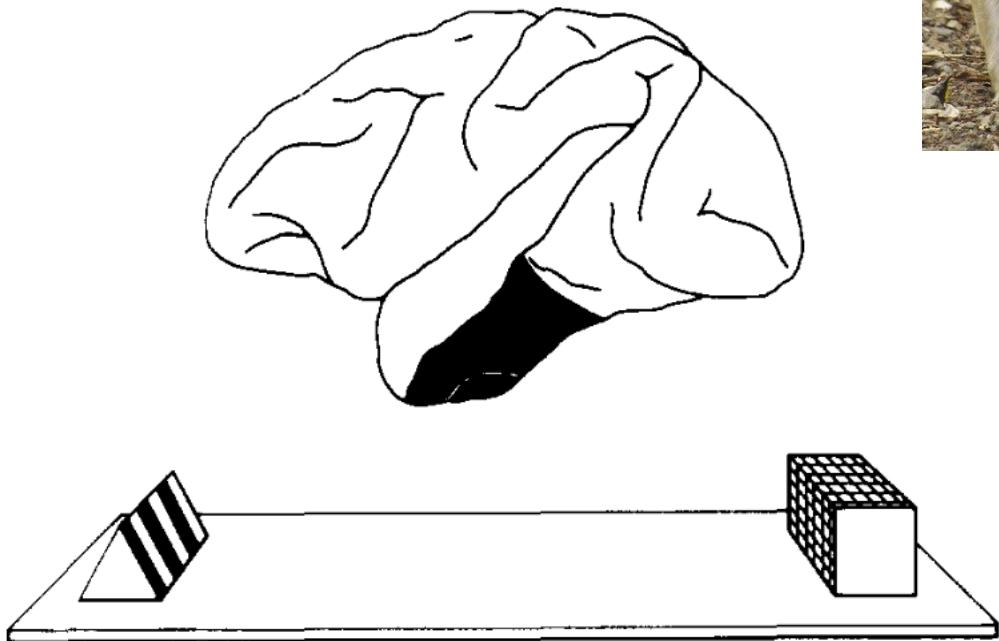


Mishkin, Ungerleider, & Macko, 1983 (reading 1)

Ungerleider & Mishkin, 1982

Milner & Goodale, 1990

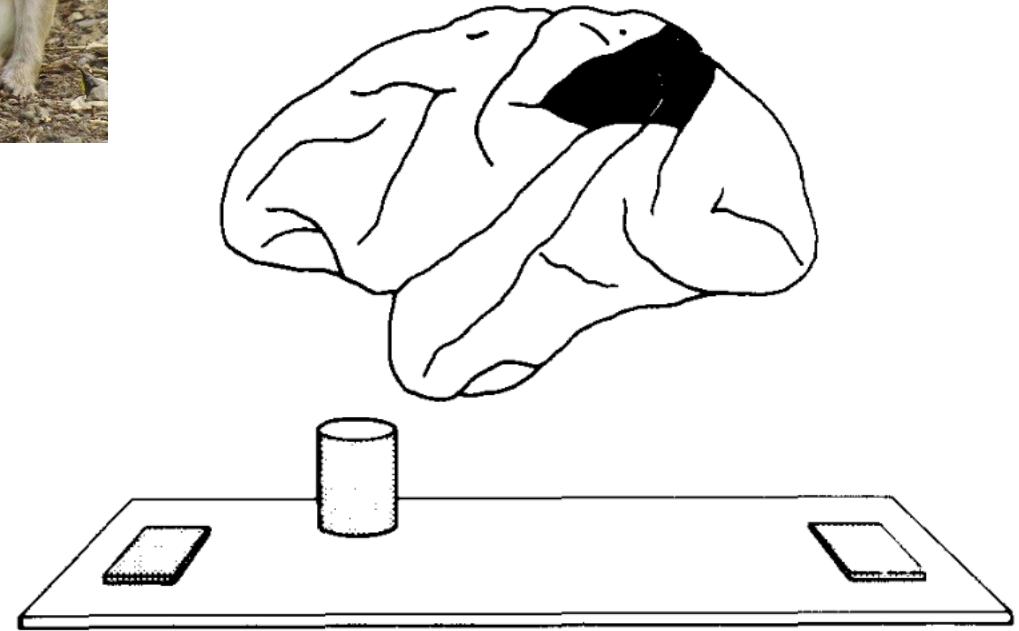
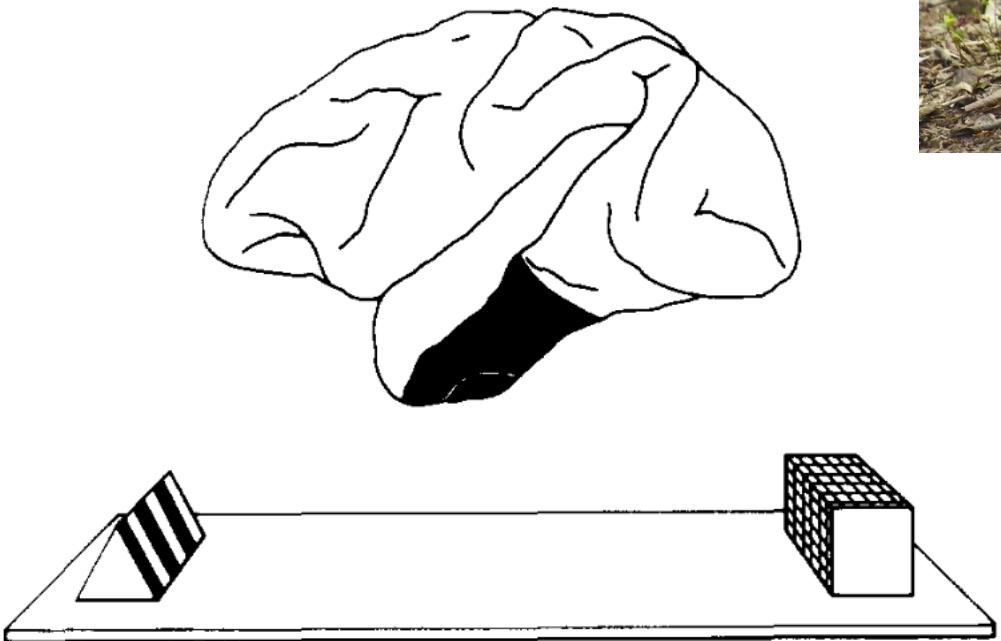
"double dissociation"



Pohl (1973)

Reading 1: Mishkin, Ungerleider, & Macko (1983)

"double dissociation"



Pohl (1973)

Reading 1: Mishkin, Ungerleider, & Macko (1983)

"double dissociation"

Patient DF

- carbon monoxide poisoning in 1988
- severely damaged the ventral stream, but hardly affected the primary visual cortex.
- **visual form agnosia** (unable to identify objects on the basis of their shape, but largely preserved her low-level vision).

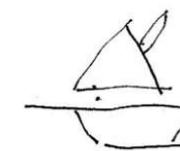
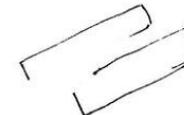
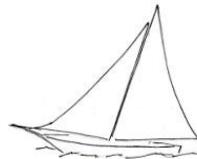
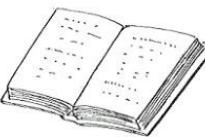
Model



Copy



Memory

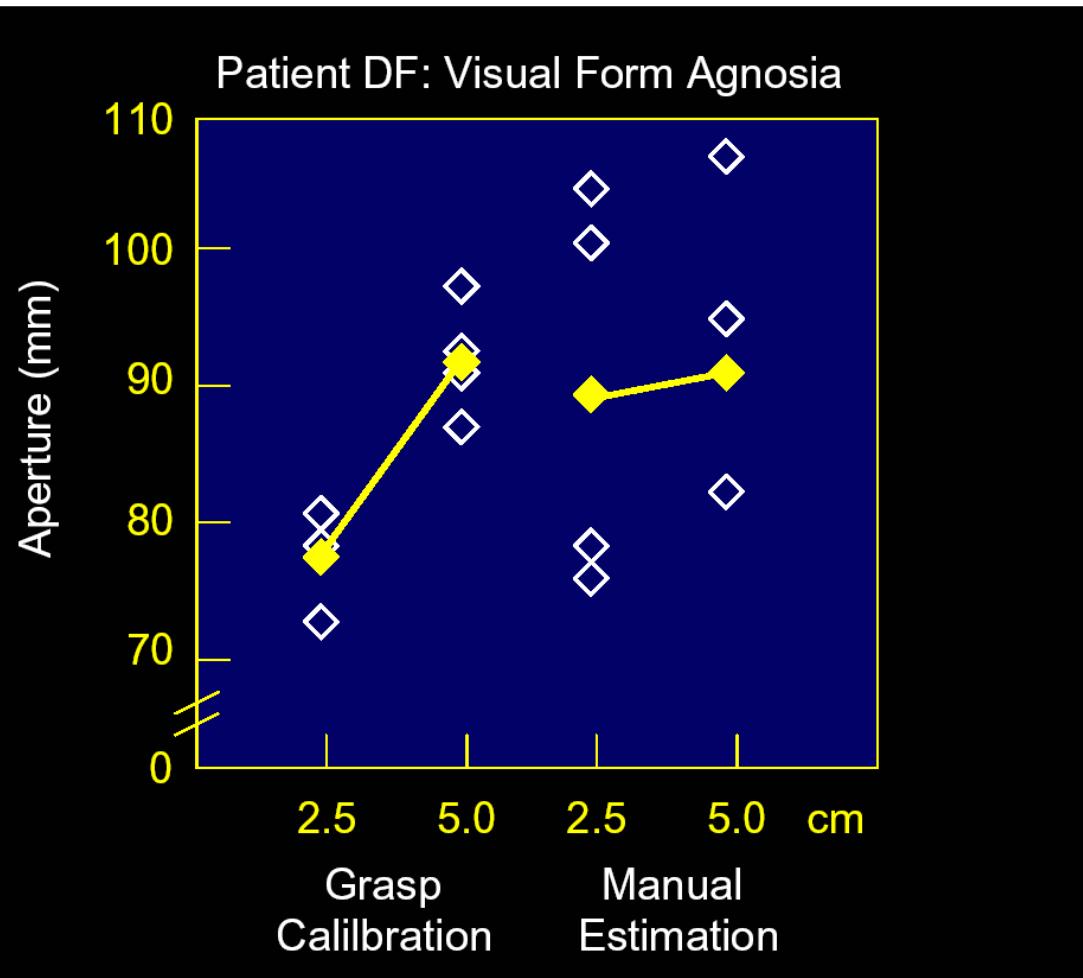


“double dissociation”

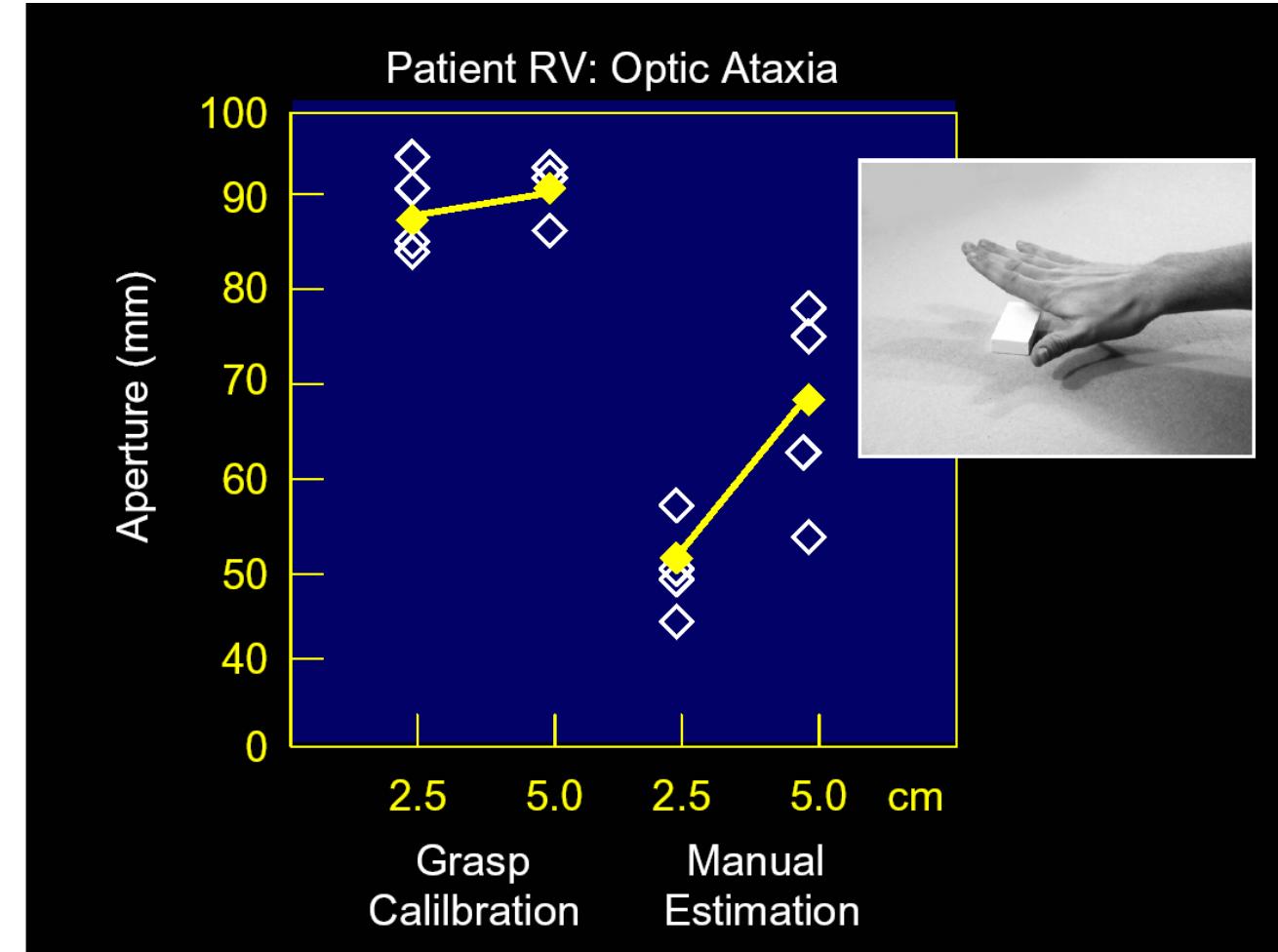
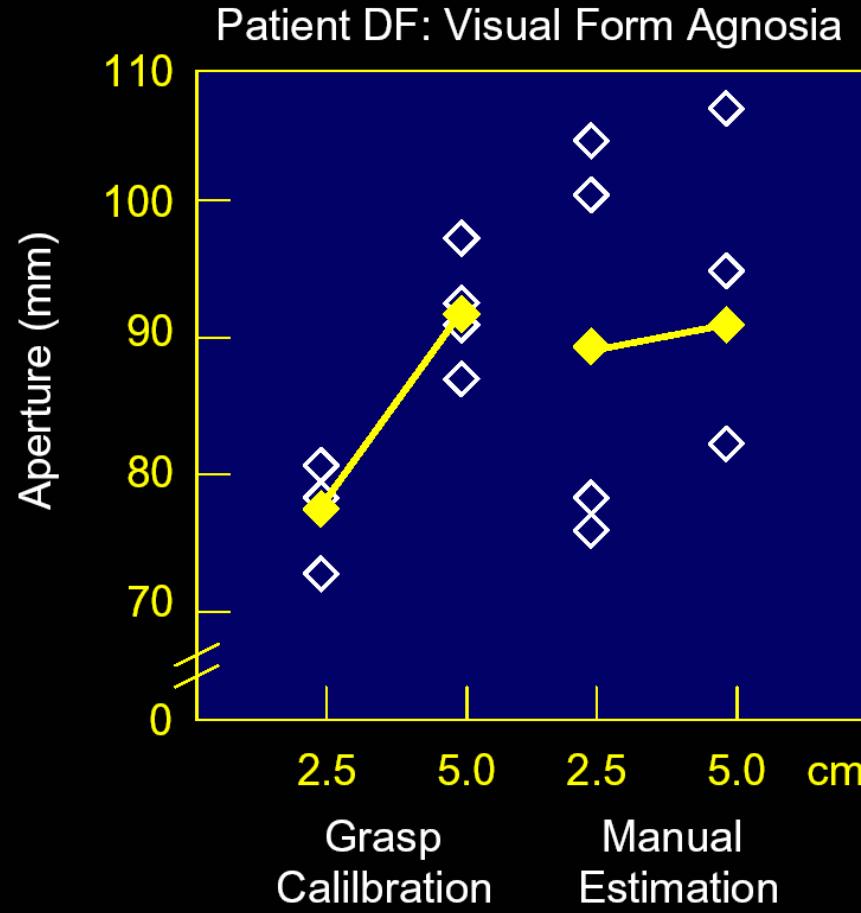
Patient RV

- strokes with large bilateral lesions in the occipitoparietal cortex
- severely damaged the dorsal stream
- **optic ataxia** (impaired coordination between visual input and hand movements, preventing patients from reaching and grasping objects)

"double dissociation"



"double dissociation"



Cortical Visual Pathways

Dorsal: "where/how"



Explain the functional distinctions between the ventral and dorsal visual pathways (Mishkin, Ungerleider, & Macko, 1983, *TINS*)

Ventral: "what"



Ungerleider & Mishkin, 1982

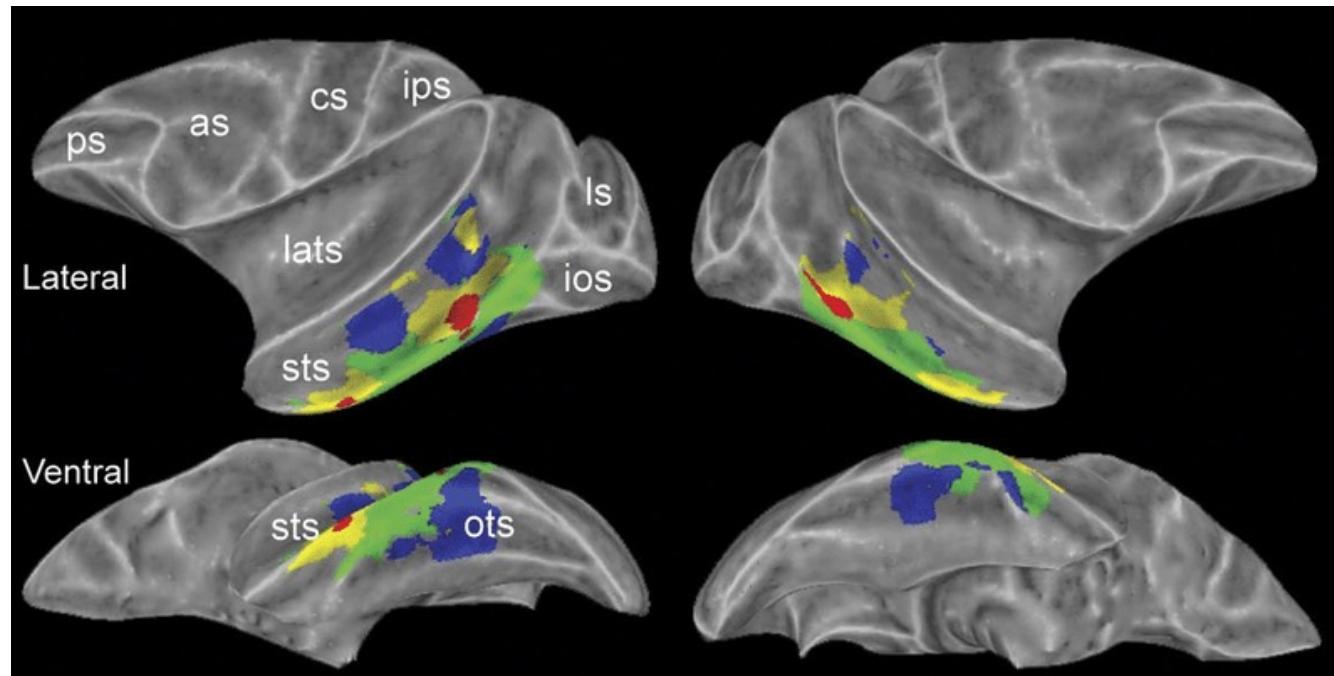
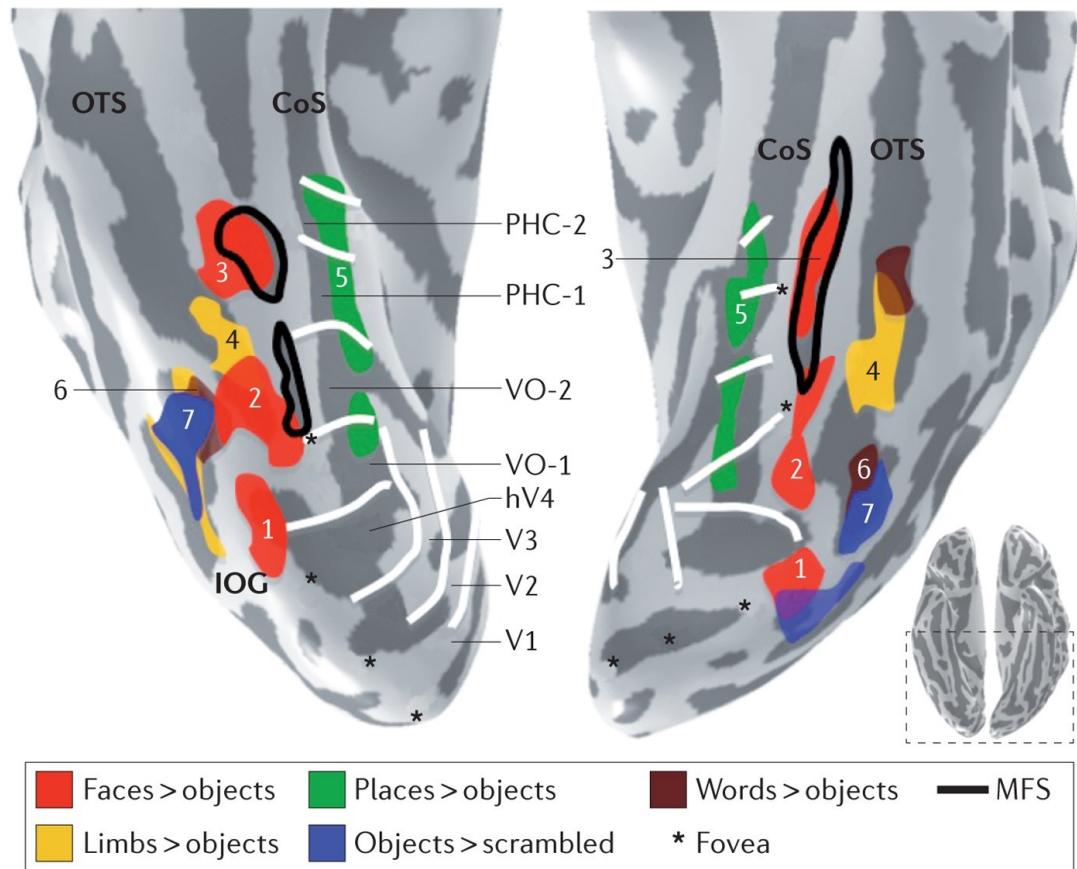
Reading 1: Mishkin, Ungerleider, & Macko, 1983

Milner & Goodale, 1990

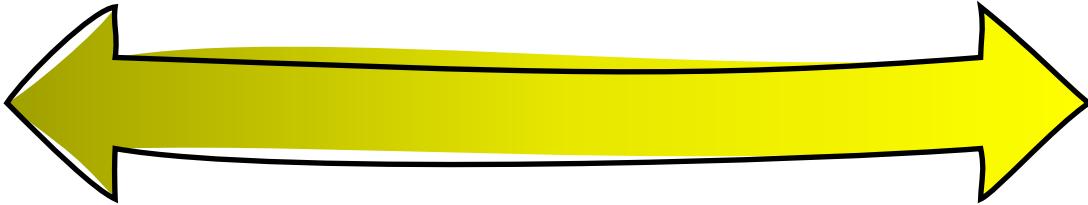
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Category selective domains in humans and monkeys



“top-down model”
Innatist



“Bottom-up model”
Experience x domain-general architecture

Our brains evolved specialized circuitry to recognize biologically important object categories

- stereotyped locations in both humans & monkeys
- biologically important object categories (faces, bodies, food, tools, & places)

Specialized domains reflect how we learn to recognize the things we encounter

- a domain for text is evolutionarily implausible
- cortical recycling of a domain that was previously “for” something else

Are faces special?

1. Face inversion effect

The 'Thatcher Illusion'



A



B

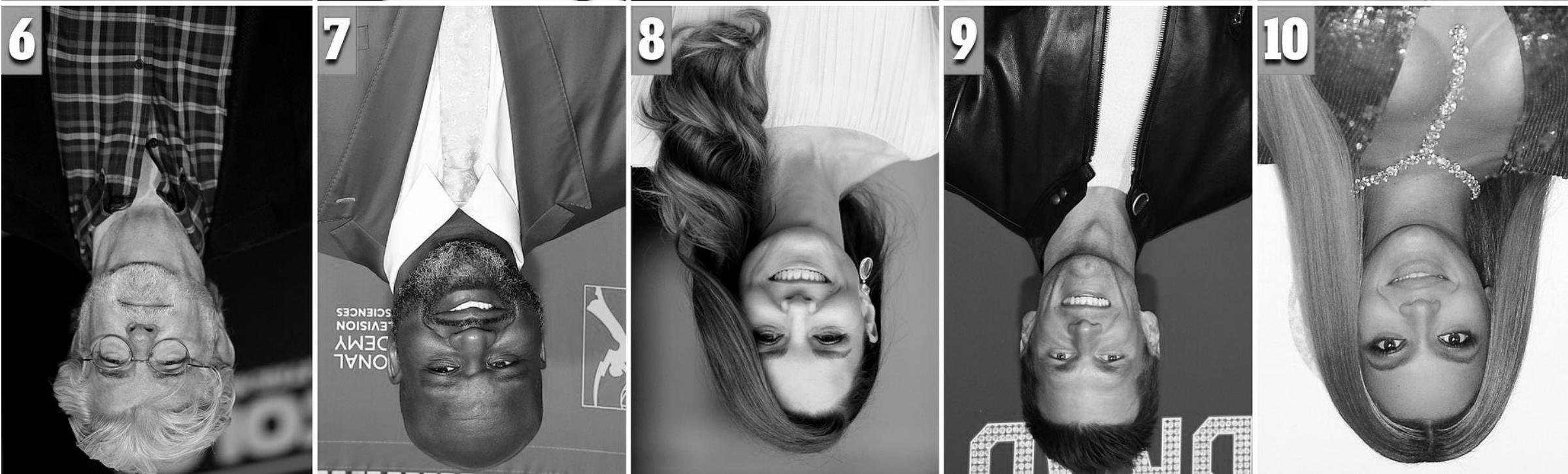
(Thomson, 1980)

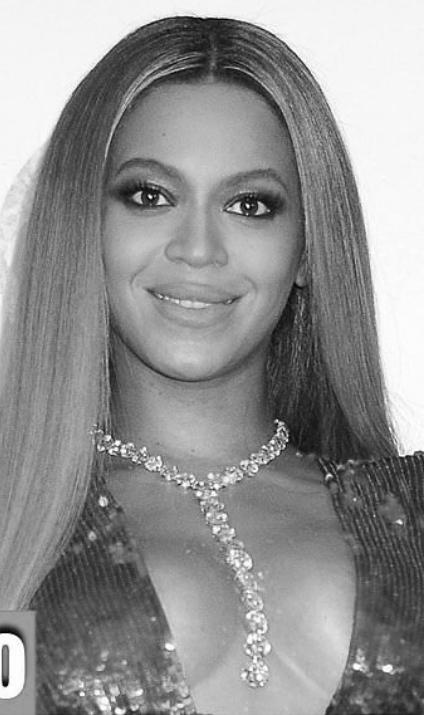
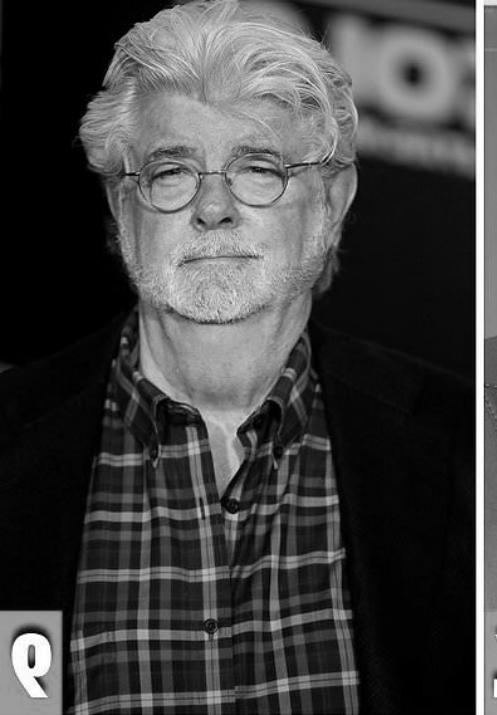
1. Face inversion effect

The 'Thatcher Illusion'



(Thomson, 1980)





Mind

Man who sees upside down provides clues on how we process faces

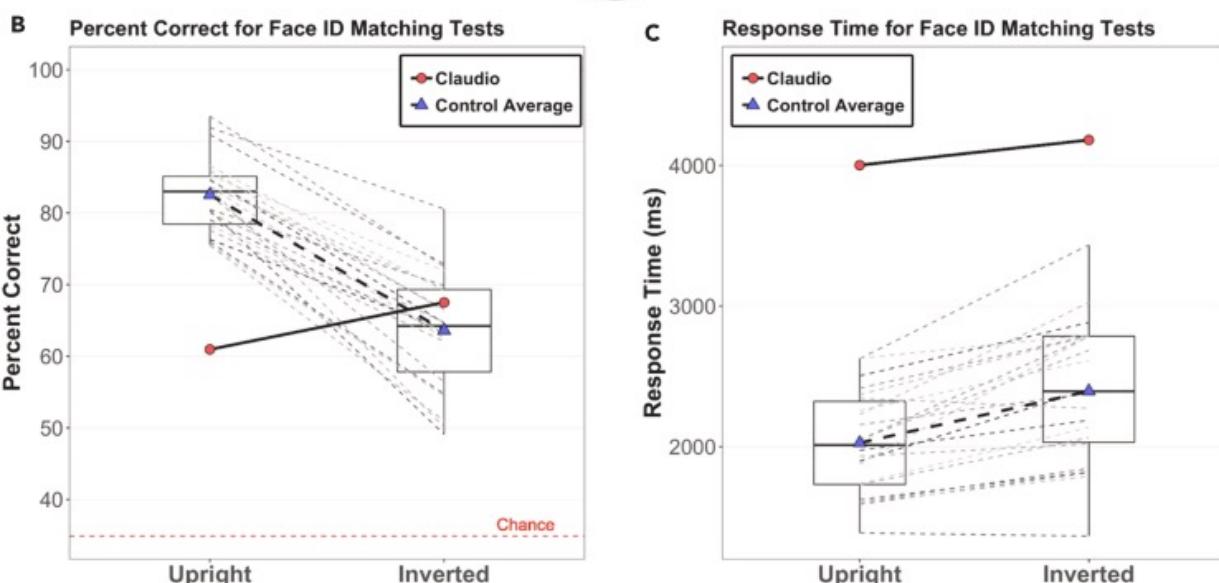
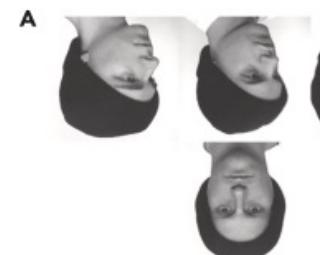
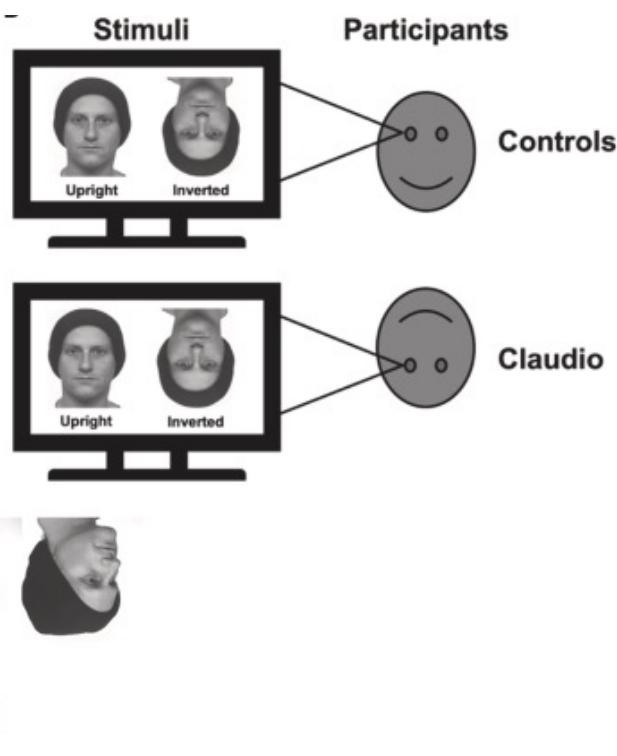
A man with a condition that has rotated his head backwards can identify upright and inverted faces with similar accuracy, suggesting that facial processing skills are based on experience and evolutionary factors

By Grace Wade

22 September 2023



⚠ Claudio Oliveira was born with a joint condition that restricted the range of motion in the joints of his neck
 Brad Duchaine



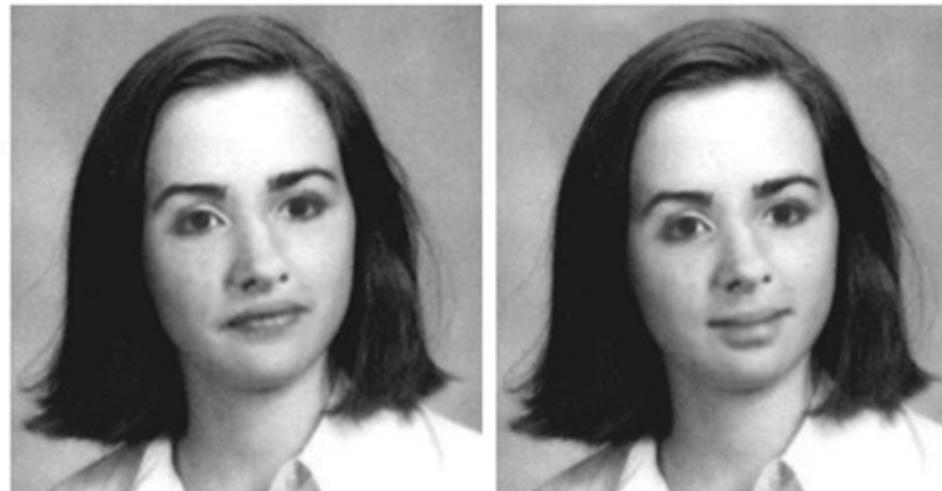
2. Part-whole effect

C Part-whole task

Learn this face



Whole condition: Which face did you learn? (differ only in one part, the mouth)



Part condition: Which mouth did you learn?

Part-whole effect = Whole minus Part



- Study a whole face
- Recognize facial features
 - embedded in a whole face or presented in isolation
- Holistic processing = better performance when the features are presented within the context of a face than in isolation

2. Part-whole effect

Figure 1

The Part–Whole Task Procedure

Study



Which part did you just see?

Part Trial



Which part did you just see?



Which face did you just see?

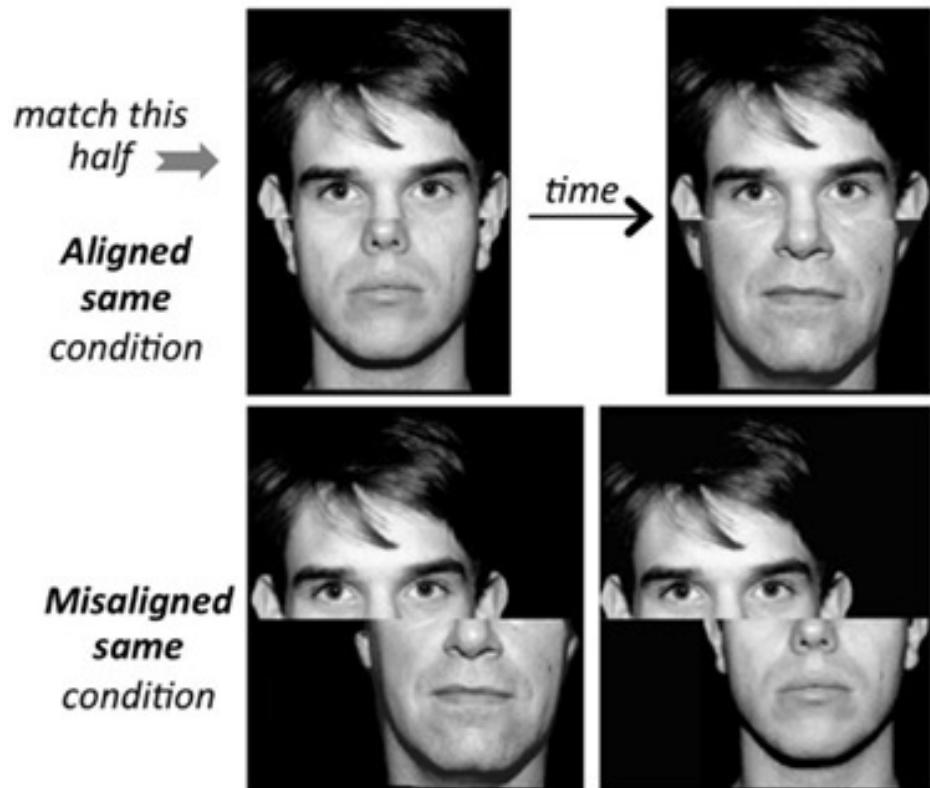
Whole Trial



Note. The left panel shows an example of the part trial (mouth) and the whole trial (mouth) for renaissance; the right panel shows an example of part trial (nose) and whole trial (nose) for cubism.

Ventura*, Liu* et al. (2023).
Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts.

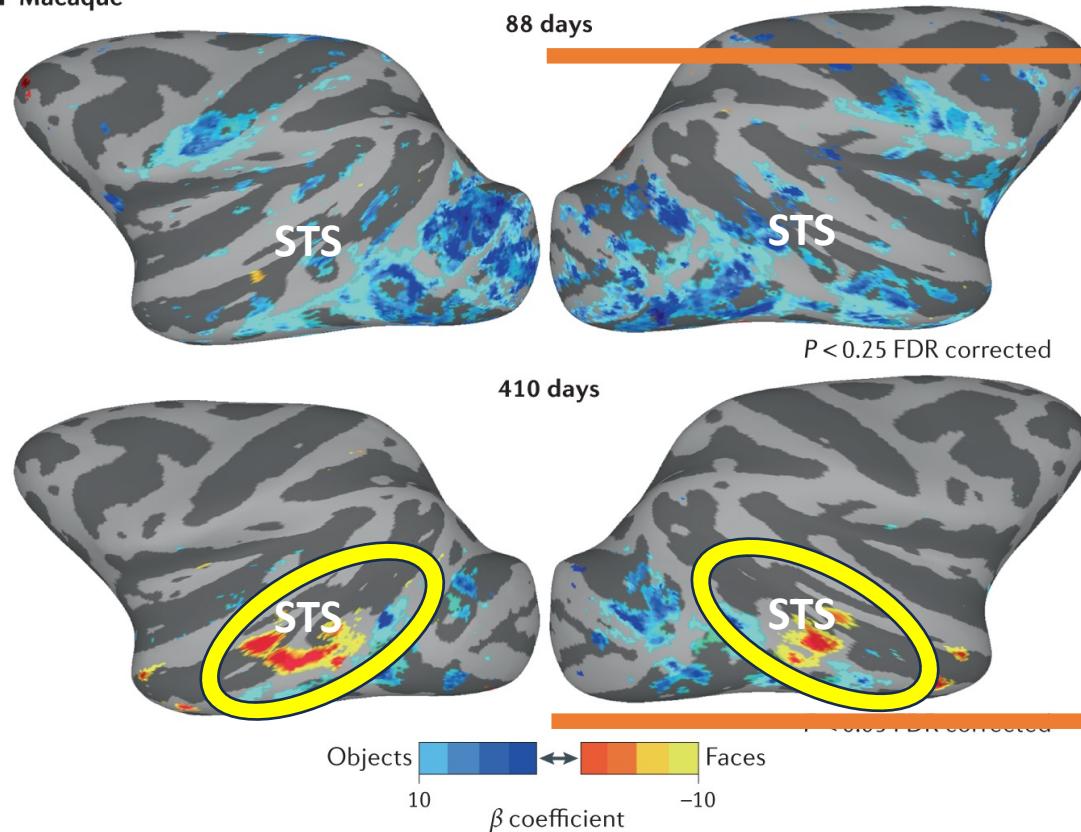
3. Composite effect



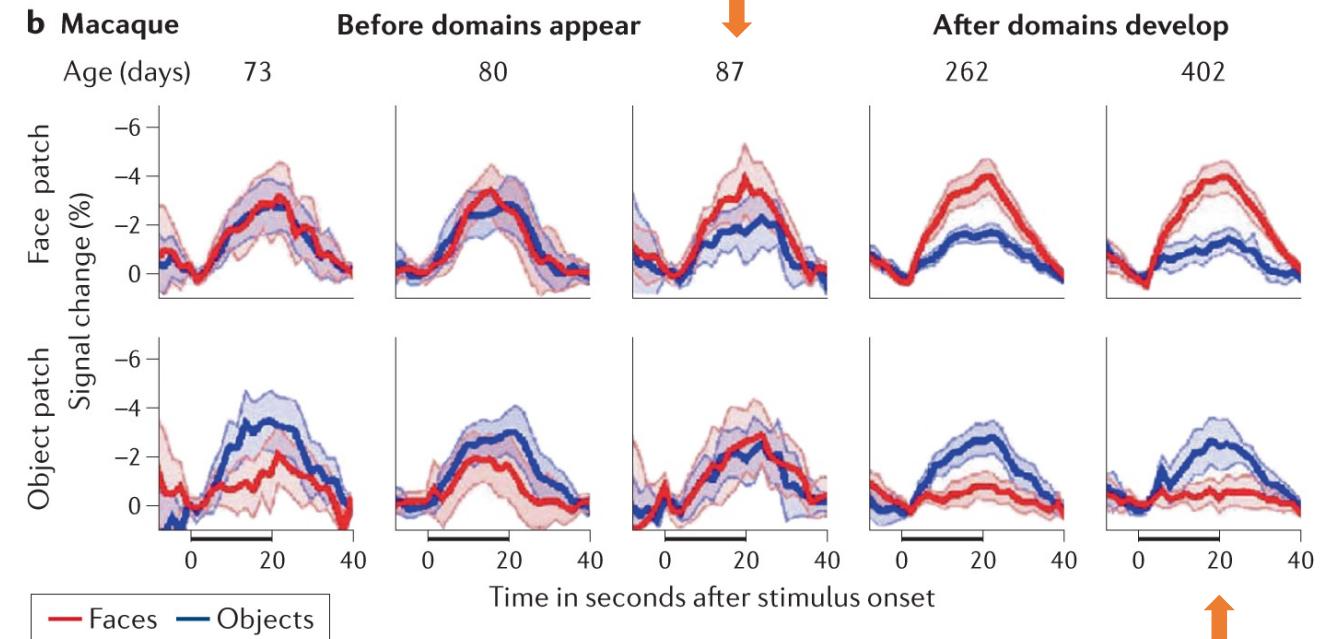
- A composite face = half of one face + half of a second face
- Clear instruction to ignore part of the face
- Holistic processing = better performance when the top and bottom halves are misaligned than when they are aligned

Development of face selectivity in inferotemporal cortex (IT)

a Macaque



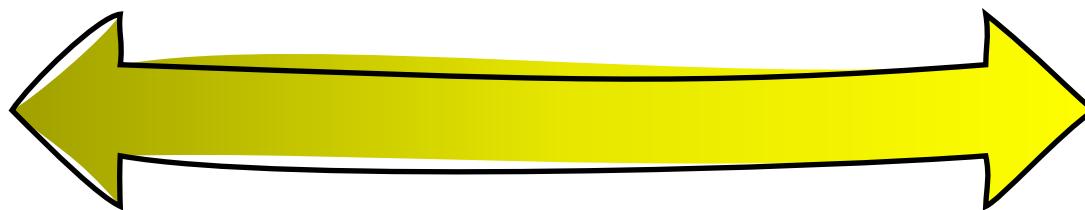
b Macaque



Arcaro, Schade, Vincent, Ponce, & Livingstone (2017). *Nature neuroscience*.

What condition is sufficient for the development of a category-selective domain?

“top-down model”
Innatist model



“Bottom-up model”
Experience x domain-general architecture

Our brains evolved specialized circuitry to recognize biologically important object categories

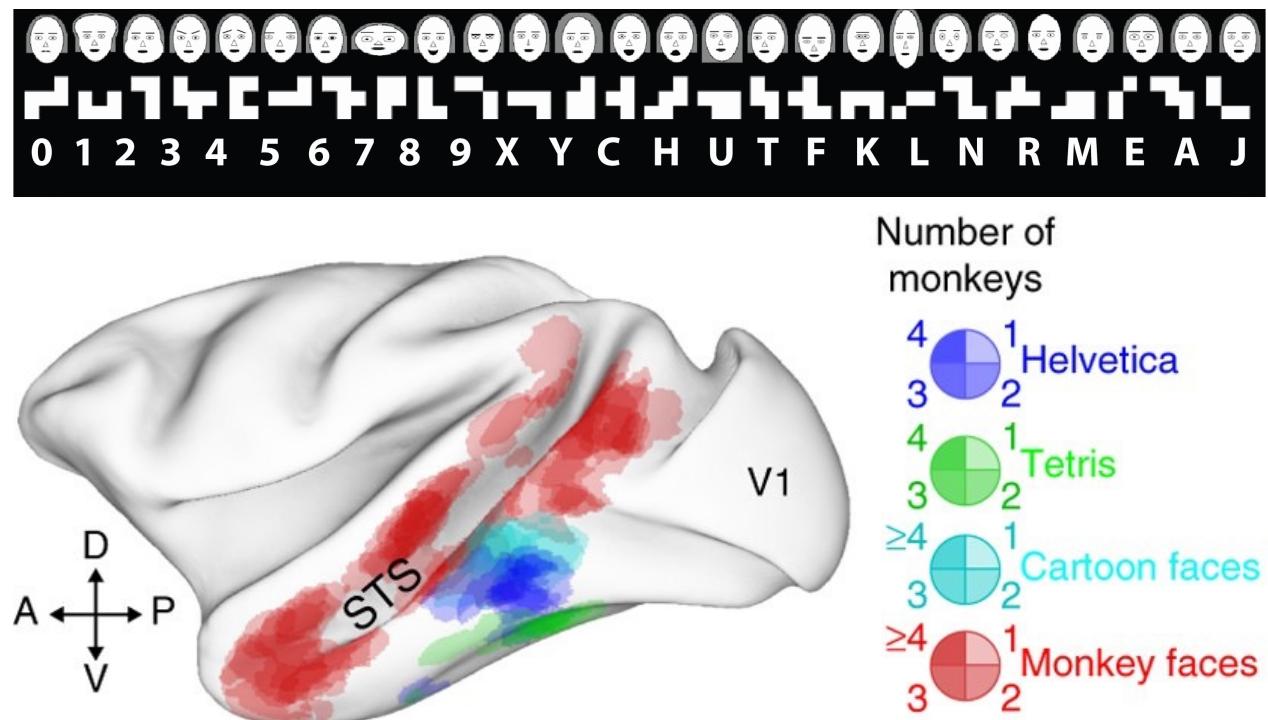
- stereotyped locations in both humans & monkeys
- biologically important object categories (faces, bodies, & places)

Specialized domains reflect how we learn to recognize the things we encounter

- a domain for text is evolutionarily implausible
- cortical recycling of a domain that was previously “for” something else

Development of word selectivity in inferotemporal cortex (IT)

- In humans, the development of VWFA requires experience (it doesn't develop unless an individual has learned to read)
- VWFA in Monkeys?



Srihasam et al. (2012). *Neuron*.

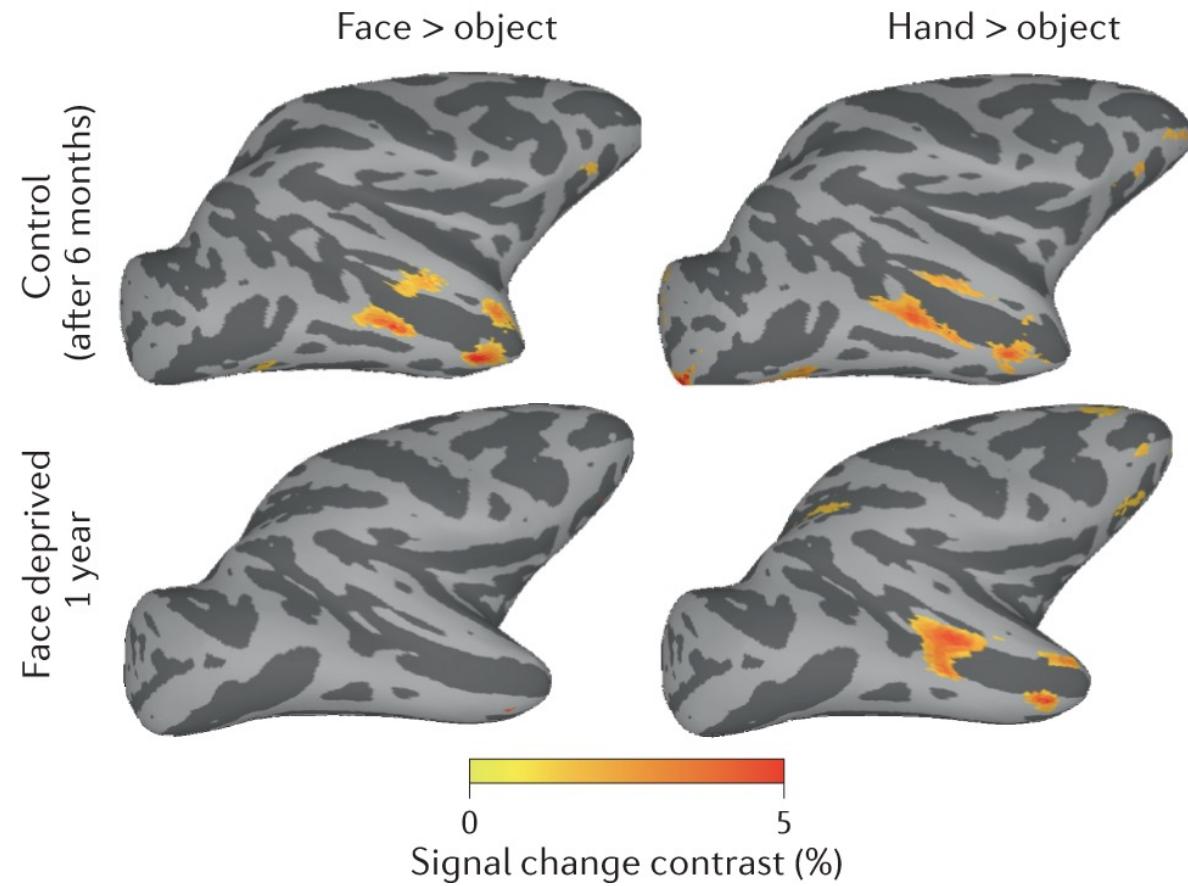
Srihasam et al. (2014). *Nature neuroscience*.

What condition is sufficient for the development of a category-selective domain?

- Intensive experience alone is sufficient to produce a category-selective domain (Srihasam et al., 2012; 2014)

What condition is necessary for the development of a category-selective domain?

Experience is necessary for developing domains



Arcaro, Schade, Vincent, Ponce, & Livingstone (2017). *Nature neuroscience*.

What condition is necessary for the development of a category-selective domain?

- Experience is necessary for developing domains (Arcaro et al., 2017)

What condition is sufficient for the development of a category-selective domain?

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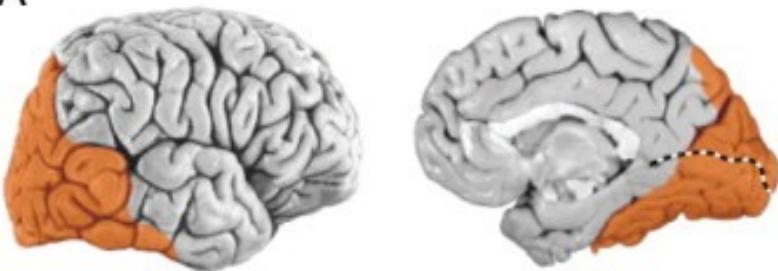
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- Experience is necessary for developing domains (Arcaro et al., 2017)

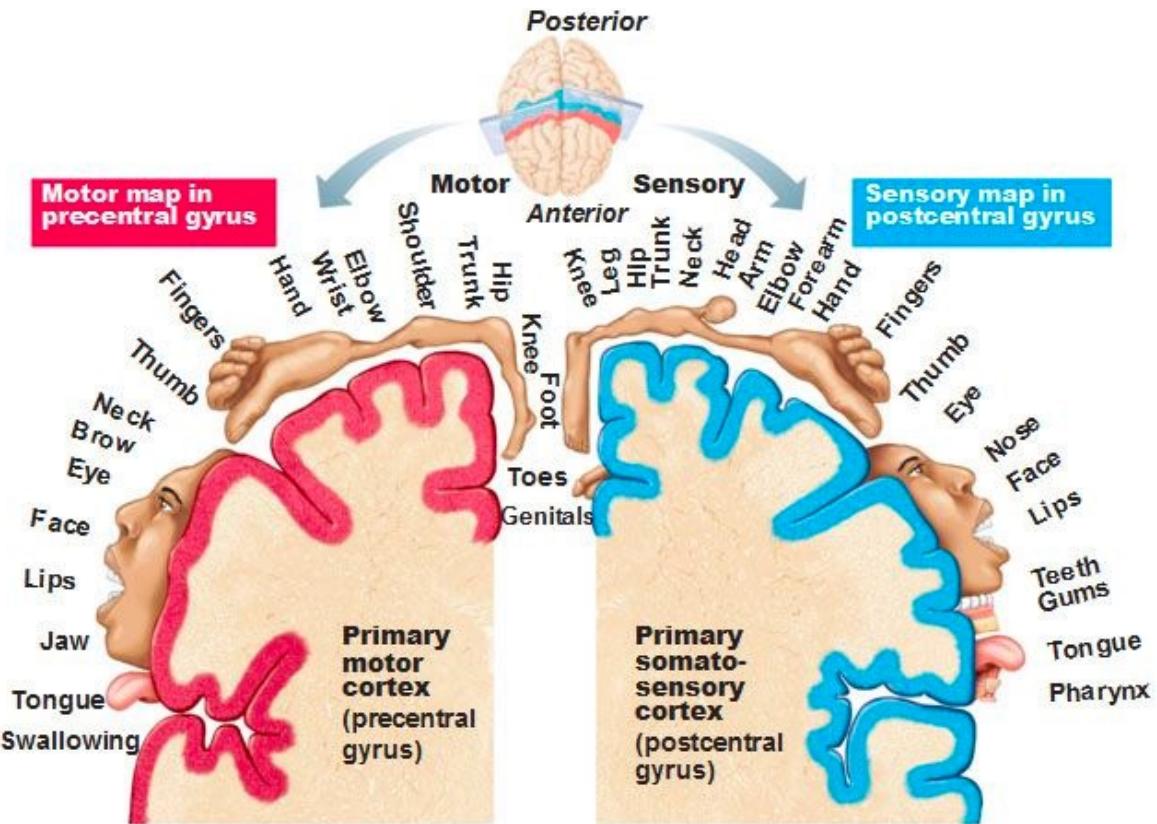
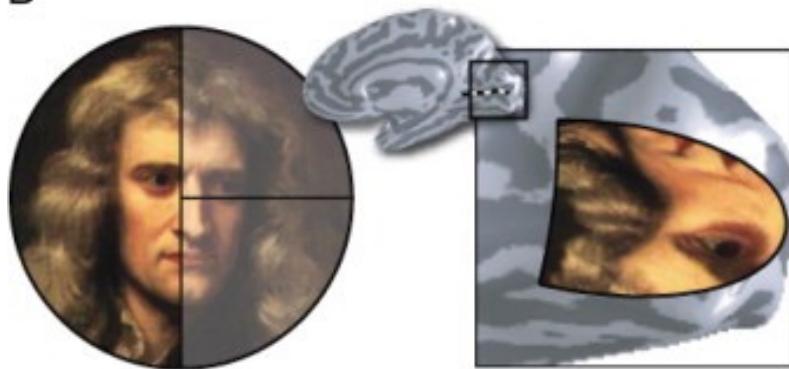
Topographic organization in the brain

- spatially adjacent stimuli on sensory receptor surfaces are represented in adjacent positions in the cortex.

A

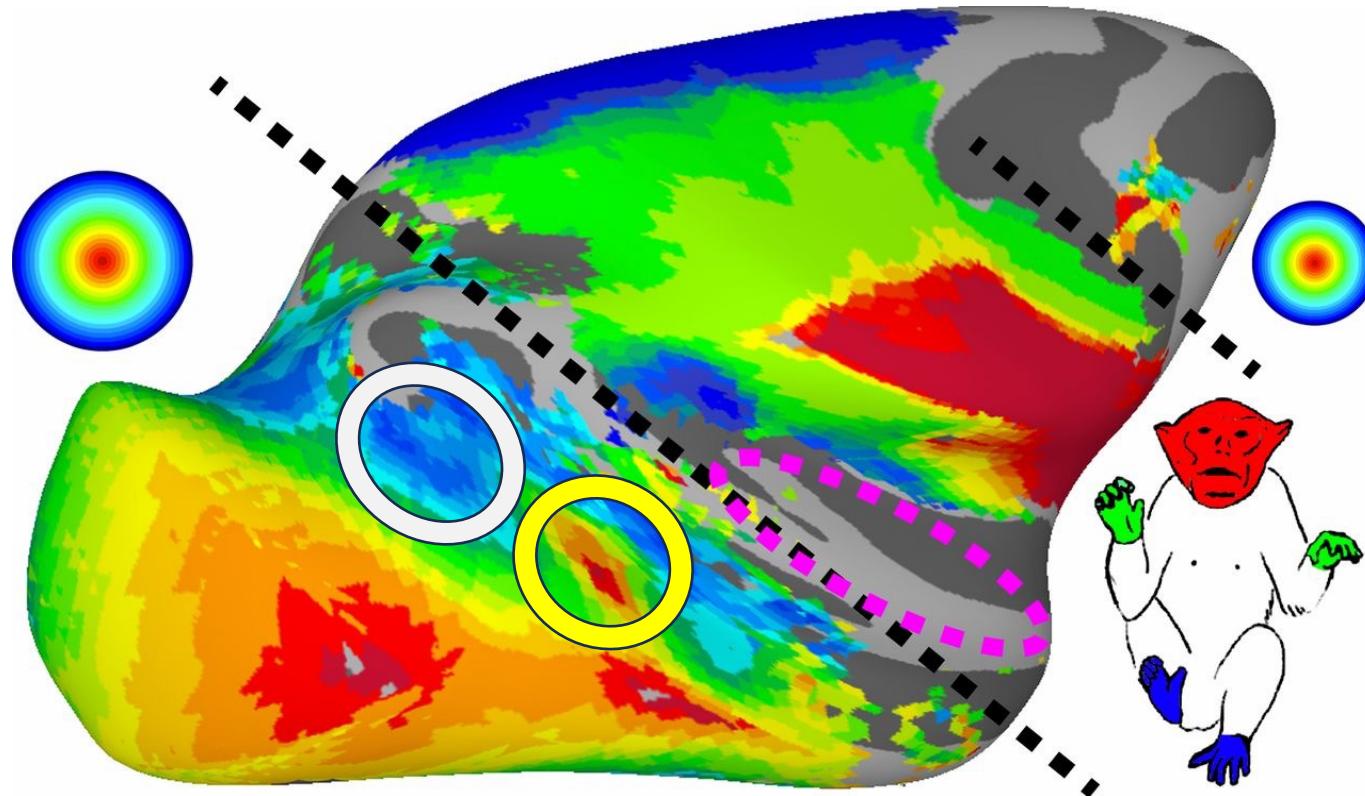


B



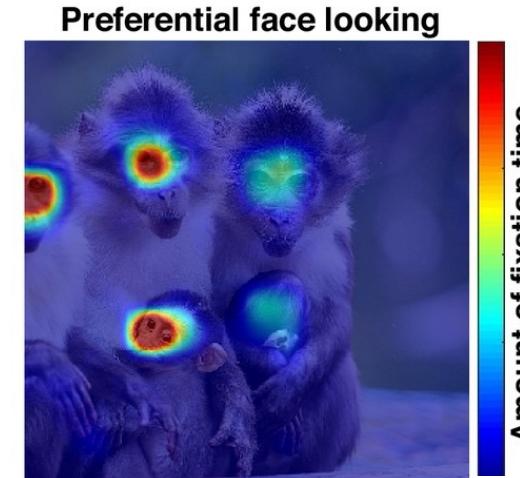
Proto-architecture: topographic maps

somatotopic representations of body surface

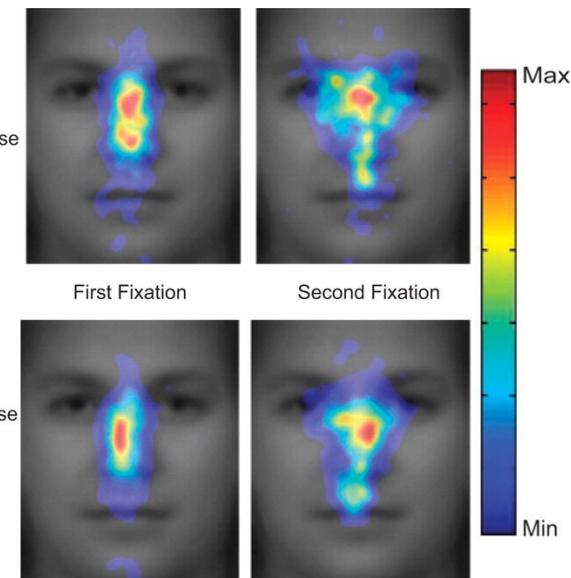


retinotopic representations
of visual space

topographic maps precede category
selectivity during development!



Observer:
Macaque

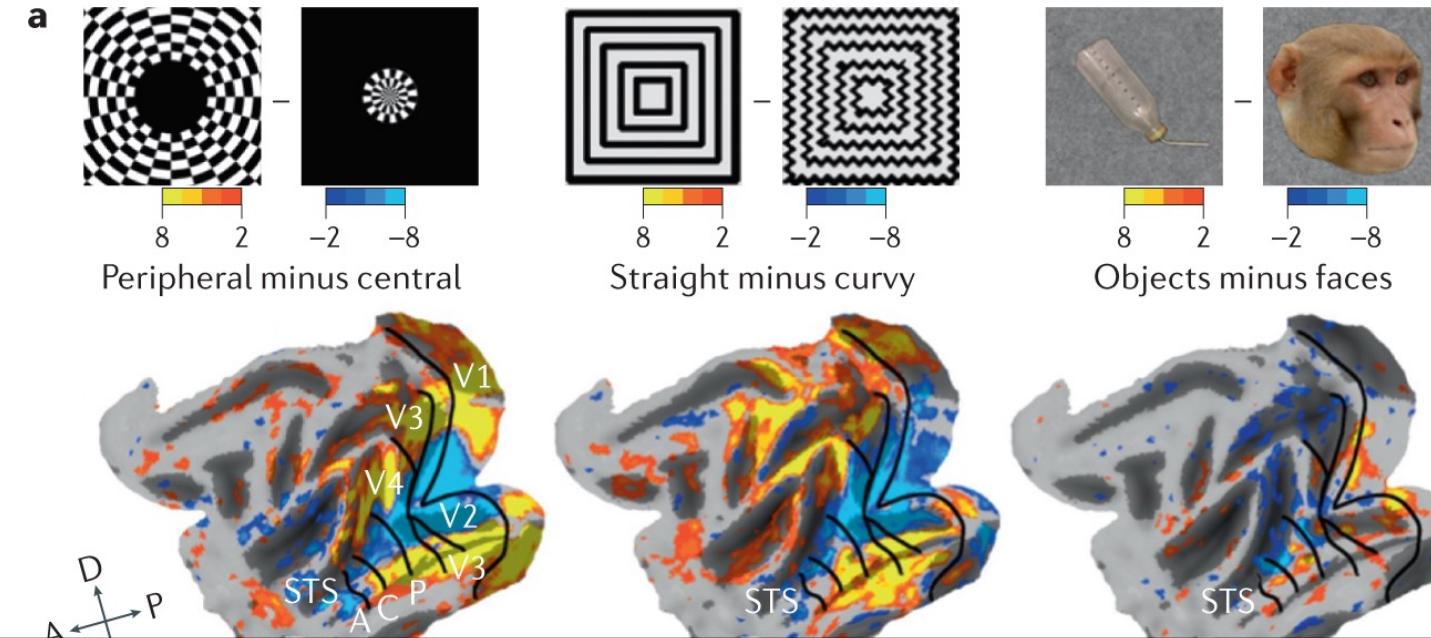


Human

Two fixation suffice in face recognition
(Hsiao & Cottrell, 2008)

Macaque brain

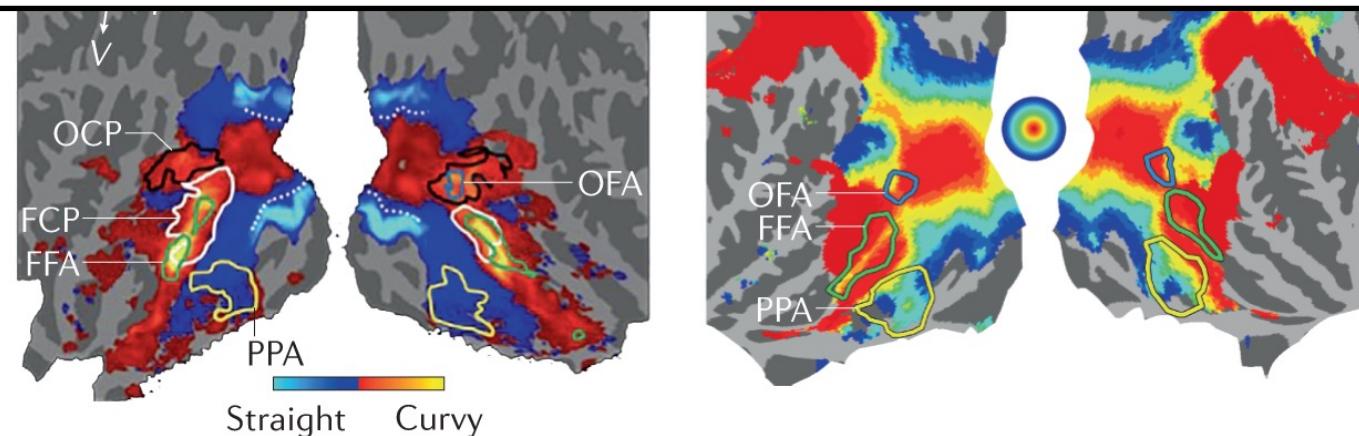
blue regions prefer CVF,
curvature, and faces



A fine-scale architecture is embedded in a large-scale architecture. Category selectivity cannot be the driving force for curvature or retinotopy, it should be the reverse.

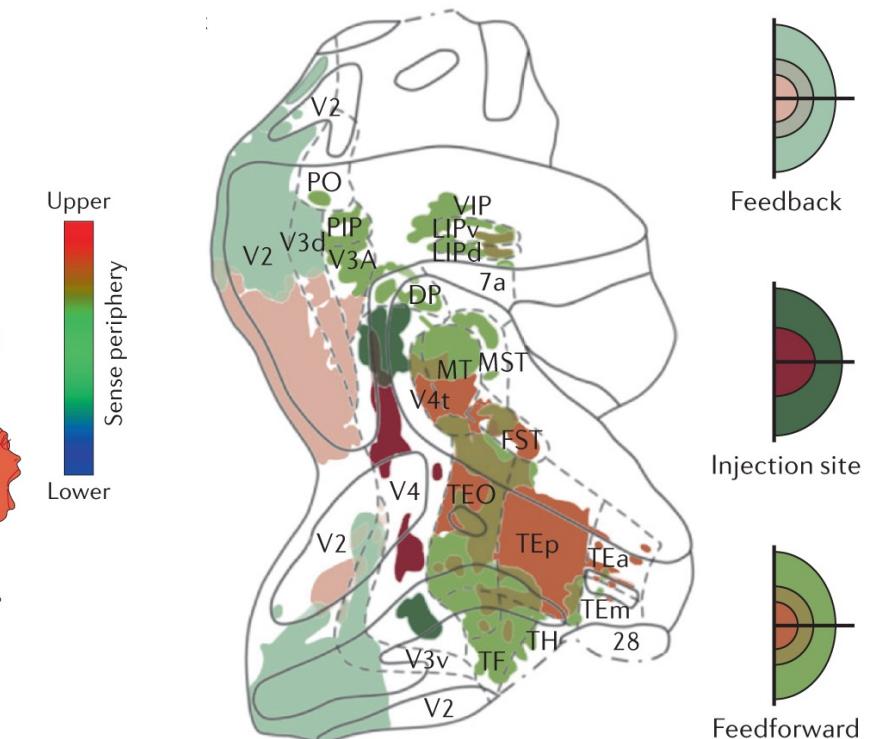
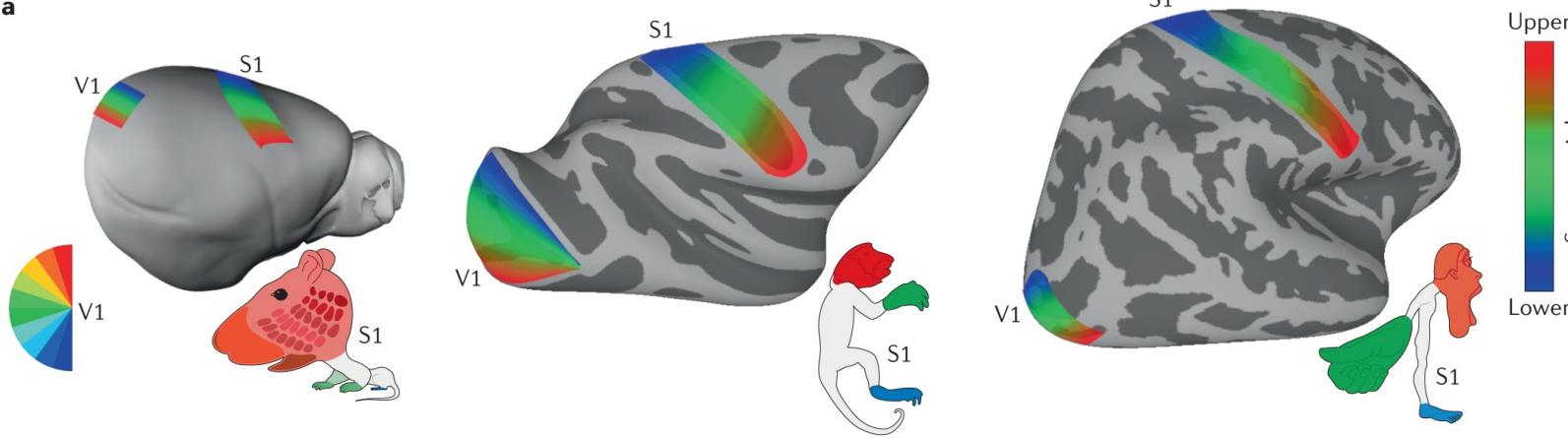
Human brain

red regions prefer curvature
and CVF

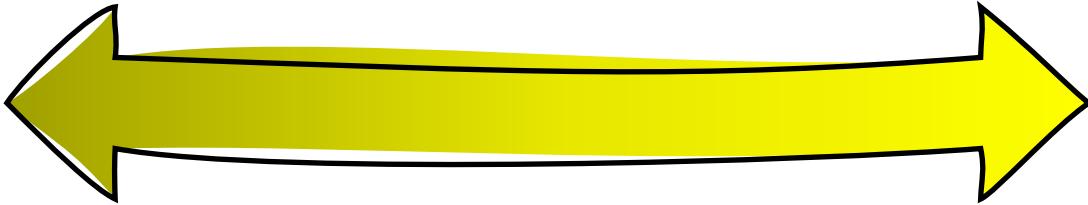


Congruence between sensory maps

a



“top-down model”
Innatist



“Bottom-up model”
Experience x domain-general architecture

Our brains evolved specialized circuitry to recognize biologically important object categories

- stereotyped locations in both humans & monkeys
- biologically important object categories (faces, bodies, food, tools, & places)

Specialized domains reflect how we learn to recognize the things we encounter

- a domain for text is evolutionarily implausible
- cortical recycling of a domain that was previously “for” something else

early visual cortex (low-level vision)



higher-order visual cortex (high-level vision)

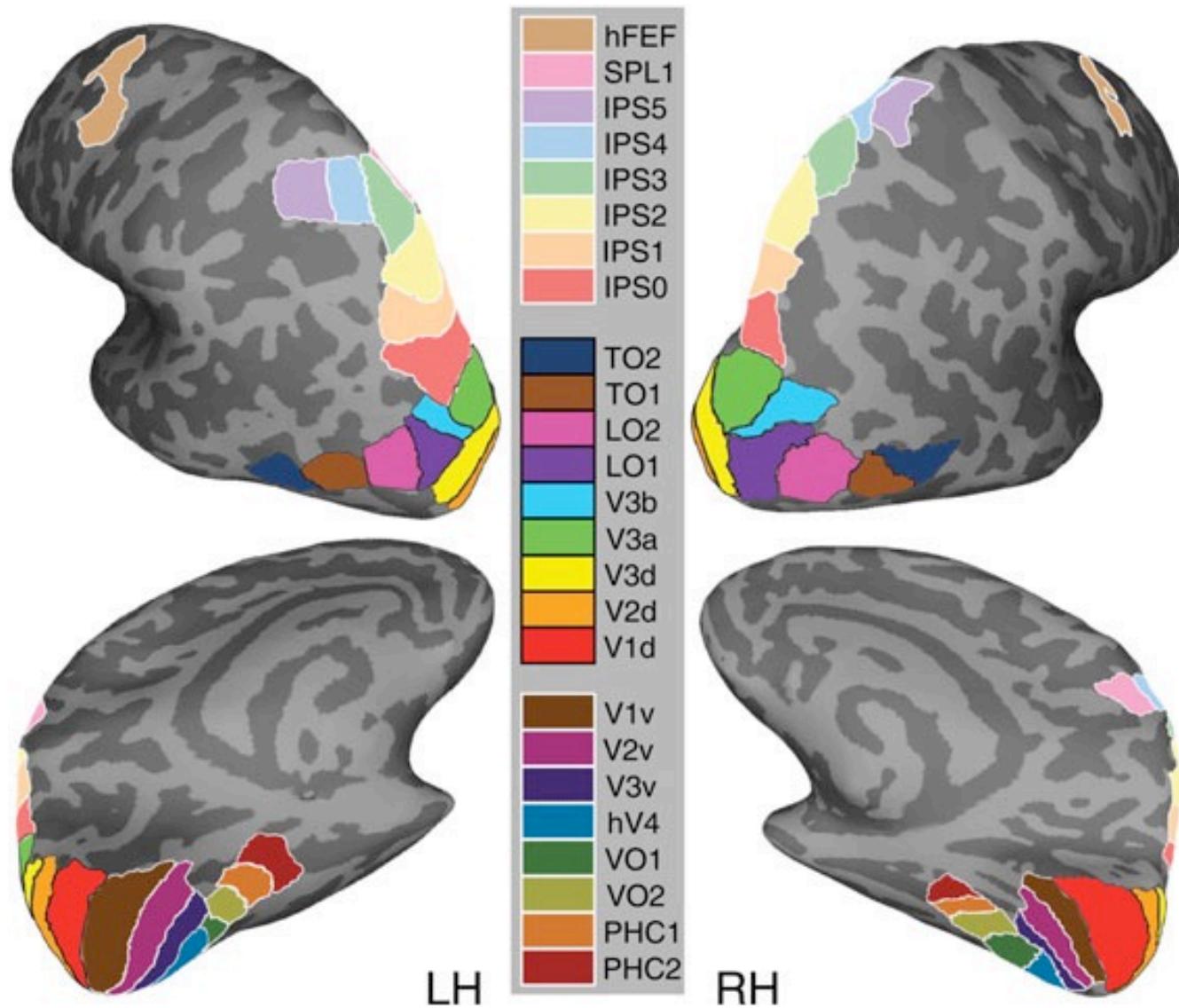
- Organized retinotopically
- V1: orientation selective and contrast & spatial frequency sensitive
- Beyond V1: depth, color, & motion perception

- Visually guided actions (dorsal)
- Object recognition (ventral)
- Face recognition (ventral)
- Scene perception (ventral)



gary larson

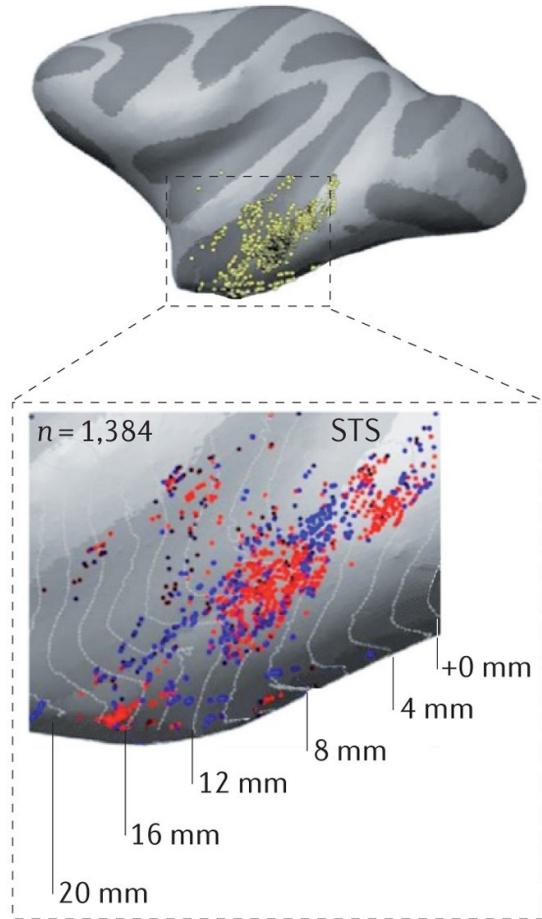
More retinotopic regions



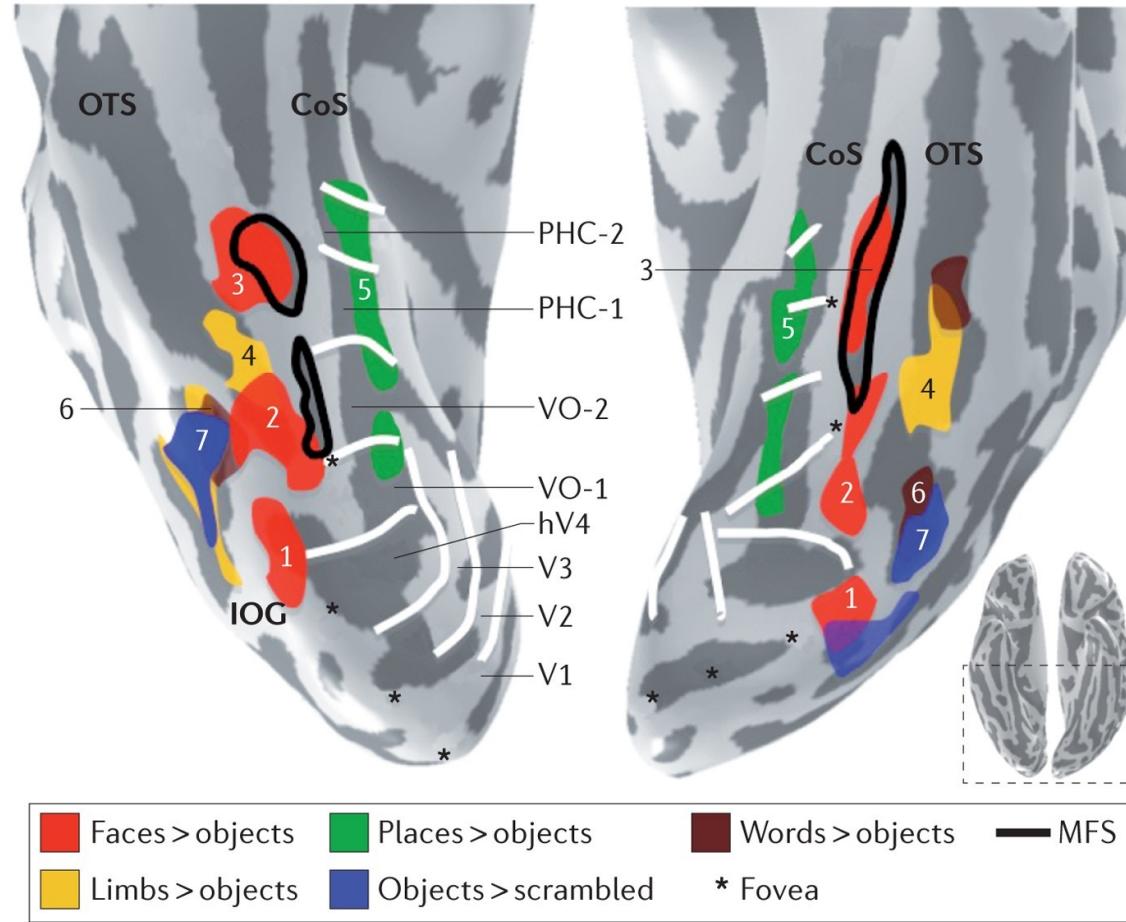
Wang et al., 2015

early visual cortex (low-level vision)

a Neuronal clustering



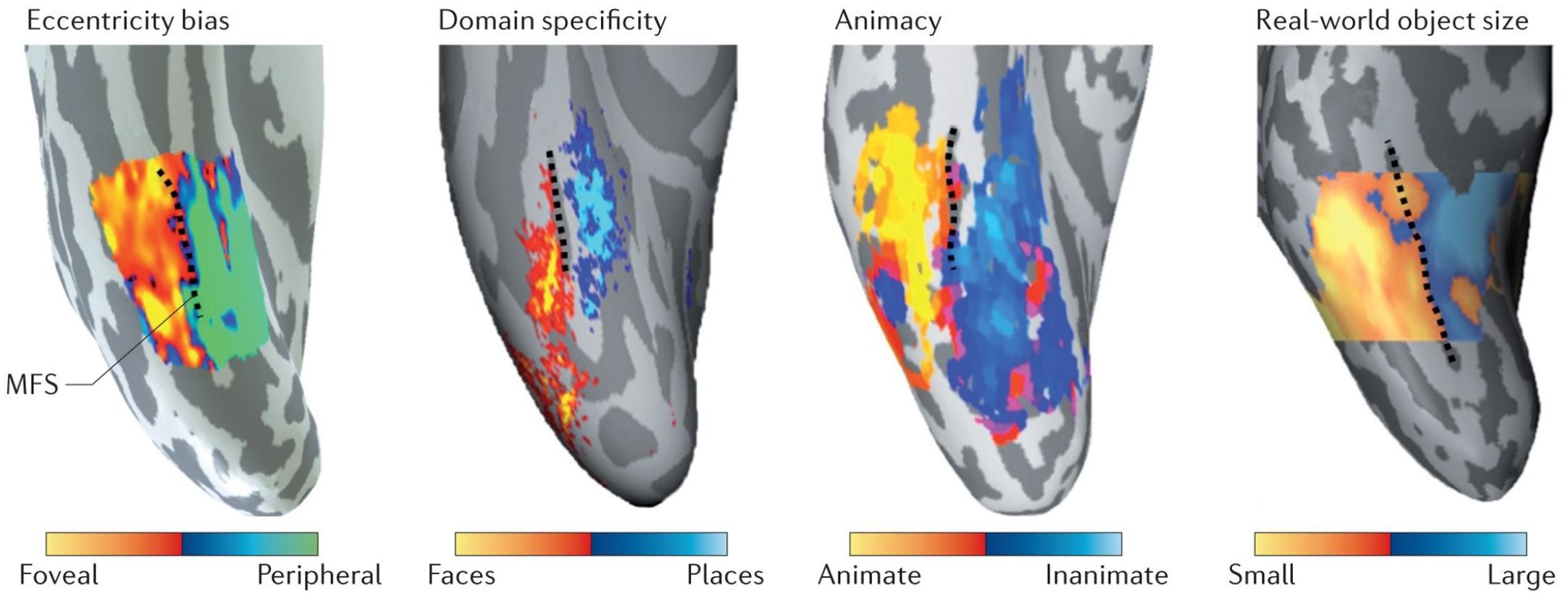
b Topological organization and superimposition



higher-order visual cortex (high-level vision)

Nature Reviews | Neuroscience

Grill-Spector & Weiner (2014)

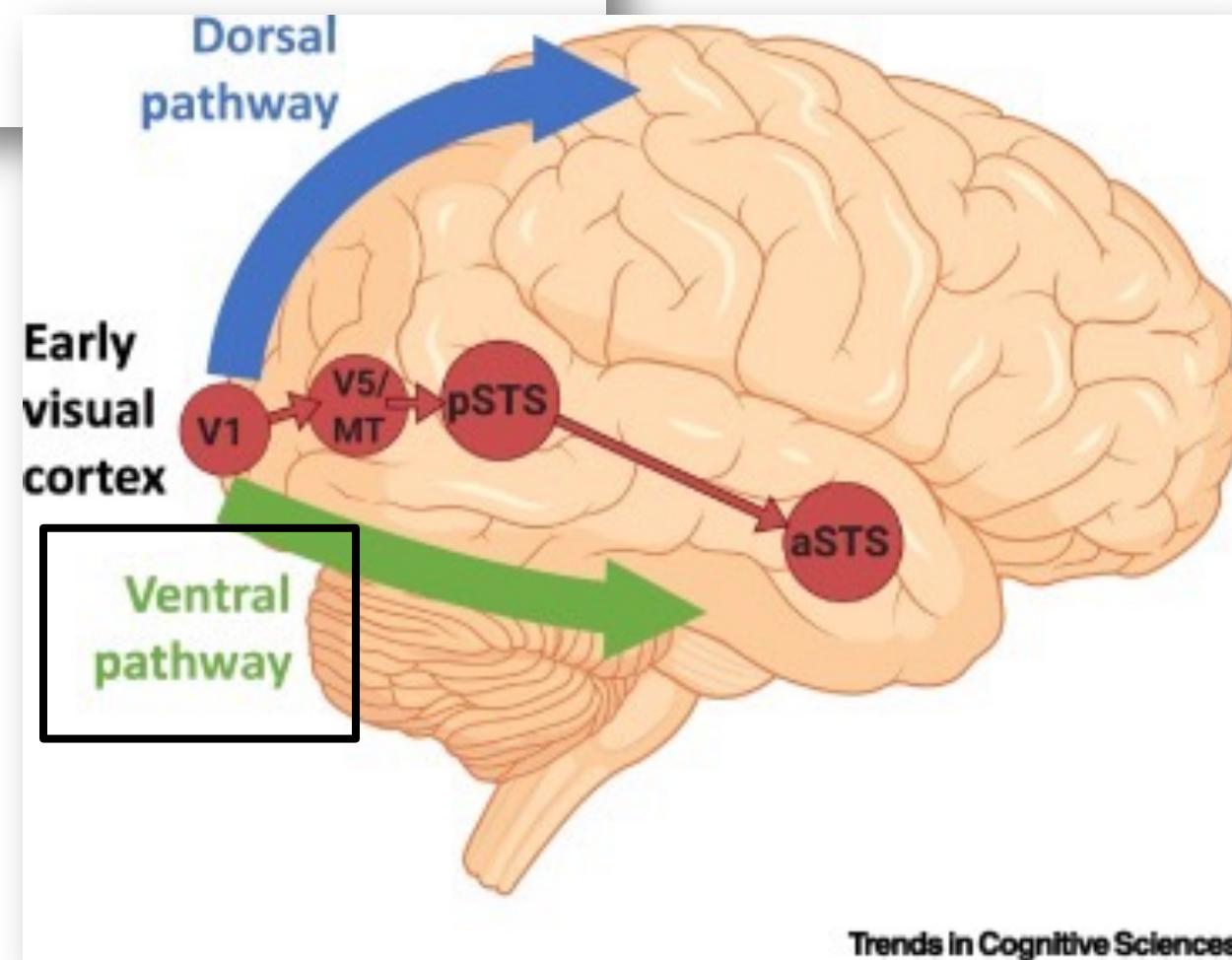


What's new?

Opinion

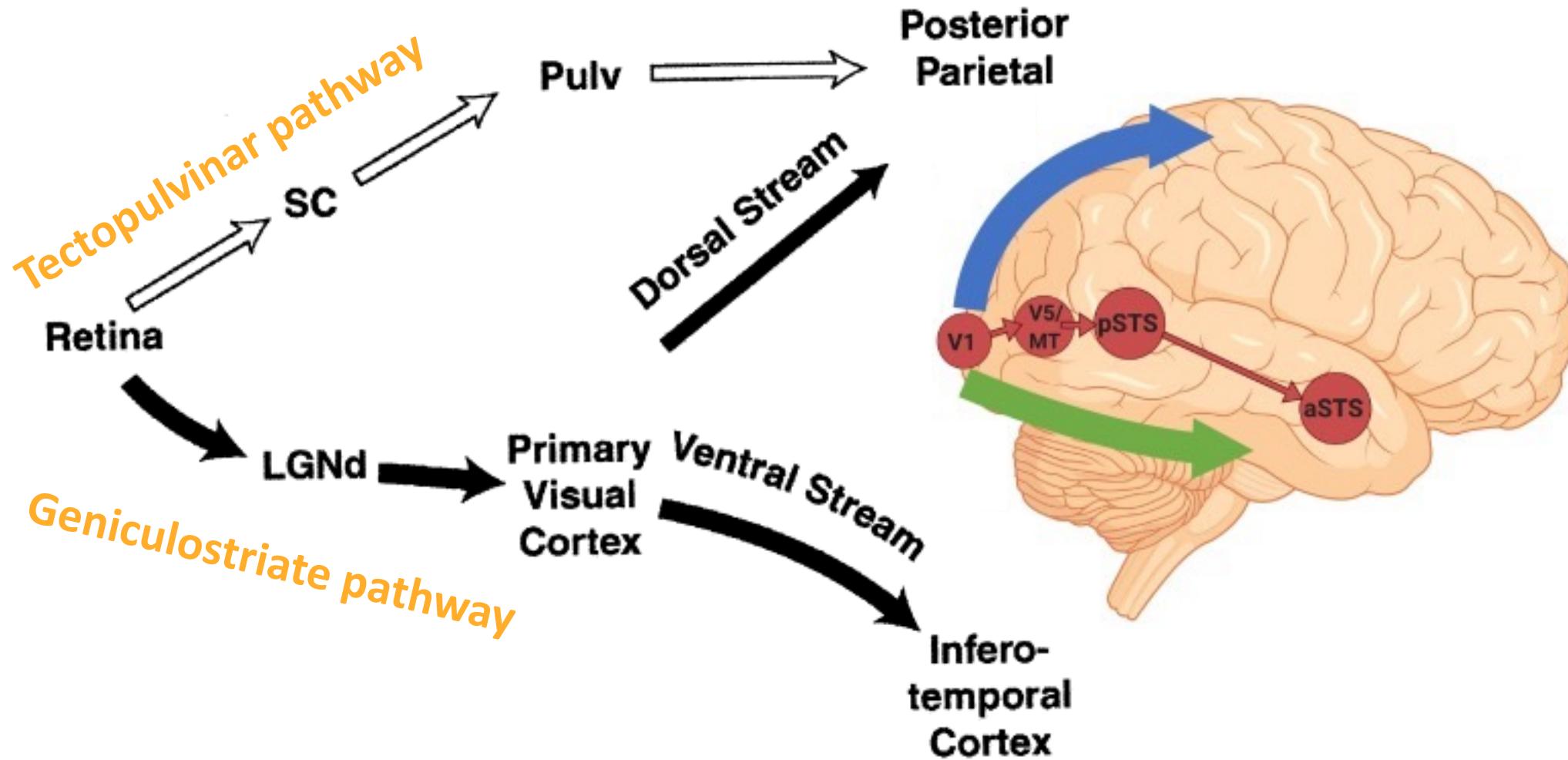
Evidence for a Third Visual Pathway Specialized for Social Perception

David Pitcher^{1,*} and Leslie G. Ungerleider²



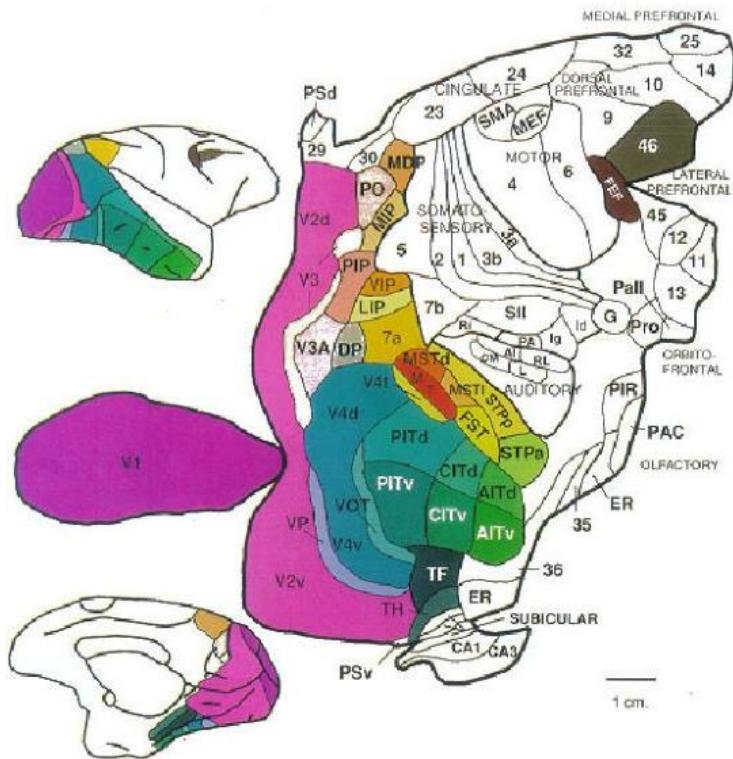
Pitcher & Ungerleider (2021)

Visual Pathways

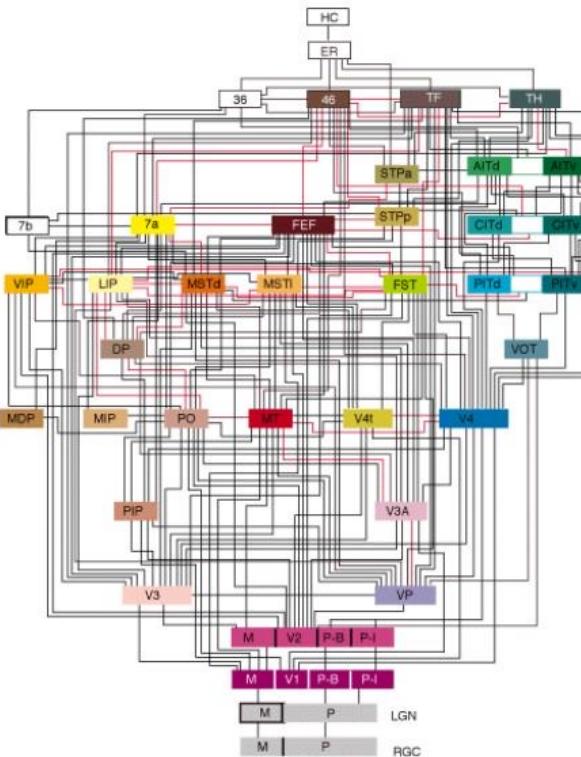


Vision isn't just bottom-up processing

How much of cortex is visual?

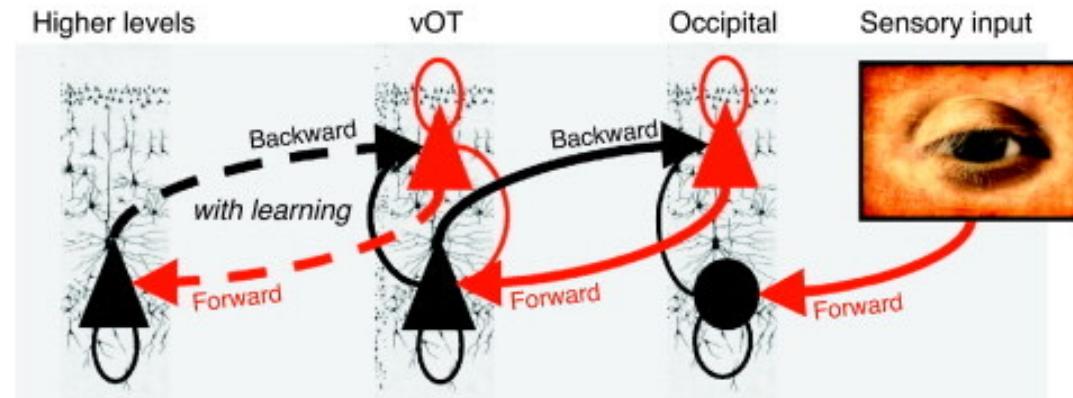


Van Essen flat map
of macaque cortex



"simplified" Felleman &
Van Essen hierarchy

Forward and backward connections to vOT



vOT activation level for 3 stages of learning

