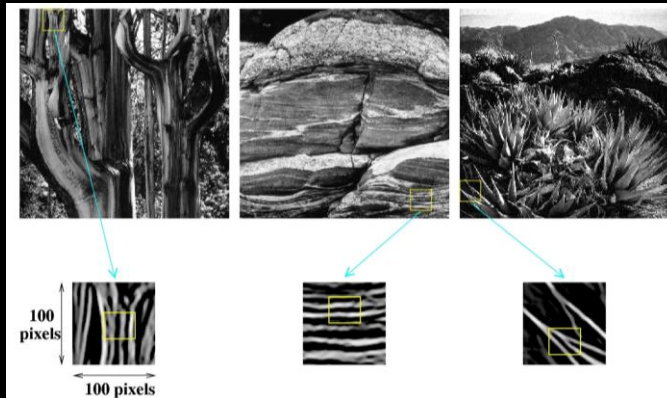


# Sparse Coding and Predictive Coding



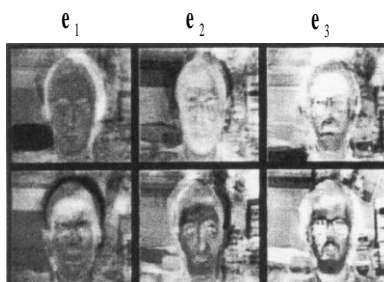
Can we learn a good representation of natural images?  
What does the brain do?

## Eigenvectors strike again?

Input data  $\mathbf{u}$ :  
Face images  
( $N$  pixels total)



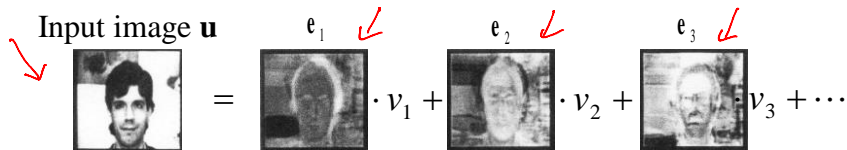
Eigenvectors  
of the Input  
Covariance  
Matrix



“Eigenfaces”

## A Linear Model of Images using Eigenvectors

Input image  $\mathbf{u}$



$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{e}_1 \cdot v_1 + \mathbf{e}_2 \cdot v_2 + \mathbf{e}_3 \cdot v_3 + \dots$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{e}_i v_i$$

Suppose you use only the first M principal eigenvectors:

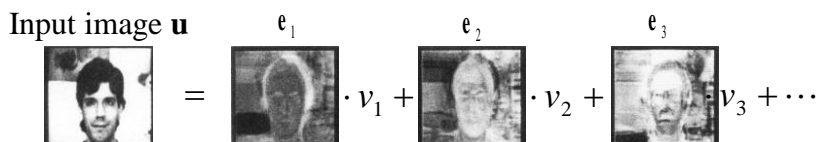
$$\mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^M \mathbf{e}_i v_i + \text{noise} \quad (M < N)$$

*Handwritten notes:  $M=10$ ,  $N=10^6$ ,  $1000 \times 1000$*

3

## Not so fast, Eigenvectors!

Input image  $\mathbf{u}$



$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{e}_1 \cdot v_1 + \mathbf{e}_2 \cdot v_2 + \mathbf{e}_3 \cdot v_3 + \dots$$


$$\mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^M \mathbf{e}_i v_i + \text{noise} \quad (M < N)$$

Eigenvector representation is good for compression but not so good if you want to extract the local components (or parts) of an image (e.g., parts of a face, local edges in a scene, etc.)

4

## A Linear Model for Natural Images

Input image  $\mathbf{u}$



$$= \boxed{?} \cdot v_1 + \boxed{?} \cdot v_2 + \boxed{?} \cdot v_3 + \dots$$

Handwritten annotations:  $\mathbf{g}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{g}_2$ , and  $\mathbf{g}_3$  are circled in red above the boxes. Red arrows point from the  $\mathbf{g}_i$  terms in the equations below to these boxes.

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^M \mathbf{g}_i v_i + \text{noise}$$

(Note:  $M$  can be larger than  $N$ )

$$= \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v} + \text{noise}$$

Handwritten annotations: Red arrows point from the  $\mathbf{G}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in the equation to the definitions below.

$\mathbf{G}$  = matrix whose columns are  $\mathbf{g}_i$   
 $\mathbf{v}$  = vector whose elements are  $v_i$

## Defining the Generative Model: Likelihood

Causes  $\mathbf{v}$  Prior  $p[\mathbf{v}]$

Generative model

Input Data  $\mathbf{u}$  Likelihood  $p[\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{v}; G]$

Linear model:

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v} + \text{noise}$$

Assume *noise* is Gaussian white noise:

$$p[\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{v}; G] = \text{Gaussian}(\mathbf{u}; \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v}, I)$$

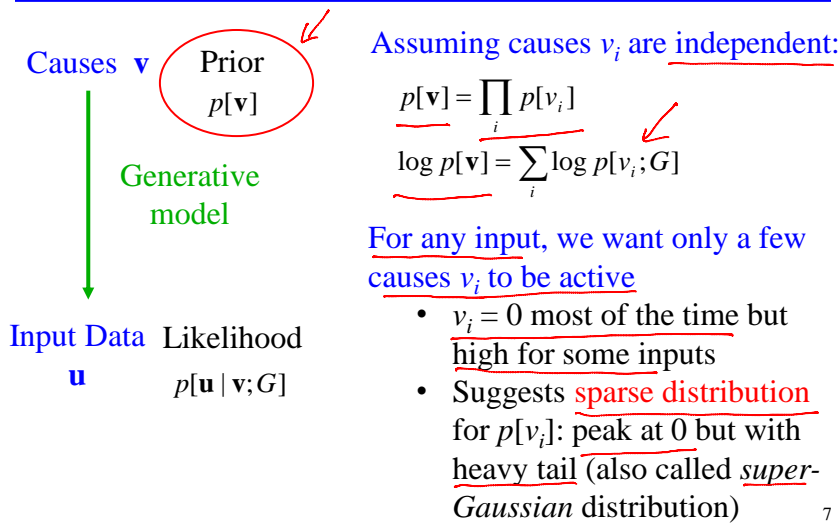
$$\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v}\|^2\right)$$

Log likelihood:

$$\log p[\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{v}; G] = -\frac{1}{2}\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v}\|^2 + C$$

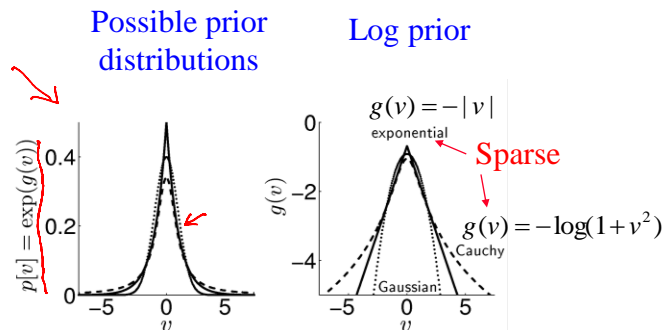
Handwritten annotations: Red arrows point from the Prior, Linear model, and Likelihood labels to their respective equations. Red circles highlight the Likelihood label and the  $\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v}$  term in the log likelihood equation.

## Defining the Generative Model: Prior



7

## Examples of Sparse Prior Distributions



$$\rightarrow p[\mathbf{v}] = c \cdot \prod_i \exp(g(v_i))$$

$$\rightarrow \log p[\mathbf{v}] = \sum_i g(v_i) + c$$

8

## Bayesian approach to finding $\mathbf{v}$ and learning $G$

- Find  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $G$  that maximize posterior probability of causes:

$$\rightarrow p[\mathbf{v} | \mathbf{u}; G] = k \cdot p[\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{v}; G] p[\mathbf{v}; G]$$

- Equivalently, maximize log posterior:

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow F(\mathbf{v}, G) &= \log p[\mathbf{u} | \mathbf{v}; G] + \log p[\mathbf{v}; G] + \log k \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{u} - G\mathbf{v}\|^2 + \sum_i g(v_i) + K \end{aligned}$$

Alternate between two steps

(similar to EM algorithm):

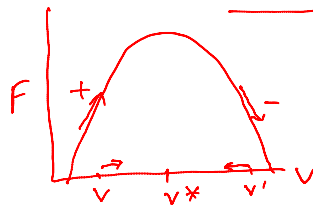
$\rightarrow$  Maximize  $F$  with respect to  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  
keeping  $G$  fixed

How?  $\leftarrow$

$\rightarrow$  Maximize  $F$  with respect to  $G$ ,  
given the  $\mathbf{v}$  from above

How?  $\leftarrow$

Gradient ascent  $\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} \propto \frac{dF}{d\mathbf{v}}$



## Finding $\mathbf{v}$ for a given input

$$\text{Gradient ascent} \quad \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} \propto \frac{dF}{d\mathbf{v}} = G^T (\mathbf{u} - G\mathbf{v}) + g'(\mathbf{v})$$

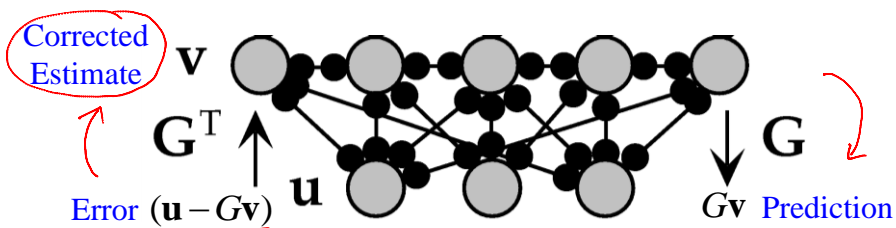
$$\tau \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = G^T (\mathbf{u} - G\mathbf{v}) + g'(\mathbf{v})$$

Reconstruction (prediction) of  $\mathbf{u}$   
Error Sparseness constraint

Firing rate dynamics (Recurrent network)

## Recurrent Network Implementation of Sparse Coding

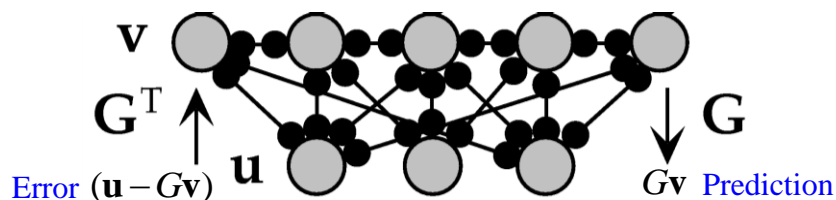
$$\tau \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \mathbf{G}^T (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v}) + g'(\mathbf{v})$$



11

Image Source: Dayan & Abbott textbook

## Learning the Synaptic Weights $\mathbf{G}$



Gradient ascent

$$\frac{d\mathbf{G}}{dt} \propto \frac{dF}{d\mathbf{G}} = (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v})\mathbf{v}^T$$

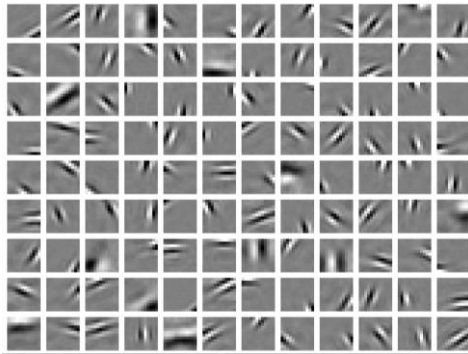
Learning rule

$$\tau_G \frac{d\mathbf{G}}{dt} = (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{G}\mathbf{v})\mathbf{v}^T$$

Hebbian!  
(similar to Oja's rule)

12

## Result: Learning $G$ for Natural Images

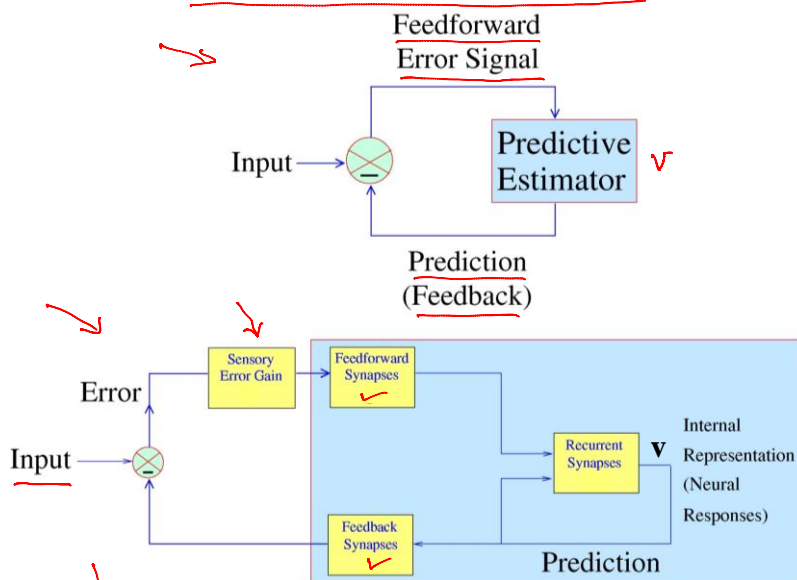


(Olshausen & Field, 1996)

Each square is a column  $\mathbf{g}_i$  of  $\mathbf{G}$  (obtained by collapsing rows of the square into a vector)

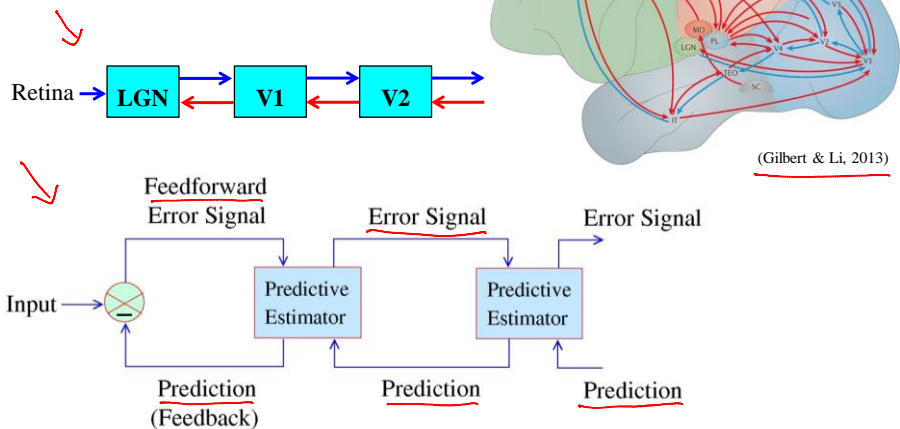
The  $\mathbf{g}_i$  look like local edge or bar features similar to receptive fields in primary visual cortex (V1)

## Sparse Coding Network is a special case of Predictive Coding Networks



See Supplementary Materials: (Rao, *Vision Research*, 1999; Rao & Ballard, *Nature Neurosci.*, 1999)

## Predictive Coding Model of the Visual Cortex



See Supplementary Materials: (Rao & Ballard, *Nature Neurosci.*, 1999)

## Computational Neuroscience

Next Week:  
Neurons as Classifiers and  
Reinforcement Learning