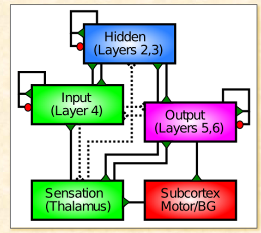
3. Neocortical Dynamics

Functions of Layers

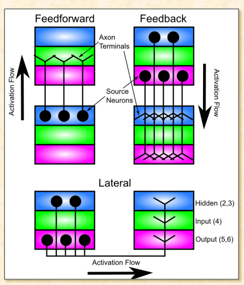
- Input
  - layer 4
  - from sensation or other areas
- Hidden
  - layers 2 & 3
- Output
  - layers 5 & 6
  - to motor systems or other areas



(fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*)

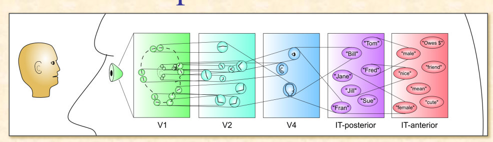
Connection Directions

- Feedforward
  - from Hidden in lower to Input in higher
- Feedback
  - from Hidden & Output in higher to Hidden & Output in lower
- Lateral
  - from Hidden and Output to all three layers in same area
- Bidirectionality
  - pervasive



(fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*)

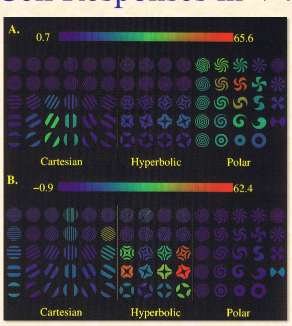
Hierarchical Categorical Representations



- Successive layers of neural detectors
- Progressively more abstract

 (fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*)

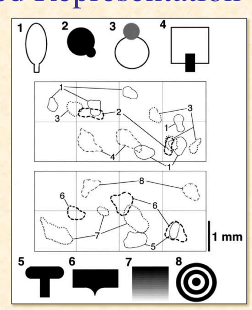
Cell Responses in V4



 (fig. < Clark, *Being There*, 1997)

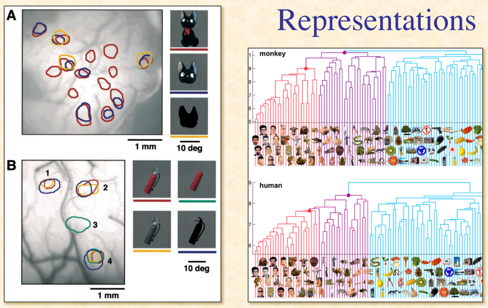
Sparse Distributed Representation

- Localist representation
  - "grandmother cells"
  - unlikely in brain
- K-out-of-N detectors
  - typically 15–25% of neurons active
- Approximate orthogonality



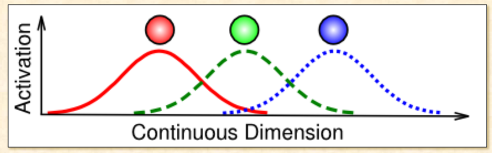
 (fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*, from Tanaka, 2003)

Sparse Distributed Representations



4/1/15 (figs. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*, from Tanaka 2003 and Kriegeskorte et al. 2008) 7

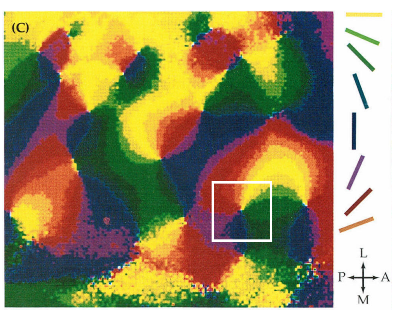
Coarse Coding



- Broadly-tuned receptive fields
- Population-coding of precise values
- Common throughout sensory and motor areas

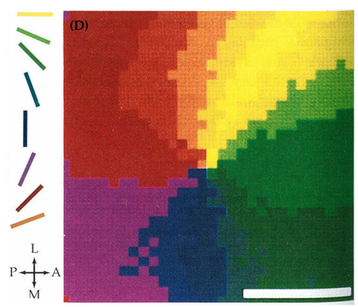
4/1/15 (fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*) 8

Orientation Columns



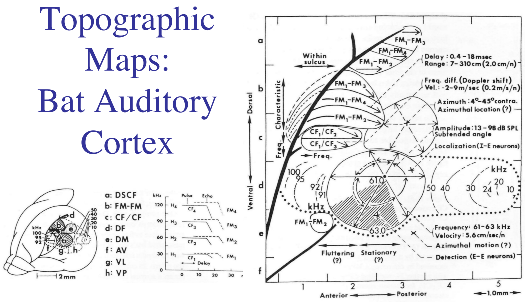
4/1/15 (fig. < Nicholls & al., *Neur. to Brain*) 9

Orientation Columns



4/1/15 (fig. < Nicholls & al., *Neur. to Brain*) 10

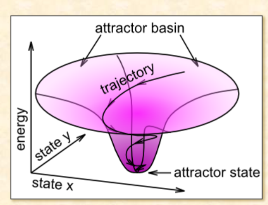
Topographic Maps: Bat Auditory Cortex



4/1/15 (figs. from Suga, 1985) 11

Bidirectional Excitation

- Functions
  - recognition
  - top-down imagery
  - ambiguity resolution
  - pattern completion
- Attractor dynamics
  - convergence on good representation
  - energy vs. harmony



(fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*)

4/1/15 12

Ambiguity Resolution

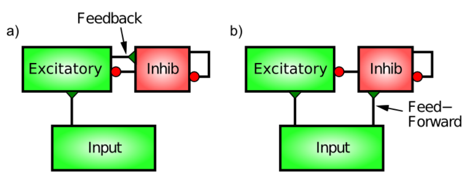
4/1/15 (fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*) 13

Inhibitory Competition and Activity Regulation

- Activity regulation
- Selective attention
- Competition
  - K winners take all
  - can be implemented algorithmically
- Sparse distributed representation

4/1/15 14

Activity Regulation



- Feedback: reactive, reflects actual level of activity, robust, responsive, may be unstable
- Feedforward: anticipatory, limits feedback oscillation, slow, brittle
- Work well together

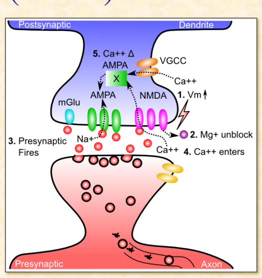
4/1/15 (fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*) 15

4. Learning Mechanisms

4/1/15 16

Spike Timing Dependent Plasticity (STDP)

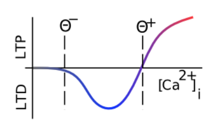
1. V_m elevated by backpropagating action potential
2. Repels Mg^+ opening NMDA channels
3. Presynaptic neuron fires, releasing glutamate
4. Glutamate binds unblocked NMDA channels, allowing Ca^{++} influx
5. Ca^{++} increases number & efficacy of AMPA receptors

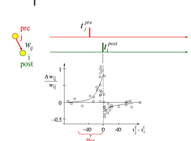


4/1/15 (fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*) 17

Long-term Potentiation (LTP) vs. Long-term Depression (LTD)

- LTP vs. LTD depends on Ca^{++} concentration over several 100 msec
- Records possible causal connection
- Actual situation is more complicated with multiple APs

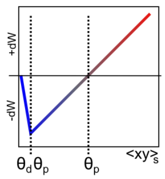




4/1/15 (figs. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*) 18

LTP/LTD Approximation

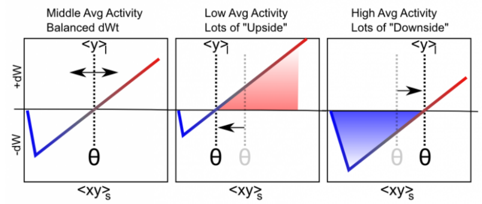
- Piecewise linear approximation to LTP/LTD
- Typical $\theta_\text{d} = 0.1$
- Floating threshold
- $\Delta W = \eta f_\text{XCAL}\left(\langle xy \rangle_\text{s}, x\langle y \rangle_\text{l}\right)$



$$f_\text{XCAL}(c,\theta_\text{p}) = \begin{cases} c - \theta_\text{p} & \text{if } c > \theta_\text{p}\theta_\text{d} \\ -c(1-\theta_\text{p})/\theta_\text{d} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

4/1/15 (fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*) 19

Homeostatic Behavior



- Floating threshold adapts to long-term postsynaptic activity
- Tends to equalize activity among neurons

4/1/15 (fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*) 20

Competitive Learning

- Competitive learning network
  - two layers, randomly initialized weights
  - second is self-reinforcing, mutually inhibitory
  - "winner takes all" dynamics
- Learning
  - winner moves toward last
  - weight vectors move to centers of clusters

4/1/15 21

Self-Organizing Learning

- Inhibitory competition
  - ensures sparse representation
- Hebbian "rich get richer"
  - adjustment toward last pattern matched
- Slow threshold adaptation
  - adjusts receptive fields
  - equalizes cluster probabilities
- Homeostasis
  - distributes activity among neurons
  - more common patterns are more precisely represented
- Gradually develops statistical model of environment

4/1/15 22

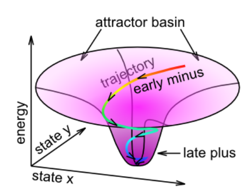
Error-Driven Learning

- For achieving intended outcomes
- Fast threshold adaptation
- Short-term outcome – medium-term expectation
  - ✓ "plus phase" – "minus phase"
- Depends on bidirectional connections
  - ✓ communicates error signals back to earlier layers
- Contrastive Attractor Learning (CAL)
  - ✓ approximately equivalent to BP when combined with bidirectional connections

4/1/15 23

Contrastive Attractor Learning

- Network learns contrast between:
  - early phase/expectation (minus)
  - late phase/outcome (plus)
- Gets more quickly to late phase, which has integrated more constraints



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$$\Delta W = \eta f_\text{XCAL}\left(\langle xy \rangle_\text{s}, x\langle y \rangle_\text{m}\right)$$
$$\approx \eta\left(x_\text{s} y_\text{s} - x_\text{m} y_\text{m}\right)$$

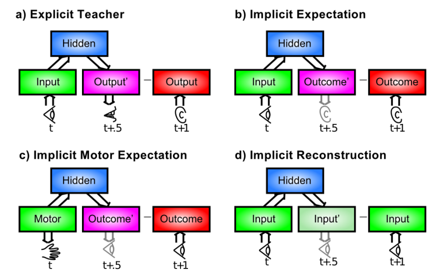
4/1/15 24

Learning Signals?

- What constitutes an "outcome"?
- Dopamine bursts arise from unexpected rewards or punishments (reinforcers)
  - violation of expectation
  - needs correction
- Dopamine modulates synaptic plasticity
  - controls λ: $\Delta W = \eta f_{\mathrm{XCAL}}\left(x_s y_s, x_m\left(\lambda y_l + (1-\lambda) y_m\right)\right)$
- Probably not the whole story

4/1/15 25

Learning Situations



4/1/15 (fig. < O'Reilly, *Comp. Cog. Neurosci.*) 26