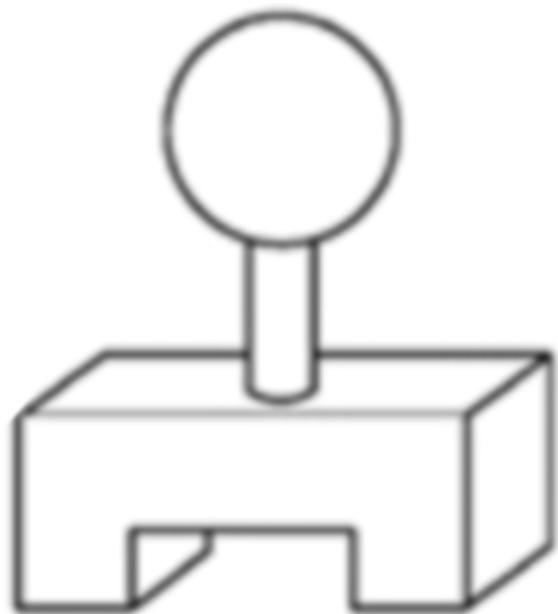


# HOW WE SEE WITH GEOMETRY

Many cheerful facts 😊

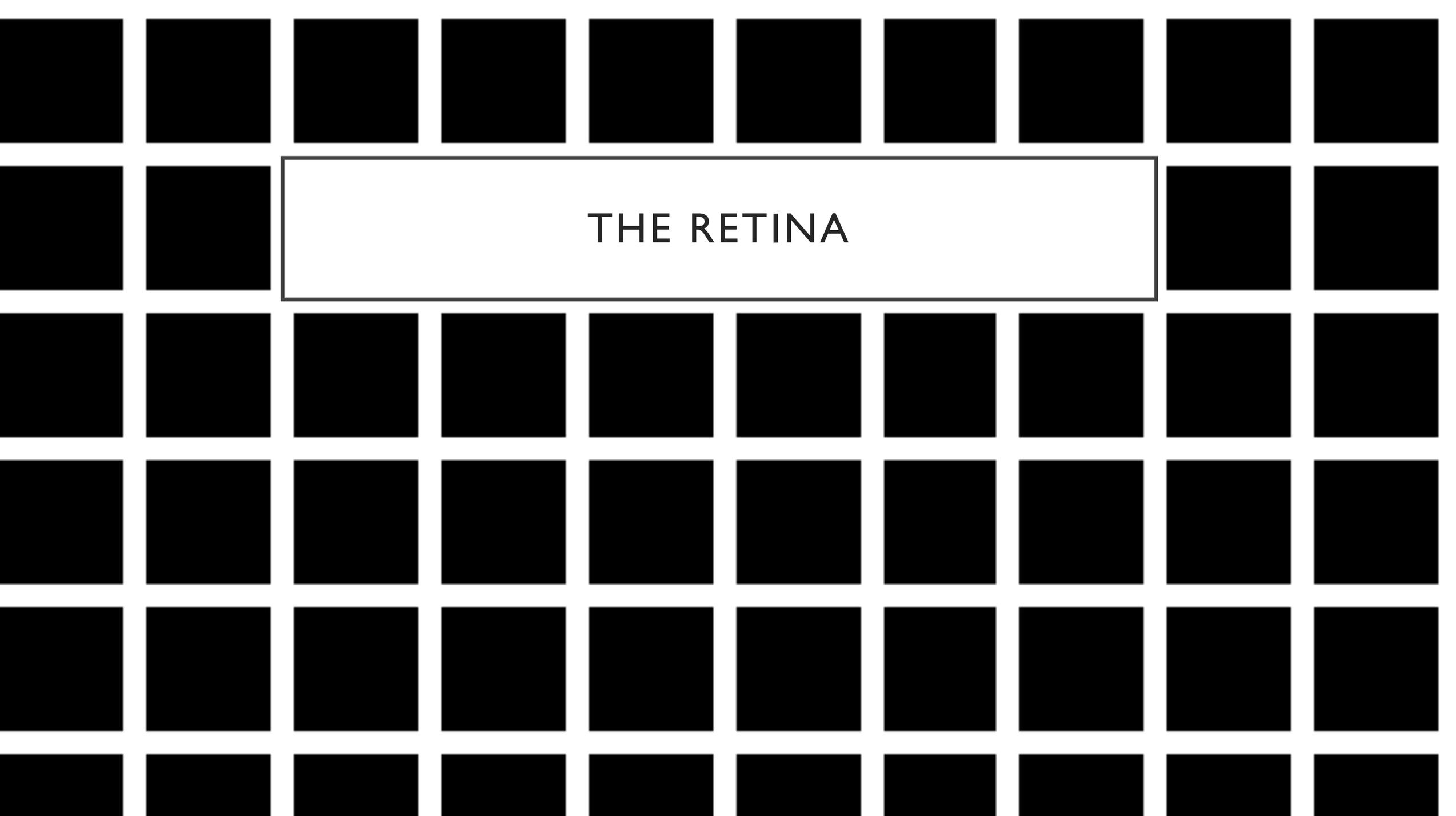
5/12/23

is this:

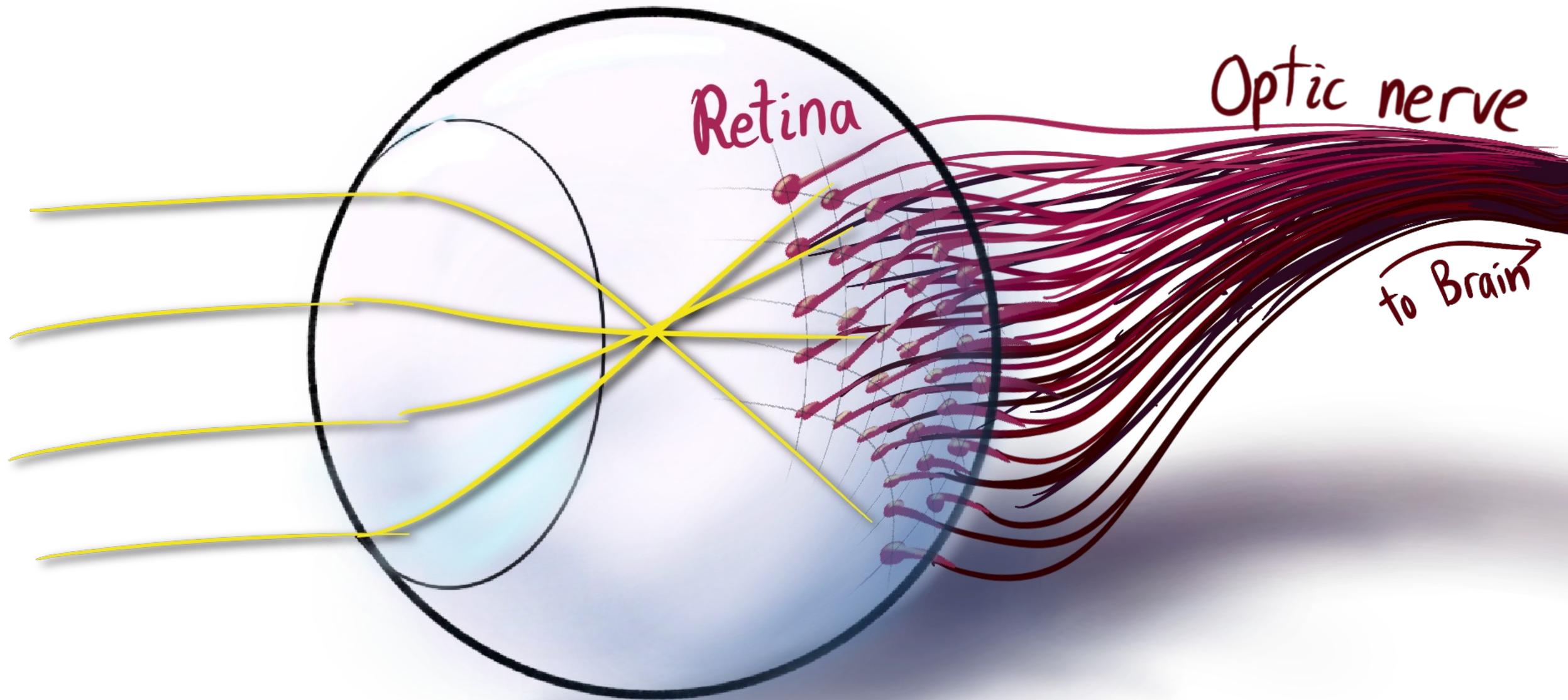


The same as this?

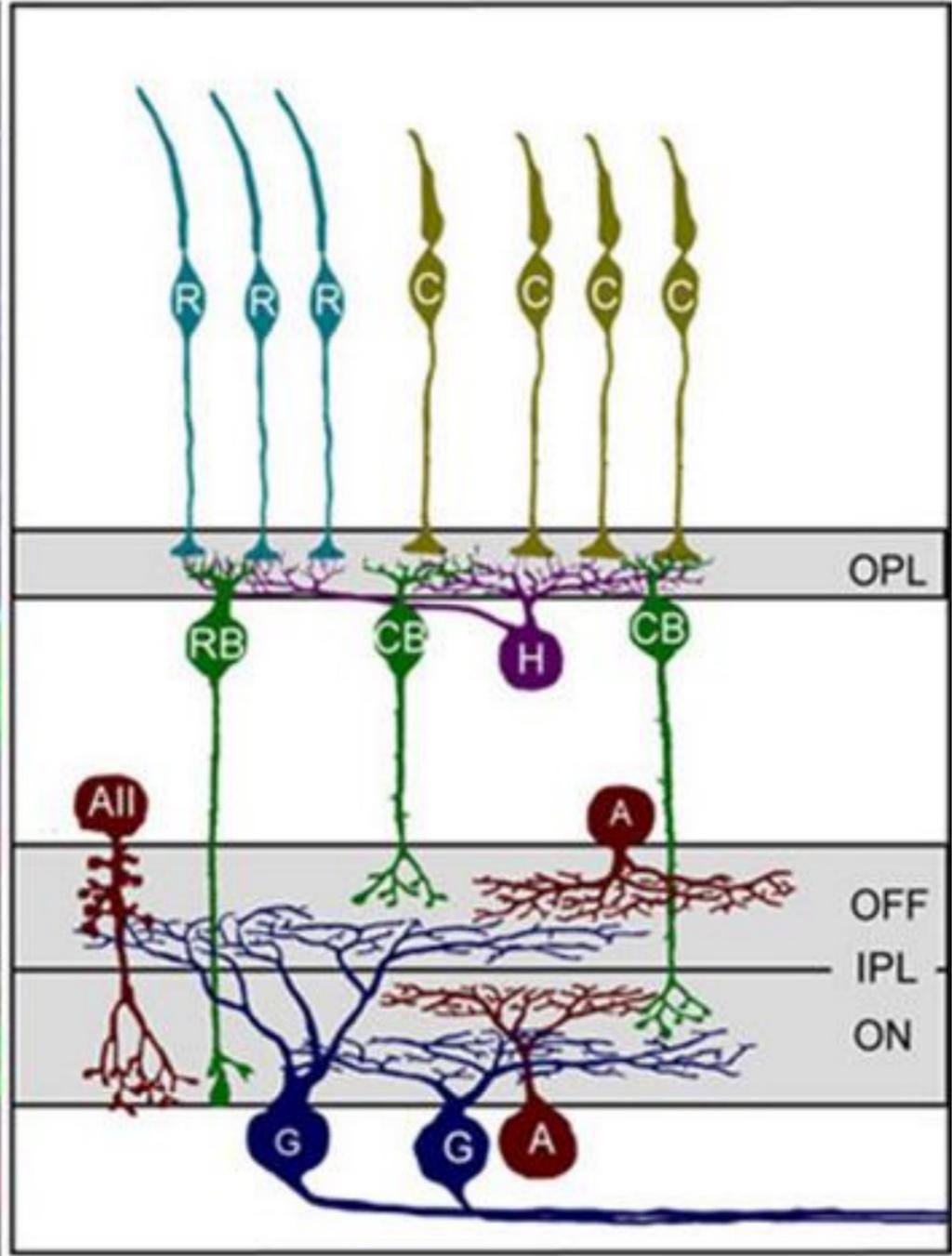


The image features a 10x10 grid of black squares. A white rectangular box is positioned in the second row, spanning from the second column to the eighth column. Inside this white box, the text "THE RETINA" is written in a black, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and vertically.

THE RETINA

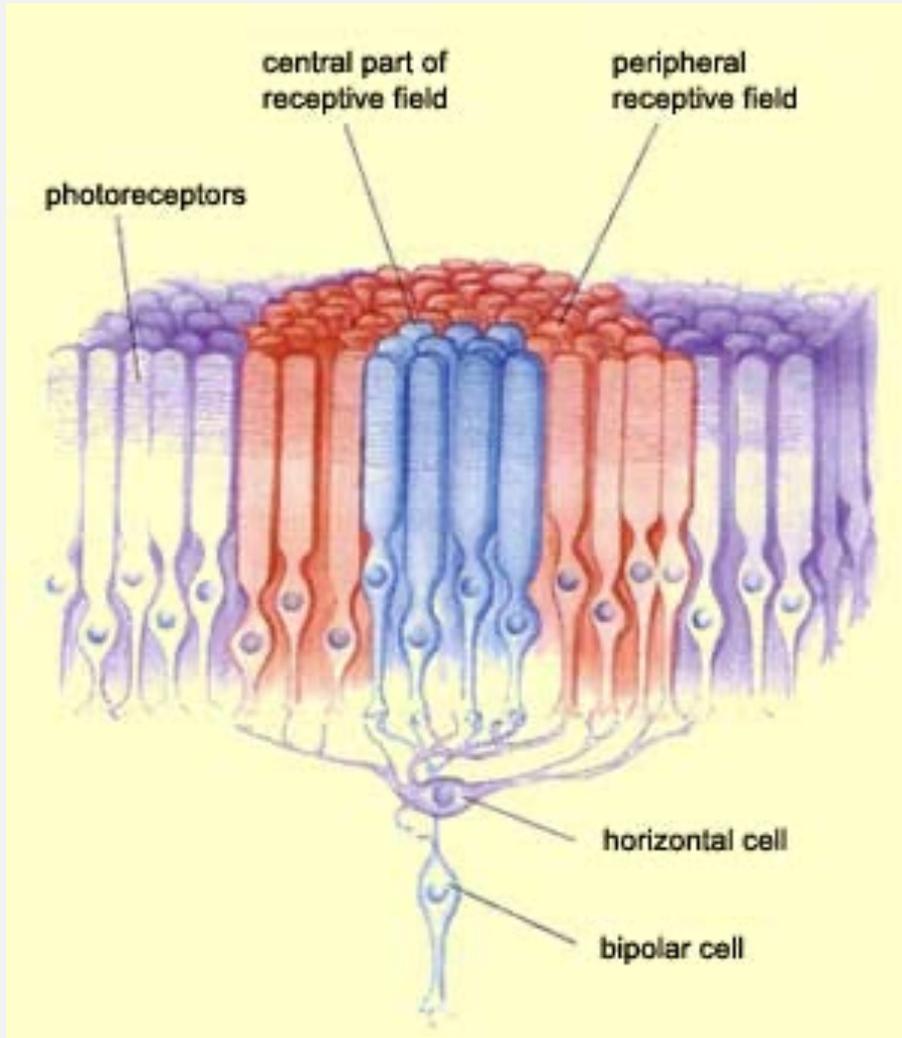


Light capturers

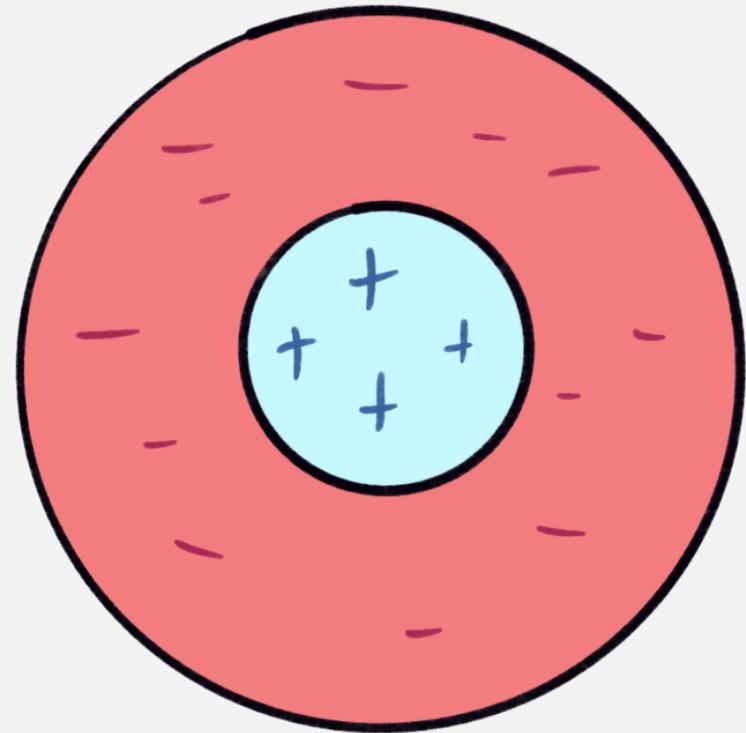


Nerve cells

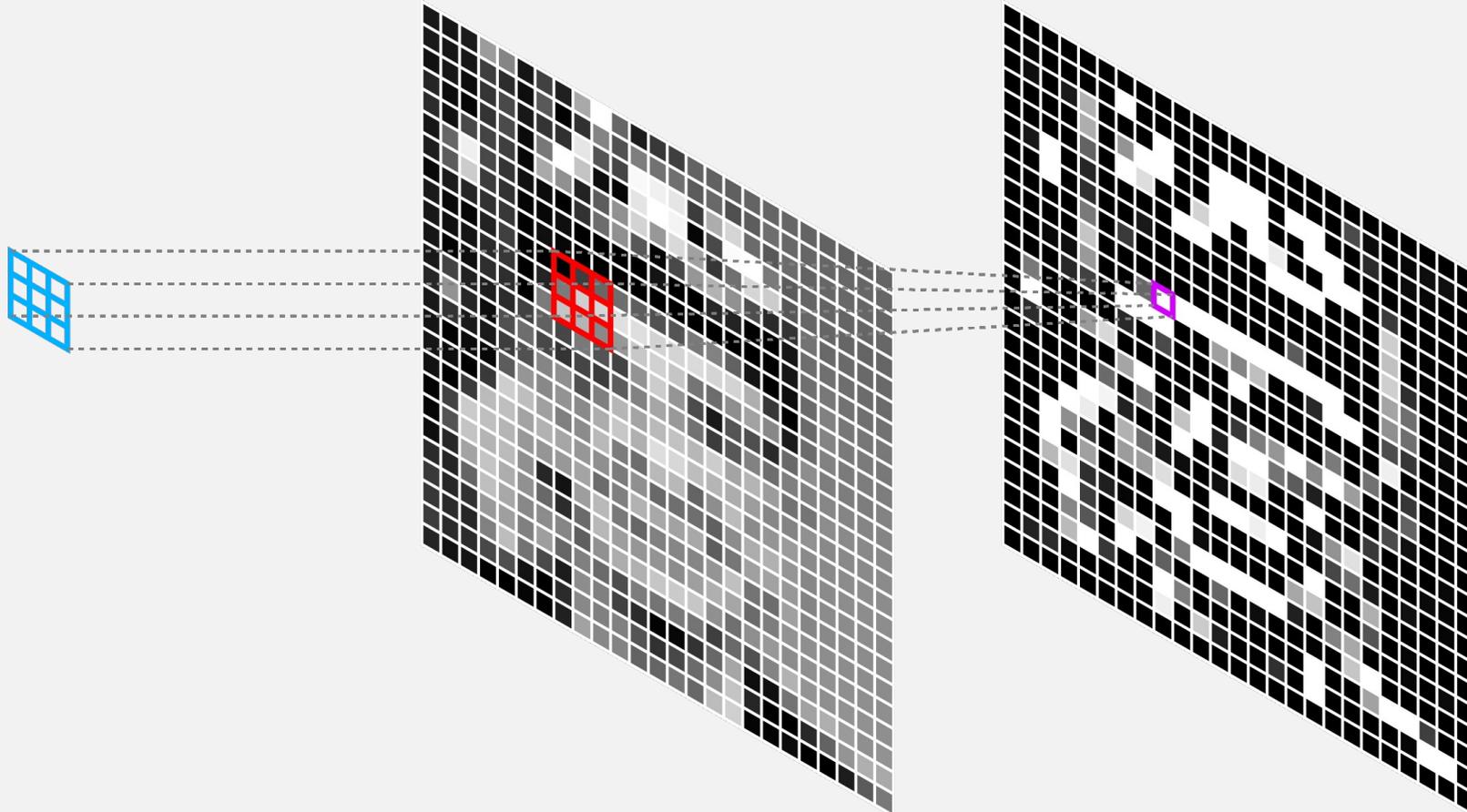
# LATERAL INHIBITION



Response of neuron  
to light



Causes *Sharpening*



-1	-1	-1
-1	8	-1
-1	-1	-1

**Kernel**

45	81	87
194	203	215
164	116	131

**Input**

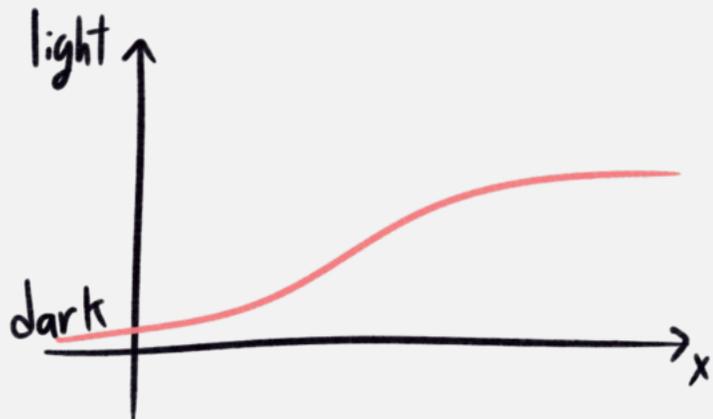
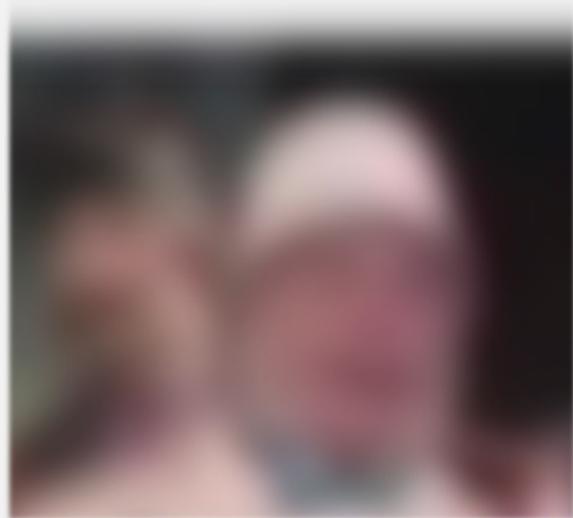
255\*

\* = max(255, 657)

**Output**

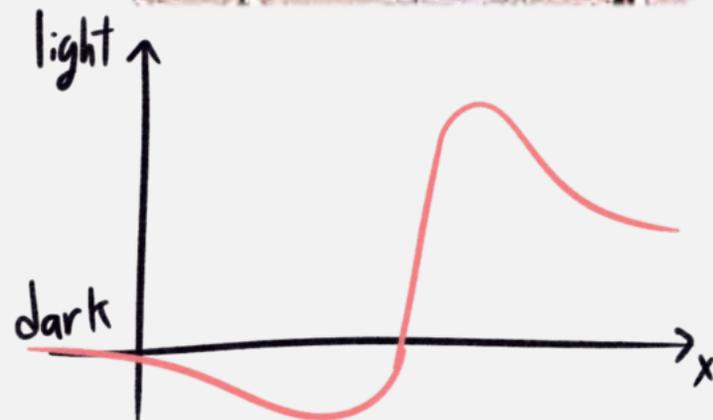
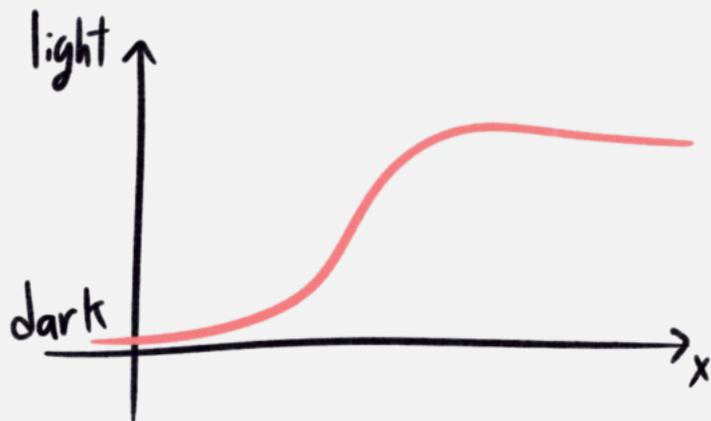
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & .1 & 0 \\ .1 & .6 & .1 \\ 0 & .1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

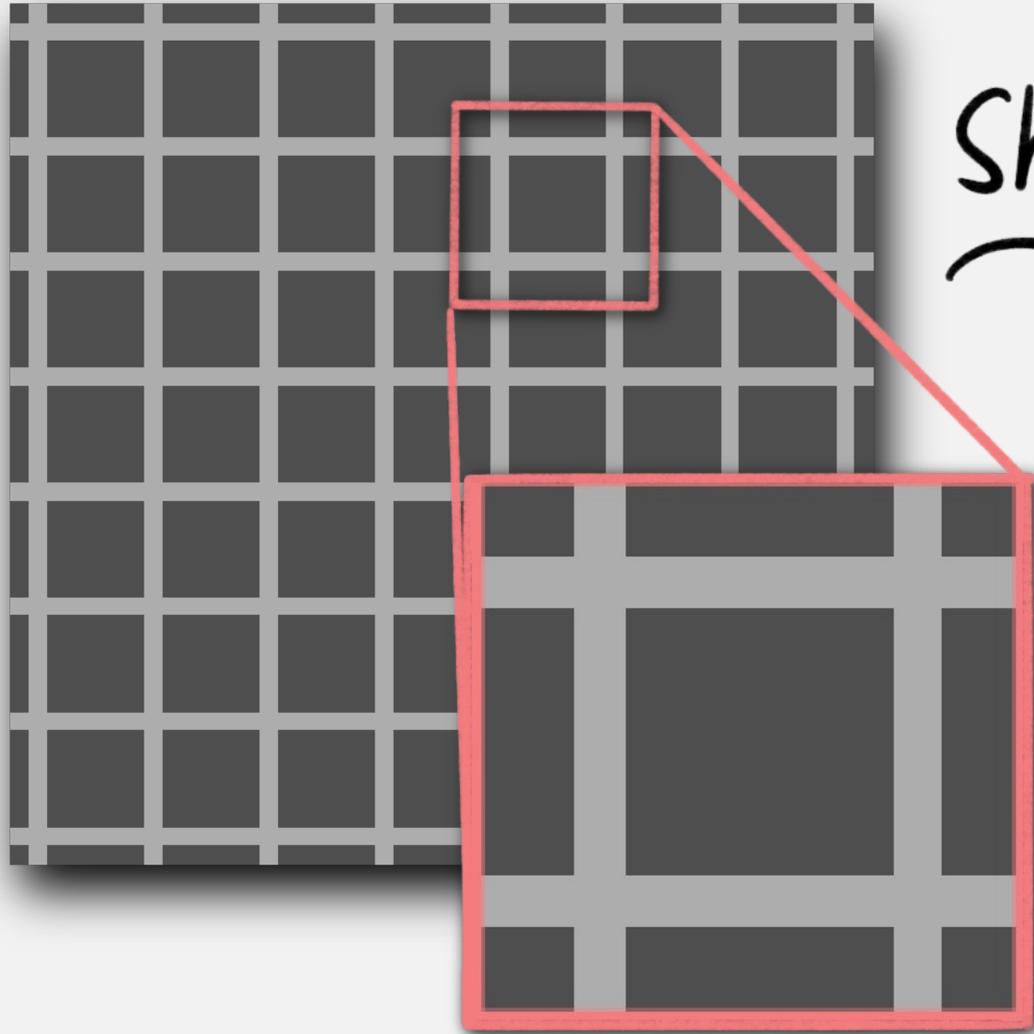
Blur



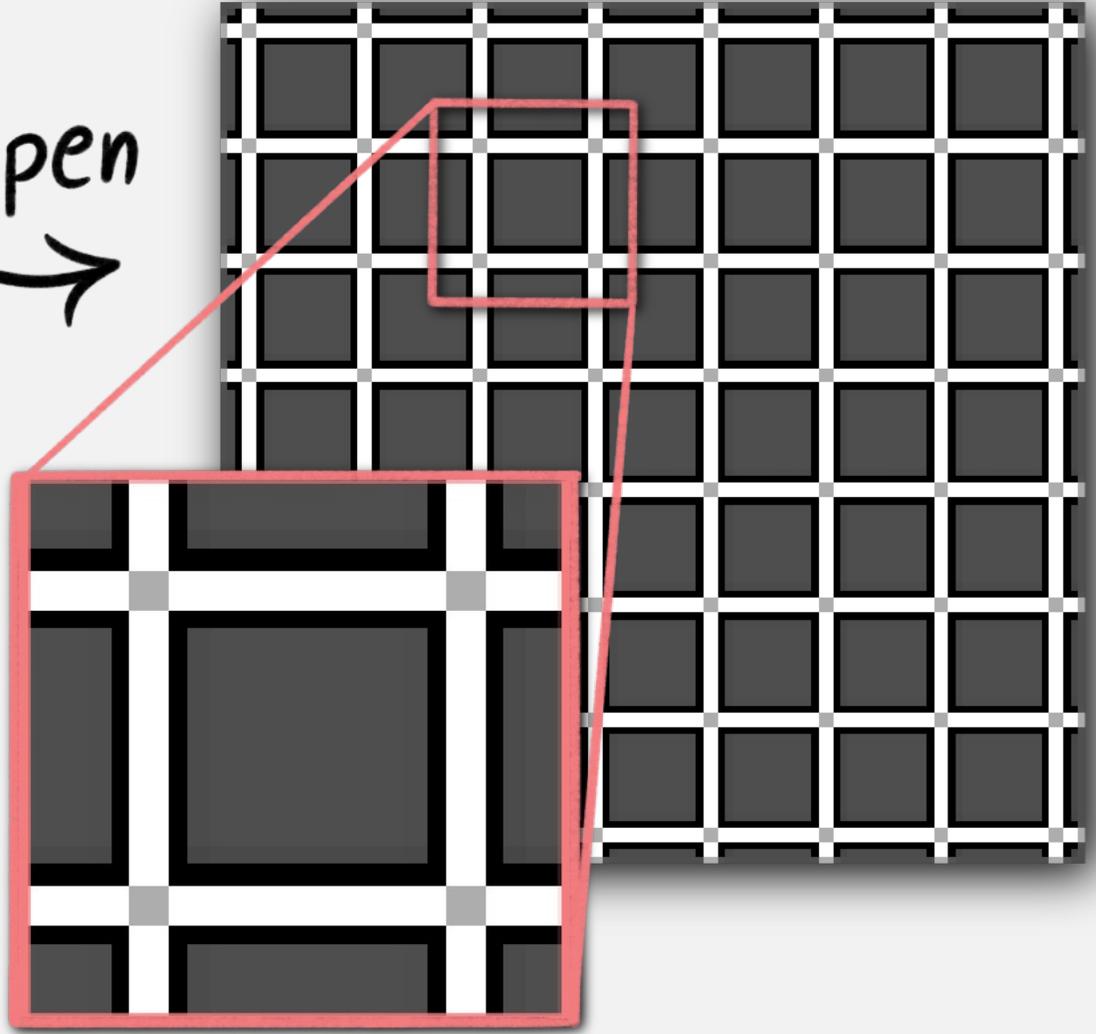
Sharpen

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 5 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

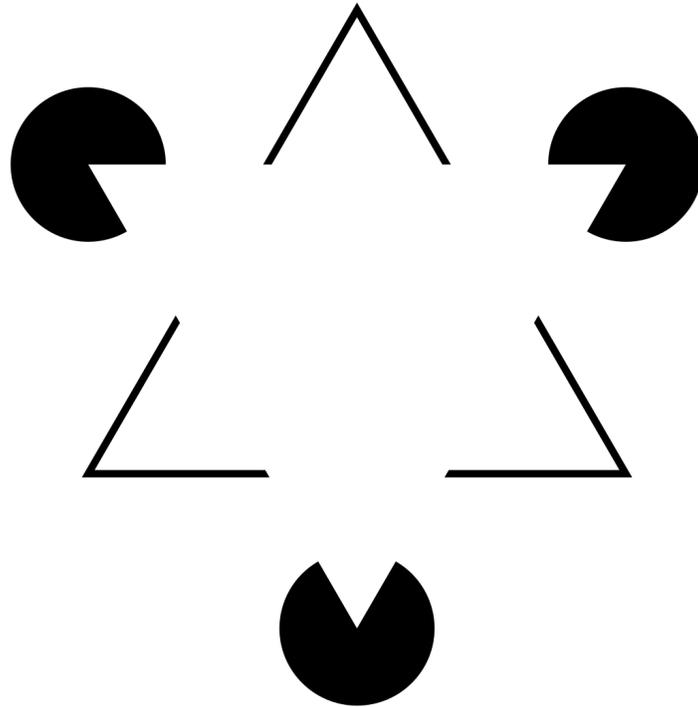


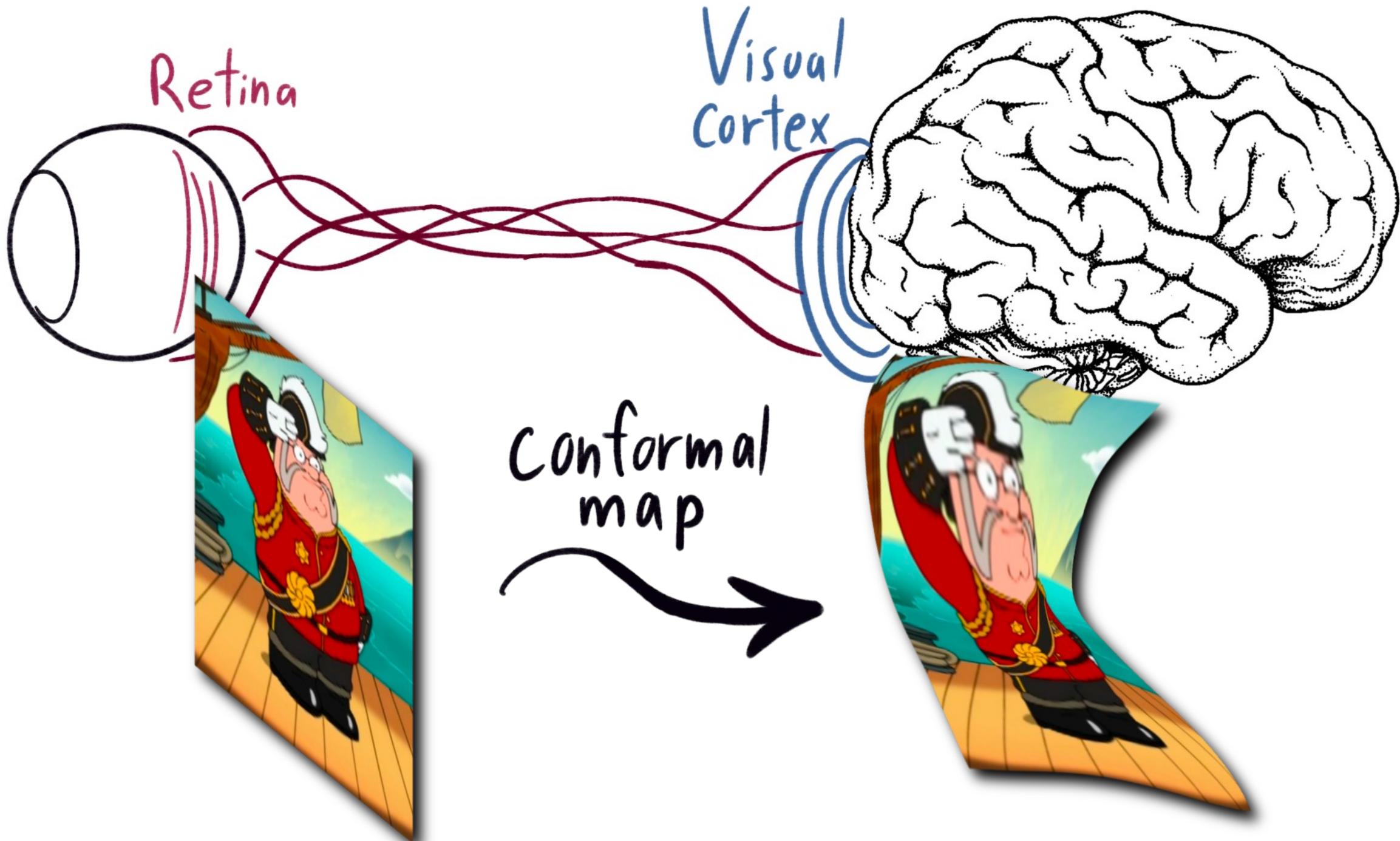


Sharpen  
→



# CONTACT GEOMETRY IN THE VISUAL CORTEX



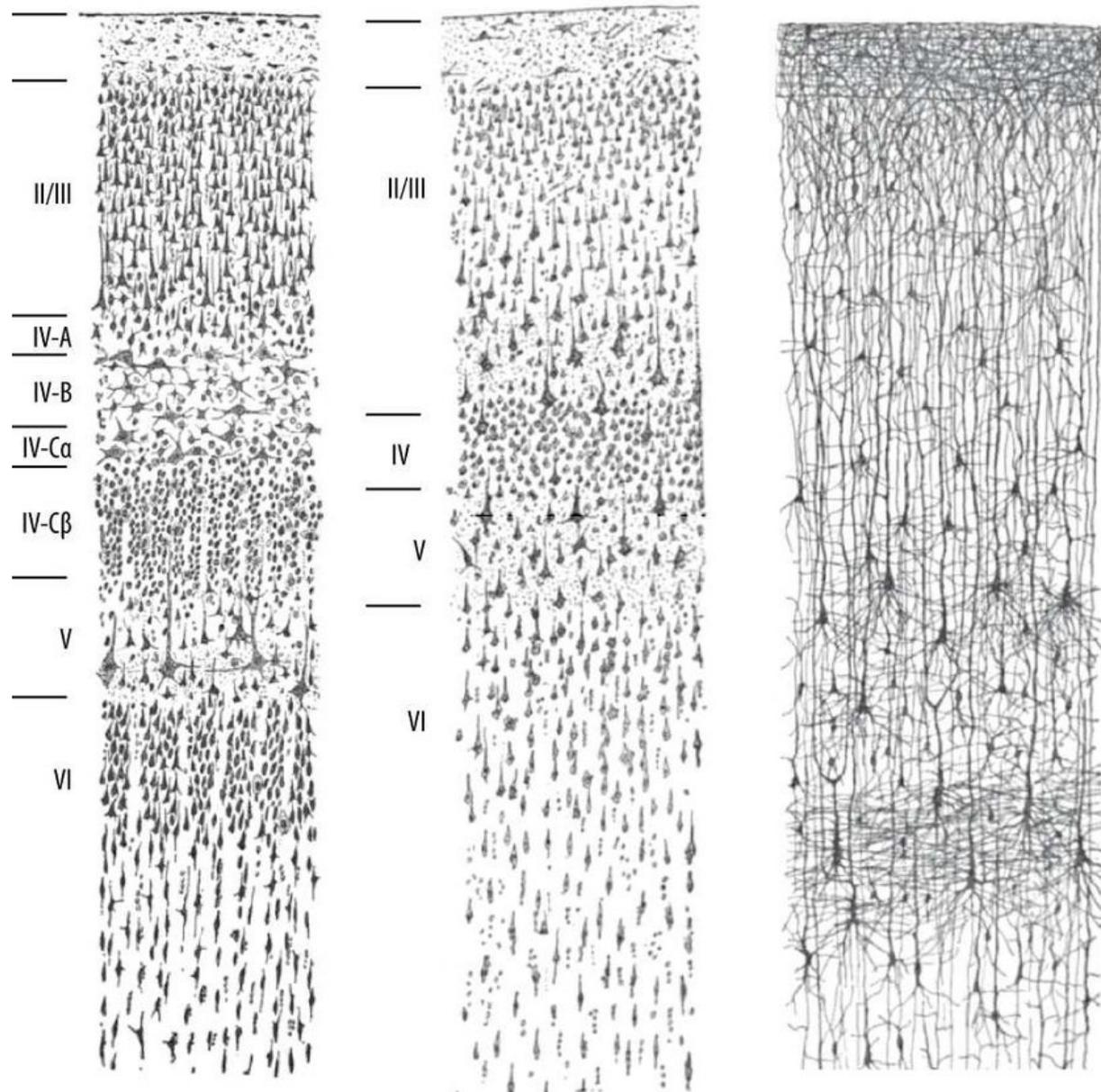


Retina

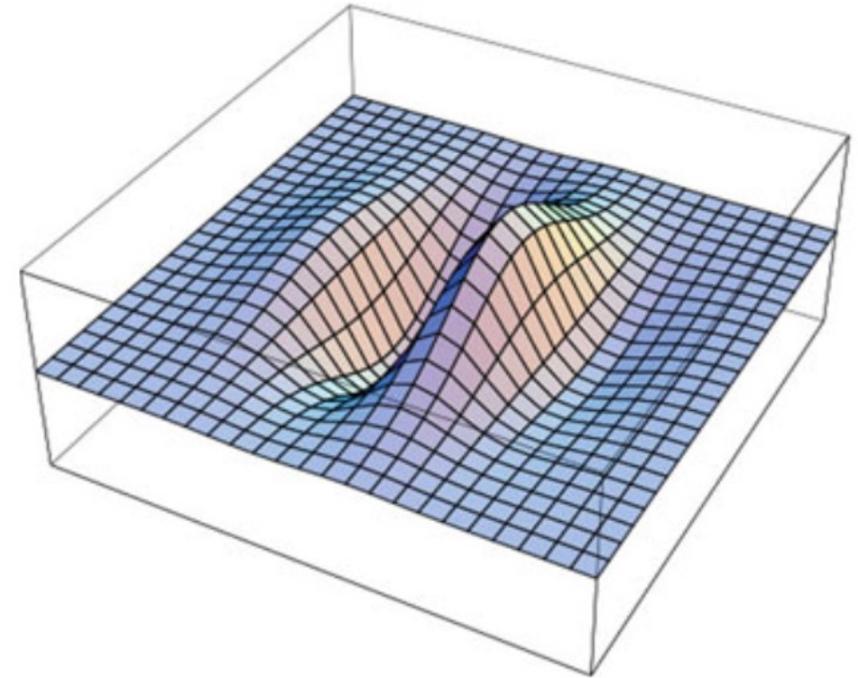
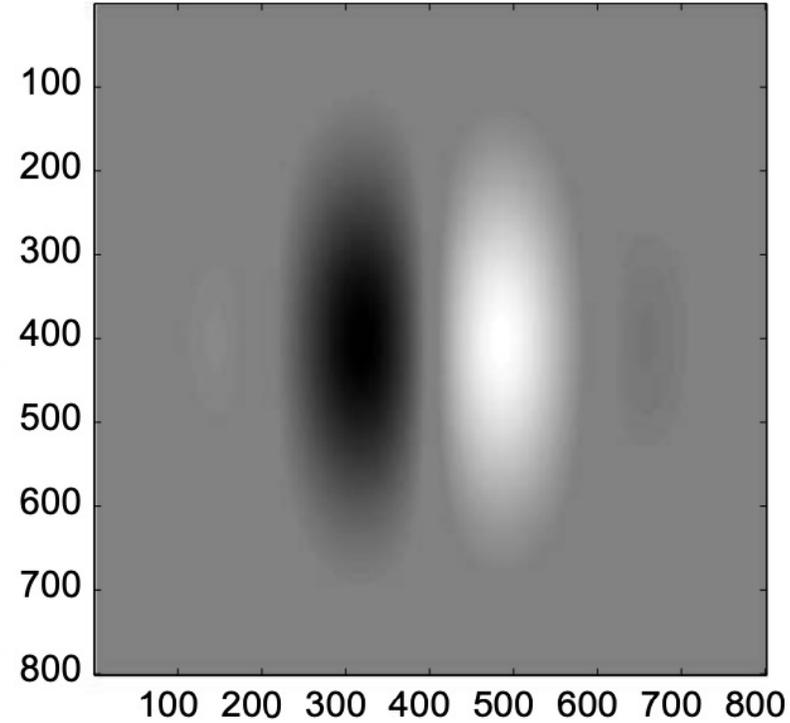
Visual Cortex

Conformal map

# VISUAL CORTEX CROSS SECTION



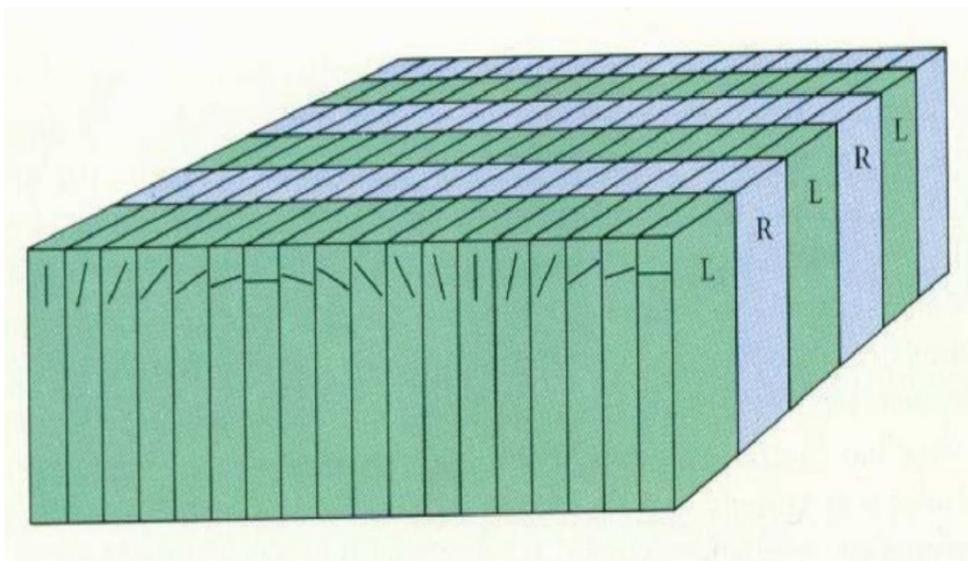
# Response of neuron in visual cortex to light



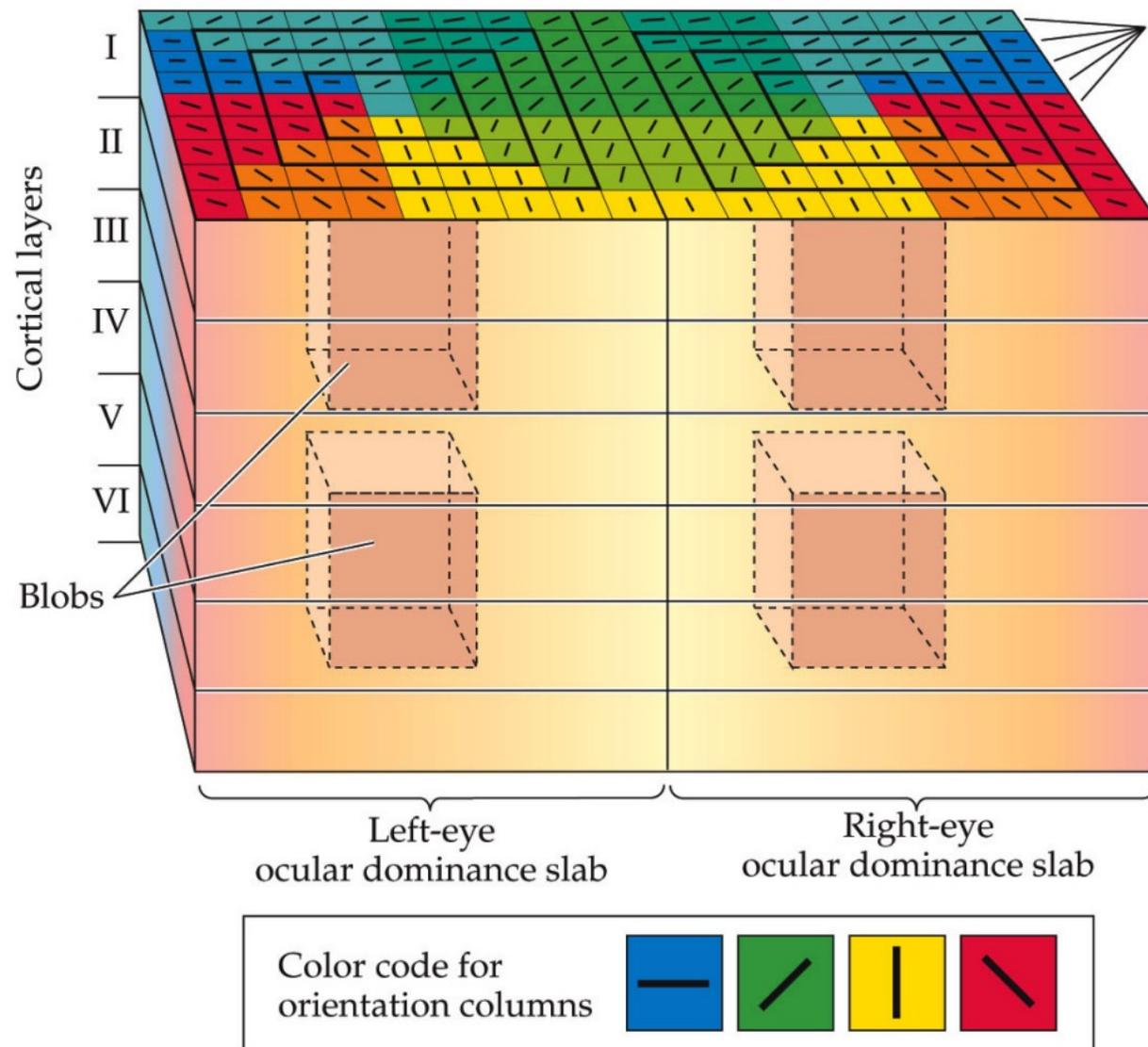
# Neurons Preform *Edge Detection*

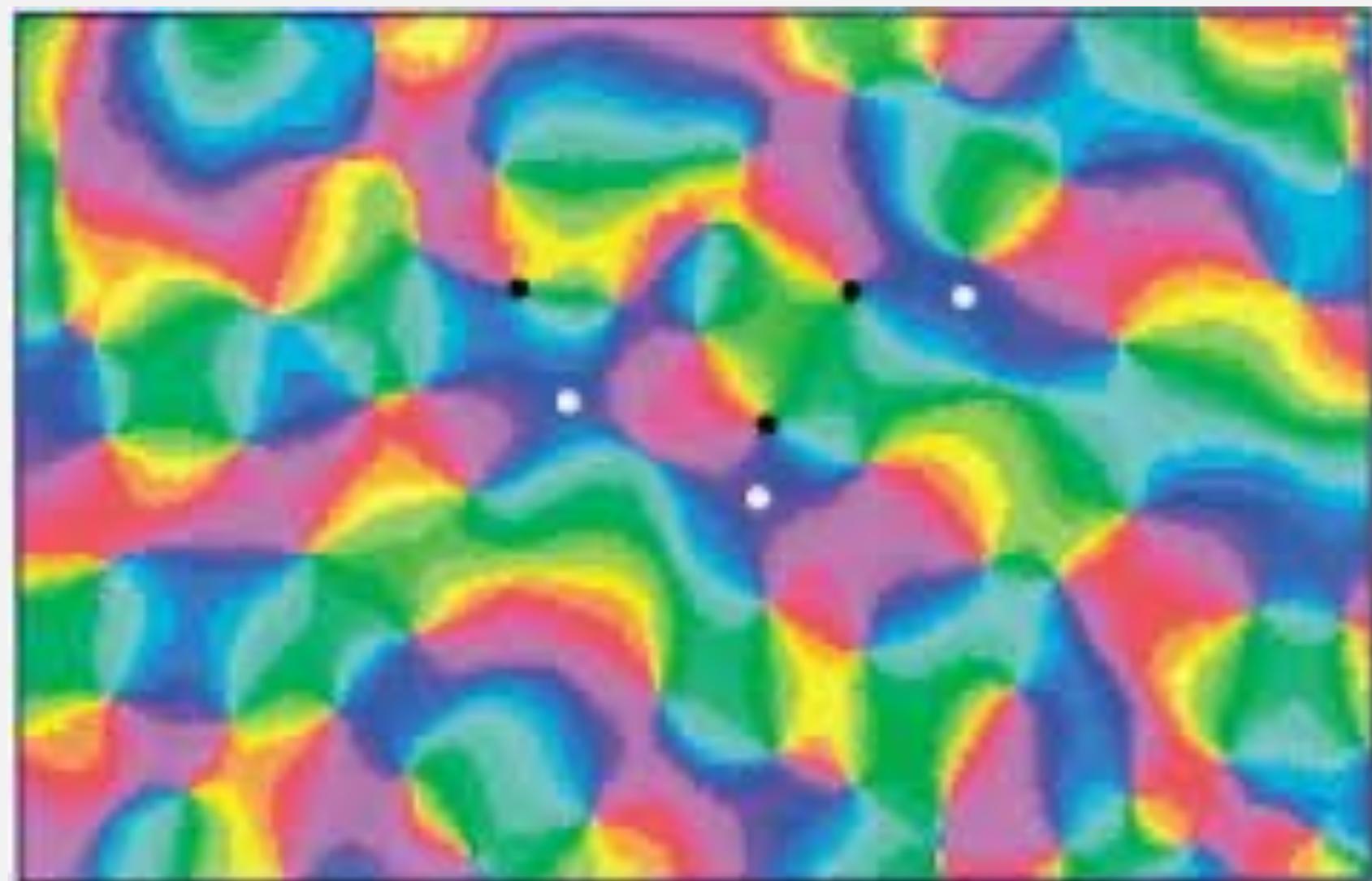


# Microcolumns



# Hypercolumns





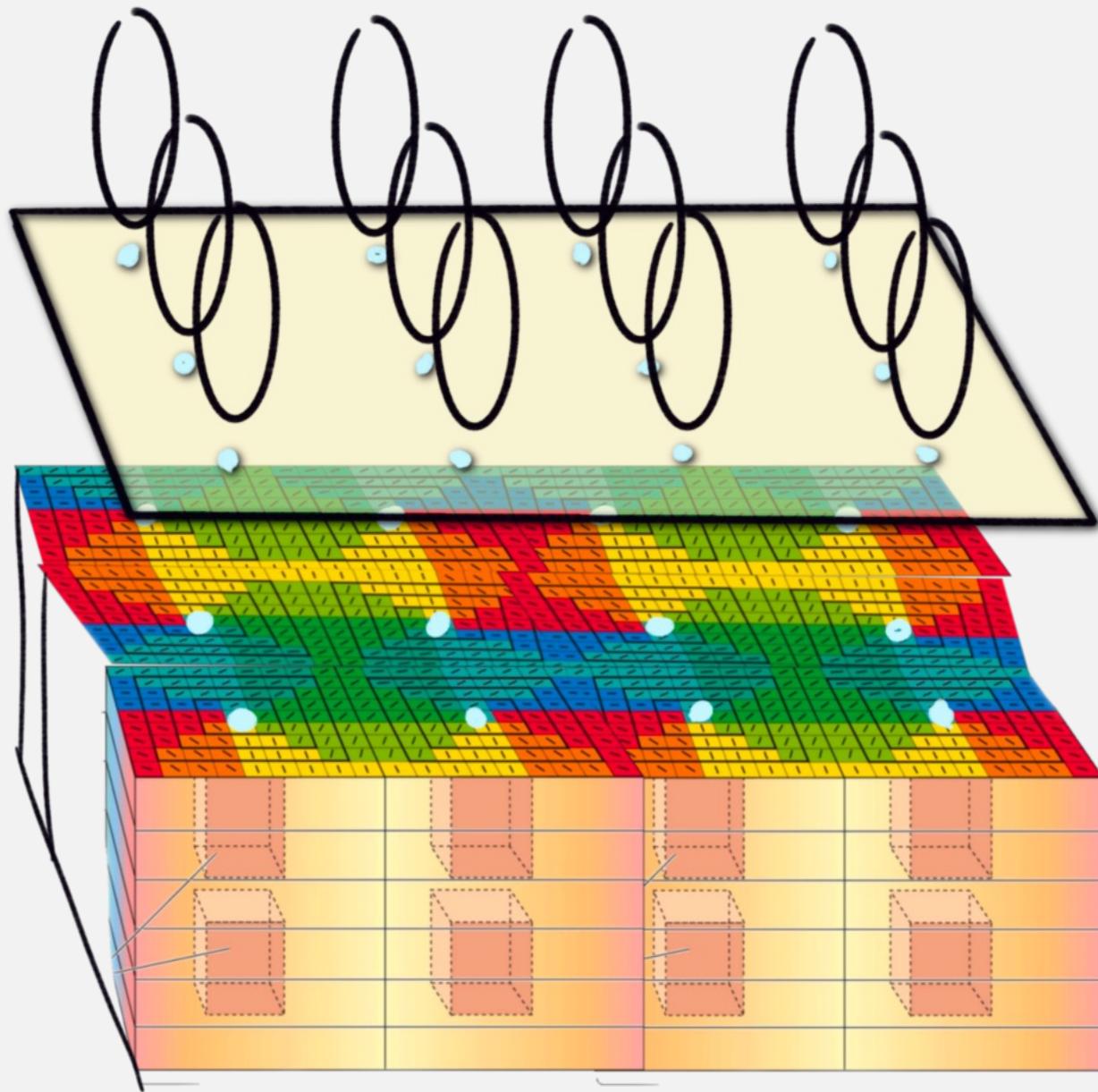
1mm



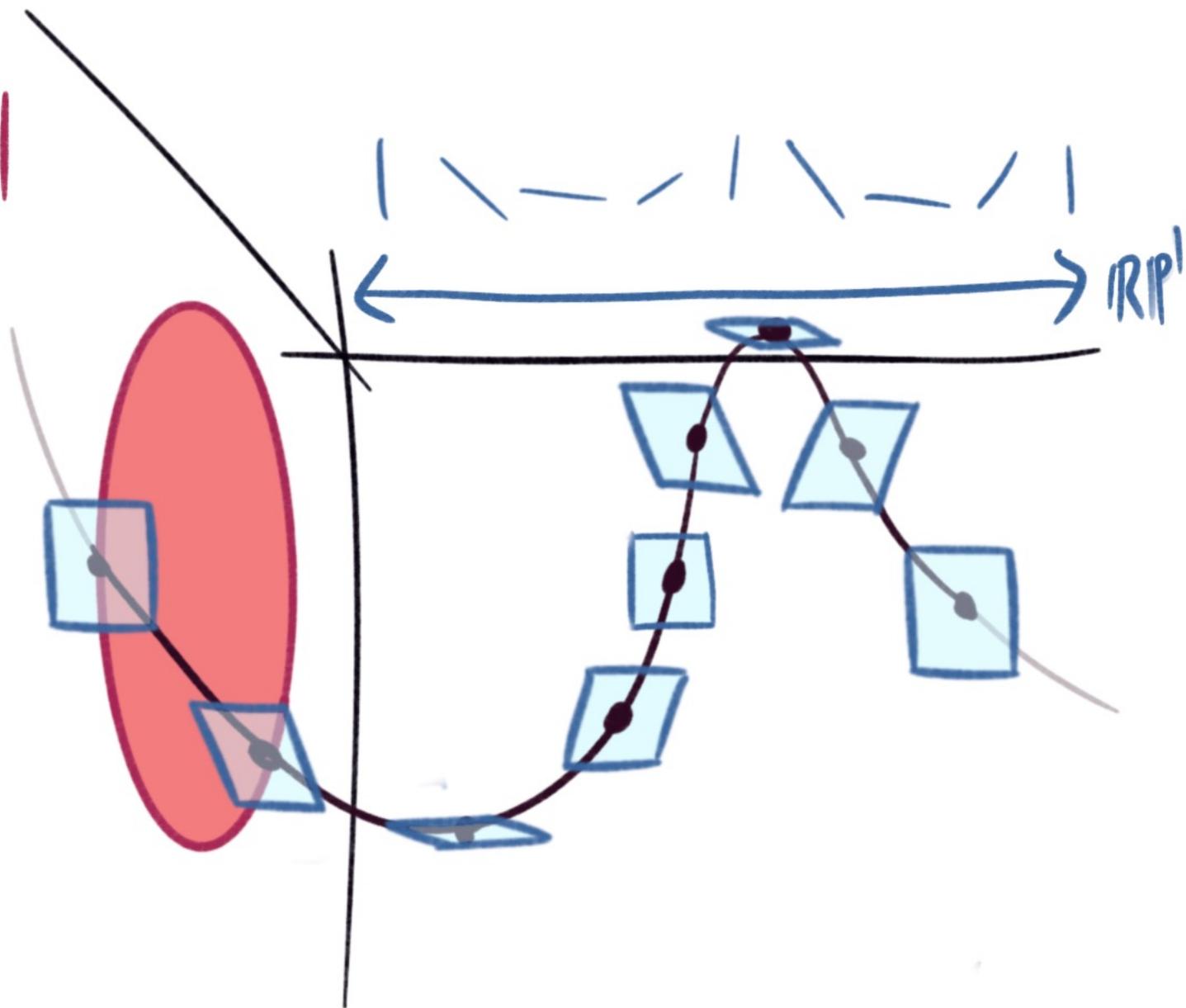
$$\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}P^1$$



$$\mathbb{R}^2$$

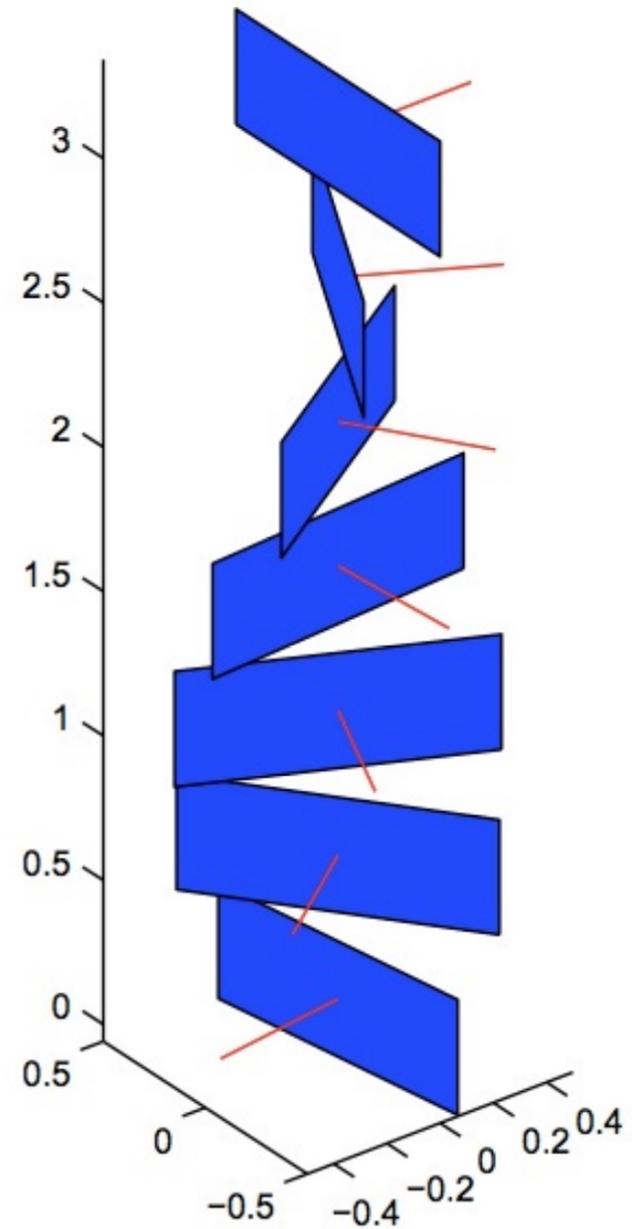
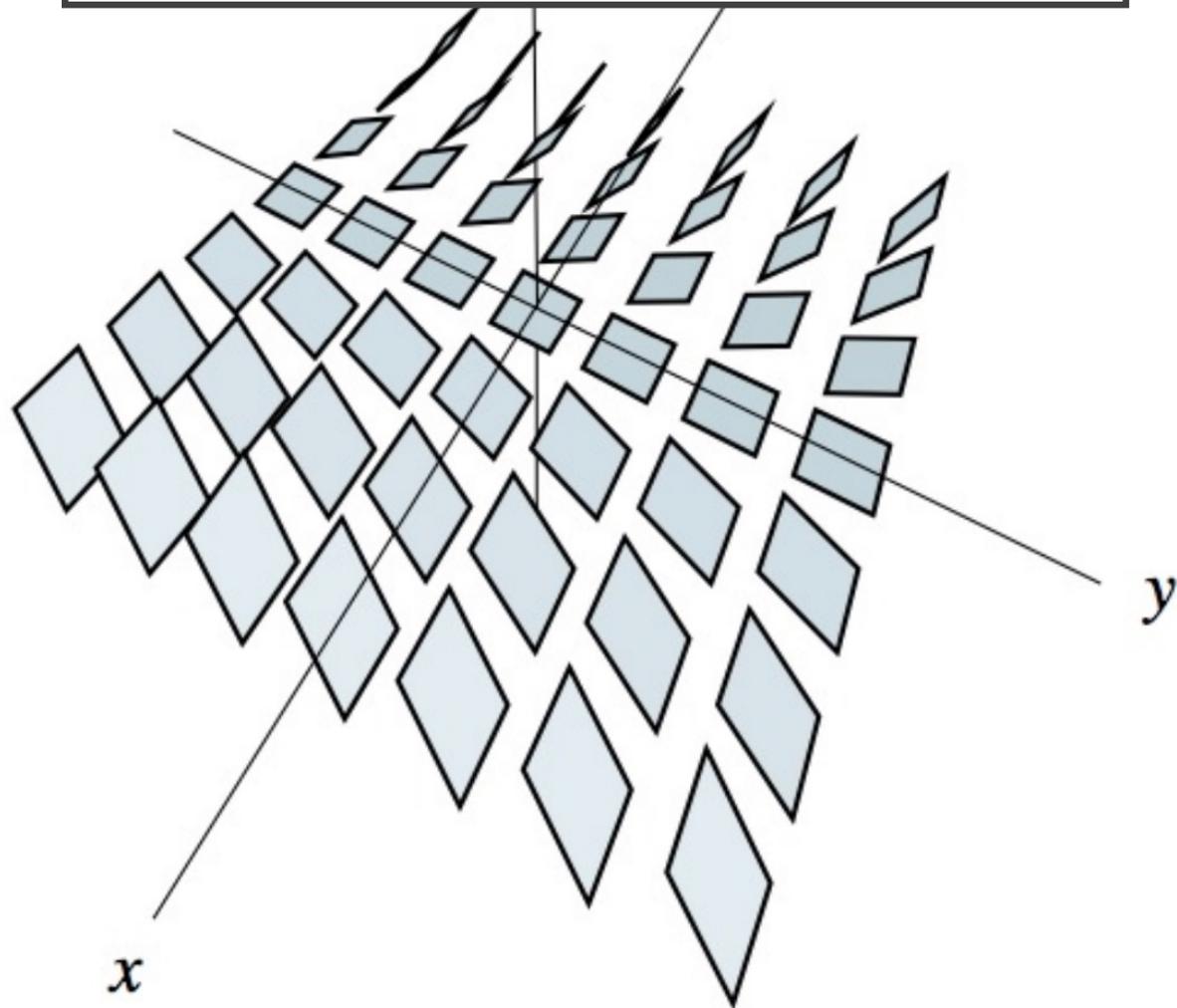


Visual  
field

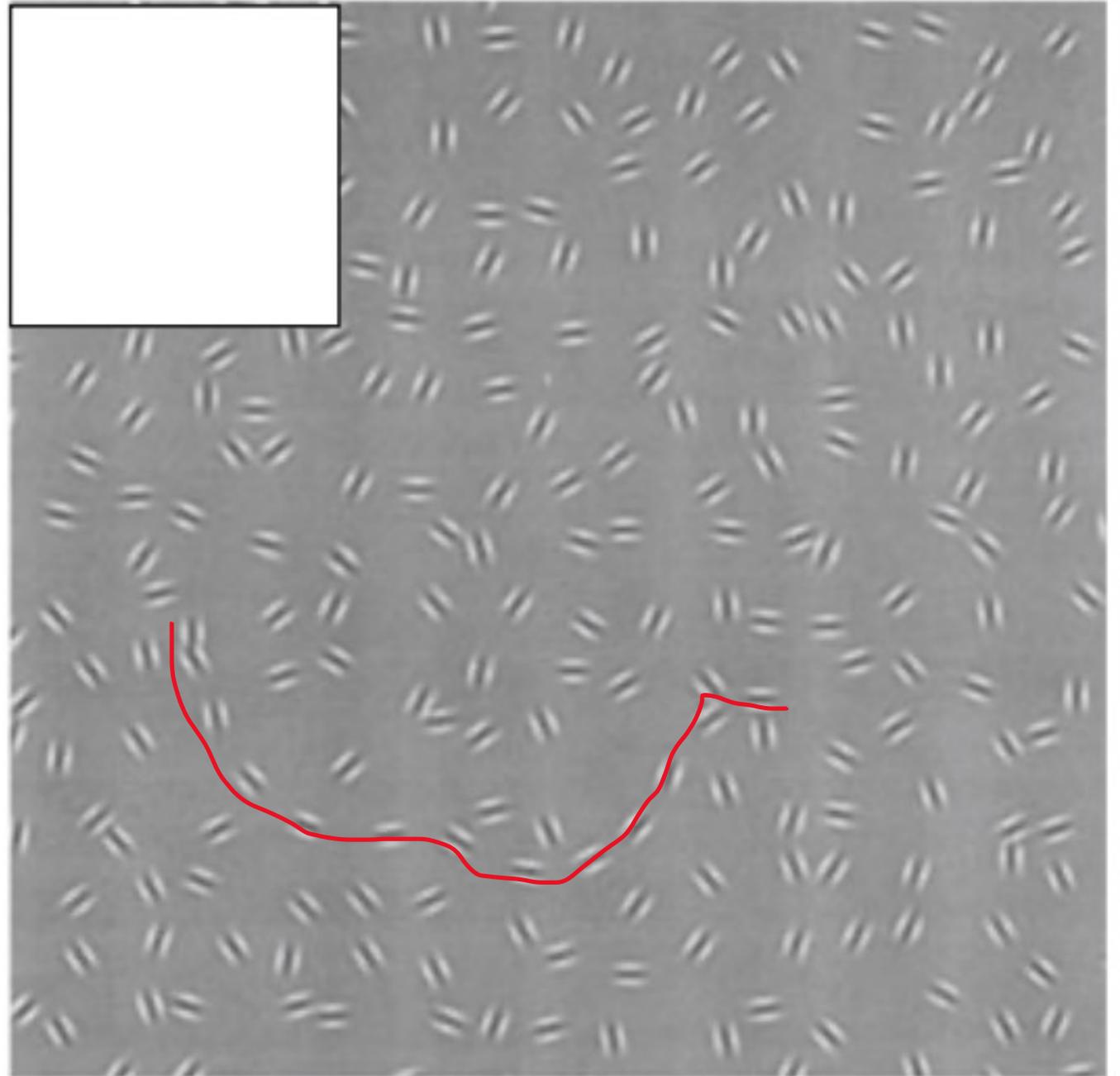


Path Lifting  
from  $\mathbb{R}^2$  to  
 $\mathbb{R}^2 \times |\mathbb{R}P^1$

# CONTACT STRUCTURE



Contact structure  
Provides *Connection*



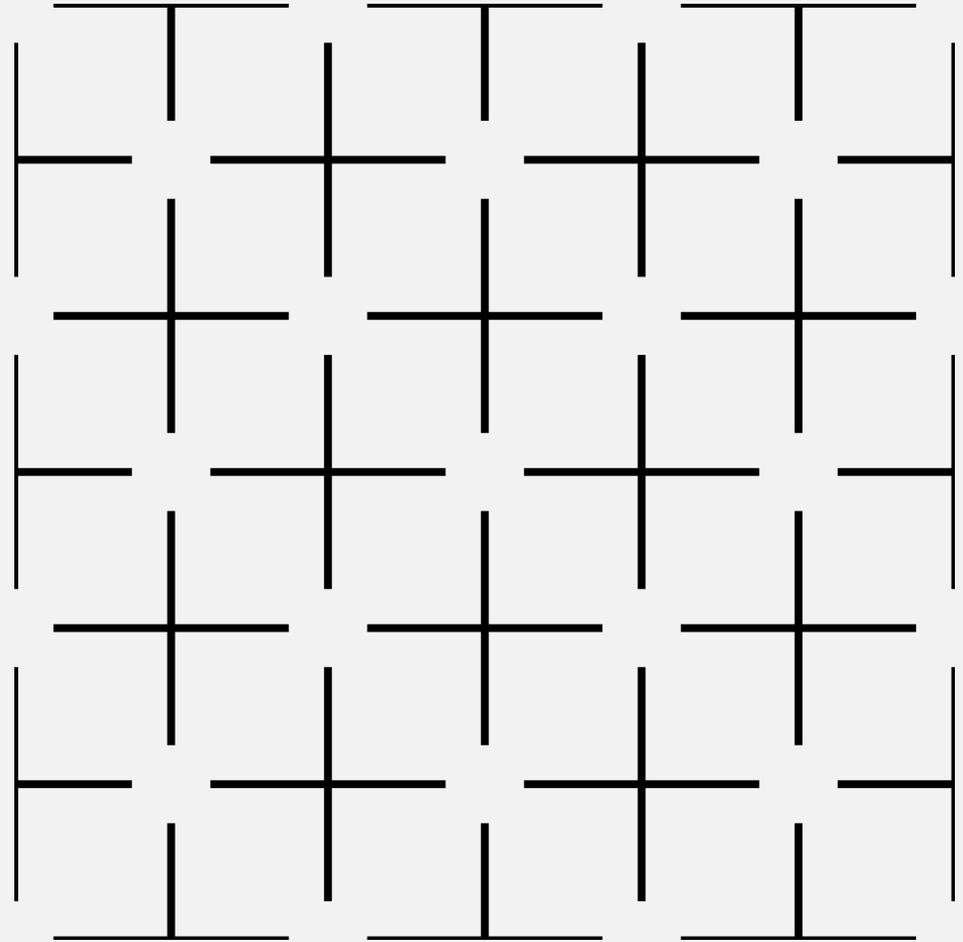
Illusory contour

=

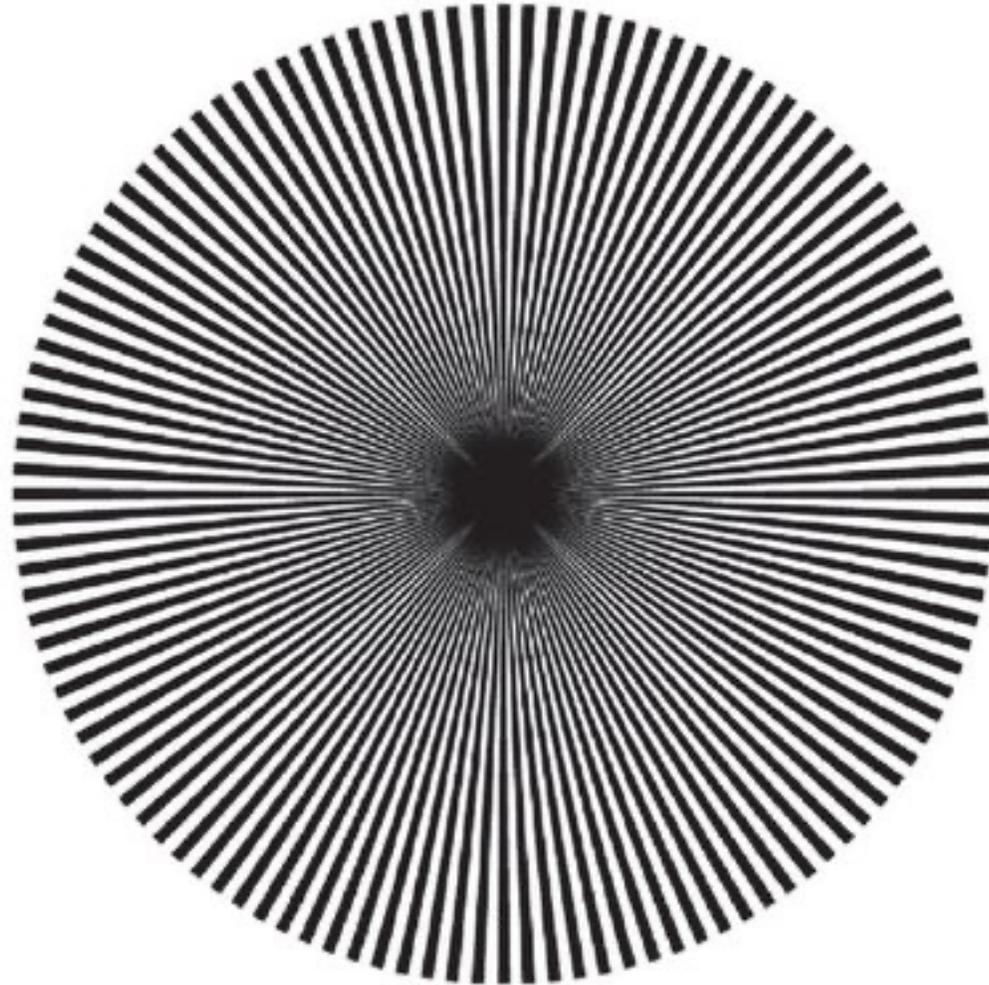
Minimal path tangent to contact  
planes

=

“Legendrian Geodesic”



# SYMMETRIES OF THE VISUAL CORTEX



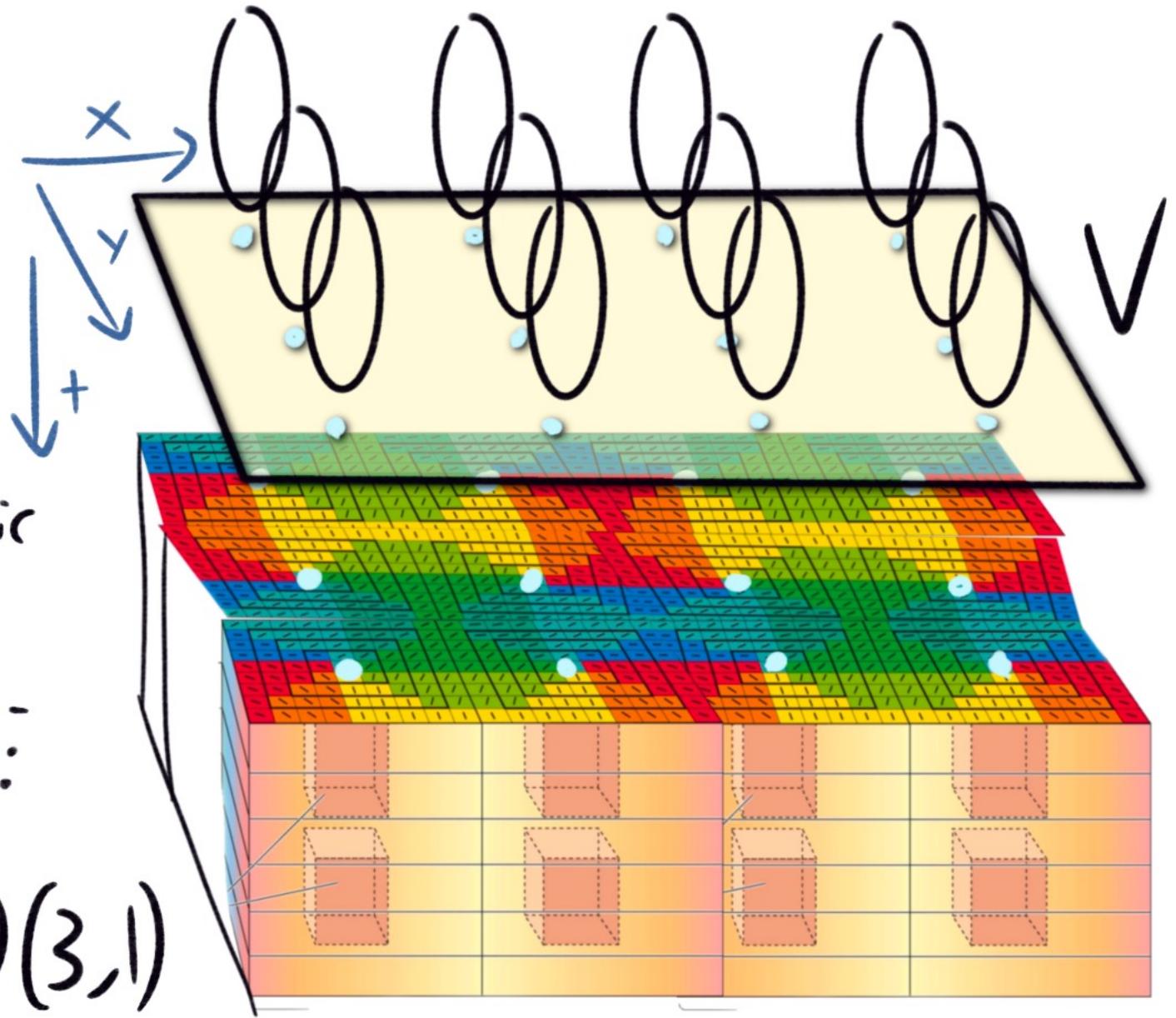
Full visual cortex

$$\text{is } \underbrace{V \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{P}^1}_{x, y, \theta} \times \underbrace{\mathbb{R}}_+$$

carries lorentzian metric

Symmetries are Angle-preserving transforms:

Conformal group  $CO(3,1)$



CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS PERCEPTUAL CONSTANCIES AND  
LIE TRANSFORMATION GROUPS

---

Perceptual invariance	Lie transformation group
A. Shape constancy	A. Affine, or Special Linear, Group
a. Location in the field of view	a. Horizontal and vertical translations
b. Orientation	b. Rotation
c. Binocular vision	c. Pseudo-Euclidean (or hyperbolic) rotations
d. (Form memory)	d. (Time translations)
B. Size constancy	B. Dilatation group
	a. Spiral effects
C. Motion	C. Two-dimensional Lorentz group
D. (Efferent binocularity)	D. (Hyperbolic rotations in plane-time*)
E. (Circulating ("motor") memory)	E. (Rotations in plane-time*)

---

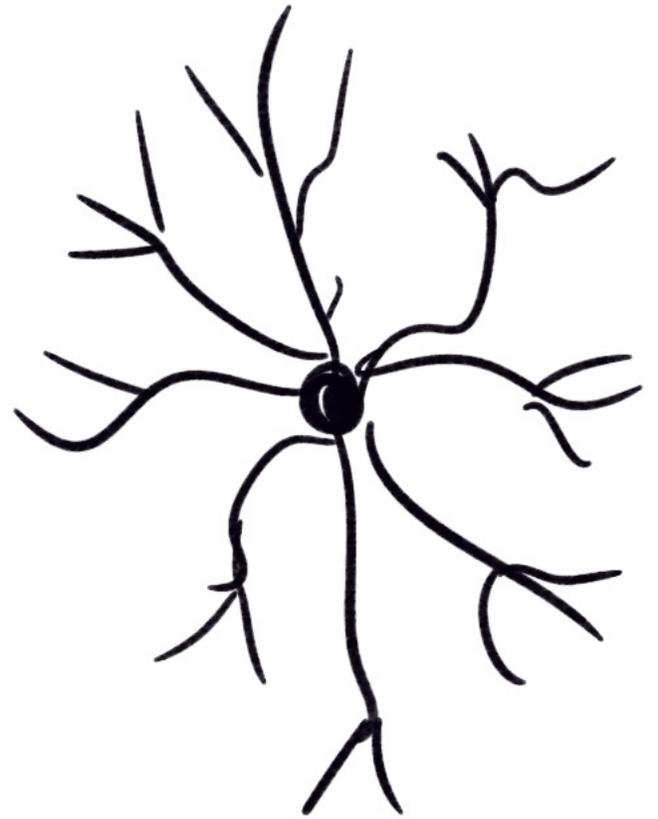
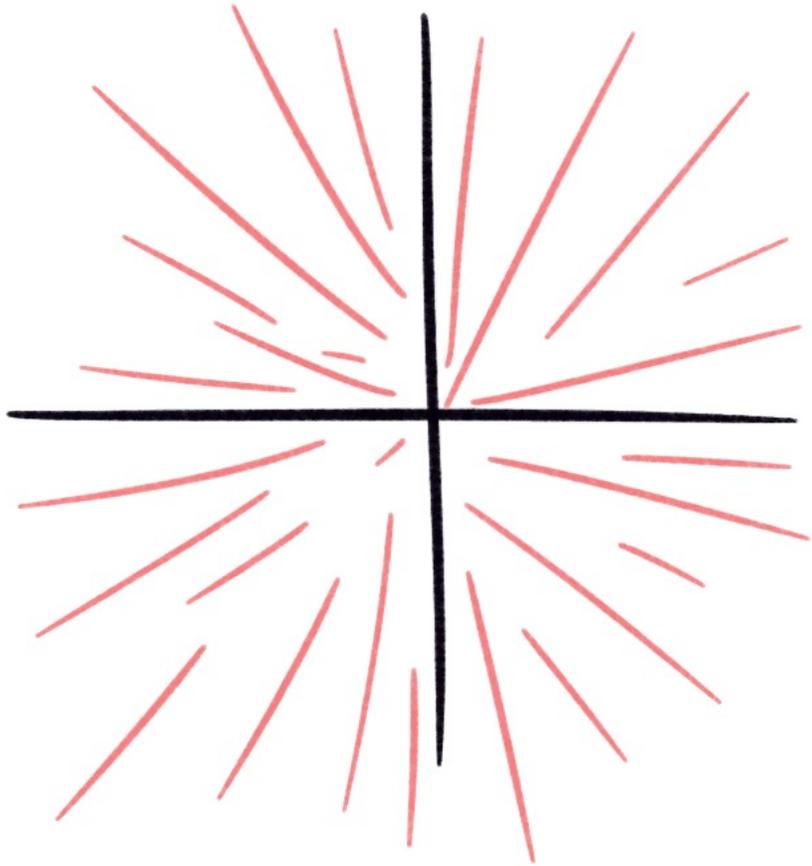
Scaling



Scale invariance

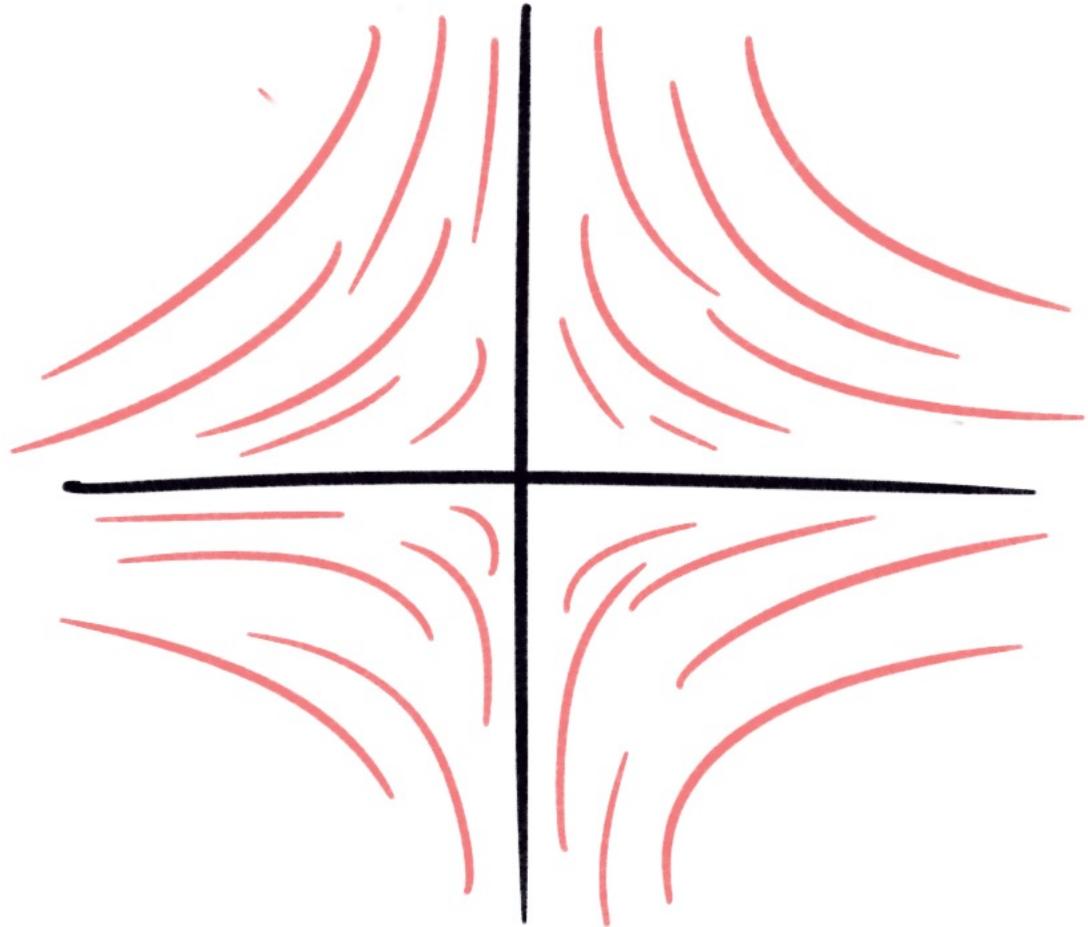
Generated by  $x\partial_x + y\partial_y$

Controlled by  
stellate neuron



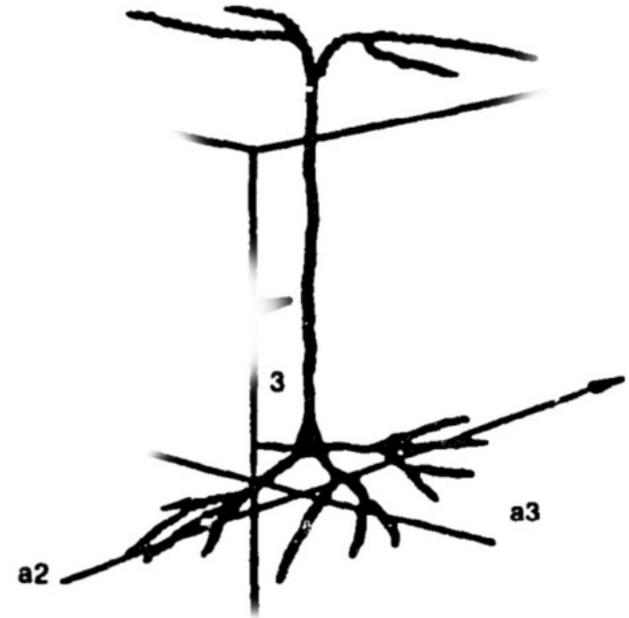
Hyperbolic Rotations  $\iff$

Generated by  $x\partial_x - y\partial_y$



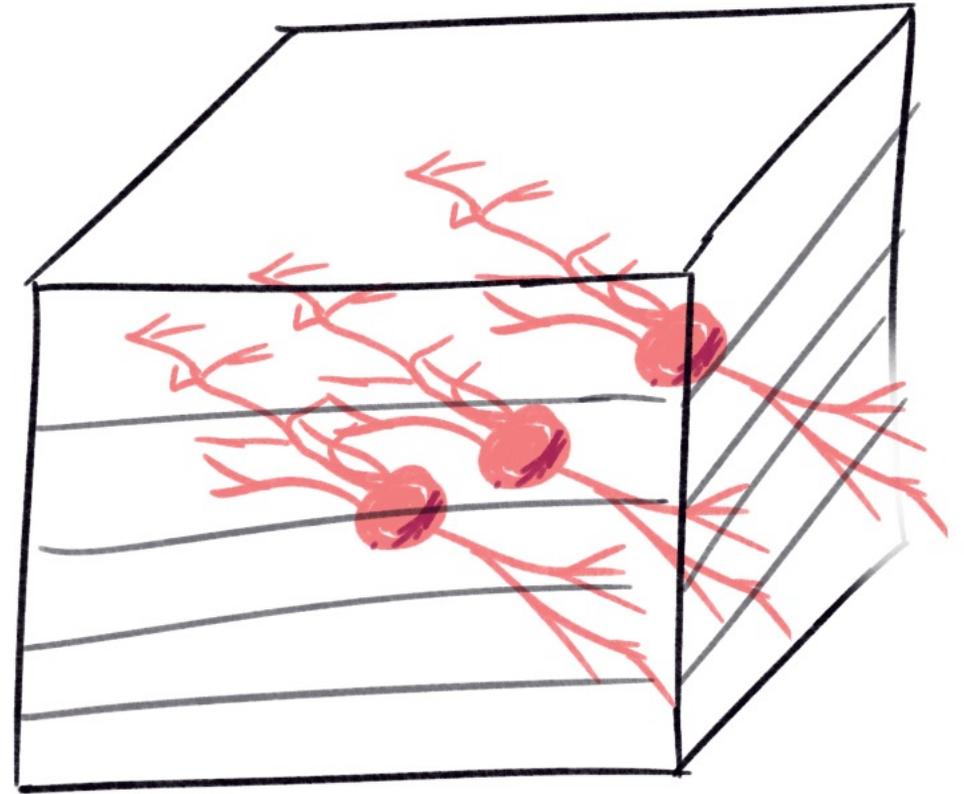
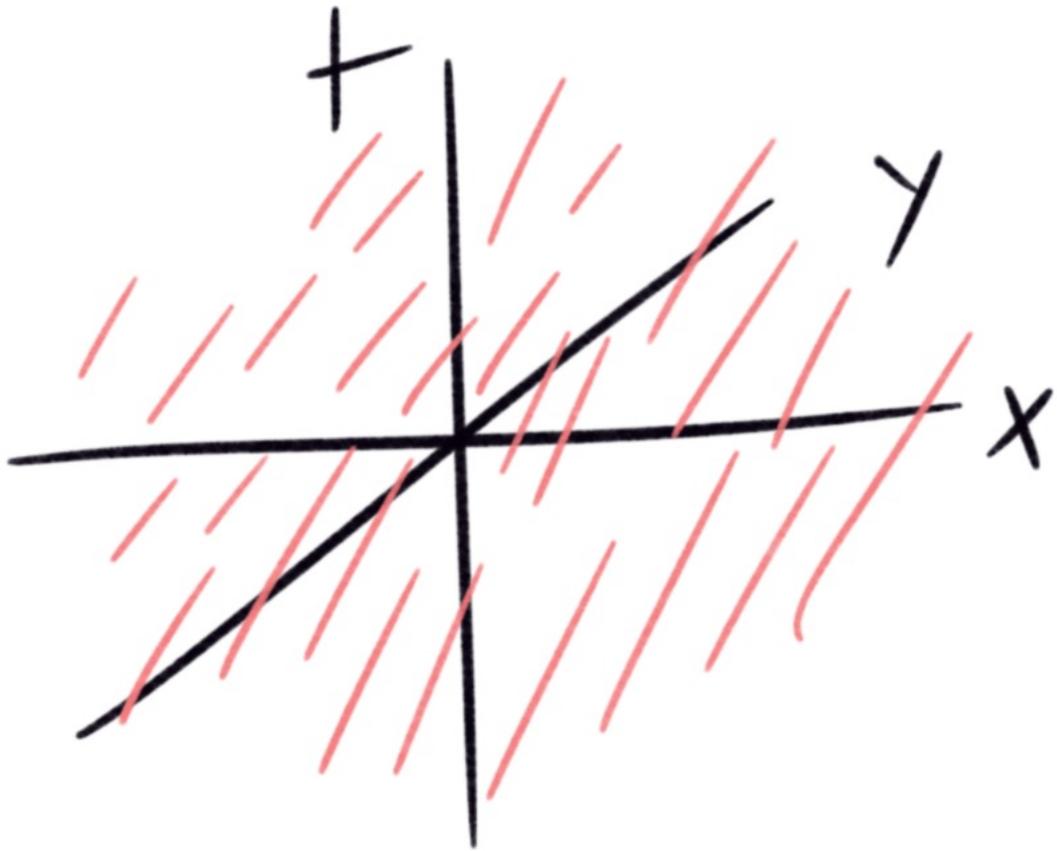
Binocular invariance

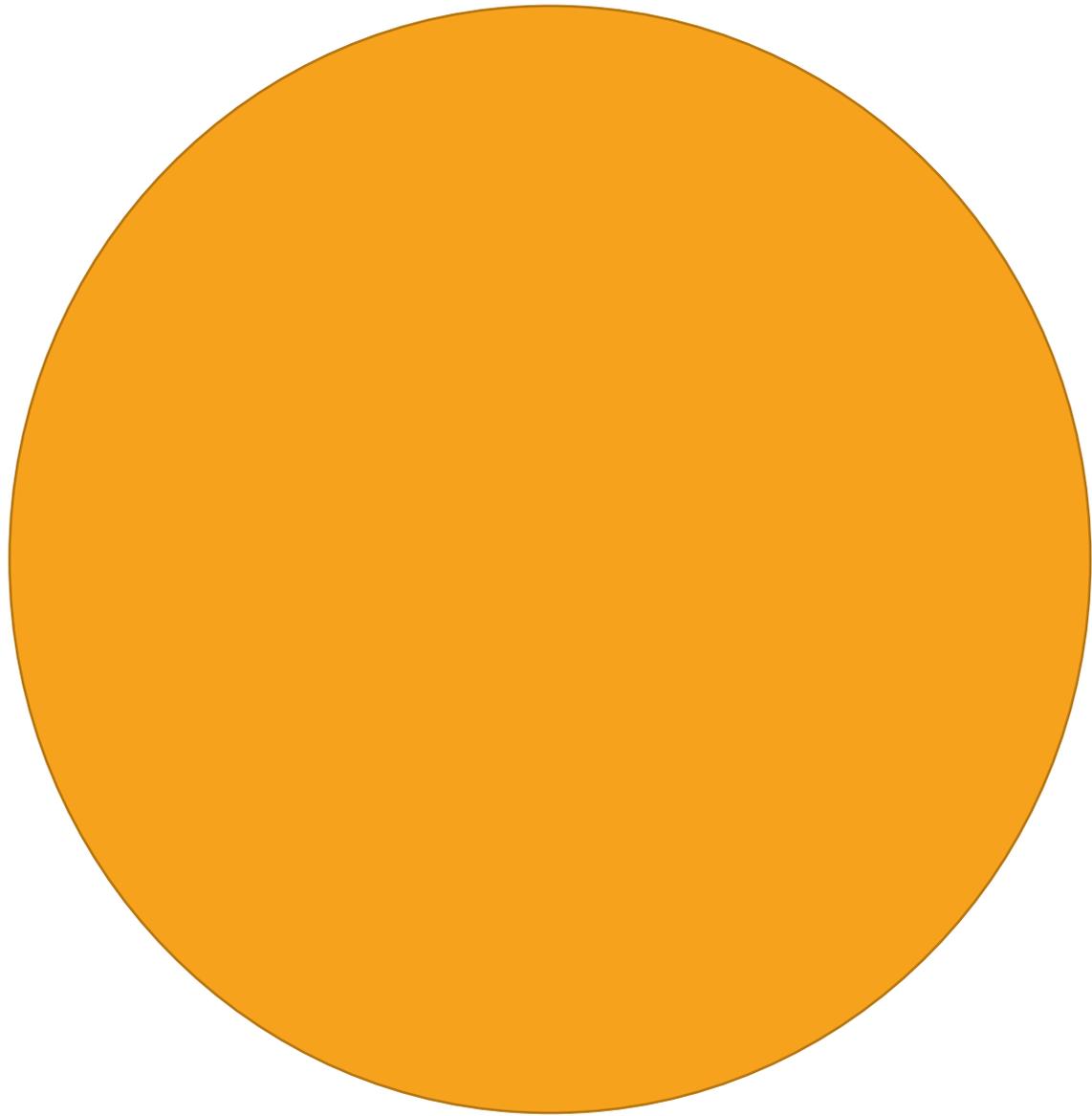
Controlled by  
Pyramid neuron



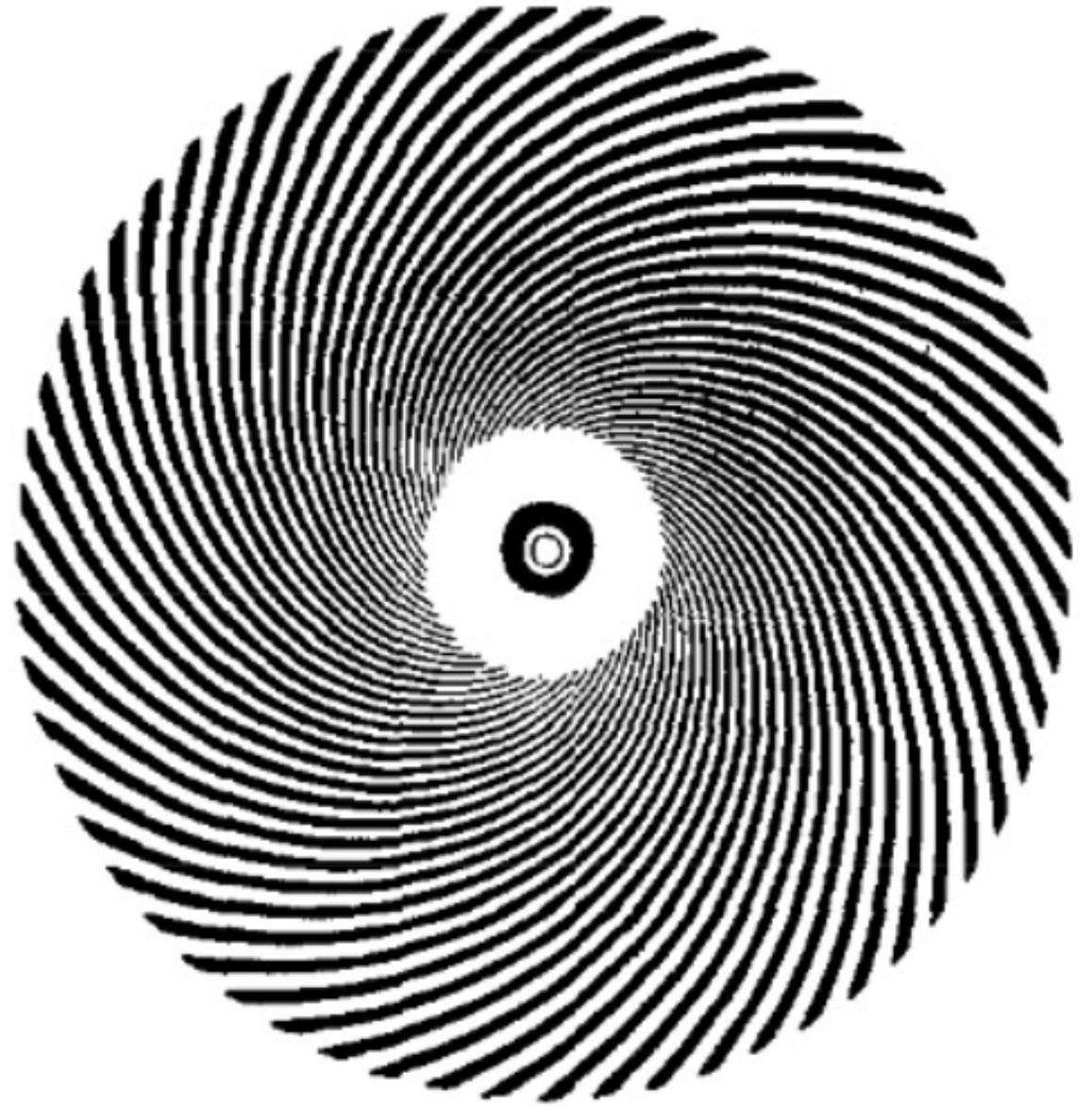
Translation w/ time  $\iff$  Motion invariance

Generated by  $\partial_x + \partial_x$



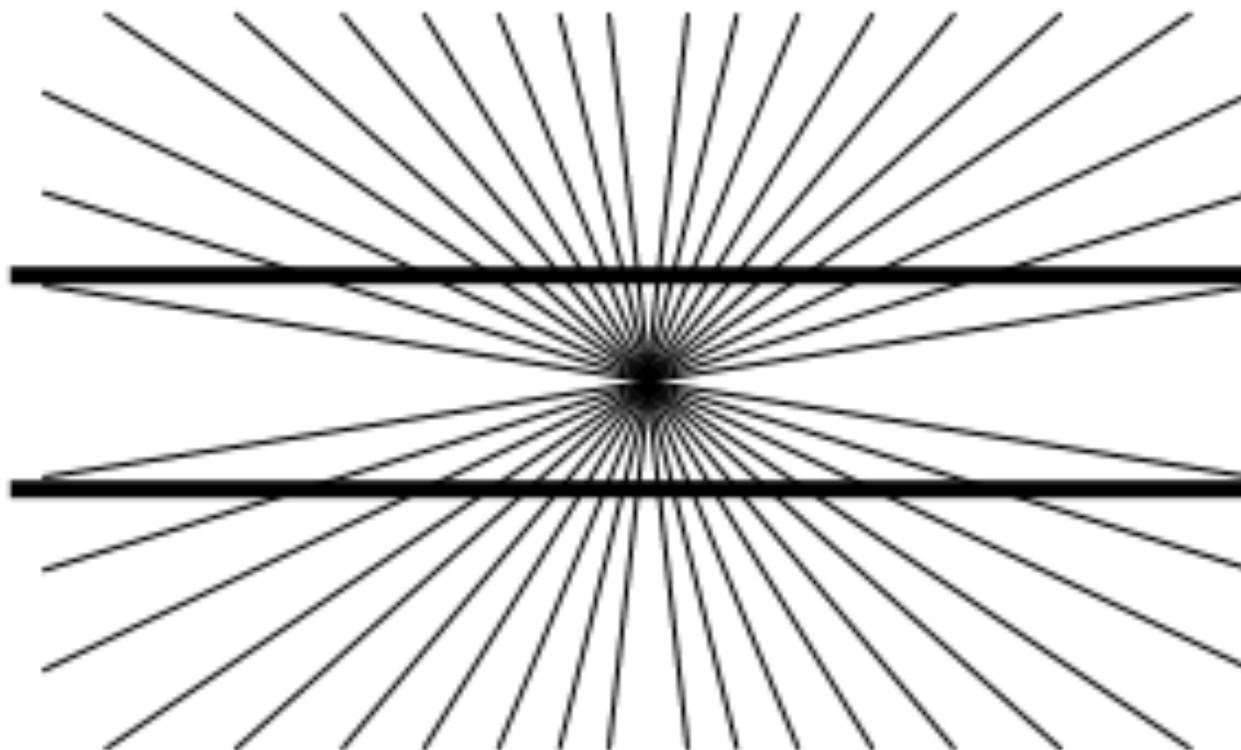


Color afterimage



Shape afterimage

Shape afterimages add like vector fields



NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES

CHP for arbitrary base spaces, and it therefore follows that the cortical contact bundle is a fibre bundle in the sense of Hurwicz as well. Finally [42], “the image of a fibration in the sense of Serre under the singular complex functor is a fibration in the sense of Kan.” The latter is general enough to handle any aspect of information-processing psychology, and the presence in cognitive phenomena of the simplicial functor (the category of simplicial objects) has been argued at length in [29] and [43].

Invariance in the Kan fibration case, which is embodied in such higher cognitive faculties as conscious thought, plans, long-term behavioral sequences, etc., apparently corresponds to Freyd’s “The Theorem” [44]: *an elementary property on categories is invariant up to equivalence types of categories iff it is a diagrammatic property.* Thus “chasing around the diagram” in “trains of thought” is more basic than “logical,” conscious thought. Intuition precedes insight and inspiration and certainly the laborious processes of conscious thought itself.

## REFERENCES

- Main reference: “The Visual Cortex is a Contact Bundle”, by W. Hoffman
  - <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~matilde/VisualCortexContactBundle.pdf>
- “The Lie algebra of visual perception” by W. Hoffman
  - <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0022249666900058>