

**16-899A**

**The visual world as seen by  
neurons & machines**

**From a cognitive neuroscience perspective...**

# Quick intro again

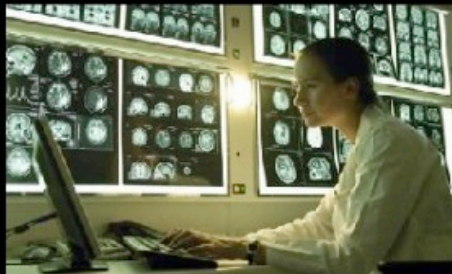
Website: [http://graphics.cs.cmu.edu/courses/16-899A/2014\\_spring/](http://graphics.cs.cmu.edu/courses/16-899A/2014_spring/)

People:

Abhinav Gupta: [abhinavg@cs.cmu.edu](mailto:abhinavg@cs.cmu.edu)

Elissa Aminoff: [elissa@cnbc.cmu.edu](mailto:elissa@cnbc.cmu.edu)

## NEUROSCIENTIST



What my friends think I do



What my mother thinks I do



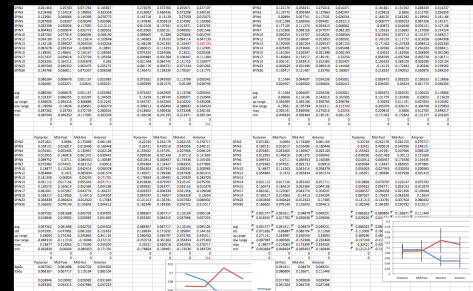
What society thinks I do



What the media thinks I do



What I think I do



What I really do

# Visual cognition entails...



1. Receiving visual information
2. Filtering for meaningful information
3. Recognizing/interpreting/composing the scene
4. Integrating with context, memory, experience
5. Guiding motor behavior/thought



Black Box



**Input** →

Receiving visual  
information



→ **Output**

Guiding motor  
behavior/thought



Filtering for meaningful information

Recognizing/interpreting/composing the scene

Integrating with context, memory, experience

# Black Box

**Input** →

Receiving visual  
information



→ **Output**

Guiding motor  
behavior/thought



Use rules/heuristics for fast processing



# Marr's three levels

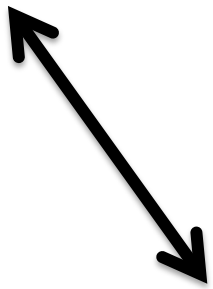
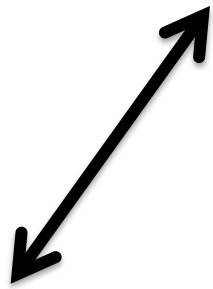


1. Computation

2. Representation and algorithm

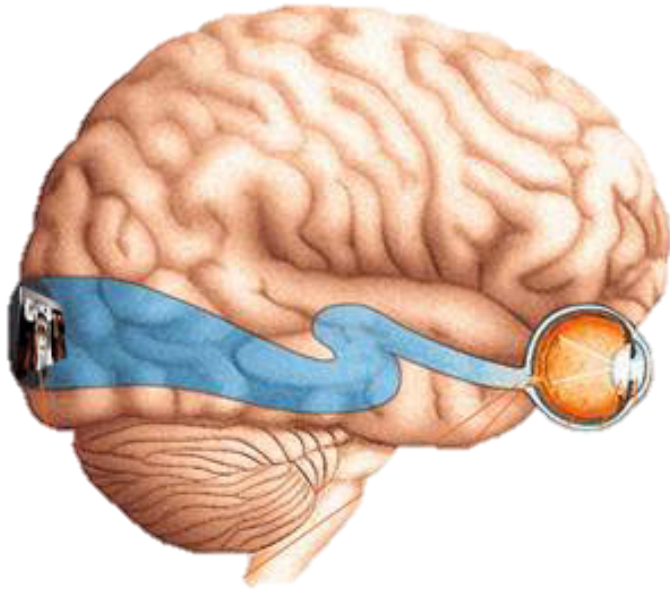
3. Hardware implementation







# Why bring the brain into the discussion?



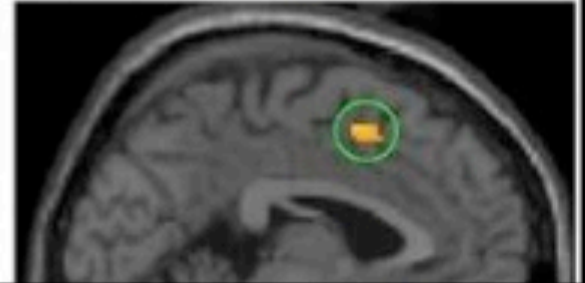
## Jealousy spot on the brain identified by scientists

There is a monster living inside your brain – the green-eyed one, in fact.

The area of the brain which controls jealousy has been found, scientists have announced.

It is the same part which detects real physical pain – perhaps explaining why feeling envious of your lover's philandering ways hurts so much.

'It's interesting the part of the brain which detects physical pain is also associated with mental pain,' said Hidehiko Takahashi, who led the research.

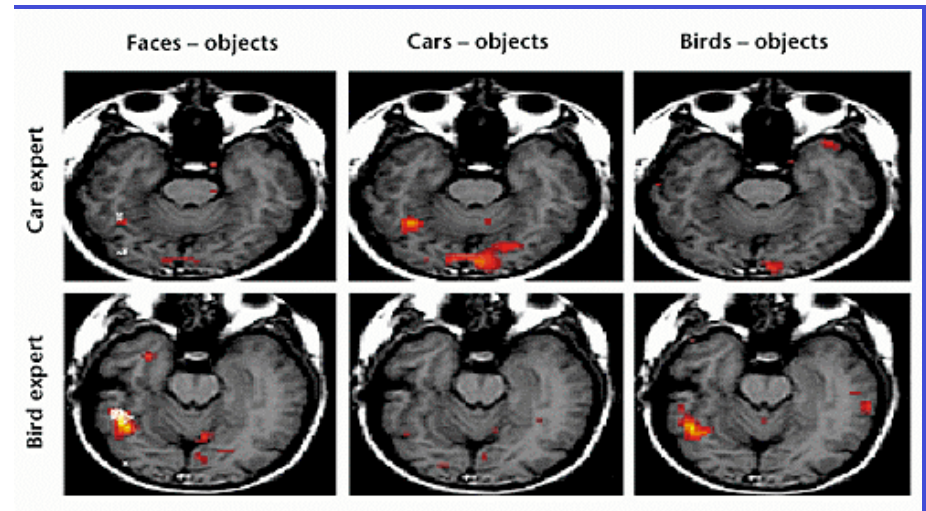
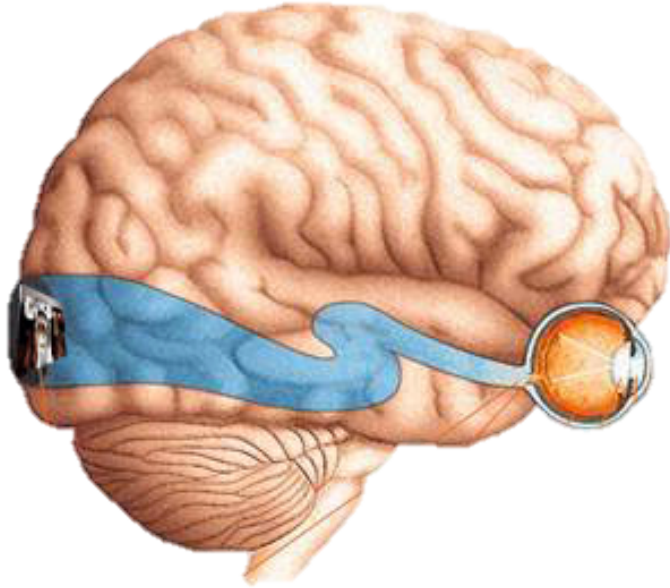


## Coke vs. Pepsi

How does your brain react to soft drinks?

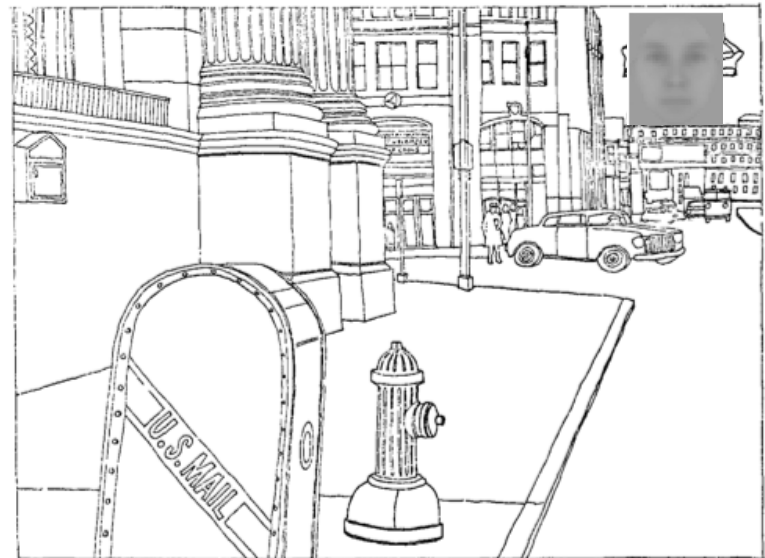
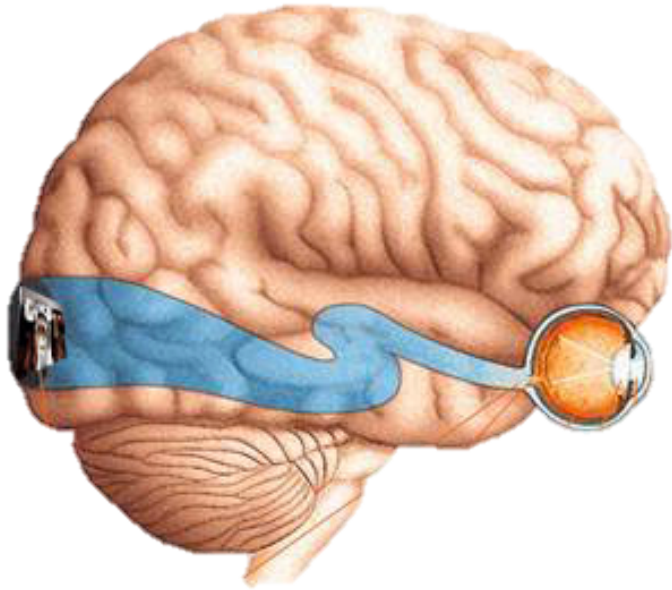


# Why bring the brain into the discussion?

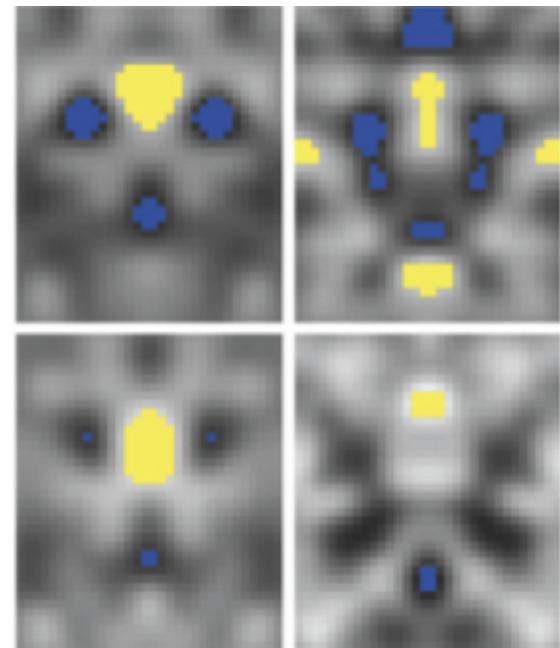
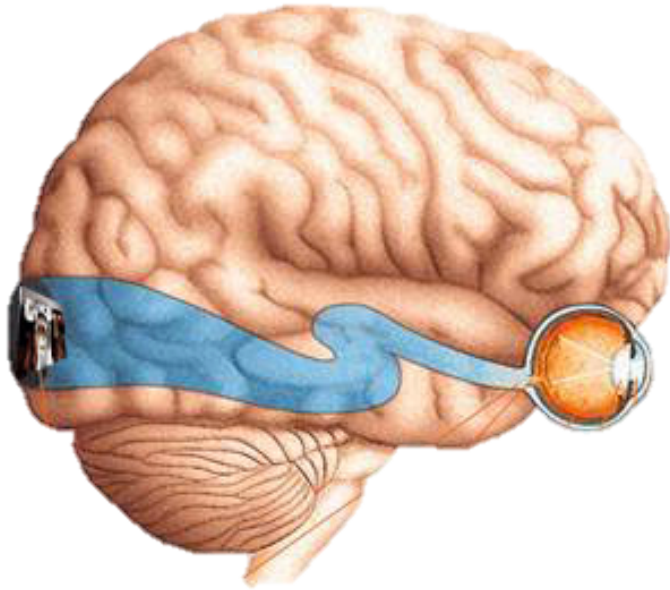


Gauthier et al., 2000

# Why bring the brain into the discussion?



# Why bring the brain into the discussion?

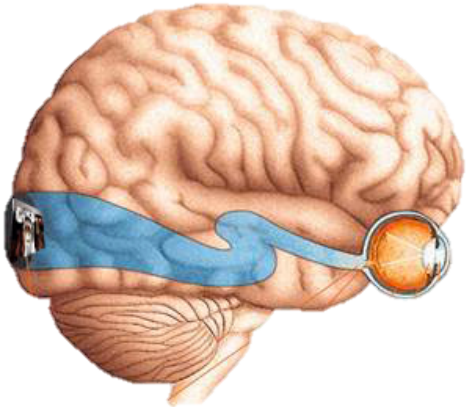


Black Box

Input



Output



## Black Box

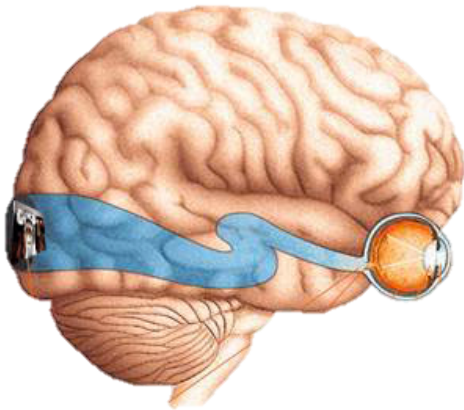
**Input**



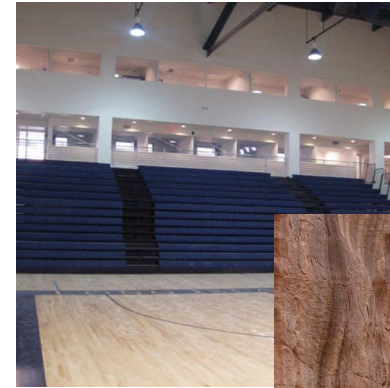
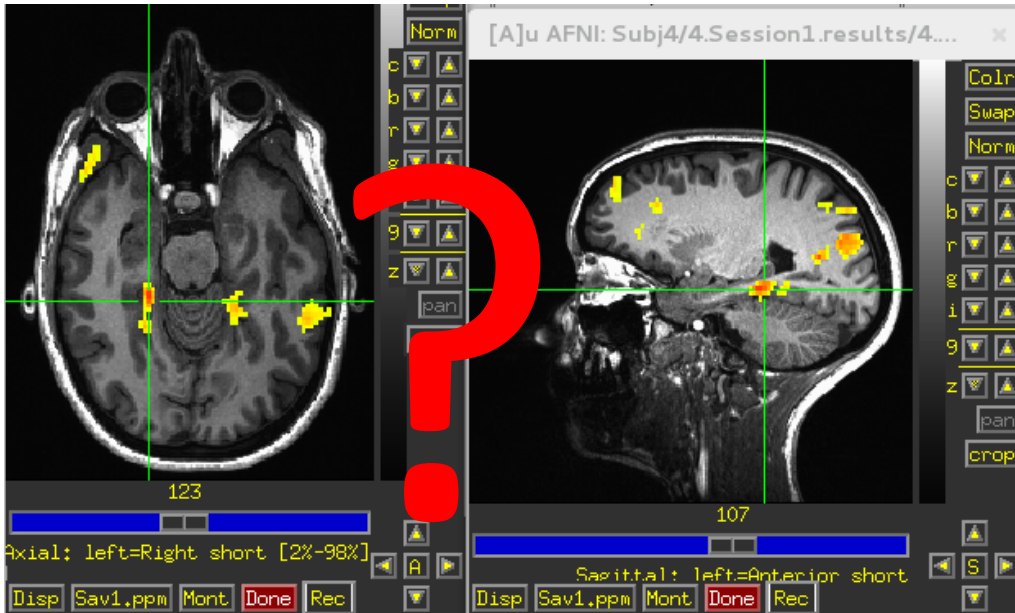
**Output**

### Road Blocks:

- Human bias
- Lack of models
- No means to:
  - Extract statistical regularities
  - Characterize prior experience



# Example from our research



**NEIL: Never Ending Image Learner**

I Crawl, I See, I Learn.



# NEIL: Never Ending Image Learner

I Crawl, I See, I Learn.

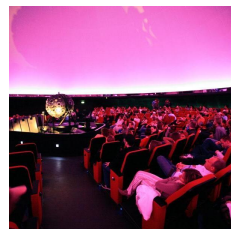
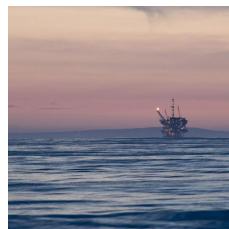
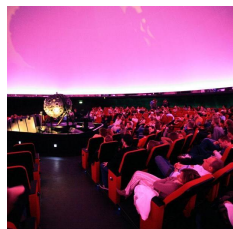
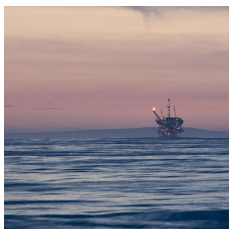
Analyzed over **400,000** images

Running continuously for over 2.5 months, 350 cpu hours

- 1034 Scene Categories
- 1152 Object Categories
- 87 Attributes
- 1400 Commonsense Relationships

# Human labels for NEIL's visual attributes

amber	dots	narrow	smoke
arch_shape	dry	natural	snowy_weather
black	farming	open_area	speckled
blue	feather_texture	orange	square_shape
brick_texture	fire	outdoor	steep
brown	foggy_weather	pink	still_water
chain_texture	foliage	plain	stripe_texture
check_texture	furry_texture	purple	sunny_weather
chubby	gold	queue	symmetrical
clouds	grass_texture	railing	turquoise
cloudy_weather	gray	rainy_weather	urban
cluttered	green	rectangular_shape	vertical
cold_scenery	horizontal_cylinder	red	vertical_cylinder
cone_shape	horizontal_lines	round_shape	vertical_lines
crooked	ice_texture	rugged_scene	violet
crowded	indoor	running_water	warm_scenery
cube_shape	magenta	rural	wave
cyan	modern	shingles	white
cylinder_shape	mountainous	shiny_texture	wide
diamond_shape	mysterious	shrubbery	wiry
tartan	brass	silver	yellow
	sky	skin_texture	plaid



Attribute Scores

.02	.84
.47	.5
.06	.01
.7	.34
.32	.2
...	...

X

X

=

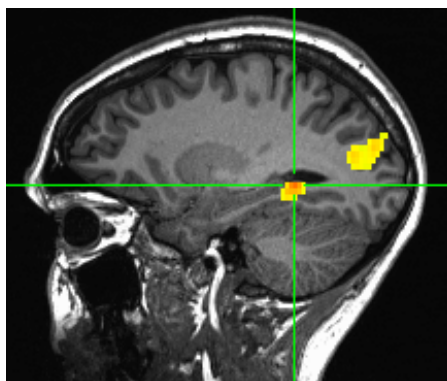
X

?

.67	.55
.27	.38
.43	.92
.11	.20
.00	.13
...	...

X

Voxel Activation

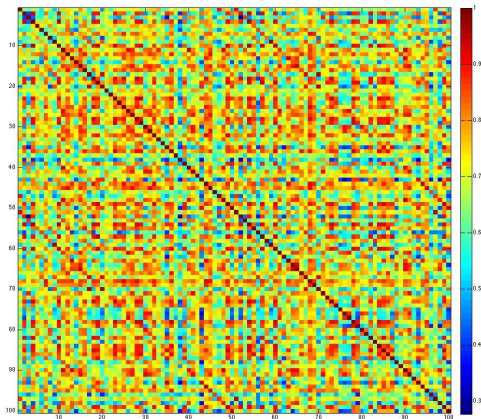


# Can NEIL define features in cortical representation?

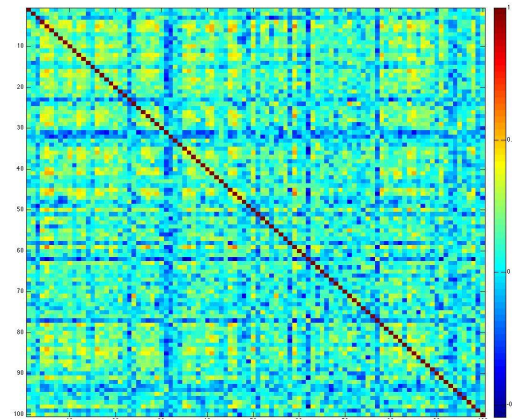
Compare similarity in attribute space with fMRI voxel space

NEIL: Attribute similarity

fMRI: BOLD similarity  
(area: PPA localized)



Scene Categories



Scene Categories

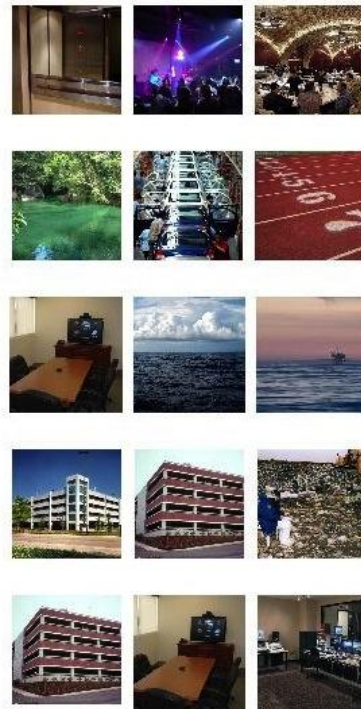
Canonical Correlation Analysis: Find the linear combinations provide maximum correlation

# Can NEIL define features in cortical representation?

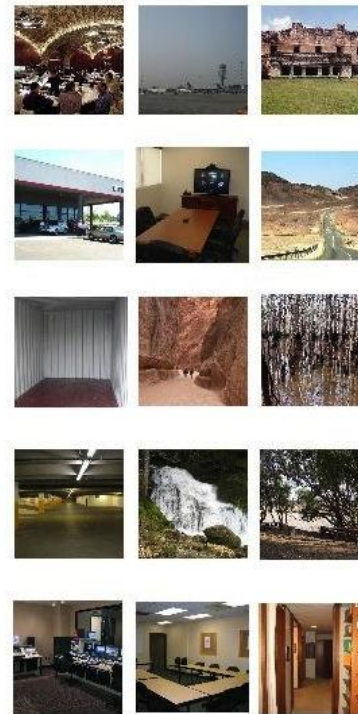
Result: Categories that carry the strongest correlation with the linear combinations were similar in both attribute and fMRI datasets!

## CCA Analysis

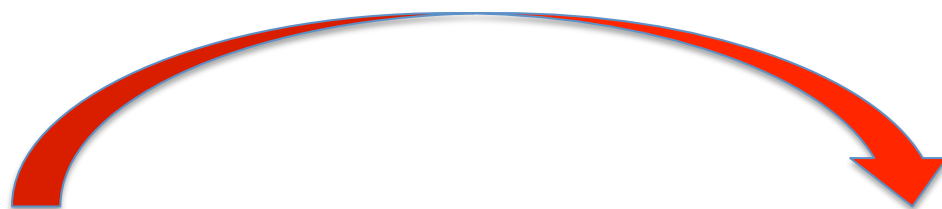
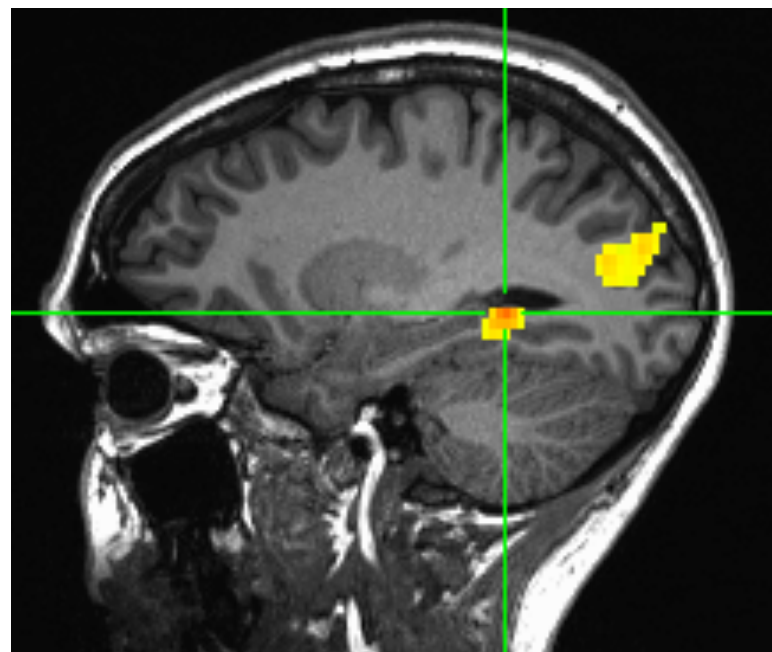
NEIL



fMRI



NEIL



# My goals for the course

- Learn CV perspective
- Learn the CV challenges
- Teach you some cog neuro of visual perception
- Peak your interest and confidence in cog neuro
- Get you comfortable with reading papers

# Point of the course

- We all care about studying the visual world
- Some problems you are more equipped for solving; some we are.
- Stop reinventing the wheel
- It's a wide world out there – focus
- Collaborations



# How I went about picking the papers



**Questions? Comments?**