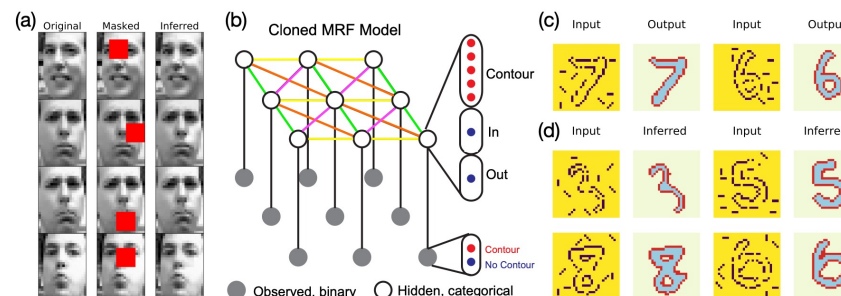


Objectives & Relevance

- Develop methods for flexible contextual representations in the Recursive Cortical Network model, and demonstrate its efficacy on problems that require interpreting evidence in context.
- Robustness of visual and spatial perception depends on the above ability. Eg., without this, STOP signs drawn on the sides of a building will confuse a self-driving car.



Technical Approach

- We investigate the computational underpinnings of neuroscience observations
- In this work, we discovered a potentially important computational role for clonal neurons in a cortical column.
- We show that clonal representations lead to efficient representations of higher-order context.
- Applying this idea to sequential inputs led to a general model for cognitive maps of the hippocampus.
- A 2D extension led to flexible border ownership representations with top-down binding.

Accomplishments/Impact/Transitions

- This research led to the development of a unified model for cognitive maps in the hippocampus. This was published in Nature communications, and several researchers have found the model to be insightful and useful.
- A new manuscript on with flexible border ownership inference in challenging visual scenes is now ready for submission. A new method for training undirected graphical models was developed and published in AAAI



Context and Priming in Recursive Cortical Networks Program Closeout Meeting

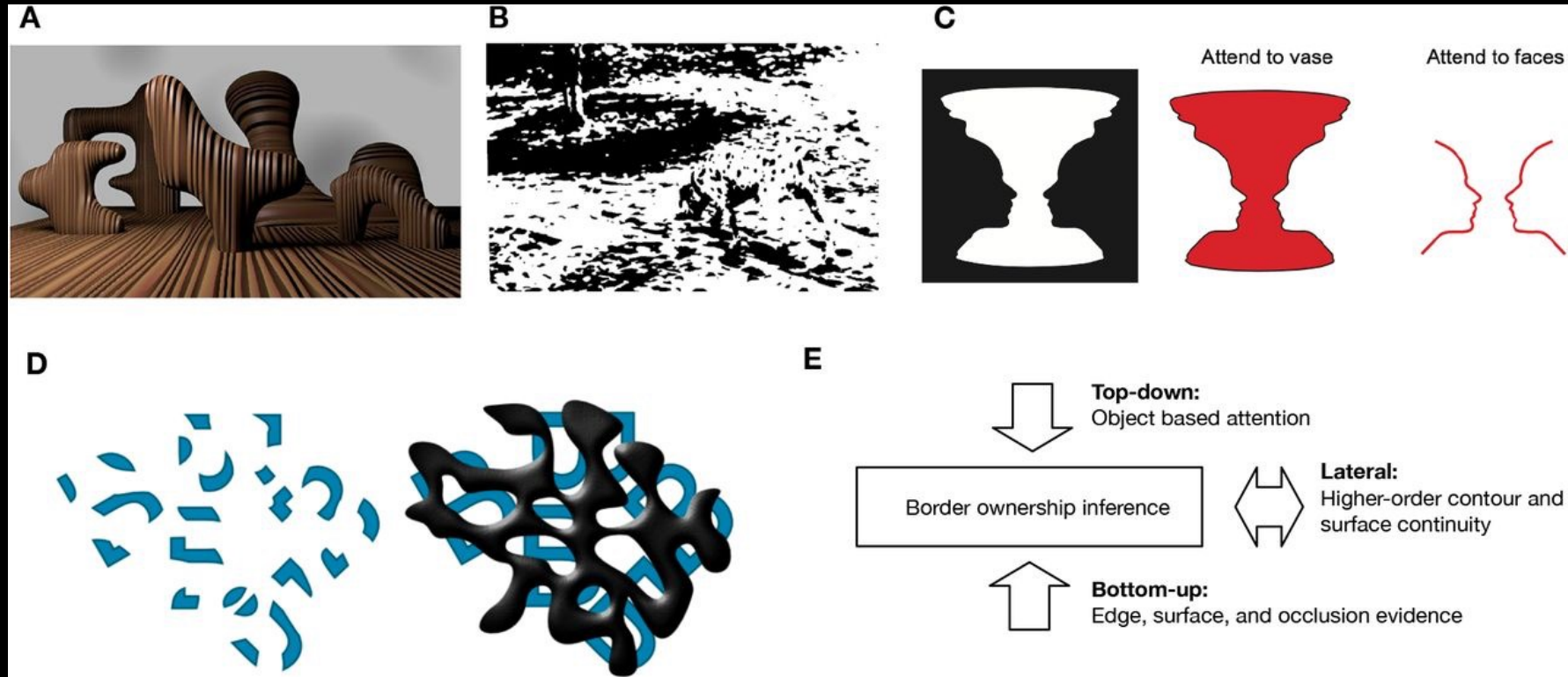
Dr. Dileep George
Vicarious AI
Feb 17 2022



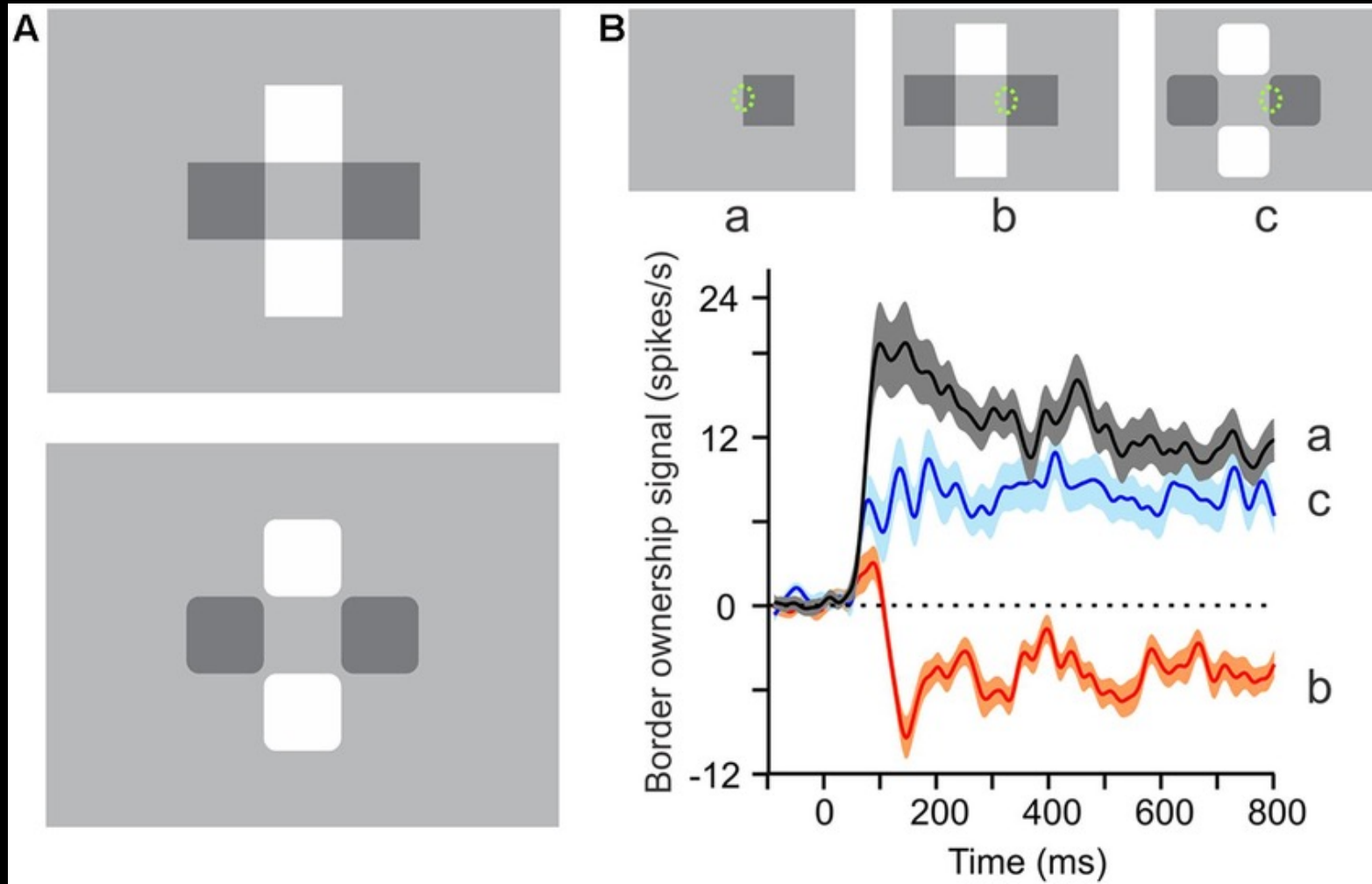
Background & Objective

- Background
 - Humans use context to disambiguate perceptual evidence, and can interpret evidence based on priming. These dynamic capabilities are still lacking in current deep learning models.
- Objective
 - Investigate structural scaffoldings, learning, and inference mechanisms for dynamic contextual inference and priming in Recursive Cortical Networks and related models.

Motivating examples of context and priming in perception/cognition



Motivating examples of context and priming in perception/cognition



Science

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A generative vision model that trains with high data efficiency and breaks text-based CAPTCHAs

 Dileep George*,  Wolfgang Lehrach,  Ken Kansky,  Miguel Lázaro-Gredilla*, Christopher Laan, Bhaskara Marthi, Xi...

[+ See all authors and affiliations](#)

Our starting point model had some good properties for context and priming



m!



counk

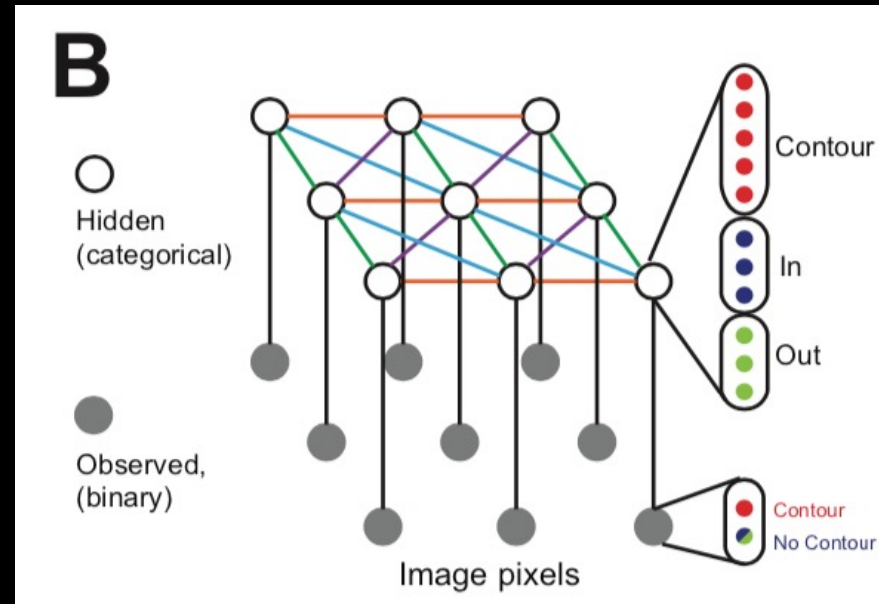
For flexible contextual inference, the model needed the following

- Need a representational scaffolding that is more flexible
- Need a mechanism to learn that representation from data
- Need a flexible inferencing method
- Should be compatible with the RCN hierarchy

For flexible contextual inference, the model needed the following

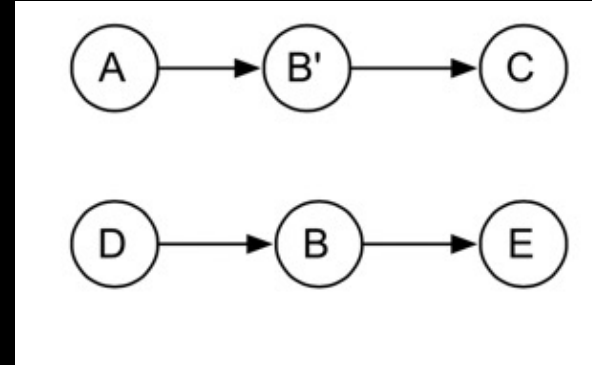
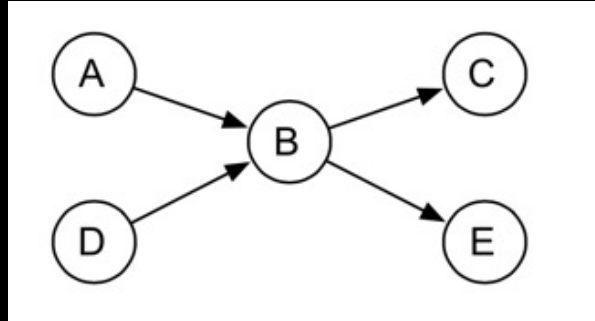
- Need a representational scaffolding that is more flexible
 - **Clone-structured models**
- Need a mechanism to learn that representation from data
 - Query Training / Expectation Maximization/ Gradient Descent
- Need a flexible inferencing method
 - Loopy BP with novel schedules
- Should be compatible with the RCN hierarchy

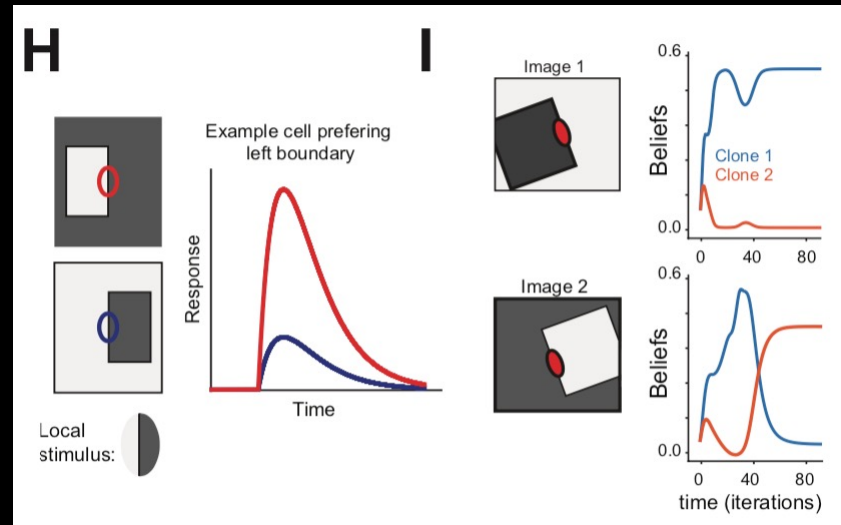
Representational Scaffolding: The cloned MRF model



Core idea: Different clones for different contexts

Clone trick: storing higher-order models

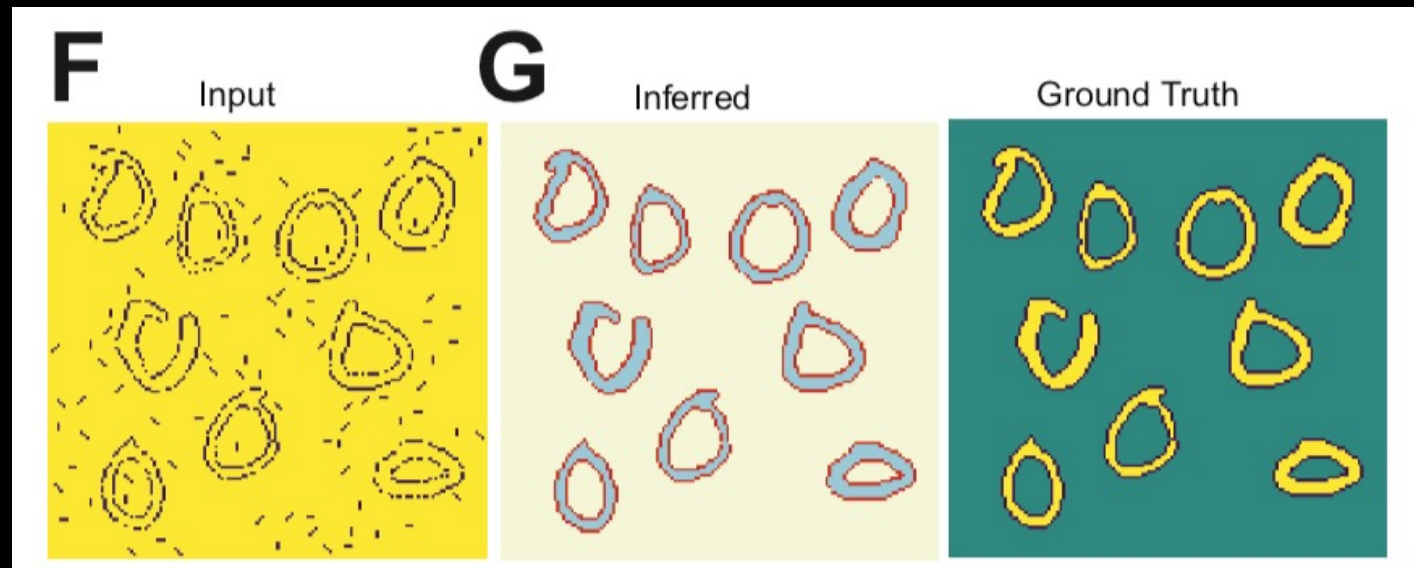




- Different clones learn to represent different border ownerships.
- The correct border ownership is assigned during inference.

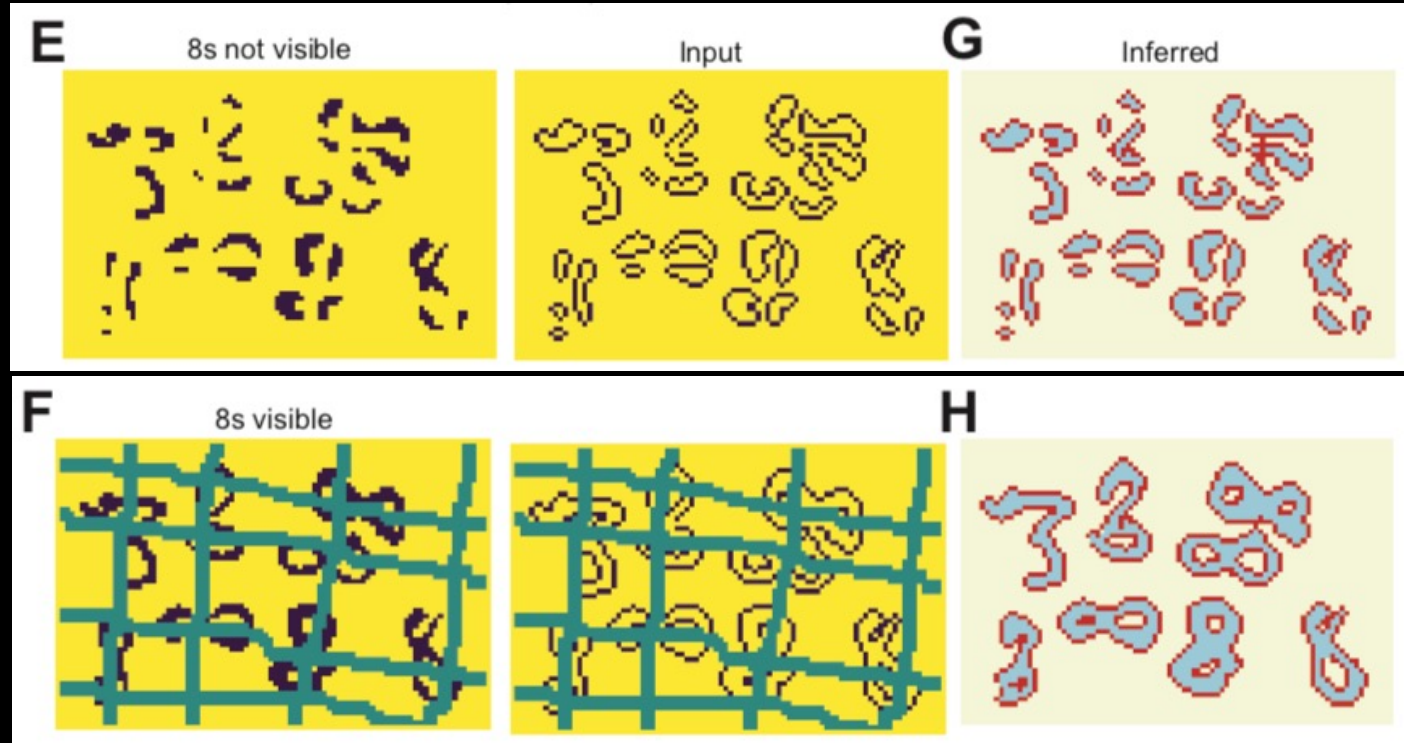


Works with completely novel categories. “0” category is not seen during training at all





Occlusion reasoning with flexible lateral connections

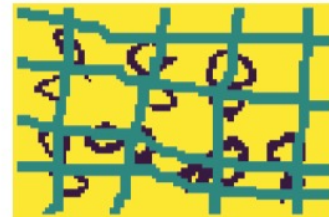
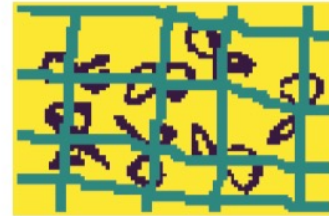
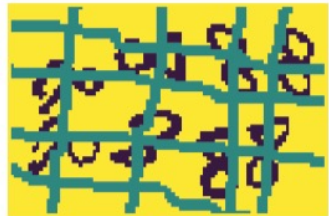


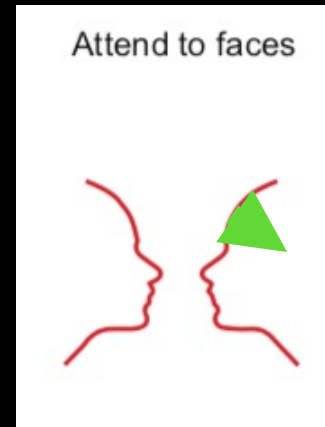
Note that the category "8" is completely novel. No "8"s in the training set.

Additional Examples: 8s visible with the occluder

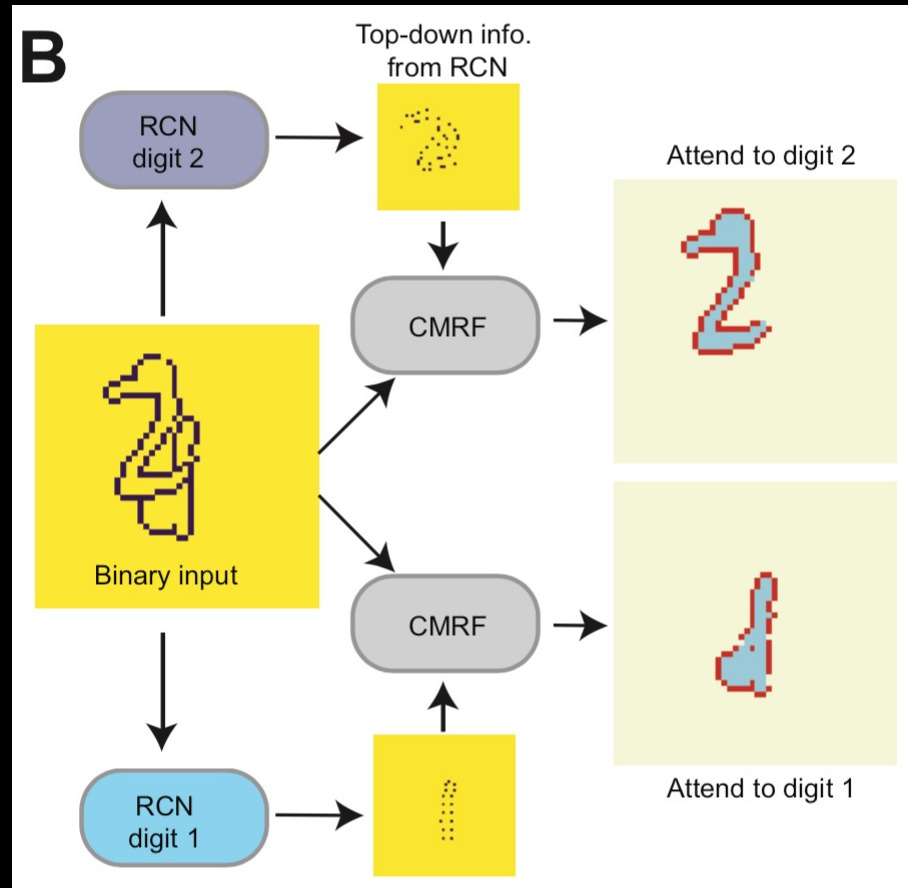
Input to CMRF

Output of CMRF





Border ownership assignment based on top-down context



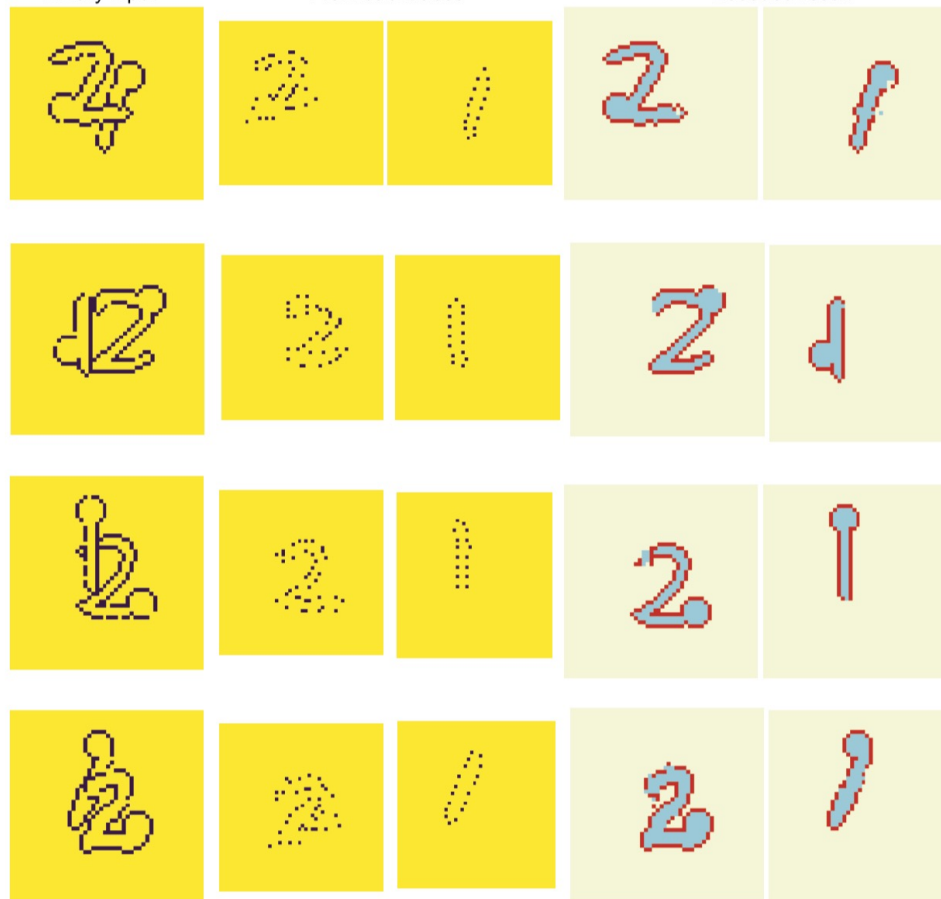
Note that these digits have “tumors”

C

Binary input

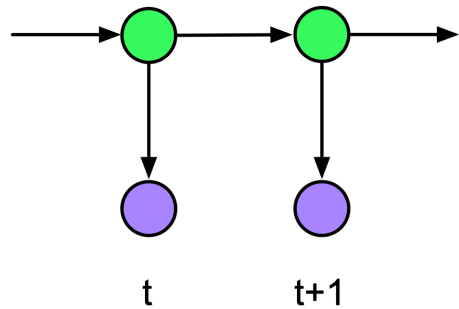
RCN backtraces

Decoded result

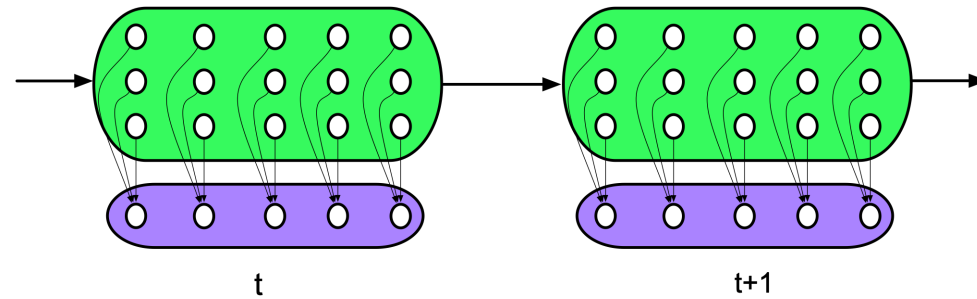


Bonus: We found that the same clone-structured idea works in the hippocampus to learn cognitive maps

Formulate as a restricted hidden Markov model (HMM) and learn with EM



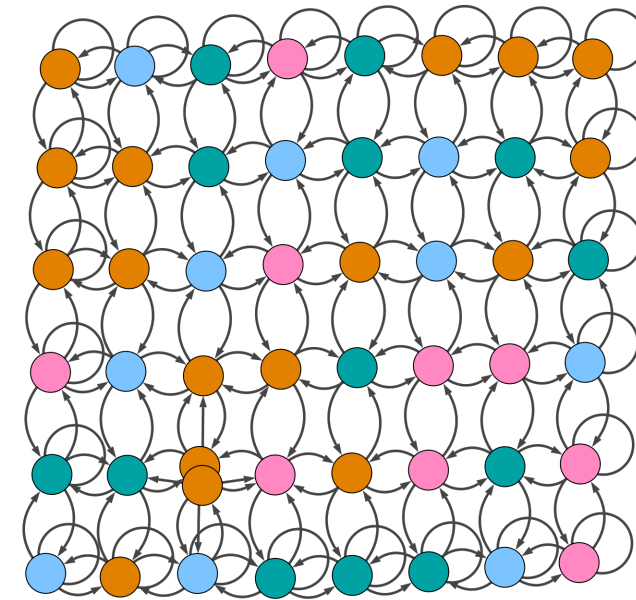
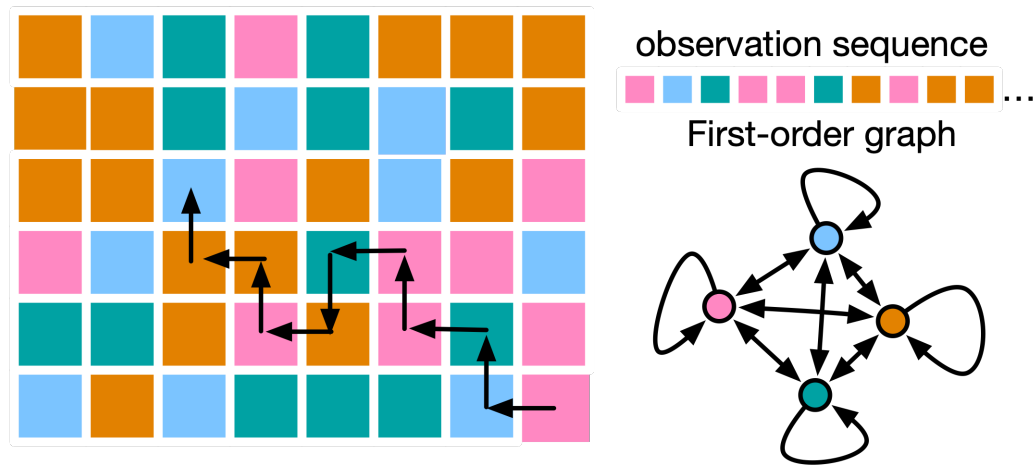
standard HMM structure



"cloned" HMM structure

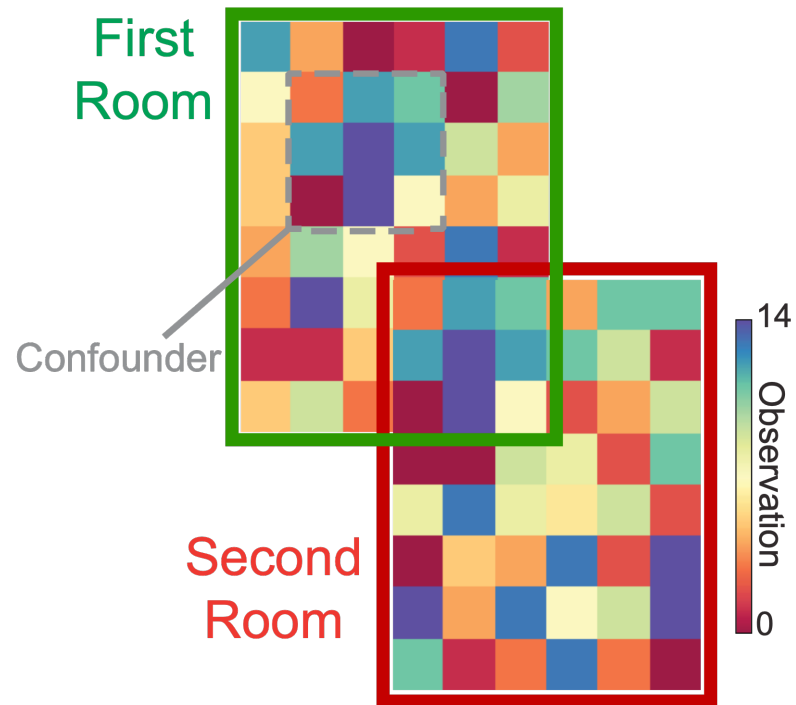
Better learning, creates capacity bottleneck, introduces generalization

Only four distinct observations in the room

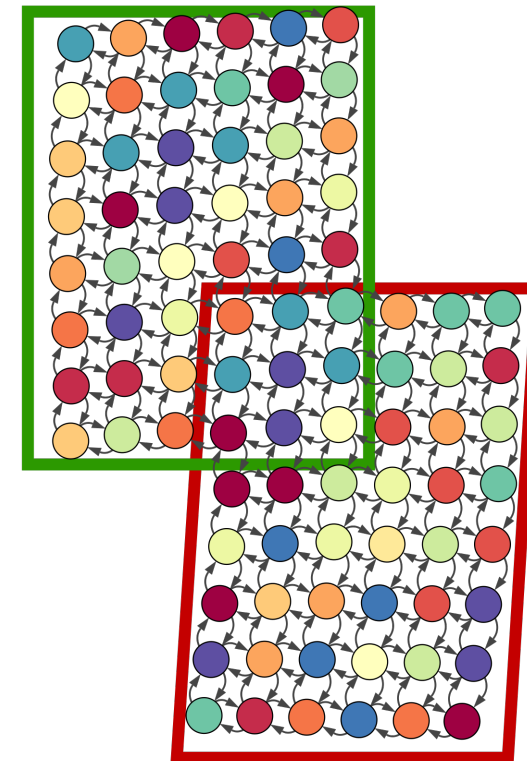


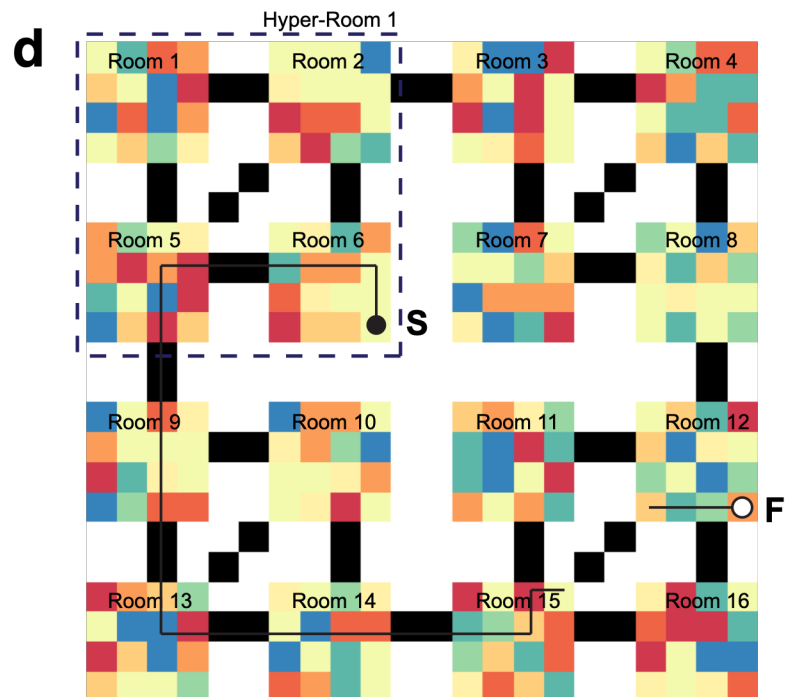
Cognitive map from pure sequential data
No Euclidean assumptions

Traverse rooms separately

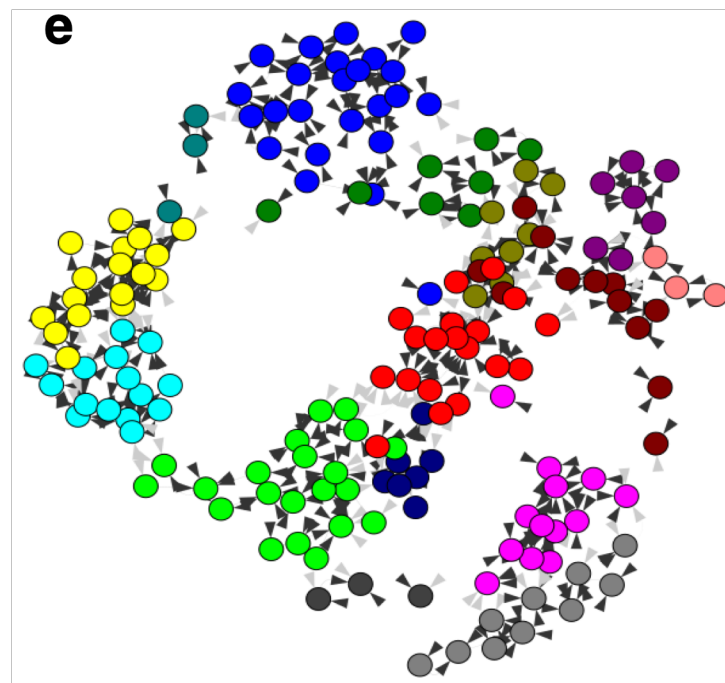


Learned cognitive map

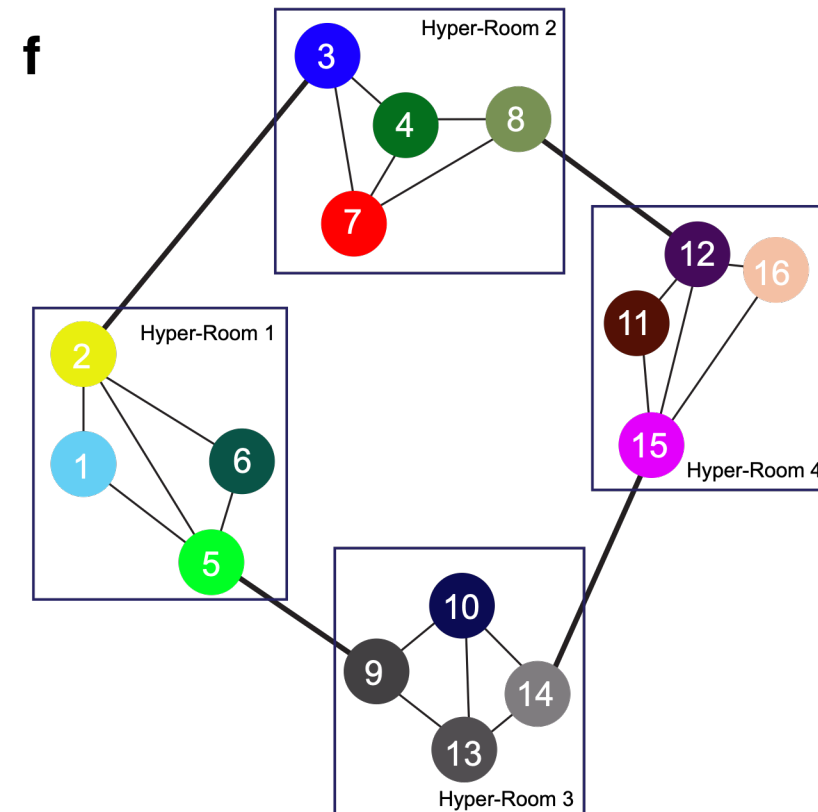




Aliased hierarchical maze



Community detection
on the cognitive map



Discovered 3-level hierarchy

[nature](#) > [nature communications](#) > [articles](#) > [article](#)

Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 22 April 2021](#)

Clone-structured graph representations enable flexible learning and vicarious evaluation of cognitive maps

[Dileep George](#) , [Rajeev V. Rikhye](#), [Nishad Gothoskar](#), [J. Swaroop Guntupalli](#), [Antoine Dedieu](#) & [Miguel Lázaro-Gredilla](#)



Stanislas Dehaene @StanDehaene · Apr 2

We watched this talk by @dileeplearning last Monday at the NeuroSpin weekly seminar — very stimulating and inspiring for those who ponder about Space Time and Number



Dileep George @dileeplearning · Mar 20

Into cognitive maps? Check out this informal interactive talk I gave at @CharanRanganath and O'Reilly labs.

I show how confusing spatial remapping phenomena can make complete sense when you think of space as a sequence! + new results! 1/...

youtu.be/rFhzlL9_y5w?t=1

[Show this thread](#)

Also, the CSCG model is featured in a “box” in a recent review paper from Tim Behrens lab. This is despite this being our very first publication on cognitive maps!

Big thanks to ONR!



Papers and Presentations

- Please list all papers and presentations that resulted from this research with full citations

- 1 paper published in AAAI-2021
- 1 paper published in Nature Communications 2021
- 1 paper published in Neurips 2021
- 2 papers on biorXiv, soon to be submitted to journals
- 1 paper submitted to ICML this year
- 1 paper in preparation for first submission to Science/Cell/Neuron

Query Training: Learning a Worse Model to Infer Better Marginals in Undirected Graphical Models with Hidden Variables

Miguel Lázaro-Gredilla,¹ Wolfgang Lehrach,¹ Nishad Gothoskar,² Guangyao Zhou,¹ Antoine Dedieu,¹ Dileep George¹

AAAI 2021

nature communications

Article | Open Access | Published: 22 April 2021

Clone-structured graph representations enable flexible learning and vicarious evaluation of cognitive maps

Dileep George✉, Rajeev V. Rikhye, Nishad Gothoskar, J. Swaroop Guntupalli, Antoine Dedieu & Miguel Lázaro-Gredilla

Published April 2021



Tim Behrens
@behrenstimb

This is an excellent paper.

 **Vicarious** @vicariousai · Apr 26
Higher-order sequence learning using structured graphs is a unifying theory of how the hippocampus learns cognitive maps. It provides novel mechanisms for transferable schemas and transitive inference, important topics in AI. Check it out @NatureComms
nature.com/articles/s4146...

Perturb-and-max-product: Sampling and learning in discrete energy-based models

NeurIPS 2021

Learning attention-controllable border-ownership for objectness inference and binding

Antoine Dedieu, Rajeev V. Rikhye, Miguel Lázaro-Gredilla, Dileep George
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.12.31.424926>

on BiorXiv

New Results

A detailed mathematical theory of thalamic and cortical microcircuits based on inference in a generative vision model

Dileep George, Miguel Lázaro-Gredilla, Wolfgang Lehrach, Antoine Dedieu, Guangyao Zhou
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.09.09.290601>

on BiorXiv

Graphical Models with Attention for Context-Specific Independence and an Application to Perceptual Grouping

Submitted to ICML

Guangyao Zhou, Wolfgang Lehrach, Antoine Dedieu, Miguel Lázaro-Gredilla, Dileep George



Final Thoughts

Very productive project with several publications.

Clone-structured models is likely a general principle that is applicable in multiple domains.

* Also related to clonal neurons in neuroscience.

Our hippocampus/cognitive-maps model is already recognized in reviews as an elegant unifying model.

- Pursuing several follow ups including a potentially Science-level paper.

Context based perceptual grouping models will also grab attention once published.

Big thanks to ONR for the support!

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE					Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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				5b. GRANT NUMBER ONR R&D Grant 12764403		
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER 1000010726		
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