

 Table 4.1
 Retinal ganglion cells and their functions

Type of Ganglion Cell	Destination in LGN	Function
M ganglion cell	<b>Magnocellular layers</b> (1 and 2)	Movement
P ganglion cell	<b>Parvocellular layers</b> (3, 4, 5, and 6)	Color Texture Depth

© 2007 Thomson Higher Education



© 2007 Thomson Higher Education

Figure 4.15 The dorsal and ventral streams in the cortex originate with the magno and parvo ganglion cells and the magno and parvo layers of the LGN. The red arrow represents connections between the streams. The dashed blue arrows represent feedback - signals that flow "backward."

#### **Lesioning or Ablation Experiments**

- First, an animal is trained to indicate perceptual capacities
- Second, a specific part of the brain is removed or destroyed
- Third, the animal is retrained to determine which perceptual abilities remain
- The results reveal which portions of the brain are responsible for specific behaviors

# What and Where Pathways

- Ungerleider and Mishkin experiment •
  - Object discrimination problem
    - Monkey is shown an object •
    - Then presented with two ٠ choice task
    - Reward given for detecting the target object



- Landmark discrimination problem
  - Monkey is trained to pick the food well next to a cylinder



(b) Landmark discrimination © 2007 Thomson Higher Education

#### What and Where Pathways

- Ungerleider and Mishkin (cont.)
  - Using ablation, part of the parietal lobe was removed from half the monkeys and part of the temporal lobe was removed from the other half
  - Retesting the monkeys showed that:
    - Removal of temporal lobe tissue resulted in problems with the object discrimination task - What pathway
    - Removal of parietal lobe tissue resulted in problems with the landmark discrimination task - Where pathway





(b) Landmark discrimination © 2007 Thomson Higher Education

# Beyond V1: Dorsal and Ventral pathways



## Dorsal and Ventral pathways: a second interpretation

Milner and Goodale's idea:

• Dorsal pathway - not where, but 'how'



What and How Pathways – Neuropsycholgical Evidence

- Behavior of patient D.F.
  - Damage to ventral pathway due to gas leak (carbon monoxide poisoning)



- Behavior of patient D.F.
  - Damage to ventral pathway due to gas leak (carbon monoxide poisoning)



D.F. can't tell you the orientation of the slot, but he can actively post a letter into it.

The Rod and frame illusion.



(a) Rod and frame illusion



Subjects see the illusion

(b) Matching task

#### 'Modules' in the ventral pathway of the macaque and humans



© 2007 Thomson Higher Education

Figure 4.18 (a) Monkey brain showing location of the inferotemporal cortex (IT) in the lower part of the temporal lobe. (b) Human brain showing location of the fusiform face area (FFA) in the fusiform gyrus, which is located under the temporal lobe.



<sup>© 2007</sup> Thomson Higher Education

Figure 4.20 Response of a neuron in the IT cortex for which the person's head is an important part of the stimulus because firing stops when the head is covered.

#### the 'Fusiform Face Area' (FFA) in the human ventral pathway









© 2007 Thomson Higher Education

Figure 4.24 (a) Greeble stimuli used by Gauthier. Participants were trained to name each different Greeble. (b) Brain responses to Greebles and faces before and after Greeble training. (*a: From Figure 1a, p. 569, from Gauthier, I., Tarr, M. J., Anderson, A. W., Skudlarski, P. L., & Gore, J. C. (1999). Activation of the middle fusiform "face area" increases with experience in recognizing novel objects. Nature Neuroscience, 2, 568-573.)* 



# **Chapter 5: Perceiving Faces and Objects**



M.C. Escher

## **Chapter 5: Perceiving Faces and Objects**



M.C. Escher

## The Challenge of Object Perception

- The stimulus on the receptors is ambiguous
  - Inverse projection problem: an image on the retina can be caused by an infinite number of objects





#### **The Challenge of Object Perception**

- Objects can be hidden or blurred
  - Occlusions are common in the environment



## The Challenge of Object Perception

• The reasons for changes in lightness and darkness in the environment can be unclear – shadows cause huge differences in illumination



# **The Structuralist Approach**

- Approach established by Wundt (1830-1920)
  - States that perceptions are created by combining elements called sensations
  - Popular in mid to late 19th century



Wundt studied conscious experience by examining its *structure* or components parts (sensations, feelings) using individuals who were trained in *introspection*. This "school of psychology" became known as *structuralism*.

#### -Structuralism could not explain 'apparent motion'



#### -Structuralism could not explain 'apparent motion'



-Structuralism could not explain 'illusory contours' either.



© 2007 Thomson Higher Education