

# Attention-Dependent Representation of a Size Illusion in Human V1

Fang Fang,<sup>1</sup> Huseyin Boyaci,<sup>2</sup> Daniel Kersten,<sup>3</sup>  
and Scott O. Murray<sup>4,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology  
and Key Laboratory of Machine Perception  
(Ministry of Education)

Peking University  
Beijing 100871  
People's Republic of China

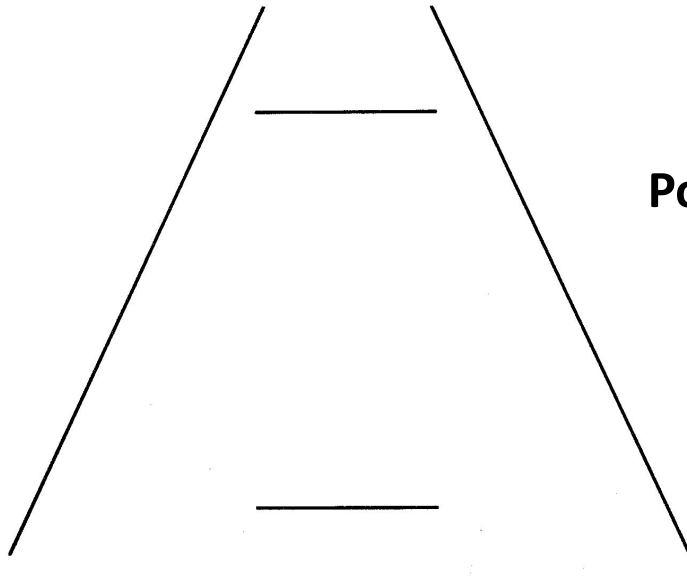
<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology  
Bilkent University  
Ankara 06800  
Turkey

<sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
USA

<sup>4</sup>Department of Psychology  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98105  
USA

Presented at Cognitive Neuroscience Journal Club by  
Igor Utochkin (HSE)  
e-mail: [isutochkin@inbox.ru](mailto:isutochkin@inbox.ru)

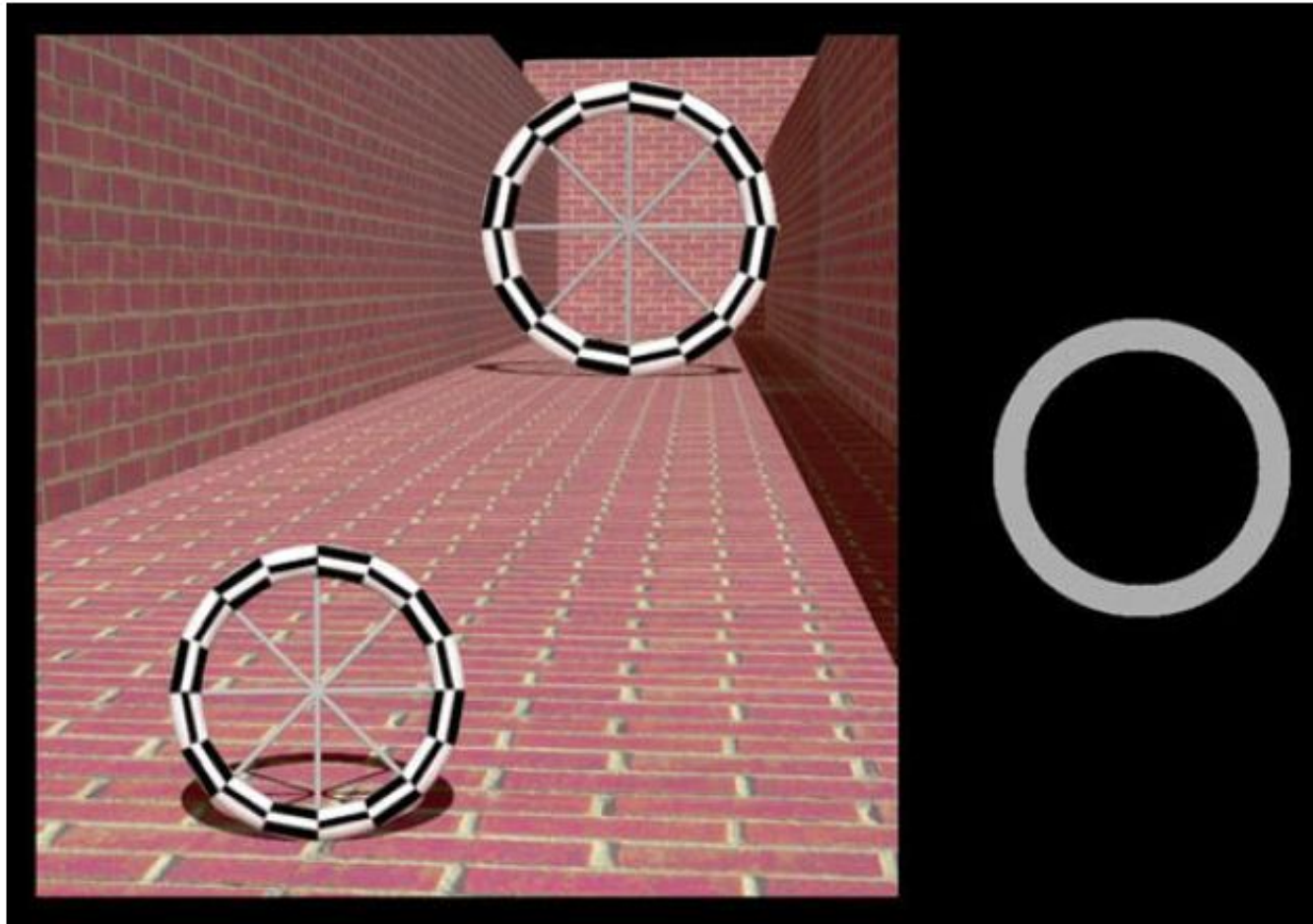
# Working definitions



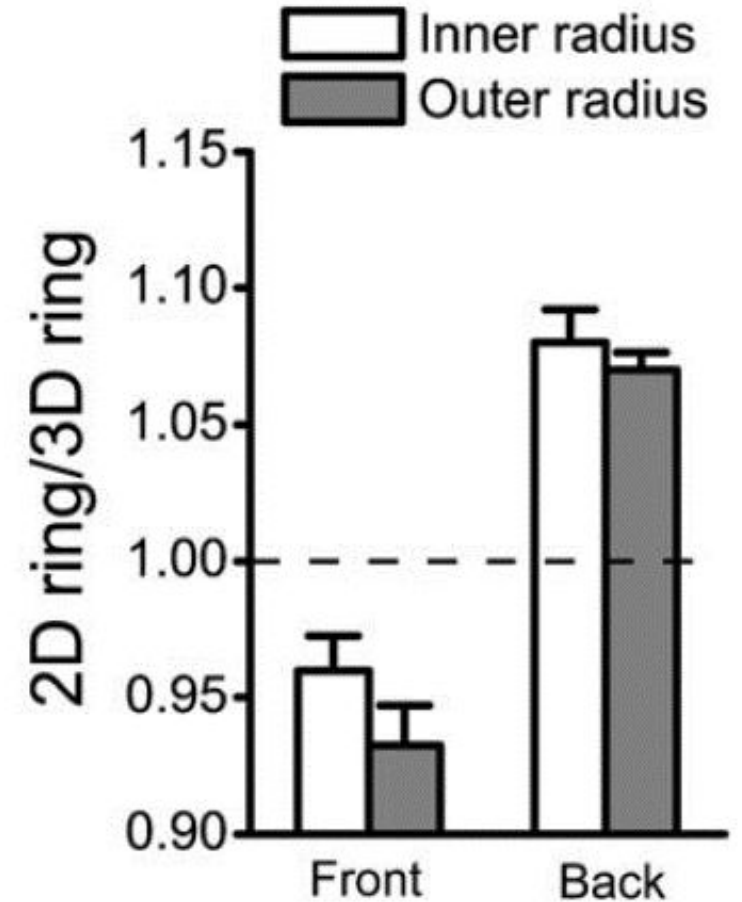
**Ponzo illusion**

**Size constancy** is phenomenal rescaling of the retinal size of an object to match distance at which it is perceived

**Attention** is a set of mechanisms providing a selective access for a part of the input to deeper perceptual processing

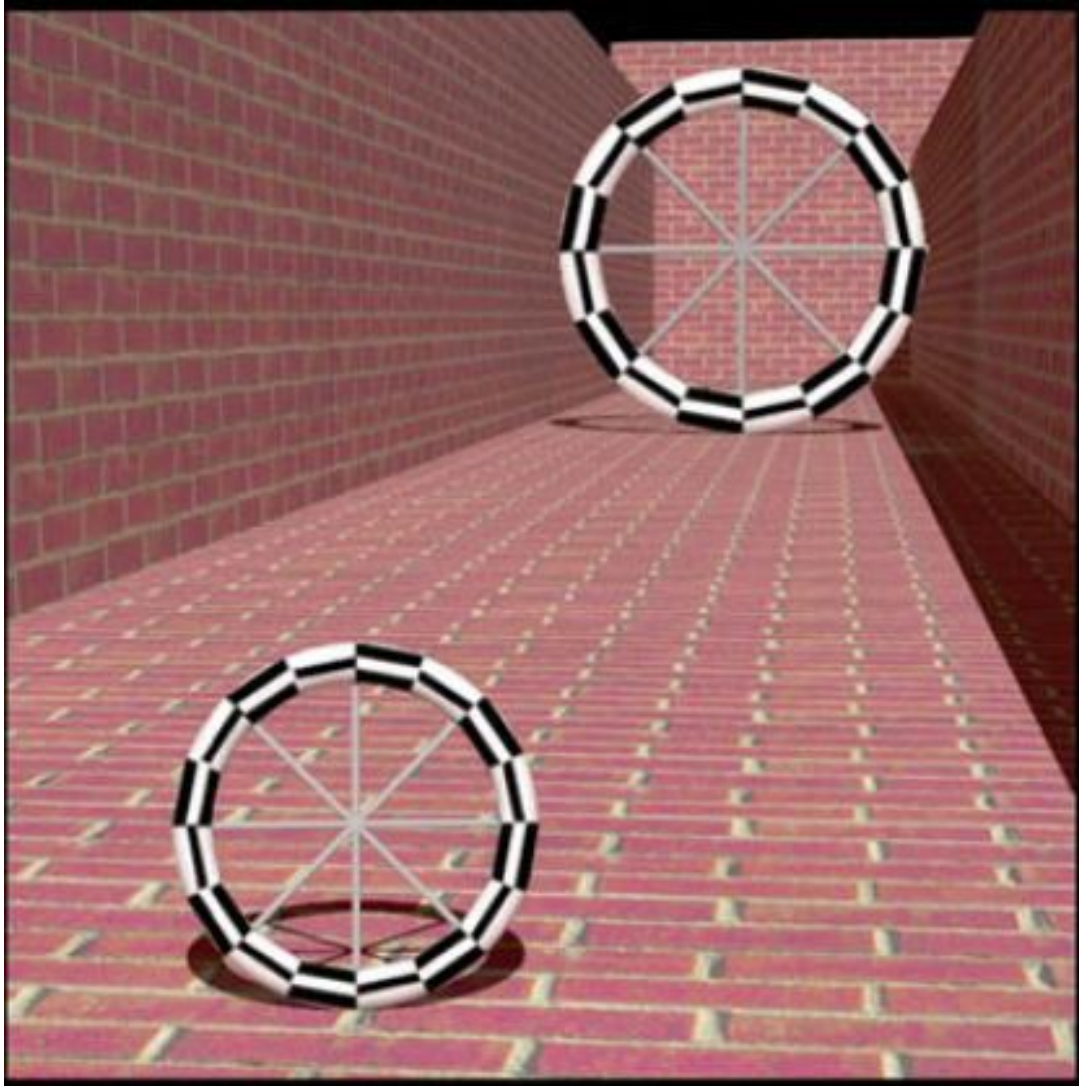


Psychophysical task: Adjust the size of the probe ring to match the size of either the front, or the back ring



Psychophysical results

# fMRI data collection



## Data about apparent sizes

Fixate spokes intersection of a still ring (baseline, 20 s)

followed by phase flicker (10 s)

Move to another ring

## Attentional manipulation

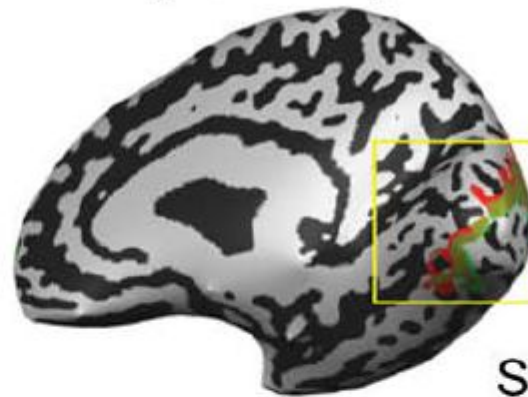
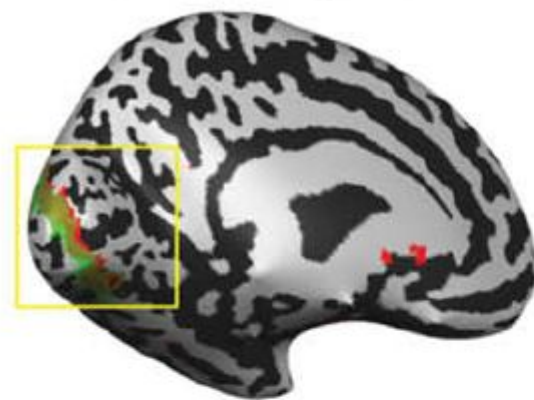
*Attention towards rings:* Detect a 250-ms flicker pause on a fixated ring

*Attention away from rings:* Detect a small luminance change at a fixation point

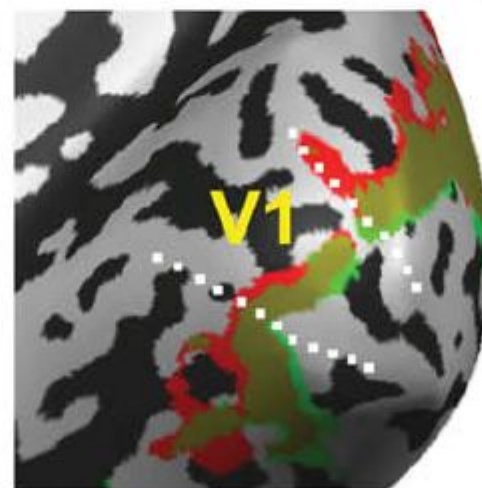
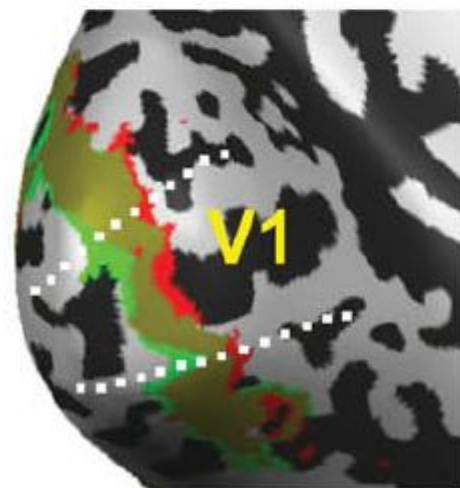
# fMRI image differences

Left hemisphere

Right hemisphere

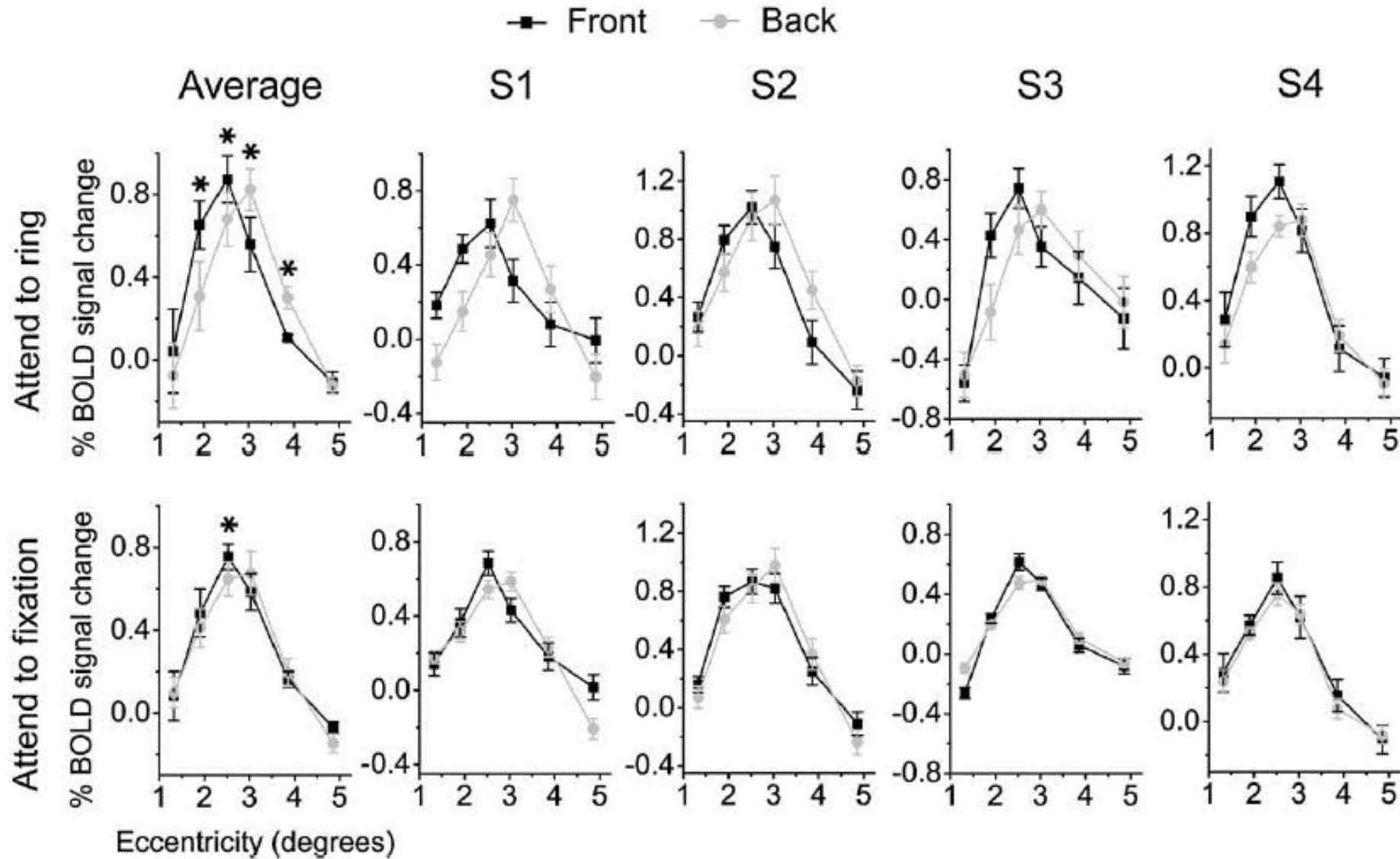


Subject: S1  
Attend-to-ring



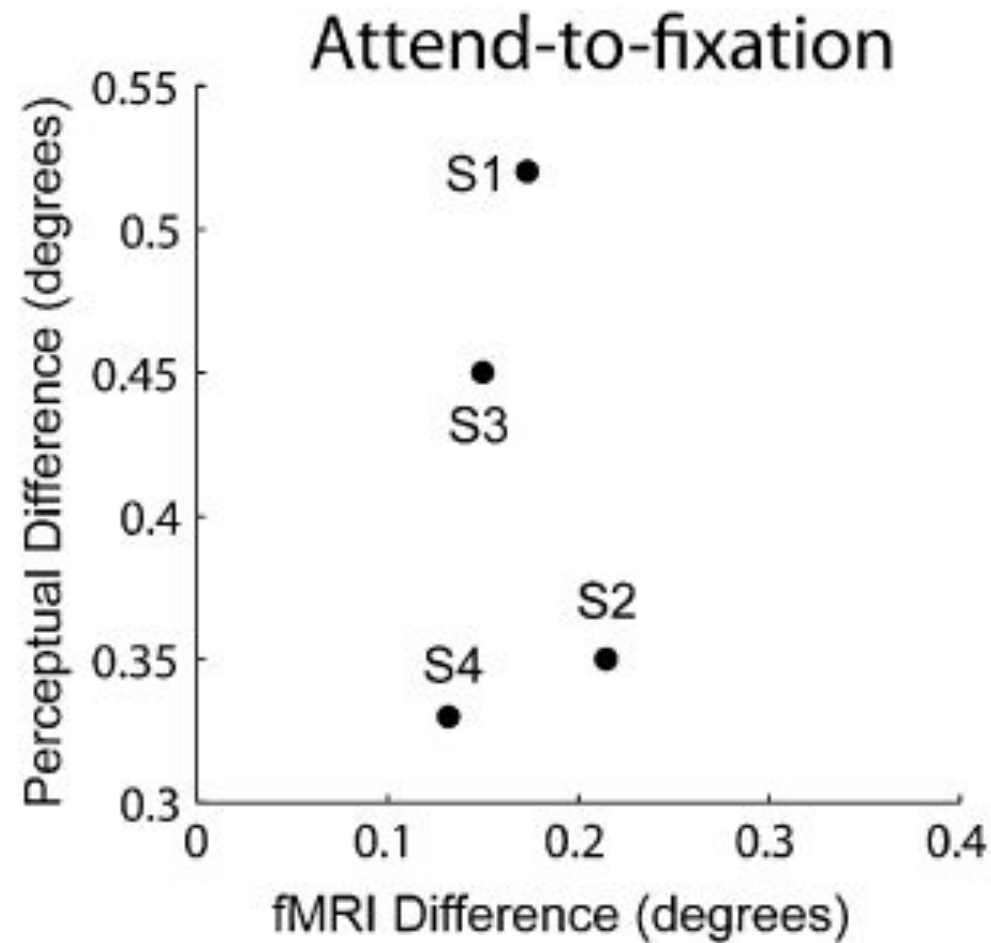
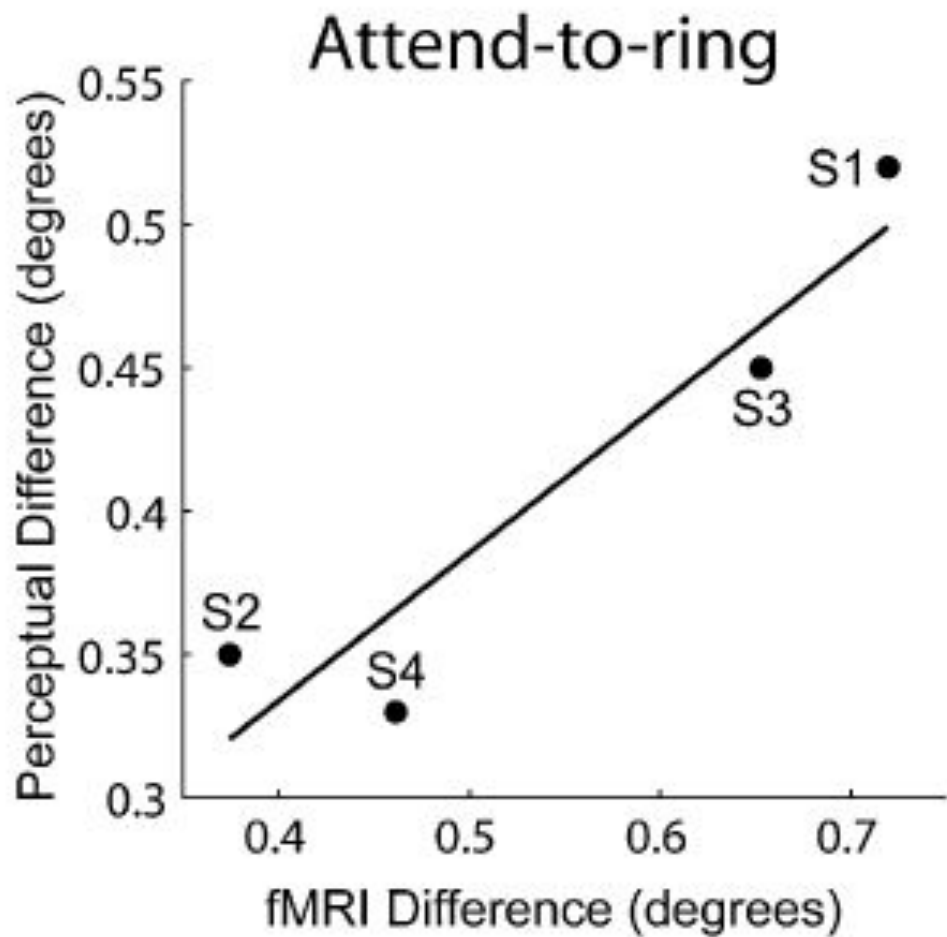
- Front
- Back
- Overlap

# Attentional effects



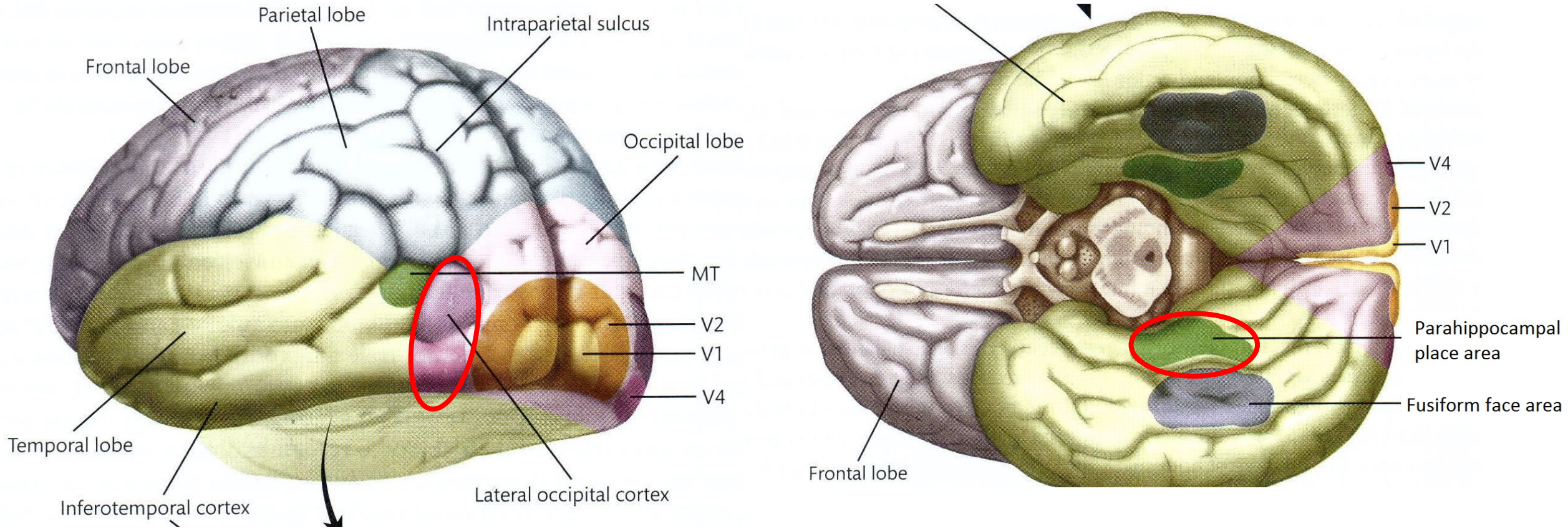
Activation is shifted away from the center at the 'back' condition

The change in activation is substantially weaker



fMRI differences correlate with perceptual difference (illusion magnitude) but only in the 'attend-to-fixation' task.

# Additional low-resolution fMRI session



Activation in LOC and PPA were found to be decreased under 'attend-to-fixation'. This suggests that V1 size rescaling is modulated by feedback from higher-level visual fields (presumably associated with representing the properties of *objects* and *scenes*)



Bonus material

**How does V1 rescale the size?**

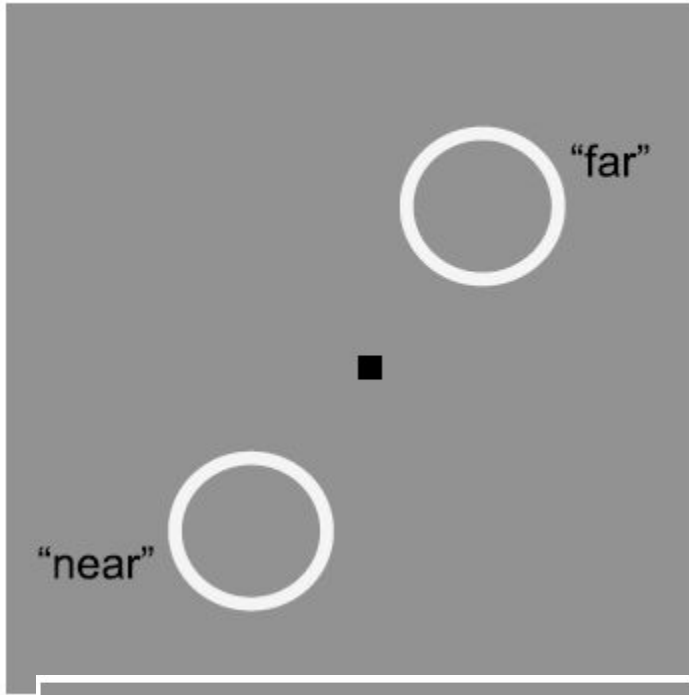
# Object-Centered Shifts of Receptive Field Positions in Monkey Primary Visual Cortex

Amy M. Ni,<sup>1</sup> Scott O. Murray,<sup>2,\*</sup> and Gregory D. Horwitz<sup>1</sup>

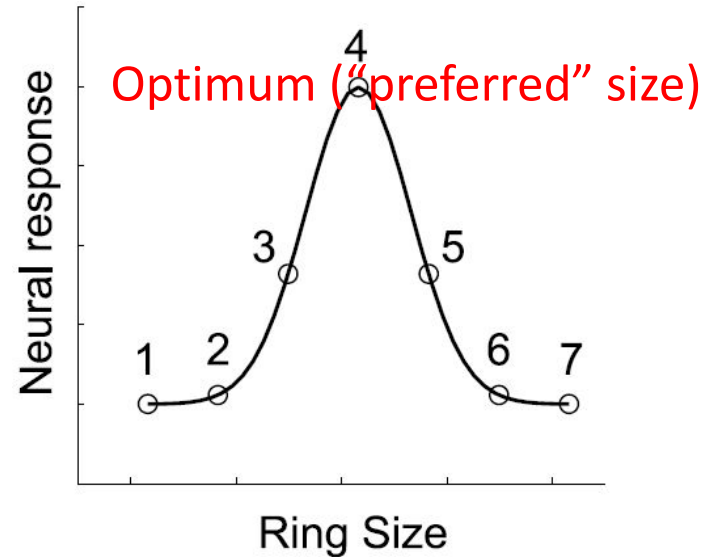
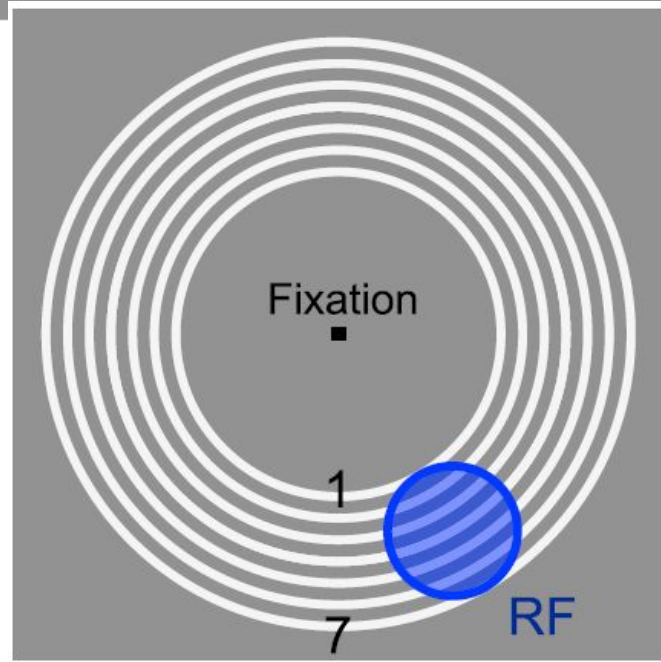
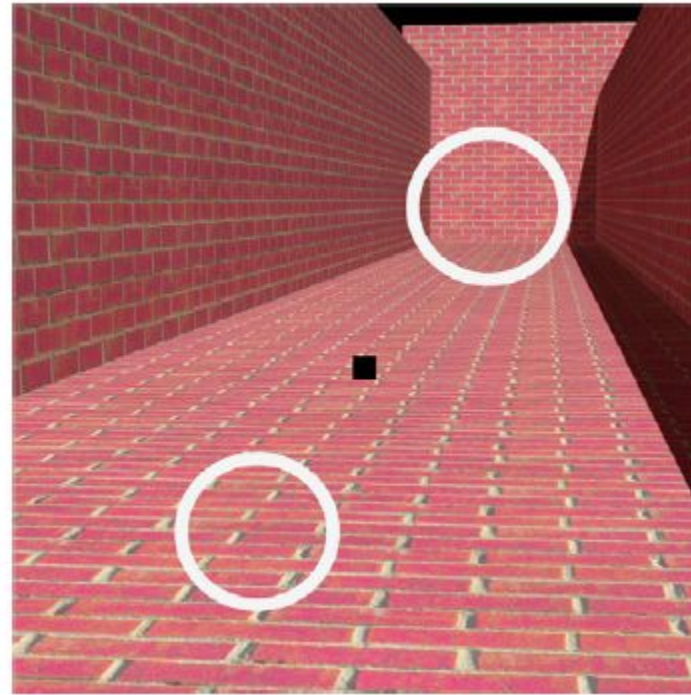
<sup>1</sup>National Primate Research Center and Department of  
Physiology and Biophysics, University of Washington, Seattle,  
WA 98195, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Washington,  
Seattle, WA 98195, USA

Gray background



Corridor background



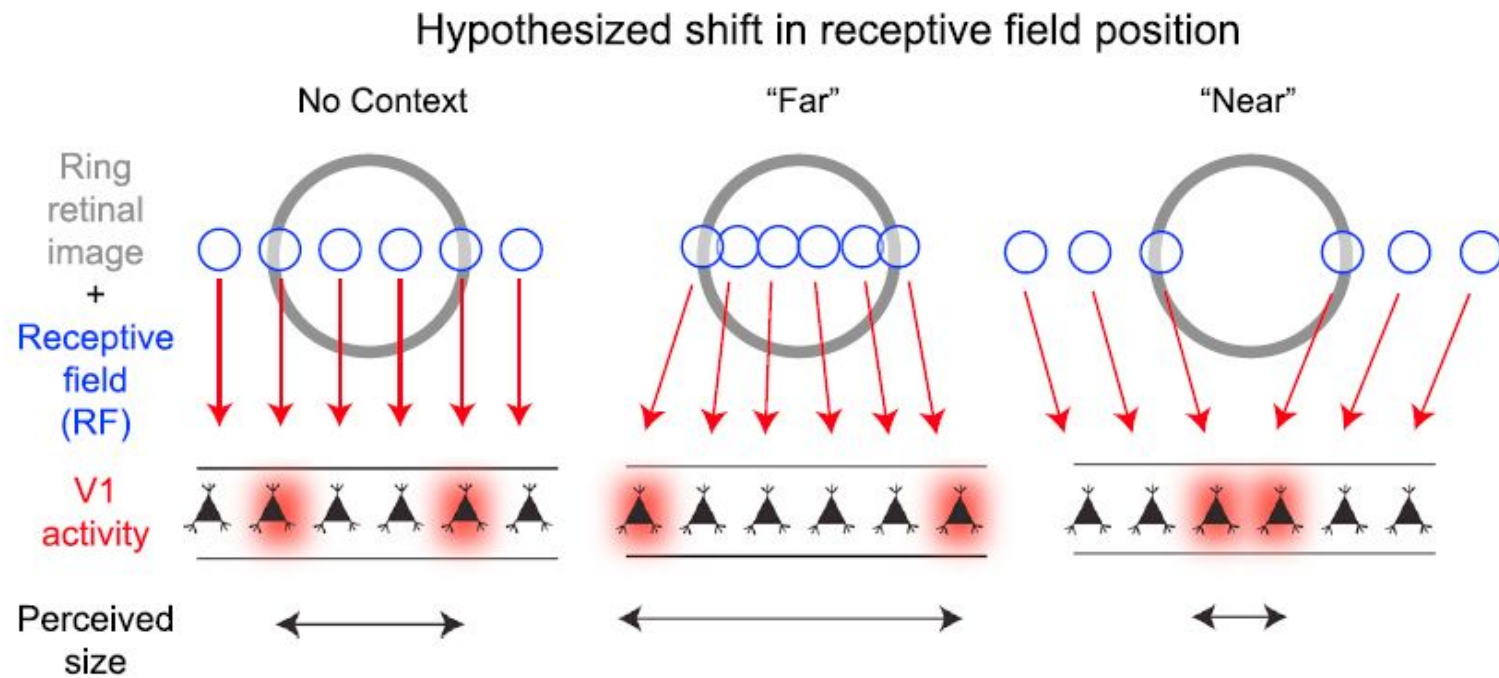
### Psychophysics

Monkeys ( $n = 2$ ) were trained to fixate a larger ring (on a gray background)  
They were then tested both with the gray and with a corridor background

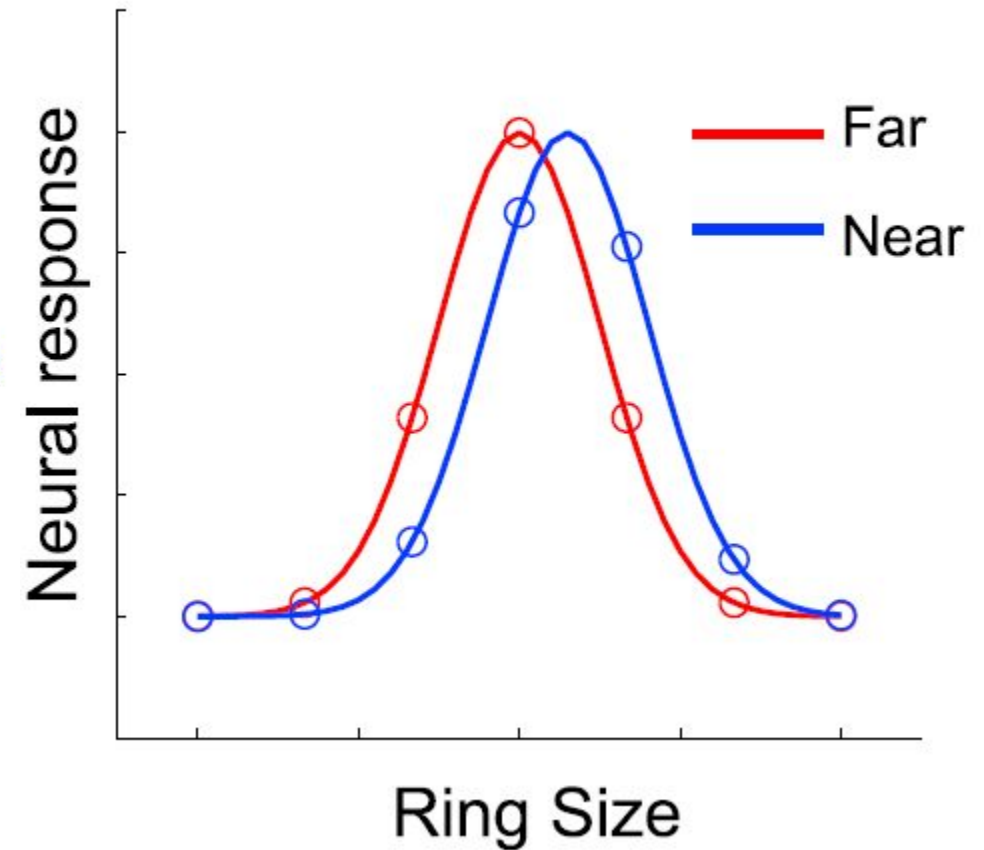
### Single-unit recordings

V1 cell responses were recorded  
For each cell 7 ring sizes were tested eliciting firing rates around an optimum for their receptive fields (RF)

# Predictions



## Predicted size-tuning functions



The edge (ring) of a far object should cause more activation in the RF of neurons "preferring" larger sizes

**Counterintuitive but logically correct:**  
This means that that the *far* ring should shift the RF *inwards*. That is, the cell switches to prefer smaller rings to compensate for distance.

# Principal result

**A**

Example Unit: Monkey 1

Example Unit: Monkey 2

