

# **Today**

Lecture 1

## Using Machine Learning to Explore Neural Data

Lecture 2

## Magnets, Machines, Brains

# **Friday**

Lecture 3

## Deep Learning

# Using Machine Learning to Explore Neural Data

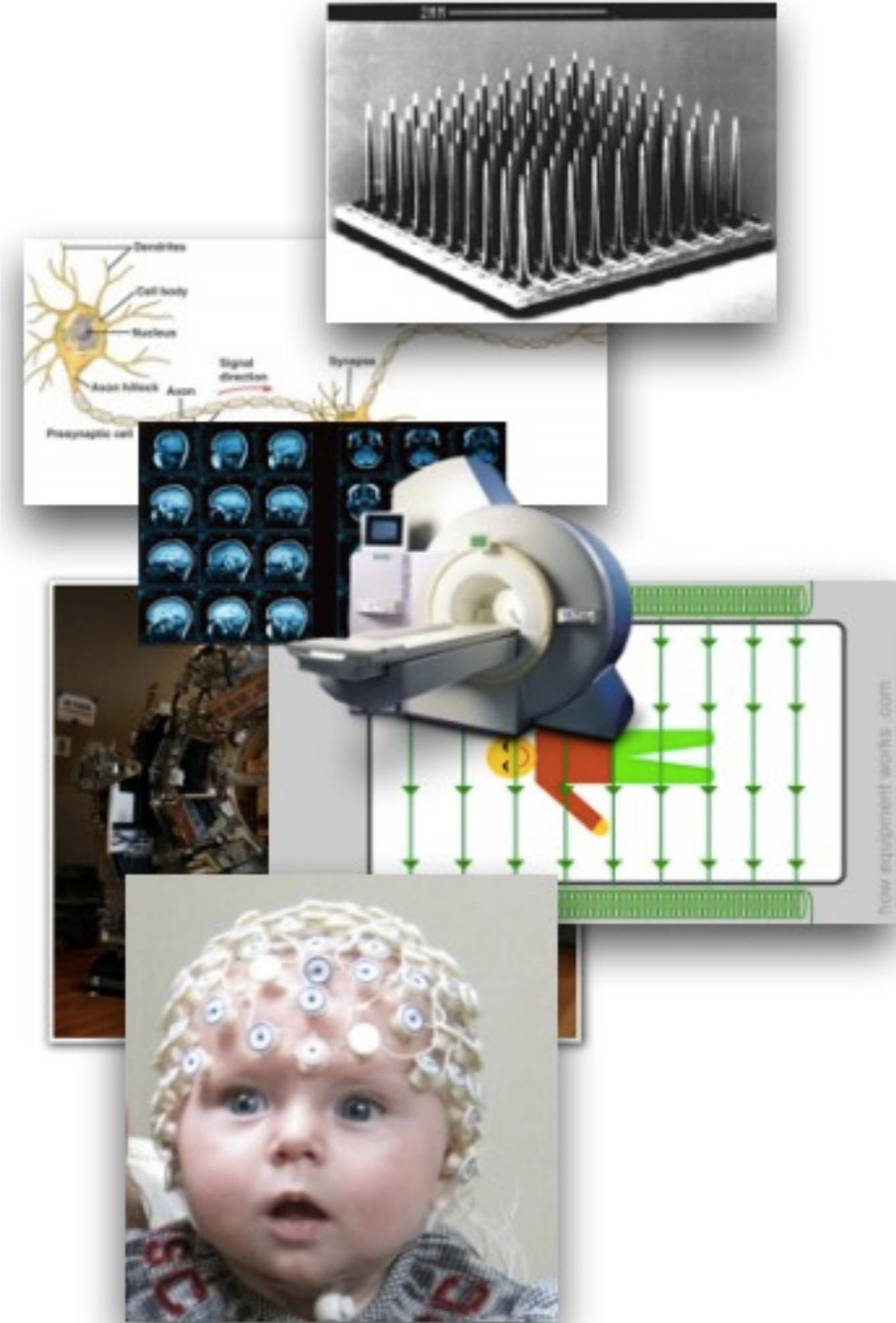


Raul Vicente

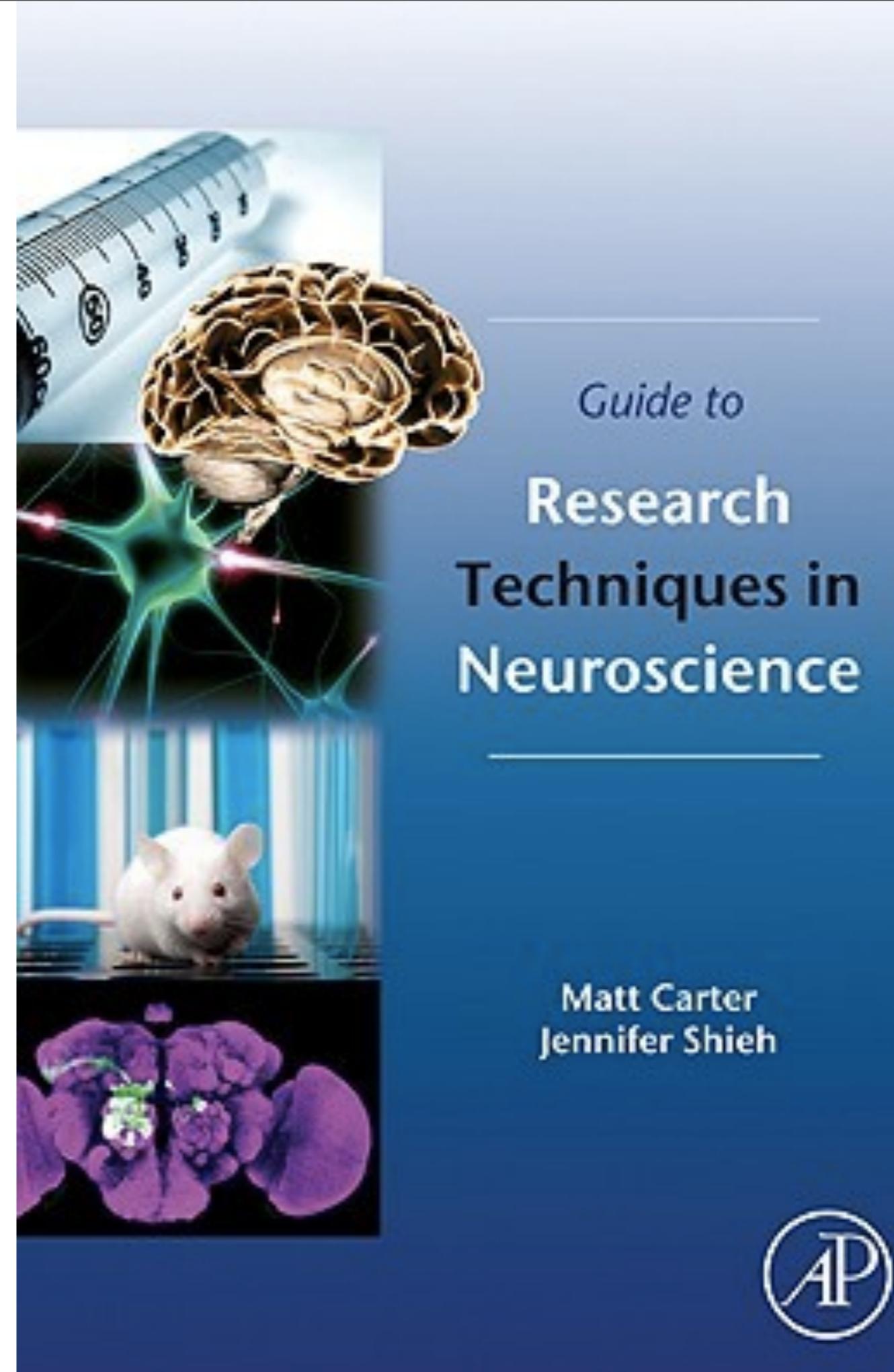
Institute of Computer Science, University of Tartu

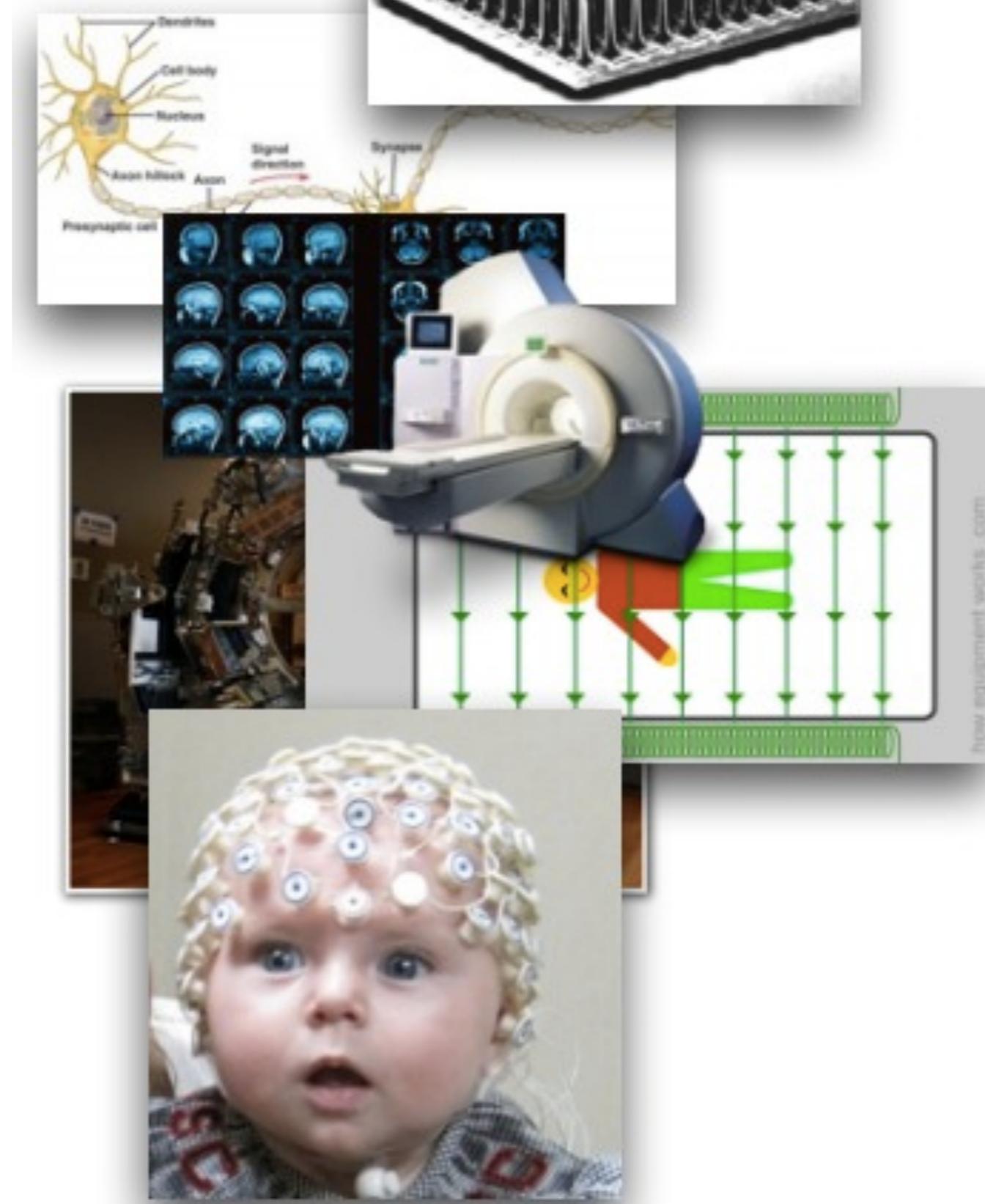
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49 49 99 40 17 81 18 57 60 87 17 40 98 43 69 48 04 56 62 00  
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52 70 95 23 04 60 11 42 69 24 68 56 01 32 56 71 37 02 36 91  
22 31 16 71 51 67 63 89 41 92 36 54 22 40 40 28 66 33 13 80  
24 47 32 60 99 03 45 02 44 75 33 53 78 36 84 20 35 17 12 50  
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78 17 53 28 22 75 31 67 15 94 03 80 04 62 16 14 09 53 56 92  
16 39 05 42 96 35 31 47 55 58 88 24 00 17 54 24 36 29 85 57  
86 56 00 48 35 71 89 07 05 44 44 37 44 60 21 58 51 54 17 58  
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20 73 35 29 78 31 90 01 74 31 49 71 48 86 81 16 23 57 05 54  
01 70 54 71 83 51 54 69 16 92 33 48 61 43 52 01 89 19 67 48

08 02 22 97 38 15 00 40 00 75 04 05 07 78 52 12 50 77 91 08  
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24 47 32 60 99 03 45 02 44 75 33 53 78 36 84 20 35 17 12 50  
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20 73 35 29 78 31 90 01 74 31 49 71 48 86 81 16 23 57 05 54  
01 70 54 71 83 51 54 69 16 92 33 48 61 43 52 01 89 19 67 48



Go and read this  
book!



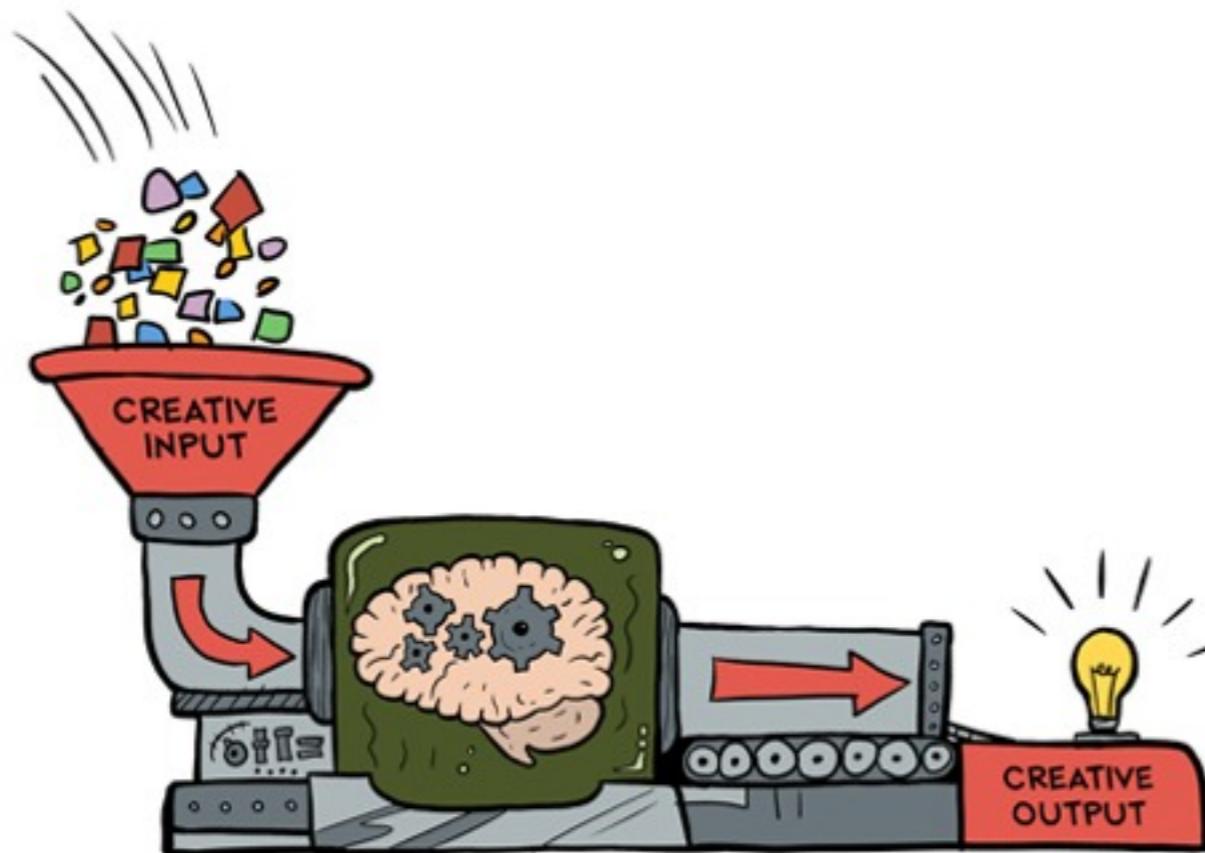


# Stimuli

Photons

Pressure

Chemicals



# Behavior

Movement

Disease state

# Neuroimaging

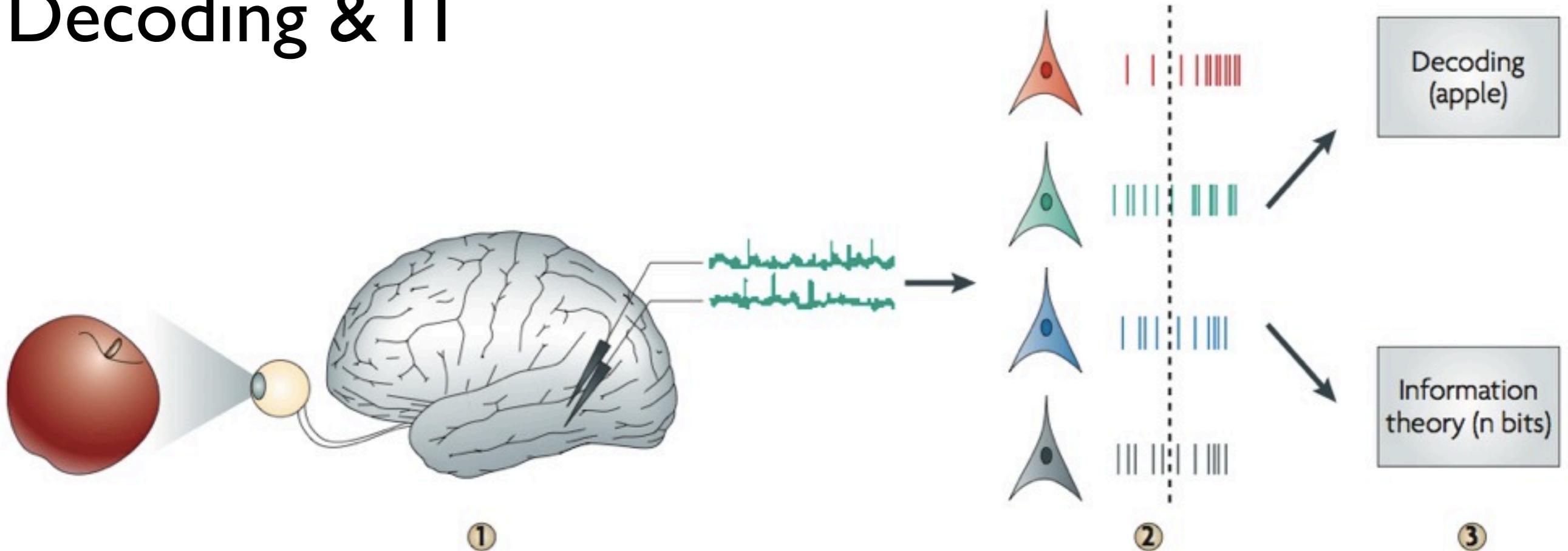
EEG / LFP / MEG

SUA / MUA

Ca<sup>++</sup> / VSD

(f)MRI

# Decoding & IT

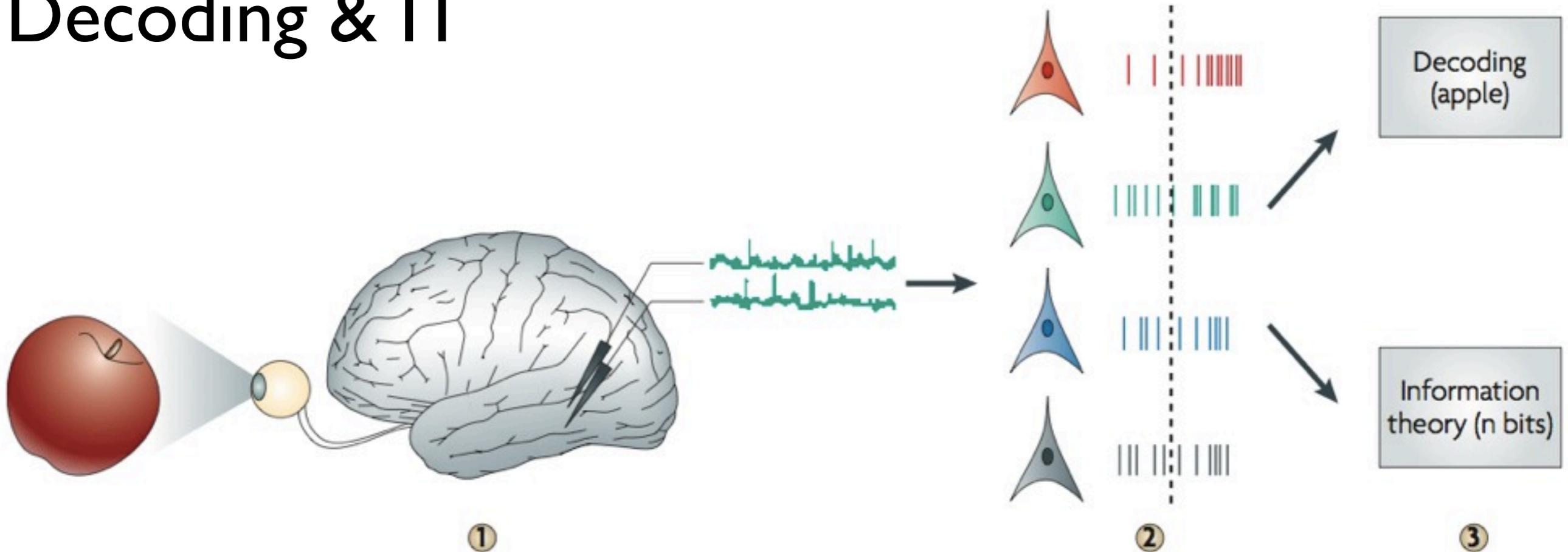


Extracting information from neuronal populations: information theory and decoding approaches

Rodrigo Quiroga & Stefano Panzeri

*Nature Reviews Neuroscience* **10**, 173-185 (March 2009)

# Decoding & IT



[Extracting information from neuronal populations: information theory and decoding approaches](#)

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**D:** predict which stimulus or behavior elicits an observed neural response (ex., classifiers in % accuracy)

**IT:** reduction of uncertainty about the stimulus obtained by knowing the neural response (ex., mutual information in bits)

# Why decoding?

## Basic

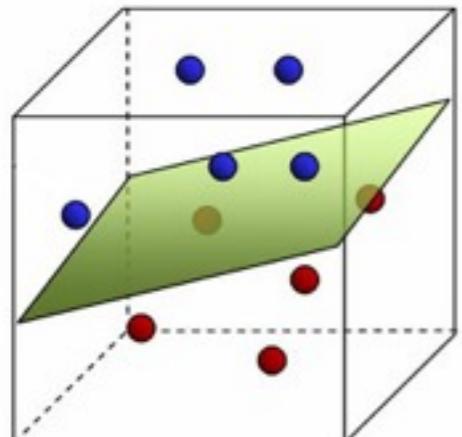
- What aspects of a stimulus are important for each brain area?
- Where? When?

## Practical

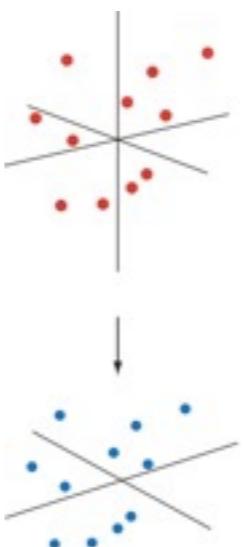
- Neural prosthetics
  - neural signals into movements
  - stimuli into neural signals

# 3 themes

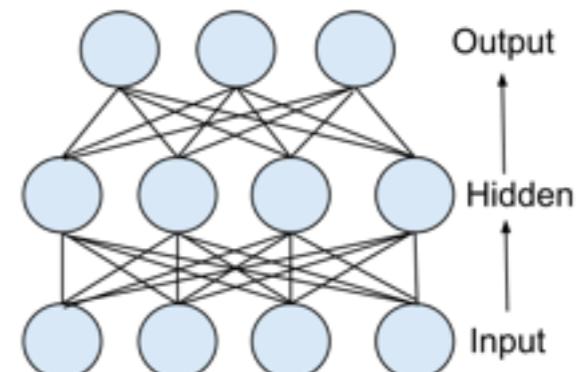
# Machine learning



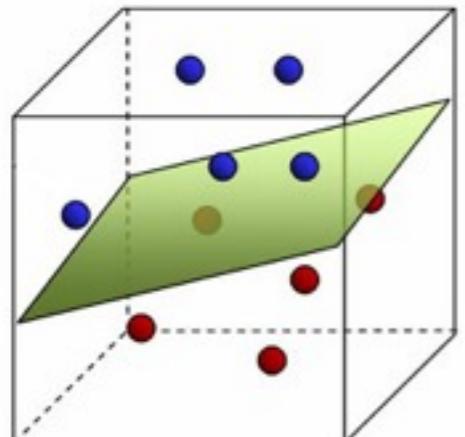
## Dimensionality reduction



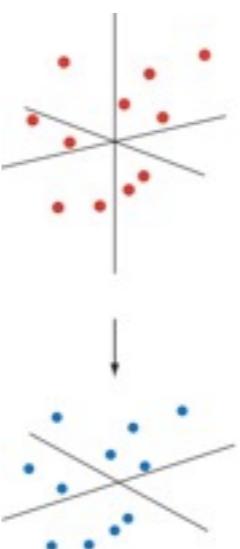
## Caveats



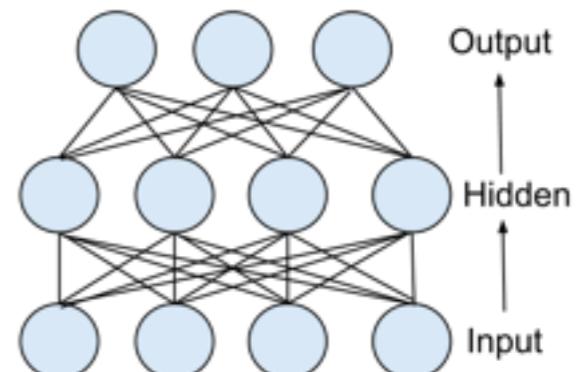
# Machine learning



## Dimensionality reduction

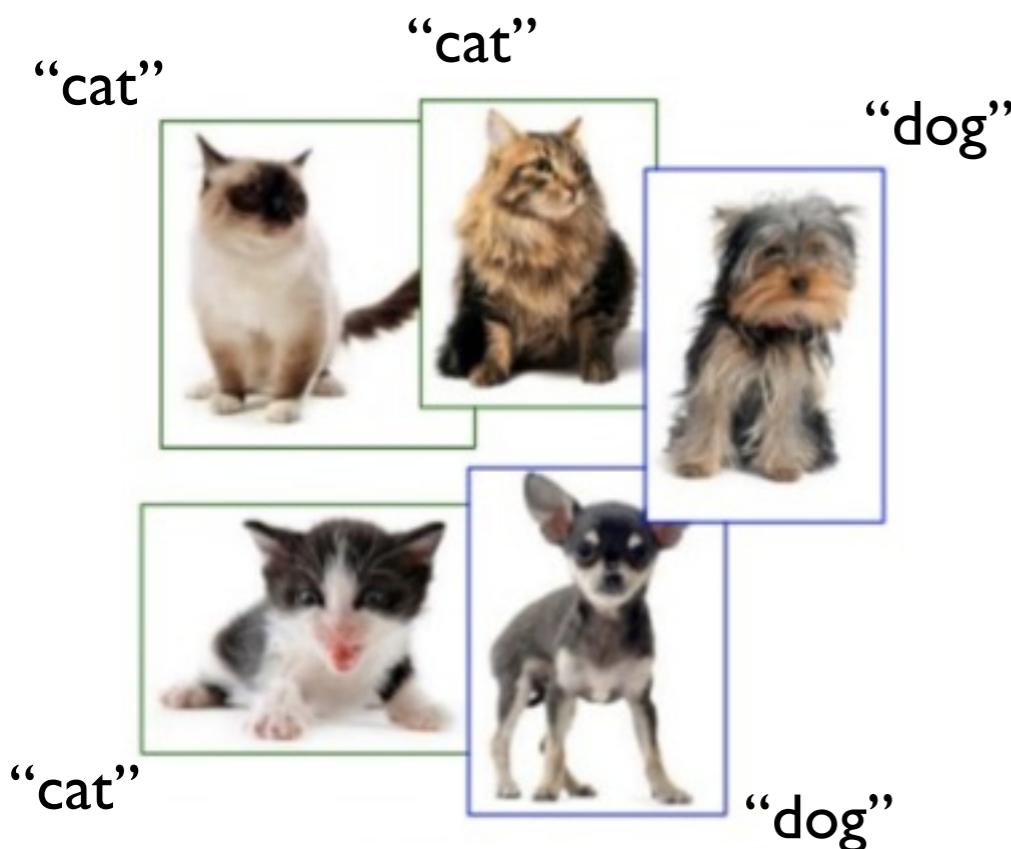


## Caveats



# Machine Learning: algorithms that learn from data

- Supervised



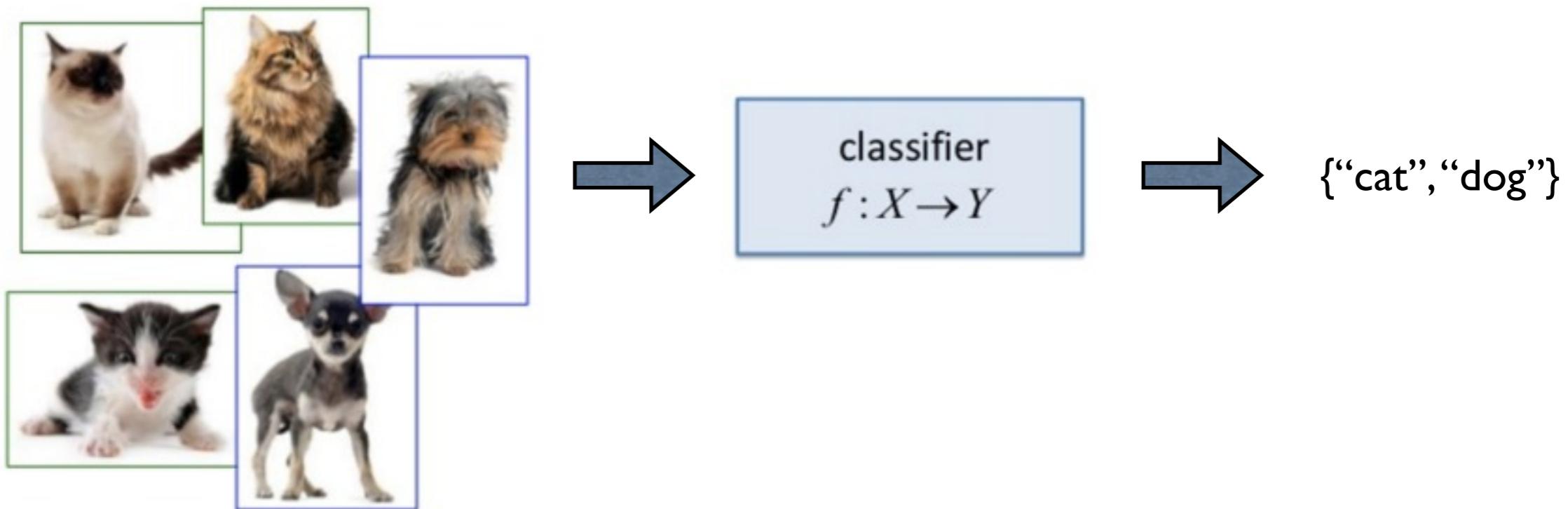
# Machine Learning: algorithms that learn from data

- Supervised



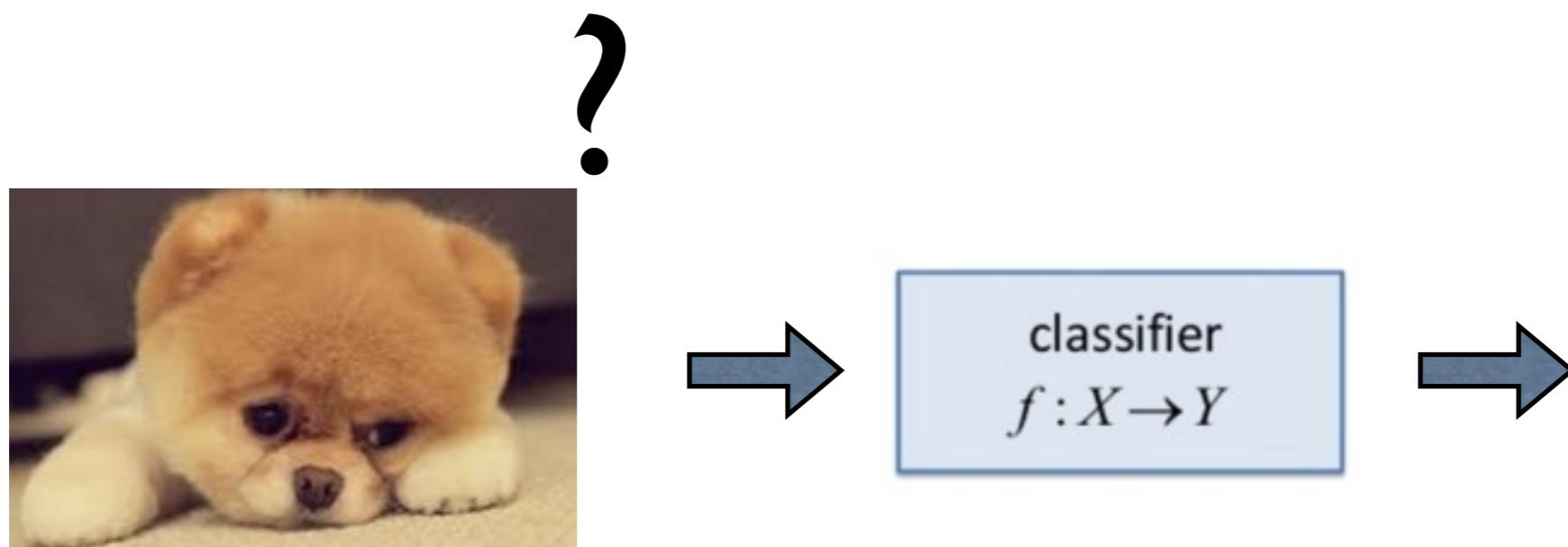
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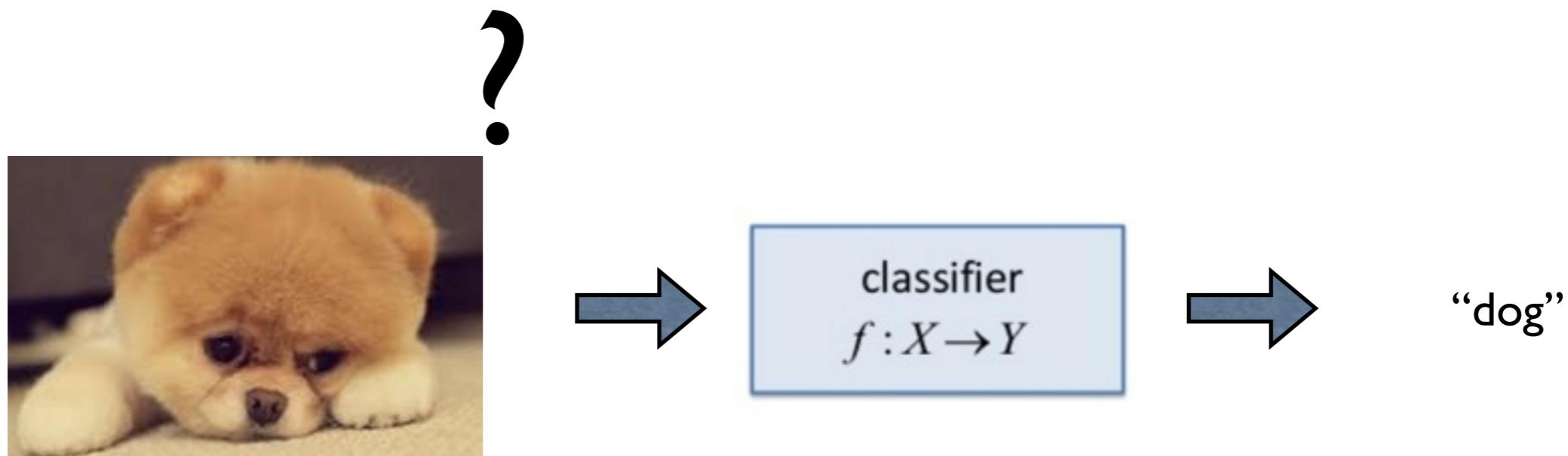
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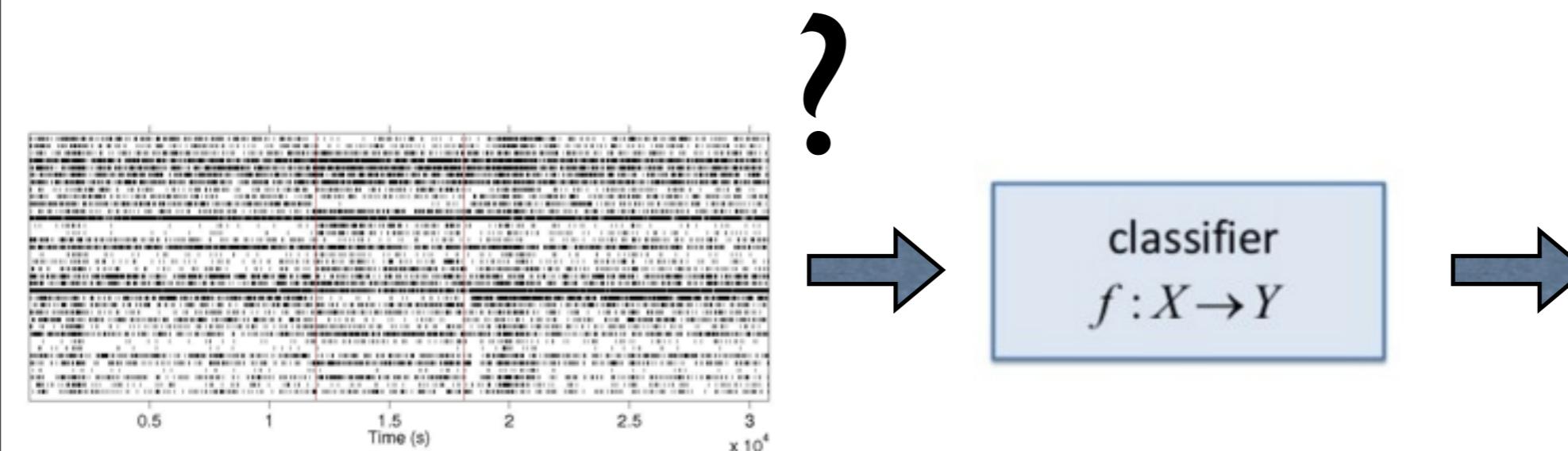
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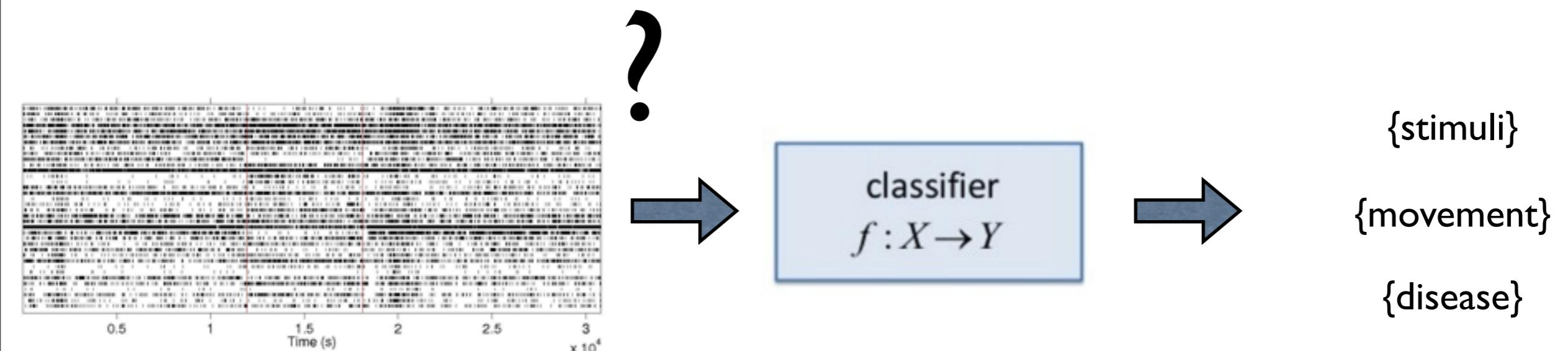
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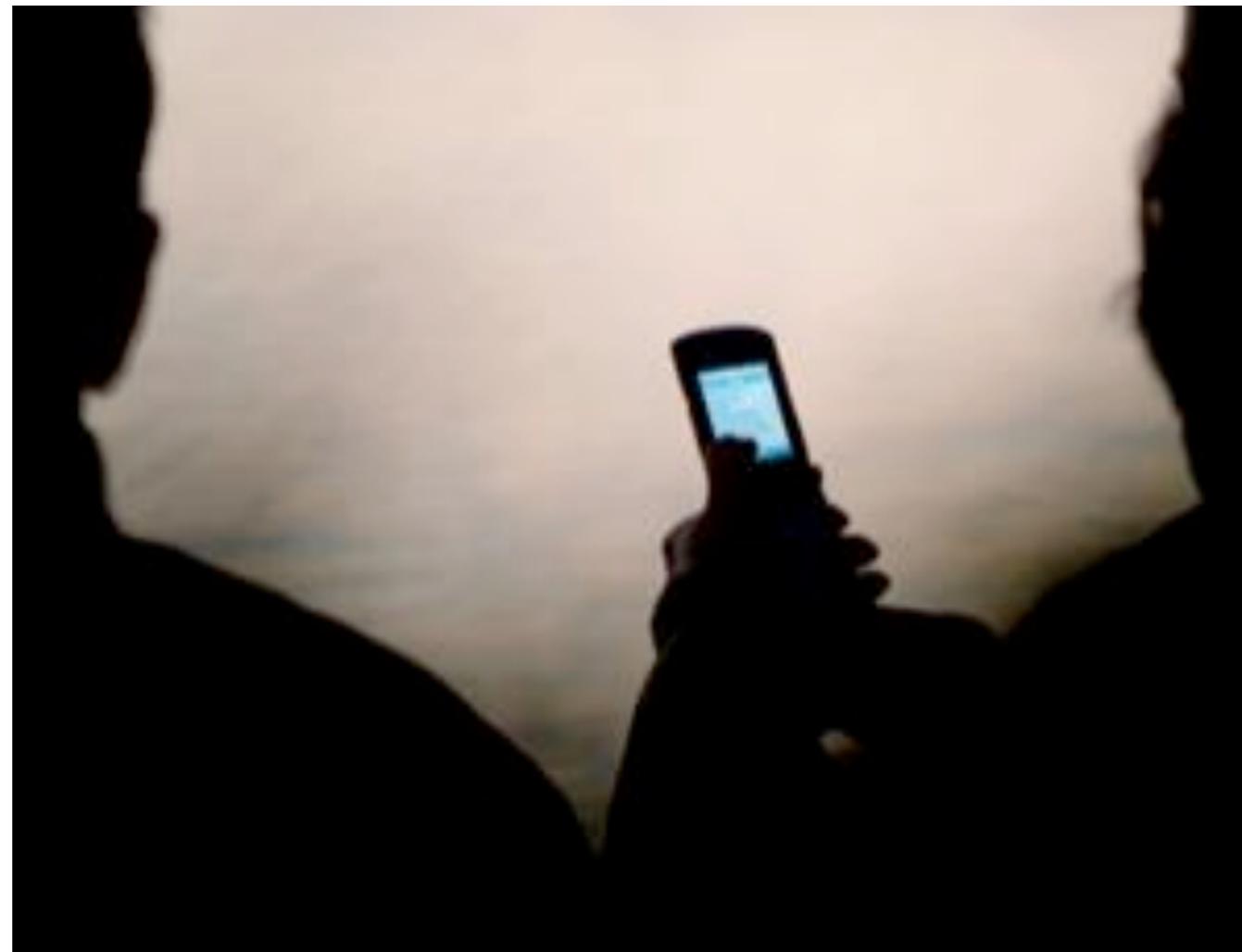
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# **Machine Learning:** algorithms that learn from data

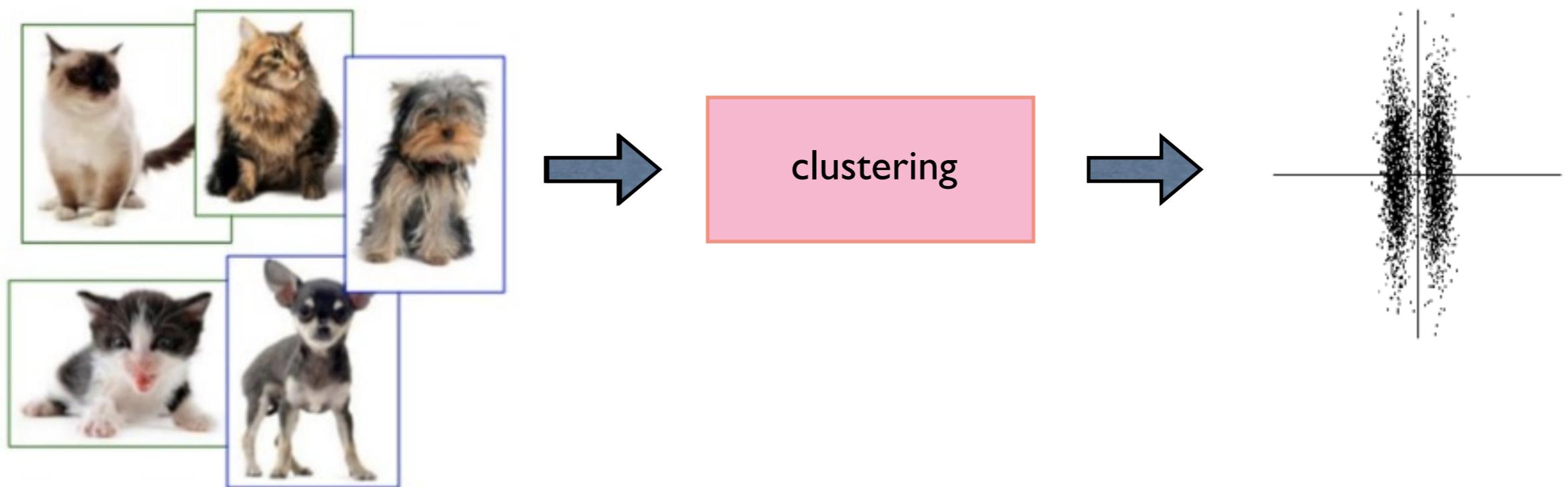
- Supervised



Parkinson tested from phone calls... >95% accuracy

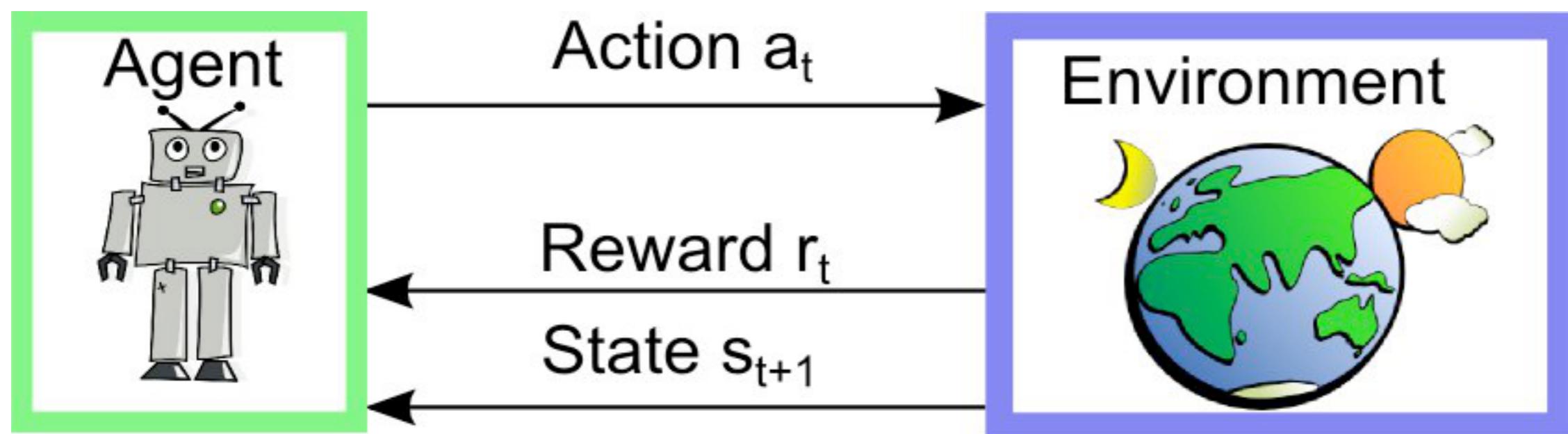
# Machine Learning: algorithms that learn from data

- Supervised
- Unsupervised

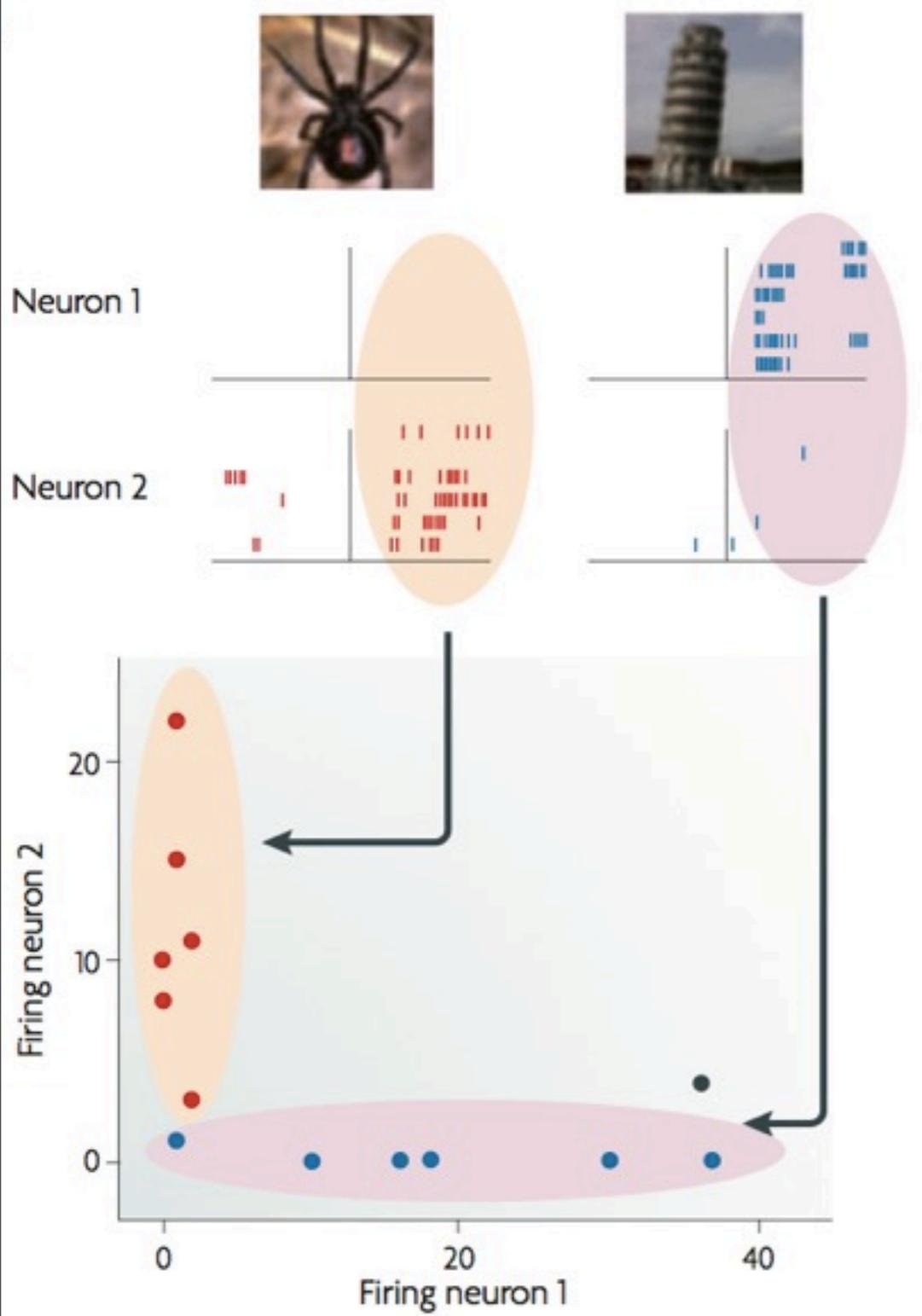


# Machine Learning: algorithms that learn from data

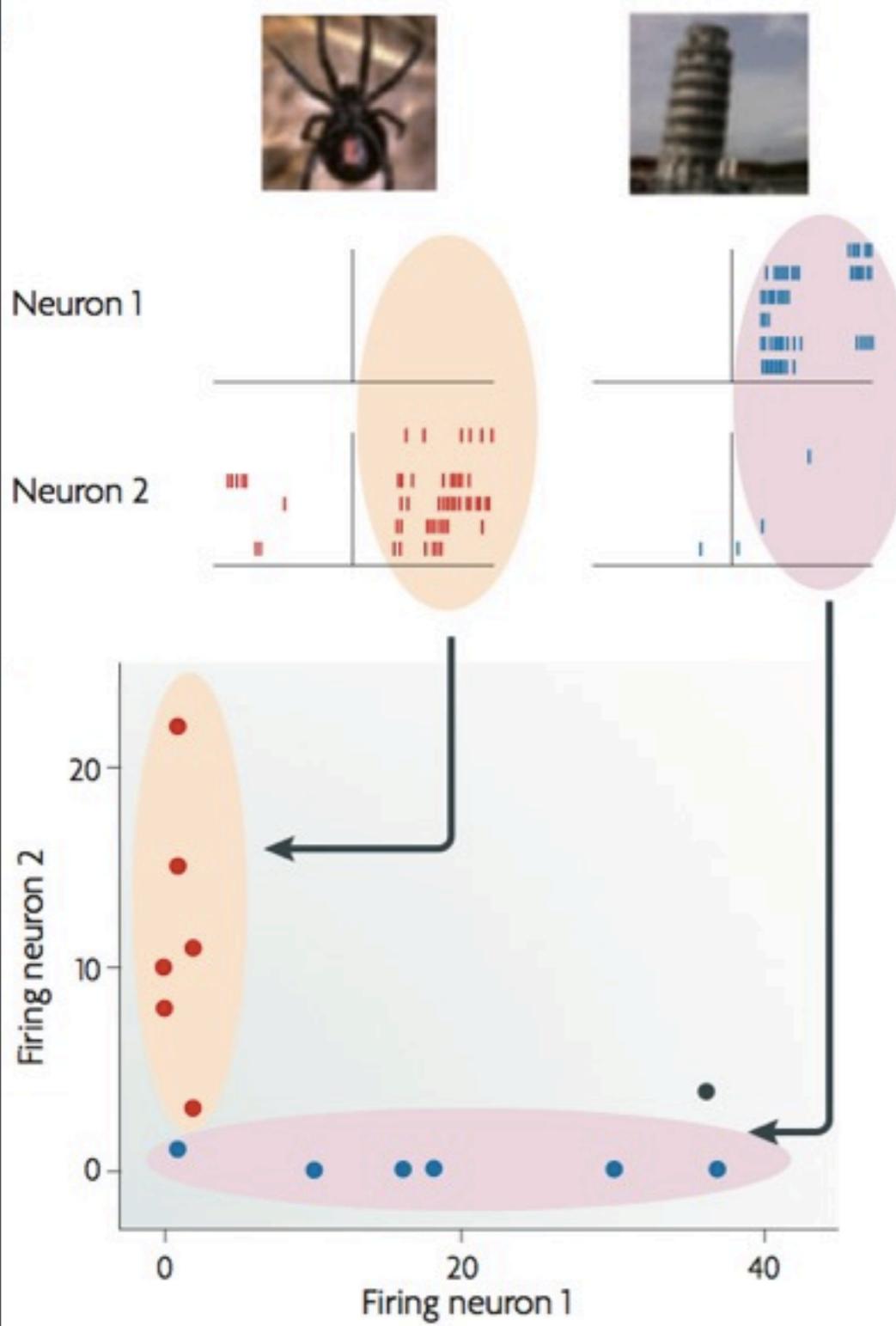
- Supervised
- Unsupervised
- Reinforcement



# Supervised learning task

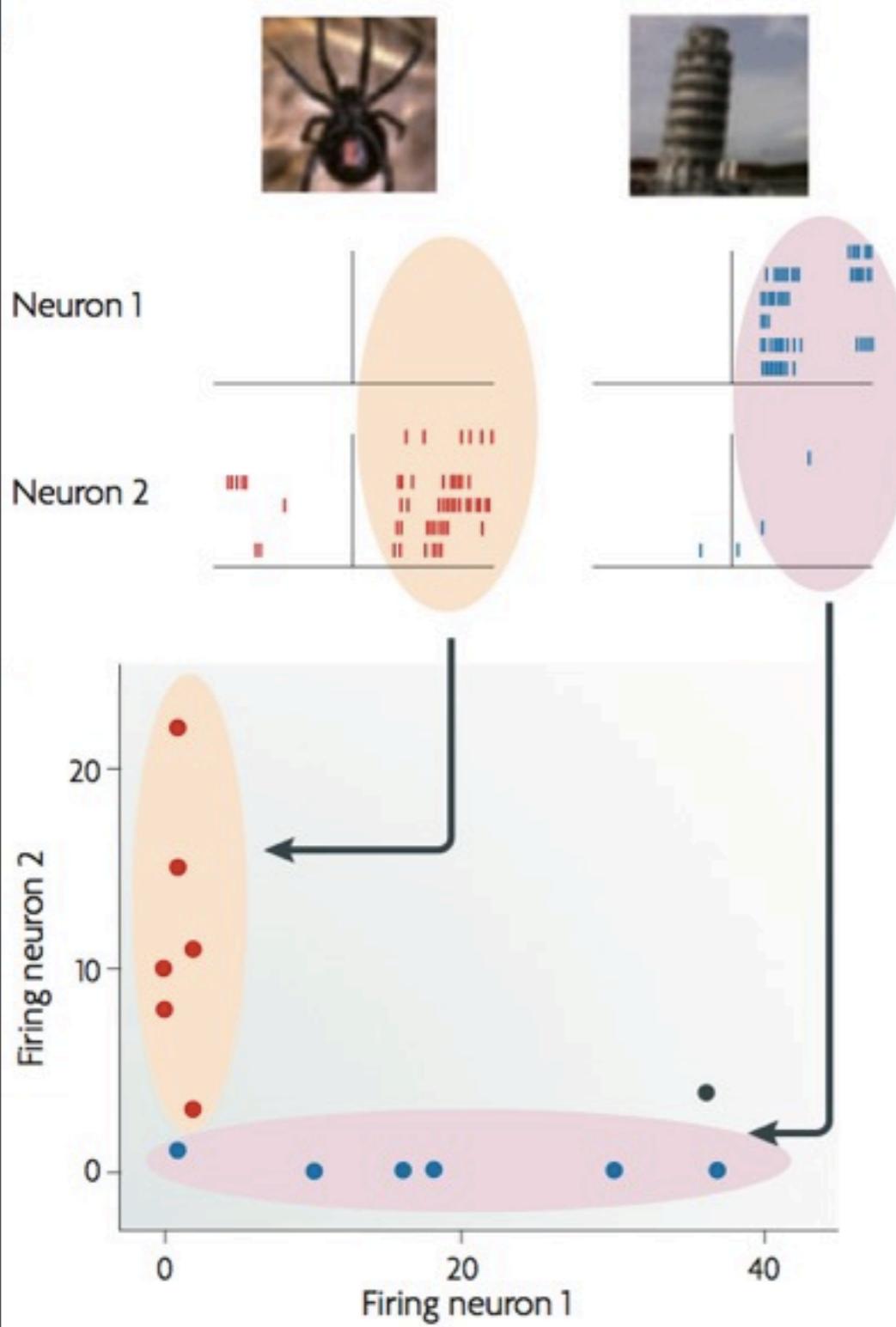


# Supervised learning task



**Prediction:** given the firing rate of the two neurons...which class was the stimulus?

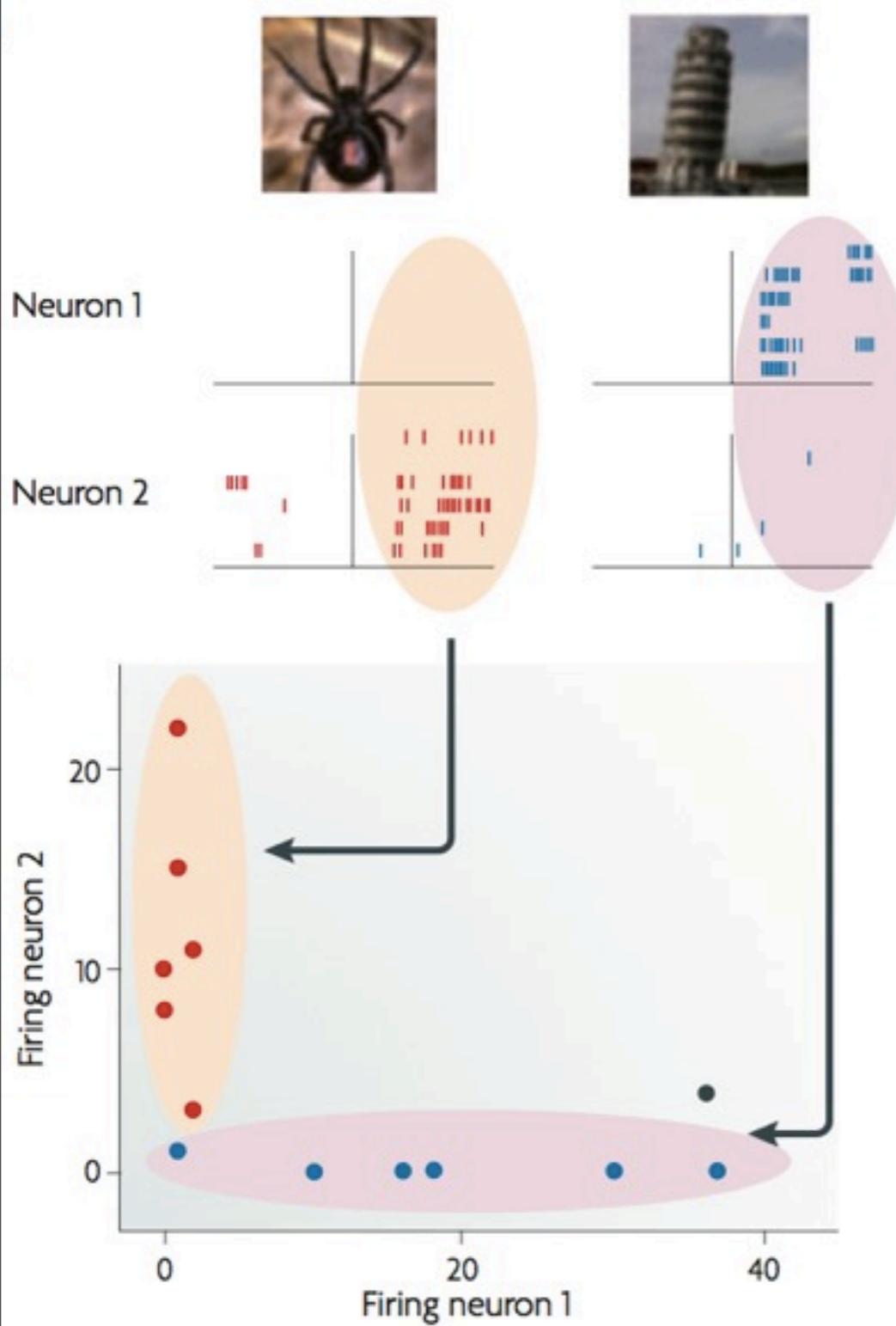
# Supervised learning task



**Prediction:** given the firing rate of the two neurons...which class was the stimulus?

**Features:**  $\{r_1, r_2\}$

# Supervised learning task

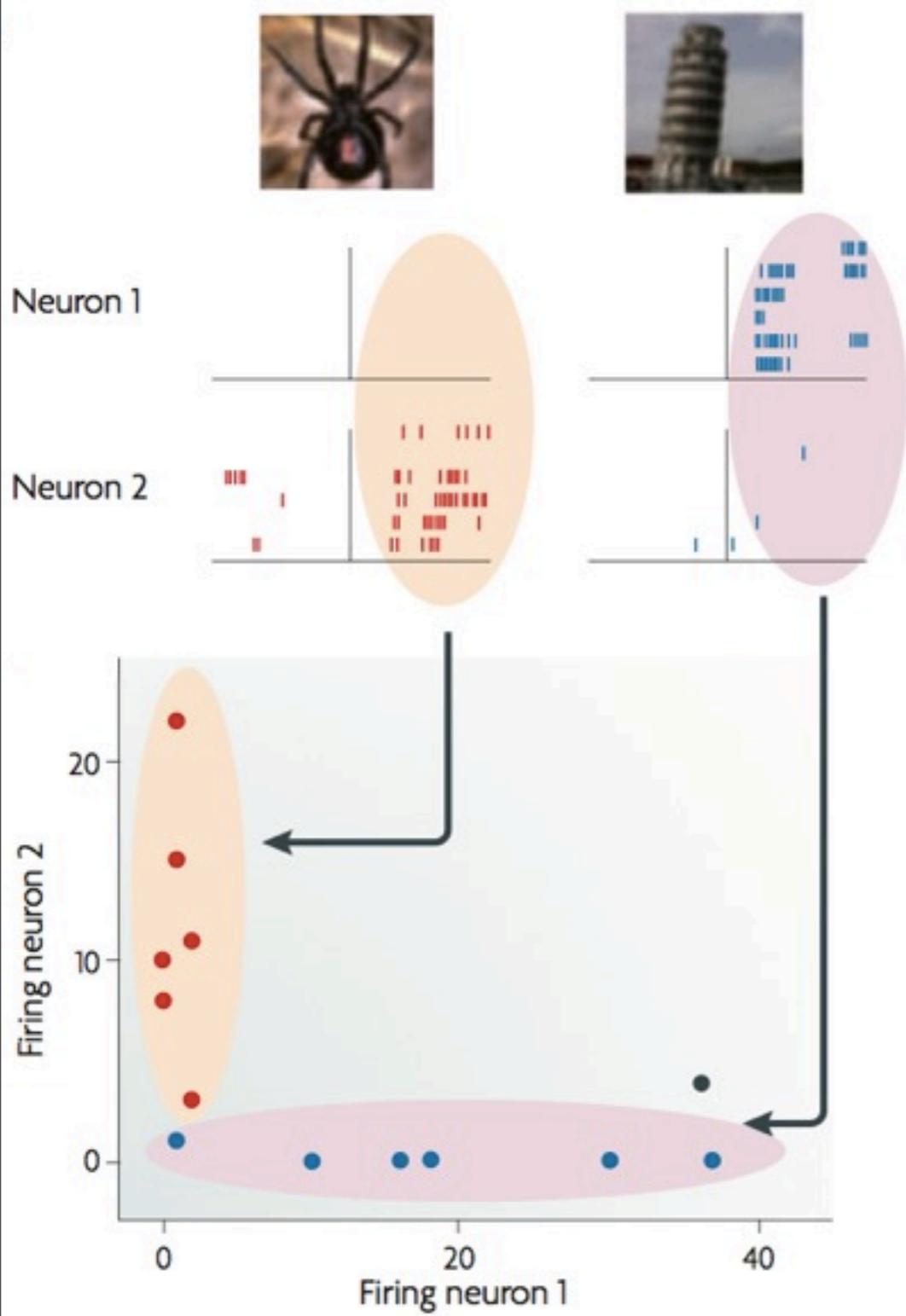


**Prediction:** given the firing rate of the two neurons...which class was the stimulus?

**Features:**  $\{r_1, r_2\}$

**Labels:**  $\{0, 1\}$  (**animal, building**)

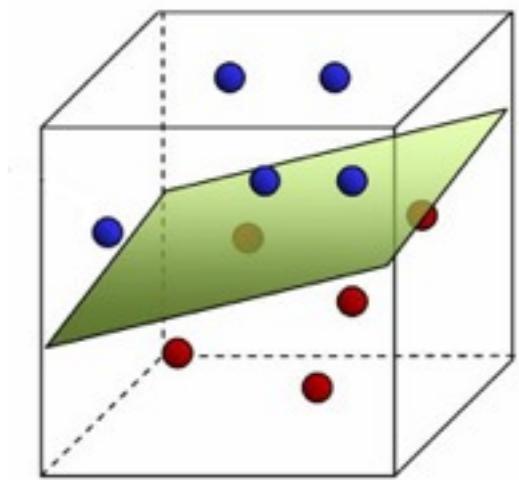
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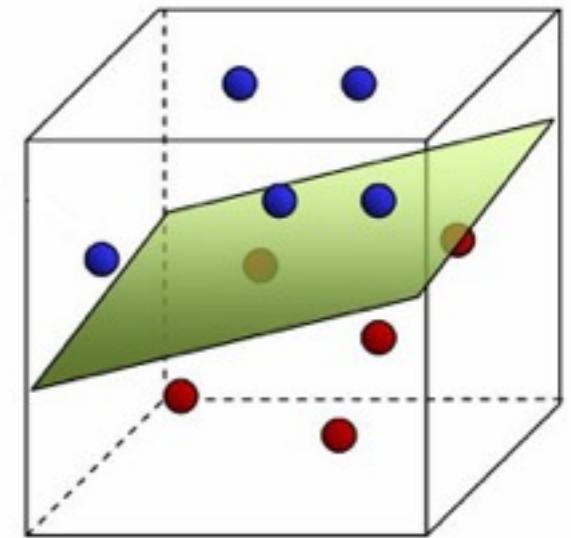
**Labels:**  $\{0, 1\}$  (**animal, building**)



**Idea:** train a classifier to discriminate between different classes of stimuli (or decisions) and used to predict novel examples

# Basic pipeline

1. Defining features and classes
2. Feature selection
3. Choosing a classifier
4. Training and testing a classifier
5. Examining results



# I) Feature and classes

**Features:** could be firing rates in intracranial recordings, power of oscillations in EEG, voxel activity in fMRI,...

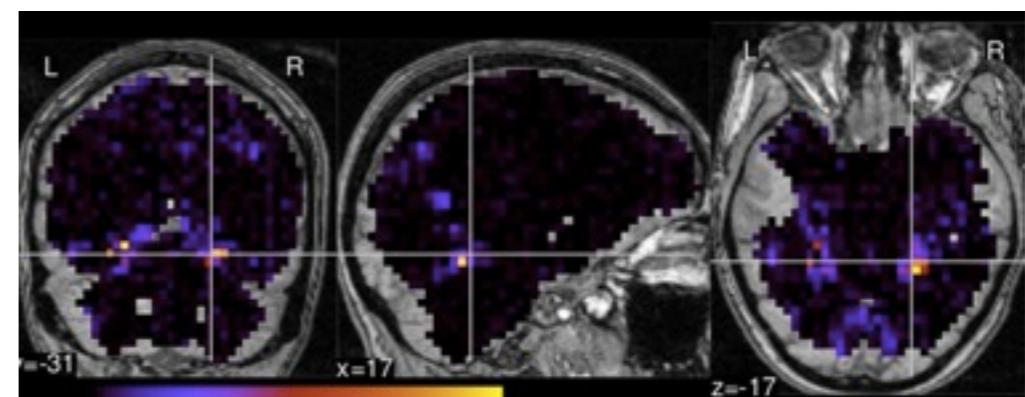
$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_v)$$

**Classes:** can type of stimuli, movement, disease,...

E.g. Vision:

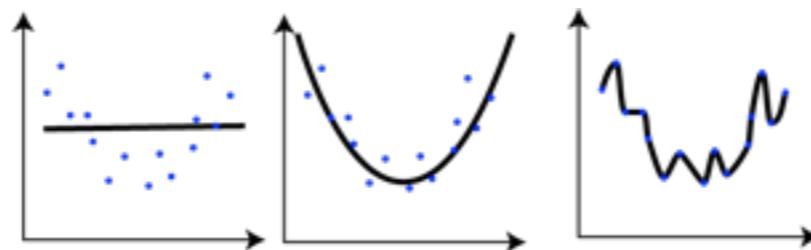
features: voxels in visual region

classes: object shown



## 2) Feature selection

**Too many features:** overfitting & curse of dimensionality



**Solution:** select only the most informative features (2nd part of the talk)

$$\#\text{features} < 20 \times \#\text{samples}$$

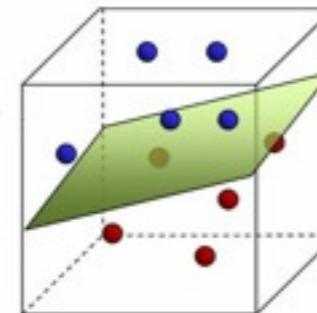
E.g. Vision:

100000 voxels: select only those modulated by the stimuli

### 3) Choose a classifier

**Classifier:** a function  $f(\cdot)$  that takes the values of the observed features (ex., voxels) and predicts to which class  $y$  the observation belongs

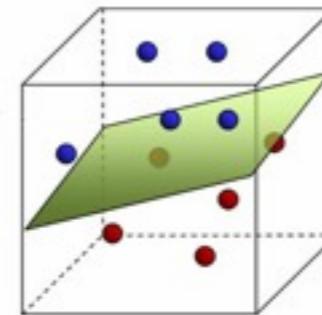
$$y = f(\mathbf{x})$$



### 3) Choose a classifier

**Classifier:** a function  $f(\cdot)$  that takes the values of the observed features (ex., voxels) and predicts to which class  $y$  the observation belongs

$$y = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$$



- Decision trees
- C4.5
- Random forests
- Bayesian networks
- Hidden Markov models
- Artificial neural network
- Data clustering
- Expectation-maximization algorithm
- Self-organizing map
- Radial basis function network
- Vector Quantization
- Generative topographic map
- Information bottleneck method
- IBSEAD
- Apriori algorithm
- Eclat algorithm
- FP-growth algorithm
- Single-linkage clustering
- Conceptual clustering
- K-means algorithm
- Fuzzy clustering
- Temporal difference learning
- Q-learning
- Learning Automata

- AODE
- Artificial neural network
- Backpropagation
- Naive Bayes classifier
- Bayesian network
- Bayesian knowledge base
- Case-based reasoning
- Decision trees
- Inductive logic programming
- Gaussian process regression
- Gene expression programming
- Group method of data handling (GMDH)
- Learning Automata
- Learning Vector Quantization
- Logistic Model Tree
- Decision trees
- Decision graphs
- Lazy learning
- Monte Carlo Method
- SARSA
- Instance-based learning
- Nearest Neighbor Algorithm
- Analogical modeling
- Probably approximately correct learning (PAC)
- Symbolic machine learning algorithms
- Subsymbolic machine learning algorithms
- Support vector machines
- Random Forests
- Ensembles of classifiers
- Bootstrap aggregating (bagging)
- Boosting (meta-algorithm)
- Ordinal classification
- Regression analysis
- Information fuzzy networks (IFN)
- Linear classifiers
- Fisher's linear discriminant
- Logistic regression
- Naive Bayes classifier
- Perceptron
- Support vector machines
- Quadratic classifiers
- k-nearest neighbor
- Boosting

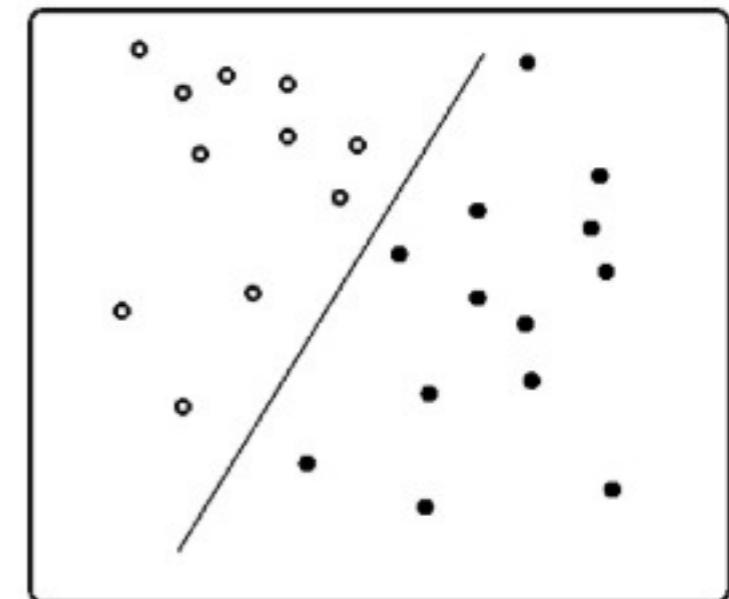
## **Linear:**

Naive Bayes (NB)

Support Vector Machines (SVM)

Logistic Regression (LR)

Linear Discrimination Analysis (LDA)

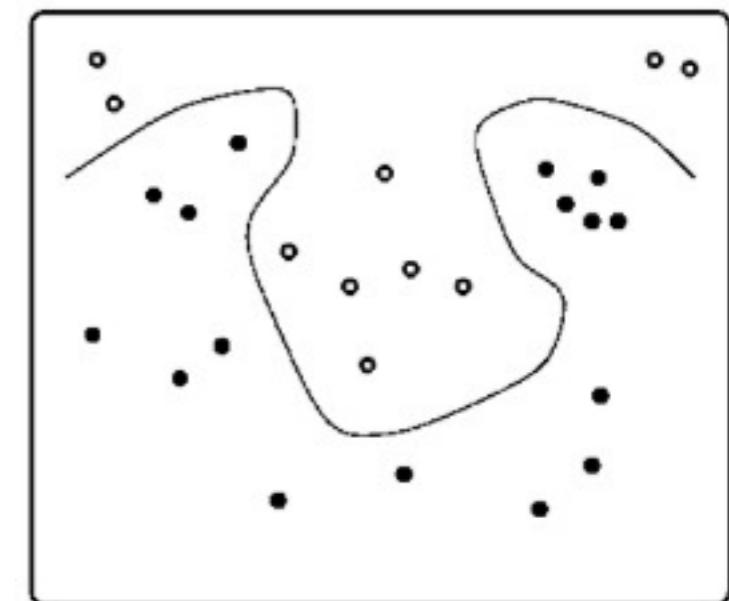


## **Non-linear:**

Kernel SVM

Random Forests

Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)



## 4) Training & testing

### Training data

A classifier has a number of parameters that have to be learned

A learned classifiers models the relation between features and class labels in the **training data set**

### Test data

If the classifiers truly captures the relation between features and labels, it should predict the class label for data it has not seen before

Once trained the classifier is evaluated using an independent set of observations (**test data**)

Features (voxels)



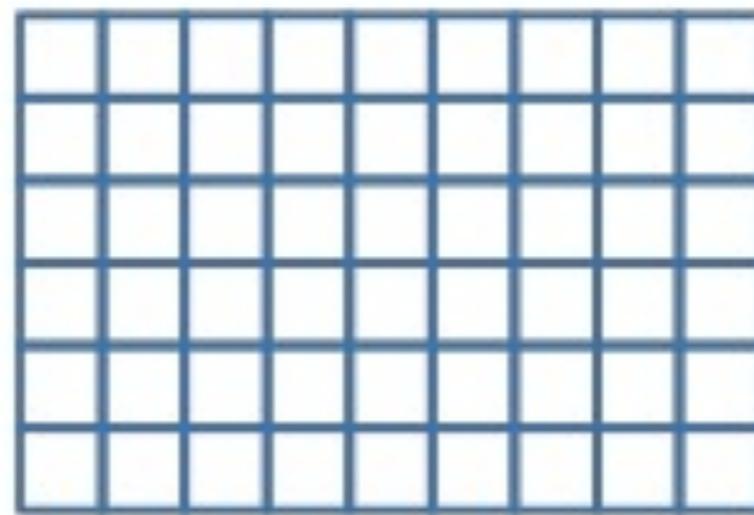
$$\underline{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_v)$$

Class Labels



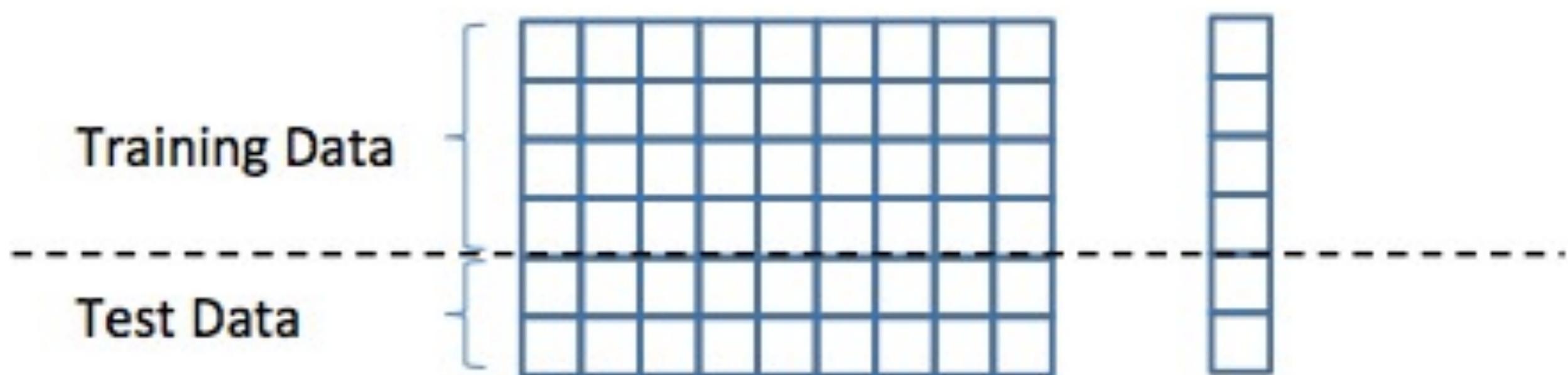
$$y$$

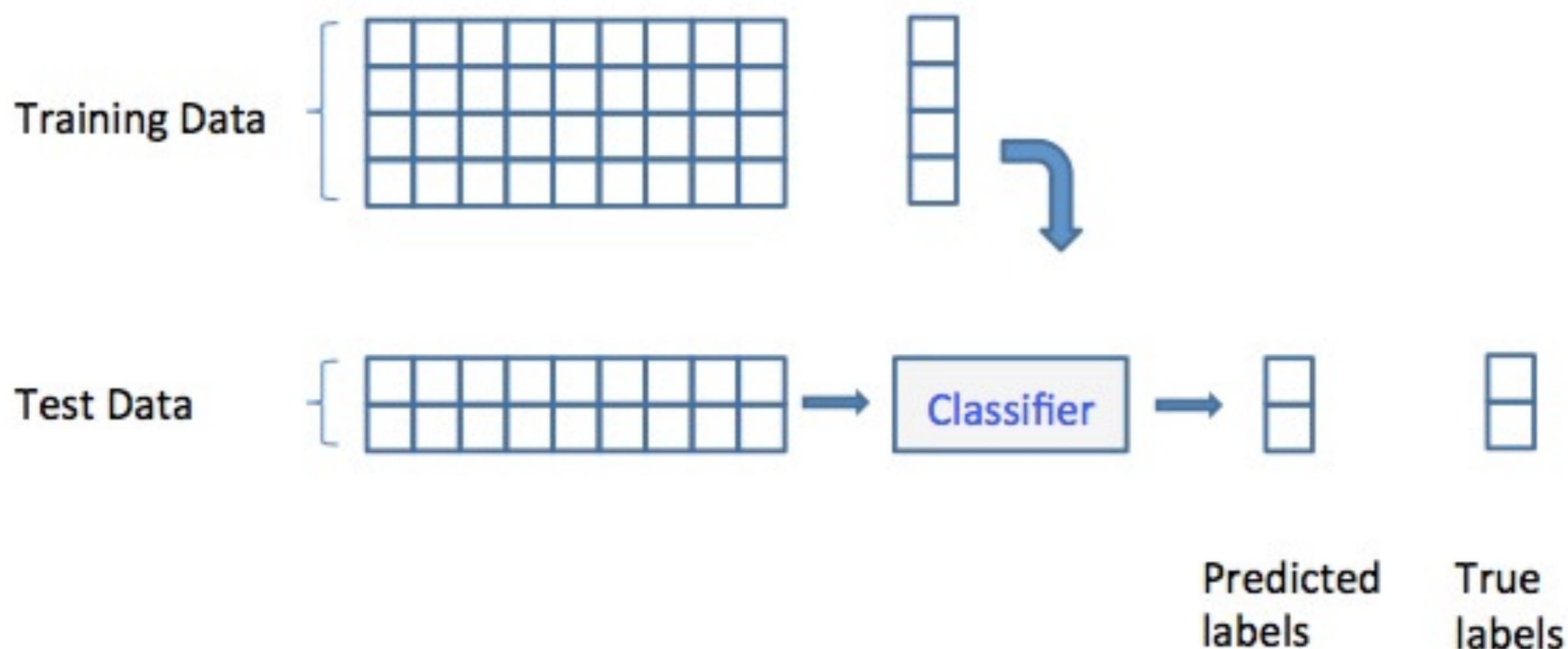
Observations



Data

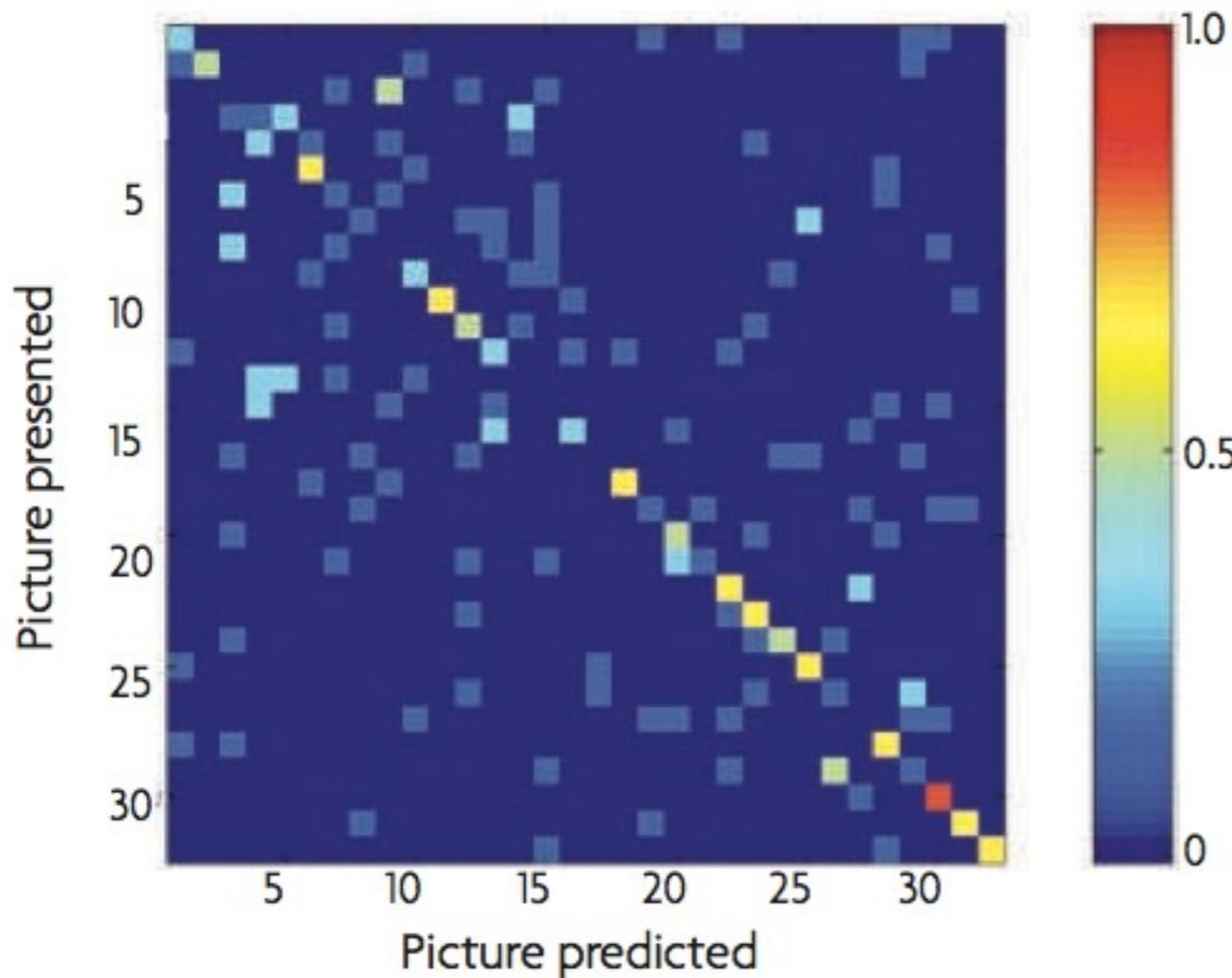






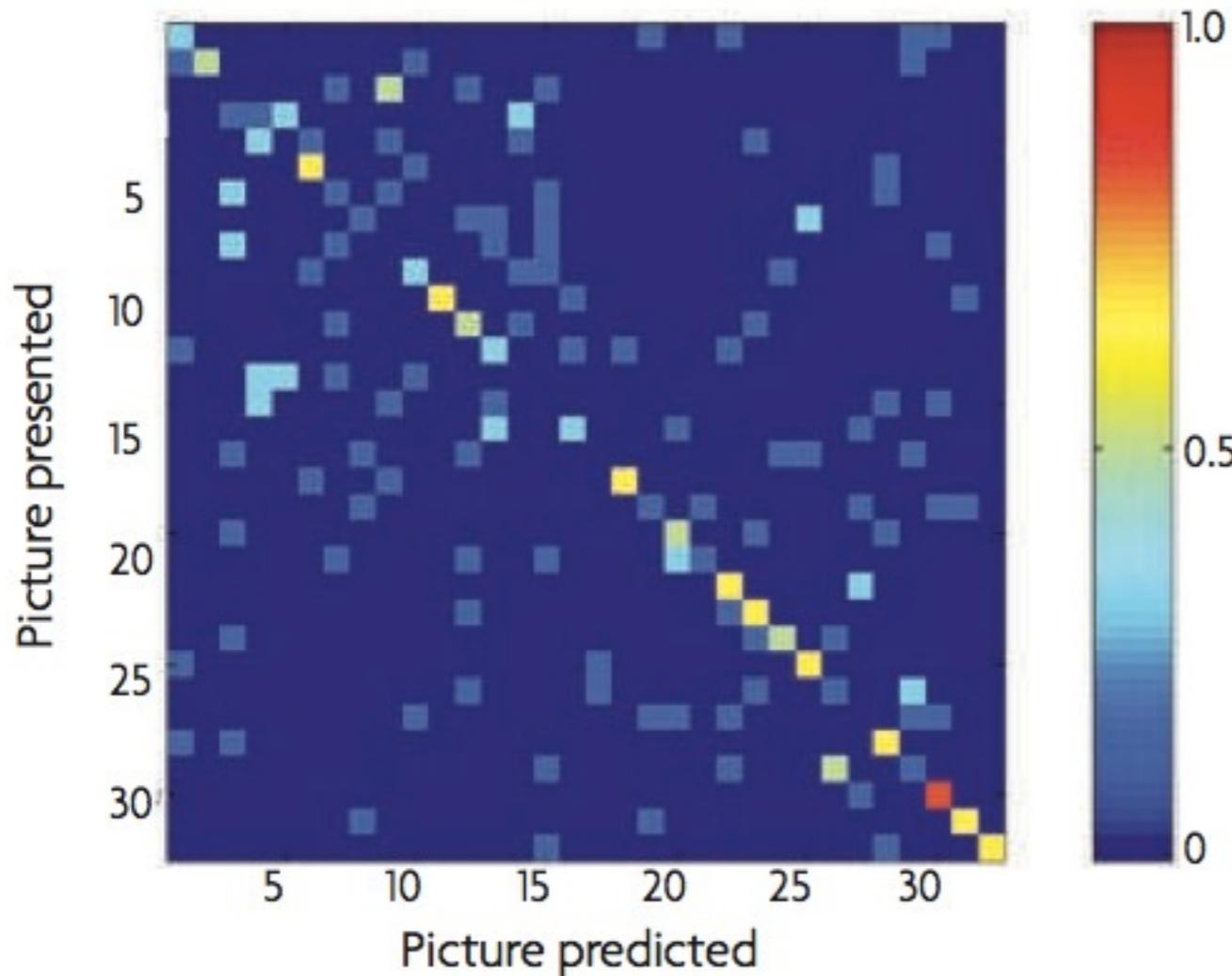
# 5) Examining results

## Confusion matrix



## 5) Examining results

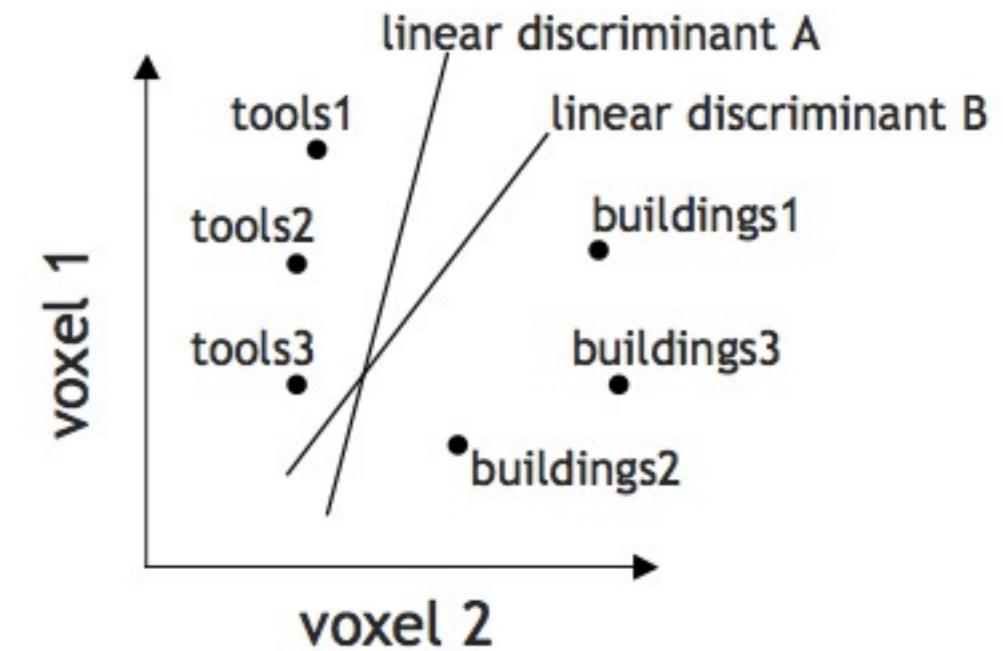
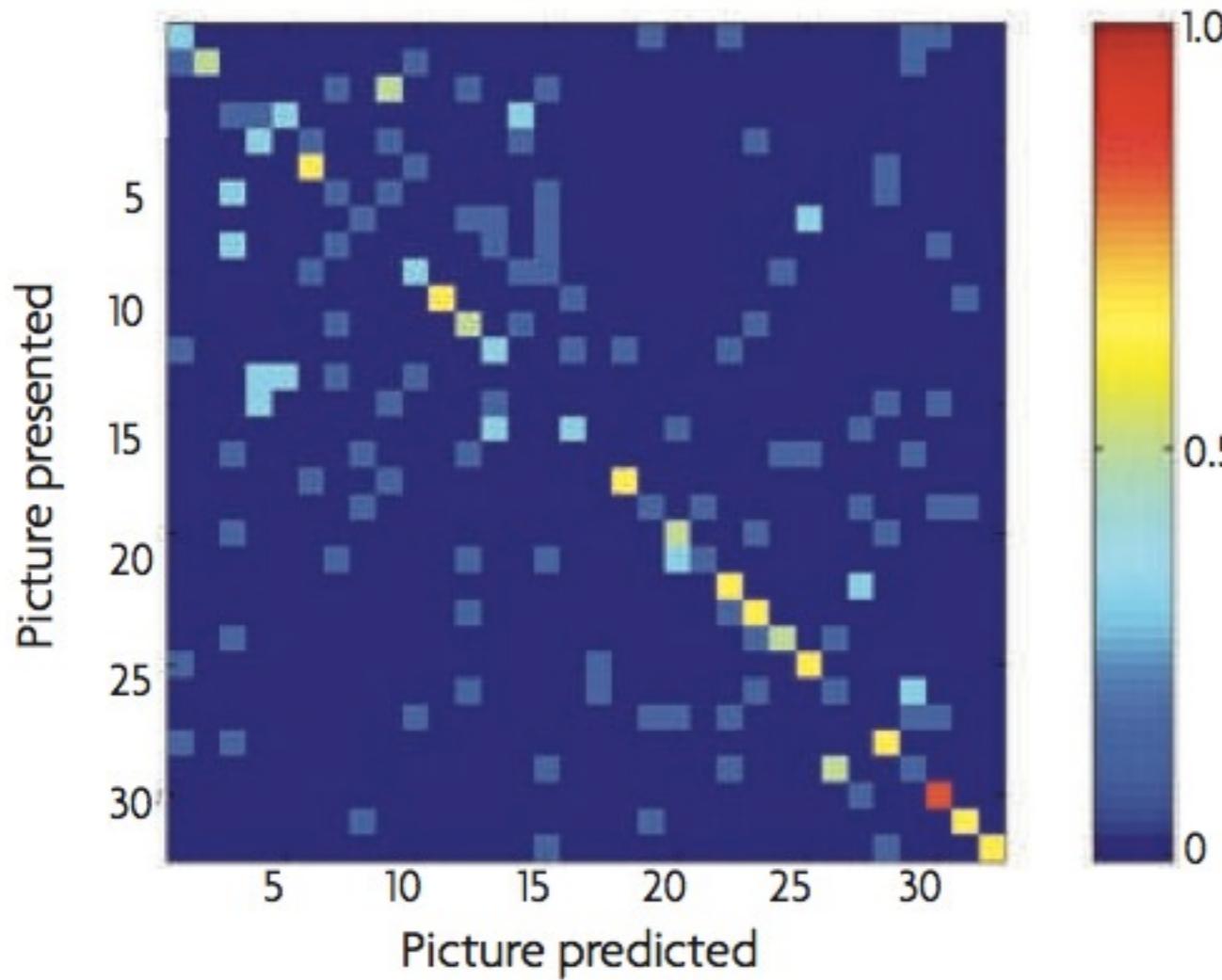
### Confusion matrix



Precision  
Recall  
Accuracy  
F-score

## 5) Examining results

### Confusion matrix



# Basic pipeline

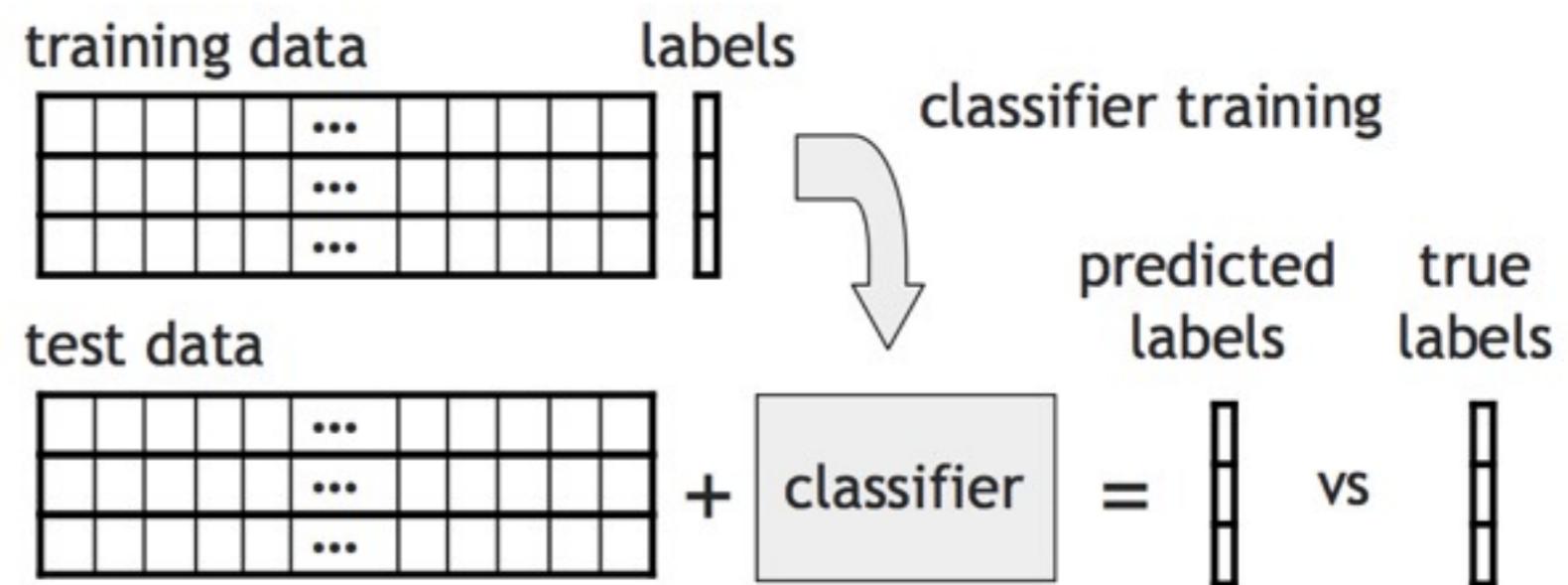
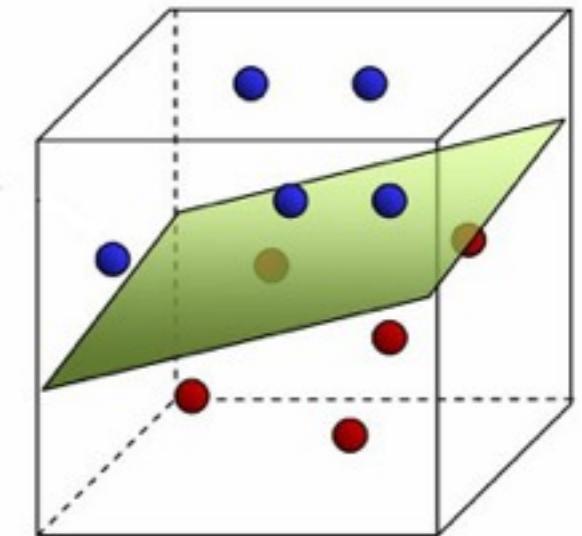
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# Data =



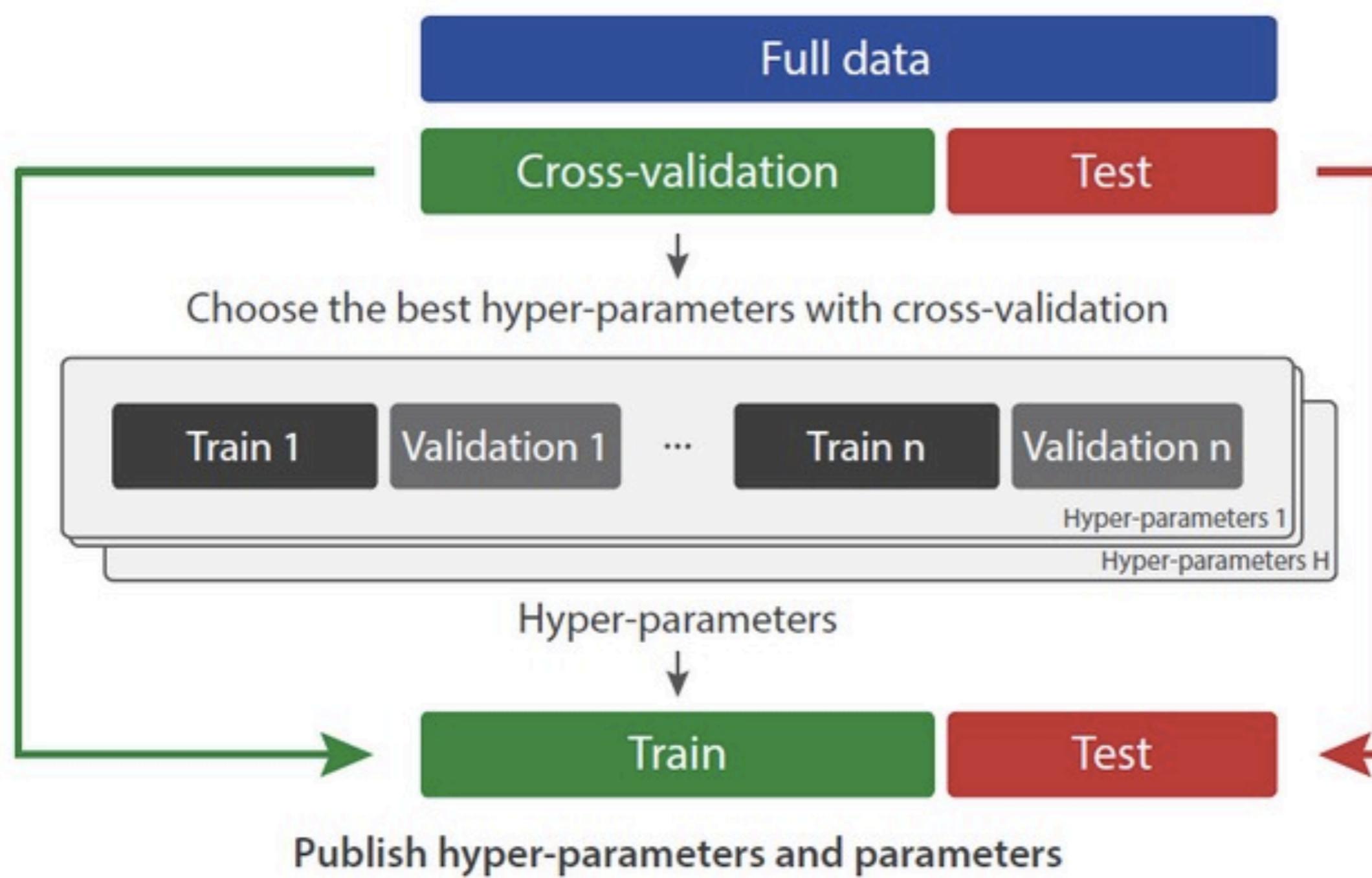
Full data

Train

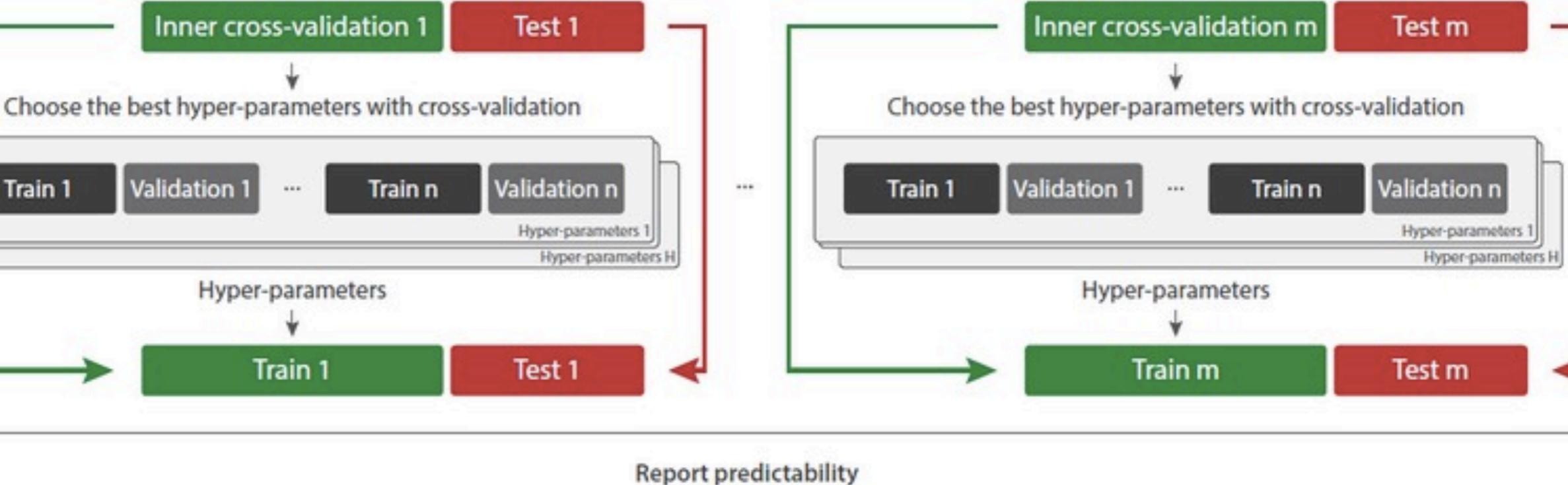
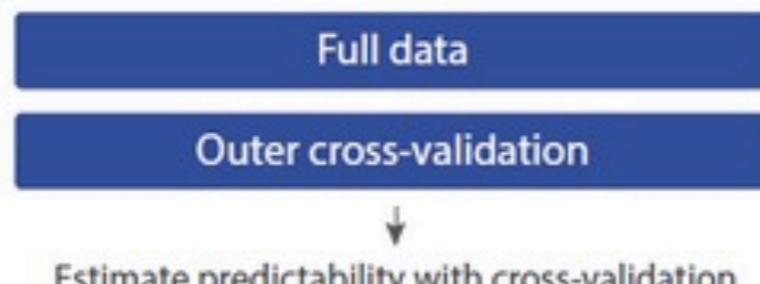
Validation

Test

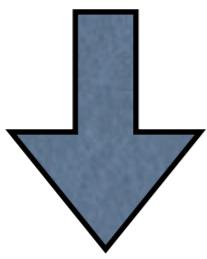
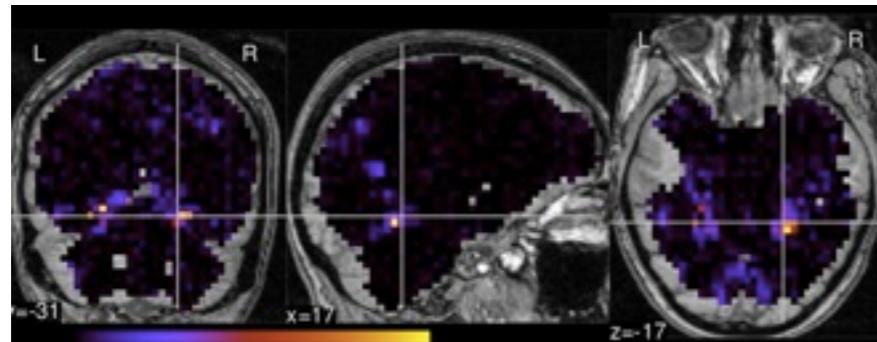
# Cross-Validation and Testing



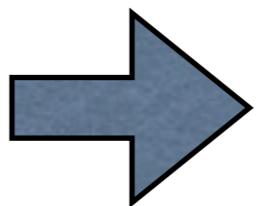
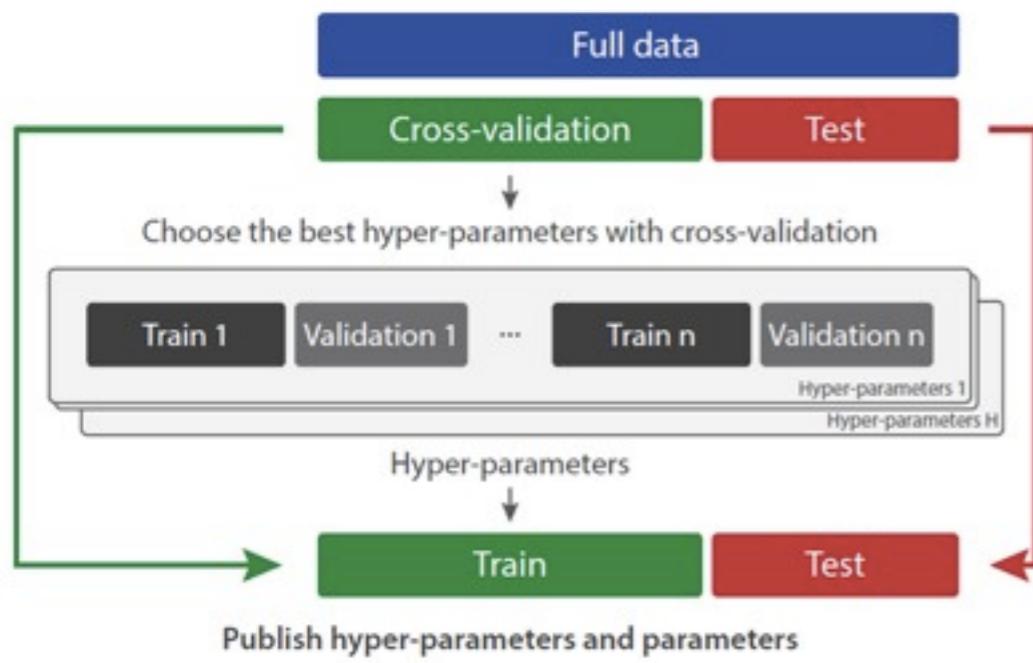
## Nested Cross-Validation



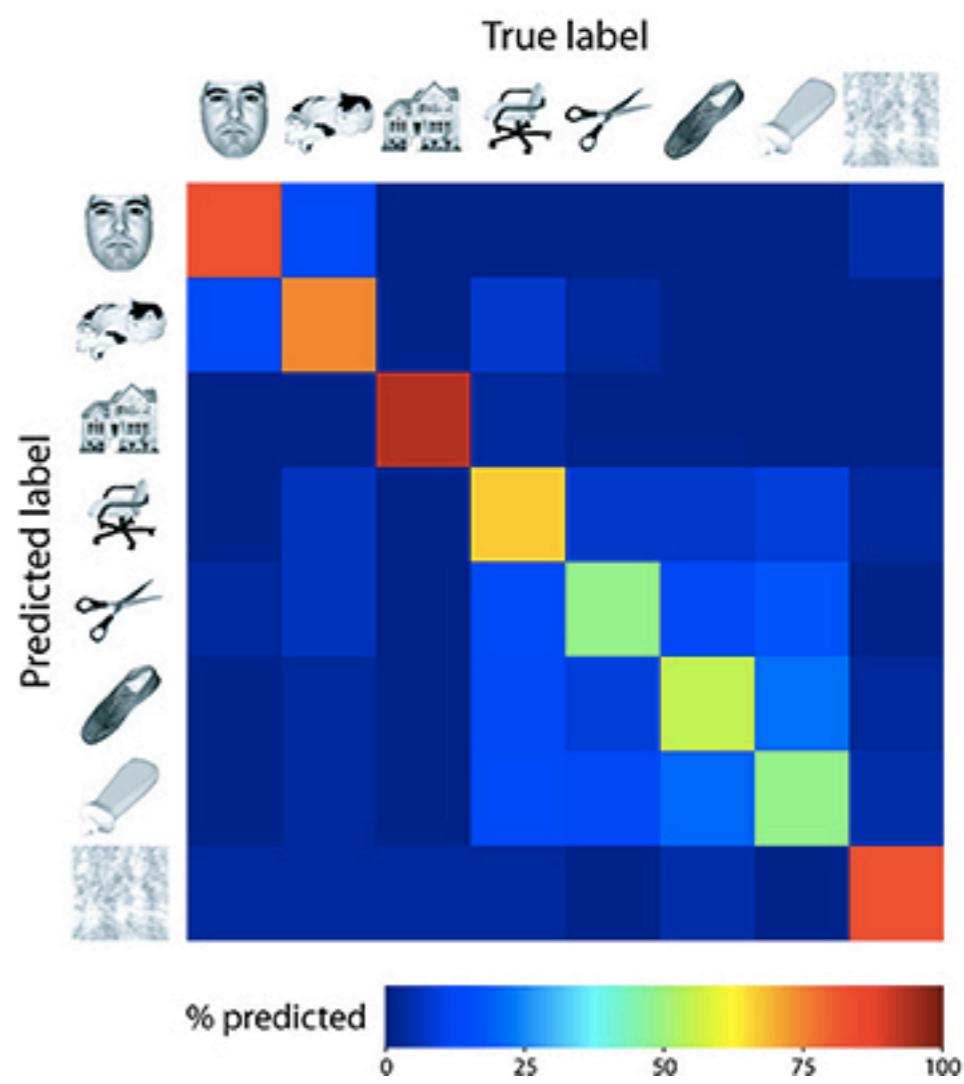
# What now?



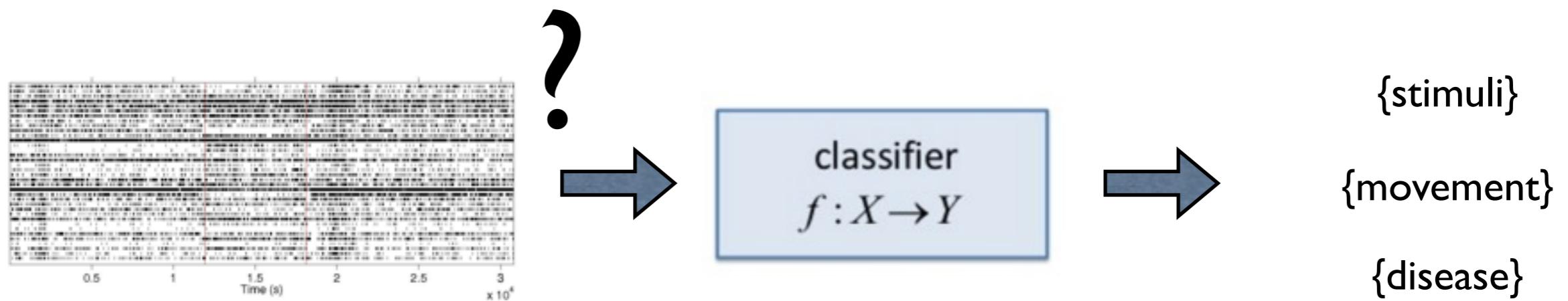
## Cross-Validation and Testing



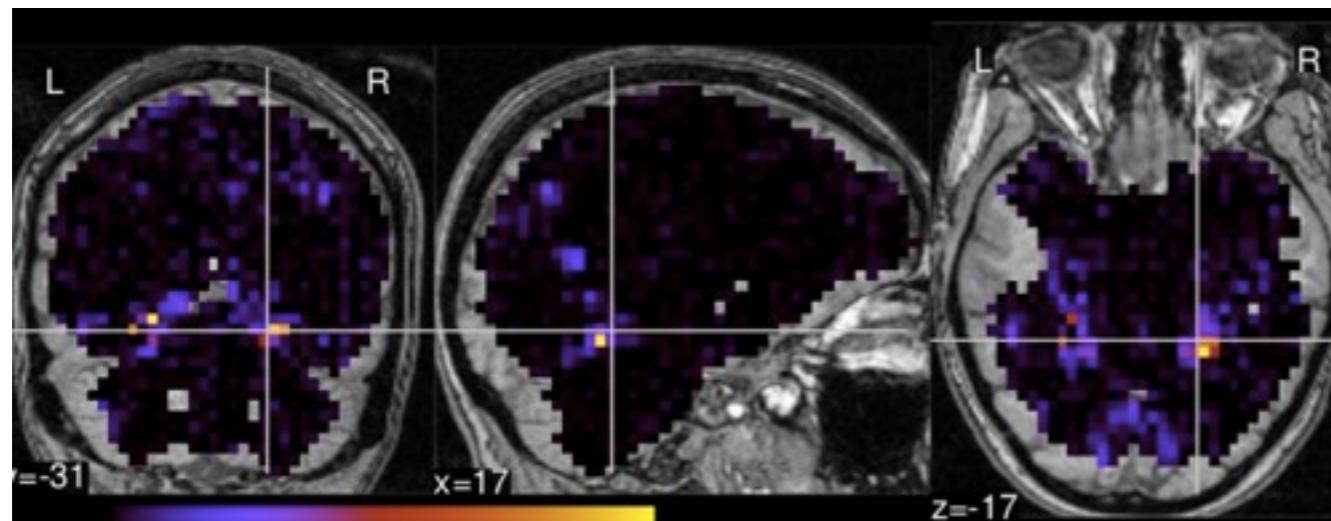
A Group confusion matrix



# Open the box & look into f!



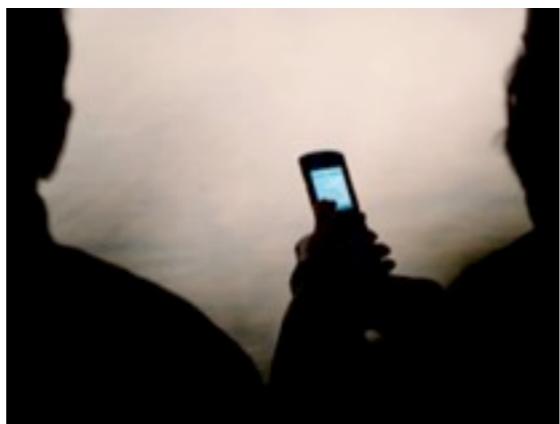
## Neuroscience: what, where, when?



# Open the box & look into it!

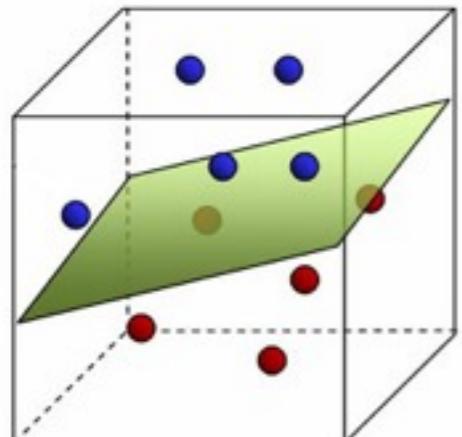
**Law:** government & banks need to use criteria for decision making that are human readable

**Medicine:** doctors speak a different language, they would like to know on what is any criteria based

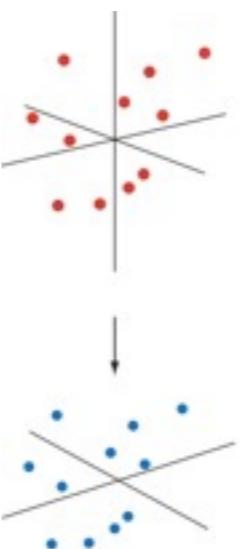


Parkinson tested from  
phone calls... >95% accuracy

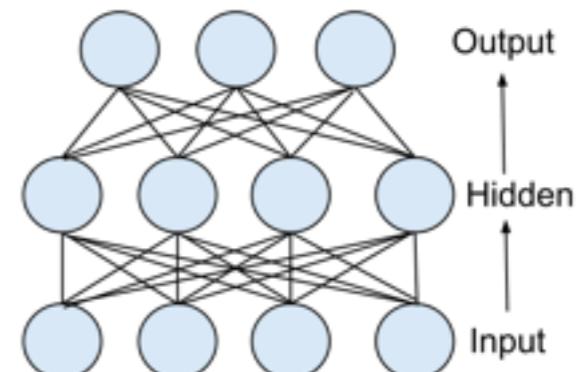
# Machine learning



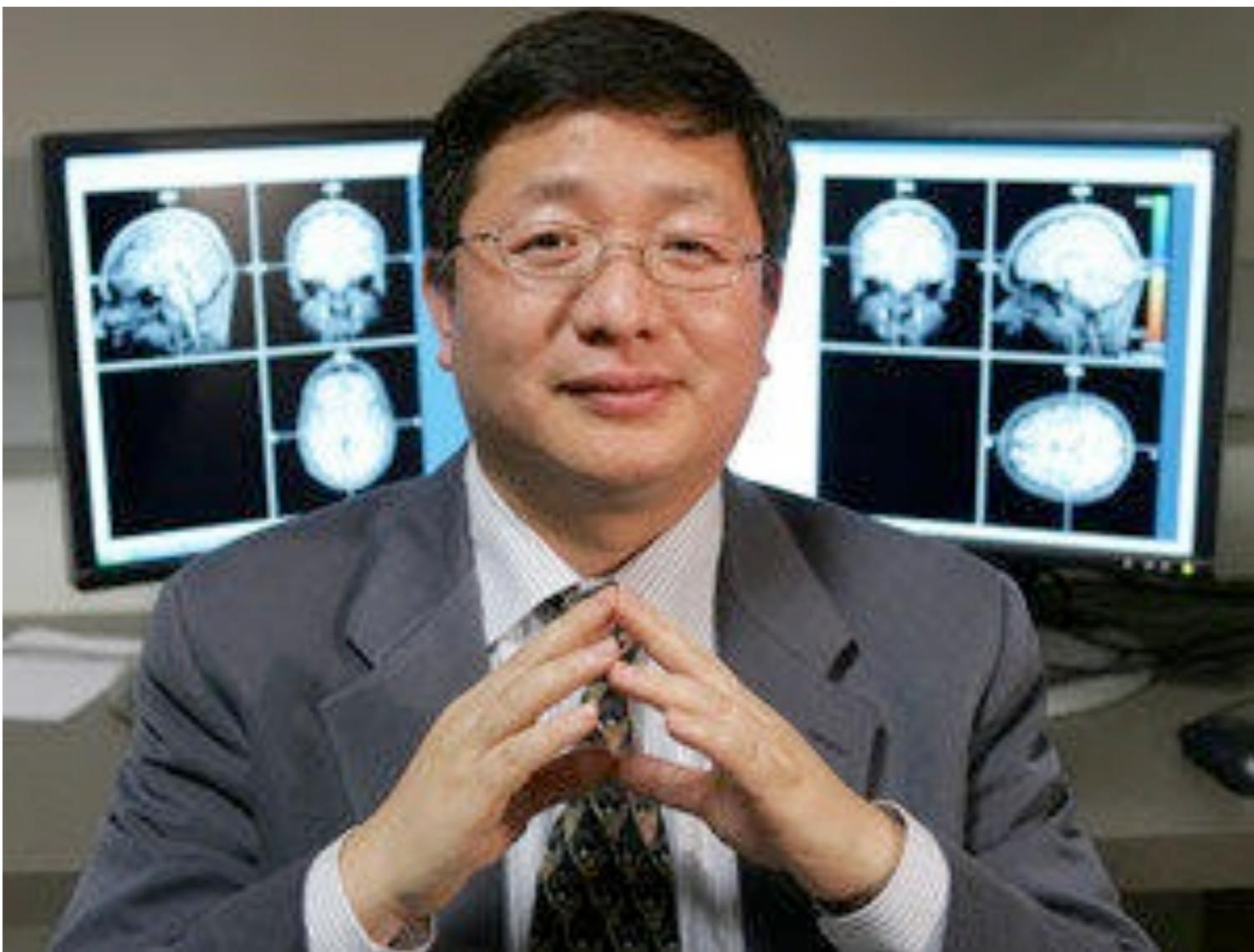
## Dimensionality reduction



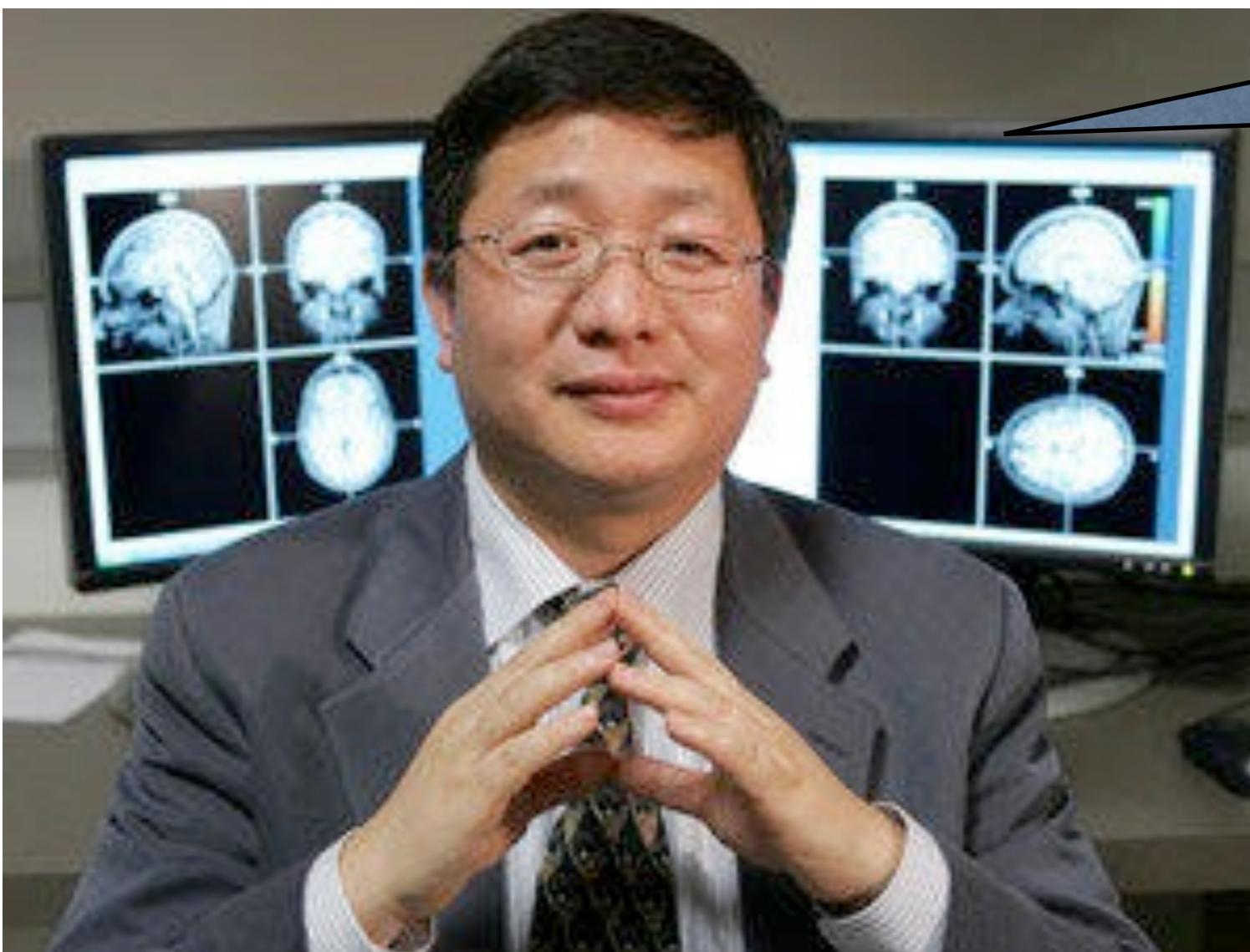
## Caveats



# Dream of an experimentalist neuroscientist?

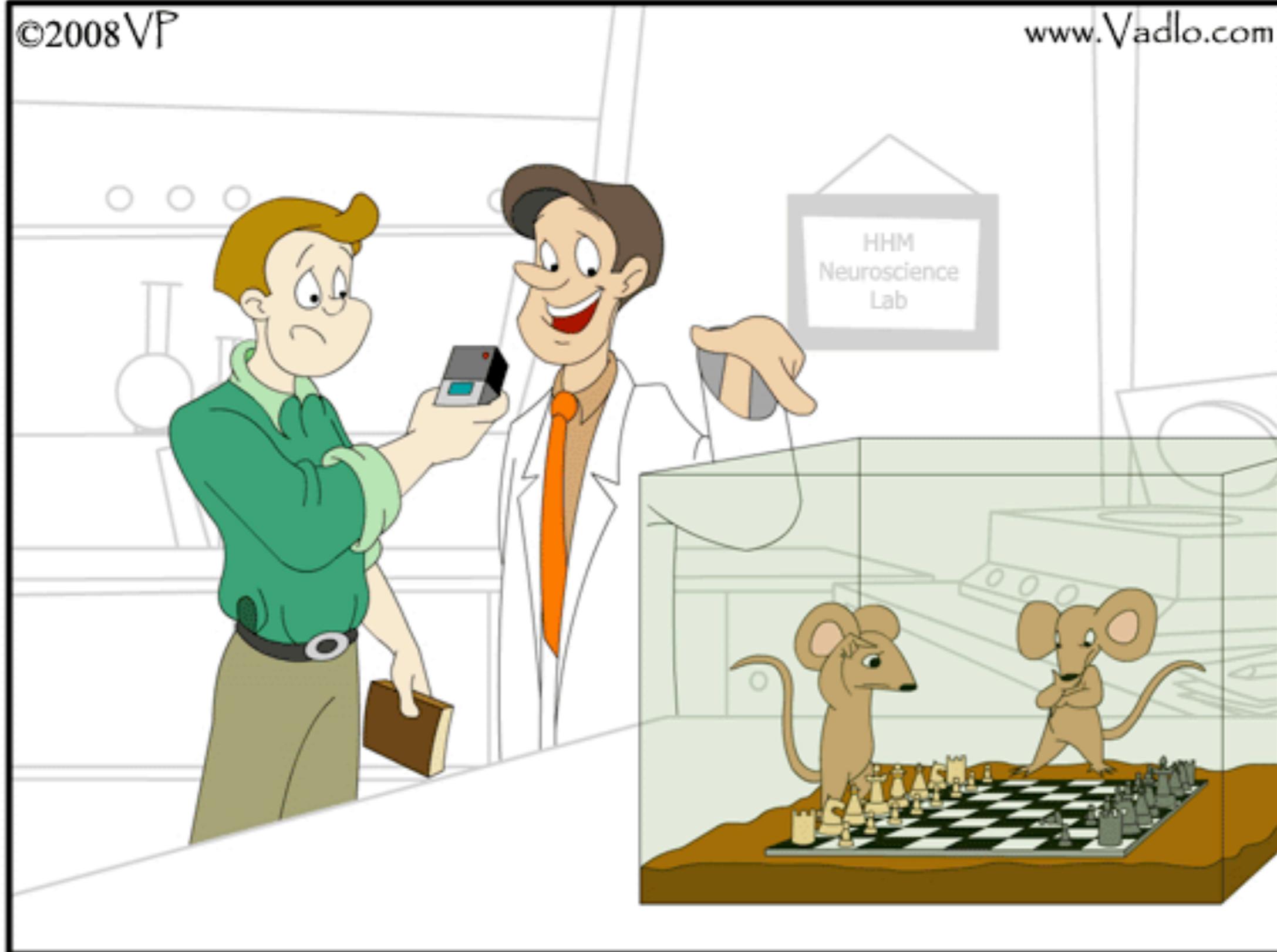


# Dream of an experimentalist neuroscientist?



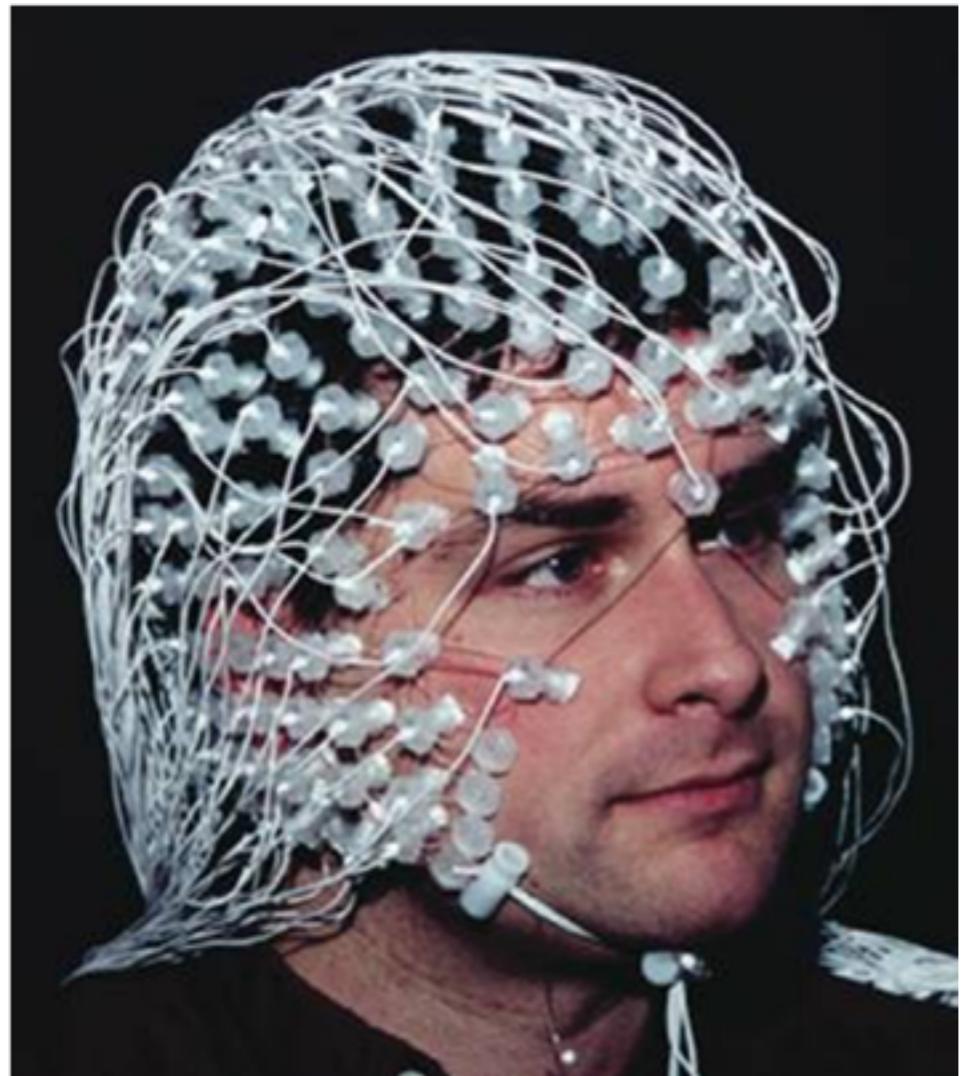
Every spike from  
every neuron  
in the brain of a  
behaving organism





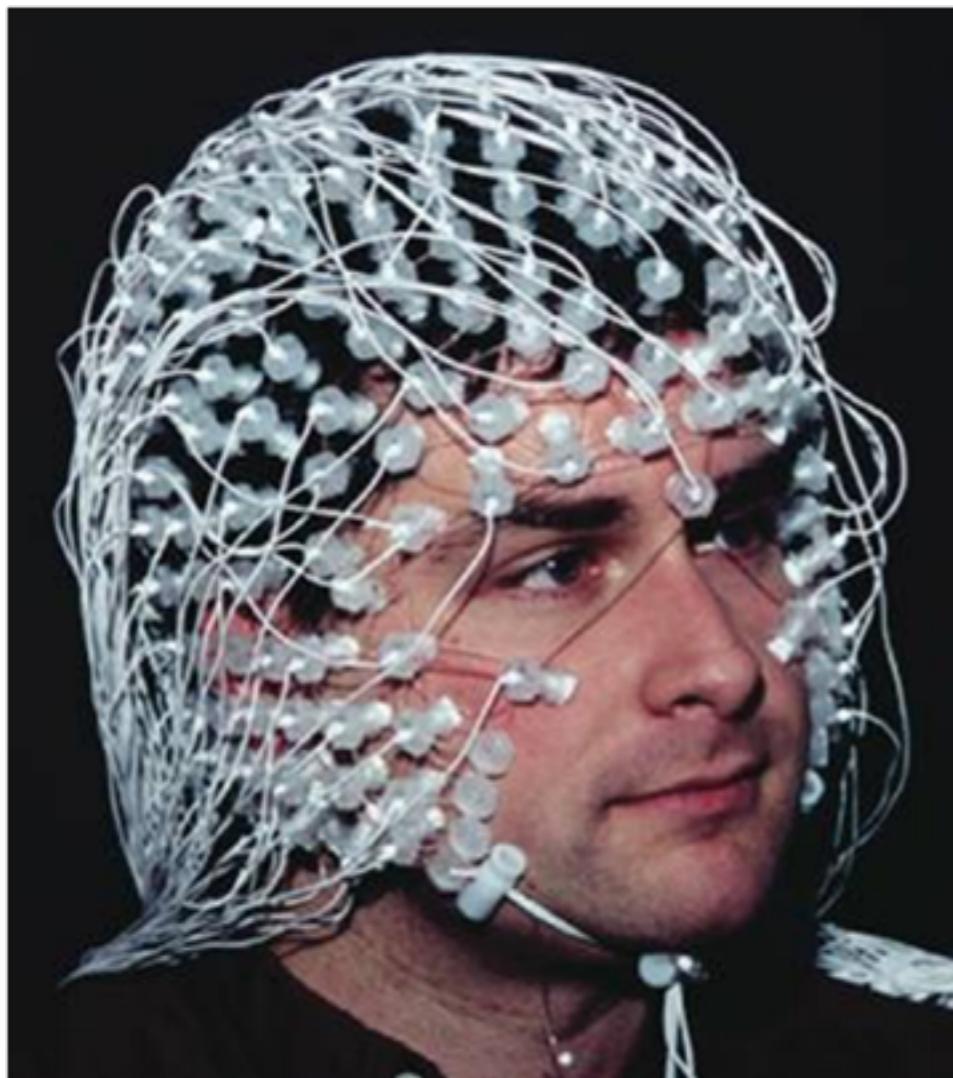
*This is our director's pet project.*

# Slowly getting there...

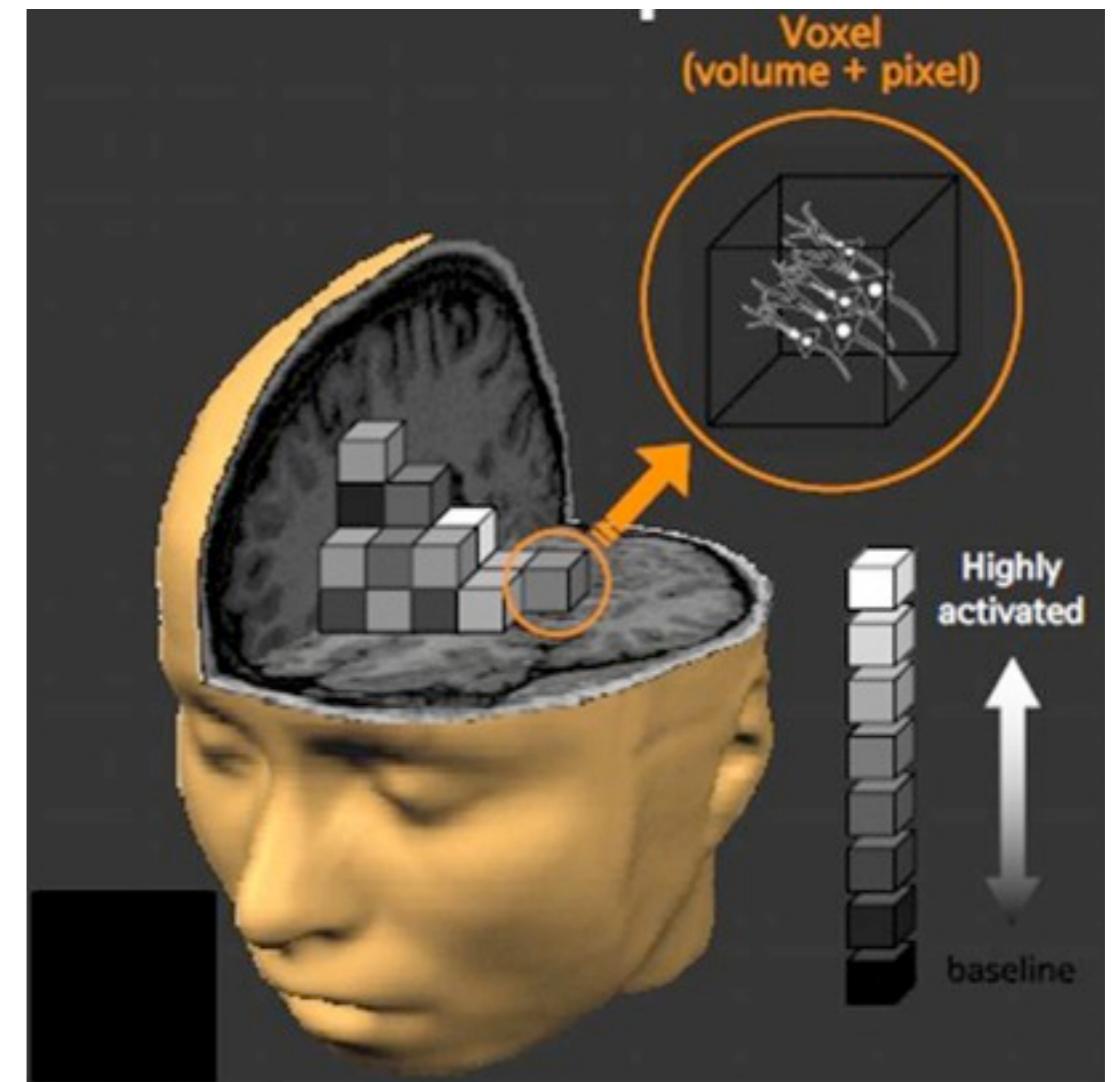


Dense array EEG (256 channels)

# Slowly getting there...

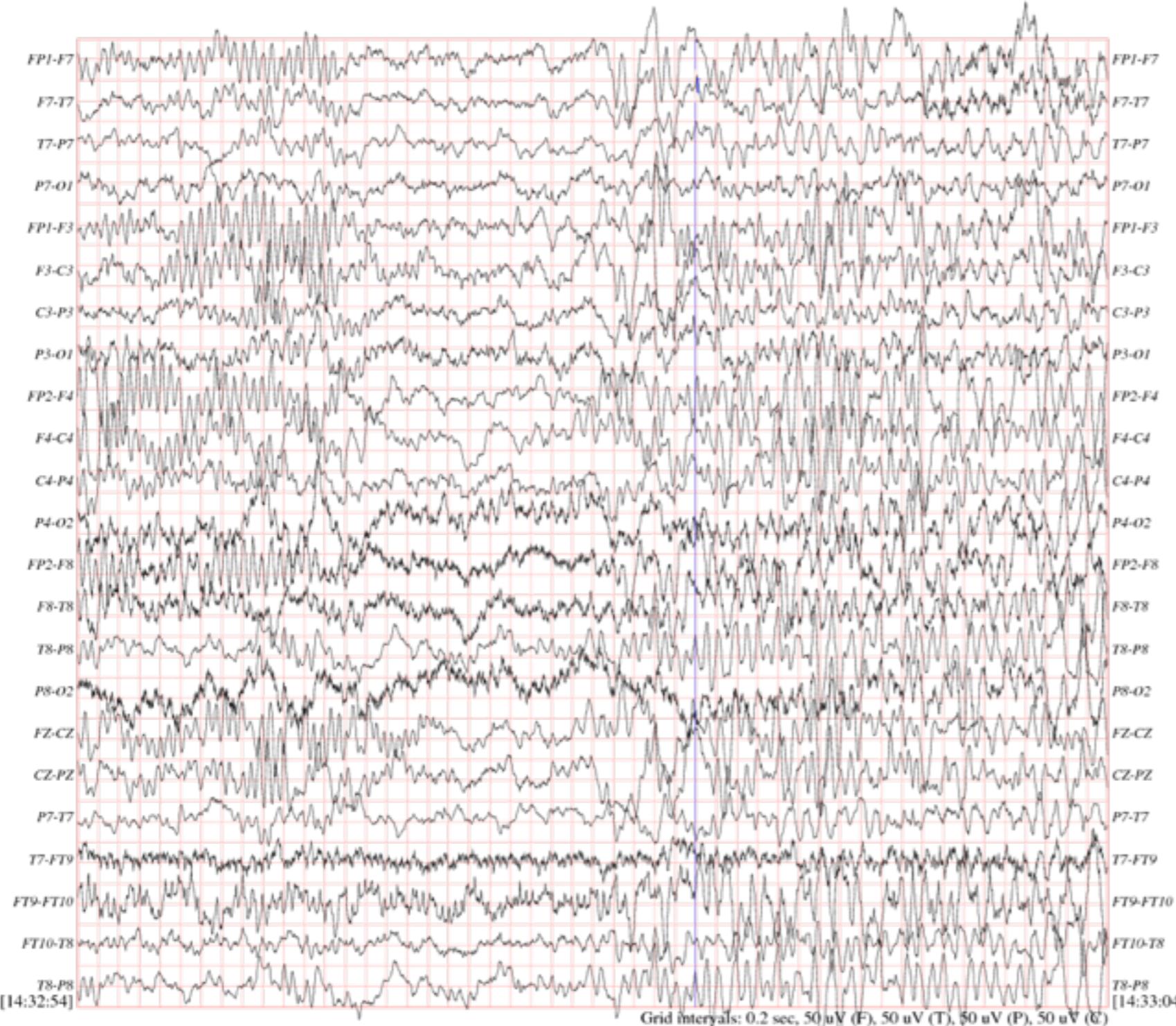


Dense array EEG (256 channels)

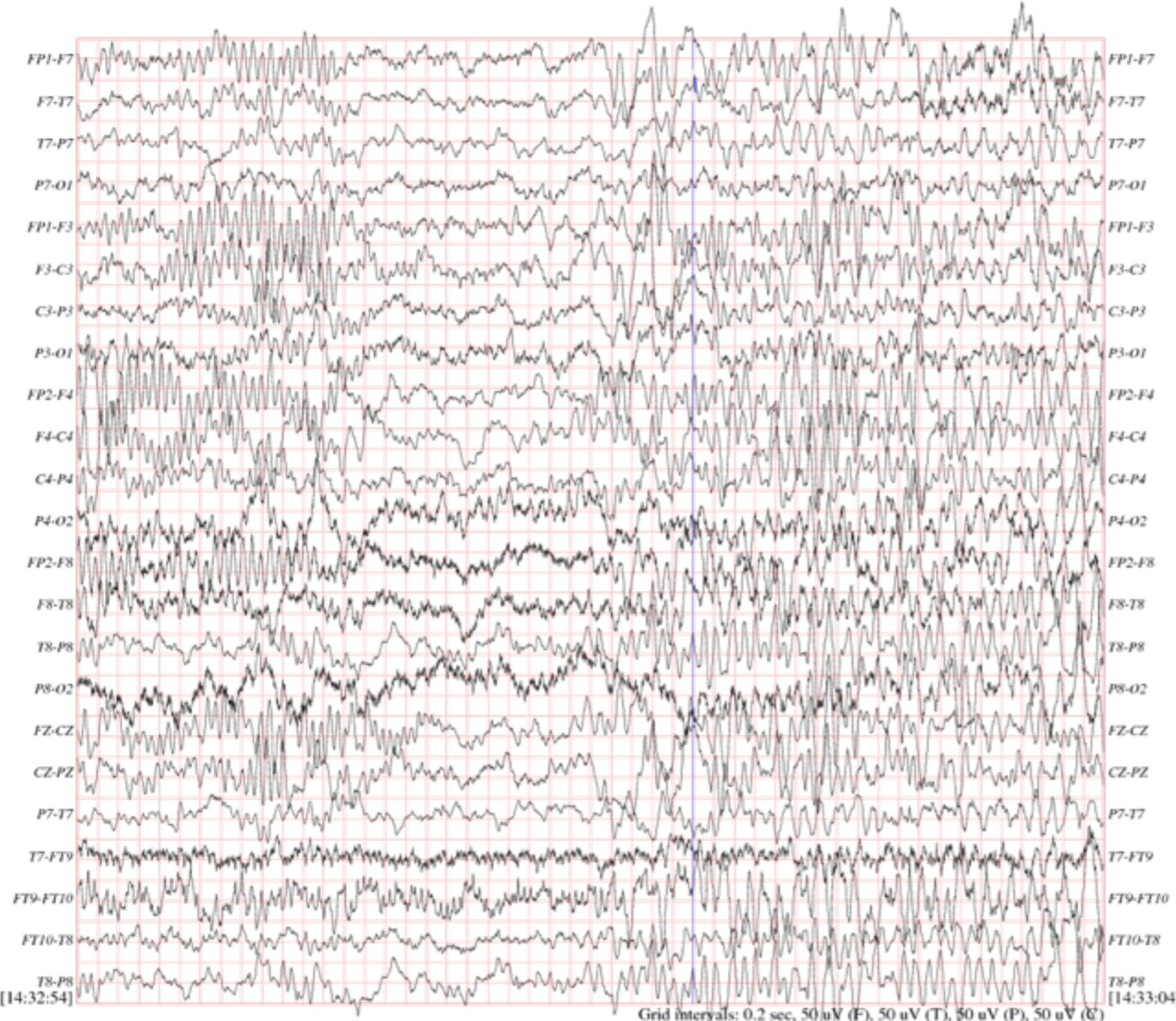


fMRI (130000 voxels)

# Nightmare of the analyst



# Nightmare of the analyst



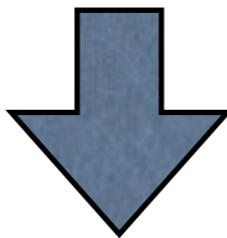
How would YOU start exploring a high-dimensional data set?

# When less is more

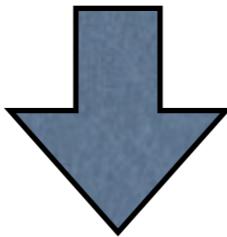
- What is dimensionality reduction?
- The zoo of dimensionality reduction
- Some applications

# Dimension reduction

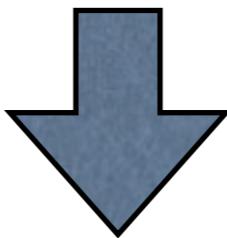
High-dimensional data



Dimension reduction

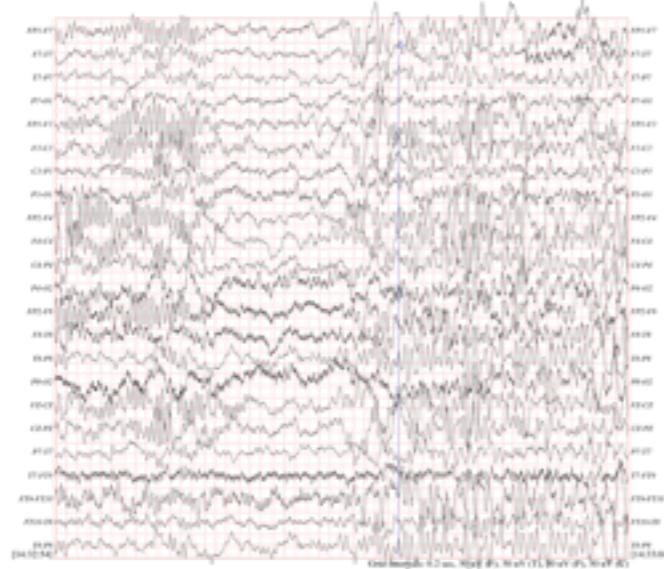


Low-dimensional data



Processing/Display

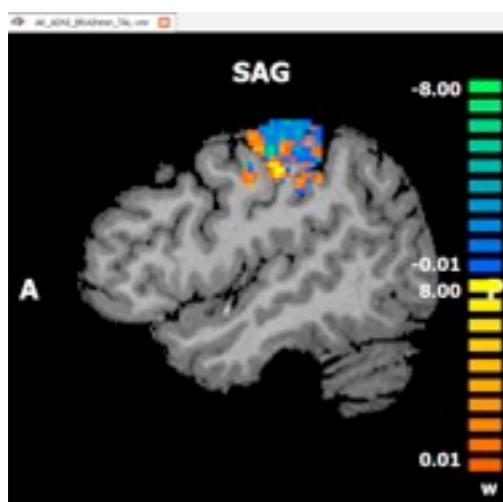
# What about neuronal data?



$D(\text{EEG}) = \# \text{ channels}$

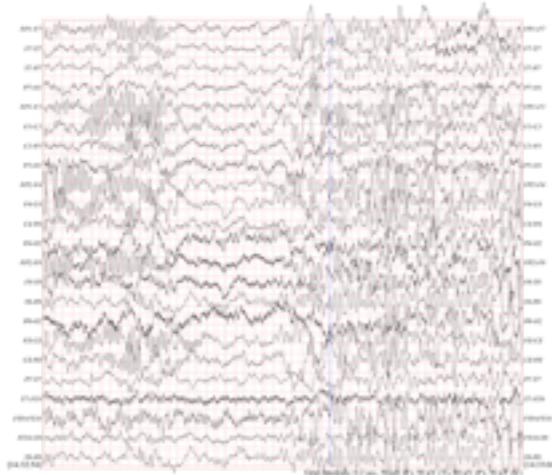


$D(\text{spike\_trains}) = \# \text{ neurons}$

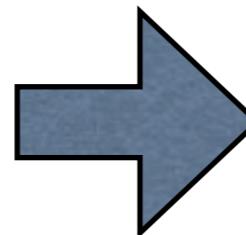


$D(\text{fMRI}) = \# \text{ voxels}$

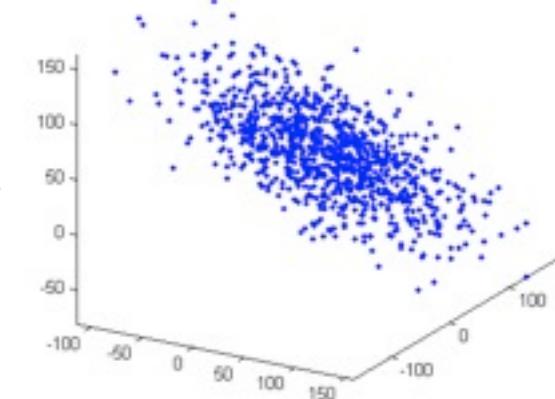
# Geometric view



set of  
recordings



set of vectors

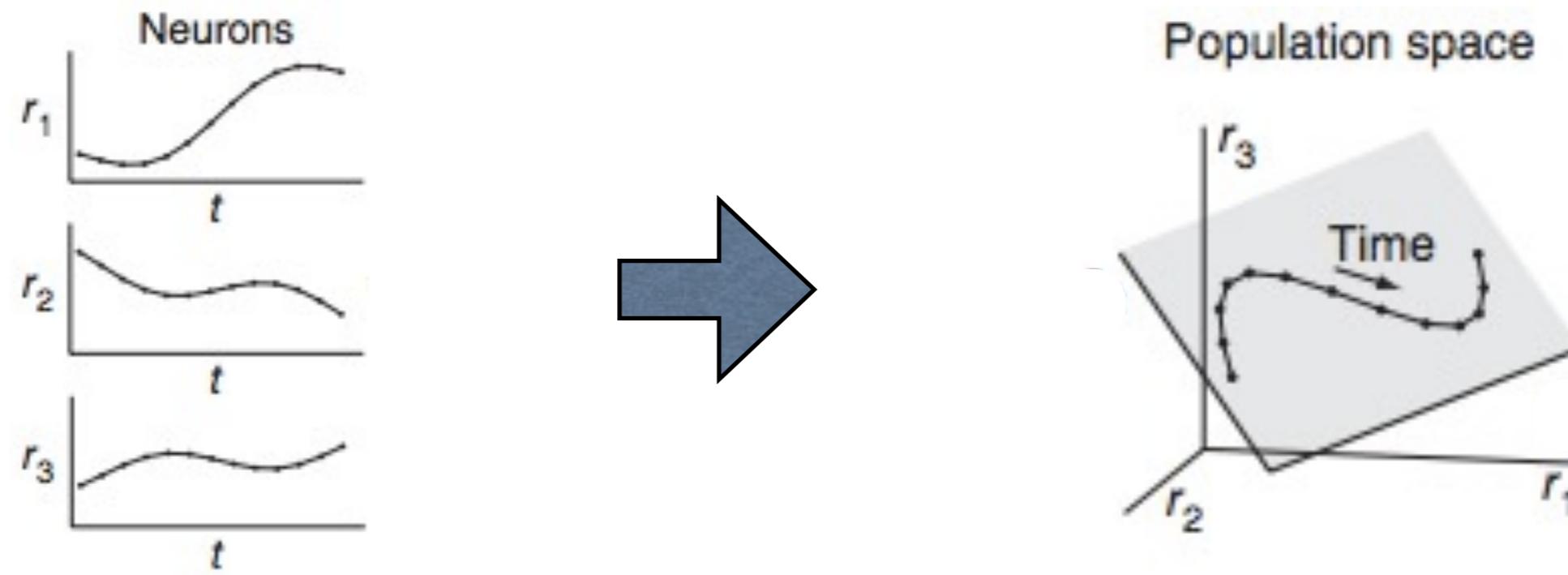


sample = 1 point/vector in a D-dimensional space

data set = cloud of points in a D-dimensional space

# What about neuronal data?

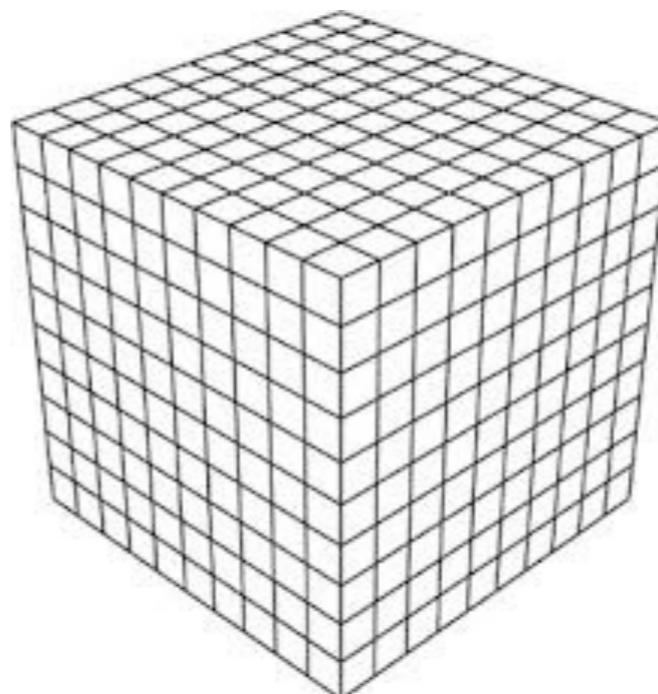
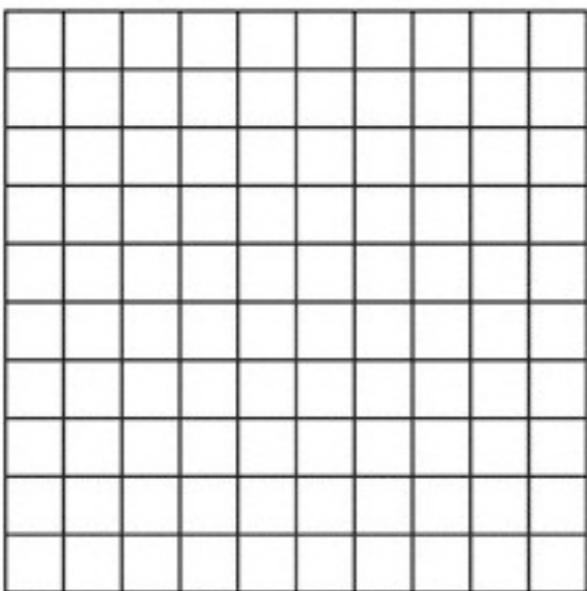
In neural recordings one obtains a different point every time!



neuronal dynamics = trajectory in a D-dimensional space

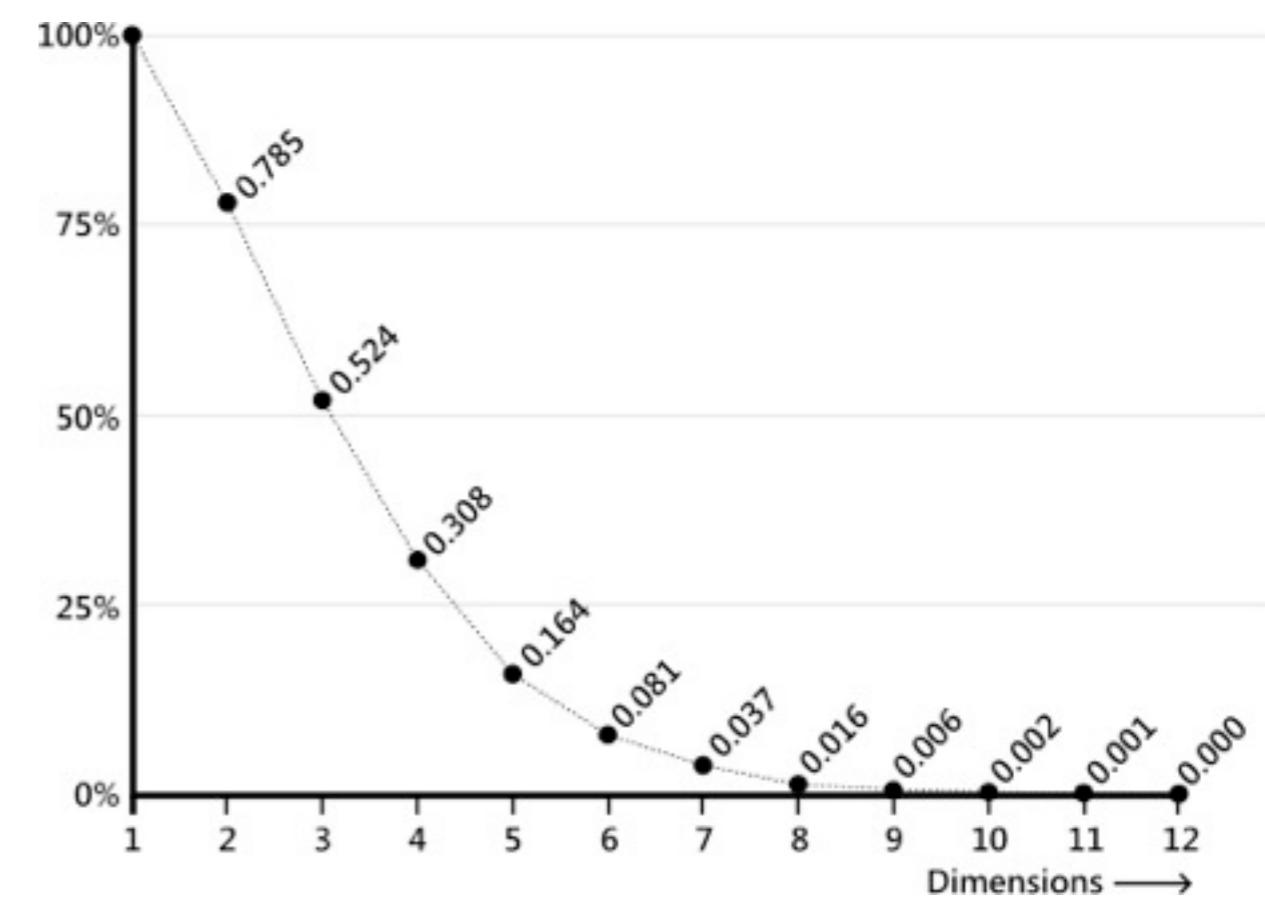
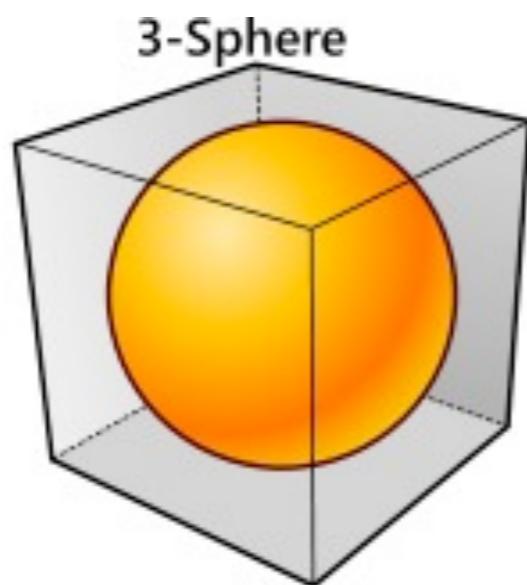
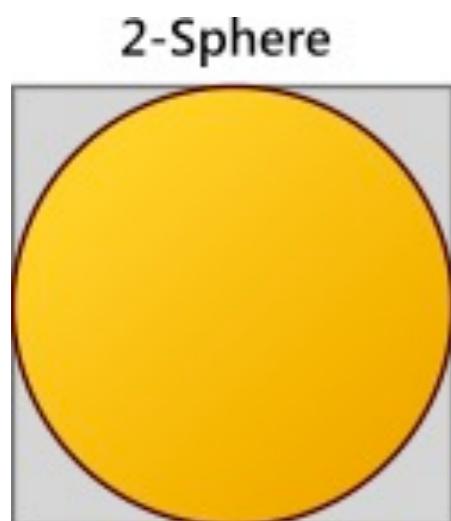
# What is the problem with high-dimensional data?

**The curse of dimensionality:** sample size to estimate a function of several variables grows exponentially with number of variables (D)



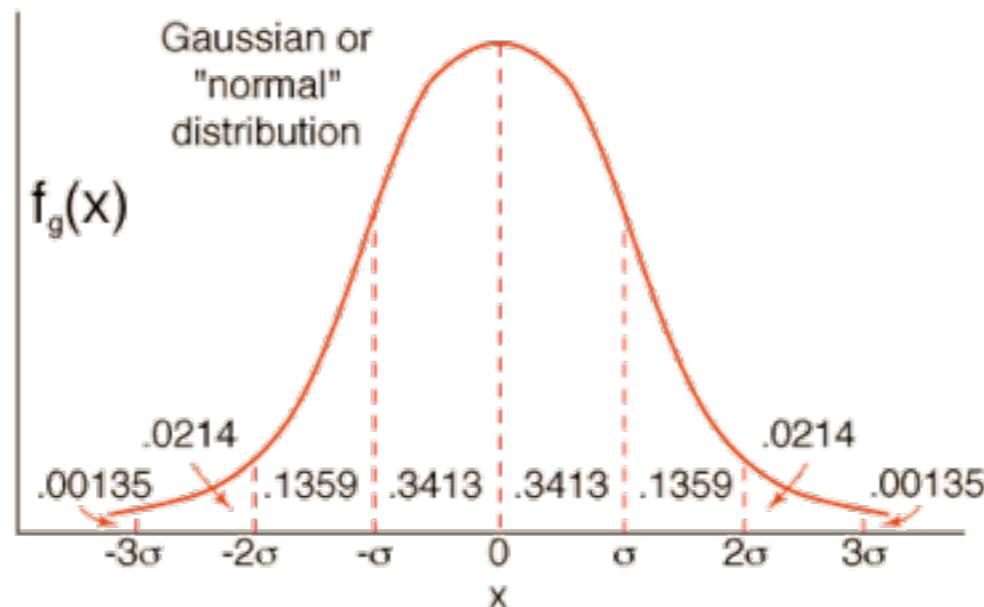
# What is the problem with high-dimensional data?

Our intuition fails in high dimensional spaces:  
**empty space phenomena!**



# What is the problem with high-dimensional data?

Our intuition fails in high dimensional spaces:  
**we are sampling from tails!**

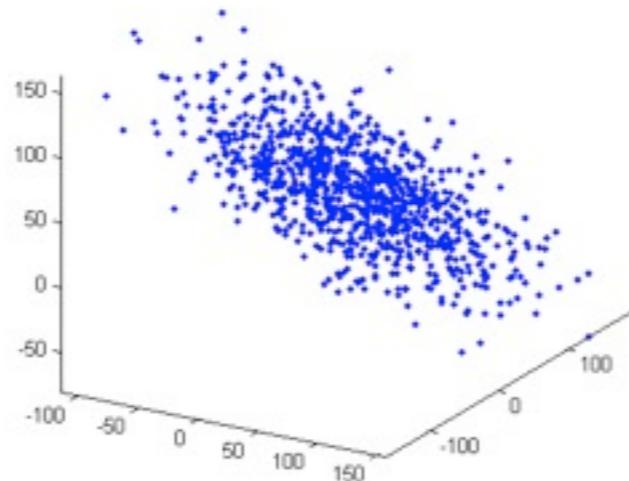


$n$	1	2	5	10	20	100
Probability	0.04550	0.13534	0.54942	0.94734	0.99995	1.00000

Tail probability of the multivariate Gaussian distributions for different dimensions (  $P(|x| > 2)$  )

# What is the problem with high-dimensional data?

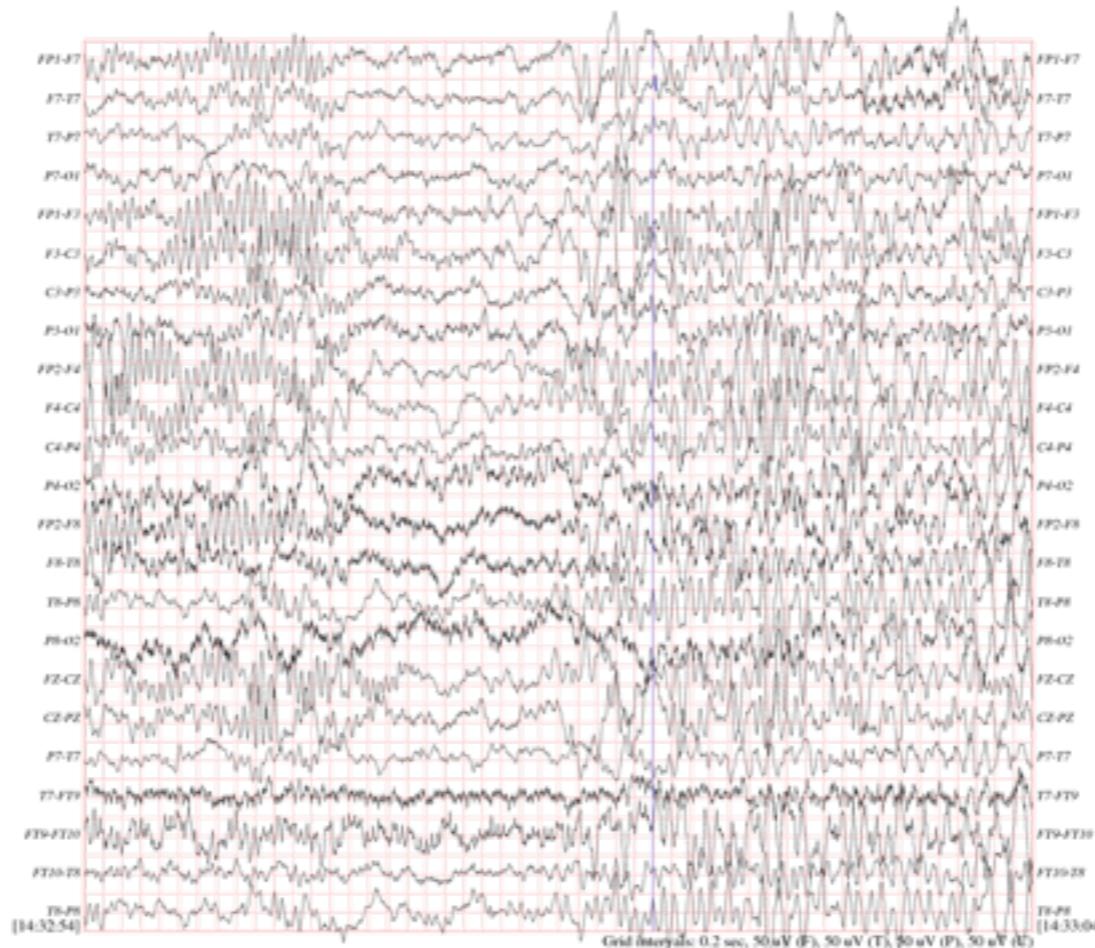
Our intuition fails in high dimensional spaces:  
**distances have weak discriminative power!**



Euclidean distance between random vectors (I.I.D.) in high dimensions is approximately constant ( $k$ -NN is risky in very high dim.)

# What is the problem with high-dimensional data?

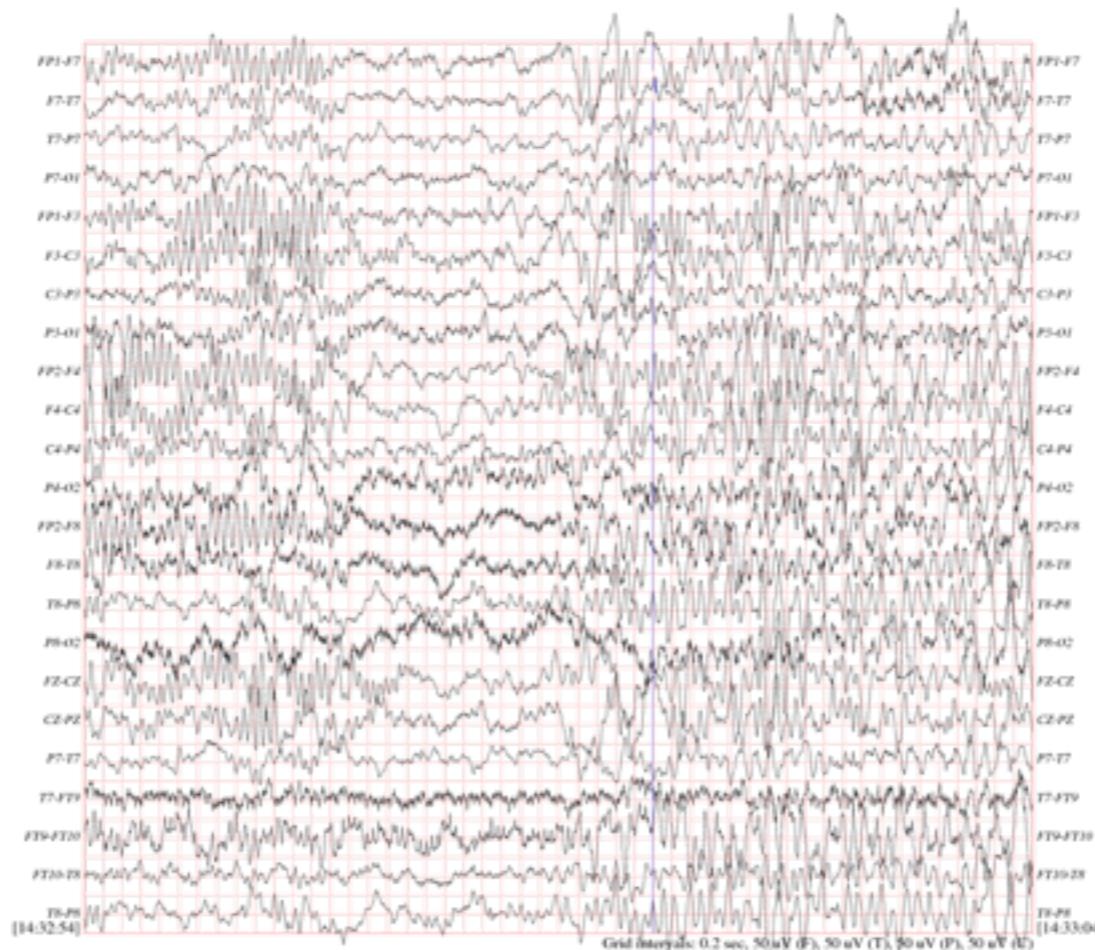
## Visualization!



Not very insightful perspective for human processing...

# What is the problem with high-dimensional data?

## Visualization!

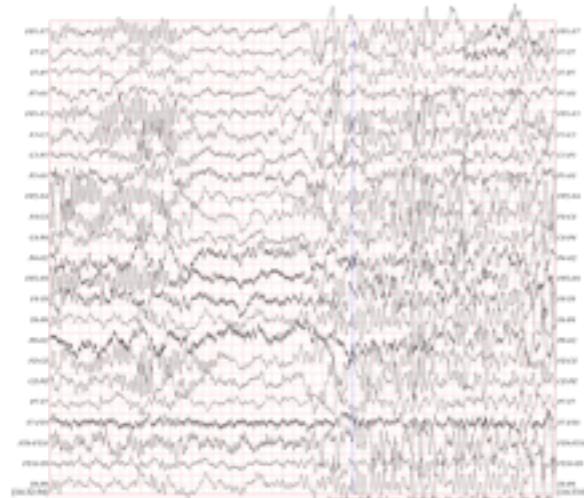


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# What is the problem with high-dimensional data?

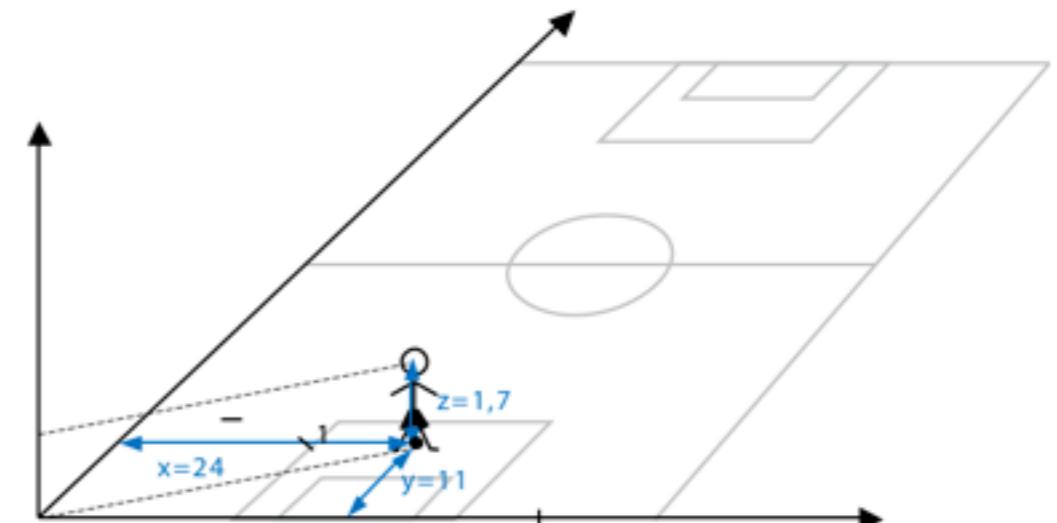
## Visualization!

X vs time



Y vs time

X vs Y



Our brains are great pattern analyzers. It makes a huge difference when data can be visualized in 2d or 3d.

# The hope

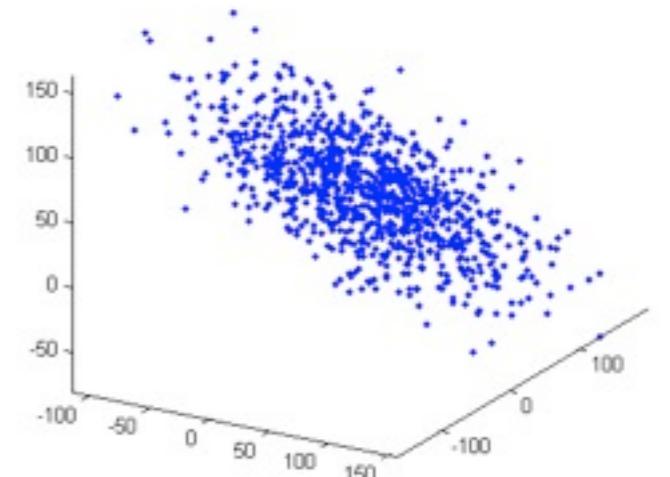
**Reducing the dimension** of our data in a sensible manner **can make an unfeasible problem become feasible**

We might to find **simplifying assumptions** that allow **to reduce the effective dimension** of the data

# Geometric structure

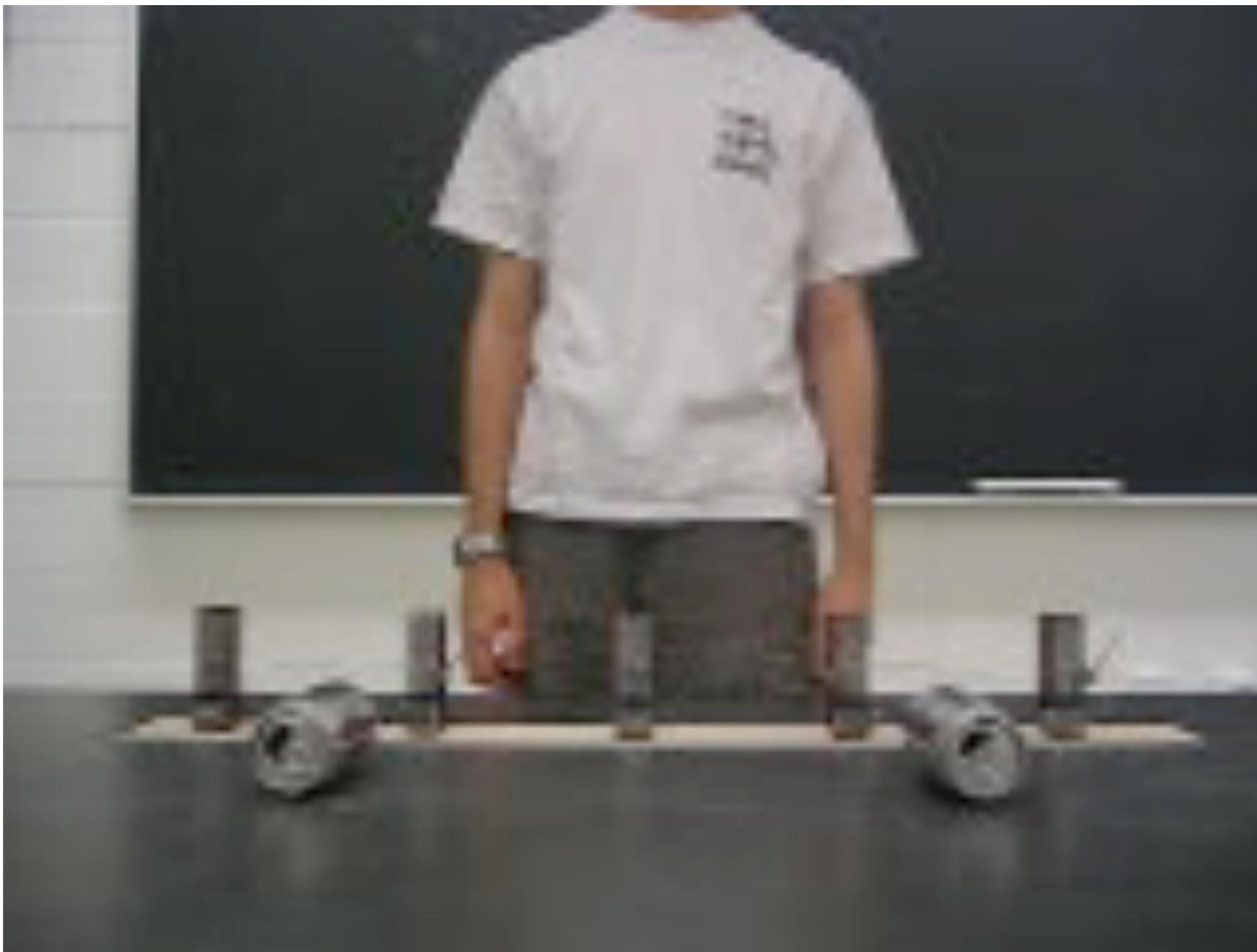
How would be that data cloud if dataset would contain...

- noisy neurons?
- neurons driven by a common source?
- neurons interacting with each other?



# Example from Physics

# Example from Physics



# dimension reduction

**Problem:** Given an observed high-dimensional dataset

$$X = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\} \in R^D$$

find a low-dimensional dataset

$$Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_m\} \in R^d \quad (d \ll D)$$

such that certain tasks of data analysis of the high dimensional data  $X$  can be realized on the low dimensional data  $Y$  with tolerable error

# dimension reduction

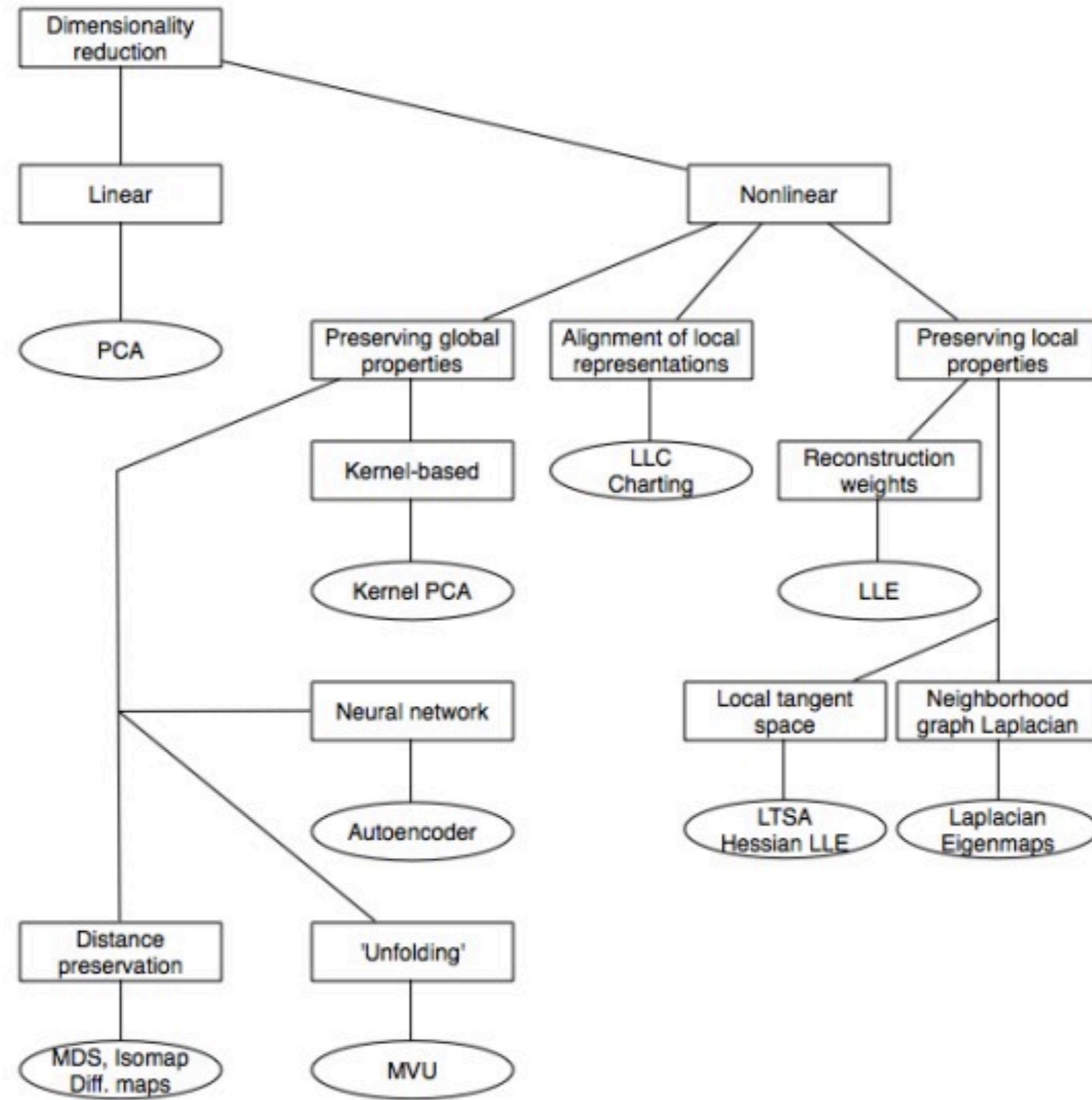
## Reward:

- Data visualization
- Extracting key low dimensional features

# When less is more

- What is dimensionality reduction?
- The zoo of dimensionality reduction
- Some applications

# The zoo



# Our division

- Methods that rely on **projections**
- Methods that attempt to **model the manifold** on which data lies

# Projective methods

Attempt to find low dimensional projections that extract useful information from the data, by maximizing some objective function

## Example: **Projection Pursuit**

How are interesting directions in multidimensional data found?

Search for projections such that the projected data departs from normality



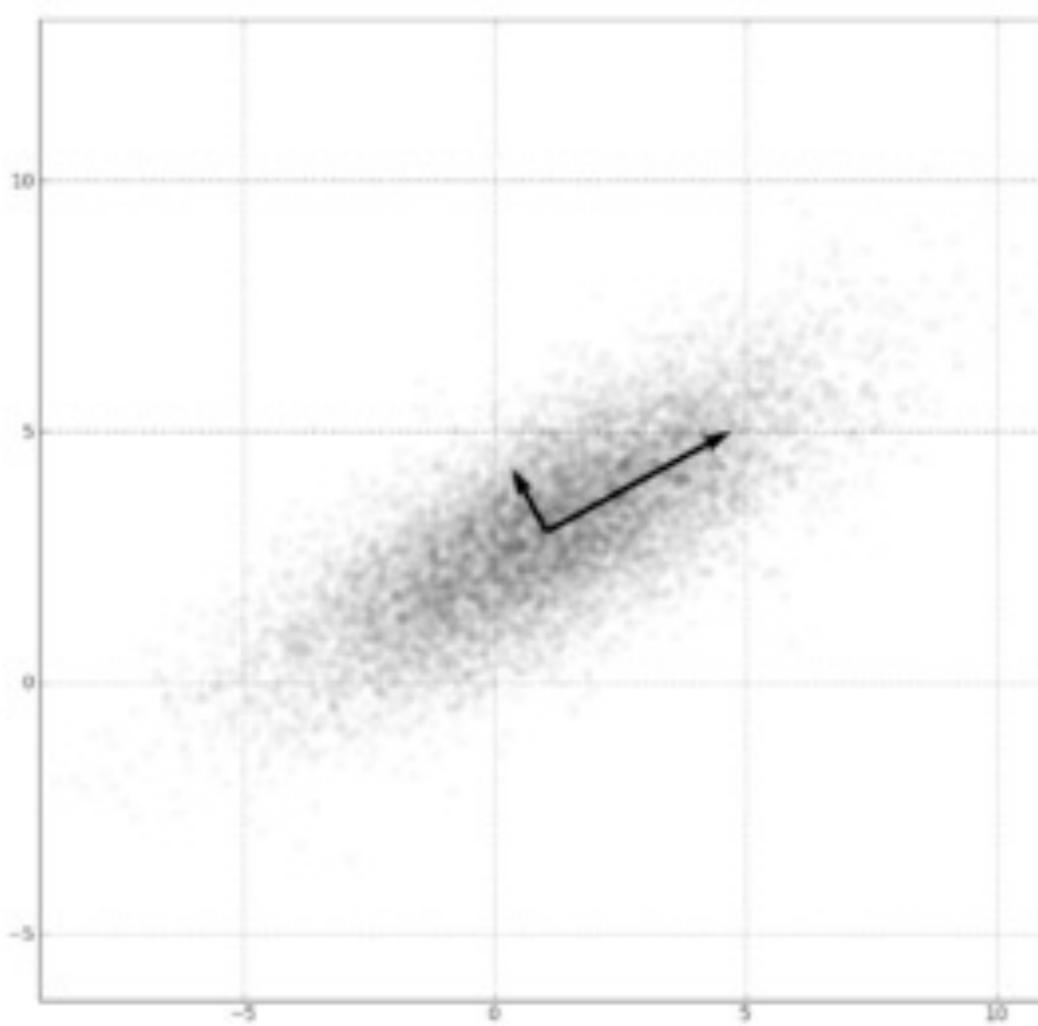
# ICA

**Independent Component Analysis:** searches for projections such that the probability distributions of the data along those projections are statistically independent

- Applied for Blind Source Separation. Views data generated by a mixture of unknown latent variables
- Finds maximally non-Gaussian components (minimal mutual information components)

# PCA

**Principal Component Analysis:** searches for projections along which the projected data has maximal variance



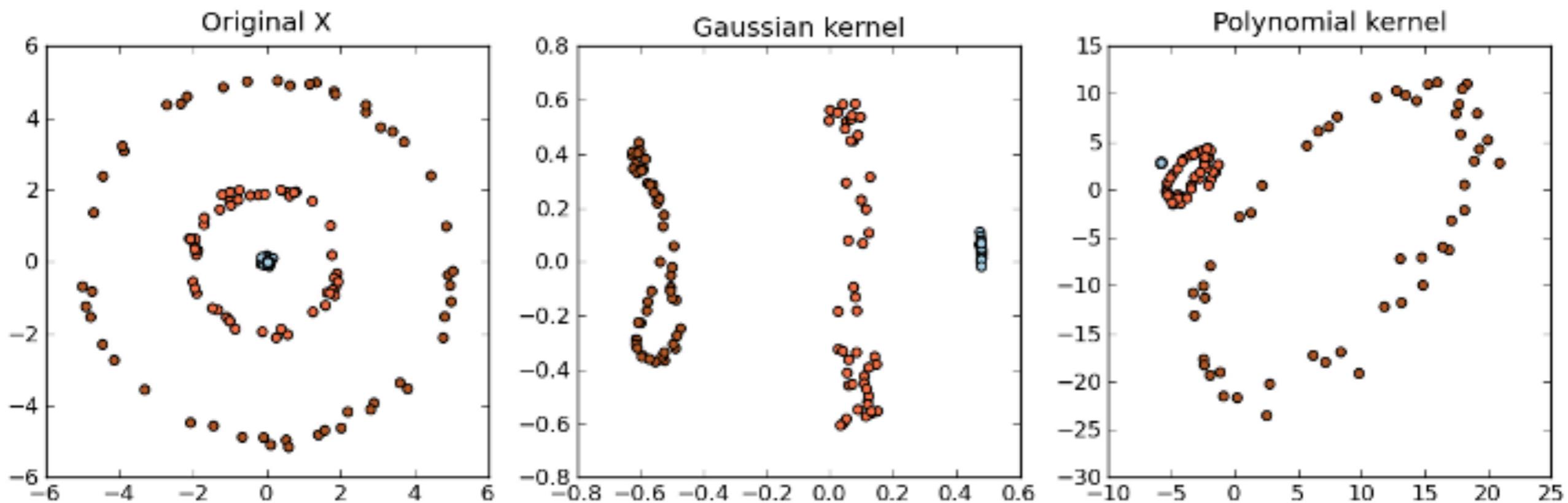
# PCA

**Principal Component Analysis:** searches for projections along which the projected data has maximal variance

- If unbeknownst your data in fact lies along a line, PCA gives you the direction you are looking for
- PCA for feature extraction amounts to project the data to a lower dimensional space
- PCA decorrelates the data
- PCA maximizes mutual information ( $I(X,Y)$ ) on Gaussian data

# KPCA

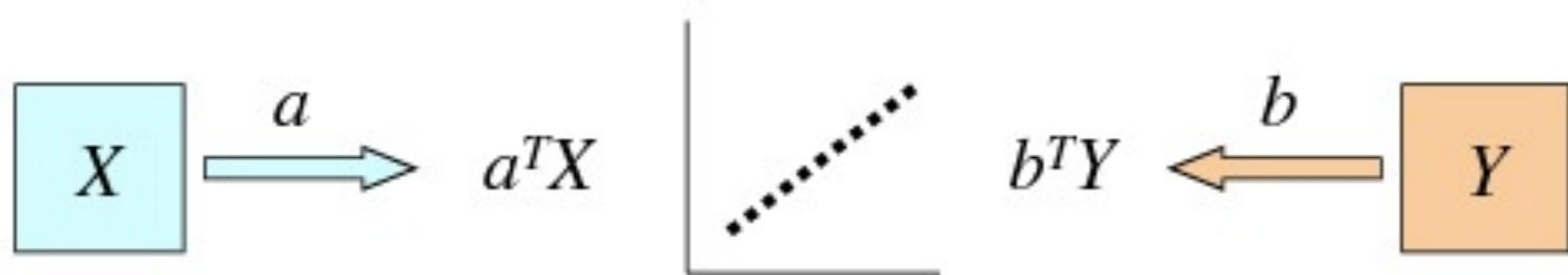
**Kernel Principal Component Analysis:** applies the kernel trick to create a non-linear version of PCA in sample space by performing PCA on a feature space.



# CCA

**Canonical Correlation Analysis:** suppose we have two paired data sets  $X$  and  $Y$  (ex. different views of the same object)

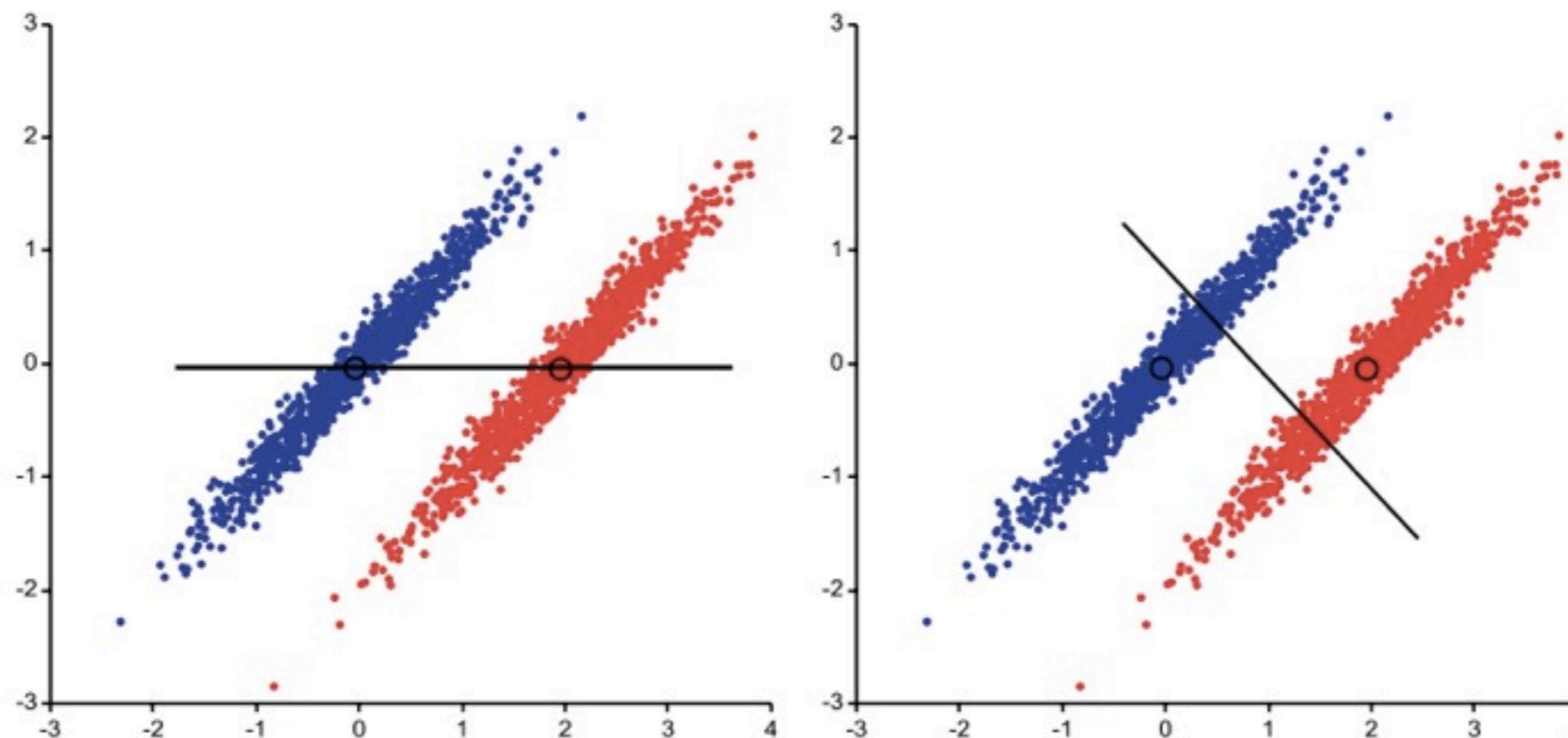
CCA finds paired directions such that the projection of the first data set along the first direction is maximally correlated with the projection of the second data set along the second direction.



# LDA

**Linear Discrimination Analysis:** natural extension of PCA  
to the case of labeled data

LDA searches projections where two classes are well separated  
(maximizes inter-class while minimizing intra-class variance)



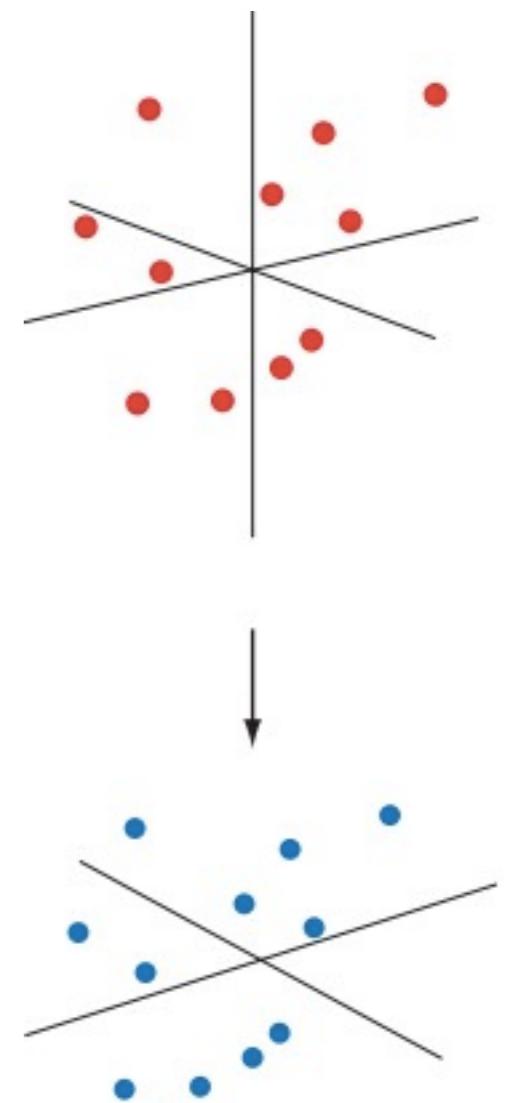
# Random projections

## Johnson-Lindenstrauss lemma:

**Lemma 7.1.** *Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and integer  $n$  be given. Then for all positive integers  $k \geq k_0 = O(\varepsilon^{-2} \log n)$  and a set  $\mathcal{X}$  of  $n$  points, which are randomly selected in  $\mathbb{R}^D$ , there exists a projection  $f : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ , which satisfies*

$$(1 - \varepsilon) \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|^2 \leq \|f(\mathbf{u}) - f(\mathbf{v})\|^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|^2, \quad (7.3)$$

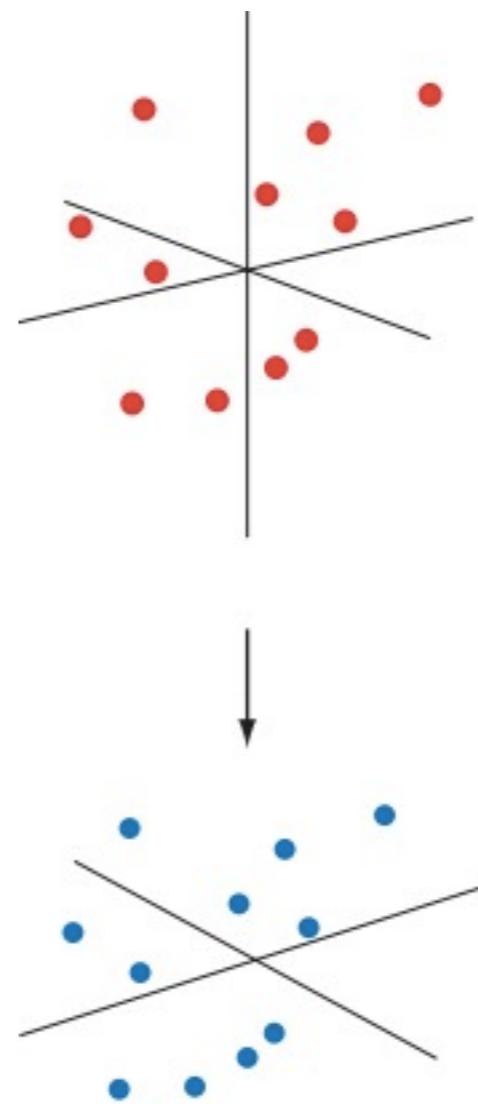
for all  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{X}$ .



# Random projections

**Random projections:** as opposed to PCA which measures data distortion globally, random projections can be used to guarantee that distances between all pairs are approximately maintained

$$f_r : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \subset \mathbb{R}^k, \mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{R}' \mathbf{X}$$

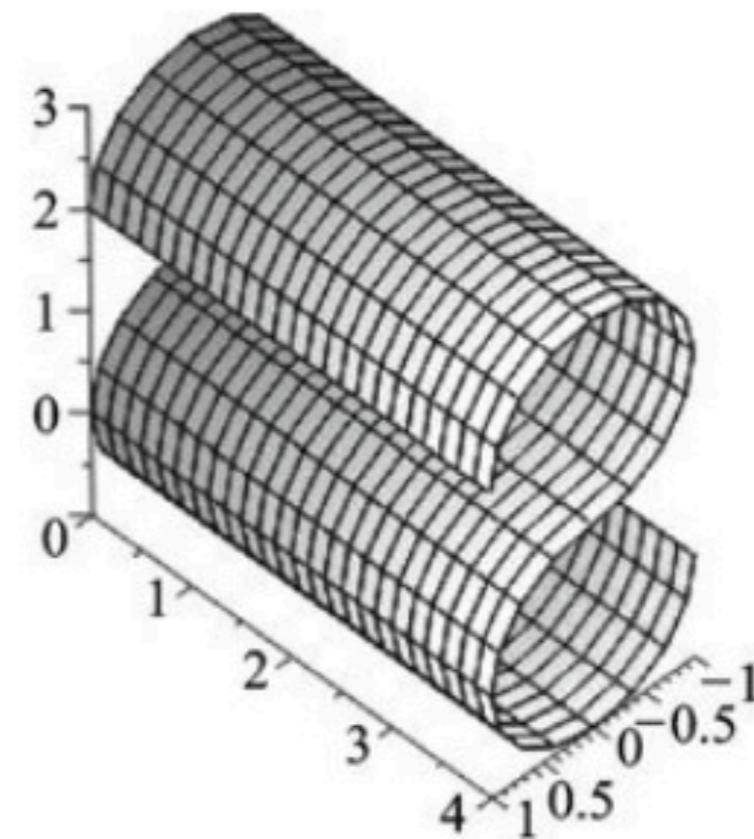
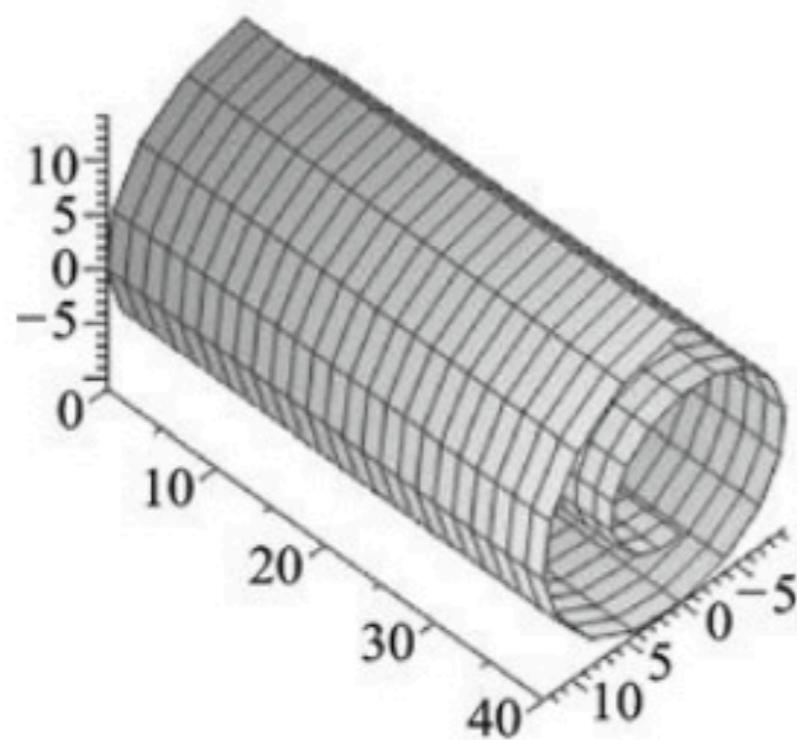


# Our division

- Methods that rely on **projections**
- Methods that attempt to **model the manifold** on which data lies

# Manifold Learning

Attempt to find the underlying geometric structure of data



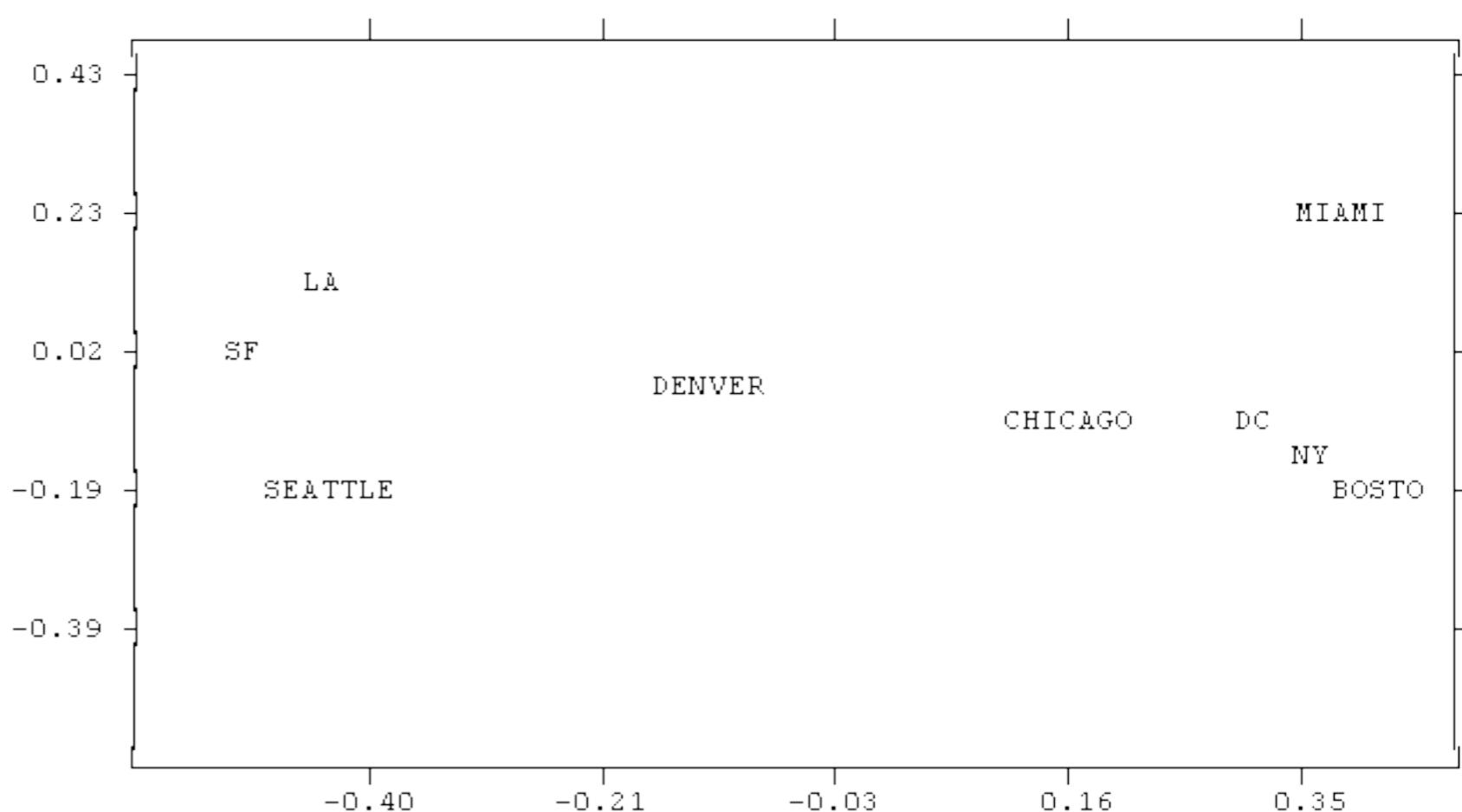
# MDS

**Multi-dimensional scaling:** given a measure of dissimilarity between each pair of data points, MDS searches for a mapping of the dissimilarities to a low dimensional Euclidean space such that dissimilarities become squared distances

- Used in representational similarity analysis
- Input is only a matrix of dissimilarities
- Equivalent to PCA in some cases
- Visualization

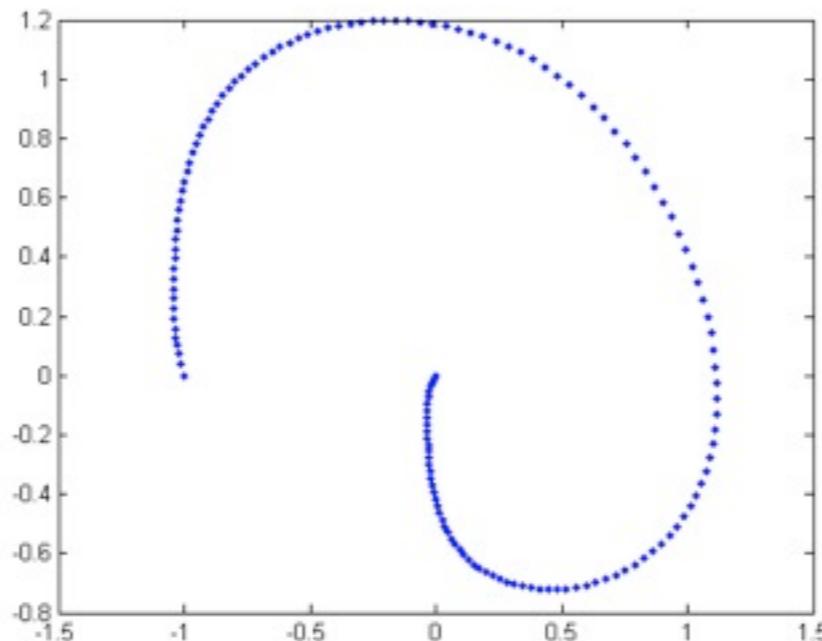
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	BOST	NY	DC	MIAM	CHIC	SEAT	SF	LA	DENV
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
BOSTON	0	206	429	1504	963	2976	3095	2979	1949
NY	206	0	233	1308	802	2815	2934	2786	1771
DC	429	233	0	1075	671	2684	2799	2631	1616
MIAMI	1504	1308	1075	0	1329	3273	3053	2687	2037
CHICAGO	963	802	671	1329	0	2013	2142	2054	996
SEATTLE	2976	2815	2684	3273	2013	0	808	1131	1307
SF	3095	2934	2799	3053	2142	808	0	379	1235
LA	2979	2786	2631	2687	2054	1131	379	0	1059
DENVER	1949	1771	1616	2037	996	1307	1235	1059	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BOST		NY	DC	MIAM	CHIC	SEAT	SF	LA	DENV
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DENVER	1949	1771	1616	2037	996	1307	1235	1059	0



# Isomap

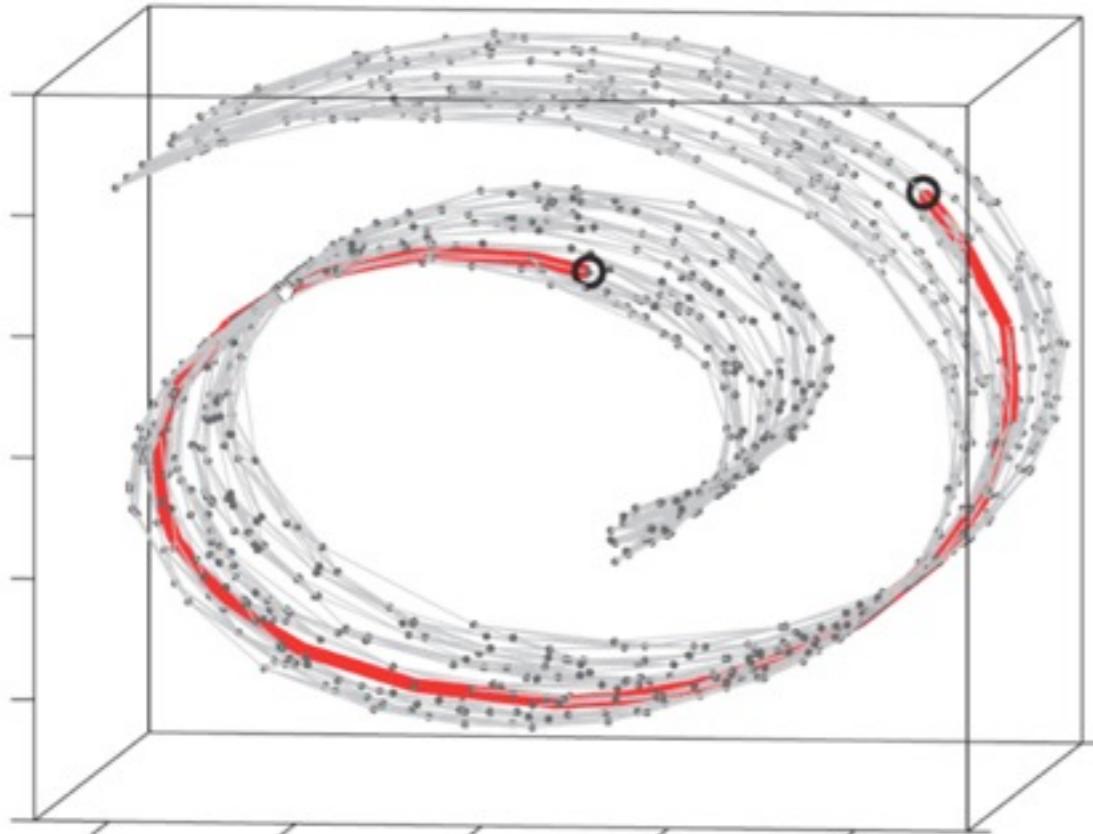
**Isomap:** key assumption is that the quantity of interest, when comparing two points, is the distance along the curve



- Example: if data lies on a curve PCA and MDS will fail to discover that data is 1 dim.
- Isomap uses geodesic distance as input dissimilarities in a MDS to find a low dimensional representation (preserving global structure)

# Isomap

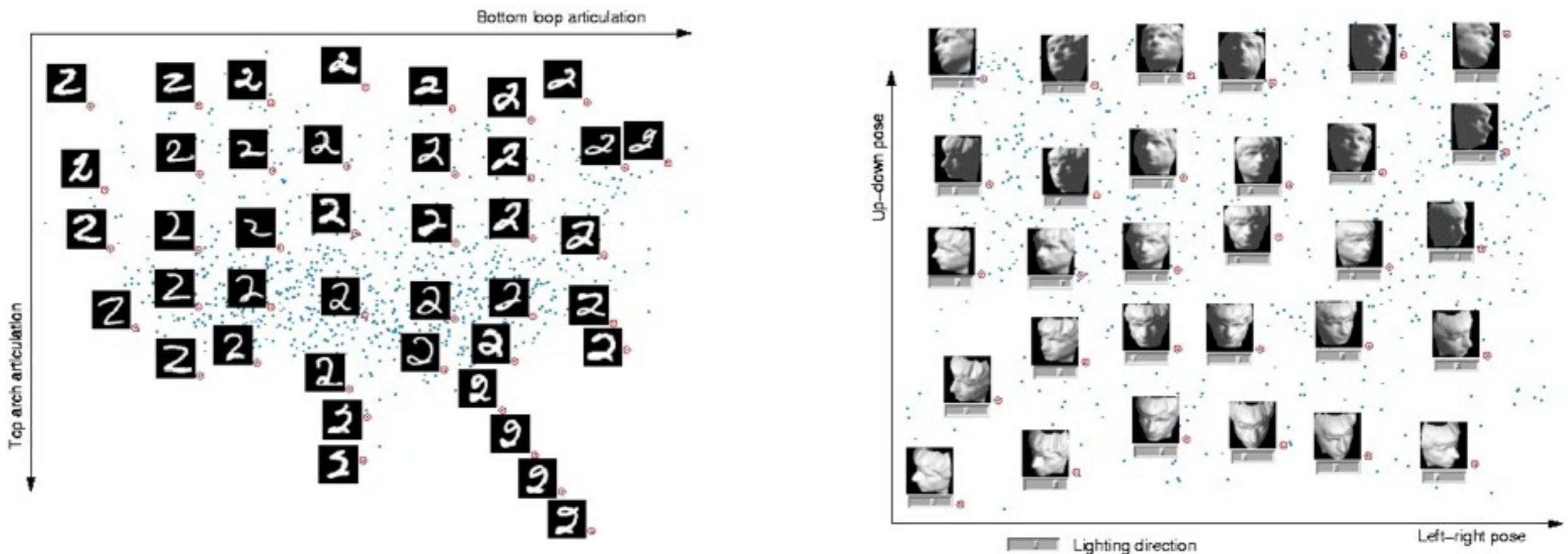
**Isomap:** key assumption is that the quantity of interest, when comparing two points, is the distance along the curve



1. Cloud of points to graph
2. Geodesic distance matrix
3. MDS

# Isomap

**Isomap:** unfolds a manifold by keeping the geodesic metric of the original data set



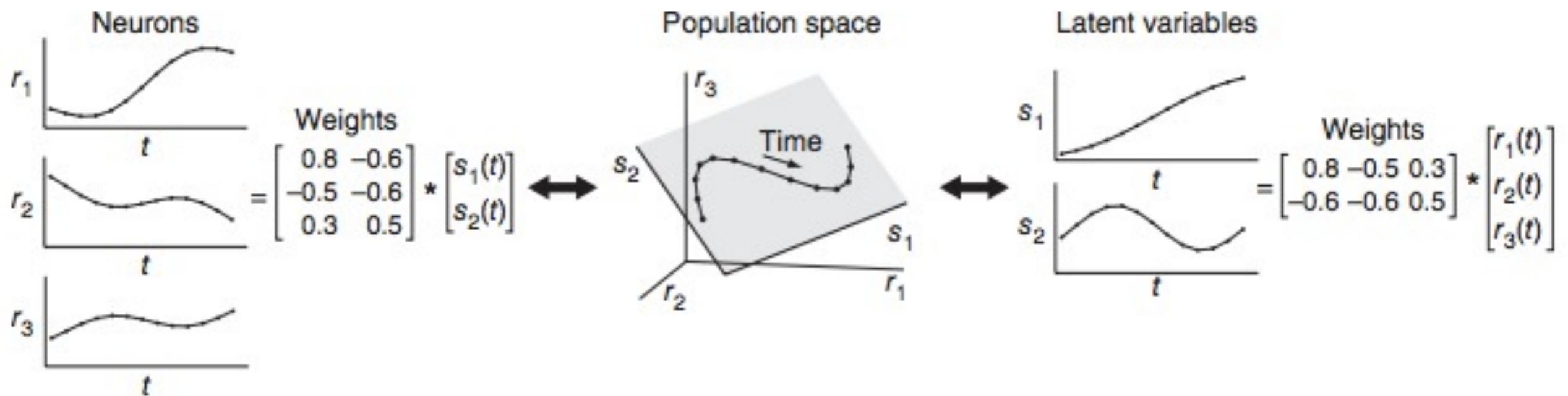
# When less is more

- What is dimensionality reduction?
- The zoo of dimensionality reduction
- Some applications

# Some applications

**Population response:** neural code and processing involve the coordination of responses across neurons

- Dimension reduction can help to interpret all variables simultaneously and discover latent variables



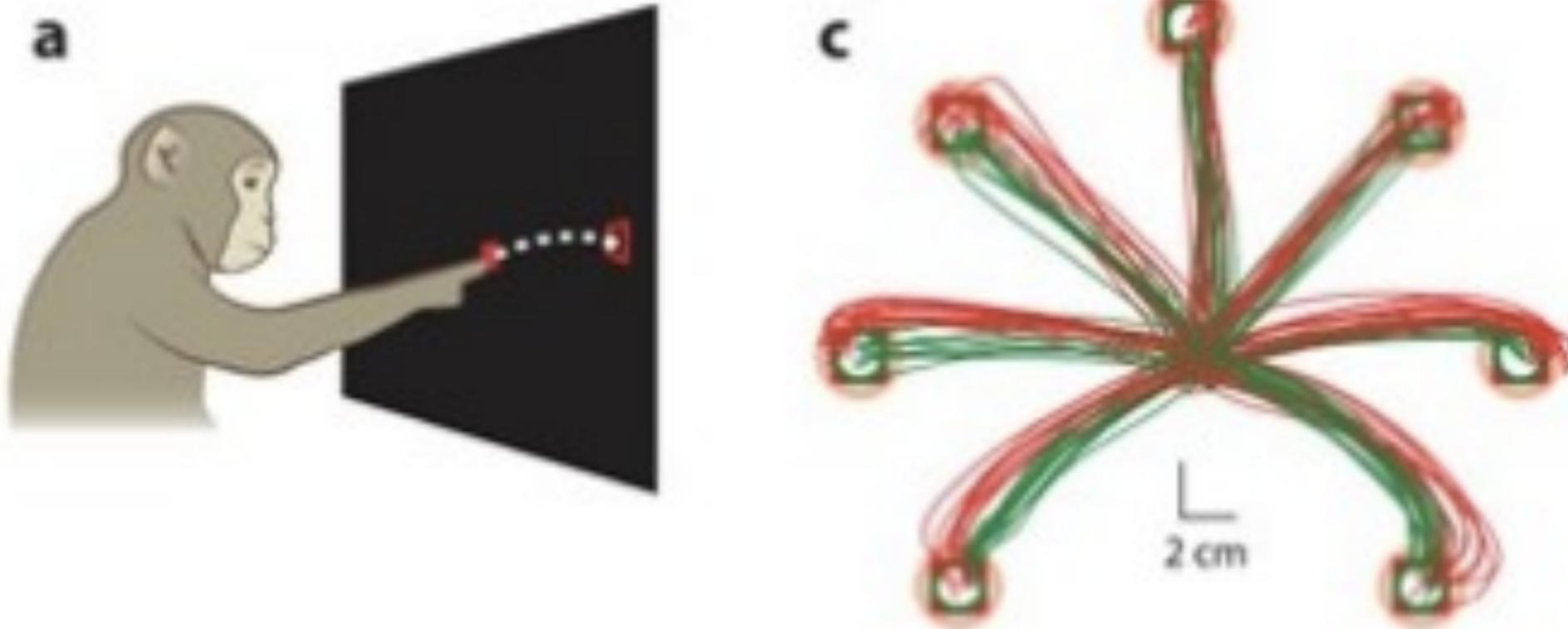
Dimensionality reduction for large-scale neural recordings, Cunningham, J.P., Yu, B

*Nature Neuroscience* 17, 1500–1509 (2014)

# Some applications

**Exploratory analysis:** visualization in 2d or 3d has an enormous impact in interpreting and generating hypothesis

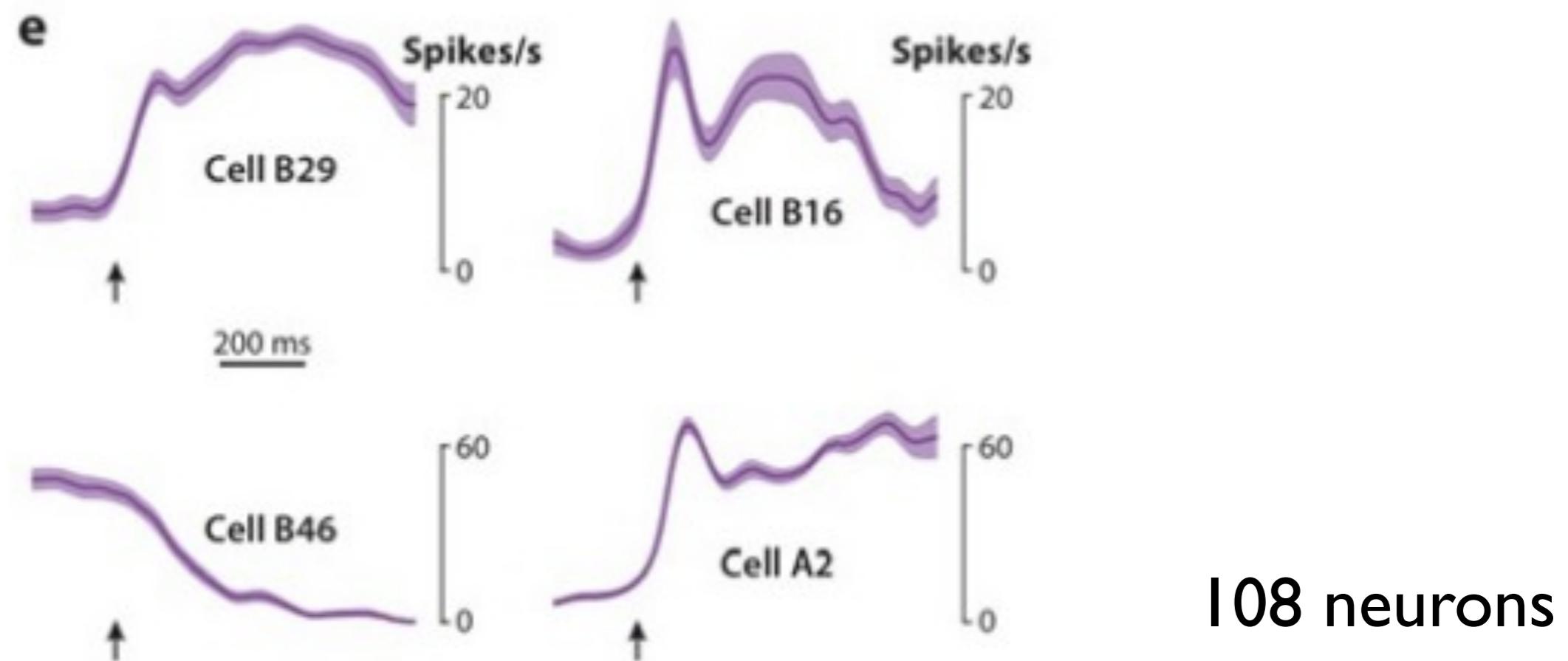
- Example: motor cortex



# Some applications

**Exploratory analysis:** visualization in 2d or 3d has an enormous impact in interpreting and generating hypothesis

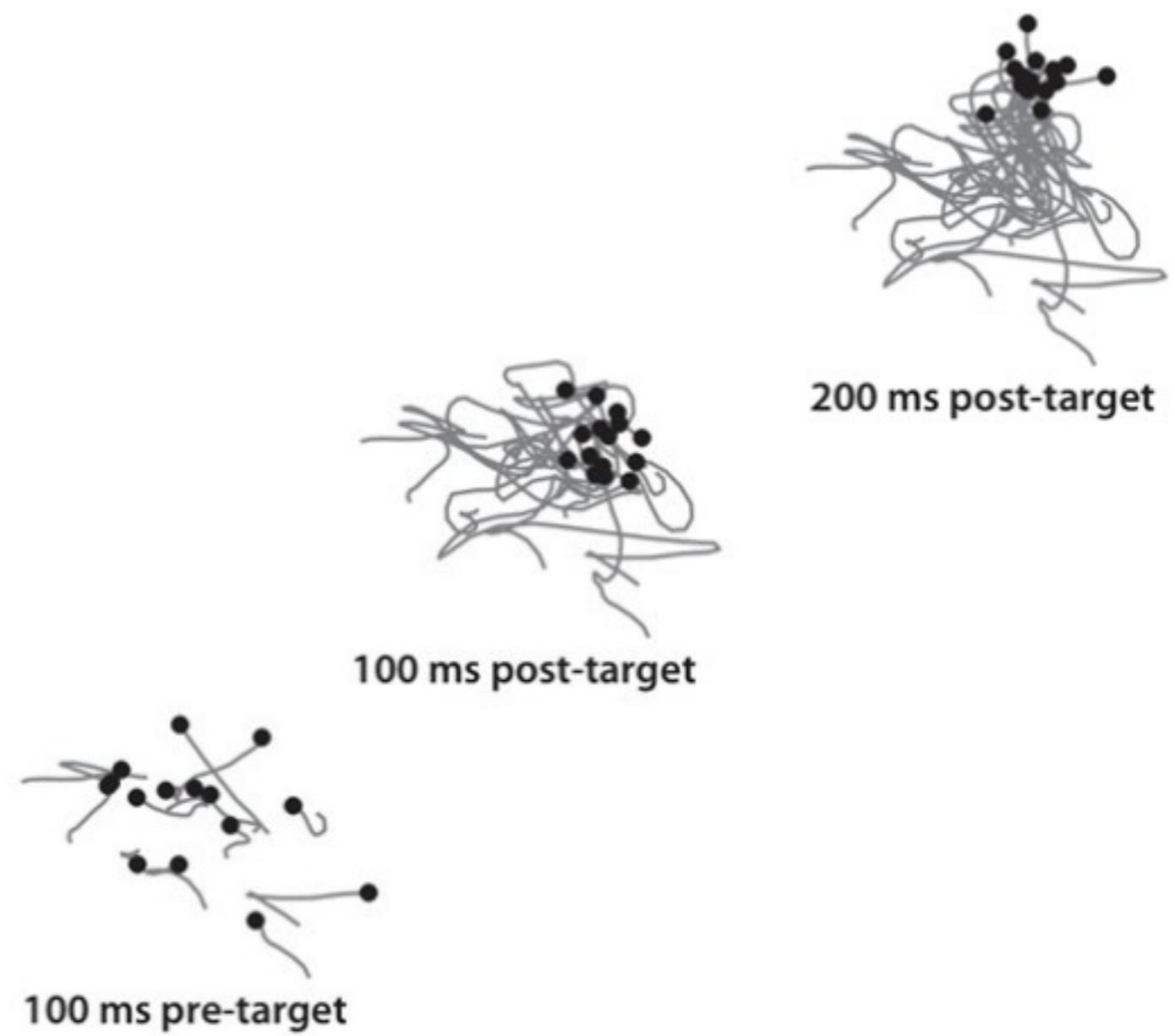
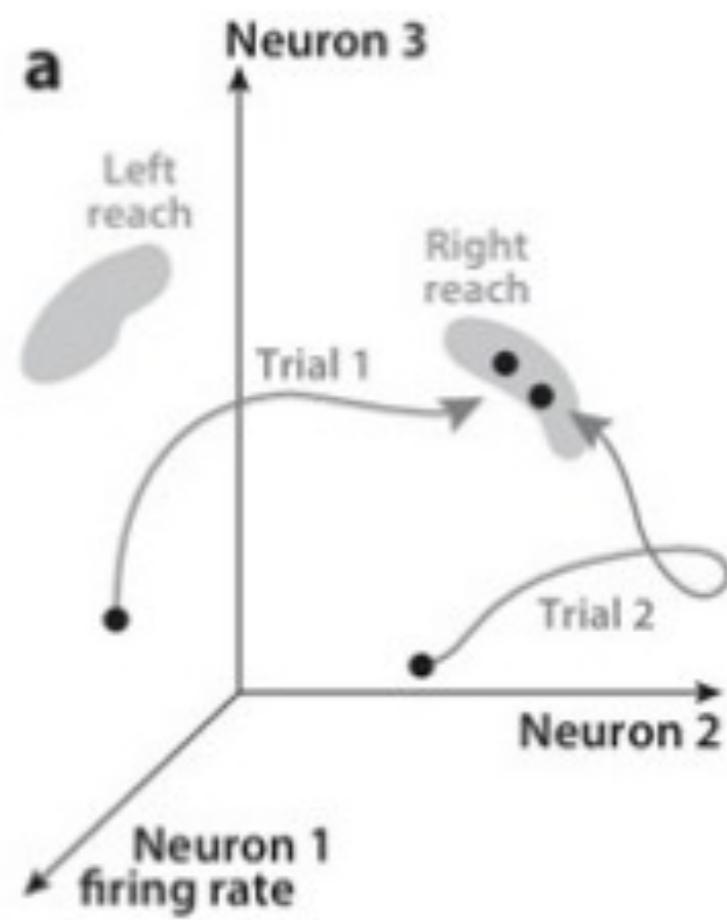
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# Some applications

**Exploratory analysis:** visualization in 2d or 3d has an enormous impact in interpreting and generating hypothesis

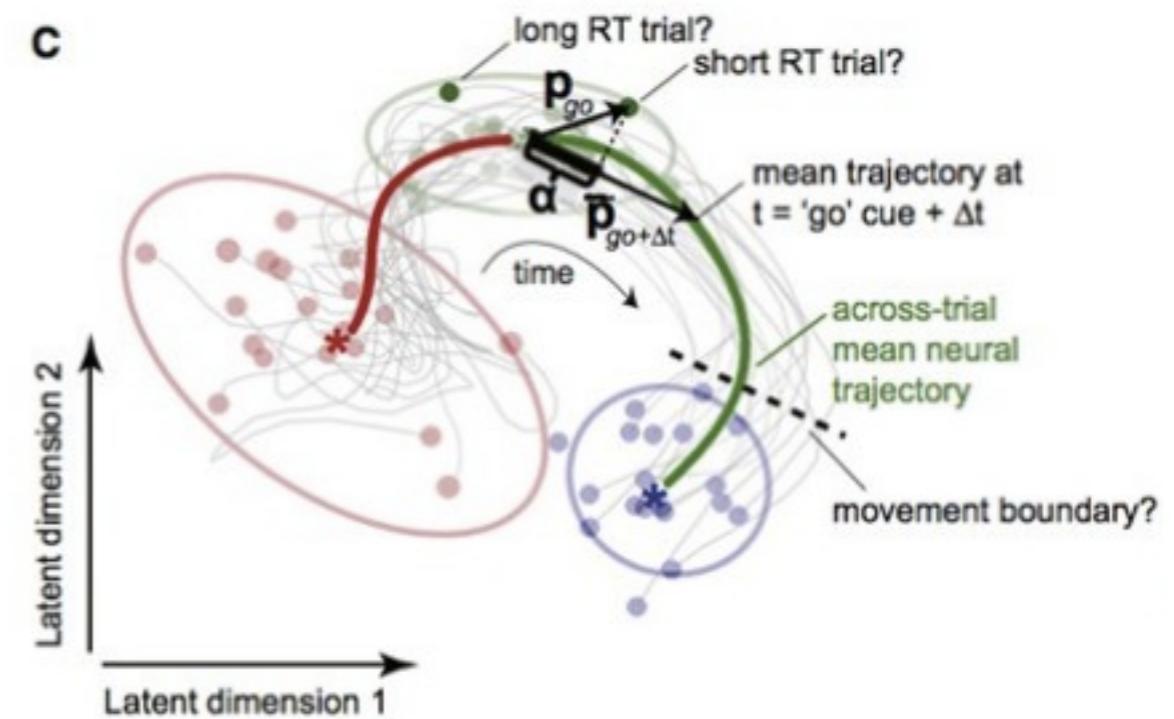
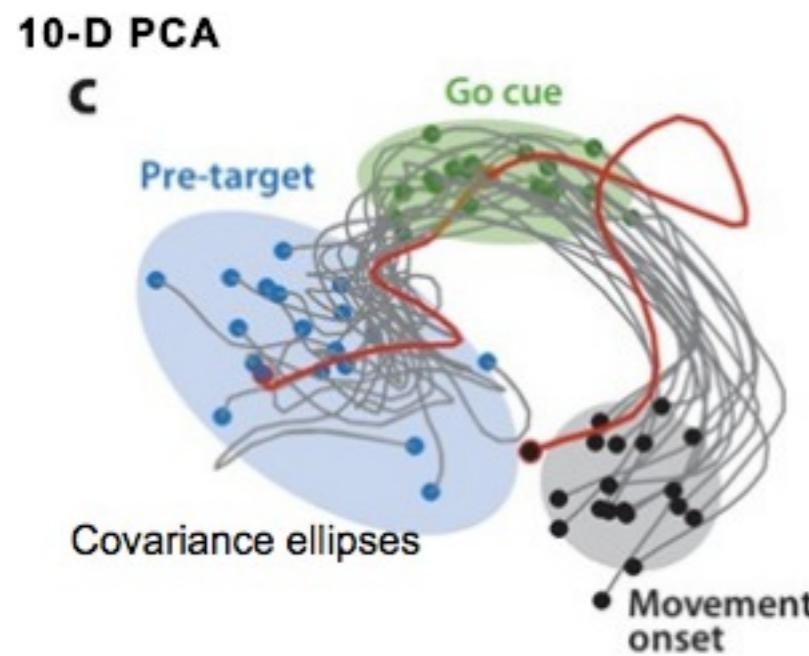
- Example: motor cortex



# Some applications

**Exploratory analysis:** visualization in 2d or 3d has an enormous impact in interpreting and generating hypothesis

- Example: motor cortex



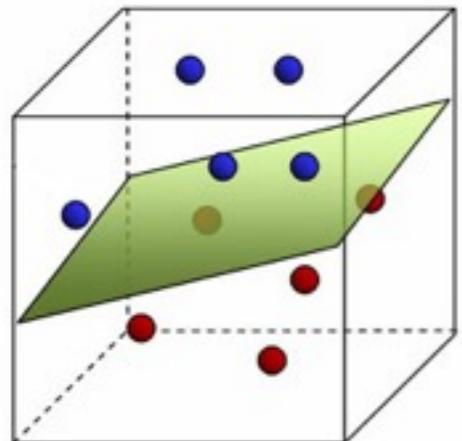
**Dimension reduction** can be useful in Neuroscience but most data is still analyzed only classically

- A lot of work to be done by just applying the techniques we have seen today to interesting data sets (Visualization)
- Compressed sensing (faster fMRI scans)

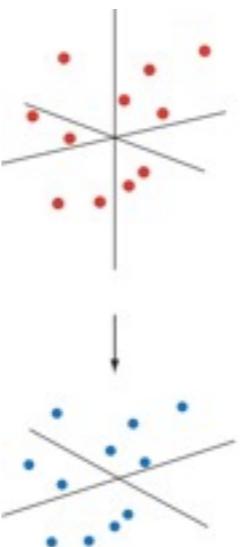
# Take home messages

- Sometimes less is more
- Both the brain and the analyst would like to implement dimension reduction
- There are a lot of data sets waiting

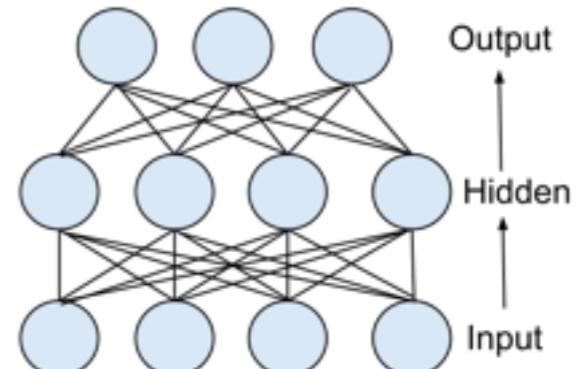
# Machine learning



## Dimensionality reduction



## Caveats



**“THE BRAIN IS A VERY  
GENEROUS ORGAN, IT  
OFFERS ENOUGH DATA TO  
FIT ALMOST EVERY THEORY”**

**- Nikos Logothetis**

**“IF YOU TORTURE THE DATA  
ENOUGH IT WILL CONFESS TO  
ANYTHING”**

**- Ronald Coase**

# confirmation bias

**20 years of learning about vision: Questions answered,  
questions unanswered, and questions not yet asked**

Bruno A. Olshausen (2010)

# confirmation bias

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too early for hypothesis driven  
research in systems neuroscience?

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**20 years of learning about vision: Questions answered,  
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Bruno A. Olshausen (2010)

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- Story telling findings are compelling

# confirmation bias

**20 years of learning about vision: Questions answered,  
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Bruno A. Olshausen (2010)

too early for hypothesis driven  
research in systems neuroscience?

- Story telling findings are compelling
- A “must” to publish in glamorous journals

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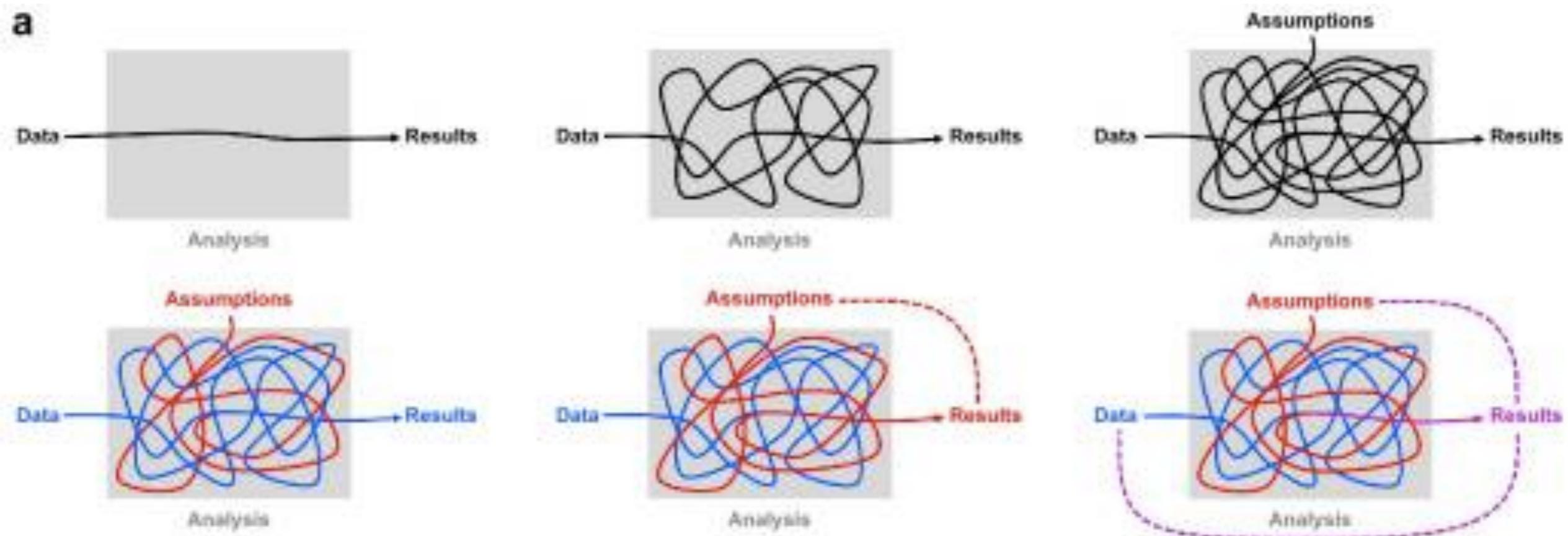
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Huge multiple  
comparison problem  
not accounted for!

# Analysis is what lies between your data and results and it is very easy to contaminate

Circular analysis in systems neuroscience: the dangers of double dipping.  
Kriegeskorte, N. et al., Nature Neuroscience 2009, **12**, p 535.



# confirmation bias

## **Circular analysis in systems neuroscience: the dangers of double dipping**

Nikolaus Kriegeskorte et al. (2009)

(Nature, Science, Nature Neuroscience, Neuron, Journal of Neuroscience) in 2008.  
134 fMRI papers, 42% (57 papers) contained at least one nonindependent selective analysis



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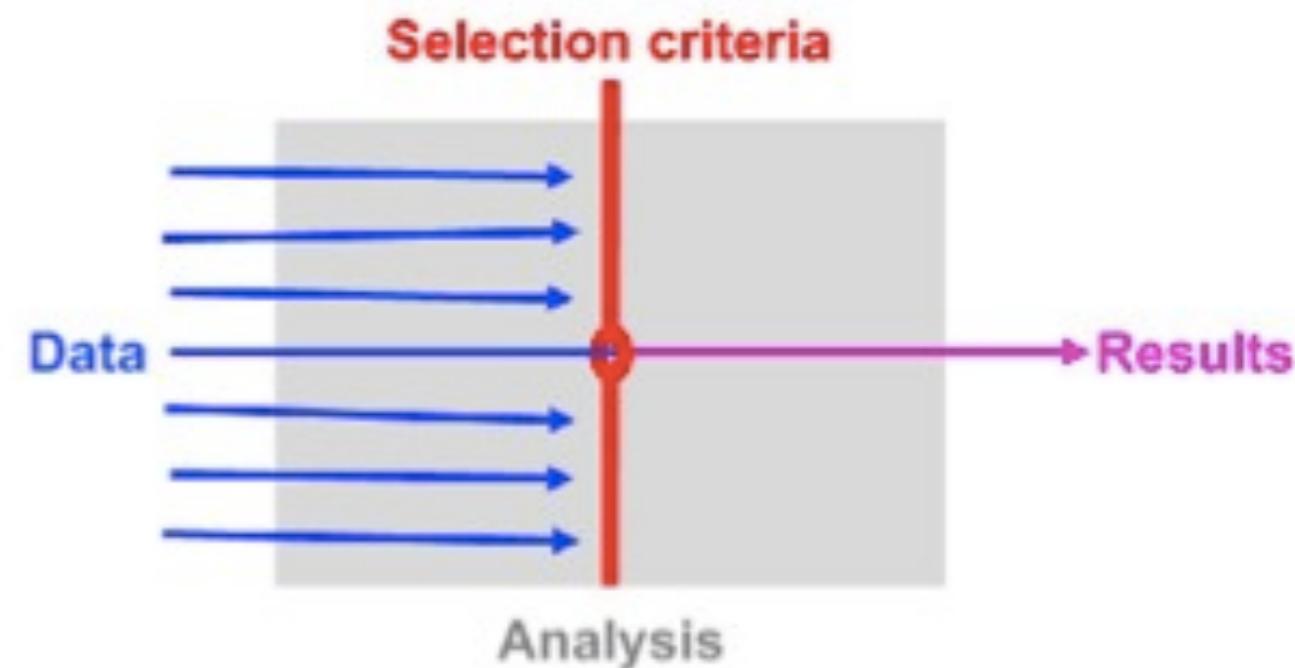
Selection criteria depends on results

**analysis** (sensitivity)

**channels** (neurons, regions, animals)

**parameters** (uncertainty, scanning)

**statistics** (+/- conservative)



# confirmation bias

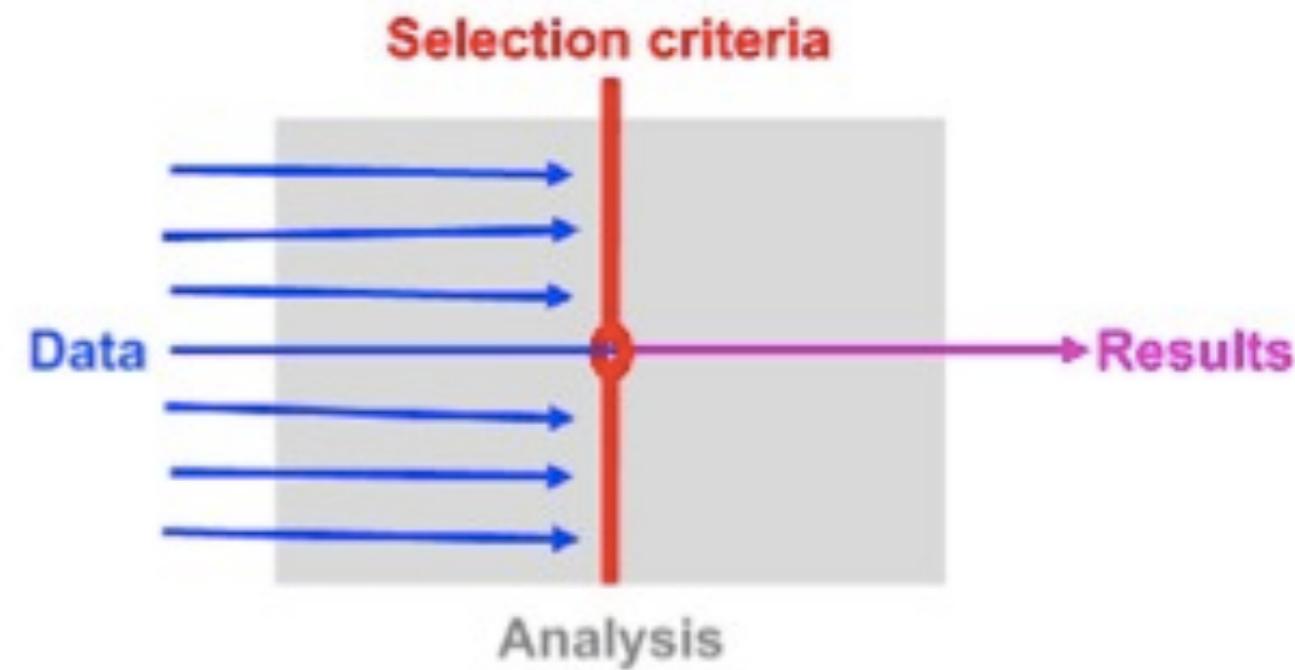
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Computational models can fit almost anything!

# confirmation bias

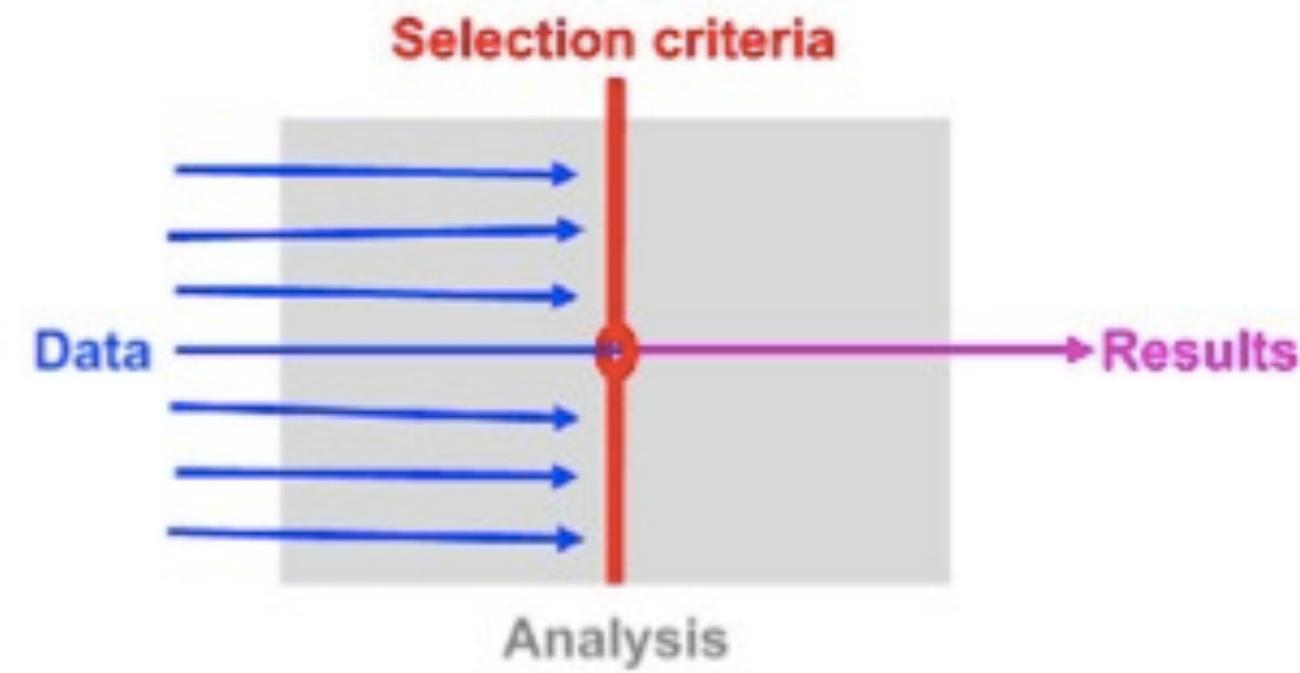
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connectivity

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input

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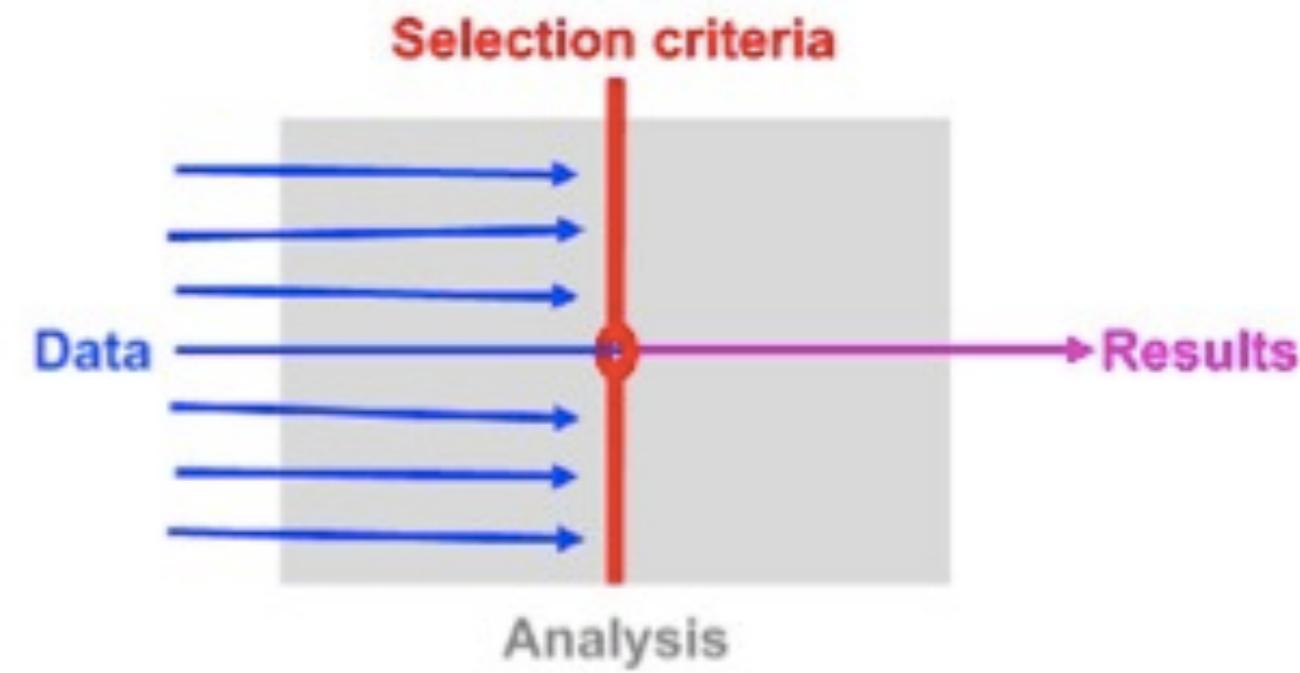
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amplitude  
frequency  
phase relation

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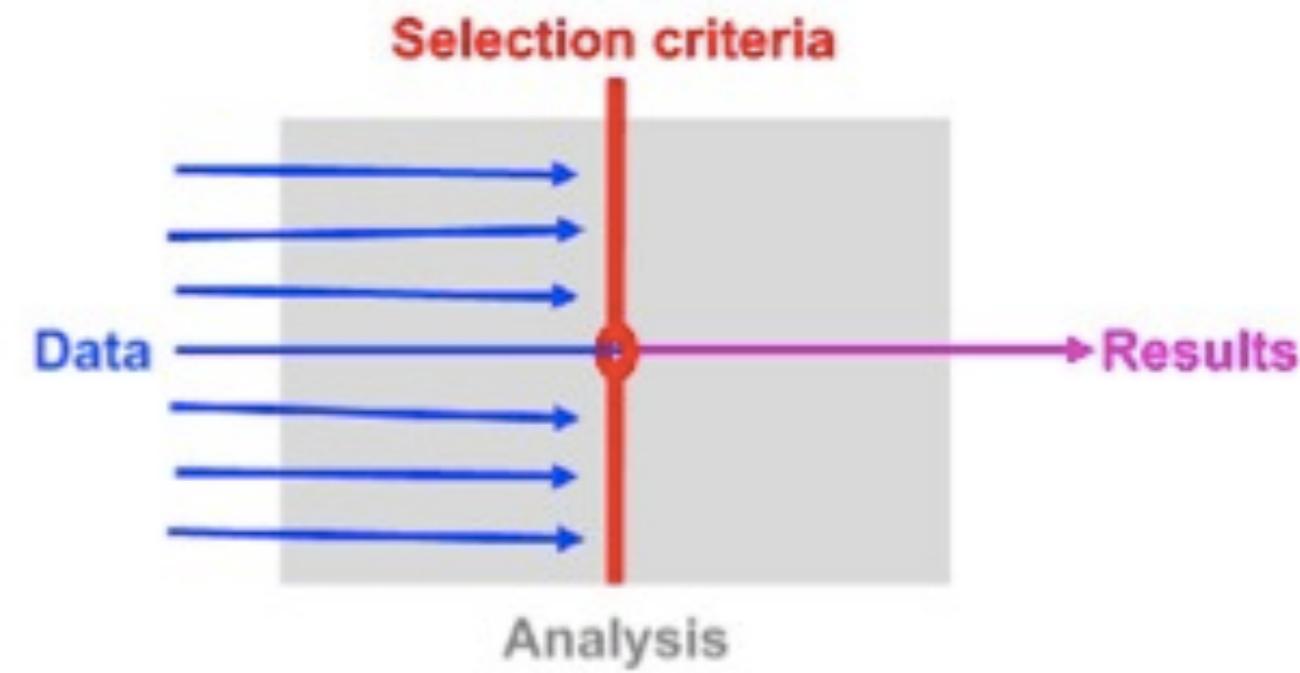
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amplitude  
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calibration

1

AAAARGH!

What's wrong?

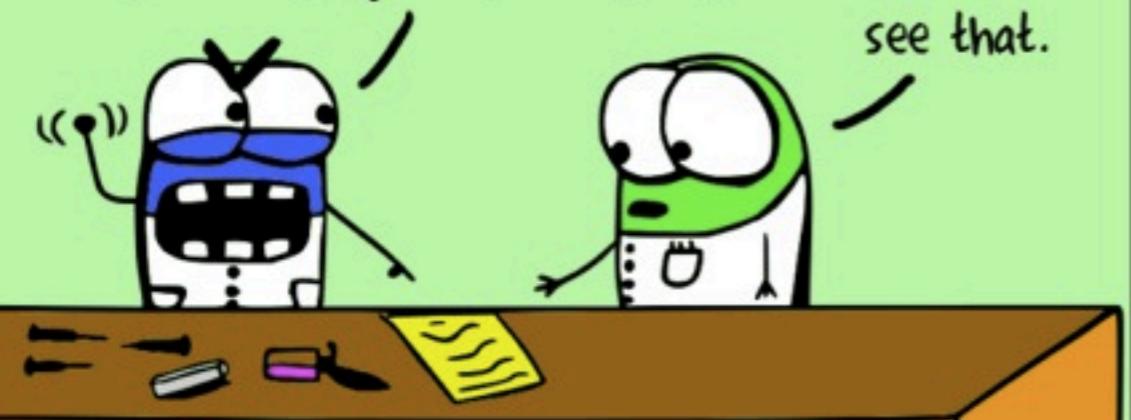


2

What's wrong? I've been testing  
this stupid protocol  
FOR OVER A YEAR now  
AND IT DOESN'T WORK!

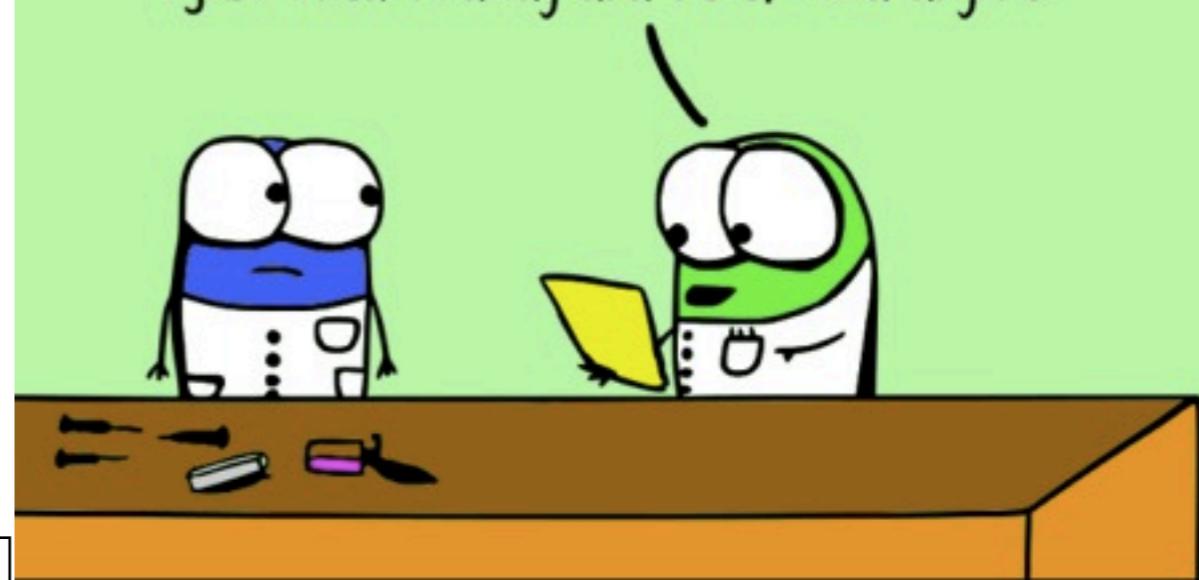
I've wasted my entire grant  
and I have nothing to show for it!

Let me  
see that.



3

Hey, I remember this! I tried it over a year ago  
but it gave me negative data. Since I couldn't publish,  
I just filed it away and never told anyone.



4



**NEGATIVE DATA IS STILL DATA.  
PUBLISH IT.  
(For everyone's sake)**



***Registered Report***

Go and read this  
book!

# Bad Pharma™

**Ben Goldacre**

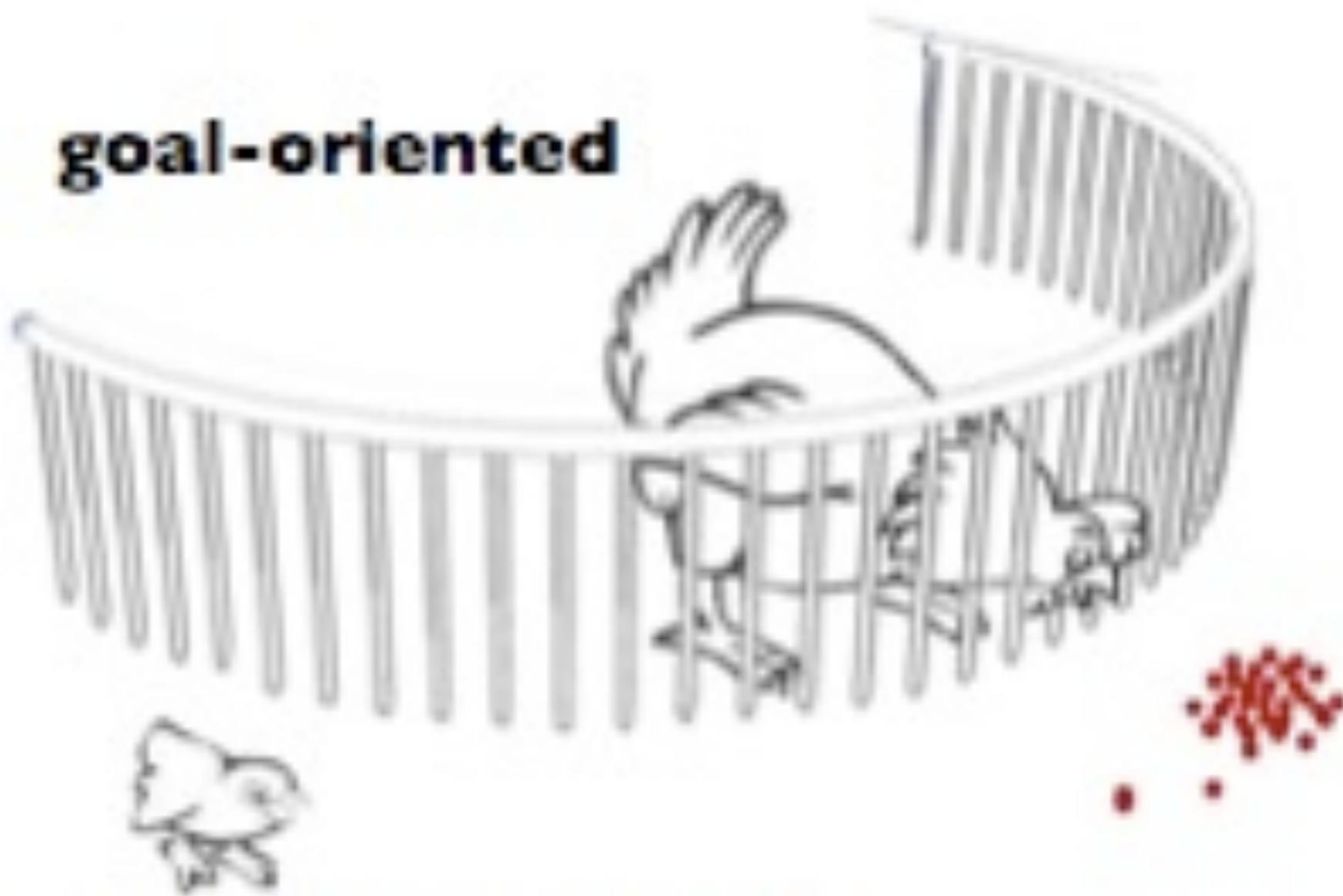
Bestselling author of Bad Science

How drug companies  
mislead doctors and  
harm patients

364 pages



**goal-oriented**



**curiosity-driven**

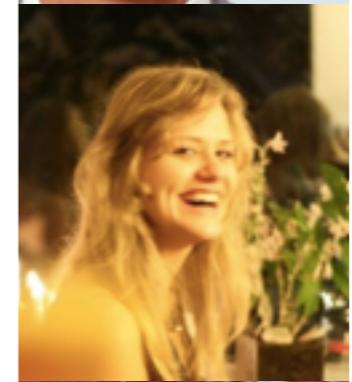
Source: T.W. Hänsch, Nobel lecture



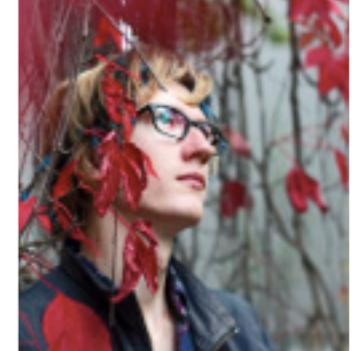
Jaan



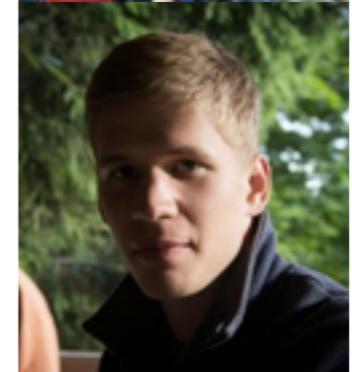
Toomas



Liisa



Julius



Sander



Dorian

# Thanks!

Luiz Lana

Michael Wibral

