Retinal output



The retina creates 20 neural representations of the "movie" that enters the eye.

Roska and Meister, 2014



Fig. 5. The types of ganglion cells identified thus far in the retina of the cat. Ongoing work in the rabbit and monkey confirms this diversity, and many of the cells observed are probably homologs of those seen in the cat. Courtesy of D. Berson^{77–80}.

Masland, 2001

J. Physiol. (1966), 187, pp. 517–552 With 17 text-figures Printed in Great Britain

THE CONTRAST SENSITIVITY OF RETINAL GANGLION CELLS OF THE CAT

BY CHRISTINA ENROTH-CUGELL AND J. G. ROBSON*

From the Biomedical Engineering Center, Technological Institute, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A.† and the Department of Physiology, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, U.S.A.

(Received 19 April 1966)

Spatial contrast sensitivity



Cat Retinal Ganglion Cell Additivity Test







Enroth-Cugell & Robson (1984)



Enroth-Cugell & Robson (1984)

Linearity of summation in X cells, but not Y cells



Enroth-Cugell & Robson (1966)



Enroth-Cugell & Robson (1966)



Enroth-Cugell & Robson (1966); Hochstein & Shapley (1976)



Figure 5. The Structure and Generalized Connectivity of Narrow Field Amacrine Cells

(A) Type 7 glycinergic amacrine cell of the mouse retina. Note that this cell communicates "vertically," interconnecting the ON and the OFF layers of the IPL. Cell image is adapted from Menger et al. (1998).

(B) Block diagram of amacrine cell pathways. Amacrine cells receive input from bipolar cells and other amacrine cells. They make outputs back upon bipolar cells, to ganglion cells, or to other amacrine cells. Thus amacrine cells participate in feedback inhibition, feed-forward inhibition, and lateral inhibition. A single amacrine cell can have all of these arrangements or a subset of them.

Masland, 2012



Figure 6. Wide-Field Amacrine Cells Can Span Most of the Surface of the Retina

(A) Whole-mount view of a wide-field amacrine cell termed WA5-1 in the survey of Lin and Masland (2006). This cell's axonal arbor (green) would affect visual stimuli falling in approximately half of the animal's field of view. But the cell receives input from only a limited region of their dendritic fields (red), and presumably the population of cells of this type seamlessly affect images throughout the field, without the gaps that appear when a single cell or only a few of them are taken in isolation, as shown in (B). It does not take a large number of these cells to achieve the nearly complete axonal (green) coverage of the retina shown in (C). If we assume that the dendritic fields (ellipses) nearly tile the retina, the network of axonal processes is dense enough to affect the visual input with an adequate spatial resolution. In fact, the illustration shown here does not achieve tiling of the dendritic fields. If we assume a dendritic coverage of at least unityhigher than is shown here-the axonal coverage would blanket the retina at a very high density indeed. This is the arrangement to be predicted from other known types of retinal cells; whether or not it pertains to this cell will await a population stain.

(D and E) These cells appear to mediate a variety of contextual effects, in which visual events surrounding a particular stimulus condition the response of a ganglion cell to that stimulus. An example is "object motion detection," in which objects that move relative to the general visual field are preferentially reported to the brain (Ölveczky et al., 2003). The effect of this computation is artificially simulated in the

lower panels. A native image is shown in (D). The image transmitted to the brain after object motion enhancement is shown in (E): the retinal ganglion cells respond most strongly to objects that are moving relative to the stationary surroundings. (D) and (E) reprinted from (Masland, 2003).



Fig. 1. Shift-effect in retinal neurons of rhesus monkey. (a) Shift responses of an on-center retinal ganglion cell and stimulus configuration. The grating is shifted to and fro in about 20° distance from the receptive field center. Blank area diameter 40 degrees; grating bar width and shift amplitude 2 degrees (arrows); stationary spot diameter 1.8 degrees: total pattern covering 100×100 deg. of the visual field. (b) Shift response of an off-center retinal ganglion cell after the introduction of a dark stationary center spot. Top: during the first 10 seconds, bottom: during the 50th-60th sec. (c) Shift response of the same neuron as in b. Top: A grating covered the total 100 deg. field including the receptive field (Bar width and shift amplitude 0.6 deg.). A slow drift of about 0.1 deg./sec was superposed on the grating shifts in order to exclude a stimulus configuration fortuitously symmetrical to the receptive field center. The dot display shows the similarity of all single responses. Bottom: Same grating restricted to the receptive field center. Other stimulus parameters unchanged. The ordinate in the post-stimulus time histograms is spike frequency, the numbers at right are peak frequencies in the two halves of the histogram (in spikes/second). A grating shift occurs each 500 ms (step trace below all frames). Ten to 60 stimulus presentations were averaged depending on the clarity of the response



Enroth-Cugell & Robson (1984)

On-off asymmetry



Retinal output



The retina creates 20 neural representations of the "movie" that enters the eye.

Roska and Meister, 2014



Masland, 2012

Primate Retinal Ganglion Cell Receptive Field Mosaics



Field & Chichilnisky (2007)



Dacey (1993)

Coordinated Fine Structure of Receptive Fields





Human



Mouse



FIGURE 13.5 Comparing the retinas of humans and mice. Vertical sections of human (left) and mouse (right) retinas. Staining with three antibodies against tyrosine hydroxylase (TH), choline acetyl transferase (ChAT), and protein kinase C alpha (PKCa) identifies strata with similar positions in the two species.

Roska & Meister, 2014

Diversity of ganglion cell morphology in macaque retina



Dacey, 2004



Fig. 5. The types of ganglion cells identified thus far in the retina of the cat. Ongoing work in the rabbit and monkey confirms this diversity, and many of the cells observed are probably homologs of those seen in the cat. Courtesy of D. Berson^{77–80}.

Masland, 2001

Diversity of ganglion cell morphology in mouse retina



Völgyi, Chheda & Blooomfield, 2009

The distribution of rods and cones in human retina







Sampling of visual space by human retinal ganglion cells



Sampling of visual space by different mouse ganglion cell types



Diversity of ganglion cell morphology in mammalian retina







eccentricity (mm from fovea)

midget

plotted as percentage depth in the IPL (inner midget/parasol cell pairs, n = 4; outer midget/parasol cell pairs, n = 4).



Parasol cells comprise ~14% of total ganglion cells (coverage: inner cells 1.9; outer cells 1.6) and project to the LGN, superior colliculus and pretectum. **A.** Photomicrograph of two photostained cells tracer labeled from injections in the superior colliculus and reacted for HRP histochemistry. **B**. Tracing of an inner parasol cell 8.7 mm from the fovea (dendritic field diameter = 213 μ m). Arrow indicates axon. **C**. Outlines of the overlapping dendritic fields of 5 neighboring outer parasol cells ~6 mm from the fovea. **D**. Dendritic field diameter plotted as a function of eccentricity. **E**. Mean dendritic stratification measured in wholemount retina and plotted as percentage depth in the IPL (inner cells, n = 36; outer cells, n = 20).

*Crook et al., J Neurosci 2008, 28(44):11277



Smooth monostratified cells comprise ~2.5% of total ganglion cells (coverage: inner cells 1.4; outer cells 1.4) and project to the LGN, superior colliculus and pretectum. **A**. Photomicrograph of two smooth cells intracellularly injected with Neurobiotin and processed for HRP histochemistry. The smooth cells are tracer coupled to a population of small bodied amacrine cells. **B**. Tracings of 8 inner smooth cells ~7 mm from the fovea, tracer labeled from injections in the superior colliculus and processed for HRP histochemistry. **C**. Outlines of the overlapping dendritic fields of the 8 cells shown in *B*. **D**. Dendritic field diameter plotted as a function of eccentricity. **E**. Mean dendritic stratification measured relative to parasol stratification in wholemount retina and plotted as percentage depth in the IPL (inner smooth/parasol cell pairs, n = 4; outer smooth/parasol cell pairs, n = 20). (GCL, ganglion cell layer; IPL, inner plexiform layer; INL, inner nuclear layer.)

*Crook et al., J Neurosci 2008, 28(48):12654



Recursive bistratified primate candidate for the ON-OFF direction selective type A 100 µm Е D parasol (mr) 1000 recursive bistratified • mean ± sd = 327 ± 93 µm 800 er n = 11941 600 ±1.9 c 400 56 field ±1.7 200 dendritic 100% GCI 6 mm from fovea 12 8 16 inferior retina midget recursive parasol eccentricity (mm from fovea) bistratified 100 µm 100 µm

Recursive bistratified cells comprise ~1.5% of total ganglion cells (coverage = 1.3) and project to the LGN, superior colliculus and pretectum. **A**. Photomicrograph of a recursive bistratified cell intracellularly injected with Neurobiotin and processed for HRP histochemistry. The cell shows tracer coupling to large and small bodied amacrine cell populations. **B**. Tracings of 7 cells ~7 mm from the fovea, tracer labeled from injections in the superior colliculus and processed for HRP histochemistry. **C**. Outlines of the overlapping dendritic fields of the 7 cells shown in *B*. **D**. Dendritic field diameter plotted as a function of eccentricity. **E**. Mean dendritic stratification measured relative to parasol stratification in wholemount retina and plotted as percentage depth in the IPL (recusive bistratified/parasol cell pairs, n = 3).


(coverage = 1.6) and project to the LGN. **A.** Photomicrographs of a small bistratified cell intracellularly injected with Neurobiotin and processed for HRP histochemistry, with the focus on the inner (upper) and outer (lower) dendritic arbors. **B.** Tracings of the inner arbors of 3 neighboring small bistratified cells ~9.8 mm from the fovea, tracer labeled from injections in the LGN and processed for HRP histochemistry. Overlapping dendrites show cofasciculation. Arrows indicate axons. **C.** Outlines of the overlapping dendritic fields of the 3 cells shown in *B.* **D.** Dendritic field diameter plotted as a function of eccentricity. **E.** Mean dendritic stratification measured relative to parasol stratification in wholemount retina and plotted as percentage depth in the IPL (parasol/small bistratified pairs: n = 11).



Large bistratified cells make up ~3% of total ganglion cells (coverage: ~ 2) and project to the LGN. **A**. Photomicrographs of a large bistratified cell intracellularly injected with Neurobiotin and processed for HRP histochemistry. Focus is on the inner (upper) and outer (lower) dendritic arbors. **B**. Tracing of the same cell shown in *A*. Outer dendritic arbor is shown in red. Arrow indicates axon. **C**. Outlines of the dendritic fields of two neighboring large bistratified cells with overlapping dendritic fields. **D**. Dendritic field diameter plotted as a function of eccentricity. **E**. Mean dendritic stratification measured relative to parasol stratification in wholemount retina and plotted as percentage depth in the IPL (parasol/large bistratified cell pairs: n = 5).



Narrow thorny cells comprise \sim 3% of total ganglion cells (coverage: inner cells 1.0; outer cells 1.0) and project to the LGN, superior colliculus and pretectum. **A**. Photomicrograph of an outer narrow thorny cell intracellularly injected with Neurobiotin and processed for HRP histochemistry. **B**. Tracing of the same cell shown in *A*. Arrow indicates axon. **C**. Outlines of the overlapping dendritic fields of 3 neighboring outer narrow thorny cells tracer labeled from injections in the superior colliculus. **D**. Dendritic field diameter plotted as a function of eccentricity. **E**. Mean dendritic stratification measured relative to parasol stratification in wholemount retina and plotted as percentage depth in the IPL (inner narrow thorny/parasol cell pairs, n = 4; outer narrow thorny/parasol cell pairs, n = 4).

Giant melanopsin cells comprise ~1% of total ganglion cells (coverage: inner cells 1.5; outer cells 2.0) and project to the LGN, superior colliculus and pretectum. **A**. Photomicrograph of a giant melanopsin cell intracellularly injected with Neurobiotin and processed for HRP histochemistry. The cell shows tracer coupling to several populations of amacrine cells. **B**. Tracings of 7 inner (black) and 8 outer (red) giant cells ~10 mm from the fovea, melanopsin immunolabeled and processed for HRP histochemistry. **C**. Outlines of the overlapping dendritic fields of 5 inner giant cells. Numbers correspond to cells shown in *B*. **D**. Dendritic field diameter plotted as a function of eccentricity. **E**. Mean dendritic stratification measured relative to parasol stratification in wholemount retina and plotted as percentage depth in the IPL (inner giant melanopsin/parasol cell pairs, n = 3; outer giant melanopsin/parasol cell pairs, n = 5).

midget cells - 46 % - coverage inner 1.1, outer 1.1 parasol cels - 14% - coverage inner 1.9 outer 1.6 smooth monostratified cells- 2.5% - coverage inner 1.4 outer 1.4 recursive monostratified - 4.5% (3 populations each 1.5%, coverage 1.2)(on ds?) recursive bistratified - 1.5% - coverage 1.3 (on-off ds?) small bistratified - 6% - coverage 1.6 - blue on yellow off large bistratified - 3% - coverage 2 - blue on yellow off narrow thorny - 3% - coverage inner 1.0, outer 1.0 - transient achromatic broad thorny - 1.5% - coverage 1.2 - on-off "local edge detector" melanopsin - 1% - coverage inner 1.5, outer 2.0 - S off

17 populations, 85% of cells

	Morphological type	% of ganglion cell population	Central projections	Some physiological properties
1	Midget Inner	26%	LGN parvo 5, 6	ON-center; OFF-surround Achromatic/chromatic L vs M cone opponent
2	Midget Outer	26%	LGN parvo 3, 4	OFF center; ON surround Achromatic/chromatic L vs M cone opponent S cone OFF opponent group?
3	Parasol Inner	8.0%	LGN magno 1, 2	ON-center; OFF-surround Achromatic L+M cone input S cone input controversial
4	Parasol Outer	8.0%	LGN magno 1, 2	OFF-center; ON-surround Achromatic L+M cone input S cone input controversial
5	Small bistratified	6.2%	LGN konio 3	S ON; L+M OFF opponent
6	Large bistratified	2.7%	LGN	S ON opponent details unknown
7	Thorny monostratified Inner	1.2%	LGN Superior colliculus	Unknown
8	Thorny monostratified Outer	1.2%	LGN Superior colliculus	Unknown
9	Broad thorny monostratified	1.2%	LGN Superior colliculus	Unknown
10	Recursive bistratified	4.2%	Superior colliculus	Possible correlate of ON-OFF direction selective
11	Recursive monostratified	1.9%	Superior colliculus LGN? Pretectal area (NOT?)	Possible correlate of ON direction selective
12	Moderate monostratified Inner	1.3%	Superior colliculus	Unknown
13	Moderate monostratified Outer	1.3%	Superior colliculus	Unknown
14	Sparse monostratified Inner	2.0 %	LGN	L+M ON; S OFF opponent
15	Sparse monostratified Outer	1.2%	LGN	Unknown
16	Giant monostratified Melanopsin-containing Inner/outer Weakly bistratified	1.0%	LGN Pretectal area, PON SCN?	Sustained ON response S OFF; L+M ON opponent Strong rod input Intrinsically photosensitive via novel photopigment
17	Giant monostratified intrinsic axon-collaterals	1.0%	Unknown	Unknown

*Total ganglion cell density is from Wässle et al., 1989, for temporal retina ~ 8 mm from the fovea. Individual cell type densities were determined from celldensity at ~8 mm (parasol cells, Perry & Cowey, 1985) or from dendritic field area at ~ 8 mm and coverage factor where known (thorny and giant monostratified cells, Dacey, unpublished; midget cells Dacey, 1993). All other cell type densities were determined from measured dendritic field area at ~8 mm and estimated coverage. For abbreviations, see Figure 1.

Schematic summary of dendritic stratification. Lengths of colored bars are proportional to dendritic field diameter for each cell type relative to parasol cell diameter. Vertical positioning of each bar is centered on the mean stratification depth for that cell type (values not shown). Widths of the bars are arbitrary for all cell types except midget and broad thorny cells, where it repressents the mean innermost and outermost dendrites for these broadly stratifying cell types.

Conclusions

 The 17 cell populations shown here represent ~ 85% of the total number of ganglion cells.*

 At least 3 other cell types have been identified: axon collateral-bearing ganglion cells (Peterson & Dacey, Vis Neurosci 1998, 15;377) large, sparsely branched monostratified cells (inner and outer types).

 Taken together, and assuming ~ 2% density for the remaining 3 cell types, the 20 types account for ~ 90% of the ganglion cells. If multiple ON-OFF direction selective mosaics exist in primate (as found in other mammals) another ~5% would be accounted for.

*Total ganglion cell density is from Wässle et al., Nature 1989, 341;643. Density estimates for individual cell types were derived from the mosaics.

Figure 2 | Functional RGC types of the mouse retina. a, Cluster-dendrogram (Methods) with groups indicated: n = 28 RGC and n = 4'uncertain' RGC groups. **b**, Cluster-mean Ca²⁺ responses to the four stimuli. c, Selected metrics, from left to right: region of interest (soma) area, receptive field (RF) diameter (2 s.d. of Gaussian), direction-selectivity index (DSi) and orientationselectivity index (OSi) (Methods). Backgroundhistograms demarcate all RGCs. d, Experiment (left, from Fig. 1a, bottom) with RGCs colourcoded by group (right). dACs and discarded cells not shown. e, Coverage factor (CF) calculated from receptive field area of RGC groups, with horizontal divisions delineating individual clusters (left) and distribution of coverage factors across groups (right). Scale bar in **d**, 50 µm.

Baden et al, 2016

Figure 4 | **Direction and orientation selectivity. a**, Pairs of retinocentric polar plots showing distributions of preferred motion directions of selected direction-selective (DS) RGC groups (V, ventral; N, nasal). Top plot of each pair: preferred directions, with length representing direction-selective index and grey level *p*_{DS} (Methods). Bottom plot of

each pair: circular area-normalized histogram. **b**, As for **a**, but for selected orientation-selective (OS) RGCs. Further direction-selective/orientation-selective groups detailed in Extended Data Fig. 7. **c**, Motion directions in the visual space of the mouse.

<u>Physiologically</u> and morphologically characterized ganglion cell types that project to the macaque LGN

Figure 5. Parasol cells have Y-cell physiology

Figure 6. Parasol cells of all eccentricities exhibit Y-like second harmonic responses to counterphase gratings

Figure 10. Summary and hypothesis for the origin of the F2 receptive field component in parasol cells

Crook, J. D. et al. J. Neurosci. 2008;28:11277-11291

Figure 4. Morphology of inner and outer smooth cells and parasol cells

Figure 6. Smooth cell dendritic diameter increases with increasing eccentricity and is twice the size of parasol cells

Crook, J. D. et al. J. Neurosci. 2008;28:12654-12671

Figure 16. Physiologically and morphologically characterized ganglion cell types that project to the macaque LGN

Diversity of ganglion cell morphology in mammalian retina

Icon	Mouse	Rabbit	Cat	Macaque	Properties
Ŧ				ON midget ²²	Small dendritic field. ON response.
丰				OFF midget ²²	Small dendritic field. OFF response.

Color-opponent midget cells: a primate specialization

Inferred Receptive Field Description

640

540

450

Masland, 2001; DeMonasterios & Gouras, 1975; Watson, 2014

Eccentricity (deg)

Midget ganglion cells show red-green L vs M cone opponency

Shapley & Perry, 1986 Lee, 1999 Reid & Shapley, 2002 Shapley, 2006 Buzas et al., 2006

Record from midget cells with multiple cone inputs to the receptive field center

Record from midget cells with multiple cone inputs to the receptive field center

Martin et al., 2001 Solomon et al., 2005 Buzas et al., 2006

Mixed L and M cone input weights to midget center and surround supports random wiring

Mosaic of Red, Green and Blue Cones of the Living Human Retina

Hofer et al. (2005)

Mixed L and M cone input weights to midget center & surround supports random wiring Achromatic midgets Chromatic midgets (n = 109)(n = 74)25 L% to center = 50% 1% to center 10 # cells 10 10 L% to surround = 49% L% to surround = 48%

L% input L/(L+M)

Cone inputs to the receptive field suggest random wiring

- inputs to the midget center are variable
- all midgets show mixed cone input to the surround
- all midgets are achromatic to narrow stimuli

• many midgets are purely achromatic

Primate H1 Horizontal Cell Mosaic

Dacey et al (1996)

As predicted by random-wiring the surround arises by indiscriminate horizontal cell feedback to cones

Dacey et al., 1996
Cell-type classification and receptive fields at single-cone resolution.



a, Receptive fields of 323 RGCs recorded simultaneously from isolated macaque retina were measured using reverse correlation with white noise stimuli. Centre panel shows receptive-field radius versus first principal component of response time course; clusters reveal distinct cell types. a.u., arbitrary units. Hexagons surrounding centre panel show outline of electrode array and ellipses show Gaussian fits to receptive fields of cells from each cluster. The outer panels show fine-grained spatial receptive-field profiles for highlighted cells. Scale bars, 50 µm

GD Field *et al. Nature* **467**, 673-677 (2010) doi:10.1038/nature09424 Cone-type identification and inputs to RGCs.



a, The spectral sensitivity of cones providing input to two cells is represented by the relative magnitude of the red, green and blue spike-triggered average values (a.u.) at their locations.

b, For every cone in one recording, these values are shown as points on a sphere. Coloured lines indicate spectral sensitivity of macaque cones. Point colour indicates classification as L (red), M (green), or S (blue).

c, L- and M-cone discriminability quantified by projection along the line joining L- and M-cone loci. Bar colour indicates classification. S cones excluded.

d, Assembled cone mosaic from all RGCs over a region. Cones from **a** are circled.

e, Full mosaic of 2,373 cones from one recording



Full functional sampling of cone lattice by four RGC types



Each panel shows cones identified in a single recording (red, green and blue dots) sampled by receptive-field centres of RGCs of a single type. Cones are identical in all panels. Cones providing input to at least one RGC are highlighted with an annulus. Scale bar, 50 µm.

GD Field *et al. Nature* **467**, 673-677 (2010) doi:10.1038/nature09424



re



Rabbit Starburst Amacrine Cells



Vaney (1990)



Receptive field properties of on-off directionally selective ganglion cells



Barlow & Levick, 1965



Barlow & Levick, 1965

Receptive field properties of on-off directionally selective ganglion cells







Figure 7. The Cardinal Features of the ON-OFF Direction-Selective Cell, and the Mechanism by Which Direction Selectivity Is Created

(A) The cell can discriminate the direction of motion of small stimuli falling within its receptive field (large circle), and it does not matter where within the field the small stimulus falls—there is a local subunit that is direction selective.

(B and C) The fundamental mechanism of direction selectivity. (B) Shows the dendritic arbor of a starburst amacrine cell. A sector of the arbor (outlined in red) is (1) an independent functional unit, electrically separate from the rest of the cell, and (2) directionally polarized, such that it releases GABA when the stimulus moves in one direction-left to right in this example-and not in others. (C) Starburst sectors pointing in a single direction (red) selectively synapse upon dendrites of an ON-OFF DS ganglion cell (outlined by the black circle). In this example, they would provide inhibition when the stimulus moves from left to right. This cell would thus have a preferred direction for movement right-to-left and a null direction for movement left-to-right. The sectors are smaller than the dendritic field, thus accounting for the ganglion cell's ability to discriminate small movements within the field. Other sectors of the starburst cell, pointing in other directions, would contact other direction selective ganglion cells; those cells would prefer different directions of stimulus movement.



Figure 2 | **Skeleton reconstructions of DSGCs and SACs. a**, **b**, DSGCs, colour-coded by preferred direction (inset), projected parallel to (**a**) and norma to (**b**) the plane of the retina. Note bi-stratification in the inner plexiform layer **c**, Parallel projections of 24 SACs (11 On SACs, 13 Off SACs, black). Scale bar, are 50 μm.

Briggman et al, 2011



Figure 4 | **Specificity of SAC outputs. a**, An Off SAC (black skeleton), with varicosities indicated by black dots. DSGC dendritic trees are indicated by colour-coded dashed ellipses. Synapses are colour-coded by the preferred direction of the postsynaptic DSGC. **b**, Output synapse locations (n = 831 synapses) relative to SAC somata from all 24 SACs. Scale bars are 50 µm.



Figure 5 | **Specificity of DSGC inputs. a**, DSGC (grey skeleton) and the connected On and Off SAC somata (large cyan and blue circles, respectively) and associated SAC input synapses (smaller cyan and blue circles) from 18 SACs. b, The distribution of all SAC dendrite angles (θ_{dendr}) for each of the six DSGCs; θ_{dendr} is defined by the vectors (cyan and blue lines in **a**) oriented from

SAC somata to synapse location. Triangle markers indicate the preferred direction for each DSGC. **c**, Polar histograms of θ_{dendr} (black, plotted as the square root of θ_{dendr} frequencies) together with the DSGC tuning curves (as in Fig. 1). Asterisk denotes the DSGC shown in **a**.