Retinal output



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

Roska and Meister, 2014





n = 4; outer midget/parasol cell pairs, n = 4).

Diversity of ganglion cell morphology in mammalian retina

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

Spatio-chromatic types of macaque LGN cells



Color-opponent midget cells: a primate specialization



Generic mammalian retina

Primate Color Opponent Ganglion Cells





DeMonasterio & Gouras (1975)

Inferred Receptive Field Description







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

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





Data 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

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



Hofer et al. (2005)

Cone inputs to the receptive field suggest random wiring



L% input L/(L+M)

Cone inputs to the receptive field suggest random wiring



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.

 $\boldsymbol{e},$ 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.







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Rabbit Direction-Selective Retinal Ganglion Cells



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

On-Off DSGCs





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 barare 50 μm.

Asymmetric interactions with starburst amacrine circuits



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.

Briggman et al, 2011

Direction-specific interactions with starburst amacrine circuits



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**.



FIGURE 13.4 Retinal features are stacked in the inner retina. (Left) Bipolar cell terminals and ganglion cell dendrites are laid down in different strata of the IPL. (Right) Some amacrine cells (AN) are narrow and tall; their inputs and outputs are in different strata. Other amacrine cells (AW) are wide and flat, with long processes in one stratum; these cells carry information across the local circuits of the same mosaic.



FIGURE 13.7 Retinal circuits leading to different feature detector ganglion cells. (A) The Y-type ganglion cell. This ganglion cell collects excitation from many bipolar cells. The bipolar cell synapses are rectifying: At baseline the release rate of transmitter is low, so depolarization increases transmitter release, but hyperpolarization has little or no effect. In subsequent panels, this rectifying quality is assumed for all bipolar cell synapses. (B) The object-motion-sensitive cell. Note that the ganglion cell pools over both ON and OFF bipolars, but this process is gated by the action of a wide-field amacrine cell. (C) The looming detector. Again there is pooling over ON and OFF channels, but with opposite sign because of an interposed narrow amacrine cell. (D) The direction-selective ganglion cell. The asymmetric interaction that defines the null direction occurs between the dendrite of a starburst amacrine cell and local bipolar cells. An additional threshold nonlinearity arises from spike generation within the dendritic tree of the ganglion cell.





NEUROSCIENCE, Third Edition, Figure 11.2 @ 2004 Sinauer Associates, Inc.





(B)



Figure 1. Laminar organization of the LGN in five different primates: galago, squirrel monkey, macaque monkey, chimpanzee, and human

In each, neurones in the magnocellular, parvocellular and koniocellular streams occupy distinct laminae. In the galago, magnocellular neurones occupy layers 1 and 2, parvocellular neurones occupy layers 3 and 6, and koniocellular neurones occupy layers 4 and 5 and the intercalated zones. In the squirrel monkey, macaque monkey, chimpanzee and human, magnocellular neurones occupy layers 1 and 2, parvocellular neurones occupy layers 3, 4, 5 and 6, and koniocellular neurones occupy the intercalated layers below and between each of the magnocellular and parvocellular layers. Although the squirrel monkey lacks clear intercalated zones between the parvocellular layers, koniocellular neurones have been reported between the layers.





Fig. 2. Charting of calbindin D-28K (Cal) -immunoreactive neurons within a coronal section through the dorsal lateral geniculate nucleus (dLGN) in case A. Each dot corresponds to one immunoreactive neuron. P, parvocellular layers; M, magnocellular layers; S, S layers. Scale bar = 1 mm.







Cleland, Dubin & Levick (1971)

Fig. 2 The receptive field plots at left are of an LGN neurone and two ganglion cells which directly excited it. (+) indicates response at "on", (-) indicates response at "off", (0) indicates no response. The size of the circles indicates the size of the test spot used, 0.7°. The receptive field outlines of the three units are also shown superimposed in their relative positions in the visual field, the LGN receptive field being stippled. The spike traces correspond to the LGN neurone and ganglion cell 1 as shown by connecting lines. The upper pair of traces show LGN spikes related, with a latency of about 2.5 ms, to spikes of ganglion cell 1. The arrows show two spikes that are not so related. In the lower set of traces, which are the superposition of a number of sweeps, both beams of the oscilloscope were triggered by the occurrence of a ganglion cell spike (lower beam). An S-potential (arrowed) is observed at the LGN neurone (upper beam), 2.5 ms after every retinal spike. Three S-potentials are seen to lead to spikes.



Basic properties of retinal EPSPs and LGN spikes.



Carandini M et al. J Vis 2007;7:20

Efficacy of pairs of retinal spikes that occurred at different interspike intervals (ISIs)



Predicting retinogeniculate integration with a summation model



Carandini M et al. J Vis 2007;7:20

Comparison of observed and predicted synaptic efficacy



Carandini M et al. J Vis 2007;7:20



Comparison of contrast response functions from LGN neurons in alert and anaesthetized animals



Alitto, Moore, Rathbun & Usrey (2011)

Comparison of temporal frequency tuning for LGN neurons in alert and anaesthetized animals



Alitto, Moore, Rathbun & Usrey (2011)

10²

70

70