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- 22 Abbreviations: AHA, anterior hypothalamic area; AM, anteromedial nucleus of the thalamus; ARH, arcuate nucleus of the hypothalamus; CAa, anterior commissure, anterior part; CAp, anterior commissure, posterior part, CP, posterior commissure; DBB, diagonal band of Broca; DMH, dorsomedial nucleus of the hypothalamus; FX, fornix; HP, habenula-interpedun-cular tract; OT, optic tract; PF, parafascicular nucleus of the thalamus; PH, posterior nucleus of the hypothalamus; PM, mammillary pedun-cle; PMD, dorsal premammillary nucleus; PMV, uentral near promillary nucleus; SC, autorachica ventral premammillary nucleus; SC, suprachias-matic nucleus; and TUO, olfactory tubercle.
- This research was supported by grant MH 26481 from the National Institute of Mental Health and 23. was submitted by E.J.N. in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Ph.D. We thank R. Robertson and C. Ribak for use of the camera lucida. We thank Plenum Press and L Pelle grino for permission to reproduce the atlas section shown in Fig. 1A.

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Mapping the Primate Visual System with [2-¹⁴C]Deoxyglucose

Abstract. The [2-¹⁴C]deoxyglucose method was used to identify the cerebral areas related to vision in the rhesus monkey (Macaca mulatta). This was achieved by comparing glucose utilization in a visually stimulated with that in a visually deafferented hemisphere. The cortical areas related to vision included the entire expanse of striate, prestriate, and inferior temporal cortex as far forward as the temporal pole, the posterior part of the inferior parietal lobule, and the prearcuate and inferior prefrontal cortex. Subcortically, in addition to the dorsal lateral geniculate nucleus and superficial layers of the superior colliculus, the structures related to vision included large parts of the pulvinar, caudate, putamen, claustrum, and amygdala. These results, which are consonant with a model of visual function that postulates an occipito-temporo-prefrontal pathway for object vision and an occipito-parieto-prefrontal pathway for spatial vision, reveal the full extent of those pathways and identify their points of contact with limbic, striatal, and diencephalic structures.

Many structures involved in processing visual information in the monkey have been identified through the combined use of neurobehavioral, electrophysiological, and anatomical techniques. Converging evidence has revealed a sequential pathway for processing information about visual objects that begins with retino-geniculate input to the striate cortex, proceeds through the prestriate cortex, and continues along a

corticocortical route to the inferior temporal and then the inferior prefrontal cortex (1, 2). Classical mapping techniques have also identified another cortical visual pathway, which again begins with retino-geniculate input to the striate cortex but appears to be specialized for processing information about visual space; the corticocortical route in this case is through the prestriate, posterior parietal, and prearcuate cortex (1, 3, 4).

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Both pathways receive projections from the superior colliculus via the pulvinar and send projections to various limbic, striatal, and diencephalic structures. Despite a range of research efforts, however, the full extent of these two cortical pathways and their exact subcortical targets remain undefined. In the studies described here we used the [2-14C]deoxyglucose (5) method to measure local cerebral glucose utilization (LCGU). This method enabled us to prepare a comprehensive map of the functioning visual system in a single preparation (6).

Four rhesus monkeys (Macaca mulatta) weighing 2.5 to 4.5 kg were subjected to unilateral (right) section of the optic tract about 6 weeks before we measured the LCGU. Metabolic activity produced by direct retinal stimulation was thereby limited to one hemisphere, and it was thus possible to compare LCGU in a "seeing" and a "blind" hemisphere in the same animal (7).

On the day of the experiment each monkey was lightly anesthetized with halothane and nitrous oxide, catheters for deoxyglucose administration and blood sampling were inserted into the femoral vessels, and the animal was seated in a primate chair. After at least 4 hours of recovery from anesthesia, the monkey was placed within an encircling screen, which displayed a brightly illuminated, high-contrast geometric pattern that rotated counterclockwise at 5 to 7 rev/min. The monkey focused its gaze on this visual stimulus throughout most of the experimental session, tracking it with head and eye movements. To begin the experiment we gave an intravenous injection of [2-14C]deoxyglucose (100 µCi/ kg). Forty-five minutes later the animal was killed, and the brain was removed, frozen, and prepared for quantitative autoradiography. Other details of the method have been described (5, 8).

The hemispheric differences that we found in optical density (see Fig. 1) reflected only the relative rates of glucose utilization. To quantify the rates we used a computerized image-processing system which, supplied with the plasma variables monitored during the experiment and the kinetic constants for the species (5), transform the autoradiographs into color-coded maps of the actual LCGU values (9). Determination of the LCGU values for every structure identified in Fig. 1 was based on readings of areas 2 to 3 mm square at all of the points indicated. In Table 1, the structures are categorized as "visual" or "nonvisual" on the basis of the presence or absence of a statistically significant degree of hemispheric asymmetry across the four animals (10).

In Fig. 1, sections P20 and P13 show conspicuous hemispheric asymmetry throughout striate and prestriate cortex, areas OC, OB, and OA (11). The more rostral sections (P5 through A20) reveal the tissue belonging to the ventral cortical visual pathway, known to be critical for object vision (2). Clear side-to-side differences occur throughout the inferior temporal cortex, areas TEO and TE; the ventral portion of the temporal pole, area TG_{v} ; the fusiform gyrus, area TF; and in portions of the upper bank of the superior temporal sulcus. The limits of this visual tissue are marked by sharp changes in density both on the ventral surface of the temporal lobe and within the upper bank of the superior temporal sulcus. Beyond the temporal lobe hemispheric asymmetry occurred in the inferior part of the prefrontal cortex, area FD_v (A30, not shown). These hemispheric differences in LCGU were greatest within the striate cortex, moderate within the prestriate and posterior temporal cortex, and least in the anterior portion of inferior temporal and inferior prefrontal cortex (see Table 1). Metabolic asymmetry in the temporal lobe did not extend anteromedially beyond the

ventral portion of area TG into the hippocampal gyrus, area TH (A5, A10), or the entorhinal or piriform cortices (A15, A20). Nor did it extend into the primary auditory cortex, area TC (P1, A5, A10); the superior temporal gyrus, area TA (P5 through A20); or the insula, areas IB and IA (A10, A15).

Subcortically, areas of depressed LCGU in the blind hemisphere were found in structures known to receive direct inputs from the ventral cortical visual pathway (12, 13). Within the temporal lobe, side-to-side differences in LCGU could be seen in the lateral and basolateral but not the basal accessory nuclei of the amygdala (Fig. 1, A15), posteroventral but not posterodorsal or anterior putamen (A5 through A20), ventral but not dorsal claustrum (A5 through A20), and the tail of the caudate nucleus (P1, A5, A10). The other major subcortical temporal lobe structure, the hippocampal formation, showed hemispheric symmetry throughout (P1, A5, A10). Within the frontal lobe, hemispheric differences were observed in the anterior part of the head of the caudate nucleus (A23, not shown). Except for the ventral claustrum, all of the subcortical areas that were functionally depressed in the blind hemisphere have been implicated

in visual discrimination learning and memory on the basis of neurobehavioral studies (14).

Dorsally within the cortex, the autoradiographs also revealed the tissue belonging to the second cortical visual pathway, believed to be specialized for spatial vision (3). In Fig. 1, the posterior portion of the inferior parietal lobule, area PG, shows distinct hemispheric asymmetry (P1), the limits of which are marked by sharp changes in density both on the lateral surface and on the upper bank of the intraparietal sulcus. More anteriorly, side-to-side differences occur in the prearcuate region of the frontal cortex, area FD_{Δ} , the site of the frontal eye fields (A20). Both the body (A10) and the posterior portion of the head of the caudate nucleus (A15, A20), known to receive anatomical input from posterior parietal and prearcuate frontal cortex, respectively (13), show small but statistically significant left-right differences in LCGU. The hemispheric difference found cortically in the posterior portion of the inferior parietal lobule did not extend into the anterior portion of the lobule, area PF (A5), or into the superior parietal lobule, area PE (P5, P1). Likewise, the hemispheric difference in the prearcuate cortex did not extend posteri-



Fig. 1. [2-14C]Deoxyglucose autoradiographs from a representative monkey, prepared with a right optic tract section and a forebrain commissurotomy (7), showing relative rates of glucose utilization (the darker the region the higher the rate). The designations P20 through A20 refer to the coronal level of the section in millimeters posterior (P) or anterior (A) the interaural plane. Structures related to vision are revealed by their depressed metabolic activity in the "blind" right hemisphere compared to the 'normal'' left hemisphere. Every structure identified here is listed in Table 1. where it is categorized as either visual or nonvisual on the basis of statistical analysis. The visual structures, both cortical and subcortical, are underlined in the figure and discussed in the text in relation to the two cortical visual pathways schematized in the diagram in the upper left. Anatomical connections among the cortical visual areas, both within and between the two systems, are not limited to those shown. For abbreviations, see (21).

orly into the premotor or motor cortex, areas FA, FB, FCB, or FBA (A10, A15, A20). Nor were left-right differences found in any subcortical structures known to be related to the motor system, such as the red nucleus, substantia nigra, subthalamic nucleus, and the globus pallidus (A5, A10, A15).

The distinction between visual and motor systems was present even within visuomotor structures. Within the midbrain, there were clear left-right differences between the superficial layers of the superior colliculi, whereas the intermediate and deep layers showed symmetrical activity (P1). These results are

in accord with previously established functional divisions based on electrophysiological findings (15). Metabolic symmetry was likewise observed in the oculomotor nucleus (A5).

Asymmetries within the diencephalon were present in the optic tract (A10) and dorsal lateral geniculate body (A5), as well as in the lateral and inferior pulvinar (A2, not shown), nuclei that receive input both from visual cortical areas and from the superficial layers of the superior colliculus (16). The medial pulvinar also differed significantly side-to-side, suggesting that it too participates in visual function (P1). In contrast, nucleus

Table 1. Means and standard errors of LCGU values in micromoles per 100 grams per minute in the normal and blind hemispheres of four animals. For all the structures categorized as "visual," LCGU in the blind hemisphere is significantly less than that in the normal hemisphere $(OC_{iv}, OB, TEO, FD_v, CS_s = P < .001; TF, TG_v, AB, Put_{pv}, Cd_{ha}, Cd_{hp}, Cd_b = P < .05; all Content of the second second$ others = P < .01). The LCGU in the blind hemisphere is also expressed as a percentage of the normal hemisphere (that is, blind/normal \times 100). Visual structures and nearby nonvisual structures are grouped according to their description in the text. See (21) for abbreviations.

$ \begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	"Visual" structures				"Nonvisual" structures			
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Area	Nor- mal	Blind	Nor- mal (%)	Area	Nor- mal	Blind	Nor- mal (%)
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			V	entral path	way: Cortic	al		
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	OC _{iv}	101 ± 7	30 ± 4	30	Ė	34 ± 5	32 ± 3	93
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	OC _{-iv}	50 ± 4	22 ± 3	44	Pit	33 ± 2	32 ± 2	99
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	OB	61 ± 1	33 ± 2	54	TC	80 ± 4	79 ± 4	99
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	OA	59 ± 3	41 ± 3	70	TA	55 ± 3	56 ± 4	103
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	TEO	58 ± 3	35 ± 3	60	IB	57 ± 5	61 ± 4	107
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	TEp	53 ± 3	35 ± 2	67	IA	44 ± 4	45 ± 4	101
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	TE_a	48 ± 2	35 ± 3	71	TH	43 ± 5	41 ± 6	97
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	TF	53 ± 7	37 ± 9	71				
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	TG _v	40 ± 4	32 ± 4	80				
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	FD_v	75 ± 3	54 ± 4	72				
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			Ve	ntral nathw	av: Subcort	tical		
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	AL	48 ± 2	32 ± 3	68	ABA	31 ± 2	31 ± 2	100
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	AB	42 ± 3	27 ± 2	66	Putpd	60 ± 3	60 ± 3	100
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Put	54 ± 4	37 ± 2	70	Pút.	52 ± 6	49 ± 4	95
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Cl.	27 ± 1	19 ± 1	71	CL_1^{a}	23 ± 1	23 ± 1	100
$\begin{array}{ccccc} Cd_{ha} & 58 \pm 1 & 48 \pm 1 & 83 \\ & & & & & & \\ PG & 66 \pm 4 & 47 \pm 3 & 71 & PE & 54 \pm 2 & 54 \pm 2 & 100 \\ FD_{\Delta} & 54 \pm 3 & 45 \pm 3 & 83 & PF & 48 \pm 4 & 44 \pm 5 & 92 \\ Cd_{b} & 58 \pm 4 & 45 \pm 5 & 78 & FA & 47 \pm 2 & 49 \pm 1 & 103 \\ Cd_{hp} & 56 \pm 4 & 50 \pm 4 & 90 & FB & 40 \pm 3 & 42 \pm 2 & 104 \\ & & FCB & 60 \pm 6 & 54 \pm 5 & 90 \\ & FBA & 44 \pm 3 & 45 \pm 4 & 101 \\ & & NR & 39 \pm 7 & 39 \pm 7 & 100 \\ & & SN & 55 \pm 5 & 53 \pm 5 & 97 \\ & & NSTH & 64 \pm 2 & 59 \pm 4 & 92 \\ & & G1P & 22 \pm 2 & 19 \pm 2 & 88 \end{array}$	Cd.	53 ± 6	39 ± 4	74	Ĥ	38 ± 3	39 ± 4	103
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Cdha	58 ± 1	48 ± 1	83				
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	na			Donal	nathway			
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	DC	66 ± 1	47 + 2	71	DE	54 + 2	54 ± 2	100
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	FD	54 ± 3	47 ± 3	83	DE	34 ± 2	34 ± 2	02
$\begin{array}{cccc} Cd_{b} & 53 \pm 4 & 43 \pm 3 & 76 & 1A & 47 \pm 2 & 49 \pm 1 & 103 \\ Cd_{hp} & 56 \pm 4 & 50 \pm 4 & 90 & FB & 40 \pm 3 & 42 \pm 2 & 104 \\ & FCB & 60 \pm 6 & 54 \pm 5 & 90 \\ & FBA & 44 \pm 3 & 45 \pm 4 & 101 \\ & NR & 39 \pm 7 & 39 \pm 7 & 100 \\ & SN & 55 \pm 5 & 53 \pm 5 & 97 \\ & NSTH & 64 \pm 2 & 59 \pm 4 & 92 \\ & G1P & 22 \pm 2 & 19 \pm 2 & 88 \end{array}$ $CS_{x} & 72 \pm 4 & 36 \pm 1 & 51 & CS_{d} & 51 \pm 9 & 47 \pm 8 & 93 \\ & NO_{v} & 72 \pm 7 & 68 \pm 6 & 94 \\ & C1 & 99 \pm 9 & 97 \pm 8 & 99 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{c} Midbrain \\ NR & 39 \pm 7 & 33 \pm 7 & 68 \pm 6 & 94 \\ C1 & 99 \pm 9 & 97 \pm 8 & 99 \end{array}$ $T \ Opt & 33 \pm 3 & 17 \pm 4 & 52 & GM & 81 \pm 6 & 79 \pm 6 & 98 \\ GL_{d} & 51 \pm 7 & 33 \pm 7 & 66 & VPL & 47 \pm 4 & 46 \pm 3 & 97 \\ Pul_{i} & 49 \pm 2 & 31 \pm 2 & 63 & VL & 41 \pm 2 & 42 \pm 2 & 101 \\ Pul_{m} & 43 \pm 3 & 33 \pm 3 & 75 & LD & 50 \pm 5 & 48 \pm 5 & 96 \\ CM & 46 \pm 6 & 46 \pm 6 & 100 \\ LP & 47 \pm 3 & 45 \pm 1 & 96 \end{array}$	ΓD_{Δ}	54 ± 5 58 + 1	45 ± 5 45 ± 5	78	F A	40 ± 4 47 ± 2	44 ± 3 49 ± 1	103
$\begin{array}{cccc} Cd_{hp} & 50 \pm 4 & 50 \pm 4 & 50 & 10 & 10 & 40 \pm 5 & 42 \pm 2 & 104 \\ FCB & 60 \pm 6 & 54 \pm 5 & 90 \\ FBA & 44 \pm 3 & 45 \pm 4 & 101 \\ NR & 39 \pm 7 & 39 \pm 7 & 100 \\ SN & 55 \pm 5 & 53 \pm 5 & 97 \\ NSTH & 64 \pm 2 & 59 \pm 4 & 92 \\ G1P & 22 \pm 2 & 19 \pm 2 & 88 \end{array}$ $CS_{x} & 72 \pm 4 & 36 \pm 1 & 51 & CS_{d} & 51 \pm 9 & 47 \pm 8 & 93 \\ NO_{v} & 72 \pm 7 & 68 \pm 6 & 94 \\ C1 & 99 \pm 9 & 97 \pm 8 & 99 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{c} Diencephalon \\ GL_{d} & 51 \pm 7 & 33 \pm 7 & 66 & VPL & 47 \pm 4 & 66 \pm 3 & 97 \\ Pul_{i} & 49 \pm 2 & 31 \pm 2 & 63 & VL & 41 \pm 2 & 422 \pm 2 & 101 \\ Pul_{m} & 43 \pm 3 & 33 \pm 3 & 75 & LD & 50 \pm 5 & 48 \pm 5 & 96 \\ CM & 46 \pm 6 & 46 \pm 6 & 100 \\ LP & 47 \pm 3 & 45 \pm 1 & 96 \end{array}$	Cd	56 ± 4	45 ± 5 50 ± 4	90	FR	47 ± 2 40 ± 3	47 ± 1 42 ± 2	103
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Cu _{hp}	50 ± 4	50 ± 4	20	FCB	40 ± 5	42 ± 2 54 + 5	90
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					FRA	44 + 3	34 ± 3 45 ± 4	101
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					NR	39 + 7	$\frac{49}{39} \pm \frac{4}{7}$	100
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					SN	55 ± 7	57 ± 7 53 + 5	97
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					NSTH	64 + 2	59 ± 5 59 + 4	92
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					GIP	22 + 2	19 + 2	88
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				17			17 = 2	00
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	CC	72 + 4	26 + 1	M10	lbrain	51 . 0	47 . 0	0.2
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	co_s	12 ± 4	30 ± 1	51	CS_d	51 ± 9	$4/\pm 8$	93
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$						72 ± 7	68 ± 6	94
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					CI	99 ± 9	$9/\pm 8$	99
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				Dienc	ephalon			
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	T Opt	$33 \pm .3$	17 ± 4	52	GM	81 ± 6	79 ± 6	98
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	GL_d	51 ± 7	33 ± 7	66	VPL	47 ± 4	46 ± 3	97
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Pul _i	49 ± 2	31 ± 2	63	VL	41 ± 2	42 ± 2	101
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Pul _l	42 ± 4	34 ± 3	81	MD	61 ± 3	61 ± 2	101
$\begin{array}{cccc} CM & 46 \pm 6 & 46 \pm 6 & 100 \\ LP & 47 \pm 3 & 45 \pm 1 & 96 \end{array}$	Pul _m	43 ± 3	33 ± 3	75	LÐ	50 ± 5	48 ± 5	96
LP 47 ± 3 45 ± 1 96					СМ	46 ± 6	46 ± 6	100
					LP	47 ± 3	45 ± 1	96

lateralis posterior, considered in some species to be part of the pulvinar complex (17) but which receives mainly from the deep layers of the superior colliculus (18), showed no such difference. All other thalamic nuclei that were chosen for analysis as representatives of nonvisual structures showed symmetrical metabolic activity. These included the medial geniculate body (A3, not shown) and the nuclei ventralis posterolateralis, ventralis lateralis, medialis dorsalis, lateralis dorsalis, and centrum medianum (A5).

The [2-14C]deoxyglucose method revealed within a single preparation all cerebral areas that are strongly activated by retinal stimulation. The simultaneous visualization of these areas emphasizes the profound impact of vision on the activity of the cerebral hemispheres. The present results contribute to our understanding of the visual system in three ways. First, they provide a more complete inventory of the structures that participate in visual processing, including, for example, temporal cortical tissue beyond the inferior convexity and subcortical structures such as the medial pulvinar and large portions of the body of the caudate nucleus. Second, within each structure, they reveal the full extent of the tissue that is visual in function, thereby permitting delineation of the visual-nonvisual borders (19). And third, they reveal marked differences in the degree to which visual input augments the metabolic activity of the various visual structures (20).

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 For example, activity in the visually stimulated compared to the visually deafferented hearing 19
- 20. compared to the visually deafferented hemisphere is more than 200 percent greater in layer IV of area OC, 100 percent greater in the superficial layer of the superior colliculus, but only 50 percent greater in the dorsal lateral geniculate nucleus. The latter value is about the same as the value not only in area TE, another exclusively visual structure, but also in area PG, known to be a polysensory area. These differences in the quantitative contribution of visual input to the metabolic activity of the various structures related to vision have no known explanation at present and therefore pose an intriguing new uestion for future research
- Abbreviations used: AB, basal nucleus of the amygdala; ABA, basal accessory nucleus of the amygdala; AL, lateral nucleus of the amygdala; Cd, caudate nucleus (b, body; ha, anterior part 21. of head; hp, posterior part of head; t, tail); Cl, inferior colliculus; Cl, claustrum (d, dorsal part; v, ventral part); Cm, nucleus (N.) centrum me-dianum; CS, superior colliculus (d, deep layers; s, superficial layers); E, entorhinal cortex; FA, precentral cortex; FB, dorsal precentral cortex; FBA posteroventral premotor cortex; FCB rbA, posterioventral premiotor cortex; FCB, anteroventral premotor cortex; FD_{Δ} , posterior prefrontal cortex; GIP, globus pallidus; GL, corpus geniculatum laterale (d, dorsal); GM,

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corpus geniculatum mediale; H, hippocampal formation; IA, anterior insular cortex; IB, pos-terior insular cortex; LD, N. lateralis dorsalis; LP, N. lateralis posterior; MD, N. medialis dorsalis; NO, N. occulomotorii; NR, N. ruber; NSTH, N. subthalamicus; OA, anterior pre-NS1H, N. subthalamicus; OA, anterior pre-striate cortex; OB, posterior prestriate cortex; OC_{1V} , layer IV of striate cortex; OC_{-1V} , striate cortex, excluding layer IV; PE, superior parietal cortex; PF, anterior inferior parietal cortex; PG, posterior inferior parietal cortex; Pi, piriform cortex (t, temporal); Pul, N. pulvinaris (i, inferi-

or; m, medial; l, lateral); Put, putamen (a, anterior; p, posterior); SN, substantia nigra; TA, superior temporal cortex, lateral surface; TC, superior temporal cortex, supratemporal plane; TE, anterior inferior temporal cortex (a, anterior; p, posterior); TEO, posterior inferior tempoor, p. posterior), TEO, posterior interior tempo-ral cortex; TF, fusiform cortex; TG, temporal polar cortex (v, ventral); TH, parahippocampal cortex; T Opt, optic tract; VL, N. ventralis lateralis; VPL, N. ventralis posterolateralis.

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Pigeon Perception of Letters of the Alphabet

Abstract. In a three-choice discrimination task three pigeons learned to distinguish each letter of the alphabet from all other letters. Errors during learning were based on 54 presentations of each target letter with every other letter. The errors were used to scale letters in a multidimensional similarity space and to associate them in hierarchical clusters. The results resembled those generated from similarity judgments by humans, suggesting cross-task and cross-species generality in processes of letter discrimination.

Does the world look the same to pigeons and people? Herrnstein and coworkers (1) found that pigeons can identify categories such as "tree" and "fish" in photographs. However, the perception of such complex and variable stimuli is difficult to analyze. The birds in the present experiment learned instead the letters of the alphabet. These relatively simple stimuli yielded similarity patterns that are well correlated with comparable data for human subjects. The method may be useful in further studies of form perception in animals.

Each pigeon was placed in a box with a small television monitor screen set in one wall. On this screen an Atari home computer generated black letters on a white ground. The letters were formed within a five by seven dot matrix 2.0 mm



Fig. 1. Two-dimensional representation by ALSCAL of the similarity of letters perceived by the pigeons. In general, where two letters are far apart, the pigeon made few errors when discriminating them; where two letters are close together, it made many errors. Ideally, the closest pair would have the most errors, the next closest the next most, and so on. The names near the dimensional extremes call attention to common features of nearby letters.

wide and 2.8 mm high and were of the same format as those used by Podgorny and Garner (2) in a recent study of letter perception in humans. Three letters appeared in each experimental trial; they were horizontally aligned and spaced 2.3 cm apart, each behind a key made from a glass microscope slide.

Three white Carneaux pigeons were trained by standard methods to eat from a feeder located below and to the left of the display screen and to peck at randomly selected single letters appearing behind any of the three response keys. In the test procedure the bird was rewarded for pecking at a single letter-the target letter-on four successive daily sessions. This letter appeared equally often behind each of the glass keys on 675 test trials each day, while one of the other letters appeared behind both of the other keys. Each of the 25 nontarget letters appeared on one trial in each successive block of 25 trials. If the target letter was pecked, all the letters on the screen became white (higher in luminance than the background) for 0.5 second and then disappeared; at the same time, the feeder was illuminated. These changes signaled a "correct" response. With a probability of one in ten, correct responses were followed by access to food (mixed grain) for 3 seconds. After a correct response the screen remained blank white for 1.5 seconds; a new trial followed (3). If one of the nontarget keys was pecked, the letters disappeared, and after 1.5 seconds the target letter reappeared on the same key as before while black blocks (five by seven dot matrices) replaced the nontarget letters. This "correction" procedure was repeated until the target letter was pecked. Each session began with 25 trials in which the target letter was