

---

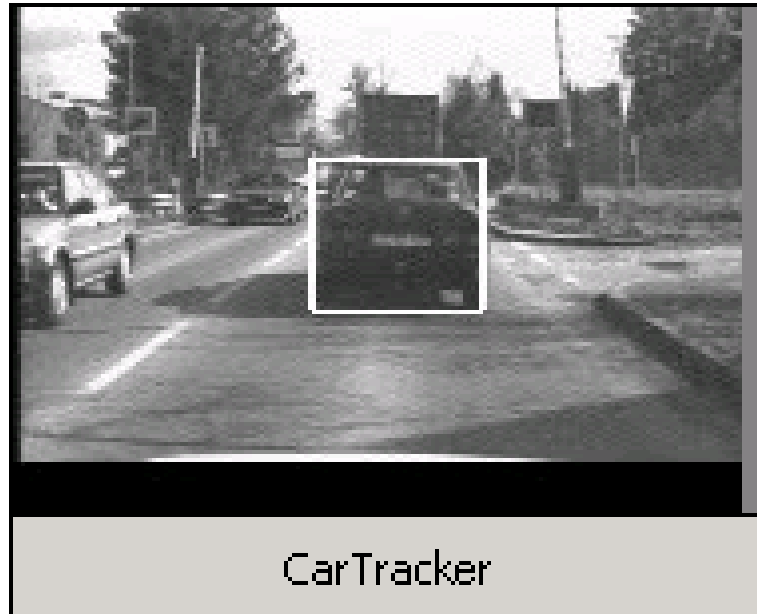
# Information Processing with Pulsed Neural Networks

Ulrich Ramacher  
Corp. Research, Infineon Technologies AG, Munich

[ulrich.ramacher@infineon.com](mailto:ulrich.ramacher@infineon.com)

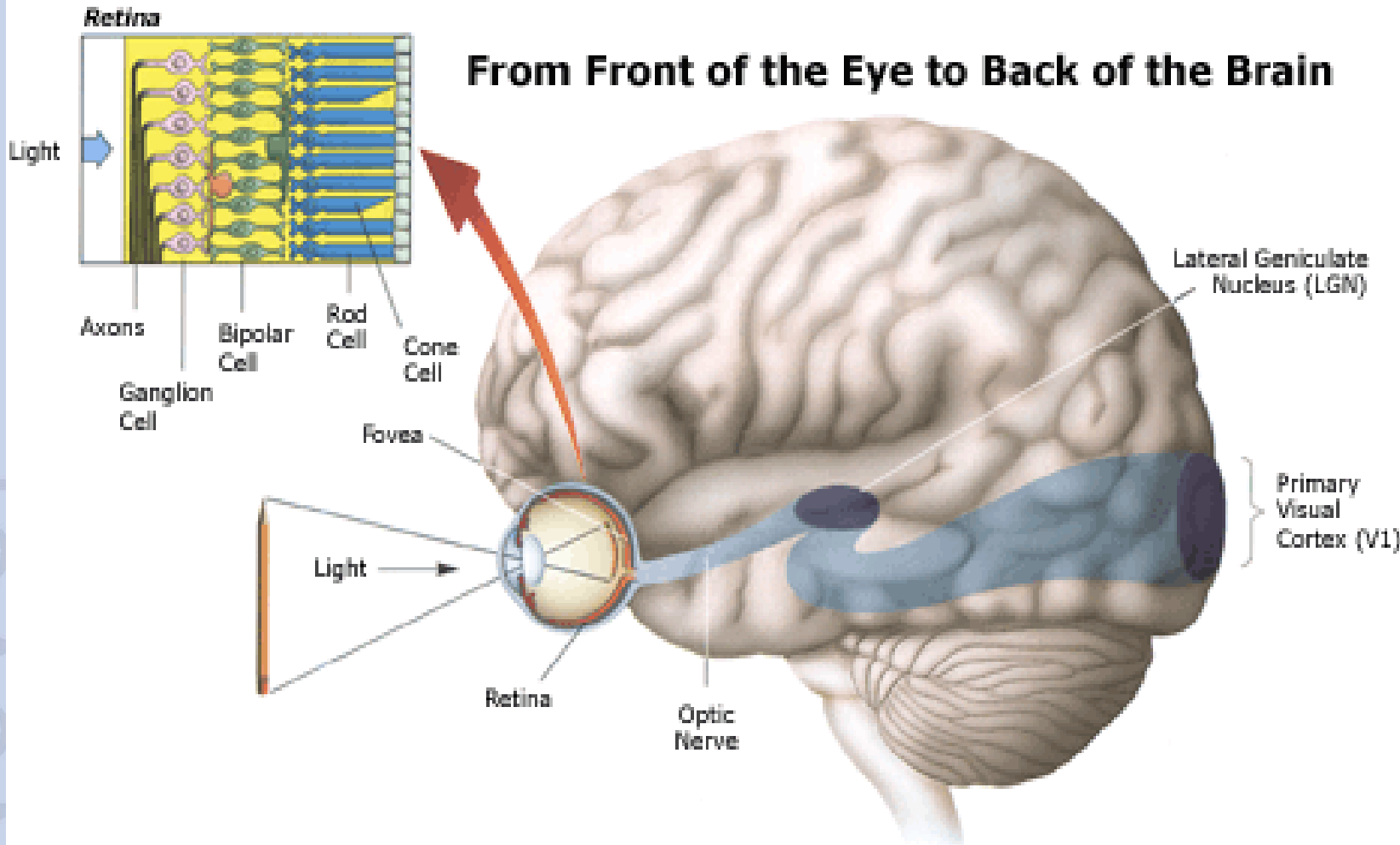
# Dilemma (1)

---



**lack of robustness**

# Dilemma (2)



**lack of architecture information**

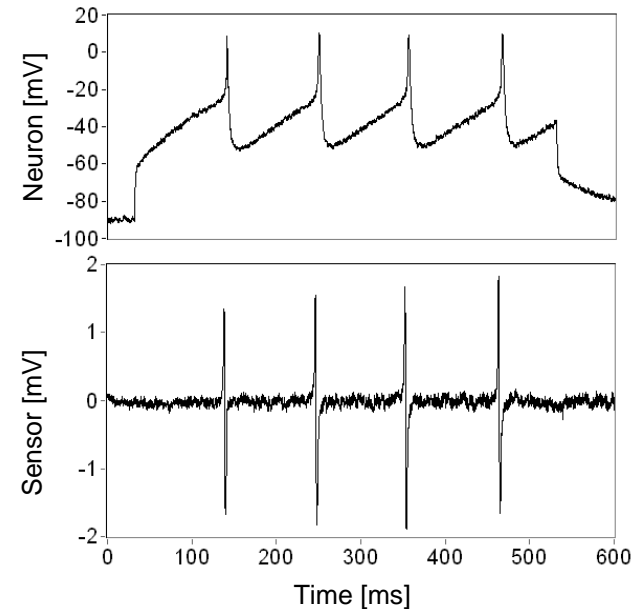
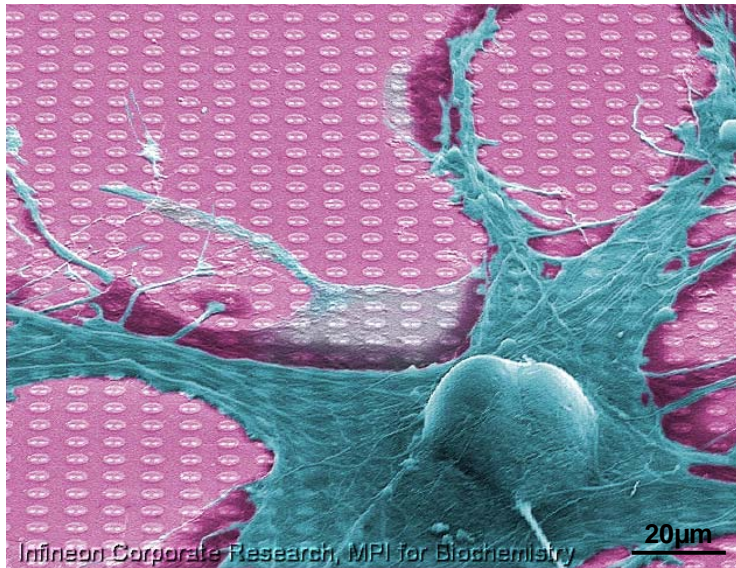
Never stop thinking

# Dilemma (3)



Infineon Neurochip

- **Non-invasive long-term recording** of neural tissue.
- **High-density sensor** with  $128 \times 128$  Sensors in  $1 \times 1 \text{ mm}^2$ .
- **Extended CMOS-process** with biocompatible high-k surface dielectric.
- **Self-calibration circuitry** and pre-amplification on chip.
- Applications in **neurobiology** and **drug discovery**



**Gap between signal processing by few cells and information processing by large arrays**

# Program

---



1. Use pulsed IAF neurons and adaptive synapses (inhibitory, excitatory)
2. Use experimental evidence
3. Start from simple, complete vision systems
4. Find basic network structures for information processing
5. Find quantitative ansatz for information processing
6. Demonstrate usefulness for cell phones

# Neuron Model

$$k \in R(t_0): \quad a_k(t) = a_k(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t \left[ \sum_{l \in S(t_0)} W_{kl}(t') \cdot X_l(t') + W_{k0} \cdot i_k(t') \right] dt'$$

or :

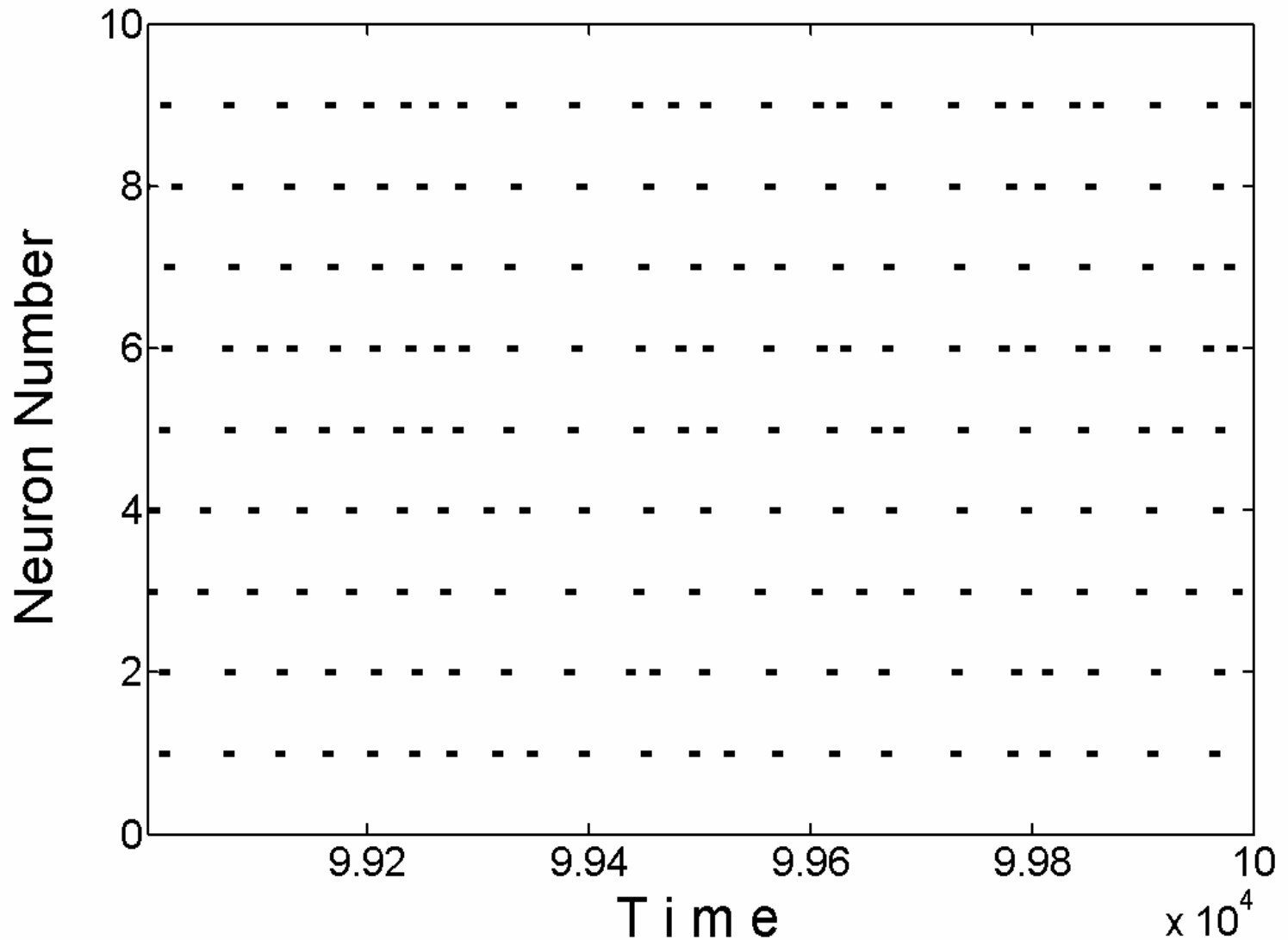
$$da_k / dt = -c \cdot a_k(t) + \sum_{l \in S(t_0)} W_{kl}(t) \cdot X_l(t) + W_{k0} \cdot i_k(t)$$

Rule 1: Reaching the threshold, a neuron resets membrane potential to zero and starts sending a pulse of 1 ms

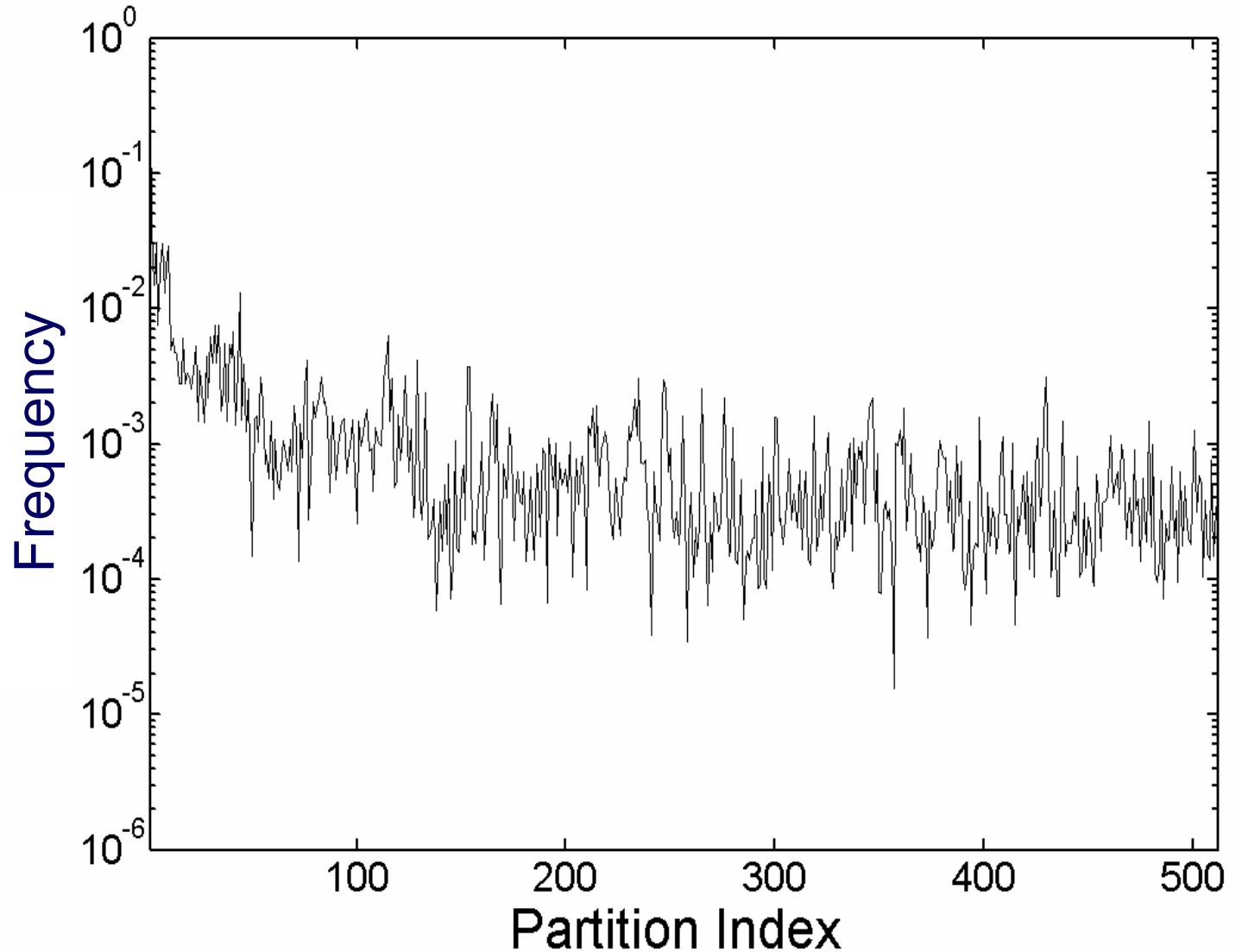
Rule 2: A neuron either receives or sends

➔ deterministic dynamical system

# Experiment 1



# Experiment 1





# Observations

---

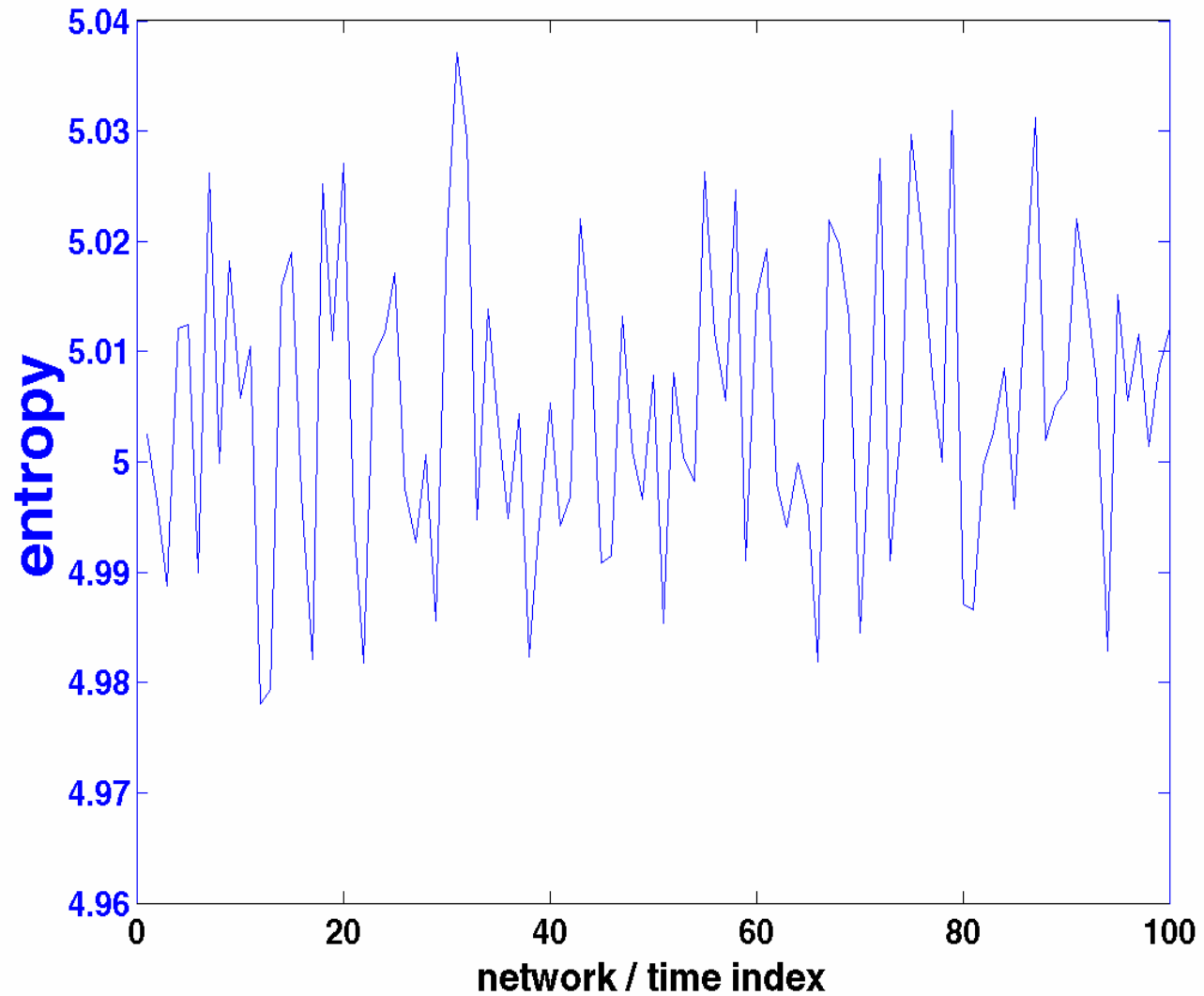
- „Firing patterns don't come to an end“
- information processing is not a function of time

➔ Does frequency of firing patterns characterize the net ?

$$I_{\text{net}} = -\sum p_n \times \ln p_n$$

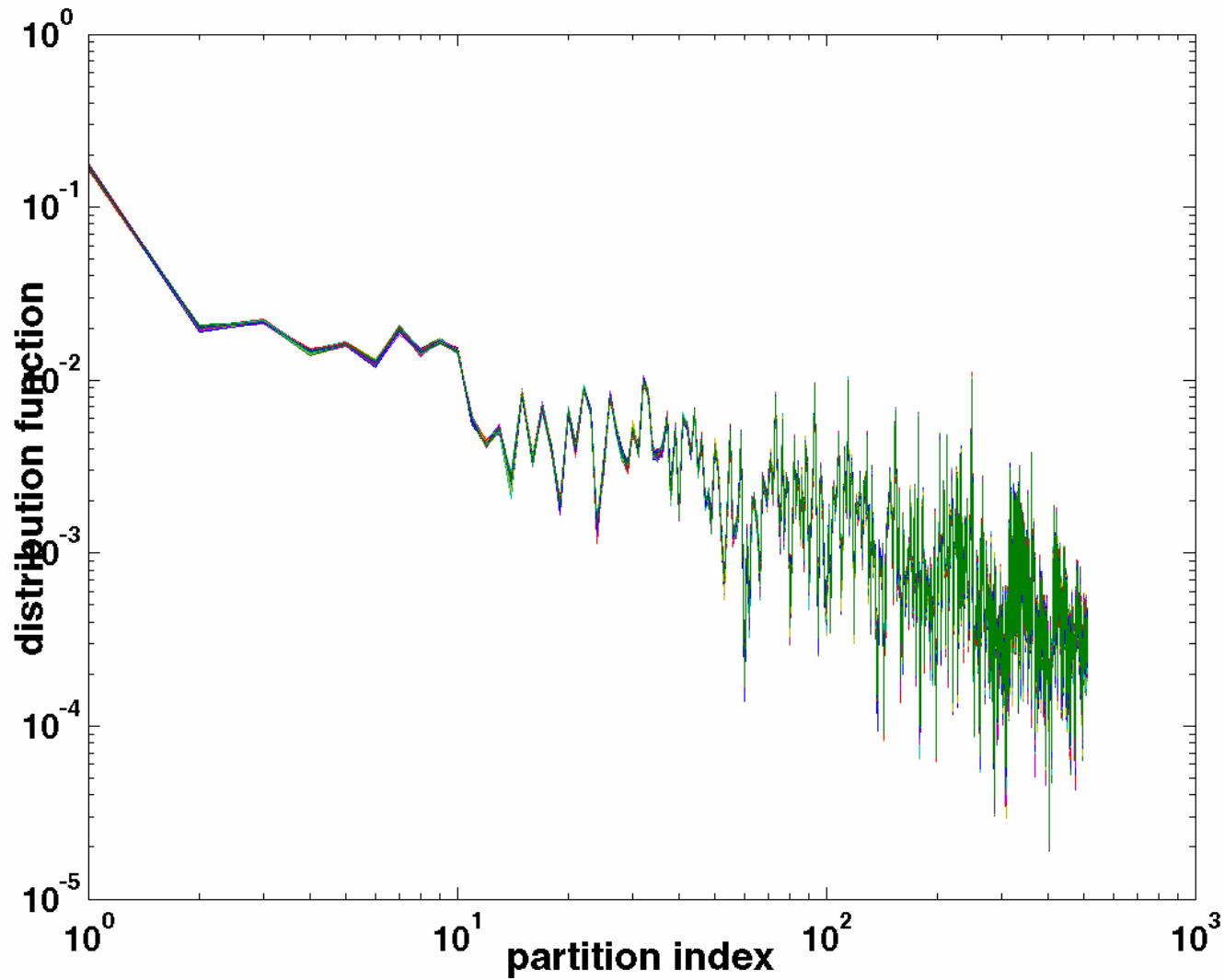
Is entropy a reproducible measure of information?

# Experiment 2:



Never stop thinking

# Experiment 2



# Findings

---

- distribution function of fp's is independent of initial conditions

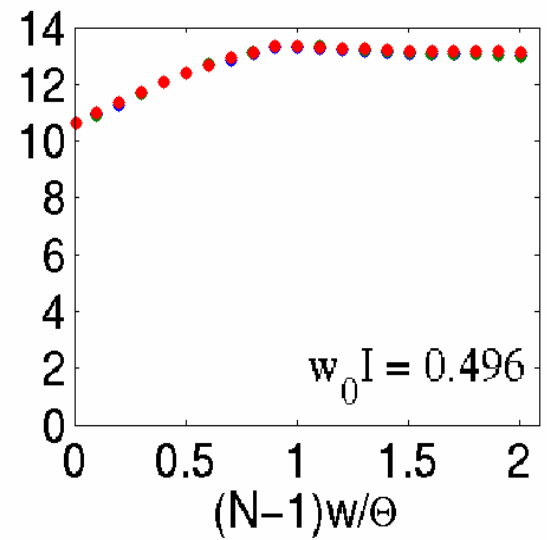
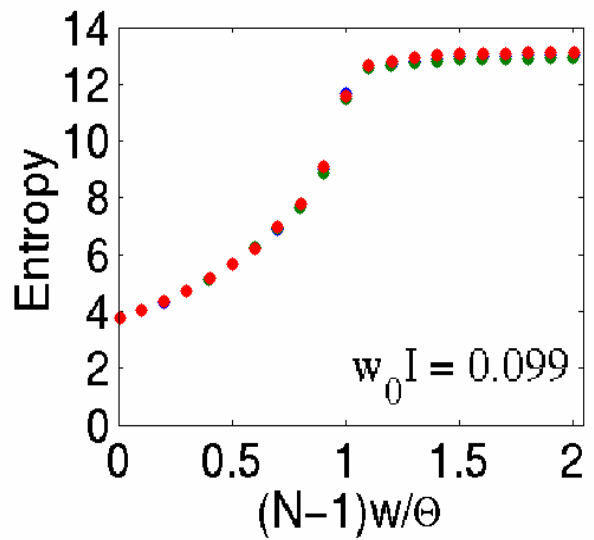
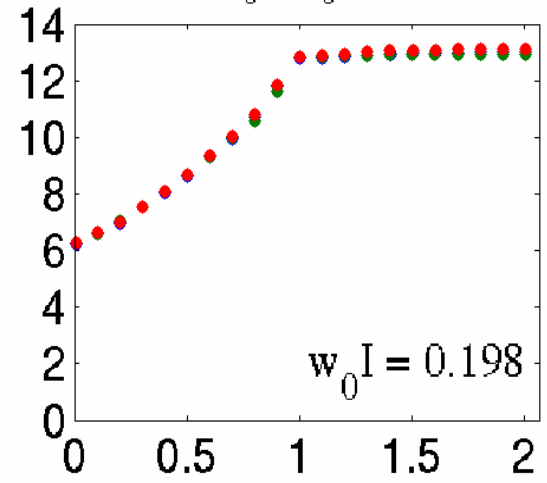
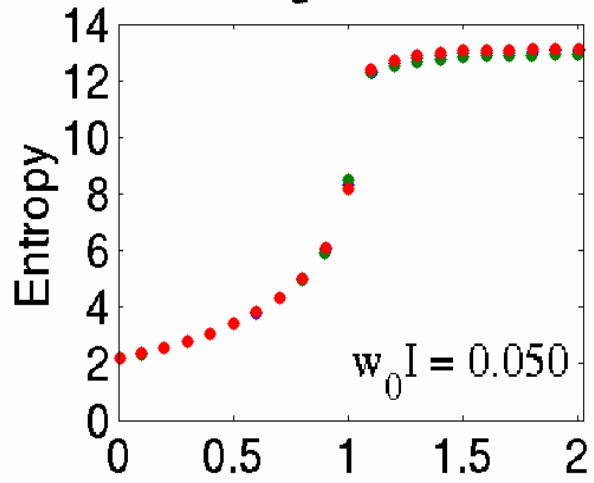
→  $I_{\text{net}} = - \sum p_n \times \ln p_n$

is a reproducibly measurable quantity

# Entropy as a function of mean synaptic weight

$N = 40, t_d = 1\text{ms}, \Theta = 5, \Delta w/w = 0.25, \Delta w_0 I/w_0 I = 0.25$

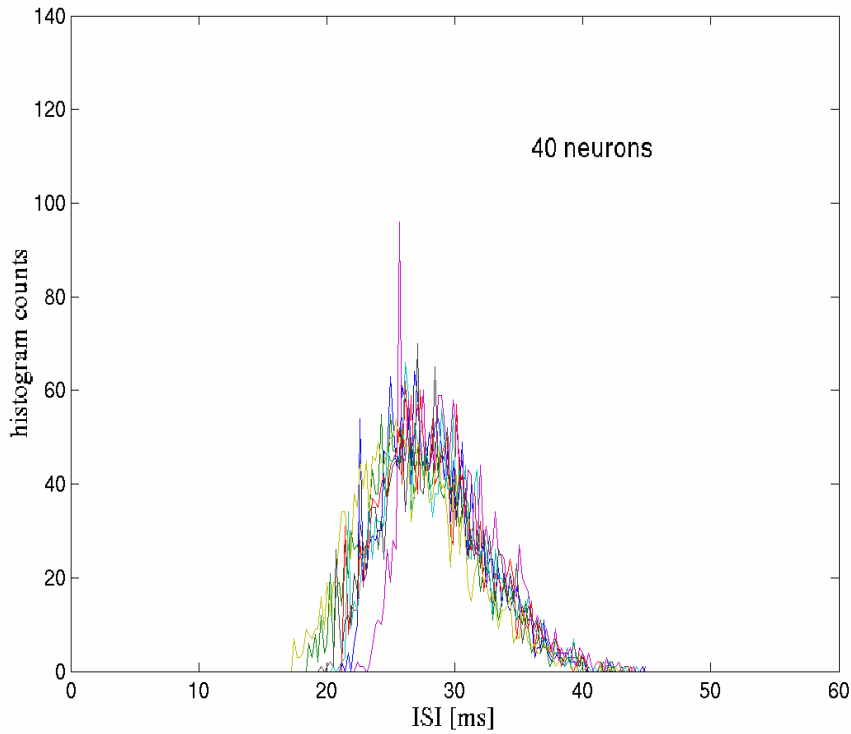
Each color corresponds to a different realization of  $w_{ij}$



Network size:  
40 neurons

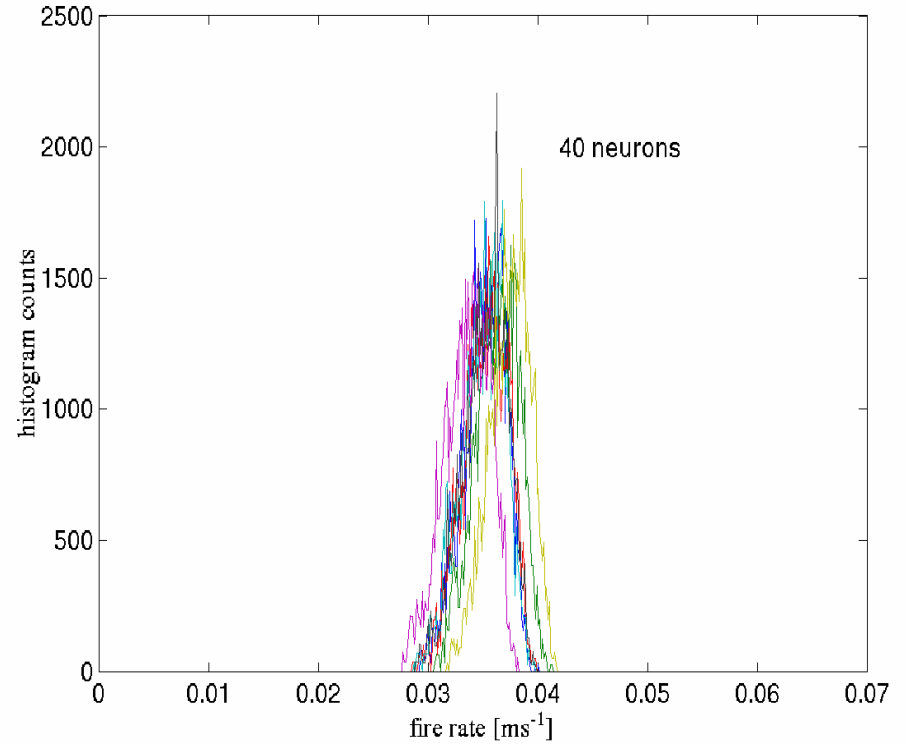
# Network size: 40 neurons

$N = 40, t_d = 1\text{ms}, \Theta = 5, r = 0.8, w_0 I = 0.05, \Delta w/w = 0.25, \Delta w_0 I/w_0 I = 0.25$



ISI

$N = 40, t_d = 1\text{ms}, \Theta = 5, r = 0.8, w_0 I = 0.05, \Delta w/w = 0.25, \Delta w_0 I/w_0 I = 0.25$



Fire Rate

# Synapse Model

(proposed by U. Ramacher, April 99)

$k \in E(t_0), l \in S(t_0)$ :

$$\dot{W}_{kl} = -\gamma \cdot W_{kl} + \mu \cdot \left( a_k(t) - \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \cdot \chi(X_l)$$

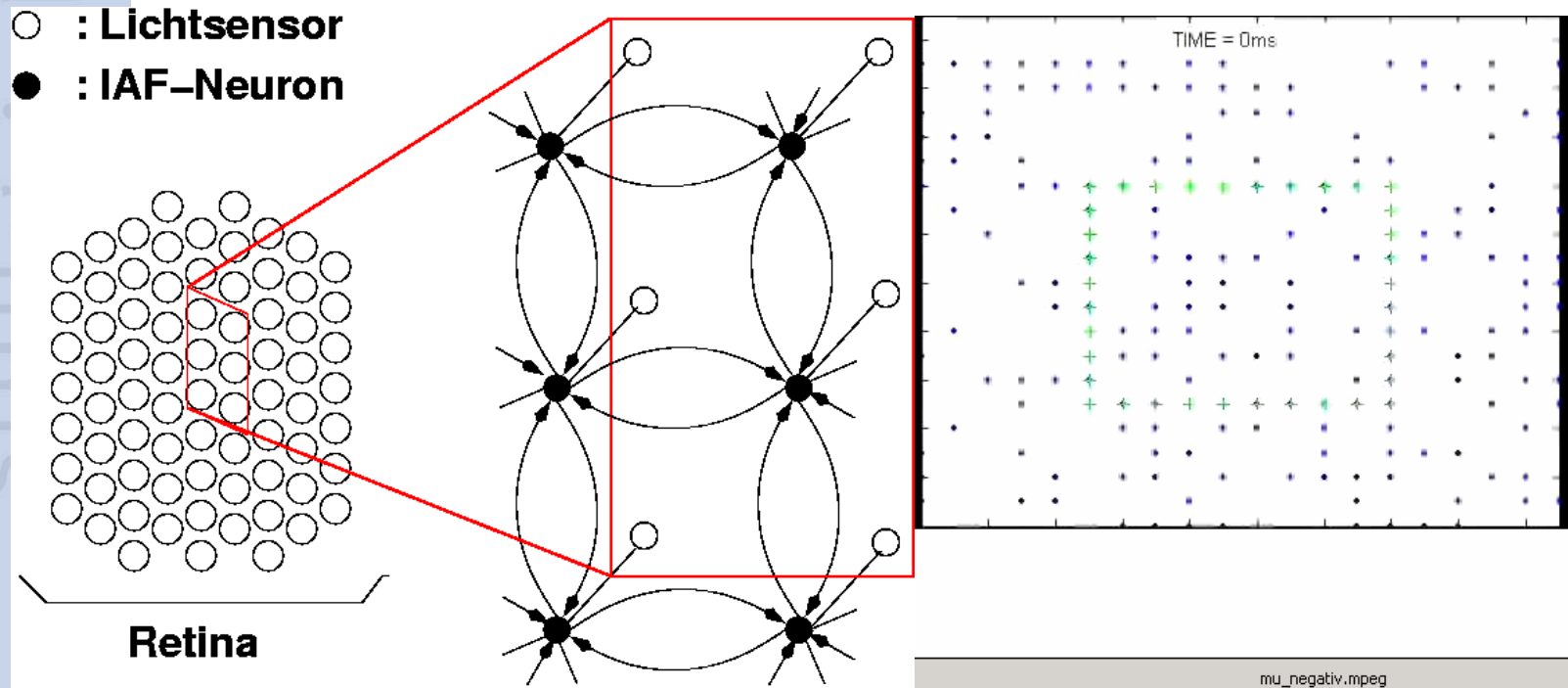
*else:* 
$$\dot{W}_{kl} = -\gamma \cdot W_{kl}$$

Adaptation rule : local, causal, simple

$$\ddot{W}_{kl} + \gamma \cdot \dot{W}_{kl} - \mu \cdot W_{kl}(t') \cdot X_l = \mu \cdot \left( \sum_{l' \in S(t_0)} W_{kl'}(t') \cdot X_{l'} + W_{k0} \cdot i_k(t') + a_k(t_0) - \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$

# $\mu$ negative

- 20 x 24 pixels , each connected to a neuron by a constant synapse
- adaptive synapses connecting neighboured neurons

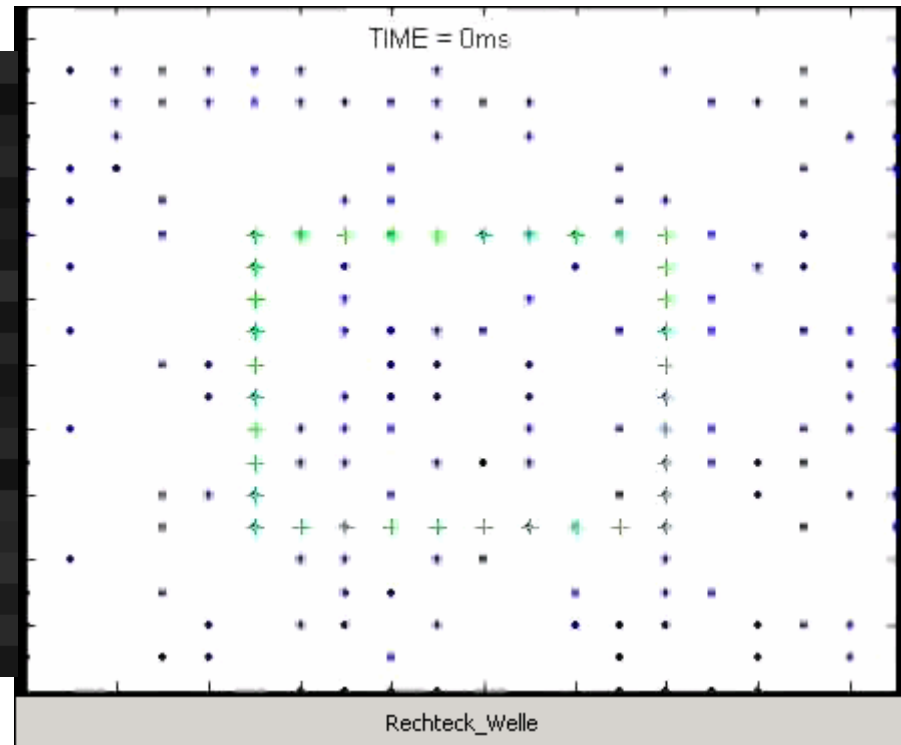
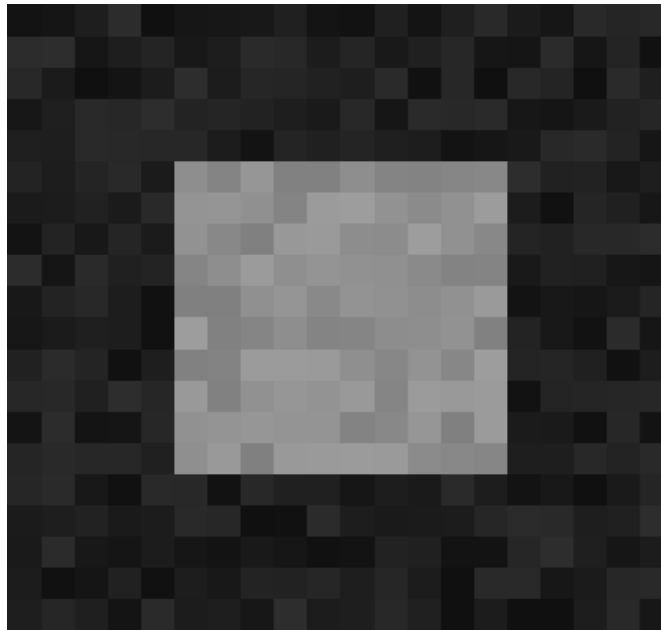


synapses = coupled system of damped oscillators



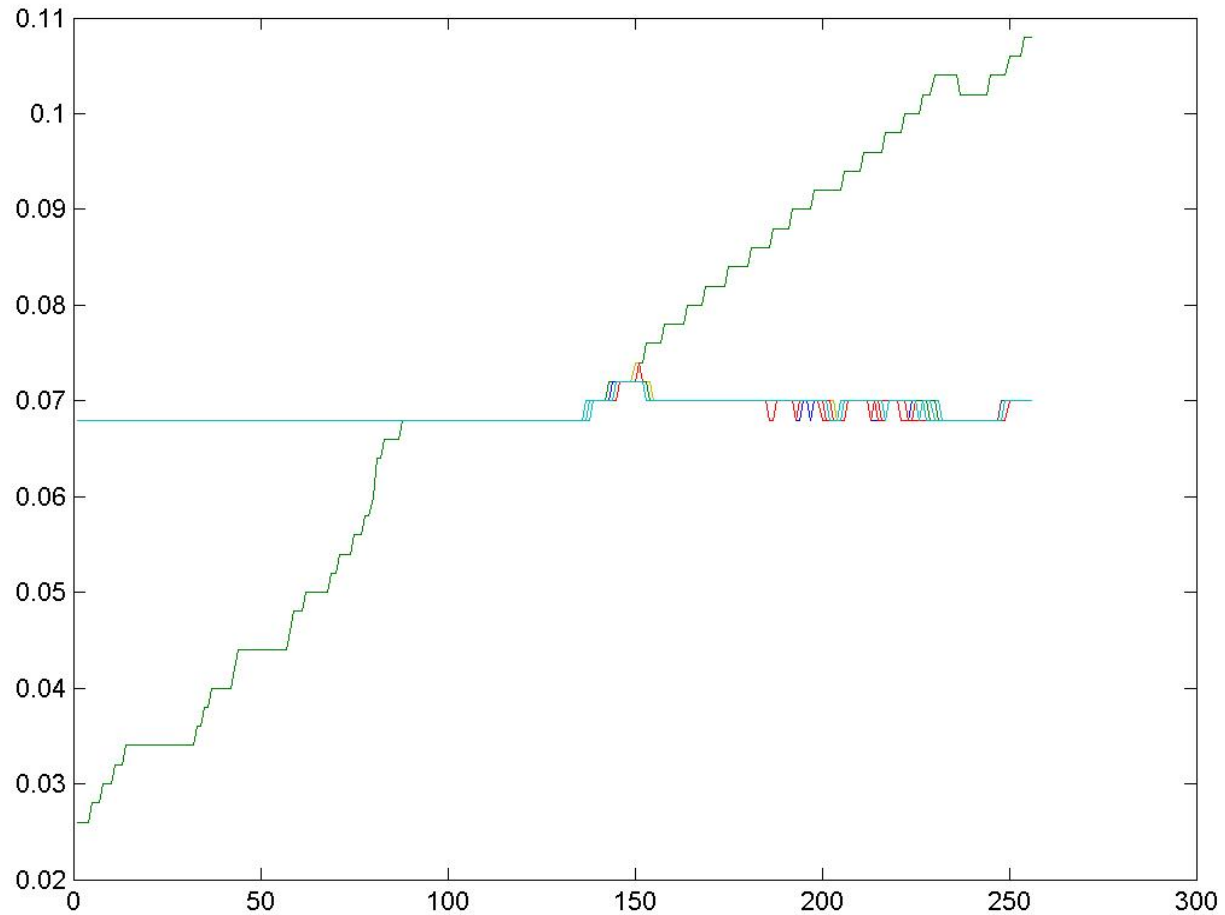
$\mu$  positive

20x24 pixel, 10% noise

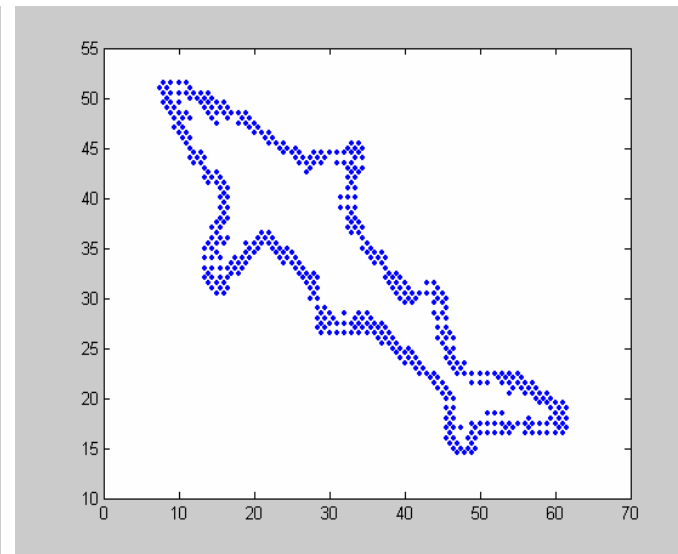
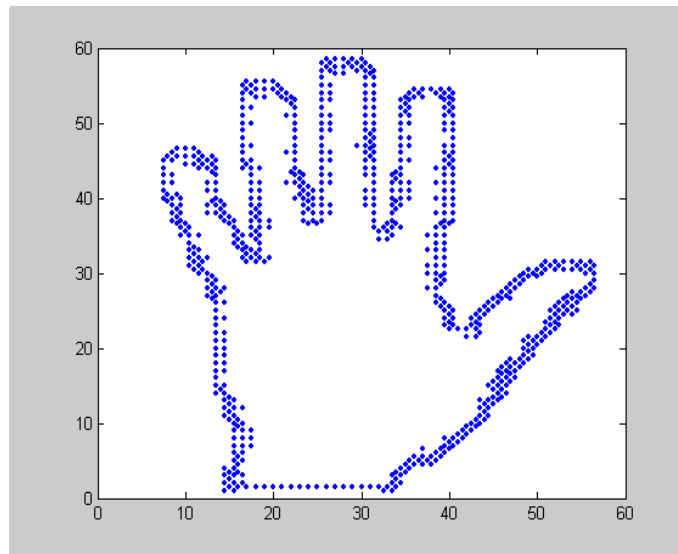


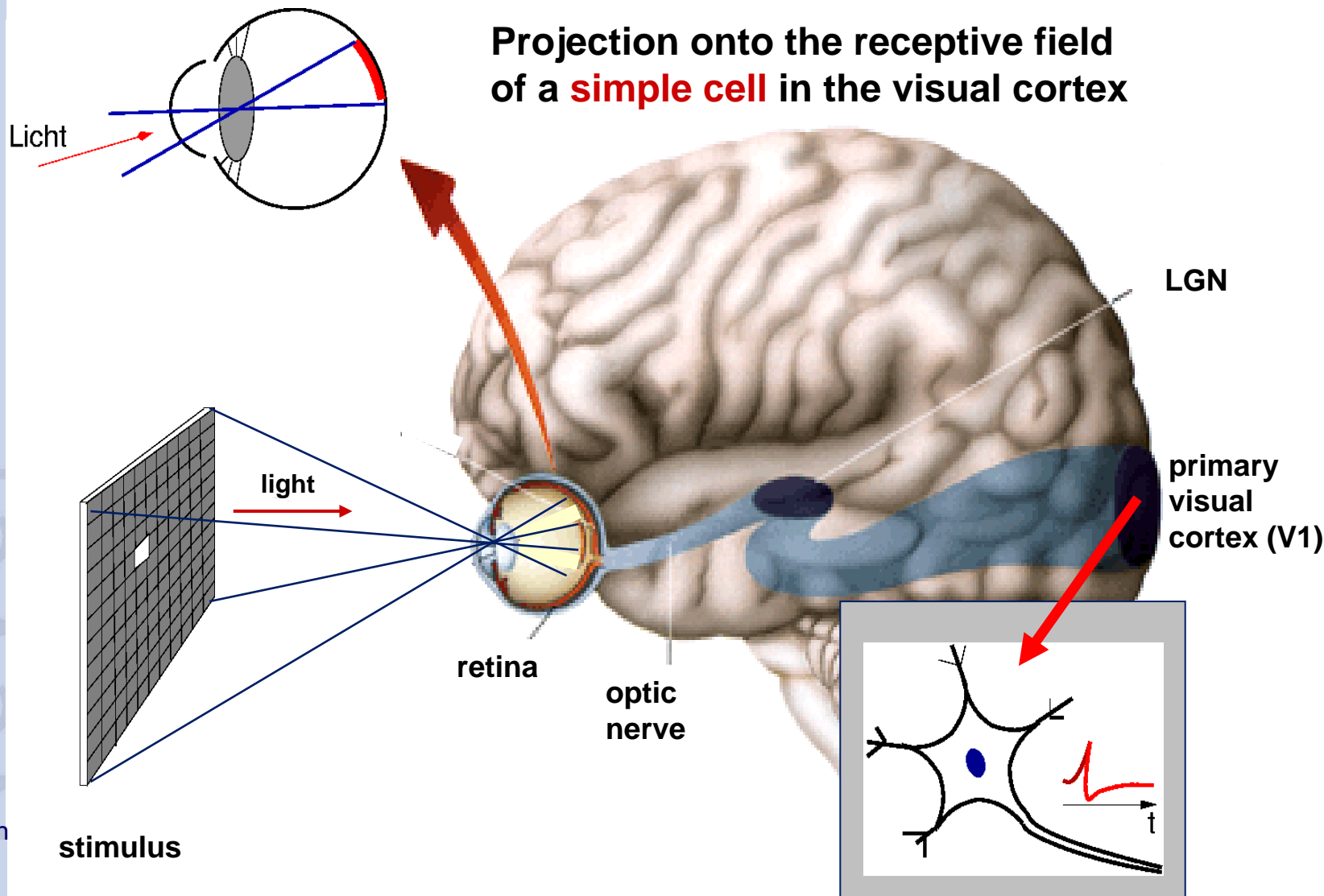
synapses = coupled system of damped exponentially rising and falling „elements“

# Spot Detector = Illumination Encoder

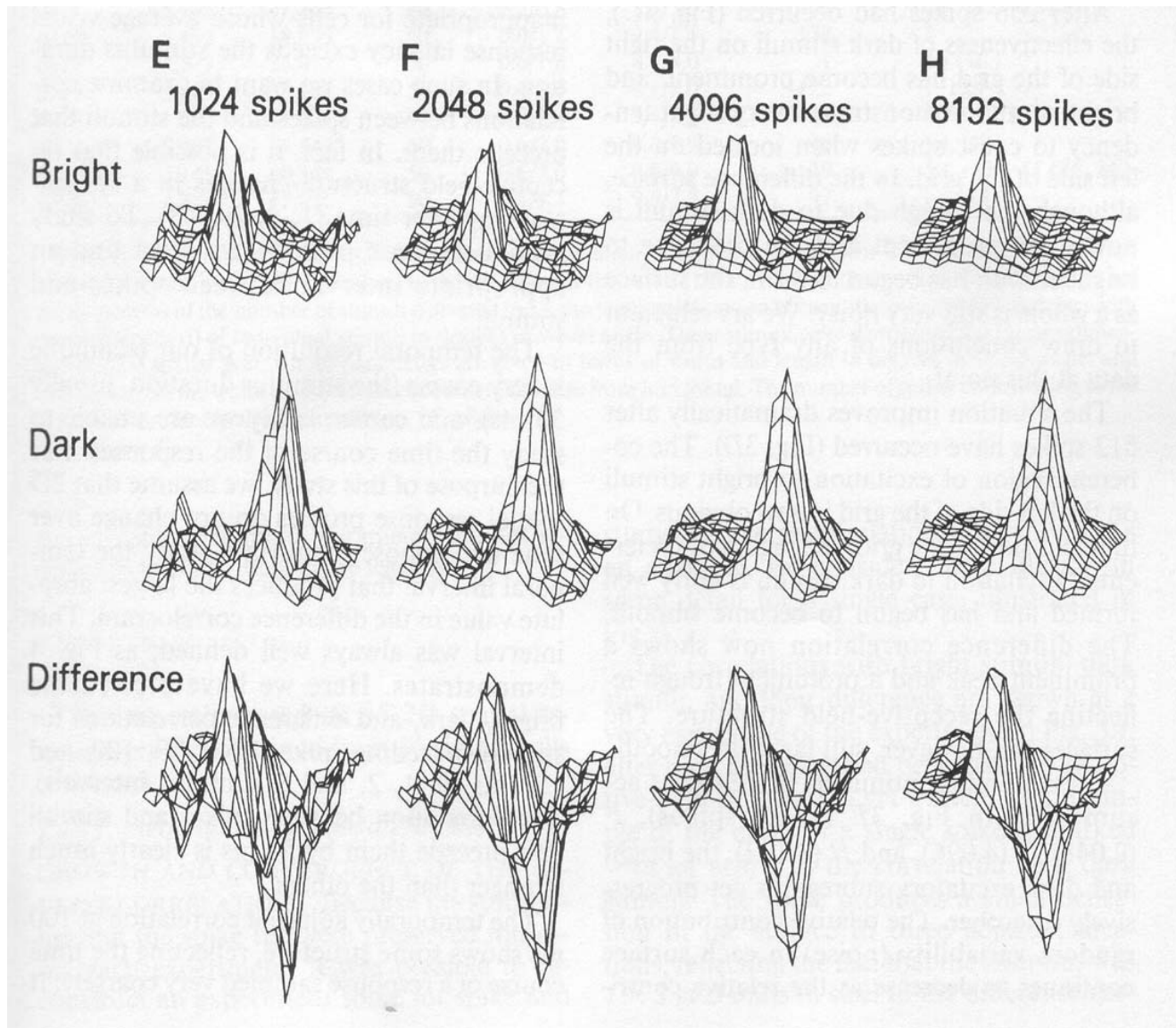


# Pixels: 64 x 64

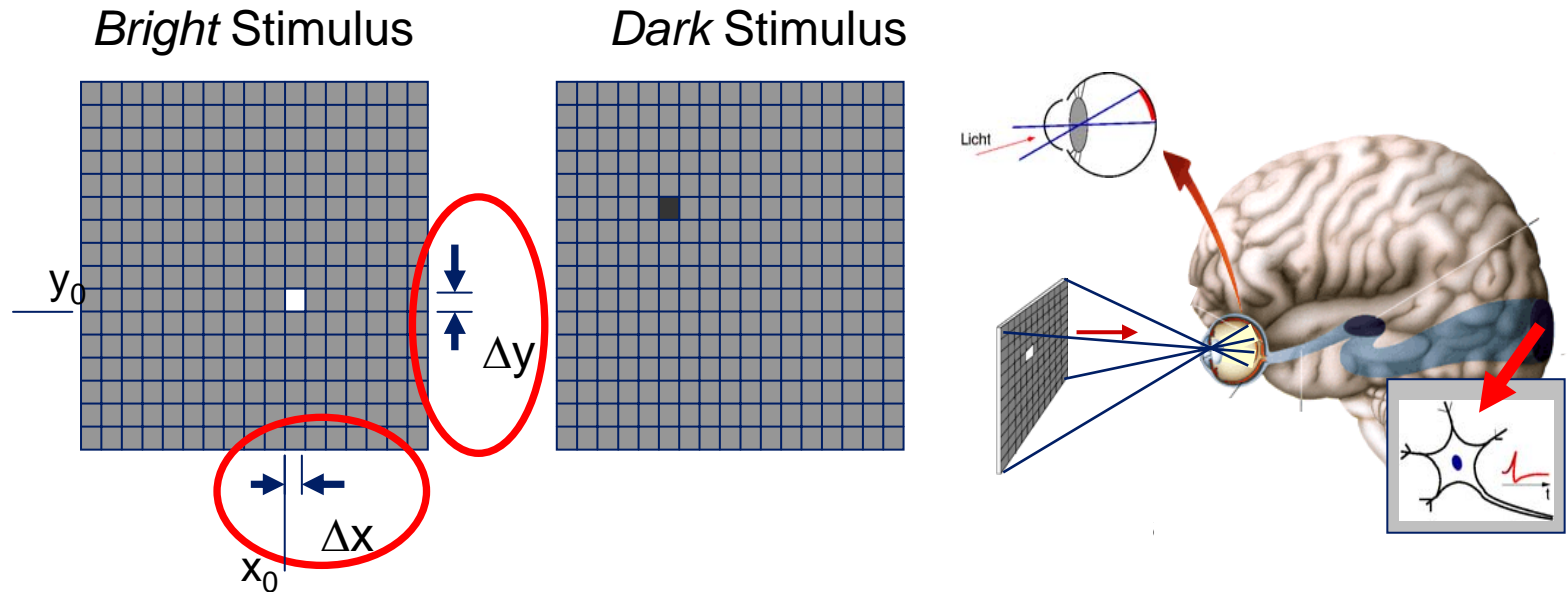




# convergence



# Modeling the Experiment

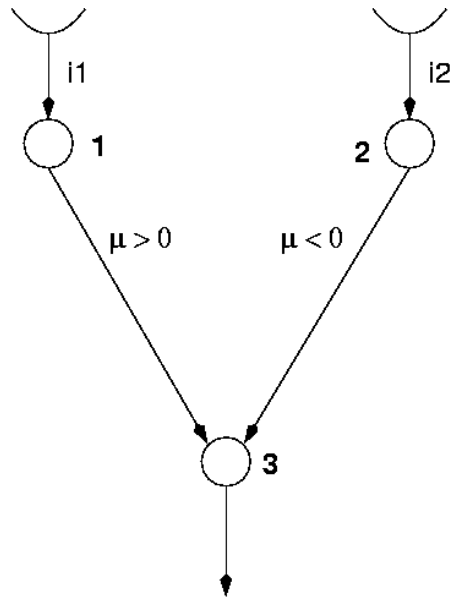


**Stimuli projected onto RF of a Simple Cell**

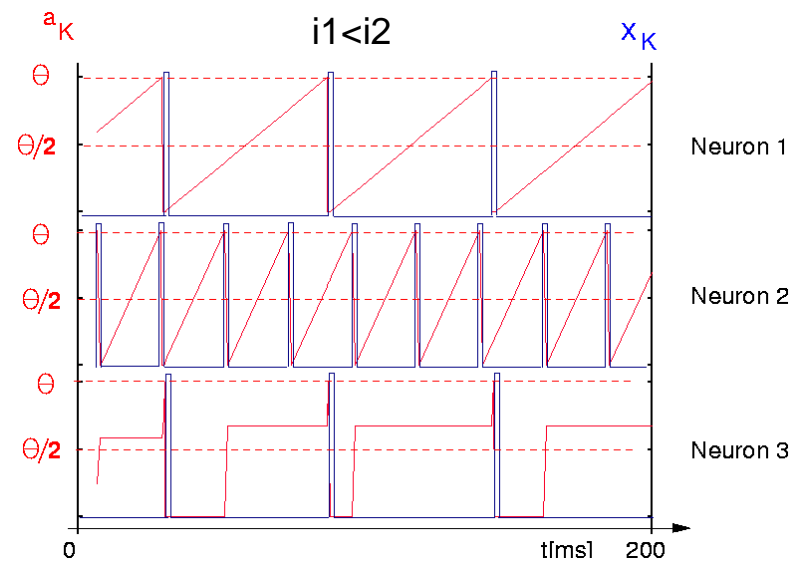
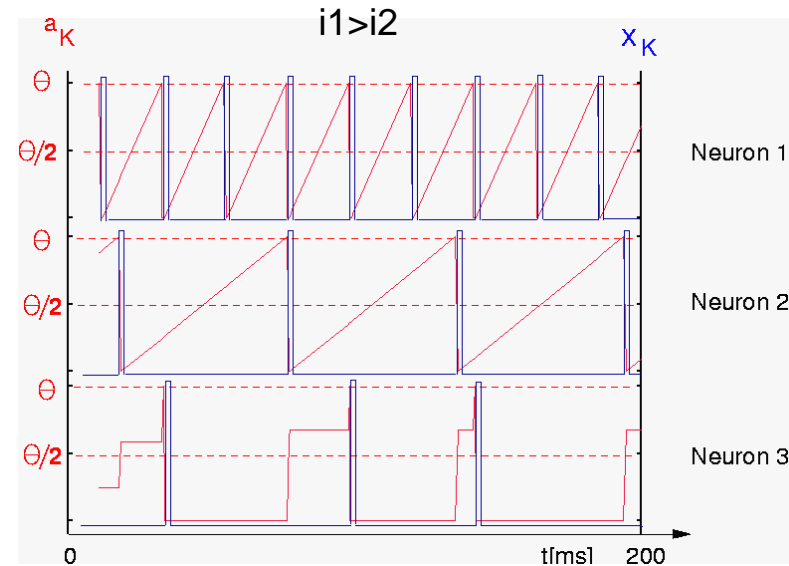
$$\Pi(x_0, y_0) \approx (H - B) \cdot \iint_{(x_0, x_0 + \Delta x) \times (y_0, y_0 + \Delta y)} G_i(x, y) dx dy$$

**Π**: measured pulse rate   **G<sub>i</sub>**: Gabor function   **H**: Spot Intensity   **B**: Background Intensity

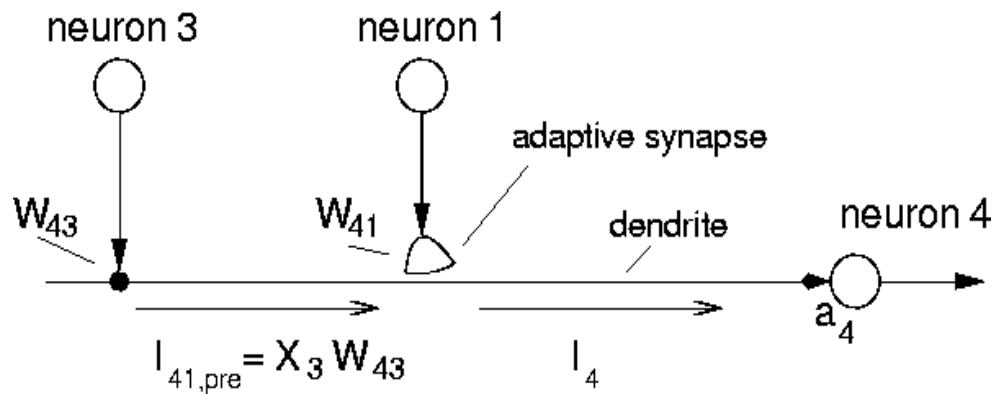
# Pulse difference detector (1)



$$\dot{W}_{KL} = -\gamma \cdot W_{KL} + \mu \cdot \left( a_K(t) - \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \cdot \chi(X_L)$$



# Pulse difference detector (2)



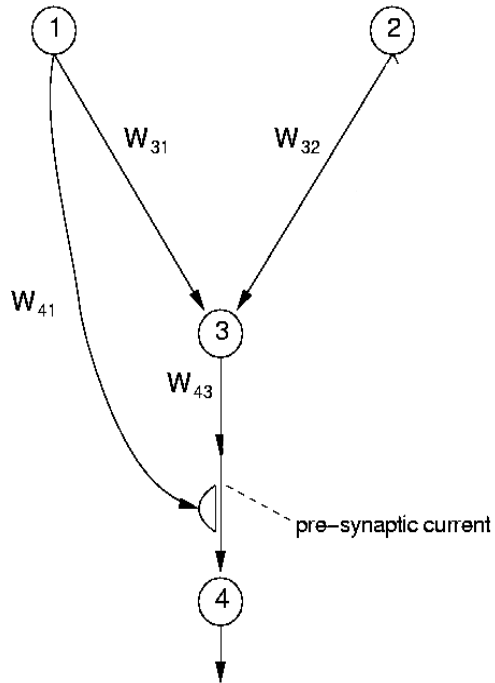
**Dynamics of the Synapse  $W_{41}$ :**

$$\frac{dW_{KL}}{dt} = -\gamma \cdot (W_{KL} - W_{\infty}) + \mu \cdot (I_{pre} - I_{\theta}) \cdot W_{KL} \cdot \chi(X_L)$$

$$\mu < 0, \quad I_{pre} - I_{\theta} > 0, \quad W_{KL} \geq 0$$



# Pulse difference detector (3)



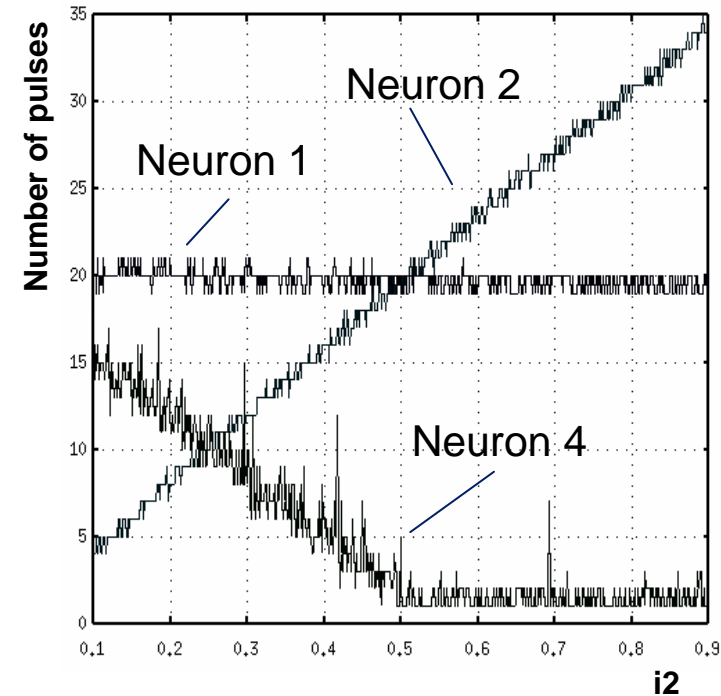
$W_{31}$  adaptive, membrane  
 $\mu > 0$   
 $\mu = 12 \text{ ms}^{-2}$   
 $\gamma = 0.1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$

$W_{32}$  adaptive, membrane  
 $\mu < 0$   
 $\mu = -12 \text{ ms}^{-2}$   
 $\gamma = 0.1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$

$W_{41}$  adaptive, dendrite  
 $\mu = -500 \text{ ms}^{-2}$   
 $\gamma = 1.6 \text{ ms}^{-1}$   
 $W_{00} = 0.025$

$W_{43}, W_{42}$  constant  
 $W = 0.025$

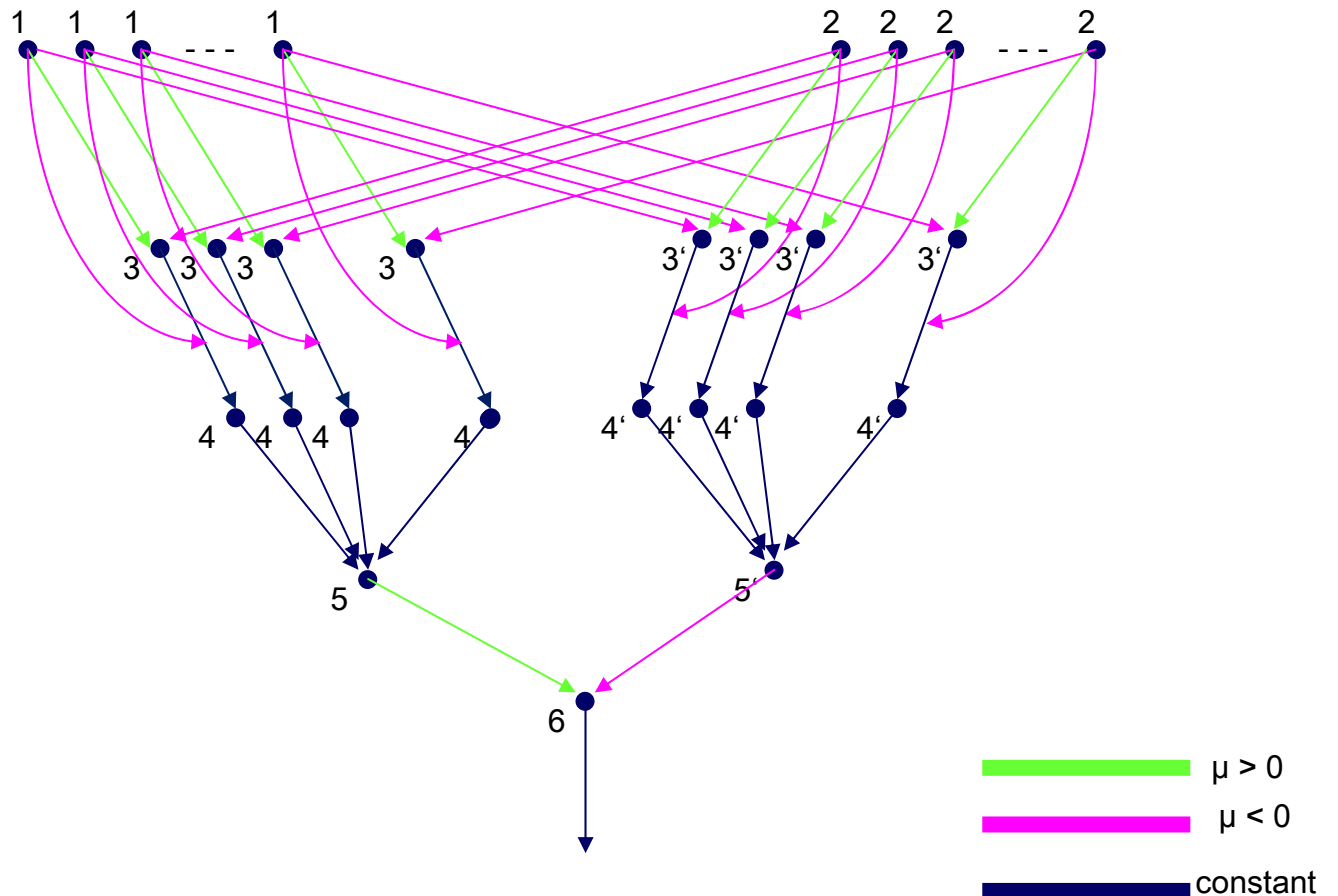
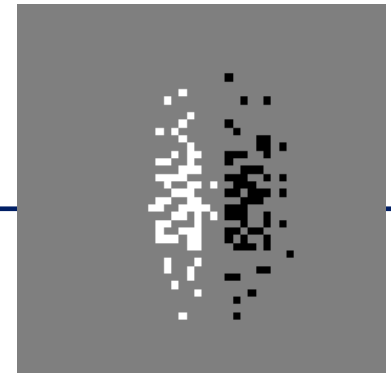
## Characteristic



$i_1 = 0.5$   
 $\Theta = 1$   
 $W_{K0} = 0.08$   
 $t_d = 1 \text{ ms}$   
 $T = 0.5 \text{ s}$

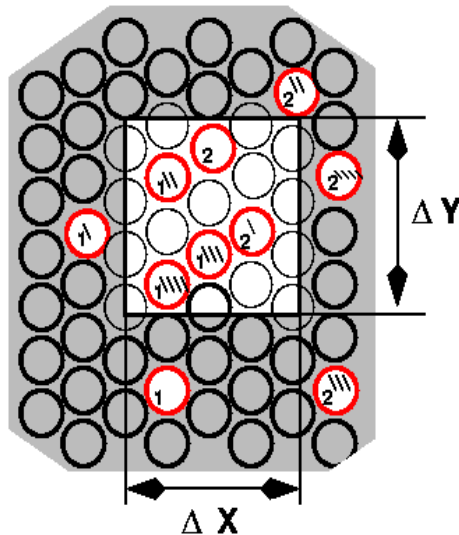
# Architecture of feature detector

(proposed by A. Heitmann, 2003)



stop thinking  
 Never

# Shaping the response-profile of the detector



section of the retina

$$N_i^1(x_0, y_0) = \iint_{(x_0, x_0 + \Delta x) \times (y_0, y_0 + \Delta y)} \rho_i^1(x, y) dx dy$$

$$N_i^2(x_0, y_0) = \iint_{(x_0, x_0 + \Delta x) \times (y_0, y_0 + \Delta y)} \rho_i^2(x, y) dx dy$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(x_0, y_0) &= \frac{W_{K0}}{\Theta} \cdot (H - B) (N_i^1(x_0, y_0) - N_i^2(x_0, y_0)) \\ &\approx (H - B) \cdot \iint G_i(x, y) dx dy \end{aligned}$$

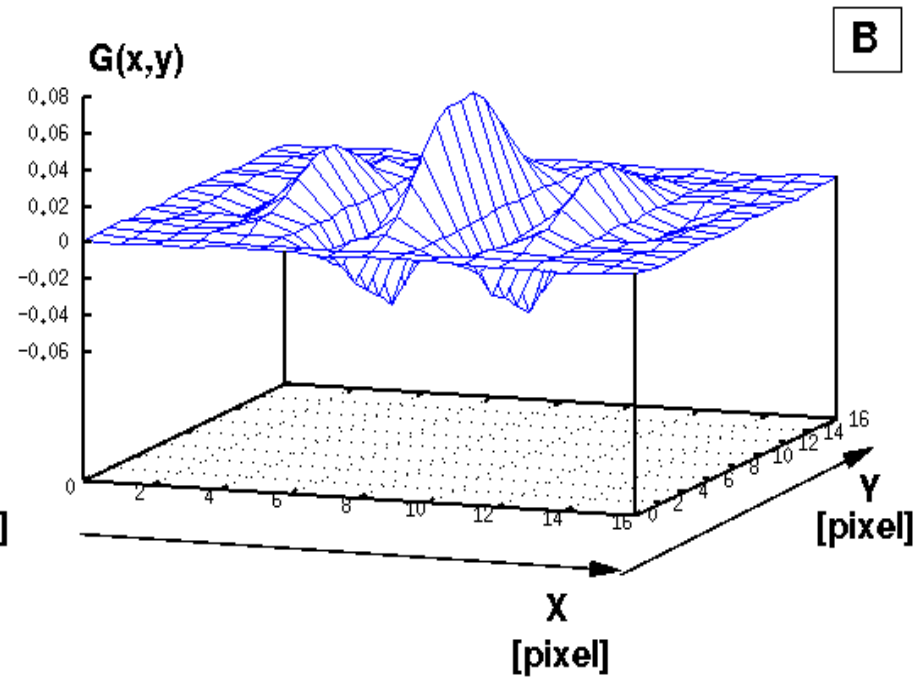
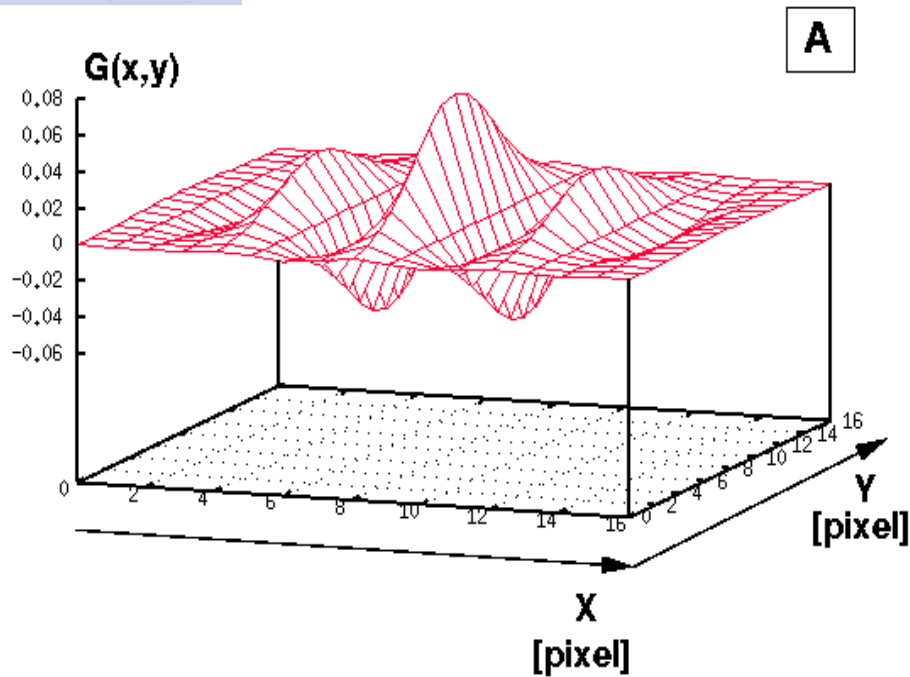
$$\Rightarrow \rho_i^1(x, y) - \rho_i^2(x, y) = \frac{\Theta}{W_{K0}} G_i(x, y)$$

**H:** Spot Intensity    **B:** Background Intensity

# Results of a detector implementation

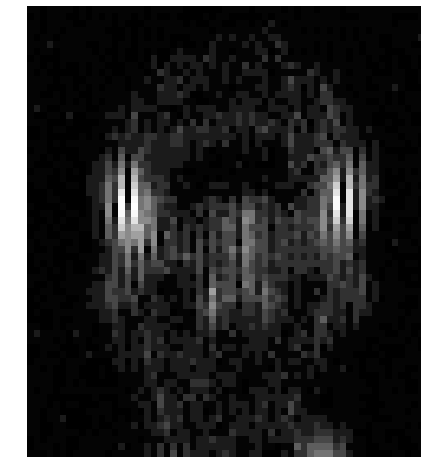
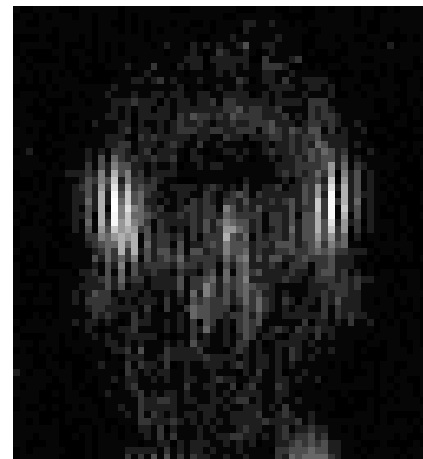
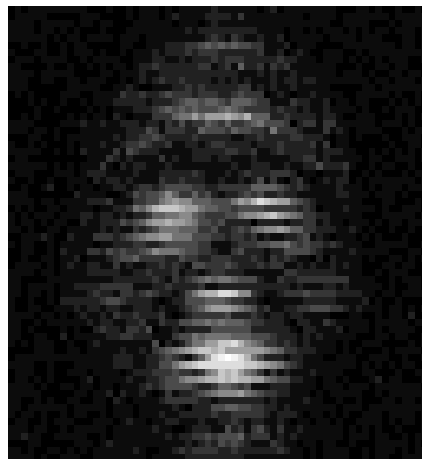
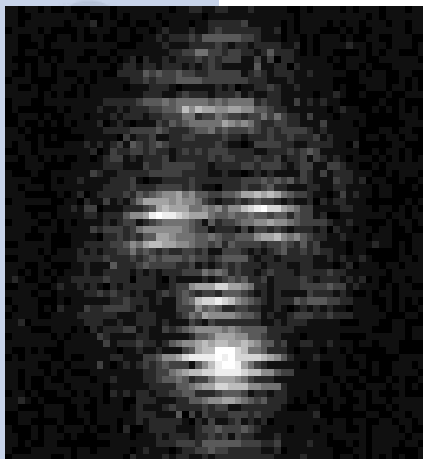
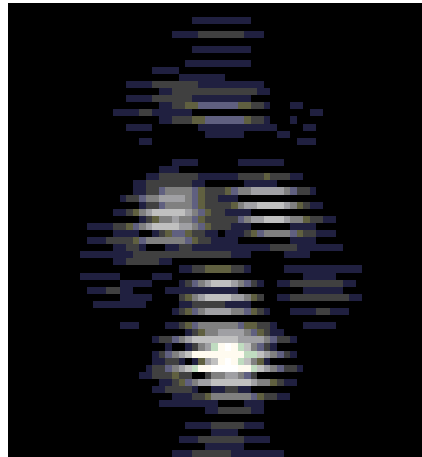
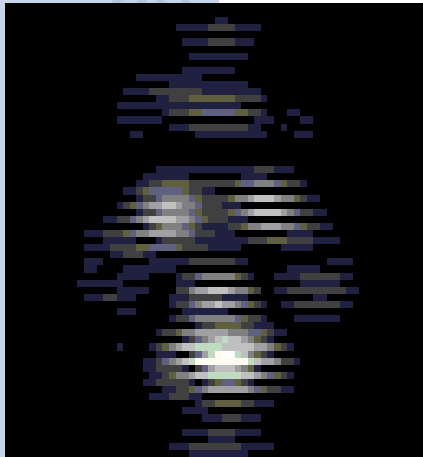
**Gabor-Wavelet**

**measured profile**



- 256 Gradient detectors
- size of receptive field: 17 x 17 Pixel
- T=750ms @ 1ms Pulse-duration

# Simulated Filter responses, $T=750\text{ms}$



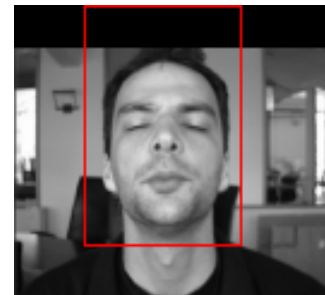
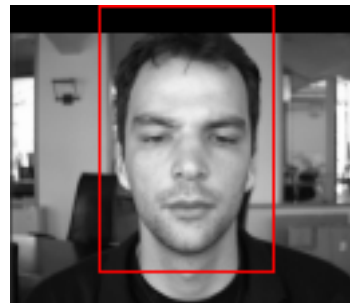
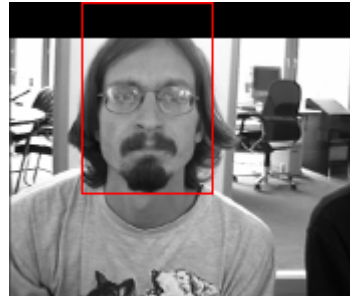
Real  
 $90^\circ$

Imaginary  
 $90^\circ$

Real  
 $0^\circ$

Imaginary  
 $0^\circ$

# The Head-Detector



## Restriction

- single scale (keep eye-distance fixed)

# Check for Robustness in Eye-Brow Zone

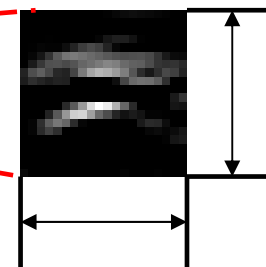
Reference Image



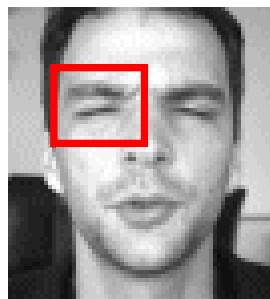
Filter Response,  
horizontal direction



region of  
interest



20x20 Pixel

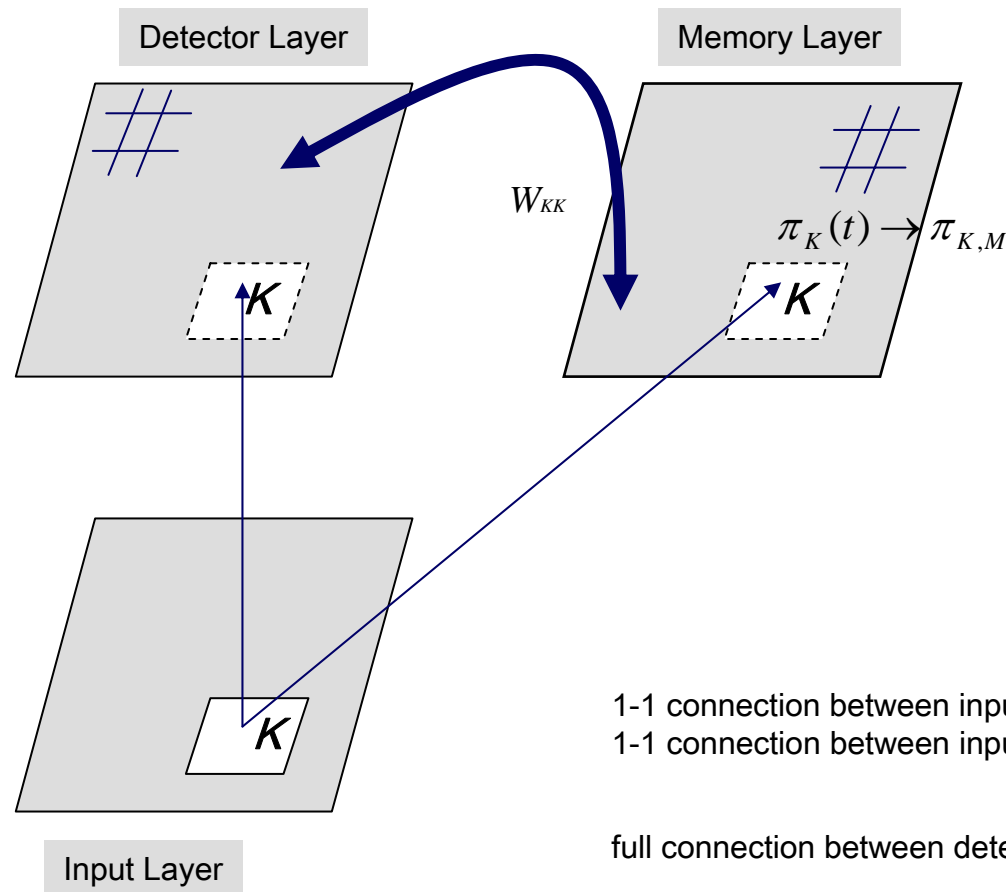


new eye-brow  
image

stop thinking  
Never

# A simple memory (1) , 1 zone

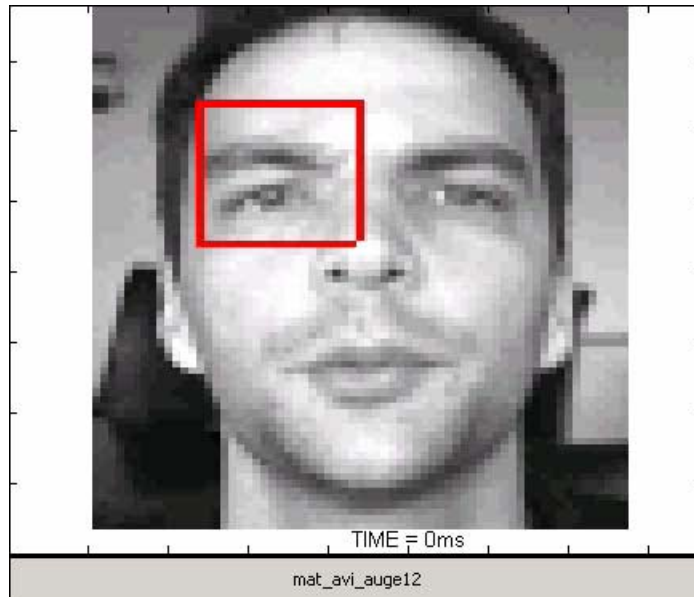
Learning Phase  $\dot{W}_{KL} = -\gamma W_{KL} + \mu \cdot \left( a_K - \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \cdot \chi(X_l) \cdot \exp\left(-(\pi_K(t) - \pi_L(t))^2 / \pi_L^2(t)\right)$



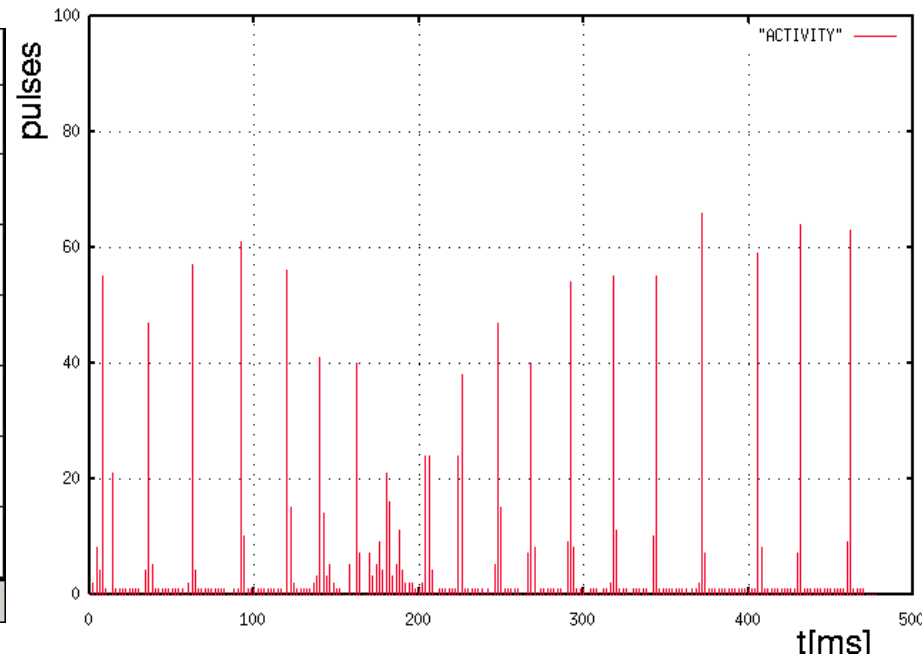


# Experiment 1: learned image in input and memory

**Activity (number of events), 2ms window**

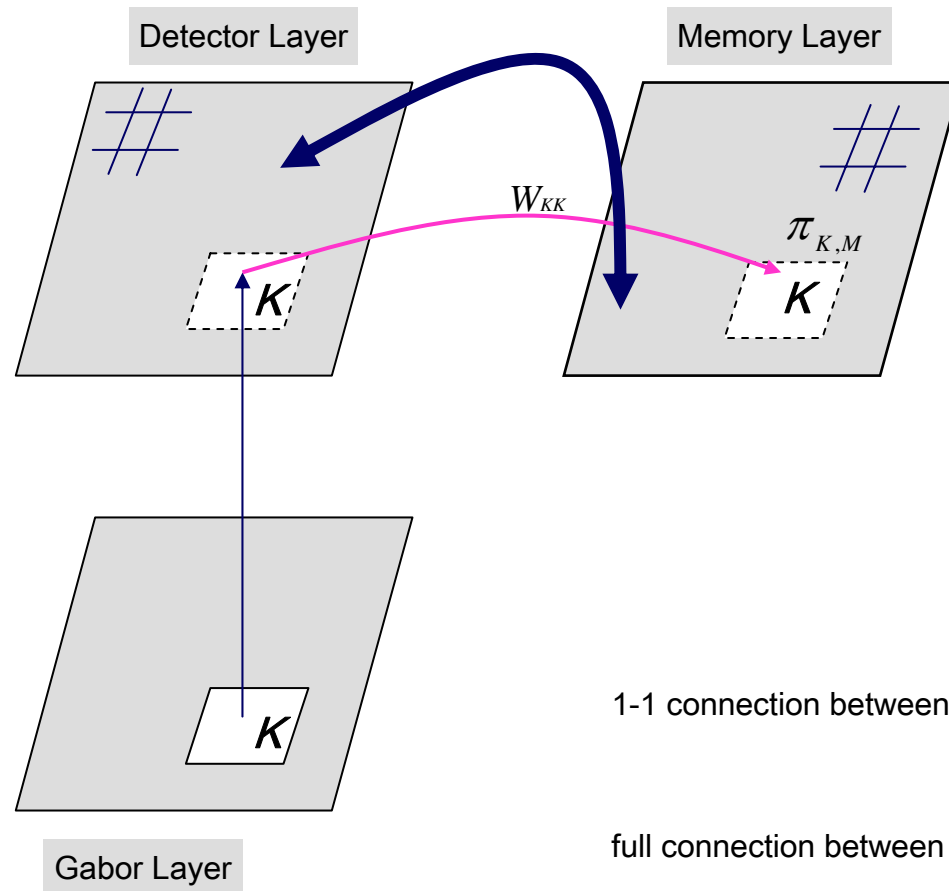


**Pulse-patterns of input-layer**



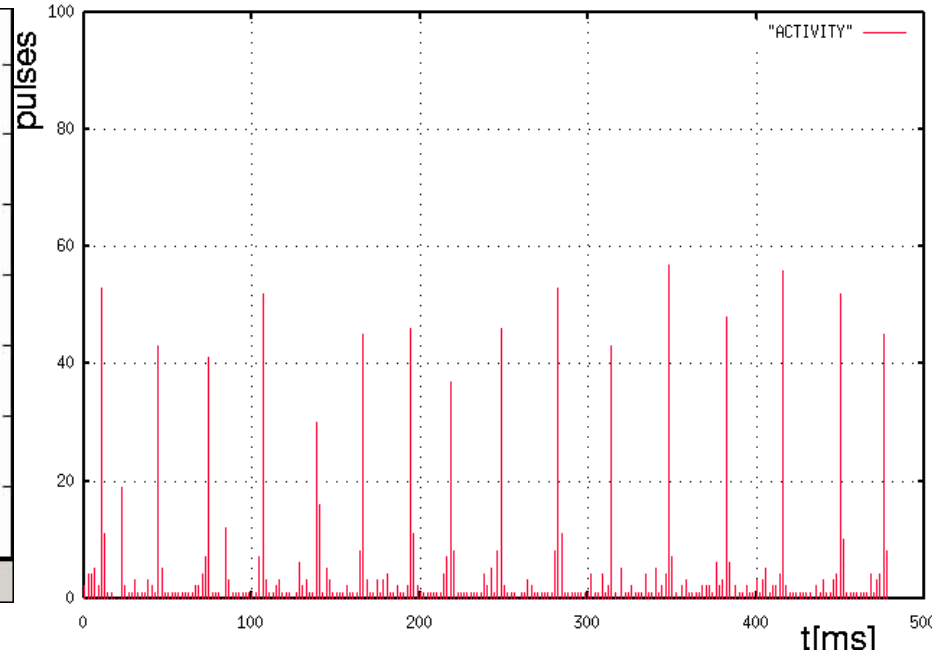
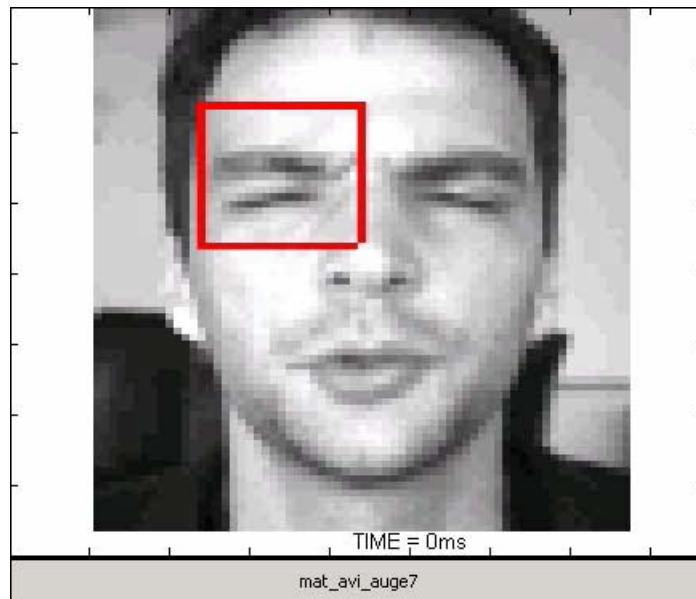
# A simple memory (2), 1 Zone

Recognition Phase  $\dot{W}_{KL} = -\gamma W_{KL} + \mu \cdot \left( a_K - \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \cdot \chi(X_l) \cdot \exp\left(-(\pi_{K,M} - \pi_L(t))^2 / \pi_L^2(t)\right)$



# Experiment 3: recognition of non-learned eye-brow

Activity (number of events), 2ms window

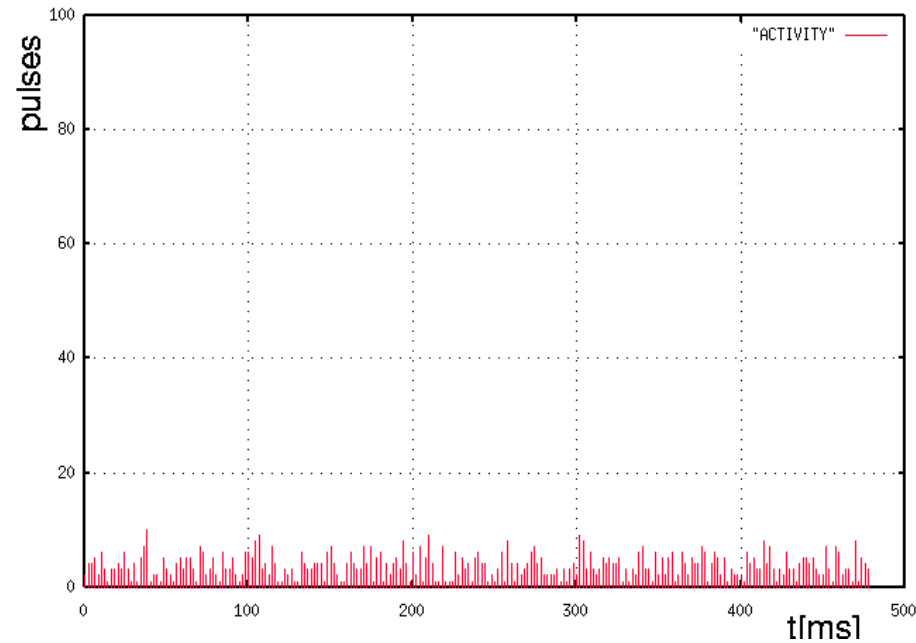
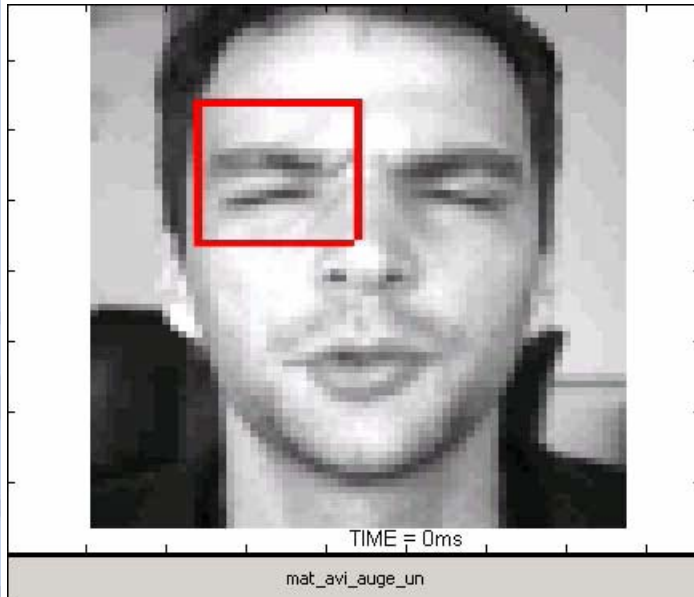


Pulse-patterns of input-layer

# Experiment 2: Isolated neurons

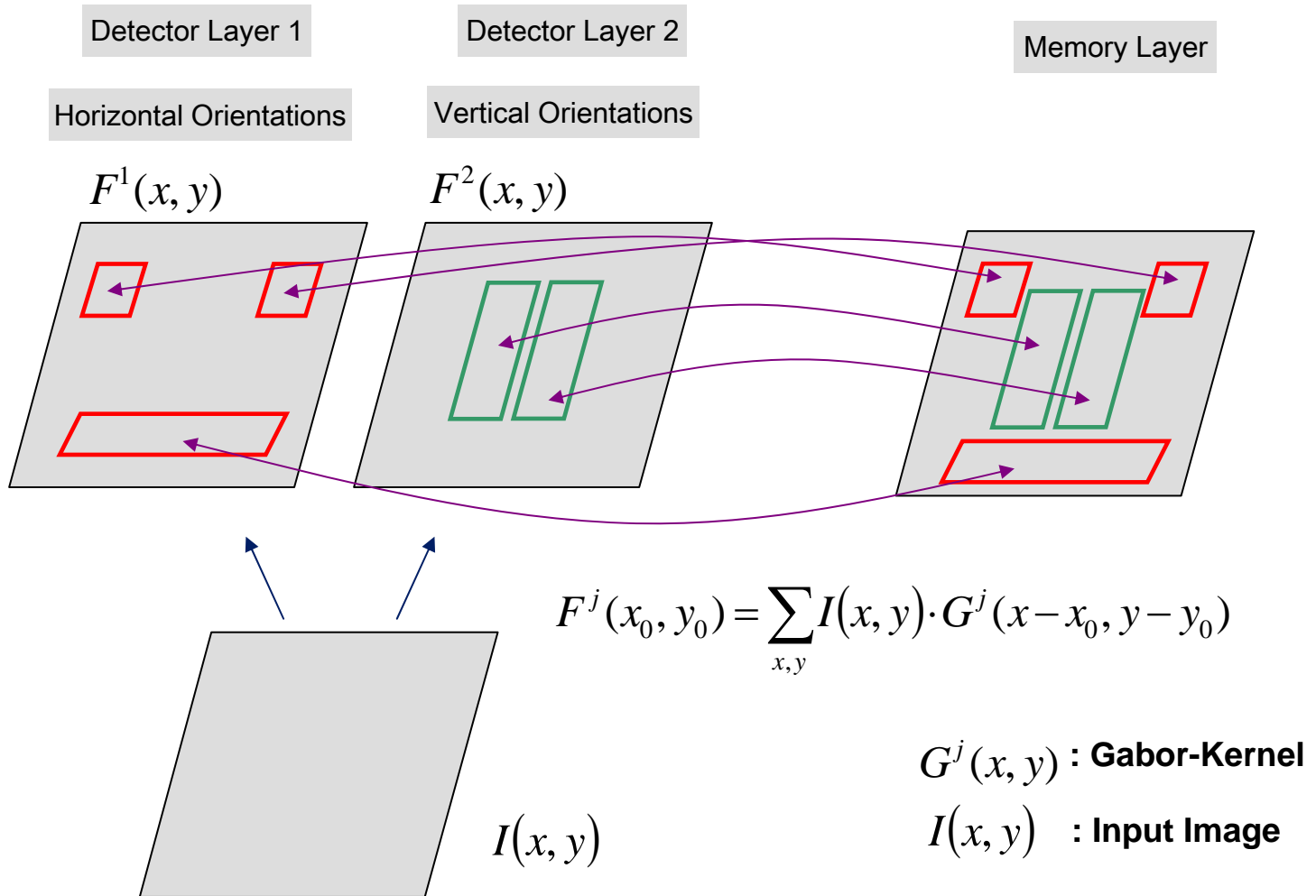
Never stop thinking

Activity (number of events), 2ms window

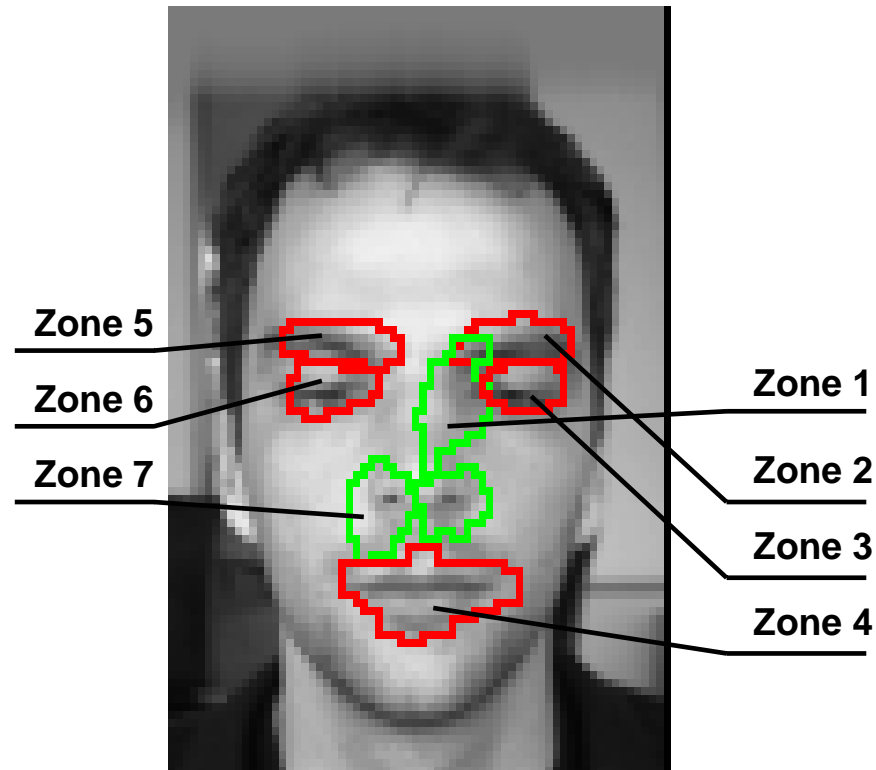


Pulse-patterns of input-layer



# Zone-Architecture I



# Zone-Architecture II



Zuordnung: Zonen zu Bildregionen

-  : Zone für Gabor-Wavlet mit horizontaler Orientierung
-  : Zone für Gabor-Wavlet mit vertikaler Orientierung

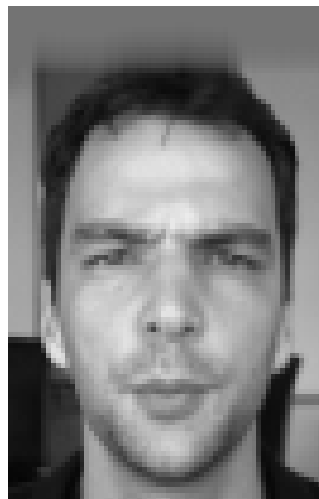
# Reference-Image and Test-Images

---

Reference-Image:



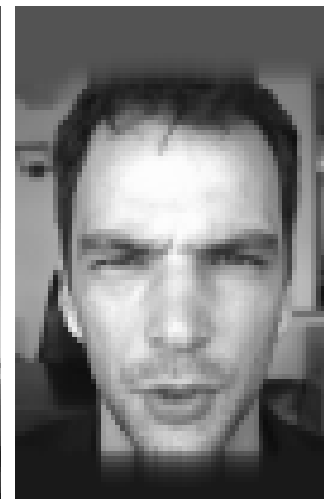
Test-Images:



**Face 0001**



**Face 0011**

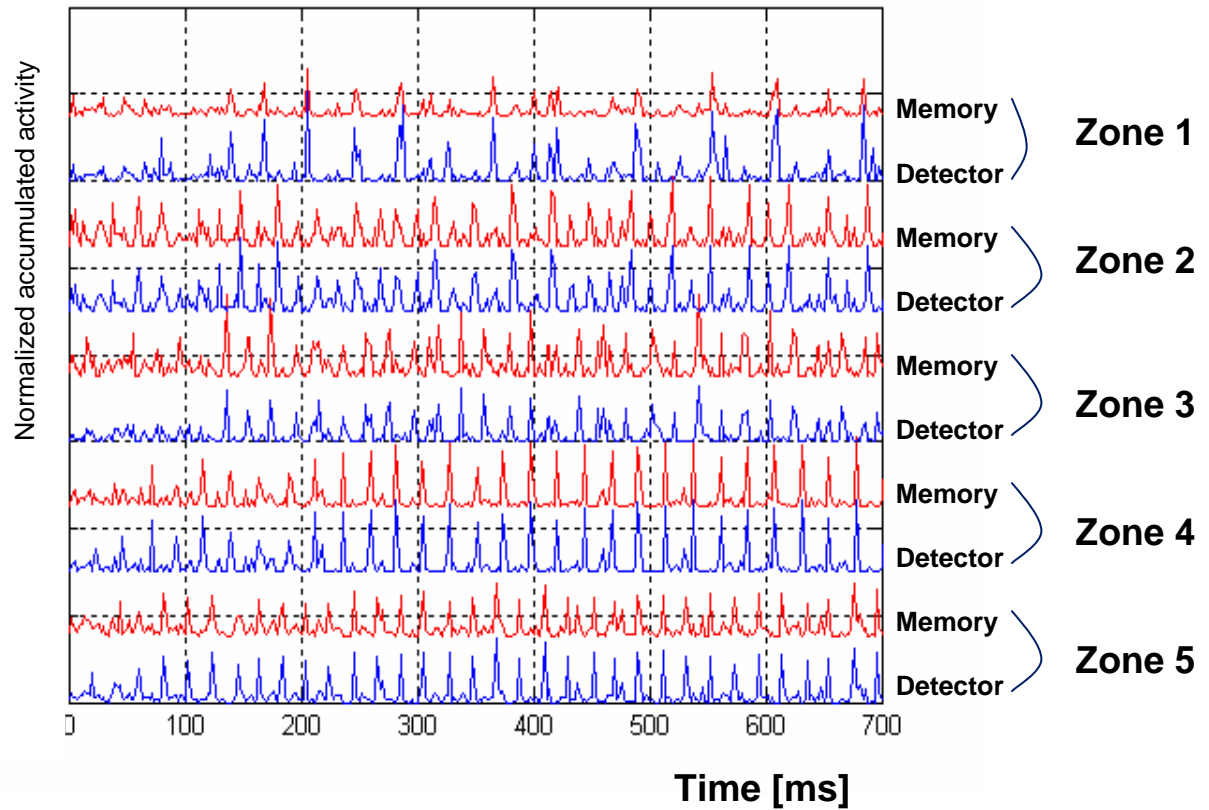
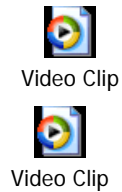


**Face 0014**

# Face 0001

Never stop thinking

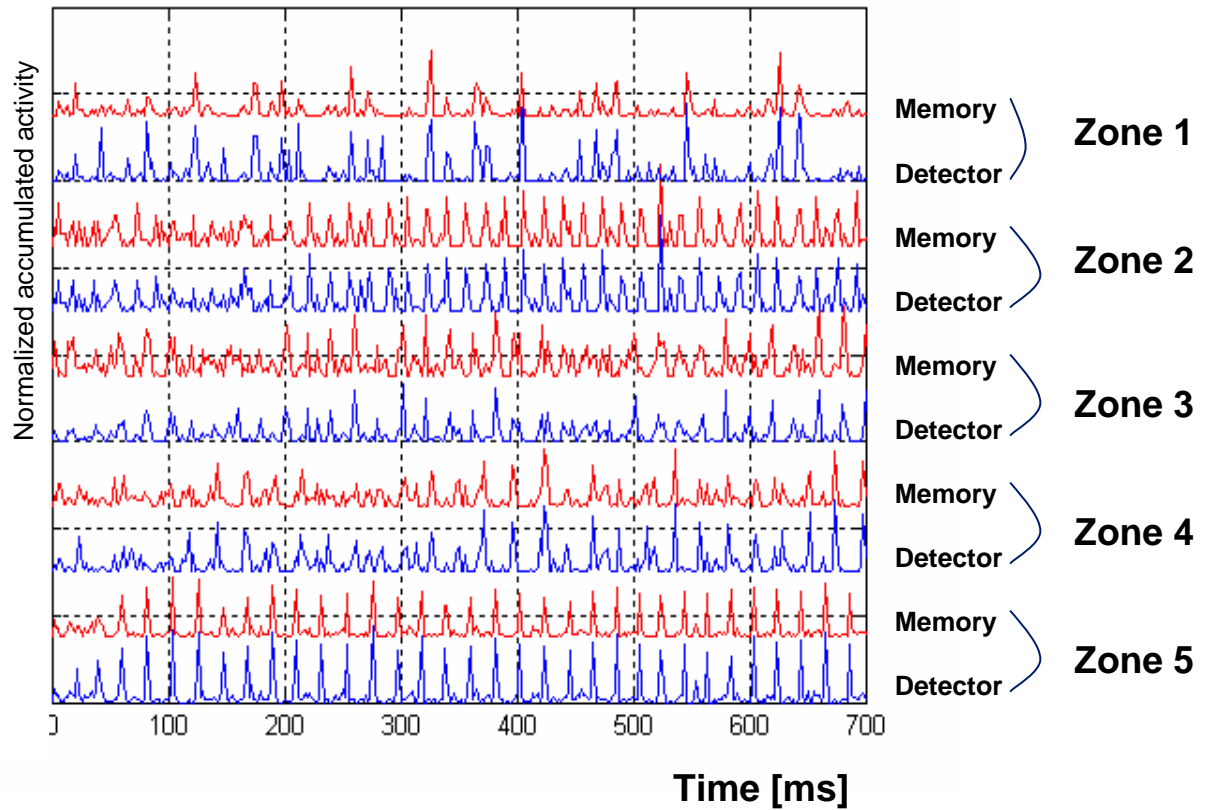
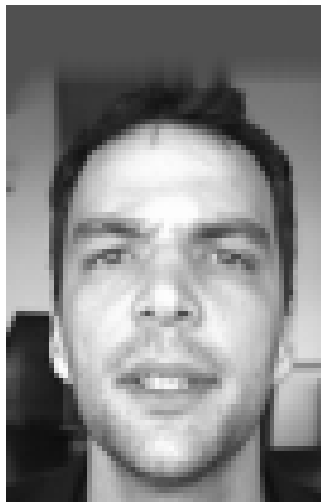
## Activity-Diagram





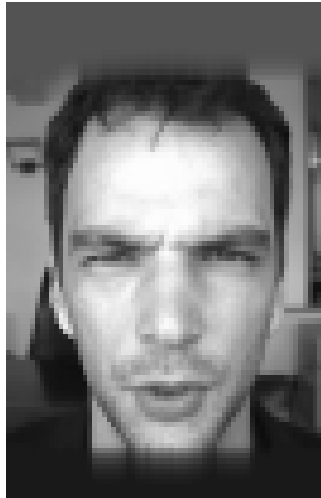
Never stop thinking

## Activity-Diagram



Never stop thinking

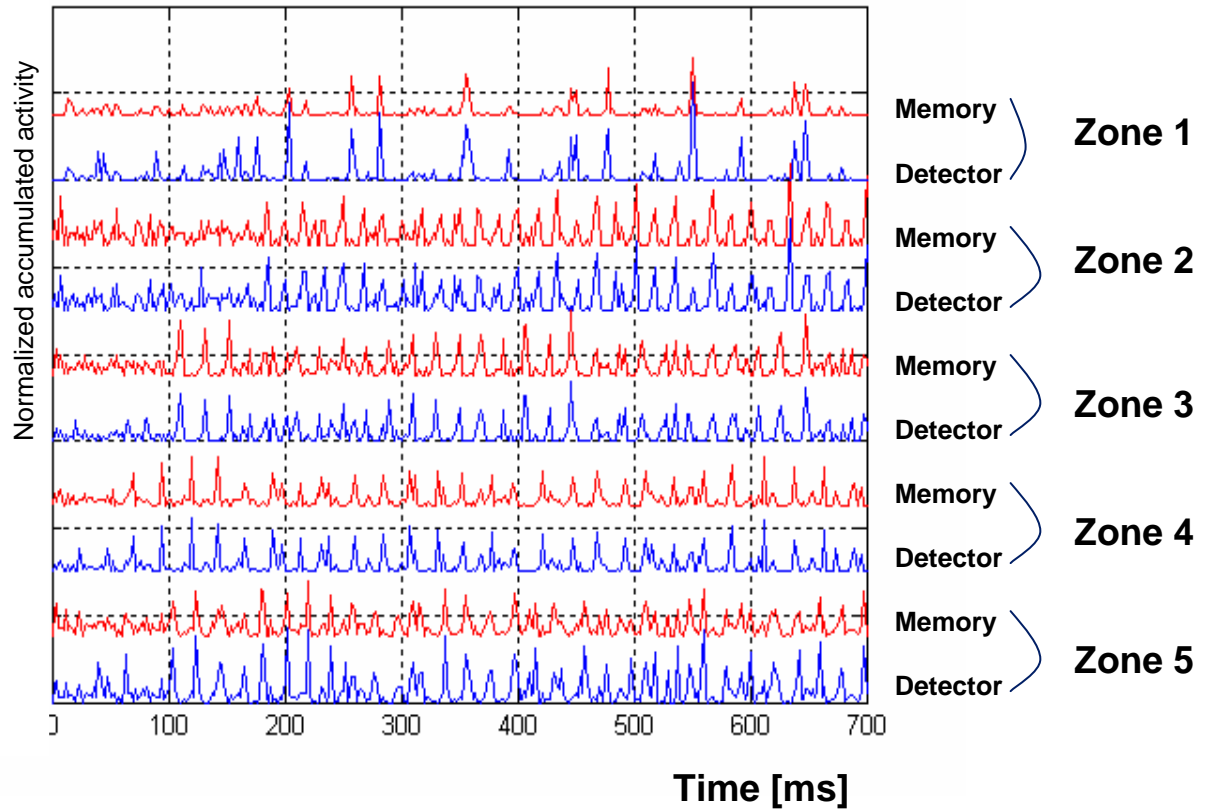
## Activity-Diagram



Video Clip

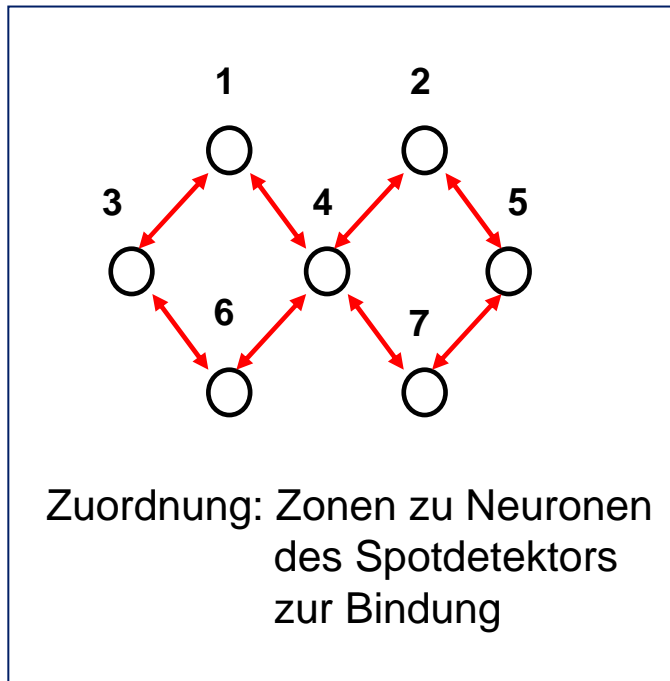


Video Clip

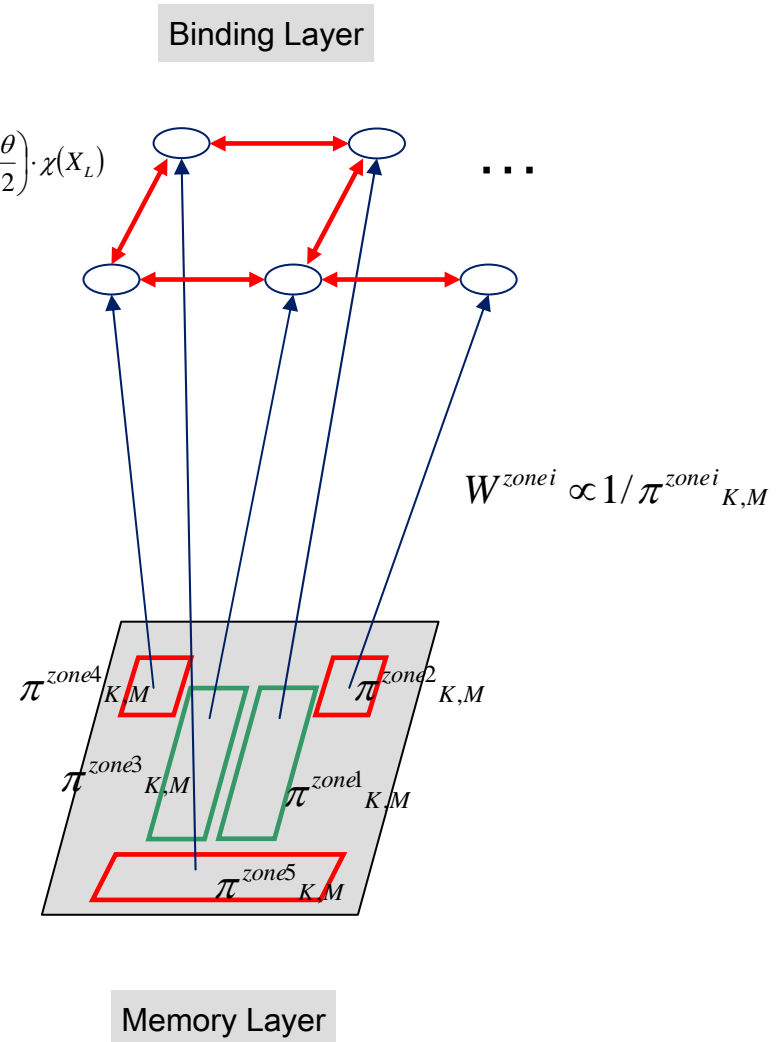


# Binding of zones by synchrony

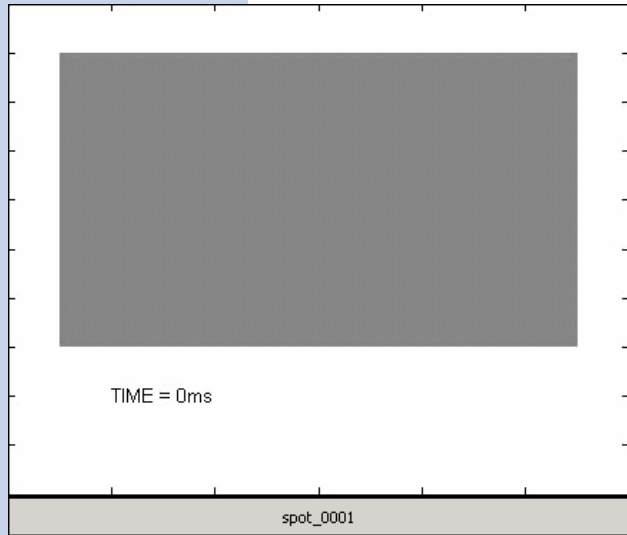
Never stop thinking



$$\dot{W}_{KL} = -\gamma W_{KL} + \mu \cdot \left( a_K - \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \cdot \chi(X_L)$$

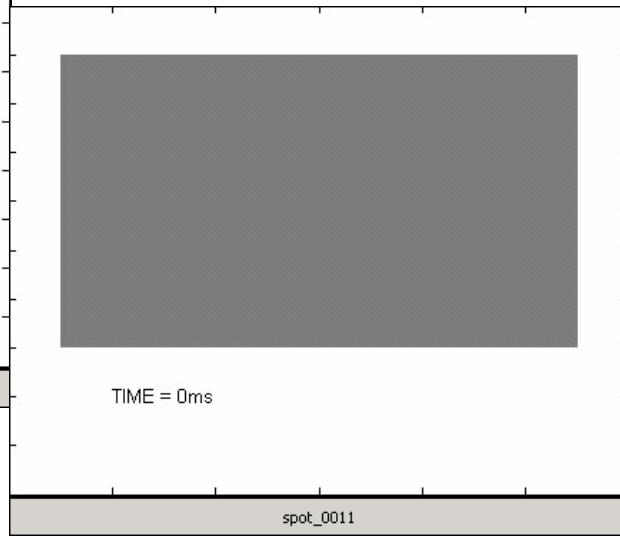


# Results



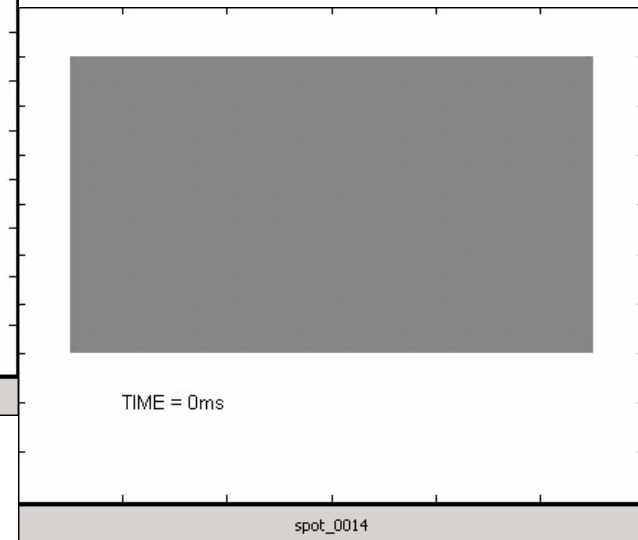
~ 40ms

Spot\_0001



~ 40ms

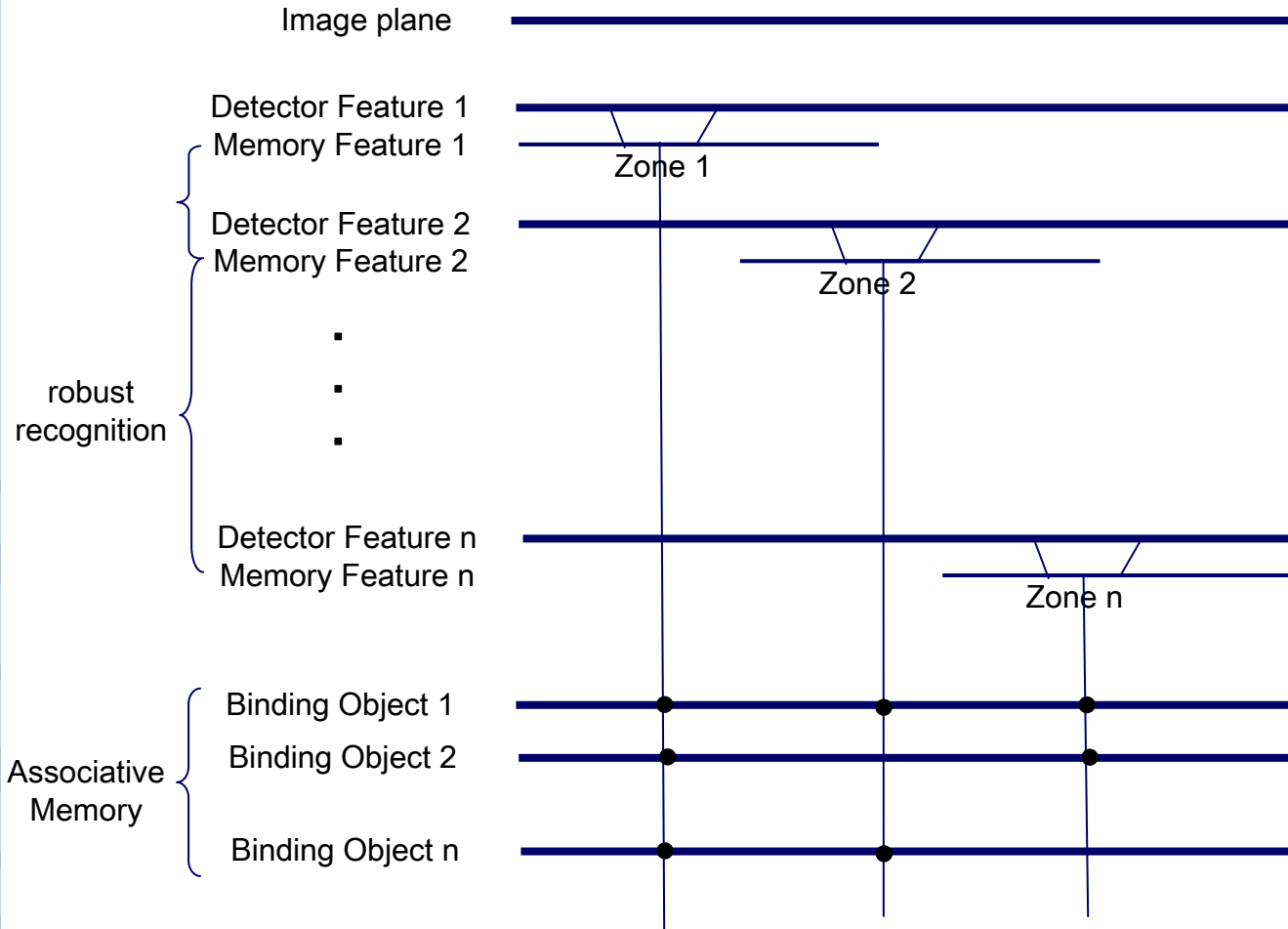
Spot\_0011



~ 40ms

Spot\_0014

# Column Architecture



# The vision: a 3D-Vision-Cube

Never stop thinking

- 3D-stacking-architecture
- Low-power
- Real time capabilities
- Integration of sensors and information processing
- Distributes layers of information processing to layers of the stack
- Solves problem of connectivity

## The Vision-Cube

CMOS-sensor, sensor array

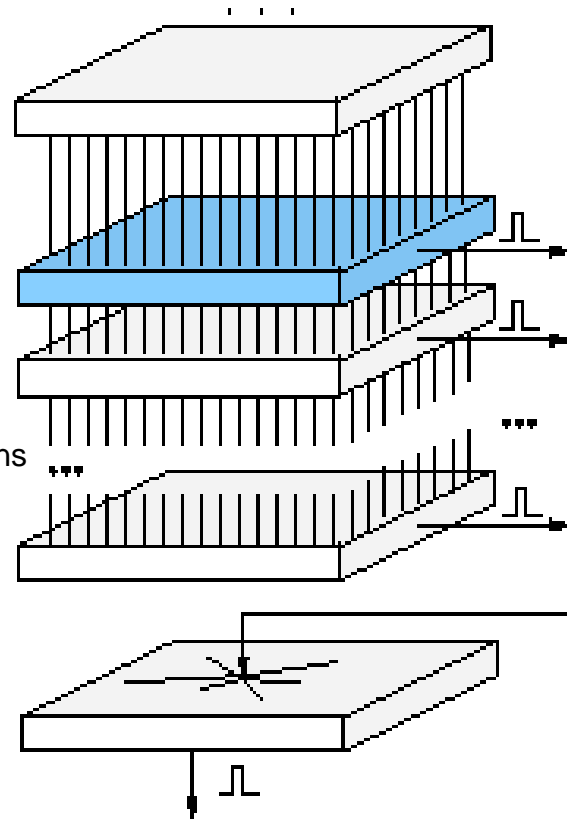
Analogue-pulse conversion

Feature-Detection

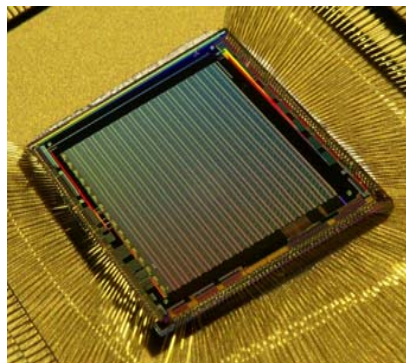
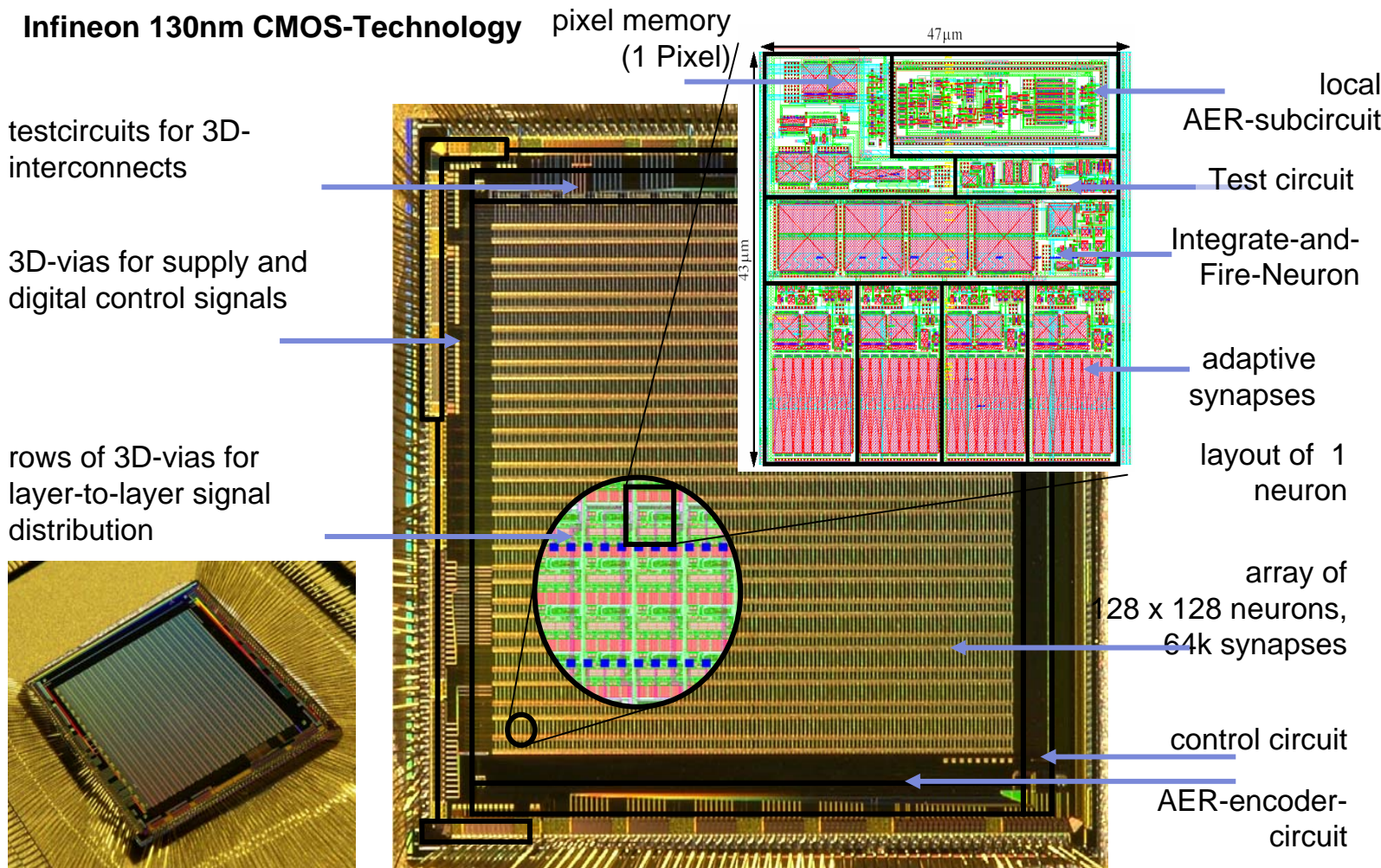
Gabor-Wavelets, different orientations

...

Object-recognition  
Object-detection



# Design of a testchip for the „Synchrony detector“, Base-Chip for the 3D-Stack



Power consumption: 3mW @1.5V (analog) , 40-250mW @1.5V (digital)  
Size: 7.6mm x 7.8mm

# Gabor-Feature-Detector chip (layout) including a pulse router for the 3D-integration

## Infineon 130nm CMOS-Technology

Array of 128x128 (64k) processing elements for pulse processing and -routing

Processing element:

- photo-Detector
- pulse-processing (gradient detection)
- dynamic routing of pulses

3D- wiring channel for vertical

signal distribution

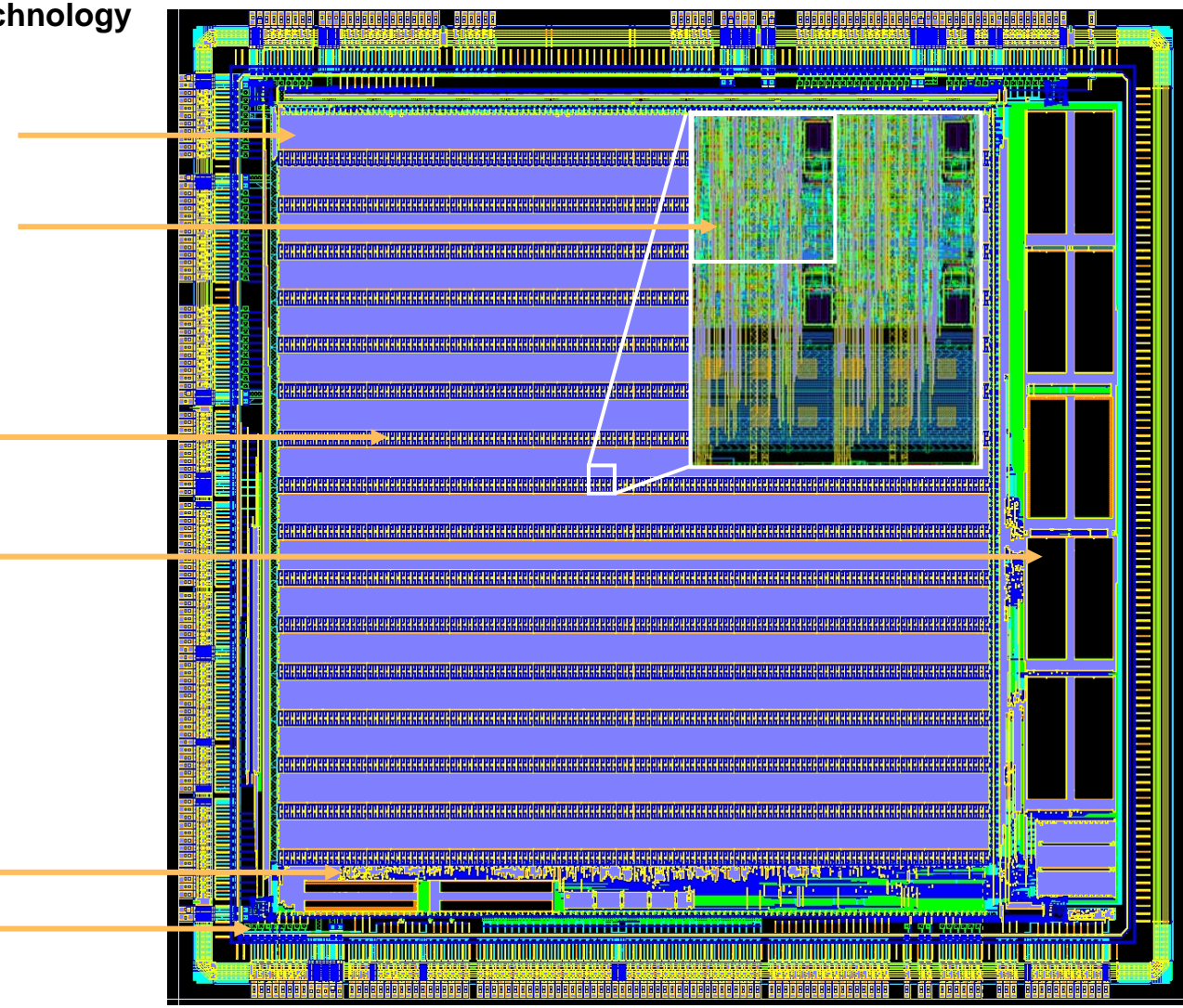
SRAM for storing routing

information

Digital macro:

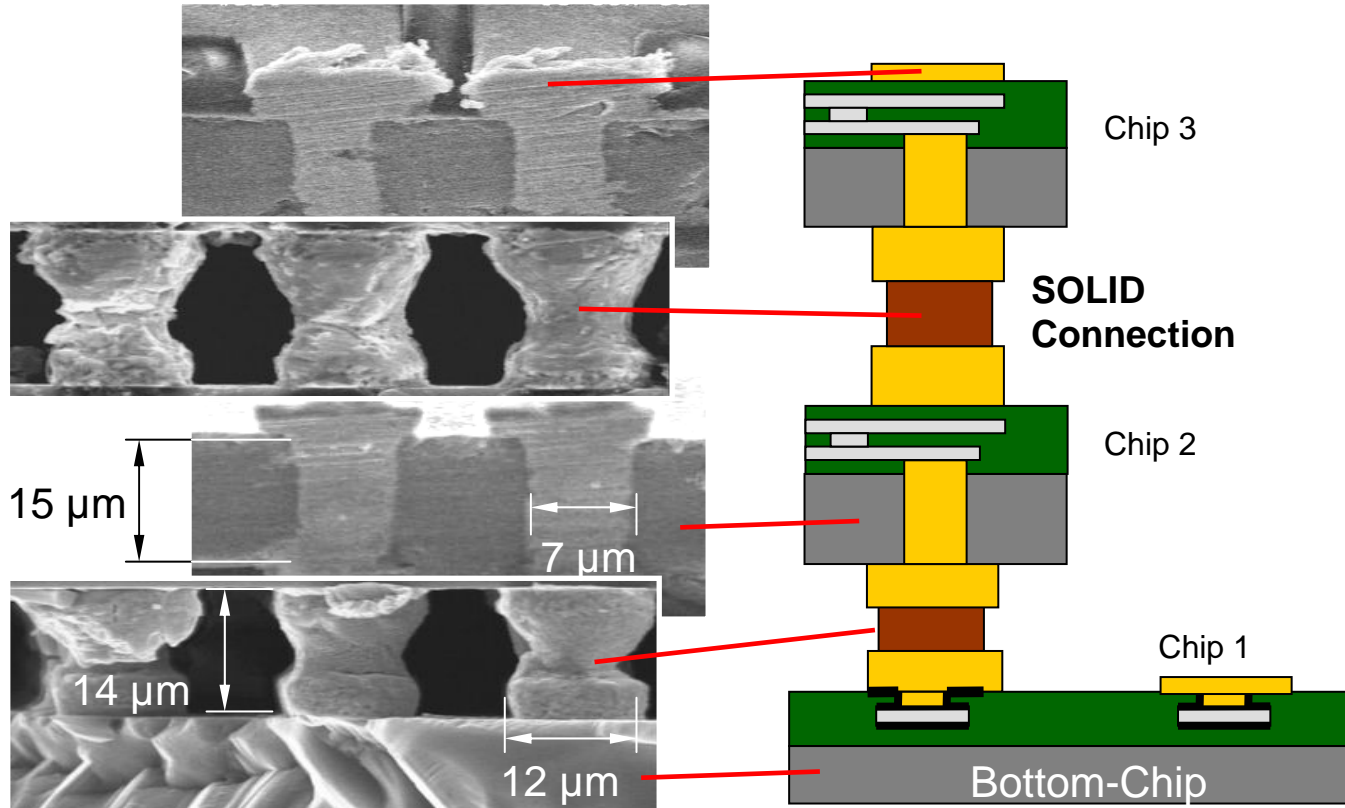
- routing circuit
- configuration
- AER-circuit (event based)

3D- wiring for power supply and control signals



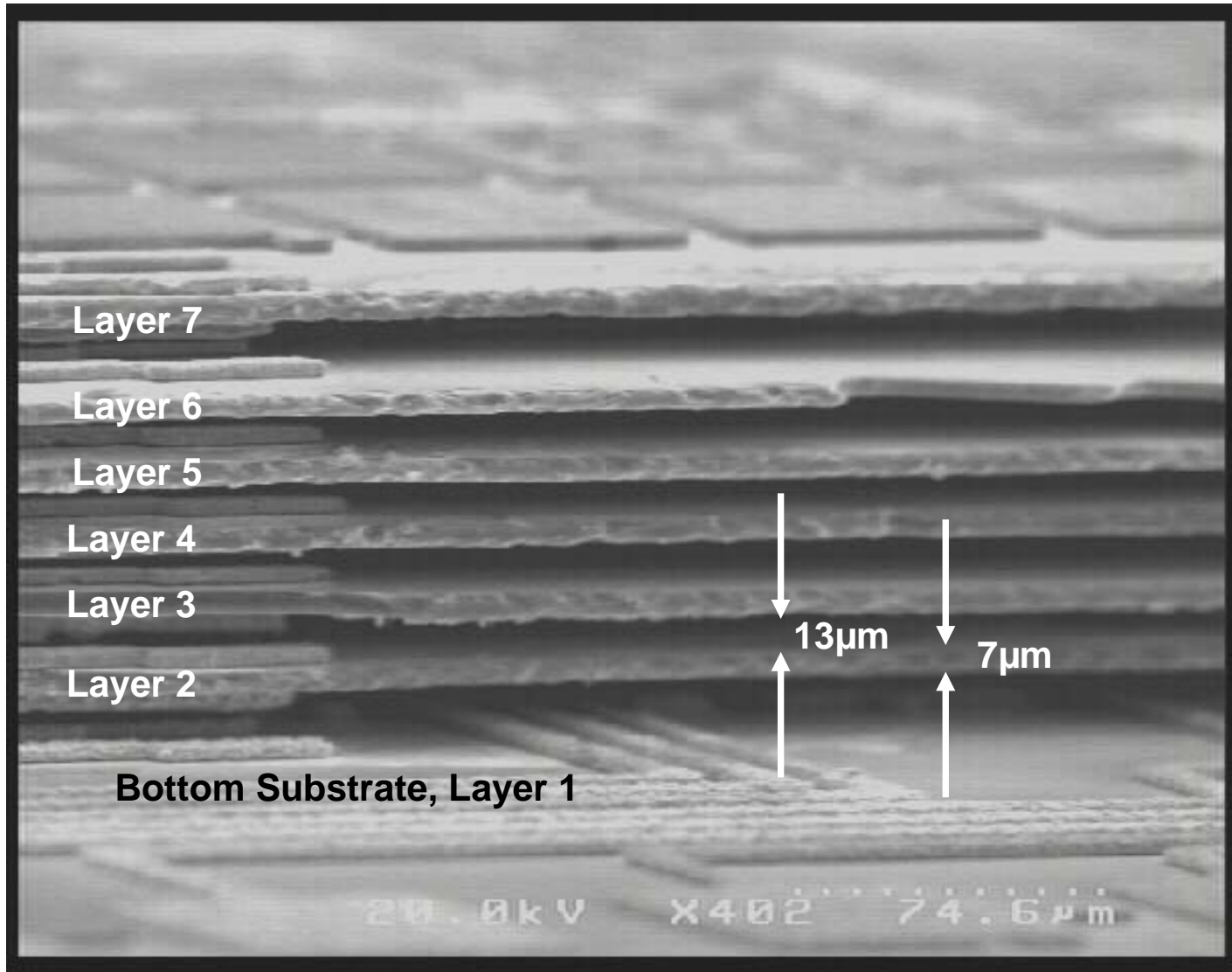


# 3D-Stacking



# Real 3D !!

Never stop thinking



# Conclusion

---

- IAF neurons, adaptive synapses, only
- network built for
  - Gabor wavelet based feature cascade
  - memory
  - comparison of memory and detector plane
- synchrony of neurons indicative for
  - robust recognition of memory feature at detector plane (elastic matching)
  - binding of features as object
- built in 130 nm CMOS
  - synchrony detector
  - Gabor wavelet detector
  - 3 D stack of 7 silicon chips