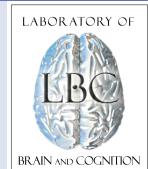


# Layer specific fMRI: Limits, I am struggling with

Renzo (Laurentius) Huber



SFIM, NIMH, Bethesda, MD, United States  
under Peter Bandettini

July 27<sup>th</sup> 2018

# Spatial scales in neuroscience

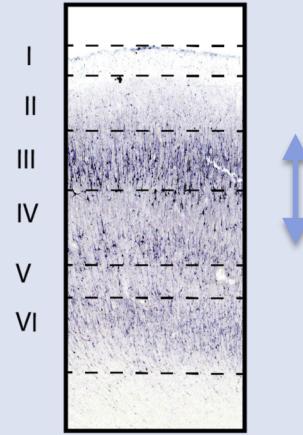
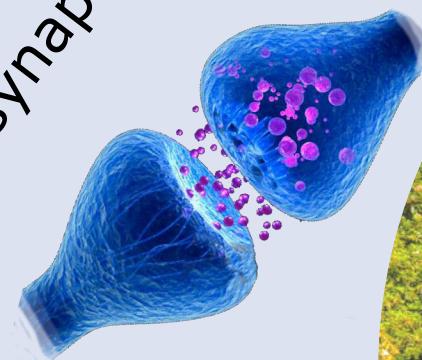
## layers & columns

100 neurons



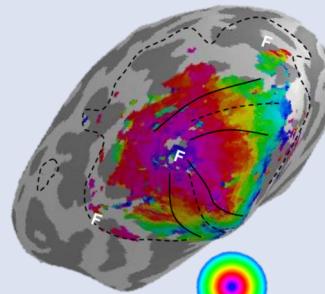
neuron

synapses

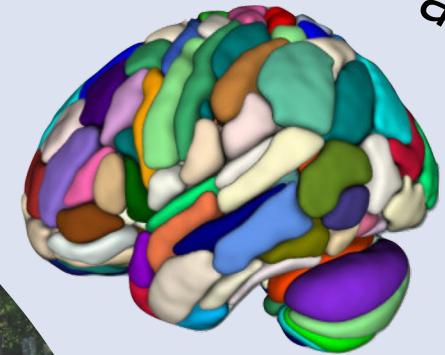


700  $\mu\text{m}$

within-areas



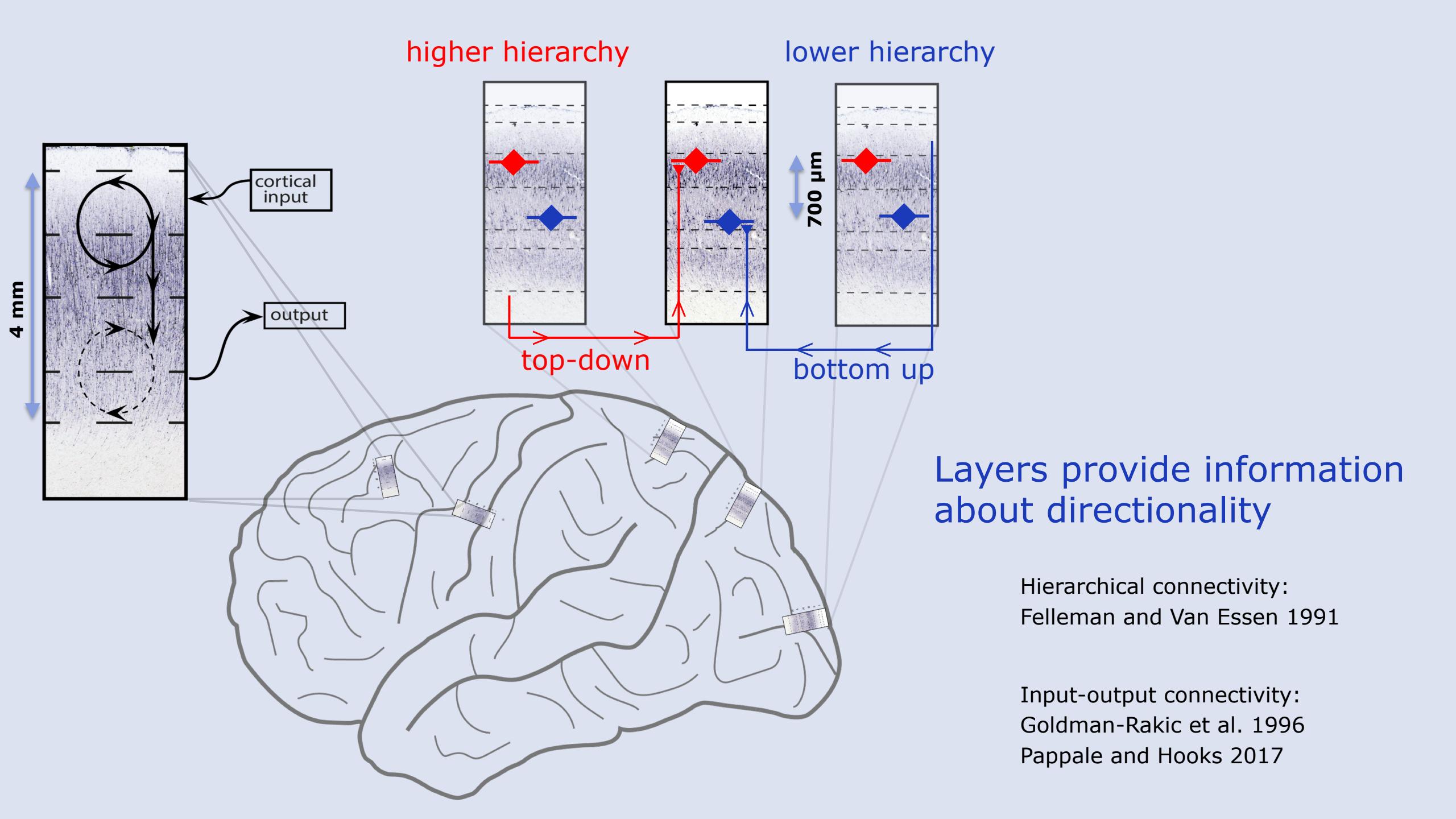
brain areas



behavior

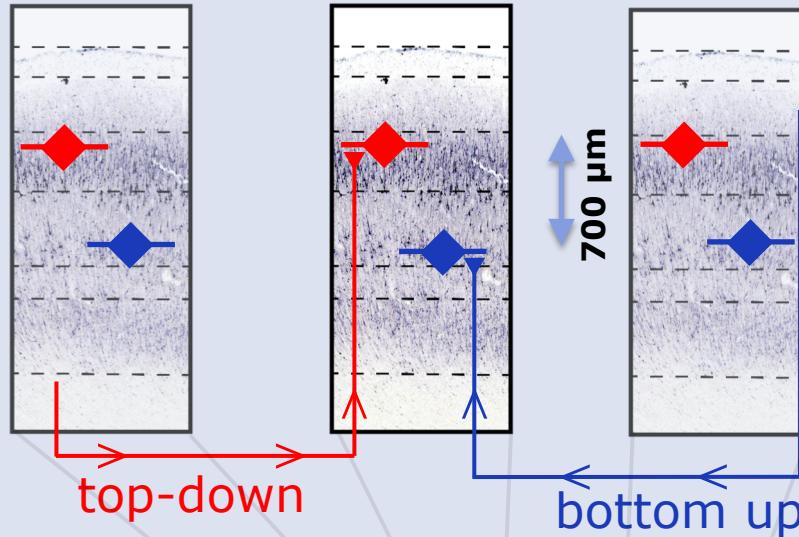
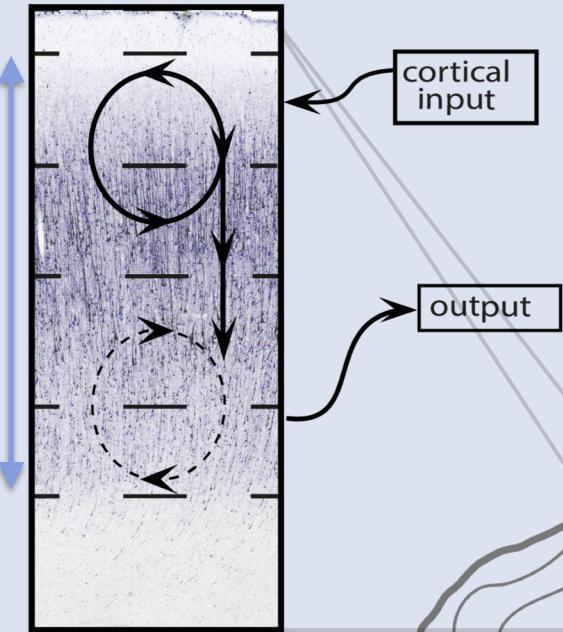


bridge metaphor idea from  
Eric Wong and Bruce Rosen



higher hierarchy

lower hierarchy



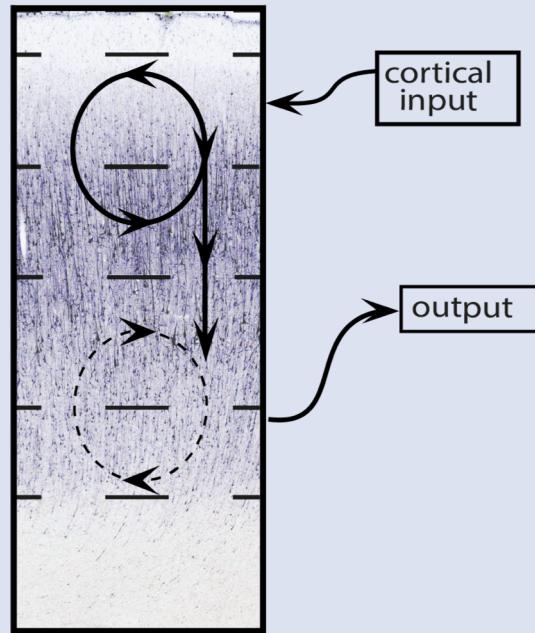
Layers provide information about directionality

Hierarchical connectivity:  
Felleman and Van Essen 1991

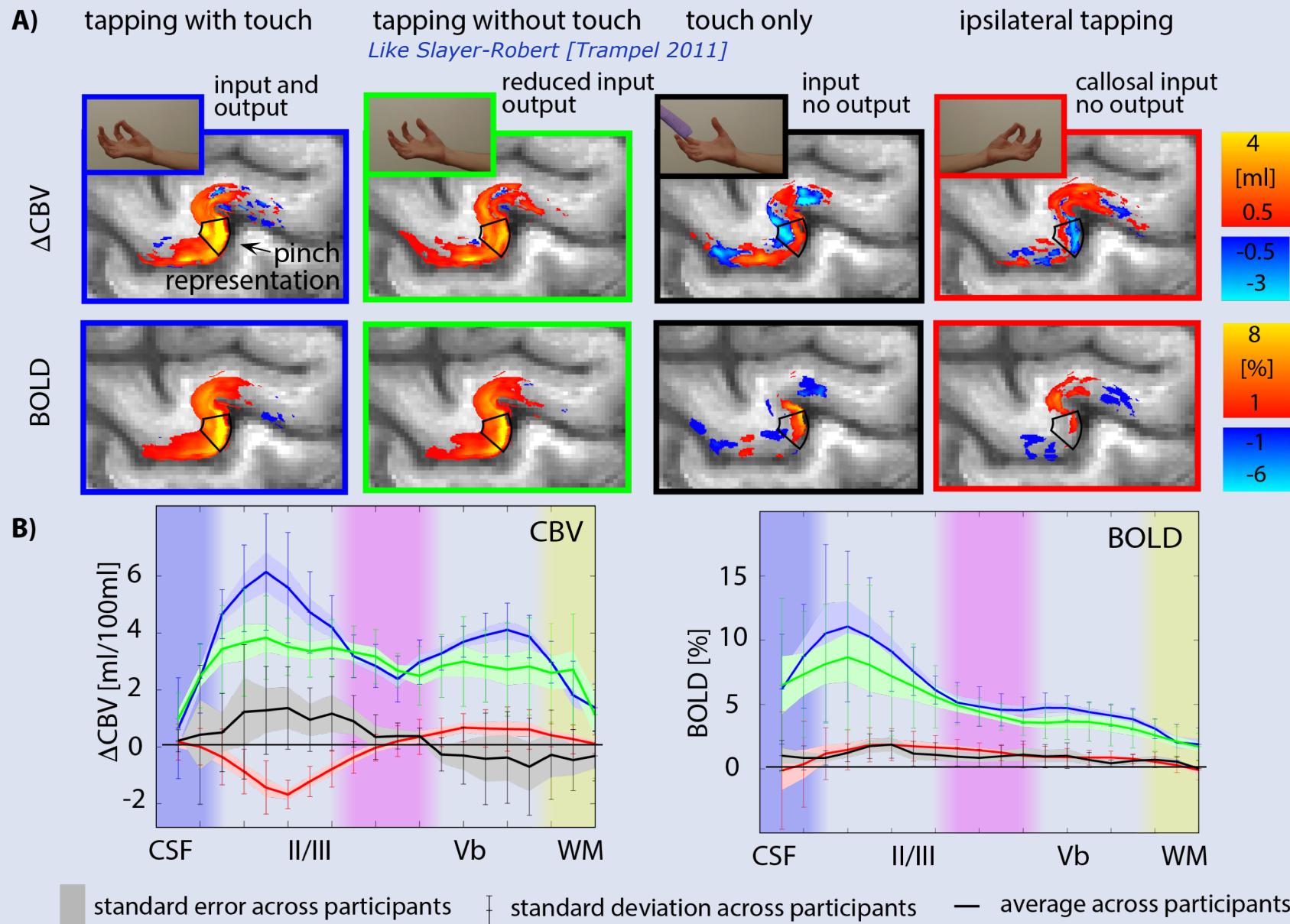
Input-output connectivity:  
Goldman-Rakic et al. 1996  
Pappale and Hooks 2017

# Input vs. output in M1

N=9 participants

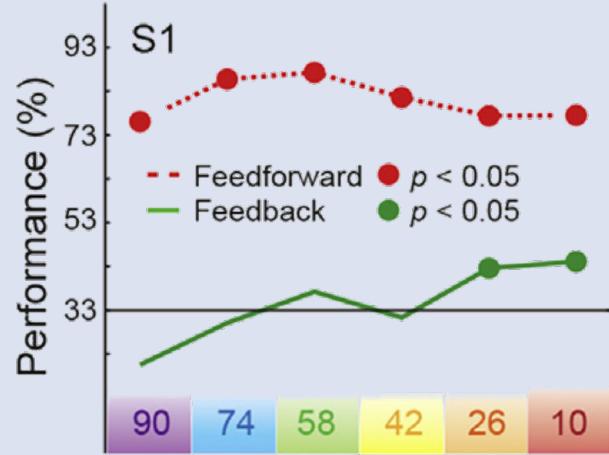


[Weiler, et al., 2008; Papale and Hooks, 2017, Mao, 2011]

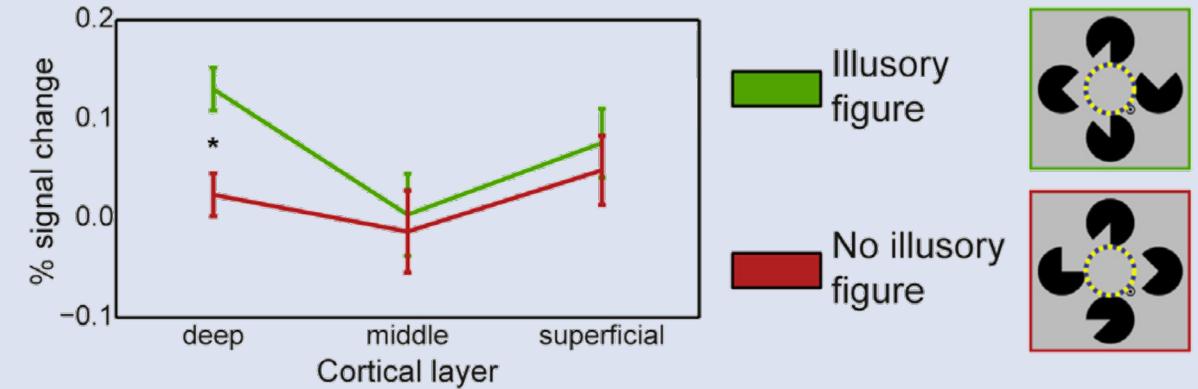


# Layer fMRI in visual cortex

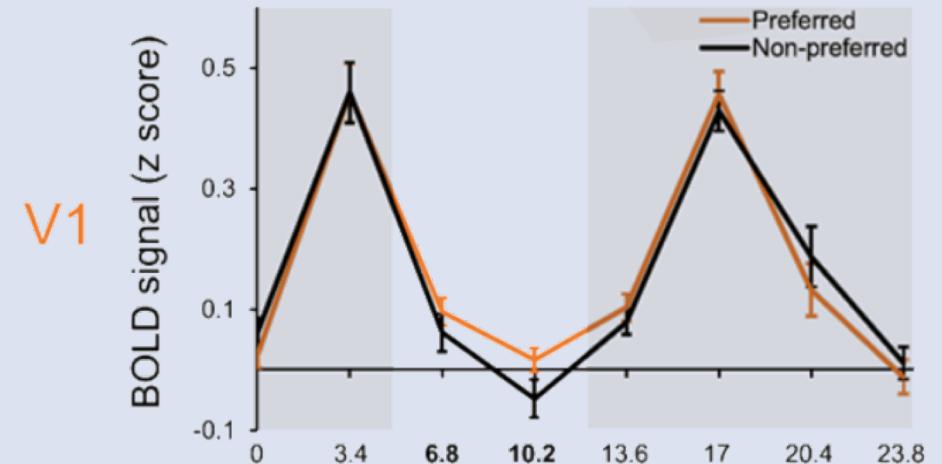
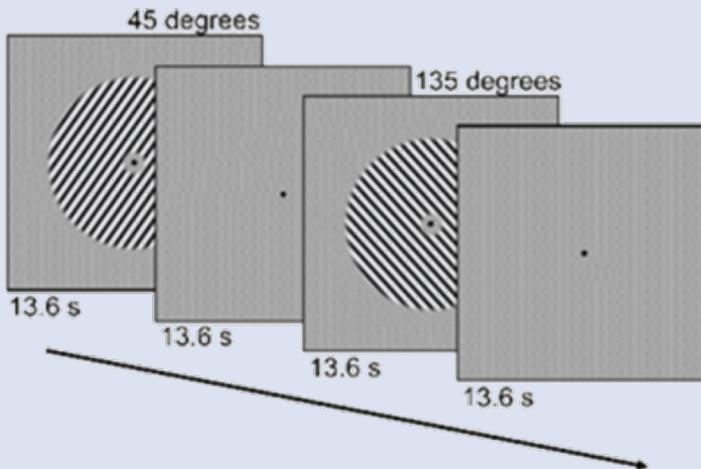
Muckli, Curr Biol, 2015



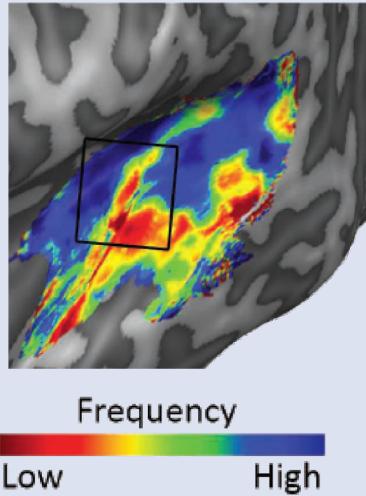
Kok, Curr Biol, 2015



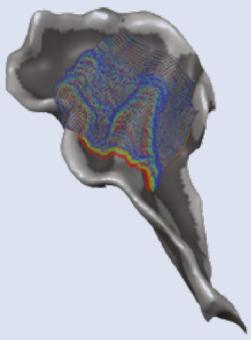
Lawrence et al., 2018



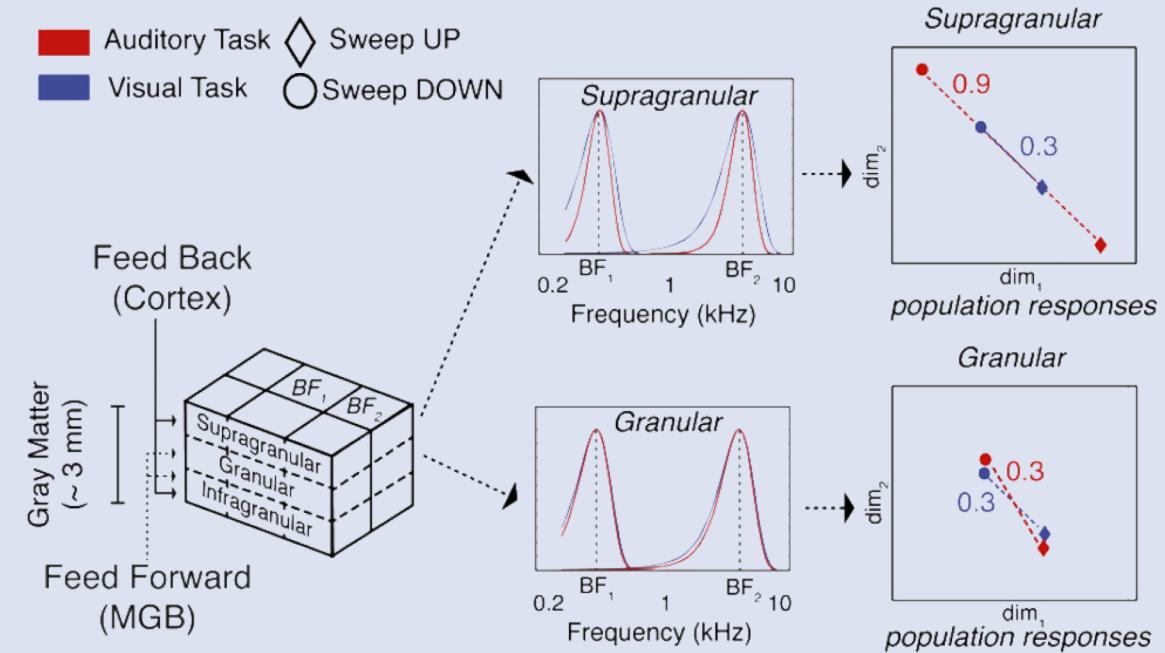
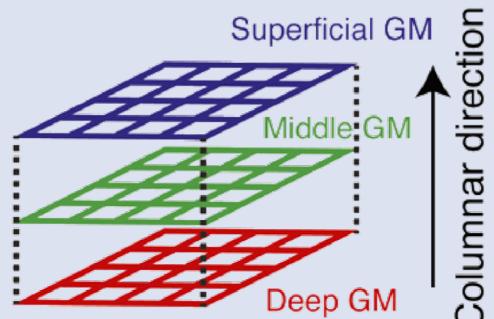
# Layer fMRI in auditory cortex



Moerel et al., 2014

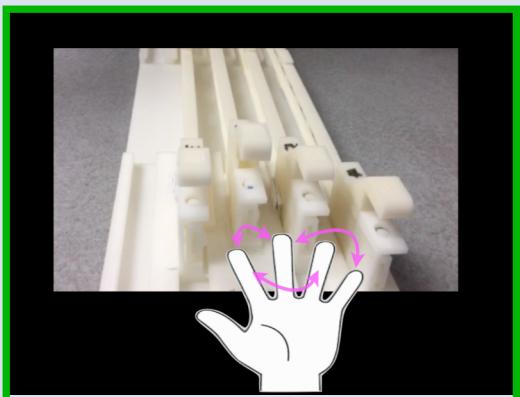
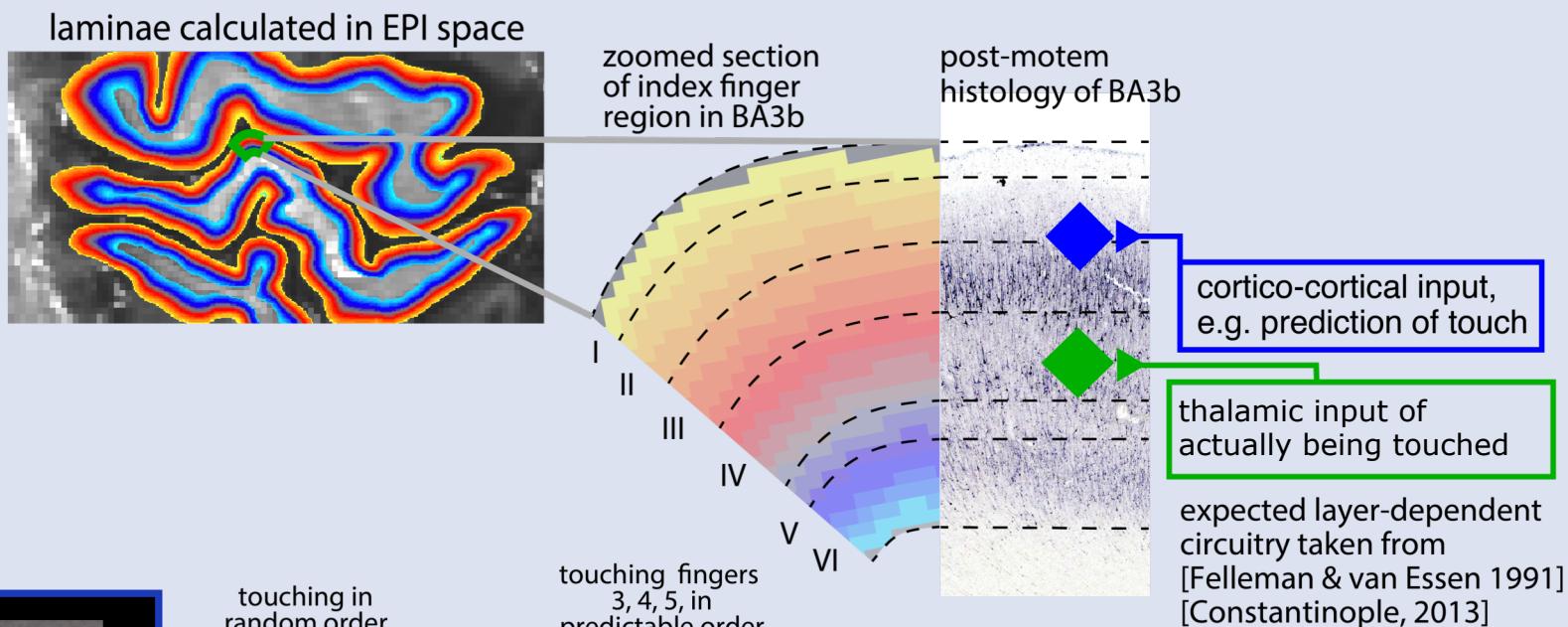


De Martino et al., 2015



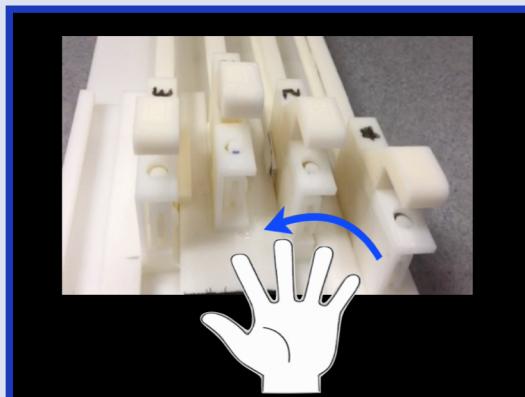
# Layer-fMRI in somatosensory cortex

In collaboration with **Yinguha Yu**



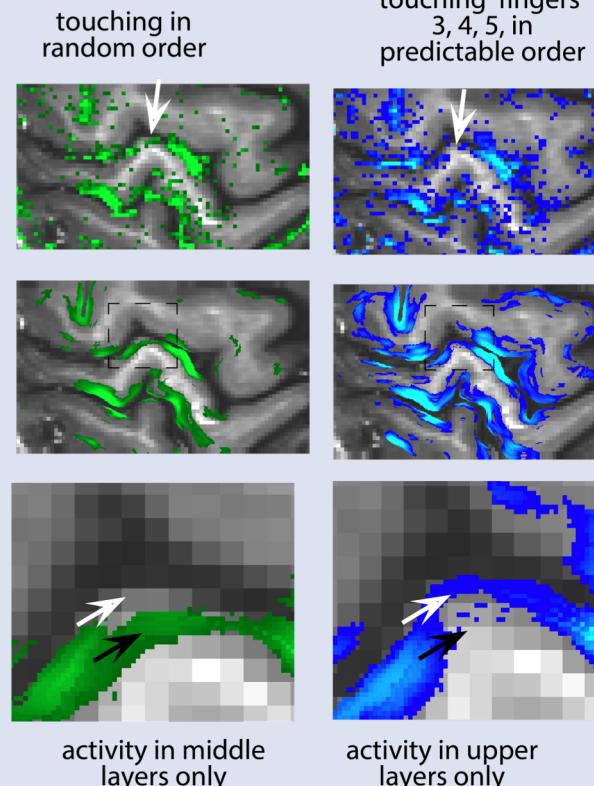
random touching  
of all fingers

index finger is  
touched  
(unexpectedly)

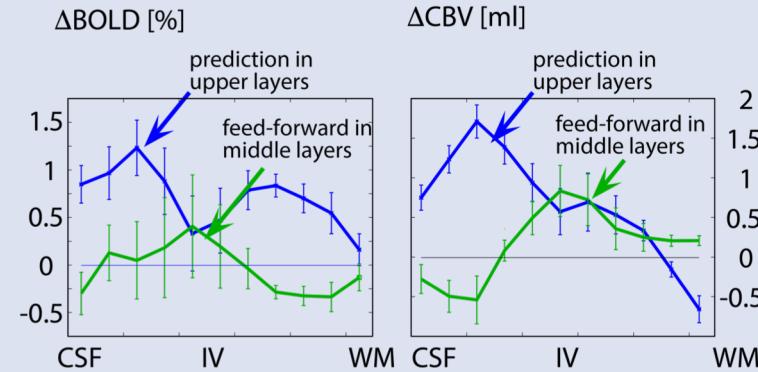


touching sequence  
of fingers 3,4,5

index finger is  
expected to be  
touched only



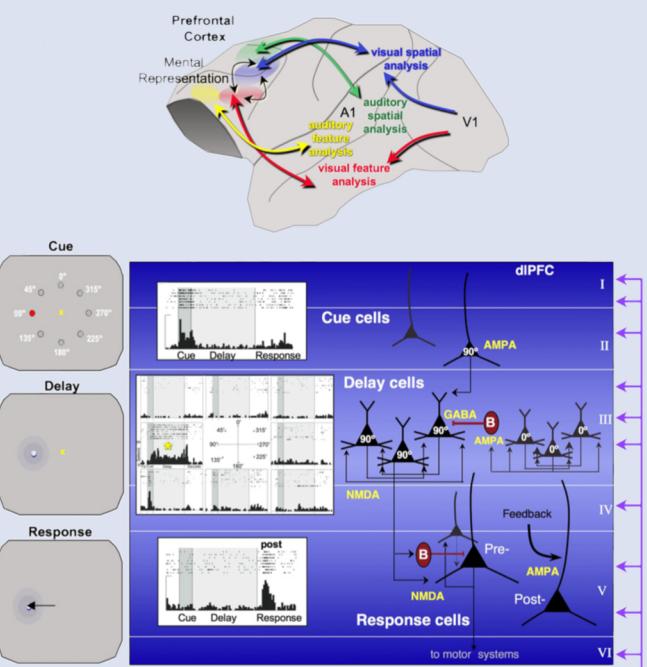
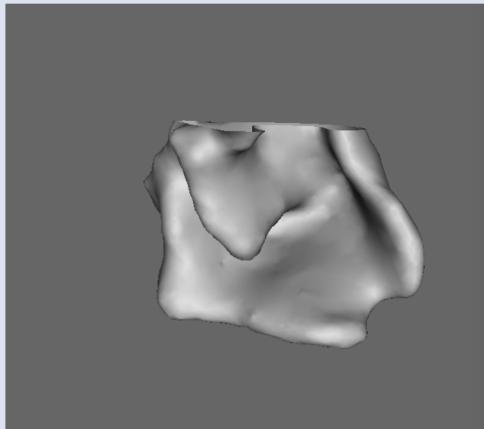
N=6 participants



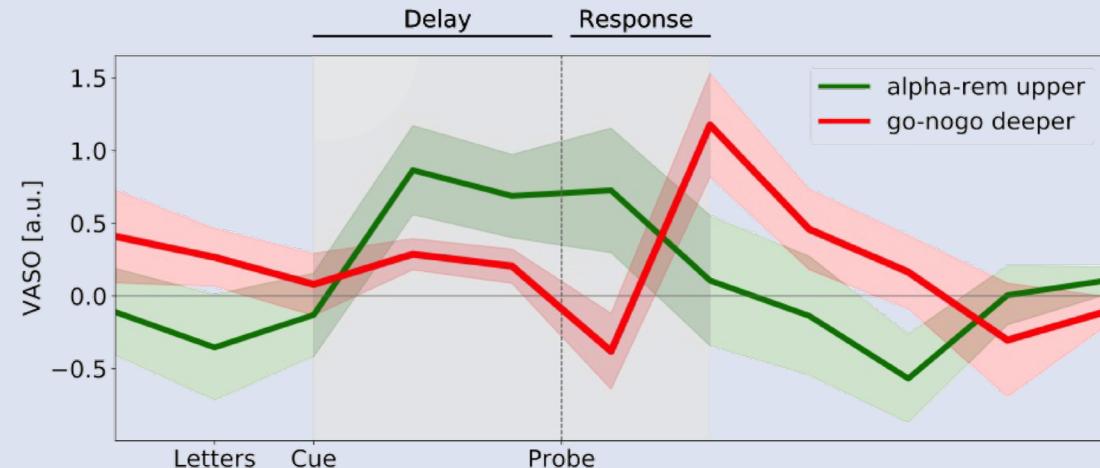
— feed-forward from thalamus (random touch)  
— prediction (difference of touch with and without prediction)

# Layer fMRI in cognitive area DLPFC

geometry



N = 6 participants

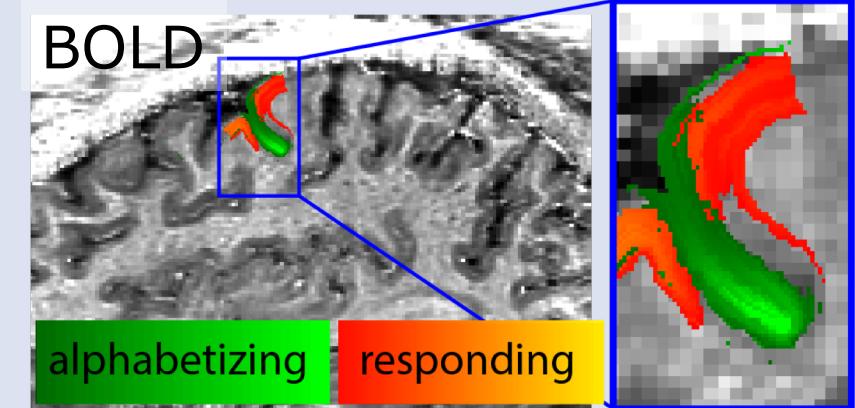
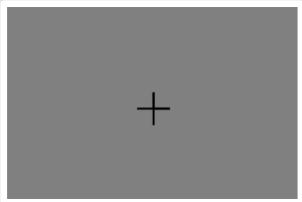
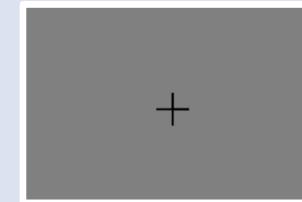


In collaboration with **Emily Finn**

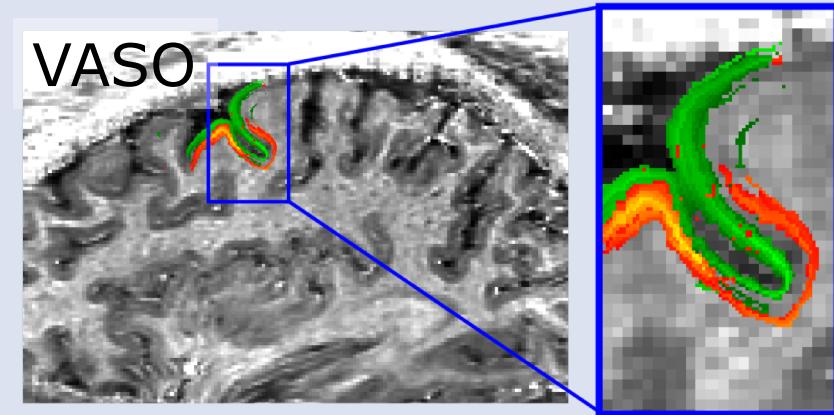
Task:

alphabetize

[D'Esposito et al., 1999]



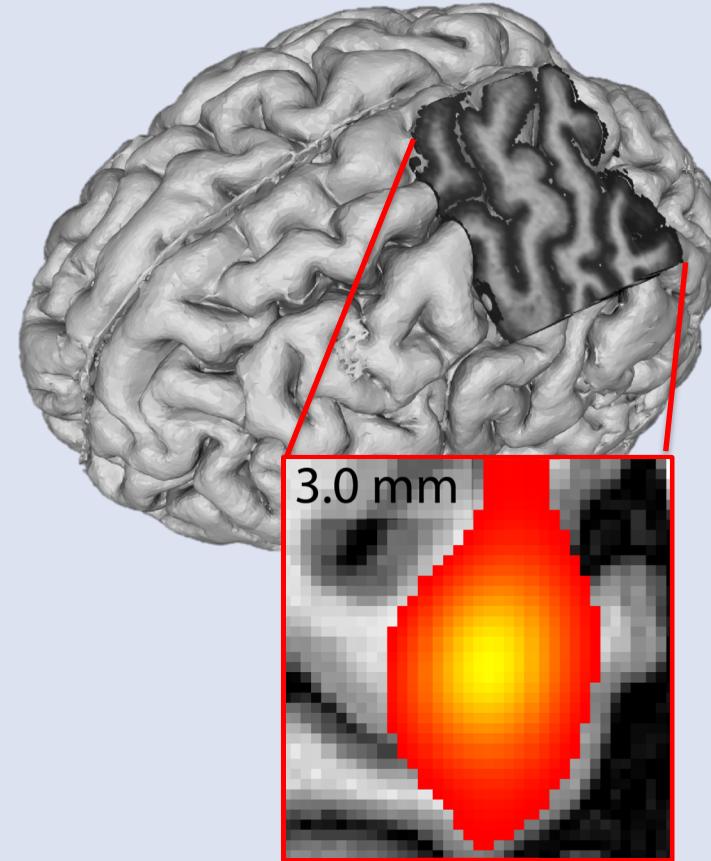
7T, 32ch.  
Nova,  
Inpl. resol.  
0.79mm,  
pF = 6/8,  
24 slices



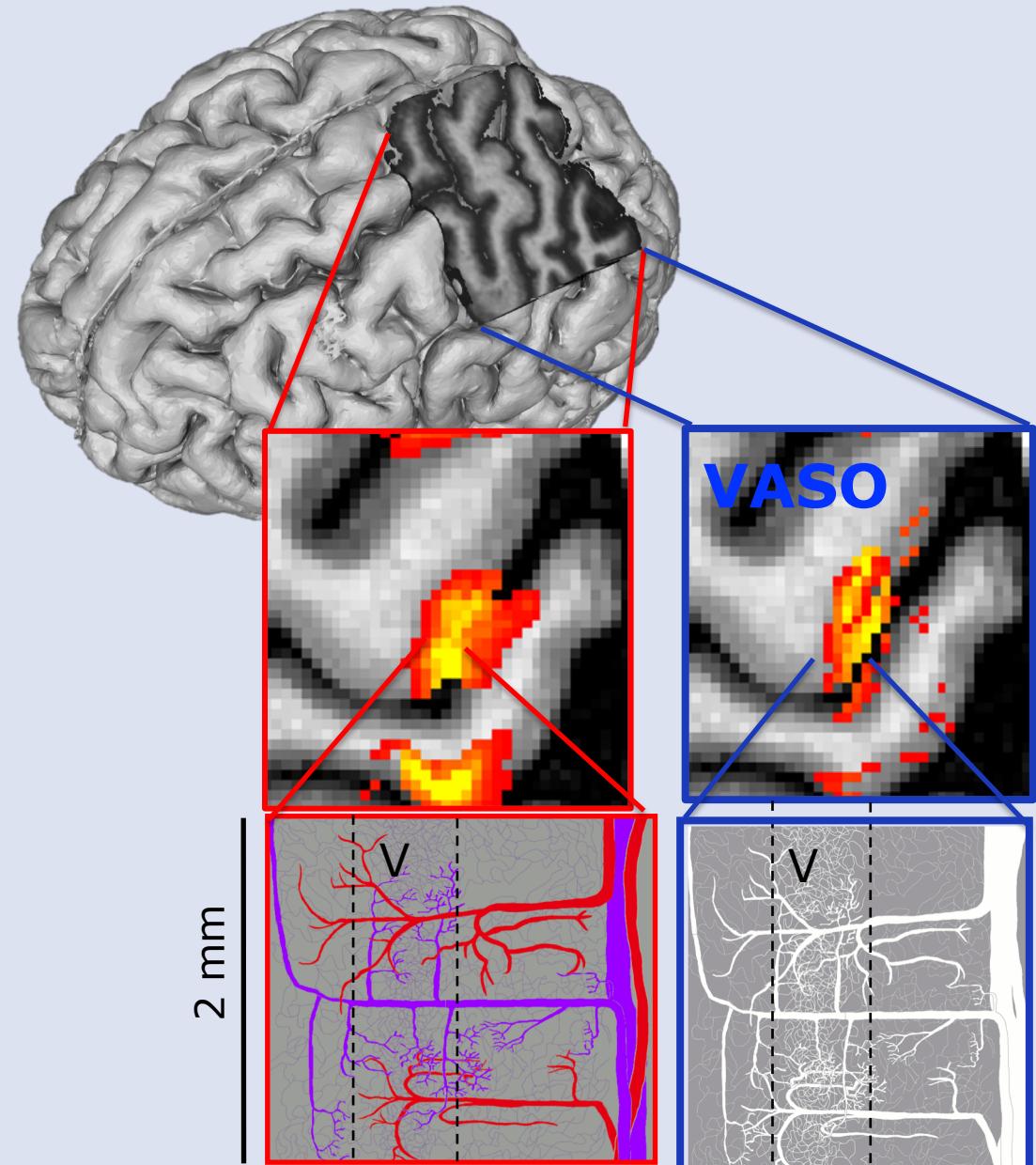
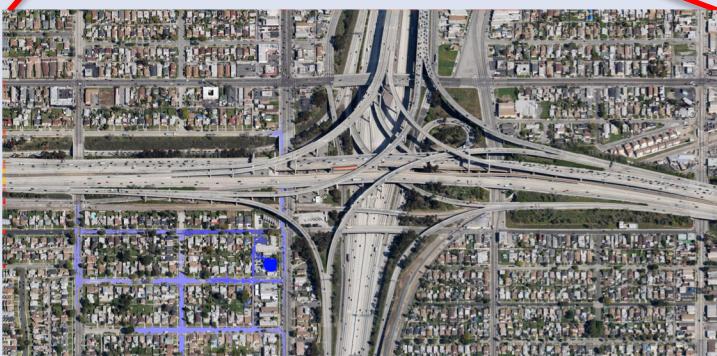
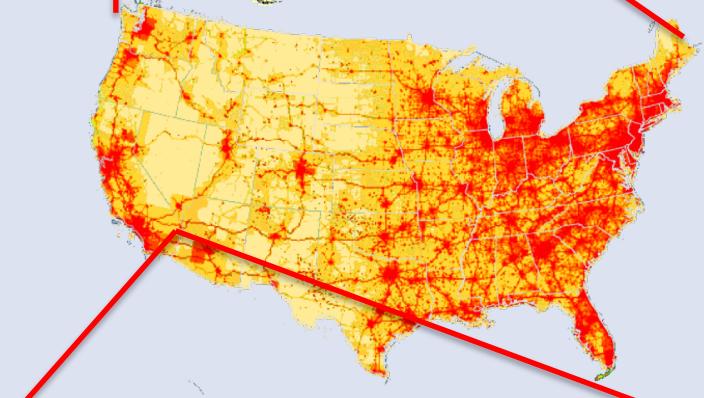
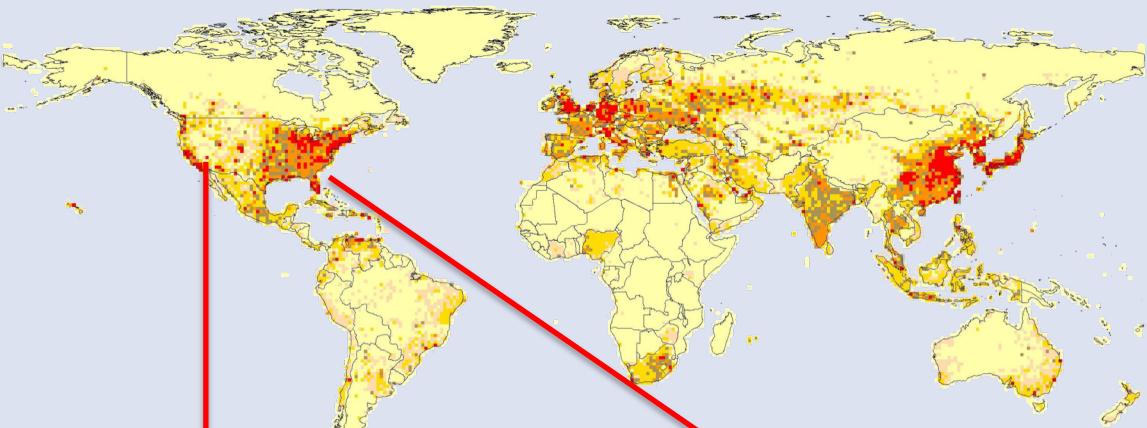
## Limits of layer fMRI

- Localization specificity limits
- Calibrating “cortical depths” to “cortical layers”
- Anatomically meaning full estimation of cortical depth
- Statistical interpretation
- HRF modeling
- Signal leakage across layers
- Cortical thickness
- Columnar variability
- Coverage
- Inter-subject variability
- Interconnection between layers
- Future challenges

## Challenge #1: Specificity



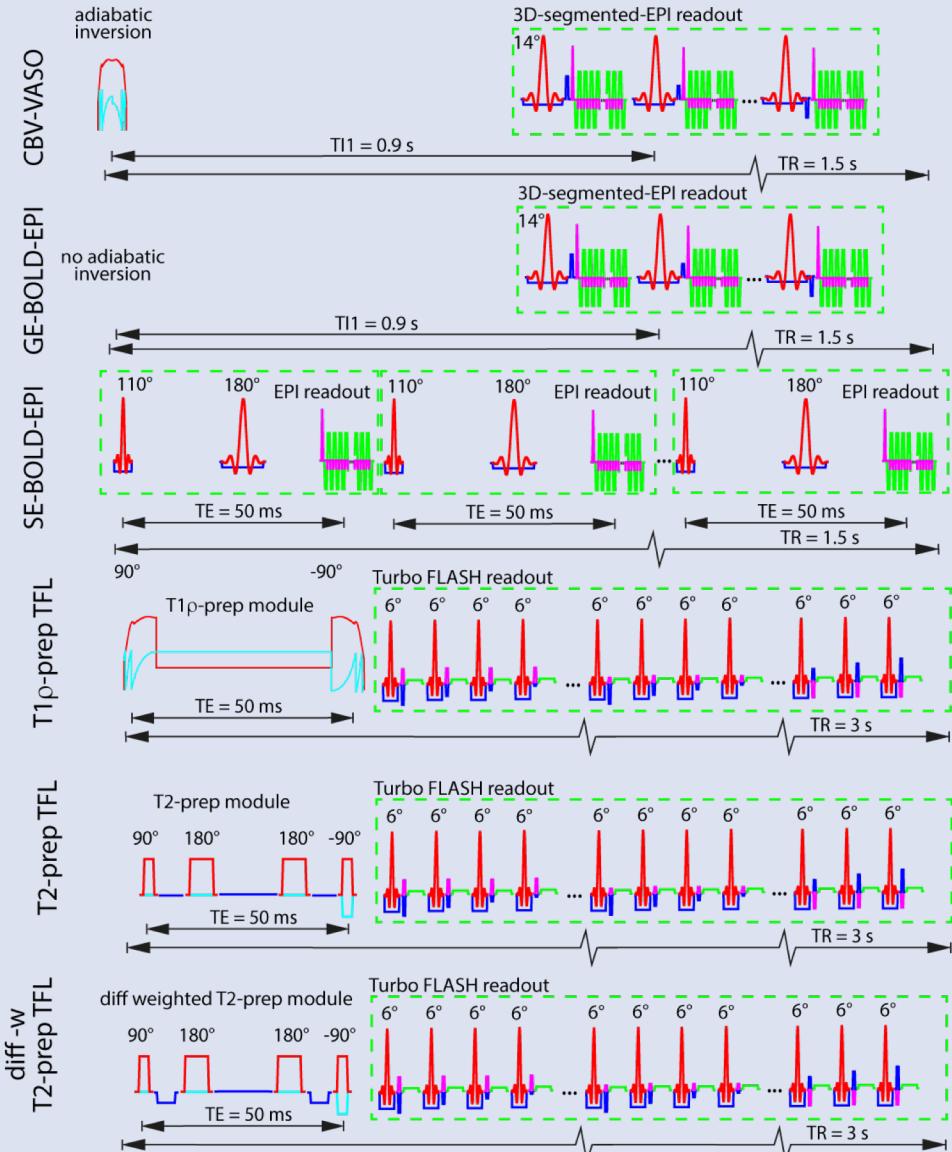
# Specificity



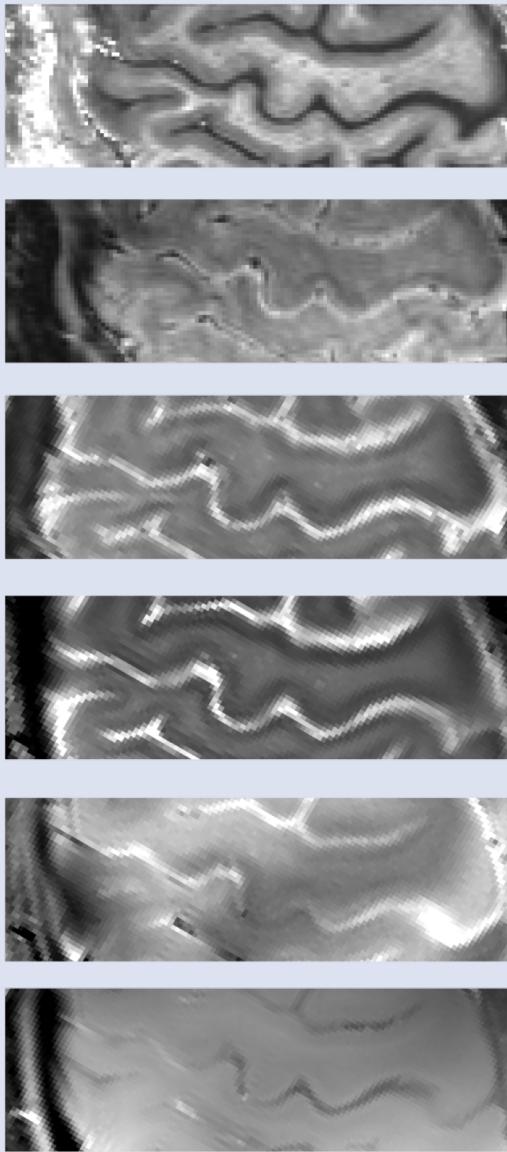
[Huber et al., NeuroImage, 2015] [Lu et al., MRM, 2003]

# Comparing contrast mechanisms

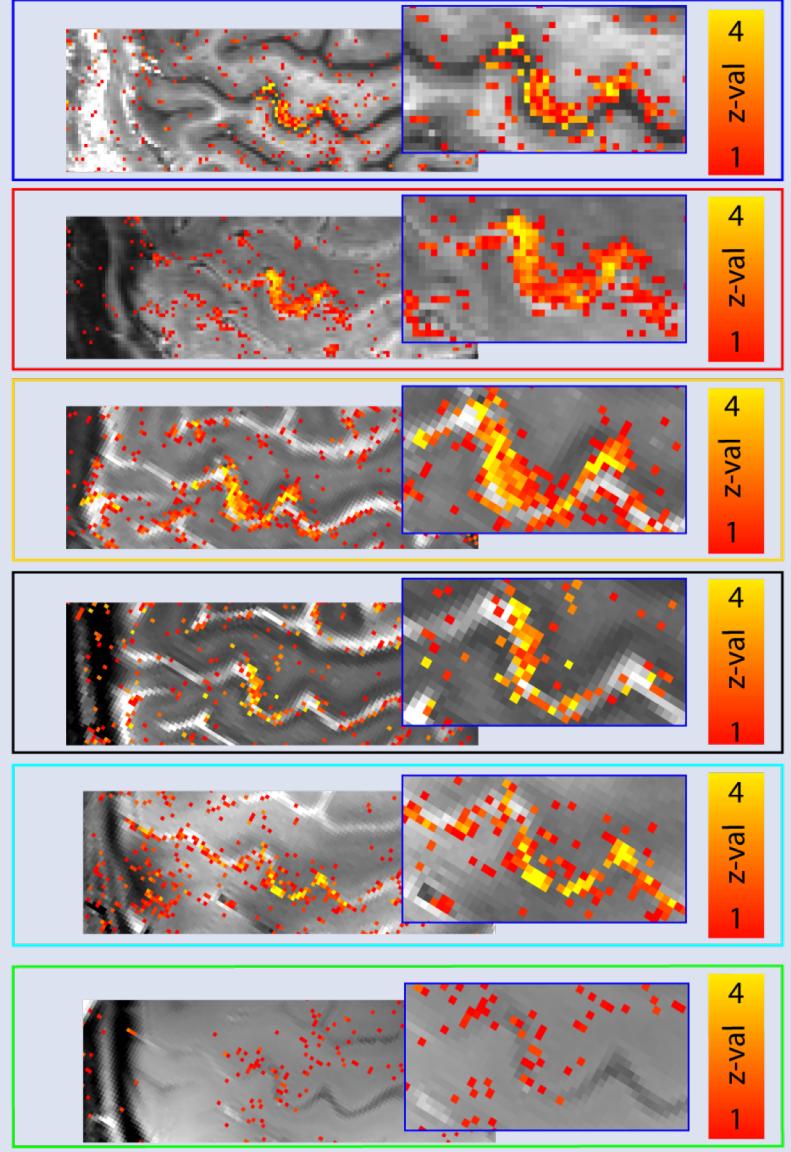
## sequence



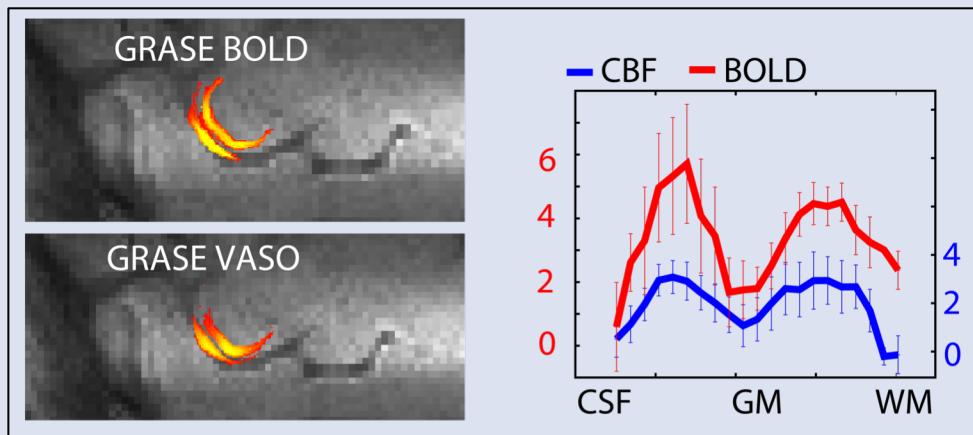
## MRI contrast



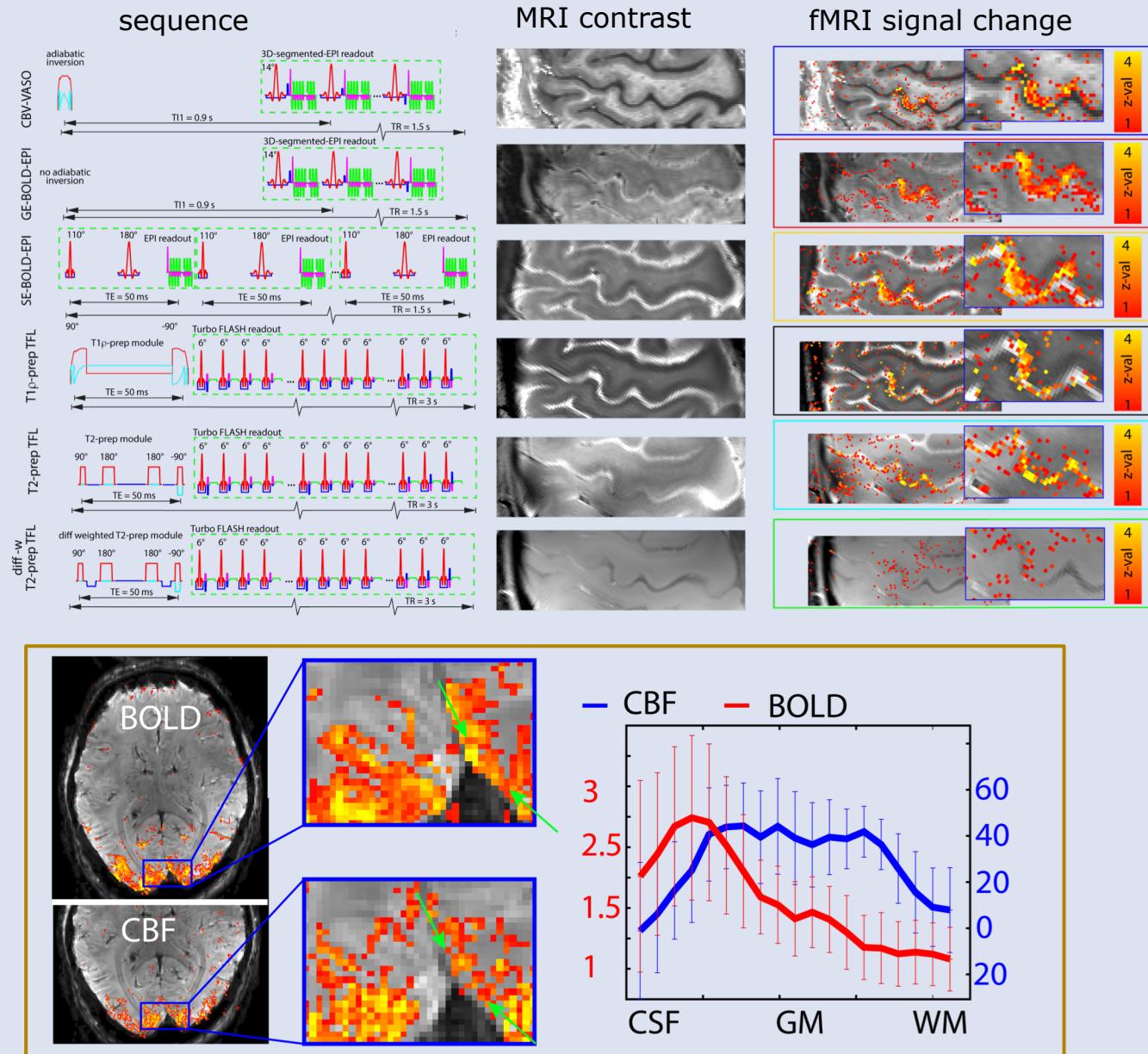
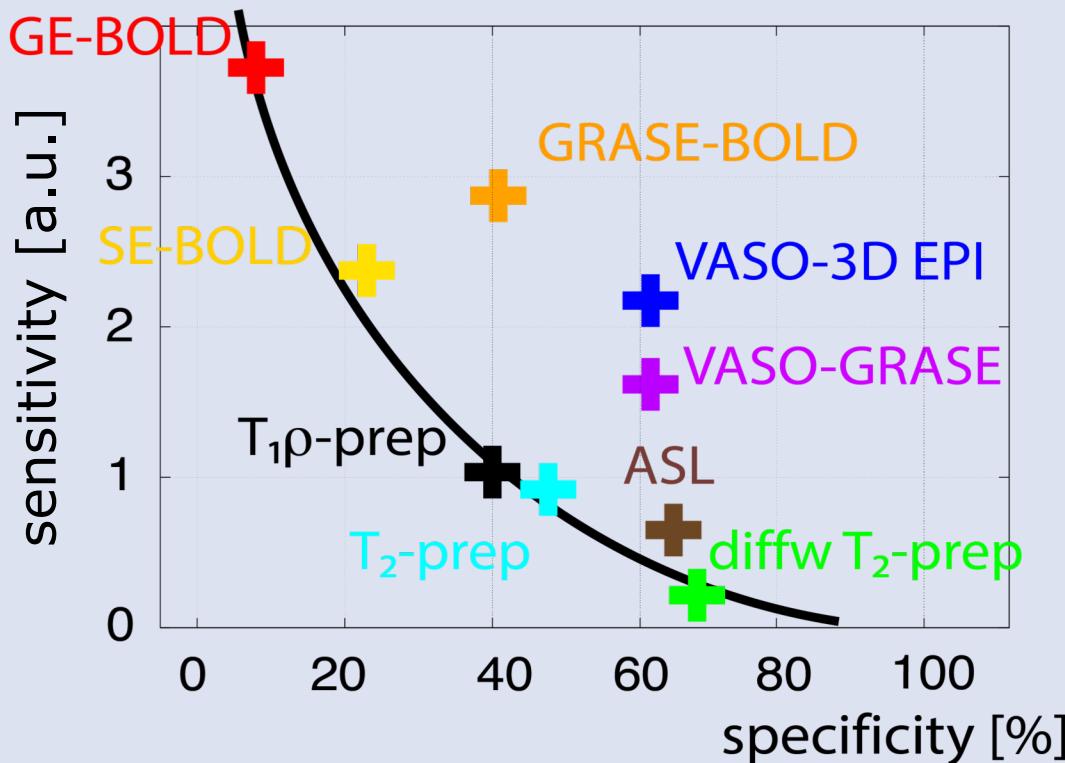
## fMRI signal change



# Comparing contrast mechanisms



Acquired in collaboration with Tania Dadakova and David Feinberg

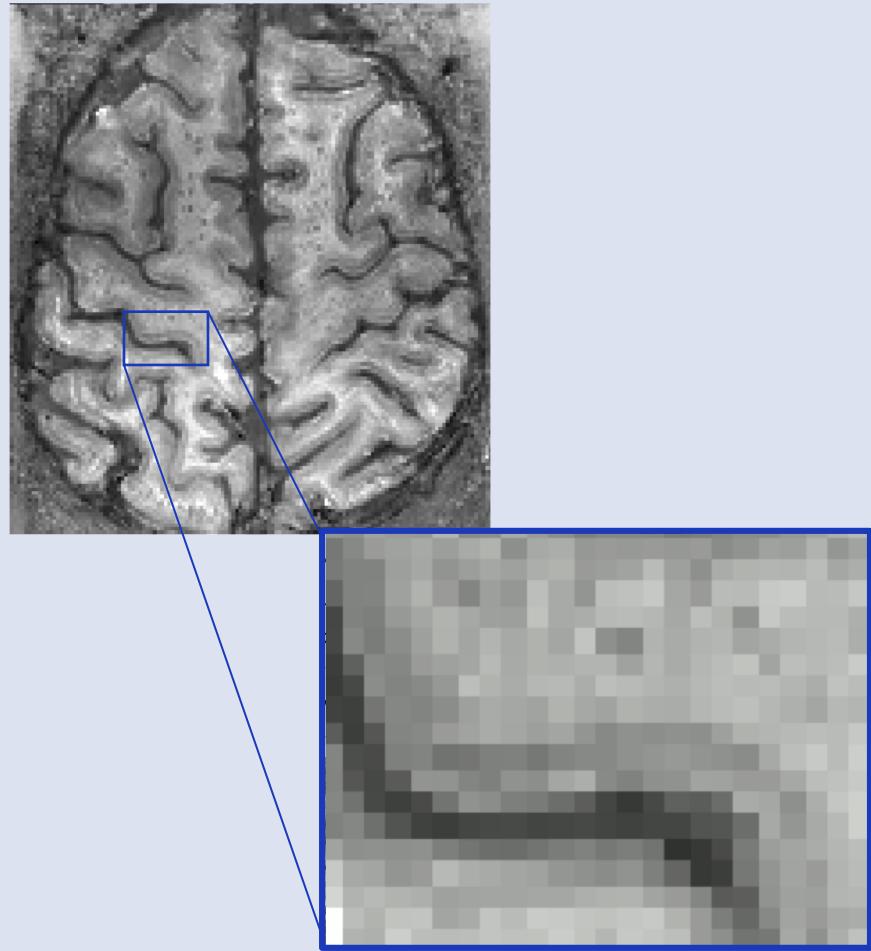


[Huber et al., NeuroImage 2018], acquired from Dimo Ivanov

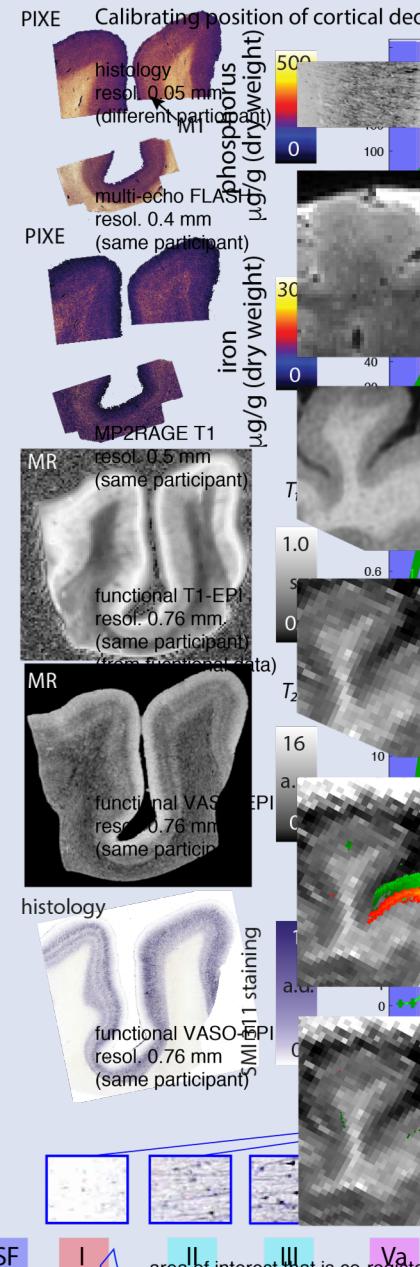
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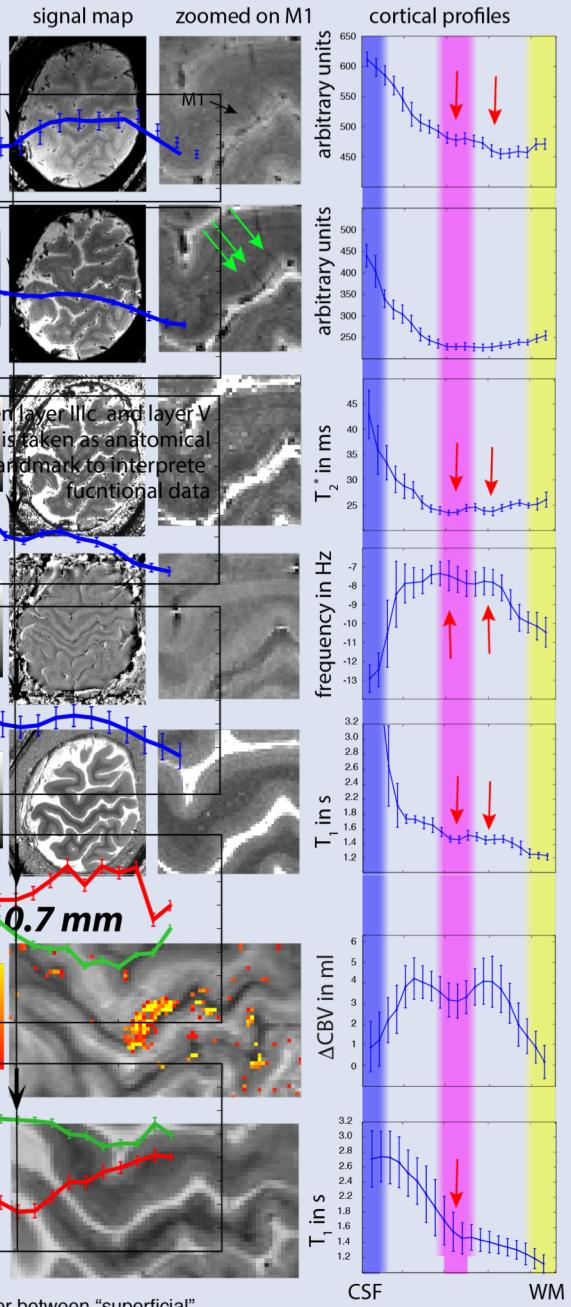
# Normalizing “depths” to layers



## in DLPFC Post Mortem 0.2 mm



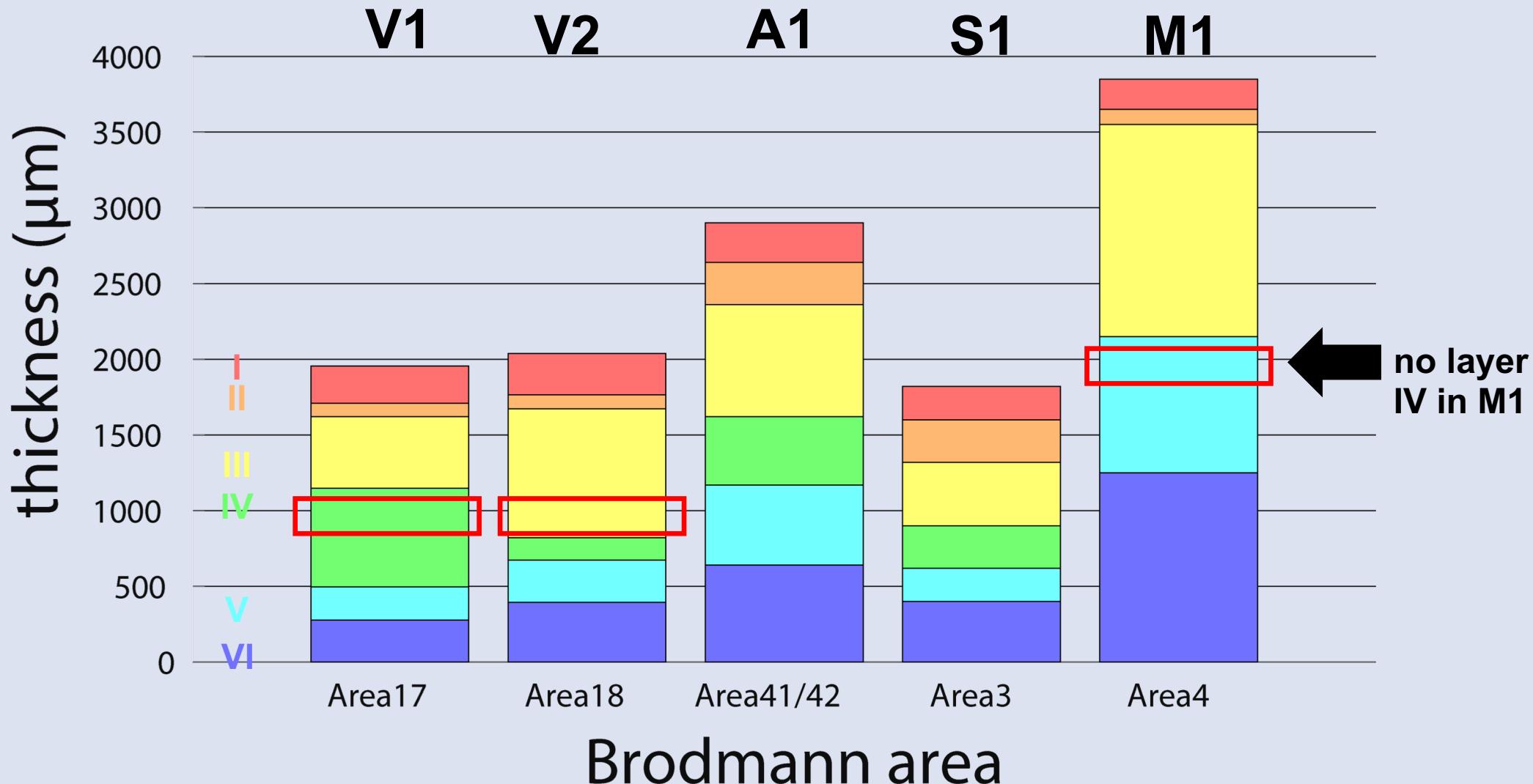
## *in vivo* 0.35 mm



[Huber et al., *Neuron*, 2017, a collaboration with Carsten Stueber, Cornell]

# Varying thickness and position of cortical layers across areas

slide courtesy from Jonathan Polimeni

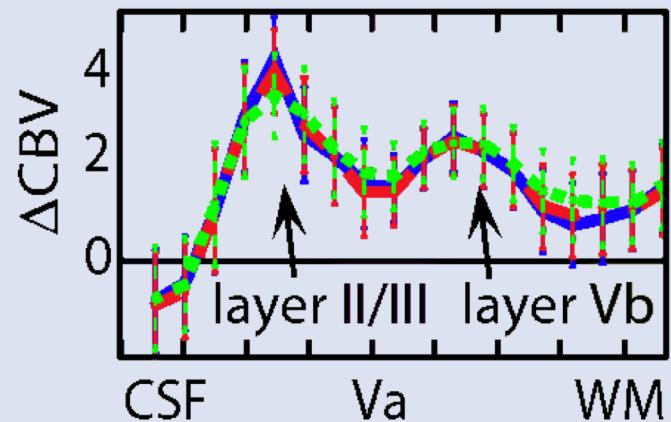


## Limits of layer fMRI

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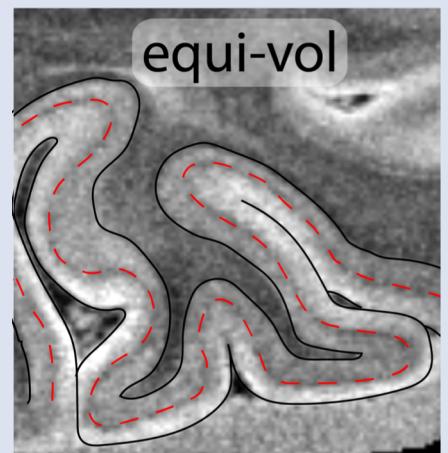
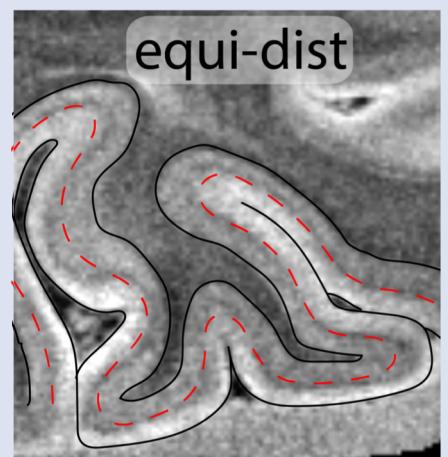
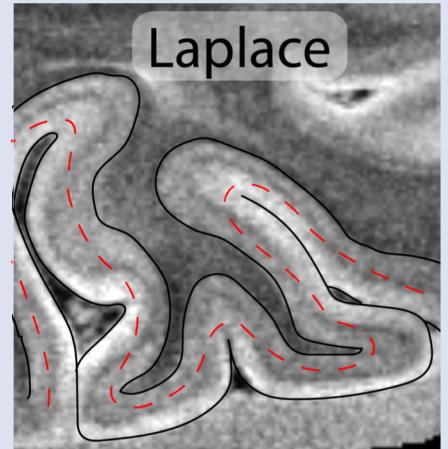
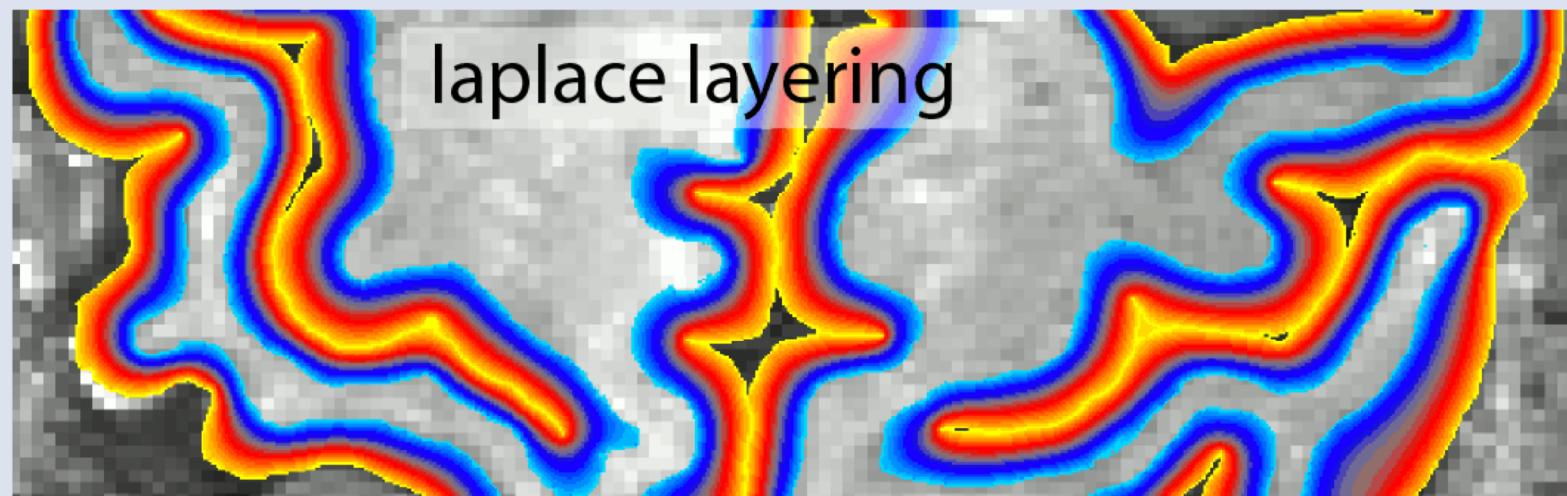
# Layering algorithm

functional layer profiles



Waehnert et al., NeuroImage 2014  
equi-volume  
equi-distance  
laplace

0.75 mm



200  $\mu\text{m}$  FLASH  
from Ding atlas  
[J. Comp. Neurol, 2016]

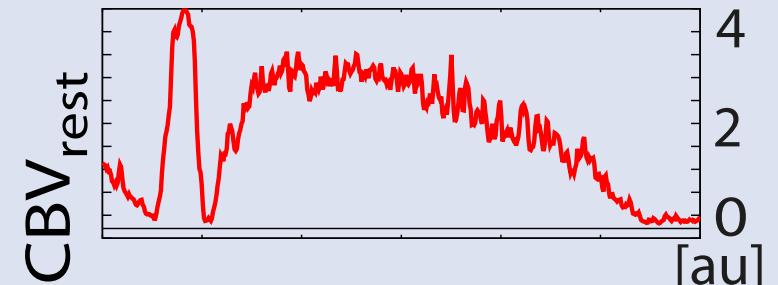
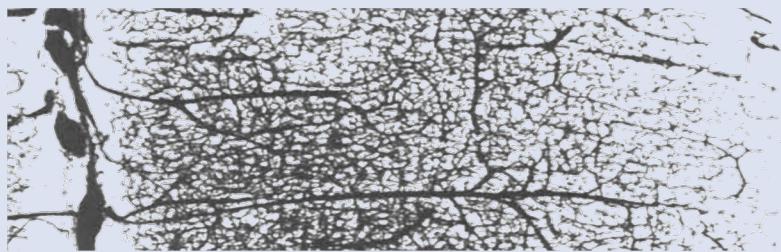
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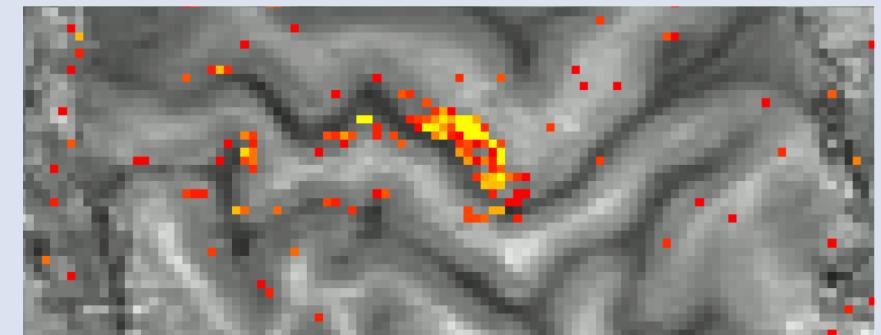
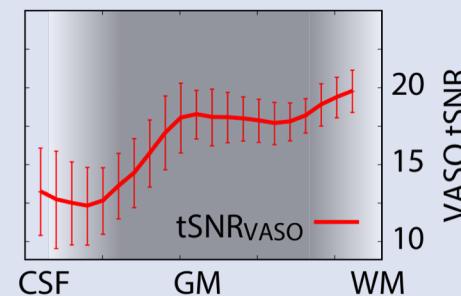
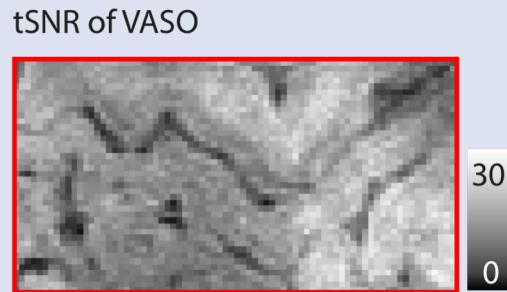
# Quantitative analysis vs. statistical analysis

The baseline is heterogeneous

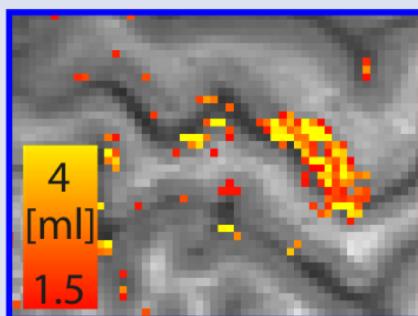
$\text{CBV}_{\text{baseline}}$ :



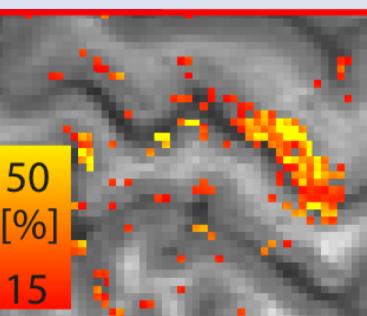
tSNR:



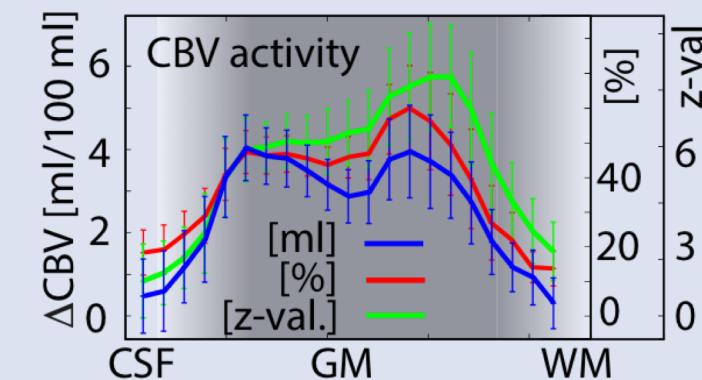
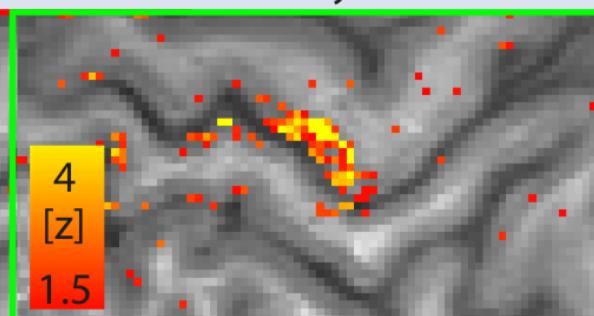
$\Delta\text{CBV}$  in ml/100 ml



$\Delta\text{CBV}$  in %

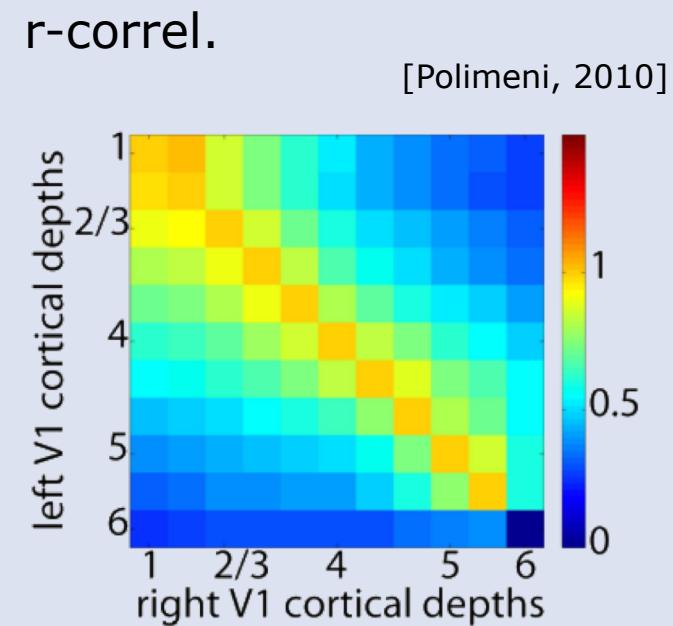
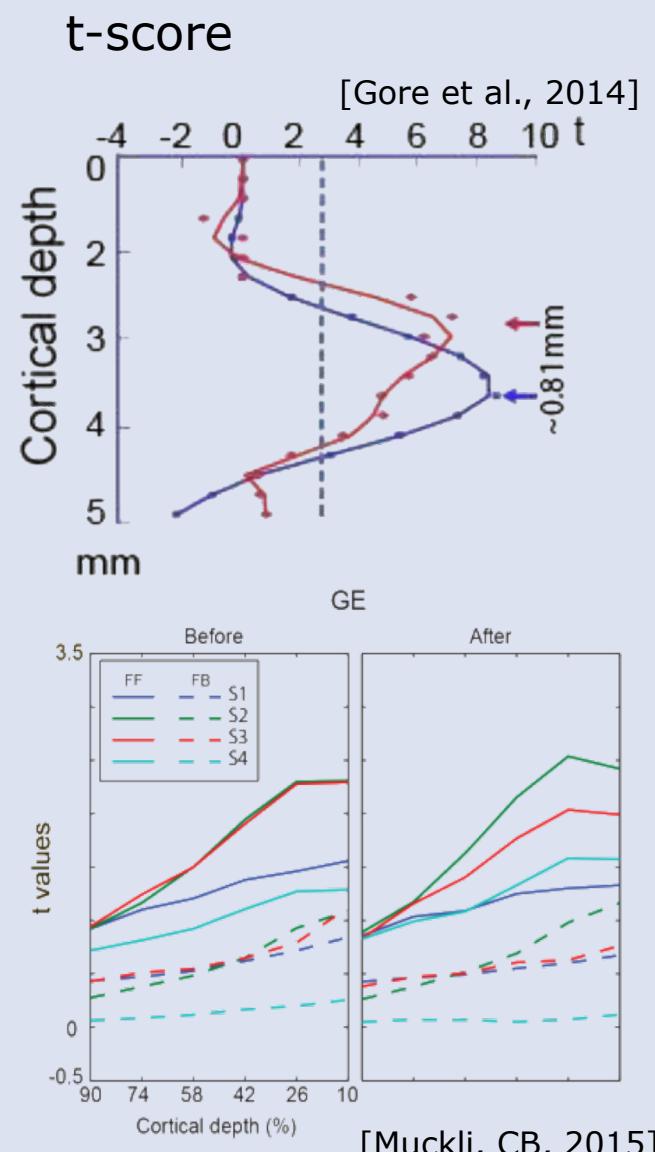
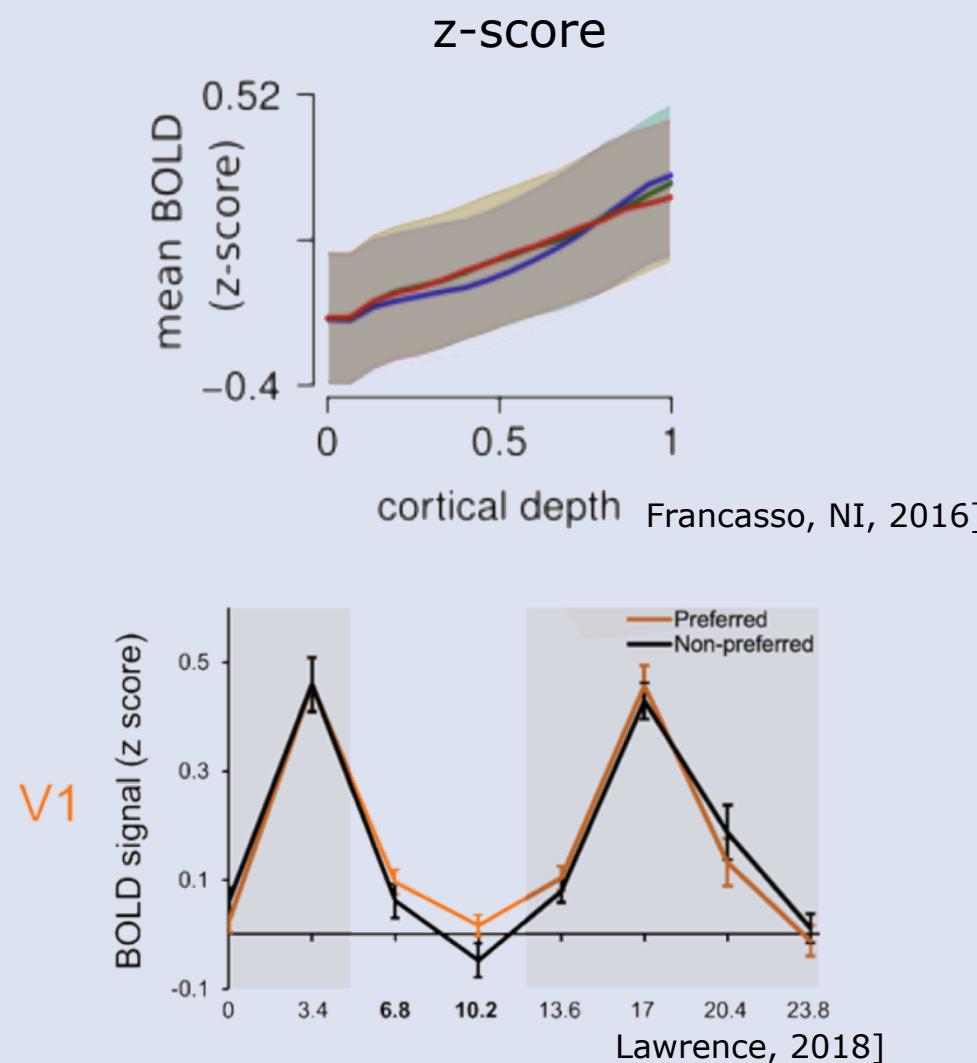


stat. CBV activity in z-values





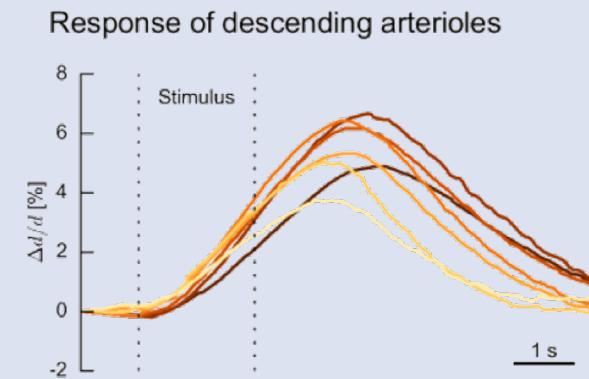
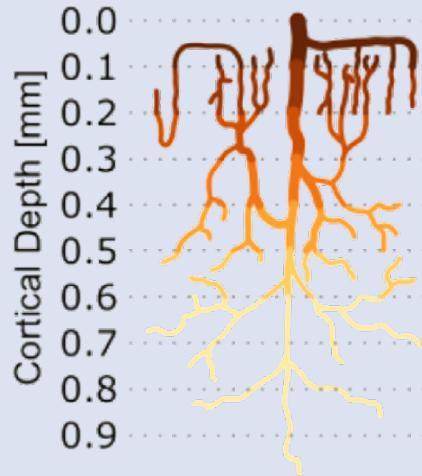
## biases in statistical models



## limits of layer fMRI

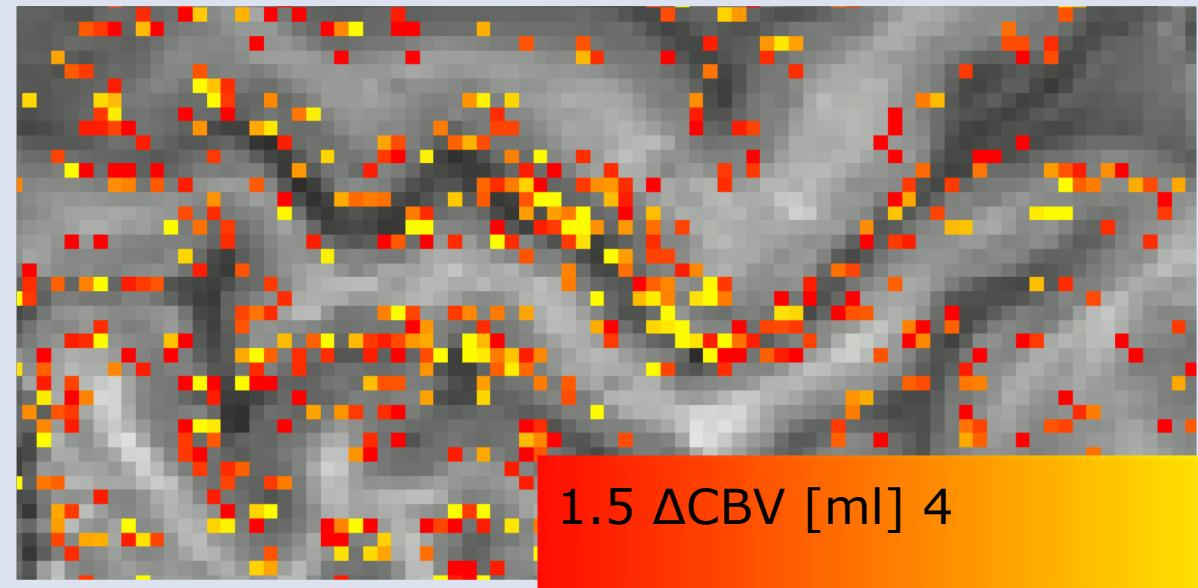
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# Layer-dependent timing of vessel control

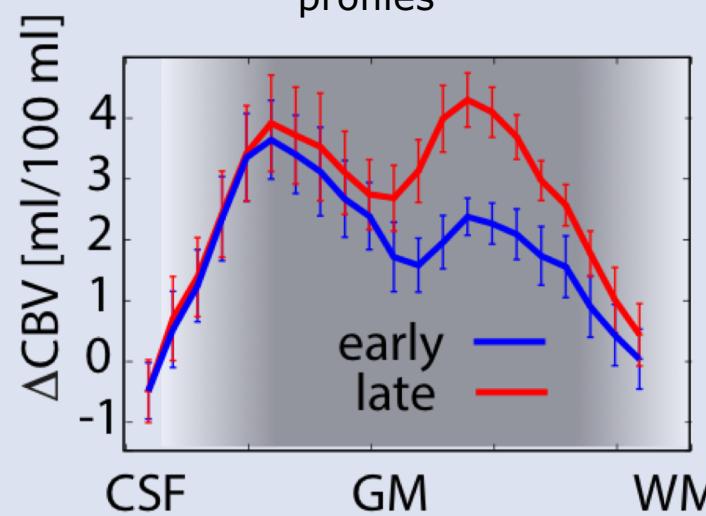


[Uhlirova et al. 2016, eLife] [Schmid et al. 2018, NeuroImage]

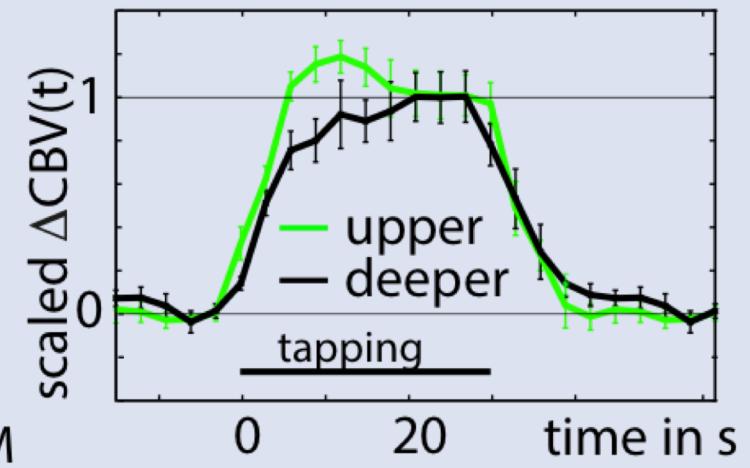
Early (9-18 sec) vs. late (21-30sec)



profiles



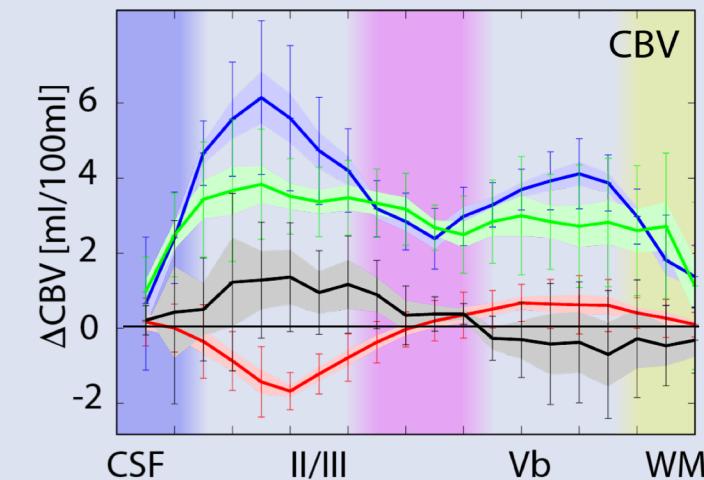
time courses



## Limits of layer fMRI

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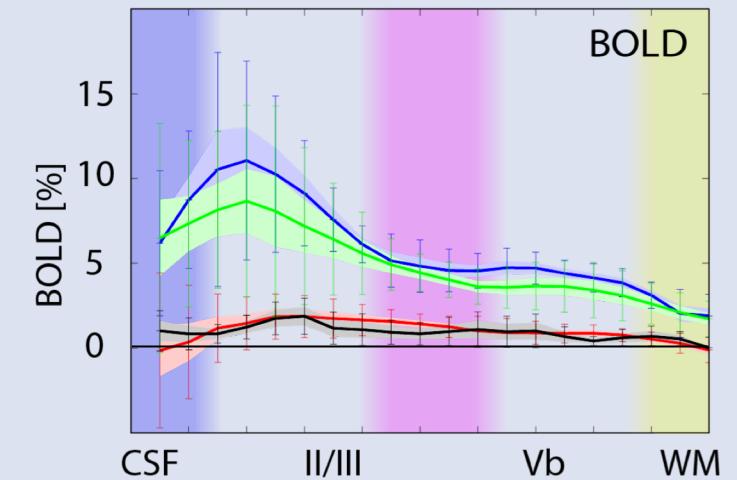
# Vascular bias correction



■ standard error across participants

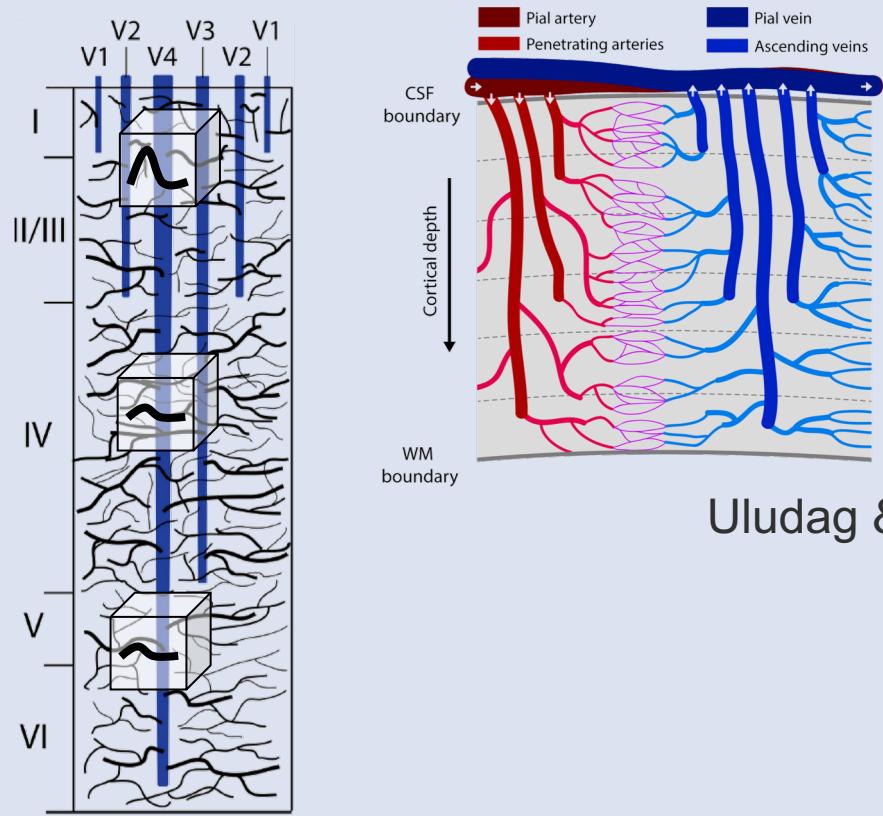
■ standard deviation across participants

— average across participants



[Huber et al., Neuron, 2017]

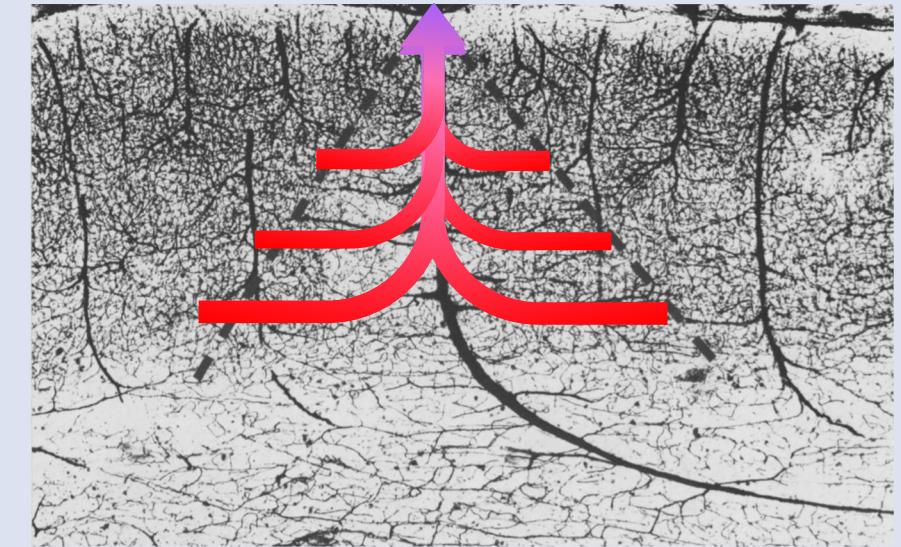
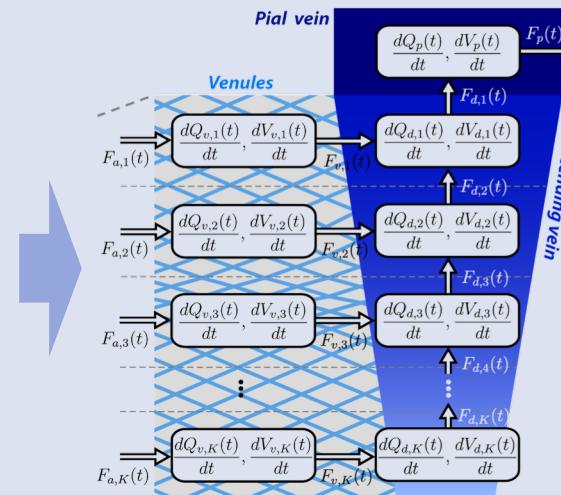
# Vascular bias correction



WM boundary

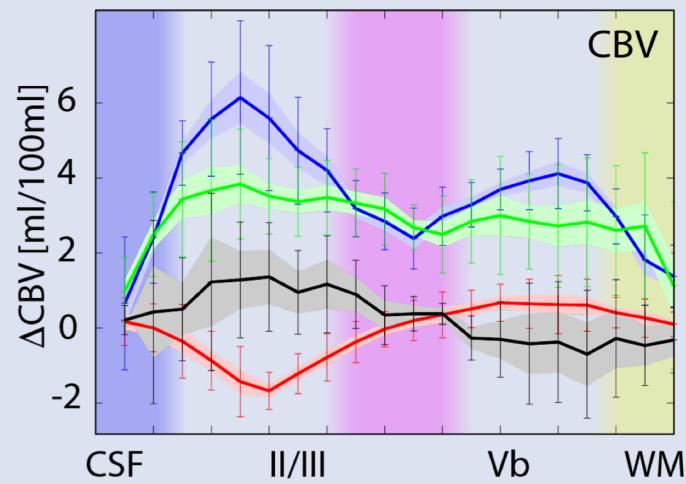
Uladag & Havlicek ISMRM2018

[Markuerkiaga et al. 2016,  
*NeuroImage*]



$$\tau_u \frac{dv_u}{dt} = f_u - v_u^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} + \lambda_d v_l^*$$

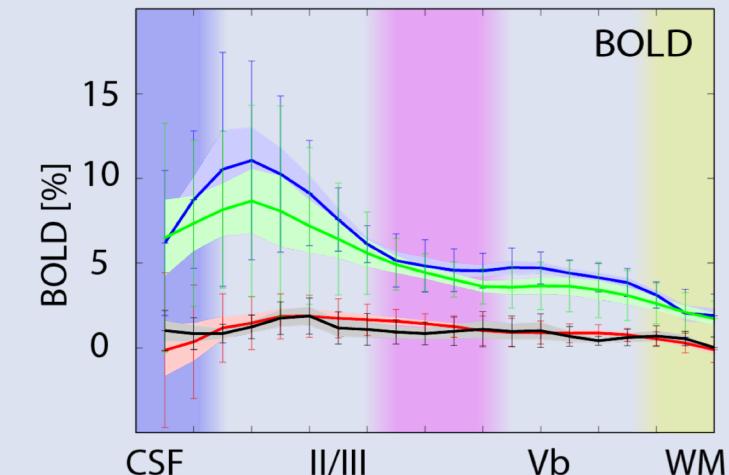
[Heinze et al., *NeuroImage*, 2016]



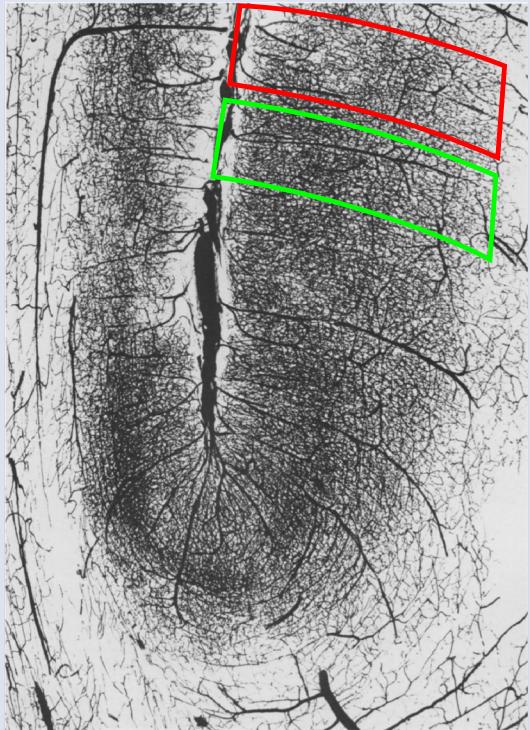
standard error across participants

standard deviation across participants

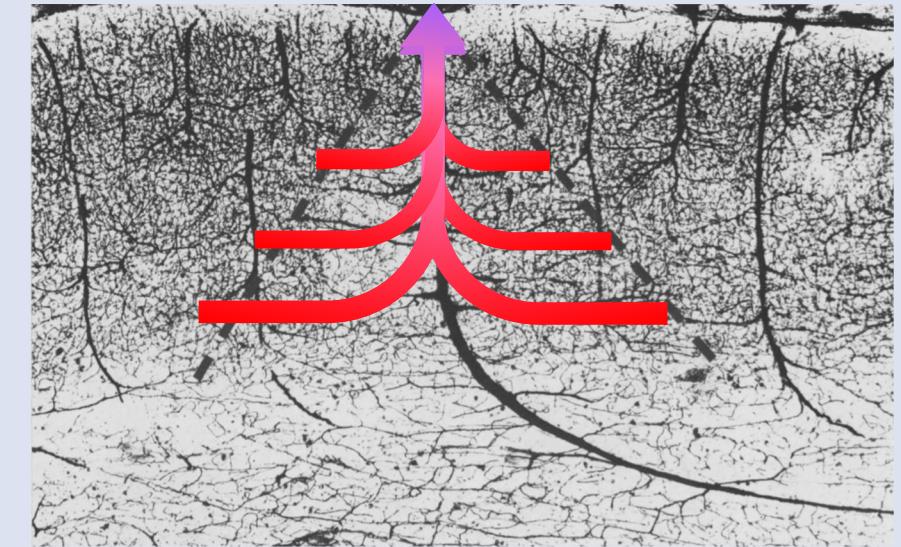
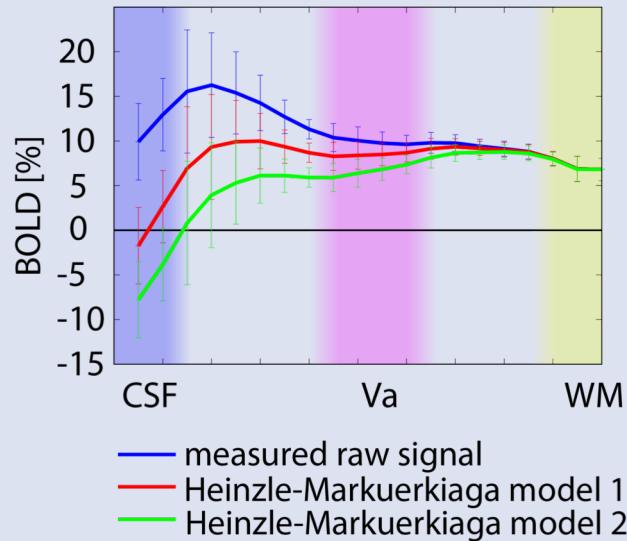
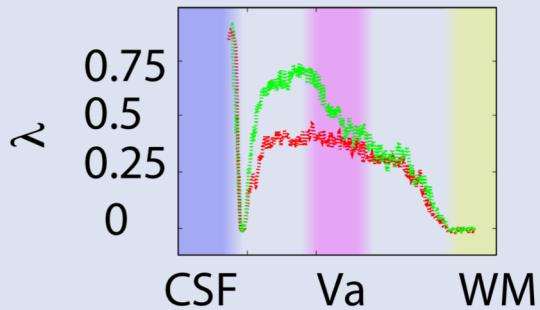
— average across participants



# Vascular bias correction

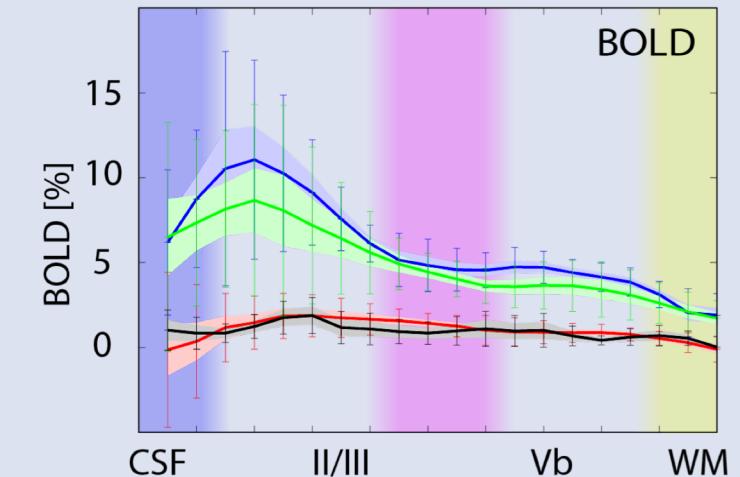
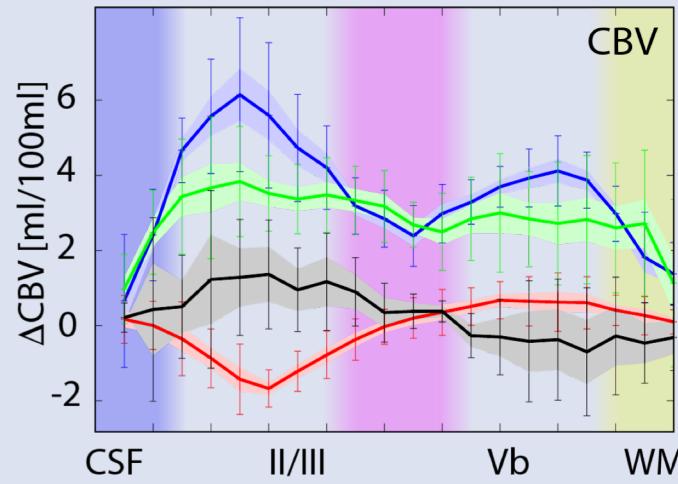


model assumption:  
 $\lambda$  taken from baseline  
 CBV of two 'columns'



$$\tau_u \frac{d\nu_u}{dt} = f_u - \nu_u^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} + \lambda_d \nu_l^*$$

[Heinzel et al., NeuroImage, 2016]



## Limits of layer fMRI

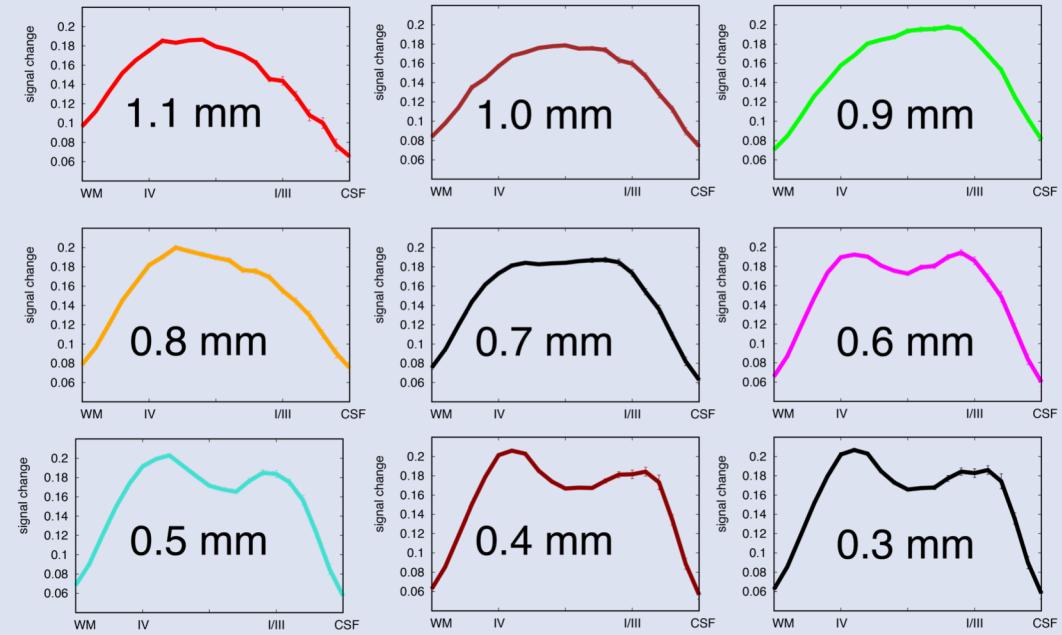
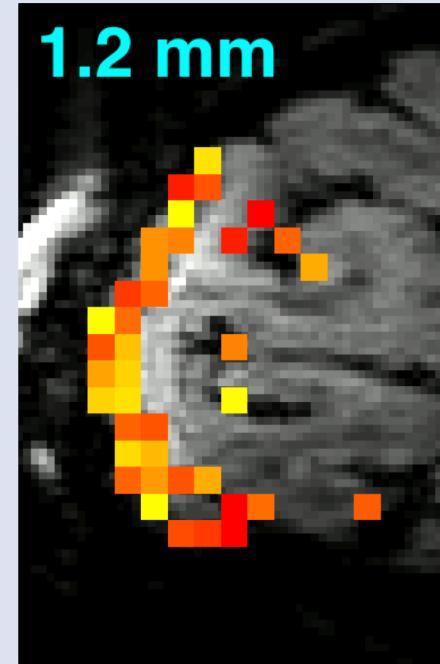
- Localization specificity limits
- Calibrating “cortical depths” to “cortical layers”
- Anatomically meaning full estimation of cortical depth
- Statistical interpretation
- HRF modeling
- Signal leakage across layers
- Cortical thickness
- Columnar variability
- Coverage
- Inter-subject variability
- Interconnection between layers
- Future challenges

# Layer-fMRI in V1



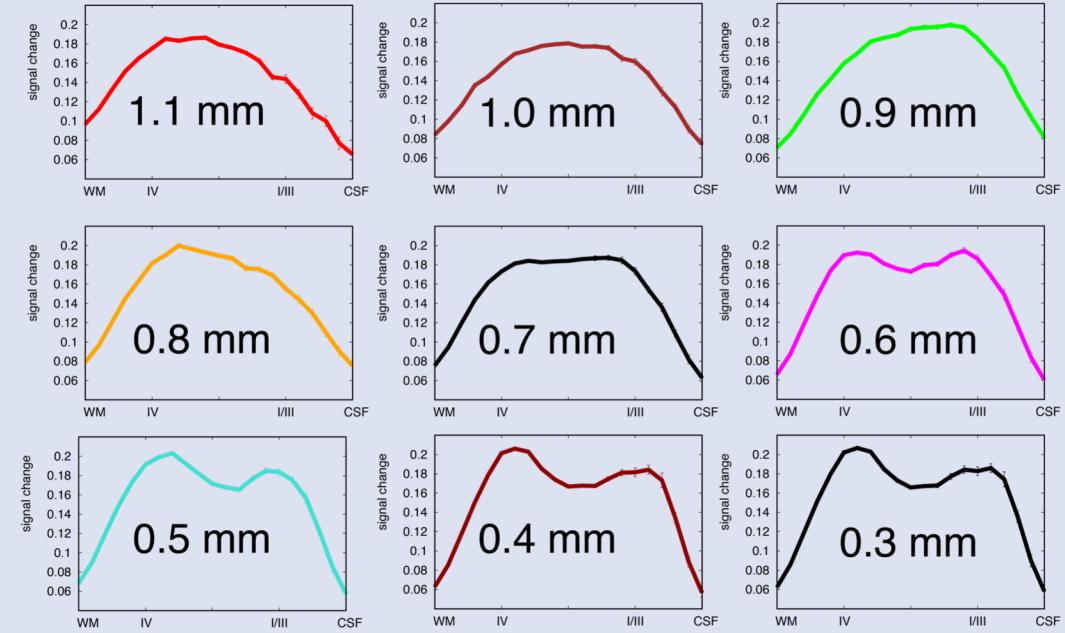
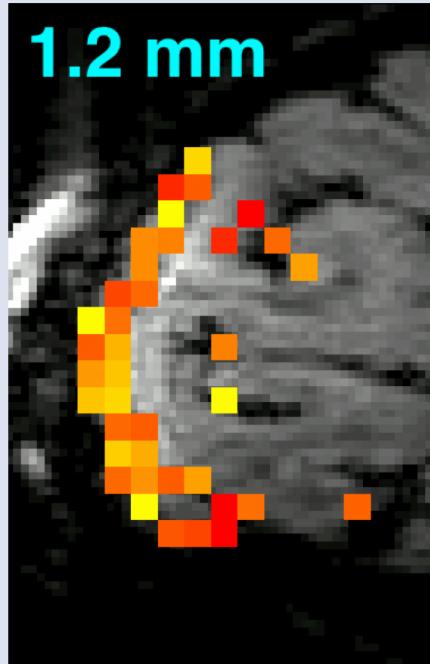
Huber et al. NeuroImage 2014, in collaboration with Jozien Goense

# Layer-fMRI in V1

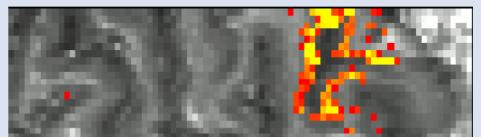
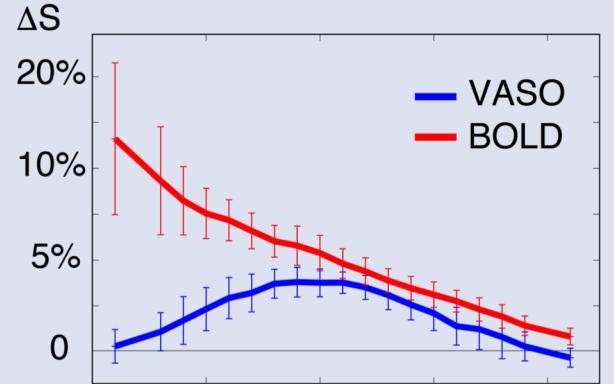
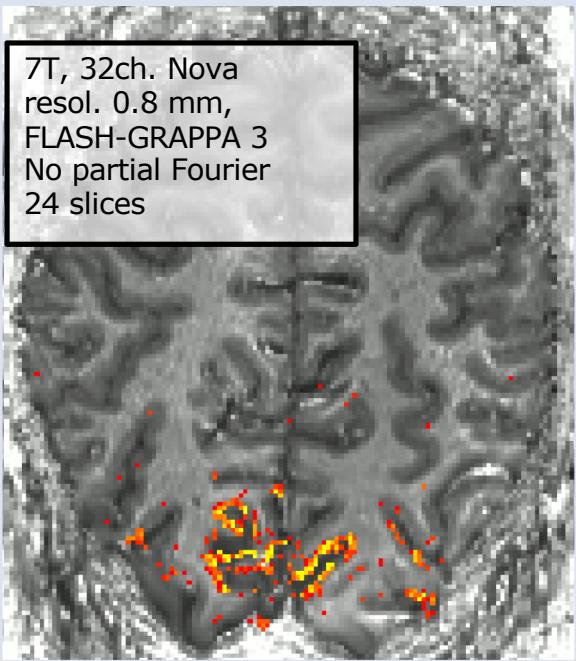


Huber et al. NeuroImage 2014, in collaboration with Jozien Goense

# Layer-fMRI in V1

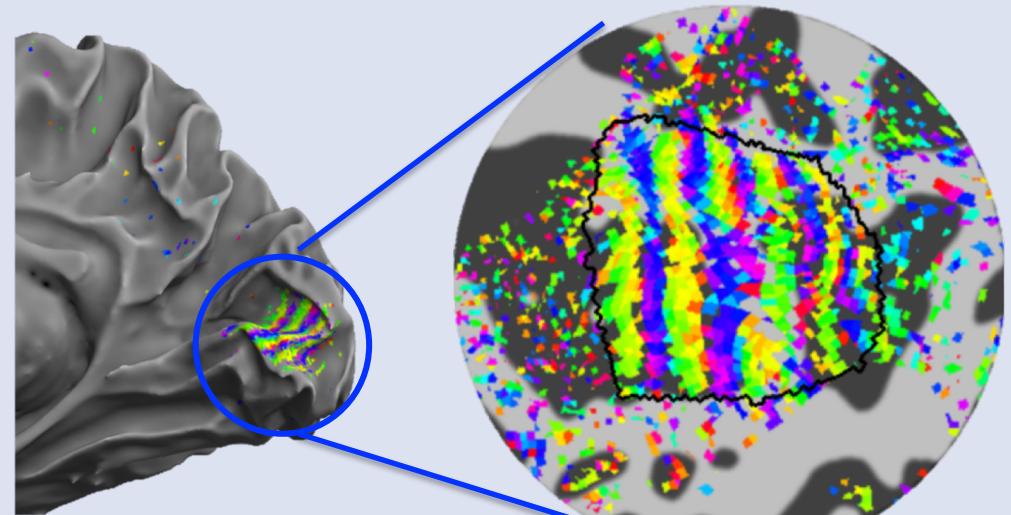


In collaboration with **Eli Merriam** and **Zvi Roth**



Huber et al. NeuroImage 2014, in collaboration with **Jozien Goense**

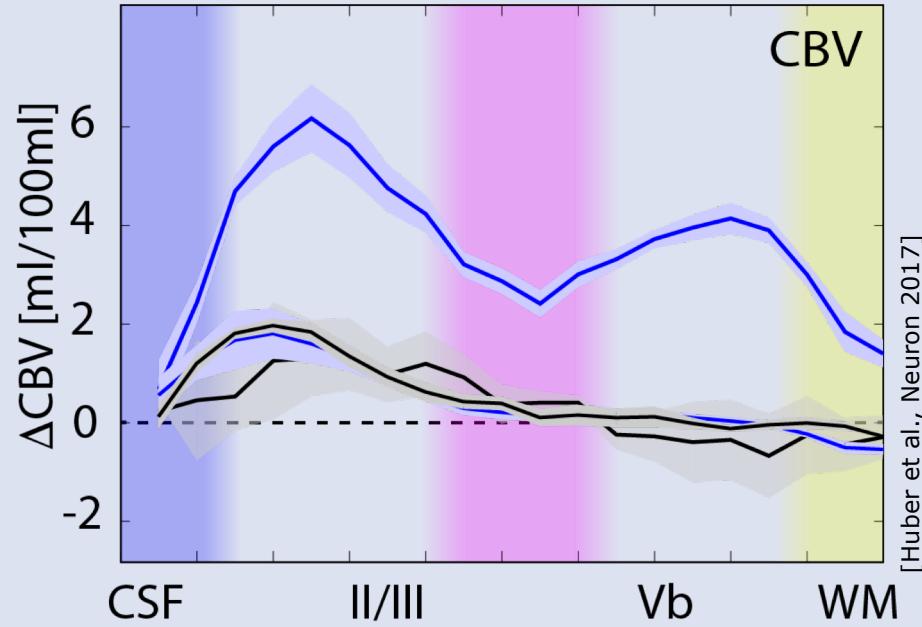
**Data from Eli Merriam and Zvi Roth**



## Limits of layer fMRI

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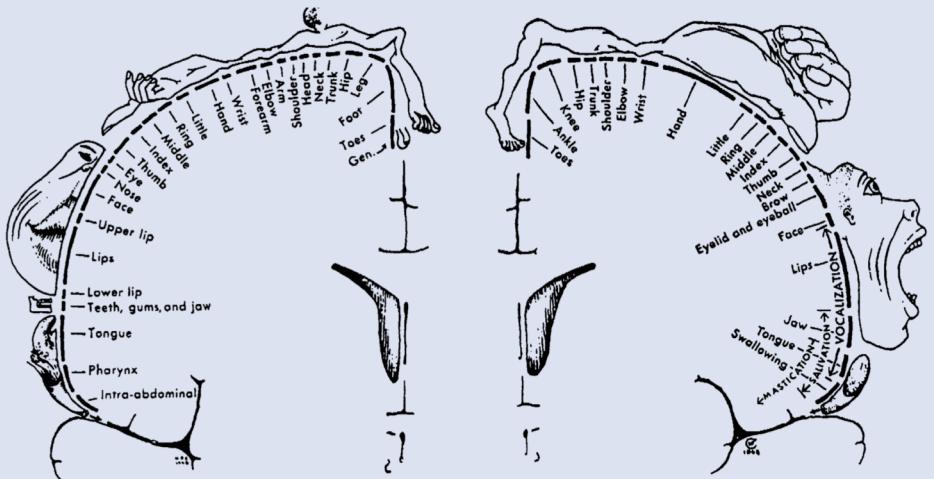
# Every column is different



# Tasks for columnar representations

Test bed for topology tools

M1: body part map



somatosensory area (left) and primary motor area (right).

finger tapping (64 min)

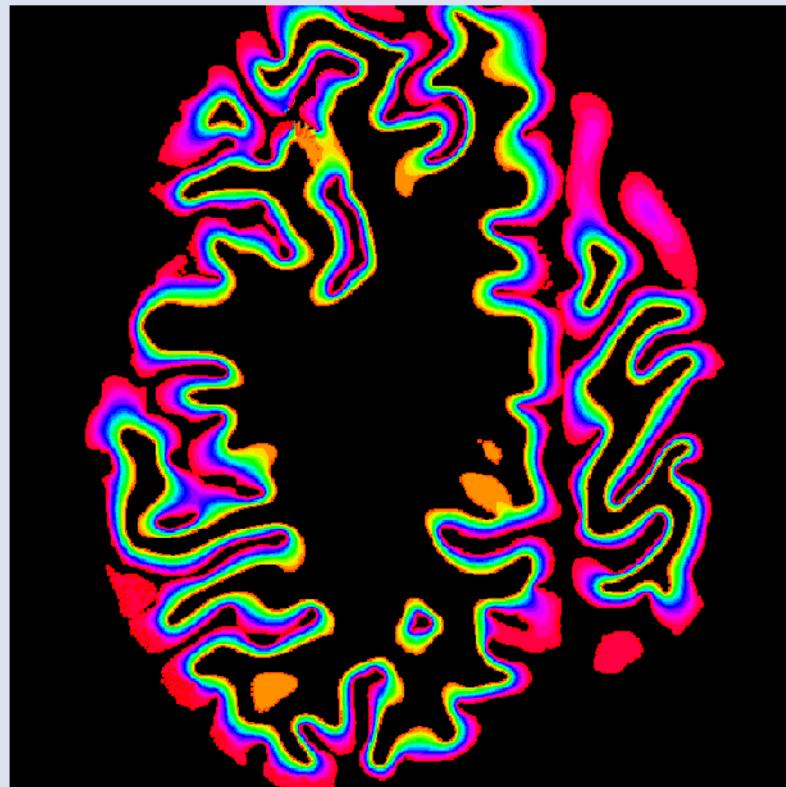


- blue index finger tapping (0.75 Hz)
- yellow-green middle finger tapping (0.75 Hz)
- green ring finger tapping (0.75 Hz)
- red-orange little finger tapping (0.75 Hz)
- magenta thumb tapping (0.75 Hz)



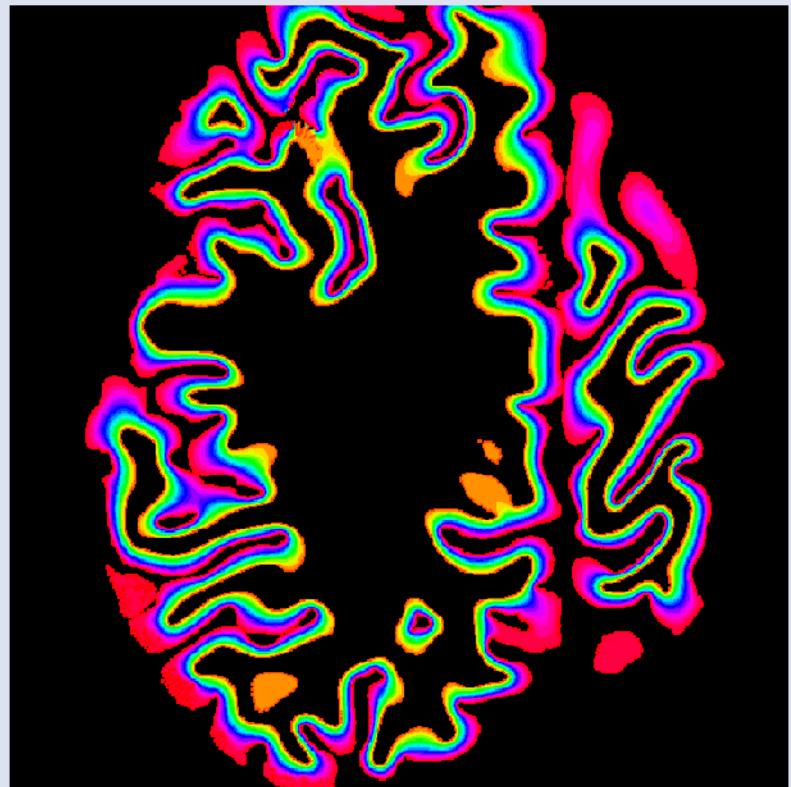
# From layers to columns

Layers in 3D



# From layers to columns

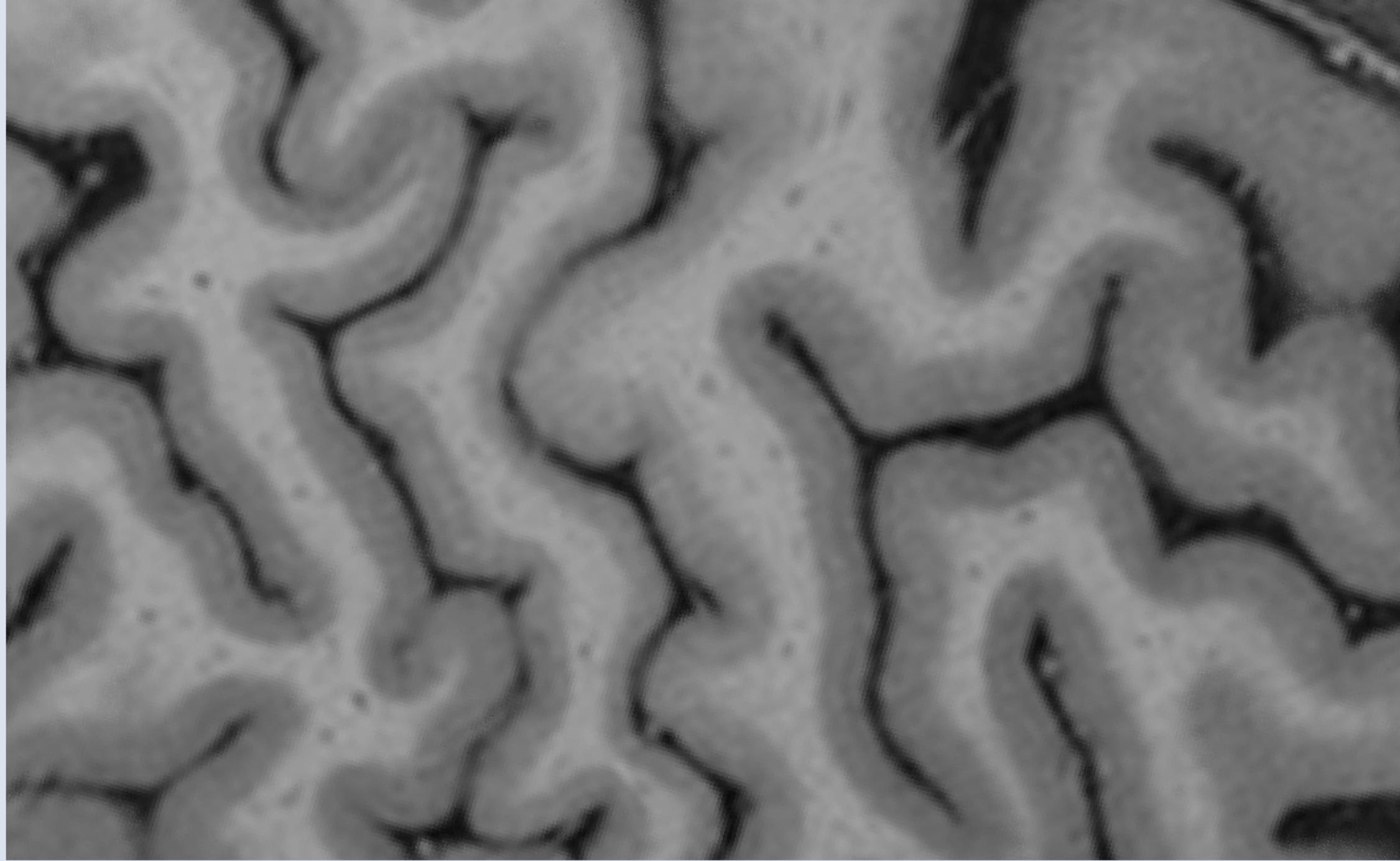
Layers in 3D



Crawlers to span sheet



Different than Freesurfer because it works with slabs  
In voxel space

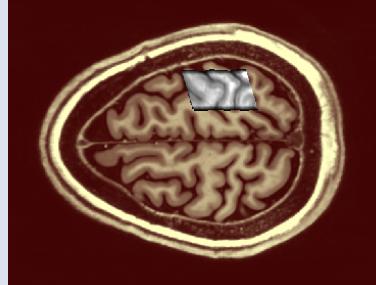


## Limits of layer fMRI

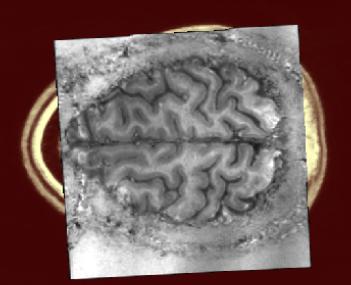
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## Coverage

$$8 \times 32 \times 96 = 0.86\%$$

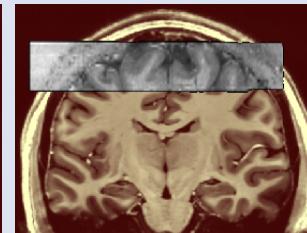
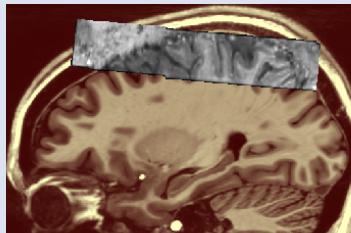
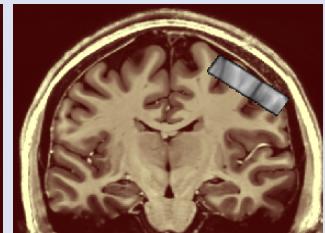
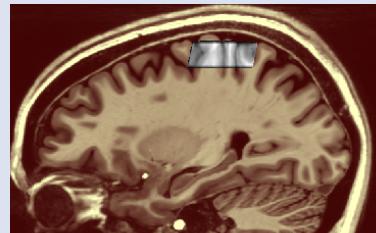


Original CBV-coverage for layer resolutions

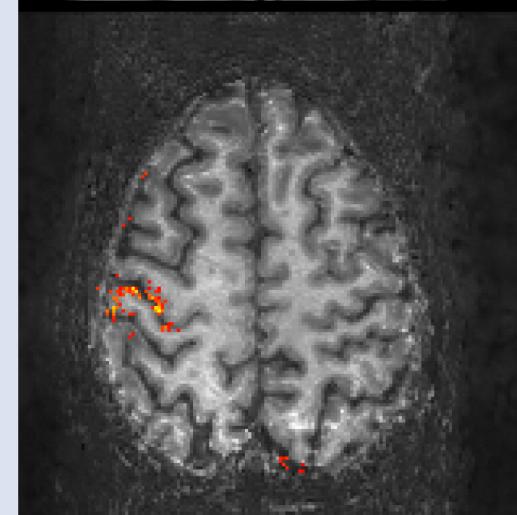
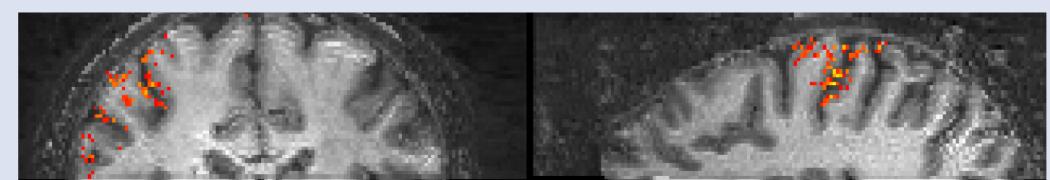
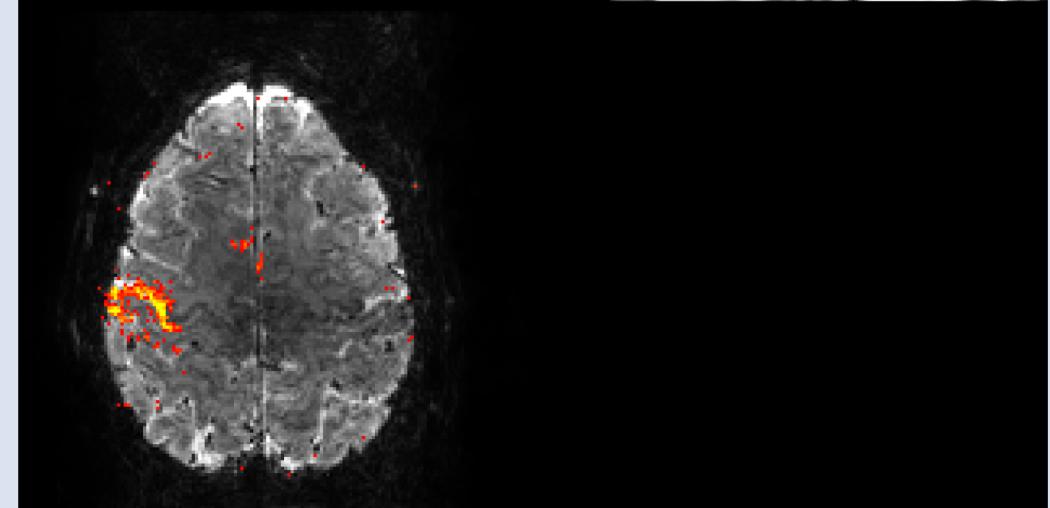
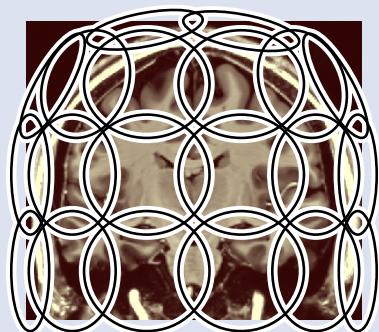


$$24 \times 162 \times 162 = 14\%$$

CBV-coverage for layer resolutions with 3D-EPI slab



RF-channel size is comparable to 3D-EPI slab coverage



## VASO

z-CAIPI 1/2  
Resol. 0.8 mm  
z-GRAPPA 2  
y-GRAPPA 3  
48 slices - 4  
PF 6/8

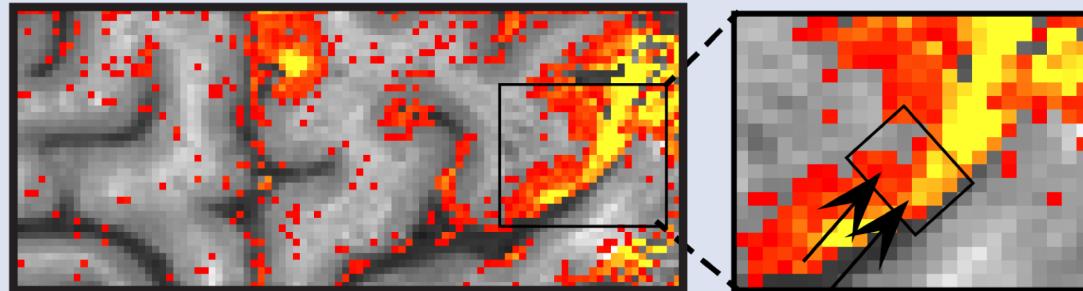
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# Why does it work in some people better than in others?

volunteer A

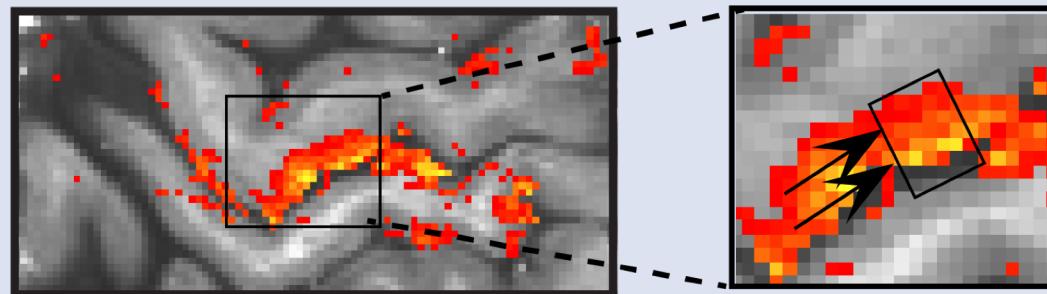
GE-BOLD



very strong response in upper layers  
minimal response in deeper layers

volunteer B

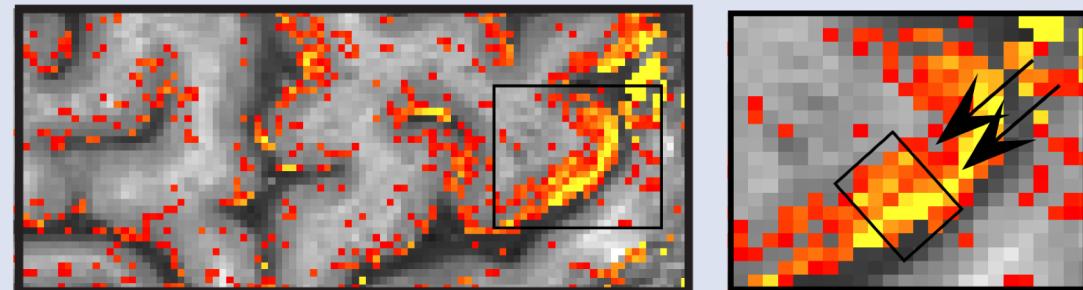
GE-BOLD



weaker response in superficial layers  
secondary response in deeper layers

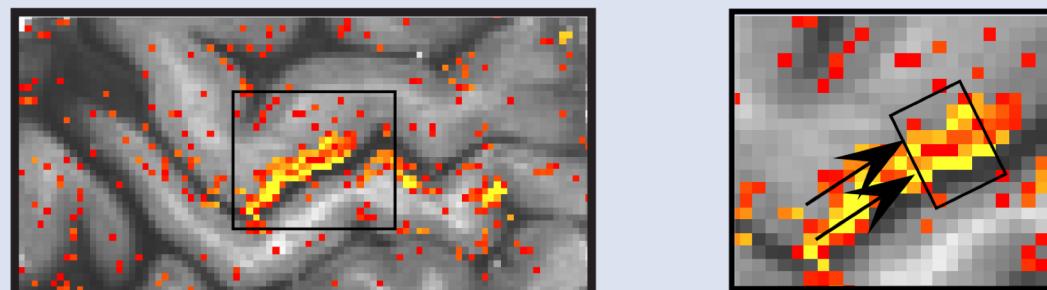


CBV



CBV fMRI can resolve the inconsistencies in BOLD.

In CBV fMRI, both participants have a similar response amplitudes and the same double-layer feature



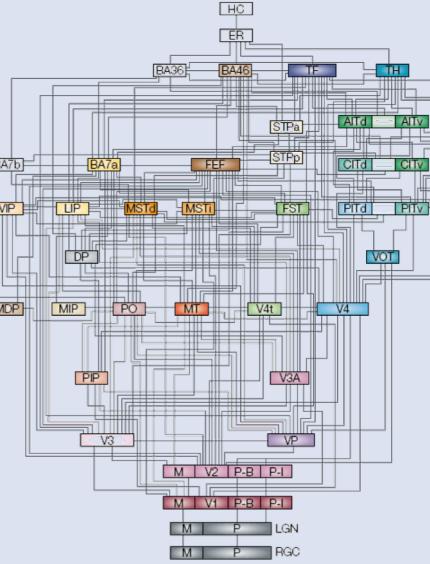
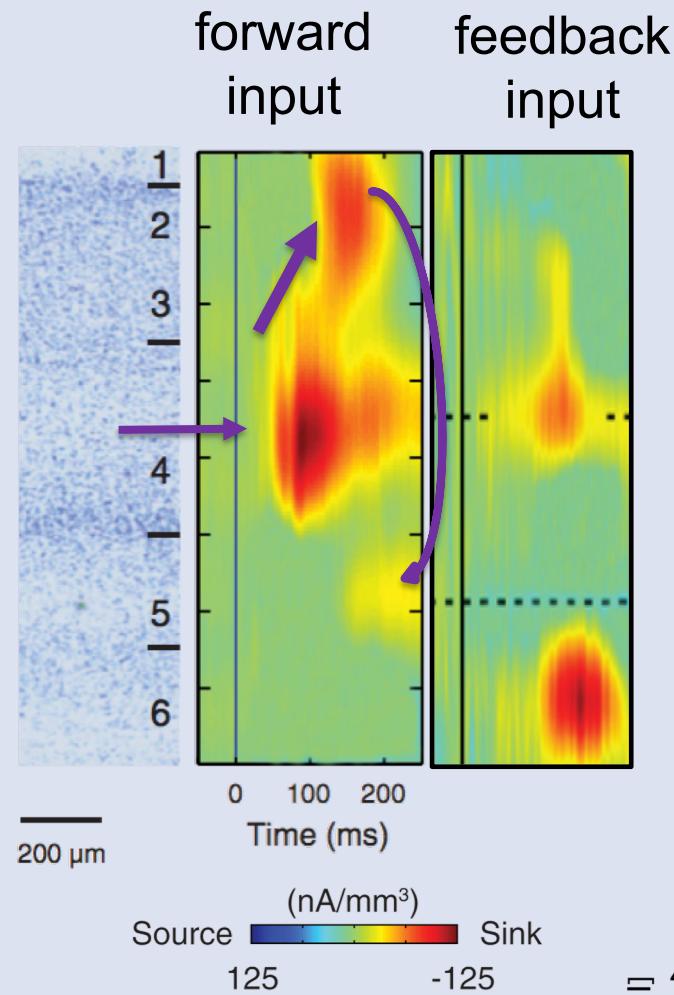
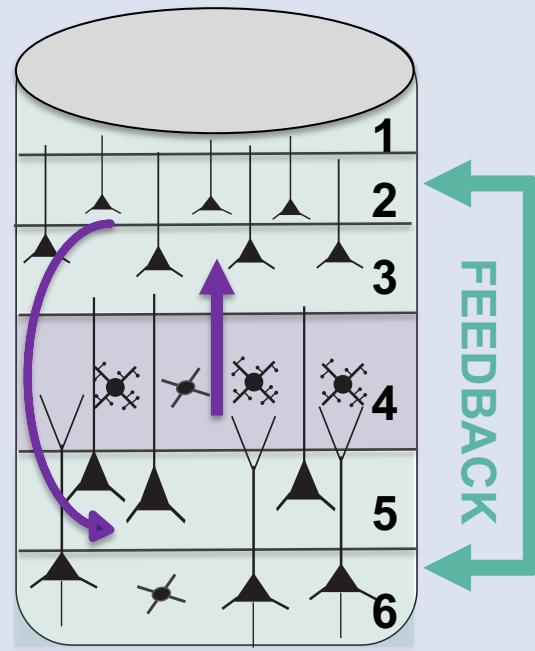
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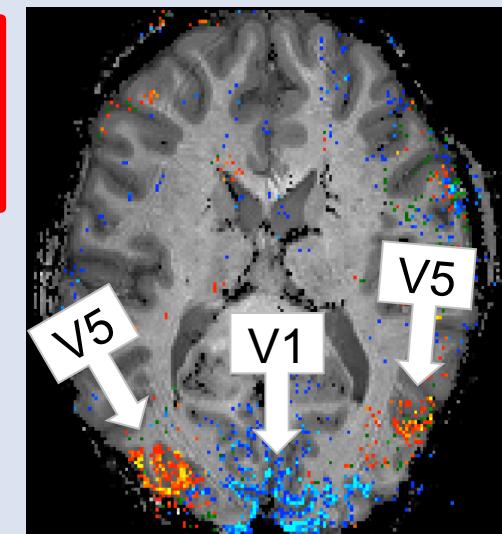
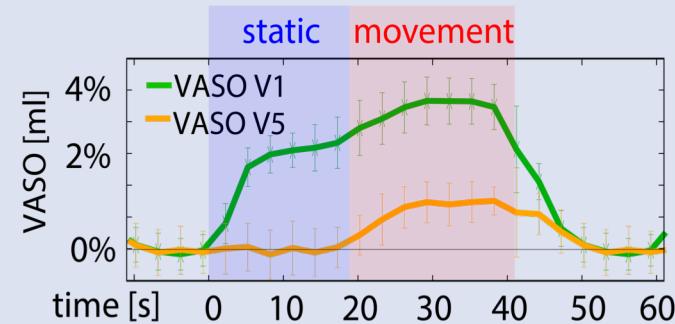
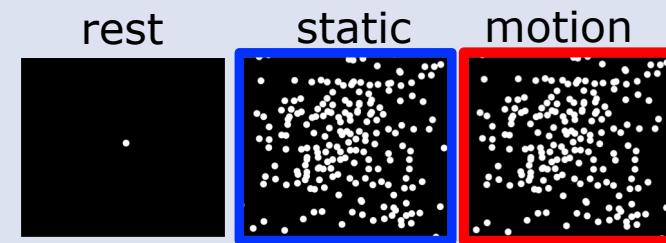
# Interconnectivity of layers

# Interconnectivity of brain areas

## Canonical microcircuit (granular/sensory cortex)



Felleman and van Essen 1991



Huber et al., 2015 NeuroImage

Ninomiya, Dougherty, et al., Journal of Neurophysiology  
Godlove et al., Journal of Neuroscience (2014)

## Limits of layer fMRI

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## Open questions, unmet needs

- **Specialized streamlined analysis tools needed for high-res/laminar fMRI**
  - bundle tools into a common framework/package
- **More complete characterization of vascular bias**
  - ultimate specificity *still unknown*, may vary across regions/columns
- **How to move past current limits to *imaging* resolution?**
  - smarter sequences? faster gradients? denser coils? bigger magnets? *all four?*

## More resources

### NeuroImage special issue on laminar MRI

Prospects for cortical laminar MRI: functional and anatomical imaging of cerebral cortical layers

Editors: Jonathan R. Polimeni  
David G. Norris

*Call for Submissions*

This special issue will focus on the developing field of cortical laminar MRI, which seeks to image structural and functional properties of the layers of the cerebral cortex. The goals of this issue will be: to survey laminar MRI methodologies and technical challenges; to review recent studies investigating the functional and anatomical properties of the cortical layers; to address which neuroscientific questions that can be addressed through neuroimaging of cortical layers; and to provide a wider intellectual framework for why cortical laminar MRI should be pursued.

All layer fMRI papers focusing on human can be found here:

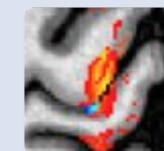
<https://goo.gl/kh5DjG>

All layer fMRI researchers and corresponding email list-serv: [laminar.imaging.network@gmail.com](mailto:laminar.imaging.network@gmail.com) <https://goo.gl/BJufev>

Repository of layerfMRI analysis code repositories: <https://goo.gl/Lb6Ps7>

Blog: [www.layerfMRI.com](http://www.layerfMRI.com)

News of talks/abstracts/papers/artifacts: [@layerfMRI](https://twitter.com/layerfMRI)



layerfMRI  
@layerfMRI

# Thank you

## NIMH:

- **Daniel Handwerker**
- **Emily Finn**
- **Yuhui Chai**
- **Dave Jangraw**
- **Arman Khojandi**
- **Sean Marrett**
- **Vinai Roopchansingh**
- **Andy Derbyshire**
- **Kenny Chung**
- **Javier Gonzales**
- **Adam Thomas**
- **Peter Bandettini**

comments and questions are appreciated:

[Laurentius.Huber@nih.gov](mailto:Laurentius.Huber@nih.gov)

## MPI CBS Leipzig:

- Harald Möller
- Bob Turner
- Robert Trampel
- Maria Guidi

## University of Glasgow:

- Jozien Goense

## University of Sheffield:

- Aneurin Kennerley

## Cornell University Hospital:

- Carsten Stüber

## University of Maastricht:

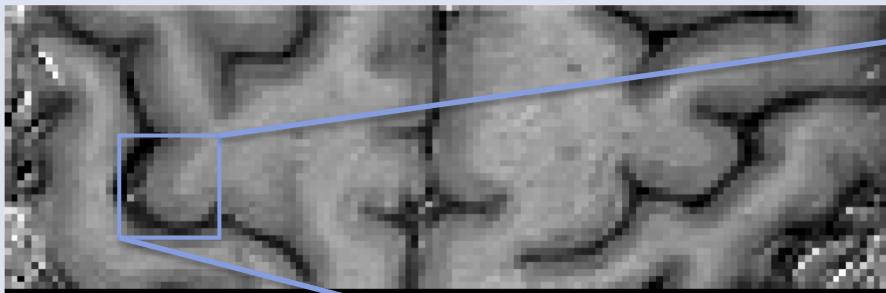
- Benedikt Poser
- Dimo Ivanov



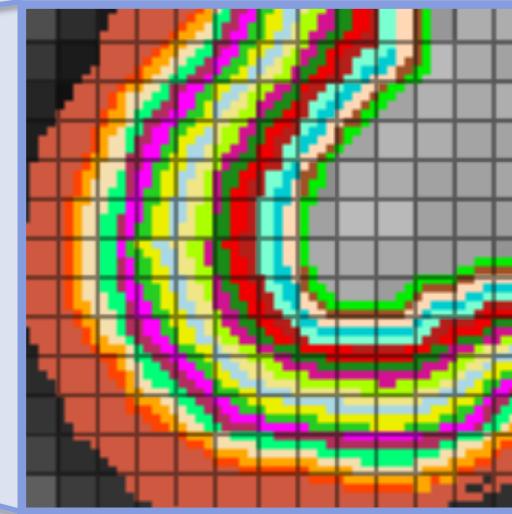
Supported by the NIMH Intramural Research Program

## Decision 7: layers in sub-voxel space

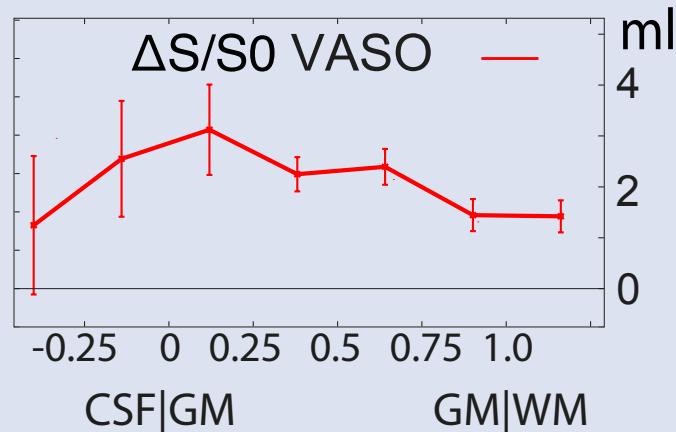
CSF-GM border from T1 weighting



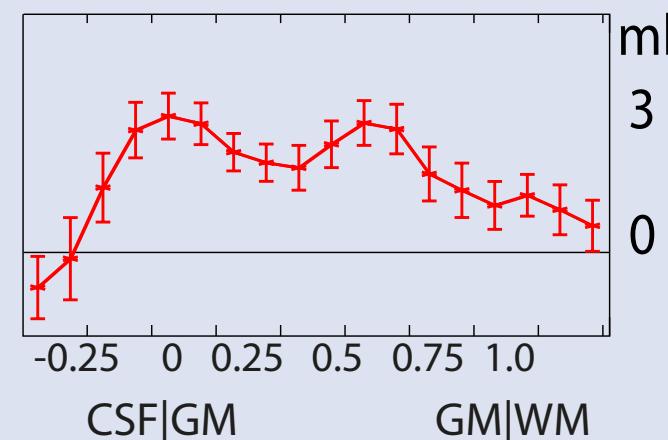
20 layers (effective: 6-8.5)



[Huber Neuroimage 2015]



new



People react strong on the word 'interpolation'