Week 10 (April 4 & 9) Neurons & Perception

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In the Wednesday lecture we will discuss how the activity of individual sensory neurons is related to perception. We will examine methods that have been used to compare the sensitivity of individual neurons to that of the organism, and techniques for demonstrating which neurons are more or less correlated with behavioral reports.

On Monday we will discuss the following paper:


Most studies that attempt to relate neuronal activity to perception look for conditions where perceptions differ across multiple presentations of exactly the same stimuli. This study achieved that by having subject detect near-threshold stimuli, which were sometimes detected and sometimes not. They then asked whether neural activity was more closely linked to the stimulus or to the reported percept.

Your assignment is to write a short summary and assessment. As before, your assessment should provide a cogent summary of the key features of this report, together with any issues your identify and any future directions that you think might be worth pursuing.