



MAX
PLANCK
INSTITUTE

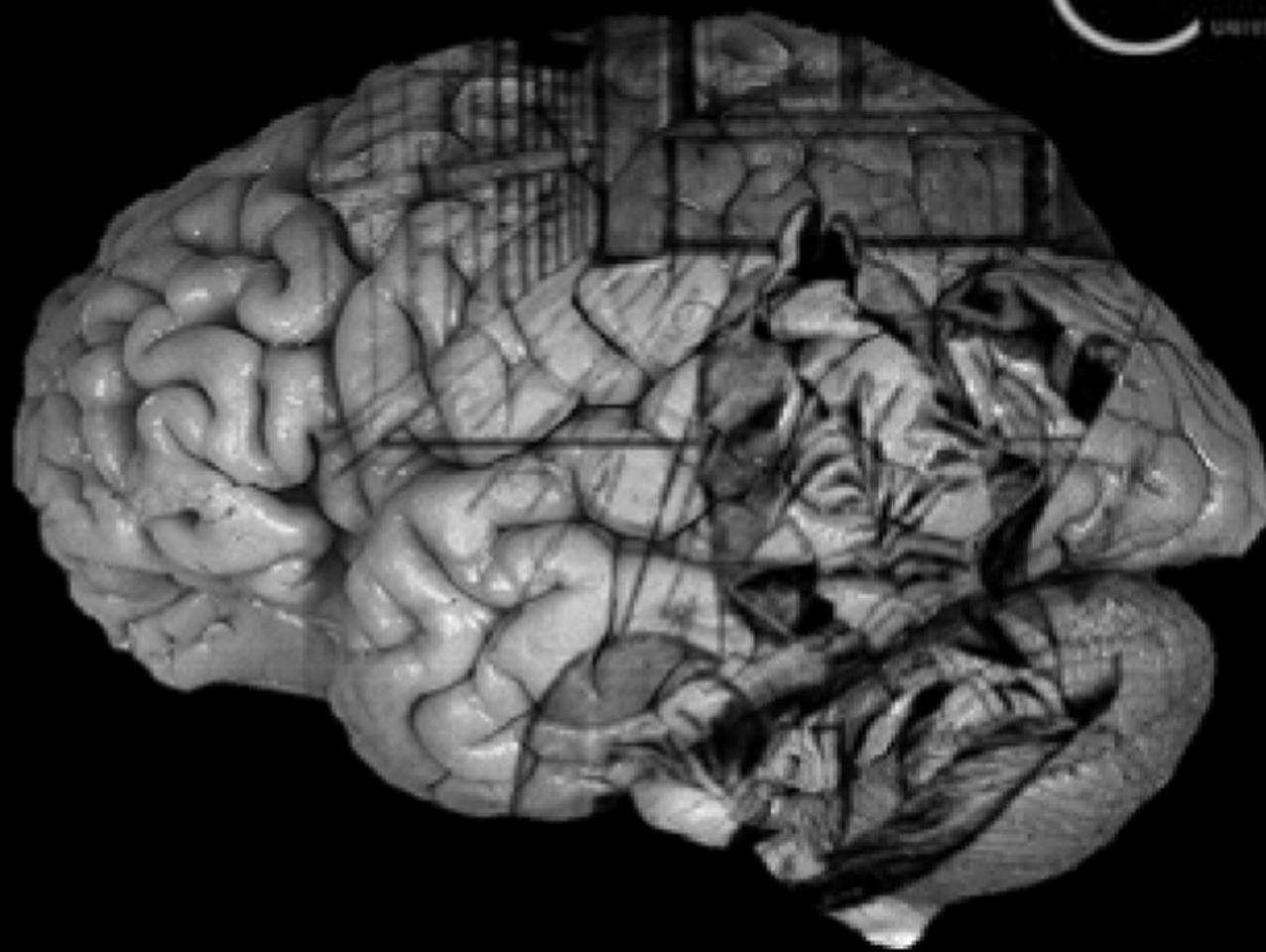
FOR
HUMAN
COGNITIVE AND BRAIN SCIENCES
1970

Attention and Awareness Group



Bernstein Center for
Computational Neuroscience Berlin

CHARITÉ
UNIVERSITÄTSMEDIZIN BERLIN



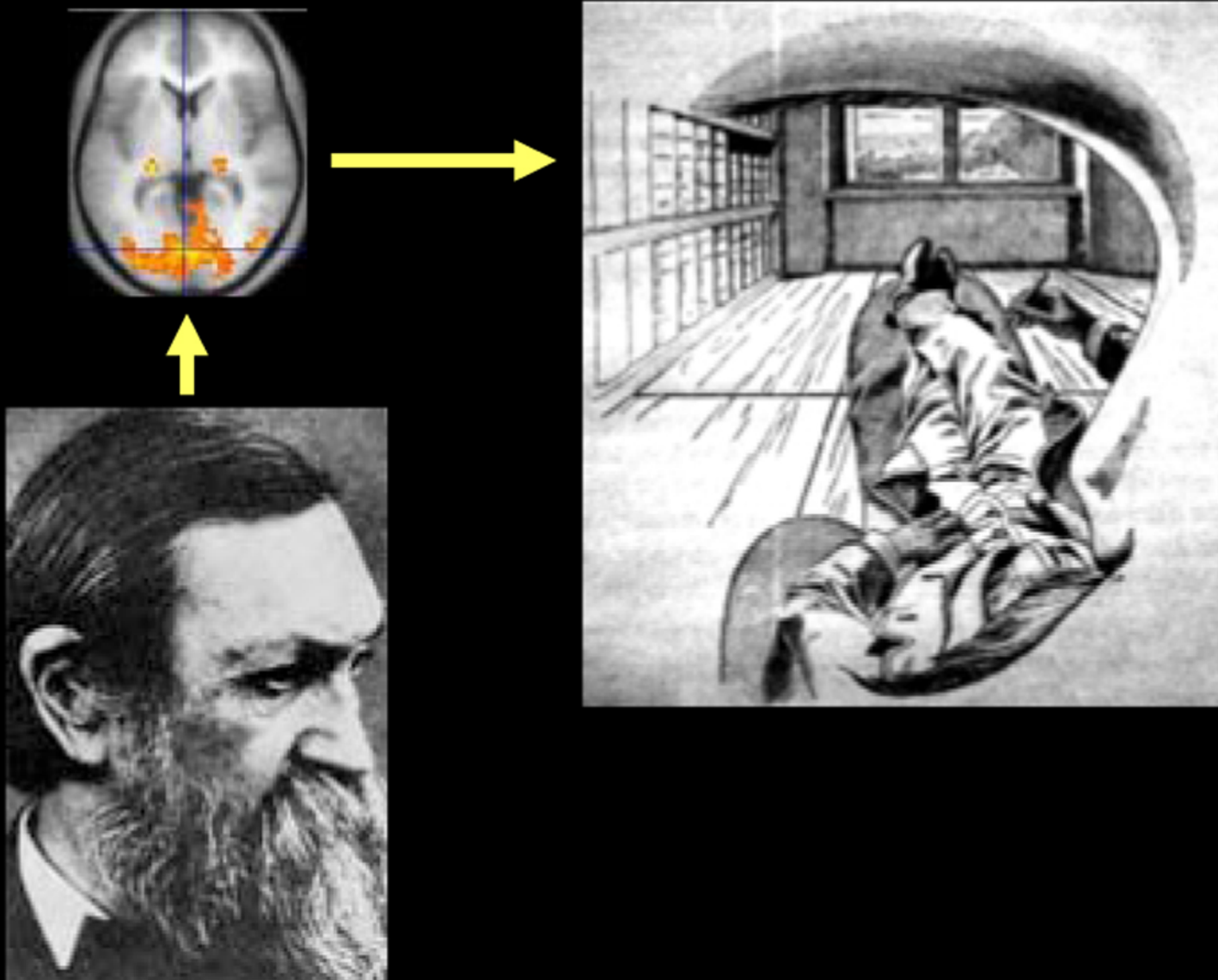
Decoding mental states from human brain activity

John-Dylan Haynes

Everyday thought reading



A general “thought-reading device”?



Mach (1886)

Introduction to “brain-reading”

Limits of brain reading

Technical applications

“Brain reading”

FUNCTIONAL



MENTAL STATES
Sensations
Memory traces
Intentions
Attitudes
Deception

STRUCTURAL



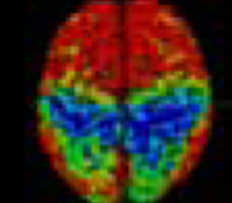
T1 MRI



CT



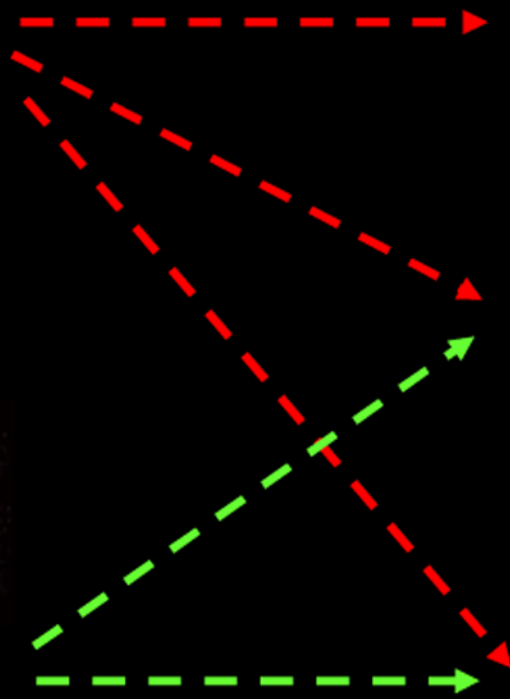
DTI fibre tracking



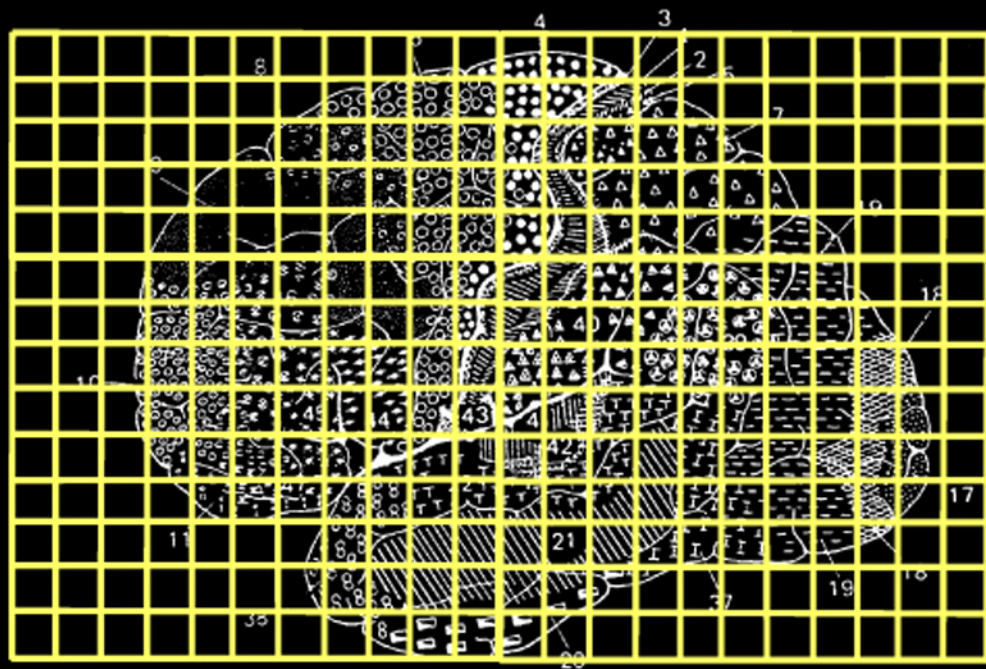
Cortical thickness

MENTAL TRAITS
Intelligence
Personality

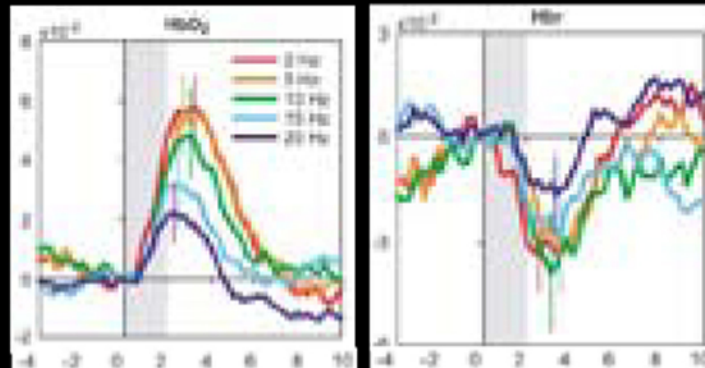
MEDICAL STATE



BOLD - fMRI

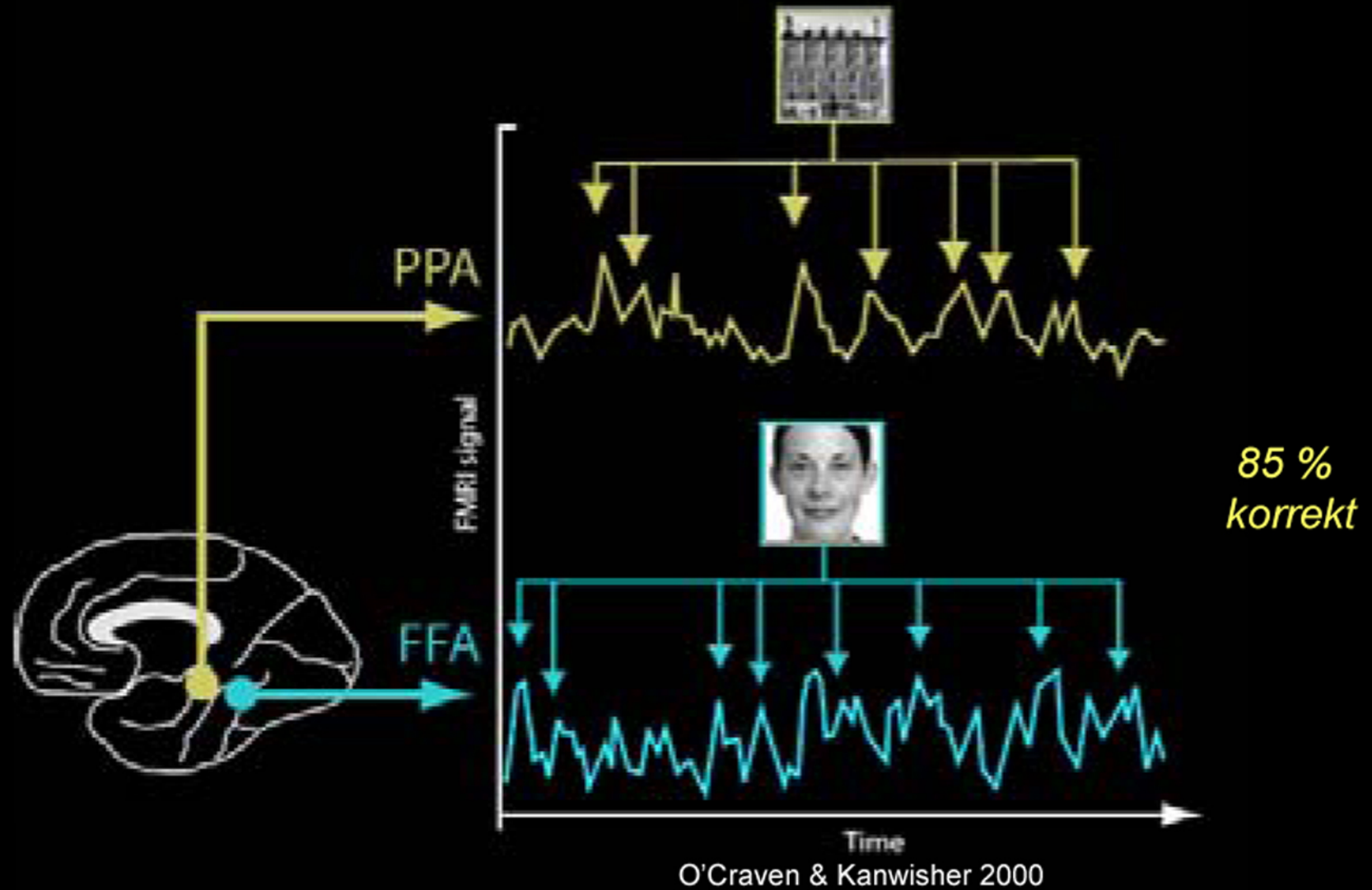


$\approx 3\text{mm}$



Sheth et al. (2005)

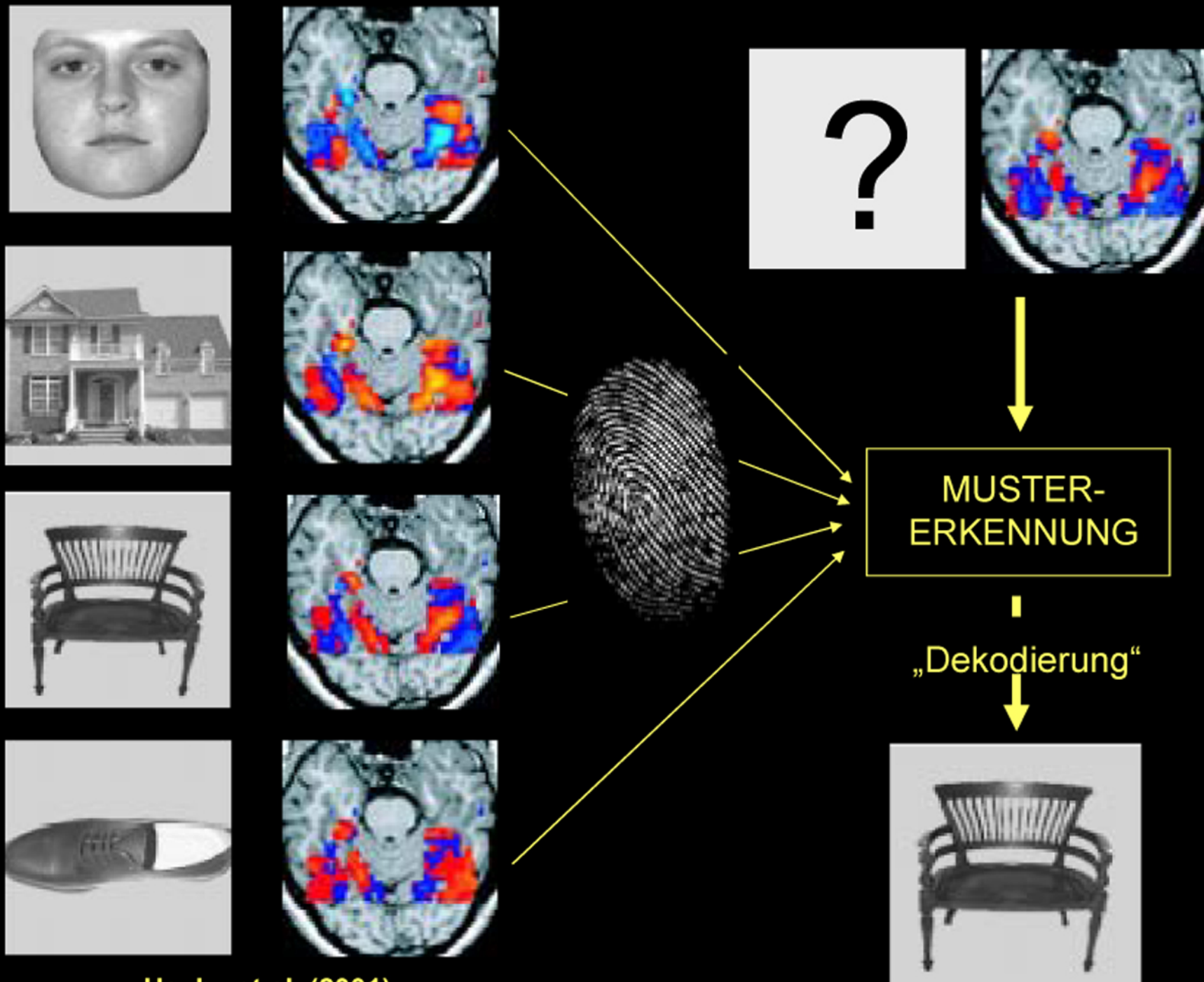
Visuelle Vorstellungen

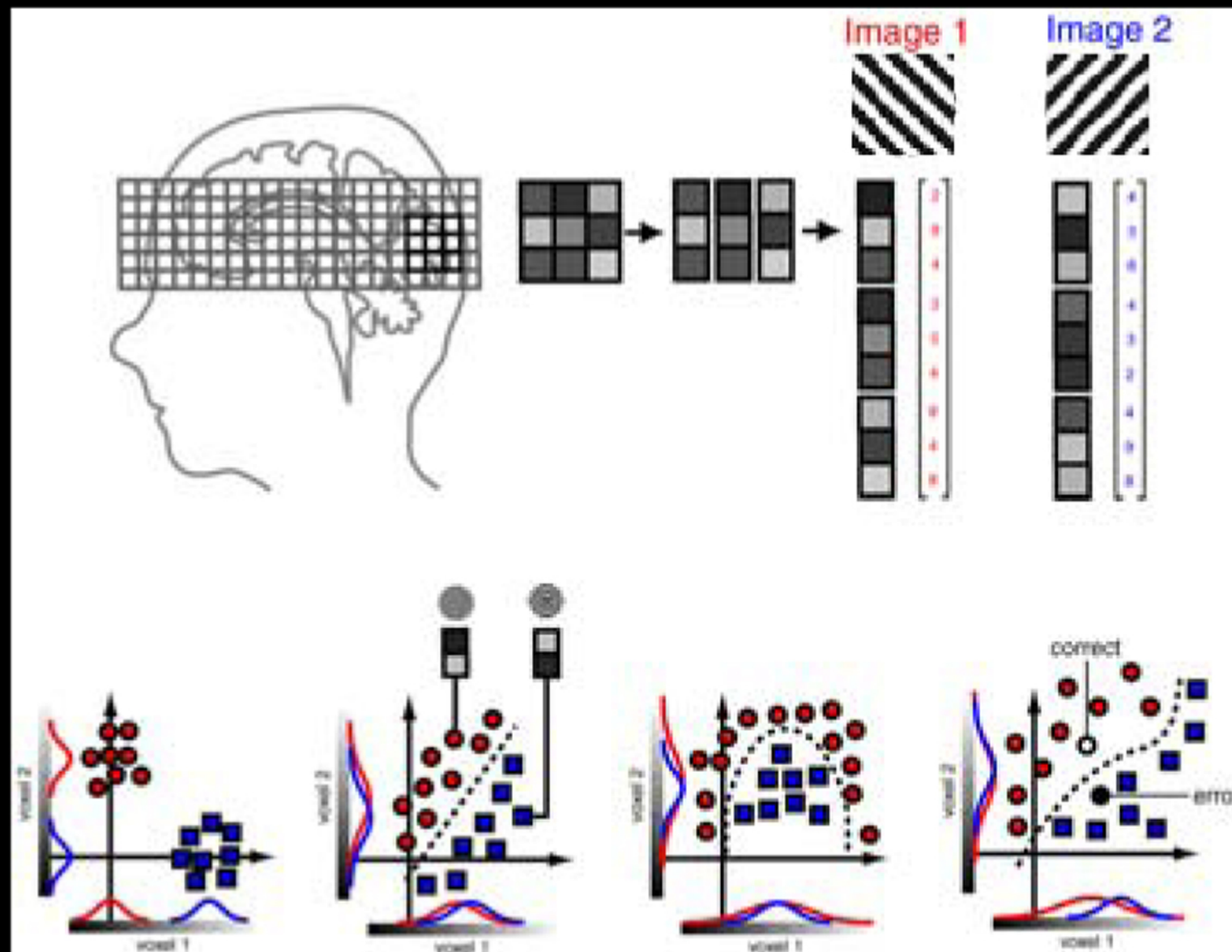


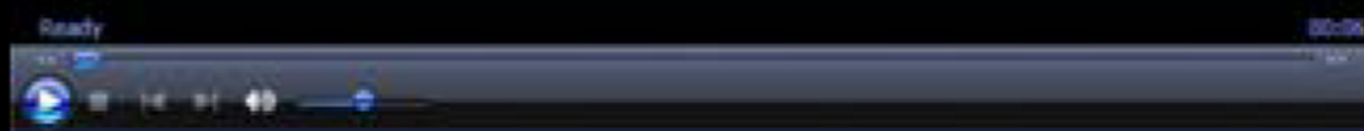
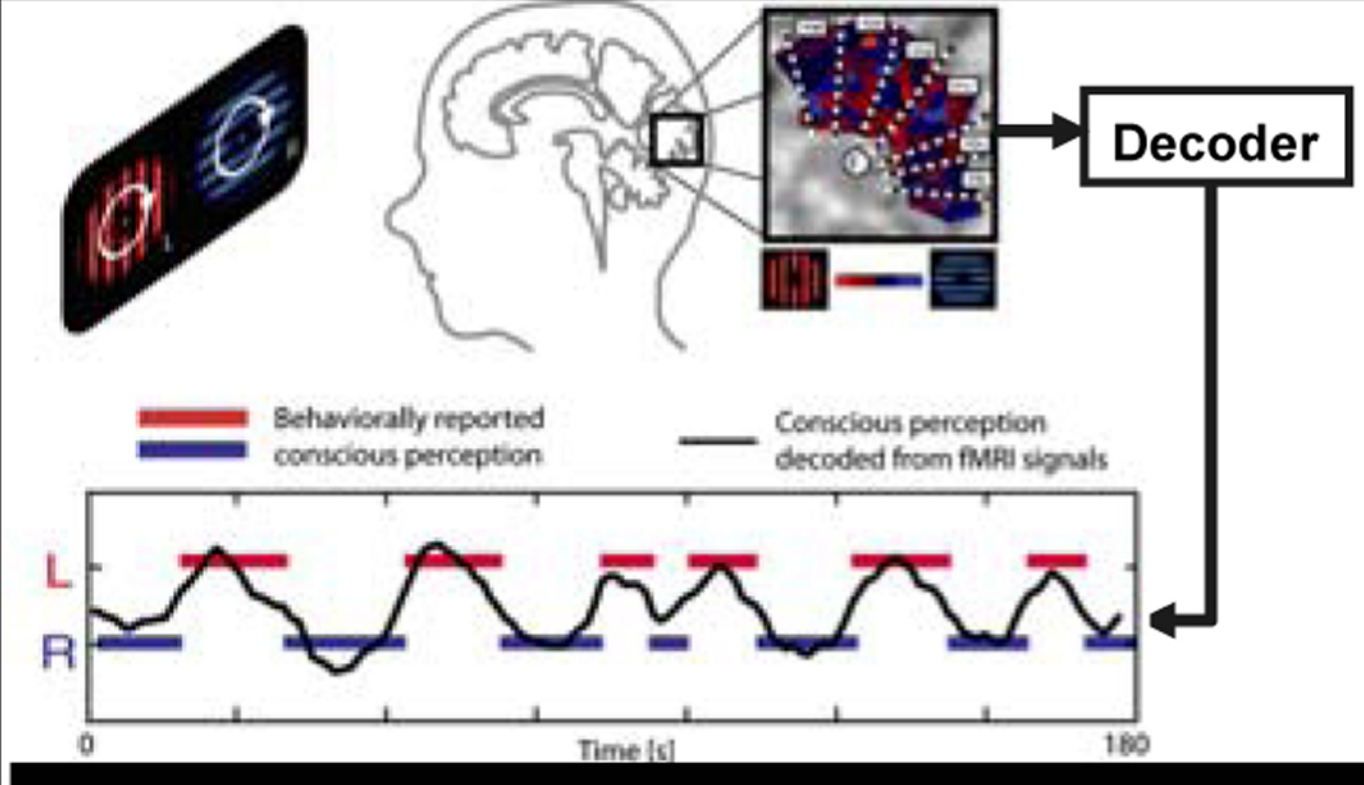
Trennbare kortikale Module

Multiple Objekte?







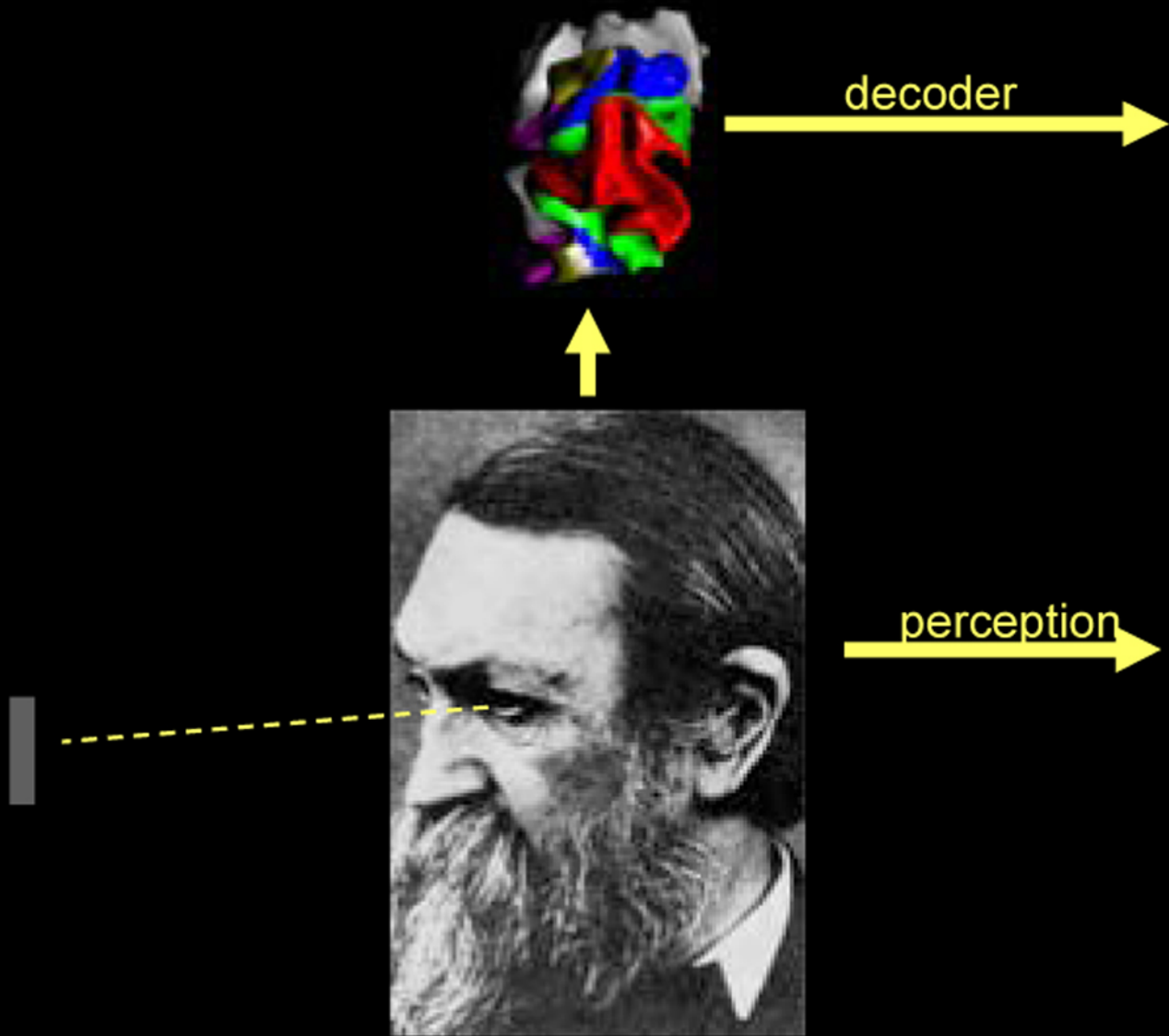


stimulus

perception

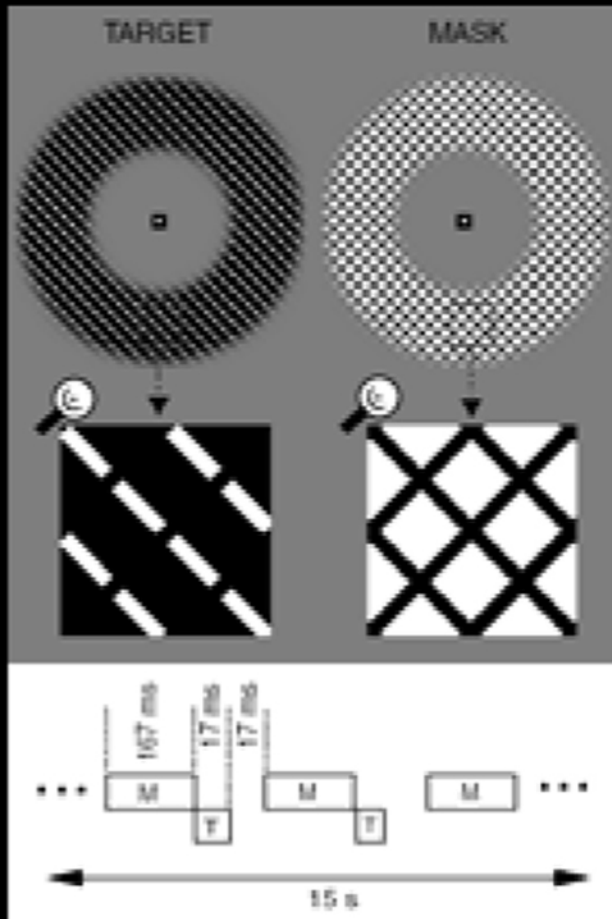
prediction

Comparing neural and perceptual information

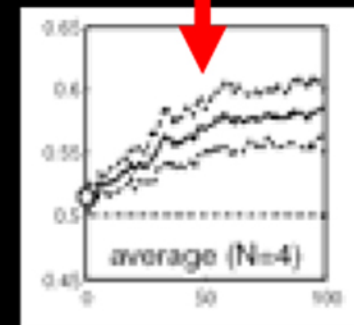
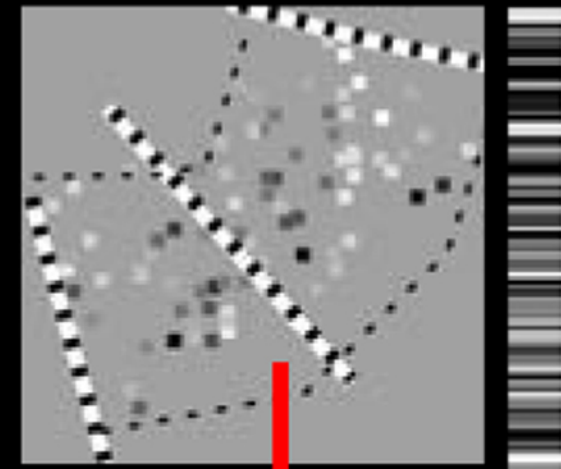


Mach (1886)

Responses to invisible stimuli



Discrimination performance during scanning at chance (50.3%; SE=0.4)



Single EPI Volumes (TR=1.3s)

Early visual system registers more details of visual stimuli than reach awareness

Act First, Think Later

By scanning the brains of people performing simple decision-making exercises, scientists found that brain regions involved in making choices activate before people are consciously aware they've made a choice.

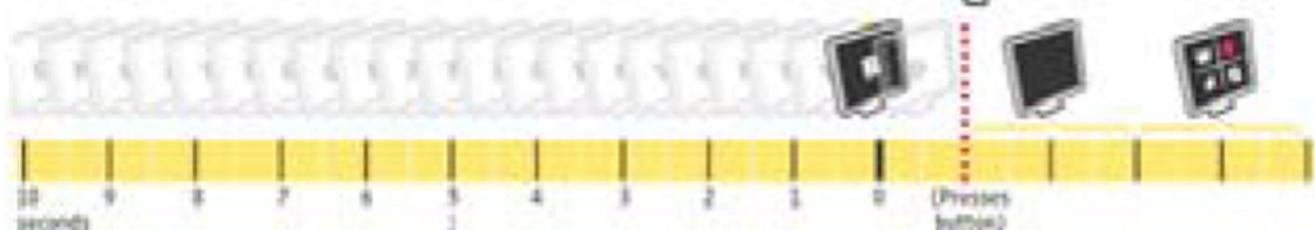


On the screen

Subjects watch a screen that flashes a random sequence of letters at half-second intervals.

At a time of their choosing, subjects can press a button with either their left or right hands.

Subjects identify which letter they were looking at when they decided to push the button.



Beneath the surface

Throughout the process, scientists are recording the subjects' brain activity.



Brain cross section

They found that regions involved in decision making became active up to 10 seconds before the subjects consciously decided to press the button.



Motor cortex

They also found that the motor cortexes became active five seconds before deciding to press the button. The brain scans also allowed them to predict whether subjects used their left or right hand.

Source: Nature Neuroscience

Other examples

Complex decisions
and action control

Haynes et al. Current Biology 2007
Soon et al. Nat Neurosci 2008

Motor plans

Soon et al. Nat Neurosci 2008
Bode et al. HBM 2007

Attention

Kalberlah et al. HBM 2007



Concepts

Yi & Haynes VSS 2008

Conscious perception

Haynes et al. Nat Neurosci 2005
Haynes et al. Curr Biology 2005
Haynes et al. Nature 2005
Haynes et al. Neuron 2005

Introduction to “brain-reading”

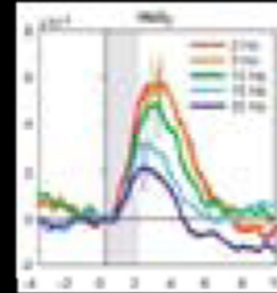
Limits of brain reading

Technical applications

Challenges and limitations

Technical

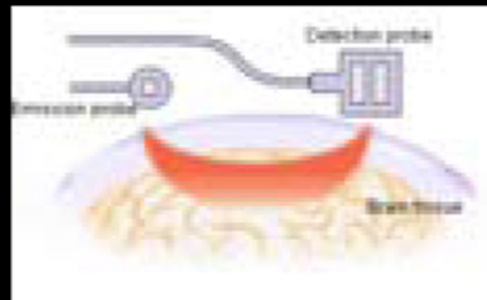
- Temporal and spatial resolution



- „Mobility“



EEG



NIRS



MRI

Challenges and limitations

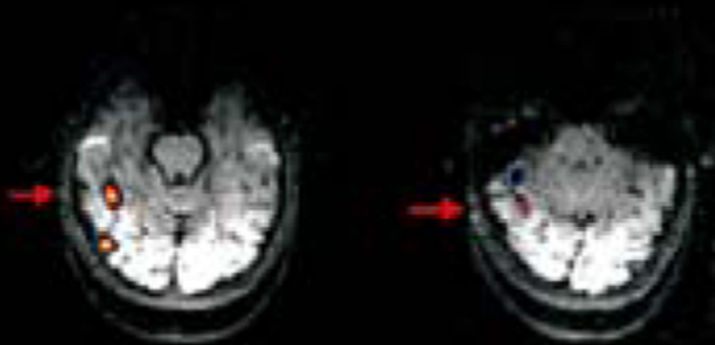
Generalisation and invariance

Novel exemplars and contexts



Quiroga et al., Nature (2005)

Novel subjects

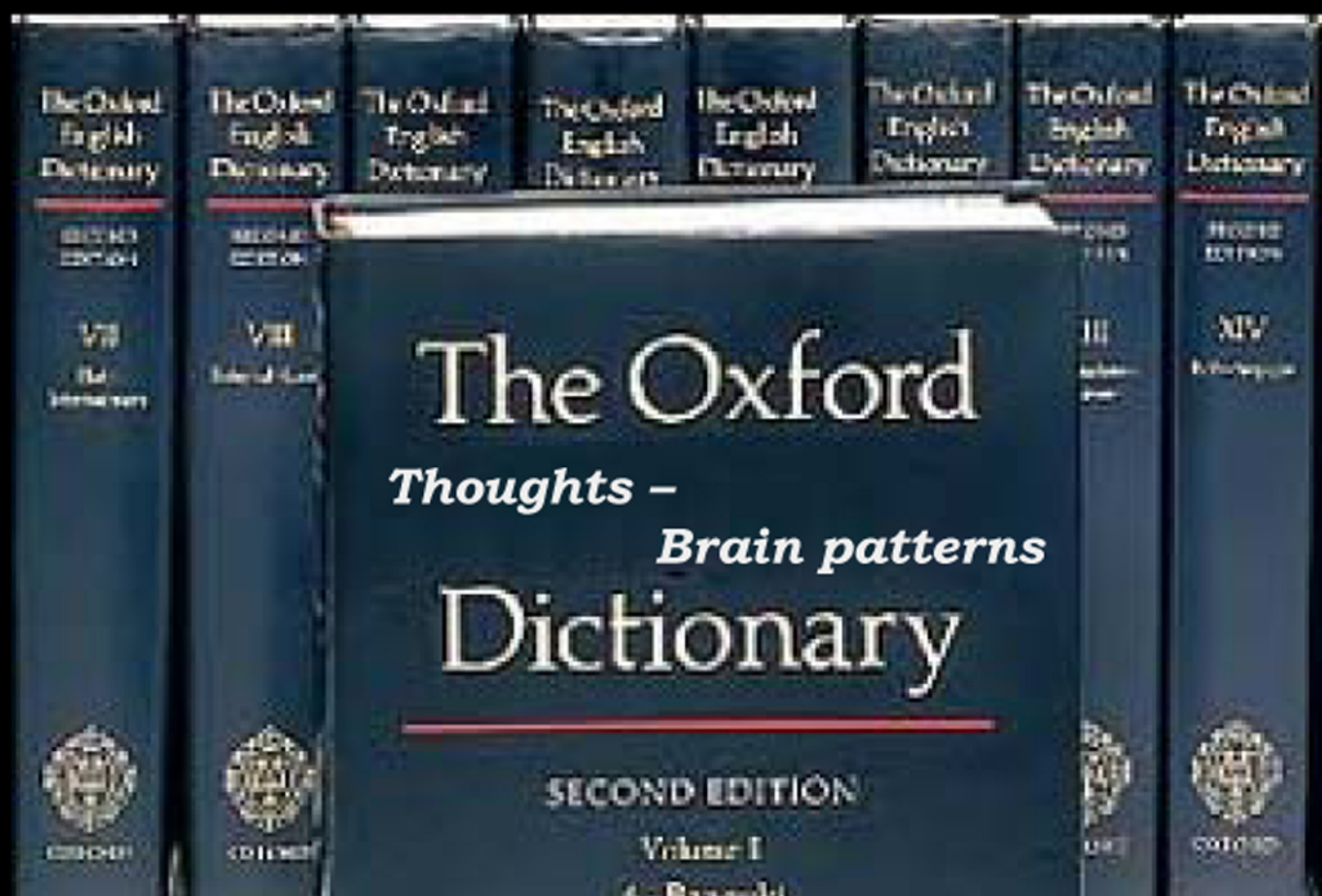


Kanwisher et al., J Neurosci (1997)



Kamitani & Tong, Nat Neurosci (2005)

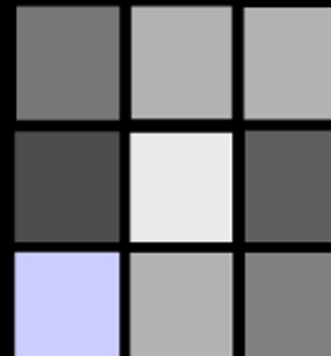
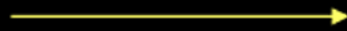
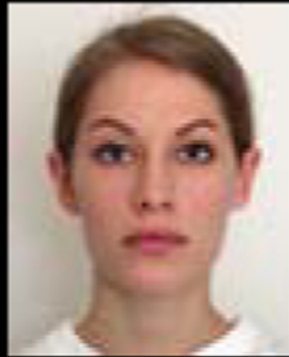
Lexicon of thoughts



Superposition of virtual sensors?



Filling up the dictionary

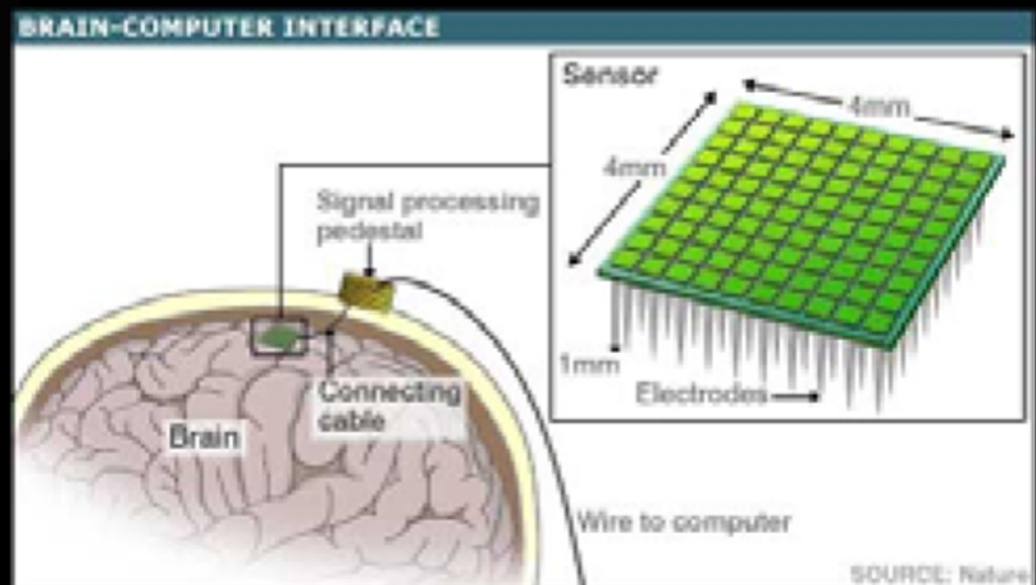
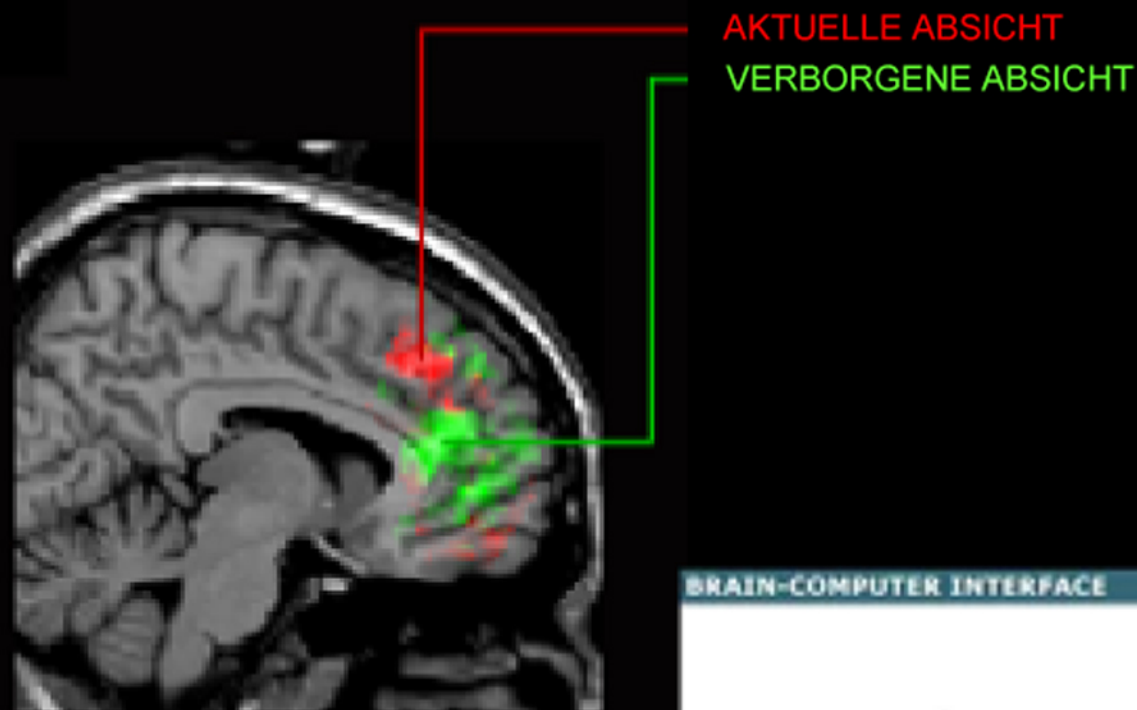


Introduction to “brain-reading”

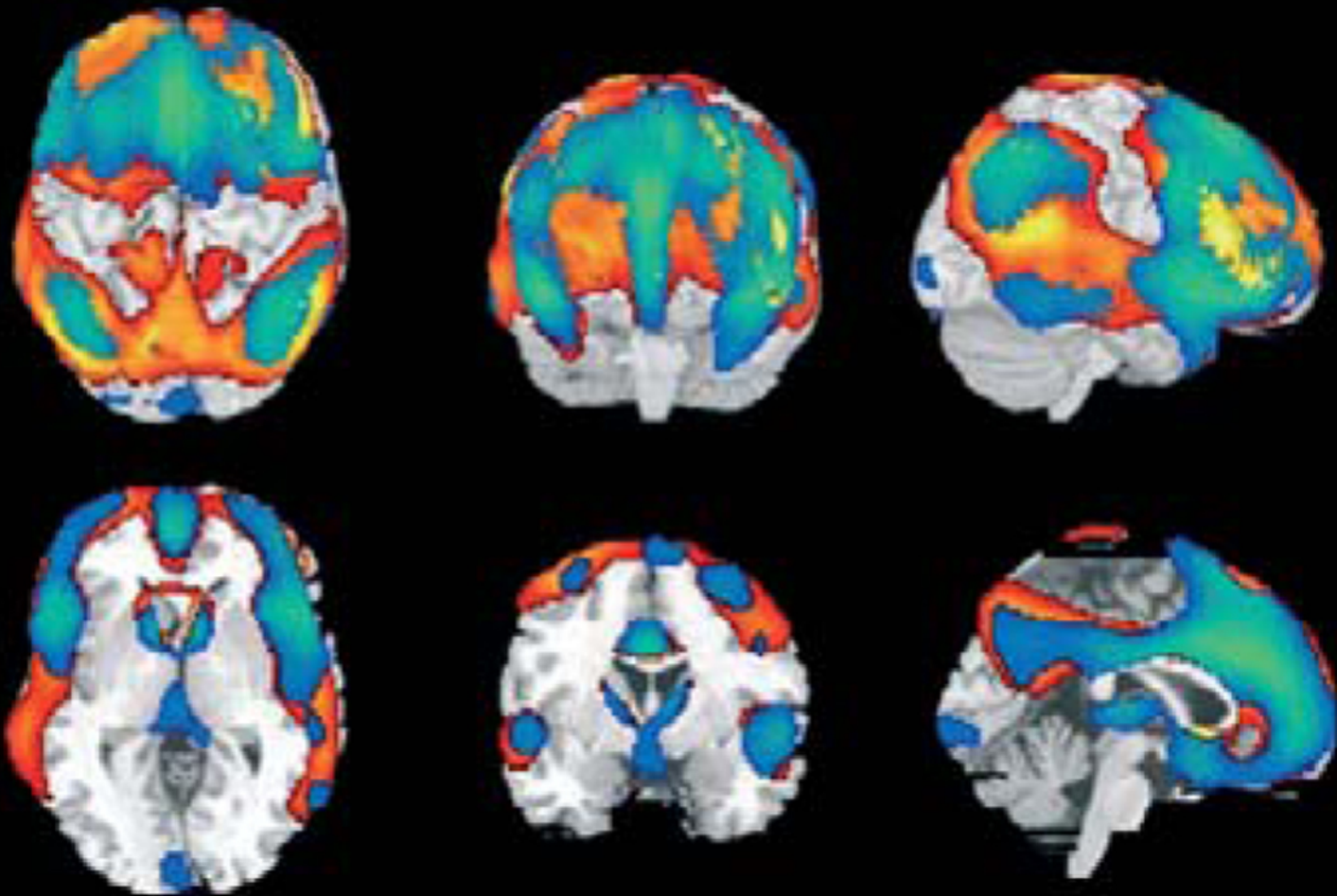
Limits of brain reading

Technical applications

Clinical: fMRI-guided electrode placement



Clinical diagnostics



Parkinson's Dementia < Control



Lewy Body Dementia < Control



Have I been here before?



Design

- Training
 - Explore 4 out of 8 virtual houses
- Experiment
 - 64 videos (8.8 s each)
 - 32 recorded in explored houses
 - 32 recorded in new houses



Seen



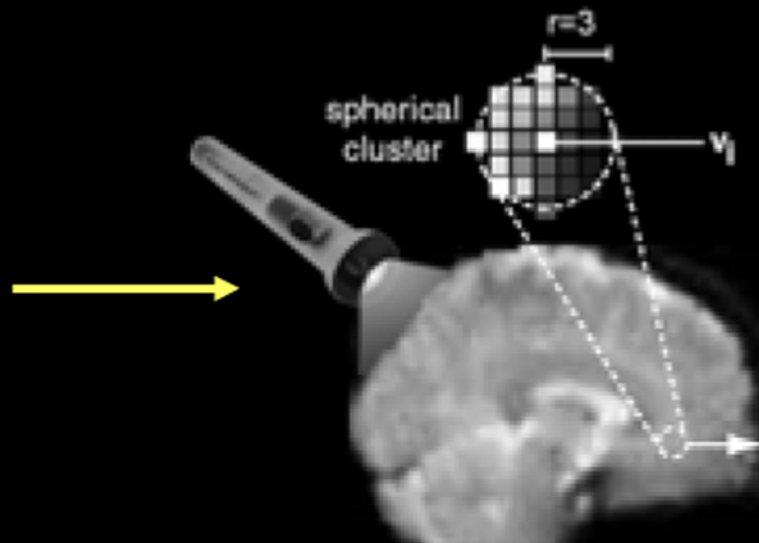
Unseen



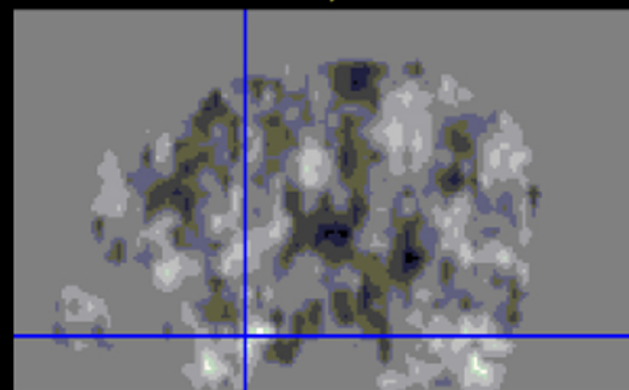
Mart Bles
Postdoc

- 4 runs, 16 videos each (2 per house)
- 8.8 s per video, interspersed with baseline
- 32 slices, 3.5 * 3.5 * 3.5 mm
- Subject's task: count occurrence of tables in videos (assure visual attention)

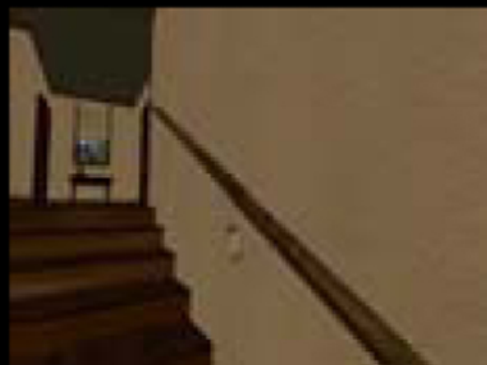
6 houses with known label



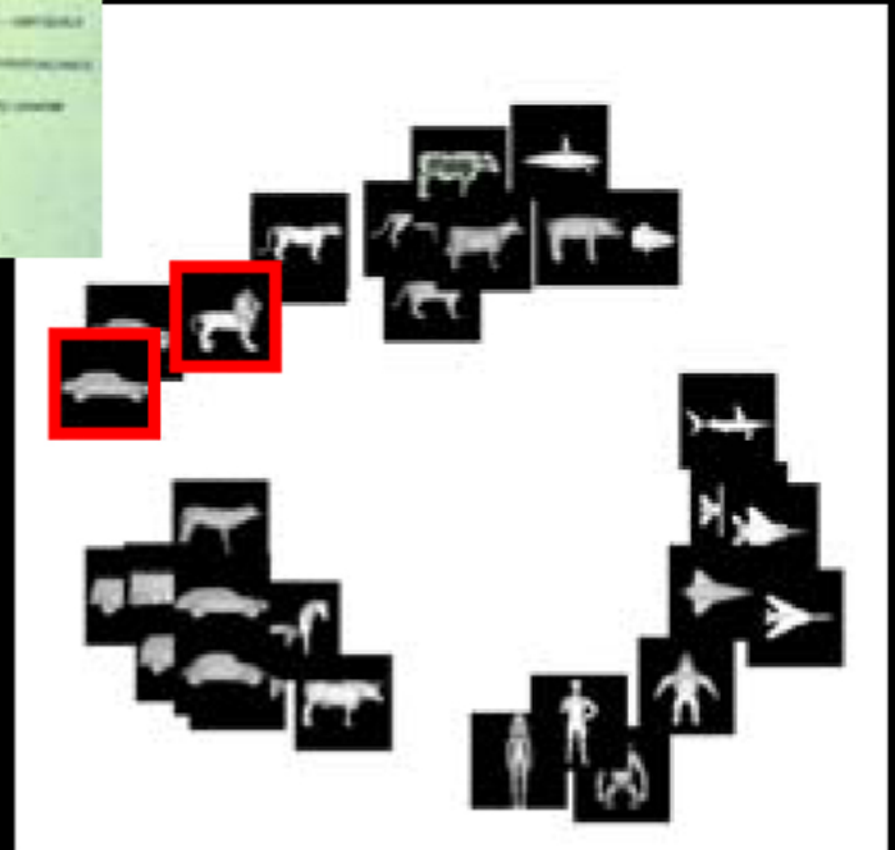
Classifier



92% correct classification
(N=10 subjects)



Market research



Summary

Multivariate decoding allows to non-invasively study the encoding of information in the human brain.

A major limitation is the limited number of mental states that can be decoded.

But even without a „universal thought reading device“ it is still possible to realise powerful applications.



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