



How to Grow a Mind: Statistics, Structure and Abstraction

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Lauren Schmidt

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Steve Piantadosi

The goal

“Reverse-engineering the mind”

Understand human learning and inference in our best engineering terms, and use that knowledge to build more human-like machine learning and inference systems.

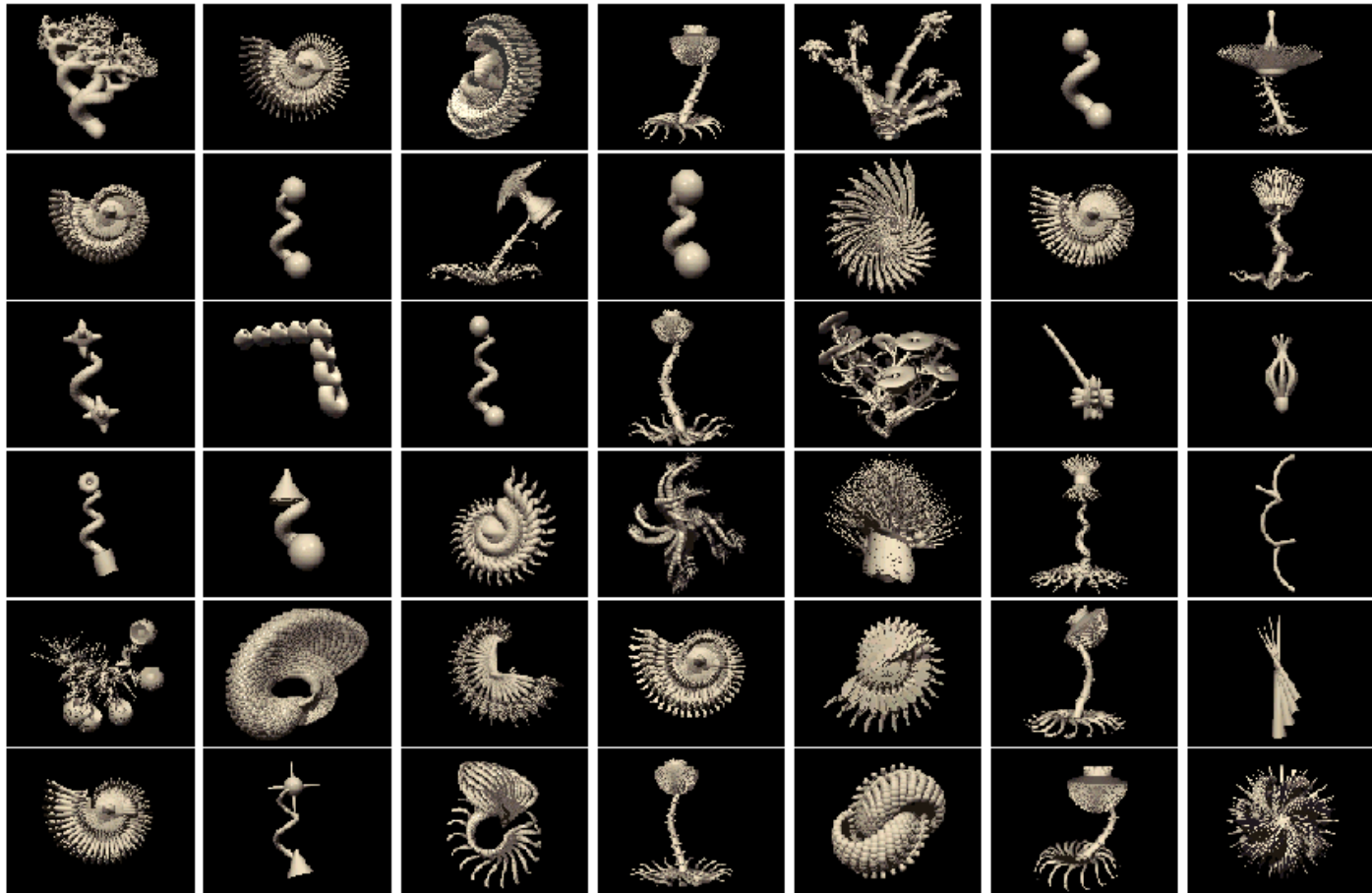
The big question

How does the mind get so much out of so little?

Our minds build rich models of the world and make strong generalizations from input data that is sparse, noisy, and ambiguous – in many ways far too limited to support the inferences we make.

How do we do it?

Learning words for objects



Learning words for objects

“tufa”



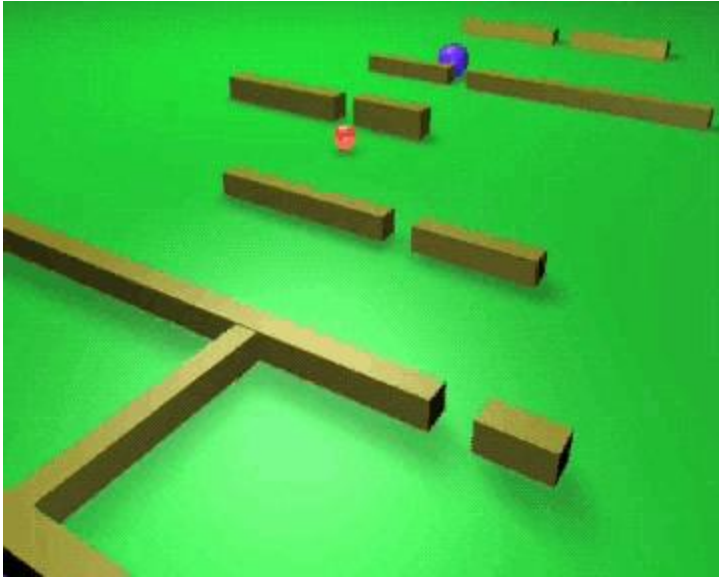
“tufa”

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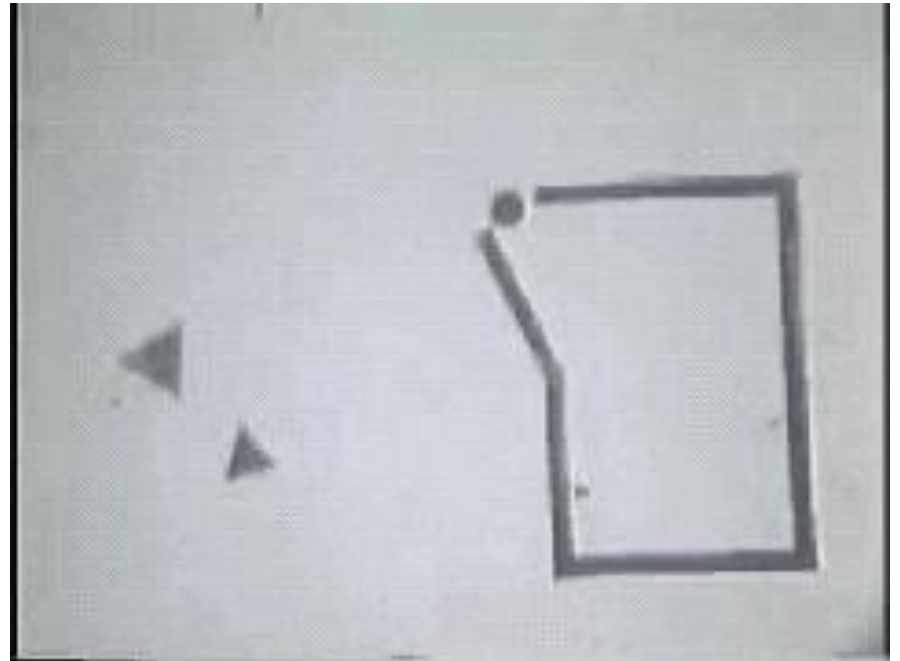
The big question

How does the mind get so much out of so little?

- Perceiving the world from sense data
- Learning about kinds of objects and their properties
- Learning the meanings of words, phrases, and sentences
- Inferring causal relations
- Learning and using intuitive theories of physics, psychology, biology, social structure...



Southgate and Csibra, 2009



Heider and Simmel, 1944

The approach: *learning with knowledge*

1. How does abstract knowledge guide learning and inference from sparse data?

Bayesian inference in probabilistic generative models.

$$P(h | d) = \frac{P(d | h)P(h)}{\sum_{h_i \in H} P(d | h_i)P(h_i)}$$

2. What form does abstract knowledge take, across different domains and tasks?

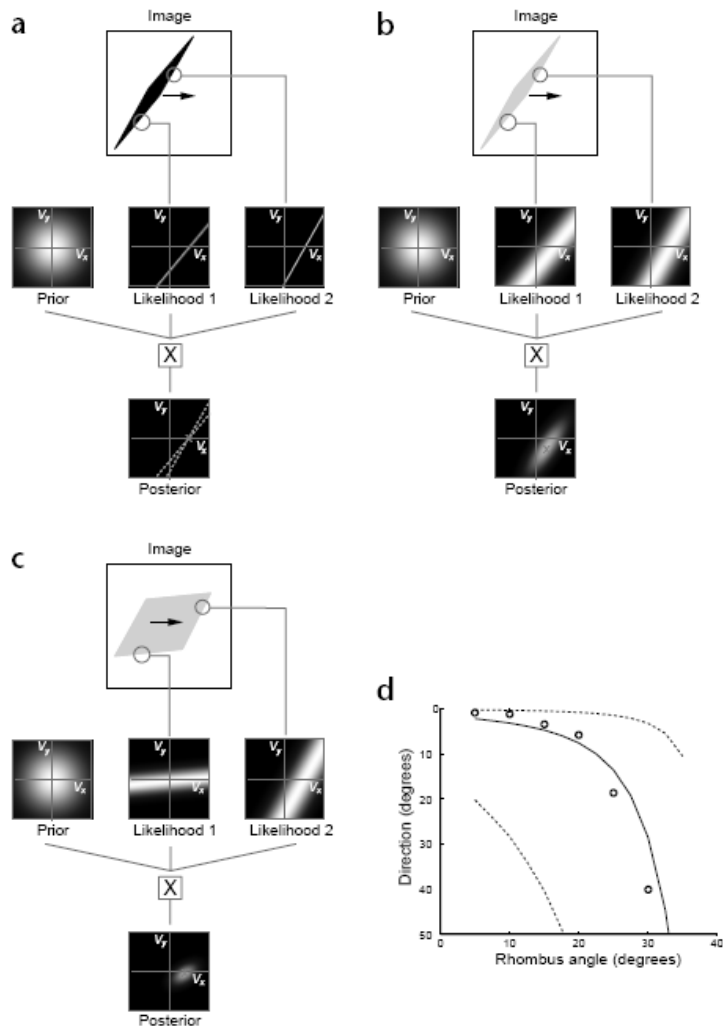
Probabilities defined over a range of structured representations: spaces, graphs, grammars, predicate logic, schemas, programs.

3. How is abstract knowledge itself acquired – balancing complexity versus fit, constraint versus flexibility?

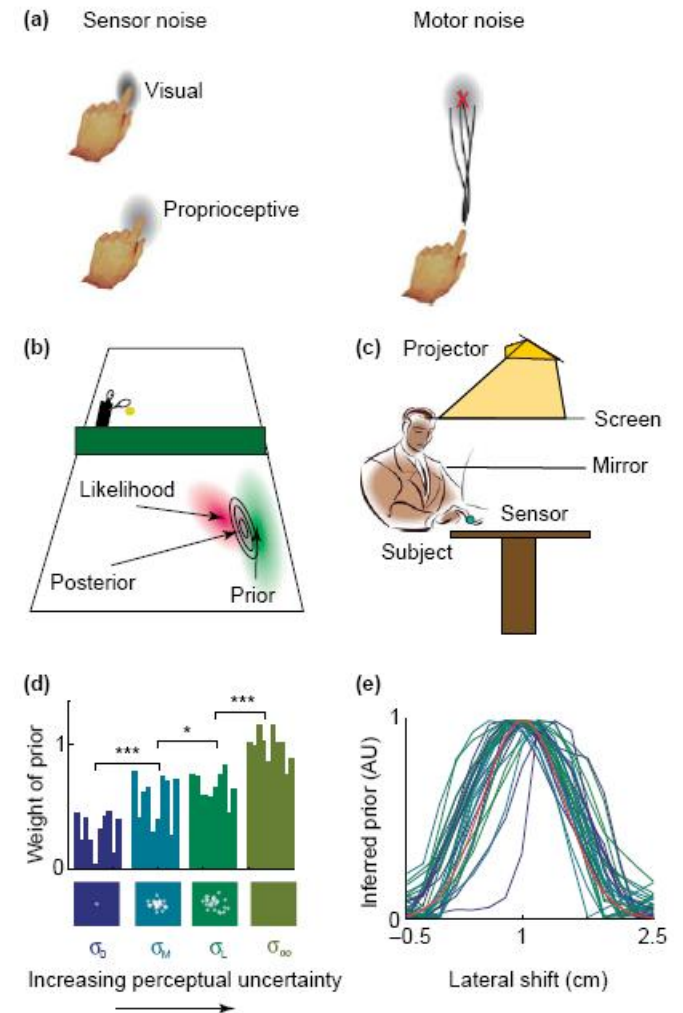
Hierarchical models, with inference at multiple levels (“learning to learn”). Nonparametric (“infinite”) models, growing complexity and adapting their structure as the data require.

Perception as Bayesian inference

Weiss, Simoncelli & Adelson (2002):
“Slow and smooth” priors

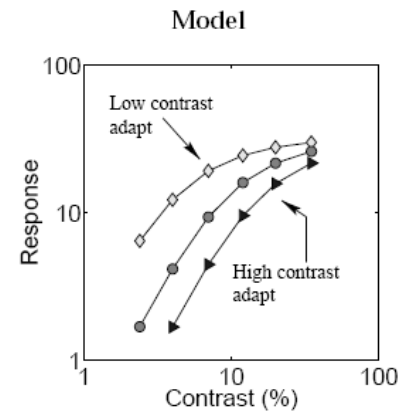
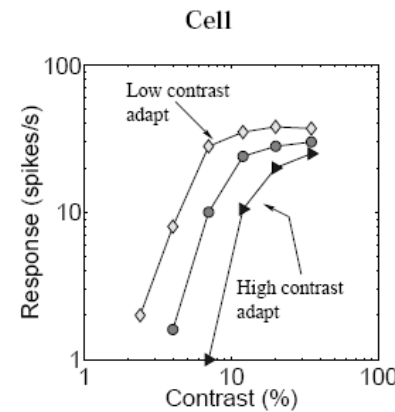
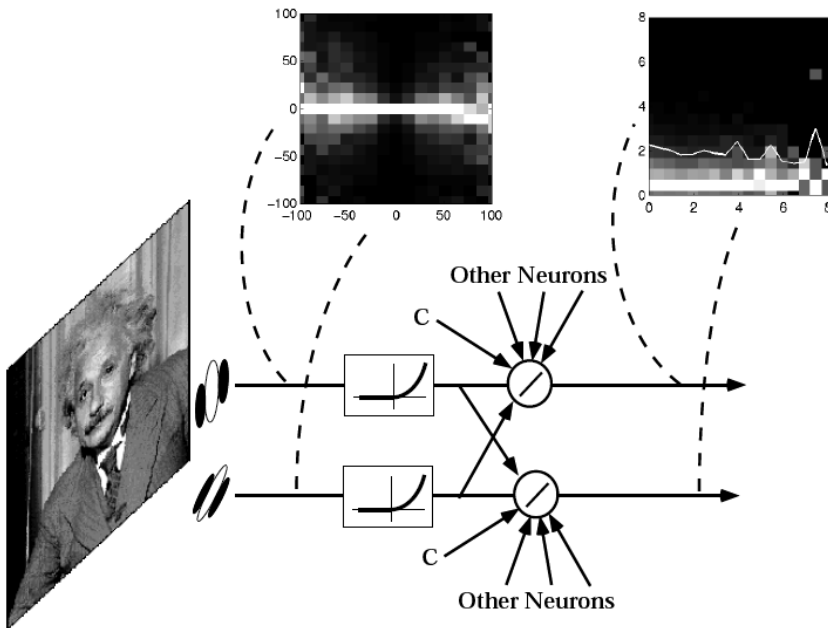


Kording & Wolpert (2004): Priors
in sensorimotor integration



Perception as Bayesian inference

Wainwright, Schwartz & Simoncelli (2002): Bayesian ideal observers based on natural scene statistics



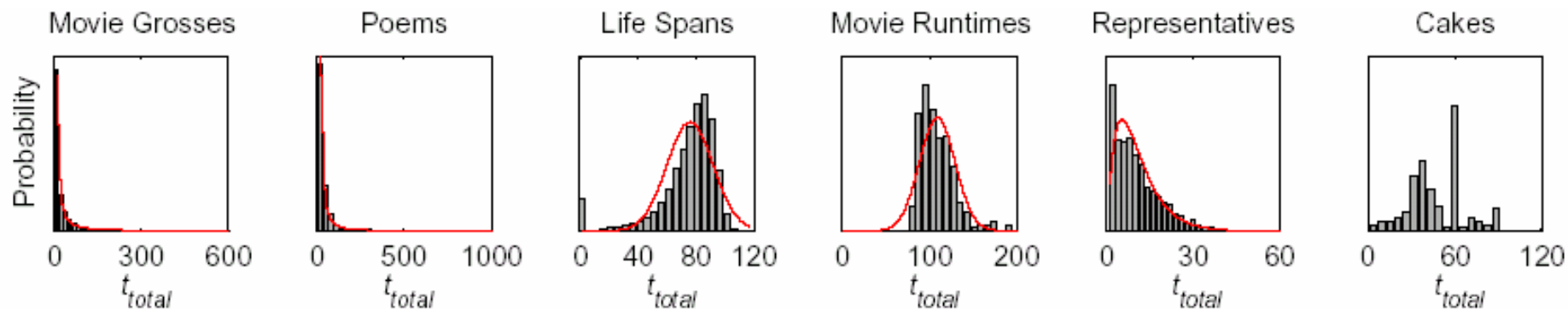
Does this approach extend to cognition?

Everyday prediction problems

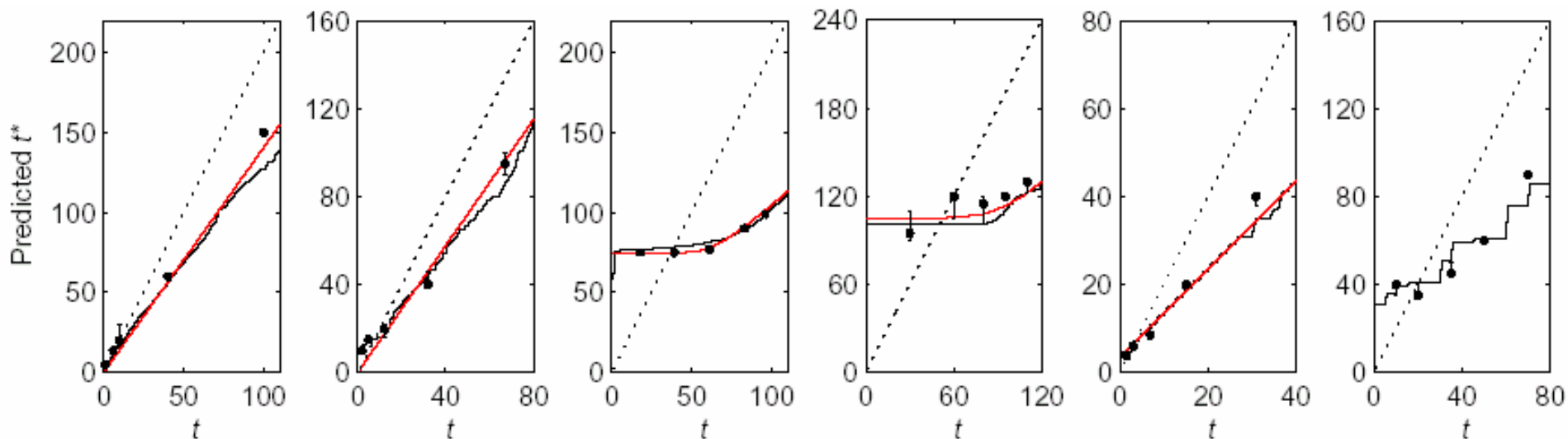
(Griffiths & Tenenbaum, *Psych. Science* 2006)

- You read about a movie that has made \$60 million to date. How much money will it make in total?
- You see that something has been baking in the oven for 34 minutes. How long until it's ready?
- You meet someone who is 78 years old. How long will they live?
- Your friend quotes to you from line 17 of his favorite poem. How long is the poem?
- You meet a US congressman who has served for 11 years. How long will he serve in total?
- You encounter a phenomenon or event with an unknown extent or duration, t_{total} , at a random time or value of $t < t_{total}$. What is the total extent or duration t_{total} ?

Priors $P(t_{total})$ based on empirically measured durations or magnitudes for many real-world events in each class:

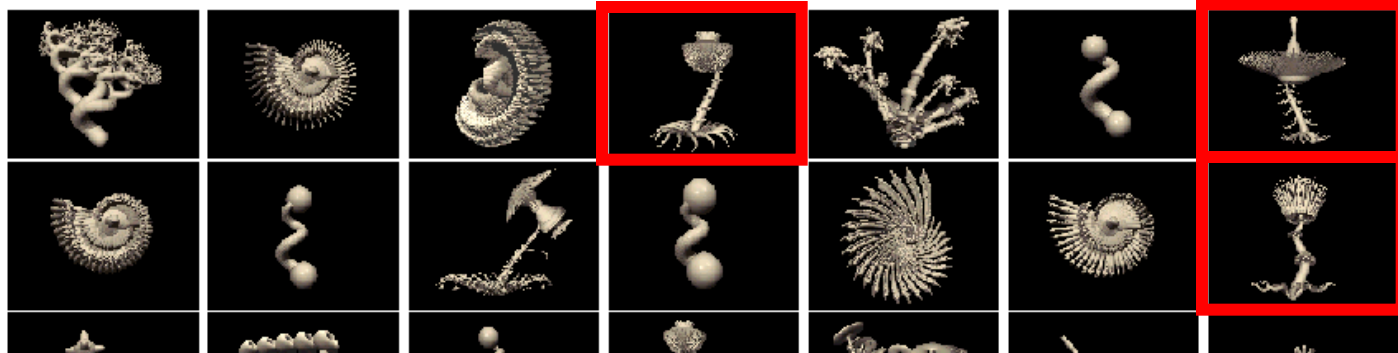


Median human judgments of the total duration or magnitude t_{total} of events in each class, given one random observation at a duration or magnitude t , versus Bayesian predictions (median of $P(t_{total}|t)$).



Learning words for objects

“tufa”



“tufa”

“tufa”

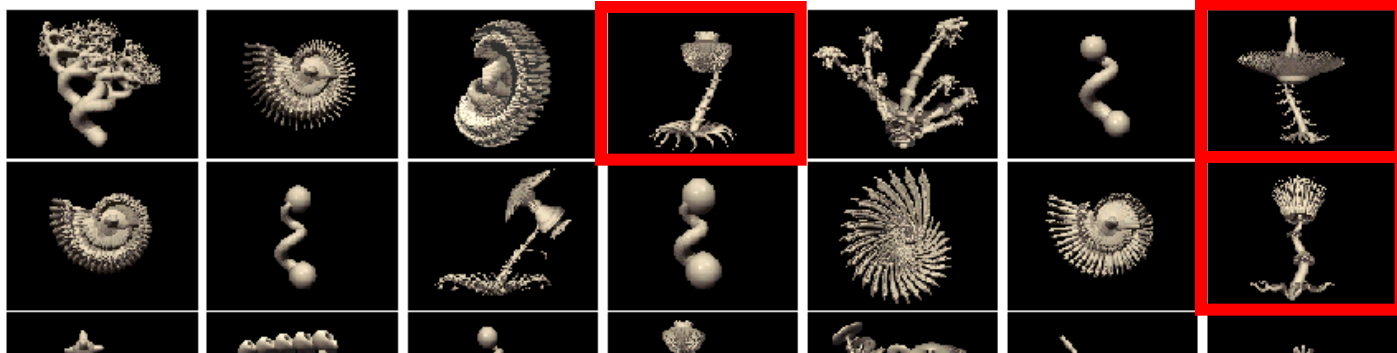
What is the right prior?

What is the right hypothesis space?

How do learners acquire that background knowledge?

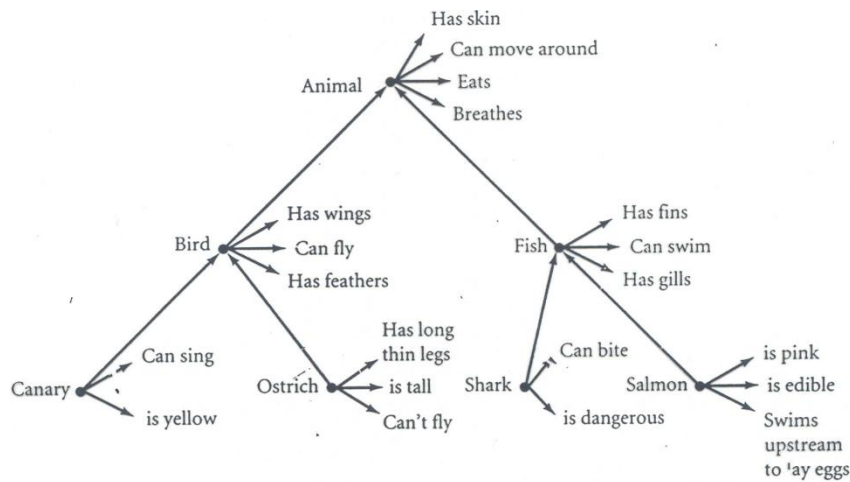
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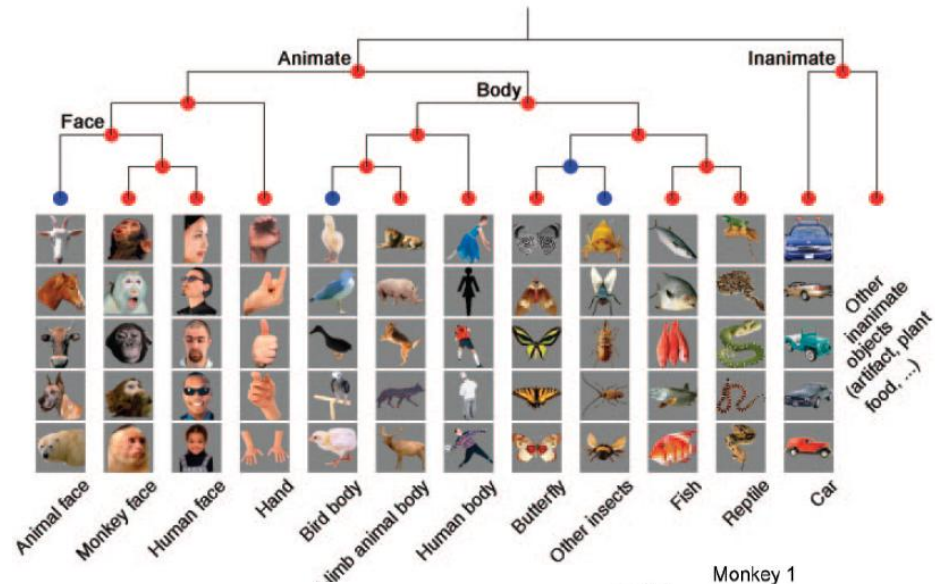


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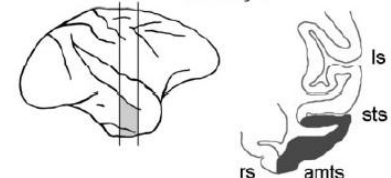
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(Collins & Quillian, 1969)



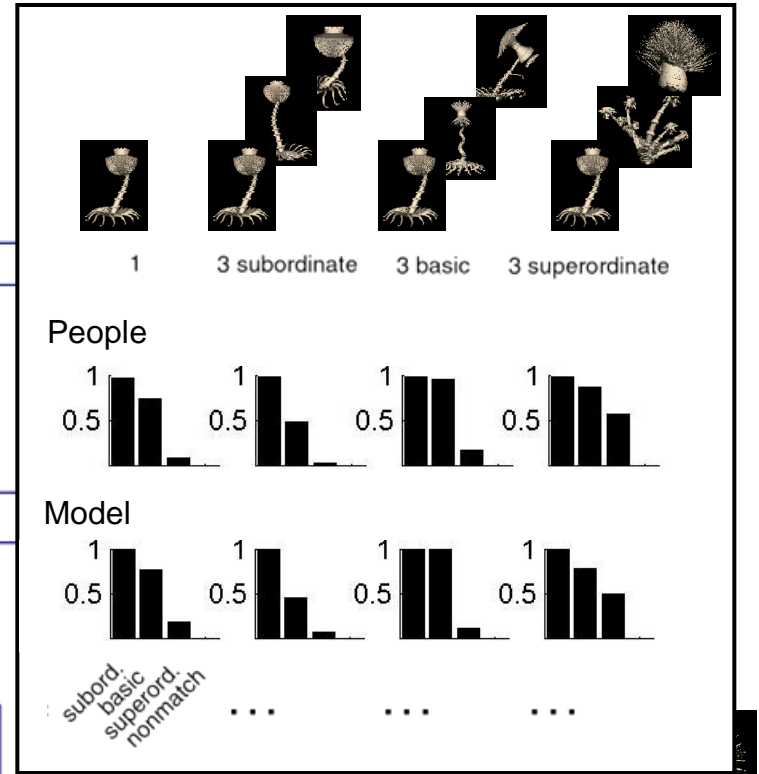
(Kiani et al., 2007, IT population responses; c.f. Hung et al., 2005)



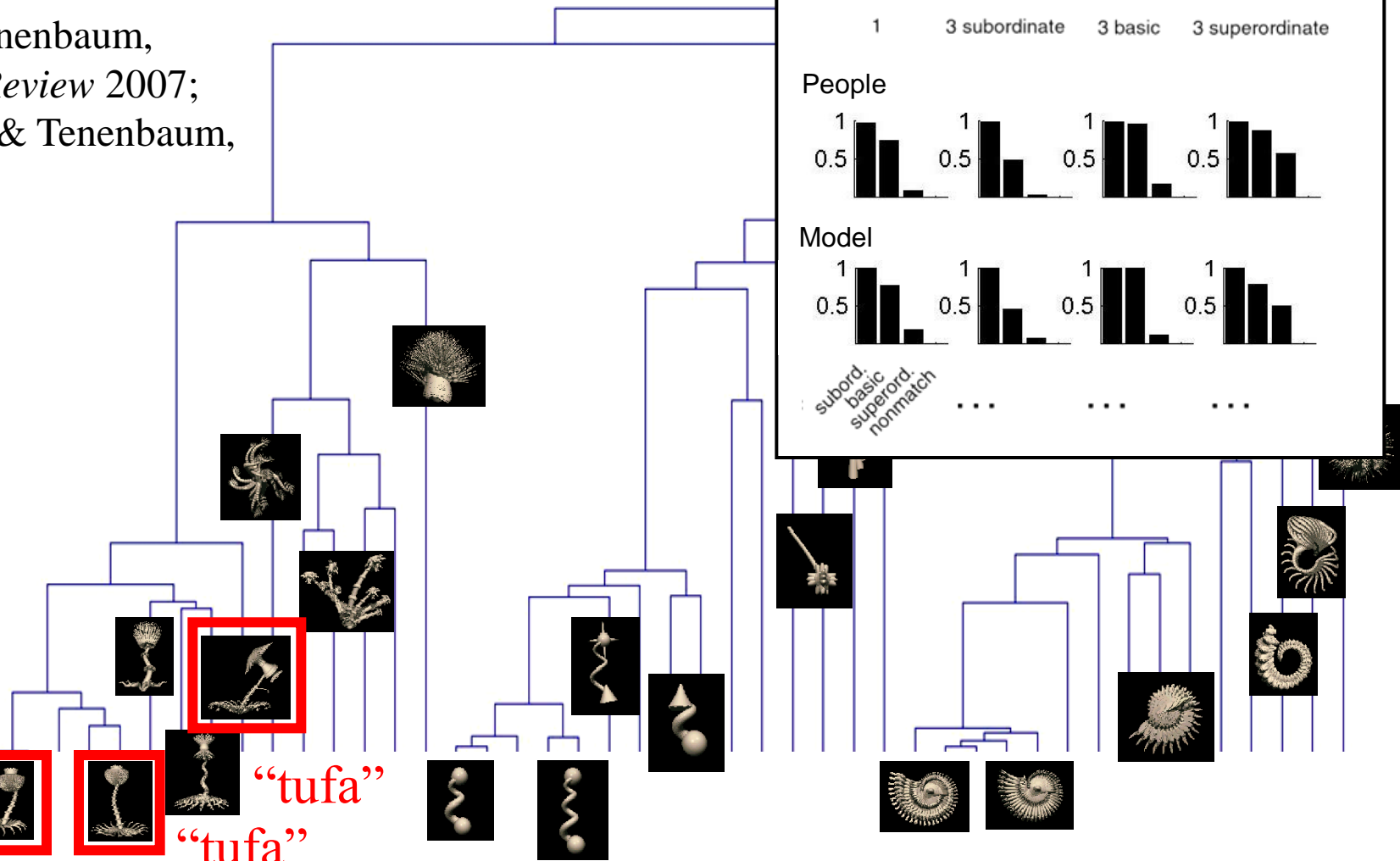
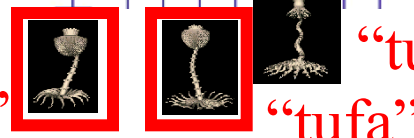
Learning words for objects

Bayesian inference over tree-structured hypothesis space:

(Xu & Tenenbaum,
Psych. Review 2007;
Schmidt & Tenenbaum,
in prep)



“tufa”
“tufa”
“tufa”



Learning to learn words

(w/ Kemp, Perfors)

- Learning which features count for which kinds of concepts and words.

Show me the dax...

This is a dax.



- *Shape bias* (Smith) for simple solid objects (2 years).
- *Material bias* for non-solid substances (~3 years).
- ...
- Learning the form of structure in a domain.
 - Early hypotheses follow *mutual exclusivity* (Markman).
A tree-structured hierarchy of nameable categories emerges only later.

Learning to learn: which object features count for word learning?

Query image



Retrieved images with learned metric



Retrieved images with nearest neighbours



46,875 “texture of textures” features:

[Salakhutdinov, Tenenbaum, Torralba '10]

Learning to learn: which object features count for word learning?

Query image



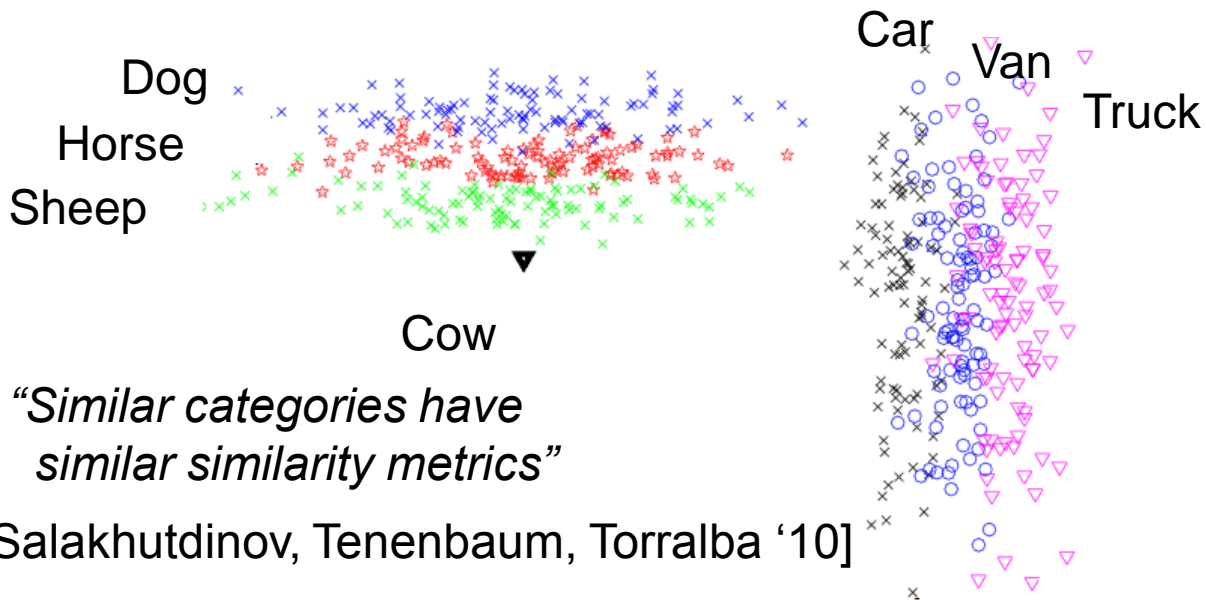
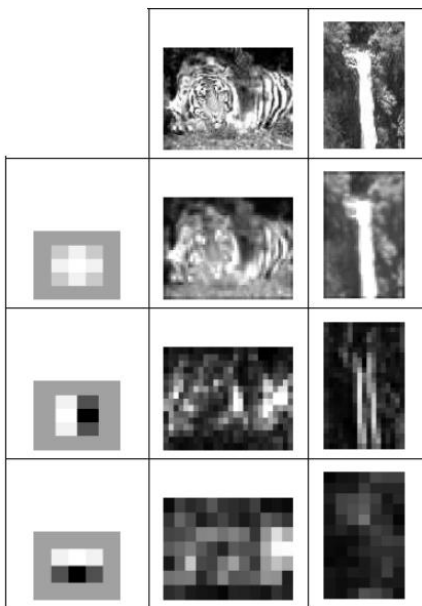
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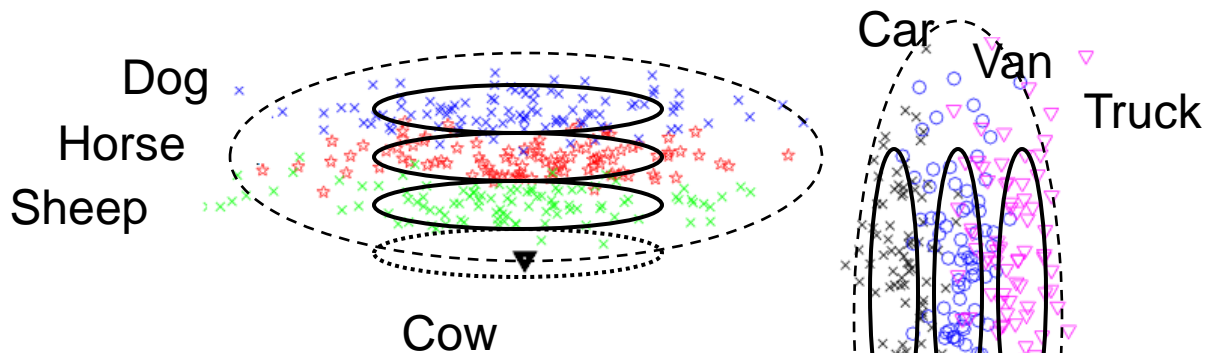
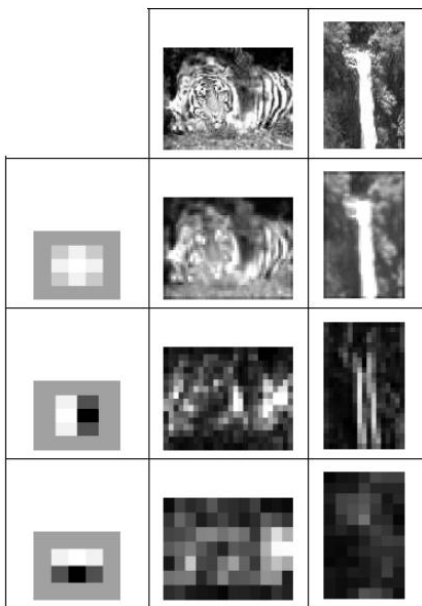
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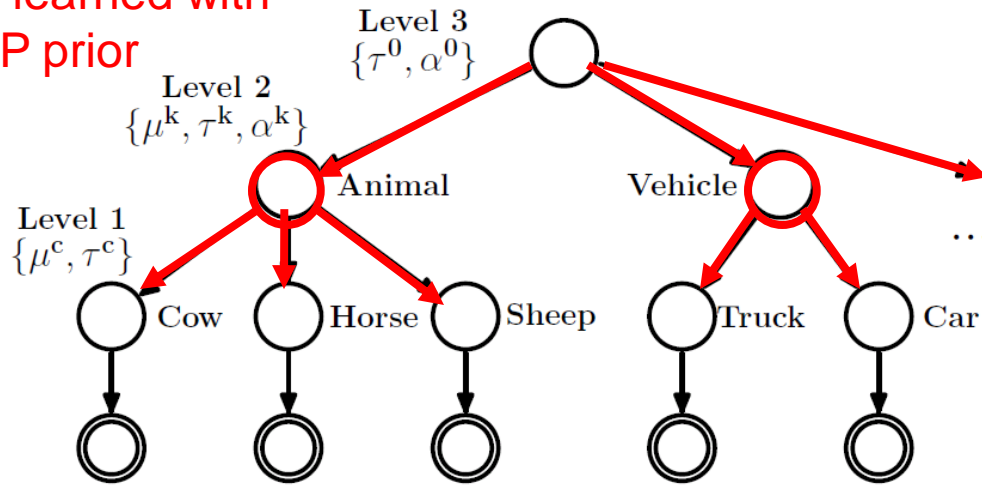


“Similar categories have similar similarity metrics”

[Salakhutdinov, Tenenbaum, Torralba ‘10]

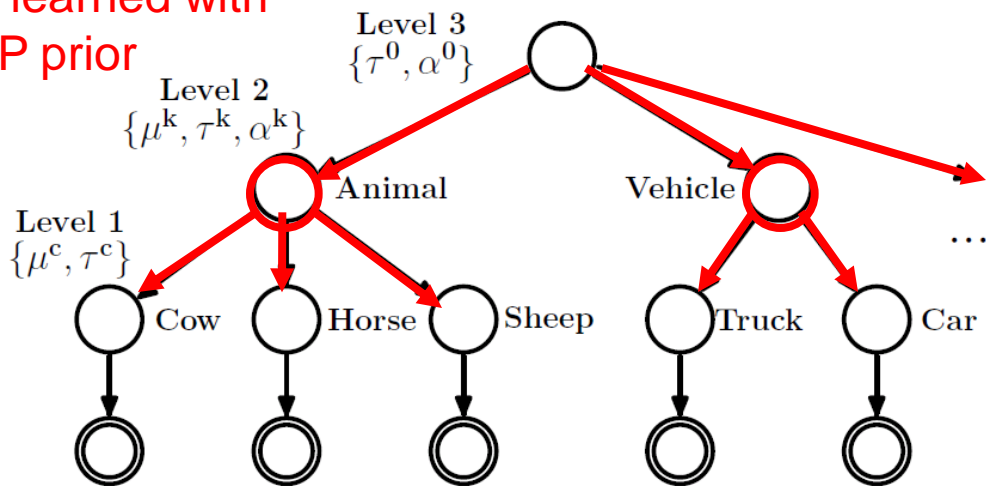
Learning to learn: which object features count for word learning?

Tree learned with
nCRP prior

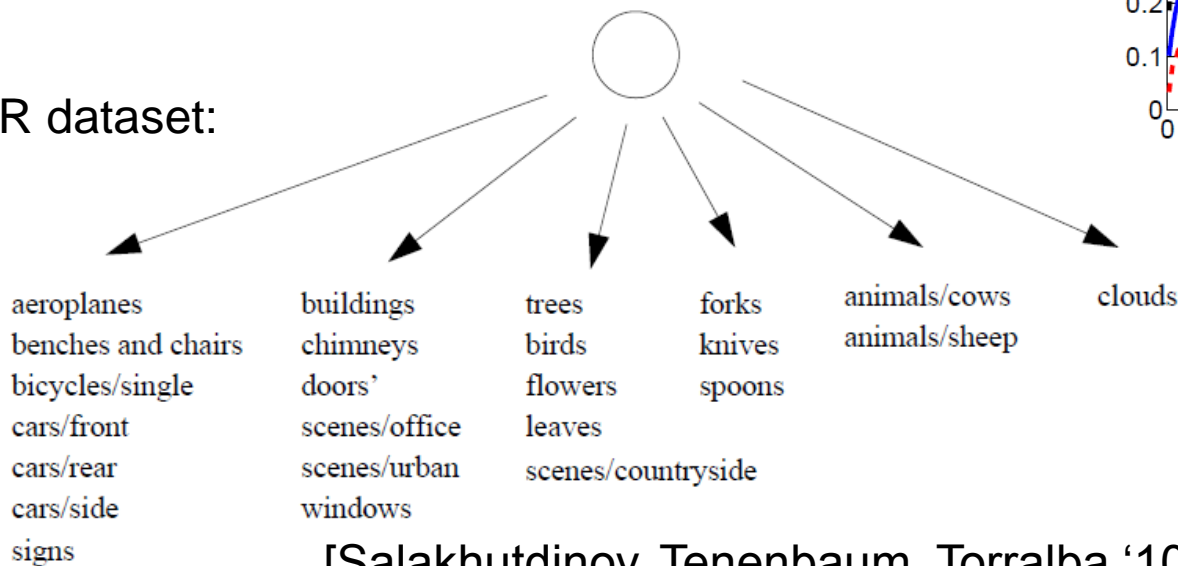


Learning to learn: which object features count for word learning?

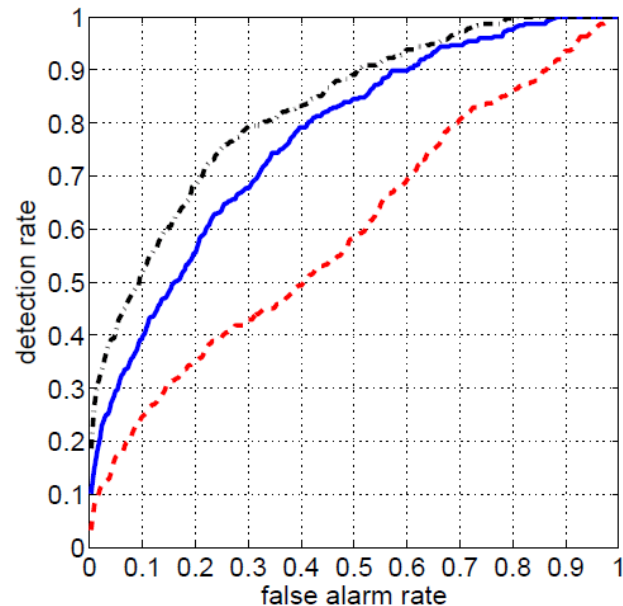
Tree learned with nCRP prior



MSR dataset:



ROC Curve for 1-shot learning



Euclidean distance

Learned metric

Oracle (best possible metric)

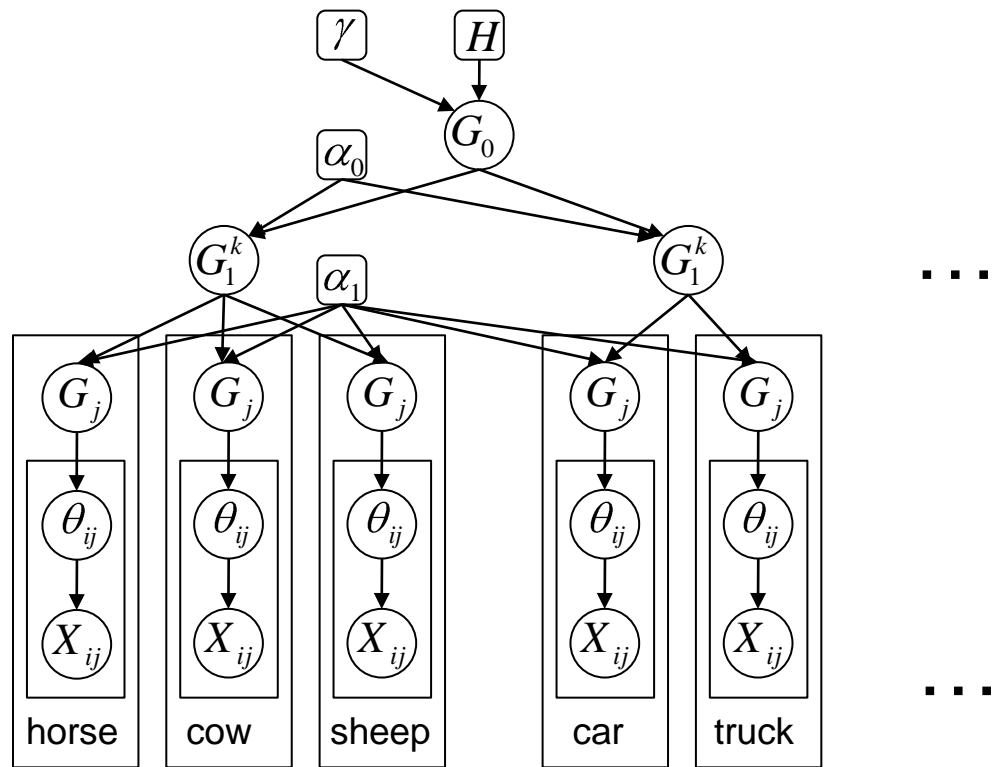
[Salakhutdinov, Tenenbaum, Torralba '10]

HDP-RBM

[Salakhutdinov, Tenenbaum,
Torralba, in prep]

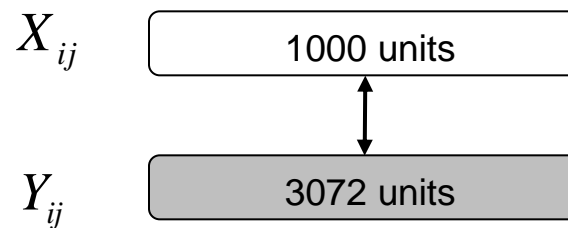
High-level class-sensitive features
[HDP topic model (admixture)]

learned from 100 CIFAR classes



Low-level general features
[Restricted Boltzmann Machine]

learned from 4 million tiny images



Images
(= 32 x 32 pixels x 3 RGB)



HDP-RBM

[Salakhutdinov, Tenenbaum,
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Learned tree structure of
classes [nested CRP prior]

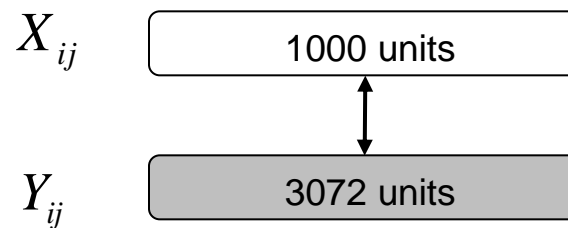
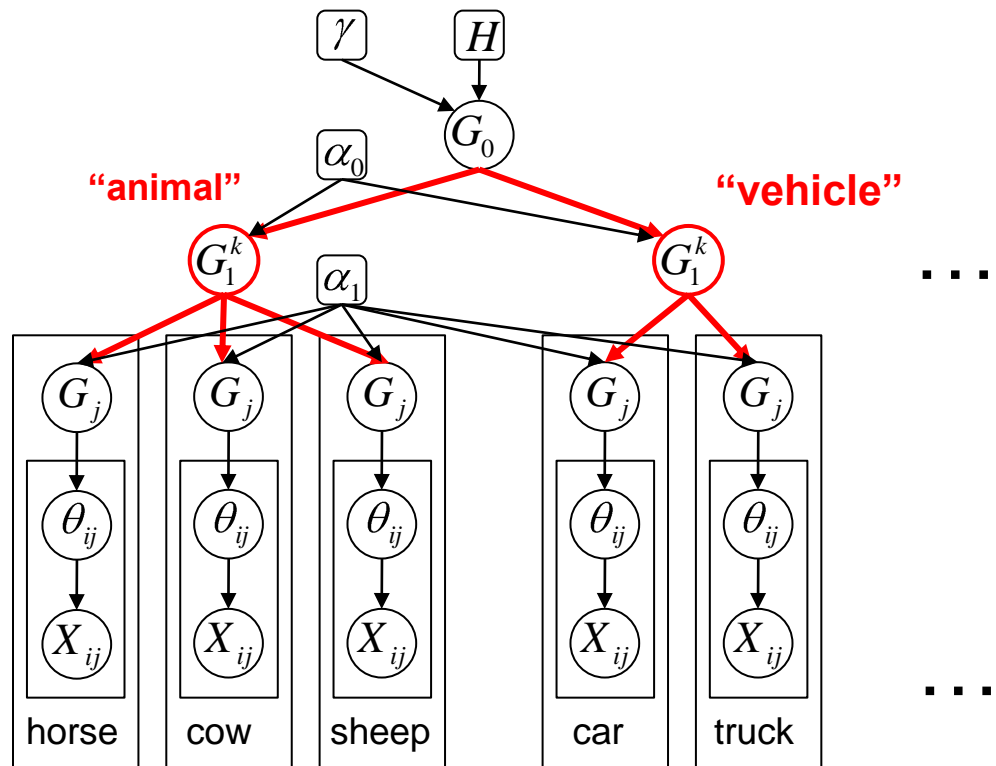
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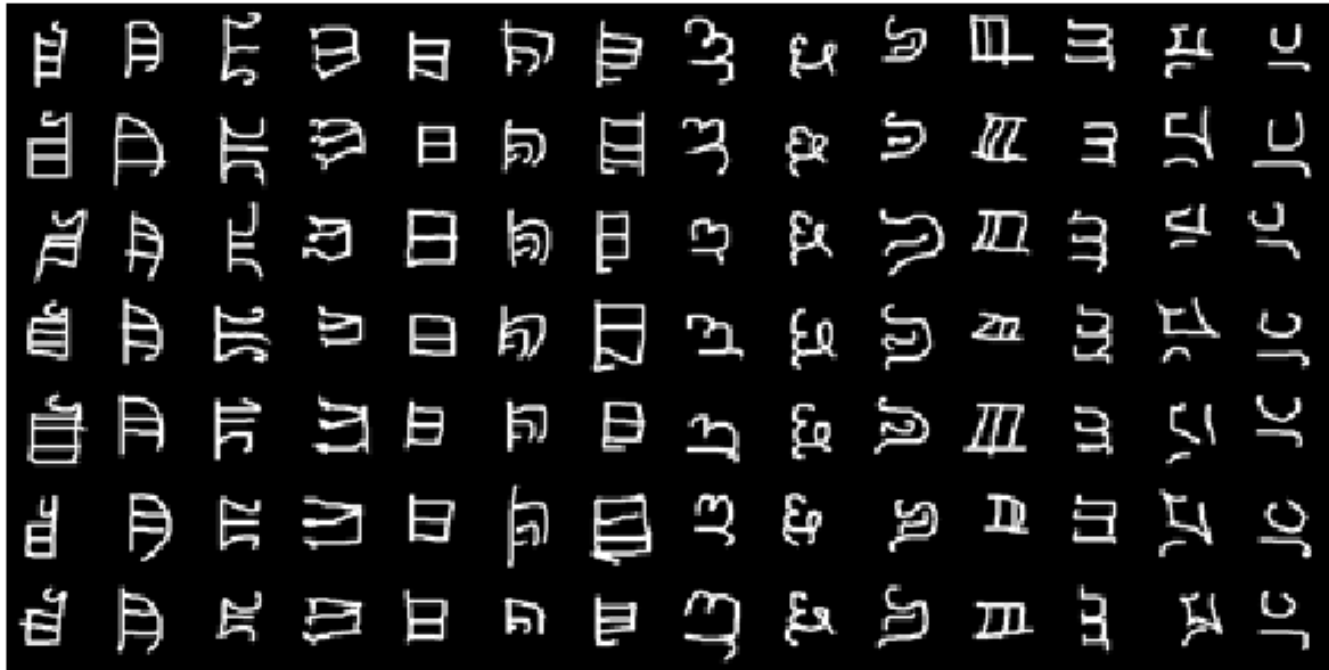
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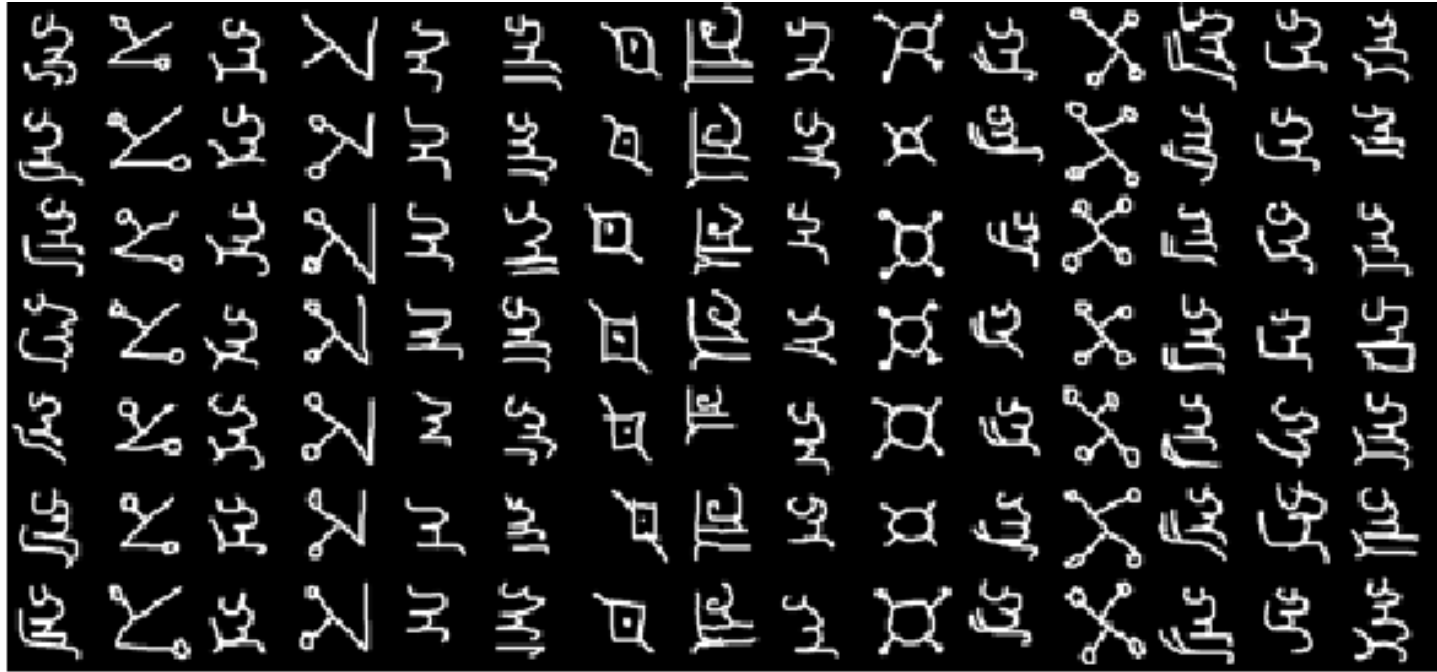
The characters challenge (“MNIST++” or “MNIST*”)



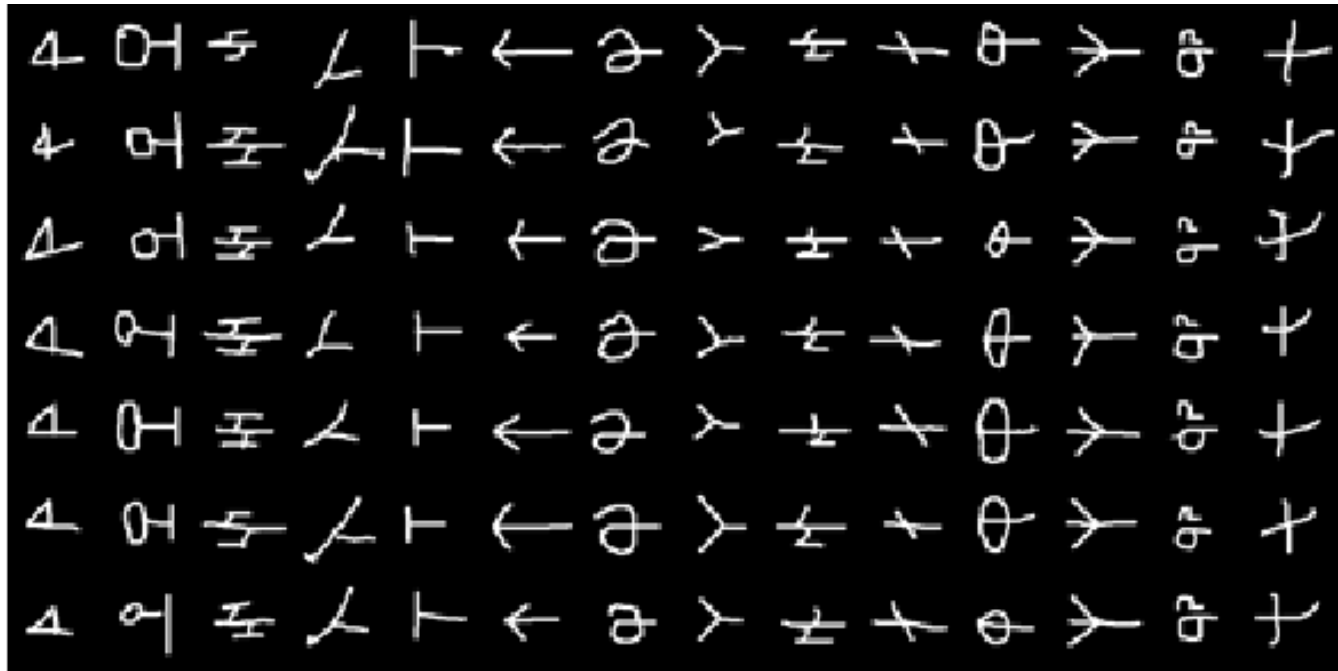
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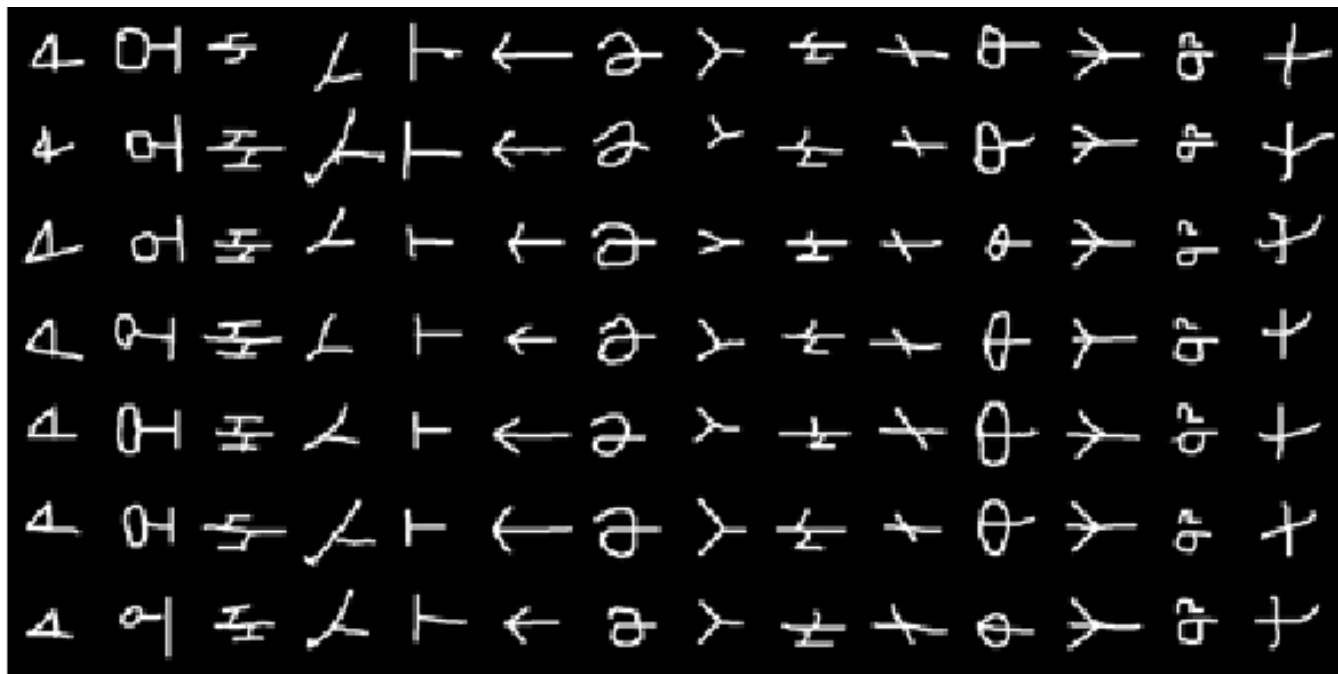
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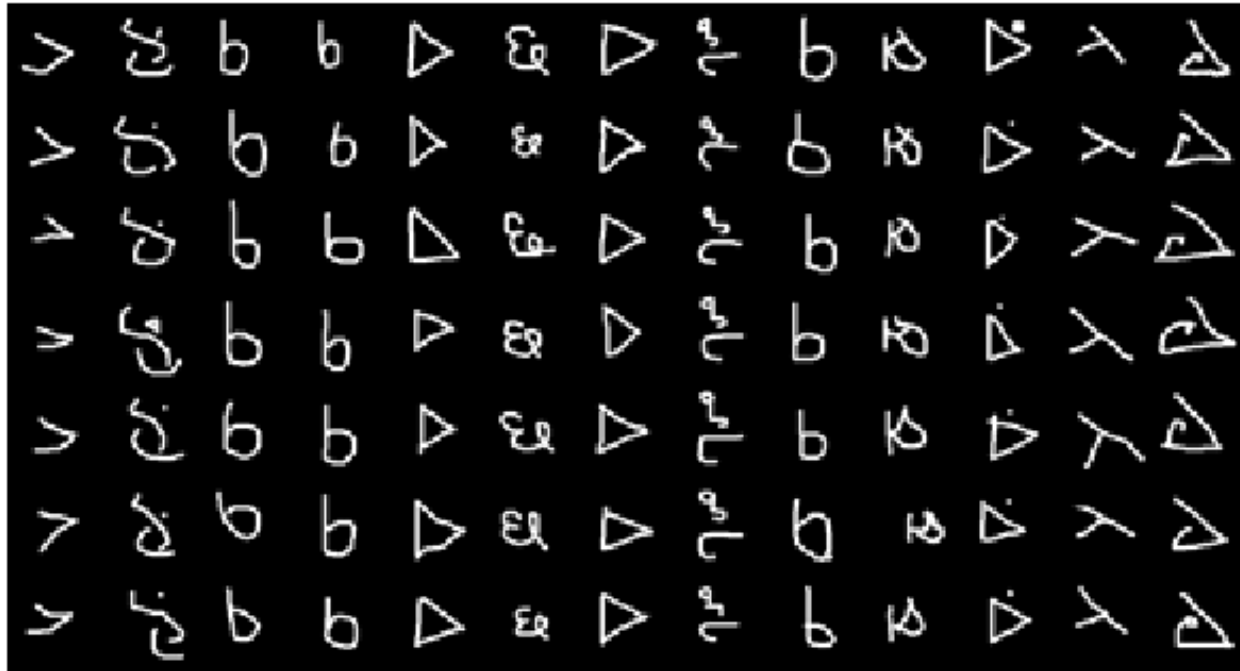
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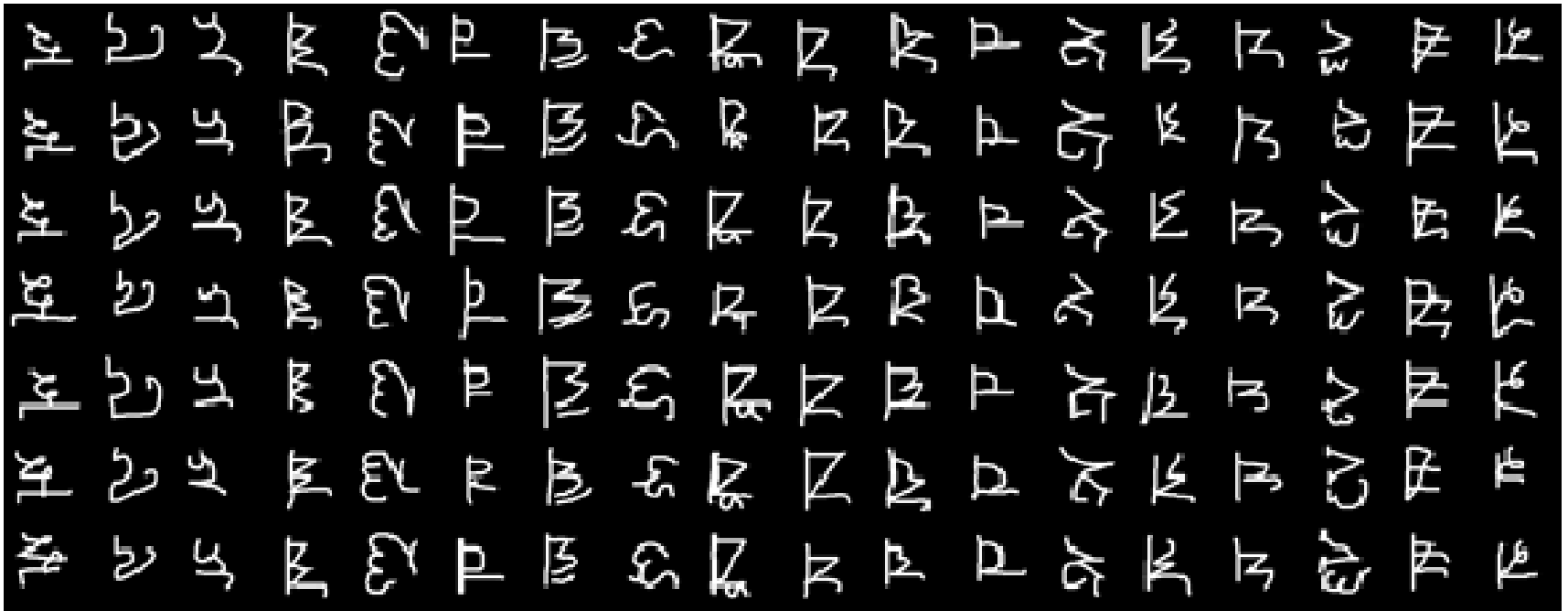
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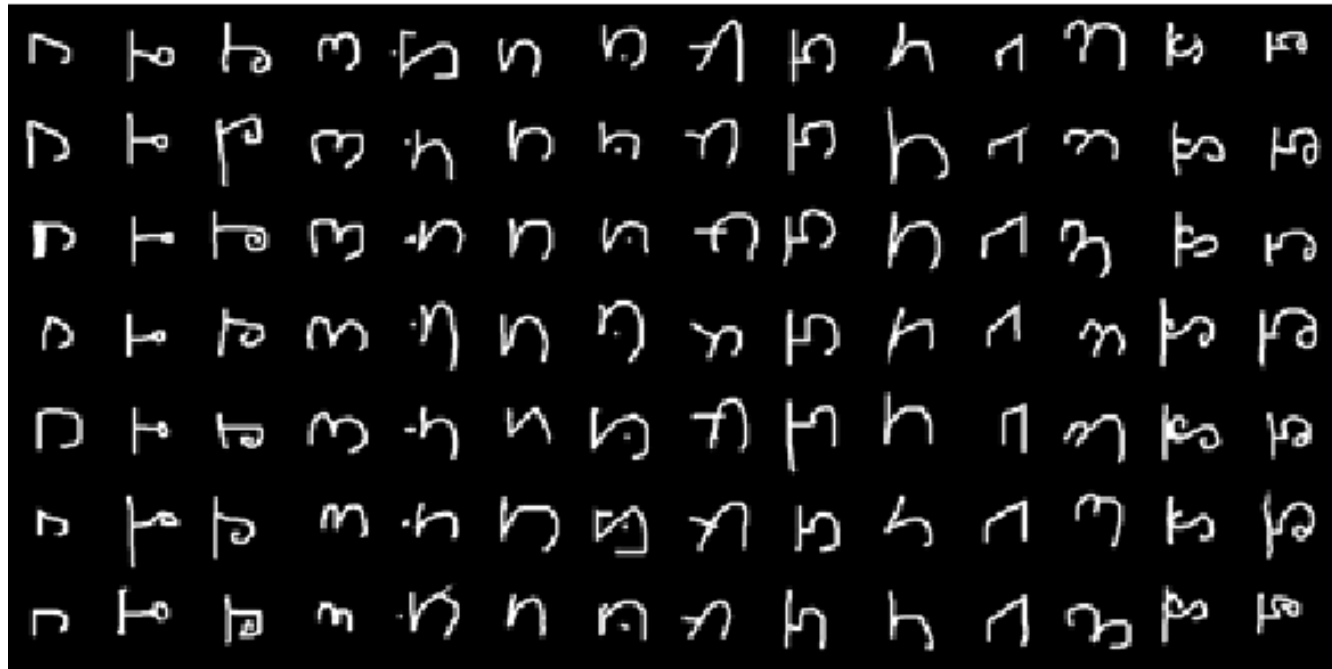
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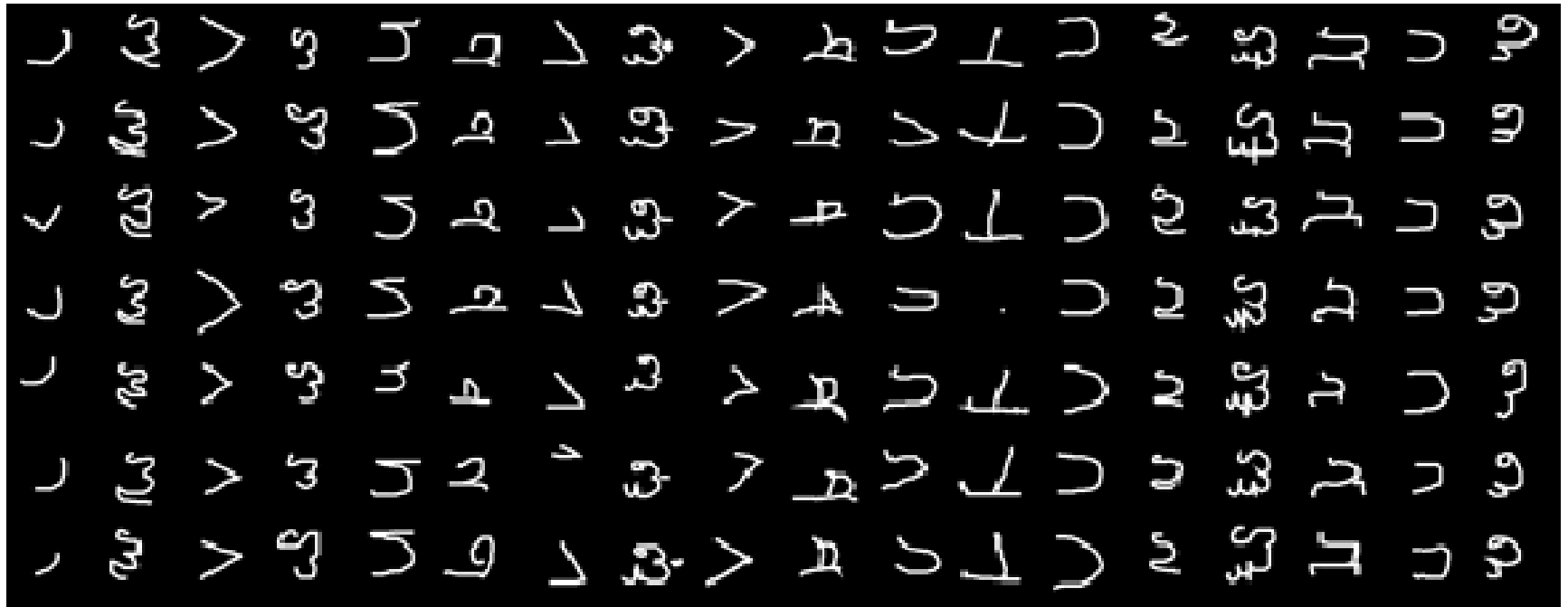
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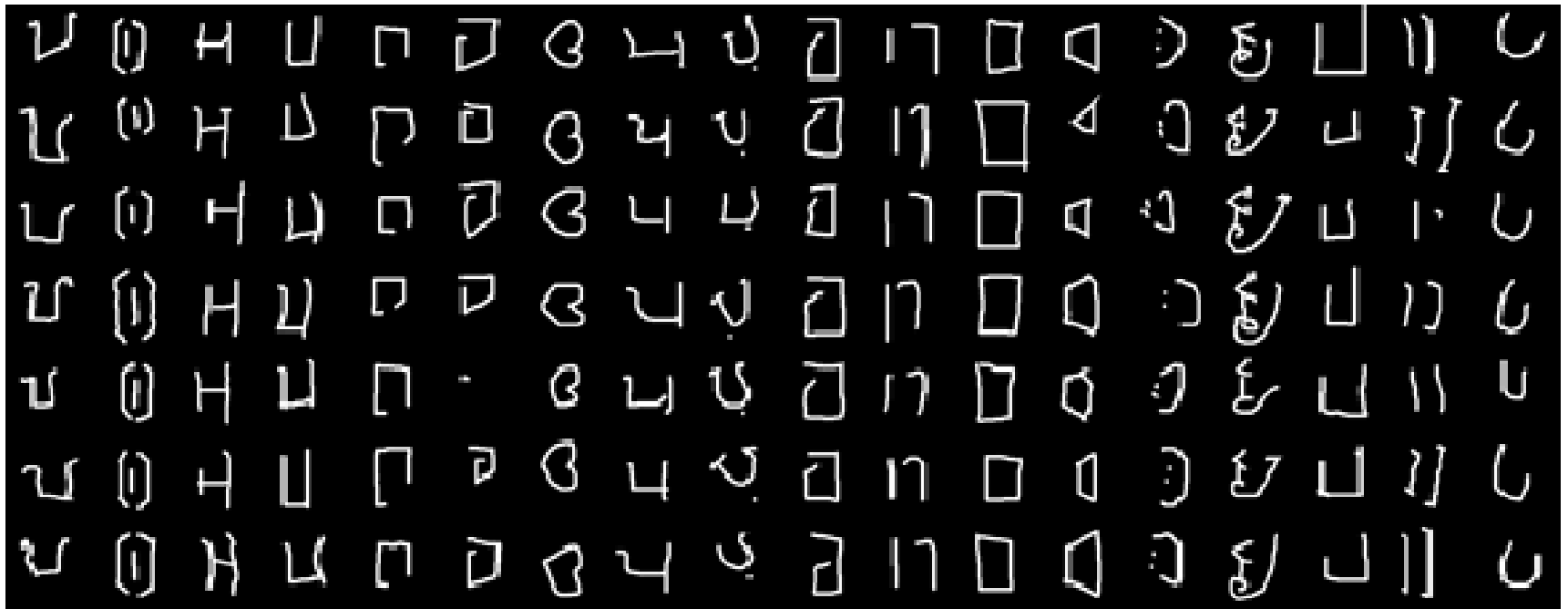
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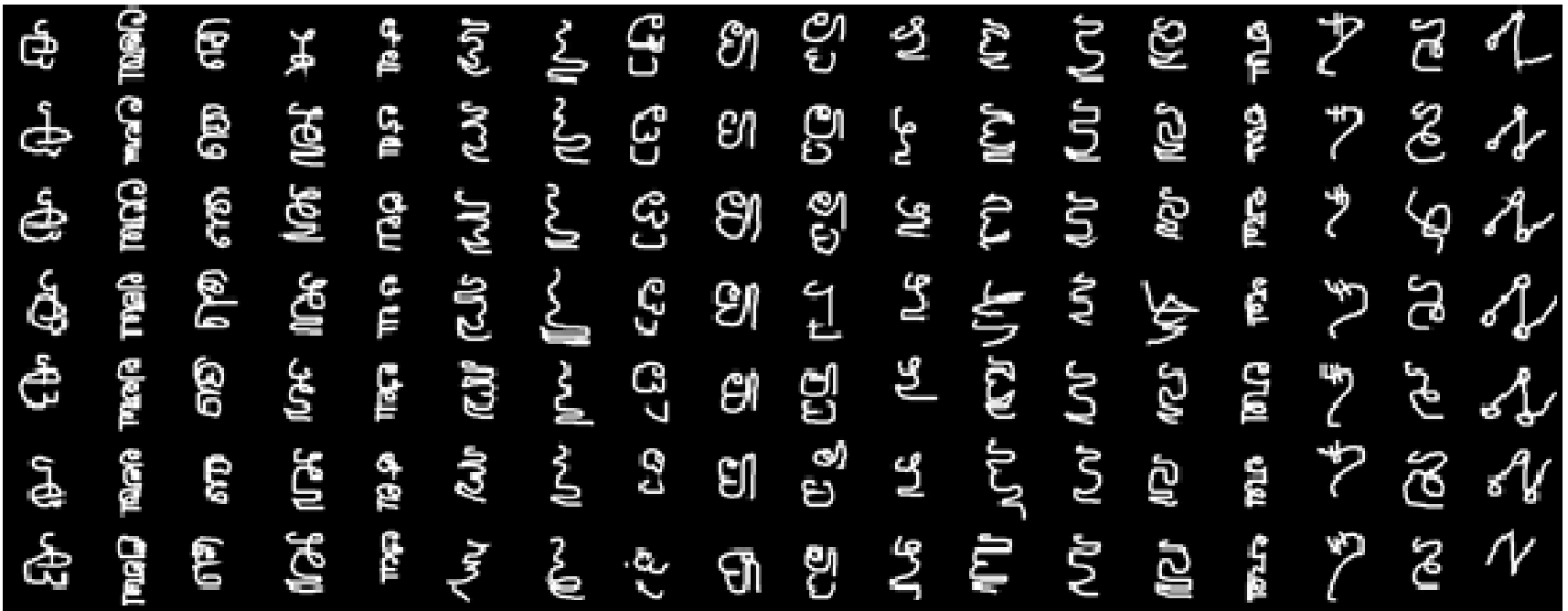
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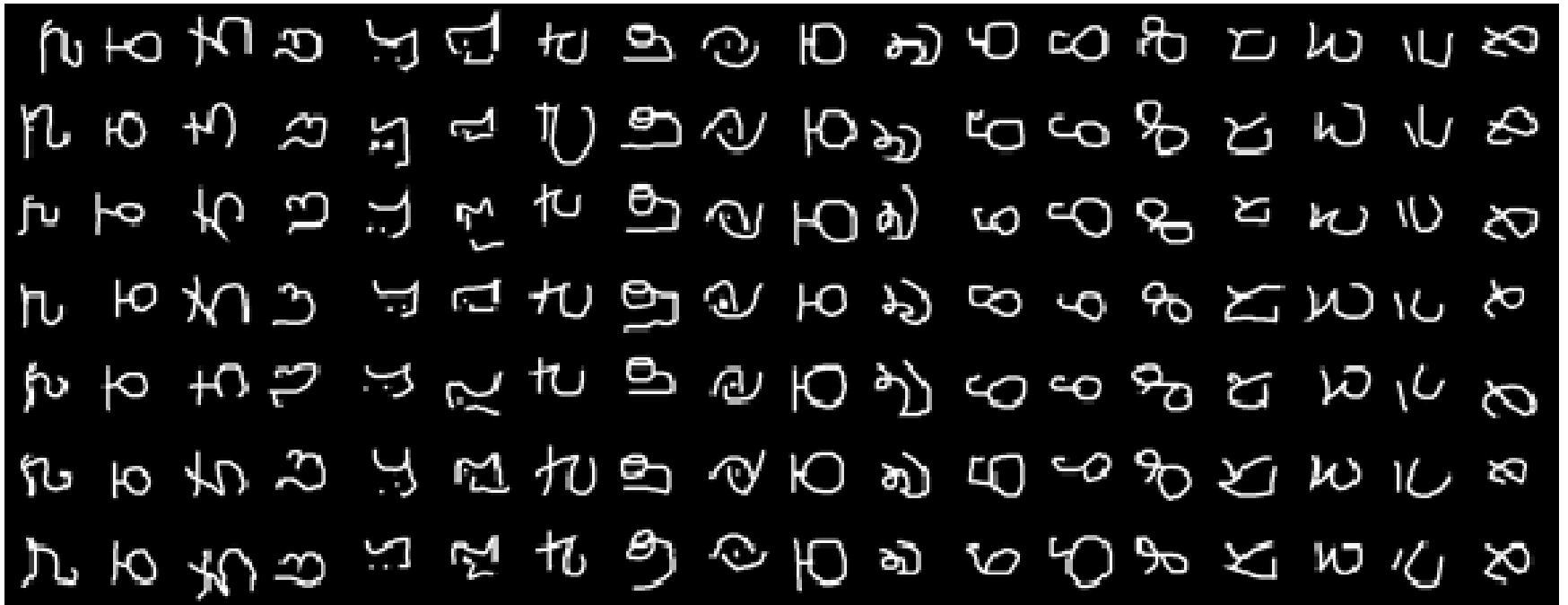
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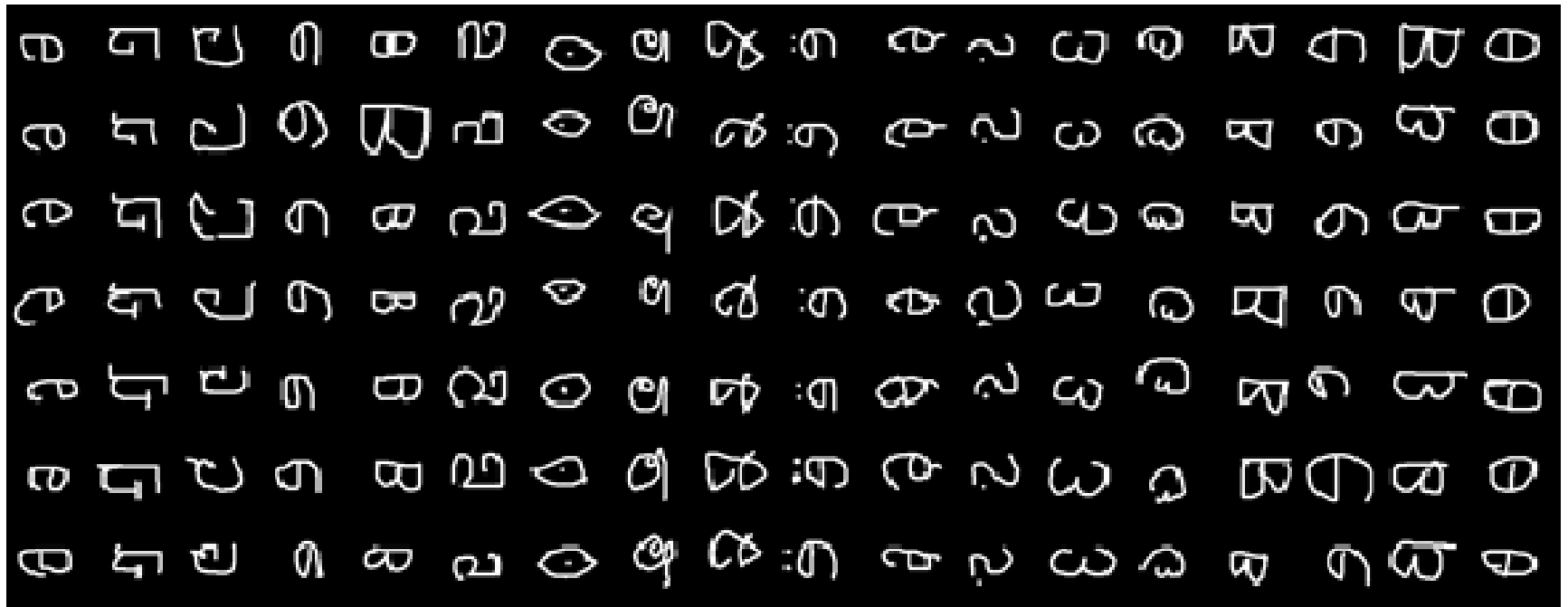
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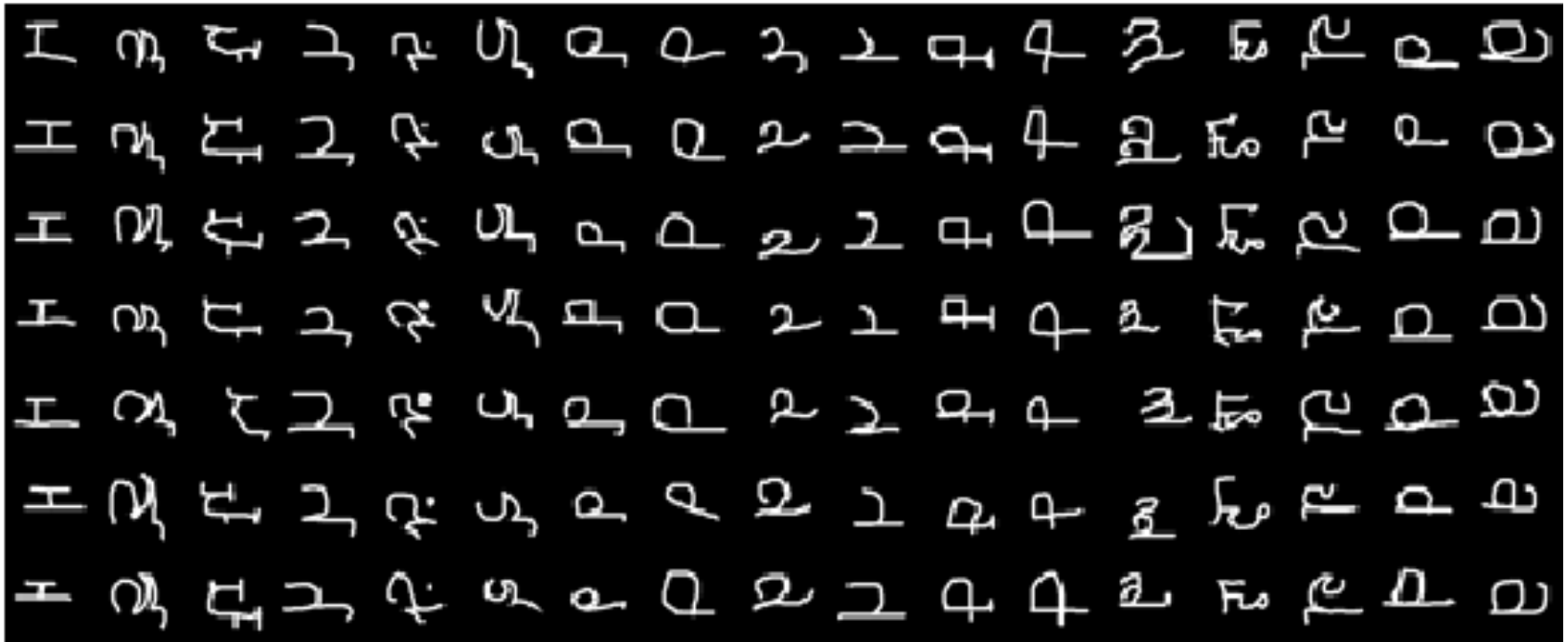
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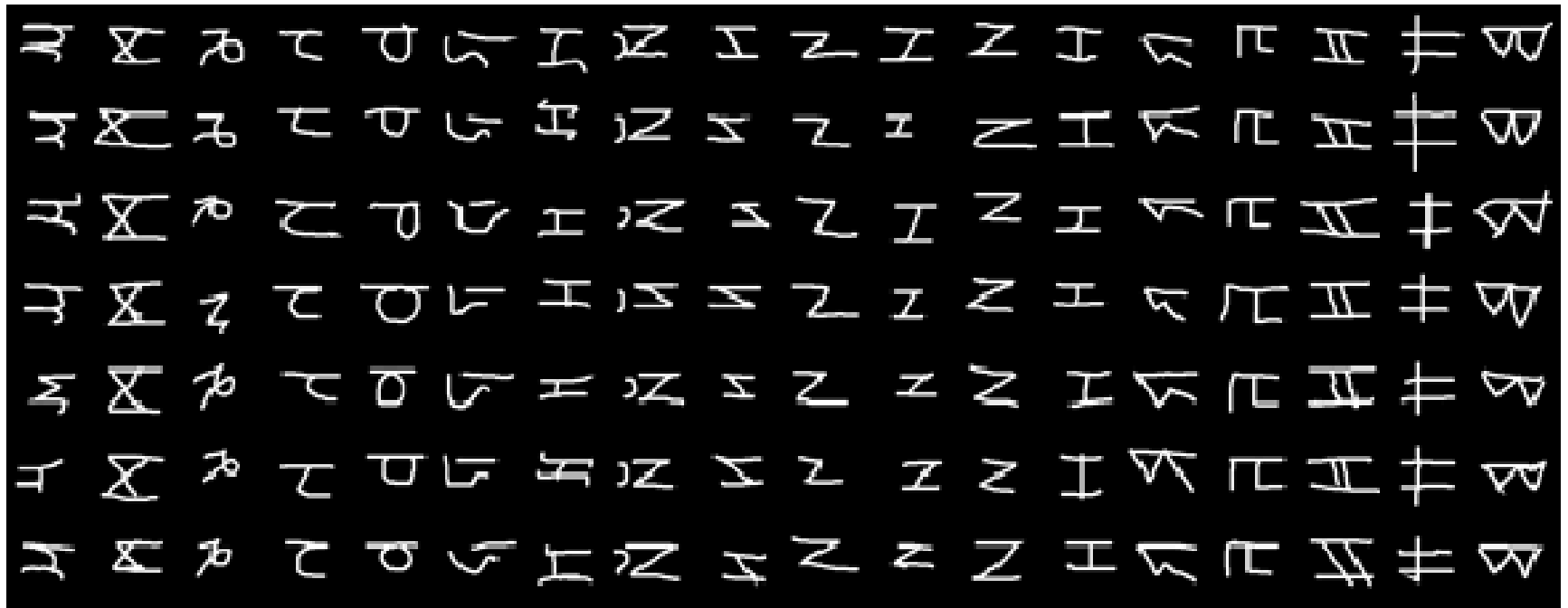
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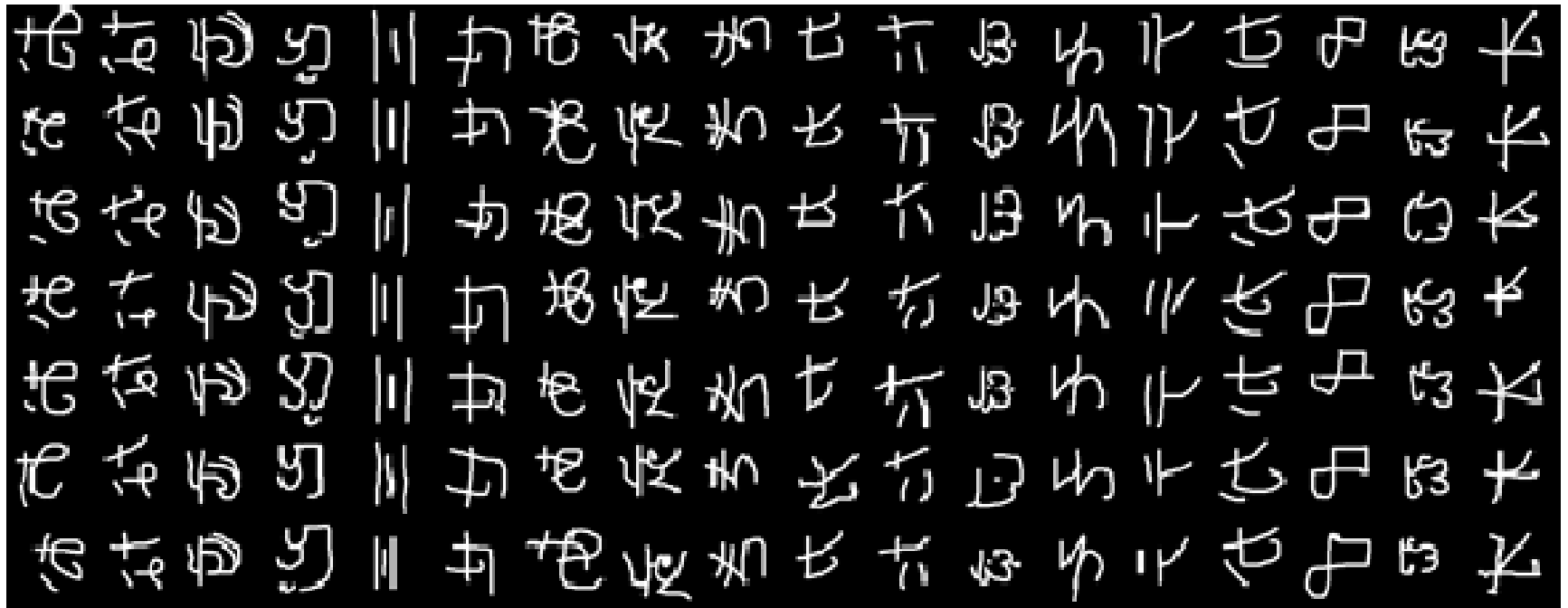
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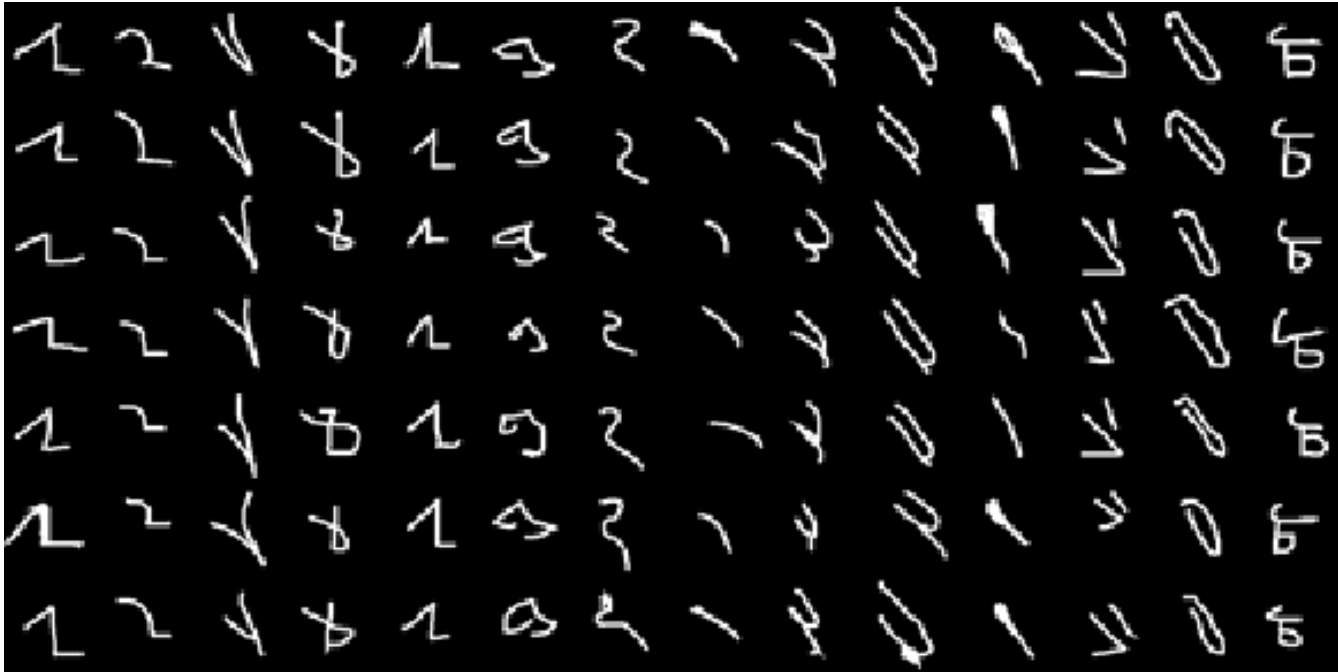
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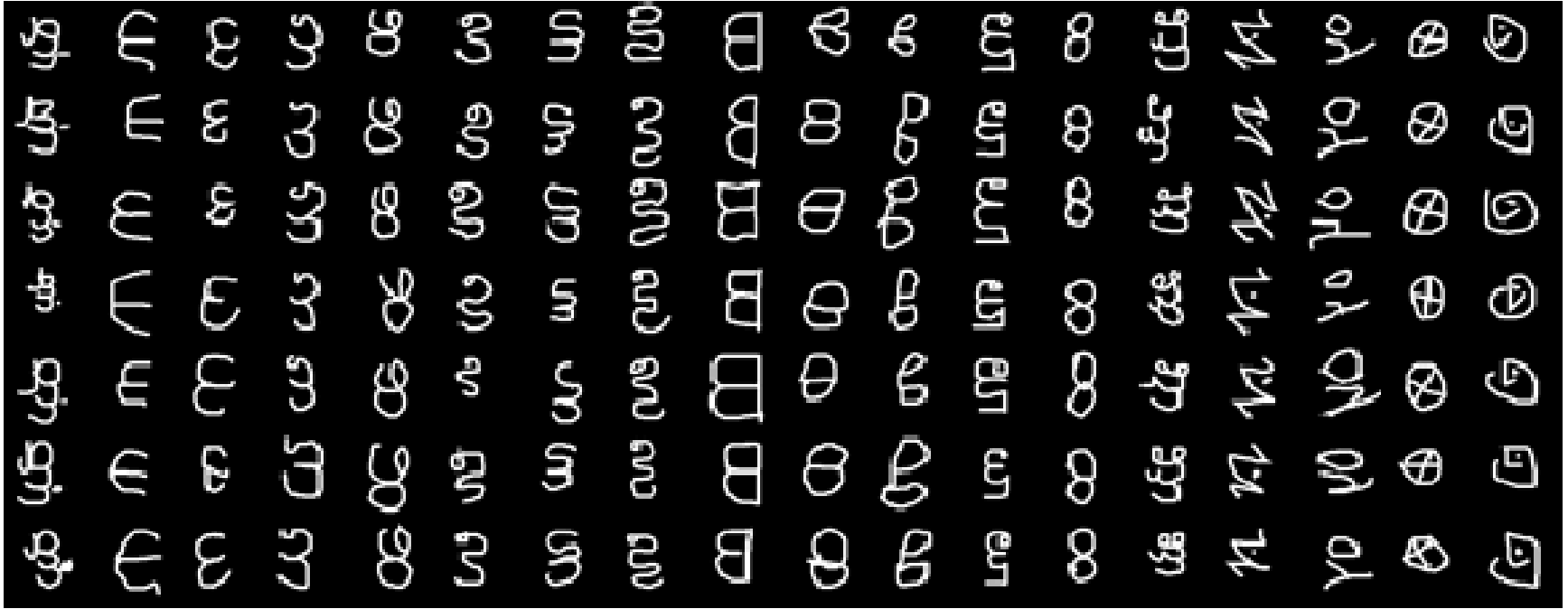
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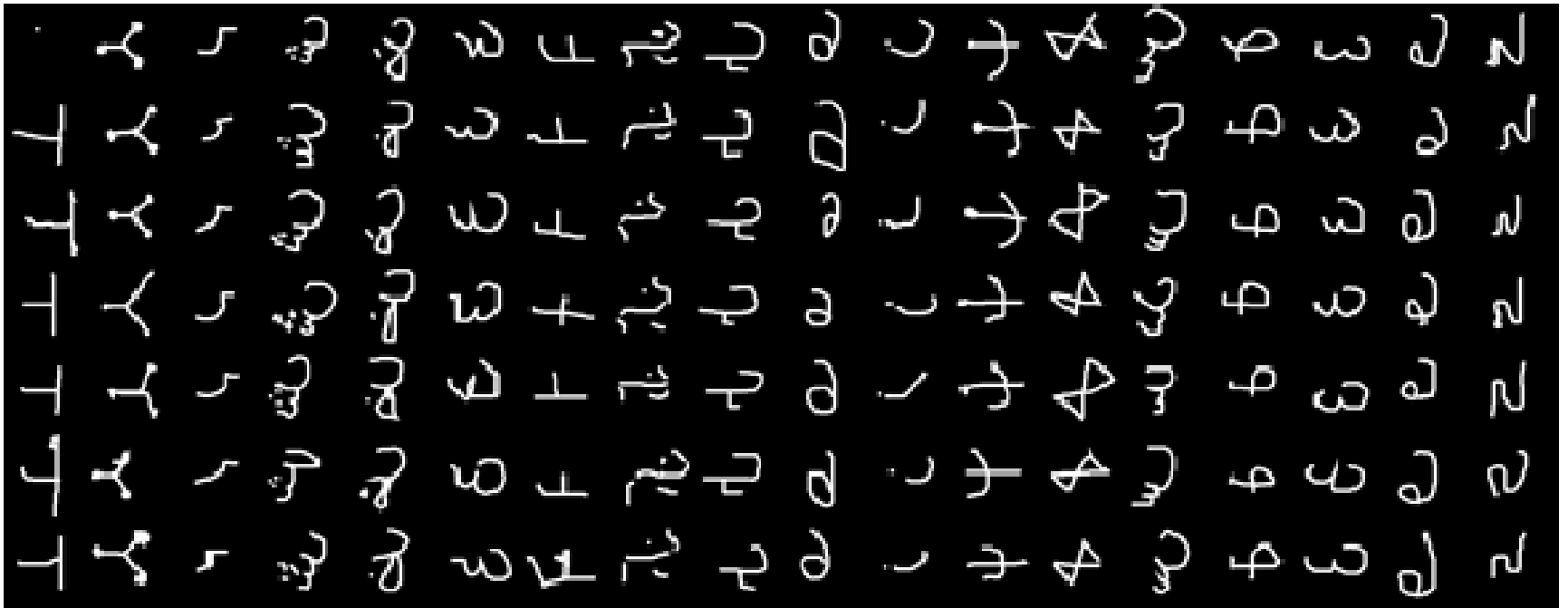
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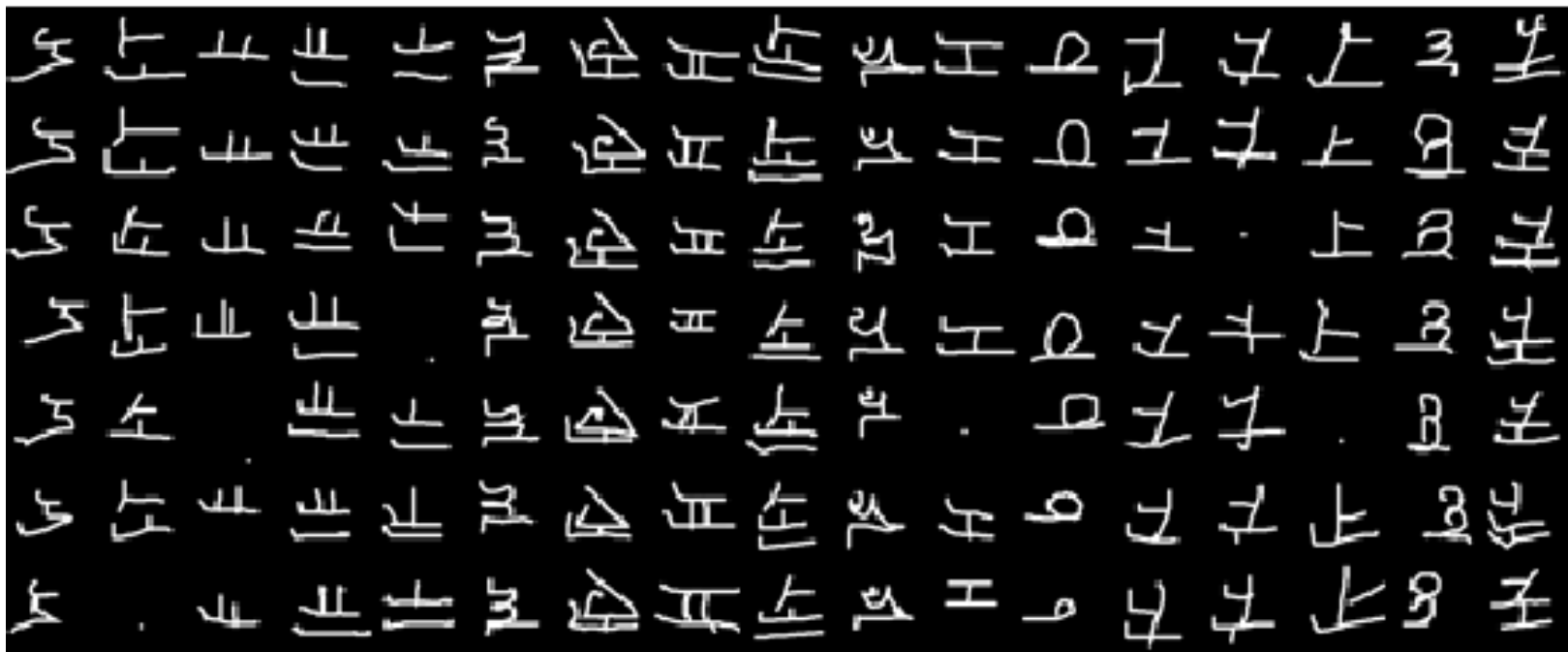
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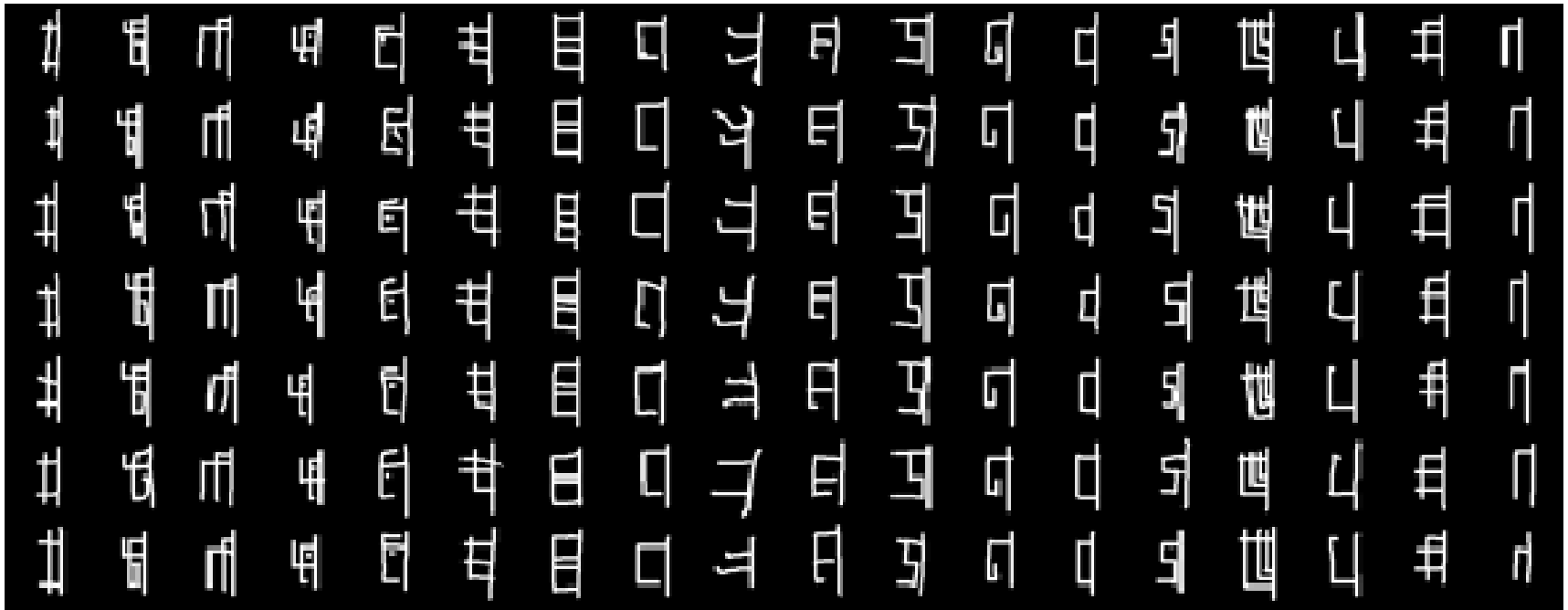
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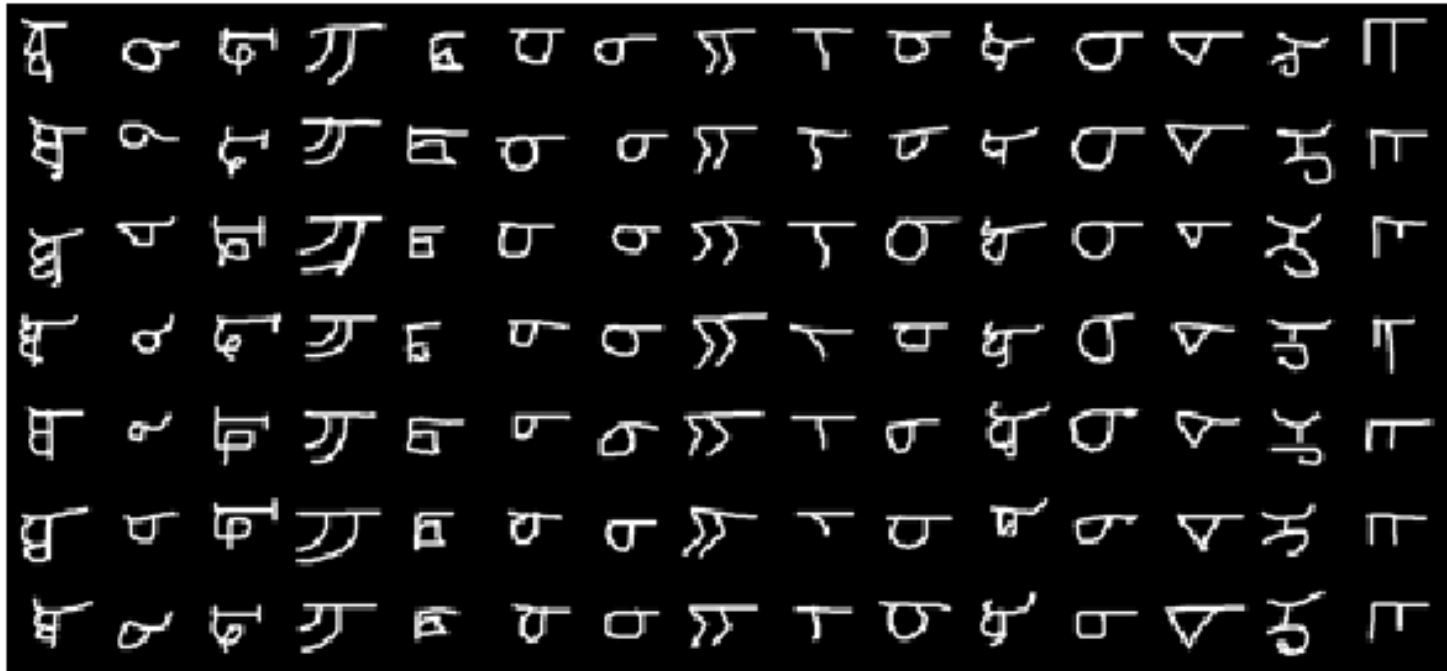
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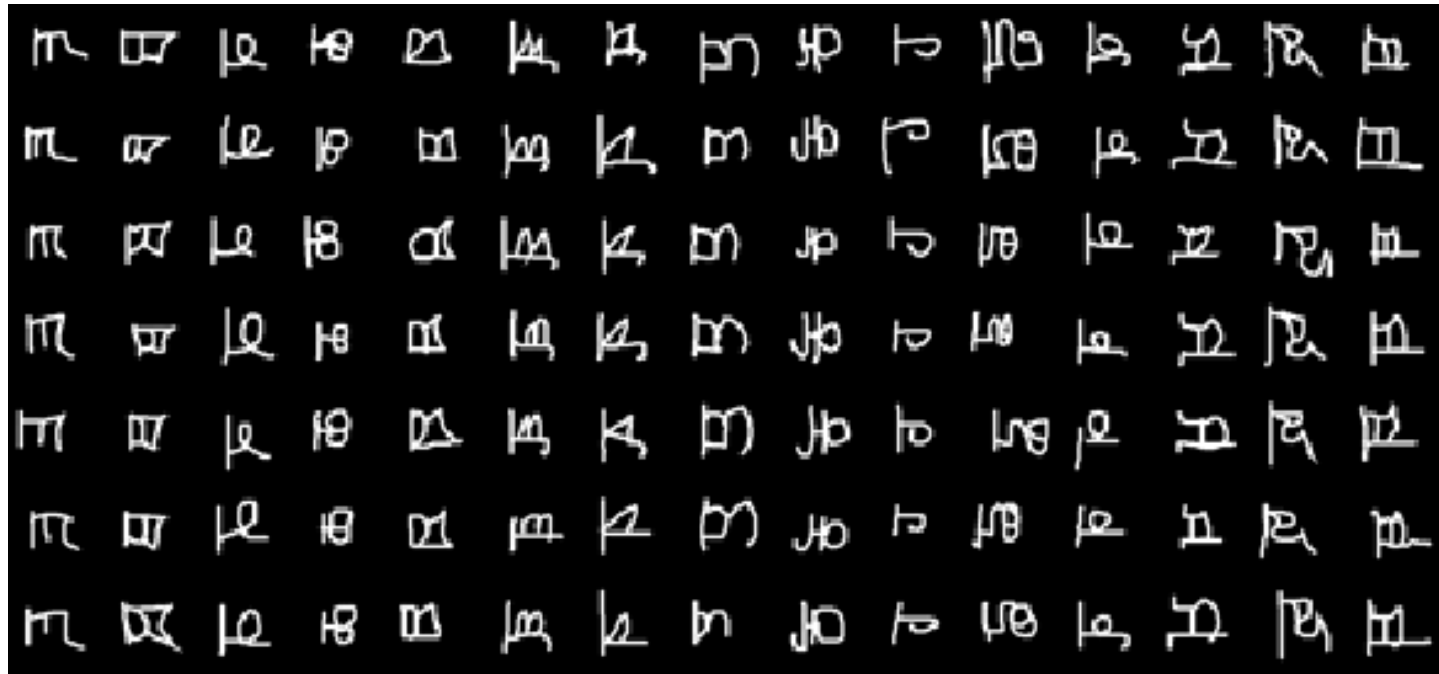
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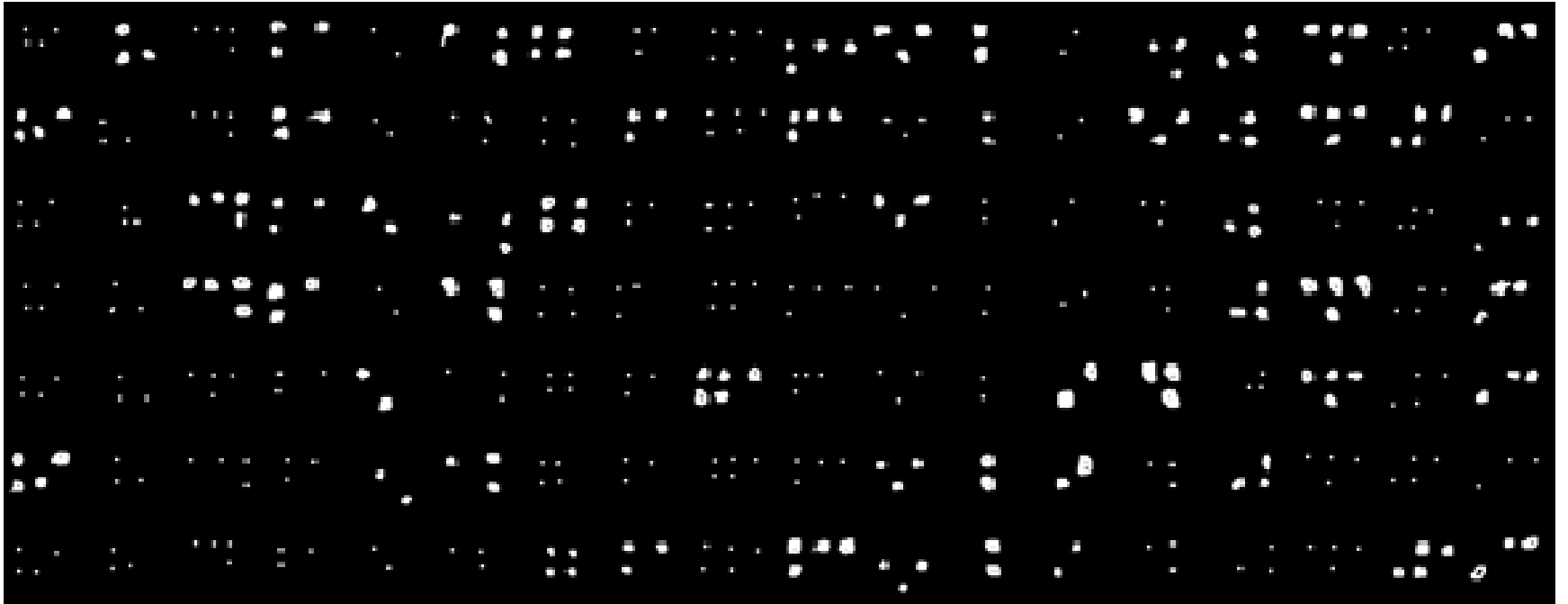
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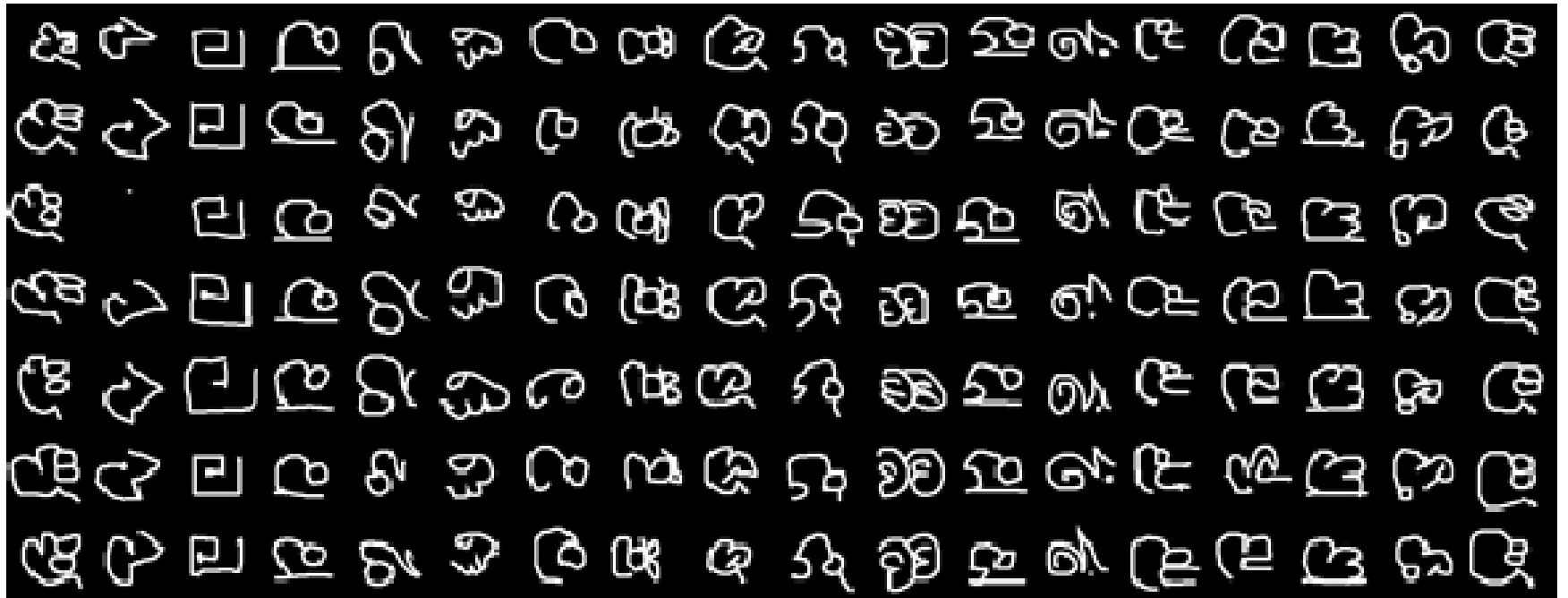
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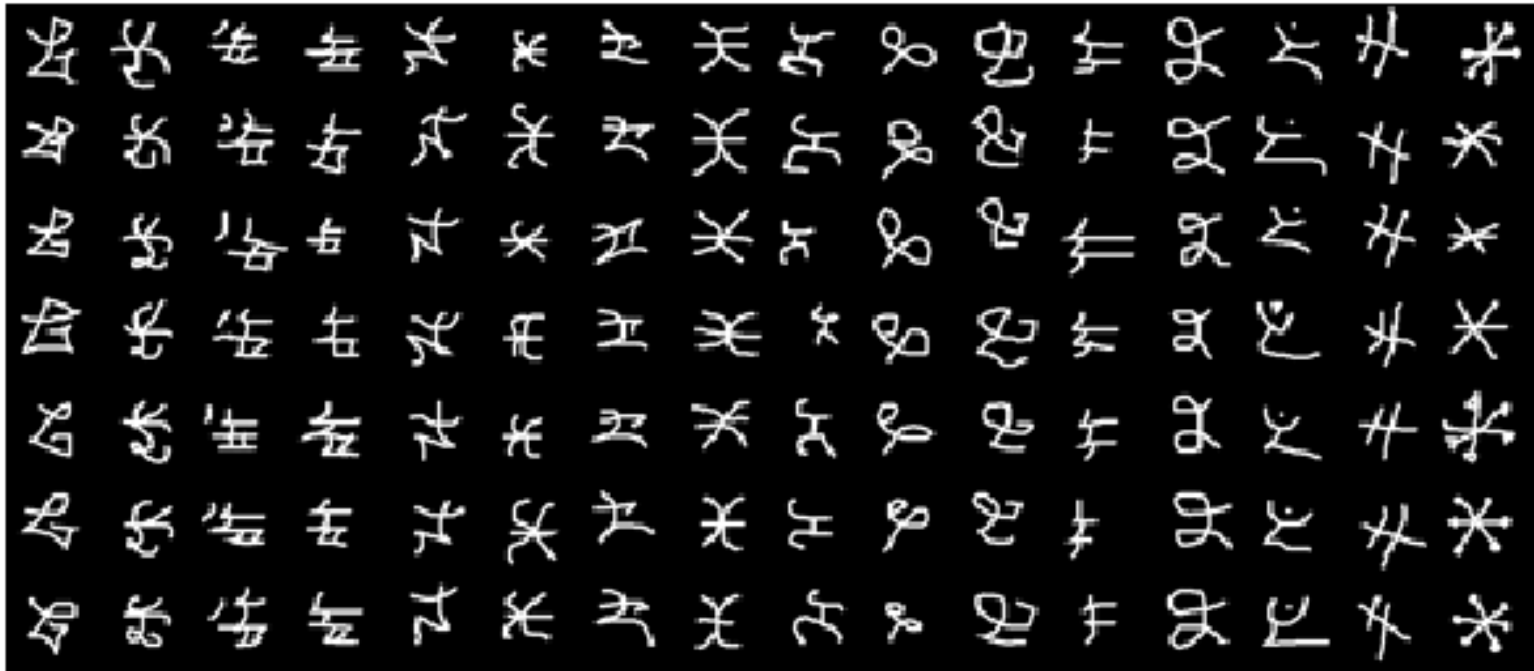
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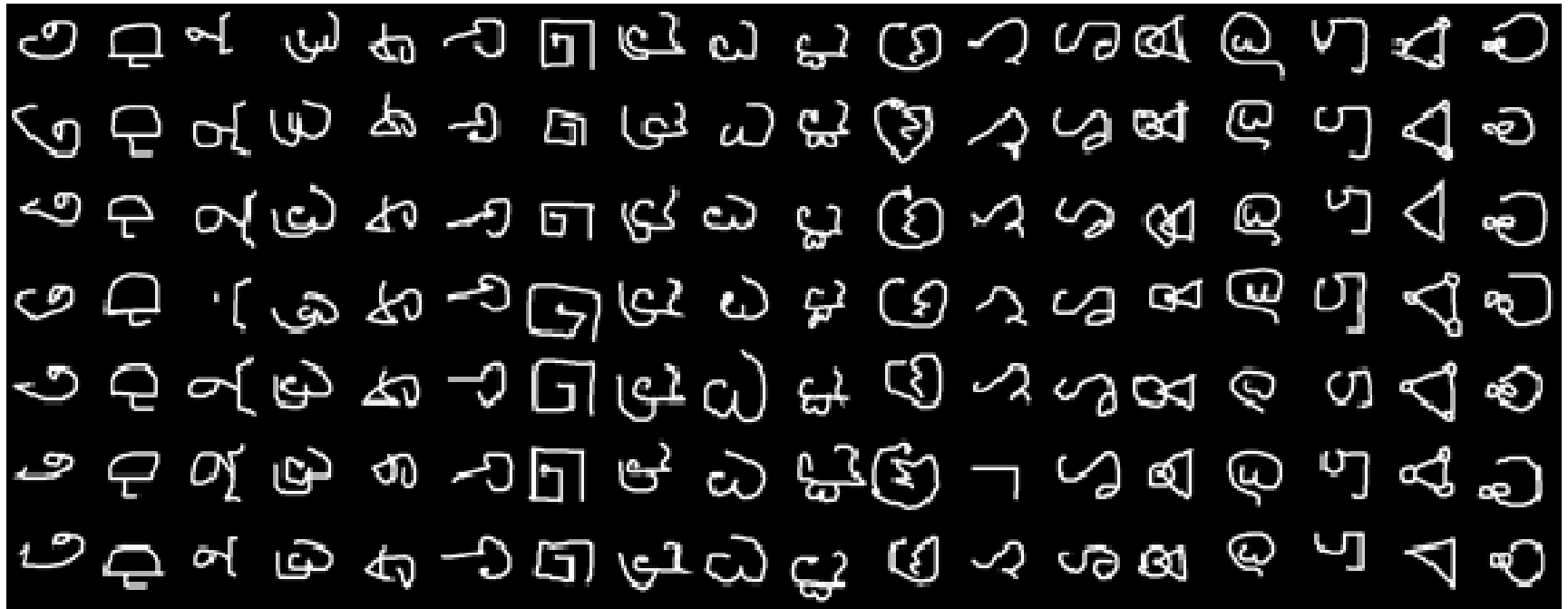
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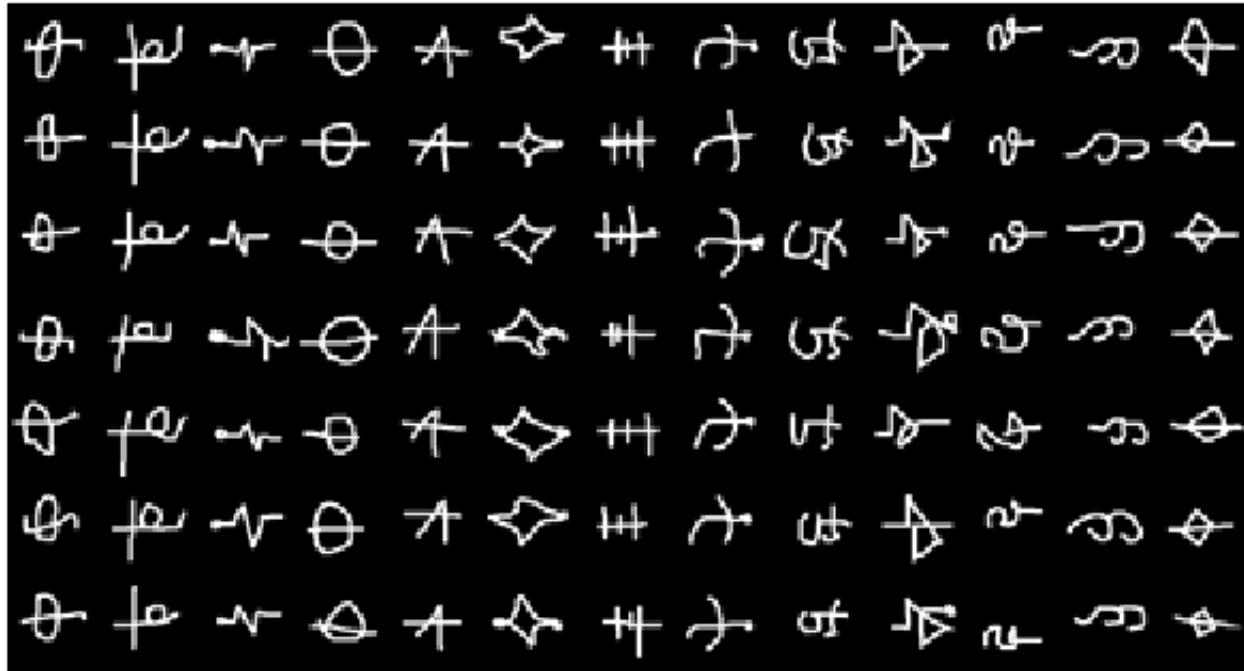
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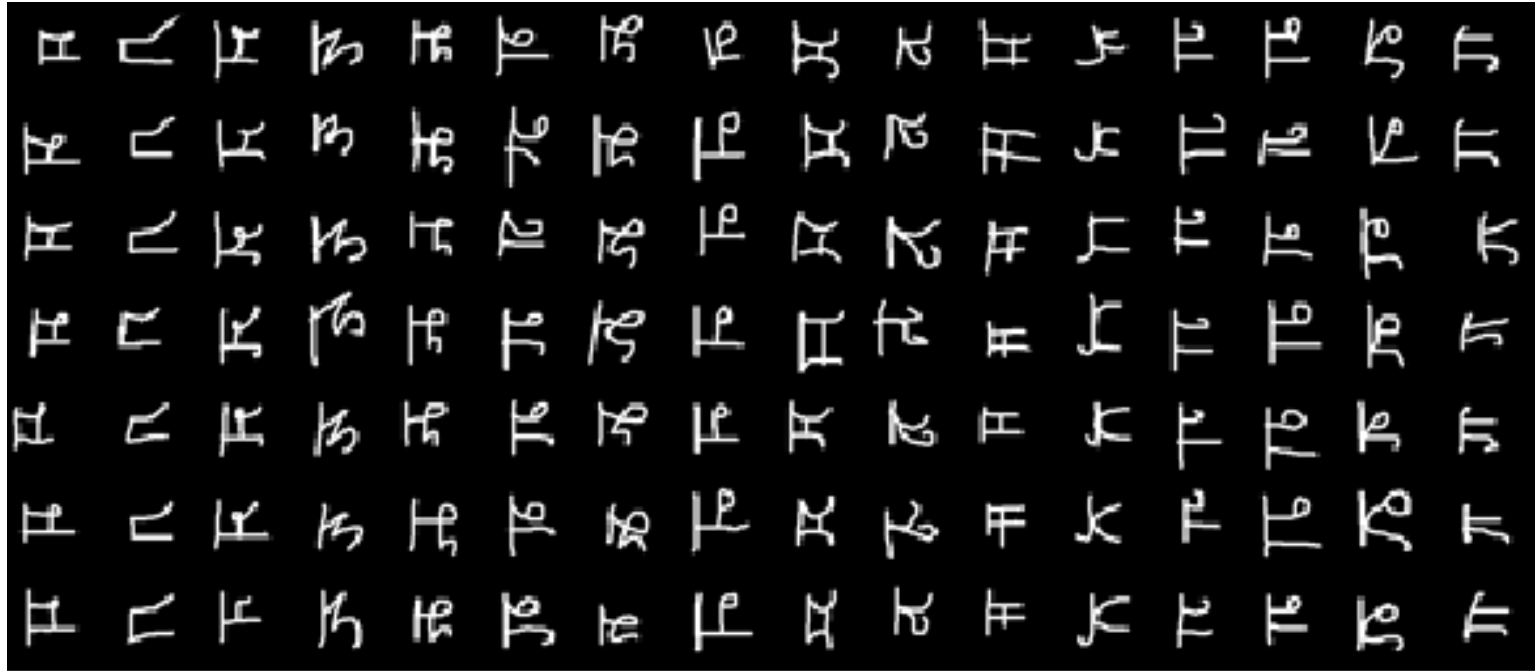
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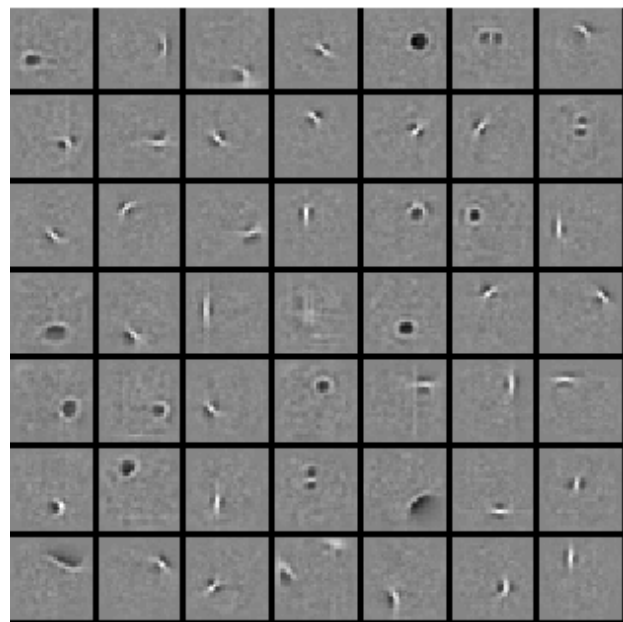
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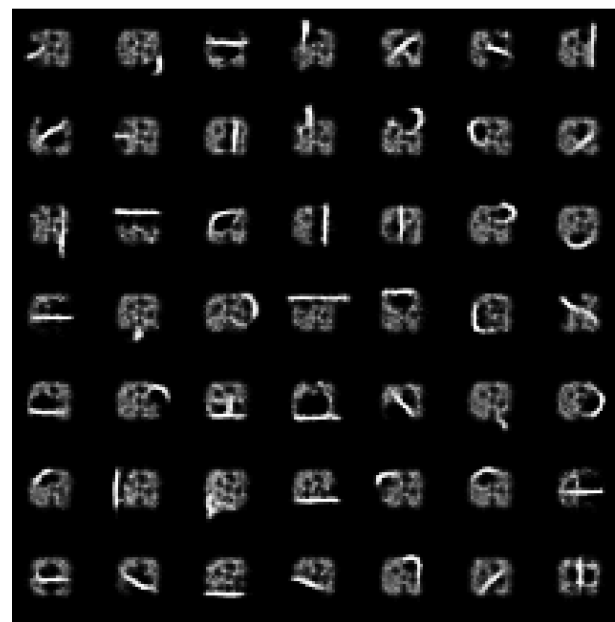
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Learned features

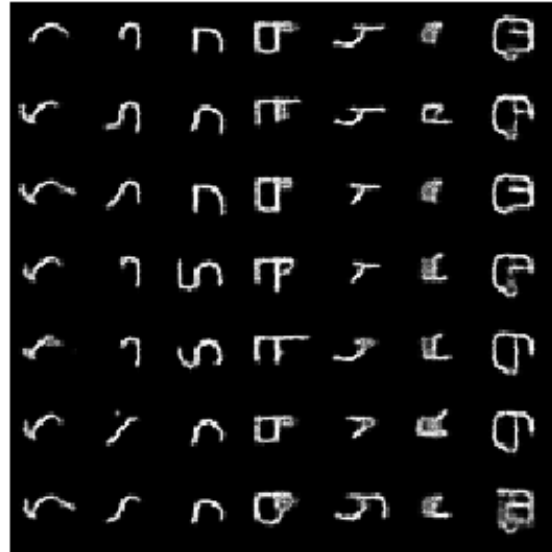


Low-level general-purpose features from RBM

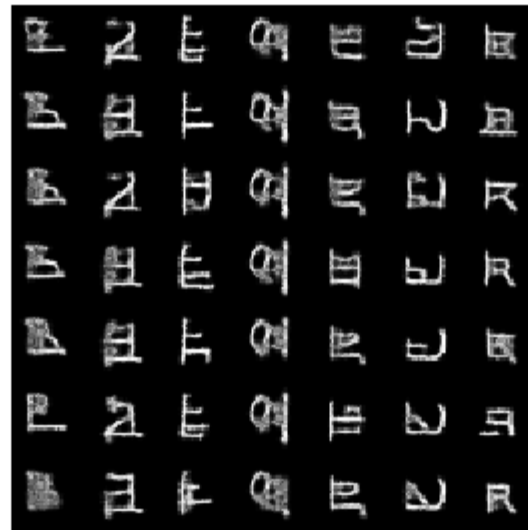
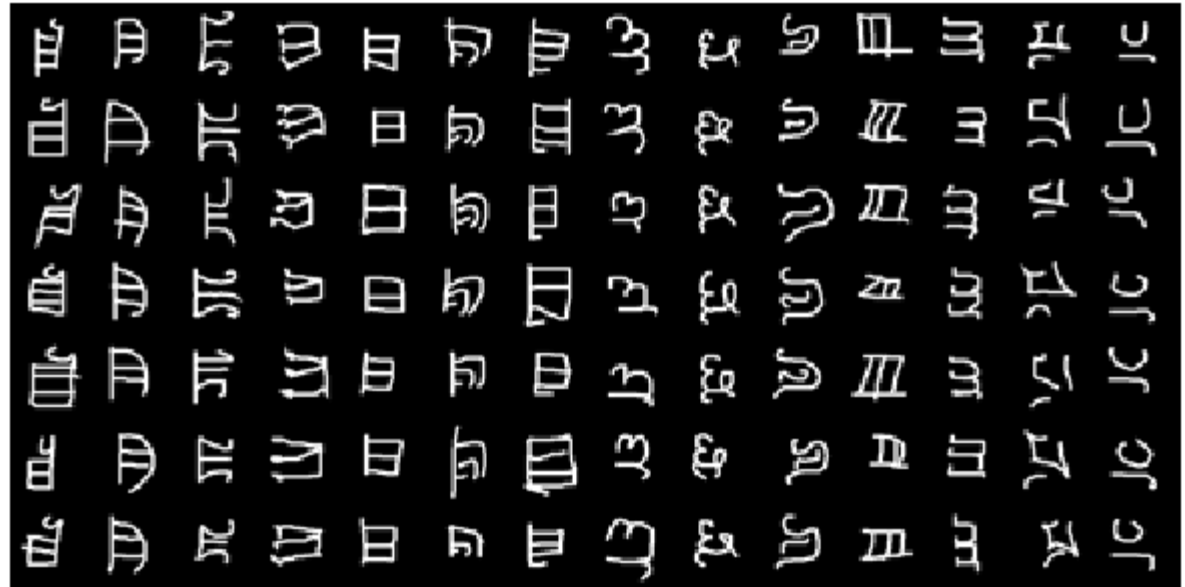


High-level class-sensitive features from HDP
(composed of RBM features)

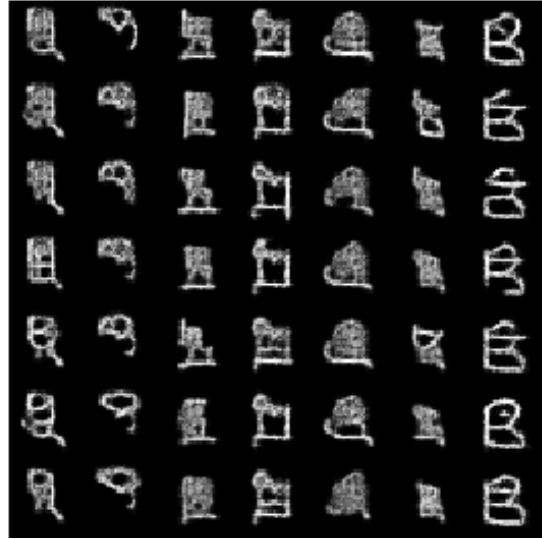
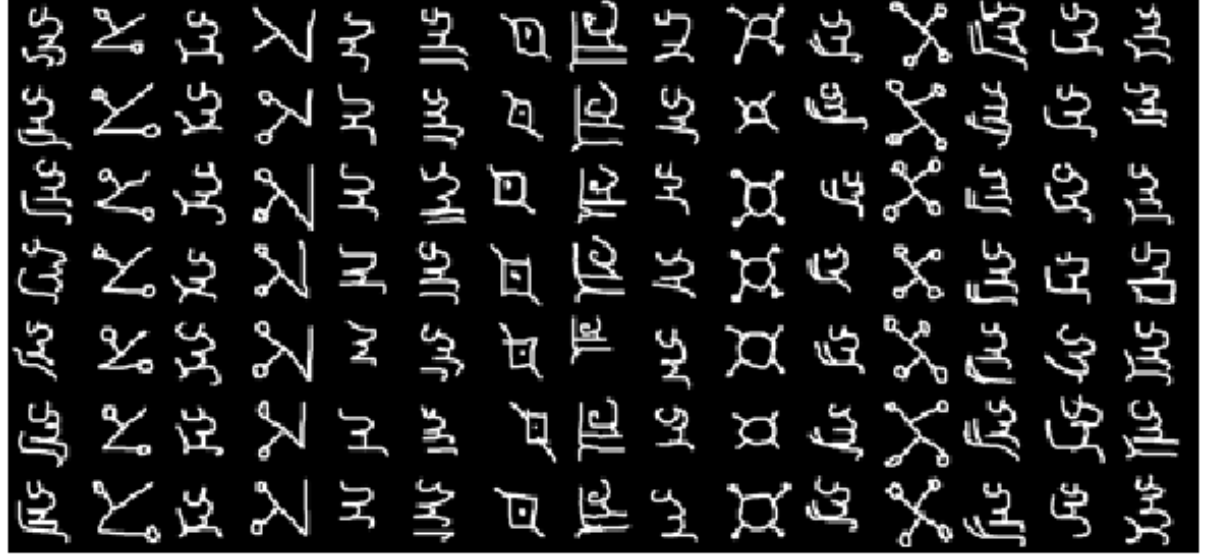
Model fantasies



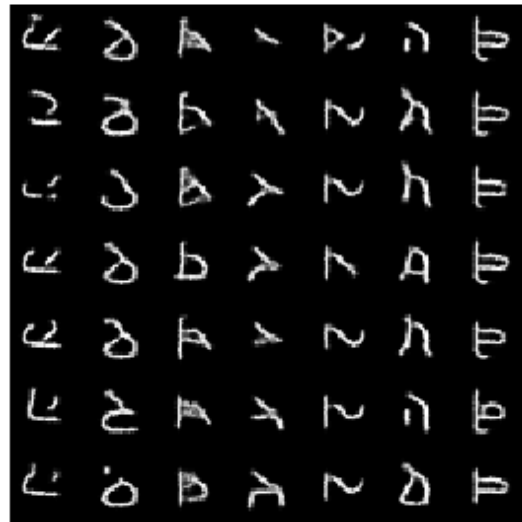
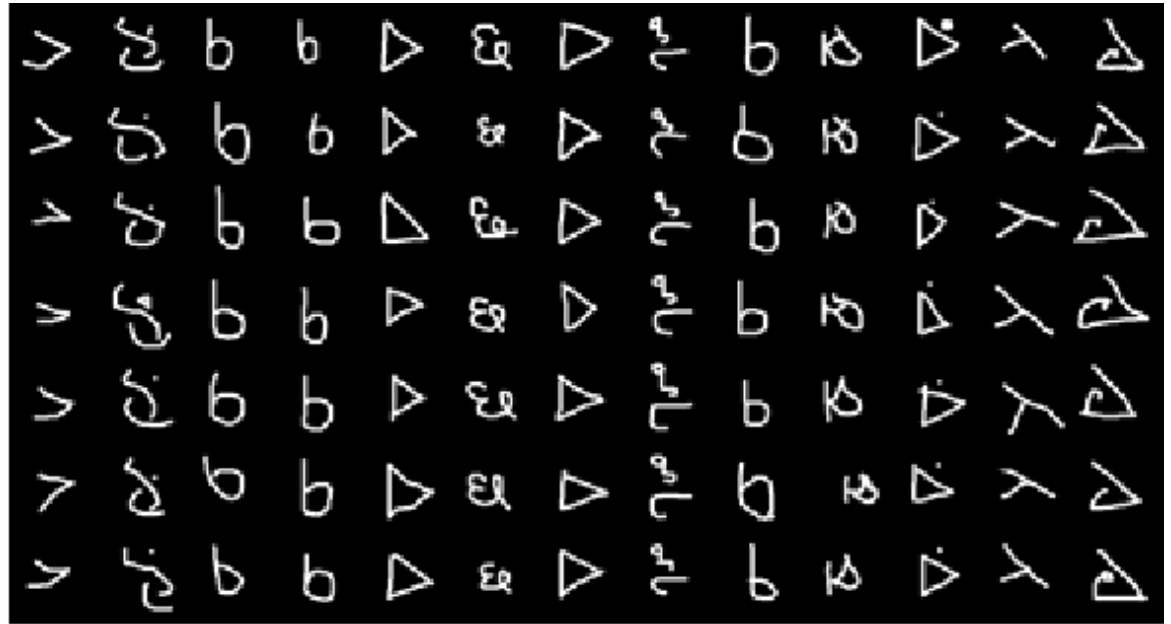
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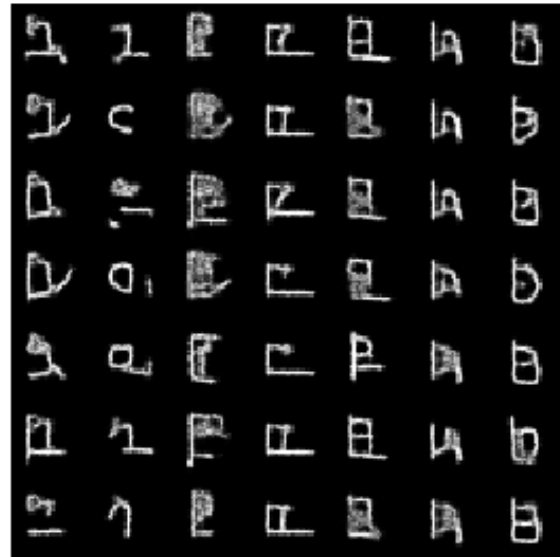
Model fantasies



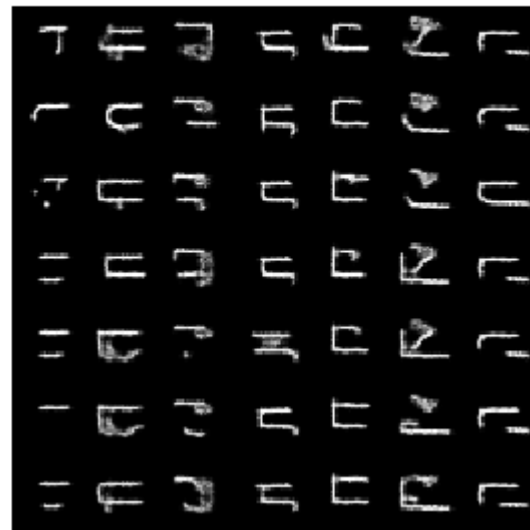
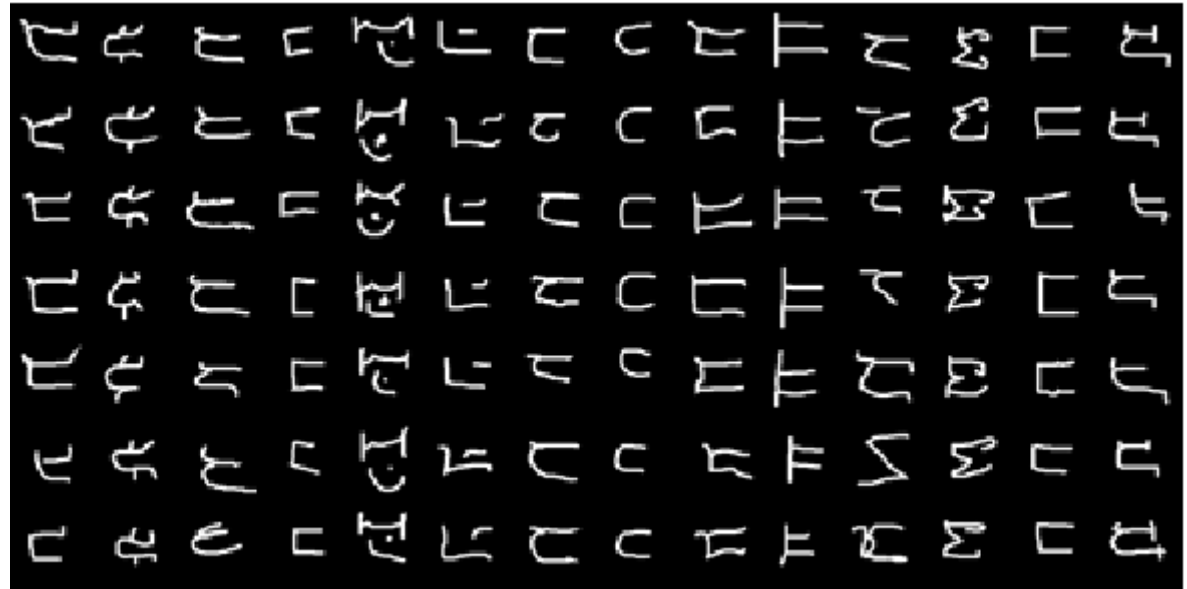
Model fantasies

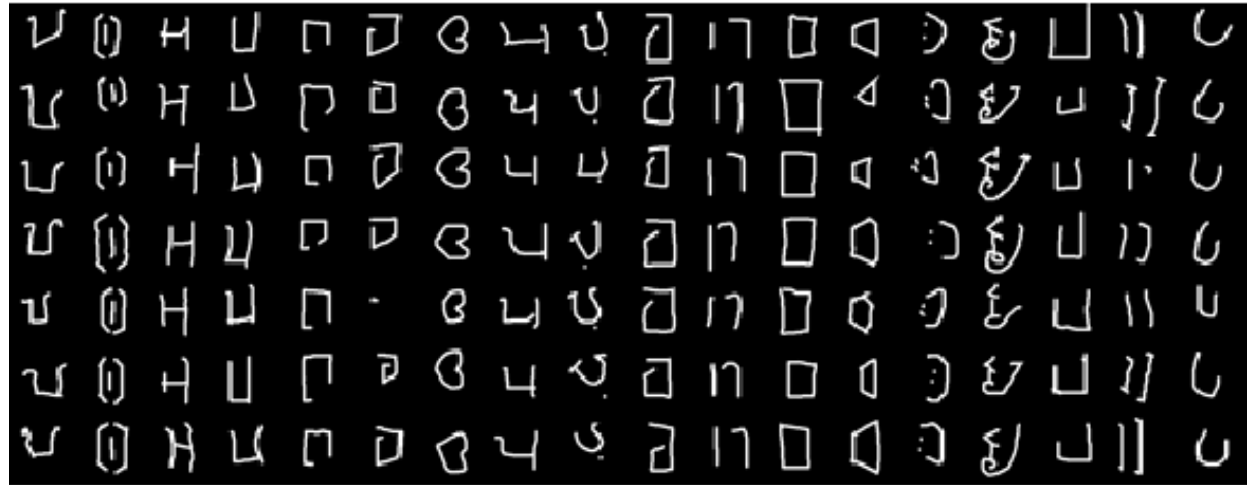


Model fantasies

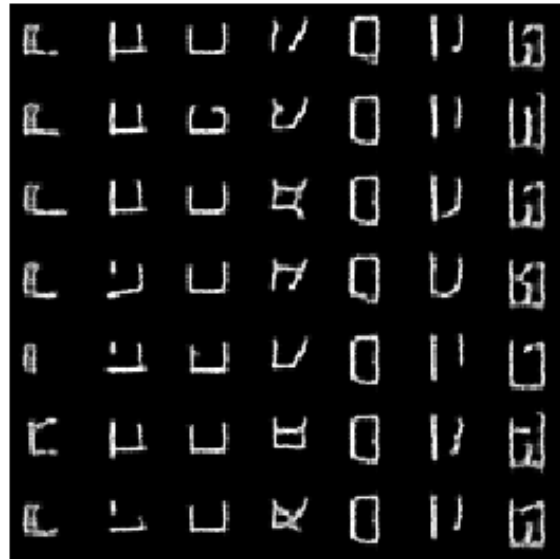


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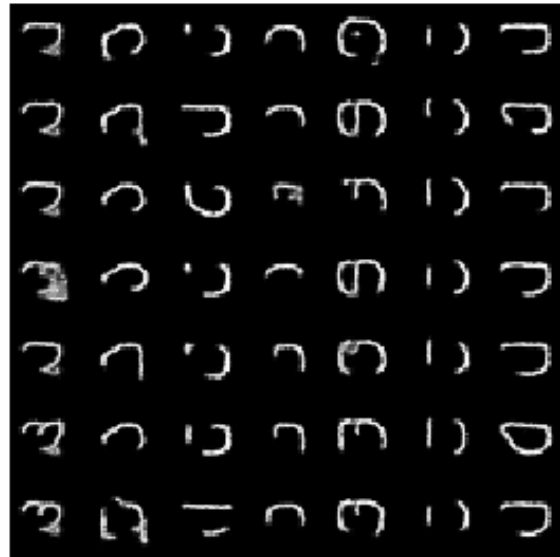
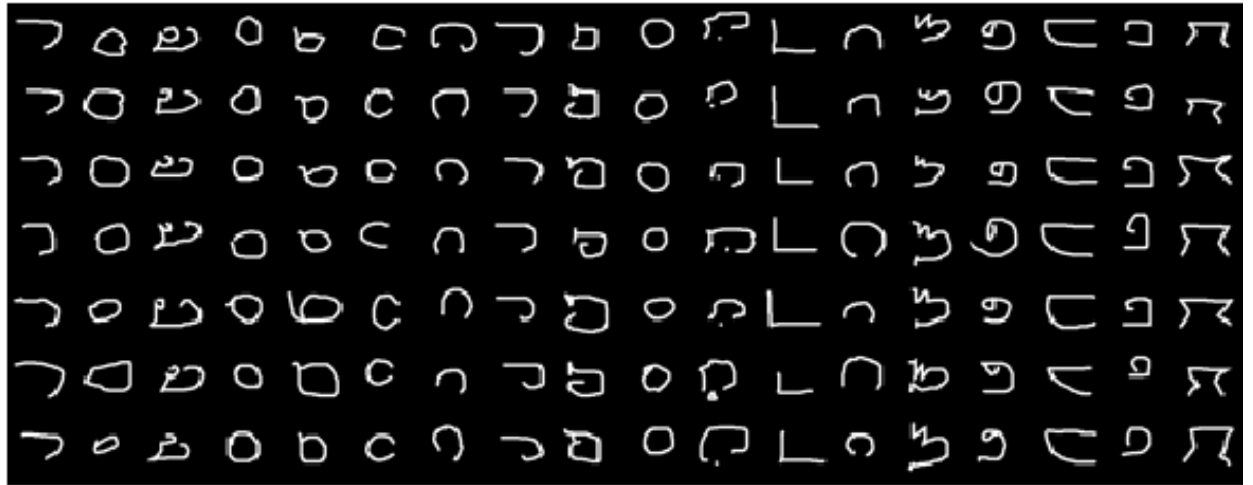




Model
fantasies



Model fantasies

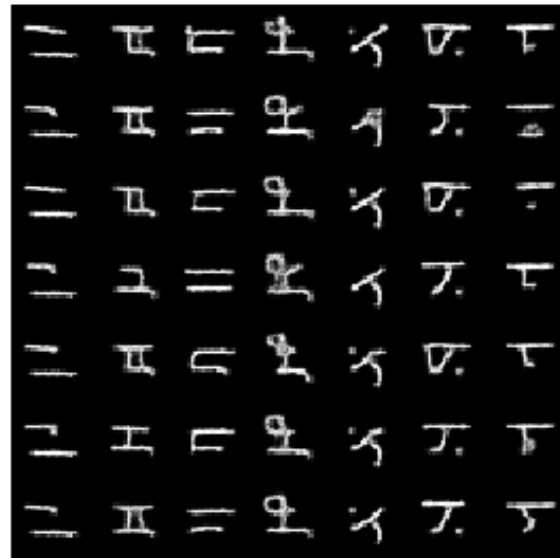
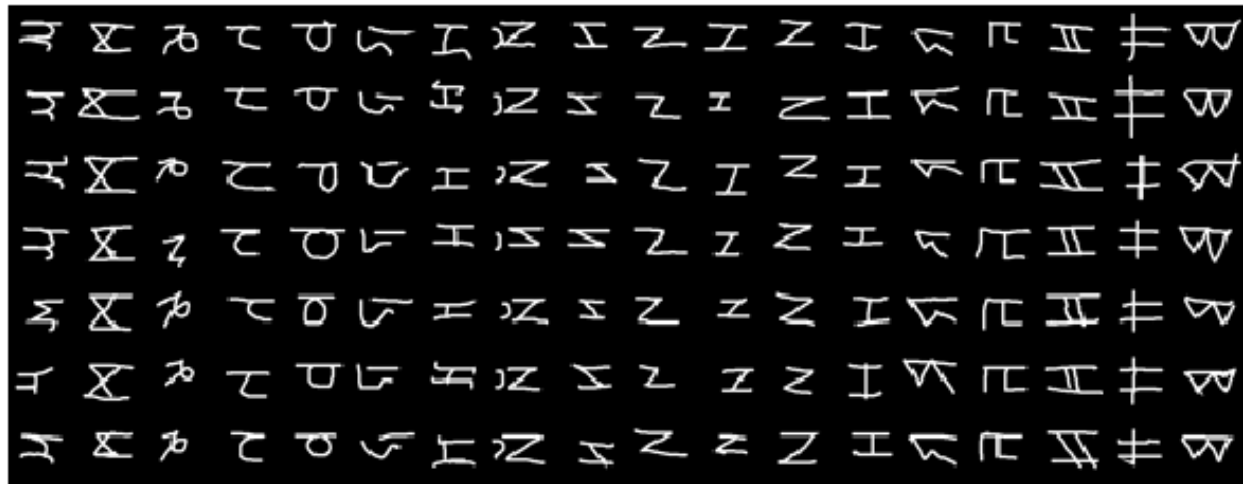


Handwritten text in a cursive script, possibly a form or document, consisting of eight lines of text on a black background.

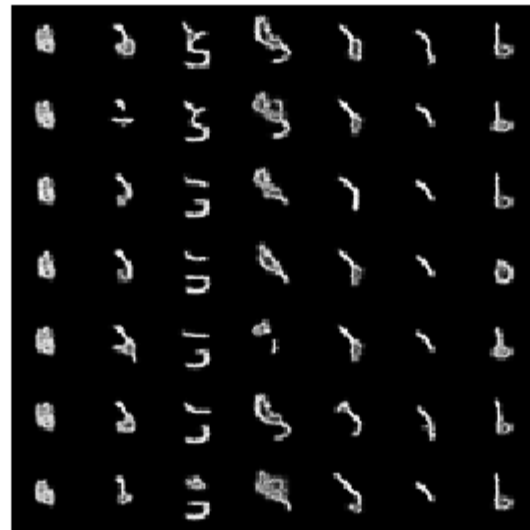
Model fantasies

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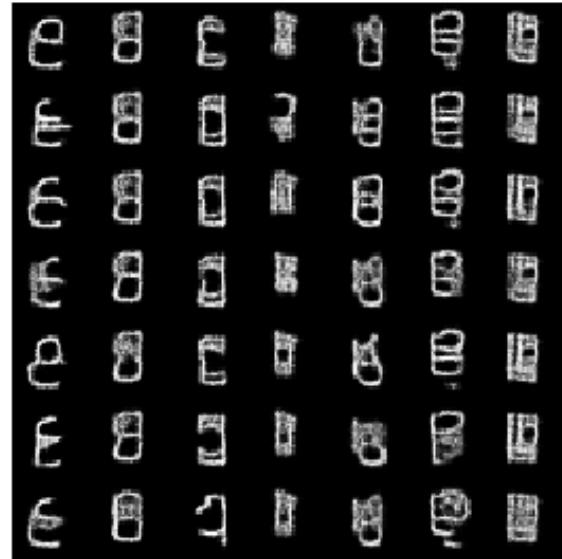
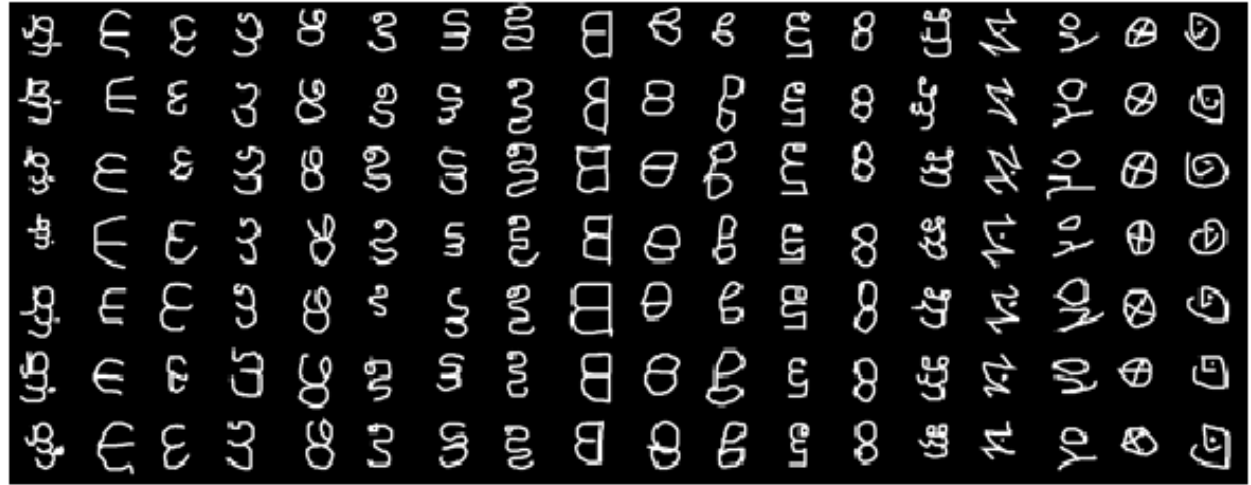
Model fantasies



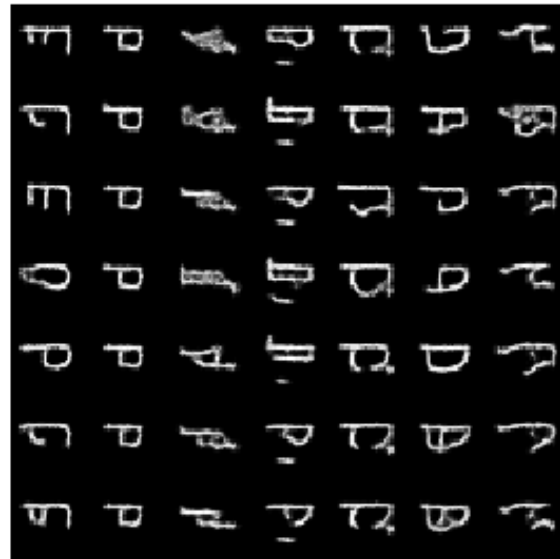
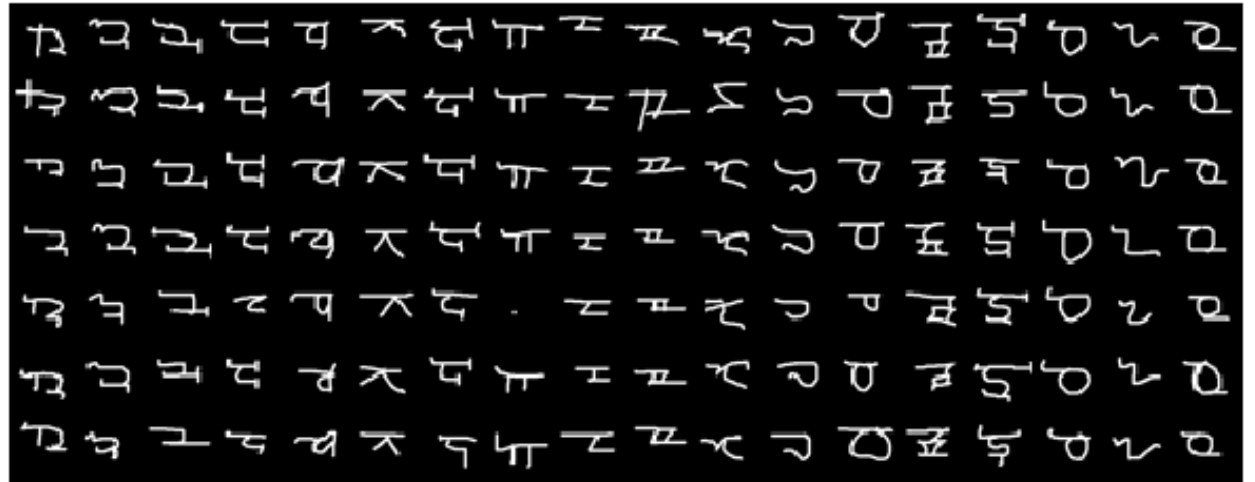
Model fantasies



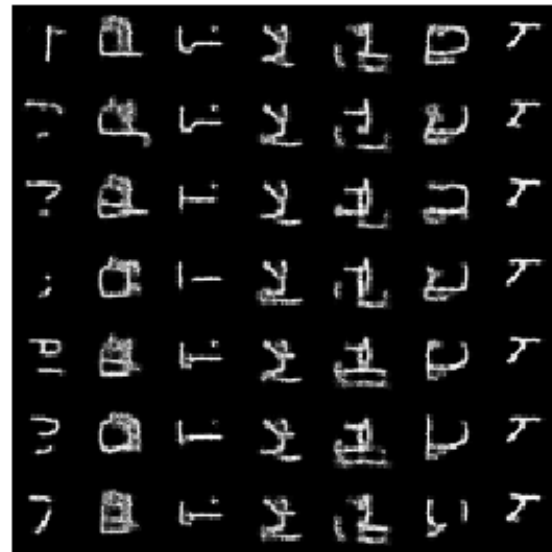
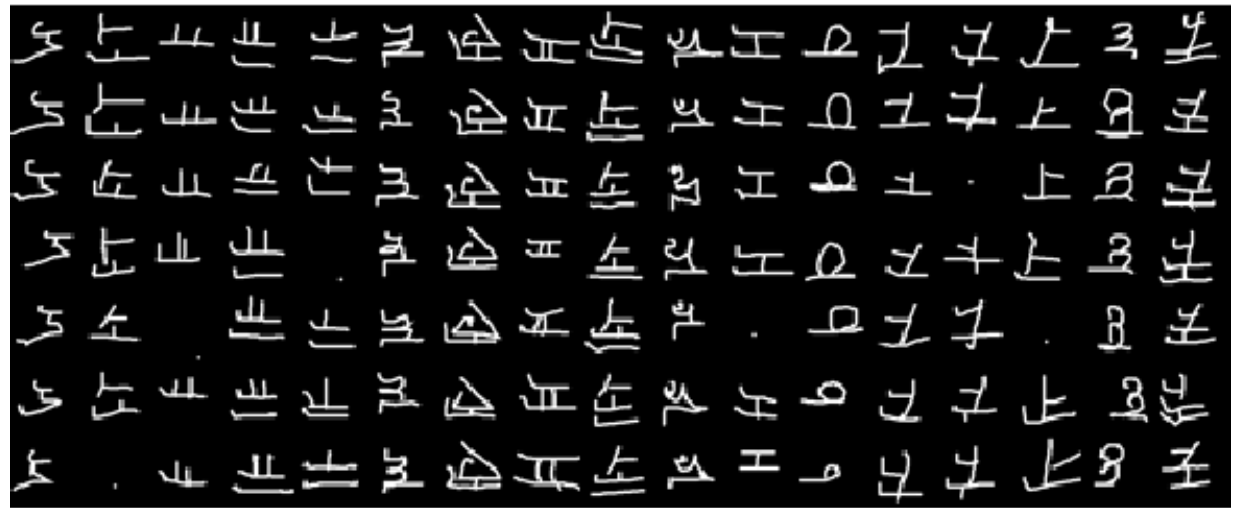
Model fantasies



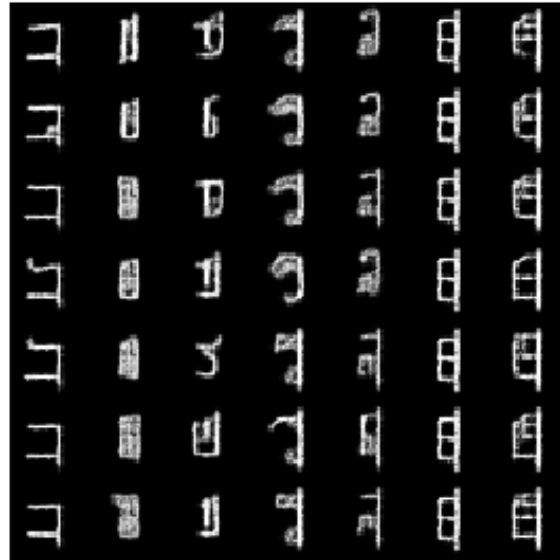
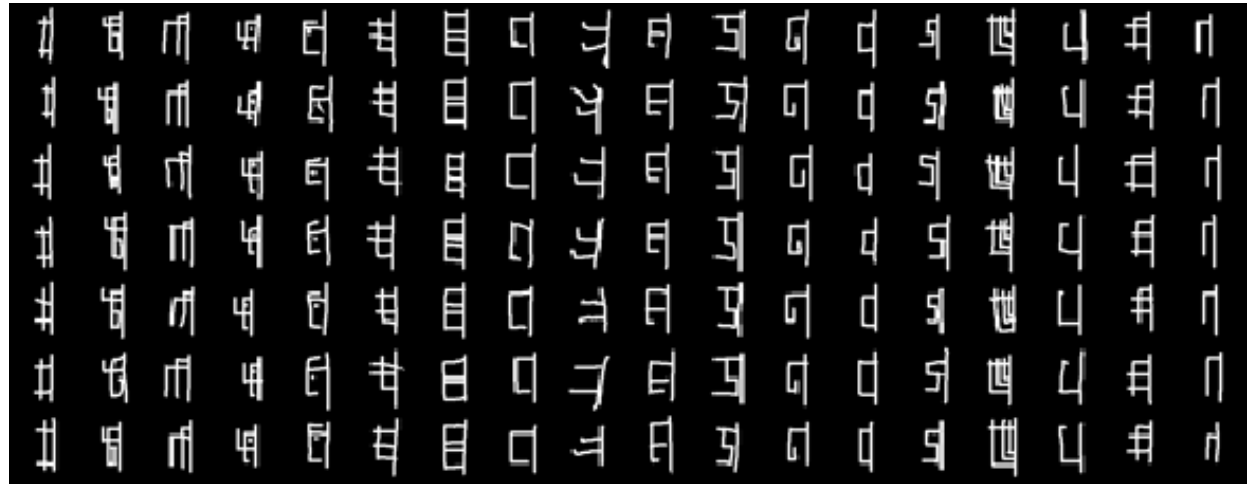
Model fantasies



Model fantasies



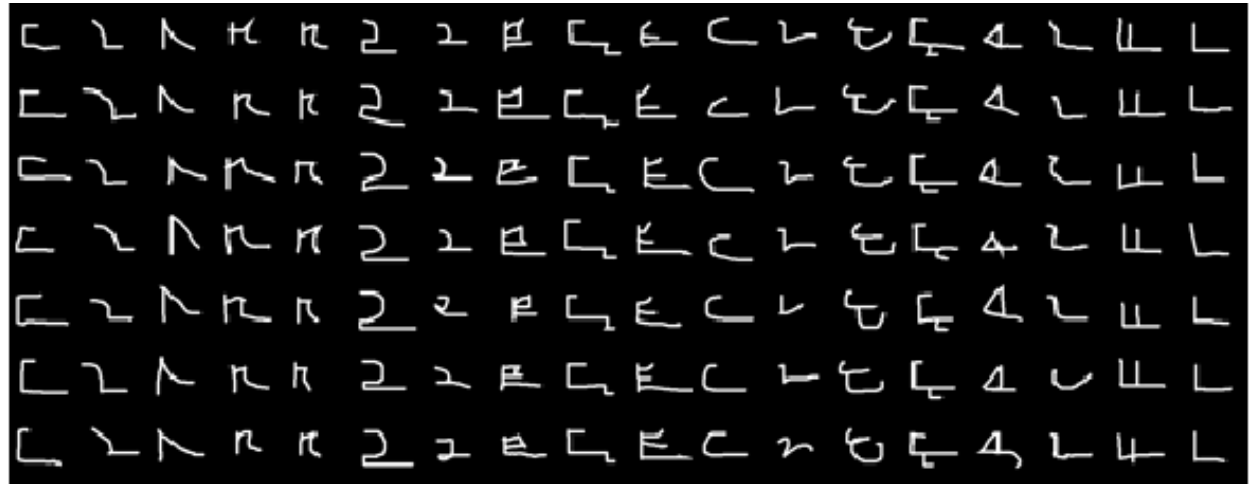
Model fantasies



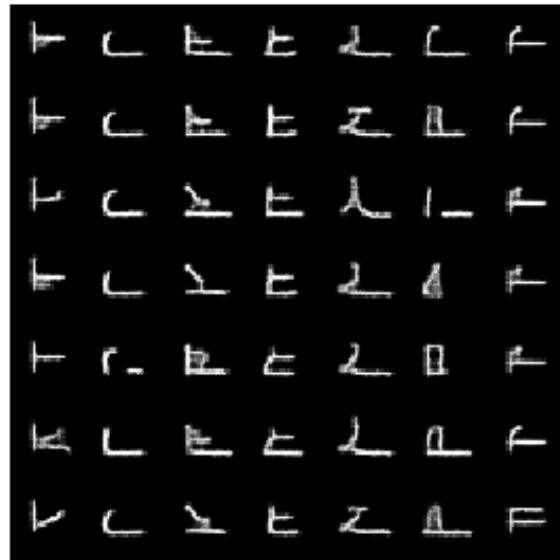
क र क ग ह र ङ त र क र व म न
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 क र क ग ह र ङ त र क र व म न
 क र क ग ह र ङ त र क र व म न
 क र क ग ह र ङ त र क र व म न
 क र क ग ह र ङ त र क र व म न

Model fantasies

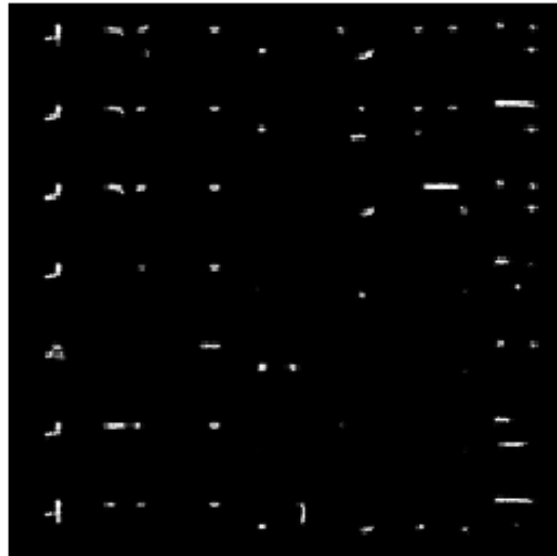
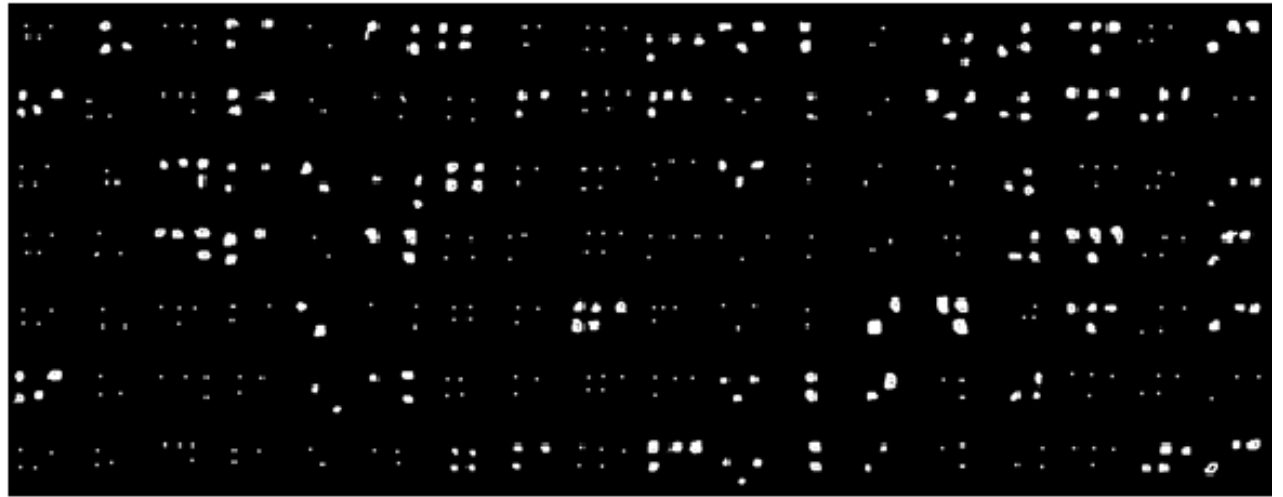
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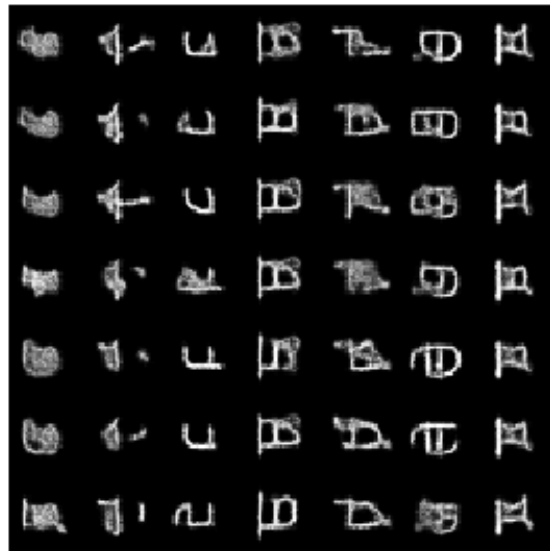
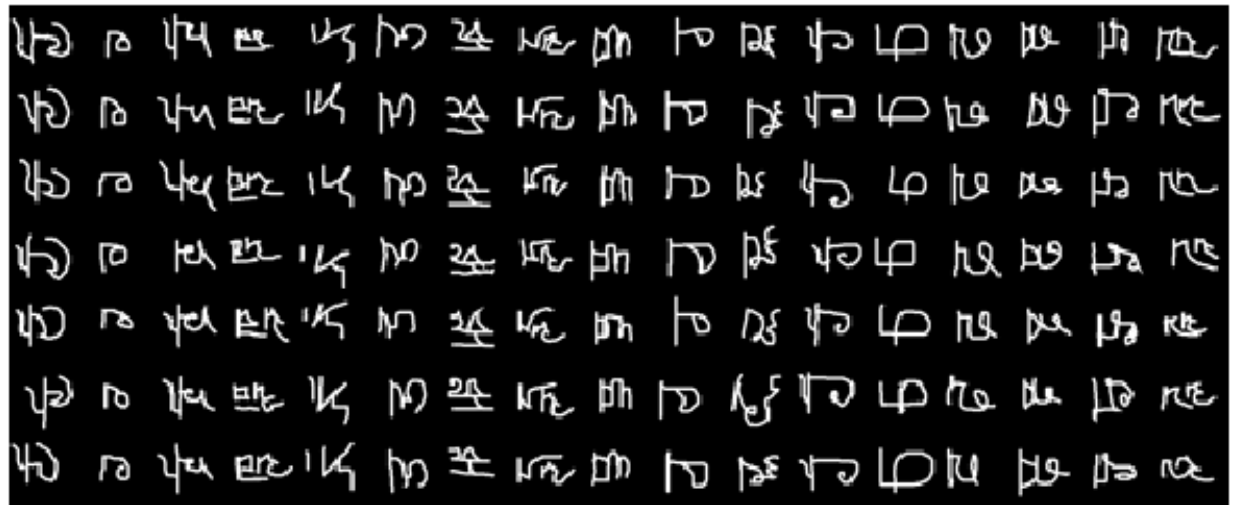
Model
fantasies



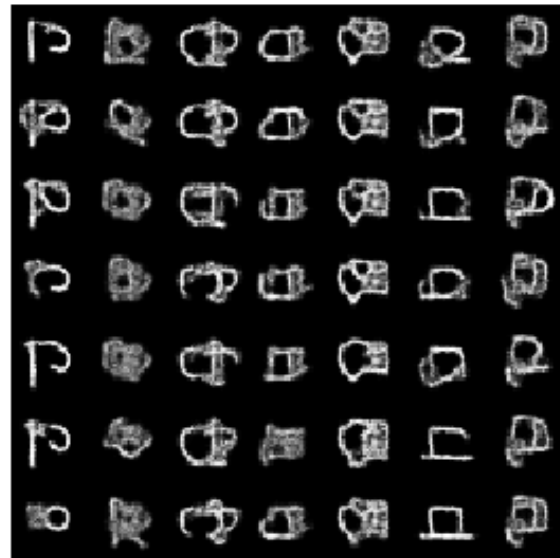
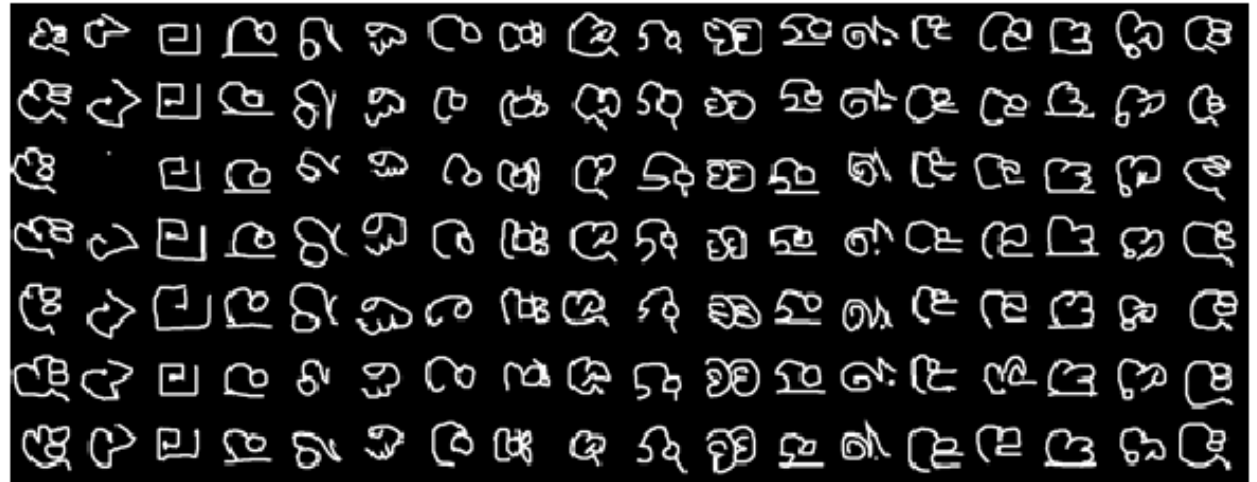
Model fantasies

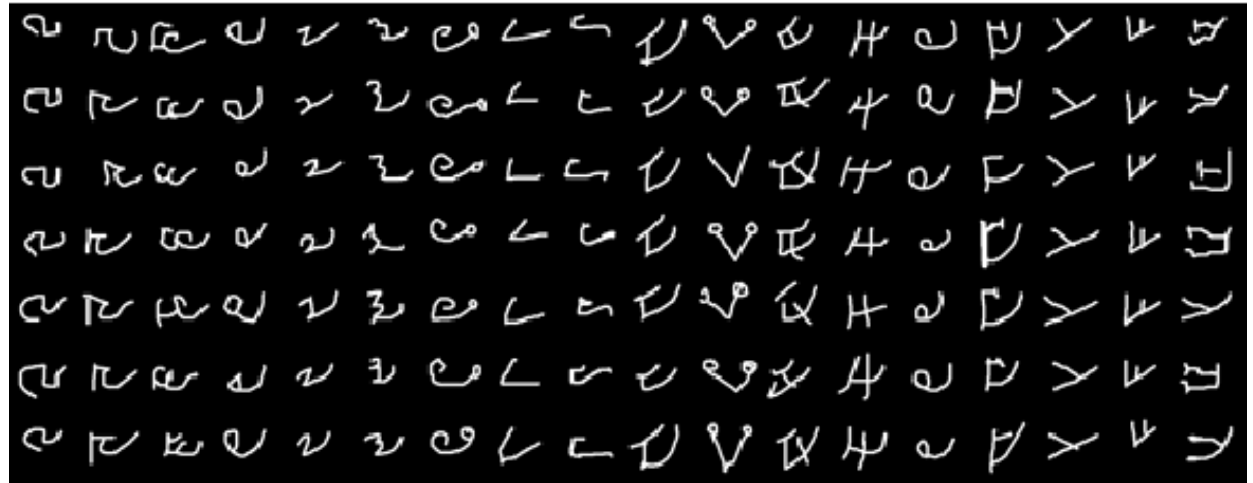


Model fantasies

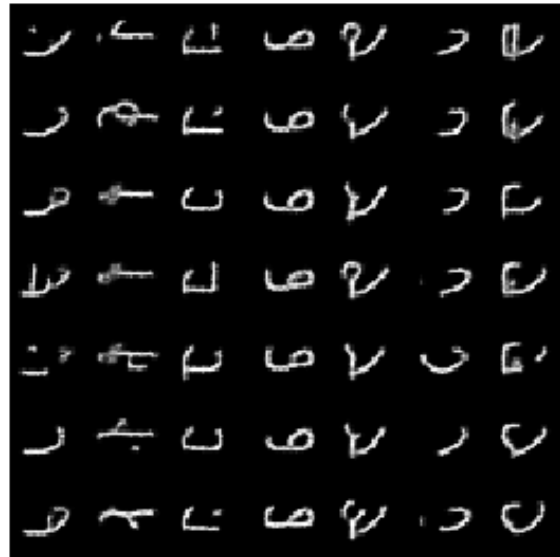


Model fantasies

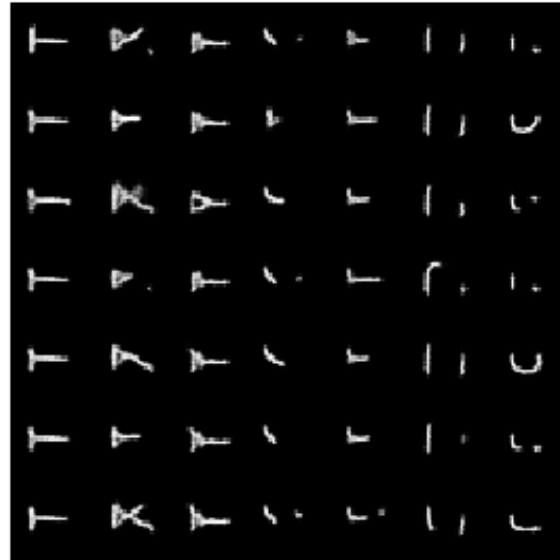
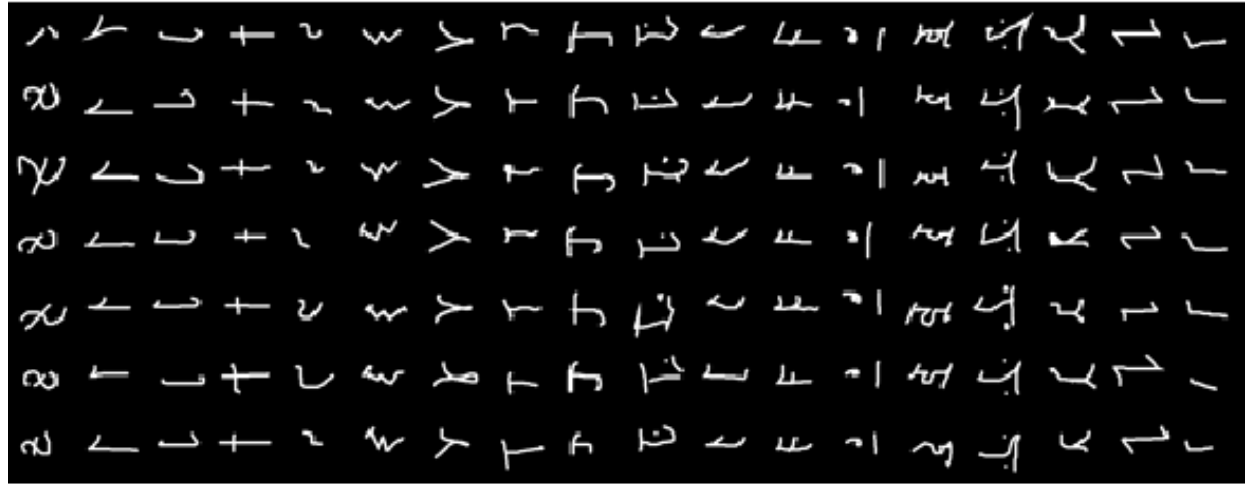




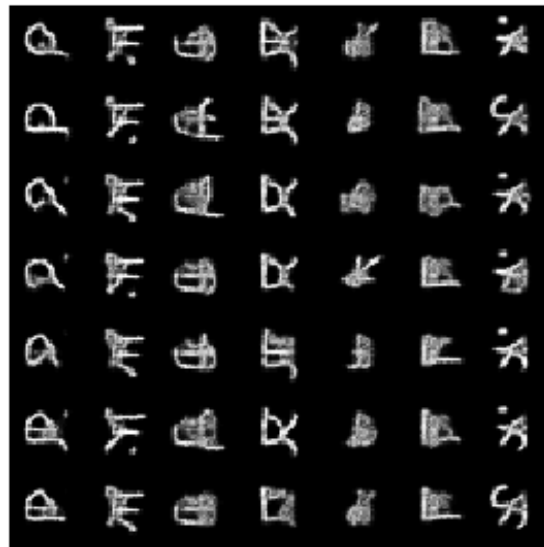
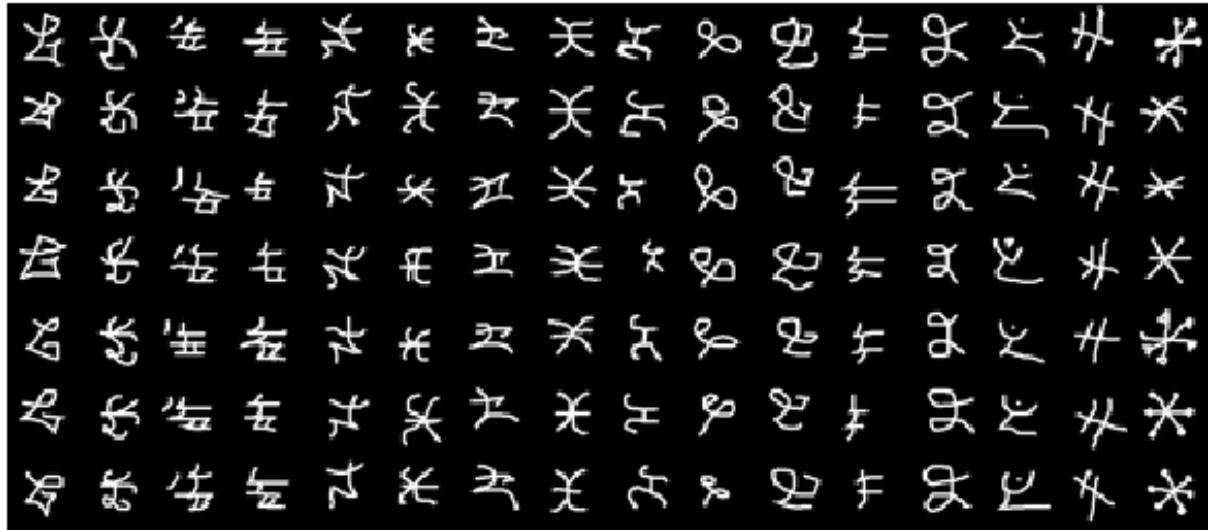
Model
fantasies



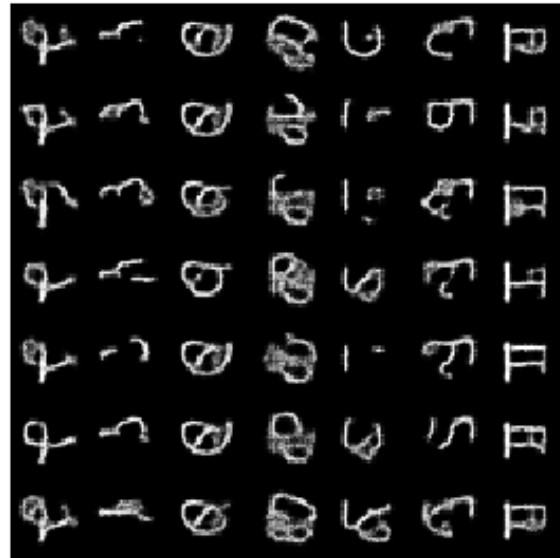
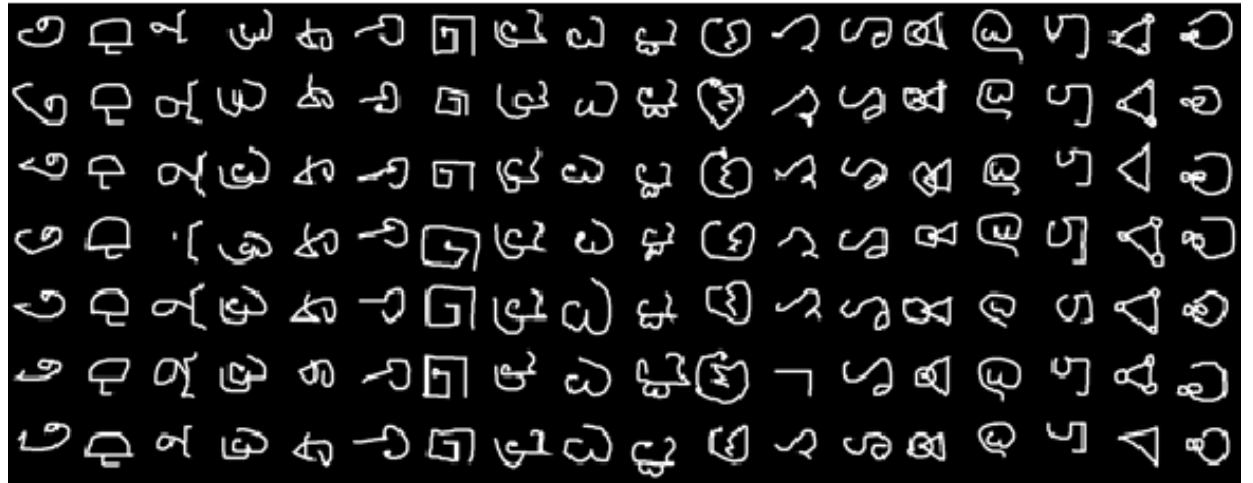
Model fantasies

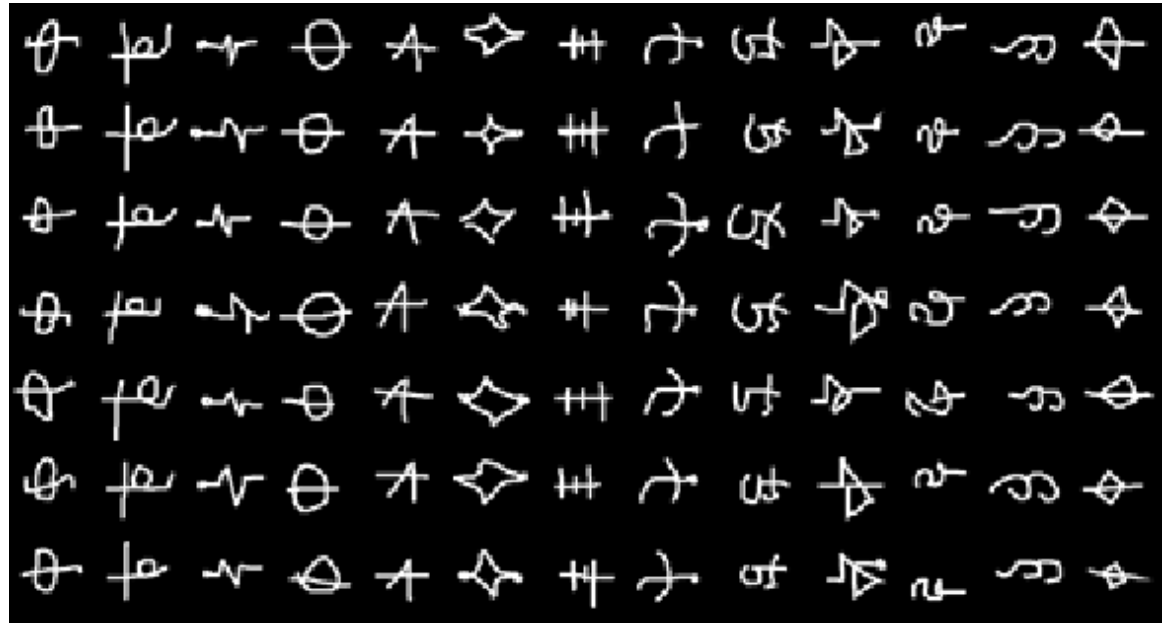


Model fantasies

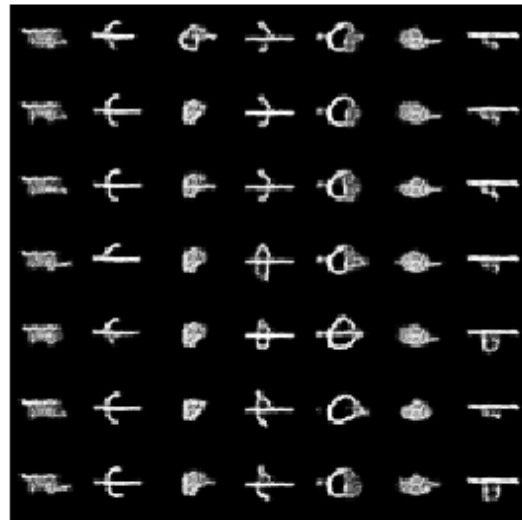


Model fantasies

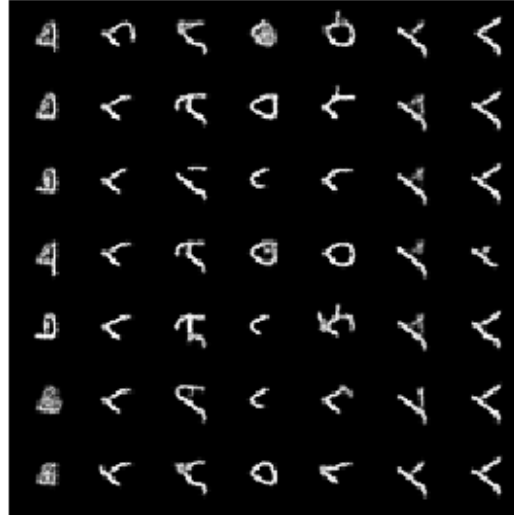
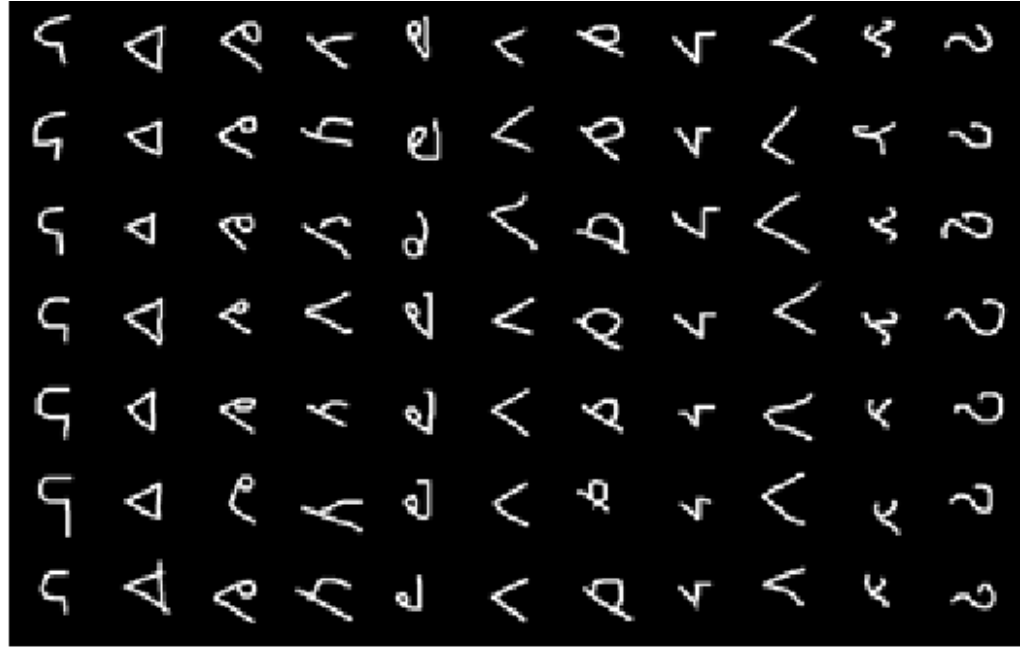




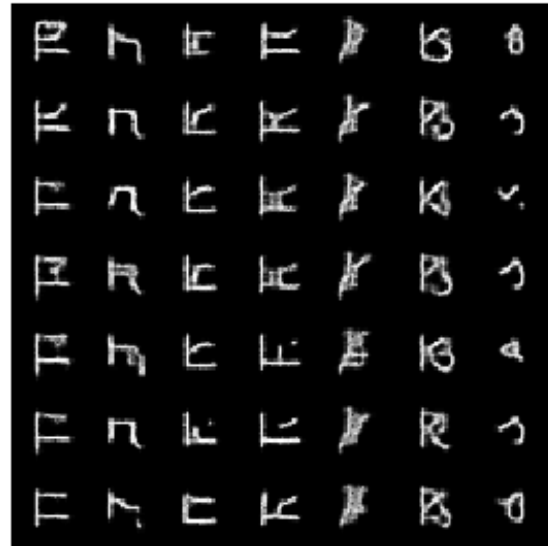
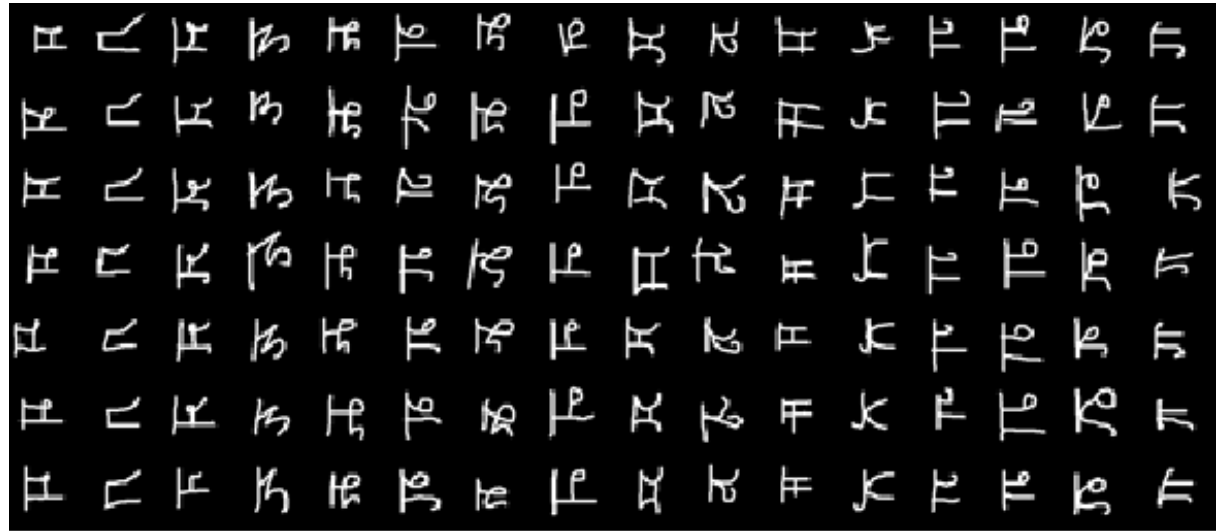
Model
fantasies



Model fantasies



Model fantasies



Learning from very few examples

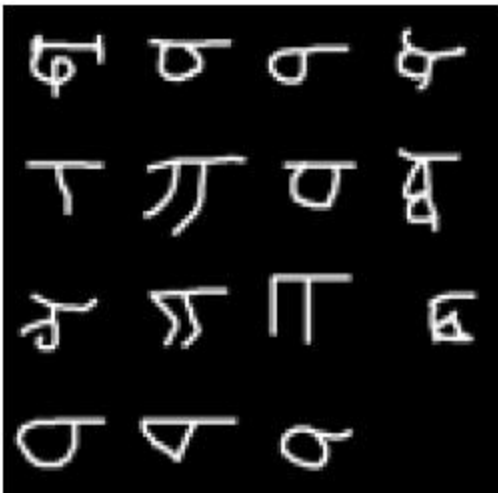
3 examples of
a new class



Conditional samples
in the same class



Inferred super-class



Learning from very few examples

5 5 5

7 7 7

HHH HHH HHH

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5 5 5 5 5
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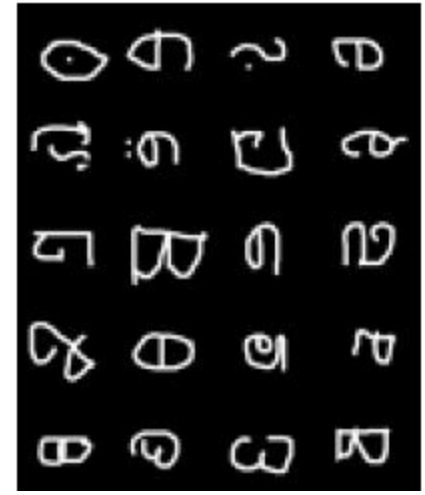
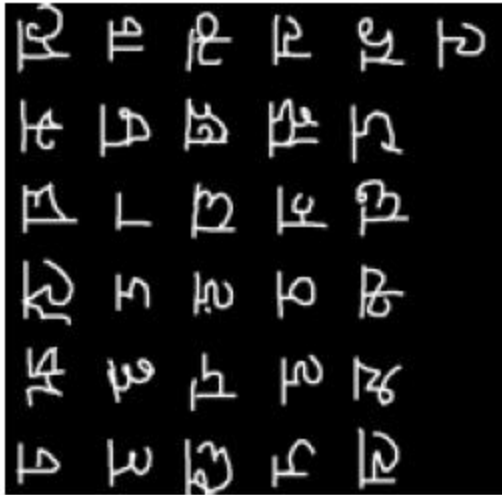
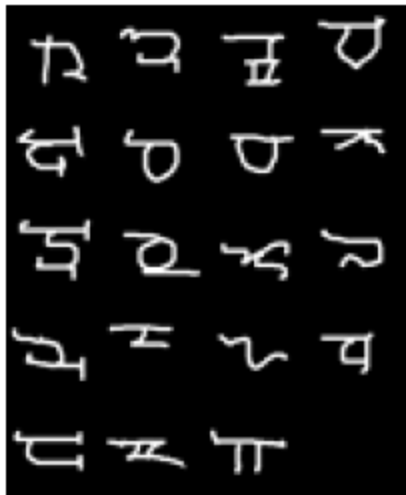
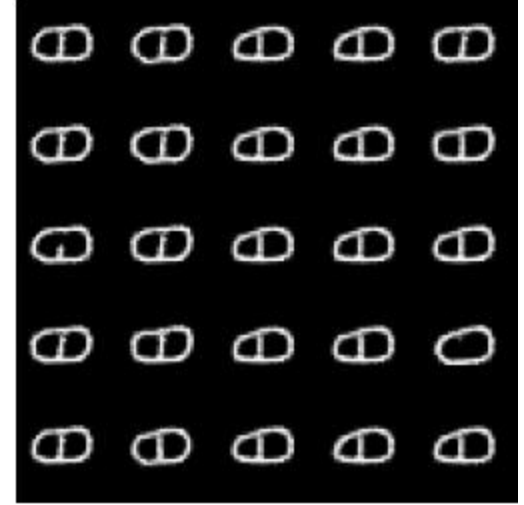
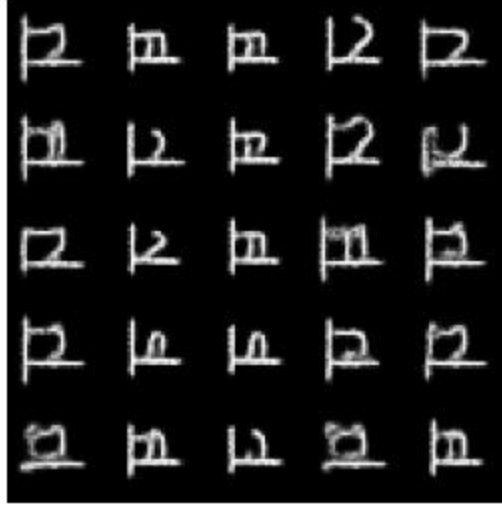
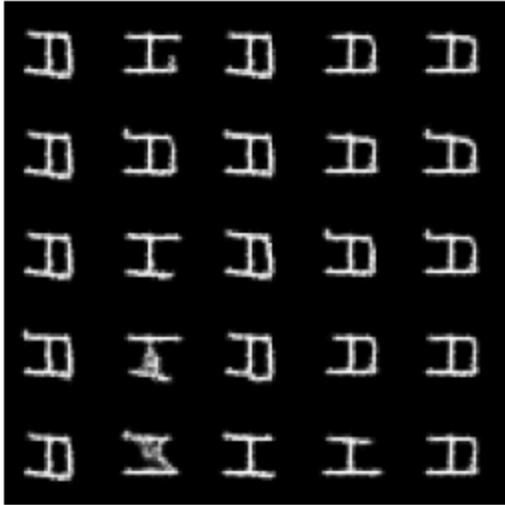
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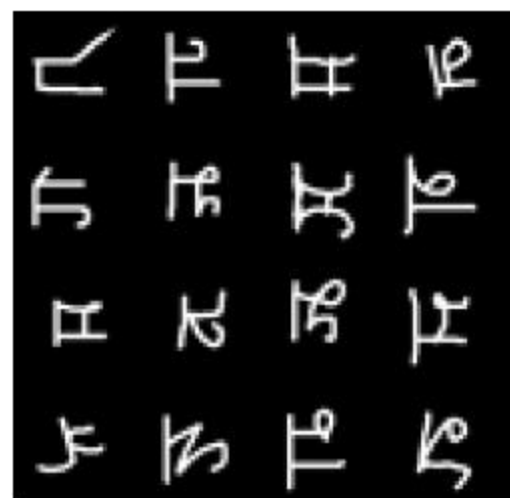
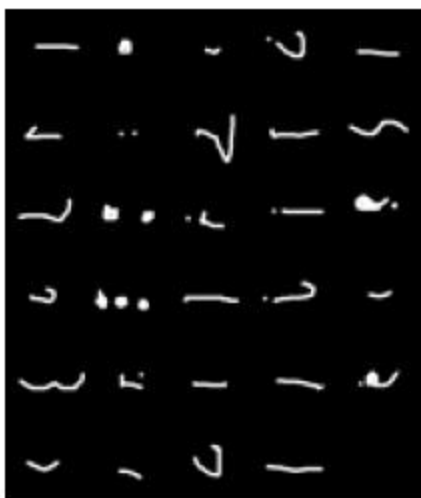
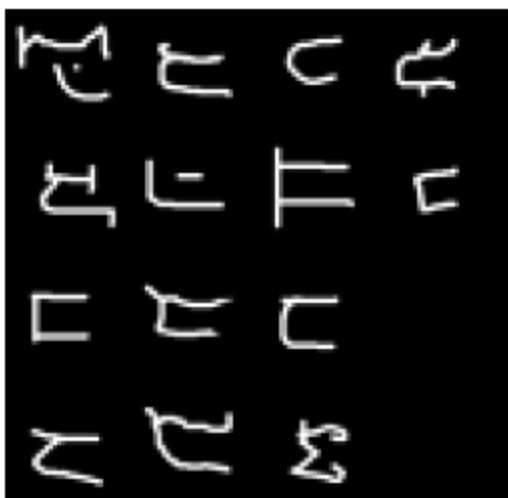
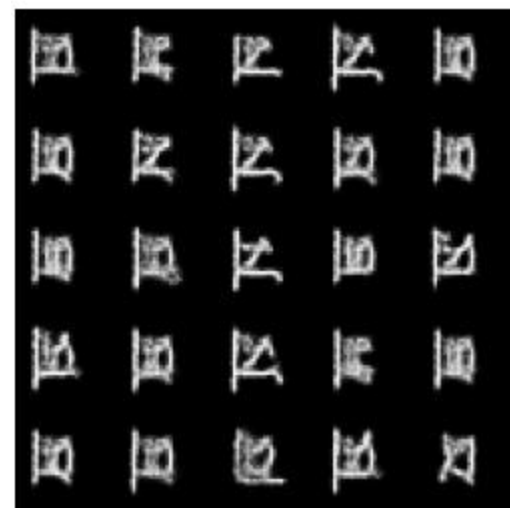
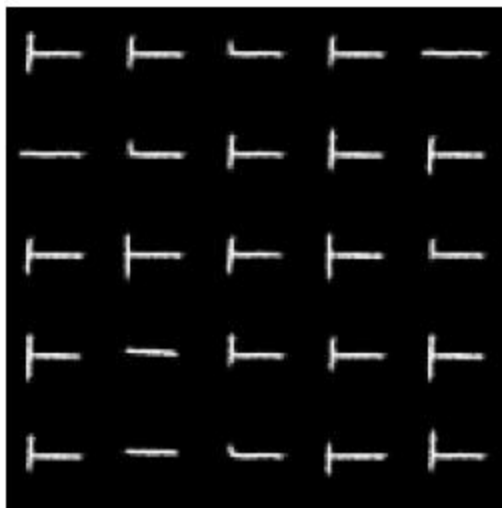
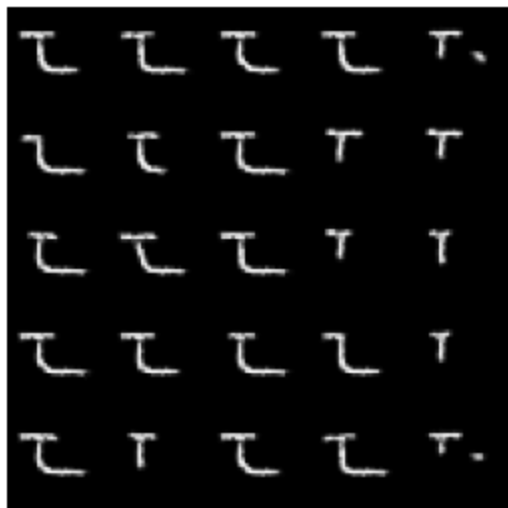
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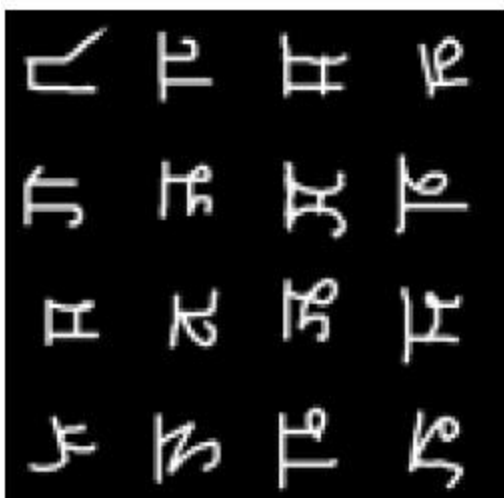
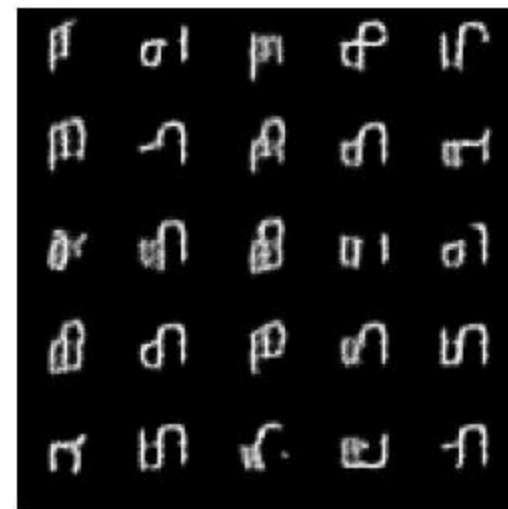
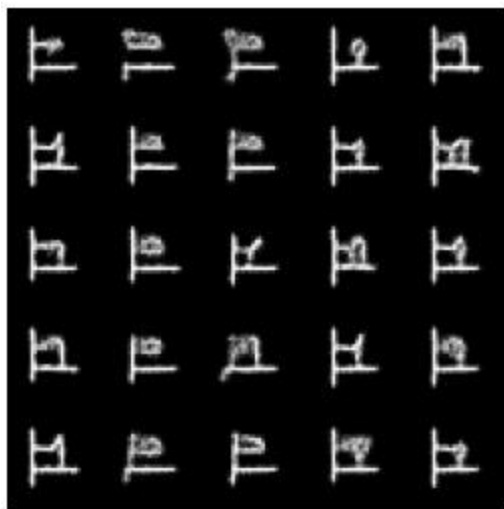
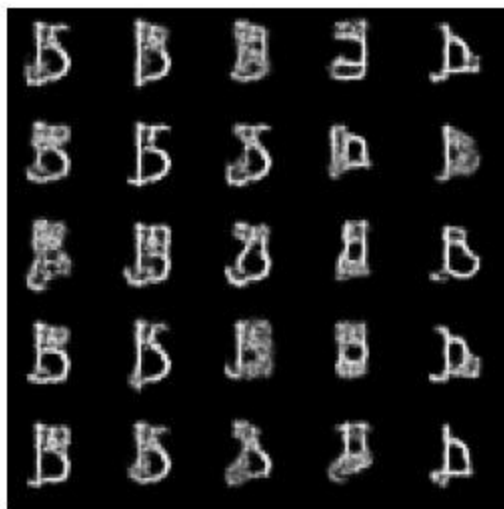
Learning from very few examples



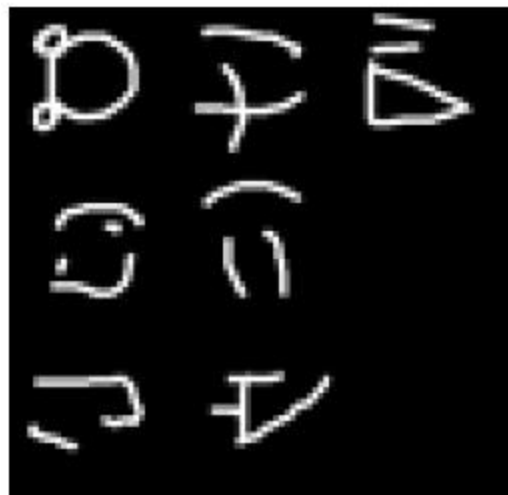
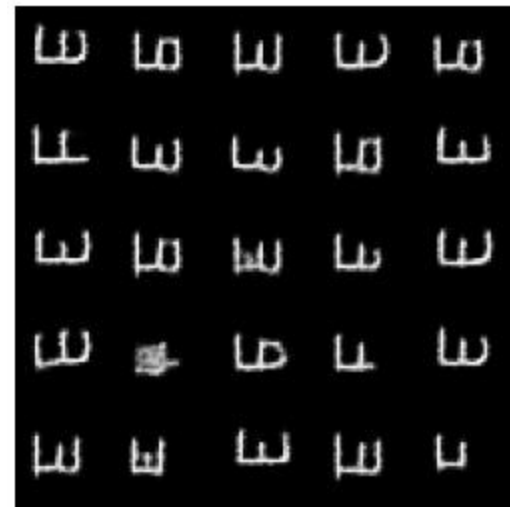
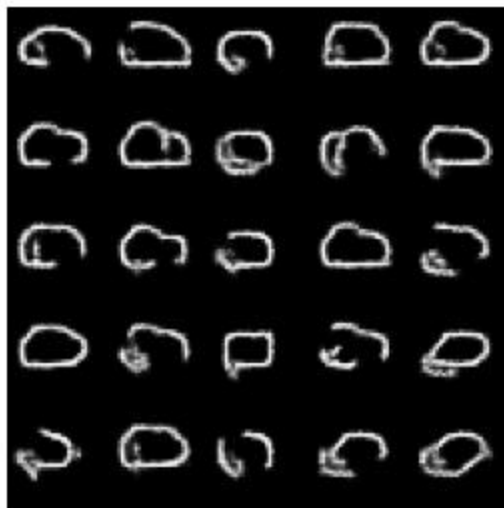
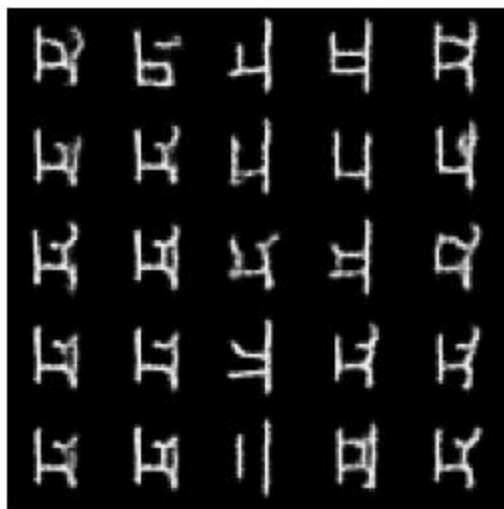
Learning from very few examples



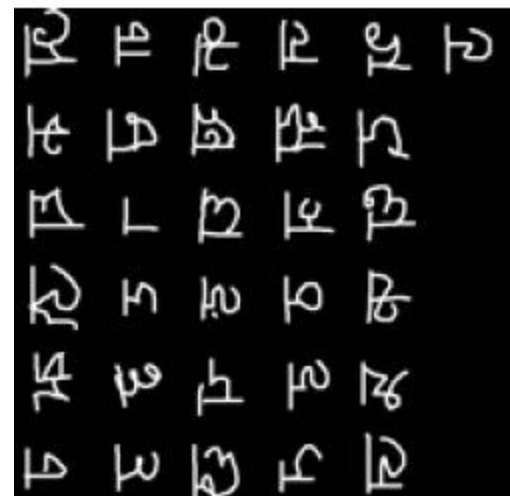
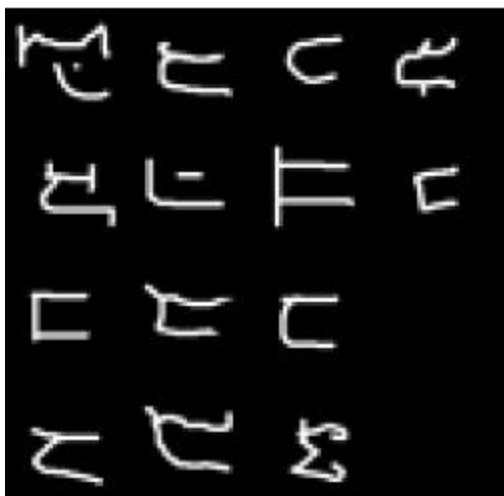
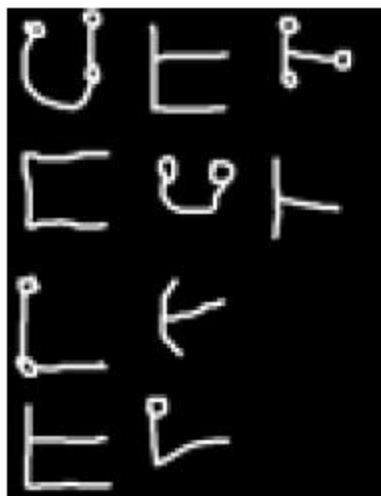
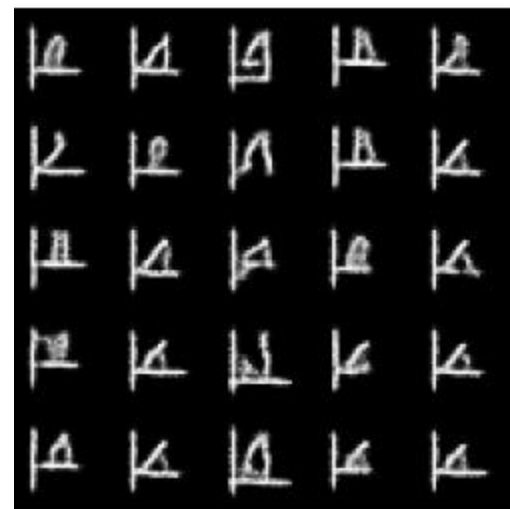
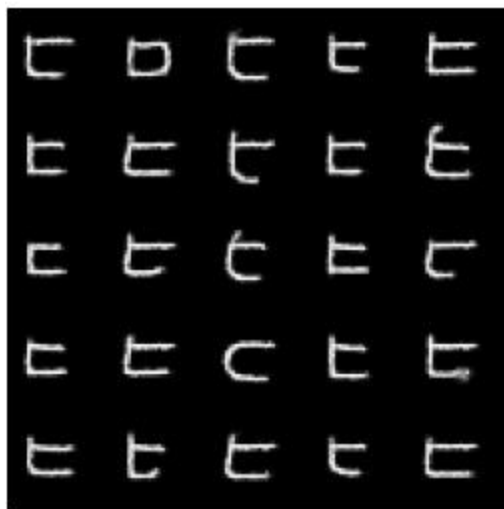
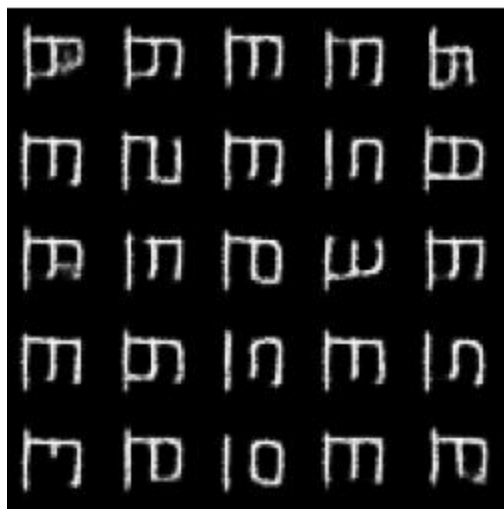
Learning from very few examples



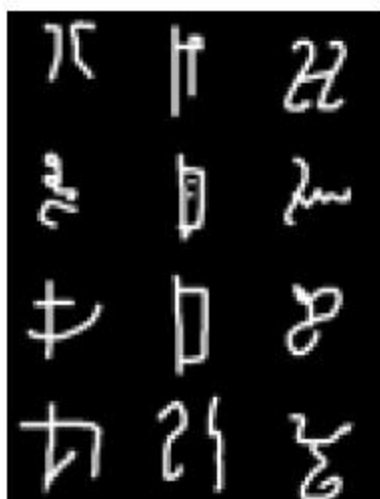
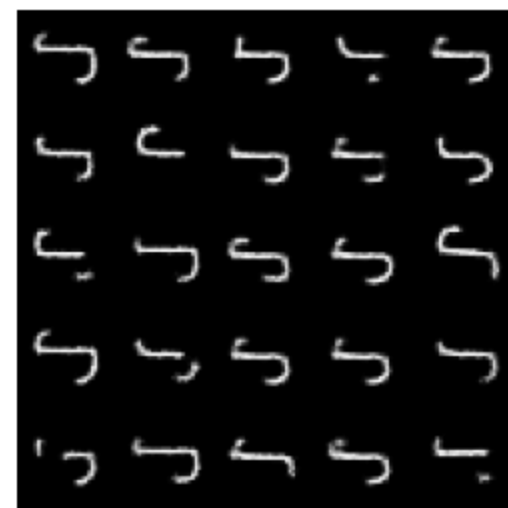
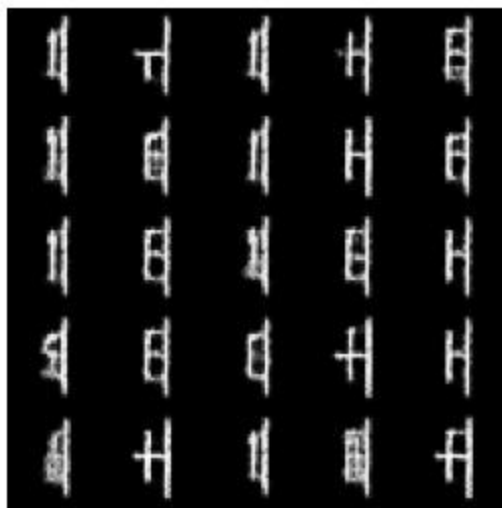
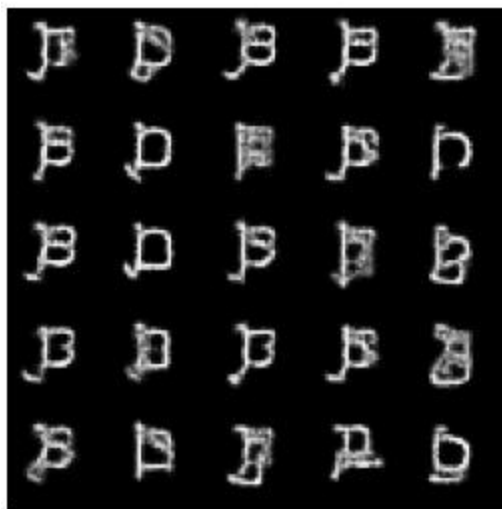
Learning from very few examples



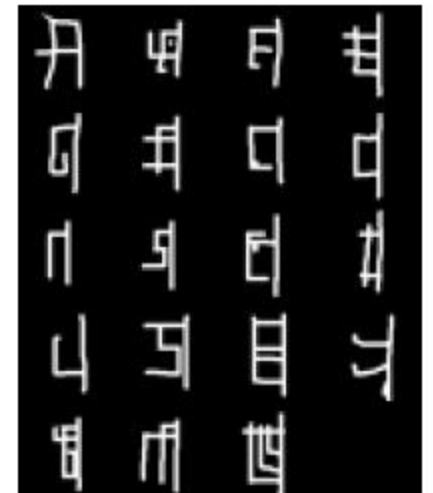
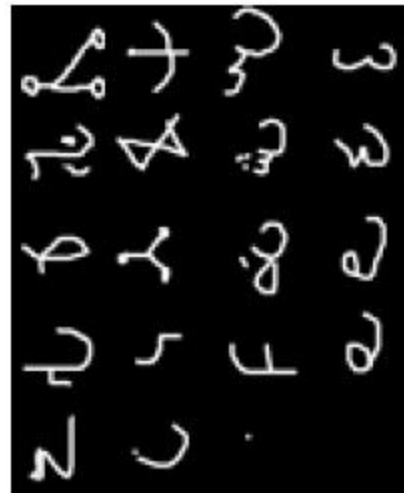
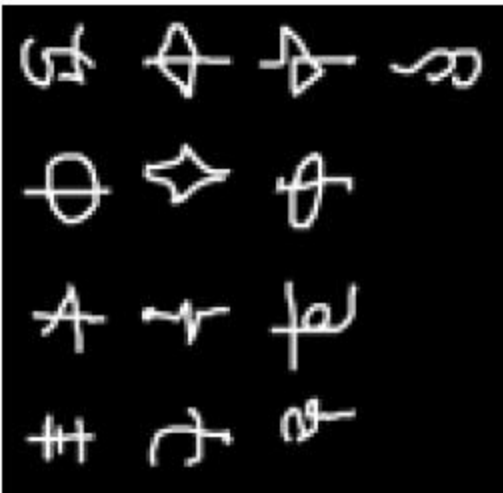
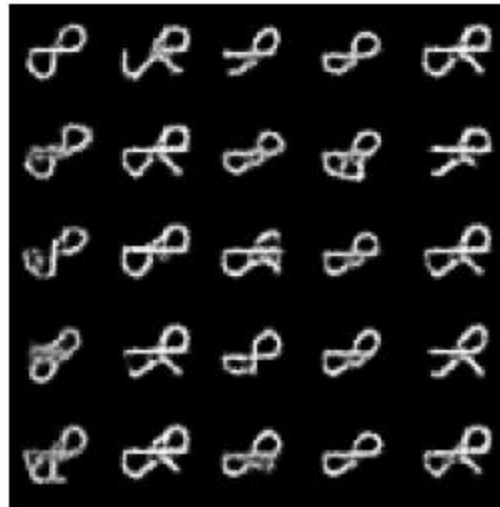
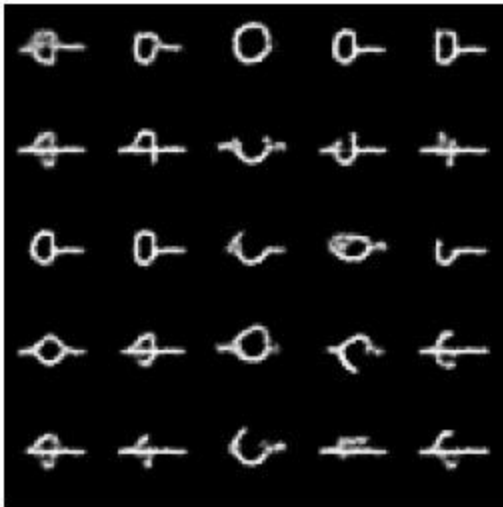
Learning from very few examples



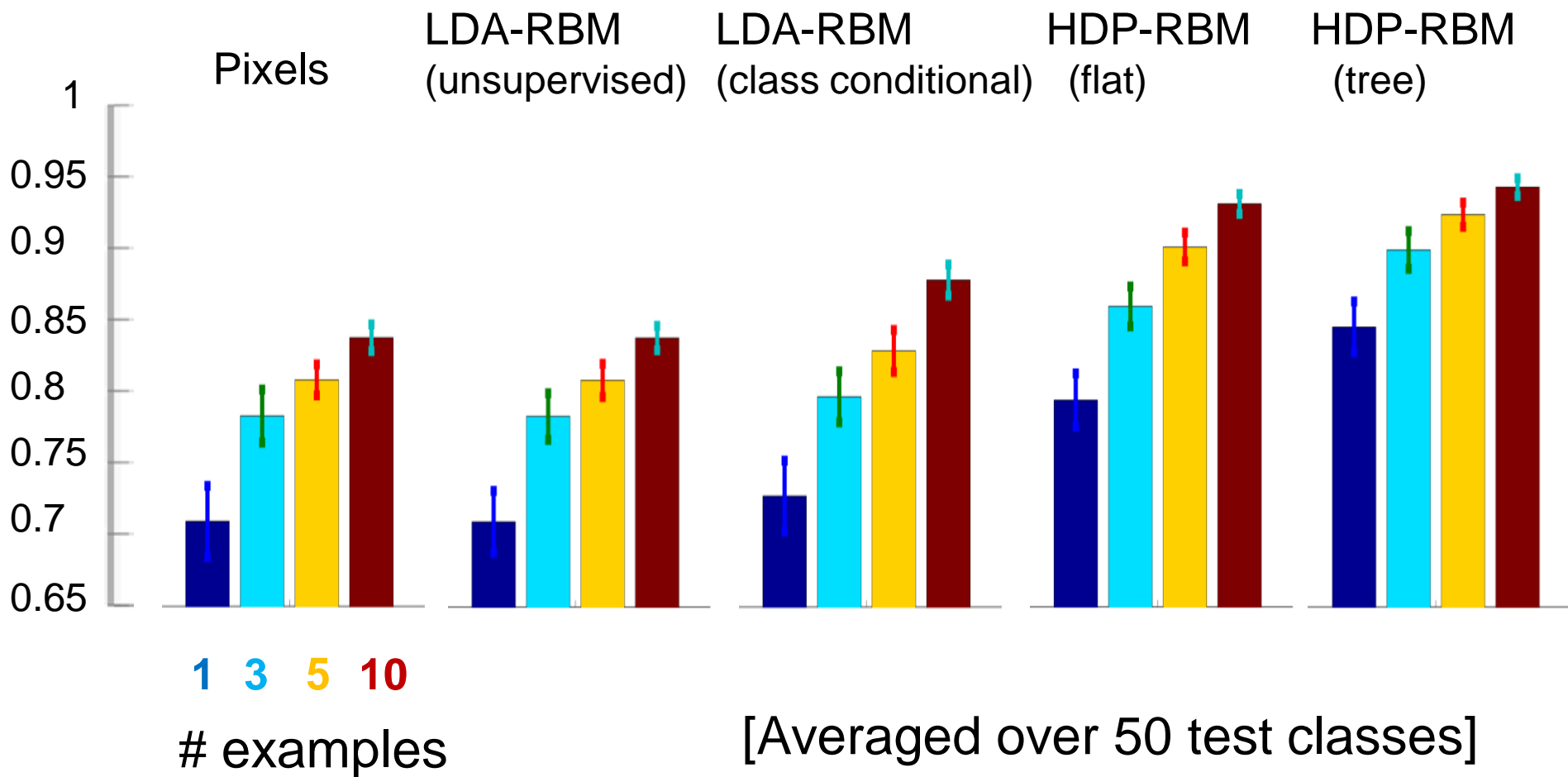
Learning from very few examples



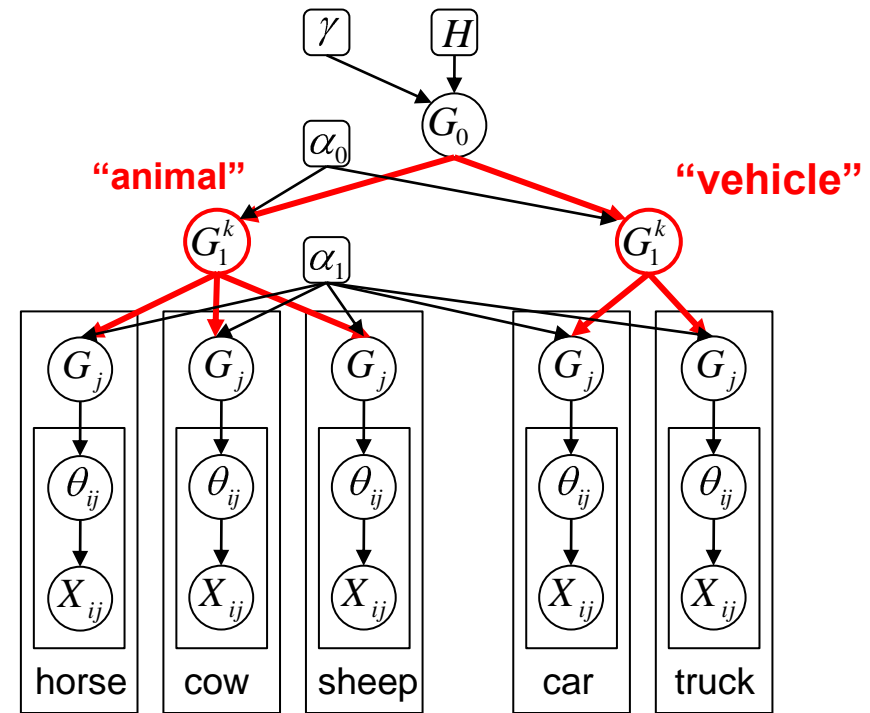
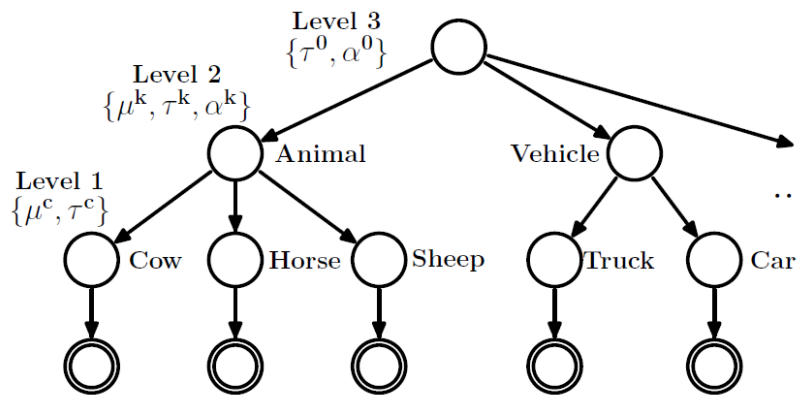
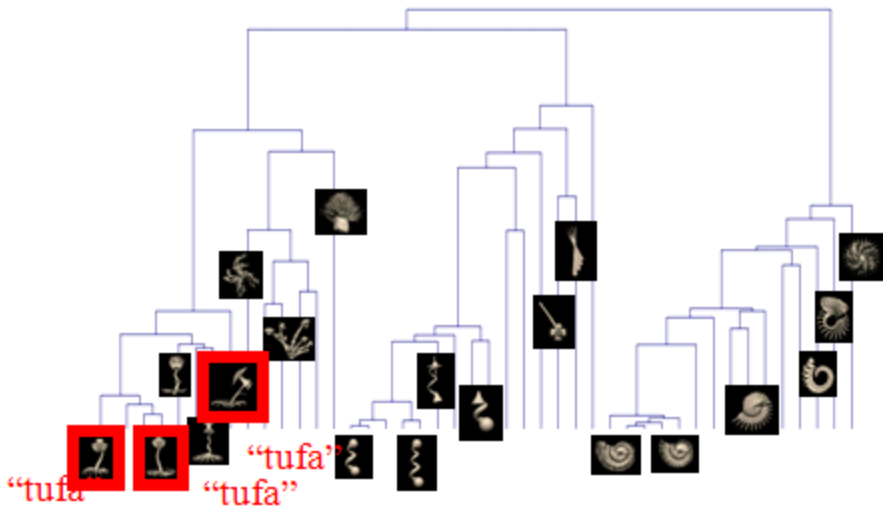
Learning from very few examples



Area under ROC curve for same/different (1 new class vs. 1000 distractor classes)



Learning to learn: what is the right form of structure for the domain?



Learning to learn: what is the right form of structure for the domain?

People can discover structural forms...

– Children

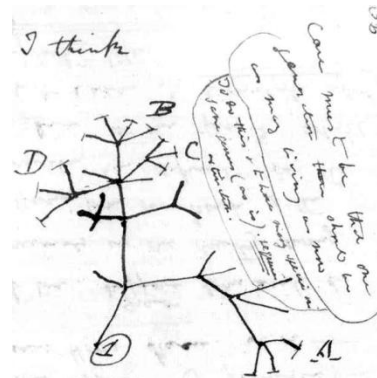
e.g., hierarchical structure of category labels, cyclical structure of seasons or days of the week, clique structure of social networks.

– Scientists

Linnaeus

Kingdom Animalia
Phylum Chordata
Class Mammalia
Order Primates
Family Hominidae
Genus Homo
Species *Homo sapiens*

Darwin



Mendeleev

		Tabelle II.							
		Gruppe III.	Gruppe IV.	Gruppe V.	Gruppe VI.	Gruppe VII.	Gruppe VIII.		
		R ⁰	R ⁰	R ⁰	R ⁰	R ⁰	R ⁰	R ⁰	
1	H=1								
2	Li=7	Be=9,4	B=11	C=12	N=14	O=16	F=19		
3	Na=23	Mg=24	Al=27,5	Si=28	P=31	S=32	Cl=35,5		
4	K=39	Ca=40	—=44	Ti=48	V=51	Cr=52	Mn=55	Fe=56, Co=59, Ni=59, Cu=63.	
5	(Cu=63)	Zn=65	—=68	—=72	As=75	Se=78	Br=80		
6	Rb=85	Sr=87	Yt=88	Zr=90	Nb=94	Mo=96	—=100	Ru=104, Rh=104, Pd=106, Ag=108.	
7	(Ag=108)	Cd=112	In=113	Su=118	Sb=122	Te=125	J=127		
8	Cs=133	Ba=137	?Dl=138	?Ca=140	—	—	—		
9	(—)	—	—	—	—	—	—		
10	—	—	?Er=178	?La=180	Ta=182	W=184	—	Ce=195, Ir=197, Pt=198, Au=199.	
11	(Au=199)	Hg=200	Tl=204	Pb=207	Bi=208	—	—		
12	—	—	—	Th=231	—	U=240	—		

... but standard learning algorithms assume fixed forms.

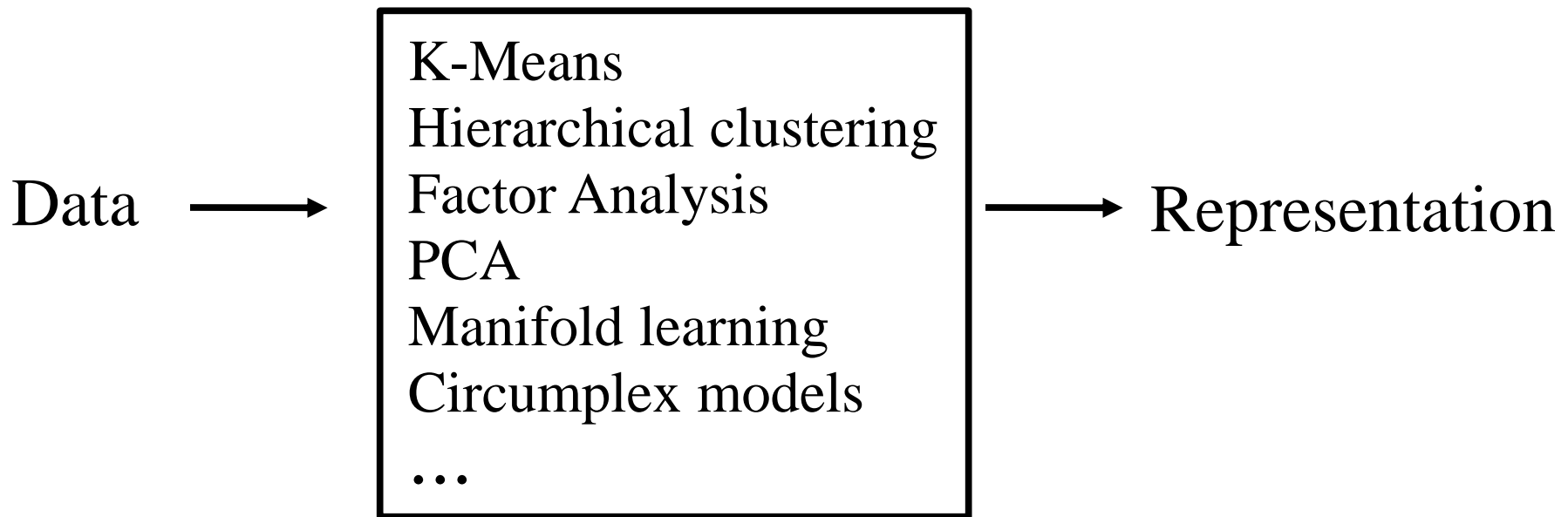
– Hierarchical clustering: tree structure

– k -means clustering, mixture models: flat partition

– Principal components analysis: low-dimensional spatial structure

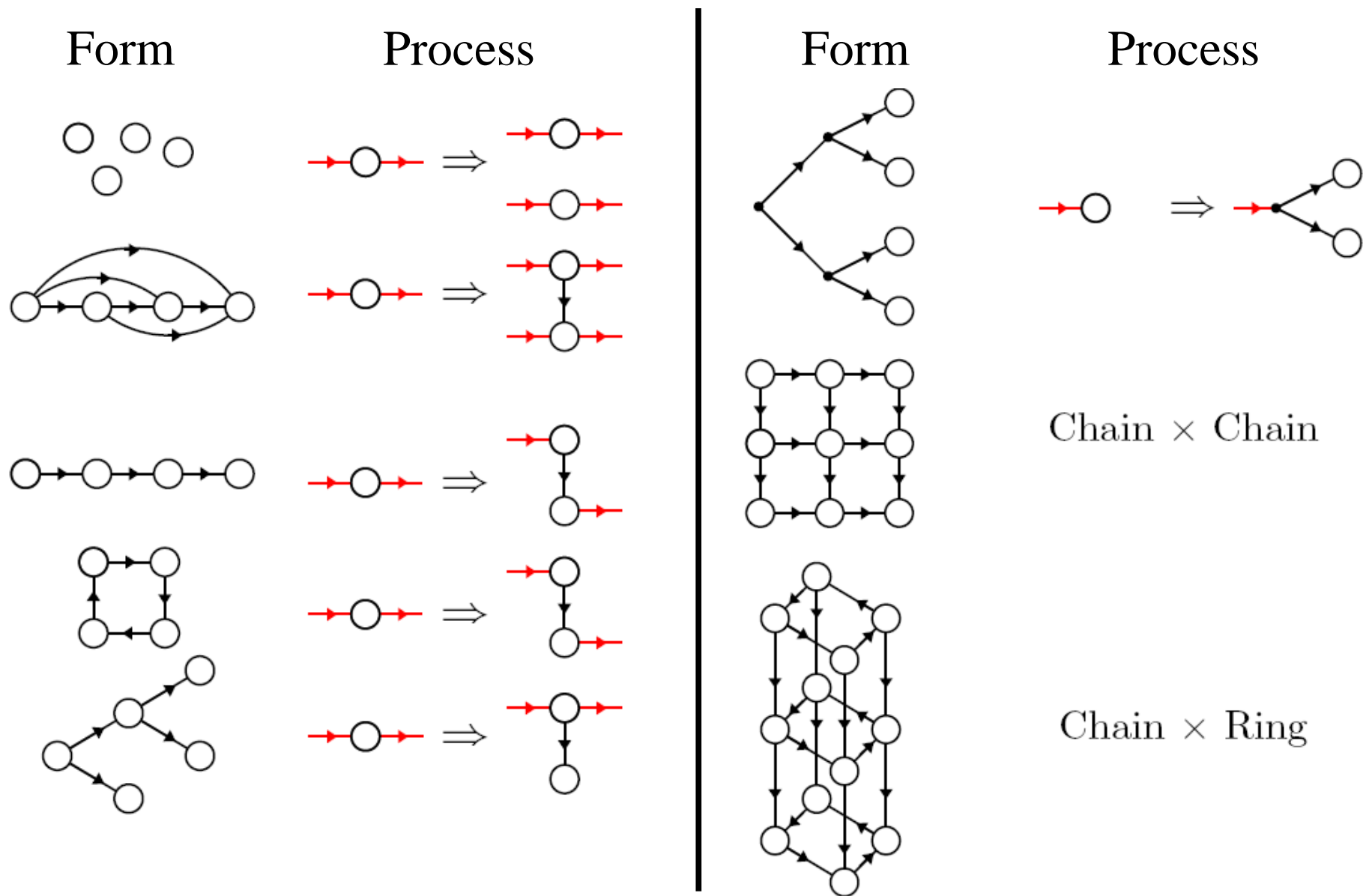
Goal: A universal framework for unsupervised learning

“Universal Learner”



Hypothesis space of structural forms

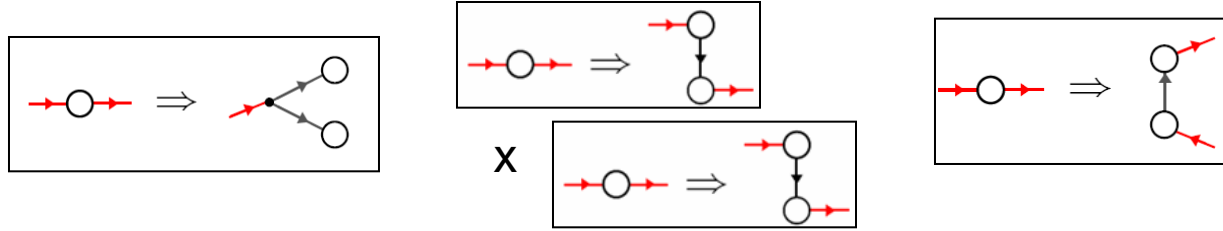
(Kemp & Tenenbaum, PNAS 2008)



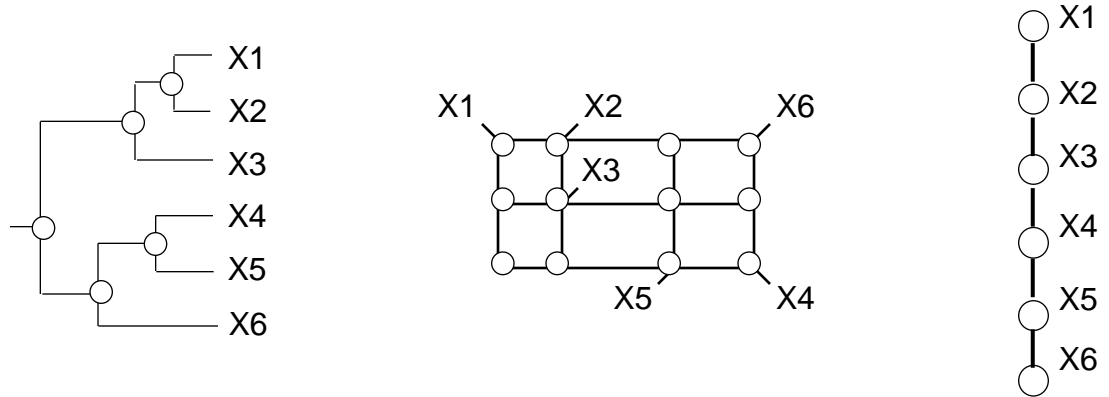
A hierarchical Bayesian approach

(Kemp & Tenenbaum, PNAS 2008)

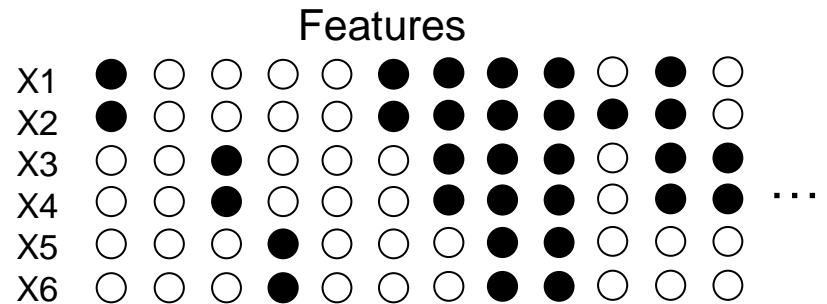
$P(F)$
 F : form



$P(S | F)$
 S : structure



$P(D | S)$
 D : data



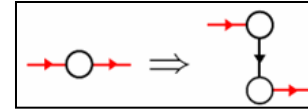
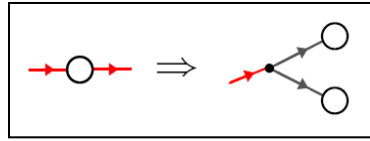
$$P(S, F | D) \propto P(D | S) P(S | F) P(F)$$

A hierarchical Bayesian approach

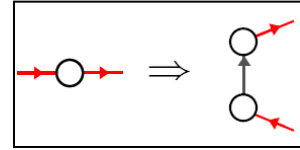
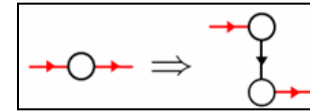
(Kemp & Tenenbaum, PNAS 2008)

$P(F)$

F : form



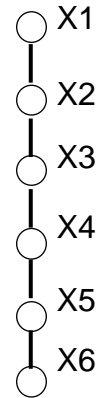
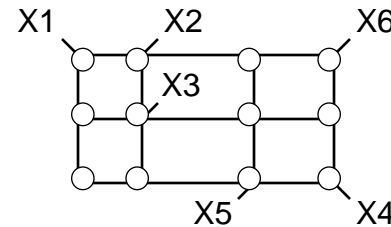
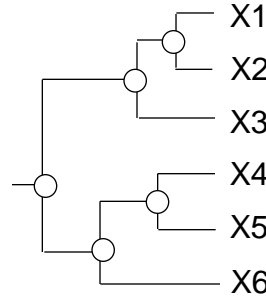
\times



$P(S | F)$

Simplicity
(Bayes Occam's razor)

S : structure



$P(D | S)$

Fit to data
(Smoothness: Gaussian process based on graph Laplacian)

D : data

$$\Sigma = \tilde{\Delta}^{-1}(S)$$

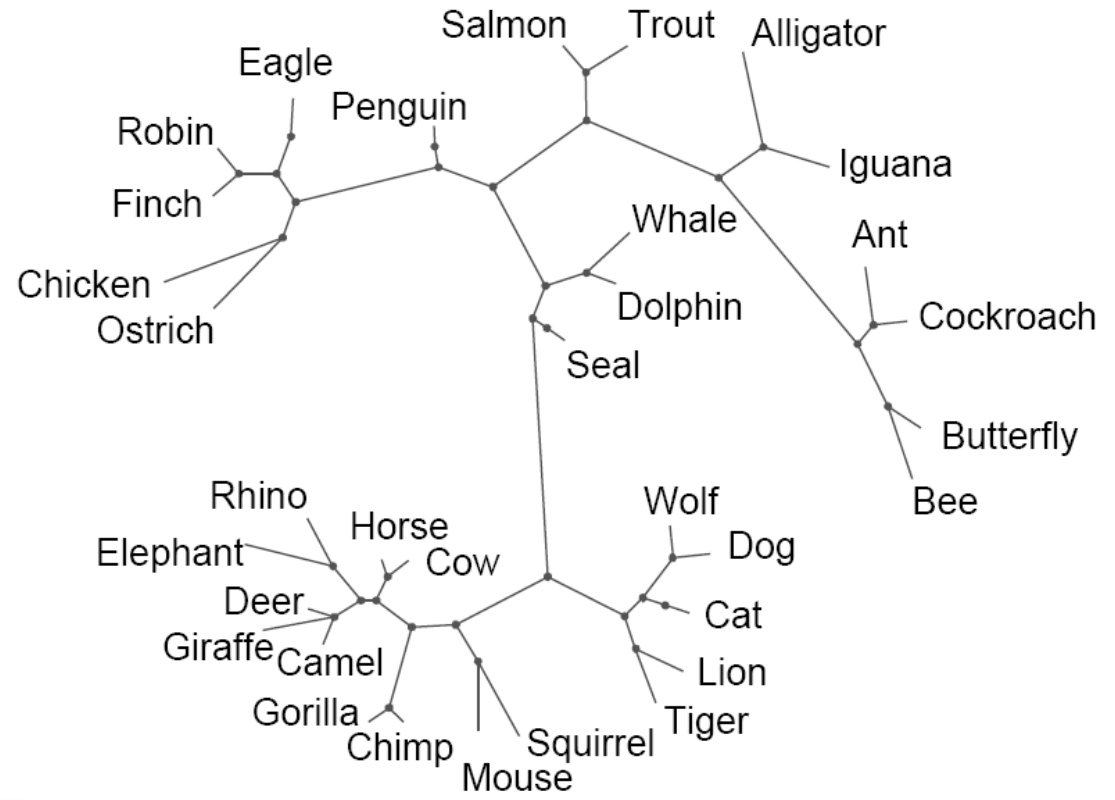
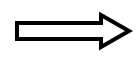
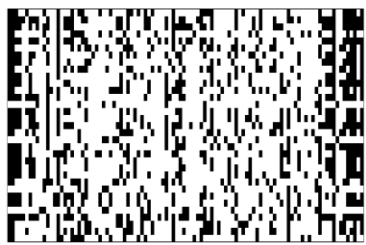
Features

X1	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	○
X2	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
X3	○	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	●	●
X4	○	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	●	●
X5	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	○	○	○
X6	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	○	○	○

$$P(S, F | D) \propto \underline{P(D|S)} \underline{P(S|F)} P(F)$$

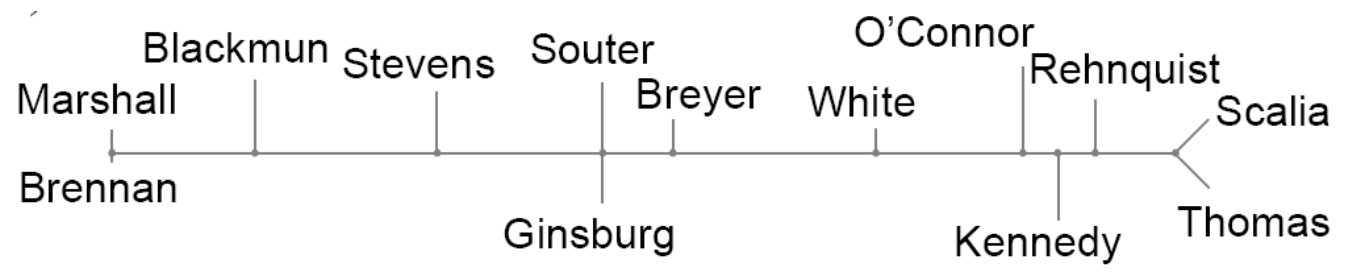
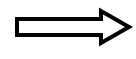
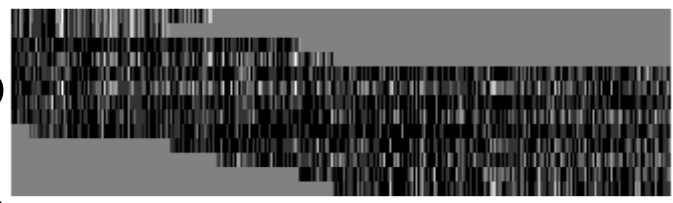
animals

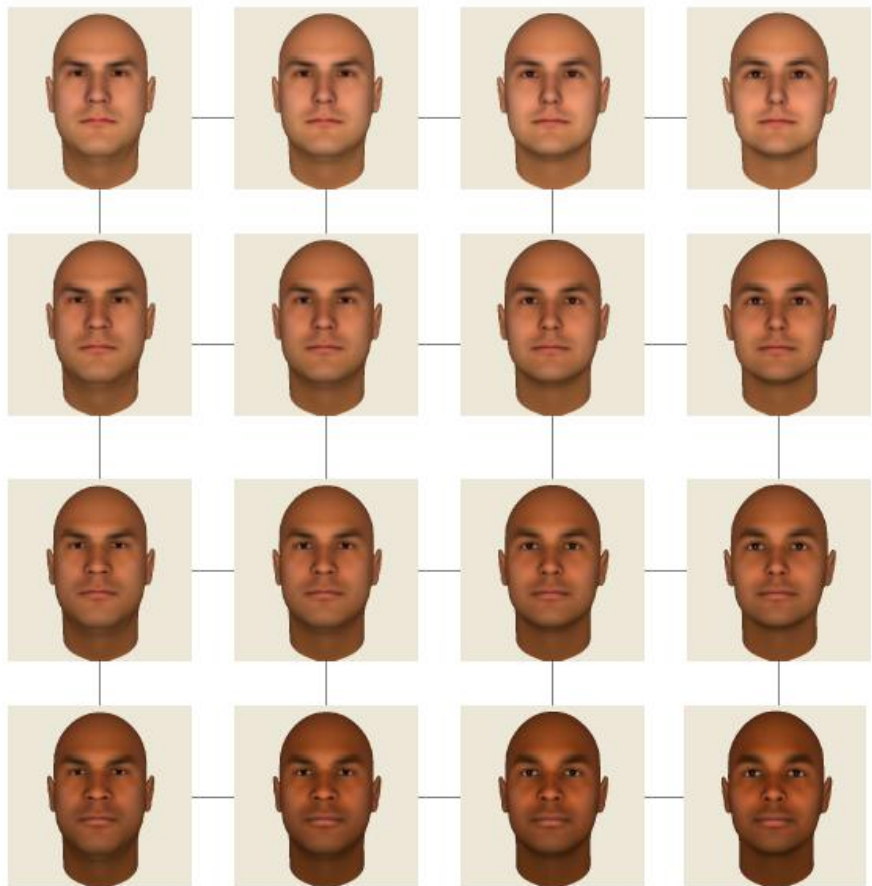
features



cases

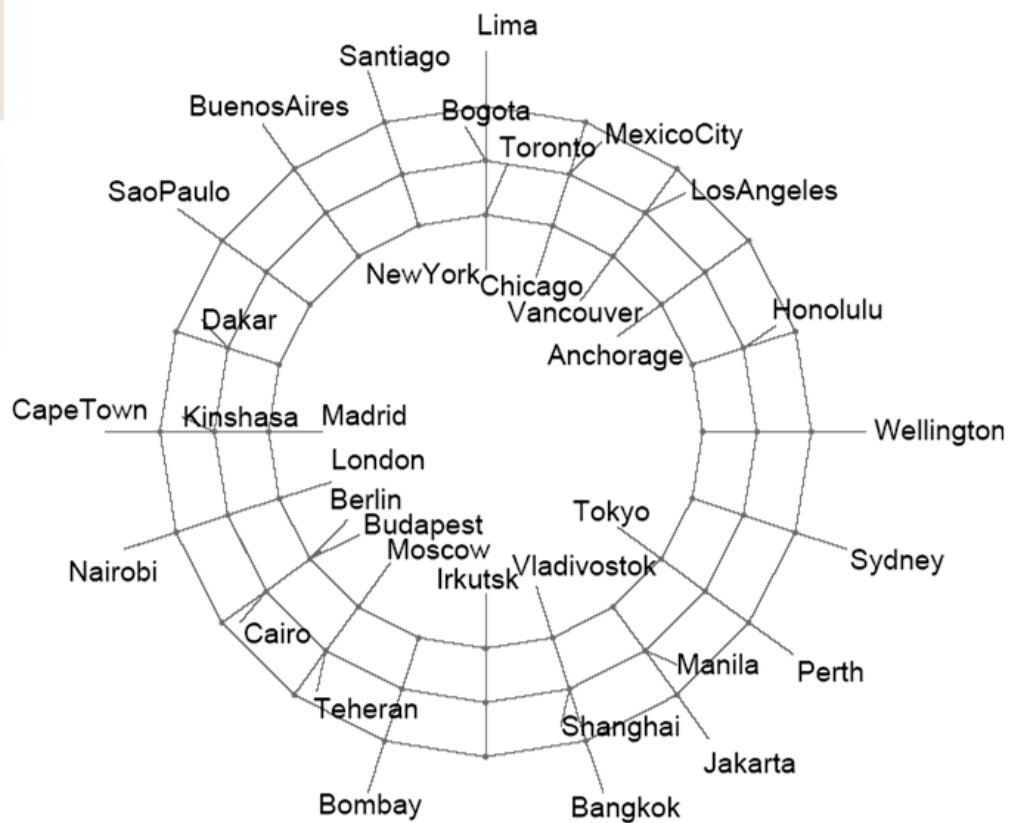
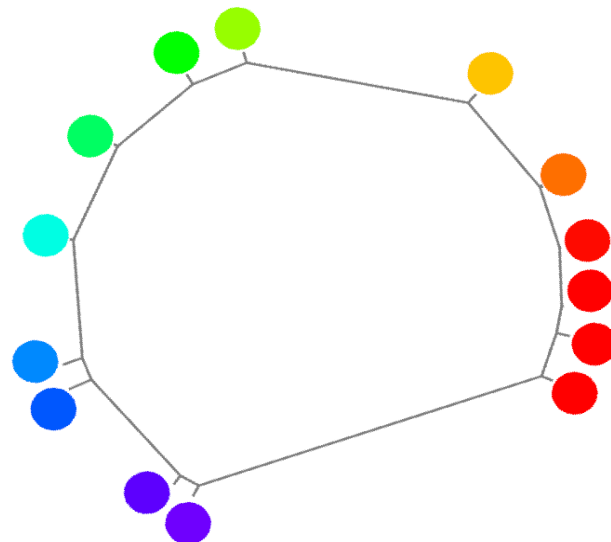
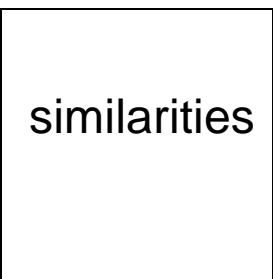
judges





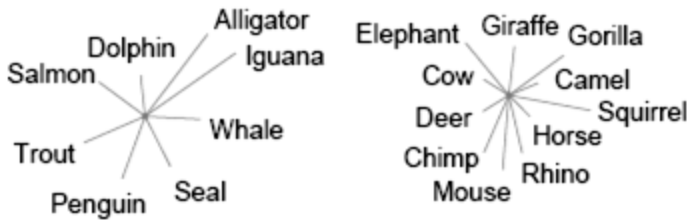
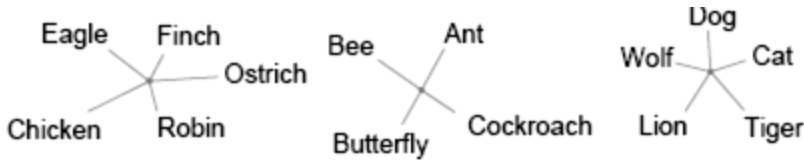
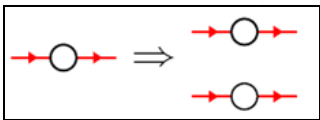
objects

objects

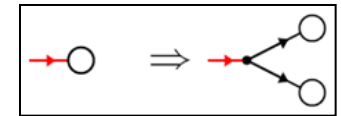


Development of structural forms as more data are observed

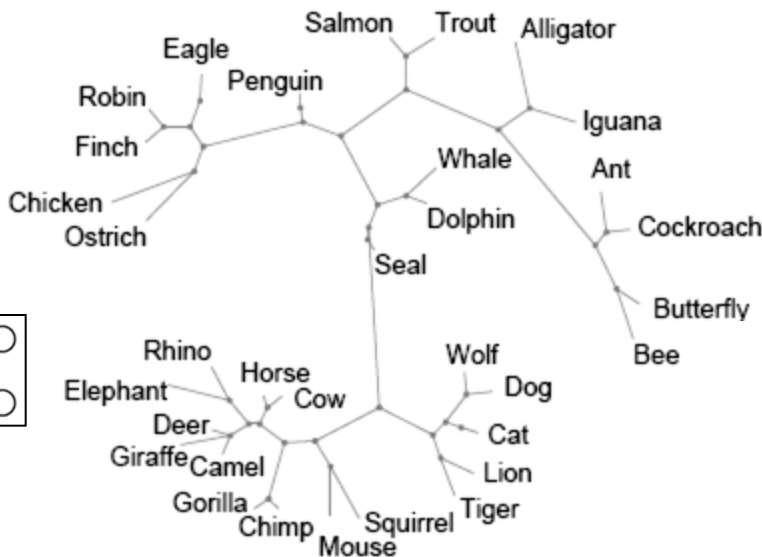
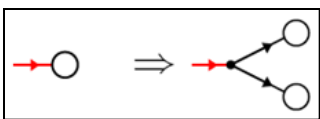
5 features



20 features



110 features



“blessing of abstraction”

Graphical models++

Understanding intelligence requires us to go beyond the statistician's toolkit: Inference over fixed sets of random variables, linked by simple (or well-understood) distributions.

“Probabilistic programming” (NIPS '08 workshop):
Machine learning and Probabilistic AI must expand to include the full computer science toolkit.

- Inference over flexible *data structures*.
- Complex generative models based on *stochastic programs*, to capture the rich causal texture of the world.

The Infinite PCFG using Hierarchical Dirichlet Processes

Percy Liang Slav Petrov Michael I. Jordan Dan Klein

Computer Science Division, EECS Department

University of California at Berkeley

Berkeley, CA 94720

{pliang, petrov, jordan, klein}@cs.berkeley.edu

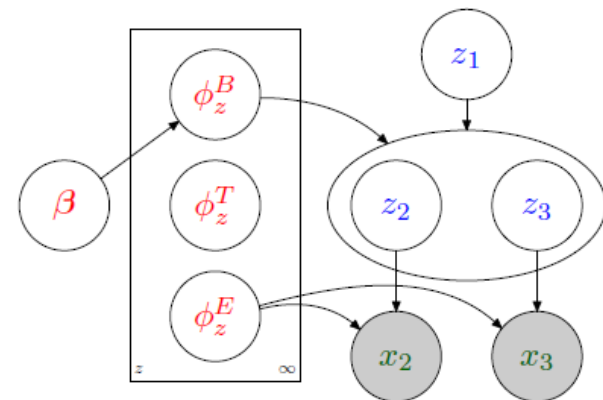
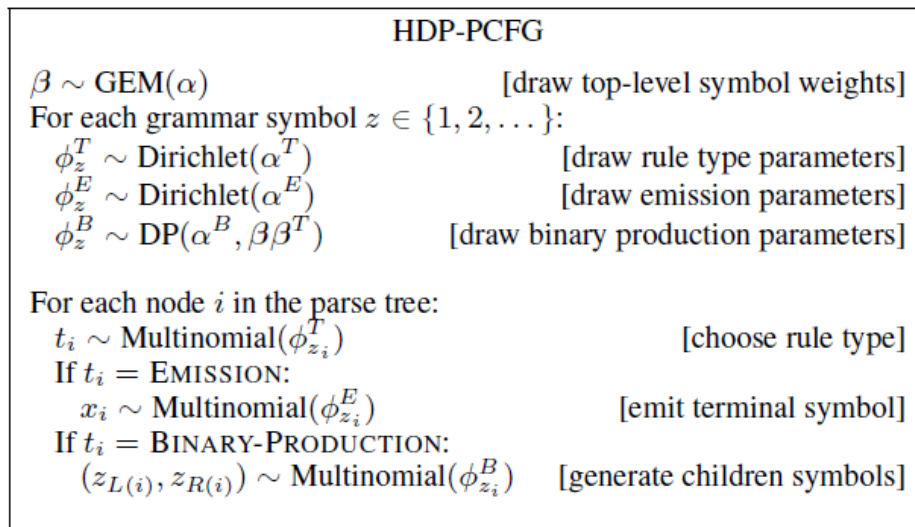
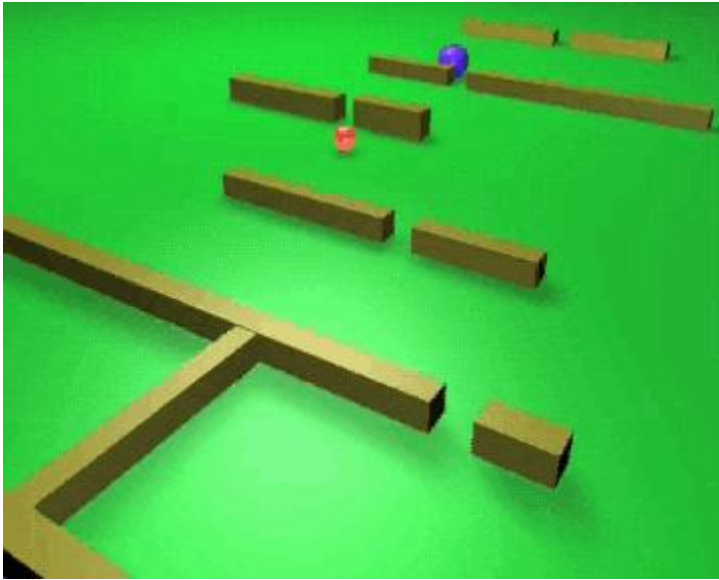
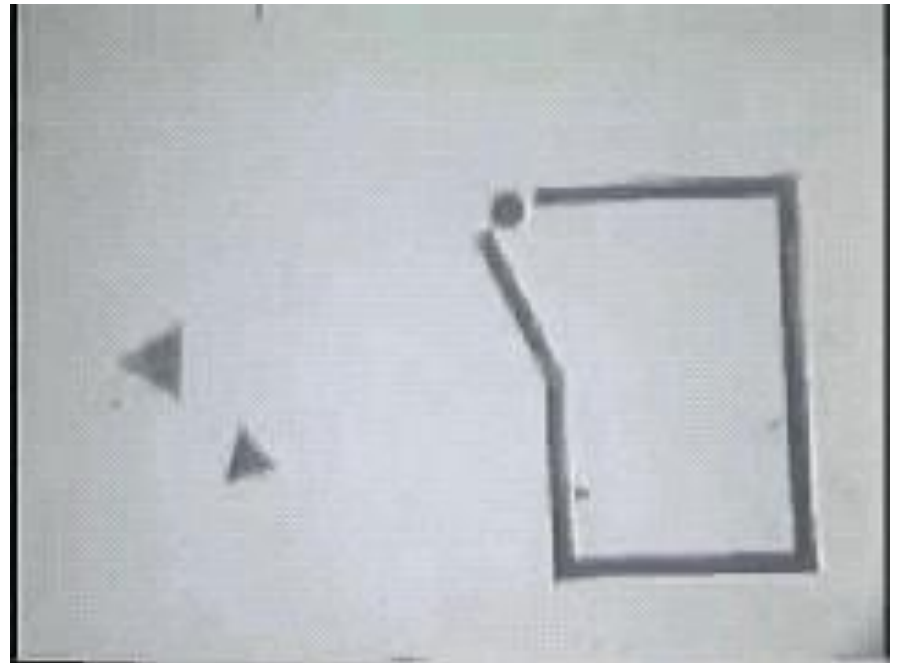


Figure 2: The definition and graphical model of the HDP-PCFG. Since parse trees have unknown structure, there is no convenient way of representing them in the visual language of traditional graphical models. Instead, we show a simple fixed example tree. Node 1 has two children, 2 and 3, each of which has one observed terminal child. We use $L(i)$ and $R(i)$ to denote the left and right children of node i .

Intuitive psychology



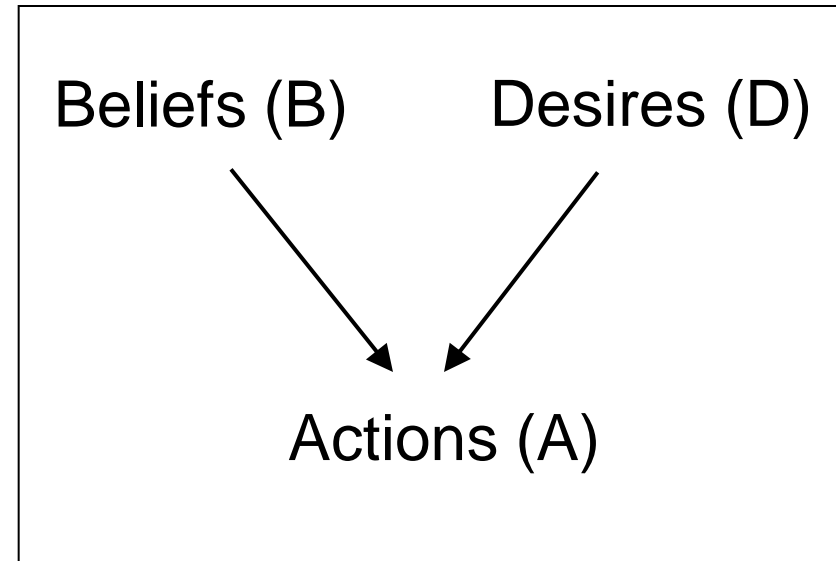
Southgate and Csibra, 2009



Heider and Simmel, 1944

Modeling human action understanding

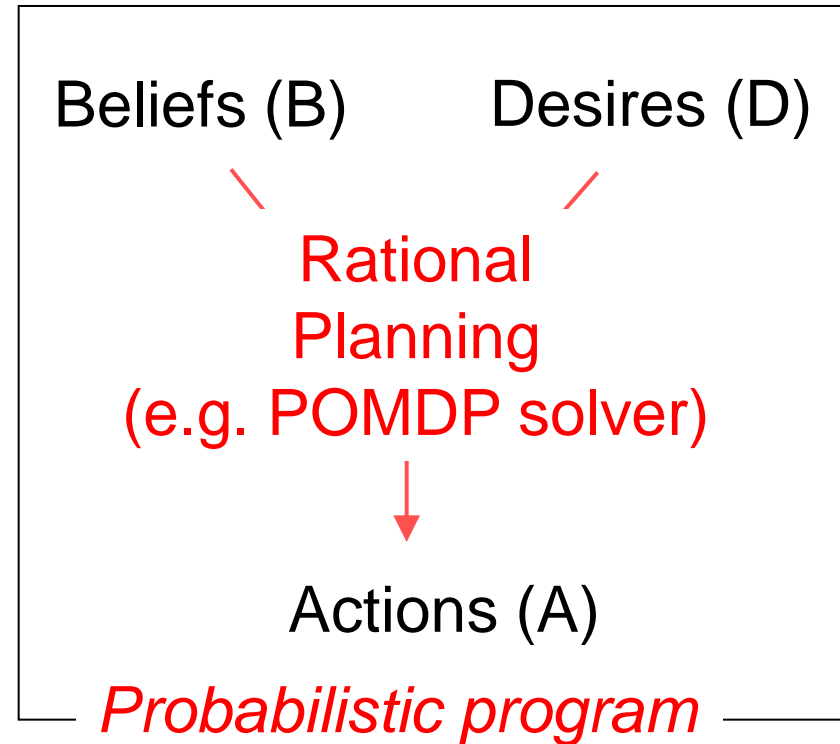
- Latent mental states: *beliefs* and *desires*.
- Principle of rationality:
Assume that other agents will tend to take sequences of actions that most effectively achieve their desires given their beliefs.
- Model this more formally as Bayesian inference?



$$p(B, D | A) \propto p(A | B, D) p(B, D)$$

Modeling human action understanding

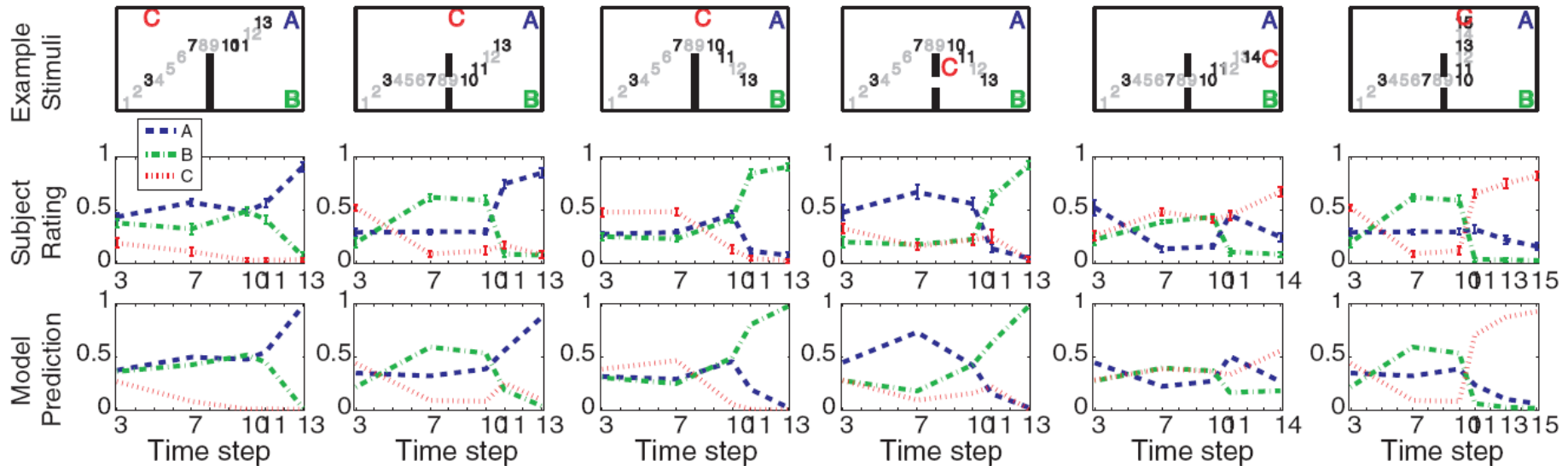
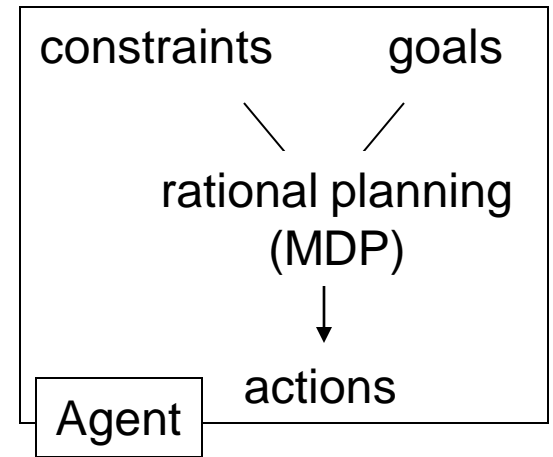
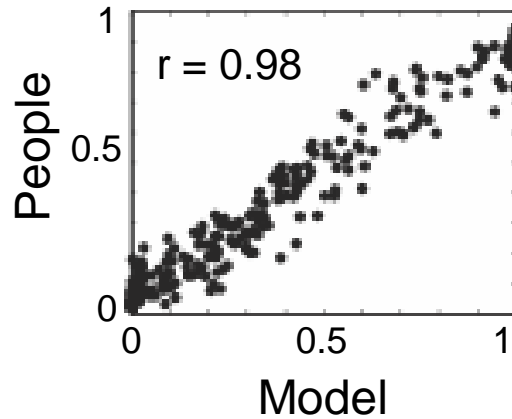
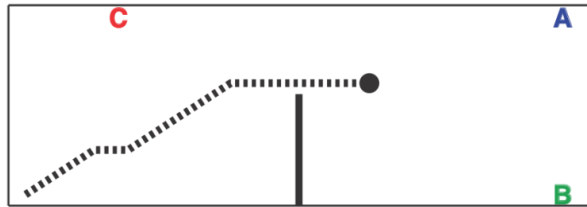
- Latent mental states: *beliefs* and *desires*.
- Principle of rationality:
Assume that other agents will tend to take sequences of actions that most effectively achieve their desires given their beliefs.
- *Bayesian inverse planning* in a Partially Observable Markov Decision Process (MDP).
(c.f. inverse optimal control, inverse RL)



$$p(B, D | A) \propto p(A | B, D) p(B, D)$$

Goal inference as inverse probabilistic planning

(Baker, Tenenbaum & Saxe, *Cognition*, 2009)

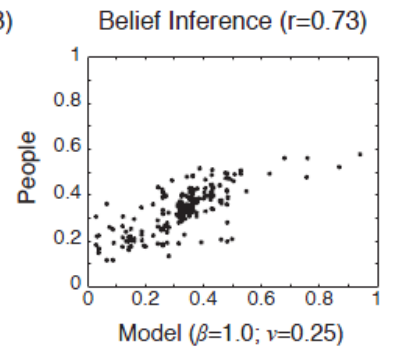
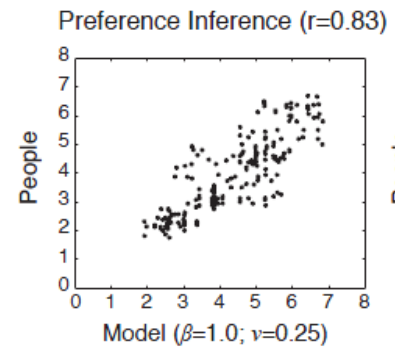
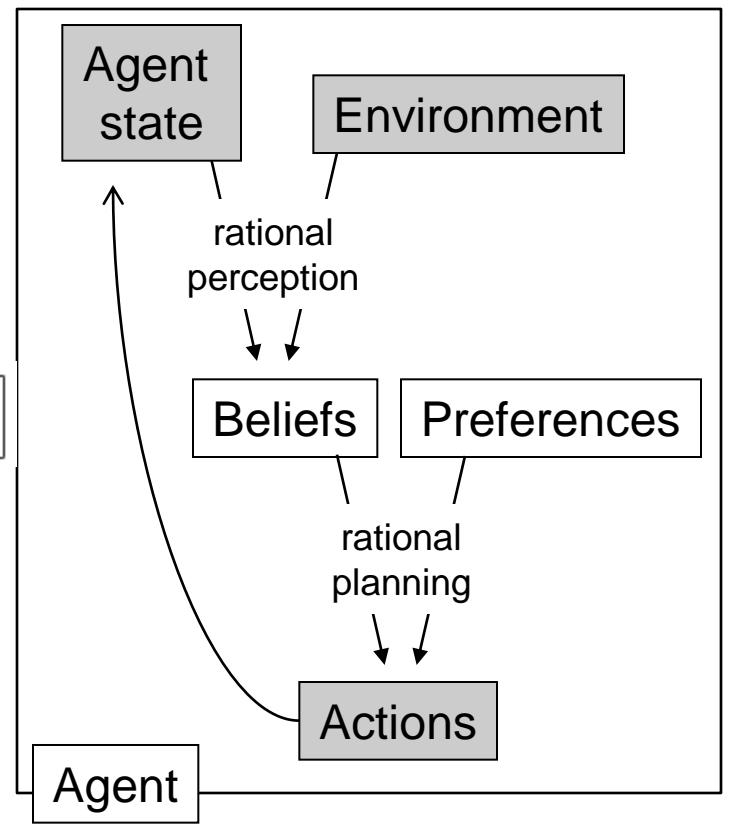
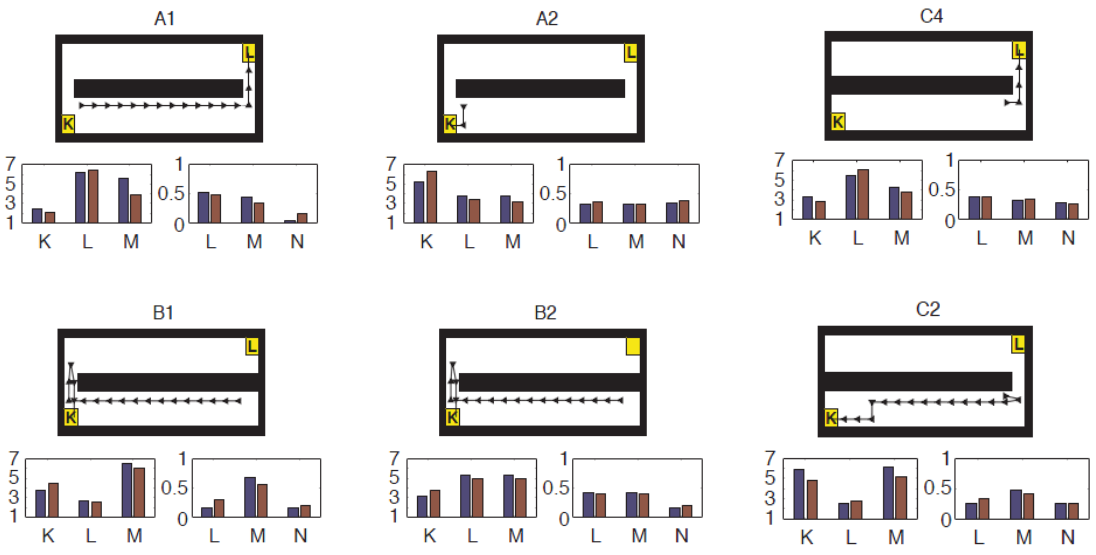
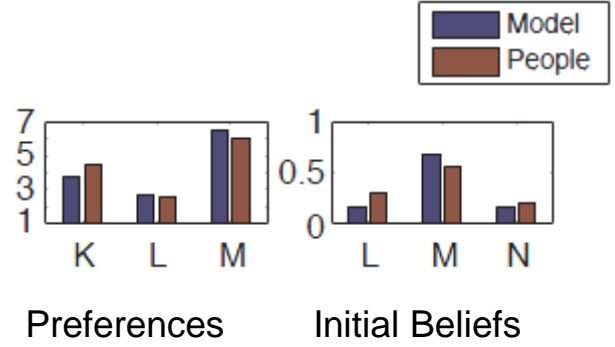
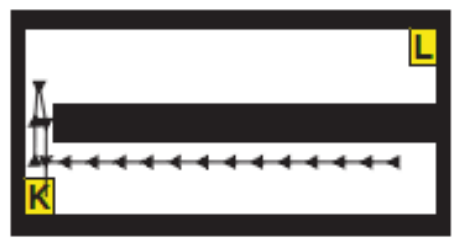


Theory of mind:

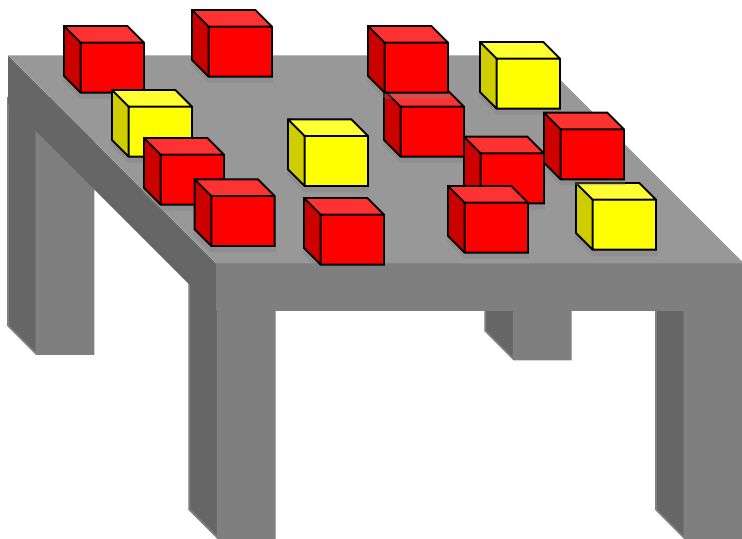
Joint inferences about beliefs and preferences

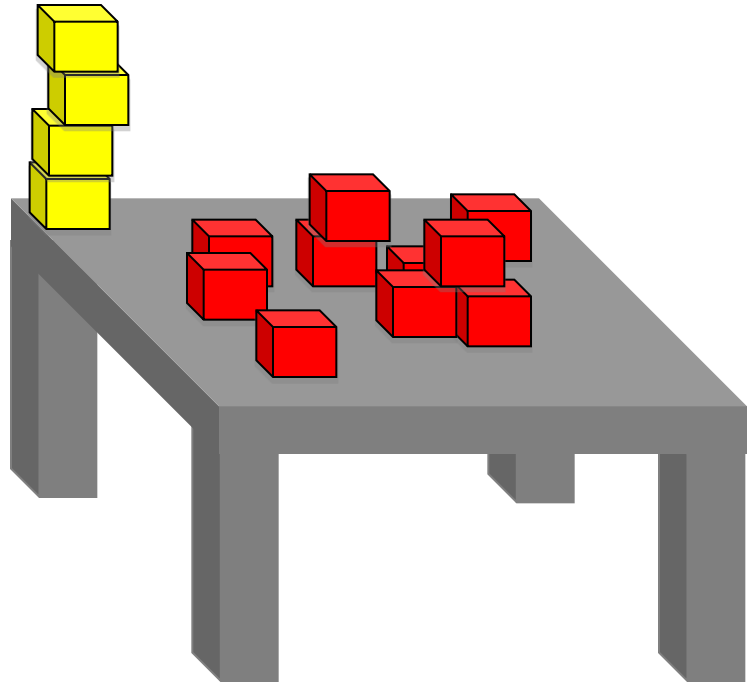
(Baker, Saxe & Tenenbaum, in prep)

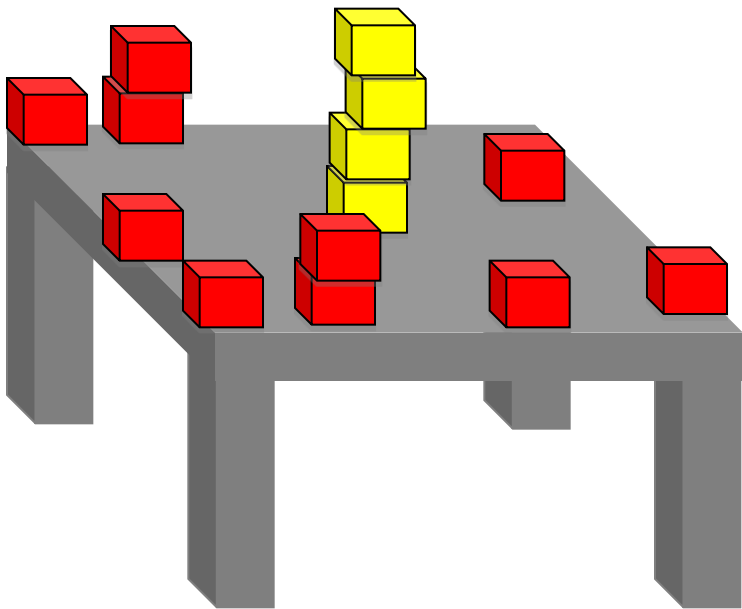
Food truck scenarios:

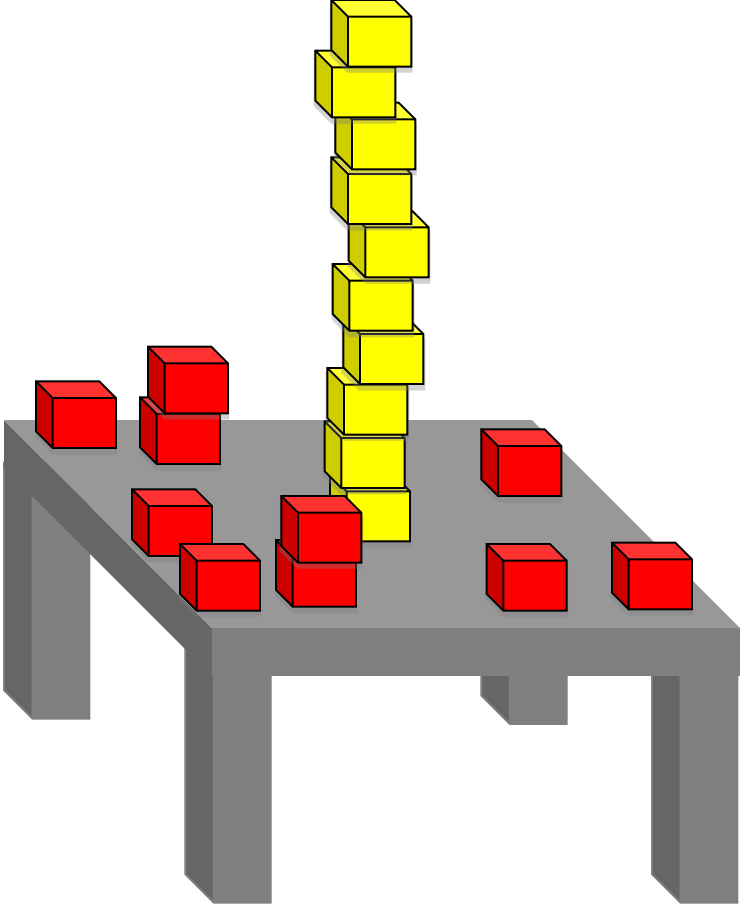


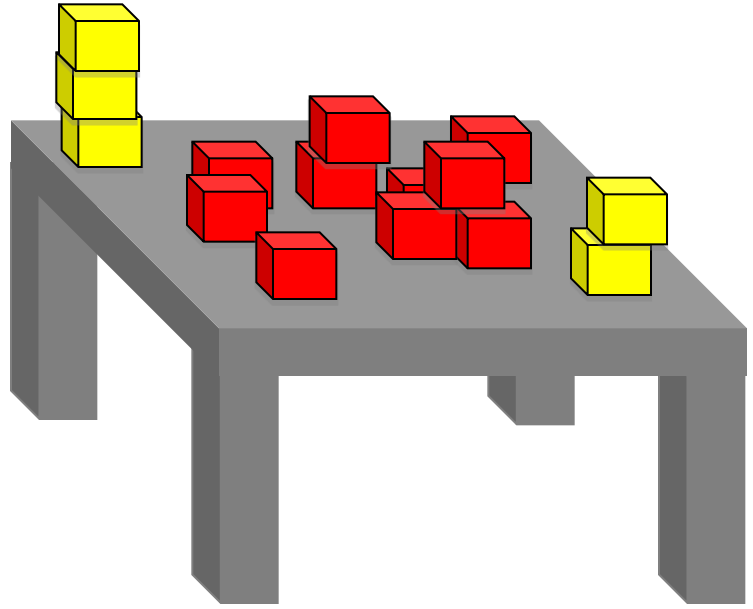
Intuitive physics

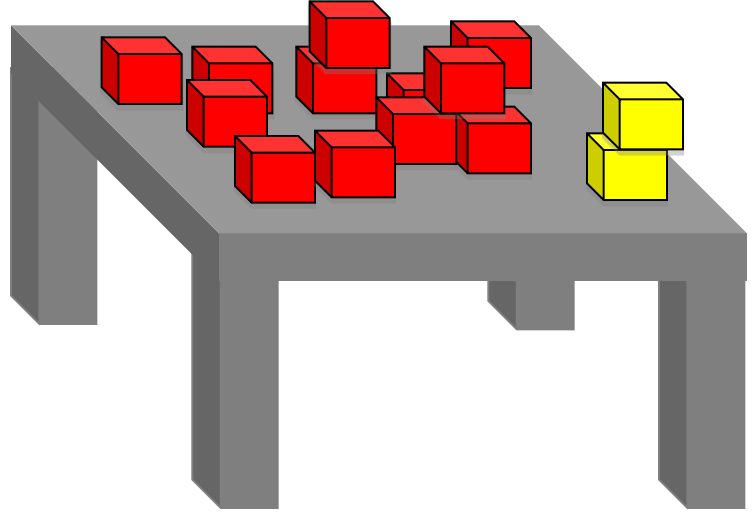


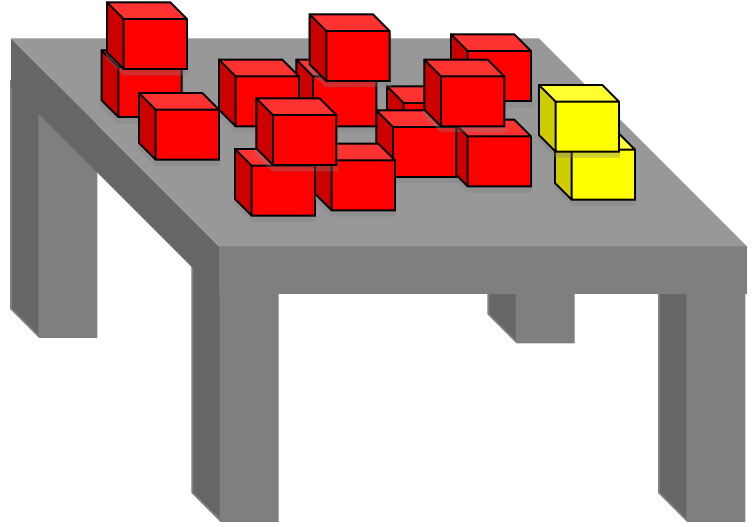


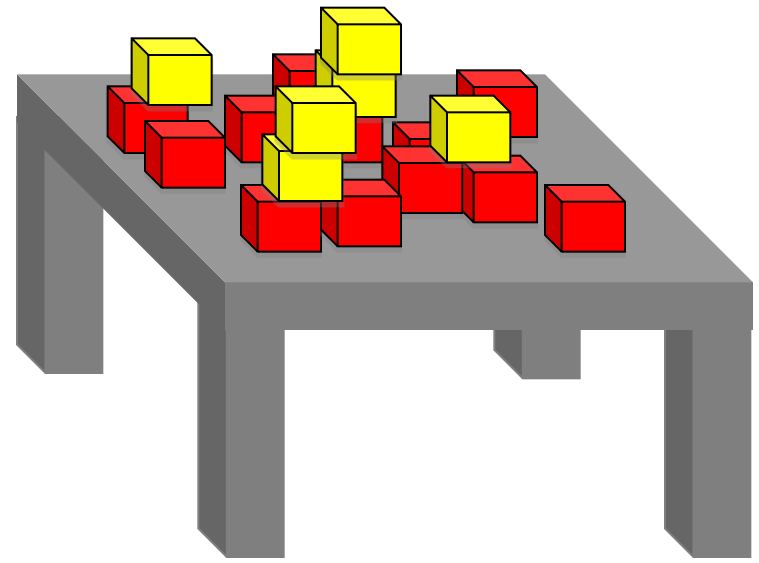












Modeling intuitive physical inferences about visual scenes

(Battaglia, Hamrick, Tenenbaum, Torralba, Wingate)

1. “Vision as inverse graphics.”
 - Recover a physically realistic 3D scene description by Bayesian inference in a probabilistic rendering model.

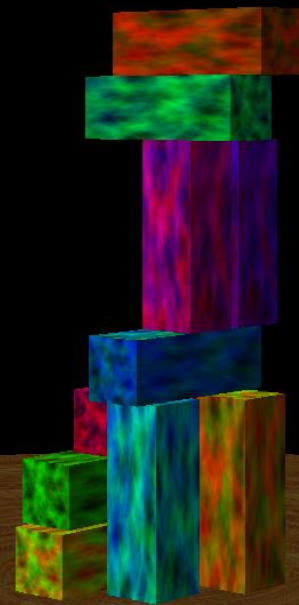
2. “Physics as forward physics.”
 - Run forward simulations with probabilistic Newtonian mechanics. (Cf. Griffiths, Sanborn, Mansinghka)
 - Starting point: dynamics are fundamentally deterministic; uncertainty enters from imperfect state estimates by vision.
 - Next steps: uncertainty about mechanics, simulation noise, noise in working memory.

tower'id	26	
response:	0.569	+/- 0.022
response time:	2.605	+/- 0.015
stability:	0.49	+/- 0.05
displacement:	-0.461	+/- 0.028
num falling blocks:	-0.541	+/- 0.048
num samples:	0.9	+/- 0.247
time to fall:	0.239	+/- 0.1
Movement threshold:	0.3	+/- 0.0
Evidence threshold:	5.0	+/- 0.0
Simulation time:	300.0	+/- 0.0
Belief noise:	0.4	+/- 0.0



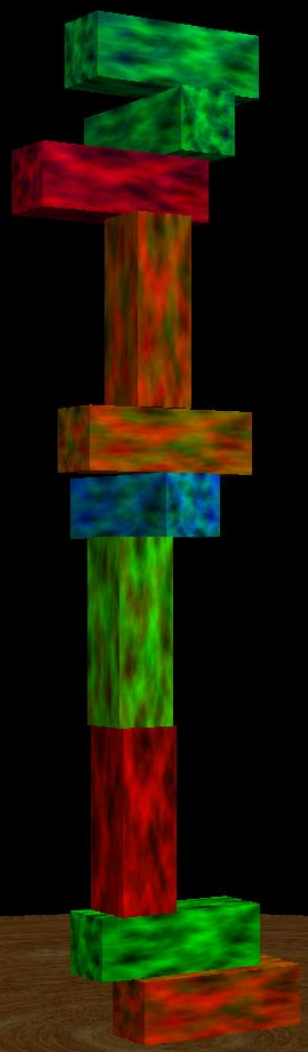
Physics is: OFF

tower'id	13	
response:	0.173	+/- 0.02
response time:	2.718	+/- 0.023
stability:	0.201	+/- 0.047
displacement:	-0.103	+/- 0.04
num falling blocks:	-0.182	+/- 0.046
num samples:	1.982	+/- 0.282
time to fall:	0.101	+/- 0.079
Movement threshold:	0.3	+/- 0.0
Evidence threshold:	5.0	+/- 0.0
Simulation time:	300.0	+/- 0.0
Belief noise:	0.4	+/- 0.0



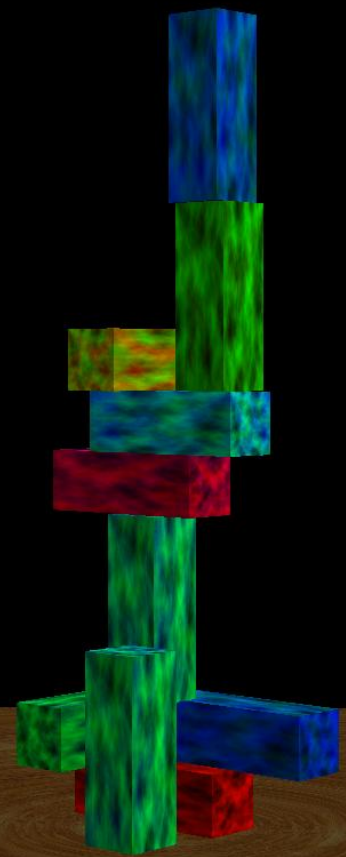
Physics is: OFF

tower'id	8	
response:	-1.319	+/- 0.028
response time:	1.872	+/- 0.121
stability:	-1.625	+/- 0.05
displacement:	3.148	+/- 0.185
num falling blocks:	1.654	+/- 0.05
num samples:	-1.68	+/- 0.1
time to fall:	-0.575	+/- 0.062
Movement threshold:	0.3	+/- 0.0
Evidence threshold:	5.0	+/- 0.0
Simulation time:	300.0	+/- 0.0
Belief noise:	0.4	+/- 0.0



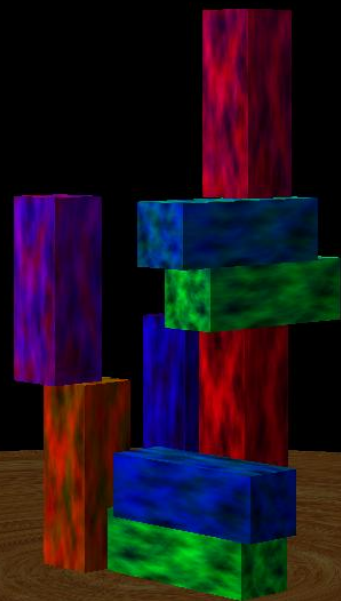
Physics is: OFF

tower'id	18	
response:	-1.001	+/- 0.029
response time:	2.45	+/- 0.084
stability:	-1.268	+/- 0.061
displacement:	0.899	+/- 0.061
num falling blocks:	1.289	+/- 0.059
num samples:	-0.767	+/- 0.124
time to fall:	-0.447	+/- 0.072
Movement threshold:	0.3	+/- 0.0
Evidence threshold:	5.0	+/- 0.0
Simulation time:	300.0	+/- 0.0
Belief noise:	0.4	+/- 0.0



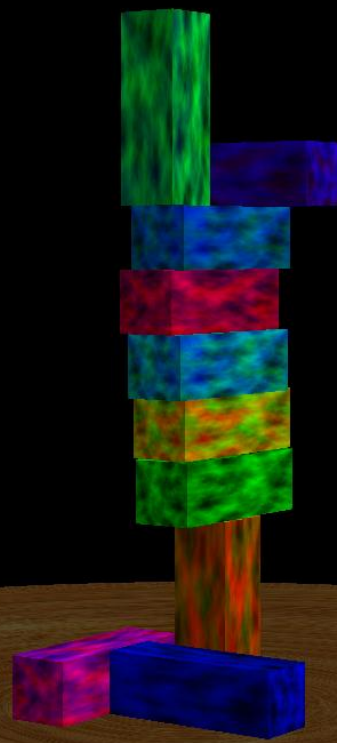
Physics is: OFF

tower'id	52	
response:	-0.112	+/- 0.007
response time:	2.787	+/- 0.015
stability:	-0.338	+/- 0.048
displacement:	0.062	+/- 0.044
num falling blocks:	0.281	+/- 0.047
num samples:	0.599	+/- 0.178
time to fall:	-0.964	+/- 0.042
Movement threshold:	0.3	+/- 0.0
Evidence threshold:	5.0	+/- 0.0
Simulation time:	300.0	+/- 0.0
Belief noise:	0.4	+/- 0.0



Physics is: OFF

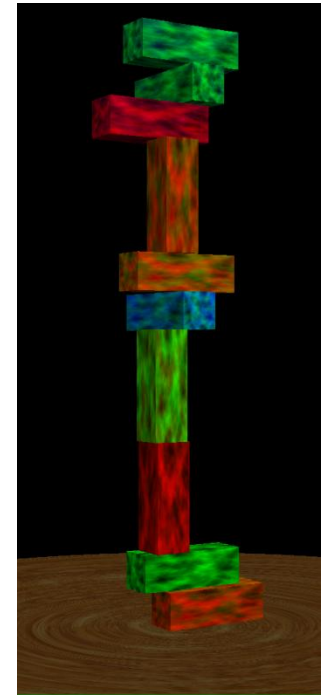
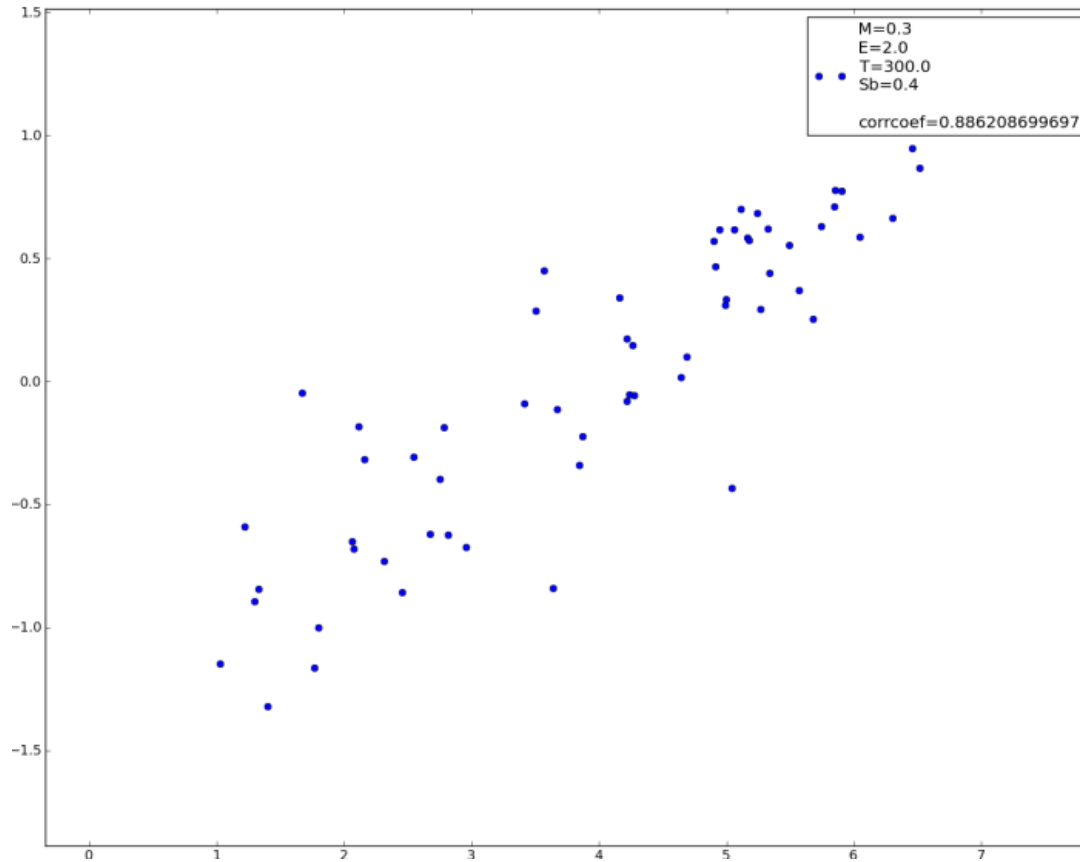
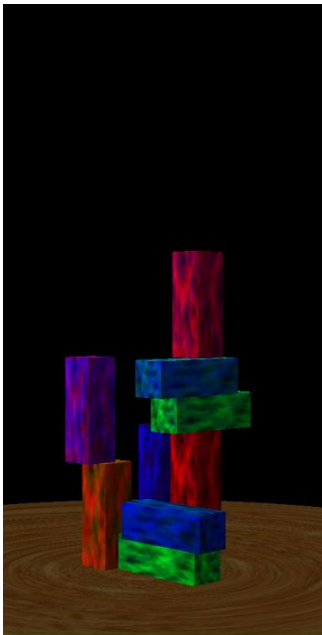
tower'id	16	
response:	-0.673	+/- 0.038
response time:	2.522	+/- 0.053
stability:	-0.5	+/- 0.058
displacement:	0.272	+/- 0.054
num falling blocks:	0.508	+/- 0.052
num samples:	-0.199	+/- 0.177
time to fall:	0.16	+/- 0.08
Movement threshold:	0.3	+/- 0.0
Evidence threshold:	5.0	+/- 0.0
Simulation time:	300.0	+/- 0.0
Belief noise:	0.4	+/- 0.0



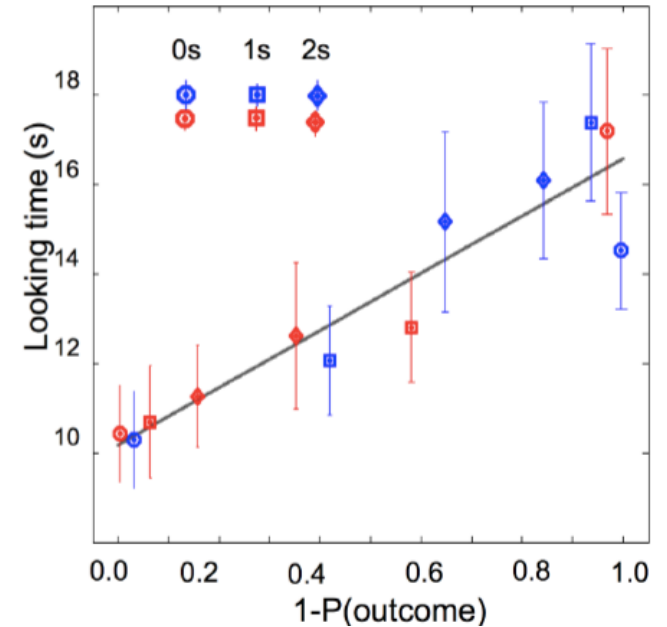
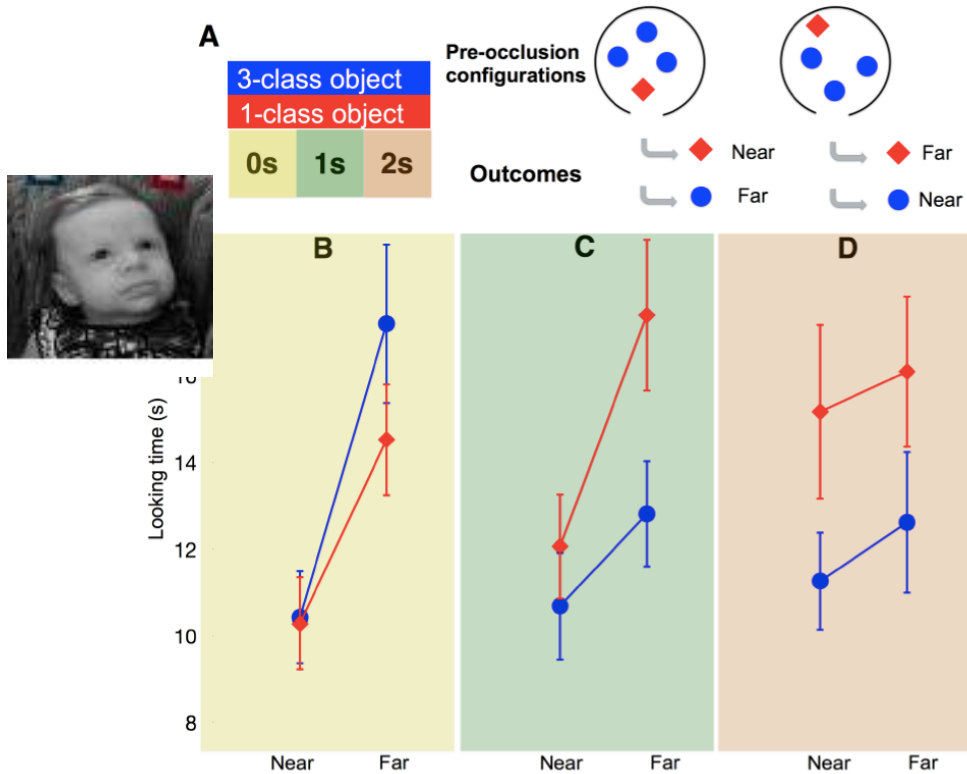
Physics is: OFF

Stability inferences

Mean human
stability
judgment



Intuitive physics in infants



(Teglas, Vul, Gonzalez, Girotto,
Tenenbaum, Bonatti, under review)

Probabilistic programming languages

Universal language for describing generative models +
generic tools for (approximate) probabilistic inference.

- Probabilistic logic programming (Prolog)
 - BLOG (Russell, Milch et al)
 - Markov Logic (Domingos et al)
 - ICL (Poole)
- Probabilistic functional programming (lisp) or imperative programming (Matlab)
 - Church: stochastic lisp (Goodman, Mansinghka et al)
 - MonteTM (Mansinghka & co. @ Navia Systems)
 - Stochastic Matlab (Wingate)
 - IBAL: probabilistic ML (Pfeffer)
 - HANSEI: probabilistic OCaml (Oleg, Shan)

Learning as program induction, cognitive development as program synthesis

- Ultimately would like to understand development of intuitive psychology, intuitive physics as program synthesis.
- Shorter-term goals & warm-up problems:
 - Graph grammars for structural form. [Kemp & Tenenbaum]
 - Motor programs for handwritten characters. [Revow, Williams, Hinton; Lake, Salakhutdinov, Tenenbaum]
 - Learning functional aspects of language: determiners, quantifiers, prepositions, adverbs. [Piantadosi, Goodman Tenenbaum; Liang et al.; Zettlemoyer et al., ...]

Conclusions

How does the mind get so much from so little, in learning about objects, categories, causes, scenes, sentences, thoughts, social systems?

A toolkit for studying the nature, use and acquisition of abstract knowledge:

- *Bayesian inference* in probabilistic generative models.
- Probabilistic models defined over a range of *structured representations*: spaces, graphs, grammars, predicate logic, schemas, and other data structures.
- *Hierarchical models*, with inference at multiple levels of abstraction.
- *Nonparametric models*, adapting their complexity to the data.
- Learning and reasoning in *probabilistic programming languages*.

An alternative to classic “either-or” dichotomies: “Nature” versus “Nurture”, “Logic” (Structure, Rules, Symbols) versus “Probability” (Statistics).

- How can domain-general mechanisms of learning and representation build domain-specific abstract knowledge?
- How can structured symbolic knowledge be acquired by statistical learning?

A different way to think about the development of a cognitive system.

- Powerful abstractions can be learned surprisingly quickly, together with or prior to learning the more concrete knowledge they constrain.
- Structured symbolic representations need not be rigid, static, hand-wired, brittle. Embedded in a probabilistic framework, they can grow dynamically and robustly in response to the sparse, noisy data of experience.

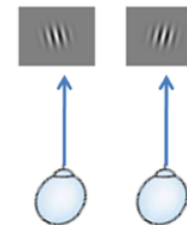
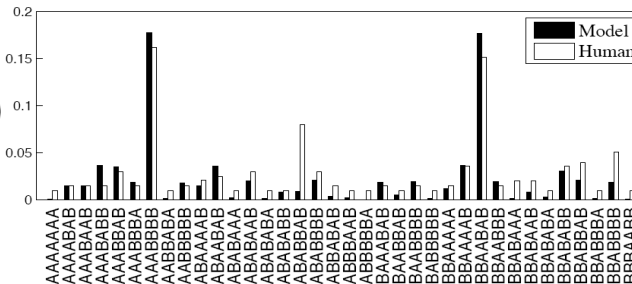
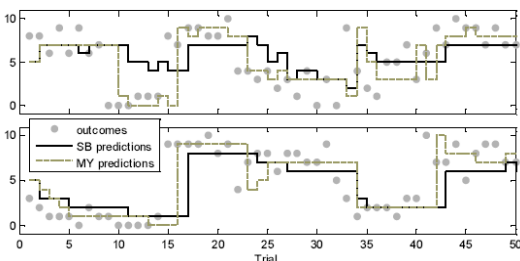
How could this work in the brain?

The “sampling hypothesis”

Hinton, Dayan, Pouget, Zemel, Schrater, Lengyel, Fiser, Berkes, Griffiths, Steyvers, Vul, Goodman, Tenenbaum, Gershman, ...

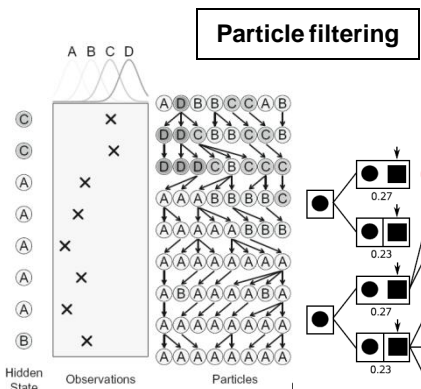
```
(define (occurs a t)
  (or (spontaneous a t)
      (do a t)
      (fold (lambda (x y) (noisy-or (occurs x t) (strength x a) y) 1.0
            false
            (parents a))))
```

Computational

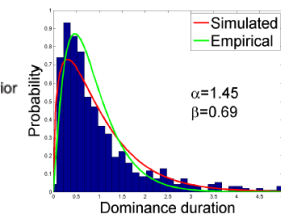
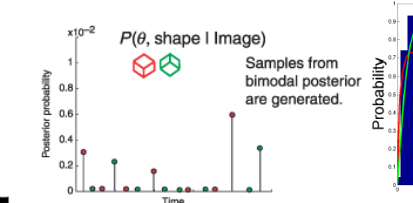
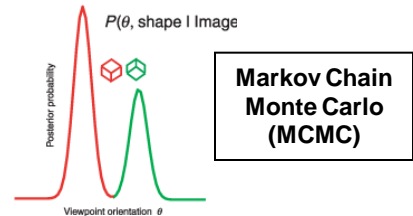
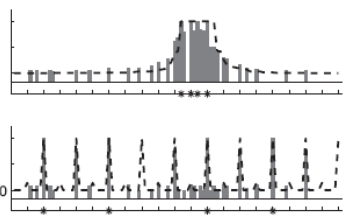


Marr's levels

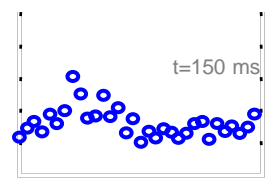
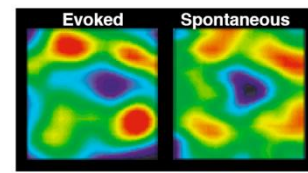
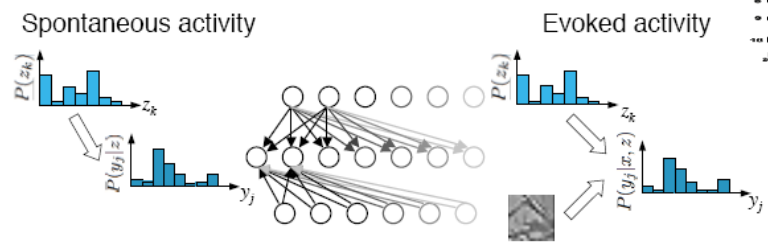
Algorithmic



Importance sampling



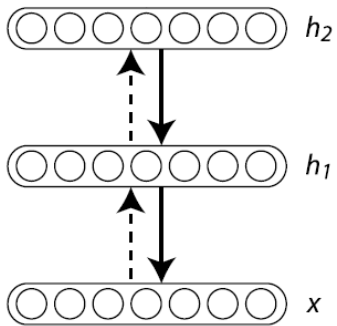
Neural



Cortex as hierarchical Bayesian modeler

Barlow, Lee & Mumford, Hinton, Dayan, Zemel, Olshausen, Pouget, Rao, Lewicki, Dean, George & Hawkins, Friston, ...

Deep Belief Net



Input Layer of Simple Cells

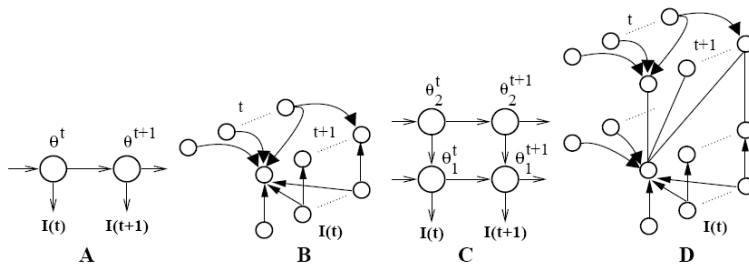
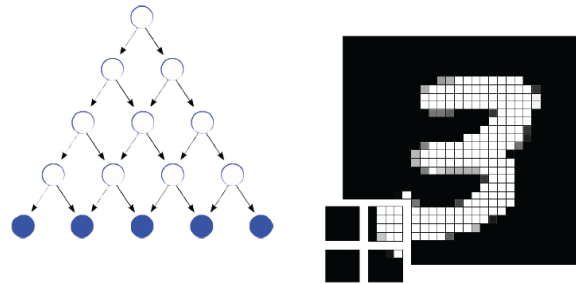
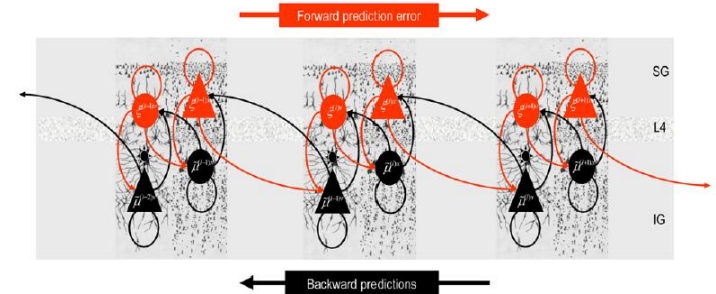


Figure 1: **Graphical Models and their Neural Implementation.** (A) Single-level dynamic graphical model. Each circle represents a node denoting the state variable θ^t which can take on values $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N$. (B) Recurrent network for implementing on-line belief propagation for the graphical model in (A). Each circle represents a neuron encoding a state θ_i . Arrows represent synaptic con-

Message passing in neuronal hierarchies



Linear convolution model

$$y^{(l)} = g(x^{(l)}, y^{(l+1)}) + \epsilon_y^{(l)}$$

$$x^{(l)} = f(x^{(l)}, y^{(l+1)}) + \epsilon_x^{(l)}$$

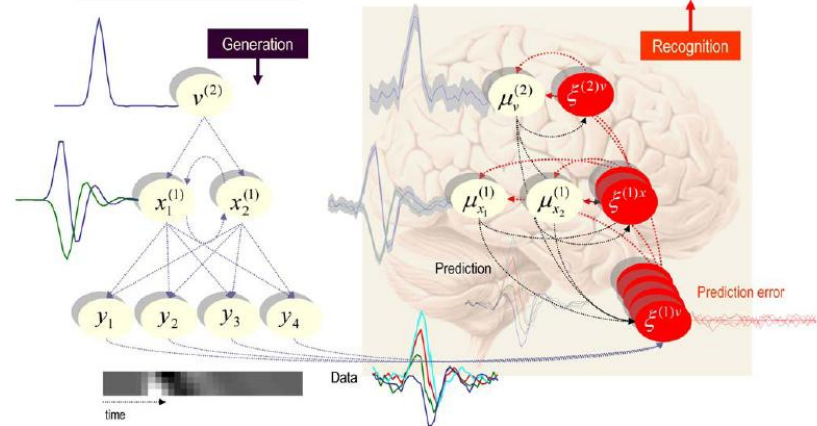
Top-down messages

$$\tilde{\mu}^{(l)y} = \tilde{\mu}^{(l+1)y} - \tilde{\epsilon}^{(l)y} \tilde{\mu}^{(l)x} - \tilde{\epsilon}^{(l+1)y}$$

$$\tilde{\epsilon}^{(l)x} = D\tilde{\mu}^{(l)x} - \tilde{f}(\tilde{\mu}^{(l)}) - \Lambda^{(l)y} \tilde{\epsilon}^{(l)x}$$

$$\tilde{\mu}^{(l)x} = D\tilde{\mu}^{(l)x} - \tilde{\epsilon}^{(l)x} \tilde{\mu}^{(l)y}$$

Bottom-up messages



Computation at COSYNE*09

Some popular words in titles:

- Feedback: 5
- Circuit: 20
- Gain: 7
- Signal: 5
- Frequency: 8
- Phase: 11
- Correlation: 9
- Nonlinear: 8
- Coding: 12
- Decoding: 13
- Adaptation: 10
- State: 11

Some less popular words:

- Data structure: 0
- Algorithm: 1
- Symbol: 0
- Pointer: 0
- Buffer: 0
- Graph: 1
- Function: 3
- Language: 0
- Program: 0
- Grammar: 0
- Rule: 1
- Abstract: 1
- Hierarchical: 3
- Recursive: 1

Computation at COSYNE*09

Electrical Engineering

- Feedback: 5
- Circuit: 20
- Gain: 7
- Signal: 5
- Frequency: 8
- Phase: 11
- Correlation: 9
- Nonlinear: 8
- Coding: 12
- Decoding: 13
- Adaptation: 10
- State: 11

Computer Science

- Data structure: 0
- Algorithm: 1
- Symbol: 0
- Pointer: 0
- Buffer: 0
- Graph: 1
- Function: 3
- Language: 0
- Program: 0
- Grammar: 0
- Rule: 1
- Abstract: 1
- Hierarchical: 3
- Recursive: 1