

1 A computational examination of the two-streams
2 hypothesis: which pathway needs a longer memory?

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8

Abstract

9 The two visual streams hypothesis is a robust framework that has inspired
10 many studies in the past three decades. One of the well-studied claims of this
11 hypothesis is the idea that the dorsal visual pathway is involved in visually
12 guided motor behavior, and it is operating with a short memory. Conversely, this
13 hypothesis claims that the ventral visual pathway is involved in object
14 classification, and it works using a long-term memory. In this study, we tested
15 these claims by training identical recurrent neural networks to either perform
16 viewpoint-invariant object classification (a task attributed to dorsal stream) or
17 orientation classification (a task attributed to dorsal stream) and measured how
18 much they rely on their memory in each task. Using a modified leaky-integrator
19 echo state recurrent network, we found that object classification requires a longer
20 memory compared to orientation classification. However, when we used long-
21 short-term memory (LSTM) networks, we observed that object classification
22 requires longer memory only in larger datasets. Accordingly, our results suggest
23 that having a longer memory is advantageous in performing ventral stream's
24 tasks more than their dorsal counterparts, as was originally suggested by the
25 two-streams hypothesis.

26

Keywords

27 Two-streams hypothesis, dorsal and ventral visual pathway, LSTM,
28 convolution neural network, memory, time scale

29 1 Introduction

30 The hypothesis that primate vision might be composed of two distinct visual
31 systems was first proposed in 1968 (Ettlinger, 1990; Schneider, 1969; Trevarthen,
32 1968). In its initial form, this hypothesis suggested that a geniculostriate system
33 is processes object recognition and a tectofugal system processes spatial
34 information. Subsequently, using evidence from lesion studies, Ungerleider and
35 Mishkin suggested that the dissociation between the two pathways also exists at
36 the cortical level where both pathways are fed by axons originating from striate
37 cortex (Mishkin & Ungerleider, 1982). Eventually, an extended two-streams
38 hypothesis was proposed in a seminal paper by Goodale and Milner in 1992
39 (Melvyn A. Goodale & Milner, 1992). According to their two-streams hypothesis,
40 the ventral visual stream (from occipital to temporal cortex) is heavily involved
41 in object recognition while the dorsal visual stream (occipital to parietal) is
42 involved in visually guided motor behaviors.

43 Using clinical and experimental evidence, Goodale and Milner argued for a
44 double dissociation in the primate visual system and listed a series of major
45 functional differences between the ventral and dorsal pathways. First, the ventral
46 stream was more involved in conscious perception while dorsal pathway
47 performance was unconscious. Secondly, the ventral stream had a slower
48 processing speed and a longer memory, while the dorsal pathway maintains a
49 faster processing speed and shorter memory (Milner & Goodale, 2008; Norman,
50 2002). Accordingly, having these processing features was believed to benefit the
51 functions of each pathway.

52 Among the neuropsychological studies on the differences between dorsal and
53 ventral stream, the differences between memory spans in the two pathways is
54 particularly interesting. On the one hand, patients with damage to their parietal
55 cortex (dorsal stream) were found to have lost their ability to correctly reach
56 towards visual targets (optic ataxia) while they could still recognize the identity
57 of objects due to their intact ventral stream. On the other hand, patient D.F.
58 who had impaired connectivity between her V1 and inferior temporal cortex was
59 found to be unable to recognize objects or faces, (visual form agnosia) while she

60 was able to perform reaching movements similar to healthy controls (M. A.
61 Goodale et al., 1991; Milner et al., 1991).

62 Interestingly, when optic ataxia patients were asked to point to a target
63 location after a 5-second delay, their performance improved in a paradoxical
64 manner while in healthy subjects, the same delay deteriorated their performance
65 (Milner et al., 1999). This suggested that optic ataxia patients are not able to
66 use their dorsal stream in no-delay trials, but they could retrieve some
67 information from their intact ventral stream in delayed trials. In contrast, when
68 patient D.F. was presented with two plaques of different widths, she could not
69 report the width of plaques using her index finger and her thumb. However, when
70 asked to reach for a specific plaque, her grip aperture (distance between index
71 finger and thumb) was like healthy controls and correlated with the width of
72 each plaque. Intriguingly, this patient was not able to perform this visuomotor
73 reaching task after a 2-second delay as if she has ‘lost’ the information required
74 to complete the task (M. A. Goodale et al., 1994). This suggested that after a
75 delay, stored information in the ventral stream is used for reaching. Further
76 studies by Hu and Goodale using healthy participants consolidated the idea that
77 real time visuomotor control uses a short memory size estimation mechanism as
78 compared to conscious size estimation or motor control after delay which uses
79 long term memory and conscious task engagement (Hu et al., 1999; Hu &
80 Goodale, 2000). These observations lend credit to the idea that the dorsal stream
81 has a shorter memory and it is crucial for visually guided behavior while the
82 ventral stream has a longer memory and it is crucial for object recognition.

83

84 Accordingly, we sought to test these hypotheses in the current study. Specifically,
85 we tested if there is a relationship between the tasks ascribed to each of the
86 pathways and the length of optimal memory for each task. In other words, is
87 short term memory beneficial for tasks that are attributed to dorsal stream (e.g.,
88 size or orientation classification) and ventral stream functions such as viewpoint-
89 invariant object classification need longer memory?

90 To this end, we trained simple convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to either
91 perform orientation classification or viewpoint-invariant object classification.
92 Subsequently, we replaced the last layer of the trained CNNs with recurrent

93 networks and trained the new networks to recognize frames of rotating objects
94 or frames of different objects with the same orientation or width. Our results
95 suggest that a longer memory benefits viewpoint object classification, while a
96 shorter memory is helpful for orientation classification tasks.
97

98 2 methods

99 2.1 datasets

100 We created 16 synthetic objects and rotated each object around its vertical
101 axis (yaw) to generate images from different viewpoints of each object.
102 Subsequently, to create two tasks from the same set of objects, we derived a
103 dataset for a viewpoint invariant object classification task and a dataset for width
104 classification of objects.

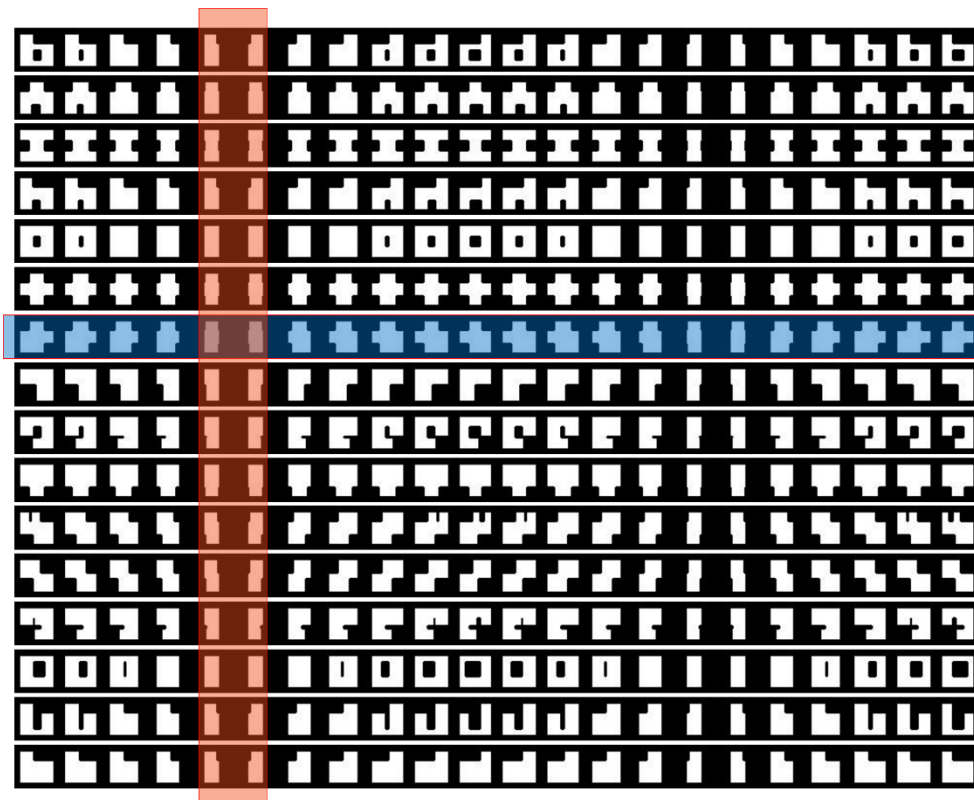
105 To create the viewpoint invariant object classification dataset, we defined 16
106 object classes where each class had 22 pictures of the same object rotated along
107 its vertical (yaw) axis (16.3 degrees increments in each frame). This dataset
108 contained 352 images in total (16x22).

109 To avoid the huge number of orientation classes that can be created when an
110 object is rotated along all of its three axes, we decided to create a simplified
111 orientation classification dataset in which we only changed the width of objects
112 by moving them along their yaw axis. Accordingly, we defined six classes where
113 each class contained 16 different objects with the same width. Due to the presence
114 of different vertical orientations with the same width (e.g., 0 and 180 degrees),
115 the same width of one object was repeated twice, and this resulted in 32 images
116 per class and a dataset with 192 images in total (6x32). The width classes were
117 as following:

118

- 119 • Width class No. 1: All objects with an orientation of 0° and 180°
- 120 • Width class No. 2: All objects with an orientation of 16° and 164°
- 121 • Width class No. 3: All objects with an orientation of 33° and 147°
- 122 • Width class No. 4: All objects with an orientation of 49° and 131°

- 123 • Width class No. 5: All objects with an orientation of 65° and 115°
124 • Width class No. 6: All objects with an orientation of 82° and 98°
125
126
127
128
129



130 Fig. 1. Structure of the synthetic objects' dataset. Each row in this matrix forms
131 an object class that was used for viewpoint invariant object classification task. The
132 region indicated by blue is an example of an object class that was split into the
133 training set (with a probability of 80%) and test set (with a probability of 20%).
134 Conversely, the orange shaded line indicates images that were put into a width class
135 (32 images) and further split into a training and test set with 80% and 20%
136 probability, respectively. Note that only 6 width classes were derived from this
137 dataset and therefore, some of the columns were not used in width classification task.
138 See supplementary figure 1 for a detailed illustration of width classes.
139

140 To see if the results were specific to the synthetic dataset, we repeated our
141 experiments using the Columbia Object Image Library (COIL-100) dataset (Nene
142 et al., 1996). This dataset contains images of 100 natural objects, and there are
143 72 images of the same object from different viewpoints in 5-degree increments in
144 each object class.

145 In COIL-100 dataset, we derived an orientation classification dataset instead
146 of width classification dataset to see if our results will generalize to more
147 naturalistic stimuli. The orientation classification dataset was derived according
148 to the following procedure: first, 46 objects in the COIL-100 dataset that show
149 ambiguous orientation as they are rotated (bottles, cans, cups) were removed
150 and we only used the remaining 54 objects for both of our datasets.

151 For orientation classification, we used four simplified orientation classes as
152 following:

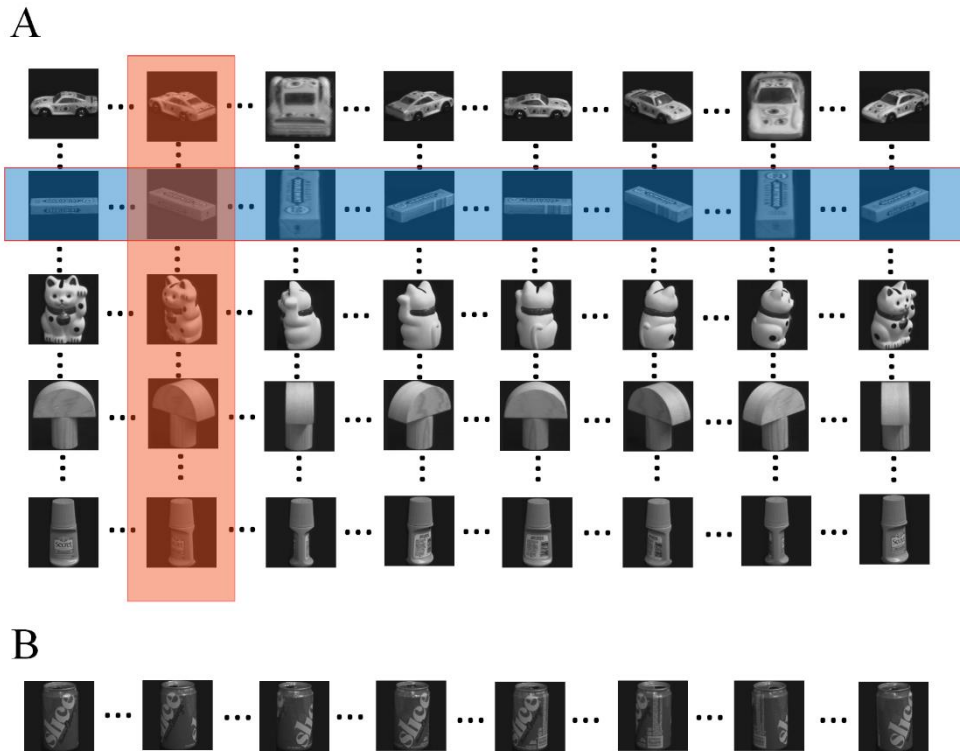
- 153 • Class 1: All orientations between $0^\circ \pm 15^\circ$ (5-degree increments) and
154 their mirror orientations ($180^\circ \pm 15^\circ$) regardless of the object identity.
- 155 • Class 2: All orientations of $45^\circ \pm 15^\circ$ (5-degree increments) and their
156 mirror orientations ($225^\circ \pm 15^\circ$) regardless of the object identity.
- 157 • Class 3: All orientations between $90^\circ \pm 15^\circ$ (5-degree increments) and
158 their mirror orientations ($270^\circ \pm 15^\circ$) regardless of the object identity.
- 159 • Class 4: All orientations between $135^\circ \pm 15^\circ$ (5-degree increments) and
160 their mirror orientations ($315^\circ \pm 15^\circ$) regardless of the object identity.

161

162 This resulted in four classes, each with 756 images (a total of 3,024 images).
163 which was used for training networks on orientation classification task. Each
164 image was grayscaled and then downscaled to a 28 by 28 pixels resolution before
165 being used in training.

166 To make our object classification dataset consistent with the orientation
167 classification, we only used the 54 object that have been used in our orientation
168 classification task for object classification as well. In each of the 54 object classes
169 we had 72 images of the same object from different viewpoints (a total of 3,888
170 images)

171



172

173 Fig. 2. Example images from the COIL-100 dataset. COIL-100 contains 100
174 object classes each with 72 images of the same object from different viewpoints (5-
175 degree increments). Objects are shown with 45-degree increments and rotating
176 clockwise. The blue shade covering one row of the image array represents an object
177 class while the light red shade covering an orientation with multiple objects represent
178 central elements of an orientation class. An orientation class was defined as all object
179 images with a central orientation (e.g. 45°), images with $\pm 15^\circ$ orientations around
180 the central orientation plus all of their mirror orientations (e.g. $225^\circ \pm 15^\circ$) B. Some
181 objects (e.g. the soda can) have an ambiguous orientation as they are moved along
182 their vertical axis. These objects were excluded from the dataset. The resulting
183 dataset after removing such objects contained 54 objects in total which was
184 subsequently used for both tasks.

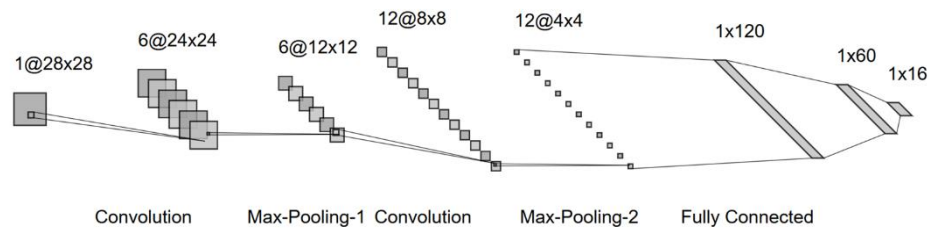
185 2.2 Networks and training procedure

186 Given that the convolutional neural networks (CNNs) show a reasonable
187 similarity to primate visual system (Cadieu et al., 2014; Schrimpf et al., 2018; D.

188 L. Yamins et al., 2013; D. L. K. Yamins & DiCarlo, 2016) and the fact that both
189 dorsal and ventral pathways receive information from primary visual areas
190 (except for some subcortical inputs to the dorsal pathway), we used CNNs as
191 simple approximations of early visual areas.

192 To this end, we made two architecturally identical convolutional neural
193 networks (details in figure 1) and trained one of them on the viewpoint invariant
194 object classification dataset and the other one on the width classification dataset
195 (orientation classification in COIL-100). The task of the networks at this stage
196 was to recognize if one image belonged to a specific object class (in case of the
197 object classifier network) or a width/orientation class (in case of
198 width/orientation classifier network). At this stage, networks had to classify
199 individual images.

200



201

202 Fig. 3. Network architecture. Our classifier network comprises 2 convolutional layers
203 with max-pooling and 3 fully connected layers. Note that here, fully connected layer
204 is referred to a layer is fully connected to all other nodes in its previous layer and it
205 does not refer to any recurrence within the layer itself. This network was trained on
206 either viewpoint invariant object classification (object classifier) or width/
207 orientation classification. Subsequently, it was modified by adding recurrent layers
208 to perform sequence learning (see Fig. 4).

209

210

211 Next, to see if temporal information (i.e., memory) in a sequence of images
212 is important for the performance of the network, we froze the weights in the
213 feedforward network and replaced the last layer in each of these two networks
214 with either a leaky-integrator echo state network (LiESN) (experiment 1) or a
215 long-short term memory (LSTM) network (experiment 2). This was done based

216 on previous studies showing the effectiveness of transfer learning (Tan et al.,
217 2018). Accordingly, these new networks could learn sequences of stimuli. Hence,
218 their task was to recognize images in a sequence of frames. For viewpoint
219 invariant object recognition, the stimulus was a sequence of frames that
220 contained different viewpoints of the same object. In each training epoch, the
221 network was fed with this sequence to classify the object identity of the frames
222 in the sequence. For width/orientation detection, the stimulus was a sequence of
223 frames that contained different objects with the same width/orientation.
224 Similarly, in each training epoch, the network was fed with a sequence of frames
225 to classify the widths/orientations.

226

227

228 In experiment 1.A, we replaced the last layer of classifiers by a leaky-
229 integrator echo state network and trained them on either viewpoint-invariant
230 object classification or width/orientation classification. The last layer of the
231 viewpoint-invariant object classifier was replaced with an LiESN and trained to
232 recognize images of the same objects from different viewpoints. Similarly, the last
233 layer of the width/orientation classifier network was replaced with an LiESN,
234 and the resulting network was trained to recognize the width/orientation in a
235 series of images containing different objects with similar widths/orientations.

236 In a standard LiESN, the dynamics of the network with N_U inputs and N_R
237 reservoir units were governed according to:

238

$$239 \quad X(t) = (1 - a)X(t - 1) + a \tanh(W_{in}u(t) + \theta + Wx(t - 1)) \quad (1)$$

240

241 Where X is the state of reservoir with N_R dimensions, t is the time, u is the
242 input signal with N_U dimensions, W_{in} is the input weight matrix (N_U by N_R)
243 and Wx is the reservoir weight matrix (N_R by N_R). The θ is the bias term,
244 and a is the leaking rate (Gallicchio et al., 2017; Jaeger, n.d.; Schaetti et
245 al., 2016).

246 As seen in Equation 1, to ensure the stability of the outputs in the standard
247 LiESN networks, the leaking rate specifies the dependence on past time steps

248 relative to dependence on the current input by the computation in each step. In
249 other words, when leaking rate goes to zero, the network solely depends on its
250 past state and ignores the current inputs, and when the leaking rate goes to 1,
251 the network solely relies on current inputs and ignores the past states.

252 To disentangle the role of past states on task performance from the
253 importance of current inputs, we disjointed the memory dependence from current
254 inputs by removing the effect of leaking rate on current inputs:

255

$$256 \quad X(t) = (1 - a)X(t - 1) + \tanh(W_{in}u(t) + \theta + Wx(t - 1)) \quad (2)$$

257

258 As seen in Equation 2, the leaking rate a does not affect the results of the
259 $\tanh()$ term of the equation. We will call the a in this equation the forget
260 rate from now on. In experiment 1.a, we observed changes in accuracy and
261 forget rate as we trained the networks to either recognize objects or
262 widths/orientations. We ran 18 training epochs and measured the test accuracy
263 and forget rates after each training epoch. This simulation was repeated 30 times,
264 and the average test accuracies with their corresponding forget rates were
265 obtained for comparison.

266 In experiment 1.b, we performed a parameter sweep of 50 equally spaced
267 forget rates between 0 and 1 (0.02 steps) to see which task was harmed by larger
268 forget rates. To control for the effect of network size on our results, we performed
269 this parameter sweep on 6 different network sizes ($n=20,40,80,160,320,640$). The
270 echo state networks were trained for 50 epochs, and their test accuracy was
271 measured afterward.

272 In experiment 2, we used LSTM networks instead of LiESN networks to see
273 if our results were independent from the type of recurrent networks used in our
274 experiments. LSTM network was implemented based on the original LSTM paper
275 (Hochreiter & Schmidhuber, 1997).

276 To measure how much of the past information (history, memory) is relevant
277 to the classification performance in an LSTM network, we used the ratio of forget
278 gate to input gate as an indicator of network reliance on the past information.
279 Forget gate value in an LSTM network is a number between zero and 1, and it

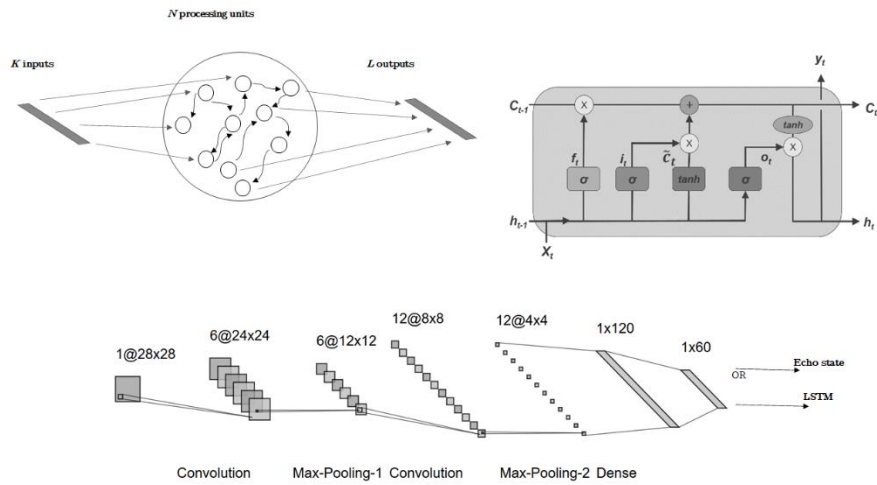
280 is multiplied by the hidden state value to control the effect of the past
281 information (hidden states) on the current output of the LSTM network. The
282 input gate value in an LSTM network is also a number between 0 and 1, and it
283 is multiplied by the current input of the LSTM network to indicate how much
284 of the current input should affect the cell state of an LSTM network. Accordingly,
285 the ratio of forget gate to input gate can show how much a given network is
286 relying on its memory (hidden states) as compared to its current inputs to
287 generate an output. The larger this ratio, the more reliance there is on the past
288 information (memory) in the LSTM network.

289 In experiment 2.a, to obtain these ratios with the synthetic dataset, we
290 trained our LSTM network on each of the tasks. Subsequently, we fed the test
291 data to the network and measured the logarithm of the ratio of ‘forget gate values
292 to input gate values’ in the LSTM network as images were passing through the
293 network. The average logarithm of (forget gate / input gate) for the entire test
294 dataset was calculated for both width/orientation classification and object
295 classification tasks.

296 In experiment 2.b, we trained the LSTM network using the COIL-100 dataset
297 to see if the small size of the synthetic dataset affected our results. To obtain
298 these ratios in the COIL-100 dataset, we used the same procedure as experiment
299 2.a.

300

301 Like LiESN networks, to control for the effect of network size on our results,
302 we ran all of the experiments on six different network sizes
303 ($n=20,40,80,160,320,640$). Experiments were performed using PyTorch
304 (*Automatic Differentiation in PyTorch / OpenReview*, n.d.) running on python
305 3.6.



306

307 Fig. 4. The architecture of the recurrent networks used in this study. Top right:
 308 schematic representation of an LSTM network (from (Zheng et al., 2017), under
 309 Creative Commons Attribution License). Top left: Schematic representation of an
 310 echo state network. Bottom: The last layer in the classifier was replaced with either
 311 an echo state network or an LSTM recurrent network.

312

313 3 Results

314

315 3.1 Feedforward convolutional networks (without recurrent 316 networks)

317 We trained the feedforward convolutional network (figure 3.) to either classify
 318 the object orientation or object identity in both datasets. After 200 epochs of
 319 training with a learning rate of 10^{-4} , we tested the performance of the feedforward
 320 networks on the test dataset. Object and width classification accuracy in the
 321 synthetic dataset were 56% and 75%, respectively. When trained on COIL-100
 322 dataset, the networks achieved a similar object and orientation classification
 323 accuracy of 53% and 68%, respectively. See table 1 and figure 5 for graphical
 324 representation and details of the accuracies in each dataset.

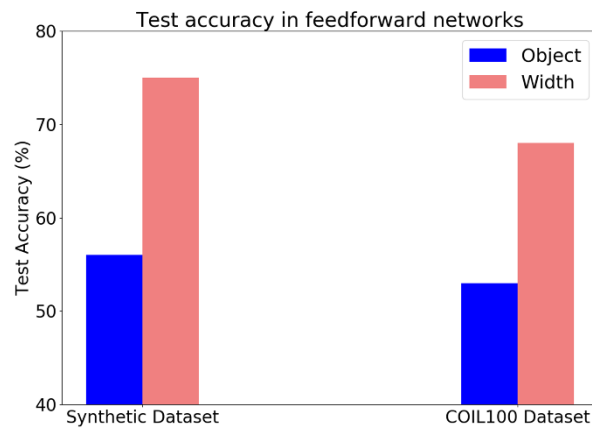
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	Synthetic Objects' Dataset		COIL-100 Dataset	
	Object	Width	Object	Orientation
Accuracy	56%	75%	53%	68%

327

328 Table 1. Numerical values of classification accuracies in feedforward networks
329 trained on the synthetic objects and the COIL-100 dataset.



330

331 Figure 5. Classification accuracies of the feedforward networks on the synthetic
332 dataset and the COIL-100 dataset. The blue bars show object classification
333 accuracy in the synthetic dataset (left) and the COIL-100 dataset (right). Light
334 red shows accuracies for width classification in synthetic dataset and orientation
335 classification in the COIL-100 dataset.

336 3.2 Experiment 1.A: Forget rate learning: which task needs more
337 memory?

338 To see if adding recurrent networks would help the accuracy of the network
339 (compared to purely feedforward networks) and to be able to compare the
340 memory requirements for each task, we replaced the last layer of the feedforward
341 network with an echo state recurrent network (size=200 neurons). The outputs
342 of the echo state network were fed to a new linear layer to classify either objects
343 or orientations (figure 4). Subsequently, we looked at the accuracy and forget
344 rate of 30 networks with different random initializations as they learned to
345 classify objects or orientations. We found that as the accuracy of the viewpoint-

346 invariant object classification network increased, the forget rate dropped to lower
347 values compared to the width classification network. These results were
348 consistent regardless of the initial choice of forget rate value (figure 6). Moreover,
349 object classification task required smaller forget rates (longer memory) regardless
350 of the dataset type by showing the same trend in both synthetic objects and
351 COIL-100 dataset. Adding recurrence to the classifiers benefited object
352 classification more than orientation classification in the synthetic dataset but not
353 COIL-100 dataset. Notably, when we looked at the networks initialized by a
354 forget rate of 0.25, we observed that in the synthetic objects' dataset, object
355 classification accuracy increased from 56% to 92 (36% improvement) while the
356 width classification increased from 75% to 94% (only improved by 19%). In the
357 COIL-100 dataset, however, the object classification increased from 53% to 85%
358 (32% improvement), and width classification also increased from 68% to 99%
359 (31% improvement).

360 Overall, results using this modification suggested that object classification needed
361 smaller forget rate values and hence, a longer memory (figure 6).

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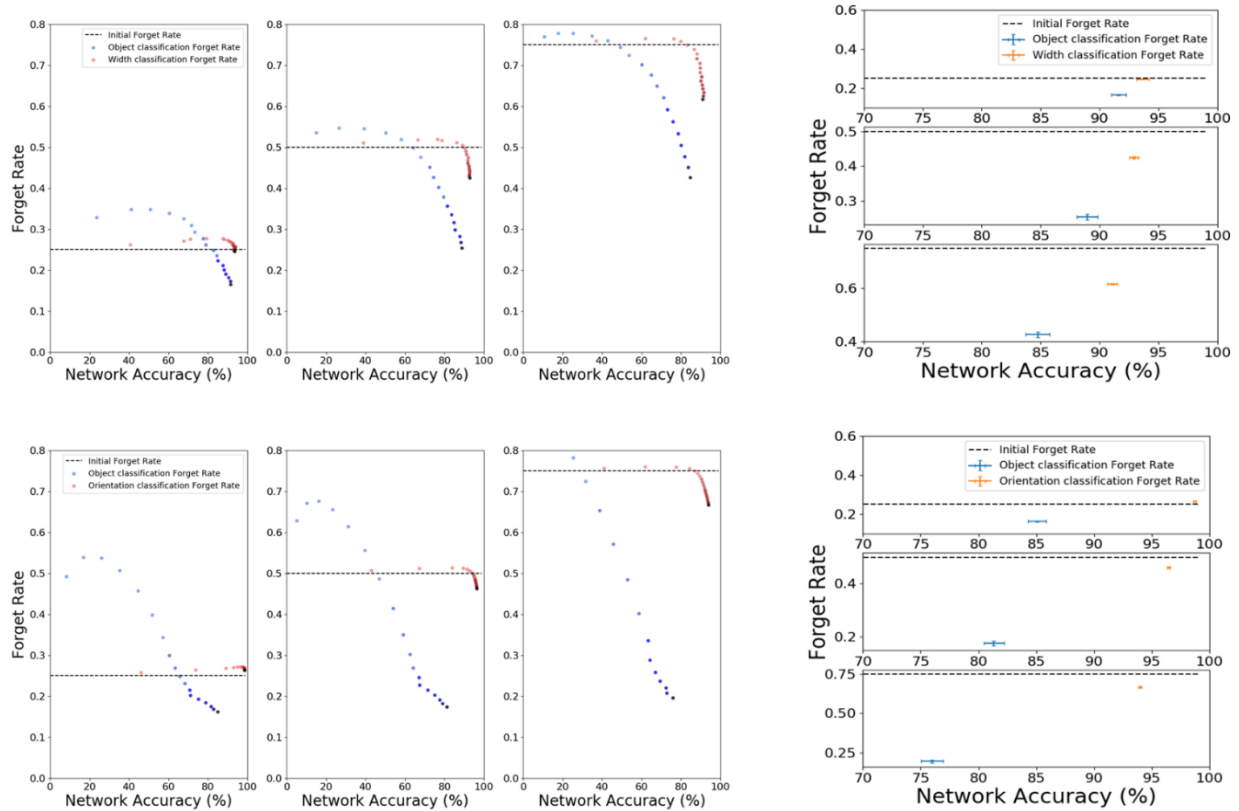
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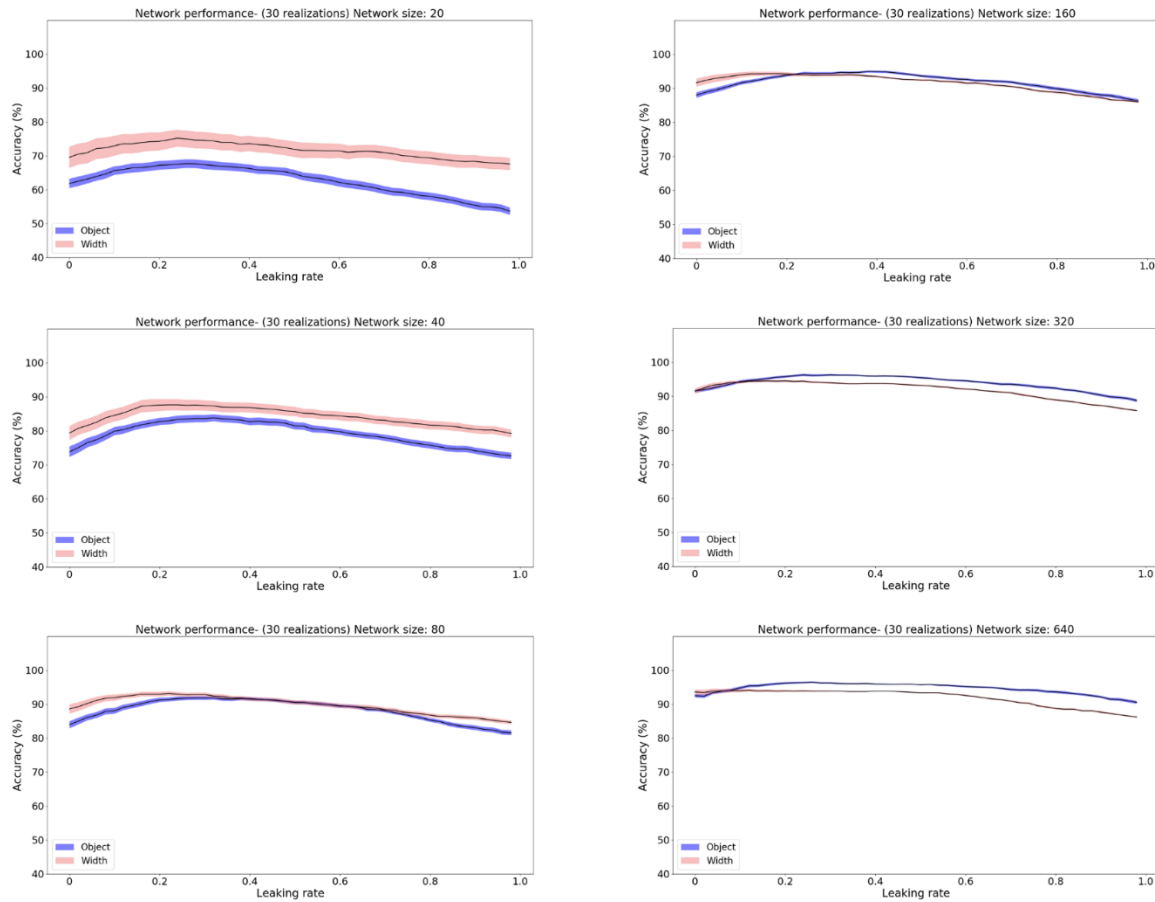
398 Fig. 6. Simultaneous changes of forget rate and accuracy in two networks as one
 399 learns to classify objects and the other learns to classify widths/orientations. Top
 400 left: object classification results are shown in blue, and width classification results
 401 are shown in red. Darker shades indicate the progression in the learning epochs (from
 402 epoch 1 to 18). Dashed lines show initial forget rates. Subpanel on the left: changes
 403 in leaky rate and accuracy in a network with initial leaky rate of 0.25. As the network
 404 learns the sequence, the accuracy of the network increases in both tasks and the
 405 forget rate goes down (longer memory) in both networks. However, the forget rate
 406 goes to smaller values (longer memory) in object classification networks. Middle and
 407 right subpanels showing the same with different initial values for the forget rate (0.5
 408 and 0.75). Each dot represents the mean forget rate and accuracy value of 30 network
 409 realizations. The top plots belong to values obtained from the synthetic dataset. Top
 410 right: final forget rate values, the error bars in here, and other figures in this paper
 411 are SEMs. The bottom plots show the same results obtained from the COIL100
 412 dataset.

413 3.3 Experiment 1.B: Parameter sweep in ESNs: which task needs
414 more memory?

415

416 Building on the results of experiment 1.A, we sought to test if our results
417 (longer memory in object classification) depend on the network size.
418 Additionally, we aimed to perform a parameter sweep for forget rates to see how
419 network accuracies change if we fix the forget rates and only allow output weights
420 change (weights from echo state network to linear classifying layer). To this end,
421 we kept the forget rate constant and let the network train until it reaches a
422 performance plateau after 50 training epochs for each of the 50 different forget
423 rates between 0 and 1 with 0.02 intervals. This simulation repeated 30 times
424 using 30 network realizations. Subsequently, average accuracies of these networks
425 were taken for comparison. The results suggested that overall, parameter sweep
426 does not effectively separate the forget rate requirements in object classification
427 from the forget rate requirements in width classification. Specifically, we observed
428 that in networks trained on the synthetic objects' dataset, both tasks show
429 similar changes in the accuracy as the forget rate changes (figure 7). The results
430 obtained from the COIL-100 dataset were similar and did not show apparent
431 dissociation between the two tasks (supplementary figure 2).

432



433 Figure 7. Performance of echo state networks in viewpoint-invariant object
434 classification and width classification tasks with different forget rates. Each subpanel
435 indicates the accuracy of both object classification (blue) and width classification
436 networks (red) with different forget rates (0 to 1, 0.02 intervals) in each network size
437 (20 to 640 neurons). The accuracy of the networks was measured after 50 training
438 epochs so that networks reach a relative performance plateau. Results are the mean
439 accuracy of 30 different network realizations, and shaded areas are standard error of
440 the mean (SEM).

441 3.4 Experiment 2.A: Which task requires more memory? LSTM 442 networks trained on synthetic objects' dataset

443 In experiment 2.A, we used LSTM networks instead of echo state networks
444 to measure memory dependence of each task in a different type of recurrent
445 network. Similar to our echo state network experiments, when feedforward

446 networks were trained on each task, their weights were frozen, and their last
447 layer was replaced by an LSTM network and a linear classifier. After training,
448 we fed the network with sequences of test images again and extracted the
449 logarithm of forget gate to input gate ratio as each single test image was passed
450 through the network. We found that the average logarithm of forget to input
451 gate ratio is higher in *width* classification compared to viewpoint invariant object
452 classification. To investigate this effect more, we changed the learning rate from
453 the initial value (10^{-3}) to 10^{-4} to see if the accuracy and logarithm of ratios are
454 sensitive to the learning rate. We observed that even though the logarithm of
455 ratios changes, the overall trend stays the same, and *width* classification has
456 higher input to forget rate ratio (longer memory) compared to object
457 classification. An interesting trend was the reduction of the logarithm of forget
458 to input gate ratio as network size increased which may point to an inverse
459 relationship between network size and memory dependence. See figure 8 for more
460 detail.

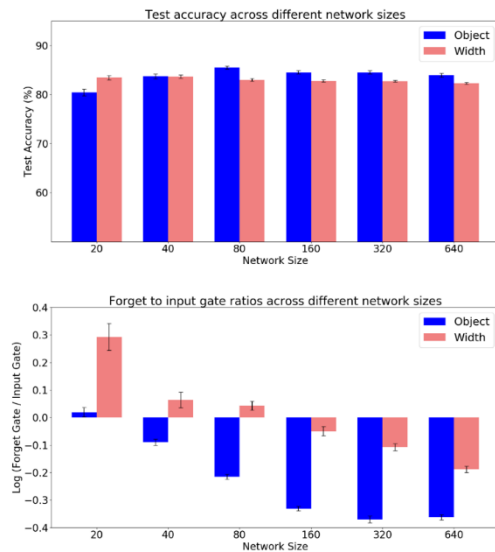
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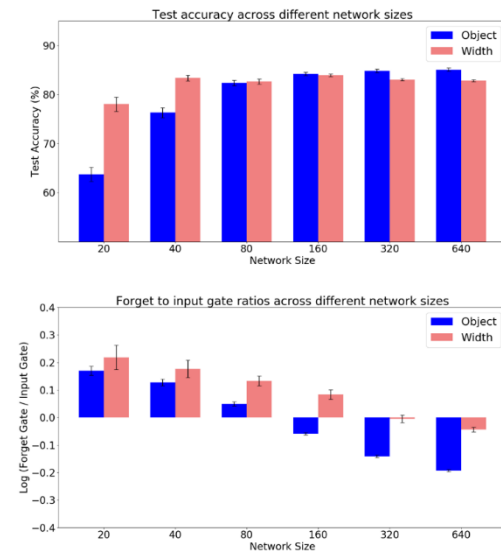
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Accuracy and memory dependence of LSTM networks (learning rate= 10^{-3})



Accuracy and memory dependence of LSTM networks (learning rate= 10^{-4})



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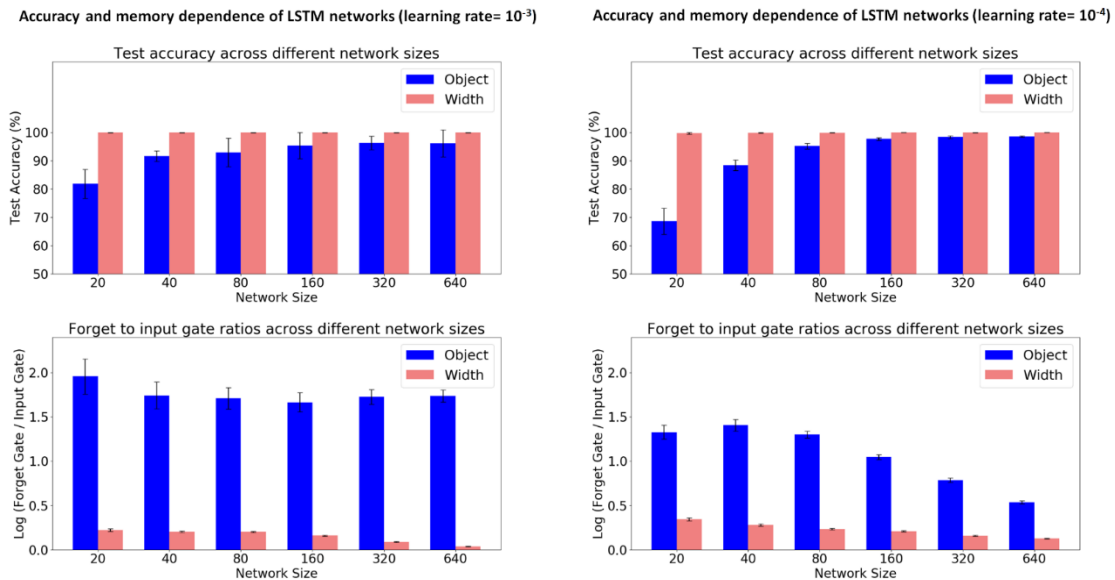
466 Fig. 8. Difference between the forget to input gate ratios (as measures of memory)
 467 in width and object classification tasks obtained from networks with different sizes
 468 trained on synthetic objects' dataset. Top left: mean accuracy of networks in each
 469 task as the network size changes (20 to 640 neurons). Blue bars are accuracies in
 470 object classification tasks, and light red bars are accuracies in width classification
 471 tasks (learning speed= 10^{-3}), values are averaged across 30 network realizations.
 472 Bottom left: Bars show the average $\log\left(\frac{\text{forget gate}}{\text{input gate}}\right)$ for 30 networks trained on either
 473 object classification (blue) or width classification (light red). Error bars show the
 474 standard error of the mean (SEM). Top right and bottom right show the same values
 475 for networks trained with a learning rate of 10^{-4} .

476

477 3.5 Experiments 2.B: Which task requires more memory? LSTM 478 networks trained on COIL-100 dataset.

479 All parameters in experiment 2.B were the same as experiment 2.A, but we
 480 used the COIL-100 dataset instead of our synthetic dataset to train the network.
 481 In contrast to the results we obtained from the synthetic dataset, the average
 482 logarithm of forget to input gate ratio is higher when the network is performing
 483 viewpoint invariant object classification compared to orientation classification.

484 Additionally, the object classification networks kept a higher forget to input gate
 485 ratio in all sizes. This trend remained the same regardless of the learning rate.
 486 See figure 9 for details. Interestingly, the overall forget to input gate ratios
 487 showed a decreasing trend as we increased the network size in here as well. See
 488 the discussion section for a possible explanation for this observation.
 489
 490
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 494



495 Fig. 9. Difference between the forget to input gate ratios (as measures of memory)
 496 in orientation and object classification tasks in networks with different sizes trained
 497 on COIL-100 dataset. Top left: mean accuracy of networks in each task as the
 498 network size changes (20 to 640 neurons). Blue bars are accuracies in object
 499 classification tasks, and light red bars are accuracies in orientation classification tasks
 500 (learning speed= 10^{-3}); values are averaged across 30 network realizations. Bottom
 501 left: Bars show the average $\log\left(\frac{\text{forget gate}}{\text{input gate}}\right)$ for 30 networks of the same size trained
 502 on either object classification (blue) or orientation classification (light red). Error
 503 bars show the standard error of the mean (SEM). Top right and bottom right show
 504 the same values for networks trained with a learning rate of 10^{-4} .

505 4 Discussion

506 In this study, we have shown that in echo state networks, learning to classify
507 objects requires a longer memory compared to width/orientation classification.
508 Additionally, our results indicated that in LSTM networks, object classification
509 requires a longer memory only when the network is trained on larger datasets (3-
510 4 thousand images) and not in small datasets (200-400 images).

511

512 One natural first response to these results would be to think that differences
513 in memory lengths in these tasks are probably caused by the length of image
514 sequences in each class of the dataset, i.e., object classification networks might
515 have longer memory simply because they have been learning longer sequences of
516 images. However, we deliberately used longer sequences in width/orientation
517 classes of both datasets. Notably, there were 32 images in each width class of the
518 synthetic objects' dataset (compared to 22 in the object classes). In the COIL-
519 100 dataset, there were 756 images in each orientation class compared to 72 in
520 each object class.

521 The second concern with the results is the fact that the total number of
522 images in each task is different. Therefore, the reliance on memory reflects the
523 amount of information that has to be learned in each task. Specifically, in the
524 synthetic objects' dataset, there were 192 images in the orientation classification
525 task, while there were 352 images in the viewpoint invariant object classification
526 task. Similarly, in COIL-100 dataset, there were 3,888 images in the object
527 classification task, while there were only 3,024 images in the orientation
528 classification task. However, if this were the case, we would not see the width
529 classification networks trained on synthetic objects' dataset to have higher
530 memory reliance compared to object classification networks (192 images
531 compared to 352 images, see figure 7 for LSTM results). Moreover, if the number
532 of images in each task was a primary factor in determining accuracy, orientation
533 classification in networks trained on the synthetic objects' dataset would become
534 significantly better than the orientation classification of networks trained on the
535 COIL-100 dataset (3,024 compared to 194 images). However, the orientation
536 classification accuracies in both echo state networks and LSTMs trained on either

537 of the datasets are similar (figure 6 showing echo state networks, and figure 8
538 and 9 showing LSTMs).

539 One interesting effect that we observed in this study was the relationship
540 between memory and size of the network. Both echo state networks and LSTMs
541 indicated an inverse relationship between network size and their need for larger
542 memory spans (figure 7, 8, and 9). While the relationship between network
543 architecture and memory capacity in echo state networks has been explored
544 elsewhere (Gallicchio et al., 2018), the exact relationship between network size
545 and memory capacity deserves further investigation.

546

547 From a broader perspective, our results were in line with clinical findings in
548 patients and the two-streams hypothesis for primate vision. Meanwhile, It is
549 noteworthy to mention that some studies called initial assumptions of the two-
550 streams hypothesis into question (Hesse & Schenk, 2014; Konen & Kastner, 2008;
551 Rogers et al., 2009), (see (Schenk & Hesse, 2018) for a critical review). Thus, our
552 results cannot generalize to the entire dorsal pathway. In particular, it is essential
553 to note that according to Kravitz et al., the dorsal stream itself is composed of
554 three different sub-pathways: the parieto-prefrontal, the parieto-medial temporal,
555 and the parieto-premotor paths (Kravitz et al., 2011). Specifically, the parieto-
556 prefrontal path is involved in spatial working memory and eye movement control,
557 the parieto-medial temporal pathway is critical for spatial navigation and spatial
558 long term memory, and the parieto-premotor pathway is heavily involved in
559 visually controlled movements such as reaching and grasping (Kravitz et al.,
560 2011). Due to the nature of the tasks we used here, our results are most relevant
561 to the parieto-premotor pathway.

562 The short-term nature of memory in the dorsal pathway has been extensively
563 studied using both psychophysical and imaging studies and generated mixed
564 results. For example, Cant et al. showed that while naming of objects can be
565 primed, a grasping movement cannot be primed by previous grasping movements
566 (Cant et al., 2005), supporting the short-term nature of the visuomotor control
567 representations. Similarly, Jax and Rosenbaum reported that while priming in a
568 visually guided obstacle avoidance task with short delays between the priming
569 stimulus and actual task was possible, this effect went away with delays that

570 were longer than a second (Jax & Rosenbaum, 2007). Meanwhile, the idea that
571 in delayed motor-controlled tasks, the source of information switches from dorsal
572 to ventral pathway was challenged by some studies (Schenk & Hesse, 2018). For
573 example in a study by Himmelbach et al., a bilateral optic ataxia patient (IG)
574 showed strong activity in regions around his lesion in the dorsal pathway in both
575 immediate and delayed reaching tasks (Himmelbach et al., 2009). Moreover, the
576 famous patient D.F. showed that she could perform delayed visually guided
577 movement as good as controls when the environmental cues (allocentric
578 information) were *not* available (Hesse & Schenk, 2014). This study lent credit
579 to the idea that the dorsal pathway can still keep information related to visually
580 guided behavior for long delays (>2seconds), and it is the contextual information
581 that becomes available after a delay.

582 The short memory span of the dorsal stream could be understood from the
583 perspective of its inputs as well. Magnocellular inputs mostly innervate the dorsal
584 pathway whereas the ventral pathway is more innervated by parvocellular inputs
585 (Merigan & Maunsell, 1993). The main difference between these two types of
586 inputs is that the magnocellular cells are better at the classification of higher
587 temporal frequencies, whereas parvocellular cells are more suitable for higher
588 spatial frequencies. Additionally, magnocellular cells are 20 milliseconds faster in
589 terms of their response latency to stimuli (Bullier & Nowak, 1995). The faster
590 dynamics of the dorsal pathway is in line with what we found in our study.

591 Since similar two-stream dissociation is suggested in other sensory modalities
592 such as somatosensation (Dijkerman & de Haan, 2007; James & Kim, 2010) or
593 audition (Hickok & Poeppel, 2007; Rauschecker, 2018), the relationship between
594 short term memory and motor control tasks might even go beyond vision.
595 However, our current datasets and tasks are limited to vision, and specific tasks
596 for each modality would be required to find out if such a relationship holds for
597 other sensory modalities as well.

598 Another issue is the fact that the majority of the computational models of
599 the visual cortex are based on the ventral stream (e.g., (Lotter et al., 2016,
600 2020)), while models incorporating both ventral and dorsal pathways are less
601 common (but see (O'Reilly et al., 2017, 2020) as an example incorporating both
602 streams). We believe that newer models of the visual cortex should incorporate

603 the tasks relevant to both streams. This will demonstrate if different tasks (e.g.
604 object recognition vs. motor control) require incompatible computational
605 paradigms that need different circuitries.

606 5 Limitations

607 Our current study comes with several shortcomings. First, we could have
608 added a motor control task to our width classification task to be able to make a
609 direct comparison between our model and parietal-premotor pathway.

610 Second, since the dorsal pathway receives information from subcortical
611 sources such as superior colliculus and these sources are mostly innervated by
612 magnocellular cells with higher sensitivity to lower spatial frequencies, we could
613 have used larger sized kernels for convolutional layers that we used to
614 approximate dorsal pathway. However, doing so would render comparison of
615 recurrent networks a bit less straight forward.

616 6 Conclusions

617 In the present study, we have shown that there is a close relationship between
618 length of memory in recurrent networks and how they perform in object
619 classification or width/orientation classification tasks. While having a longer
620 memory span benefits object classification performance (as a ventral stream task)
621 in echo state networks, in LSTM networks, such effect is present only when the
622 network is trained on larger dataset.

623

624 7 Acknowledgment

625 This research was supported in part by Lilly Endowment, Inc., through its
626 support for the Indiana University Pervasive Technology Institute and in part
627 by the Indiana METACyt Initiative. The Indiana METACyt Initiative at IU was
628 also supported in part by Lilly Endowment, Inc. The authors acknowledge the
629 Indiana University Pervasive Technology Institute for providing Carbonate HPC

630 resources that have contributed to the research results reported within this paper
631 (Stewart et al., 2017).

632 8 Supplementary Material

633 8.1 Code

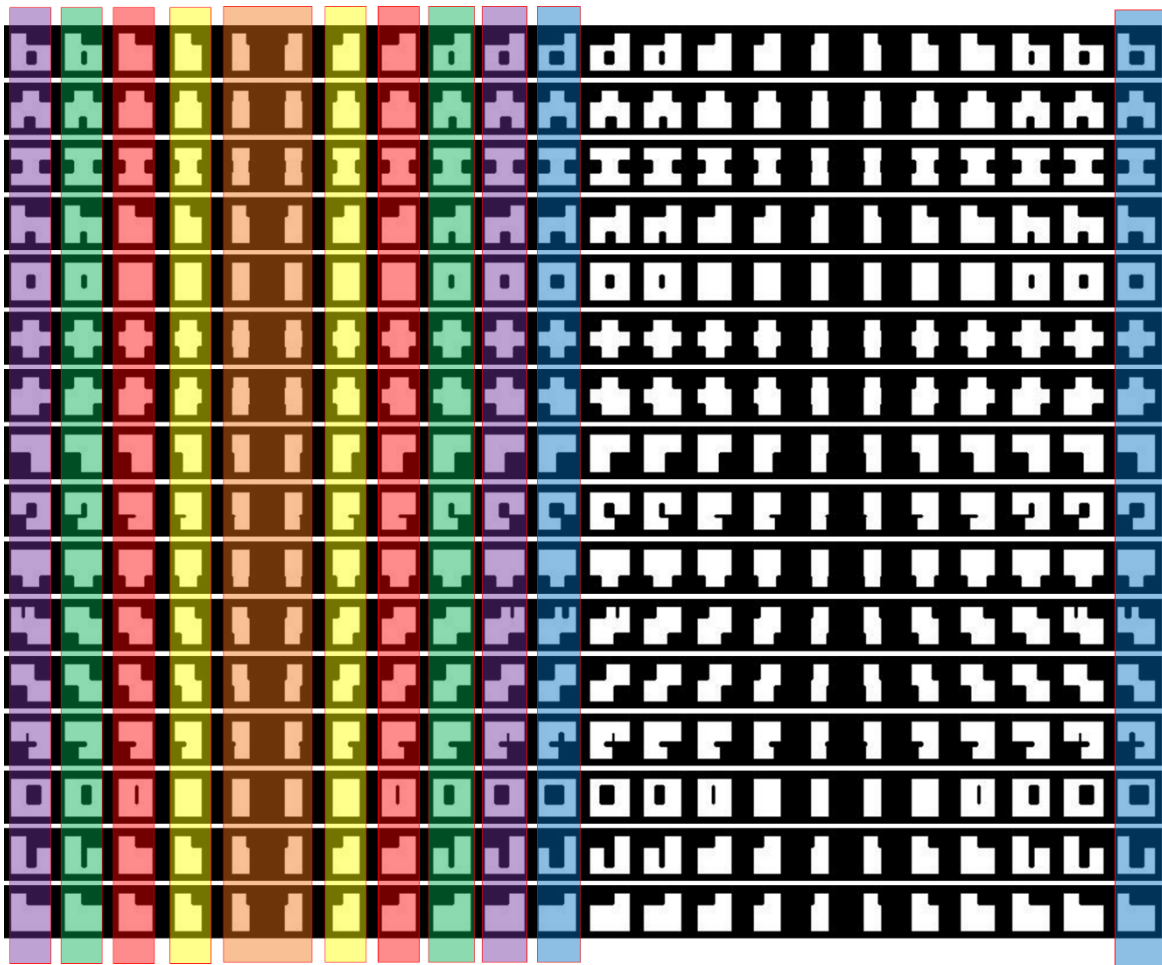
634







635 The code used in this study is available at (<https://github.com/Abolfazl->
636 Alipour).

637

638

639 8.2 Supplementary figures



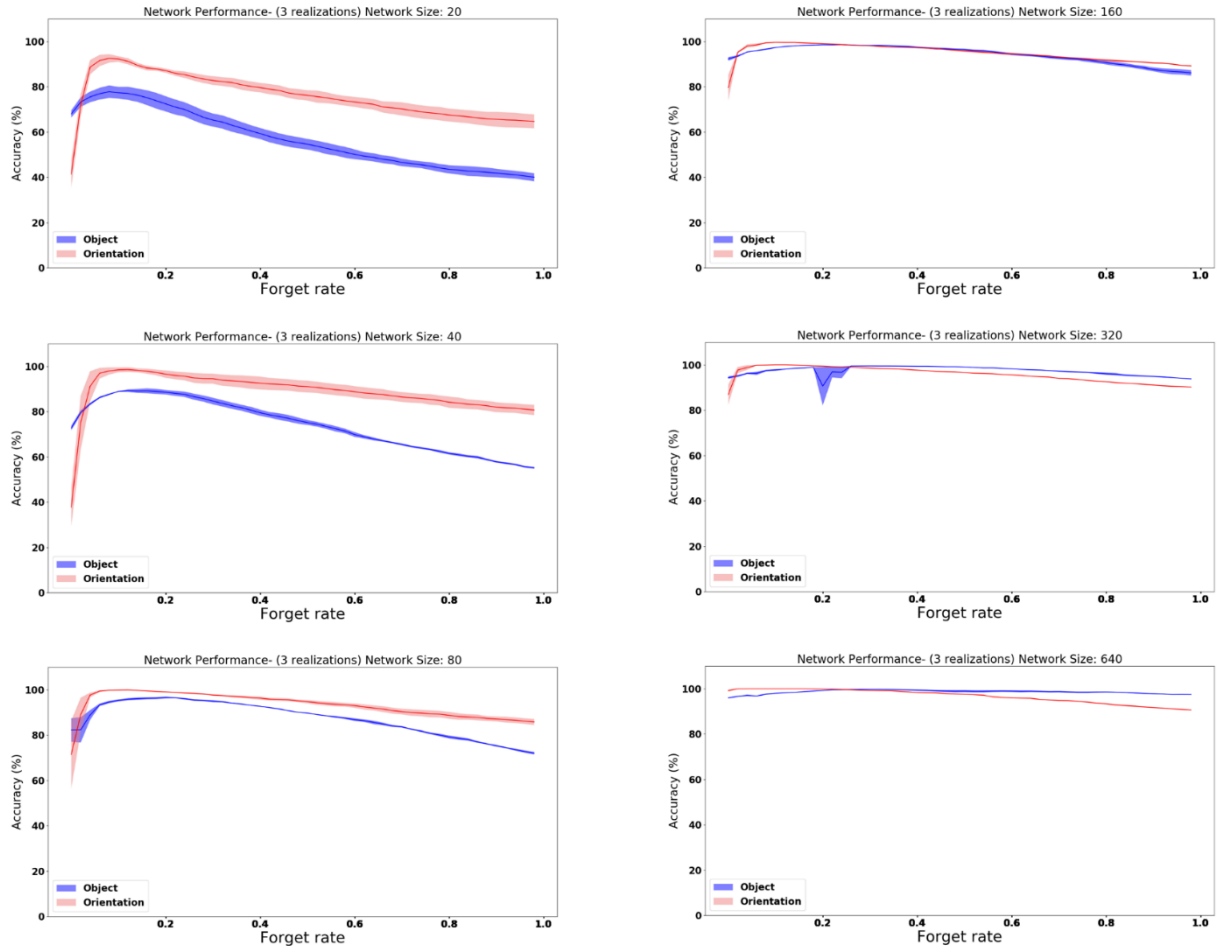
-  Width class No. 1: All objects with an orientation of 0° and 180°
-  Width class No. 2: All objects with an orientation of 16° and 164°
-  Width class No. 3: All objects with an orientation of 33° and 147°
-  Width class No. 4: All objects with an orientation of 49° and 131°
-  Width class No. 5: All objects with an orientation of 65° and 115°
-  Width class No. 6: All objects with an orientation of 82° and 98°

640 Supplementary Fig. 1. Width classes derived from the synthetic dataset.

641 Each with class is shown by a different color.

642

643



644 Supplementary Fig. 2. Performance of echo state networks in viewpoint-invariant
645 object classification and width classification tasks trained on COIL-100 dataset. Each
646 subpanel indicates the accuracy of both object classification (blue), and orientation
647 classification networks (red) with different forget rates (0 to 1, 0.02 intervals) in each
648 network size (20 to 640 neurons). The accuracy of the networks was measured after
649 50 training epochs so that networks reach a relative performance plateau. Results
650 are the mean accuracy of 3 different network realizations, and shaded areas are
651 standard error of the mean (SEM).

652

653

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