

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	A user's guide?	1
	Brain organisation	2
	Why is the cerebral cortex a sheet?	4
	Cortical origami	6
	Does connectivity predict intelligence?	7
	Analysis techniques: mapping the brain	8
	Structural imaging	8
	Functional imaging techniques: PET and fMRI	10
	What is the relationship between blood flow and neural activity?	12
	The resolution problem	13
	Measuring brain activity in real time: MEG and EEG	14
	Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)	15
	Summary of key points	16
2	The eye and forming the image	18
	What is the eye for?	18
	Light	18
	The structure of the eye	19
	Focusing the image	25
	The development of myopia	26
	Clouding of the lens (cataracts)	28
	Photoreceptors	28
	Transduction	30
	The calcium feedback mechanism	31
	Signal efficiency	32
	The centre-surround organisation of the retina	33
	Light adaptation	36
	Duplicity theory of vision	37
	Sensitivity, acuity and neural wiring	40
	Summary of key points	41
3	Retinal colour vision	44
	Why do we need more than one cone pigment?	44
	Trichromacy	44
	The genetics of visual pigments	47
	The blue cone pigment	53
	Rhodopsin and retinitis pigmentosa	54

	Better colour vision in women?	55
	Three pigments in normal human colour vision?	56
	The evolution of primate colour vision	59
	What is trichromacy for?	59
	Summary of key points	60
4	The organisation of the visual system	62
	Making a complex process seem simple	62
	The retina	63
	The lateral geniculate nucleus (LGN)	63
	The primary visual cortex (VI)	64
	Visual area 2 (V2)	67
	Visual area 4 (V4)	68
	Visual areas 3 (V3) and 5 (V5)	69
	The koniocellular pathway	69
	The functional organisation	70
	Perception vs. action	71
	Blindsight	73
	Summary of key points	76
5	Primary visual cortex	78
	The visual equivalent of a sorting office?	78
	Segregation of layer 4 inputs	79
	Cortical receptive fields	79
	Spatial frequency	81
	Texture	82
	Direction selectivity	82
	Colour	84
	Modular organisation	84
	Summary of key points	87
6	Visual development: an activity-dependent process	89
	Variations on a theme	89
	Monocular or binocular deprivation	91
	Image misalignment and binocularity	93
	Image misalignment in humans	94
	Selective rearing: manipulating the environment	96
	Impoverished visual input in humans	98
	The critical period	98
	What we see, shapes how we see it	99
	Summary of key points	99

7	Colour constancy	101
	The colour constancy problem	101
	The Land Mondrian experiments	102
	Reflectance and lightness: the search for constancy in a changing world	103
	The biological basis of colour constancy	105
	Colour constancy and the human brain	106
	Summary of key points	108
8	Object perception and recognition	109
	From retinal image to cortical representation	109
	Early visual processing	109
	A visual alphabet?	112
	Complex objects in 3-D: face cells	118
	Functional divisions of face cells: identity, expression and direction of gaze	120
	The grandmother cell?	121
	Are face cells special?	122
	Visual attention and working memory	126
	Fine-tuning memory	129
	A clinical application?	130
	Visual imagery and long-term visual memory	131
	Summary of key points	132
9	Face recognition and interpretation	133
	What are faces for?	133
	Face recognition	133
	Laterality and face recognition	136
	How specialised is the neural substrate of face recognition?	138
	The amygdala and fear	139
	The frontal cortex and social interaction	143
	Faces as a social semaphore	144
	Summary of key points	145
10	Motion perception	147
	The illusion of continuity	147
	Saccades	148
	Suppression of perception during saccades	150
	What happens if you don't have saccades?	151
	How to stabilise the visual world	152
	Navigating through the world: go with the flow?	153

Going against the flow?	155
The neural basis of motion detection	156
Human V5	161
Summary of key points	163
<hr/>	
11 Brain and space	164
The final frontier	164
Oculomotor cues	164
Interposition	165
Relative size	166
Perspective	166
Motion parallax	168
Stereopsis	168
The neural basis of three-dimensional space representation	169
The problem of visual neglect	170
The neural basis of neglect	172
Summary of key points	174
<hr/>	
12 What is perception?	175
Putting it all together	175
Neuronal oscillations	175
How else to solve the problem	178
What is perception?	180
Change blindness	180
Perceptual rivalry	182
The illusion of perception	185
Summary of key points	185
References	187
Index	210

The colour plates are to be found between p. 88 and p. 89.