

## Motion sensitive cells in the macaque superior temporal polysensory area

### I. Lack of response to the sight of the animal's own limb movement

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**Abstract.** An animal's own behaviour can give rise to sensory stimulation that is very similar to stimulation of completely external origin. Much of this self-induced stimulation has little informative value to the animal and may even interfere with the processing of externally induced stimulation. We have measured responses of visual movement sensitive neurons in the anterior part of the dorsal superior temporal sulcus of monkeys to stimulation caused by the animal's own active movements. These cells responded to any stimuli moved by the experimenter, but gave no response to the sight of animal's own limb movements. The cells remained responsive to external stimulation, however, while the monkey's own hand was moving in view. Responses to self-induced movements were recovered if the monkey introduced a novel object in its hand into view. Various possible neural mechanisms for explaining the results are discussed, and it is suggested that the studied neurons belong to a system that detects unexpected and hence behaviourally relevant sensory events.

**Key words:** Self-induced stimulation – Expectation – Visual motion – Superior temporal polysensory area – Monkey

### Introduction

Active behaviour in natural surroundings causes continuous stimulation of sensory systems as an inevitable consequence of mere action. An animal is stimulated not only by sources in the environment but also by itself. In fact, an animal's own behaviour can give rise to sensory stimulation that is very similar to stimulation of completely external origin. In some cases, this self-induced

stimulation is used to provide information about an animal's own activity in relation to environment and hence can monitor the ongoing motor activity, but there are instances where self-induced stimulation has little informative value to the animal and may even interfere with the processing of externally induced stimulation.

Examples of sensory systems where stimulation resulting from animal's own actions is discriminated from equivalent externally induced stimulation can be found in a diversity of species in the animal kingdom. The most familiar and most studied example is the perception of stable visual world during voluntary eye movements. Even though the retinal image moves across the retina, we do not experience movement of the visual environment. This phenomenon is a necessary prerequisite for the stabilization of the visuo-spatial environment. The nervous system must, therefore, process visual information resulting from self-induced eye movements differently from that arising when the eyes are still and the environment moves. Descriptions of the phenomenon and theories of the underlying neural basis have a long history extending back to Mach, James, von Helmholtz and Descartes (for a historical review see Grüsser 1986). In modern theories the core idea has been that, in addition to sending messages to oculomotor centres for moving eyes, the motor command centres send a corollary discharge (Sperry 1950) or an efference copy (von Holst and Mittelstaedt 1950) to the visual centres to compensate for, or cancel, the retinal displacement resulting from the eye movement. A computationally less demanding role for corollary discharges was suggested by MacKay (1973). He proposed that perceivers build up an internal representation of their environment with the expectation that it is unchanging. The function of corollary discharges is to provide information to the central mechanisms when the incoming afferent sensory signals do not require an adjustment to be made to the internal representation of environment (i.e. in the case of self-induced stimulation).

Since the early theories, neurophysiological investigations have found single cell activity related not to the

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movement across the receptive field on the retina per se but to the "real movement" of objects in the visual field, independently of the eye movements. Image motion caused by an animal's own eye movements has been observed to elicit reduced neuronal responses compared to real motion in the superior colliculus and pulvinar (Straschill and Hoffmann 1970; Robinson and Wurtz 1976; Richmond and Wurtz 1980; Robinson and Petersen 1992) and the cortical visual areas V1, V2, V3a and MSTd (Fischer et al. 1981; Galletti et al. 1984, 1988, 1990; Toyama et al. 1984; Erickson and Thier 1991) of monkeys and cats.

The examples of cases where self-produced stimulation is treated differently from the equivalent external stimulation are by no means restricted to the visual system of mammals. Differential responses to "self-vocalized" versus "playback" vocalizations have been recorded within the auditory system of bats and monkeys. It has been found that the responses of neurons in the nucleus of the lateral lemniscus of bats differentiate between self-emitted sounds and the same sounds played back from an audio tape, even when the auditory nerve response is the same for both sound stimuli (Suga and Schlegel 1972; Suga and Shimozawa 1974). A similar response differentiation between self-produced vocalizations and externally produced playback vocalizations has been found in neuron responses in monkey thalamus and auditory cortex (Müller-Preuss 1983, 1986). The biological purpose of this discriminative capacity seems to be common amongst these diverse examples; to ensure maximally effective extraction and processing of behaviourally relevant stimulation from the environment and to be able to ignore self-produced reafferent stimulation.

Recent studies have shown that cells at a high level of somatosensory system of macaque monkeys (in the superior temporal polysensory area, STP) do not respond to tactile stimulation arising from the monkey's active exploration of familiar surfaces, but do respond to passive stimulation – for example from the touch of the experimenter (Mistlin and Perrett 1990). Furthermore, the responses of these cells have been shown to be dependent on "expectation" of the stimulus and hence the cells have been suggested to be a part of a general system for detecting (unexpected) stimulation arising from other animals. These findings prompted us to study whether similar response selectivity is present within the visual modality as well.

Cells in the anterior portions of the superior temporal sulcus are well known for their extremely selective visual responses, for example to hands, human and monkey faces, and body movements (Gross et al. 1972; Perrett et al. 1982, 1984, 1985a, b 1991; Desimone et al. 1984; Rolls 1984; Baylis et al. 1985; Rolls and Baylis 1986; Hasselmo et al. 1989; Hietanen et al. 1992). Surprisingly, this area also contains cells which appear to lack any kind of selectivity for visual form. These cells are often, however, sensitive to simple motion (including translation in the fronto-parallel plane or in depth) over very large receptive fields which often cover the whole visual field (Bruce et al. 1981; Perrett et al. 1985a). We decided to study whether this particular group of cells might discriminate

between self-induced and externally induced motion stimulation.

In this paper, we describe a novel situation showing that one population of neurones in the visual system discriminate between self- and non-self-produced image movement. In our situation, the animal's actions do not, however, result in the movement of the entire retinal surface and hence in the movement of the whole visual receptive field, as is the case with eye or whole body movements (Straschill and Hoffmann 1970; Robinson and Wurtz 1976; Richmond and Wurtz 1980; Fischer et al. 1981; Galletti et al. 1984, 1988, 1990; Roy and Wurtz 1990; Erickson and Thier 1991). Instead, the functional connection between the motor commands and consequent sensory events is much more complex, as the discriminated self-produced motion is restricted to a limited part of the receptive field.

## Materials and methods

### *Visual discrimination task and eye movement recording*

Before beginning recordings, the subjects were trained to sit in a primate chair with head restraint. The monkeys were taught to direct their attention to small LED lights on a large white screen at a distance of 4 m in front of them. There were five LEDs on the screen, the central one located directly in front of the monkey approximately at eye level. Two lateral LEDs were located at the same level, 15 deg of visual angle to left and right from the central fixation point. Another pair of vertically aligned LEDs were located 10 deg of visual angle above and below the central fixation point. The monkeys were trained to discriminate between the red or green colour of any one of the LED lights. The sequence of events during a trial was as follows: (a) a trial started with a delivery of a 500 ms warning tone signal; (b) this was followed by a presentation of either a green or red LED light for 1.0 s (the colour of the LED lights was changed in random order across trials, controlled by a computer programme); and (c) behavioural response by the monkey. The correct behavioural response on trials with a green LED was a lick of a tube for fruit juice reward and the latency for this response was measured. Lick responses to the red LED were discouraged with the delivery of a weak saline solution; therefore, a correct behavioural response on these trials was to withhold the lick. The monkeys performed the LED colour discrimination task at a high level of accuracy (>90%, reaction time 300–500 ms).

Horizontal and vertical eye movements were monitored (and recorded during the electrophysiological experiments) by using an infra-red corneal reflection system (ACS) adapted to allow recording of both signals from one eye. The eye position signals were digitized every 5 ms and stored together with the single unit activity. At the beginning of each recording session the eye-movement recording system was calibrated by requiring the monkey to perform the red/green colour discrimination task with each of the LED locations. Over the central field of view ( $\pm 15$  deg), this simple calibration procedure achieved an accuracy of  $\pm 3.0$  deg from such trials, which was adequate for the purposes of this study.

### *Testing procedure*

After isolating a cell by spike waveform and amplitude its responsiveness to visual stimuli was initially tested using a 20-cm-square liquid crystal shutter (Screen Print Technology Ltd., rise time <15 ms) placed 15 cm in front of the monkey's eyes. On each trial, 3D stimuli were presented from behind the shutter, which became transparent for 1.0 s after a 0.5 s signal tone. Otherwise the shutter

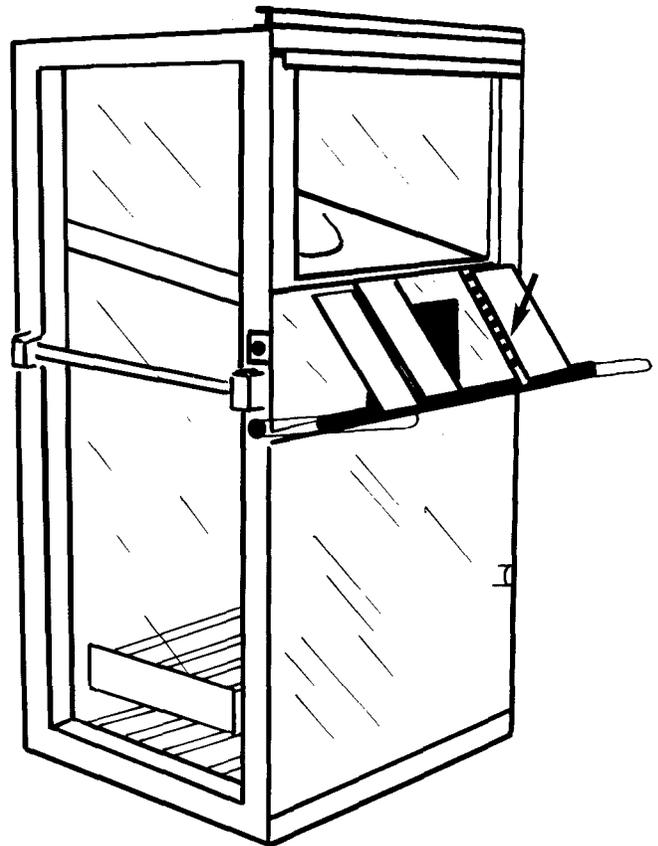
remained opaque white. The central fixation LED was also visible during the period the shutter was open.

First, it was established whether the cell response showed any selectivity for stimulus movement over responses to static stimuli. For this purpose, the cell was tested for responses to the sight of hand-held objects within and outside peri-personal space (0.2–1.0 m) moving in different directions (left/right, up/down, away/towards) and the experimenter walking in different directions at a range of distances from the monkey (1.0–3.5 m). If stimulus motion was observed to affect the responses, selectivity for the direction of movement was tested systematically. Second, the cell responses were tested for form selectivity. Various 3D laboratory objects of different shape, size, colour and texture (human faces and bodies, fruit, tools, boxes, fur etc.) were presented to the monkey in the shutter. Each stimulus was moved in the cell's preferred direction and at least in one other direction (usually 180 deg from the preferred direction).

Cells were selected for further testing on the basis of whether or not they fulfilled two criteria: (a) the cell should respond when a stimulus entered the visual field from below, at a distance of 10–20 cm from the monkey, and (b) the cell should not show selectivity for stimulus form, colour or velocity. Further testing included comparing the cell responsiveness to the sight of the monkey's own arm with that to various control objects entering the view from below.

While sitting in the primate chair, the monkeys were naturally interested in exploring the surroundings with their hands, and when a slit in the front panel of the primate chair was opened, the monkeys usually pushed their arm through it. They would spontaneously raise the hand into view, inspect the hand and occasionally manipulate the lick-tubes just in front of their mouth, or, if given a piece of food, feed themselves. The monkeys did not need much encouragement to get them to move their own hands into view. Because of the head restraint and the edges of the primate chair walls, it was possible to determine quite accurately the borders of the monkey's field of view when looking out from the primate chair into the testing laboratory. This visual space was restricted because of the occlusion by the primate chair walls and was thus independent of the eye movements. Objects located behind these walls could not be seen, but as soon as a moving object crossed the border of this visual field, it became visible to the monkey.

By making use of the monkey's spontaneous hand movements made in feeding and exploring objects, a relatively simple but natural experimental paradigm was designed. Single cell responses to the sight of the monkey's own arm entering its visual field were compared with those to the sight of a variety of control objects coming into view. Quantitative measurements of the cell responses to such visual stimulation were made using two different methods in the course of the experiments. First, neuronal responses were assessed by counting the number of spikes during a 1.0-s period after the stimulation onset. This was done by the experimenter manually triggering cell activity measurement (see below) at the moment when the object or the monkey's own hand entered the monkey's view. Second, a device was constructed to minimize the small inaccuracies in stimulation onset timing which were inevitable with the manual triggering. The device detected the moment of stimulation onset with an array of light detectors. This device was fitted to the slit in the front panel of the primate chair (see Fig. 1). The device consisted of a closeable door (to prevent the monkey from putting its arm out from the chair) and an array of infra-red light-emitting diodes on one side of the slit opening, each paired with a light detector on the other side of the slit. The light diodes and detectors were mounted on an adjustable frame above the door hole. By adjusting the tilt of the frame, the array of infra-red light beams were lined up with the monkey's line of sight, thereby dividing the space into that visible and that occluded from the monkey's sight. Breaking any one of the infra-red light beams activated the computer and started data collection. This apparatus was thus able to detect whenever the monkey's arm came into view or whenever the experimenter introduced control objects into view from below. With both methods, it was easy for the experimenter to mimic the



**Fig. 1.** A drawing of a modified primate chair. The *arrow* points to an array of infra-red light detectors used to detect when stimuli entered the monkey's visual field. The monkey could introduce its own hand into the field of view through an aperture in the front panel of the chair (*dark area* in the figure)

presentation (i.e. velocity and direction) of the control objects in the way that the monkey introduced its own arm in view.

The optical triggering device was also used in the colour discrimination task. The monkey was encouraged to introduce its hand into view to initiate LED colour discrimination trials in a self-paced manner. In this setting, the sequence of events was as follows. The stimulus presentation (monkey's own hand or control object introduced by the experimenter) activated the onset of (a) a short (100-ms) tone signal, (b) the lower or central LED light for 1.0 s and (c) data collection of cell activity and eye movements for 1.0 s. The purpose of the tone signal was to inform the monkey of the LED light onset in order to get the monkey fixating the LED with a minimum latency independent of the mode of trial initiation (external or self).

Different test stimuli were interleaved in counterbalanced order. At the testing distance of 10–20 cm the width the monkey's own hand covered was approximately 17–9 deg of visual angle. In most experiments, the control stimulus used for the actual data collection was a relatively realistic life-size artificial monkey hand and arm. Care was taken not to introduce the control object above the monkey's eye level so that the LED light remained visible to the monkey throughout the stimulus movement. The success of this precaution was supported by the monkey's accurate performance in the colour discrimination task independent of the other visual stimulation.

### Recording procedures

Extracellular single unit activity was recorded from two female (F and J) and three male (B, D and H) rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*, weight 4–8 kg) using standard chronic recording techniques. When LED colour discrimination training was completed

each monkey was sedated with a weight-dependent dose of intramuscular ketamine (10 mg/kg i.m.) and anaesthetized with intravenous pentobarbitone sodium (Sagatal 25 mg/kg i.v.). Full sterile precautions were then employed while two stainless steel recording wells (16 mm internal diameter, ID) were implanted 10 mm anterior to the interaural plane and 12 mm to the left and right of midline. Plastic tubes (5 mm ID) were fixed horizontally with dental acrylic in front of and behind the wells. Metal rods could be passed through these tubes to restrain the monkey's head during recording sessions.

Two weeks after implantation, the subjects were retrained to perform the discrimination task for 1–4 h in the primate chair with head restraint. For each recording session, topical anaesthetic [lignocaine hydrochloride (Xylocaine, 40 mg/ml)] was applied to the dura and a David Kopf micro-positioner fixed to the recording well. On each recording track a guide tube (outer diameter, OD, 1.0 mm) was inserted 3–5 mm through the dura and a tungsten in glass microelectrode (OD 0.5 mm, Merrill and Ainsworth 1972) advanced with a hydraulic micro-drive to the temporal cortex. These procedures allowed recordings to be made repeatedly (over periods of up to 2 years) without intracranial infection. The target area for recording was the STP in the anterior parts of the dorsal superior temporal sulcus (Bruce et al. 1981).

### *Data collection and analysis*

The cell activity was amplified, filtered (bandpass 800–20 000 Hz), monitored with an oscilloscope and an audiometer, converted to TTL pulses by a spike processor (Digitimer D130), and sampled with a AT-compatible PC microcomputer every 5 ms (Hyundai 286 or Dell 386). The horizontal and vertical eye position signals were filtered, digitized every 5 ms, and stored together with the single unit activity on the computer hard disc. Quantitative measurements of cell responses to different type of visual stimuli and spontaneous activity were analysed with one-way ANOVA and post-hoc tests (protected least significant difference, PLSD; Snedecor and Cochran 1980).

In some experiments, the filtered cell activity, together with the eye movement signal and stimulus onset signal, were additionally recorded on a four-channel FM tape recorder (RACAL) for off-line analysis. This method also provided the most convenient way for inspecting of pre-stimulus cell activity for self-initiated trials. In some experiments, a close-up of the upper part of the primate chair from side view was filmed with a video camera and recorded on a 0.75-in. U-matic videotape. Afterwards, the film was played back, frame by frame, and the number of frames (25 frames/s) taken for the monkey's hand or control object to move a measured distance was recorded. Given the distance from the monkey's eyes to the stimuli, it was possible to calculate a reasonably accurate estimation of the retinal velocity for the movements of the hand-held control objects and the monkey's own arm.

### *Cell localization*

After each recording track, frontal and lateral X-radiographs were taken to allow the position of the metal microelectrode to be reconstructed from subsequent histology. Reconstruction of electrode position was achieved by reference to the positions of micro-lesions (10  $\mu$ A DC for 30 s) made at the end of some electrode tracks which were subsequently identified using standard histological techniques. In one monkey (D), additional markers used in calibration of electrode position were provided by micro-injection of anatomical tracers (horseradish peroxidase and the fluorescent dyes true blue and diaminodiphenylamine yellow) at the site of cell recording on three recording tracks. For these markers, the position of injection, recorded in X-radiographs, could be compared to the anatomical location of injection revealed through normal or fluorescence microscopy.

Following the last recording session, a sedating dose of ketamine was administered followed by a lethal dose of barbiturate

anaesthetic. The monkey was then perfused transcardially with phosphate buffered saline and 4% glutaraldehyde/paraformaldehyde fixative. The brain was removed and sunk in successively higher concentrations (10, 20 and 30%) of sucrose solution or 2% dimethylsulphoxide and 20% glycerol (Rosene et al. 1986). Coronal sections (50  $\mu$ m thick) were collected every 0.25 mm and subjected to routine histological procedures.

## **Results**

### *General response properties*

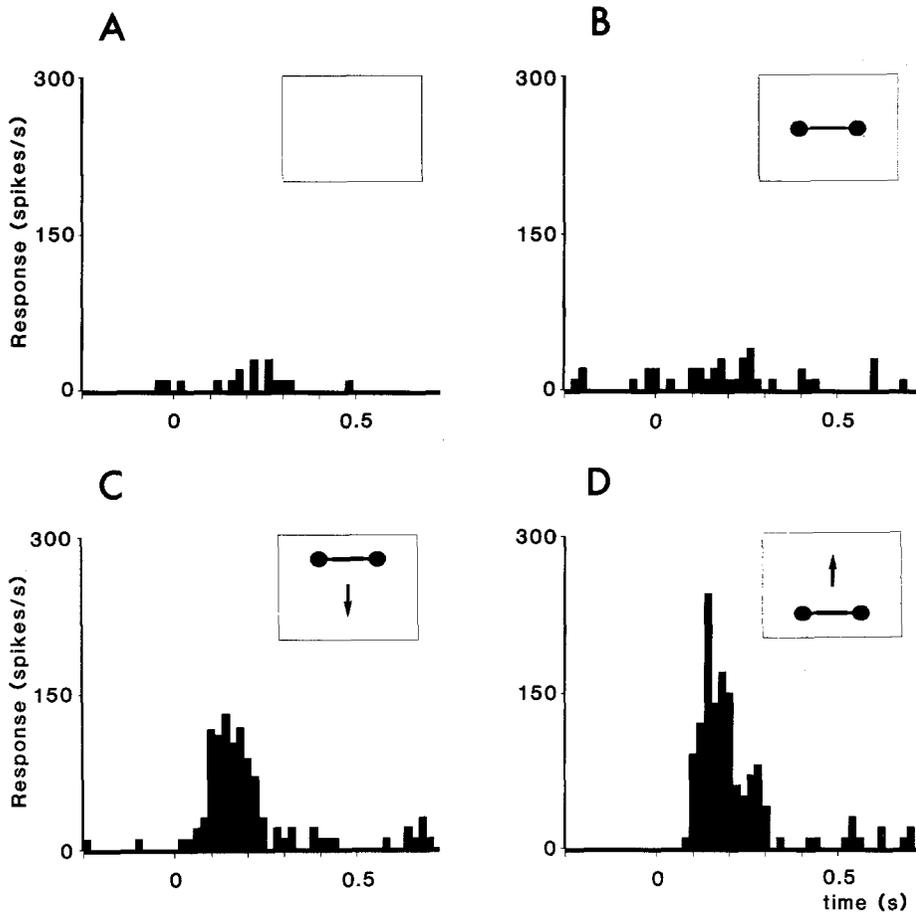
Movement-sensitive cells showing no selectivity for form constituted between 5% and 7% of all cells tested in the anterior portions of the superior temporal sulcus. Within this area, 47 neurons of this type were isolated which fulfilled the requirements of (a) lacking form selectivity and (b) responding to the entry of objects into the visual field from below. These were tested for possible differences in responses to self-produced and externally produced moving visual stimuli.

Eighteen of these cells were selective for stimulus motion in view and eight cells were selective to entry into view. In the latter case there was no response to the continuous movement in view, but only a transient burst of activity to the stimulus entry into view. The remaining 21 cells responded weakly to static stimuli, with stimulus motion further increasing the activity. Typically, the cells responded over a wide range of stimulus velocities (20–400 deg/s). Transient response type was more typical than sustained responses. When stimuli were presented from behind a liquid crystal shutter, the cell responses were observed to occur with latencies of 90–150 ms. Response habituation for the effective stimulus presentation was not observed, and the responses maintained their strength for at least 10 consecutive identical stimulus presentations.

Figure 2 shows an example of an STP cell sensitive to visual stimulus motion. The cell gave a transient response to stimulus motion with a slight directional selectivity for movement up, whereas a static control object did not increase the cell activity above spontaneous level.

### *Response selectivity for motion direction*

Thorough tests for the directional selectivity of the neurons examined here were not performed systematically across the cell population. Of the 26 cells tested for directionality, 14 were observed to be responsive to all directions of motion in the fronto-parallel plane. Nine cells exhibited a preference for certain directions with three cells responding to only upwards movements. Cells with preferences for other directions of movement were common in the STP but were not included in the present experiments (Oram Perrett and Hietanen, in preparation). This directional selectivity limited the number of neurons to be studied, because the testing paradigm necessitated responses to upward movements.



**Fig. 2A–D.** Peristimulus-time histograms of responses of an STP cell sensitive to stimulus motion. The responses were collected by presenting the stimuli behind a shutter for 1 s. Sight of a static control object (**B**) did not increase the cell activity above spontaneous level (**A**), whereas the cell gave a strong response to the sight of the same control object moving upwards. The cell exhibited an additional slight selectivity for direction. A control object moving upwards (**D**) elicited a stronger response than the sight of the same control object moving downwards (**C**) (protected least significant difference, PLSD,  $P < 0.02$ ). (overall effect of condition, one-way ANOVA:  $F_{3,16} = 15.4$ ,  $P < 0.0005$ ). The histograms show data collected from five trials. Bin width 20 ms in each histogram

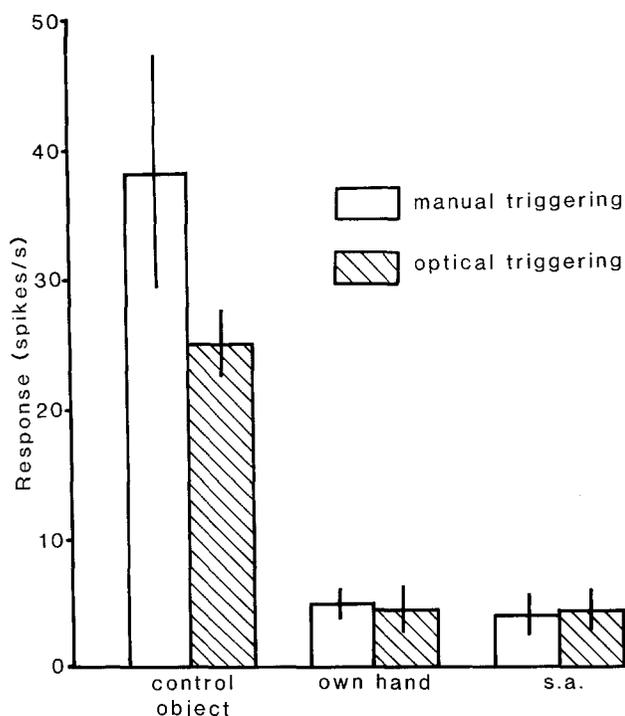
### Feature selectivity

As explained in Materials and methods, particular attention was paid to the possibility that the observed differences in cell responses might have been caused by visual selectivity for form or simple features. Forty-three of the cells fulfilled the criterion of lacking form selectivity completely. These 43 cells were found to exhibit indistinguishable responses to a variety of laboratory objects as long as the object movement occurred in the cell's preferred direction. A further 4 cells were discovered to exhibit some degree of feature selectivity. Two of these showed a selectivity for stimulus size at the testing distance preferring large objects (e.g. a book) over smaller ones (e.g. a pen), but as the control objects presented to the monkey were matched in size to the monkey's arm, there was no reason to exclude these two cells from the data analysis. Two other cells showed a selectivity for form in that they responded equally well to many objects of differing visual characters, but not at all to faces. These two cells were also included in the data analysis again because the form selectivity present in the cells could not account for any response difference between the sight of the monkey's hand and control objects used for testing.

### Differential responses to the sight of object motion and motion of own hand

Thirty-nine (83%) of the 47 cells tested exhibited differences between responses to the sight of a control object moving and to the sight of the monkey's own arm moving into view in the same direction. Thirty-eight of these 39 cells failed completely to respond to the self-induced motion stimulation (i.e. cell responses were not significantly different from spontaneous activity). One cell did respond to the sight of the monkey's own hand, but still gave significantly stronger responses to externally moved objects. No cells were found responding selectively to the sight of the monkey's own arm movements. The remaining 17% of the cells tested gave equally strong responses to both stimulus types.

Figure 3 shows histogram presentation of responses (spikes/s) of one cell (H40 27.82) to the sight of a control object and monkey's own hand moving in the same direction (upwards) and the cell's spontaneous activity. Quantitative measurements of the responsivity of this cell was collected by using both the manually triggered spike counting method and the light-detector device. Results collected with both methods showed the same pattern, with a significantly larger response to the sight of a control object moving than to the sight of the monkey's own arm moving or spontaneous activity. A two-way ANOVA performed on the data (with stimulation type and method of data collection as main factors) showed

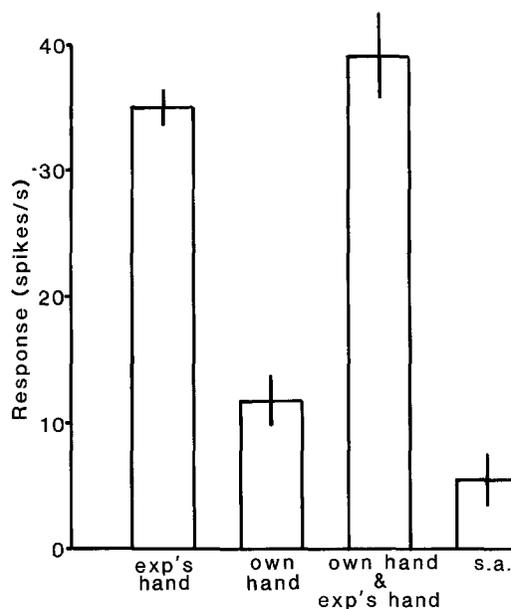


**Fig. 3.** Histogram presentation of mean responses (spikes/s  $\pm 1$  SEM) of one cell to the sight of a control object and the monkey's own hand moving upwards and the cell's spontaneous activity. The spike counting was triggered both manually and with a light-detector device. Results collected with both methods showed the same pattern with significantly larger responses to the sight of a control object moving than to the sight of the monkey's own arm moving or spontaneous activity ( $P < 0.0005$ , each comparison). One-way ANOVA (manual triggering):  $F_{2,18} = 12.8$ ,  $P < 0.003$ , number of trials per condition  $n = 7$ ; one-way ANOVA (light detector):  $F_{2,16} = 31.6$ ,  $P < 0.0005$ ,  $n = 7, 7, 5$

a significant effect of stimulation type ( $F_{1,23} = 40.2$ ,  $P < 0.0005$ ), but no effect of method ( $F_{1,23} = 0.37$ ,  $P = 0.551$ ) and no interaction between stimulation type and method of data collection ( $F_{1,23} = 1.0$ ,  $P = 0.328$ ). Thus, testing the same cell with these two methods showed that the manually triggered spike counting method was accurate enough for catching the stimulus onset and neuronal response.

#### *Responsiveness to external stimuli during self-induced stimulation*

It was essential to study whether the cells continued exhibiting visual responses to external stimuli while monkey's own hand was in view. The reasons for this investigation were twofold. First, it was possible that the mechanisms producing a lack of responsiveness to self-produced visual stimulation caused some kind of general cessation of processing all visual information to the recorded cell. Second, the lack of responsiveness to the sight of the monkey's own arm might have been caused simply by an unstable recording during the monkey's movements. Therefore, the monkey was encouraged to lift its arm in view and at the same time the experimenter



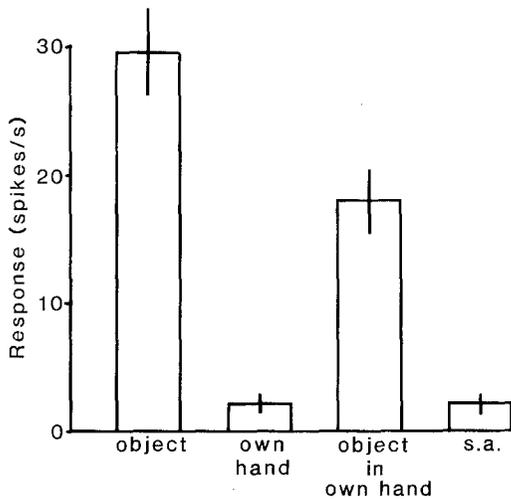
**Fig. 4.** Mean response ( $\pm 1$  SEM) of an STP cell to different visual stimuli. The experimenter's hand (and various control objects) entering the monkey's visual field from below elicited a response above the cell's spontaneous activity (*s.a.*), whereas the sight of the monkey's own arm entering into view in the same direction did not activate the cell. The presence of the monkey's own arm in view, however, did not affect the visual responses to the entry of control objects. In any case, the sight of the control object elicited responses significantly stronger than those elicited by the monkey's own hand moving in view or the cell's spontaneous activity ( $P < 0.0005$ , each comparison). One-way ANOVA:  $F_{3,19} = 51.4$ ,  $P < 0.0005$ ,  $n = 10, 8, 5, 7$

introduced stimuli into the monkey's visual field as described. All the seven neurons tested in this way continued responding to external visual stimulation while the monkey's own arm was moving and visible. Further, in all seven cases the cells exhibited no decrease in their responsiveness compared to the condition where only control objects presented by the experimenter were visible.

Figure 4 presents the results of one such experiment. The cell (D201 30.02) responded briskly to the sight of the experimenter's hand or control objects moving in the view in all directions. The presence or absence of the monkey's own hand in sight at the same time did not make any difference to the responses to the experimenter's hand moving in view. In both conditions, the sight of experimenter's hand elicited significantly stronger responses than monkey's own hand moving in view or the cell's spontaneous activity.

#### *Unexpected self-produced stimulation*

In these experiments, the two lines of study described before were combined. Again, an object was introduced to the monkey's field of vision, but this time the object

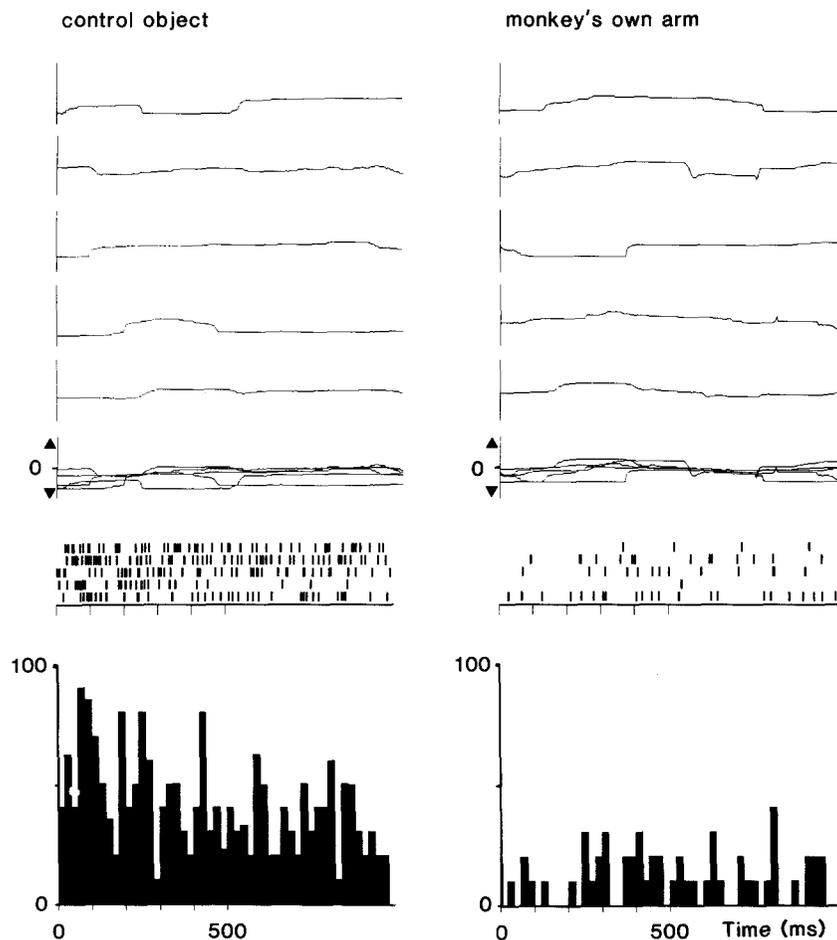


**Fig. 5.** An STP cell responded to various objects (fur, glove, feather, black bar, model monkey arm and the experimenter's hand) entering into view, but gave no response to the monkey's own hand entering the visual field. The cell gave a response when the monkey brought objects (e.g. a piece of apple) into view with its own hand. These responses were stronger than those to the sight of the monkey's arm moving alone or spontaneous activity ( $P < 0.0005$ , each comparison), but weaker than responses to objects moved by the experimenter ( $P < 0.004$ ). The monkey did not know the visual appearance of the objects, which were placed in its hand out of sight and changed after each presentation. One-way ANOVA:  $F_{3,26} = 32.0$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ,  $n = 10, 8, 5, 7$

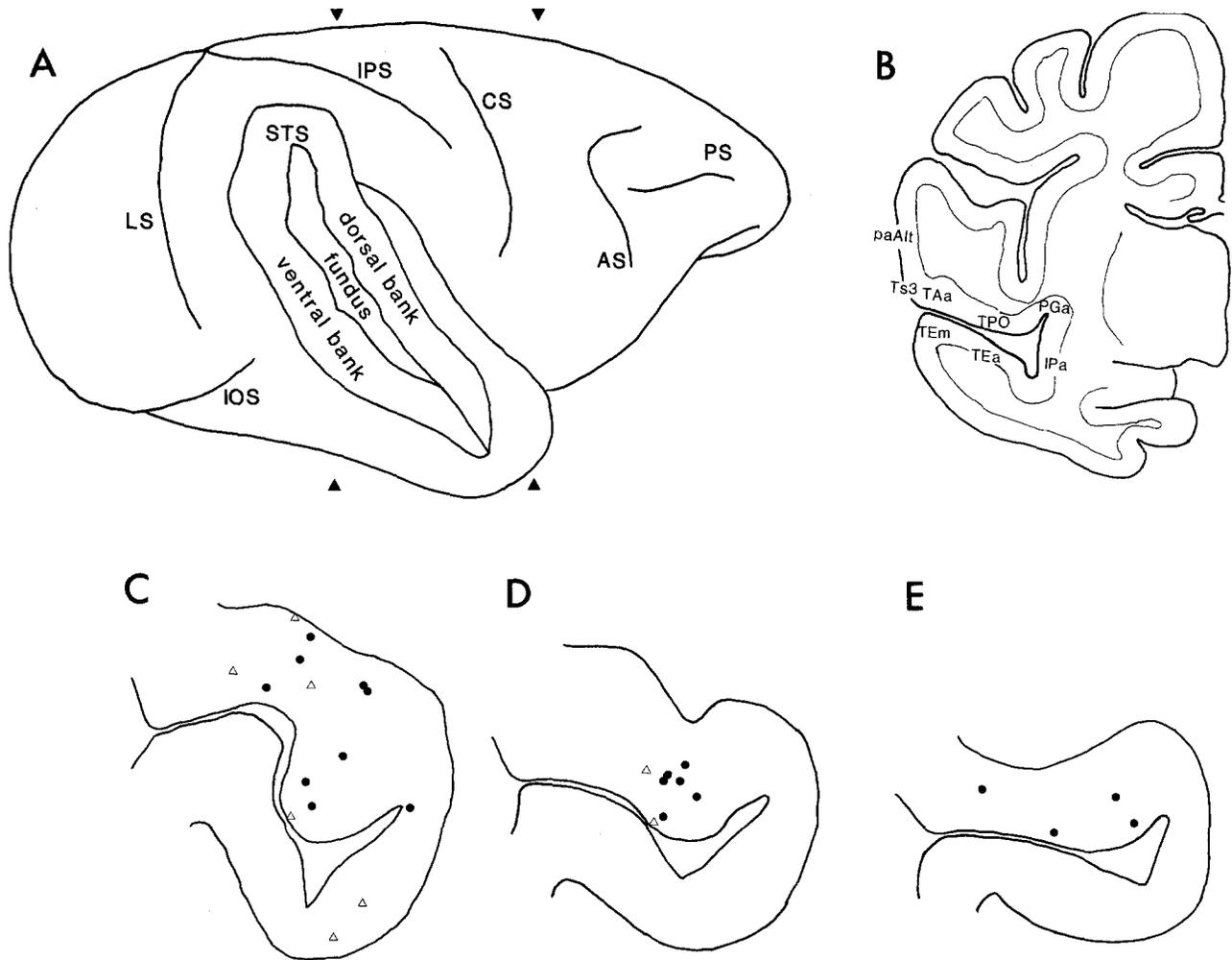
motion was caused by the monkey itself. An object, e.g. a small piece of food was put into the monkey's hand out of sight and then the monkey was allowed to bring the object in its hand into view. On each trial, a new object was placed into the monkey's hand. Seven cells were studied with this procedure, all of which had proved unresponsive to the sight of the monkey's hand alone in preliminary testing. Five of these cells did give responses when the monkey brought an object into view in its hand. Figure 5 shows results for one cell tested in this way. The cell (H5 26.18) responded to control objects (fur, glove, feather, black bar etc.) and the experimenter's hand alone entering into view, but gave no response to the monkey's own hand entering the visual field. The cell, however, responded to the monkey's hand bringing an object into view more strongly than to the monkey's arm moving alone or spontaneous activity.

#### *Eye movements during self-produced and external visual stimulation*

Monitoring of eye movements was essential to ensure that differences in cell responses to the sight of stimuli moved by the experimenter or by the monkey were not caused by differences in fixation or tracking. For example, the monkey's eyes might follow movements caused



**Fig. 6.** Vertical eye position tracks and activity of an STP cell which responded to the sight of an object entering the monkey's visual field (*left column*), but not to the sight of the monkey's own arm coming into view (*right column*). The vertical eye position is illustrated for five (randomly interleaved) trials in both conditions, and the sixth row shows the summed eye movements during these trials. The post-stimulus time rasterograms show spike activity (*short vertical dashes*) during these five trials retaining the same order. At the bottom the cell activity is depicted in post-stimulus time histograms (PSTHs). The ordinate axis in the eye position recordings gives a scale of  $\pm 20$  deg and the ordinate axis of the PSTHs shows cell responsiveness in spikes/s



**Fig. 7.** A lateral view of the right hemisphere of a rhesus macaque brain showing the major sulci. *STS*, superior temporal sulcus; *IOS*, inferior occipital sulcus; *CS*, central sulcus; *IPS*, intraparietal sulcus; *LS*, lunate sulcus; *AS*, arcuate sulcus; *PS*, principal sulcus. The *STS* is opened to reveal the bottom and both banks of the sulcus. The *two pairs of arrows* show the interaural plane and a plane 20 mm anterior to it. **B** A coronal section of the right hemisphere showing the subareas within the *STS* according to Seltzer and Pandya (1978). **C–E** Three enlarged coronal sections of the *STS*

12 mm, 15 mm and 18 mm anterior to the interaural plane. The recorded cells were located between +10 mm and +20 mm along the rostro-caudal extent of the *STS*. For illustration, the cells studied from both hemispheres which were located 10–14 mm, 14–17 mm and 17–20 mm along this plane are shown in **C**, **D** and **E**, respectively. The *filled circles* mark the locations of cells responding selectively to externally induced movement, and the *open triangles* mark the locations of cells failing to show this discrimination

by the experimenter but not the movements of its own hand.

Figure 6 presents vertical eye movements and spike activity of a cell to externally induced and self-induced visual stimulation. The testing was performed by using the light-detector device, and the cell was tested with the upward movement of the control artificial monkey arm or the monkey's own arm. During this particular testing, the LED fixation light which was usually located at the level of monkey's sight (see Materials and methods) was switched to a bottom position (10 deg below central position). In this way the monkey was biased to direct its gaze in the direction from which the stimulus would appear.

Figure 6 illustrates that the monkey made a variety of different fixations and saccades during the presentation of the control stimulus by the experimenter. Despite this

range of eye movements, the cell responded on every trial. When the monkey initiated the trial by bringing its own arm into view, eye movements again showed the same variation in pattern of fixation, saccades and tracking, yet in this condition the cell always remained unresponsive. It is also evident from the recording that the cell's response was not modulated in any obvious way by the presence of saccades. It might be anticipated that the monkey would be more interested in the movement of control stimuli than its own hand but the eye movement records indicate a comparable interest (or disinterest) in both stimuli.

Thus eye movements did not cause difference to the responses to self-induced movement and object motion. Cell response or lack of response was dependent on the stimulus type and independent of relatively large variations in the eye movement patterns.

### *Location of cells*

Histological reconstruction in monkeys B, F and D indicated that 34 of the 38 tested cells in these monkeys were located in area STP (areas TPO and PGa of Seltzer and Pandya 1978). X-ray measurements of recording positions in two other monkeys (two in subject H and seven in subject J) indicated that the tested cells from these subjects were also located within the same area. Thus, from the histological evidence and reconstructions based on X-ray measurements, a total of 43 cells (out of the 47 tested) were recorded from areas TPO and PGa. Of these, 37 (86%) exhibited selective responses for externally induced motion. The cells described here were within the same area as those responsive to the static views of the head that have been described in earlier studies (Perrett et al. 1982, 1984, 1991).

Even though the recordings were aimed at the dorsal bank of the superior temporal sulcus, histological reconstruction indicated that four of the studied cells were in the ventral bank of the superior temporal sulcus. In monkey F, the two cells showed selective responses to the externally-induced motion, but in monkey D both cells responded equally well to the sight of the monkey's own hand and moving control objects. Figure 7 shows the results of the histological reconstruction in monkey (D) from which the majority of the cells were recorded (27/47).

### **Discussion**

Neurophysiological studies of single cell responses in the anterior parts of the dorsal superior temporal sulcus have almost exclusively concentrated on selective responses to complex visual stimuli. The most frequently studied cell type has been the one responsive to the face and other views of the head (Bruce et al. 1981; Perrett et al. 1982, 1984, 1985b, 1991; Desimone et al. 1984; Rolls 1984; Baylis et al. 1985; Rolls and Baylis 1986; Hasselmo et al. 1989; Hietanen et al. 1992). Cells with highly selective responses to specific body movements (e.g. walking in one direction with one body view) have also been studied extensively (Perrett et al. 1985a, 1989, 1990a, b). However, the earliest single-cell studies of this area, in anaesthetized monkeys, reported the existence of visually responsive cells sensitive to stimulus motion but lacking any selectivity for form (Desimone and Gross 1979; Bruce et al. 1981).

The existence of cells lacking form selectivity within STP seems rather surprising, for two reasons. First, from the point of view of object recognition it is very difficult to think what the functional value of units which respond to all moving objects would be. Second, from the point of view of motion processing it is difficult to think of a functional role of motion-sensitive cells lacking directional tuning or pronounced velocity sensitivity at a stage of analysis *after* very detailed processing of motion information has been performed earlier in the "motion pathway" within posterior parts of the same sulcus (i.e. areas MT and MST).

It appears, however, that when studied in awake, behaving monkeys, STP neurons non-selective for form but sensitive to movement have very complex selectivity discriminating between externally induced stimulus motion and visual movement which results from the animal's own action. A very high percentage of the cells studied in the STP (86%) responded to the sight of any object moved into view by the experimenter, but failed to respond above spontaneous activity to the sight of the monkey's own hand and arm movements.

It could be argued that the differences in responsivity to these two classes of stimuli reflects the effects of arousal rather than discriminative sensory processing between externally induced and self-induced stimulation. This possibility, however, seems very unlikely. First, this kind of explanation has been considered for STP cells responsive to faces and no evidence for relation to arousal has been found (Perrett et al. 1982, 1989). Second, if the responses to a moving control object were only due to its arousing nature, one would expect a sight of a static face or food to evoke a comparable "arousal response". This was not the case, as cells studied here did not respond to such static stimuli. Third, the neuronal responses were time-locked to the visual stimulation, occurred at short latencies and were transient in most cases. Fourth, the responses to motion exhibited different types of directional selectivity. All these response characteristics are unlikely if the cells merely reflected arousal.

The observed response discrimination might reflect differences in interest or the attention paid to the externally-moved control objects and monkey's own hand. Eye movements can be used as an indicator of interest in the moving stimuli. Records of the monkey's eye movements indicated that the monkey's fixation of its own hand and control objects was equivalently variable. Recordings therefore do not indicate one stimulus class as more interesting. Eye position recordings also showed that the responses were not related to the eye movements (Fig. 6). The observed lack of habituation in responses to control objects moving into the field of view also speaks against the responses being related to the level of interest.

In order to get insight into the functions of the STP cells studied here, the results are discussed in the context of neurophysiological studies of cells in other brain areas which resemble the present experiments.

### *Visual guidance of hand actions*

The posterior parietal cortex has been shown to be heavily involved in combining visuo-spatial and motor information and in visual guidance of hand projections (Hyvärinen and Poranen 1974; Mountcastle et al. 1975). In a recent study, Taira et al. (1990) found that a majority (69%) of their "hand-movement related" neurons showed activity changes in response to hand manipulation, with the activity of the cells being greater when the hand movement took place in light. This was taken as an evidence that these cells received a motor input as well

as a visual input related to the object and/or the moving hand. Furthermore, a role in monitoring (rather than in commanding, cf. Mountcastle et al. 1975) the ongoing motor activity was assigned to the parietal neurons by Taira et al. (1990).

In contrast, the present study showed that the cells in the anterior dorsal bank of the superior temporal sulcus selectively failed to respond to the sight of the monkey's own arm movements. This was also the case when the monkey projected its arm and hand into view in order to reach for a piece of food, i.e. during goal-directed movements under visual guidance. It is noteworthy that cells selective for the sight of manipulative hand actions found from the ventral bank of the superior temporal sulcus (area TEa) do respond to the sight of the monkey's own hands performing the appropriate hand actions (Perrett et al. 1990c).

Some of the properties of the STP cells described here may well depend on interconnections with the parietal cortex (Seltzer and Pandya 1978, 1984; Pandya and Seltzer 1982; Morel and Bullier 1990; Baizer et al. 1991). These connections may provide the inputs required for the STP cells to "ignore" the monkey's own limb movements. It is interesting to consider what kind of information the STP cells require for the observed response selectivity. In the parietal processing the "hand-movement-related" neurons combine the visual and motor/kinaesthetic information to produce maximal responses during visually guided hand movements. By contrast, the processing performed within STP suggest that visual input and motor/kinaesthetic signals work antagonistically, the motor/kinaesthetic input inhibiting the visual responses to the sight of own arm movements. This inhibition, however, must be very selective. In the experiments where a control object was introduced to the visual field while the monkey's own arm was simultaneously moving in view, the neurons continued responding to the sight of control object motion. The inhibition does not prevent all visual processing in the STP cells, but acts selectively (perhaps presynaptically) on the visual motion signal resulting from the own hand movements. Therefore, the inhibition must contain information about the position, trajectory and velocity of the limb motion in three-dimensional space. Kinaesthetic information may well be used additionally to give an accurate description about the ongoing motor activity. To match the visual input the motor/kinaesthetic signals about hand movements in three-dimensional space must be converted to a retinal coordinate system and this necessitates that the dynamic head and eye position must also be taken into account. As posterior parietal cortex is known to be heavily involved in these functions (see Andersen 1989), it seems highly possible that this information is used as an inhibitory input and fed either directly or indirectly to the STP cells. In summary the discrimination against predictable stimuli that is exhibited by STP cells requires very complex and continuous mapping of expectations about the form, position and direction of moving objects within the world to the appropriate coordinates within the continuously moving visual receptive fields.

### *Processing of visual motion which results from eye movements*

As described in the Introduction, neurons in several visual areas have been observed to respond to object motion but not to retinal motion stimulation which is caused by the animal's own eye movements. It is interesting that the discrimination against self-produced stimulation is increasingly pronounced at higher levels of motion processing in areas MT and MST (Erickson and Thier 1991). From this trend, one might expect to see the more complex effects of stimulus predictability (of the type we have studied here) only in the anterior areas of the superior temporal sulcus. It should be noted, however, that throughout the visual system high level areas send back projections down to particular lower areas (Felleman and Van Essen 1991). These selective back connections from MSTd to MT, V3a and V2 (but not V4) might well mediate the influences of eye motion observed in V1, V2 and V3a by Galletti et al. (1984, 1988, 1990).

In most cases, the spontaneous activity of the real-motion neurons in V3A is not affected by tracking movements alone which has been interpreted as suggesting that the eye-motion input selectively inhibits the visual input reaching the real-motion cells (Galletti et al. 1984, 1988, 1990). In this respect, the results of the present study are comparable. The movements of the monkey's own hand were not observed to have any effects on the cell's spontaneous activity, and, more importantly, the presence of the monkey's own hand in view did not affect the responsivity to simultaneous externally induced motion. Thus, the inhibition must have acted selectively on the visual input carrying information about the appearance and spatial movements of the monkey's own hand. Indeed, it would be a very maladaptive neural mechanism which shuts down the processing of all external information during self-induced stimulation.

In respect to perceptual experience, the responses of real-motion cells offer a physiological basis for the stability of the visual world despite self-induced eye movements. There is not, however, such a clear difference in perception of our own limb movements and the motion of external objects. What, then, could be the functions of the STP cells we have recorded from?

### *Expectation*

Recordings from the parietal cortex, superior temporal sulcus and frontal cortex of monkeys revealed bimodal cells which gave a visual response whenever the body part corresponding to the cell's tactile receptive field was approached by the investigator as though contact would be made (Hyvärinen and Poranen 1974; Sakata 1975; Leinonen et al. 1979; Leinonen 1980; Rizzolatti et al. 1981; MacKay and Crammond 1987; Gentilucci et al. 1988; Mistlin and Perrett 1990). As the visual and tactile receptive fields coincide, it has been suggested that the function of these neurons is essentially predictive, i.e.

they provide information about the impending tactile collision and prepare the animal for an adequate behavioural reaction.

The response properties of the apparently unimodal somatosensory neurons in the STP were found to be very complex (Mistlin and Perrett 1990). Even though visual stimuli alone did not have any effects on the cell responses, if the monkey was allowed to see the approaching object before skin contact the responses were reduced. Moreover, not only visual information but also previous experience with the tactile surroundings was capable of inhibiting the effects on the tactile responses. Tactile stimulation resulting from active exploration of a familiar primate chair failed to drive these cells, but as soon as the monkey contacted a novel surface the cells responded vigorously. It was proposed that the responsiveness of the tactile STP neurons reflected the "expectation" of the stimulation (Mistlin and Perrett 1990).

The results of the present study can be interpreted in the context of the effects of expectation as well. When the monkey raised its arm and empty hand into view, the visual appearance of the hand and arm was predictable and hence the cells did not respond, but when an object was placed in the monkey's hand out of view and the monkey did not know the visual characteristics of objects, the visual appearance of the compound stimulus (hand + object) was unpredictable and the cells responded accordingly when the compound stimulus came in sight.

If the observed response selectivity were based on this kind of expectation, it would mean that some type of matching process must be performed. The mechanisms performing this matching would have to be supplied with information on the visual appearance of the monkey's arm and hand (the STP is known to contain cells selective to hands: Bruce et al. 1981; Perrett et al. 1989) and this "expected" image would be compared to the input carrying information about the actual visual stimulation. If they coincided, they would cancel each other. As the cells we recorded from did not modify firing to the sight of monkey's own arm this means that the actual "comparison" was performed on the inputs to the recorded cell or at an earlier stage "upstream".

We have also investigated responses to predictable visual motion of objects other than the monkey's own arm (Hietanen and Perrett, in preparation). One monkey has been taught to turn a handle (out of sight) which connects to a cylinder covered with a visible black/white striped grating pattern. Eleven cells (of 18 tested) were found to give stronger responses to the grating rotation when the movement was controlled by the experimenter than when the same grating movement was produced by the monkey turning the handle. These results imply that (at least in some cases) it is the predictability of visual movement rather than the specific visual characteristics of the stimulus which controls the responses of STP cells to motion.

Conceptually, the results show parallels with the effect of expectation on somatosensory processing in the STP (Mistlin and Perrett 1990). Unexpected sensory events usually derive from other animals and are therefore be-

haviourally important. By contrast, predictable sensory consequences of an animal's own actions do not generally require reaction. Cells selectively responsive to the sight of faces and body movements have also been found in the STP. The STP therefore appears to be well suited as a filter for behaviourally and socially relevant sensory events.

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