

Different Orientation Tuning of Near- and Far-Surround Suppression in Macaque Primary Visual Cortex Mirrors Their Tuning in Human Perception

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In primary visual cortex (V1), neuronal responses to stimuli inside the receptive field (RF) are usually suppressed by stimuli in the RF surround. This suppression is orientation specific. Similarly, in human vision surround stimuli can suppress perceived contrast of a central stimulus in an orientation-dependent manner. The surround consists of two regions likely generated by different circuits: a near-surround generated predominantly by geniculocortical and intra-V1 horizontal connections, and a far-surround generated exclusively by interareal feedback. Using stimuli confined to the near- or far-surround of V1 neurons, and similar stimuli in human psychophysics, we find that near-surround suppression is more sharply orientation tuned than far-surround suppression in both macaque V1 and human perception. These results point to a similarity between surround suppression in macaque V1 and human vision, and suggest that feedback circuits are less orientation biased than horizontal circuits. We find the sharpest tuning of near-surround suppression in V1 layers (3, 4B, 4C α) with patterned and orientation-specific horizontal connections. Sharpest tuning of far-surround suppression occurs in layer 4B, suggesting greater orientation specificity of feedback to this layer. Different orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression may reflect a statistical bias in natural images, whereby nearby edges have higher probability than distant edges of being co-oriented and belonging to the same contour. Surround suppression would, thus, increase the coding efficiency of frequently co-occurring contours and the saliency of less frequent ones. Such saliency increase can help detect small orientation differences in nearby edges (for contour completion), but large orientation differences in distant edges (for directing saccades/attention).

Introduction

In primary visual cortex (V1), neuronal responses to stimulation of the receptive field (RF) are modulated by simultaneous stimulation of the RF surround (Blakemore and Tobin, 1972; Maffei and Fiorentini, 1976; Nelson and Frost, 1978; Allman et al., 1985). In human vision, spatial context alters the perceived contrast of a central target stimulus (Ejima and Takahashi, 1985; Chubb et al., 1989; Cannon and Fullenkamp, 1991) and contrast sensitivity (Snowden and Hammett, 1998; Petrov et al., 2005). Surround stimulation usually suppresses the cell's spiking response to a high-contrast grating in its RF (DeAngelis et al., 1994; Levitt and Lund, 1997; Sengpiel et al., 1997; Walker et al., 2000).

This suppression is orientation specific, typically being strongest when the stimuli in the RF and surround are of similar orientation, and weakest when they are of orthogonal orientation (DeAngelis et al., 1994; Sillito et al., 1995; Sengpiel et al., 1997; Walker et al., 1999; Cavanaugh et al., 2002), even when the stimulus in the RF is at a suboptimal orientation for the recorded cell (Shushruth et al., 2012). In human vision, the strength of surround effects is similarly orientation-dependent (Cannon and Fullenkamp, 1991; Solomon et al., 1993; Petrov et al., 2005).

We previously suggested that the surround consists of two regions, termed "near" and "far" (based on their proximity to the RF), subserved by different anatomical circuits (Angelucci and Bressloff, 2006) (Fig. 1). Specifically, the large spatial extent (Levitt and Lund, 2002; Shushruth et al., 2009) and fast onset (Bair et al., 2003) of far-surround suppression in V1 suggest that this is generated by highly divergent (Angelucci et al., 2002) and fast-conducting (Girard et al., 2001) feedback connections from extrastriate cortex. The small spatial extent (Angelucci et al., 2002) and slow conduction velocity (Grinvald et al., 1994; Bringuier et al., 1999; Girard et al., 2001) of intra-V1 horizontal axons, instead, suggest they contribute only to near-surround modulation. Surround suppression in the LGN (Sceniak et al., 2006; Alitto and Usrey, 2008) also contributes to near-surround suppression in V1 (Ozeki et al., 2004). In human vision, surround suppression shows similar spatial extent as in macaque V1 (Nurminen et al., 2009).

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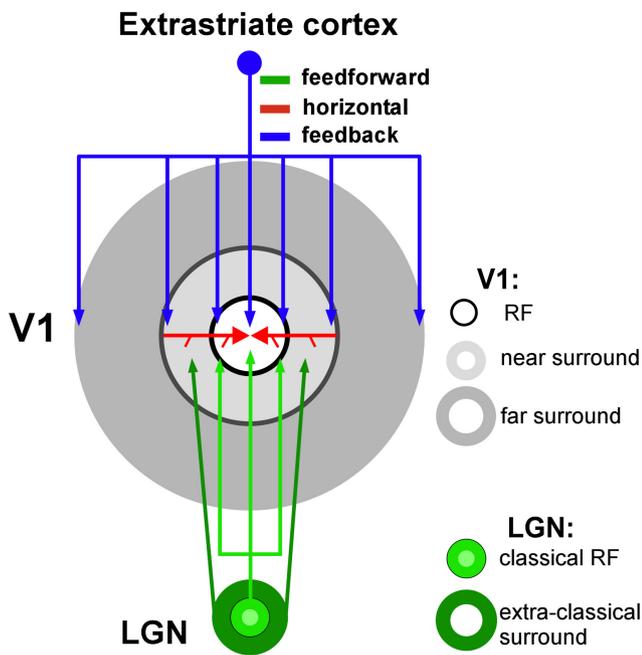


Figure 1. Presumptive anatomical circuits for surround modulation. Different components of the RF (white area) and surround (gray areas) of a V1 neuron, and their presumptive underlying circuits (arrows). Monosynaptic horizontal connections in V1 (red) extend into the near surround; their spread is commensurate with the size of a V1 neuron's spatial summation area measured at low contrast (Angelucci et al., 2002), which is on average about twice the diameter of the cell's RF, or spatial summation area measured at high contrast (Sceniak et al., 1999). The spread of feedforward connections to V1 from the LGN (Angelucci and Sainsbury, 2006) added to the size of suppressive surrounds of LGN cells (Sceniak et al., 2006; Alitto and Usrey, 2008) (dark green) is commensurate with a V1 cell's near surround. Interareal feedback connections (blue) are commensurate with the far surround (Angelucci et al., 2002) and contribute to all components of the RF and surround, but are the only connections contributing to the far surround.

Previous psychophysical and physiological studies of the orientation dependence of surround suppression have not distinguished between near- and far-surround stimulation. Thus, potential differences in the orientation tuning of these two regions are unknown. Here, using annular gratings confined to the near or far surround of macaque V1 neurons, and similar stimuli in human psychophysical experiments, we find that near-surround suppression is more sharply orientation tuned than far-surround suppression in both macaque V1 and human perception. These results suggest different orientation specificities of the circuits underlying near- and far-surround suppression, and point to an important relationship between surround suppression in V1 and human perception. V1 laminar differences in surround orientation tuning further suggest laminar-specific connectivity. The different tuning of near- and far-surround suppression may reflect a statistical dependency in the joint distribution of oriented elements in natural images and may serve different perceptual roles.

Materials and Methods

Electrophysiological recordings

Extracellular recordings were made from parafoveal (range: 3–9° eccentricity; mean: 5.7°) V1 of three (two males, one female) anesthetized (sufentanil citrate, 4–12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{h}$) and paralyzed (vecuronium bromide, 0.1–0.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{h}$) macaque monkeys (*Macaca fascicularis*). All procedures conformed to the guidelines of the University of Utah Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The procedure of single-unit recording from V1 has been previously detailed (Shushruth et al., 2009). Briefly,

animals were artificially respired with a 30:70 mixture of O_2 and N_2O , and vital signs were monitored continuously. The pupils were dilated with topical atropine, the corneas were protected with rigid gas-permeable contact lenses, and the eyes were refracted. The locations of the foveae were plotted at the beginning of the experiment and periodically thereafter, using a reversible ophthalmoscope.

Single-unit recordings were made with Epoxy-coated tungsten microelectrodes (4–6 $\text{M}\Omega$; FHC). Spikes were conventionally amplified, bandpass filtered between 400 Hz and 5 kHz, and sampled at 22 kHz by a dual-processor G5 Power Macintosh computer running custom software (EXPO, <https://sites.google.com/a/nyu.edu/expo>) courtesy of Dr. Peter Lennie. Spikes were displayed on a monitor, and templates for discriminating spikes were constructed by averaging multiple traces. The timing of waveforms that matched the templates was recorded with an accuracy of 0.1 ms.

Visual stimuli. Sinusoidal gratings of the same mean luminance as the background were generated using the same software that recorded spikes and were displayed on a calibrated monitor (GDM-C520K, Sony) of mean luminance of $\sim 45.7 \text{ cd}/\text{m}^2$, resolution of 1024×768 pixels, refreshed at 100 Hz, and placed at a viewing distance of 57 cm. For each cell, recordings were made through the dominant eye, with the nondominant eye covered. We first determined the preferred orientation, drift direction, and spatial and temporal frequencies. Then the area and center of the minimum response field (mRF) were carefully located quantitatively using a grating patch of 0.2° diameter. The area of the mRF was defined as the visual field region in which the small grating patch elicited a response at least 2 SDs above the spontaneous rate, and the geometric center of this area was defined as the mRF center. We performed spatial summation measurements at 75% contrast using a circular drifting grating patch of increasing radius centered over the cell's mRF (e.g., Fig. 2A, black solid curve). The patch radius ranged from 0.1 to 13° and consisted of 16 radii (in five steps of 0.1° from 0.1 to 0.6° , and then 0.75, 0.9, 1, 1.2, 1.8, 2.5, 5, 7.5, 10, and 13°). From these area summation functions for each cell, we extracted as a measure of RF size the patch radius at peak response (Fig. 2A, black arrow, corresponding to Fig. 2B, C, radius of the center grating patch). We then measured the cell response to an annular grating stimulus of 2° thickness presented at varying distances from the RF, thus defined, in the absence of a central grating (Fig. 2A, purple curve). This procedure allowed us to determine the exact boundary of the RF excitatory zone (Fig. 2A, purple arrow, corresponding to Fig. 2B, purple circle, inner radius of the near-surround annulus), and to ascertain that surround stimuli presented alone outside this boundary did not evoke a spiking response from the cell.

The stimulus used to characterize the orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression consisted of a center circular grating patch matched to the RF diameter of the cell, surrounded by an annular grating presented in one of two possible configurations. In the near configuration (Fig. 2B), used to probe the near surround, the surround annular grating had an inner diameter of fixed size (purple circle), located 0.25° outside the border of the neuron's RF or just outside the boundary of the excitatory zone, whichever was larger, and an outer diameter (blue circles) of two sizes, i.e., 4° and 6° . In macaque, these diameters encompass the extent of most V1 neurons' horizontal connections (Angelucci et al., 2002) and the diameters of the suppressive surround fields for most LGN neurons (Sceniak et al., 2006; Alitto and Usrey, 2008). Therefore, this stimulus configuration maximized stimulation of the horizontal and feedforward connection-dominated near surround. In the far configuration (Fig. 2C), used to probe the far surround, the outer diameter of the surround annular grating was fixed in size and extended to the edge of the display (26°), while its inner diameter was of two sizes, i.e., 6° and 4° (Fig. 2C, blue circles); therefore, the surround stimulus activated spatially complementary regions to that of the near-surround stimulus. This stimulus configuration maximized stimulation of the far surround, presumably mediated by interareal feedback connections.

In both near- and far-surround configurations, the center and surround gratings were presented at the optimal spatial and temporal frequency for the neuron and at 75% contrast. The center grating (overlying the RF) was always presented at the neuron's optimal orientation. The surround grating, instead, was presented at orientations

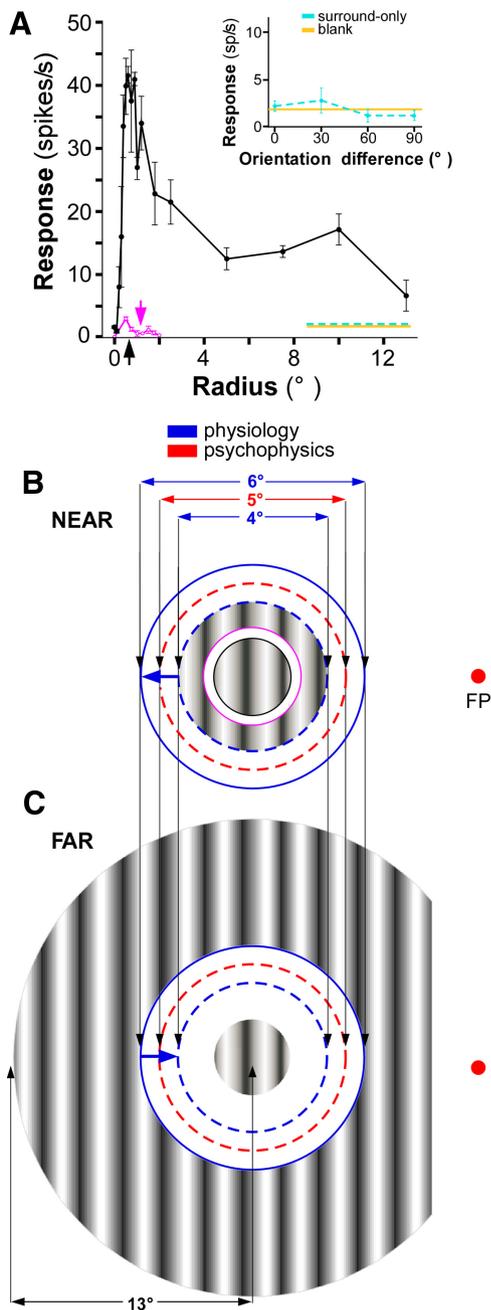


Figure 2. Visual stimuli used to characterize the orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression. **A**, Area summation function for an example cell (same cell as in Fig. 5C). The black curve represents the cell response as a function of the radius of a grating patch centered on the mRF. The peak of this curve (marked by a black arrow) was taken to be the cell's RF radius and the center grating patch in **B** and **C** (marked by a solid black circle in **B**) was set to be at this radius. The purple curve is the cell's response to an annular grating of 2° thickness presented alone as a function of its inner radius. The purple arrow marks the outer boundary of the RF excitatory zone, and it was the smallest radius of this annulus at which there was no response from the cell. The inner radius of the near-surround grating in **B** (purple circle) was set to be at this value or 0.25° outside the center grating, whichever was larger. Yellow line here and in the inset: spontaneous activity (i.e., response to the blank). Cyan line here and in the inset: response to a near-4° surround grating alone (i.e., the grating marked by the dashed blue and purple circles in **B**) at 0° center-surround orientation difference (in the main panel) or as a function of orientation difference (in the inset). Note the lack of response to the near-surround-only stimulus. **B**, Near-surround configuration. For each recorded cell, the center grating was matched to the cell's RF diameter (black arrow in **A**), and the annular grating in the surround was presented with an outer diameter of 4° and 6° (blue circles). For psychophysics experiments, the center grating diameter was fixed at 2°, and the inner (purple circle) and outer (red circle) diameters of the surround grating were 3° and 5°, respectively. Here and in the far

ranging from optimal to orthogonal in 15° steps (seven conditions). Each stimulus was presented for 700 ms, with the first 200 ms consisting only of the center grating, and the surround grating appearing for the remaining 500 ms. The relative phase of the center and surround gratings was randomized, but phase should not affect responses, because there was a gap between the center and surround gratings. This gap prevents brightness induction at the border between the center and surround gratings, thus rendering the surround suppression phase insensitive (Ejima and Takahashi, 1985; Petrov and McKee, 2006). The interstimulus interval was 1 s. The delayed presentation enabled us to study the modulation of the steady-state response of the neuron, and to avoid ambiguities caused by the nonspecific response onset. The short presentation time also enabled us to examine these effects in a physiologically relevant time window, as the mean duration of fixations between saccades is ~350 ms (Gallant et al., 1998). Each stimulus was presented for 10 trials, and the response to each condition was calculated as the average of the response to each trial during the last 500 ms of the stimulus. Because of the short stimulus duration, neurons with preferred temporal frequencies of <2 cycles/s whose responses were strongly modulated by the temporal frequency of the stimulus (F1/F0 ratio >1) were not characterized with surround stimuli. Control conditions included a blank screen of the same luminance as the background for a measure of spontaneous activity (e.g., Fig. 2A, yellow line), a center-alone condition for a baseline response and surround annulus-alone conditions at all orientations and sizes, to ensure that the surround stimulus alone did not evoke a spiking response from the cell (e.g., Fig. 2A, dashed cyan line). A mask with the same luminance as the background was placed over the hemifield ipsilateral to the recorded hemisphere and extending 1.5° beyond the vertical meridian into the contralateral hemifield, to prevent recruitment of callosal connections by the far-surround grating (Fig. 2C).

Data analysis. Spike trains were imported into Matlab and analyzed using custom scripts. The strength of surround suppression for each stimulus orientation was expressed as a suppression index (SI), which was calculated as

$$SI(\theta) = 1 - \frac{R_{CS}}{R_C}$$

where θ is the surround orientation for the condition, R_C is the response to the center-only stimulus, and R_{CS} is the response to the center plus surround stimulus. Thus, $SI = 0$ indicates complete lack of suppression, whereas $SI = 1$ indicates that the cell's response was completely suppressed by the surround stimulus.

To characterize the orientation tuning of surround suppression, we used three complementary measures of orientation tuning: the circular variance (Cavanaugh et al., 2002; Ringach et al., 2002), the difference in suppression index (ΔSI), and the iso-orientation suppression fraction.

We calculated the circular variance (CV) as a measure of the orientation selectivity of surround suppression for each cell as

$$CV = \frac{\left| \sum_n (R_{max} - R_n) \exp(i\theta_n) \right|}{\sum_n (R_{max} - R_n)}$$

where R_{max} is the maximal response of the cell (typically the response to the center-only stimulus at the optimal orientation for the cell), and R_n is the response to the n th surround stimulus orientation. As we only presented seven surround orientations, θ_n was one of seven orientations

← configuration the red dot indicates the location of the fixation point (FP) in the psychophysics experiment (6° from the center of the stimulus). **C**, Far-surround configuration. The center grating was as in the near stimulus configuration. The surround grating had a 26° (electrophysiology) or 24° (psychophysics) outer diameter, and an inner diameter of two different sizes (6° and 4°, blue circles) for the electrophysiology experiments, but of 5° for the psychophysics experiments (red circle). The portion of the far-surround grating located between 1.5° from the vertical meridian in the hemisphere ipsilateral to the location of the stimulus to the contralateral hemisphere was masked, to avoid activation of callosal connections.

chosen to be equally spaced between 0 and 2π . This transformation projects the surround responses as vectors with equal angular separation along a circle, and hence, their normalized vector sum (CV) takes a value between 0 and 1. A CV of 1 indicates that suppression is seen at only one surround orientation, whereas a CV of 0 indicates either equal suppression at all surround orientations or no suppression at any orientation. Thus, CV is a global measure of the shape of the tuning curve.

Δ SI was calculated as the difference between the mean SI for surround orientations close to optimal (θ to $\theta + 15$) and the mean SI for surround orientations close to orthogonal ($\theta + 75$ to $\theta + 90$). This index is positive if the surround orientations close to optimal are more suppressive than the surround orientations close to orthogonal.

We defined iso-orientation suppression fraction for each cell as the area under the cell's suppression tuning curve between surround orientations of 0° and 30° as a fraction of the total area under the tuning curve (i.e., between surround orientations of 0° and 90°). This was calculated from fitting the suppression index tuning curves with Gaussians of the form

$$SI(\theta) = SI_{\min} + ke^{-(\theta/\alpha)^2}$$

where SI_{\min} , k , and α are the fitted parameters, and deriving the area under the fitted curves by numerical integration between the aforementioned surround orientation bounds. Thus, iso-orientation suppression fraction is a local measure of the sharpness of the tuning curve around its peak.

Statistical tests used to determine significance are reported in the Results, and, unless specified otherwise, the metrics reported are in terms of mean \pm SEM.

Histology and electrode track reconstruction. Electrolytic lesions (1 μ A for 30–40 s, tip negative) were made along the length of the each penetration to assign laminar location to recorded cells. Our electrode penetrations were angled approximately orthogonal to the pial surface. At the end of the experiment, the animal was killed with sodium pentobarbital and perfused transcardially with saline, followed by 4% paraformaldehyde for 15–20 min. The brain was exposed by removing the top of the skull, the animal's head was repositioned in the stereotaxic apparatus, and the brain was blocked in a plane parallel to that of the electrode tracks. The blocked brain was removed from the rest of the skull, post-fixed in the same fixative overnight and sectioned at 40 μ m parallel to the plane of blocking (i.e., a near-to-coronal plane). Alternate sections were stained for Nissl or cytochrome oxidase to reveal the V1 laminae. Electrode tracks were reconstructed by drawing lesions on each section using a camera lucida connected to a light microscope, and individual sections were aligned using vascular landmarks.

Psychophysics

Subjects. We report data from five subjects who participated in the current study. Subjects S1, S3, and S5 were naive to the purpose of the study. Subjects S2 and S4 were non-naive, and S2 was one of the authors of this study. Data from two additional inexperienced subjects was discarded because near-surround stimuli did not reliably suppress perceived contrast of the central stimulus. All subjects had normal or corrected-to-normal visual acuity.

Apparatus. The stimuli were displayed on a calibrated 22 inch Diamond Pro 2070 CRT monitor (NEC-Mitsubishi Electronics Display-Europe) via a Visage system (Cambridge Research Systems) that provides 14-bit grayscale resolution. The resolution of the monitor was 800×600 pixels (39.0×29.2 cm) at a 100 Hz refresh rate. The binocular viewing distance was stabilized to 68 cm with a chin rest.

Procedure. We used a contrast matching task, because this relates to the mean of the underlying response distribution better than contrast detection or discrimination paradigms (as discussed in Chen and Tyler, 2002). Such comparison assumes that neuronal firing rate is monotonically related to perceived contrast. However, differences between the psychophysical and electrophysiological approach, as well as possible interspecies differences, only allow for qualitative comparison between psychophysical and electrophysiological results.

Each trial began with a 300 ms presentation of the fixation point. After the initial fixation period, the fixation point disappeared for 100 ms.

Then the fixation point appeared again simultaneously with either the test or the comparison stimulus. The test stimulus consisted of a center and a surround grating, while the comparison stimulus consisted of only the center grating. The temporal order of the test and the comparison stimulus were randomized. The stimulus duration was 300 ms, and the interstimulus interval was 1000 ms. At the end of a trial, the subjects indicated with a keyboard button press the interval in which the contrast of the center grating appeared higher. The subject's answer initiated the next trial. We measured the perceived contrast of the center grating using a two-interval staircase procedure. Specifically, if the subject indicated that the contrast of the comparison stimulus appeared higher than the contrast of the test stimulus, the contrast of the comparison stimulus was decreased. Likewise, if the comparison stimulus appeared to have lower contrast, its contrast was increased. There were two independently progressing staircases. A reversal point was defined as the contrast at which the direction of the staircase changed. The perceived contrast of the test center grating was defined as the mean of the last four reversal points of both staircases. The first two reversals were disregarded as practice.

Visual stimuli. Stimuli were similar to those used for the electrophysiological experiments. The test stimulus consisted of a center sinusoidal grating patch surrounded by an annular grating (Fig. 2B,C). The test center grating was always displayed at horizontal orientation. The orientation of the surround grating was varied from collinear to orthogonal (relative to the center) in 15° intervals. The Michelson contrast of the center grating was 20%, and that of the surround was 40%. These contrasts were selected to avoid saturation of V1 population contrast responses. The 20% contrast used here is above semi-saturation for approximately half of V1 cells (Albrecht and Hamilton, 1982). This contrast value is lower than that used for the physiology experiments. However, we expect this to have minor effects on the orientation tuning of surround suppression in contrast matching, because, at least in V1, the effect of contrast on the orientation tuning of suppression is small (Cavanaugh et al., 2002): it affects \sim 50% of cells and is not necessarily consistent across the cell population (Levitt and Lund, 1997). The spatial frequency of the center and surround gratings was 1 cycle per degree, relative spatial phase was fixed, and in phase the diameter of the center grating was 2° , and the stimuli were centered at 6° eccentricity. This eccentricity corresponds approximately to the mean of the distribution of eccentricities for the V1 cell population. In the near-surround configuration, the inner diameter of the surround annulus was 3° (Fig. 2B, purple circle) and its outer diameter was 5° (Fig. 2B, red circle). In the far-surround configuration, the inner diameter of the surround annulus was 5° (Fig. 2C, red circle) and its outer diameter was 24° . The far-surround stimulus was partially masked so that the display from 1.5° from the vertical meridian to the hemifield opposite to the stimuli had no luminance modulation (Fig. 2C). The comparison stimulus was identical to the center grating of the test stimulus except that its contrast was varied.

Data analysis. The orientation tuning of surround suppression was quantified as for V1 cells, but here spike rates were replaced with the corresponding perceived contrasts. In all figures, we report the mean of the four reversals for the four staircases (see above) and the SEs of these means. Bootstrapping was used for statistical testing because the number of subjects was relatively low. For statistical analysis of a given metric of orientation tuning (e.g., CV), data for near- and far-surround conditions were first pooled together. Corresponding to the number of subjects, two samples containing five values were randomly drawn with replacement, and the difference between the samples' means was computed. This procedure was repeated 10,000 times. The reported p values refer to the probability that the difference in the resampled means exceeded the actual measured difference.

Results

We characterized the orientation tuning of the suppression arising from the near- and far-surround in macaque V1 and compared it with near- and far-surround suppression of perceived contrast in humans using similar visual stimuli at similar retinal eccentricities.

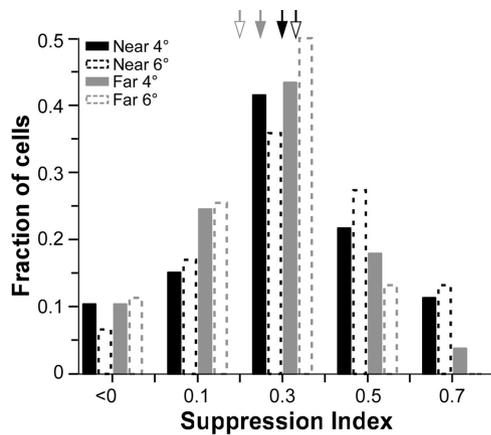


Figure 3. Distribution of suppression index across the cell population. SI was computed at 0° center-surround orientation difference for near- and far-surround stimuli of 4 and 6°, as color coded in the legend. Arrows: population means ($n = 106$ cells) as follows. Near4° (solid black arrow) = 0.3 ± 0.02 ; near6° (hollow black) = 0.33 ± 0.02 ; far4° (solid gray) = 0.25 ± 0.02 ; far6° (hollow gray) = 0.2 ± 0.03 .

Orientation tuning of surround suppression in macaque V1 neurons and human perception

Electrophysiology

Extracellular single-unit recordings were made from 106 neurons in parafoveal V1 of three macaque monkeys. Center-surround stimuli were presented in two configurations (near and far), each at two surround stimulus sizes (Fig. 2). The near-surround grating activated a region larger than the V1 cells’ peak spatial summation area measured at low contrast (the latter corresponding to the average extent of V1 horizontal connections), but commensurate with the extent of the suppressive extraclassical surround of LGN afferents (Fig. 1). The far-surround grating activated the surround region beyond that activated by the near-surround stimuli, i.e., beyond the range of horizontal and geniculocortical connections, but within the range of interareal feedback connections. We chose two different near- and far-surround grating sizes for this study (4° and 6°), because we wished to match for each cell the strength of suppression evoked by iso-oriented stimuli in the near and far surround, and previous studies have shown that far-surround suppression is weaker than near-surround suppression (Shushruth et al., 2009). Matching the strength of iso-orientation suppression for near- and far-surround stimulation allowed us to eliminate the possible confound that differences in orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression could simply arise as a result of differences in their suppression strength. Figure 3 indeed shows similar distributions for near- and far-surround suppression strengths (expressed as SI) across our population, at the surround sizes used in this study.

Figure 4A shows for one example V1 cell in layer 3B, the orientation tuning curves of near- and far-surround suppression. The response to the center grating presented alone is indicated by the purple horizontal line, while black and gray curves indicate the neuron response as a function of the difference in orientation between the center grating and the near- or far-surround grating, respectively. For this example cell, the near-surround grating suppressed the response to the center grating more strongly when the center and surround gratings were of similar orientation (orientation difference at or near 0°, or iso-orientation suppression) than when they were of orthogonal orientation (orientation difference at or near 90°, or ortho-orientation suppression). This

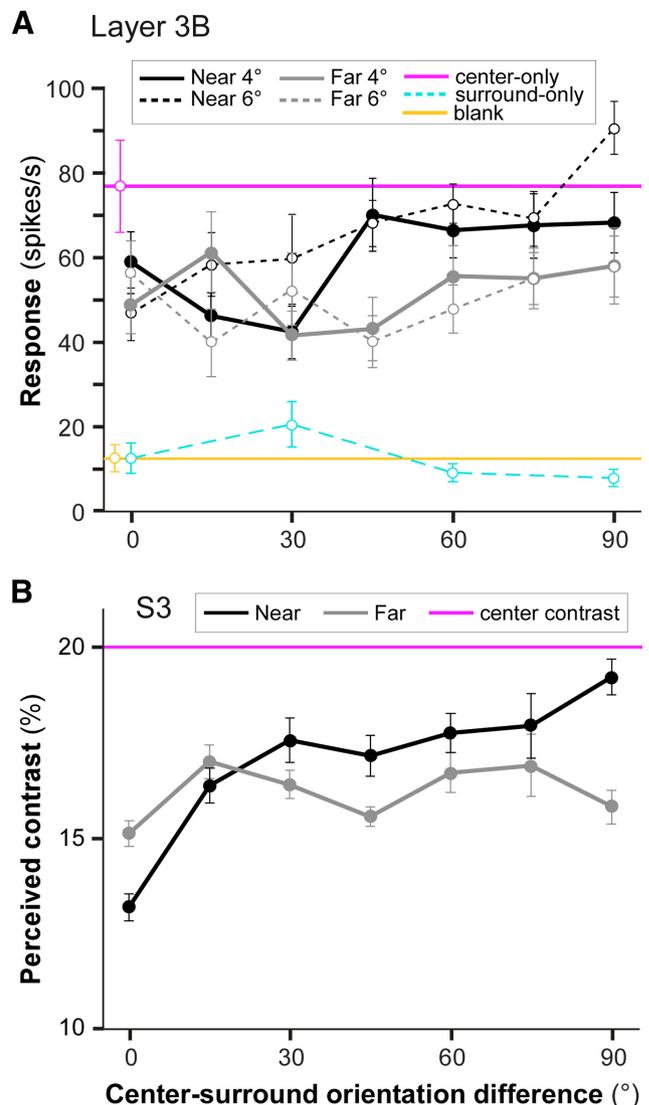


Figure 4. Orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression for an example V1 cell and an example human subject. **A**, Response of an example V1 cell in layer 3B as a function of the orientation difference between the center and surround gratings. The black curves indicate the near-surround responses, the gray curves the far-surround responses, the purple line the center-only response, the cyan curve the response to a near4° surround grating alone, and the yellow line the spontaneous activity. **B**, Perceived contrast for subject S3 as a function of the center-surround orientation difference. The purple line represents the actual contrast of the center stimulus.

was the case for both the near4° (solid black curve) and near6° (dashed black curve) surround stimuli. The near6° stimulus in addition caused a slight facilitation at orthogonal center-surround stimulus orientations. For the same cell, far4° (solid gray curve) and far6° (dashed gray curve) surround gratings presented at iso-orientation exerted similar response suppression as iso-oriented near-surround stimuli; however, far-surround gratings of ortho-orientation were more suppressive than ortho-oriented near-surround gratings. As a result, the orientation tuning curves for far-surround suppression were flatter than the tuning curves for near-surround suppression, i.e., far-surround suppression was more broadly orientation-tuned than near-surround suppression.

In Figure 5A, we show for the same cell as in Figure 4A the orientation-tuning curve for near- and far-surround suppression, but here tuning is expressed as SI as a function of the differ-

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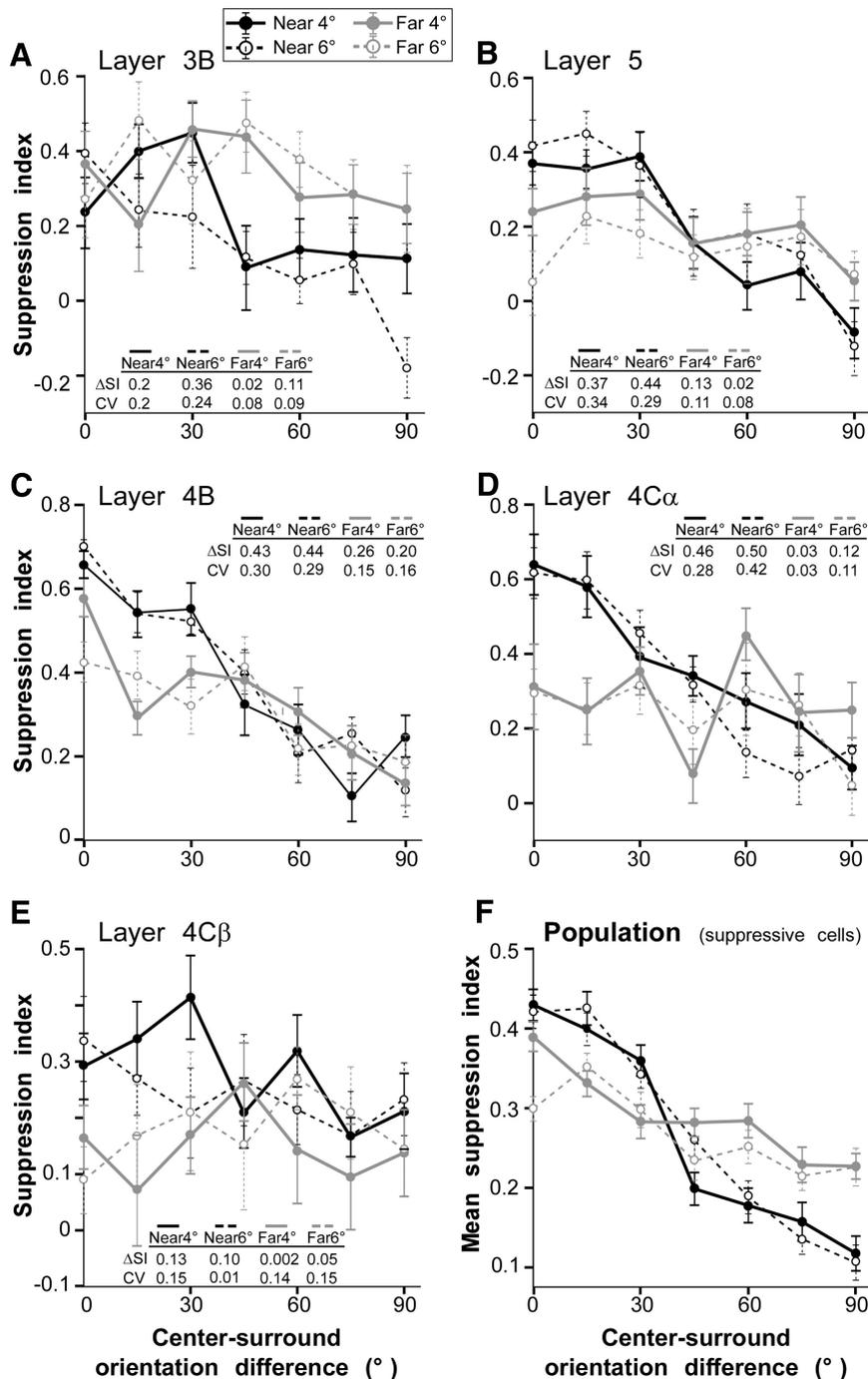


Figure 5. Orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression in V1. **A–E**, Orientation tuning curves of near-surround (black curves) and far-surround (gray curves) suppression for five example V1 cells located in different V1 layers (as indicated). Solid and dashed curves indicate measurements performed for different surround stimulus sizes as indicated in the legend. The tuning functions are expressed as suppression index as a function of the difference in orientation between the stimuli in the RF and surround. The tables in each panel indicate for the specific cell the values of ΔSI and CV for near- and far-surround suppression. **F**, Average tuning curves at each surround condition, for the population of V1 cells that showed surround suppression. Error bars are SEM. Mean ΔSI and CV for each surround conditions are as follows: 0.28 ± 0.03 and 0.24 ± 0.02 (near4°; $n = 68$ cells), 0.3 ± 0.03 and 0.25 ± 0.01 (near6°; $n = 68$ cells), 0.13 ± 0.02 and 0.12 ± 0.01 (far4°; $n = 65$ cells), 0.11 ± 0.01 and 0.14 ± 0.01 (far6°; $n = 54$ cells).

ence in orientation between the center and surround gratings. Note that in this format, a lower response of the cell corresponds to a larger value of SI, i.e., stronger suppression, and thus the tuning function in Figure 5A appears reversed compared with that in Figure 4A (larger SI at iso-orientation and smaller SI at

orthogonal orientation). All tuning functions in the remainder of the article are expressed in this format. Figure 5B–E shows orientation tuning curves of near- and far-surround suppression for four additional representative V1 neurons at various laminar locations. For all cells in Figure 5, except the cell in Figure 5E (in layer 4C β), near-surround suppression was strongest at iso-orientation and weakest at orthogonal orientation. Similar results were obtained for near-surround suppression measured with either surround stimulus sizes (4° or 6° outer diameter). Far-surround suppression was significantly tuned for the layer 4B cell (Fig. 5C), but poorly tuned for all other cells (Fig. 5A, B, D, E). Despite diversity in the strengths of near- and far-surround suppression across these cells, for all cells far-surround suppression showed broader orientation tuning than near-surround suppression. To quantify this observation, we measured the ΔSI and CV for each cell (see Materials and Methods; values for each cell are reported in Fig. 5A–E). ΔSI is the difference in suppression index at iso-orientation versus at ortho-orientation, and thus has positive values when iso-orientation suppression is stronger than ortho-orientation suppression and negative values for stronger ortho- than iso-orientation suppression. The CV is a global measure of orientation selectivity, which can take values between 0, indicating no orientation selectivity, and 1, indicating that suppression occurs at only one surround orientation. Thus for example, for the layer 3B cell in Figure 5A, the ΔSI dropped from 0.36 for near-surround stimulation to 0.11 when only the far surround was stimulated, and the CV dropped from 0.24 to 0.09 (in the 6° near- and far-stimulus condition). For this cell, the broader tuning of far-surround suppression compared with near-surround suppression was due to an increase in the strength of ortho-orientation suppression, whereas iso-orientation suppression was unchanged. For the layer 5 and layer 4C α cells (Fig. 5B, D), broader orientation tuning of the far surround, compared with the near-surround, resulted from both stronger ortho-orientation suppression and weaker iso-orientation suppression. Instead, for the layer 4B cell (Fig. 5C), the strength of iso-orientation suppression was markedly reduced for far-surround stimulation compared with near-surround stimulation, but ortho-orientation suppression was unchanged. Finally, the cell in layer 4C β (Fig. 5E) showed poor orientation tuning of both near- and far-surround suppression, with slightly weaker far-surround suppression at all

orientations. These differences in orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression across cells were reflective of laminar-specific differences we observed across the V1 population. These laminar differences are analyzed in a later section of the Results. In the next section, we first describe the V1 population data regardless of the neurons' laminar location, i.e., pooling neuronal responses across V1 layers.

Figure 5F shows the average tuning curves for near- and far-surround suppression for our V1 cell population, including only cells that showed surround suppression (defined as a mean response to center-surround orientation differences of 0° and 15° that was at least 1 SD below the center-only response at the optimal orientation). The Δ SI (0.28 ± 0.03) and CV (0.24 ± 0.02) for near-surround suppression measured using surround gratings of 4° outer diameter (near 4° condition) were significantly higher than the Δ SI (0.13 ± 0.02) and CV (0.12 ± 0.01) for far-surround suppression measured with surround gratings of 4° inner diameter (far 4° condition): $p < 10^{-5}$ for both comparisons (unpaired Student's t test). Similarly, Δ SI (0.30 ± 0.03) and CV (0.25 ± 0.01) for the near 6° condition were significantly higher than Δ SI (0.13 ± 0.02) and CV (0.12 ± 0.01) for the far 6° condition: $p < 10^{-8}$ for both comparisons (Student's t test). Thus, across the population of V1 cells with suppressive surrounds, far-surround suppression was more broadly tuned than near-surround suppression; this difference was due to significantly stronger ortho-orientation suppression (mean SI at center-surround orientation differences of 60° , 75° , and 90° for near versus far suppression; $p < 0.0007$ for both 4° and 6° conditions, unpaired t test), and slightly weaker, but significant, iso-orientation suppression (mean SI at center-surround orientation differences of 0° , 15° , and 30° for near versus far suppression; $p < 0.009$ for both 4° and 6° conditions, unpaired t test) in the far surround compared with the near surround.

Psychophysics

Figure 4B shows for one example subject (S3) the psychophysical data obtained using similar stimuli (Fig. 2B, C) as used for the electrophysiological experiments. Here the tuning curves are expressed as the perceived contrast of the center grating as a function of the difference in orientation between the center and surround gratings of the test stimulus. The purple line indicates the actual contrast of the center grating (20%). The same data for subject S3 are shown in Figure 6B plotted as SI versus center-surround orientation difference. SI was computed as for V1 cells

PSYCHOPHYSICS

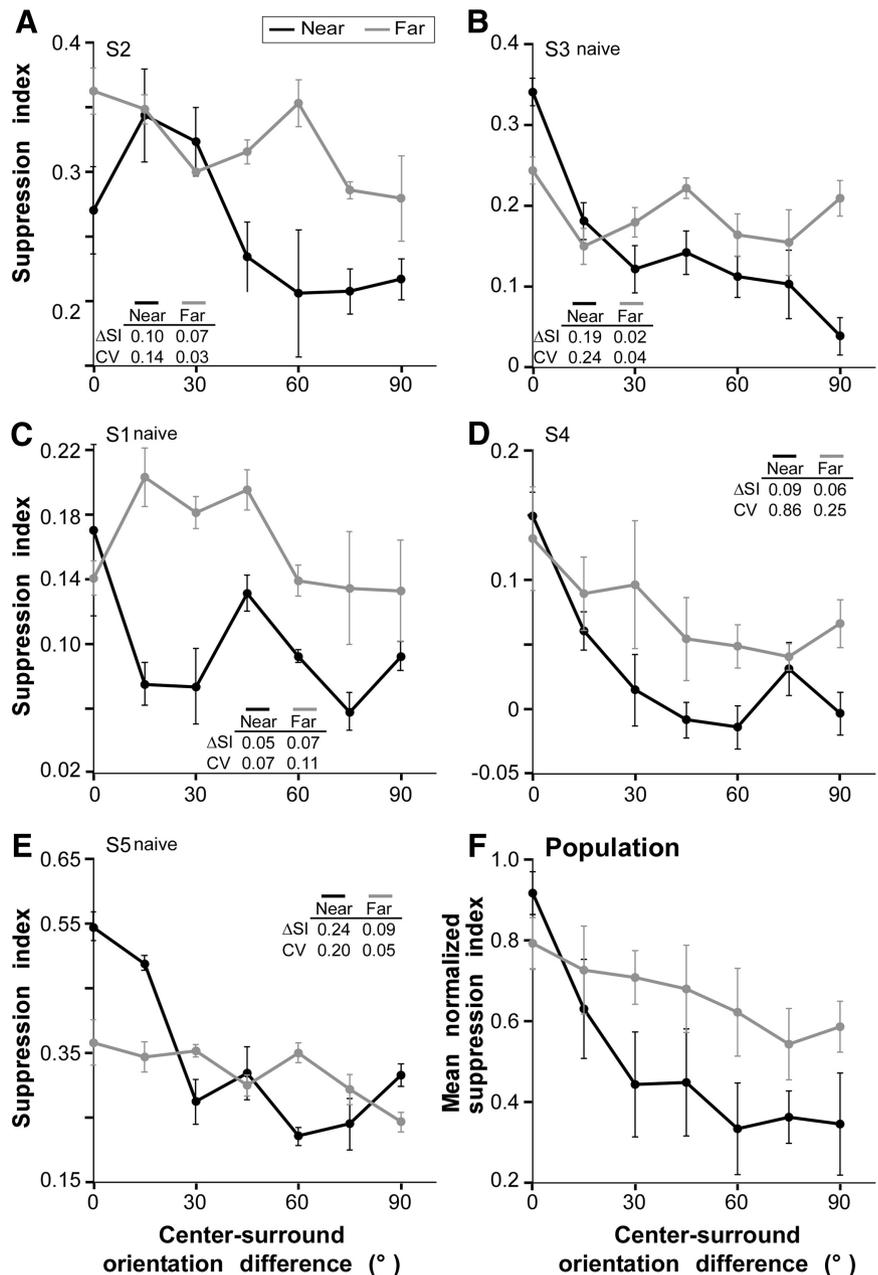


Figure 6. Orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression in human psychophysics. **A–E**, Orientation tuning curves of near-surround (black) and far-surround (gray) suppression for five human subjects, of whom three were naive. Suppression index measures the strength of suppression of the perceived contrast of the center grating exerted by the surround stimulus. **F**, Average tuning curve across the five subjects. Before averaging, the suppression index for each subject was normalized to the largest SI value for that subject. Mean Δ SI and CV were as follows: 0.13 ± 0.04 and 0.3 ± 0.14 (near; $n = 5$ subjects), 0.05 ± 0.01 and 0.09 ± 0.04 (far; $n = 5$ subjects).

(see Materials and Methods), but here responses (spike rates) were replaced with the corresponding perceived contrasts. Figure 6, A and C–E, shows the orientation tuning of surround suppression in each of the four remaining subjects. In all subjects, both near- and far-surround stimuli suppressed the perceived contrast of the center grating more strongly when the center and surround stimuli were of similar orientation; increasing the center-surround orientation difference decreased suppression strength. Thus, despite variability across subjects in suppression strengths and sharpness of orientation tuning, both near- and far-surround

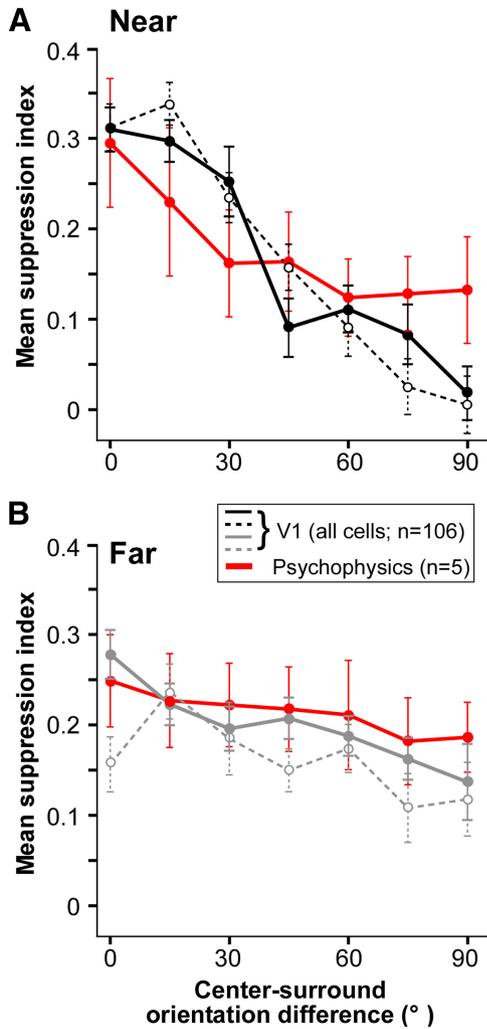


Figure 7. Comparison of orientation tuning of suppression in V1 cells and human psychophysics. **A, B**, Average population tuning curves of near-surround (**A**) and far-surround (**B**) suppression for all V1 cells ($n = 106$), including suppressive and nonsuppressive (black curves, near suppression; gray curves, far suppression), and for all human subjects ($n = 5$; red curves). Other conventions are as in Figures 5 and 6.

suppression were tuned for orientation (for all subjects ΔSI has positive values and $CV > 0$). However, as the center-surround orientation difference increased, suppression strength decreased more rapidly in the near-surround compared with the far-surround condition, and this difference persisted when tuning curves were averaged across subjects (Fig. 6F). In Figure 6F, the data from individual subjects was first normalized to the largest SI value for that subject, to account for intersubject differences in surround suppression strengths, and then averaged over the subjects. The ΔSI (0.13 ± 0.04) and CV (0.30 ± 0.14) for near-surround suppression were significantly higher than the ΔSI (0.05 ± 0.01) and CV (0.09 ± 0.04) for far-surround suppression ($p < 0.05$, bootstrap test). As for V1 cells, in human perception the orientation tuning of the suppression was broader in the far compared with the near-surround, and this was due to surround orientations nearer to orthogonal exerting stronger suppression in the far than in the near surround.

Comparison of V1 neuronal responses and human psychophysics
 In Figures 7 and 8, we compare the orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression in psychophysics and electrophys-

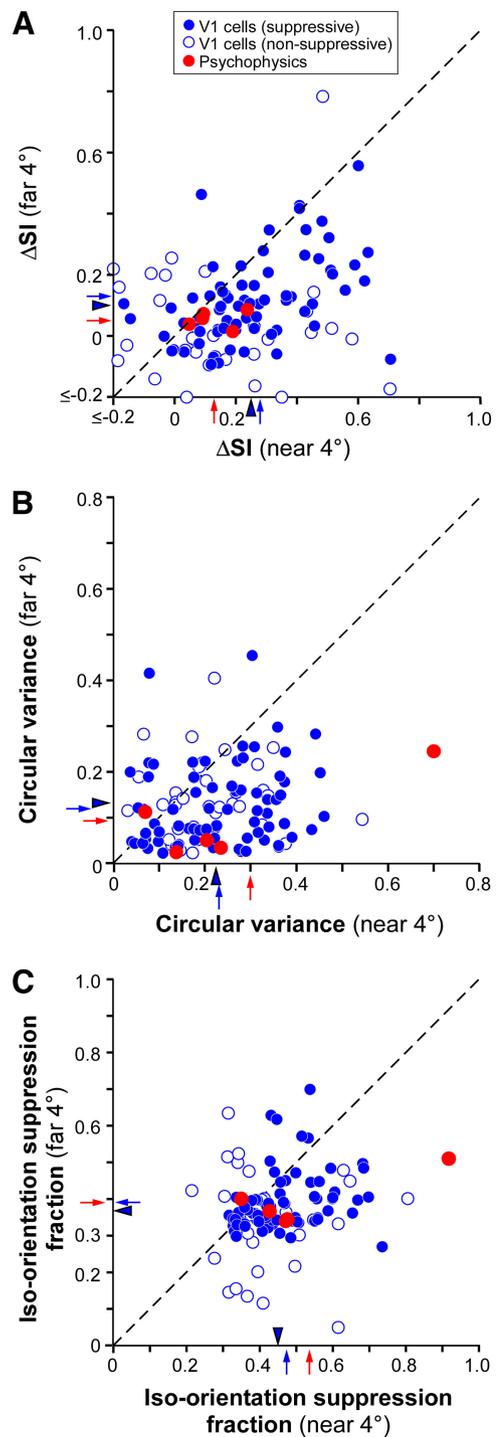


Figure 8. Comparison of orientation selectivity of suppression and iso-orientation suppression fraction in V1 cells and human psychophysics. **A**, Scatterplot of the ΔSI of suppression in the near versus far surround. **B**, Scatterplot of the CV of suppression in the near versus far surround. **C**, Scatterplot of iso-orientation suppression fraction in the near versus far surround. Only near 4° and far 4° conditions are shown. Empty blue dots, V1 cells that showed no suppression in the near and far surround; solid blue dots, V1 cells that showed at least one form of suppression (near or far); red dots, psychophysics data; red arrows, means of psychophysics data; solid blue arrows, means of suppressive cells; arrowheads, means of all V1 cells (suppressive and nonsuppressive).

iology. It is important to emphasize that this comparison is qualitative because it is made between two different types of data.

In Figure 7, we compare the orientation tuning of near-surround (Fig. 7A) and far-surround (Fig. 7B) suppression in

macaque V1 cells and human observers. In contrast to the results reported above, here the suppression index was averaged across the whole population of V1 cells ($n = 106$), including suppressive and nonsuppressive cells, as we reasoned that all cells would likely contribute to the psychophysical results. The suppression index for the psychophysical data was averaged across the five human subjects without being normalized within each subject. In both V1 and human perception, the strength of near-surround suppression decreased steeply as the orientation difference between the stimuli in the center and surround increased (Fig. 7A). In the V1 cell population, the suppression index decreased from 0.31 (in both near4° and near6° conditions) at iso-orientation to 0.09 (near4°) and 0.16 (near6°), respectively, at a center-surround orientation difference of 45°. In human subjects, for the same change in center-surround orientation difference, the suppression index decreased from 0.29 to 0.16. However, suppression at 90° or near-90° orientation difference was modestly higher in human subjects compared with V1 cells. In both V1 cells and human subjects, far-surround suppression showed modest orientation tuning (Fig. 7B). In V1 cells, the suppression index decreased from 0.28 (far4°) and 0.16 (far6°) at iso-orientation, to 0.21 (near4°) and 0.15 (far6°) at a center-surround orientation difference of 45°. In human subjects, the corresponding decrease in suppression index was from 0.25 to 0.22. Thus, the orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression showed a similar trend in V1 neurons and human perception. In both, near-surround suppression was more sharply tuned than far-surround suppression, as measured by the Δ SI or by the CV. Specifically, for all V1 cells, the mean Δ SI for near4° (0.25 ± 0.03) and near6° (0.31 ± 0.03) was significantly higher than the mean Δ SI for far4° (0.1 ± 0.02) and far6° (0.08 ± 0.02), respectively, with $p < 10^{-8}$ for both comparisons (paired Student's t test). For the non-normalized psychophysical functions, the mean Δ SI for near (0.13 ± 0.04) and far (0.05 ± 0.01) suppression were significantly different, with $p < 0.05$ (bootstrap test). For all V1 cells, the mean CV for near4° (0.22 ± 0.01) and near6° (0.25 ± 0.01) was significantly higher than mean CV for far4° (0.13 ± 0.01) and far6° (0.16 ± 0.01), respectively, with $p < 10^{-9}$ for both comparisons. For the non-normalized psychophysical functions, the mean CV for near (0.3 ± 0.14) and far (0.09 ± 0.04) suppression were significantly different, with $p < 0.05$ (bootstrap test).

Figure 8A shows a scatterplot of Δ SI for near versus far-surround suppression for both V1 cells and human subjects. Only the near4° and far4° conditions are shown, but results were similar for the 6° near and far conditions. Most dots lie below the diagonal line indicating sharper orientation selectivity of near versus far-surround suppression (mean values and statistical significance of the difference are reported above or in Figs. 5F, 6F). Figure 8B shows a scatterplot of CV for near versus far-surround suppression for both V1 cells and human subjects. Most cells and four of five subjects are located below the diagonal line, again, indicating sharper orientation selectivity of near- than far-surround suppression for most single cells and human subjects (mean values and statistical significance of the difference are reported above or in Figs. 5F, 6F).

We also measured the fraction of suppression strength occurring at and near iso-orientation, a metric that, unlike Δ SI, is not affected by the absolute value of suppression strength. Unlike CV, which is a global measure of the shape of the tuning curve, the iso-orientation suppression fraction is a local measure of the sharpness of the tuning curve around its peak. The latter was calculated by first fitting a Gaussian function to the orientation tuning curve of surround suppression (i.e., the SI versus

orientation-difference curves—e.g., Fig. 5) for each cell, and then measuring from these fits the area under the curve between 0° and 30° orientation difference as a fraction of the total area under the tuning curve. A higher fractional value indicates that a larger fraction of the suppression occurs between 0° and 30° center-surround orientation differences, indicating sharper orientation tuning. Figure 8C reports the results of this analysis in the form of a scatterplot of iso-orientation suppression fraction for near versus far surround, for both V1 cells and human subjects. Again only the 4° surround conditions are shown, but results for the 6° condition were similar. Most points lie below the diagonal, indicating that for most cells and human subjects a higher fraction of the total suppression occurs at iso-orientation in the near surround compared with the far surround, and thus that near-surround suppression is more sharply orientation-tuned than far-surround suppression. The mean iso-orientation suppression fraction for the near surround (0.45 ± 0.01 and 0.46 ± 0.01 for 4° and 6° surround sizes, respectively, including all cells) was significantly higher than for the far surround (0.37 ± 0.01 and 0.38 ± 0.01 , respectively), with $p < 10^{-7}$ for both comparisons (paired t test). Similar results were seen in the psychophysics data. The mean iso-orientation suppression fraction was 0.52 ± 0.10 for the near surround and 0.38 ± 0.03 for the far surround, and this difference was statistically significant ($p < 0.01$, bootstrap test).

V1 laminar specificity in orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression

Different circuits have different laminar specificity, and there are pronounced differences in receptive field properties across V1 layers in macaque. Laminar-specific differences have also been observed in the spatial extent and strength of surround suppression that may reflect laminar differences in connectivity (Ichida et al., 2007; Shushruth et al., 2009). Thus, to make more direct comparison with anatomical data, we examined the tuning of near- and far-surround suppression across V1 layers. Figure 9 shows the tuning curves for the population of suppressive cells only (mean SI vs center-surround orientation difference) for both near- and far-surround suppression in each V1 layer. There were differences in orientation tuning and suppression strength across layers, but in all layers near-surround suppression was more sharply tuned than far-surround suppression. In all layers, the Δ SI and/or CV (values reported in Table 1) for near-surround suppression were significantly higher than for far-surround suppression in at least one surround size condition (4° or 6°) (Δ SI $p < 0.05$ for the near4°–far4° comparison in layers 3B, 4C α , and 5–6, and for the near6°–far6° comparison in all layers except 2–3A and 4A). Although there was no significant difference in near versus far Δ SI in layers 2–3A, and 4A for either surround size condition, the CV for near- and far-surround suppression in these layers was significantly different in at least one condition ($p < 0.05$; unpaired t test).

In all layers, except 4A and 4C β , the broader tuning of far-surround suppression was due to stronger ortho-orientation suppression in the far than in the near surround. Iso-orientation suppression was of similar strength in the near and far surround in layers 2–3A, 4A, and 5/6. However in layer 3B, 4B, and 4C α iso-orientation suppression was slightly weaker in the far than in the near surround, and this also contributed to the broader orientation tuning of far suppression in these layers.

Figure 10 shows the distribution of Δ SI and CV in different V1 layers. The same parameters are shown in Figure 11 in a scatterplot as a function of cortical depth. For near-surround suppression the Δ SI was higher (>0.3) in layers 3B, 4B, and 4C α , and weakest in layer 4A and below 4C α , and this differ-

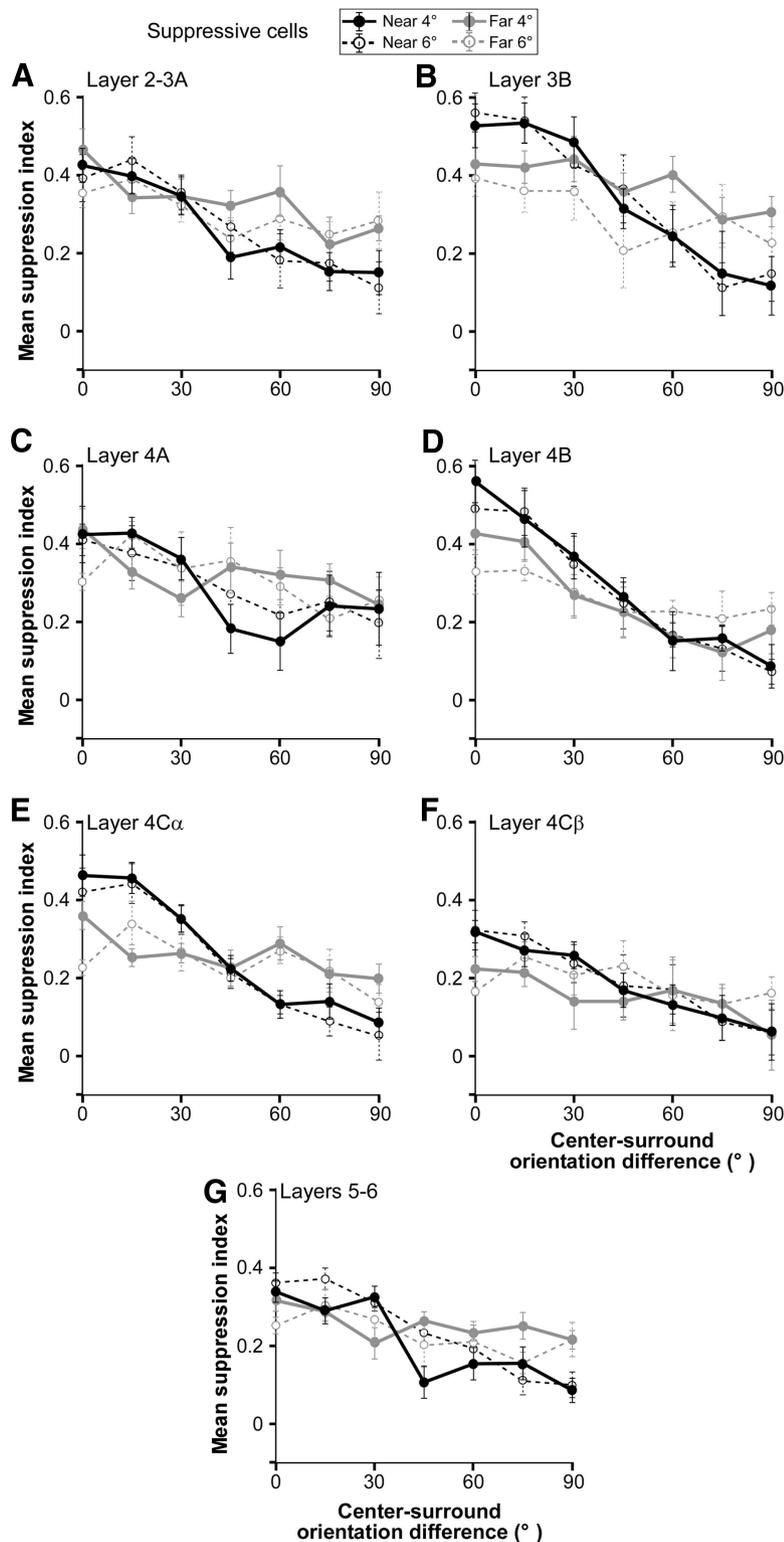


Figure 9. Orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression in different V1 layers. **A–G**, Average orientation tuning curves of near-surround (black curves) and far-surround (gray curves) suppression for population of V1 neurons recorded in specific V1 layers (as indicated). Only cells that showed suppression in a given stimulus condition were included in the tuning curve for that condition. Conventions are as in Figure 5. Mean ΔSI and CV values for each layer are reported in Table 1.

ence was statistically significant ($p = 0.0031$, Kruskal–Wallis test). The CV of near-surround suppression was largest in layer 4C α but not significantly different from that in other layers, indicating that near-surround suppression shows at

least some tuning in all layers. The scatterplot of CV (Fig. 11B) shows a large spread of CV values across layers, with cells having CV around 0.4 located in most layers. For far-surround suppression the ΔSI was highest (>0.2) in layer 4B and weakest in layers 5/6, and the difference between these two layers was statistically significant ($p < 0.0036$, Kruskal–Wallis test corrected for multiple comparisons). The scatterplot in Figure 11A shows that cells with the largest values of ΔSI (near 0.4) were located in layers 4B and above (except for 4A). The CV of far-surround suppression was significantly larger in layer 4B and weaker in layers 5–6 compared with all other layers ($p = 0.04$, Kruskal–Wallis test), and cells with the lowest values of CV were located in layers 5–6. The difference in CV between layer 4B and 5/6 for far-surround suppression was highly statistically significant ($p < 0.002$, Kruskal–Wallis test corrected for multiple comparisons).

Discussion

We found that the orientation tuning of surround suppression depends on the spatial separation between center and surround stimuli in both macaque V1 and human perception. Specifically, the suppression caused by near-surround stimulation was more sharply orientation tuned than the suppression caused by far-surround stimulation. These results support the idea that the near and far surround are two distinct regions generated by different neural circuits with distinct orientation specificities. The similarity between electrophysiological and psychophysical results also point to an important relationship between surround suppression in V1 neurons and human perception. In V1, we additionally found laminar differences in the orientation tuning of both the near and far surround, suggesting laminar differences in the orientation specificities of their underlying circuitry.

Near- and far-surround suppression differ in orientation tuning

Far-surround suppression is weaker than near-surround suppression in both V1 (Levitt and Lund, 2002; Shushruth et al., 2009) and perception (Cannon and Fullenkamp, 1991; Saarela and Herzog, 2008), but these differences in suppression strength cannot explain the different orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression seen in our data. This is because far-surround suppression was stronger than near-surround suppression at near-ortho-orientations. A previous study in cat

Table 1. Orientation tuning of surround suppression in different V1 layers: mean ΔSI and mean CV

Layer	Near surround (4°)			Near surround (6°)			Far surround (4°)			Far surround (6°)			Figures
	N	mean ΔSI	mean CV	N	mean ΔSI	mean CV	N	mean ΔSI	mean CV	N	mean ΔSI	mean CV	
2/3A	14	0.26 ± 0.06	0.19 ± 0.03	13	0.27 ± 0.08	0.24 ± 0.04	13	0.16 ± 0.05	0.11 ± 0.02	12	0.11 ± 0.04	0.12 ± 0.02	9A, 10, 11
3B	11	0.40 ± 0.10	0.21 ± 0.04	10	0.42 ± 0.08	0.24 ± 0.04	10	0.13 ± 0.05	0.11 ± 0.02	7	0.12 ± 0.03	0.12 ± 0.03	9B, 10, 11
4A	6	0.19 ± 0.08	0.26 ± 0.05	7	0.17 ± 0.06	0.18 ± 0.03	7	0.11 ± 0.02	0.10 ± 0.02	7	0.13 ± 0.04	0.16 ± 0.04	9C, 10, 11
4B	7	0.39 ± 0.07	0.25 ± 0.04	8	0.38 ± 0.07	0.25 ± 0.04	8	0.27 ± 0.05	0.23 ± 0.05	6	0.11 ± 0.04	0.13 ± 0.04	9D, 10, 11
4C α	8	0.35 ± 0.06	0.29 ± 0.04	9	0.36 ± 0.07	0.34 ± 0.05	6	0.10 ± 0.04	0.09 ± 0.03	7	0.11 ± 0.03	0.11 ± 0.03	9E, 10, 11
4C β	4	0.22 ± 0.04	0.25 ± 0.06	4	0.24 ± 0.01	0.24 ± 0.04	4	0.12 ± 0.04	0.16 ± 0.04	3	0.06 ± 0.02	0.19 ± 0.07	9F, 10, 11
5/6	17	0.19 ± 0.03	0.24 ± 0.03	16	0.26 ± 0.03	0.23 ± 0.02	16	0.07 ± 0.03	0.08 ± 0.01	11	0.09 ± 0.03	0.16 ± 0.02	9G, 10, 11

N, Number of cells.

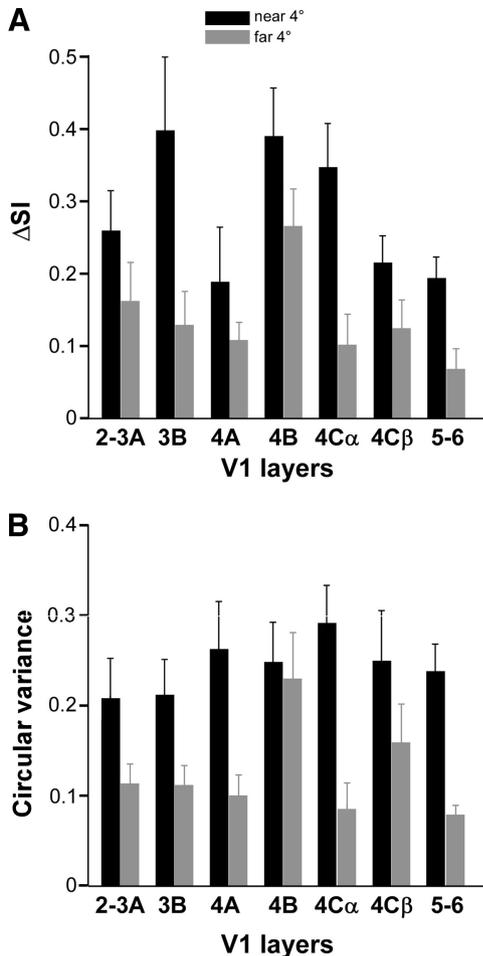


Figure 10. Orientation selectivity of near- and far-surround suppression in different V1 layers. **A, B.** Distribution of ΔSI (**A**) and CV (**B**) for near-surround (black) and far-surround (gray) suppression across V1 layers. Only the near4° and far4° stimulus conditions are included and only cells that showed surround suppression in each condition.

V1 reported that the suppression caused by far-surround stimulation was more broadly orientation tuned than the suppression caused by full surround stimulation (near plus far) (Hashemi-Nezhad and Lyon, 2012). However, compared with full surround stimulation, far-surround stimulation resulted in weaker iso-orientation suppression, but similar ortho-orientation suppression strength. Thus, broader tuning of far-surround suppression, in this study, could have resulted from weaker far-surround suppression, an interpretation that cannot explain our findings. These different results are attributable to the different stimulus configurations used in the two studies. We compared near-surround versus far-surround stimulation, whereas Hashemi-

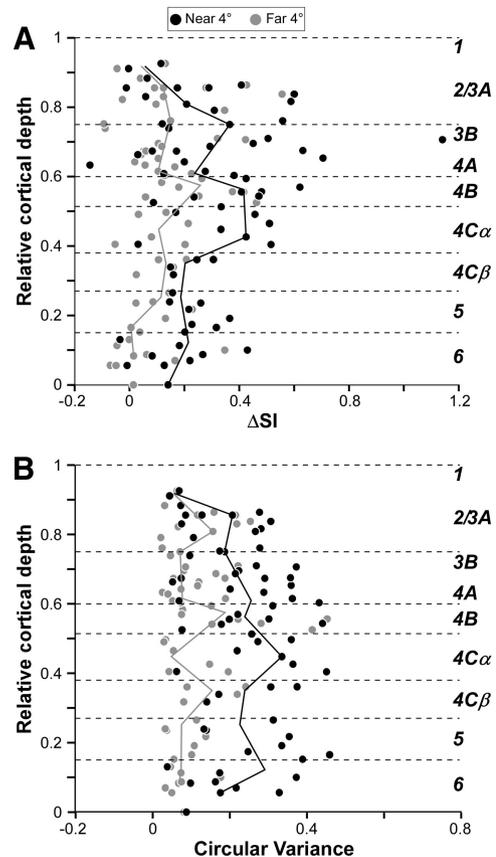


Figure 11. V1 laminar distribution of orientation selectivity of near- and far-surround suppression. **A, B.** Scatterplot of ΔSI (**A**) and CV (**B**) as a function of cortical depth for near-surround (black dots) and far-surround (gray dots) suppression for the population of V1 cells showing suppression in each condition (only near4° and far4° included). The dashed horizontal lines mark V1 layer boundaries, and the cortical layers are indicated to the right of the plots. Solid black and gray vertical lines: medians of the V1 cell sample calculated at intervals of 10% of total cortical depth.

Nezhad and Lyon (2012) compared near-surround versus full-surround stimulation, and thus did not isolate the tuning of suppression from the near surround. Polat and Sagi (1993) examined the effects on contrast detection of small Gabor patches placed at various distances from a target Gabor. They found both suppressive and facilitatory effects of flankers in the near surround ($\leq 3^\circ$ separation), whose orientation tuning resembled that of near-surround suppression in our psychophysical study. However, in their study, flankers in the far surround ($\sim 3.6^\circ$ from the target) had no effect on target detection, likely due to the weak surround stimulation exerted by such small stimuli. In contrast, we used large gratings likely to have stronger effects. Mizobe et al. (2001), instead, using Gabor stimuli in cat V1 observed both near

and far (up to 12°) surround effects, but did not examine the tuning of far-surround suppression.

We found sharper tuning of near-surround suppression than previous studies. In our cell population, there was >90% decrease in suppression strength when the surround stimulus orientation was changed from iso-oriented to orthogonal. This contrasts with the 30–35% decrease found in previous studies (Cavanaugh et al., 2002; Hashemi-Nezhad and Lyon, 2012). Broader tuning of suppression in these studies was likely due to concomitant stimulation of the near and far surround, and is thus consistent with our findings.

Petrov et al. (2005) studied surround suppression of contrast detection with stimuli likely activating mainly the near surround of V1 neurons. They found that suppression was negligible for center-surround orientation differences $\geq 45^\circ$. In our psychophysical and electrophysiological data, near-surround suppression was still present at 45° orientation difference. This discrepancy is attributable to different center stimulus contrasts used in the two studies. Psychophysics (Nurminen et al., 2010) and single-cell recordings (Schwabe et al., 2010) have shown that suppression strength decreases at lower center contrast. Thus, it is likely that at the very low center contrast (at threshold) used by Petrov et al. (2005), weak suppressive effects from orthogonal surround stimuli disappear.

Cannon and Fullenkamp (1991), using eight cycles-wide surround stimuli, found that the strength of surround suppression decreases steeply between center-surround orientation differences of 0° and 15°, but more gradually at larger orientation differences. They concluded that surround suppression arises from two distinct mechanisms, one narrowly orientation tuned, the other broadly tuned. Our results are consistent with their hypothesis, but further indicate that the narrowly tuned mechanism is spatially restricted, while the broadly tuned mechanism is spatially widespread.

Correlation between human psychophysics and V1 physiology

Previous studies found positive correlations between contextual effects in human vision and the response of single V1 cells (Kapadia et al., 1995, 1999; Li et al., 2000). However, in those studies it was unclear whether the stimuli intended to activate the surround also encroached onto the RF (as defined in our study). Moreover, these studies compared the mean firing rates of V1 neurons to subjects' performance in detection and discrimination tasks. This is problematic because performance in these tasks relates to the noise level and slope of the underlying neural responses (Geisler and Albrecht, 1997). In contrast, we used stimuli clearly confined to the surround, and a contrast-matching task, which is better suited to compare mean neuronal firing rates with psychophysical performance, because performance in this task relates to the magnitude of the underlying neural response (Chen and Tyler, 2002). Although it is not straightforward to compare psychophysics and electrophysiological data, our results nevertheless demonstrate a striking similarity between the tuning of surround effects in human perception and V1 cells.

Anatomical circuits underlying the orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression

We previously suggested that near-surround suppression results predominantly from both untuned surround suppression of geniculocortical afferents and tuned suppression from intra-V1 horizontal connections, while far-surround suppression is generated exclusively by interareal feedback (Angelucci and Bress-

loff, 2006; Angelucci and Shushruth, 2013). Here, we have found that near-surround suppression is more sharply tuned than far-surround suppression, and is most narrowly tuned in layers 3, 4B, and 4C α . Because the suppression contributed by geniculocortical afferents to V1 is untuned (Solomon et al., 2002; Webb et al., 2002; Bonin et al., 2005) or less tuned (Ozeki et al., 2009) for orientation than V1 suppression, orientation-tuned near-surround suppression in V1 is likely generated by intra-V1 horizontal connections. These connections, at least in V1 layers 2–3, are well suited to this task, because they link preferentially neurons of similar orientation preference (Malach et al., 1993; Bosking et al., 1997) and target both excitatory and inhibitory neurons (McGuire et al., 1991). The orientation specificity of horizontal connections in other V1 layers is unknown. However, long-range connections in layers 4B and upper-4C α are “patchy” (Lund et al., 2003), whereas in layer 6 they are widespread and do not link domains of similar eye dominance (Li et al., 2003). Therefore, there appears to be a correlation between the sharpness of tuning of near-surround suppression across V1 laminae and the laminar location of patterned and orientation-specific horizontal connections. V1 layers with sharpest tuning of near-surround suppression also have stronger near suppression (Sceniak et al., 2001; Shushruth et al., 2009), except layer 4A, which despite strong suppression shows poor tuning. In contrast, there is no correlation between layers with sharpest orientation tuning of near-surround suppression and layers with sharpest orientation tuning of RF responses (Ringach et al., 2002).

Broader orientation tuning of far than near-surround suppression suggests that feedback connections, the presumed substrate for far-surround suppression, are more broadly orientation biased than horizontal connections. Feedback connections to V1 terminate in upper and lower layers, avoiding layer 4C (Salin and Bullier, 1995), and target both excitatory and inhibitory neurons (Anderson and Martin, 2009), but their orientation organization remains controversial. Specifically, there are reports of both anatomically widespread (Rockland and Pandya, 1979; Maunsell and van Essen, 1983; Rockland, 2003) and orientation-unspecific (Stettler et al., 2002) V2-to-V1 feedback connections, and patterned (Angelucci et al., 2002; Angelucci and Bressloff, 2006) and orientation-biased (Shmuel et al., 2005) feedback connections from V2 to V1 layers 2/3. The orientation organization of feedback to V1 from other extrastriate areas is unknown. It is likely that there are multiple feedback systems differing in functional specificities terminating in different V1 layers (Angelucci and Bressloff, 2006). In particular, sharper tuning of far suppression in layer 4B suggests greater orientation specificity of feedback connections to this layer, while weak tuning in layers 5/6 suggests orientation-unspecific feedback connections to these layers. In effect, feedback also contributes to the near surround (Fig. 1), but its effect is likely masked by the stronger tuned component of near-surround suppression. There is no correlation between the laminar distribution of the orientation tuning of far suppression and the laminar distributions of far-surround suppression strength (Shushruth et al., 2009) or RF orientation tuning (Ringach et al., 2002).

Two previous studies that examined the tuning of surround suppression, inferred two components to the underlying neural signal, one that is monocular and has very broad spatiotemporal tuning, likely originating in the LGN or input layers of V1, the other binocular and sharply tuned for orientation and spatiotemporal frequency, likely of long-range intracortical origin (Webb et al., 2005; Petrov and McKee, 2009). It is unlikely that the monocular and untuned suppression of these previous stud-

ies corresponds to the broadly orientation-tuned far-surround suppression of our study. In our study, the far-surround stimulated cortical regions well beyond the spatial spread of feedforward afferents, and thus likely recruited long-range intracortical connections. The untuned, monocular, and early suppression of these previous studies is likely confined to the near surround, and was likely masked by the tuned component of near-surround suppression in our stimulus protocol.

Role of near- and far-surround suppression in natural vision

The similarity of surround suppression in human and macaques suggests that this phenomenon reflects fundamental signal processing principles. A prominent hypothesis, stemming from efficient coding principles (Attneave, 1954; Barlow, 1961) and information theory (Shannon, 1948), suggests that the visual system is tuned to the statistics of natural images (Simoncelli and Olshausen, 2001; Geisler, 2008). In natural images, there is a statistical relation between edge orientation and distance between edges: nearby edges have higher probability than distant edges of being co-oriented and cocircular, and of belonging to the same physical contour (Geisler et al., 2001). The different orientation tuning of near- and far-surround suppression may reflect this statistical dependency in the visual environment. Accordingly, suppression should be narrowly orientation tuned for nearby edges, and more broadly tuned for distant edges. Such tuning would increase the coding efficiency of more frequently co-occurring contours, because the latter would evoke fewer spikes (due to tuned suppression) than less frequent contours. On the other hand, the same tuning results in increased saliency of less frequently co-occurring contours in natural images.

Perceptually, sharply orientation-tuned near-surround suppression may serve to detect small orientation differences in nearby edges, which is useful for local contour completion or figure-ground segregation (Lamme, 1995). Instead, broadly tuned far-surround suppression could serve to detect large orientation differences in distant edges, useful for perception of global contours and/or to direct saccades and/or attention to salient visual field locations that are markedly different from their surrounding (Petrov and McKee, 2006).

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