

SYDE 556/750  
Simulating Neurobiological Systems  
Lecture 9: Analysing Representation

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Based on lecture notes by  
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**Accompanying Readings: Chapter 7 of Neural Engineering**

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✂ UNDER CONSTRUCTION ✂

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- **Observation:** Some functions are “harder” to decoder than others (larger error)
- **Goal:** Get a better understanding of the types of function that can be decoded
- Tuning curves are a set of basis functions; decoders combine these basis functions

$$\hat{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i a_i(x) = \langle \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{a}(x) \rangle$$

- Tuning curves are highly similar
- Find basis transformation  $\mathbf{T}$  that maximises the information in the basis functions  $\Rightarrow$  PCA

$$\hat{x} = \langle \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{a} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{d}\mathbf{T}^{-1}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{a} \rangle$$

- The scale Eigenvalues corresponding to the individual Principal Components is inversely proportional to the noise in the decoding  $\Rightarrow$  large Eigenvalue  $\Rightarrow$  this basis function can be decoded well