

Neural-guidance by the Human Ventral Visual Stream Improves Neural Network Robustness

Zhenan Shao^{1,2}, Linjian Ma³, Bo Li^{3,4}, Diane M. Beck^{1,2}

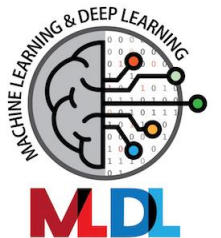
¹Department of Psychology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

²Beckman Institute, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

³Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

⁴Department of Computer Science, University of Chicago

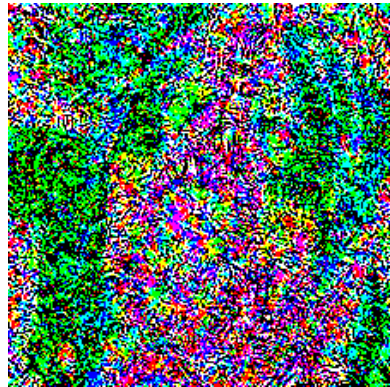
MLDL Workshop at Sandia National Laboratories, 2024



 *Dog!*

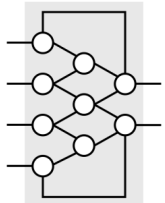


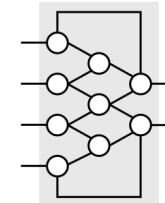
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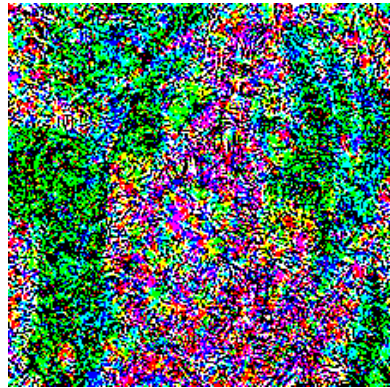
 *Dog!*
Conf:88%

 *Ostrich!*
Conf:91%

 *Dog!*

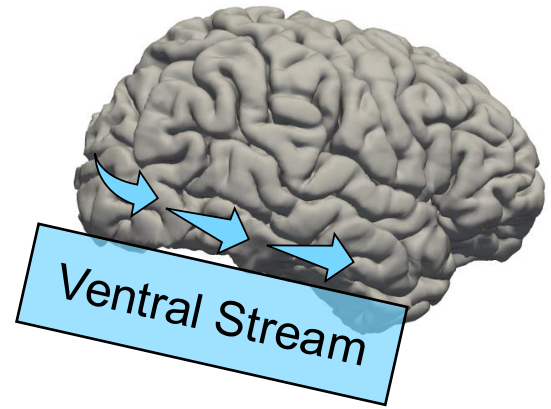


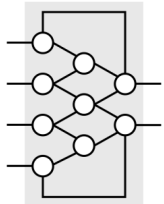
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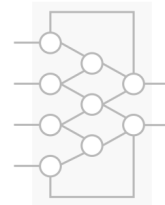


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 *Dog!*



 *Dog!*
Conf:88%

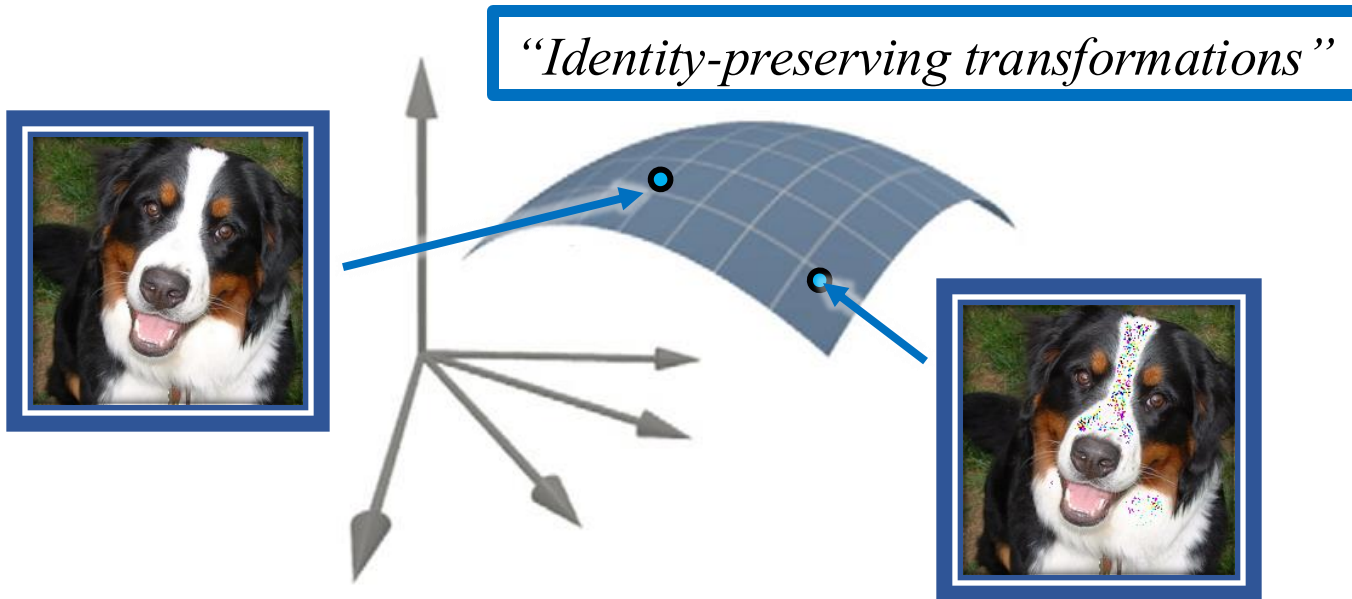
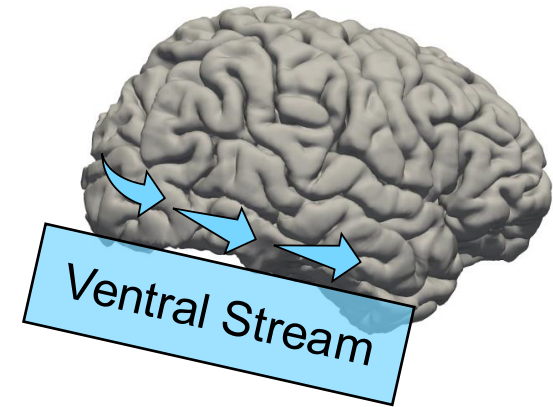
 *Ostrich!*
Conf:~100%

Achieving invariances along visual ventral stream



- Evolving representational space achieved by disentangling object manifolds along the ventral visual stream.

Dicarlo & Cox, Trends Cogn Sci. 2007

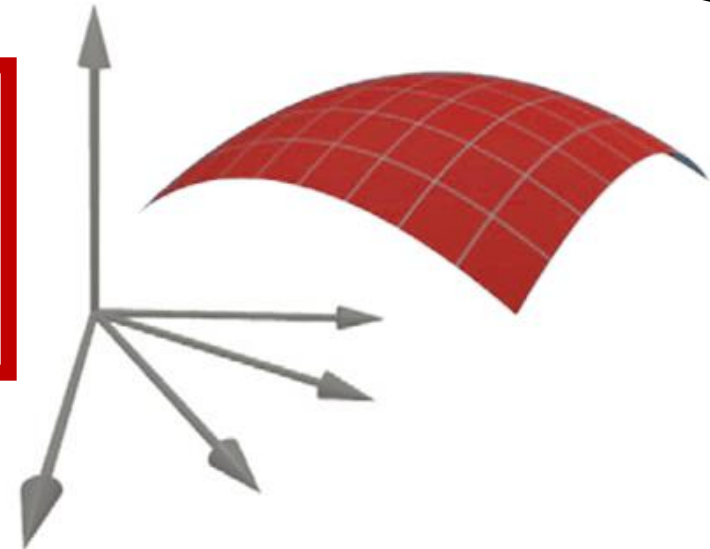
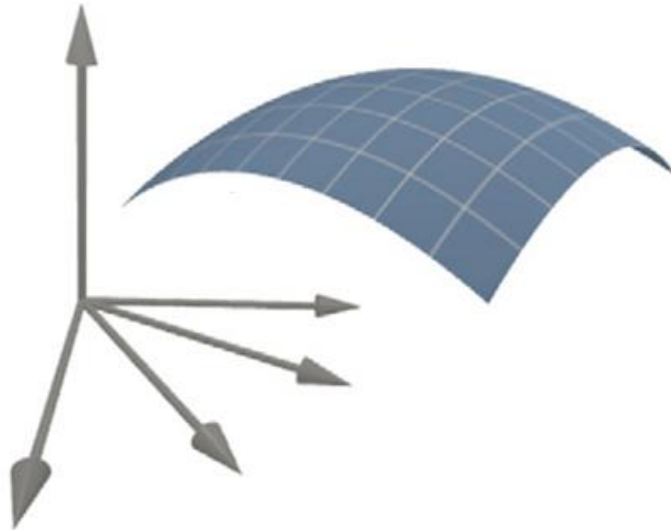
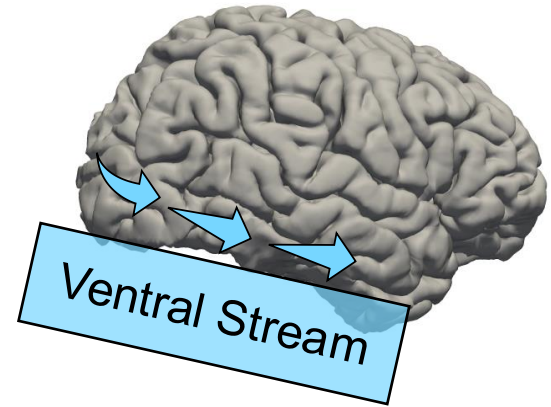


Achieving invariances along visual ventral stream



- Evolving representational space achieved by disentangling object manifolds along the ventral visual stream.

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Achieving invariances along visual ventral stream

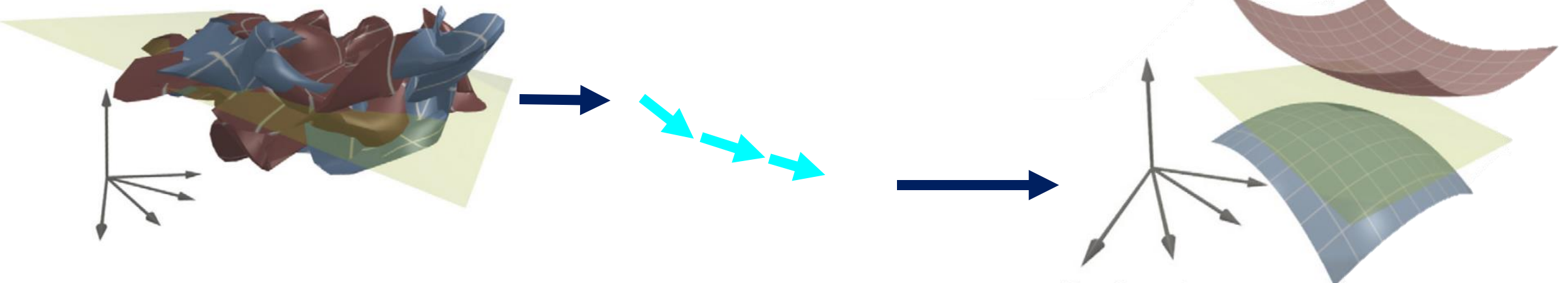
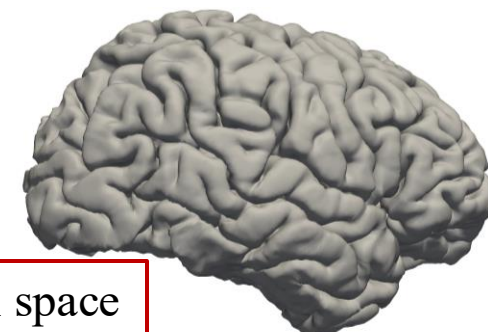


- Evolving representational space achieved by disentangling object manifolds along the ventral visual stream.

Dicarlo & Cox, Trends Cogn Sci. 2007

Pixel space

“Good” neural space



Decision hyperplane

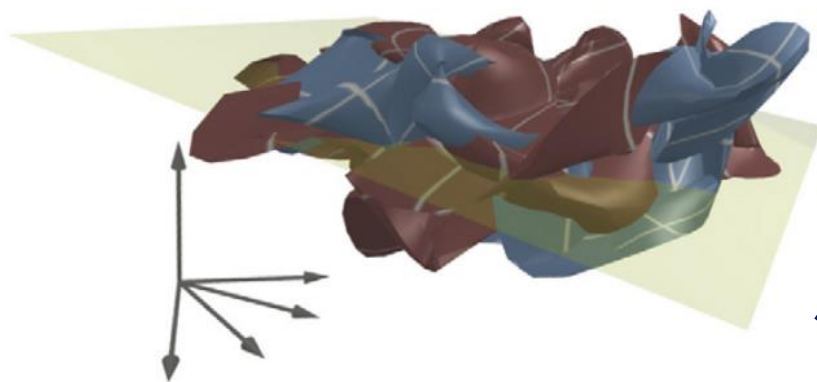
Achieving invariances along visual ventral stream



- Evolving representational space achieved by disentangling object manifolds along the ventral visual stream.

Dicarlo & Cox, Trends Cogn Sci. 2007

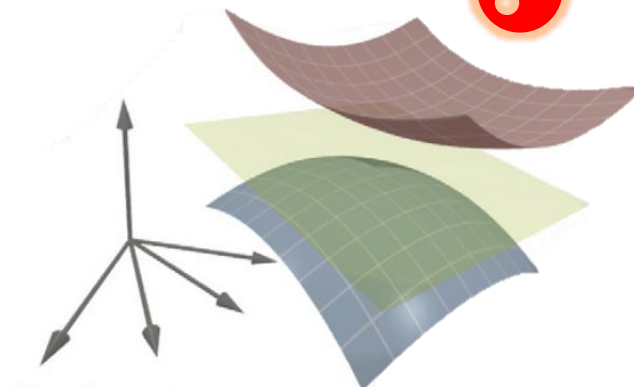
Pixel space



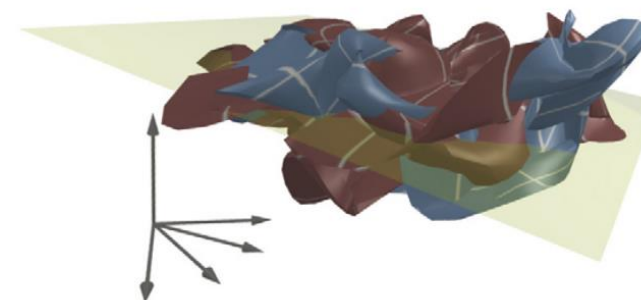
Decision hyperplane



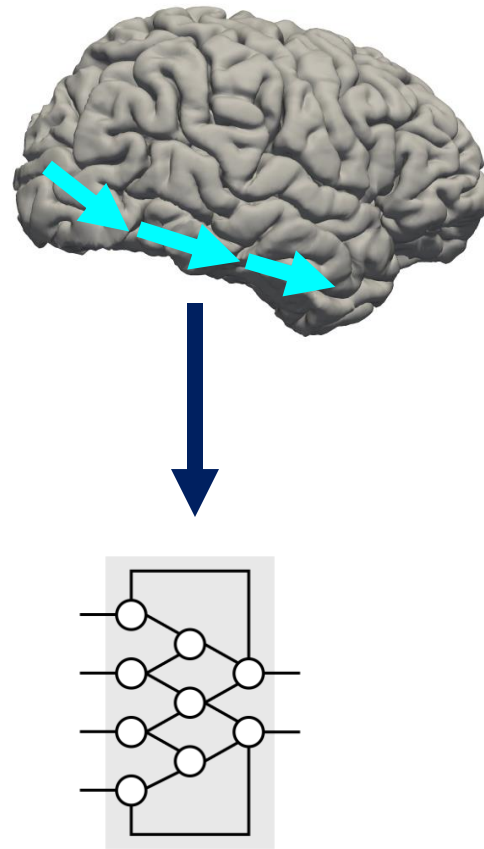
“Good” neural space



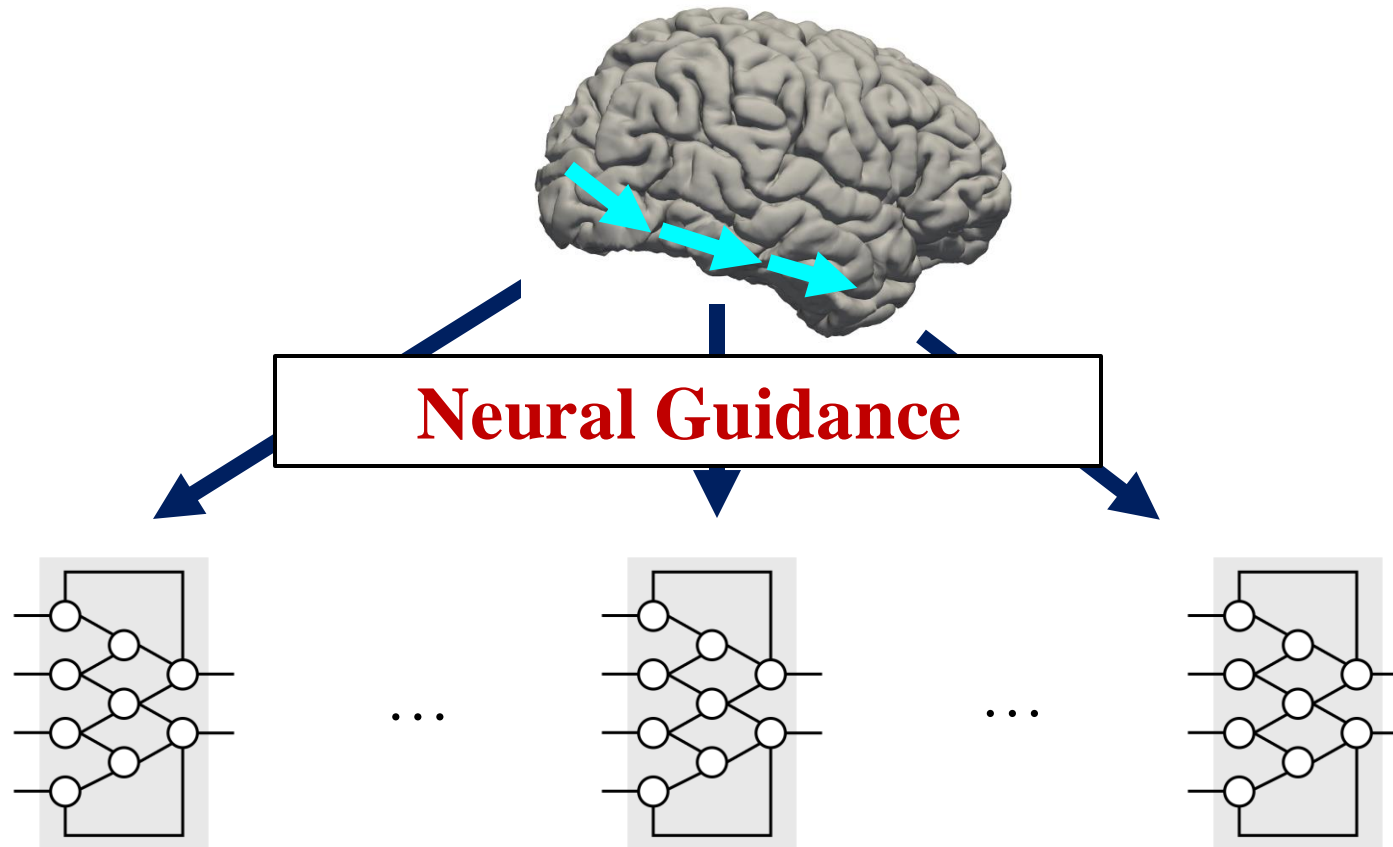
“Not so good” DNN space



1. Does training guided by human ventral cortex activity improve DNN robustness?



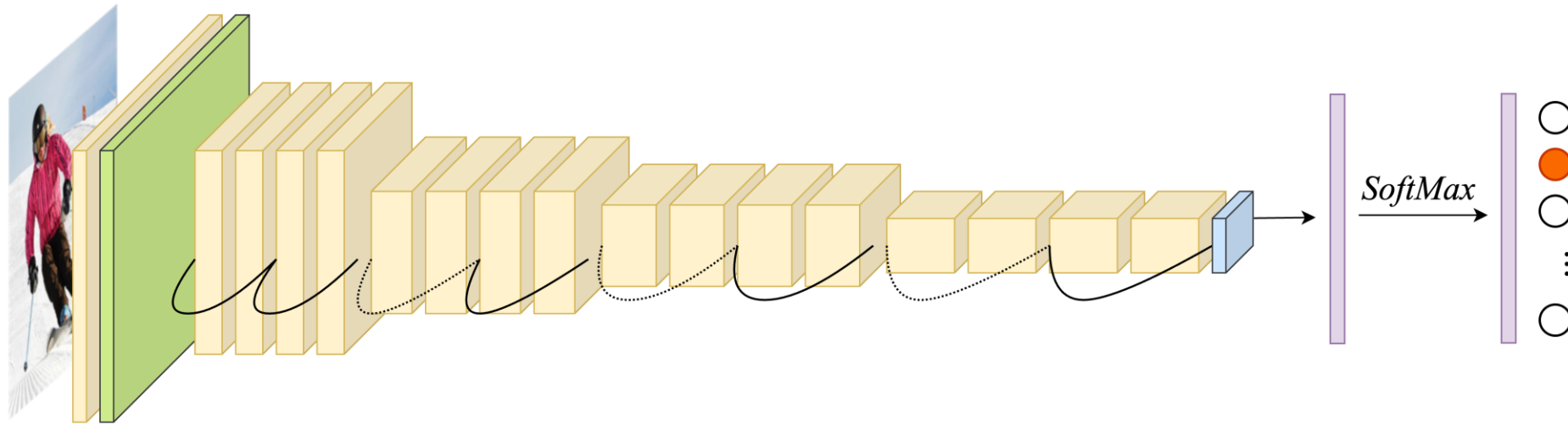
1. Does training guided by human ventral cortex activity improve DNN robustness?
2. Does such improvement increase as we ascend the ventral visual cortex?







Training with Neural Guidance



$$LOSS_{total} = L_{task}$$

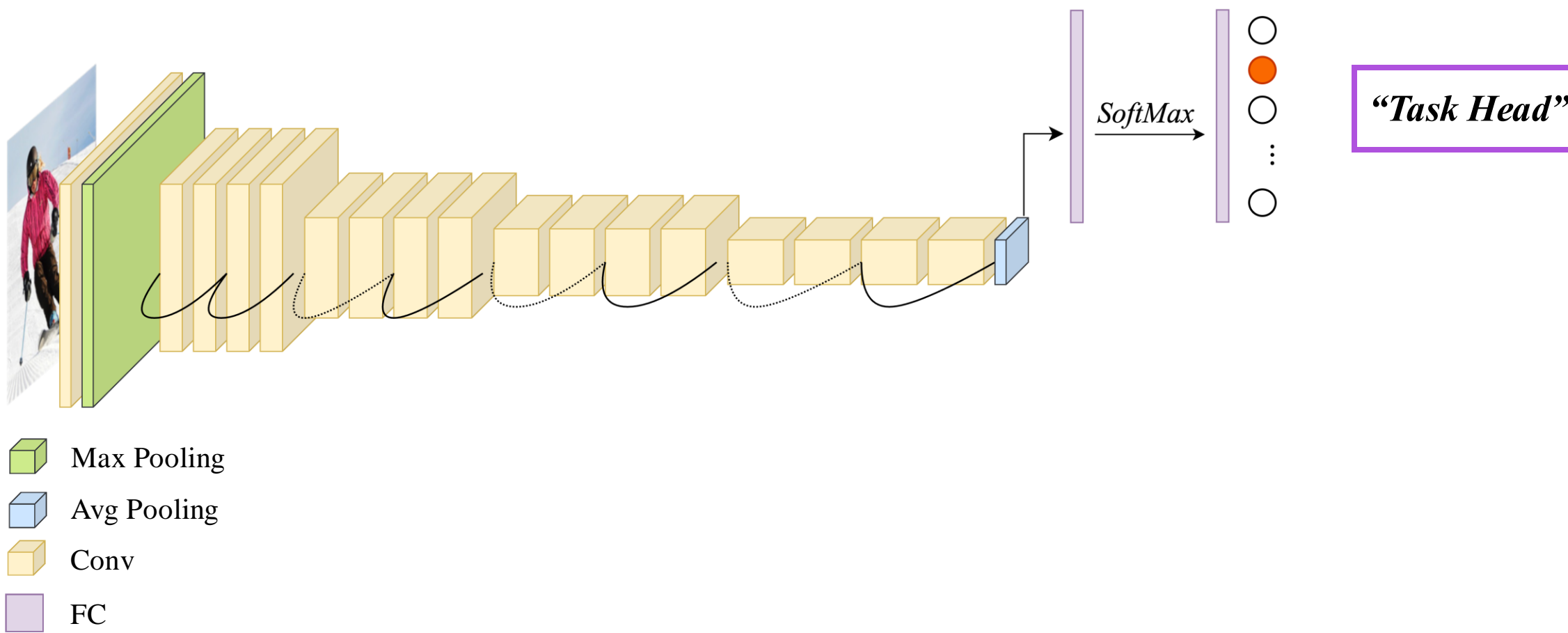


-  Max Pooling
-  Avg Pooling
-  Conv
-  FC

Training with Neural Guidance



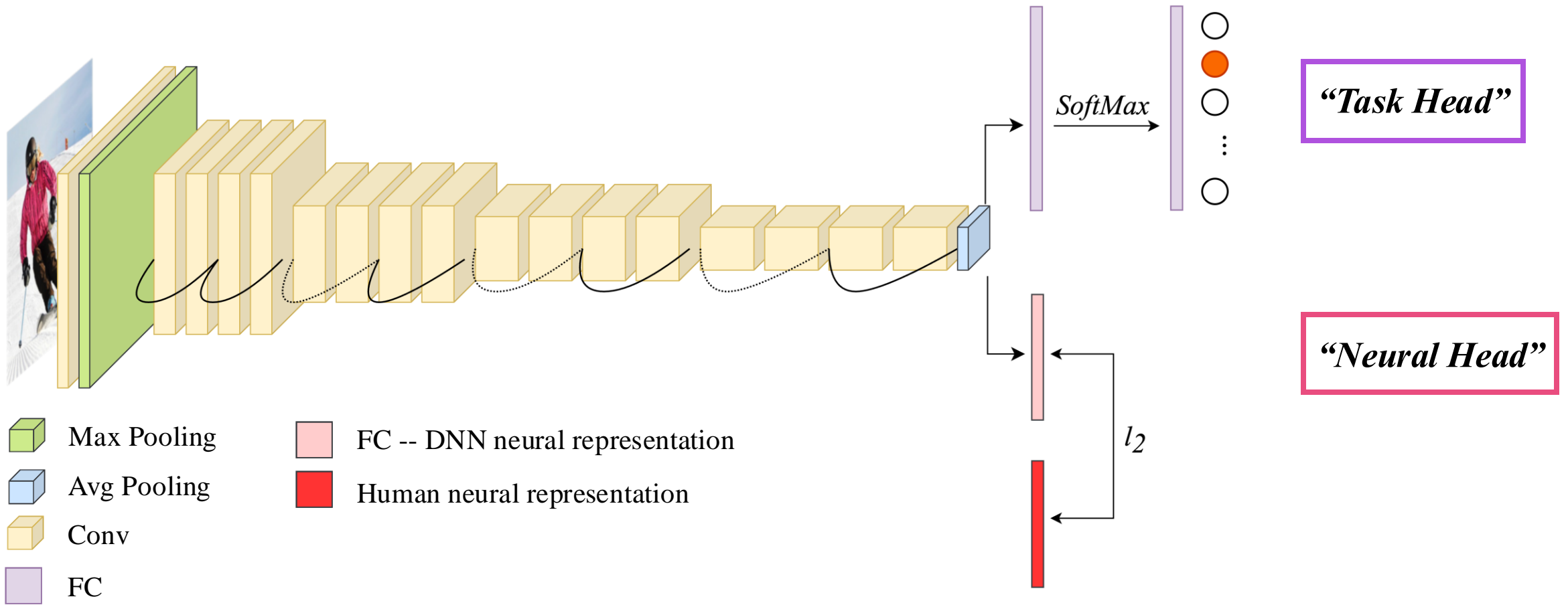
$$LOSS_{total} = L_{task}$$



Training with Neural Guidance



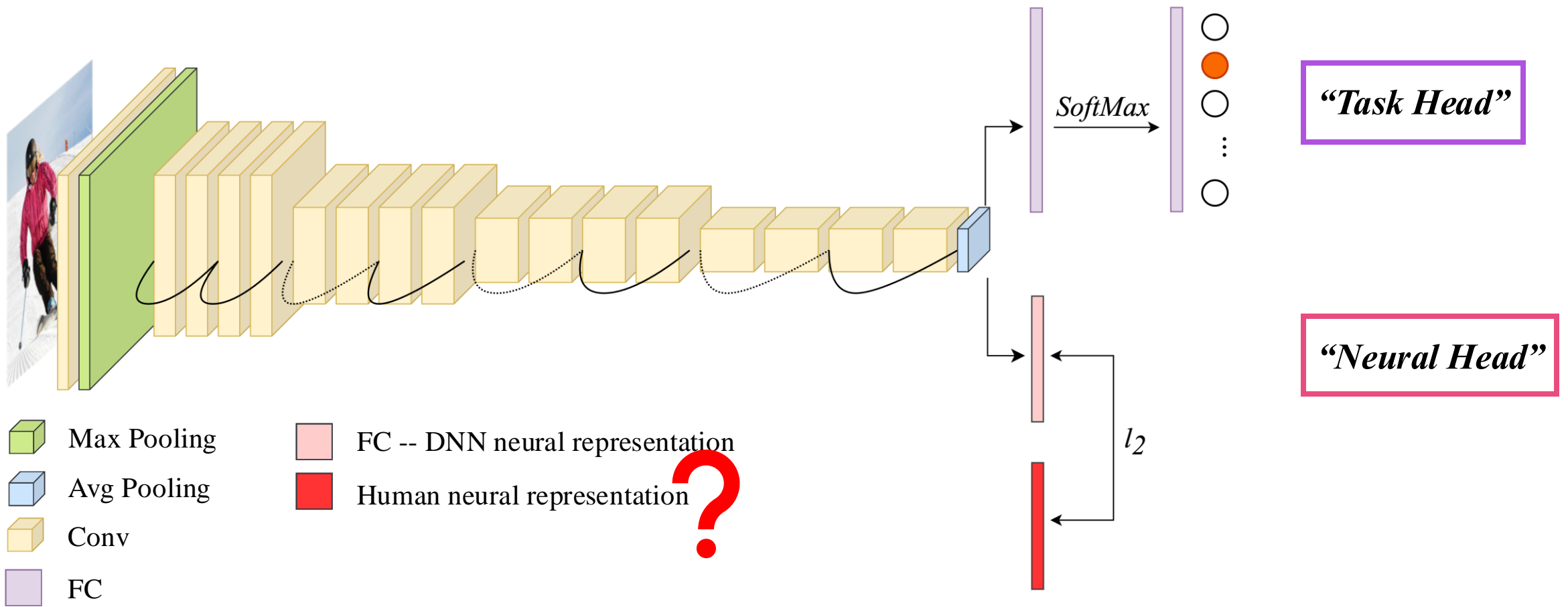
$$Loss_{total} = L_{task} + ||R_{DNN} - R_{neural}||_2$$



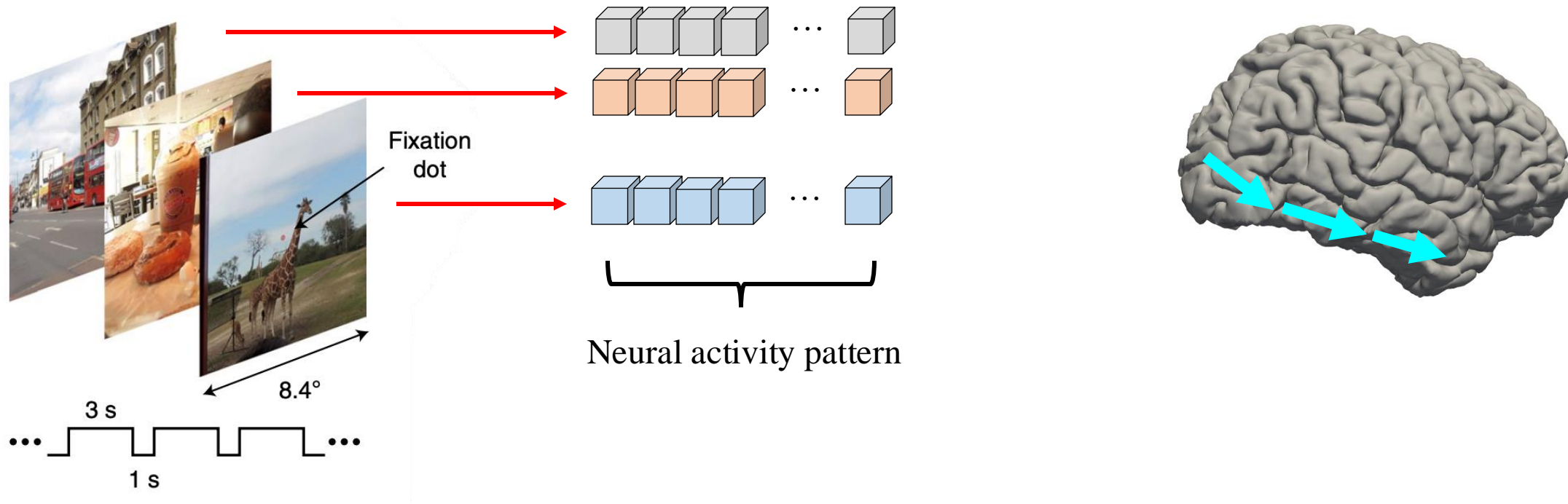
Training with Neural Guidance



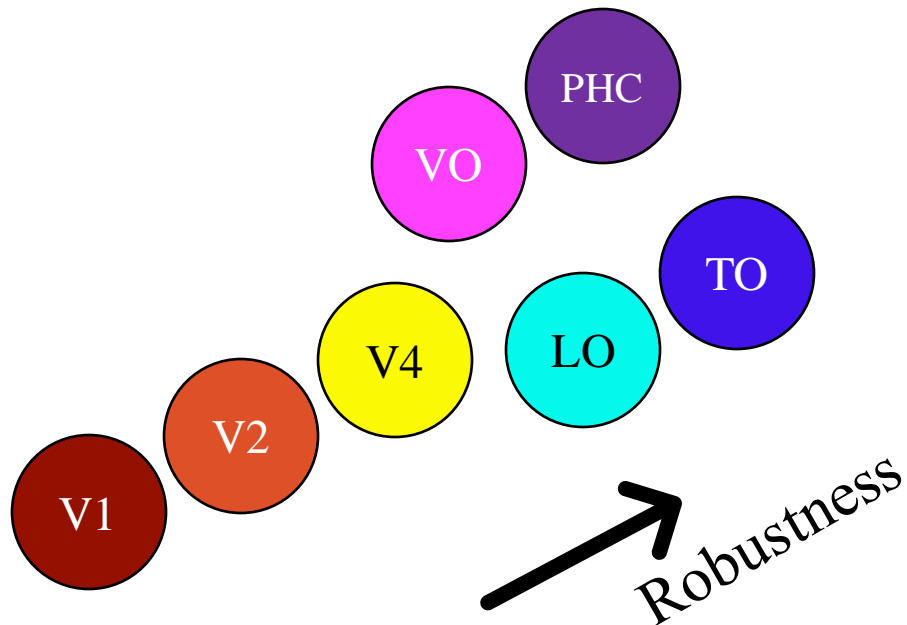
$$LOSS_{total} = \alpha L_{task} + (1 - \alpha) ||R_{DNN} - R_{neural} ||_2$$



- Brain activities were recorded with 7T fMRI while each human subject viewing 10,000 natural images. (*Natural Scene Dataset, Allen et al., Nat. Neurosci. 2022*)



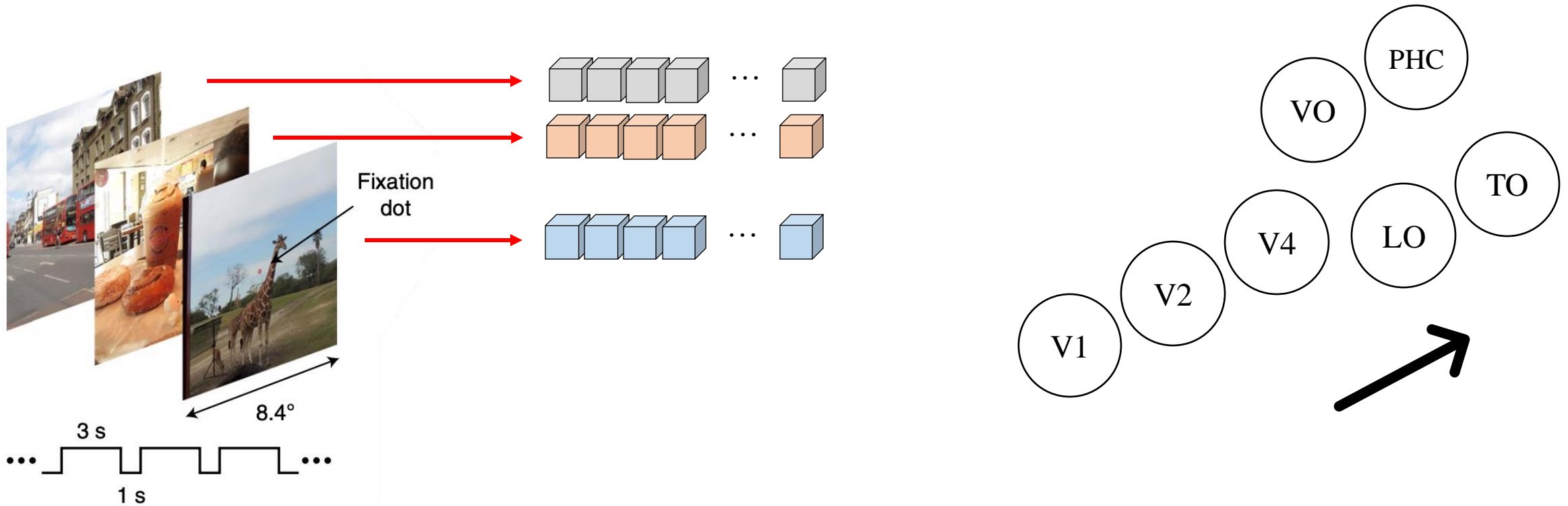
- Brain activities were recorded with 7T fMRI while each human subject viewing ~30,000 natural images.
- 7 bilateral Regions of Interest (ROIs) were used
(Wang *et al.*, *Cereb. Cortex*, 2015)



Ventral Visual Stream Hierarchy

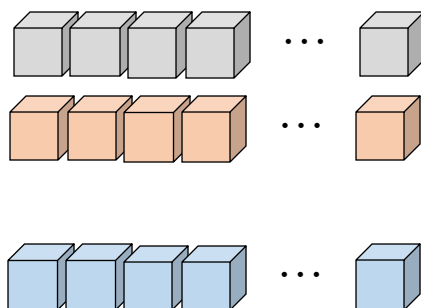
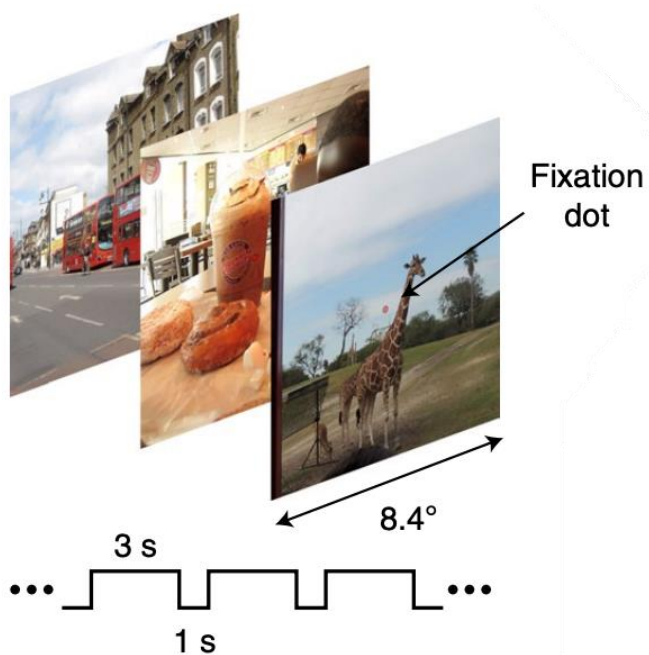


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(NSD, Allen et al., Nat. Neurosci. 2022)

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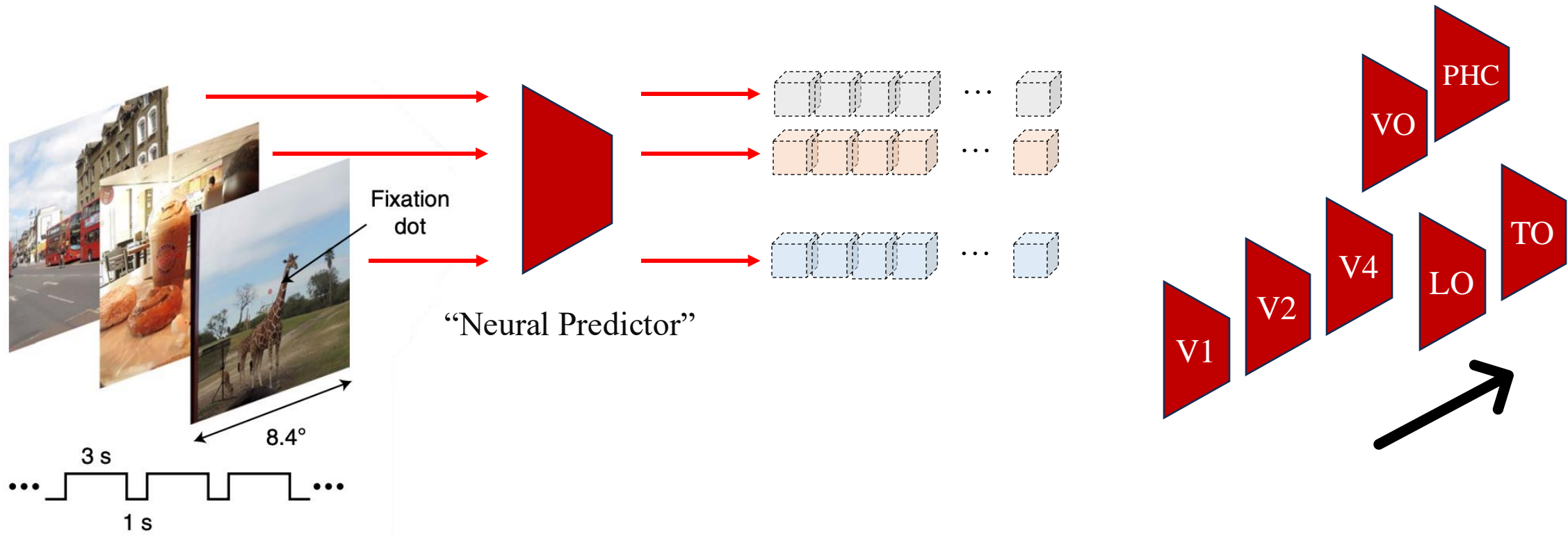


(NSD, Allen et al., Nat. Neurosci. 2022)

Neural representation



- Brain activities were recorded with 7T fMRI while each human subject viewing ~30,000 natural images.
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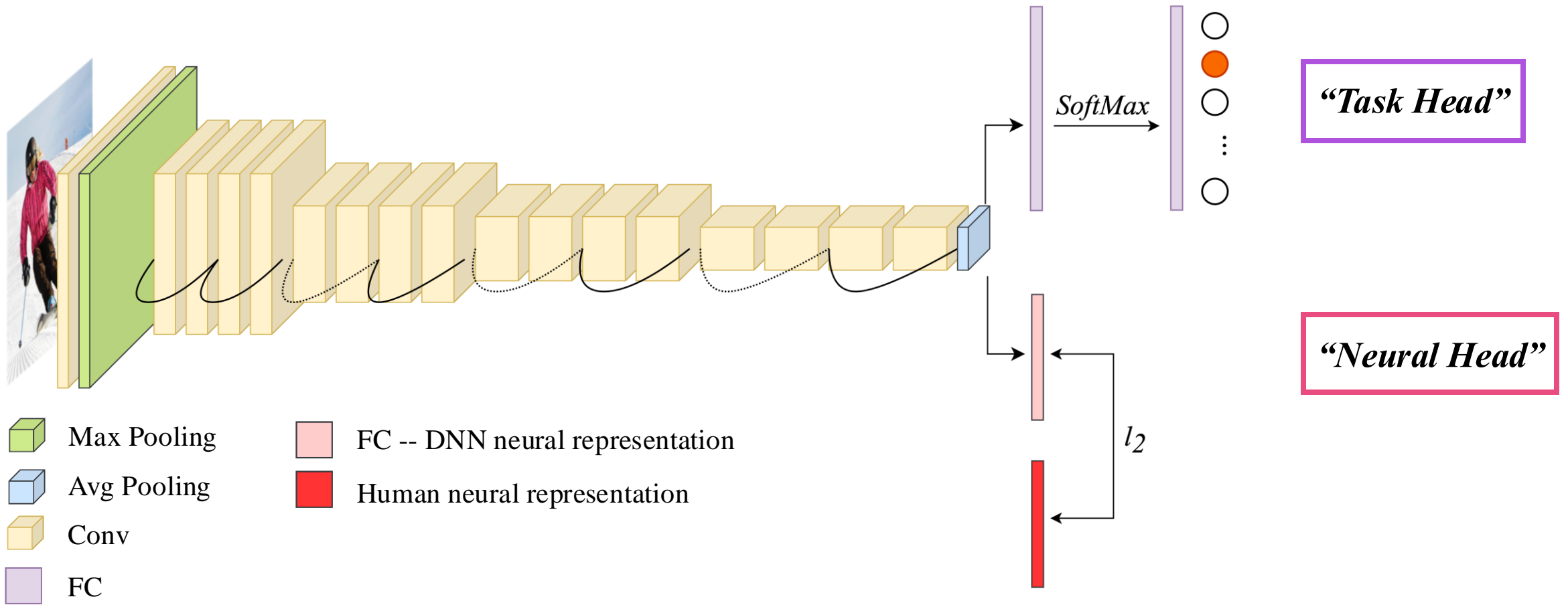


(NSD, Allen et al., Nat. Neurosci. 2022)

Training with Neural Guidance



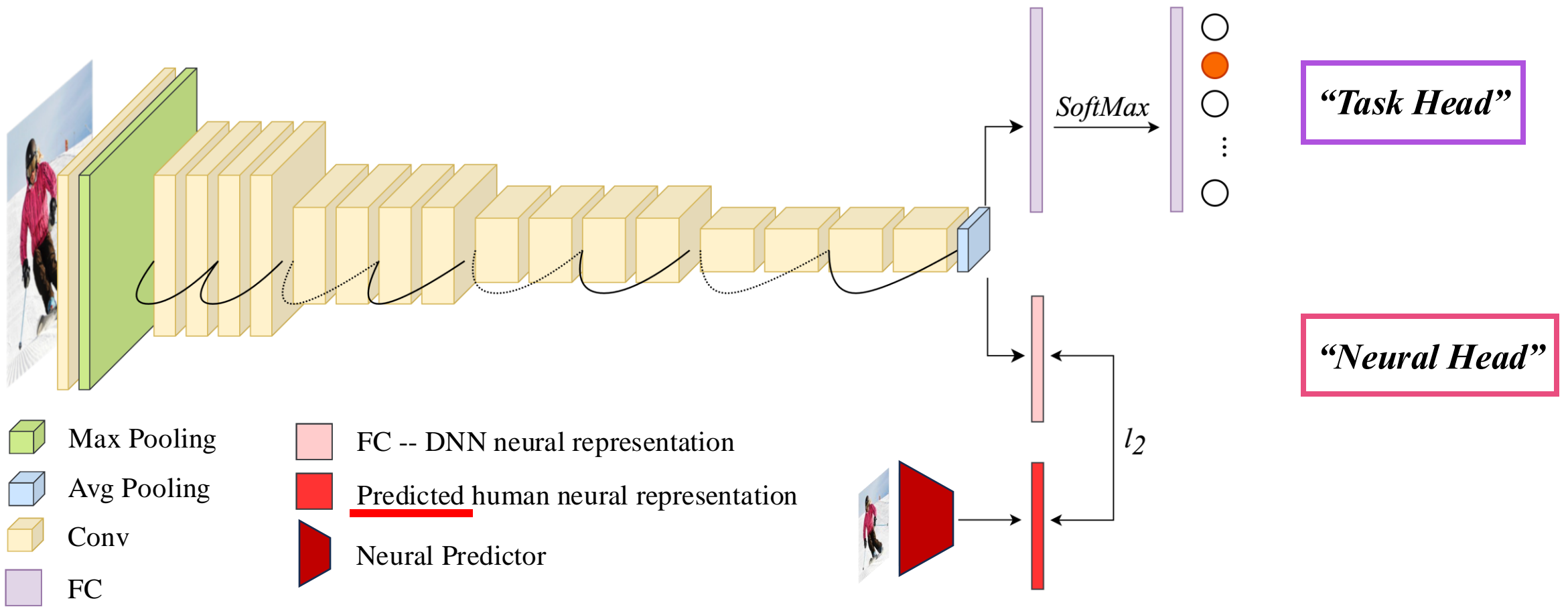
$$Loss_{total} = \alpha L_{task} + (1 - \alpha) ||R_{DNN} - R_{neural} ||_2$$



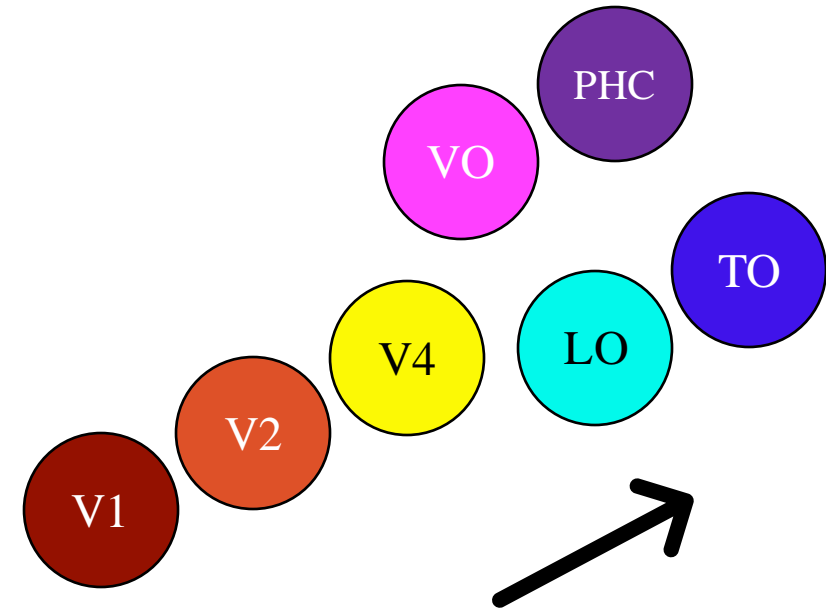
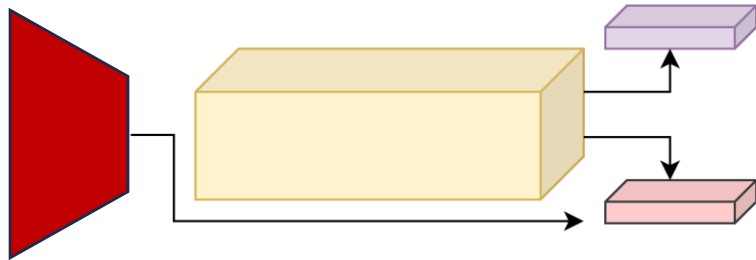
Training with Neural Guidance



$$Loss_{total} = \alpha L_{task} + (1 - \alpha) ||R_{DNN} - R_{neural} ||_2$$



- 7 DNNs trained with **Neural Guidance**



Ventral Visual Stream Hierarchy

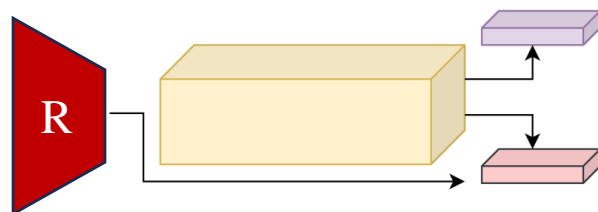
Summary of models



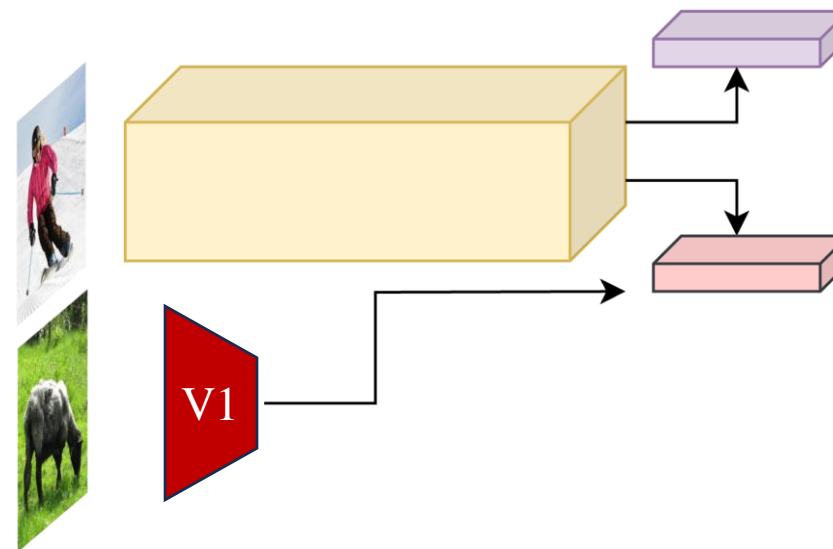
- 7 DNNs trained with **Neural Guidance**
- 4 **baseline models** for comparison



“None”



“Random”

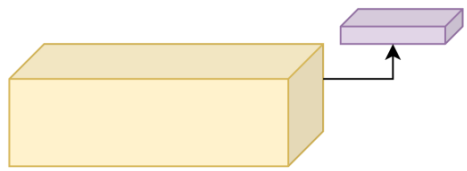


“V1-shuffle”

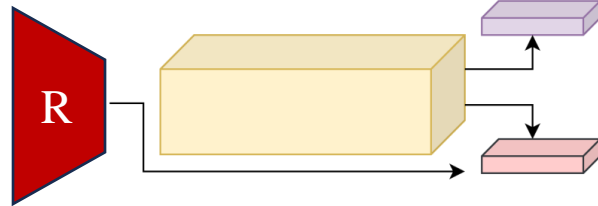
Summary of models



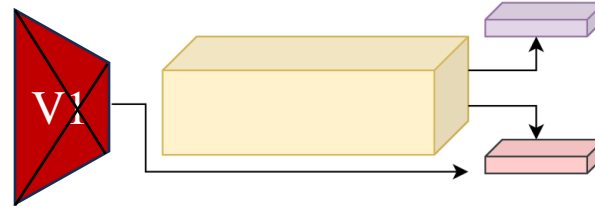
- 7 DNNs trained with **Neural Guidance**
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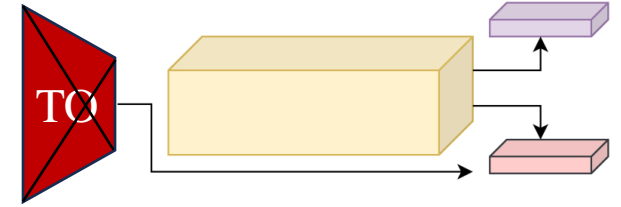
“None”



“Random”



“V1-shuffle”

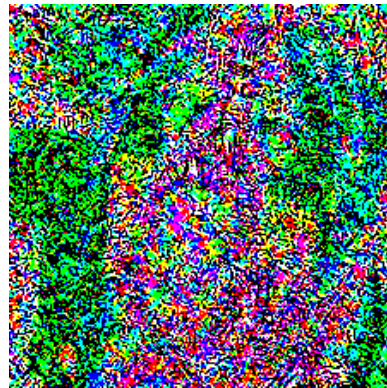


“TO-shuffle”

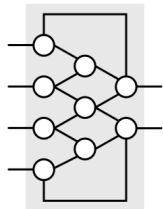
- l_p -based adversarial attack: $\max_{\|\tau\|_p < \epsilon} l(f_\theta(x + \tau), y)$



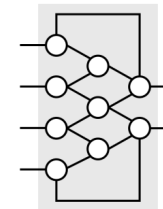
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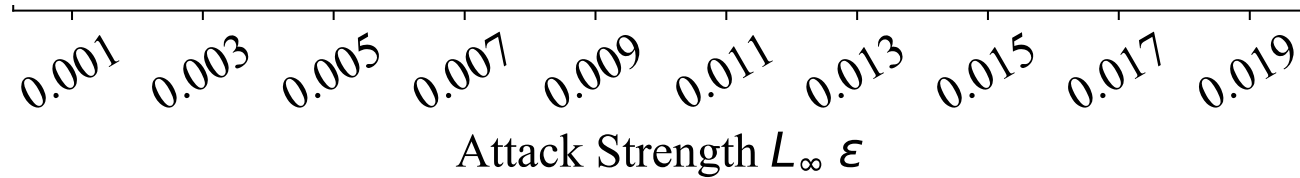
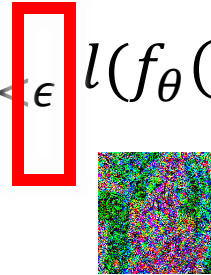


Dog!
Conf:88%



Ostrich!
Conf:91%

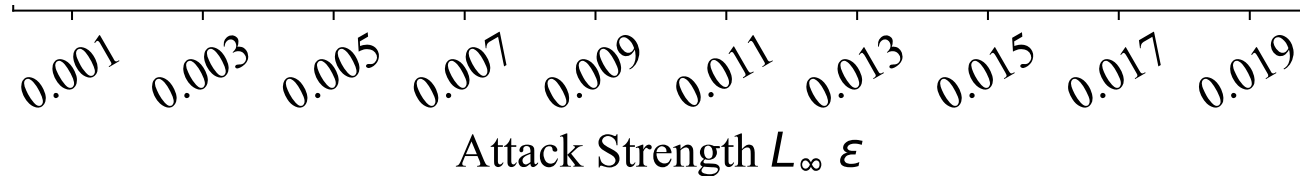
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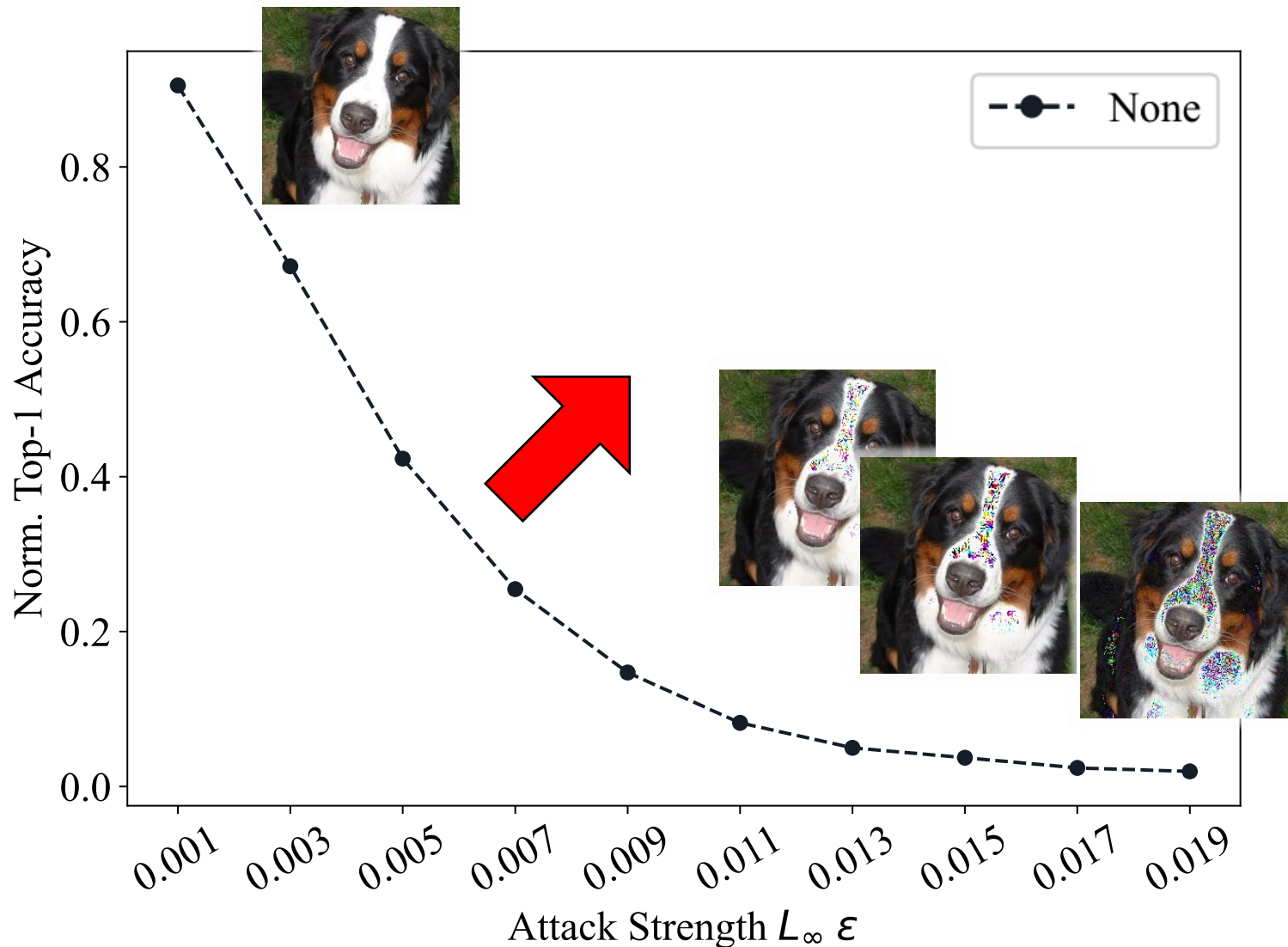
Task: Image Classification

Dataset: ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009)

Attack: l_∞ -based PGD attack



Evaluating DNN robustness



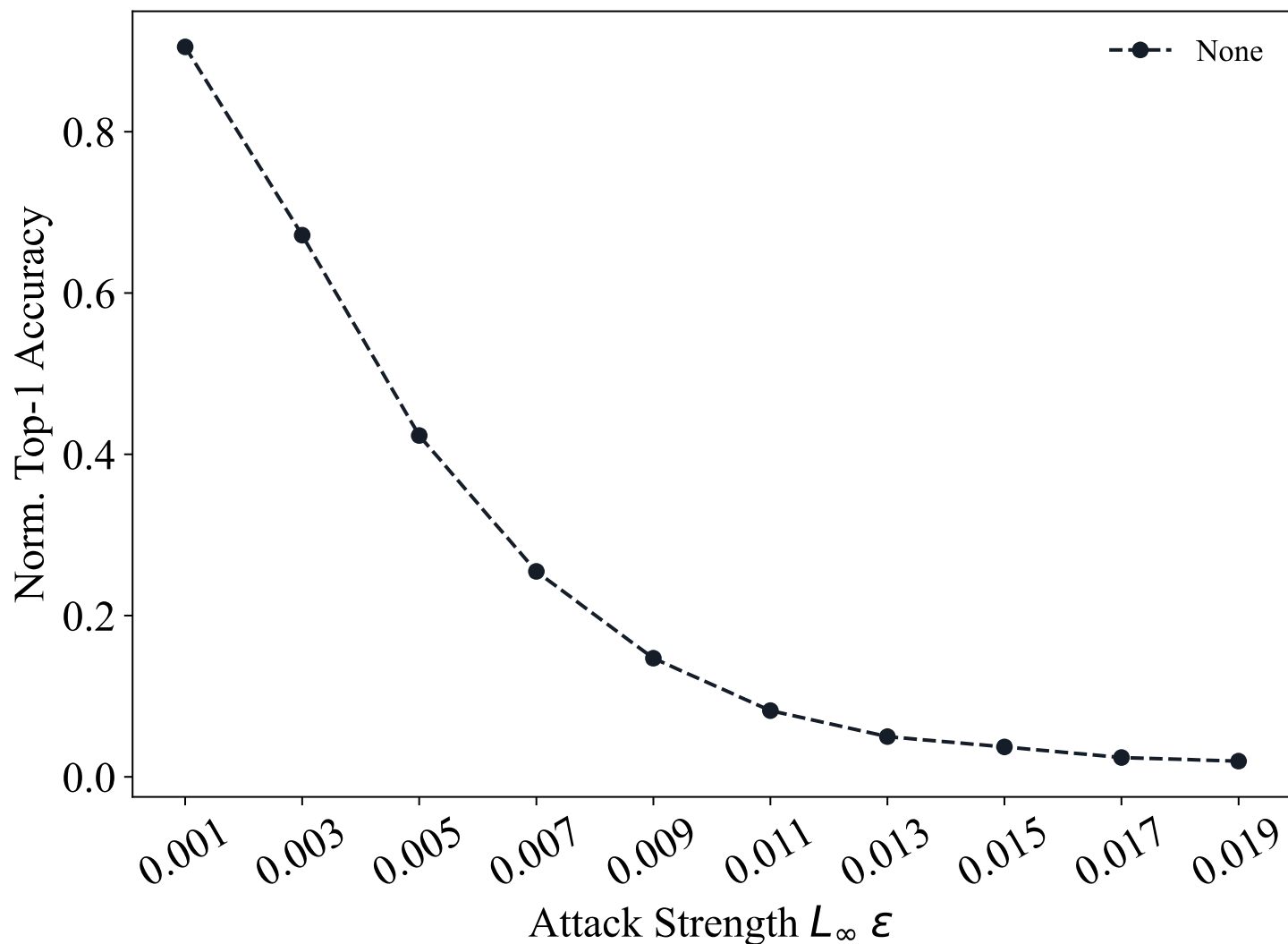
Task: Image Classification

Dataset: ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009)

Attack: l_∞ -based PGD attack

None

Evaluating DNN robustness - Results



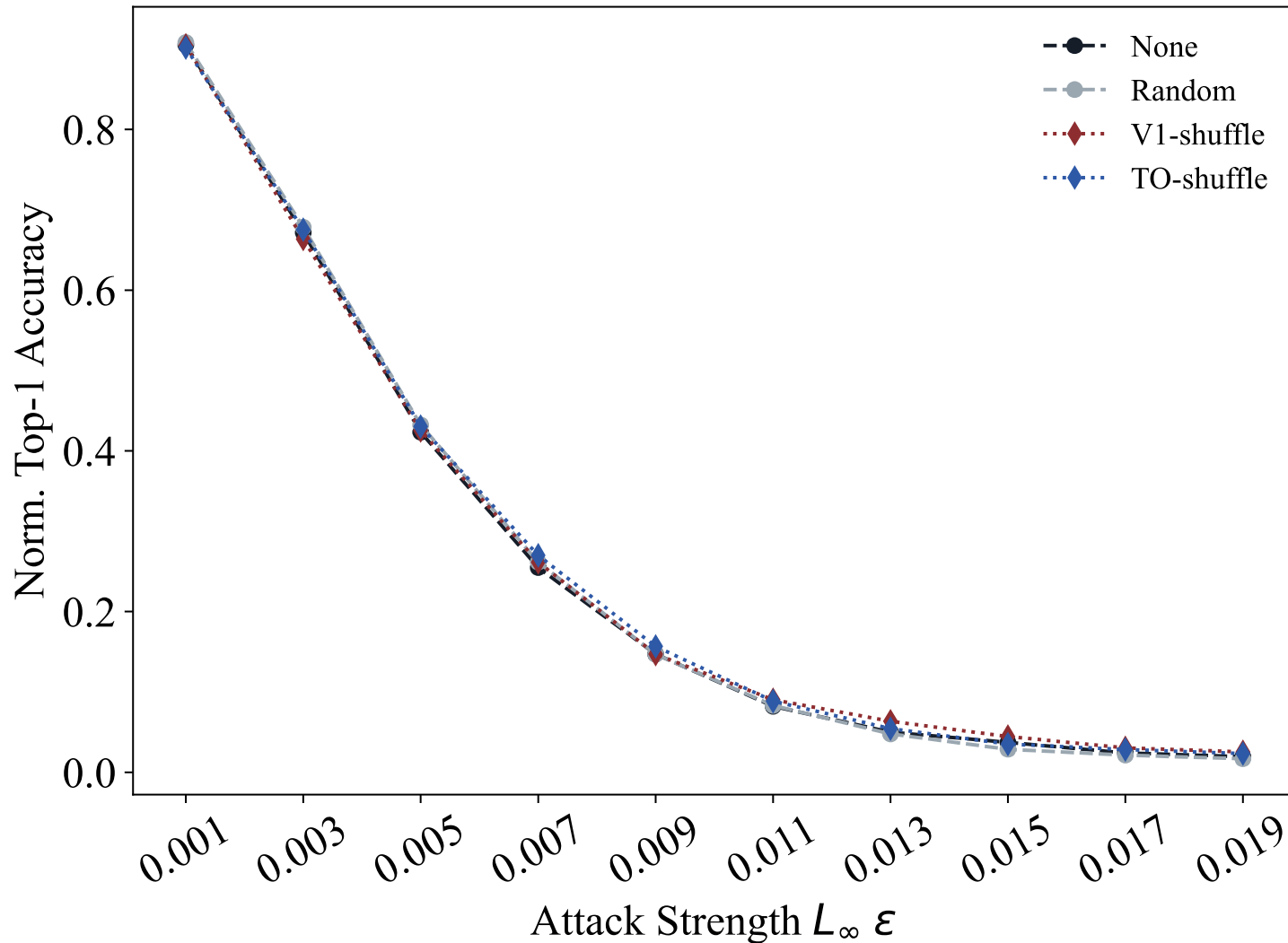
Task: Image Classification

Dataset: ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009)

Attack: l_∞ -based PGD attack

None || *Random*
V1-shuffle || *TO-shuffle*

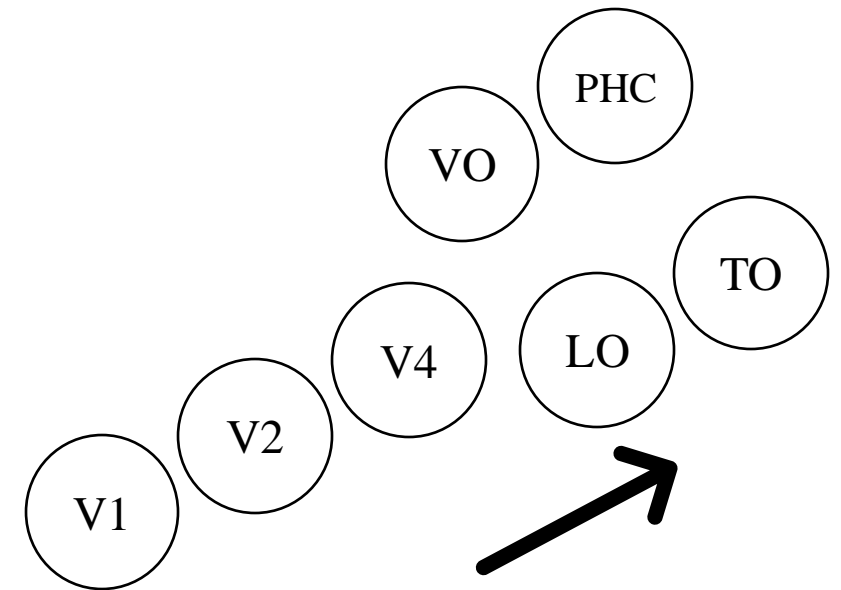
Evaluating DNN robustness - Results



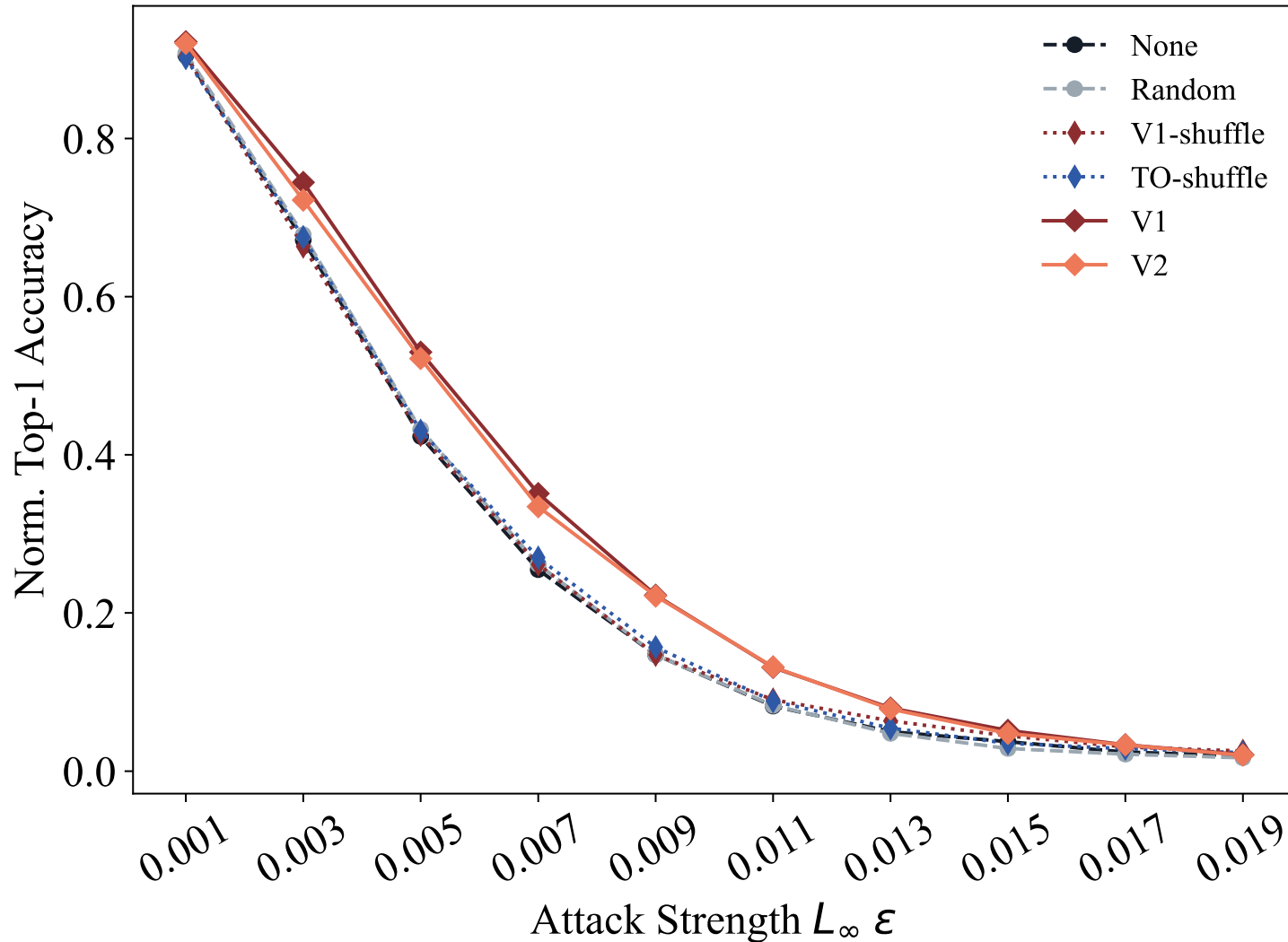
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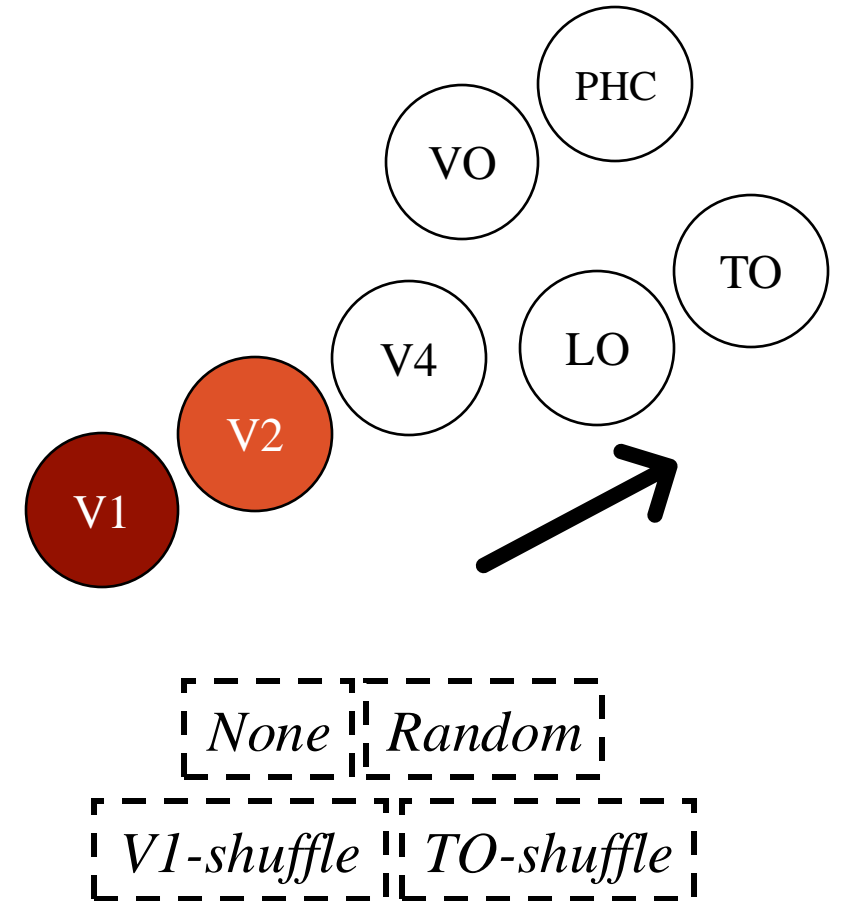
Evaluating DNN robustness - Results



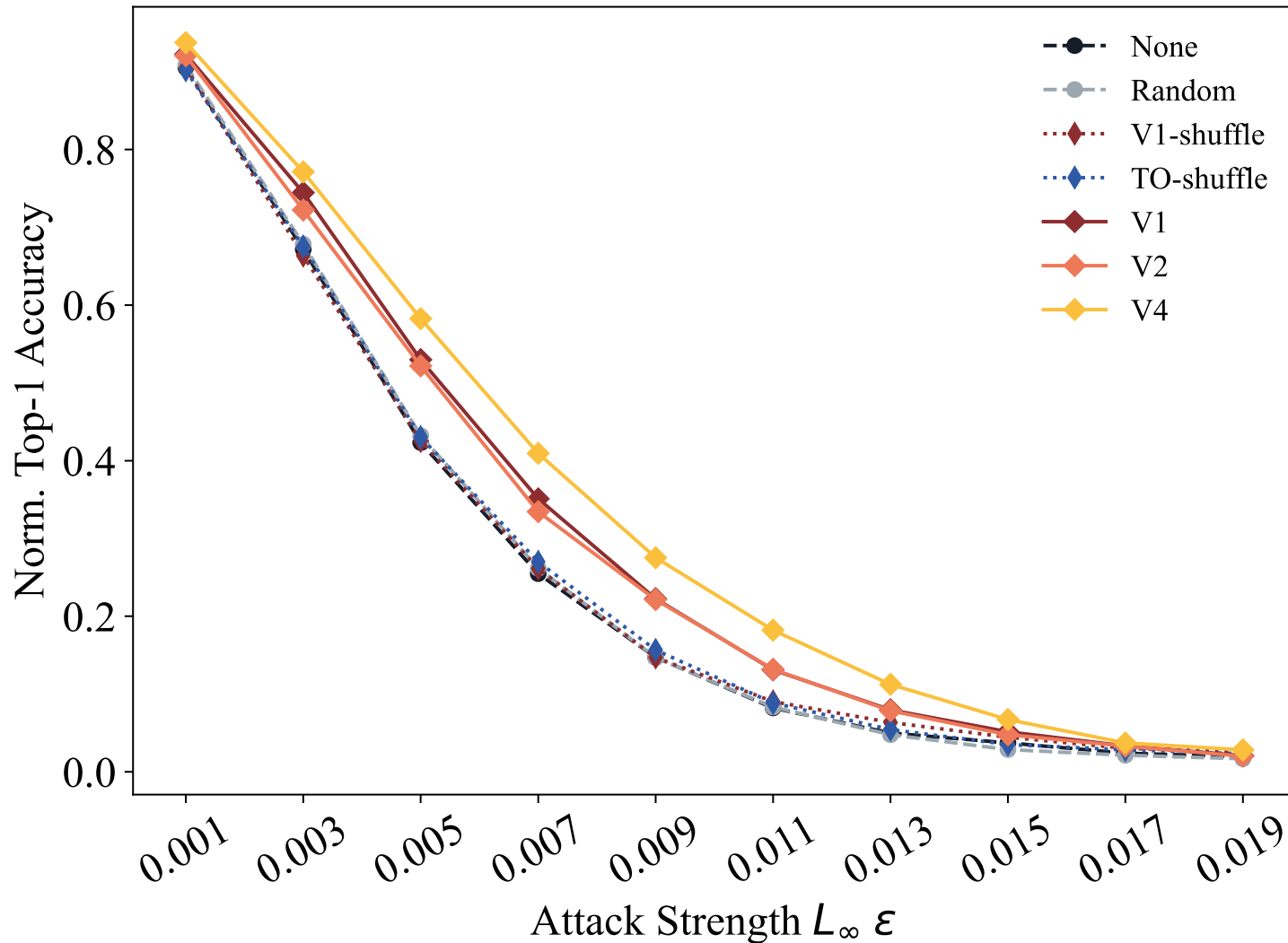
Task: Image Classification

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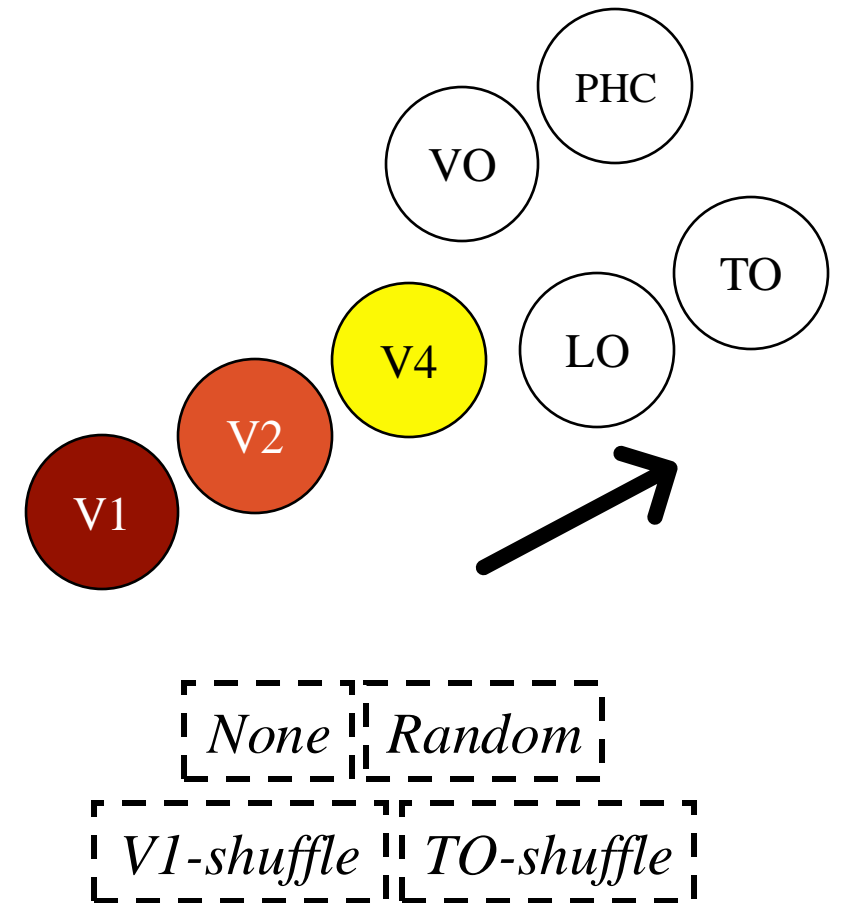
Evaluating DNN robustness - Results



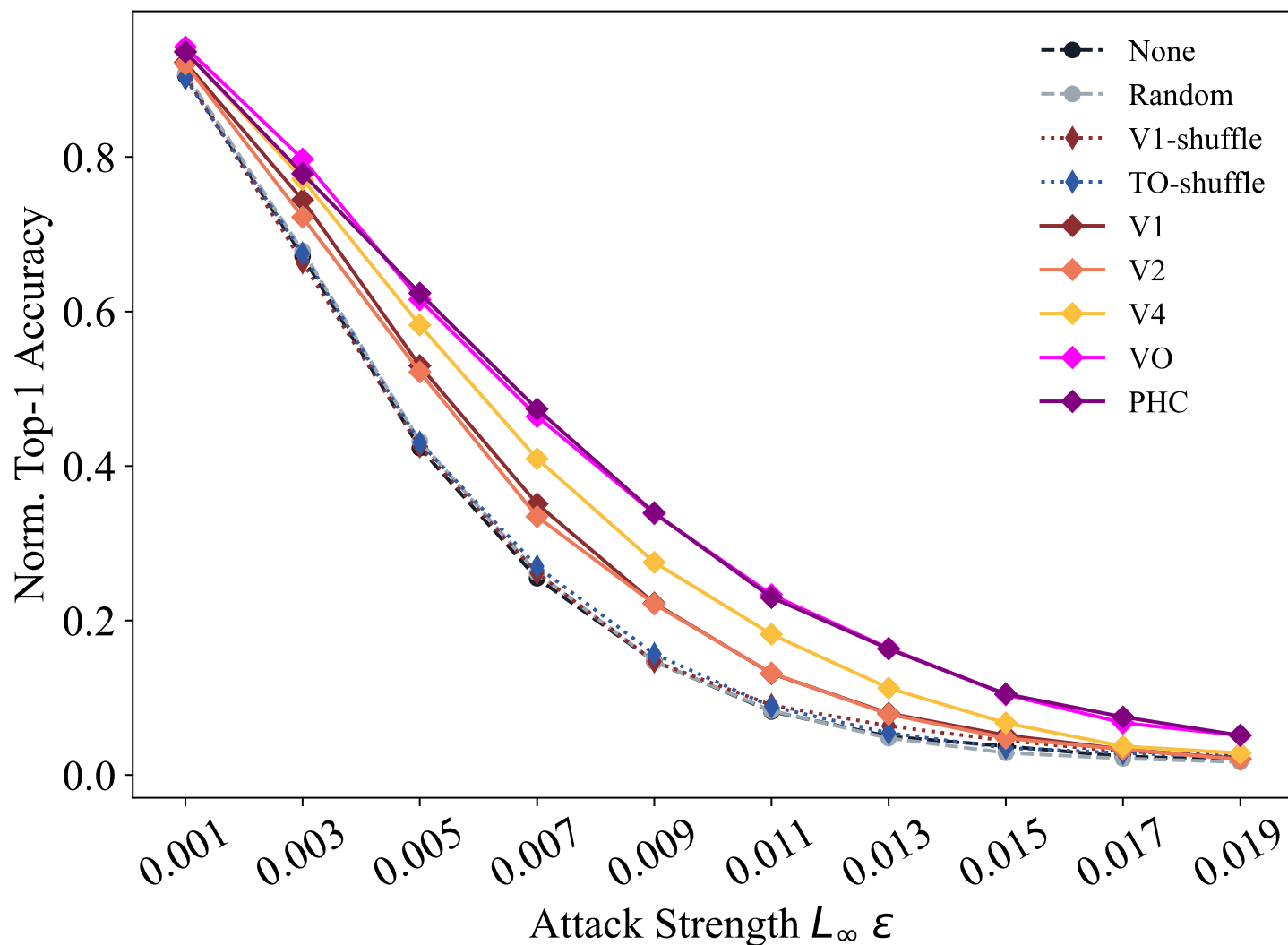
Task: Image Classification

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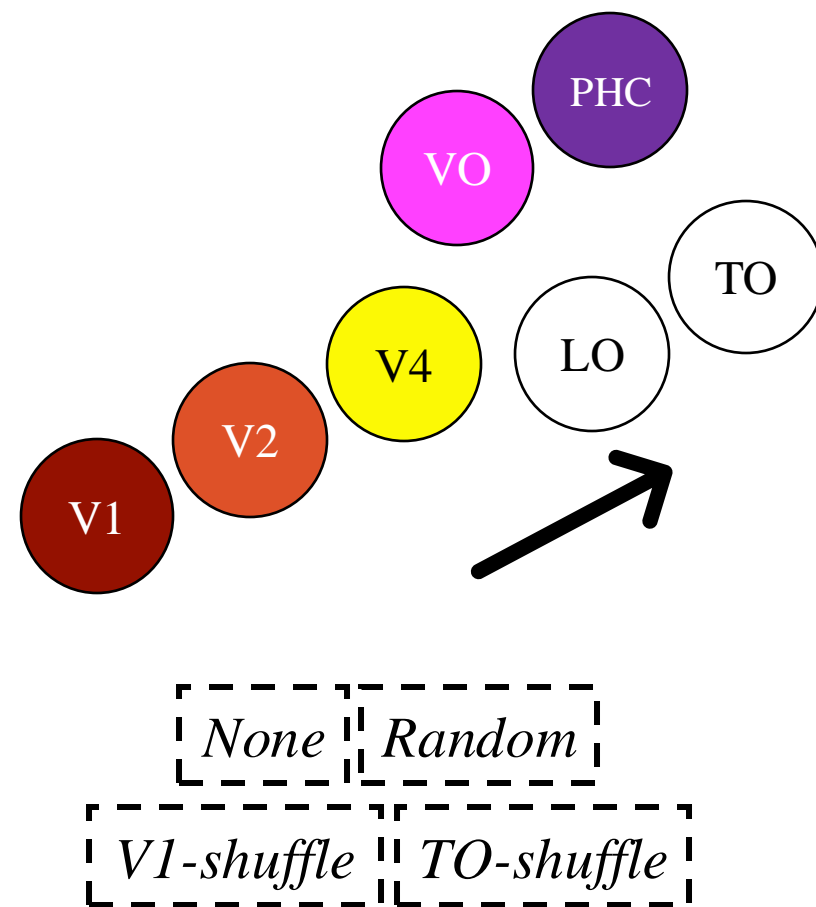
Evaluating DNN robustness - Results



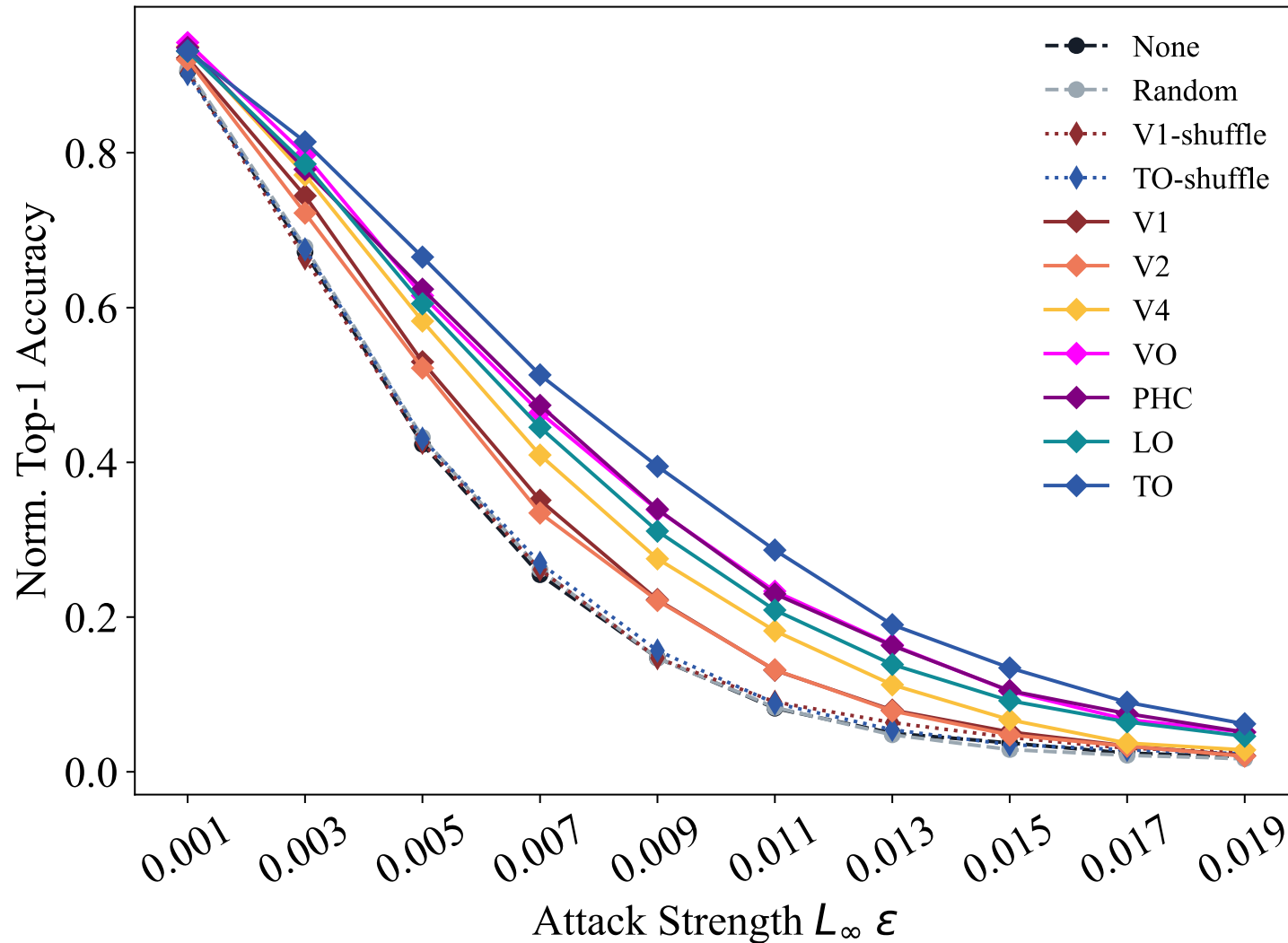
Task: Image Classification

Dataset: ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009)

Attack: l_∞ -based PGD attack



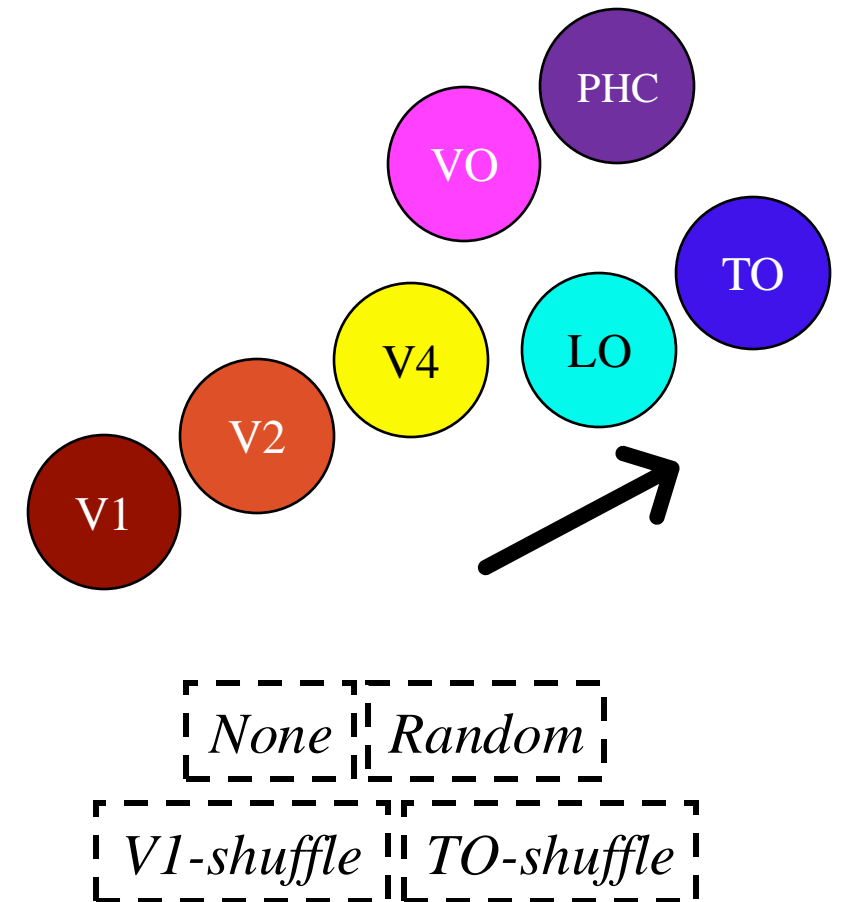
Evaluating DNN robustness - Results

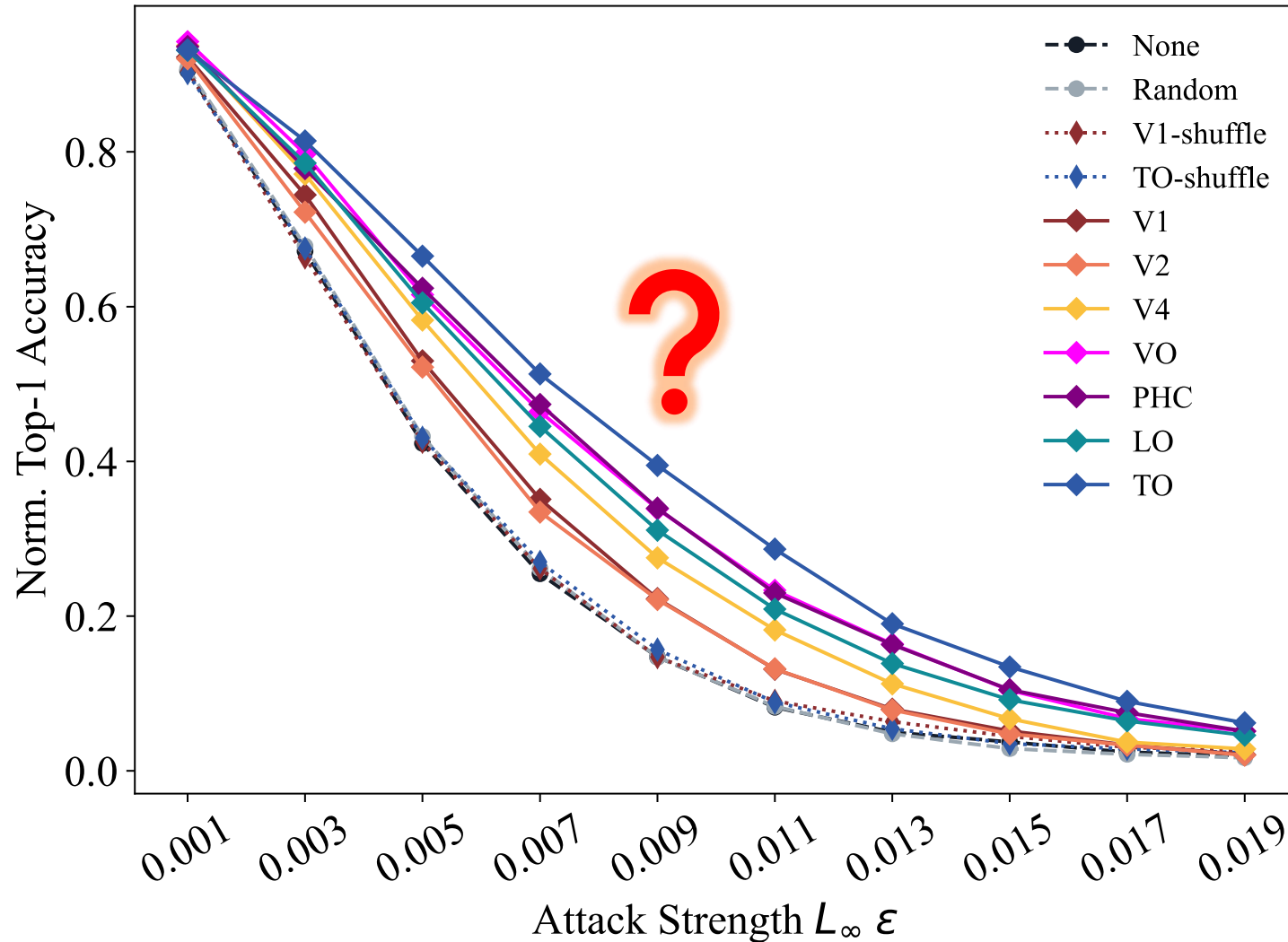


Task: Image Classification

Dataset: ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009)

Attack: l_∞ -based PGD attack





Task: Image Classification

Dataset: ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009)

Attack: l_∞ -based PGD attack

✓ **Neural guidance improves robustness** (max: 22% accuracy increase)

✓ **There exists a hierarchy of improvement's magnitude**

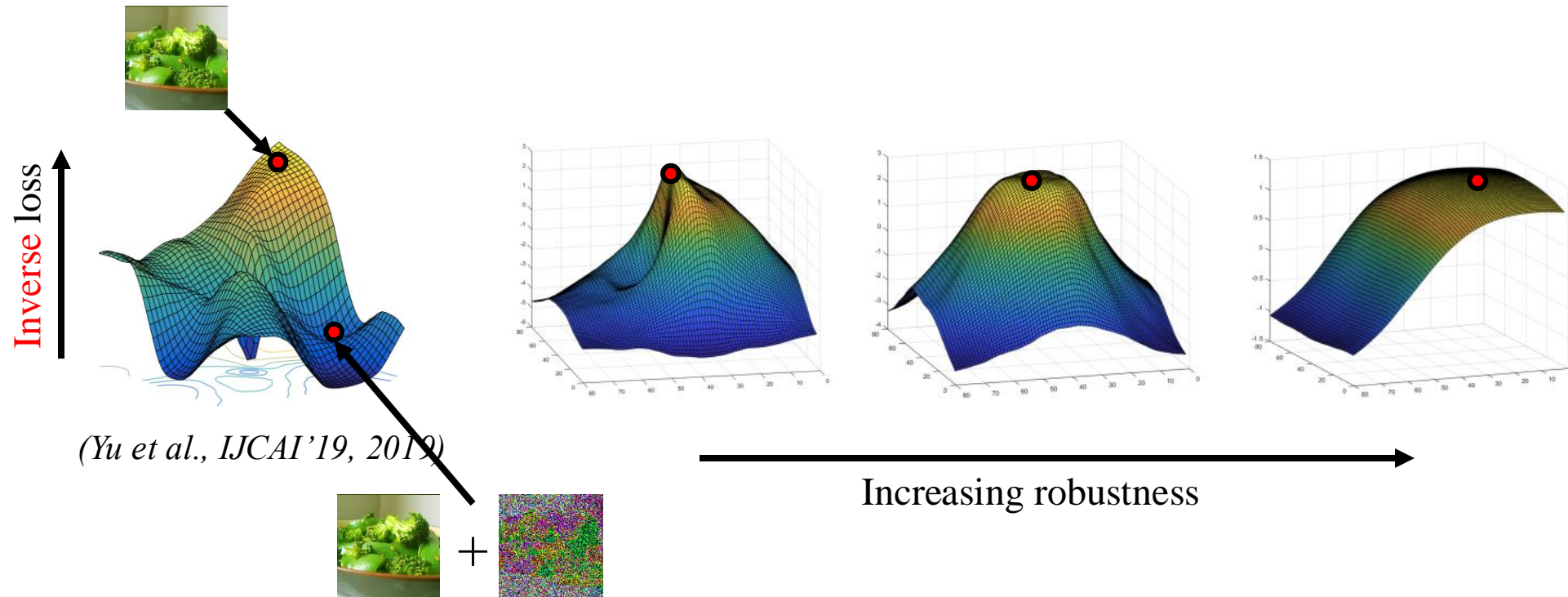
✓ **Replicated across datasets, tasks, attacks...**

- CIFAR-100
- MSCOCO
- Image Captioning
- L_∞ FGSM
- Auto-Attack (APGD-CE, APGD-T, FAB square)
- L_2 FGM
- L_2 Deepfool

Intriguing properties of neurally-guided DNNs



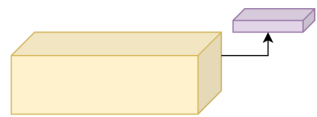
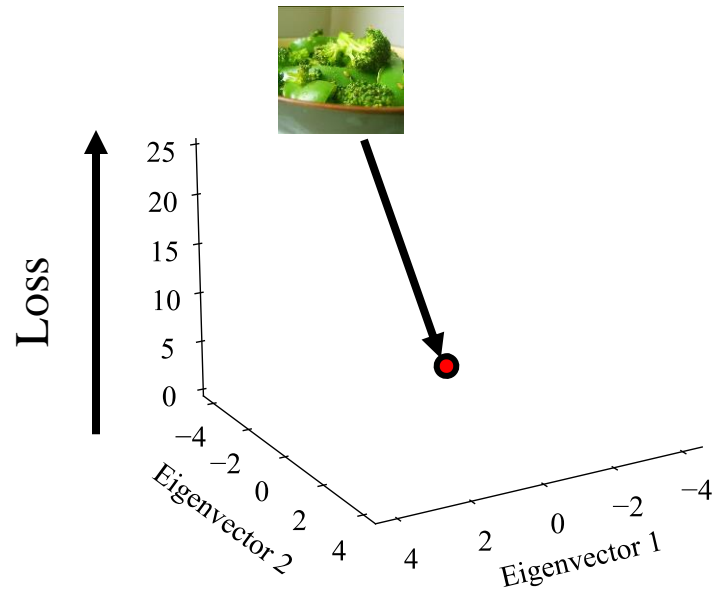
- Robust DNNs have smoother output surfaces



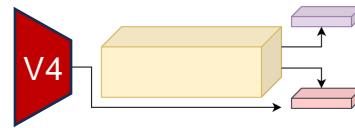
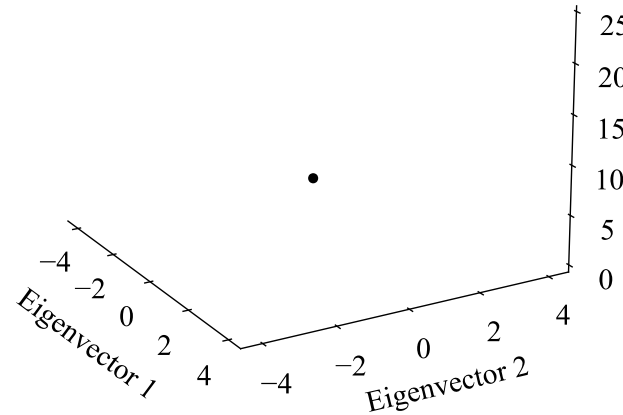
Intriguing properties of neurally-guided DNNs



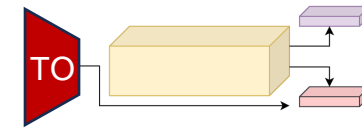
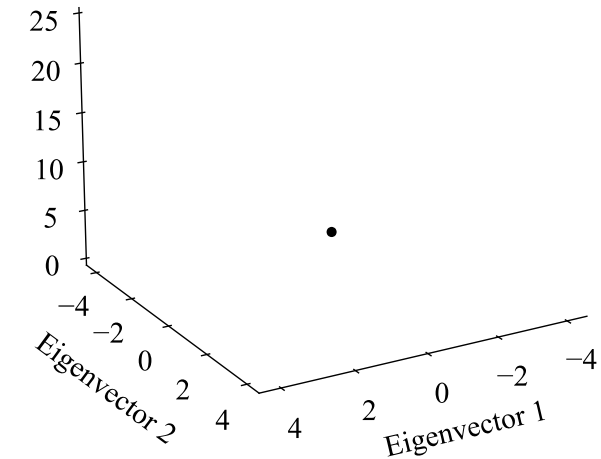
- Robust DNNs have smoother output surfaces



None



V4-guided

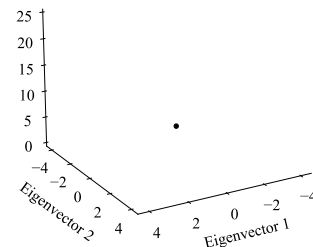
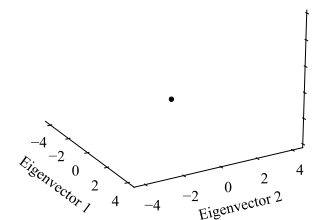
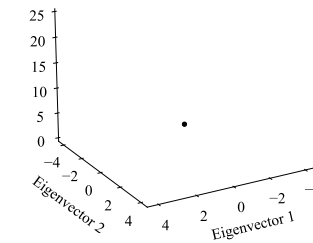
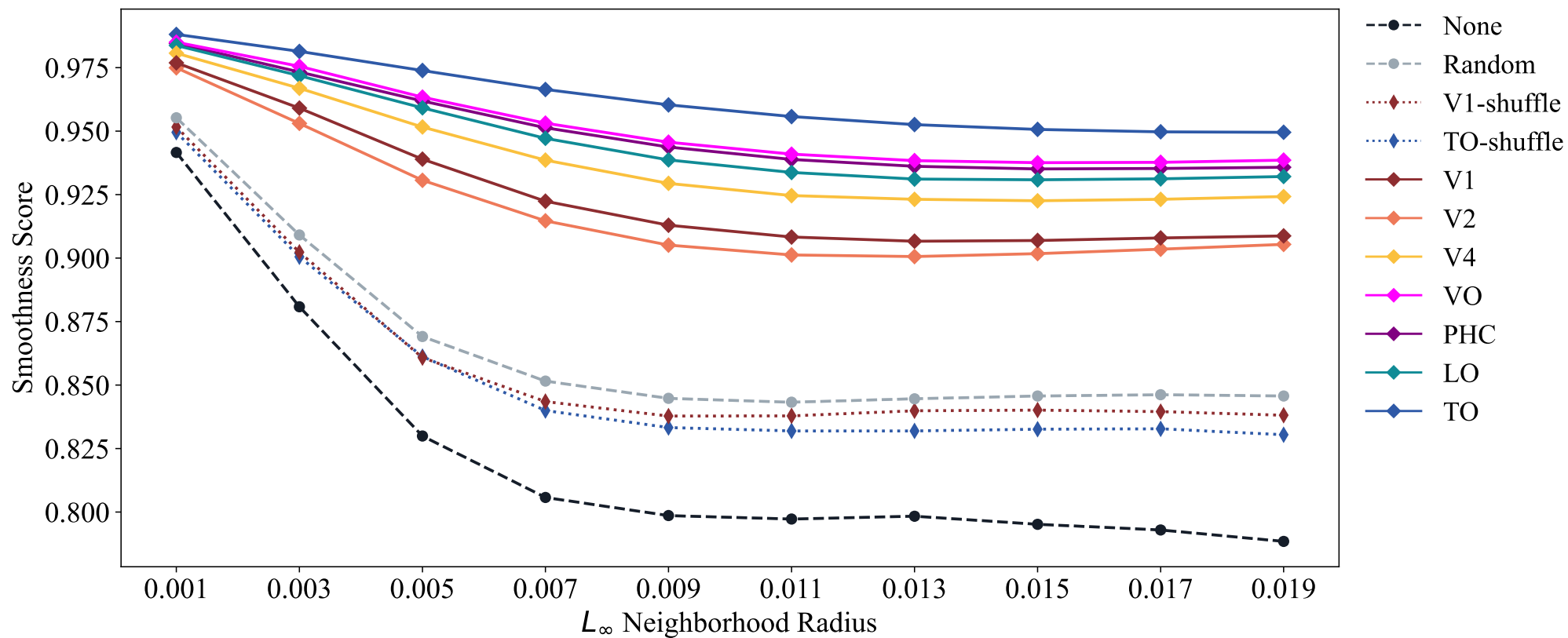


TO-guided

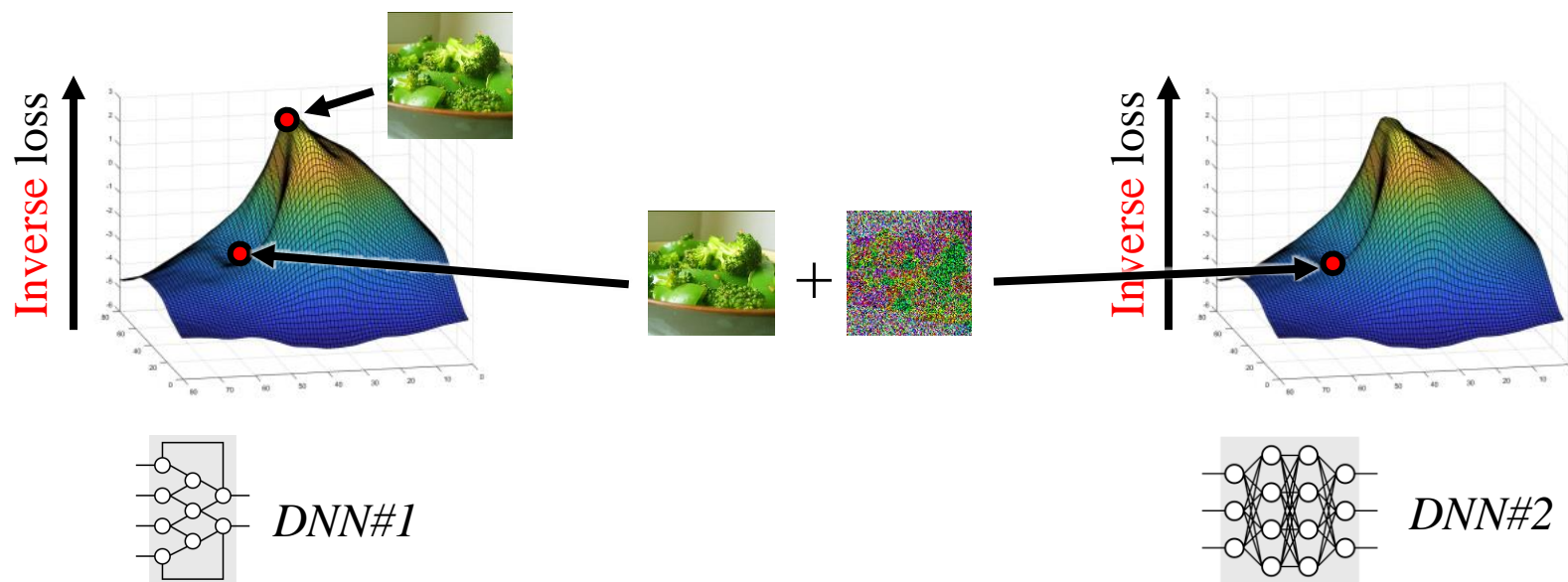
Intriguing properties of neurally-guided DNNs



- Robust DNNs have smoother output surfaces



- Robust DNNs have smoother output surfaces -- neurally-guided DNNs are indeed smoother!
- Conventional DNNs usually develop highly homogenous output surfaces



“Transfer attack”

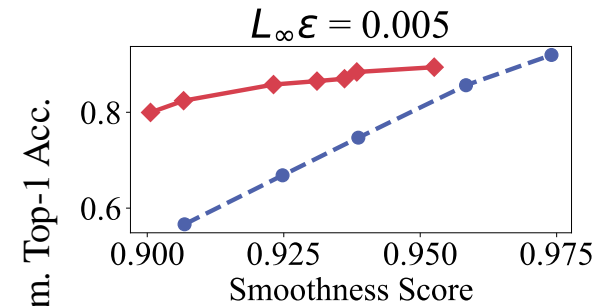
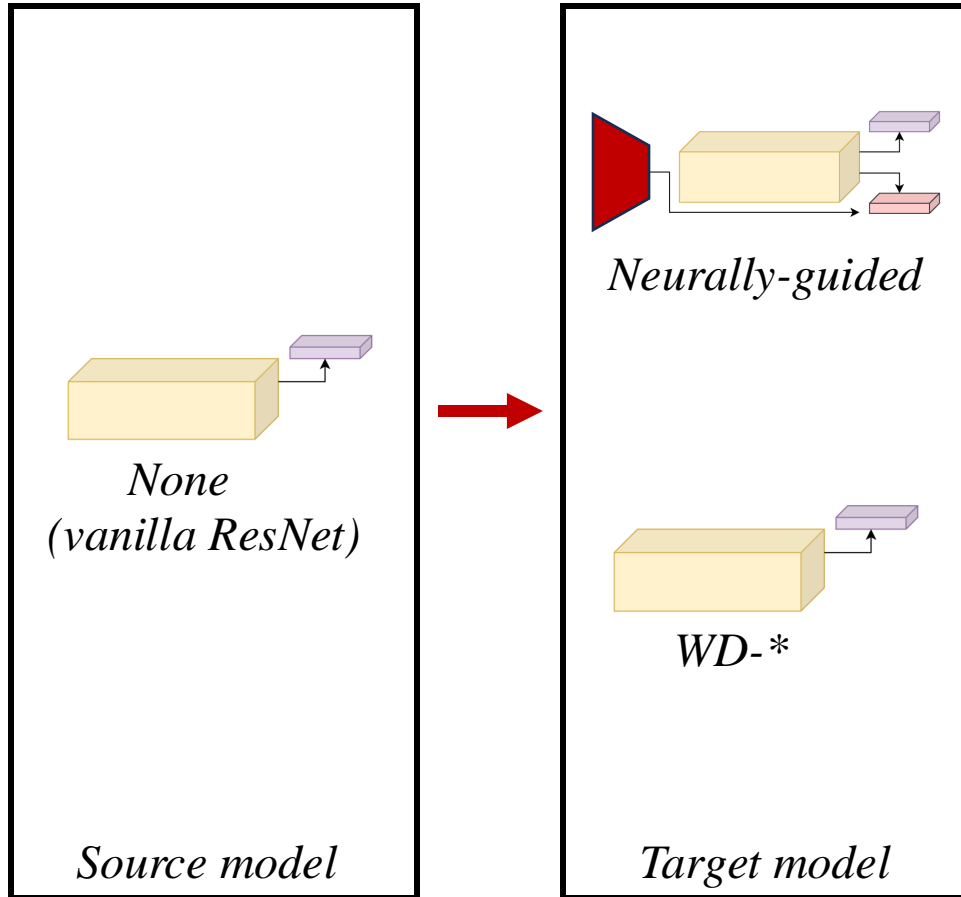
Adversarial examples are transferable across:

- Architectures (*Liu et al., 2017*)
- ML techniques (*Papernot et al., 2016*)
- Training datasets (*Lu et al., 2020*)
- Tasks (*Richards et al., 2021*)

Intriguing properties of neurally-guided DNNs



- Conventional DNNs usually develop highly homogenous output surfaces



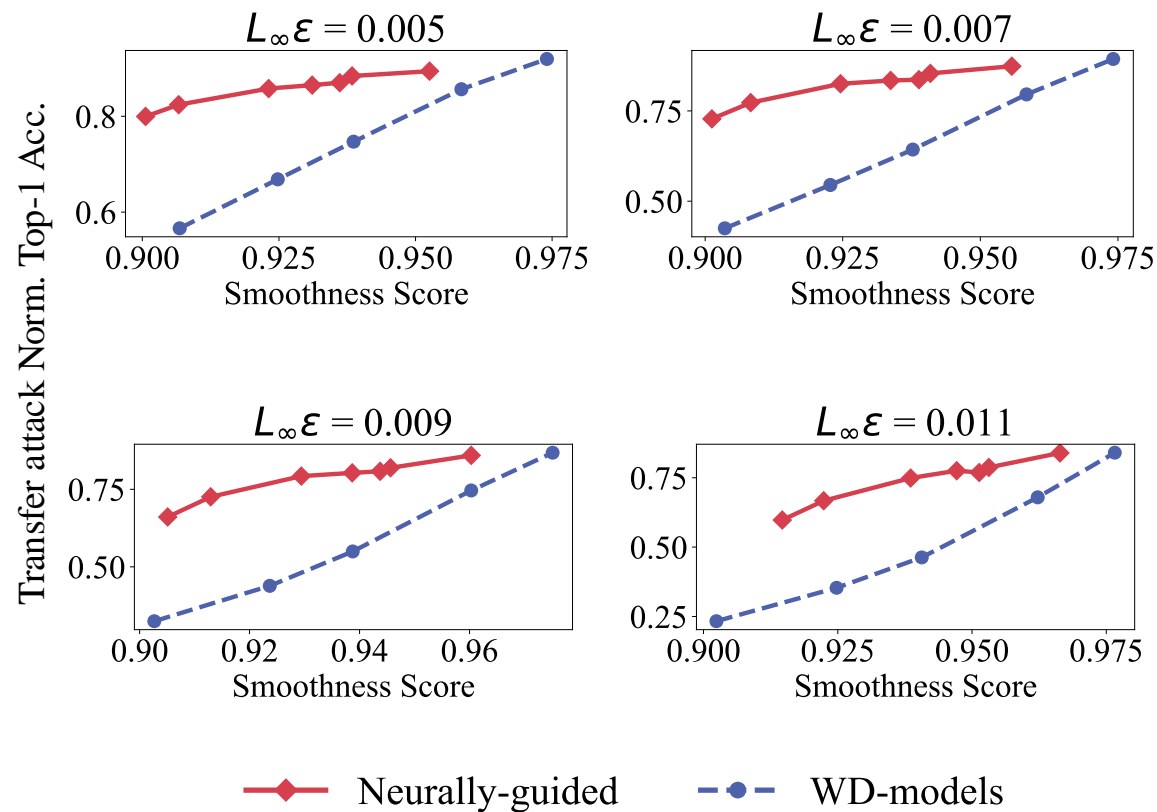
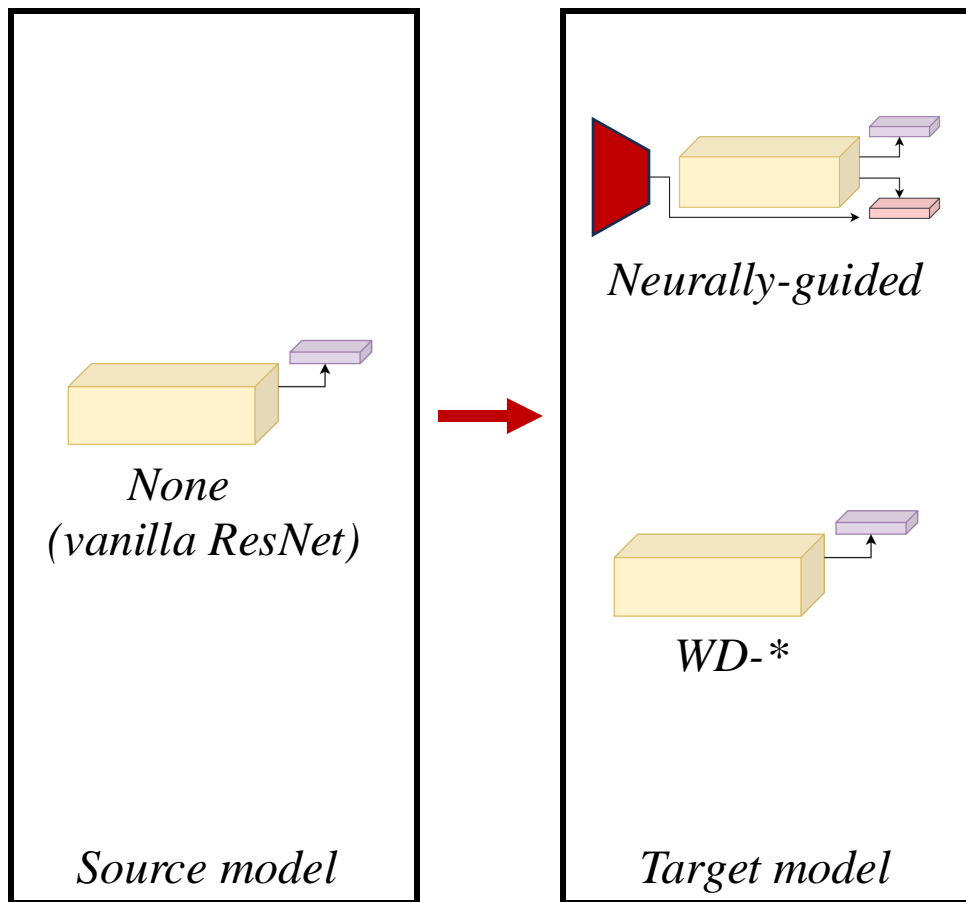
Better transferability
Lower accuracy
More similar

—◆— Neurally-guided -●- WD-models

Intriguing properties of neurally-guided DNNs



- Conventional DNNs usually develop highly homogenous output surfaces

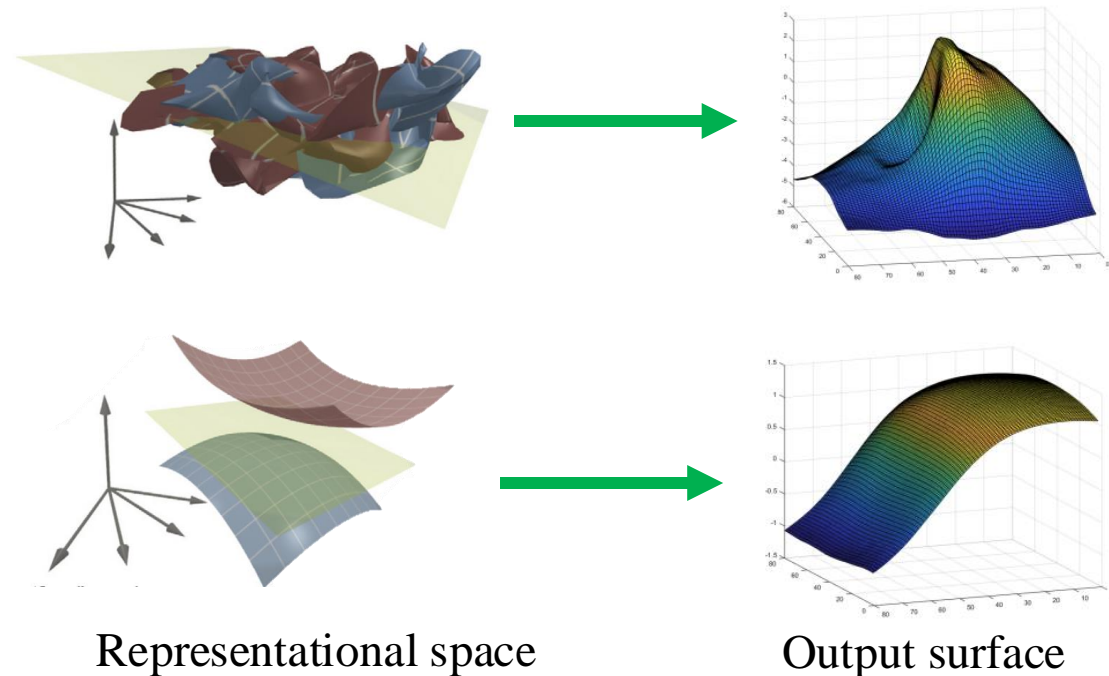


Intriguing properties of neurally-guided DNNs



- Robust DNNs have smoother output surfaces -- **neurally-guided DNNs are indeed smoother!**
- Conventional DNNs usually develop highly homogenous output surfaces -- **but neurally-guided DNNs have distinct surfaces!**

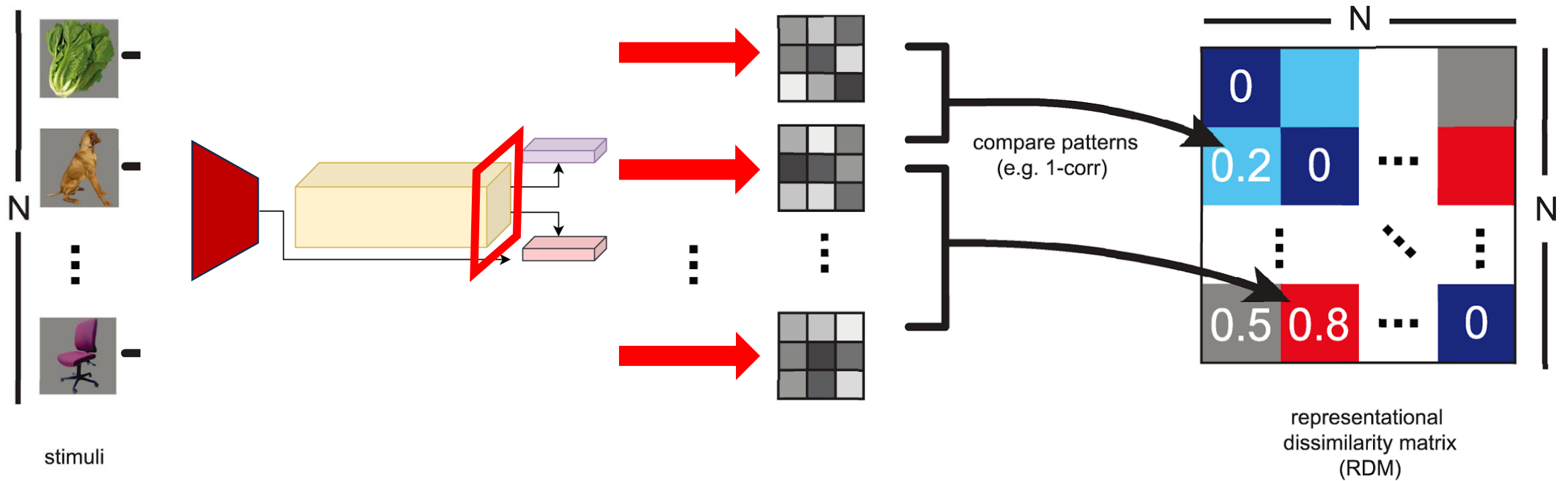
- Representational space



Neural guidance leads to distinct representational space



- Representational spaces of neurally guided DNNs (Representational Similarity Analysis)
(Kriegeskorte et al., *Front. Syst. Neurosci.*, 2008)

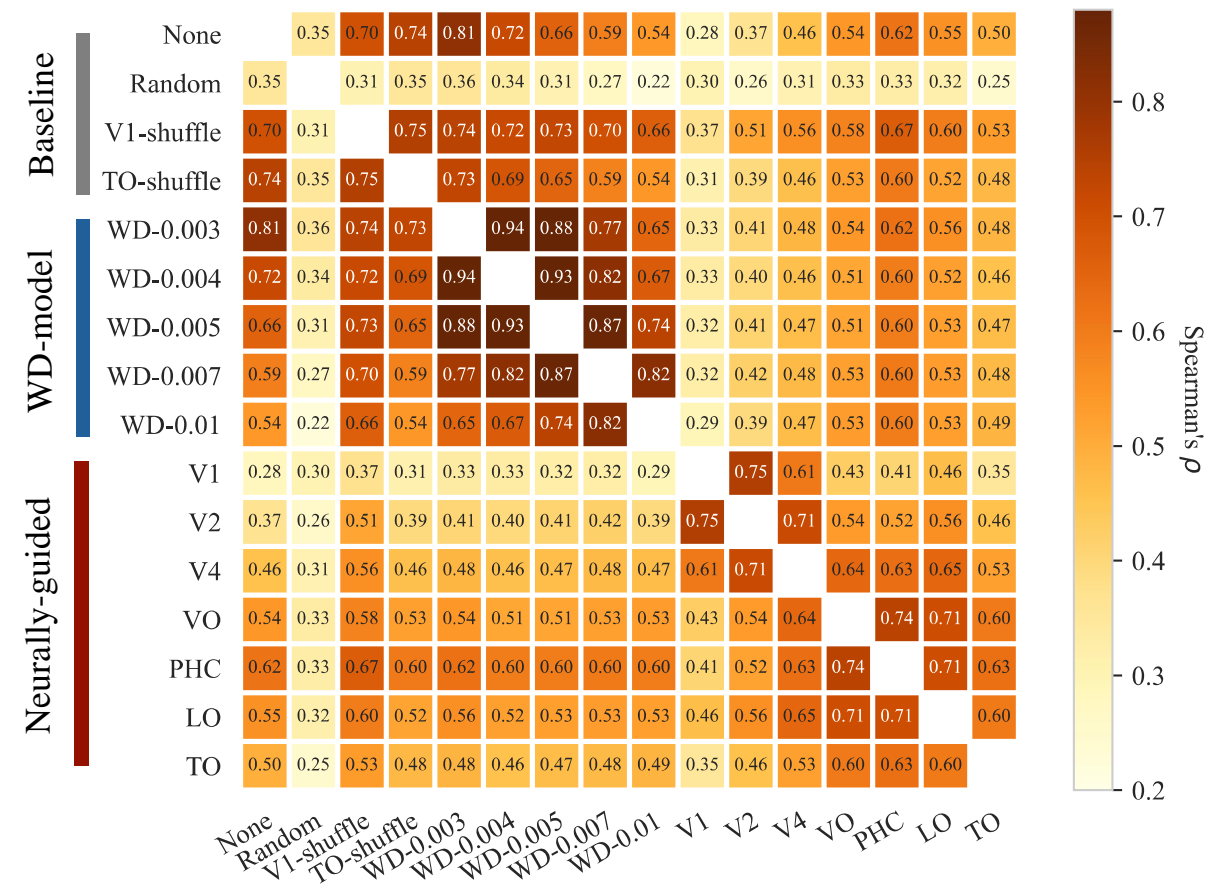
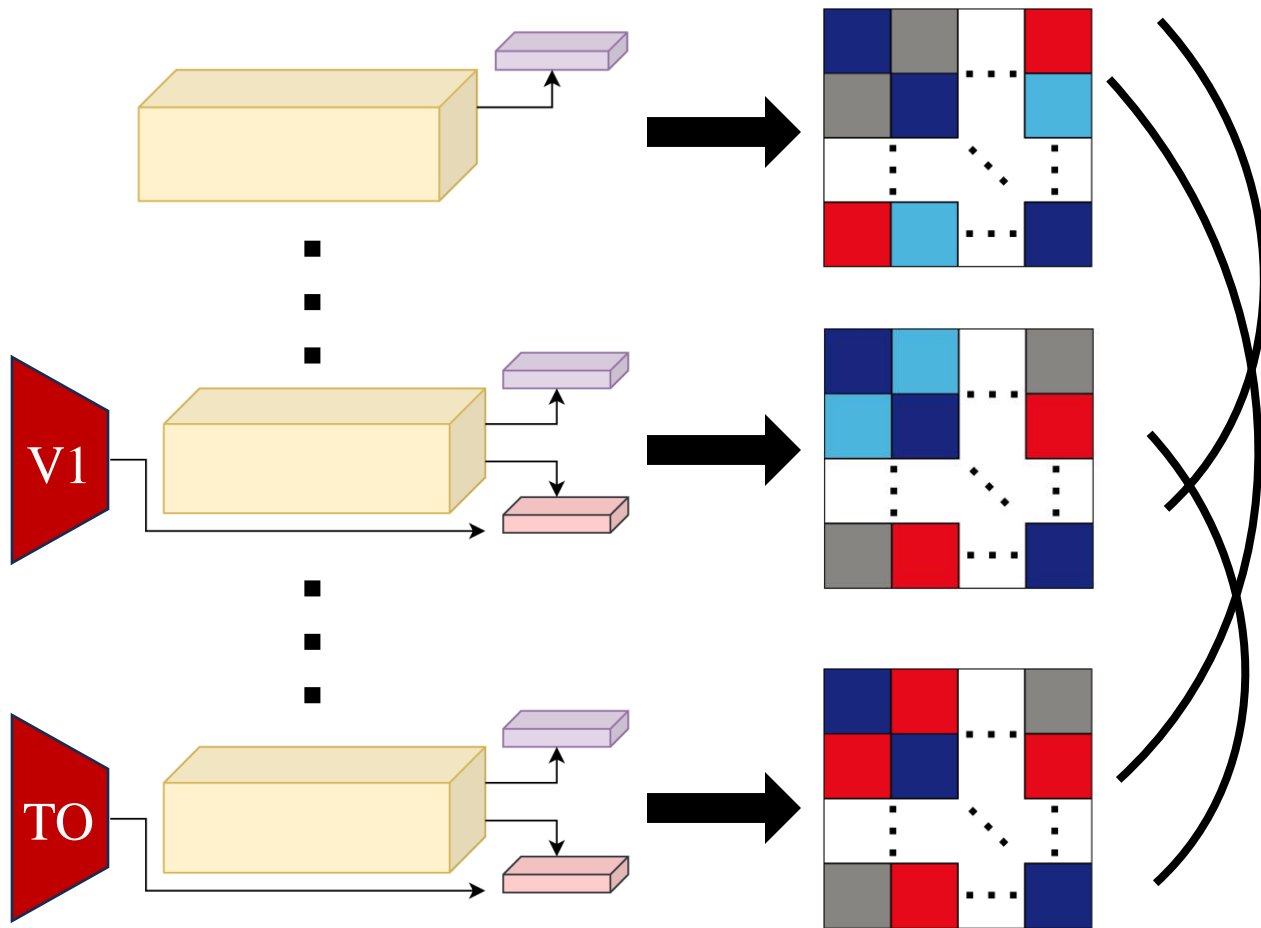


(Nilli et al., *Plos. Comp. Bio.*, 2014)

Neural guidance leads to distinct representational space

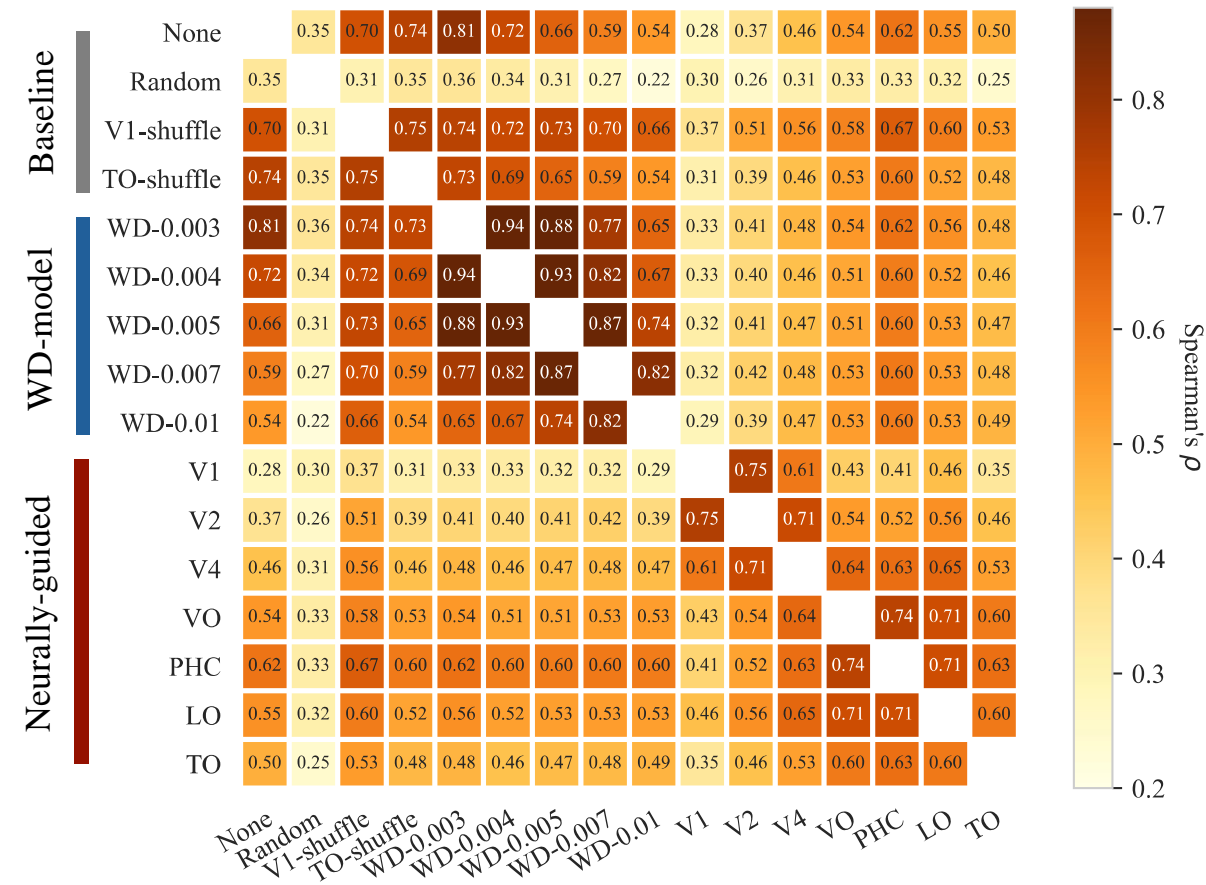
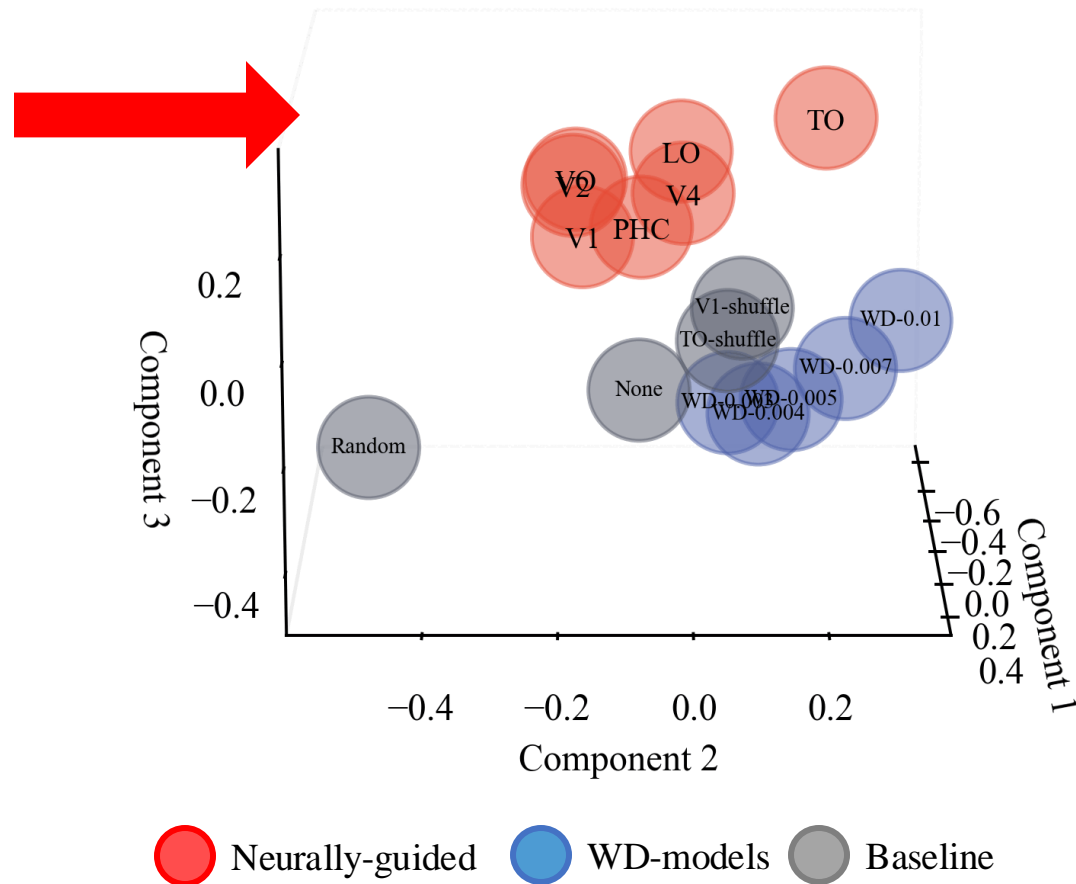


- Representational spaces of neurally guided DNNs (Representational Similarity Analysis) (*Kriegeskorte et al., Front. Syst. Neurosci., 2008*)



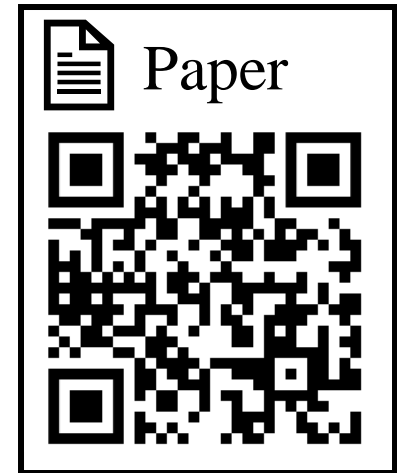
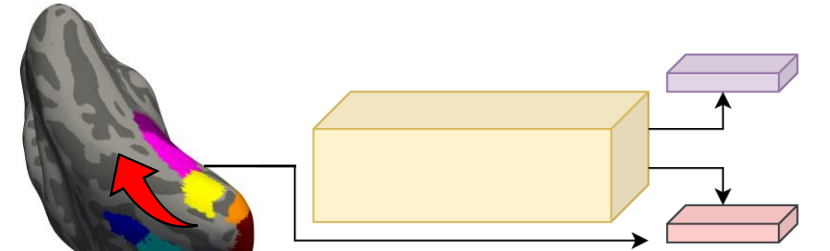
Intriguing properties of neurally-guided DNNs

- **Representational spaces** of neurally guided DNNs are **distinct** from conventionally trained ones



- Robust DNNs have smoother output surfaces -- **neurally-guided DNNs are indeed smoother!**
- Conventional DNNs usually develop highly homogenous output surfaces -- **but neurally-guided DNNs have distinct surfaces!**
- Representational space -- **neurally-guided DNNs developed distinct and better representational geometry!**

- We found:
 - **Hierarchical improvements** in DNN adversarial robustness with **neural guidance**
 - Neurally-guided DNNs developed **distinct** and **hierarchically smoother output surfaces** directly contributing to robustness
 - Neurally-guided DNNs developed **distinct representational spaces**



• Neurally-guided DNNs are **progressively more shape biased.**

- Implications:
 - Robustness emerges from the evolving representational space along the ventral visual stream
 - Potential for understanding human representational space and advancing DNN architectural developments

Thank you! Questions?



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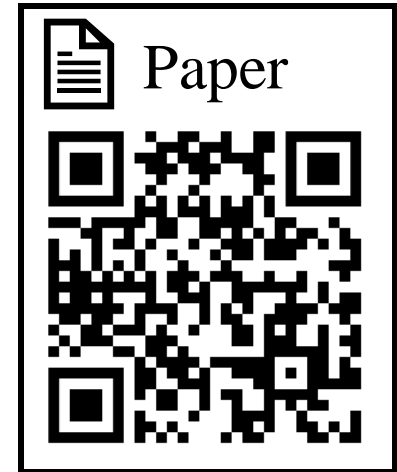
Linjian Ma



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