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2 **Modulation of Shifting Receptive Field Activity**  
3 **In Frontal Eye Field by Visual Saliency**  
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47 **ABSTRACT**

48           In the monkey frontal eye field (FEF), the sensitivity of some neurons to visual  
49 stimulation changes just before a saccade. Sensitivity shifts from the spatial location of its  
50 current receptive field (RF) to the location of that field after the saccade is completed (the  
51 future field, FF). These shifting RFs are thought to contribute to the stability of visual  
52 perception across saccades, and here we investigated whether the salience of the FF  
53 stimulus alters the magnitude of FF activity. We reduced the salience of the usually single  
54 flashed stimulus by adding other visual stimuli. We isolated 171 neurons in the FEF of two  
55 monkeys, and did experiments on 50 that had FF activity. In 30% of these that activity was  
56 higher before salience was reduced by adding stimuli. The mean magnitude reduction was  
57 16%. We then determined whether the shifting RFs were more frequent in the central visual  
58 field, which would be expected if vision across saccades is only stabilized for the visual  
59 field near the fovea. We found no evidence of any skewing of the frequency of shifting  
60 receptive fields (or the effects of salience) towards the central visual field. We conclude that  
61 the salience of the FF stimulus makes a substantial contribution to the magnitude of FF  
62 activity in FEF. In so far as FF activity contributes to visual stability, the salience of the  
63 stimulus is probably more important than the region of the visual field in which it falls for  
64 determining which objects remain perceptually stable across saccades.

65

66 **INTRODUCTION**

67 Our visual perception is stable in spite of frequent and abrupt shifts of the retinal  
68 image by saccades. One hypothesis is that the failure to perceive the shifts depends on  
69 knowledge of the impending saccade that is provided by an internal copy of the motor  
70 command, a corollary discharge or efference copy (Sperry 1950; von Holst and Mittelstaedt  
71 1950). Neurons that respond to visual stimuli would anticipate the occurrence of an  
72 upcoming saccade as a result of this corollary discharge input. Duhamel, Colby, and  
73 Goldberg (1992) found such a potential neuronal mechanism in the parietal cortex. In  
74 anticipation of an upcoming saccade, parietal neurons became sensitive to visual stimuli at  
75 the spatial location that the receptive field (RF) would occupy after the saccade. They  
76 proposed that this anticipatory activity at the site of the RF after each saccade indicated a  
77 remapping that underlies visual stability. These shifting RFs subsequently have been  
78 found in the frontal eye field (FEF, Sommer and Wurtz 2006; Umeno and Goldberg 1997)  
79 and in several other cortical and subcortical areas (for summary see Sommer and Wurtz  
80 2008).

81 The procedure most frequently used to identify shifting RFs is illustrated  
82 schematically in Figure 1A. The RF of a neuron is first mapped while the monkey fixates  
83 (red fixation cross and dotted circle in Figure 1A). Just before a saccade to a visual target,  
84 a stimulus is flashed at the location the RF will occupy after the saccade, which we refer to  
85 as the future field of the neuron (FF - Figure 1A blue fixation cross and blue dotted circle).  
86 In a substantial fraction of neurons in FEF and LIP, there is an increase in activity following  
87 the flash of the FF stimulus, which is always presented before the saccade begins.

88 From Figure 1A, it is clear that the stimuli used in most experiments to study shifting  
89 receptive field activity in LIP and FEF are flashed spots of light against a uniform  
90 background, which creates what must be a salient visual stimulus. The salience of the  
91 stimulus is particularly relevant in light of the emerging view that both LIP and FEF can be  
92 regarded as having salience maps for visual stimuli (Kusunoki et al. 2000; Thompson and  
93 Bichot 2005). Such salience results from the bottom up effect of the stimulus  
94 characteristics (Koch and Ullman 1985) but with modulation by top down influences (Folk et  
95 al. 1992). Neurons activated by stimuli with the highest salience represent the regions of  
96 the visual field that are likely to attract attention, those that are likely to be selected during

97 visual search, and those likely be selected as the target for a future saccade in FEF (Schall  
98 et al. 1995; Thompson et al. 1996) and in LIP (Gottlieb et al. 1998; Kusunoki et al. 2000).  
99 (Figure 1B emphasizes that top down or goal directed attention is directed toward the target  
100 of the saccade being made.)

101 One stimulus characteristic that produces salience is its abrupt onset. In our normal  
102 vision, such stimulus onset plays a major role in directing attention to those stimuli.  
103 Perhaps the most dramatic demonstration of this is our failure to recognize even large  
104 changes made in a visual scene when the onset of the change is masked (Rensink 1997).  
105 In these change blindness experiments, either a saccade or a brief blanking of the entire  
106 scene sharply reduces the perception of even large changes in the visual scene. In normal  
107 vision, the attention directed to a stimulus that has just appeared is referred to as  
108 exogenous attention or simply stimulus onset attention (Egeth and Yantis 1997).

109 The next question is how much this onset salience contributes to the FF activity in  
110 the shifting RF experiments. In LIP, the effect of stimulus salience on shifting RF activity  
111 was observed as an ancillary finding in experiments that established the importance of  
112 stimulus salience (Gottlieb et al. 1998). These experiments compared the response of LIP  
113 neurons to a stimulus turned on in the RF to the response when the RF was brought onto  
114 the stimulus by a saccade, without any abrupt onset. Gottlieb et al. (Gottlieb et al. 1998)  
115 found that with the stimulus onset the visual response was substantially larger. They also  
116 pointed out that for an LIP neuron illustrating this difference (their Figure 2A), the neuron's  
117 activity occurred with a shorter than expected latency, which they took as an indication of  
118 what we refer to as FF activity. The FF activity was larger when the visual stimulus had an  
119 onset than when it did not, that is, when the stimulus had greater salience.

120 In the present experiments we test the possible contribution of visual salience to the  
121 FF activity of FEF neurons. The goal was to see whether the magnitude of the FF activity  
122 in previous experiments (Sommer and Wurtz 2006; Umeno and Goldberg 1997) actually  
123 was enhanced by the salience resulting from stimulus onset as suggested by the  
124 observation in LIP. In our experiments we first studied the FF activity as had been done  
125 previously; we flashed the stimulus in the FF of the neuron just before the saccade to  
126 identify the subset of neurons that showed shifting RFs. In those that did, we then added  
127 the onset of other stimuli in order to see if these added stimuli reduced the FF activity. The

128 goal was to reduce the salience of the FF stimulus without changing the stimulus itself, and  
129 judging from behavioral experiments, having additional stimuli in the visual field seemed a  
130 reasonable way to do that. In visual search tasks, the addition of stimuli in the visual field  
131 (usually referred to as non-targets or distractors) reduces the salience of a stimulus as  
132 indicated by increased reaction time (Duncan and Humphreys 1989; Kim and Cave 1999).  
133 In addition, the effect of stimulus onset has been shown to be reduced if distractors are  
134 added to a stimulus (Wright and Richard 2003). Our goal was to place the added stimuli  
135 outside of the estimated area of the RF and FF in order to minimize a direct visual effect of  
136 the added stimuli. If the FF activity is ordinarily facilitated by exogenous attention, we would  
137 expect to see reduced sensitivity to the FF stimulus when multiple stimuli are added, and  
138 we frequently did.

139

## 140 **METHODS**

141 In two adult male monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) weighing from 8 to 11 kg, we  
142 implanted scleral search coils for measuring eye position, recording cylinders for  
143 accessing FEF, and a post for immobilizing the head during experiments as described  
144 previously (Sommer and Wurtz 2000). All procedures were approved by the Institute  
145 Animal Care and Use Committee and complied with Public Health Service Policy on the  
146 humane care and use of laboratory animals.

147

### 148 *Experimental setup*

149 The monkey sat in a primate chair with its eyes 57 cm in front of a tangent screen.  
150 The chair was in the center of magnetic field coils in a dark room that was sound  
151 attenuated. Computers running REX (Hays et al. 1982) and associated programs  
152 controlled stimulus presentation, administration of reward, the recording of eye  
153 movements and single neuron activity, and the on-line display of results. Visual stimuli  
154 appeared on a gray background, back-projected by a DPI projector.

155

### 156 *RF mapping*

157 The first experimental step to determine the consequences of added stimuli on the  
158 magnitude of the shifting RF activity was to obtain detailed knowledge of their

159 conventional RFs. While the monkey fixated a central red cross, we determined the  
160 location and extent of the RF, and the optimal stimulus size to elicit the strongest visual  
161 response. This enabled us to place the added stimuli at locations that should minimally  
162 invade the RF of the neuron and thus minimize visual interactions. We determined three  
163 key points about the RF of each neuron.

164 RF center. We first estimated the location of the RF by creating a coarse spatial  
165 map of the visual activity. While the monkey fixated a central red cross, we probed the RF  
166 of the neuron by systematically presenting a visual stimulus (with a diameter of 1 - 5°  
167 depending on the eccentricity) at one of nine locations on a 3x3 grid. The grid spacing  
168 was adjusted to cover as much of the estimated RF as possible. The RF center was  
169 taken to lie at the mean of the nine locations weighted by the magnitude of the visual  
170 response at each location.

171 RF center size. On successive fixation trials, we presented filled circles of different  
172 sizes (diameter between 1° and 70°) at the estimated RF center. The optimum stimulus  
173 size and estimate of the RF center was taken as the point where the curve relating visual  
174 response to spot size reached a peak. To determine the peak, the plot of visual response  
175 to each spot size was fit to a curve using the difference of two Gaussian functions - one  
176 representing a narrow excitatory center of the RF and the other the wider suppressive or  
177 inhibitory surround (Rodieck, 1965). This experiment and analysis provided a two  
178 dimensional model of the RF structure.

179 RF suppressive surround. Qualitative examination indicated that there was a  
180 suppressive surround in all the FEF neurons studied (the area around the excitatory  
181 center that when stimulated suppressed the neuron's response). We estimated the extent  
182 of the suppressive surround by presenting a spot of light in the center of the RF (the size  
183 and location determined from the two tasks described above) and then varying the size of  
184 an annulus surrounding the spot. The annulus had a constant outer diameter of 70°, but a  
185 variable inner diameter so that as we increased this inner diameter, the annulus became  
186 narrower, and less light from it fell on the RF. We took the outer boundary of the  
187 suppressive surround to be the smallest inner diameter at which there was no significant  
188 difference from the response to a center stimulus presented alone and with the annulus.

189 In all three tests, the monkey received a liquid reward for maintaining fixation  
190 (within a  $1.5^\circ$  square) for the duration of the trial. There were 8 presentations of a visual  
191 stimulus per trial and each stimulus presentation was 50 ms in duration with an inter-  
192 stimulus interval of at least 500 ms.

193

#### 194 *Shifting RF measures*

195 Following these preliminary RF estimation experiments, we performed the main  
196 experiment to test FEF neurons for a shifting RF and determine the effect of added stimuli  
197 on the magnitude of this activity.

198 Shifting RF saccade task (Figure 2): The monkey was trained to make a saccade  
199 to a target that appeared at the same time as the initial fixation cross was turned off. The  
200 saccade target was always placed in the ipsilateral field in order to diminish the saccade  
201 related responses that were stronger to the contralateral field. (For testing whether the  
202 neuron was a visuomotor one, contralateral saccades were made in a separate test).  
203 During this task both the RF and FF were sequentially examined. On each trial, after 500  
204 ms of initial fixation of the central red cross, a visual stimulus the size of the RF excitatory  
205 center (filled red circle in Figure 2A) was flashed in the center of the RF (red dashed circle  
206 in Figure 2A) for 50 ms. Following a variable delay (500-700 ms), the fixation point was  
207 turned off and a saccade target (blue cross) was simultaneously presented in the  
208 periphery. (This delay ensured an interval of at least 500 ms between the response to the  
209 RF stimulus and the FF stimulus. There was no observed interaction between the two  
210 responses and the delay provided enough time to distinguish the FF activity from the  
211 background activity (see Data Analysis).) Before the monkey made a saccade to the new  
212 fixation point (dashed arrow), the same stimulus used to probe the RF was flashed in the  
213 FF (blue dashed circle) for 50 ms. That is, the same stimulus was presented again, but at  
214 a location displaced from the center of the RF by the saccade vector. For example, if the  
215 center of the RF is at  $x = 15^\circ, y = 10^\circ$ , and the monkey is required to make a saccade from  
216 the fixation point at  $0^\circ, 0^\circ$  to  $-30^\circ, 0^\circ$ , the FF center is  $-15^\circ, 10^\circ$ . Importantly, the FF  
217 stimulus was extinguished before the saccade was made (solid arrow). Note that on  
218 every trial both the RF and the FF stimulus were presented.

219           There were two conditions in this task: *with* and *without* added stimuli (bottom and  
220 top rows of Figure 2A respectively). The description above is the *without added* stimuli  
221 condition. During the *with* added stimuli condition, eight added visual stimuli were also  
222 presented with the RF or FF stimulus in the same trial. These added stimuli were the  
223 same size (determined from the RF center size task) and presented for the same duration  
224 as the visual stimulus in the *without* added stimuli condition. Added stimuli were  
225 positioned at locations beyond the suppressive surround, that is, where a peripheral  
226 stimulus did not alter the response of a spot in the center of the RF. (This was typically 5°  
227 beyond the RF extent as determined with the RF surround test). As depicted in Figure 2A,  
228 we frequently placed the additional stimuli in the opposite hemifield of the RF. This had  
229 two advantages: (1) there was less chance of a visual interaction because the RF field  
230 rarely extended into the opposite hemifield and (2) this placement allowed us to maintain  
231 all stimuli presented with the RF or FF stimulus on the screen despite the relatively large  
232 saccades. Within a trial, the same configuration of the added eight stimuli was presented  
233 for the RF and FF, but shifted by the saccade vector. This configuration of the added  
234 stimuli was randomized from trial to trial. That is, the added stimuli were always  
235 positioned outside the suppressive surround, but the exact positions varied from one trial  
236 to the next. In each condition, the monkey received a liquid reward for making a saccade  
237 to the new fixation cross (within a 5.0° square) within 500 ms after the appearance of the  
238 saccade target.

239

#### 240 *Control Experiments*

241           We performed several control experiments on every neuron to ensure that the  
242 observed FF activity was dependent on the combination of the FF stimulus and the  
243 generation of the saccade and was not solely a saccade related or a visual response. To  
244 determine that the saccade alone was not producing the FF activity, the monkey made  
245 saccades to the target in the Shifting RF saccade task but in the absence of the FF  
246 stimulus. In this case, the saccadic eye movement was made in the absence of the FF  
247 stimulus. These control trials were pseudo-randomized and embedded in the Shifting RF  
248 saccade task. To ensure that the FF activity was not a visual response, we presented the  
249 FF stimulus while the monkey fixated the central red cross. In this case the FF stimulus



250 was presented in the absence of the saccade. This control was done before the Shifting  
251 RF saccade task to ensure that the FF was beyond the RF of the neuron.

252

### 253 *Neuron Recording*

254 We placed one neuron recording cylinder over the FEF approximately normal to  
255 the skull. After initial estimation using MR images, we located FEF within the cylinder  
256 electrophysiologically. We recorded single neuron responses and microstimulated in FEF  
257 with tungsten microelectrodes advanced by a stepper microdrive. Electrodes passed  
258 through guide tubes in a 1-mm-resolution grid in the recording cylinder (Crist et al. 1988).  
259 Neuronal responses were discriminated from background activity using a software-based  
260 waveform discriminator. We characterized visual and movement fields by monitoring  
261 neuronal activity while the monkey made saccades to targets throughout the contralateral  
262 visual field. We targeted neurons in the anterior bank of the arcuate sulcus, and we  
263 verified that they were in FEF by using two criteria: saccade-related activity was found in  
264 many neurons and saccades were evoked with currents of  $\leq 50 \mu\text{A}$  (Bruce and Goldberg  
265 1985). Neurons were excluded from further analysis if they did not demonstrate shifting  
266 RF activity or if we were unable to acquire sufficient data.

267

### 268 *Data Analysis*

269 RF visual responses were measured in a time window starting 40 ms after stimulus  
270 onset and ending when activity fell below 2 SD of a background activity epoch. This  
271 background epoch was from 60 ms before to 40 ms after stimulus onset. Because FF  
272 activity is synchronized to saccade onset (see Sommer and Wurtz 2008), neuronal  
273 activity was measured in a period beginning 200 ms before to 300 ms after saccade  
274 onset. Within this period, the FF activity began when neuronal activity was  $\geq 2$  SD of the  
275 background activity epoch and ended when activity dropped below that level. This  
276 background epoch was neuronal activity 300 ms to 200 ms before saccade onset.  
277 Stimulus - dependent modulation of the RF response and FF activity were determined by  
278 a two tailed *t*-test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ). In these tests, RF responses without added stimuli were  
279 compared to RF responses with added stimuli, and FF activity was similarly compared  
280 just to FF activity. If there was a difference in the time of the start and termination of the

281 response between the two conditions we determined the smallest window to perform the  
282 statistical test. That is, the firing rates between the two conditions were compared  
283 between the latest start and earliest termination time of the responses. Repeating the  
284 analysis with a full window (beginning with the earliest start and ending with latest  
285 termination time of the responses) yielded similar results. Saccade initiation was identified  
286 as the time that eye velocity and acceleration exceeded both  $100^\circ/\text{s}$  and  $5,000^\circ/\text{s}^2$ .

287

## 288 **RESULTS**

289 We recorded FEF neurons that showed shifting RFs in three hemispheres of two  
290 monkeys. We studied 171 neurons of which 52 (30%) had significant FF activity. We  
291 were able to assess the saccade related activity in addition to the visual response in 47 of  
292 these 52 neurons, and found that 41 of the 47 were visuomotor neurons. We were able to  
293 compare the magnitude of the RF response and FF visual activity with and without added  
294 stimuli in 50 neurons (24 from monkey Ar and 26 from FI). We saw no significant  
295 difference between the monkeys and have combined their results.

296

### 297 **Effect of Added Stimuli on RF and FF Activity**

298 We compared the response to the RF and FF stimulus presented alone to that with  
299 added stimuli. Figure 3 illustrates the results for an example neuron with the test of the  
300 RF response in the left column and that for the FF activity in the right column. First, a  
301 stimulus of the optimal size (in this case  $6^\circ$ ) was flashed in the RF (red dashed circle)  
302 long before the saccade to the target to serve as a baseline for the magnitude of the  
303 visual response (Figure 3A). Then the same stimulus was flashed in the FF (blue dashed  
304 circle) just before the saccade to see if there was FF activity and to determine its  
305 magnitude (Figure 3B). In the next series of trials, we then interleaved these trials with RF  
306 and FF stimuli alone with trials with eight added stimuli flashed at the same time and for  
307 the same duration as the RF and FF stimuli (Figure 3C and D). Figure 3E and F show the  
308 effect of these added stimuli on the RF response and the FF activity. Note that the RF  
309 response has a sharp onset typical of a visual response while the FF is best described as  
310 “activity” because of its synchrony with the saccade rather than the FF stimulus (see  
311 Sommer and Wurtz 2008; Umeno and Goldberg 1997). For this example neuron, there

312 was little effect of these added stimuli on the RF response (Figure 3E). The average  
313 firing rate was statistically indistinguishable with and without the added stimuli ( $P=0.93$ ,  
314 two-tailed  $t$ -test). In contrast, the FF activity showed a 44% decrease in the response with  
315 the added stimuli (Figure 3F,  $P < 0.001$ , two-tailed  $t$ -test). The latency of the activity was  
316 not affected, a finding that was consistent across our sample (two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P=0.83$ ).

317 We attempted to keep the added stimuli out of the RF (and by inference out of the  
318 FF) of the neuron by placing them at least 5 degrees outside of the RF, including both the  
319 excitatory central area and the suppressive area (see Methods). For the example neuron  
320 in Figure 3, the lateral extent of the RF was 25 degrees from the RF center and the added  
321 stimuli were placed at locations outside a 30 degree radius from the RF center. The lack  
322 of any significant difference in the visual activity with and without the added stimuli (Figure  
323 3E) is consistent with their placement outside the RF.

324 Figure 4 shows the effect of the added stimuli for the 50 FEF neurons studied. The  
325 RF response and FF activity are again in the left and right columns respectively. In Figure  
326 4A and B the responses with added stimuli are plotted against the responses without  
327 them. The circles represent neurons that had a significant change in activity with added  
328 stimuli (two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P<0.05$ ) and the filled circles indicate where the change was a  
329 decrease. There was a significant decrease in the RF response in 14 (28%) of the 50  
330 neurons and a significant increase in the response in 3 (6%). There was a significant  
331 decrease in the FF activity in 15 (30%) of the 50 neurons and a significant increase in the  
332 activity in 2 (4%).

333 The histograms in Figures 4C and D show the percent change in the magnitude of  
334 activity with added stimuli for the RF response and FF activity. The black triangles mark  
335 the average percent change for the 50 neurons, and the red and blue markers are the  
336 percent change values for RF and FF of the example neuron in Figure 3. On average, the  
337 added stimuli led to a small (4%) but significant decrease in the RF response ( $P=0.03$ ,  
338 significantly different from 0, two-tailed  $t$ -test). Added stimuli had a greater influence on  
339 FF activity, causing an average 16% decrease that was also significantly different from 0  
340 ( $P<0.001$ ). The magnitude of the change in the RF response and the FF activity for  
341 individual neurons was not correlated ( $R=0.087$ ,  $P=0.548$ ).

342 The slight decrease in the RF response in some neurons could be the result of  
343 either the effect of added stimuli on salience or an indication that they invaded the  
344 suppressive surround of the neuron. If we make the worst case assumption on the  
345 placement of the added stimuli, and assume they invade the RF of these neurons, they  
346 likely act on FF as well (making the additional assumption the RF and FF are similar).  
347 Therefore, the most conservative estimate of the effect of the added stimuli on the FF  
348 activity would be the difference in the average percent change of the RF response and FF  
349 activity. This difference of the percent change with added stimuli (a reduction in the RF  
350 response by 4% and FF activity by 16%) is 12% for the sample of neurons. The average  
351 percent reduction of the FF activity with added stimuli is significantly greater than the  
352 average percent reduction of the RF activity (two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P=0.003$ ). This indicates  
353 that the decrease in the FF activity was greater than the amount that could be attributed  
354 to any visual interaction.

355 The histograms in Figures 4E and F are for the subset of 17 neurons that  
356 demonstrated a significant change (decrease or increase, two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P<0.05$ ) in the  
357 FF activity with added stimuli. The RF response for this subset decreased by an average  
358 of 6% and the FF activity decreased by 34%. The average decrease in the RF response  
359 was not significantly different from 0 (two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P=0.08$ ). Similar to results for the  
360 entire sample, the average decrease in FF activity was significantly different from 0 (two-  
361 tailed  $t$ -test,  $P<0.001$ ). Additionally, the average reduction in the FF activity was  
362 significantly greater than that in RF (two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P<0.001$ ).

363 In summary, we saw a clear reduction of the FF activity with the addition of stimuli  
364 in 30% of the FEF neurons that have FF activity. Across the population and for the  
365 subset of cells that demonstrated a significant change, the average FF activity reduction  
366 with the additional stimuli was significantly greater than the average reduction in the RF  
367 responses.

368

### 369 **Distribution of Shifting RFs in the Visual Field**

370 If the shifting RFs are related to stable visual perception during saccades, one  
371 possibility is that these shifts are concentrated in the fovea or the central visual field  
372 rather than distributed equally throughout the visual field. If that were the case, we might

373 expect that the frequency of shifting receptive fields and the magnitude of the shift activity  
374 would be higher in the central visual field. We therefore attempted to study FEF neurons  
375 with RFs over a range of eccentricities.

376 Figure 5 shows the frequency of the RF shifts from both monkeys expressed as a  
377 function of RF eccentricity. The graph shows cumulative plots in which each point on the  
378 cumulative curve represents the *percentage* of the total number of neurons reached at the  
379 eccentricity shown on the horizontal axis. The black cumulative curve shows the  
380 proportion of FEF neurons at each eccentricity whose RFs were determined ( $n = 171$ ).  
381 This curve shows a reasonably linear progression out to the maximum eccentricity  
382 studied ( $39^\circ$ ) indicating that our sampling was reasonably distributed across the visual  
383 field. The blue cumulative curve plots the sub-sample of these cells with shifting RFs  
384 ( $n=52$ ), about 30% of the total sample. The cumulative curve for neurons with shifting  
385 receptive fields shows a similar linearity except for the anomaly between  $20^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$   
386 where no neurons with shifting RFs were sampled and the subsequent series of points  
387 appear piled up at  $30^\circ$ . This implies that the number of neurons with shifting RFs occurs  
388 with equal frequency across the visual field; there was no significant difference between  
389 the two distributions (two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test,  $P=0.37$ ). In addition, there is  
390 no evidence that the shifts are particularly related to neurons with RFs near the center of  
391 the visual field. We also examined the magnitude of FF activity across receptive field  
392 eccentricity. Figure 6A displays the distribution (bin width  $5^\circ$ ) of the magnitude of the FF  
393 activity as a function of RF eccentricity ( $n=52$ ). There was no significant difference in the  
394 mean magnitude of the FF activity across eccentricity (one-factor ANOVA,  $P=0.73$ ). Thus  
395 both the frequency and the magnitude of the shift activity in FEF neurons remained  
396 roughly constant across the central  $30^\circ$  of the visual field.

397 Another factor that might vary with eccentricity is the frequency with which added  
398 stimuli reduced the FF response. In Figure 5, the orange points on the graph show the  
399 fraction of shifting RF neurons whose FF activity was significantly reduced by added  
400 stimuli ( $n=15$ , 30% of the sub-sample). We found no such neurons within the central  $10^\circ$ ,  
401 and there was a significant difference between this distribution and the cumulative curve  
402 for neurons with shifting receptive fields (two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test,  $P=0.002$ ).  
403 Within our small sample, neurons showing decreased responses with added stimuli may

404 be more frequent in the peripheral visual field. Figure 6B displays the distribution (bin  
405 width 5°) of the mean magnitude of FF activity with (orange bins) and without added  
406 stimuli (blue bins) as a function of RF eccentricity. Only cells that demonstrated a  
407 significant decrease in the FF activity with added stimuli are shown (n=15). There were  
408 variations in the magnitude of FF activity with and without added stimuli at different  
409 eccentricities, but the difference between them (black triangles) did not systematically  
410 vary with eccentricity (one-factor ANOVA,  $P=0.24$ ). (The gaps at three eccentricity ranges  
411 are due to a lack of cells that demonstrated a significant decrease in the FF activity with  
412 added stimuli.)

413 In summary, we find that both the frequency of neurons with shifting receptive  
414 fields and the magnitude of any shift activity was relatively constant within the central  
415 35° of the visual field, with no special emphasis on the central visual field.

416

#### 417 **Tests for Extraneous Visual and Saccadic Factors**

418 The goal of our experiments was to test the effect of reducing stimulus salience  
419 due to stimulus onset on the shifting RF activity by using the added stimuli. Since we had  
420 both the RF and the FF stimulus flashed on each trial and had the additional stimuli on  
421 many trials, we included several control experiments and analyses to address the  
422 following questions.

423

424 *Are there visual interactions between RF, FF, and added stimuli?*

425 From the information we had about the RF size of the neurons studied, we placed  
426 our FF stimulus and added stimuli outside the measured RF. This was, however, only a  
427 best estimate and we therefore adopted an empirical approach to test whether the FF  
428 stimulus and the added stimuli invaded the RF by examining the timing of the FF visual  
429 activity. If the activity after the FF stimulus and FF added stimuli were the result of a  
430 shifting RF, the latency of that activity would be related to the onset of the saccade.  
431 However, if the activity was a visual response because the FF stimulus, added stimuli or  
432 both impinged on the RF of the neuron, the latency would be fixed to the onset of the FF  
433 and added stimuli.

434 Figure 7 shows that for the same example neuron presented in Figure 3 the  
435 increased neuronal activity occurred long after the visual latency of the neuron and was  
436 not aligned to the stimulus onset but was aligned on the saccade onset as expected for  
437 shifting RF activity. Figure 7A shows neuronal activity for the example neuron aligned  
438 with onset of the FF stimulus and added stimuli (green vertical line). Each row of dots  
439 represents spikes on one trial with the trials plotted in ascending order of saccade latency  
440 – shortest latency at the bottom. The dashed red line parallel to the green FF stimulus  
441 line indicates the time at which the activity should increase if it were a visual response.  
442 The activity increases much later than the 47 ms visual latency of this neuron.  
443 Furthermore, the increase in neuronal activity is not parallel to the vertical FF line but  
444 instead more closely parallels the tilted saccade onset vertical line. This is supported in  
445 Figure 7B which now aligns the same neuronal activity as in 7A on saccade onset (blue  
446 vertical line). The neuronal discharge on the raster occurs long after the visual latency of  
447 the neuron and parallels the now vertical line of saccade onset. The relationship between  
448 the onset of the FF activity and the saccade is confirmed in Figure 7C. The onset of the  
449 FF activity is plotted against the onset of the saccade for the data presented in Figure 7A.  
450 In this case the onset times are with respect to the onset of the FF stimulus and added  
451 stimuli. There was a clear relationship between the onset of the FF activity and the onset  
452 of the saccade ( $R=0.44$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). (The onset of the FF activity was determined by  
453 finding the maximum instantaneous firing rate within the interval plotted in Figure 7A.) For  
454 all the neurons studied, we found the FF stimulus and added stimuli activity to have a  
455 much longer latency than the visual latency of the neuron (across the population the  
456 mean visual latency and FF activity latency were  $52 \pm 14$  ms and  $158 \pm 55$  ms  
457 respectively), and the same parallel relation of the FF activity and the saccade onset. We  
458 were only able to perform the test displayed in Figure 7C on four neurons in our sample  
459 due to the need for a substantial number of trials, for variability of the interval between  
460 onset of the saccade and FF stimulus and for a sufficient number of spikes/trial to  
461 determine the instantaneous rate. However, for the four neurons there was a significant  
462 linear relationship between the onset of the FF activity and the onset of the saccade  
463 ( $R>0.25$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). In addition there was no significant correlation between the FF onset  
464 and the stimulus onset ( $R<0.1$ ,  $P>0.4$ ). We conclude that activity related to the FF

465 stimulus does not have the characteristics of a visual response and that the FF field  
466 activity is not due to the onset of stimuli within the RF of the neuron.

467

468 *Does any change in the variability of saccade amplitude or latency account for the*  
469 *decrease in the FF activity?*

470 A factor that could contribute to the general decrease in the FF response with  
471 added stimuli is a change in the amplitude or latency of the saccade and we investigated  
472 the extent of the changes in each.

473 A difference in the average saccadic endpoint and its variability would be important  
474 if the saccade went to a substantially different location in the two experimental conditions,  
475 resulting in a significantly different saccade vector and therefore a potentially different  
476 corollary discharge signal. Figure 8A shows the mean eye-movement position and  
477 endpoint variability (95% confidence intervals) of saccades made to the same target with  
478 and without added stimuli (black and blue traces and ellipses respectively) during a  
479 session for the example neuron in Figure 3. There was no significant difference in mean  
480 saccade endpoints in the presence of added stimuli. However, there was an increase in  
481 the saccade endpoint variability with the added stimuli. This increase could result in  
482 different trial-to-trial stimulation of the FF by the stimulus and lead to a decrease in FF  
483 activity. We therefore determined whether the increased variability was large enough to  
484 account for the decrease in FF activity with the added stimuli. Because for each neuron  
485 we selected a stimulus size that when placed in the center of the FF would optimally  
486 activate the neuron, any displacement of the stimulus as a result of changed saccade  
487 amplitude would lead to a reduction of the visual activity. We can estimate magnitude of  
488 the reduction from saccade displacement by seeing how such displacement of the  
489 stimulus from the center of the RF would reduce the response. Figure 8B shows the  
490 results that such a displacement would produce on the two dimensional map of the RF  
491 (see Methods). The vertical axis shows the percent change in FF activity with added  
492 stimuli that we observed across our sample of neurons (Figure 4D). The horizontal axis  
493 shows the change in activity that would result if we moved the stimulus spot from the  
494 center (as would occur with different saccade amplitudes). As shown in the figure, there  
495 was minimal change in the activity that can be attributed to the variability of the saccade



496 compared to the change with the added stimuli. There was no significant correlation  
497 ( $R=0.2$ ,  $P=0.21$ ). Therefore, such a small increase in saccade endpoint variability was  
498 unlikely to account for the decrease in FF activity. This analysis, however, does assume  
499 that the FF has the same organization as the RF - a point that needs to be tested in future  
500 investigations.

501 Changes in saccade latency with the addition of stimuli is of greater concern  
502 because the FF stimulus was flashed just before the saccade and occurred with a delay  
503 after the offset of the fixation point (which was the cue for the saccade). Therefore, if the  
504 latency of the saccade changed, the time at which the FF stimulus flash occurred would  
505 change with respect to saccade onset. Because the FF activity in the FEF is dependent  
506 upon the proximity to the FF stimulus to the saccade onset (see Sommer and Wurtz  
507 2008) this latency change itself could alter the FF activity. For the neuron shown in Figure  
508 8A, the added stimuli did alter the saccade latency from  $203 \text{ ms} \pm 22 \text{ ms}$  without added  
509 stimuli to  $225 \pm 18 \text{ ms}$  with the added stimuli, a mean difference of 22 ms. This 22 ms  
510 increase in mean saccade latency could *reduce* the FF activity and could be the source of  
511 the reduced FF activity we see with added stimuli. We therefore performed an additional  
512 analysis on the neural activity to determine if this was the case. Figure 8C displays the  
513 distribution of the intervals between FF stimulus onset and saccade onset for the example  
514 neuron. The two distributions overlap, but note that there was more variability in the  
515 interval distribution with added stimuli (black trace) than without them (blue trace). We  
516 therefore reanalyzed a subset of trials where this interval was the same in both conditions  
517 (within the vertical dashed red lines). For this subset of trials, the presence of the added  
518 stimuli still significantly reduced the FF activity by 9.8 spikes/s on average (Figure 8D,  
519 41% reduction, two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P<0.001$ ). These results were consistent for our neurons  
520 in our sample that had sufficient variability in the stimulus-saccade interval to perform the  
521 above analysis (two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P<0.001$ , same four neurons as above). The reduction  
522 was comparable to that seen for all trials as shown in Figure 3. Importantly, the neuronal  
523 activity on the non overlapping trials (those outside the dashed red lines) was not  
524 significantly different from the neural activity on the overlapping trials (two-tailed  $t$ -test,  
525  $P=0.64$ ). We conclude that the change in saccade latency did not produce the reduction  
526 in FF activity with added stimuli.

527 *Is the FF activity dependent on both the FF stimulus and the saccade?*

528         The above analysis shows that the FF activity in FEF requires the presence of the  
529 FF stimulus but that its latency is fixed to the onset of the saccade. However, the  
530 analysis does not demonstrate that the FF activity is not simply a saccade related  
531 response; we show it occurs in association with saccades. We verified that the FF activity  
532 was not just a saccade related response by using control trials embedded in every  
533 experiment. In this control, when the monkey made saccades to the target but in the  
534 absence of the stimulus, there was no FF activity. Figure 9A shows the example neuron  
535 in which the absence of the FF stimulus eliminated the visual activity. This was true for all  
536 cells in our sample of neurons that had shifting RFs, as has been demonstrated  
537 previously for FEF neurons (Sommer and Wurtz 2008; Umeno and Goldberg 1997). The  
538 saccade only activity within the same window that the FF activity was determined (see  
539 Methods) was significantly less than the FF activity for the sample of neurons (one-tailed  
540 *t*-test,  $P < 0.05$ ). Therefore the saccade alone was not producing the FF activity. The FF  
541 stimulus without the saccade also produced no response. In Figure 9B for the same  
542 neuron, presenting the FF stimulus in the absence of the saccade produced no response  
543 while the same stimulus when presented in the RF did produce a visual response. This  
544 was also tested on all neurons, with the same result; in no case did the activity when  
545 presenting the FF stimulus in the absence of the saccade meet the criteria for a response  
546 (see Methods). Therefore, the FF activity was dependent on the combination of the FF  
547 stimulus and the generation of the saccade.

548

549 **DISCUSSION**

550

551 **Visual salience effect on shifting RF activity**

552         The major explanation of visual stability in spite of displacement of the visual image  
553 with each saccade is that advanced knowledge of the impending saccade is available from  
554 an internal copy of the motor command to move the eye (a corollary discharge or efference  
555 copy). This advanced knowledge makes it possible to recognize that the displacements are  
556 self generated. First in parietal area LIP (Duhamel et al. 1992) and then in FEF region of  
557 frontal cortex (Umeno and Goldberg 1997), neurons have been shown to become sensitive  
558 to visual stimuli at the spatial location that their receptive field (RF) would occupy after the  
559 saccade, the future field of the neuron (FF). Most of the experiments studying FF activity  
560 have used a highly salient stimulus, an isolated flash against a uniform background, to  
561 determine whether a neuron had FF activity. In the present experiments we explored the  
562 effect of reducing this salience by adding the onset of other stimuli in the visual field at the  
563 same time as the FF stimulus appeared. In a sample of 50 neurons with shifting RFs, we  
564 found that 30% of the neurons had reduced FF activity, with a reduction averaging 16%.  
565 This is consistent with a reduction in the FF activity observed in an LIP neuron in the  
566 experiments of Gottlieb et al. (1998) as described in the Introduction. Thus, in the usual  
567 shifting RF experiment, the activity resulting from the onset of the FF stimulus can be  
568 regarded as resulting both from the anticipatory nature of the FF stimulus and the relative  
569 salience of that stimulus.

570         Our experiments have a striking similarity to two human psychophysical experiments  
571 that studied the effect of attention drawn by an abrupt onset of a stimulus flashed near the  
572 time of a saccade (Golomb et al. 2008; Mathot et al. 2010; Mathot and Theeuwes 2011). In  
573 one set of these experiments (Experiment 3 Mathot et al. 2010) the subject made a  
574 saccade from one point to another and a cue stimulus was flashed just before the saccade  
575 – identical to our paradigm. The subject was instructed to remember the cue location in  
576 order to make a discrimination based on a stimulus appearing briefly at that point after the  
577 saccade. The discrimination was better when the cue was located at what we refer to as  
578 the FF location rather than other areas of the visual field, indicating that attention had  
579 shifted to the FF even before the saccade was made. This behavioral measure of a shift of

580 attention to the FF before a saccade parallels our interpretation of the flash in the FF of a  
581 neuron benefiting from the salience of the stimulus. At this point, the demonstration of the  
582 neuronal changes in the monkey and the attention discrimination benefit in humans provide  
583 at least an indication that attention is likely to be involved in both cases.

584 As in the previous experiments studying the effects of exogenous attention on the  
585 response of neurons, our current experiments did not measure attention. We did not have  
586 any behavioral measure of the monkey's attention to gauge the magnitude of the added  
587 stimuli effect; we inferred the reduction of attention with the addition of stimuli from related  
588 behavioral experiments. We think our observations are highly likely to result from the  
589 effects of visual attention drawn to the salient stimulus onset because of three related  
590 observations. First, psychophysical experiments have shown a decrease in performance  
591 with the addition of visual stimuli in the visual field during search (Duncan and Humphreys  
592 1989; Kim and Cave 1999) and on cued attention tasks (such as Kahneman et al. 1983;  
593 Wright and Richard 2003). Of course, these search and attention experiments on humans  
594 do not directly relate to shifting RFs in monkeys; they simply provide the only guidance  
595 available on the consequence of adding visual stimuli. Second, visual search tasks have  
596 shown the reduction of neuronal responses in both FEF (Cohen et al. 2009) and LIP (Balan  
597 and Gottlieb 2006; Balan et al. 2008) with the addition of visual stimuli in the visual field.  
598 Third, our experiments are remarkably parallel to those described above (Golomb et al.  
599 2008; Mathot et al. 2010; Mathot and Theeuwes 2011) which did measure and find  
600 exogenous attention effects. None of these experiments, however, can substitute for the  
601 needed direct measurement simultaneously of the FF response and the effect of salience  
602 on exogenous attention.

603

#### 604 **Visual factors affecting the magnitude of salience on FF activity**

605 The strength of stimulus salience leading to exogenous or onset attention effects in  
606 our experiments is almost certainly reduced by two factors. First, the FF stimuli were  
607 presented repeatedly in the same region of the visual field, although at multiple locations  
608 within this region on successive trials. It is reasonable to expect that the onset effect we  
609 saw had habituated at least somewhat over the training and experimental periods  
610 preceding the particular neuronal experiment. Added stimuli presented for the first time

611 might produce an even greater reduction in the FF activity with added stimuli. Second, we  
612 always placed the added stimuli at a substantial distance from the FF stimulus in order to  
613 minimize direct visual stimulation generated by the stimuli falling in the presumed FF of the  
614 neuron. The consequence of this was that the added stimuli were pushed off to the side of  
615 the monkey's visual field. This might also change the magnitude of the effect of the added  
616 stimuli (Hagenaar and van der Heijden 1986).

617         Probably the most important questions on the addition of visual stimuli in the shifting  
618 field experiments are related to the organization of the FF, particularly the extent of its  
619 visual surround, and whether the added stimuli fell in a FF suppressive surround. At the  
620 start of the experiment, we had established the presence of a suppressive surround and  
621 had estimated its extent using the annulus test for the RF (see Methods). We then placed  
622 the added stimuli about 5° beyond the outer edge of the surround so as to minimize the  
623 direct visual activation of the neuron. The more important question, however, is the size  
624 and organization of the FF. In each experiment, it would be challenging to both map in  
625 detail the FF and do the added stimuli experiment so we relied on information about the  
626 organization of the FF from other ongoing experiments. In experiments on FEF (personal  
627 communication, Joiner, Cavanaugh, and Wurtz), we found that the beginning of the  
628 surround for the RF and FF were within a few degrees of each other. In LIP neurons  
629 (Phillips and Goldberg 2010), a comparison of the RF and FF showed that the FFs were  
630 somewhat more narrowly tuned than RFs. Both observations imply that there may be  
631 differences in the RF and FF, but the differences are small compared to our placement of  
632 the added stimuli well beyond the estimated surround. We therefore interpret the reduction  
633 of the FF response with the added stimuli as a reduction of salience rather than an effect of  
634 a suppressive surround.

635         Our observations emphasize the visual modulation of FF activity. This is the second  
636 component of the FF activity, the other being the temporal proximity to the saccade and its  
637 accompanying corollary discharge (Kusunoki and Goldberg 2003; Sommer and Wurtz  
638 2008). Thus the FF activity results from the conjunction of the visual stimulus in the right  
639 part of the visual field and the corollary discharge associated with the right saccade  
640 directed to that part of the visual field. It is not a FF visual response, but FF activity. The  
641 present experiments emphasize that the magnitude of the FF activity is dependent on the

642 characteristics of the stimulus, particularly the salience of the stimulus, just as it is  
643 dependent on the temporal proximity to the saccade. The difference in the composition of  
644 the RF visual response and the FF activity, may account for the absolute differences in the  
645 size of the effect of added stimuli on the RF responses and FF activity.

646 .

### 647 **Salience and its relation to visual stability**

648 Change blindness experiments emphasize the key role that attention plays in  
649 determining what we see in the visual world. This attention has also been shown to be  
650 relevant for our stable visual perception; attended objects are critical for maintenance of  
651 visual stability (Mathot and Theeuwes 2011). The implication of this for visual stability is  
652 that stability might not be maintained for the entire visual scene but just for attended parts.

653 One possibility is that stability is maintained just for those regions in and around the  
654 fovea to which attention is directed during each visual fixation (see discussion in Wurtz et  
655 al. 2011). Such a concentration of stabilization near the target of the saccade has been  
656 demonstrated for the suppression of target motion during saccades (Deubel et al. 1996;  
657 2002). If the shifting RFs are related to visual stability, then they too might be expected to  
658 have a higher frequency near the center of the visual field. Our population of 171 FEF  
659 neurons sampled across varying eccentricities within the central 35° of the visual field  
660 seemed adequate for addressing this question. We found no evidence of a difference in  
661 frequency of shifting RFs with eccentricity. The proportion of neurons with shifting RFs  
662 tracked the proportion of neurons with visual RFs with remarkable precision (Figure 5). We  
663 also found no systematic difference in the magnitude of the FF activity with increasing  
664 eccentricity (Figure 6A). The limitation to these observations is that none were made  
665 within the fovea so that if the frequency of FF activity in the fovea soars we would have  
666 missed it. Within the visual field studied, our results in FEF are consistent with the finding  
667 in LIP that there was no difference in the strength of FF activity in neurons with central,  
668 intermediate and peripheral RFs (Heiser and Colby 2006). In both FEF and LIP, we have  
669 no evidence that the shifting receptive fields are concentrated in the central visual field.

670 Another possibility is that stability across saccades is maintained for attended stimuli  
671 regardless of the region of the visual field in which they fall. Stimulus salience would draw  
672 attention and be included in what remains stable during a saccade. Our finding of a larger

673 magnitude of FF activity in FEF when the stimulus is a salient one is consistent with that  
674 possibility. We did not have enough data to determine whether the salience effect on the  
675 FF or its magnitude was related to eccentricity in the visual field (Figures 5 and 6B).

676 In summary, so far as FF activity contributes to visual stability, our evidence  
677 indicates that the salience of an object is probably more important than its location in the  
678 visual field for determining whether the object is included in what is perceptually stable  
679 across saccades.

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803 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

804

805 **Figure 1. Potential onset and goal directed attention actions on shifting receptive**  
806 **field activity.** (A) While the monkey looks at a fixation point (red cross) a receptive field  
807 (RF) can be mapped (dotted red circle). As the monkey prepares to make a saccade  
808 from the fixation point to a peripheral target (blue cross), there is an anticipatory shift of  
809 the RF of the neuron to a future spatial location. This future field (FF) location (blue circle)  
810 is at the same location with respect to the final eye position after the saccade (blue dotted  
811 circle to blue cross) as the RF is to the current fixation point (red dotted circle to red  
812 cross). (B) Two types of attention act at the time of the RF shift. First, as the monkey  
813 makes the saccade to the target, there is a shift in goal directed or endogenous attention  
814 to the target. Second, the single stimulus flashed against a dark background at the FF  
815 location produces an onset or exogenous attention effect.

816

817 **Figure 2. Task for studying exogenous attention (onset attention) on the shifting**  
818 **receptive field activity.** (A) The location of the RF, FF and added stimuli during the  
819 shifting receptive field saccade task. The task has two conditions: a shift without added  
820 stimuli (top line) and one with added stimuli (bottom line). In both conditions, after fixating  
821 a central point (red cross) a RF stimulus (red spot in dotted circle) was flashed, and then  
822 following a variable delay, the fixation point was extinguished as the target (blue cross)  
823 came on. Before the saccade began (dashed arrow), a 50ms flash probed the sensitivity  
824 at the FF location (blue spot in blue dotted circle). Two points to note: on every trial there  
825 was a 50 ms flash in the RF and then just before the saccade a 50 ms flash in the FF; the  
826 FF flash was over before the saccade began. In trials with added stimuli, eight added  
827 visual stimuli came on at locations that did not evoke a visual response. The same spatial  
828 configuration of the added stimuli was presented for the RF and FF, but shifted by the  
829 vector between the initial and future fixation points (the saccade vector). (B) The timing of  
830 the task events. The length of the colored bars represent the duration of the respective  
831 event. See Methods for further details.

832

833 **Figure 3. Reduction of the future field activity by added stimuli for an example FEF**  
834 **neuron.** The left column depicts the stimulus configuration and results for the RF  
835 response and the right column depicts the equivalent for the FF activity. In trials with no  
836 added stimuli, a single visual stimulus (red and blue spots) was flashed in the RF (A) and  
837 FF (B). The RF, including excitatory center and suppressive surround, is represented by  
838 the red dashed circle; the possible FF by the blue circle. The stimuli were at the same  
839 location with respect to the initial fixation point (red cross at  $0^{\circ}, 0^{\circ}$ , with the RF stimulus at  
840  $27^{\circ}, 19^{\circ}$ ) and future fixation point (blue cross at  $-30^{\circ}, 0^{\circ}$ , with the FF stimulus at  $-3^{\circ}, 19^{\circ}$ ). In  
841 the trials with added stimuli, the RF and FF stimulus was accompanied by eight added  
842 visual spots (C and D, respectively), all  $6^{\circ}$  in diameter. The stimuli added to the RF spot  
843 did not significantly alter the visual response (E, two-tailed *t*-test,  $P=0.93$ ), but the addition  
844 of the stimuli reduced the FF activity significantly (F, 44% reduction, two-tailed *t*-test,  
845  $P<0.001$ ).

846  
847 **Figure 4. Change in the RF response and FF activity with added stimuli for the**  
848 **sample of neurons.** The RF response (A) and FF activity (B) with added stimuli (vertical  
849 axis) is plotted against the respective responses without them (horizontal axis). Filled  
850 circles represent neurons that had a significant decrease in the visual activity with added  
851 stimuli (two-tailed *t*-test,  $P<0.05$ ). The red and blue circles show the example neuron from  
852 Figure 3, and the dashed line is the unity line. C and D display histograms of the percent  
853 change of the RF response and FF activity with added stimuli. Black markers are the  
854 average percent change for the sample, red (RF) and blue (FF) markers are the percent  
855 change values for the example cell. There were significant decreases with added stimuli:  
856 a small 4% decrease for the RF response and a larger 16% decrease for the FF activity.  
857 Panels E and F display histograms for only those neurons showing a significant change  
858 (two-tailed *t*-test,  $P<0.05$ ) in the FF activity which shows a non-significant decrease for  
859 the RF response (6%) and a larger significant decrease for the FF activity (34%).

860  
861 **Figure 5. Cumulative distribution for the sample of neurons as a function of**  
862 **receptive field eccentricity.** The cumulative distribution of the sample of neurons tested  
863 (black circles,  $n=171$ ) and the sub-sample of these cells that demonstrated a shifting RF

864 (blue circles,  $n=52$ ) are plotted as a function of receptive field eccentricity. The orange  
865 circles represent the shifting RF neurons that demonstrated a significant decrease (two-  
866 tailed  $t$ -test,  $P<0.05$ ) in the FF activity in the presence of added stimuli ( $n=15$ ).

867

868 **Figure 6. Magnitude of FF activity across receptive field eccentricity.** (A) The  
869 distribution (bin width  $5^\circ$ ) of the magnitude of FF activity as a function of receptive field  
870 eccentricity ( $n=52$ ). The height of each bar represents the average FF activity for the cells  
871 that fell within that bin. (B) The distribution (bin width  $5^\circ$ ) of the FF activity with (orange  
872 bars) and without added stimuli (blue bars) as a function of RF eccentricity. The black  
873 trace represents the difference in the mean FF activity with and without added stimuli.  
874 Only cells with a significant decrease (two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P<0.05$ ) in FF activity with added  
875 stimuli are displayed ( $n=15$ ). The height of each bar represents the average activity for  
876 the cells that fell within that bin. The gaps at the three eccentricity ranges are due to a  
877 lack of cells that demonstrated a significant decrease in the FF activity with added stimuli.

878

879 **Figure 7. Future field activity is better aligned to saccade onset than FF stimulus**  
880 **onset.** (A) Each row on the raster plot represents spikes on one trial for the example cell  
881 with the trials plotted in ascending order of saccade latency with the shortest latency at  
882 the bottom. The neuronal activity is aligned to the onset of the FF stimulus and added  
883 stimuli (green vertical line). The increased activity occurs long after the visual latency for  
884 this neuron (47 ms, indicated by the dashed vertical red line) and follows the saccade  
885 onset (blue line). (B) Same neuronal activity but now aligned to the saccade onset. Note  
886 the difference in time scales between A and B. (C) The onset of the FF activity is plotted  
887 against the onset of the saccade for the data presented in panel A. Onset times are with  
888 respect to the onset of the FF stimulus and added stimuli. There was a significant linear  
889 relationship between the onset of the FF activity and the onset of the saccade ( $R=0.44$ ,  
890  $P<0.001$ ).

891

892 **Figure 8. Changes in saccade endpoint scatter and latency with added stimuli do**  
893 **not account for the FF activity decrease.** (A) For the example neuron presented in  
894 Figure 3, the mean position of the saccade endpoint with and without added stimuli did

895 not increase but the scatter did increase (black and blue traces and ellipses respectively).  
896 The ellipses represent 95% confidence intervals around the mean endpoint. (B) The  
897 percent change in FF activity with added stimuli (vertical axis) is plotted against the  
898 percent change in FF activity due to saccade endpoint variability (horizontal axis). There  
899 was no significant relationship between the percent change in FF activity with added  
900 stimuli and the percent change due to saccade endpoint variability ( $R=0.2$ ,  $P=0.21$ ). (Note  
901 that positive percent changes on the horizontal axis represent cases where the saccade  
902 endpoint variability for the added stimuli condition was *less* than the variability in the  
903 without added stimuli condition.) (C) The distribution of the intervals between the FF  
904 stimulus onset and saccade onset with (black trace) and without added stimuli (blue  
905 trace). The 0 on the x axis represents saccade onset and the red dashed lines represent  
906 the points where the interval distributions overlap (between -167 ms and -107 ms). (D)  
907 The FF activity with (black trace) and without added stimuli (blue trace) for the trials within  
908 the red dashed lines in panel C. The presence of the added stimuli reduced the FF  
909 activity significantly (41% reduction, two-tailed  $t$ -test,  $P<0.001$ ) even when the intervals  
910 were matched.

911

912 **Figure 9. The future field activity is not saccade-related activity or a receptive field**  
913 **response.** (A) For the example neuron presented in Figure 3, when the monkey made a  
914 saccade without a FF stimulus the neuron did not respond (black trace) in contrast to the  
915 case with the FF stimulus present (blue trace). (B) For the same neuron, a FF stimulus  
916 flashed while the monkey fixated without making a saccade did not activate the neuron  
917 (black trace). This activity is different from that elicited by a visual stimulus placed in the  
918 RF (red trace).

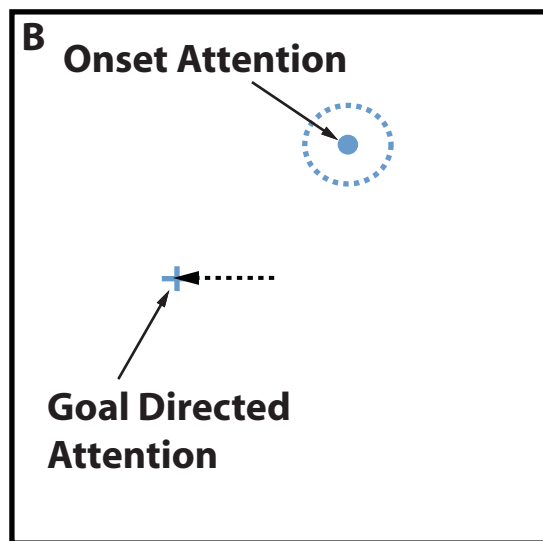
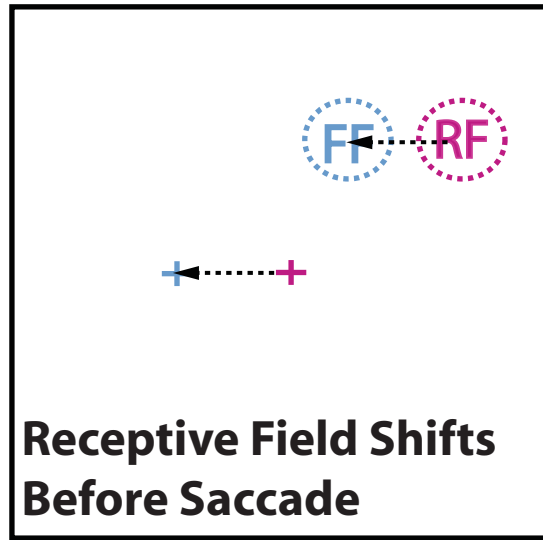
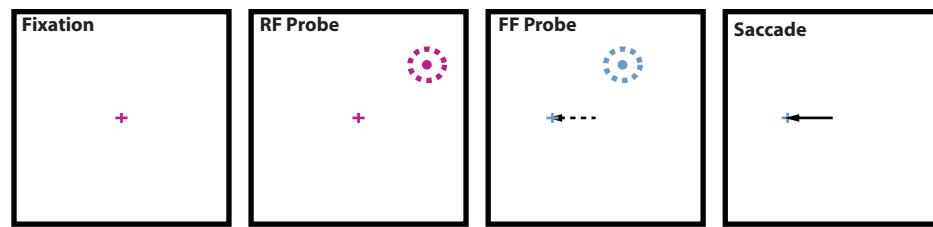
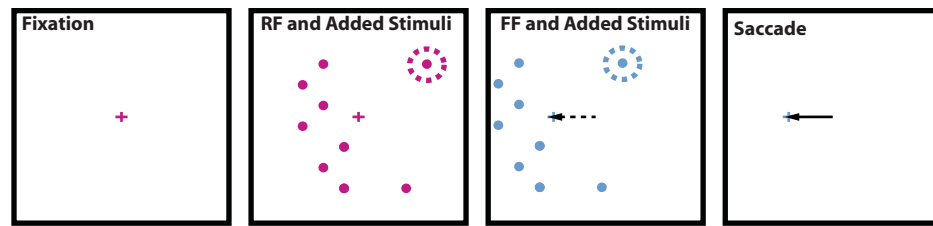
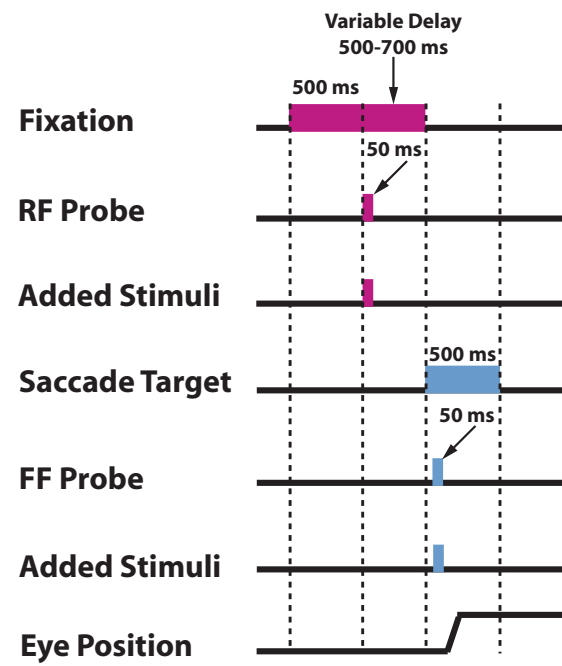


Figure 1

**A****Without Added Stimuli Trials****With Added Stimuli Trials****Figure 2****B**



## Receptive Field Response

## Future Field Activity

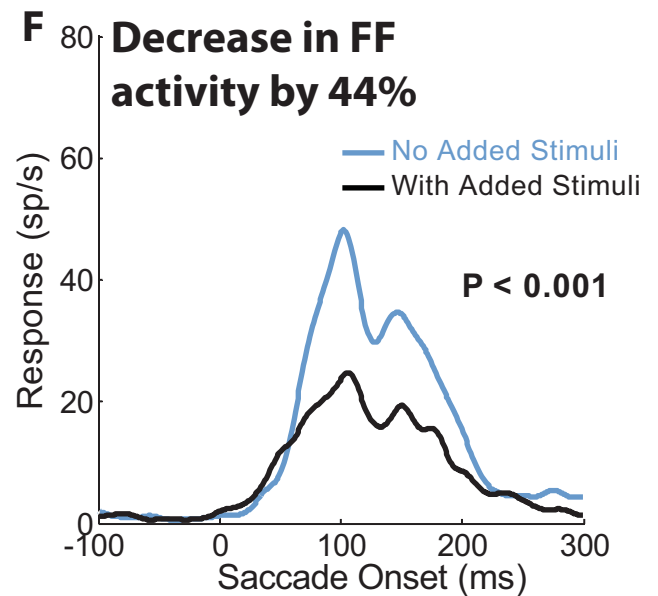
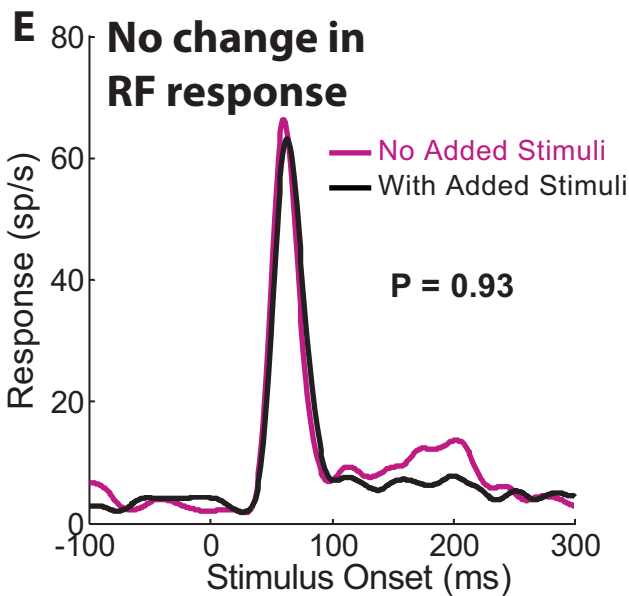
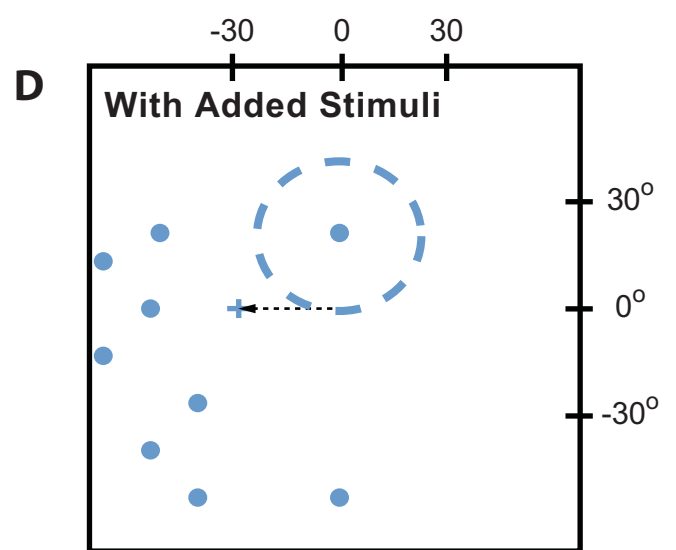
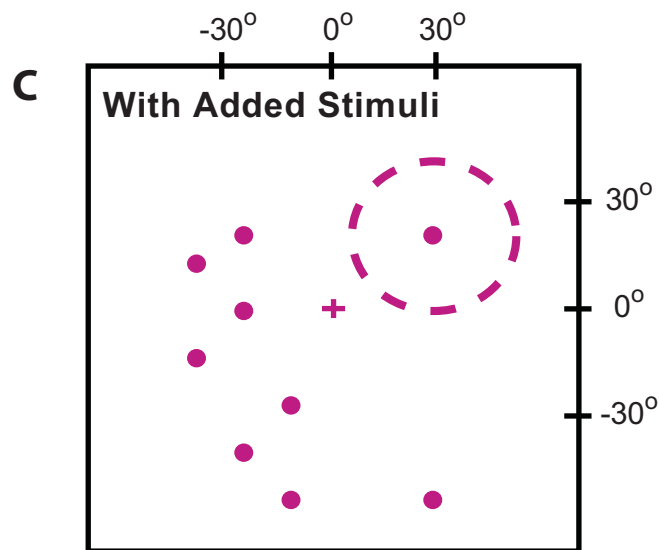
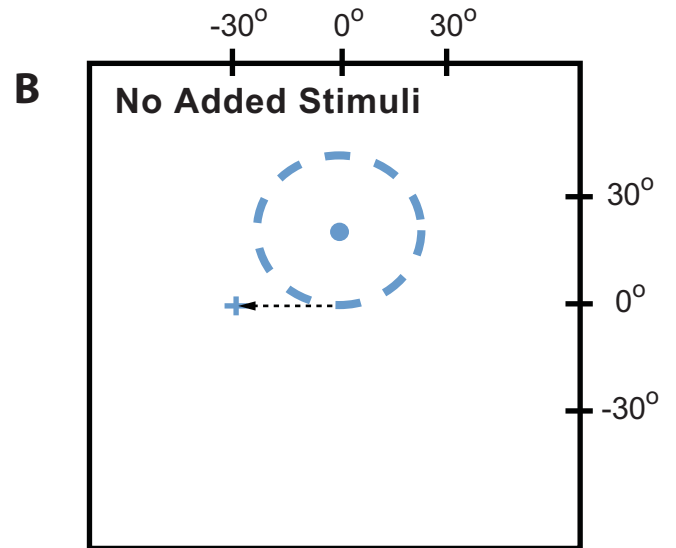
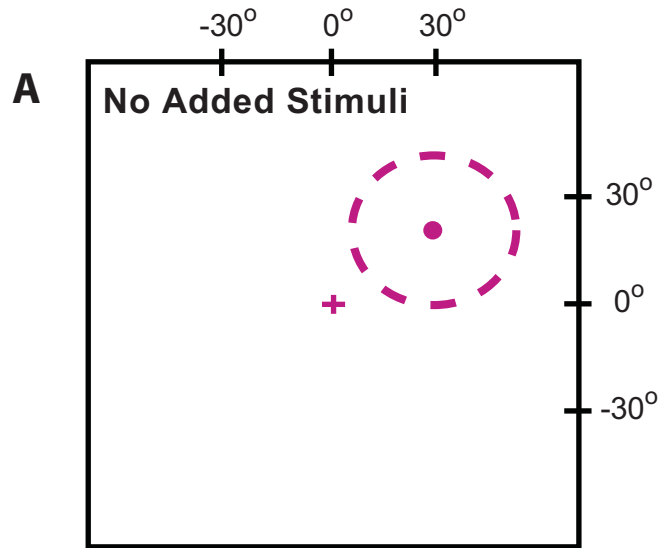
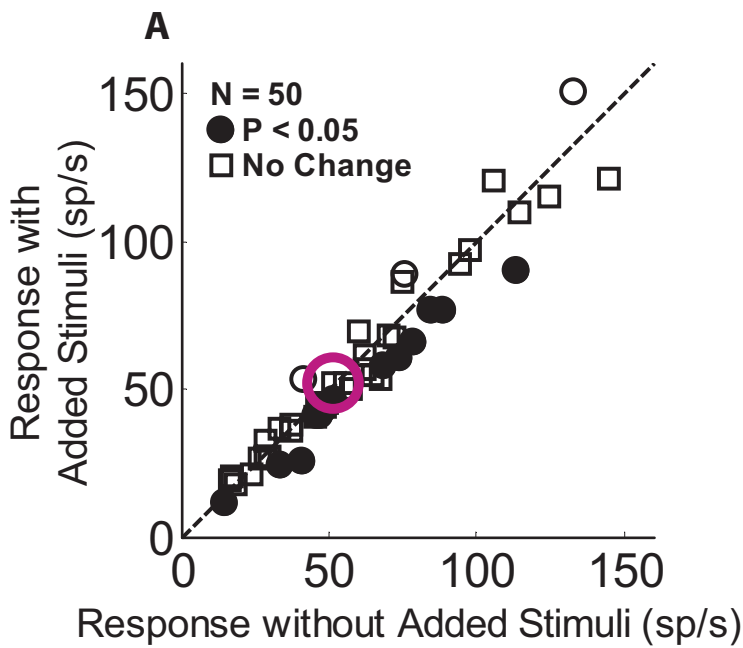


Figure 3

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# Receptive Field Response



# Future Field Activity

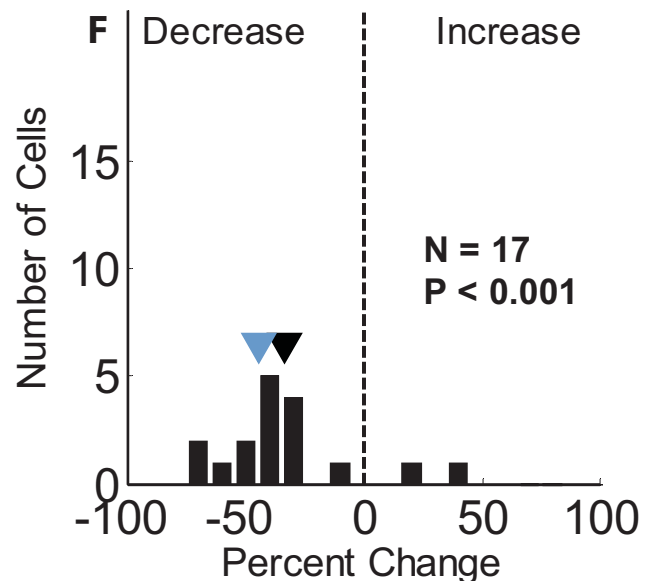
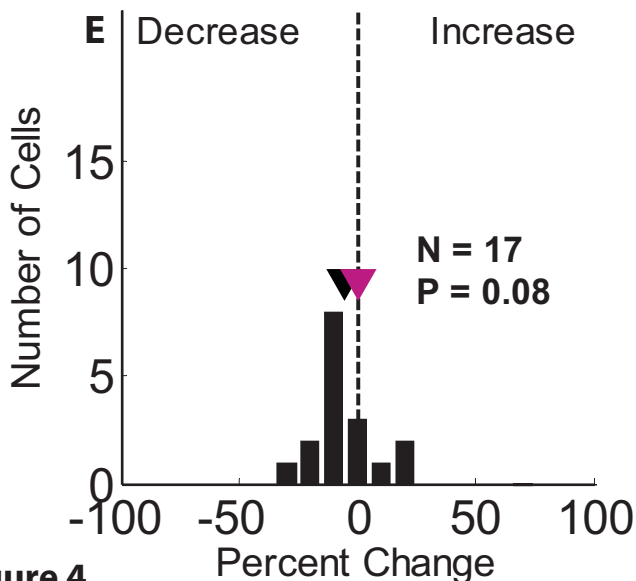
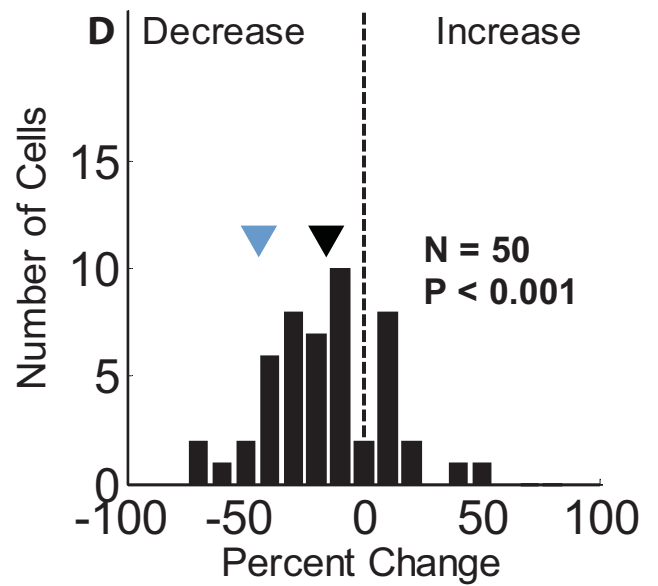
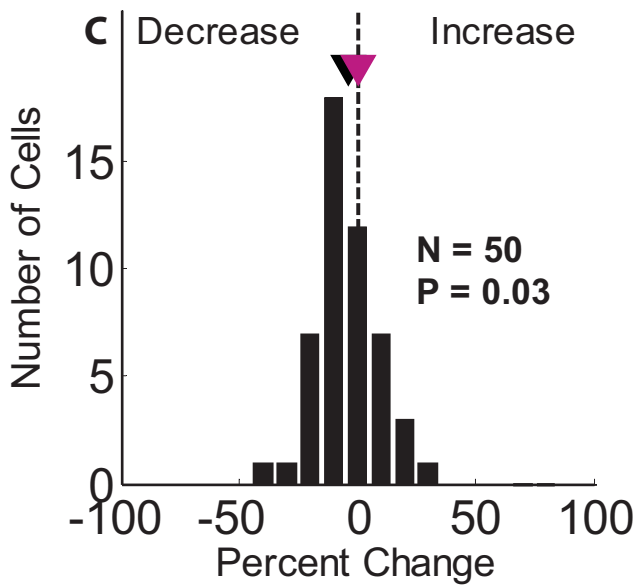
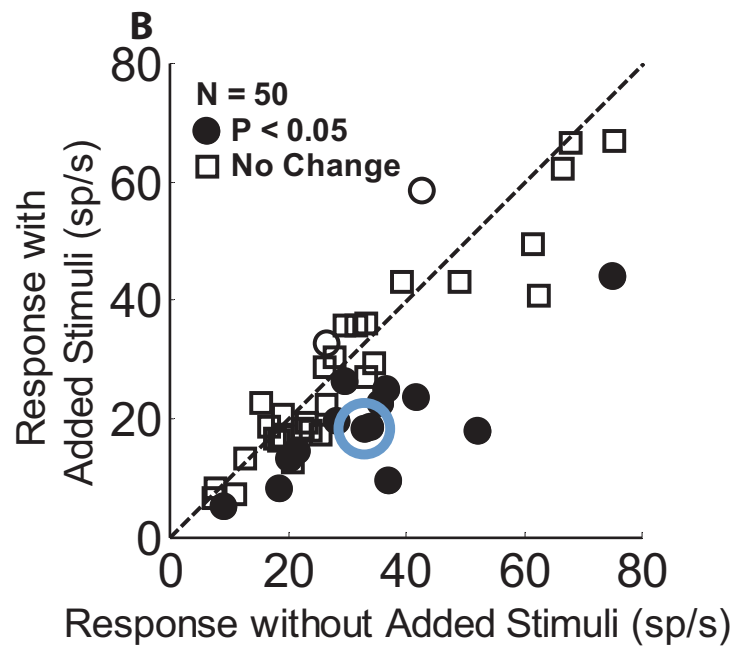
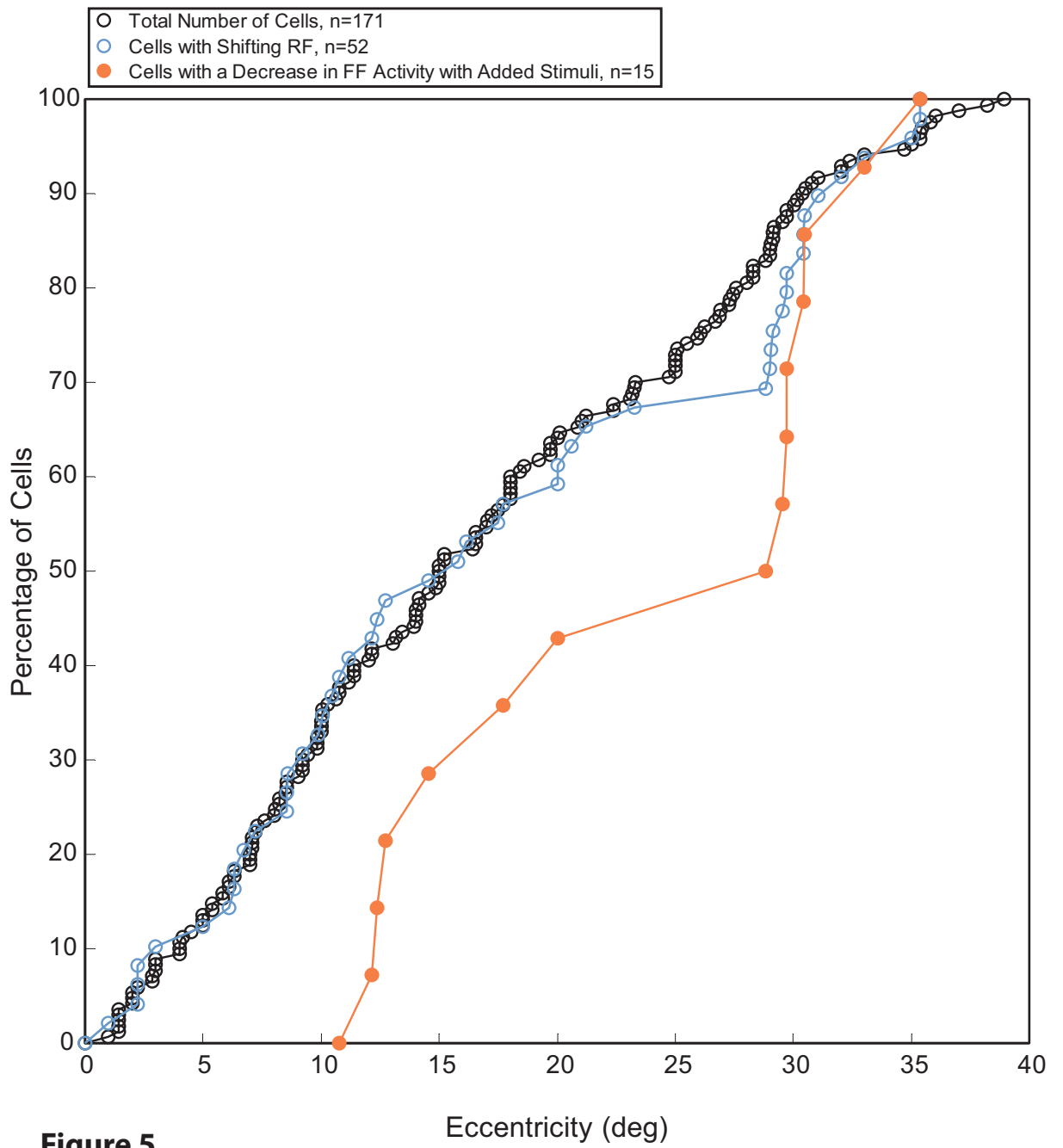
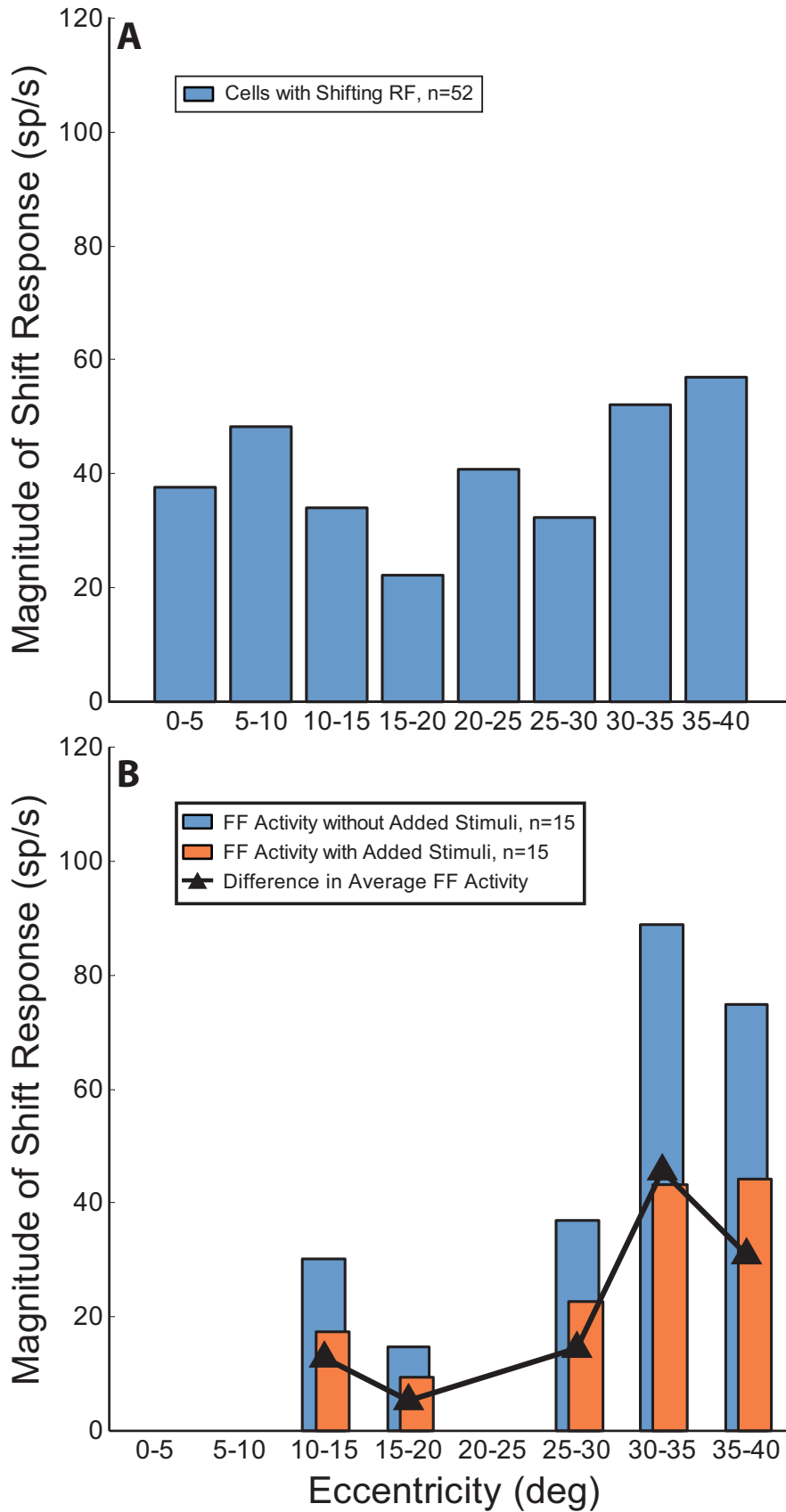


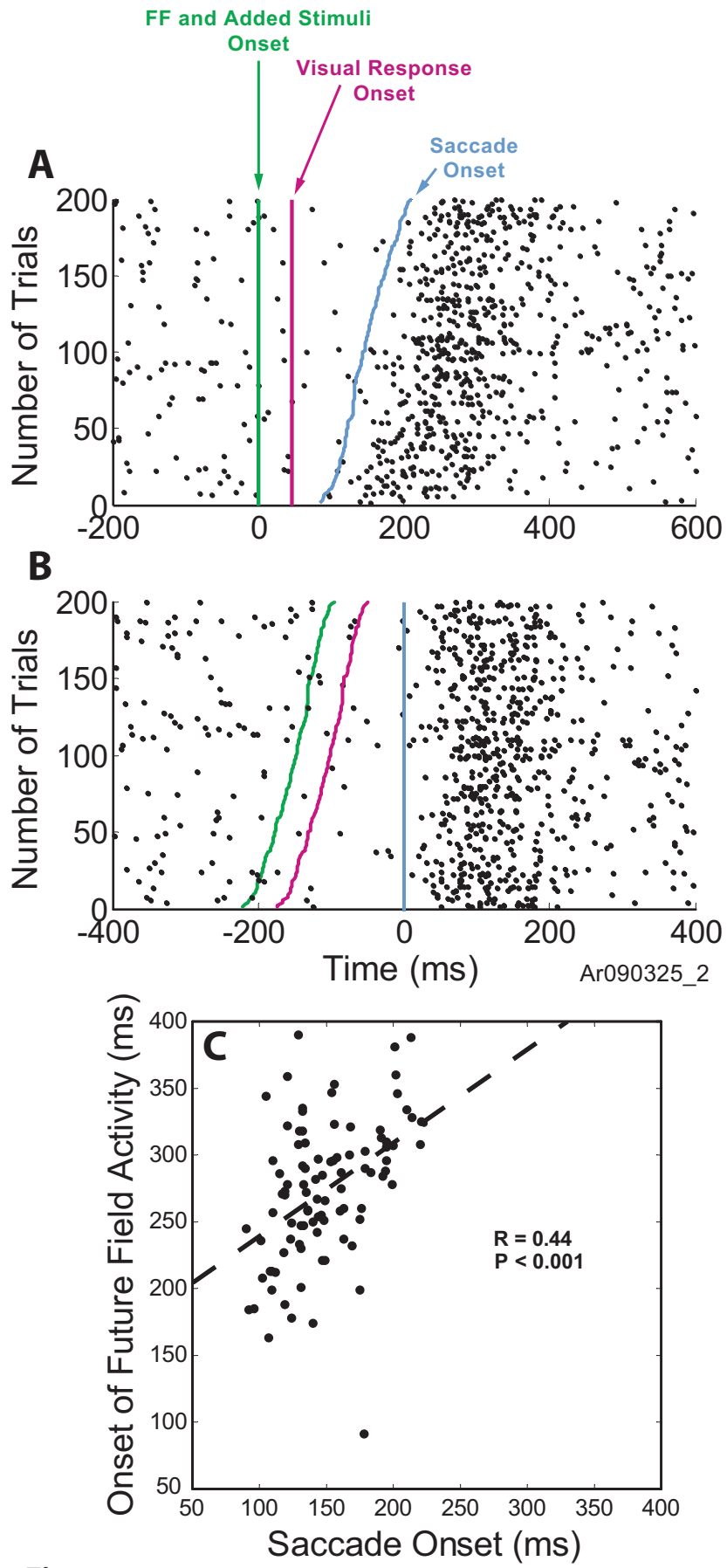
Figure 4



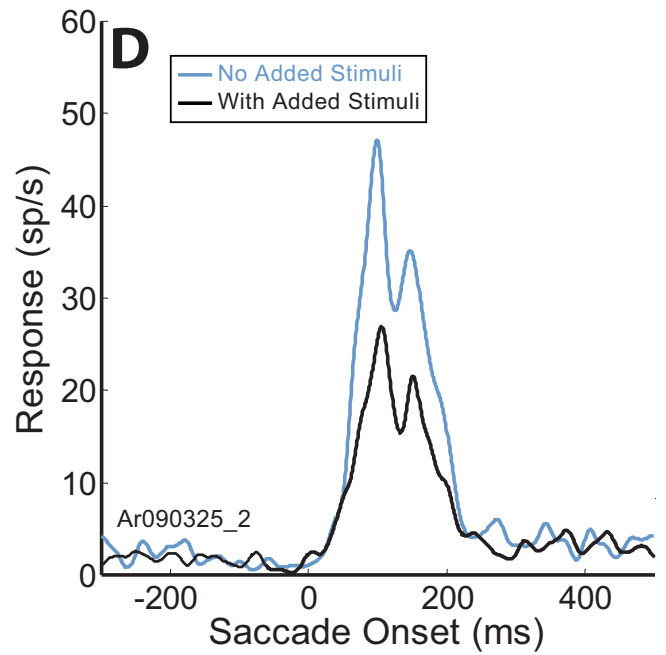
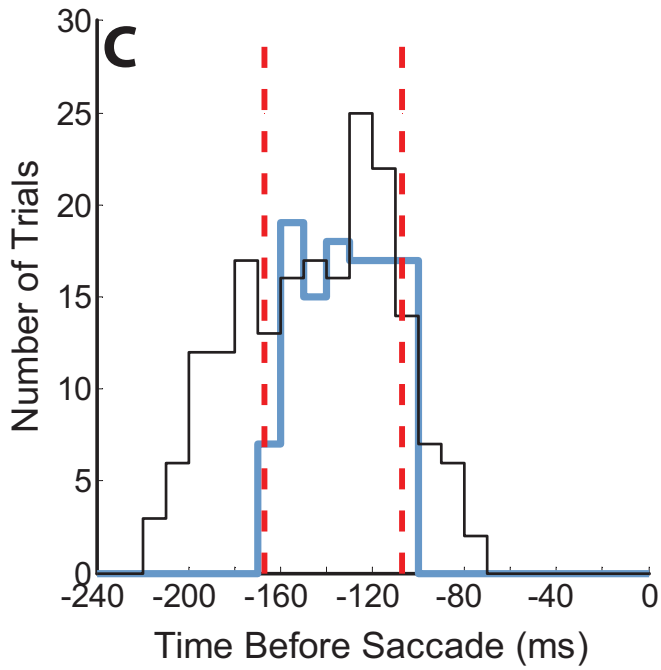
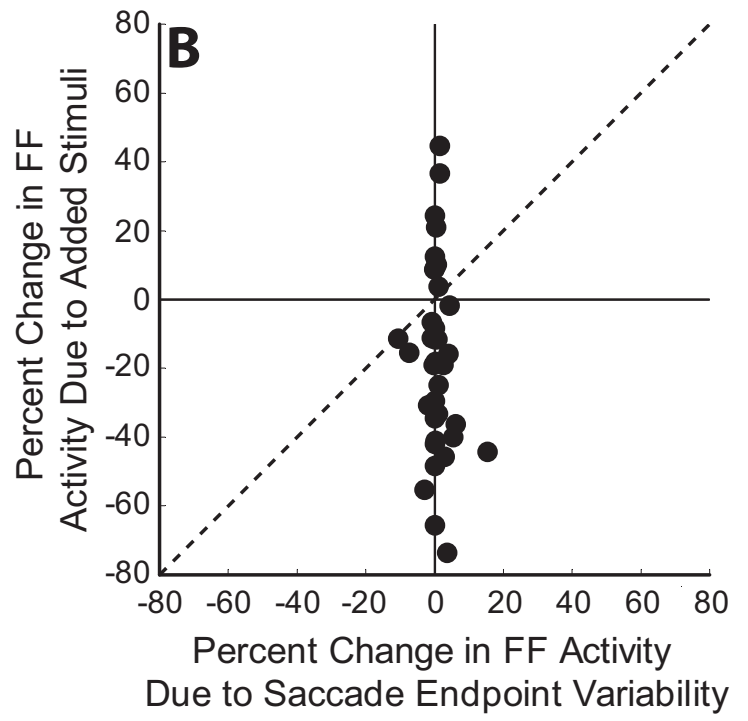
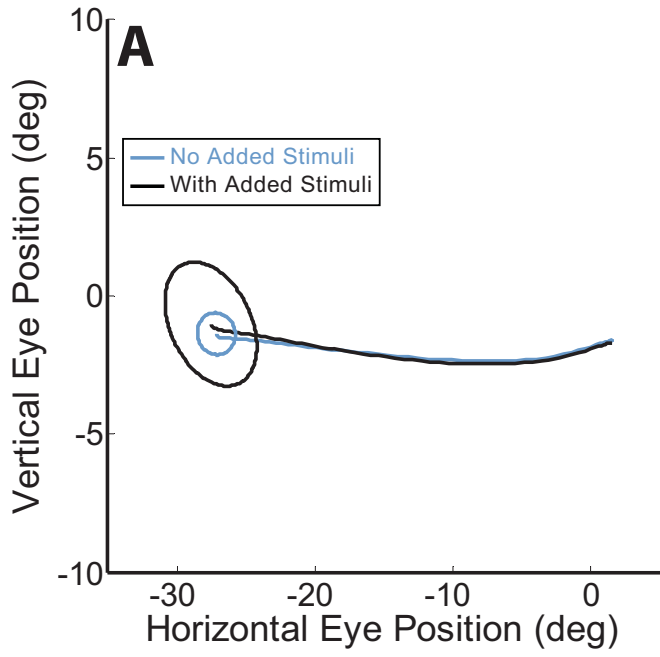
**Figure 5**



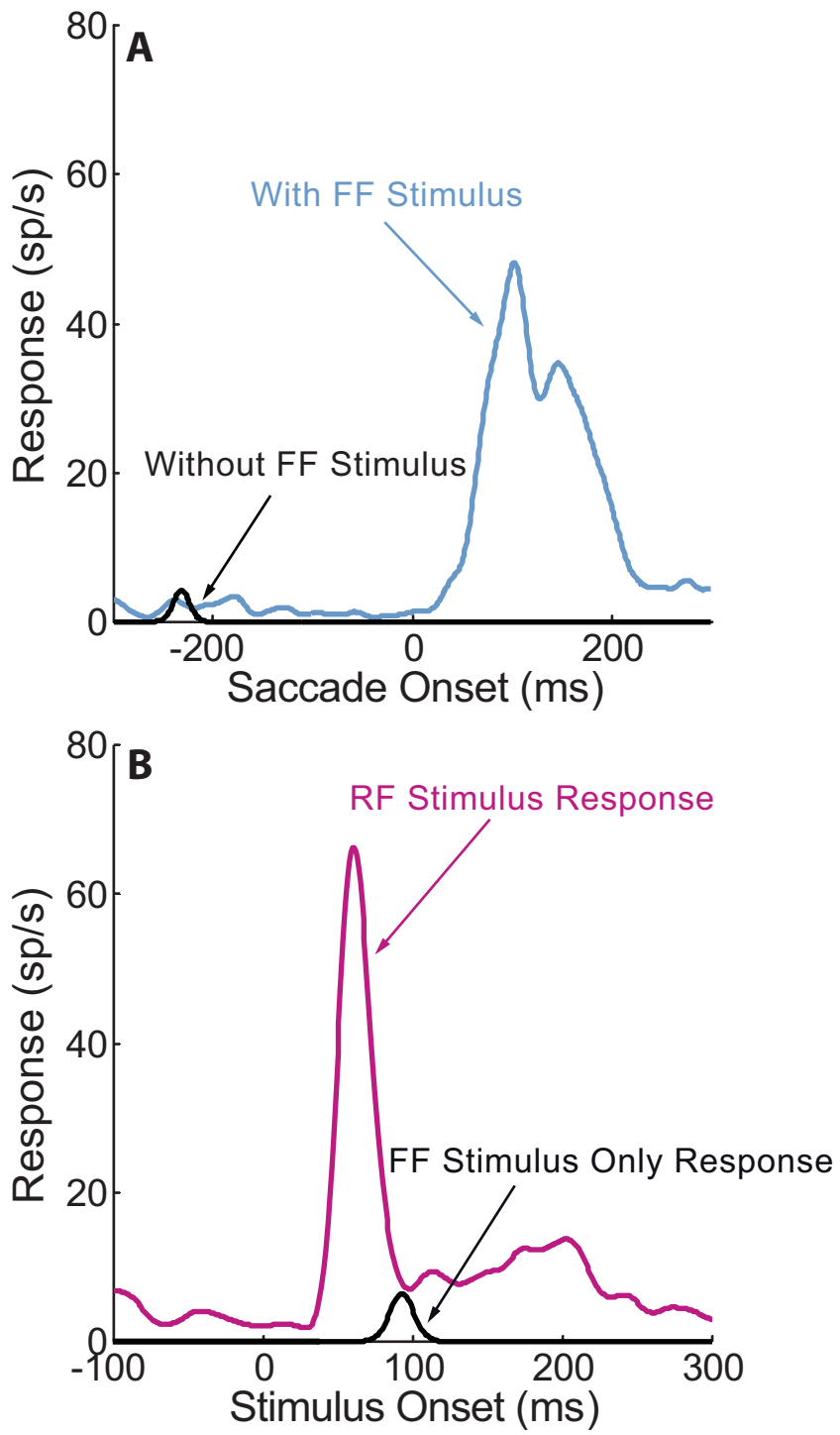
**Figure 6**



**Figure 7**



**Figure 8**



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**Figure 9**