



# Topics in Brain Computer Interfaces

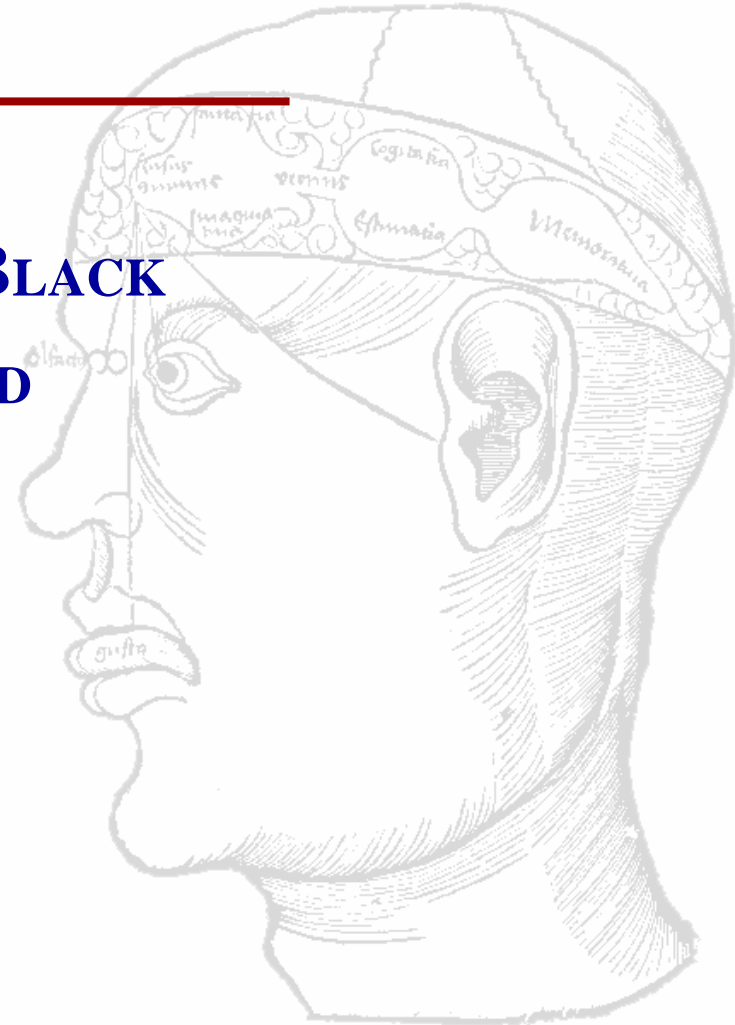
## CS295-7

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Professor: **MICHAEL BLACK**

TA: **FRANK WOOD**

**Spring 2005**





# Structure of Course

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- Combination of
  - Formal lectures to present basic material
  - **Readings** from the recent literature
  - **Hands-on** experience
    - Use real data and decode neural signals.
  - Guest lectures
- Grading
  - Paper reviews and class participation 10%
  - Three homework assignments; total 60%
  - Project 30%



# Prerequisites

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- Linear algebra (vector spaces, matrices, eigenvalues and eigenvectors)
- Probability (basic laws of probability, normal distribution, sampling,...)
- Calculus (partial derivatives, integration)

This is a graduate seminar and we will move quickly.  
There will be basic review of mathematical material and links to external resources will be provided.



# Course Materials

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- There is no textbook.
- All readings will be posted to the web page – this is the main source of information – check it regularly as it will change.

<http://www.cs.brown.edu/courses/cs295-7/home.html>

- Background reading – see web page.
- Assignments are in Matlab – learn by doing, trying experimenting.
- Data that is at the current state of the art.



# Administration

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- Michael Black
  - CIT 521
  - Hours:
    - Thursday 2:00-3:00pm
    - Friday 1:00-2:00pm.
- Frank Wood (TA)
  - CIT 357
  - Hours: Monday 4:00-6:00pm
- Do you want a newsgroup or mailing list?



# Collaboration Policy

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- This is a graduate level seminar class and we will all learn more by interacting inside and outside of class to discuss the material and learn from each other.
- Assignments and the project, however, are to be done on your own. You may ask people for help with general concepts and Matlab programming but your work (including your Matlab code) must be your own.
- If you are ever unsure about what are appropriate interactions, please discuss the situation with me.
- For your reference: [Brown's Academic Code](#).



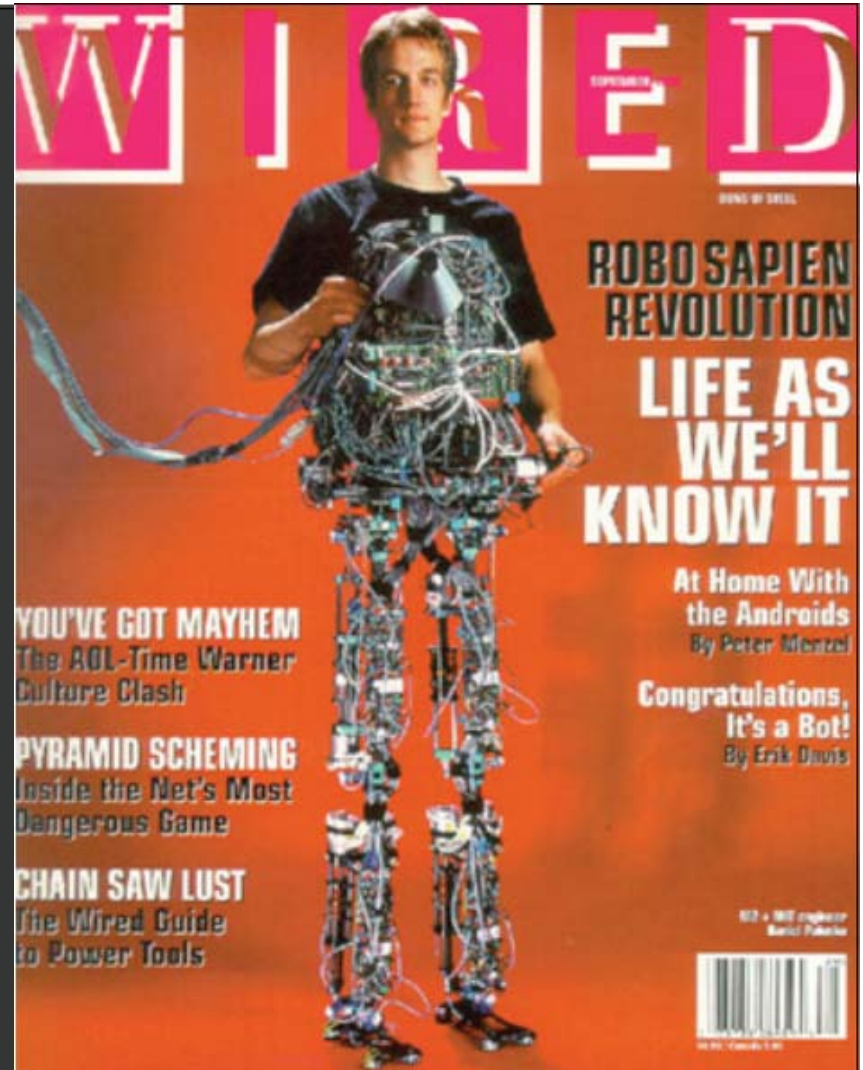
# The “Bionic Man”

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Fun fact:

The “Six Million Dollar Man” would cost \$22,727,272.72 in 2004 US dollars.







# Jose Delgado 1965

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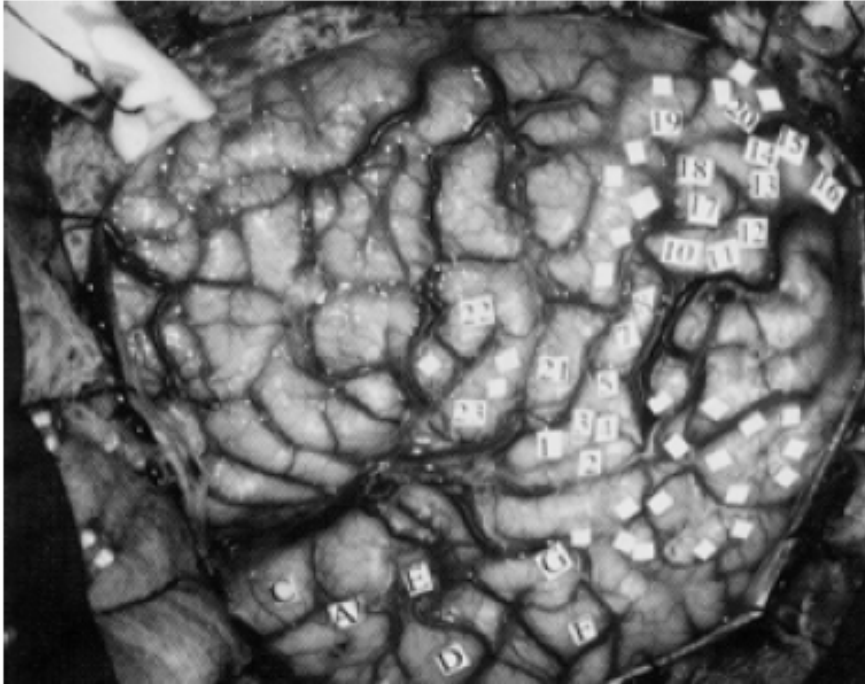
Afternoon sunlight poured over the high wooden barriers into the ring, as the brave bull bore down on the unarmed “matador” – a scientist who had never before faced a fighting bull. But the charging animal’s horns never reached the man behind the red cape. Moments before that could happen, Dr Jose **Delgado, the scientist, pressed a button on a small radio transmitter in his hand and the bull braked to a halt.** Then he pressed another button on the transmitter, and the bull obediently turned to the right and trotted away.

*The bull was obeying commands in his brain that were being called forth by electrical stimulation – by the radio signals – of certain regions in which the fine wires had been painlessly implanted the day before.*

**Modified Behaviour in Animals the Subject of Brain Study:  
By John A. Osmundsen New York Times May 17, 1965.**

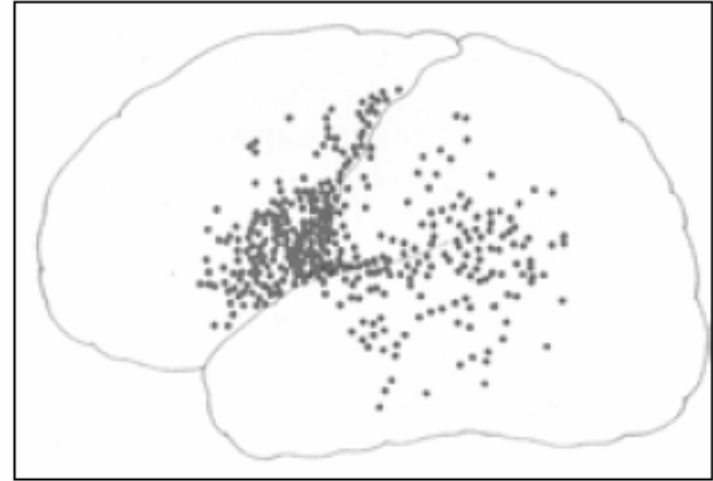


# Stimulating Humans



R. Carter (1998) Mapping the Mind

Places where stimulation evoked memories



R. Carter (1998) Mapping the Mind

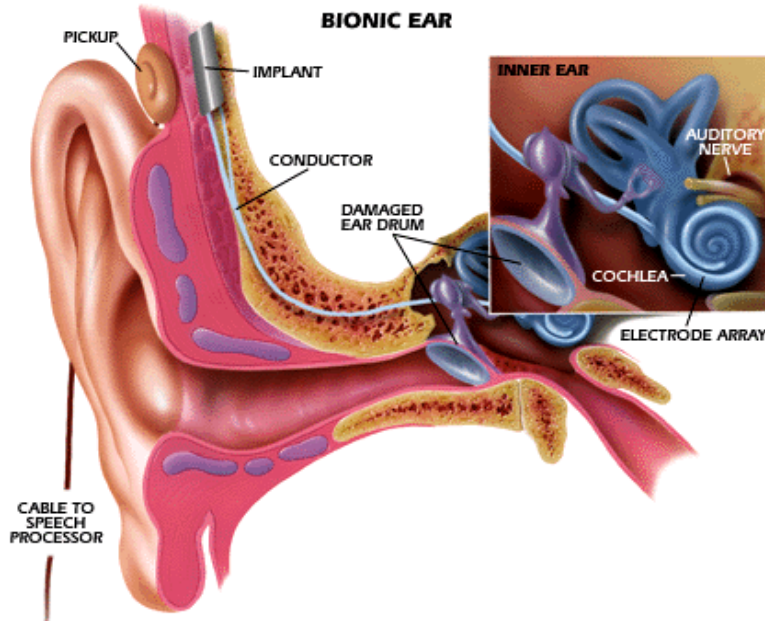
**Wilder Penfield, 1950's.**

“It was like standing in the doorway at [my] high school. I heard my mother talking on the phone, telling my aunt to come over that night.” – 21 year old male.

Penfield and Perot, Brain 86:595, 1963



# Auditory Prostheses

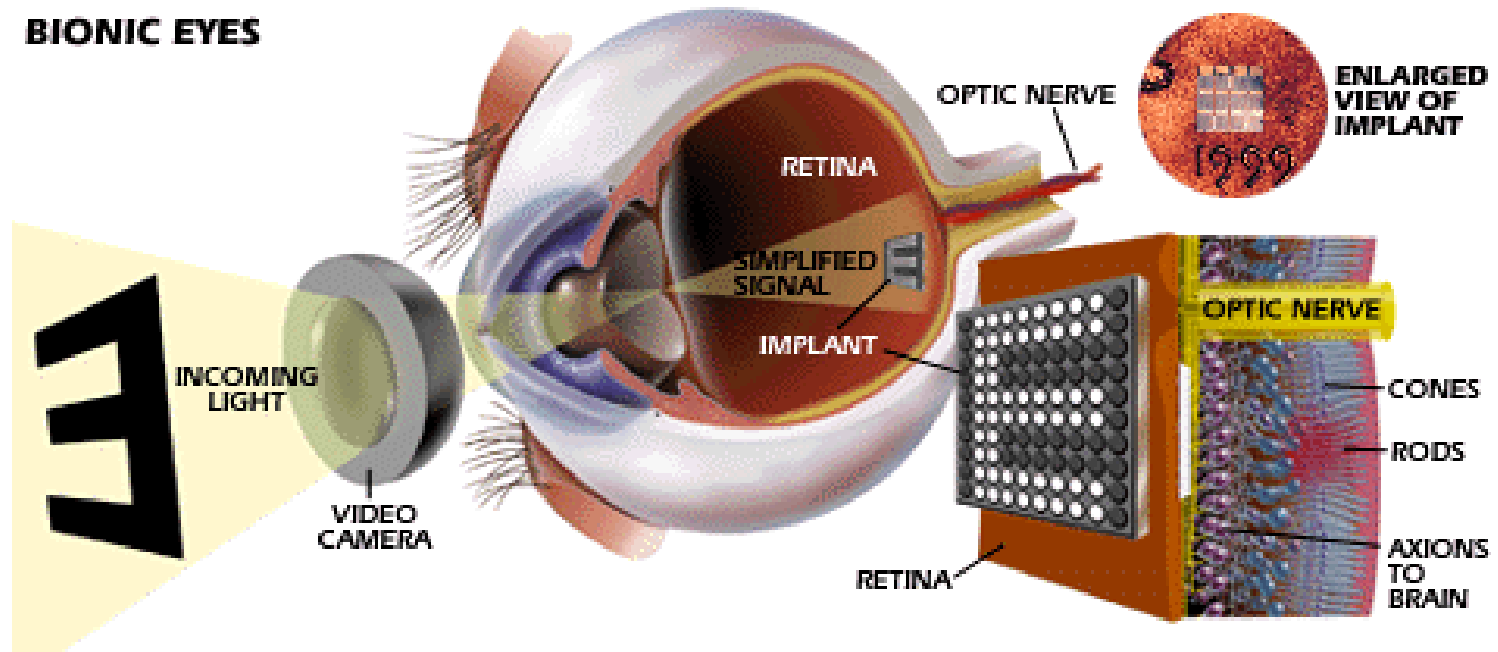


Cochlear implants.



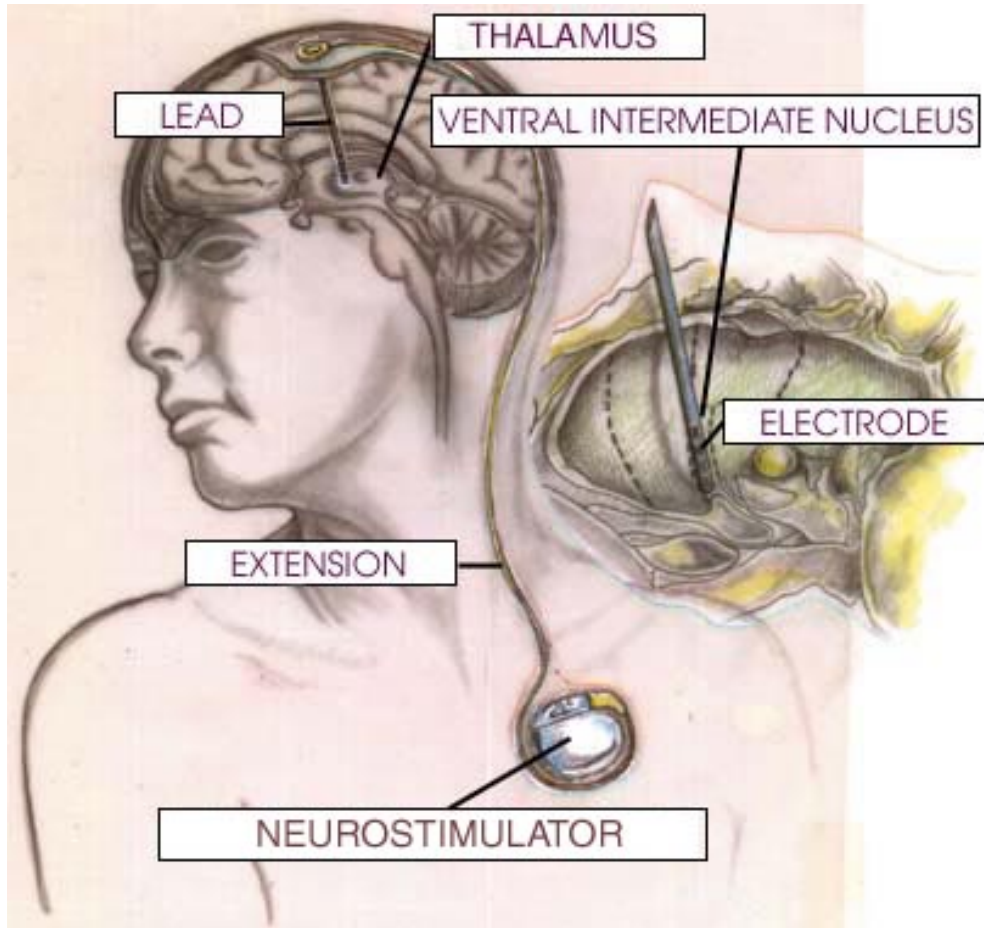
# Visual Prostheses

## BIONIC EYES





# Deep Brain Stimulation



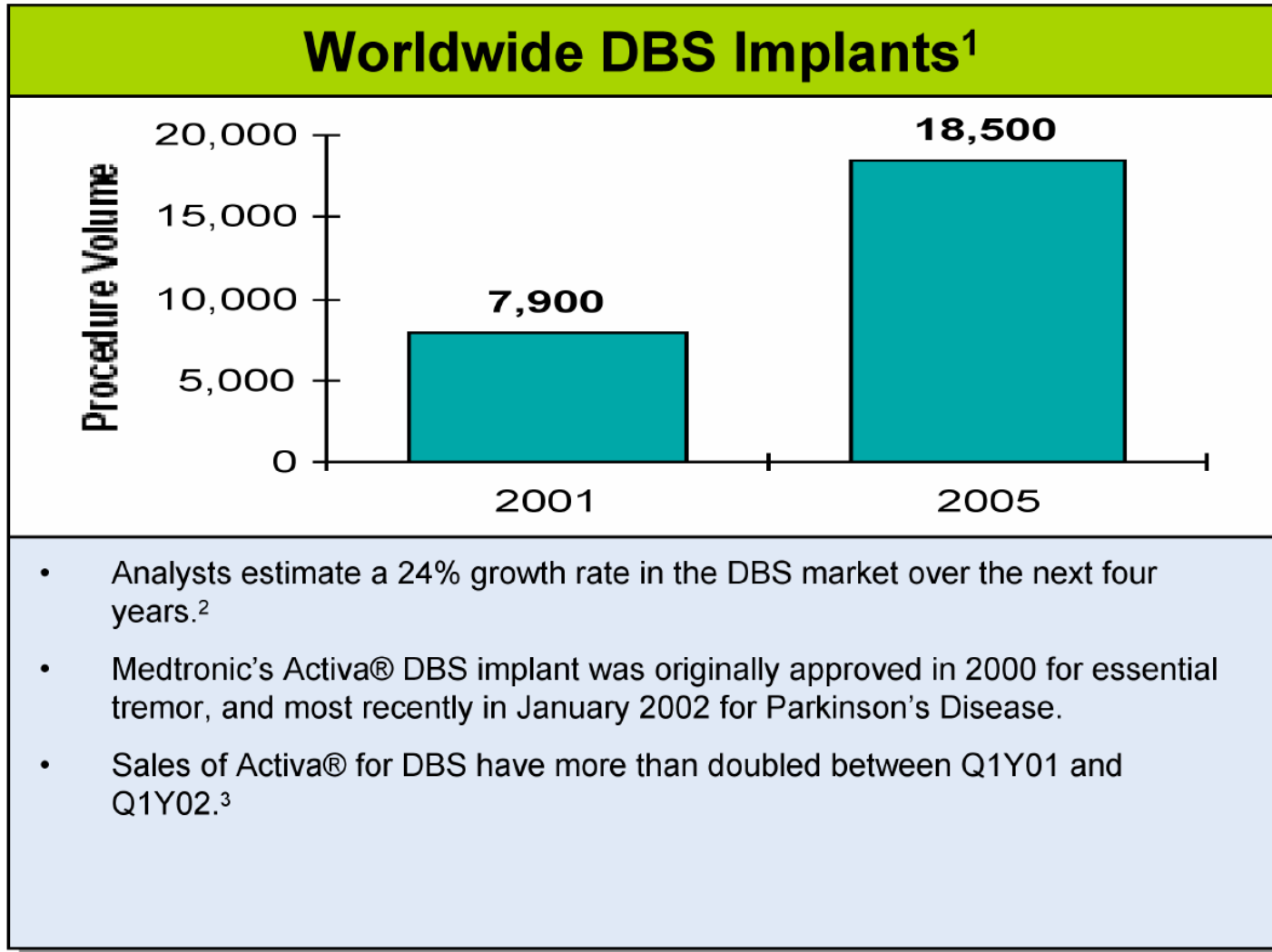
Neurostimulator  
Control Magnet  
Model 7452

Parkinson's  
Epilepsy  
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

...

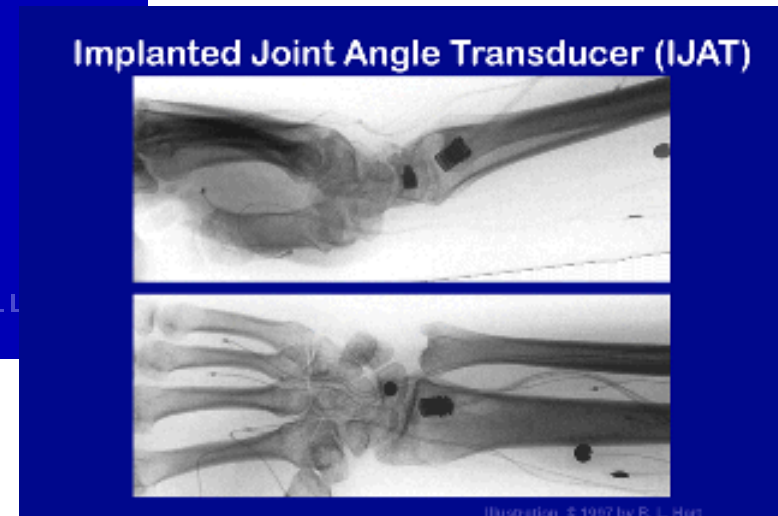
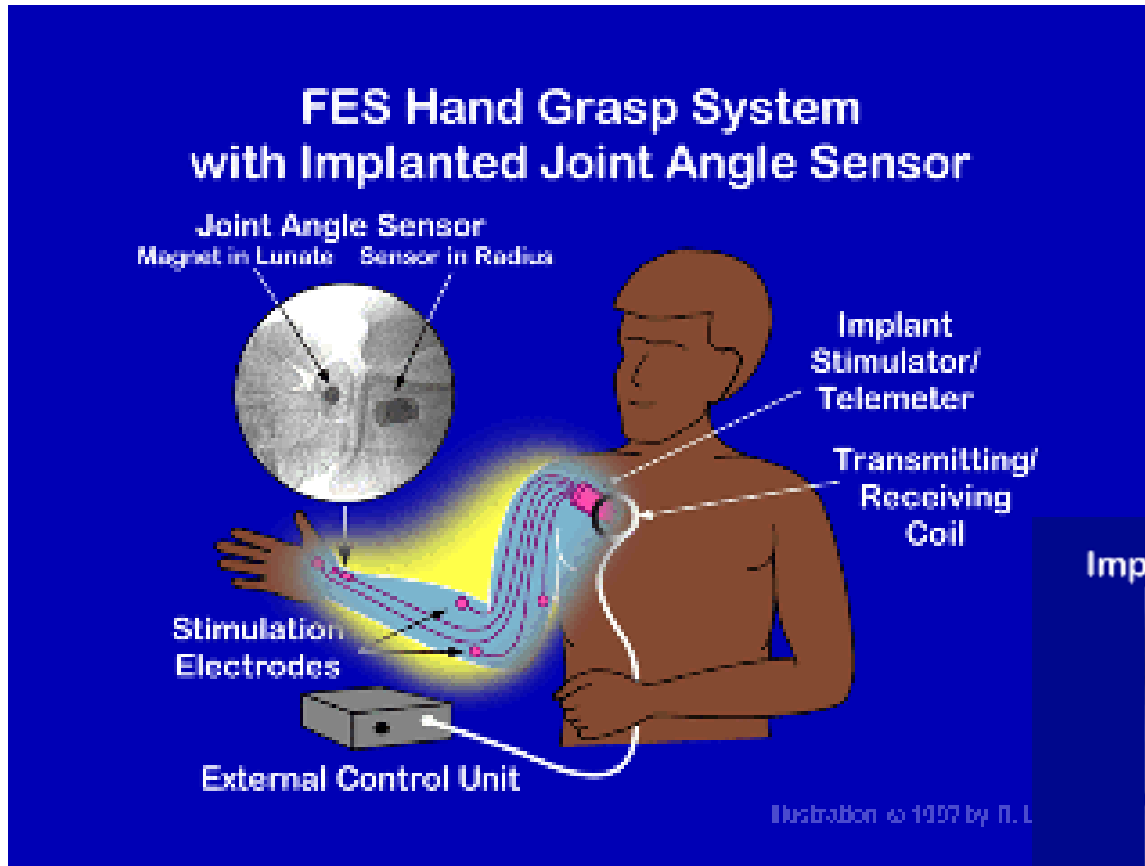


# Human Brain Implants





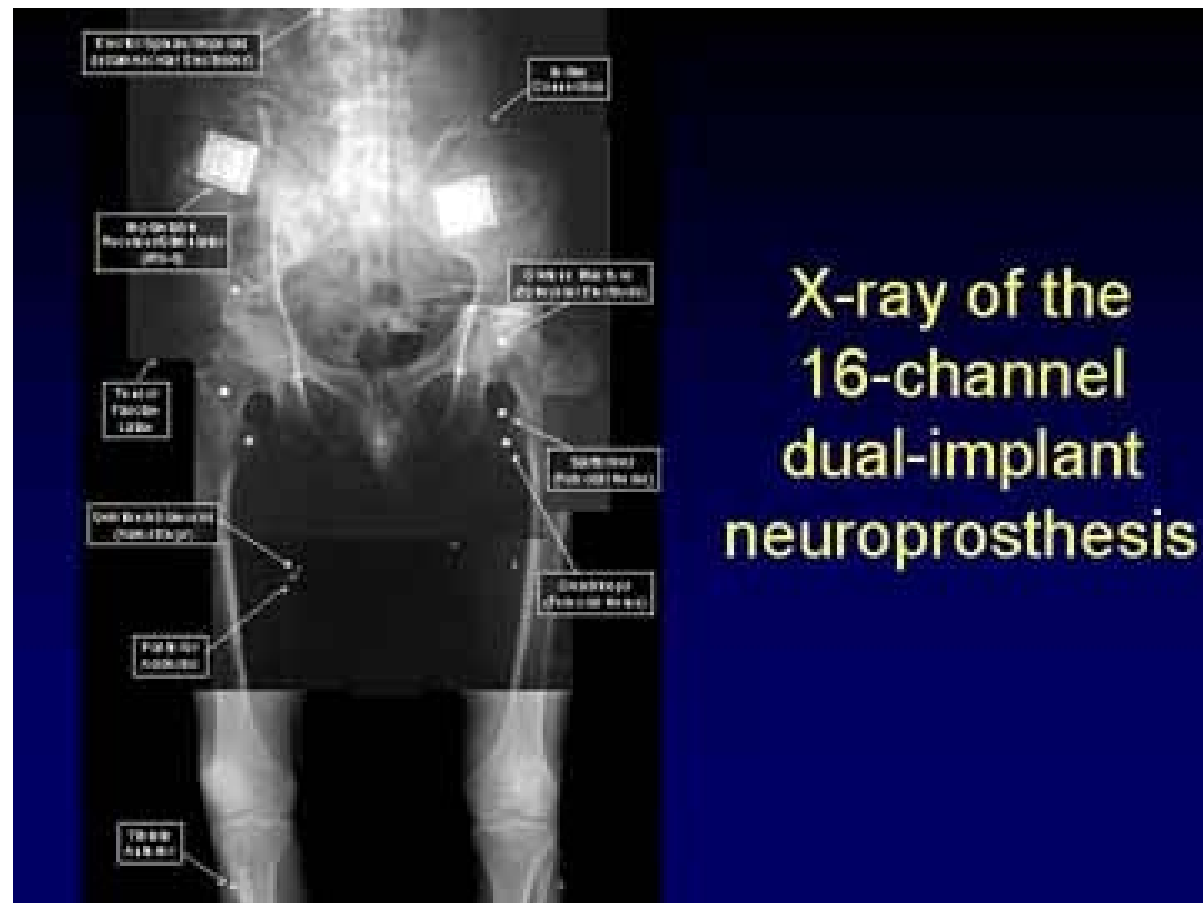
# Functional Electrical Stimulation



Case Western, Biomedical Engineering



# FES Implanted Electrodes



X-ray of the  
16-channel  
dual-implant  
neuroprosthesis

Case Western, Biomedical Engineering





# Human Neural Prostheses

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Simple test interfaces:

- \* Paint program
- \* TV controls
- \* Pong
- \* Dummy mail program.
- \* robot arm and gripper control.



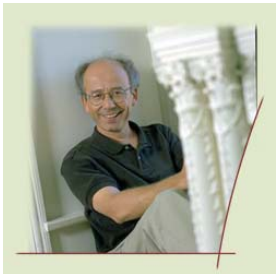


# Neurotechnology at Brown

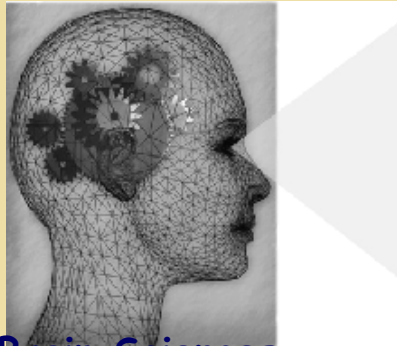
Engineering/Physics  
*Arto Nurmikko*



Applied Mathematics  
*Elie Bienenstock*



The Brain Sciences  
at Brown University



Computer Science  
*Michael Black*



Neuroscience  
*Donoghue Lab*



Spinoff company:




Neurosurgery  
*Gerhard Friehs*





# Neural Motor Prosthesis



cerebral palsy  
cerebellar disorders  
locked-in syndrome  
other stroke  
spinal cord injury  
spinal muscular atrophies  
ALS  
muscular dystrophy  
limb loss  
multiple sclerosis  
veterans

\* Many neurological disorders disrupt the ability to *move* or *communicate*, but leave *cognition* intact.

\* Spinal cord injury:  
~ 200,000 cases in the USA  
11,000 new cases/year  
mostly young

\* Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease)  
20,000 cases  
5,000 new cases/year

\* Current assistive technology is limited





# Neural Motor Prosthesis

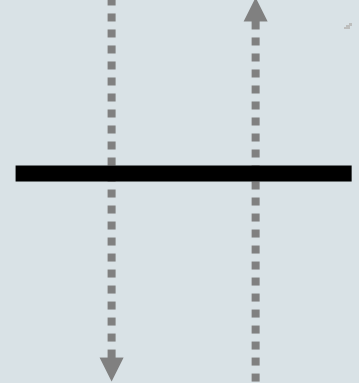
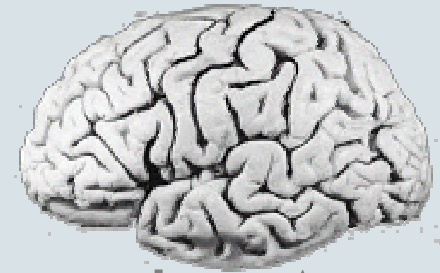
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cerebellar disorders  
locked-in syndrome  
other stroke  
spinal cord injury  
spinal muscular atrophies  
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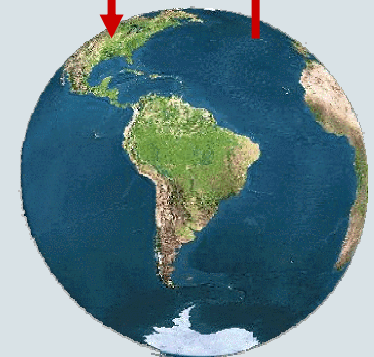
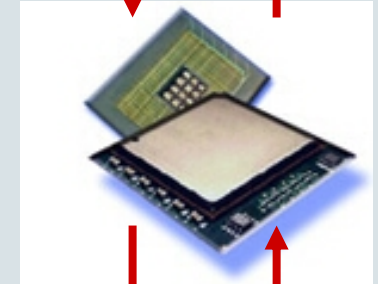
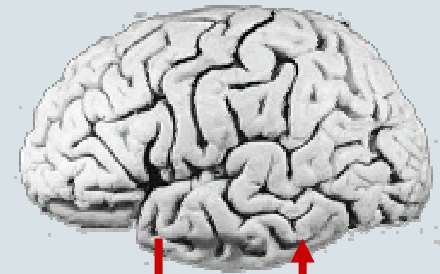
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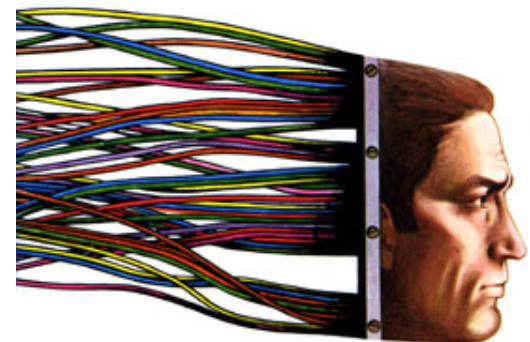
# Human Neural Prostheses

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*“One might think of the computer in this case as a prosthetic device. Just as a man who has his arm amputated can receive a mechanical equivalent of the lost arm, so a brain-damaged man can receive a mechanical aid to overcome the effects of brain damage. ... It makes the computer a high-class wooden leg.”*

Michael Crichton,  
The Terminal Man, 1972

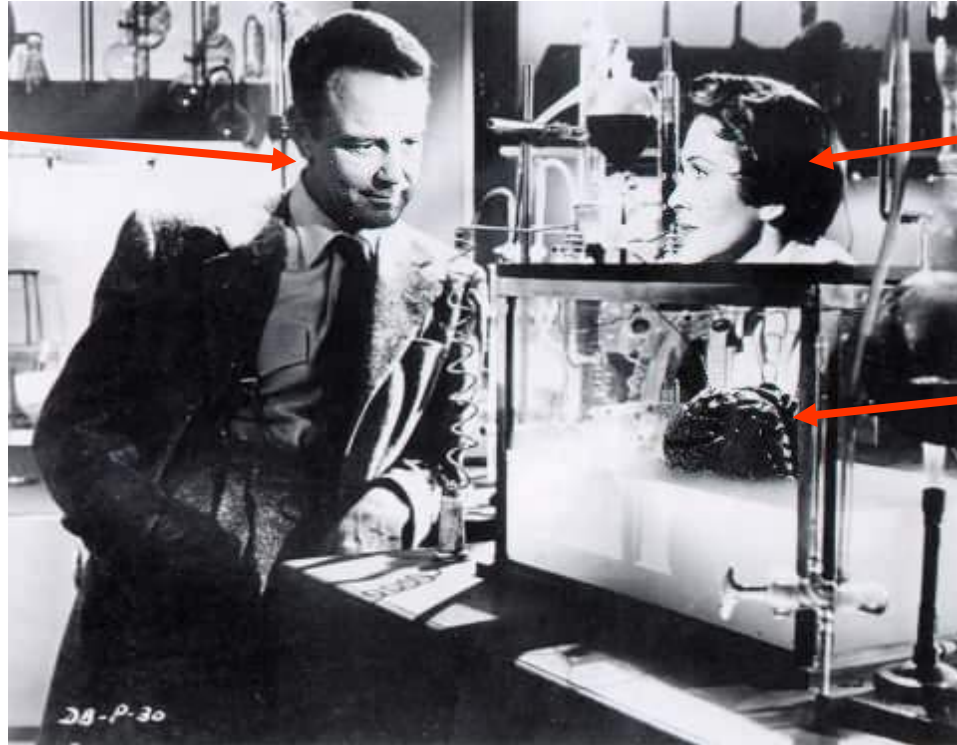
THE  
TERMINAL  
MAN  
A NOVEL BY  
MICHAEL CRICHTON





# From Science Fiction to Practice

"Mad" scientist



Fun fact:  
Nancy Davis  
(Reagan)

Brain

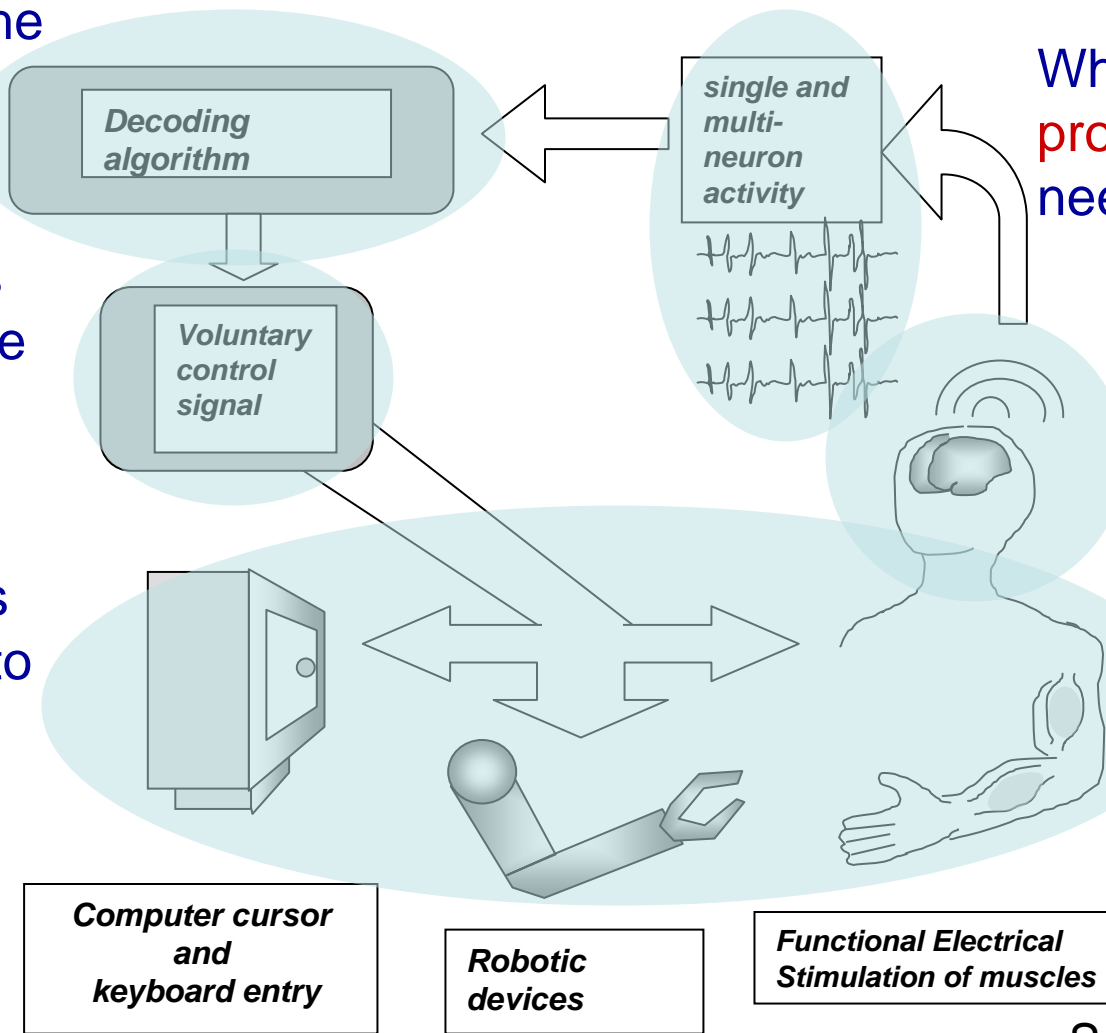
*“If I could find ... a **code** which **translates** the relation between the reading of the encephalograph and the mental image ...the brain could **communicate** with me.”*

“Donovan’s Brain”, Curt Siodmak, 1942



# What this Course Covers

What do the signals **encode**?  
What algorithms can we use to **decode** them?  
Can we exploit this decoding to **control** devices?



What **signal processing** is needed?

What can we **measure**?  
How do we record it?

What kinds of **interfaces** and assistive technologies can we build?

Source: Mijail Serruya





# Building Bionic Humans

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To get there we will cover

- Basics of neurons
- Models of neural coding
- Decoding methods using
  - Linear regression
  - Bayesian inference
  - Artificial neural networks
- Machine learning methods
  - Dimensionality reduction (PCA/SVD)
  - Support vector machines
- Inference methods
  - Particle filtering, Monte Carlo methods.
  - Hidden Markov models (maybe)
- Ethical considerations and technology directions