Contents

Series Foreword ix
Preface xi

I Introduction 1

1 A Probability Primer
Kenji Doya and Shin Ishii 3
1.1 What Is Probability? 3
1.2 Bayes Theorem 6
1.3 Measuring Information 6
1.4 Making an Inference 8
1.5 Learning from Data 10
1.6 Graphical Models and Other Bayesian Algorithms 13

II Reading Neural Codes 15

2 Spike Coding
Adrienne Fairhall 17
2.1 Spikes: What Kind of Code? 17
2.2 Encoding and Decoding 25
2.3 Adaptive Spike Coding 42
2.4 Summary 47
2.5 Recommended Reading 47

3 Likelihood-Based Approaches to Modeling the Neural Code
Jonathan Pillow 53
3.1 The Neural Coding Problem 53
3.2 Model Fitting with Maximum Likelihood 55
3.3 Model Validation 64
3.4 Summary 68
Combining Order Statistics with Bayes Theorem for Millisecond-by-Millisecond Decoding of Spike Trains
Barry J. Richmond and Matthew C. Wiener

5.1 Introduction
5.2 Attention to Visual Motion
5.3 The General Linear Model
5.4 Parameter Estimation
5.5 Posterior Probability Mapping
5.6 Dynamic Causal Modeling
5.7 Discussion

Making Sense of the World

6 Population Codes
Alexandre Pouget and Richard S. Zemel

6.1 Introduction
6.2 Coding and Decoding
6.3 Representing Uncertainty with Population Codes
6.4 Conclusion

7 Computing with Population Codes
Peter Latham and Alexandre Pouget

7.1 Computing, Invariance, and Throwing Away Information
7.2 Computing Functions with Networks of Neurons: A General Algorithm
7.3 Efficient Computing: Qualitative Analysis
7.4 Efficient Computing: Quantitative Analysis
7.5 Summary

8 Efficient Coding of Visual Scenes by Grouping and Segmentation
Tai Sing Lee and Alan L. Yuille

8.1 Introduction
8.2 Computational Theories for Scene Segmentation
8.3 A Computational Algorithm for the Weak-Membrane Model
8.4 Generalizations of the Weak-Membrane Model
8.5 Biological Evidence
8.6 Summary and Discussion
9 Bayesian Models of Sensory Cue Integration
David C. Knill 189

9.1 Introduction 189
9.2 Psychophysical Tests of Bayesian Cue Integration 191
9.3 Psychophysical Tests of Bayesian Priors 195
9.4 Mixture models, Priors, and Cue Integration 199
9.5 Conclusion 204

IV Making Decisions and Movements 207

10 The Speed and Accuracy of a Simple Perceptual Decision: A Mathematical Primer
Michael N. Shadlen, Timothy D. Hanks, Anne K. Churchland, Roozbeh Kiani, and Tianming Yang 209

10.1 Introduction 209
10.2 The Diffusion-to-Bound Framework 210
10.3 Derivation of Choice and Reaction Time Functions 213
10.4 Implementation of Diffusion-to-Bound Framework in the Brain 226
10.5 Conclusions 233

11 Neural Models of Bayesian Belief Propagation
Rajesh P. N. Rao 239

11.1 Introduction 239
11.2 Bayesian Inference through Belief Propagation 240
11.3 Neural Implementations of Belief Propagation 244
11.4 Results 248
11.5 Discussion 258

12 Optimal Control Theory
Emanuel Todorov 269

12.1 Discrete Control: Bellman Equations 270
12.2 Continuous Control: Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman Equations 273
12.3 Deterministic Control: Pontryagin’s Maximum Principle 277
12.4 Linear-Quadratic-Gaussian Control: Riccati Equations 283
12.5 Optimal Estimation: Kalman Filter 287
12.6 Duality of Optimal Control and Optimal Estimation 290
12.7 Optimal Control as a Theory of Biological Movement 294
13 Bayesian Statistics and Utility Functions in Sensorimotor Control
Konrad P. Körding and Daniel M. Wolpert 299
13.1 Introduction 299
13.2 Motor Decisions 301
13.3 Utility: The Cost of Using our Muscles 308
13.4 Neurobiology 314
13.5 Discussion 316

Contributors 321

Index 324