VISUAL PERCEPTION OF MOTION

1) Distinction between object motion and our motion

2) Two types of motion:
   a) General movement of “something”
   b) Specific motion of an identified or defined object

3) Notes:
   a) Perception of movement is a product of the nervous system
   b) Perception of movement involves more than just the retina
   c) Perception of movement involves an interplay of more than one sensory system
   d) Perception of movement requires heuristics, best-guesses, and inexact processes
4) Creating the perception of movement
   a) Real movement
   b) Apparent movement
   c) Induced movement
   d) Movement aftereffect
5) Detecting movement

a) Neural feature detectors & movement perception

i) Complex and end-stopped cells

ii) Detection circuit

iii) Medial temporal (MT) cortex in dorsal (upward) path

b) Corollary discharge theory

i) Three types of signals accounted for

(1) Motor signal

(2) Corollary discharge signal (CDS)

(3) Image movement signal (IMS)

If afferent and efferent directions are both present, they cancel each other out.

If only one or the other arrives, there must be movement.
c) Optic flow field

i) How signals move relative to each other in the visual field (or “optical array”)

ii) Moving objects cause parts of the optic-array to disappear (be deleted) or reappear (accreted)

iii) Results in perception of the occluding object as moving relative to the occluded object

iv) Global optic flow

(1) Occurs when all elements move in unison (or nearly so)

d) Perceptual organization

i) Gestalt principles

(1) Help pull parts of the view together to help detect relative displacements, hence movement

ii) Biological movement

(1) Some evidence for neurons (in MT) that respond best to biological (or even species-specific) movement

iii) Kinetic depth effect

(1) Projection of 3D object onto 2D surface
(2) Stationary image looks like 2D object
(3) Movement gives 3D aspect
6) Heuristics and theories

   a) Movements continue in same direction (both linear and rotational)
      i) Inertia or good continuation

   b) Occlusion heuristic
      i) Moving object with tend to occlude the background
      ii) When occluded, the object still exists

7) Meaning and movement

   a) Object’s meaning influences movement perception

   b) Knowledge of the body/physics is applied

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Figure 8.40
Photographs like the ones used to create the stimulus in Shiffrar and Freyd’s (1990) apparent movement experiments. When these pictures are alternated rapidly, the hand making a fist appears to move from one position to the other. The hand appears to go through the head at short SOAs and around the head at long SOAs. (Photographs courtesy of Maggie Shiffrar.)