

Clinically Focused Physics Education



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Website

<http://www.sprawls.org/clinphys>

Clinical Medicine

Imaging



Radiation Therapy



Physics

The Foundation Science

Effective and Safe Clinical Procedures

Imaging



Radiation Therapy



**Require an extensive knowledge
of
Applied Physics
and
The Associated Technology**

Who needs a knowledge of Physics applied to clinical imaging?

Radiologists, Residents and Fellows

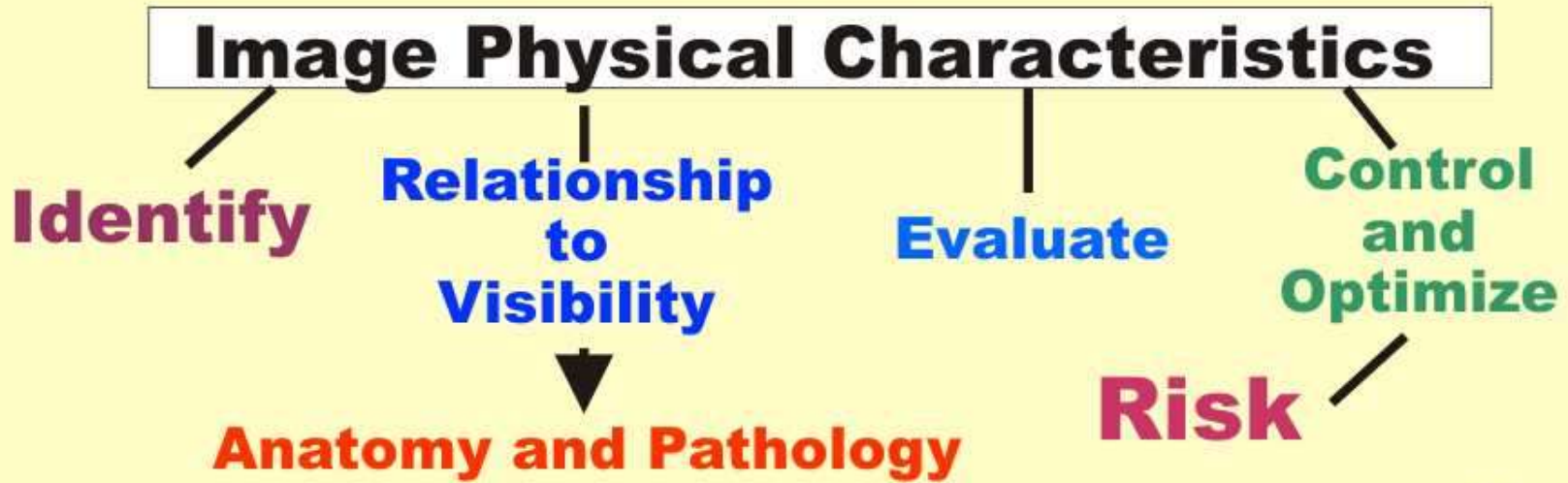
Technologists

Medical Physicists



Each provides unique challenges and opportunities.

Physics Learning Objectives for Radiologists



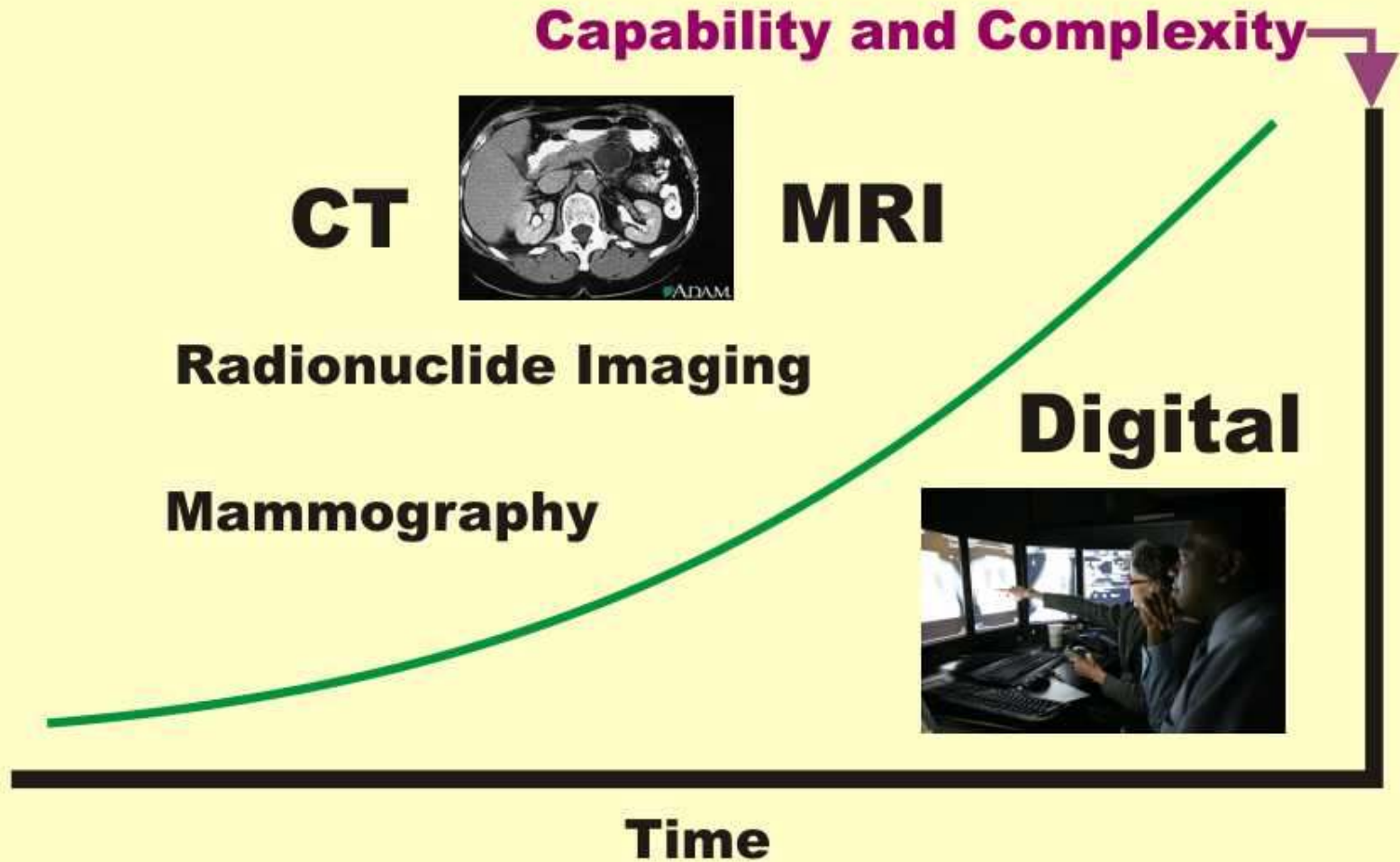
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Why an Evolving Model?

Three Dynamics....

1. Rapidly expanding **NEEDS** for physics knowledge.
2. Expanding availability of educational **RESOURCES.**
3. Better knowledge of the learning and teaching process.

Continuing Growth in the Need for Physics Knowledge



Digital Resources to Enrich Learning Activities



**Textbooks
Modules**

Visuals

**Clinical
Images**

Modules

**References
Teaching Files**



Classroom



**Clinical
Conference**



**Small
Group**



“Flying Solo”

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Clinically Focused Physics Education

Classroom



**Clinical
Conference**



**Small
Group**



**“Flying
Solo”**



**Learning Facilitator
“Teacher”**

**Individual
and
Peer Interactive
Learning**

**Each type of learning activity
has a unique value.**

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Clinically Focused Physics Education

Classroom



**Clinical
Conference**



**Small
Group**



**“Flying
Solo”**



**Learning Facilitator
“Teacher”**

**Individual
and
Peer Interactive
Learning**

The Goal..

Increase the **EFFECTIVENESS** of each type of learning activity with the **necessary resources** and understanding of the process by the Learning Facilitators.

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The Barrier

Physics Education



Clinical Imaging



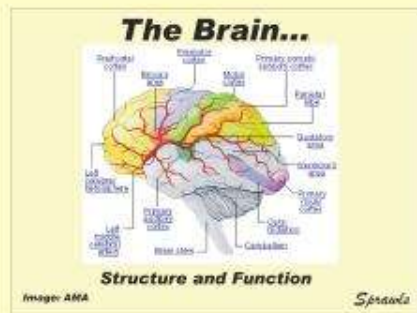
Efficiency

Location, Resources, Human Effort, Cost

Limited Experience

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The Mental Process of Learning Physics



Perry Sprawls, Ph.D.
Emory University
and

Sprawls Educational Foundation

<http://www.sprawls.org>

LEARNING is...



**Building a
knowledge
structure
in the
mind**

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Learning Physics is by.. Encounter and Experience



Physical Universe



Brain

Learning is....

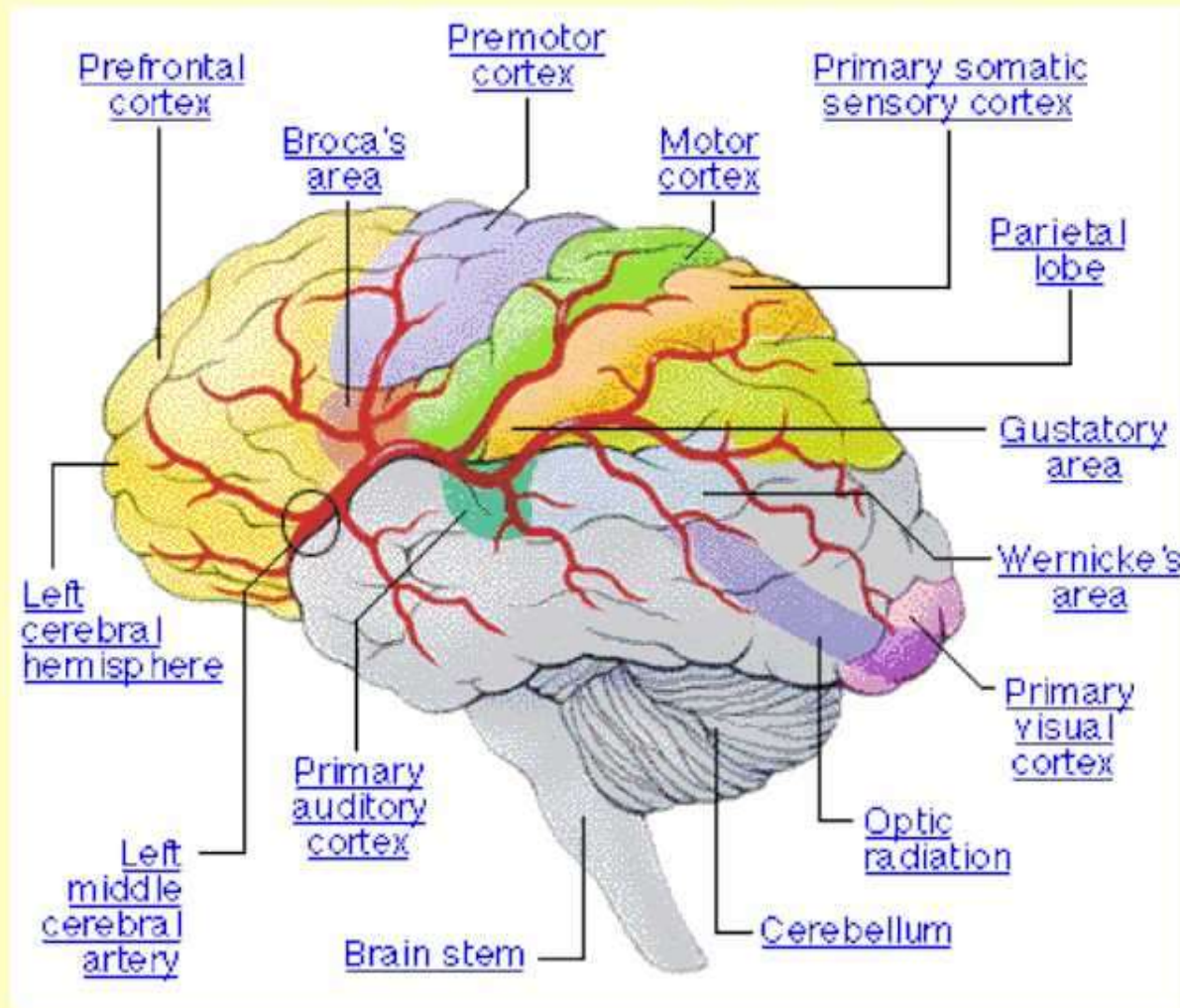


Building knowledge structures in the brain

Image: UCDavis

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The Brain...



Structure and Function

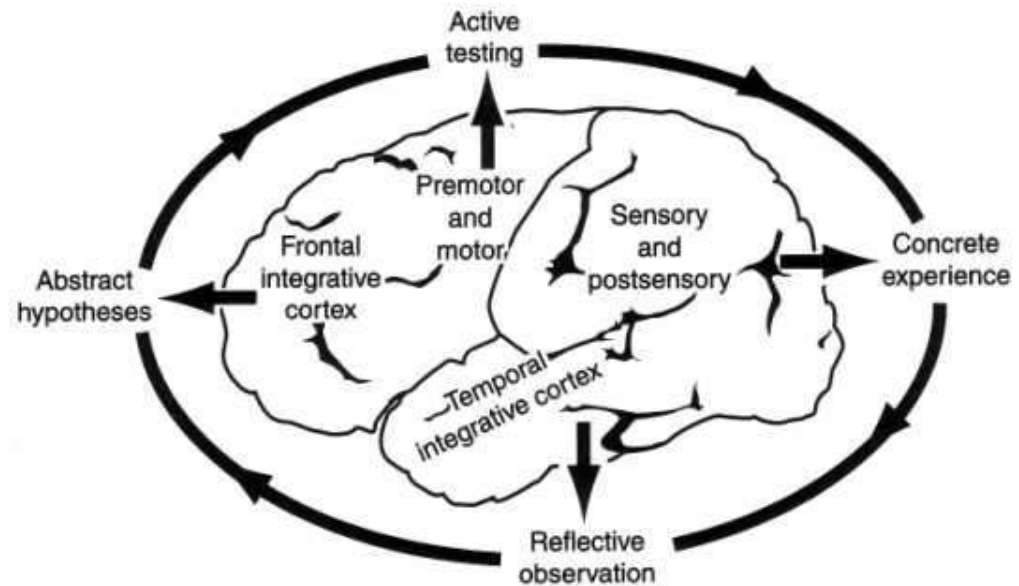
Image: AMA

Sprawls

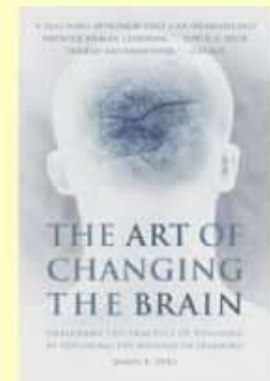
Zull's Model of Brain Function



James Zull, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Professor of Biochemistry
Director of University Center for
Innovation in Teaching and
Education
Case Western Reserve



Reference:



Kolb's Experiential Learning Model



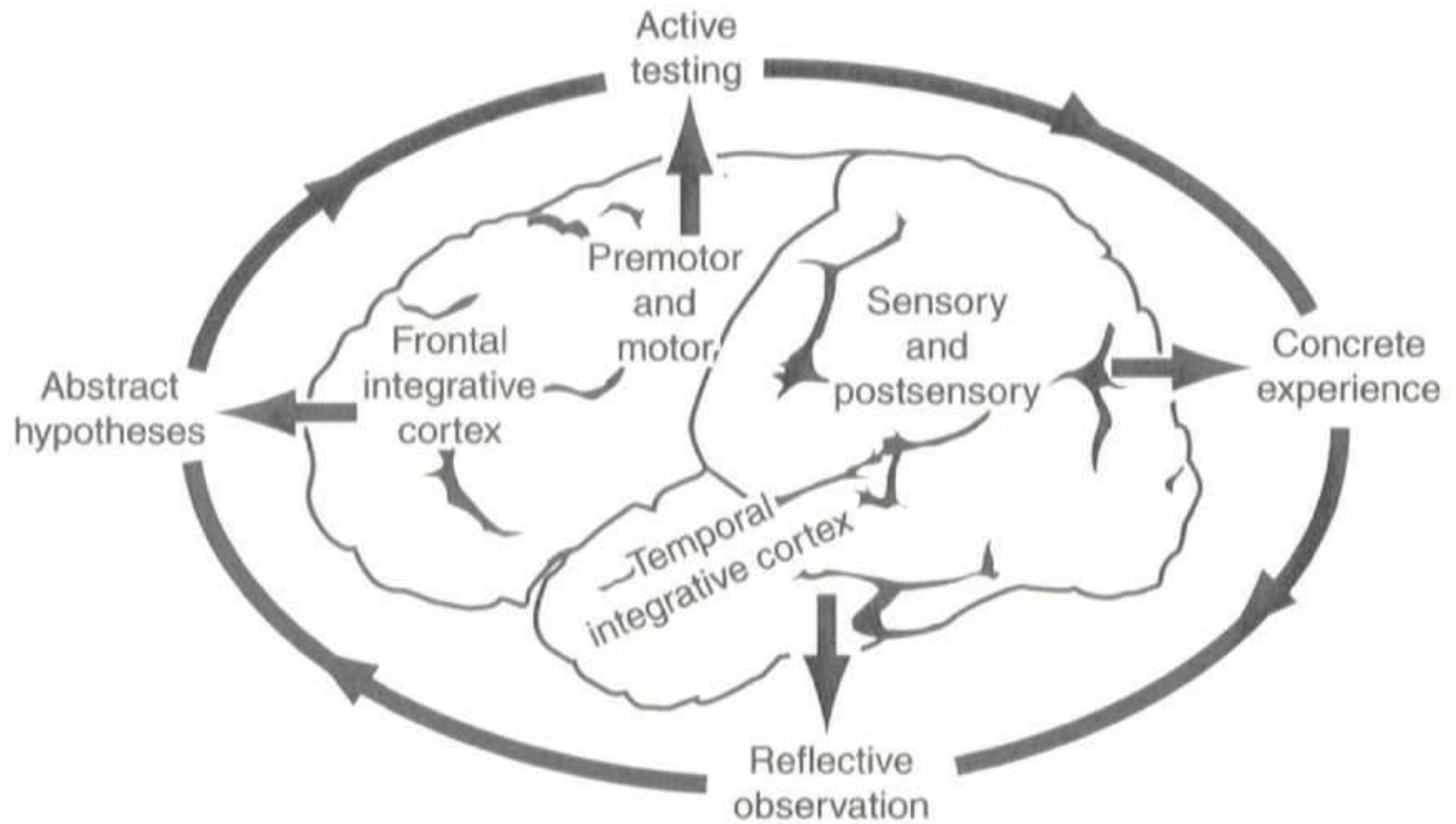
David A. Kolb, Ph.D.

Professor of Organizational Behavior

Case Western Reserve

Website: <http://www.learningfromexperience.com>

Zull's Model of Brain Function



Brain Functions for Learning Physics

Control

Sensory



Back Integrative Cortex

Where

(Relationships)

(Characteristics)

What

(Identification)

Language

Comprehension

Frontal Integrative Cortex

Making Plans

Evaluating

Problem Solving

Language

Assembly

Motor



Emotions

Brain Functions for Learning Physics

Control

Sensory



**Back Integrative
Cortex**

**Records
of the
Past**

Reflection

**Frontal Integrative
Cortex**

**Preparation
for the
Future**

Hypotheses

Motor



Emotions

Sprawls

Brain Functions for Learning Physics

Control

Sensory



**Back Integrative
Cortex**

**Records
of the
Past**

Knowing

**Frontal Integrative
Cortex**

**Preparation
for the
Future**

Doing

Motor



Emotions

Sprawls

***Let's Think about
lunch.***

Brain Functions for Preparing Lunch

Control

**Back Integrative
Cortex**



**Frontal Integrative
Cortex**

Emotions

Sprawls

Brain Functions for Preparing Lunch

Control

**Back Integrative
Cortex**



**Frontal Integrative
Cortex**

Emotions

Sprawls

Brain Functions for Preparing Lunch

Control

Back Integrative Cortex



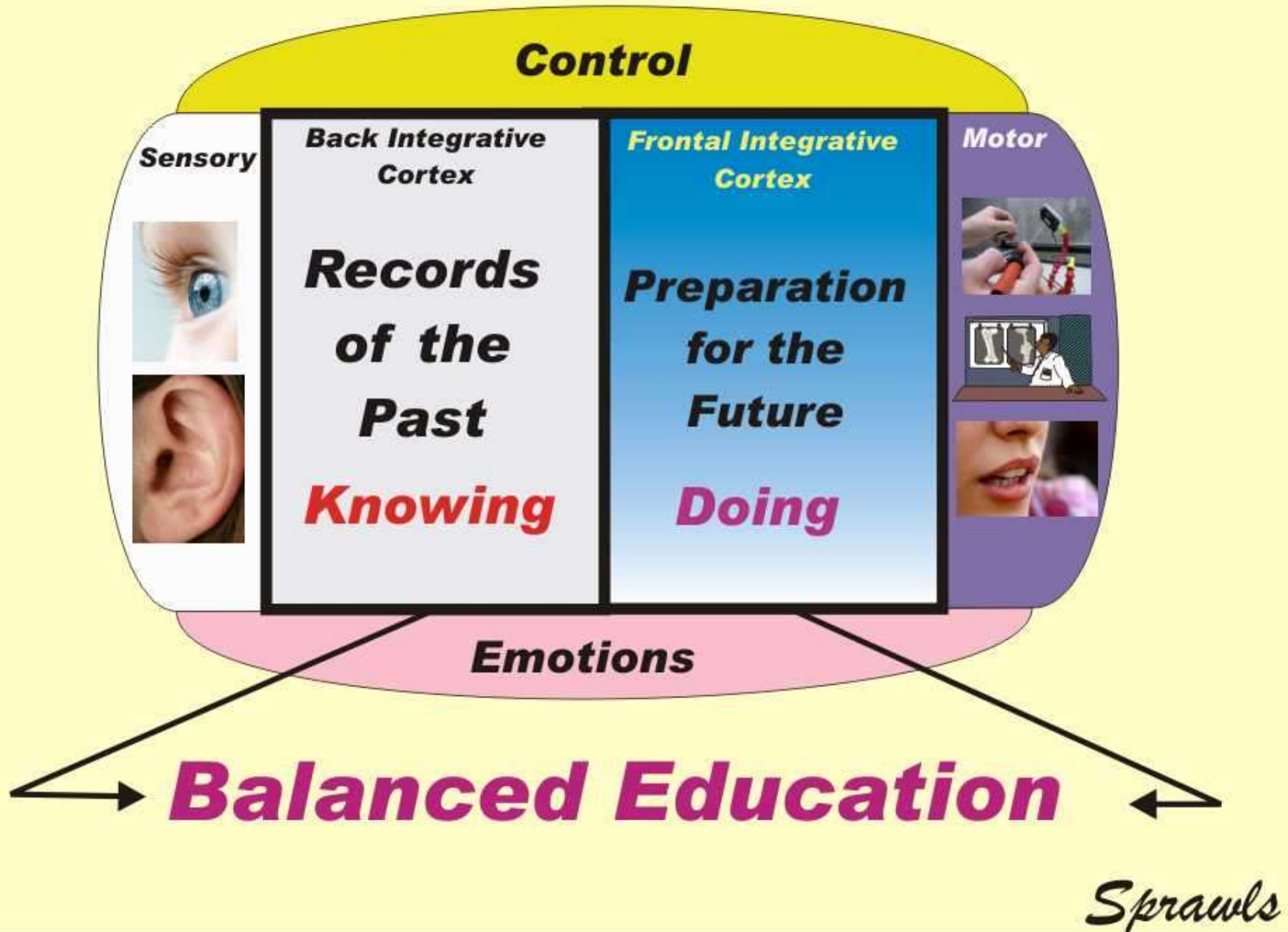
Frontal Integrative Cortex



Emotions

Sprawls

Brain Functions for Learning Physics



Forming Knowledge Structures

Physical Universe

Back Integrative Cortex



Sensory



Visible Physical Objects

Sprawls

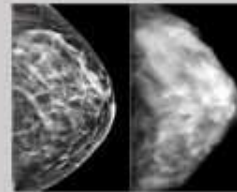
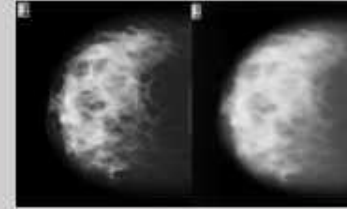
Forming Knowledge Structures

Physical Universe

Back Integrative Cortex



Sensory



Visible Physical Objects

Sprawls

Forming Knowledge Structures

Physical Universe

Back Integrative Cortex

Radiation
Electrons
Magnetic
Atomic
Nuclear

Sensory



Invisible Physical Objects

Sprawls

Forming Knowledge Structures

Physical Universe

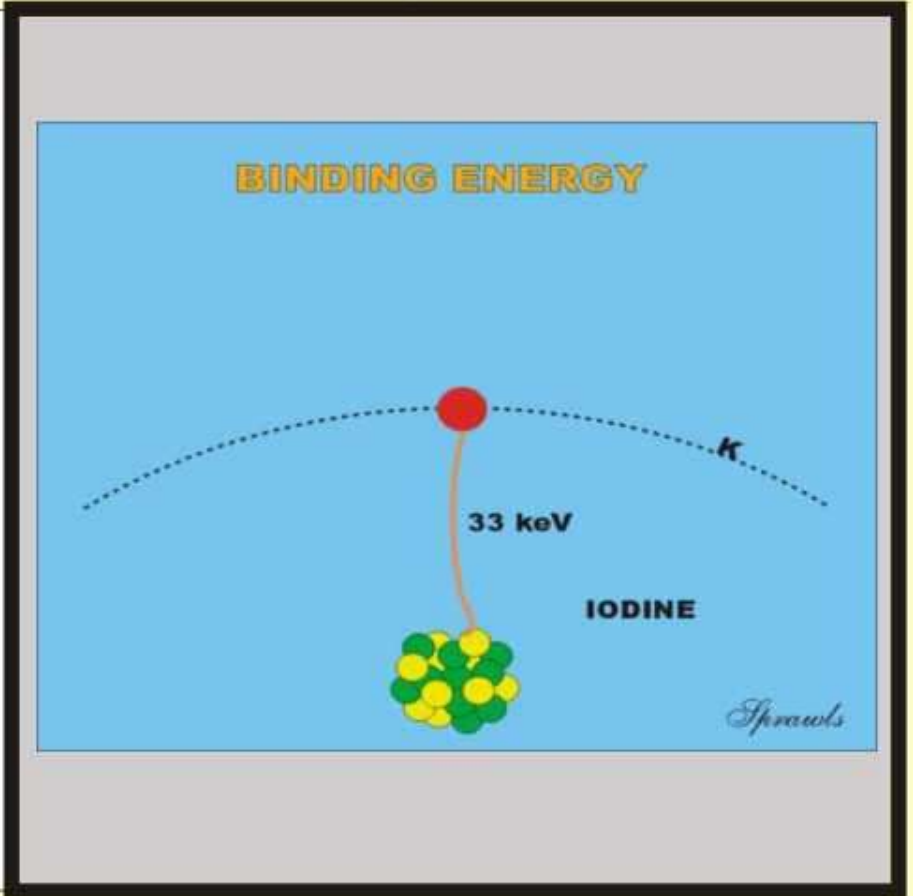
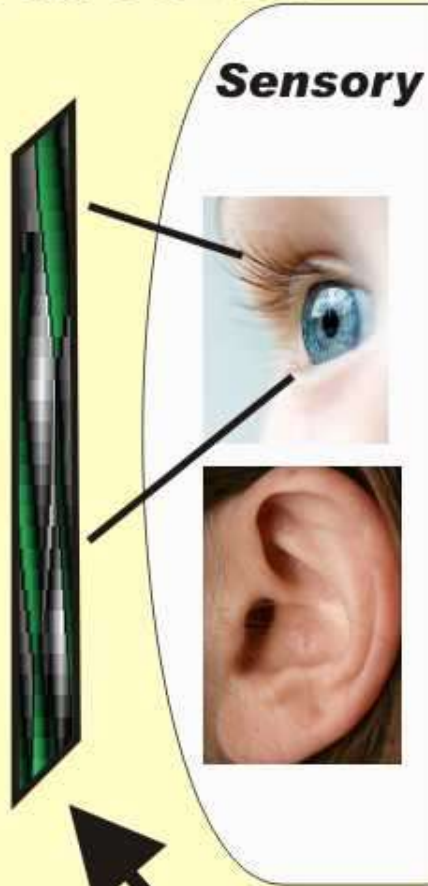
Back Integrative Cortex

**Radiation
Electrons
Magnetic
Atomic
Nuclear**



Invisible

Physical Objects



Visuals

Sprawls

Forming Knowledge Structures

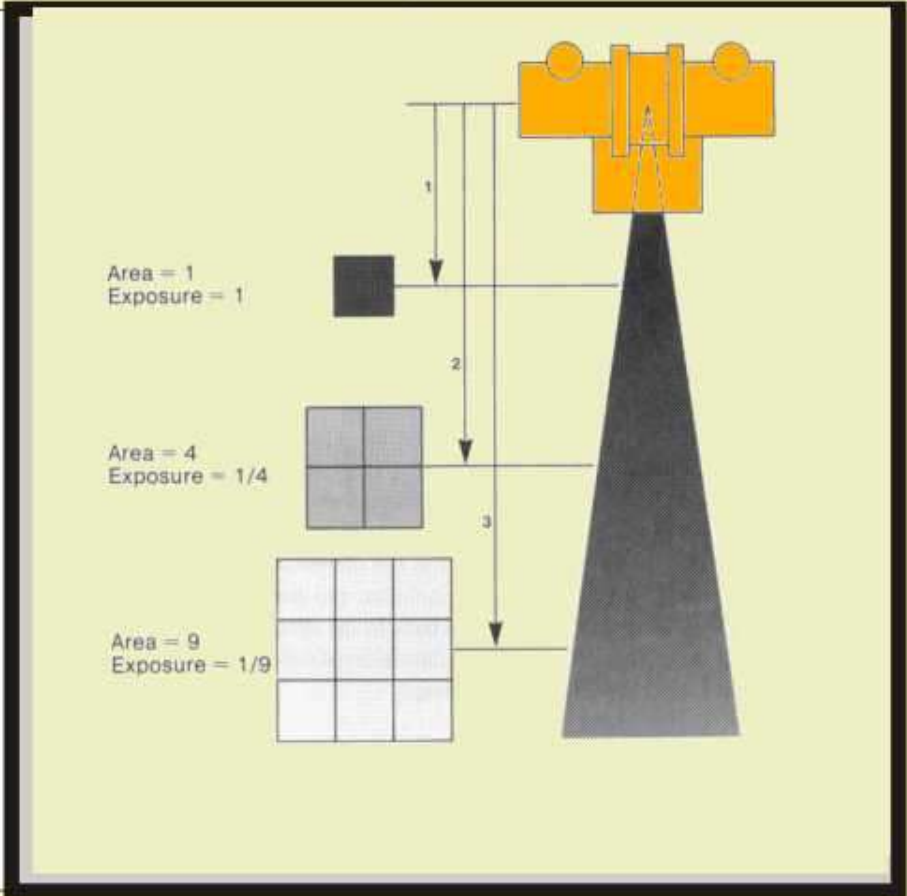
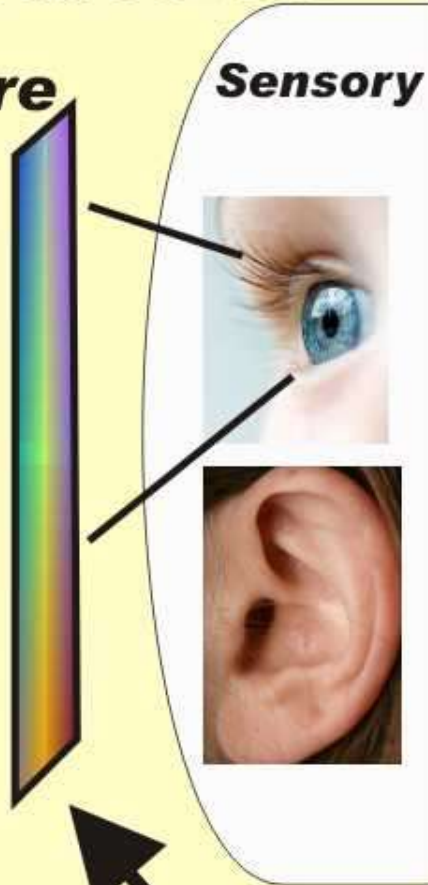
Physical Universe

Back Integrative Cortex

Inverse Square Effect



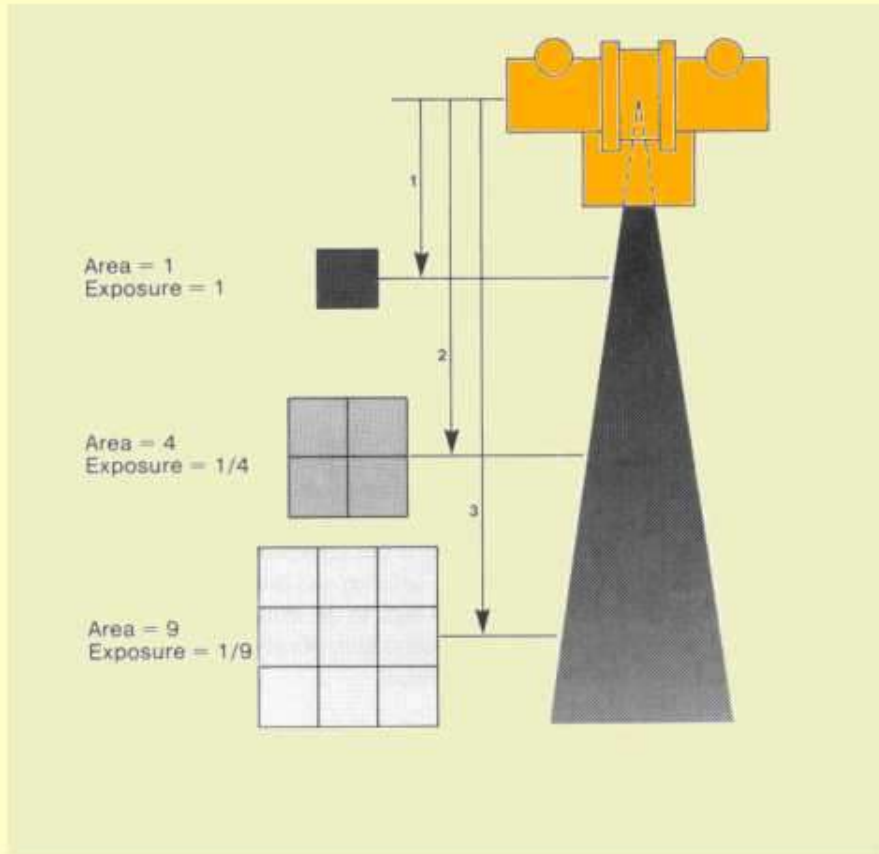
Invisible Concepts Ideas



Visuals

Sprawls

Forming Knowledge Structures



Visual

Intensity = Power / Area

Surface area of a sphere = $\frac{4\pi r^2}{3}$

So, the luminous intensity on a spherical surface a distance r from a source radiating a total power P is:

$$I = 3P / 4\pi r^2$$

As P and π remain constant, the luminous intensity is proportional to the inverse square of distance:

$$I \sim 1 / r^2$$

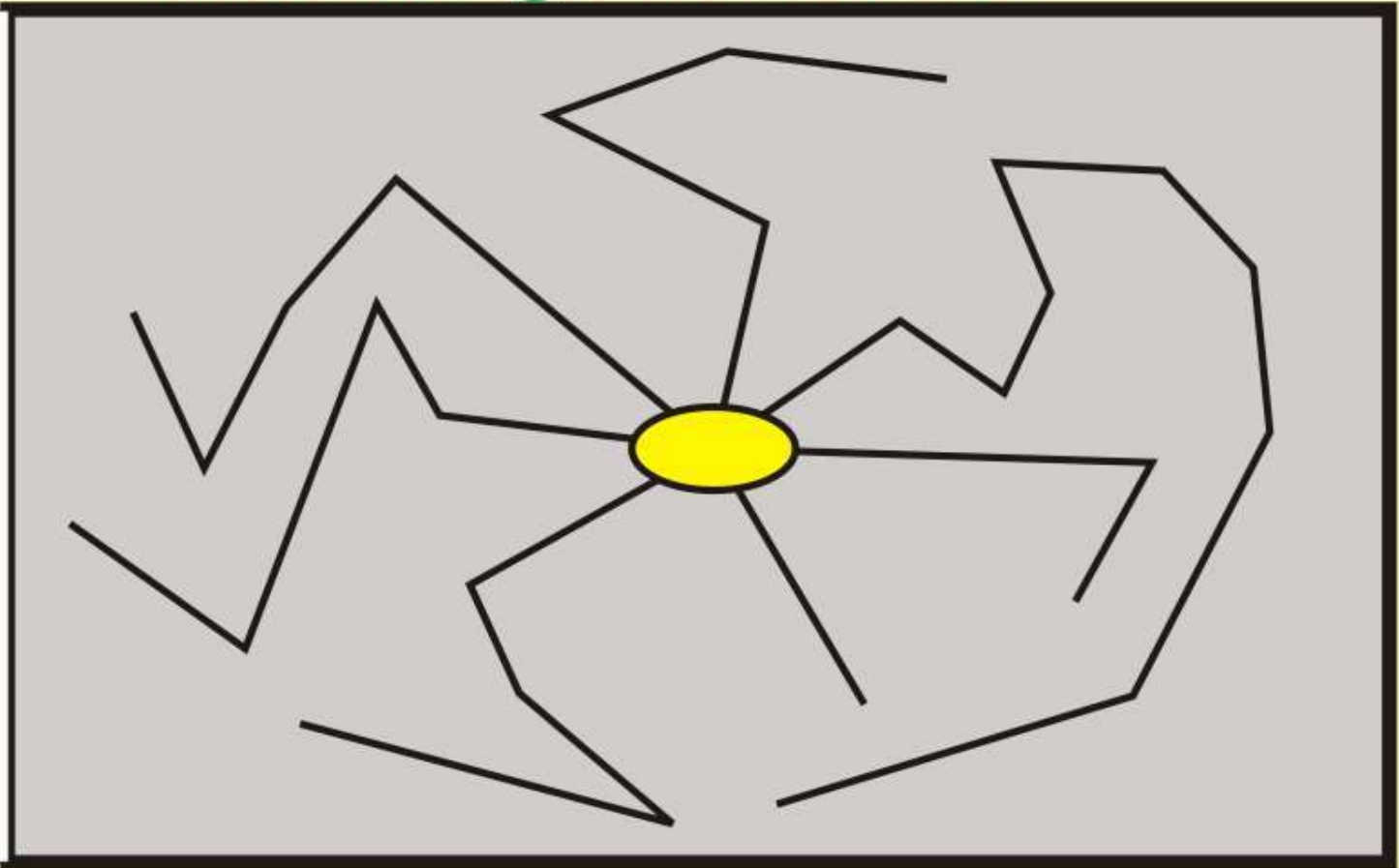
**Verbal and
Symbolic**

Sprawls

Back Integrative Cortex

Integrating experience into existing
knowledge structure

Sensory



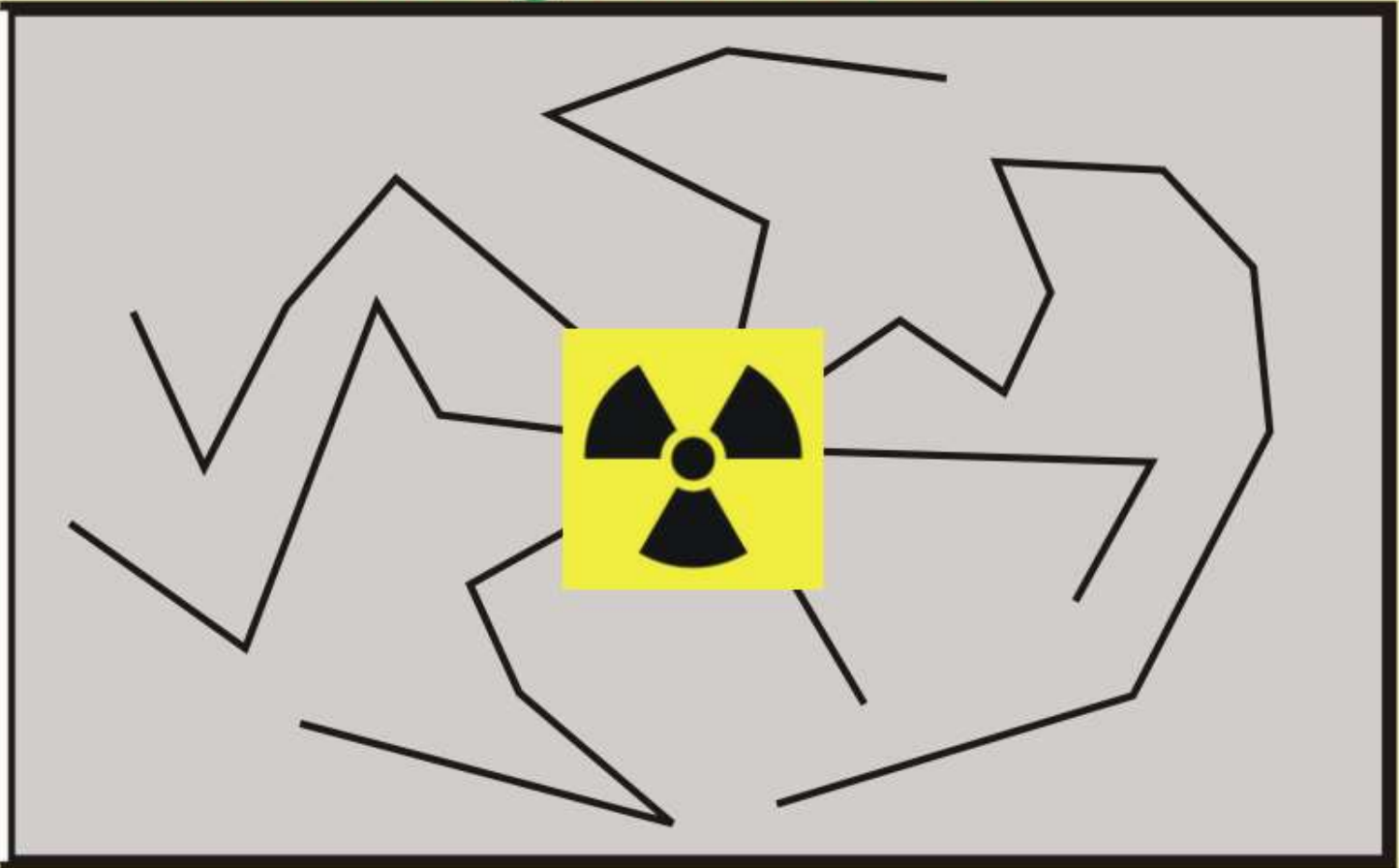
Meaning

Sprawls

Back Integrative Cortex

Integrating experience into existing
knowledge structure

Sensory



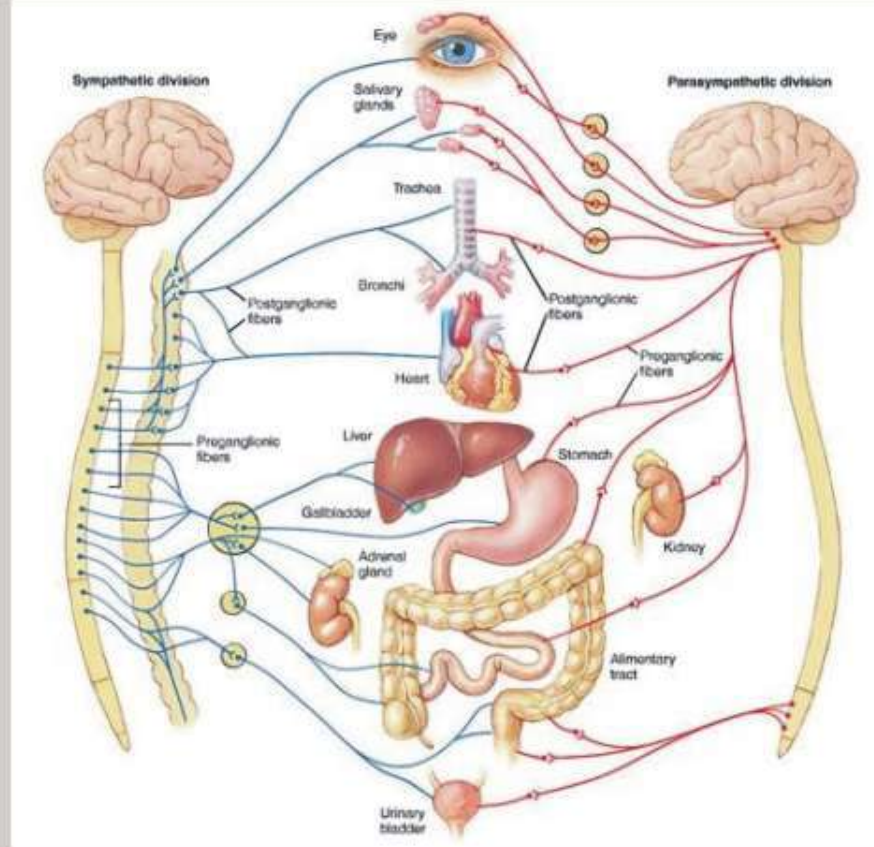
Meaning

Sprawls

Back Integrative Cortex

Integrating experience into existing knowledge structure

Sensory



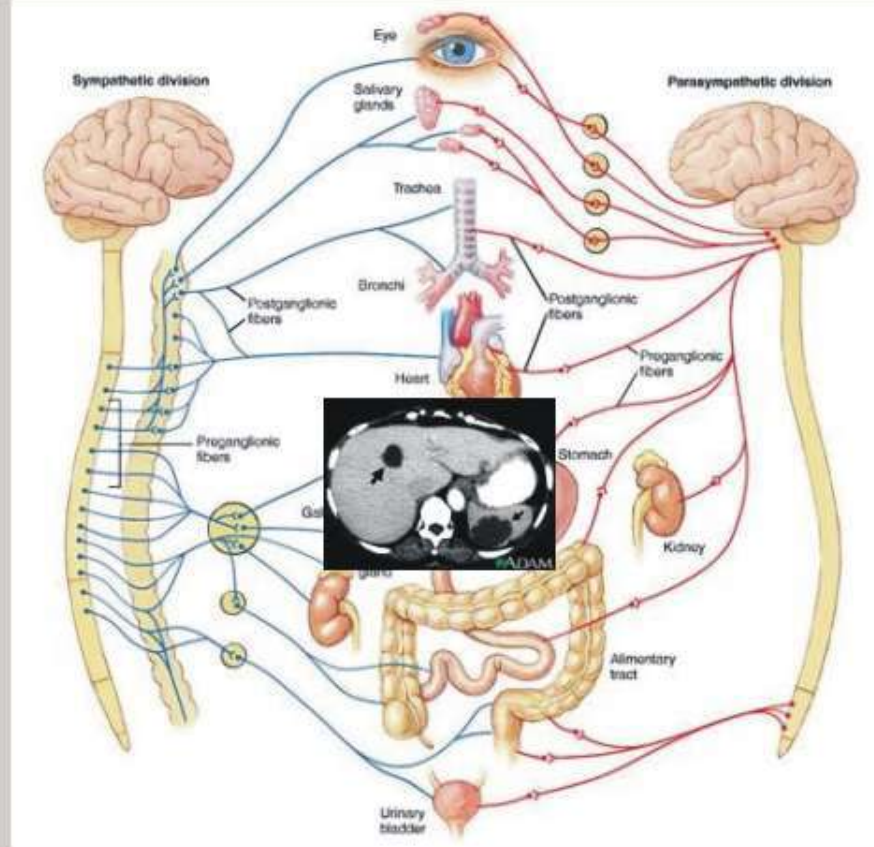
Medical Knowledge

Sprawls

Back Integrative Cortex

Integrating experience into existing knowledge structure

Sensory



The image is the connection

Sprawls

Back Integrative Cortex

Integrating experience into existing knowledge structure

Sensory



The image is the starting point for learning physics

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COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS



**SPATIAL
RESOLUTION**

ARTIFACTS

**DETAIL
(BLURRING)**

**CONTRAST
SENSITIVITY**

NOISE

PROTOCOL FACTORS

SLICE TH.

MAS

Matrix

OPERATION

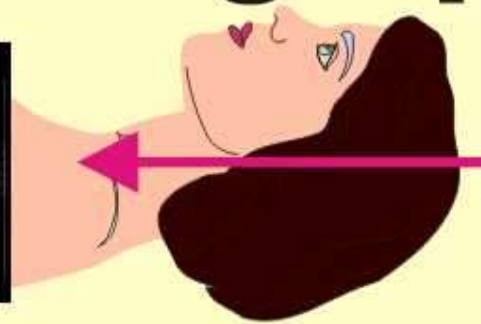
Sprawls

Computed Tomography

**Image
Characteristics
and
Quality**



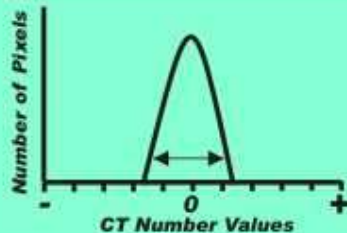
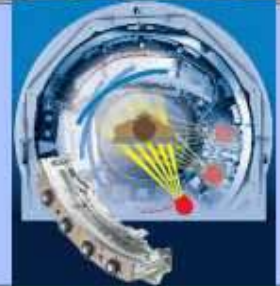
**Radiation
Dose**



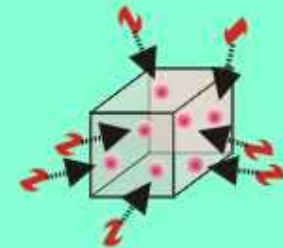
Imaging Protocols



Technology



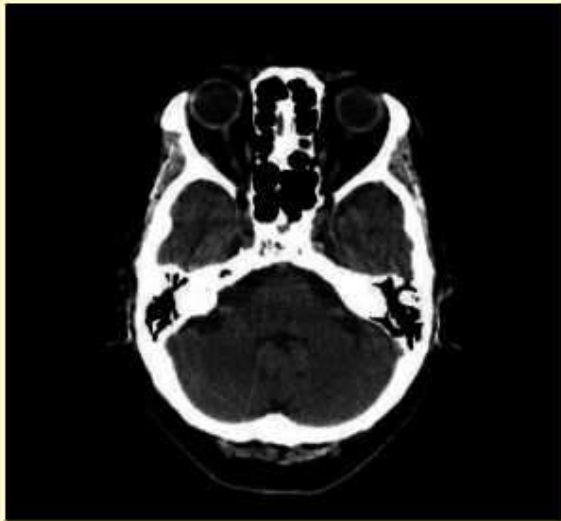
Science



Sprawls

CT Image Characteristics

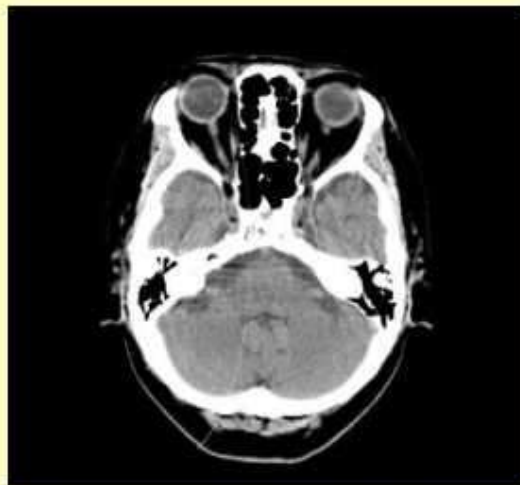
A



B



C

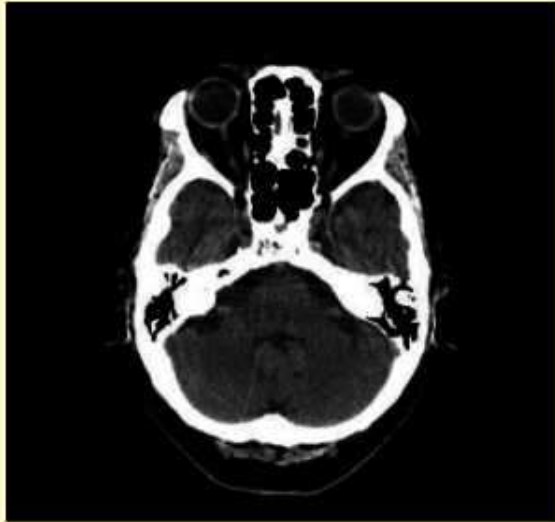


Reference

Sprawls

CT Image Characteristics

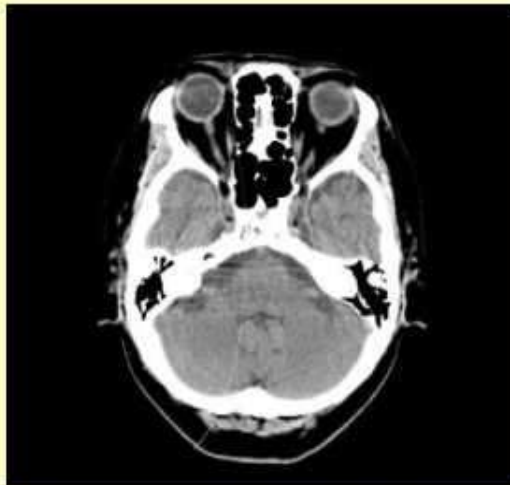
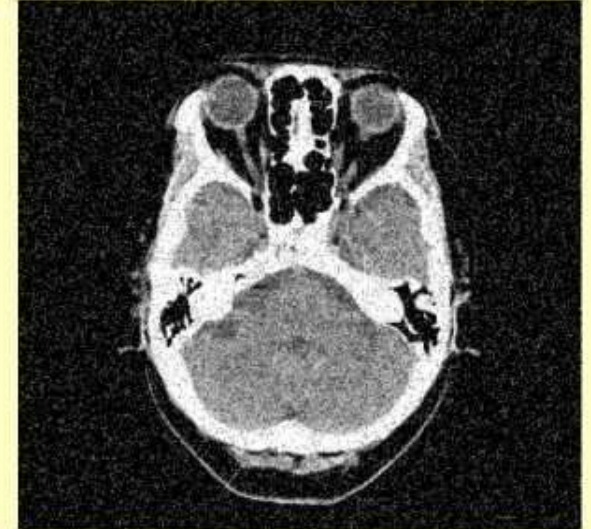
Contrast



Detail



Noise

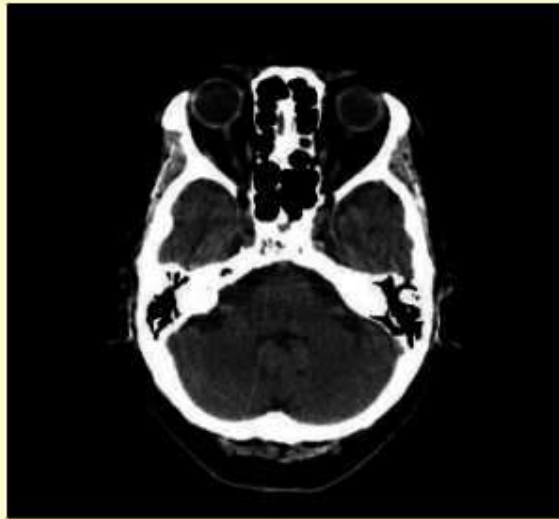


Reference

Sprawls

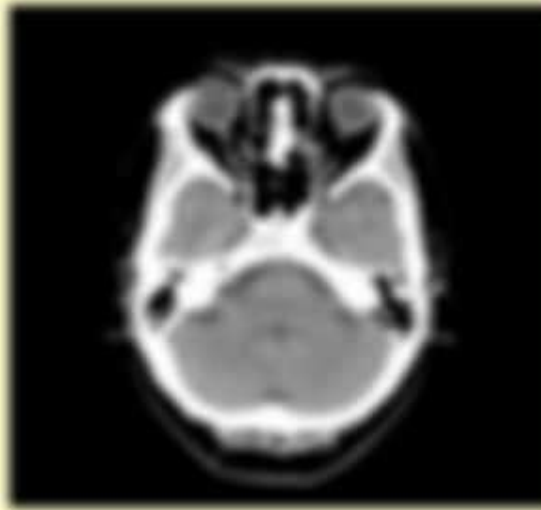
CT Image Characteristics

Contrast



Same

Detail



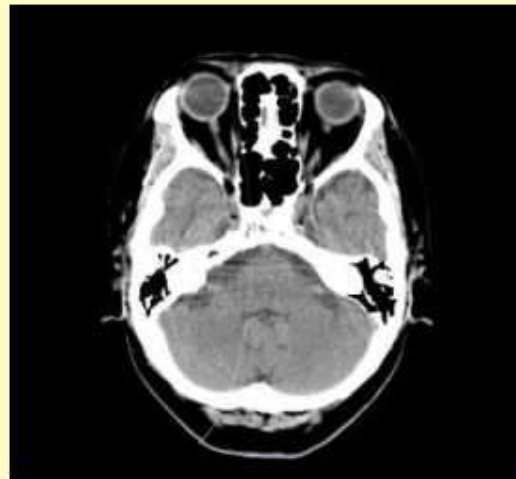
Low

Noise



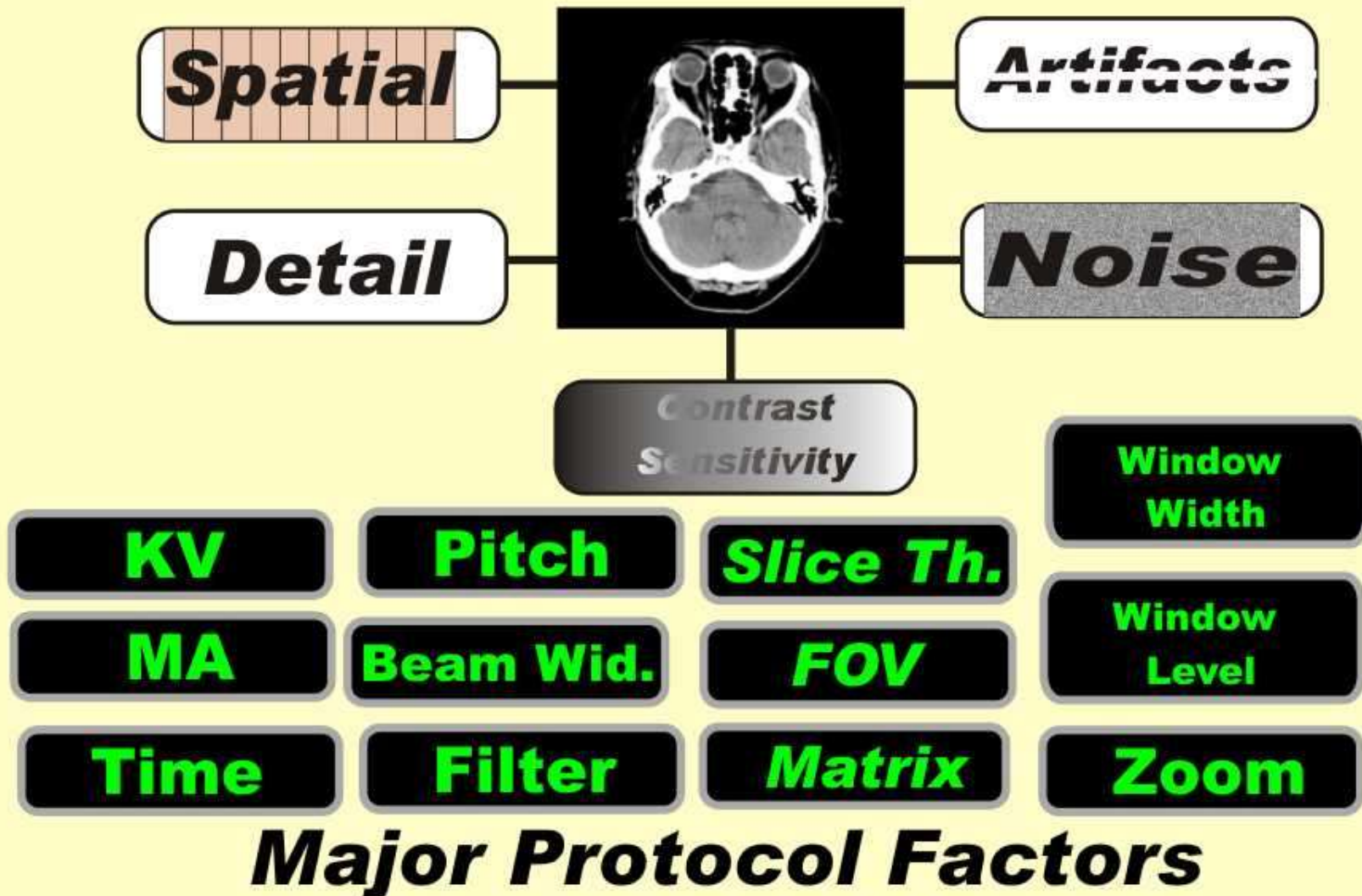
Low

Reference



Sprawls

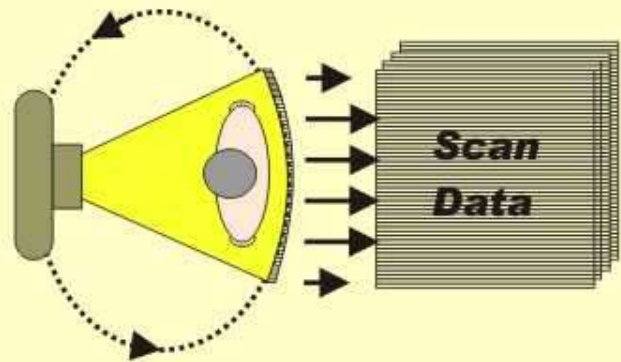
CT Image Characteristics



Major Protocol Factors

The Three Phases of CT Image Formation

Scan and Data Acquisition



- KV**
- MA**
- Time**
- Pitch**
- Beam Wid.**

Image Reconstruction



- Slice Th.**
- FOV**
- Matrix**
- Filter**

Digital/Analog Conversion and Display Control

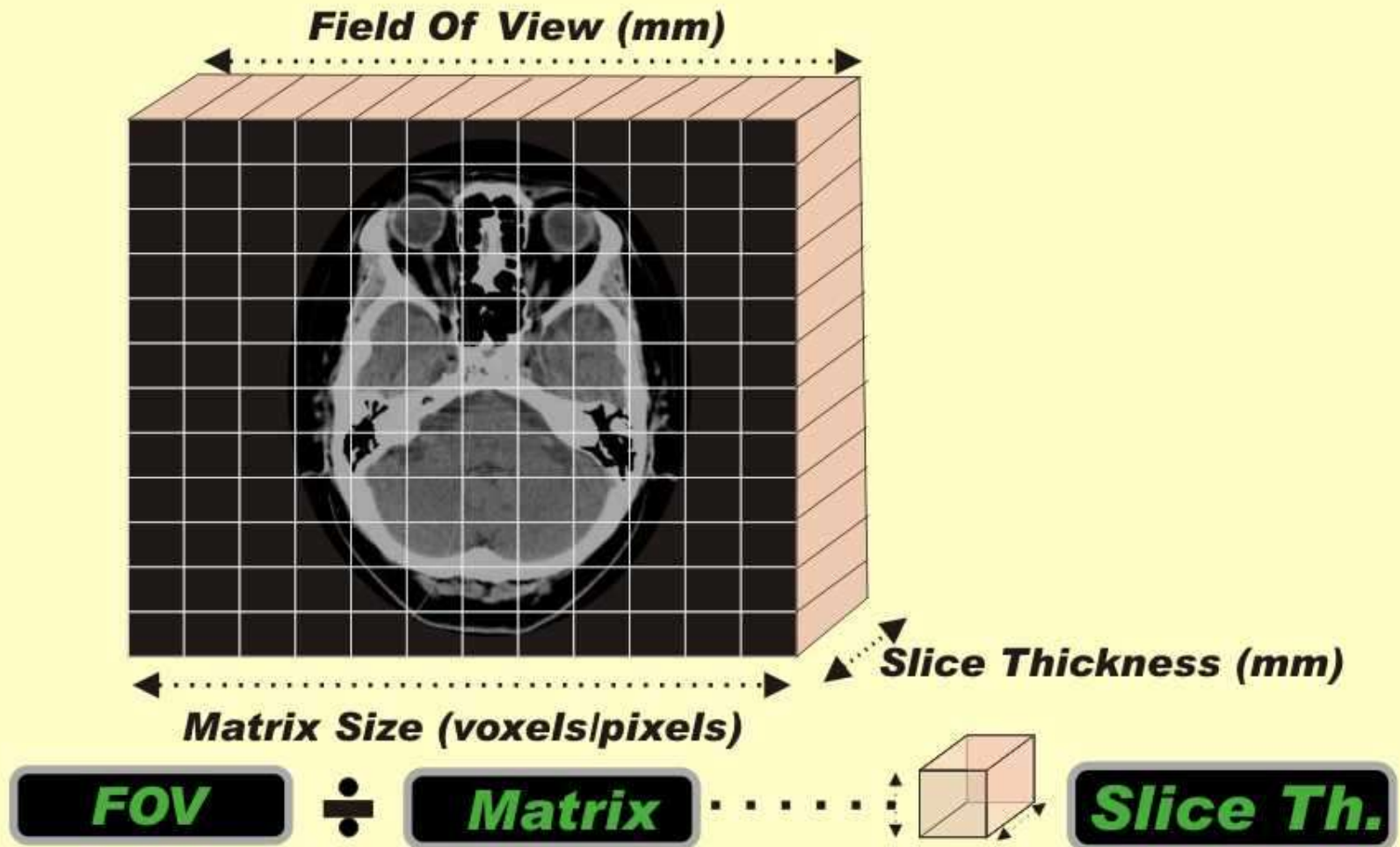


- Window Width**
- Window Level**
- Zoom**

Major Protocol Factors

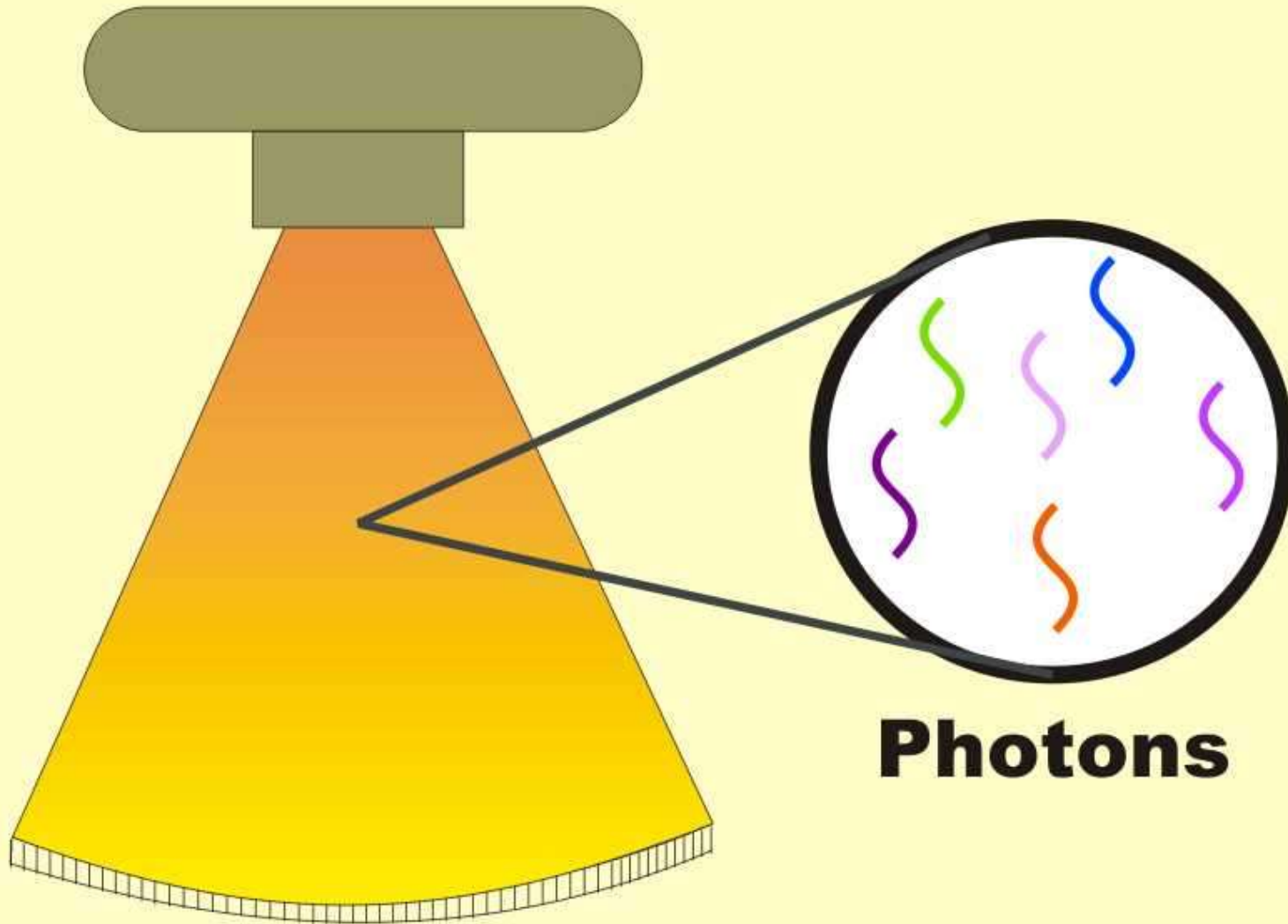
Sprawls

CT Slice Divided into Matrix of Voxels



Voxel Size Controlled By

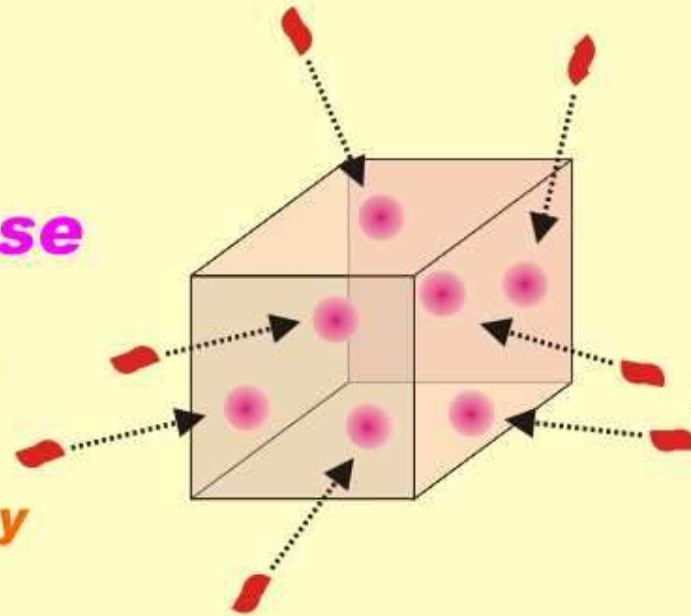
The Quantum Structure of the X-ray Beam



Photons

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X-ray Photons Interact With Tissue in A Voxel



Radiation Dose

determined by
Concentration
of
Absorbed Energy
per voxel

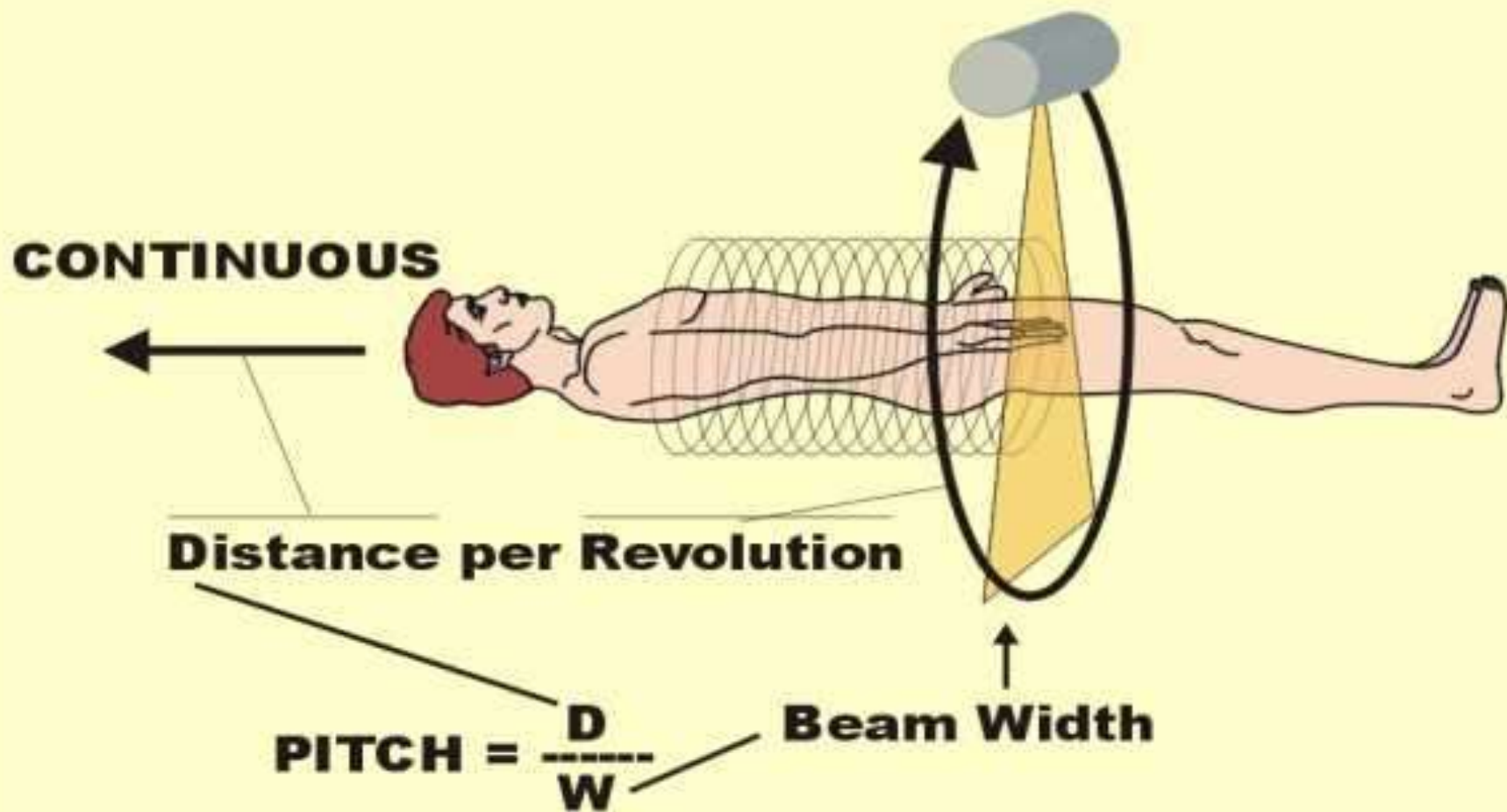
Image Noise

determined by
Number of Photons
per voxel

Dose is increased
by
increasing number
of photons.

Noise is reduced
by
increasing number
of photons.

SPIRAL SCAN

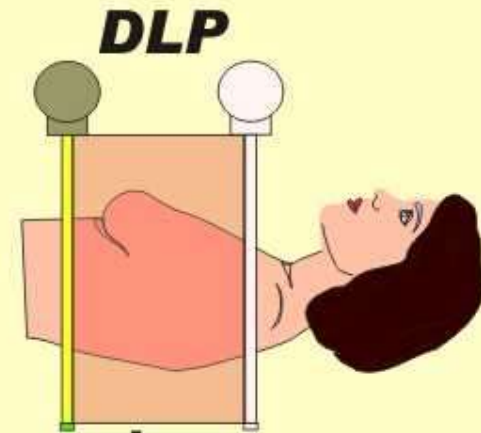


CT Dose Quantities

Effective Dose



Factors

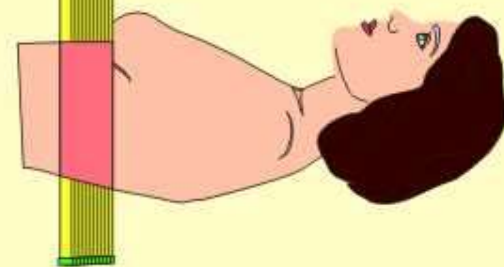
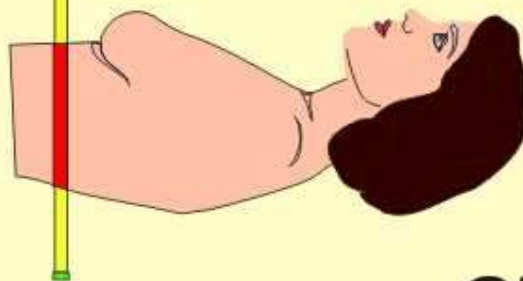
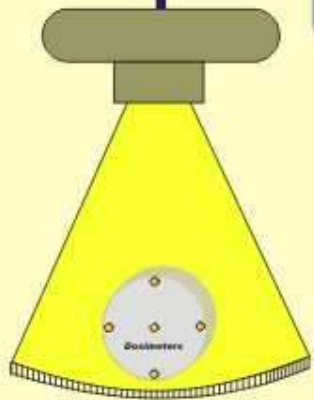


DLP

Scan Length

KV
Time
MA

Pitch

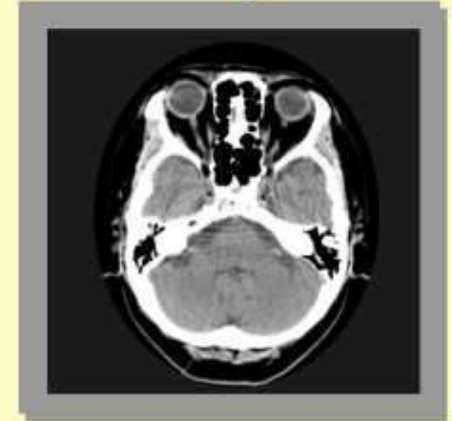
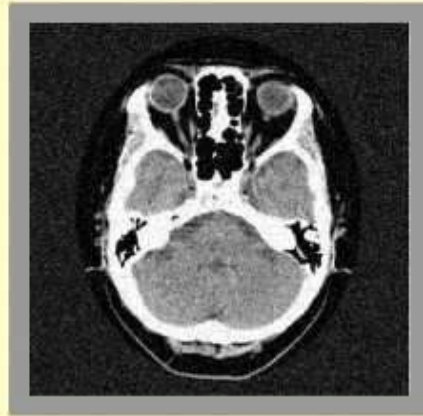


CTDI *weighted*

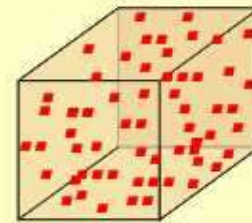
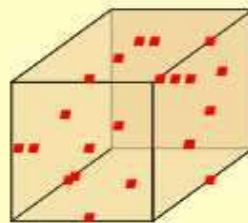
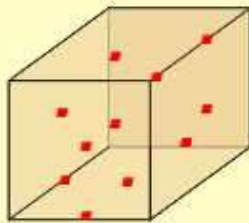
CTDI *volume*

Sprawls

Decreasing Noise



Requires Increased Photons Absorbed Per Voxel



Produces Increasing Dose

Effect of Matrix Size on Image Noise

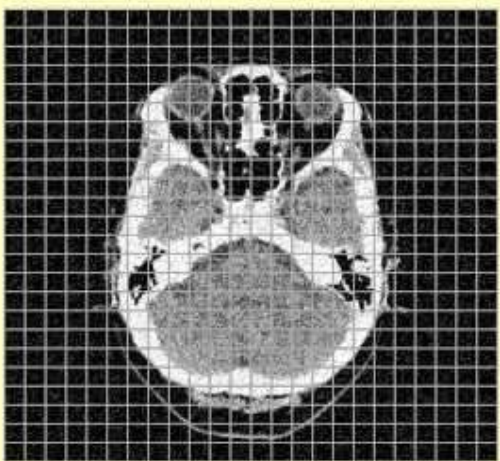
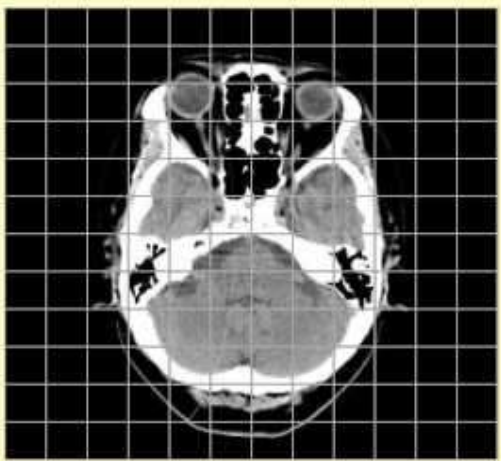
Small

Matrix

Large

Large Voxels

Small Voxels



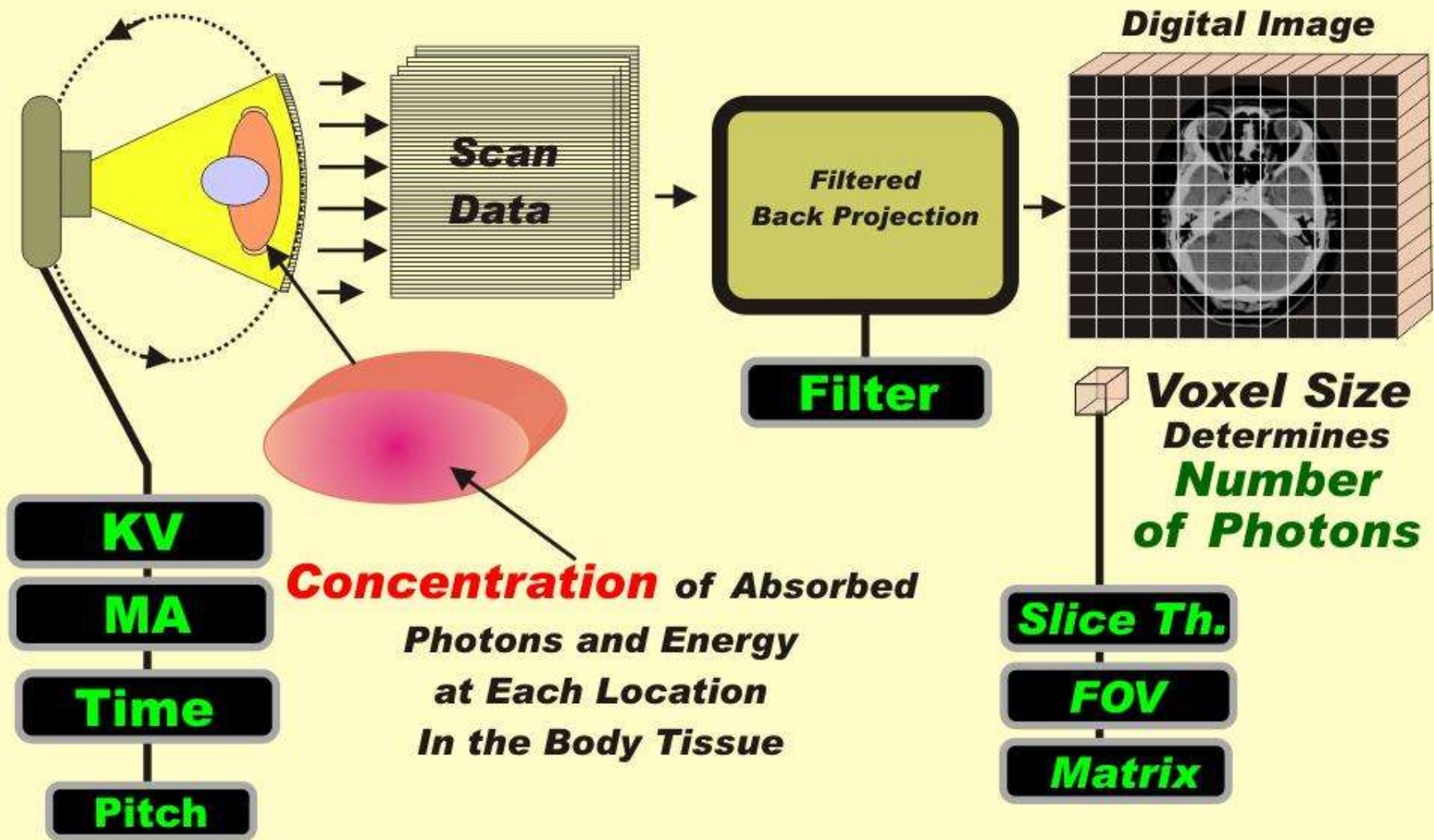
Low Noise

High Noise

The same radiation dose for both images.

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Factors That Determine Image Noise



Two Major Image Quality Goals

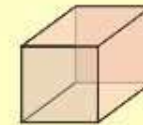
High Detail

Low Noise



Small

Voxel Size



Large

FOV

Matrix

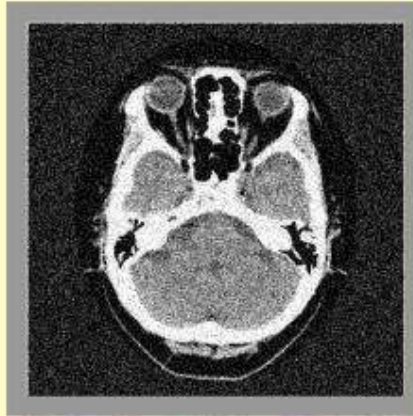
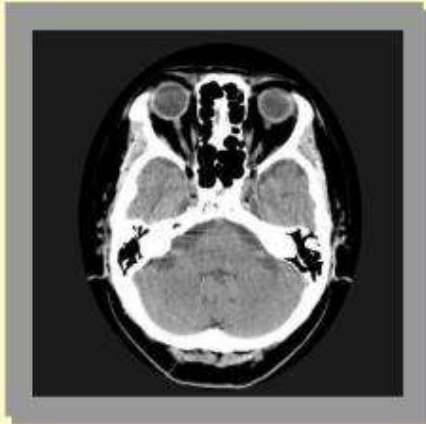
Slice Th.

Protocol Factors

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Relationship of Radiation Dose to Image Detail

Lower Dose



Higher Dose



When detail is increased by

Decreasing

Slice Th.

Increasing

Matrix

Decreasing

FOV

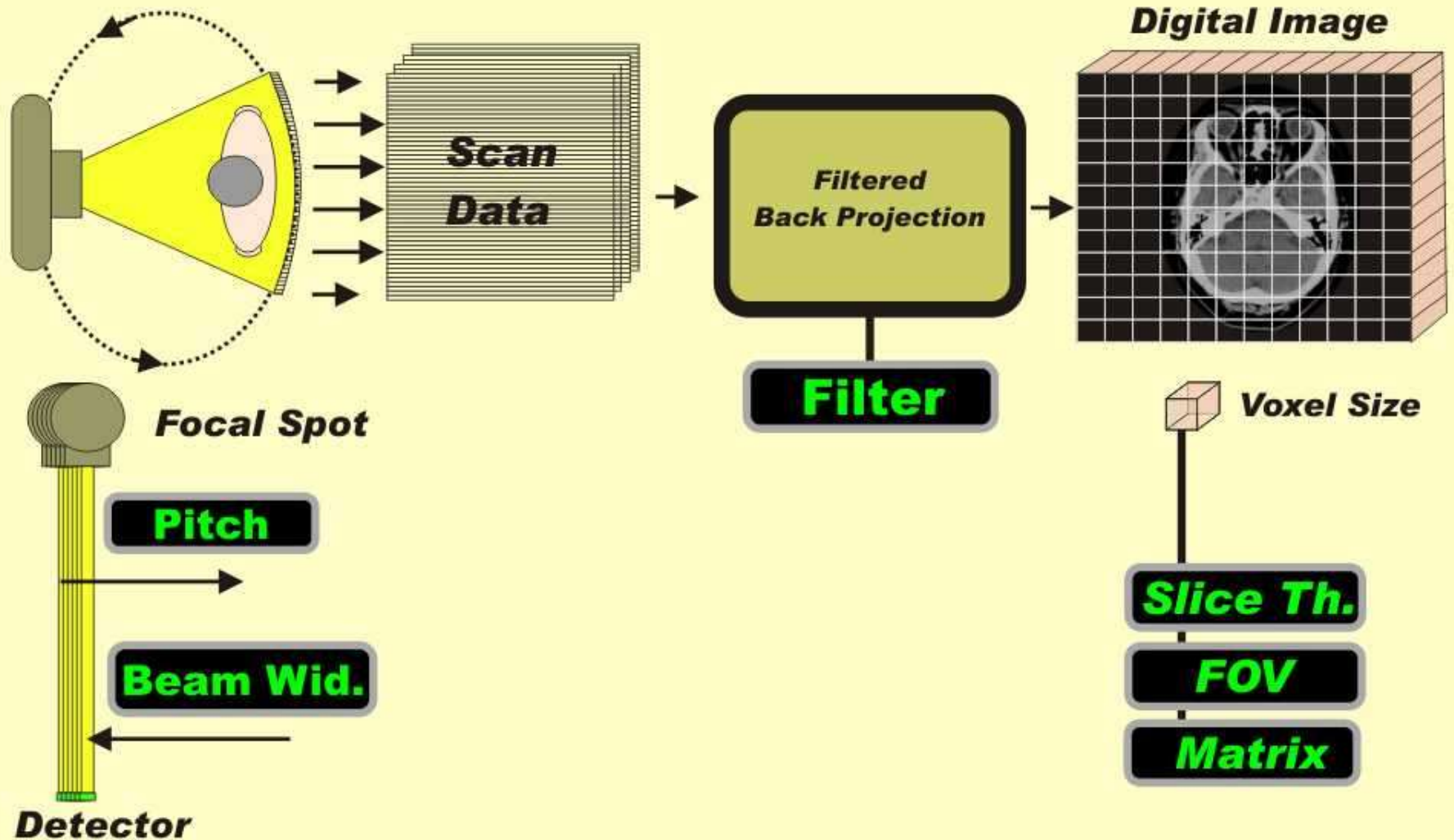
Noise Increases

Because of decreased voxel size

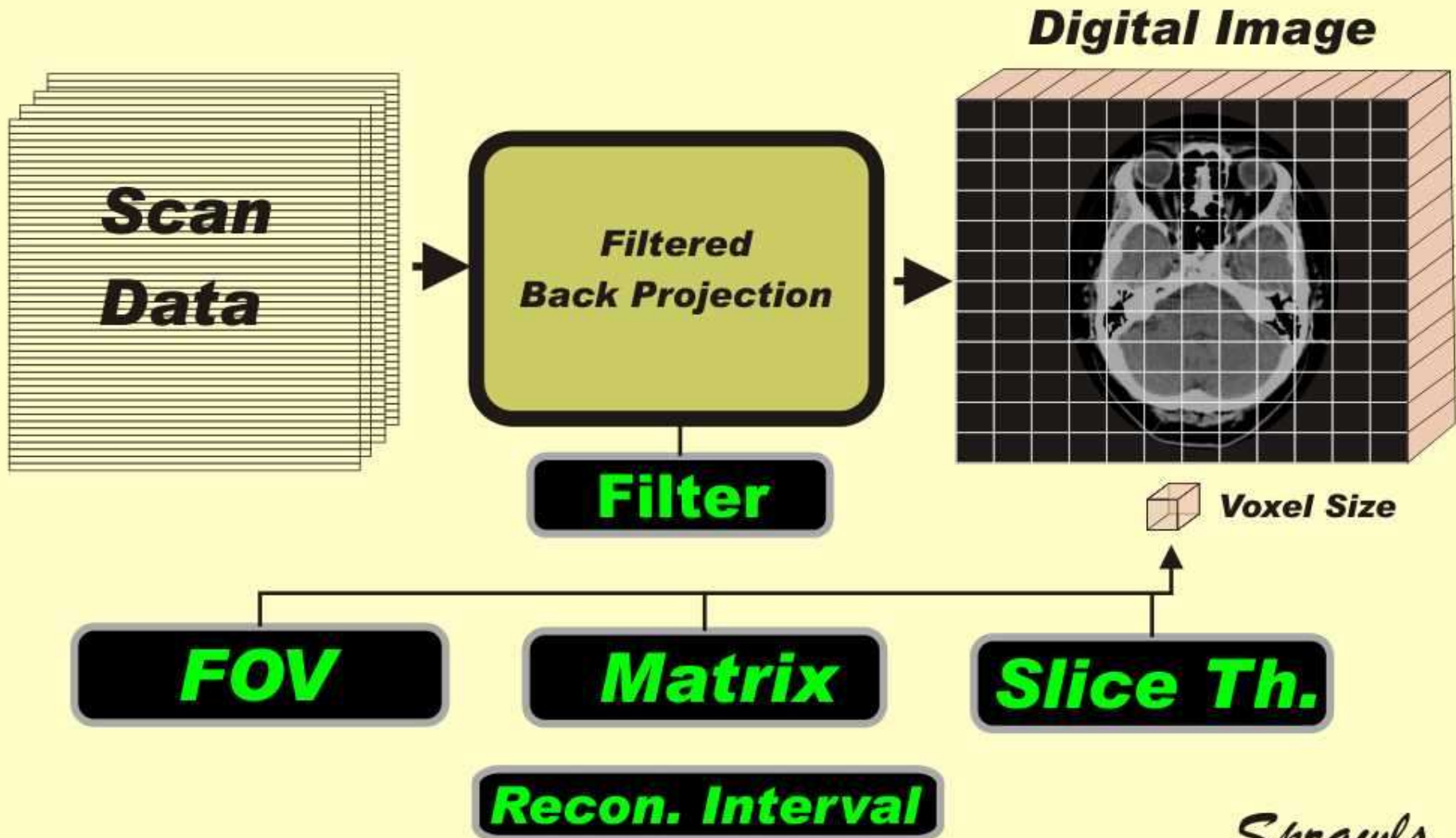


Dose must be increased to reduce noise.

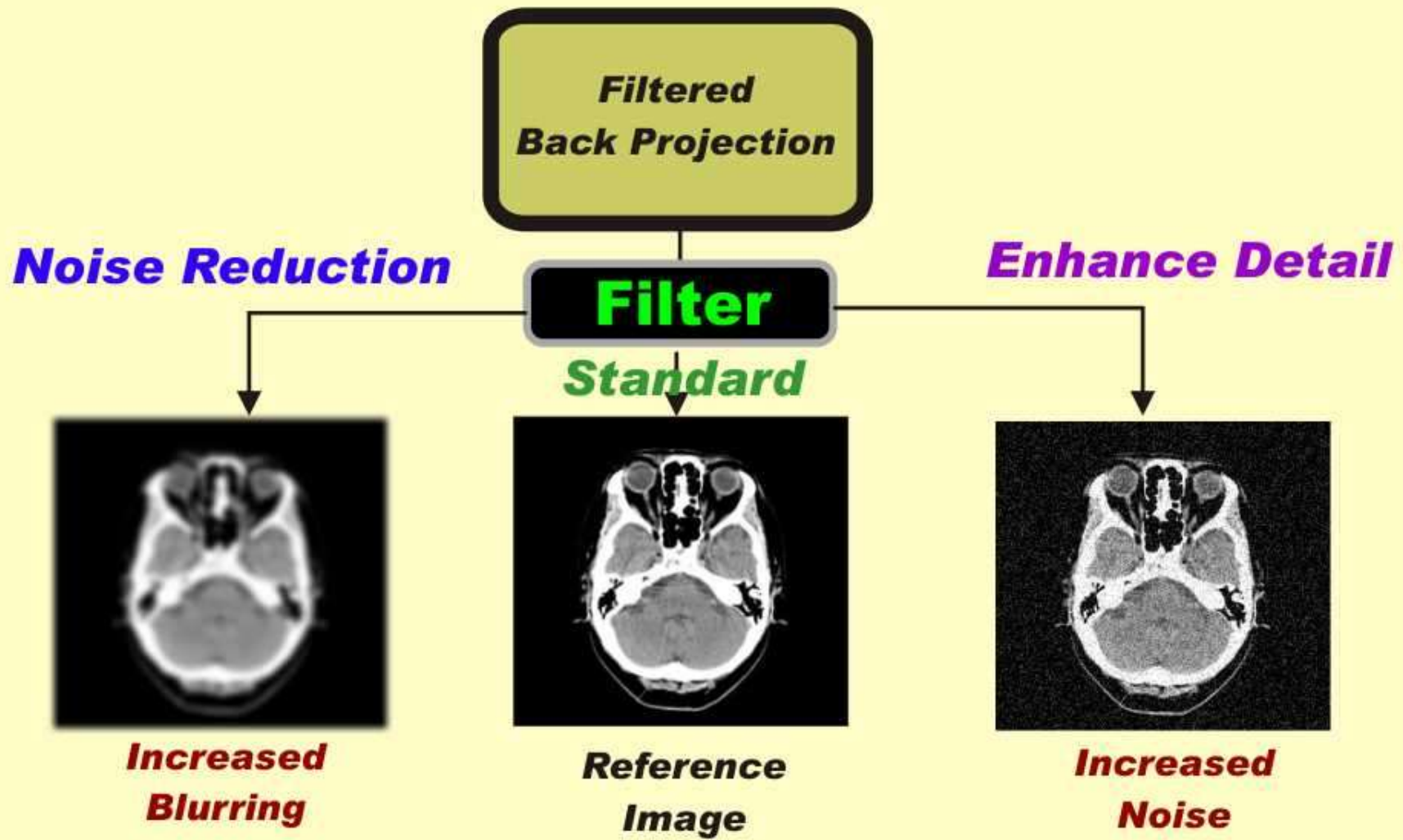
Factors That Determine Image Detail (Sources of Blurring)



CT Image Reconstruction

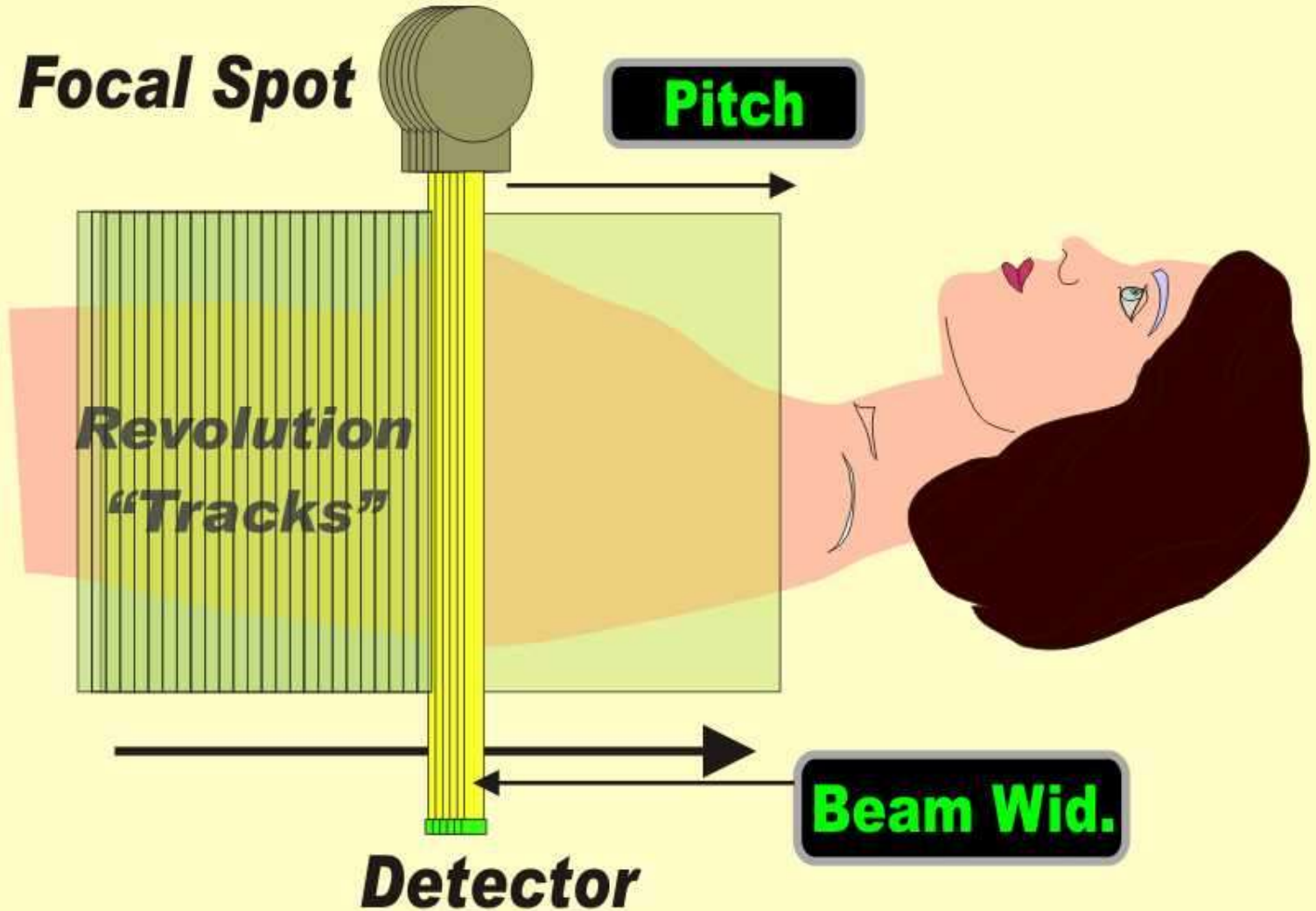


Reconstruction Filter Kernels



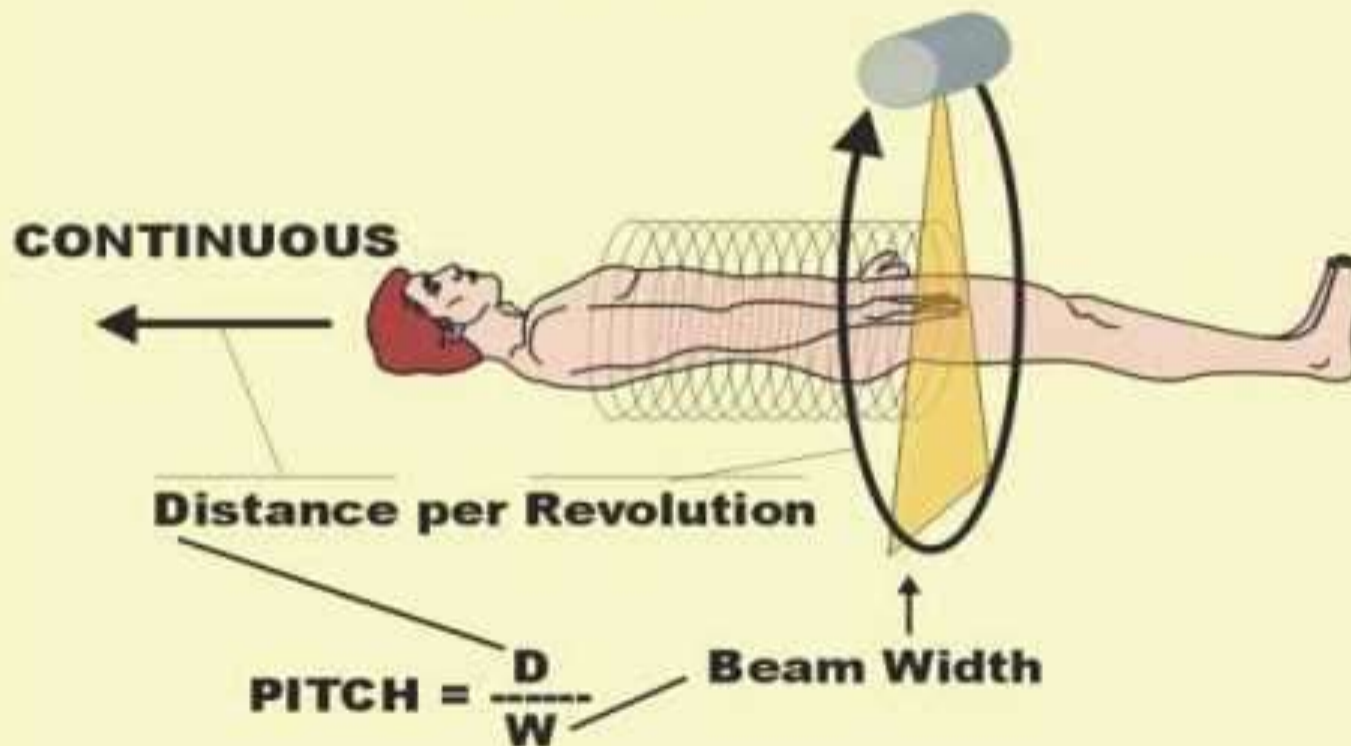
(Effects exaggerated for illustration here)

Scan Data Set



Sprawls

SPIRAL SCAN



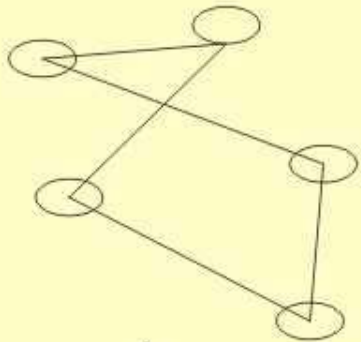
Forming Knowledge Structures

Physical Universe

Back Integrative Cortex

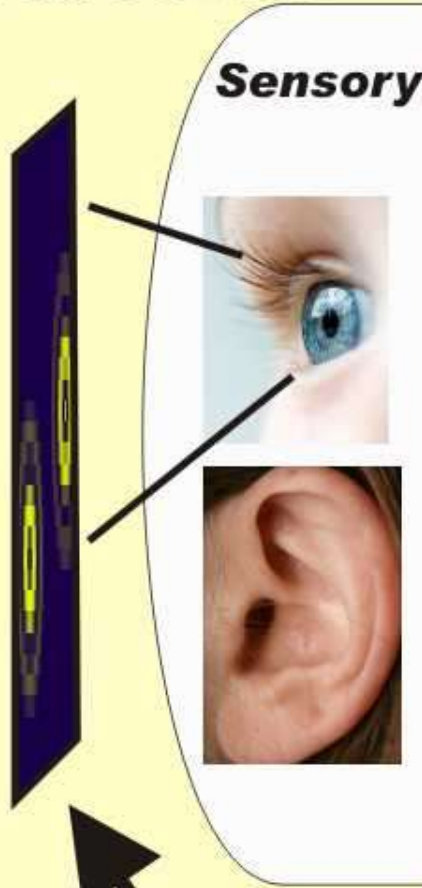
NMR

Process

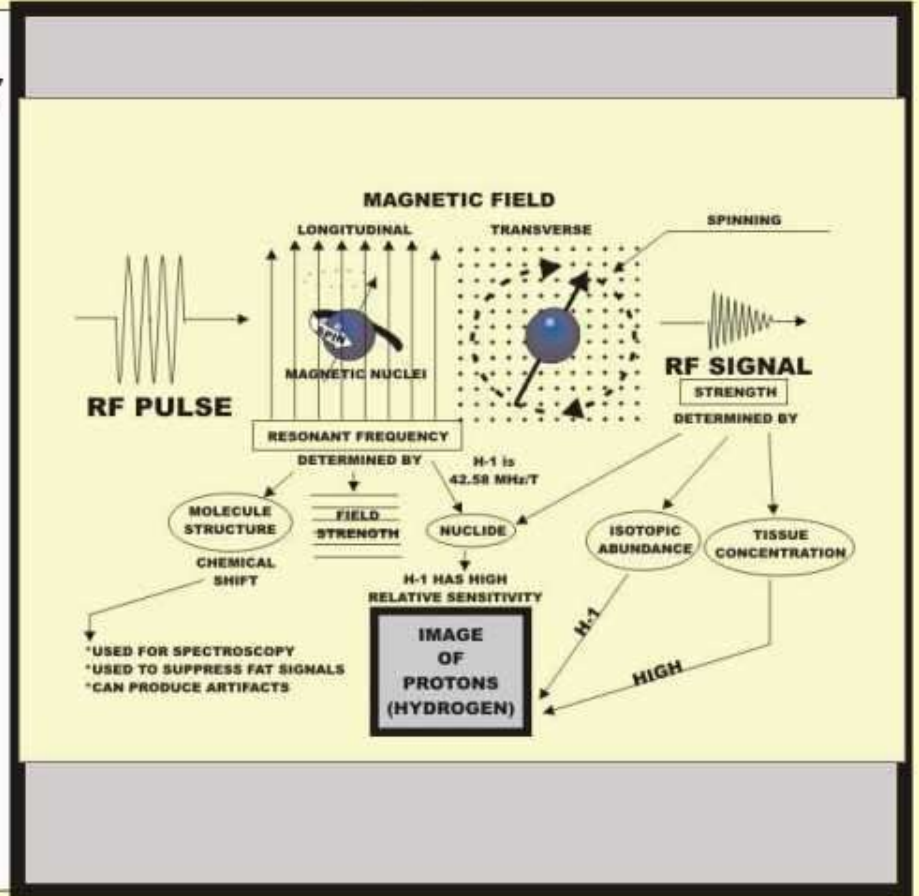


Elements
and

Relationships



Sensory

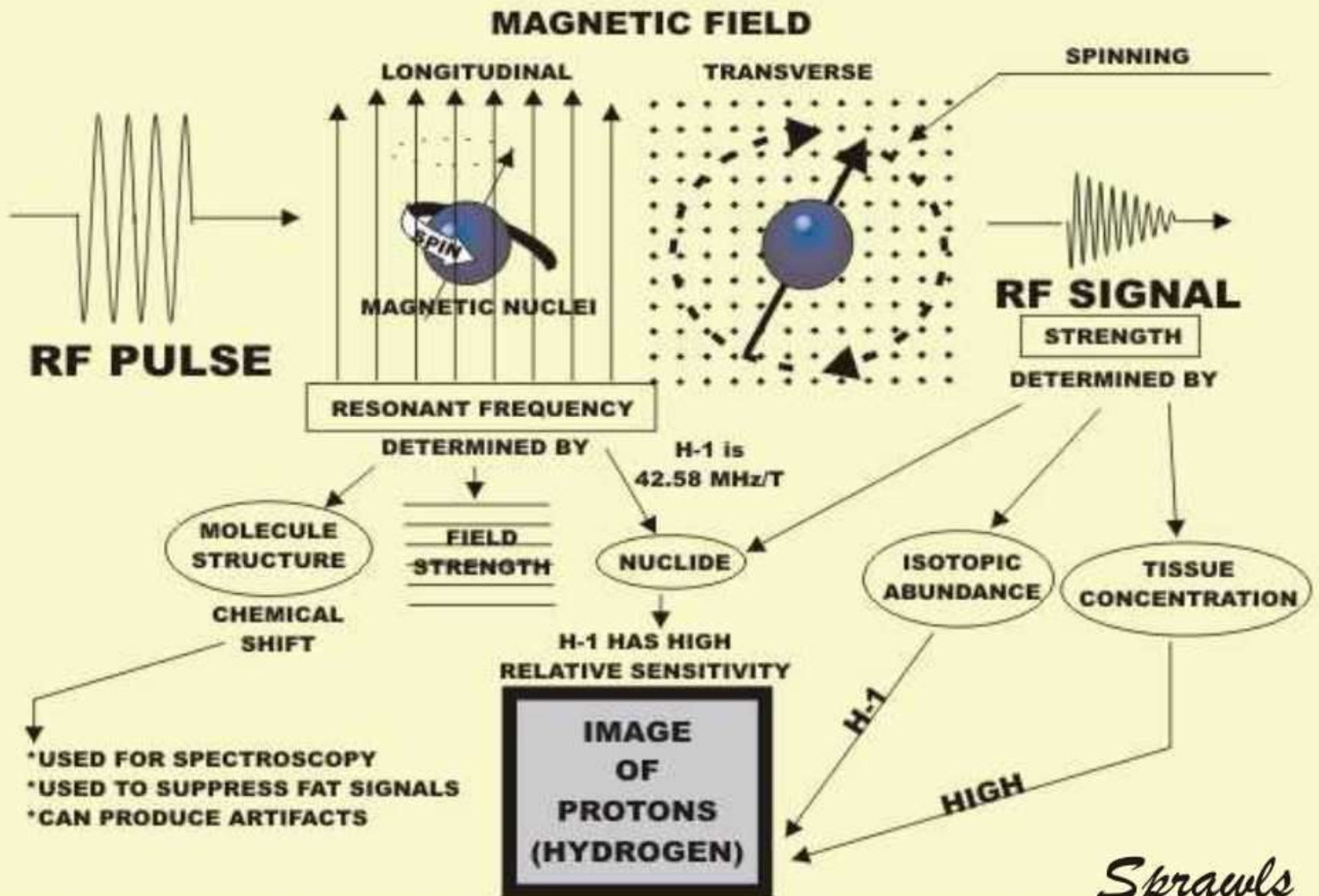


Visuals

Mindmaps

Sprawls

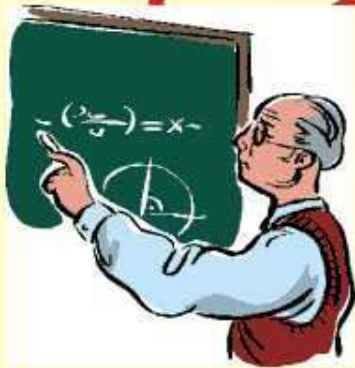
Mind Map of the NMR Process



Forming Knowledge Structures

Physical Universe

Inverse Square Effect



Sensory



Back Integrative Cortex

Intensity = Power / Area

Surface area of a sphere = $\frac{4\pi r^2}{3}$

So, the luminous intensity on a spherical surface a distance r from a source radiating a total power P is:

$$I = 3P / 4\pi r^2$$

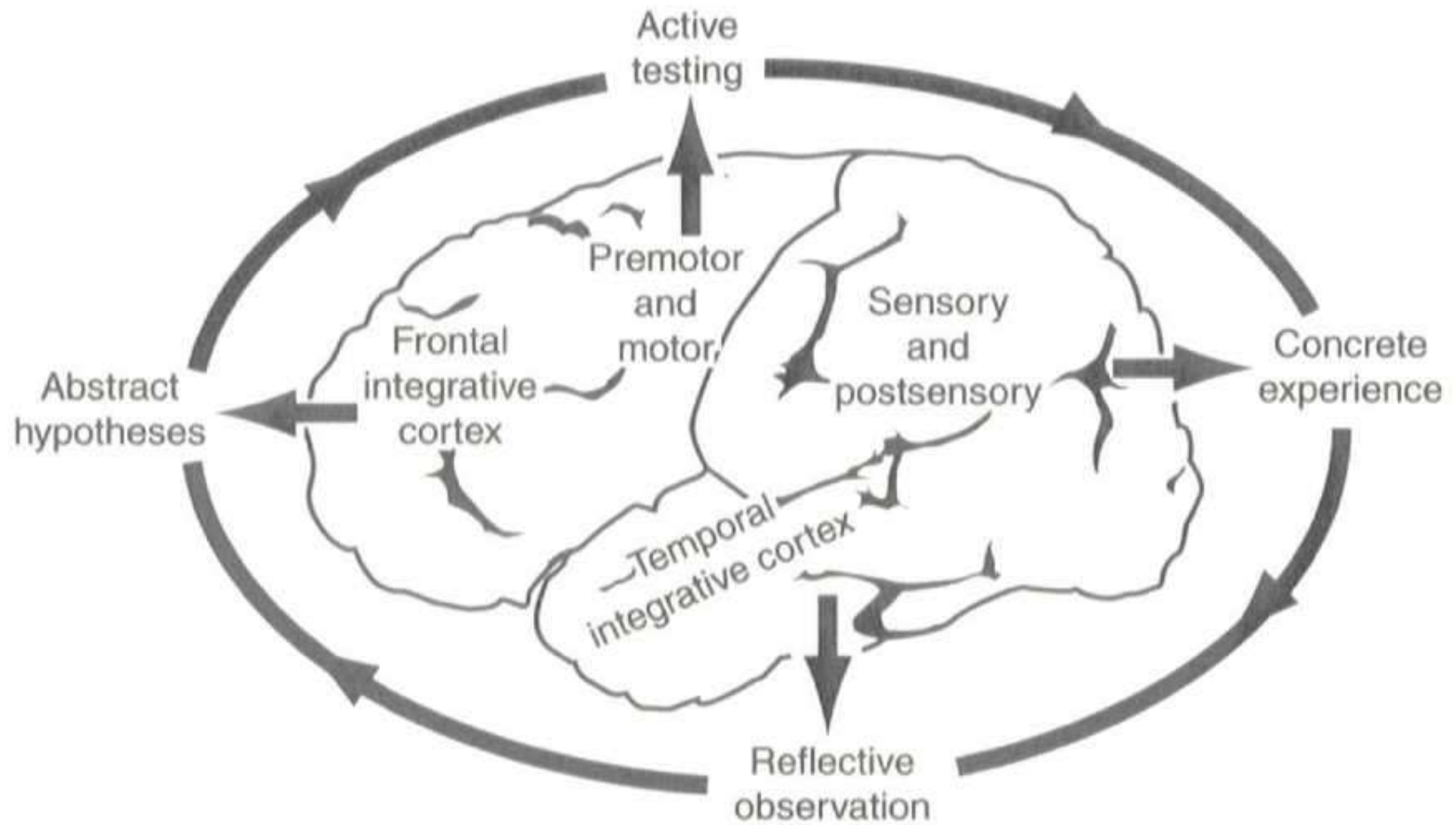
As P and π remain constant, the luminous intensity is proportional to the inverse square of distance:

$$I \sim 1 / r^2$$

Verbal and Symbolic

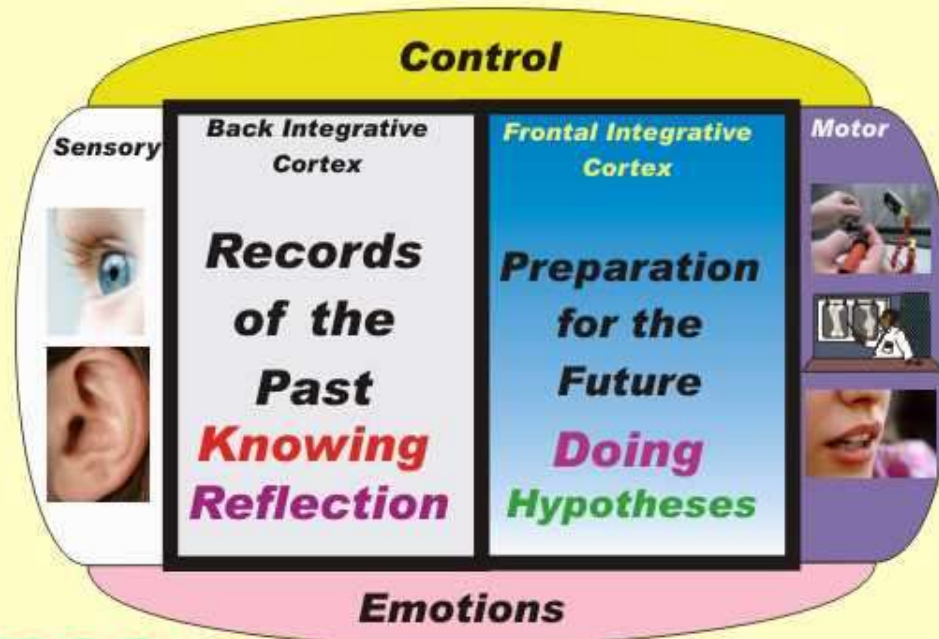
Sprawls

Zull's Model of Brain Function



Brain Functions for Learning Physics

Active Experimentation and Testing



**Sense
and
Experience
Observe**

**Interact
and
Affect**

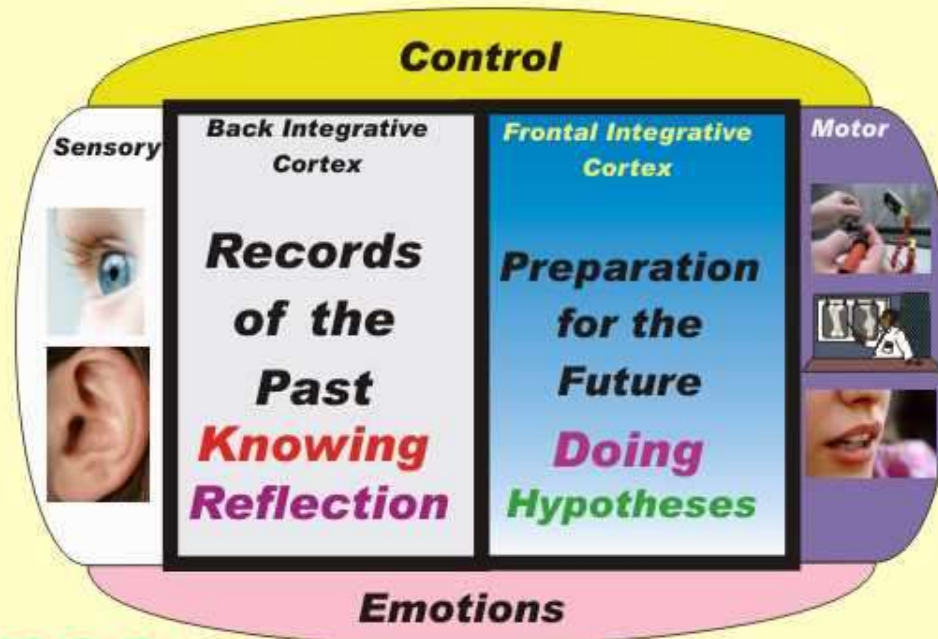


Physical Universe

Sprawls

Brain Functions for Learning Physics

Active Experimentation and Testing



**Sense
and
Experience
Observe**

**Interact
and
Affect**

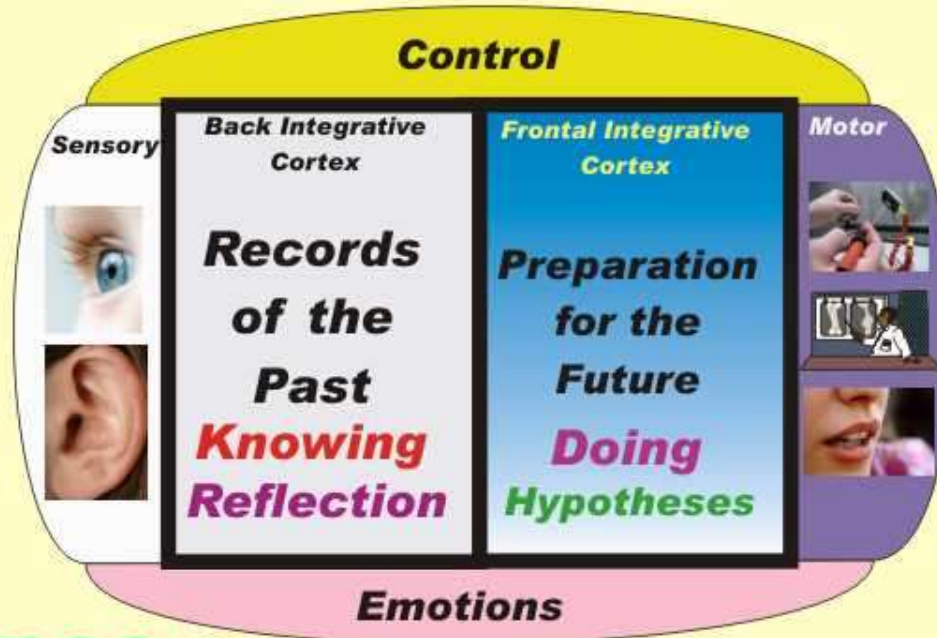


Physical Universe

Sprawls

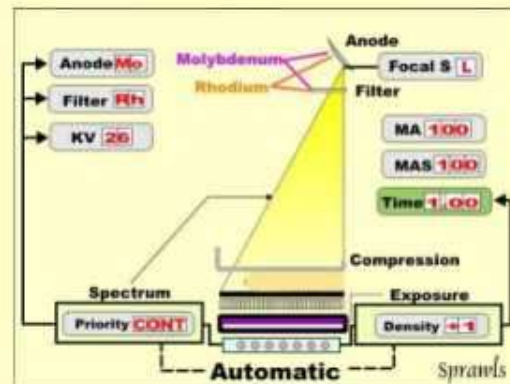
Brain Functions for Learning Physics

Active Experimentation and Testing



**Sense
and
Experience
Observe**

**Interact
and
Affect**



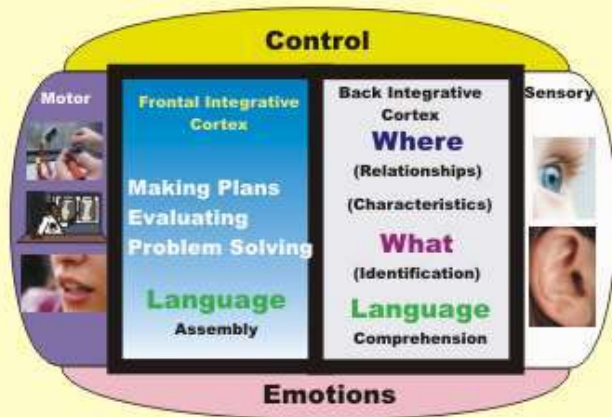
Physical Universe

Sprawls

Brain Functions for Learning Physics

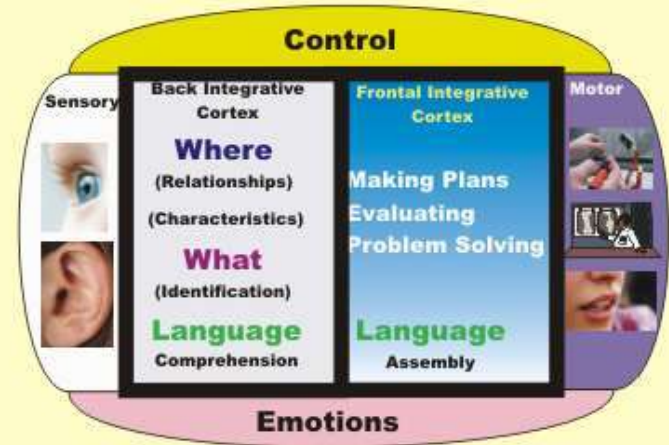
Two brains are better than one!

Collaborative Learning



Ben

?



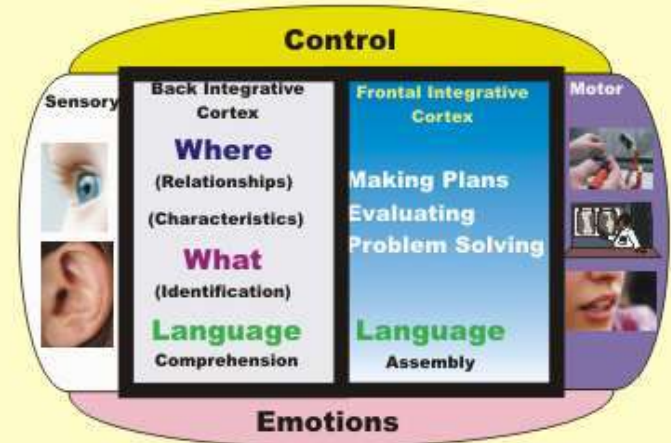
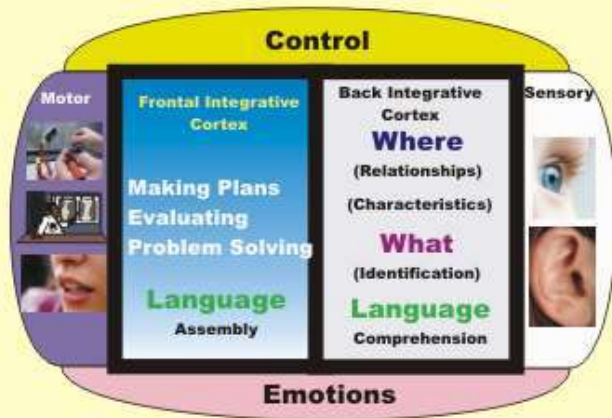
Jerry

Problem Solving

Brain Functions for Learning Physics

Two brains are better than one!

Collaborative Learning



Views
Perspectives
Experiences

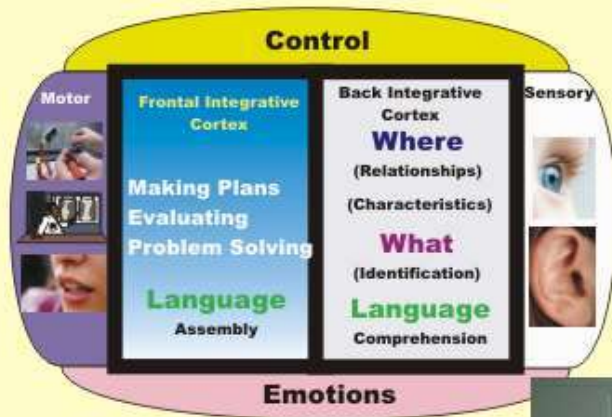
Views
Perspectives
Experiences

Problem Solved!

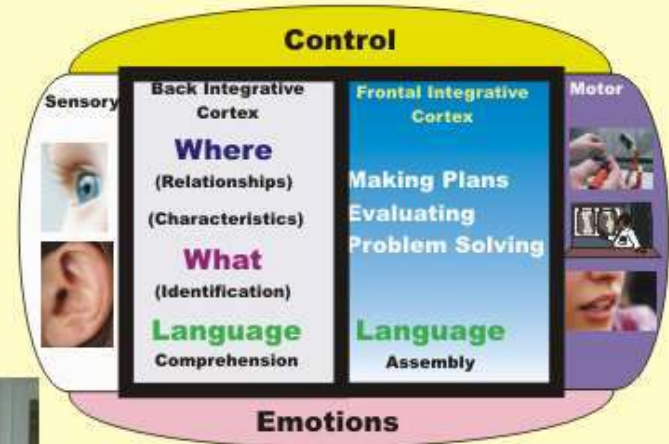
Brain Functions for Learning Physics

Two brains are better than one!

Collaborative Learning



Views
Perspectives
Experiences



Views
Perspectives
Experiences

Analysis and Evaluation

Brain Functions for Learning Physics

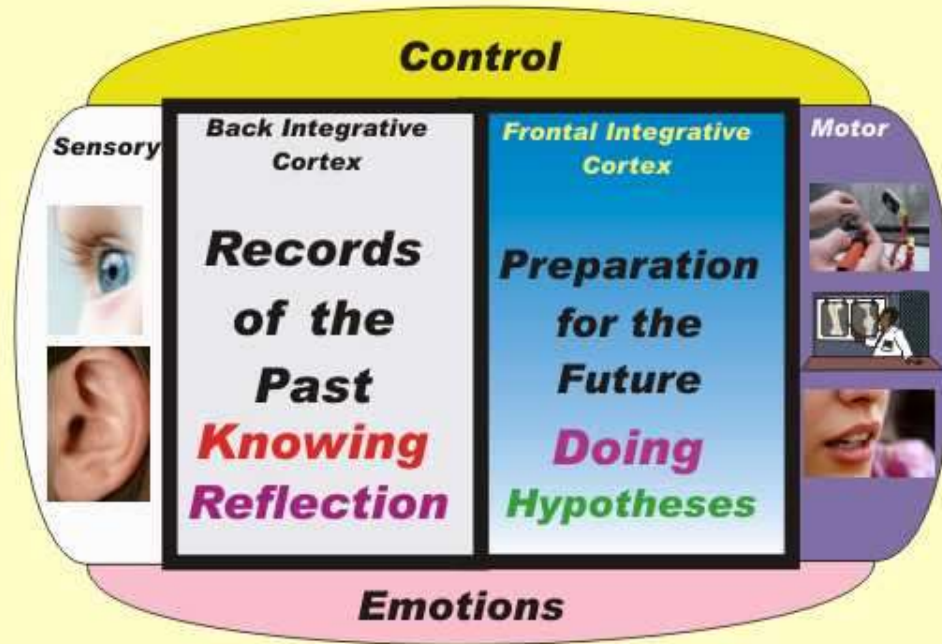
Two brains are better than one!

Collaborative Learning

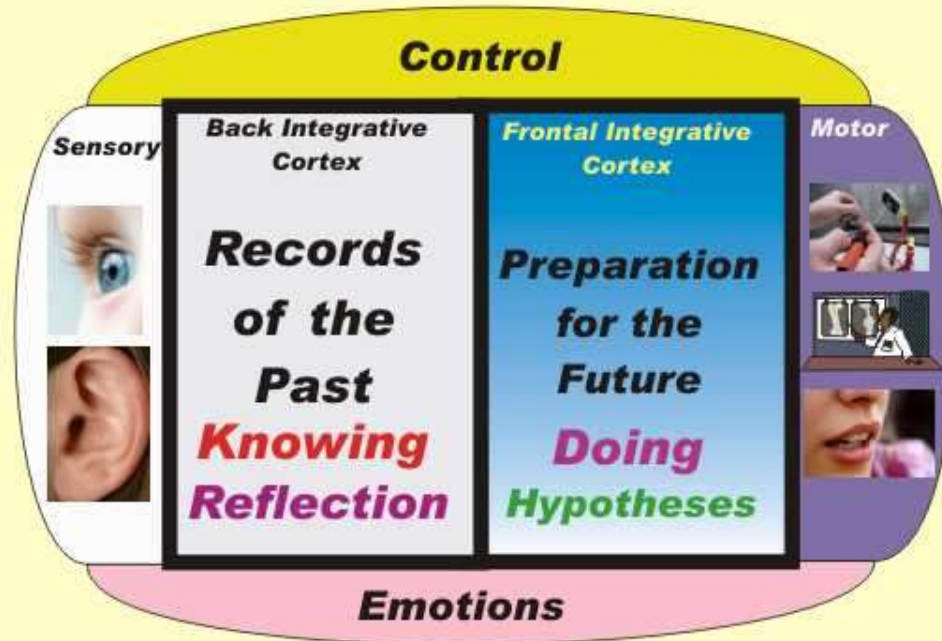


Problem Solving
Analysis and Evaluation
Developing Plans

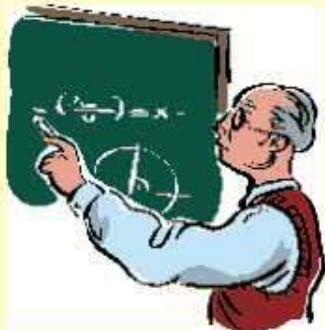
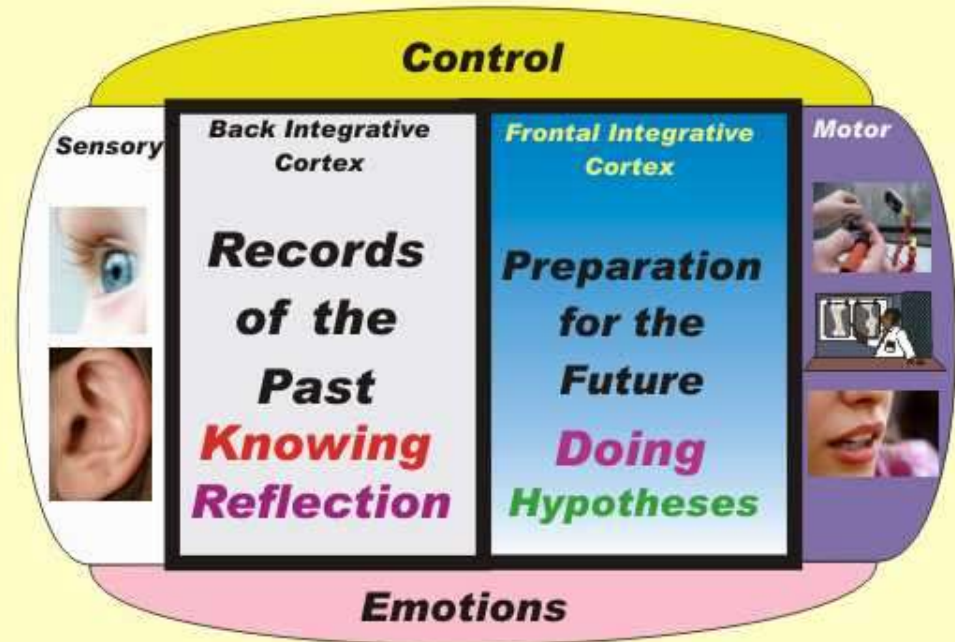
The Learning Environment



Rich Learning Environments



Challenging Learning Environments



Sprawls

Effective Learning



**Rich
Learning
Environment**

**New
and
Different**

**Integrate
into
Existing
Knowledge**

————— **Reflection** —————>

Sprawls

Effective Learning



Interact

Review

Reflect

**Developing useful knowledge
for the future**

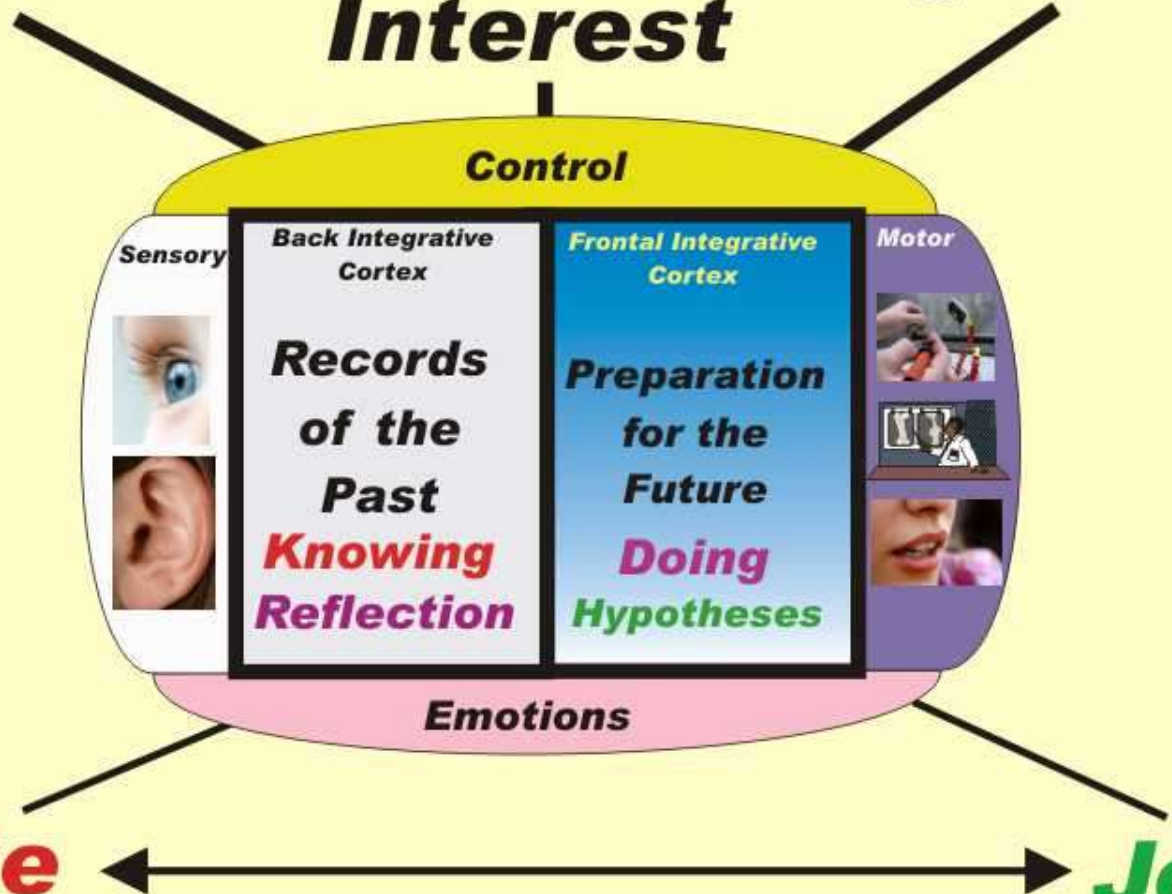
Sprawls

Brain Functions for Learning Physics

Motivation

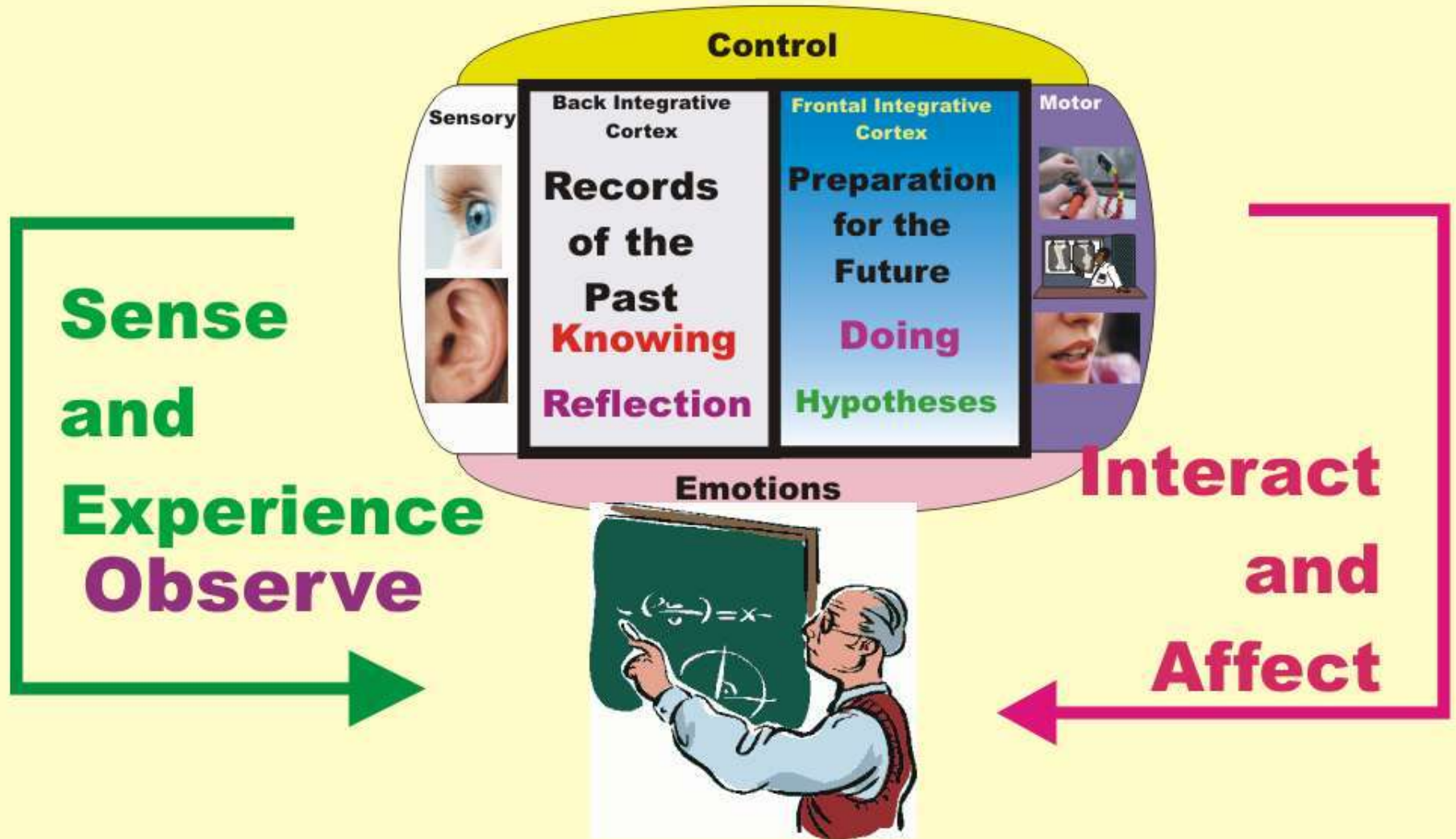
Organization

Interest



Sprawls

Brain Functions for Learning About Learning Physics



Our Teaching

Sprawls

Robert Gagne (1916-2002)

Best known for his **Nine Events of Instruction**



The Gagne assumption is that different types of learning exist, and that different instructional conditions are most likely to bring about these different types of learning

Gagné was also well-known for his sophisticated stimulus-response theory of eight kinds of learning which differ in the quality and quantity of stimulus-response bonds involved. From the simplest to the most complex, these are:

signal learning (Pavlovian conditioning)

stimulus-response learning (operant conditioning)

chaining (complex operant conditioning)

verbal association

discrimination learning

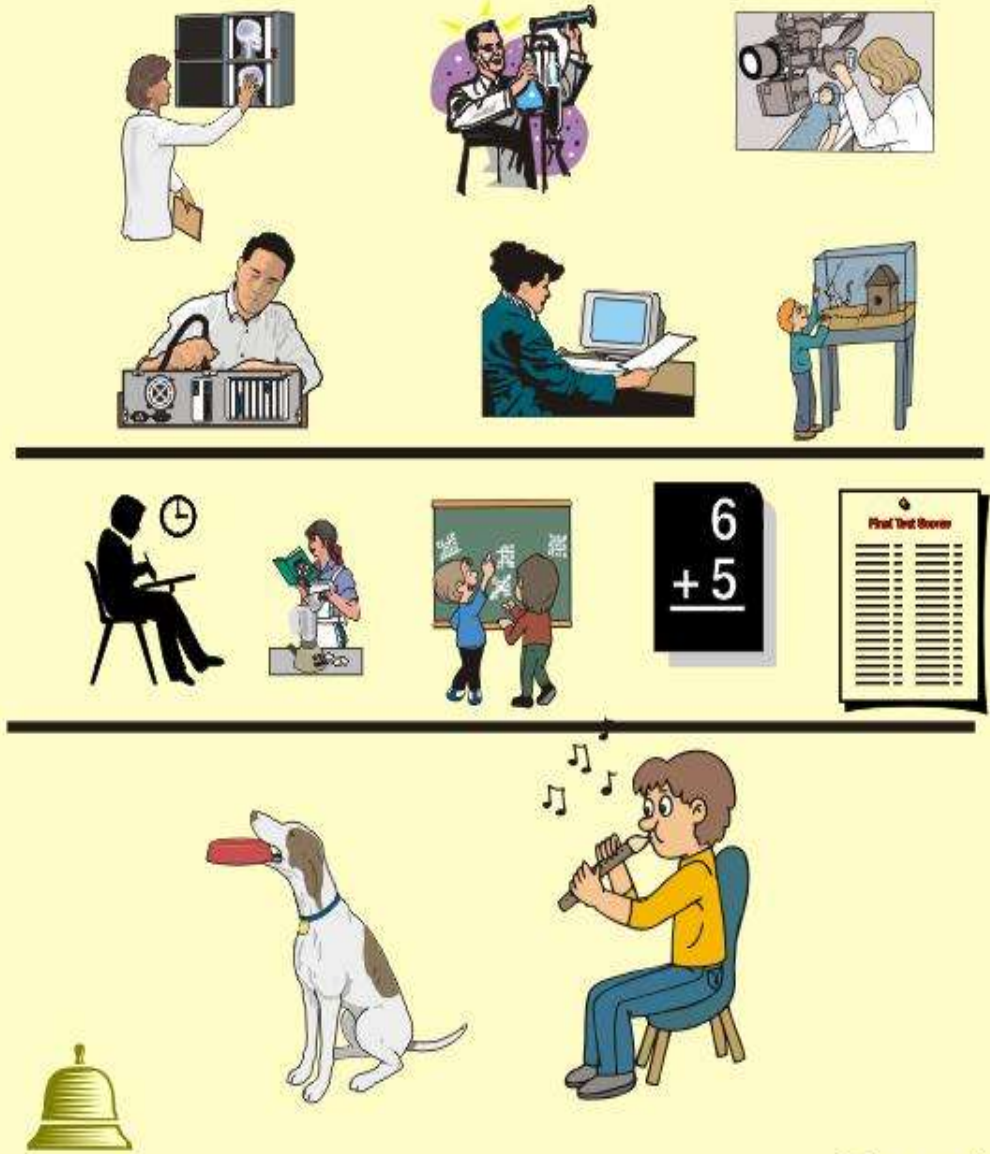
concept learning

rule learning

and problem solving.

Sprawls

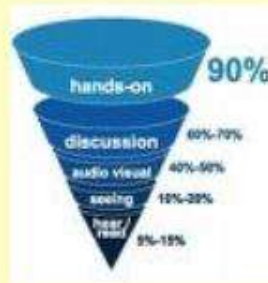
Gagne's Hierarchy of Learning



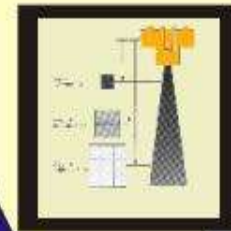
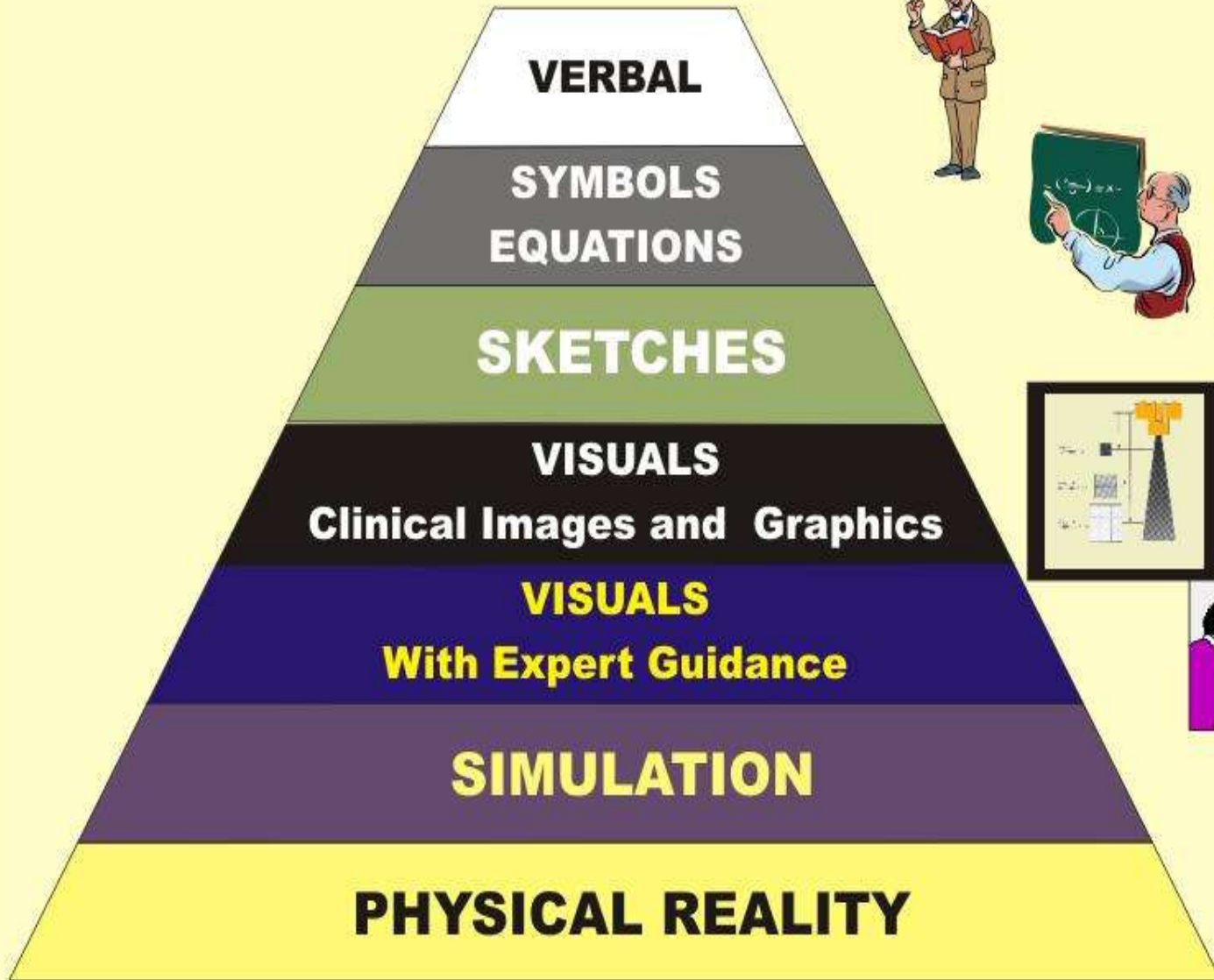


Edgar Dale (1900-1985)

Educationalist who developed the famous **Cone of Experience** theory



Cone of Experience for Medical Imaging Education



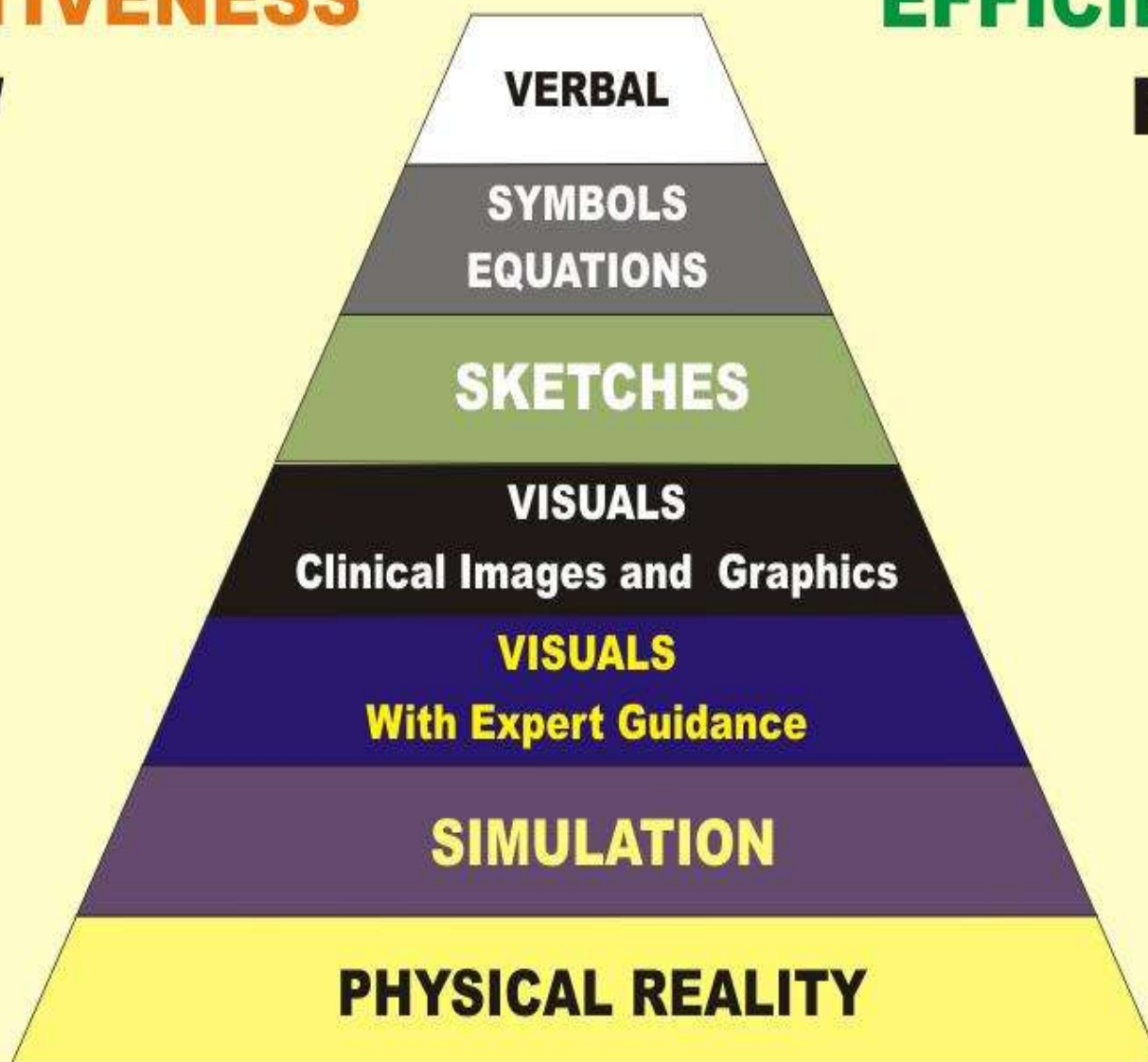
Cone of Experience for Medical Imaging Education

EFFECTIVENESS

EFFICIENCY

LOW

HIGH



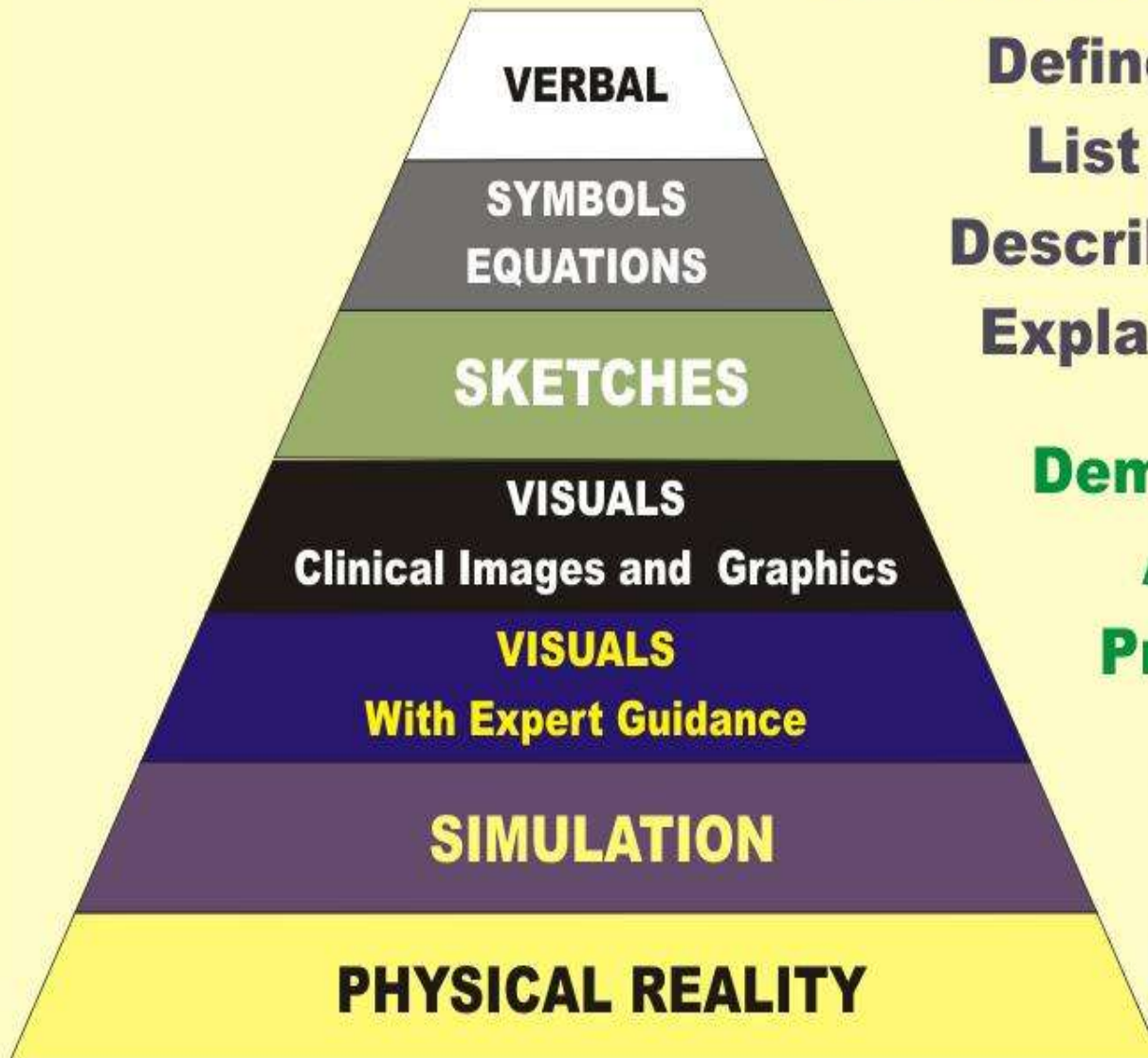
HIGH

LOW

Sprawls

Cone of Experience for Medical Imaging Education

LEARNING OUTCOMES



Define
List
Describe
Explain



Demonstrate

Apply



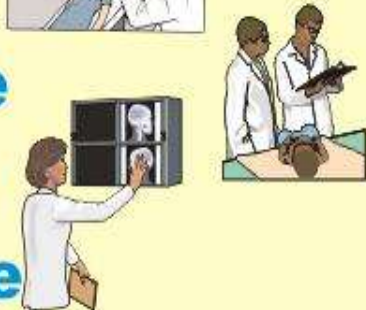
Practice



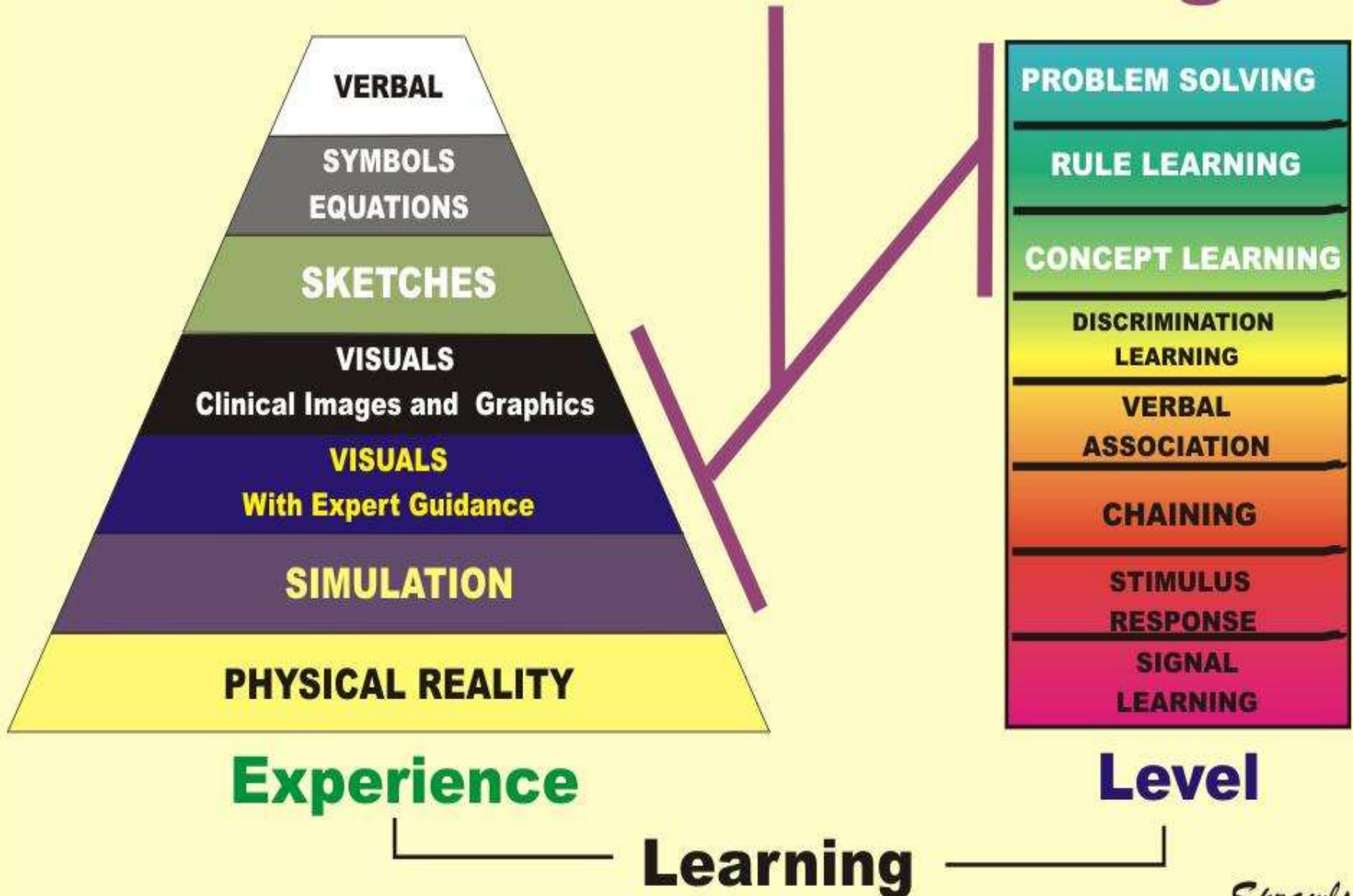
Analyze

Create

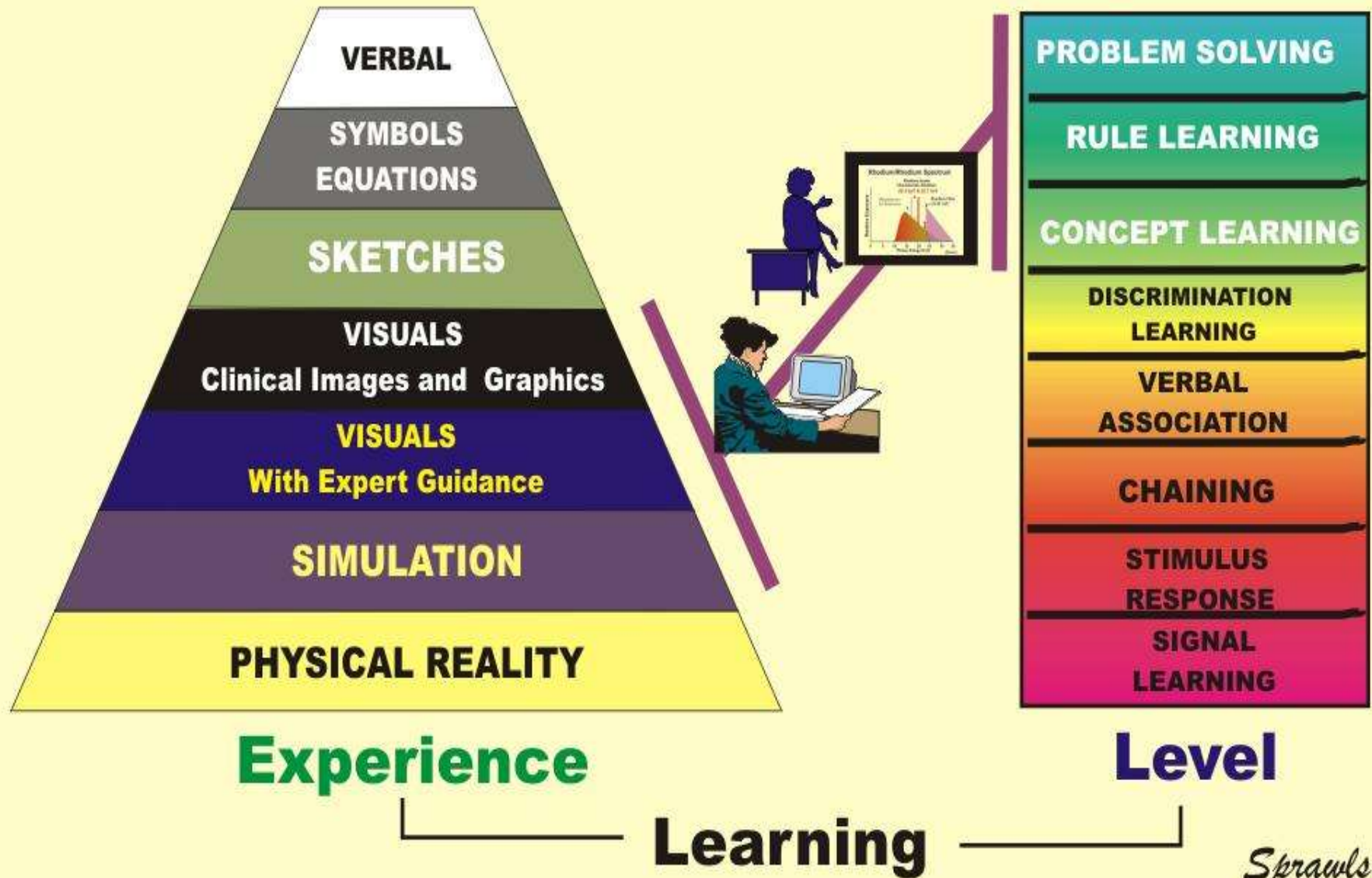
Evaluate



Effective Learning



Technology Enhanced Learning and Teaching



Clinically Focused Physics Education

Classroom



**Clinical
Conference**



**Small
Group**



**“Flying
Solo”**



Highly Efficient
For
General Physics
and
Related Topics

Highly Effective
Clinically Rich
Learning Activities

Visuals Images Online Modules
Resources and References

Sprawls

Images

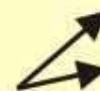


- Contrast
- Detail
- Noise
- Artifacts
- Spatial

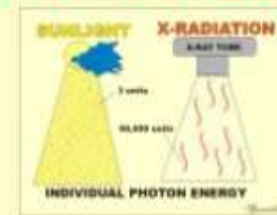


Physics Education

Characteristics and Comparison of Modalities



Radiation



- Radiation for Imaging
- Quantities and Units
- X-Ray Production
- Radioactivity
- Interactions

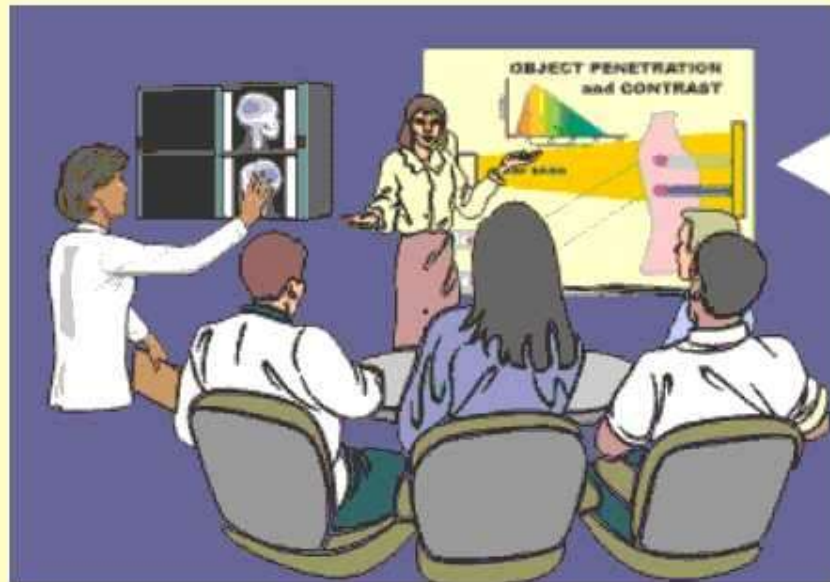
Digital Image Structure and Characteristics

- X-Ray Image Formation
- Radiographic Receptors
- Radiographic Detail
- Fluoroscopic Systems
- CT Image Formation
- CT Image Quality and Dose Optimization
- Radionuclide Imaging, SPECT, PET
- MRI
- Ultrasound

Radiation Safety

- Biological Effects
- Personnel Protection
- Patient Dose Management

Rich Classroom and Conference Learning Activities



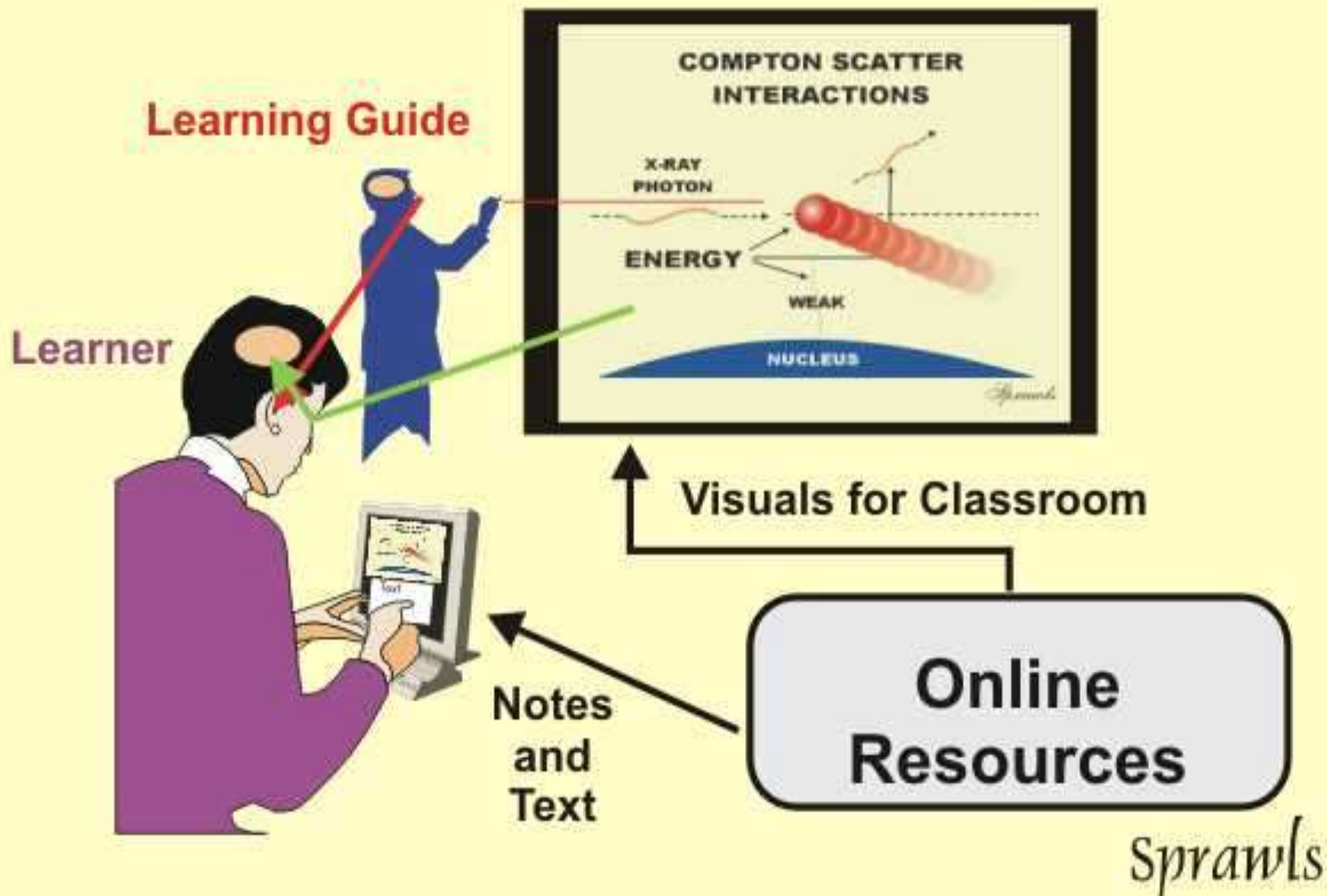
Visuals

Representations
of
Reality

Learning Facilitator “Teacher”

Organize and Guide the Learning Activity
Share Experience and Knowledge
Explain and Interpret What is Viewed
Motivate and Engage Learners

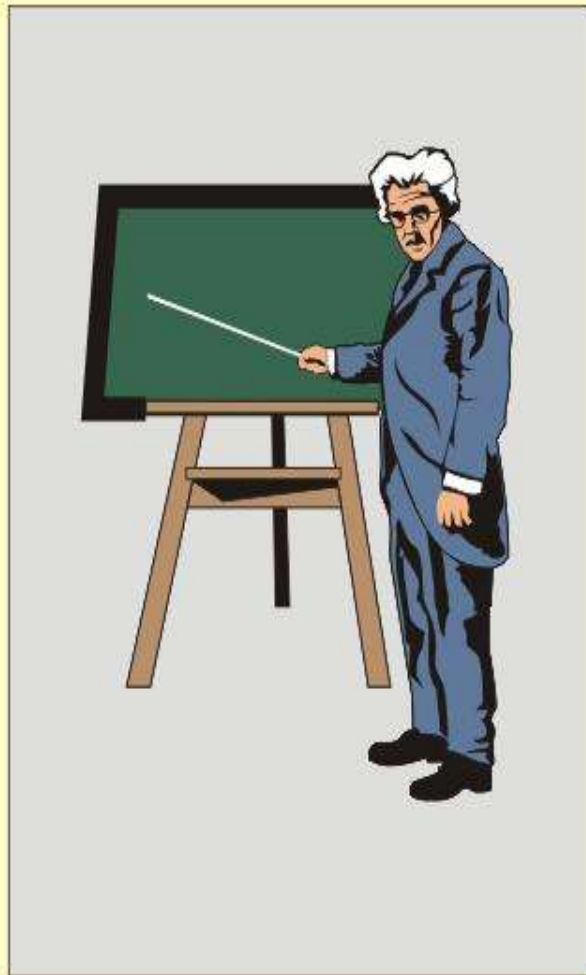
Technology Enhanced Learning



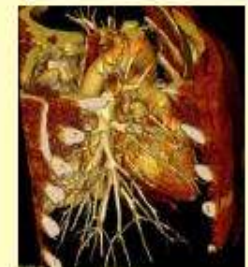
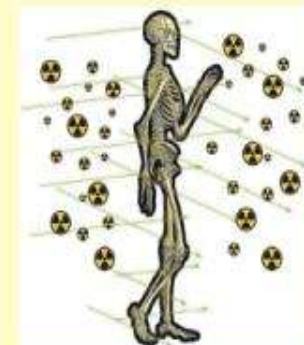
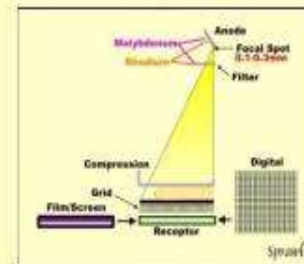
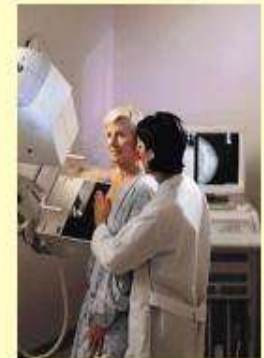
THE LEARNERS



WINDOW or BARRIER



PHYSICAL UNIVERSE



Sprawls

THE LEARNERS

WINDOW or BARRIER

PHYSICAL UNIVERSE



Visuals

A MAGNETIC FIELD GRADIENT

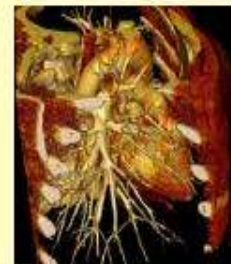
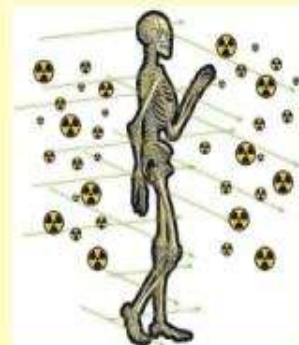
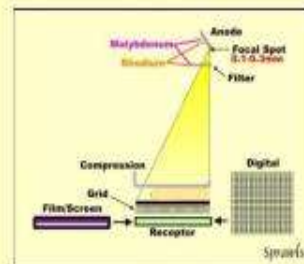
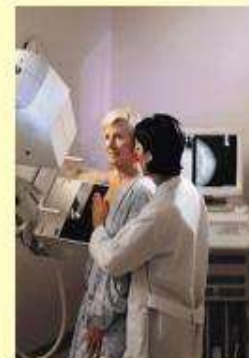
GRADIENT COILS ON

GRADIENT

FIELD STRENGTH GRADIENT COILS OFF

UNIFORM

Physicists

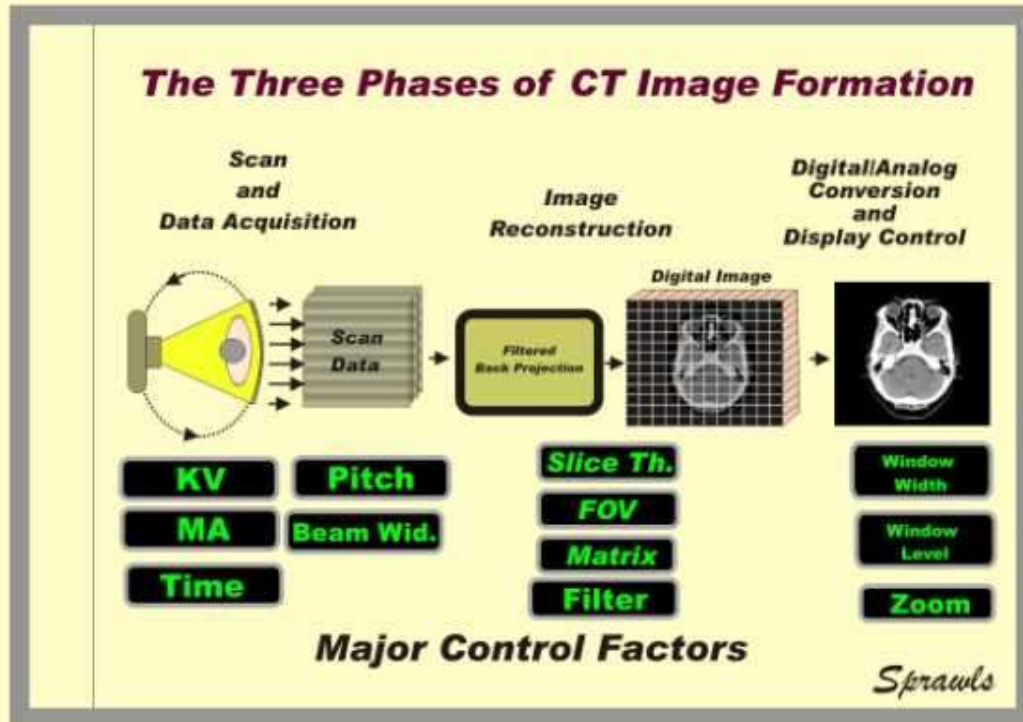


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Visuals for Learning and Teaching

The Imaging Process

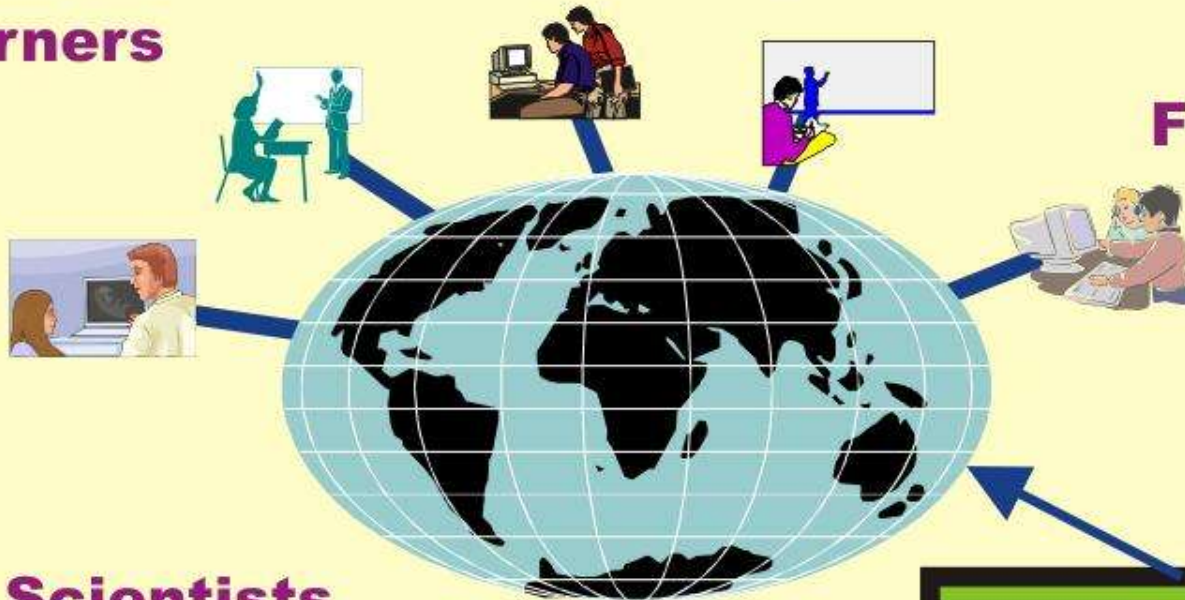
Clinical Images



Enriched Learning Environments

Learners

Learning Facilitators

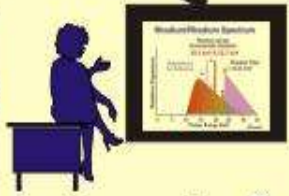
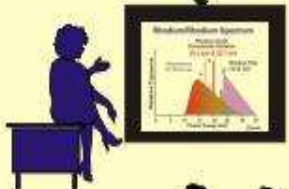
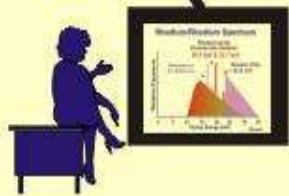
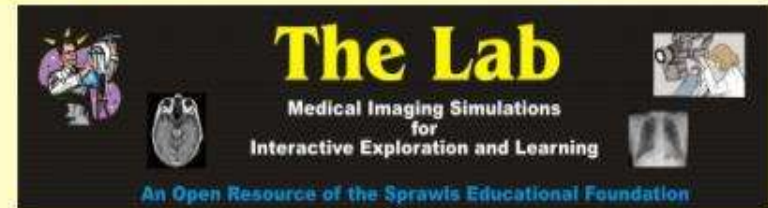


Scientists with Experience



The Physical Universe

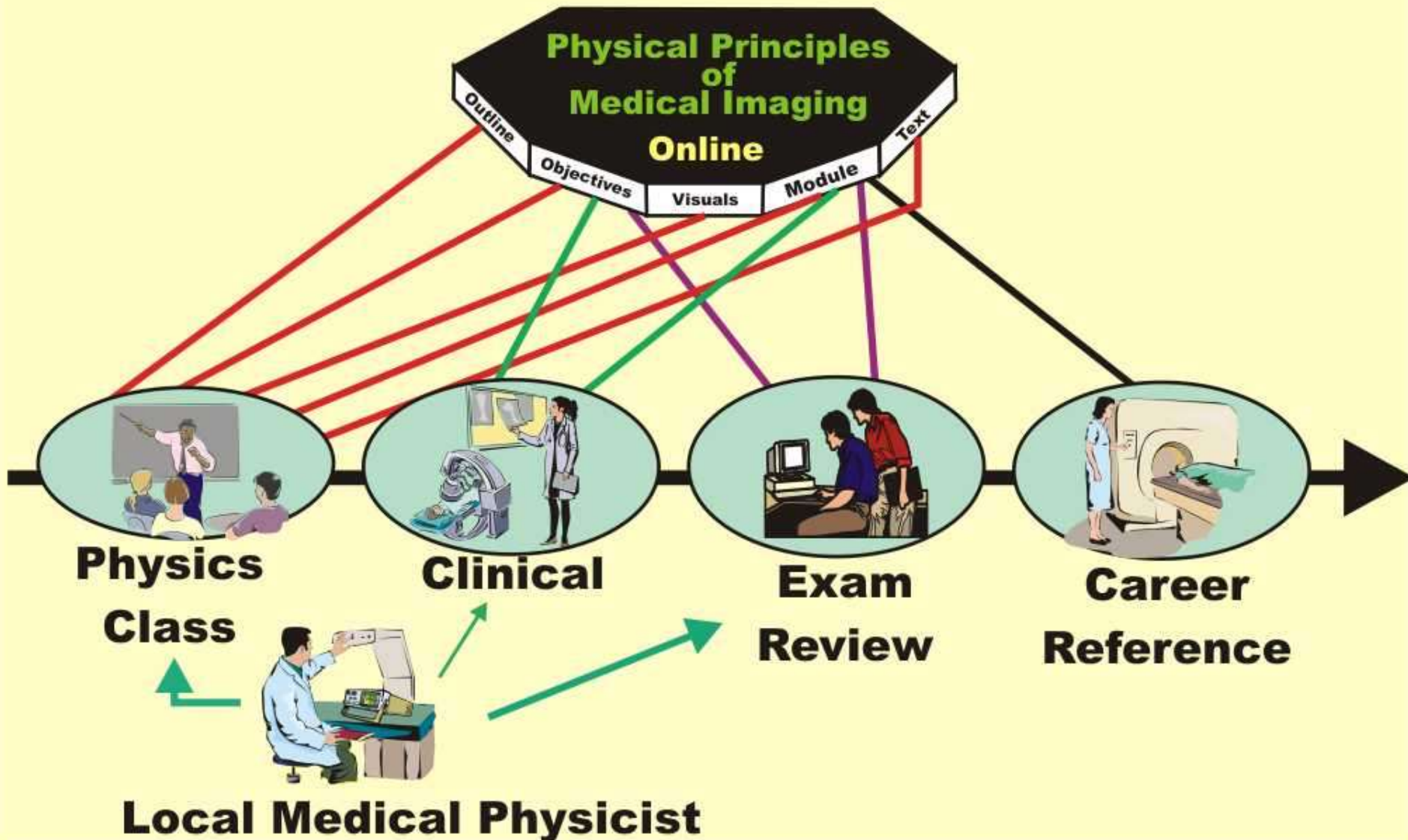
Sprawls



In **Partnership** with Other Medical Physics Teachers
to be More **Effective** and **Efficient** in Providing
Medical Imaging Education

Medical Physics Education

Integrated Learning



SPRAWLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
 Open Resources
 for
 Learning and Teaching



The Physical Principles of Medical Imaging

[How to Use This Resource](#)
[Table of Contents and List of Topics](#)

Mammography Physics and Technology for effective clinical imaging

Perry Sprawls, Ph.D.

Outline	Mind Map	Learning Objectives	Visuals for Discussion		Text Reference
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To step through module, [CLICK HERE.](#)

To go to a specific topic click on it below

Imaging Objectives	Rhodium Anode	Blurring and Visibility of Detail
Visibility of Pathology	KV Values for Mammography	Focal Spot Blurring
Image Quality Characteristics	Scattered Radiation and Contrast	Receptor Blurring
Not a Perfect Image	Image Exposure Histogram	Composite Blurring
Mammography Technology	Receptor & Display Systems	Magnification Mammography
Imaging Technique Factors	Film Contrast Transfer	Mean Glandular Dose
Contrast Sensitivity	Film Contrast Factors	
Physical Contrast Compared	Film Design for Mammography	
Factors Affecting Contrast Sensitivity	Controlling Receptor (Film) Exposure	
X-Ray Penetration and Contrast	Film Processing	
Optimum X-Ray Spectrum	Variations in Receptor Sensitivity	
Effect of Breast Size	Film Viewing Conditions	





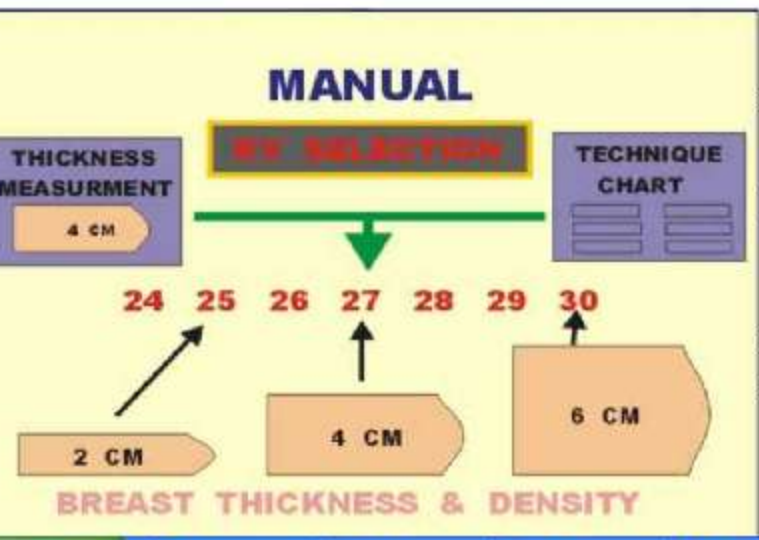
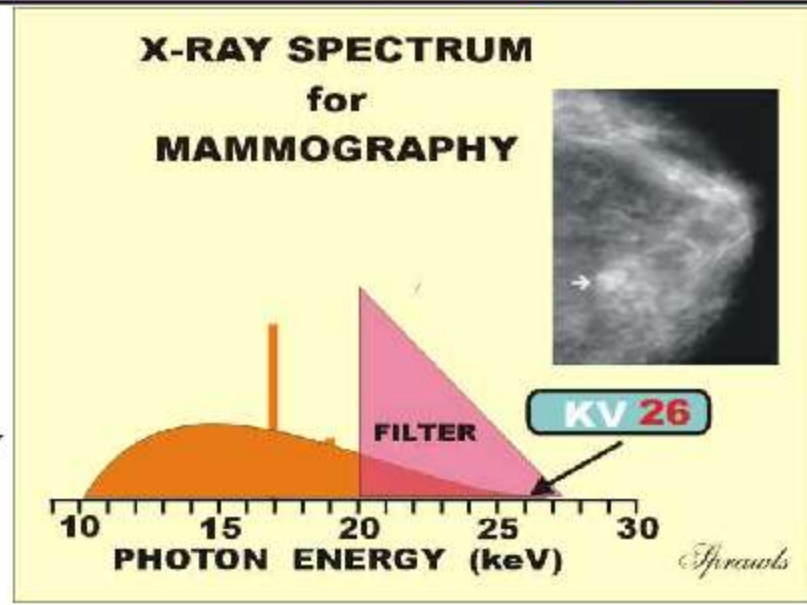
The x-ray beam spectrum is one of the most critical factors that must be adjusted to optimize a procedure with respect to contrast sensitivity and dose.

We can think of it as a three-step procedure:

1. Select the appropriate anode (moly or rhodium)
2. Select the appropriate filter (moly or rhodium)
3. Select the appropriate KV (In the range 24 kV to 32 kV)

Increasing the KV has two effects on the x-ray beam. It increases the efficiency and output for a specific MAS value and it shifts the photon energy spectrum forward so that the beam becomes more penetrating.

While a more penetrating beam does reduce contrast sensitivity it is necessary when imaging thicker and more dense breast. Therefore compressed breast thickness is the principal factor that determines the optimum KV.

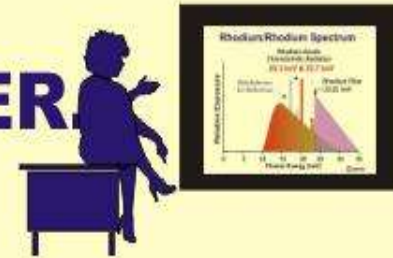


Mammography systems have indicators that display the thickness of the compressed breast. This along with a general assessment of breast density is used to manually select an optimum KV either from experience or an established technique chart.

The general goal is to increase the KV as necessary to keep the exposure time, MAS, and dose to the breast within reasonable limits as breast thickness increases.

The Values We Hold

The PHYSICIST is the TEACHER



TECHNOLOGY is the TOOL that can be used for effective and efficient teaching.

Technology should be used to enhance human performance of both learners (residents, students, etc.) And teachers



Clinically Focused Physics Education



Website

<http://www.sprawls.org/clinphys>