Shape and shape recognition



Shapes with the same label ("chair") differ enormously

When viewpoint changes, appearance can change radically







What is this?

Canonic view

A viewpoint from which an object is readily recognizable

Panda climbing tree

• Axial and part-based representations are critical (Marr & Nishihara, 1978)



You can recognize these pipe-cleaner "animals" even though they differ from the originals in contour, color, texture, etc.

Generalized cylinders





Cylinder

- axis (= straight line)
- radius (= constant)

Generalized cylinder

- axis (= space curve)
- radius (= variable function)



human

Parts at multiple scales



How does the brain achieve shape constancy — and does it?

Viewer-centered coordinate system (The tail is to the right of the wings) → implies viewpoint dependence



vs.

Object-centered coordinate system (The tail is at the rear of the body) → implies viewpoint independence



Recognition by Components (1987)

Geons (="geometric ions") Individual part types that are combined in various ways to form unique 3D object models



Viewpoint dependence

misorientation





Does recognition depend on (mis)orientation?

"Mental rotation"



Object recognition is viewpoint-dependent