Interactive Data Visualization

03

Human Perception and Information Processing



Notice

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Bibliography

- Many examples are extracted and adapted from
 - Interactive Data Visualization: Foundations, Techniques, and Applications, Matthew O. Ward, Georges Grinstein, Daniel Keim, 2015

Visualization Analysis & Design,

Tamara Munzner, 2015



Interactive Data Visualization

Practical information



Teams: lets check the actual situation

Teams registration

Group ID	ID-1	Name-1	ID-2	Name-2	ID-3	Name-3
G01	48389	Luis Miguel Frade Ferreira Monteiro	50487	Bárbara Inés Bento Gaspar Lopes	51104	Miguel Appleton Fernandes
G02	45088	André Huy do Vale	50837	Carlos Pedro Leal Boinas	45604	Alexandru Alin Caramida
G03	56926	Rafaela Carreira Eleutério Gregório da Cruz	56969	André Filipe Neves Bastos	57213	Carolina Pinto Pereira Muelle Goldstein
G04	57120	Manuel Luis Lopes Gonçaives	56892	André Filipe Alberto Pedrinho	56861	João Pedro Marques Camacho
G05	50321	Joana Sofia Rodrigues Barradas	50433	Diogo Alexandre Freire da Silva	49834	João Pedro Ferreira Fernandes
G06	41730	André António da Veiga	41735	Diogo Miguel Alves Montoia	48057	Ricardo Nazir
G07	59051	Annemarie Witschas	58978	Robert Brada	59023	Aron Gaden
G08	50450	Ana Maria da Silva Cristão	50210	Sofia Frederico de Sousa Braz	41866	Rodrigo de Almeida Graças
G09	56922	Miguel Verissimo Matias Albino	56887	Mário Paraíso Moimenta	57166	Nuno Filipe Braz Eusebio
G10	48303	Ana Sofia Lopes Afonso	47872	Sara Jardim Fernandes		
G11	56856	Inês Santos Gomes	47427	Ångelo Miguel Vaz Duarte	45305	André Filipe Branco Rosado
G12	50170	Miguel Teodoro Moreira	47316	Renato Gonçalves Pinto	50712	André Antunes Rodrigues
G13	57255	Duarte Miguel da Silveira	56998	Maelis Anouchka Oliveira Lopes	58746	Wendi Nambili Francisco de Carvalho
G14	52405	André Jorge Martins Sousa	52706	David Miranda Ribeiro Moreira	59082	Gustavo de Souza Morozi
G15	57162	Afonso Manuel Cunha Marques	59041	Emanuel Kryszton	54771	Henrique Fernandes Pereira
G16	45067	André Marques de Carvalho Ferreira Victorino	48078	Duarte Pinto Luis Esteves	50488	Miguel de Sousa Lourenço
G17	54827	Luis Filipe Rosa Dias	57179	Pedro Manuel dos Santos Marques	44677	Keiven Patrick Borges Marques
G18						
G19						
G20						

Teams: lets check the actual situation

Not in any team!

43368	Ricardo Manuel Rodrigues Amaral			
48157	João Carlos Raposo dos Reis	MIEI		
57024	Pedro Carlos Estêvão Laranjeira	MAEBD		
57918	Kamil Trojnar	MIEI		

Shared folder on Google Drive



Shared folder on Google Drive

- You have received access to a shared folder:
 - **VID-19-20-GNN**
 - Where GNN is your group ID
 - If not please let me know



Shared folder on Google Drive

- You have received access to a shared folder:
 - **VID-19-20-GNN**
 - Where GNN is your group ID
 - If not please let me know
- Proposed organization for your folder
 - **Data and Workbooks**
 - **Papers and PDFs**
 - **Project Paper**
 - Name the files like VID-GNN-2020.MM.DD-Paper.pdf
 - You may use overleaf to work on the paper
 - **Goggle Docs to share drafts**



Interactive Data Visualization

Never Forget!

What is the Goal of Data Visualization?

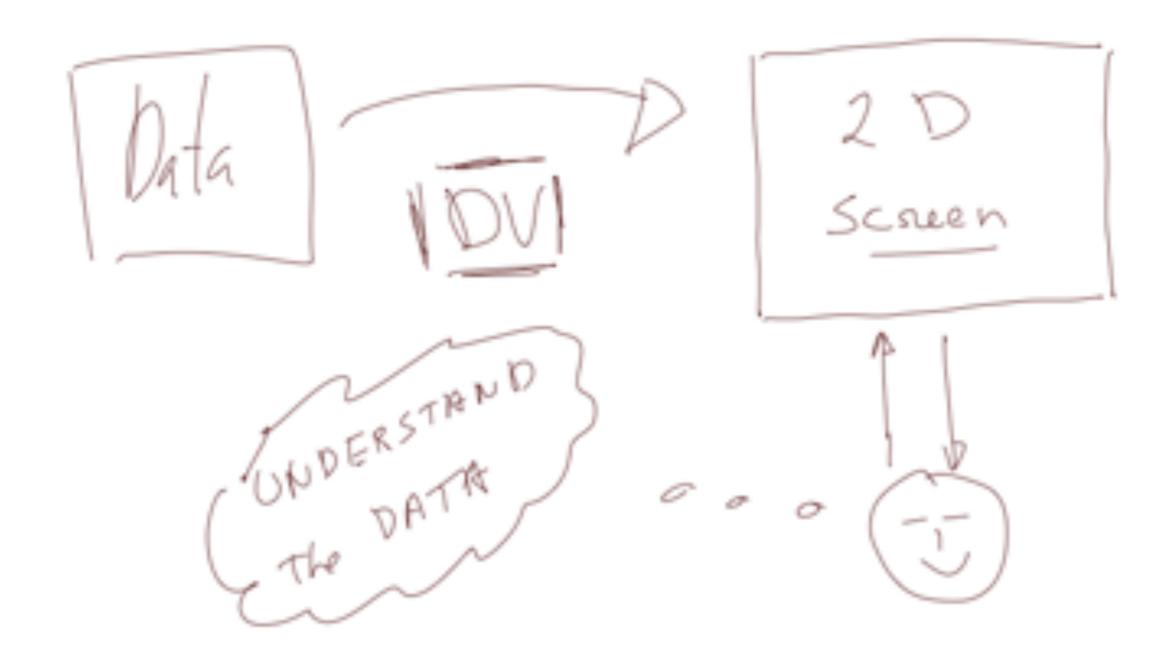
"Data visualization is not just about seeing data!

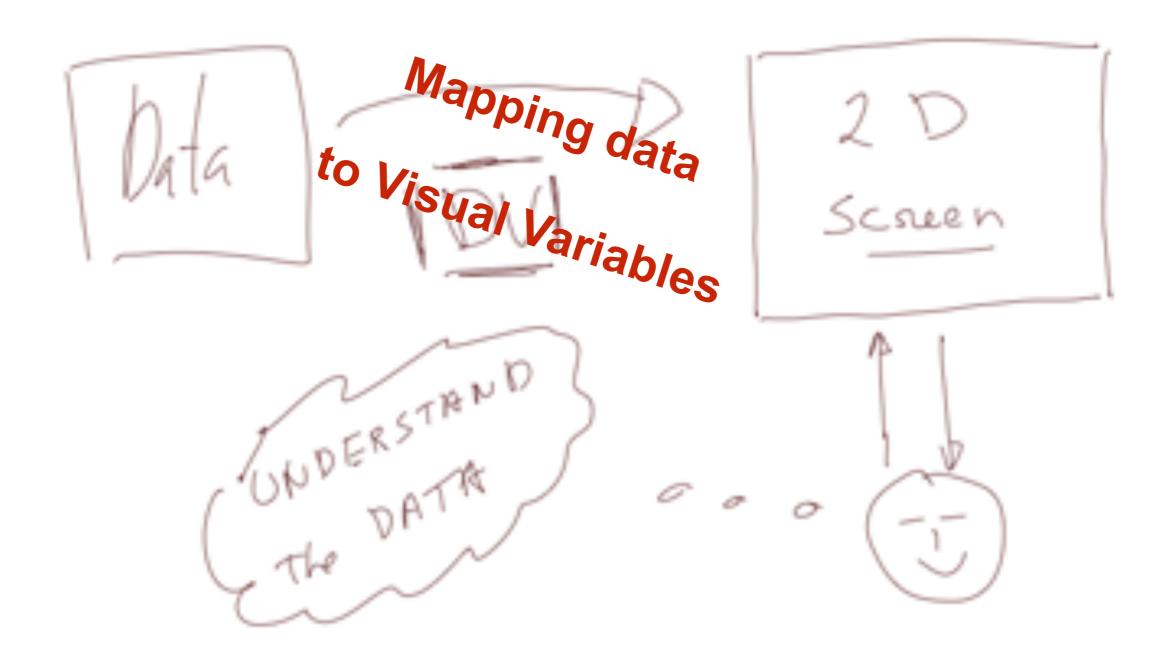
Is about UNDERSTANDING data,

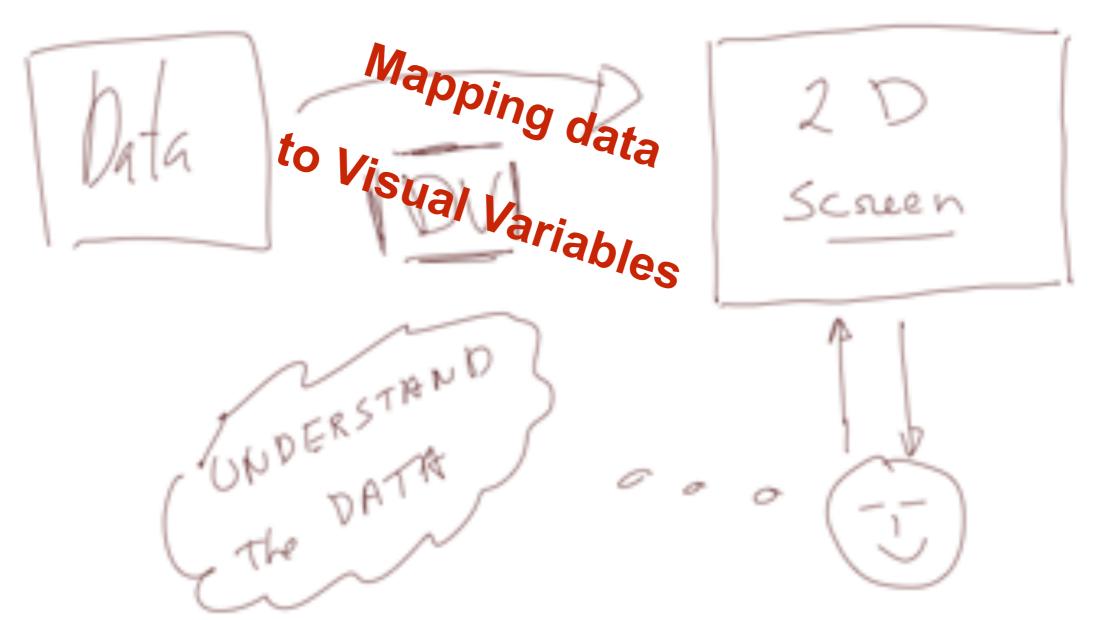
and being able to make decisions based on the data"

by John C. Hart

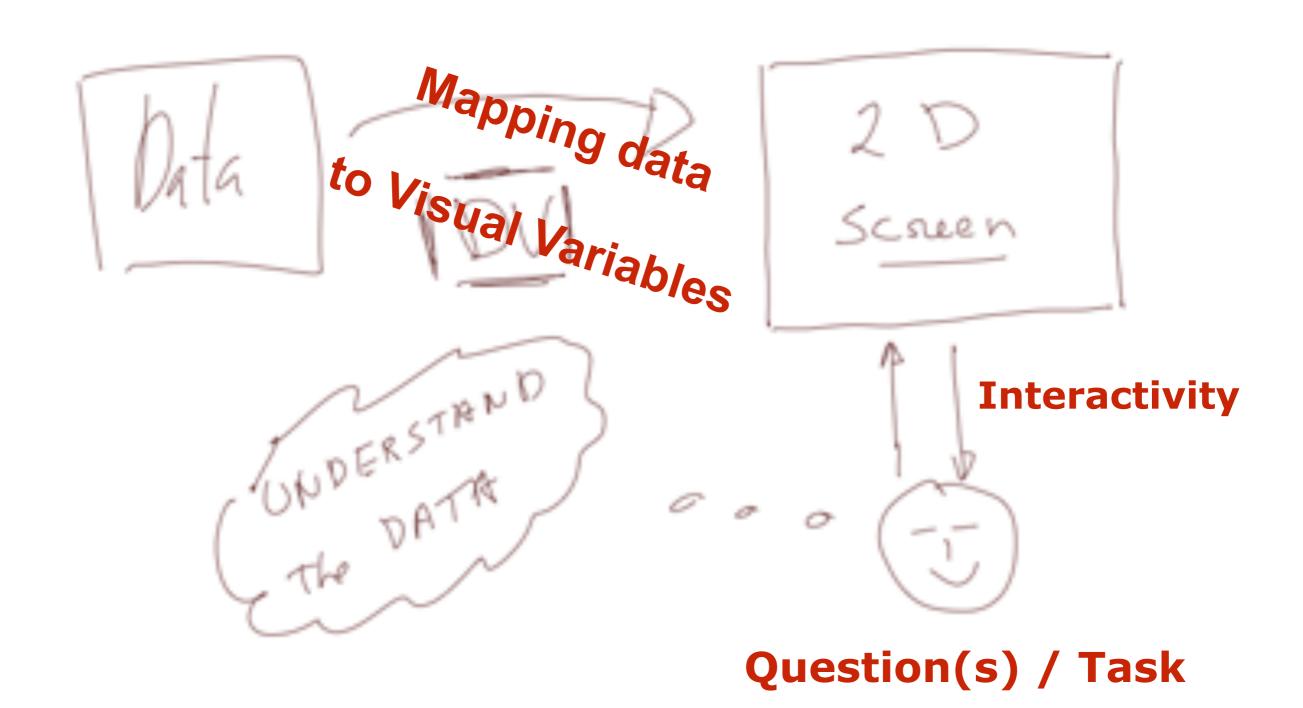




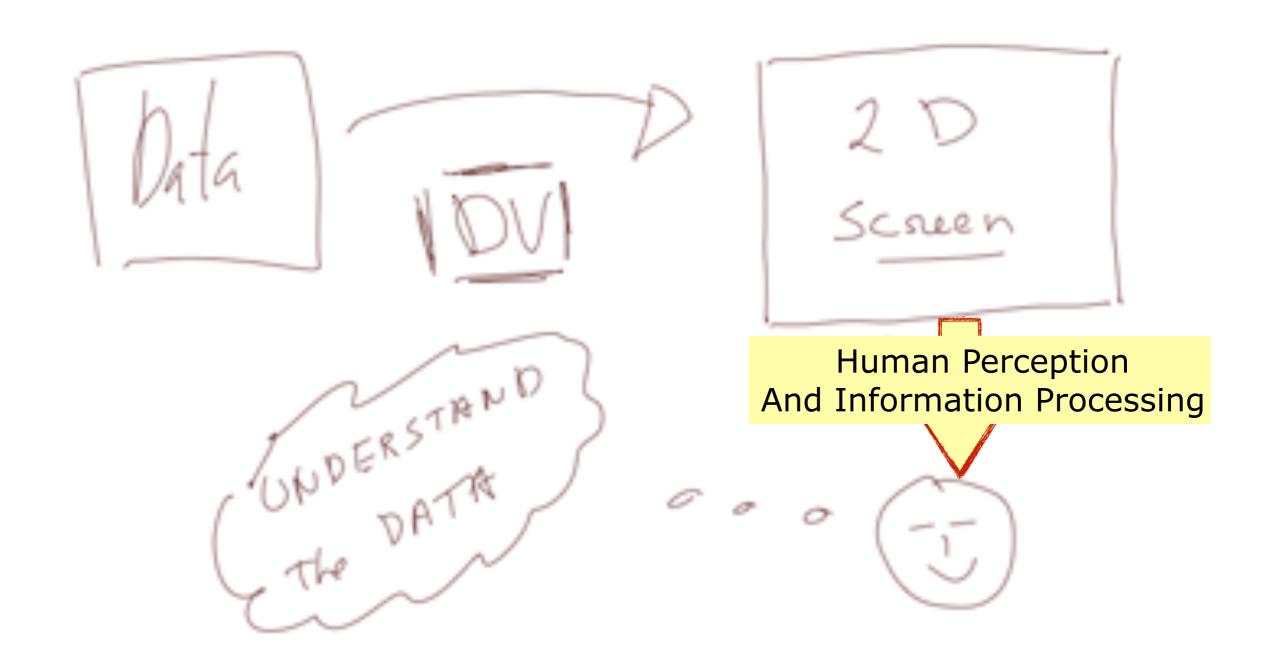


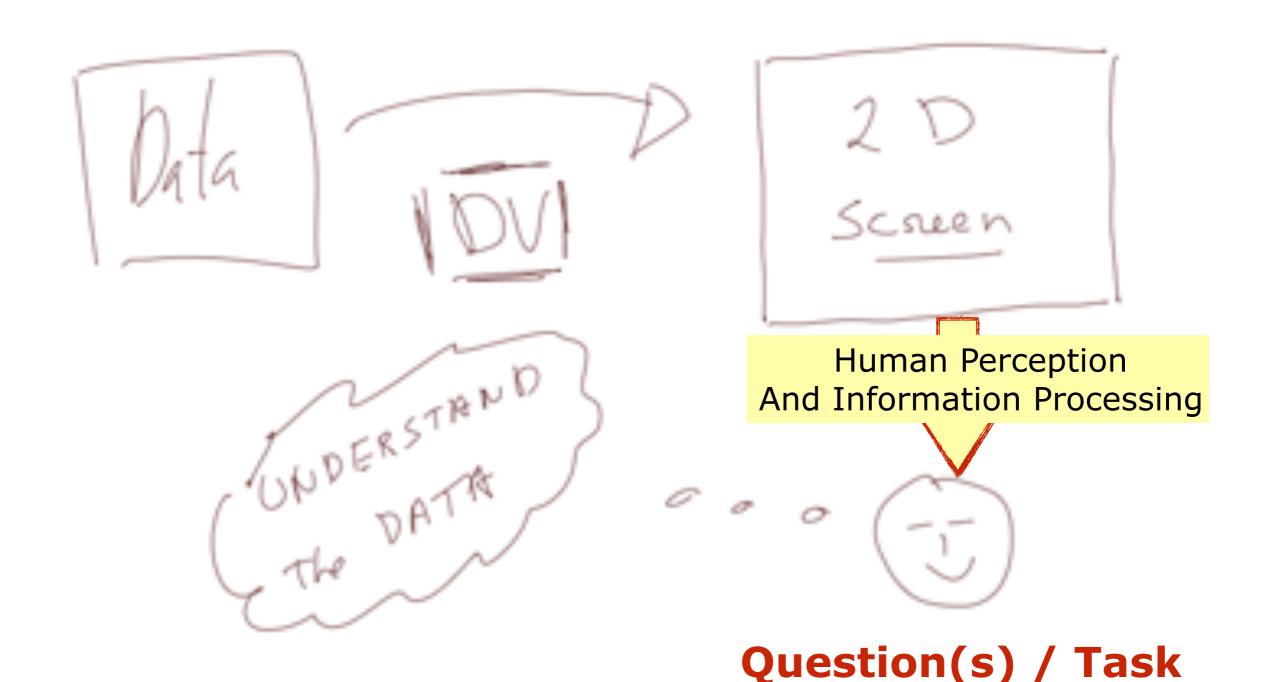


Question(s) / Task













Introduction to Data Visualization

What Is Visualization?

Relationship between Visualization and Other Fields.

The Visualization Process.

Data Foundations.

Human Perception and Information Processing.

Semiology of Graphical Symbols.

The Visual Variables.

Visualization Techniques

Visualization Techniques for Spatial Data

Visualization Techniques for Geospatial Data

Visualization Techniques for Time-Oriented Data

Visualization Techniques for Multivariate Data

Visualization Techniques for Trees, Graphs, and Networks.

Text and Document Visualization

Interaction Concepts and Techniques

Interaction Operators, Operands and Spaces (screen, object, data, attributes)

Visualization Structure Space (Components of the Data Visualization)

Animating Transformations

Interaction Control

Designing Effective Visualizations

Comparing and Evaluating Visualization Techniques

Visualization Systems

Systems Based on Data Type

Systems Based on Analysis Type

Text Analysis and Visualization

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Interactive Data Visualization

What Is Perception?





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 - recognizing (being aware of);
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 - and interpreting (binding to knowledge) sensory information.



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Perception is the process by which we interpret the world around us, forming a mental representation of the environment.

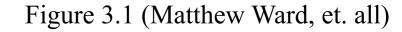


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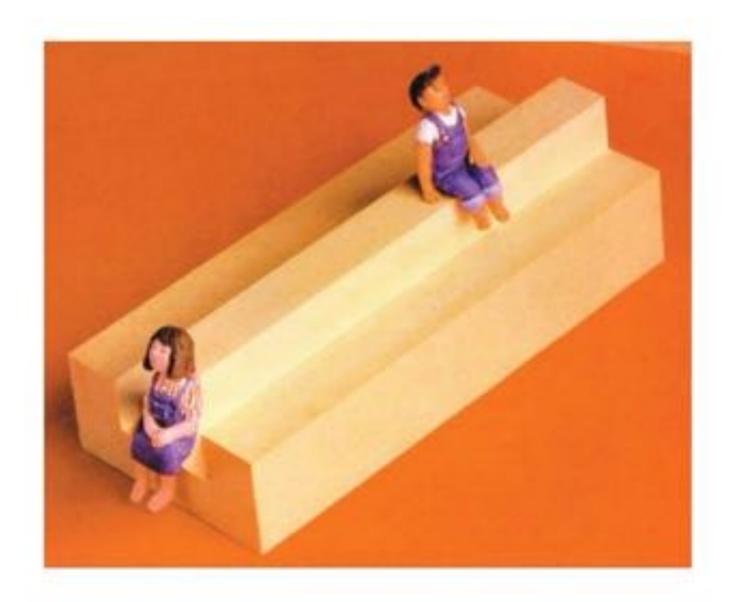
Perception is the process by which we interpret the world around us, forming a mental representation of the environment.

The brain makes assumptions about the world to overcome the inherent ambiguity in all sensory data, and in response to the task at hand.





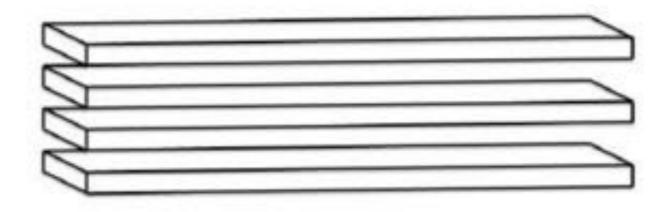




Two seated figures, making sense at a higher, more abstract level, but still disturbing. On closer inspection, these seats are not realizable. (Image courtesy N. Yoshigahara.)

Figure 3.1 (Matthew Ward, et. all)





Four ≠ three. As in Figure 3.1, this object would have a problem being built (there are four boards on the left and three on the right).

Figure 3.2 (Matthew Ward, et. all)

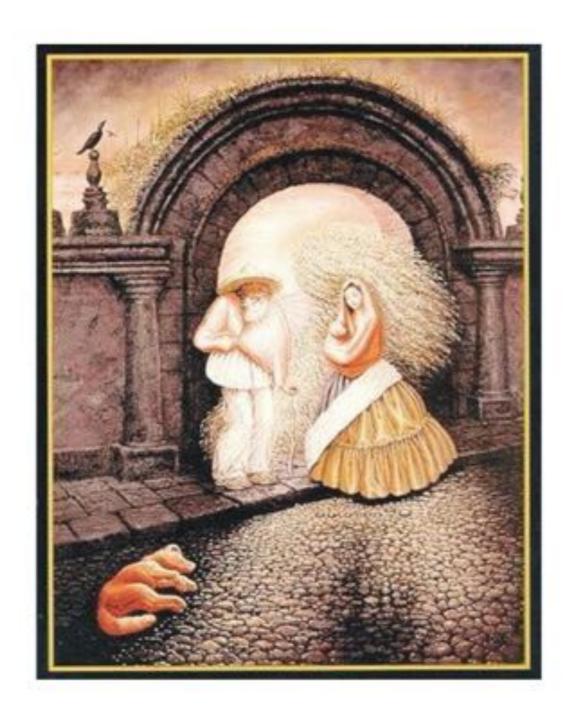


Figure 3.3 (Matthew Ward, et. all)

A more complex illusion: there are two people drawn as part of the face.



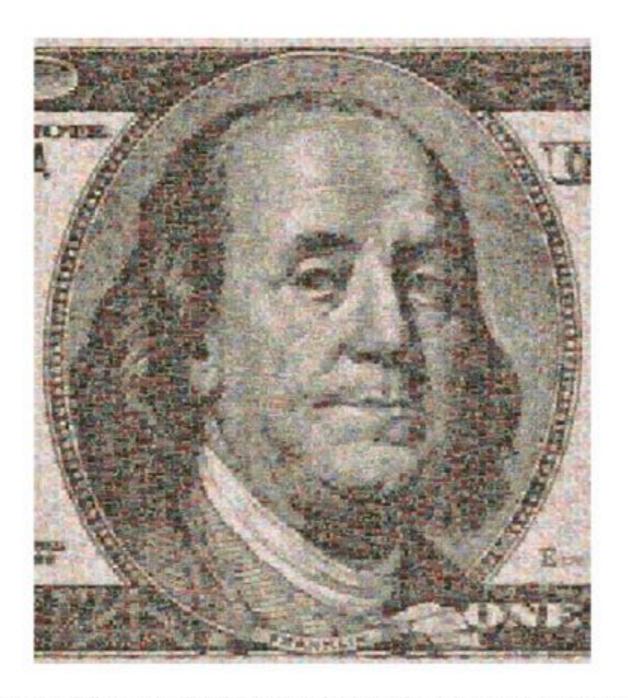


Figure 3.4 (Matthew Ward, et. all)

Photomosaic of Benjamin Franklin using images of international paper money or bank notes. (Photomosaic® by Robert Silvers, http://www.photomosaic.com.)



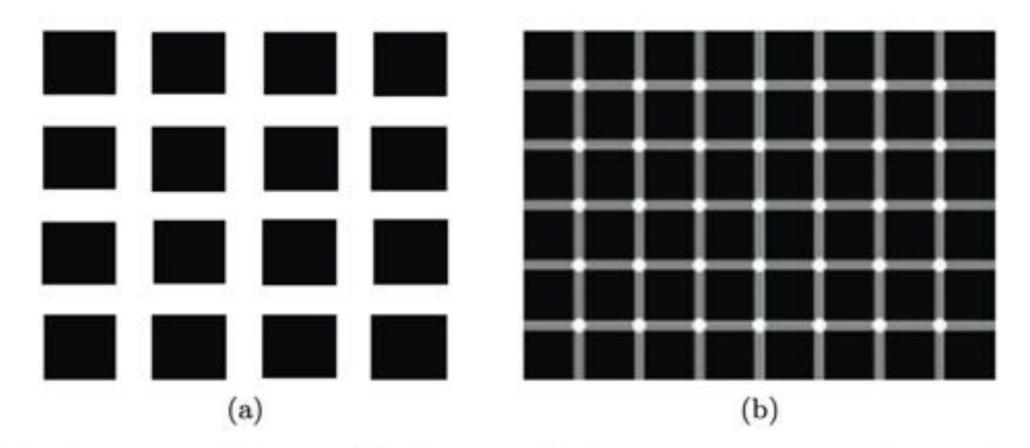


Figure 3.5 (Matthew Ward, et. all)

Close-up view of the eye in Figure 3.4. (Photomosaic® by Robert Silvers, http://www.photomosaic.com.)



Our vision system is, foremost, not static, and secondly, often not under our full control.



The Hermann grid illusion: (a) illusionary black squares appear over the complete image as you gaze at it; (b) similar to (a) but even more dynamic and engaging.

Figure 3.6 (Matthew Ward, et. all)



When we visualize data, we need to make sure that no such interferences are present that would impede the understanding of what we are trying to convey in the visualizations.

The study of perception is to identify the whole process of perception, from sensation to knowledge.



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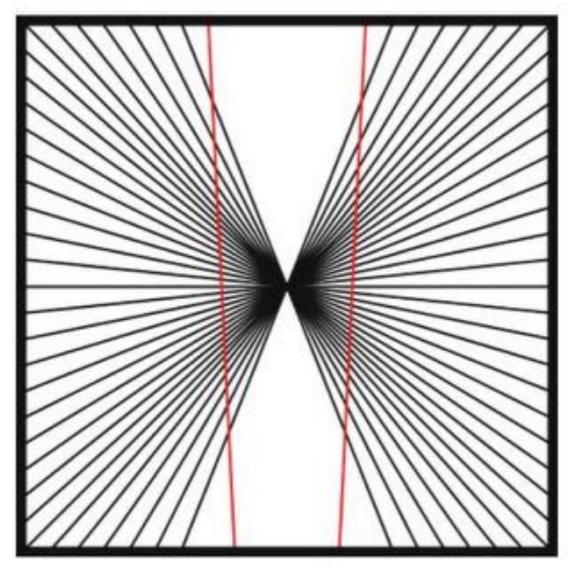


Figure 3.7 (Matthew Ward, et. all)



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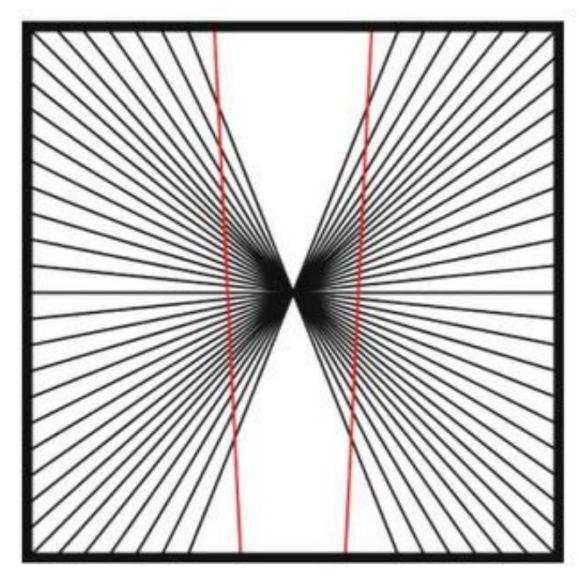


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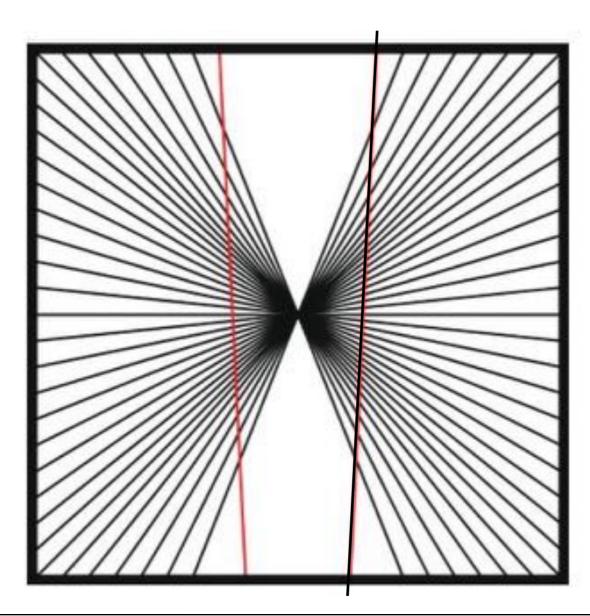


Figure 3.7 (Matthew Ward, et. all)

straight?



The study of perception is to identify the whole process of perception, from sensation to knowledge. What is causing the triangle to stand out?

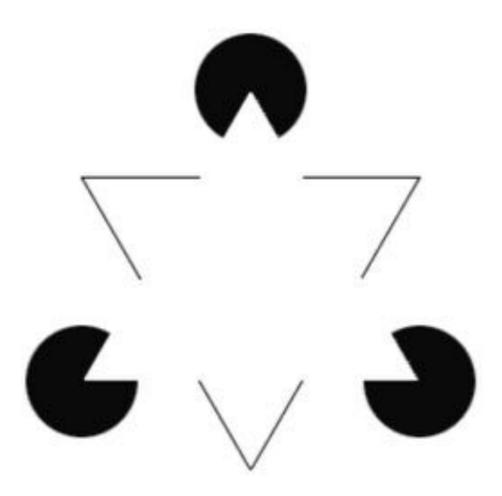


Figure 3.7 (Matthew Ward, et. all)



Two main approaches to the study of perception: One deals with measures, and the other with models. Both are linked.



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 - Measurements can help in the development of a model, and in turn, a model should help predict future outcomes, which can then be measured to validate the model.

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 - Measurements can help in the development of a model, and in turn, a model should help predict future outcomes, which can then be measured to validate the model.
 - We can measure low-level sensory perception (which line is longer) or higher level perception (can you recognize the bird in this scene?).



Interactive Data Visualization

Summary



Q&A

What you should know

- What is perception.
 - Process the sensorial information of the world around us, forming a mental representation of the environment



What you should know

- What is perception.
 - Process the sensorial information of the world around us, forming a mental representation of the environment
- The notion that the brain makes a lot of assumption in the process.
 - Why it seems reasonable and necessary. Examples.



What you should know

- What is perception.
 - Process the sensorial information of the world around us, forming a mental representation of the environment
- The notion that the brain makes a lot of assumption in the process.
 - Why it seems reasonable and necessary. Examples.
- The role of measurements and theories in the study of perception.



Interactive Data Visualization



Q&A

Interactive Data Visualization

Physiology



Physiology

Visible Spectrum

Anatomy of the Visual System

Visual Processing

Eye Movement



Visible Spectrum

The range is very much dependent on the individual.

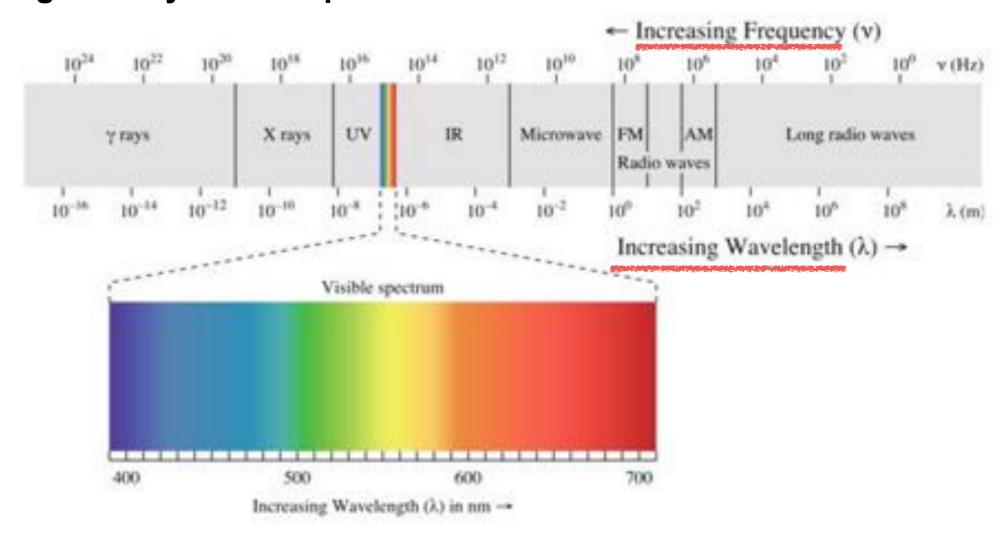
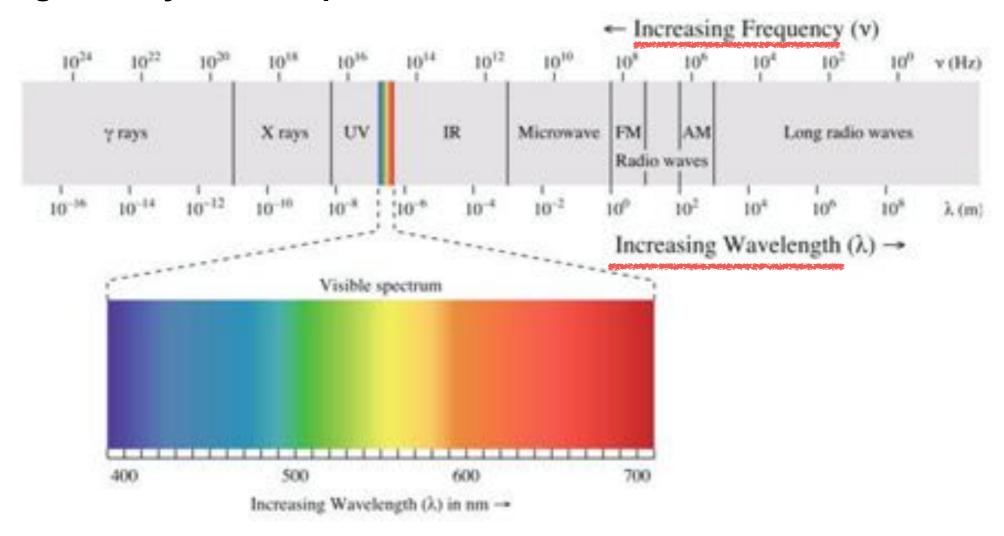


Figure 3.8 - (Matthew Ward, et. all)

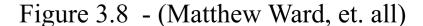


Visible Spectrum

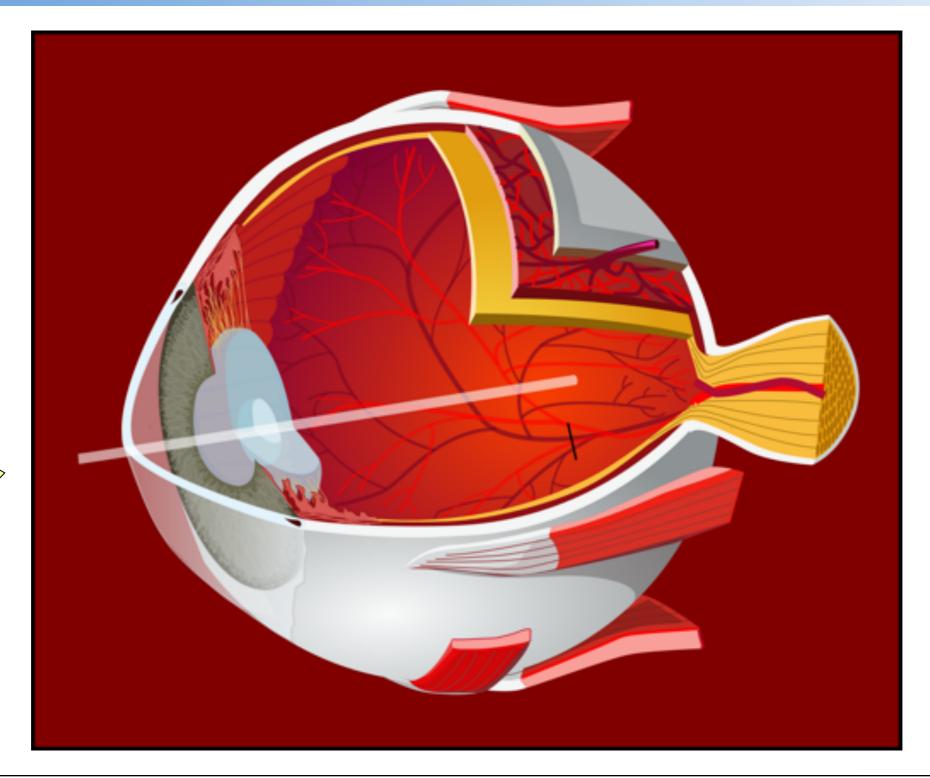
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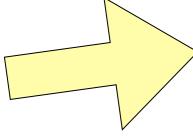


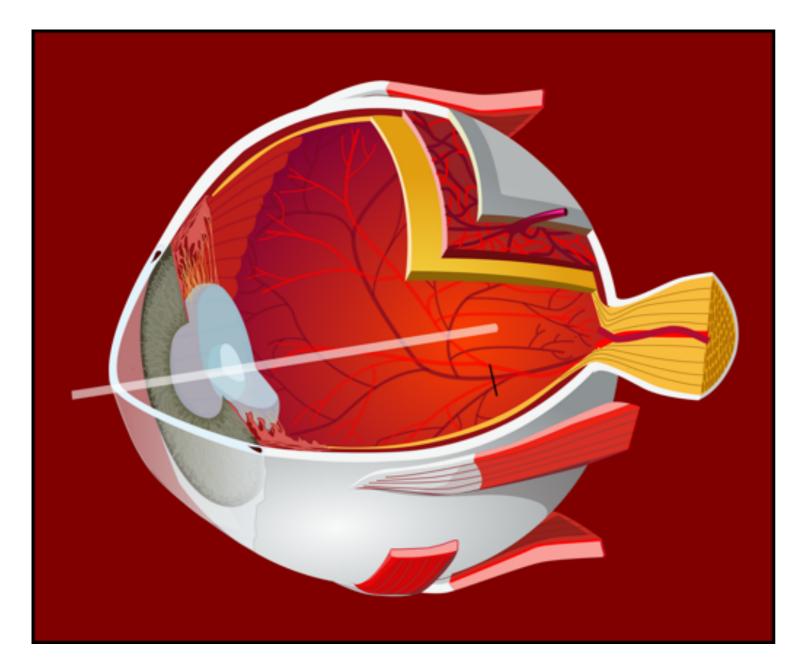
Color blindness and total blindness in humans are the result of an individual not responding to certain wavelengths.







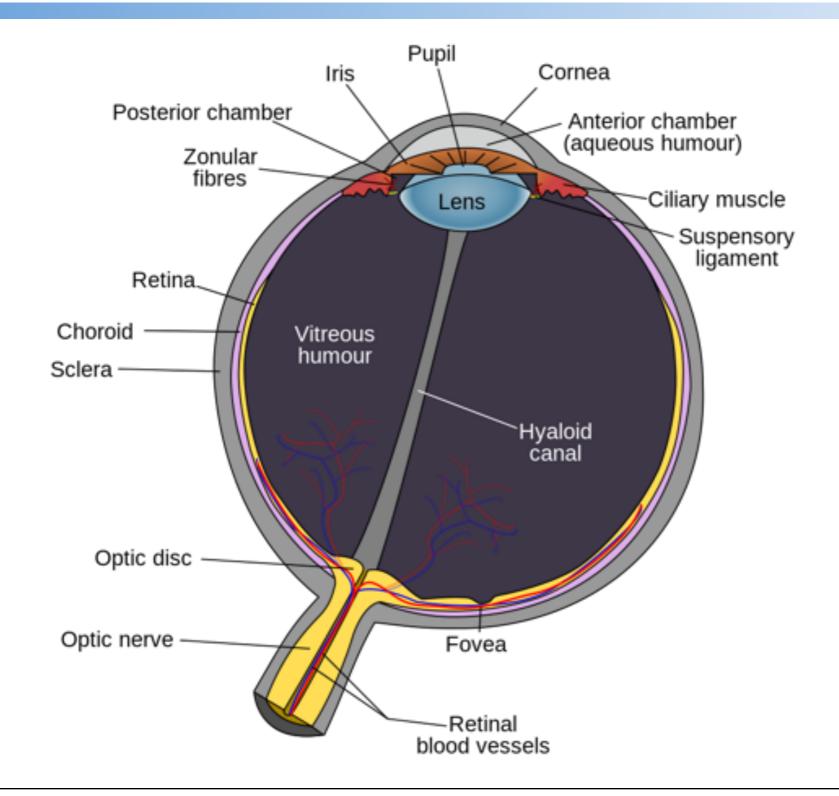




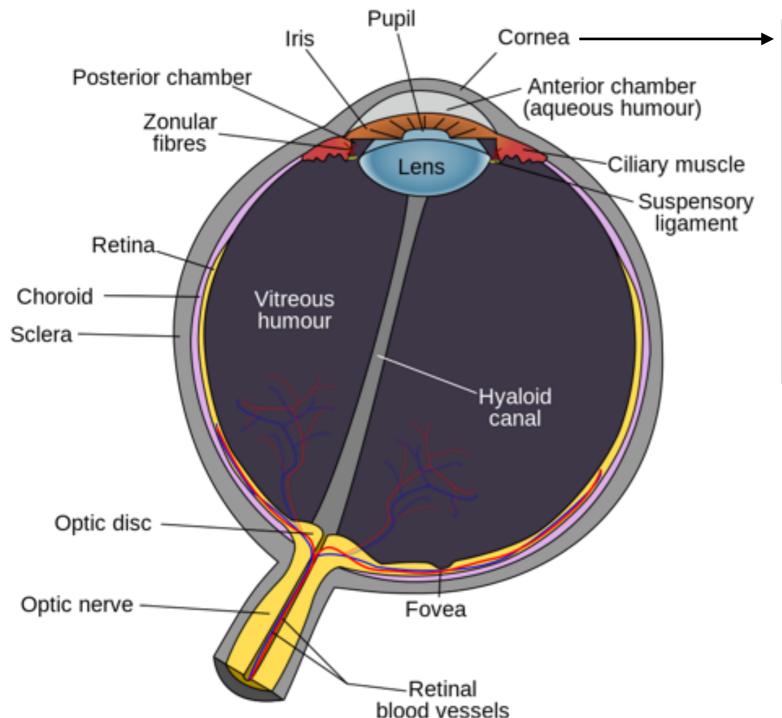
Connected to the head and brain by six motion control muscles and one optic nerve.

Six muscles are generally considered as motion controllers, providing the ability to look at objects in the scene. Tend to maintain the eye-level with the horizon when the head is not perfectly vertical and in stabilization of images.





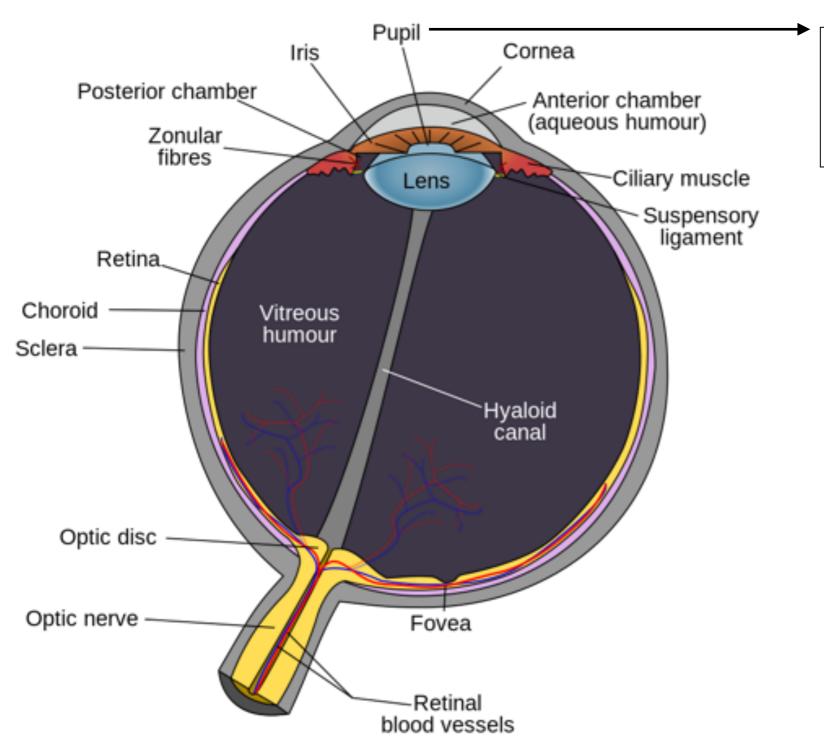




the **exterior cover** of the front of the eye:

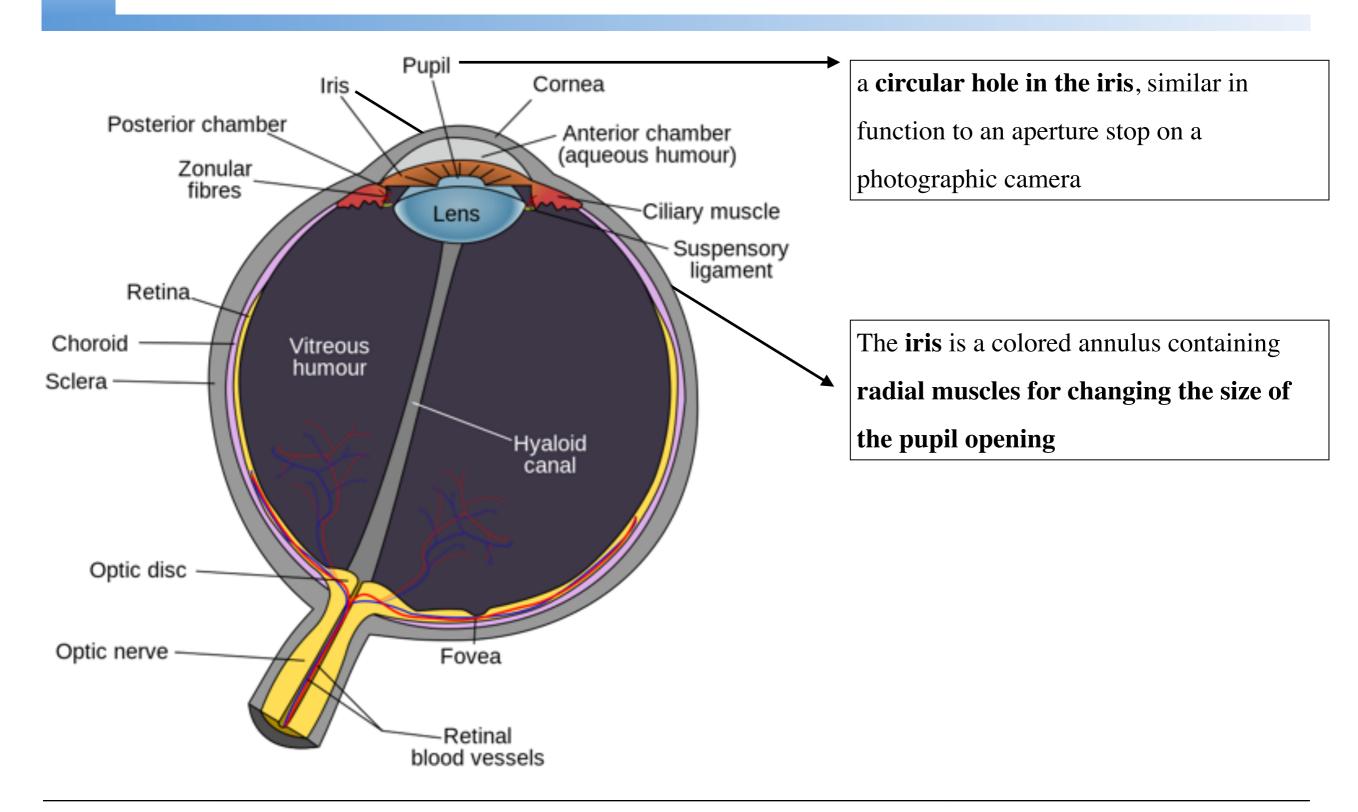
- against physical damage to the internal structure
- O it also serves as one lens focusing the light from the surrounding scene onto the main lens



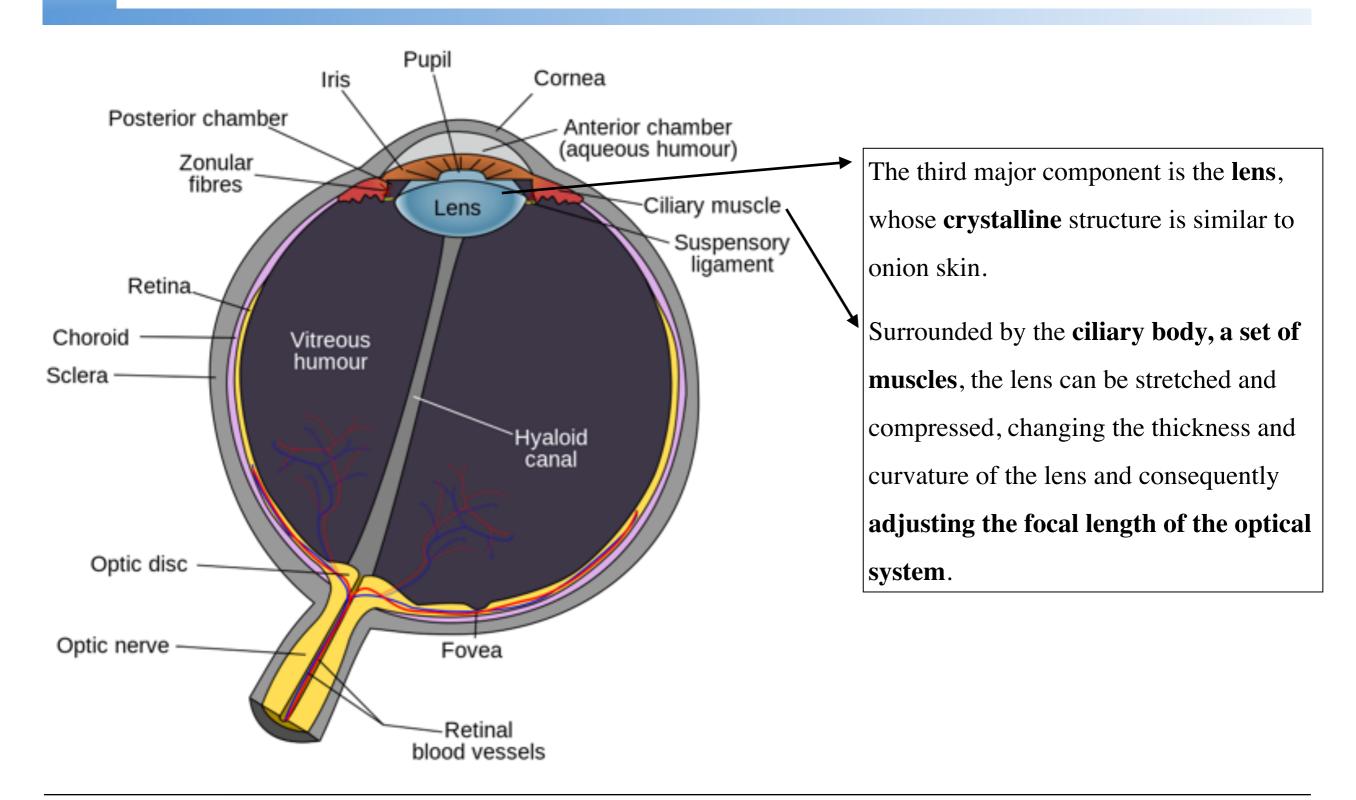


a **circular hole in the iris**, similar in function to an aperture stop on a photographic camera

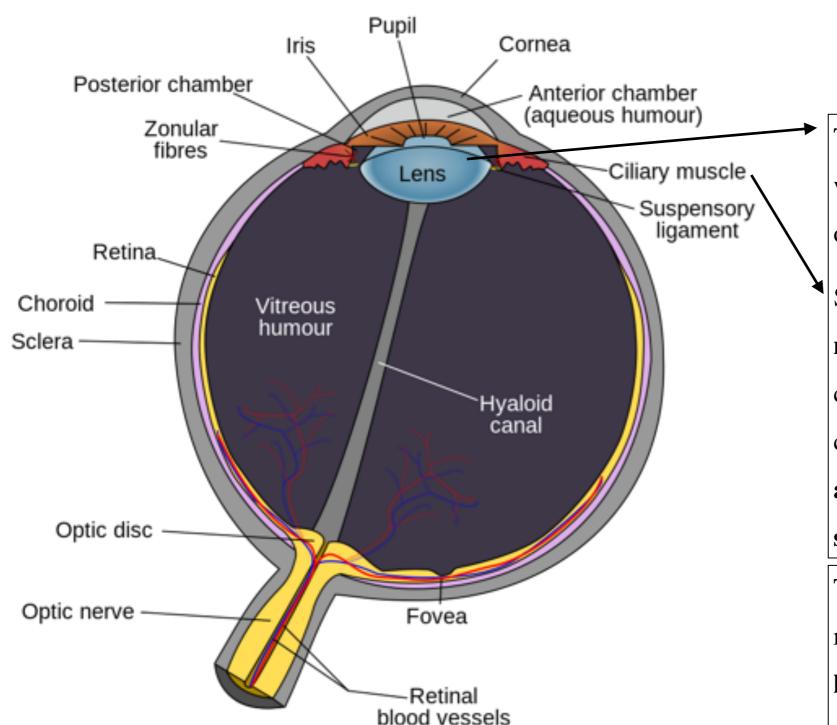










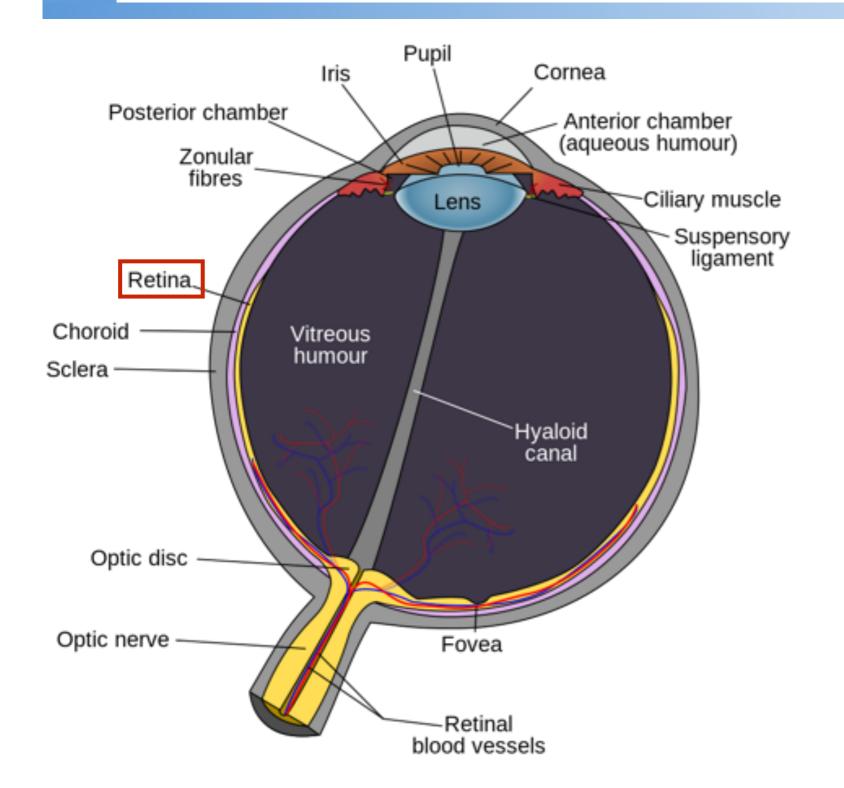


The third major component is the **lens**, whose **crystalline** structure is similar to onion skin.

Surrounded by the ciliary body, a set of muscles, the lens can be stretched and compressed, changing the thickness and curvature of the lens and consequently adjusting the focal length of the optical system.

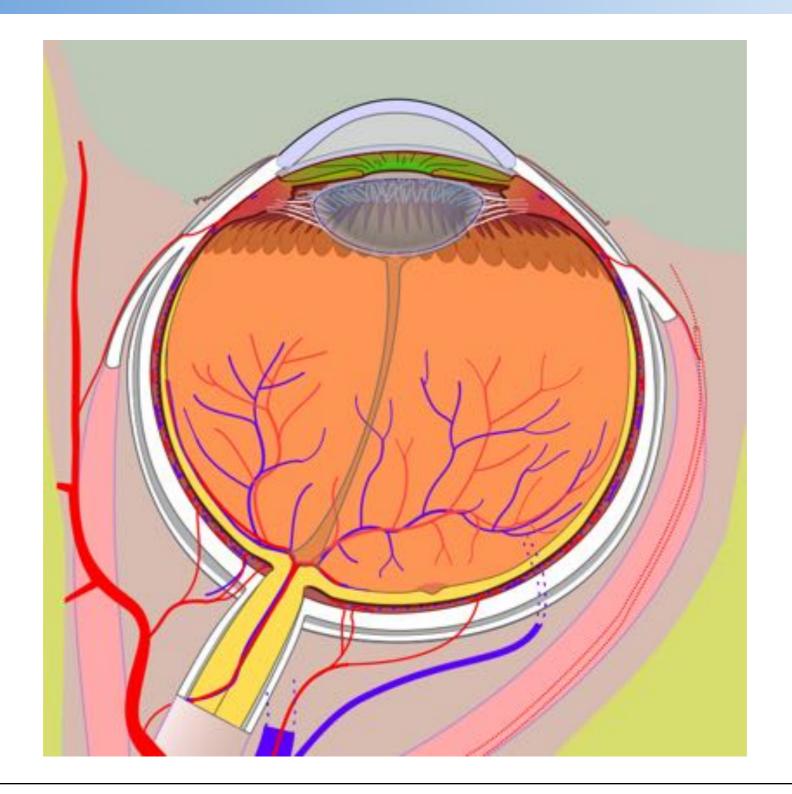
The **elasticity of the lens** determines the range of shape changes possible, which **is lost as one ages**, leaving the lens in a slightly stretched state





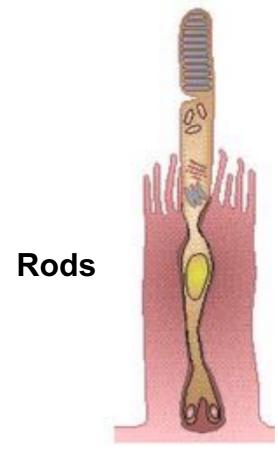
Once the light has passed through this lens system, the final light rays are projected onto the **photoreceptive layer**, called the **retina**.







- Two types of photosensitive cells: rods and cones
 - Rods are primarily responsible for intensity perception. They are associated with scotopic vision, night vision, operating in clusters for increased sensitivity in very low light conditions.

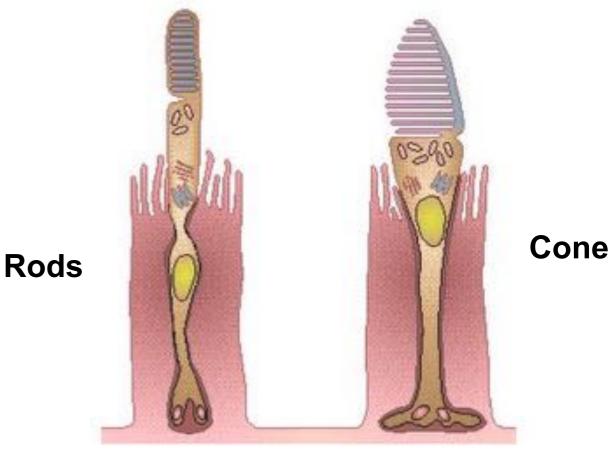


Human rod (left) and cone (right).



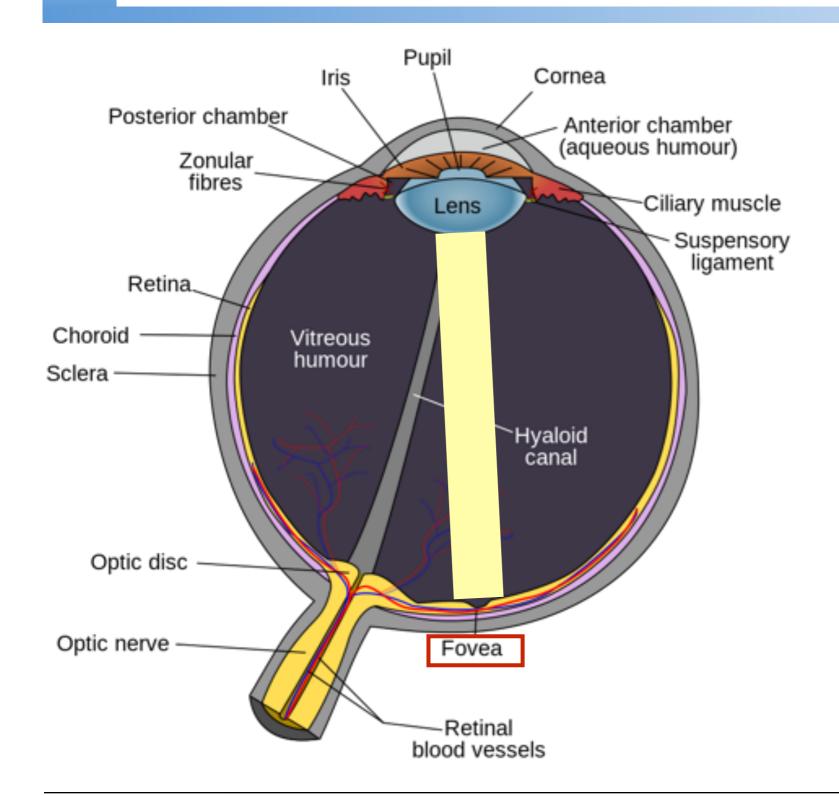
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 - Cones for color perception

Rods are typically ten times more sensitive to light than cones

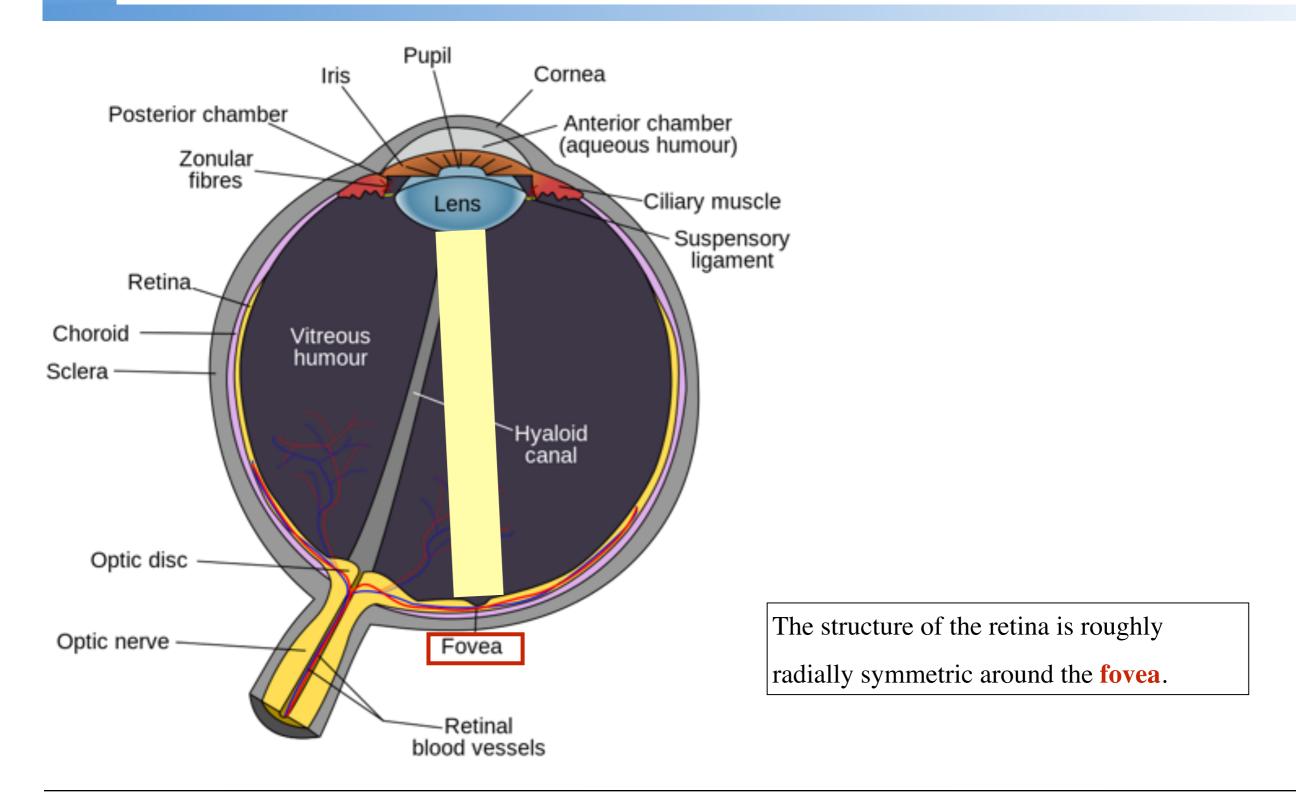


Human rod (left) and cone (right). (Image © Colour4Free.)

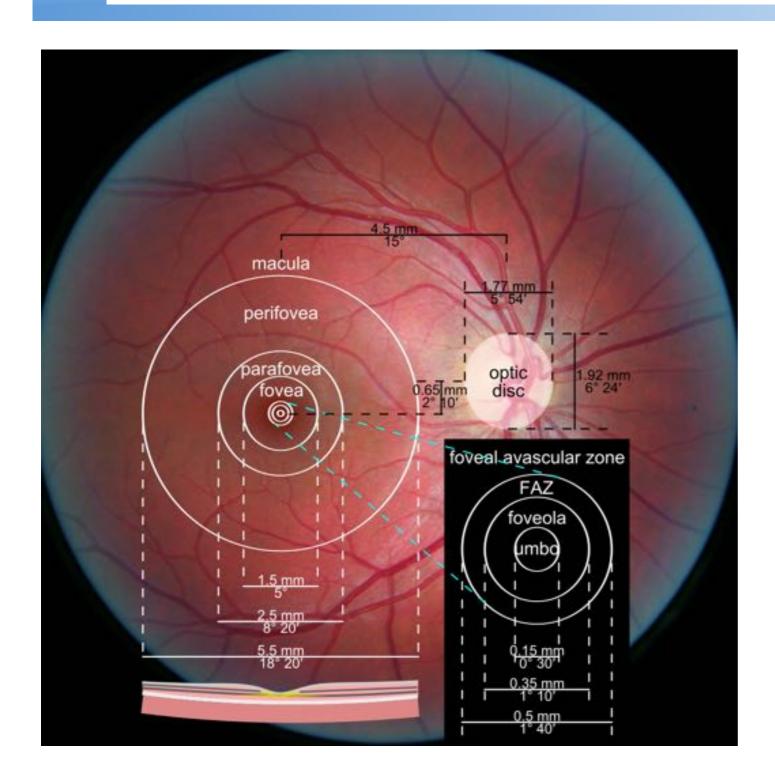












The structure of the retina is roughly radially symmetric around the **fovea**.

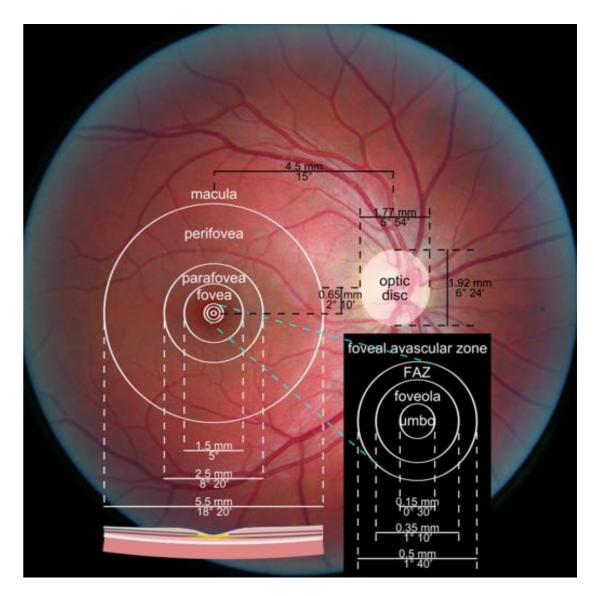
The fovea **contains only cones**, and linearly, there are about **147,000 cones per millimeter**.

The fovea is the **region of sharpest vision**.



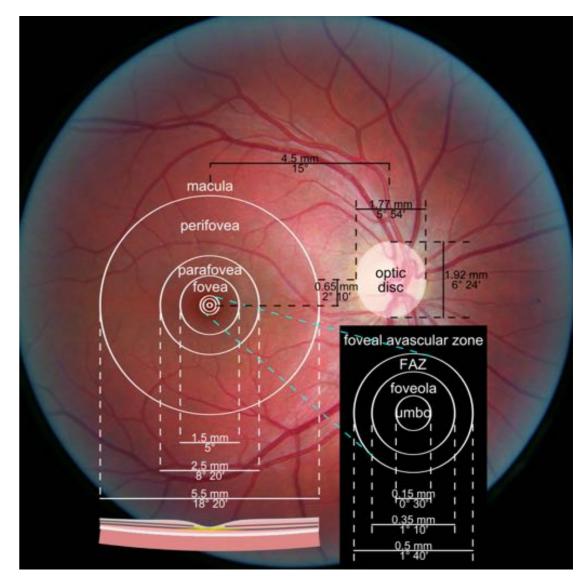
■ There is an overall distribution of all cells across the retina, with the highest concentration occurring at the center of our visual field in the fovea and

reducing in coverage toward the edges.



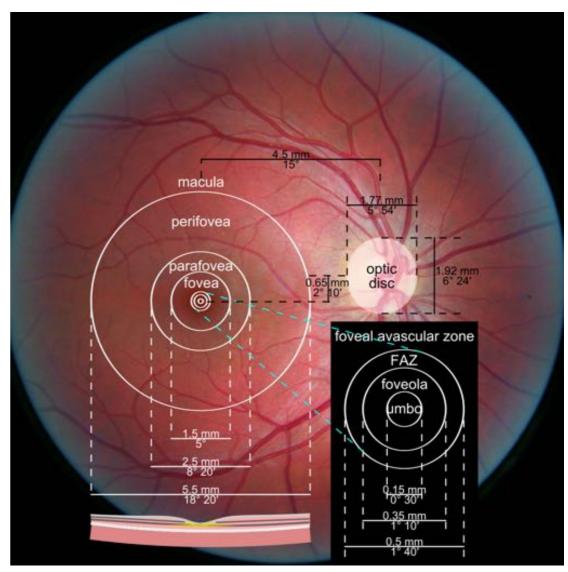


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- The fovea consists of only cone receptors, and no rods, for highly detailed and exact vision.



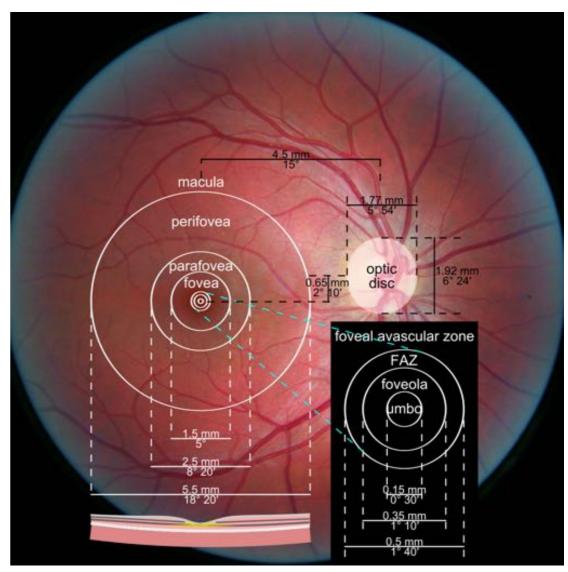


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- The parafovea with an outer ring of 2.5-mm diameter, with significantly more rods than cones.



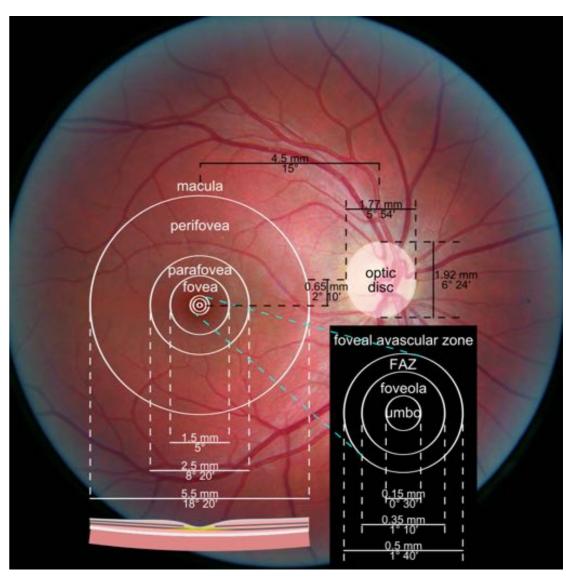


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- The parafovea with an outer ring of 2.5-mm diameter, with significantly more rods than cones.
- The perifovea with an outer ring of 5.5- mm diameter





- There is an overall distribution of all cells across the retina, with the highest concentration occurring at the center of our visual field in the fovea and
 - reducing in coverage toward the edges.
- The fovea consists of only cone receptors, and no rods, for highly detailed and exact vision.
- The parafovea with an outer ring of 2.5-mm diameter, with significantly more rods than cones.
- The perifovea with an outer ring of 5.5- mm diameter
- The peripheral retina, covering approximately 97.25% of the total retinal surface and consisting largely of rods.





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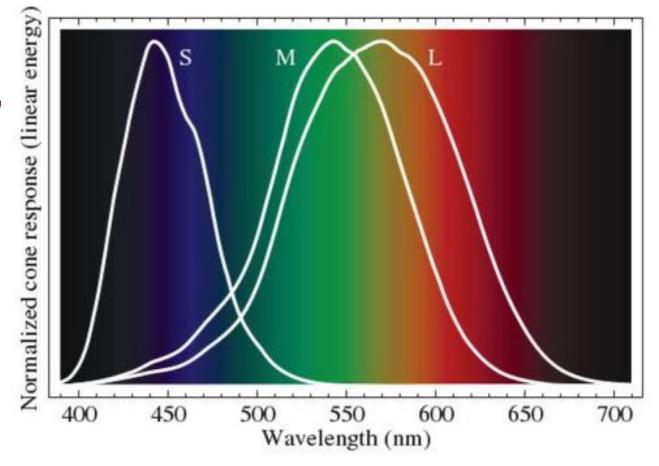
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- Rods do operate, within the visible spectrum between approximately 400 and 700 nm.
- It has been noted that during daylight levels of illumination, rods become hyper-polarized, or completely saturated, and thus do not contribute to vision.



Cones provide photopic vision, i.e., are responsible for day vision.

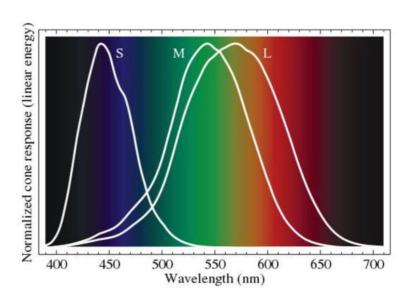


- Cones provide photopic vision, i.e., are responsible for day vision.
- There are three types of cones in the human eye: S (short), M (medium), and L (long) wavelengths.
- The three types have been associated with color combinations using R (red),G (green), and B (blue).



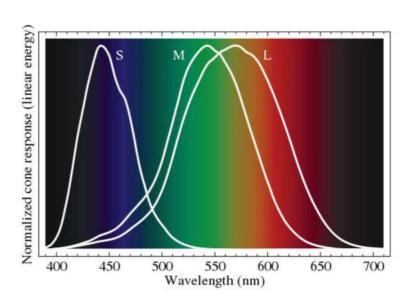


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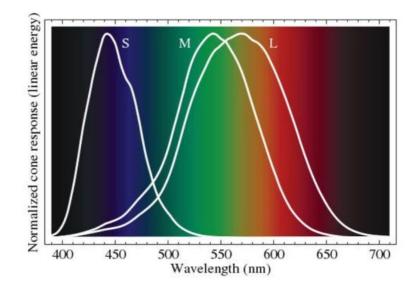




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 - ♦ There are considerably fewer S cones, compared to the number of M and L cones
 - Humans can visually perceive all the colors within the standard visible spectrum
- Cones are not sensitive over a large fixed wavelength range but rather over a small moving-window-based range.

Cones tend to adapt to the average wavelength where there is sensitivity above and

below their peaks, and a shift in their response curve occurs when the average background wavelength changes.





Anatomy of the Visual System: blind spot





Anatomy of the Visual System: blind spot

Where the optic nerve meets the retina, a blind spot occurs, due to the lack of photoreceptive cells

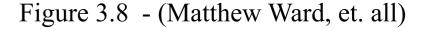


Blind spot discovery by identifying disappearance of target.



Visual system

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- The optic nerve only contains about one million fibers; thus the eye must perform a significant amount of visual processing before transmitting information to the brain.
- Additionally, the information transferred from these two types of cells is not equivalent. The eye contains separate systems for encoding spatial properties (e.g., size, location, and orientation), and object properties (e.g., color, shape, and texture).

Figure 3.8 - (Matthew Ward, et. all)



Visual Processing

The Retina is complex layer of many neurons and photoreceptive cells

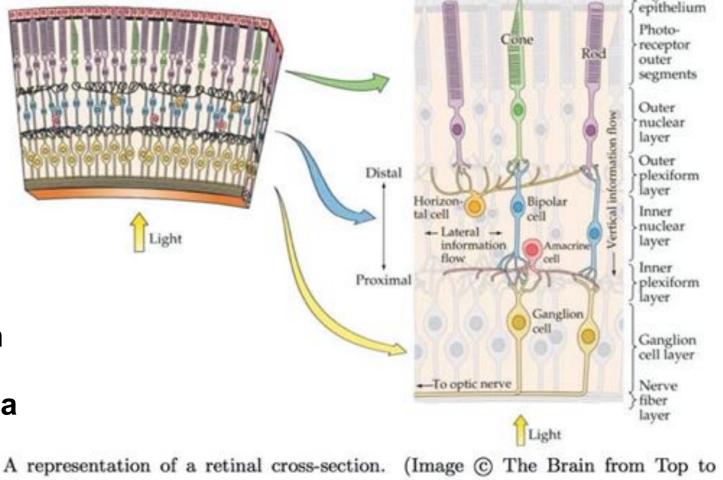
Section of retina

The retina is already performing some kinds of image compression, and possibly segmentation.

This reduction of retinal stimulation is required, as there are only about a million optic nerve fibers relaying

image information to the brain.

A representation of a retinal cross-section. (Image © The Brain from Top to Bottom.)



Pigment

Visual Processing

Each Brain hemisphere receives visual information from both eyes, possibly to help with the perception of depth.

As there is so much visual processing performed at both the eyes and within the brain, these linked organs form an integral visual system.

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 - The angles from the normal to the face are equal (left and right as well as up and down).
 - ◆ For example, to make a pursuit movement, look at your forefinger at arms' length and then move your arm left and right while fixating on your fingertip.

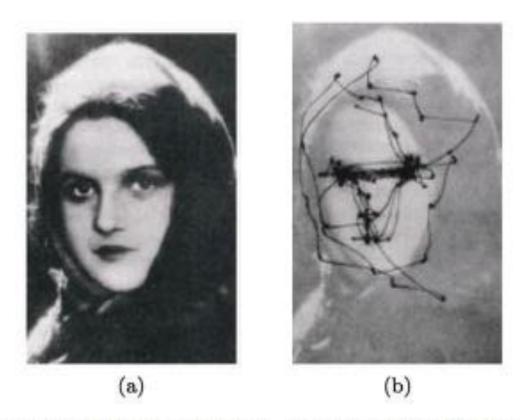


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Vergence eye movements: moving a finger closer to the face and staring at it will force the eyes inward, resulting in vergence movement. Defocusing to merge depths in illusions is another example.



Saccadic eye movements: these result from multiple targets of interest (not necessarily conscious).

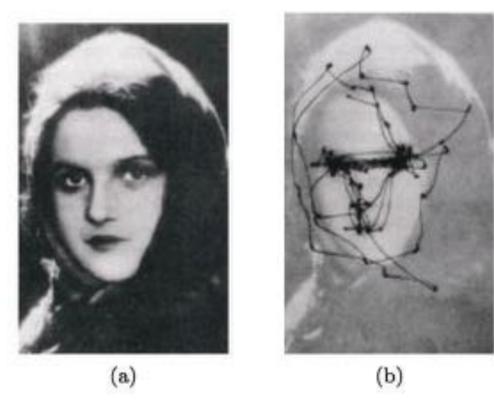


(a) The face used to study eye tracking. (b) The results of the tracking gaze.

Figure 3.15 - (Matthew Ward, et. all)



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- The eye moves as much as 1000 degrees per second, bringing the gaze on those targets within 25 msec.



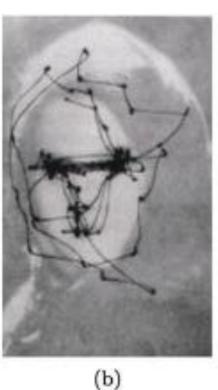
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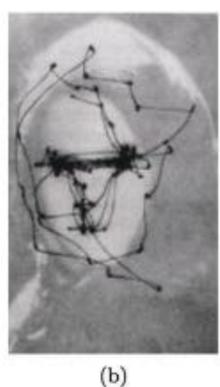
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 - Selected targets are determined in the frontal part of the cerebral cortex.
 - The selection is discriminatory, dependent on a variety of parameters, and somewhat random.





(a) The face used to study eye tracking. (b) The results of the tracking gaze.

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- Saccadic masking or suppression occurs during two states between saccadic views.
 - The gap produced is ignored (some say blocked).
 - ♦ A continuous flow of information is interpreted, one that makes sense.
 - The higher-level visual system filters out the blurred images acquired by the low-level one, and only the two saccadic stop views are seen.



Interactive Data Visualization

Summary



Q&A

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Interactive Data Visualization



Q&A

Interactive Data Visualization

Perceptual Processing



Perceptual Processing

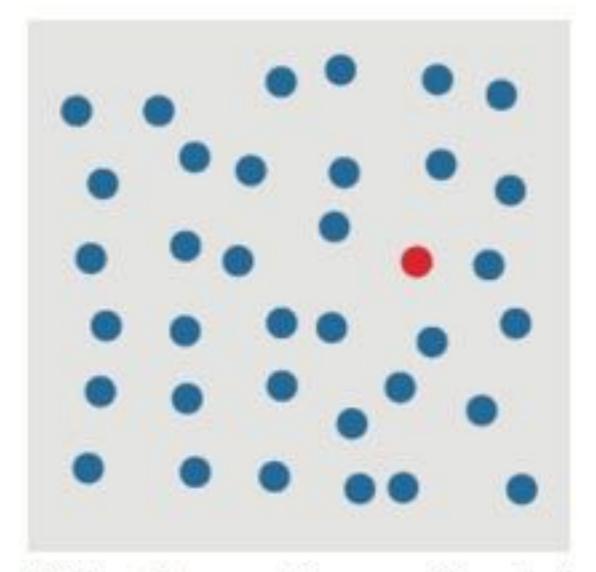
Preattentive Processing

Theories of Preattentive Processing

Feature Hierarchy

Change Blindness



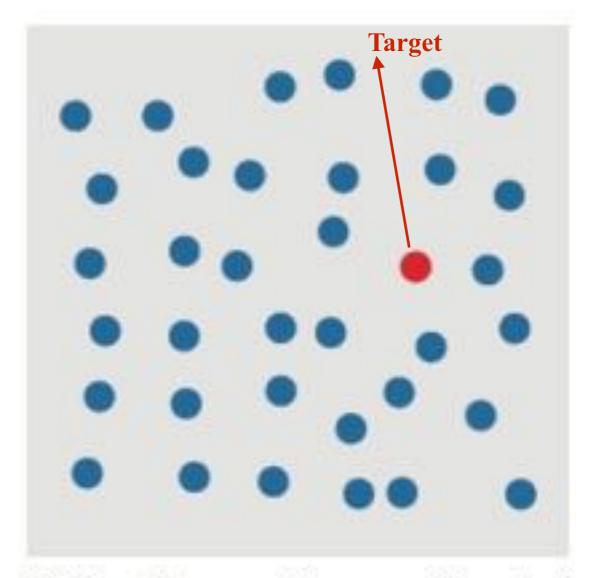


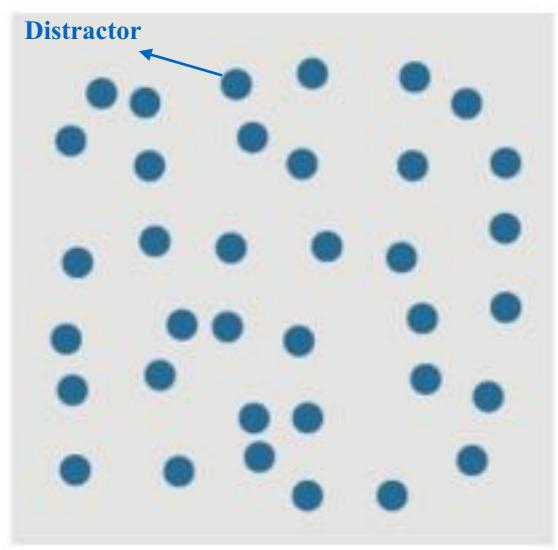
(a) Target is present in a sea of blue circle distractors.

(b) Target is absent.

An example of searching for a target red circle based on a difference in hue.





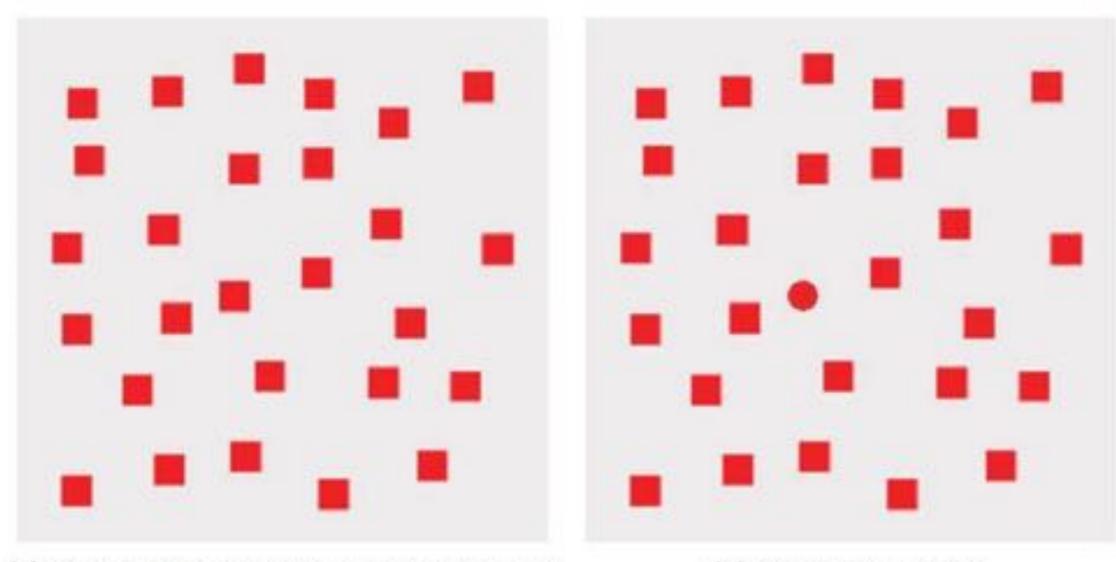


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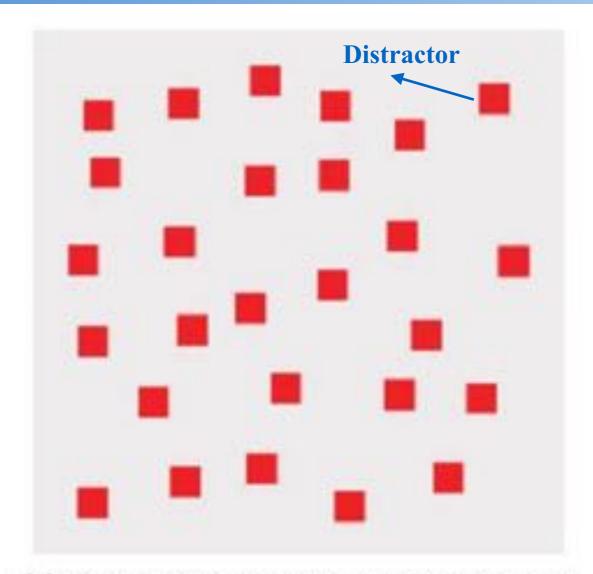


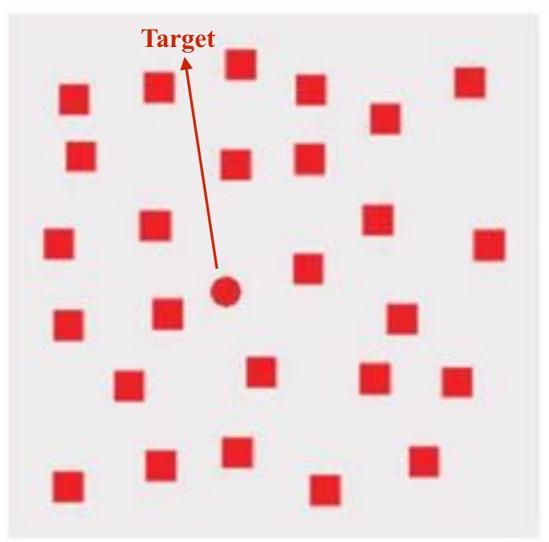
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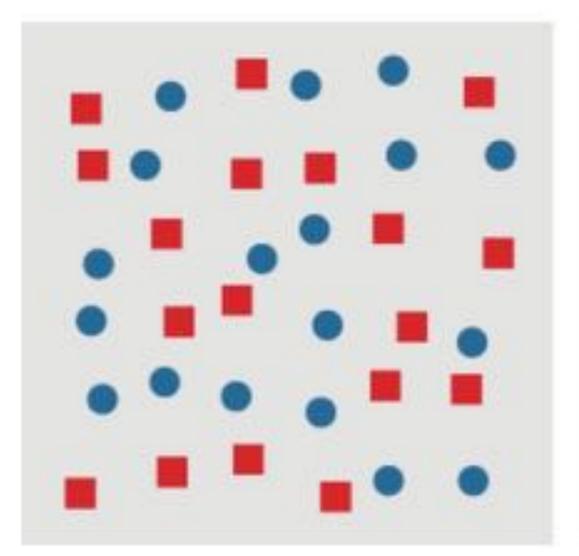


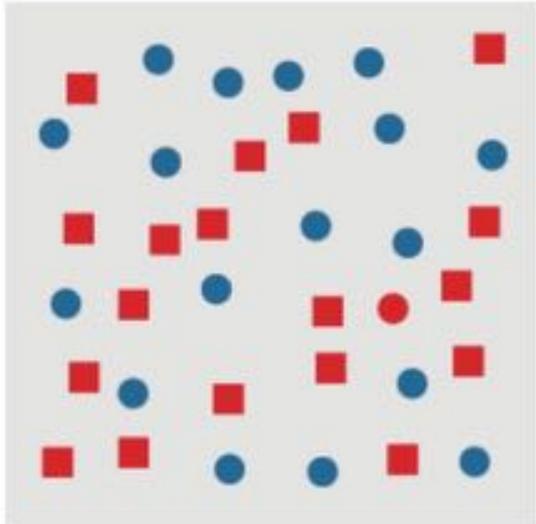
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An example of a conjunction search for a target red circle.





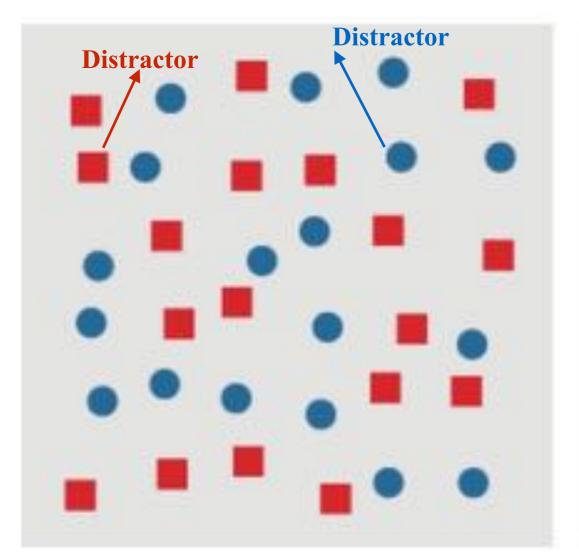


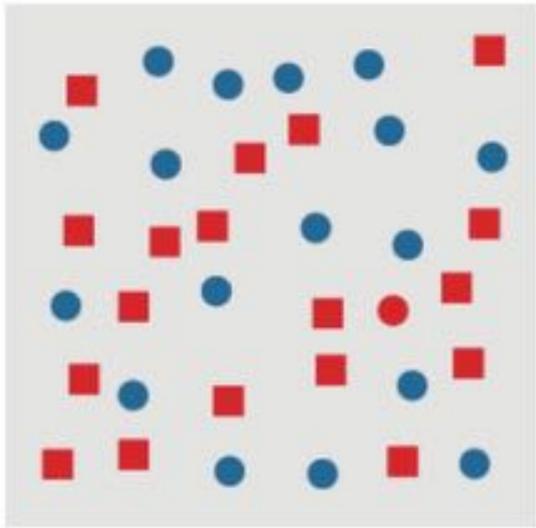
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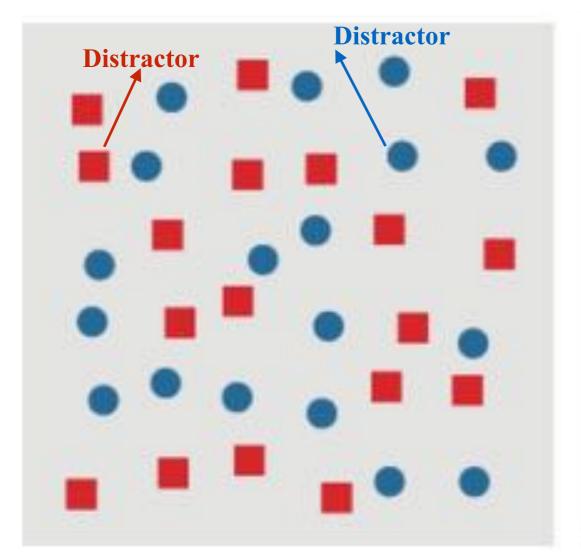


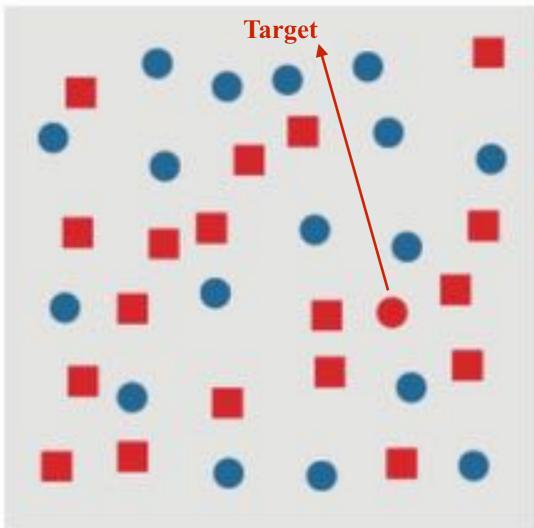
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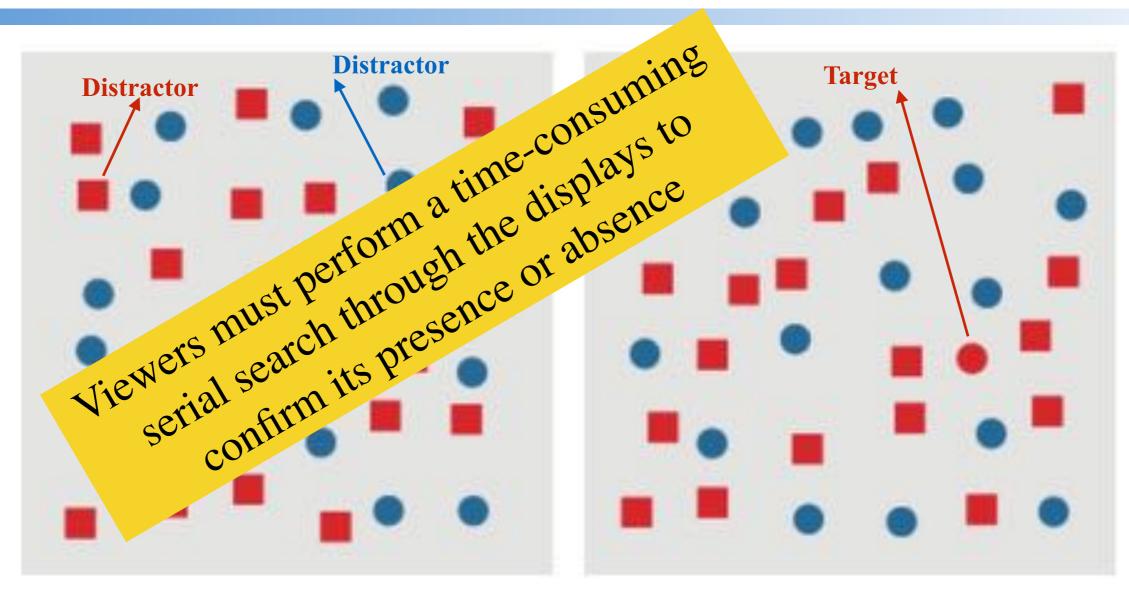


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 - One of these features is present in each of the distractor objects (red squares and blue circles).
 - The visual system has no unique visual property to search for when trying to locate the target. If a viewer searches for red items, the visual system always returns true. Similarly, a search for circular items always sees blue circles.



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- The key perceptual attributes associated with the above include luminance and brightness, color, texture, and shape
 - Luminance is the measured amount of light coming from some place.
 - ◆ Brightness is the perceived amount of light coming from a source (is a nonlinear function of the amount of light emitted by the source) [Paper ≠ Screen].
 - ♦ Texture is the characteristic appearance of an area or surface.



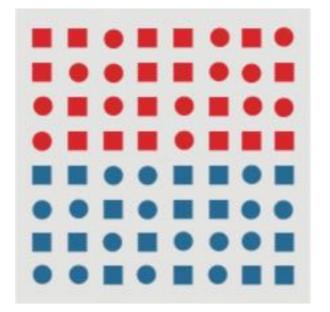
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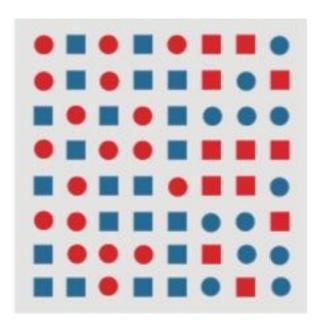


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- Counting and estimation
 - Users count or estimate the number of elements with a unique visual feature.



Theories of Preattentive Processing

- Feature Integration Theory (Anne Treisman)
- Texton Theory
- Similarity Theory
- Guided Search Theory

Postattentive Vision



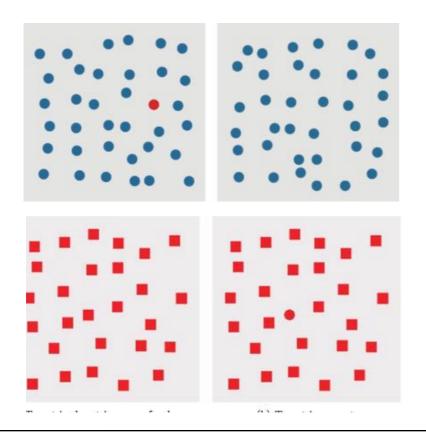
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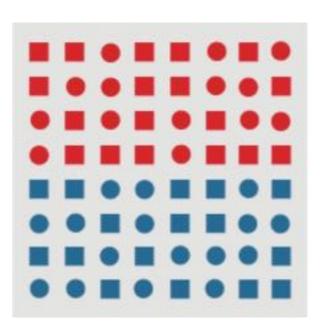


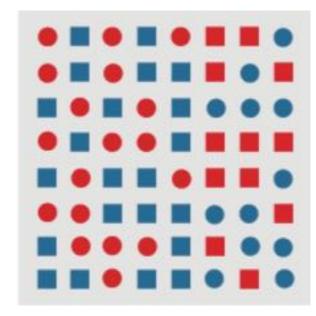
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- Treisman ran experiments using target and boundary detection









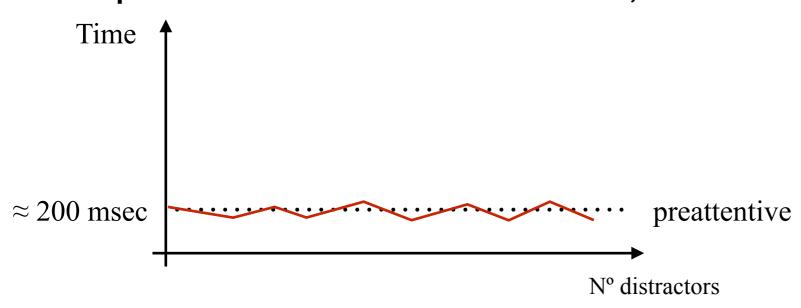
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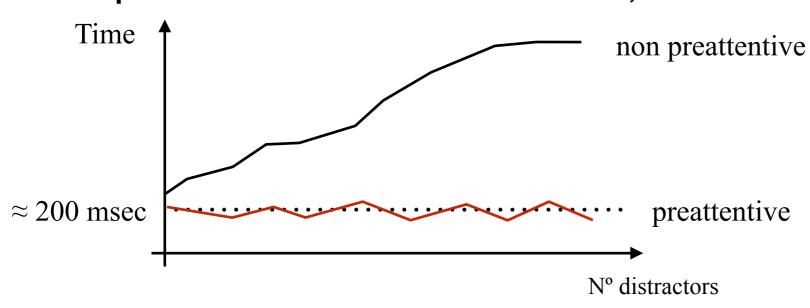


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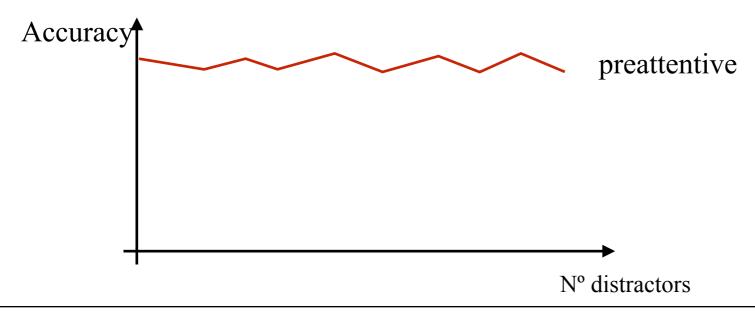
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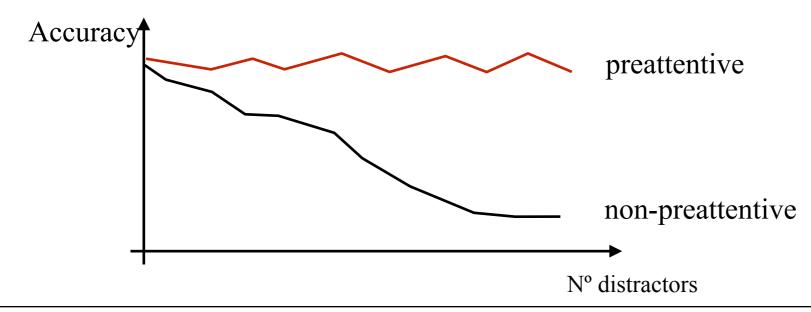


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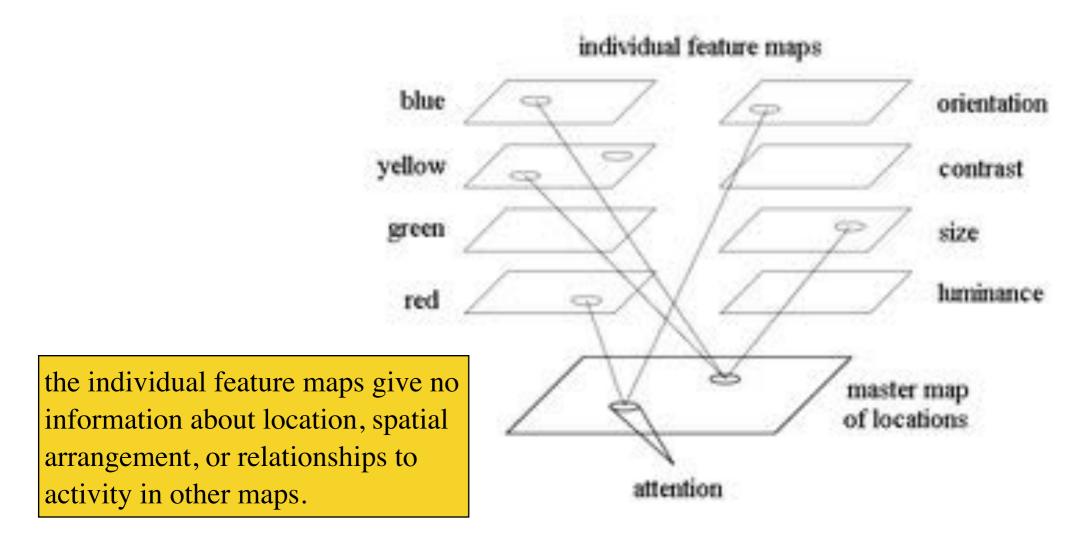
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 - ♦ A model of low-level human vision made up of a set of feature maps. Each feature map registers activity in response to a specific visual feature
 - and a master map of locations.



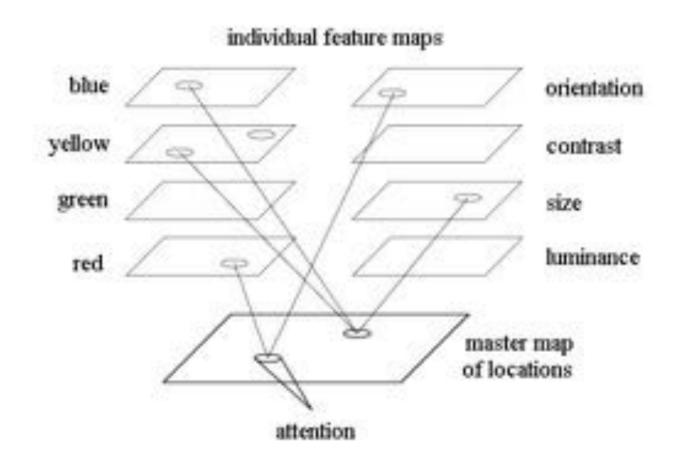


Treisman's feature integration model for early vision; individual maps can be accessed to detect feature activity; focused attention acts through a serial scan of the master map of locations.

Figure 3.22 - (Matthew Ward, et. all)



- If the target has a unique feature, one can simply access the given feature map to see if any activity is occurring
- Feature maps are encoded in parallel, so feature detection is almost instantaneous.
- A conjunction target cannot be detected by accessing an individual feature map.





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 - For example, a long vertical line can be detected immediately among a group of short vertical lines.
 - As the length of the target shrinks, the search time increases, because the target is harder to distinguish from its distractors.
 - At some point, the target line becomes shorter than the distractors. If the length of the target continues to decrease, search time decreases, because the degree of similarity between the target and the distractors is now decreasing.

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 - Example: green horizontal bar within a set of red horizontal bars and green
 vertical bars. Wolfe showed that search times are independent of display size!
 - If color constituted a significant feature difference, the red color map could inhibit information about red horizontal bars. Thus, the search reduces to finding a green horizontal bar in a sea of green vertical bars.





- He suggested that the early visual system detects a group of features called textons, that can be classified into three general categories:
 - elongated blobs (e.g., line segments, rectangles, ellipses) with specific properties such as hue, orientation, and width;
 - terminators (ends of line segments);
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 - elongated blobs (e.g., line segments, rectangles, ellipses) with specific properties such as hue, orientation, and width;
 - terminators (ends of line segments);
 - crossings of line segments.
- Julesz believed that only a difference in textons or in their density can be detected preattentively.



Even when each appear very different in isolation, it may be difficult, if not impossible, to differentiate any pattern when in a texture or grid.



Two simple textons, easily differentiable.

Figure 3.23 - (Matthew Ward, et. all)



Julesz used texture segregation



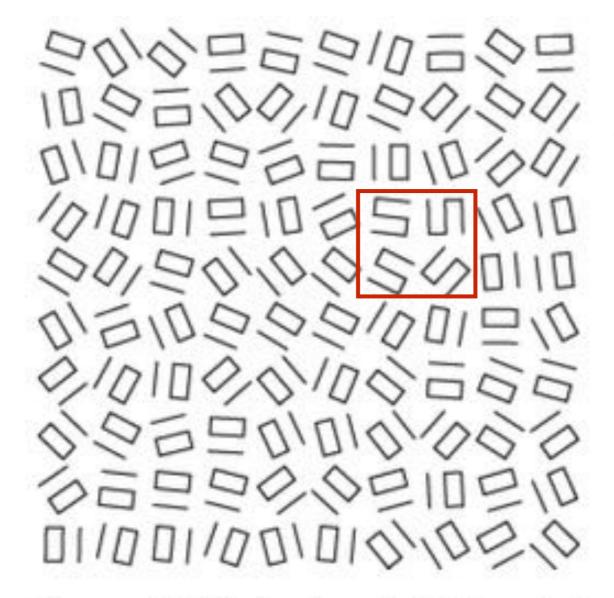
Although the two objects look very different in isolation, they are actually the same texton. Both are made up of the same set of line segments, and each has two terminators.

A target group of b-textons is difficult to detect in a background of a-textons when a random rotation is applied.

Figure 3.24 - (Matthew Ward, et. all)



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- Assumes that search ability varies continuously, depending on both the type of task and the display conditions
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 - N-N similarity is the amount of similarity within the nontargets themselves



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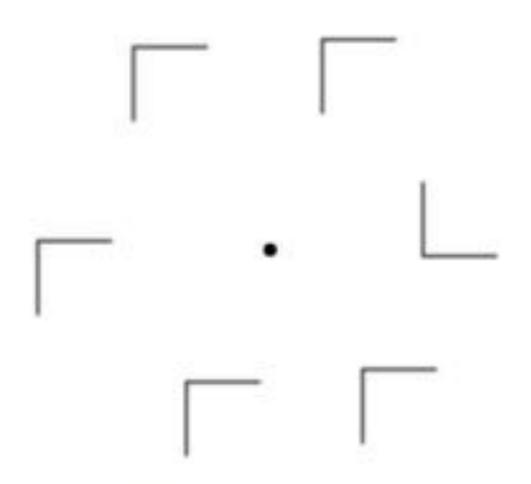


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 - decreasing N-N similarity has little effect if T-N similarity is low;



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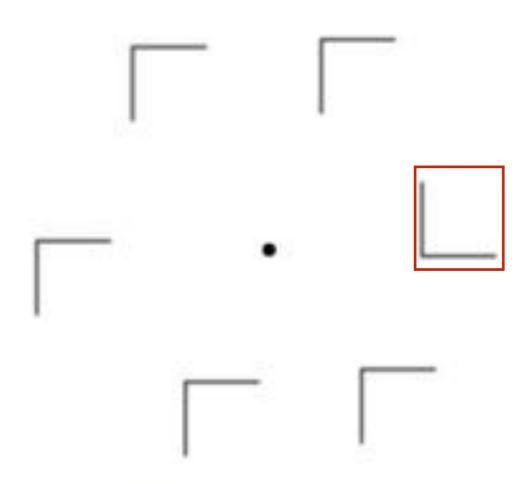


(a) High N-N (nontarget-nontarget) similarity allows easy detection of target L.

Example of N-N similarity affecting search efficiency for a target shaped like the letter L.

Figure 3.25 - (Matthew Ward, et. all)

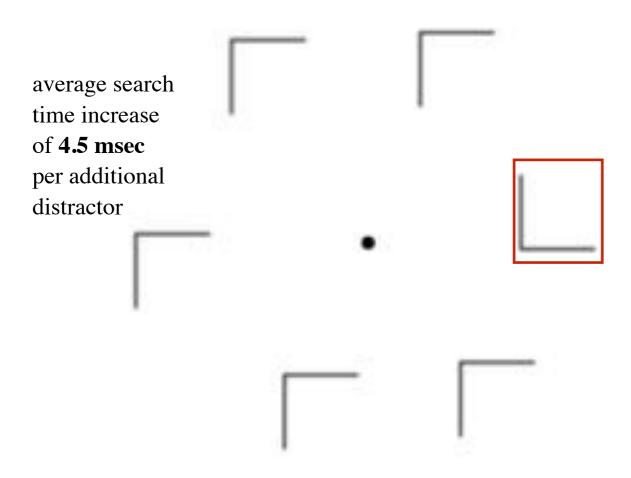




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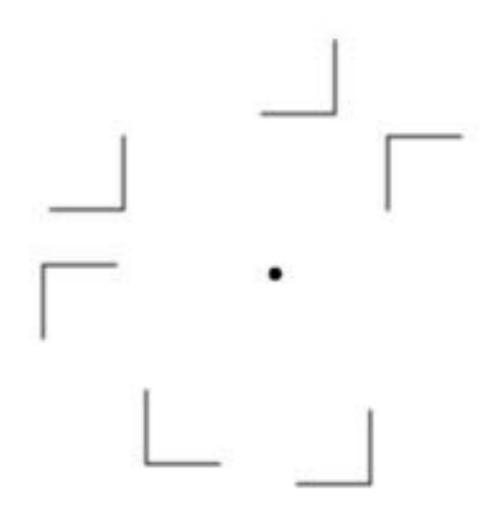




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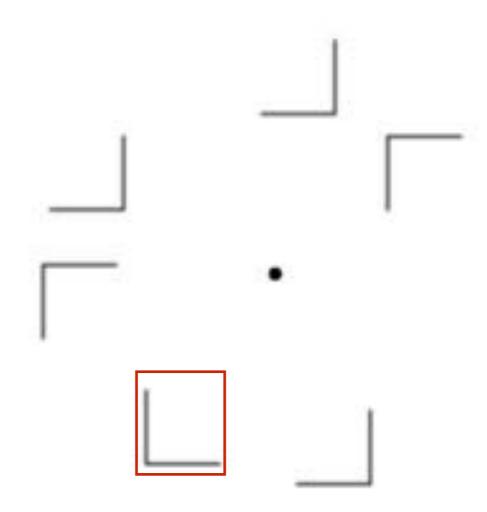




(b) Low N-N similarity increases the difficulty of detecting the target L.

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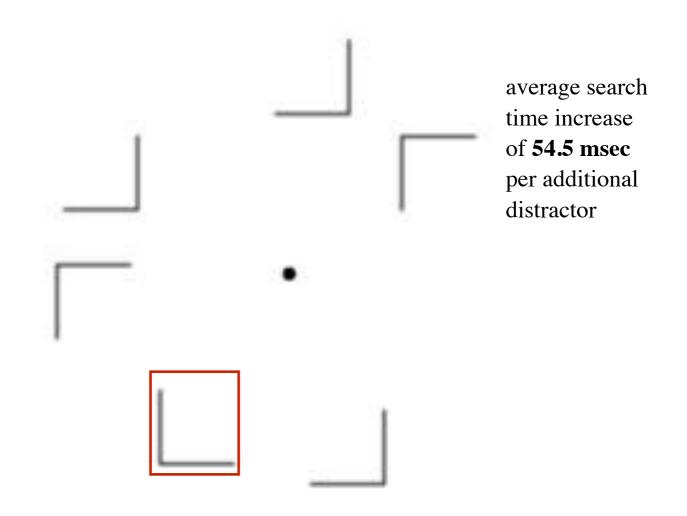




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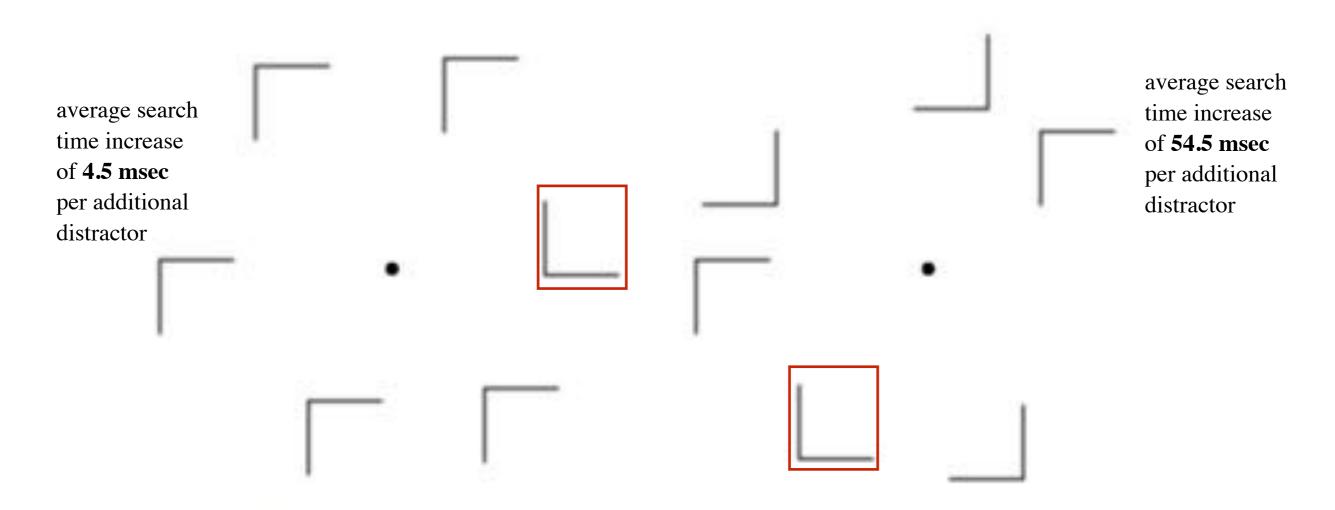




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Example of N-N similarity affecting search efficiency for a target shaped like the letter L.



- Preattentive processing asks in part:
 - What visual properties draw our eyes, and therefore our focus of attention, to a particular object in a scene?
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- The intuitive belief that a rich visual representation accumulates as we look at more and more of a scene ...
 - Appears not to be true.



- Wolfe designed targets with two critical properties:
 - The targets were formed from a conjunction of features (e.g., they could not be detected preattentively).

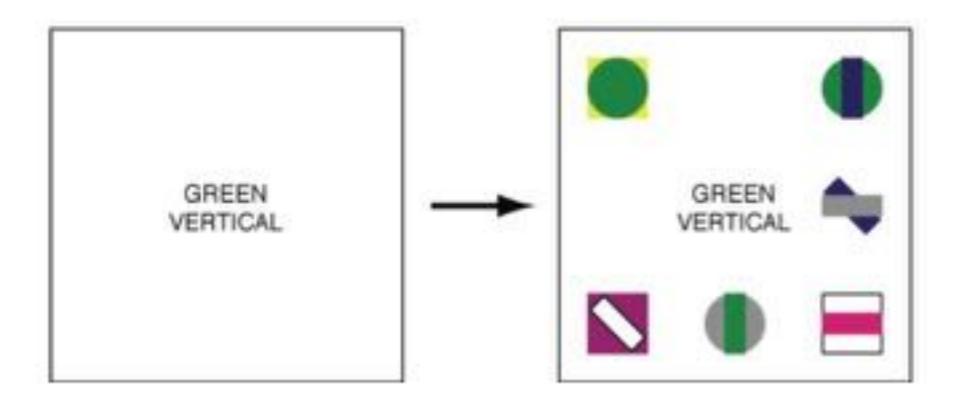


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- Wolfe initially tested two search types (response-time search)
 - ◆ Traditional search: Text on a blank screen was shown to identify the target. This was followed by a display containing 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 potential target objects in a 3 × 3 array (formed by combinations of seven colors and five shapes).
 - Postattentive search



Traditional search



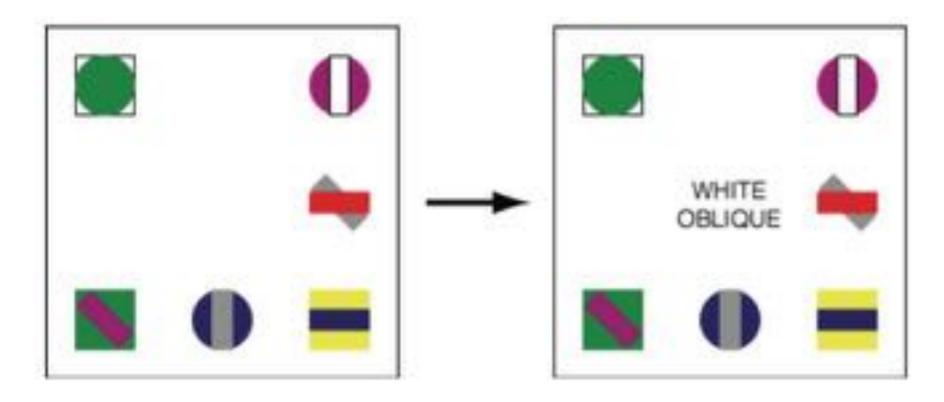
Search for color-and-shape conjunction targets:

- no preview of the scene is shown (although text identifying the target is shown prior to the search)
- in this case, the green vertical target is present





Postattentive search



Search for color-and-shape conjunction targets:

- a preview of the scene is shown, followed by text identifying the target;
- in this case, a white oblique target is not present



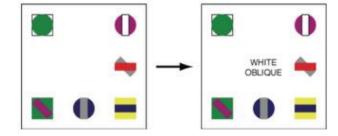


Postattentive search

- The display to be searched was shown to the user for a specific duration (up to 300 msec)
- Text identifying the target was then inserted into the scene
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What we "see" when confronted with a new scene depends as much on our goals and expectations as it does on the array of light that enters our eyes.

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Figure 3.30 - (Matthew Ward, et. all)



- New research in psychophysics has shown that an interruption in what is being seen (i.e., a blink, an eye saccade, or a blank screen) renders us "blind" to significant changes that occur in the scene during the interruption
- A list of possible explanations for why change blindness occurs in our VS:
 - Overwriting: information that was not abstracted from the first image is lost.
 - First Impression: hypothesis that only the initial view of a scene is abstracted.
 - Nothing Is Stored: after a scene has been viewed and information has been abstracted, no details are represented internally.
 - Everything Is Stored, Nothing Is Compared: only compared is requested
 - Feature Combination: details from an initial view might be combined with new features from a second view.



Interactive Data Visualization

Summary



Q&A

The concept of Preattentive Processing.



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 - Why the name Preattentive is not completely correct?



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Q&A

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Further Reading and Summary



Q&A



Further Reading

 Pag 81 - 117 from Interactive Data Visualization: Foundations, Techniques, and Applications, Matthew O. Ward, Georges Grinstein, Daniel Keim, 2015



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 - The motion control muscles; cornea, pupil, iris and the crystalline;
 - Retina: Rods and cones; the differences, the roles, the placement, the relative quantities.



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 - The information compression from optical system to the brain



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