# Eye tracking as a bridge between psychology and computer science

Marek A. Pędziwiatr

Jagiellonian University (JU)





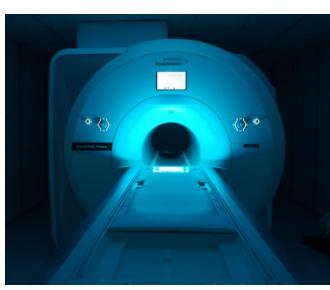
#### Centre for Brain Research (Centrum Badań Mózgu)

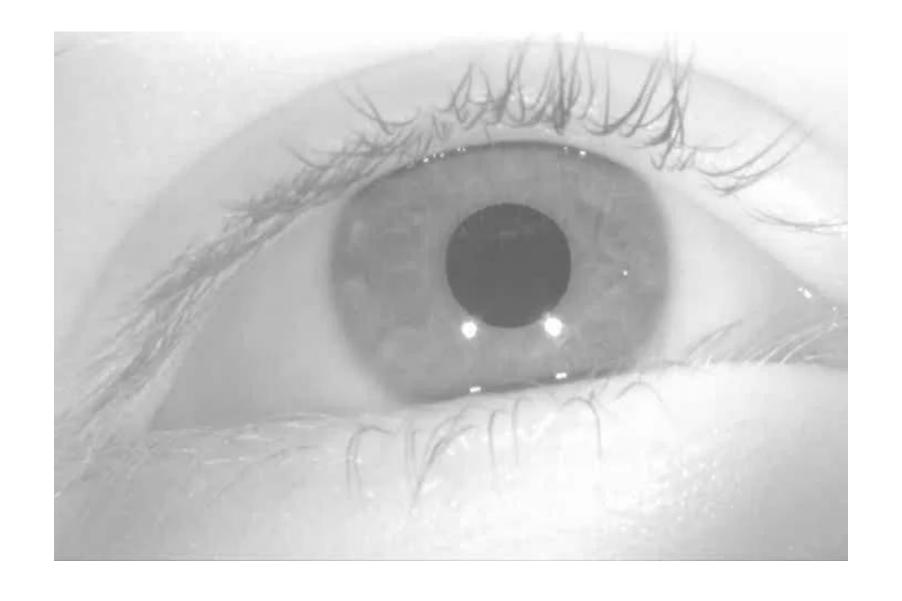
- interdepartmental neuroimaging unit combining the expertise of its three constituting Faculties:
  - Medicine
  - Management and Social Communication
  - Philosophy (including the Institute of Psychology)



#### Centre for Brain Research (Centrum Badań Mózgu)

- we run experimental studies (including clinical trails) on heathy participants
  - and patient groups using techniques like:
    - Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
    - Electroencephalography (EEG)
    - Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)





https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:This\_shows\_a\_recording\_of\_the\_eye\_movements\_of\_a\_participant\_looking\_freely\_at\_a\_
picture.webm













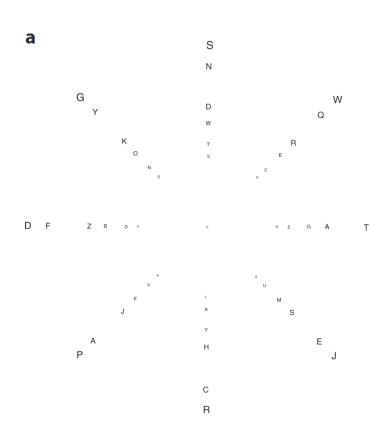






#### Figure 4

Classic demonstration of visual crowding. One can more easily recognize an isolated letter than one flanked by other symbols if the flankers are sufficiently close by. The effect occurs for stimuli in general—not just for letters or for arrays of items.



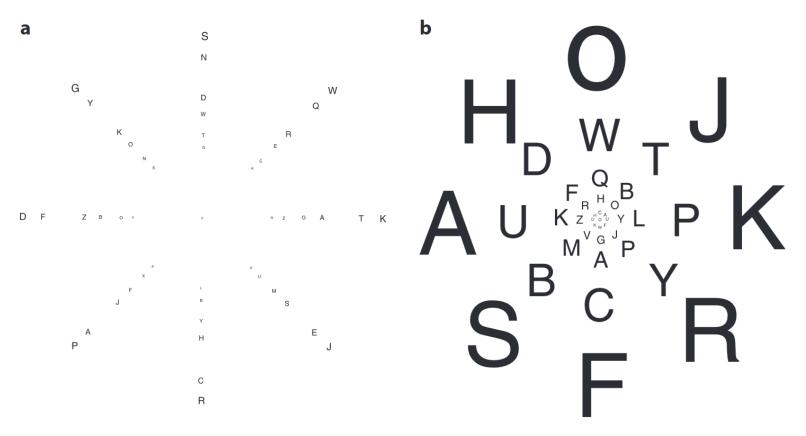
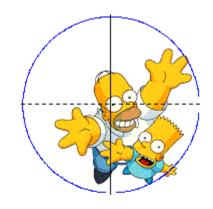
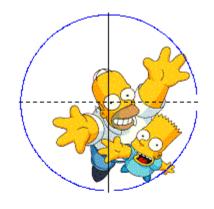
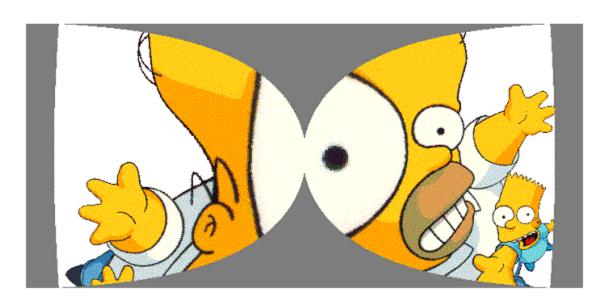


Figure 2

<sup>(</sup>a) Letter size at threshold for identification, as a function of eccentricity. (b) Ten times threshold size. Figure adapted from Anstis (1974) with permission.







# Motivation to study eye movements



About 641 results (0,13 sec)

#### Eye movements as a window into decision-making

M Spering - Annual review of vision science, 2022 - annualreviews.org

For over 100 years, eye movements have been studied and used as indicators of human sensory and cognitive functions. This review evaluates how eye movements contribute to our ...

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#### [PDF] Eye movements as a window to cognitive processes

<u>P König</u>, <u>N Wilming</u>, <u>TC Kietzmann</u>... - Journal of eye ..., 2016 - pdfs.semanticscholar.org Eye movement research is a highly active and productive research field. Here we focus on how the embodied nature of eye movements can act as a window to the brain and the mind. ...

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#### **Eye movements as a window** into real-time spoken language comprehension in natural contexts

KM Eberhard, MJ Spivey-Knowlton, JC Sedivy... - Journal of ..., 1995 - Springer When listeners follow spoken instructions to manipulate real objects, their eye movements

to the objects are closely time locked to the referring words. We review five experiments ...

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#### [PDF] Eye movements as a window on perception and cognition.

JS McCarley, AF Kramer - 2006 - nzdr.ru

95 tasks. This may include identifying nonoptimal aspects of a human-machine interface (eg, Fitts et al., 1950), delineating expert-novice differences in the performance of a given task (...

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#### [нтмL] Tracking **Eye Movements as a Window** on Language Processing: The Visual World Paradigm

M Tagliani, M Redolfi - Encyclopedia, 2023 - mdpi.com

Definition This entry overviews the pioneering experimental studies exploiting eye movement data to investigate language processing in real time. After examining how vision and ...

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#### Role of eye movements in vision, attention, decision-making, and disease

KA Thakoor, F Ghasia, H Liu - Frontiers in Psychology, 2024 - frontiersin.org

... tracking technologies, the power of eye movements in multiple industries involving visual attention, and the scope for future exciting research employing **eye movements as a window** to ...

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#### Eye movements as a readout of sensorimotor decision processes

J Fooken, M Spering - Journal of Neurophysiology, 2020 - journals.physiology.org

Real-world tasks, such as avoiding obstacles, require a sequence of interdependent choices to reach accurate motor actions. Yet, most studies on primate decision making involve ...

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## Selection of procedures in mental subtraction: Use of **eye movements** as a **window** on arithmetic processing.

MG Huebner, <u>JA LeFevre</u> - Canadian Journal of Experimental ..., 2018 - psycnet.apa.org

Les adultes qui ont recours à des procédures de calcul mental autres que la récupération directe pour résoudre des problèmes arithmétiques simples font généralement plus d'erreurs ...

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### Eye tracking in the cockpit: a review of the relationships between eye movements and the aviators cognitive state

MG Glaholt - 2014 - apps.dtic.mil

... Studies in flight simulators and real aircraft have used **eye movements as a window** onto operators' processing of information from cockpit instruments and displays. This body of ...

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#### Eye movements as a tool for bridging the language-as-product and language-asaction traditions

MK Tanenhaus, JC Trueswell - Approaches to studying world ..., 2005 - books.google.com

The language-as-action and language-as-product traditions, as sketched in the preface to this book, have each had their own characteristic theoretical concerns and preferred ...

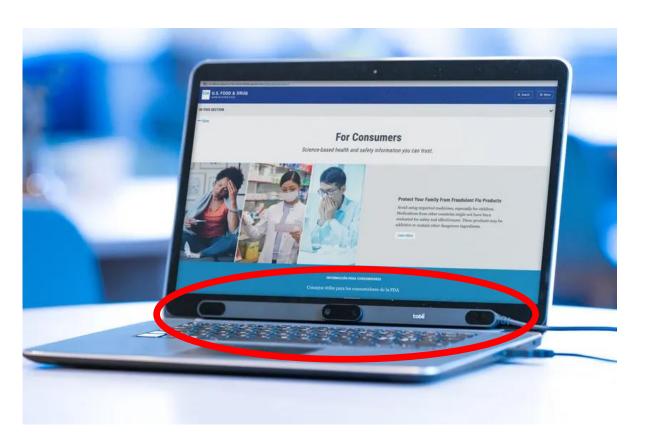
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# Methods to study eye movements

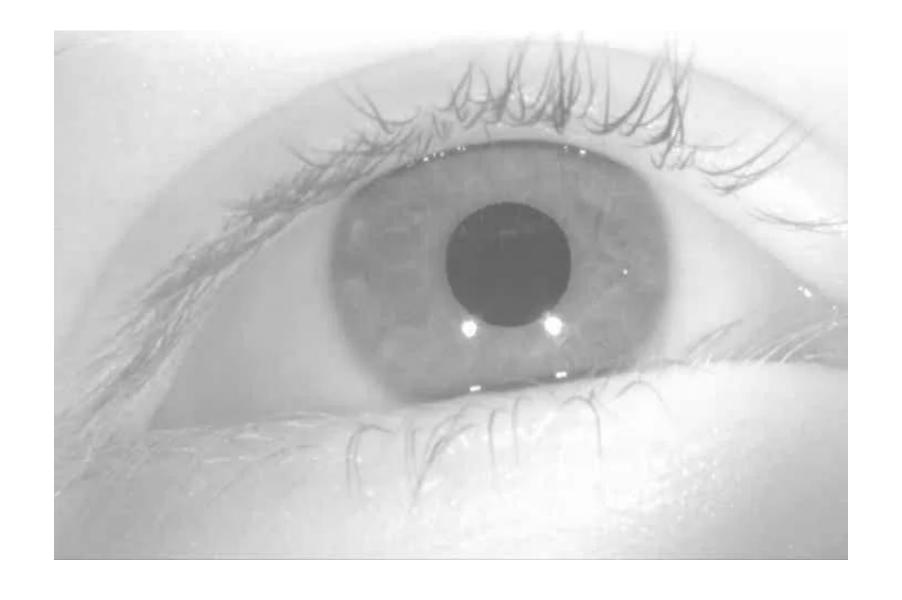
Looong story cut short: infrared cameras

## Methods to study eye movements

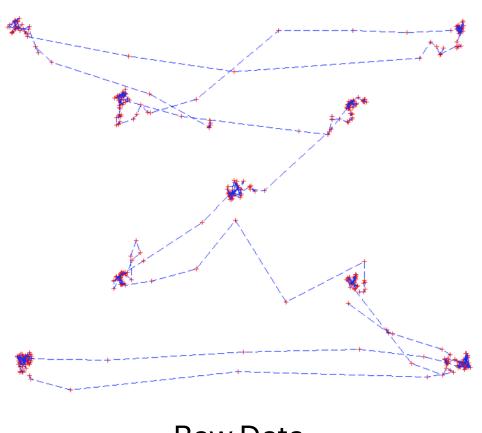
#### Looong story cut short: infrared cameras





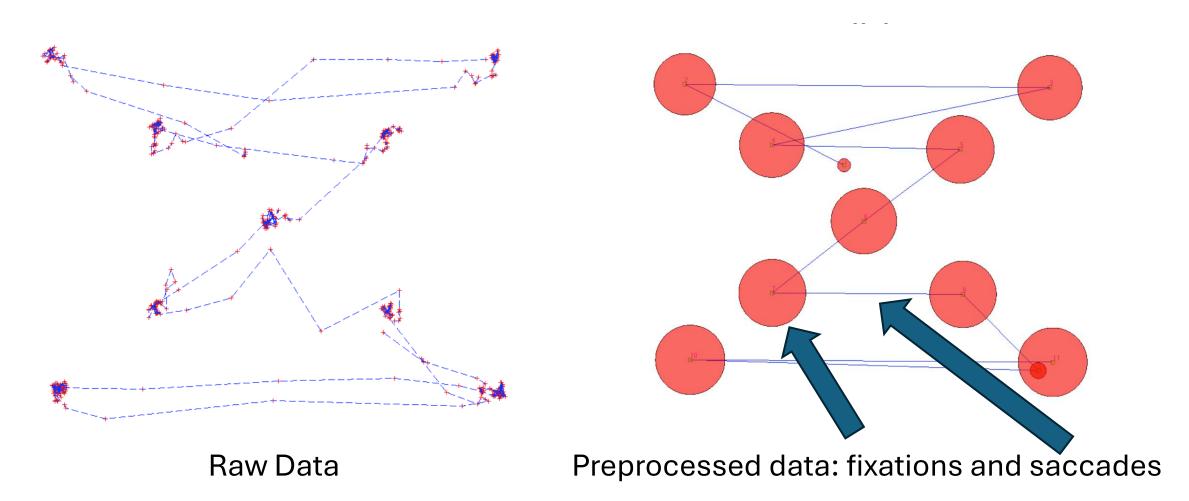


# Data from eye-movement recordings

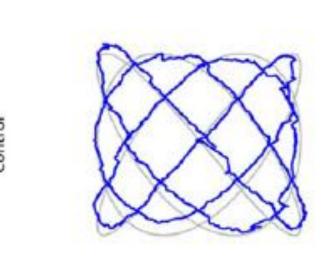


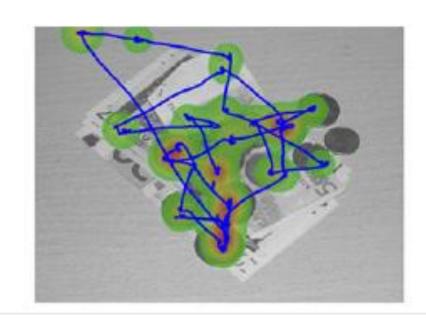
Raw Data

# Data from eye-movement recordings



Tracking a moving dot





Looking at a static image

# Lissajous Pursuit Free-viewing Schizophrenia Control

Tracking

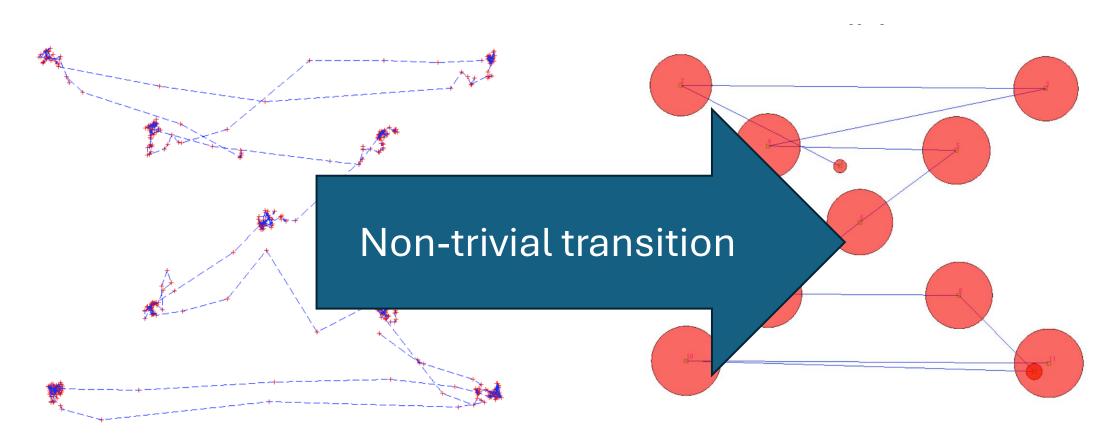
a moving dot

25

Looking at

a static image

# Data from eye-movement recordings

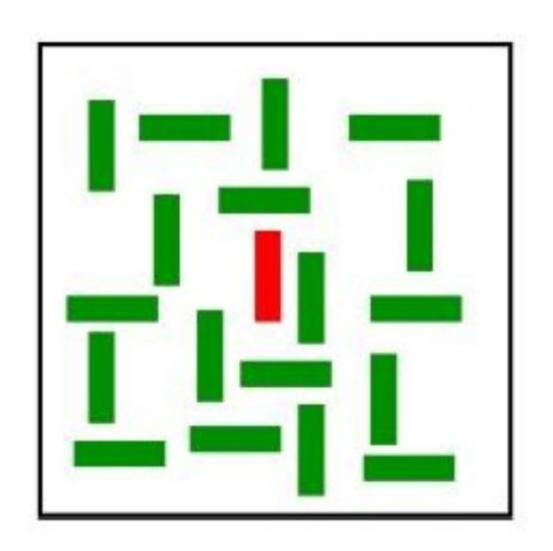


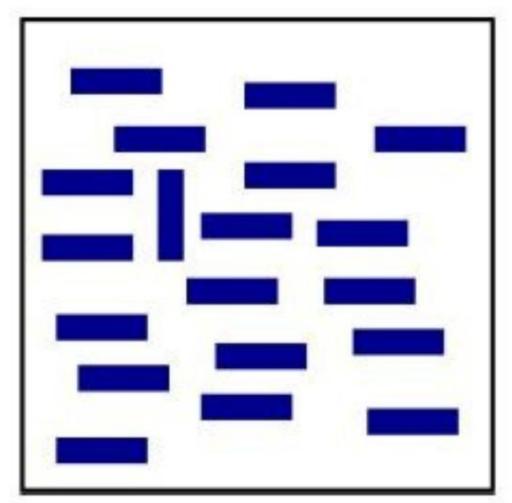
Raw Data

Preprocessed data: fixations and saccades

# Sample research problems

## What guides human eye-movements?



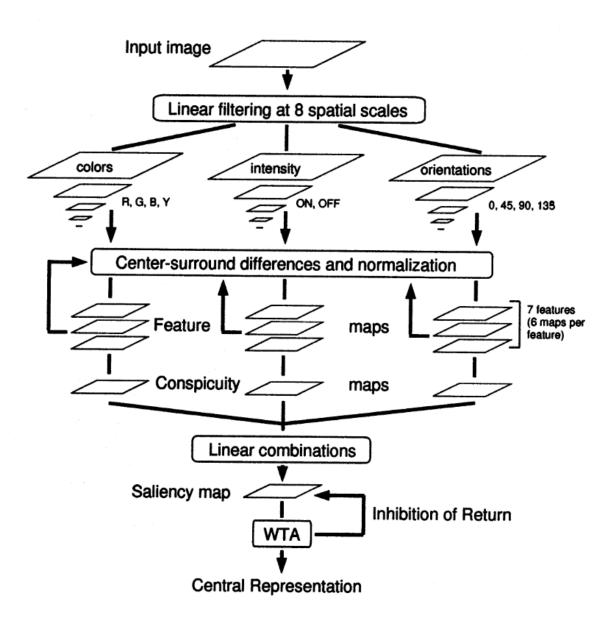


## Saliency – 'simple' models

- Colour
- Intensity
- Orientation

## Saliency – 'simple' models

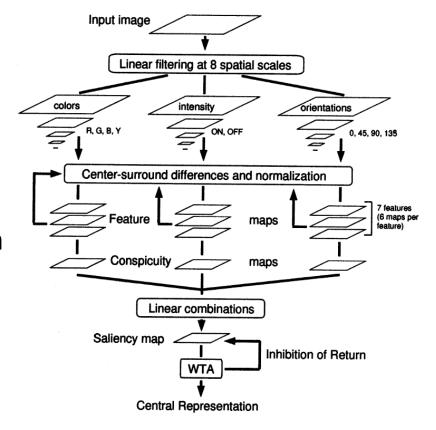
- Colour
- Intensity
- Orientation



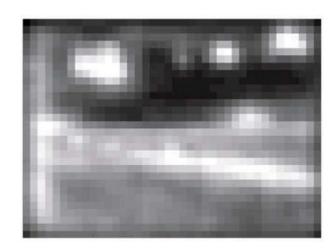
## Saliency – 'simple' models



- Intensity
- Orientation







#### **Learning to Predict Where Humans Look**

Tilke Judd Krista Ehinger Frédo Durand Antonio Torralba

**Learning to Predict Where Humans Look** 

Tilke Judd

Krista Ehinger

Frédo Durand

Antonio Torralba

Training machine learning algorithms on images and eye tracking data to predict fixation locations on novel images

#### **Learning to Predict Where Humans Look**

Tilke Judd

Krista Ehinger

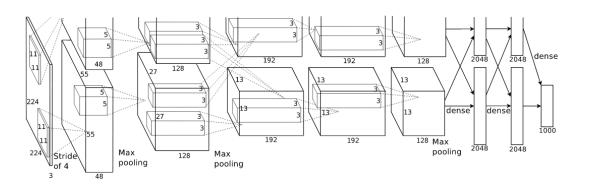
Frédo Durand

Antonio Torralba

Training machine learning algorithms on images and eye tracking data to predict fixation locations on novel images

Shift from *explaining* towards *prediciting* and from *neuroscience* towards *computer science* 

**Deep Convolutional Neural Networks** 





Annual Review of Vision Science

## Predicting Visual Fixations

#### Matthias Kümmerer and Matthias Bethge

Tübingen AI Center, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany; email: matthias.kuemmerer@bethgelab.org, matthias@bethgelab.org

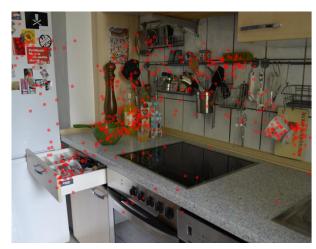
# Saliency – a modern approach





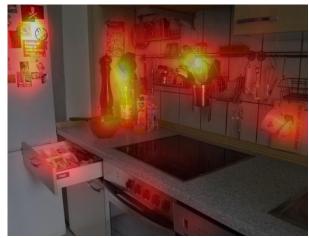


# Saliency – a modern approach













## Saliency – a modern approach













Creating (deep neural networks, old-school image processing)

 Evaluating (lots of metrics with different properties)

## Do you want to know more?

https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.22.2.9

#### Semantic object-scene inconsistencies affect eye movements, but not in the way predicted by contextualized meaning maps

Cardiff University, Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC), School of Psychology, Cardiff. UK

Queen Mary University of London, Department of Biological and Experimental Psychology, London, UK

University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany

Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute for Psychology and Centre for Cognitive Science, Darmstadt, Germany

University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany

Cardiff University, Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC), School of Psychology,

Cardiff. UK

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Marek A. Pedziwiatr

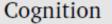
Matthias Kümmerer

Thomas S. A. Wallis

**Matthias Bethge** 

**Christoph Teufel** 

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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/cognit

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104465

Meaning maps and saliency models based on deep convolutional neural networks are insensitive to image meaning when predicting human fixations

Marek A. Pedziwiatr<sup>a,\*</sup>, Matthias Kümmerer<sup>b</sup>, Thomas S.A. Wallis<sup>b,1</sup>, Matthias Bethge<sup>b</sup>, Christoph Teufela



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Cardiff University, Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC), School of Psychology, Cardiff, United Kingdom

b University of Tubingen, Tubingen, Germany

# Going beyond saliency

Patterns of object co-occurrence, positional regularities and other properties of typical object arrangements are important for guiding eye movements.

## Vector-space language models

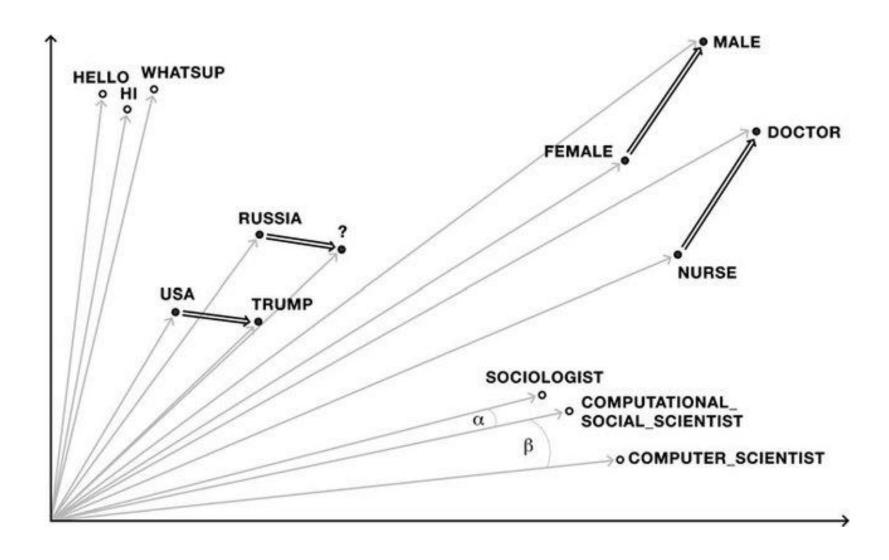


Image source: The Potential of Automated Text Analytics in Social Knowledge Building

# Bridging the gap between vision and language in models of human image understanding



Consistent

object



Inconsistent

object

## Quantifying object (in)consistency

Labels of Context Objects  Labels of Manipulated Objects	washbasin	handwash	 bathroom (scene label)
brush (Consistent)			
sandal (Inconsistent)			

## Quantifying object (in)consistency

Labels of Context Objects  Labels of Manipulated Objects	washbasin	handwash	 bathroom (scene label)
brush (Consistent)	S <sub>con_1</sub>	S <sub>con_2</sub>	 S <sub>con_N</sub>
sandal (Inconsistent)	S <sub>incon_1</sub>	S <sub>incon_2</sub>	 S <sub>incon_N</sub>

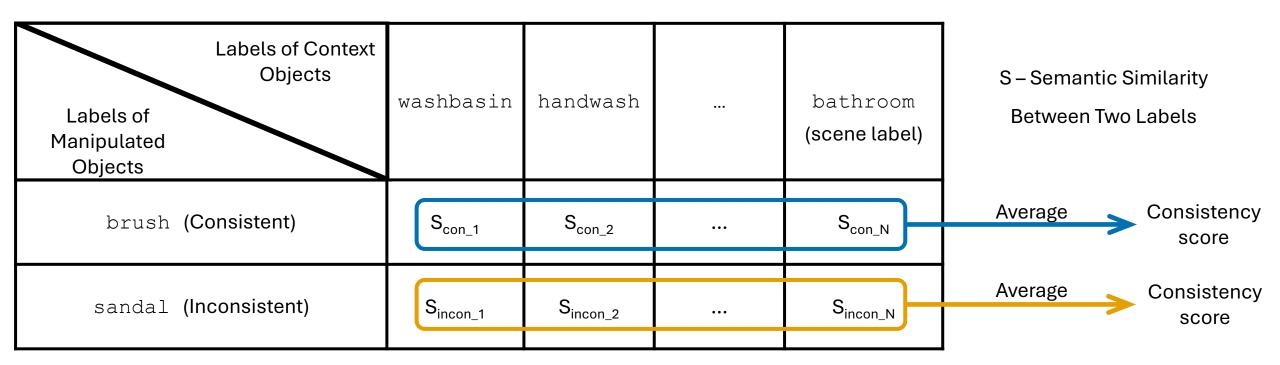
S – Semantic Similarity

Between Two Labels

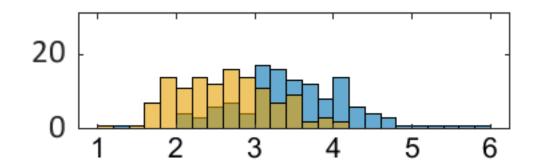
(GloVe model + cosine

similarity)

## Quantifying object (in)consistency



### Model-based consistency scores



Language model score (rescaled to 1-6)

Consistent 
$$M = 3.62 (SD = 0.83)$$

Inconsistent (
$$M = 2.71$$
;  $SD = 0.64$ ).

$$M_{diff} = 0.91$$
;  $SD_{diff} = 1.04$ ;  $t(123) = 9.784$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ 

For 17% of scenes, the score from the inconsistent condition was higher

Vector-space language models open a promising avenue

towards modelling human sensitivity to inconsistencies

# Do you want to know more?

https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/679ay\_v2



A × PsyArXiv



Going beyond single image

A typical scene-viewing experiment...







# Typical visual input is continuous, and thus allows for accumulating knowledge about the environment



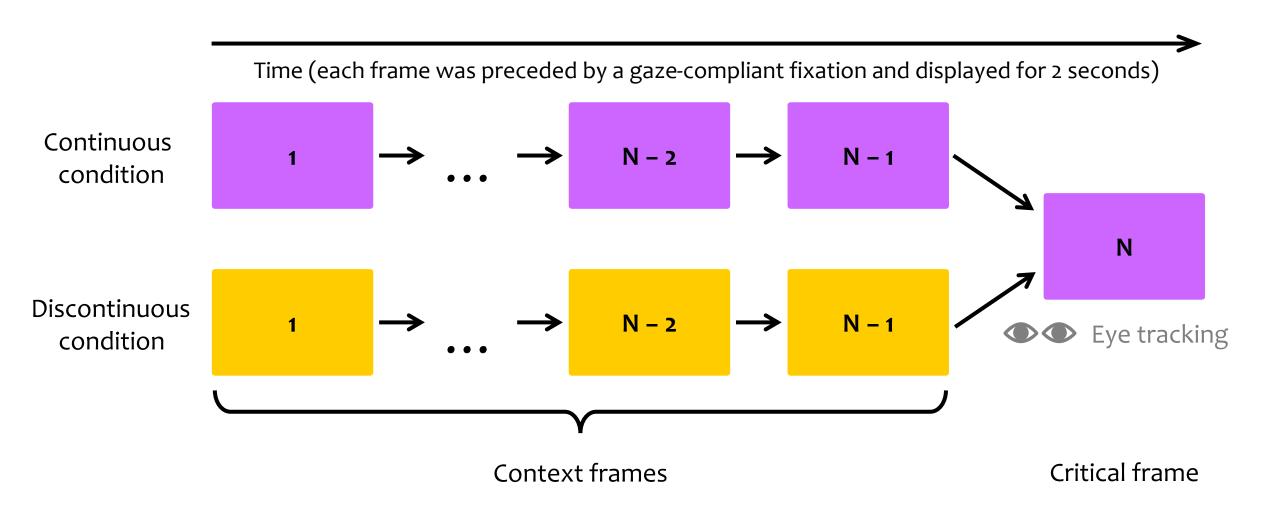
### Typical scene-viewing experiments

They are well controlled but assume that viewing each scene is a separate, self-contained act (trial), so they do not allow for studying the effects of knowledge accumulation.

#### Our idea

Investigate the influences of prior knowledge about the recent past on eye movements using a typical scene-viewing methodology

#### Experiment



Different colours indicate different 'stories'

### Hypothesis (preregistered)

In the Discontinuous condition, in which the prior knowledge about events from context frames was irrelevant to the content of the critical frame, participants would exhibit a more exploratory viewing behaviour.

# SIR ALFRED HITCHCOCK



# SIR ALFRED HITCHCOCK

1000 Frames of Hitchcock project is an attempt to reduce each of the 52 available major Hitchcock films down to 1000 frames.

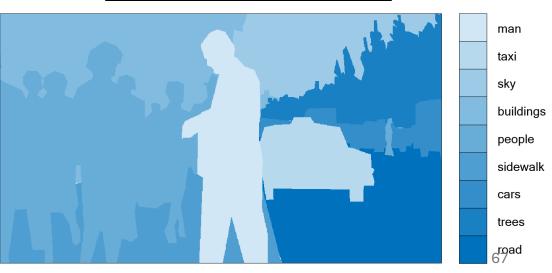


- 80 sets of frames (critical frame + Continuous context + Discontinuous context)
- 936 frames in total
- All are in colour and have identical aspect ratio
- Attention-check questions included
- Validated in separate experiments
- Object masks and labels for the critical frames
- Openly available!
  - https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2023.105544



Sophie Heer



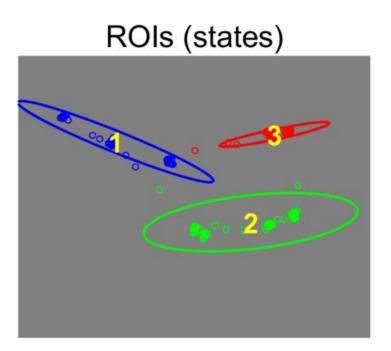


#### Interlude:

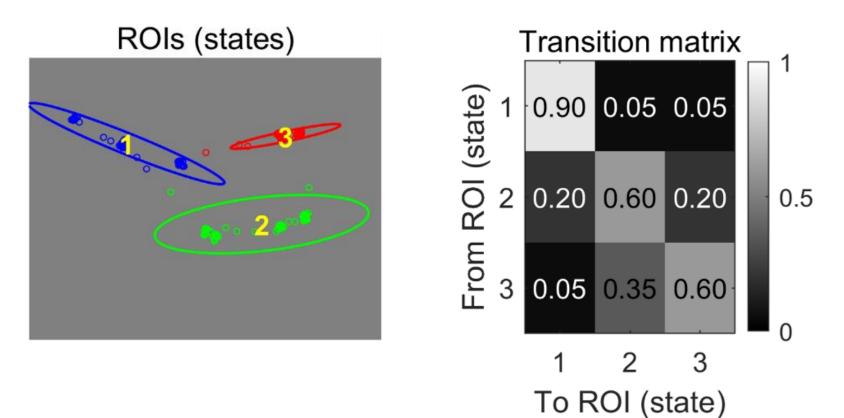
Using hidden Markov models (HMMs) to model individual scanpaths

#### Interlude:

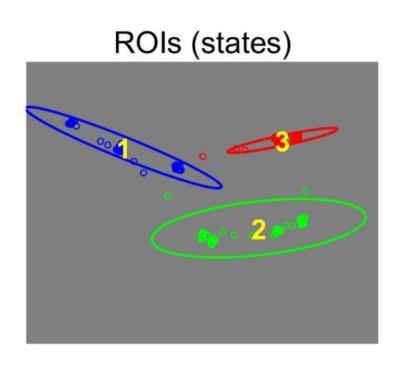
Using hidden Markov models (HMMs) to model individual scanpaths

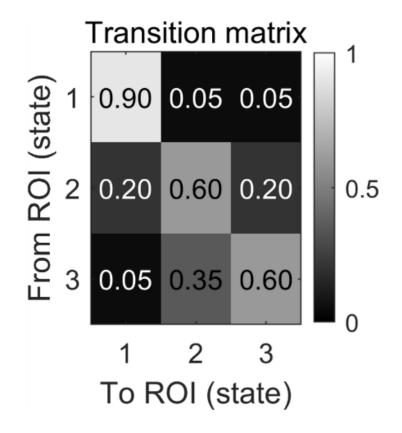


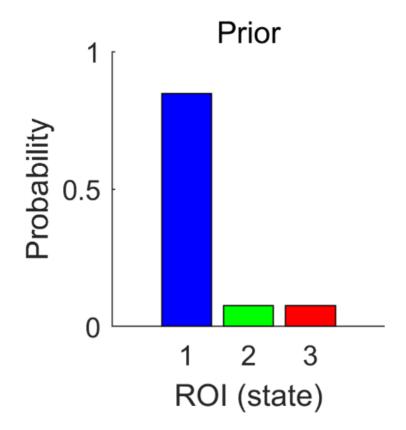
# Interlude: Using hidden Markov models (HMMs) to model individual scanpaths



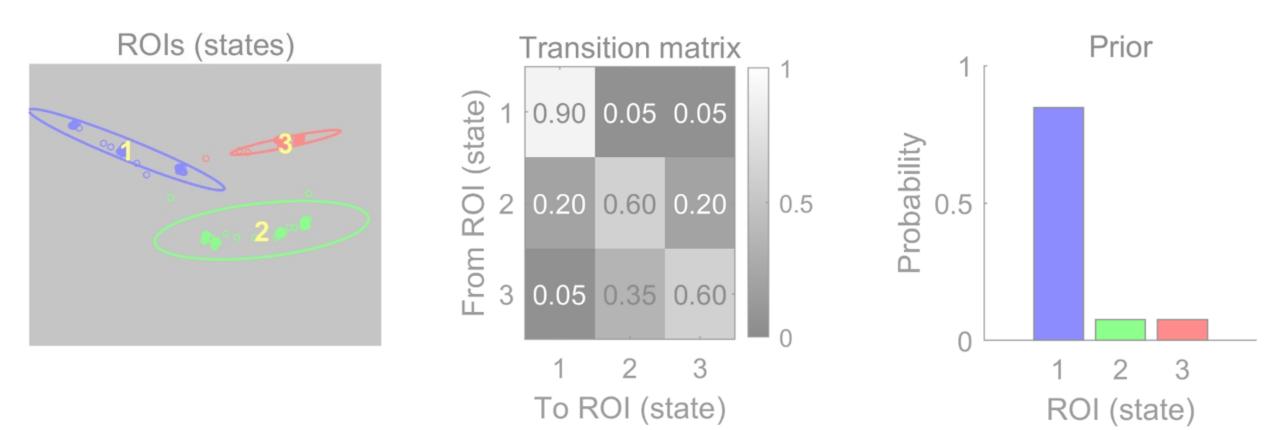
# Interlude: Using hidden Markov models (HMMs) to model individual scanpaths







# Interlude: Using hidden Markov models (HMMs) to model individual scanpaths



HMM represents a scanpath as 24 interpretable numbers.

#### Interlude:

Using hidden Markov models (HMMs) to model individual scanpaths



Antoine Coutrot , Janet H. Hsiao & Antoni B. Chan

Use our pre-submission checklist →

#### Experiment

Time (each frame was preceded by a gaze-compliant fixation and displayed for 2 seconds)

Continuous condition



Discontinuous condition



N = 50; free viewing

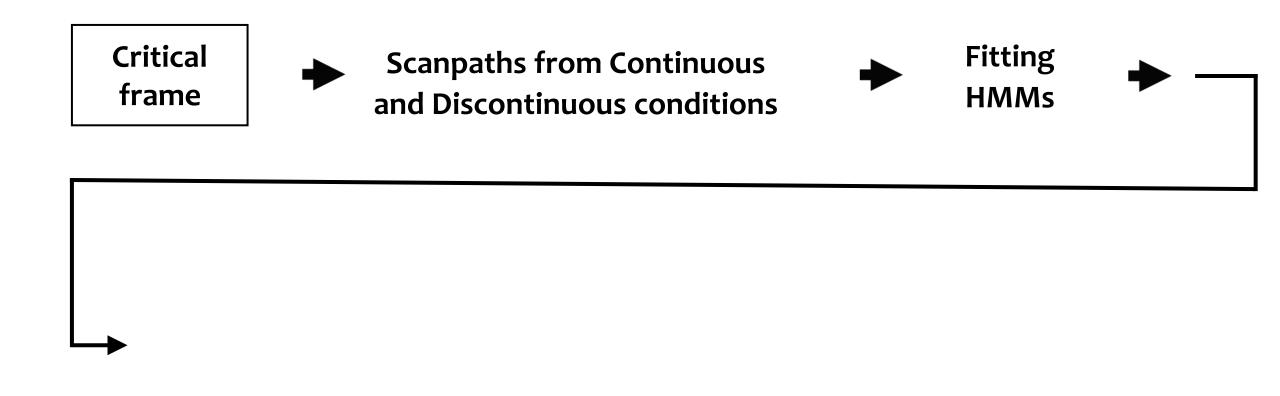
Context frames

Critical frame

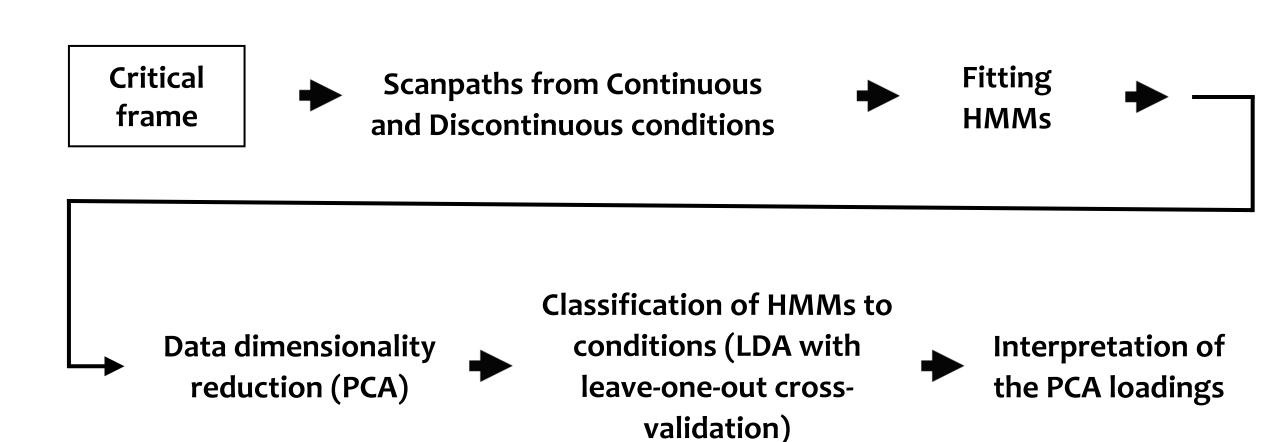
Eye tracking

#### Analysis based on Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)

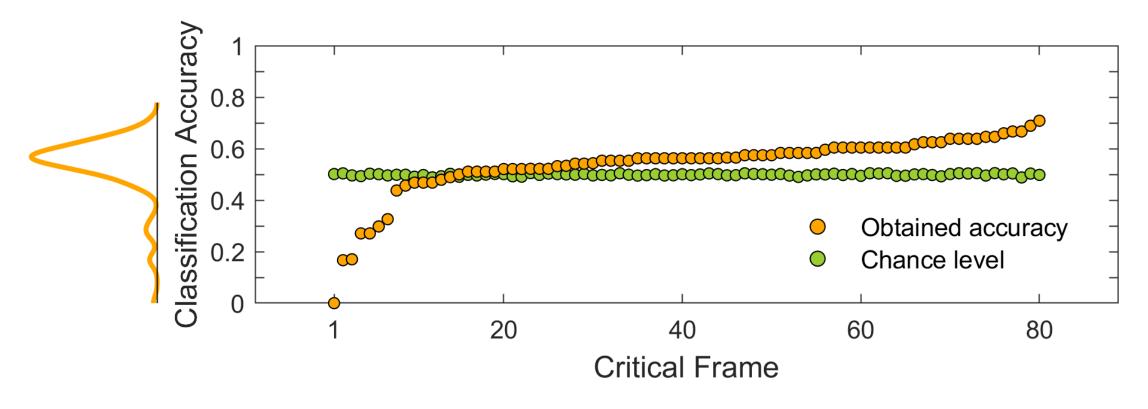
#### Analysis based on Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)



#### Analysis based on Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)



#### Classification accuracy after the dimensionality reduction



Average accuracy: 53.84% (better than chance; p = 0.008; permutation test)

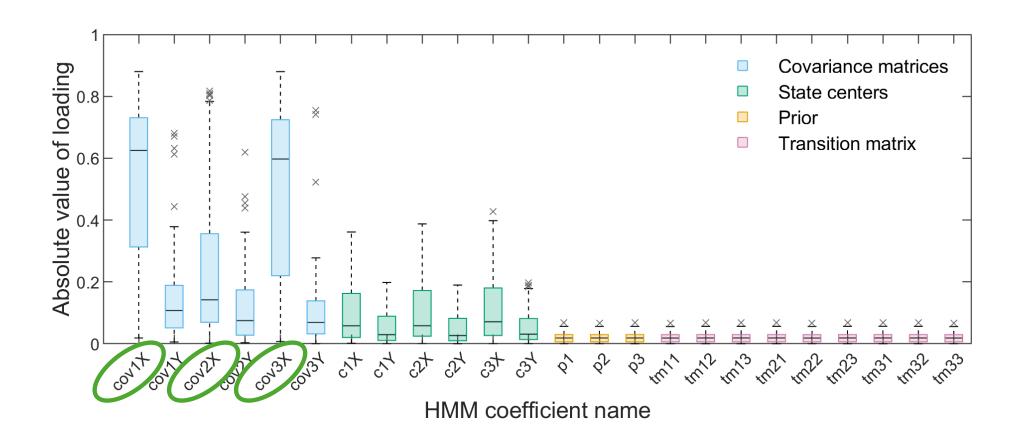
Chance-level accuracy (permutation-based): 49.88%

Percent of frames with above chance scanpath classification: 82.5%

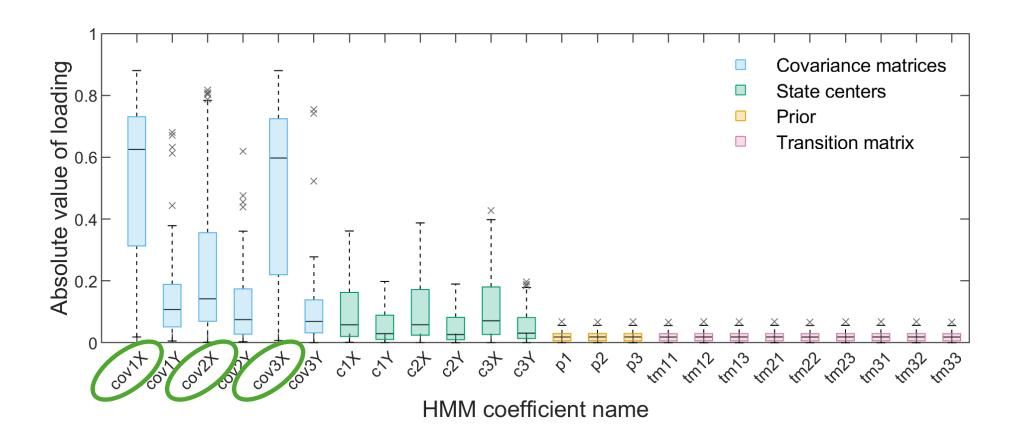
# Absolute values of loadings of HMM coefficients in the first principal component

(explaining 40.21% of variance on average)

# Absolute values of loadings of HMM coefficients in the first principal component



# Absolute values of loadings of HMM coefficients in the first principal component



cov1X, cov2X, and cov3X determine variance along the horizontal dimension in each ROI (ROI width)

### Traditional eye-movement metrics

Metric	Effect direction (change from Continuous to Discontinuous)
Number of fixations	7
Fixation duration	`
Saccade length	7

#### Conclusion

Recently gained relevant prior knowledge inhibits exploratory eye movements.

### Results – qualitative assessment



Continuous



Critical Frame



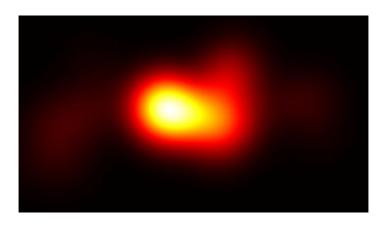
Discontinuous



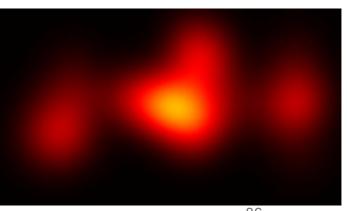
Continuous



Critical Frame



Continuous



Discontinuous<sup>86</sup>

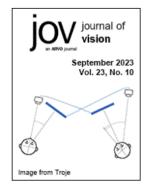


Discontinuous

# Do you want to know more?

https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.23.10.10

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2023.105544



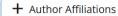
September 2023 Volume 23, Issue 10

OPEN ACCESS

Article | September 2023

# Influence of prior knowledge on eye movements to scenes as revealed by hidden Markov models

Marek A. Pedziwiatr; Sophie Heer; Antoine Coutrot; Peter J. Bex; Isabelle Mareschal



Journal of Vision September 2023, Vol.23, 10. doi:https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.23.10.10



#### Cognition

Volume 238, September 2023, 105544



## Prior knowledge about events depicted in scenes decreases oculomotor exploration

Marek A. Pedziwiatr <sup>a</sup>  $\overset{\circ}{\sim}$   $\overset{\circ}{\sim}$ , Sophie Heer <sup>a</sup>, Antoine Coutrot <sup>b</sup>, Peter Bex <sup>c</sup>, Isabelle Mareschal <sup>a</sup>



## Thank you!

Feel free to contact me via:

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X/Twitter: @marekPedziwi

**ResearchGate:** https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marek-Pedziwiatr-2