it reflects). This has led to the formation of theories that claim that some form of "anchor" is needed to transform the relative lightness values into a representation of absolute lightness values. I review the data that led to this conclusion, and report data from both our and other labs that demonstrate that such anchoring rules are empirically violated. I will further argue that the problem is a false problem, and only arises in restricted geometric contexts in which it is theoretically impossible to disentangle the illuminant from the surface reflectance.

Repetition blindness for words and pictures

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Repetition blindness (RB) refers to people's tendency to omit the second occurrence of a repeated item when recalling lists of briefly presented stimuli. RB has been reported for a variety of stimuli including both words and pictures and has also been claimed to occur between pictures and words that refer to the same concept, suggesting that it taps a conceptual level of representation. This paper reports a series of experiments that compared RB for words and pictures to determine when and how processing of lexical and pictorial stimuli converge on this conceptual level. Separate investigations of RB using only word or picture stimuli revealed much stronger and more robust RB effects for words than pictures. However, an experiment including both stimulus formats showed stronger RB for repeated pictures than for repeated words or cross-format stimuli. The implications of the results for theories of RB and conceptual representation will be discussed.

Perceived self-motion induced by consistent and inconsistent multisensory stimulation

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This study examined the effect of physical and simulated head oscillation on the vection in depth induced by radial patterns of optic flow. In different trials, the real/simulated head oscillation occurred along either the observer's fore-aft or left-right axis. Display oscillation always increased the strength of the vection ratings – irrespective of whether the observer was stationary or oscillating their head. When the tracked observer's physical head movements were incorporated into the visual display the resulting vection in depth was stronger than comparable conditions where the display was unaltered by the observer's head movements. Importantly, the ecological nature and amplitude of the display oscillation did not appear to significantly influence vection. Both consistent and inconsistent multisensory stimulation improved vection. These results suggest that ecological consistency between the different senses may not be necessary.

Semantic processes, verbal fluency and postural stability in Chinese readers with different reading abilities

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This study investigated whether Chinese readers who were highly proficient in Chinese and English were better than their average counterparts in various semantic, verbal fluency, postural stability and reading measures. Sixty undergraduates were divided into good readers (n=30) and average readers (n=30) in Chinese and English respectively. Semantic decision, semantic fluency, letter fluency, postural stability, reading and spelling tests were administered. Results showed that good readers were better than average readers in Chinese spelling, reading, and semantic decision. When processing English, good readers were better than average readers in spelling, reading (including irregular words and pseudowords), semantic decision, semantic fluency, letter fluency and postural stability. Implications of these processes in learning Chinese and English among Chinese readers were discussed.

Low spatial frequency faces affect reaching behaviour

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Although low spatial frequency (LSF) information is involved in the perception of faces whether it has a behavioural consequence remains to be investigated. This study provides evidence for interference by LSF faces when high spatial frequency (HSF) faces are the targets. We used reach trajectories as a continuous behavioural measure to study perceptual processing of faces. Experimental stimuli were LSF-