

PSYC 1340 / VLST 2110 Perception

Recitation 1

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Overview

- Recitations are mainly here to reinforce material from lecture, go through practice problems, and occasionally introduce new material.
- Office Hours:

Dr. David Brainard	Tuesday 3:00–5:00pm	Goddard 417
Abby Laver	Tuesday 12–1pm	Levin 252
Alex Gordienko	Mondays 3–4 pm	Levin 250

- Announcements and questions through Piazza.
- Homeworks due on Wednesdays at midnight, with a 6 hour grace period.

Discussion Question 1

We don't see every kind of external signal around us. What signals exist that humans don't use?



Why don't we see in ultraviolet? How about infrared?

Practice Problem

On a road trip, you stop near a large road sign. This sign is 5 meters tall and you are 80 meters away. What is the visual angle subtended by the distal stimulus?

You then move so that the sign now subtends a visual angle of 8 degrees. Did you move closer or farther away? How much closer or farther did you move?

Discussion Question 2

Why is perception a useful field of study for Psychology?

Is cognition possible without any kind of perception?

Discussion Question 3

"To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree. Yet reason tells me, that if numerous gradations from a perfect and complex eye to one very imperfect and simple, each grade being useful to its possessor, can be shown to exist; if further, the eye does vary ever so slightly, and the variations be inherited, which is certainly the case; and if any variation or modification in the organ be ever useful to an animal under changing conditions of life, then the difficulty of believing that a perfect and complex eye could be formed by natural selection, though insuperable by our imagination, can hardly be considered real. How a nerve comes to be sensitive to light, hardly concerns us more than how life itself first originated; but I may remark that several facts make me suspect that any sensitive nerve may be rendered sensitive to light, and likewise to those coarser vibrations of the air which produce sound."

- Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*

Preview

What happens when there are two eyes looking at something instead of just one? What information does a second eye give us and how does the brain integrate this information?

See you next week!