Modeling visual search in a thousand scenes: The roles of saliency, target features, and scene context



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Modeling Visual Search in 1000 Scenes





Overview of experiment

- 14 participants, 912 images = 45,144 fixations
- Person present/absent?



Fixations 1-3 on target-absent scenes

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Overview of experiment

• 14 participants, 912 images = 45,144 fixations



Human Agreement

• Inter-observer agreement = upper bound for model performance



Human Agreement

- Inter-observer agreement = upper bound for model performance
- **Cross-image control** = lower bound for model performance























AUC

0.6

false alarm rate

0.7

0.8 0.9

0.4 0.5







Human agreement examples



High inter-observer agreement



Low inter-observer agreement







Saliency Model: Examples



Worst performance



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Positive features

Negative Average features gradient



Dalal & Triggs, 2005 CVPR

Pedestrian Detector

 Histograms of Oriented Gradients (HOG) detector by Dalal & Triggs







Target Features Model: Examples



Worst performance



What is the context region for pedestrians?





Scene Context Model



Training image (contains a pedestrian)



Orientations at various spatial scales



Scene "gist" + position of pedestrian





Oliva & Torralba, 2001





Scene Context Model: Examples



Worst performance



Combined Sources of Guidance





Combined Model: Examples



Worst performance

Target Absent vs. Target Present



Summary of results

- Combined model accounts for 94% of human agreement in search fixations
- Scene context gives the best prediction of human search fixations in this task
- How to get that last 6%?



"Context Oracle" Implementation



Context Model, AUC = 0.67



Context Oracle, AUC = 0.90







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Combined Model with Oracle



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Summary of results

- Combined model accounts for 94% of human agreement in search fixations
- Context predicts human fixations better than saliency or target features in this search task
- How to get that last 6%?
 - Context "oracle"?
 - Improves performance to 95% of human agreement
 - Something else?









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