Where do you look on these images?



The squares shows where 15 observers looked in eye tracking experiments

Understanding and predicting where people look in images

Tilke Judd

with advisors Frédo Durand and Antonio Torralba committee Aude Oliva and Bill Freeman





































What is common to both these situations?

need to prioritize the visual information and decide what is most important These are applications of research we do in

Saliency and Visual Attention

Understanding and predicting where people look in images

Tilke Judd

with advisors Frédo Durand and Antonio Torralba and collaborators Krista Ehinger and Aude Oliva Understanding attention enables applications in computer graphics & vision, design

- image cropping / thumbnailing
- image and video compression
- non photorealistic rendering
- scene understanding
- advertising and package design
- web usability

- Iocalization / recognition
- object detection
- navigational assistance
- robot active vision
- surveillance systems
- assistive technology for blind or low-vision people

Human visual system has developed selective attention through evolution



Anstis 1998



Fixations and saccades of an example scanpath











- Bottom-up mechanisms
- Top-down mechanisms

Find the pedestrian



There is no pedestrian



you likely looked here



this is where someone else looked in an experiment



we look here because of our top-down semantic understanding of the scene: humans are on the ground
Where we move our eyes is dictated by two mechanisms

- Bottom-up mechanisms
- Top-down mechanisms
 - semantic understanding
 - memories, state
 - task

Researchers create computational models of visual attention to predict where people look





Image

Saliency Map

Common models of saliency based on bottom up features

- based on biologically plausible filters
- mimic the human visual system
- measure intensity, illumination, contrast
- several parameters need tuning



People do not always look where bottom up models predict



(a) Original image

(b) Itti and Koch Saliency Map

(c) eye tracking locations

Many models of saliency have been introduced

Biologically Inspired

Itti and Koch (1998)

Cerf et al. (2007)

Hou and Zhang (2007)

Rosenholtz (1999)

Itti and Baldi (2006)

Le Meur et al. (2006)

Seo & Milanfar (2009)

Zhang & Cottrell (2008) SUN model

Goferman et al. (2009)

Achanta (2010)

Mathematically Inspired

Heral et al. (2007) Graphical Model

Avraham and Lindenbaum (2009) Esaliency

Bruce and Tsotsos (2009) Information theoretic approach

Kienzle et al., (2007)

Gao and Vasconulos (2005)

Itti and Baldi (2006) "Surprise" model

Navalpakkam and Itti (2005)

Elazary and Itti (2010)

Add top-down features

Ehinger et al., (2009) (search task)

Oliva et al. (2003)

Torralba et al. (2006)

Zhang et al. (2008)

Kanan et al. (2009)

Which one is the best?

Biologically Inspired

Itti and Koch (1998)

Cerf et al. (2007)

Hou and Zhang (2007)

Rosenholtz (1999)

Itti and Baldi (2006)

Le Meur et al. (2006)

Seo & Milanfar (2009)

Zhang & Cottrell (2008) SUN model

Goferman et al. (2009)

Achanta (2010)

Mathematically Inspired

Heral et al. (2007) Graphical Model

Avraham and Lindenbaum (2009) Esaliency

Bruce and Tsotsos (2009) Information theoretic approach

Kienzle et al., (2007)

Gao and Vasconulos (2005)

Itti and Baldi (2006) "Surprise" model

Navalpakkam and Itti (2005)

Elazary and Itti (2010)

Add top-down features

Ehinger et al., (2009) (search task)

Oliva et al. (2003)

Torralba et al. (2006)

Zhang et al. (2008)

Kanan et al. (2009)

Which one is the best?



Models have too many parameters top-down information not well integrated

Models have too many parameters top-down information not well integrated

Too many models, no good comparison

Models have too many parameters top-down information not well integrated

Too many models, no good comparison

We do not understand human visual attention under different styles of images

This thesis offers the following contributions

Models have too many parameters top-down information not well integrated

model using machine learning

Too many models, no good comparison

benchmark

We do not understand human visual attention under different styles of images study of fixations on low-res images

How do we do this?

- Go back to ground truth eye tracking data
- Use data to learn a model
- Use data to evaluate success metrics for models
- Use data to compare human fixations on variations of images

Understanding and predicting where people look





Learning a model



Benchmarking models of saliency



Fixations on lowresolution images

Conclusion

Our goal is to learn where people look directly from eye tracking data

- Step I: collect eye tracking data set
- Step 2: learn the model

We collected 1003 natural images



Natural images of objects and scenes downloaded from Flickr and LabelMe



[Photo Credit: Jason Dorfman CSAIL website]



user rests head in chin rest

[Photo Credit: Jason Dorfman CSAIL website]



user rests head in chin rest

[Photo Credit: Jason Dorfman CSAIL website]



user rests head in chin rest

[Photo Credit: Jason Dorfman CSAIL website]



user rests head in chin rest

[Photo Credit: Jason Dorfman CSAIL website]



user rests head in chin rest

[Photo Credit: Jason Dorfman CSAIL website]

Fixations for one observer



Fixations from 15 observers



Fixation map created from gaussian convolution over fixations



Fixation map

You do the experiment















You will see a series of images Look closely at each one
















You have completed the experiment

















We have data from 15 observers on 1003 images



[MIT 2009 data set]

Fixation consistency depends on the image content



Low entropy saliency maps





High entropy saliency maps



Average human fixations are biased towards the center



Avg of all saliency maps

Why are fixations center biased?

- photographer bias
- viewing strategy



We use a Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve to measure performance













We calculate the percentage of fixations that lie within the salient portion of the map







Thresholded Saliency Map









ROC curve always starts at 0 ends at 1



Thresholded Center Map





Thresholded Center Map





Thresholded Center Map





Thresholded Center Map





Thresholded Center Map






We use an ROC curve to measure the performance of a saliency map



We use an ROC curve to measure the performance of a saliency map



Perfect saliency map



Humans are good predictors of where other humans will look



Our goal is to learn where people look directly from eye tracking data

- Step I: collect eye tracking data set
- Step 2: learn the model

We compute low and high level image features for each image...



Use subbands of the steerable pyramid filters (Simoncelli and Freeman 1995)

4 orientations



Simple saliency map from Torralba based on steerable filters



3 scales





As calculated by Itti and Koch's saliency method













Viola Jones Face detector

Each image had a stack of 33 features

Image



Features



33 features



33 features



Labels



10 salient samples from top 20%

33 features



Labels



Support Vector Machine



10 salient samples from top 20%10 non-salient samples from bottom 70%

33 features



Labels



Support Vector Machine



10 salient samples from top 20%10 non-salient samples from bottom 70%

from each of 900 training images

33 features



all features

Labels



Support Vector Machine



10 salient samples from top 20%10 non-salient samples from bottom 70%

from each of 900 training images

33 features



Labels



Support Vector Machine



10 salient samples from top 20%10 non-salient samples from bottom 70%

from each of 900 training images

33 features



subbands

Labels



Support Vector Machine



10 salient samples from top 20%10 non-salient samples from bottom 70%

from each of 900 training images

33 features



Labels



Support Vector Machine



10 salient samples from top 20%10 non-salient samples from bottom 70%

from each of 900 training images

33 features



Labels



Support Vector Machine



Itti channels

10 salient samples from top 20%10 non-salient samples from bottom 70%

from each of 900 training images

33 features



Labels



Support Vector Machine



10 salient samples from top 20%10 non-salient samples from bottom 70%

from each of 900 training images

33 features





Support Vector Machine test performance on remaining 100 images

Model

10 salient samples from top 20%10 non-salient samples from bottom 70%

from each of 900 training images





Image



Image





Some example saliency maps



This is where our model predicts people will look.



This is where people actually looked.

Some example saliency maps



This is where our





This is whe

We demonstrate an application for non-photorealistic rendering

input image



Rendering of image with more detail at salient locations

our saliency map

based on technique by DeCarlo and Santella [2002]

Summary of learning work

- Have large collection of eye tracking data
- Learned a model of saliency

Weights learned from ground truth data, not tuned Found center feature to be surprisingly high -- strongest feature Subbands and Color features next strongest. Objects useful Our model reaches 88% way to human performance

• Future work

Enhance model by trying other features, text detector

Understanding and predicting where people look

Introduction



Learning a model



Benchmarking models of saliency



Fixations on lowresolution images

Conclusion

Many saliency models, hard to compare them

• Each model introduced with different goal

mimic the human visual system correlate with human fixations segment a salient object from the background tell the story of the image

• Each evaluated on different data sets possibly few images, few observers

compared against a few (1-3) other models

• Use different metrics of evaluation ROC curve, Similarity, Earth movers distance, etc Ability to align with human annotated bounding boxes
We contribute a benchmark

• Compare 10 modern models all have code available online

made in last 5 years

- Evaluated on ability to predict human fixations on new data set 300 images, 20 observers
- Use 3 metrics of evaluation ROC curve, Similarity, Earth movers distance

Benchmark data set: 300 images seen by 20 people



[MIT benchmark data set]

Benchmark 10 different saliency models







Original Image

Human Fixations

Human Fixation Map



Achanta

Bruce & Tsotsos



Context Aware



GBVS



Hao&Zhang



ltti & Koch

Itti & Koch2

Torralba

SUN



Equalize the amount of salient pixels in each map via histogram matching







This is for visualization purposes only-- it does not affect ROC performance

Original Image

- Human Fixations
- Human Fixation Map





Bruce & Tsotsos

Context Aware



GBVS



Hao&Zhang



Itti & Koch

Itti & Koch2

Torralba

SUN

Judd

We compare to the performance of baselines





Human Fixations Human Fixation Map







Center baseline



Achanta



Bruce & Tsotsos



Context Aware



Chance baseline

GBVS



Hao&Zhang



Performance of each model measured by the area under the ROC curve



SaliencyMap with fixations to be predicted





Performance of each model measured by the area under the ROC curve



Models perform better than other if

- they have better features
- they have more center bias
- model is blurrier

Increasing blurriness improves performance for some models





Similarity matrix shows similarity between models











We provide an online benchmark to evaluate future models

saliency benchmark

Which model of saliency best predicts where people look?

There are many computational models of visual attention created from a wide variety of different approaches that aim to predict where people look in images. Since each model is introduced by demonstrating performances on new images, we can not make immediate objective comparisons between the models. To alleviate this problem, we propose a benchmark data set, containing 300 natural images with eye tracking data from 20 viewers, to compare the performance of many available models. For each model of saliency, we calculate each model's performance at predicting ground truth fixations using three different metrics: a receiver operating characteristic, a similarity metric, and the Earth Mover's Distance and post the results here.

images

put comparison images and maps in.

model performances

Model Name Related		Link to code	Area under ROC curve	Similarity	Earth mover's distance	
Humans*		code	0.90	~0.65	~1.55	
Judd		code	0.78	0.466	1.404	
Graph Based Visual Saliency (GBVS)		code	0.772	0.447	1.455	
Center*		code	0.745	0.412	1.714	
AIM		code from Neil Bruce. look for AlM.zip	0.71	0.378	1.649	
Itti&Koch2		code from the GBVS package	0.71	0.388	1.670	
Context-Aware saliency		code	0.699	0.377	1.642	
Torralba		code	0.628	0.319	1.644	
Hao & Zhang	İ	code	0.627	0.308	1.855	
SUN saliency		code from Lingyun Zhang's site	0.615	0.321	1.691	
Achanta		code	0.453	0.221	2.202	
Chance*		code	0.44	0.307	1.714	
&Koch		code from the Saliency Toolbox	0.215	0.177	2.181	

We measure performance under two other metrics and find similar results

They send us saliency maps, we test for them

Baseline models that we compare against

submit a new model

Summary of benchmark

- Provide a consistent way to measure models against each other
- Currently Judd and GBVS models work best
- There is still a gap between models and human performance
- Want to optimize blur for each model and then compare models

Understanding and predicting where people look

Introduction



Learning a model



Benchmarking models of saliency



Fixations on lowresolution images

Conclusion

Motivation



- Most eyetracking studies on high res images
- Torralba showed images understood as early as 32px [Torralba 2009 How many pixels make an image?]
- Faces can be recognized as low as 16x16px [Harmon & Jules 1973, Bachmann 1991, Schyns&Oliva 1997, Sinha et al 2006]



Motivating questions

- How does image resolution affect fixations?
- Are fixation patterns the same as you reduce resolution? how far can you go?
- Need for computational efficiency
- Models use high frequency features. Is this really necessary?

168 images were shown at8 different resolutions64 observers (8 per resolution)



I/8 cpd

cycles per degree

16 cpd

[Low-res data set]

















As resolution decreases there are fewer fixations



As resolution decreases fixations are more centered



Average fixation map for 168 natural images at each resolution

We measure how well fixations of one image predict fixations of another image



Image 2 (512px)





Fixations from both imgs









Area under ROC curve: 0.947



Prediction matrices show how consistent fixations are across resolutions

	Average Prediction Matrix for all 168 Natural Images (4 fixations) resolution									
	512	256	128	64	32	16	8	4		4
512	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.89	0.87	0.84	0.81		
256	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.89	0.87	0.85	0.82		0.95
128	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.90	0.89	0.86	0.82		
64	0.90	0.91	0.91	0.92	0.92	0.90	0.88	0.84		0.9
32	0.87	0.88	0.89	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.89	0.85		0.95
16	0.85	0.86	0.87	0.89	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.86		0.05
8	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.87	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.87		0.8
4	0.79	0.80	0.81	0.83	0.85	0.87	0.88	0.87		
Center Prior	0.84	0.85	0.86	0.88	0.90	0.91	0.91	0.89		0.75
Chance	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		0.7

Fixations on low res images can predict fixations on highest res images

	Averag	Average Prediction Matrix for all 168 Natural Images (4 fixations) resolution								
	512	256	128	64	32	16	8	4		. 1
512	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.89	0.87	0.84	0.81		
256	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.89	0.87	0.85	0.82		0.95
128	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.90	0.89	0.86	0.82		
64	0.90	0.91	0.91	0.92	0.92	0.90	0.88	0.84		 0.9
32	0.87	0.88	0.89	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.89	0.85		
16	0.85	0.86	0.87	0.89	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.86		0.85
8	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.87	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.87		 0.8
4 ****	0.79	0.80	0.81	0.83	0.85	0.87	0.88	0.87		
Center Prior	0.84	0.85	0.86	0.88	0.90	0.91	0.91	0.89		0.75
Chance	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		0.7

Fixation consistency depends on image complexity



Clap when you are pretty sure you know what is in the following image
















Hypothesis: fixations become consistent when people understand the image



32px

512px

Hypothesis: fixations consistent on blurrier images because resolution eye can resolve in periphery is same



high-res image with simulated visual falloff



low-res image has same cycles/deg in periphery

Main takeaways

- Fixations on images of ~64px (2cpd) and above provide very good predictions of fixations on highres images
- Depending on your application, you can use images of lower resolution...>512px not necessary.
 - depends on image complexity and
 - number of fixations you want to model

In the thesis we also show

- Human fixations are equally consistent with each other at all resolutions above 16px
- Prediction and consistency performance is higher for easy images than for hard images
- There is very little consistency among fixations on noisy images







Contributions

Introduction



Learning a model



Benchmarking models of saliency



Fixations on lowresolution images

Conclusion

Conclusions

- Humans are best predictors of where others will look
- Many features correlate with where people look. Using them together gets more power.
- Saw surprisingly high performance of the center model. High weight on center feature.
- Face, person, object detectors useful but need to be used with other features
- High frequency features might not be as important. Blurrier models better, and fixations are in the same locations on blurry images
- Computational systems can gain efficiency by using low resolution images

Open questions

- Better ways of integrating top-down information
- Better features

(Devi Parikh show features more important than amount of training data).

• Better data sets

(Are they good enough, diverse enough? What biases do they have? Torralba and Efros 2011 and Pinto 2008 show data sets often biased).

• Better understanding of human vision

(Understand effects of image retargeting, image warping, image compression and degradation, image size)

Acknowledgments

- Fredo Durand and Antonio Torralba
- Aude Oliva and Bill Freeman
- Krista Ehinger, Barbara Hidalgo-Sotelo, Nicolas Pinto Yann Le Tallec, Sylvain Paris for fruitful conversations and help with the work and eye tracking experiments
- Eye tracking subjects
- MIT Graphics Group
- Tom Buelher and Bryt Bradley
- Friends
- Family and Yann



Gender Differences for Specific Body Regions When Looking at Men and Women," Johannes Hewig, Ralf H. Trippe, Holger Hecht, Thomas Straube and Wolfgang H.R. Miltner, *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*, vol. 32, no. 2, June 2008

Gender Differences for Specific Body Regions When Looking at Men and Women," Johannes Hewig, Ralf H. Trippe, Holger Hecht, Thomas Straube and Wolfgang H.R. Miltner, Journal of Nonverbal Behavior, vol. 32, no. 2, June 2008

"Participants were exposed to 30 pictures of 15 male and 15 female models in casual clothing.

Gender Differences for Specific Body Regions When Looking at Men and Women," Johannes Hewig, Ralf H. Trippe, Holger Hecht, Thomas Straube and Wolfgang H.R. Miltner, Journal of Nonverbal Behavior, vol. 32, no. 2, June 2008

"Participants were exposed to 30 pictures of 15 male and 15 female models in casual clothing.

The results show that both male and female observers primarily gaze at people's face.

Gender Differences for Specific Body Regions When Looking at Men and Women," Johannes Hewig, Ralf H. Trippe, Holger Hecht, Thomas Straube and Wolfgang H.R. Miltner, *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*, vol. 32, no. 2, June 2008

"Participants were exposed to 30 pictures of 15 male and 15 female models in casual clothing.

The results show that both male and female observers primarily gaze at people's face.

Only after this initial face-scan, men look significantly earlier and longer at women's breasts, while women look earlier at men's legs."



http://www.ojr.org/ojr/stories/070312ruel/

"Men tend to focus on private anatomy as well as the face. For the women, the face is the only place they viewed".

Online Journalism Review (2007) Eyetracking points the way to effective news article design

Does cropping an image affect the center bias of fixations?



Crop Reference



Does cropping an image affect the center bias of fixations?



Crop Reference

All crops have some center bias, but in addition...



fixations lean to the right

fixations lean to the left

Is there less center bias if you do not put the cross hair in the center?

The tendency to look near the center may be reinforced during the eye tracking experiments. Indeed each trial began with a centrally located fixation marker. This marker could be randomly positioned.

However, studies which did not use a central fixation marker (Canosa, Pelz, Mennie, and Peak, 2003) have also shown a central fixation bias.

Center bias is also not reduced with increased viewing time as shown by Le Meur et al [2006] who showed images at 2s, 8s and 14s.

Fixation consistency depends on image complexity



Yarbus (1967) was the first to show that *task* influences fixation locations



"They did not expect him" by Repin

Yarbus (1967) was the first to show that *task* influences fixation locations



Fixations on low-res images can predict fixations on high-res images

Predict Fixations on High Res Imgs

Predict fixations on 512px image (168 Natural Imgs)





It is possible to see the fixations online
























500

Number of images







MIT (1003, 15) Judd et al. 2009 3 seconds free viewing





Number of images





NUSEF (758, 25)

Ramanathan 2010 5 seconds free viewing faces, nudes, actions, emotion-evoking images



1000



100



NUSEF (758, 25)

Ramanathan 2010 5 seconds free viewing faces, nudes, actions, emotion-evoking images



