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Visualizing What is About to HappenBy *zogger* on Fri, 16 May 2008 17:20:16 PDT [Science](#)

Researchers think they can now explain exactly what various [optical illusions](#) work. They theorize it is because the brain has evolved to do a slight fast forward projection on things we are seeing, it anticipates what should be there well before, by a tenth of a second, it could possibly arrive via the speed of the visual cortex. Basically it is a compensation for lag time.

.."*“Illusions occur when our brains attempt to perceive the future, and those perceptions don't match reality. There has been great success at discovering and documenting countless visual illusions. There has been considerably less success in organizing them,” says Changizi, who is lead author on the paper. “My research focused on systematizing these known incidents of failed future seeing into a ‘periodic table’ of illusion classes that can predict a broad pattern of the illusions we might be subject to.”*”

ed.z.: also could help explain why feints are so good in fighting, and why professional car racers can maneuver at such high speeds and *not* get in wrecks all the time, the other drivers there are also anticipating what should be common actions so they can stay in synch better and not mess up. A few centimeters at 200 MPH are just way too fast for any human eyeball/brain interface without "something else", and this looks like the researchers found the something else.

Déjà vuBy *John Dalton* on Sat, 17 May 2008 00:47:18 PDT

Perhaps this is linked to [Sleek Geek's](#) explanation of Déjà vu? In one of their [episodes](#) they gave an [explanation](#) that the brain receives two feeds from the eyes. A subconscious low quality feed with a low latency and the "normal" detailed feed with a higher latency. The low latency path is used when we need to jump out of the way of a sabre tooth tiger or similar in a hurry. Under some conditions the low latency path gets through to our conscious thoughts and so we get a sense that it is the second time we are looking at a scene.

Tags: "optical illusions", "perceiving the present"



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