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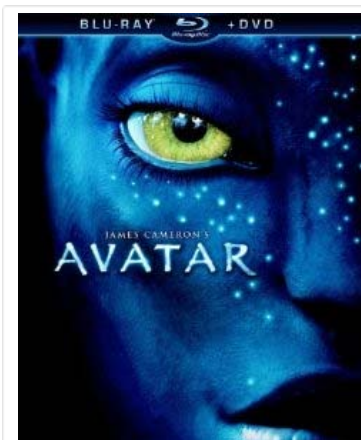
3D May Be a Box-Office Hit, But Our Eyes Were Made for X-Ray Vision

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James Cameron's 3D blockbuster, *Avatar*, may have grossed a billion dollars, but our eyes evolved for 'X-ray' vision, not 3D. That's the theory developed by evolutionary neurobiologist, Mark Changizi.

In an interview with *EarthSky's* Jorge Salazar, Changizi explains his theory that challenges the old assumption that stereoscopic vision is primarily about depth perception. Stereoscopic vision (twin forward-facing eyes give us slightly different views), says Changizi, offers an evolutionary advantage because it renders clutter — non-essential foreground material — transparent.

If that explanation is a bit opaque, here's a quick example: You're hunting a larger, carnivorous animal in a forest. The trick, of course, is not to become the prey, so you peer through bushes to see the beast before it



3D or X-Ray? (Cover via Amazon)

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sees *you*. All those leaves close to your face? They are clutter. Our brains use stereoscopic vision to make the leaves seem transparent, and to highlight the animal.

Still not clear? Dr. Changizi provides short exercises you can do at your desk that make the concept easy to understand.

The interview with Dr. Changizi, who is Director of Human Cognition at [2AI Labs](#), begins nineteen minutes into the show.

via [EarthSky 22 for January 14, 2011](#) | [Human World](#) | [EarthSky](#).

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ABOUT ME

I'm a freelance investigative reporter and author. But enough about me. What is EDISON 2.0, you ask? It's what comes after EDISON 1.0 - which began on September 4, 1882. Thomas Edison flipped a switch at the first commercial (coal-burning) power station, and our modern world began. That model has stayed pretty much the same for 128 years. But it's about to change, and Edison himself predicted the shift. In the long run, Edison told Henry Ford in 1931, "I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power!" In EDISON 2.0 I'll report on the fundamental changes in how energy, the environment, technology, business and politics interact. You can follow me on twitter at @thephoenixsun. [See my profile »](#)

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