

Abstract

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A Neurodynamical Model Of Brightness Induction In V1 Following Static And Dynamic Contextual Influences

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Brightness induction is the modulation of the perceived intensity of an area by the luminance of surrounding areas. Although striate cortex is traditionally regarded as an area mostly responsive to sensory (i.e. retinal) information, neurophysiological evidence suggests that perceived brightness information might be explicitly represented in V1. Such evidence has been observed both in anesthetised cats where neuronal response modulations have been found to follow luminance changes outside the receptive fields and in human fMRI measurements.

In this work, possible neural mechanisms that offer a plausible explanation for such phenomenon are investigated. To this end, we consider the model proposed by Z.Li (Li, *Network:Comput. Neural Syst.*, 10 (1999)) which is based on neurophysiological evidence and focuses on the part of V1 responsible for contextual influences, i.e. layer 2-3 pyramidal cells, interneurons, and horizontal intracortical connections. This model has reproduced other phenomena such as contour detection and preattentive segmentation, which share with brightness induction the relevant effect of contextual influences. We have extended the original model such that the input to the network is obtained from a complete multiscale and multiorientation wavelet decomposition, thereby allowing the recovery of an image reflecting the perceived intensity. The proposed model successfully accounts for well known psychophysical effects for static contexts (among them: the White's and modified White's effects, the Todorovic, Chevreul, achromatic ring patterns, and grating induction effects) and also for brightness induction in dynamic contexts defined by modulating the luminance of surrounding areas (e.g. the brightness of a static central area is perceived to vary in antiphase to the sinusoidal luminance changes of its surroundings). This work thus suggests that intra-cortical interactions in V1 could partially explain perceptual brightness induction effects and reveals how a common general architecture may account for several different fundamental processes emerging early in the visual processing pathway.