

Investigating Perception Time in the Far Peripheral Vision for Virtual and Augmented Reality

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Figure 1: Understanding perception time and scale of objects in the far peripheral vision can enhance several applications in VR and AR. For example, displaying navigation information in a theme park in an AR headset should avoid (a) occluding places of interest and visual clutter of arrows, and (b) too-hard-to-notice icons. Scaling the logos and alerts according to our findings, as shown in (c) and (d) allows effective and timely perception of relevant information in the far peripheral regions without cluttering the central vision. Theme park image here is reproduced with permission from Bernie Kelm, <http://www.rocket9.net>.

ABSTRACT

Far peripheral vision (beyond 60° eccentricity) is beginning to be supported in the latest virtual and augmented reality (VR and AR) headsets. This benefits the VR and AR experiences by allowing a greater amount of information to be conveyed, reducing visual clutter, and enabling subtle visual attention management. However, the visual properties of the far periphery are different from those of the central vision, because of the physiological differences between the areas on the visual cortex responsible for the respective vision types. In this paper, we investigate the *perception time* in the far peripheral vision, specifically the time it takes for a user to perceive a pattern at a high eccentricity. We have characterized the perception time in the far peripheral vision by conducting a user study on 40 participants in which the participants distinguish between two types of patterns displayed at several sizes and at various eccentricities in their field of view. Our results show that at higher

eccentricities, participants take longer to perceive a pattern. Based on user study data, we are able to characterize the desired scaling of patterns at higher eccentricities, so that they can be perceived within a similar amount of time as in the central vision.

CCS CONCEPTS

• **Computing methodologies** → **Perception**; *Mixed / augmented reality*; *Virtual reality*;

KEYWORDS

peripheral vision, perception time, virtual and augmented reality

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1 INTRODUCTION

Graphics has thus far primarily focused on high-fidelity rendering that is best suited for the central vision. Rendering in the far peripheral vision has not received much attention because most of the displays thus far had a narrow field of view (FOV). However, rapid advances in display technologies are enabling head mounted

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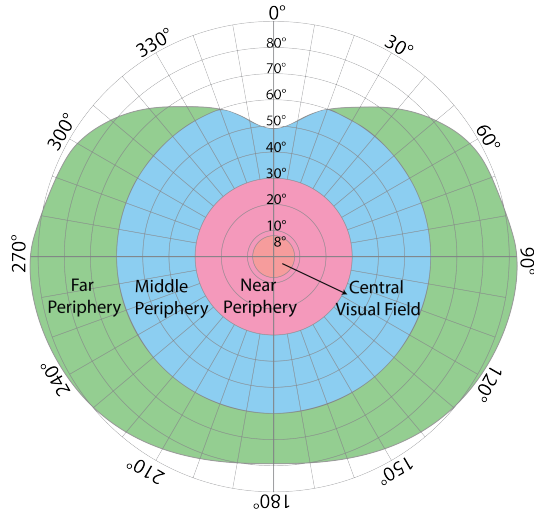


Figure 2: Illustration of human visual field. Central visual field, near, middle and far peripheral vision are from 0° to 8°, 8° to 30°, 30° to 60° and beyond 60° respectively. Image adapted from [Jones et al. 2013b]

displays (HMDs) with an ever-increasing FOV. This has necessitated a better understanding of how peripheral vision rendering could assist in the next-generation of VR and AR applications.

In this paper, we are interested in the far peripheral vision, which suffers significantly diminished visual acuity compared to central vision. Definitions of peripheral vision differ throughout the literature. In this paper, foveal vision (within 2° from the fixation point), together with perifoveal, is called the *central vision* [Jones et al. 2013b; Strasburger et al. 2011]. The central vision covers the region from 0° to 8° eccentricity, and corresponds to the eye’s *macula*, responsible for high-resolution color vision. Beyond the central vision is the peripheral vision. Near, middle and far periphery span 8° to 30°, 30° to 60°, and above 60° eccentricity, respectively [Simpson 2017]. All eccentricities in this study are horizontal. A visual representation can be seen in Figure 2.

Our goal in this paper is to investigate perception time in the far peripheral vision. Specifically, we conduct a user study to measure participants’ perception time of a series of size-scaled simple patterns at a set of eccentricities. It takes longer to perceive a given pattern at a higher eccentricity than in the central vision; however, a larger pattern at a higher eccentricity can be perceived in a similar time as the original in central vision. Making use of the far peripheral vision has several advantages. First, peripheral vision, although lacking in visual acuity, provides an opportunity for additional information to be displayed. Second, displaying non-critical information in the far periphery can reduce visual clutter in the central vision. Last but not the least, displaying content in the far periphery is less intrusive to the central vision. Recently, Grogorick *et al.* [Grogorick et al. 2017] have started a very useful research direction on subtle attention management for VR and AR. Our work can be used to extend that line of research to the far peripheral vision. This allows the VR and AR users to focus on the task at hand, or fully enjoy the immersive experience while also

being able to perceive information in the periphery. Displaying in the far periphery in VR and AR enables *calm technology* [Weiser and Brown 1996], where information, instead of overwhelming the user on a single tiny screen, is deployed and managed in a more subtle way, in this case making use of a wider field of vision. An example use case could be that when playing an immersive VR game, a message or a phone call alert could be displayed in the peripheral vision; the intrusion to the immersion is limited, yet the user is notified of new information efficiently. As another example, imagine walking in a theme park with AR headwear: directions to attractions of interest could be displayed in the far periphery, while the central view remains unobstructed. Illustrations of such use cases can be seen in Figure 1.

Our study is related to concepts in psychophysics called *cortical magnification* and *M-scaling*. Cortical magnification says that M , the diameter in the primary visual cortex onto which 1 degree of visual field projects ([Daniel and Whitteridge 1961]), is inversely linear to the eccentricity E . The relationship can be formulated as

$$M^{-1}(E) = M_0^{-1}(1 + aE) \quad (1)$$

where a is a coefficient [Strasburger et al. 2011]. Variations of the formula exist in [Brindley and Lewin 1968; Cowey and Rolls 1974; Horton and Hoyt 1991; Larsson and Heeger 2006; Rovamo and Virsu 1979; Schwartz 1980; Strasburger and Malania 2013; Tolhurst and Ling 1987; Tyler 1999; Yates and Stafford 2011]. This leads to *M-scaling*, which says performance variations with eccentricity can be minimized by using appropriately scaled stimuli ([Strasburger et al. 2011]). *M-scaling* can be represented as

$$S(E) = S_0(1 + E/E_2) \quad (2)$$

where $S(E)$ is the scale at eccentricity E .

Our work makes the following contributions. First, many studies on *M-scaling* focus on low-level visual properties such as contrast sensitivity [Rovamo and Virsu 1979]. In our study, participants are asked to perform a higher-level visual task by responding to different patterns. We record the time for participants to respond to patterns of different scales at different locations. This facilitates determination of an appropriate magnification for patterns at higher eccentricities so that they can be perceived in a similar time as those in the central visual field. Second, to our knowledge, we are the first to test and report a scaling function in the far peripheral field, applicable to a field of view of up to 140° horizontally.

In this study, we investigate perception time to determine the scaling for information displayed in the far periphery that achieves a similar perception time as in the central vision. We create an automated testing system that simulates a wide field of view VR and AR display, and tracks an observer’s gaze direction. In section 2, we introduce perception studies on peripheral vision, as well as VR and AR research that makes special use of the peripheral vision. We also include previous work in designing and building wide FOV VR and AR displays. In section 3, we describe the design of our experiment, as well as our system setup. We visualize and analyze our collected data to derive the scaling function in section 4.

Table 1: List of wide field of view virtual and augmented reality display techniques and devices. The spatial resolution of holographic display is same as the SLM pixel pitch when inside the depth of field[Shi et al. 2017]. The items with * are calculated from measurement and other reported device specifications.

Display	Max reported FOV (°)	Color	Angular Resolution
Spherical wave holographic display(2017) [Maimone et al. 2017; Shi et al. 2017]	80(H)	RGB	3.74 μ m
Stereoscopic factored light field synthesis(2015) [Huang et al. 2015]	87 x 91	RGB	4.1 arcmin/pix*
Flexible mirror membrane(2017) [Dunn et al. 2017]	90 x 45	RGB	3.4 arcmin/pix*
LCD and optics (Meta 2)	90 x 50	RGB	3 arcmin/pix
Detachable display and optics (Samsung Gear VR, Google Daydream)	100(D)	RGB	2.5 arcmin/pix*
Pinlight(2014) [Maimone et al. 2014]	110(D)	Mono	4.5 arcmin/pix*
Tiling display and fresnel lenses(2003) [Massof et al. 2003]	150 x 100	RGB	3 arcmin/pix
LCD and catadioptrical optics(2003) [Nagahara et al. 2003]	180(H)	RGB	5.7-10.5 arcmin/pix*
Projector and hyperbolic mirror(2007) [Kiyokawa 2007]	190(H)	RGB	60 arcmin/pix*
sparse peripheral display(2016) [Xiao and Benko 2016]	190(H)	RGB	5.5 arcmin/pix*
OLED and fresnel optics (HTC Vive, Oculus Rift, StarVR)	210 x 130	RGB	5.5 arcmin/pix*
Curve display and optics(2016) [Rakkolainen et al. 2016a,b]	318 x 130	RGB	5.4-7.5 arcmin/pix*
CAVE [Cruz-Neira et al. 1993, 1992; DeFanti et al. 2009; Ren et al. 2016]	full	RGB	1.5-3 arcmin/pix*
Tiled desktop displays [Robertson et al. 1997]	full	RGB	3-4 arcmin/pix*

2 RELATED WORK

Low-level visual properties like contrast sensitivity have been studied extensively in the central and near peripheral vision. But there has been little work on far peripheral vision or on high-level perceptual functions. In section 2.1, we introduce related perceptual psychology works on peripheral vision. In section 2.2, we discuss cases in which peripheral vision is utilized in virtual and augmented reality. Last, we include a list of methods for creating wide FOV VR and AR displays in section 2.3 in Table 1.

2.1 Studies on Peripheral Vision

Cortical magnification and M-scaling are well-studied subjects of peripheral vision. Various models have been proposed. Cowey and Rolls [1974] first fit the visual cortex electrical stimulation data provided by Brindly and Lewin [1968] to the inverse linear model ($M^{-1}(E) = M_0^{-1}(E/E_2)$) with $M_0 = 8.55\text{mm}/^\circ$ and $E_2 = 1.746$. Through medical imaging of the visual cortex, Horton and Hoyt [1991], Schira *et al.* [2007] and Larsson and Heeger [2006] derive different values for M_0 and E_2 . Rovamo and Virsu [1979] propose adding an extra term for improved accuracy $M^{-1}(E) = (1 + aE + bE^3)M_0^{-1}$ and compile four equations for the four half meridians separately. There is also the power function used by Tolhurst and Ling [1987], which is $M^{-1}(E) = M_0^{-1}(1 + aE)^{1.1}$ with $M_0 = 24.88\text{mm}/^\circ$.

Rovamo and Virsu [1979] adjust the stimuli presented in the periphery using the function $M^{-1}(E)$, and the contrast sensitivity functions at different eccentricities are made similar as a result. However, it is worth noting that the cortical magnification and M-scaling concepts are not golden rules to “make everything equally visible independent of eccentricity”. There are cases in which scaling does not compensate for the decreasing M factor, and even cases in which visual performance is diminished [Tyler 1999; Yates and Stafford 2011]. For more details on cortical magnification and M-scaling, we refer readers to [Strasburger *et al.* 2011].

High-level visual functions like letter recognition are also peripheral vision study topics. Strasburger *et al.* [2011] propose a

scaling function $S(E) = 0.022E + \frac{0.25}{\log C + 2.07 - 0.0345E}$ based on data from [Strasburger 2001], where C is the Michelson threshold contrast. Grogoric *et al.* [2017] find a linear scaling function from 0° to 40° eccentricity to make objects presented in a virtual scene perceivable.

Studies have also shown that peripheral vision is capable of, and sometimes plays an important part in, higher-level perceptual tasks like scene and object recognition. Thorpe *et al.* [2001] show that even at 70° eccentricity, an accuracy of 60.6% can be achieved in recognizing animal faces. Boucart *et al.* [2016] compare people’s ability to identify images of human faces, vehicles and animals at different eccentricities. The results show that human faces have an advantage over vehicles and animals in terms of response time, and that advantage persists even at extreme eccentricities up to 80° . In scene gist recognition, Loschky *et al.* [2009; 2015] compare participants’ abilities to categorize a scene from a “window” (central portion of the image) and a “scotoma” (blocking central portion, only keeping the peripheral part of the image). They show that peripheral vision is more important than central vision in scene gist recognition, as recognizing a 30° radius scotoma achieves the same accuracy as recognizing the whole image, and a 5° radius window is significantly harder to recognize. Other studies have shown that peripheral vision allows, though at reduced level, recognition of facial expressions and emotions ([Bayle *et al.* 2011; Landman *et al.* 2014]).

Ren *et al.* [2016] investigate whether a larger field of view improves searching task performance in augmented reality. Their results show that a larger field of view ($108^\circ \times 82^\circ$) leads to shorter task completion time, but lowers correctness compared to limited field of view ($45^\circ \times 30^\circ$). Kline and Witmer [1996] conduct a user study to investigate the effect of field of view on distance judgement in virtual environment, and find that with a smaller field of view ($60^\circ \times 38.5^\circ$) participants tend to overestimate distance while with a larger field of view ($140^\circ \times 90^\circ$) participants tend to underestimate. Jones *et al.* show in [2017; 2013b] that adding stimulation in the far

periphery in a VR headset causes more accurate distance and size judgement in a virtual environment and changes people’s walking behavior. A good literary review on effects of field of view in virtual environments can be found in [Jones et al. 2017].

2.2 Peripheral Vision in VR and AR

Researchers in the graphics community have long used the fact that human peripheral vision perceives less detail than foveal vision. Oshima *et al.* [1996] analyze user gaze direction, and blur objects not in the user’s foveal vision to reduce rendering complexity. In an augmented reality application, Ishiguro and Rekimoto [2011] display an icon above objects in the periphery of the user’s field of view, and show the detailed information when the user’s gaze is moved to that object. Jones *et al.* [2013a] project images that are aesthetically matched with a user’s content on the TV. Positive user feedback shows that enriching peripheral vision can improve the interactive user experience.

2.3 Wide FOV Displays

Various ways to build wide FOV VR and AR displays have been proposed. Most of the systems we review here support 100° horizontal FOV or greater. The most straightforward system that extends viewer’s FOV is the *cave automatic virtual environment* (CAVE). Cruz-Neira *et al.* [1993] create a $7' \times 7' \times 7'$ cube-shaped CAVE where images were projected to three side walls and the floor. It covers the entire field of view when the viewer is facing the middle of the three projection walls. There have been many iterations and variations of the CAVE system [DeFanti et al. 2009; Ren et al. 2016].

In an effort to study immersion on desktop VR, Robertson *et al.* [1997] use two additional monitors (referred by them as *peripheral lenses*) on either side of the main monitor. The total horizontal FOV using two peripheral lenses is approximately 38°. Attaching additional monitors can possibly cover the entire FOV.

In traditional HMDs, the two most important components are the display panel and optics. Modifying either or both is a common method of enlarging the FOV of HMDs. Nagahara *et al.* [2003] build a prototype video see-through HMD that uses a complicated configuration of an ellipsoidal and a hyperboloidal curved mirror to reflect light from the display into viewer’s eyes, covering 180° horizontal FOV. Kiyoshi [2007] create an optical see-through HMD using a hyperbolic mirror instead of a flat one to increase the horizontal FOV to 190°. Dunn *et al.* [2017] take the optics design one step further to accommodate depth cues while achieving a large field of view by using a flexible mirror membrane to reflect light from the display. This allows a 90° by 45° binocular FOV. The membrane is also varifocal, controlled by airtight cavities. The focal power can be adjusted with a gaze tracker. Rakkolainen *et al.* [2016a; 2016b] use flexible OLED that curved around viewer’s eye and curved optics to reach super-wide FOV. They create proof-of-concept prototypes using fresnel lenses and achieved $232^\circ \times 130^\circ$ and $318^\circ \times 130^\circ$ FOV.

Tiling display panels or optics can also increase the field of view. Massof *et al.* [2003] achieve 150° by 100° FOV by using a specially-molded array of fresnel lenses, and surrounding each lens with 16 OLED panels. Tiling optics of tiny pinholes has been used by Aksit *et al.* [2015]. Given the pupil and aperture size and the aperture-pupil and aperture-display distance, the FOV of a single aperture can be

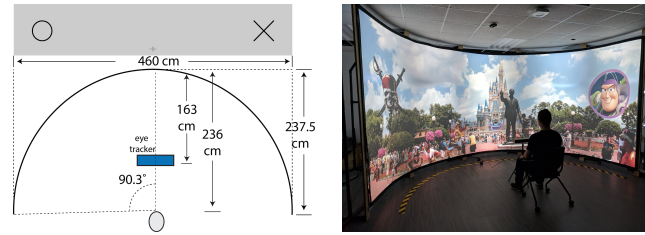


Figure 3: Top view and stimuli (left) of our user-study setup. In the experiment, patterns appear one at a time. A photograph of our system used in study (right). Shown on screen is one of the possible use cases of the system.

calculated. To widen the FOV of the HMD, an array of pinholes is used. Specially synthesized images are displayed on a cellphone, from which light travels across the apertures to reconstruct the original images. The FOV is easily expandable with larger display and more apertures. Xiao and Benko [2016] fill the periphery of the HMD with sparse arrays of high-contrast LED lights, dubbed *sparse peripheral display*. Their prototypes based on existing commercial VR and AR HMDs, achieve FOV of 170° and 190° respectively.

Light-field and holographic near-eye HMDs, while in their early development stages, have the potential to support a large FOV, and address problems like vergence and accommodation. A prototype by Huang *et al.* [2015] uses a rank 1-factored light field, and has a FOV of 87° by 91°. Maimone *et al.* [2017] and Shi *et al.* [2017] use spherical light wave to address the limit of a small diffraction angle. Maimone *et al.*’s prototype is shown to have a 80° horizontal FOV.

3 USER STUDY DESIGN

We build a user-study system that uses a large curved screen and eye tracking to simulate a wide FOV HMD. Stimuli of different sizes are displayed at various eccentricities. Participants respond to the stimuli by pressing buttons on a controller device. The responses are recorded. Our setup is illustrated in Figure 3.

The display we use in this study is a custom-made curved tiled screen using 5×3 projector array, with a 6400×2100 resolution. This display has a 180° horizontal FOV when viewed 236 cm away from the center of the screen. The system setup can be seen in Figure 3 right. The eye tracking device we use is a Tobii EyeX commercial eye tracker. The eye tracker is placed 163 cm away from the center of the screen, slightly below eye level facing the user.

The system displays various patterns of different sizes at different eccentricities according to a pre-determined randomized order. The response from the user’s game controller is recorded at 60 Hz.

3.1 Task and Stimuli

We display two types of patterns, crosses and circles, as shown in Figure 3 left top. In the user study task, one type of pattern is specified as the *target*, and the other is the *distraction*. The task is to perceive the pattern and respond (by pressing a button on a controller) to the target pattern as soon as it appears and ignore the distraction, while keeping fixated at the center of the screen. For the purposes of this study, we define the time from the appearance of the pattern to the button being pressed is recorded as the *perception*

time. We recognize that this includes the time for the eye to perceive the pattern, the brain to understand the pattern, and for the user to respond by pressing the button on the controller. If a participant responds incorrectly, the stimulus will turn red. For example, when the cross is specified as the target, and the circle is the distraction, the participant should press a button on the controller as soon as he or she sees a cross on the screen, and do nothing with a circle. Participants are further directed to keep looking at the center of the screen and not move their heads or gaze directions. The cross-hair at the center will turn green if eye tracker confirms the participant is looking at the center, and is black otherwise.

Since our display supports 180° FOV and considering the space to display the pattern at the outermost eccentricity, the stimuli are tested at eccentricities from 0° to 80°, with a 10° interval. Because we are more interested in higher eccentricities, we test stimuli at higher eccentricities at a wider scale range. Specifically, eccentricities 0°, 10°, 20° and 30° are tested at scales 5°, 10° and 15°, while eccentricities 40°, 50°, 60°, 70° and 80° are tested at scales 5°, 8°, 11°, 14°, 17°, 20°, 23° and 26°. The scale ranges are determined after our pilot study. Each eccentricity-scale combination is repeated 5 times for each pattern as target and 2 times for each pattern as distraction (14 times in total).

3.2 User Study Procedure

The study is conducted with one participant at a time. We first explain to the participants the purpose of this study. We then ask them to log their basic personal information, including name, age, and whether or not they have vision correction. We then explain how the study is conducted, and perform practice rounds of the study. The experimenter answers any question at this point.

To reduce participant fatigue, the entire experiment is divided into four shorter rounds between which the participants can take a break. Two rounds have the cross as the target pattern; two have the circle as the target. For example, circle is repeated 5 times for each eccentricity-scale combination and cross is repeated 2 times for each eccentricity-scale combination. These patterns are shuffled and divided into the 2 circle-target rounds. The opposite is done for the 2 cross-target rounds. The 4 rounds are the same for each participant, but half go over them in a *cross1, circle1, cross2, circle2* order, and the other half in a *circle1, cross1, circle2, cross2* order. During each round, the experimenter stays out of the eye tracker's range. The experiment takes about 60 minutes for each participant. After all the rounds are done, each participant was compensated with \$10. During the experiment, we recorded participants' eye movements and the game controller responses. We cross-referenced this data with the stimuli to determine the precise perception time.

For the pilot user study, we had six participants. For the formal user study we recruited 40 participants (24 male and 16 female). Every participant had a normal (31 participants) or corrected-to-normal vision (6 had eyeglasses and 3 used contact lenses).

4 RESULTS

We first visualize the perception time over all eccentricity-scale combinations. Then we characterize the relation among perception time, eccentricity and scale. Finally we quantify the optimal scaling

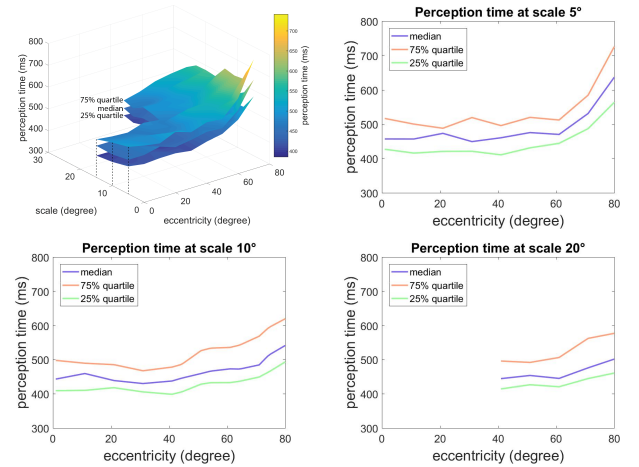


Figure 4: Perception time of all eccentricity-scale combinations is presented as a 3D colored mesh (top left). The three planes from top to bottom are the 75% quartile, median (50% quartile), and 25% quartile of all participants. The perception time at three scales (5°, 10° and 20°) is also shown.

at high eccentricities to achieve the same perception time as in the central vision.

We first show the perception time over all eccentricity-scale combinations in the form of a 3D surface mesh. The perception time is indicated both as the height and by color. The surface mesh of the median (50th percentile) as well as the 25% and 75% quartiles of all participants can be seen in Figure 4. In figure 5, the median perception time of participants over all eccentricity and scale combinations is shown in greater detail, and we plot the linear relation between scale and eccentricity that will result in the same perception time (Section 4.3). Figures 4 and 5 show that generally, perception time increases as eccentricity gets higher, and decreases as scale becomes larger. One-way ANOVA test on the perception time with each eccentricity-scale combination as a group has a p -value of 1.3×10^{-6} , giving us high confidence to reject the null hypothesis that the perception times follow the same distribution.

4.1 Perception Time and Scale

The aim of this study is to determine optimal scaling of content displayed at higher eccentricities so that it is perceived in a similar time as in the central vision. Specifically, for a pre-specified perception time T_0 , we want to find at each higher eccentricity the scale at which the pattern's perception time is equal to T_0 .

First we derive the relationship between perception time T and scale S at a given eccentricity. We plot the perception time at each tested scale for a given eccentricity directly from the user study data. We wish to represent the perception time as a function of the scale. As can be seen in Figure 6, for a given eccentricity, perception time generally decreases as scale gets larger.

Judging from Figure 6, we fit the relation of perception time and scale as a function of the form:

$$T(S) = a \log(S) + b \quad (3)$$

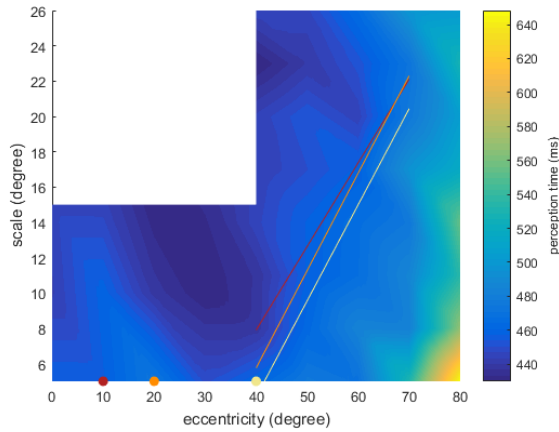


Figure 5: A color-coded map of the median perception time for all eccentricity-scale combinations. Using our findings in Section 4.3, we plot the scales at higher eccentricities to be perceived in the same time as a 5° pattern at 10° (red), 20° (orange) and 40° (yellow).

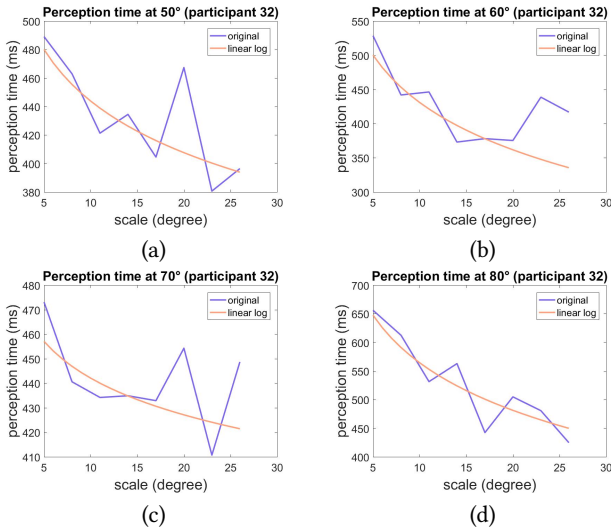


Figure 6: Figures (a), (b), (c) and (d) show the relation between perception time and scale measured for a single user (participant 32) at 50°, 60°, 70° and 80° eccentricities, respectively.

where $T(S)$ is the perception time in milliseconds, S is the scale in degrees in the visual field, and a, b are parameters. The function $T(S)$ is calculated for each eccentricity for each participant. We only calculate the perception time vs. scale relation on eccentricities above 40° because we are interested in calculating this relationship for the far peripheral vision.

4.2 Perception Time and Eccentricity

We present the relation between perception time and eccentricity in Figure 7. Specifically, we show the median perception time over

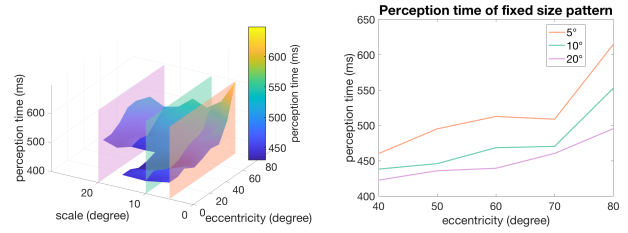


Figure 7: The perception time across eccentricities with an s -sized pattern is the intersection of the plane $scale = s$ and the perception time surface in Figure 4. The intersection with 5°, 10° and 20° scale planes are shown in (left). The intersection curves are shown in (right).

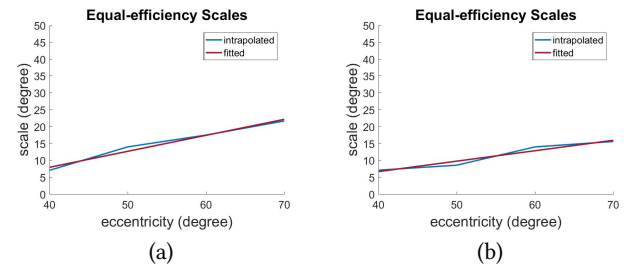


Figure 8: Equal-efficiency scales that produce the same perception time as (a) a 5° pattern at 10° eccentricity and (b) perceived in 450 ms. These are the median over all participants.

all participants with 5°, 10° and 20° patterns at higher eccentricities. When the size of the pattern is kept constant, it takes longer for the patterns at higher eccentricities to be perceived. Perception time decreases as the pattern size increases at the same eccentricity (see Figure 6). As is shown, there is a clear difference between the time in perceiving the same-sized pattern at a lower eccentricity versus at a higher eccentricity. The 150 ms difference between perceiving a 5° pattern at 40° and 80° eccentricity is noticeable and it is meaningful to characterize the scaling at higher eccentricities to bridge this gap.

4.3 Equal-Efficiency Scale at each Eccentricity

With the function $T(S)$, we can calculate for any given eccentricity the scale at which the pattern is perceived within a given amount of time. Therefore, we can plot the relations of eccentricity and scale for a desired perception time. We call this the *equal-efficiency scale*.

Given a target perception time, we calculate the equal-efficiency scale for each participant and present the median of all participants in Figure 8. We note that we only test within the scale range of [5,26]°. The equal-efficiency scales at 80° eccentricity for a sizable portion of the participants are outside our tested range and therefore cannot be considered valid. The equal-efficiency scales within the tested range exhibit a linear relationship between scale and eccentricity. $S(E) = \alpha E + \beta, 40 \leq E \leq 70$.

We present the parameters for a few example target perception time choices in Table 2. We can either use a fixed perception time, e.g. 450 ms, or we can specify a target pattern, a pattern of a given size at

Table 2: Parameters of the equal-efficiency scales fitted to a linear model. The valid range of eccentricity is [40, 70]°. Analysis of variance is conducted with the all participant's equal-efficiency scale at a certain eccentricity as a group. We include the last 5 rows because the equal-efficiency scales at 70° eccentricity are no more than 4° above the tested range.

Target perception time	α	β	dF	F	p -value
5° at ecc 10°	0.47	-11.04	3	7.02	0.0002
5° at ecc 20°	0.55	-16.3	3	11.96	4.46×10^{-7}
5° at ecc 30°	0.54	-15.08	3	7.96	5.75×10^{-5}
5° at ecc 40°	0.54	-17.64	3	12.48	2.45×10^{-7}
10° at ecc 10°	0.52	-13.11	3	4.78	0.0033
10° at ecc 20°	0.58	-14.8	3	9.3	1.13×10^{-5}
10° at ecc 30°	0.65	-16.52	3	7.04	0.0002
15° at ecc 10°	0.65	-18.49	3	4.22	0.0067
15° at ecc 20°	0.51	-6.67	3	5.32	0.0017
15° at ecc 30°	0.67	-18.74	3	5.31	0.0017

a given eccentricity. The time it takes to perceive this pattern is used as the target perception time. We also conduct one-way ANOVA tests on the equal-efficiency scales of all participants for each high eccentricity with the null hypothesis being that equal-efficiency scales over different eccentricities follow the same distribution.

We illustrate the equal-efficiency scales in a theme park navigation example in Figure 9. We choose the target perception time to be the perception time of a 5° sized pattern at 10°, 20° and 40°, respectively. The patterns at higher eccentricities are scaled so they can be perceived within the target perception time. The target perception time increases as the eccentricity goes from 10° to 40°. The target equal-efficiency scales decrease as a result. The scales in Figure 9 are calculated using the linear equations in Table 2.

5 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

Wide field of view VR and AR displays are starting to become a reality, enabling information perception in the far periphery. In this work, we conduct a user study to investigate perception time in the far peripheral vision. For a constant perception time, we found a linear relationship between eccentricity and the size of the pattern shown at that eccentricity. Based on this relation, we can optimally scale the content displayed at higher eccentricities, so that it can be perceived efficiently. This is useful for designing VR and AR experiences that are able to fully leverage the entire human visual system's field of view.

In future work, we plan to explore if the scaling function applies to even higher eccentricities. With a larger field of view display (for example StarVR¹), we can examine the visual properties up to 105° eccentricity, based on the findings in this study. In addition to visual acuity, peripheral vision also differs from central vision in several other attributes such as contrast sensitivity in color, intensity, orientation, motion, and texture detail. It will be important to investigate how these attributes affect the perception of information in the far periphery. Finally, we would like to use the findings of this study to

design an actual experience and show how far peripheral vision can enhance the user experience in an immersive VR or AR scenario.

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¹<https://www.starvr.com/>

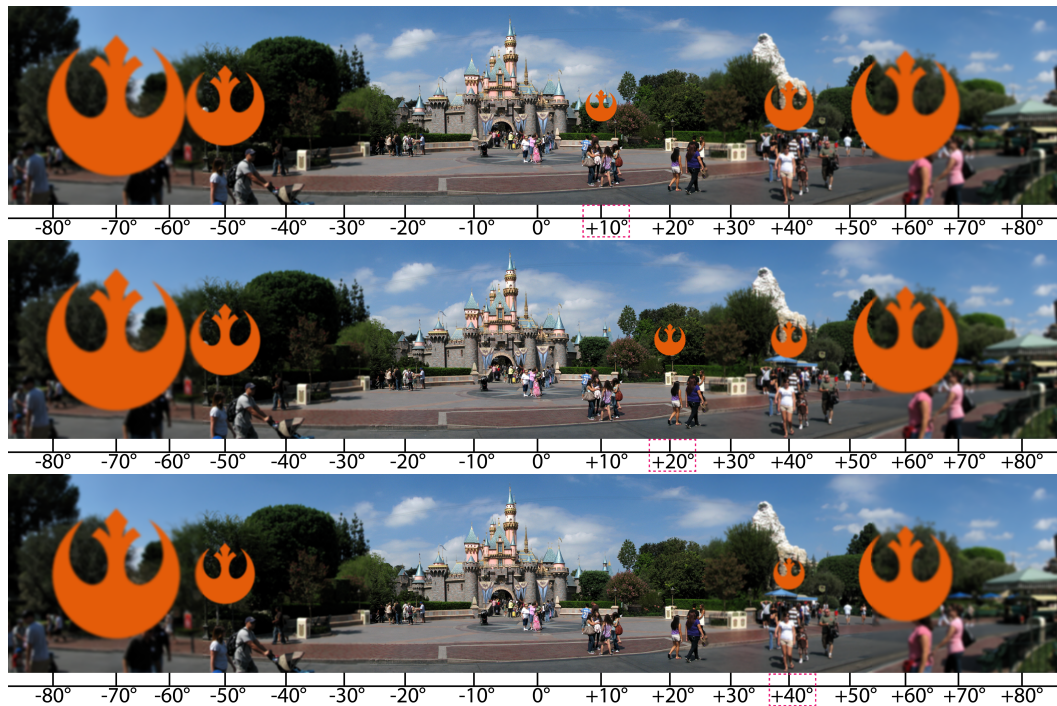


Figure 9: Visualization of equal-efficiency scales for a notional theme park navigation. The Star Wars attraction logo is scaled at various eccentricities using equal-efficiency scales. The target perception times are the perception time of a target pattern of size 5°, at eccentricities (top) 10°, (middle) 20°, and (bottom) 40° (these are shown with red dashed boxes). We do not use patterns at eccentricity 0° as their perception time is too fast to be ever matched by patterns at higher eccentricities (regardless of their scaling). Theme park image reproduced with permission of Bernie Kelm, <https://www.rocket9.net>.

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