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3 **Camouflage assessment: Machine and human**

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Camouflage Assessment: Machine and Human

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18 **Abstract**

19 A vision model is designed using low-level vision principles so that it can perform as a
20 surrogate human observer. In a camouflage assessment task, using military patterns in an
21 outdoor environment, human performance at recognition and detection is compared with
22 the surrogate human observer. This involved field data acquisition and subsequent image
23 calibration, a human experiment, and the design of the vision model. Human and machine
24 performance, at recognition and detection, of military patterns in two environments was
25 found to correlate highly.

26

Key Words: Camouflage Assessment, Observer Modelling, Visual Search

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34 Moorhead, for their support and input.

35

36 **1. Introduction**

37 Military personnel and equipment need protection from detection during conflict.
38 Camouflage is the primary method to achieve this, through coloured textures that match
39 the background and/or disrupt the object's outline (Hartcup 2008; Talas et al. 2017).
40 Assessment of effectiveness can be carried out in a number of ways. The most intuitive
41 method is to use human participants as observers. Such an apparently straightforward
42 procedure, however, is not only limited by uncontrollable conditions, such as the weather, it
43 is also impractical given the large variety of objects/patterns that one might want to
44 evaluate and the range of environments one might want them to be assessed in. Field trials
45 are also expensive and, if the camouflage is being designed for use in hostile theatres of
46 war, may not even be possible. They also do not lend themselves to precise isolation of
47 exactly what leads to the failure of camouflage, something that a paired comparison of
48 otherwise identical target-present and target-absent scenes would allow. Photo-simulation
49 attempts to overcome weather constraints and accessing inaccessible environments, and
50 sometimes the location of conflict, by using synthetic imagery. Recent advances in synthetic
51 rendering are impressive; however current methods are still computationally expensive and

52 the images are unrealistic at small spatial scales due to the current limitations of simulating
53 realistic ray scattering. Furthermore, human experiments are necessarily subjective and do
54 not readily allow evaluation of camouflage against autonomous systems perhaps operating
55 using different spectral wavebands from the human visible. A computational approach is
56 therefore required to overcome the limitations of assessing camouflage using human
57 observers. Such a computational model should be ideally designed, in the first instance, in
58 accordance the human visual system, since it will be performing the task of a human
59 observer and, if it is to replace subjective assessment, needs to be compared to human
60 performance. More generally, however, such a system could be adapted to have a different
61 ‘front end’ (e.g. infra-red, hyperspectral). Therefore it is surprising that a biologically
62 motivated design for the assessment of camouflage has not been implemented.

63 This omission means that the confidence and extendibility of current models and metrics
64 are low, falling short in ability to cope with high dynamic range (i.e. natural) (Bhajantri and
65 Nagabhushan, 2006; Hecker, 1992; Sengottuvelan et al., 2008), semi-automatic labelling or
66 tracking of the target (Chandesha et al., 2009), non-probabilistic and non-scalable distance
67 metrics to high dimensional data or multiple observations given many images (Birkemark,
68 1999; Heinrich and Selj, 2015; Kiltie et al., 1995). Human behavioural data needs to be
69 recorded to assess the coherence between human and model observers. This requires
70 tasking human and model observers with the same experiment, based on a stimulus set
71 from the real world: outdoor environments and militarily relevant objects.

72

73 **2. Method**

74 An experiment was devised so that human participants and a model observer could both be
75 tasked with it; allowing for direct comparison. This method section is broken down into the

76 three components that comprise this study: (i) images of objects placed in real world scenes
77 were photographed and calibrated, (ii) a human experiment, using a protocol from
78 psychophysics, recorded unbiased performance for recognition and detection of these
79 objects, (iii) the design of the visual observer model, and modelling the discrimination task.

80

81 **2.1 Stimuli**

82 Targets were photographed in two outdoor environments in the UK: Leigh Woods National
83 Nature Reserve in North Somerset ($2^{\circ}38.6' W$, $51^{\circ}27.8' N$), which is mixed deciduous
84 woodland, and Woodbury Common in Devon ($3^{\circ}22' W$, $50^{\circ}40' N$), a heathland used for
85 Royal Marine training. A replica military PASGT helmet (Personnel Armor System for Ground
86 Troops, the US Army's combat helmet until the mid-2000's) was the chosen object used in
87 the experiment and visibility was manipulated by changes in helmet covers varying in both
88 colour and textural appearance (Figure 1). The camouflage patterns worn by the helmet
89 were United Nations Peacekeeper Blue (UN PKB), Olive Drab, Multi-Terrain Pattern (MTP, as
90 used by the British Army since 2012), Disruptive Material Pattern (DPM, the dominant
91 British Army pattern prior to the adoption of MTP), US Marine Pattern (MarPat) and, for the
92 Woodbury Common experiment, Flecktarn (as used by the Bundeswehr, the German Army).
93 These patterns were chosen not for the purpose of evaluation per se, but to reflect a range
94 of styles (e.g. unpatterned Olive Drab, DPM as a subjective human design, MTP and MarPat
95 based on spatio-chromatic analysis of natural scenes, but MarPat being 'digital' or
96 pixellated), with UN PKB as a high visibility control. For the computational approach to be
97 useful, the spectrum of visibility across the patterns should be highly correlated in the
98 model and human observers. Scene locations were selected on a meandering transect
99 through the habitats, at 20 m intervals and alternating left and right. If the predetermined

100 side was inaccessible or inappropriate due to occlusions then the opposite side of the
101 transect path was used, and if neither side was accessible the interval was ignored and the
102 next location in the transect was used. At each location the object was placed in a 3×3 grid
103 resulting in nine images. The distance of each row of the grid was 3.5, 5 and 7.5 metres. The
104 scene was also divided into 3 arcs: left, middle and right. The combination of distance and
105 left-right positioning mean that, in the subsequent tests on humans, the location of the
106 target within the scene was unpredictable. This resulted in nine images of each helmet per
107 location for analysis, plus a scene including a Gretag-Macbeth Color Checker chart (X-Rite
108 Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA) for calibration. The orientation of the helmet in each
109 photograph was set an angle drawn randomly from the uniform distribution $\{0, 45, 90, 135,$
110 $180, 225, 270, 315^\circ\}$. For efficiency of implementation, the list of random angles was
111 generated before going into the field. Each scene was also photographed without a helmet
112 present. Photographs were taken using a Nikon D80 digital SLR (Nikon Ltd., Tokyo, Japan)
113 with focal length 35mm, exposure 1/30 and F-Number 16. RAW images (Nikon NEF format)
114 were captured and these were subsequently converted to uncompressed 8-bit TIFF and
115 calibrated. Images were calibrated by recording luminance and chromatic spectral values of
116 the Grettag Macbeth colour chart in the field using a Konica Minolta Chroma Meter CS -
117 100A colour and luminance meter (Konica, Tokyo, Japan). This process was repeated three
118 times to ensure to average over the natural variation in lighting from moment to moment.
119 The spectral values were transformed to the CIE sRGB colour space after first converting
120 them to the CIE XYZ colour space. The process was then repeated in the lab from a
121 projected image from the projector. A cubic polynomial approximated the relationship
122 between the two sets of RGB measurements. Images were then calibrated using the
123 coefficients of the polynomial for each RGB channel. Not only does this procedure avoid

124 having a colour chart in every single image, but also it calibrates the entire pipeline in a
125 single step: calibrating the camera, projector and images individually could result in over-
126 fitting or multiplicative errors.

127

128

129

130 **2.2 Human Experiment**

131

132 **2.2.1 Participants and Materials**

133 A human experiment using 22 participants for the Leigh Woods dataset and another 20
134 participants for the Woodbury Common dataset was conducted. Each of the two
135 experiments had an equal proportion of each gender and participants received university
136 course credits for their participation. Images were projected onto a 190 × 107cm
137 screen (Euroscreen, Halmstad, Sweden) from 310cm using a 1920 × 1080 pixel HD (contrast
138 ratio 300,000:1) LCD Projector (PT-AE7000U; Panasonic Corporation, Kadoma, Japan).
139 Participants were seated at a distance of 255 cm from the screen and therefore images
140 subtended 41° horizontally and 24° vertically.

141

142 **2.2.2 Procedure**

143 At the start of each block participants were informed which helmet to search for by
144 presenting an image of the helmet; only one camouflage type was present in any one block.
145 There were 27 and 22 trials per block respectively for Leigh Woods and Woodbury Common,
146 and the order of patterns across blocks and replicates within blocks were separately
147 randomised for each participant. A trial consisted of sequentially presenting two scenes for

148 250 ms with a 250ms blank screen, of luminance and chromaticity equal to the mean of all
149 the test images, immediately followed by a 250 ms cue screen, prior to each scene. One of
150 the scenes presented contained a helmet and the other did not, the order being
151 randomised. The participant's task was a two alternative force choice, reporting which of
152 the two scenes contained the helmet. Responses were given using the number keys one and
153 two on the keyboard, reporting the first scene or the second scene respectively during a
154 1000 ms response period after each pair of scenes. There were four general conditions of
155 viewing, the factorial combination of two levels of colour information and two levels of
156 location cueing. Cueing was of interest to separate effects of pattern recognition from
157 detection, because the model was initially designed for recognition. Colour was of interest
158 because it has been suggested that camouflage is more effective when there is chromatic as
159 well as spatial noise (Melin et al., 2007; Morgan et al., 1992). In the first cueing condition,
160 ('cued'), participants were cued to the location of the helmet. In the scene that did not
161 contain the helmet, this cue's location was a random selection of one of nine possible pre-
162 determined target locations. In the second condition, ('uncued'), the cue was presented in
163 the centre of the screen for both scenes. The spatial cue was a white circle, 50 pixel
164 diameter, 5 pixel line width, circle that was presented for 250ms. The whole experiment was
165 repeated in greyscale and colour. As with pattern, the order of conditions for each
166 participant was randomised.

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178 **2.3 The Surrogate Observer Model**

179

180 **2.3.1 The Model Framework**

181 The model is a four-stage process as outlined below. By modelling low level visual
182 processing, a side effect of the features chosen produces Gaussian variation from small
183 metric distortions. The resultant Gaussian variation can then be approximated using a
184 mixture of multivariate Gaussian distributions. The centre of each Gaussian distribution
185 stores a familiar view. Probabilistic principal components (Tipping and Bishop, 1999b)
186 describes the variability in an interpretable way to recognise unseen and unfamiliar views.
187 Estimating the density and evaluating the maximum posterior probability determines the
188 object class. This method turns the difficult problem of learning a complex invariant
189 representation of an object into the simple problem of estimating parameters of a mixture
190 of multivariate Gaussian distributions.

191

192 **1. Filter Images with a Log Gabor Filter Bank**

193 Grey scale images are cropped to a square and resized to 128×128 pixels, preserving the
194 aspect ratio of the object. They are then filtered by a log Gabor wavelet filter bank. This first

195 stage captures the early linear properties of the visual system. Whilst 2D Gabors can be
196 used to approximate simple cells (Daugman, 1985; Jones and Palmer, 1987), we know that
197 (i) simple cells are tuned to spatial frequency with a Gaussian bell-shaped tuning curve on a
198 log frequency scale (De Valois et al., 1982; Field, 1987) and (ii) the Gabor filter has a D.C.
199 component. The power in natural images is dominated by the D.C. component (Field, 1987),
200 and given that the cosine Gabor is sensitive to it and the sine Gabor is not, it will corrupt any
201 computation of phase information in the next stage. The solution to both these problems is
202 to employ log Gabors instead, which do not have a D.C. component (Kovesi, 1999).

203

204 **2. Process the Filtered Output**

205 Next we compute local energy and phase from the filtered output in stage 1. Stage 2
206 accounts for two non-linear properties of the visual system, illumination invariance and shift
207 invariance. The energy is logged; the effect is two fold: (i) the energy is positive, and not
208 symmetrical for Gaussian approximation in the fourth stage; and (ii) introducing logarithms
209 will turn differences in illumination into additive offsets. Denoting the response of the real
210 and imaginary filters as $R(x,y)$ and $I(x,y)$, where x and y indicate the index in the image and
211 atan2 computes the four quadrant arc tangent, log local energy and phase can be computed
212 as $\text{Energy} = \ln |R(x,y) + iI(x,y)| + c$ and $\text{Phase} = \text{atan2}(I(x,y), R(x,y))$, where c is a small
213 constant, 0.05, to avoid the undefined logarithm of zero and $|$ is the absolute. The absolute
214 is the magnitude of the real, cosine log Gabor, and imaginary, sine log Gabor, filters. The
215 sum of the squared filter responses is the magnitude, since $\sin^2 + \cos^2 = 1$. The energy
216 loses local position, but confers some translational invariance and therefore small shifts are
217 turned into small variations. Local energy represents lines as symmetrical Gaussians.

218 Therefore the variance of these features are Gaussian through small metric distortions such
219 as shift and object pose.

220

221 Phase angles will cycle from π to $-\pi$ as the distortion moves through sampling locations,
222 resulting in correlated variation. Phase information is a polar, circular variable; in order to
223 use this feature for Gaussian approximation one must convert this feature into Cartesian
224 space. Therefore the sine and cosine of the phase are computed, doubling the number of
225 dimensions required for phase information. Concatenating this sampled local logged energy,
226 sine and cosine phase information creates the feature vector.

227

228 **3. Sample the Local Energy and Phase.**

229 A hexagonal lattice, of equal size to the image, is placed over the image and the local energy
230 and phase is sampled at the centres of each hexagon. A hexagonal lattice provides optimal
231 sampling where samples are equidistant from each other (Yfantis et al., 1987). Phase angles
232 vary less at larger spatial scales and therefore to avoid over complete and redundant
233 sampling, hexagonal lattices at larger spatial scales have fewer hexagons.

234

235 **4. Evaluate Recognition Decision Using Bayes' Rule**

236 The Gaussian variation computed in stage 2 can now be approximated. A unimodal
237 distribution can represent a single view of an object. A mixture of Gaussians can model a
238 multimodal distribution where multiple views of an object are learnt. The dimensions of
239 each Gaussian component should represent local variation of that the view. The
240 concatenation of the local energy and phase results in a high-dimensional feature vector
241 and therefore a mixture of probabilistic components (Tipping and Bishop, 1999a,b) or a

242 mixture of factor analysers (Ghahramani and Hinton, 1996) provides a local subspace for
243 each Gaussian component and approximates the high dimensional covariance structure. To
244 evaluate the recognition of an object, a model is created explicitly for each class. Likelihoods
245 are computed for each explicit class and the posterior probability that an unseen object
246 came from each object class is then evaluated using Bayes' rule, $P(A|B) = P(A)P(B|A)$. Where
247 $P(A|B)$ is the posterior probability that the data A is from the object class B and $P(B|A)$ is the
248 likelihood of data A under the object class B. The prior probability $P(A)$ equal for each object
249 class and this therefore cancels out.

250

251 **2.3.2 Modelling the 2AFC Recognition Task**

252 Human participants were tasked with recognising a helmet given two different images. One
253 of the images contained a helmet and the other did not. For a direct comparison, both
254 observers need to be tasked in a similar way. Ten-fold cross-validation was used to assess
255 the model's accuracy. However, instead of evaluating a single image at a time, two images,
256 one with a helmet and one without, were both evaluated under both background and
257 helmet models. Therefore each image needs to be evaluated under both models producing
258 four likelihoods (Fig. 5). There are the two scenarios; either the helmet is in image A or it is
259 in image B. In the first scenario the helmet is in image A, where there is a high likelihood
260 that it came from the helmet model and so the likelihood that image B came from the
261 background class will therefore have a high likelihood. Bayes' rule will integrate over the
262 mutually exclusive probabilities as shown in the diagram above by incorporating the four
263 likelihoods $P(A|Helmet)$, $P(A|Background)$, $P(B|Helmet)$ and $P(B|Background)$. Using Bayes'
264 rule, the probability that image A is a helmet is simply:

$$P(\text{Helmet}|A) = \frac{P(A|\text{Helmet}) \times P(B|\text{Background})}{P(A|\text{Helmet}) \times P(B|\text{Background}) + P(B|\text{Helmet}) \times P(A|\text{Background})}.$$

266

267

268

269 **2.3.3 Modelling the Detection Task**

270 The model is trained on a series of crops. If the model is presented with an image of the
 271 target at a different spatial scale, i.e. the object does not fill the crop, it would be unable to
 272 recognise the object. To accommodate scale, likelihoods are computed for both the helmet
 273 and background classes at different spatial scales, at intervals of 10 ranging from the
 274 smallest helmet to the largest helmet across all images. Weightings are computed for each
 275 scale using Bayes' rule by evaluating which scale is most probable from the helmet class
 276 whilst evaluating that the other spatial scales belong to the background class. The
 277 weightings are multiplied with the likelihoods from each scale and summed. In short this
 278 procedure integrates probabilities over all spatial scales into a single likelihood for
 279 classification. This probabilistic approach, graphically demonstrated below where A and B
 280 denote two different sized crops at location in an image, is superior over simply taking the
 281 maximum, because the maximum only considers one model and if two scales are likely
 282 under the probabilistic approach the maximum would be too brittle and would ignore one
 283 of the likely scales. Equations below 1 - 6, show how Bayes' rule integrates the likelihoods
 284 over all the spatial scales, denoting two spatial scales A and B. Detection was modelled
 285 using leave-one-out cross-validation instead of the 2AFC approach. This was because there
 286 were too few scenes to compare the helmet scenes with. Problematically, if one were to
 287 compare likely peaks between two scenes, one scene would always have the same area of

288 interest and this would be compared to many helmets. Leave-one-out cross-validation also
 289 provides a straightforward way to manipulate the training data so that the model did not
 290 see any of the scene whilst detecting the helmet.

291

292

293 1.
$$P(\text{Helmet}|A, B) = \frac{P(A|\text{Helmet}) \times P(B|\text{Background})}{P(A|\text{Helmet}) \times P(B|\text{Background}) + P(B|\text{Helmet}) \times P(A|\text{Background})}$$

294

295 2.
$$P(\text{Helmet}|B, A) = \frac{P(B|\text{Helmet}) \times P(A|\text{Background})}{P(A|\text{Helmet}) \times P(B|\text{Background}) + P(B|\text{Helmet}) \times P(A|\text{Background})}$$

296

297 3.
$$L1 = P(A|\text{Helmet}) \times P(\text{Helmet}|A, B) + P(B|\text{Helmet}) \times P(\text{Helmet}|B, A)$$

298 4.
$$L2 = P(A|\text{Background}) \times P(\text{Helmet}|A, B) + P(B|\text{Background}) \times P(\text{Helmet}|B, A)$$

299

300 5.
$$\text{Posterior probability that helmet is at } (x, y) = \frac{L1}{L1 + L2}$$

301 6.
$$\text{Posterior probability that helmet is absent at } (x, y) = \frac{L2}{L1 + L2}$$

302

303 Equations 1-6 elaborate an example of how the model evaluates over spatial scale, where **A**
 304 and **B** denote two images each at a different spatial scale.

305

306 **2.3.4 Colour**

307 There are three main issues to consider when including colour: i) colour in the periphery, ii)
 308 efficient feature combination of texture and colour and iii) appropriate choice of colour
 309 space for measuring the distance between colours. The representation of short, medium
 310 and long wavelength receptors on its own is insufficient because computed distances in the
 311 colour space do not correlate with human perception (Tkaclik and Tasic, 2003; Wyszecki and

312 Stiles, 1982). Projections in the CIE Lab colour space are consistent with the judgements of
313 human observers and are appropriate for discrimination purposes (Renoult et al., 2015). The
314 model is a surrogate human observer. Whilst recognition accuracy should be high, similar to
315 human observers, it should not be able to recognise camouflaged objects all the time. The
316 aim of the model is not to break camouflage and achieve perfect recognition. Therefore,
317 instead of opting to use the CIE Lab colour space, the Macleod-Boynton chromaticity space
318 is used. The Macleod-Boynton colour space is another opponency colour space that is
319 particularly good at discriminating large chromatic differences (Renoult et al., 2015).

320 Modelling the detection of camouflaged helmets therefore is being treated as evaluating
321 saliency, which this colour space has been shown to be successful at (Tatler et al., 2005).

322 Colour is perceived differently in the periphery, because there are fewer cone receptors
323 outside of the fovea (Hubel, 1995). The receptive field sizes in the periphery increase with
324 eccentricity (Abramov et al., 1991), and therefore for objects to appear chromatically similar
325 as if they were in the fovea, they must be spatially larger (Hansen et al., 2009; Vakrou et al.,
326 2005). Given that an object is big enough to be scaled, the upper bound of eccentricity has
327 been found to be 40° to 50° (Abramov et al., 1991; Hansen et al., 2009), after which it has
328 not been found to be possible to simulate chromaticity as if it were in the fovea. An object
329 that subtends 2° of visual angle has been found to appear approximately chromatically
330 similar as if were in the fovea up to 20° away. Therefore colour patterns in the periphery can
331 be simulated by low-pass-filtering the image (Mullen, 1985). Given the approximate
332 appearance of foveal chromaticity with eccentricity up to 20° (half of the display), of objects
333 that subtend 2° of visual angle, the scene was convolved with a Gaussian, whose standard
334 deviation was measured to be 1° of visual angle, which was chosen so that it was
335 comfortably smaller than 2°. It must be noted that the Gaussian blur is only an

336 approximation and does not accommodate larger receptive fields as objects are more
337 distant. The brightness varies the most across an image. Without processing the luminance,
338 the mixture of Gaussians will have to explain this large variation, which will result in noisy
339 likelihoods. The luminance information across all images could be normalised between one
340 and zero, however that would no longer be Gaussian and, because we are only interested in
341 chromaticity and not luminance, the luminance channel was excluded and was therefore
342 not modelled. Excluding the luminance channel is straightforward to do using some colour
343 spaces such as hue, saturation and value (HSV), where luminance is represented in the
344 channel named value, or opponency colour spaces such as the Macleod and Boynton or Lab,
345 where again the luminance is represented in its own channel. Removing the luminance
346 channel is a standard method to avoid the large variance of brightness in images (Cai and
347 Goshtasby, 1999; Shadeed et al., 2003). Instead of concatenating colour onto the feature
348 vector of energy and phase, another Gaussian mixture model was trained for colour,
349 allowing probabilities of colour and texture to be independent and a full covariance
350 structure of colour to be modelled rather than a mixture of factor analysers. For each
351 posterior map, the probabilities in the region where the target was located were logged and
352 the maximum was taken. The log probabilities were plotted against human performance to
353 visualise the correlation.

354

355

356 **3. Results**

357 Human data was not normally distributed and therefore a Generalised Linear Mixed
358 (Effects) Model with binomial error and logit link function was used to generate

359 interpretable means and error for analysis. Figures 6 - 9 compare the model accuracy with
360 that of human accuracy and below in table 1 are the correlation coefficients between the
361 model and human observers for each condition. Correlations coefficients are very high, all
362 above 0.85 with the exception of detection in Woodbudy Common in colour.

363

364

Condition	Correlation
Leigh Woods	
Recognition	0.90
Detection Greyscale	0.93
Detection Colour	0.89
Woodbury Common	
Recognition	0.91
Detection Greyscale	0.87
Detection Colour	0.68

365 Table 1. The correlation coefficients between the model and human participants at 3 different
366 conditions in two different environments, Leigh Woods and Woodbury Common

367

368

369 **4. Discussion**

370 This paper has described and validated a visual recognition system that is designed to
371 behave in a similar way to humans. The principles of its design are based upon low-level
372 visual processing in the primary visual cortex. Although it is well-known that Gabor filters
373 can approximate simple cells found in the primary visual cortex, and simple models using
374 Gabor filters can achieve high recognition accuracy on simple datasets (Pinto et al., 2008),

375 we present physiological evidence and a computational argument for the use of log Gabor
376 filters. Such applicability of a surrogate human observer is high, because using human
377 participants is impractical given a variety of viewpoints, environments and objects. This
378 paper also defined a task that would allow a direct comparison between the biologically
379 motivated visual observer and human participants. The analysis of the behaviour from both
380 observers provides the necessary evidence to assess whether the model is an adequate
381 surrogate for a human observer. The task was to estimate the accuracy with which
382 camouflaged objects, military helmets with different coverings, could be detected and
383 recognised. The selection of a single object class with different colour patterns, rather than
384 an array of different objects, avoided the problem of object choice and allowed visibility to
385 be easily controlled through only coloration and textural properties. The visibilities of the
386 objects were unknown prior to the experiment because, to our knowledge, they had never
387 been evaluated in the two environments nor directly compared. However, a priori, the UN
388 PKB helmet was expected to be easy to detect, the Olive Drab harder to detect and the
389 three (Leigh Woods) or four (Woodbury Common) patterned camouflages hardest to detect.
390 It was essential that the visibility of the patterns varied. If human recognition and detection
391 for all camouflaged objects was at ceiling performance, or all the patterns were equally
392 visible, then we would lack any evidence that the model reflects what human subjects find
393 difficult and what they find effortless. There were clear differences in detectability of the
394 patterns to human subjects (Figs. 6 and 7) and the patterns do indeed provide a spectrum of
395 conspicuousness that is sufficient to draw conclusions from. The two different environments
396 did not contain bright blue elements and the texture of the pattern was smooth and
397 therefore UN PKB was, as predicted, very visible and the motivation for its inclusion as a
398 control was vindicated. Olive Drab is also texturally smooth and its colouration is

399 perceptually much closer to the environments used than UN PKB. The cost of pattern design
400 is expensive and if a simple olive green drab were effective this would have implications for
401 the design of camouflage. The other chosen patterns' visibilities could not be as easily
402 predicted as UN PKB, because they have never previously been compared in the two
403 environments. The PAGST helmet, the standard issue for the US Armed Forces from the
404 1980s to 2000s), was chosen as a typical item of camouflaged military equipment but
405 unvarying in shape (unlike a soldier or combat uniform) and easily portable. It is difficult to
406 predict how the model might perform with larger objects such as vehicles because these
407 objects would have to be placed much further away from the camera and so the spatial
408 scale of the background textures relative to the object would change. However, given the
409 success of the model in this task and the multiresolution nature of log Gabor filters, there
410 are grounds for thinking it has general applicability. The primary function of camouflage is
411 to avoid detection in plain sight by enemies. But it is also the case that friendly personnel
412 need to identify peers, and therefore there is a trade-off in visibility and identification such
413 that one needs not to be easily visible (to avoid attack) and yet remain identifiable (to avoid
414 friendly fire) (Talas et al. 2017). The framework elaborated here, where classification was
415 evaluated in a paired manner, helmet versus background, can be easily extended for this
416 problem as a multi-class classification task.

417

418 The model is an automatic and inexpensive process of evaluating camouflage given an
419 environment. This utility of a surrogate human observer is in removing human participants
420 from the process. A prime example of an experiment, in the context of camouflage,
421 involving using human participants or even wild animals (blue jays), as predators searching
422 for artificial prey, simulating natural evolution (Bond and Kamil, 2002, 2006; Reynolds,

423 2011). Using human participants as predators is not a limitation to simulate evolution,
424 because natural selection in the wild can be rapid (Endler, 1986). However, human
425 participants can be removed from the process, providing an objective and less expensive
426 means of testing different environments and prey. Automating this procedure with a
427 comprehensive vision model has a large impact for the design of camouflage patterns.

428

429

430 **5. Conclusion**

431 A surrogate human observer has been designed, and its behavior was compared with
432 human participants. Its behavior correlated highly with human participants. There is large
433 applicability for such a surrogate human observer, where it is impractical to use human
434 participants. We have shown in a military application, an inexpensive and automated
435 objective assessment of camouflage effectiveness is possible in a real world setting.

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558

559 Figure legends

560

561 *Asterix * denotes Figure to be in colour*

562

563 ***Figure 1. Example cropped helmet images from real world scenes**

564 An example of each camouflaged helmet cropped for recognition purposes. From left to
565 right the patterns that the helmet wears are DPM, MarPat, MTP, UN PKB, Olive drab and
566 Flecktarn. The top row are the helmets from Leigh Woods and the bottom row are helmets
567 from Woodbury Common. Flecktarn was only used in Woodbury Common.

568

569 ***Figure 2. Human experiment storyboard**

570 Storyboard for one trial in the experiment. Sequence is in alphabetical order. Duration of
571 each interval was 250msec. Either **C** or **F** contains the helmet. Intervals **A** and **D** cue the
572 participant to the spatial location of the helmet. Intervals **B** and **E** present a blank interval of
573 average chromaticity across all scenes. At the end of the sequence, participants are asked
574 which scene the helmet was in and are given 1000msec to respond. The procedure is
575 identical for the uncued condition however the spatial cued in **A** and **D** are uninformative.

576

577 ***Figure 3. Example Leigh Woods scenes**

578 Two example scenes from the Leigh Woods environment. The left column and the
579 right column are two different scenes. The top two scenes do not contain a helmet. The
580 middle two contain a UNPKB helmet. The bottom two contain the DPM helmet.

581

582 ***Figure 4. Example Woodbury Common scenes**

583 Two example scenes from the Woodbury Common environment. The left column and the right
584 column are two different scenes. The top two scenes do not contain a helmet. The middle two
585 contain a UNPKB helmet. The bottom two contain the DPM helmet.

586

587 **Figure 5. Graphical illustration at modelling the 2AFC procedure**

588 To model the 2AFC task that humans were given, likelihoods under both models are
589 computed for both images.

590

591 **Figure 6. Human and model recognition accuracy: Leigh Woods**

592 Leigh Woods model accuracy at recognition in greyscale plotted against human
593 accuracy at recognition in greyscale. Correlation coefficient: 0.937. Error bars are 95%
594 confidence intervals.

595

596 **Figure 7. Human and model recognition accuracy: Woodbury Common**

597 Woodbury Common model accuracy at recognition in greyscale plotted against
598 human accuracy at recognition in greyscale. Correlation coefficient: 0.859.

599

600 **Figure 8. Human and model detection accuracy: Woodbury Common**

601 Model and Human Accuracy at Detection in Leigh Woods. Left: Texture Only, Right: Colour and
602 texture. Error bars are 95% confidence intervals.

603

604 **Figure 9. Human and model detection accuracy: Woodbury Common**

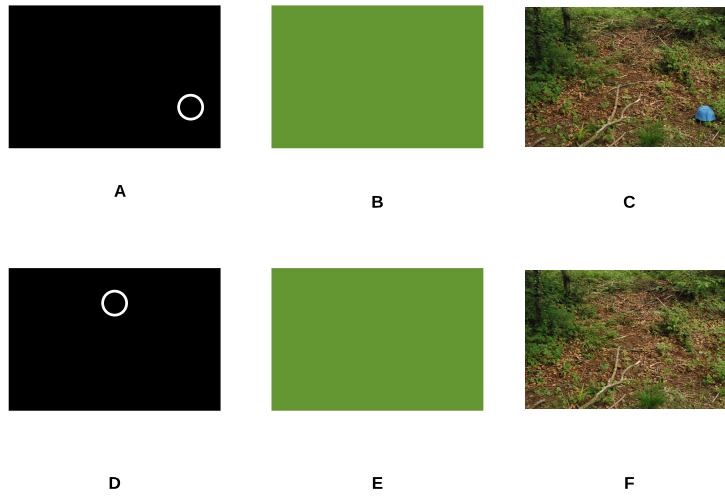
605 Model and Human Accuracy at Detection in Woodbury Common. Left: Texture Only, Right: Colour and
606 texture. Error bars are 95% confidence intervals.

607 Fig. 1



608
609

Human Experiment Story Board



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612

613 Fig. 3



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615

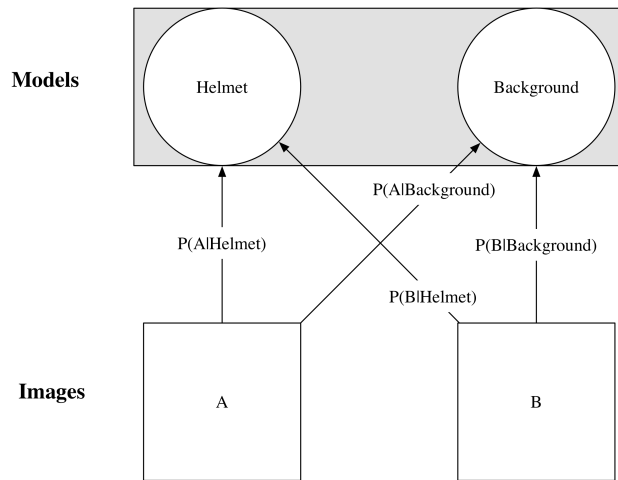
616 Fig. 4



617
618

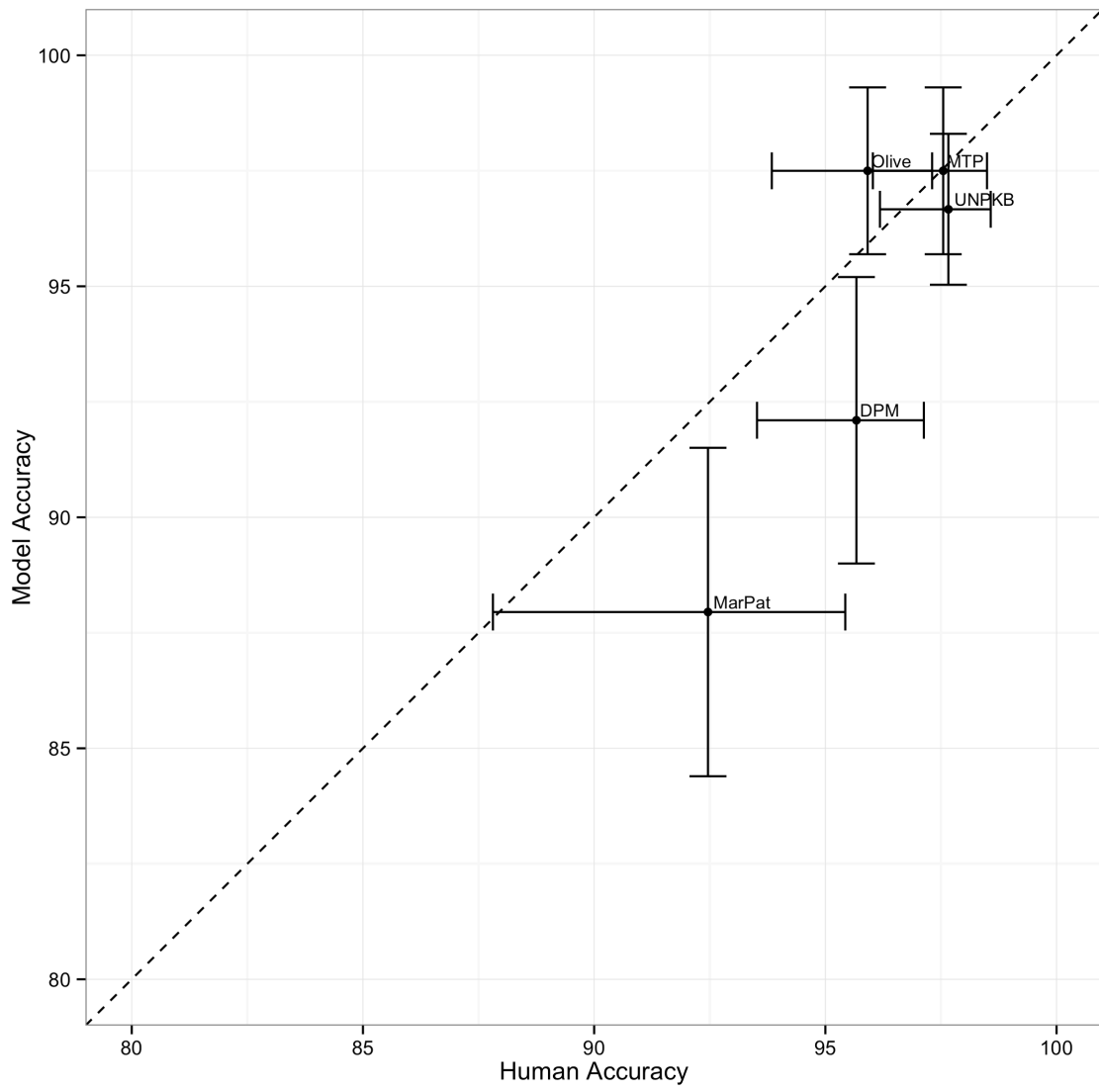
619 Fig. 5

Modelling the Two Alternative Force Choice Task



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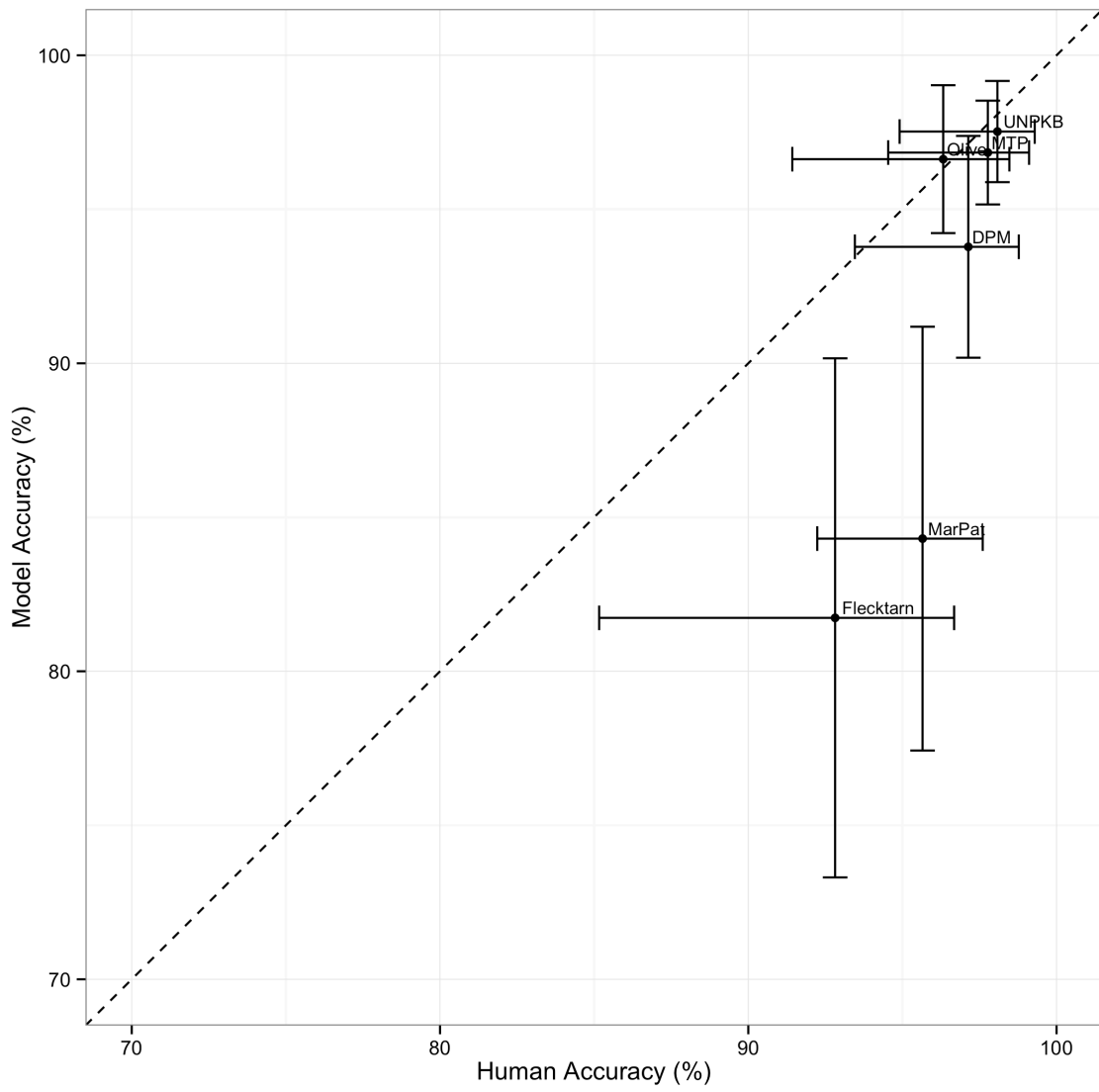
Leigh Woods Helmet Recognition: 2AFC



623
624

625 Fig. 7

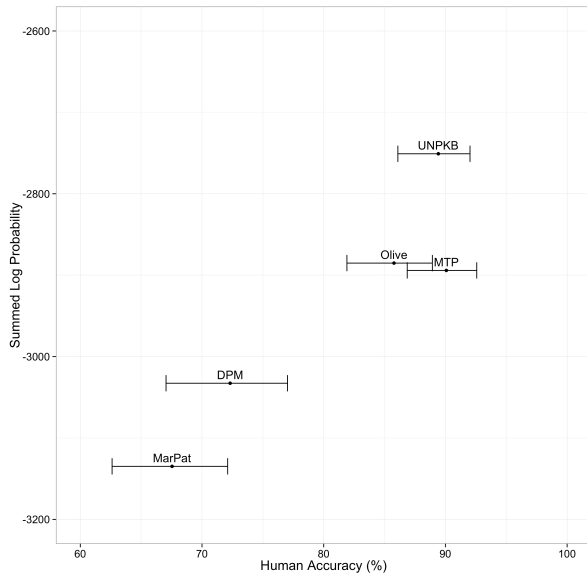
Woodbury Common Helmet Recognition: 2AFC



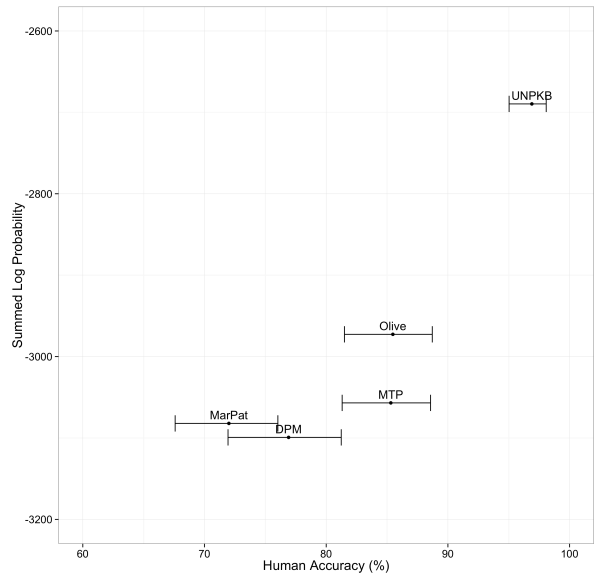
626
627

628 Fig. 8

Texture Only Model and Human Accuracy at Detection: Leigh Woods

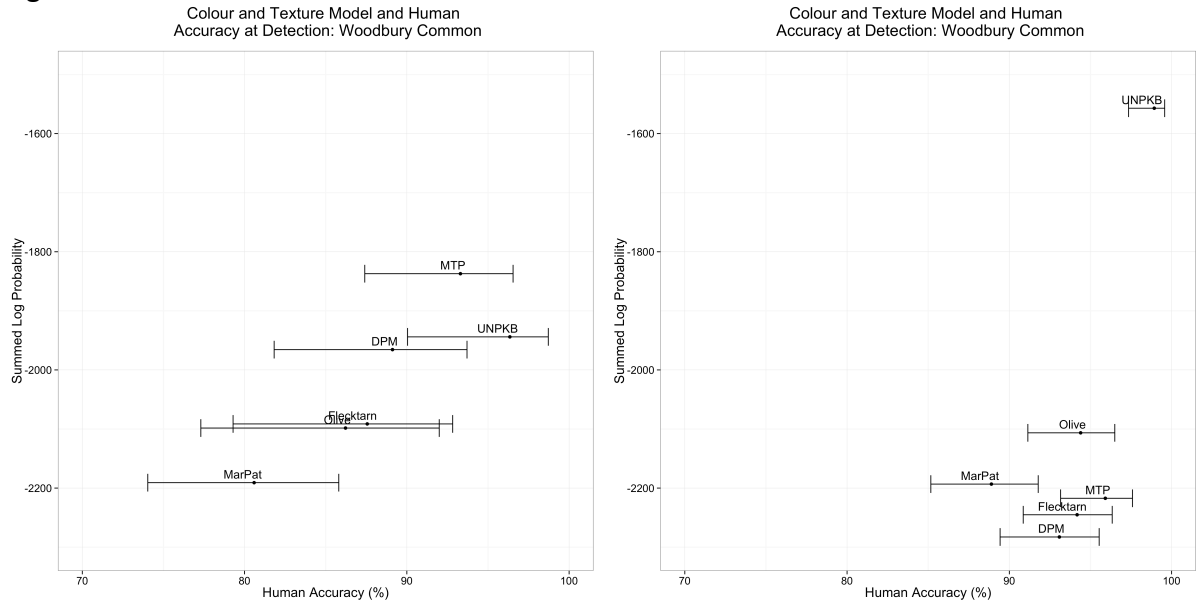


Colour and Texture Model and Human Accuracy at Detection: Leigh Woods



629

630 Fig. 9



631