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TV remotes, car keys, and wallets: Searching in real-world scenes

One of the most amazing feats of the visual system is the ease with which we can perceive, identify and act upon the world around us. But how does our visual system represent scenes and how does this information affect tasks such as visual search? Early research in the field conceptualized scene representations in a piece-meal way: taking small bits of visual information, the visual system would piece together the world around us and only then would we have sufficient information to act. In this talk, I will explore how the visual system uses global properties to identify a scene, as well as to guide eye movements during search. Taken together, these studies begin to paint a different picture of real-world scene representations and gaze control.

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