# iLab C++ Neuromorphic Vision Toolkit Overview

#### • Components:

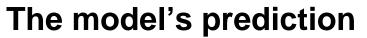
- Basic image processing and vision
- Attention-related neural components
- Object recognition-related neural components
- Scene gist/layout-related neural components
- Basic knowledge base / ontology
- Hardware interfacing
- Beowulf message passing
- Applications
- Implementation:
  - C++, somewhat Linux-specific
  - Additional perl/matlab/shell scripts for batch processing
  - Uniprocessor as well as Beowulf





Find the most interesting location in the image (next slide)





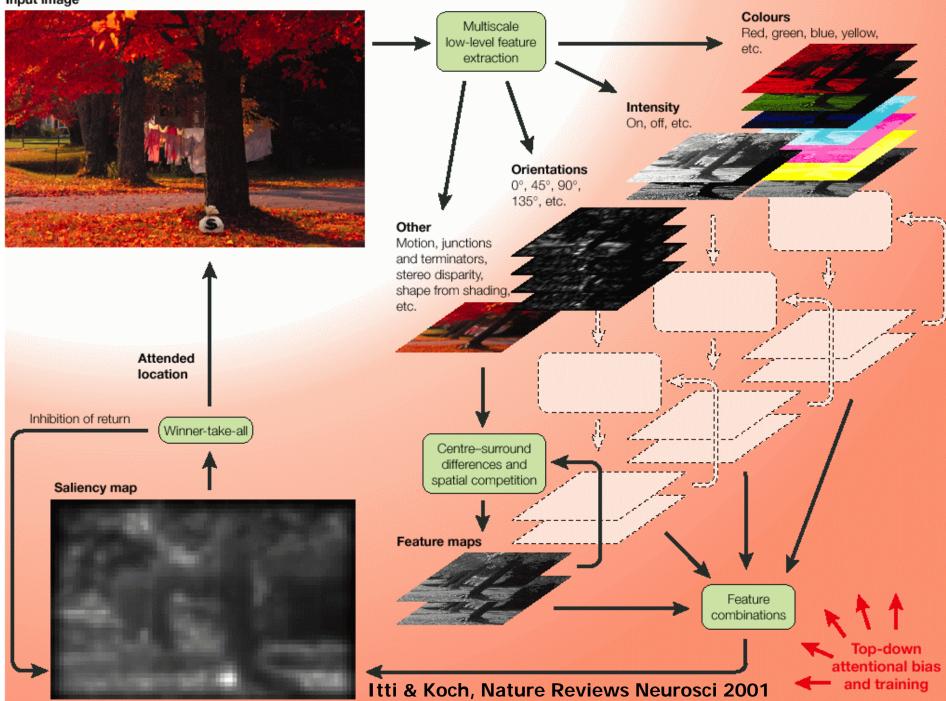
Here is what our model of bottom-up, saliency-based attention found (next slide)



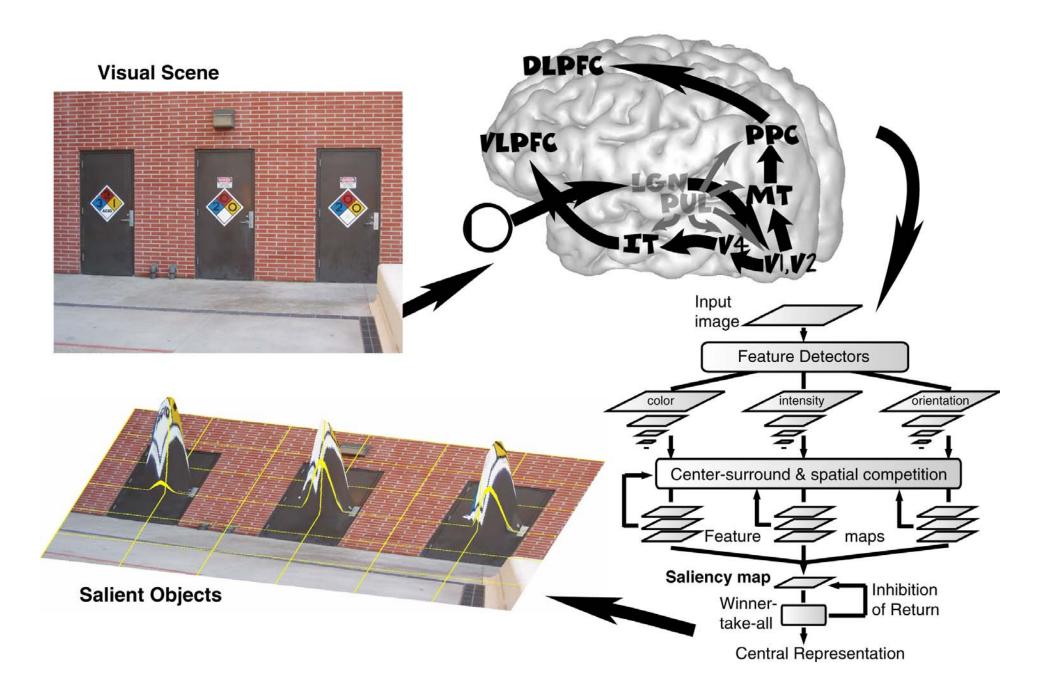
# The basic architecture

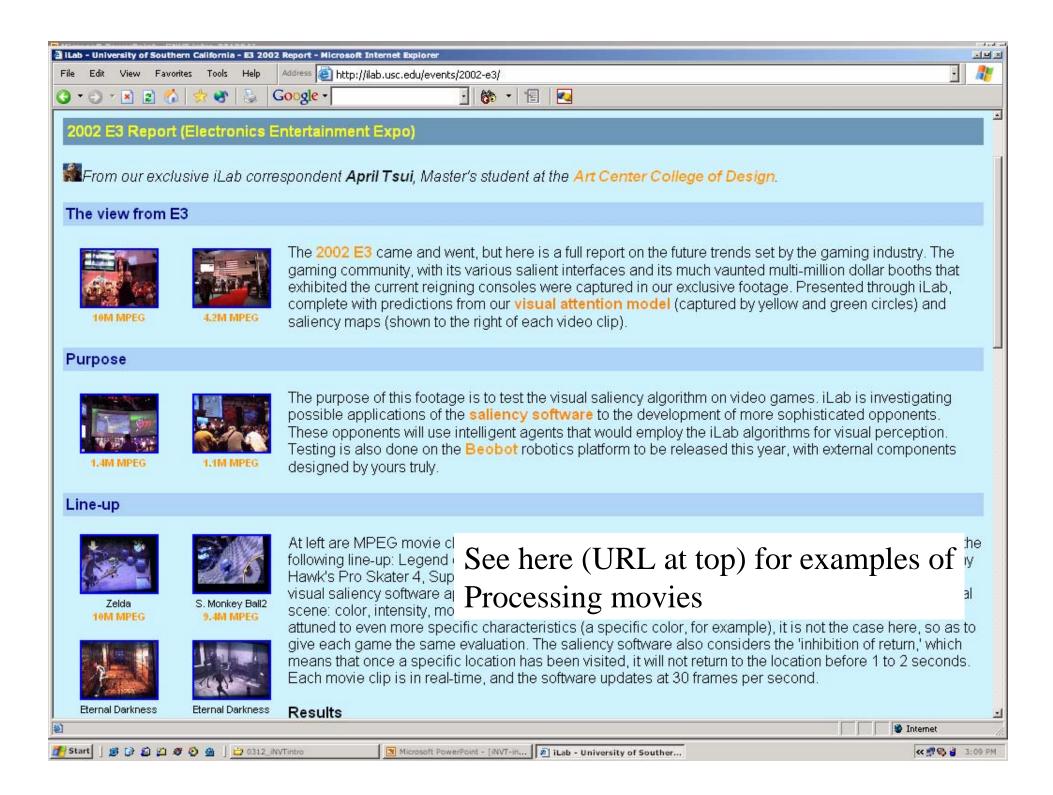
- The diagram on the next slide is an overview of this computational neuroscience model
- Suggested readings: see http://iLab.usc.edu/publications/
  - Start with Itti & Koch, Nature Reviews Neuroscience, 2001, for an overview
  - Then see Itti, Koch and Niebur, IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, 1998, for the core algorithm
  - Then see Itti & Koch, Vision Research, 2000 and Itti & Koch, Journal of Electronic Imaging, 2001, for more advanced competition for salience
  - See papers by Vidhya Navalpakkam for more on scene understanding
  - See papers by Nathan Mundhenk for more on contour integration
  - See papers by Nitin Dhavale for more on eye movements
  - See papers by Chris Ackerman for more on gist
  - Etc...

#### Input image

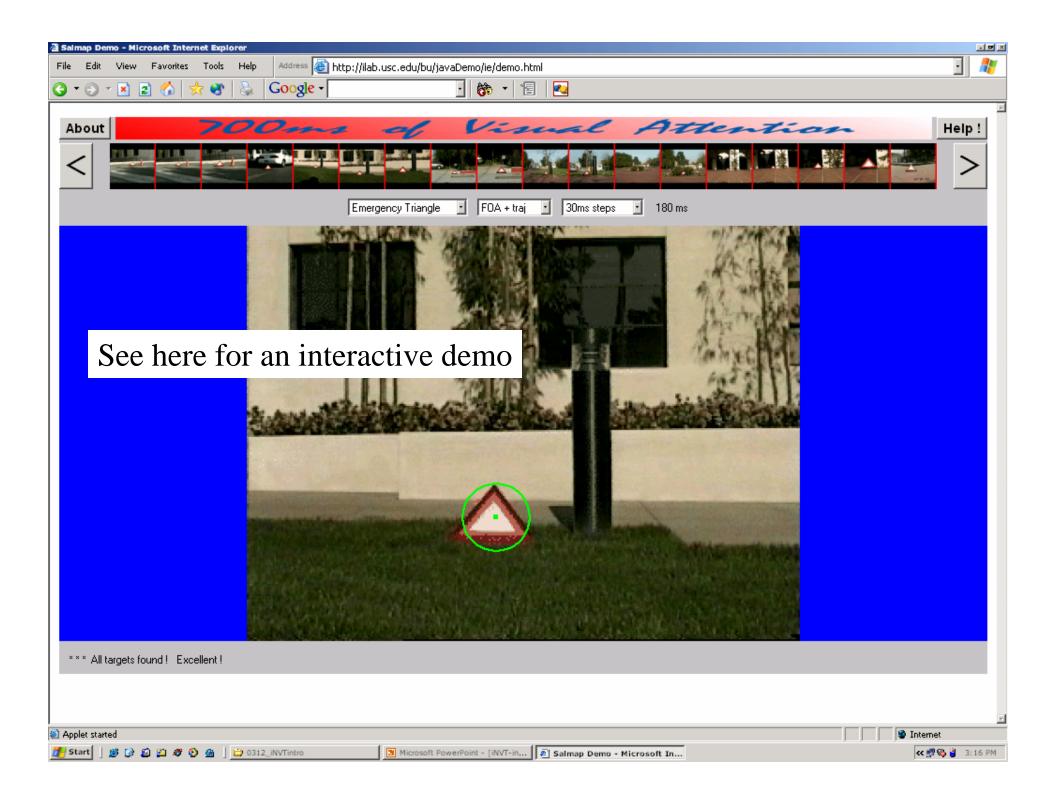


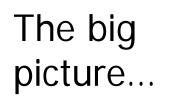
# Architecture

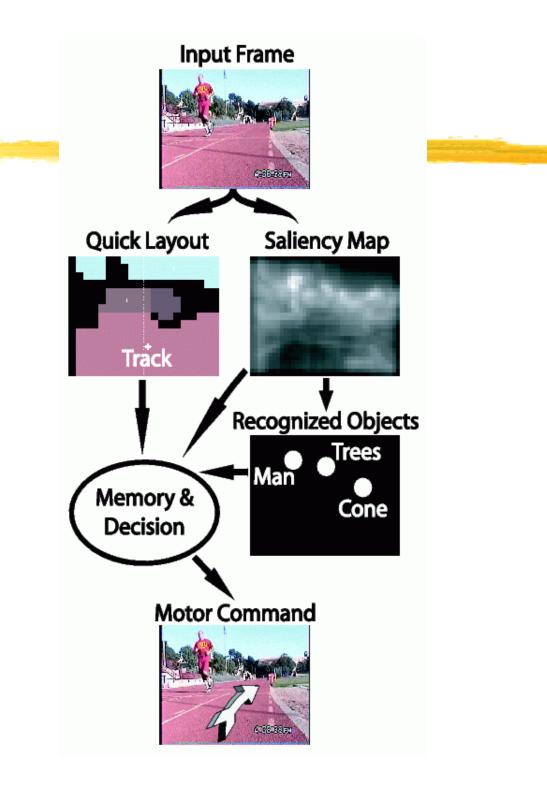


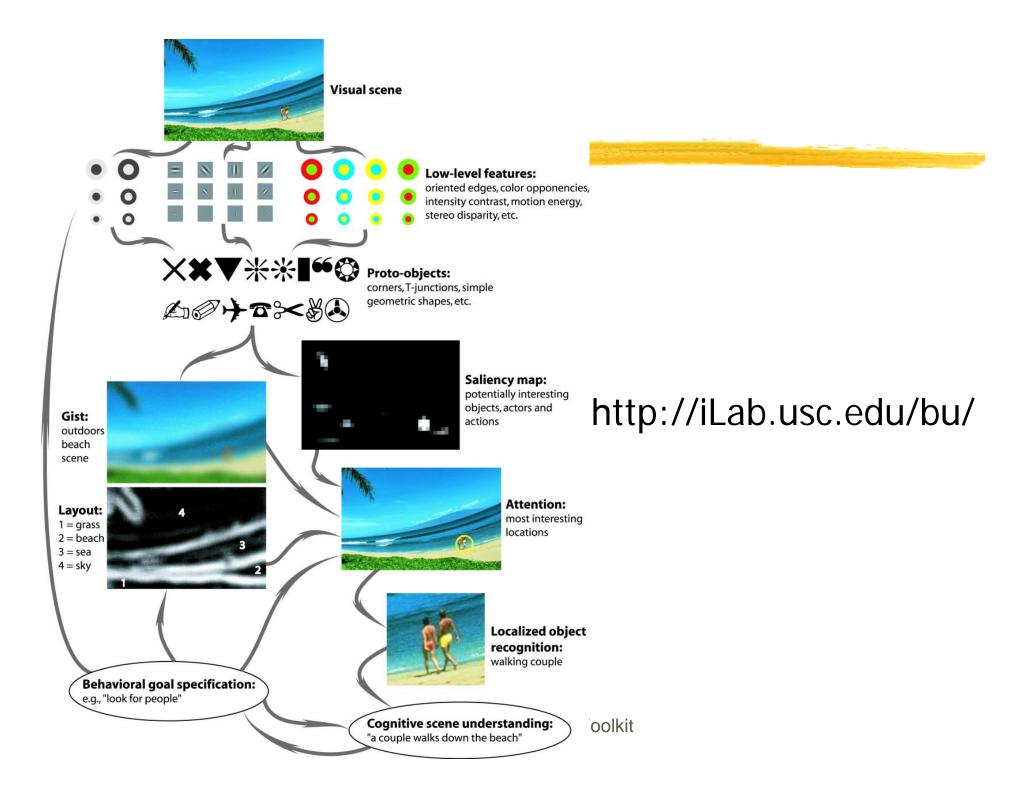


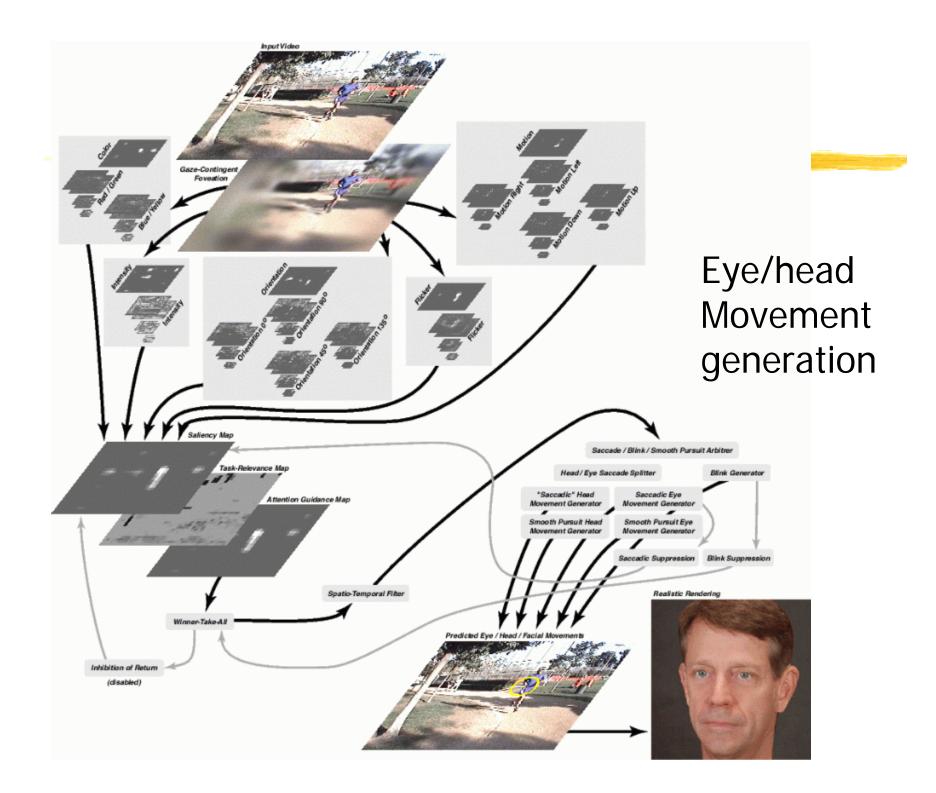
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Visual Attention: Movies			
(2.3 Mb MPEG-1 file)	In the first short MPEG video, we show both the original input image and the corresponding saliency map in dynamical evolution. The saliency map begins with charging up from the input. Then the most salient location is found and transiently inhibited. The yellow circle on top of the original image represents the current focus of attention. The first image shows simple objects in noise; objects are selected by order of decreasing saliency (here luminance contrast). After all objects have been attended, less salient locations in the background noise are attended. The previously attended and inhibited locations progressively charge-up again and may be again attended. The previously attended and inhibited locations progressively charge-up again and may be again attended. The original image for examples of popout ta distractors. In the examples of popout ta competing, the target does not popout ta competing, the target does not popout ta distractors. In the example of conju		
	We conclude this demonstration with an example of robustness to noise.		
(3.8 Mb MPEG-1 file)	In this second video, the spatial competition among conspicuous locations within each feature map is demonstrated. Details about the implementation of such spatial competition can be found in our 2001 Journal of Electronic Imaging paper.		
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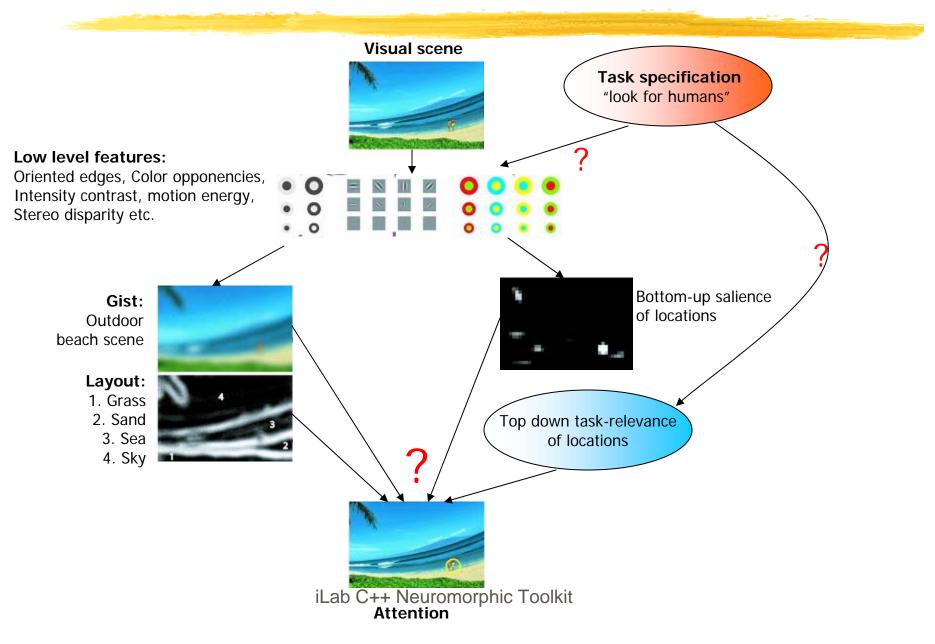




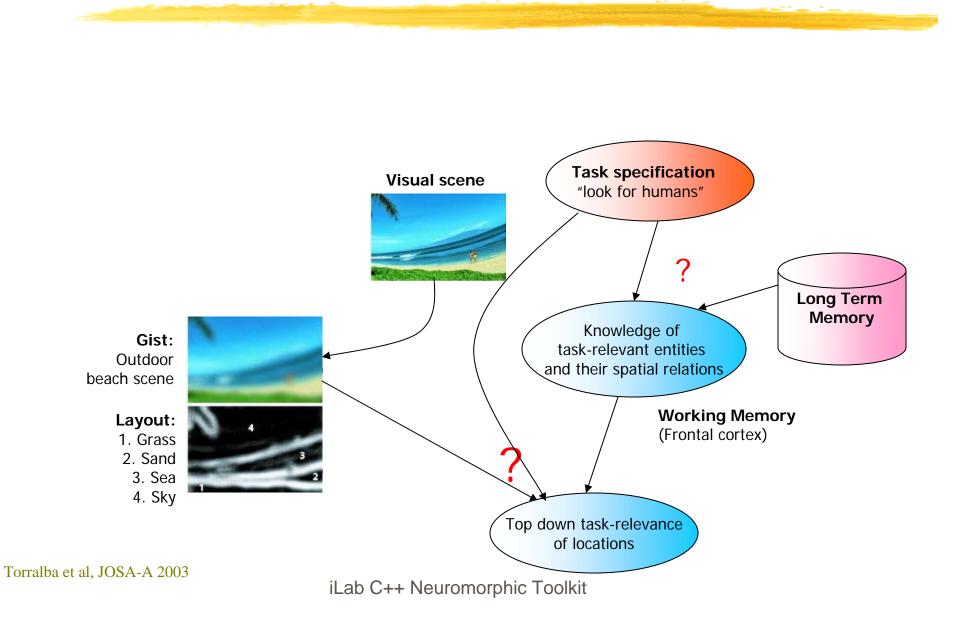


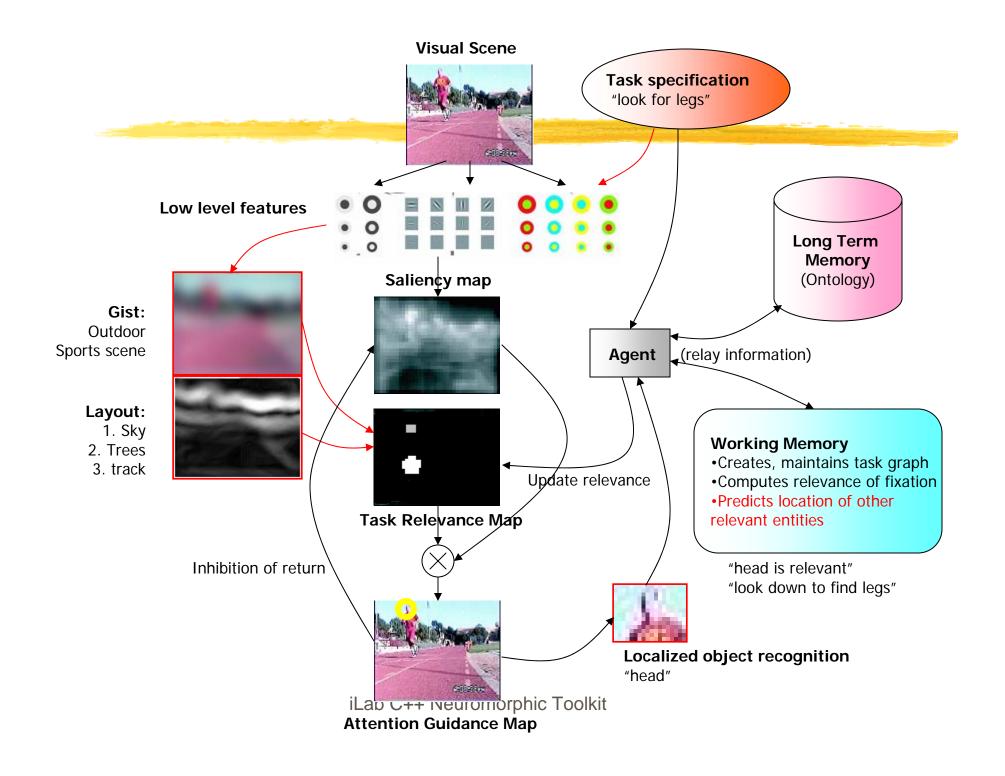


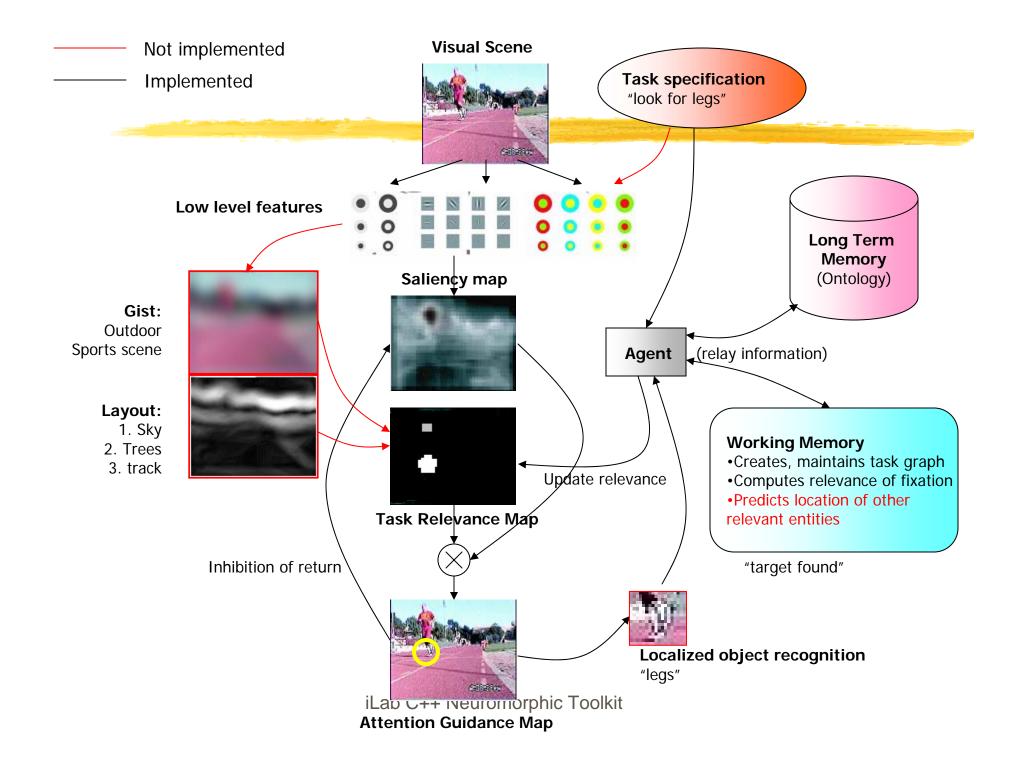
#### How does task influence attention?

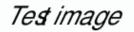


#### Towards modeling the influence of task on relevance









#### Tes image



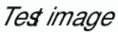


### Training image

# Object recognition



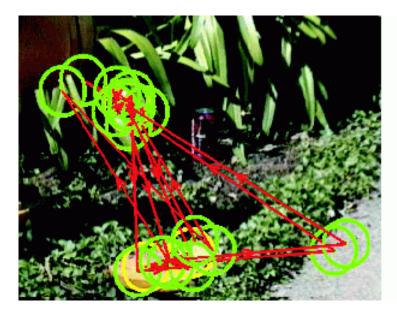








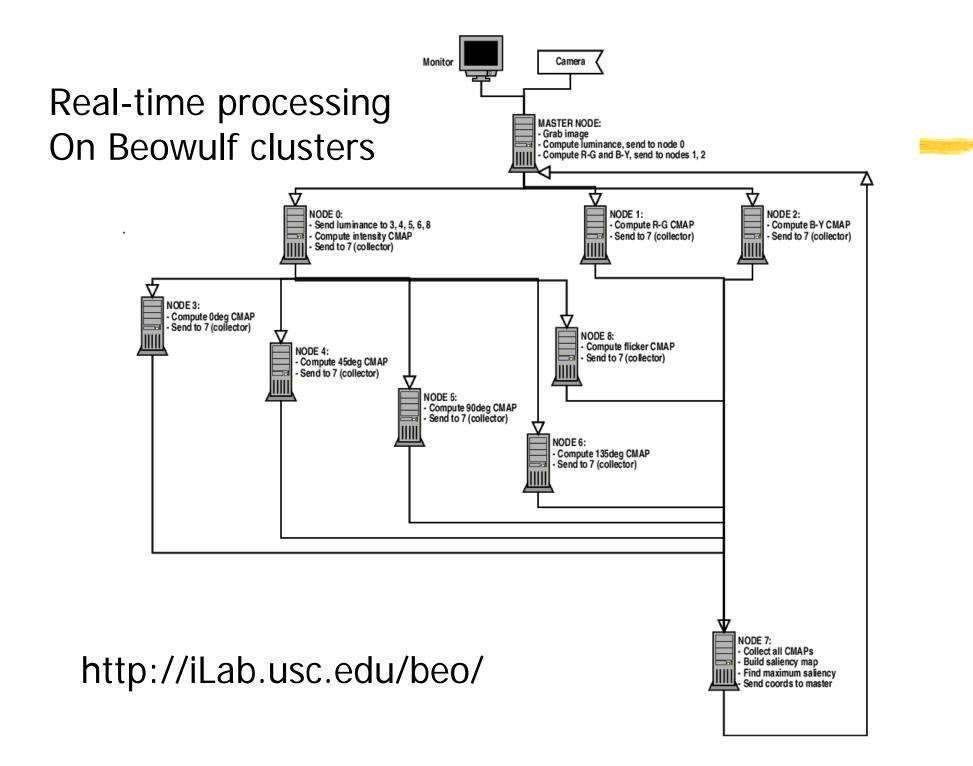
# Top-down biasing to guide attention towards Known objects

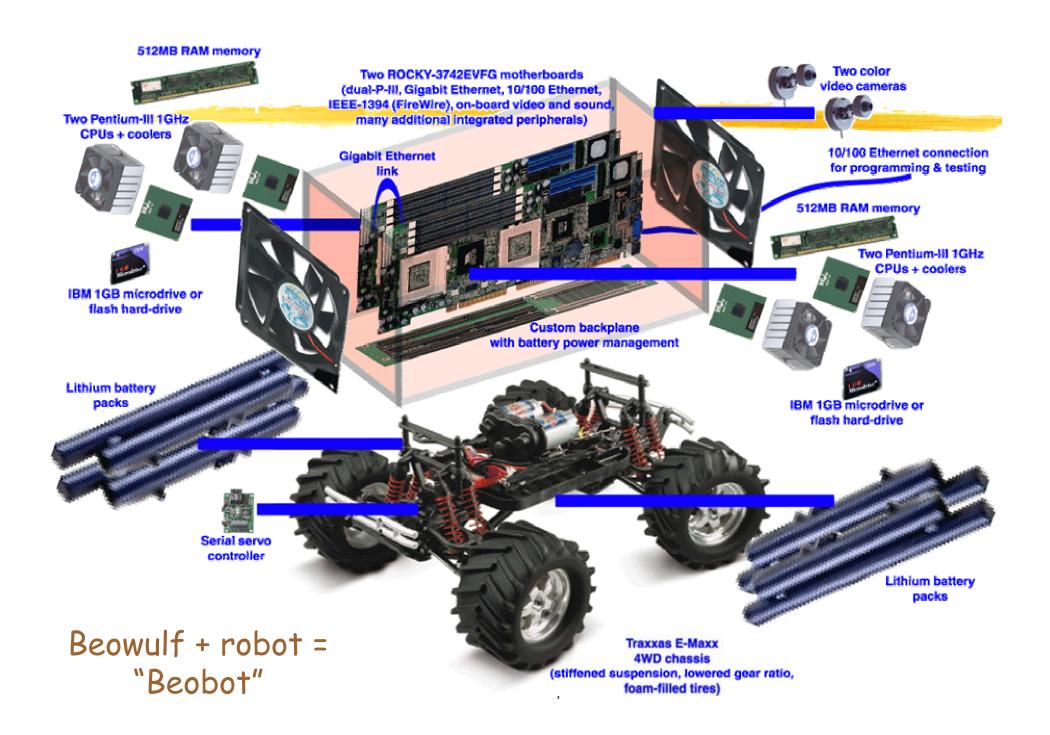


# Unbiased



# Biased for coke cans





# http://iLab.usc.edu/beobots/



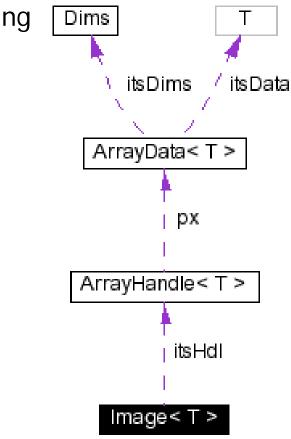
# iLab C++ Neuromorphic Vision Toolkit Overview

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# **Root: Image class**

- Template class
  - e.g., Image<byte>, Image<PixRGB<float>>, Image<Neuron>
- Implemented using copy-on-write/ref-counting [
  - Makes copying a light operation
- Many associated methods
  - Shape ops
  - Color ops
  - Mono only
  - Math ops
  - I/O
  - Filter ops
  - Transforms



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# **C++** Templates

- The old way: ByteImage, FloatImage, ColorImage, etc. yields lots of duplicated code that achieves essentially the same operations.
- The C++ way: write your algorithm only once, and make it operate on an unknown data type T. The compiler will then generate machine code corresponding to your algorithm and various data types for T, such as, T=byte, T=float, T=MyClass, etc

```
template <class T> class Image {
    public:
        Image();
        T getPixelValue(const int x, const int y) const;
        void setPixelValue(const T& value, const int x, const int y);
    private:
        T* data;
    };
    int main(const int argc, const char **argv) {
        Image<float> myImage; myImage.setPixelValue(1.23F, 10, 10);
        return 0;
    }
        iLab C++ Neuromorphic Toolkit
```

## **Operator overloads**

- C++ allows you to define operators such as +, -, \*, etc for your various classes.
- Example:

# See Pixels.H, Image.H

Image<byte> img1, img2;

img1 += 3; // calls Image<T>::operator+=(const T& value)

# Automatic type promotions

- Using type traits to determine at compile time whether the result of an arithmetic operation will fit in the same type as the operands.
- Extends the canonical C++ promotions to non-canonical types.
- Examples:

```
Image<byte> im;
```

See Promotions.H, Pixels.H, Image.H

im + im	is an Image <int></int>
im * 2.0F	is an Image <float></float>
im * 2.0	is an Image <double></double>

# Automatic type demotion with clamping

- Assignment from a strong type into a weak type will ensure that no overflow occurs.
- Example:

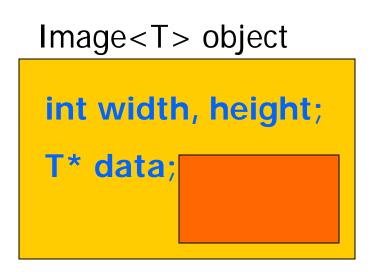
Image<byte> im1, im2; Image<float> im3;

im1 = im3; // will clamp values of im3 to 0..255 range and convert

# **Copy-on-write / ref counting**

• The standard way:

Image object contains an array of pixels:



Problem: copy is expensive, need to copy the whole array.

# **Copy-on-write / ref counting**

In particular, this makes it very expensive to return Image objects from functions, hence essentially forbidding the natural syntax:

Image<float> source; Image<float> result = filter(source); With a function:

```
Image<float> filter(const Image<float>& source) {
    Image<float> res;
    // fill-up pixel values of res, processing values from source
    return res;
}
```

}

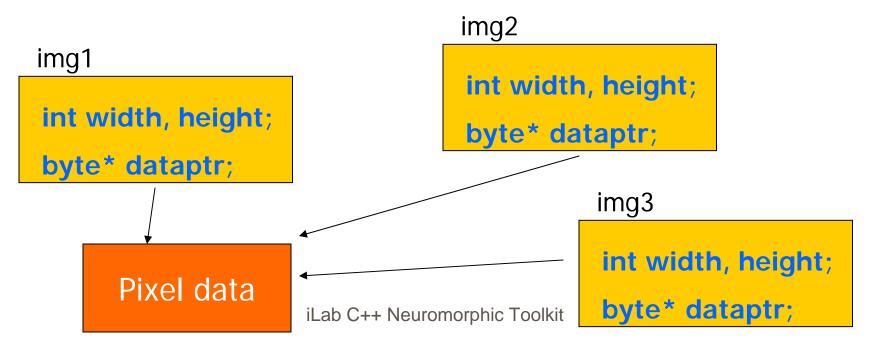
Indeed what happens here is:

```
1) Inside filter(), allocate a new image res to hold the result
```

- 2) In the 'return' statement, copy that local image to some temporary
- 3) In the '=' statement, copy that temporary to Image 'result'

 The smart way: only keep a pointer to the actual pixel data in each Image object. When making copies of the Image object, keep track of how many are pointing to the same pixel data. When the last Image object is destroyed, free the pixel data. If the user attempts to modify the contents of one of the images that point to the same data, first make a copy of the data.

Image<byte> img1, img2, img3; img2 = img1; img3 = img1;



## Free functions rather than methods

- Given the copy-on-write mechanism, it is now very cheap to return Image objects. Thus, the more natural 'free function' syntax may be used for most image processing functions, instead of the 'class method' syntax.
- Example: let's say I want to pass an image through 3 successive filters, filter1(), filter2() and filter3():
- Class method syntax: the filterX() are methods of class Image

const Image<float> source; Image<float> result1, result2; result1.filter1(source); result2.filter2(result1); result1.filter3(result2); result2.freeMem();



#### Free function syntax: the filterX() are functions not attached to a class

const Image<float> source; Image<float> result = filter3(filter2(filter1(source))); iLab C++ Neuromorphic Toolkit

## Iterators

- Accessing data via pointers is error-prone, use iterators instead. Our classes that hold some data that can be iterated on provide iterator support very similar to that of the STL classes.
- Example:

See Image.H

Image<byte> img;

Image<byte>::iterator itr = img.beginw(), stop = img.endw();
while (itr != stop) { \*itr++ = 0; }

# **Shared pointers**

- When objects communicate with lots of other objects, it is often difficult to know who will run out of scope first. When new memory is allocated for an object that will be passed around and used by several objects, we would like an automatic way of freeing the memory when everybody is done with it.
- Hence the class SharedPtr<T> which behaves like a pointer, except that when the last SharedPtr to an object runs out of scope, it will destroy/free the memory for that object.
- Example:

In obj1: SharedPtr<Message> mymsg(new Message());

In obj2: SharedPtr<Message> mymsg2(mymsg);

mymsg2->function();

See SharedPtr.H

Message will be destroyed only when its SharedPtr's have run out of scope in both obj1 and obj2.

# **Elementary core classes**

- Dims: for 2D (width, height) dimensions
- Point2D: An (i, j) 2D point
- Point2DT: A Point2D plus a time
- PixRGB<T>: a (red, green, blue) triplet
- **BitObject**: object defined by connected pixels
- Timer: to count time with arbitrary accuracy
- CpuTimer: to measure time and CPU load
- Range: specifies a numeric range of values
- LevelSpec: specifies scales for feature/saliency map
- Rectangle: a rectangle
- SharedPtr<T>: a shared pointer
- VisualEvent
- VisualObject
- VisualFeature
- . . .

Dims.H Point2D.H Point2DT.H Pixels.H BitObject.H Timer.H CpuTimer.H Range.H LevelSpec.H Rectangle.H SharedPtr.H

## **Core definitions**

- **Promotions.H**: the automatic type promotion rules
- atomic.H: atomic (one-CPU-instruction) operations
- Saliency.H: a few generic helper functions like MAX, MIN, etc and basic type definitions like byte, int32, uint64, etc
- colorDefs.H: various default color definitions
- Log.H: comprehensive logging facility
- StringConversions.H: convert various datatypes to/from string
- TypeTraits.H: compile-time information about types
- ...

## Logs

- Provide a unified, convenient mechanism for text message output.
- 4 levels: LDEBUG, LINFO, LERROR, LFATAL
- printf()-like syntax
- Automatically adds class/function name, system error messages (use prefix 'P'), a user id (use prefix 'ID'), a line number (compile-time option)
- Can print to stderr or syslog

#### The hard way:

fprintf(stderr, "In myFunction(), could not open file '%s' (error: %s)\n",
 filename, strerror(errno));

>>>> In myFunction(), could not open file `test' (error: file not found)

#### The easy way:

PLERROR("Could not open file '%s' ", filename);

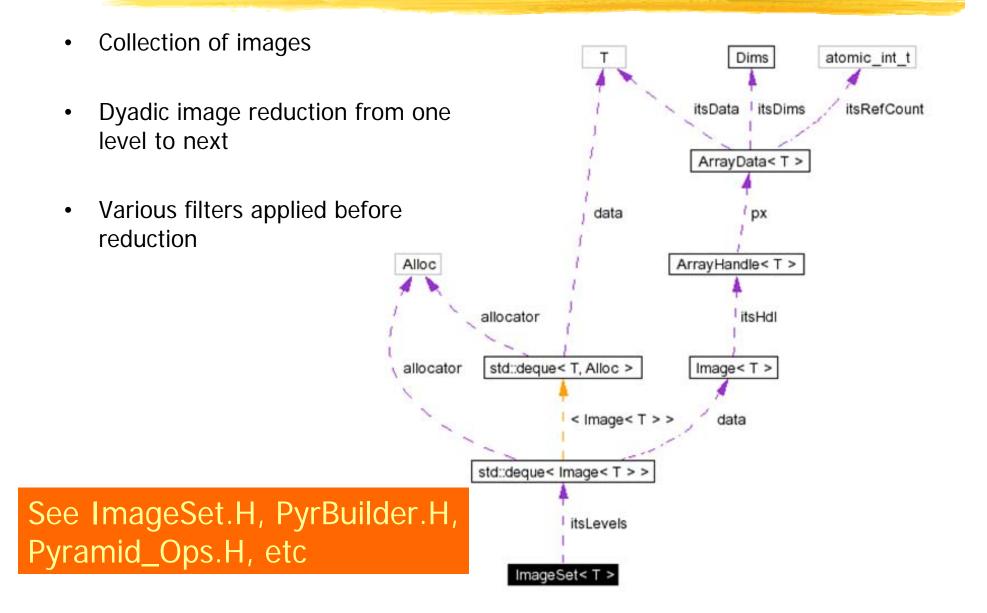


>>>> MyClass::myFunction: Could not open file 'test' (file not found)

#### **Helper classes**

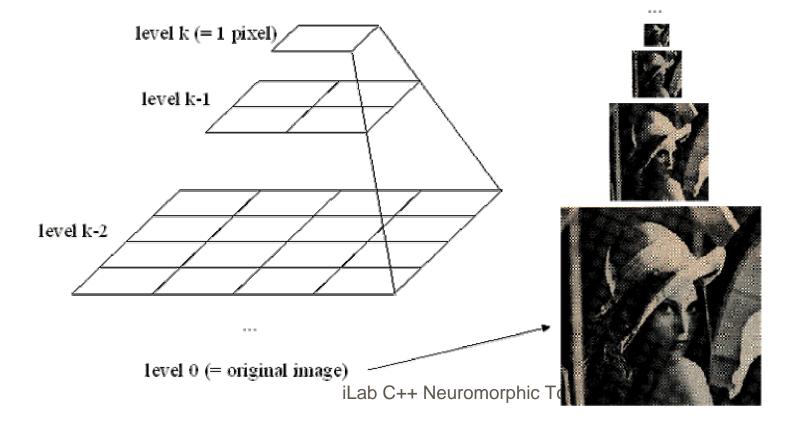
- Raster: to read/write/display Images in various formats
- V4Lgrabber: to grab images from video source (PCI/USB)
- IEEE1394grabber: idem for FireWire cameras
- XWindow: to display image collections & interact
- VCC4: to control pan/tilt/zoom camera
- SSC: to control pan/tilt on beobot camera
- Etc...

#### ImageSets, a.k.a. Image Pyramids



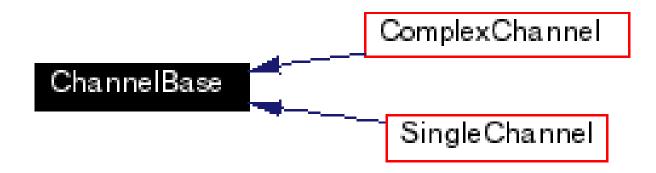
# **Gaussian Pyramid**

Idea: Represent NxN image as a "pyramid" of 1x1, 2x2, 4x4,..., 2<sup>k</sup>x2<sup>k</sup> images (assuming N=2<sup>k</sup>)

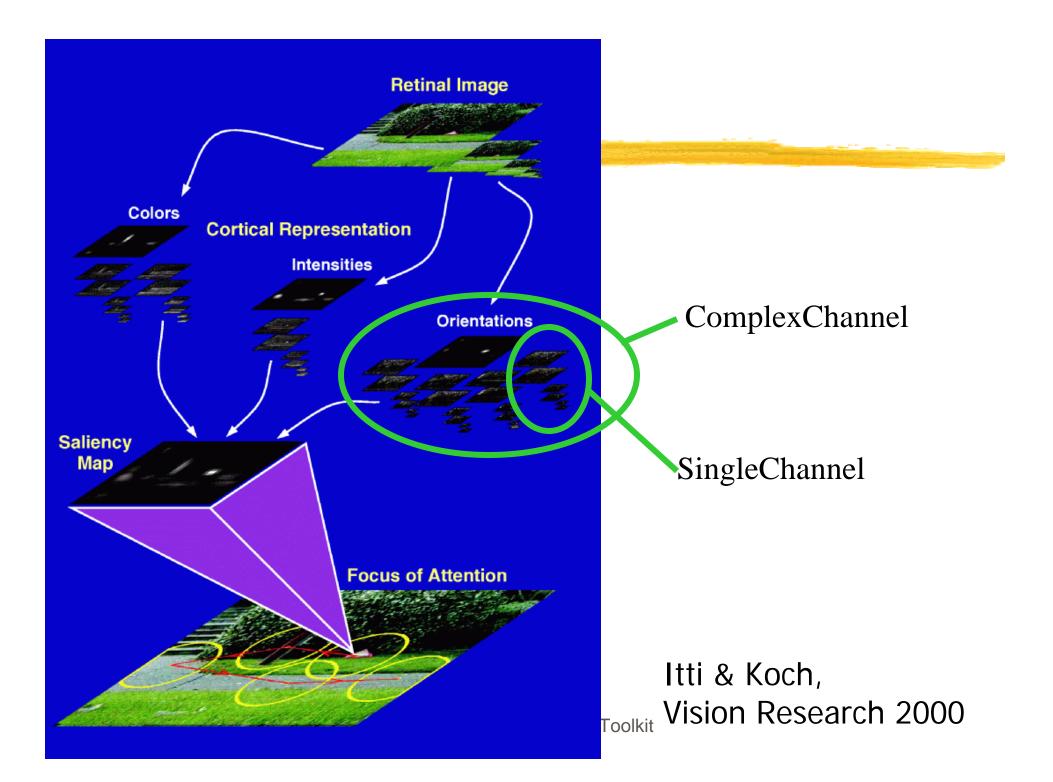


#### Channels

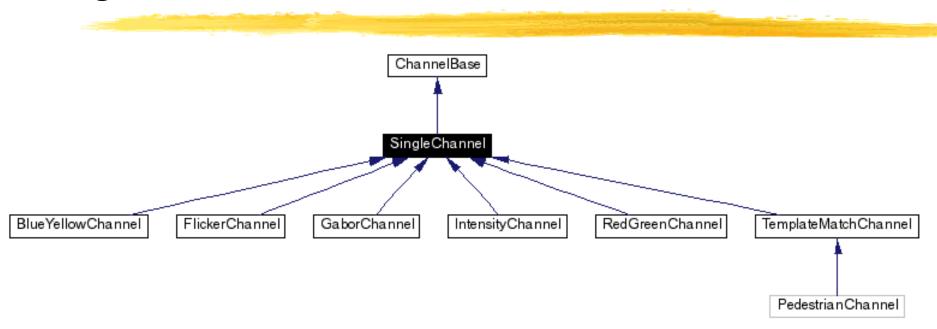
- Implement a pyramid or collection of pyramids plus some I/O functions and additional processing
- Various derived instances can be identified by name
- SingleChannel: contains one pyramid
- ComplexChannel: contains a collection of SingleChannels

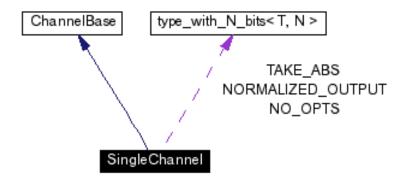


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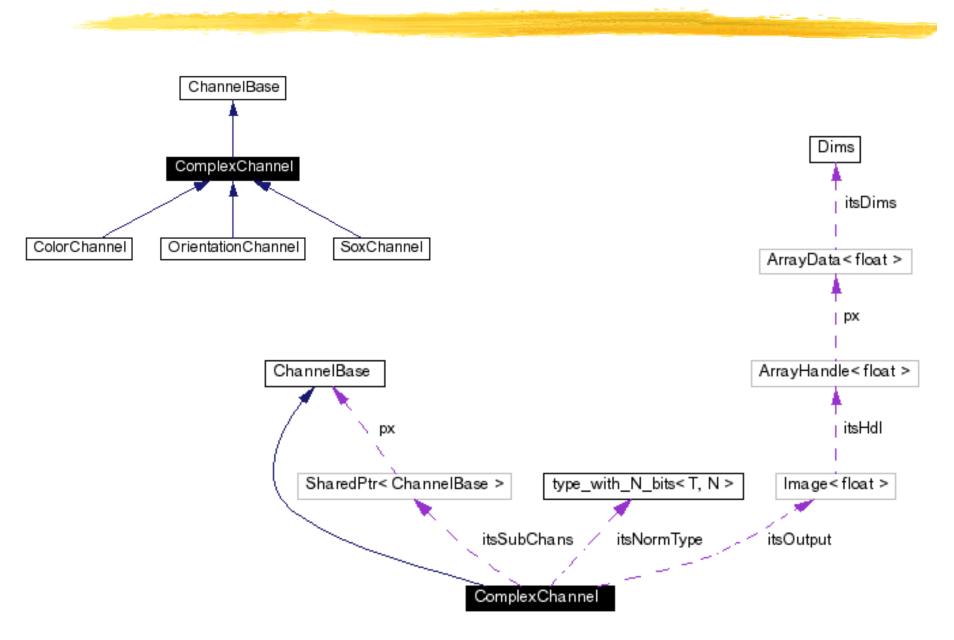


#### **Single Channels**



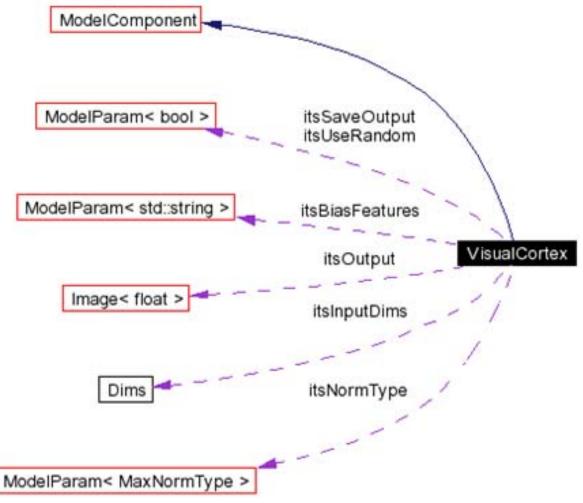


#### **Complex channels**



#### **VisualCortex**

 Run-time configurable collection of channels, plus additional I/O and access methods





# VisualCortex plugged-in at run-time



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## **Brain: basic operation**

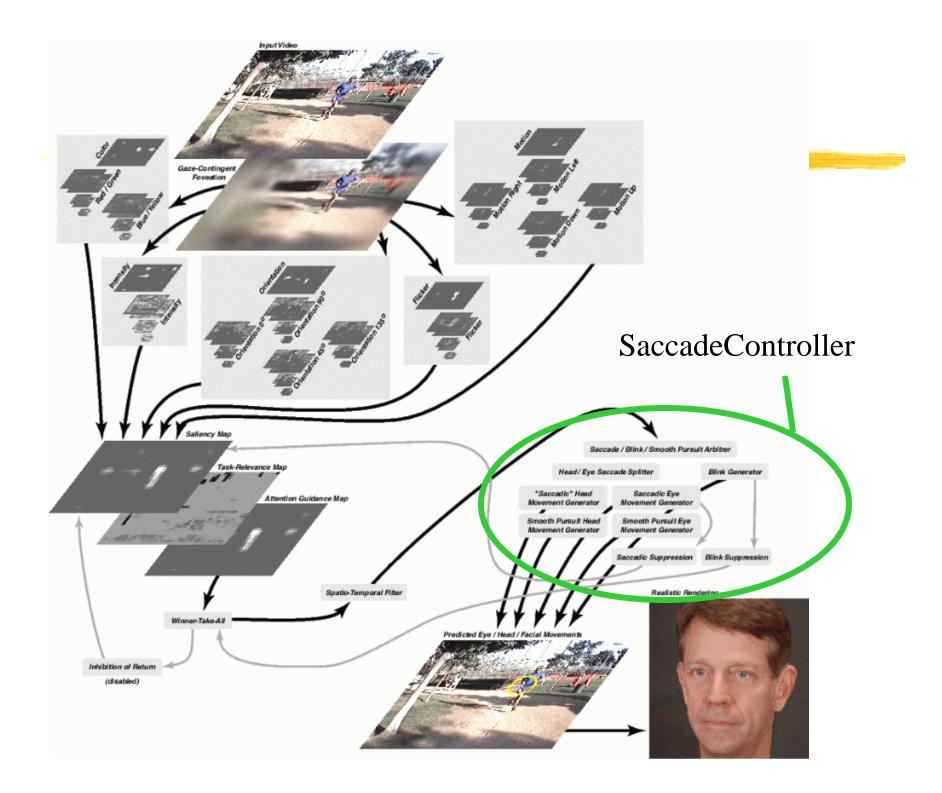
In Brain::input(), called for every new input image

- Get an input image
- Process it through VisualCortex, get saliency map input

In Brain::evolve(), called every 0.1ms of simulated time

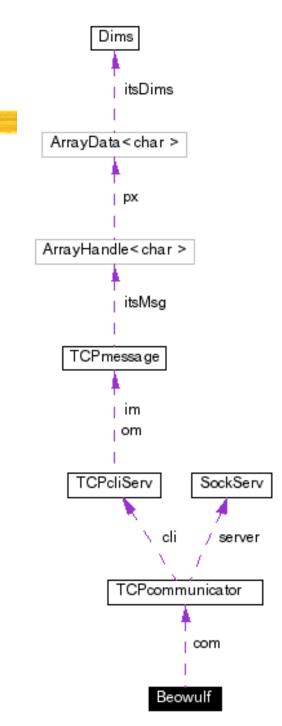
- Feed saliency map
- Let saliency map evolve
- Let task-relevance map evolve
- Combine saliency map and task-relevance map outputs to feed attentionguidance map
- Let attention-guidance map evolve
- Feed output of attention-guidance map to winner-take-all
- Get winner-take all output, if any
- · Feed that to saccade controller
- Also feed it to shape estimator
- Activate inhibition of return

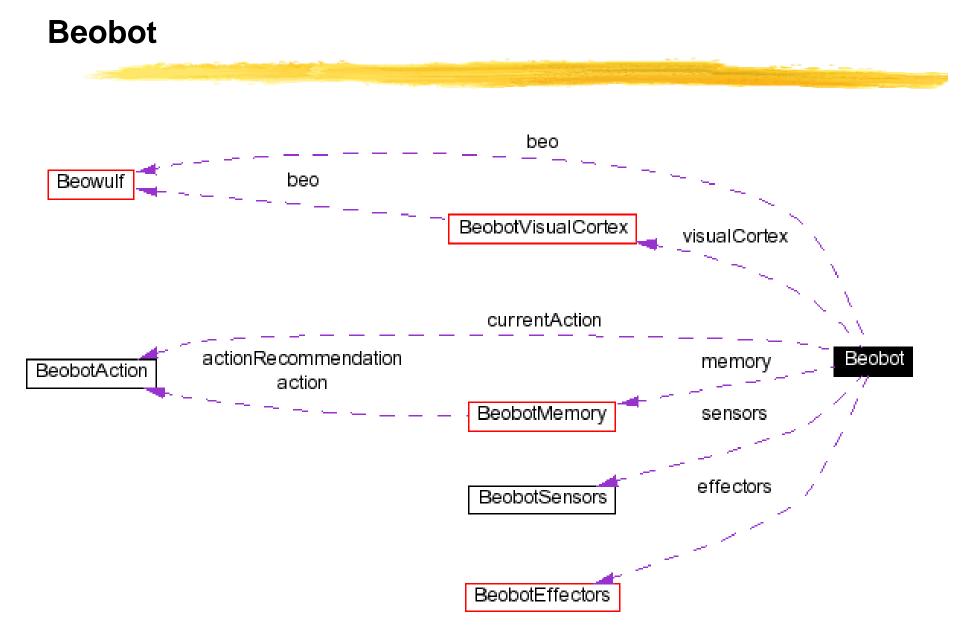
• ...



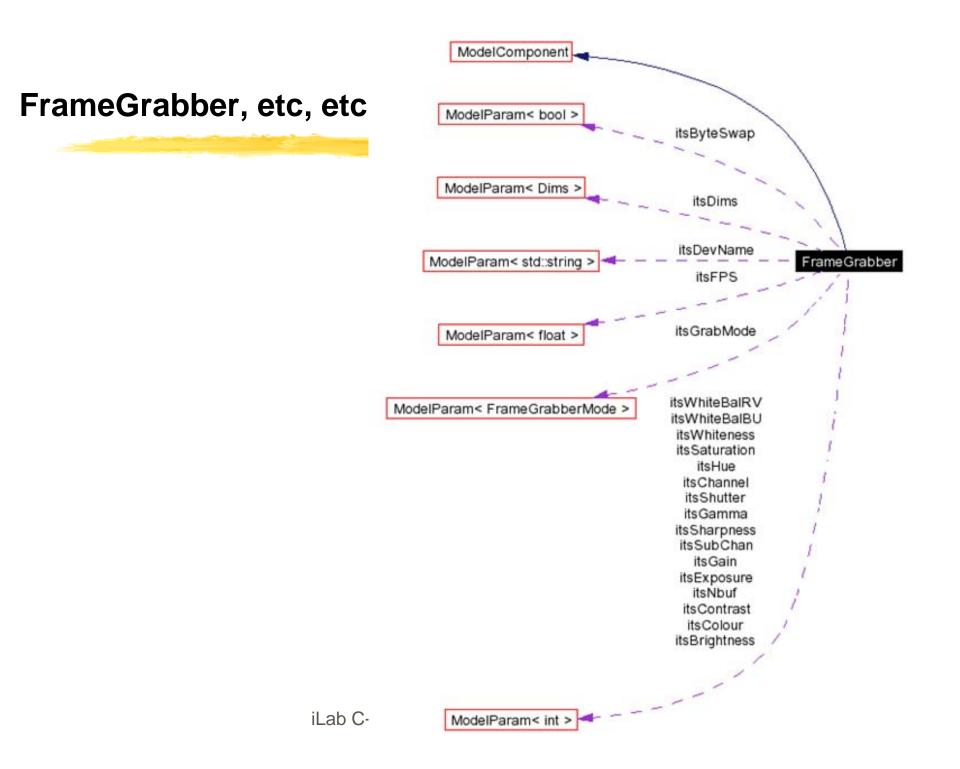
## **Beowulf**

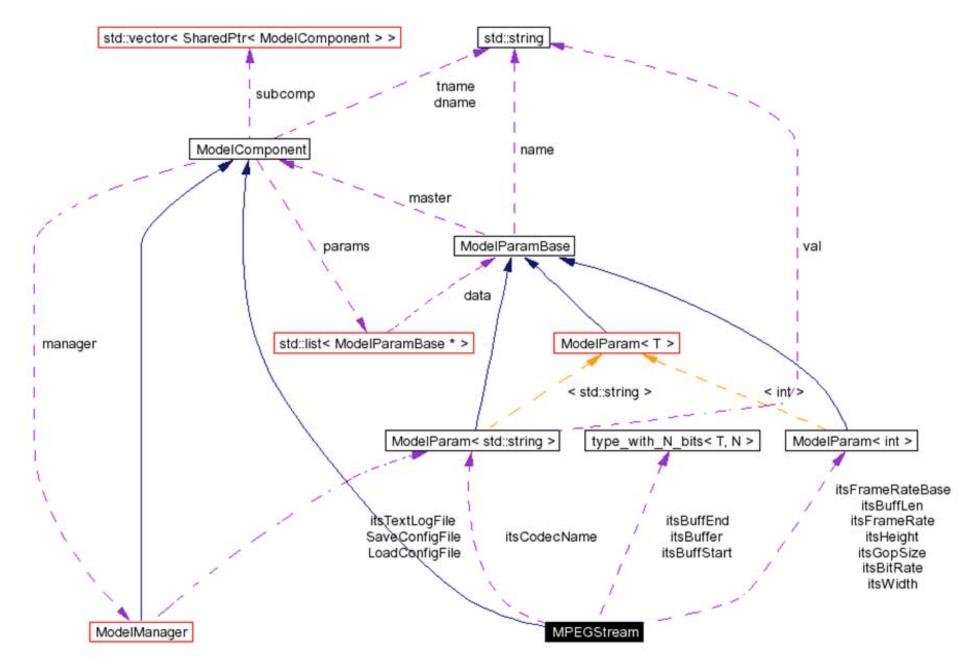
- Multi-threaded class
- Handles transparent passing of TCPmessages
  - TCPmessages are run-time collections of objects
- TCPmessages implemented using COW
- Uses TCP communications for distant nodes
- Uses shared memory for local nodes





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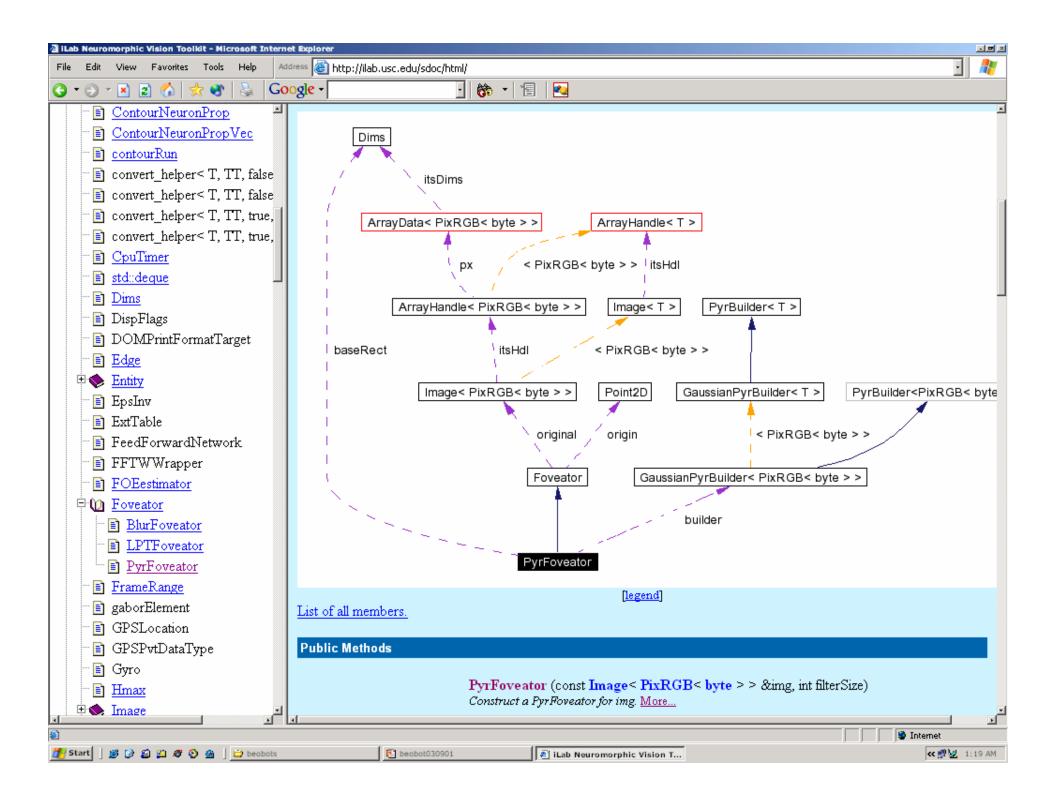


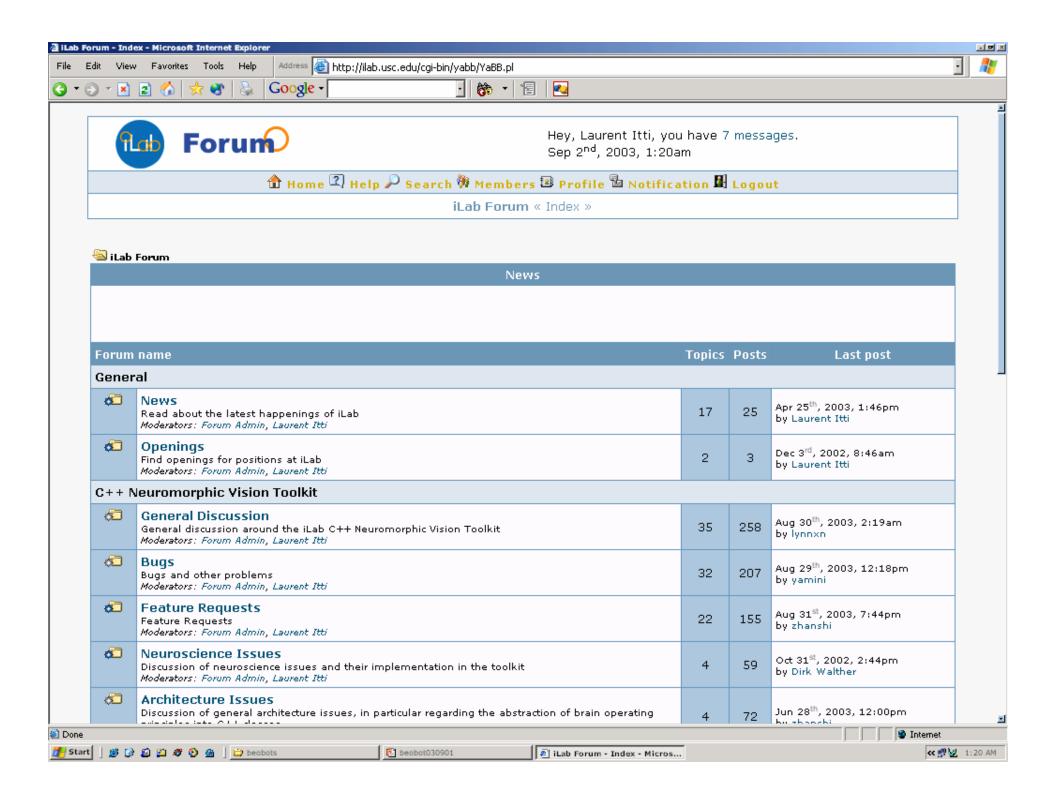
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	zhanshi	2003-08-29 at 10:15	saliency/src3/dummySTL.H	1.3	Sun Aug 31 19:44:22 2003
	itti	2003-08-27 at 11:04	saliency/src3/SimulationViewerEyeMvt.C	1.9	Fri Aug 29 14:04:17 2003
<u></u>	mundhenk	2003-08-19 at 20:40	saliency/src3/stats.conf	1.21	Sat Aug 23 15:57:03 2003
	rjpeters	2003-08-02 at 11:06	saliency/src3/corrcoef.C	1.1	Wed Jul 23 18:03:45 2003
	vidhya	2003-06-25 at 01:03	saliency/src3/VisualCortex.H	1.73	Sun Jan 12 11:43:12 2003
3	daesu	2003-05-13 at 14:40	saliency/src3/test-roadShape.C	1.1	
	dhavale	2003-05-09 at 18:58	saliency/src3/wrapping/test-Cam.C	1.2	Wed Aug 20 05:47:41 2003
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	jsn	2001-12-10 at 13:16	beobots/software/lcd/lcd.C	1.2	
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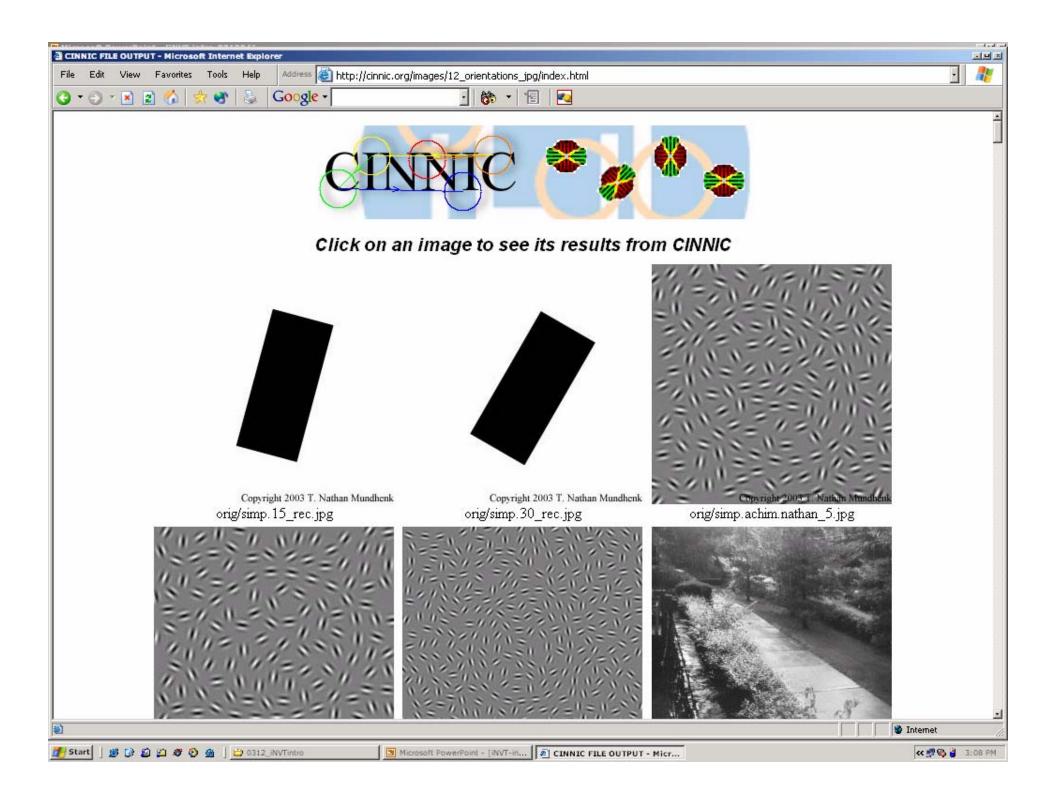


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						Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2003, 7:44pm
6		C X-Windows as command-line option	zhanshi	14	142	by zhanshi
6		🚥 IEEE1394 update	Laurent Itti	6	76	Aug 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2003, 9:27pm by zhanshi
6		STL, doxygen, and graphviz	zhanshi	4	53	Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2003, 10:43am by Laurent Itti
6		🚥 Added PNG write capability	Rob Peters	1	16	Jul 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2003, 6:34pm by Laurent Itti
6		🚥 Methods for computing orientations	Dirk Walther	7	71	Apr 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2003, 11:12am by Laurent Itti
6		🚥 Dust off the Raster interface?	Rob Peters	11	88	Mar 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2003, 5:49pm by Rob Peters
ß		Pyramids; LOGVERB+FULLTRACE     « Pages 1 2 »	Rob Peters	22	185	Mar 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2003, 4:53pm by Laurent Itti
6		🎟 tests that take a long time	Laurent Itti	11	96	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2003, 4:29pm by Laurent Itti
6		🚥 threadsafe refcounting	Laurent Itti	4	54	Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2003, 11:20am by Laurent Itti
		🚥 Detection of targets by biasing features	vidhya	1	57	Jan 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2003, 5:20pm by Laurent Itti
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6		🚥 itsLevels in PvramidBase	Dirk Walther	4	67	Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2002, 11:44am

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This project was started at Caltech with Prof. Christof Koch. It is actively being pursued both here and at Caltech (both jointly and in different directions).
The Theory Details about the trainable model of bottom-up, task-independent visual attention under development in our laboratory.
The Images A short overview of example images and the corresponding attentional trajectories. Test images, psychophysical stimuli, target detection images, natural scenes, artwork, etc.
The Movies Several MPEG movies showing attentional trajectories and the temporal dynamics of the Saliency Map for test, psychophysical, artistic and natural images. Also shown are 3D warping of the original image onto the evolving saliency map.
The Interactive Demo An interactive demonstration of the dynamic behavior of our attentional model, for a variety of complete image databases. Most recent Java™-aware Web browser required.
<b>The Publications</b> Some pre-versions of our papers describing this research are available in HTML, Postscript and PDF format.
The Ongoing Projects New! Previews of a few of our ongoing projects and preliminary screenshots. These include our SaliencyVehicle off- road muscle car, our real-time SaliencyCam which computes attentional deployment on live video feeds (15 frames/s), our SaliencyAgent which detects salient pedestrians in natural color scenes, and other exciting projects.
The C++ Source Code The C++ source code and associated doxygen documentation are available through our CVS server. You will need the latest version of g++ (3.x) and several non-standard packages installed on your Linux distribution (e.g., IEEE1394
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