

Spatial coding in perception and memory

(Hommel and Hurts)

Description

Cognitive representations of spatial layouts are affected by spatial (bottom-up) as well as nonspatial (top-down) characteristics of the stimulus configuration. For instance, people underestimate distances between locations that are semantically related (e.g., cities belonging to the same district or country) or if they afford the same action (e.g., restaurants on a city map). We assume that this is because cognitive object or event representations integrate spatial and nonspatial stimulus information as well as information about object-related actions. We investigate boundary conditions for top-down effects on spatial perception and memory, and try to characterize the underlying cognitive mechanisms.

Financing

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Student participation

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Publications

Gehrke, J., & Hommel, B. (1998). The impact of exogenous factors on spatial coding in perception and memory. In C. Freksa, C. Habel, & K. F. Wender (Eds.), *Spatial cognition: An interdisciplinary approach to representing and processing spatial knowledge* (pp. 64-77). Berlin: Springer.

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