

6.803/6.833 The Human Intelligence Enterprise
Prof. Patrick H. Winston
Assignment: Cover Letter

Paper

Rao, Sajit. Visual Routines and Attention. PhD Thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1998.

Read what you need to answer the questions in the assignment.

Assignment

On a total of one side of one sheet of paper, using 10 pt type or larger, with standard interline spacing and margins, respond to all the following.

You are Rao. Since your graduate days, you have worked for a while in industry and you have worked on applied robotics research in Italy, but now you want to return to your true passion, science-side AI research, with Winston. You think it would a good idea to send Winston a copy of your thesis (he probably lost his copy when he moved from Tech Square) along with a cover letter to refresh his memory on what you accomplished in your thesis research.

Construct a brief cover letter, including in it the following:

- Vision, step(s), and news.
- An enumeration of your contributions. In one of your items, include a word such as *complement*, *contest*, *supersede*, *extend*, *refine*, or *support* to explain the relation between your work and Ullman's and explain your word choice.
- An explanation of the extent to which your work is grounded, directly or indirectly, if at all, in system neuroscience and cognitive science.

Also, separately but still on one page:

- A discussion of the influence of Winston and Brooks, as reflected in the first and final chapters, explaining which was written for Winston and which for Brooks.
- An explanation of which comes first in the first chapter: the discussion of motivation or the discussion of accomplishment? What is the principle danger associated with the order given?