

Paper

Rao, S. "Visual Routines and Attention", Ph.D. Thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February 1998.

You are to read the first and final chapters. Look through the rest, whatever that means. 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. You have just finished your thesis, and you think it would be a good idea to send a copy to Professor Famous Winner, a noted authority on vision research. You know that Winner is busy, and unlikely to read a word of your thesis, but you hope nevertheless that he will read your cover letter.

Construct a suitable 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 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 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, explain 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?

Finally, think about the following:

Suppose Rao is your student. You admire his work and ask all your colleagues to attend his thesis defense, which is terrible. No VSN. No identifiable contributions. No symbol, slogan, salient, or surprise. You know this has to be fixed. Eventually, Rao will need a job and have to give "job talks." Hence the questions: what do you tell Rao about his talk? When do you tell him?