

Perceptual Asynchronies and the Dual-Channel Differential Latency Hypothesis

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Abstract

The dual-channel differential latency hypothesis (Ögmen et al. 2004) successfully accounts for many aspects of the flash-lag effect (FLE). Here, we use the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis to explain an illusion of perceived line length which can be viewed as one component of an illusion reported by Cai & Schlag (2001). In the phenomenon studied here, a flash is presented collinear with a moving line that is simultaneously changing in length. The moving line is perceived to be misaligned with the flash (the FLE) and the length of the moving line is perceived to differ from its physical length at the instant of the flash. We designate this phenomenon the Cai line-Length Effect (CLE). Our analysis treats a horizontally moving line that also changes its vertical length as composed of two simultaneous motion components: (1) horizontal motion and (2) vertical expansion or contraction. We measured perceived position misalignment and length misperception in the CLE paradigm, as well as separately for stimuli with the individual motion components of the CLE, as a function of target luminance. Perceived position misalignment and length misperception varied similarly with target luminance, both in the CLE paradigm and when the individual motion components were tested separately. The misperception of stimulus position and length in the CLE reflects an additional processing delay that may be caused by an interaction between the motion components in two directions. We conclude that the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis can account for the perceived spatio-temporal misalignment of stimulus features that are defined by motion components in terms of the neural latencies involved in processing these motion components.

A moving object is perceived to be displaced spatially in the direction of motion with respect to the perceived position of a flashed object, even when the two objects are aligned physically on the retina. This illusion is usually called the flash-lag effect: FLE (for reviews see Krekelberg & Lappe, 2001; Nijhawan, 2002; Ögmen et al., 2004). However, because the perceived displacement can change from a lag to a lead when the detectability of the flashed and the moving objects is manipulated (Purushothaman, et al., 1998; Patel et al., 2000; Ögmen et al., 2004), we suggest that the flash-misalignment effect (FME) is a more appropriate designation. This illusory phenomenon is important to understand because it bears upon the temporal fidelity of sensory processing as well as on the accuracy of visually guided behaviors, such as catching a moving object (Nijhawan, 1994).

Several proposed explanations for the FME were reviewed in our recent paper (Ögmen et al., 2004). Here, we will focus primarily on the *dual-channel differential latency hypothesis*, which, in our opinion, provides the most parsimonious explanation of the FME. In this chapter, we seek to extend the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis to account for the perceptual outcome in stimulus conditions that include simultaneous motion components in two directions.

We begin by providing a brief description of the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis. The reader is referred to Ögmen et. al. (2004) for a more comprehensive description. In our model, static and moving stimuli are processed in parallel by largely separate sub-systems (i.e. dual channels), termed the static and motion systems, respectively. Moreover, within each system (or channel), the computation of stimulus position and stimulus visibility are different processes with different temporal properties (Fig. 1). These sub-systems also interact to ensure that a stimulus generally produces a coherent visual percept. The time that the signals from the retina take to reach the two sub-systems may be different, in part because they could reside in separate anatomical areas in the brain. In addition, because the sub-systems that process static and moving stimuli are likely to have different temporal properties, the resulting percepts may be delayed further by different amounts.

Similar concepts also apply to motion/color asynchrony phenomenon (Moutoussis & Zeki, 1997; Bedell et al., 2003; Arnold, 2005; Bedell et al., 2006).

-----Figure 1 about here-----

In the model, a flash-lag effect occurs if the perception of flashed object is delayed relative to that of the moving object. The delay between the retinal stimulation and the percept that it generates consists of two components: (1) the accumulated propagation delays (T_p) and (2) the additional delays introduced by the sub-system's processing dynamics (T_d). Whereas T_p is largely independent of the temporal characteristics of the stimulus, T_d is not. In other words, if we consider a stimulus in terms of its temporal frequency components, the effect of T_p is to introduce a phase shift in each component that is directly proportional to the component's temporal frequency. On the other hand, T_d reflects the *interaction* between the stimulus and the processing sub-system. If the sub-system is linear shift-invariant, then processing can be viewed as the convolution of the stimulus with the system's temporal impulse response function. For example, if the processing sub-system is a linear, shift-invariant, first-order, low-pass filter characterized by a single time constant (τ), and if the input to this system is a moving stimulus that can be described as a linear change in position over time (i.e., a ramp stimulus), then the steady-state output of the system is a ramp that is delayed by exactly the time constant, τ . On the other hand, if the input is a sinusoidal stimulus of temporal frequency f , the steady-state output of the same processing sub-system will have a phase shift of $\text{atan}(2\pi f\tau)$ (the phase response of the system) corresponding to a delay of $\text{atan}(2\pi f\tau)/2\pi f$ which depends on f and τ . For a sinusoidal stimulus, the delay will be relatively constant for low temporal frequencies and will decrease and approach zero for high temporal frequencies. The model's explanation for the FME that occurs with a continuously moving object is illustrated in Fig. 2.

In the example shown in Fig. 2, the moving object is assumed to have begun its motion sufficiently early such that the *motion processing system* (or channel) and hence the trajectory of the moving object's perceived position has reached steady-state. In steady-state, the total time, including the time needed to relay the retinal information to the position computation sub-system in the motion processing system and the time that the sub-system takes to compute the position, equals d_m . Hence the *perceived* position of the moving object is delayed by d_m . Note that when motion processing system is in steady-state, the visibility computation sub-system does not interact with the position computation sub-system and hence is largely ignored in the present analysis for the perceived position of the moving object. The stationary flash is presented when it is physically collinear with the position of the moving object. In the dual-channel differential latency model, the stationary flash's position and visibility are computed by a separate *static processing system* (or channel). First we examine the visibility processing sub-system in the static processing system. The total time, to relay the flash's information from the retina to the visibility computation sub-system in the static processing system and, the time that the sub-system takes to produce an output that is larger than a critical signal-to-noise ratio, is equal to d_f . Hence the flash is perceived after a delay of d_f . The position computation sub-system in the static processing system also operates in parallel to yield the perceived position of the stationary flashed object. For the analysis here, we assume that a steady-state output of the position computation sub-system is available before the output of the visibility processing sub-system reaches the critical signal-to-noise ratio. In the example in Fig. 2, because d_f is greater than d_m , the perceived position of the moving line is ahead of the perceived position of the flash by a spatial displacement, s . The value of s is equal to $v(d_f - d_m)$, where v is the speed of the moving object and $(d_f - d_m)$ is the differential latency between the perception of the flashed and the moving object. Note that only for the dual-channel differential latency model the space-time characteristics of the perception of a stationary flashed and a moving object can be represented independently in space-time plots such as the one shown in Fig.

2. The reader is referred to Ogmen et al. (2004) for a comprehensive review of the transient dynamics of the motion processing system.

It is important to recognize that Fig. 2 is ambiguous in that one can view the perceived trajectory of the moving object as either temporally or spatially lagging the physical stimulus. To resolve this ambiguity, we examined the perceived position of the moving object from the onset of motion to the time when the perception of position reaches steady-state (Ögmen et al. 2004). The results indicate that the perceived position of the moving object lags the physical retinal stimulation *temporally*. This conclusion is consistent with the outcome of other studies that introduced changes in the speed (Brenner & Smeets, 2000) or the direction (Whitney, Murakami & Cavanagh, 2000; Eagleman & Sejnowski, 2000) of the moving object's trajectory.

Most of the studies that investigated FME used one stimulus that moved in a single linear or circumferential direction and another stimulus that was flashed. However, the dual channel differential latency hypothesis can be extended to predict the outcome of experiments with stimuli that contain more complex motion components. Cai and colleagues (Cai et al., 2000; Cai & Schlag, 2001; Cai & Schlag, 2001; Cai & Cavanagh, 2002; Cai, 2003) introduced an experimental paradigm, in which a moving target changed features such as length and color either smoothly or abruptly. In one of these experiments, the stimulus consisted of a moving line that gradually changed its length as it moved. In the middle of the motion trajectory, a brief flash was presented collinear with the moving line. As expected on the basis of the FME, the observer sees the moving line spatially ahead of the flash's position at the instant (s)he perceives the flash. In addition, the observer perceives the length of the moving line to be longer than its physical length at the time that the flash is presented. We will call this illusion the Cai line Length Effect (CLE). Our analysis treats a horizontally moving line that also changes its vertical length as a combination of two simultaneous motion components: (1) horizontal motion and (2) vertical expansion or contraction. It is important to note the distinction between a stimulus resulting in the CLE and a stimulus with circular motion. In both stimuli, assuming stimulus motion occurs in a frontoparallel plane, there

are two linear (horizontal and vertical) components of motion. However in the former case, the components of motion can be perceived separately in the frontoparallel plane and/or can be integrated into a single direction of depth towards or away from the frontoparallel plane, while in the later case they are integrated into a single direction in the frontoparallel plane. In other words, the processing of the stimulus resulting in the CLE and a stimulus in circular motion is distinct and hence can take different amounts of time. We will visit this issue again towards the end of the chapter. Here, we consider how the CLE can be explained by the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis.

Consider a vertical line that starts moving rightward from a location in the left visual field at a speed of v_h deg/sec. As the line moves its length increases, at a rate of v_v deg/sec. Both the rightward motion and the increase in line length stop when the line reaches a location in the right visual field. The observer fixates a position that is horizontally half way between the starting and the ending positions of the line's rightward motion trajectory, and vertically just below the moving line. When the moving line is directly above the fixation point, a flash is presented just below the fixation point, in physical horizontal alignment with the moving line. The predictions of the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis for this version of the CLE paradigm are illustrated in Fig. 3. These predictions are derived for one level of detectability of the moving line, but can be generalized readily to other levels of detectability (see Ögmen et al. 2004 for modifications relating to detectabilities).

-----Figure 3 about here-----

The time varying aspects of the stimulus are decomposed into two components: (1) a component that corresponds to horizontal motion and (2) a component that corresponds to vertical expansion (i.e., an increase in length). For simplicity, we assume for now that the rightward line motion and the vertical expanding motion are processed separately without interactions. Figure 3 only shows the steady-state responses corresponding to these

two types of stimulus motion. As seen in Fig. 3, each type of motion may be delayed by a different amount, depending on the dynamics of the relevant processing mechanism. The following predictions can be derived for the perception of the moving stimulus at the instant that the flash becomes visible:

1. When the flash is perceived, the horizontal position of the moving line will be misaligned, as expected from the FME. The sign and magnitude of the misalignment will depend on the relative delays involved in processing the horizontal position of the moving line and the detection of the flash.
2. When the flash is perceived, the length of the moving line will be misperceived compared to its physical length at the time of flash presentation, as described by the CLE. The sign and magnitude of the misperception will depend on the relative delays involved in processing the vertical length of the changing line and the detection of the flash.
3. Increasing the detectability of the moving stimulus should reduce its latency (Roufs, 1974; Williams & Lit, 1983) and should therefore cause the perceived position misalignment in the horizontal direction (the magnitude of the FME) to change in the direction of a greater position lead for the moving stimulus.
4. Increasing the detectability of the moving stimulus should also cause the misperception of line length to change in the direction of a greater length lead.
5. If the two types of motion are processed largely independently and the perceptual illusion related to each type of motion occurs due to differential processing latencies, then the effects of changing stimulus detectability in the CLE paradigm should be equivalent to the effects observed when the horizontal and vertical (length-change) components of line motion are examined separately.

We tested these predictions in a series of psychophysical experiments. Because the temporal response of the visual system depends on retinal eccentricity (McKee & Taylor, 1984; Tyler, 1985), in all of these experiments the retinal eccentricity, at which the critical information for the observers' judgments occurred, was kept constant.

In our first experiment, we measured the spatial misalignment between a flashed bar and a line of fixed vertical length that moved in the horizontal direction. This experiment examined the horizontal motion component of the CLE. The stimulus configuration for this experiment is shown in Fig. 4.

-----Figure 4 about here-----

In separate runs, we measured the flash-misalignment for a moving line that was on an average 2.1 and 3.2 log units (LU, averaged across three observers, one of whom was naive) above its detection threshold. The results of this experiment are shown in Fig. 5.

-----Figure 5 about here-----

For both levels of detectability of the moving line, the moving line was perceived to be ahead of the flash at the instant that the flash was perceived, i.e. a positive FME or a flash lag effect was observed. Consistent with previous results (Purushothaman et al. 1998; Patel et al. 2000; Ögmen et al., 2004), the perceived spatial position lead of the moving object increases with an increase in its detectability ($F[1,6]=38.7$, $p=0.007$). The rate of increase of position is about 30 ms per LU of the moving line's detectability. We will use this rate below to compare the steady-state dynamics of position processing for targets that move in the horizontal direction and that expand/contract in the vertical direction.

Statistical evaluation of the results of this and the subsequent experiments was performed using a repeated-measures ANOVA. The factors included in the ANOVA were luminance (2 levels) and experiment (4 levels). The outcome variable was the magnitude of the FME, in arc-min. This analysis indicated that the main effects of luminance ($F[1,2]=85.9$, $p=0.01$) and experiment ($F[3,6]=18.3$, $p=0.005$) are significant, but the interaction between luminance and experiment is not ($F[3,6]=0.6$, $p=0.65$). Post-hoc contrasts were used to compare

specific pairs of conditions within and across the separate experiments (see below). A second repeated-measures ANOVA using the same factors was performed to evaluate possible changes in the inverse slopes of the psychometric functions (outcome variable), specified in arc-min per 1 SD change in the percent of responses. This analysis found no significant effect of luminance ($F[1,2]=0.002$, $p=0.97$) or experiment ($F[3,6]=6.3$, $p=0.09$), and no evidence of a significant luminance \times experiment interaction ($F[3,6]=0.09$, $p=0.84$).

In our second experiment, we examined the vertical component of motion in the CLE, i.e., the vertical change in line length. The stimuli for this experiment are shown in Fig. 6.

-----Figure 6 about here-----

The perceived length at the time of the flash was measured for two levels of detectability of the expanding and contracting lines. To obtain a bias-free estimate, the data for the expanding- and contracting-line conditions were averaged. The average data for the same observers are shown in Fig. 7.

-----Figure 7 about here-----

As in the first experiment, the perceived length of the line is *ahead* of its physical length at the instant that the flash is perceived, for both detectabilities of the changing line. These results indicate that a FME also occurs for the line-length component of the CLE.

In agreement with experiment 1, the lead in the length of the changing line increases as the level of detectability increases ($F[1,6]=30.9$, $p=0.009$). The rate of increase in length-lead is about 26 ms per LU change in detectability, which is similar to that obtained in experiment 1 for the horizontal component of the CLE.

However, in comparison to the results of experiment 1 shown in Fig. 5 the data in Fig. 7 are shifted downward by approximately 30 ms ($F[1,6]=5.7$, $p=0.1$). This shift can be interpreted as a longer delay for processing the vertical expansion/contraction compared to the horizontal position of the changing or moving line. As indicated by the example psychometric functions in the inset to Fig. 7, there is also a substantial asymmetry in the FME for the line-length of expanding and contracting lines. The direction of this asymmetry is consistent with that found in a recent study of the FLE in depth (Harris et al., 2006). However, in spite of the change in line length that occurred in experiment 2, the observers did not report a strong perception of motion in depth.

-----Figure 8 about here-----

In the third experiment, we measured the perceived misalignment of the horizontal position of the line in the CLE paradigm. If the processing of horizontal motion and vertical length change do not interact, then the perceived horizontal position misalignment of a line that simultaneously moves horizontally and changes length vertically (i.e. a *changing line*) should be identical to the perceived position misalignment for the moving line obtained in experiment 1. In other words, the FME should not be affected by what happens to the length of the line. The stimulus used in this experiment is shown in Fig. 8 and the data are presented in Fig. 9.

-----Figure 9 about here-----

Consistent with the results of experiment 1, the line is perceived to be ahead of its physical position at the instant that the flash is perceived, i.e., a FME is observed for the horizontal position of the line that simultaneously moves and changes length in the CLE paradigm. The position-lead of the changing line increases with an increase in its detectability ($F[1,6]=36.1$, $p=0.007$), at a rate of about 25 ms per LU of detectability. This rate of change of position-lead is similar to that observed in the first experiment. However, compared to the results of the first experiment shown in Fig. 2, the data in Fig. 8 are shifted down significantly,

by an amount equal to approximately 60 ms ($F(1,6)=24.4$, $p=0.03$). We will discuss this 60 ms shift after we report the results of the fourth experiment.

Finally, in our fourth experiment, we measured the CLE using the stimulus shown in Fig. 10. The data are shown in Fig. 11.

-----Figure 10 about here-----

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-----Figure 11 about here-----

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For the lower detectability of the line, its perceived length *lags* the physical length at the instant that the flash is perceived. In other words, the misperception of line length in this condition is consistent with a flash-*lead* for the vertical component of motion in the CLE. As mentioned above, a flash-lead is encountered also in experiments similar to experiment 1 when the delay in processing the flash becomes smaller than the delay to process the moving line (Purushothaman et al., 1998; Patel et al., 2000; Ögmen et al., 2004). Consistent with the data from our previous three experiments, the perceived length of the line shifts in the direction of a relative *lead* as the detectability of the changing line increases ($F[1,6]=53.8$, $p=0.004$). The rate of increase in length-lead is about 30 ms per LU change in detectability. This rate of change in length-lead as a function of the line's detectability in the CLE paradigm is similar to that in experiment 2. However, the data in Fig. 11 are also shifted down relative to those in Fig. 7 by approximately 55 ms ($F[1,6]=20.8$, $p=0.03$). This downward shift in the CLE data can be attributed to an additional delay in processing, presumably because of the simultaneous presence of motion components in the vertical and horizontal directions. A comparison of the results from

experiments 3 and 4 indicates that the additional delay when more than one motion component is present is very similar for the perceived length of the vertically expanding or contracting line (~55 ms) and for its perceived horizontal position (~ 60 ms). As indicated by the example psychometric functions in the inset to Fig. 11, there is a slight asymmetry in the FME for the expanding and contracting line-length components of the CLE but it is greatly reduced from that in experiment 2.

Although the effect of changing the detectability of the stimulus is consistent with our previous results and the predictions of the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis, our data indicate a substantial decrease in FME when more than one component of motion is present in the stimulus simultaneously. This outcome indicates that our initial treatment of vertical expansion/contraction and horizontal motion processing as non-interactive was an oversimplification. Within the framework of the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis, an additional processing delay is introduced when vertical expansion/contraction and horizontal motion components are simultaneously present (for a detailed explanation see Fig. 12). Moreover, the asymmetry in the magnitude of perceived length for expansion and contraction conditions (Fig. 7 and 11) imply that figural changes such as expansion/contraction coupled with motion may induce additional processes related to form-motion interactions. Previously, Regan & Beverley (1978) showed that distinct, independently adaptable motion mechanisms process looming and zooming stimuli, which are perceived to move toward or away from the observer, vs. stimuli that only translate in a frontoparallel plane. Although a detailed analysis of this additional processing delay is beyond the scope of this chapter, some speculation about mechanisms is nevertheless possible. Motion integration is a process whereby local motion signals belonging to an object are combined to determine the global motion characteristics of that object (e.g., Wallach, 1935; Adelson & Movshon, 1982; Grzywacz & Yuille, 1991; Laurenceau & Shiffrar, 1992; Mingolla et al., 1992; Pack et al., 2001). In general, local motion components of an object suffer from the “aperture problem”, i.e., they can only provide ambiguous information about the object’s movement direction (Fennema & Thompson, 1979; Marr & Ullman, 1981). But line ends and terminators of the object typically signal the veridical object direction. Thus, in the stimuli shown

in Figs. 4 and 6 as well as in rigidly translating or rotating lines of fixed length, the direction of the line ends unambiguously signal the direction of motion in the scene. But in the CLE stimulus (Fig. 8), the line end signals a diagonal direction different from the horizontal direction in which the bar moves. It is possible that the additional processing delay may be the result of increased complexity in computing the global object direction from the three ambiguous local motion signals while maintaining separate perceptual identity for each component. Our data show that this additional delay is between 55 and 60 ms.

-----Figure 12 about here-----
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The explanation of the CLE based on the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis demonstrates that the parallel and distributed nature of neural processing may cause spatial features that are defined by motion signals to be misperceived. Although other explanations for CLE are possible, the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis provides a parsimonious explanation for the flash-lag effect (e.g. Nijhawan, 1994), the Hess and Pulfrich effects (Williams & Lit, 1983), color-motion asynchrony phenomenon (e.g. Moutoussis, & Zeki, 1997; Arnold & Clifford, 2002; Nishida & Johnston, 2002; Bedell et al., 2003; Bedell et al., 2006; Arnold, 2005) as well as the CLE (Cai & Schlag, 2001). The results presented here add to the overwhelming evidence for a lack of compensation of temporal asynchronies that arise in various parts of the neuronal pathways leading to perception. Consistent with previous suggestions (Purushothaman et al, 1998; Kerzel & Gegenfurtner, 2003), the results presented in this chapter reinforce the need for visually guided behavior to rely less on predictive perceptual processing and more on predictive sensorimotor processing. In terms of the example of catching a moving ball, the brain is likely to compensate for the delay in the visual information by moving the arm to a predicted future spatial location.

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Figure Captions

Figure 1. The architecture of the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis. Static and moving stimuli are processed in different sub-systems. Within each sub-system (or channel), various stimulus attributes (e.g, visibility and position) are processed by largely separate modules (Adapted from Ögmen et al., 2004).

Figure 2. Space-time diagram illustrating how the FME is explained by the dual-channel differential latency model. In this example, the moving object is assumed to have begun its motion sufficiently early such that the trajectory of its perceived position has reached steady-state. The *physical* position of the moving object is represented by the oblique gray line. The *perceived* position of the moving object, which is delayed by d_m , is represented by the black oblique line. The flash (unfilled circle) is presented when it is physically collinear with the position of the moving object. If the flash is perceived after a delay of d_f (filled circle), the perceived position of the moving line is ahead of the perceived position of the flash by a spatial displacement, s . The value of s is equal to $v(d_f - d_m)$, where v is the speed of the moving object and $(d_f - d_m)$ is the differential latency between the perception of the flashed and the moving object. Note that even though the visibility processing of the stationary flash is dynamic, the filled circle in the figure only shows the instant when the output crosses a critical signal-to-noise ratio for the first time.

Figure 3. Space-time diagram illustrating the CLE. The top and bottom parts of this figure, which represent the simultaneous horizontal position and vertical length of the stimulus, respectively, are similar to Fig. 2. Note that for the bottom figure, the origin's y-coordinate represents a non-zero length. For the purpose of generalizability, the steady-state latencies for the horizontal position and vertical length perception are d_{mh} and d_{mv} respectively. When the flash is perceived (filled circle), the perceived position of the moving object is s_h ahead of the flash and the perceived length of the moving object is s_v longer than the physical line length at the instant of flash

presentation. The values, s_h and s_v , are equal to $v_h(d_f - d_{mh})$ and $v_v(d_f - d_{mv})$, respectively, where v_h is the horizontal speed of the moving line and v_v is its rate of length change. In this illustration and in our experiments, v_h and v_v are equal. The differential latencies between the perception of the flashed and the moving objects' horizontal position and vertical length are $(d_f - d_{mh})$ and $(d_f - d_{mv})$, respectively.

Figure 4. Stimulus configuration for the first experiment. A vertical line (8.8 x 88 arc-min) moved horizontally along a trajectory that was 1 deg (from the center of the fixation target to the lower edge of the line) above a fixation cross (1.1 cd/sq-m) on a computer monitor (pixel-size = 2.2 arc-min) connected to a VSG-2/3 board. The background luminance of the screen was 1.9 cd/sq-m. The speed of the moving line was 1.9 deg/sec and the duration of motion was 1.3 sec (69 frames of 18.75 ms each). The direction of motion was chosen randomly for each trial. When the position of the moving line was in the vicinity of the fixation cross (textured rectangle above fixation cross), a vertical bar (white 8.8 x 88 arc-min rectangle below fixation cross) was flashed 1 deg (from the center of the fixation cross to the upper edge of the bar) below it. The duration of the flash was 18.75 ms. The luminance of the flash was 10.2 cd/sq-m and its detectability averaged across the three observers was 1.45 LU (± 0.30 SD) above its detection threshold. The viewing distance was 1m. The time instant at which the flash was presented varied from trial to trial using the method of constant stimuli. The observers binocularly judged whether the position of the moving line was to the left or right of the flashed bar. A psychometric function was constructed from the collected data and the 50% point on the curve corresponds to the point of *subjective* alignment (PSA). The *physical* misalignment occurring at the PSA was defined as the flash-misalignment or, equivalently, as the misalignment in the position of the moving line. In the FME, at the time the observers perceive the flash, the moving line is perceived to be ahead of its physical location, as illustrated by the white rectangle above the fixation cross.

Figure 5. The misalignment in the position of the moving line as a function of its detectability in experiment 1. The left (right) ordinate represents the position misalignment in spatial (temporal) units. The temporal misalignment is obtained by dividing the spatial misalignment by the speed of the moving line. The luminance of the moving lines was 4.9 and 62.0 cd/sq-m in the low and high detectability conditions, respectively. The plotted data are also equivalent to the FME with positive numbers representing a flash-lag. The data shown are the average of three observers (one of whom was naive). In this and other figures, error bars represent the standard deviation across observers. ***Inset:*** The psychometric functions of the naive observer for two detectability conditions. The x axis represents the position of the moving line relative to the position of the flash at the time of the presentation of the flash (-ve numbers represent a spatial lag for the moving line). The y-axis represents the number of times an observer responded that the flash spatially lagged the moving line. Each

relative position is represented 8 times in an experimental run. In this and subsequent figures, the data shown (squares and triangles) are from two experimental runs and the fitted curves represent cumulative Gaussian functions. The vertical dashed lines represent the position of the moving line at the time of the flash presentation that resulted in a perceived spatial alignment of the flash and the moving line. The inverse slopes (\pm SEM) of the psychometric functions averaged across observers for low and high detectability conditions are 2.30 ± 0.34 and 2.48 ± 0.68 pixels respectively. Note that in this and all other data plots, the sizes of the symbols are different only to make them legible when overlapping with each other and slope values are given in pixel units.

Figure 6. Stimulus conditions for the second experiment. A *stationary* line (textured rectangle) that either expanded (left panel) or contracted smoothly in length (right panel) was presented 1 deg to the right (from the center of the fixation cross to the horizontal center of the line) of a fixation cross. The bottom of the changing line remained at a fixed position, 1.6 deg below the center of the fixation cross. When the upper edge of the expanding or contracting line was aligned with the center of the fixation cross, a bar (white rectangle) was flashed 1 deg to the left of the fixation cross. The length of the line when the flash occurred was 88 arc-min. From trial to trial the length of the *flashed* bar was varied according to the method of constant stimuli. Because detectability of a flashed object affects the FME (Purushothaman et al. 1998; Patel et al. 2000; Ögmen et al., 2004), it is important to note that for the range of flash bar lengths used in this experiment, the detectability of the flashed bar changed negligibly (~ 0.1 LU). The expanding and contracting line-length conditions were run in separate blocks of trials. The observer's task was to judge whether the flashed bar was longer or shorter than the line that changed smoothly in length. The perceived length of the line at the time that the flash was perceived was defined as the 50% point on the psychometric function.

Figure 7. The misperception in length of a line as function of the line's detectability in experiment 2. For an expanding (contracting) stimulus, the vertical axis represents the amount by which the perceived length of the line is longer (shorter) than the line length that was presented at the time the flash was presented. The data shown are the average of three observers (one of whom was naive). ***Inset:*** The psychometric functions of the naive observer for two detectability conditions. The x axis represents the length of the flash. The physical length of the line at the time of the flash presentation was 40 pixels (88 arcmin). The y-axis represents the number of times an observer responded that the length of the line was shorter than that of the flash. Each flash's length is represented 8 times in an experimental run. The black (gray) symbols and curve correspond to the expanding (contracting) line condition. The vertical dashed lines represent the length of the flash that resulted in a perceived length match of the flash and the expanding/contracting line. The inverse slope (\pm SEM) of the

psychometric functions averaged across observers for low and high detectability conditions of expanding (contracting) lines are 1.69 ± 0.23 (1.62 ± 0.15) and 1.76 ± 0.05 (1.43 ± 0.13) pixels respectively.

Figure 8. The stimulus configuration for experiment 3. A line moved horizontally and also expanded in length smoothly above the fixation cross. The direction of motion was chosen randomly for each trial. When the moving/expanding line was in the vicinity of the fixation cross (textured rectangle), a bar was flashed below the fixation cross. The top of the changing line remained at a fixed position, 2.6 deg above the center of the fixation cross. The bottom of the changing line was around 1 deg above the fixation cross as in experiment 1. The dimensions and eccentricity of the flashed bar were identical to those in experiment 1. The horizontal speed of the moving line was identical to that in experiment 1 and its rate of expansion was identical to that in experiment 2. The experimental procedure, observer's judgment and data analysis were identical to those in experiment 1. We only used the expanding-line condition for this experiment.

Figure 9. The perceived misalignment in the position of the changing line as a function of its detectability in the CLE paradigm, in experiment 3. The data shown are the average of three observers (one of whom was naive). *Inset:* The psychometric functions of the naive observer for two detectability conditions. The x axis represents the position of the changing line relative to the position of the flash at the time of the presentation of the flash (-ve numbers represent a spatial lag for the changing line). The y-axis represents the number of times an observer responded that the flash spatially lagged the changing line. Each relative position is represented 8 times in an experimental run. The vertical dashed lines represent the position of the changing line at the time of the flash presentation that resulted in a perceived spatial alignment of the flash and the changing line. The inverse slope (\pm SEM) of the psychometric functions averaged across observers for low and high detectability conditions are 3.22 ± 0.31 and 3.27 ± 0.69 pixels respectively.

Figure 10. Stimulus conditions in experiment 4. A rightward *moving* line that either expanded (left panel) or contracted smoothly in length (right panel) was presented to the right (from the center of the fixation cross to the horizontal center of the line) of a fixation cross. The horizontal speed was identical to that in experiments 1 and 3. The expansion/contraction rate was identical to that in experiment 2. When the upper edge of the expanding or contracting line (textured rectangle on the right side of fixation) was approximately aligned with the center of the fixation cross, a bar was flashed 1 deg to the left of the fixation cross. The eccentricity of the flashed bar was identical to that in experiments 1 through 3. The length of the expanding or contracting line when the flash occurred was 88 arc-min. The procedure, observer's judgment and data analysis were identical to those in experiment 2. Expanding and contracting line conditions were run in separate blocks of trials. Because

previous studies (Kanai et al., 2004) indicated that there is a significant difference between the flash-lag values of foveopetal and foveofugal conditions, only one direction of motion (foveofugal) was used in this experiment.

Figure 11. The misperception of line length in the CLE paradigm as a function of the detectability of the line, in experiment 4. The data are the average of three observers (one of whom was naive). Data from the expanding and contracting line conditions were averaged. The psychometric functions of the naive observer for two detectability conditions are shown in the small window. The black symbols and line correspond to the results of the expanding length whereas the gray symbols and line are the contracting length results. *Inset:* The psychometric functions of the naive observer for two detectability conditions. The x axis represents the length of the flash. The physical length of the line at the time of the flash presentation was 40 pixels (88 arcmin). The y-axis represents the number of times an observer responded that the length of the line was less than that of the flash. Each flash's length is represented 8 times in an experimental run. The black (gray) symbols and curve correspond to the expanding (contracting) line condition. The vertical dashed lines represent the length of the flash that resulted in a perceived length match of the flash and the changing line. The inverse slope (\pm SEM) of the psychometric functions averaged across observers for low and high detectability conditions of expanding (contracting) lines are 2.37 ± 0.68 (1.69 ± 0.17) and 2.02 ± 0.52 (1.78 ± 0.06) pixels respectively.

Figure 12. Qualitative explanation of the results of experiments 1 – 4, based on the dual-channel differential latency hypothesis. In all panels, the motion of the stimulus is represented by the oblique gray line. v_h and v_v represent the speed of the stimulus in the horizontal and vertical directions, respectively. The trajectories of perceived stimulus position are represented by the thin and thick oblique black lines, which signify low and high levels of stimulus detectability, respectively. The unfilled and filled circles represent the physical and perceived times of the flashed target, respectively. P_l and P_h represent the perceived horizontal position misalignment for low and high detectability stimuli, and L_l and L_h represent the misperception of length for low and high detectability stimuli.

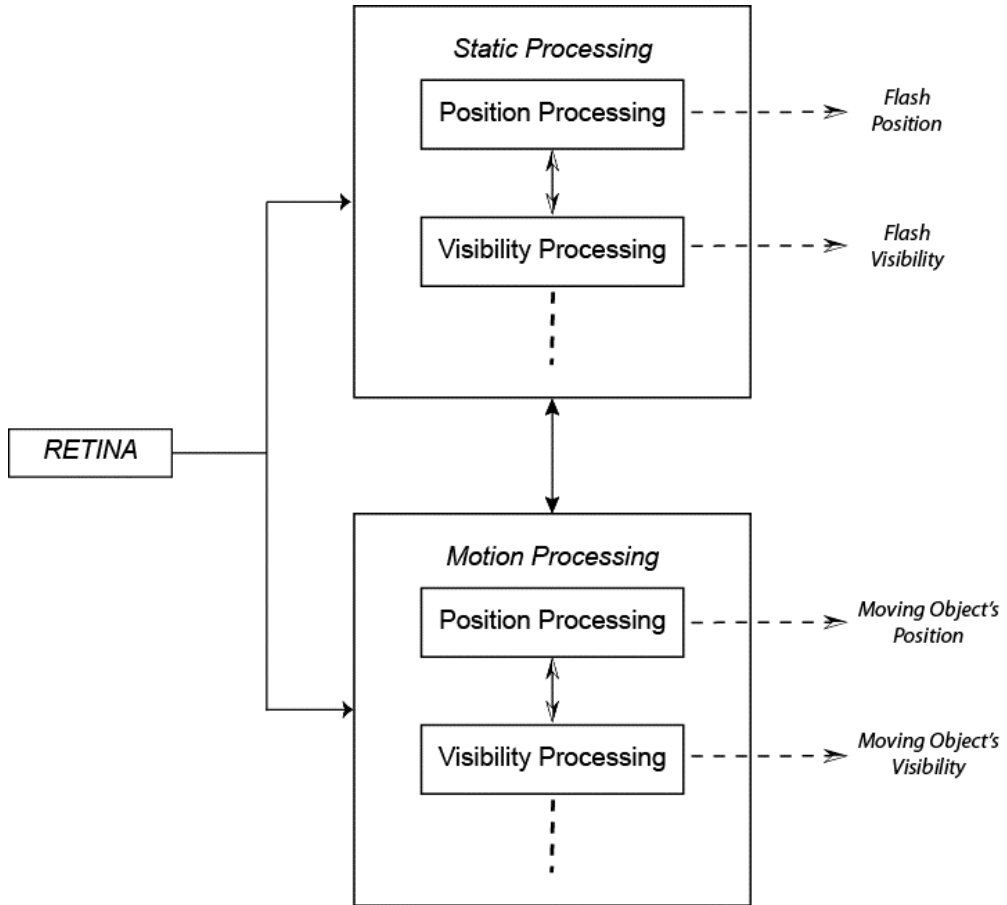


Fig 1

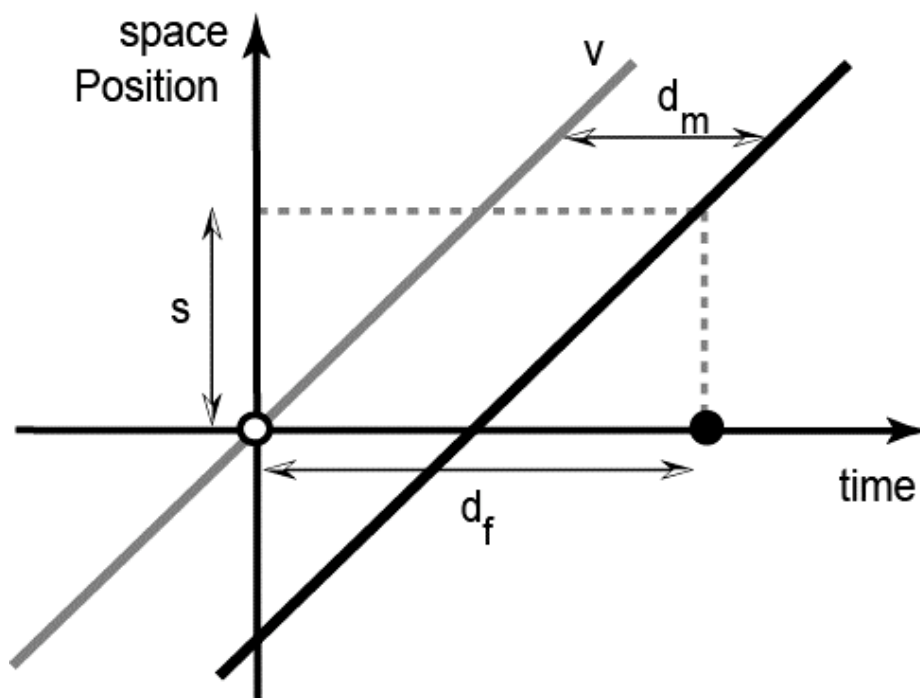


Fig 2

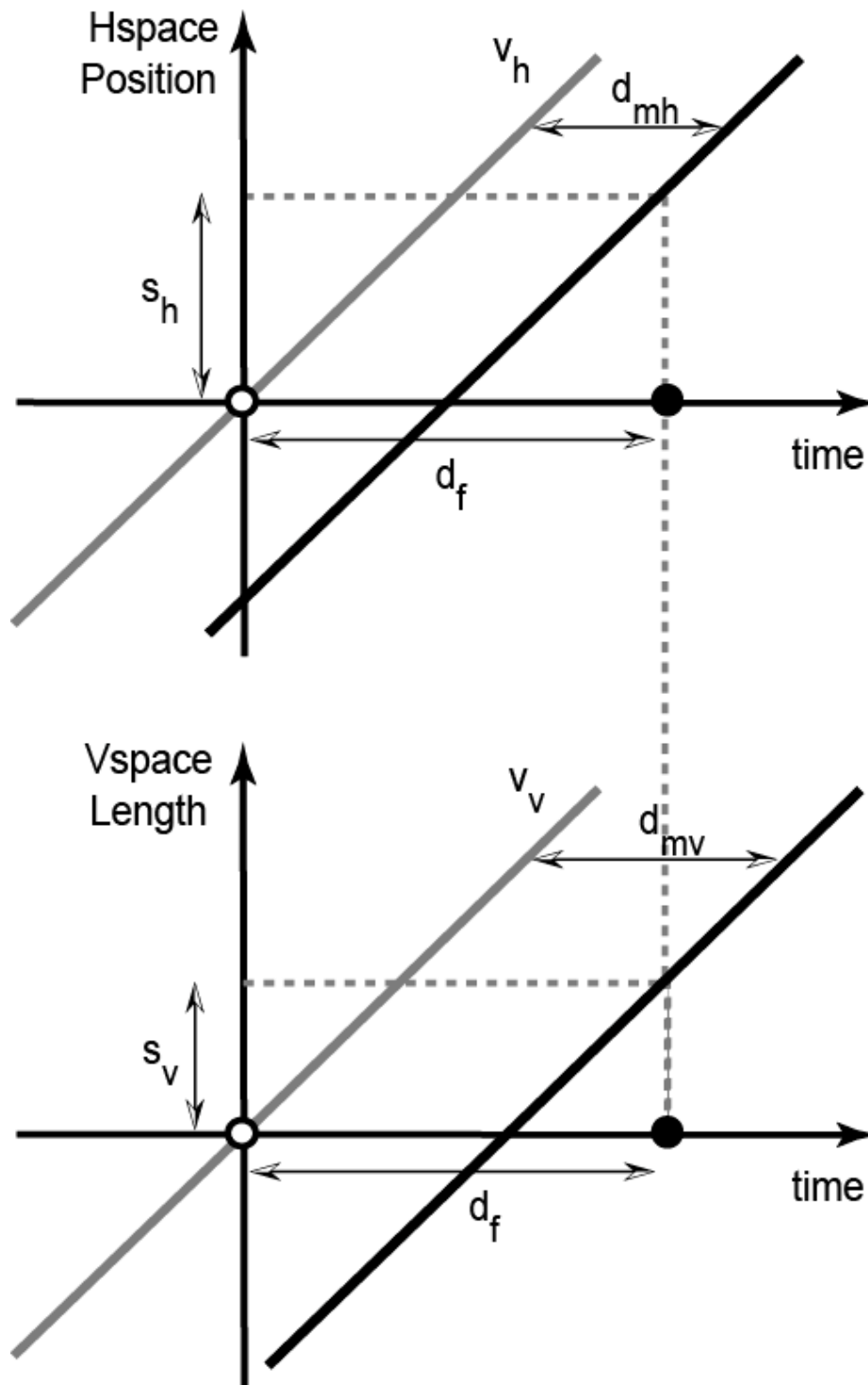


Fig 3

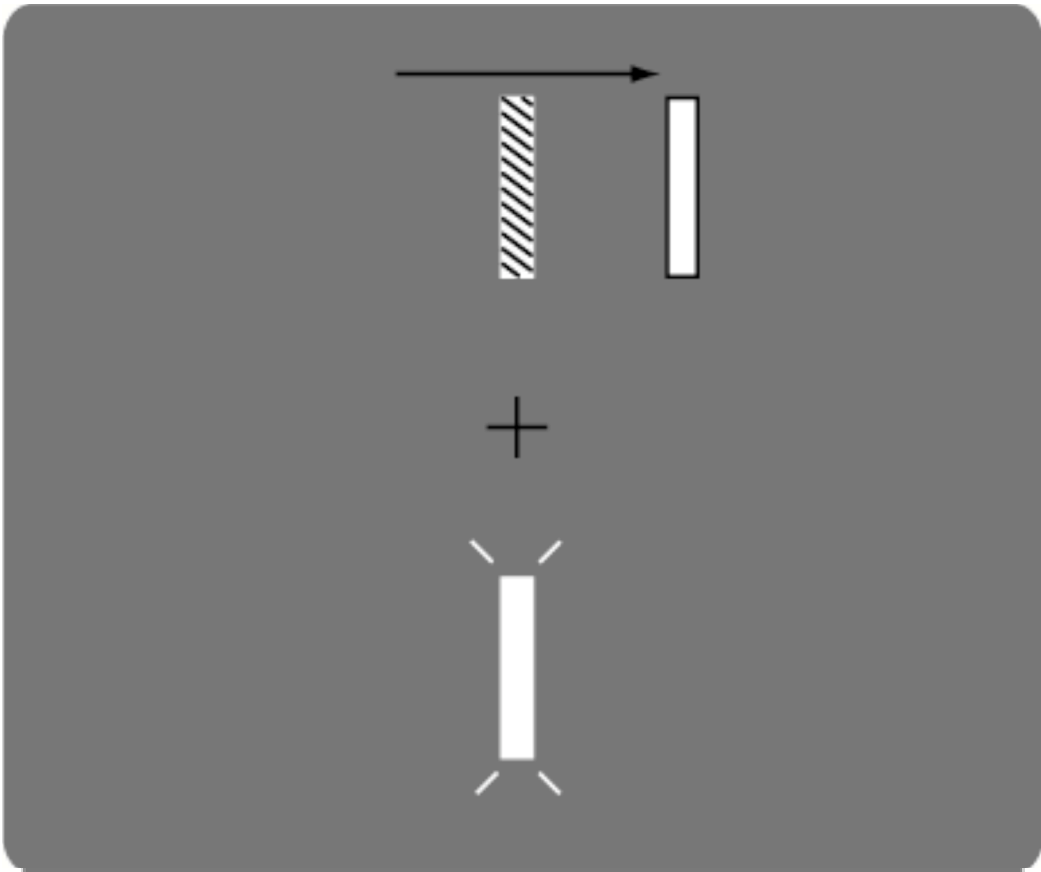


Fig 4

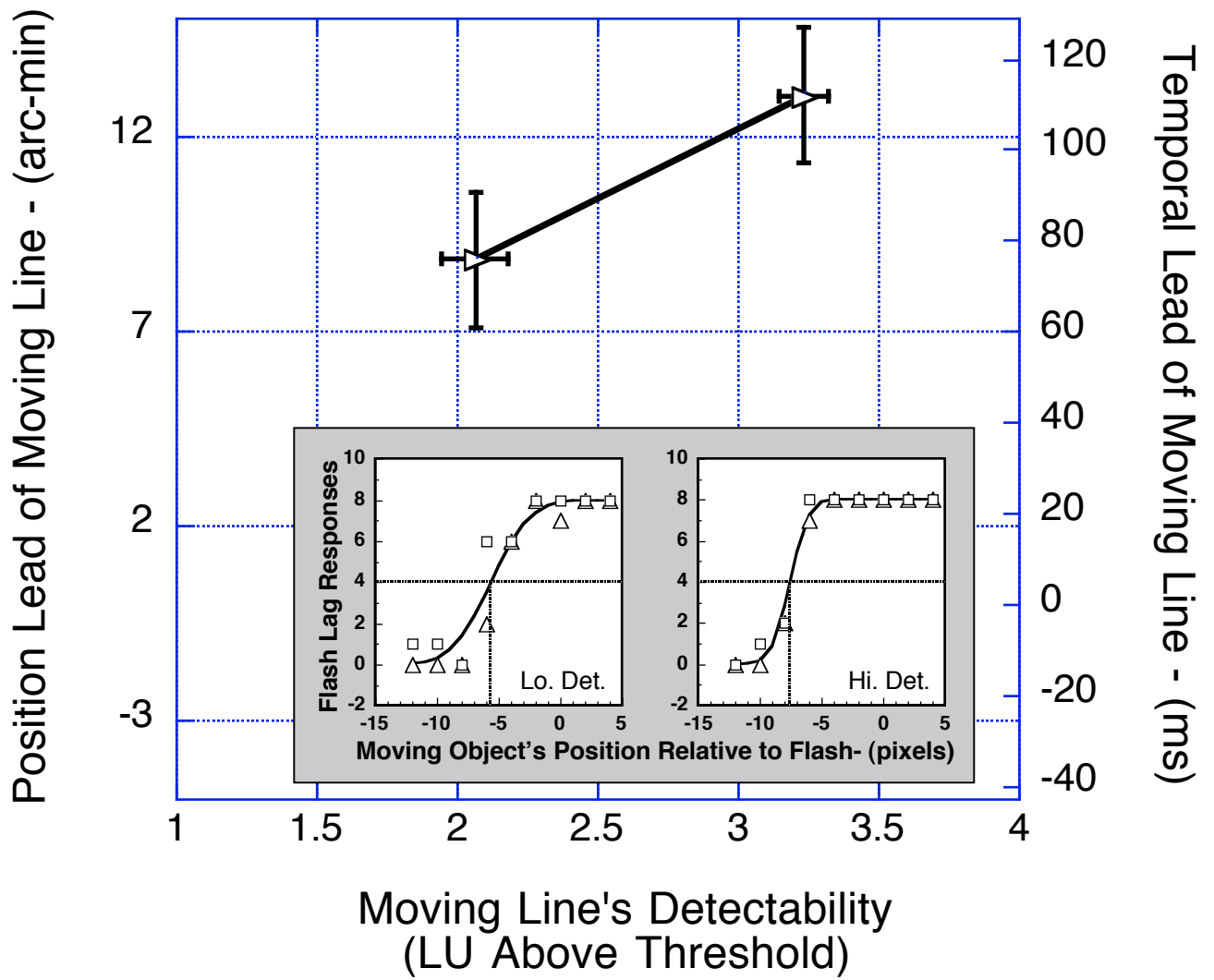


Fig 5

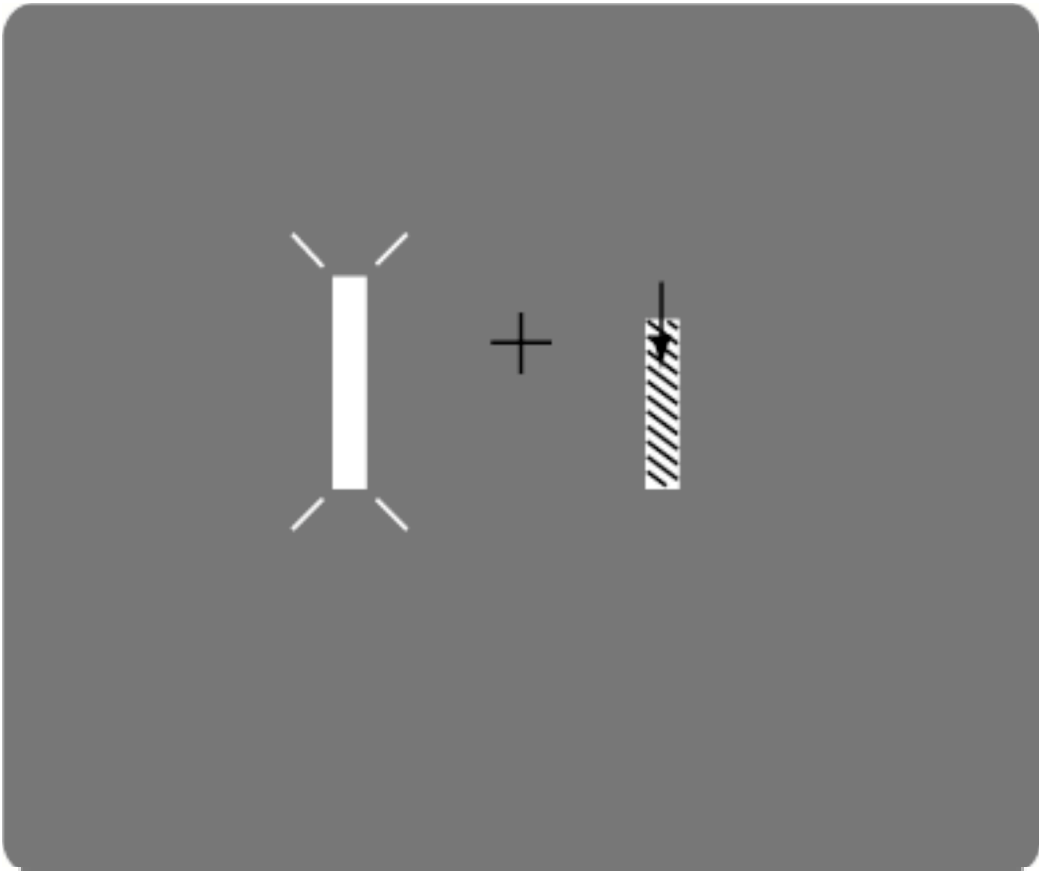
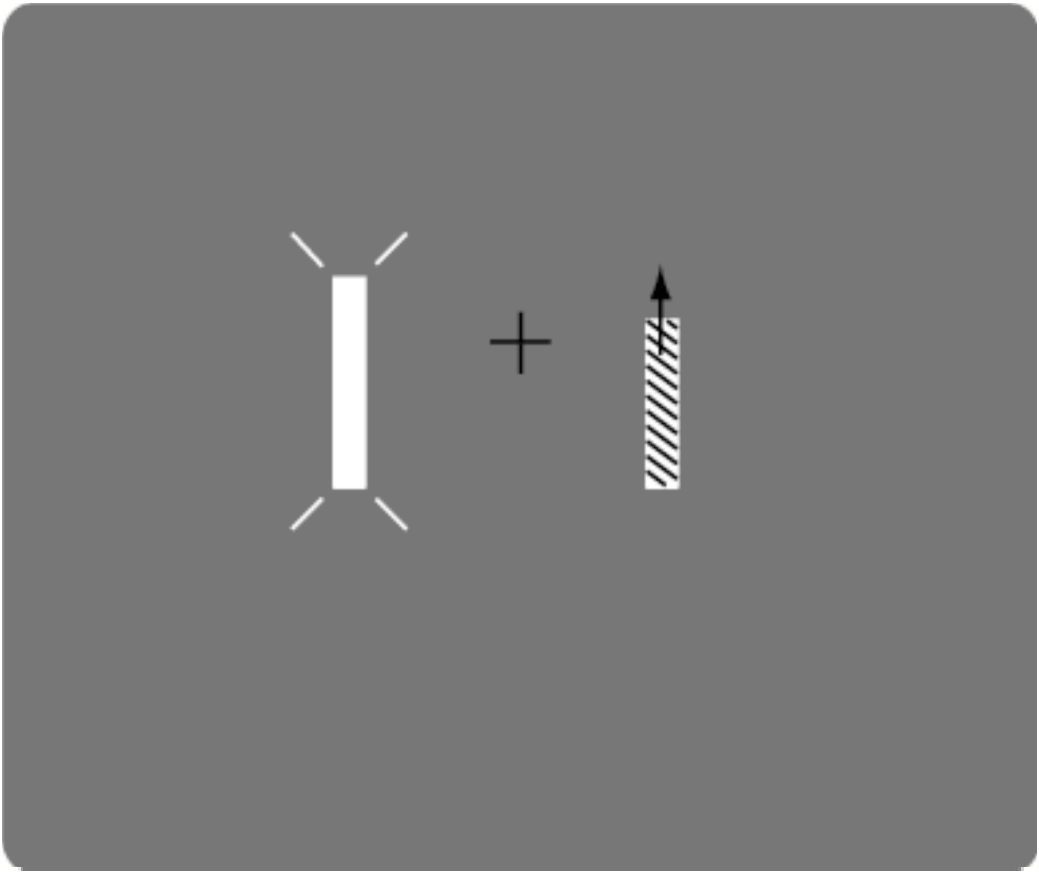


Fig 6

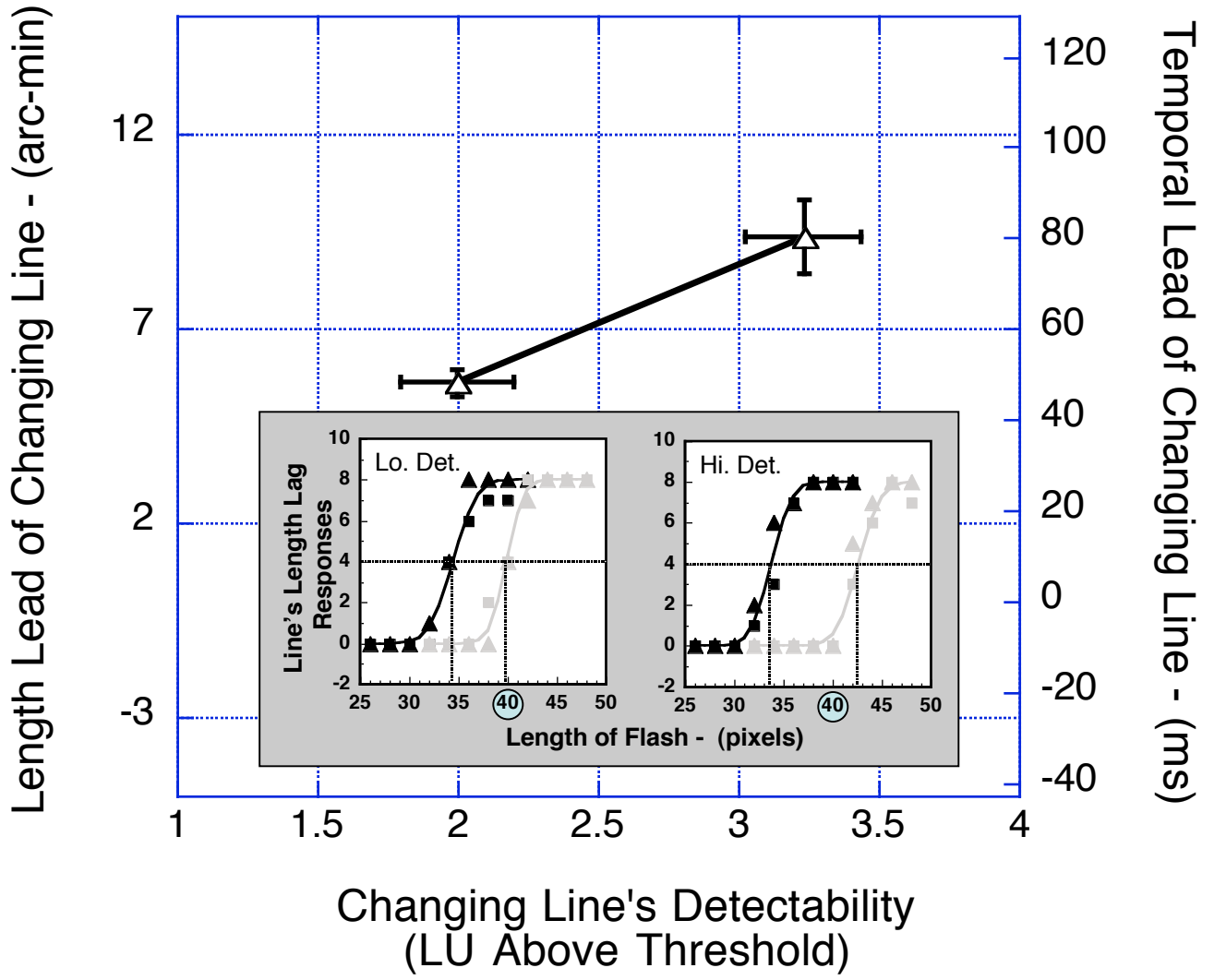


Fig 7

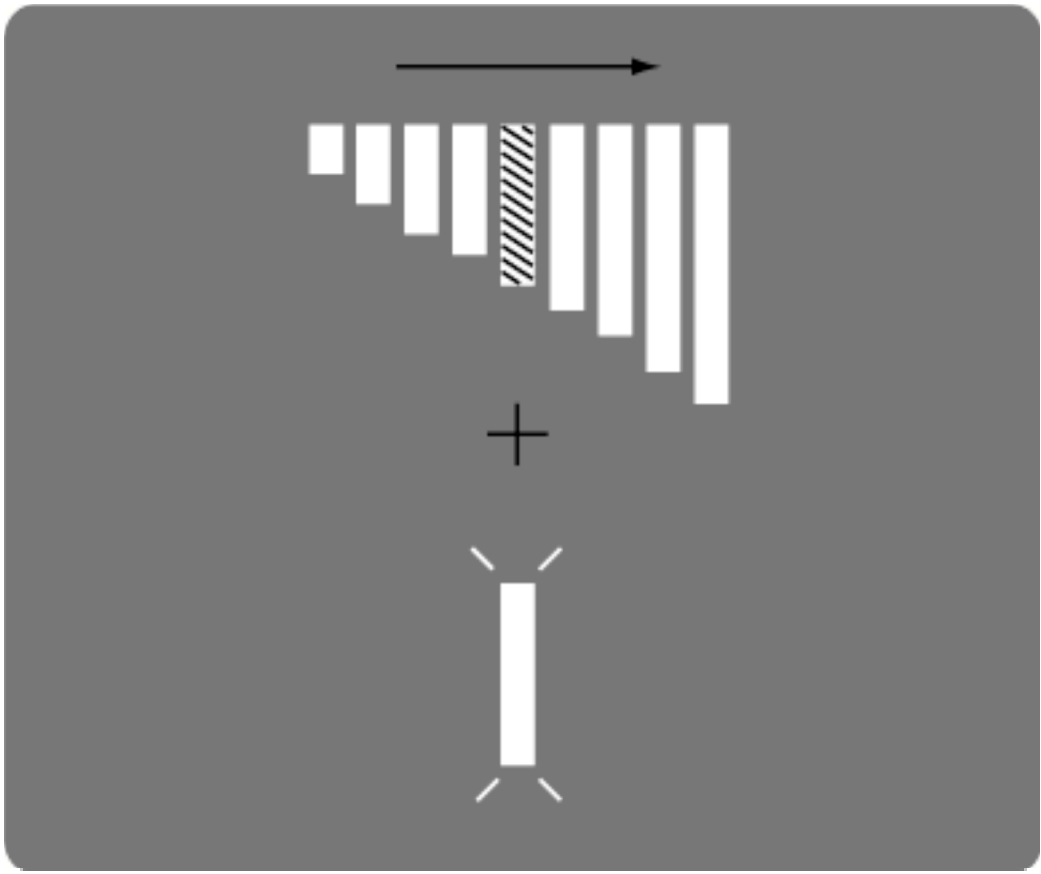


Fig 8

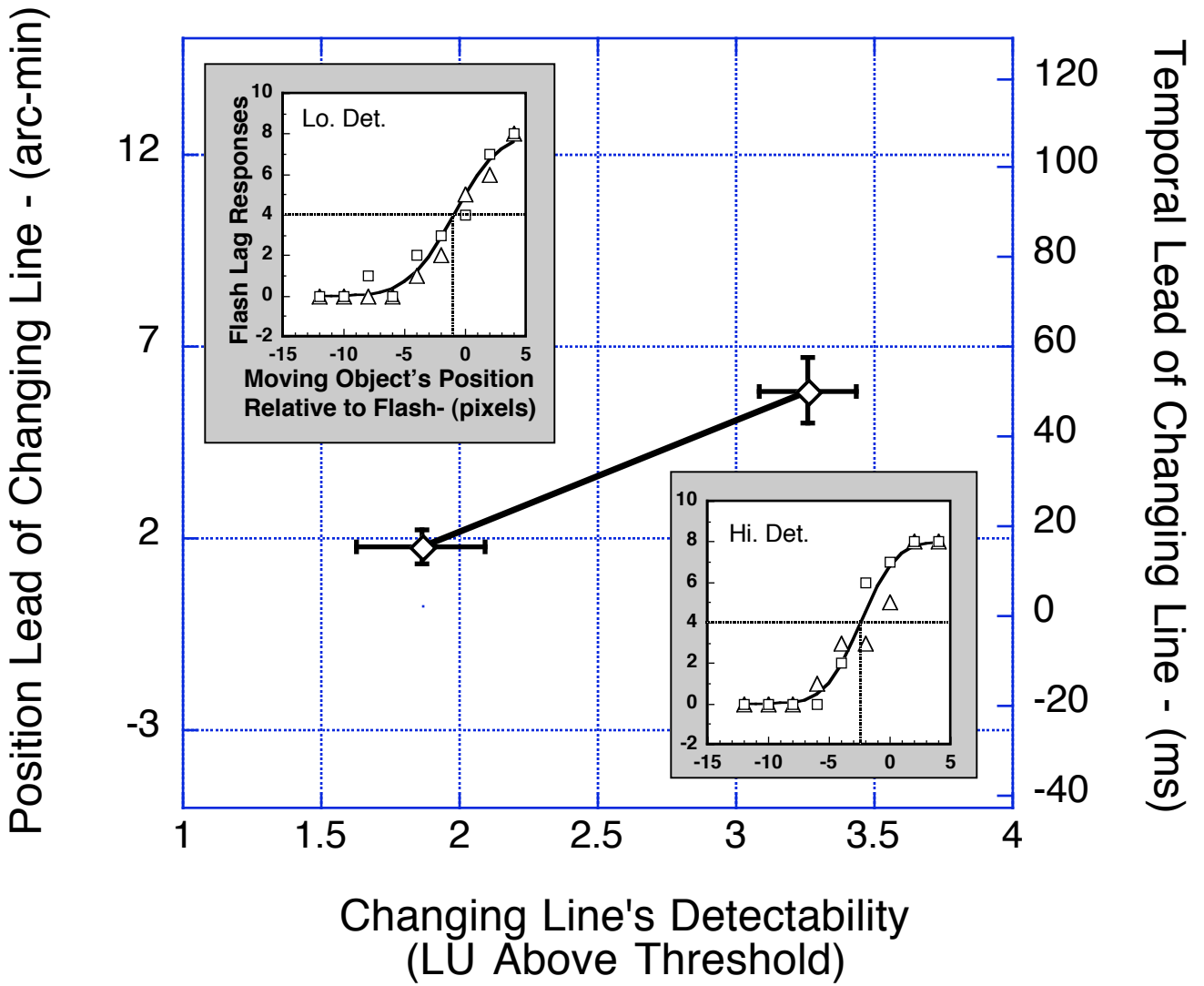


Fig 9

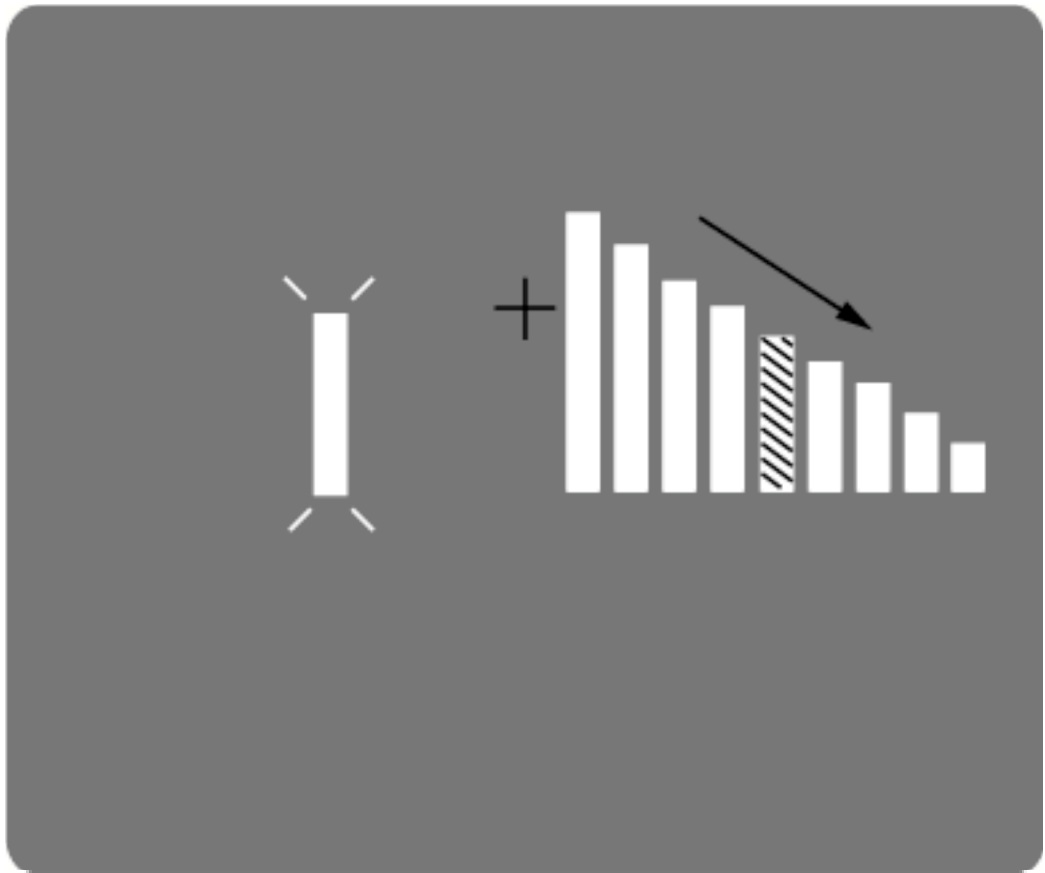
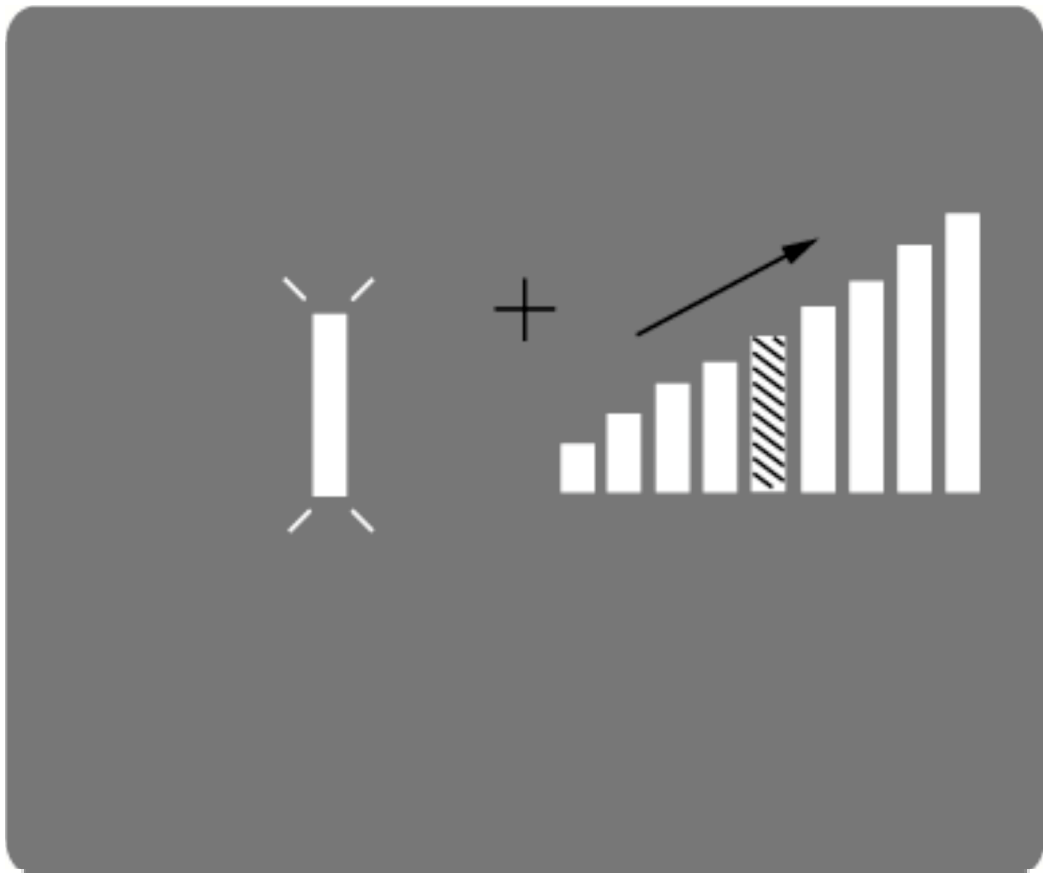


Fig 10

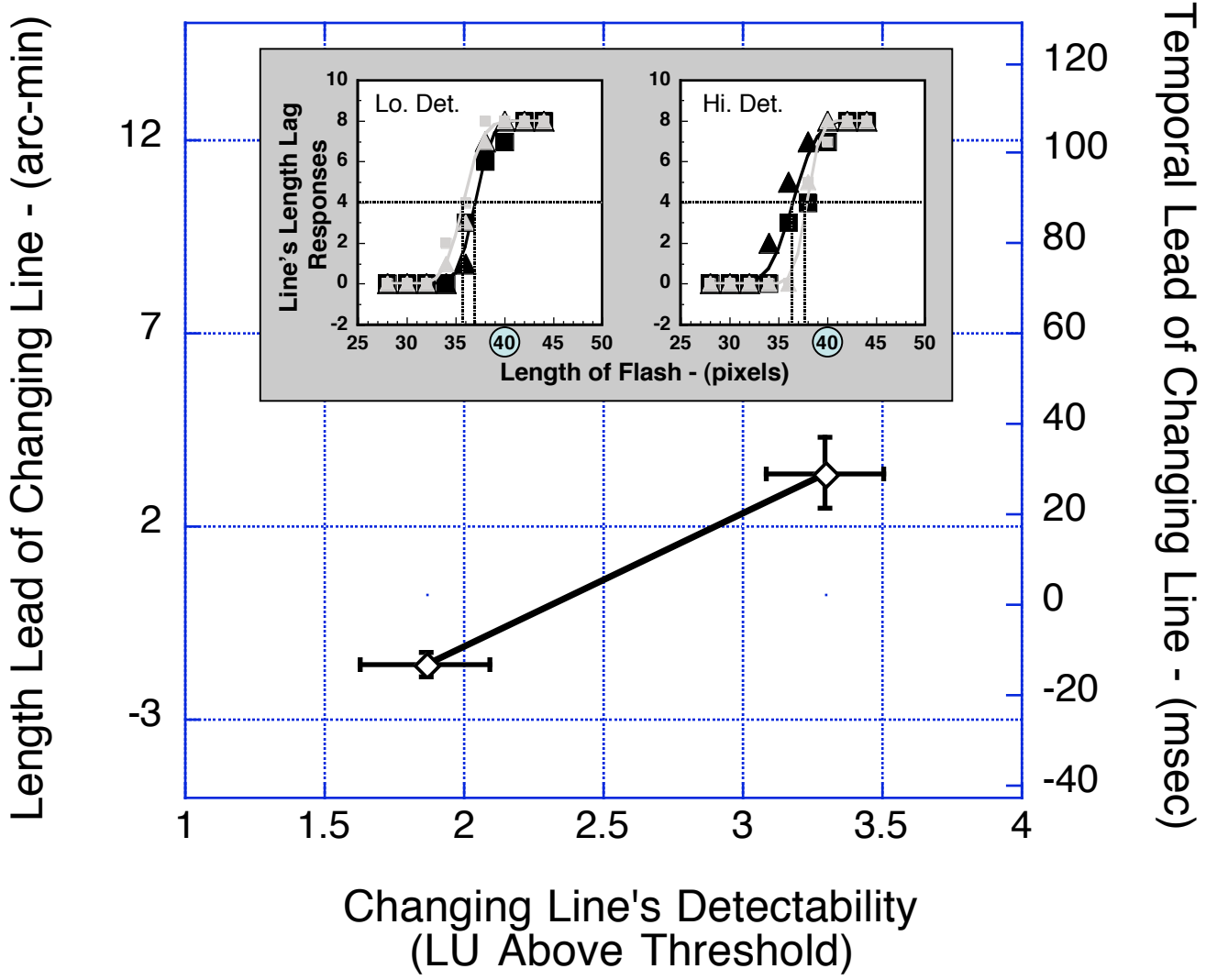


Fig 11

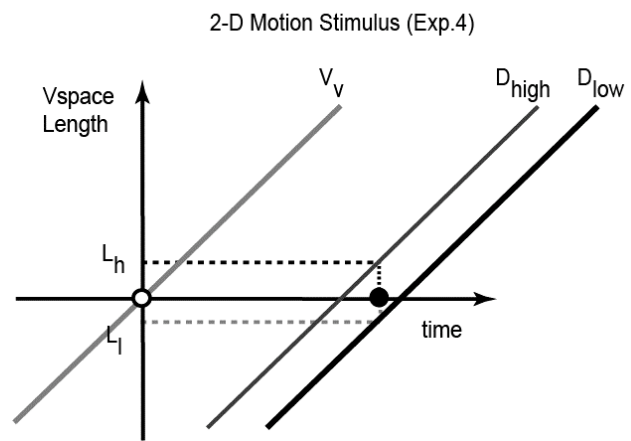
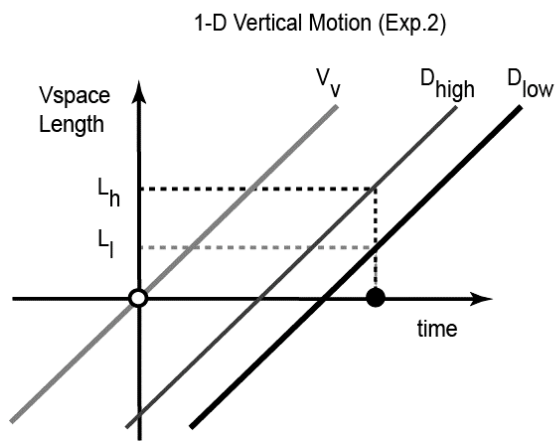
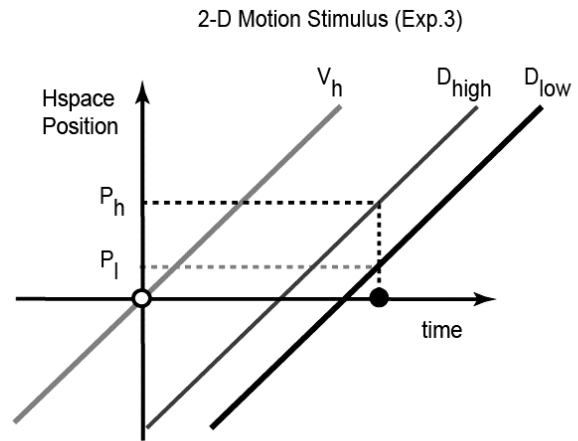
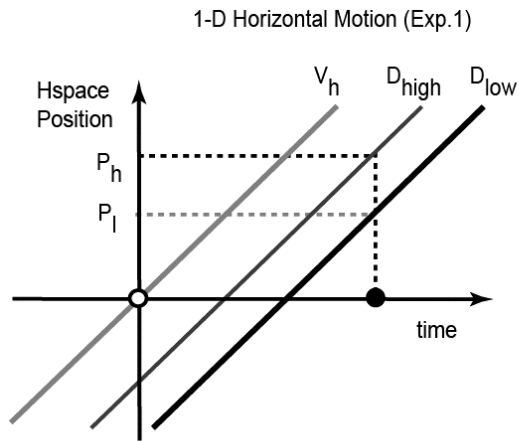


Fig 12