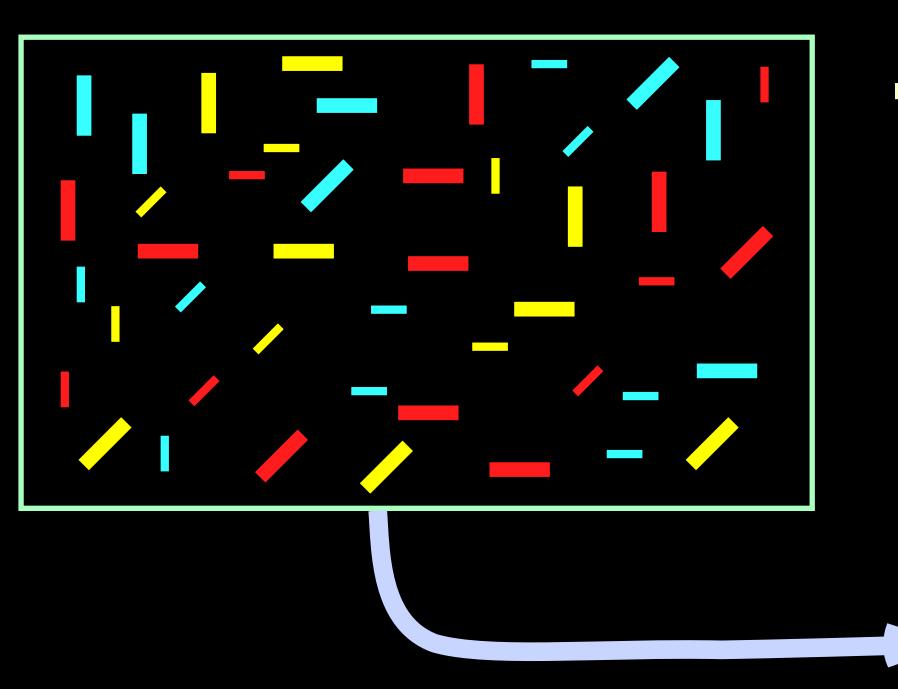# Where would you look? Guiding visual search with global spatial information.

Jeremy M Wolfe[1,2], Ester Reijnen[3], Hareem Ahmad[4], Michael J.Van Wert[1]

1) Visual Attention Lab, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 64 Sidney St, Cambridge, MA 02139
2) Harvard Medical School, 3) Universitaet Basel, 4) Massachusetts Inst. of Technology

Features guide search. Find the little blue tilted lines.

Scene properties *must* be able to guide search (e.g. where are the people?)

http://www.tropicalisland.de

The question: Are these equivalent forms of guidance?

Little or no guidance to the cued side of a cube

Global spatial guidance results

Target Absent

The Task: Find the T among Ls

Global spatial guidance: *The T is on a top surface*
vs. Classic color guidance: *The T is red*

Replicated several times (with variations) but we will keep it simple for this poster.

Color guidance results

Guidance effectively reduces the set size to one third of the total

Conclusions:

Guidance by global spatial information is not like guidance by a basic feature like color.

Why not? Such guidance *must* exist.

Maybe these are the wrong stimuli.

Maybe guidance by global spatial properties is much slower than classic guidance.

Your ideas welcome. Leave a note.

For more information: wolfe@search.bwh.harvard.edu