Newsletter Ed. November 2018

UCSD COGNITIVE SCIENCE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Interested in learning more about research opportunities on campus? Want to be part of a research lab? Lab Open House coming up!

[Check out the FB event]

CSSA EVENTS COMING UP:

Week 7
GBM #3 Lab Open House
@CSB 180/ Courtyard 6-8pm

Week 8
Movie Night and Social
@CSB 180 6-8pm

Week 9
Bake Sale and Study Jam
@CSB 180 6-8pm

Need advice on choosing classes or want to leave comments for classes you've taken?
CSSA got you a CogSci Course WIKI!

Click the link below:
https://docs.google.com/…/1BQRLbKeDqIC1aEmbIX2KzywkQb5…/edit#

What's new in the CogSci world?

Walking through doorways causes forgetfulness!

The objective of this study was to further explore the location updating effect (Lawrence, Peterson 2016), which states that your ability to retain information shifts as you move through an environment, regardless of where or how far you travel. Earlier studies had proved that either physically or simply imagining yourself walking through a doorway was sufficient enough to forget information you had learned immediately prior; this study aimed to elaborate those results by testing whether interaction with one's environment affected memory retention.
To test this, subjects were randomly assigned to one of two groups: the active or passive. Participants used joysticks to navigate 55 virtual rooms. They were then told to move objects (of various shapes and colors) to the next available table, which was either located in the same room or another. Immediately following the travel, they were given a probe trial that tested if they could recall what item they were carrying.
Researchers observed that memory about the carried objects

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Contact us at cssa.ucsd@gmail.com

Have questions about Cognitive Science?
Visit http://www.cogsci.ucsd.edu

was worse following a spatial shift, such as entering another room. Overall however, they found that their work supports the finding that human cognition is influenced by the events in which they are presented new information.

Link to the research article

Supercomputer designed to mimic the human brain

On November 2, scientists in the UK launched SpiNNaker, one of the most powerful and innovative supercomputers in the world designed to mimic the human brain. SpiNNaker creates models of neurons firing and is a major step forward in the field of neuromorphic computing, a rapidly growing field of computer science focused on replicating the neurobiological architectures present in the human nervous system. SpiNNaker consists of a million processor cores which enables the supercomputer to perform 200 quadrillion actions simultaneously. This ultimately makes SpiNNaker capable of modeling larger neural networks and model up to a billion neurons in real time, differentiating SpiNNaker from other conventional supercomputers. Although the SpiNNaker has increased computational capabilities, it manages to perform only a fraction of the communication occurring in the human brain. Supercomputers

have a long road ahead advancing the field of neuromorphic computing. However in the meantime, the SpiNNaker has numerous implications for research in artificial intelligence, robotics, diseases such as Parkinson's, and several other fields.

Learn more

Our mailing address is:
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