



Cognitive Reprojection of Sensory Signals

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Purpose

This paper proposes an essential function of the mind is to reproject cognitively generated sensory signals back onto their source in the outside world. Determining the location where this reprojection is experienced, is likely the location or the colocation of consciousness.

Discussion

The cycle that sees things 'returning to their source' permeates nature and life. It's the cycle that sees activities, entities, animals, and peoples return back to the location, event, or object that initiated and/or produced them¹.

The most common example is that of salmon journeying back to the spawning grounds where they were born. But it also applies to a host of other phenomena including when plants drop seedlings back to the ground, proteins migrate back to their originating DNA, atmospheric vapor condenses and returns to the ocean via rain and rivers, and when a dying star collapse back into the gravitational center where they began.

The rhythm also applies deeply in our lives. It's the phenomena that sees rituals unfold toward their originating purpose, the need to confront instigating events to heal a conflict or trauma, and why we're all inexplicably drawn to be buried in our hometowns.

This paper proposes our minds apparatus of perception processing, memories, and flocking also unfold to this essential rhythm.

Pain is Not Where You Think It Is! (The Process of Reprojecting Skin Sensory Sensations)

If you ask one hundred people where they experienced the pain of their last cut or stubbed toe, one hundred people will say ‘in my toe of course’.

But this is just an illusion, albeit a highly convincing one. In fact the entire experience, including perceiving the pain *and* reprojecting it back onto the toe, is fully generated and experienced in the confines of the mind.

In other words, while we believe the pain is ‘experienced’ outside our mind (i.e. that it is occurring in our toe), in actuality the only thing that occurred outside the mind was the originating neural signals (the pain of the stubbed toe) and their transmission via nerve impulses to the mind—period.

The remainder of the experience occurs within the mind. The mind receives the signal, creates a sensation of pain, and simultaneously reprojects that sensation back on to the location where it originated (i.e. back on to the source toe). All in a unified, seamless, and unfortunately excruciatingly painful experience.

And this is the key point as it relates to this paper. Having fully created the sensation in our minds, our mind then reprojects the entire experience back onto the toe. We fully feel like the pain is in our toe where it originated (and outside our mind) when however, the experience of pain and the location is fully created by neural activity in the mind which spontaneously imprints it back onto the toe! Through the act of reprojecting the pain back onto its source, the mind has beautifully expressed its universal right to return things to their source (in this case the pain back upon the toe)!

Of course, this set of mental arrangements applies to all signals generated by our touch sensors including feelings sensations of cold, hot, pressure, discomfort, and pleasure.

Where’s the Apple? (The Process of Visual Reprojection)

Applying the concept of reprojection to visual stimuli, you can readily appreciate the extraordinary magic necessary to view an object in front of you (for the purposes of this example, I’ll use an apple as the object of contemplation).

For you see, even while it feels fully natural that we are seeing an apple in the outside world when viewing it, this is not the actual condition. Like the pain example we just examined, our minds go about the same magical trick with vision through organizing an assortment of visual signals into a unified apple image in our minds².

Adding on top of this incredible complexity, our mind than proceeds to reproject and imprint the image back onto the apple in the outside world where the entire experience originated. Here again, the mind returned the image back onto its source!

Our minds happily accept the image of the apple appears to be located in the outside world when in fact, the image of the apple, including its perceived location, is wholly contained within the mind! And thank goodness for this! Without this trick of miraculous proportions, we wouldn't be able to navigate the location of the apple, pick it up, and enjoy eating it!

Again—the mind has seamlessly recreated an experience of viewing an object in the outside world when it is actually being fully viewed in the confines of the mind. Not only, our mind has reprojected that image directly back upon and onto the object in the outside world in the location where we perceived it—i.e. it has returned the image to its source.

Sound is Reprojected

The same reprojecting mechanics apply to sound. When we hear something, our minds wholly recreate the experience of sound in our mind and then reproject it back on to the location where sound originated.

Imagine a bird chirping at the top of the tree to your right. Not only does your mind produce a pleasant chirping sound from an agglomeration of air pressure waves, but it then also reprojects the chirping sound back onto the source (i.e. back onto the bird located in the tree).

As we outlined above, once the sound arrives at the ear drum, all subsequent events and perceptions occur in the mind including the experience of the sound and the perception that the sound is occurring on the source outside of our mind.

Memory Retrieval

Memory retrieval operates in the same manner.

First consider the sequence of how a memory is created. The pathway of forming a memory proceeds from an initial perception in consciousness (i.e. where we first saw, heard, sensed, or thought something) which is then transferred to short-term memory and ultimately, long term memory.

The retrieval of a memory works in reverse. Here our conscious mind sends out a signal to locate the memory of desire, retrieve and bring it back into our consciousness where it was originated (i.e. its source). Quite literally the memory is reprojected back onto its source which is consciousness³!

Of Flocking and Emergent Properties

Breathtaking is the sight of flamingos rising into the air as one, thousands of tightly bound minnows drifting at sea, or a herd of buffalo rumbling across an open plain. All such phenomena –generally referred to as flocking –is the ingrained urge of animals to bunch as one. But what keeps flocks banded together? In technical terms, 'what causes the larger, emergent property of the whole (the flock) to seemingly behave as one from the behaviors of an agglomeration of individual animals'?

I believe flocks are sustained by a simple mental routine that urges individuals to turn toward other individuals that share the same facial (i.e. a shared facial image which is likely located at a key, foci of each's mind). And while appearing somewhat obvious at first, this subtle observation in fact sheds valuable light on yet another ingenious means of how the mind capitalizes on the cycle of returning things to their source.

In this case the source is the facial image of the species located at a key, and likely core foci in the mind. Using birds in our example, the act of a bird seeing and turning toward another returns the desired signal back to the source that initiated it.

In other words, the bird's mind sends an impulse 'instruction' to turn towards the image that matches the image residing at a core foci of the bird's mind. In essence, the birds mental and physical facilities are instructed to return to its source via seeking out another bird that matches that image, turn towards it, and thereby satisfy the instruction.

Thus the act of each bird turning toward a 'bird of the same feather' adjacent to them reflects their brains functional wiring to seek out, and veer towards an image that matches the source image at the core of each's mind. And hereby sustaining the cohesiveness of the flock and utilizing the cycle of 'returning to the source' in a most poetic of ways.

Impulses

The manner in which mental impulses are satisfied (as with a hunger pain for instance) follows a similar process. Consider the pathway of cognitive processes of a lion pursuing prey.

The process begins with the initiation of a such as a hunger pain or sight of prey that initiates a mental impulse. The hunger impulse then enlists and organizes a host of mental and physical activities that drive the lion to seek out and secure food.

The lion is compelled to continue the process until it secures prey upon which the hunger impulse is satisfied, and the physical and mental tension relieved. In a very real sense, the process mimics the 'returning to the source' cycle complete with food being returned to and reprojected back onto the source which was the originating hunger pain in the stomach.

Conclusion

The mind's preponderance to reproject and imprint mentally generated perceptions back onto the source of the sensory experience in the outside world establishes a common mechanism of how the mind functions across a variety of sensory processing centers.

Naturally it follows that the location where this reprojecting mechanism occurs is likely the location where consciousness resides (or co-resides) as this is where rejections are being simultaneously experienced.

Footnotes

1. The propensity to return things to their source is embedded into the very fabric of the universe. As proposed by Centerpath, the universe's very creative process generates fields about originating centers in a well shape structure like a bowling ball on a trampoline. We're all familiar with these forcefields in nature such as with gravitational, electrical, and magnetic forces. They also apply to human activities such as with the fields of sight, sound, smell, information, and action.

Those things caught in the grip of such fields are affected by them—at a minimum, they will either be turned or aligned toward the center however when the walls of the well are steep enough, the parts can fall downward and even come into contact with the originating center at the bottom of the well. In the full cycle expression of the universe's great creative force, the 'parts' of a larger 'whole' will actually return to the originating center that gave the form—in other words, they will return to their source!

In a kind of perfect cosmic harmony, nature keeps all things honest to their origins by forever linking them to and ultimately drawing them back toward their source—all things ultimately do return to their source to re-meet their maker. In our lives, it keeps us accountable for everything we do.

2. On top of the miracle of recreating the image in our heads, we are also somehow able to view that image in our heads via the mind's 'third eye'! Since addressing this miracle upon miracle isn't essential to the intent of this paper, we'll save the topic for a future discussion.
3. In fact the tension we feel when we can't recall a memory confirms this phenomenon—it's a buildup of psychic energy that won't be released until the memory is returned to its source (upon which the psychic energy is figuratively 'extinguished').