# Modelling of bio-inspired vision system for velocity estimation

by

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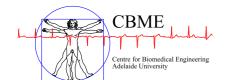
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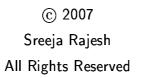
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### **Abstract**

Although motion processing in insects has been extensively studied for over almost 40 years, velocity detection in insects and how the insect brain computes the velocity of a moving feature, independent of its size or contrast, is a major enigma that remains unsolved. This study examines the accuracy of velocity estimation using two biologically inspired models of motion detection, (i) the Horridge template model and (ii) the Reichardt correlator model. Various extensions and enhancements of these models are implemented with the goal of achieving robust velocity measurements.

The template model is one of the prominant models of motion detection, which was proposed by Horridge in 1990. This Thesis further extends this model with the aim of improving accuracy in velocity detection using chrominance as well as luminance channels with various error checking mechanisms using different stimuli. Then the template model response is compared with Dror's elaborated Reichardt model and electro-physiological experimental results obtained from the fly visual system using similar stimuli in each case. A modified Reichardt model is shown to give a more similar response to that of fly neurons.

In order to improve velocity performance of the Reichardt model, it is necessary to reduce contrast dependance of the correlator response as well as to make it independent of the structure of the visual stimuli. With this aim, the Reichardt model is then further elaborated to include contrast adaptation by a feedback adaptive mechanism and a clear reduction in contrast dependency is demonstrated. The deviation of the correlator response depending on the stimulus is termed as pattern noise. To reduce this pattern noise, the Reichardt correlator model is further extended to implement compressive nonlinearity or saturation. It is seen that saturation has a profound effect on the shape of the pattern noise. Further studies on pattern noise is then performed in this Thesis using different stimuli at different speeds and contrasts. Work carried out in this Thesis on the affect of various receptive field shapes on the pattern noise reveals circular sampled arrays reduce pattern noise and hence, based on this result, a small 16 pixel yaw sensor using our elaborated model is built that shows promising performance with various potential applications.

# **Statement of Originality**

This work contains no material that has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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– Sreeja Rajesh.

### **Thesis Conventions**

**Typesetting.** This Thesis is typeset using the LaTeX 2e software. Processed plots and images were generated using Matlab 6.1 (Mathworks Inc.). Adobe Illustrator 10 was used to produce schematic diagrams and other drawings. Vision EGG software (http://www.visionegg.org) was used to generate stimuli for electrophysiological experiments.

**Spelling.** Australian English spelling has been adopted throughout, as defined by the Macquarie English Dictionary (A. Delbridge, Ed., Macquarie Library, North Ryde, NSW, Australia, 2001). Where more than one spelling variant is permitted such as biassing or biasing and infra-red or infrared, the option with the fewest characters has been chosen.

**Referencing.** The Harvard style is used for referencing and citation in this Thesis.



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- SREEJA RAJESH, TAMATH RAINSFORD, RUSSELL BRINKWORTH, DEREK ABBOTT AND DAVID O'CARROLL (2007). Implementation of saturation for modelling pattern noise using naturalistic stimuli, *Proceedings of SPIE on BioMEMS and Nanotechnology II*, **6414**, Art. No. 641424.
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