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Running Head: FEATURE-BASED ATTENTIONAL CAPTURE

Feature-guided attentional capture cannot be prevented by spatial filtering

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Highlights:

Attentional guidance by search templates for target features is

spatially global

• We demonstrate attentional capture by target features at irrelevant

locations

• Capture at irrelevant locations persists even when attention is

narrowly focused

Spatial filtering processes cannot prevent spatially global feature-

based capture

ABSTRACT

Feature-based control processes guide attention towards objects with target features in visual

search. While these processes are assumed to operate globally across the entire visual field, it

remains controversial whether target-matching objects at task-irrelevant locations can be

excluded from attentional selection, especially when spatial attention is already narrowly

focused elsewhere. We investigated whether probe stimuli at irrelevant lateral locations

capture attention when they precede search displays where targets are defined either by a

specific feature (colour or orientation) or by a colour/orientation conjunction by measuring

N2pc components (an electrophysiological marker of attentional target selection) to these

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