

1 The Relative Importance of Different Perceptual-Cognitive Skills During Anticipation

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Abstract

We examined whether anticipation is underpinned by [perceiving structured patterns or postural cues](#) and whether the relative importance of these processes varied as a function of task constraints. Skilled and less-skilled soccer players completed anticipation paradigms in video-film and point light display (PLD) format. Skilled players anticipated more accurately regardless of display condition, indicating that both [perception of structured patterns between players and postural cues](#) contribute to anticipation. However, the Skill x Display interaction showed [skilled players'](#) advantage was enhanced in the video-film condition, suggesting that they make better use of postural cues when available during anticipation. We also examined anticipation as a function of proximity to the ball. When participants were near the ball, anticipation was more accurate for video-film than PLD clips, whereas when the ball was far away there was no difference between viewing conditions. [Perceiving advance postural cues appears more important than structured patterns](#) when the ball is closer to the observer, whereas the reverse is true when the ball is far away. Various perceptual-cognitive skills contribute to anticipation with the relative importance of [perceiving structured patterns and advance postural cues](#) being determined by task constraints and the availability of perceptual information.

Keywords: Expertise; Visual Perception; Postural Cues; Task Constraints; [Pattern Perception](#)

44

1. Introduction

45 Anticipation, which is the ability to predict a future course of action or what will
46 happen next, is critical in everyday tasks (e.g., crossing a road, performing an overtaking
47 manoeuvre when driving), professional domains (e.g., military aviation, crowd-control, law
48 enforcement), and sport. Regardless of the context, performers must contend with complex
49 and dynamic environments, whereby the importance of anticipation is magnified given the
50 strict temporal constraints involved. Those who excel at these tasks have been shown to use
51 specific perceptual-cognitive skills that allow them to encode information and respond
52 accordingly (Williams, Ford, Eccles, & Ward, 2011). One such process that has been
53 proposed as critical in expert anticipation in team sports is the ability to perceive patterns
54 within a display (Abernethy, Baker, & Cote, 2005). Another key skill is the ability of
55 performers to pick up postural cues from an opponent's body movements. In the present
56 study, we examine the relative importance of perceiving structured patterns and advance
57 postural cues to anticipation.

58 The seminal research which highlighted the importance of perceiving structured
59 patterns to expert performance came from the domain of chess (de Groot, 1965; Chase &
60 Simon, 1973; Goldin, 1978, 1979) using recall and recognition paradigms. In the recall
61 paradigm, participants recall the positions of display features after an initial exposure, while
62 in the recognition paradigm, participants must judge whether stimuli that are presented in a
63 'recognition phase' have been shown in an earlier 'viewing phase'. The classical findings are
64 that experts show an advantage in both recall and recognition for 'structured' stimuli (i.e.,
65 those sampled from in-game play), but this advantage is lost when attempting to recall or
66 recognize 'unstructured' stimuli (i.e., those in which display features are randomly
67 organized). The interpretation is that experts develop complex and domain specific
68 knowledge structures that allow them to encode and store patterns from 'structured' stimuli

69 due to their extensive exposure to such information previously. In contrast, when presented
70 with random or ‘unstructured’ stimuli, their lack of exposure to such displays means experts
71 are unable to perceive, encode, and store meaningful information and so their memory
72 advantage is lost (Chase & Simon, 1973; Gobet & Simon, 1996).

73 Although these paradigms have been used extensively in the cognitive sciences, until
74 recently there have been relatively few attempts to uncover the specific processes that
75 underpin expert recognition and recall. Williams, Hodges, North, and Barton (2006) used the
76 sport of soccer as a vehicle to test the hypothesis that skilled performers **perceive structured**
77 **patterns and** relationships between features (**i.e., players**) to recognize stimuli, whereas less-
78 skilled individuals rely on processing isolated and distinct surface level information. Skilled
79 and less-skilled soccer players **were presented** with dynamic film displays in an initial
80 viewing phase. In the subsequent recognition phase, participants were presented with point
81 light display (PLD) stimuli in which background and superficial features (**i.e., uniform color,**
82 **environmental, and pitch conditions**) were removed and individual players and the ball were
83 replaced with colored dots that moved within an outline of the playing area. It was proposed
84 that this procedure removed access to surface level and superficial information while
85 retaining patterns between display features. Skilled participants demonstrated an advantage
86 over less-skilled when recognizing PLD stimuli and were relatively unaffected in comparison
87 to an earlier film-based recognition test. In contrast, less-skilled participants’ recognition
88 performance was negatively affected in the PLD condition compared to the film condition,
89 implying greater reliance on superficial display features.

90 The findings reported by Williams et al. (2006) **suggest** that skilled performers
91 **perceive and encode patterns when viewing structured sequences.** Such an interpretation
92 supports Dittrich’s (1999) interactive encoding theory of perception, which proposes that
93 skilled performers in complex environments initially **encode** information about the temporal

94 relationships between features within the display. [This information is then matched](#) with an
95 internal semantic concept (template) that is formed through extensive exposure to such
96 environments (see Dittrich & Lea, 1994; Gobet & Simon, 1996).

97 This ability to recognize [patterns](#) has been proposed as a central component of
98 anticipation (Abernethy et al., 2005; Canal-Bruland & Williams, 2010; North, Williams,
99 Hodges, Ward, & Ericsson, 2009; Williams & Davids, 1995). The argument being that when
100 performing, experts can quickly [perceive structured patterns](#) which allows them to recognize
101 a sequence early in its evolution, facilitating successful anticipation of the sequence of play
102 observed. A contrasting argument is that recognition is a by-product of experience within a
103 particular domain. Therefore, while recognition might provide an indication of the domain
104 specific knowledge held by a performer, it does not directly contribute to, nor is it predictive
105 of, anticipation (see Ericsson & Lehmann, 1996).

106 North et al. (2009) tested the latter argument by recording eye movement data while
107 participants completed both anticipation and recognition paradigms. Performance on both
108 tasks was moderately positively correlated ($r = .39, p = .06$). However, a number of
109 differences emerged as participants made more fixations of a shorter duration to more
110 locations when anticipating [compared to attempting to recognizing clips](#). In a follow-up
111 study, North, Ward, Ericsson, and Williams (2011) recorded verbal reports across
112 anticipation and recognition tasks and reported similar findings. Anticipation and recognition
113 performance were moderately positively correlated ($r = .42, p = .07$), however participants'
114 verbal reports indicated that they were utilizing more complex memory representations when
115 anticipating compared to making recognition decisions. The results reported by North and
116 colleagues (2009, 2011) indicate that anticipation and recognition share a number of common
117 processes, yet the precise mechanisms underpinning each task differ somewhat.

118 Anticipation is likely to be comprised of a range of perceptual-cognitive skills
119 including, but not limited to, [perceiving structured patterns in the display, and using](#)
120 [information from advance postural cues](#). [Perceiving patterns](#) is considered central to contexts
121 involving multiple individual features (e.g., chess pieces, soccer players). In situations where
122 a performer faces one individual opponent and is required to anticipate (e.g., facing a smash
123 in badminton or a penalty kick in soccer) the pick-up of postural cues is considered key (e.g.,
124 Franks & Hanvey, 1997; Savelsbergh, van der Kamp, Williams, & Ward, 2005). When
125 anticipating in soccer, the performer is exposed to both the individual opponent making the
126 pass ([i.e., there is potential to use postural cues from the opponent to inform anticipation](#)) and
127 the positions and movements of their teammates around them ([i.e., there is potential to](#)
128 [perceive structured patterns between players to inform anticipation](#)). In identifying the
129 specific processes underpinning anticipation, an important issue to consider in soccer, and
130 other such sports, is the relative contribution each of these perceptual-cognitive skills makes
131 and how this may vary as a function of the task.

132 Roca, Ford, McRobert, and Williams (2013) aimed to address the above issue.
133 Participants completed anticipation ([they predicted what would happen next](#)) and decision-
134 making ([they made a decision as to the most appropriate course of action for *them* to take on](#)
135 [the basis of their anticipation decision](#)) paradigms in soccer when the ball was either far away
136 from them (far task) or close by (near task) [while eye movement and verbal report data were](#)
137 [collected](#). As expected, skilled participants were more accurate than less-skilled in
138 anticipating what would happen next and deciding on an appropriate course of action, [but](#) eye
139 movement and verbal report process measures varied as a function of how near or far away
140 the participant was from the ball. The eye movement and verbal report data reported by Roca
141 et al. (2013) indicated that for more distal tasks, [perceiving patterns](#) may be a more important

142 perceptual-cognitive skill, whereas for proximal tasks the relative contribution of advance
143 postural cues becomes more important.

144 In the current paper, we were only interested in examining the extent to which the
145 perception of patterns and perception of advance postural cues contribute to anticipation.
146 Previously, researchers (e.g., North et al., 2009, 2011) have indicated that experts recognize
147 structured stimuli by perceiving patterns in the display. However, visual search (North et al.,
148 2009) and verbal report (North et al., 2011) data suggest some differences in the processes
149 underpinning anticipation and pattern recognition. We provide a more direct measure of
150 whether skilled performers are able to accurately anticipate solely on the basis of perceiving
151 patterns. We presented skilled and less-skilled soccer players with film and PLD stimuli and
152 asked them to make anticipation judgments as to what would happen next. In PLD stimuli all
153 that remained was the positions and movements of the players (and any potential patterns
154 between them). If perception of structured patterns between players was central to
155 anticipation, as it is to recognizing structured stimuli (c.f., Williams, North, & Hope, 2012),
156 then we expected that skilled participants would outperform their less-skilled counterparts
157 and that this advantage would be seen in both film and PLD conditions. If skilled participants
158 utilize advance postural cues too then we also expected a skill x display interaction with
159 skilled participants enhancing their anticipation accuracy and skill advantage in the film
160 relative to the PLD condition.

161 A second aim was to extend the findings reported by Roca et al. (2013) by examining
162 how the relative contribution of perceiving structured patterns and advance postural cues may
163 vary as a function of the task constraints. The film and PLD stimuli that we presented to
164 participants were broken down into far and near task conditions (based on whether the ball
165 was near to, or far away from, the participant at the point an anticipation decision was
166 required). We predicted, based on the results reported by Roca et al. (2013) and the changing

167 task constraints, that for the far task, [perceiving structured patterns](#) would be a more
168 important perceptual-cognitive skill and that more accurate anticipation would be observed
169 for skilled participants compared to less-skilled in both film and PLD conditions ([structured](#)
170 [patterns between players are present in both film and PLD stimuli, and according to Roca et](#)
171 [al. such information is of greater importance when the task constraints are such that the ball is](#)
172 [far away from the participant](#)). However, for the near task we expected [the task constraints to](#)
173 [promote localised information sources \(such as postural cues\) to be more prominent and that](#)
174 [structured patterns would be](#) less important. We therefore hypothesized that in the near task
175 condition, skilled participants would outperform less-skilled for film stimuli ([postural](#)
176 [information is retained in the film display, and according to Roca et al. is of greater relative](#)
177 [importance when the tasks constraints are such that the ball is closer to the participant](#)) but
178 that this advantage would be lost for PLD stimuli as postural information is removed.

179 **2. Method**

180 **2.1 Participants**

181 A total of 12 skilled (M age = 21.7 years, SD = 2.9) and 12 less-skilled (M age = 22.1
182 years, SD = 3.2) soccer players participated. Skilled participants had previously played at a
183 professional club's Academy and/or were currently playing at a semi-professional level and
184 all played in defensive positions. The skilled participants had been playing soccer
185 competitively for an average of 14.0 years (SD = 2.5). In contrast, less-skilled participants
186 only played soccer at a recreational or amateur level and had been participating for an
187 average of 10.5 years (SD = 3.3). All participants reported normal or corrected to normal
188 levels of visual function, provided written informed consent, and were free to withdraw from
189 the experiment at any stage. [Ethical approval was granted by Liverpool John Moores](#)
190 [University](#) where data collection took place.

191 2.2. Test Films

192 Participants completed two anticipation tests; one presented in normal video film
193 format and the other in PLD format. The order in which these anticipation paradigms were
194 completed was counterbalanced across participants. Each anticipation paradigm contained 24
195 dynamic action sequences, all of which were presented for 7 seconds in duration. Each
196 individual clip showed a developing sequence of play in soccer that was occluded at the
197 moment when the player in possession of the ball was about to make a forward attacking pass
198 and participants were required to anticipate the pass destination of the ball. The clips were all
199 rated as highly structured and were all filmed from an elevated position (approximate height
200 9 m) behind the goal (approximate distance 15 m) using a tripod mounted camera (Canon
201 XM-2, Tokyo, Japan). The camera did not pan or zoom during recording and its position
202 ensured the entire field of play was visible and information from wide areas was not
203 excluded. Clips were rated for structure by three independent expert soccer coaches using a
204 Likert-type scale from 0 to 10 (0 being very low in structure and 10 being very high in
205 structure). Clips rated as high in structure were those judged to be most representative of
206 typical attacking patterns and sequences in match-play. Only sequences with a mean rating of
207 7 or above were used in the experiment. Some examples of still frames from film clips are
208 shown in Figure 1a and b. For the clips presented in PLD format, these were edited versions
209 of the film clips described previously so that individual players were now represented as
210 points of light against a black background **within a series of white lines representing the**
211 **outline of the playing area.** The attacking team in possession of the ball were represented as
212 green dots, the defending team as red dots, while the ball was a white dot and the playing area
213 was represented by a series of white lines. Figures 1c and d present examples of still frames
214 from PLD clips.

215 Figure 1 Near Here

216 In addition to the action sequences being broken down as a function of display type
217 (i.e., film vs PLD), they were subdivided into near and far conditions based on the location on
218 the pitch where the final pass was made from relative to the observer prior to the clip being
219 occluded. Sequences where the attacking team made the final pass before crossing the
220 halfway line were categorized as the far-task condition, whereas those in which the final pass
221 was made beyond the halfway line (i.e., nearer the observer) were categorized as the near-
222 task condition. Examples of far and near task clips in both film and PLD format can be seen
223 in Figure 1. In each anticipation paradigm, of the 24 clips presented, half were classified as
224 near and half as far.

225 **2.3. Apparatus**

226 To convert the original video film footage into PLD format, the film clips were saved
227 into “.avi” format using video editing software (Adobe Premiere, Adobe Systems
228 Incorporated, San Jose, CA). The clips were then exported via IrfanView
229 (www.irfanview.com) to the software package AnalysaSoccer (Liverpool John Moores
230 University, UK) which allowed the players’ positions and movements from the original film
231 to be digitized and reconstructed so that they were represented as points of light against a
232 black background using real-time video playback. Once created, the PLD clips were
233 assembled into a test film to produce the anticipation paradigm. This film was then presented
234 using a DVD player (Panasonic, DMR-E50, Osaka, Japan) and projector (Sharp, XG-NV2E,
235 Manchester, UK) with images being presented onto a 9’ x 12’ screen (Cinefold, Spiceland,
236 IN, USA) at a rate of 25 frames per second with XGA resolution.

237 **2.4. Procedure**

238 Participants were provided with written information regarding experimental
239 procedures and signed consent forms. Participants then sat in a chair 3 m from the projection

240 screen such that the image subtended a horizontal viewing angle between the left and right
241 sides of the screen of 62.7 degrees and a vertical viewing angle between the top and bottom
242 of the screen of approximately 54 degrees. For the video film anticipation test, participants
243 were presented with a series of clips showing attacking sequences of play in soccer.
244 Participants were instructed that each individual clip would last five seconds and would finish
245 when the player in possession of the ball was about to make an attacking pass to a teammate.
246 The final frame was then 'frozen' for two seconds as they made their anticipation decision,
247 making a viewing total of 7 seconds for each clip. The task for participants was to circle the
248 player they thought would receive the ball via a pen and paper response on a print out of the
249 final frame of the viewing sequence. At the end of the 7-second sequence, the image on the
250 screen occluded to black, whereupon there was an inter-trial interval of five seconds before
251 the next clip commenced. Prior to testing, participants were presented with three trials for
252 familiarization.

253 After completing the first anticipation test, there was a short break (approximately 15
254 minutes) during which participants completed a practice history questionnaire. Participants
255 then completed the second anticipation test. For the PLD anticipation test [the procedure and
256 task was the same as in the video film condition](#), however, in this condition all background
257 and superficial information was removed and participants observed a series of colored dots
258 representing players moving against a black background within a white outline of the pitch
259 markings. The clip duration and inter-trial interval was the same as for the video film clips. A
260 brief familiarization procedure was employed where the concept of point-light displays was
261 fully explained to participants and three example clips demonstrating how normal video
262 action sequences can be transferred to PLD format were presented prior to commencing the
263 test.

264 **2.5. Data Analysis**

265 Anticipation accuracy was obtained by dividing the number of correct responses by
266 the total number of trials and multiplying by 100 to create a percentage accuracy score. For
267 each clip, although participants were not constrained to select their response from pre-
268 determined alternatives, there were considered four realistic passing options as judged by an
269 independent UEFA qualified coach. Responses were marked as correct or incorrect based
270 upon whether participants highlighted the actual player who received the ball. Anticipation
271 accuracy scores were analyzed using a mixed design 3-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) in
272 which the between-participants factor was skill (skilled vs. less skilled) and the within
273 participants factors were display (PLD vs. video) and distance (near vs far task). Prior to
274 running the analyses, data were tested for normality using a Shapiro-Wilks test and all data
275 satisfied the parametric assumption of normality. Partial eta squared (η_p^2) values are provided
276 as a measure of effect size and Cohen's d values are reported for comparisons involving two
277 means. The alpha level for each test was set at $p < .05$. Although we formed clear a-prior
278 hypotheses for the main effect of skill, and the skill x display, and skill x display x task
279 interactions, the other comparisons in our 2 x 2 x 2 ANOVA were somewhat exploratory in
280 nature. To reduce the risk of making Type I errors, we employed the Bonferroni-Holm
281 correction to control familywise error rate and adjust the alpha level (for a detailed overview
282 see Cramer et al., 2016). All main effects and interactions are reported relative to these
283 adjusted alpha levels.

284 3. Results

285 ANOVA revealed a significant main effect for skill, $F(1, 22) = 77.92, p < .0071, \eta_p^2$
286 $= .78$. Skilled participants ($M = 58.33\%$, $SD = 18.20$) were more accurate at anticipating final
287 pass destination than less-skilled participants ($M = 36.11\%$, $SD = 10.36$), $d = 1.50$. There was
288 an effect of display on anticipation accuracy, $F(1, 22) = 39.71, p < .0083, \eta_p^2 = .64$.
289 Anticipation performance was more accurate for video film ($M = 53.82\%$, $SD = 19.37$)

290 compared with PLD clips (M = 40.63%, SD = 15.05), $d = .76$. There was a significant Skill x
291 Display interaction, $F(1, 22) = 15.84, p < .0013, \eta_p^2 = .42$. Although anticipation accuracy
292 for the skilled participants was significantly higher than less-skilled in both film and PLD, the
293 advantage was substantially enhanced for film (M = 69.10 %, SD = 13.57 vs. M = 38.54 %, SD = 9.77
294 respectively), $t(22) = 8.22, p < .001, d = 2.58$, compared to PLD clips (M = 47.57
295 %, SD = 15.83 vs. M = 33.68 %, SD = 10.56 respectively), $t(22) = 5.04, p < .001, d = 1.03$.
296 This interaction is illustrated in Figure 2.

297  Figure 2 Near Here

298 There was a significant main effect of distance on anticipation accuracy, $F(1, 22) =$
299 $31.12, p < .01, \eta_p^2 = .59$. Performance on the anticipation task was more accurate in the far
300 (M = 52.95 %, SD = 18.13) than near condition (M = 41.49 %, SD = 16.97), $d = .65$.
301 ANOVA revealed a significant Distance x Skill interaction, $F(1, 22) = 8.26, p < .025, \eta_p^2 =$
302 $.27$. Skilled participants made significantly more accurate anticipation judgments than less-
303 skilled participants in both far and near tasks, however their advantage was significantly
304 greater in the far task (M = 67.01 %, SD = 13.79 vs. M = 38.89 %, SD = 9.08 respectively), t
305 $(22) = 8.59, p < .001, d = 2.41$, compared to the near task (M = 49.65 %, SD = 18.14 vs. M =
306 $33.33 \%, SD = 10.99$ respectively), $t(22) = 5.07, p < .001, d = 1.09$.

307 There was also a significant Distance x Display interaction, $F(1, 22) = 9.66, p < .017,$
308 $\eta_p^2 = .31$. For video film clips, participants showed no difference in anticipation accuracy
309 between far and near tasks (M = 56.60 %, SD = 21.28 vs. M = 51.04 %, SD = 17.26
310 respectively), $t(23) = 1.88, p > .05, d = .29$. However, for PLD clips participants were more
311 accurate in their anticipation judgments for the far than near task (M = 49.31 %, SD = 14.31
312 vs. M = 31.95 %, SD = 10.03), $t(23) = 5.54, p < .001, d = 1.40$. This interaction is illustrated

313 in Figure 3. The Skill x Clip Type x Distance interaction was not significant, $F(1, 22) = 1.64$,
314 $p > .05$, $\eta_p^2 = .07$.

315 Figure 3 Near Here

316 4. Discussion

317 There were two main aims in this experiment. First, we investigated the extent to
318 which anticipation was underpinned by perception of structured patterns or advance postural
319 cues. Second, we aimed to test whether the relative importance of these two perceptual-
320 cognitive skills was dependent on whether participants were making anticipation decisions in
321 near or far proximity to the ball.

322 With regards our first aim, if skilled participants encoded structured patterns in the
323 display to inform their anticipation decisions then we expected to see a main effect of skill
324 regardless of the display (i.e., film vs PLD). As predicted, skilled participants were more
325 accurate in their ability to predict event outcome, which replicates the findings from a
326 considerable body of literature investigating anticipation (see Helsen & Starkes, 1999;
327 Vaeyens, Lenoir, Williams, Mazyn, & Philippaerts, 2007). This advantage is believed to be a
328 result of the extended hours of deliberate practice engaged in by highly skilled performers
329 (Ericsson, Krampe, & Tesch-Romer, 1993) which allows them to encode and process
330 information in an efficient manner (Abernethy & Russell, 1987). Skilled performers have also
331 developed more complex memory representations through their extended experience within
332 the domain, against which they can evaluate the current situation and feed-forward
333 information to predict likely future outcomes (Ericsson & Kintsch, 1995; Ericsson, Patel, &
334 Kintsch, 2000).

335 However, the precise nature of information that is processed to inform these
336 anticipation judgments has not been clearly delineated. By testing anticipation under both
337 film and PLD conditions and revealing a skill effect regardless, we have provided evidence to
338 suggest that *perceiving patterns between players in the display, which has been shown to*
339 *underpin accurate recognition* judgments (see North et al., 2009, 2011; Williams et al., 2006,
340 2012) is also an important source of information when anticipating. *The design we employed*
341 *does not allow us to definitively draw this conclusion; participants could potentially be*
342 *making their anticipation decision based on the absolute motion information of one player (or*
343 *point of light) rather than the relational information between players. However, considered*
344 *against previously published findings (e.g., Williams et al., 2012), we believe our results*
345 *suggest it is likely participants can anticipate by perceiving patterns in the display.*

346 The Skill x Display interaction we observed shows that although skilled participants
347 were more accurate in both film and PLD conditions, their advantage was substantially
348 greater when anticipating film ($d = 2.58$) than PLD clips ($d = 1.03$). The large effect size for
349 PLD clips supports the argument that skilled players can anticipate successfully by *perceiving*
350 *patterns in the display*. However, the nature of the Skill x Display interaction suggests this is
351 not the only source of information they use. In film displays, participants have access to the
352 same *structured patterns* present in PLDs, yet this is supplemented with information from
353 postural cues through the body positions and movements that players adopt. The increase in
354 effect size when responding to film displays suggests that skilled participants make use of
355 *both structured patterns in displays and advanced postural cues and potentially the gaze*
356 *direction of players* to anticipate. Anticipation is complex and likely to be comprised of a
357 number of perceptual-cognitive skills (see Williams & North, 2009) that interact dynamically
358 (*Roca & Williams, 2016; Williams, 2009*).

359 The complex and multi-dimensional nature of anticipation was considered in our
360 second aim. We examined whether the relative contribution of the [different perceptual-](#)
361 [cognitive skills](#) varied as a function of the task constraints (i.e., whether the anticipation
362 decision was made when the ball was far away or nearby). We hypothesized that for far task
363 trials, skilled participants would be more accurate in anticipating event outcome regardless of
364 display as they would primarily rely on [perceiving patterns between players](#), information
365 which is preserved regardless of display mode. However, for the near task trials, Roca et al's
366 (2013) data [and the changing task constraints](#) suggest that information from postural cues
367 would become more important. Consequently, we predicted that skilled participants would
368 only demonstrate an advantage for film clips (where information from postural cues is
369 maintained) and this advantage would be lost for PLD sequences as no information from
370 postural cues or body orientation is presented.

371 Our results partially supported these hypotheses. A significant Distance x Display
372 interaction was observed which showed that when anticipating in the far condition,
373 participants were unaffected by whether the sequence was shown in film or PLD. In contrast,
374 in the near condition participants were significantly better at anticipating film than PLD
375 sequences. These findings are in line with our proposals that the specific perceptual-cognitive
376 skill participants use to anticipate will be driven by the underpinning task constraints.
377 Specifically, where the individual is far away from the action to be anticipated then
378 [perceiving patterns in the display is more important](#). However, as the action to be anticipated
379 comes nearer to the individual they shift to utilizing information from postural cues.
380 However, contrary to our hypotheses, these results were not affected by participant skill level.

381 One limitation in this study was the use of a third-person rather than first-person (as
382 used by Roca et al., 2013) viewing perspective. An alternative interpretation therefore is
383 rather than the relative contributions of [pattern perception and postural cue usage](#) to

384 anticipation being dependent on task constraints, it is the case that in the far task, participants
385 were unable to decipher the postural cues due to the resolution of the display and so
386 performance suffered relative to the near task where information from postural cues was
387 more readily available. The Skill x Distance interaction adds some support to this proposal.
388 Findings reported by Roca et al. (2013) suggest the information used to anticipate varies as a
389 function of the task, with perceiving patterns more important when the ball is far away and
390 postural cues more important when it is nearby. However, the finding that skilled participants
391 were significantly more accurate in far than near task conditions suggests skilled players were
392 less able to utilise the information sources that are important to anticipate in the near tasks
393 (i.e., postural cues may have been less prominent or more difficult to decipher given the
394 screen resolution). To more stringently test the prediction that it is specifically task
395 constraints which shape the perceptual-cognitive processes employed to anticipate (rather
396 than issues such as screen resolution), researchers could replicate the design and task
397 employed here using a first-person viewing perspective (as per Roca et al., 2013) or include
398 an extra condition in which the far task is magnified to make information from postural cues
399 more accessible. Nevertheless, our findings are in line with those reported by Roca et al.
400 (2013) which suggest that the perceptual-cognitive skills and processes that individuals
401 utilize depend on the task constraints or perceptual information to which they are exposed.
402 Our data not only support the proposal that anticipation is multi-dimensional in nature (see
403 Williams & North, 2009), but suggest that the relative importance of different perceptual-
404 cognitive skills might interact dynamically (Williams, 2009).

405 In conclusion, in this paper we have presented data that suggest *both perceiving*
406 *patterns in structured displays and information from postural cues contribute to anticipation.*
407 Specifically, we have demonstrated that the relative contribution of these two perceptual-
408 cognitive skills varies as a function of the task or perceptual information available to

409 participants. When participants are near the object to be anticipated, [picking up information](#)
410 [from advance postural cues is more important](#). However, when far away and postural
411 information is less readily available, [perceiving patterns in the display](#) becomes more
412 important. Our findings highlight the dynamic interaction between different perceptual-
413 cognitive skills during anticipation.

414

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Figure Captions

497 Figure 1. Examples of still frames from video film (a and b) and PLD (c and d) clips in both
498 near (b and d) and far (a and c) task conditions.

499 Figure 2. The Skill x Display interaction on anticipation accuracy (+1 SD).

500 Figure 3. The Display x Distance interaction on anticipation accuracy (+1 SD).

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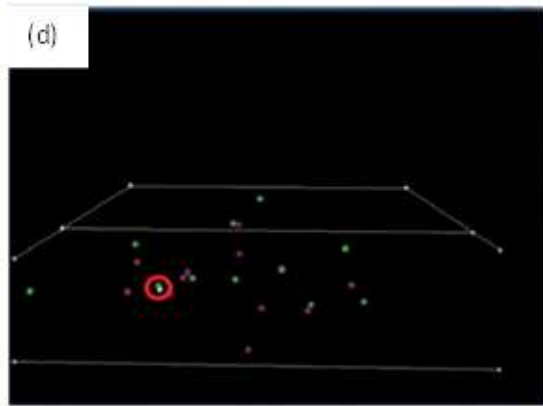
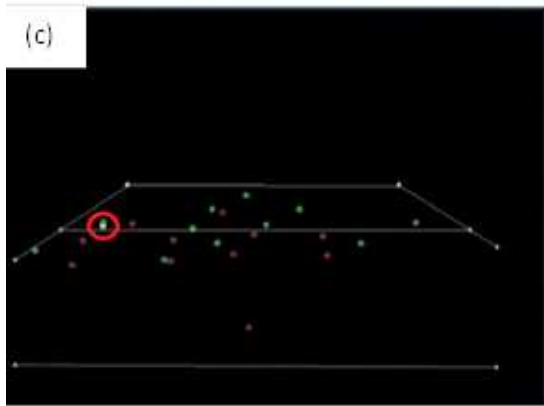
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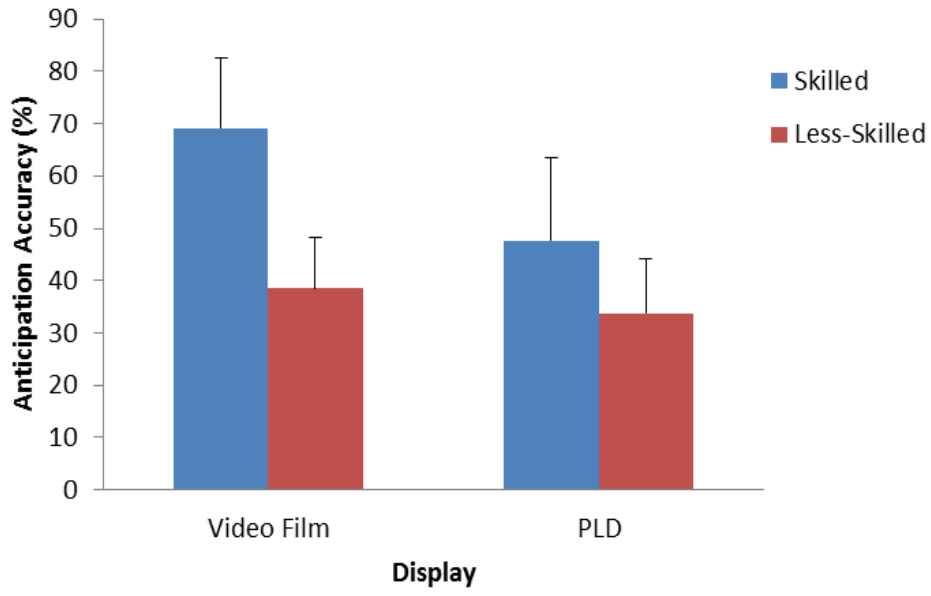
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