

No such thing as a break in a curveball?

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The answer to the question of whose curveball breaks harder -- that of the Yankees' A.J. Burnett or the Phillies' Cole Hamels -- may be neither.

Zhong-Lin Lu, a professor of [cognitive neuroscience](#) at USC, along with USC alumni Emily Knight and Robert Ennis and Arthur Shapiro, associate professor of [psychology](#) at American University, developed a simple visual demo that suggests a curveball's break is, at least in part, a trick of the eye.

Their demo won the Best [Visual Illusion](#) of the Year prize at the Vision Sciences meeting earlier this year.

Try it at <http://illusioncontest.neuralcorrelate.com/2009/the-break-of-the-curveball/>.

The idea is that the effect is due to the batters being forced to switch between peripheral vision and central vision during a swing.

Source: University of Southern California ([news](#) : [web](#))

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