APPLICATION

² **Running head:** PAVO 2.0

pavo 2.0: new tools for the spectral and spatial analysis of colour in R

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- ¹⁵ Keywords: colour, vision, spectra, spectrometry, photography, colourspace, re-
- ¹⁶ flectance, sensory ecology

17 Abstract

 Biological colouration presents a canvas for the study of ecological and evolutionary processes. Enduring interest in colour-based phenotypes has driven, and been driven by, improved techniques for quantifying colour patterns in ever-more relevant ways, yet the need for flexible, open frameworks for data processing and analysis persists.

2. Here we introduce pavo 2.0, the latest iteration of the R package pavo. This 23 release represents the extensive refinement and expansion of existing meth-24 ods, as well as a suite of new tools for the cohesive analysis of the spectral 25 and (now) spatial structure of colour patterns and perception. At its core, the package retains a broad focus on (a) the organisation and processing of spectral and spatial data, and tools for the alternating (b) visualisation, and 28 (c) analysis of data. Significantly, pavo 2.0 introduces image-analysis ca-20 pabilities, providing a cohesive workflow for the comprehensive analysis of 30 colour patterns. 31

³² 3. We demonstrate the utility of pavo with a brief example centred on mimicry
 in *Heliconius* butterflies. Drawing on visual modelling, adjacency, and bound ³⁴ ary strength analyses, we show that the combined spectral (colour and lu ³⁵ minance) and spatial (pattern element distribution and boundary salience)
 ³⁶ features of putative models and mimics are closely aligned.

4. pavo 2.0 offers a flexible and reproducible environment for the analysis of
 colour, with renewed potential to assist researchers in answering fundamen tal questions in sensory ecology and evolution.

40 Introduction

The study of colour in nature continues to generate fundamental knowledge: 41 from the neurobiology and ecology of information processing (Caves et al., 2018; 42 Schnaitmann et al., 2018; Thoen et al., 2014; White & Kemp, 2017), to the evolution-43 ary drivers of life's diversity (Dalrymple et al., 2015, 2018; Endler, 1980; Maia et al., 44 2013b). Colour is a subjective perceptual experience, however, so our understand-45 ing of the function and evolution of this conspicuous facet of variation depends 46 on our ability to analyse phenotypes in meaningful ways. Excellent progress con-47 tinues to be made in this area, with emerging techniques now able to quantify and 48 integrate both the spectral (i.e. colour and luminance) and spatial (i.e. the dis-49 tribution of pattern elements) properties of colour patterns (Endler, 2012; Endler 50 et al., 2018; Kemp et al., 2015; Renoult et al., 2015; Troscianko et al., 2017). The need 51 remains, however, for tools that integrate these complex methods into clear, open, 52 and reproducible workflows (White et al., 2015), allowing researchers to retain 53 focus on the exploration of interesting questions. 54

Here we introduce pavo 2.0, a major revision and update of the R package 55 pavo (Maia et al., 2013a). Since its initial release, the package has provided a 56 cohesive framework for the processing and analysis of spectral data, yet the inter-57 ceding years have seen the advent of novel analytical methods and the refinement 58 of existing ones. As detailed below, pavo 2.0 has been extensively expanded to 59 incorporate a suite of new tools, with the most significant advance being the in-60 clusion of geometry-based analyses. This allows for the quantification of spectral 61 and spatial properties of colour patterns within a single workflow, thereby min-62 imising the computational and cognitive overhead associated with their otherwise 63 fragmented analysis. 64

⁶⁵ The pavo package, version 2.0

The conceptual focus of pavo remains centred on three components: (1) data 66 importing and processing, and ongoing feedback between (2) visualisation and 67 (3) analysis (Fig. 1). The package is available for direct installation through 68 R from CRAN (https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=pavo), while the devel-69 opment version remains available on Github (https://github.com/rmaia/pavo). 70 Comprehensive details and examples of the rich functionality of pavo are avail-71 able in help files as well as the package vignettes. Indeed, we strongly encour-72 age readers to refer to the vignettes as the primary source for information on 73 pavo's functionality (accessible through browseVignettes(pavo), and at http: 74 //rafaelmaia.net/pavo/), since they are updated as necessary with every pack-75 age release. 76

77 Organisation

Images and spectra can be loaded into pavo in bulk through the use of getimg and 78 getspec, respectively. Both are capable of handling multiple data formats, such 79 as jpeg, bmp and png in the case of images, and over a dozen formats of spectral 80 data, including the diverse and complex proprietary formats of the various spec-81 trometer vendors. Once loaded, the data are stored as objects of an appropriate 82 custom S3 class, for use in further functions. Spectral data are of class rspec, and 83 inherit methods from data.frame, while images are of class getimg, and are mul-84 tidimensional objects (typically 3D, for an RGB image) that inherits methods from 85 array. If more than one image is imported in a single call to getimg, then each 86 image is stored as an element of a list. This class system allows for — among 87 other things — the reliable use of generic functions such as plot and summary, 88 which can be called any time to inspect and visualise data. 89

⁹⁰ Several functions then facilitate the initial processing of colour data. It is of-⁹¹ ten desirable to process spectra to remove unwanted noise, modify the spectral

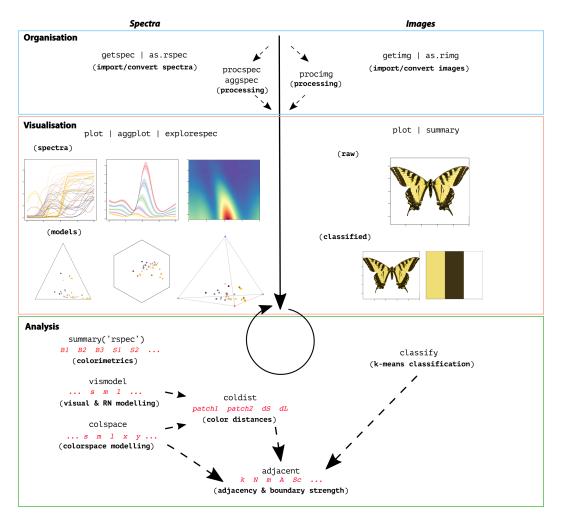


Figure 1: A general overview of the colour-pattern analysis workflow in pavo, as of version 2.0, displaying some key functions at each stage.

range, and/or interpolate the standard wavelength intervals, all of which may be 92 achieved through procspec. For images, procimg offers similar functionality such 93 as the ability to interactively specify the real-world scale of images (in preferred 94 units of measurement), rotate and resize images, or define the boundary between 95 a focal object and the visual background. The scope of image processing in pavo 96 2.0 is relatively limited by design, as much of what might be used during standard 97 image handling are either needs best considered and met by researchers during 98 image capture and data-checking, or are readily achieved within R using existing 99 packages such as imager (Barthelme, 2018) and magick (Ooms, 2018). Indeed, pavo 100 2.0 includes two convenience functions, rimg2cimg and cimg2rimg, to convert be-101

¹⁰² tween image-classes used by pavo and imager, allowing ready access to extensive

¹⁰³ image-processing capabilities.

104 Visualisation

The repeated visualisation of spectral and spatial data is an essential step during 105 all stages of analysis, and pavo 2.0 offers numerous tools and publication-ready 106 graphics fit for purpose. Once the package is loaded, the plot function recognises 107 objects of class rspec and rimg, as well as colspace (the product of visual mod-108 elling, detailed below), and becomes the conduit to most visualisations. For raw 109 spectral data, for example, plot will produce a clean plot of the spectra versus 110 wavelengths (Fig. 1, centre-left). Following visual modelling, di-, tri-, and tetra-11 chromatic models can instead be visualised, as well as data from more specialised 112 models, such as the colour hexagon (Chittka, 1992), CIEXYZ or LAB spaces (Smith 113 & Guild, 1931; Westland et al., 2012), categorical space (Troje, 1993), segment anal-114 ysis (Endler, 1990), the colour-opponent coding space (Backhaus, 1991), or the 115 'receptor-noise' space (de Ibarra et al., 2001; Pike, 2012). Images can also be plotted, with the result depending on whether and how they have been processed. When given an unprocessed rimg object, plot will produce a simple raster-based 118 plot of the image (Fig. 1, right). Following the results of classify, in which image 119 pixels are k-means classified into discrete colour-classes (or if a colour-classified 120 image is loaded directly), the plot will use the mean RGB values of each colour-121 class to plot the now-classified image (Fig. 2). 122

123 Analysis

Since the perception of colour is a subjective experience, significant progress has
been made in representing its reception using ecologically relevant 'visual models'
(Kelber *et al.*, 2003; Kemp *et al.*, 2015; Renoult *et al.*, 2015), which pavo 2.0 includes
in an extended repertoire. The first step in such analyses is a call to vismodel,

which models photoreceptor stimulation (quantum-catches, or photon-flux) based
on information about the viewer's visual sensitivity and viewing environments.
While users are free to use their own spectra, pavo includes a suite of built-in
receptor sensitivities, illuminant and transmission data (be it environmental or
ocular), and viewing backgrounds, for convenience.

Once quantum catches are estimated the results can used in a number of mod-133 els, depending on the question and analytical objective at hand (Kemp et al., 2015; 134 Renoult et al., 2015). General colourspaces are available through a call to colspace 135 which, if provided no further arguments, will model the data in a generalist di-136 tri- or tetrachromatic space informed by the dimensionality of the visual system. 137 More specialised colourspaces — which may be informed by specific information 138 about the visual perception of particular species — are also available via colspace. 139 The CIEXYZ, CIELAB, and CIELch models (designed and intended exclusively 140 for humans) are available, and colspace will check that the appropriate inputs, 141 such as the human colour-matching function, have been used to model receptor 142 stimulation, as required (Smith & Guild, 1931; Westland et al., 2012). The colour-143 opponent-coding (Backhaus, 1991) and colour-hexagon (Chittka, 1992) models of 144 bee vision are implemented, as is the categorical model of fly colour-vision de-145 tailed by Troje (1993). Plots for every space are accessible through a call to plot 146 which, thanks to the underlying class system, will draw on the appropriate vi-147 sualisation for the model at hand — be it a hexagon, a dichromatic segment, a 148 Maxwell triangle, or a three-dimensional tetrahedron. 149

The receptor-noise limited model of early-stage (retinal) colour processing has proven exceptionally popular (Vorobyev *et al.*, 2001; Vorobyev & Osorio, 1998), and has been tested to varying degrees in diverse taxa (Barry *et al.*, 2015; Fleishman *et al.*, 2016; Kelber *et al.*, 2003; Olsson *et al.*, 2015; White & Kemp, 2016). Following the estimation of receptor stimulation in vismodel, the model incorporates information on relative receptor densities and noise through the function coldist, and estimates either quantum- or neural-noise weighted colour distances. Version 2.0

of pavo introduces several extensions of this approach, such as the bootstrapped 157 colour distance of bootcoldist, which provides an estimate of the noise-weighted 158 distances (δS 's and/or δL 's) between the centroids of colour samples in multivari-159 ate space, with an appropriate measure of error (Maia & White, 2018). Stimuli can 160 also now be expressed and plotted as coordinates in 'perceptual' (i.e. receptor-161 noise corrected) space by calling jnd2xyz on the distances calculated in coldist 162 (de Ibarra et al., 2001; Pike, 2012). Notably, these functions accept n-dimensional 163 data, allowing for the modelling of extreme (Chen et al., 2016; Cronin & Marshall, 164 1989) or hypothetical high-dimensional visual systems. Of course coldist also 165 accepts the results of alternative models - such as the hexagon or CIELab - and 166 will return colour distances in units appropriate for each space. 167

Exciting recent advances now allow for the analysis of colour pattern geometry 168 - that is, the spatial structure of colour patches - in conjunction with the compar-169 atively well-developed approaches to the *spectral* analysis of colour outlined above 170 (Endler, 2012; Endler et al., 2018; Pike, 2018; Troscianko et al., 2017). The most 171 significant extension of pavo as of 2.0 is the introduction of an image-based work-172 flow to allow for the combined analysis of the spectral and spatial structure of 173 colour patterns, currently centred on the adjacency analysis (Endler, 2012), its ex-174 tension, the boundary strength analysis (Endler et al., 2018), and related measures 175 of overall pattern contrast (Endler & Mielke, 2005). Briefly, this process entails 176 classifying the pixels of images into a number of discrete colour classes, before 177 sampling the now-classified image with an evenly spaced grid. The column-wise 178 and row-wise colour-class transitions between adjacent points are then tallied, and 179 from this a suite of summary statistics on pattern structure — from simple colour 180 proportions, through to colour diversity and pattern complexity — are estimated 181 (e.g. Endler et al., 2014; Rojas et al., 2014; Rojas & Endler, 2013). If the colour 'dis-182 tance' between adjacent colour classes is known, such as might be estimated using 183 receptor-noise modelling above, then this can also be incorporated to derive sev-184 eral measures of the salience of patch boundaries, which are important for colour 185

pattern perception (discussed in Endler *et al.*, 2018). In pavo 2.0, these steps are carried out through calls to classify, which uses k-means clustering to automatically or interactively classify all image pixels into discrete colour-classes, followed by adjacent, which performs the adjacency analysis and, if appropriate colour distances are also specified, the boundary strength analysis.

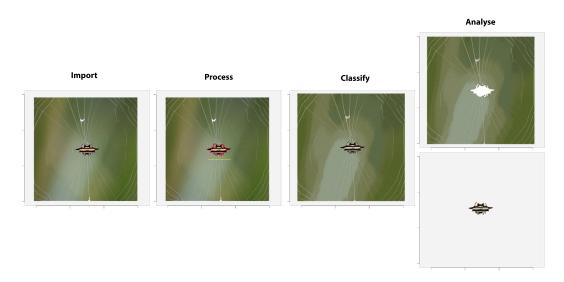


Figure 2: A sample workflow for image handling and analysis in pavo, as of version 2.0. Images are first imported and optionally processed by, for example, setting scales (yellow line) or defining objects and backgrounds (red outline). They may then be colour-classified before being passed to analytical functions, currently centered on the adjacency and boundary-strength analyses. If backgrounds and focal objects are defined then they can be analysed separately, concurrently, or either one can be excluded entirely.

As alluded to earlier, our goal is to provide a flexible and relatively simple 191 analytical framework for the analysis of a colour pattern's spatial structure us-192 ing images, without the need for specialised photographic equipment or and/or 197 extensive calibration and processing (demonstrated in the colour-plate based ex-194 ample below). We thus make an analytical and conceptual distinction between 195 the spectral data afforded by spectrometry, and the spatial data afforded by im-196 ages, with the two able to be conveniently combined during latter analyses (Fig. 197 1). This also minimises the unnecessary duplication of efforts of more general-198 purpose tools such as imager (Barthelme, 2018) and magick (Ooms, 2018), and the 199

²⁰⁰ excellent image analysis toolbox for imageJ (Troscianko & Stevens, 2015), which

²⁰¹ offer rich functionality for image processing and (in the latter case) analysis.

²⁰² Worked example: mimicry in *Heliconius* spp.

Butterflies of the genus Heliconius are widely involved in mimicry, and have proven 203 an exemplary system for studies of colour pattern development, ecology, and evo-204 lution (Jiggins, 2016). Here we demonstrate some of pavo 2.0's capabilities by 205 briefly examining the the visual basis of mimicry in this system, with the objective 206 of quantifying the spectral and spatial (dis)similarity between putative models and 207 mimics. For our spatial analyses, we follow Endler (2012) and use colour plate XII 208 from Eltringham (1916), which is arranged into what he described as model and 209 mimic pairs (Fig. 3). For our spectral analyses we collated six reflectance spec-210 tra from each of the the 'red', 'yellow', and 'black' patches of the forewings of two 211 species — H. egeria and H. melpomene (Fig. 3, top left pair) — from personal sources 212 and the literature (Bybee et al., 2011; Wilts et al., 2017). For reasons of simplicity 213 and data availability we restrict our visual modelling to these two species, though 214 the below spectral analyses would ideally be repeated for all model/mimic pairs. 215

216 Spectral analysis

²¹⁷ We first focus on the spectral data, since some of the results of this work will ²¹⁸ be drawn on for the latter pattern analyses. We begin by loading the reflectance ²¹⁹ spectra, which are saved in a single tab-delimited text file available at the package ²²⁰ repository along with the image plates (https://github.com/rmaia/pavo), before ²²¹ LOESS-smoothing them to remove any minor electrical noise and zeroing spurious ²²² negative values.

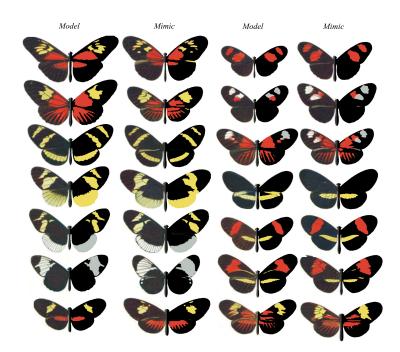


Figure 3: A modification of Eltringham's (1916) colour plate of *Heliconius* butterflies, *sensu* Endler (2012), arranged into putative models and mimics. The left side of each individual is as per the original, while the right half display pattern elements that have been classified into discrete classes through k-means clustering, using the classify function.

A call to plot(heli_specs, col = spec2rgb(heli_specs)) displays the nowclean spectra, with each line coloured according to how it might appear to a human viewer (Fig. 4, top left).

Since our interest is in quantifying the fidelity of visual mimicry, we must consider the perspective of ecologically relevant viewers (the primary selective agents) which, in the case of aposematic *Heliconius*, are avian predators (Benson,

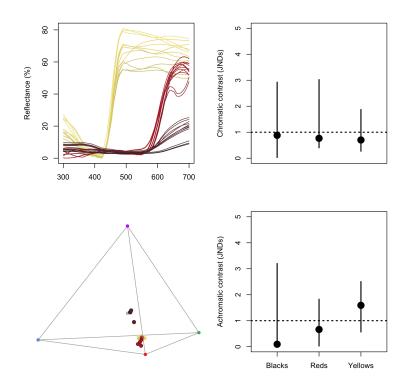


Figure 4: Reflectance spectra from black, red, and yellow patches of *H. egeria* and *H. melpomene*, along with their positions in a tetrahedral model of avian vision (left side). The bootstrapped, noise-corrected chromatic and achromatic patch distances between species (right) predicts that the individual colours of this model/mimic pair are likely indistinguishable to avian predators.

²²⁹ 1972; Chai, 1986). We thus use the receptor-noise limited model (Vorobyev *et al.*,
²³⁰ 2001; Vorobyev & Osorio, 1998) to predict whether the black, red, and yellow
²³¹ colour patches of a representative model and mimic are distinguishable to avian
²³² predators. This first entails estimating the photoreceptor quantum catches of a
²³³ representative viewer, so we use a built-in average UV-sensitive avian visual phe²³⁴ notype for estimating chromatic distances, and the double-cone sensitivity of the
²³⁵ blue tit for luminance distances.

```
> heli_model <- vismodel(heli_specs,
> visual = 'avg.uv',
> achromatic = 'bt.dc',
> relative = FALSE)
```

236

At this point we may wish to get a quick sense of the relative distribution

of stimuli by converting them to locations in an avian tetrahedral colourspace 237 and plotting the results with plot(colspace(heli_model)) (Fig. 4). With receptor 238 stimulation estimated, we now calculate noise-corrected chromatic and achromatic 239 distances between patches. The coldist function can be used to return the pair-240 wise distances between every spectrum, which might then be averaged to derive 241 a mean distance between species for every patch. This neglects the multivariate 242 structure of such data, however, when the objective is to estimate the separation of 243 groups in colourspace (Maia & White, 2018). We therefore prefer a bootstrapped 244 measure of colour distance using bootcoldist, which provides a robust measure 245 of the separation of our focal samples (i.e the red, white, and black patches of 246 model versus mimic), along with a 95% confidence interval, which can be in-247 spected to see if it exceeds the theoretical discrimination threshold of one JND. We 248 specify a relative receptor density of 1:2:2:4 (ultraviolet:short:medium:long wave-249 length receptors; Maier & Bowmaker (1993)), a signal-to-noise ratio yielding a 250 Weber fraction of 0.1 for both chromatic and achromatic receptors, and assume 251 that noise is proportional to the Weber fraction and independent of the magnitude 252 of receptor stimulation (reviewed in Kelber et al. (2003); Olsson et al. (2017)). 253

```
# Calculate the bootstrapped, noise-corrected colour distance
# between groups, using sample names to specify grouping ID's.
> heli_dist <- bootcoldist(heli_model,
> by = sub('\\..*', '', rownames(heli_model)),
> n = c(1, 2, 2, 4),
> weber = 0.1,
> weber.achro = 0.1)
```

Inspection of the key comparisons of interest (Fig. 4, right) reveals that the 95% CI of all chromatic and achromatic comparisons includes the theoretical threshold of one JND. This predicts that the individual colour pattern elements of putative model and mimic *H. egeria* and *H. melpomene* are indistinguishable, or difficult to discriminate, to avian viewers — the assumed intended recipient of the aposematic
signals. As noted above, the analysis of this representative pair can be readily
scaled to encompass all species given the necessary data, and we can now use this
information to inform our study of the spatial structure of these signals.

262 Pattern analysis

²⁶³ We first load the focal images, which comprise the individual samples from plate ²⁶⁴ XII of Eltringham (1916), saved as jpegs (Fig. 3). We then plot one or all of the ²⁶⁵ images to check they are as expected.

```
# Load all images. Here the 28 jpegs are stored in a folder called
# 'butterflies' located within the current working directory.
> heli_images <- getimg("butterflies")
28 files found; importing images.
```

Plot the first image in the list only.

```
> plot(heli_images[[1]])
```

```
# Plot all images, which will progress through
```

```
# the sequence automatically.
```

```
> plot(heli_images)
```

We then classify the pixels of all images into discrete colour or luminance cat-266 egories, here using k-means clustering, to create a colour-classified image matrix. 267 The function classify will carry this out, though there are numerous specific 268 ways in which it may be achieved, including automatically or 'interactively', with 260 the option of a reference image as template. Since our images are heterogeneous, 270 it is simplest to use the interactive version of classify, which will cycle through 271 each image and ask the user to manually identify a sample from every discrete 272 colour or luminance class present, which are then used as cluster centres. 273

Interactively colour-classify all images using k-means clustering.

> heli_class <- classify(heli_images, interactive = TRUE)</pre>

Cycle through plots of the colour-classified images, alongside their

identified colour palettes.

> summary(heli_class, plot = TRUE)

Finally, we use an adjacency analysis to estimate a suite of metrics describ-274 ing the structure and complexity of the colour pattern geometry of model and 275 mimic Heliconius, and by including the visually-modelled colour distances esti-276 mated above, the output will include several measures of the salience of colour 277 patch edges as part of the boundary strength analysis (Endler, 2012; Endler et al., 278 2018). We will exclude the white background since it is not relevant, simply by 279 specifying the colour-category ID belonging to the homogeneous underlay. If the 280 image was more complex, such as an animal in its natural habitat, we would in-281 stead interactively identify and separate the focal animal and background using 282 procimg (e.g. Fig. 2, second panel). 283

$$dS = c(10.6, 5.1, 4.4)$$
$$dL = c(1.1, 2.5, 3.2))$$

> distances

c1 c2 dS dL

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2 3 10.50 7.41

2 4 11.76 23.40

3 4 13.29 15.99

>

> exclude = 'background', > coldists = distances)

bkgID = 1,

Inspect a subset of the resulting data.frame. Variable meanings
are detailed in the function documentation (see ?adjacent),
or Endler (2012), Endler et al. (2018), and Endler & Mielke (2005).
> head(heli_adj)[, 1:7]

k Ν n_off p_2 p_3 p_4 q_2_2 . . . mimic_01 3 345522 6547 0.801 0.130 0.067 0.796 mimic_02 2 4091 0.835 0.164 0.834 1018370 NA mimic_03 3 265278 6155 0.685 0.198 0.116 0.677 . . .

We can now inspect the pattern descriptors of particular interest, and explore the similarity of models and mimics with respect to their broader colour pattern geometry. As seen in Fig. 5, the relative proportions of focal colours (top row), measures of pattern diversity and complexity (centre row), and the salience of patch boundaries (bottom row) are highly correlated between species pairs. This, in conjunction with the above modelling, suggests that the overall colour pat-

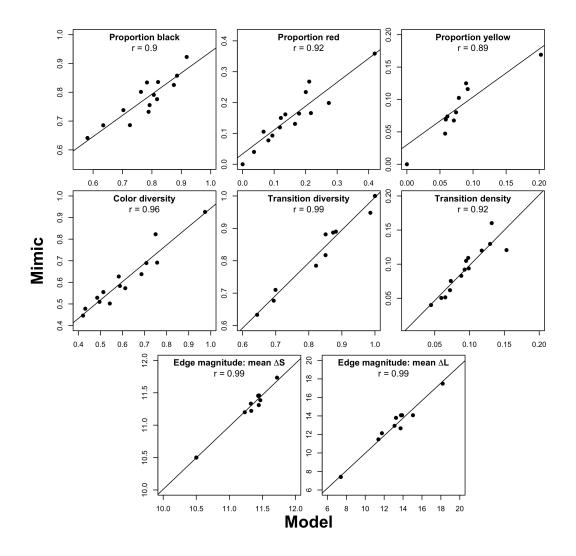


Figure 5: Select results of the colour pattern analysis of model and mimic *Heliconius* (Fig. 3), using adjacency and boundary strength analyses. Strong correlations are evident in colour proportions (top row), measures of colour diversity and complexity (centre row), and estimates of mean chromatic and achromatic edge salience (bottom row).

terns of putative model and mimic *Heliconius* — both spectrally and spatially are highly similar, and are thus predicted to be very difficult to discriminate to the intended avian viewers of their aposematic signals, as consistent with theory (Müller, 1879). More interesting questions remain, of course, including the degree to which mimics need resemble models to deceive viewers, and the relative importance of different colour pattern elements (e.g. Fig. 5) in mediating the subjective resemblance of species pairs, for which pavo is well suited to help answer.

297 Conclusions

The integrative study of biological colouration has borne rich fruit, though its potential to illuminate the structure and function of much of the natural world is not nearly realised (Endler & Mappes, 2017). As we have sought to demonstrate, pavo 2.0 (and beyond) provides a flexible framework to assist researchers studying the physiology, ecology, and evolution of colour patterns and visual perception. We appreciate bug reports and suggestions, via email or the Github issue tracker https://github.com/rmaia/pavo/issues.

305 Citation of methods

Many of the methods applied in pavo are described in detail in their original publications — as listed in the documentation for the relevant functions — to which users should refer and cite as appropriate, along with pavo itself, via this publication (as of v2.0).

310 Acknowledgements

³¹¹ We thank Kate Umbers, Georgia Binns, and Julia Riley for the rigorous testing of ³¹² image-based methods. TEW thanks Elizabeth Mulvenna and Cormac White for ³¹³ their support. The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Authors statement

TEW, RM, and HG authored the software and manuscript, JAE developed and assisted in the implementation of methods, and critically revised the manuscript.

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