Expert perception of deceptive motion: three fundamental questions

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An extensive body of research has consistently shown that high-skilled performers are able to anticipate the actions of their opponent(s) better than their less-skilled counterparts. A potential disadvantage of being highly attuned to early visual information is that it leaves performers vulnerable to deception (Jackson, Warren & Abernethy, 2006). In this presentation I argue that, to fully understand deception, we need to make a conceptual distinction between performers' susceptibility to deception and their ability to resolve deception as the movement unfolds. In discussing this, I will address three fundamental questions in the study of deception in sport: (1) Are experts less deceived than low-skilled performers? (2) Are experts better at 'resolving' deceptive motion? (3) Are experts more attuned to global (rather than local) information? Using analysis of performance data in temporal and spatial occlusion studies of soccer step-overs, combined with self-report and confidence data, I argue that susceptibility to deception may be driven by local information while the ability to resolve deception may be underpinned by global information.

Key words: perception, deception, anticipation, expertise

Reference

Jackson, R. C., Warren, S., & Abernethy, B. (2006). Anticipation skill and susceptibility to deceptive movement. *Acta Psychologica*, *123*, 355-371.