

NEWS

Augmented-reality app brings research images to life

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They say a picture is worth a thousand words. But what about a figure in a scientific paper?

These could say a whole lot more if they were able to show the entire dataset they are based on.

A new mobile app promises to deliver just that: It enhances scientific images by displaying augmented-reality renderings of the complete data over printed figures.

Neuroscientists are producing ever more complex 3D brain data, but they have been constrained to reporting it as flat, printable images. The app, called **Schol-AR** brings these images to life as movable 3D models or videos — like the moving photographs in Harry Potter's world — on viewers' smartphone cameras. Anyone with the app can view the augmented material as they read the paper.

Researchers debuted the app yesterday at the **2019 Society for Neuroscience annual meeting** in Chicago, Illinois.