Continuity Editing

Technical Continuity

- video levels--brightness
- contrast
- color
- audio levels
- background noise
- acoustic differences
Technical Continuity

Image--from American Terrorist
Technical Continuity
Sound--from American Terrorist
The Logic of Editing--why?

Continuum of Intensity and Detail

- **WS**--establish, setting, minimal detail, context-low intensity (enter room)
- **MS**--relationships, add detail, build intensity (normal conversation)
- **CU**--focus attention, detail, maximize intensity (intense conversation)

How we view the world
The Logic of Editing

- Altering Viewer's expectations
  - don't cut to the expected shot.
    - momentarily frustrate expectations
    - give resolution
  - Effect before cause
    - fear on face before cause of fear.
Principle of Parsimony

- If in doubt, leave it out.
- Less is more
The Rules
from “The Cutting Edge”
VI. Montage Editing--editing for effect

- Ignores or deliberately breaks continuity rules.
- Montage editing
  - --images related by theme only, not by being part of a scene
- Often an External rhythm
  - music
  - narration
- Communicates via totality of effect, not the continuity of the images
• from *the Godfather*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CDiBLvc3YE
Godfather Montage

- Juxtaposition
  - Catholic Baptism and series of “hits”
  - uses Latin liturgy
    - time period
    - mystery
  - “I do renounce him”
    - all his works
    - all his promises
- the sacred and the sinister
- the hypocrisy of the Mafia
Montage from “Adaptation”
Montage from “Adaptation”

- Answers question
  - “what am I doing here”
  - no closer to understanding after 40 years
  - “How did I get here”
- Compresses time
- provides glimpse into writer’s mind
  - “outsider”--on the periphery
- great evolutionary achievements of nature and of man
- last stage--Charlie Kauffman in LA restaurant
Montage from “Adaptation”

- Charlie’s Historical and philosophical continuum
- His standard for meaning in his life
  - his neurosis
    - he cannot succeed
- Music provides atmosphere
  - not cut to the beat
Montage from “Adaptation”

by Charlie and Donald Kaufman

This sequence shows the entire history of mankind from a world sparsely populated with primitive hunter gatherers to today’s overcrowded technological society. We see the history of war, religion, commerce. We see murder and procreation. We see man interacting with his environment: farming, eating meat, admiring a view. We see old age and birth. We see it again and again at dizzying speed.

from the original script