

# Summary

- Color information can improve face perception
- Several cortical regions contain single neurons whose responses are influenced by color and shape simultaneously
- Cortical regions supporting color and face perception abilities are close
- ADC found literature supporting behavioral improvements in two domains: face detection and gender recognition
- Color may aid emotion recognition, but ADC only found computer vision literature supporting this

The references listed below are ones that support a role for color information in aiding face perception. The importance of the role depends strongly on the perceptual task in question, however. There is a long literature showing that ventral occipitotemporal cortical regions from V1 onwards contain single neurons that respond to specific combinations of shape and color features; only two references are included here. In as much as there exists a “color region” of cortex, it is located just posterior and medial to “face regions.” Color aids face detection, especially in naturalistic backgrounds, when it is done by both human observers and computer vision algorithms. Color appears to aid gender discrimination, although the specific color/gender associations seem up in the air. Not much research has been done on the role of color in recognizing facial expressions of emotion, but there is at least one computer vision article that found a use for color in that domain.

## FIRST OF ALL

Refer to this very comprehensive list of computer vision articles:

<http://www.visionbib.com/bibliography/people902.html#Finding%20Faces%20by%20Color%20Features>

For a list of computer vision face image data sets, navigate here and skip to *Dataset, Faces*. Note that this is not a complete list.

<http://datasets.visionbib.com/index.html>

See also VNLab's list of face image data sets available online:

[Face data sets](#)

## Close relationship between cortical regions for color and face perception

- Clark, V. P., Parasuraman, R., Keil, K., Kulansky, R., Fannon, S., Maisog, J. M., ... Haxby, J. V. (1997). Selective attention to face identity and color studied with f MRI. *Human Brain Mapping*, 5(4),

293–297. doi:10.1002/(SICI)1097-0193(1997)5:4<293::AID-HBM15>3.0.CO;2-F

- Tanaka, K., Saito, H., Fukada, Y., & Moriya, M. (1991). Coding visual images of objects in the inferotemporal cortex of the macaque monkey. *Journal of Neurophysiology*, 66(1), 170–189.

## Color aids face detection

### Behavioral

- Yip, Andrew W., and Pawan Sinha. "Contribution of Color to Face Recognition." *Perception* 31, no. 8 (2002): 995–1003. doi:10.1068/p3376.

NOTE: at least one article hints that if individuals can be distinguished based solely on color information, then ordinary, holistic face recognition processes might not be used:

- McKone, Elinor, and Galit Yovel. "Why Does Picture-plane Inversion Sometimes Dissociate Perception of Features and Spacing in Faces, and Sometimes Not? Toward a New Theory of Holistic Processing." *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* 16, no. 5 (October 2009): 778–97. doi:10.3758/PBR.16.5.778.

### Computational

- Maglogiannis, Ilias, Demosthenes Vouyioukas, and Chris Aggelopoulos. "Face Detection and Recognition of Natural Human Emotion Using Markov Random Fields." *Personal and Ubiquitous Computing* 13, no. 1 (January 1, 2009): 95–101. doi:10.1007/s00779-007-0165-0.

## Color aids gender recognition

### Behavioral

- Hill, H., Bruce, V., & Akamatsu, S. (1995). Perceiving the sex and race of faces: the role of shape and colour. *Proceedings. Biological Sciences / The Royal Society*, 261(1362), 367–373. doi:10.1098/rspb.1995.0161
- Tarr, M. J., Kersten, D., Cheng, Y., & Rossion, B. (2001). It's Pat! Sexing faces using only red and green. *Journal of Vision*, 1(3), 337–337. doi:10.1167/1.3.337
- "The Segmental Structure of Faces and Its Use in Gender Recognition" Accessed August 5, 2014. <http://repository.cmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1392&context=psychology>.

# Color aids emotion recognition

## Computational

- Maglogiannis, Ilias, Demosthenes Vouyioukas, and Chris Aggelopoulos. "Face Detection and Recognition of Natural Human Emotion Using Markov Random Fields." *Personal and Ubiquitous Computing* 13, no. 1 (January 1, 2009): 95–101. doi:10.1007/s00779-007-0165-0.

## Detailed information for the references

Sorted by author and date.

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*magnitude over intensity-driven features when low-resolution faces (25 times 25 pixels or less) are applied to three FR methods.*

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</tr> <tr> <th>Abstract</th> <td>In this paper, we propose a new scheme that merges color- and  
shape-invariant information for object recognition. To obtain robustness against photometric changes,  
color-invariant derivatives are computed first. Color invariance is an important aspect of any object  
recognition scheme, as color changes considerably with the variation in illumination, object pose, and  
camera viewpoint. These color invariant derivatives are then used to obtain similarity invariant shape  
descriptors. Shape invariance is equally important as, under a change in camera viewpoint and object  
pose, the shape of a rigid object undergoes a perspective projection on the image plane. Then, the color  
and shape invariants are combined in a multidimensional color-shape context which is subsequently used  
as an index. As the indexing scheme makes use of a color-shape invariant context, it provides a high-  
discriminative information cue robust against varying imaging conditions. The matching function of the  
color-shape context allows for fast recognition, even in the presence of object occlusion and cluttering.  
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for their maximal activation. 4. The critical feature for the activation of individual anterior IT cells varied from cell to cell: a complex shape in some cells and a combination of texture or color with contour-shape in other cells. 5. Cells that showed different types of complexity for the critical feature were intermingled throughout anterior IT, whereas cells recorded in single penetrations showed critical features that were related in some respects. 6. Generally speaking, the critical features of anterior IT cells were moderately complex and can be thought of as partial features common to images of several different natural objects. The selectivity to the optimal stimulus was rather sharp, although not absolute. We thus propose that, in anterior IT, images of objects are coded by combinations of active cells, each of which represents the presence of a particular partial feature in the image.

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