**5.2 Implementation**

There are three easy steps to computer coding facial recognition, which are similar to the steps that our brains use for recognizing faces. These steps are:

Data Gathering: Gather face data (face images in this case) of the persons you want to identify.

Train the Recognizer: Feed that face data and respective names of each face to the recognizer so that it can learn.

Recognition: Feed new faces of that people and see if the face recognizer you just trained recognizes them.

OpenCV has three built-in face recognizers and thanks to its clean coding, you can use any of them just by changing a single line of code. Here are the names of those face recognizers and their OpenCV calls:

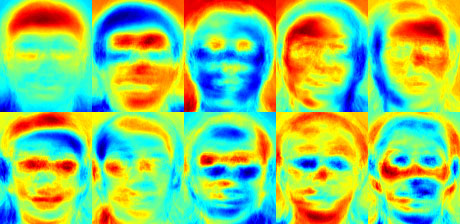
* EigenFaces – cv2.face.createEigenFaceRecognizer()
* FisherFaces – cv2.face.createFisherFaceRecognizer()
* Local Binary Patterns Histograms (LBPH) – cv2.face.createLBPHFaceRecognizer()

**5.2.1 Eigenfaces face recognizer**

This algorithm considers the fact that **not all parts of a face are equally important or useful for face recognition**. Indeed, when you look at someone, you recognize that person by his distinct features, like the eyes, nose, cheeks or forehead; and how they vary respect to each other.In that sense, you are focusing on the areas of maximum change. For example, from the eyes to the nose there is a significant change, and same applies from the nose to the mouth. When you look at multiple faces, you compare them by looking at these areas, because by catching the maximum variation among faces, they help you differentiate one face from the other.In this way, is how EigenFaces recognizer works. It looks at all the training images of all the people as a whole and tries to extract the components which are relevant and useful and discards the rest. These important features are called **principal components**.

**Note:**We will use the terms: principal components, variance, areas of high change and useful features indistinctly as they all mean the same.

Below is an image showing the variance extracted from a list of faces.

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 EigenFaces recognizer trains itself by extracting principal components, but it also keeps a record of which ones belong to which person. Thus, whenever you introduce a new image to the algorithm, it repeats the same process as follows:

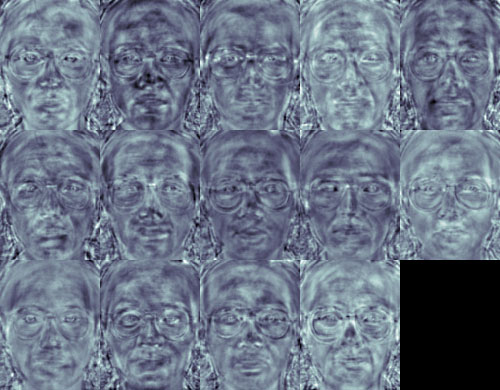
1. Extract the principal components from the new picture.
2. Compare those features with the list of elements stored during training.
3. Find the ones with the best match.
4. Return the ‘person’ label associated with that best match component.

In simple words, it’s a game of matching.However, one thing to note in above image is that EigenFaces algorithm also considers illumination as an important feature. In consequence, lights and shadows are picked up by EigenFaces, which classifies them as representing a ‘face.'Face recognition picks up on human things, dominated by shapes and shadows: two eyes, a nose, a mouth.

**5.2.2 Fisherfaces face recognizer**

This algorithm is an improved version of the last one. As we just saw, EigenFaces looks at all the training faces of all the people at once and finds principal components from all of them combined. By doing that, it doesn't focus on the features that discriminate one individual from another. Instead, it concentrates on the ones that represent all the faces of all the people in the training data, as a whole. Since EigenFaces also finds illumination as a useful component, it will find this variation very relevant for face recognition and may discard the features of the other people's faces, considering them less useful. In the end, the variance that EigenFaces has extracted represents just one individual's facial features.

We can do it by tunning EigenFaces so that it extracts useful features from the faces of each person separately instead of extracting them from all the faces combined. In this way, even if one person has high illumination changes, it will not affect the other people's features extraction process.Precisely, **FisherFaces** face recognizer algorithm extracts principal components that differentiate one person from the others. In that sense, an individual's components do not dominate (become more useful) over the others.Below is an image of principal components using FisherFaces algorithm.



One thing to note here is that FisherFaces only prevents features of one person from becoming dominant, but it still considers illumination changes as a useful feature. We know that light variation is not a useful feature to extract as it is not part of the actual face.

**5.2.3 Local binary patterns histograms (LBPH) Face Recognizer**

We know that Eigenfaces and Fisherfaces are both affected by light and, in real life, we can't guarantee perfect light conditions. *LBPH face recognizer is an improvement to overcome this drawback.*

The idea with **LBPH** is not to look at the image as a whole, but instead, try to find its local structure by comparing each pixel to the neighboring pixels.

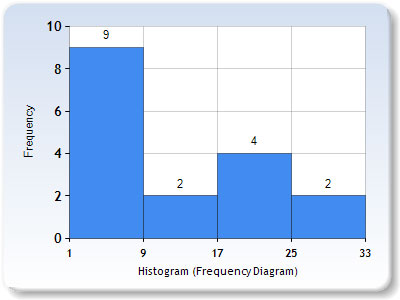
**The LBPH Face Recognizer Process**

Take a 3×3 window and move it across one image. At each move (each local part of the picture), compare the pixel at the center, with its surrounding pixels. Denote the neighbors with intensity value less than or equal to the center pixel by 1 and the rest by 0.

After you read these 0/1 values under the 3×3 window in a clockwise order, you will have a binary pattern like 11100011 that is local to a particular area of the picture. When you finish doing this on the whole image, you will have a list of **local binary patterns**.



Now, after you get a list of local binary patterns, you convert each one into a decimal number using binary to decimal conversion (as shown in above image) and then you make a histogram of all of those decimal values. A sample histogram looks like this:



In the end, you will have one histogram for each face in the training data set. That means that if there were 100 images in the training data set then LBPH will extract 100 histograms after training and store them for later recognition. Remember, the algorithm also keeps track of which histogram belongs to which person.

Later during recognition, the process is as follows:

1. Feed a new image to the recognizer for face recognition.
2. The recognizer generates a histogram for that new picture.
3. It then compares that histogram with the histograms it already has.
4. Finally, it finds the best match and returns the person label associated with that best match.

Below is a group of faces and their respective local binary patterns images. We see that the **LBP faces are not affected by changes in light conditions**:

**5.2.4 Required Modules**

Import the following modules:

* **cv2:** This is the OpenCV module for Python used for face detection and face recognition.
* **os:** We will use this Python module to read our training directories and file names.
* **numpy:**This module converts Python lists to numpy arrays as OpenCV face recognizer needs them for the face recognition process.

5.2.5 **Prepare training data**

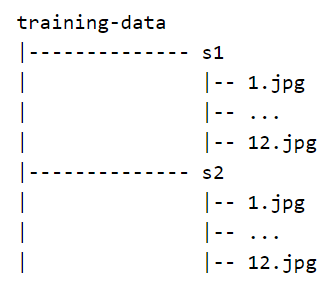
The premise here is simple: The more images used in training, the better.

Being thorough with this principle is important because it is the only way for training a face recognizer so it can learn the different ‘faces’ of the same person; for example: with glasses, without glasses, laughing, sad, happy, crying, with a beard, without a beard, etc.

So, our training data consists of total two people with 12 images of each one. All training data is inside the folder: *training-data*.

This folder contains one subfolder for every individual, named with the format: **sLabel (e.g. s1, s2)**where **the label is the integer assigned to that person**. For example, the subfolder called **s1** means that it contains images for **person 1**.

With that in mind, the directory structure tree for training data is as follows:



On the other hand, The foldertest-data contains images that we will use to test our face recognition program after we have trained it successfully.Considering that the OpenCV face recognizer only accepts labels as integers, we need to define a mapping between integer tags and the person’s actual name.

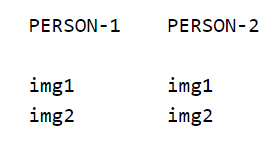
**5.2.5 Data Preparation for Face Recognition**

Perhaps you are thinking: Why are are we talking about preparing data?

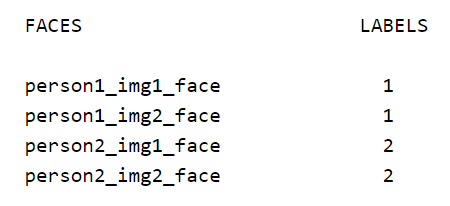
Well, to know which face belongs to which person, OpenCV face recognizer accepts information in a particular format. In fact, it receives two vectors:

* One is the faces of all the people.
* The second is the integer labels for each face.

For example, if we had two individuals and two images for each one:



Then, the data preparation step will produce following face and label vectors:



In detail, we can further divide this step into the following sub-steps:

1. Read all the sub folders names provided in the folder training-data. In this tutorial; we have folder names:s1, s2.
2. Extract label number. Remember that all the sub folders containing images of a person following the format:sLabel where Label is an integer representing each person. So for example, folder name: s1 means that the person has label 1, s2 means the person's label is 2, and so on. We will assign the integer extracted in this step to every face detected in the next one.
3. Read all the images of the person, and apply face detection to each one.
4. Add each face to face vectors with the corresponding person label (extracted in above step)