The Perception of a Face is Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts

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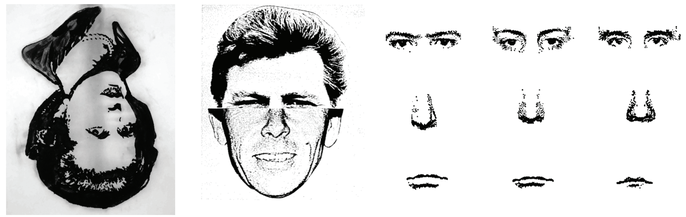
Introduction

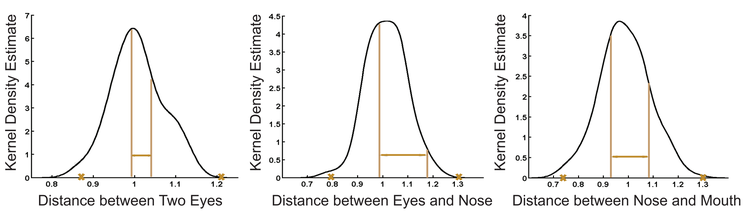


The perception of a face is no more than the sum of its parts

(Gold, Mundy, & Tjan, 2012, *Psychological science*)

Question

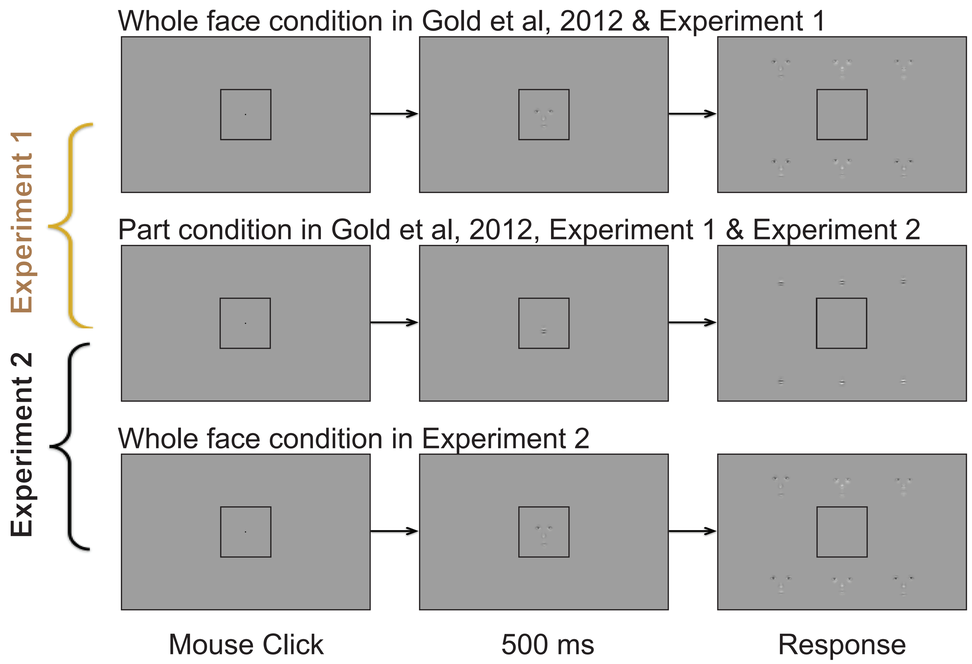
Face stimuli with little configural variability (Gold et al., 2012 & Experiment 1)

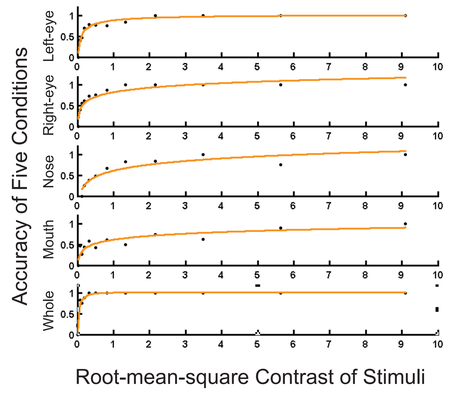


Is the perception of a face greater than the sum of its parts when faces have greater configural variability?

Face stimuli with greater configural variability (Experiment 2)

Methods

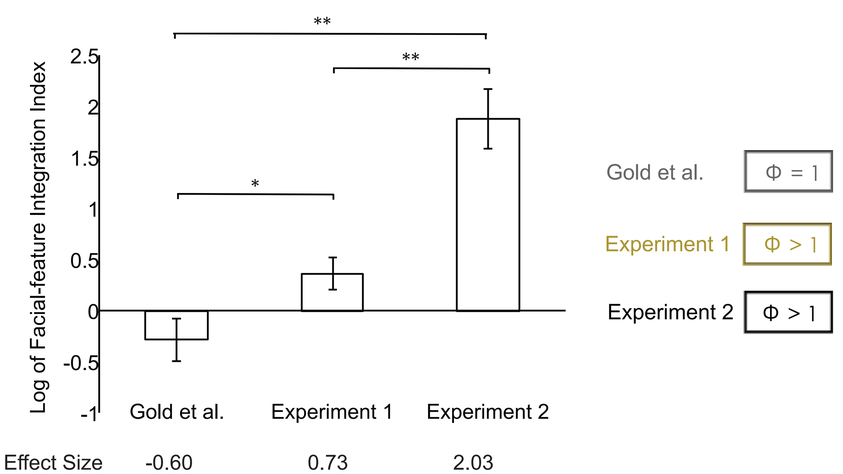




$$S = \frac{1}{\text{threshold}}$$

$$\Phi = \frac{S^2_{\text{combined}}}{S^2_{\text{left eye}} + S^2_{\text{right eye}} + S^2_{\text{nose}} + S^2_{\text{mouth}}}$$

Results



Discussions

1. We did not replicate Gold et al. (2012).

2. Whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

3. There is a continuum of facial-feature integreation index from low to high as configural variability gets larger.

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