

ECE 1390/2390

Image Processing and Computer Vision

About this course

Course number 1390 (40 students)

Course number 2390 [Graduate level] (20 students)

- graduate level will have harder problem sets and more involved project goals

About this course

Learning Objectives:

- Introduction to image processing methods including data structures, filtering, enhancement, transforms, and homography.
- Introduction to computer vision through OpenCV and Python including object detection and tracking methods, segmentation, digital photography, and in-painting.
- Hands on learning through group project. How to use GitHub for collaborations, push requests, peer-review, and code checks

Who am I?

Instructor: Ted Huppert, PhD;
Associate Professor (ECE)

Dept of Radiology (2007-2019)
Dept of ECE (2019-current)

Email: huppert1@pitt.edu

Office: BEND 1238L (in 12th floor ECE admin area)

Office hours: M/W 3:30-4:30

<https://calendly.com/huppert1>



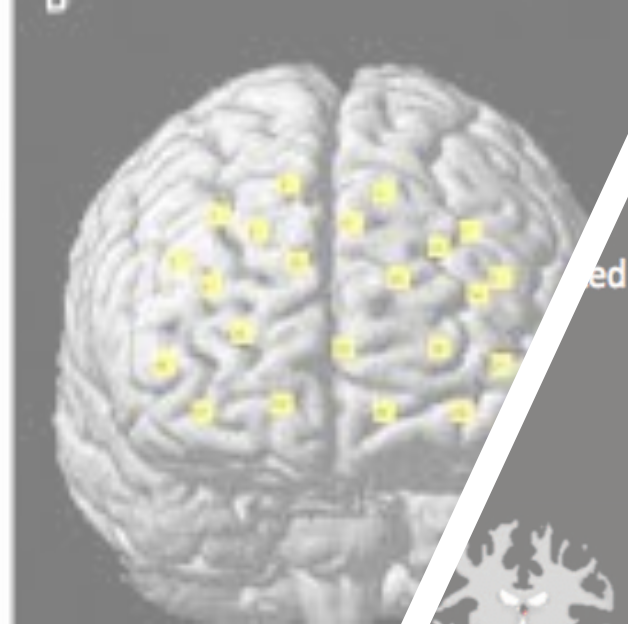
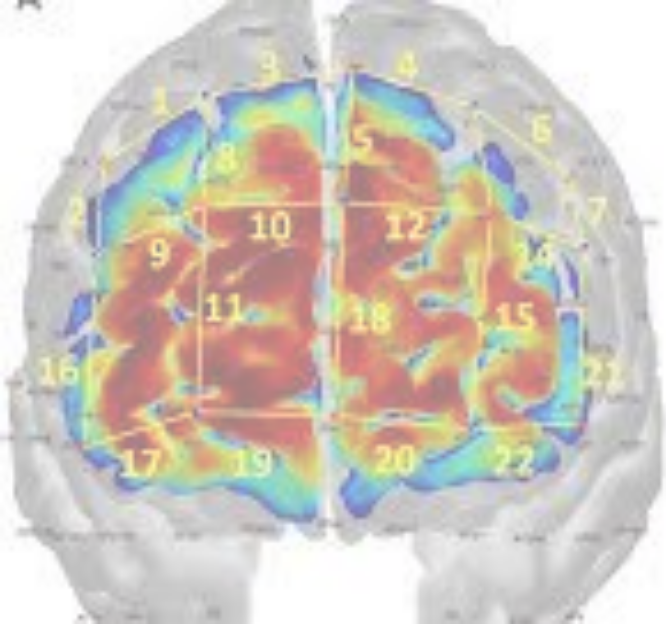
Who am I?

Teaching Instructor:

Yang Du

yang.du@pitt.edu

Office hours by request.



2. Skull Stripping

3. Volumetric Labeling

4. Intensity Normalization

5. White Matter

6. Surface Atlas

7. Surface Extraction

8. Gyrus Labeling

M³(NI)² Lab
Multimodal Methods in Noninvasive Neuroimaging Lab
www.huppertlab.net

Organization of Course

- Monday & Wednesday 4:30 – 5:45pm
- 1211 BEND
- **Lectures** (PowerPoint & Python Notebooks)
 - Materials will be provided on Canvas
 - No required textbook for course
- **Classwork** (60% of grade)
 - Practical examples done in Python/OpenCV
- **Semester project** (30% final; 10% peer-ratings).
- **No midterm or Final exams**

Grading Scale:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Homework | 60% [12 x 10 points each] |
| Semester Project Peer scores | 10% [20 pts] |
| Final Semester Project | 30% [60 pts] |
| | ----- |
| | Total 200 points |

[98 - 100) A+

[88 - 90) B+

[78 - 80) C+

[68 - 70) D+

[92 - 98) A

[82 - 88) B

[72 - 78) C

[62 - 68) D

[90 - 92) A-

[80 - 82) B-

[70 - 72) C-

[60 - 62) D-

<60: F

Syllabus

| Week | Date | Topic | In class work | Due date |
|------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 8/25/2025 | Introduction to course | Intro to OpenCV (HW0) | Due 9/1 |
| | 8/27/2025 | Image operations | Planning projects | |
| 2 | 9/1/2025 | Labor Day [No Class] | | |
| | 9/3/2025 | Analysis and Color spaces | Initial project proposal | |
| 3 | 9/8/2025 | Image Transforms | Python problems (HW1) | Due 9/15 |
| | 9/10/2025 | Spatial & Frequency Filtering | Group Project work | White paper on project |
| 4 | 9/15/2025 | Image Restoration/Inverse filters | Python problems (HW2) | Due 9/22 |
| | 9/17/2025 | Edge Detection | Group Project work | |
| 5 | 9/22/2025 | GMM Segmentation | Python problems (HW3) | Due 9/29 |
| | 9/24/2025 | Morphometric Segmentation | Python problems (HW4) | Due 10/1 |
| 6 | 9/29/2025 | Image Feature Detection | Group Project work | |
| | 10/1/2025 | Registration & Homography | Python problems (HW5) | Due 10/8 |
| 7 | 10/6/2025 | Computational Photography | Python problems (HW6) | Due 10/15 |
| | 10/8/2025 | Inpainting | Mid project assessment | Group ratings |

Syllabus

| Week | Date | Topic | In class work | Due date |
|------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 8 | 10/13/2024 | Camera Calibration | Python problems (HW7) | Due 10/20 |
| | 10/15/2024 | Image Compression | Group Project work | |
| 9 | 10/20/2024 | Depth & 3D Reconstruction | Python problems (HW8) | Due 10/27 |
| | 10/22/2024 | Haar Cascade Classifiers | Python problems (HW9) | Due 11/3 |
| 10 | 10/27/2024 | | | |
| | 10/29/2024 | Face Detection | Project updates | |
| 11 | 11/3/2024 | Harris Corners and Blobs | Group Project work | |
| | 11/5/2024 | HOG and Custom Detectors | Python problems (HW10) | Due 11/10 |
| 12 | 11/10/2024 | Object Tracking | Group Project work | |
| | 11/12/2024 | OCR Text Detection | Python problems (HW11) | Due 11/19 |
| 13 | 11/17/2024 | Final Project Presentations | | |
| | 11/19/2024 | Final Project Presentations | | |
| 14 | 11/24/2024 | Thanksgiving recess | | |
| | 11/26/2024 | Thanksgiving recess | | |
| 15 | 12/1/2024 | OpenCV DNN | Python problems (HW12) | Due 12/3 |
| | 12/3/2024 | Super Resolution | Python problems | |

Semester Project

Design a program to implement image processing.

- Python function library of methods
- Can be GUI or command line
- Groups of 4 people (1390/2390 separated)

Examples:

- Virtual web camera
- Face-swap
- Object detection
- Text reader
- “Instagram” filter
- 3D reconstruction
- Automatic face blurring software

Class Attendance Taker:

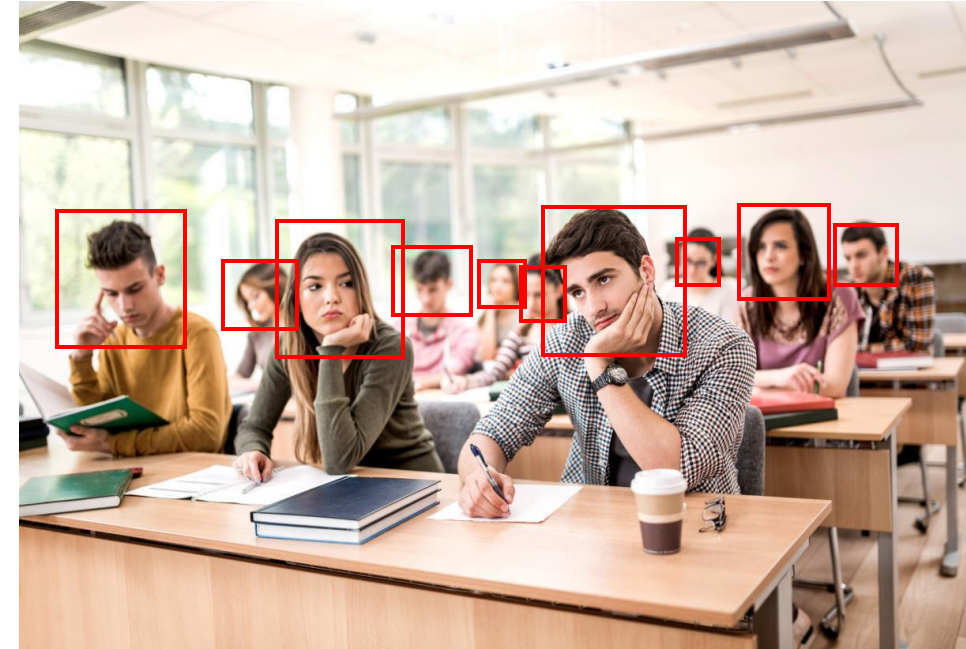
Objective: From a photo of a class, find and identify the faces in the image.

Project elements:

- Using custom Haar classifier from images of “students”, train model to identify students. Demo case, just using the four members of the group.
- Using Media Pipe, find all possible faces in the class image.
- Cut out ROI around each face
- Identify the person from feeding in the ROI to the Haar classifier

Testing case:

- Train model on team members
- Take set of photos with some/all of the team members
- Show that program can ID the team members



Sudoku Puzzle Solver:

Objective: Take a picture of a Sudoku puzzle. Read the number values. Program solves the puzzle (used 3rd party code). Display the solutions super-imposed on the original image.

Project elements:

- Find edges and lines of the puzzle grid to define ROI boxes.
- Use HOG classifier to ID numbers
- Solve puzzle
- Create image with solution in the right boxes

Testing case:

- Printed out puzzles and took pictures to feed into program

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | | | 7 | | | | |
| 6 | | | 1 | 9 | 5 | | | |
| | 9 | 8 | | | | | 6 | |
| 8 | | | | 6 | | | | 3 |
| 4 | | | 8 | | 3 | | | 1 |
| 7 | | | | 2 | | | | 6 |
| | 6 | | | | | 2 | 8 | |
| | | | 4 | 1 | 9 | | | 5 |
| | | | | 8 | | | 7 | 9 |

Lifting Form Feedback (2390):

Objective: From a video of a deadlift, calculate the position of the body parts and provide feedback on the correct form.

Project elements:

- From a side view camera, find the location of the dumbbell (used Hough circles and segmentation)
- Using OpenPose program (3rd part open source python code from CMU), find the location of the body parts and angles.

Testing case:

- Took sample videos of a team member lifting weights with various technique.



Virtual Hair Cut :

Objective: From a live web camera feed, find an image of a head, segment the hair and crop. Then replace the hair from one of several pre-defined styles

Project elements:

- Video feed of single person “selfie” style image
- Using media pipe for head and hair segmentation
- Overlay predefined hair templates

Testing case:

- Samples of various still and videos of faces.



Requirements:

Everyone

- Written in Python using OpenCV
- Code compliant with MIT use license
- Documented and maintained on GitHub
- Include demonstration/example code

ECE 1390 Students

- Process still images
- At least two methods described in class
- Final presentation can be via PowerPoint showing features of program

ECE 2390 Students

- Process video feeds
- At least four methods described in class
- Final presentation should include a live demo
- Best practices for collaborative code via GitHub

Project “Investor” Pitch (Due 9/3/2025)

- Each group will have 2 min to pitch their idea. (“elevator pitch”)
- 1 PowerPoint slide may be used (sent to Dr Huppert prior to class)
- Class will have 5min to ask questions, make suggestions, get clarifications, etc. (think focus group feedback)

Project White page (Due 9/10/2024)

One-page white paper describing purpose and specs of your project.

- Description.
- Code Specifications.
- Planned approach
- Time-line
- Metrics of success.
- Pitfalls and alternative solutions

Yes, you can borrow code and methods.

- With OpenCV and Python, you can find examples of virtually any code/project on the web.
- However, I grading on whether you demonstrate that you understood it.
- Requirements:
 - If you borrow code or use some tutorial to learn how to do the problem, then CITE IT!
 - Make the code your own. If you borrow code, then change variable names to be consistent with the rest of your code/library
 - Markup your notebooks and code with proper web-links
 - Implement best practices in coding
 - Names for variables/methods should be descriptive
 - Code should succinctly and clearly explain what it does.
 - Methods should document expected inputs/outputs/dependencies
 - Yes, it's fine to comment (e.g.) "I don't know why this flag is TRUE, but it doesn't work otherwise"
 - Make sure someone else could read and understand your code
 - Use GitHub. Document changes, do pull requests, issue reports when needed.

Frequently asked questions

- Can I do a video project even though I am enrolled in 1360?
 - Yes. You have to do the project requirements for 1360, but if you want to add the additional ability to do video or object tracking, you absolutely can.
- I have a great idea of methods to add, but it wasn't mentioned. Can I implement additional methods to my project?
 - Yes..

Frequently asked questions

- What is your late work policy?
 - You can turn in homework late for half credit. To stay on schedule with the course and project, it is important to keep up with the schedule, but I know things come up. You need to turn in the work by the end of the semester.
- What if I don't finish the semester project?
 - If you keep up with the milestones, you shouldn't have any problem finishing the minimum requirements, but you might not finish everything you planned to and wrote about in your white paper proposal of the project. In that case, I expect to see this documented on the white paper (which is part of the GitHub project).
 - I would rather you try too much and have to scale back, then to do the bare minimum.

Frequently asked questions

- Can I work on a language other than Python?
 - No. I really expect this to be done in Python. Matlab's version of OpenCV is very limited. If you have trouble with Python, there are many online resources, and we can help you in office hours.
- What if I don't know how to use GitHub?
 - Part of developing software for a company is making sure that the code is documented and tracked for the next person to use. These are skills that I want you to learn (or improve) in this course.

Side note on licenses*

* It is a requirement of your projects that you pay attention to these

Permissive License

- Apache license (OpenCV)
- MIT license
- BSD license
- Can distribute, modify, and distribute modified versions without royalty
- Allows proprietization (you can use it as part of a more restrictive license)
- Requires NOTICE file to be included in all derivatives
- MIT requires statement of “As Is” and original copyright notice to be included in the documentation.

Copyleft

- GPL license
- AGPL license
- Can distribute, modify, and distribute modified versions without royalty
- No proprietization (derivatives must keep the same license as the original)
- Requires NOTICE file to be included in all derivatives

Non-commercial

- JRL license
- AFPL license
- Can only be used for non-commercial use

Public Domain

- PD license
- CC0 license
- No restrictions at all

Proprietary

- Can't use!

Questions?

Types of Images

- Binary
 - 0 & 1
 - Used for masks
 - 1-bit per pixel
- Black & White image
 - 0 & 1
 - At least 8bit per pixel
 - Display provides smoothness



Although Binary and B&W both encode the same information (only 1 & 0's), the bit-depth changes how they are handled by display functions.

Types of Images

- Greyscale
 - Pixel values across range
 - At least 8bit per pixel
 - One color channel
- Color
 - Pixel values across range
 - At least 8bit per pixel
 - multiple color channels (typically 3 or 4)

Typically, the
“alpha” channel



Glossary:

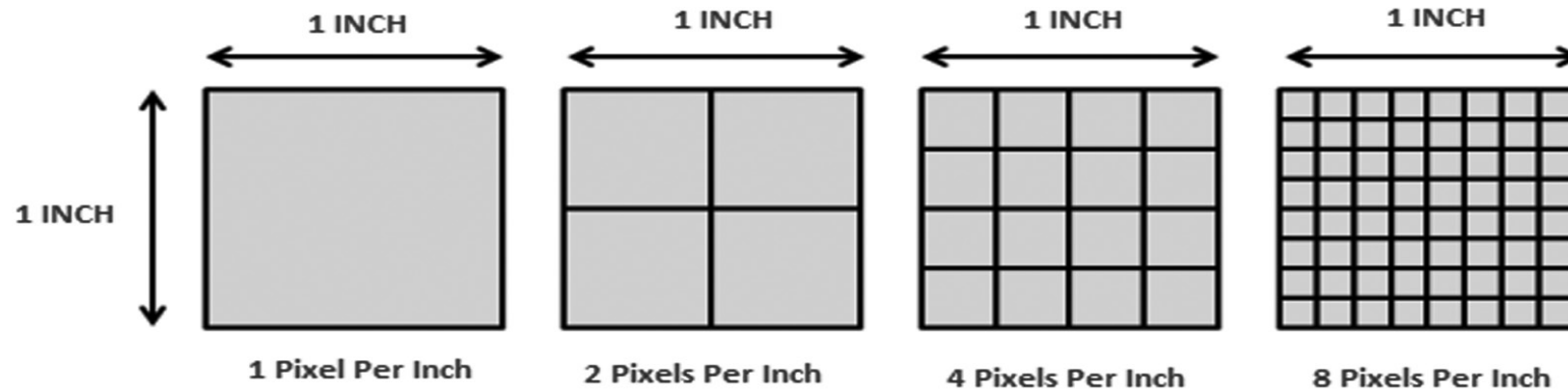
BPP: Bits per Pixel (bit depth)

| Bits per Pixel (bpp) | Number of Colors |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 bpp | 2 colors |
| 2 bpp | 4 colors |
| 3 bpp | 8 colors |
| 4 bpp | 16 colors |
| 5 bpp | 32 colors |
| 6 bpp | 64 colors |
| 7 bpp | 128 colors |
| 8 bpp | 256 colors |
| 10 bpp | 1024 colors |
| 16 bpp | 65,536 colors |
| 24 bpp | 16,777,216 colors (16.7 million colors) |
| 32 bpp | 4,294,967,296 colors (4294 million colors) |

Bit value is an index! You always also need to define a color map (e.g. RGB, HSV, etc)

Glossary:

- Pixel Density



Humans can't differentiate details beyond around 300 PPI

- Resolution

Bit more ambiguous of a term.

Sometimes:

- total number of pixels (e.g. 3Mpixels)

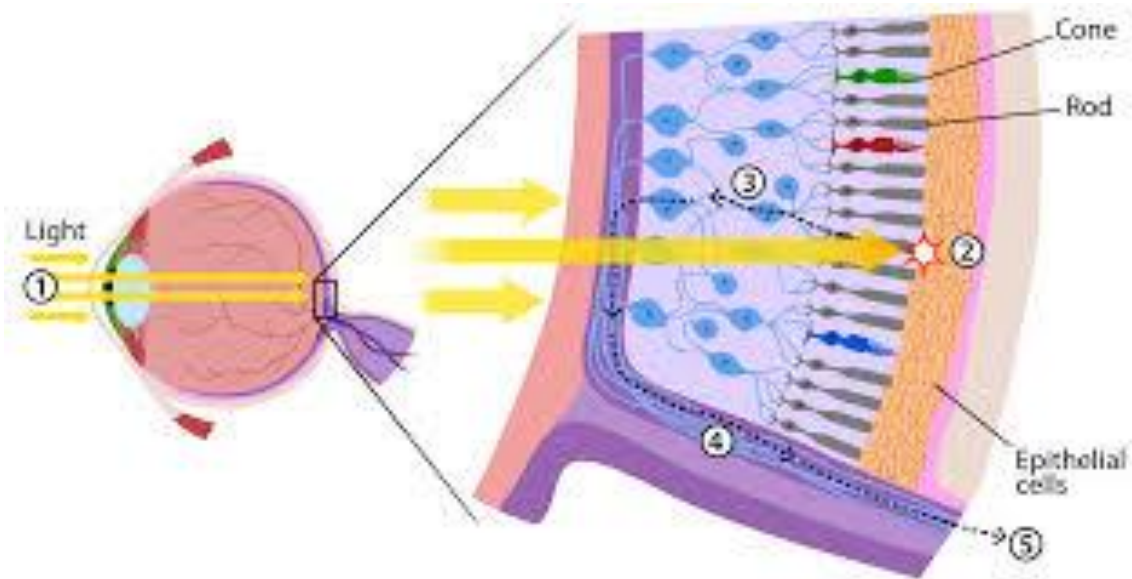
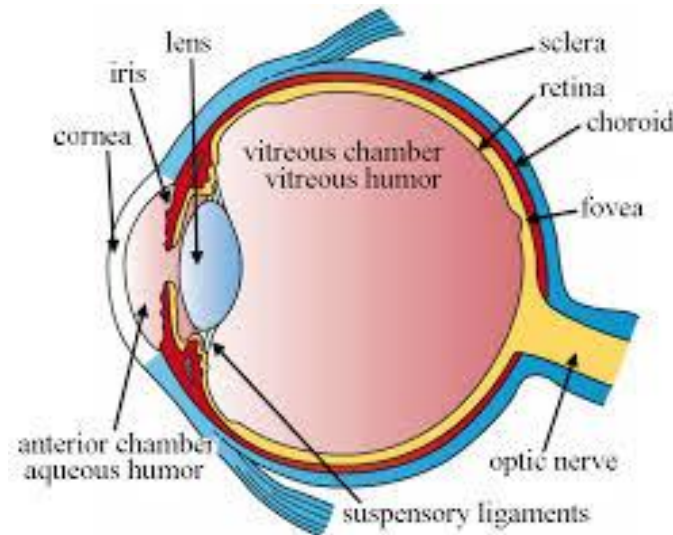
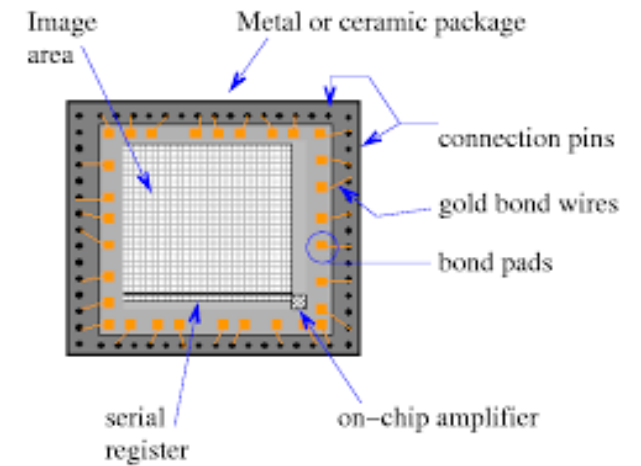
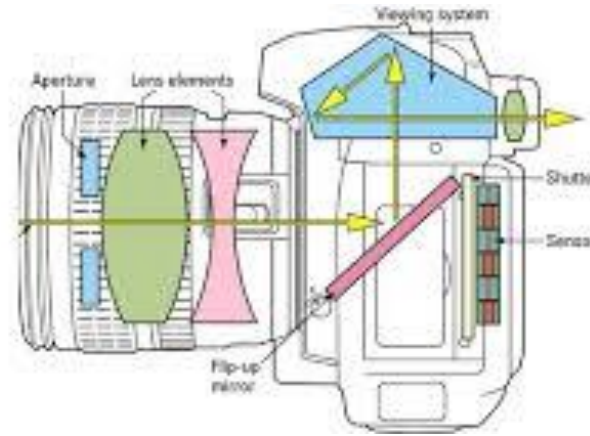
- dimensions (e.g. 2556 x 1179)

- PPI (e.g. 460ppi)

- Pixels/degree (e.g. Apple Retina™ display)

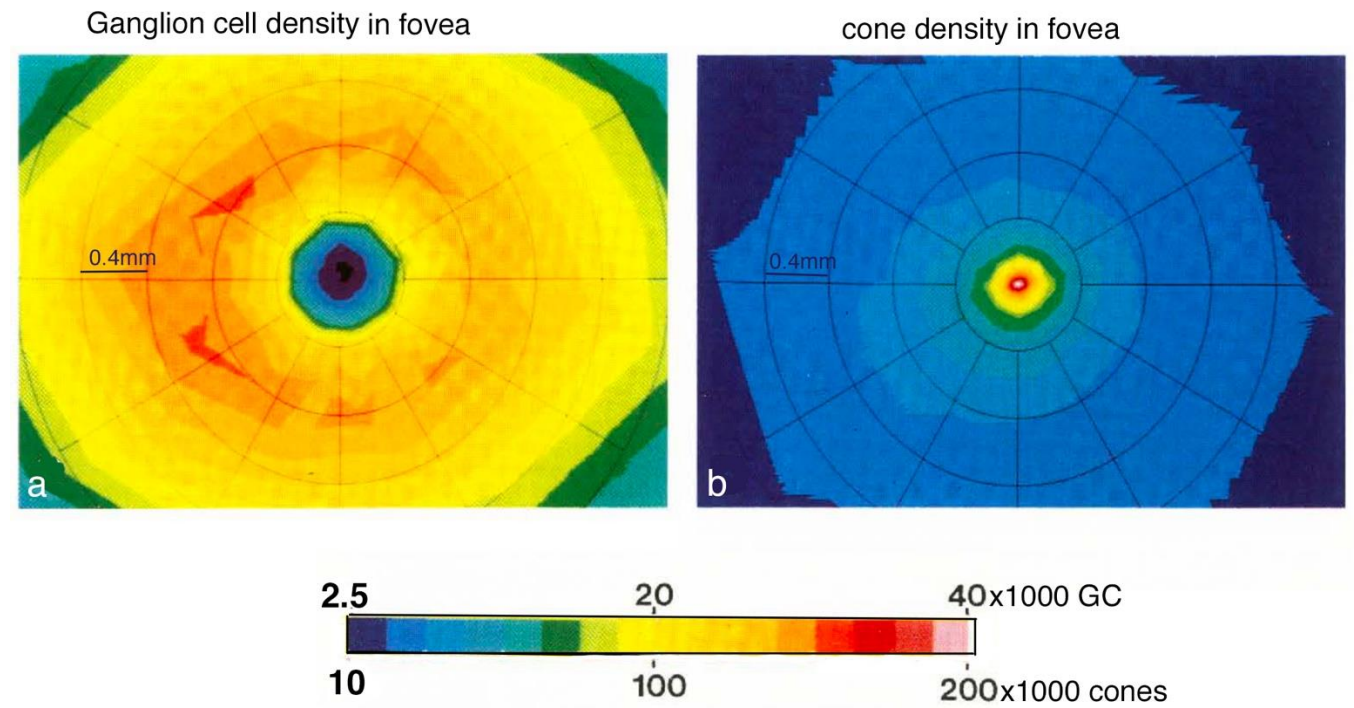
Glossary:

Resolution



Glossary:

Resolution



From Curcio and Allen 1990

- Visual acuity is highest at the center of the eye (fovea)
- Here, the limit of the human eye is about 60 pixels / degree (1 arc-minute)
e.g. 3600 pixels (60 x 60) in a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ area
- Depends on distance from object

Glossary:

Resolution



60 px/degree



30 px/degree



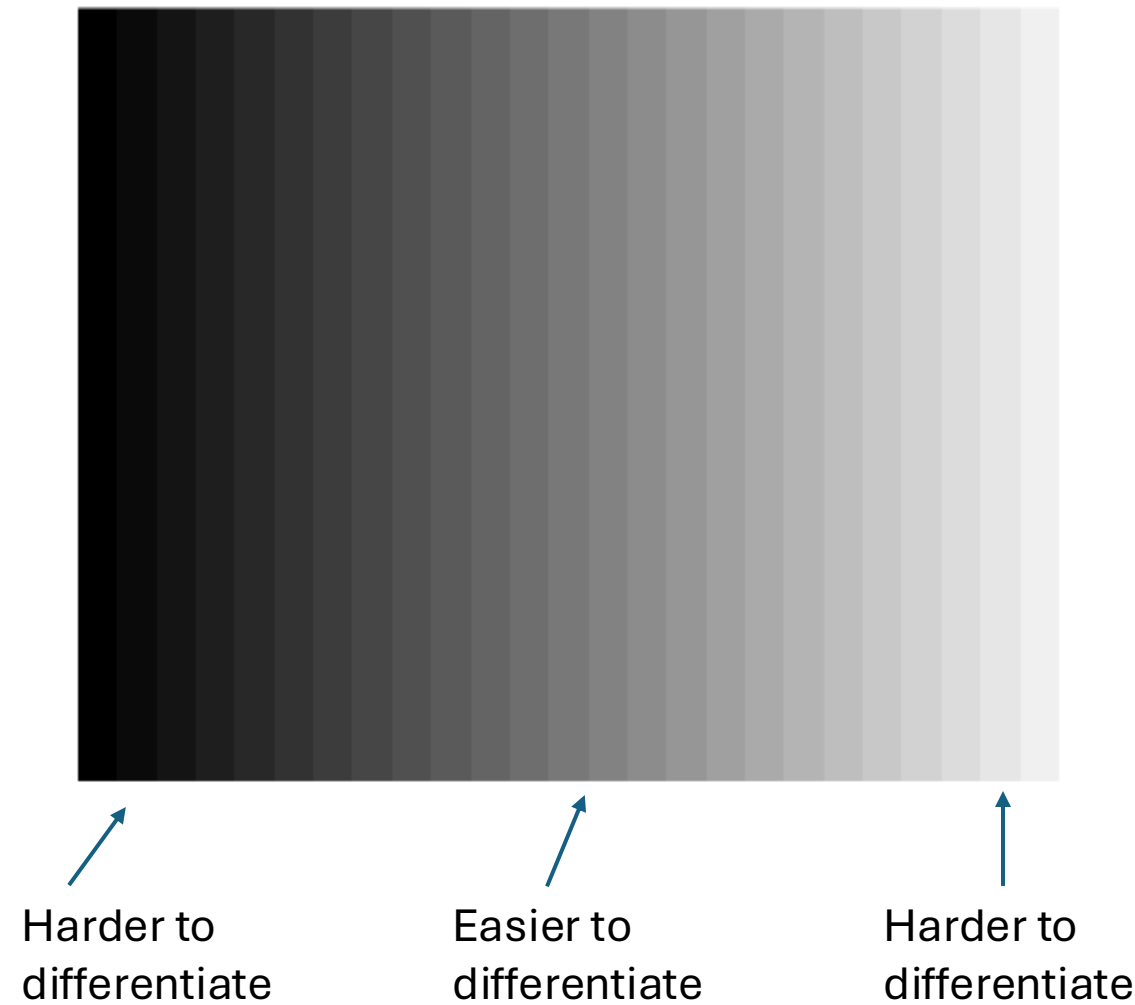
15 px/degree



7.5 px/degree

Glossary:

- Intensity
 - How large is the pixel value?
- Brightness
 - How does the eye perceive intensity
- Contrast
 - Range of intensities of pixels



Gamma correction (and similar) designed to adjust intensity → brightness (next lecture)

Glossary:

Raster images

- Use pixels.
- Lose information when resizing/zooming

-E.g.

JPEG, PNG, TIFF



Raster
GIF, JPEG, PNG



Vector
SVG

Glossary:

Vector images

- Define the image using piecewise formulas.
- Lossless when resizing/zooming
- Converted to raster for display

-E.g.

SVG, EPS, PDF, AI, PSD



Raster
GIF, JPEG, PNG



Vector
SVG

Glossary:

Tiff (Tag Image File Format)

- Raster image format
- Most versatile for colors
- Supports RGB, CMY, Grayscale, and more
- Uncompressed (large file sizes, but lossless)

JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group)

- Raster image format
- Compressed image data (smaller size, but degradation)

GIF (Graphics Interchange Format)

- Raster image format
- Compressed color maps (smaller size, less color contrast)

OpenCV (<https://opencv.org/>)

- Developed by Intel in 1999
- Open-source (<https://github.com/opencv>)
- Apache License 2

Features:

- Image processing and visualization
- Object recognition
- Segmentation
- Facial and gesture recognition
- Image homography/registration
- Depth perception
- Deep learning methods

Code:

- Written in C++
- Bindings in Python, Java, Matlab
- CUDA support (since 2010)
- Currently version 4

