

Math/Computer Science Colloquium Series

Bits and Babs:

Quantitative Analyses of Qualitative Face Classification

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When we look at a face, we readily perceive that person's gender, expression, identity, age, and attractiveness. For the most part, perceivers as well as scientists have hitherto had little success in articulating just what information we are employing to achieve these subjectively immediate and effortless classifications. I will discuss a method that quantitatively estimates this information. The method provides a linear estimate of the ineffable categories that exist in one's mind. Because the method makes so few assumptions about our test subjects, my colleagues and I have used this procedure to compare the information strategies used by humans, baboons, and a theoretical computer observer. There is a clear difference in that one species appears to make more efficient use of the available information. Come to the talk to see if it is man or monkey that prevails.

Tuesday, September 29

2:45 p.m.

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Homemade Cookies!