AGE-RELATED CHANGES IN SPATIO-CHROMATIC CONTRAST SENSITIVITY AT MESOPIC AND PHOTOPIC LIGHT LEVELS

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Physiological^[1] and neural changes in human visual system with age lead to changes in contrast sensitivity^[2]

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- Senescence of spatio-chromatic contrast sensitivity at high light levels^[3] has not been investigated before
- We are investigating the joint effects of luminance and age on spatio-chromatic contrast sensitivity

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 1,000,000 : 1



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- Spatial frequencies: 0.5,
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- 3 color directions
- Mean luminances: 0.02,
 0.2, 2, 20, 200, 2000,
 and 7000 cd/m²



• 4AFC detection task

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- Initial contrast threshold estimate using method of adjustment

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- Initial contrast threshold estimate using method of adjustment
- 5 spatial frequencies and 3 color directions interleaved within each session
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- Viewing distance: 91 cm; Display size: 12.5° x 9.4°

OBSERVERS

- Color normal observers
- 20 young participants; mean age: 33 years
- 20 older participants: mean age: 65 years

RESULTS

- GENERAL TRENDS
- AGE-DEPENDENCE
- PARAMETRIC MODELLING



GENERAL TRENDS

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- Contrast sensitivity functions (CSFs):
 - Increases with background luminance up to around 200 cd/m²
 - Declines after 200 cd/m² in luminance channel
 - Becomes fairly constant after 200 cd/m² in chromatic channels

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- The difference is roughly constant across colour directions and light levels
- Older observers show larger decline in sensitivity for higher spatial frequencies at high photopic light levels

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- Rate of decrease in peak sensitivity and cut-off frequency is luminance dependent

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Linear regression lines fitted to age vs. optimized values of logparabola parameters.

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- At higher luminances, sensitivity of higher spatial frequencies are deteriorated with age more than that of lower frequencies

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- Developing an application for orthoptic assessment for people in older age groups
- Developing framework for an age-adaptive display algorithm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research has been supported by:

- EPSRC EP/P007503
- Apple Inc
- Summer vacation bursary program

EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Special thanks to our interns Kristof Santa and Olivia Kingston for collecting valuable data