

contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
1. Introduction to the Study of Visual Perception	1
The Structure of the Book	2
Section One Perception as Sensory Organization	5
2. Sensory Processes in Visual Perception	7
Introduction	7
Specifications of Visual Stimulation	7
<i>Sources of Light</i>	7
<i>Projections of Objects</i>	9
The Representation of Visual Stimulation in Retinal Projection	11
<i>Intensity of Light</i>	12
<i>The Size of Objects</i>	14
<i>Sharpness of Contour</i>	15
The Visual Nervous System	19
<i>Visual Anatomy</i>	19
<i>Retinal Structure</i>	23
<i>Adaptation to Retinal Stimulation</i>	27
<i>Mechanisms of Dark Adaptation</i>	29
<i>Light Adaptation</i>	30
<i>Visual Pathways to the Brain</i>	31
Summary	33
Readings	33
3. Sensory Coding Mechanisms	35
Introduction	35
Strategies for Coding	37
<i>Ignore All Steady-State Stimulation</i>	38
<i>Specialize the Visual System for Different Functions</i>	38
<i>Precode Critical Visual Features</i>	38
Mechanisms to Ignore Steady-State Excitation	39
<i>Lateral Summation and Inhibition</i>	39
<i>Receptive Field Organization</i>	42

	<i>On-Off Receptive Field Structures</i>	43
	<i>Temporal Steady-State Inhibition</i>	46
	<i>Edge-Enhancement Techniques</i>	47
	Mechanisms to Specialize the Visual System for Different Functions—	
	Trade-Offs	49
	<i>Sensitivity to Low Illumination as Opposed to Color and Acuity</i>	49
	<i>Wide versus Dynamic Range of Sensitivity</i>	50
	<i>Central Acuity versus Peripheral Attention</i>	50
	<i>Temporal versus Spatial Resolution</i>	52
	Precoded Critical Visual Features	52
	<i>Electrophysiological Studies of Receptive Fields</i>	52
	<i>Selective Adaptation Studies</i>	55
	<i>Features versus Frequencies</i>	57
	Summary	58
	Readings	59
4.	The Perception of Color	60
	Introduction	60
	Prerequisites for the Perception of Color	61
	Wavelength Composition of Light—The Stimulus for Color	61
	The Descriptions of Color	66
	<i>Luminance and Brightness</i>	66
	<i>Dominant Wavelength and Hue</i>	68
	<i>Purity and Saturation</i>	69
	The Receptors for Color Perception	70
	Color Coding beyond the Receptors	75
	<i>Neural Evidence for Opponent Coding Processes</i>	78
	Color as a Unique Perceptual Experience	80
	The Adaptation of Color Perception	80
	<i>Rod Adaptation</i>	81
	<i>Cone Adaptation</i>	81
	Color Contrast	82
	Color Constancy	83
	Defective Color Perception	83
	Summary	84
	Readings	85
5.	Psychophysical Measurement and Parameters	86
	Introduction	86
	Sensory Scales: Classical Psychophysics	87
	<i>Types of Scales</i>	87
	<i>Sensory Qualities</i>	88
	The Concept of Threshold	88
	<i>Obtaining a Zero Point: Absolute Threshold</i>	88

<i>Obtaining a Unit: Differential Threshold</i>	92
The Psychophysical Methods	96
Response Indicators	98
Signal-Detection Theory—An Alternative to Thresholds	99
The Perception of Brightness	103
<i>Minimum Sensitivity</i>	103
<i>Sensitivity to Change in Intensity</i>	104
<i>Effect of Retinal Location, Area of Light, Duration of Light on Sensitivity</i>	106
Brightness Contrast	108
Brightness Constancy	110
Visual Acuity	112
<i>Acuity Tasks and Measurement</i>	113
<i>Determinants and Limits of Visual Acuity</i>	115
Summary	117
Readings	118
6. Temporal Factors in Visual Perception	119
Introduction	119
Temporal Summation and Temporal Integration	121
Visual Masking Phenomena	124
<i>Masking by Light</i>	124
<i>Masking by Adjacent Contour—Metacontrast</i>	128
<i>Masking by Visual Noise</i>	131
The Duration of the Present	134
Perception of Simultaneity and of Temporal Order	138
Temporal Numerosity	140
The Perception of Flicker	140
The Perceptual Moment Hypothesis	145
Summary	150
Readings	151
Section Two Perception as Information Processing	153
7. Information Processing of Visual Stimulation	157
Introduction	157
The Nature of Information-Processing Analyses	157
<i>Assumptions</i>	158
<i>Storage or Memory</i>	158
<i>Processes</i>	159
<i>Information</i>	159
A Model for Perceptual Information-Processing Tasks	161
<i>Brief Visual or Iconic Storage</i>	162
<i>Visual Image Representation</i>	163

	<i>Short-Term Memory</i>	164
	<i>Long-Term Memory</i>	165
	<i>Output Processes</i>	165
	<i>Interconnections</i>	166
	<i>Iconic Storage</i>	167
	<i>Visual Persistence Studies</i>	167
	<i>Partial Report Studies</i>	168
	<i>What Is Stored in Iconic Storage?</i>	170
	<i>Information Extraction from the Icon</i>	170
	<i>Rate of Processing</i>	171
	<i>Direction of Processing</i>	172
	<i>Effect of Familiarity on Information Extraction</i>	172
	<i>Integration of Successive Fixations—The Visual Image</i>	
	Representation	173
	Summary	174
	Readings	175
8.	<i>Figural Synthesis—The Perception of Form</i>	176
	Introduction	176
	The Role of Inhomogeneity in the Perception of Form	177
	<i>Ganzfeld Research</i>	177
	<i>Stabilized Retinal Projections</i>	179
	Figure-Ground Segregation	183
	Figural Organization	187
	<i>The Gestalt Organizational Laws</i>	188
	<i>Informational Aspects of Figures</i>	191
	<i>Microgenetic Development of Contours</i>	196
	The Representation of Form	198
	<i>Properties of the Perception of Form</i>	198
	<i>Models of Form Perception</i>	200
	Summary	202
	Readings	202
9.	<i>Selection in Visual Search</i>	204
	Introduction	204
	Conception of Visual Search Processes	205
	Visual Acuity during Eye Movements	207
	Attentional Fields	211
	Searching for Forms	216
	Eye Movements in Reading	218
	Searching Pictures	222
	Summary	226
	Readings	227
10.	<i>Selection in Perception</i>	228
	Introduction	228

Visual Search Revisited	230
Instructional Set Experiments	235
Processing Time Studies	239
Character Classification	240
Interference during Encoding	243
Summary	245
Readings	246
11. Visual Recognition and Identification	247
Introduction	247
Familiarity	248
<i>Processing Single Letters</i>	249
<i>Approximation to English</i>	250
<i>Scanning</i>	256
<i>Processing Words</i>	259
Motivational and Affective States	264
Recognition of Pictures and Scenes	266
Summary	272
Readings	273
Section Three Perception as Spatial Organization	275
12. Two Major Points of View on the Perception of Space	279
Introduction	279
The Empiricist Point of View	280
<i>Equivalent Configurations and Stimulus Inadequacy</i>	281
<i>The Ames Chair Demonstration</i>	283
The Psychophysical Point of View	285
<i>The Visual World and the Visual Field</i>	286
<i>The Ground Theory—Texture, Surface, Gradients, Transformations</i>	287
<i>The Constant Scale of Space</i>	289
Which Point of View Is Correct?	291
Summary	293
Readings	293
13. Spatial Information Available to the Perceiver	295
Introduction	295
Information in a Fixed Monocular Retinal Pattern	295
<i>Surface Texture and Perspective</i>	296
<i>Surface-at-a-Slant</i>	297
<i>Size-at-a-Distance</i>	300
<i>Corner and Edge</i>	302
<i>Occlusion, Overlay, and Interposition</i>	305
<i>Gradients of Illumination</i>	307
Information in Fixed Bioncular Retinal Projections	308

<i>Visual Directions</i>	308
<i>Convergence</i>	310
<i>Corresponding Points on the Two Retinas</i>	311
<i>Stereopsis</i>	313
Information in Changing a Retinal Pattern	315
<i>Radial Movement</i>	316
<i>Motion Parallax</i>	317
<i>Motion Perspective</i>	319
<i>Continuous Perspective Transformation</i>	323
<i>The Psychophysics of Retinal Change</i>	323
Summary	325
Readings	325
14. The Perception of Motion and Movement	326
Introduction	326
Three Views of Movement Perception	326
Motion-Detection Systems	328
The Psychophysics of Motion and Movement	331
Integration of Visual and Motor Information	334
Adaptation to Systematic Visual Distortion	336
<i>Innsbruck Studies</i>	336
Visual versus Proprioceptive Change	346
Passive versus Active Movement	350
Summary	351
Readings	352
15. The Development of Visual Space Perception	353
Introduction	353
Prerequisites for Perception in the Newborn	353
Perceptual Abilities of the Human Infant	354
<i>Intensity</i>	355
<i>Simple Stimulus Features</i>	355
<i>Natural Patterns of Looking</i>	359
<i>The Visual Field of Infants</i>	360
<i>Space</i>	361
<i>Configurational Meaning</i>	366
The Scale and Metric of Visual Space	369
Summary	370
Readings	370
<i>References</i>	371
<i>Name Index</i>	387
<i>Subject Index</i>	393