

Face Recognition Accuracy with Masks

USING PRE-COVID-19 ALGORITHMS

On July 27, 2020, NIST released its first Face Recognition Vendor Test (FRVT) specifically oriented at studying the performance of face recognition algorithms on faces wearing masks. Due to the rapid emergence of COVID-19, this report was compiled using faces with synthetically added face masks of different sizes and colors, and with standard face recognition algorithms developed prior to COVID-19.

The full report, available at https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/reports/facemask/frvt_facemask_report.pdf,

assesses a number of mask types, including different colors and shapes. The data summarized here is associated with medium-sized, light blue masks, which cover the nose, and which represent a broadly applicable, generic mask type.

With this mask type as well as all other types tested, Paravision demonstrates second-ranked accuracy among 89 leading global vendors, and first-ranked among US, UK, and European vendors, with a True Match Rate of >97% at a False Match Rate of 0.001%.

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Per NISTIR 8311, July 2020

