Thermal imaging of facial expressions: investigating thermal correlates of Facial Action Units activities



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Thermography for emotions study, why?

PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASURES



Cardiac pulse (ECG)





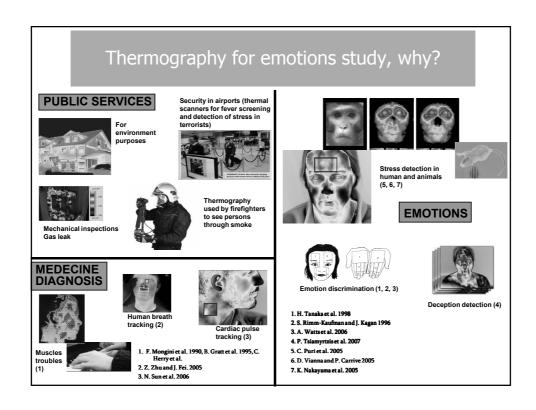
Skin conductance



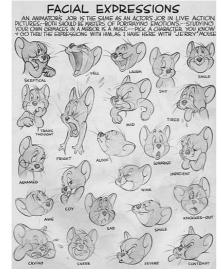
FLIR SC3000

THERMAL IMAGING A NEW PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASURE

* Non invasive technique * Avoids overloading equipment * Investigation of original physiological patterns (skin temperatures)







http://riendetout.over-blog.org/article-14411041-6.html

Goal of this work:

Validating the thermal imaging technique for assessing the fluctuations of facial heat patterns.

Measuring the camera sensitivity to kinetics, intensities and specificities

First interest: facial heat patterns

Emotional facial expressions can be systematically coded using Facial Action Coding System (FACS)

FACS experts as subjects

Thermal correlates of facial action units

Questions and Hypotheses

QUESTIONS

- Kinetics

Is thermography sensitive to **kinetics**?

- Intensities

Is thermography sensitive to **intensity**?

Specificity

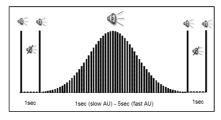
Is thermography sensitive to muscles **specificity**?

HYPOTHESES

- Each AU has a specific recognizable facial heat pattern associated
- Temperature changes in specific muscles are correlated with their associated action unit simulation
- Thermography can be an adapted tool for studying kinetics and intensities of the AUs

Protocol

- 4 FACS experts: 1 man and 3 women from 28 to 51 years old all righthanded except one woman
- 9 different AUs
- 3 intensities: just perceptible / normal / high
- 2 speeds: slow(5sec) / fast(1sec)
- Thermal camera + optical camera
- Head till





The Action Units

AU	DESCRIPTION	MUSCLE	IMAGE
AU1+2	Inner and outer brow raiser	Frontalis	★ ★ ★
AU4	Brow lowerer	Corrugator	36
AU5	Upper lid raiser	Levator palpebrae superioris	6
AU6+12	Cheek raiser and lip corner puller	Orbicularis oculi + zygomaticus major	
AU12	Lip corner puller	Zygomaticus major	3
AU12+25	Lip corner puller and lips part	Zygomaticus major + depressor labii inferioris	8
AU25	Lips part	Depressor labii inferioris	ě
AU9+10	Nose wrinkler and upper lip raiser	Levator labii superioris	20
AU14	Dimpler	Buccinator	les

http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/project/face/www/facs.htm

Methods

- 1st step: thermal images registration

 - Images alignment using similarity criteria
 Registration using control points and a template constructed from Karolinska mean faces
- 2nd step: two different approaches to answer the questions
 - Principal Component Analyses (data-driven)
 - Anatomical approach using the ARTANATOMY tool (ROI)

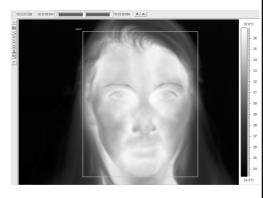
<u>http://www.artanatomia.net</u> Victoria Contreras Flores SPAIN 20005

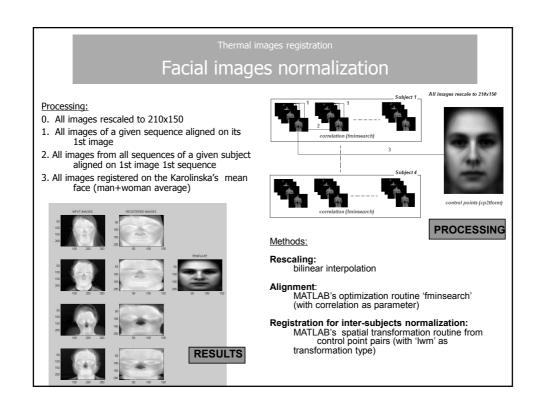
FIRST STEP Thermal images registration

Images exportation

- Exportation from ThermaCAM
 - Images -> .MAT files
- Reduction of facial images for speed and disk space optimization
 - the 4 FACS experts head should fit into the rectangle during all sequences
 - Chosen size: 210x150
- Facial images extraction and creation of one images array per sequence
 - 238 images for FAST AU sequences306 images for SLOW AU sequences

 - 1 image each 17ms





SECOND STEP Data-driven approach Principal Component Analysis Anatomically-based

The 2 approaches

DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH: PCA

Representative heat patterns production

Principal Components mean grouping by AU using one of these criteria:

- iteria:

 Components whose <u>eigenvalue>1</u>: our retained criteria
- <u>Visual selection</u> of interesting components: time-consuming and subjective analysis
- 90% explained variance: automatic and objective but not as good results as with the eigenvalue criteria

Kinetics + phases determination

- Plot PC grouping same AUs by speed (F/S)20% extreme curve

Intensities

- Plot factor scores and correlations grouping same AUs by intensity (JP/N/H) + permutations
- Specificities and Pattern recognition: Are these maps good indicators of the AUs?
 - Correlations between each image of each sequence with each heat pattern maps
 Non-parametric permutation analysis 1000times

ROI APPROACH: ANATOMICALLY-BASED

Facial ROI definitions

- Anatomical template creation: ARTANATOMY + previous registration technique
- Masks creation: MATLAB's routine '<u>roipoly'</u> on the registered template
- $\underline{\text{ROIs-temperature mean}} \text{ under each condition}$

Kinetics + phases determination

- Plot ROI temperature variations grouping same AUs by speed (F/S)
- 20% extreme curve

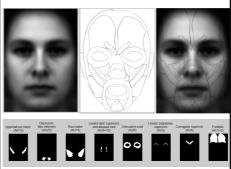
Intensities

- Plot ROI temperature variations grouping same AUs by intensity (JP/N/H) + permutations
- Specificities and Pattern recognition: Are these ROIs-temperature good indicators of the AUs?
 - Non-parametric <u>permutation</u> analysis 1000times

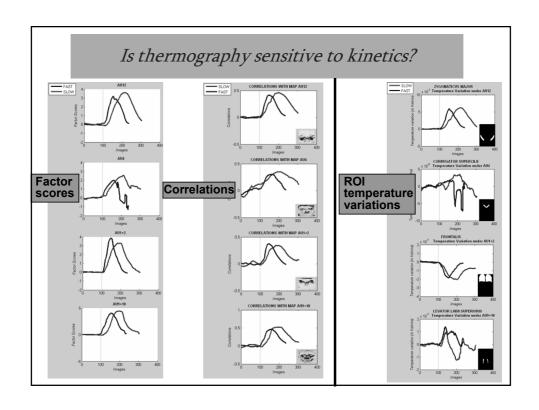
Heat patterns and anatomical ROI



Facial heat patterns



Anatomical ROI

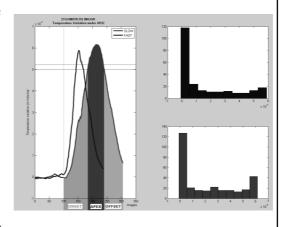


ONSET, APEX or OFFSET phases determination

ONSET PHASE = phase where the muscles are contracting and the appearance of the face changes as the facial action grows stronger

APEX PHASE = phase where the facial action is at its peak and there are no more changes in facial appearance due to this particular facial action

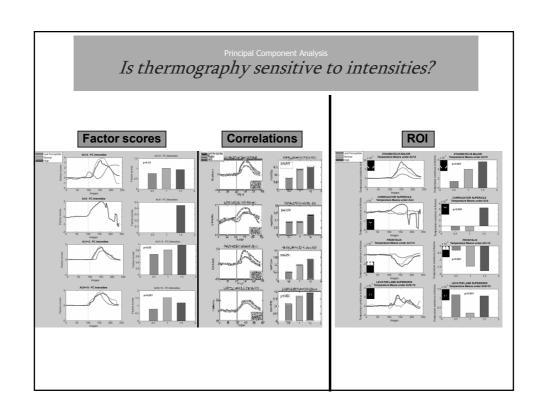
<u>OFFSET PHASE</u> = phase where the muscles are relaxing and the face returns to its neutral appearance

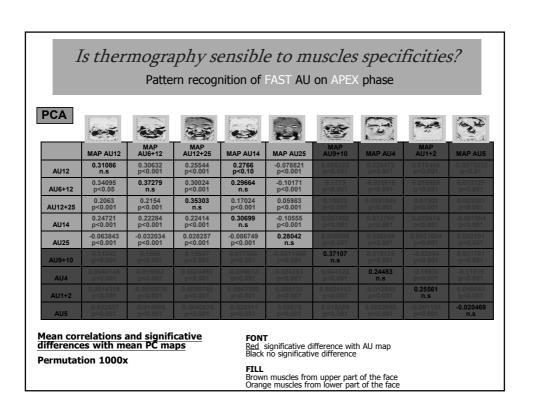


In literature: onset duration is 0.935sec (i.e. 55 frames)

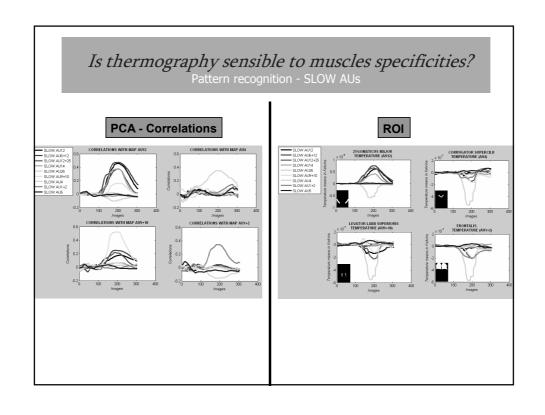
Fully Automatic Facial Action Unit Detection and Temporal Analysis. Valstar, M. Pantic, M. Imperial College London, UK; : Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Workshop, 2006

-> do not differentiate slow from fast AU





ROI		00			()	~		~ ^
	ROI AU12	ROI AU6	ROI AU25	ROI AU14	ROI AU9+10	ROI AU4	ROI AU1+2	ROI AU5
AU12	3.7877e- 007 n.s	-5.6628e-008 p<0.001	-1.3684e-007 p<0.001	2.7866e-007 p<0.20	-8.824e-008 p<0.001	1.4178e-008 n.s	-1.8128e-008 p<0.001	-1.6379e-008 p<0.001
AU6+12	4.5308e-007	-1.2078e-007	-1.8582e-007	3.0487e-007	-1.6947e-008	-2.0061e-008	-4.2351e-009	-3.3317e-008
	p<0.020	n.s	p<0.001	p<0.01	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001
AU12+25	2.7397e-007	-1.6711e-007	-5.3839e-008	2.1072e-007	-1.6215e-007	-1.1719e-007	-1.3896e-007	-1.5987e-007
	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.20	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.20	p<0.001
AU25	-2.3962e-	-2.2262e-007	3.5292e-008	-2.6978e-007	-1.9064e-007	-2.0924e-007	-2.1963e-007	-2.6311e-007
	007 p<0.001	p<0.001	n.s	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001
AU14	2.3434e-007	2.4722e-008	-9.4156e-008	2.4399e-007	4.8037e-008	4.8518e-008	4.1566e-008	5.1471e-008
	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	n.s	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001
AU9+10	2.4917e-008	-3.1044e-007	-1.494e-007	-5.5438e-008	8.2813e-008	-5.7625e-008	-4.2082e-008	-2.3107e-007
	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	n.s	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001
AU4	-2.0237e-	-1.159e-007	-4.4608e-009	-1.6986e-008	2.0782e-008	1.375e-008	1.6828e-008	-2.015e-007
	008 p<0.001	n.s	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	n.s	p<0.001	p<0.001
AU1+2	1.0749e-008	1.8122e-007	1.3319e-008	1.1848e-008	2.0357e-009	-9.767e-008	-1.2266e-007	6.6972e-008
	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.020	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	n.s	p<0.001
AU5	4.3539e-009	-1.311e-008	1.0253e-008	7.2841e-009	1.8644e-008	-2.236e-009	1.9618e-008	1.26e-007
	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.01	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	n.s



Conclusions



Is thermography sensitive to kinetics?

In general yes.

Possibility to determine a precise APEX phase

Problem with: AU12+25 (factor scores) / AU9+10 (in both methods)

Is thermography sensitive to intensities?

Problem with: AU12 (factor scores) / AU14 (factor scores) / AU12+25 (correlations) / AU4 and 5 (missing significative PC @JP intensity)

Is thermography sensitive to muscles specificities?

In general yes.

Creation of specific facial heat pattern associated to each AU

Eigenvalue criteria better than 90% of variance criteria for constructing these maps.

Problem with: AU12 confusion with Map AU14 @fast / AU6+12 confusion with Map AU14 @fast / AU6+12 confusion with Maps AU12+25 and AU14 @slow / AU1+2 confusion with Map AU5 @slow

ROI

Is thermography sensitive to kinetics?

In general yes.

Possibility to determine an APEX phase

Problem with: AU25

Is thermography sensitive to intensities?

In general ves.

Problem with: AU25

Is thermography sensitive to muscles specificities?

In general yes.

Zygomaticus and corrugator contractions seem to be associated with an increase of temperature while frontalis activations is linked with a decrease of temperature

Problem with: AU12 confusion with Map AU14 @fast&slow / AU12+25 confusion with ROI14, 1+2 @fast and ROI12 and 25 not recognized / AU4 confusion with ROI6 @fast / AU1+2 confusion with ROI9+10 @slow

Discussion

Possible reasons for decreasing temperature in frontalis area?

- Inter-individual anatomic differences:

 - Presence and position of arterial veins in the frontal head Size of brows (cold area) passing on the frontalis zone studied while raising brows Hairs can be present in the top of the frontalis area Crumpling of the skin while contracting the frontalis
- AU simulation performances:

 - The results could depend on the quality of the simulation. Subject 4 was the FACS teacher and has bigger activation and clear corrugator heating and frontalis colding but she was also closer from the camera than other and simulated less AUs.

 Possible overlap between AU9+10 / AU5 / AU1+2, difficult task

General conclusion

- Thermography proved to be an adaptive tool for detecting movements in the face
- PCA or Anatomical approach, most appropriate method?
 - Anatomical approach seems to be more sensitive to kinetics and intensities
 - PCA is a global method without a-priori while anatomically-based approach implies some presumptions and appropriate ROIs selection and these ROIs are greatly influence by movements of facial skin.
 - PCA with eigenvalue criteria give facial heat patterns associated to AUs

PCA and anatomical approaches seem to be complementary, PCA can be used for a 1st exploratory analysis, while anatomical method can further investigate regions appearing on PCA for differentiating for example AU6+12 from AU12 (smiles).

Next investigations:

Is global facial temperature an indicator of real emotions?

-> Experiment with spontaneous emotions with odors and images

Is it possible to differentiate what is muscles movement warming from what is emotion-induced skin warming?

These last results that can differentiate AU12, from AU4, AU1+2 and 9+10 let us believe that spontaneous emotions will be detectable with this thermal imaging technique.



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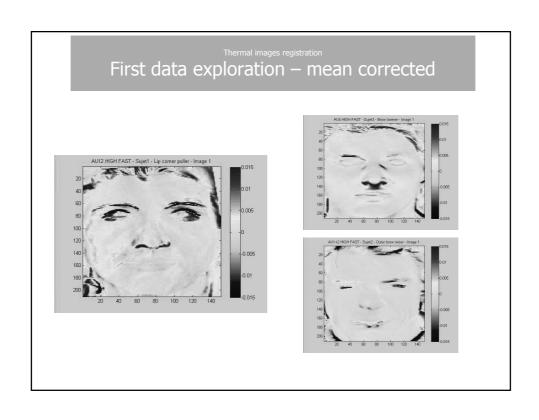
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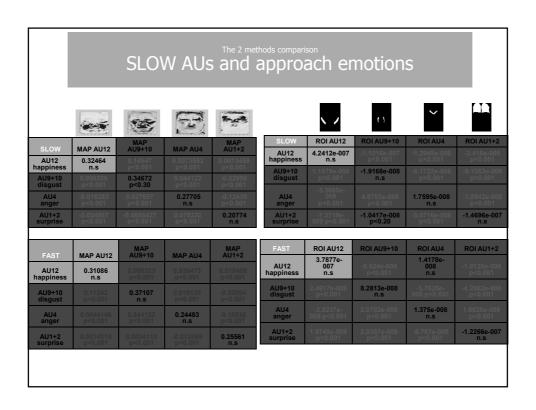


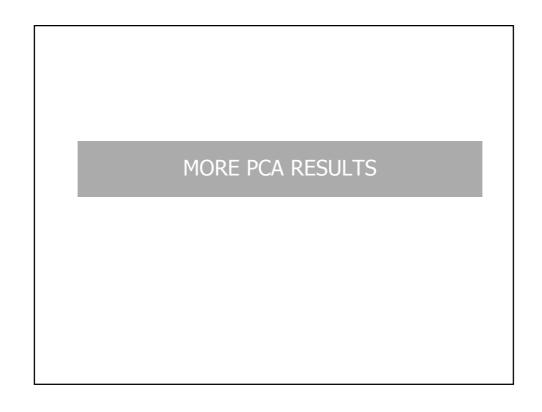
David Sander

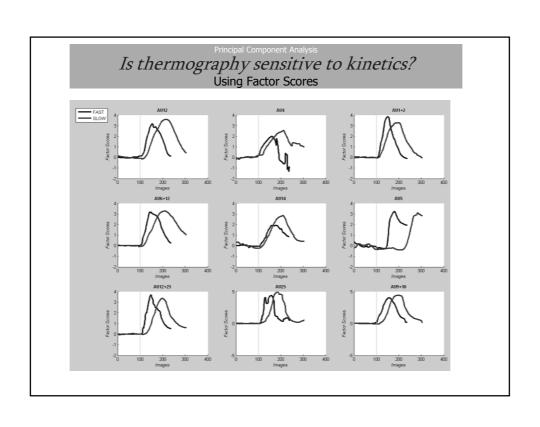


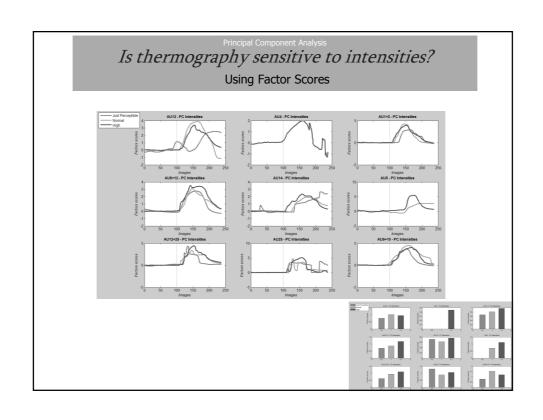
Lucas Tamarit

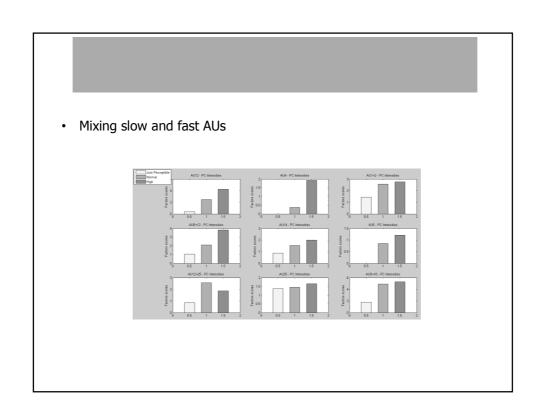


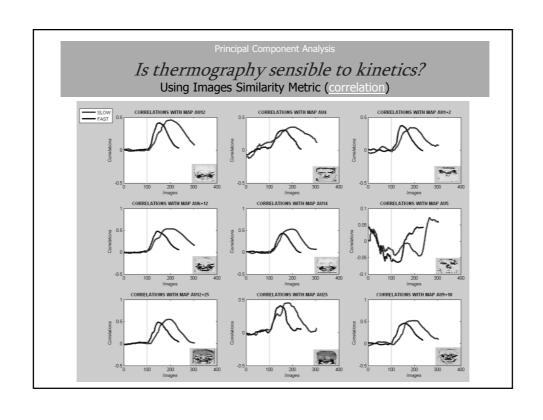


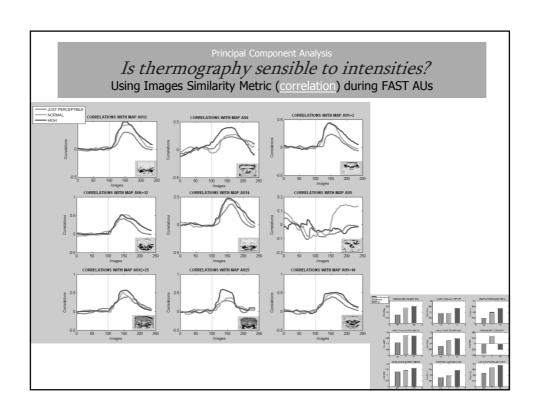


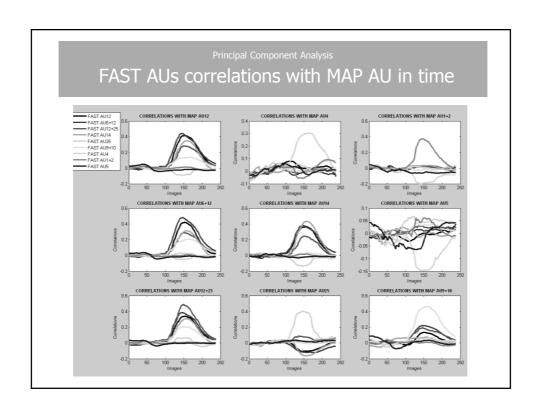


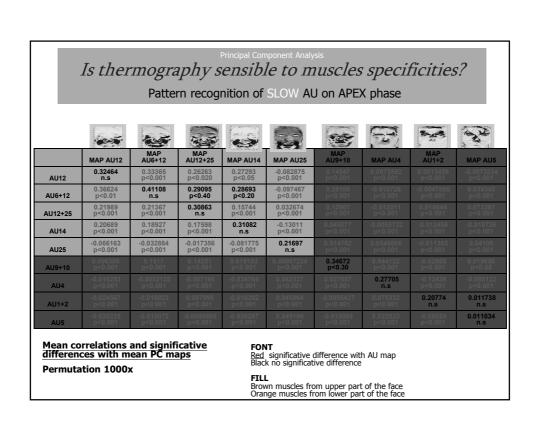


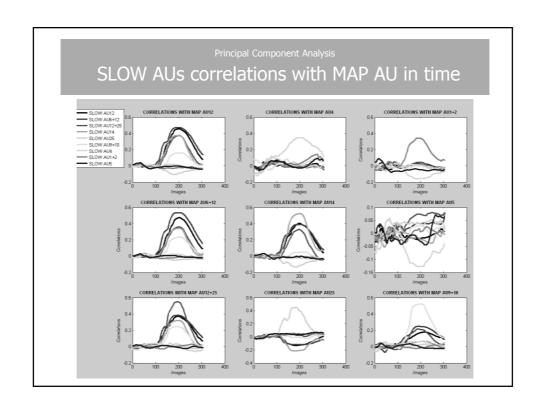












MORE ANATOMICAL RESULTS

