letter on a subsequent appearance; the effect is known as priming. The question that interested us was whether priming would occur only in particular circumstances. We argued that if the final letter is the same as the priming letter and appears in the same frame as the priming letter, the two should be seen as belonging to the same object; in this case we could think of the perceptual task as simply re-viewing the original object in its shifted position. If, on the other hand, a new letter appears in the same frame, the object file should have to be updated, perhaps increasing the time it takes for subjects to become aware of the letter and name it.
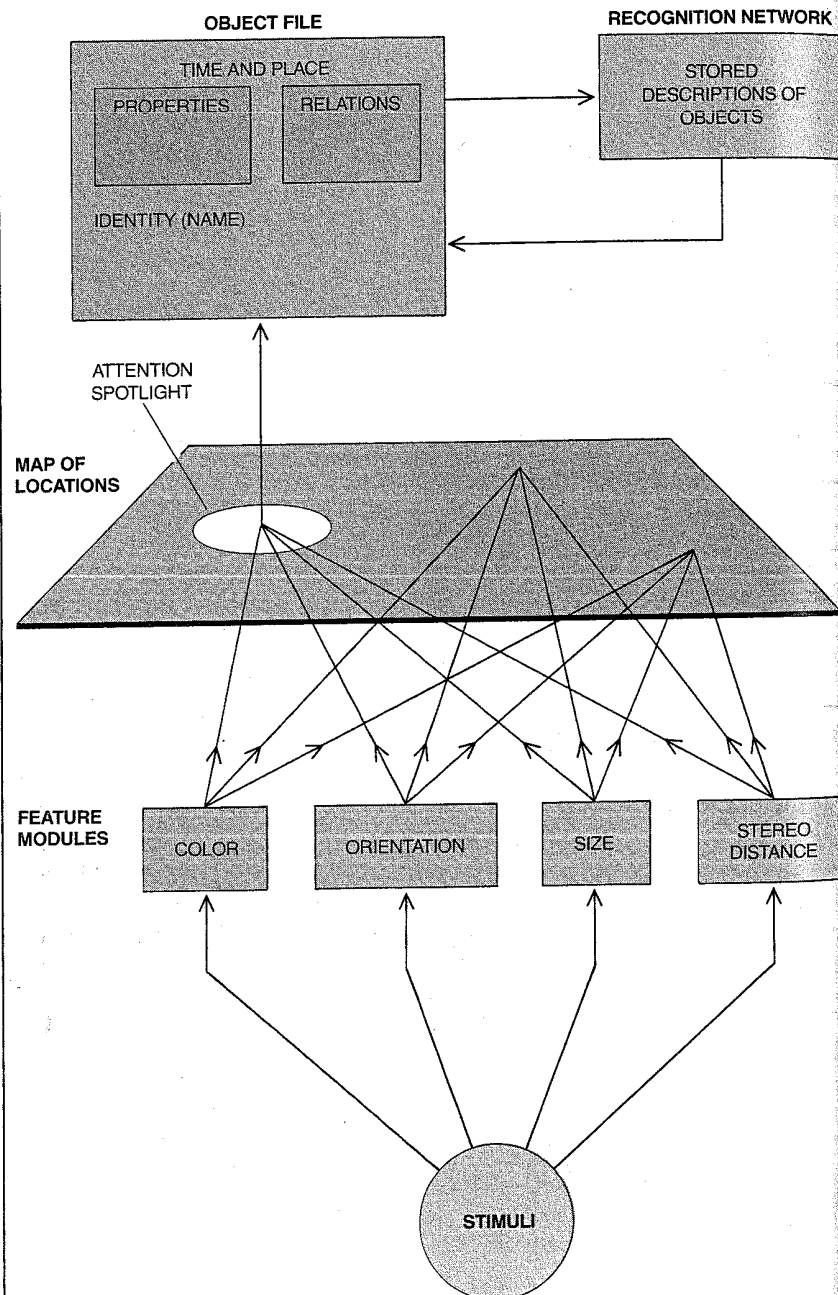


HYPOTHETICAL MODEL of the early stages in visual perception emerges from the author's experiments. The model proposes that early vision encodes some simple and useful properties of a scene in a number of feature maps, which may preserve the spatial relations of the visual world but do not themselves make spatial information available to subsequent processing stages. Instead focused attention (employing a master map of locations) selects and integrates the features present at particular locations. At later stages the integrated information serves to create and update files on perceptual objects. In turn the file contents are compared with descriptions stored in a recognition network. The network incorporates the attributes, behavior, names and significance of familiar objects.