Light, Isomerization, Nerve Impulse:
An Analysis of the Vision Process From A Chemical Perspective

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For most people, vision is something that is taken for granted, with no real appreciation or understanding for the chemical processes that take place in order to allow us to see. The vision process is an example of how light can affect specific chemical bonds in order to elicit a biological response. The isomerization of retinal from *cis* to *trans* induces a conformational change of the opsin protein in both monochromatic and color vision. This reaction and the cascade causing the nerve impulse will be discussed, as well as the differences in protein structure that allow for polychromatic vision.