


# Color

## Wolfgang Heidrich

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## Course News

**Assignment 3 (project)**

- Due April 1

**Quiz 2**

- Wednesday (Mar 9)
- Topics: Rendering pipeline, but no transformations
- No procedural shaders etc. (Gordon Wetzstein lecture)
  - But: this will be on the final


**Reading (this week)**

- Chapter 20 (color)

**Reading (this week & next)**

- Chapter 10 (ray tracing)

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## Course Topics for the Rest of the Term

**Color**


- Today, Friday

**Shadows, Ray-tracing & Global Illumination**

- Next week

**Parametric Curves/Surfaces**


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# Color

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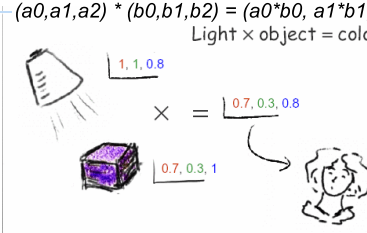


## So far in this Course: Simple Model of Color


- Simple model based on RGB triples
- Component-wise multiplication of colors

$$(a_0, a_1, a_2) * (b_0, b_1, b_2) = (a_0 * b_0, a_1 * b_1, a_2 * b_2)$$

Light × object = color

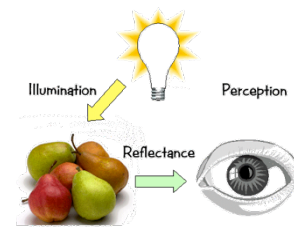


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## Basics Of Color

**Elements of color:**



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## Basics of Color


**Physics**

- Illumination
  - Electromagnetic spectra
- Reflection
  - Material properties
  - Surface geometry and microgeometry (i.e., polished versus matte versus brushed)

**Perception**

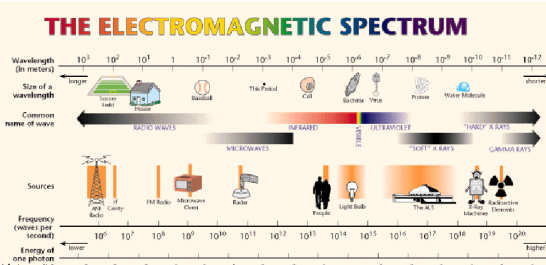
- Physiology and neurophysiology
- Perceptual psychology


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## Electromagnetic Spectrum

**THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM**






## Light Sources

**Common light sources differ in the kind of spectrum they emit:**

- Continuous spectrum
  - Energy is emitted at all wavelengths
    - Blackbody radiation
    - Tungsten light bulbs
    - Certain fluorescent lights
    - Sunlight
    - Electrical arcs
- Line spectrum
  - Energy is emitted at certain discrete frequencies


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## Blackbody Radiation


**Black body**

- Dark material, so that reflection can be neglected
- Spectrum of emitted light changes with temperature
  - This is the origin of the term “color temperature”
    - E.g. when setting a white point for your monitor
  - Cold: mostly infrared
  - Hot: redish
  - Very hot: bluish
- Demo:
 



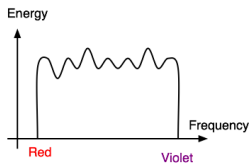
<http://www.mhhe.com/physsci/astromy/applets/Blackbody/frame.html>

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## White Light

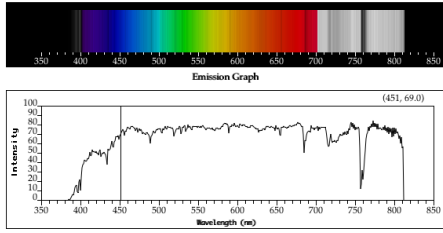
- Sun or light bulbs emit all frequencies within the visible range to produce what we perceive as the “white light”
- But the exact tone depends on the emitted spectrum



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## Sunlight Spectrum



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## Continuous Spectrum

**Example:**

- Sunlight
- Various "daylight" lamps

**A Comparison of Relative Spectral Energy Distribution**

Wavelength in Nanometers

Relative Spectral Energy Distribution

Legend:

- Sunlight
- Incandescent Light Bulb
- Fluorescent Light Bulb
- LED Light Bulb

**CIBA-GEIGY**

## Line Spectrum

**Examples:**

- Ionized gases
- Lasers
- Some fluorescent lamps

hydrogen

helium

oxygen

nitrogen

neon

argon

krypton

## White Light and Color

- When white light is incident upon an object, some frequencies are reflected and some are absorbed by the object
  - But generally, the wavelength of reflected photons remains the same
  - Exceptions: fluorescence, phosphorescence...
- Combination of frequencies present in the reflected light that determines what we perceive as the color of the object

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## Hue

- Hue (or simply, "color") is dominant wavelength/frequency

Energy

Dominant Wavelength : Hue

Intensity

Frequency

Red

Violet

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## Saturation or Purity of Light

**How washed out or how pure the color of the light appears**

- Contribution of dominant light vs. other frequencies producing white light
- Saturation: how far is color from grey
  - Pink is less saturated than red, sky blue is less saturated than royal blue

Energy

Frequency

Red

Violet

Pastel, Pale Color

Energy

Frequency

Red

Violet

Very Saturated

## Intensity vs. Brightness

**Intensity: physical term**

- Measured radiant energy emitted per unit of time, per unit solid angle, and per unit projected area of the source (related to the luminance of the source)

**Lightness/brightness: perceived intensity of light**

- Nonlinear

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**Physiology of Vision**

**The retina**

- Rods
  - B/w, edges
- Cones
  - **Color!**
  - 3 types: S, M, L
  - Short (“blue”)
  - Medium (“green”)
  - Long (“red”)

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**Physiology of Vision**

**Center of retina is densely packed region called the fovea.**

- Cones much denser here than the **periphery**

1.35 mm from retina center  
4  $\mu\text{m}$

8 mm from retina center

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**Perceptual vs. Colorimetric Terms**

Perceptual	Colorimetric
• Hue	• Dominant wavelength
• Saturation	• Excitation purity
• Lightness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Reflecting objects</li> </ul>	• Luminance
• Brightness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Light sources</li> </ul>	• Luminance

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**Color/Lightness Constancy**

**Color perception also depends on surrounding**

- Colors in close proximity
- Illumination under which the scene is viewed

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**Adaptation, Surrounding Color**

**Color perception is also affected by**

- Adaptation (move from sunlight to dark room)
- Surrounding color/intensity:
  - Simultaneous contrast effect

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**Color/Lightness Constancy**

Do they match?

Image courtesy of John McCann

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**Color/Lightness Constancy**

Do they match?

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**Color/Lightness Constancy**

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**Color/Lightness Constancy**

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**Color/Lightness Constancy**

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**Color Constancy**

Automatic "white balance" from change in illumination  
 Vast amount of processing behind the scenes!  
 Colorimetry vs. perception

Daylight

Tungsten

From Color Appearance Models, fig 8-1

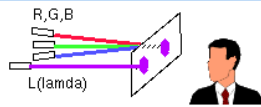
## Tristimulus Theory of Color Vision

- Although light sources can have extremely complex spectra, it was empirically determined that colors could be described by only 3 **primaries**
- Colors that look the same but have different spectra are called **metamers**
- Metamer demo:  
[http://www.cs.brown.edu/exploratories/freeSoftware/catalogs/color\\_theory.html](http://www.cs.brown.edu/exploratories/freeSoftware/catalogs/color_theory.html)

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## Color Matching Experiments

**Performed in the 1930s**



**Idea: perceptually based measurement**

- Shine given wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) on a screen
- User must control three pure lights producing three other wavelengths (say R=700 nm, G=546 nm, and B=438 nm)
- Adjust intensity of RGB until colors are identical

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## Color Matching Experiment

### Results

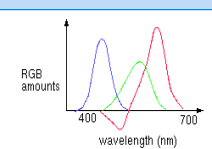
- It was found that any color  $S(\lambda)$  could be matched with three suitable primaries  $A(\lambda)$ ,  $B(\lambda)$ , and  $C(\lambda)$ 
  - Used monochromatic light at 438, 546, and 700 nanometers
- Also found the space is linear, i.e. if
 
$$R(\lambda) \equiv S(\lambda)$$
 then
 
$$R(\lambda) + M(\lambda) \equiv S(\lambda) + M(\lambda)$$
 and
 
$$k \cdot R(\lambda) \equiv k \cdot S(\lambda)$$

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## Negative Lobes

**Actually:**

- Exact target match possible sometimes requires "negative light"



- Some red has to be added to target color to permit exact match using "knobs" on RGB intensity output
- Equivalent mathematically to removing red from RGB output

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## Notation

**Don't confuse:**

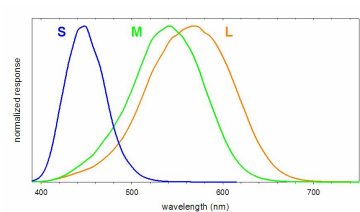
- Primaries: the spectra of the three different light sources: **R, G, B**
  - For the matching experiments, these were **monochromatic** (i.e. single wavelength) light!
  - Primaries for displays usually have a wider spectrum
- Coefficients  $R, G, B$ 
  - Specify how much of **R, G, B** is in a given color
- Color matching functions:  $r(\lambda), g(\lambda), b(\lambda)$ 
  - Specify how much of **R, G, B** is needed to produce a color that is a metamer for pure monochromatic light of wavelength  $\lambda$

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## Cone Response Functions


**Cone Response**

- For every type of cone (short, medium, long), one can also measure how much it responds to illumination at a given wavelength



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## Color Matching and Cone Response




**Linear Algebra View:**

- Space of spectra is infinite-dimensional vector space
  - Dot product between two spectra,  $S_1, S_2$ :
 
$$(S_1 \cdot S_2) = \int_{\lambda} S_1(\lambda) S_2(\lambda) d\lambda$$
- Cone responses form a 3D subspace
- Matching functions form the same 3D subspace
- Cone resp. and matching fns are **dual bases**
- Consequence: if the cone resp. overlap and are positive everywhere, they are **not** an orthonormal basis
  - The dual basis (matching functions) then **must** be negative for some wavelenghts

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## Negative Lobes



**So:**

- Can't generate **all** other wavelengths with **any** set of three **positive** monochromatic lights!

**Solution:**

- Convert to new synthetic "primaries" to make the color matching easy


$$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2.36460 & -0.51515 & 0.00520 \\ -0.89653 & 1.42640 & -0.01441 \\ -0.46807 & 0.08875 & 1.00921 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

**Note:**

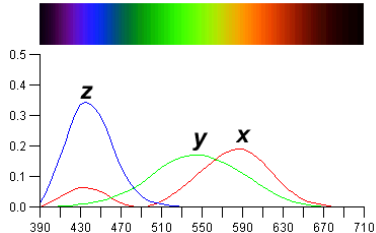
- R, G, B** are the same monochromatic primaries as before
- The corresponding matching functions  $x(\lambda), y(\lambda), z(\lambda)$  are now positive everywhere
- But the primaries contain "negative" light contributions, and are therefore not physically realizable

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## Matching Functions - CIE Color Space




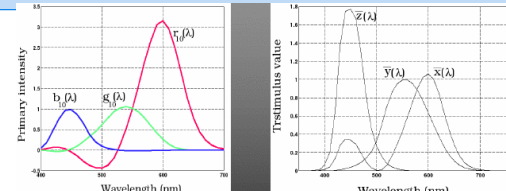
- CIE defined three "imaginary" lights X, Y, and Z, any wavelength  $\lambda$  can be matched perceptually by positive combinations



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## Matching Functions - Measured vs. CIE Color Spaces





**Measured basis**


- Monochromatic lights
- Physical observations
- Negative lobes

**Transformed basis**

- "imaginary" lights
- All positive, unit area matching functions
- Y is luminance, no hue
- X, Z no luminance

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## Notation




**Don't confuse:**

- Synthetic primaries **X, Y, Z**
  - Contain negative frequencies
  - Do not correspond to visible colors
- Color matching functions  $x(\lambda), y(\lambda), z(\lambda)$ 
  - Are non-negative everywhere
- Coefficients X, Y, Z
- Normalized **chromaticity values**

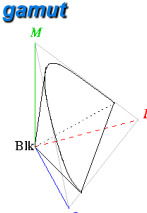
$$x = \frac{X}{X+Y+Z}, y = \frac{Y}{X+Y+Z}, z = \frac{Z}{X+Y+Z}$$

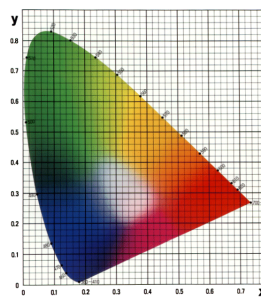
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## CIE Gamut and $\lambda$ Chromaticity Diagram



**3D gamut**





**Chromaticity diagram**

- Hue only, no intensity

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### Facts about the CIE "Horseshoe" Diagram

- All visible colors lie inside the horseshoe
  - Result from color matching experiments
- Spectral (monochromatic) colors lie around the border
  - The straight line between blue and red contains the purple tones
- Colors combine linearly (i.e. along lines), since the xy-plane is a plane from a linear space

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### Facts about the CIE "Horseshoe" Diagram (cont.)

**A point C can be chosen as a white point corresponding to an illuminant**

- Usually this point is of the curve swept out by the black body radiation spectra for different temperatures
- Relative to C, two colors are called complementary if they are located along a line segment through C, but on opposite sides (i.e. C is an affine combination of the two colors)
- The dominant wavelength of the color is found by extending the line from C through the color to the edge of the diagram
- Some colors (i.e. purples) do not have a dominant wavelength, but their complementary color does

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### CIE Diagram

Blackbody curve

Illumination:

- Candle 2000K
- Light bulb 3000K (A)
- Sunset/sunrise 3200K
- Day light 6500K (D)
- Overcast day 7000K
- Lightning >20,000K

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### Color Interpolation, Dominant & Opponent Wavelength

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### RGB Color Space (Color Cube)

Define colors with (r, g, b) amounts of red, green, and blue

- Used by OpenGL
- Hardware-centric
- Describes the colors that can be generated with specific RGB light sources

**RGB color cube sits within CIE**

- Subset of perceivable colors
- Scaled, rotated, sheared cube

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### Device Color Gamuts

Use CIE chromaticity diagram to compare the gamuts of various devices

X, Y, and Z are hypothetical light sources, not used in practice as device primaries

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**Gamut Mapping**

Where does this color go?

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**Additive vs. Subtractive Colors**

**Additive: light**

- Monitors, LCDs
- RGB model

**Subtractive: pigment**

- Printers
- CMY(K) model

$$\begin{bmatrix} C \\ M \\ Y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}$$

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**HSV Color Space**

*More intuitive color space for people*

- H = Hue
- S = Saturation
- V = Value
  - Or brightness B
  - Or intensity I

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**Monitors**

**Monitors have nonlinear response to input**

- Characterize by **gamma**
  - $displayedIntensity = a^\gamma (maxIntensity)$

**Gamma correction**

- $displayedIntensity = (a^{1/\gamma})^\gamma (maxIntensity)$
- $= a (maxIntensity)$

**Gamma for CRTs:**

- Around 2.4

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**Coming Up...**

**Wednesday:**

- More color, ray-tracing

**Friday:**

- Ray-tracing

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