

# CS-184: Computer Graphics

## Lecture #2: Color

Prof. James O'Brien  
University of California, Berkeley

02184-02

Slides revised using additional materials from Maneesh Agrawala

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### Announcements

- Sign up for Piazza
- Assignment 0: due Friday, 11:59pm
- Homework 1: due Thursday, 5:00pm
- Waitlist..

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## Today

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- Color, Light, and Perceptions
  - The basics

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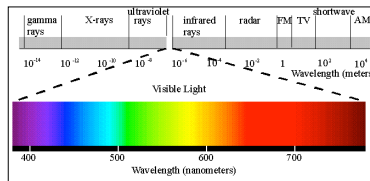
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## What is Light?

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- Radiation in a particular frequency range



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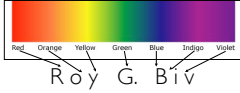
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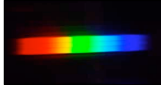
## Spectral Colors

5

- Light at a single frequency
  - Also called **monochromatic** (an overloaded term)



- Bright and distinct in appearance



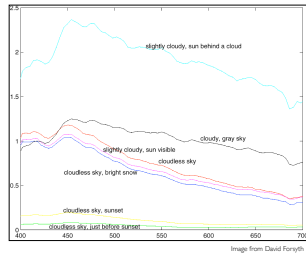
Reproduction only, not a real spectral color!

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## Other Colors

6

- Most colors seen are a mix light of several frequencies



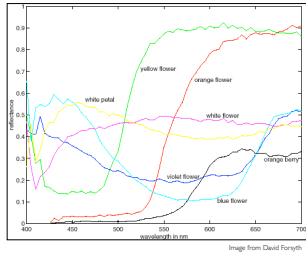
Curves describe spectral composition  $\Phi(\lambda)$  of stimulus

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## Other Colors

7

- Most colors seen are a mix light of several frequencies

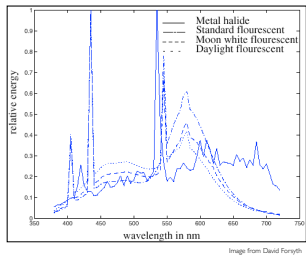


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## Other Colors

8

- Most colors seen are a mix light of several frequencies



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## Perception -vs- Measurement

9

- You do not "see" the spectrum of light
  - Eyes make limited measurements
  - Eyes physically adapt to circumstance
  - You brain adapts in various ways also
  - Weird psychological/psychophysical stuff also happens

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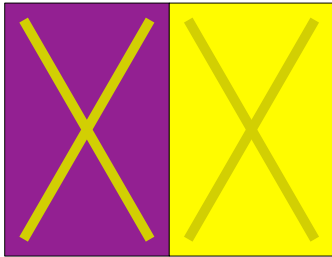
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## Everything is Relative

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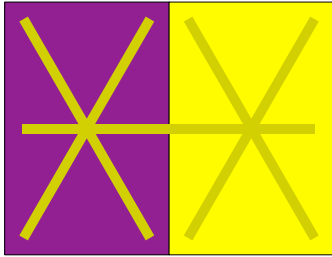
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Everything is Relative

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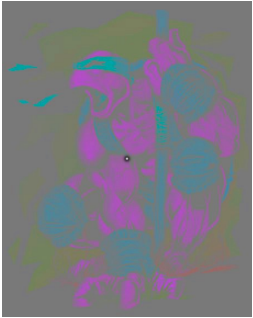
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Adapt

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Adapt

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Mach Bands

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Everything's Still Relative

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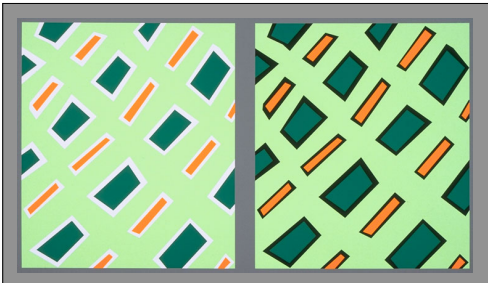
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Bezold Effect

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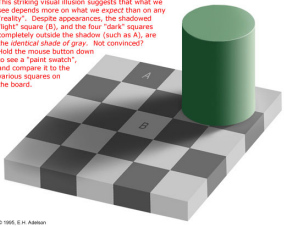


# Perception

17

The eye does not see intensity values...

This striking visual illusion suggests that what we see depends more on what we expect than on any "reality". Despite appearances, the shadowed "light" square (B), and the four "dark" squares completely outside the shadow (such as A), are the identical shade of gray. Not convinced? Hold the mouse button down to see a "paint swatch", and compare it to the various squares on the board.



© 1985, E. H. Adelson

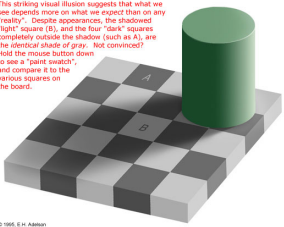
17

# Perception

18

The eye does not see intensity values...

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© 1985, E. H. Adelson

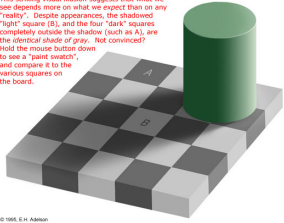
18

# Perception

19

The eye does not see intensity values...

This striking visual illusion suggests that what we see depends more on what we expect than on any "reality". Despite appearances, the shadowed "light" square (B), and the four "dark" squares completely outside the shadow (such as A), are the identical shade of gray. Not convinced? Hold the mouse button down to see a "paint brush", and compare it to the various squares on the board.

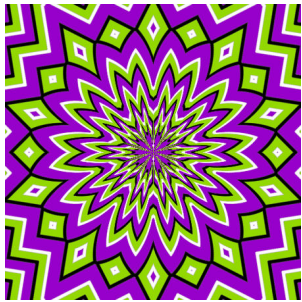


© 1995, E.H. Adelson

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# Perception

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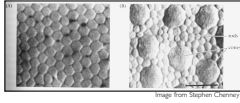
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## Eyes as Sensors

21

- The human eye contains cells that sense light

- Rods
  - No color (sort of)
  - Spread over the retina
  - More sensitive
- Cones
  - Three types of cones
  - Each sensitive to different frequency distribution
  - Concentrated in fovea (center of the retina)
  - Less sensitive



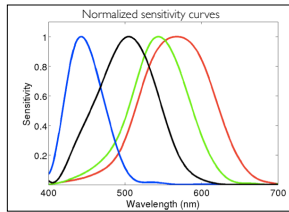
21

## Cones

22

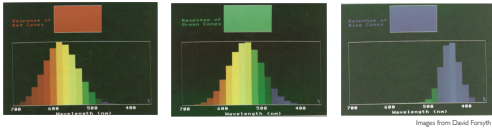
- Each type of cone responds to different range of frequencies/wavelengths
  - Long, medium, short
- Also called by color
  - Red, green, blue
- Misleading:

"Red" does not mean your red cones are firing...



## Cones

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- You can see that "red" and "green" respond to more more than just red and green...

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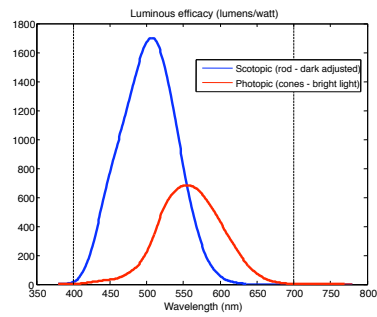
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## Rods vs Cones

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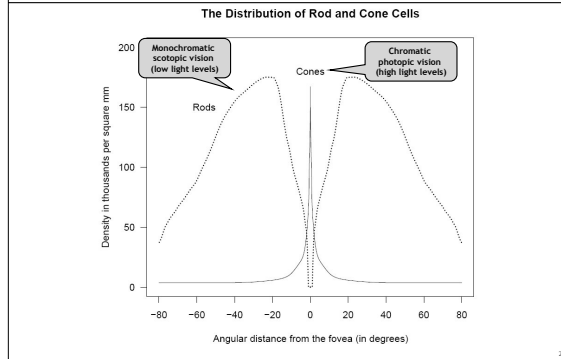
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# Eyes as Sensors

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## Cones

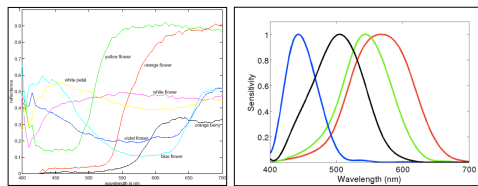
26

• Response of a cone is given by a convolution integral :

$$L = \int \Phi(\lambda)L(\lambda)d\lambda \quad \text{continuous version of a dot product}$$

$$M = \int \Phi(\lambda)M(\lambda)d\lambda$$

$$S = \int \Phi(\lambda)S(\lambda)d\lambda$$




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## Trichromaticity

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Eye records color by 3 measurements

We can "fool" it with combination of 3 signals

So display devices (monitors, printers, etc.) can generate perceivable colors as mix of 3 primaries

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## Cone Responses are Linear

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- Response to stimulus  $\Phi_1$  is  $(L_1, M_1, S_1)$
- Response to stimulus  $\Phi_2$  is  $(L_2, M_2, S_2)$
- Then response to  $\Phi_1 + \Phi_2$  is  $(L_1 + L_2, M_1 + M_2, S_1 + S_2)$
  
- Response to  $n\Phi_1$  is  $(nL_1, nM_2, nS_1)$

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## Cones and Metamers

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- Cone response is an integral
- $$L = \int \Phi(\lambda)L(\lambda)d\lambda \quad M = \int \Phi(\lambda)M(\lambda)d\lambda \quad S = \int \Phi(\lambda)S(\lambda)d\lambda$$
- Metamers: Different light input  $\Phi_1(\lambda), \Phi_2(\lambda)$  produce same  $L, M, S$  cone response
  - Different spectra look the same
  - Useful for measuring color

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## Additive Mixing

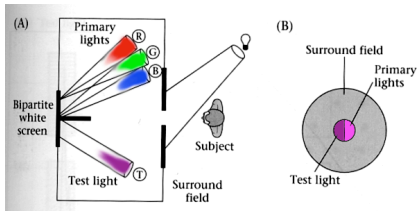
31

- Given three primaries we agree on  $p_1, p_2, p_3$
- Match generic input light with  $\Phi = \alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + \gamma p_3$
- Negative not realizable, but can add primary to test light
- Color now described by  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$
  
- Example: computer monitor [RGB]

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## Additive Color Matching

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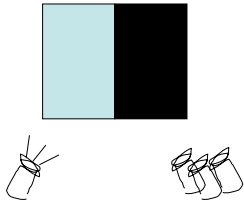
- Show test light spectrum on left
- Mix "primaries" on right until they match
- The primaries need not be RGB

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## Experiment I

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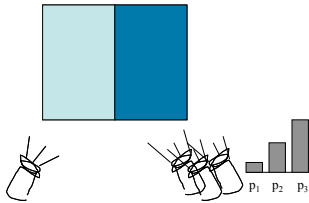


Slide from Durand  
and Freeman 06

33

## Experiment I

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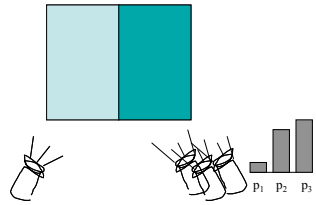


Slide from Durand  
and Freeman 06

34

# Experiment I

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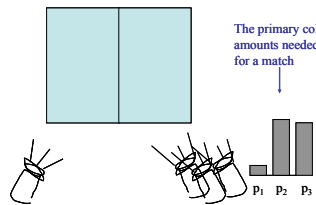


Slide from Durand and Freeman 06

35

# Experiment I

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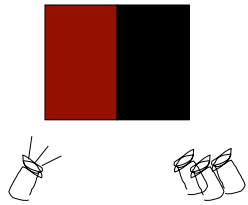
The primary color amounts needed for a match

Slide from Durand and Freeman 06

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## Experiment 2

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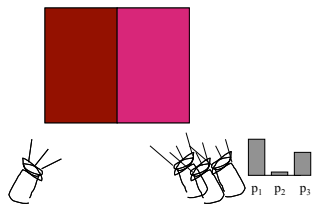


Slide from Durand  
and Freeman 06

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## Experiment 2

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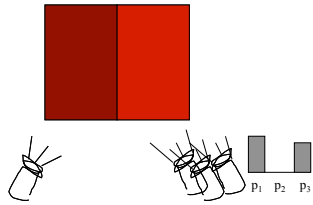


Slide from Durand  
and Freeman 06

38

## Experiment 2

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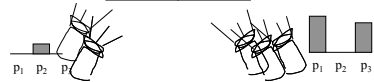
Slide from Durand  
and Freeman 06

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## Experiment 2

40

We say a  
"negative"  
amount of  $p_2$   
was needed to  
make the match,  
because we  
added it to the  
test color's side.



The primary color  
amounts needed  
for a match:

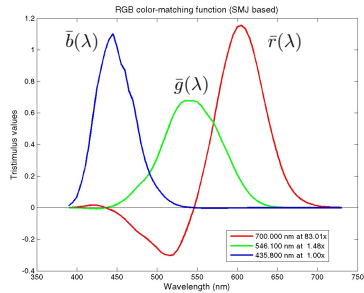


Slide from Durand  
and Freeman 06

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# Color Matching Functions

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Input wavelengths are CIE 1931 monochromatic primaries

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# Using Color Matching Functions

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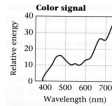
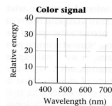
•For a monochromatic light of wavelength  $\lambda_i$  we know the amount of each primary necessary to match it:

$$\bar{r}(\lambda_i), \bar{g}(\lambda_i), \bar{b}(\lambda_i)$$

•Given a new light input signal

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi(\lambda_1) \\ \vdots \\ \phi(\lambda_N) \end{pmatrix}$$

•Compute the primaries necessary to match it



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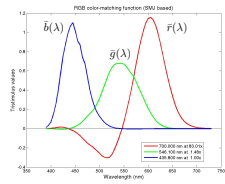
## Using Color Matching Functions

43

- Given color matching functions in matrix form and new light

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{r}(\lambda_1) & \dots & \bar{r}(\lambda_N) \\ \bar{g}(\lambda_1) & \dots & \bar{g}(\lambda_N) \\ \bar{b}(\lambda_1) & \dots & \bar{b}(\lambda_N) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi(\lambda_1) \\ \vdots \\ \phi(\lambda_N) \end{pmatrix}$$

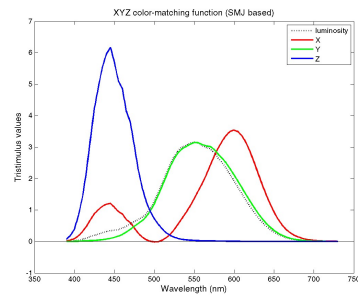


- amount of each primary necessary to match is given by  $C\Phi$

## CIE XYZ

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- Imaginary set of color primaries with positive values, X, Y, Z



## Rescaled XYZ to xyz

Rescale X, Y, and Z to remove luminance, leaving chromaticity:

$$x = X / (X+Y+Z)$$

$$y = Y / (X+Y+Z)$$

$$z = Z / (X+Y+Z)$$

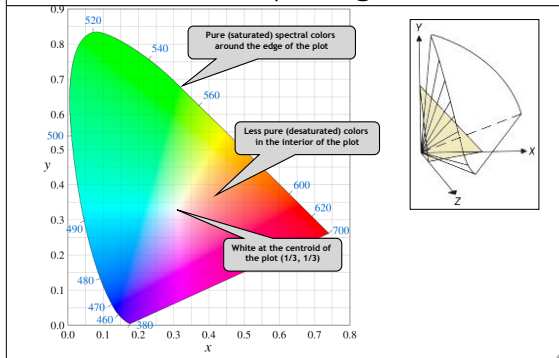
$$x+y+z = 1$$

Because the sum of the chromaticity values  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  is always 1.0, a plot of any two of them loses no information

Such a plot is a chromaticity diagram

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## CIE Chromaticity Diagram



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## Gamut

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- Gamut is the chromaticities generated by a set of primaries
- Because everything we've done is linear; interpolation between chromaticities on a chromaticity plot is also linear
- Thus the gamut is the convex hull of the primary chromaticities
  
- What is the gamut of the CIE 1931 primaries?

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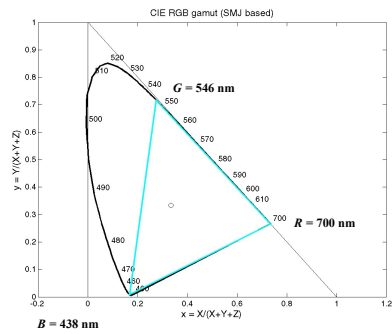
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## CIE 1931 RGB Gamut

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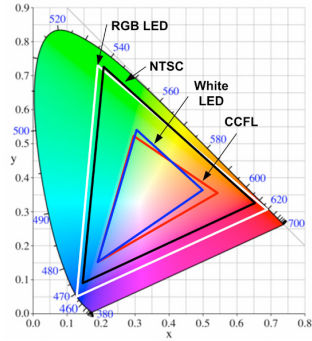
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## Other Gamuts (LCDs and NTSC)

49



## Subtractive Mixing

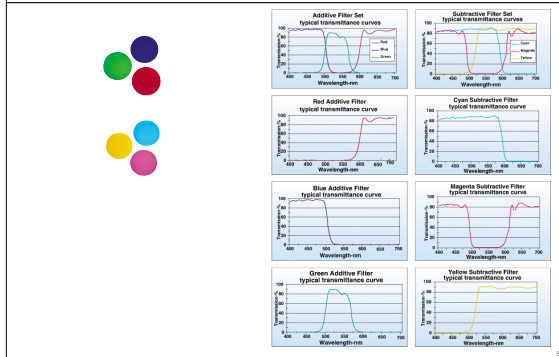
50

- Given three primaries we agree on  $p_1, p_2, p_3$
- Make generic color with  $\Phi = W - (\alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + \gamma p_3)$
- Max limited by  $W$
- Color now described by  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$
- Example: ink [CMYK]

Why 4th ink for black?

## Additive & Subtractive Primaries

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## Additive & Subtractive Primaries

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• Incorrect to say "the additive primaries are red, green, and blue"

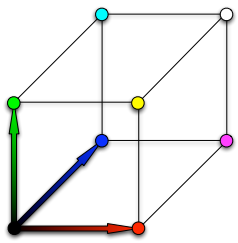
- Any set of three non-collinear primaries yields a gamut
- Primaries that appear red, green, and blue are a good choice, but not the only choice
- Are additional (non-collinear) primaries always better?

• Similarly saying "the subtractive primaries are magenta, cyan, and yellow" is also incorrect, for the same reasons

- Subtractive primaries must collectively block the entire visible spectrum, but many sets of blockers that do so are acceptable "primaries"
- The use of black ink (the K in CMYK) is a good example
- Modern ink-jet printers often have 6 or more ink colors

## Color Spaces

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RGB color cube

- Does not correspond very well to perception (e.g. distance between two points has little meaning)

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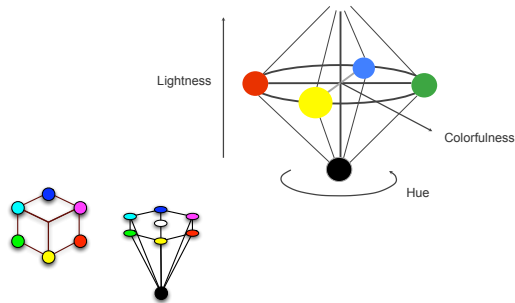
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## Color Spaces

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HSV color cone



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## Color Phenomena

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- Light sources seldom shine directly in eye
- Light follows some transport path, i.e.:
  - Source
  - Air
  - Object surface
  - Air
  - Eye
- Color effected by interactions

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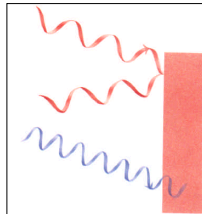
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## Reflection

66

- Light strikes object
- Some frequencies reflect
- Some adsorbed
- Reflected spectrum is light times surface
- Recall metamers...



**Fig. 1.18** Reflection: red light bounces off an opaque red object, while light of other colours is absorbed.

Unknown?

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## Transmission

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- Light strikes object
- Some frequencies pass
- Some adsorbed (or reflected)

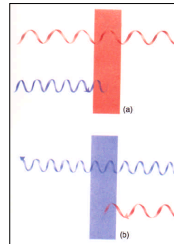


Fig. 1.17 Absorption: a red transparent medium absorbs all wavelengths of light except red (a); a blue transparent medium absorbs all wavelengths except blue (b).

Unknown

## Scattering

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- Interactions with small particles in medium
- Long wavelengths ignore
- Short ones scatter

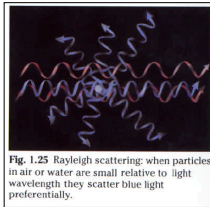


Fig. 1.25 Rayleigh scattering: when particles in air or water are small relative to light wavelength they scatter blue light preferentially.

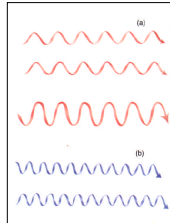
Unknown

68

# Interference

69

- Wave behavior of light
  - Cancellation
  - Reinforcement
- Wavelength dependent



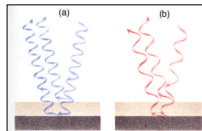
**Fig. 1.20** Interference: when two light waves are in phase, they interfere positively to reinforce each other and produce a wave with double the intensity of colour (a). When two waves are out of phase they cancel each other and no colour is seen (b).

Unknown

# Iridescence

70

- Interaction of light with
  - Small structures
  - Thin transparent surfaces

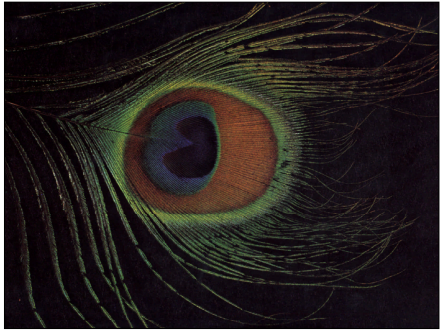


**Fig. 1.22** Iridescence: when a light wave is partially reflected and partially transmitted at the surface of a thin layer of transparent material (e.g. a bubble), the two parts of the original wave may interfere with each other when the transmitted wave is reflected from a lower layer and re-emerges at the surface. In this case the blue waves are in phase and their colour is reinforced (a) but the red waves are out of phase and their colour is cancelled (b).

Unknown

Iridescence

71



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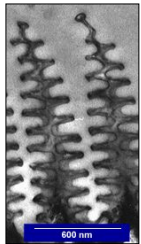
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Iridescence

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## Fluorescence / Phosphorescence

73

- Photon come in, knocks up electron
- Electron drops and emits photon at other frequency
- May be some latency
- Radio active decay can also emit visible photons

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## Fluorescence / Phosphorescence

74



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## Black Body Radiation

75

- Hot objects radiate energy
- Frequency is temperature dependent
- Moderately hot objects get into visible range
- Spectral distribution is given by

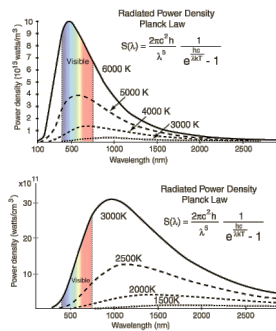
$$E(\lambda) \propto \left(\frac{1}{\lambda^5}\right) \left(\frac{1}{\exp(hc/k\lambda T) - 1}\right)$$

- Leads to notion of "color temperature"

75

## Black Body Radiation

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HyperPhysics

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