



Light in Computer Graphics

© 1995 by Henrik Wann Jensen

- Computer graphics “=“ generating images
- Image = array of pixels
- Each pixel represents one **light ray** (or more)

Light in Physics

- A light ray is an electromagnetic wave

Propagation of an Electromagnetic Wave

- Propagation speed in vacuum: c
- In general arbitrary shape
- Sum of harmonic waves (spectrum)

The Visible Spectrum

- Energy is proportional to the frequency f

$$E_{\text{photon}} = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = hf \quad (h: \text{Planck's constant}, \lambda: \text{wavelength})$$

WAVELENGTH [meter]

FREQUENCY [hertz]

THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM
WAVELENGTH λ [nanometer]

400 500 600 700

Violet Blue Green Yellow Orange Red

FREQUENCY (wavenumber = $1/\lambda \cdot 10^3$)

Human Spectral Sensitivity

relative spectral sensitivity

wavelength λ [nm]

- $V'(\lambda)$: By night, photopic (rods, Stäbchen)
- $V(\lambda)$: Daylight, scotopic (cones, Zäpfchen)

Power Spectrum of Light Sources

- Relative Spectral Power Density $P(\lambda)$

relative spectral power $P(\lambda)$


wavelength λ [nm]

Measuring Light

- Luminous Flux F [lumen] (*Lichtfluss*)

$$F = \text{const} \cdot \int_{380\text{nm}}^{780\text{nm}} P(\lambda) V(\lambda) d\lambda \quad \text{const: } 683 \frac{\text{lm}}{\text{W}}$$

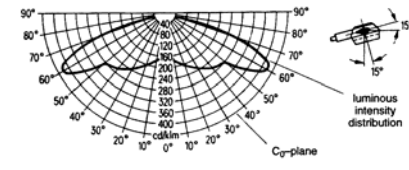
- Luminous Intensity I [candela] (*Lichtstärke*)

$$I = \frac{dF}{d\omega_1}$$


7
2. Colors

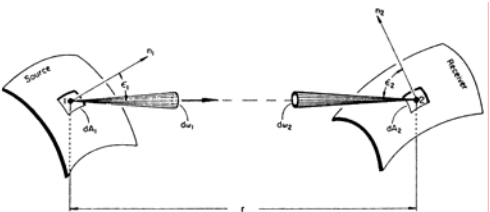
Luminous Intensity Diagram

- Angular distribution of luminous flux for real world light sources



8
2. Colors

Two Radiant Surface Patches



9
2. Colors

Measuring Light

- Luminance Y [candela/m²] (*Leuchtdichte*)

$$Y = \frac{d^2F}{dA_1 \cos\theta_1 d\omega_1}$$

- Illumination B [lux] (*Beleuchtungsstärke*)

$$B = \frac{dF}{dA_2}$$

10
2. Colors

Measuring Color

- A Definition:


Color is that aspect of visual perception by which an observer may distinguish differences between two structure-free fields of view of the same spatial and temporal properties, such as may be caused by differences in spectral composition of the radiant energy.

(from: Handbook of Perception and Visual Performance)

11
2. Colors

Measuring Color

- Each ray carries a spectrum $P(\lambda)$
- So far we compressed it to **one scalar**: $\int_{380\text{nm}}^{780\text{nm}} P(\lambda) V(\lambda) d\lambda$
- $P(\lambda)$ contains more information than humans can and need to process
- Humans project $P(\lambda)$ into a 3D subspace
- Fangschreckenkrebs uses 8D space:



12
2. Colors

Excursus to 3D Vector Spaces

- $\mathbf{n}_1, \mathbf{n}_2, \mathbf{n}_3$ orthonormal basis vectors:
 $\mathbf{x} = x_1 \mathbf{n}_1 + x_2 \mathbf{n}_2 + x_3 \mathbf{n}_3$
- Coordinates are inner products:
 $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}_1) \mathbf{n}_1 + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}_2) \mathbf{n}_2 + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}_3) \mathbf{n}_3$
- Projection onto 2D subspace
 $\mathbf{x}^p = (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}_1) \mathbf{n}_1 + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}_2) \mathbf{n}_2$

13
2. Colors

Infinite Dimensional Space

- Infinite dimensional vector is a function:
 $\mathbf{x}^{3D} = (x_1, x_2, x_3) \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^{inf} = x(\lambda)$
- Infinite number of basis functions needed
- Projection onto 3D subspace with $n_1(\lambda), n_2(\lambda), n_3(\lambda)$ orthonormal basis functions:
 $x^p(\lambda) = x_1 n_1(\lambda) + x_2 n_2(\lambda) + x_3 n_3(\lambda)$
- Coordinates are continuous inner products:
 $x_i = \int x(\lambda) n_i(\lambda) d\lambda$

14
2. Colors

The Human Eye

- Spectrum $P(\lambda)$ is infinite dimensional
- Eye projects $P(\lambda)$ into 3D subspace
- Three types of cones (photopic vision) are three basis functions $r(\lambda), g(\lambda), b(\lambda)$

15
2. Colors

Qualia

16
2. Colors

The CIE Primary System (1931)

- Commission Internationale de l'Éclairage
- Setup for measuring human color sensitivity (435.8 nm, 546.1 nm, 700.0 nm)

17
2. Colors

Spectral Sensitivity Functions

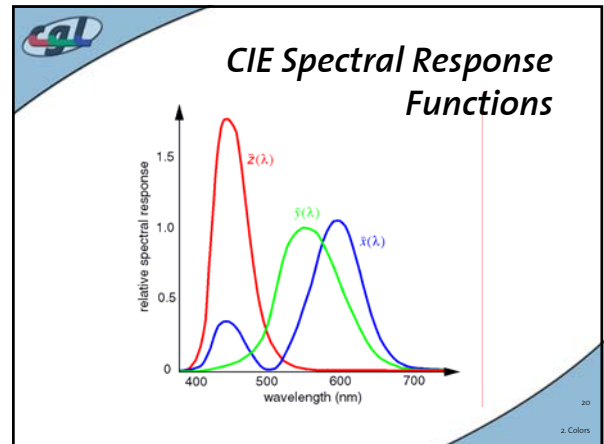
18
2. Colors

The CIE Spectral Response Functions

- Normalized, positive definite functions
- $Y = \text{const.} * F$
- Linear (matrix) transform is standardized

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x}(\lambda) &= +2.36\bar{r}(\lambda) & -0.515\bar{g}(\lambda) & +0.005\bar{b}(\lambda) \\ \bar{y}(\lambda) &= -0.89\bar{r}(\lambda) & +1.426\bar{g}(\lambda) & +0.014\bar{b}(\lambda) \\ \bar{z}(\lambda) &= -0.46\bar{r}(\lambda) & +0.088\bar{g}(\lambda) & +1.009\bar{b}(\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

- Linear combinations
- new basis spans same 3D subspace



CIE Primaries of a Color Stimulus

- Vector (X, Y, Z) provides a **quantification** of any spectral color stimulus $P(\lambda)$
- Compute by inner products of $x, y, z(\lambda)$ and $P(\lambda)$

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \int_{380nm}^{780nm} P(\lambda)\bar{x}(\lambda)d\lambda \\ Y &= \int_{380nm}^{780nm} P(\lambda)\bar{y}(\lambda)d\lambda \\ Z &= \int_{380nm}^{780nm} P(\lambda)\bar{z}(\lambda)d\lambda \end{aligned}$$

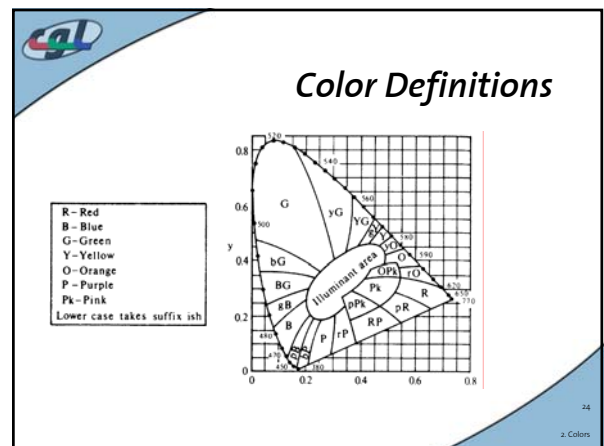
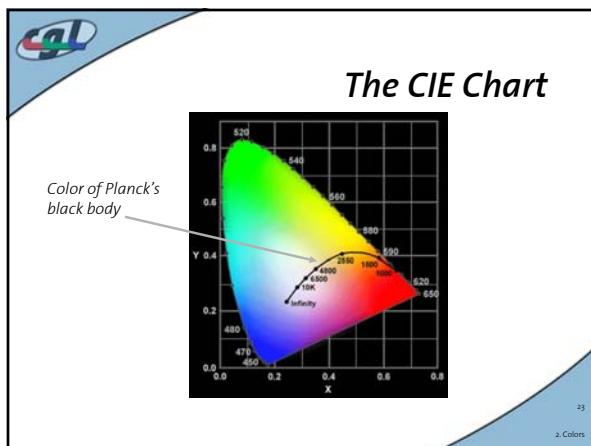
The CIE Chart

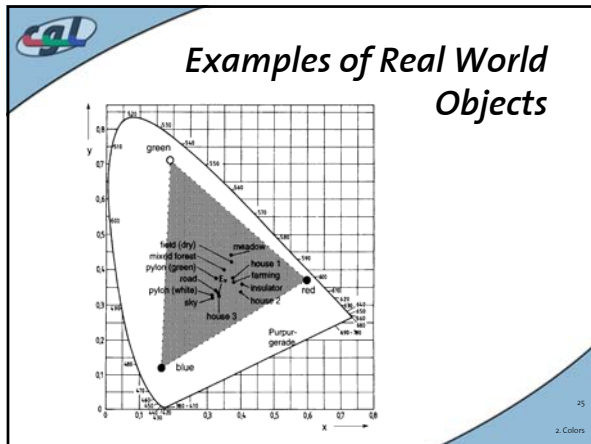
- 2D chart in practice by projection into the plane perpendicular to spatial diagonal

$$x + y + z = 1 = 0$$

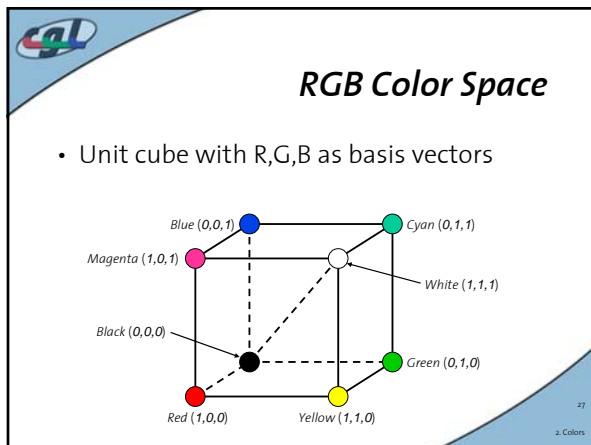
plane normal : $n = [1 \ 1 \ 1]^T$

- (x, y) pair characterizes color

$$x = \frac{X}{X+Y+Z} \quad y = \frac{Y}{X+Y+Z} \quad z = 1 - x - y$$




- ### Features
- White Point
 - Isolines of saturation
 - Hue (Farbart)
 - Color Temperature
 - Purple line
 - Dominant wavelength
 - Domain of visible colors
 - Inverse color
- 26

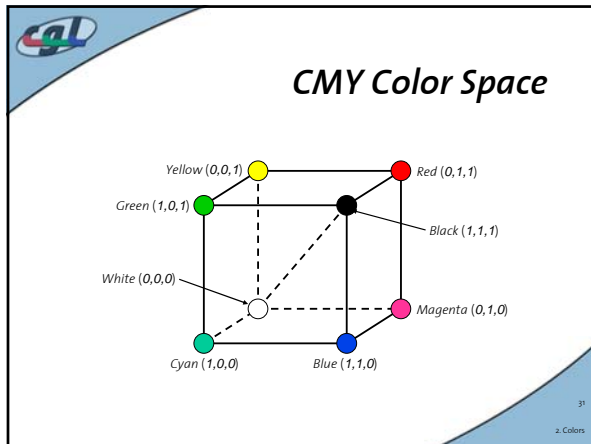


- ### XYZ to RGB Transform
- Measure the phosphor coordinates of your monitor (see manual)
 - Take them as basis vectors of the transform matrix
 - Compute inverse
$$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} X_R & X_G & X_B \\ Y_R & Y_G & Y_B \\ Z_R & Z_G & Z_B \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

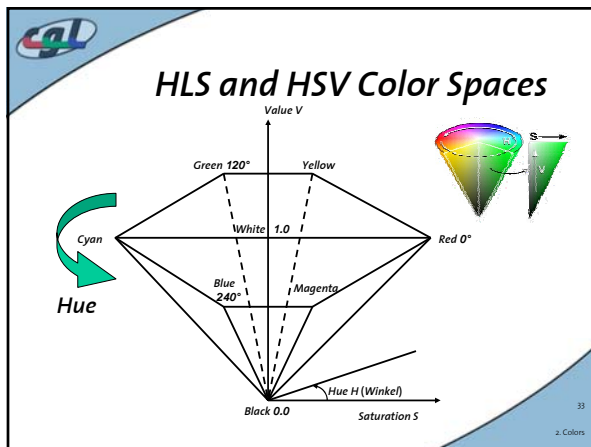
B/W image
 - B/W conversion: $Y = 0.3R + 0.59G + 0.11B$
- 28

- ### Alternative
- Given CIE chart coordinates (x, y) of the primaries and the white point (X_w, Y_w, Z_w)
 - Compute equations below
 - Used for active color systems (monitors, projectors)
- $$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_p C_p & x_g C_g & x_b C_b \\ y_p C_p & y_g C_g & y_b C_b \\ (1-x_p-y_p)C_p & (1-x_g-y_g)C_g & (1-x_b-y_b)C_b \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$
- $$\begin{pmatrix} X_w \\ Y_w \\ Z_w \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_p & x_g & x_b \\ y_p & y_g & y_b \\ (1-x_p-y_p) & (1-x_g-y_g) & (1-x_b-y_b) \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} C_p \\ C_g \\ C_b \end{pmatrix}$$
- 29

- ### CMY Color Space
- Used in passive color systems (printers)
 - Inverse to RGB
 - Transform given by
- $$\begin{pmatrix} C \\ M \\ Y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{resp.} \quad \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} C \\ M \\ Y \end{pmatrix}$$
- 30



- ### YIQ Color Space
- Uses Luminance, inphase (green-orange) and quadrature (blue-yellow) components
 - Advantages for natural and skin colors
 - NTSC US-color TV standard
 - Bandwidth partitioning (2.4 MHz, 1.5 MHz, 0.6 MHz)
- $$\begin{pmatrix} Y \\ I \\ Q \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.299 & 0.587 & 0.114 \\ 0.596 & -0.275 & -0.321 \\ 0.212 & -0.528 & 0.311 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$
- 32
2 Colors



- ### HLS and HSV Color Spaces
- Perceptual color spaces
 - More intuitive for interactive color synthesis
 - Hue, Lightness and Saturation explicitly given
 - Approximation of CIE lightness
- 34
2 Colors

Conversion Procedures

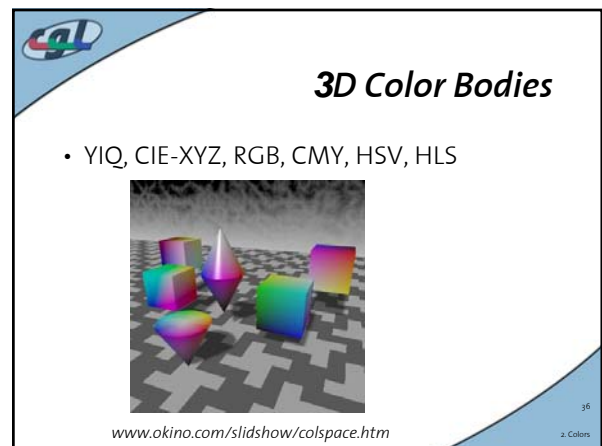
- Conversion procedure (RGB→HSV)

```

min = min(R, G, B);
max = max(R, G, B);
V = max;
If (max != 0)
  S = (max - min)/max;
else
  S = 0;
H = Hue (V, S, R, G, B); //procedural comp.

```

35
2 Colors



Higher Order Colorimetry

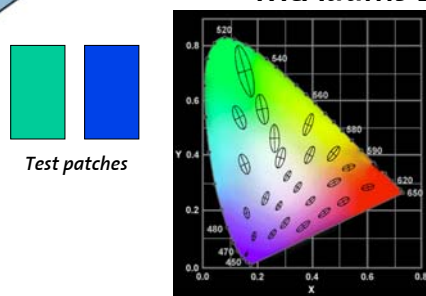
- Measuring “perceptual distance” in color spaces
- Important for many industrial branches (textile, automotive etc.)
- Experiments of McAdams

↓

- Ellipsoidal perceptual thresholds in CIE chart

37
2. Colors

McAdams Ellipses



Test patches

38
2. Colors

L*a*b* Color Space

- Nonlinear Warp of RGB

$$L^* = 25 \left[\frac{100Y}{Y_W} \right]^{1/3} - 16$$

$$a^* = 500 \left[\left(\frac{X}{X_W} \right)^{1/3} - \left(\frac{Y}{Y_W} \right)^{1/3} \right]$$

$$b^* = 200 \left[\left(\frac{Y}{Y_W} \right)^{1/3} - \left(\frac{Z}{Z_W} \right)^{1/3} \right]$$

(X_W, Y_W, Z_W) : Coordinates whitepoint

39
2. Colors

L*u*v* Color Space

$$u = \frac{4X}{X + 15Y + 3Z}$$

$$v = \frac{9Y}{X + 15Y + 3Z}$$

$$L^* = 25 \sqrt[3]{\frac{100Y}{Y_W} - 16}$$

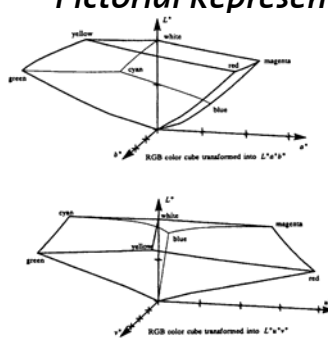
$$u^* = 13L^*(u - u_W)$$

$$v^* = 13L^*(v - v_W)$$

(Y_W, u_W, v_W) : Coordinates of Whitepoint

40
2. Colors

Pictorial Representation



41
2. Colors

OpenGL Color


- Primitive oriented (vertex)

```
glColor3f(r, g, b);
glColor4f(r, g, b, a);
```

- Normalized to $[0, \dots, 1]$
- RGBA mode versus color index mode
- Depending on number of bitplanes per pixel
- n bitplanes gets 2^n colors
- 8 Bits/component -> true color
- dithering option


```
glEnable(GL_DITHER);
```

42
2. Colors


 **OpenGL Color**

- Color index mode uses lookup table
`glIndex(I); glColor(I);`
- Optimal lookup tables refer to clustering algorithms (median cut)
- Size between 2^8 and 2^{12}
- Mode Specification using
`glutInitDisplayMode();`
- Color interpolation by
`glShadeModel(GL_SMOOTH);`

43
z Colors

 **Example**

- A smooth triangle



44
z Colors