

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Color

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> *Frédo Durand MIT- EECS*

## SOME IDEAS

- Use CHDK to provide new features to Canon compact cameras
- \* Use flickr API to do something creative
- Explore different types of gradient reconstructions
- Improve time lapse
- # Handle small parallax in panoramas
- Exploit flash/no-flash pairs
- # Editing with images+depth (e.g. from stereo)
- Smart color to greyscale
- Face-aware image processing
- Sharpening out-of-focus images using other pictures from the sequences
- \* Application of morphing/warping
- Motion without movements and automatic illusions

Color

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Many slides courtesy of Victor Ostromoukhov, Leonard McMillan, Bill Freeman

# Does color puzzle you?

## Puzzles and mysteries

- Aren't colors spectra? Why do we need only 3 numbers to represent them
- Are black, and white, colors?
- Are primary colors red green and blue? Or red green yellow and blue? where do cyan and magenta come from?
- Why is there a color circle? what's between red and blue? aren't they at opposite ends of the spectrum?
- Should the camera RGB filters be the same as the projector's RGB filters? Should they be the same as the human eye's spectral response?

### Answer

• It's all linear algebra

### Plan

- Spectra
- Cones and spectral response
- Color blindness and metamers
- Color matching
- Color spaces

## Color



**4.1 NEWTON'S SUMMARY DRAWING** of his experiments with light. Using a point source of light and a prism, Newton separated sunlight into its fundamental components. By reconverging the rays, he also showed that the decomposition is reversible.

From Foundations of Vision, by Brian Wandell, Sinauer Assoc., 1995

### Spectrum



Light is a wave Visible: between 450 and 700nm

### Spectrum



Light is characterized by its spectrum: amount of energy at each wavelength This is a full distribution:

one value per wavelength (infinite number of values)

### Light-matter interaction



Where spectra come from:

- light source spectrum
- object reflectance (aka spectral albedo) get multiplied wavelength by wavelength

There are different physical processes that explain this multiplication e.g. absorption, interferences



Foundations of Vision, by Brian Wandell, Sinauer Assoc., 1995

### Alternative: transmittance



Also get multiplied



Foundations of Vision, by Brian Wandell, Sinauer Assoc., 1995

### Examples of reflectance spectra



Spectral albedoes for several different leaves, with color names attached. Notice that different colours typically have different spectral albedo, but that different spectral albedoes may result in the same perceived color (compare the two whites). Spectral albedoes are typically quite smooth functions. Measurements by E.Koivisto.

Slide from Bill Freeman

Forsyth, 2002

# Examples of illumination spectra



• Important consequence: the spectrum leaving an object depends on the illumination

Foundations of Vision, by Brian Wandell, Sinauer Assoc., 1995

# Questions?

So far, physical side of colors: spectra

 an infinite number of values
 (one per wavelength)



### Plan

- Spectra
- Cones and spectral response
- Color blindness and metamers
- Color matching
- Color spaces





#### Slide from Victor Ostromoukhov 18







Slide from Victor Ostromoukhov









#### Rods Cones Distribution of Cones and Rods Slide from Victor Ostromoukhov

What is Color?

### Visual Pathways [Palmer99]





#### Slide from Victor Ostromoukhov

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LCN=Lateral Cericulate Nucleus

### Cones

- We focus on low-level aspects of color
   Cones and early processing in the retina
- We won't talk about rods (night vision)



# Summary (and time for questions)

- Spectrum: infinite number of values

   can be multiplied
  - can be added
- Light spectrum multiplied by reflectance spectrum
  - spectrum depends on illuminant
- Human visual system is complicated

### Plan

- What is color
- Cones and spectral response
- Color blindness and metamers
- Fundamental difficulty with colors

## Cone spectral sensitivity

- Short, Medium and Long wavelength
- Response for a cone =  $\int_{\lambda} \text{stimulus}(\lambda) * \text{response}(\lambda) d\lambda$



### Cone response

Start from infinite number of values (one per wavelength)



End up with 3 values (one per cone type)

### For matrix lovers

- Spectrum: big long vector size N where  $N=\infty$
- Cone response: 3xN matrix of individual responses



# For geometry lovers

- Spectrum: point in infinite dimensional space
- Human vision: 3D linear subspace
- Projection





• It's all linear!



# Big picture

- It's all linear! - multiply
  - add
- But
  - non-orthogonal
     bases
  - infinite
     dimension
  - light must be positive
- Depends on light source







### A cone does not "see" colors

- Different wavelength, different intensity
- Same response



## Response comparison

- Different wavelength, different intensity
- But different response for different cones





### Color names for cartoon spectra


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#### Plan

- Spectra
- Cones and spectral response
- Color blindness and metamers
- Color matching
- Color spaces

# Color blindness

- Classical case: 1 type of cone is missing (e.g. red)
- Makes it impossible to distinguish some spectra



# Color blindness – more general

- Dalton
- 8% male, 0.6% female
- Genetic
- Dichromate (2% male)
  - One type of cone missing
  - L (protanope), M (deuteranope),
     S (tritanope)
- Anomalous trichromat
  - Shifted sensitivity

#### THE DIFFERENT APPEARANCES OF THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM



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# Color blindness test



### Color blindness test

- Maze in subtle intensity contrast
- Visible only to color blinds
- Color contrast overrides intensity otherwise



# Questions?

- Links:
  - Vischeck shows you what an image looks like to someone who is colorblind.
  - http://www.vischeck.com/vischeck/
  - Daltonize, changes the red/green variation to brightness and
  - blue/yellow variations.
  - http://www.vischeck.com/daltonize/
  - http://www.vischeck.com/daltonize/runDaltonize.php

### Metamers

- We are all color blind!
- These two different spectra elicit the same cone responses
- Called metamers



### Metamers

Essentially, we have projected from an infinite-dimensional spectrum to a 3D space: we loose information



# Metameric lights



4.11 METAMERIC LIGHTS. Two lights with these spectral power distributions appear identical to most observers and are called metamers. (A) An approximation to the spectral power distribution of a tungsten bulb. (B) The spectral power distribution of light emitted from a conventional television monitor whose three phosphor intensities were set to match the light in panel A in appearance.

Foundations of Vision, by Brian Wandell, Sinauer Assoc., 1995

# There is an infinity of metamers



Ensemble of spectral reflectance curves corresponding to three chromatic-pigment recipes all matching a tan material when viewed by an average observer under daylight illumination. [Based on Berns (1988b).]

### Good news: color reproduction

 3 primaries are (to a first order) enough to reproduce all colors



The dashed line represents daylight reflecting from sunflower petals, while the solid line represents the light emitted by a color CRT display adjusted to match the color of the sunflower.

# Recap

- Spectrum: infinite number of values
- projected according to cone spectral response
   => 3 values
- metamers: spectra that induce the same response (physically different but look the same)

• Questions?

# Metamerism & light source

- Metamers under a given light source
- May not be metamers under a different lamp

### Illuminant metamerism example

 Two grey patches in Billmeyer & Saltzman's book look the same under daylight but different under neon or halogen (& my camera agrees ;-)





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# Bad consequences: printing

 <u>http://www.inkjetart.com/2000p/</u> metamerism.html





under 5000 degree Kelvin lighting under cold cathode lamp

# Bad consequence II: cloth matching

- Clothes appear to match in store (e.g. under neon)
- Don't match outdoor

# Recap

- Spectrum is an infinity of numbers
- Projected to 3D cone-response space
  - for each cone, multiply per wavelength and integrate
  - a.k.a. dot product
- Metamerism: infinite-D points projected to the same 3D point (different spectrum, same perceived color)
  - (different spectrum, same perceived color)
  - affected by illuminant
  - enables color reproduction with only 3 primaries

# Questions?



Meryon (a colorblind painter), Le Vaisseau Fantôme

# Analysis & Synthesis

- Now let's switch to technology
- We want to measure & reproduce color as seen by humans
- No need for full spectrum
- Only need to match up to metamerism

### Additive color mixing



When colors combine by *adding* the color spectra. Example color displays that follow this mixing rule: CRT phosphors, multiple projectors aimed at a screen, Polachrome slide film.

Red and green make...

Yellow!

Slide from Bill Freeman

### Subtractive color mixing



When colors combine by *multiplying* the color spectra. Examples that follow this mixing rule: most photographic films, paint, cascaded optical filters, crayons.

Cyan and yellow (in crayons, called "blue" and yellow) make...

Green!

Slide from Bill Freeman

# Often a mix

- Additive+substractive phenomena
- e.g. projector has color filters (subtractive) to create primaries that are added
- color printing:



Color printing is often a combination of additive and subtractive mixing. When primaries are printed on top of each other, a subtractive color results. When viewed without magnification, the light from each colored area is added.

# Analysis & Synthesis

- We want to measure & reproduce color as seen by humans
- Focus on additive color synthesis
- We'll use 3 primaries (e.g. red green and blue) to match all colors
- What should those primaries be?
- How do we tell the amount of each primary needed to reproduce a given target color?

#### Warning

Tricky thing with spectra & color:

- Spectrum for the stimulus / synthesis

   Light, monitor, reflectance
- Response curve for receptor /analysis
   Cones, camera, scanner

They are usually not the same

There are good reasons for this

### Additive Synthesis

• Take a given stimulus and the corresponding responses s, m, l (here 0.5, 0, 0)



# Synthesis

- Use it to scale the cone spectra (here 0.5 \* S)
- You don't get the same cone response! (here 0.5, 0.1, 0.1)



# What's going on?

- The three cone responses are not orthogonal
- i.e. they overlap and "pollute" each other



### Same as non-orthogonal bases

- Non orthogonal bases are harder to handle
- Can't use dot product on same vector to infer coordinates
  - Same problem as with cones, the i & j components pollute each other

$$j$$

$$x.i i + x.j j$$

$$x != x.i i + x.j j$$

$$i$$

### Same as non-orthogonal bases

- Non orthogonal bases are harder to handle
- Can't use dot product on same vector to infer coordinates
- Need a so-called dual basis
  - Same for color: different basis for analysis/ synthesis



$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}.\mathbf{\hat{i}} \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{x}.\mathbf{\hat{j}} \mathbf{j}$$

Note that  $\hat{i}$  has negative coordinates

### Fundamental problems

- Spectra are infinite-dimensional
- Only positive values are allowed
- Cones are non-orthogonal/overlap

# Summary

- Physical color
  - Spectrum
  - multiplication of light & reflectance spectrum
- Perceptual color
  - Cone spectral response: 3 numbers
  - Metamers: different spectrum, same responses
    - Color matching, enables color reproduction with 3 primaries
- Fundamental difficulty
  - Spectra are infinite-dimensional (full function)
  - Projected to only 3 types of cones
  - Cone responses overlap / they are non-orthogonal
    - Means different primaries for analysis and synthesis
  - Negative numbers are not physical



#### Standard color spaces

- Colorimetry: science of color measurement
- Quantitative measurements of colors are crucial in many industries
  - Television, computers, print, paint, luminaires
- So far, we have used some vague notion of RGB
  - Unfortunately, RGB is not precisely defined, and depending on your monitor, you might get something different
- We need a principled color space
#### 

Address 💩 http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/ppbweb/PPBfilecodes/105a15.htm





#### COLOR STANDARDS

for

#### FROZEN FRENCH FRIED POTATOES



FOURTH EDITION, 1988 C 1988 KOLLMORDEN CORPORATION

.

MUNSELL COLOR BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 84-1



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#### Standard color spaces

- We need a principled color space
- Many possible definition
  - Including cone response (LMS)
  - Unfortunately not really used, (because not known at the time)
- The good news is that color vision is linear and 3-dimensional, so any new color space based on color matching can be obtained using 3x3 matrix
  - But there are also non-linear color spaces (e.g. Hue Saturation Value, Lab)

# Difficulty with color science

- The good:
  - Lots of well-principled linear algebra
- The bad
  - non-orthogonal, non-negative
- The ugly
  - Historical reasons have multiplied the number of arbitrary choices

#### CIE

- Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage (International Lighting Commission)
- Circa 1920
- First in charge of measuring brightness for different light chromaticities (monochromatic wavelength)
- Then color
  - CIE XYZ space: most standard color space ever



The 1924 CIE standard photometric observer. Observers are less efficient in converting power to brightness at each end of the visible spectrum in comparison to 555 nm.

# Why not measure cone sensitivity?

- Less directly measurable
  - electrode in photoreceptor?
  - not available when color spaces were defined
- Most directly available measurement:
  - notion of metamers
  - color matching

# CIE color matching

- Choose 3 synthesis primaries
- Seek to match any monochromatic light (400 to 700nm)
   Record the 3 values for each wavelength
- By linearity, this tells us how to match any light



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# CIE color matching

- Primaries (synthesis) at 435.8, 546.1 and 700nm
  - Chosen for robust reproduction, good separation in red-green
- Resulting 3 numbers for a wavelength are called tristimulus values



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# **Color Matching Problem**

- Some colors cannot be produced using only positively weighted primaries
- Solution: add light on the other side!



## CIE color matching

- Meaning of these curves: a monochromatic wavelength λ can be reproduced with b(λ) amount of the 435.8nm primary, +g(λ) amount of the 546.1 primary, +r(λ) amount of the 700 nm primary
- This fully specifies the color perceived by a human
- Careful: this is not your usual rgb, note the bars



# CIE color matching

- Meaning of these curves: a monochromatic wavelength λ can be reproduced with b(λ) amount of the 435.8nm primary, +g(λ) amount of the 546.1 primary, +r(λ) amount of the 700 nm primary
- This fully specifies the color perceived by a human
- However, note that one of the responses can be negative
  - Those colors cannot be reproduced by those 3 primaries.



## CIE color matching: what does it mean?

- If I have a given spectrum X
- I compute its response to the 3 matching curves (multiply and integrate)
- I use these 3 responses to scale my 3 primaries (435.8, 546.1 and 700nm)
- I get a metamer of X (perfect color reproduction)



#### Relation to cone curves

- Project to the same subspace
  b, g, and r are linear combinations of S, M and L
- Related by 3x3 matrix.
- Unfortunately unknown at that time. This would have made life a lot easier!





# Recap

- Spectra : infinite dimensional
- Cones: 3 spectral responses
- Metamers: spectra that look the same (same projection onto cone responses)
- CIE measured color response:
  - chose 3 primaries
  - tristimulus curves to reproduce any wavelength
- Questions?

## How to build a measurement device?

- Idea:
  - Start with light sensor sensitive to all wavelength
  - Use three filters with spectra b, r, g
  - measure 3 numbers
- This is pretty much what the eyes do!



# CIE's problem

- Idea:
  - Start with light sensor sensitive to all wavelength
  - Use three filters with spectra b, r, g
  - measure 3 numbers
- But for those primaries, we need negative spectra





# CIE's problem

- Obvious solution: use cone response!
  but unknown at the time
- =>new set of tristimulus curves
  - linear combinations of b, g, r
  - pretty much add enough b and g until r is positive





#### CIE XYZ

- The most widely recognized color space
- Linear transform of the original tristimuls curves
- Y corresponds to brightness (1924 CIE standard photometric observer)
- No negative value of matching curve
- But no physically-realizable primary (negative values in primary rather than in matching curve)



The 1931 standard observer, as it is usually shown.

# CIE color space

- Can think of X, Y , Z as coordinates
- Linear transform from typical RGB or LMS
- Always positive (because physical spectrum is positive and matching curves are positives)

$$\begin{pmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3.24 & -1.54 & -0.50 \\ -0.97 & 1.88 & 0.04 \\ 0.06 & -0.20 & 1.06 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.41 & 0.36 & 0.18 \\ 0.21 & 0.72 & 0.07 \\ 0.02 & 0.12 & 0.95 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$



#### In summary

- It's all about linear algebra
  - Projection from infinite-dimensional spectrum to a 3D response
  - Then any space based on color matching and metamerism can be converted by 3x3 matrix
- Complicated because
  - Projection from infinite-dimensional space
  - Non-orthogonal basis (cone responses overlap)
  - No negative light

# Selected Bibliography



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by Mark Fairchild Addison Wesley, 1998

Questions?

VIII. Philipp Otto Runge, Colour Sphere, 1809, Hamburg Kuns-thalle.



# Explanation for inverted eye

- Thanks Quinn!
- Allows photoreceptors to be closer to oxygen & nutrient supply, waste management, etc.
- Layer of cells in front of receptors act as fiber optics
  - http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/short/104/20/8287
  - http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/short/104/20/8287
  - <u>http://books.google.com/books?</u>
     <u>id=\_4Waro\_peuMC&pg=PA77&lpg=PA77&dq=photoreceptor</u>
     <u>+waveguide&source=web&ots=2jpmEB9F2Y&sig=mnYwGPKLWjeoQFNKNsuky</u>
     <u>X8VmTY#PPA77,M1</u>
  - <u>http://www.journalofvision.org/2/5/4/article.aspx</u>



