

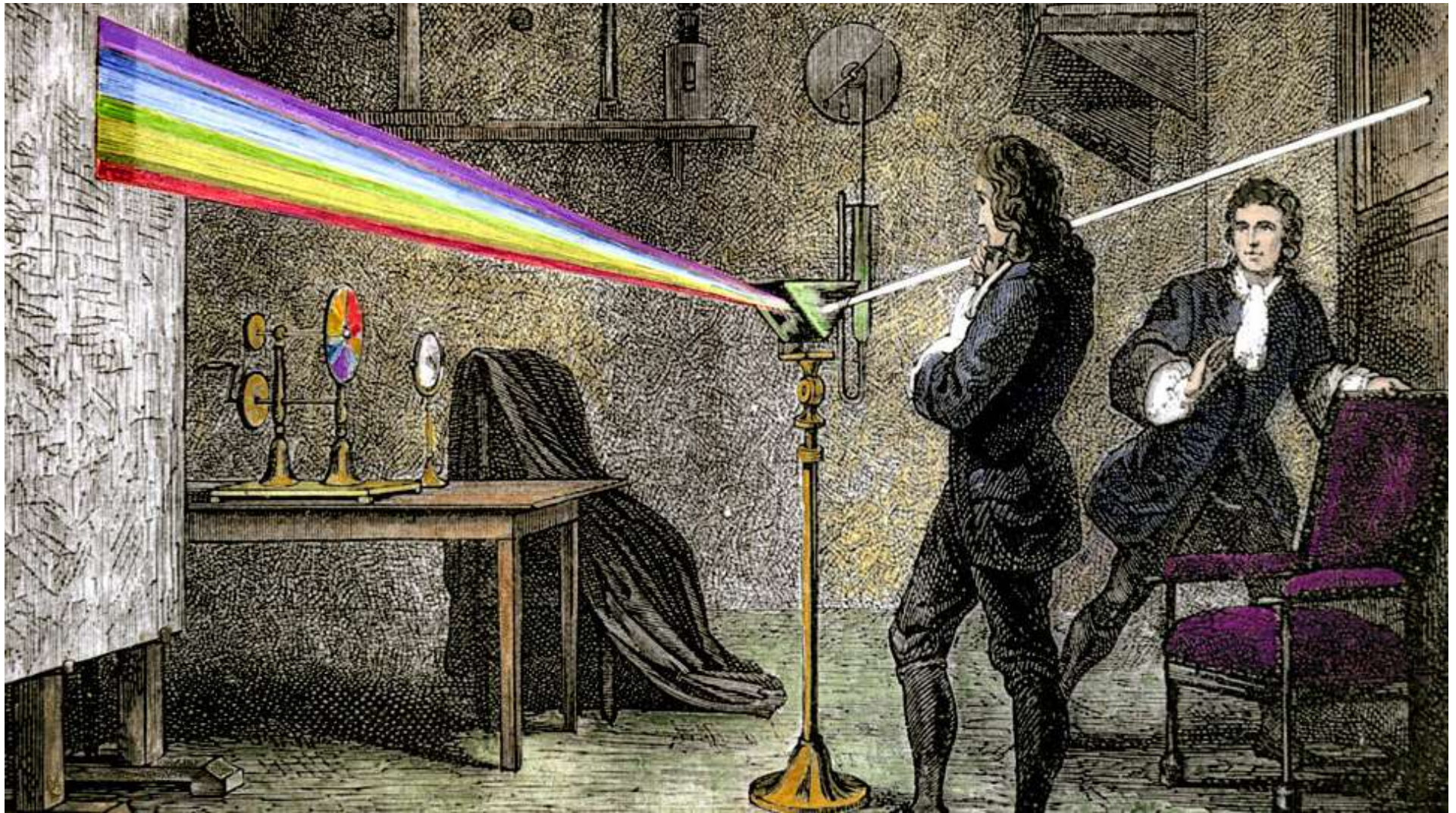
## Advanced Graphics and Image Processing

# Colour perception and colour spaces

## Part 1/5 – physics of light

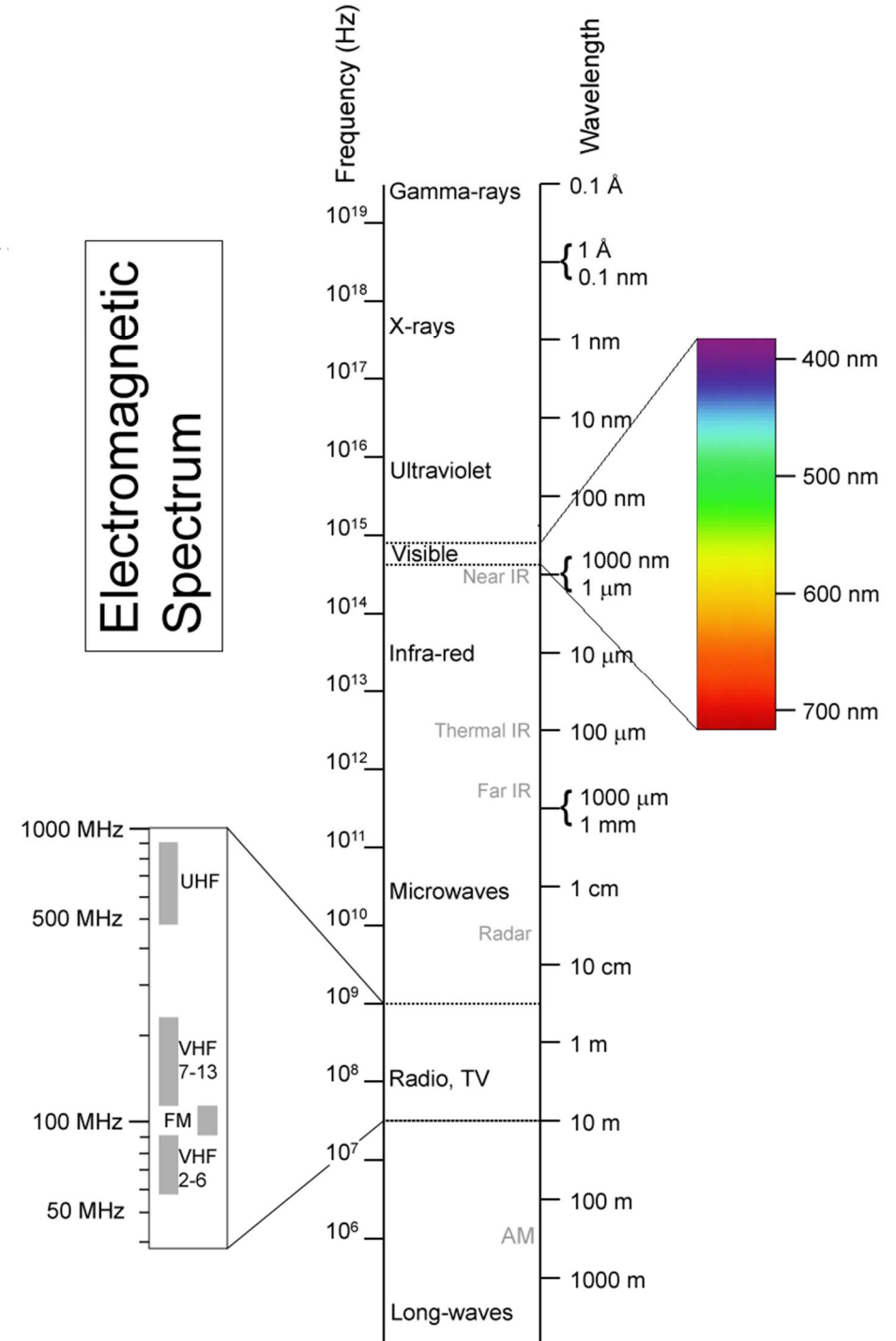
Rafał Mantiuk

*Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge*



# Electromagnetic spectrum

- ▶ **Visible light**
  - ▶ Electromagnetic waves of wavelength in the range 380nm to 730nm
  - ▶ Earth's atmosphere lets through a lot of light in this wavelength band
  - ▶ Higher in energy than thermal infrared, so heat does not interfere with vision

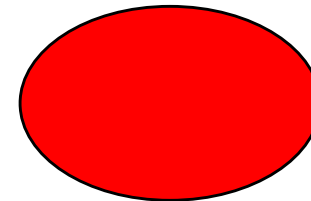
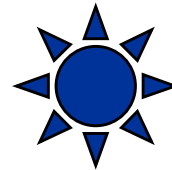


# Colour

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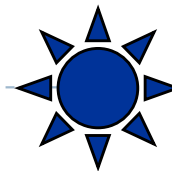
- ▶ There is no physical definition of colour – colour is the result of our perception
- ▶ For reflective displays / objects

colour = perception( illumination  $\times$  reflectance )



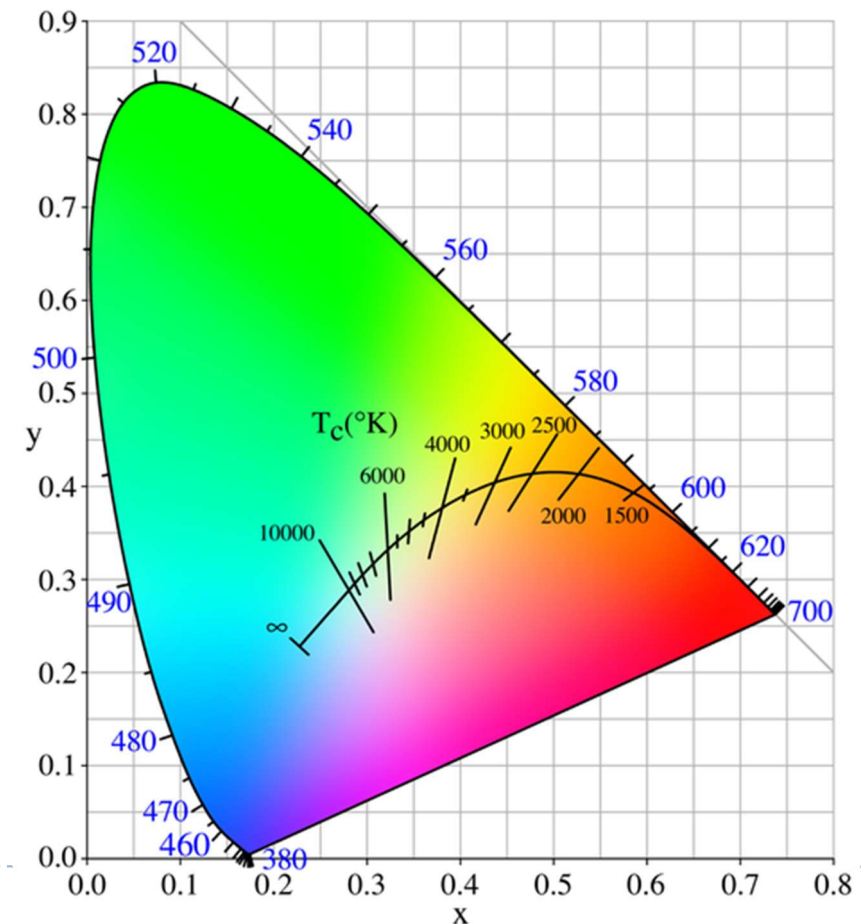
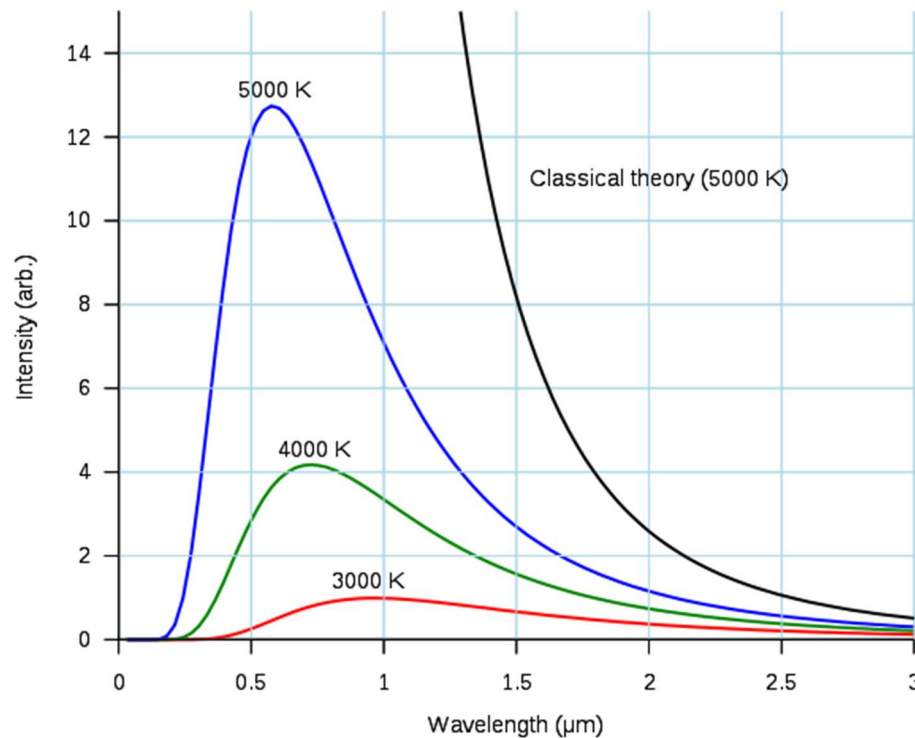
- ▶ For emissive objects or displays

colour = perception( emission )



# Black body radiation

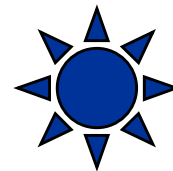
- ▶ Electromagnetic radiation emitted by a perfect absorber at a given temperature
  - ▶ Graphite is a good approximation of a black body



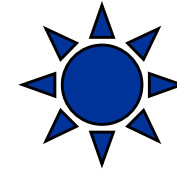
# Correlated colour temperature

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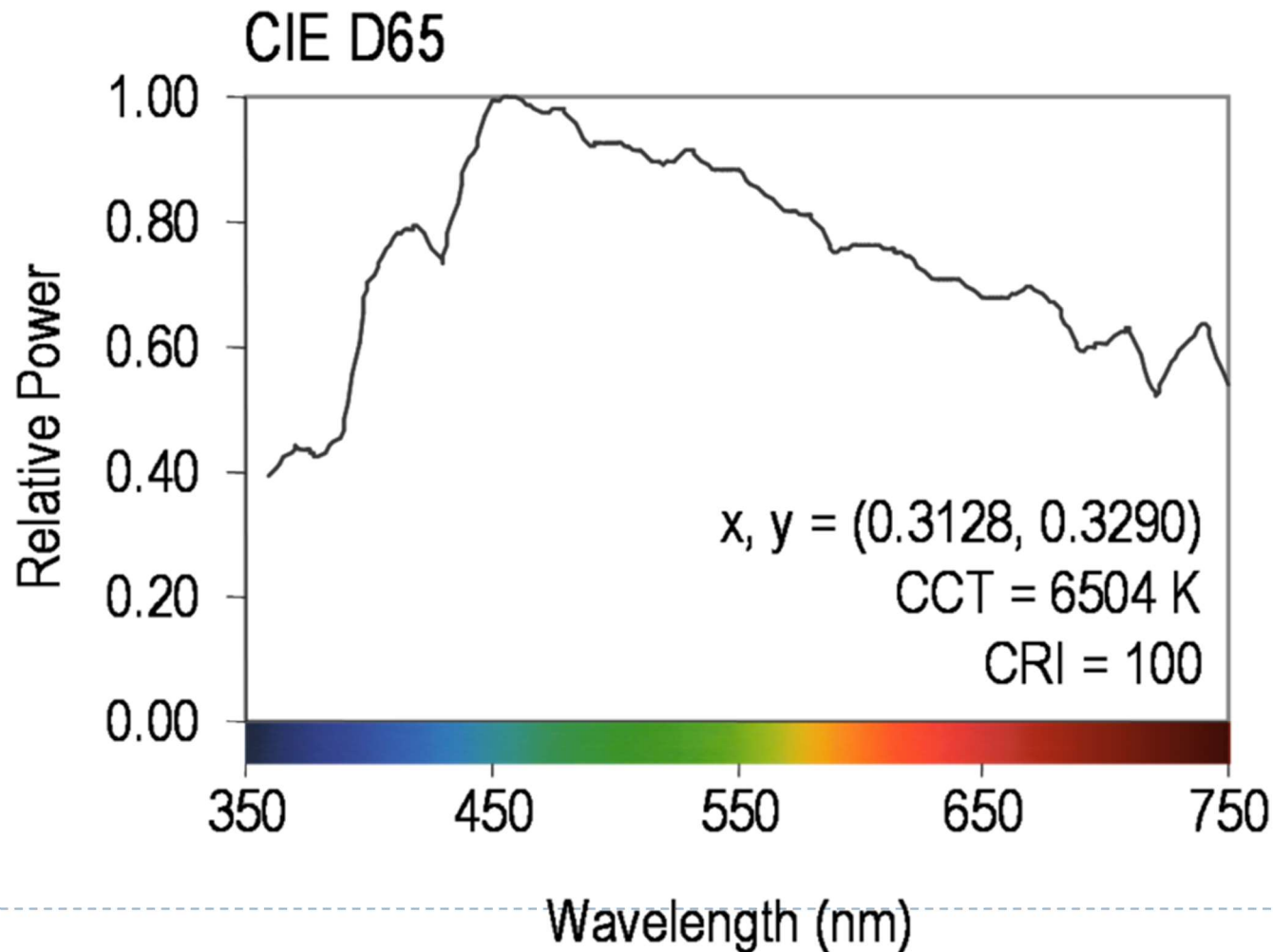
- ▶ The temperature of a black body radiator that produces light most closely matching the particular source
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ Typical north-sky light: 7500 K
  - ▶ Typical average daylight: 6500 K
  - ▶ Domestic tungsten lamp (100 to 200 W): 2800 K
  - ▶ Domestic tungsten lamp (40 to 60 W): 2700 K
  - ▶ Sunlight at sunset: 2000 K
- ▶ Useful to describe colour of the **illumination** (source of light)



# Standard illuminant D65



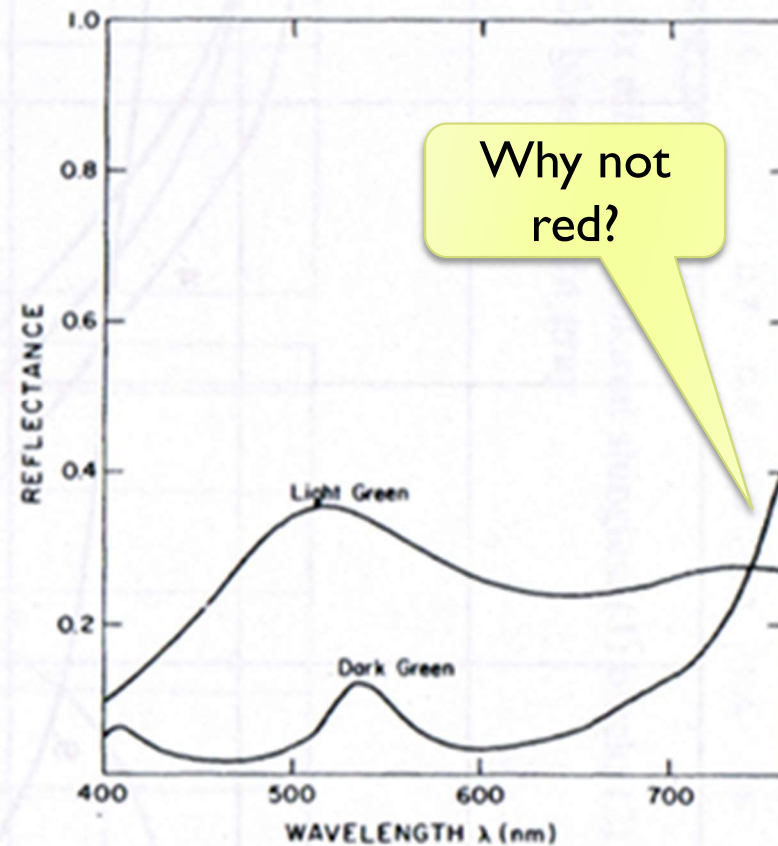
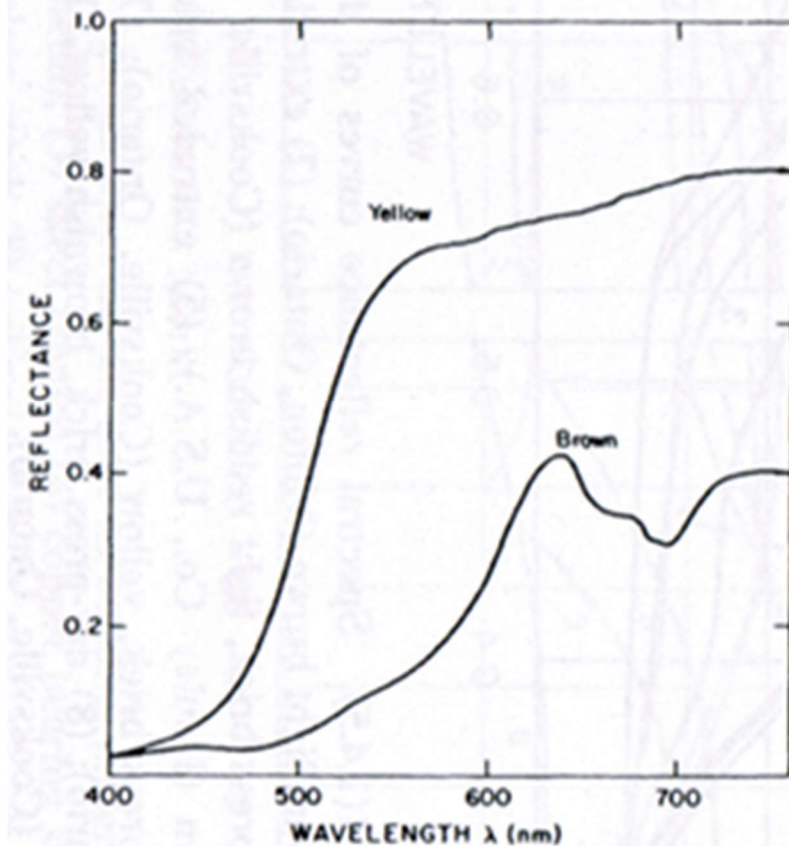
- ▶ Mid-day sun in Western Europe / Northern Europe
- ▶ Colour temperature approx. 6500 K



# Reflectance

- ▶ Most of the light we see is reflected from objects
- ▶ These objects absorb a certain part of the light spectrum

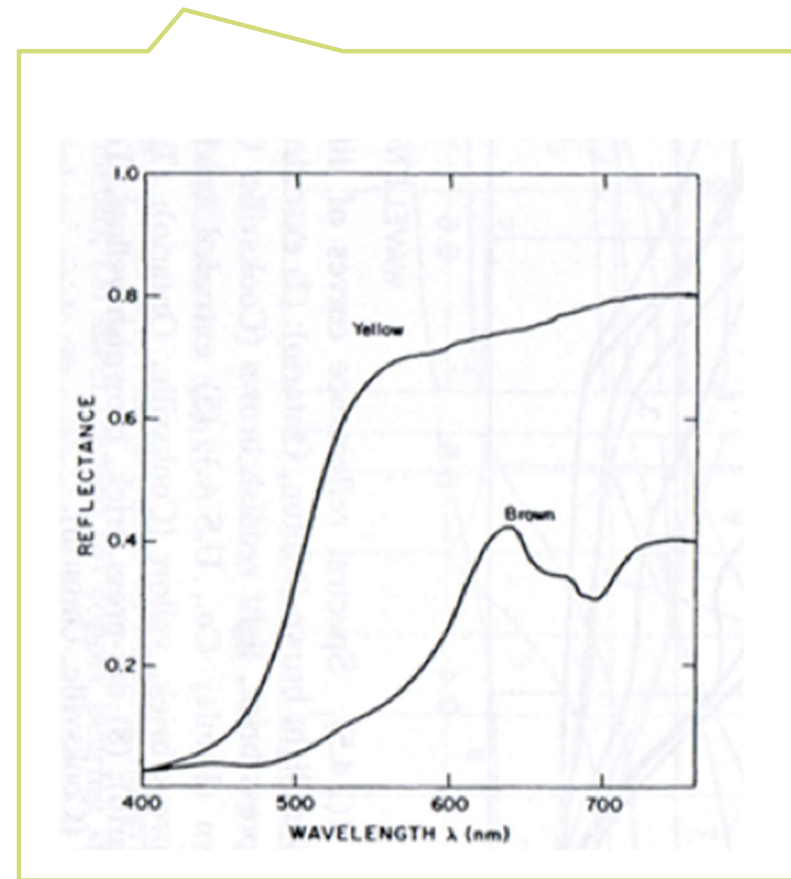
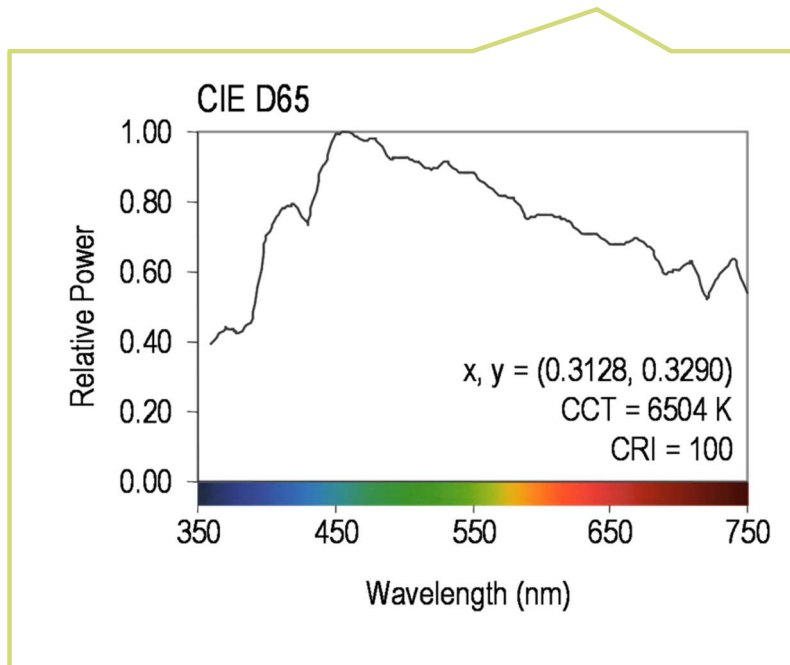
Spectral reflectance of ceramic tiles



# Reflected light

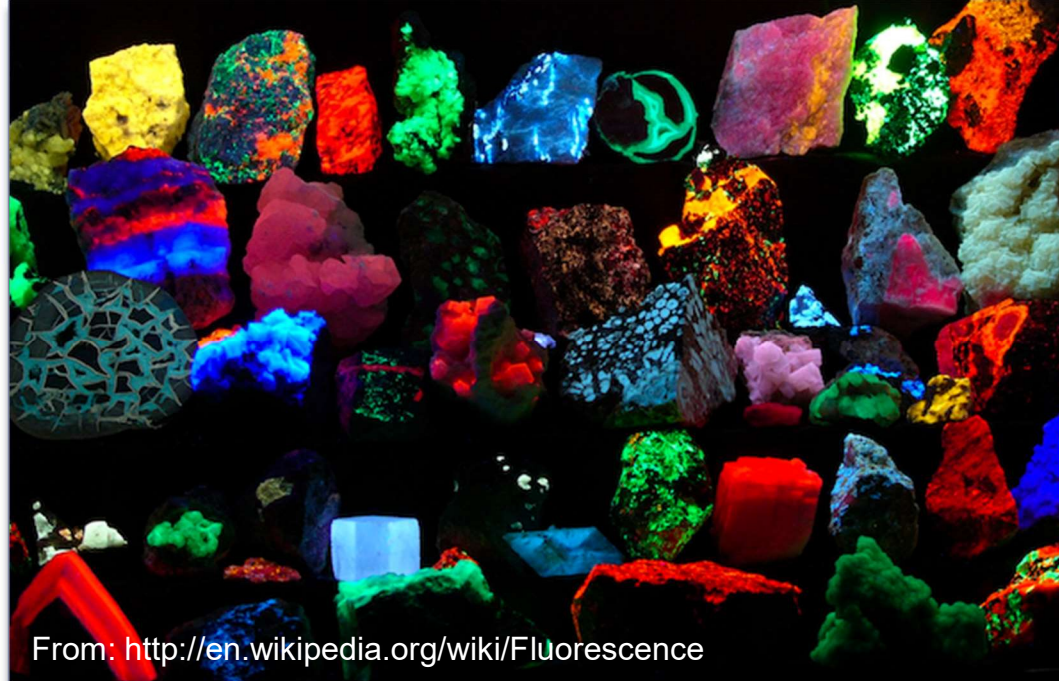
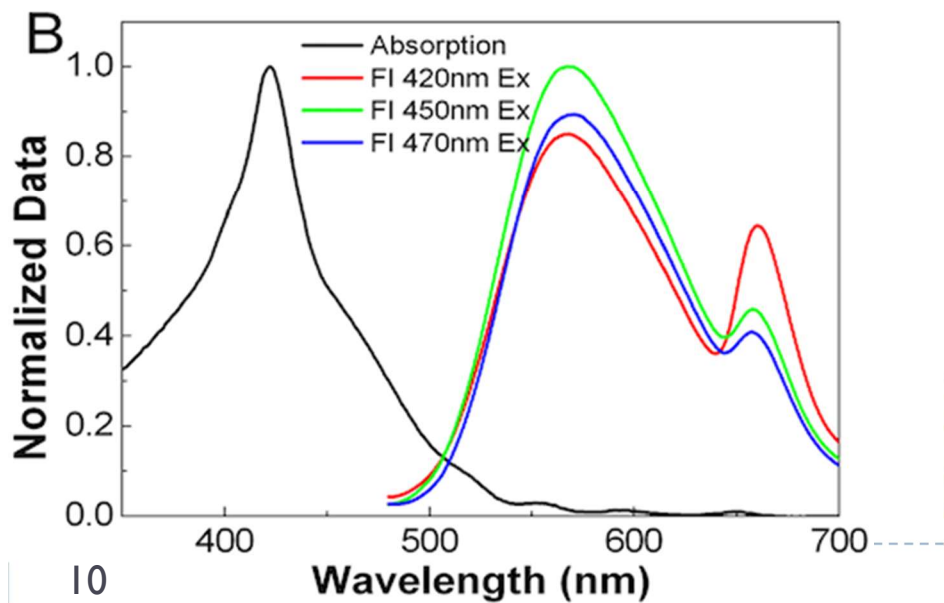
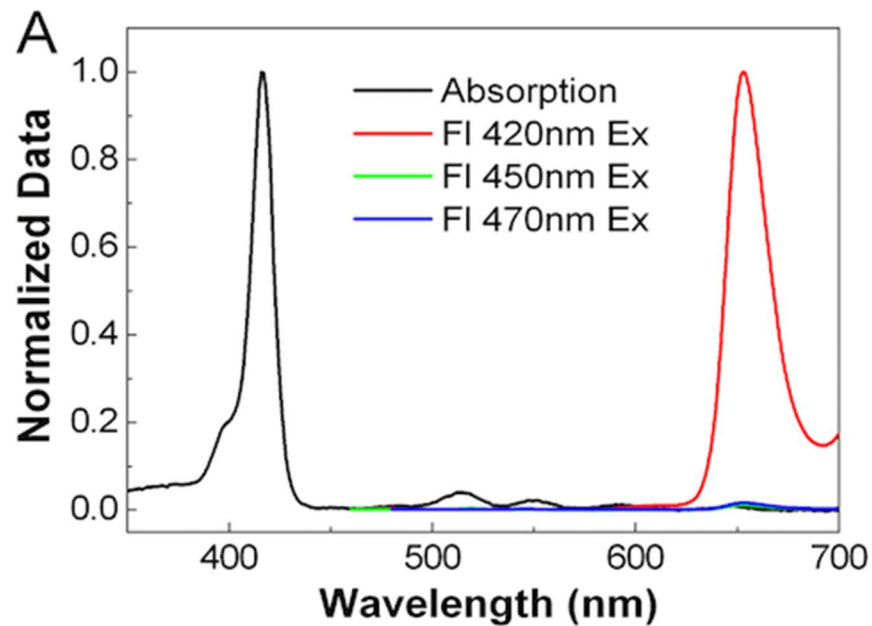
$$L(\lambda) = I(\lambda)R(\lambda)$$

- ▶ Reflected light = illumination × reflectance



The same object may appear to have different color under different illumination.

# Fluorescence



From: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluorescence>



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## Advanced Graphics and Image Processing

# **Colour perception and colour spaces**

## **Part 2/5 – perception, cone fundamentals**

Rafał Mantiuk

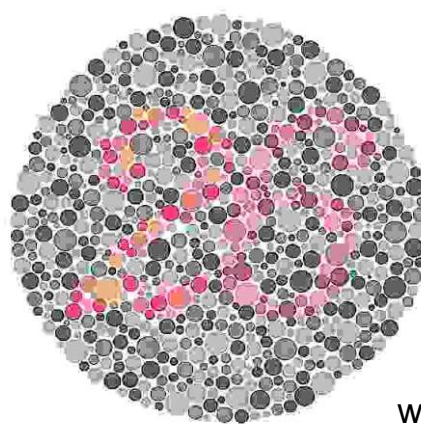
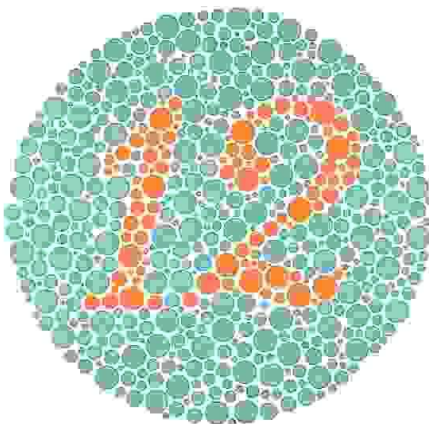
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# Colour perception

- ▶ **Di-chromaticity (dogs, cats)**
  - ▶ Yellow & blue-violet
  - ▶ Green, orange, red indistinguishable
- ▶ **Tri-chromaticity (humans, monkeys)**
  - ▶ Red-ish, green-ish, blue-ish
  - ▶ Colour-deficiency
    - ▶ Most often men, green-red colour-deficiency



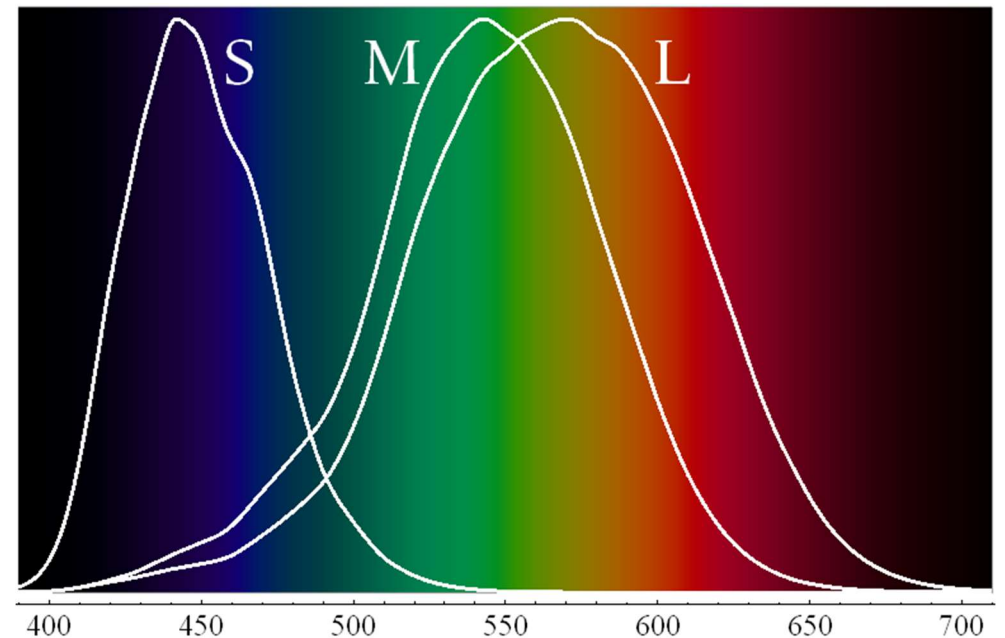
[www.lam.mus.ca.us/cats/color/](http://www.lam.mus.ca.us/cats/color/)



[www.colorcube.com/illusions/clrbld.html](http://www.colorcube.com/illusions/clrbld.html)

# Colour vision

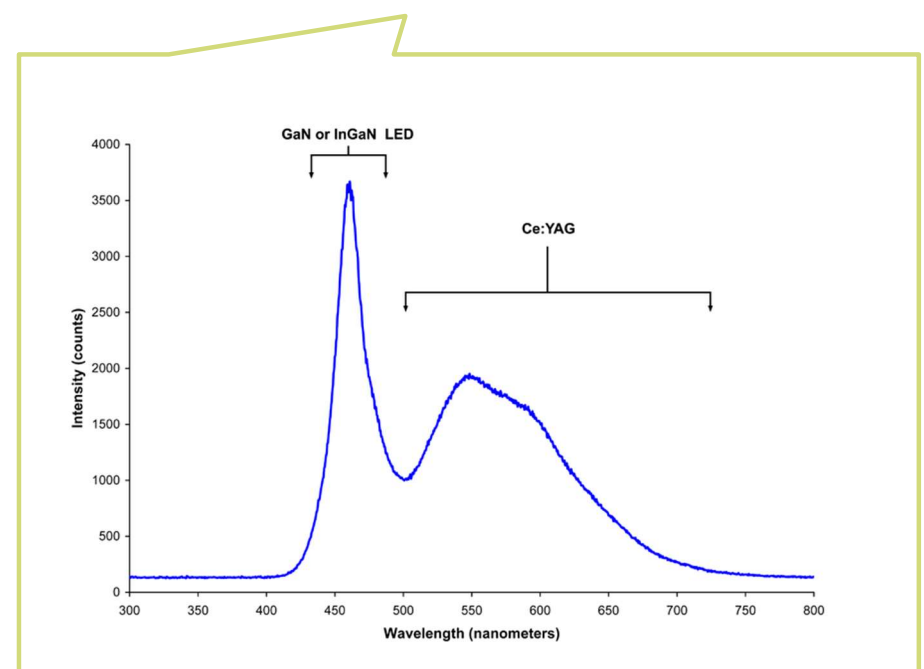
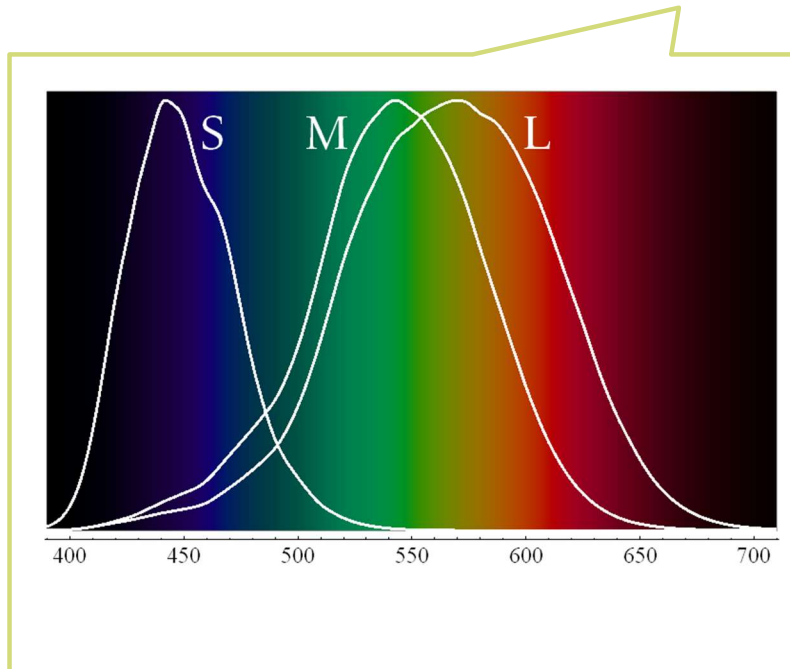
- ▶ Cones are the photoreceptors responsible for color vision
  - ▶ Only daylight, we see no colors when there is not enough light
- ▶ Three types of cones
  - ▶ S – sensitive to short wavelengths
  - ▶ M – sensitive to medium wavelengths
  - ▶ L – sensitive to long wavelengths



Sensitivity curves – probability that a photon of that wavelengths will be absorbed by a photoreceptor. S, M and L curves are normalized in this plot.

# Perceived light

- ▶ cone response = sum( sensitivity × reflected light )



Although there is an infinite number of wavelengths, we have only three photoreceptor types to sense differences between light spectra

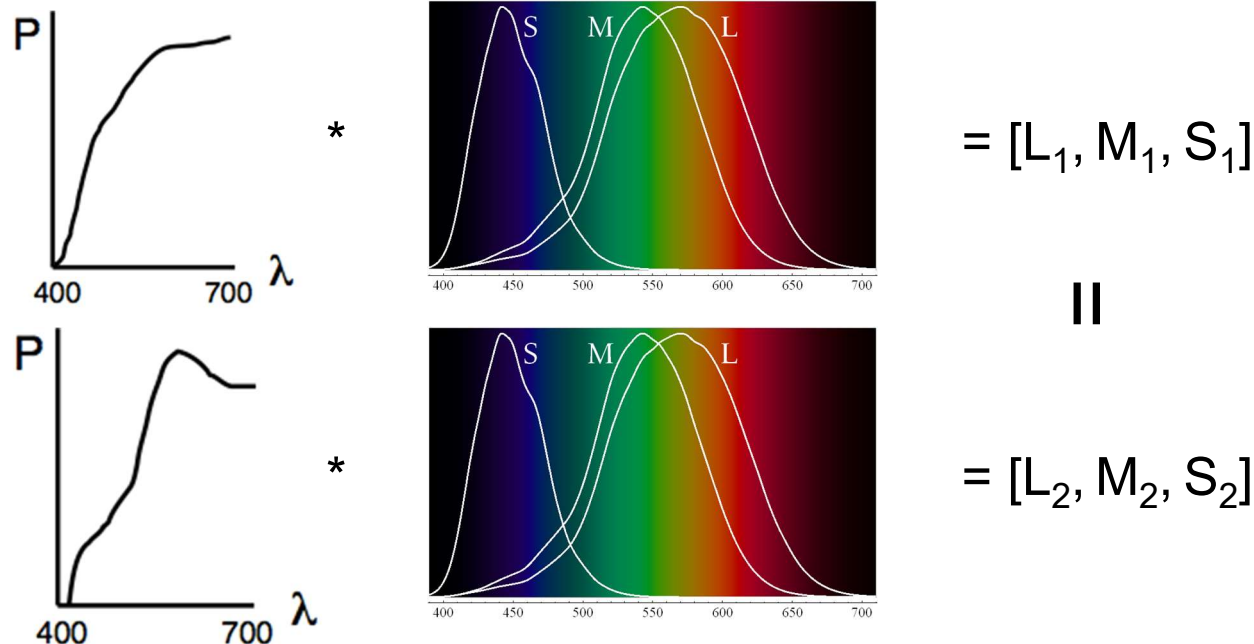
Formally

$$R_S = \int_{380}^{730} S_S(\lambda) \cdot L(\lambda) d\lambda$$

Index S for S-cones

# Metamers

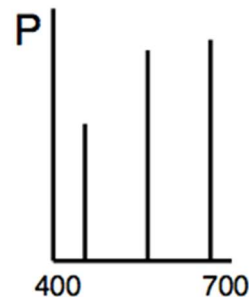
- ▶ Even if two light spectra are different, they may appear to have the same colour
- ▶ The light spectra that appear to have the same colour are called **metamers**
- ▶ Example:



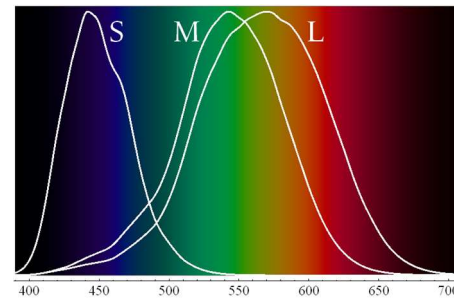
# Practical application of metamerism

- ▶ Displays do not emit the same light spectra as real-world objects
- ▶ Yet, the colours on a display look almost identical

On the display

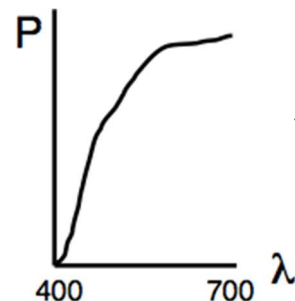


\*

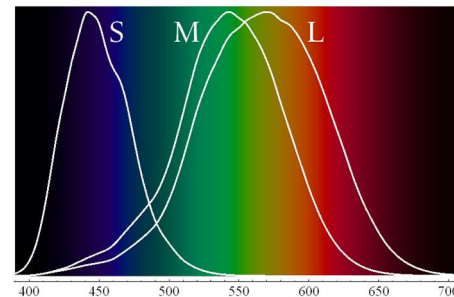


$$= [L_1, M_1, S_1]$$

||



\*



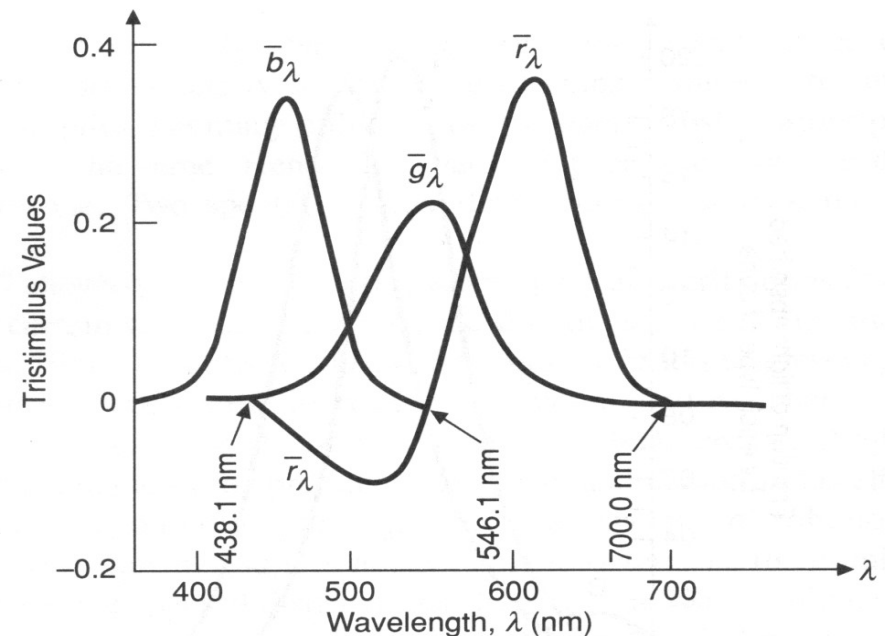
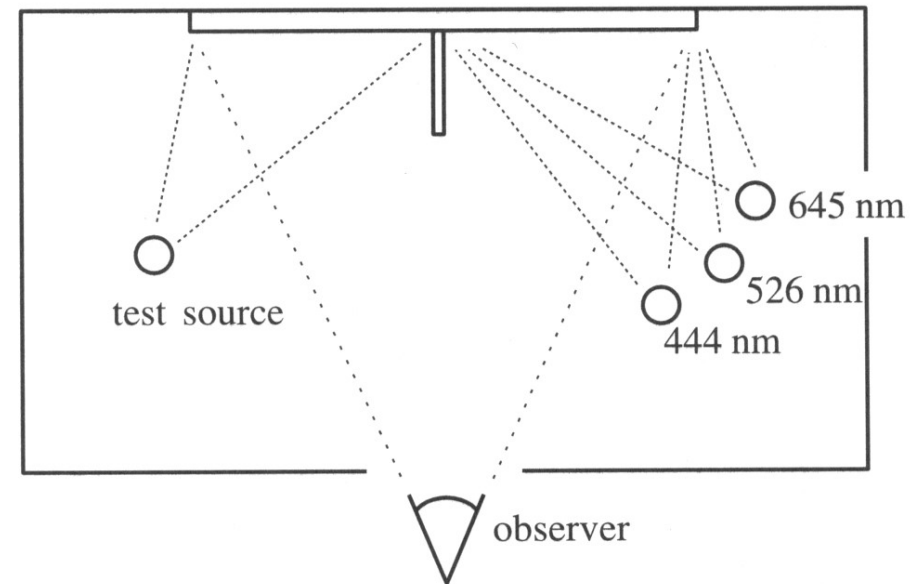
$$= [L_2, M_2, S_2]$$

In real world

# Tristimulus Colour Representation

## ► Observation

- Any colour can be matched using three linear independent reference colours
- May require “negative” contribution to test colour
- Matching curves describe the value for matching monochromatic spectral colours of equal intensity
  - With respect to a certain set of primary colours



# Standard Colour Space CIE-XYZ

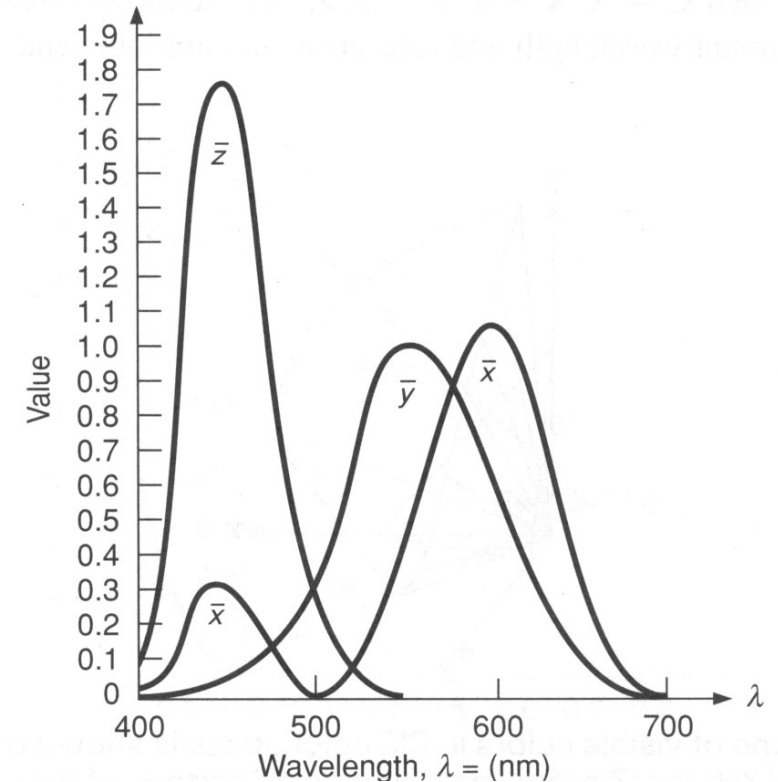
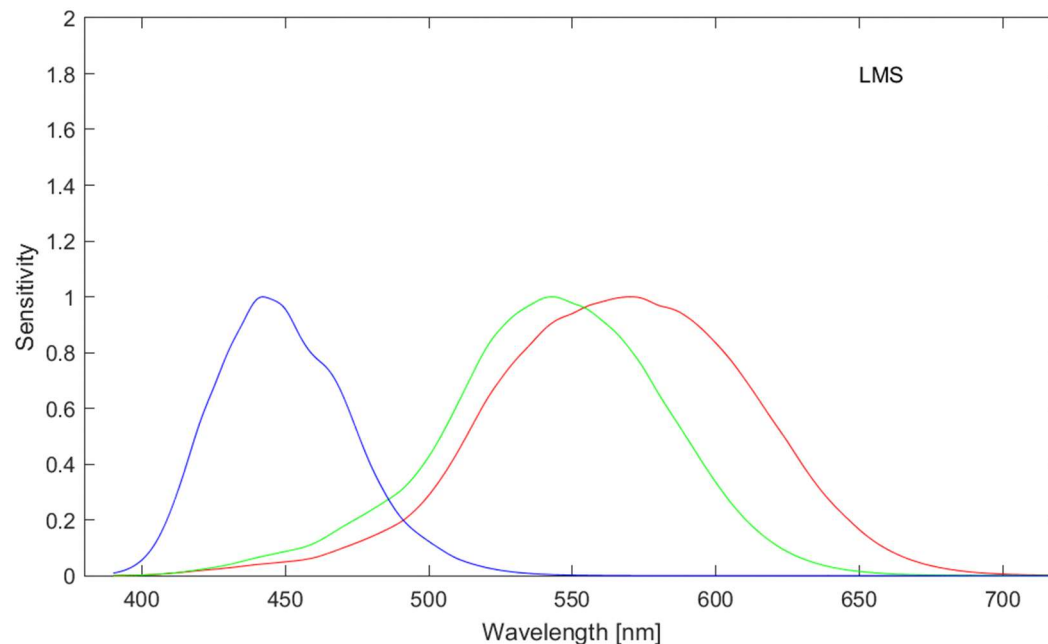
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- ▶ **CIE Experiments [Guild and Wright, 1931]**
  - ▶ Colour matching experiments
  - ▶ Group ~12 people with „normal“ colour vision
  - ▶ 2 degree visual field (fovea only)
- ▶ **CIE 2006 XYZ**
  - ▶ Derived from LMS color matching functions by Stockman & Sharpe
  - ▶ S-cone response differs the most from CIE 1931
- ▶ **CIE-XYZ Colour Space**
  - ▶ **Goals**
    - ▶ Abstract from concrete primaries used in experiment
    - ▶ All matching functions are positive
    - ▶ Primary „Y“ is roughly proportionally to achromatic response (luminance)

# Standard Colour Space CIE-XYZ

## ► Standardized imaginary primaries CIE XYZ (1931)

- Could match all physically realizable colour stimuli
- Cone sensitivity curves can be obtained by a linear transformation of CIE XYZ

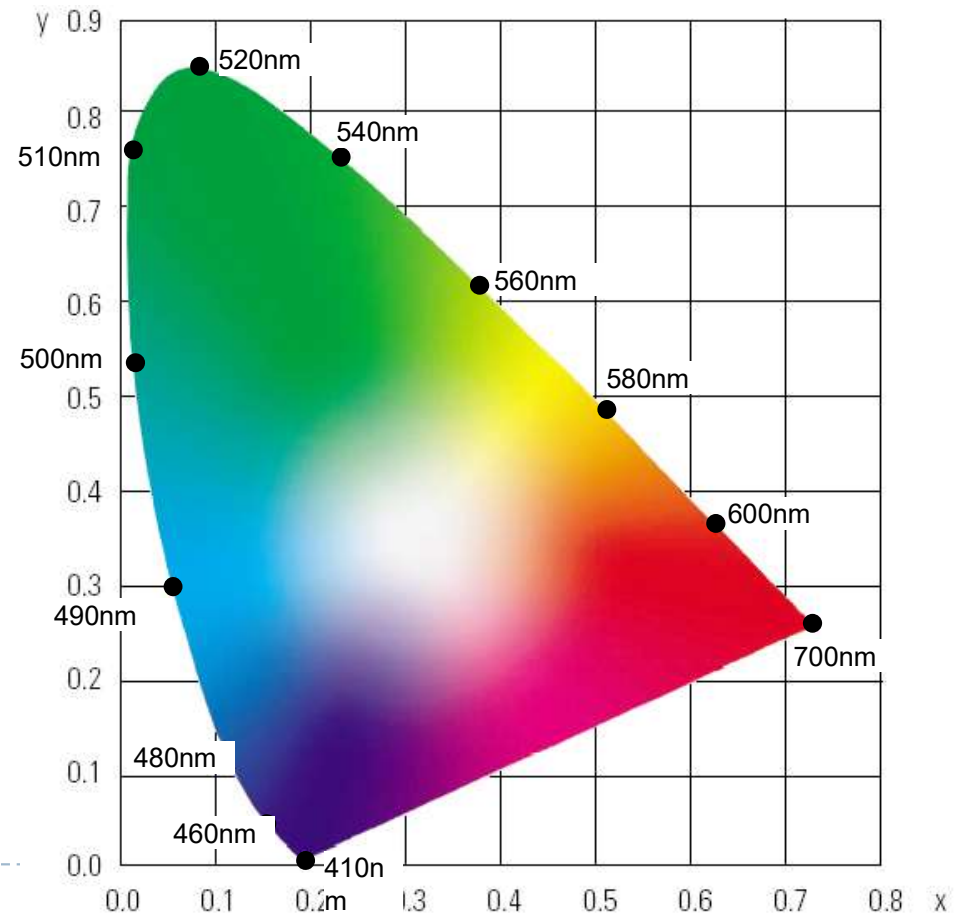


# CIE chromaticity diagram

- ▶ *chromaticity* values are defined in terms of  $x, y, z$

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

- ▶ ignores luminance
  - ▶ can be plotted as a 2D function
- ▶ pure colours (single wavelength) lie along the outer curve
- ▶ all other colours are a mix of pure colours and hence lie inside the curve
- ▶ points outside the curve do not exist as colours



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## Advanced Graphics and Image Processing

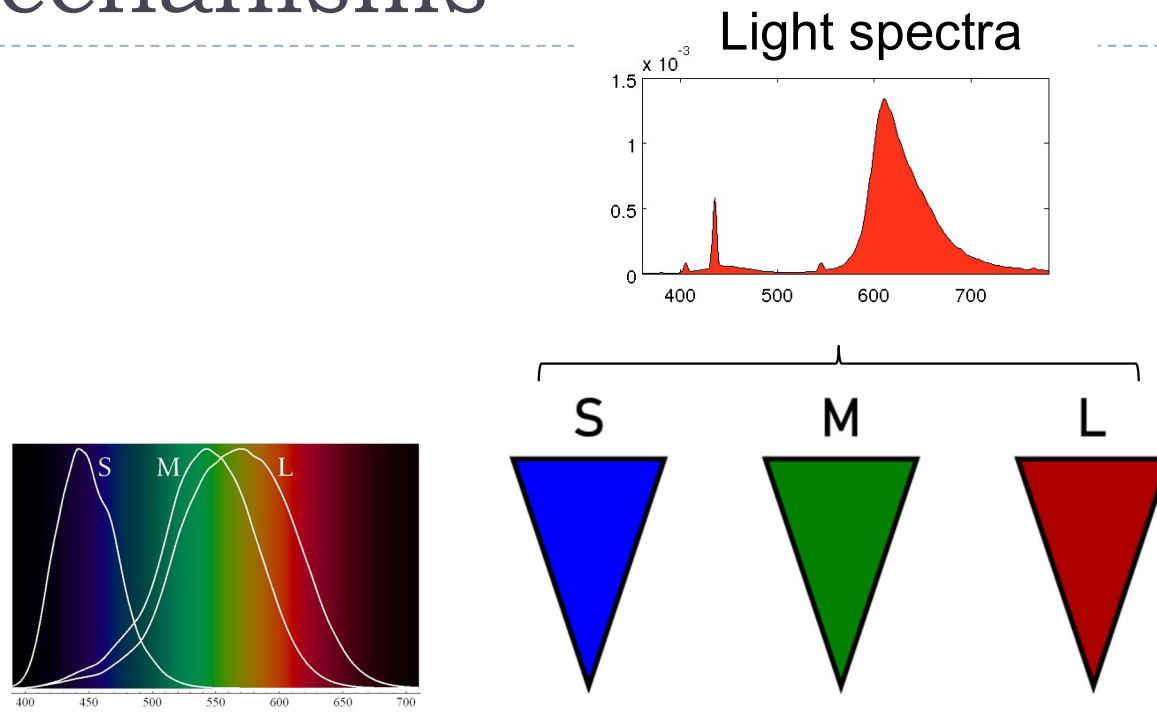
# **Colour perception and colour spaces**

## **Part 3/5 – colour opponent processing**

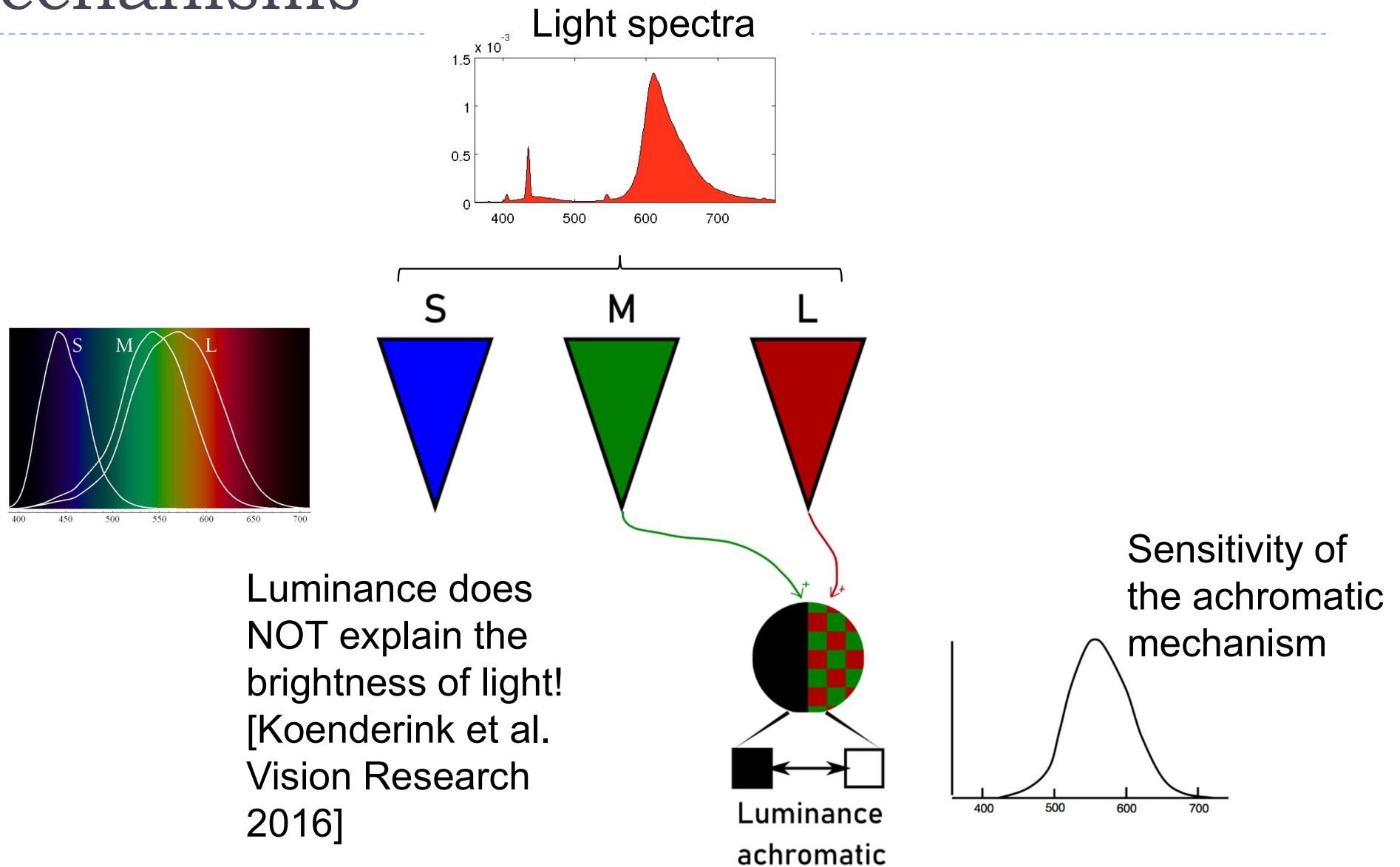
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*Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge*

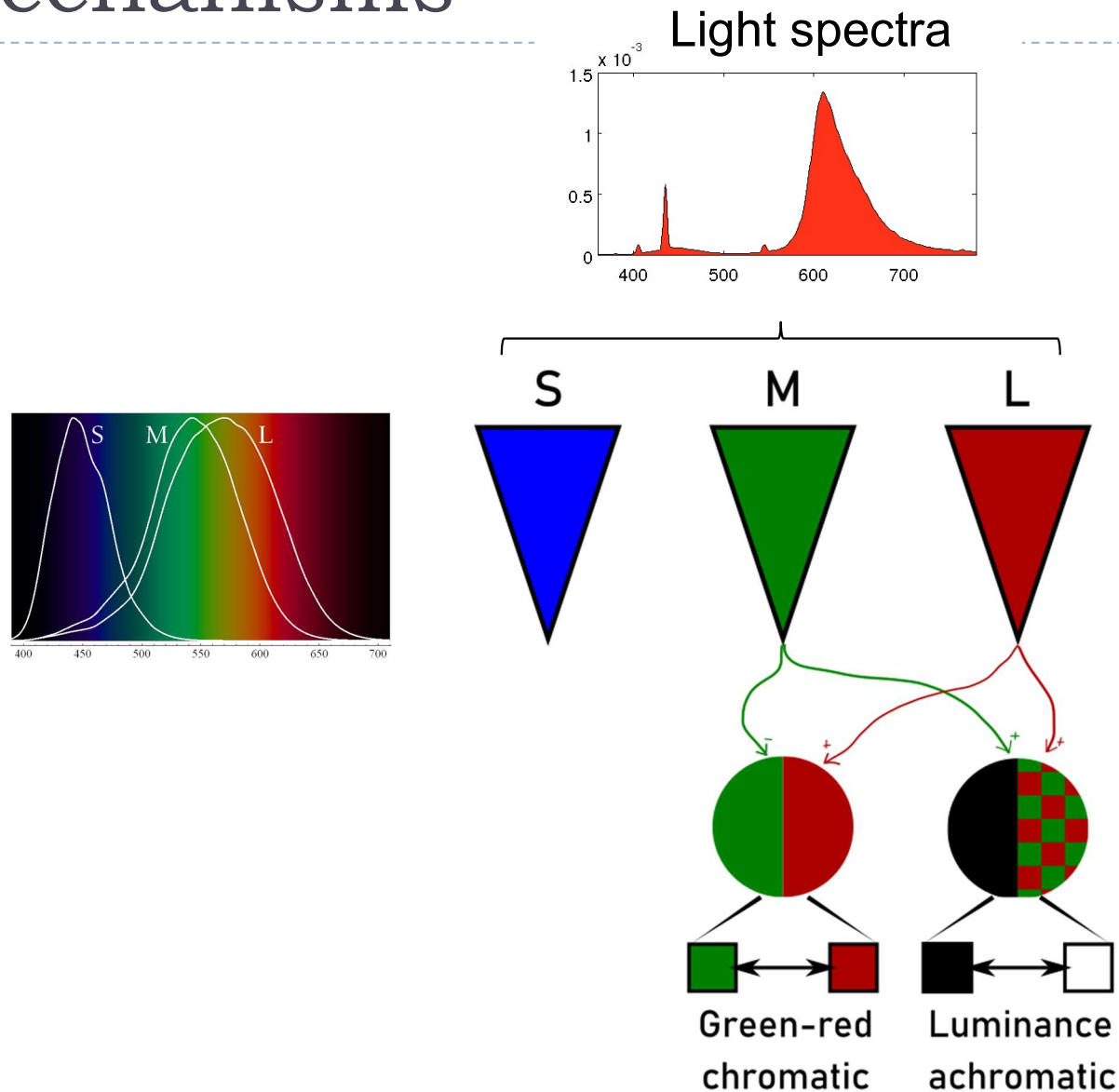
# Achromatic/chromatic vision mechanisms



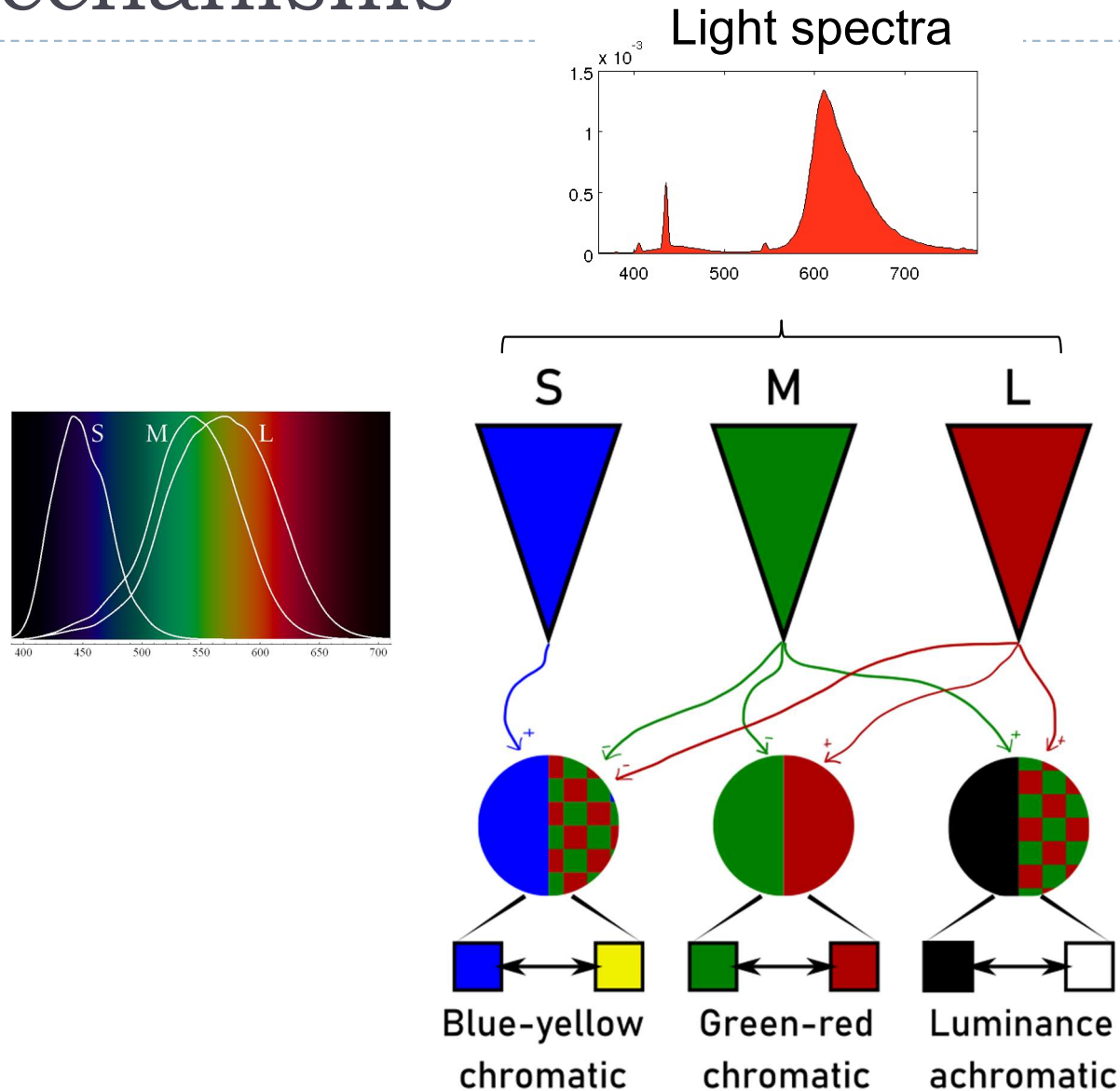
# Achromatic/chromatic vision mechanisms



# Achromatic/chromatic vision mechanisms



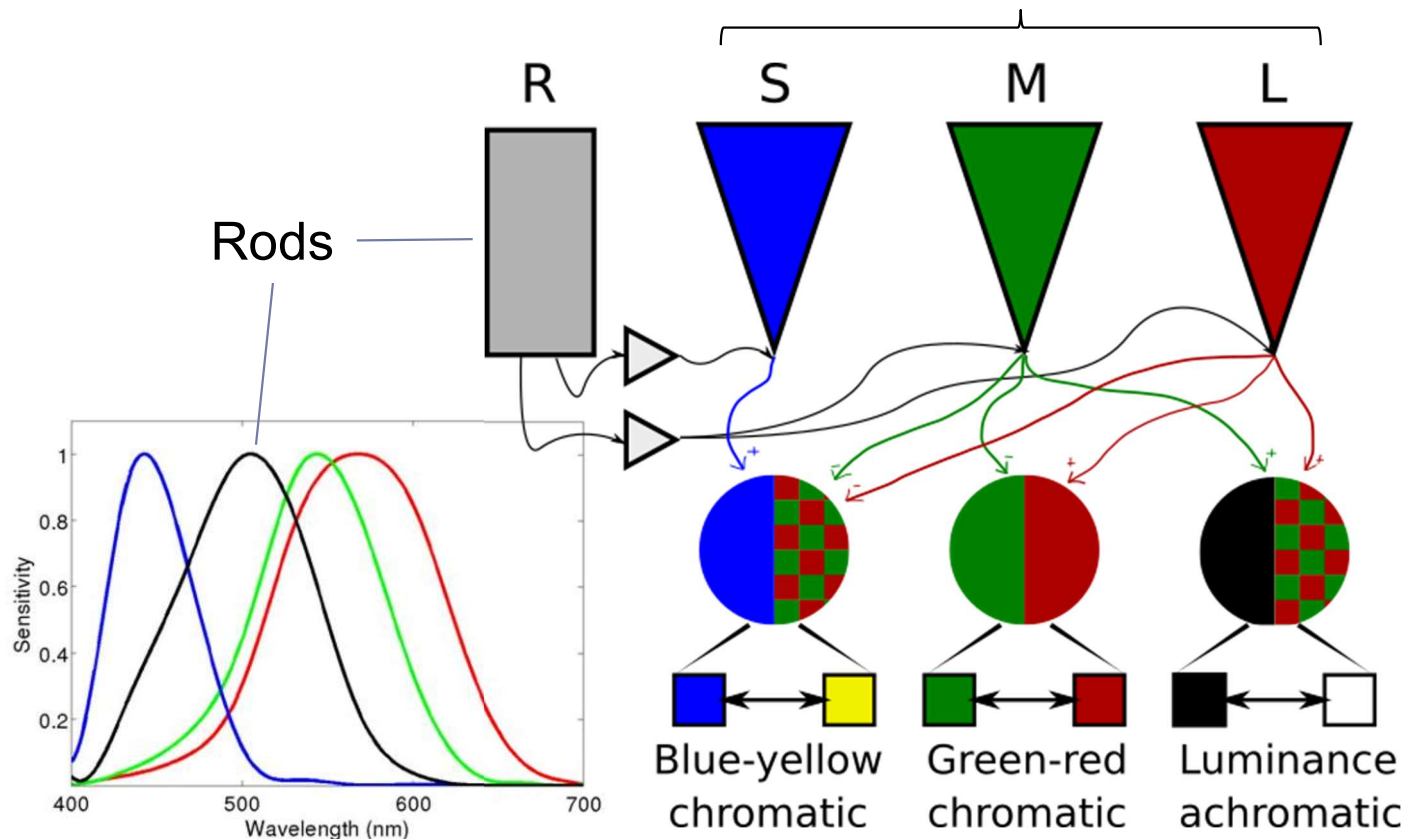
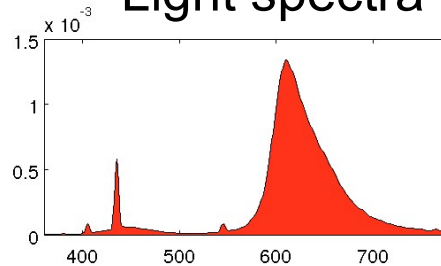
# Achromatic/chromatic vision mechanisms



# Achromatic/chromatic vision mechanisms

Cao et al. (2008). *Vision Research*, 48(26), 2586–92.

Light spectra



# Luminance

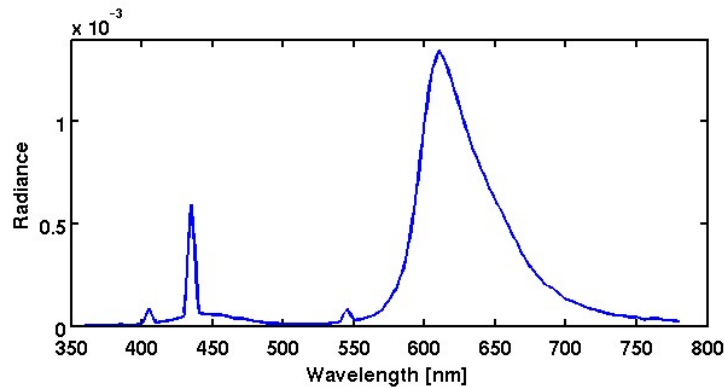
- Luminance – measure of light weighted by the response of the achromatic mechanism. Units:  $\text{cd}/\text{m}^2$

Luminance

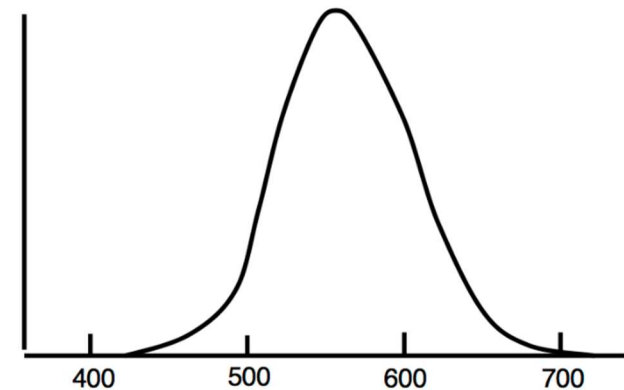
$$L_V = \int_{350}^{700} kL(\lambda)V(\lambda)d\lambda$$

$$k = \frac{1}{683.002}$$

Light spectrum (radiance)



Luminous efficiency function (weighting)





## Advanced Graphics and Image Processing

# Colour perception and colour spaces

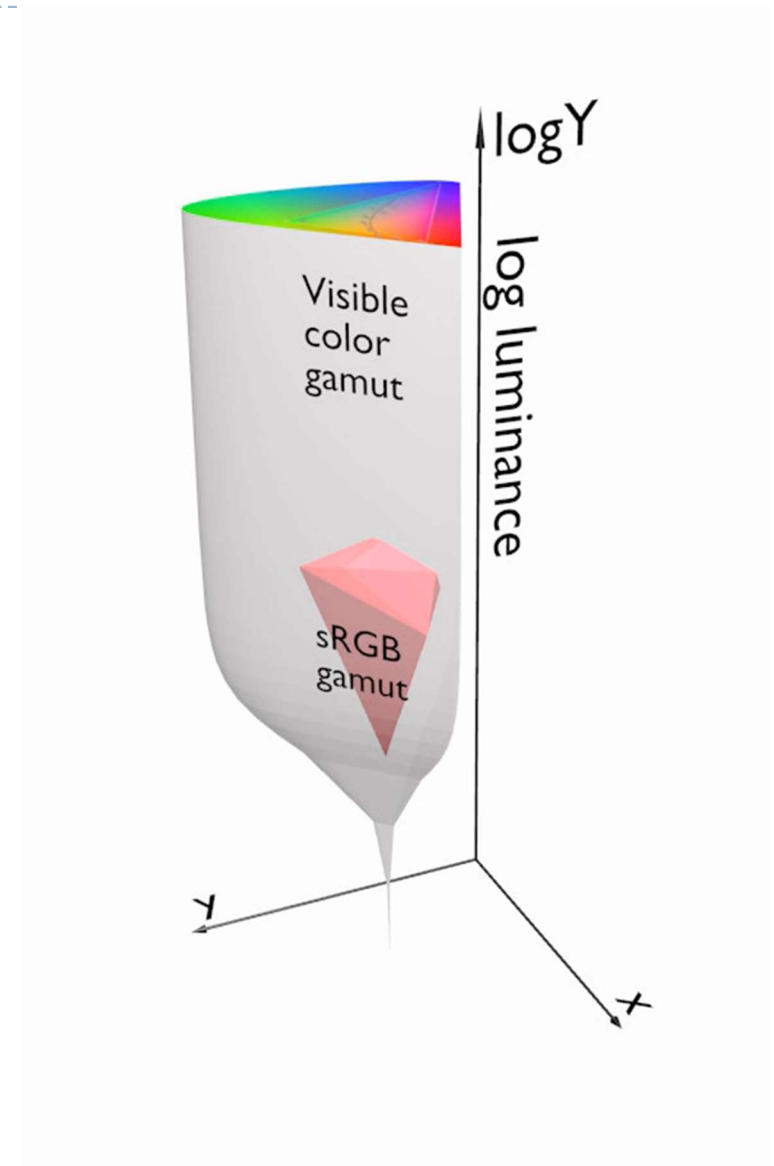
## Part 4/5 – gamuts, linear and gamma-encoded colour

Rafał Mantiuk

*Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge*

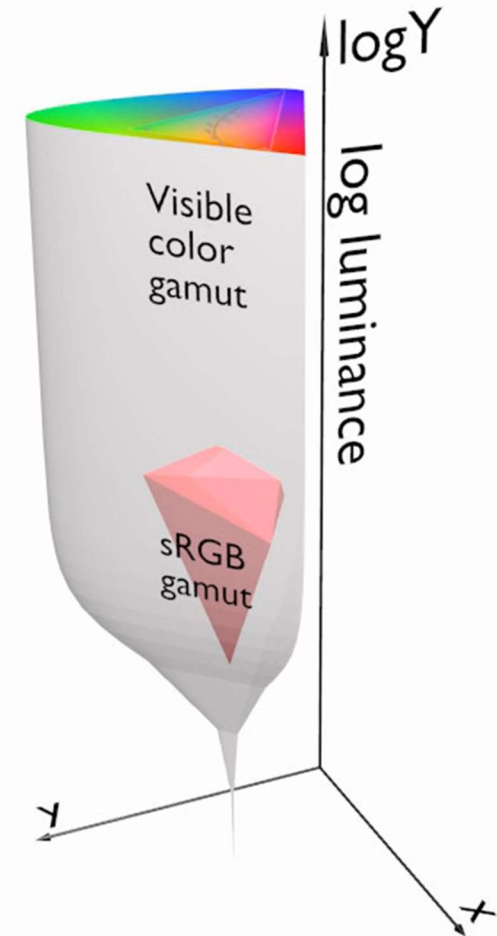
# Visible vs. displayable colours

- ▶ All physically possible and visible colours form a solid in  $XYZ$  space
- ▶ Each display device can reproduce a subspace of that space
- ▶ A chromacity diagram is a projection of a slice taken from a 3D solid in  $XYZ$  space
- ▶ Colour Gamut – the solid in a colour space
  - ▶ Usually defined in  $XYZ$  to be device-independent

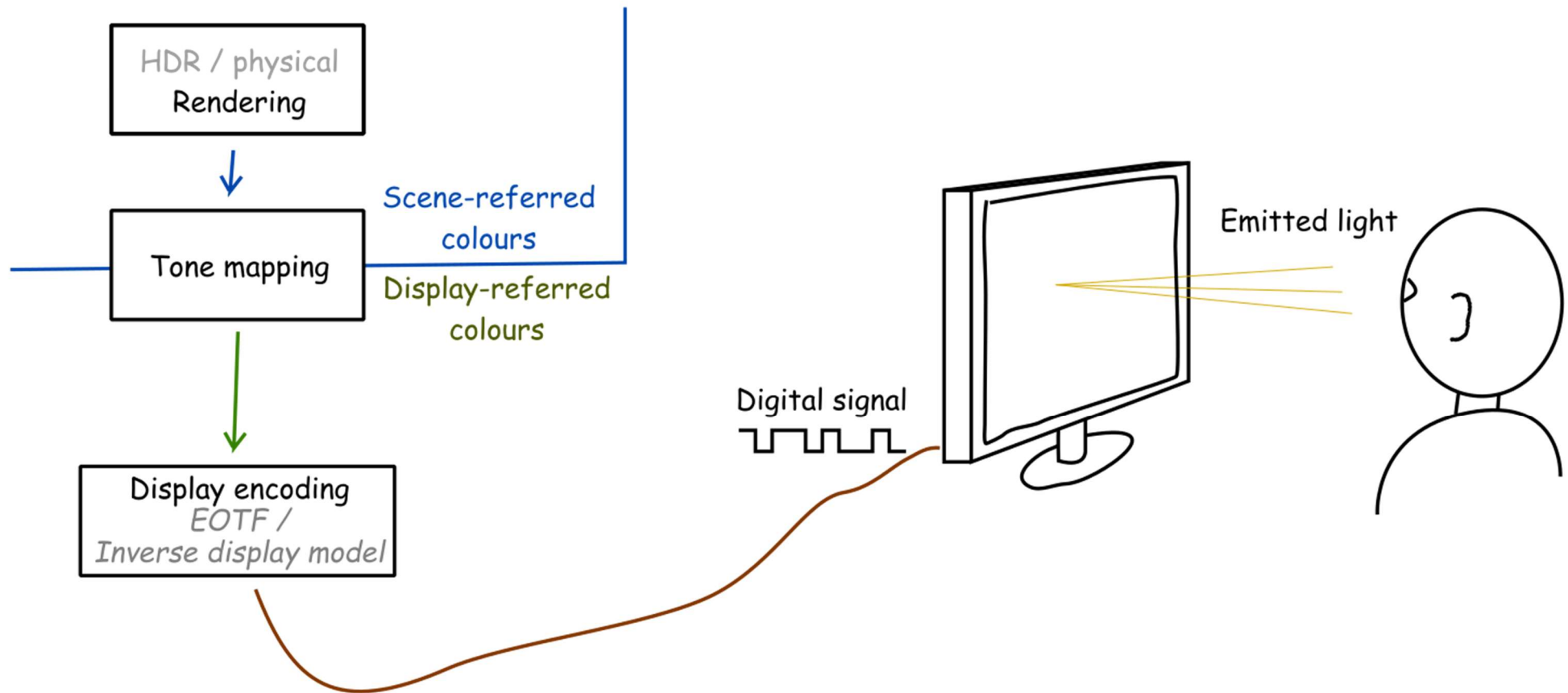


# Standard vs. High Dynamic Range

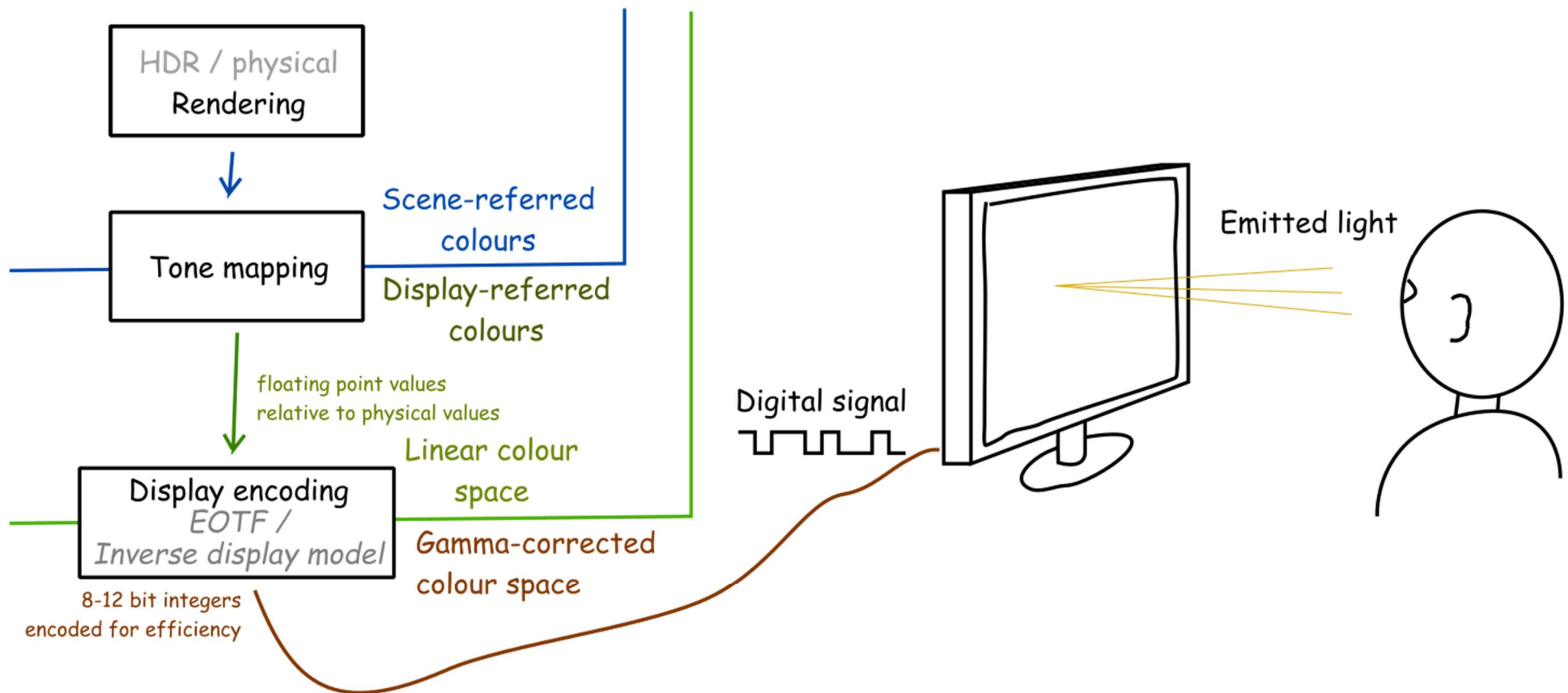
- ▶ **HDR** cameras/formats/displays attempt capture/represent/reproduce (almost) all visible colours
  - ▶ They represent scene colours and therefore we often call this representation *scene-referred*
- ▶ **SDR** cameras/formats/devices attempt to capture/represent/reproduce only colours of a standard sRGB colour gamut, mimicking the capabilities of CRTs monitors
  - ▶ They represent display colours and therefore we often call this representation *display-referred*



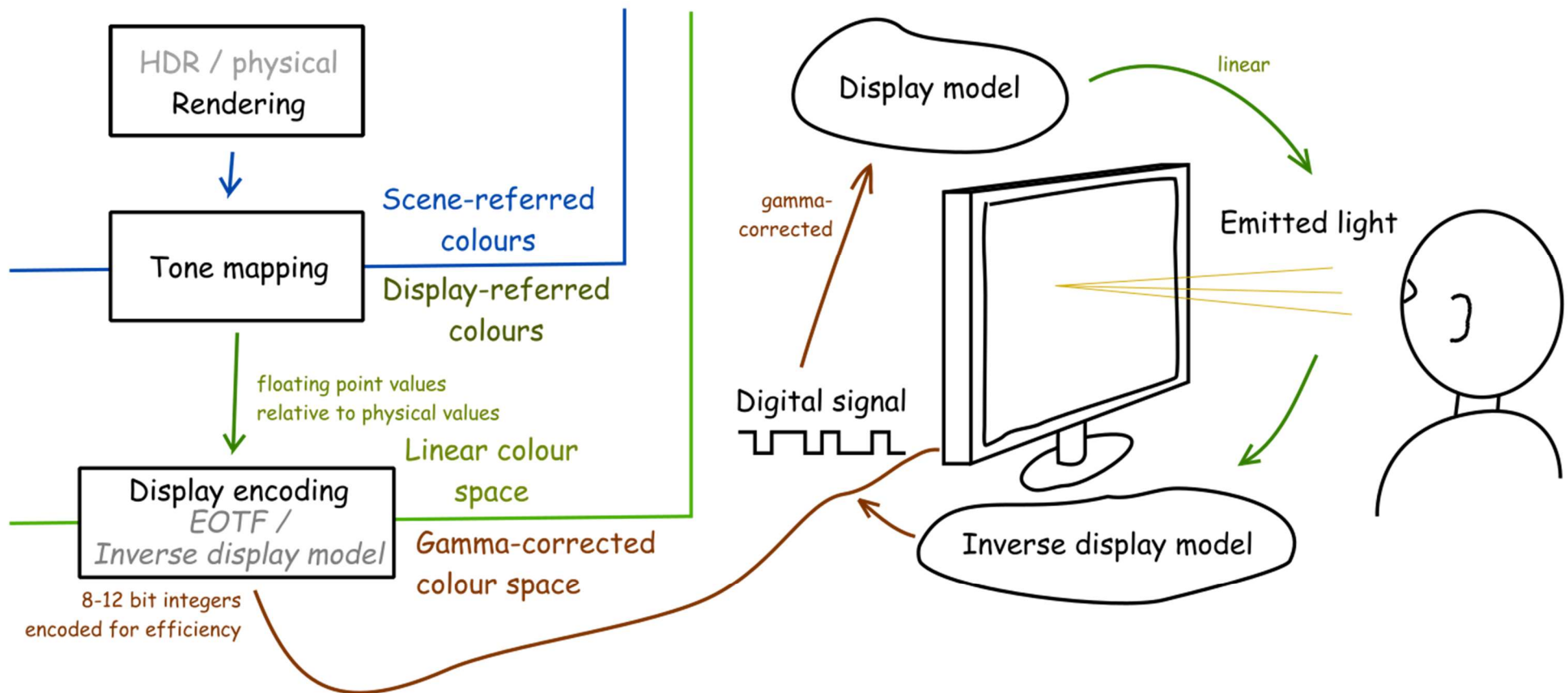
# From rendering to display



# From rendering to display



# From rendering to display



# Display encoding for SDR: gamma

- ▶ Gamma correction is often used to encode luminance or tristimulus color values (RGB) in imaging systems (displays, printers, cameras, etc.)

$$V_{out} = a \cdot V_{in}^{\gamma}$$

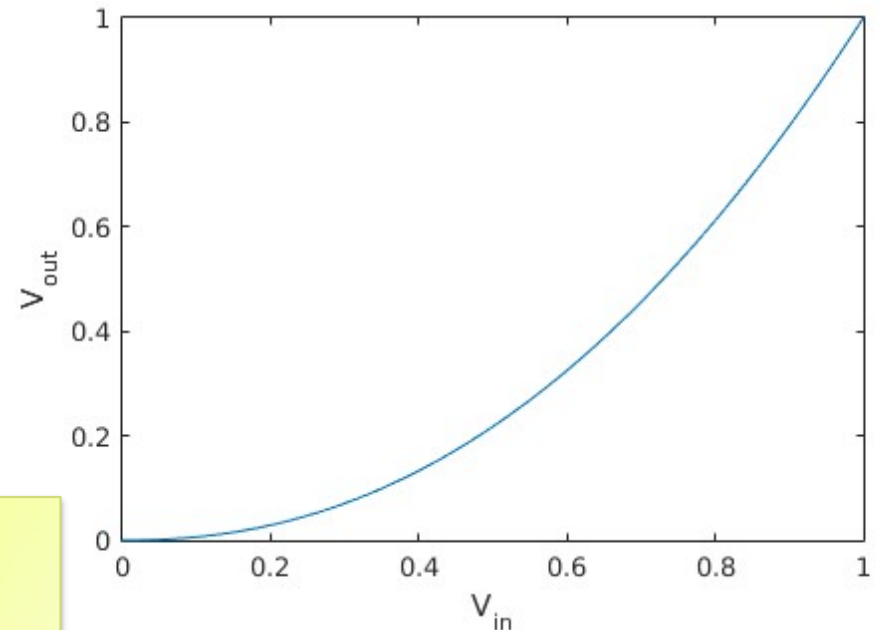
Gain

Gamma (usually =2.2)

(relative) Luminance  
Physical signal

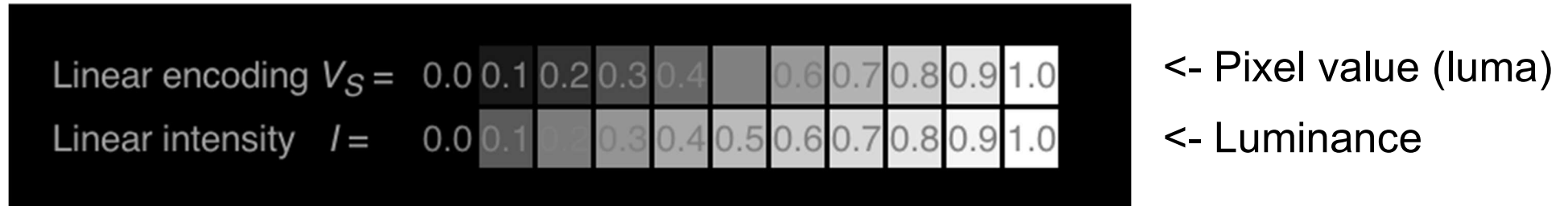
Luma  
Digital signal (0-1)

$$\text{Inverse: } V_{in} = \left( \frac{1}{a} \cdot V_{out} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}}$$



Colour: the same equation applied to red, green and blue colour channels.

# Why is gamma needed?



- ▶ *Gamma-corrected* pixel values give a scale of brightness levels that is more perceptually uniform
- ▶ At least 12 bits (instead of 8) would be needed to encode each color channel without gamma correction
- ▶ And accidentally it was also the response of the CRT gun

# Luma – gray-scale pixel value

---

- ▶ **Luma** - pixel brightness in *gamma corrected* units

$$L' = 0.2126R' + 0.7152G' + 0.0722B'$$

- ▶  $R'$ ,  $G'$  and  $B'$  are *gamma-corrected* colour values
- ▶ Prime symbol denotes *gamma corrected*
- ▶ Used in image/video coding

- ▶ Note that relative **luminance** is often approximated with

$$\begin{aligned} L &= 0.2126R + 0.7152G + 0.0722B \\ &= 0.2126(R')^\gamma + 0.7152(G')^\gamma + 0.0722(B')^\gamma \end{aligned}$$

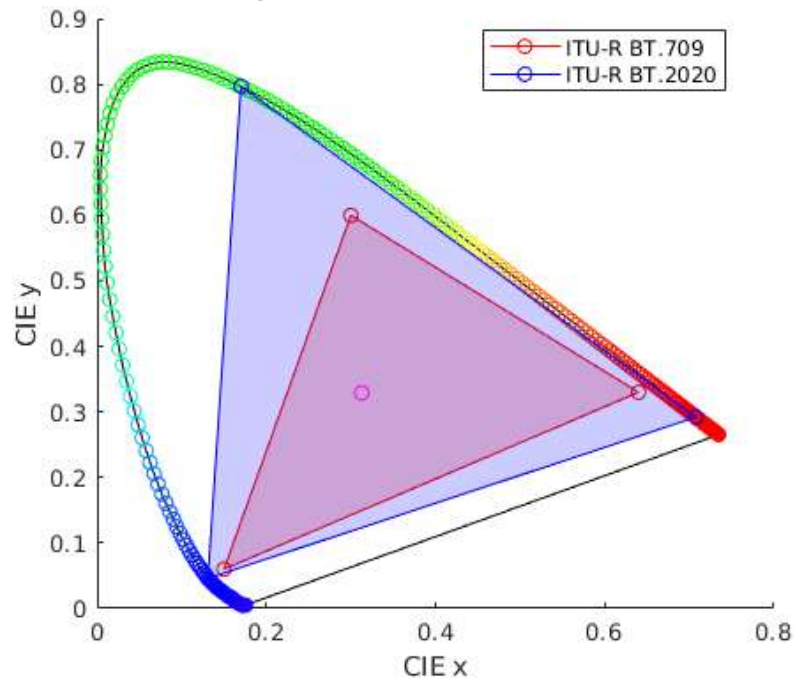
- ▶  $R$ ,  $G$ , and  $B$  are *linear* colour values
- ▶ Luma and luminance are different quantities despite similar formulas

# Standards for display encoding

Display type	Colour space	EOTF	Bit depth
Standard Dynamic Range	ITU-R 709	2.2 gamma / sRGB	8 to 10
High Dynamic Range	ITU-R 2020	ITU-R 2100 (PQ/HLG)	10 to 12

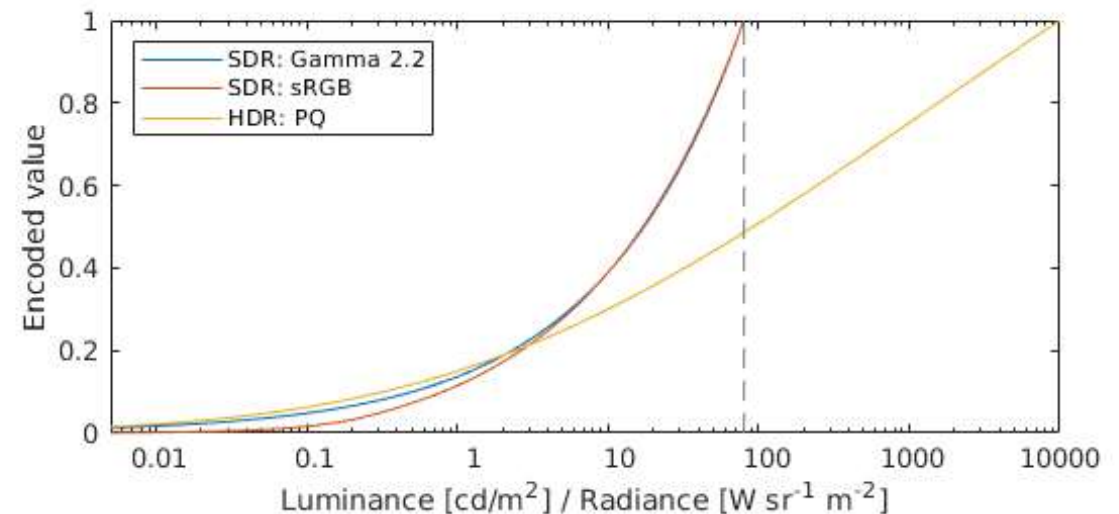
## Colour space

*What is the XYZ of “pure” red, green and blue*

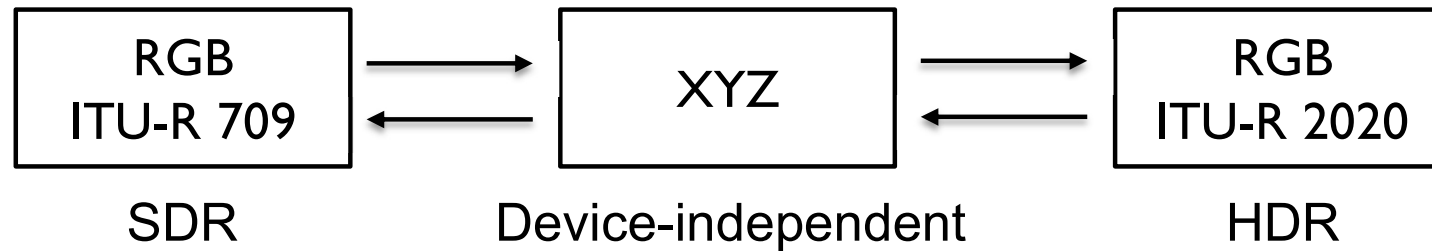


## Electro-Optical Transfer Function

*How to efficiently encode each primary colour*



# How to transform between linear RGB colour spaces?



## ► From ITU-R 709 RGB to XYZ:

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.4124 & 0.3576 & 0.1805 \\ 0.2126 & 0.7152 & 0.0722 \\ 0.0193 & 0.1192 & 0.9505 \end{bmatrix}_{R709toXYZ} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}_{R709}$$

Relative XYZ  
of the red  
primary

Relative XYZ  
of the green  
primary

Relative XYZ  
of the blue  
primary

Relative RGB  
(0-1) in the  
R709 space

# How to transform between RGB colour spaces?

- ▶ From ITU-R **709** RGB to ITU-R **2020** RGB:

$$\begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}_{R2020} = M_{XYZtoR2020} \cdot M_{R709toXYZ} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}_{R709}$$

- ▶ From ITU-R **2020** RGB to ITU-R **709** RGB:

$$\begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}_{R709} = M_{XYZtoR709} \cdot M_{R2020toXYZ} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}_{R2020}$$

- ▶ Where:

$$M_{R709toXYZ} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.4124 & 0.3576 & 0.1805 \\ 0.2126 & 0.7152 & 0.0722 \\ 0.0193 & 0.1192 & 0.9505 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } M_{XYZtoR709} = M_{R709toXYZ}^{-1}$$

$$M_{R2020toXY} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6370 & 0.1446 & 0.1689 \\ 0.2627 & 0.6780 & 0.0593 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0281 & 1.0610 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } M_{XYZtoR2020} = M_{R2020toXY}^{-1}$$

## Advanced Graphics and Image Processing

# Colour perception and colour spaces

## Part 5/5 – colour spaces

Rafał Mantiuk

*Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge*

# Representing colour

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- ▶ We need a way to represent colour in the computer by some set of numbers
  - ▶ A) preferably a small set of numbers which can be quantised to a fairly **small number of bits** each
    - ▶ Gamma corrected RGB, sRGB and CMYK for printers
  - ▶ B) a set of numbers that are **easy to interpret**
    - ▶ Munsell's *artists'* scheme
    - ▶ HSV, HLS
  - ▶ C) a set of numbers in a 3D space so that the (Euclidean) distance in that space corresponds to approximately **perceptually uniform** colour differences
    - ▶ CIE Lab, CIE Luv

# *RGB* space

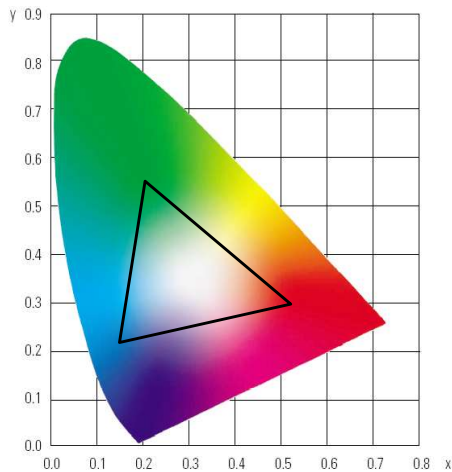
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- ▶ Most display devices that output light mix red, green and blue lights to make colour
  - ▶ televisions, CRT monitors, LCD screens
- ▶ Nominally, *RGB* space is a cube
- ▶ The device puts physical limitations on:
  - ▶ the range of colours which can be displayed
  - ▶ the brightest colour which can be displayed
  - ▶ the darkest colour which can be displayed

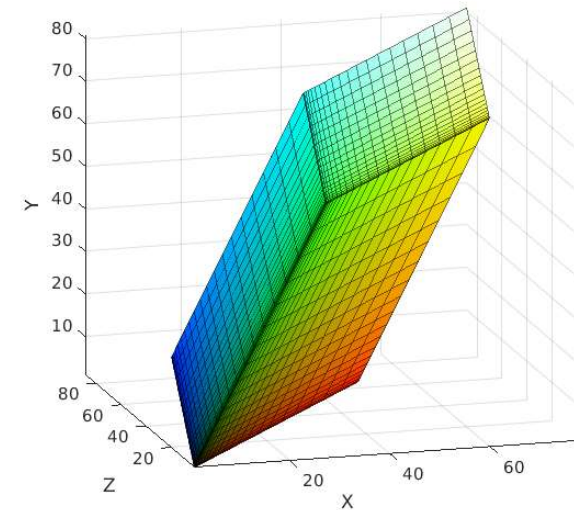


# RGB in XYZ space

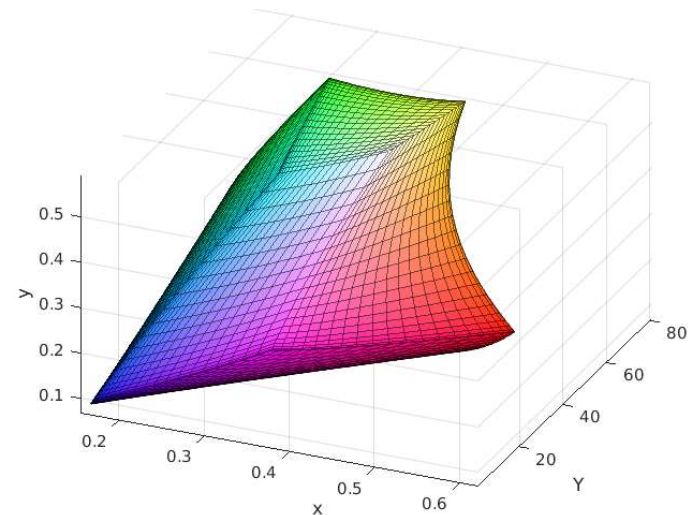
- ▶ CRTs and LCDs mix red, green, and blue to make all other colours
- ▶ any colour within the resulting triangle can be displayed
  - ▶ any colour outside the triangle cannot be displayed
  - ▶ for example: CRTs cannot display very saturated purple, turquoise, or yellow



RGB gamut in XYZ colour space



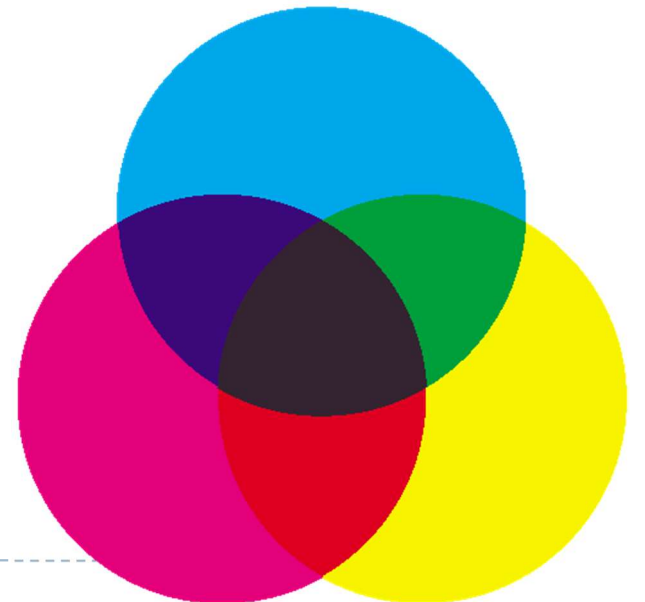
RGB gamut in Yxy colour space



# *CMY* space

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- ▶ printers make colour by mixing coloured inks
- ▶ the important difference between inks (*CMY*) and lights (*RGB*) is that, while lights *emit* light, inks *absorb* light
  - ▶ cyan absorbs red, reflects blue and green
  - ▶ magenta absorbs green, reflects red and blue
  - ▶ yellow absorbs blue, reflects green and red
- ▶ *CMY* is, at its simplest, the inverse of *RGB*
- ▶ *CMY* space is nominally a cube



# CMYK space



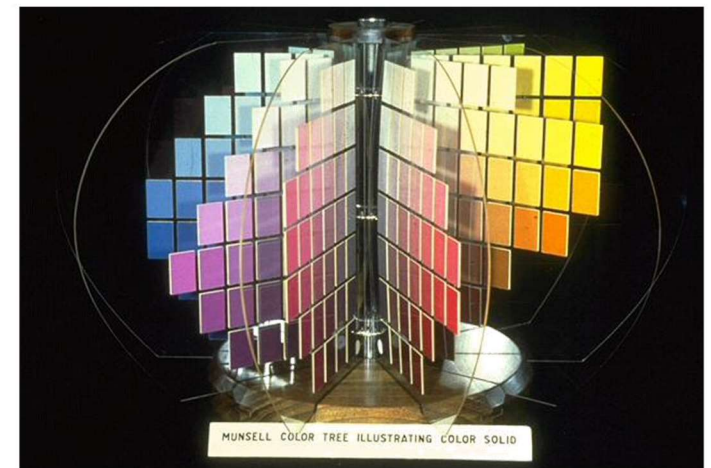
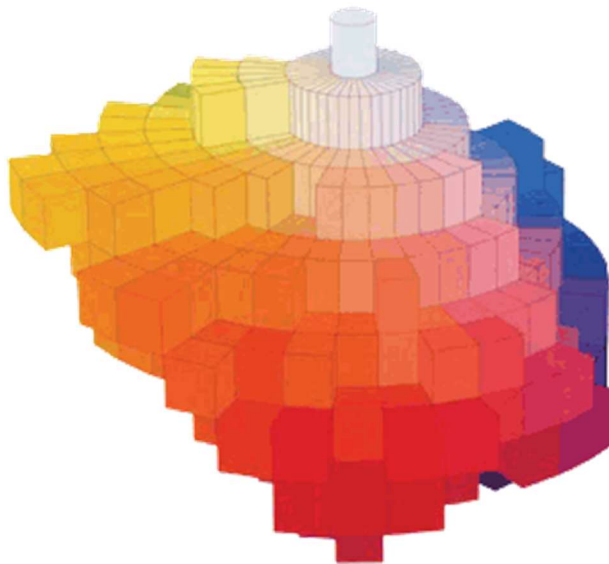
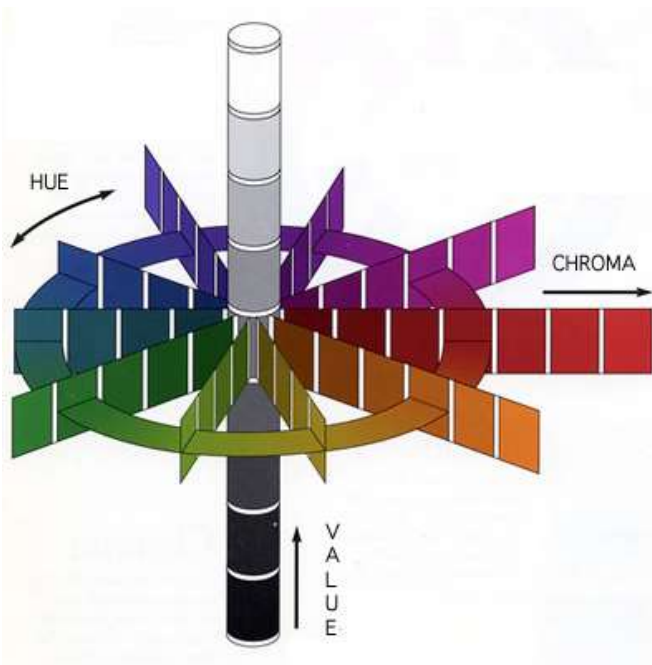
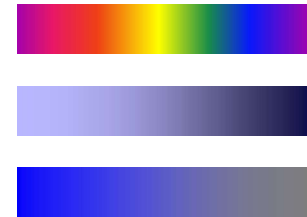
- ▶ in real printing we use black (key) as well as *CMY*
- ▶ why use black?
  - ▶ inks are not perfect absorbers
  - ▶ mixing  $C + M + Y$  gives a muddy grey, not black
  - ▶ lots of text is printed in black: trying to align  $C, M$  and  $Y$  perfectly for black text would be a nightmare

# Munsell's colour classification system

- ▶ three axes

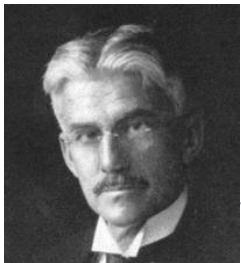
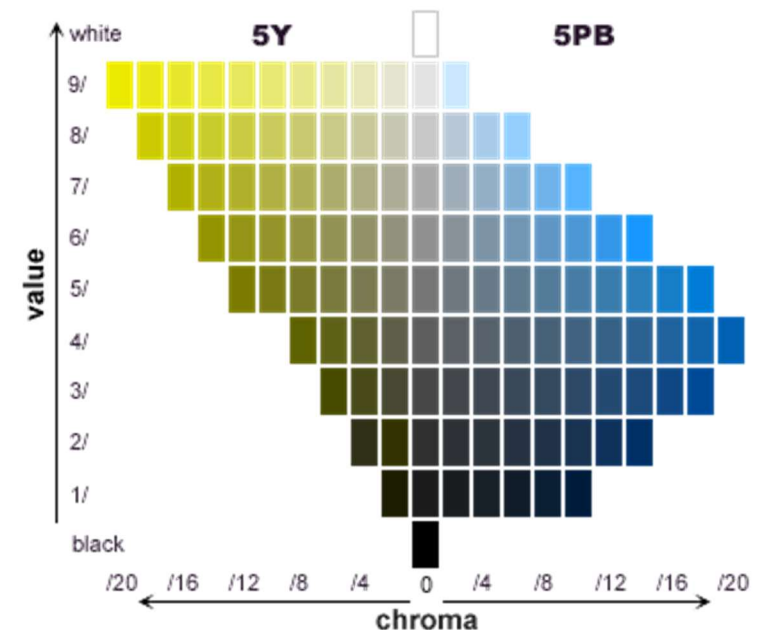
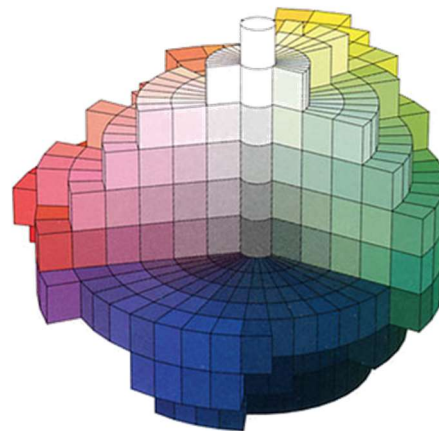
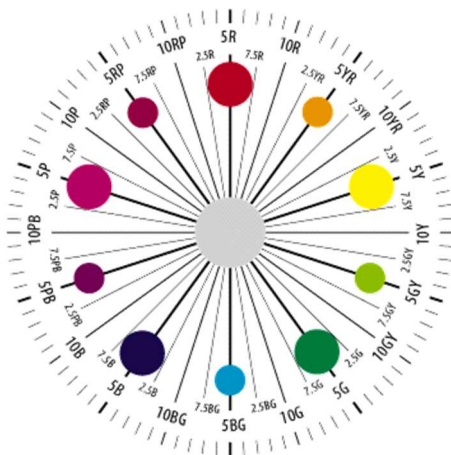
- ▶ hue ➤ the dominant colour
- ▶ value ➤ bright colours/dark colours
- ▶ chroma ➤ vivid colours/dull colours

- ▶ can represent this as a 3D graph



# Munsell's colour classification system

- ▶ any two adjacent colours are a standard “perceptual” distance apart
  - ▶ worked out by testing it on people
  - ▶ a highly irregular space
    - ▶ e.g. vivid yellow is much brighter than vivid blue



invented by Albert H. Munsell, an American artist, in 1905 in an attempt to systematically classify colours

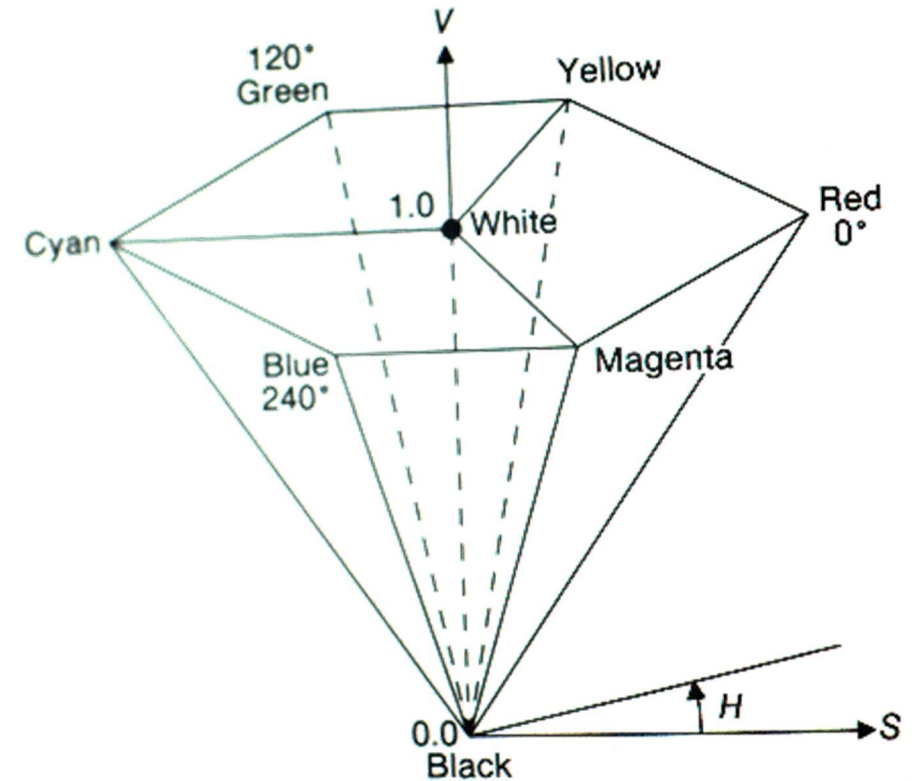
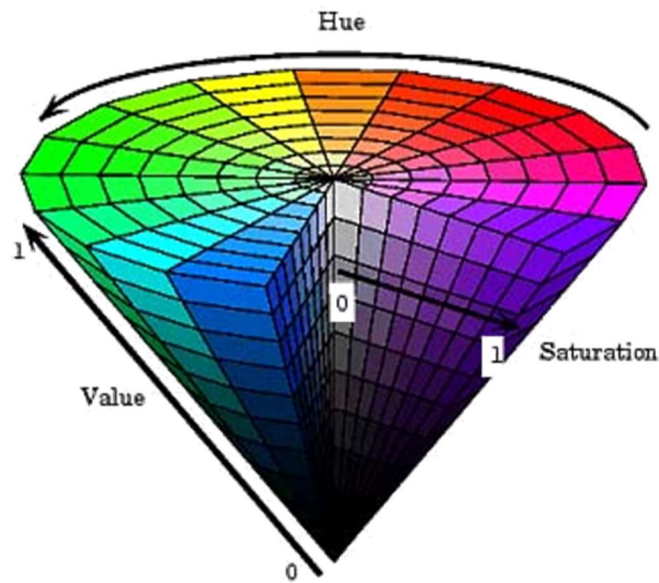
# Colour spaces for user-interfaces

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- ▶ *RGB* and *CMY* are based on the physical devices which produce the coloured output
- ▶ *RGB* and *CMY* are difficult for humans to use for selecting colours
- ▶ Munsell's colour system is much more intuitive:
  - ▶ hue — what is the principal colour?
  - ▶ value — how light or dark is it?
  - ▶ chroma — how vivid or dull is it?
- ▶ computer interface designers have developed basic transformations of *RGB* which resemble Munsell's human-friendly system

# HSV: hue saturation value

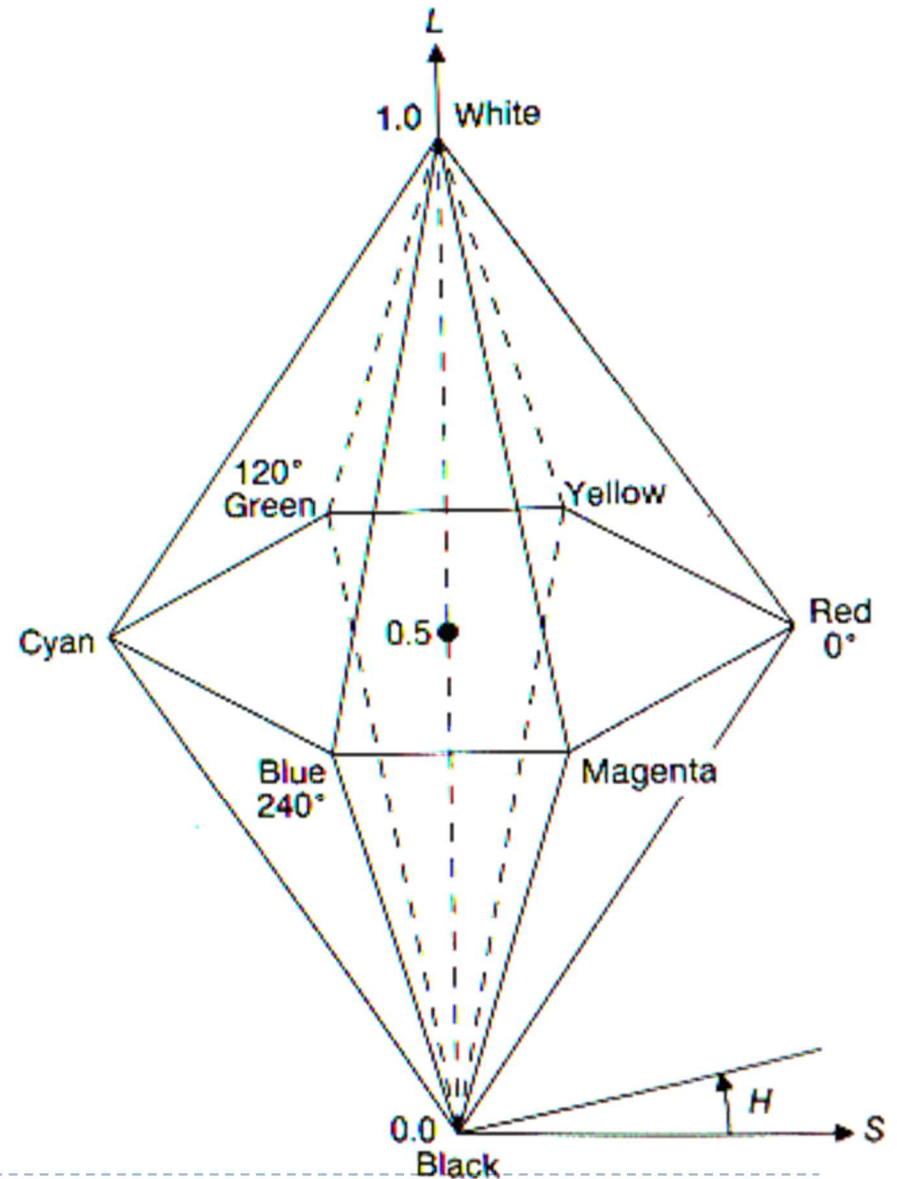
- ▶ three axes, as with Munsell
  - ▶ hue and value have same meaning
  - ▶ the term “saturation” replaces the term “chroma”
  - ▶ simple conversion from gamma-corrected RGB to HSV



- ◆ designed by Alvy Ray Smith in 1978
- ◆ algorithm to convert *HSV* to *RGB* and back can be found in Foley et al., Figs 13.33 and 13.34

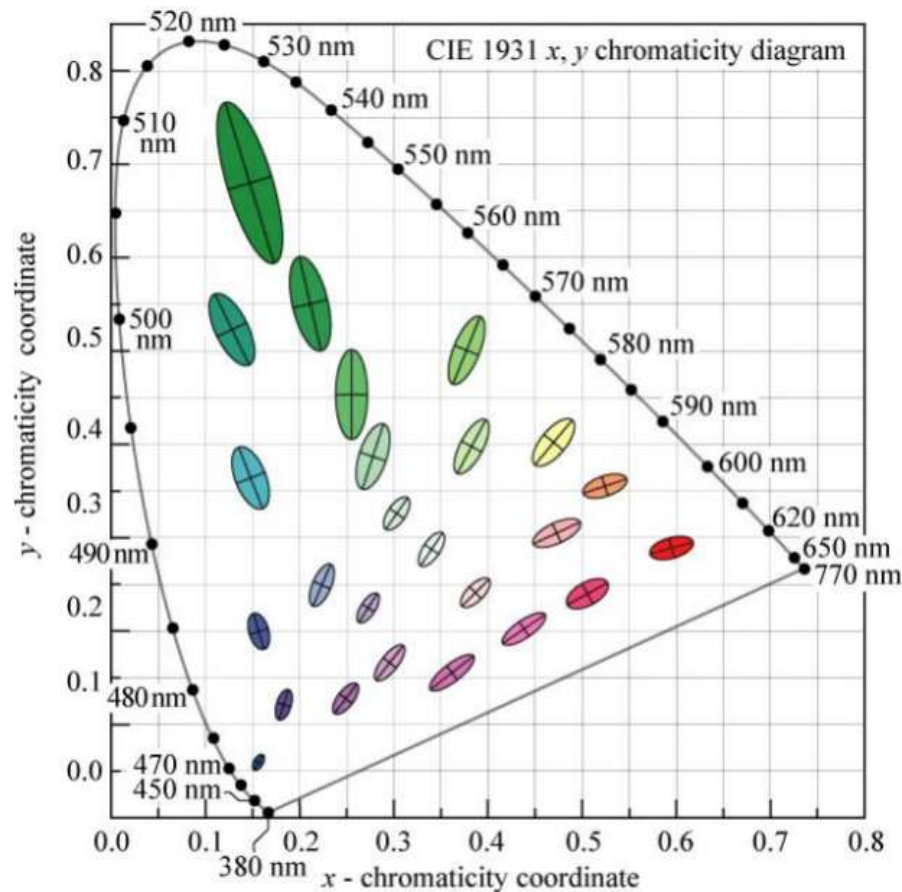
# *HLS*: hue lightness saturation

- ★ a simple variation of *HSV*
  - ◆ hue and saturation have same meaning
  - ◆ the term “lightness” replaces the term “value”
- ★ designed to address the complaint that *HSV* has all pure colours having the same lightness/value as white
  - ◆ designed by Metrick in 1979
  - ◆ algorithm to convert *HLS* to *RGB* and back can be found in Foley et al., Figs 13.36 and 13.37

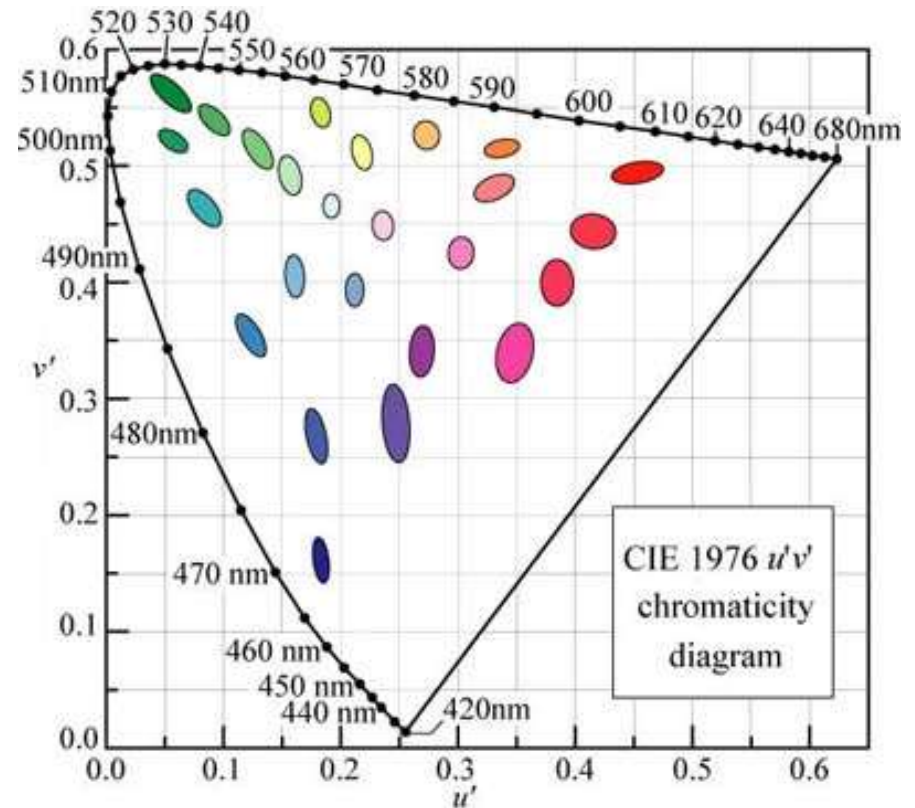


# Perceptual uniformity

## ► MacAdam ellipses & visually indistinguishable colours



In CIE xy chromatic coordinates



In CIE  $u'v'$  chromatic coordinates

# CIE $L^*u^*v^*$ and $u'v'$

- ▶ Approximately perceptually uniform
- ▶  $u'v'$  chromacity

$$u' = \frac{4X}{X + 15Y + 3Z} = \frac{4x}{-2x + 12y + 3}$$

$$v' = \frac{9Y}{X + 15Y + 3Z} = \frac{9y}{-2x + 12y + 3}$$

- ▶ CIE LUV

Lightness

$$L^* = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{29}{3}\right)^3 Y/Y_n, & Y/Y_n \leq \left(\frac{6}{29}\right)^3 \\ 116(Y/Y_n)^{1/3} - 16, & Y/Y_n > \left(\frac{6}{29}\right)^3 \end{cases}$$

Chromaticity coordinates

$$u^* = 13L^* \cdot (u' - u'_n)$$

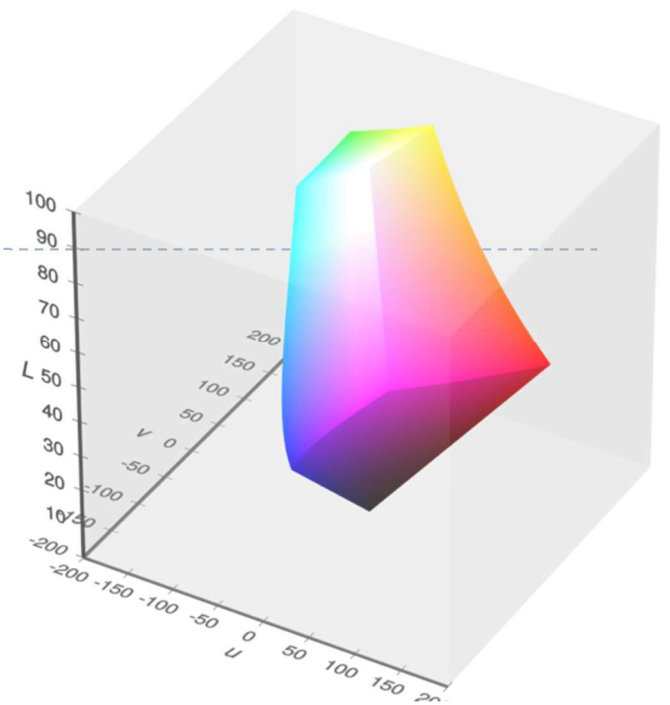
$$v^* = 13L^* \cdot (v' - v'_n)$$

Colours less distinguishable when dark

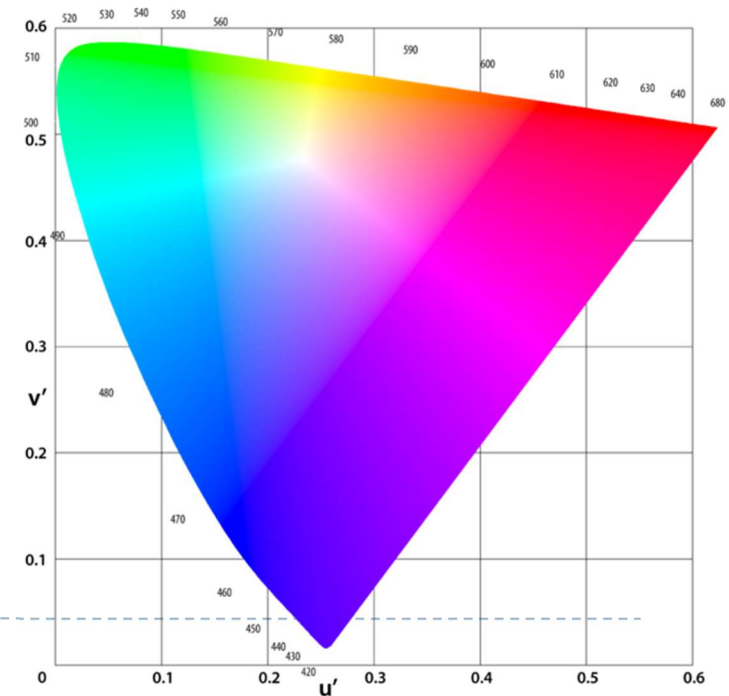
- ▶ Hue and chroma

$$C_{uv}^* = \sqrt{(u^*)^2 + (v^*)^2}$$

$$h_{uv} = \text{atan2}(v^*, u^*),$$



sRGB in CIE  $L^*u^*v^*$



# CIE L\*a\*b\* colour space

- ▶ Another approximately perceptually uniform colour space

$$L^* = 116f\left(\frac{Y}{Y_n}\right) - 16$$

$$a^* = 500 \left( f\left(\frac{X}{X_n}\right) - f\left(\frac{Y}{Y_n}\right) \right)$$

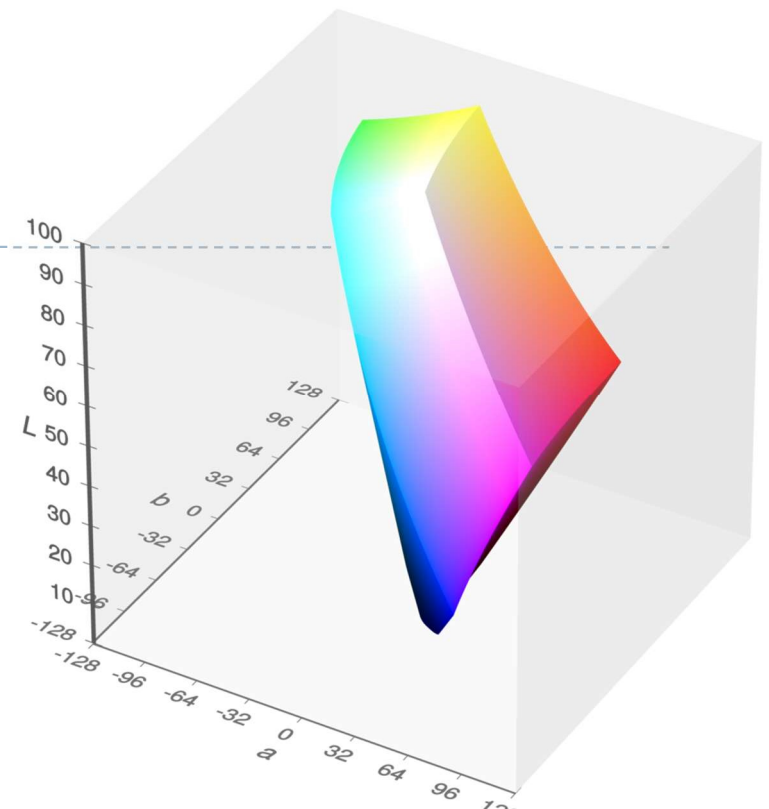
$$b^* = 200 \left( f\left(\frac{Y}{Y_n}\right) - f\left(\frac{Z}{Z_n}\right) \right)$$

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} \sqrt[3]{t} & \text{if } t > \delta^3 \\ \frac{t}{3\delta^2} + \frac{4}{29} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\delta = \frac{6}{29}$$

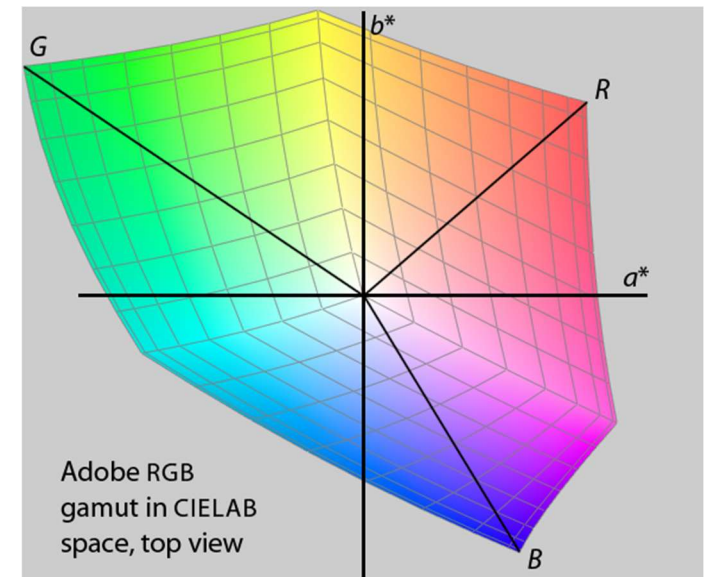
Trichromatic values of the white point, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} X_n &= 95.047, \\ Y_n &= 100.000, \\ Z_n &= 108.883 \end{aligned}$$



- ▶ Chroma and hue

$$C^* = \sqrt{a^{*2} + b^{*2}}, \quad h^\circ = \arctan\left(\frac{b^*}{a^*}\right)$$





## *Lab* space

- ▶ this visualization shows those colours in *Lab* space which a human can perceive
- ▶ again we see that human perception of colour is not uniform
  - ▶ perception of colour diminishes at the white and black ends of the *L* axis
  - ▶ the maximum perceivable chroma differs for different hues

# Colour - references

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- ▶ Chapters „Light” and „Colour” in
  - ▶ Shirley, P. & Marschner, S., *Fundamentals of Computer Graphics*
- ▶ Textbook on colour appearance
  - ▶ Fairchild, M. D. (2005). *Color Appearance Models* (second.). John Wiley & Sons.
- ▶ Comprehensive review of colour research
  - ▶ Wyszecki, G., & Stiles, W. S. (2000). *Color science: concepts and methods, quantitative data, and formulae* (Second ed.). John Wiley & Sons.