# A high frequency，full－spectrum review of color vision concepts 

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## Outline

(1) Color vision overview and theory

Color vision concepts \& trichromacy
Spectral discrimination
2 Color mixtures, specification, and naming
Color specification basics
Color opponency
(3) Color vision defects

CVD summary
Inherited color vision defects
Discrimination differences
4) Color vision testing

Plate tests
Farnsworth arrangement tests
Anomaloscope
(5) Misc/Extra

SWAP Test

## References

- Dr. Verdon's VS205 slides (2007-2010)
- Dr. Haegerstrom-Portnoy's VS212E slides (2010)
- Schwartz Chapter 5 and 6
- Verdon and Adams chapter of Norton, et al. book
- Webvision http:
//webvision.med.utah.edu/KallColor.html
- Dr. Salmon's (Northeastern) VS2 notes http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~salmonto/vs2.html
- HyperPhysics Color Vision Concepts

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http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/
vision/colviscon.html
```

- handprint : color vision http://handprint.com/LS/CVS/color.html


## Goals

- Too much material to cover in one hour
- Hope to impart the basics, especially abstract concepts to help further study
- I assume you are familiar with the clinical tests. I'll summarize the theoretical background.


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## Basic terms

- Color vision: the ability to discriminate stimuli based on wavelengths of light
- Spectral composition: a light source is made up of amounts of light at one or many wavelengths (i.e., sunlight)
- Monochromatic light: light source made up of a single wavelength. (i.e., laser).
- Metamers: stimuli that appear the same but are physically different
- "Making a match": ability to make two stimuli metameric, often indicates a defect.


## Visible lights

- Not covered: Absorption by ocular media, macular pigment, etc.



## Spectral sensitivity

- Plots sensitivity vs. wavelength
- X axis: wavelength of light
- Y axis: sensitivity
- Note log/linear sensitivity, (sometimes) normalized



## What is normal color vision?

- "Normal" (trichromatic) color vision depends on 3 types of cones
- Rods not used
- S/cyanolabe: 420, M/chlorolabe:530, L/erythrolabe:560



## The "real" sensitivies

- Actual sensitivity to wavelengths depends on population of S,M,L cones
- Remember no S cones in the central fovea! (Near-field tritanopia.)



## Cone perceptual sensitivities

- Same preference curves derived perceptually


## Overall (combined) spectral sensitivity

- Known as $\mathrm{V}(\lambda)$
- Curves represent different measurement methods
- Photopic vision peaks around 555nm



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## Combination of cone responses used

- Color discrimination is based on combination of cone responses
- Principle of univariance: cones "forget" what wavelength they absorbed


## Dichromat metamer

- Dichromats: missing one pigment
- Reduces their ability to discriminate based on wavelength alone
- 3 lights can be combined to be metameric
- Trichromatic would never match!



|  |  |  | Con |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\lambda_{1}$ | 1000 | 530 | 260 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| $\lambda_{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1000 | 360 | 110 |
| $\lambda_{3}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1000 | 270 | 410 |
| Total effect: |  | 530 | 260 |  | $\overline{630}$ | $\overline{520}$ |
|  |  |  | Condition 2 |  |  |  |
| $\lambda_{1}$ | 1000 | $530{ }^{*}$ | 260 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| $\lambda_{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1250 | 450 | 137 |
| $\lambda_{3}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300 | 80 | 123 |
| Total effect: |  | 530 | 260 |  | 530 | 260 |

Fig. 8.7 (a) Absorption spectra for two hypothetical visual pigments, and (b) the corresponding effects of lights upon a visual system containing only those two pigments. It is always possible to find intensities for $\lambda_{2}$ and $\lambda_{3}$ such that the effects of their mixture (the right-hand patch) will be identical to the effects of $\lambda_{1}$ (left-hand patch).

## Monochromat

- Monochromats: only one pigment (could be rods)
- Just 2 lines look metameric to monochromats
- Due to Principle/Univ.: One single "color" with varying brightness
- Think B\&W TV!


Fig. 8.2 (a) The absorption spectrum of rhodopsin. This curve has an unfamiliar shape because the scale on the vertical axis is linear, instead of the usual logarithmic one. The linear scale is used here to simplify the numerical illustrations in the text. (The data plotted here are identical with those plotted the more usual way in Fig. 5.6.) (b) When two patches of light are flashed, one of wavelength 500 and the other 575 nm , the table indicates the numbers of quanta absorbed by rhodopsin from each patch.

## Monochromacy Demo



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## Additive color mixtures

- We generally consider additive color mixtures
- vs. subtractive (like paint/pigment which absorbs wavelengths)
- Filters "pass" their associated color
- Helpful: lowpass, bandpass, highpass for colored filter



## Color terms (perceptual)

- Hue: Like wavelength
- (De)Saturation/ purity: Appearance of added white. Munsell: Chroma, left-right
- Brightness: Luminosity, Munsell: Value, up-down
- Are not strictly independent: Bezold-Brucke, Abney effect



## CIE Chromaticity Diagram

- For now, just consider as way to describe perceptual colors
- Brightness not shown (only hue+saturation, aka "chromaticity")
- Hues lie on spectral locus
- White is in center
- Color mixtures lie between two colors



## Excitation purity

- $\mathrm{D}=$ Dominant wavelength
- Exc. purity $=\frac{a}{a+b}$
- $0=$ white
- 1 = spectral locus


FIGURE 8.9 The CIE 1931 ( $x, y$ ) chromaticity diagram on which are shown the locations of points, distances, and directions that can be used to determine the dominant wavelength ( $D$ ) and the excitation purity $(a /[a+b])$ for a color mixture (M) created by mixing the appropriate amounts of two wavelengths ( $\lambda_{1}$ and $\lambda_{2}$ ). It also shows two complementary colors ( $\lambda_{\text {, }}$ and $-\lambda_{1}$ ). See text for details. $C$ is the location of the reference white. (Modified from C Wyszecki, WS Stiles. Color Science: Concepts and Methods, Quantitative Data and Formulae [2nd ed]. New York: Wiley, 1982.)

## CIE Chromaticity Diagram

- The standard coordinate system based on 3 "imaginary" primaries
- Spectral locus
- Non-spectral purple
- Blackbody curve (Planckian locus)
- Whites near center



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## Color opponency

- Subjects can name all colors based on (B vs. Y) and (R vs. G)
- Unique hues when $0 \%$ of opposite channel
- Two diagonal axes on CIE diagram


## Chromatic valence

- Experiment asked subjects to add B/Y or R/G to target wavelength to make it white
- On this graph, zero-crossings are unique hues (of other channel)


## Chromatic adaptation

- Chromatic adaptation: Neurons "tire" to repeated presentation
- Chromatic adaptation best understood as shift towards opponent color in pathway



## Zone model

- Conceptual (not physiological) model unifies opponency and trichromacy
- B/Y, R/G, and achromatic luminance channel
- Some support
 based on retinal pathways


## Color constancy

- Perception of color is modulated by context
- Right side of $A$ is same as left side of $B$

B.


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## CVD summary

| Hereditary | Acquired |
| :--- | :--- |
| predominantly R/G | $\mathrm{B} / \mathrm{Y}$ or R/G |
| predominantly male | M or F |
| no naming errors | recent errors |
| stable | variable or progressive |
| clear-cut | difficult to diagnose |
| no disease | disease |
| binocular | monocular or asymmetric |

## CVD summary: Kollner's rule

Kollners Rule: Lesions at the level of the receptor layers, or in the pre-retinal media are more commonly associated with blue-yellow (better termed tritan) disorders of color vision. Lesions in the post receptoral layers (inner retina, ganglion cells \& visual pathways) are more likely to exhibit red-green color disorders.

|  | Blue-yellow defects | Red-green defects |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Kollner's rule | media, choroid outer retina | optic nerve, inner retina |
| Examples | cataract, diabetes, RD, macular degeneration, chorioretinitis, central serious retinopathy | optic neuritis, papillitis, Leber's, central optic atrophy, toxic amblyopia, visual pathway lesions |
| Exceptions | glaucoma, papilledema | dominant cystoid macular dystrophy, Strargardt's disease (fundus flavimaculatus) |

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## Inherited color vision defects

| Deuteranomaly | $5 \%($ males | X-L recessive |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Deuteranopia | $1 \%($ males $)$ | X-L recessive |
| Protanomaly | $1 \%($ males $)$ | X-L recessive |
| Protanopia | $1 \%($ males $)$ | X-L recessive |
| Tritanomaly and tritanopia | $0.001-0.007 \%$ | AD (or acquire |
| Rod monochromacy | $0.003 \%$ | AR |
| Blue cone monochromacy | ???rare | X-L recessive |
| Cone monochromacy | ???extremely rare??? |  |

Study the inheritence patterns \& Punnett squares! See
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Color_blindness

## Common inherited CVDs

- Dotted lines show "normal" pigments
- Prot.: L shifts left
- Deut.: M shift right

NAME OF COLOR VISION DISORDER

1 Normal

2 Protanomalous

3 Protanope
$4 \xrightarrow{\text { Deuteranomalous }}$

$$
5 \quad \text { Deuteranope }
$$

6 Tritanope

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## Altered $\mathrm{V}(\lambda)$ curves

- Tritans normal
- Deuteranope almost normal
- Protanope quite different (due to prevalence of missing L cones)
- Protanope:
"Dimming of the red"
- Anomalous trichromats between normal and respective dichromat



## Wavelength discrimination

- Normals have down to 1 nm discrimination capability near 490 and 590
- Protanopes and deuteranopes only discriminate well between 450\&540
- Tritanopes have a gap with no discrimination between 460\&480



## Protanope confusion lines

- Dichromats have copunctal points and confusion lines
- They cannot distinguish colors on a given confusion line
- Intersection w/spectral locus through white is called "neutral point" (N)



## Deuteranope confusion lines

- Deuteranopes and protanopes share confusion line along spectral locus


Tritanope confusion lines


## Saturation discrimination

- For normals, yellow is hardest to distinguish from white
- Only dichromats have neutral points (wavelength indistinguishable from white)



## Color vision aids

- Red goggles for achromatic photophobia
- Colored filter for R/G CVDs can help with vocation. (Filter may allow patient to discriminate based on luminance difference induced by filter).


## Testing conditions \& standard illuminants

- Standard illuminants: Spectral distribution is critical!
- Reflected color depends on illuminant and plate
- Must use III. C or incandescent bulb w/blue filter

3.3.4). Relative spectral radiant power distributions of CIE illuminants A, B, C,


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## HRR diagnostic plate

- Circle or triangle indicates type of red/green defect



## HRR diagnostic plate design

- See previous slide.
- If figure "matches" background color (on confusion line) it disappears for color defective



## Ishihara hidden digit plate

- Hidden digit "appears" for CVD
- All types of plates (transformation, hidden digit, vanishing, diagnostic) use principle of
 confusion lines


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## Farnsworth D-15

- Patient tries to arrange caps in order
- Caps are on ring in CIE which spans confusion lines to yield diagnostic error patterns


Location of Farnsworth D-15 caps in CIE color space

## Farnsworth D-15 diagnosticity

NORMAL


TRITAN (blue-yellow)


PROTAN (red-green)


DEUTAN (red-green)


## FM 100 scoring



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## Neitz Anomaloscope

- Top: mixture of 545nm and 670nm (green/red) 0-73
- Bottom: test color at 589nm (yellow) brightness 0-35
- Can adjust mixture of top and luminance of bottom
- Rayleigh equation: " $R+G=Y$ "



## Anomaloscope diagnosticity

- Versus "normal" match. Mixture about 45, luminance about 17.
- Deureranopes: any mixture, same (normal) intensity
- Protanopes: any mixture, shifted intensity:
- if top red, brightness low to match
- if top green, brightness higher than normal
- Deuteranomalous: needs to add green. mixture is variable. brightness normal
- Protanomalous: needs to add red. mixture variable. brightness lower


## Example questions (via Dr. Salmon)

Example question from the Optometry Exam Review Book:
Question \#2. A color-deficient person looks in an anomaloscope and does not accept a color-normal's match? The nature of the person's deficiency is:
a. protanomaly
b. deuteranopia
c. protanopia
d. tritanopia
11. A patient mixes monochromatic green and red lights to obtain a metameric match with monochromatic yellow. If the he thinks any red-green mixture looks the same hue as the yellow light, which of the following diagnoses is/are possible?
a. protanomaly
b. protanopia
c. deuteranomaly
d. deuteranopia
e. none of the above
12. In addition to the adjustment described in Question 11, assume that the patient reduces the radiance of the yellow light below normal when the mixture setting is pure red, and increases the radiance above normal when the mixture is set to pure green. Which of the following diagnoses is/are possible?
a. protanomaly
b. protanopia
c. deuteranomaly
d. deuteranopia
e. none of the above

## Example questions 2 (via Dr. Salmon)

13. For which of the following anomalies would the patient accept normal mixture and luminance settings?
a. protanomaly
b. protanopia
c. deuteranomaly
d. deuteranopia
e. none of the above
14. Suppose the mixture setting contains a slightly greater-than-normal amount of green but the luminance setting is normal. He probably has ..
a. protanomaly
b. protanopia
c. deuteranomaly
d. deuteranopia
e. none of the above
15. Suppose the mixture setting contains a slightly greater-than-normal amount of red but the luminance setting is significantly greater than normal. He probably has..
a. deuteranomaly
b. deuteranopia
c. protanomaly
d. protanopia
e. none of the above

## Anomaloscope Answers 1

2: (A) Protanomaly. (B) and (C) are R/G dichromats, which means they are missing a photopigment and CANNOT discriminate the colors on the anomaloscope. So they accept all matches, including the normal's. Tritanopia (D) is a B/Y defect, so they should perceive the match exactly as a normal. The anomalous protanope, on the other hand, has shifted R/G sensitivies and thus a different match center.
11: Could be (B) or (D). As described above, the red, green, and yellow are all on confusion lines for the R/G dichromats. (A) and (C) have slightly wider ranges of hue matches (vs. normal), but shouldn't accept all mixtures.
12: (B) Remember that protans have "dimming of the red" (since their L wavelength pigment is shifted left/lower), so the yellow radiance/luminance setting indicates this.

## Anomaloscope Answers 2

13: (D) Both (B) and (D) accept all hue matches, including the normals. But the normal luminance setting indicates the deutan. Their $\mathrm{V}(\lambda)$ curve is similar to the normal's. A protanope, on the other hand, would change the luminance to counteract their "dimming of the red". 14: Probably (C), if the range of mixtures is small. (Deuteranomalous trichromats are "green weak", but with normal luminance curves.) Note, however, that a deuteranope would also accept this match, plus all other mixture settings.
15: Probably (C), if the range of mixtures is small. (Protanomalous trichromats are "red weak", and have abnormal luminance curves.) Note, however, that a protanope would also accept this match, plus all other mixture settings.

## CVT summary

- Ishihara: Sensitive, R/G
- HRR: Sensitive, R/G and B/Y
- D-15: Insensitive, R/G and B/Y
- Anomaloscope: Sensitive, R/G
- "Red cap test": quick check with tropicamide cap: binocular, central/periph., monocular nasal/temp.


## Outline from board

```
OPTICS (PHYSIOLOGICAL): Perceptual Function / Color Vision
G. Color Perception
    1. Chromatic discrimination (hue and saturation) for normal and defective
    2. Color mixture and appearance
    3. Color contrast, constancy, and adaptation
    4. Color specification and colorimetry (CIE)
    5. Spectral sensitivity of normal and defective color vision
    6. Mechanisms of color deficiencies
    7. Inherited anomalies of color vision
            a. Classification
            b. Inheritance patterns
            c. Color vision tests (e.g., pseudoisochromatic tests, arrangement tests
    8. Acquired anomalies of color vision
            a. Classification
            b. Etiology
            c. Color vision tests
    9. Conditions for color vision testing
    10. Societal implications of color vision anomalies
            a. School
            b. Vocational requirements
            c. Patient interest
    11. Patient management strategies
            a. Counseling
            b. Special aids
```


## Example questions from board website

```
Sample Test Items
Part I (Applied Basic Science)
1. The portion of the spectrum called blue-green by normals is MOST readily
confused with the white portion for which of the following types of observers?
    a. Trichromats
    b. Deuteranopes
    c. Tritanopes
Classification: Optics (Physical): Perceptual Anomalies / Color Vision; Explicit
2. Both a husband and wife pass standard color vision tests. If the wife's
father has an inherited red-green color defect, what is the probability that
the couple's daughter will be color defective?
a. 0.00
b. 0.25
c. 0.50
d. 1.00
Classification: Optics (Physiological): Perceptual Anomalies / Color Vision; Explicit
```


## Board website answers

1: (B). For this, knowing the CIE diagram and confusion lines helps. Specifically, which lines pass through blue-green and white? Blue-green is in the middle of the left side of the CIE diagram, while white is in the middle.
It's obviously not tritanopes, since their confusion lines radiate from the lower-left hand corner of the CIE diagram. The ones through white go from pure blue, to white, then to yellow. Trichromats don't have confusion lines (!), leaving choice (B). It would be difficult to distinguish between deuteranopes and protanopes here.
2: (A). First, the majority of inherited R/G color defects are X-linked recessive. For this question, we know that: the father is unaffected, while the wife may be a carrier. That means that it is possible that the daughter is a carrier or a son is color defective. BUT, the daughter could not be color defective. The father must be color defective in order for the daughter to be color defective.

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## SWAP test

- Short Wavelength Automated
Perimetry
- Humphrey Field Analyzer II (Model 700 and higher)
- Detect early glaucoma by isolating S cone function
- Useful for detecting
 other conditions


## SWAP test theory

- SWAP works by adapting/bleaching M and L cones
- Broadband highpass filter passes above 530 (blocks $\lambda$ s below)



## Miscellany

- Bezold-Brucke phenomenon: The hue of most wavelengths change slightly with different levels of luminance. See Schwartz Fig. 5-13.
- Abney effect: Constant hues are not on straight line from spectral locus to reference white. Makes "spider-web" pattern on CIE diagram.
- Grassman's Laws for metamers: Metamers remain metamers under additivity, scaling, and associativity
- Color constancy: Colors appear perceptually same w/small changes in lighting and wavelength


## CIE color matching functions

- Used to calculate chrom. coords from wavelength(s)
- $\bar{y}=\mathrm{V}(\lambda)$
- Doesn't correspond to physical primaries
- Remember: any set of 3 primaries


Fig. 17.1. CIE (1931) and CIE (1978) $\bar{x} \bar{y} \bar{z}$ color matching functions (CMFs). The $\bar{y}$
CMF is identical to the eye sensitivity function
$V(\lambda)$. Note that the CIE 1931 CMF is the currently valid official standard. can be used to specify color system

## Wright color matching functions

- Wright's color matching functions (of given primaries)

Tristimulus
Values


FIGURE 8.6 Wright's color-matching functions. The tristimulus values on the $y$-axis are the relative amounts of the three primaries required to match the monochromatic wavelength indicated on the $x$-axis. The arrows indicate the positions of the three primaries used: 460, 530, and 650 nm . Note that the tristimulus values are 0 for two of the three primaries at these positions. Negative tristimulus values indicate that the primary had to be added to the reference side to achieve a color match. (Modified from WD Wright. Researches on Normal and Defective Colour Vision. St. Louis: Mosby, 1946.)

## Munsell Cylinder

- Wright's color matching functions (of given primaries)
- Hue= color name. 100 hues divided into 10 segments of 10 hues e.g. 5 YR
- Value = lightness. Scale 1-10 (0 is black, 10 is white)
- Chroma = saturation. Scale 0-14 (0 is achromatic, 14 is saturated)
- Designated: H V/C
 e.g. 2 YR 5/10


## Abney Hue Shift

- Abney effect: Constant hues are not on straight line from spectral locus to reference white.


CIE 1931 ( $x, y$ )-chromaticity diagram showing loci of constant hue and constant chroma at value 5 / of the Munsell renotation system (Dorothy Nickerson, private communication).

Notice that the lines of constant hue (radial like spokes on a wheel) are curved. This is because of the Abney effect.

## MacAdam ellipses

- Metameric zones


Fig. 17.5. MacAdam ellipses plotted in the CIE $1931(x, y)$ chromaticity diagram. The axes of the ellipses are ten times their actual lengths (after MacAdam, 1943; Wright, 1943; MacAdam, 1993).

## CIE features

- A color monitor can display colors inside triangle


