

Colour Image processing

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The use of Colour Image processing is motivated by two principal factors

① Colour is a powerful descriptor that often simplifies Object Identification and Extraction from scene

2) human can discern thousands of colour shades and intensities, compared to about two dozens of gray

- discern $\rightarrow$ to recognize or separate and distinct.

Color fundamentals

In 1666 Sir Isaac Newton discovered that when beam of sunlight passes through a glass prism. The emerging beam consists of continuous spectrum of colours ranging from violet to red. Fig 1 shows the colour spectrum which is divided into six broad regions namely violet, blue, green, yellow, orange and red.

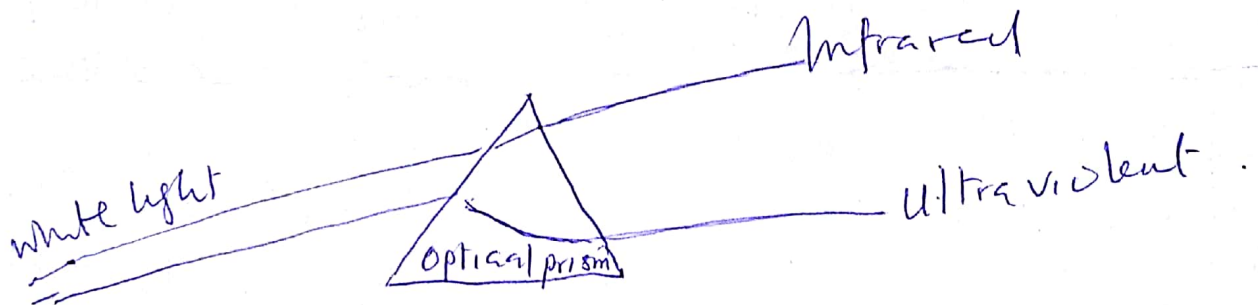


Fig 1 : Colours spectrum seen by passing white light through a prism.

The colors that humans and some other animals perceive in an object is determined by the nature of light reflected from the object. as illustrated in Fig 2 (slide). A body that reflect light that is balanced in all visible wavelengths appear white to the observer. However a body that favours reflectance in a limited range of the visible spectrum exhibits some shade of colours.

e.g green objects reflect light with wavelengths primarily

the 400 to 570 nm range while absorbing most of the ²energy of other wavelengths.

Characterization of light is central to the science of colour. If the light is achromatic (void of colour) its only attribute is its intensity. Achromatic light spans the electromagnetic spectrum from approximately 400 to 700 nm. Three basic quantities are used to describe the quality of a chromatic light source: radiance, luminance and brightness. Radiance is the total amount of energy that flows from the light source, it is measured in lumens.watts. Luminance, measured in lumens, gives a measure of the amount of energy an observer perceives from the light source. Finally, brightness is a subjective descriptor that is impossible to measure. ~~it is however~~ However, it should be noted that for achromatic light intensity is one key factor for describing colour sensation.

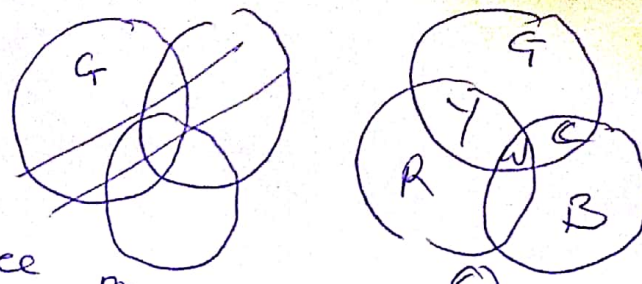
Details Experimental evidence has established that 6 to 7 million cones in the human eye can be divided roughly to red, green and blue. Approximately 65% of all cones are sensitive to red light, 33% are sensitive to green light and only about 2% are sensitive to blue (but blue cones are the most sensitive). Due to the absorption characteristics of the human eye, colours are seen as variable combinations of primary colours red (R), green (G) and (B).

The primary colours can be added to produce the secondary colours of light as shown in Figure 2 (a)

e.g. Magenta = red + blue
Cyan = green + blue
Yellow = red + green.

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~~Mixing~~

Pigment ~~diff~~
~~diff~~



Mixing the three primary colors or secondary with its opposite color in the right intensities produces white light

Differentiating b/w primary colors of light and primary colors of pigments is importance. In the latter, a primary color is defined as one that subtracts or absorbs other two. Therefore, the primary colors of pigments are Magenta, Cyan and Yellow and Secondary colors are red, green and blue. as shown in Fig 2(b). A proper combination of the three pigment primaries or secondary with its opposite primary produces black.

The characteristics that generally used to distinguish one color from another are brightness, hue and saturation. As earlier indicated, brightness embodies the chromatic nature of intensity. Hue is an attribute associated with the dominant colors perceived by an observer. Thus when describe an object by its color e.g. green and blue we are specifying its hue. Saturation refers to the relative purity or the amount of white light mixed with a hue. The pure spectrum colors are fully saturated. Colors such as pink (red and white) and lavender (violet and white) are less saturated with the degree of saturation being inversely proportion to the amount of white light added.

Dominant wavelength is mixture of colors - color seen
Hue and saturation - pure color sensation
See me

Hue and saturation taken together are called chromaticity and therefore a colour may be characterized by its brightness and chromaticity. The amounts of red, green and blue needed to form any particular colour are called the tristimulus values and are denoted as (X , Y and Z) respectively. A colour is then specified by its trichromatic coefficients defined as

$$x = \frac{X}{X+Y+Z} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$y = \frac{Y}{X+Y+Z}$$

$$z = \frac{Z}{X+Y+Z}$$

it is noted that these equations that

$$x + y + z = 1 \quad (\text{represented normalized form}).$$

Colour Models

1

The purpose of a colour model (also called colour space or colour system) is to facilitate the specification of colours in some using establish standard or generally acceptable way.

Most colour models in use today are oriented either toward hardware (such as for colour models and printers) or toward applications where color manipulation is a goal (such as in creation of colour graphics for animation).

There are numerous colour model in use today due to the fact the colour science is a broad field that encompasses many areas of application.

In the study three basic colours models namely;

- i) RGB (red green blue) model (ii) CMY (Cyan magents, yellow) and CMYK (Cyan magents, yellow black) models, and (iii) ~~HSB model~~ HSI (Hue, Saturation and Intensity) model will be discussed -

In terms of DIP the hardware Oriented Models most commonly used in practice are the RGB model for colour monitor and colour video cameras. CMY and CMYK models are for colour printing. While HSI model aids man in description and interpretation of colours.

RGB Model

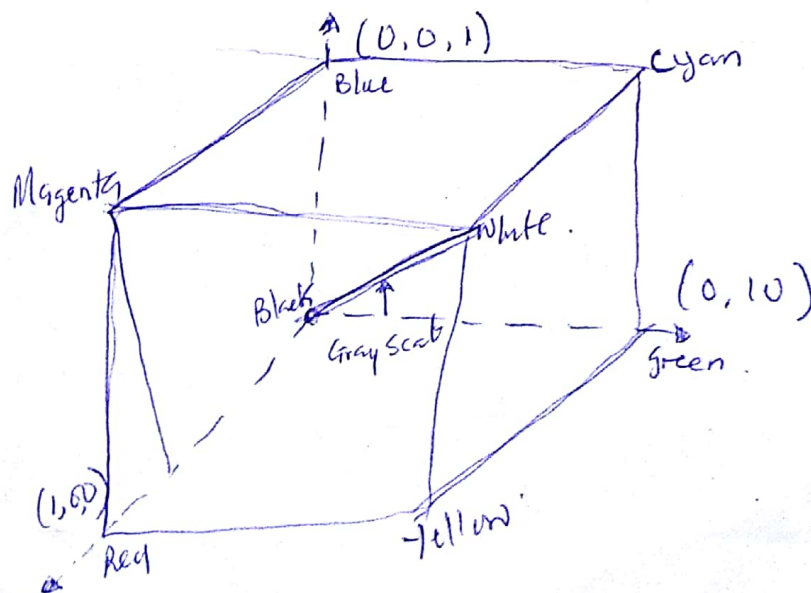


fig 1

2

This model is based on a Cartesian Coordinate System. Fig 1 above shows the RGB color model. The RGB values are at three corners while Cyan, Magenta and yellow are at three other corners. Black is the origin and white is at corner farthest from the origin. In this model, the gray scale (points of equal RGB values) extends from black to white along the line joining these two points. Different colors are represented in this model by different points inside the cube, and are defined by vectors from the origin, as shown in the figure above.

2 CMY and CMYK color model

Most devices that deposit colored pigments on paper such as color printers and copiers require CMY data input or perform an RGB to CMY conversion internally. The conversion is performed using equation 1. This equation is based on the assumption that all

$$\begin{bmatrix} C \\ M \\ Y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}$$

color values have been normalized to the range $[0, 1]$.

The equation demonstrates that the light reflected from a surface coated with pure cyan does not contain red.

$C = 1 - R$ in the equation. Similarly, pure magenta does not reflect green and pure yellow does not reflect blue.

The equation demonstrates that RGB values can be obtained easily from a set of CMY values by subtracting individual CMY values from 1.

Theoretically, as ~~demonstrated~~ ^{illustrated} in previous section primary pigments such as cyan, magenta and yellow should produce black. In practice, combining these colors produces a muddy-looking black. So in order to produce true black (which is predominant color in printing) a fourth color, black is added giving rise to the CMYK color model.

[H S I] Color model

3

HSI model is an ideal tool for developing image processing algorithms based on color descriptions that are natural and intuitive to humans. The HSI model decouples the intensity component from color carry information (hue and saturation) in a color image.

In other words, we say that RGB is ideal for image color generation (as in image capture by a color camera or image display on a monitor screen) but its use for color description is much more limited.

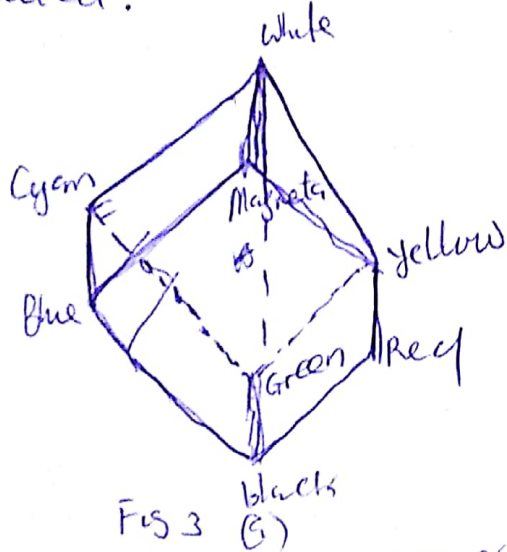
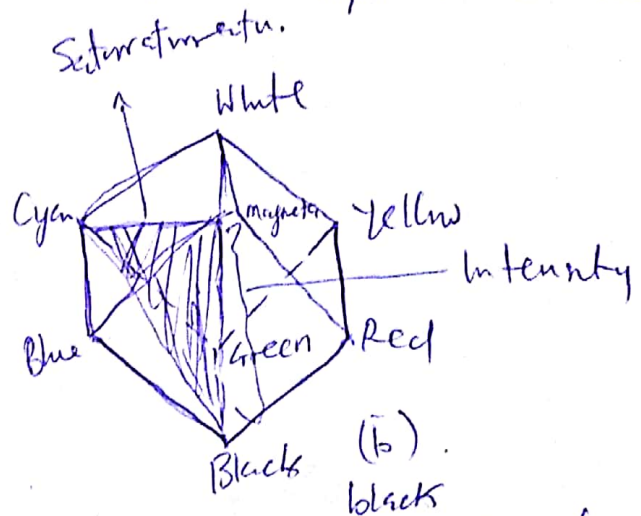


Fig 3 (a)



(b)

The figure above shows an RGB color cube standing on a vertex (0,0,0) with white vertex (1,1,1) directly above it. In this arrangement, as shown in the figure above the line joining black and white vertices is vertical. Thus if one to determine the intensity component of any color point, we ^{have to} draw a perpendicular plane to the intensity axis, containing the color point. The intersection of the plane with the intensity axis gives us the intensity value in the range $[0, 1]$. It is important to note that the saturation of points on the intensity axis is zero as evidenced by the fact that all points along the axis are gray.