Color Model Manipulation Using Python Imaging Library

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**Abstract**:

Many programs exist today that allow simple image modifications but few allow the manipulation of an image’s color model. This project was designed around the main goal of editing an image’s color data and observing the effects that ensue. This was to be accomplished using a third party image editing API in any language of choice. Using the Python Imaging Library API and the documentation provided to the group, the program was implemented in Python and performs all of the necessary functions as dictated in the assignment’s requirements. By completing this project, one can directly observe the effects of editing an image’s color model and pixel color data.

**Keywords**:

ImageMagick

Wand API

Python 2.7.3

Python Imaging Library (PIL)

RGB

XYZ

Lab

YUV

YCbCr

YIQ

HSL

Color model

Color space

**Introduction**

* Terminology

Throughout this report, the various color models will be referenced using their acronym, which traditionally describes the major components in the color model. When the term ‘API’ is referenced, it is used to denote Application Programming Interface. The only API used in this project is the Python Imaging Library, which provide similar functionality to the features built into the ImageMagick API’s, except PIL provided a superior set of documentation, as well as a larger library of imaging modules.

* Goal

The goal of this project is to implement a program which utilizes a 3rd party imaging API and implements the following functionality when supplied an image:

* + Divide the image into a 6x6 grid
  + Print average color instance values for each cell in the grid for each of the color space listed in the Keywords portion above
  + Increase or reduce the saturation of a row of cells while still maintaining the overall energy of the cell
  + Find a cell with the most similar average color given a color space and reference cell
  + Create seven different versions of a chosen cell, convert each version to a different color space, and reduce the number of colors in each cell to a number provided by the user
  + Create seven different versions of a chosen cell, convert each version to a different color space, and highlight the value of the third component where the value is in the 80th percentile
* Assumptions

The program assumes that the user is aware of the functions that are

implemented and has previous knowledge of the various color models as well as terms such as “saturation”.

**Proposed Solution**

The solution to the goals and requirements was to implement a program utilizing the Python Imaging Library. Given an image provided by the user, the program will perform the functions described in the ‘Goal’ portion above and produce a series of images as output. The program is run locally and the pathname to the image is supplied by the user at runtime, as well as any additional arguments that are needed (such as the number of colors to reduce the image to).

**Interface Specifications**

Initially, our team was using the Wand API binding to implement the ImageMagick image processing libraries, however after discovering the severe lack of documentation we decided to switch to the Python Imaging Library. By doing so we were able to implement several of the Wand functionalities with superior performance and with a better understanding of the PIL capabilities. Aside from the larger support base that PIL provided it also contained a substantial amount of functions that Wand did not contain nor support.

**System Requirements**

The system requirements are as follows:

* + Python 2.7.3 (This is the latest stable release)
  + Python Imaging Library 1.1.7
  + Mac OS X 10.6+, Windows XP or Later (any OS with Python is suitable but installation instructions are only given for Windows)
  + Root permission level to change Path variables

**Installation Instructions**

1. Download and install the x86 (32-bit) version of python 2.7 (<http://www.python.org/download/>).
2. Add the python installation directory (e.g. C:\Python27) to your $PATH

environmental variable.

1. Download and install the latest version of PIL for Python 2.7 (<http://www.pythonware.com/products/pil/>).

**Execution Instructions**

1. Open up a DOS prompt and navigate to the folder where the program is located
2. Type ‘python main.py <arguments>’ to run the program
3. <screenshot of the program running>

**Related Work**

The color models used in this project consisted of RGB, XYZ, Lab, YUV, YCbCr,

YIQ and HSL. In order to transform one color model into another we relied on the textbook “*Fundamentals of Multimedia*”, which defined the algorithms needed in order to convert between color spaces.

The Python Imaging Library that we used to implement this program has been used extensively in the open source community on a variety of projects, several of which can be found through a quick query on Google or stack overflow.

**Conclusions**

By doing this project, the group has learned the intricate differences between the various color models presented in the requirements. While our program only addresses some of the features of the Python Imaging Library, there are many more functions that can be implemented through future work. This project was beneficial in that it exposed how important multimedia objects and methodologies are in regards to the study of computer graphics, image processing and computer vision.

**Bibliography**

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**Appendix**:

David Rux - Documentation

Steven Carr - Documentation, code review and testing.

Casey Kuball - Main interface/command loop, color conversion functions, 6x6 image splicing function, color average printing function, highlighting function.

Glenn Craver - compare energy function, convert hsl function, saturate and desaturate functions

Wesley Rose - find average color function, compare average color function, display nearest image function