



# Color measurements with the spectrometer

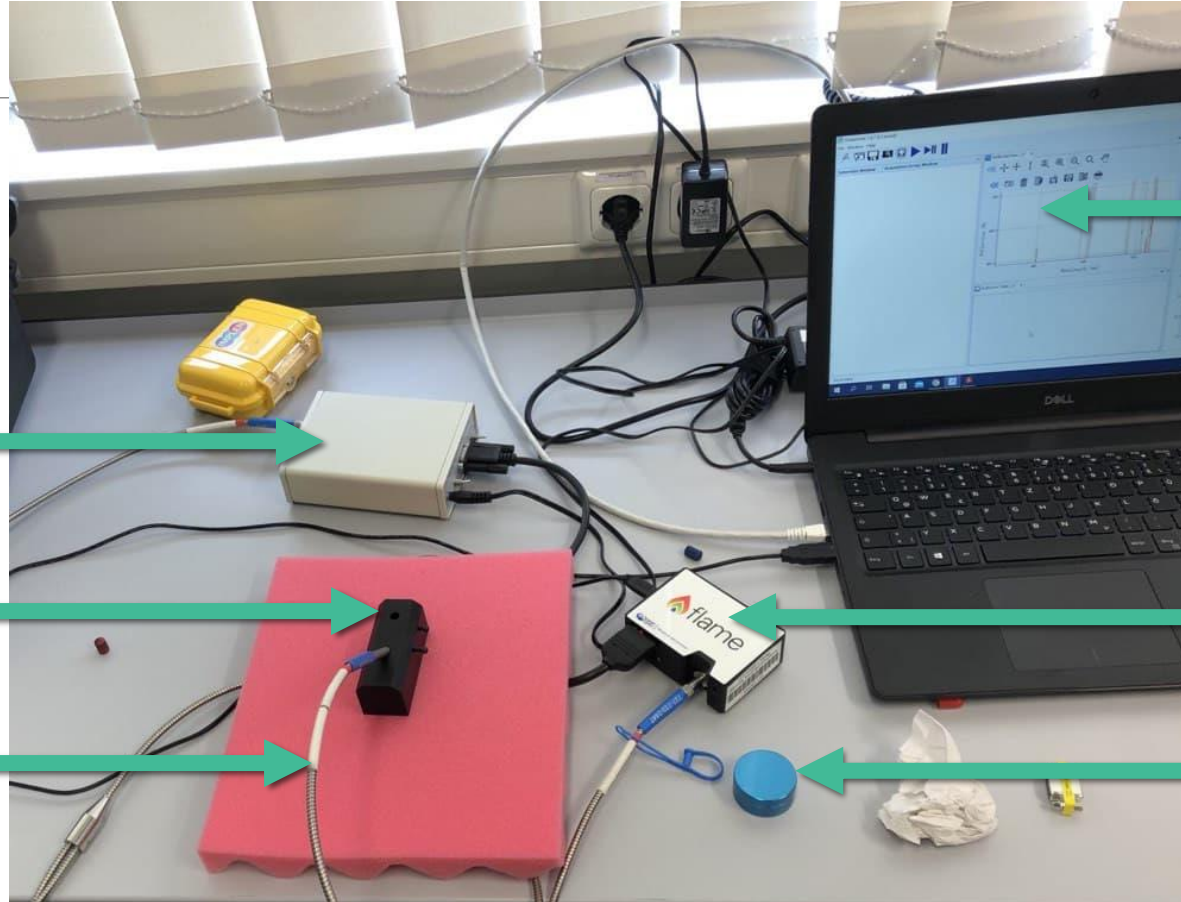
Friederike Wölke  
([frieda.woelke@gmail.com](mailto:frieda.woelke@gmail.com))  
iDiv Summer School 2022, Leipzig

# Setup

PX-2 Pulsed Xenon Lamp  
(220-750nm)

Reflection Probe Holder  
for 6.35mm probes

“QR400-7-UV-BX”  
Reflection probe  
(at 45° angle)

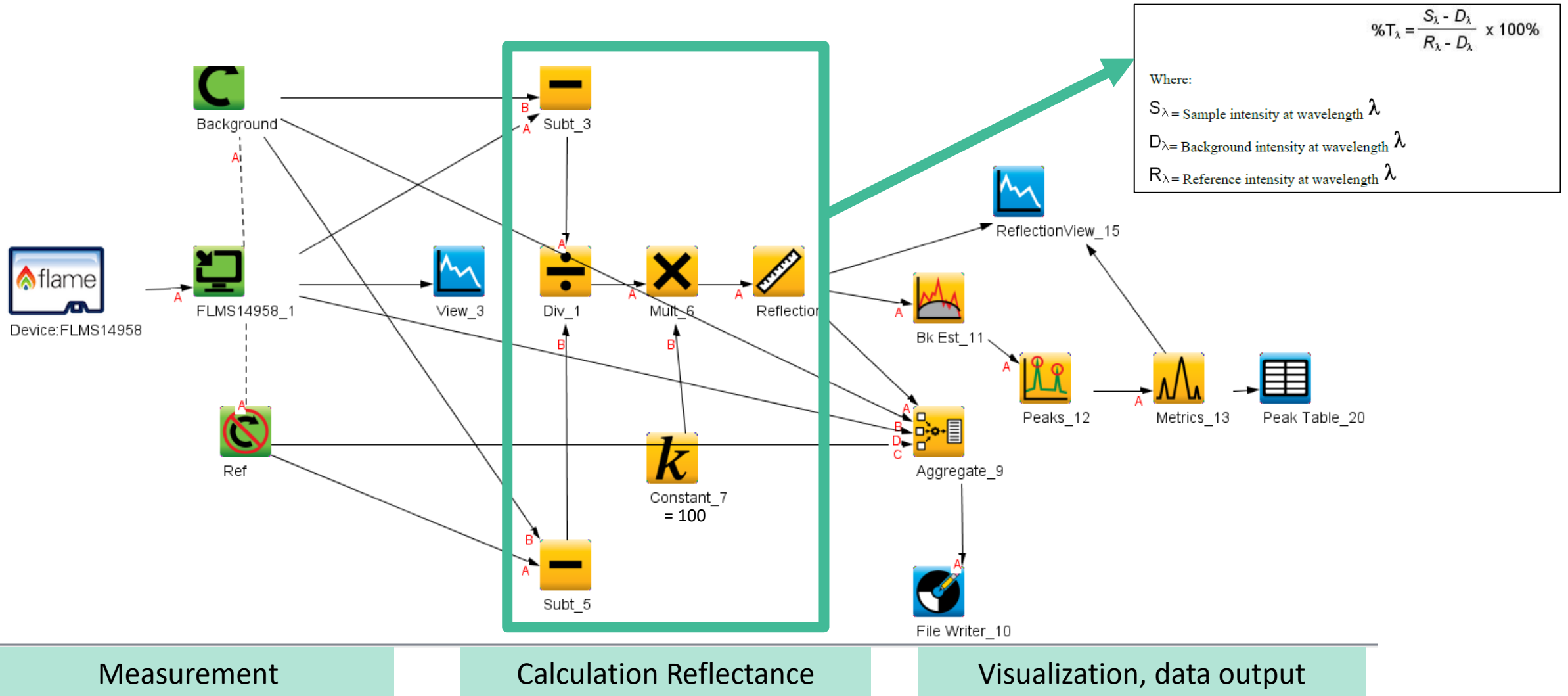


OceanView software

Spectrometer  
“FLAME-S-UV-VIS”

Diffuse  
Reflectance Standard


# Workflow for measuring color (reflectance)




# How to measure

---


## 1. Dark background reference

- Uncheck „Enable lightsource“ in the software.
- Close all opening in the probe holder
- click  to take the background reference

## 2. White reference

- enable light again
- place diffuse standard under probe
- click  to take the white reference

## 3. Reflectance measurement (color)

- place fruit under the probe holder
- press  to save reflectance measurement



= File writer: click after calibration and before reflectance measurement (remember to change the file name before!!)

# Some things to keep in mind

---

- Consistent labelling (e.g., sp1-i1-r1)
  - Edit file name with every new measurement
- Take new calibration after all replicates for an individual
- Clean reflection probe (detector) when needed
- Exclude external light from the measurement

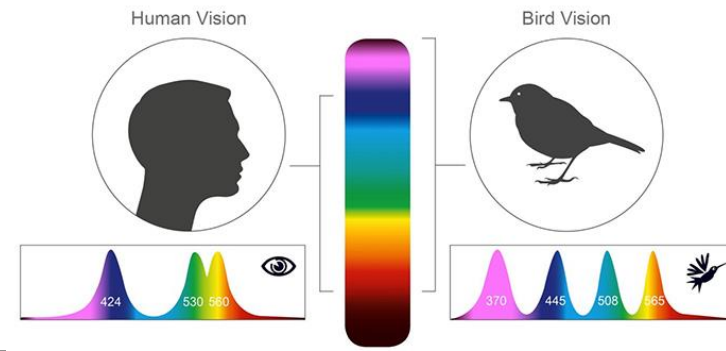
# Processing reflectance spectra

HOW TO CALCULATE HUE, CHROMA AND BRIGHTNESS FOR OBJECTS  
(COLOR)

Friederike Wölke  
([frieda.woelke@gmail.com](mailto:frieda.woelke@gmail.com))  
iDiv Summer School 2022, Leipzig



# Color is...



- „...the visual perceptual property deriving from the spectrum of light interacting with the photoreceptor cells of the eyes“ (wikipedia)
- ... all frequencies of the visible light spectrum that are reflected back from the object into the observer's eye
- depends on the type and sensitivity of different types of cone cells in the retina
- **Human** visible spectrum 380 - 750 nm (3 types of cones: blue, green, red)
- **Bird** visible spectrum 300 – 750 nm (4 types of cones: UV, blue, green, red)



# Reflectance

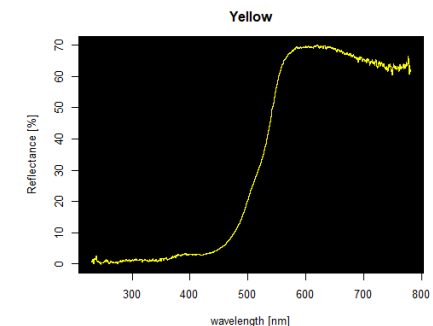
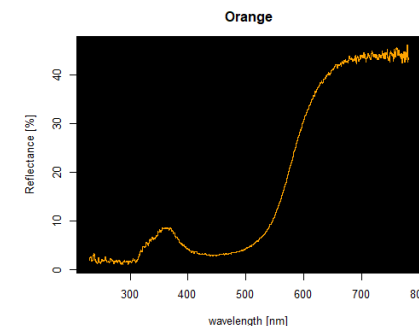
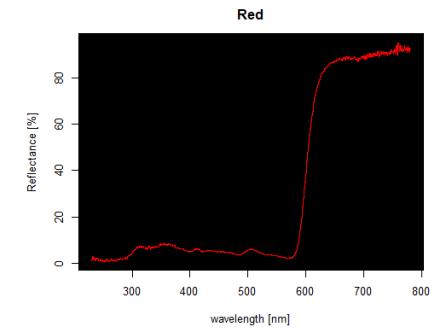
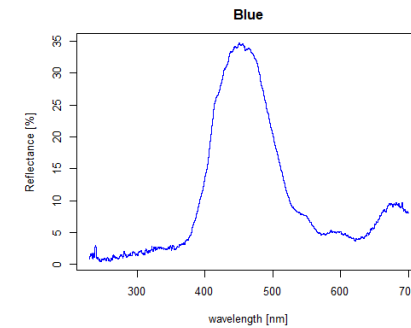
The reflectance spectrum shows the distribution of photons that can be potentially reflected towards the eye/detector at each wavelength

Reflectance (R [%]): relative measure, depends on the spectrum of the incident light

Transmission or Reflectance  $\longrightarrow \%T_{\lambda} = \frac{S_{\lambda} - D_{\lambda}}{R_{\lambda} - D_{\lambda}} \times 100\%$

Where:

$S_{\lambda}$  = Sample intensity at wavelength  $\lambda$   $\longleftarrow$  Measurement  
 $D_{\lambda}$  = Background intensity at wavelength  $\lambda$   $\longleftarrow$  Dark calibration  
 $R_{\lambda}$  = Reference intensity at wavelength  $\lambda$   $\longleftarrow$  Light calibration





# Properties of color

## Brightness

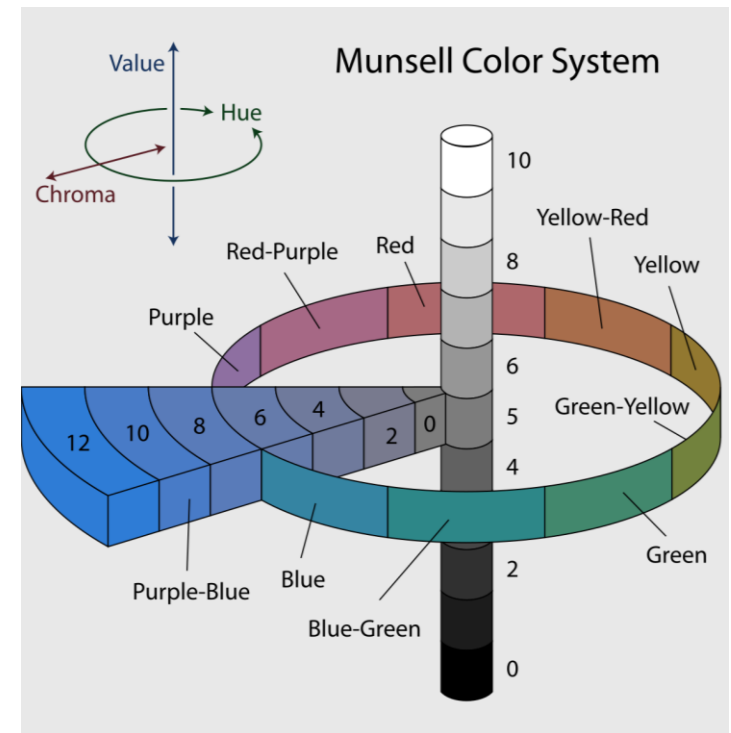
- = average or total intensity of reflected wavelengths
- the higher the reflectance amplitudes, the brighter it is perceived
- $R_{average}$

## Hue

- = color that is predominantly perceived by the observer
- peak wavelength ( $\lambda$  at  $R_{max}$ )

## Chroma

- = saturation, function of how rapidly R% changes horizontally along wavelengths
- steeper slopes indicate higher saturation
- $\frac{R_{max} - R_{min}}{R_{average}}$



# Properties of color in the reflectance spectrum

## Brightness

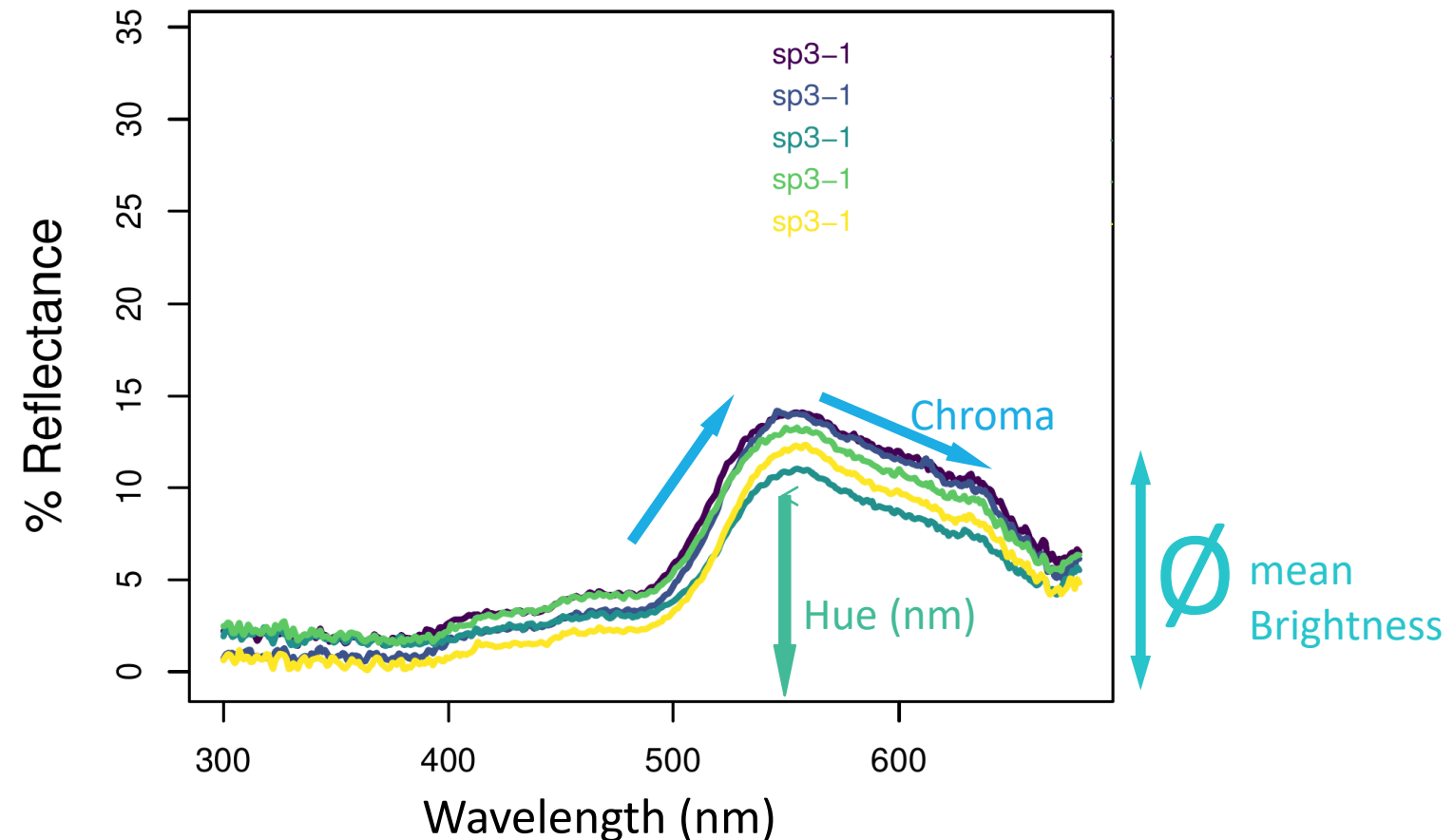
- $R_{average}$

## Hue

- peak wavelength  
( $\lambda$  at  $R_{max}$ )

## Chroma

- $\frac{R_{max} - R_{min}}{R_{average}}$



# Computing colorimetric variables in R

## Methods in Ecology and Evolution



Methods in Ecology and Evolution 2013, 4, 906–913

doi: 10.1111/2041-210X.12069

### APPLICATION

## pavo: an R package for the analysis, visualization and organization of spectral data

Rafael Maia<sup>1\*</sup>, Chad M. Eliason<sup>1</sup>, Pierre-Paul Bitton<sup>2</sup>, Stéphanie M. Doucet<sup>2</sup> and Matthew D. Shawkey<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biology, Integrated Bioscience Program, University of Akron, Akron, OH, 44325–3908, USA; and <sup>2</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, University of Windsor, 401 Sunset Avenue, Biology Building, Windsor, Ontario, N9B 3P4, Canada

## A) Calculating brightness, hue and chroma

### 1) For replicates individually

First, we have to subset the reflection data into species data frames for the separate calculation of the metrics. Pavo has a modified version of `subset()` which uses partial matching of strings. You can indicate any sequence of letter/signs/numbers that you would like to filter for in the column names of your reflection measurement.

Hide

```
refl_sp1 <- subset(specs, "sp1") # based on species id in names in reflectance df
refl_sp2 <- subset(specs, "sp2")
refl_sp3 <- subset(specs, "sp3")
```

Next we will calculate brightness, hue and chroma using the `summary()` function for each replicate (we can also do it for each species or each individual tree that was sampled, see below).

If we use the `subset = T` argument inside the function, it will automatically calculate the three desired variables. There is a diversity of other measures the function can calculate but those three are the most commonly used in comparative studies.

Hide

```
# again we cut out some more of the spectral noise (needed here. may not be needed for your data. Remove wlmín/wlmax arguments if not needed)
```

```
col_sp1 <- summary(refl_sp1, subset = T, wlmín = 300, wlmax= 680)
```

Hide

```
col_sp2 <- summary(refl_sp2, subset = T, wlmín = 300, wlmax= 680)
```

Hide

```
col_sp3 <- summary(refl_sp3, subset = T, wlmín = 300, wlmax= 680)
```

- \* Change species/samples labels and folder structure for your own purposes from the provided R script
- \* script includes some techniques for visualization

# Helpful information

---

*pavo* package:

- <https://rafaelmaia.net/pavo/articles/pavo.html> (tutorial)
- <https://rdr.io/cran/pavo/> (description of functions)

Information about the formulas and arguments in R and *pavo* can be found on their help page:

- Type `?[your function]()` into the R console, where [your function] has to be replaced with the function you want to read more about: e.g., `?summary.rspec()`

Information about the difficulties of measuring color with a spectrometer:

© 2016. Published by The Company of Biologists Ltd | Journal of Experimental Biology (2016) 219, 772-778 doi:10.1242/jeb.124008



## COMMENTARY

### How to measure color using spectrometers and calibrated photographs

Sönke Johnsen\*