Color Harmony Research Notes

color harmony refers to the property that certain aesthetically pleasing color combinations have.

Color combinations are generally described as where colors are on the wheel and the relative positioning to other colors.

Complimentary Colors
Colors that are opposite of each other on the wheel. Complimentary colors create the most contrast with each other, compared to any other colors.
Ex: purple and orange; red and green

Split-complimentary Colors
Similar to complimentary colors, one of the colors is split up to instead be two analagous colors.
Ex: purple and {yellow orange, red orange}; red and {yellow green, blue green}

Triadic
Three colors are used, each equidistant from each other on the wheel.

Tetradic
Four colors are used. each located at 90 degree angles from two of the other colors, and diagonally from the third, such that the four colors form a rectangle.
Ex: red orange, red violet, blue green and yellow green

Analagous
Three colors are used, with two colors equidistant on the color wheel from a third color between them.
Ex: red, red orange and yellow orange

Use of Color Harmony in UX
- Draw attention and engage users
    - monochrome w/ vibrantly contrasting elements
- Enhance usability
    - color harmony techniques used to make essential elements prominent

How to Achieve Color Harmony
- Brainstorm
- Select a dominant color
    - dominant color takes center stage
    - secondary color supports
    - accent colors highlight essential elements