
Color Image Processing

Spectrum of White Light

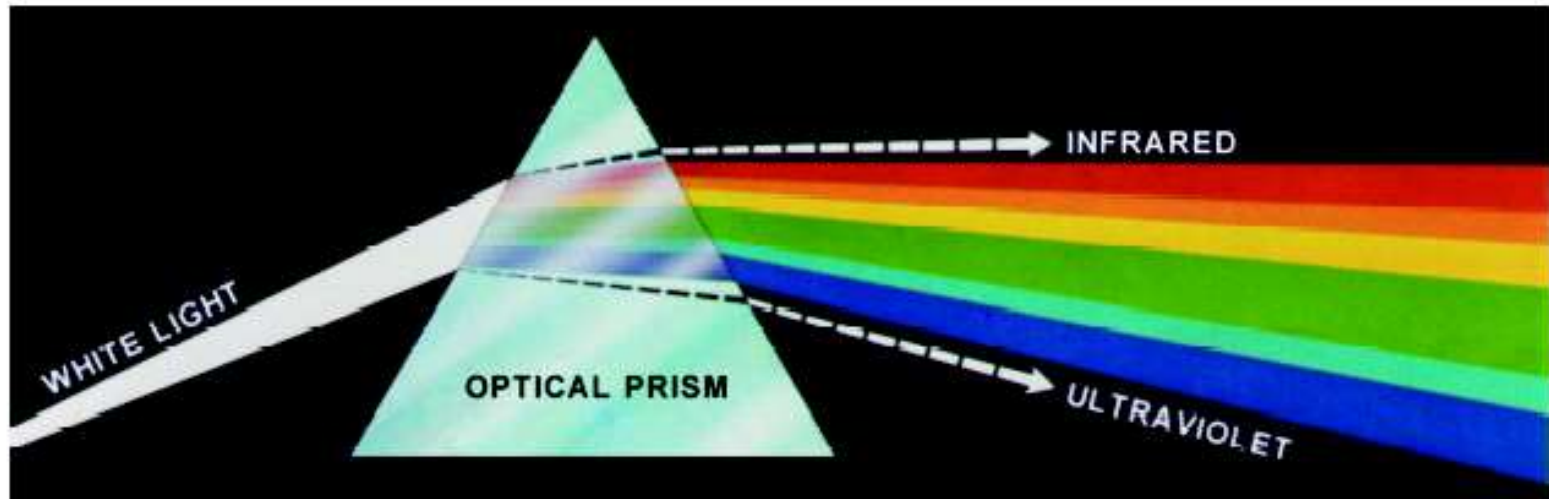
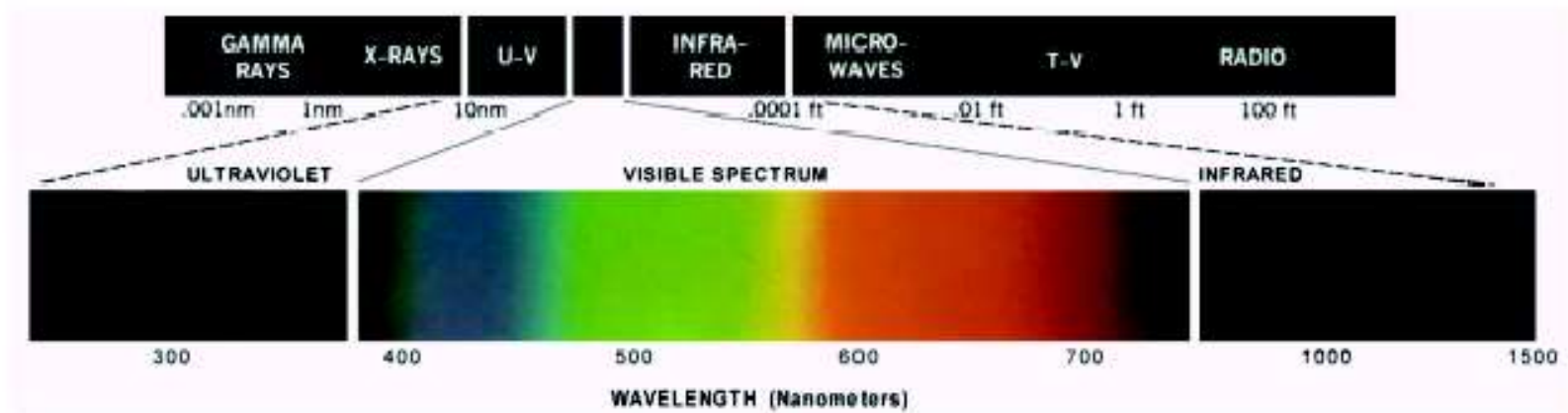


FIGURE 6.1 Color spectrum seen by passing white light through a prism. (Courtesy of the General Electric Co., Lamp Business Division.)

1666 Sir Isaac Newton, 24 year old, discovered white light spectrum.

Electromagnetic Spectrum



Visible light wavelength: from around 400 to 700 nm

1. For an achromatic (monochrome) light source, there is only 1 attribute to describe the quality: **intensity**

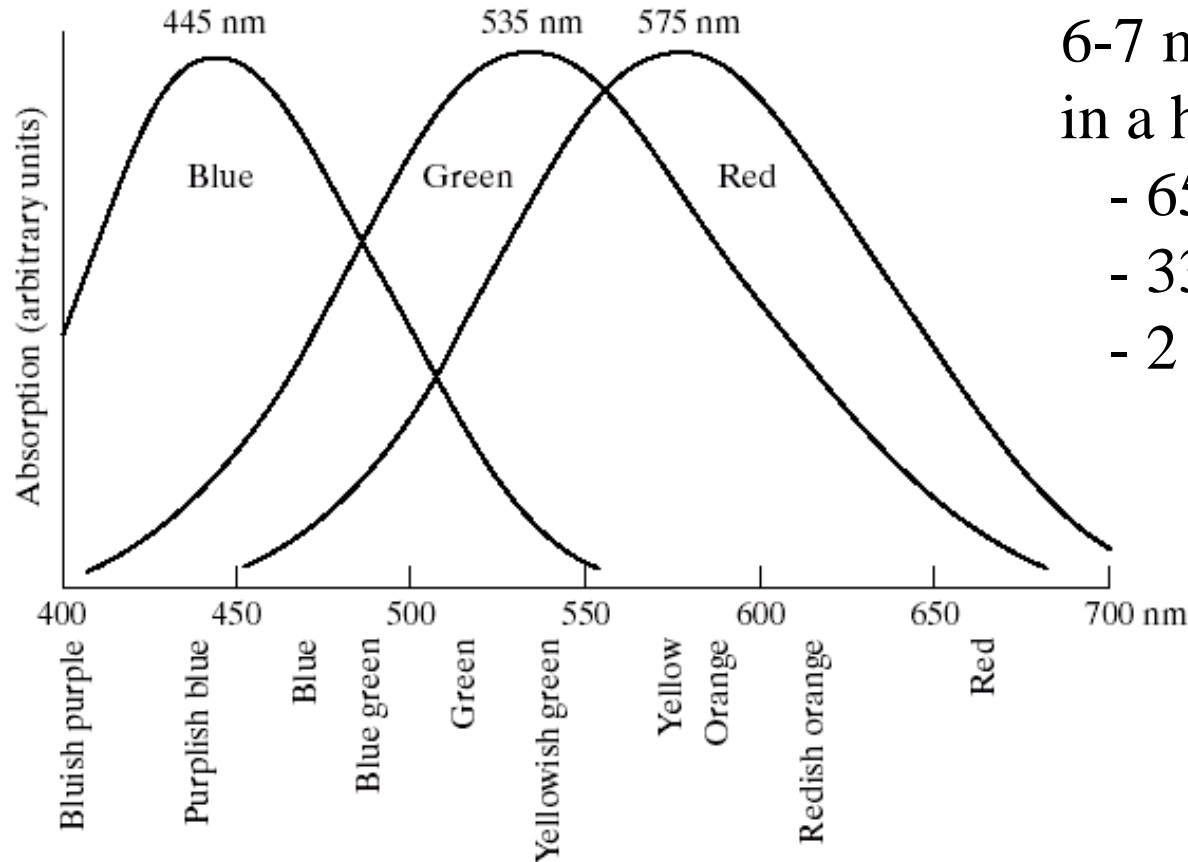
2. For a chromatic light source, there are 3 attributes to describe the quality:

Radiance = total amount of energy flow from a light source (Watts)

Luminance = amount of energy received by an observer (lumens)

Brightness = intensity

Sensitivity of Cones in the Human Eye



6-7 millions cones
in a human eye

- 65% sensitive to **Red light**
- 33% sensitive to **Green light**
- 2 % sensitive to **Blue light**

Primary colors:

Defined CIE in 1931

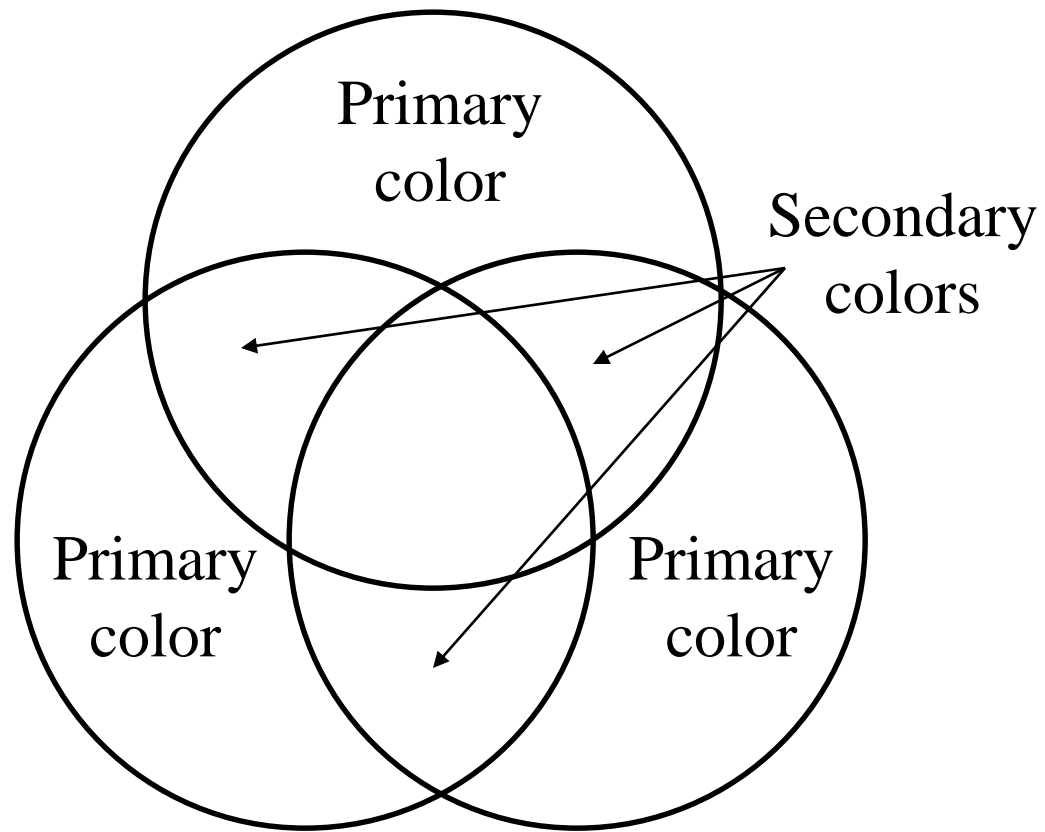
Red = 700 nm

Green = 546.1nm

Blue = 435.8 nm

CIE = Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage
(The International Commission on Illumination)

Primary and Secondary Colors



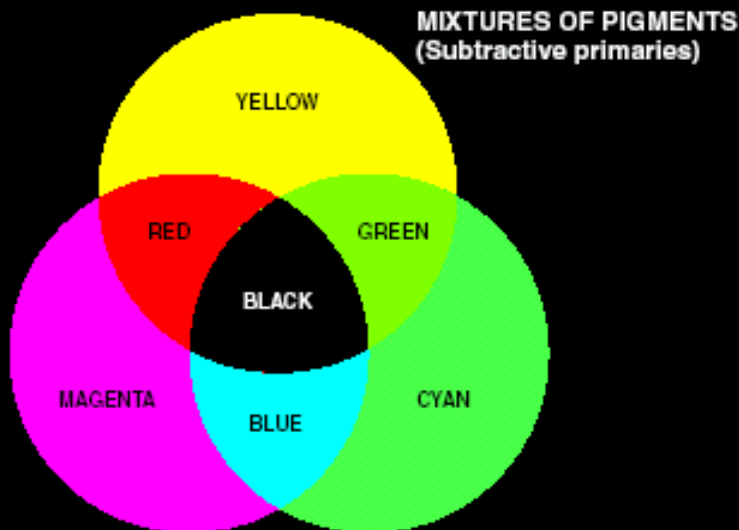
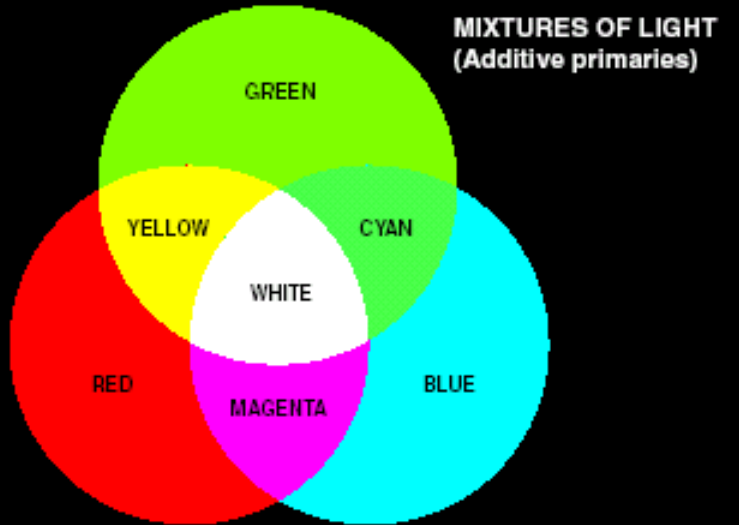
Primary and Secondary Colors (cont.)

Additive primary colors: RGB
use in the case of light sources
such as color monitors

RGB add together to get white

Subtractive primary colors: CMY
use in the case of pigments in
printing devices

White subtracted by CMY to get
Black



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY COLORS
OF LIGHT AND PIGMENT

Color Characterization

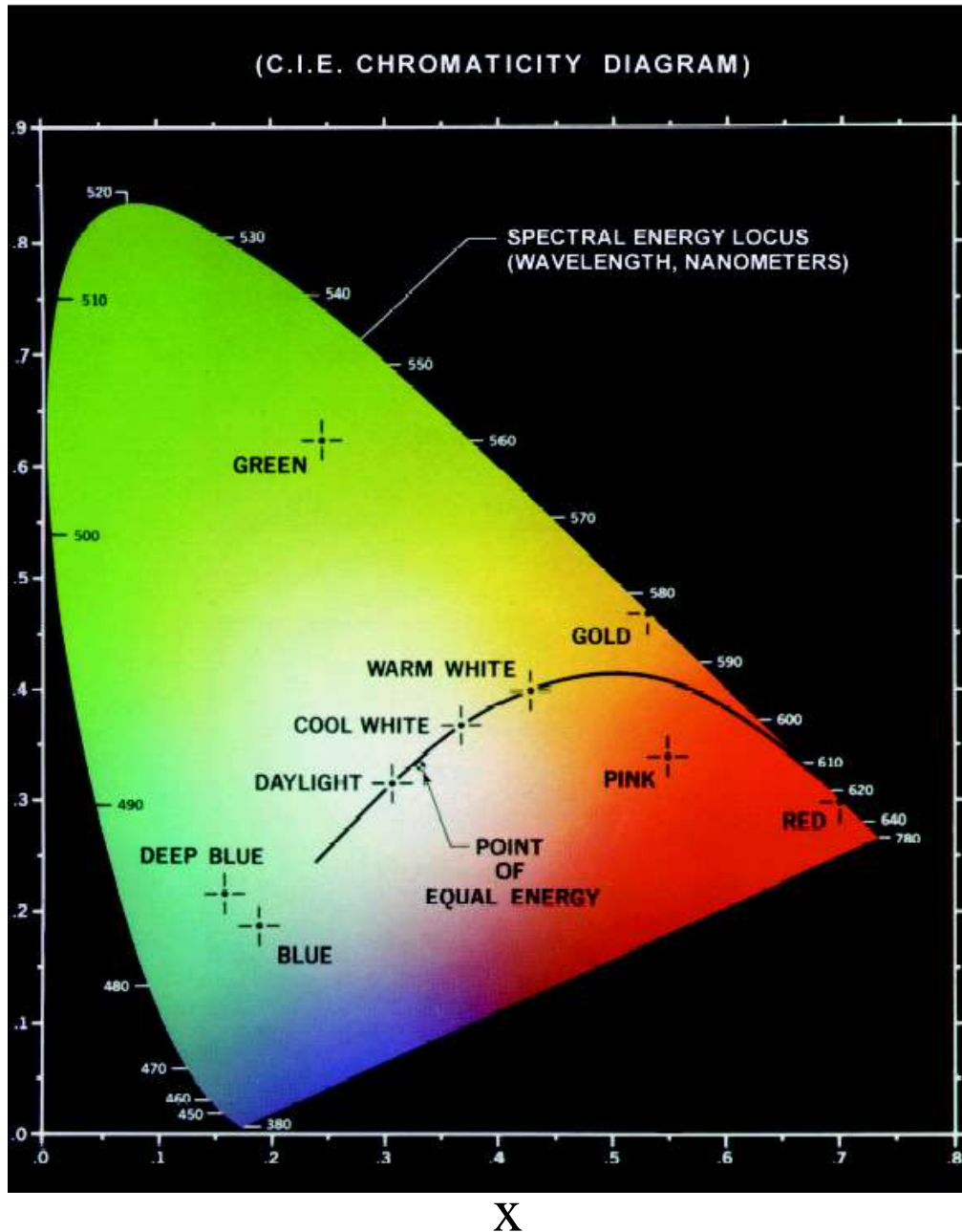
- Hue: dominant color corresponding to a dominant wavelength of mixture light wave
- Saturation: Relative purity or amount of white light mixed with a hue (inversely proportional to amount of white light added)
- Brightness: Intensity

Hue
Saturation } Chromaticity

amount of red (X), green (Y) and blue (Z) to form any particular color is called *tristimulus*.

CIE Chromaticity Diagram

y



Trichromatic coefficients:

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

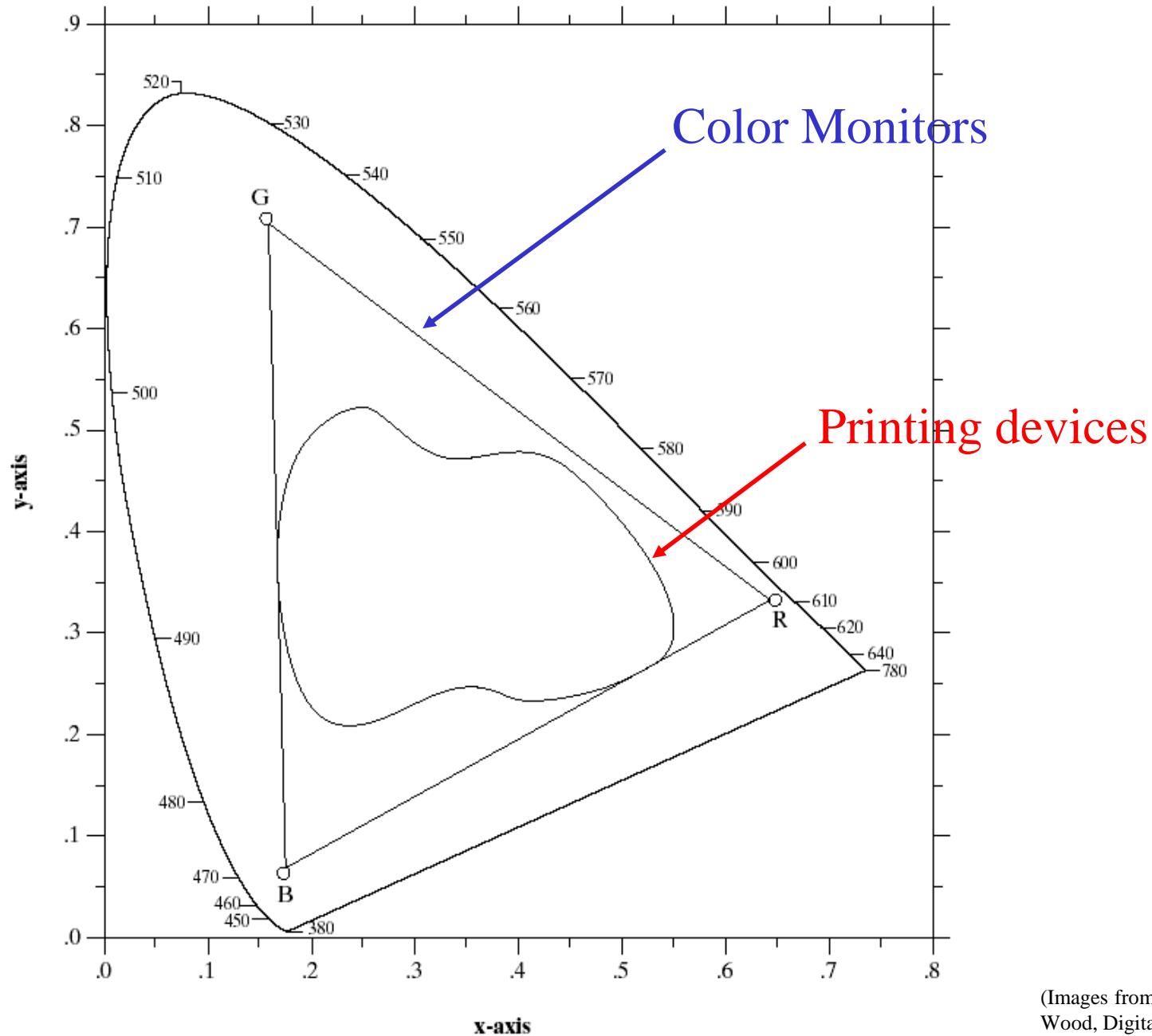
$$y = \frac{Y}{X + Y + Z}$$

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

$$x + y + z = 1$$

Points on the boundary are fully saturated colors

Color Gamut of Color Monitors and Printing Devices

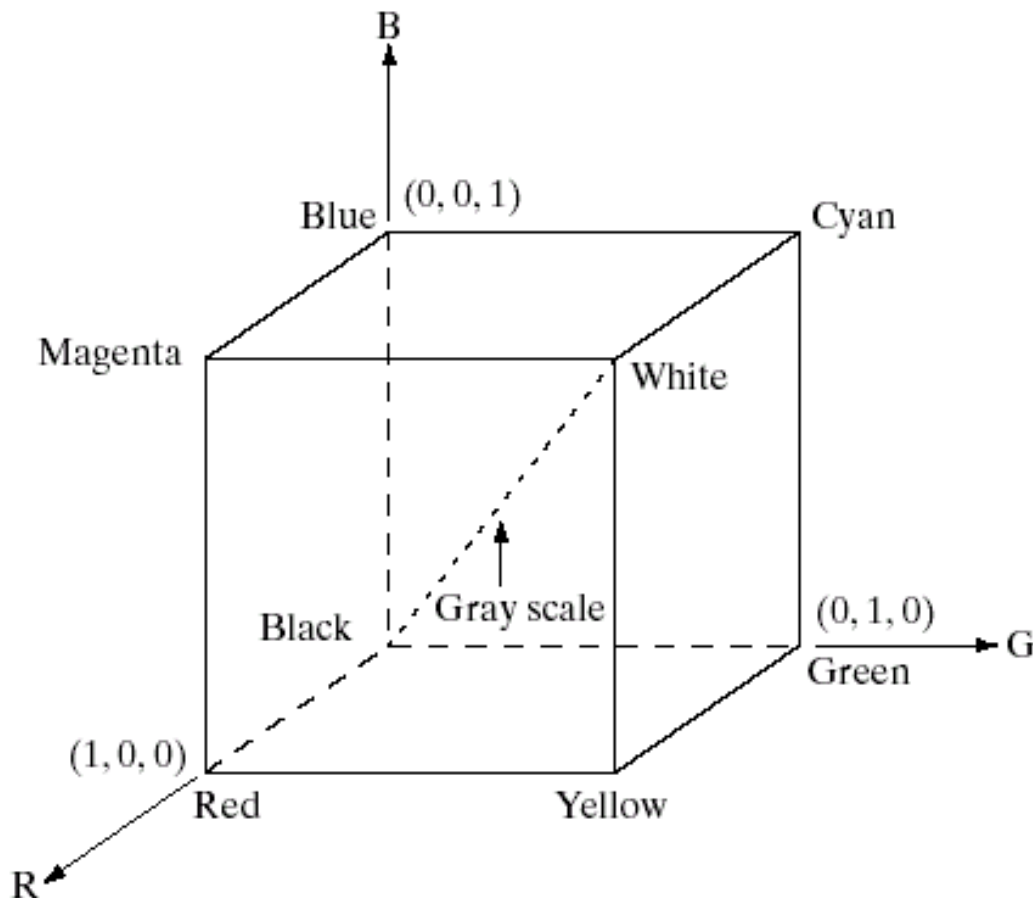


(Images from Rafael C. Gonzalez and Richard E. Wood, Digital Image Processing, 2nd Edition.

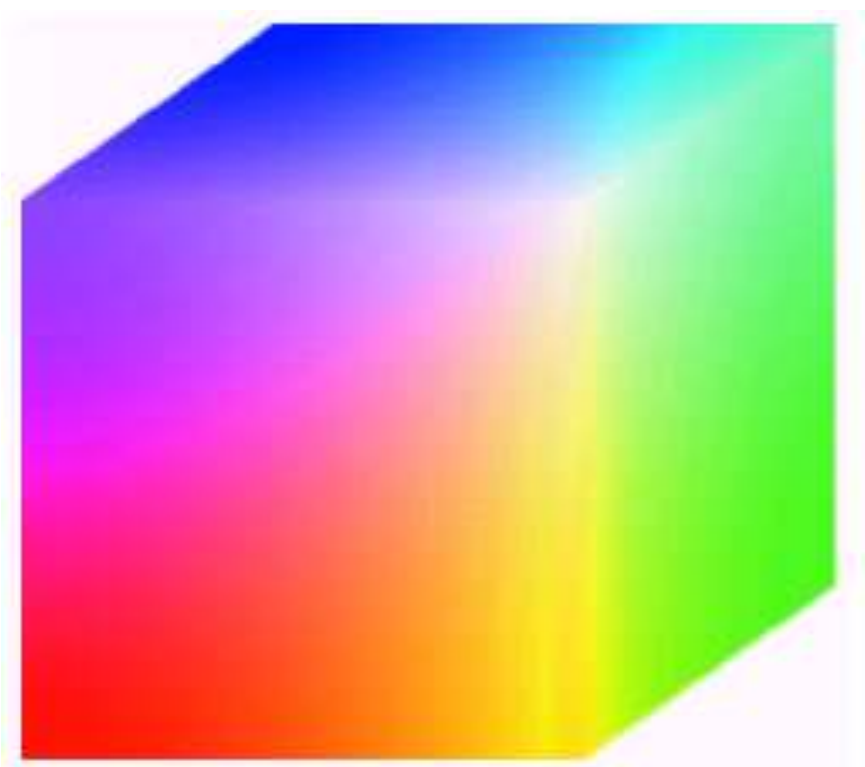
RGB Color Model

Purpose of color models: to facilitate the specification of colors in some standard

RGB color models:
- based on cartesian coordinate system



RGB Color Cube



$R = 8 \text{ bits}$
 $G = 8 \text{ bits}$
 $B = 8 \text{ bits}$



Color depth 24 bits
 $= 16777216 \text{ colors}$



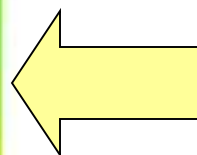
$(R = 0)$



$(G = 0)$

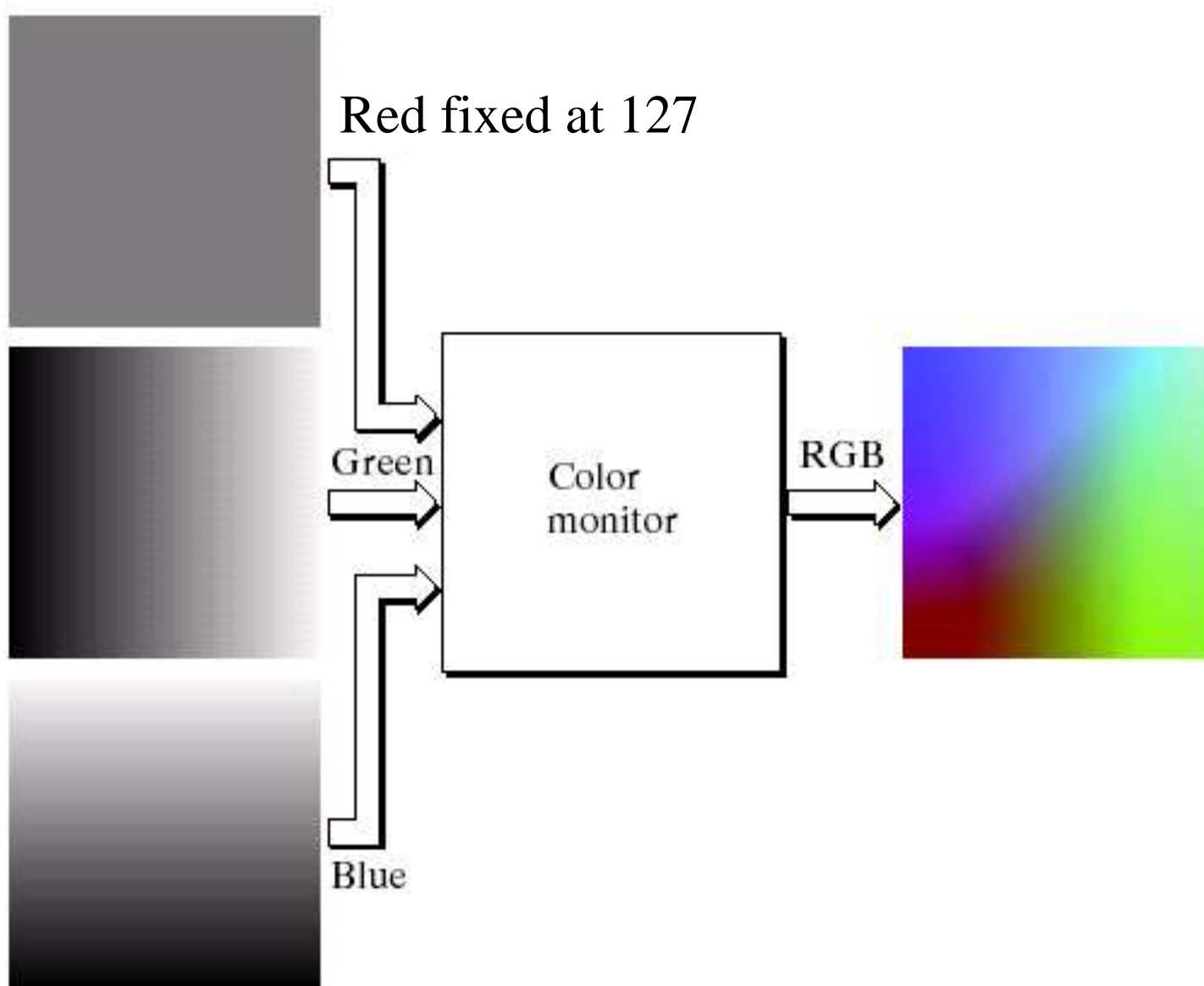


$(B = 0)$



Hidden faces
of the cube

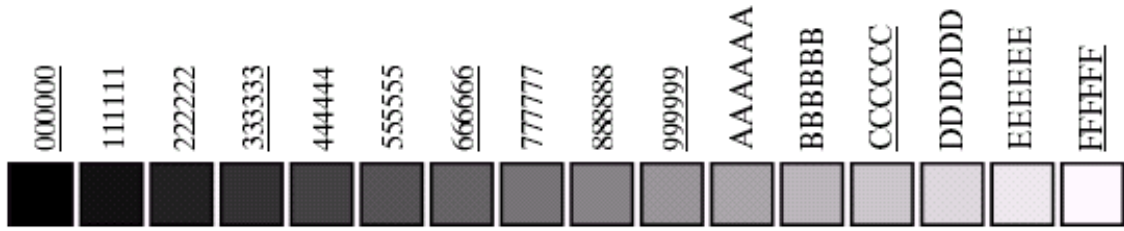
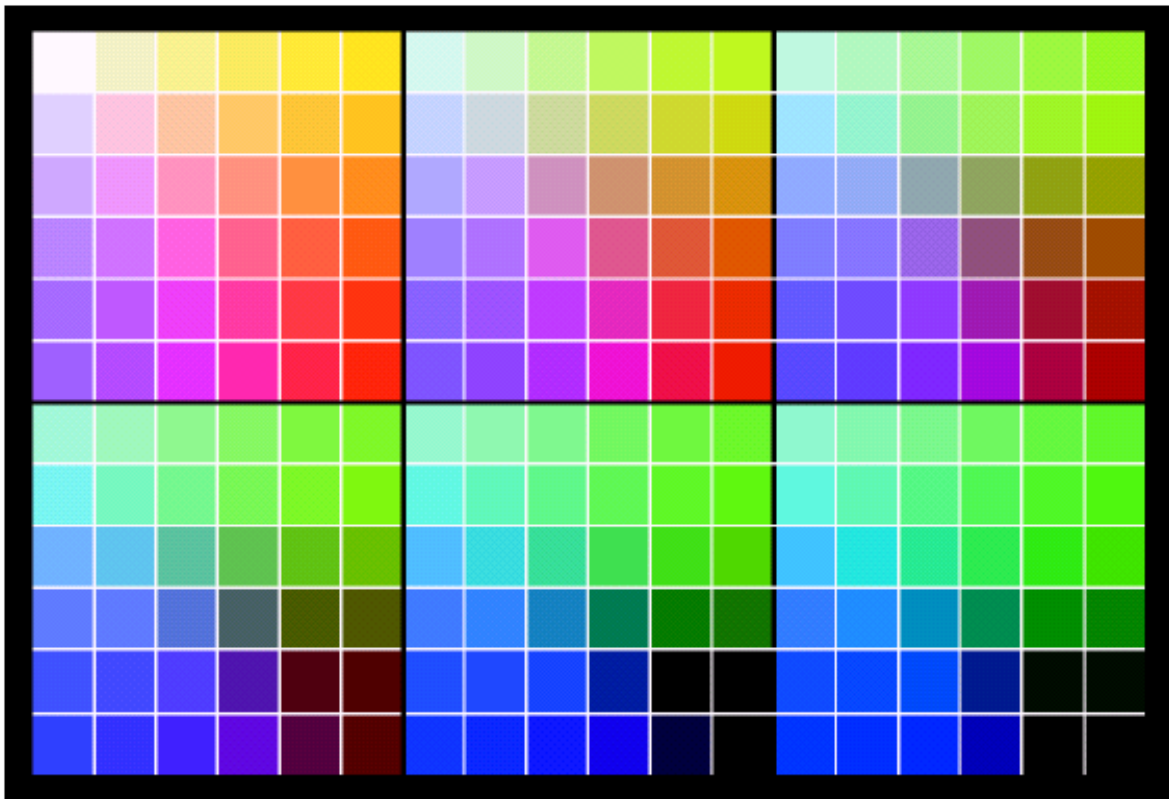
RGB Color Model (cont.)



Safe RGB Colors

Safe RGB colors: a subset of RGB colors.

There are 216 colors common in most operating systems.



a
b

FIGURE 6.10
(a) The 216 safe RGB colors.
(b) All the grays in the 256-color RGB system (grays that are part of the safe color group are shown underlined).

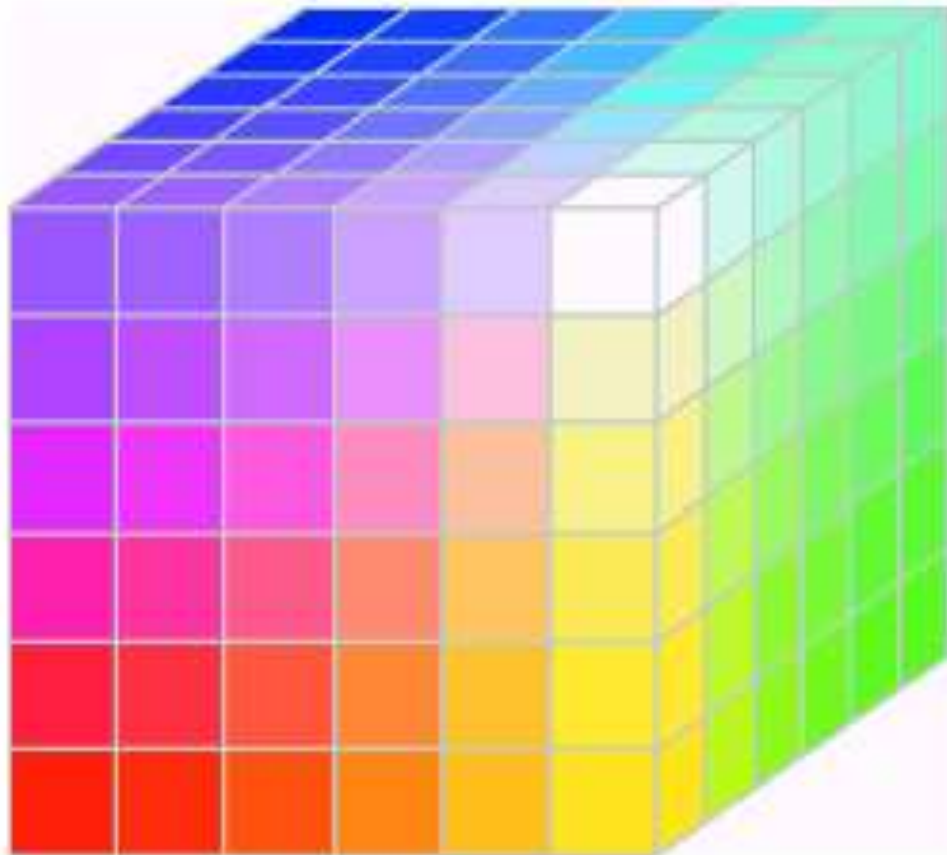
(Images from Rafael C. Gonzalez and Richard E. Wood, Digital Image Processing, 2nd Edition.

RGB Safe-color Cube

Number System		Color Equivalents				
Hex	00	33	66	99	CC	FF
Decimal	0	51	102	153	204	255

TABLE 6.1

Valid values of each RGB component in a safe color.



The RGB Cube is divided into 6 intervals on each axis to achieve the total $6^3 = 216$ common colors.

However, for 8 bit color representation, there are the total 256 colors. Therefore, the remaining 40 colors are left to OS.

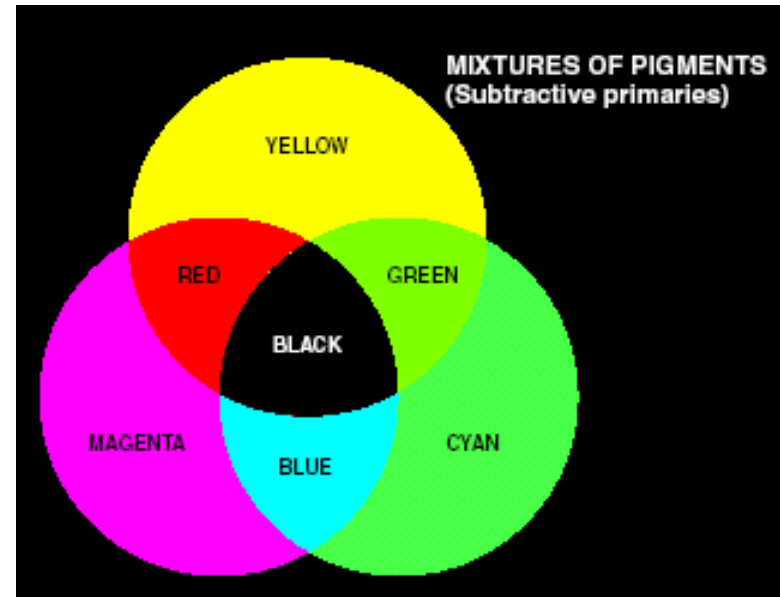
CMY and CMYK Color Models

C = Cyan

M = Magenta

Y = Yellow

K = Black



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

HSI Color Model


RGB, CMY models are not good for human interpreting

HSI Color model:

Hue: Dominant color

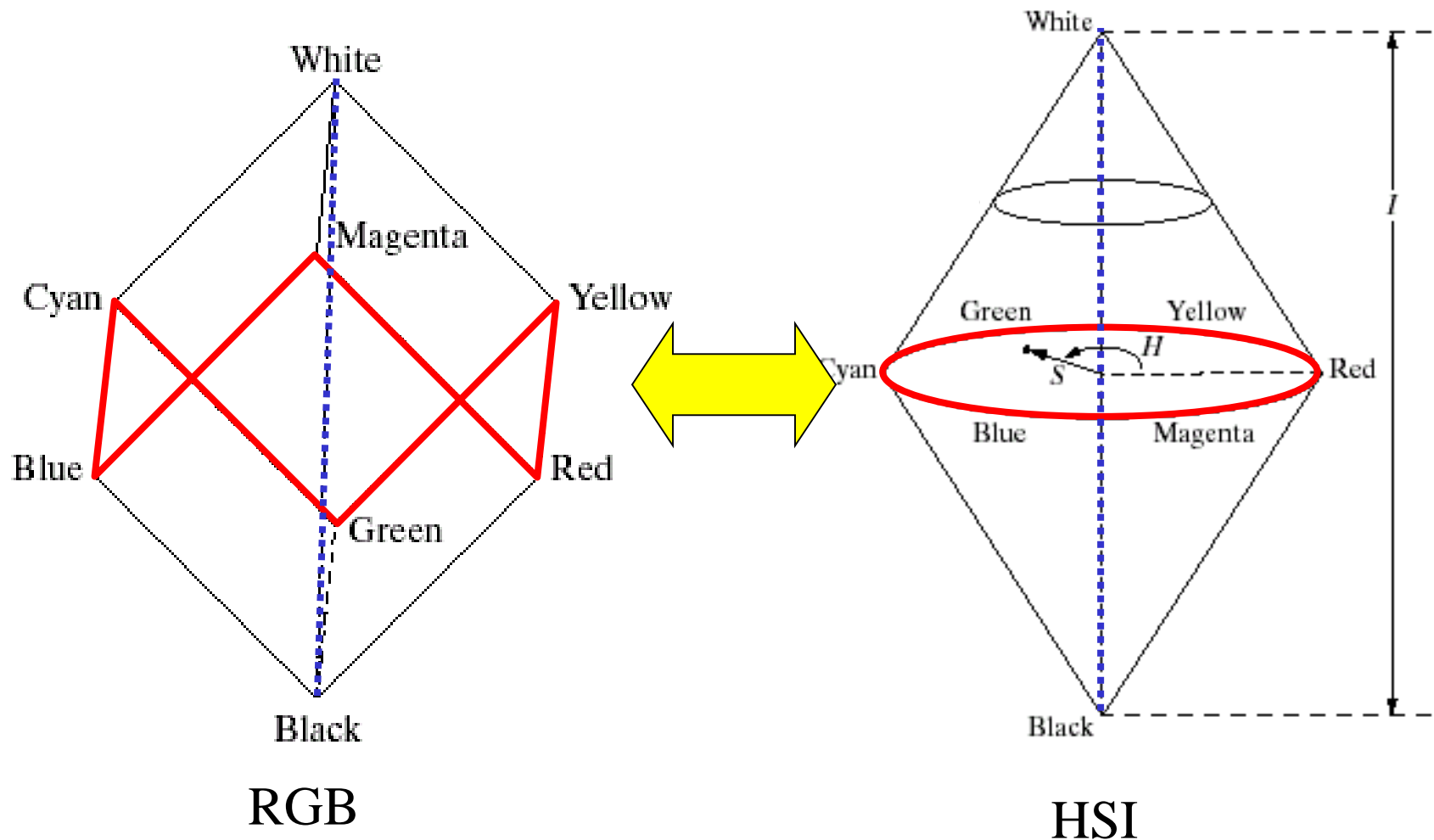
Saturation: Relative purity (inversely proportional to amount of white light added)

Intensity: Brightness

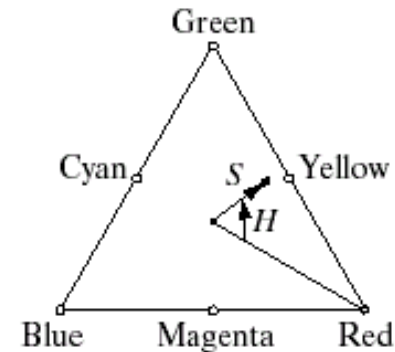
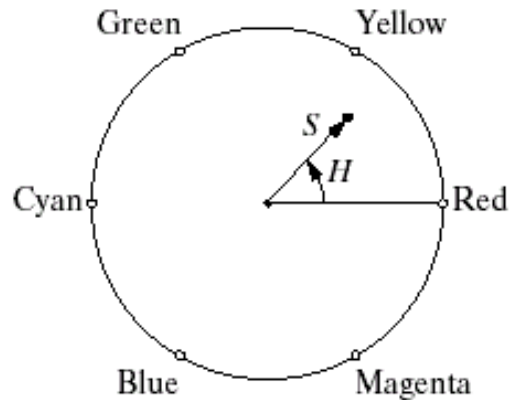
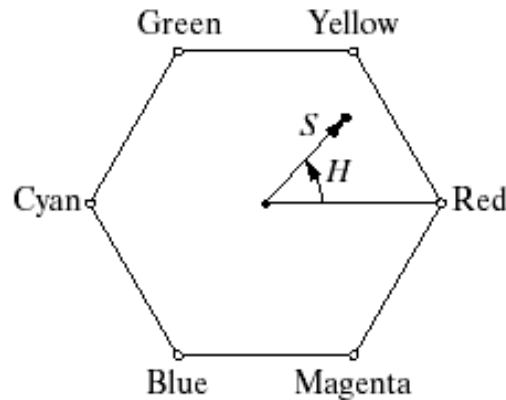
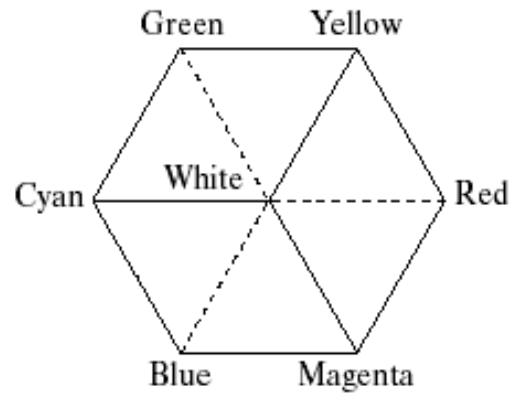


Color carrying information

Relationship Between RGB and HSI Color Models

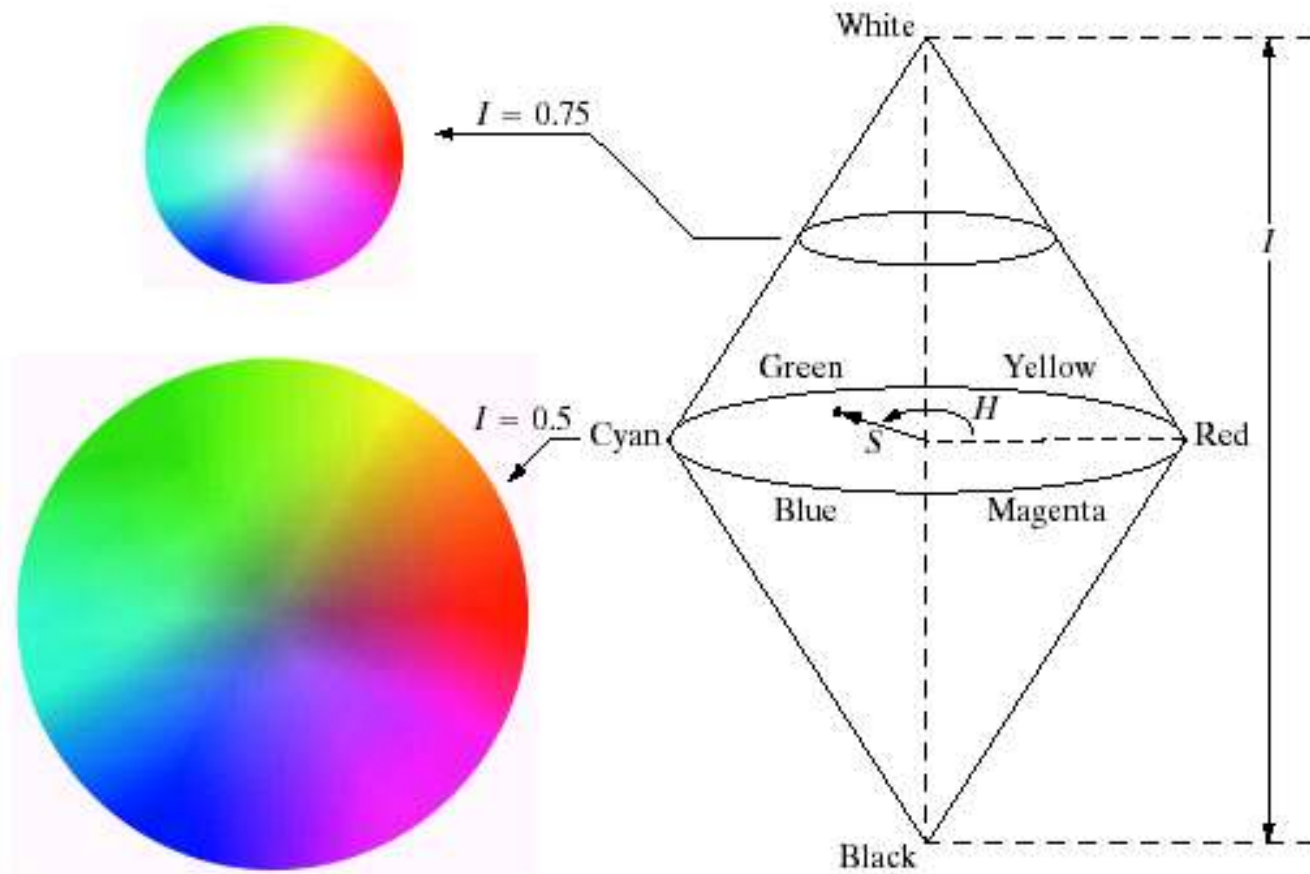


Hue and Saturation on Color Planes



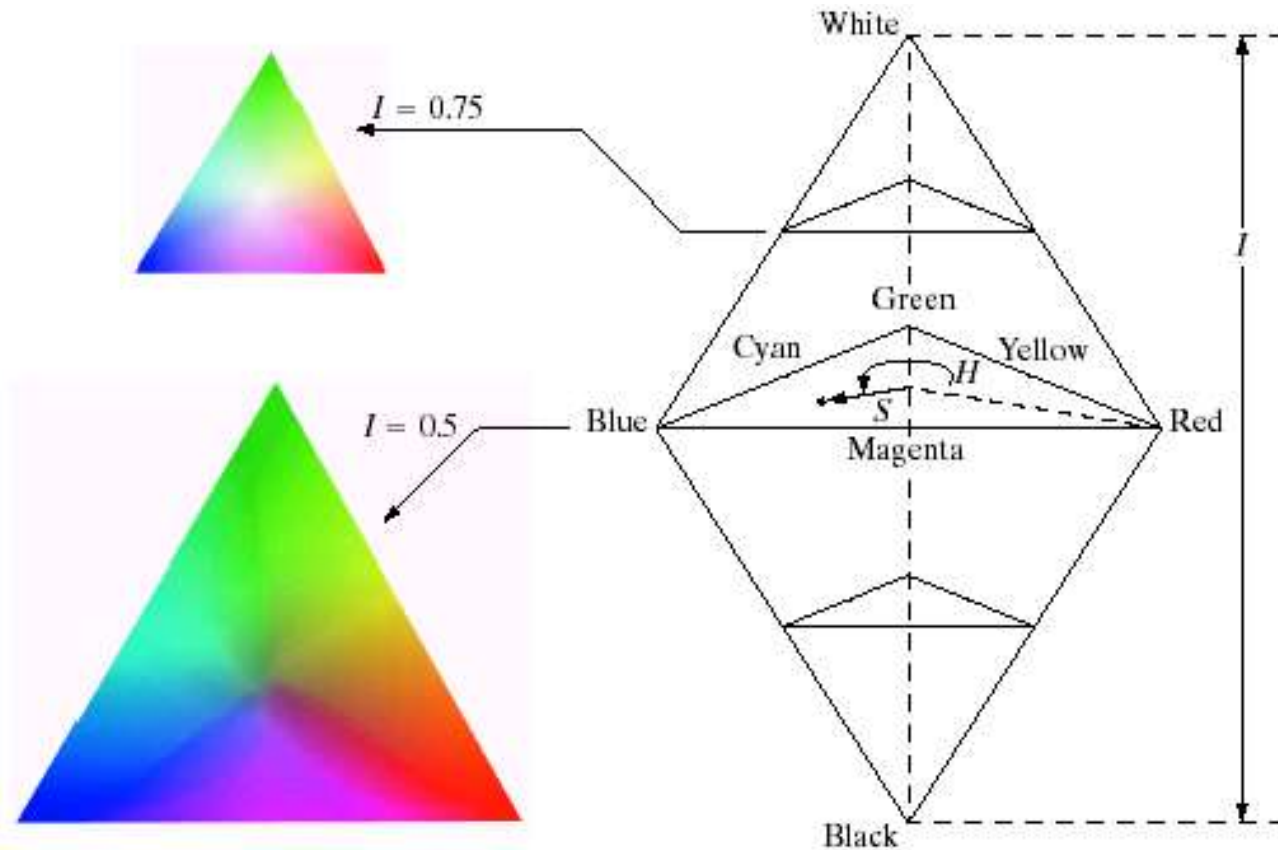
1. A dot in the plane is an arbitrary color
2. Hue is an angle from a red axis.
3. Saturation is a distance to the point.

HSI Color Model (cont.)



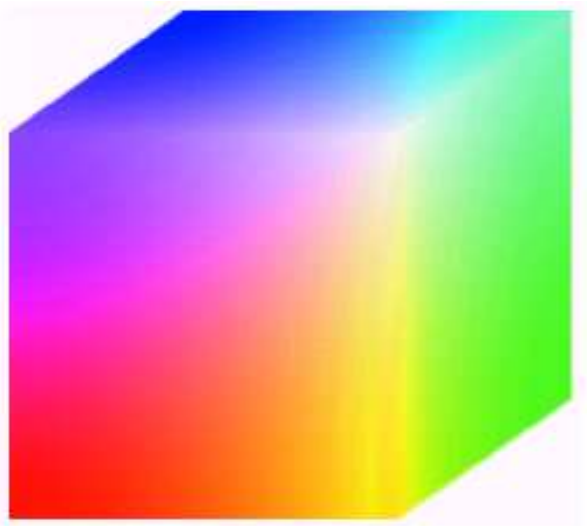
Intensity is given by a position on the vertical axis.

HSI Color Model

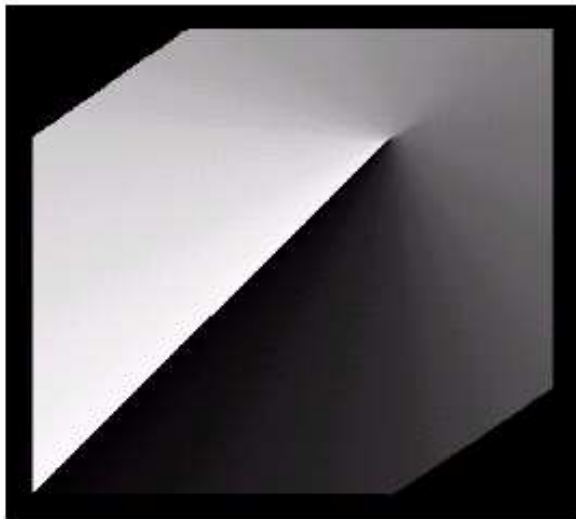


Intensity is given by a position on the vertical axis.

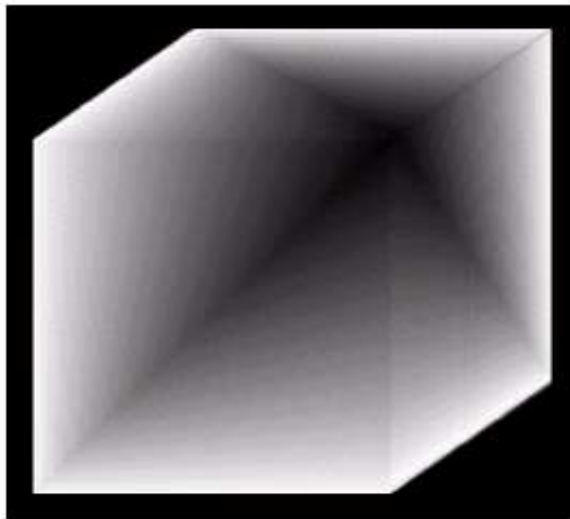
Example: HSI Components of RGB Cube



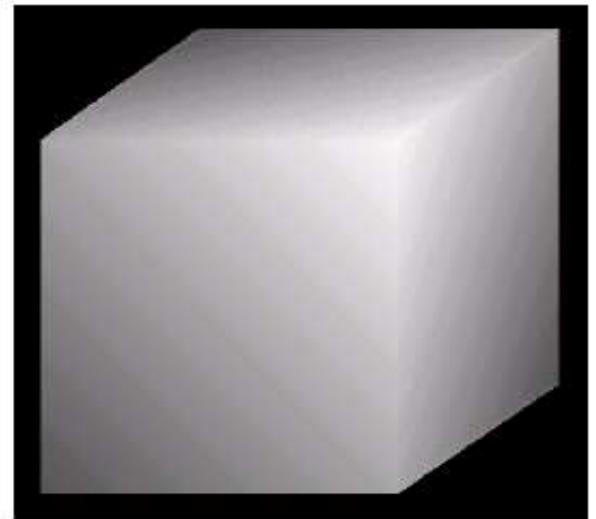
RGB Cube



Hue



Saturation



Intensity

Converting Colors from RGB to HSI

$$H = \begin{cases} \theta & \text{if } B \leq G \\ 360 - \theta & \text{if } B > G \end{cases}$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left\{ \frac{\frac{1}{2}[(R - G) + (R - B)]}{[(R - G)^2 + (R - B)(G - B)]^{1/2}} \right\}$$

$$S = 1 - \frac{3}{R + G + B}$$

$$I = \frac{1}{3}(R + G + B)$$

Converting Colors from HSI to RGB

RG sector: $0 \leq H < 120$

$$R = I \left[1 + \frac{S \cos H}{\cos(60^\circ - H)} \right]$$

$$B = I(1 - S)$$

$$G = 1 - (R + B)$$

BR sector: $240 \leq H \leq 360$

$$H = H - 240$$

$$B = I \left[1 + \frac{S \cos H}{\cos(60^\circ - H)} \right]$$

$$G = I(1 - S)$$

$$R = 1 - (G + B)$$

GB sector: $120 \leq H < 240$

$$H = H - 120$$

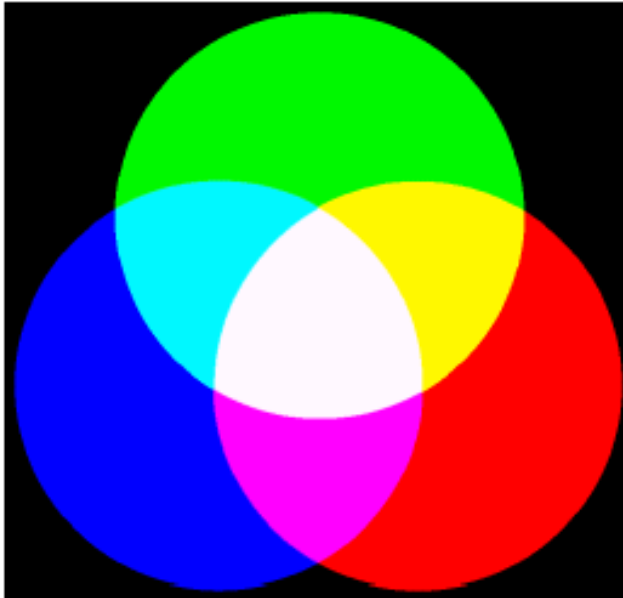
$$R = I(1 - S)$$

$$G = I \left[1 + \frac{S \cos H}{\cos(60^\circ - H)} \right]$$

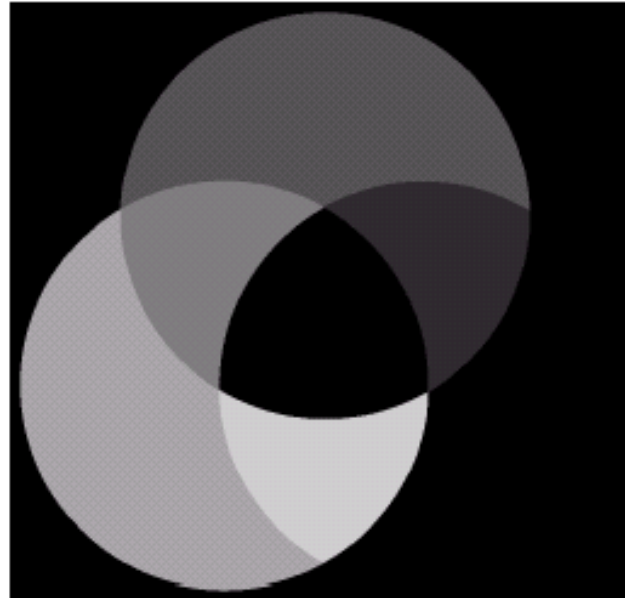
$$B = 1 - (R + G)$$

Example: HSI Components of RGB Colors

RGB
Image



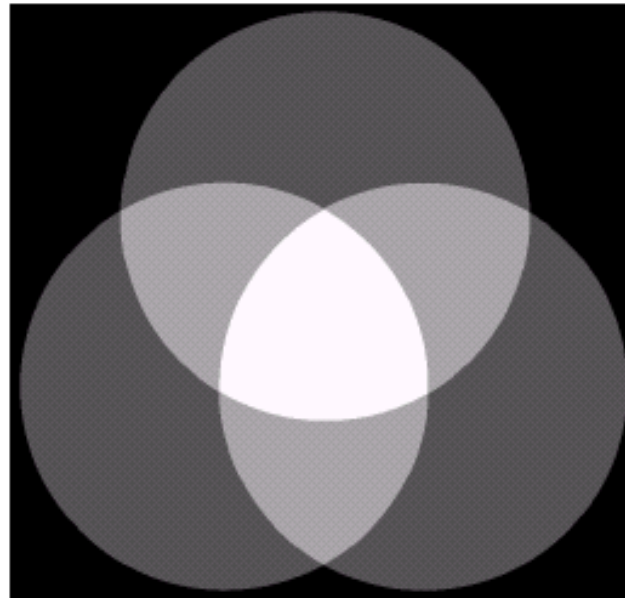
Hue



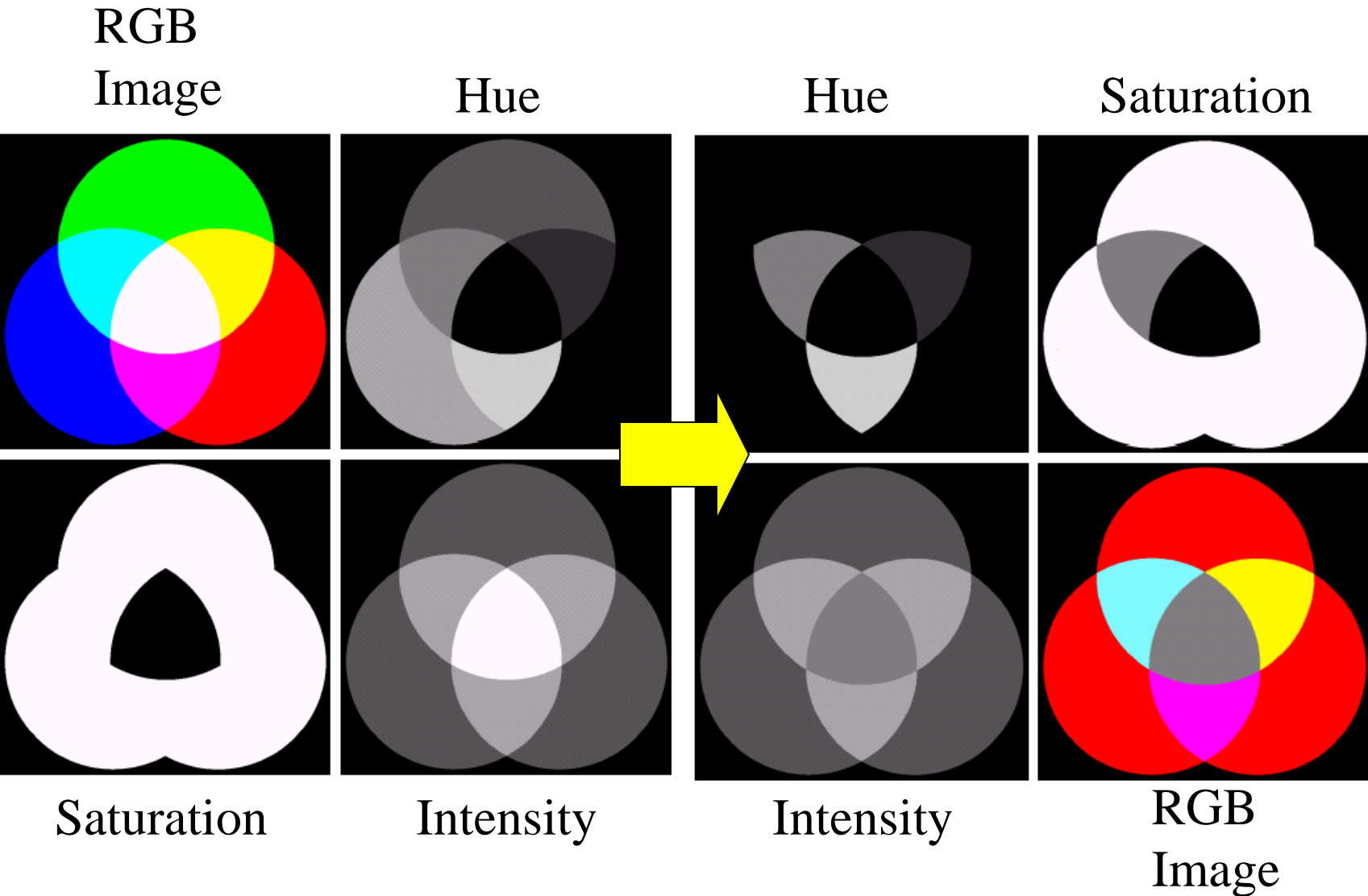
Saturation



Intensity



Example: Manipulating HSI Components



Color Image Processing

There are 2 types of color image processes

1. Pseudocolor image process: Assigning colors to gray values based on a specific criterion. Gray scale images to be processed may be a single image or multiple images such as multispectral images

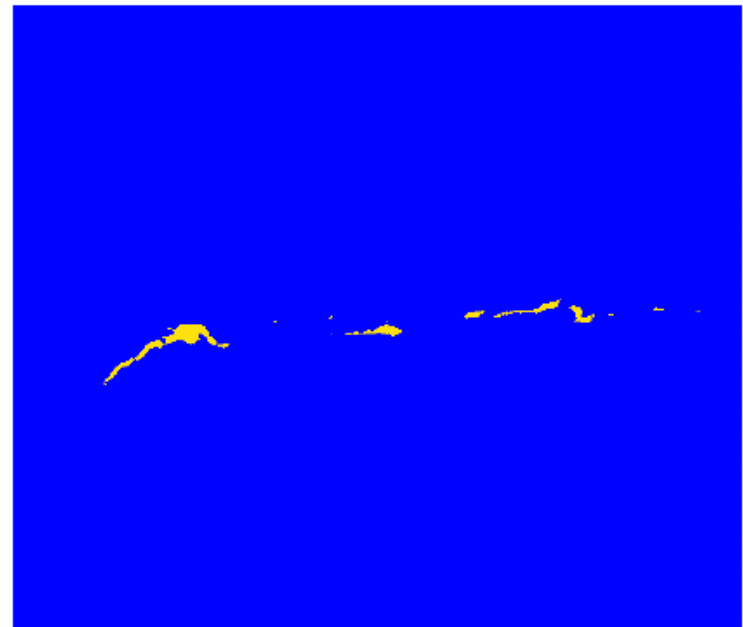
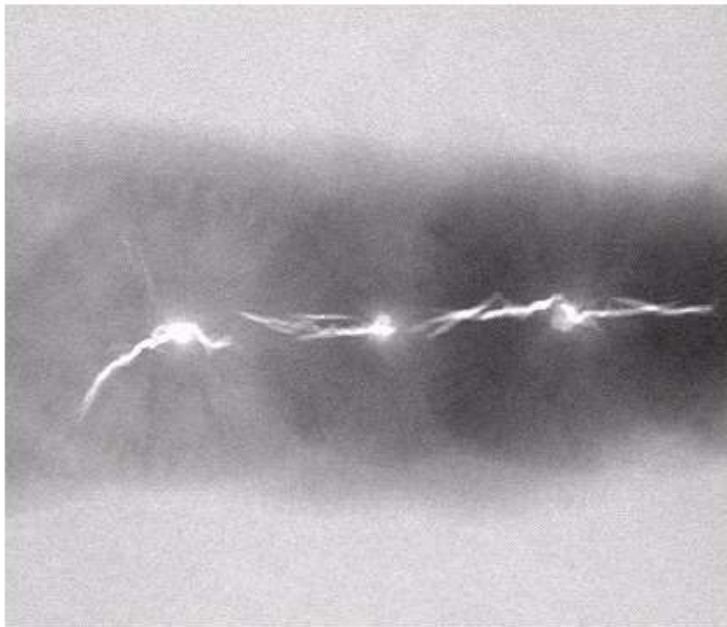
2. Full color image process: The process to manipulate real color images such as color photographs.

Pseudocolor Image Processing

Pseudo color = false color : In some case there is no “color” concept for a gray scale image but we can assign “false” colors to an image.

Why we need to assign colors to gray scale image?

Answer: Human can distinguish different colors better than different shades of gray.

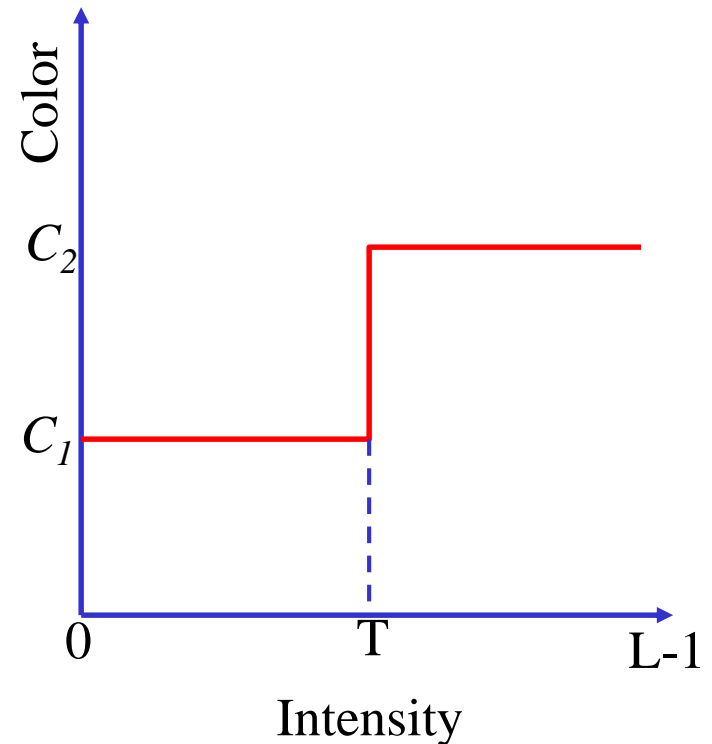
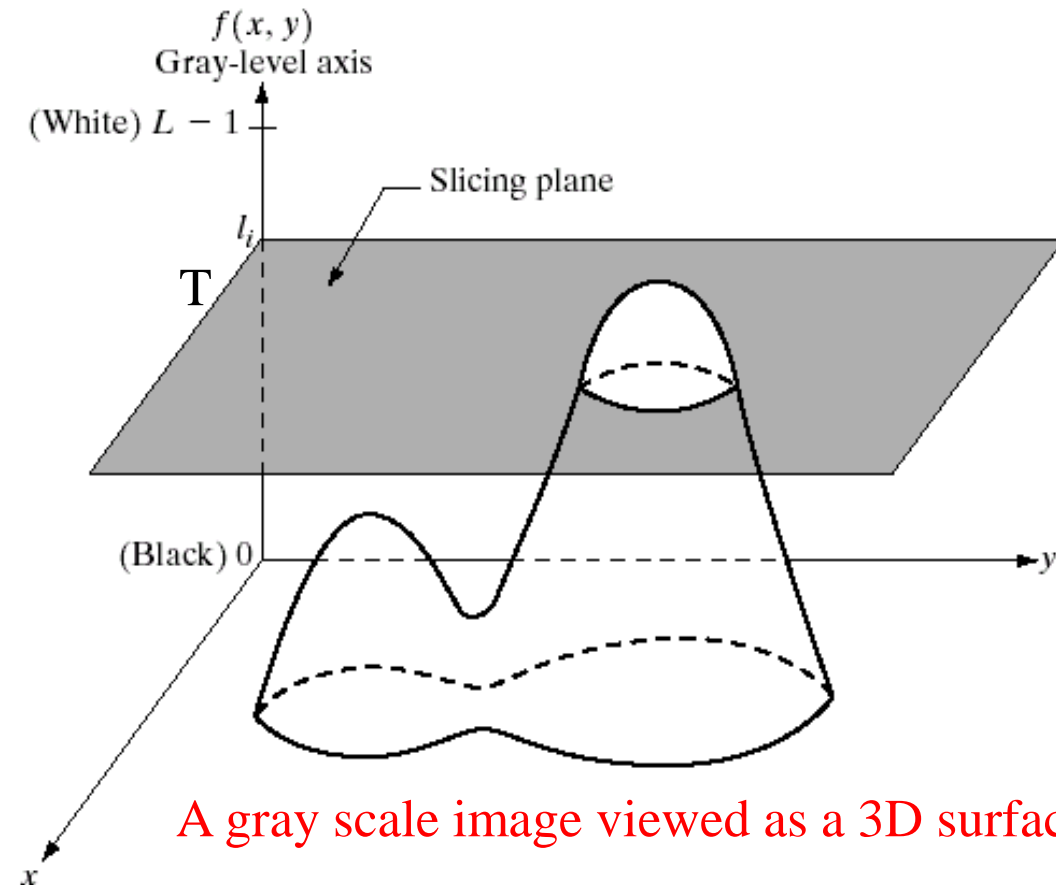


Intensity Slicing or Density Slicing

Formula:

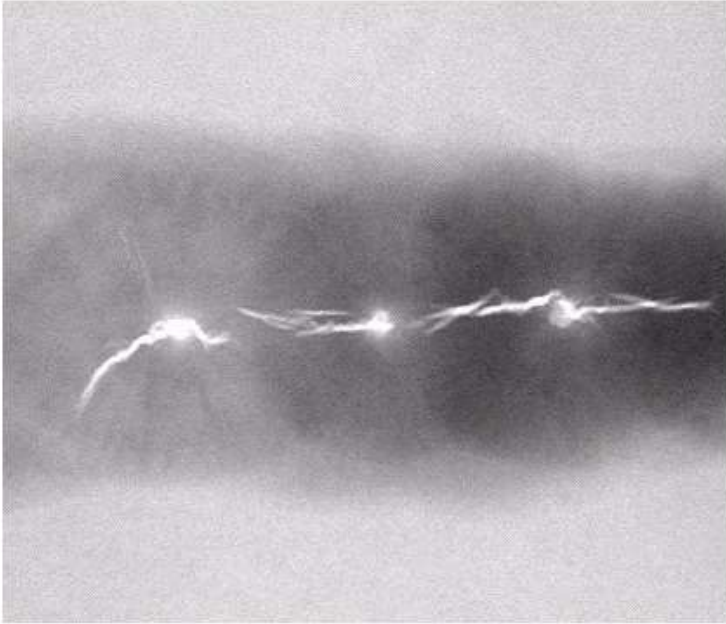
$$g(x, y) = \begin{cases} C_1 & \text{if } f(x, y) \leq T \\ C_2 & \text{if } f(x, y) > T \end{cases}$$

C_1 = Color No. 1
 C_2 = Color No. 2

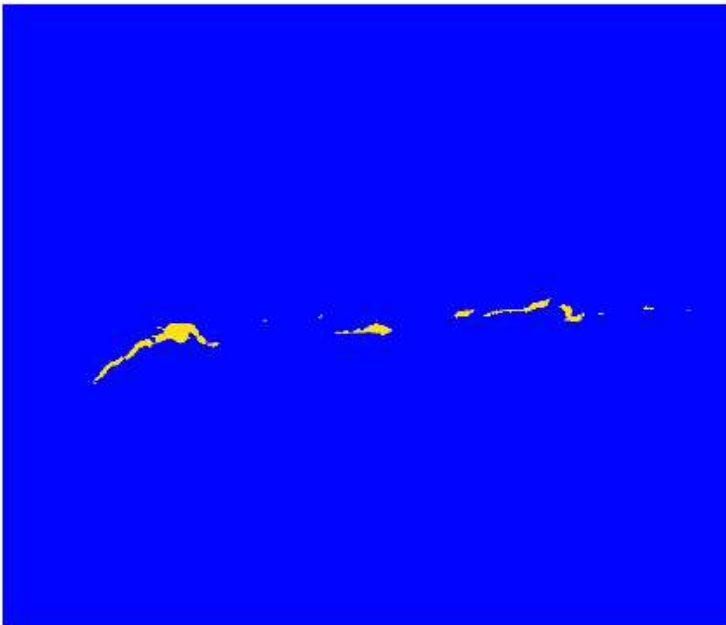


A gray scale image viewed as a 3D surface.

Intensity Slicing Example



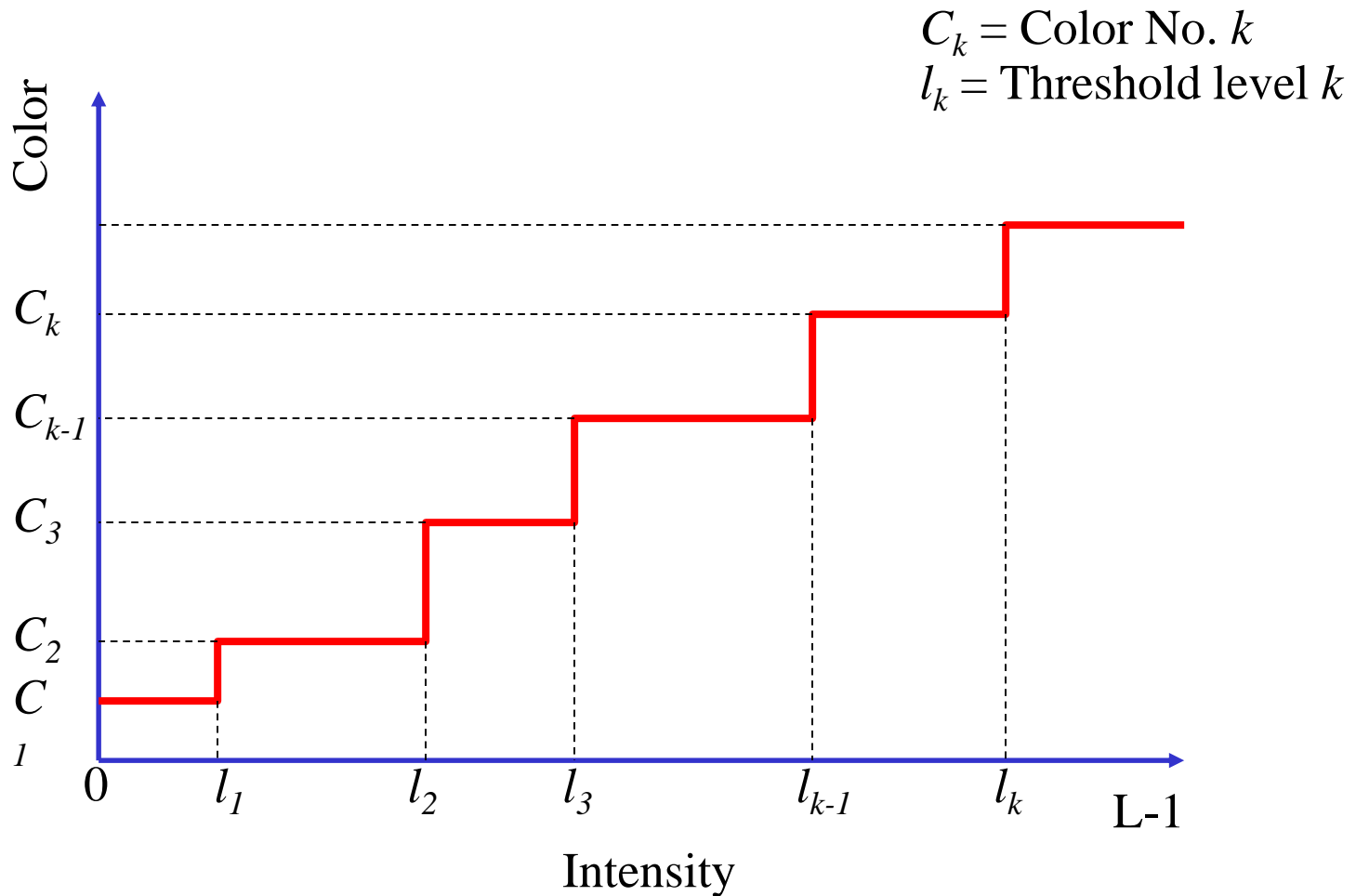
An X-ray image of a weld with cracks



After assigning a yellow color to pixels with value 255 and a blue color to all other pixels.

Multi Level Intensity Slicing

$$g(x, y) = C_k \quad \text{for } l_{k-1} < f(x, y) \leq l_k$$



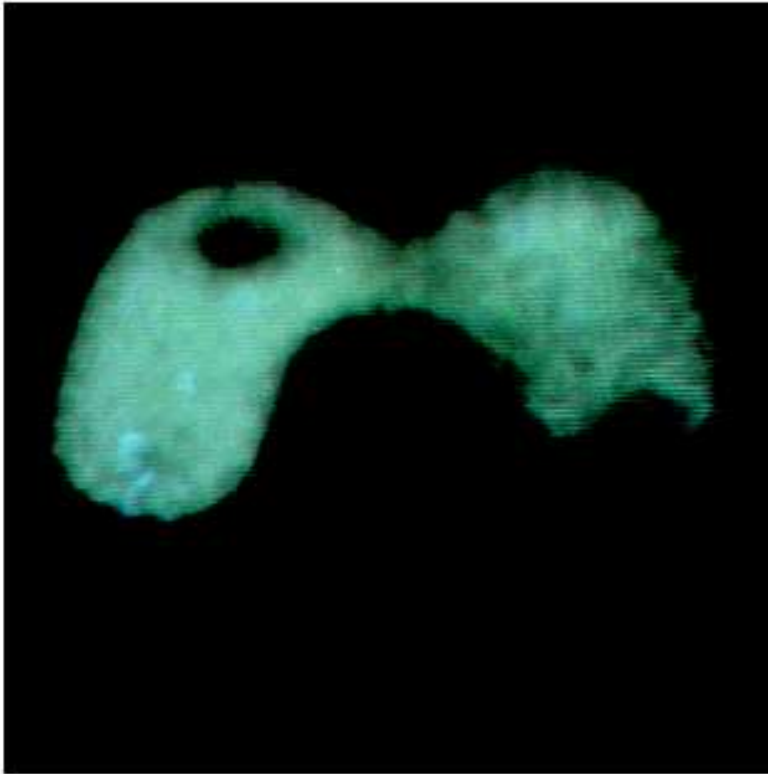
Multi Level Intensity Slicing Example

$$g(x, y) = C_k$$

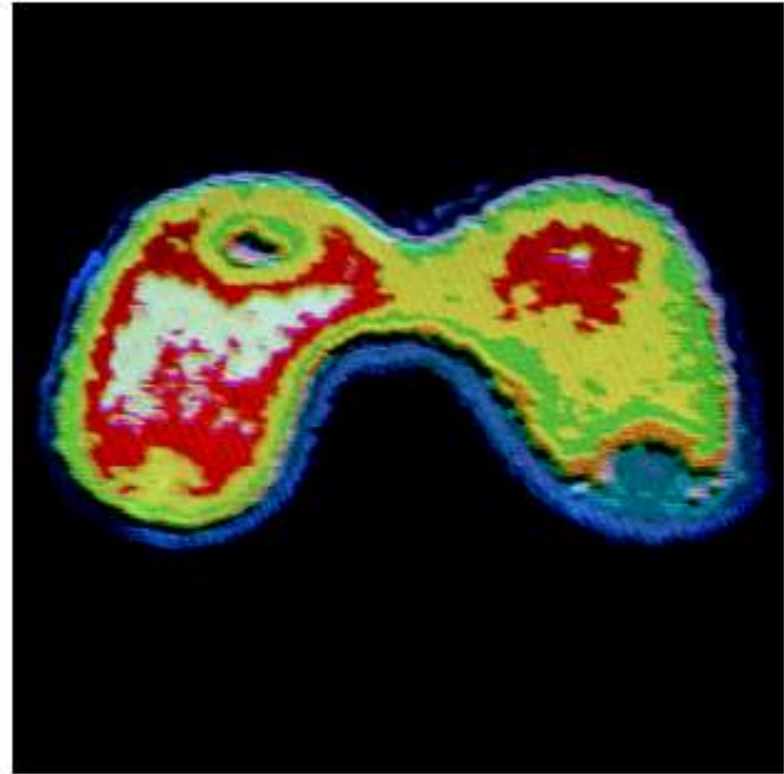
$$\text{for } l_{k-1} < f(x, y) \leq l_k$$

C_k = Color No. k

l_k = Threshold level k



An X-ray image of the Picker Thyroid Phantom.



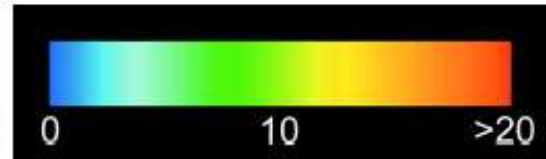
After density slicing into 8 colors

Color Coding Example

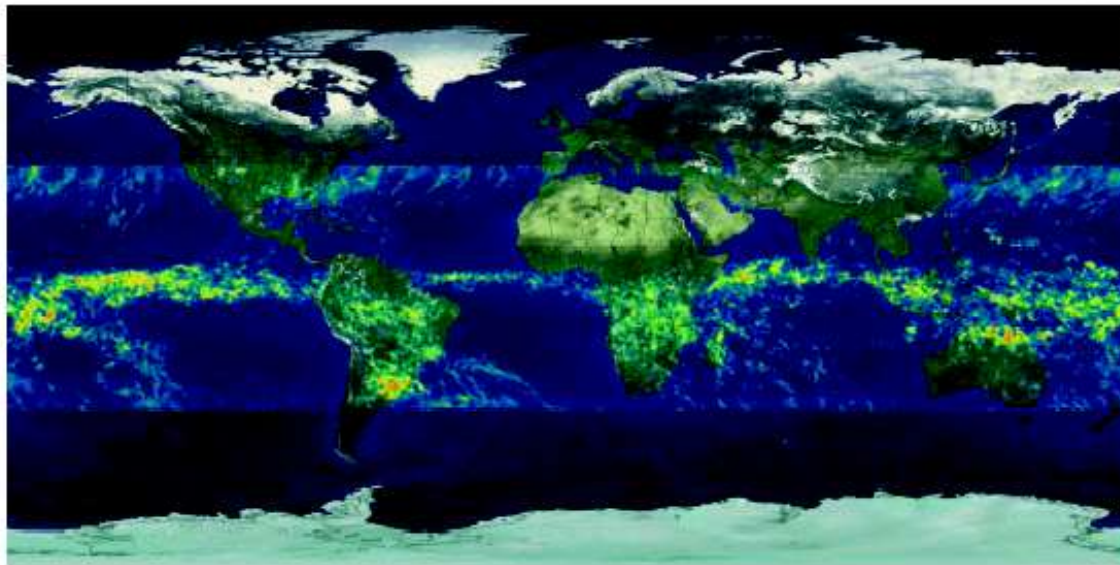


A unique color is assigned to each intensity value.

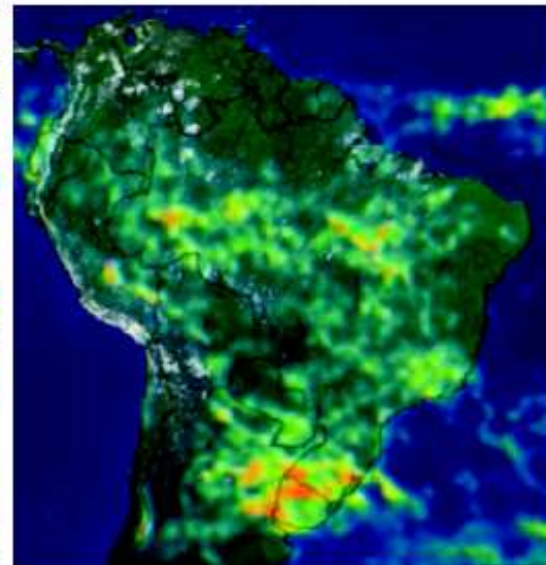
Gray-scale image of average monthly rainfall.



Color
map



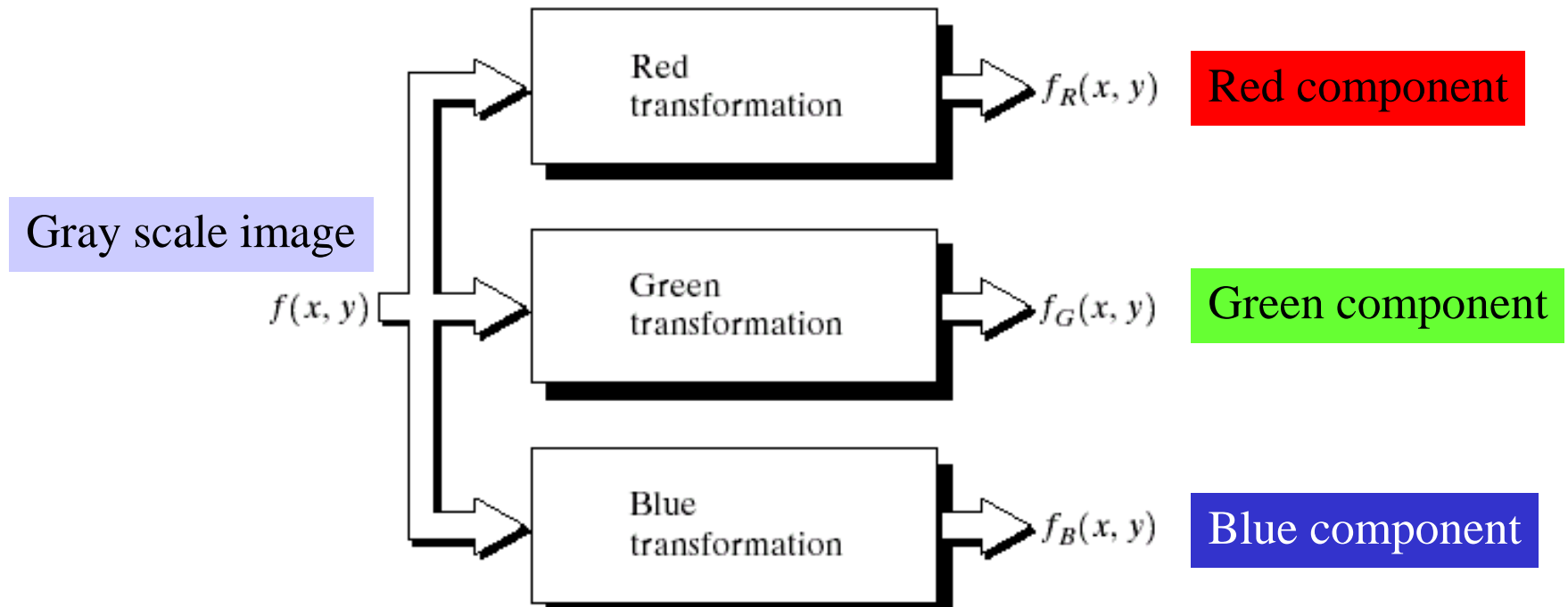
Color coded image



South America region

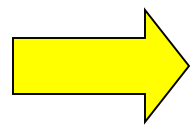
Gray Level to Color Transformation

Assigning colors to gray levels based on specific mapping functions

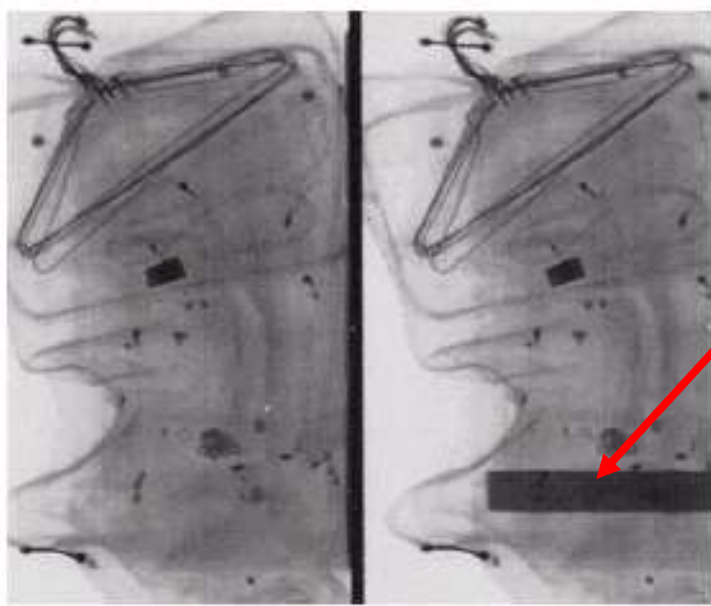


Gray Level to Color Transformation Example

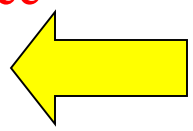
An X-ray image of a garment bag



(Images from Rafael C. Gonzalez and Richard E. Wood, Digital Image Processing, 2nd Edition.

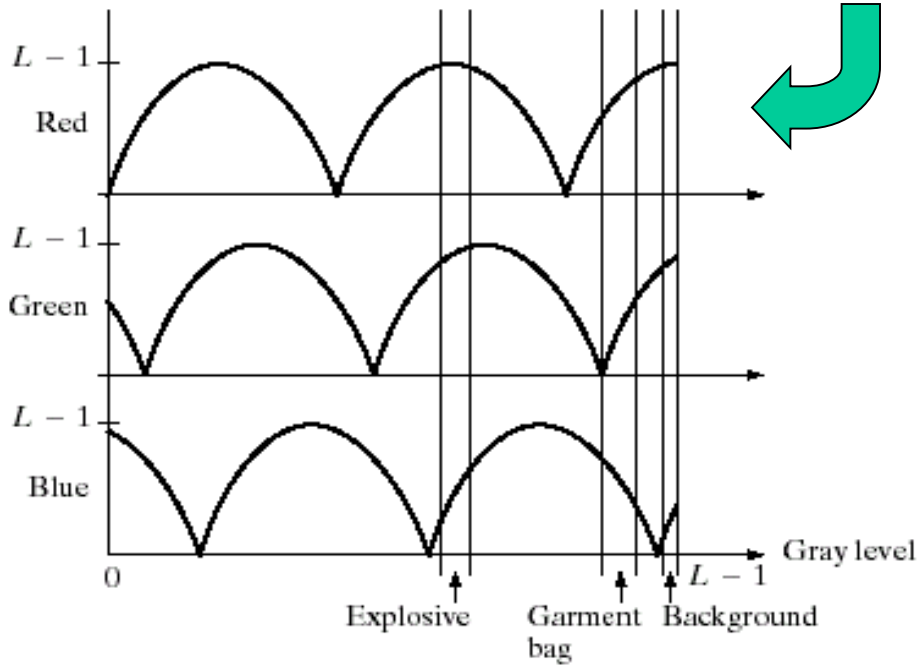
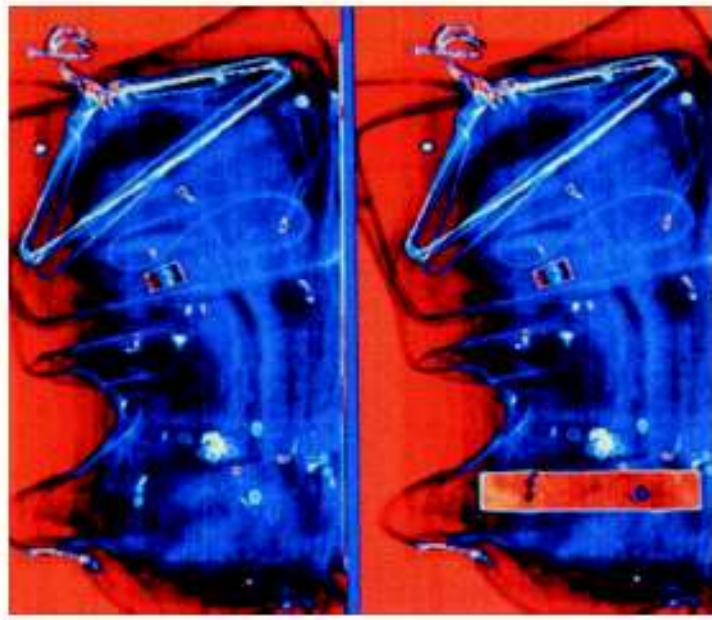


An X-ray image of a garment bag with a simulated explosive device



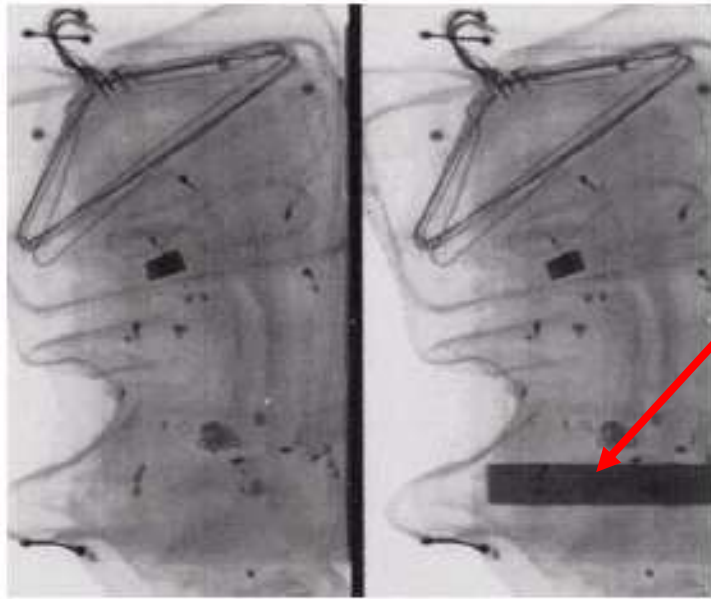
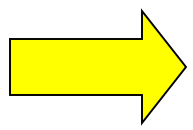
Transformations

Color coded images

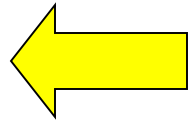


Gray Level to Color Transformation Example

An X-ray image of a garment bag

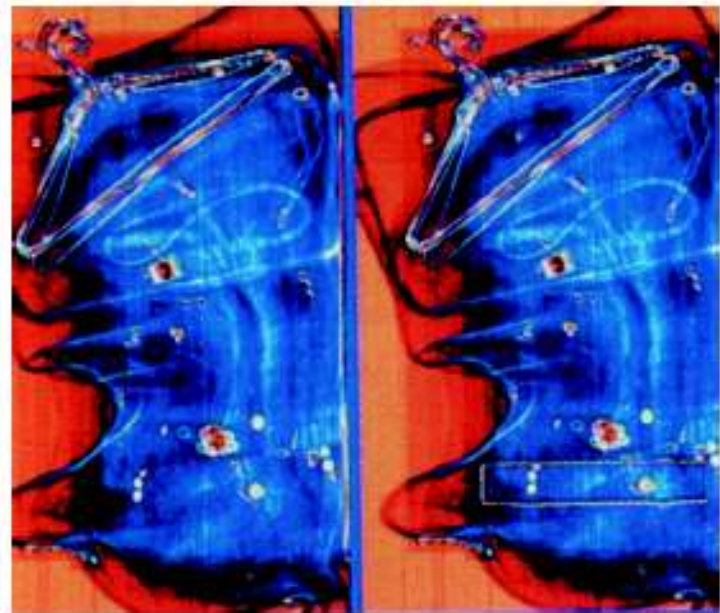
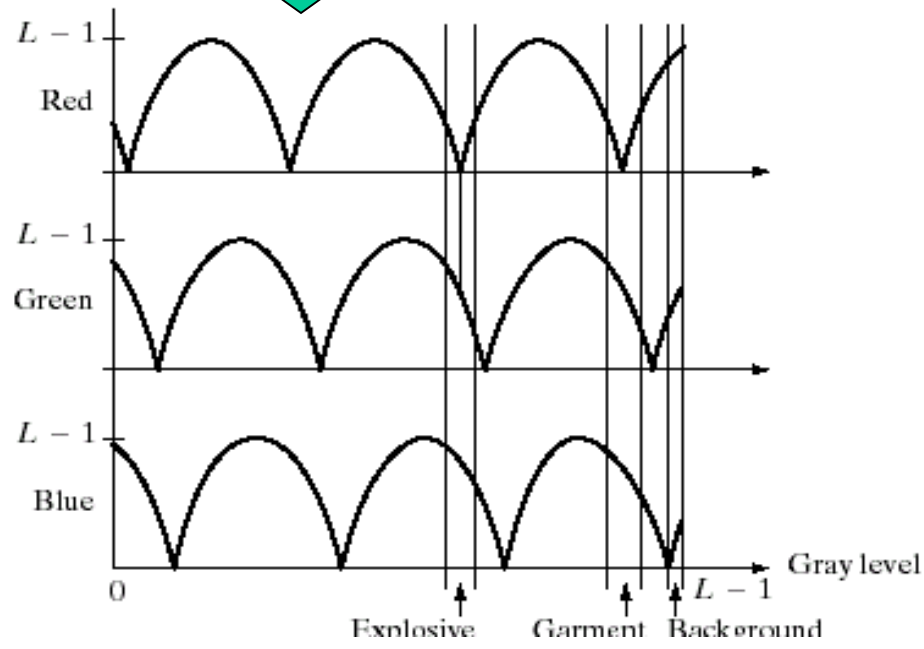


An X-ray image of a garment bag with a simulated explosive device



(Images from Rafael C. Gonzalez and Richard E. Wood, Digital Image Processing, 2nd Edition.

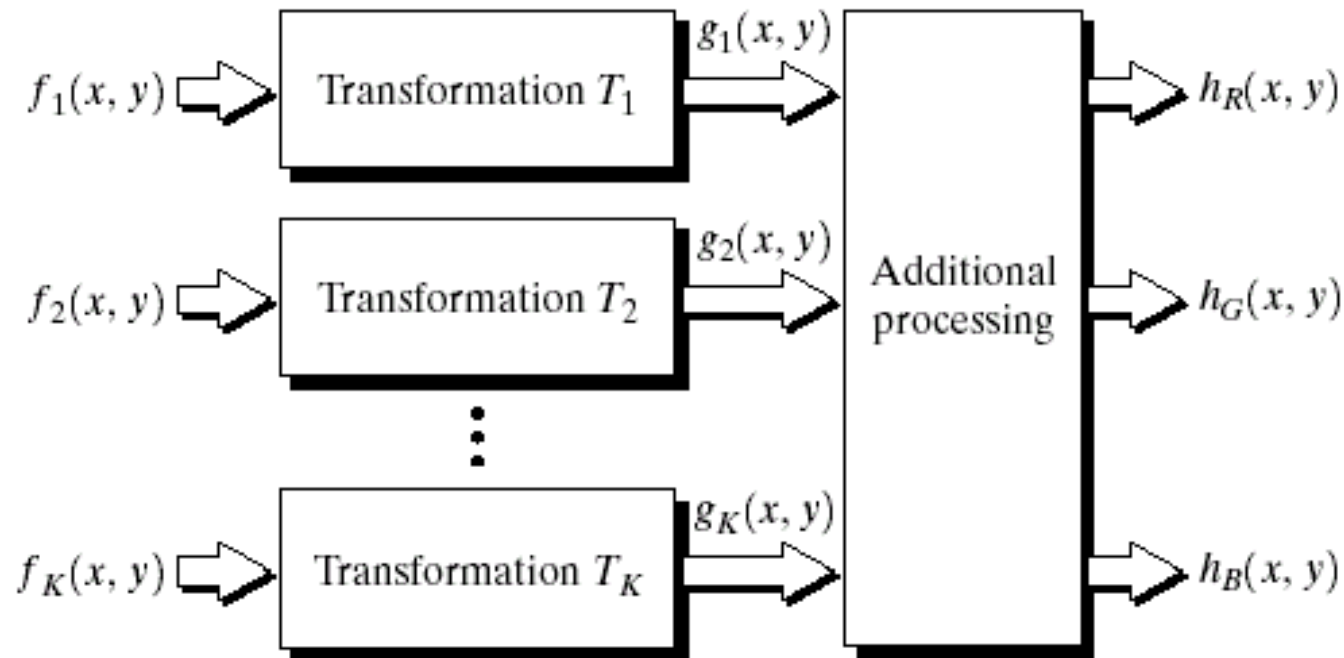
Transformations



Color coded images

Pseudocolor Coding

Used in the case where there are many monochrome images such as multispectral satellite images.



Pseudocolor Coding Example

Visible blue

$\lambda = 0.45\text{-}0.52\ \mu\text{m}$

Max water penetration

①

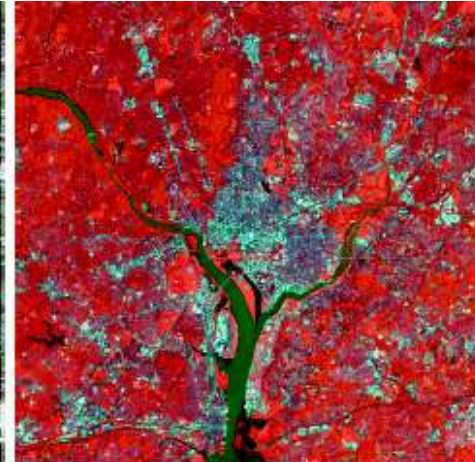
Visible green

$\lambda = 0.52\text{-}0.60\ \mu\text{m}$

Measuring plant

②

Color composite images



Red = ①
Green = ②
Blue = ③

Red = ①
Green = ②
Blue = ④

③

④

Visible red

$\lambda = 0.63\text{-}0.69\ \mu\text{m}$

Plant discrimination

Near infrared

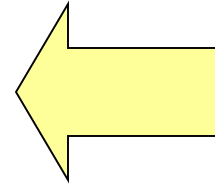
$\lambda = 0.76\text{-}0.90\ \mu\text{m}$

Biomass and shoreline mapping

Washington D.C. area

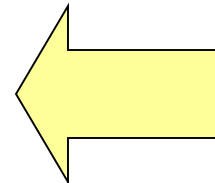
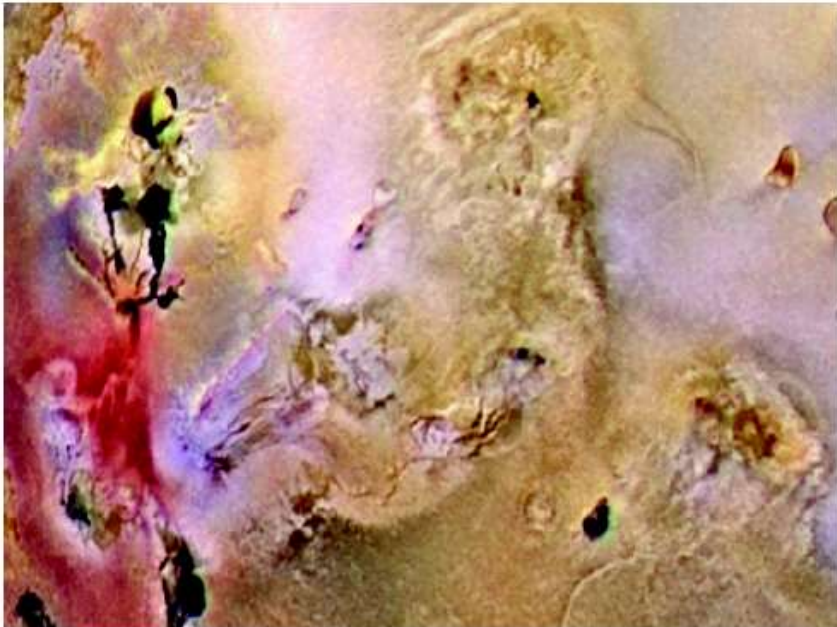
(Images from Rafael C. Gonzalez and Richard E. Wood, Digital Image Processing, 2nd Edition.)

Pseudocolor Coding Example



Pseudocolor rendition
of Jupiter moon Io

Yellow areas = older sulfur deposits.
Red areas = material ejected from
active volcanoes.



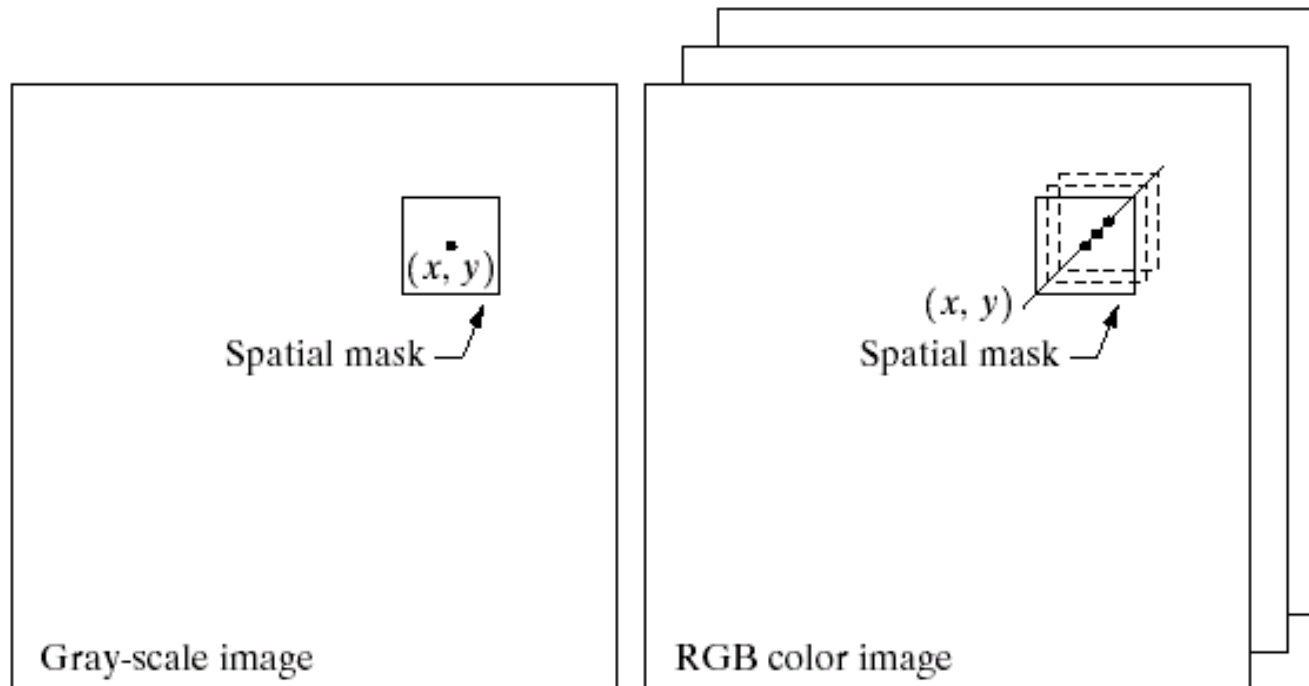
A close-up

Basics of Full-Color Image Processing

2 Methods:

1. Per-color-component processing: process each component separately.
2. Vector processing: treat each pixel as a vector to be processed.

Example of per-color-component processing: smoothing an image
By smoothing each RGB component separately.

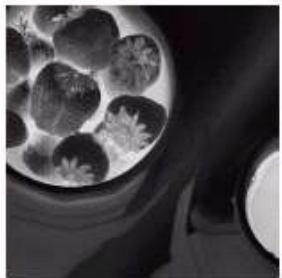


Example: Full-Color Image and Various Color Space Components



Full color

Color image



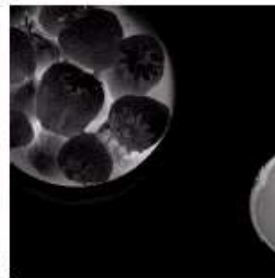
Cyan



Magenta



Yellow



Black

CMYK components



Red



Green



Blue

RGB components



Hue



Saturation



Intensity

HSI components

Color Transformation

Use to transform colors to colors.

Formulation:

$$g(x, y) = T[f(x, y)]$$

$f(x, y)$ = input color image, $g(x, y)$ = output color image

T = operation on f over a spatial neighborhood of (x, y)

When only data at one pixel is used in the transformation, we can express the transformation as:

$$s_i = T_i(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n) \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Where r_i = color component of $f(x, y)$
 s_i = color component of $g(x, y)$

For RGB images, $n = 3$

Example: Color Transformation

Formula for RGB:

$$s_R(x, y) = k r_R(x, y)$$

$$s_G(x, y) = k r_G(x, y)$$

$$s_B(x, y) = k r_B(x, y)$$

Formula for HSI:

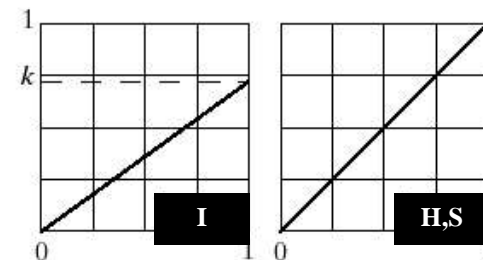
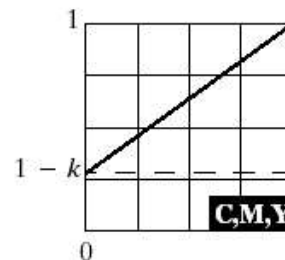
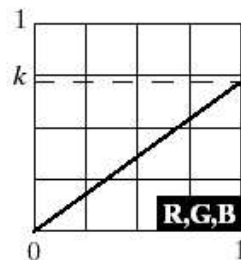
$$s_I(x, y) = k r_I(x, y)$$

Formula for CMY:

$$s_C(x, y) = k r_C(x, y) + (1 - k)$$

$$s_M(x, y) = k r_M(x, y) + (1 - k)$$

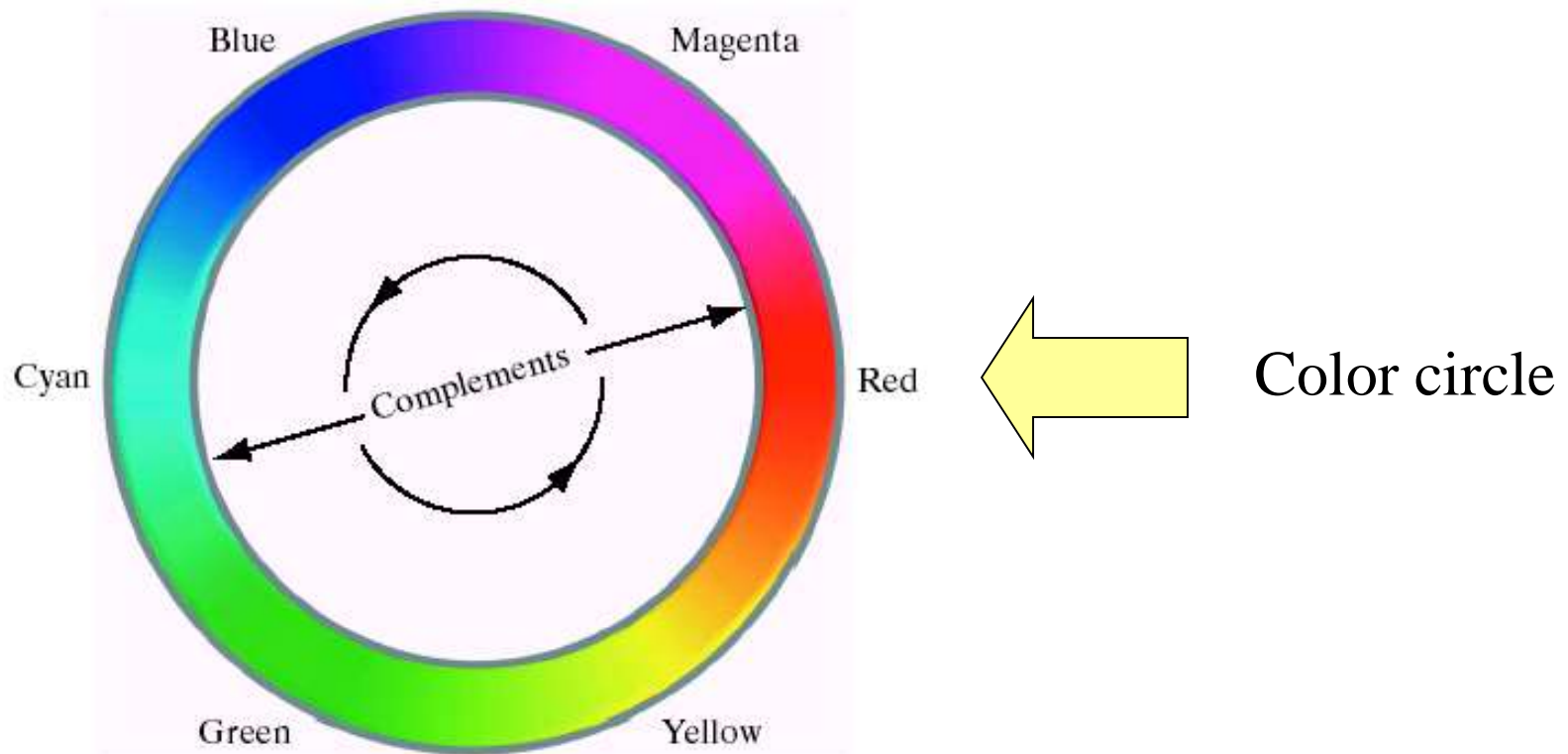
$$s_Y(x, y) = k r_Y(x, y) + (1 - k)$$



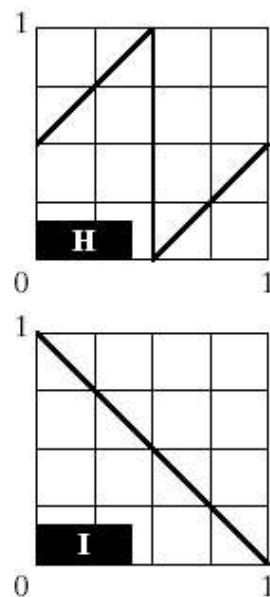
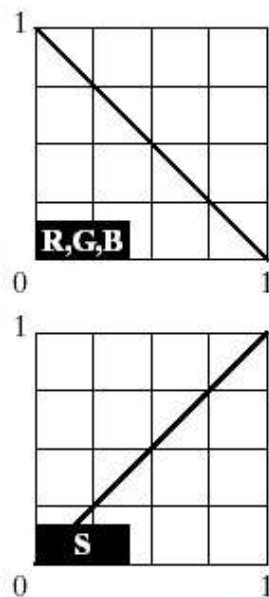
These 3 transformations give the same results.

Color Complements

Color complement replaces each color with its opposite color in the color circle of the Hue component. **This operation is analogous to image negative in a gray scale image.**

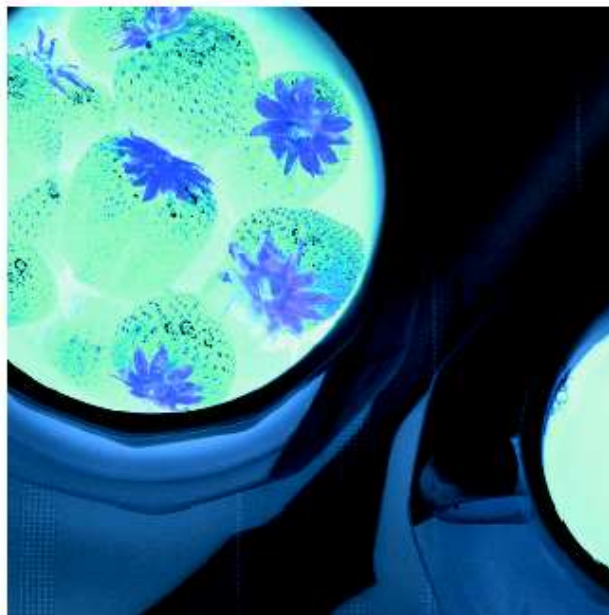
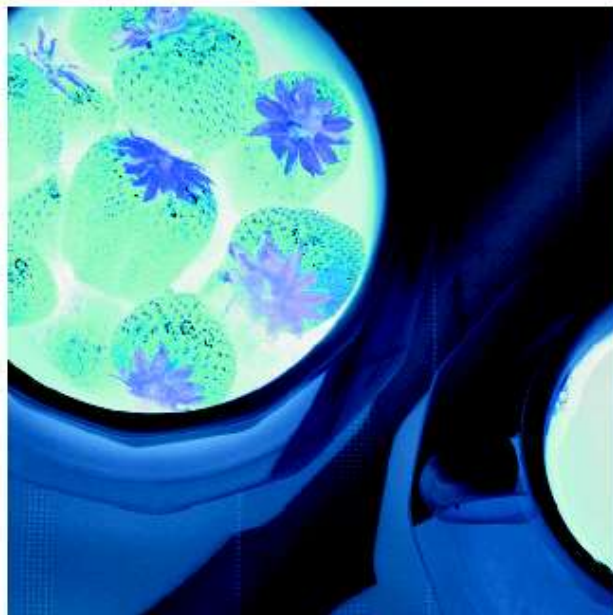


Color Complement Transformation Example



a	b
c	d

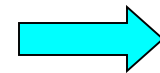
FIGURE 6.33
Color complement transformations.
(a) Original image.
(b) Complement transformation functions.
(c) Complement of (a) based on the RGB mapping functions.
(d) An approximation of the RGB complement using HSI transformations.



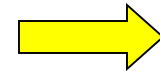
Color Slicing Transformation

We can perform “slicing” in color space: if the color of each pixel is far from a desired color more than threshold distance, we set that color to some specific color such as gray, otherwise we keep the original color unchanged.

$$s_i = \begin{cases} 0.5 & \text{if } \left[|r_j - a_j| > \frac{W}{2} \right]_{\text{any } 1 \leq j \leq n} \\ r_i & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Set to gray

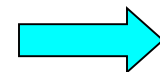


Keep the original color

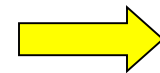
or

$i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

$$s_i = \begin{cases} 0.5 & \text{if } \sum_{j=1}^n (r_j - a_j)^2 > R_0^2 \\ r_i & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Set to gray



Keep the original color

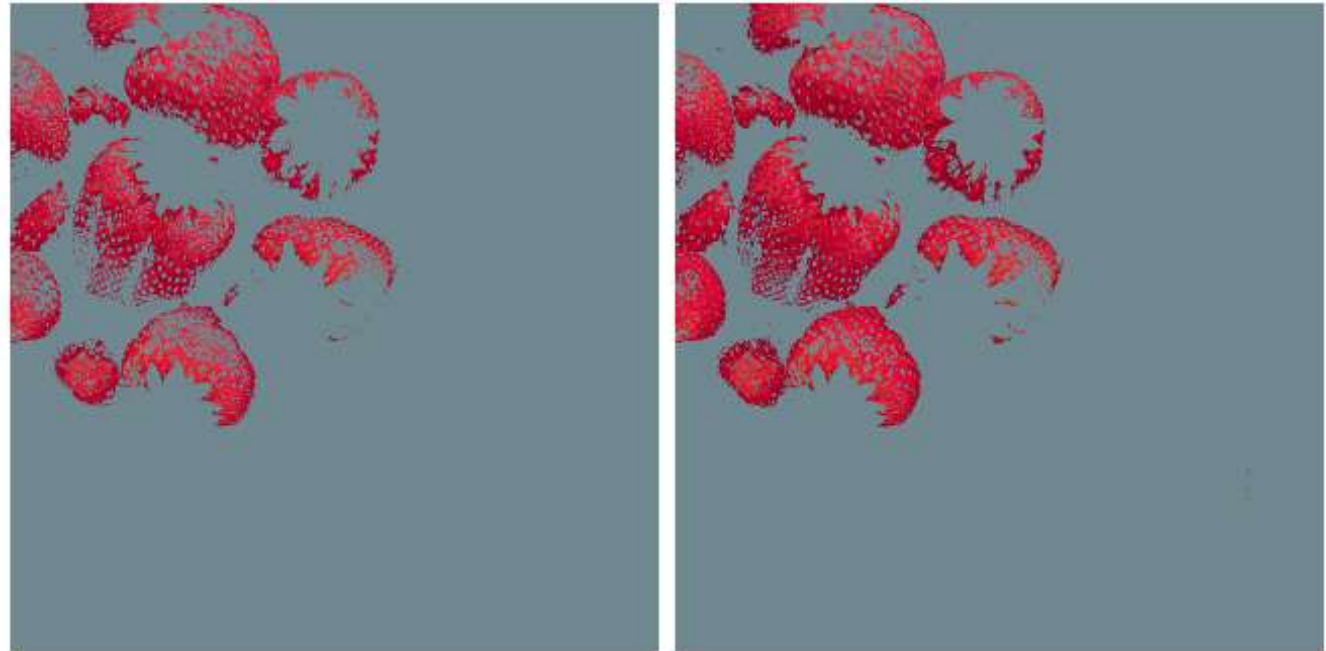
$i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

Color Slicing Transformation Example

After color slicing



Original image



a b

FIGURE 6.34 Color slicing transformations that detect (a) reds within an RGB cube of width $W = 0.2549$ centered at $(0.6863, 0.1608, 0.1922)$, and (b) reds within an RGB sphere of radius 0.1765 centered at the same point. Pixels outside the cube and sphere were replaced by color $(0.5, 0.5, 0.5)$.

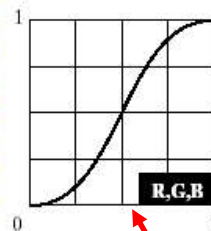
Tonal Correction Examples



Flat



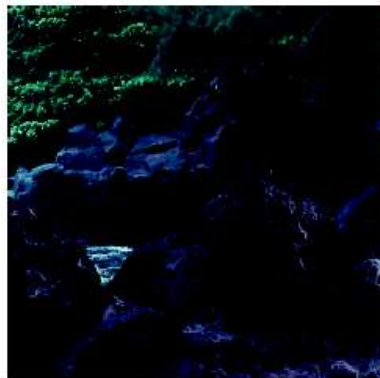
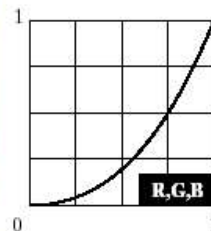
Corrected



Light



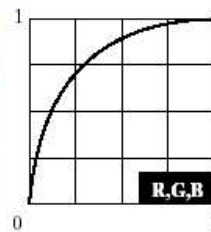
Corrected



Dark



Corrected



In these examples, only brightness and contrast are adjusted while keeping color unchanged.

This can be done by using the same transformation for all RGB components.

Contrast enhancement

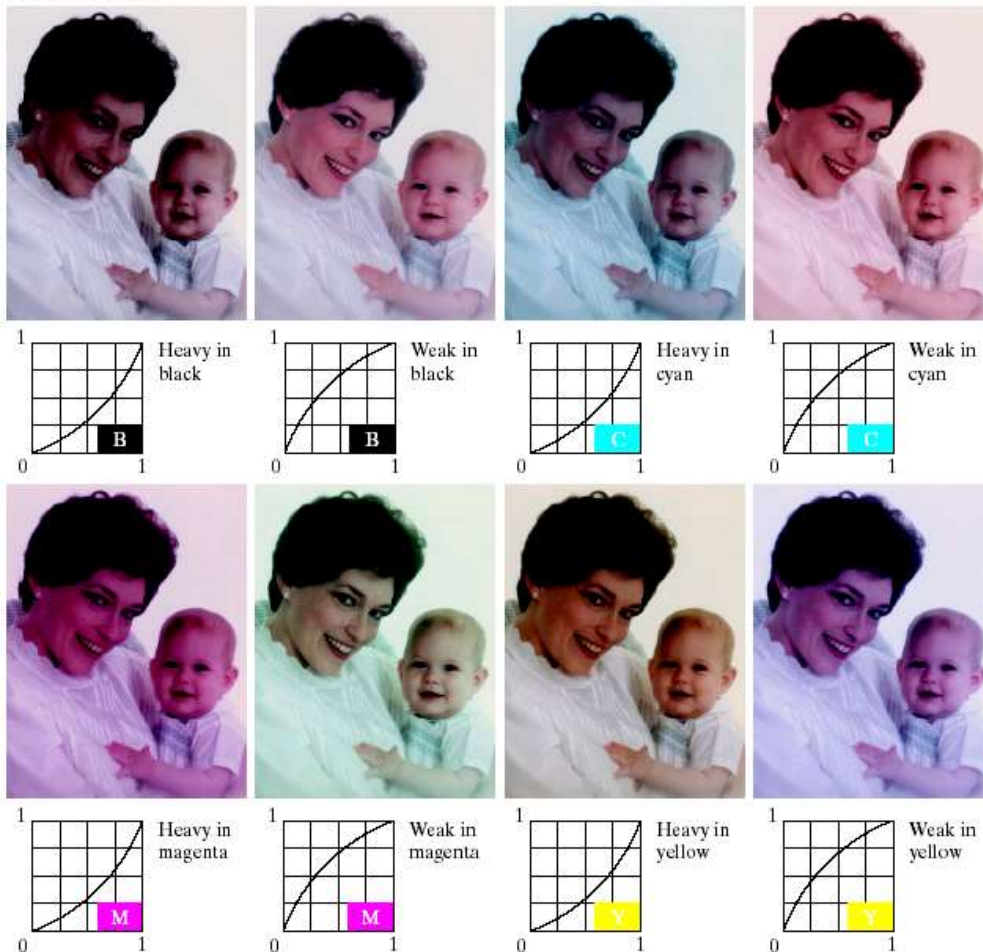
Power law transformations

Color Balancing Correction Examples

FIGURE 6.36 Color balancing corrections for CMYK color images.

Color imbalance: **primary color components in white area are not balance.** We can measure these components by using a color spectrometer.

Original/Corrected



Color balancing can be performed by adjusting color components separately as seen in this slide.

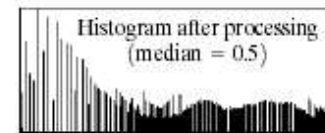
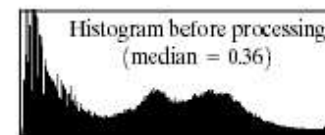
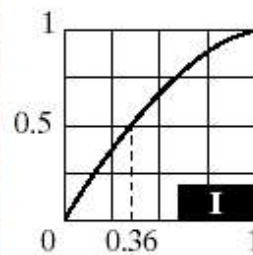
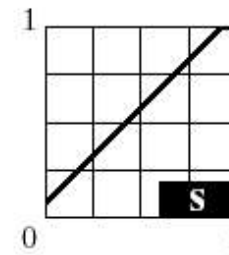
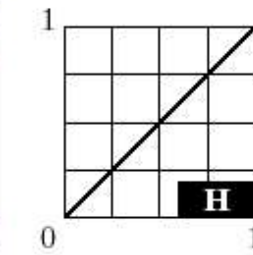
Histogram Equalization of a Full-Color Image

- ❖ Histogram equalization of a color image can be performed by adjusting color intensity uniformly while leaving color unchanged.
- ❖ The HSI model is suitable for histogram equalization where **only Intensity (I) component is equalized**.

$$\begin{aligned} s_k &= T(r_k) = \sum_{j=0}^k p_r(r_j) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{n_j}{N} \end{aligned}$$

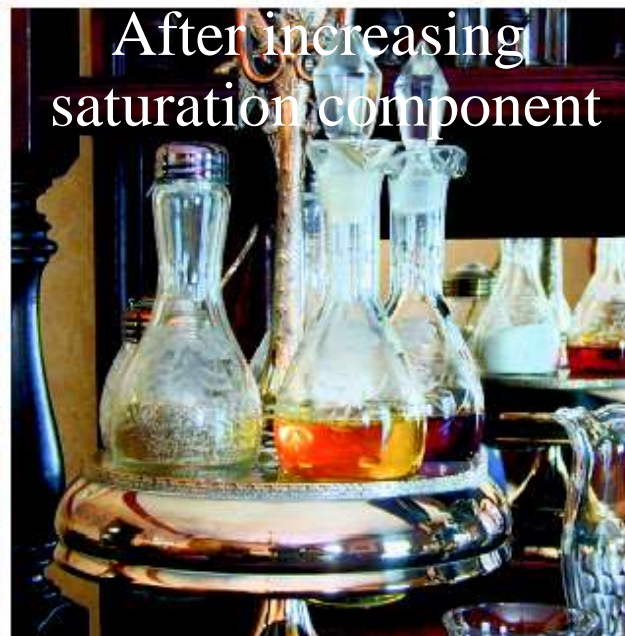
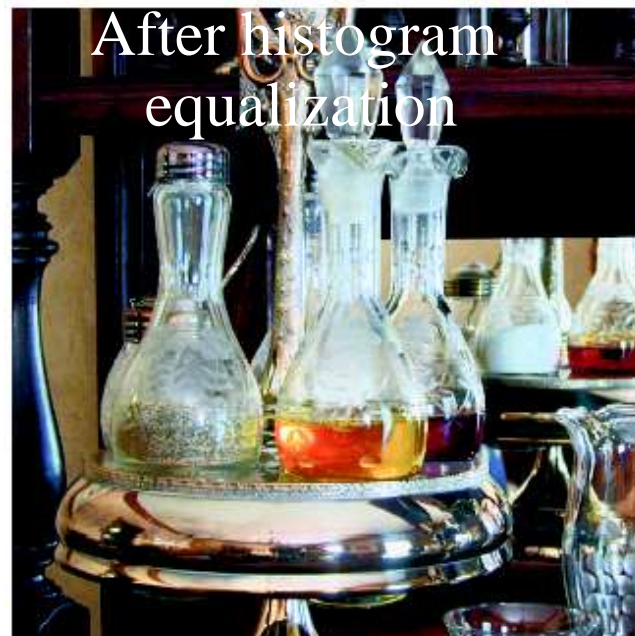
where r and s are intensity components of input and output color image.

Histogram Equalization of a Full-Color Image



a	b
c	d

FIGURE 6.37
Histogram equalization (followed by saturation adjustment) in the HSI color space.



Color Image Smoothing

2 Methods:

1. **Per-color-plane method:** for RGB, CMY color models
Smooth each color plane using moving averaging and
the combine back to RGB

$$\bar{\mathbf{c}}(x, y) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{(x,y) \in S_{xy}} \mathbf{c}(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{K} \sum_{(x,y) \in S_{xy}} R(x, y) \\ \frac{1}{K} \sum_{(x,y) \in S_{xy}} G(x, y) \\ \frac{1}{K} \sum_{(x,y) \in S_{xy}} B(x, y) \end{bmatrix}$$

2. **Smooth only Intensity component** of a HSI image while leaving
H and S unmodified.

Note: 2 methods are not equivalent.

Color Image Smoothing Example (cont.)

Color image



Red



Green



Blue

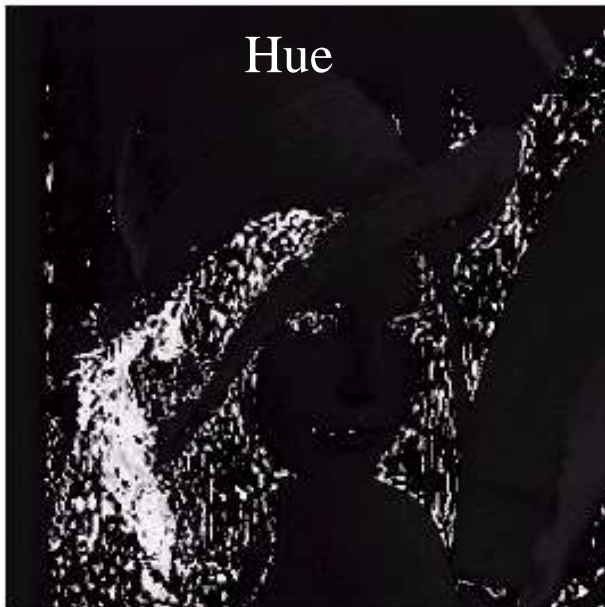


Color Image Smoothing Example (cont.)



Color image

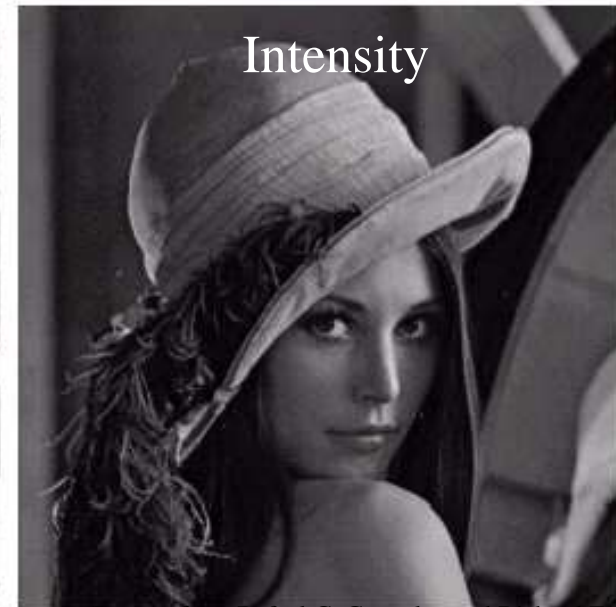
HSI Components



Hue



Saturation



Intensity

(Images from Rafael C. Gonzalez and Richard E. Wood, Digital Image Processing, 2nd Edition.

Color Image Smoothing Example (cont.)



Smooth all RGB components



Smooth only I component of HSI
(faster)

Color Image Smoothing Example (cont.)



Difference between smoothed results from 2 methods in the previous slide.

Color Image Sharpening

We can do in the same manner as color image smoothing:

1. Per-color-plane method for RGB,CMY images
2. Sharpening only I component of a HSI image



Sharpening all RGB components



Sharpening only I component of HSI

Color Image Sharpening Example (cont.)

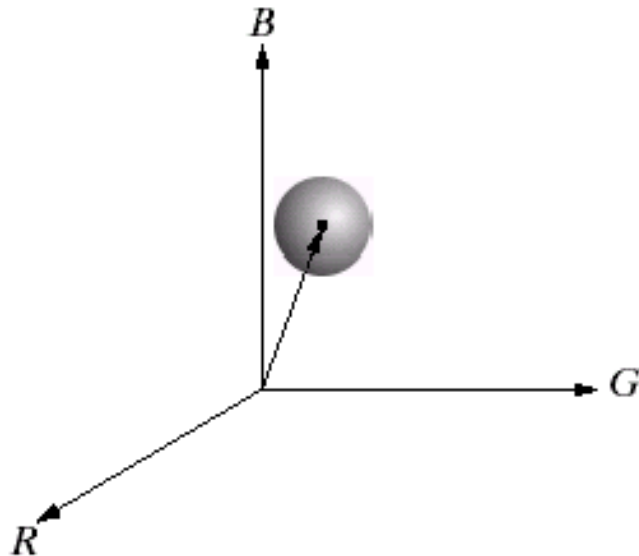


Difference between sharpened results from 2 methods in the previous slide.

Color Segmentation

2 Methods:

1. Segmented in HSI color space:
A thresholding function based on color information in H and S Components. We rarely use I component for color image segmentation.
2. Segmentation in RGB vector space:
A thresholding function based on distance in a color vector space.

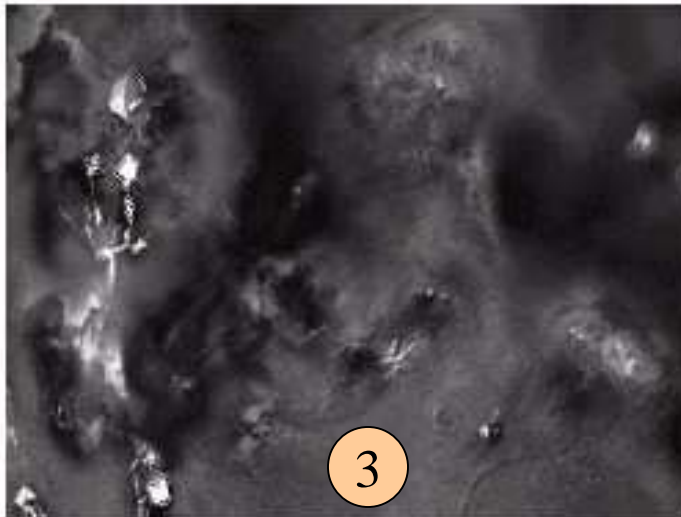
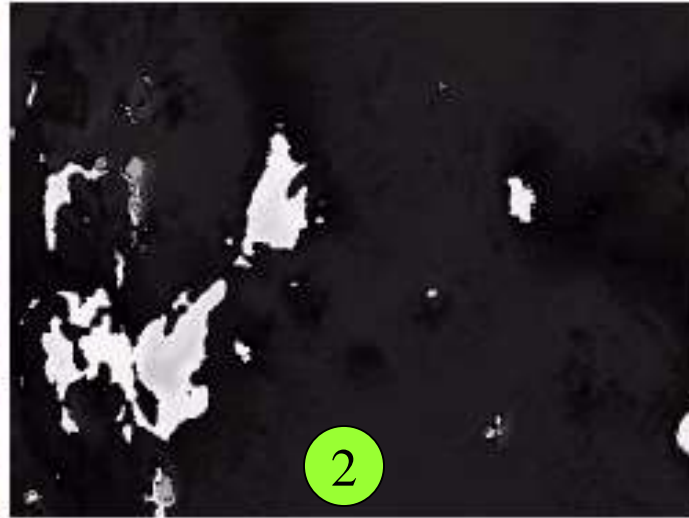


Color Segmentation in HSI Color Space

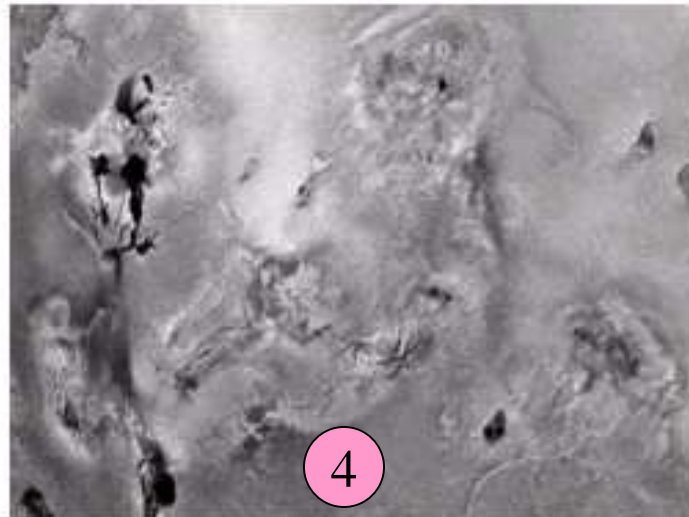
Color image



Hue



Saturation

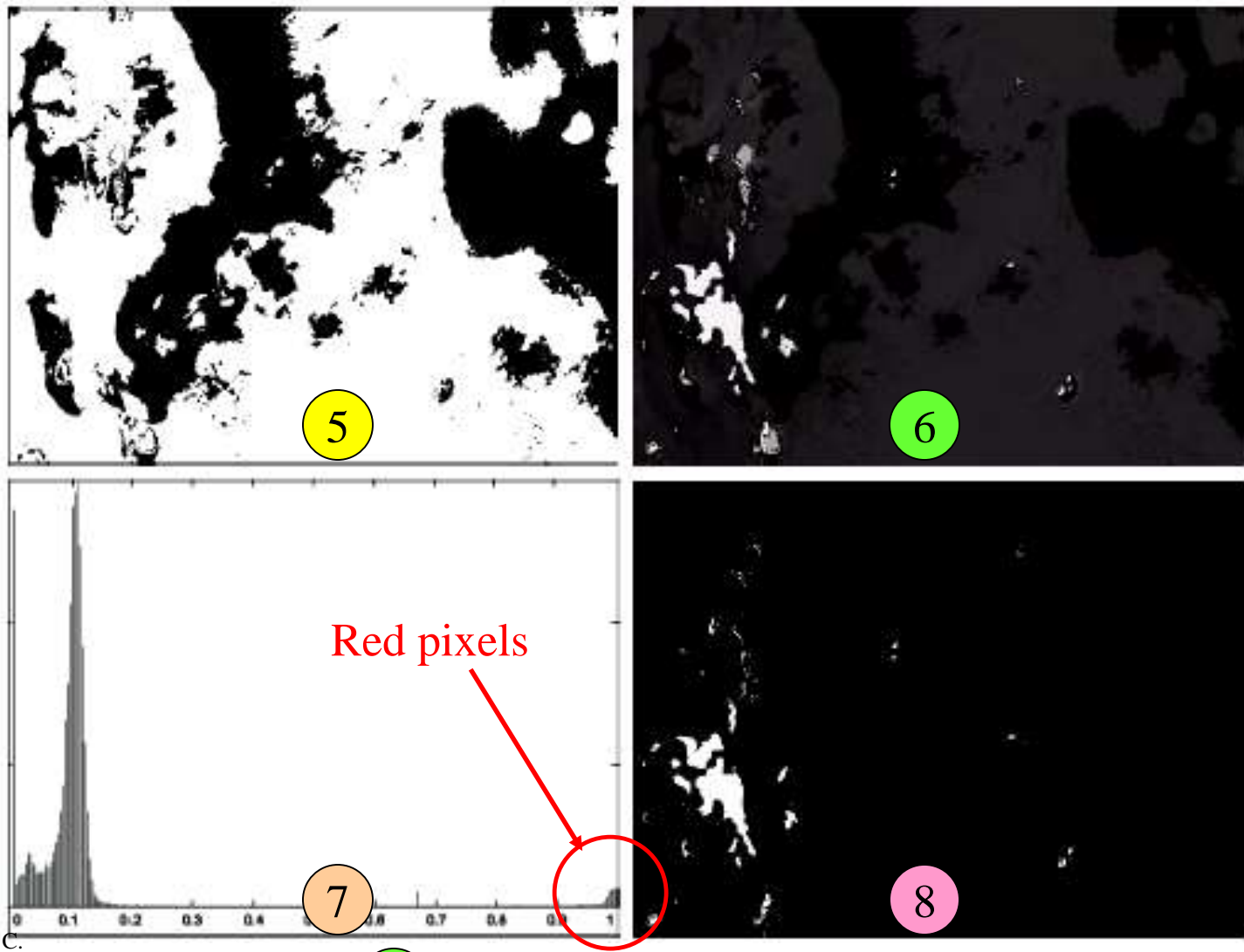


Intensity

Color Segmentation in HSI Color Space (cont.)

Binary thresholding of S component
with $T = 10\%$

Product of 2 and 5



(Images from Rafael C. Gonzalez and Richard E. Wood, Digital Image Processing, 2nd Edition.

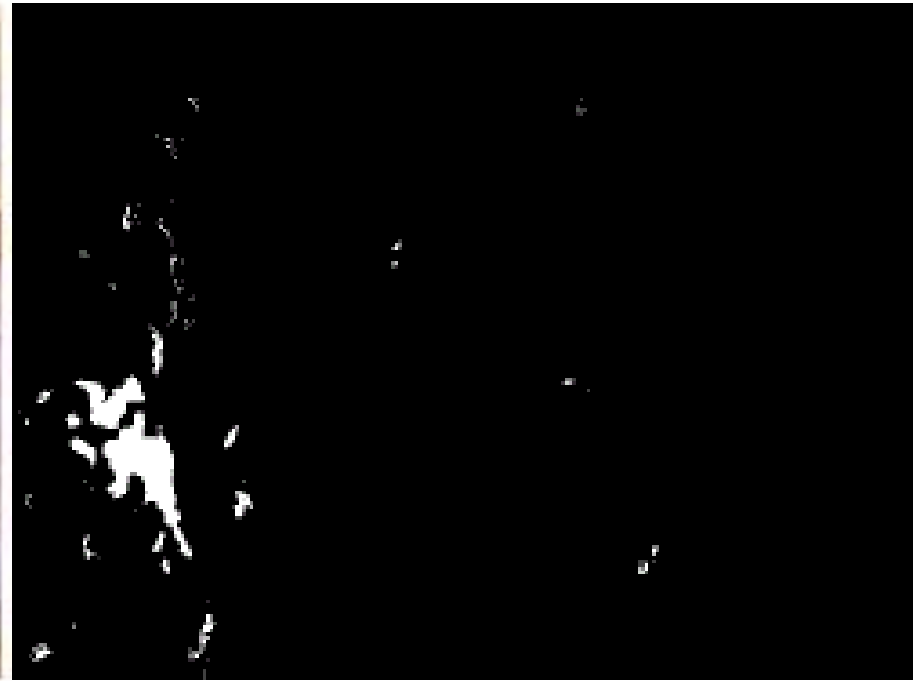
Histogram of 6

Segmentation of red color pixels

Color Segmentation in HSI Color Space (cont.)

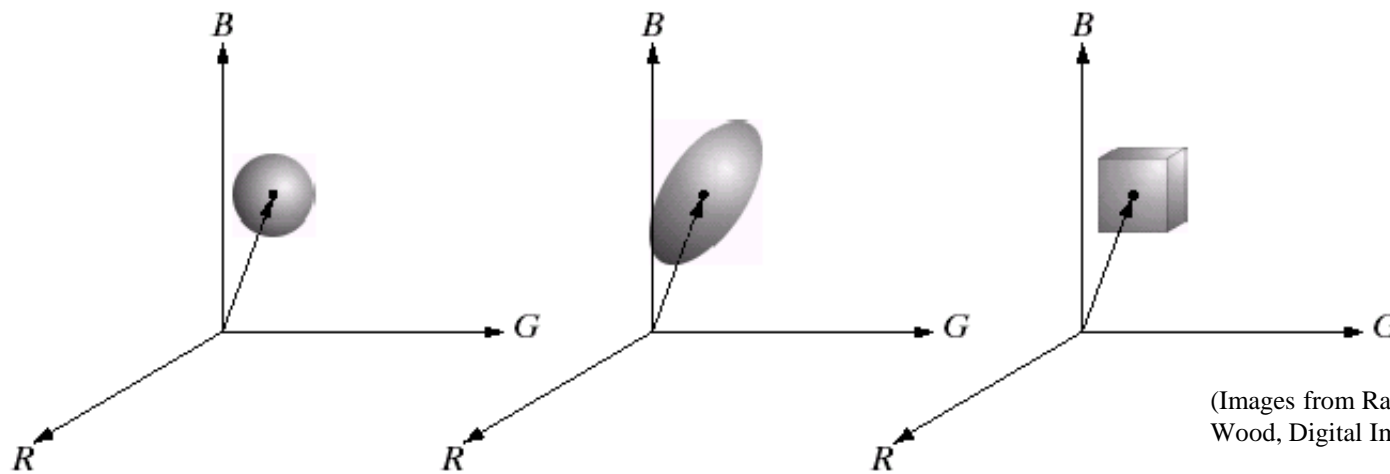


Color image



Segmented results of red pixels

Color Segmentation in RGB Vector Space



a b c

FIGURE 6.43

Three approaches for enclosing data regions for RGB vector segmentation.

(Images from Rafael C. Gonzalez and Richard E. Wood, Digital Image Processing, 2nd Edition.)

1. Each point with (R,G,B) coordinate in the vector space represents one color.
2. Segmentation is based on distance thresholding in a vector space

$$g(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } D(\mathbf{c}(x, y), \mathbf{c}_T) \leq T \\ 0 & \text{if } D(\mathbf{c}(x, y), \mathbf{c}_T) > T \end{cases}$$

$D(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ = distance function

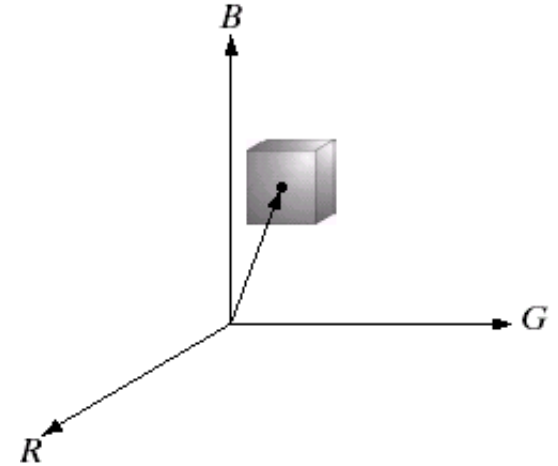
\mathbf{c}_T = color to be segmented.

$\mathbf{c}(x, y)$ = RGB vector at pixel (x,y).

Example: Segmentation in RGB Vector Space



Color image



Reference color \mathbf{c}_T to be segmented

\mathbf{c}_T = average color of pixel in the box

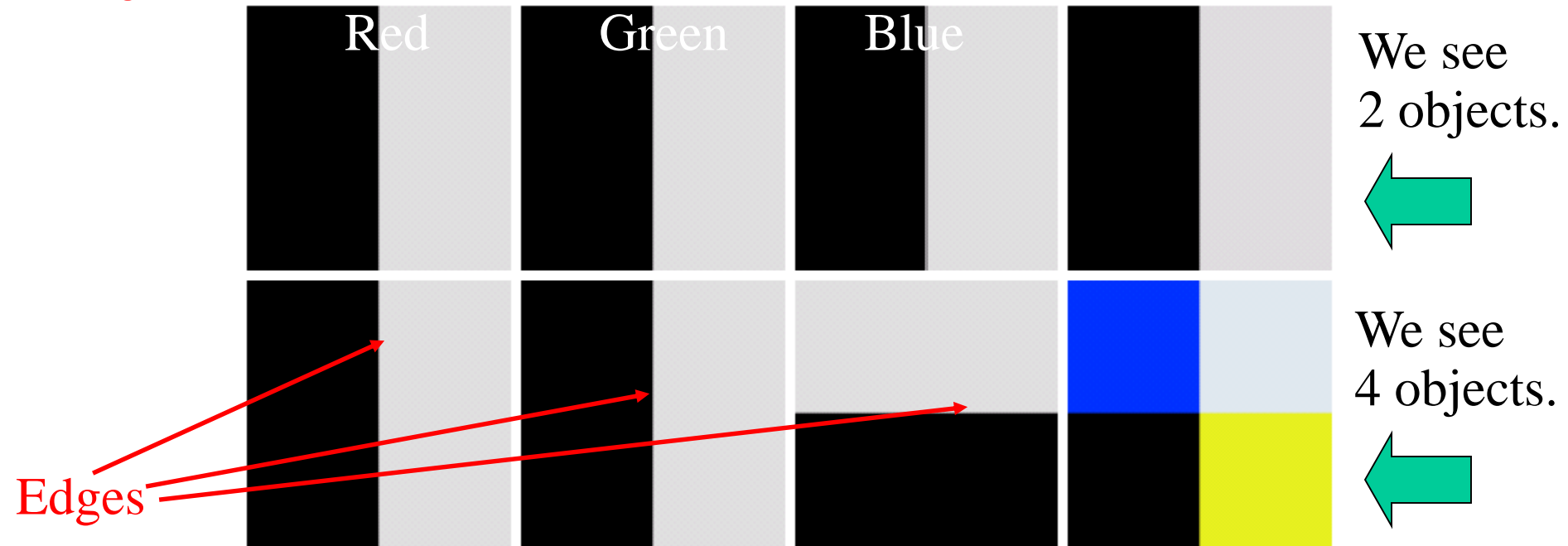


Results of segmentation in
RGB vector space with Threshold
value

$T = 1.25$ times the SD of R,G,B values
In the box

Gradient of a Color Image

Since gradient is defined only for a scalar image, there is no concept of gradient for a color image. **We can't compute gradient of each color component and combine the results to get the gradient of a color image.**



Gradient of a Color Image (cont.)

One way to compute the maximum rate of change of a color image which is close to the meaning of gradient is to use the following formula: **Gradient computed in RGB color space:**

$$F(\theta) = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left[(g_{xx} + g_{yy}) + (g_{xx} - g_{yy}) \cos 2\theta + 2g_{xy} \sin 2\theta \right] \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\theta = \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} \left[\frac{2g_{xy}}{(g_{xx} - g_{yy})} \right]$$

$$g_{xx} = \left| \frac{\partial R}{\partial x} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\partial B}{\partial x} \right|^2$$

$$g_{yy} = \left| \frac{\partial R}{\partial y} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\partial G}{\partial y} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\partial B}{\partial y} \right|^2$$

$$g_{xy} = \frac{\partial R}{\partial x} \frac{\partial R}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} \frac{\partial G}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial B}{\partial x} \frac{\partial B}{\partial y}$$

Gradient of a Color Image Example

Original
image



2



Obtained using
the formula
in the previous
slide

3



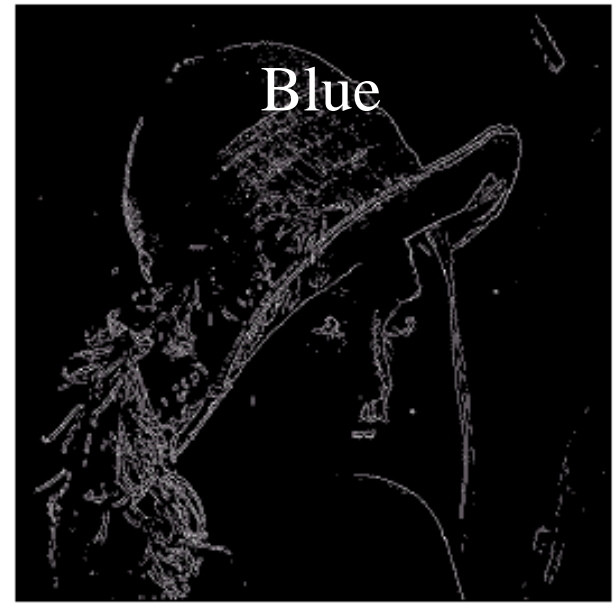
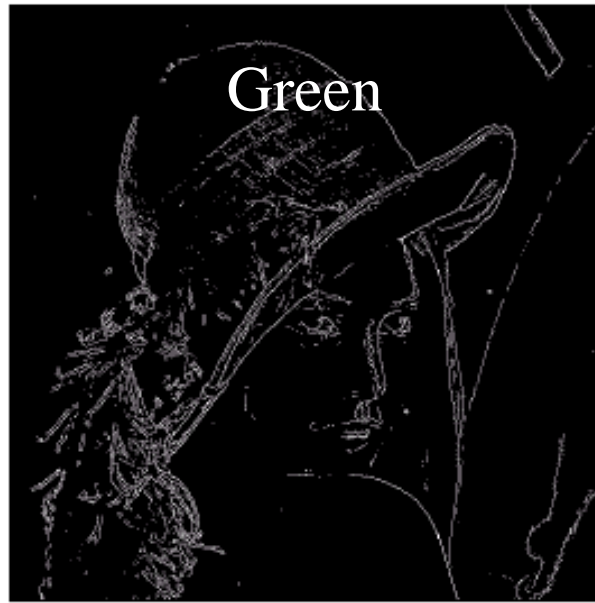
Sum of
gradients of
each color
component

Difference
between

2 and 3



Gradient of a Color Image Example



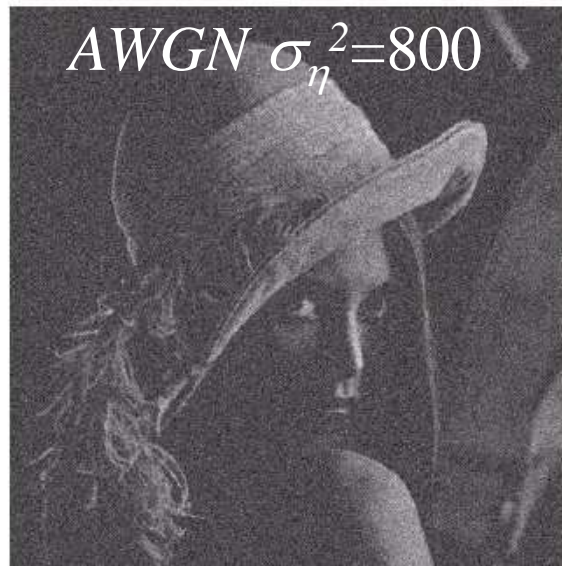
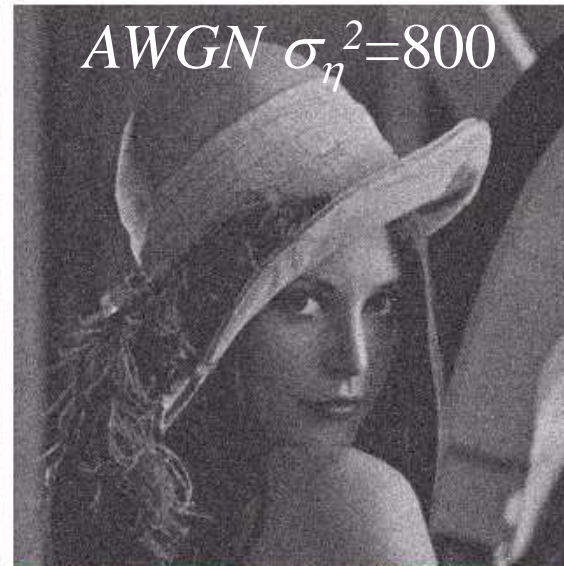
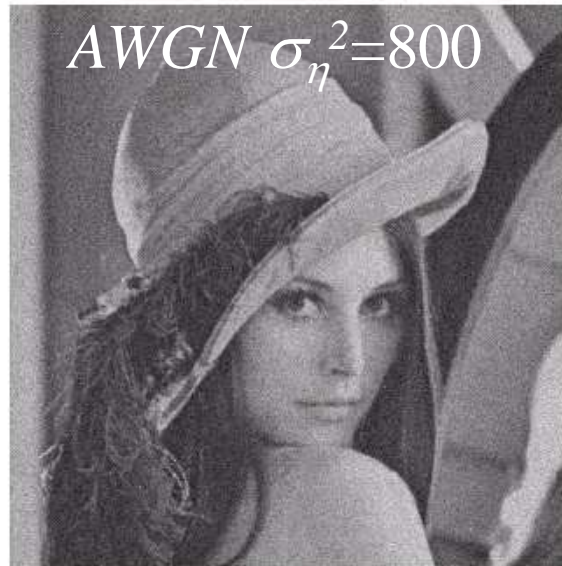
Gradients of each color component

Noise in Color Images

Noise can corrupt each color component independently.

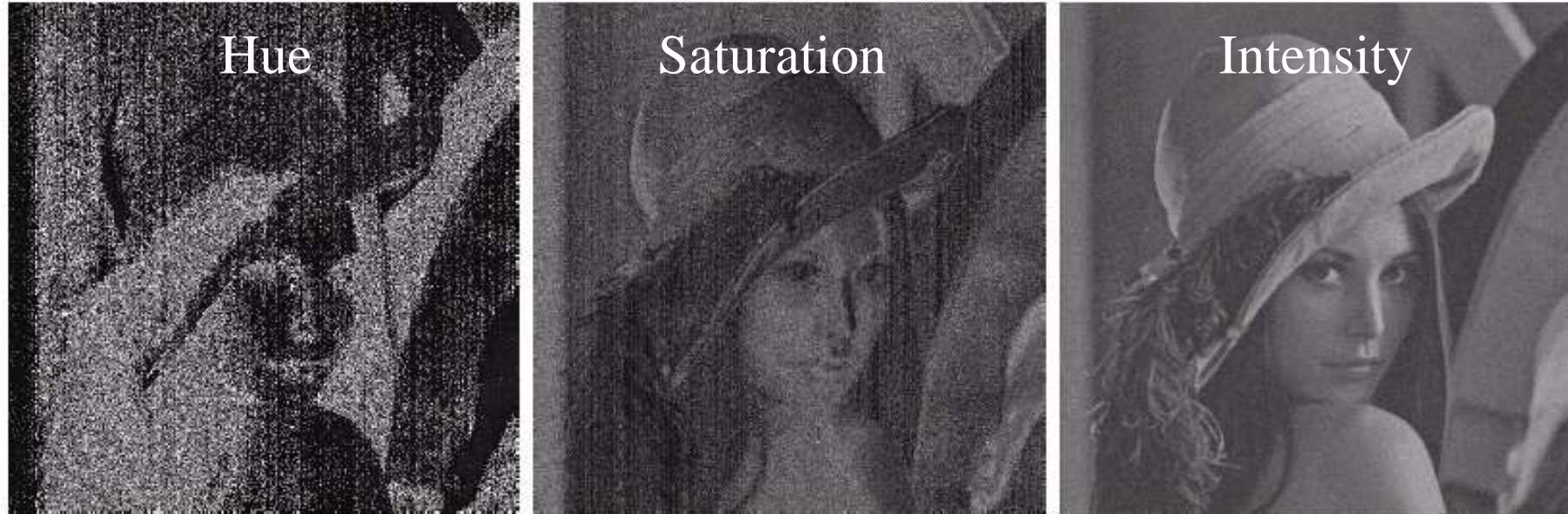
a b
c d

FIGURE 6.48
(a)–(c) Red, green, and blue component images corrupted by additive Gaussian noise of mean 0 and variance 800. (d) Resulting RGB image. [Compare (d) with Fig. 6.46(a).]



Noise is less noticeable in a color image

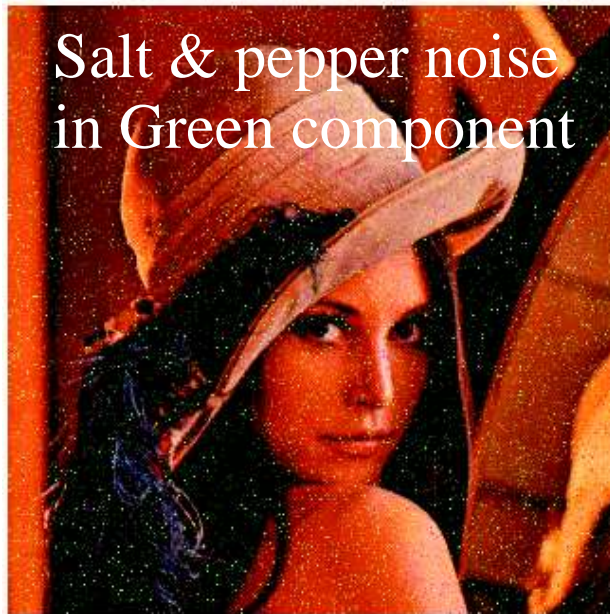
Noise in Color Images



a b c

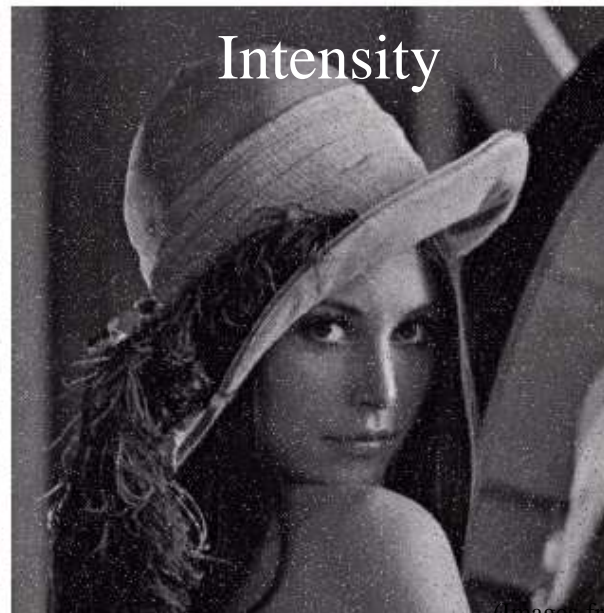
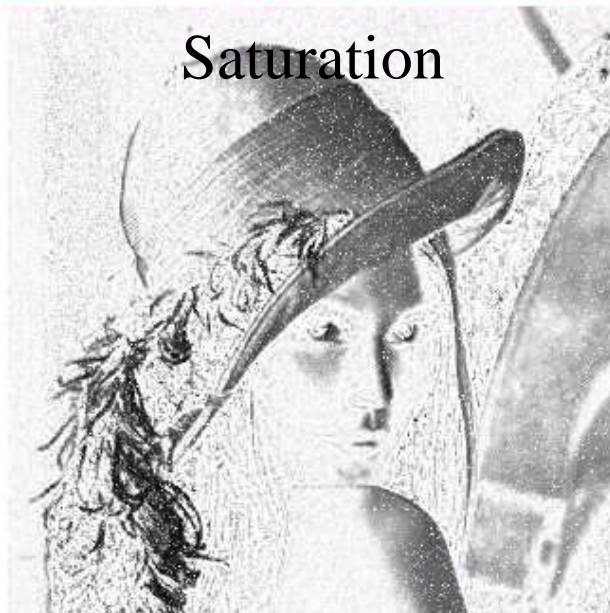
FIGURE 6.49 HSI components of the noisy color image in Fig. 6.48(d). (a) Hue. (b) Saturation. (c) Intensity.

Noise in Color Images



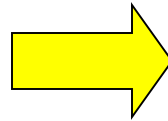
a	b
c	d

FIGURE 6.50
(a) RGB image with green plane corrupted by salt-and-pepper noise.
(b) Hue component of HSI image.
(c) Saturation component.
(d) Intensity component.



Color Image Compression

Original image



JPEG2000 File

After lossy compression with ratio 230:1