The Effect of the Aging Lens on Color Vision

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The goal of this **colorSpec** vignette is to simulate the effect of age on human color vision. The colored figures are best viewed by an observer with age of 32 years, and on a display calibrated for sRGB.

The Human Lens

It is well known that the lens in the human eye does not transmit all wavelengths equally; the transmission at short wavelengths is less, which means the lens is yellowish. In the UV there is very little transmission; which is a good thing since the lens protects the retina from UV damage. It is also well known that the lens gets yellower with age. When making these colored images it is appropriate to use the CIE 1931 color matching functions (CMFs). Unfortunately I could not find the average age of the observers used to establish the 1931 standard observer (there were 17 of them). But it *is* known that the average age of the observers used to create the CIE 1964 standard observer is 32 years, see [Pok87]. So we'll take 32 years for the CIE 1931 standard observer as well.

Start the **R** session and load the **colorSpec** package,

```
library( colorSpec )
```

Compute and plot lens transmittance at 32 and 64 years using the model in [Pok87].

```
lens.trans = linearize( lensAbsorbance( c(32,64), wave=380:780 ) )
par( omi=c(0,0,0,0), mai=c(0.6,0.7,0.3,0.2) )
plot( lens.trans, color='black', lty=1:2, main=FALSE, legend='topleft' )
```
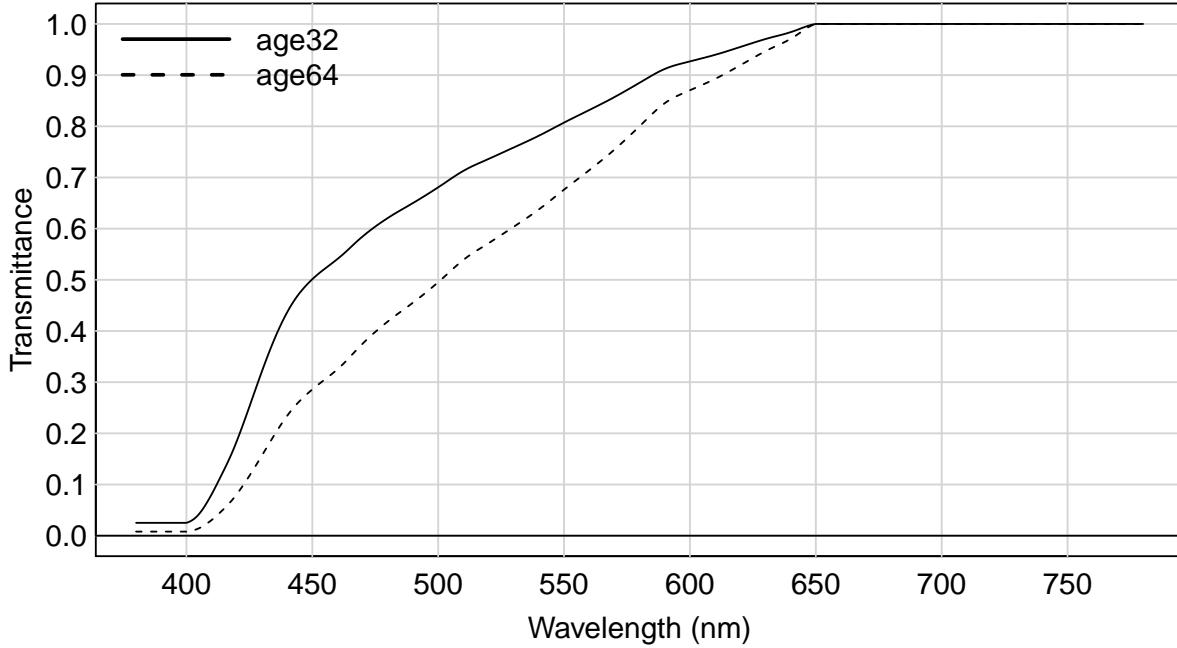
Figure 1: Human Lens Transmittance at age=32 and age=64

To compare the color appearance at age 64 to that at age 32, we need the transmittance at age 64 relative to that at age 32. We know that object `lens.trans` is a matrix, so use the standard **R** matrix subset operation to extract each spectrum. Then perform the division and plot the ratio.

```
lens.64 = lens.trans[ ,2] / lens.trans[ ,1]
lens.64 = colorSpec( lens.64, wavelength(lens.trans), 'transmittance' )
specnames(lens.64) = "trans.64 / trans.32"
par( omi=c(0,0,0,0), mai=c(0.6,0.7,0.3,0.2) )
plot( lens.64, main=TRUE, legend=FALSE, ylab='Relative Transmittance', col='black' )
```
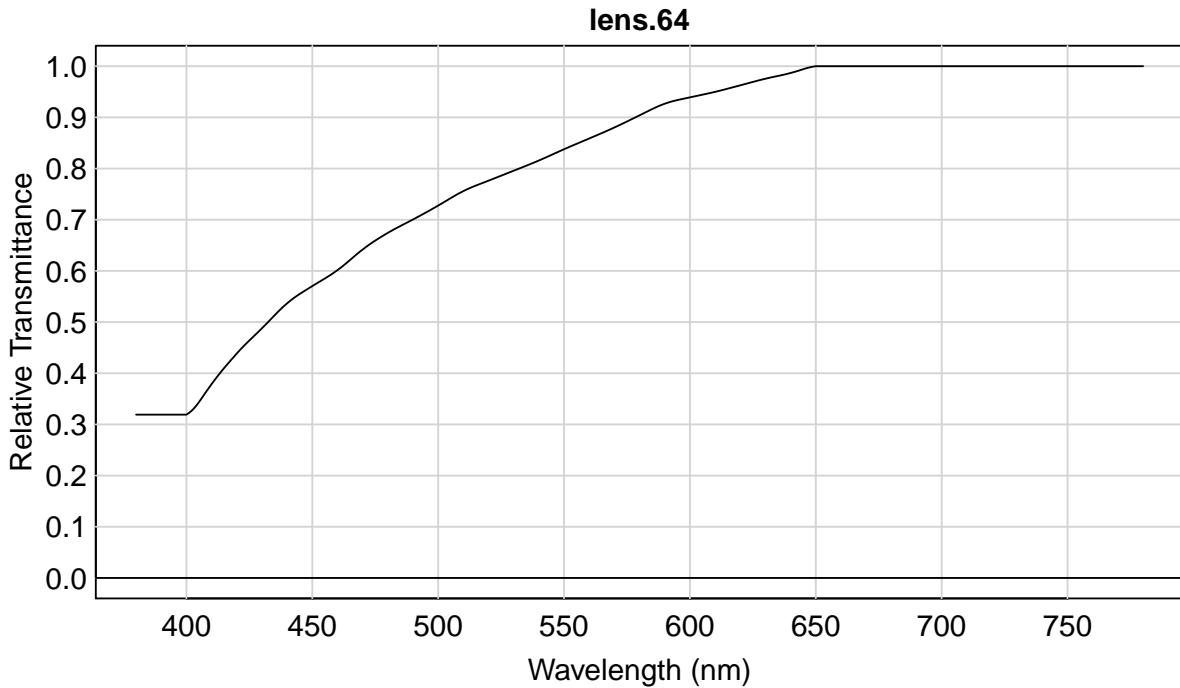
Figure 2: Human Lens Transmittance at age 64 relative to age 32

Think of this curve as defining a pair of glasses with a yellowish tint. In this vignette, going from an age of 32 years to 64 years is equivalent to putting on these tinted glasses.

The Macbeth ColorChecker with Observer Age 32

We first read the spectra of the *ColorChecker* target. This data has been kindly provided in CGATS format by [Pas]. *ColorChecker* is a Registered Trademark of X-Rite, and X-Rite is a Trademark.

```
path = system.file( 'extdata/targets/CC_Avg30_spectrum_CGATS.txt', package='colorSpec')
MacbethCC = readSpectra( path, wave=wavelength(lens.64) )
MacbethCC = MacbethCC[ order(MacbethCC$SAMPLE_ID), ]
print( extradata(MacbethCC), row.names=F )
```

SAMPLE_ID	SAMPLE_NAME	Munsell	ISCC-NBS_Name	LEFT	TOP	WIDTH	HEIGHT
1	dark skin	3YR 3.7/3.2	moderate brown	7	9	29	29
2	light skin	2.2YR 6.47/4.1	light reddish brown	40	9	29	29
3	blue sky	4.3PB 4.95/5.5	moderate blue	73	9	29	29
4	foliage	6.7GY 4.2/4.1	moderate olive green	106	9	29	29
5	blue flower	9.7PB 5.47/6.7	light violet	139	9	29	29
6	bluish green	2.5BG 7/6	light bluish green	172	9	29	29
7	orange	5YR 6/11	strong orange	7	42	29	29
8	purplish blue	7.5PB 4/10.7	strong purplish blue	40	42	29	29
9	moderate red	2.5R 5/10	moderate red	73	42	29	29
10	purple	5P 3/7	deep purple	106	42	29	29
11	yellow green	5GY 7.1/9.1	strong yellow green	139	42	29	29
12	orange yellow	10YR 7/10.5	strong orange yellow	172	42	29	29
13	Blue	7.5PB 2.9/12.7	vivid purplish blue	7	75	29	29
14	Green	0.25G 5.4/8.65	strong yellowish green	40	75	29	29
15	Red	5R 4/12	strong red	73	75	29	29

16	Yellow	5Y 8/11.1	vivid yellow	106	75	29	29
17	Magenta	2.5RP 5/12	strong reddish purple	139	75	29	29
18	Cyan	5B 5/8	strong greenish blue	172	75	29	29
19	white	N9.5/	white	7	108	29	29
20	neutral 8	N8/	light gray	40	108	29	29
21	neutral 6.5	N6.5/	light medium gray	73	108	29	29
22	neutral 5	N5/	medium gray	106	108	29	29
23	neutral 3.5	N3.5/	dark gray	139	108	29	29
24	black	N2/	black	172	108	29	29

Note that `MacbethCC` is organized as `'df.row'` and contains extra data for each spectrum, notably the coordinates of the patch rectangle.

Now build the "material responder" from Illuminant D65 and the 1931 CMFs:

```
D65.eye = product( D65.1nm, "artwork", xyz1931.1nm, wave=wavelength(lens.64) )
#   calibrate so the perfect-reflecting-diffuser is the 'official XYZ'
#   scale XYZ independently
prd = neutralMaterial( 1, wavelength(lens.64) )
D65.eye = calibrate( D65.eye, stimulus=prd, response=officialXYZ('D65'), method='scaling' )
```

Calculate XYZ and then RGB:

```
XYZ = product( MacbethCC, D65.eye, wave=wavelength(lens.64) )
RGB = RGBfromXYZ( XYZ, 'sRGB' )          # this is *linear* sRGB
# add the rectangle data to RGB, so they can be plotted in proper places
# in cbind() use as.data.frame.model.matrix() so RGB is a single column in patches
patches = cbind( extradata(MacbethCC), as.data.frame.model.matrix(RGB) )
patches.first = patches    # save this reference object for later
#   display in proper location, and use the sRGB display transfer function
par( omi=c(0,0,0,0), mai=c(0.2,0.2,0.2,0.2) )
plotPatchesRGB( patches, gamma='sRGB', back='gray20', labels=FALSE )
```
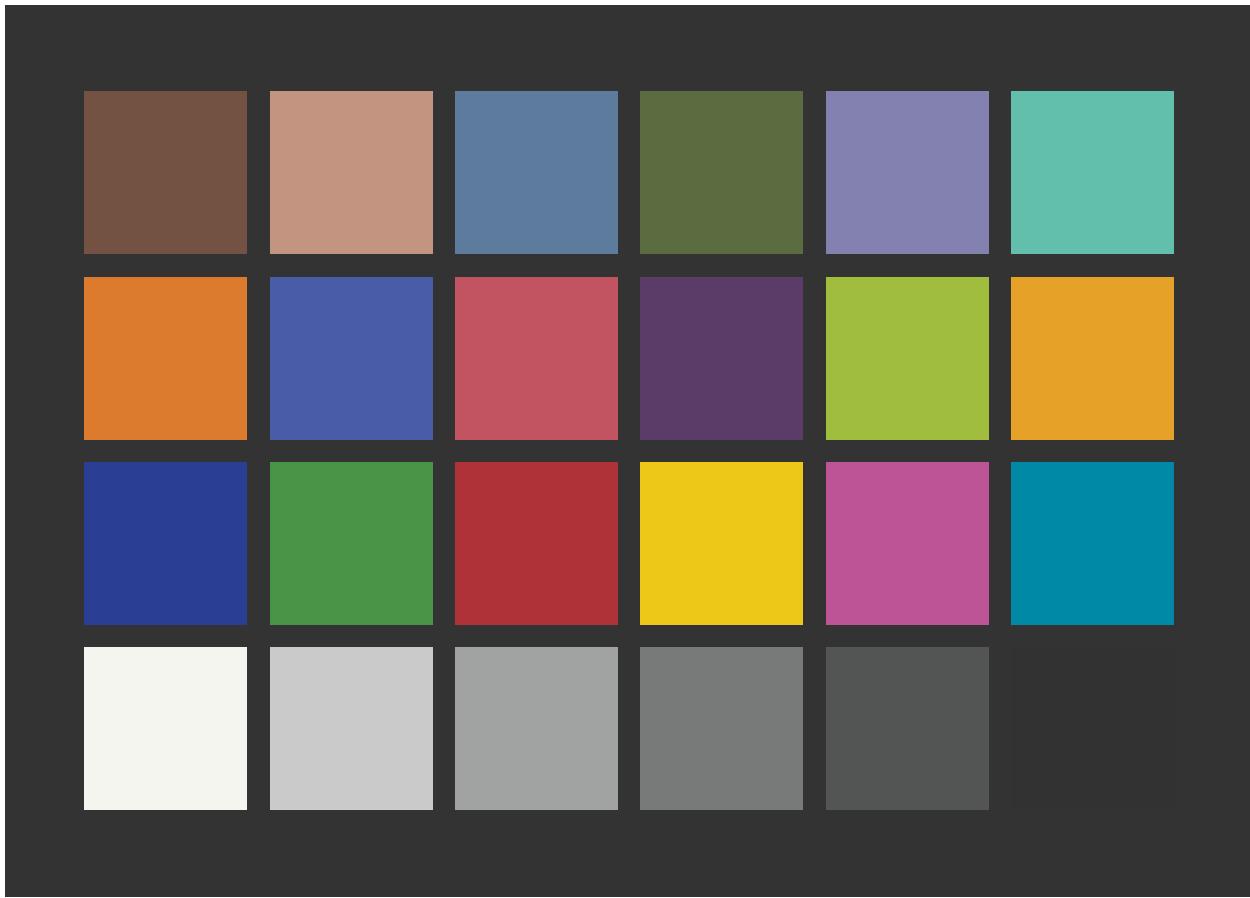
Figure 3: Rendering with Illuminant D65 and xyz1931.1nm, at age=32

This figure has the colors as perceived by the 1931 standard observer.

The Macbeth ColorChecker with Observer Age 64

Make new responder by inserting the hypothetical pair of tinted glasses (defined by `lens.64` in Figure 2) between target and the eye, and then recalculate RGBs.

```
D65.eye.64 = applyspec( D65.eye, function(y) {lens.64 * y} )
XYZ = product( MacbethCC, D65.eye.64, wave=wavelength(lens.64) )
RGB = RGBfromXYZ( XYZ, 'sRGB' )          # this is *linear* sRGB
patches = cbind( extradata(MacbethCC), as.data.frame.model.matrix(RGB) )
par( omi=c(0,0,0,0), mai=c(0.2,0.2,0.2,0.2) )
plotPatchesRGB( patches, gamma='sRGB', back='gray20', labels=FALSE )
```
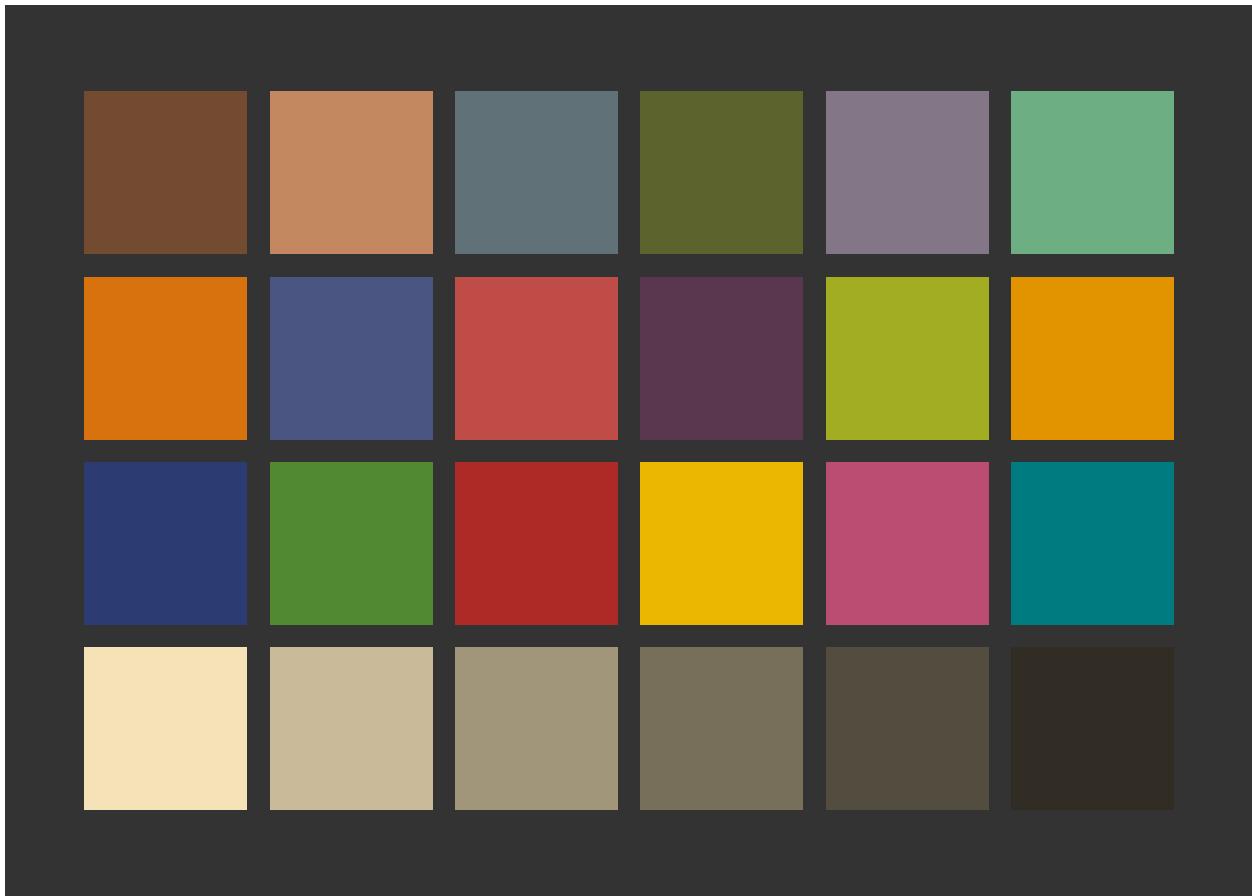
Figure 4: Rendering with Illuminant D65 and xyz1931.1nm, at age=64 without adaption

As expected, the result has a yellow tint. Now make a plot that compares the effective responsivities.

```
#   the effective responsivities for age=32
par( omi=c(0,0,0,0), mai=c(0.6,0.7,0.3,0.2) )
specnames( D65.eye ) = sprintf( "%s.32", c('x','y','z') )
plot( D65.eye,  lty=1, legend='top' )
#   the effective responsivities for age=64
specnames( D65.eye.64 ) = sprintf( "%s.64", c('x','y','z') )
plot( D65.eye.64,  lty=2, add=TRUE, legend='topright' )
```
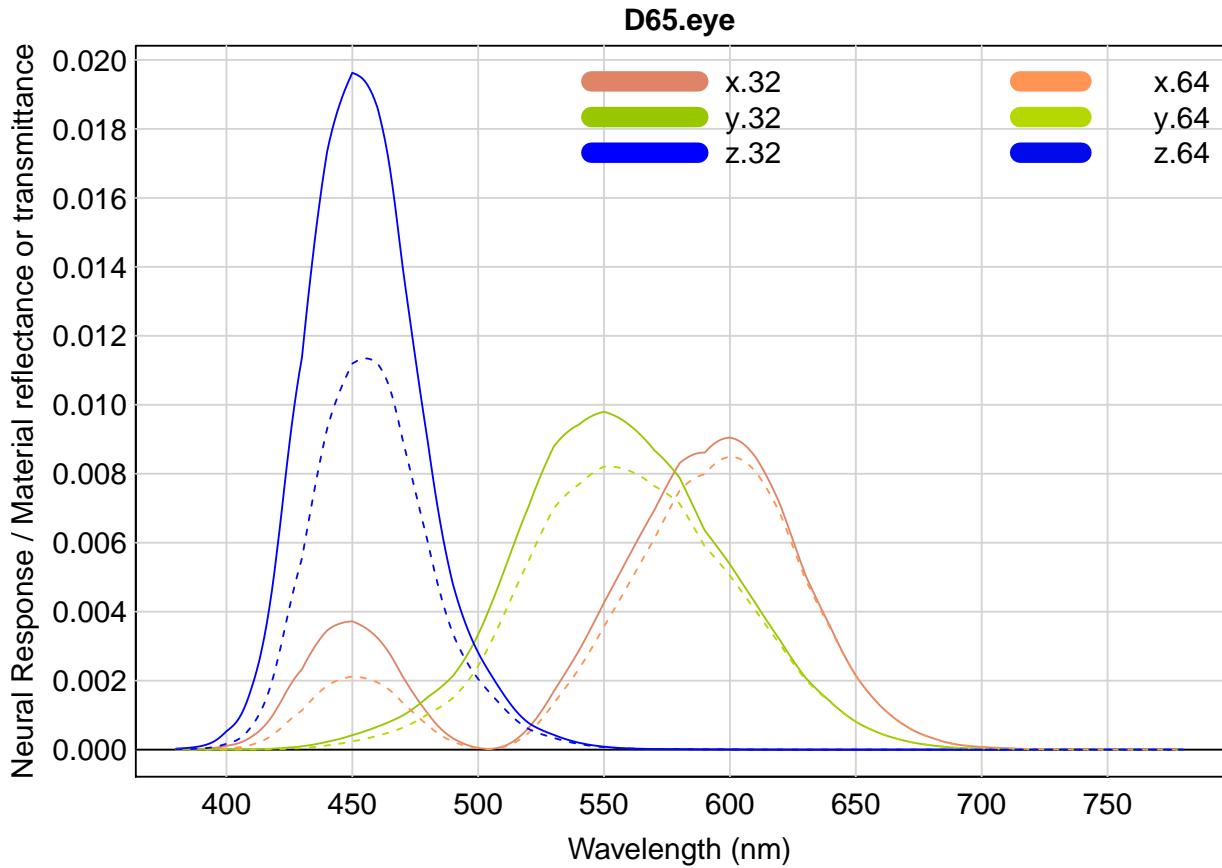
Figure 5: comparison of effective responsivities, at age=32 and age=64

But these figures are only appropriate for the instant in time that the change was made, and before the eye and brain have had the time to adapt. In electronic camera terms, there is no "white balance" yet.

So now calibrate and adapt to D65 using the *Bradford Method*. This method is regarded as being a good model for the way that the human eye and brain achieve *color constancy*, see [Lin].

```
prd = neutralMaterial( 1, wavelength(lens.64) )
XYZ.D65 = officialXYZ('D65')
D65.eye.64 = calibrate( D65.eye.64, stimulus=prd, response=XYZ.D65, method='Bradford' )
XYZ = product( MacbethCC, D65.eye.64, wave=wavelength(lens.64) )
RGB = RGBfromXYZ( XYZ, 'sRGB' )          # this is *linear* sRGB
patches = cbind( extradata(MacbethCC), as.data.frame.model.matrix(RGB) )
par( omi=c(0,0,0,0), mai=c(0.2,0.2,0.2,0.2) )
plotPatchesRGB( patches, gamma='sRGB', back='gray20', labels=FALSE )
```
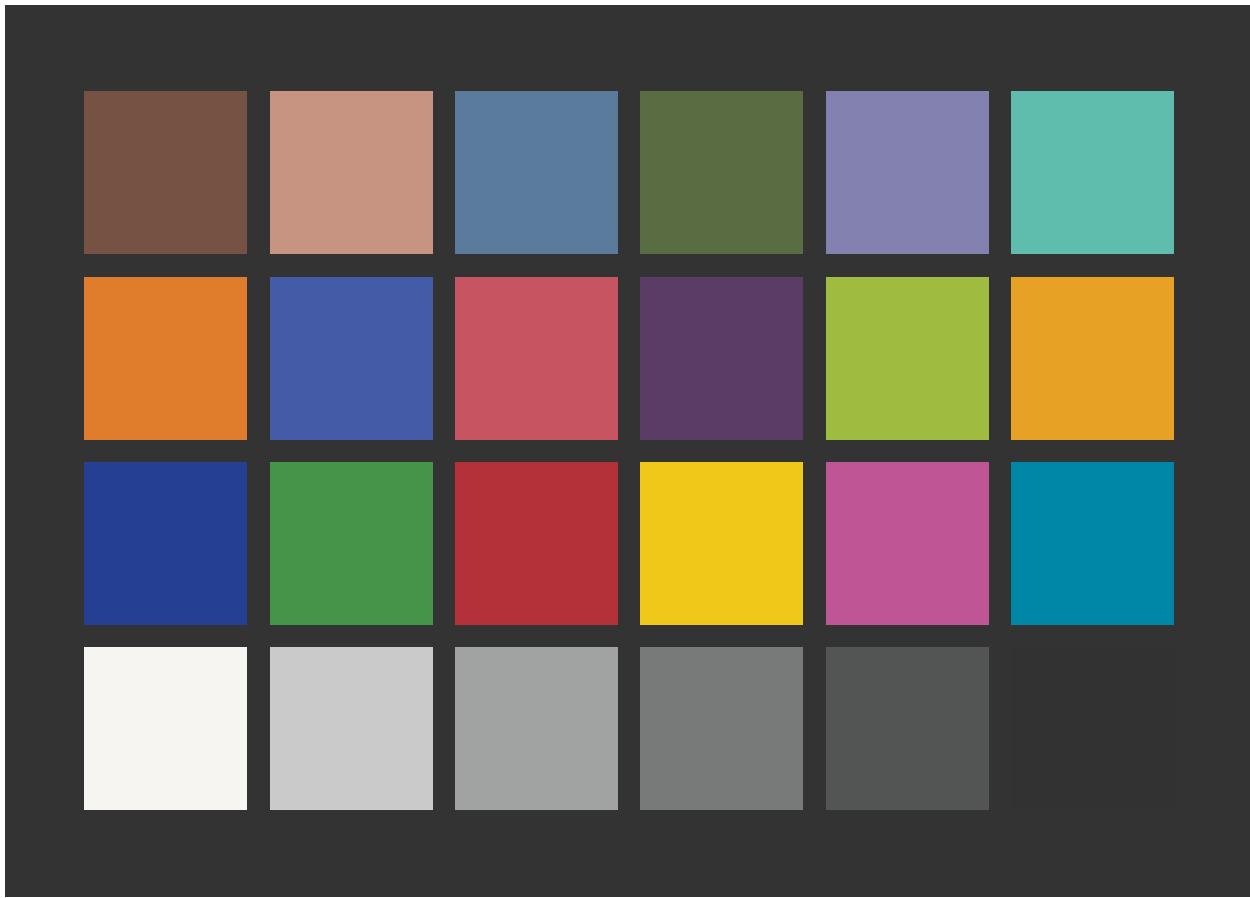
Figure 6: Rendering with Illuminant D65 and xyz1931.1nm, at age=64 after chromatic adaption

The tint is now gone. But it hard to compare colors in this figure with the ones way back in Figure 3. So combine the original age=32 rendering with the age=64 rendering by splitting each square into 2 triangles.

```
par( omi=c(0,0,0,0), mai=c(0.2,0.2,0.2,0.2) )
#  draw full squares from Figure 3
plotPatchesRGB( patches.first, gamma='sRGB', back='gray20', labels=F )
#  overwrite the squares with triangles by setting shape= and add=
plotPatchesRGB( patches, gamma='sRGB', labels=F, shape='bottomright', add=T )
```
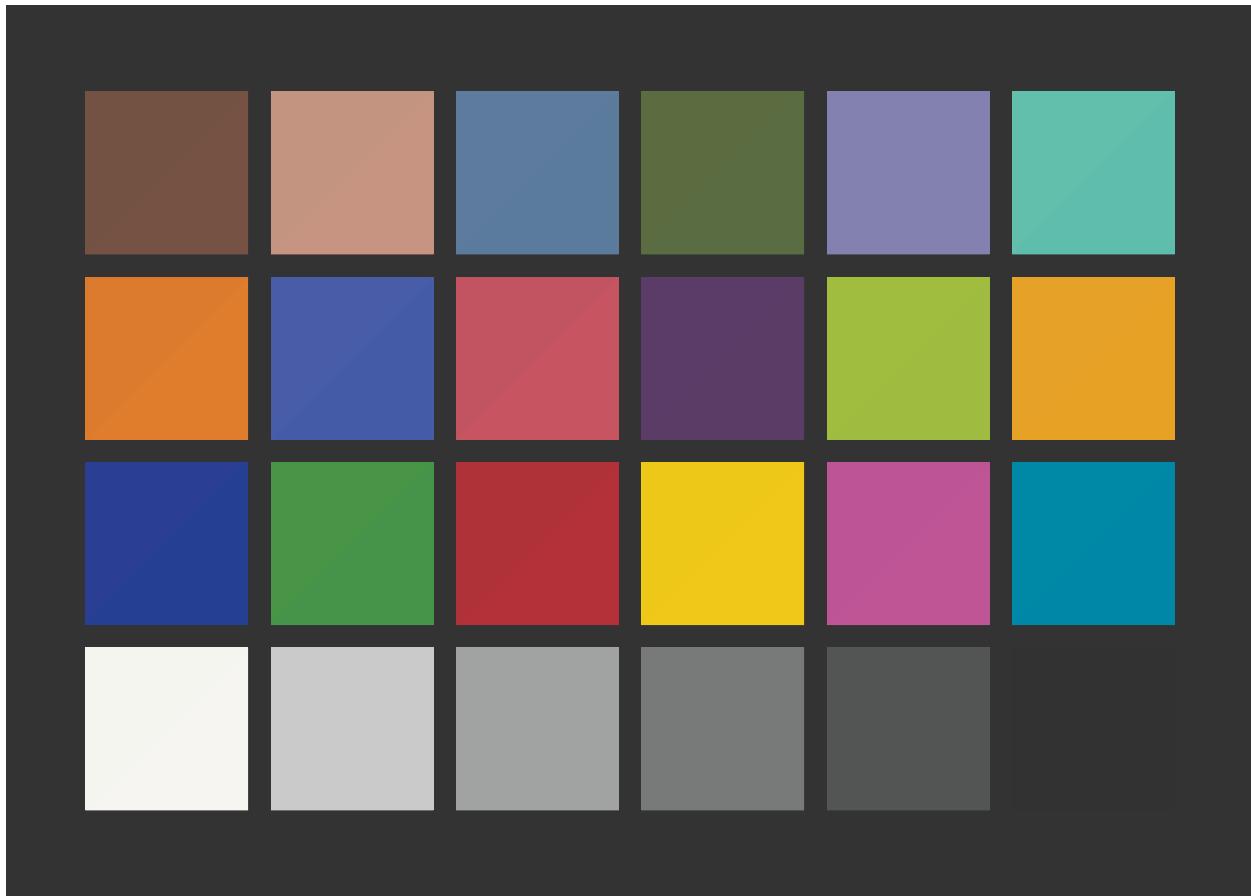
Figure 7: Rendering with both age=32 (Figure 3), and age=64 (Figure 6)

The top-left triangle has the color from Figure 3 and the bottom-right triangle has the color from Figure 6. There are minor differences in the **Red** and **Magenta** patches, and some smaller differences in a few others.

Here are the responsivity functions *after* adaption:

```
par( omi=c(0,0,0,0), mai=c(0.6,0.7,0.3,0.2) )
plot( D65.eye,  lty=1, legend='top', main=FALSE )
plot( D65.eye.64, lty=2, add=TRUE, legend='topright' )
```
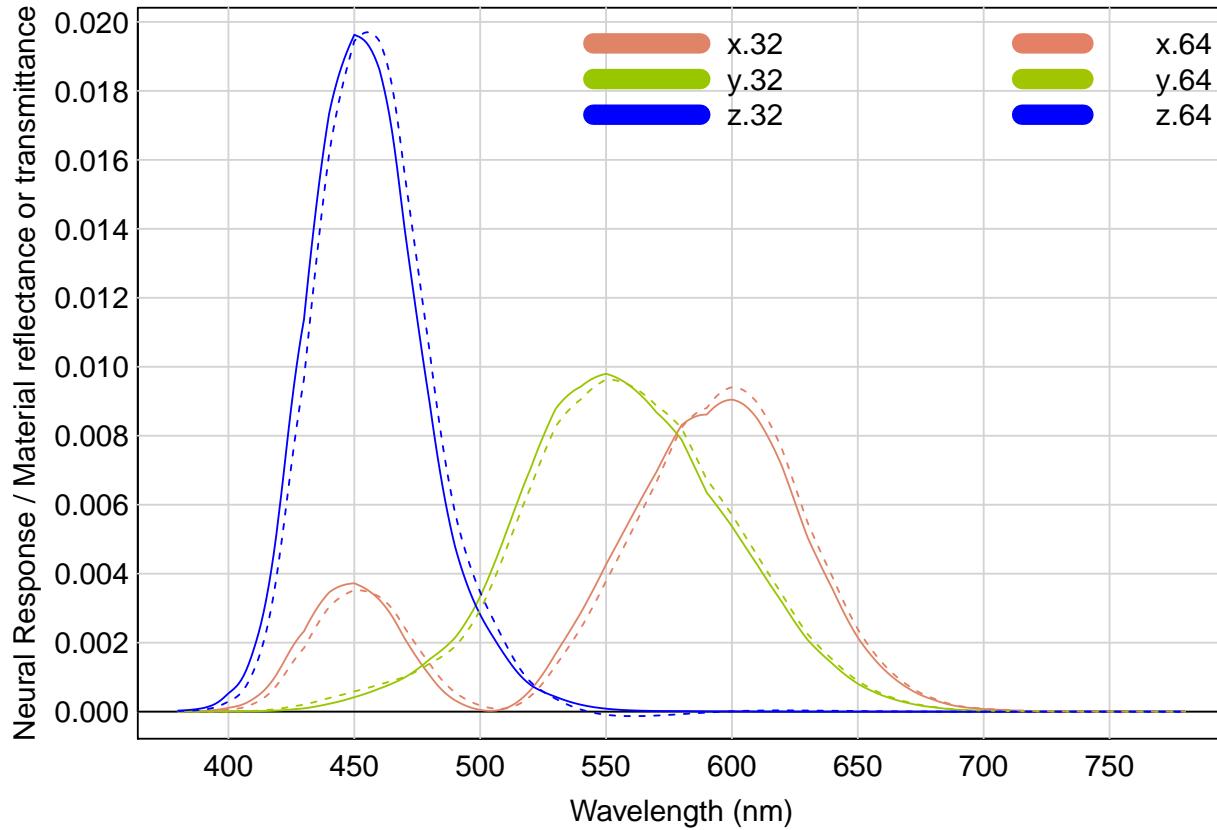
Figure 8: comparison of effective responsivities

So despite the fairly radical yellowing of the lens with age (in Figure 2), this adaption model shows that the perceived colors are not all that different. Great !

References

[Lin]   Lindbloom, Bruce. How the Chromatic Adaptation Calculator Works. `http://brucelindbloom.com/index.html?ChromAdaptCalcHelp.html`.

[Pas]   Pascale, Danny. The ColorChecker, page 2. `http://www.babelcolor.com/colorchecker-2.htm`.

[Pok87] Pokorny, Joel, Vivianne C. Smith, and Margaret Lutze. Aging of the Human Lens. *Applied Optics*, Vol. 26, No. 8, 15 April 1987. Table I. Page 1439.

Appendix

This document was prepared December 3, 2017   with the following configuration:

- R version 3.4.3 (2017-11-30), `i386-w64-mingw32`

- Running under: `Windows 7 (build 7601) Service Pack 1`

- Matrix products: default

- Base packages: base, datasets, grDevices, graphics, methods, stats, utils

- Other packages: colorSpec 0.6-2, knitr 1.17

- Loaded via a namespace (and not attached): MASS 7.3-47, Rcpp 0.12.14, backports 1.1.1, compiler 3.4.3, digest 0.6.12, evaluate 0.10.1, highr 0.6, htmltools 0.3.6, magrittr 1.5, rmarkdown 1.8, rprojroot 1.2, stringi 1.1.6, stringr 1.2.0, tools 3.4.3, yaml 2.1.14