

# Introduction of a Biologically Plausible Color Descriptor to a Neurodynamical Model of the Primary Visual Cortex

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## Abstract

We present a computational model of color description & processing in the primary visual cortex (V1), inspired by current neurobiological understanding. This understanding posits single and double-opponent neurons as fundamental to low level color processing. We offer a novel representation of color by defining these cells' responses and the connections between them, within the framework of a dynamical model of neuronal activity. Our model reproduces perceptual experiences in a number of cases, offering credence to said biological theories.

## Index Terms

primary visual cortex, striate cortex, V1, receptive field, single-opponent, double-opponent, color induction

## I. INTRODUCTION

**P**ERCEPTION of color is defined not just by the physical properties of the object, but also the context in which it is viewed. Taking advantage of this, we can create a wealth of optical illusions in which two physically identical stimuli are made to appear as different colors, or two physically different stimuli are made to appear the same, simply by changing the spatial or temporal context [1]. Consider Fig. 1, for example. Here we see that two physically identical turquoise rings can be perceived as very different, depending solely on the context in which they are viewed. Two interesting questions arise: why has our color vision evolved to see things 'not as they are', and what are the underlying mechanisms at play?

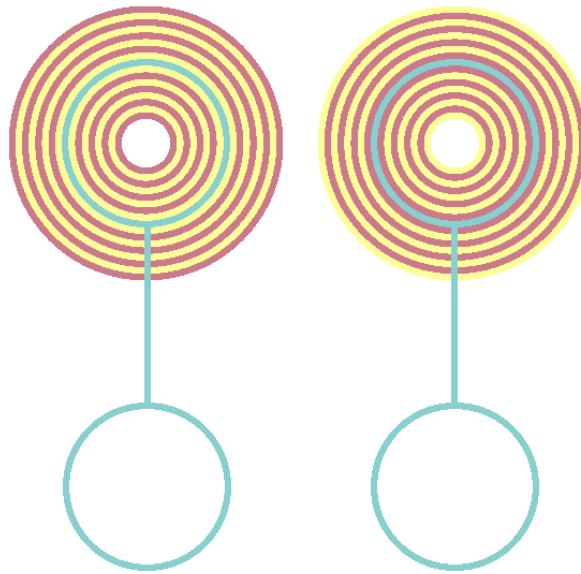


Fig. 1: Example of contextual influences on the perception of color. The colors of the all rings on the left are physically identical to those on the right. The order of the rings differs, however. On the left, the test ring borders two yellow rings, while on the right the test ring borders two 'red' rings. This change in context is what defines the perceived difference.

Neurophysiological research in the past decade or so has witnessed a growing confidence in the community that these phenomena begin to arise as early in primate vision as the primary visual cortex (V1) [1], [4], [14], [16], [15], [17]. It is believed that the processing of color and form in V1 are the beginnings of, amongst other effects, color constancy: the ability to perceive an object's color despite ambient luminance changes. This phenomenon has clear evolutionary benefits, such as the ability to recognize the color of ripe fruit even though the color of daylight might be changing from blue to red as the sun sets. Truly, as the ambient light changes, so to does the spectral reflectance of the fruit. Still, its color appears perceptually consistent. It has also been suggested that the processing of color and context in V1 may assist in defining object saliency [8]: the pre-attentive 'importance' of an object.

With respect to the underlying mechanisms, many have proposed that it is the *boundaries* between colored regions which drives the processing of color in V1 [1], [4], [14], [16], [15], [17] and, as a consequence, these phenomena. This can be observed in Fig. 1 where it is the border between the turquoise rings and the neighboring rings that determines if they are perceived as green or blue. Specifically, to explain this influence of form on color processing in V1, the literature proposes two broad classifications of neurons: single-opponent cells & double-opponent cells [4].

Opponency, in neurobiology, refers to antagonistic inputs of information: one source of input excites the neuron, while another inhibits it. These two antagonistic components are commonly referred to as the *on* and *off* inputs to a neuron. One can think of these two inputs as being what the cell 'is looking for', *on*, and what the cell 'is not looking for', *off*. Intuitively, stimulation from the *on* input excites the neuron, while stimulation from the *off* input inhibits it. Perhaps less intuitively, removal of stimulation from the *off* input also excites the neuron. This behavior is logical when you consider that the two antagonistic inputs typically represent mutually exclusive features. In this way, removal of the negative stimulus often means much the same as presence of a positive stimulus and thus it contributes to excitation of the neuron. Of course, if equal stimuli are provided from both the *on* and *off* inputs, excitation is cancelled out by inhibition and the neuron does not fire. Lastly, recognize that any one neuron usually receives antagonistic input from, in fact, many other neurons. The aggregate stimuli from these excitatory and inhibitory inputs determines if the cell fires.

With respect to cells in the early visual system, we specifically use opponency to refer to chromatic and spatial components. In Section II-A we detail what exactly this means, with specific examples of neurons' expected patterns of response to various stimuli, as well as the implications of such responses. To frame this explanation, consider for now that single-opponent cells respond best to *large areas* of color, while double-opponent cells respond only to the *boundaries* between such areas.

With this understanding of color and context in V1, we propose a computational model designed to describe color and the neurodynamical processes behind it. We present two implementations, one more biologically accurate and another more computationally elegant. We explore the behavior of these models with respect to what they can teach us about the assumed biological theories, as well as their application to the field of computer vision.

## II. STATE OF THE ART

In order to frame our work, we wish to examine both the current understanding of the neurobiological mechanisms at play, as well as previous work in modeling these mechanisms. We present these reviews in the following sections, *A. Neurobiology* and *B. Computational Modeling*, respectively.

### A. Neurobiology

#### *Single-Opponent Neurons*

Single-opponent cells are a class of neurons in the early visual system which respond best to large areas of color and/or luminance. Their behavior is achieved by constructing classical center-surround receptive fields. The center receptive field serves as the *on* input, exciting the cell when presented with a particular color, while the surround receptive field serves as the *off* input, inhibiting the cell when another color is present or exciting it when that color is removed. These center and surround receptive fields may involve very few retinal cones, or may span many degrees of vision [5].

In so called color preferring single-opponent cells, the cone inputs to the center and surround come from cones with different spectral response functions, e.g.: L vs M. By arranging input from different cones into antagonistic receptive fields, we get a neuron which is sensitive to a particular color, in opposition to another. In the human visual system, we recognize three axes of such color opponency: redness vs. greenness, blueness vs. yellowness, and lightness vs. darkness. To construct these concepts of color, neurons in the visual pathway contrast activity of the three types of cone cells: those sensitive to long (L) wavelength light, those sensitive to medium (M) wavelength light, and those sensitive to short (S) wavelength light. By contrasting relative activity with neighboring L, M, and S cones, the retina itself can already begin to construct signal resembling psychological concepts of 'color'.

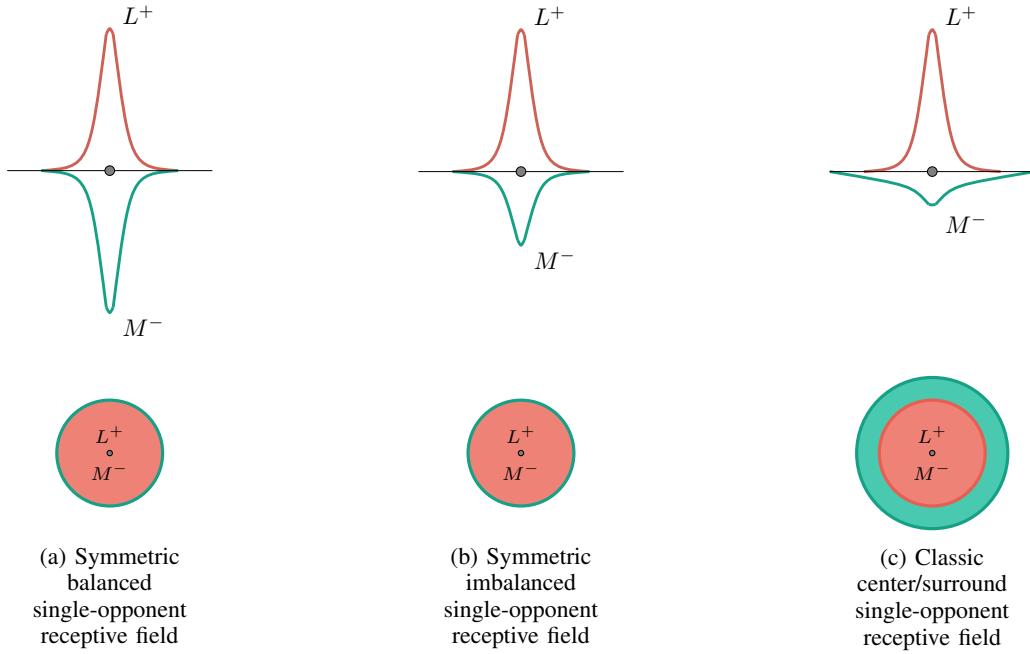


Fig. 2: Examples of possible single-opponent receptive field configurations, many others could be designed. All function to describe color properties of surfaces, though their response patterns to similar stimuli vary slightly.

As mentioned, one of the three axes of the opponent process theory is lightness vs. darkness. This is achieved in single-opponent cells by providing opponent inputs into the *on* center and the *off* surround from the same cones. By including input of L, M, and/or S cones into both the center and surround, the cells becomes 'color blind' and instead only respond to changes in luminance. Sometimes incorrectly labeled as 'non-opponent', these neurons are, indeed, single-opponent cells: achromatic single-opponent cells.

#### *Double-Opponent Neurons*

We have defined single-opponent cells to best respond to large areas of light/color. We now define double-opponent cells to respond only to the boundaries between such areas. In this regard, it is fair to think of double-opponent cells as biological 'edge detectors'. However, the precise definition of these cells is a topic of confusion in the field of neurobiology. All involved seem to agree that the input to the neuron is that of two single-opponent neurons itself. In this sense, the term "double-opponent" can be thought of as indicating that the dimensionality of color opponency has been doubled. However, another camp of researchers take the definition a step further and suggest that the two SO inputs are spatially offset. By this definition, the term "double-opponent" is thought to indicate that the cell is sensitive to opponency in two *different* dimensions: color and space.

The distinction is non-trivial as the response patterns differ significantly, and thus the interpretation of their role in vision differs. Truly, both types of cells may, and likely do exist in the primate visual system. However, for the purpose of our work we only consider the latter definition: double-opponent cells' receptive fields are both chromatically and spatially antagonistic.

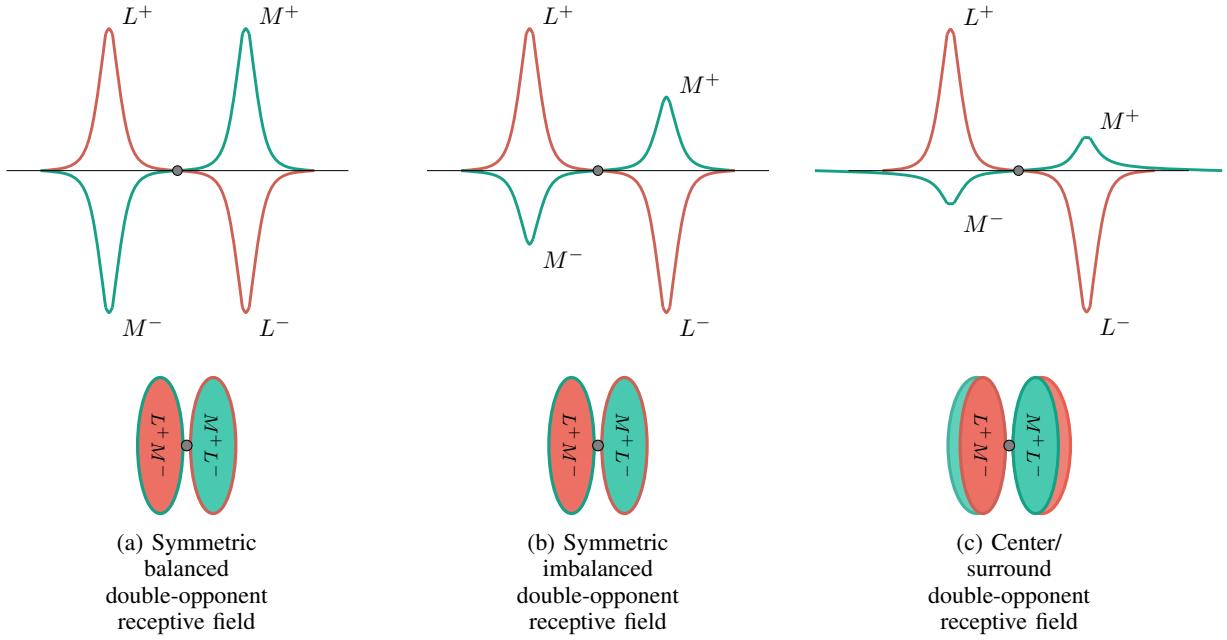


Fig. 3: Examples of various possible double-opponent receptive field configurations, many others could be designed. All function to describe color properties of borders, though their response patterns to similar stimuli vary slightly.

**Orientation Selectivity:** Research shows that cells identified as double-opponent tend to be orientation selective [4], [16], [14], [13]. That is, they respond most strongly when stimulated by a border of particular orientation, less so with variation from that preferred orientation, and weakly, if at all, to borders orthogonal to the preferred orientation. This is intuitive given the organization of the receptive field as previously defined. By arranging the components of the receptive field to be spatially antagonistic, there will be one orientation of border which best separates the two components, and another orientation, precisely orthogonal, which does not separate the two components at all. This can be easily visualized, as in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6.

It's worth noting that a single-opponent neuron can also be selective to specific orientations. These cells have been identified in biology, though their relative abundance appears minimal. To achieve orientation selectivity, the center and/or surround receptive fields simply need to be made non-circular. However, without the balanced asymmetric *on* and *off* receptive fields from each opponent cone(s), an orientation specific single-opponent cell could never be as selective as a double-opponent cell.

**Spatial Frequency Selectivity:** Another important feature of double-opponent cells is that they are inherently sensitive to borders of specific size, or scale. Technically, we refer to such preference of 'scale' as a cell's spatial frequency selectivity. Each double-opponent neuron will be selective to a particular spatial frequency and excited less so by stimuli of spatial frequency deviating from this preference. Again, this is quite intuitively a product of the design of the neuron's receptive field and easily visualized, as in Fig. 4.

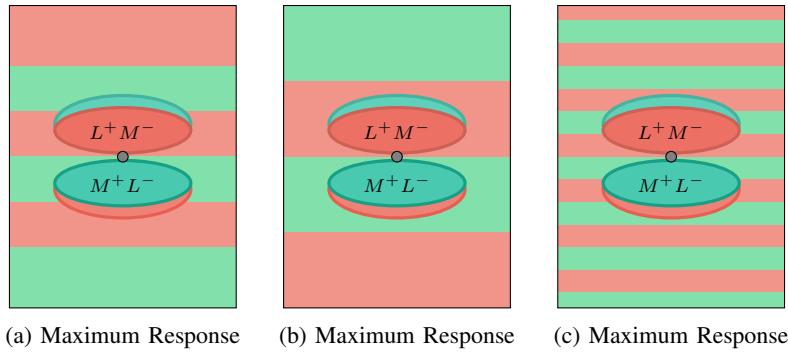


Fig. 4: A double opponent cell tuned to a particular spatial frequency. Either a (b) lower or a (c) higher spatial frequency than preferred lowers the response of the cell.

As with single-opponent cells, one of the axes of the opponent process theory is 'lightness' vs 'darkness'. While we frequently discuss opponency as being a thing of 'color', we find double-opponent cells which are specifically sensitive to luminance borders. Such achromatic sensitivity is easily achieved by balancing cone inputs into the neuron's antagonistic receptive fields, as in single-opponent cells. It behaves just as the previously described double-opponent cells, with specific orientation and spatial

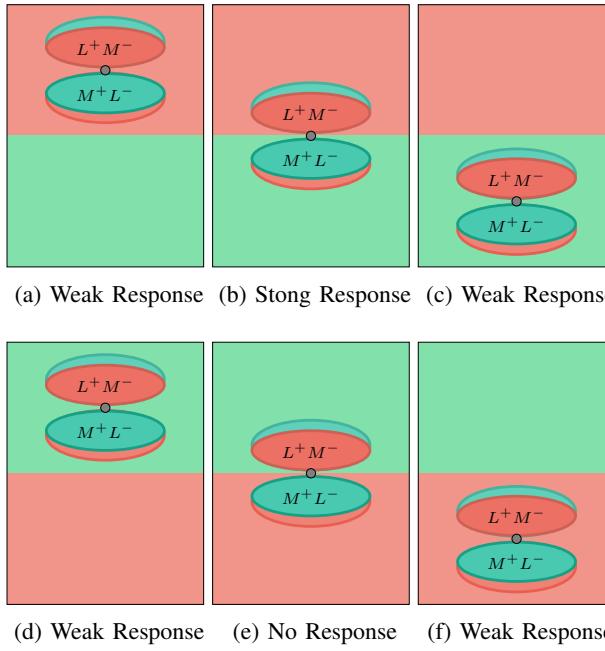


Fig. 5: A double opponent cell selective to horizontally oriented borders with red above and green below; only responsive to that particular stimulus. In Figure (b), the neuron is presented with its ideal stimulus: its  $L^+$  and  $M^+$  receptive fields are fully activated while its  $L^-$  and  $M^-$  receptive fields are completely unactivated. Figure (e) presents the neuron with the exact opposite stimulus, neither its  $L^+$  nor  $M^+$  receptive fields are activated at all, and both its  $L^-$  and  $M^-$  receptive fields are fully activated, ensuring no response possible from the cell. While its  $L^+$  receptive field might be strongly stimulated in (a) and (f), it's  $L^-$  receptive field cancels it out. Similarly, in (c) and (d) its  $M^+$  receptive field is stimulated but cancelled out by activity in its  $M^-$  receptive field.

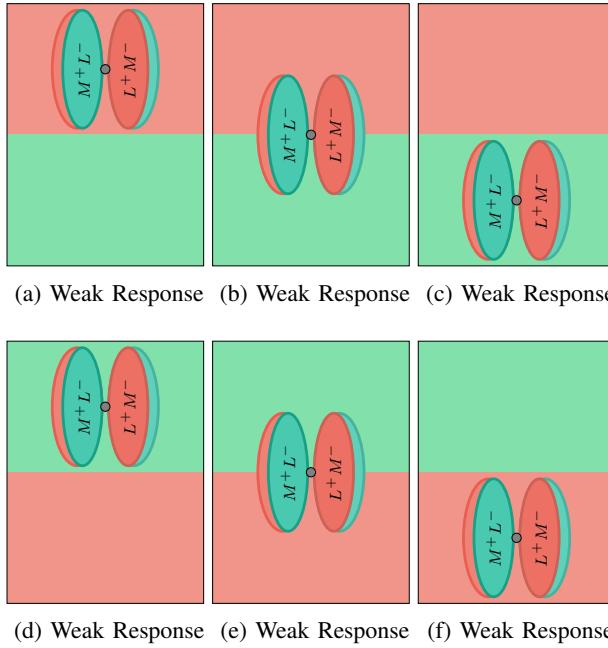


Fig. 6: A double opponent cell selective to vertically oriented borders with red to the right and green on the left; completely unresponsive to a horizontal border. While its  $L^+$  receptive field might be strongly stimulated in (a) and (f), it's  $L^-$  receptive field cancels it out. Similarly, in (c) and (d) its  $M^+$  receptive field is stimulated but cancelled out by activity in its  $M^-$  receptive field. In (b) and (e) both of its  $L^+$  and  $M^+$  receptive fields are moderately activated, but again, cancelled out by activation in its  $L^-$  and  $M^-$  receptive fields, respectively.

frequency selectivity, but responds best to luminance borders rather than chromatic borders. For more details on achromatic receptive fields, please refer back to the section on *Achromatic Single-Opponent Neurons*. It is important to reiterate here that the *on* and *off* inputs to light and dark sensitive single-opponent cells are balanced, whereas their chromatic sensitive counterparts are imbalanced in inputs. This has the implication at the double-opponent level that light and dark double-opponent cells are redundant, as can be seen in Figures 9a and 9b. This is in contrast to the chromatic double-opponent cells depicted in Fig. 9 which differentiate themselves from their opponent pair by imbalanced inputs from the same cones.

### *Hypercolumns*

Thus far we have defined two broad classes of neurons in the primate visual system: single-opponent and double-opponent. Each class has a number of parameters which dictate what stimuli the cell should respond to: opponent color, orientation selectivity, and spatial frequency. A single cell can only be sensitive to a specific combination of settings for each parameter. However, for each parameter it is important to have neurons sensitive to the full range of parameters. Thus, it is necessary to have a collection of neurons which together cover the complete combinatorial set of settings for all parameters.

Furthermore, as may be obvious, the receptive field of a neuron in V1 is directly **connected/related/tied** (???) to a set of neurons in the retina. That is, neurons in V1 are sensitive only to activity at a particular physical location on the retina; V1 is *retinotopic*, or retinally mapped.

The implication is that for each retinal position, in V1 it is necessary to have a large number of both single-opponent and double-opponent cells, selective to the full gamut of parameters possible for each type of cell. Biologically, these collections of cells are organized in *hypercolumns*, a physical grouping of cells in which neuronal connections 'up' and 'down' within the column are much more dense than extensions to cells in other columns. Within a single hypercolumn, all cells are sensitive to a specific retinal location, but together express sensitivity to the full range of parameters.

### *B. Computational Modeling:*

The model described in this research is an extension of that presented by Penacchio *et al.* [10], itself based on work by Z. Li [6], [7]. Before detailing our implementation, it is important to review prior art; these works and others. As our goal is to model the behavior of color preferring and achromatic single-opponent and double-opponent neurons, we will also review other computational endeavors tackling the issue of color and/or form from a biologically inspired perspective.

#### *Li's Neurodynamical Model for Segmentation [7]*

In Li's original work, a neurodynamical model was presented which focused on global region segmentation using only local interactions between neurons. In the interest of simplicity, Li's implementation dealt only with the nature of these interactions, ignoring where the stimulus, or information, might be coming from. Conceptually, Li defined neurons by their physical position in the image and the 'feature' to which they are sensitive. She then defined the connections between these neurons such that those physically close to each other, and sensitive to similar features, interacted most strongly. Stimulation of one neuron, then, positively stimulated (excited) similar neurons nearby, and negatively stimulated (inhibited) dissimilar neurons nearby. Such excitation and inhibition cascades through the network naturally, producing large scale response patterns defined only by local stimuli.

In the model presented, Li used oriented bars as features, though expressed that any logical feature could be reasonably considered in its place. This choice was biologically inspired by neurons sensitive to specifically oriented bars, the aforementioned double-opponent cells. When considering such features, inter-neuronal connections can be logically deduced: two neurons positively interact most when both 1) are sensitive to similarly oriented bars and 2) are co-located along that same orientation. Two neurons negatively interact most when either of these two conditions is not met.

By defining neuronal connectivity in this manner, patterns of neurons sensitive to co-located and co-aligned bars positively interact with each other to enhance their collective response to the stimuli. Similarly, incoherent stimuli negatively interact with their neighbors and are silenced. From these local interactions, global features are enhanced if they satisfy the connectivity rules, and noise is suppressed. Li showed that this method can be used to enhance contours and identify boundaries between regions for which normal segmentation methods struggle.

#### *Penacchio, Otazu, & Dempere-Marco's Neurodynamical Model for Brightness Induction [10]*

Li's work laid the foundation for Penacchio *et al.*, who extended and generalized the model to a flexible framework. Most importantly, they dealt with the question which Li had previously not: what is meaningful input to the neurodynamical model? In Li's model, neurons responded to oriented 'bars' which were, it is assumed, provided to the retinotopic neurodynamical model directly. Penacchio *et al.* utilized a discrete wavelet transform (DWT) to decompose real images into their oriented multiresolution components, which then served as the input to the Li's model.

In the context of the previously described neurobiology, this multiresolution decomposition, when applied to grayscale images, could be interpreted as modeling the response patterns of achromatic double-opponent cells. Their findings were positive as the

neurodynamical model modeled the interactions between these cells, increasing saliency and simulating brightness induction (BI) phenomena at high contrast borders.

A byproduct of using a DWT to obtain input was that they did not just obtain oriented edge information, but multiresolution oriented edge information. This added another dimension to the hypercolumn model: for each retinotopic position, they modeled the activity and interactions of achromatic double-opponent cells with both orientation and spatial frequency selectivity. Introducing this extra dimension of input information required the specification of interactions between neurons of differing spatial frequency selectivity in the dynamical model.

As mentioned, our work is a direct continuation of this research line. Thus, we build on this model, introducing yet another dimension to the hypercolumn model: color. Similarly, it will be necessary that we introduce biologically meaningful interactions between neurons of differing chromatic selectivity to the dynamical model.

### *Itti, Koch, & Niebur's Model for Saliency [3]*

Itti *et al.* implemented a biologically inspired model of visual attention, or saliency. This work included opponent processing of color, center/surround receptive fields at scales, and orientation selectivity. Because of these features, and their overlap with our own goals, we acknowledge it as an influential work.

In this model color is included by treating the RGB image as analogous for L, M, and S cone activity. From this Red, Green, Blue, and Yellow color components, as well as a single Intensity component is derived, using the following formulae:

$$\text{Intensity} = \frac{(L + M + S)}{3} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Red} = \max(0, L - \frac{(M + S)}{2}) \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Green} = \max(0, M - \frac{(L + S)}{2}) \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Blue} = \max(0, S - \frac{(L + M)}{2}) \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Yellow} = \max(0, \frac{(L + M)}{2} - \frac{|(L + M)|}{2} - S) \quad (5)$$

Each of the  $L$ ,  $M$ , and  $S$  (RGB) channels are normalized by  $I$  in order to decouple hue from intensity. These derived color components (and intensity) are computed for a set of images convolved in a *Gaussian pyramid* and contrasted across scales to obtain center/surround opponent color (and intensity) channels:

$$\text{Intensity}(c, s) = |I(c) \ominus I(s)| \quad (6)$$

$$\text{RedGreen}(c, s) = |(R(c) - I(s)) \ominus (G(s) - R(s))| \quad (7)$$

$$\text{BlueYellow}(c, s) = |(B(c) - Y(s)) \ominus (Y(s) - B(s))| \quad (8)$$

Itti *et al.* also compute orientation features by deconvolving  $I$  with oriented *Gabor pyramids* at scale  $(O(\sigma, \theta))$ . These responses are then contrasted across scales to obtain orientation feature maps  $(O(c, s, \theta))$ :

$$O(c, s, \theta) = |O(c, \theta) \ominus O(s, \theta)| \quad (9)$$

Biologically, such features could be considered representative of achromatic double-opponent cells. Similar to the features obtained by Penacchio *et al.*'s use of discrete wavelet transforms (DWT), they include information about the intensity, position, and orientation of edges.

This set of 42 feature maps; intensity at 6 scales, 2 opponent colors at 6 scales each, and 4 orientations at 6 scales each, provide input for a dynamical neural network. In their neurodynamical model of saliency, each point of the feature maps represents activity of a neuron and interactions between neurons ensure that only the most active locations remain, while all others are suppressed.

### *Yang, Gao, Li & Li's Model of Boundary Detection [19]*

Yang *et al.* developed a biologically inspired system of edge detection. To this end, they implemented a model of chromatic double-opponent receptive fields constructed from asymmetric gaussian filters. The first step in their algorithm is to transform the RGB input image to red, green, blue, and yellow opponent color channels. Their approach simply utilizes the red, green, and blue color channels as they are, and define yellow to be the average of red and green input.

$$Red = R \quad (10)$$

$$Green = G \quad (11)$$

$$Blue = B \quad (12)$$

$$Yellow = \frac{R + G}{2} \quad (13)$$

These four color components are then convolved with centered, circular gaussian filters. This can be interpreted as modeling the receptive fields of chromatic single-opponent cells. These single-opponent cell responses are then combined in spatially opponent pairs to derive models of chromatic double-opponent cells.

For their purposes of boundary detection, they evaluate their modeling of double-opponent cells only, discarding single-opponent cell responses. However, their implementation of single-opponent cells is perfectly reasonable and taken as inspiration in our work. The primary shortcoming of the research by Zhang *et al.* lies in the description of color itself; while convenient, it is not supported by biology thus needs to be rethought.

#### *Zhang, Barhomi, & Serre's Biologically Inspired Color Descriptor [20]*

Zhang *et al.* introduce a computational color descriptor which integrates color and form. They specifically aim to model the behavior of single-opponent and double-opponent cells in the primate visual system. To do so, they consider the three classical opponent axes (Red-Green, Blue-Yellow, Light-Dark), as well as a fourth (Red-Cyan), omitted here.

Single-opponent cells' responses are modeled by first convolving the RGB input with a center ( $c$ ) surround ( $s$ ) filters, and then applying the following transformations:

$$Light(c, s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}L(c) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}M(c) + \frac{-1}{\sqrt{3}}S(s) \quad (14)$$

$$Dark(c, s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}S(c) + \frac{-1}{\sqrt{3}}L(s) + \frac{-1}{\sqrt{3}}M(s) \quad (15)$$

$$Red(c, s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}L(c) + \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}}M(s) \quad (16)$$

$$Green(c, s) = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}}L(s) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}M(c) \quad (17)$$

$$Blue(c, s) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}S(c) + \frac{-1}{\sqrt{6}}L(s) + \frac{-1}{\sqrt{6}}M(s) \quad (18)$$

$$Yellow(c, s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}L(c) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}M(c) + \frac{-2}{\sqrt{6}}S(s) \quad (19)$$

In this work the team explored three means of modeling single-opponent centers and surrounds: gradient operator, Gabor filters, and Gaussian derivatives. It is important to note that each of these models of receptive fields were oriented, and thus the models of single-opponent neurons presented were, at least weakly, oriented.

To model double-opponent cell responses, the output from single-opponent cells are further convolved with a number of oriented filters. These convolutions are then summed over phase and opponent pairs to yield three spatially and chromatically opponent channels; Light-Dark, Red-Green, and Blue-Yellow (as well as Red-Cyan in their work).

The output of their model is a set of feature maps representing the response patterns of single-opponent and double-opponent neurons selective to specific orientations. Thus, this work is particularly influential to ours.

#### *Spitzer & Barkan's Model of Color Induction [18]*

Spitzer *et al.* implemented a computational model of color induction by processing center and surround receptive fields of single and double-opponent neurons. While we also aim to model color induction, as well as brightness induction, our approach differs significantly from theirs. Our model seeks to introduce induction effects primarily through its neurodynamical component, while theirs relies mostly on center and surround (and remote) effects introduced by the cells' receptive fields, as well as a temporal adaptation function.

Another important difference is that their implementation considered double-opponent cells to be circular concentric. That is, they accepted the definition of double-opponent cells which we discarded in our research (see *Double-Opponent Neurons* above). Using this definition of double-opponent cells, Spitzer *et al.* were able to model well chromatic induction and simultaneous contrast effects, though their model was not sensitive to oriented edges.

In their model they defined four opponent color components; red, green, blue, and yellow:

$$Red(c, s) = L(c) - M(s) \quad (20)$$

$$Green(c, s) = M(c) - L(s) \quad (21)$$

$$Blue(c, s) = S(c) - \frac{L(s) - M(s)}{2} \quad (22)$$

$$Yellow(c, s) = \frac{L(c) - M(c)}{2} - S(s) \quad (23)$$

This definition of the opponent color process seems, to us, more biologically plausible than those presented by Itti *et al.* [3], Yang *et al.* [19], or Zhang *et al.* [20]. Thusly, it will form the basis for our opponent color transformation, presented in the *Method* section below.

### Comparison of Models

Our current work is a direct continuation of the research presented in the first two of these computational models. The latter four represent but a small selection of the wealth of effort being put into computationally describing color in a biologically plausible manner. It is important to recognize that these five models each had different specific research goals and so do not intend to be directly compared to one another. We present them here to frame our current work. Table ?? presents the features implemented in these models with respect to the goals of our work. This comparison elucidates our intentions: to bring biologically inspired descriptions of color to the neurodynamical processing model developed by Penacchio [10] and Li [7].

TABLE I: Comparison of computational models relevant to our current work.

	Proposed Model	Penacchio [10]	Li [7]	Itti [3]	Spitzer [18]	Yang [19]	Zhang [20]
Dynamical	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Intensity	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Colors	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Scales	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Orientations	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
SO	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
DO	Y	Y (achromatic)	N	Y	Y (concentric)	Y	Y
SO RF	Gaussian / DWT	N/A	N/A	Gaussian Pyramid	Gaussian	Gaussian	Difference of Gaussians
DO RF	Gabor-like Gaussians / DWT	DWT	N/A	Gabor Pyramid	Gabor	Gabor-like Gaussians	Difference of Gaussians
Goal	Color Induction	Brightness Induction	Saliency	Saliency	Color Induction	Edge Detection	Color Descriptor
Definition of criteria:							
Dynamical:	Does the work attempt to model neurodynamical processes?						
Intensity:	Does the work consider achromatic differences as features?						
Colors:	Does the work consider chromatic differences as features?						
Scales:	Does the work separate information at different scales?						
Orientations:	If incorporating edge/boundary features, does the work distinguish between orientations?						
SO:	Does the work attempt to model single-opponent cell behavior, directly or indirectly?						
DO:	Does the work attempt to model double-opponent cell behavior, directly or indirectly?						
SO RF:	If modeling single-opponent cells, how are their receptive fields defined?						
DO RF:	If modeling double-opponent cells, how are their receptive fields defined?						
Goal:	Generally speaking, what was the purpose of the modeling effort?						

### C. Summary

We define single-opponent neurons to possess classical center/surround receptive fields for processing cone input into opponent colors. We define double-opponent neurons to be spatially opposed combinations of single-opponent neurons. We recognize both achromatic and chromatic flavors of these cells, explaining the three axes of the opponent colorspace. By these definitions, we expect single-opponent neurons to respond best to fill field stimulation while double-opponent neurons fire only at boundaries. This understanding treats color and shape as intrinsically connected and, as a consequence, predicts perceptual phenomena such as color induction to arise very early in visual processing.

In the *Method* section which follows, we describe two means by which we incorporate a biologically plausible descriptor of opponent color information into a neurodynamical model. Further still, we extend the model developed by Penacchio *et al.* [10] to include logical interactions between single-opponent and double-opponent neurons of individual specificities; color, orientation, and spatial frequency.

### III. METHOD

We present a computational model designed to be representative of the aforementioned biology. The implementation of this model can be conceived of as two distinct parts:

- *Description of Visual Information*: transformation of image(s) into a biologically meaningful representation.
- *Neurodynamical Processing*: iterative processing of the dynamic interactions between the neurons modeled.

#### Description of Visual Information

In accordance with the understanding of biology presented, we propose that a biologically plausible color descriptor should 1) separate opponent color components from each other, and 2) separate surface information from boundary information. We describe two different approaches to this end. The first approach, herein referred to in prolixity as the "*Opponent Processing of Neural Receptive Fields*", represents an effort to explicitly transform raw visual data in strict accordance with neurobiological theory. Essentially attempting to mimic the information processing pathways of the retina, lateral geniculate nucleus (LGN), and striate cortex (V1). The second approach, termed with equal verbosity, is the "*Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent*

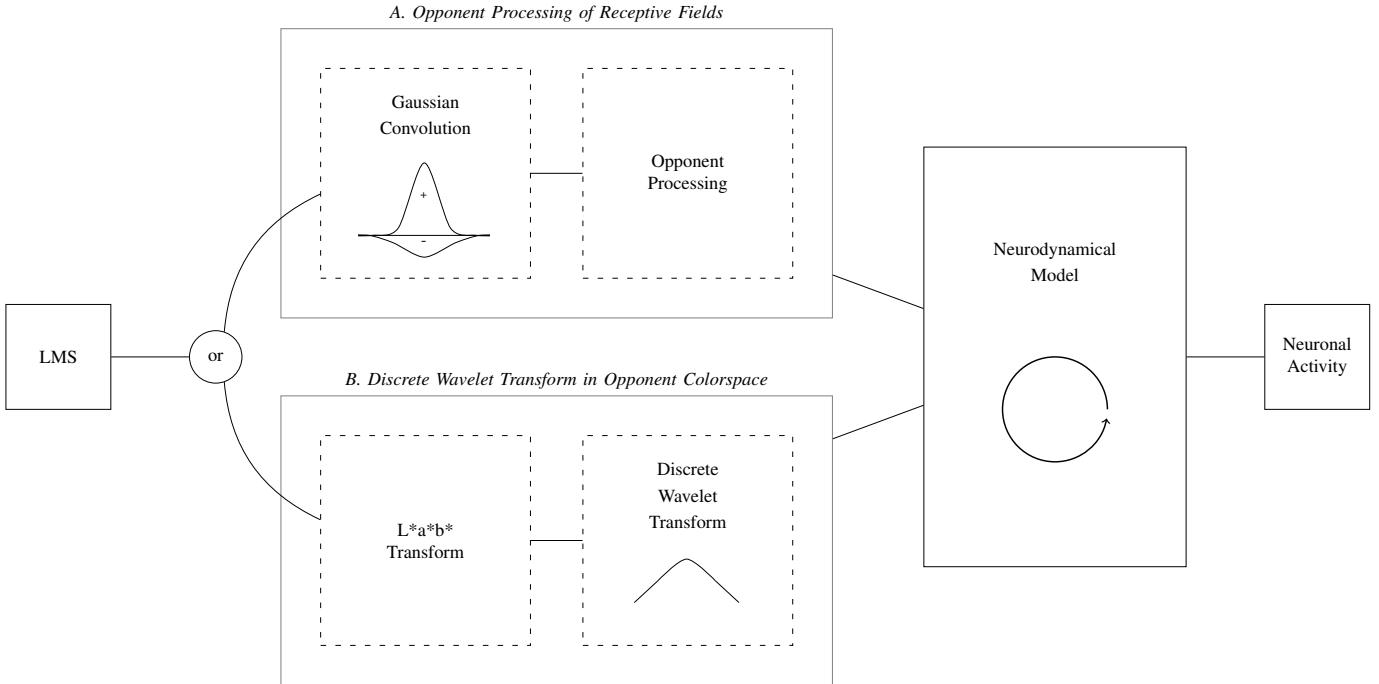


Fig. 7: Workflow diagram of algorithm at its highest level. Data can be processed through either *A. Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* or *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace*. This is then fed into the neurodynamical model which outputs a map of neuronal activity.

*Colorspace*". Here we stray from the details of the biological pathways in an attempt to achieve the same end, through more computationally efficient means.

In both, the input is a normal RGB image, and the output to the neurodynamical model is a 5 dimensional matrix containing 6 opponent color channels (*Light, Dark, Red, Green, Blue, & Yellow*), each decomposed into its surface and oriented edge components, at 1 or more scales. In this work we consider just 3 directions of orientation preference at edges: horizontal, diagonal, & vertical. Before processing by the neurodynamical model, this data is normalized so as to circumvent differences between the data output by these two methods. This normalization step is described in more detail in the section on *Neurodynamical Processing*.

#### A. Opponent Processing of Neural Receptive Fields

Processing starts by convolving each of the L, M, and S cone spectral response functions with two different gaussian filters. These convolutions simulate integration of information in a neuron's receptive field. One convolution is used to build the center receptive field, the other convolution, the surround.

Single-opponent cells' receptive fields are the classical center-surround configuration: symmetric, centered, circular gaussians. Typically, the center is smaller and weighed significantly more heavily than the surround, as in Fig. 2c. Double-opponent receptive fields are markedly more complex: asymmetrical, off-center, elongated gaussian filters. Similarly, these filters can be adjusted to different sizes, shapes, and weights. For our tests we worked with symmetric balanced receptive fields, as in Fig. 3c.

To construct opponent color channels, we contrast center (*c*) and surround (*s*) convolutions of the L, M, and S channels into three pairs: two color and one achromatic.

$$\text{Light}(c, s, \sigma) = \max(0, (\frac{L(c, \sigma) + M(c, \sigma)}{2} - 0.5) - (\frac{L(s, \sigma) + M(s, \sigma)}{2} - 0.5)) \quad (24)$$

$$\text{Dark}(c, s, \sigma) = \max(0, (\frac{L(s, \sigma) + M(s, \sigma)}{2} - 0.5) - (\frac{L(c, \sigma) + M(c, \sigma)}{2} - 0.5)) \quad (25)$$

$$\text{Red}(c, s, \sigma) = \max(0, L(c, \sigma) - M(s, \sigma)) \quad (26)$$

$$\text{Green}(c, s, \sigma) = \max(0, M(c, \sigma) - L(s, \sigma)) \quad (27)$$

$$\text{Blue}(c, s, \sigma) = \max(0, S(c, \sigma) - \frac{L(s, \sigma) + M(s, \sigma)}{2}) \quad (28)$$

$$\text{Yellow}(c, s, \sigma) = \max(0, \frac{L(c, \sigma) + M(c, \sigma)}{2} - S(s, \sigma)) \quad (29)$$

A schematic of this workflow is presented in Fig. 8. It is clear from this schematic, and the equations above, that L and M input are significantly overrepresented. This reflects the biological overrepresentation of the evolutionarily older L and M pathways in human vision, and is more in line with, say, work by Spitzer *et al.* [18] than Itti *et al.* [3]. Our equations for Light and Dark, however, are novel.

Because the inputs to the Light and Dark receptive fields come from the same cones (L and M), classical opponent center/surround receptive fields will not function to capture both Light and Dark. This can be easily seen in Fig. 8; while the Light, Red, Green, Blue, and Yellow all have *on* centers and *off* surrounds, Dark has an *on* surround and an *off* center. This is supported by literature [13] but introduces issues. For example, by having Light and Dark activity be almost completely complementary, we find double-opponent activity in these channels to be almost completely redundant, as can be seen in the Appendix, Fig. 21.

Double-opponent cells' responses constructed along the same workflow as single-opponent cells', though their receptive fields are different, Fig. 9. Different responses are obtained for each preferred orientation by convolving the image with oriented receptive fields. In this work we considered only three basic orientations: horizontal, vertical, and diagonal.

In our implementation, for convenience, we utilize the R, G, and B channels of the raw image as an approximation of L, M, and S cone activity, respectively. It should be noted that this is not biologically reasonable and a preprocessing step should be performed to obtain input more representative of L, M, and S cone spectral responses.

Both single and double-opponent responses are obtained at a number of scales, depending on the size of the input image. To achieve this, the size of the gaussian used to convolve the images are increased exponentially by scale. This reflects neurons' spatial frequency selectivity and confers a degree of scale invariance to the model.

To summarize, this first of two approaches to color description aims to be true to the biology at all cost. We explicitly model the receptive fields of both single-opponent and double-opponent neurons. These receptive fields are used to transduce retinal activity of L, M, and S cones into the cell activity expected in V1. By defining the receptive fields explicitly, we obtain a large degree of control over the response patterns. However, biologically meaningful tuning of these parameters may be impossible given the current understanding of cells' receptive fields. Finally, it is worth noting that this approach involves a large number of convolutions and proves to be relatively slow; orders of magnitude slower than the next approach we will present. This performance penalty, however, is a one time cost as the input is prepared, it does not affect the performance of the neurodynamical model in any way.

### B. Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace

Previous work by Penacchio *et al.* [10] utilized a discrete wavelet transform (DWT) to decompose a greyscale image into its oriented edge components, at scales. In the context of our current research, this could be thought of as representing achromatic double-opponent cells; the response is greatest at luminance boundaries and nonexistent on surfaces or at chromatic changes. In this work we extend their approach to the opponent colorspace and examine its applicability as a replacement of the previously detailed *Opponent Processing of Neural Receptive Fields*.

Unlike the previously presented color descriptor, this transformation begins not with the convolution step, but instead with a colorspace transformation. We convert the image from RGB to *CIE L\*a\*b\**. This colorspace separates luminance from its two opponent color channels. The two color channels are 0 centered; with positive and negative values in *a\** denoting redness and greenness, respectively, while positive and negative values in the *b\** channel indicate blueness and yellowness, respectively. The luminance channel, *L\**, scales from 0 to 100, 0 being total darkness, 100 being pure brightness. We subtract 50 from this channel to obtain a 0 centered range of luminance. We consider positive values to define lightness and negative values darkness.

We then obtain the DWT in this modified *CIE L\*a\*b\** colorspace. Similar to the gaussian convolutions in the previous method, this transformation can be interpreted as representing processing in a cell's receptive field. That is, the activity of a particular cell is now defined not just by its own activity, but also of the activity of the cells around it.



Fig. 8: Diagram of *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* workflow. The L, M, and S channels are convolved with center and surround gaussians and then combined to build opponent colors, here exemplified by single-opponent cell receptive fields. The process is similar for double-opponent cells.

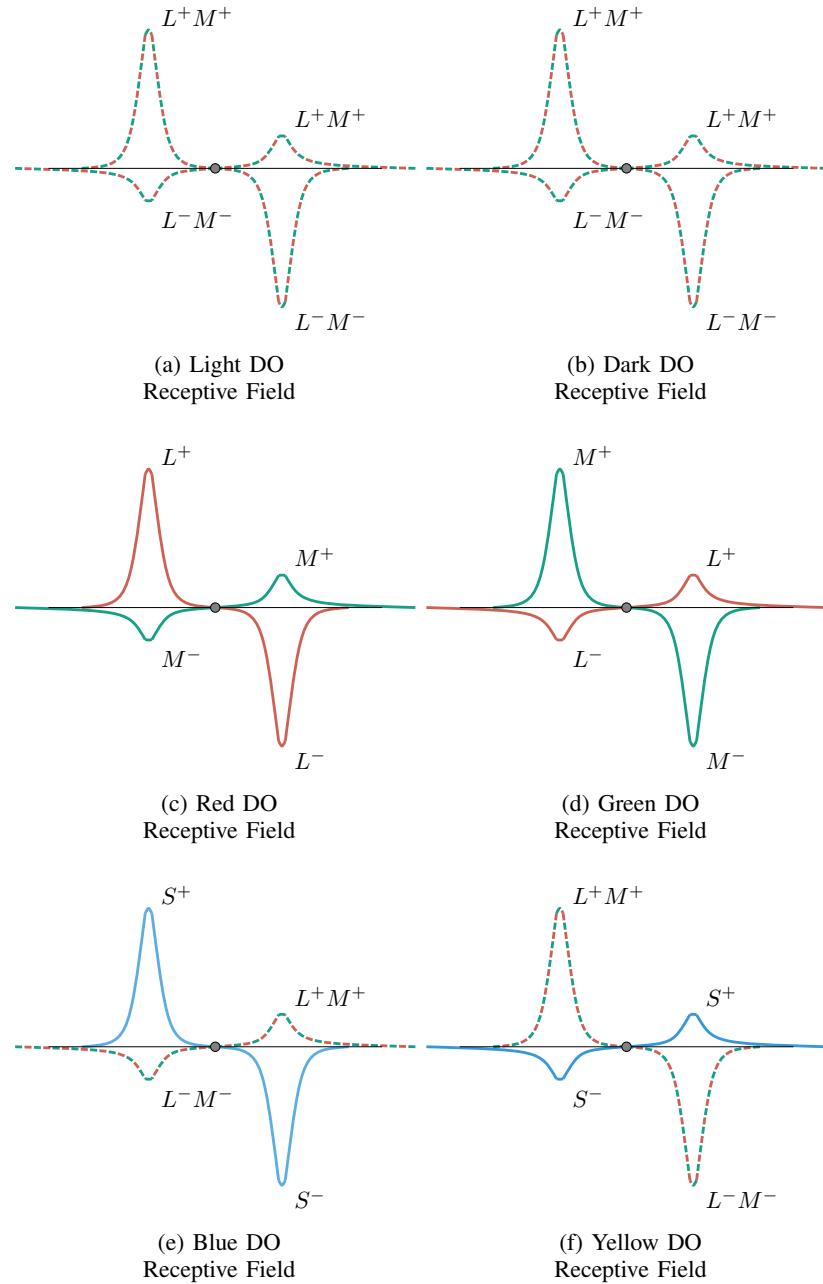
Fig. 9: Double-opponent receptive fields utilized in *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields*.



Fig. 10: Schematic of orientation selectivity in double-opponent receptive field configurations.

Following multiresolution and orientation decomposition, all wavelet and residual planes are 0 centered, thus we can easily split them into independent opponent components:

$$\text{Light} = \max(0, L^* - 50) \quad (30)$$

$$\text{Dark} = |\min(0, L^* - 50)| \quad (31)$$

$$\text{Red} = \max(0, a^*) \quad (32)$$

$$\text{Green} = |\min(0, a^*)| \quad (33)$$

$$\text{Blue} = \max(0, b^*) \quad (34)$$

$$\text{Yellow} = |\min(0, b^*)| \quad (35)$$

The result of this process can be seen in the Appendix, Fig. 22.

### *Neurodynamical Processing*

Stage I of the proposed method focuses on the description of color in a biologically meaningful form, of which we've described two distinct approaches. Stage II is to further process this data in an iterative computational model of neurodynamical processes, as defined in Equations 36 and 37. The input stimulus, from Stage I, at time  $\tau$ ,  $I_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}^\tau$  drives the model and mainly determines its response. The normalization of the stimulus at each time step is extended from that proposed by Li [7] and Penacchio [10]. We normalize within each color channel ( $\gamma$ ), scale ( $\sigma$ ), and orientation ( $\theta$ ). At the first time step,  $I_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}^1$  is used to bootstrap the model and set as the initial excitation response,  $x_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}$ .

$x_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}$  can be viewed as a model of retinotopic excitation hypercolumns in V1, with  $i$  specifying the retinally mapped location of the hypercolumn. Similarly,  $y_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}$  may be interpreted as its retinotopic inhibitory counterpart.  $\dot{x}_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}$  and  $\dot{y}_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}$ , then, are the change in excitatory and inhibitory membrane potentials over time, respectively, and follow the equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}^\tau &= -\alpha_x x_{i\gamma\sigma\theta} \\ &\quad - g_y(y_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}) \\ &\quad - \sum_{\gamma' \neq \text{opp}(\gamma), \Delta_\sigma, \Delta_\theta \neq 0} \Psi(\gamma', \Delta_\sigma, \Delta_\theta) g_y(y_{i\gamma\sigma+\Delta_\sigma\theta+\Delta_\theta}) + J_0 g_x(x_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{j \neq i, \gamma' \neq \text{opp}(\gamma), \sigma' \theta'} J_{[i\gamma\sigma\theta, j\gamma'\sigma'\theta']} g_x(x_{j\gamma'\sigma'\theta'}) \\ &\quad + I_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}^\tau \\ &\quad + I_0 \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{y}_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}^\tau &= -\alpha_y Y_{i\gamma\sigma\theta} \\ &\quad + g_x(X_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{j \neq i, \gamma' \sigma' \theta'} W_{[i\gamma\sigma\theta, j\gamma'\sigma'\theta']} g_x(x_{j\gamma'\sigma'\theta'}) \\ &\quad + I_c \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

where  $\alpha_x x_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}$  and  $\alpha_y Y_{i\gamma\sigma\theta}$  model the decay to the resting potential,  $g_x(x)$  and  $g_y(y)$  are sigmoid-like functions modeling cells' firing rates in response to membrane potentials  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively,  $\Psi(\gamma', \Delta_\sigma, \Delta_\theta) \leq 1$  is the spread of inhibition within a hypercolumn,  $J_0 g_x(x_{i\gamma\sigma\theta})$  is self-excitation, and  $I_c$  is background noise [7]. Any cell can interact with another by exciting it or inhibiting it, via monosynaptic excitation through excitatory-excitatory horizontal connections, or disynaptic inhibition through excitatory-inhibitory connections, respectively [10]. Such interactions are modeled between cells within and across hypercolumns; color, scale, and orientation, as well as between cells within and across cell classes; double-opponent and single-opponent. These cellular interactions are defined by  $J_{[i\gamma\sigma\theta, j\gamma'\sigma'\theta']}$  (excitatory) and  $W_{[i\gamma\sigma\theta, j\gamma'\sigma'\theta']}$  (inhibitory).

*Orientation ( $\theta$ ):* The excitatory and inhibitory interactions between orientation specific double-opponent cells are exactly as those defined by Penacchio [10] and Li [7]. Single-opponent cells, introduced in our work, are non-directional; they have no preferred orientation  $\theta$ .  $\Delta\theta$  is thus not computable and so this class of cells do not inhibit the activity of other cells. Single-opponent cells do not contribute to  $W$ . In order to explore 'fill in' effects, however, we support parameterization of excitatory weights to and from single-opponent and double-opponent cells. This weight functions as  $\Delta\theta$  and is equal for all preferred orientations of the double-opponent cells. These interactions are modeled by a circular-symmetric gaussian in  $J$ .

*Scale ( $\sigma$ ):* As in Penacchio [10], we decompose the input signal into signal at different scales. This reflect single-opponent and double-opponent cells' spatial frequency selectivity derived from their receptive fields. While this confers a level of scale invariance to the model, the primate visual cortex is not completely scale invariant and nor should our model be. Both image transformation methods presented in Stage I inherently represent activity at lower spatial frequencies with higher response.

*Color ( $\gamma$ ):* We introduce a novel concept to the neurodynamical model framework developed by Li [7] and Penacchio [10]: color. Unfortunately, the structural organization of color preferring cells and the connections between them is not well understood and leading theories are still quite controversial [15]. We herein define a set of *logical* rules of interaction opponent color cells (including achromatic cells).

If a cell is stimulated, it excites nearby cells of the same orientation and scale preference, in any color channel other than its opponent. Conversely, a stimulated cell will inhibit nearby cells of the same orientation and scale preference, only in its opponent color channel. For example, stimulation of a DO cell preferring 'yellow' vertical edges will excite a DO cell preferring 'red' vertical edges at the same location. It will equally excite 'green', 'light', and 'dark' cells preferring the same orientation in the same location. It will not, however, excite cells of its opponent color 'blue'. In fact, it will inhibit activity in 'blue' cells preferring this same orientation in the same location.

We propose that these rules of interaction are logical as only opponent colors are mutually exclusive. While a bluish yellow line is not permissible in the opponent colorspace, a bluish green, bluish red, bright blue, or dark blue line is entirely plausible. Each of the possible combinations are equally probable and so the excitatory-excitatory connections between cells of these color preferences are equally weighed. These excitatory and inhibitory rules are encoded in  $J$  and  $W$ , respectively.

*Activity Normalization ( $I_0$ ):* The general and local normalization of activities [2] has been extended from its use by Li [7] and Penacchio [10]. We normalize excitatory membrane potentials within double-opponent cells of similar location ( $i$ ), color ( $\gamma$ ), scale ( $\sigma$ ), and orientation ( $\theta$ ) preferences. Likewise we normalize single-opponent cells of similar location ( $i$ ), color ( $\gamma$ ), scale ( $\sigma$ ). We found it important to normalize the activity of these two classes of neurons independently as the information encoded by each is radically different: localized edge information by double-opponent cells, and extensive surface information by single-opponent cells.

#### IV. EXPERIMENTS

We evaluated the performance of our model by applying it to a number of test images seen to exhibit color induction effects. The expectation was that the model predict the perceived phenomena.

All experiments involved two or more test stimuli in which human observers can describe a difference between them. For example, most would describe the left inner ring in Fig. 1 as being green and the right inner ring as being blue. As is shown, however, the two rings are physically identical; they have the exact same pixel values.

All test images were paired such that the effects caused two physically similar regions to appear to be different. The output of the model was the retinotopic neural activity in each of the opponent channels. For each pair of test patches, we compared the activity to 1) identify differences in activity and 2) to observe differences in the direction of activity. For example, in Fig. 1 we expect to see activity in the Red-Green channel toward green for the left inner ring, and Blue-Yellow activity toward blue for the right inner ring. Because the unit of neuronal activity is arbitrary, it cannot be used to generate a color image of what the model predicts, a so called 'perceptual image'. However, the unit is self-consistent and so can be compared between the two stimuli to evaluate magnitude and direction of activity.

#### V. RESULTS

Below we present the response of each of the two models described. We averaged activity at each time step so as to obtain an overall behavior of the model. In each of the results below we present output from both the *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* and *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace* models. For both we obtain models of neural activity in each of the axes of opponent color: Light-Dark, Red-Green, and Blue-Yellow; all axes are zero centered. Higher values are represented as lighter, and lower values as darker, though each experiment is presented on its own scale so as to emphasize detail. In some experiments we isolate and enhance the region of the test stimuli in which we expect

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

We have presented our work on the introduction of biologically plausible representation of color into a neurodynamical model of V1. This is a continuation of the research published by Penacchio *et al.* [10] and there is much left to do. Specifically, we presented two approaches to color representation.

The first, which we referred to as *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields*, was an attempt to adhere to what is reported in neurobiology. We found this approach to be conceptually enticing; by processing ??? However, we found our implementation to be relatively slow, orders of magnitude slower than our second approach. In general, we found this approach to not be as sensitive to detail as the *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Space*, in Fig. ?? for example.

We also run into a significant issue in how we defined mathematically the Light and Dark opponent color components (Eqs. 24 & 25). Unlike, their chromatic counterparts, these channels are almost exactly complementary (depending on the center/surround receptive field sizes and weights). This leads to redundancy at the double-opponent level, as can be clearly seen in their receptive field diagrams (Figures 9a & 9b). This is also evident in the redundancy of their response patterns in Fig. 21. This leads to inhibition between the two opponents and they eventually cancel out, as we see in our results. The solution may just be a matter of appropriately defining sizes and weights for the center and surround receptive fields, or it may require we return to the literature to develop a better understanding of the biology, and a new mathematical model for it.

The second approach, which we referred to as *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace*, aimed to be much more computationally efficient, though it sacrificed biologically plausibility along the way. We maintain two key points of contention with the concepts behind this approach. First, as we implemented it, it depends on the *CIE L\*a\*b\** opponent colorspace which was designed to represent color in a perceptually uniform manner. However, this is not to say that it represents color in a biologically meaningful manner. Replacing this colorspace transformation with another may well satisfy these reservations. The other issue with this approach, however, is not so easily addressed. The decomposition of image data, be it through a discrete wavelet transform (DWT) or any other method of convolution, after an explicit mathematical colorspace transformation, be it *CIE L\*a\*b\** or any other, does not reflect the biological order of operations. In the *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* method, we convolve L, M, S input as we transform to the opponent colorspace, while in the *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace*, we transform to the opponent colorspace before we convolve the signal. This difference is not insignificant and leads us to favor the former method over the latter, at least in principle.

That said, the performance of the model tells us that much work is needed. In some experiments we see the predicted results for both methods of color description. For example, in Figures 17a and 18a we see both express higher blue activity for the bars which are perceived as blue (Figures 17g and 18g), though in the *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* method the blue bars also elicit higher green activity (Figures 17e). Other results are less consistent between the two methods. In Figures 15a and 16a the left rectangles are perceived as green and those to the right, yellow. The *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace* method excels, predicting both the green extreme on the left (Fig. 16e) and the yellow extreme on the right (Fig. 16g). However, *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* method predicts the opposite.

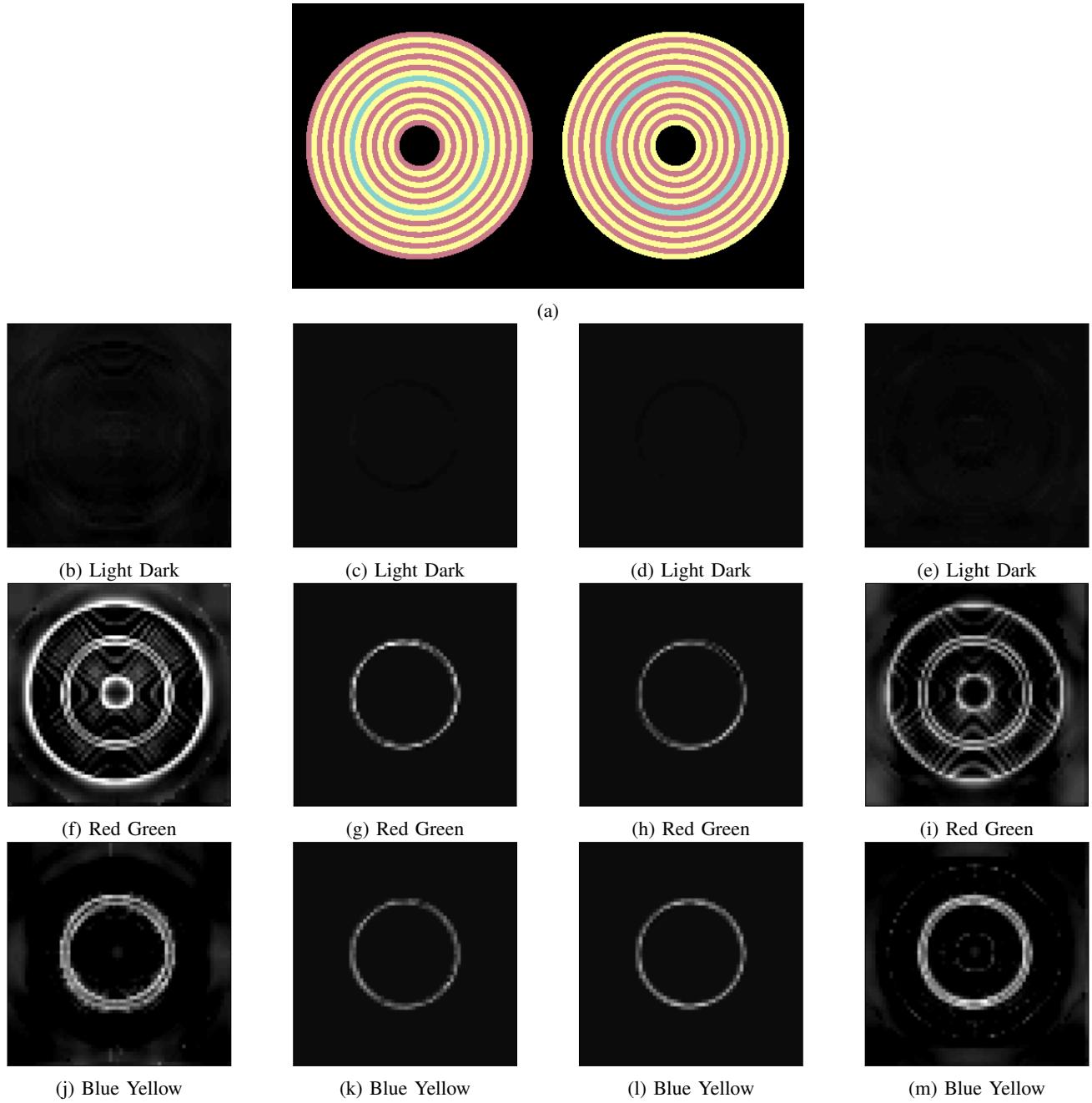


Fig. 11: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, 11a, processed by the *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* method. In 11b, 11f, and 11j we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels for the *left* stimulus (which appears green). In 11e, 11i, and 11m we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels for the *right* stimulus (which appears blue). In 11c, 11g, and 11k we mask the raw output of the *left* stimulus so as to isolate the test ring. In 11d, 11h, and 11l we mask the raw output of the *left* stimulus so as to isolate the test ring.

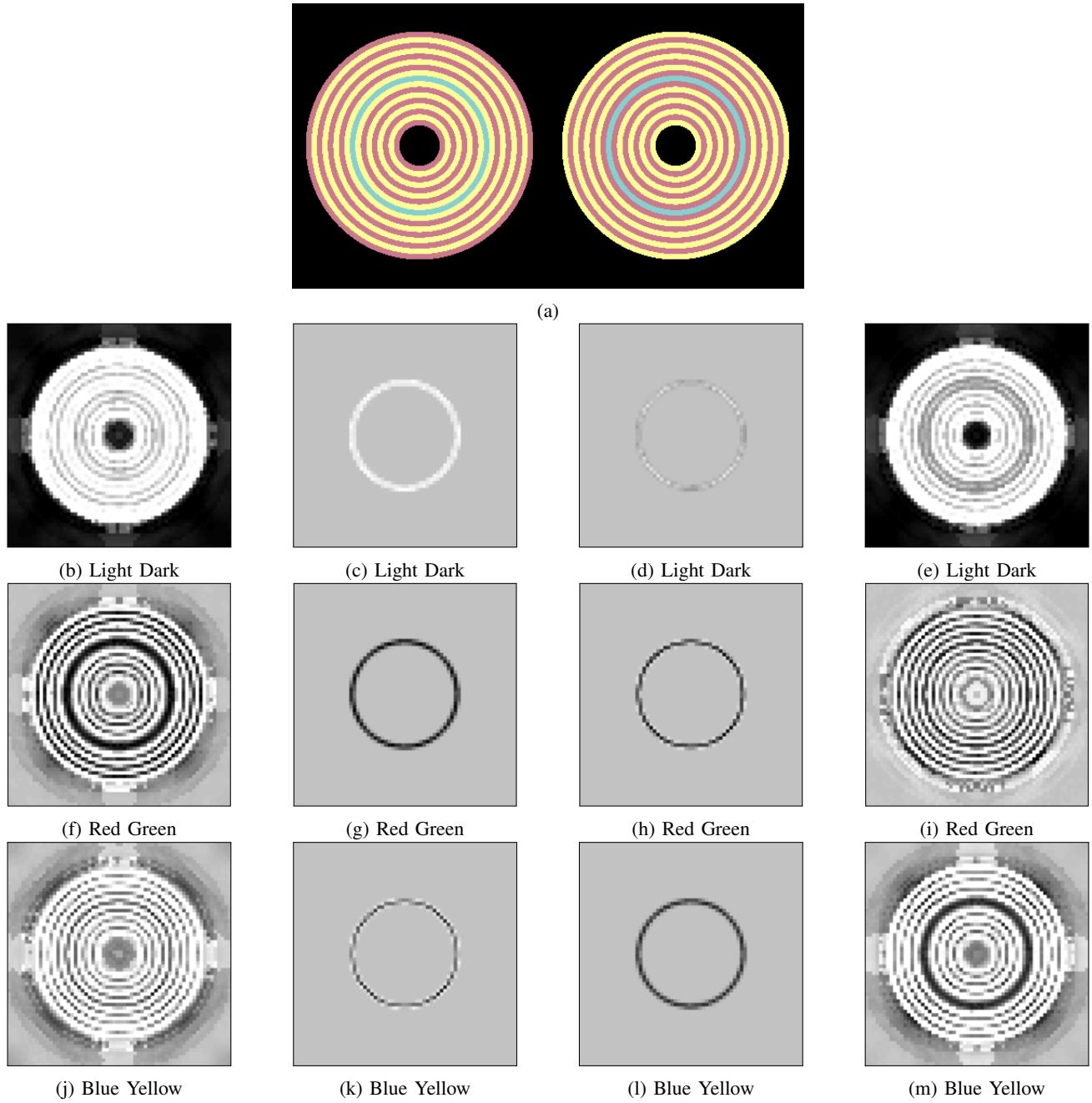


Fig. 12: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, 12a, processed by the *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace* method. In 12b, 12f, and 12j we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels for the *left* stimulus (which appears green). In 12e, 12i, and 12m we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels for the *right* stimulus (which appears blue). In 12c, 12g, and 12k we mask the raw output of the *left* stimulus so as to isolate the test ring. In 12d, 12h, and 12l we mask the raw output of the *left* stimulus so as to isolate the test ring.

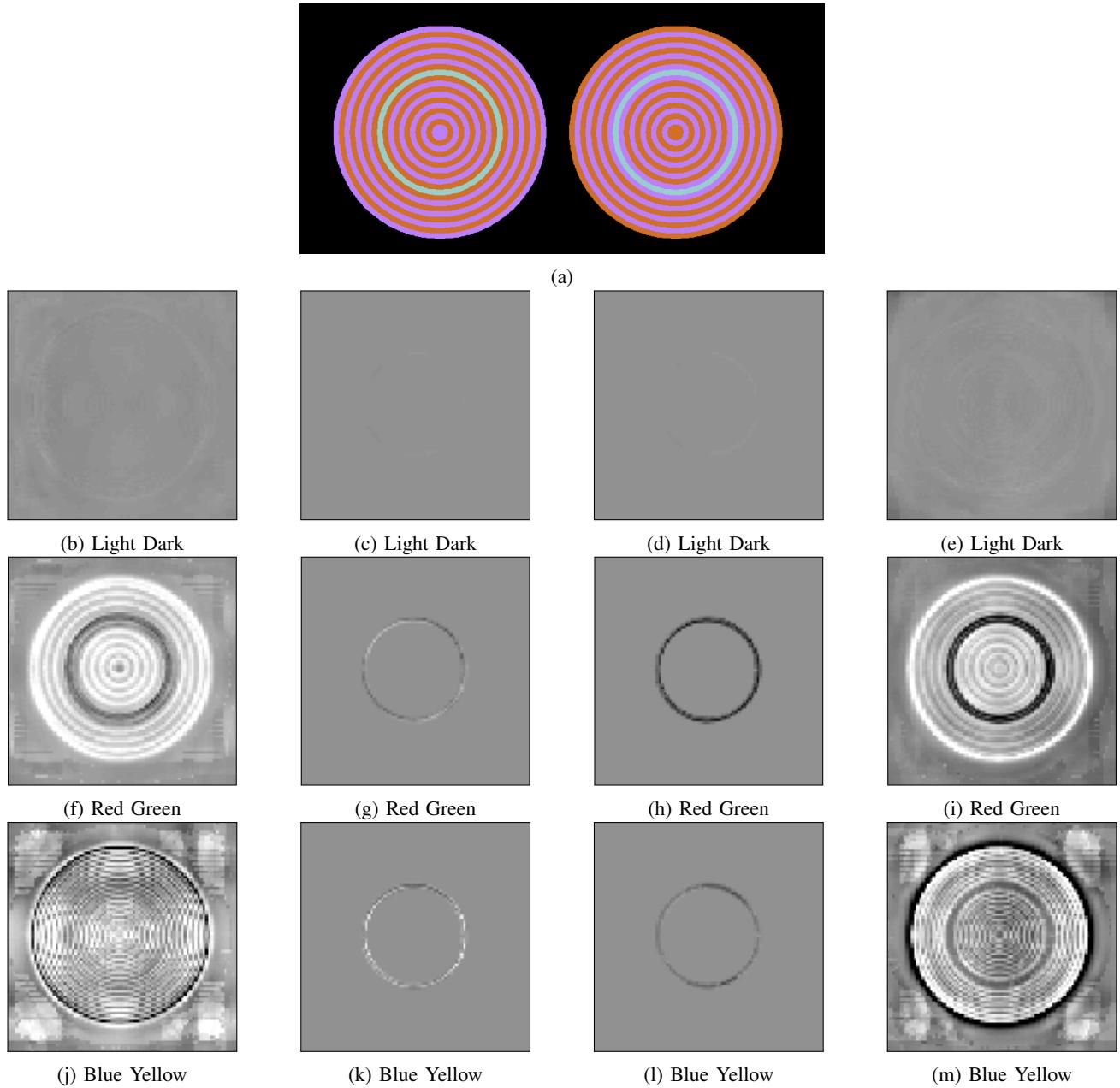


Fig. 13: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, 13a, processed by the *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* method. In 13b, 13f, and 13j we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels for the *left* stimulus (which appears green). In 13e, 13i, and 13m we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels for the *right* stimulus (which appears blue). In 13c, 13g, and 13k we mask the raw output of the *left* stimulus so as to isolate the test ring. In 13d, 13h, and 13l we mask the raw output of the *left* stimulus so as to isolate the test ring.

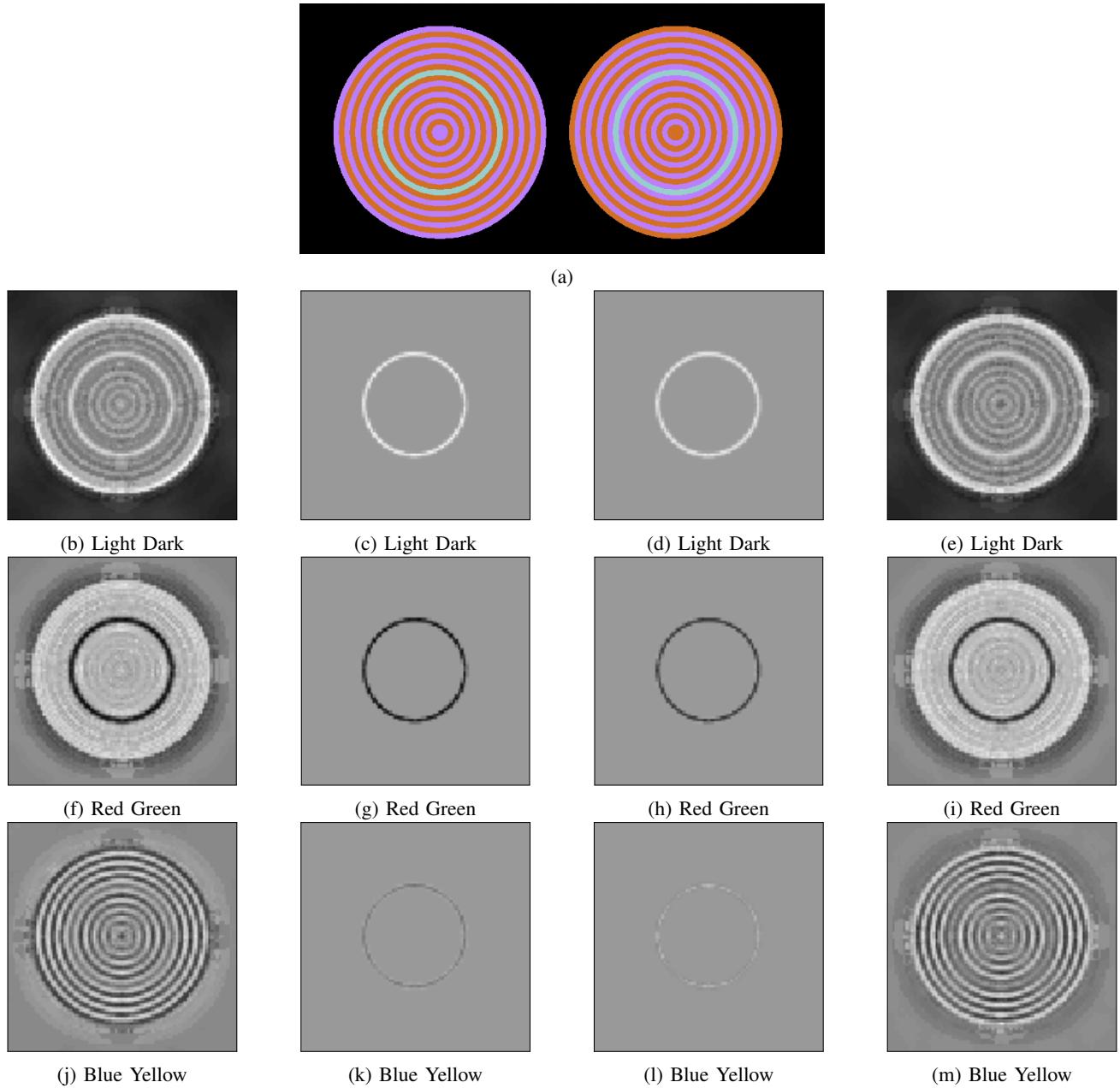


Fig. 14: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, 14a, processed by the *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace* method. In 14b, 14f, and 14j we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels for the *left* stimulus (which appears green). In 14e, 14i, and 14m we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels for the *right* stimulus (which appears blue). In 14c, 14g, and 14k we mask the raw output of the *left* stimulus so as to isolate the test ring. In 14d, 14h, and 14l we mask the raw output of the *left* stimulus so as to isolate the test ring.

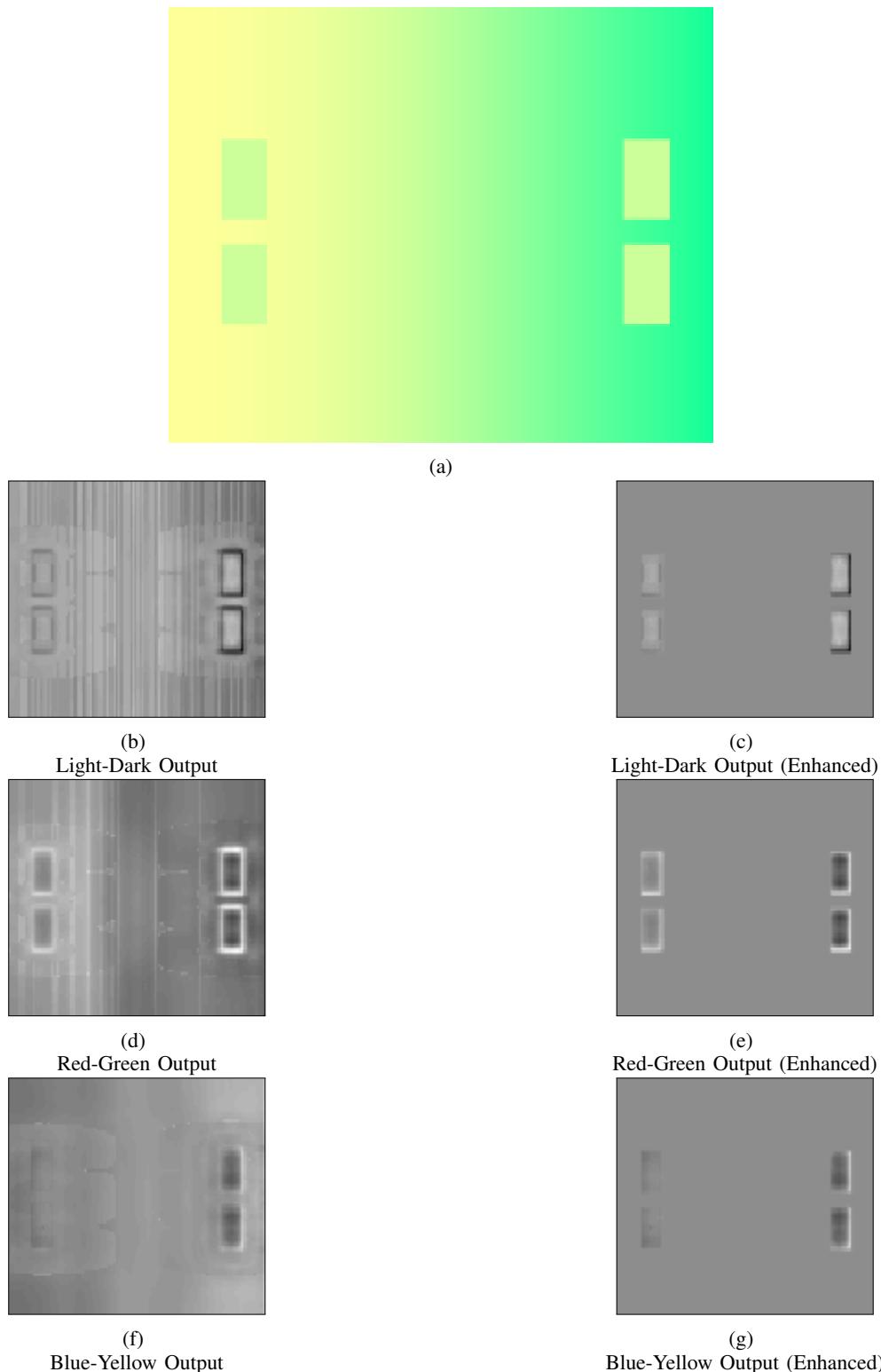


Fig. 15: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, 15a, processed by the *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* method. In 15b, 15d, and 15f we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels. In 15c, 15e, and 15g we mask the raw output so as to isolate and enhance the test patches.

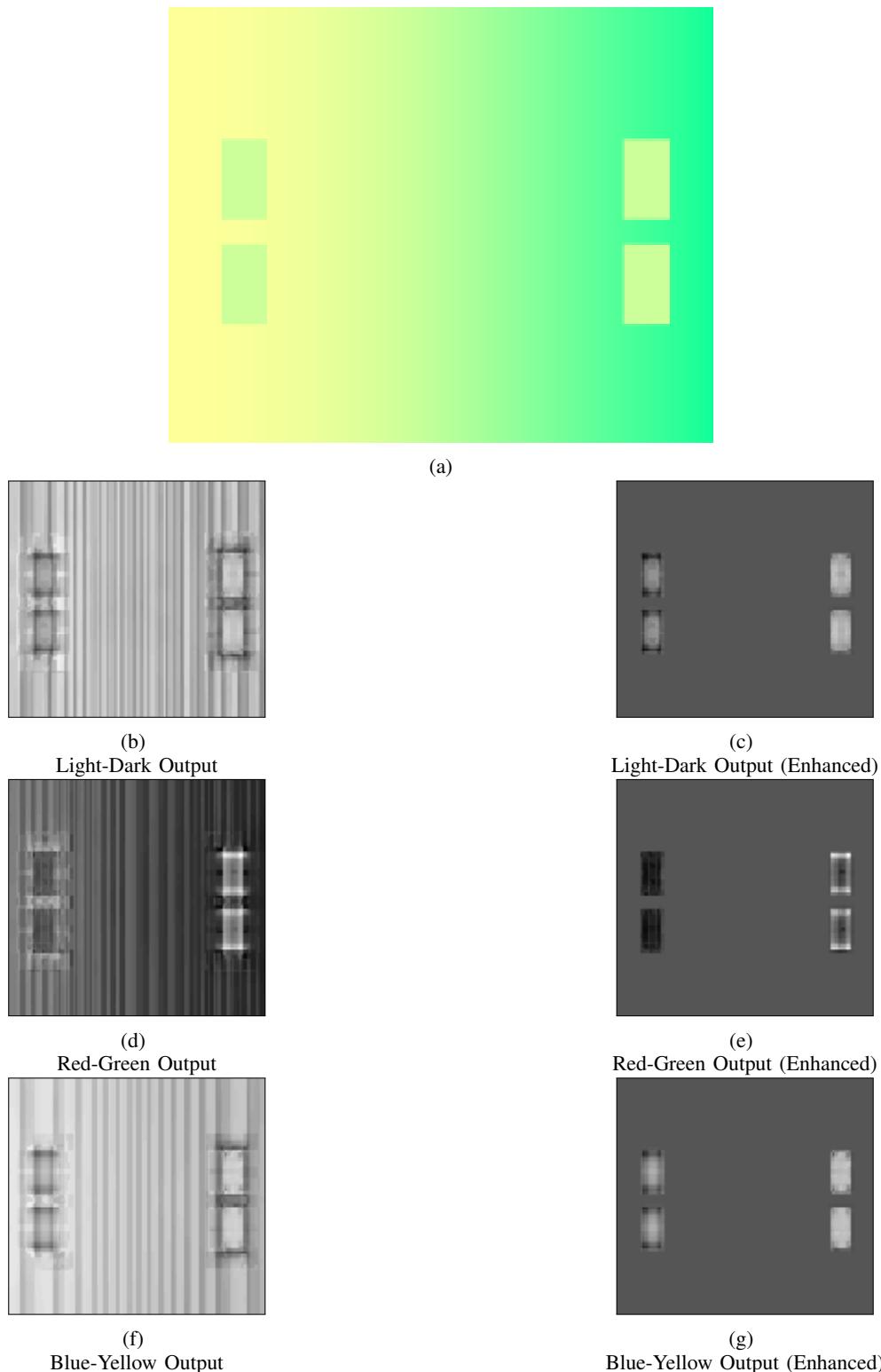


Fig. 16: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, 16a, processed by the *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace* method. In 16b, 16d, and 16f we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels. In 16c, 16e, and 16g we mask the raw output so as to isolate and enhance the test patches.

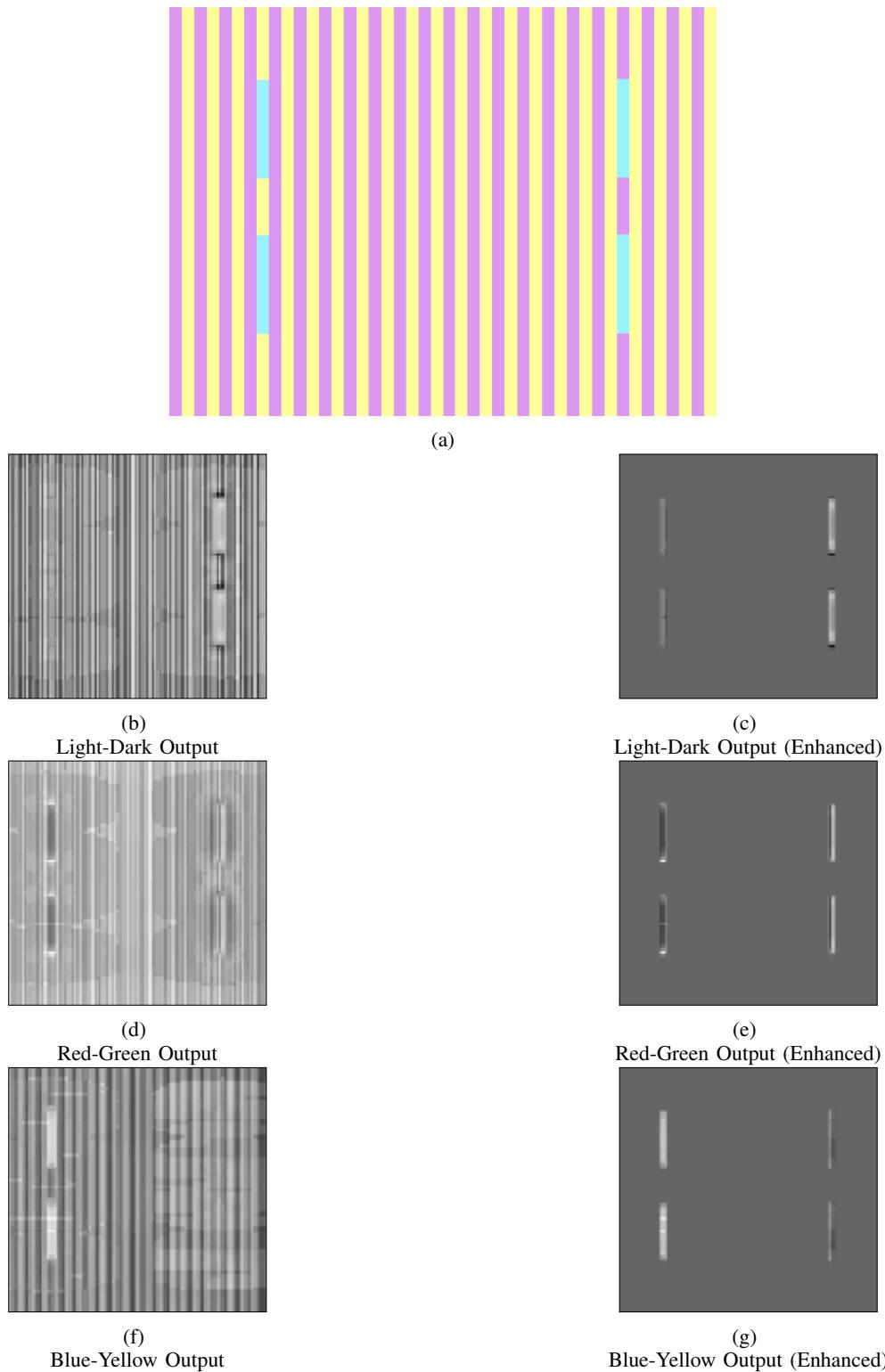


Fig. 17: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, 17a, processed by the *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* method. In 17b, 17d, and 17f we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels. In 17c, 17e, and 17g we mask the raw output so as to isolate and enhance the test patches.

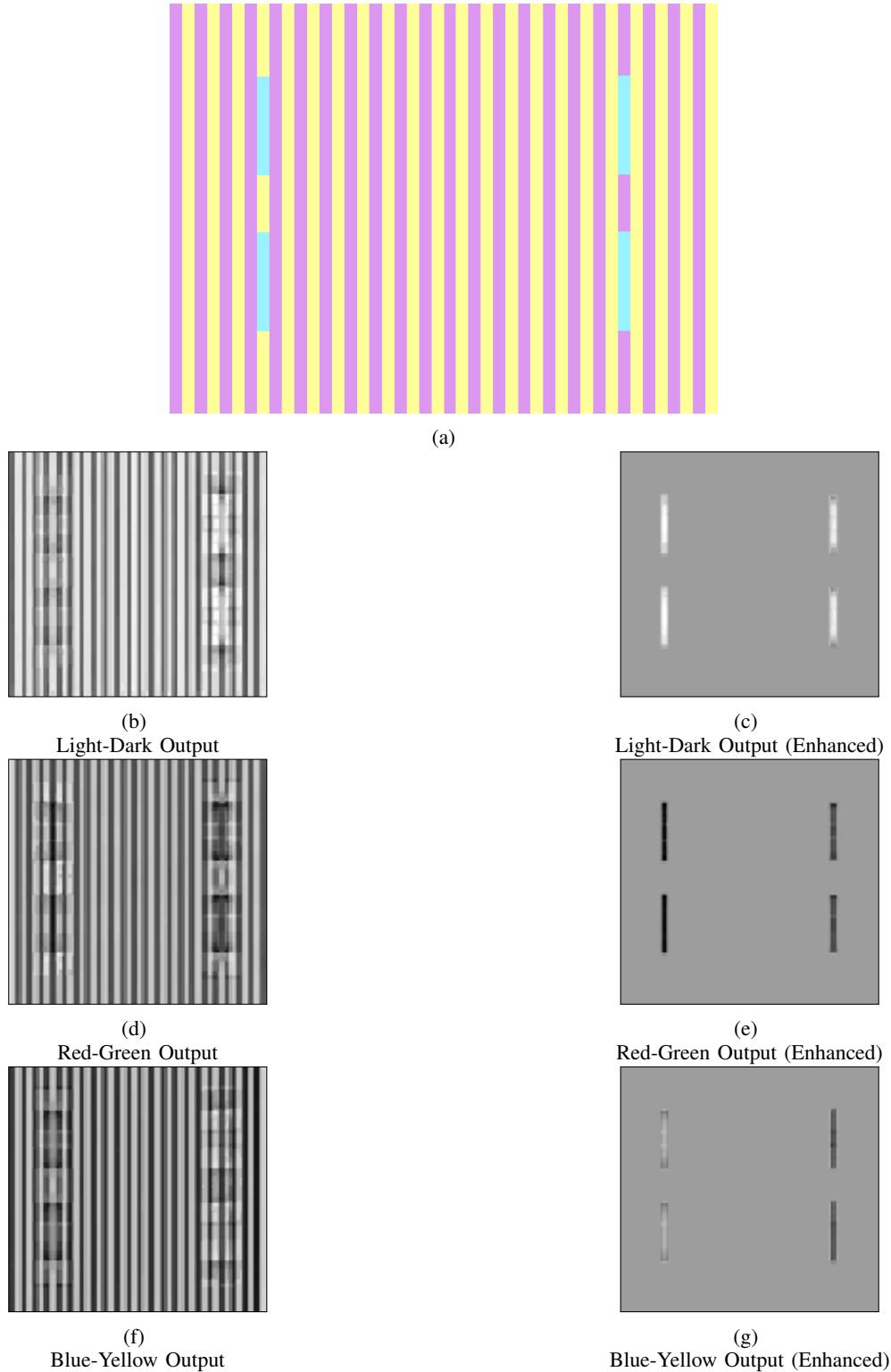


Fig. 18: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, 18a, processed by the *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace* method. In 18b, 18d, and 18f we have the raw output of the L-D, R-G, and B-Y channels. In 18c, 18e, and 18g we mask the raw output so as to isolate and enhance the test patches.

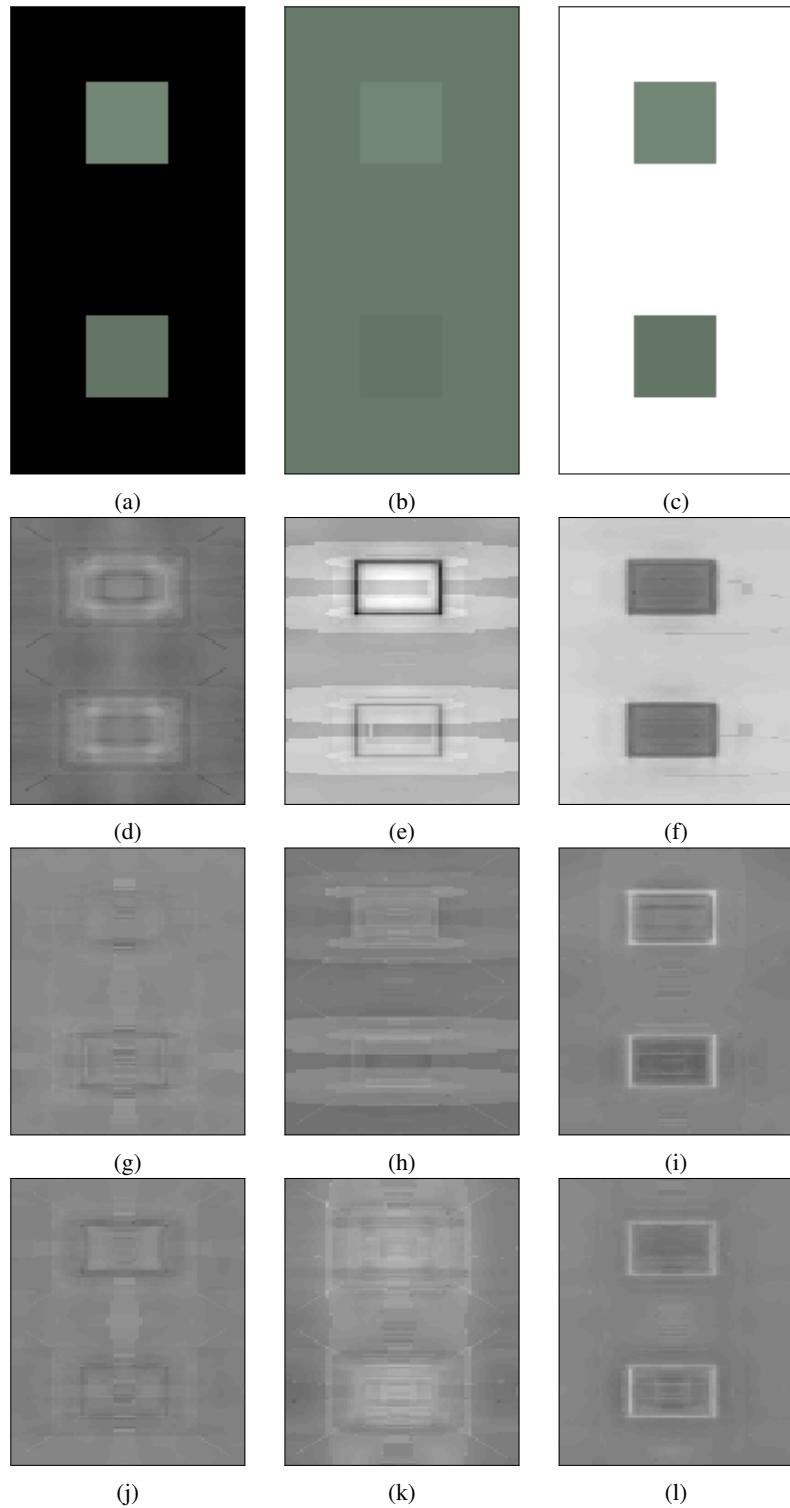


Fig. 19: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, processed by the *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* method. Perceptually, humans find it difficult to distinguish the upper and lower boxes, which differ in brightness only slightly, when presented on a luminous background like black or white. However, it is easy to distinguish them on a background whose luminance lies between them. We obtain positive results in Fig. 19e which identify a luminance difference between the two squares.

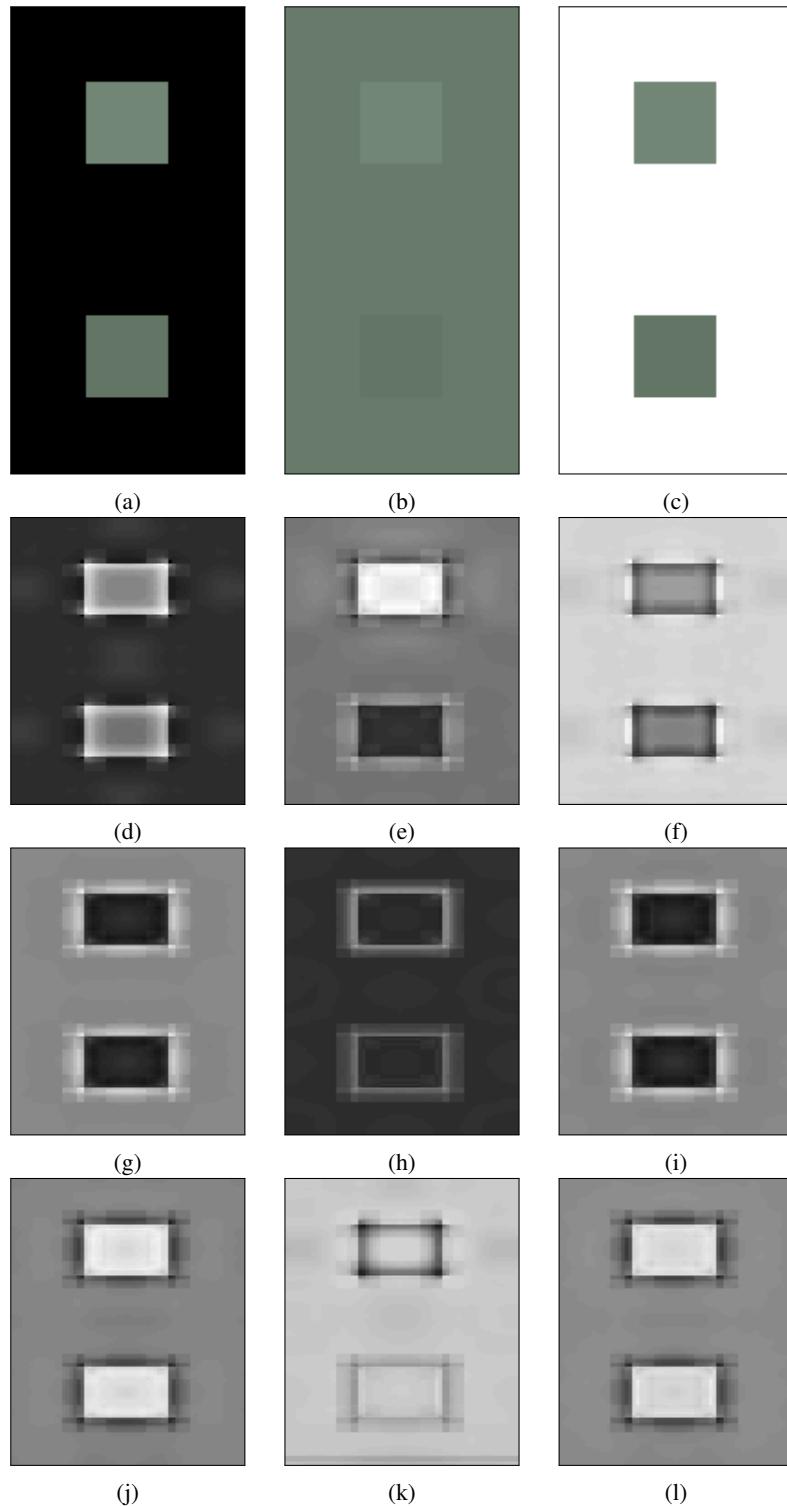


Fig. 20: Experimental results for the given test stimuli, processed by the *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace* method. Perceptually, humans find it difficult to distinguish the upper and lower boxes, which differ in brightness only slightly, when presented on a luminous background like black or white. However, it is easy to distinguish them on a background whose luminance lies between them. We obtain positive results in Fig. 20e which identify a luminance difference between the two squares.

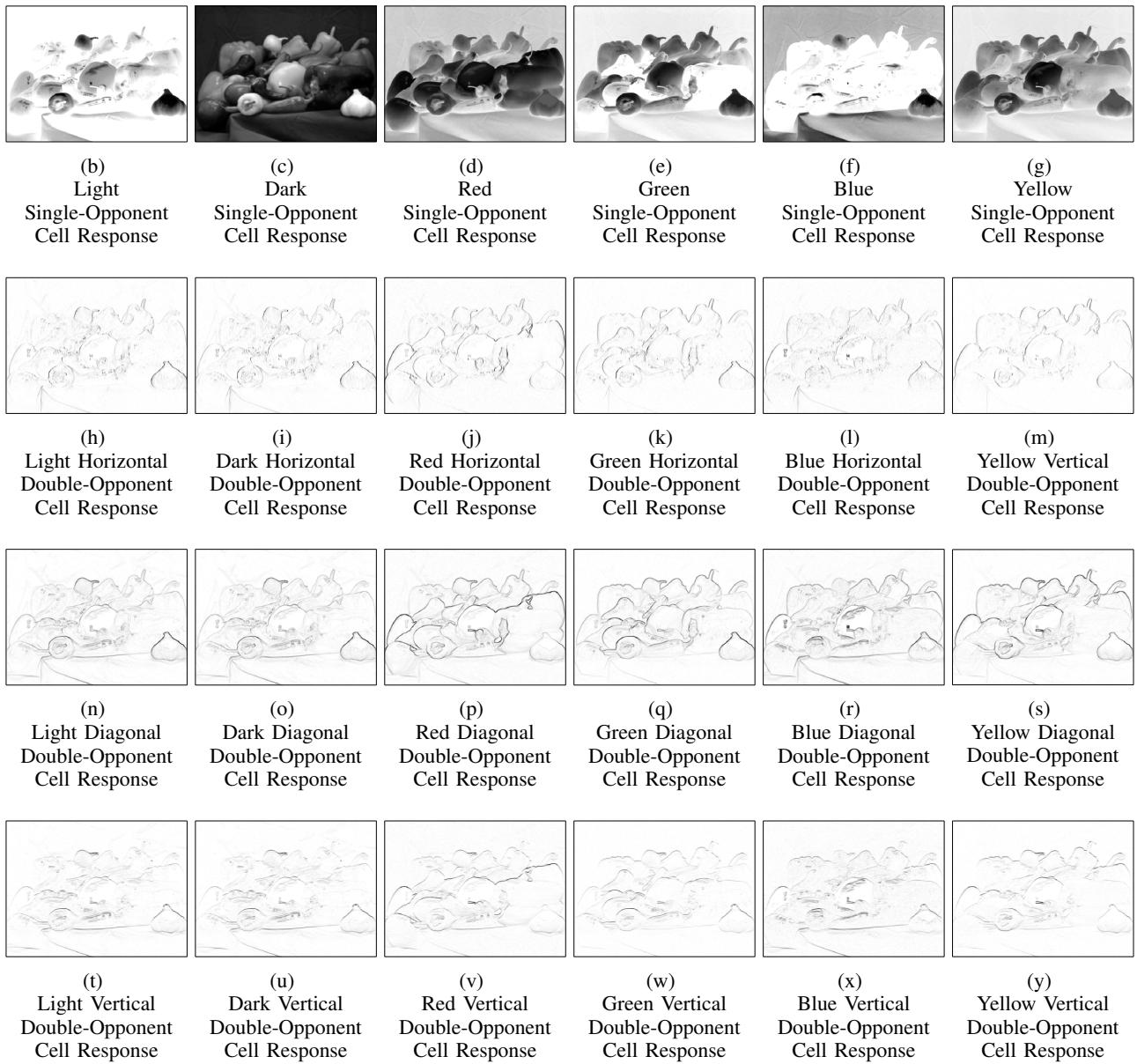
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## APPENDIX



(a) Original

Fig. 21: Example of single-opponent and double-opponent response (scale=1) to a test image following the *Opponent Processing of Receptive Fields* workflow. Strong activity is indicated by black and weak activity by white.

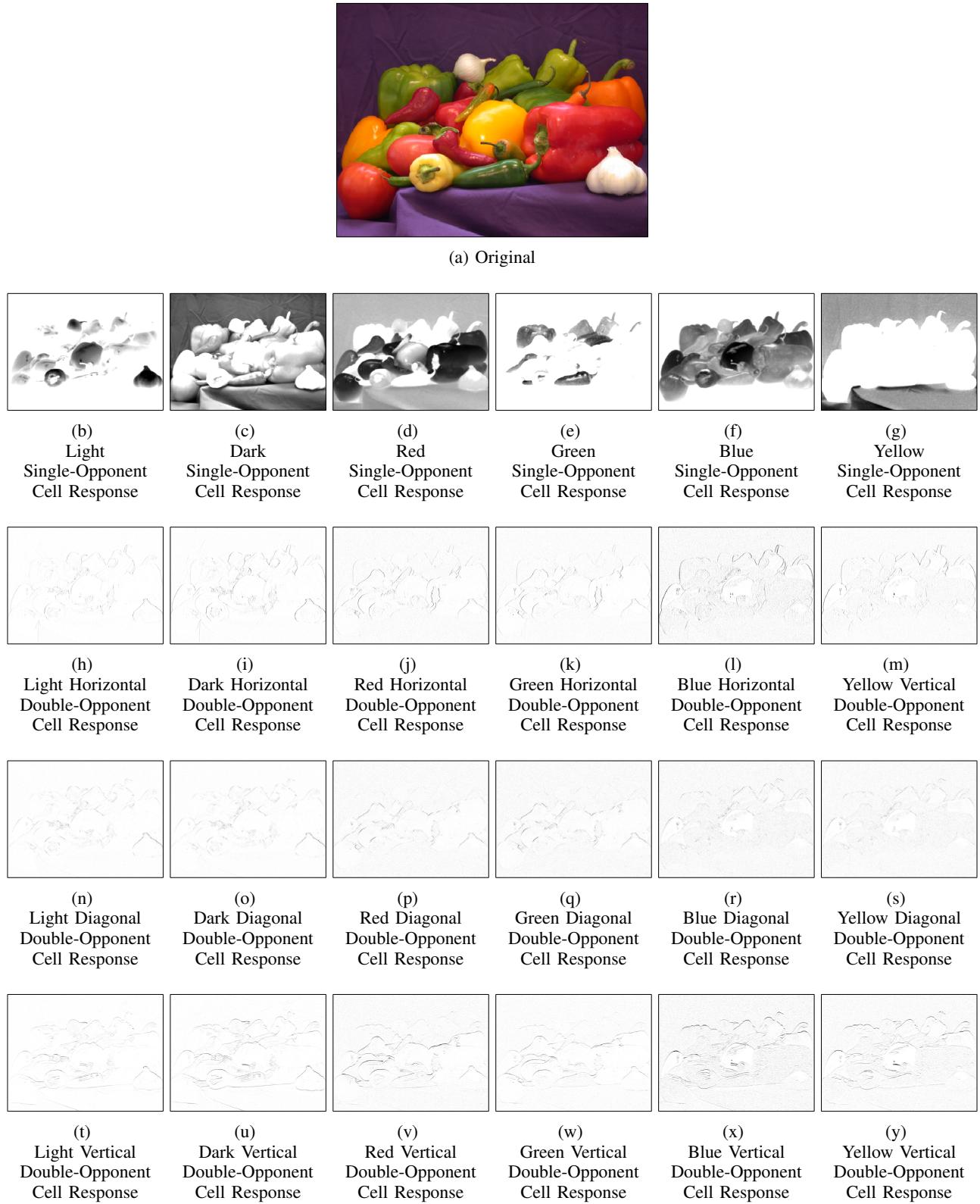


Fig. 22: Example of single-opponent and double-opponent response (scale=1) to a test image following the *Discrete Wavelet Transform in Opponent Colorspace* workflow. Strong activity is indicated by black and weak activity by white.

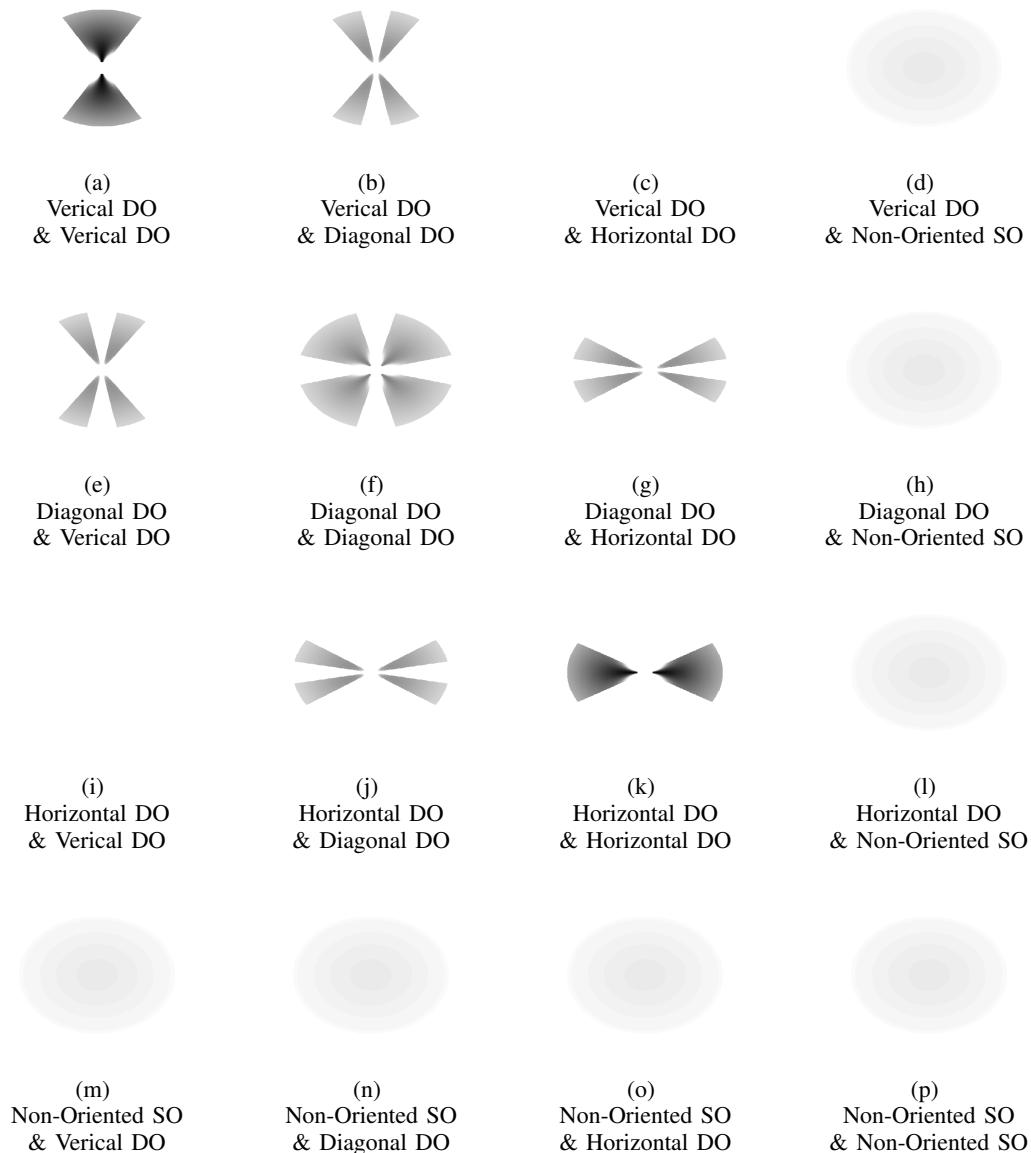


Fig. 23: Graphical representation of *excitatory* interaction weights ( $J$ ) between vertical, diagonal, and horizontal double-opponent cells and single-opponent cells.

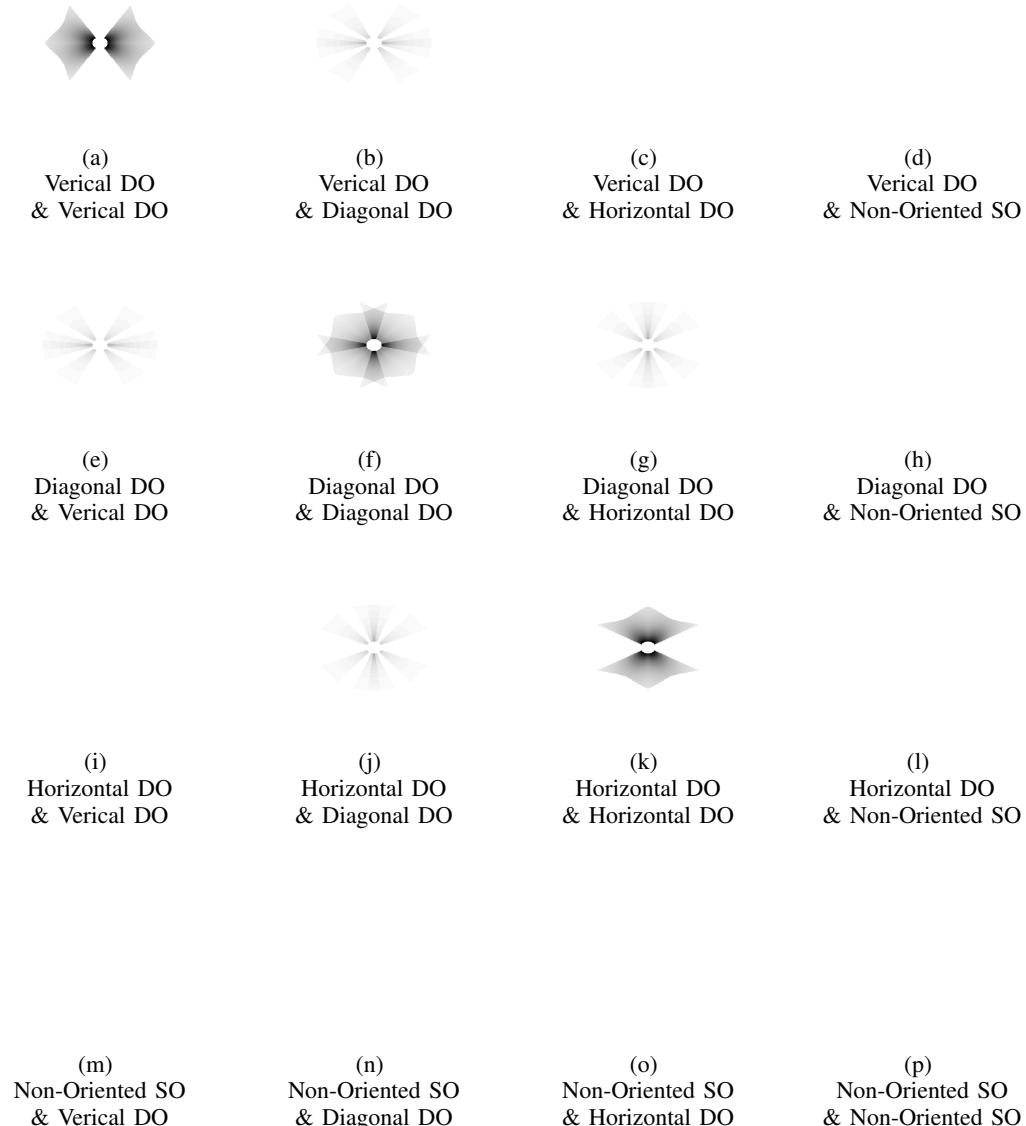


Fig. 24: Graphical representation of *inhibitory* interaction weights ( $W$ ) between vertical, diagonal, and horizontal double-opponent cells and single-opponent cells.