

## E04: Grayscale



Here's another simple but common shader effect.

```
void main(){
    gl_FragColor = cc_FragColor*texture2D(cc_MainTexture, cc_FragTexCoord1);

    float gray = (gl_FragColor.r + gl_FragColor.g + gl_FragColor.b)/3.0;
    gl_FragColor.rgb = vec3(gray);
}
```

It starts out reading the texture color and tinting it. Then averages the red, green and blue channels together. Lastly, it uses that average value to make a new color. Pretty simple.

This is a simple way to convert to grayscale, but it does not preserve *luminance*, or overall brightness. This is because the human eye is equally sensitive to red, green and blue light and computer displays are calibrated to take advantage of this.

## Vector Swizzling and Slicing:

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GLSL has a lot of really handy syntax for working with vectors. Hopefully the

meaning of the following example is clear just by looking at it. It creates a 3 component vector that repeats the same value 3 times. Then it replaces the rgb values in `gl_FragColor` with this new vector.

```
float gray = ...;
gl_FragColor.rgb = vec3(gray);
```

More examples!

```
color1.rgb = color.gbr;
position = vec3(vec2(x, y), z);
color3 = vec4(vec2(r, g), vec2(b, a));
color4 = vec4(r, g, color5.ba);
position2.yz = vec2(y, z).
```

That should give you a pretty good idea of what you can do with GLSL vectors.

## Exercises:

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- Rewrite the shader to apply the tint color after converting to grayscale.
- Read about proper grayscale conversion:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luminance\\_\(relative\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luminance_(relative)).
- See if you can figure out how to use GLSL's `dot()` function to simplify the averaging.