

@prism project

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9 Nov 2025 – Version 1.2.1

The `oprism` project¹ provides small size color palettes that can be used to create expressive color maps for graphics in different contexts.

Last changes

1.2.1
2025-11-09

🔧 Fix.

- Equal palettes: the floating point equality uses now a correct tolerance.

⚠ Break.

- Palettes: the extra `Greys` has been removed (it is equal to `Grays`).

💎 New.

- Similar palettes: two PDF files show similar palettes in standard and black modes (semi-automated process used).

⟳ Update.

- `luadraw` product: the associative array `palNames` has been added for compatibility reasons with the `luadraw` package.
- `BlindFish` palette: the last color variation has been made smoother (`luadraw` process used).

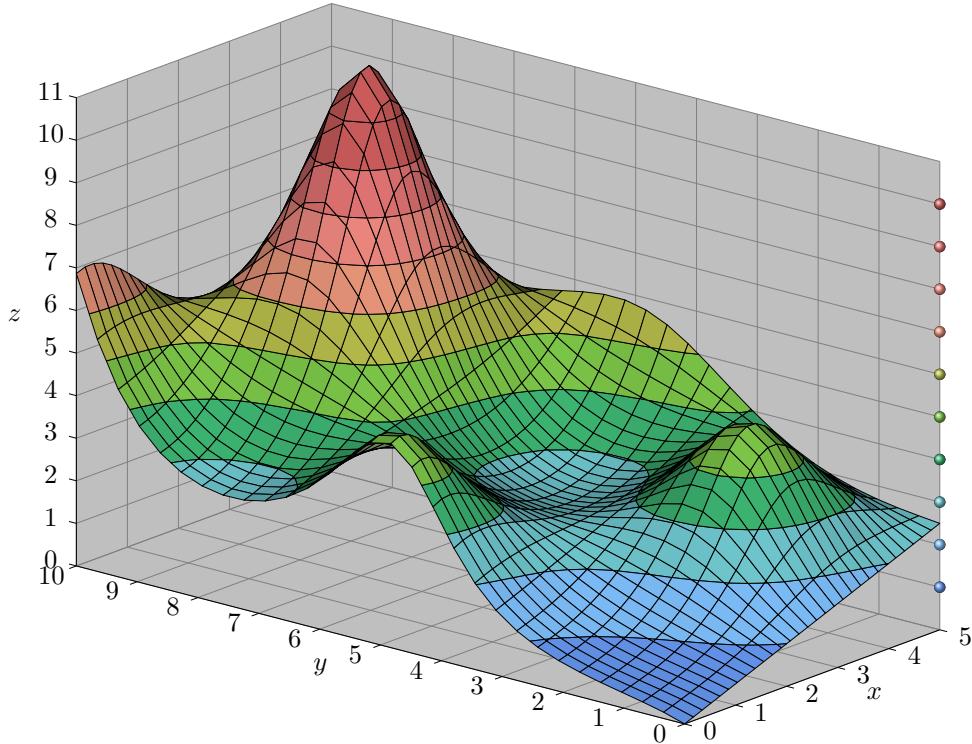
¹The name comes from “*C · esthetic P · roducts for R · epresenting I · nformative S · cientific M · aps*”. This name is a double play on words: [1] a prism splits light into an informative spectrum, symbolizing how data are decomposed into meaningful color, and [2] "@" read as "at" indicates where the light meets the prism to be broken down into an informative spectrum.

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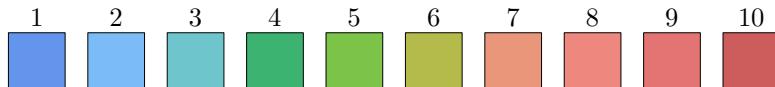
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I. Motivations

Originally, this project was born out of a desire to enhance `luadraw` with a set of color palettes to easily produce something like the following 3D plot.



Technically, a finite list of colors is provided to `luadraw` which then uses linear interpolation to calculate the intermediate colors. In the previous case, the finite color palette used is defined as follows.

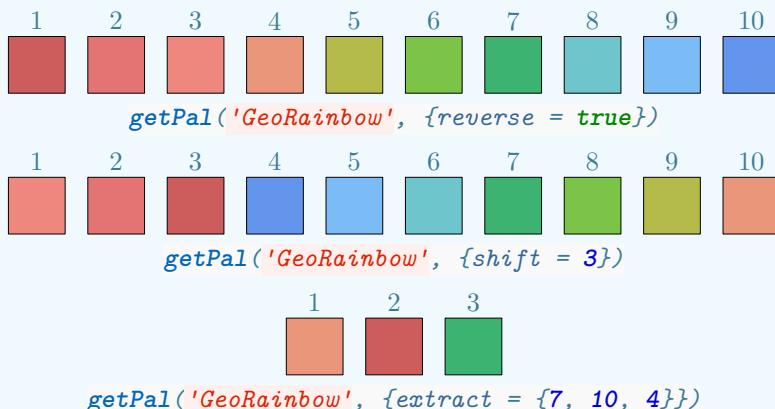


Using this palette, `luadraw` is able to produce the following spectrum, allowing us to create the graph above.

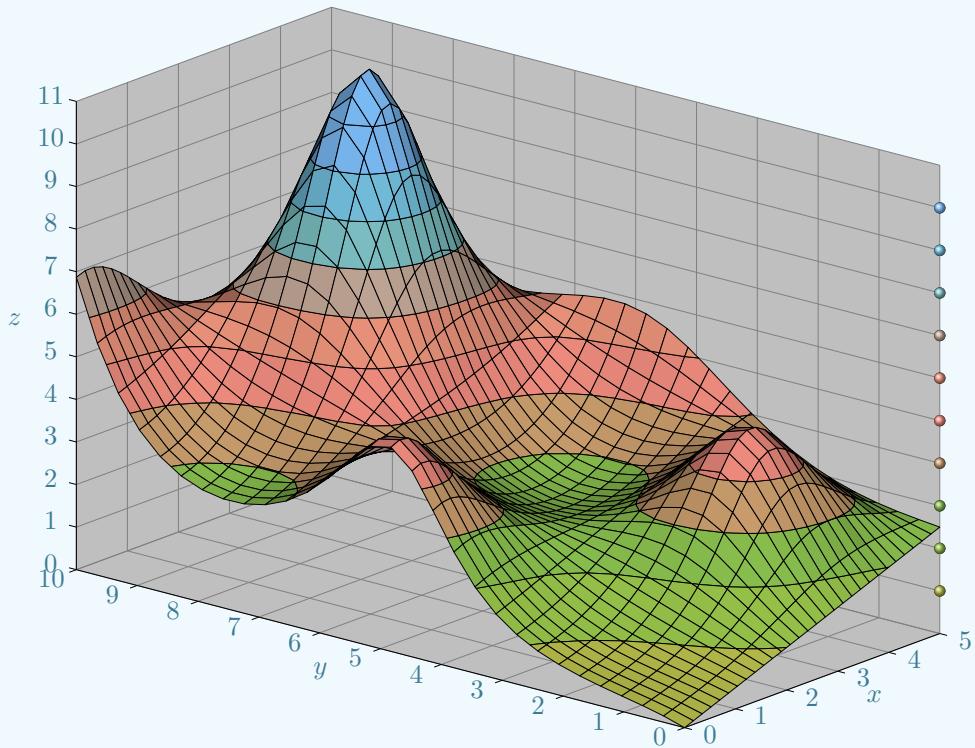


Note.

Using the `luadraw` implementation of `@prism`, see the section V-2, we can create the palettes below made from the previous one named '`'GeoRainbow'`'. Each instruction used is given below each palette.



This features provide remarkable creative flexibility: with the same surface as before, but using the setting `getPal('GeoRainbow', {extract = {2, 3, 7, 8, 5, 6}, reverse = true})` instead of `getPal('GeoRainbow')`, we instantly change the visual tone, shifting from a seaside feel to a snow-covered world.



II. Where do the color palettes come from?

`@prism` includes some original creations, but most color palettes are derived from the projects listed below by segmenting their color maps into 10-value palettes.

- [Asymptote](#) is used, but currently offers nothing beyond [Matplotlib](#) (despite different implementations).
- [CartoColor](#) palettes are extracted from [Palettable](#) project.
- [cmocean](#) palettes are extracted from [Palettable](#) project.
- [Colorbrewer](#) provides professional color palettes for mapping and data visualization.
- [Light](#) and [Bartlein](#) palettes are extracted from [Palettable](#) project.
- [Matplotlib](#) compiles color maps from diverse projects, serving as the foundation for the initial palette list.
- [MyCarta](#) palettes are extracted from [Palettable](#) project.
- [Plotly](#) palettes are extracted from [Palettable](#) project.
- [Scientific Coulour Maps](#) provides palettes designed for colorblind accessibility.
- [Tableau](#) palettes are extracted from [Palettable](#) project.
- [Wes Anderson Palettes](#) palettes are extracted from [Palettable](#) project.

We retain only palettes that comply with the following rules.

- **No repetition.** Unlike [Matplotlib](#),² `@prism` use a one-to-one map from names to palettes.
- **No reversed versions.** Unlike [Matplotlib](#),³ `@prism` never includes reversed palettes as fixed data.

Note.

Adding new palettes to `@prism` is straightforward (no coding skills required). See section VI-2 to get started.

²Some [Matplotlib](#) palettes are duplicated, likely for historical reasons.

³Most [Matplotlib](#) color maps have a reversed version named with the `_r` suffix, possibly for performance reasons.

III. Reuse from...

Here are the key points to remember when using palettes similar to those offered by projects listed in the section II.

1. `@prism` uses standardized CamelCase notation. Therefore, palette names such as `berlin` and `gist_heat` become `Berlin` and `GistHeat` respectively.
2. `Matplotlib` palettes with a name ending with `_r` (reversed color order) are not included in `@prism`.
3. The following presents palettes from projects other than `Matplotlib` that have been kept but renamed:
⇒ indicates a name modification, with the `@prism` name displayed on the right.

CartoColors	Prism	⇒	PrismCC
Plotly	Rainbow	⇒	RainbowPly
Tableau	Gray	⇒	GrayTab

4. The following palettes are excluded because they duplicate `@prism` palettes either directly or in reversed order, except that exact duplicates (same name and colors) are omitted when they don't come from `Matplotlib`, and we use `=` for equality, `⇐⇒` for reversal, and the rightmost palettes are the ones retained in `@prism`.

Cubehelix	Classic	=	Cubehelix
Matplotlib	GistGray	⇐⇒	Binary
	GistGrey	⇐⇒	Binary
	GistYarg	=	Binary
	GistYerg	=	Binary
	Gray	⇐⇒	Binary
	Grey	⇐⇒	Binary
	Greys	=	Grays
Plotly	D3	=	Tab10
cmocean	Balance	=	Vik
	Gray	=	Binary



Most `@prism` implementations add the `pal` prefix to standardized CamelCase names. See the section V.



Most `@prism` implementations provide methods to easily obtain reversed palettes, sub-palettes, and color-shifted palettes. See the section V.

IV. How to choose a palette?

Two methods are available to find the ideal palette.

1. The documents `showcase-en-std.pdf` (light theme) and `showcase-en-dark.pdf` (dark theme) present use cases for each palette.
2. Appendix 1 page 10 presents all palettes organized by theme with a visualization of their color spectrum.



Appendix 2 page 26 groups visually similar palettes together.

V. Supported implementations

The implementations are inside the folder `products`.

1. JSON, the versatile default format

By default, a file `palettes.json` is provided to allow unsupported coding languages to also integrate `@prism` palettes. Here are the first line of this file.

```
{  
  "Accent": [  
    [0.498039, 0.788235, 0.498039],  
    [0.690196, 0.705881, 0.757298],  
    [0.882352, 0.721568, 0.661437],  
    [0.99477, 0.835294, 0.550326],  
    [0.913289, 0.935947, 0.610021],  
    [0.306317, 0.487581, 0.680174],  
    [0.700653, 0.146404, 0.562091],  
    [0.855772, 0.162962, 0.316775],  
    [0.671459, 0.366448, 0.159041],  
    [0.4, 0.4, 0.4]  
  ],  
  ...  
}
```

2. luadraw palettes

a. Description

You can use `@prism` palettes with `luadraw` which is a package that greatly facilitates the creation of high-quality 2D and 3D plots via LuaLaTeX and `TikZ`.

i Note.

Initially, the `@prism` project was created to provide ready-to-use palettes for `luadraw`.

b. Use a luadraw palette

The `Lua` palette names all use the prefix `pal` followed by the name available in the file `palettes.json`. You can access a palette by three ways.

- `palGistHeat` is a `Lua` variable.
- `getPal('GistHeat')` and `getPal('palGistHeat')` are equal to `palGistHeat`.
- `palNames['palGistHeat']` is equal to `palGistHeat`.

i Note.

The `Lua` palette variables are arrays of arrays of three floats. Here is the definition of `palGistHeat`.

```
palGistHeat = {  
  {0.0, 0.0, 0.0},  
  {0.105882, 0.0, 0.0},  
  {0.211764, 0.0, 0.0},  
  {0.317647, 0.0, 0.0},  
  {0.429411, 0.0, 0.0},  
  {0.535294, 0.0, 0.0},  
  {0.641176, 0.0, 0.0},  
  {0.752941, 0.003921, 0.0},  
  {0.858823, 0.145098, 0.0},  
  {0.964705, 0.286274, 0.0},  
  {1.0, 0.42745, 0.0},  
  {1.0, 0.57647, 0.152941},  
  {1.0, 0.717647, 0.435294},  
  {1.0, 0.858823, 0.717647},  
  {1.0, 1.0, 1.0}  
}
```

The `getPal` function has some options. To explain how this works, let's consider the following use case.

```
mypal = getPal(  
    'GistHeat',  
    {  
        extract = {2, 5, 8, 9},  
        shift   = 1,  
        reverse = true  
    }  
)
```

To simplify the explanations, we will refer to the colors in the standard palette 'GistHeat' as `coul_1`, `coul_2`, etc. The options are then **processed in the following order**.

1. `{coul_2, coul_5, coul_8, coul_9}` is the result of the extraction.
2. `{coul_9, coul_2, coul_5, coul_8}` comes from the shifting applied to the extracted palette (colors move to the right if `shift` is positive).
3. `{coul_8, coul_5, coul_2, coul_9}` is the reversed version of the shifted palette.

 Note.

The reversed version of any palette can be obtained using `getPal(palname, {reverse = true})`.

VI. Contribute via Git

 Caution.

Never use the `main` branch, which is for freezing the latest stable versions of all the projects in the mono repository <https://github.com/projetmbc/for-writing>.

1. Complete the translations

 Important.

Although we're going to explain how to translate the documentation, it doesn't seem relevant to do so, as English should suffice these days.

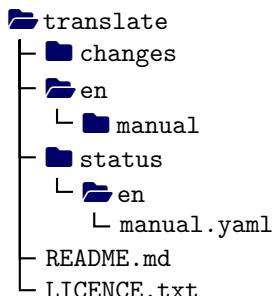


Figure 1: Simplified view of the translation folder

The translations are roughly organized as in figure 1 where just the important folders for the translations have been “opened”.⁴ A little further down, the section VI-1-e explains how to add new translations.

a. The en folder

This folder, managed by the author of `@prism`, contains files easy to translate even if you're not a coder.

⁴This was the organization on October 26, 2025.

b. The changes folder

This folder is a communication tool where important changes are indicated without dwelling on minor modifications specific to one or more translations.

c. The status folder

This folder is used to keep track of translations from the project's point of view. Everything is done via well-commented YAML files, readable by a non-coder.

d. The README.md and LICENCE.txt files

The LICENCE.txt file is aptly named, while the README.md file takes up in English the important points of what is said in this section about new translations.

e. New translations



Note.

The folder manual is reserved for documentation. It contains TEX files that can be compiled directly for real-time validation of translations.



Only start from the en folder, as it's the responsibility of the @prism author.

*Let's say you want to add support for Italian.*⁵ To do this, you must use **Git** as follows.

1. Via <https://github.com/projetmbc/for-writing/tree/aprism/@prism>, recover the entire project folder. Do not use the **main** branch, which is used to freeze the latest stable versions of all the projects in the mono repository <https://github.com/projetmbc/for-writing>.
2. In the `@prism/contrib/translate` folder, create an `it` copy of the `en` folder, where `it` is the short name of the language documented in the page "*IETF language tag*" from Wikipedia.
3. Once the translation is complete in the `it` folder, share it via <https://github.com/projetmbc/for-writing/tree/aprism/@prism> using a classic `git push`.

2. Improving the source code

Participation as a coder is made via the repository <https://github.com/projetmbc/for-writing/tree/aprism/@prism> corresponding to the `@prism` development branch. Here is what you can do, details can be found in the file <https://github.com/projetmbc/for-writing/blob/aprism/@prism/contrib/products/README.md>.

1. Create new palettes within an existing implementation. No coding skills required.
2. Propose a new implementation in your favorite programming language.
3. Combine both approaches.

VII. History



Fix.

- Equal palettes: the floating point equality uses now a correct tolerance.



Break.

- Palettes: the extra `Greys` has been removed (it is equal to `Grays`).



New.

- Similar palettes: two PDF files show similar palettes in standard and black modes (semi-automated process used).

⁵As mentioned above, there is no real need for the `doc` folder.

⌚ Update.

- `luadraw` product: the associative array `palNames` has been added for compatibility reasons with the `luadraw` package.
 - `BlindFish` palette: the last color variation has been made smoother (`luadraw` process used).
-

1.2.0
2025-10-29

⚠ Break.

- Palettes: all final palettes now consist of 10 colors.
- `luadraw` products: the `getPal` dictionary array has been converted into a function accepting string palette names (with or without `pal` prefix). See below.

❖ New.

- Palettes.
 - Added `Lemon` and `ShiftRainbow` palettes (`luadraw` creation process used).
 - Added 37 palettes from the `Scientific Colour Maps` project.
- `luadraw` product: accessing a palette and creating new ones can be made using the `getPal` function which has an optional argument `options` (dict-like array) with the following keys and their values.
 - `extract`: a list of non-zero integers used to extract specific colors from the palette (the order is preserved).
 - `reverse`: a boolean value indicating whether to reverse the palette color order (`false` by default).
 - `shift`: an integer value for applying a circular color shift to the palette.
- Documentations
 - Added English PDF manual.
 - Showcase: two PDF files demonstrate the use of each palette (white and dark modes).

1.1.0
2025-10-14

⚠ Break.

- Duplicate palettes and those that are reverse of others are ignored (strict equalities only).

❖ New.

- New palettes added: `BurningGrass`, `GeoRainbow` and `PastelRainbow` (`luadraw` creation process used).
- The `luadraw` palette product has a new dictionary like variable `getPal` to access a palette using its name (as a string variable).

⌚ Update.

- Palette contributions: in the mandatory `extend.py` file, the `build_code` function must work with the dictionary of all the palettes, and manage a credit to the `@prism` project.
-

1.0.0
2025-10-11

⚓ First public version of the project.

Appendix 1 – The 258 palettes at a glance

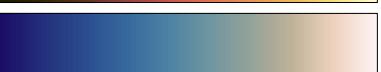
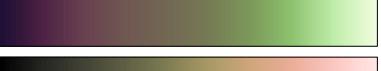
The palette names used in this appendix are standard, but most `oprim` implementations add the `pal` prefix.

Important.

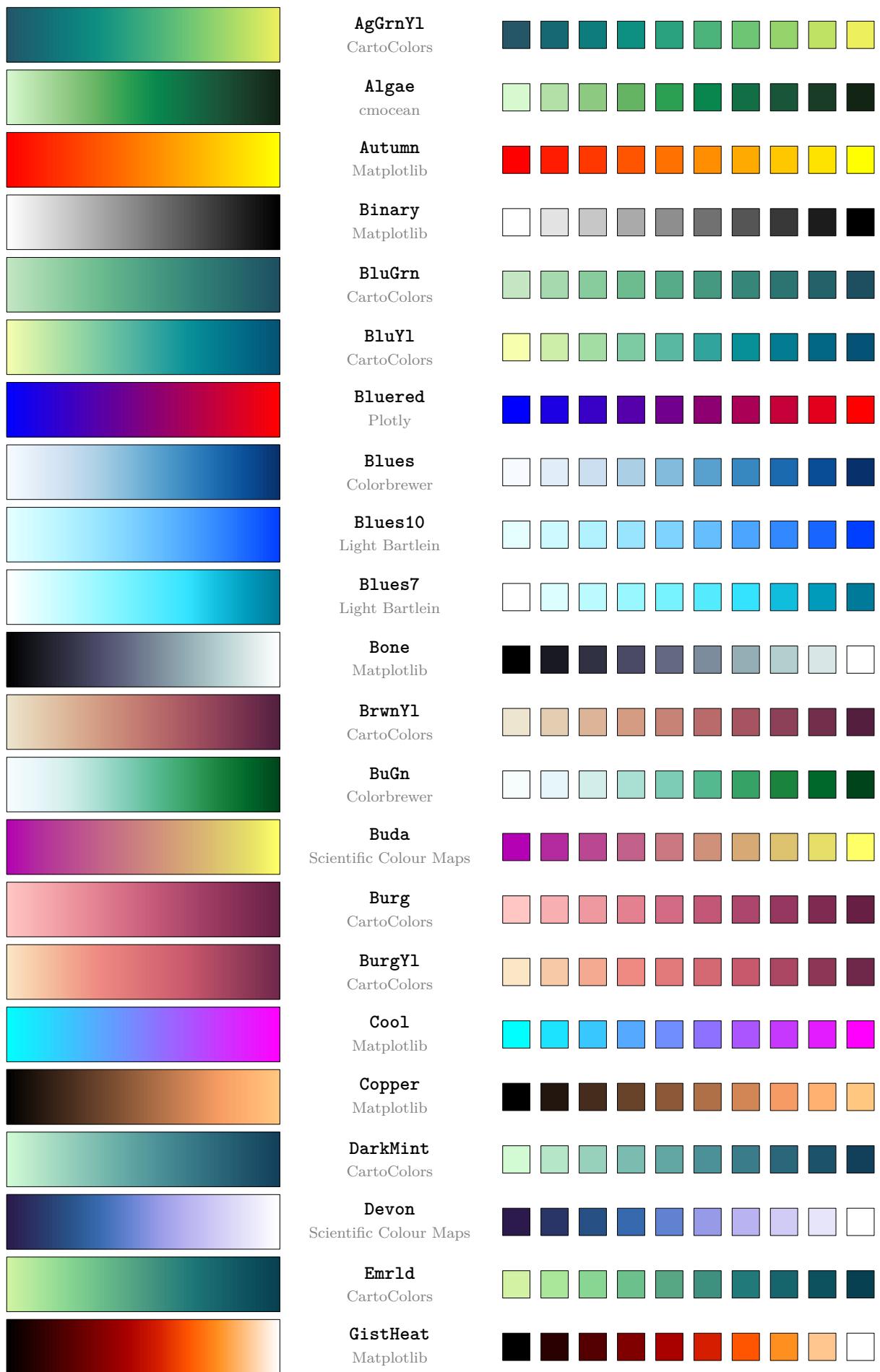
Categories were generated semi-automatically using a program, followed by manual selection to obtain relevant choices. If you identify any errors, please contact the author of `oprim`.

Colorblind-friendly palettes – 40 palettes

	Acton Scientific Colour Maps	
	Bam Scientific Colour Maps	
	Bamako Scientific Colour Maps	
	Bam0 Scientific Colour Maps	
	Batlow Scientific Colour Maps	
	BatlowK Scientific Colour Maps	
	BatlowW Scientific Colour Maps	
	Berlin Scientific Colour Maps	
	Bilbao Scientific Colour Maps	
	Broc Scientific Colour Maps	
	Broc0 Scientific Colour Maps	
	Buda Scientific Colour Maps	
	Bukavu Scientific Colour Maps	
	Cork Scientific Colour Maps	
	Cork0 Scientific Colour Maps	
	Davos Scientific Colour Maps	
	Devon Scientific Colour Maps	
	Fes Scientific Colour Maps	

	Glasgow Scientific Colour Maps	
	GrayC Scientific Colour Maps	
	Hawaii Scientific Colour Maps	
	Imola Scientific Colour Maps	
	Lajolla Scientific Colour Maps	
	Lapaz Scientific Colour Maps	
	Lipari Scientific Colour Maps	
	Lisbon Scientific Colour Maps	
	Managua Scientific Colour Maps	
	Navia Scientific Colour Maps	
	NaviaW Scientific Colour Maps	
	Nuuk Scientific Colour Maps	
	Oleron Scientific Colour Maps	
	Oslo Scientific Colour Maps	
	Roma Scientific Colour Maps	
	RomaO Scientific Colour Maps	
	Tofino Scientific Colour Maps	
	Tokyo Scientific Colour Maps	
	Turku Scientific Colour Maps	
	Vanimo Scientific Colour Maps	
	Vik Scientific Colour Maps	
	VikO Scientific Colour Maps	

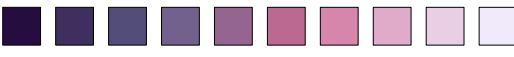
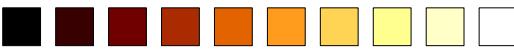
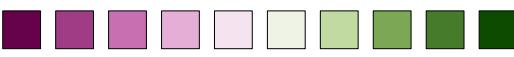
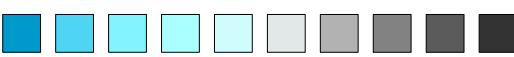
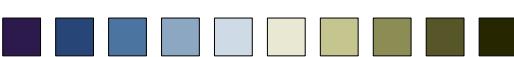
Two-color palettes – 52 palettes

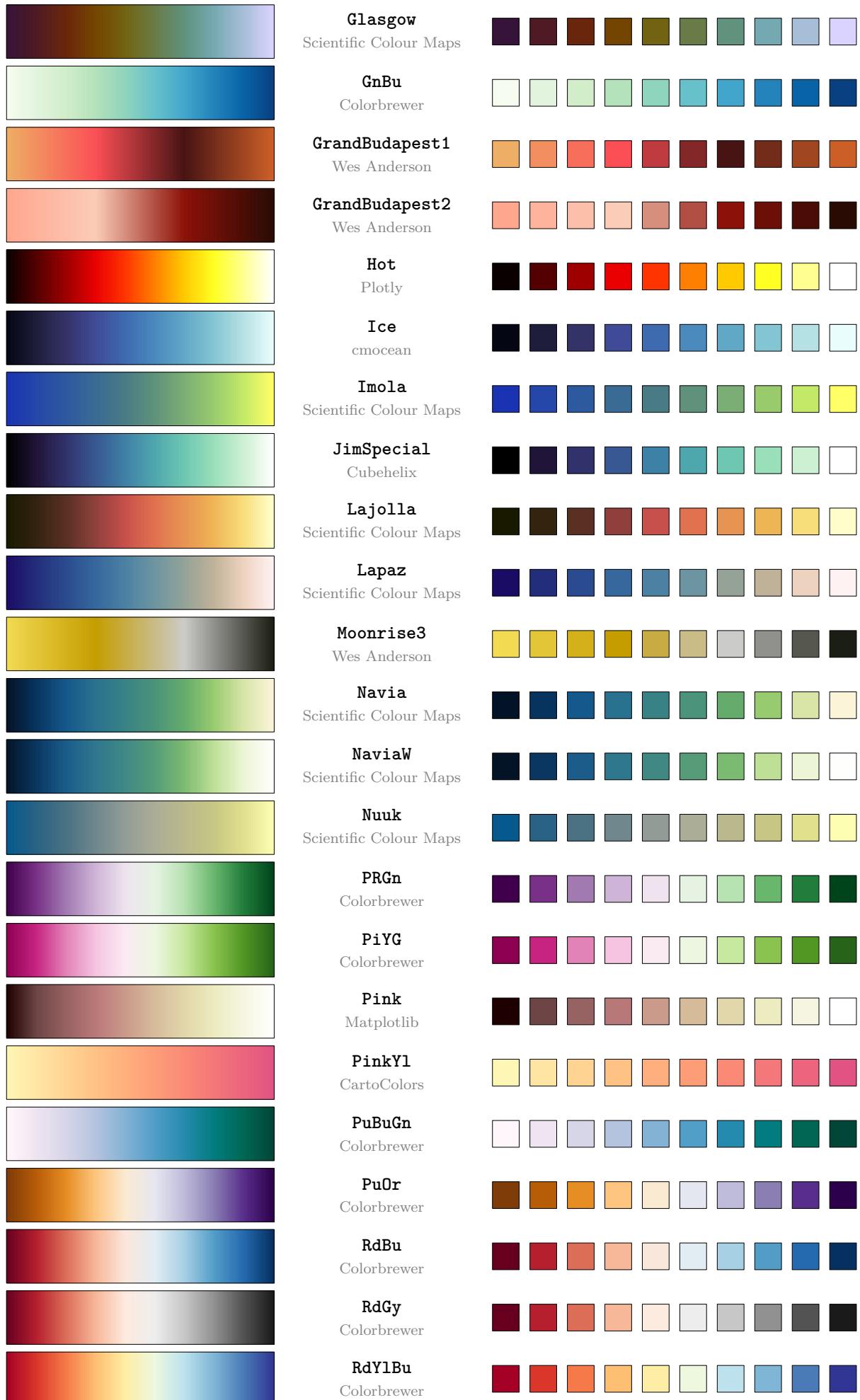


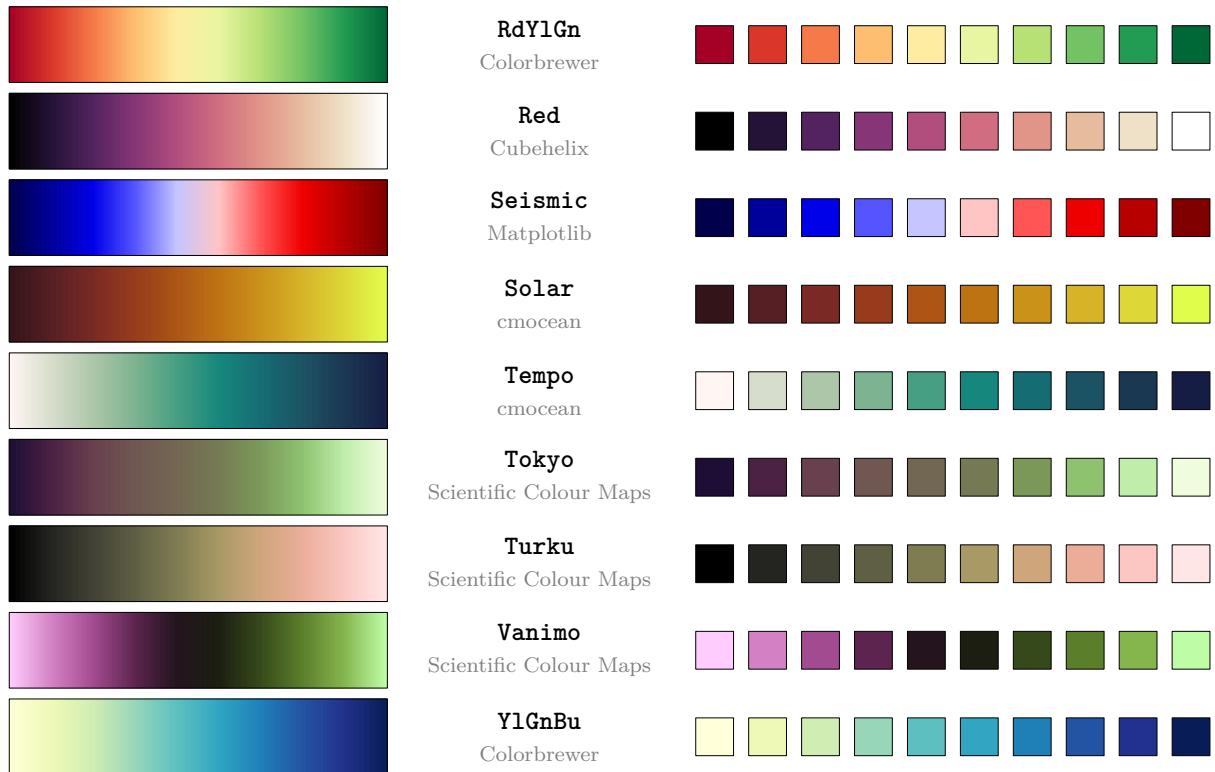




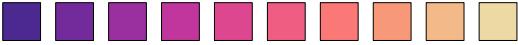
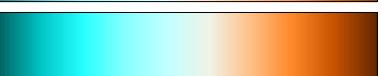
Three-color palettes – 54 palettes

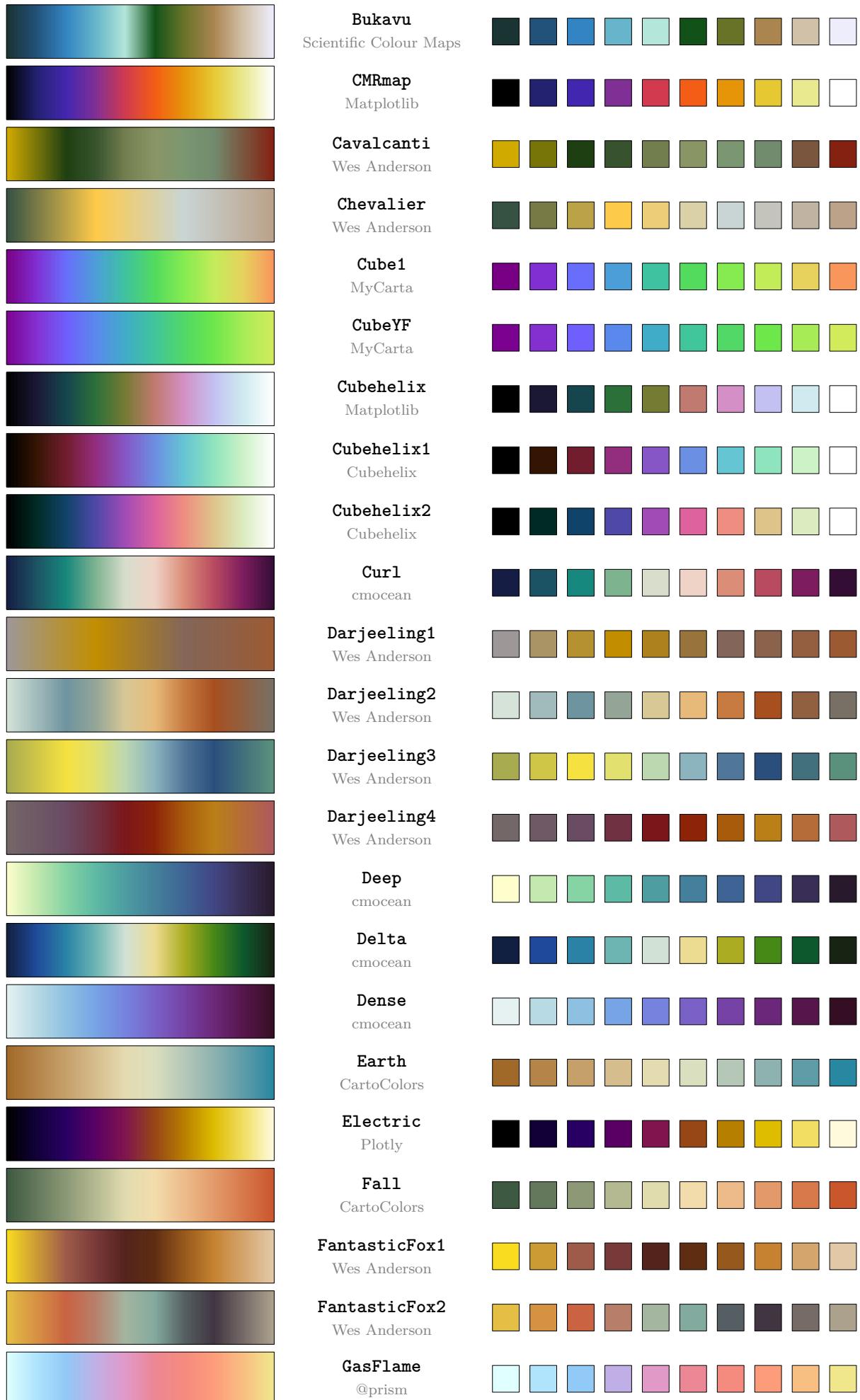
	Acton Scientific Colour Maps	
	Afmhot Matplotlib	
	Amp cmocean	
	Bam Scientific Colour Maps	
	Bam0 Scientific Colour Maps	
	Bamako Scientific Colour Maps	
	Berlin Scientific Colour Maps	
	Bilbao Scientific Colour Maps	
	BlueGray Light Bartlein	
	BlueGreen Light Bartlein	
	BrBG Colorbrewer	
	Broc Scientific Colour Maps	
	Broc0 Scientific Colour Maps	
	BuPu Colorbrewer	
	BurningGrass @prism	
	Bwr Matplotlib	
	Cividis Matplotlib	
	Coolwarm Matplotlib	
	Cork Scientific Colour Maps	
	Cork0 Scientific Colour Maps	
	Cubehelix3 Cubehelix	
	Davos Scientific Colour Maps	

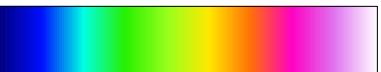
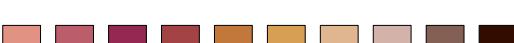


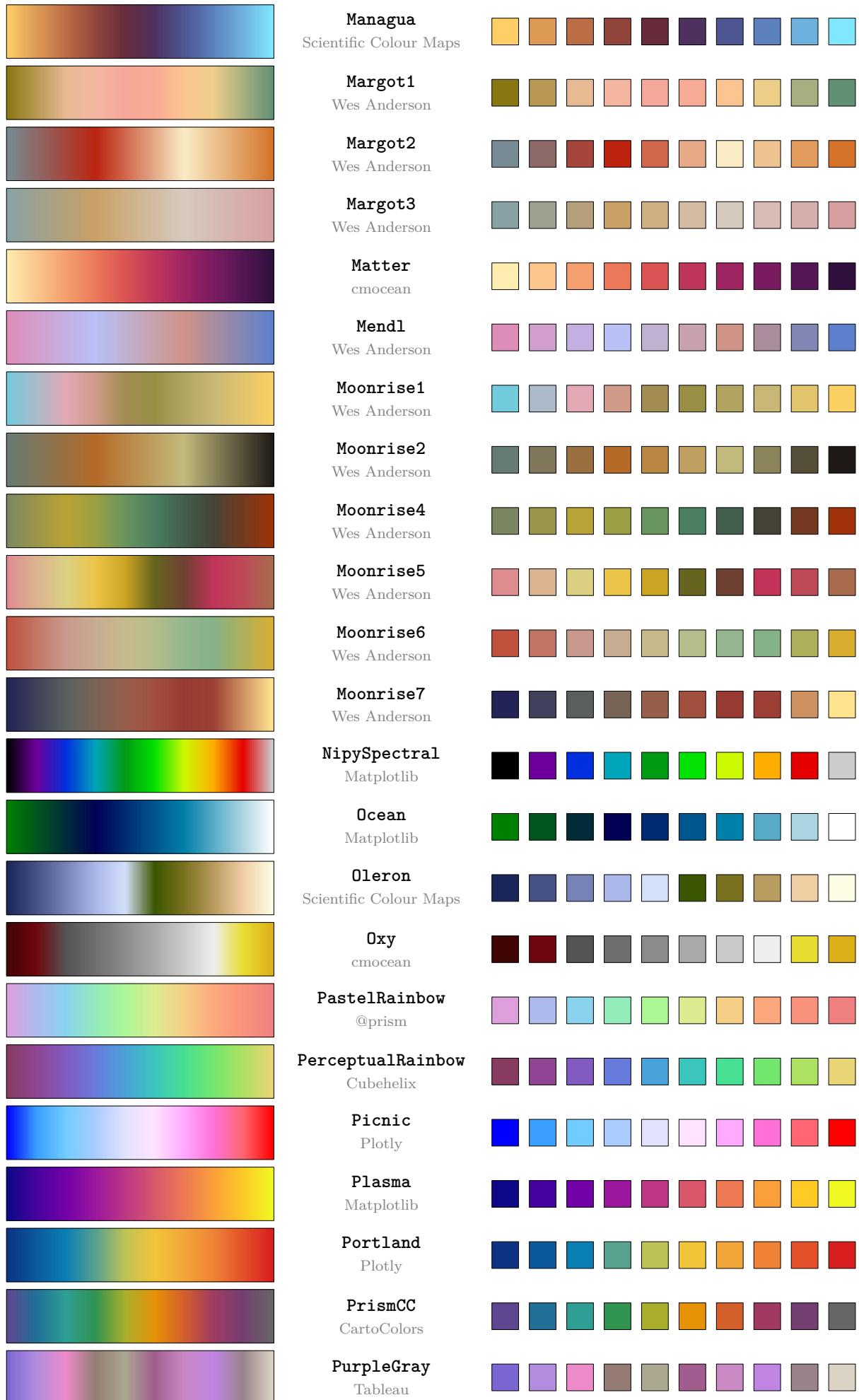


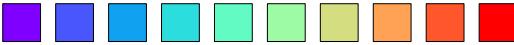
Rainbow-style palettes – 118 palettes

	AgSunset CartoColors	
	Aquatic1 Wes Anderson	
	Aquatic2 Wes Anderson	
	Aquatic3 Wes Anderson	
	ArmyRose CartoColors	
	Batlow Scientific Colour Maps	
	BatlowK Scientific Colour Maps	
	BatlowW Scientific Colour Maps	
	Blackbody Plotly	
	BlindFish @prism	
	BlueDarkOrange12 Light Bartlein	
	BlueDarkOrange18 Light Bartlein	
	BlueDarkRed12 Light Bartlein	
	BlueDarkRed18 Light Bartlein	
	BlueOrange10 Light Bartlein	
	BlueOrange12 Light Bartlein	
	BlueOrange8 Light Bartlein	
	BlueOrangeRed Light Bartlein	
	BlueRed Tableau	
	Brg Matplotlib	
	BrownBlue10 Light Bartlein	
	BrownBlue12 Light Bartlein	



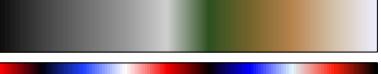
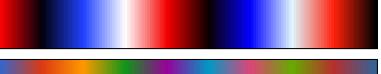
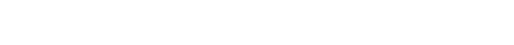
	GeoRainbow @prism	
	Geyser CartoColors	
	GistEarth Matplotlib	
	GistNcar Matplotlib	
	GistRainbow Matplotlib	
	Gnuplot Matplotlib	
	Gnuplot2 Matplotlib	
	GrandBudapest3 Wes Anderson	
	GrandBudapest4 Wes Anderson	
	GrandBudapest5 Wes Anderson	
	GreenMagenta Light Bartlein	
	Haline cmocean	
	Hawaii Scientific Colour Maps	
	Hsv Matplotlib	
	Inferno Matplotlib	
	IsleOfDogs1 Wes Anderson	
	IsleOfDogs2 Wes Anderson	
	IsleOfDogs3 Wes Anderson	
	Jet Plotly	
	LinearL MyCarta	
	Lipari Scientific Colour Maps	
	Lisbon Scientific Colour Maps	
	Magma Matplotlib	

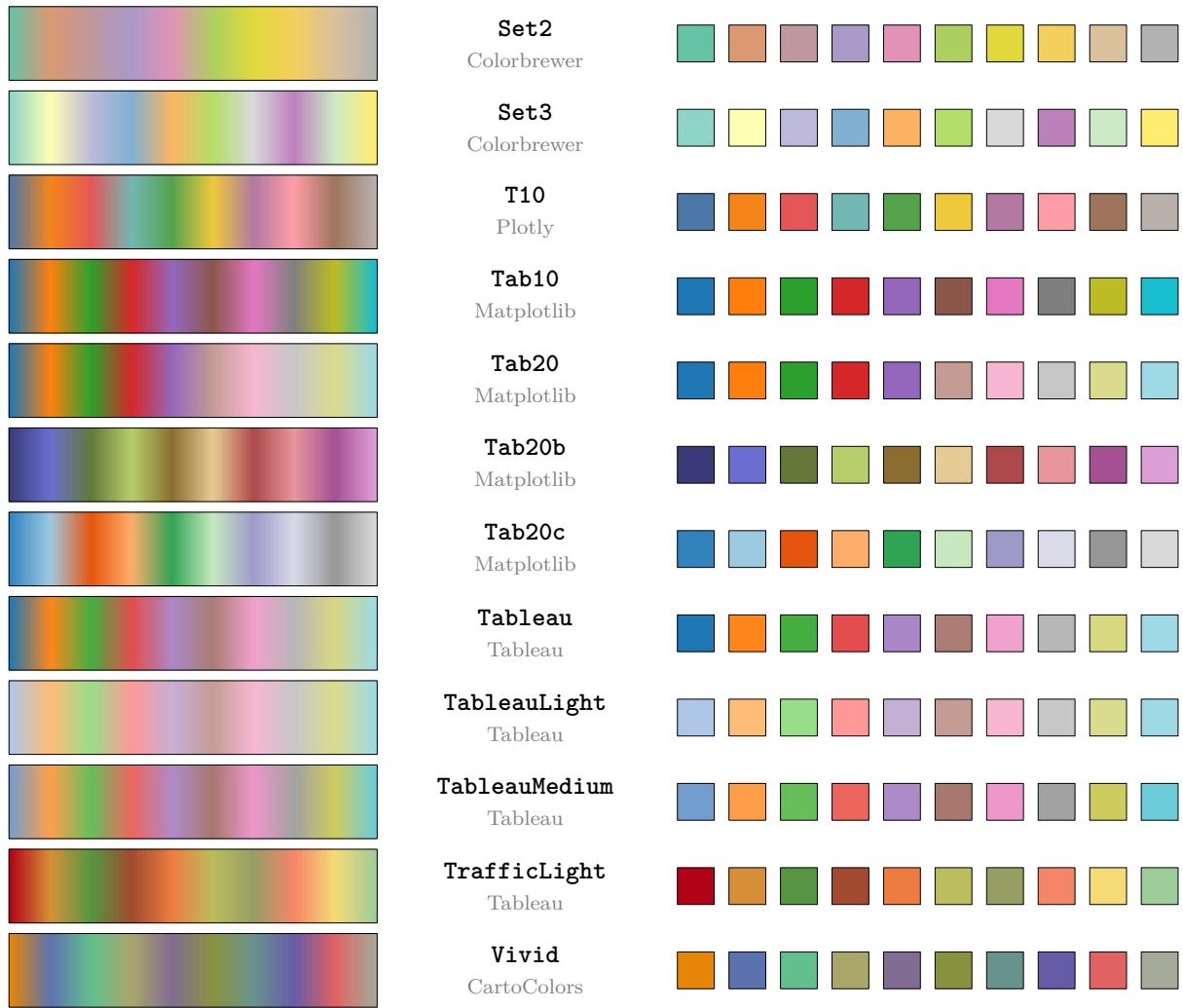


	Rainbow Matplotlib	
	RainbowPly Plotly	
	RedYellowBlue Light Bartlein	
	Roma Scientific Colour Maps	
	Roma0 Scientific Colour Maps	
	Royall1 Wes Anderson	
	Royal2 Wes Anderson	
	Royal3 Wes Anderson	
	ShiftRainbow @prism	
	Spectral Colorbrewer	
	Speed cmocean	
	Sunset CartoColors	
	SunsetDark CartoColors	
	TealRose CartoColors	
	Temps CartoColors	
	Terrain Matplotlib	
	Thermal cmocean	
	Tofino Scientific Colour Maps	
	Tropic CartoColors	
	Turbid cmocean	
	Turbo Matplotlib	
	Twilight Matplotlib	
	TwilightShifted Matplotlib	



High-contrast palettes – 34 palettes

	Accent Colorbrewer	
	Alphabet Plotly	
	Antique CartoColors	
	Bold CartoColors	
	ColorBlind Tableau	
	Dark2 Colorbrewer	
	Dark24 Plotly	
	Fes Scientific Colour Maps	
	Flag Matplotlib	
	G10 Plotly	
	GistStern Matplotlib	
	GreenOrange Tableau	
	Light24 Plotly	
	Paired Colorbrewer	
	Pastel CartoColors	
	Pastel1 Colorbrewer	
	Pastel2 Colorbrewer	
	Phase cmocean	
	Plotly Plotly	
	Prism Matplotlib	
	Safe CartoColors	
	Set1 Colorbrewer	



Appendix 2 – Similar palettes

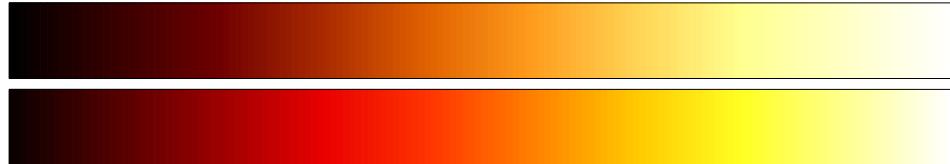
This appendix contains visually similar color palettes. While the differences between some are minimal, we have retained them to respect individual preferences.

Important.

Clusters were generated semi-automatically using a program that suggests similar palettes, followed by manual curation to retain only relevant groupings.^a This approach may occasionally miss some similarities. If you identify any omissions, please contact the author of `@prism`.

^aThe palettes are analyzed in both light and dark modes.

Cluster #1



Afmhot

Hot

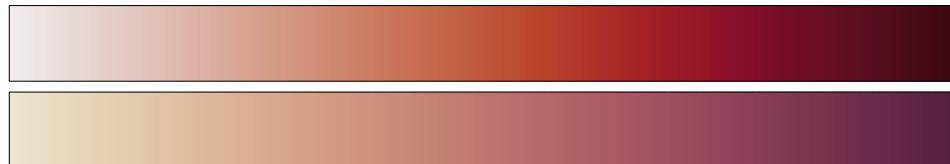
Cluster #2



AgGrnYl

Summer

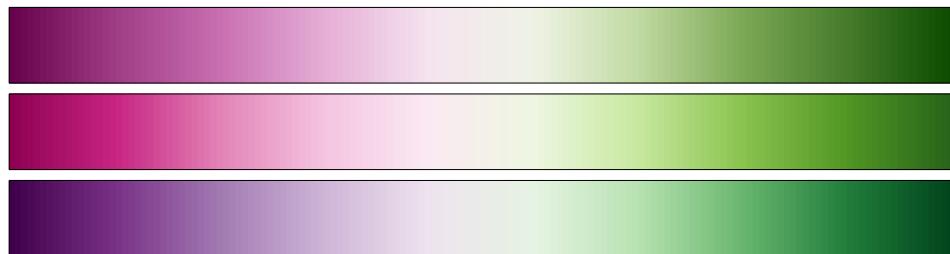
Cluster #3



Amp

BrwnYl

Cluster #4



Bam

PiYG

PRGn

Cluster #5



Batlow

BatlowK

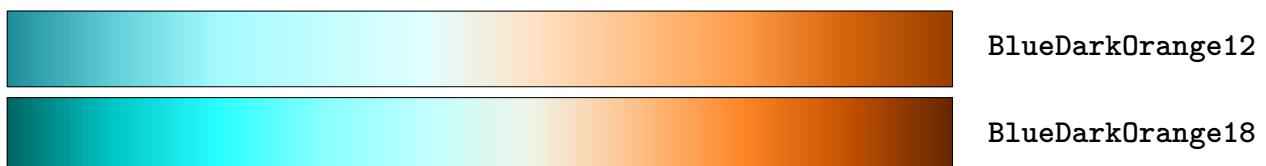
Cluster #6



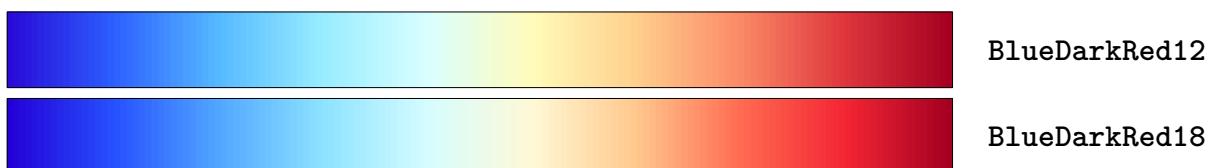
Cluster #7



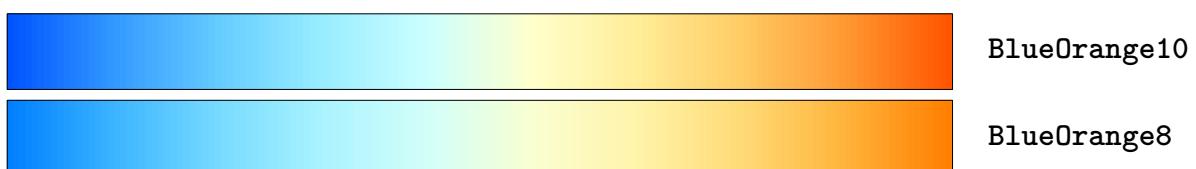
Cluster #8



Cluster #9



Cluster #10



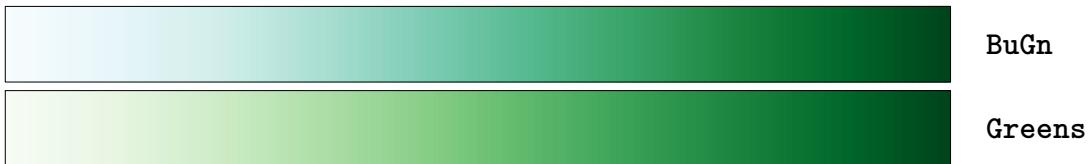
Cluster #11



Cluster #12



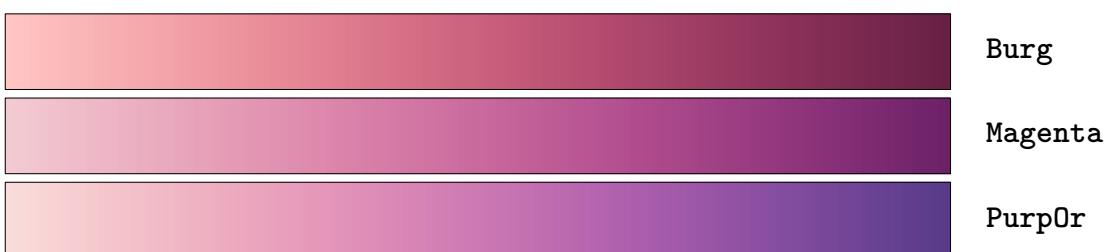
Cluster #13



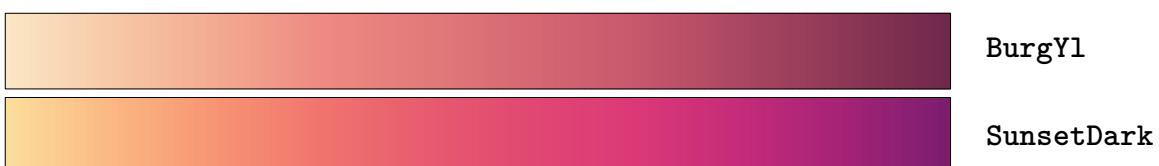
Cluster #14



Cluster #15



Cluster #16



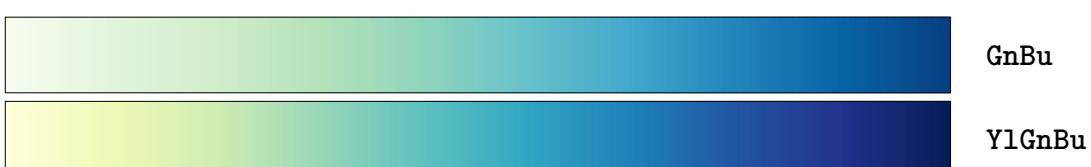
Cluster #17



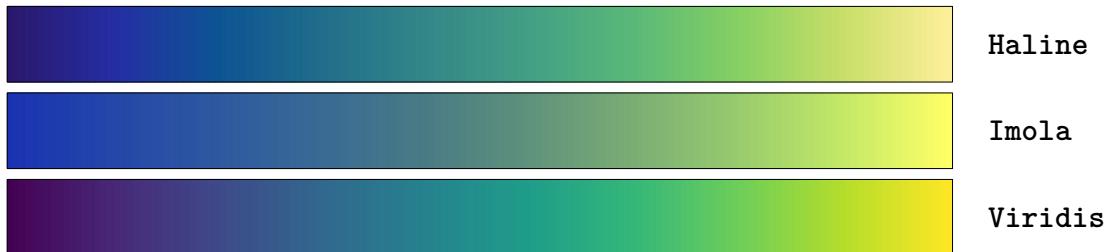
Cluster #18



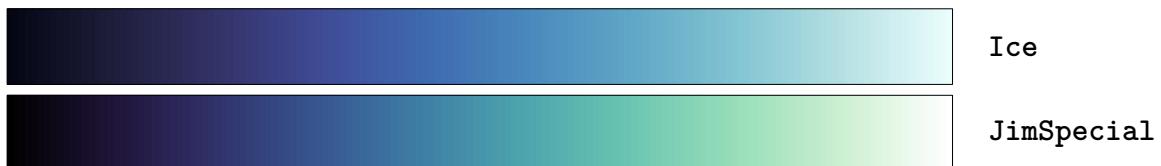
Cluster #19



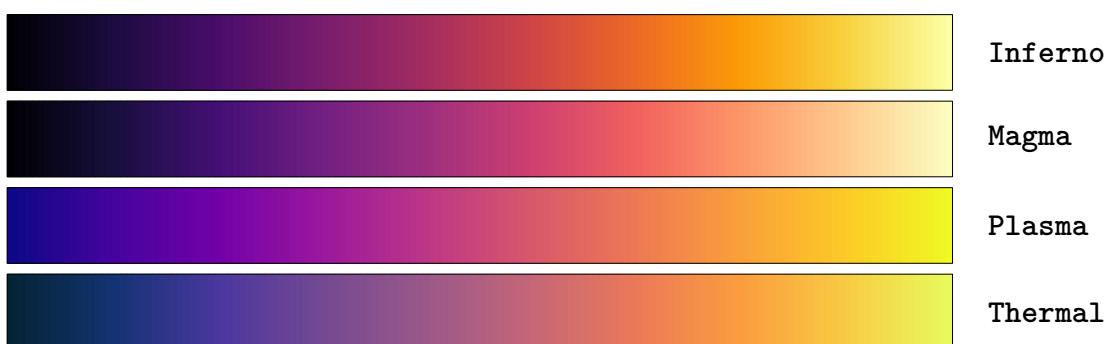
Cluster #20



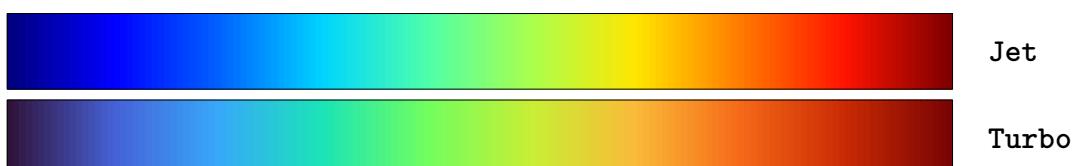
Cluster #21



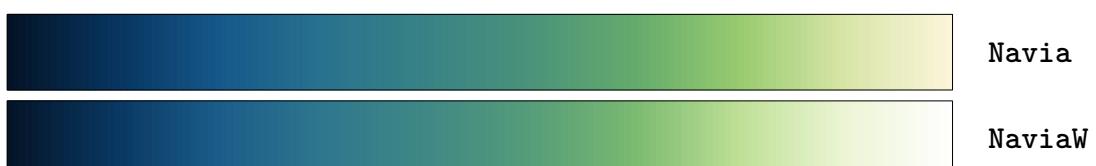
Cluster #22



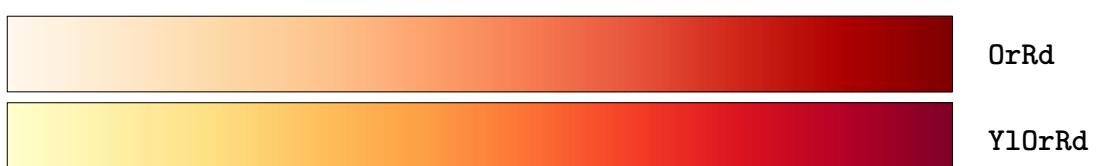
Cluster #23



Cluster #24



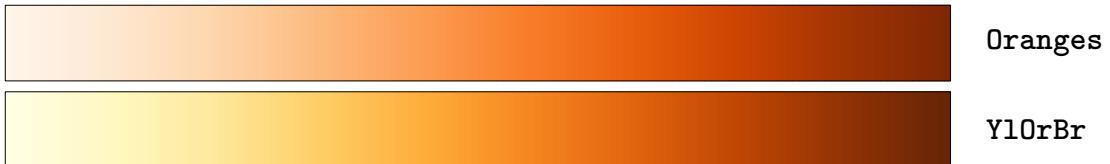
Cluster #25



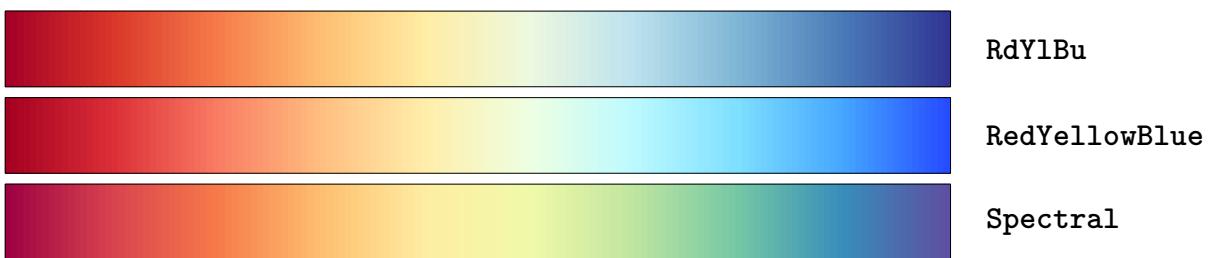
Cluster #26



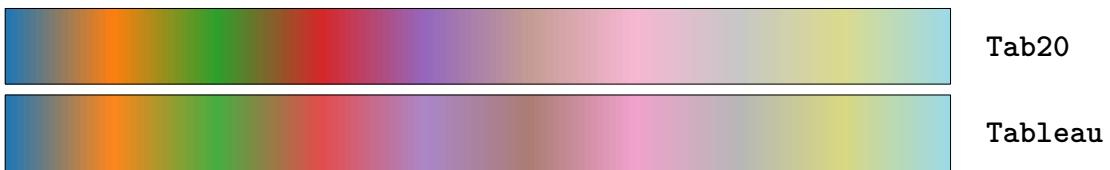
Cluster #27



Cluster #28



Cluster #29



Cluster #30



Cluster #31

