

# Digital Image Processing

## COSC 6380/4393

Lecture – 29

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# Color Image Processing

# What is color?

- Color is a psychological property of our visual experiences when we look at objects and lights,  
*not* a physical property of those objects or lights  
(S. Palmer, *Vision Science: Photons to Phenomenology*)
- Color is the result of interaction between physical light in the environment and our visual system



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON  
Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944), Murnau Street with Women, 1908

# Motivation

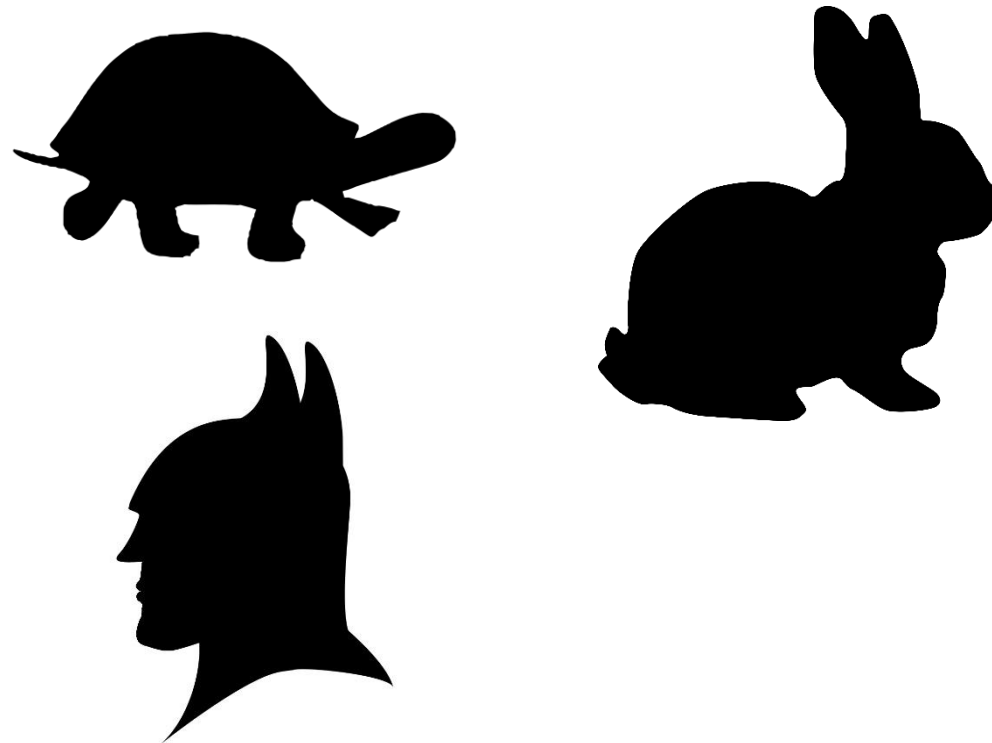
- Visual Descriptor (descriptions of the visual features of the contents)

# Principal Descriptor

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  - **SHAPE**

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# Principal Descriptor

- Visual Descriptor (descriptions of the visual features of the contents)
  - **SHAPE**
  - **COLOR**

## Principal Descriptor





## Principal Descriptor



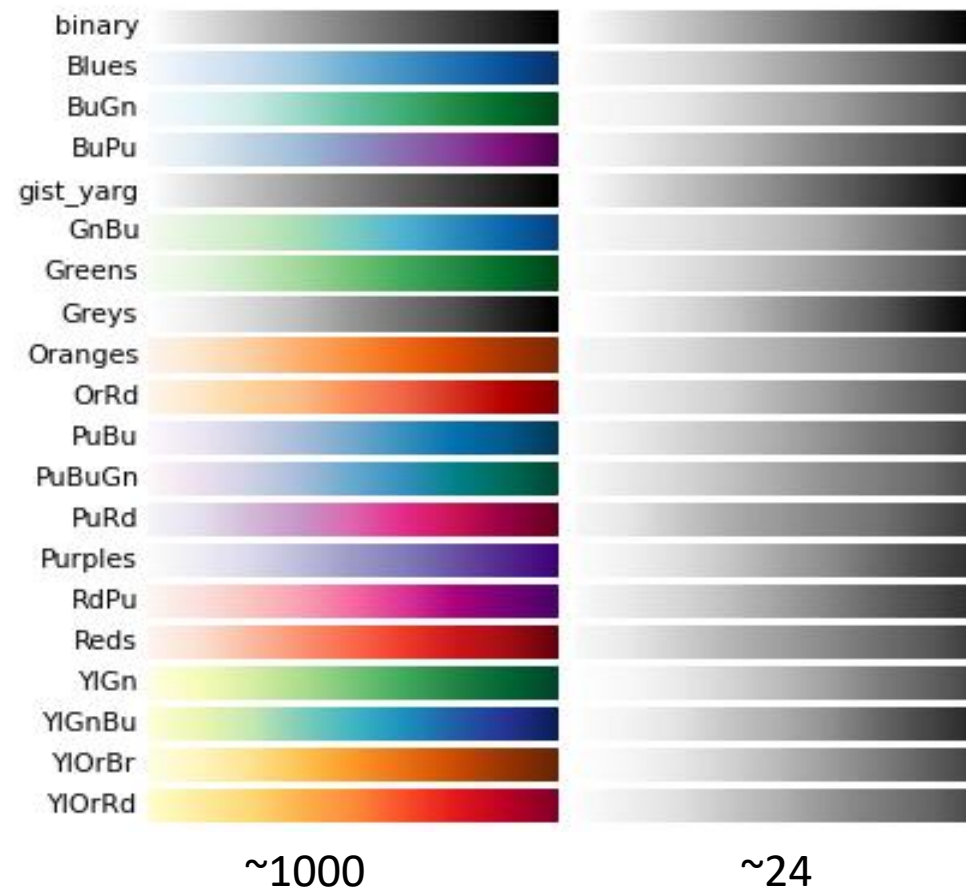
# Principal Descriptor

- Visual Descriptor (descriptions of the visual features of the contents)
  - **SHAPE**
  - **COLOR**
    - Color is a powerful descriptor that often simplifies object identification and extraction from a scene.

# Principal Descriptor

- Visual Descriptor
  - **SHAPE**
  - **COLOR**
  - **TEXTURE**
  - **MOTION**

# Discerning Color



# Motivation

- Color is principal descriptor
- Ability to discern thousands of colors

# Color Image Processing

- Two majors areas
  - Full color processing
  - Pseudocolor processing

# Color Image Processing

- Two majors areas
  - Full color processing



Color image

# Color Image Processing

- Two majors areas
  - Full color processing
  - Psuedocolor processing



Thermal Camera



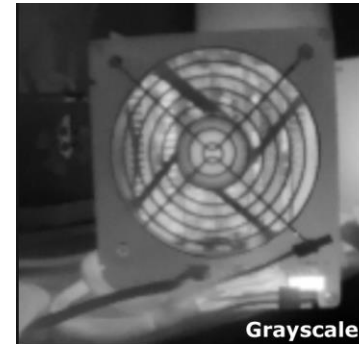


# Color Image Processing

- Two majors areas
  - Full color processing
  - Psuedocolor processing

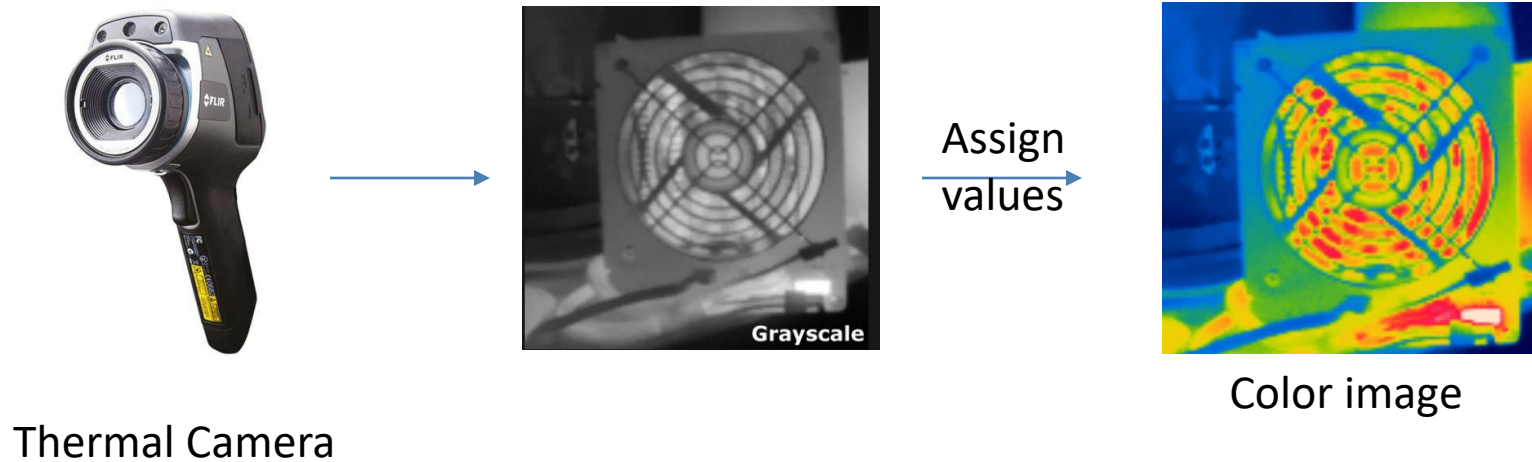


Thermal Camera



# Color Image Processing

- Two majors areas
  - Full color processing
  - Psuedocolor processing



# Color fundamentals

- **Physio-psychological** phenomenon
  - How human brain perceive and interpret color?
- **Physical** phenomenon
  - Physical nature of color can be expressed on formal basis (using experiments and theoretical results)

# Characterization of Light

- Acromatic light has only intensity (or amount)  
(void of color)
- Black and white television
- Gray level: scalar measure  
of intensity

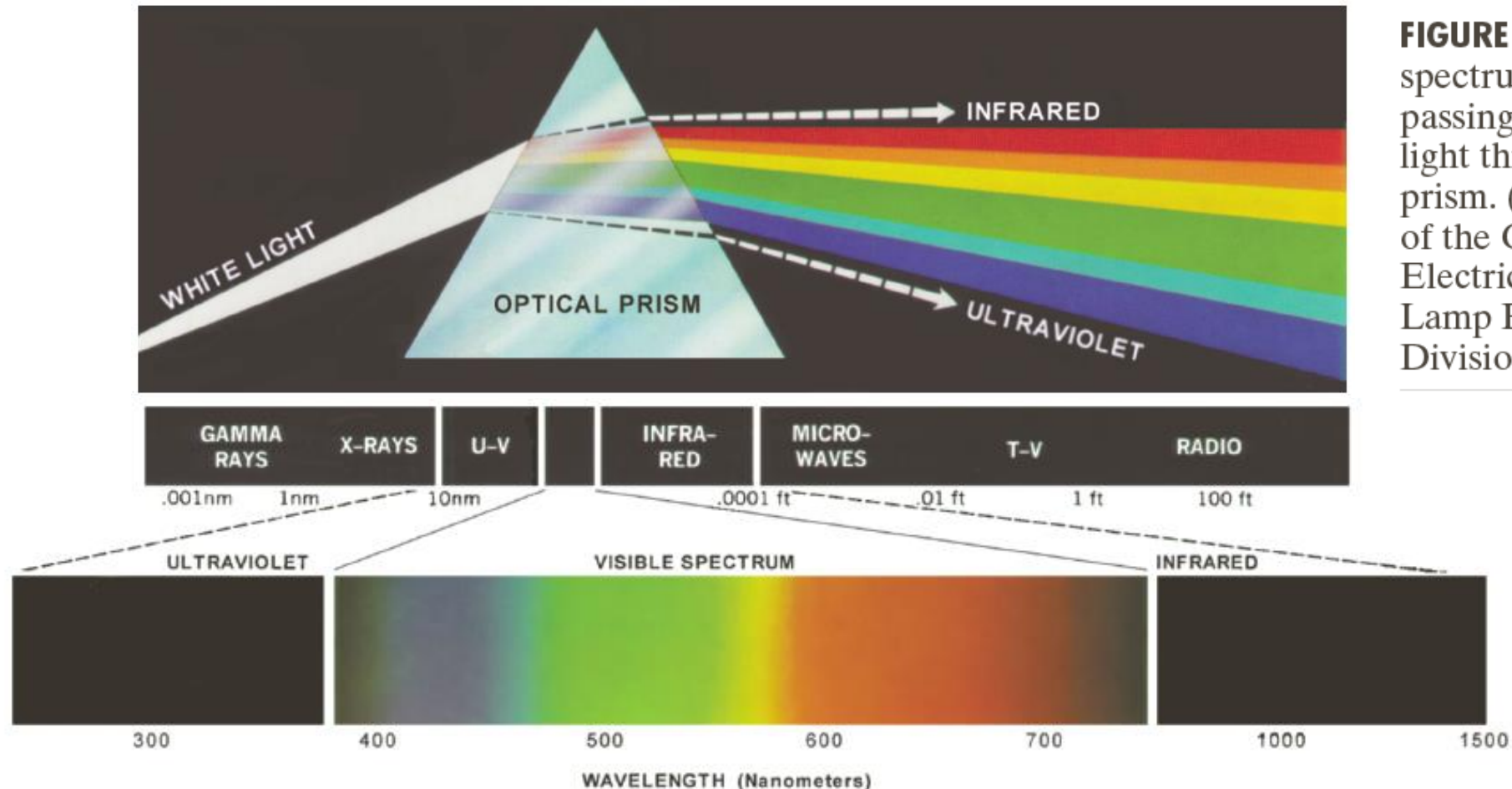


# Physical quantities to describe a chromatic light source

- **Radiance**: total amount of energy that flow from the light source, measured in **watts (W)**
- **Luminance**: amount of energy an observer *perceives* from a light source, measured in **lumens (lm)**
  - Far infrared light: high radiance, but 0 luminance
- **Brightness**: subjective descriptor that is hard to measure, similar to the achromatic notion of intensity

# Color Fundamentals

- Six broad regions, each blends into the next smoothly.

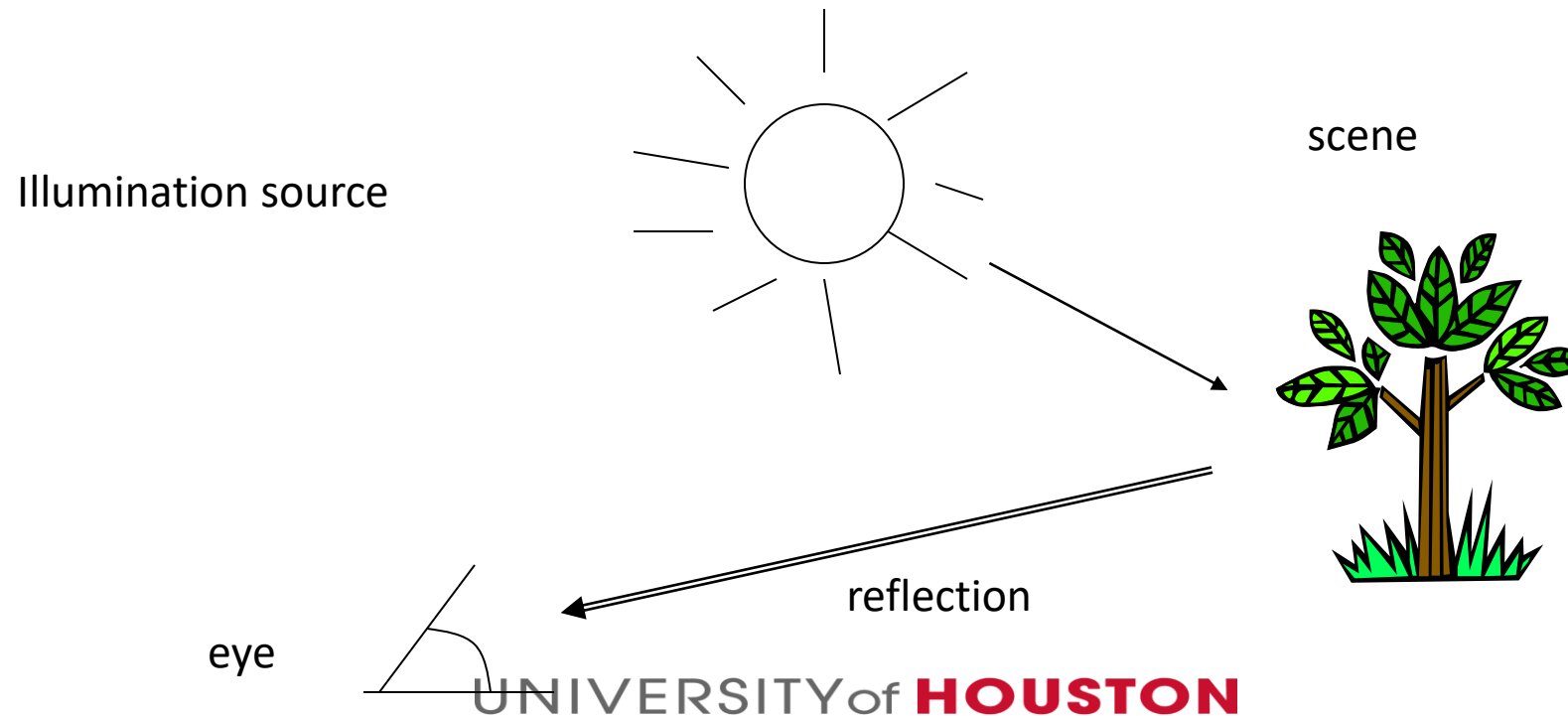


**FIGURE 6.1** Color spectrum seen by passing white light through a prism. (Courtesy of the General Electric Co., Lamp Business Division.)

**FIGURE 6.2** Wavelengths comprising the visible range of the electromagnetic spectrum. (Courtesy of the General Electric Co., Lamp Business Division.)

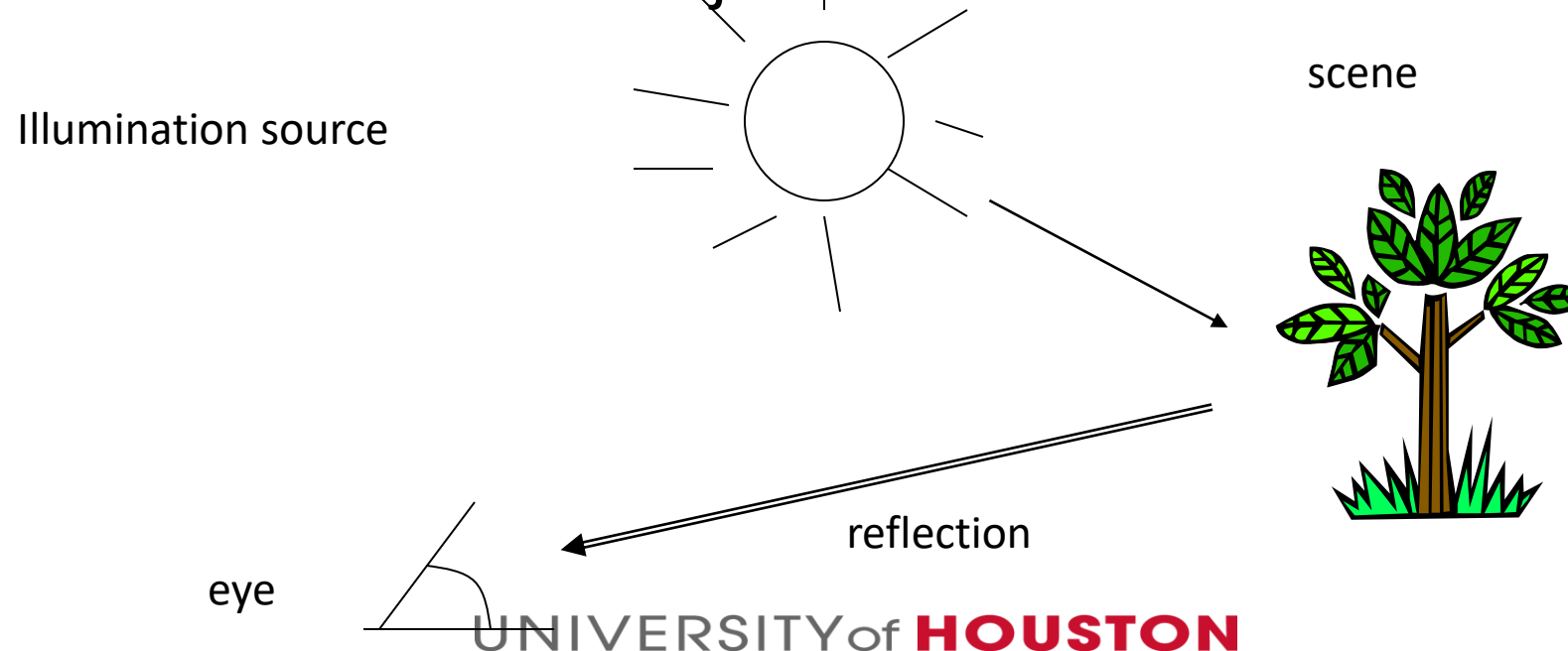
# Color fundamentals (cont.)

- The color that human perceive in an object = the light **reflected** from the object



# Color fundamentals (cont.)

- Balanced in all visible wavelengths → white
- Absorbs all light → black
- Limited range of visible spectrum → color shade
- 500 to 570 nm → Green object



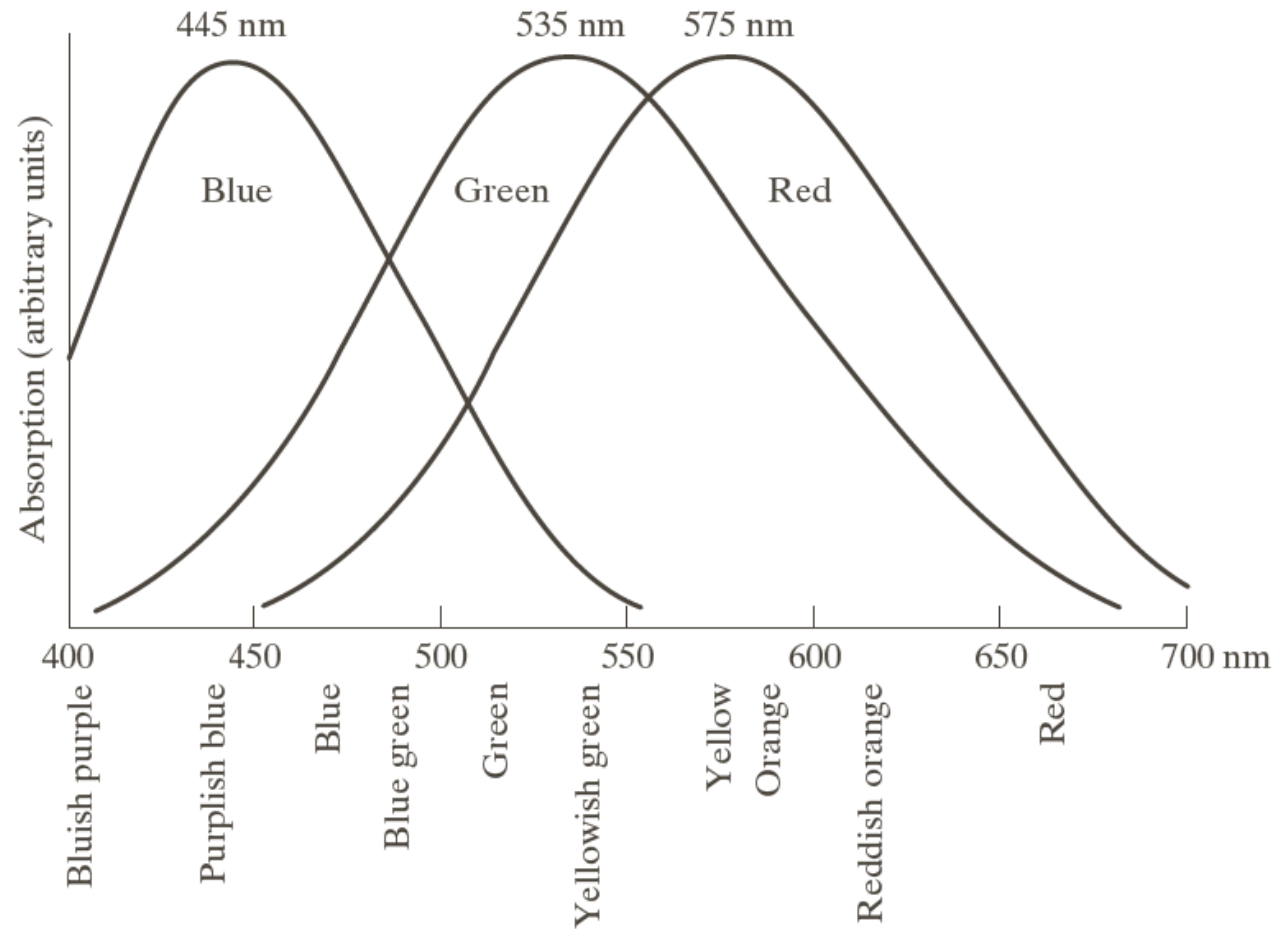


# Color Fundamentals

- Cones are the sensors in the eye that are responsible for color vision
- 6 to 7 million cones in the human eye
- Can be divided into three principal sensing categories, corresponding roughly to red, green, and blue.

65%: red   33%: green   2%: blue (blue cones are the most sensitive)

# Color Fundamentals



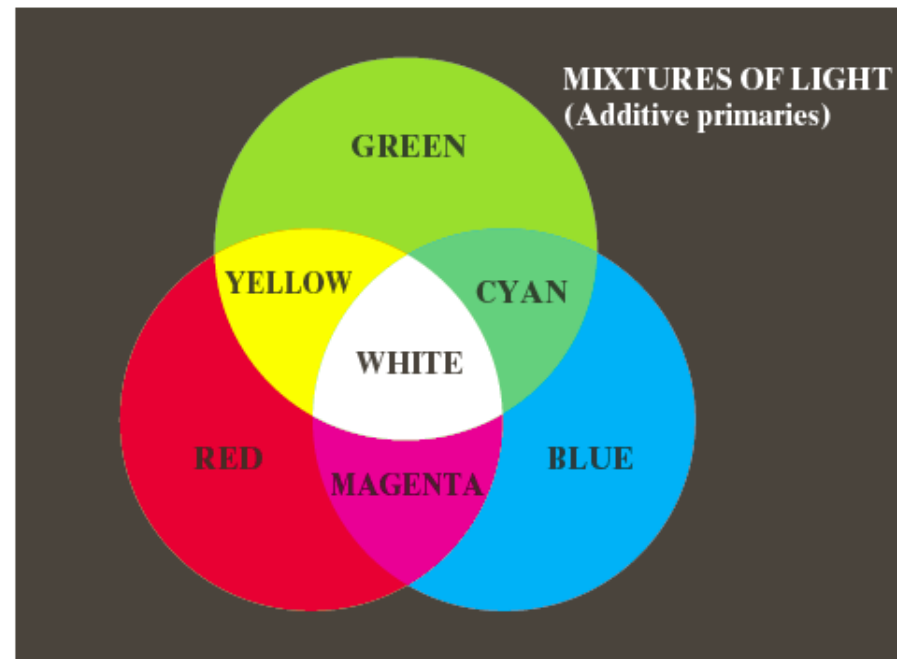
**FIGURE 6.3**

Absorption of light by the red, green, and blue cones in the human eye as a function of wavelength.

# Primary colors

- Due to the absorption characteristics of human eye,
- Primary colors:
  - Red
  - Green
  - Blue
- Color: described as a variable combination of the primary colors
- In 1931, CIE(International Commission on Illumination) defines specific wavelength values to the primary colors
  - B = 435.8 nm, G = 546.1 nm, R = 700 nm
  - However, we know that no single color may be called red, green, or blue

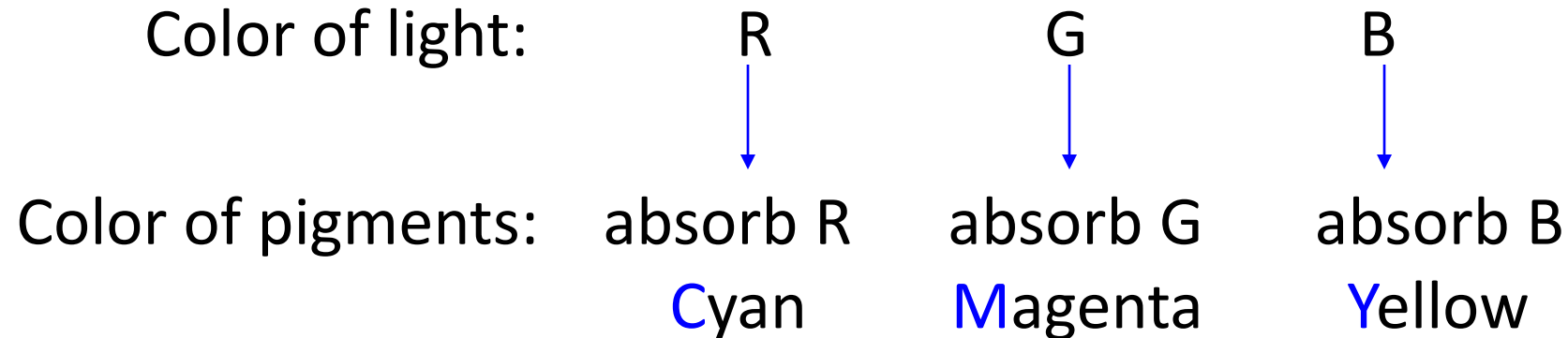
a

**FIGURE 6.4**

Primary and secondary colors of light and pigments.  
(Courtesy of the General Electric Co., Lamp Business Division.)

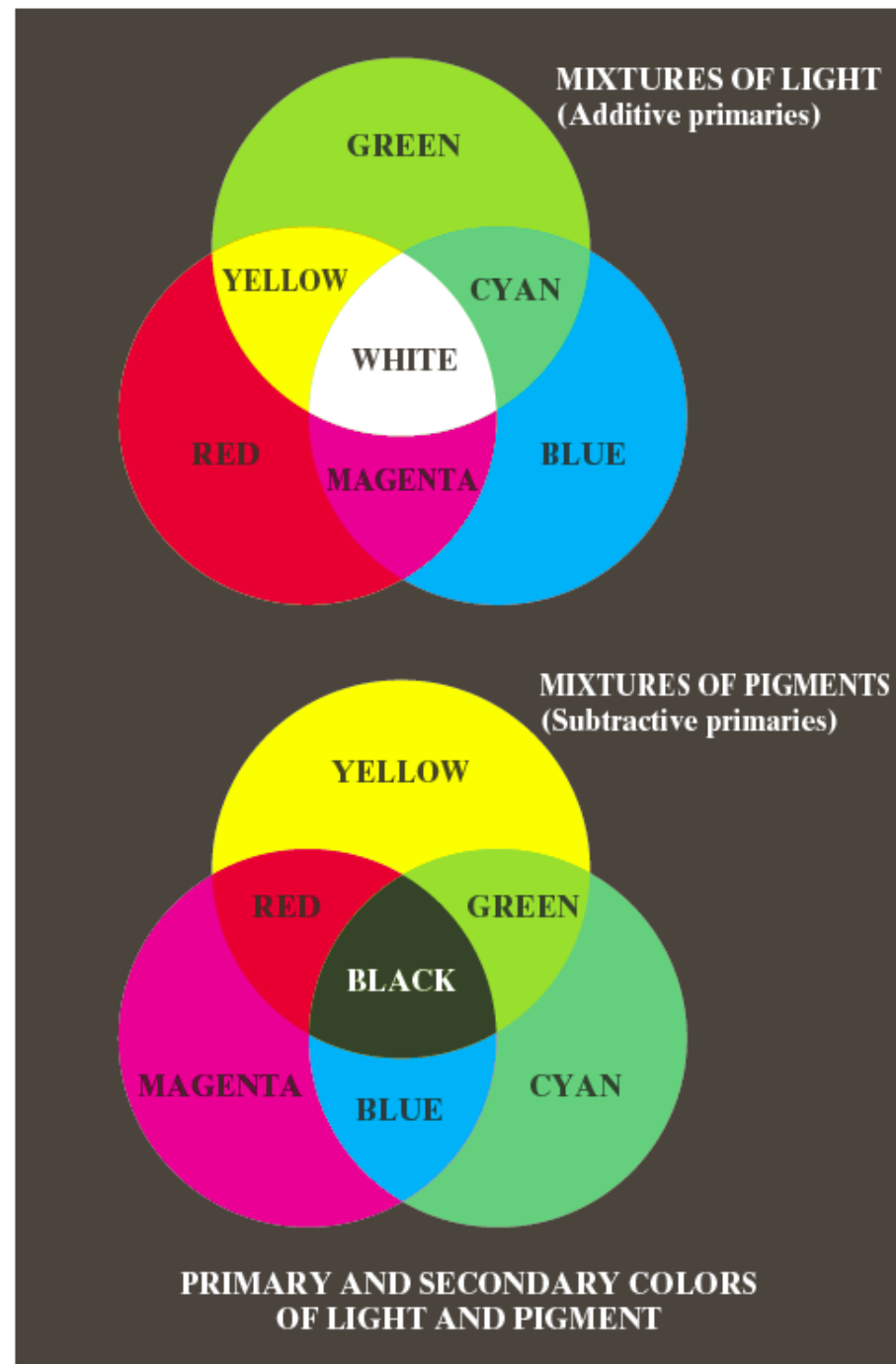
# Primary colors of light v.s. primary colors of pigments

- Primary color of pigments
  - Color that subtracts or absorbs a primary color of light and reflects or transmits the other two



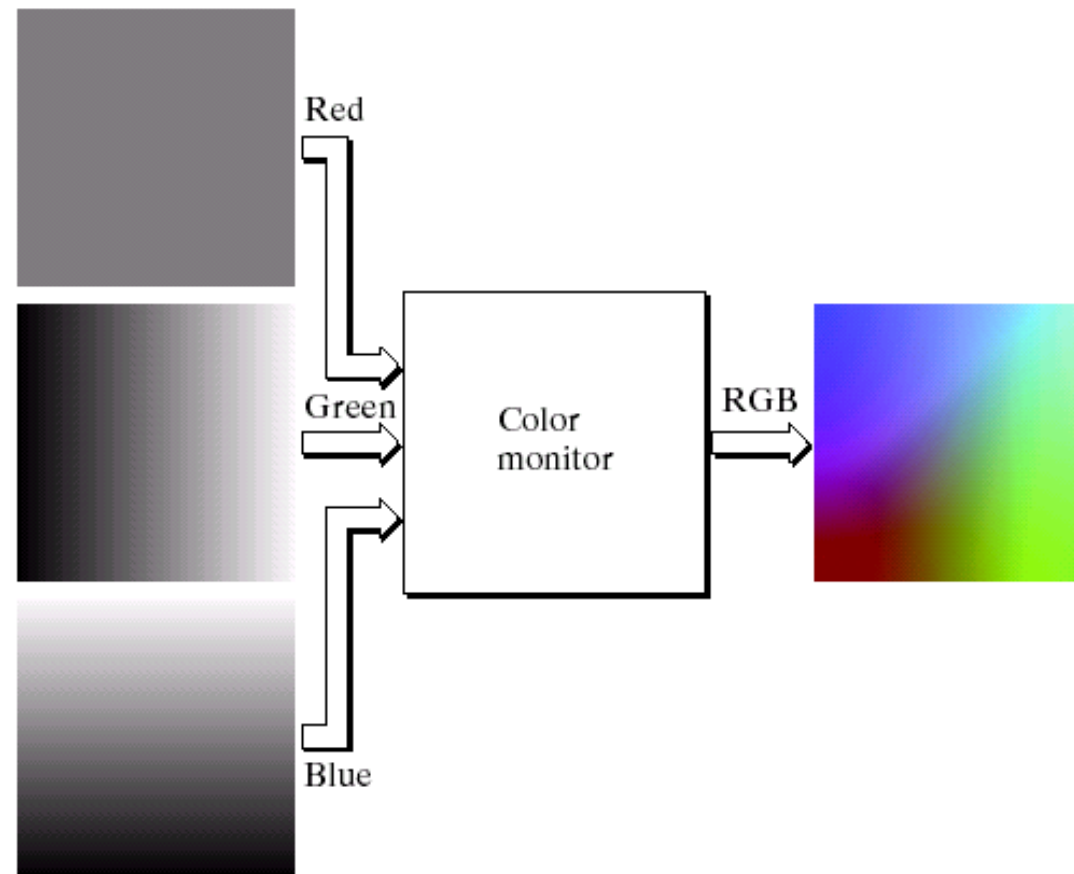
a  
b**FIGURE 6.4**

Primary and secondary colors of light and pigments.  
(Courtesy of the General Electric Co., Lamp Business Division.)



# Application of additive nature of light colors

- Color TV



# Application of **subtractive color** model

- Printers: the usual primary colors are [cyan](#), [magenta](#) and [yellow](#) (CMY)
- Cyan → serves as a filter that absorbs red
- Amount of cyan applied controls how much of the red in white light will be reflected back
- Cyan is completely transparent to green and blue light and has no effect on those parts of the [spectrum](#)



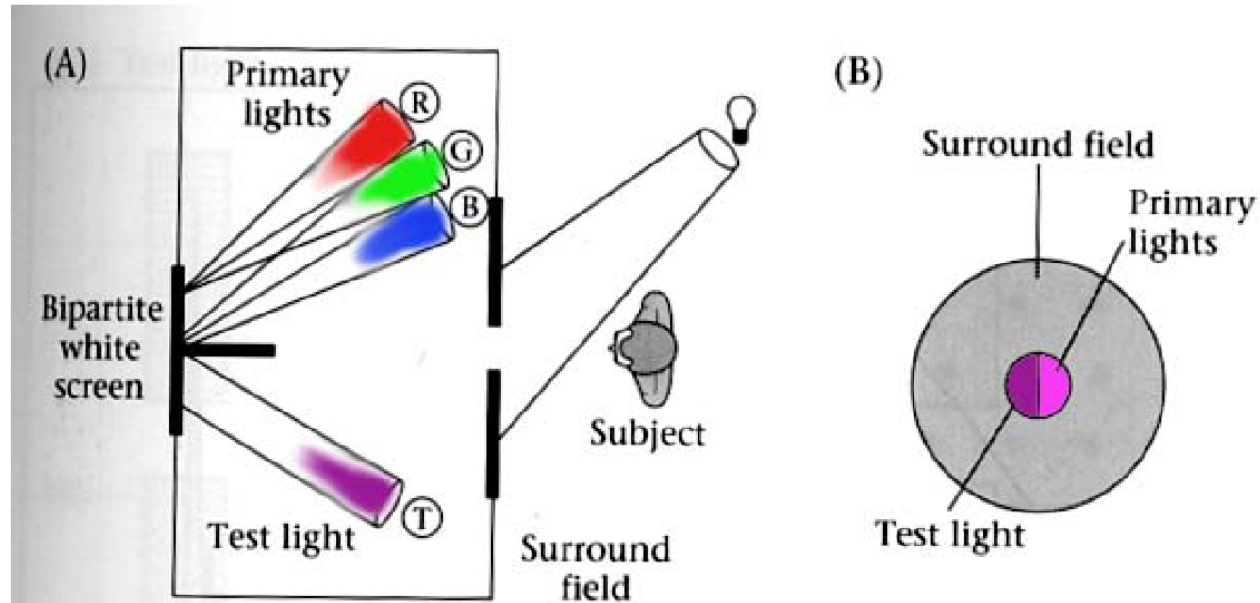
# Application of **subtractive color** model

- Magenta is the complement of green, and yellow the complement of blue.
- Combinations of different amounts of the three can produce a wide range of colors with good saturation.

## Why specify color numerically?

- Accurate color reproduction is commercially valuable
  - Many products are identified by color
- Few color names are widely recognized by English speakers -
  - About 10; other languages have fewer/more, but not many more.
  - It's common to disagree on appropriate color names.
- Color reproduction problems increased by prevalence of digital imaging - eg. digital libraries of art.
  - How do we ensure that everyone sees the same color?

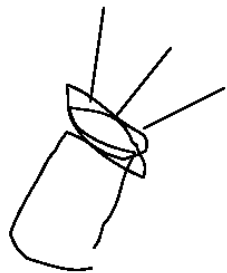
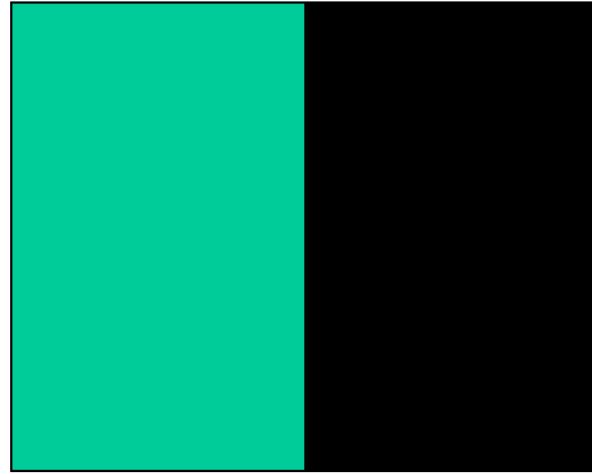
# Color matching experiment



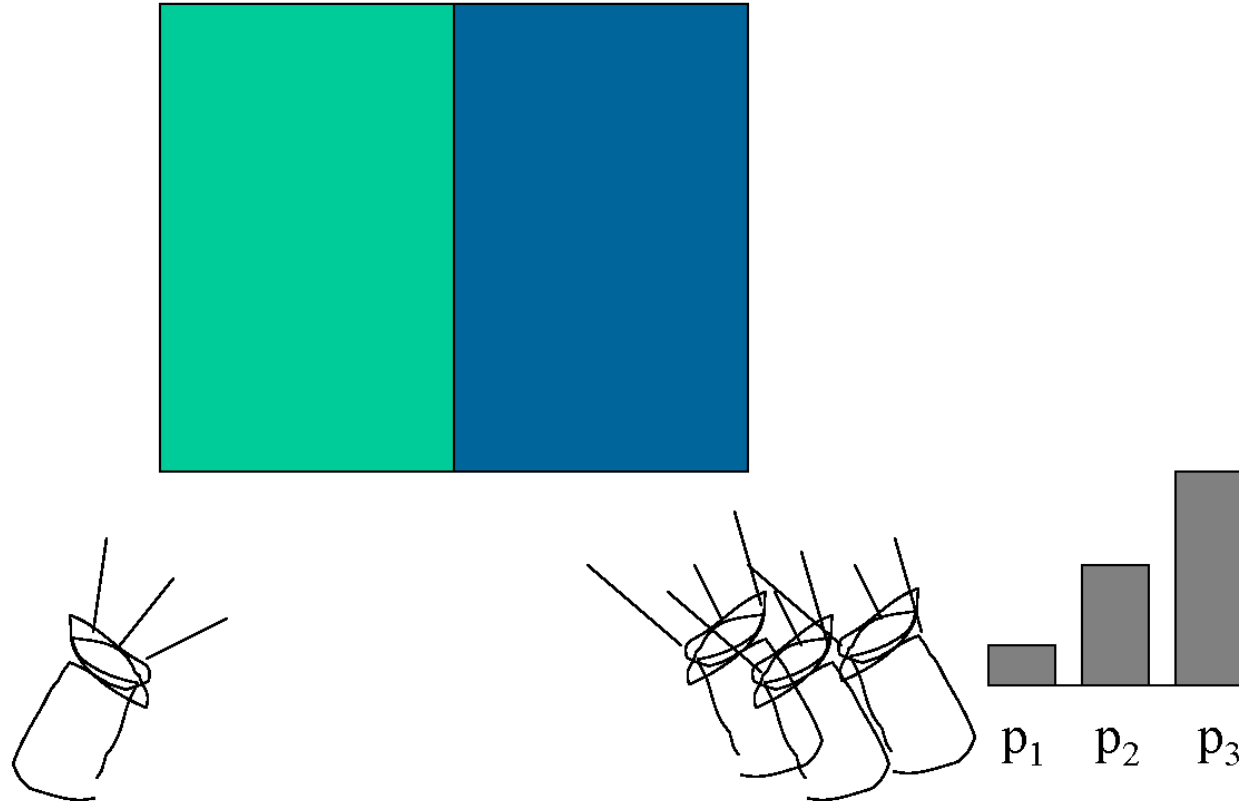
**4.10 THE COLOR-MATCHING EXPERIMENT.** The observer views a bipartite field and adjusts the intensities of the three primary lights to match the appearance of the test light. (A) A top view of the experimental apparatus. (B) The appearance of the stimuli to the observer. After Judd and Wyszecki, 1975.

Foundations of Vision, by Brian Wandell, Sinauer Assoc., 1995

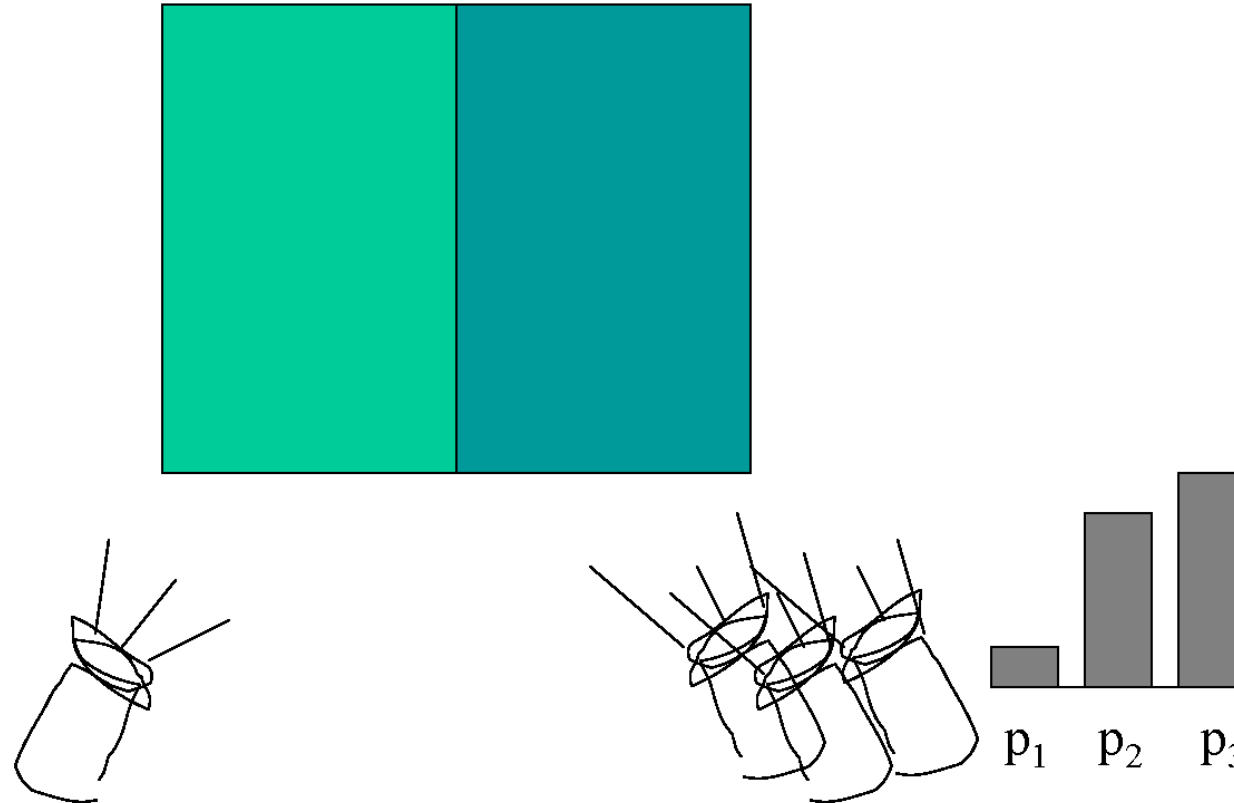
# Color matching experiment 1



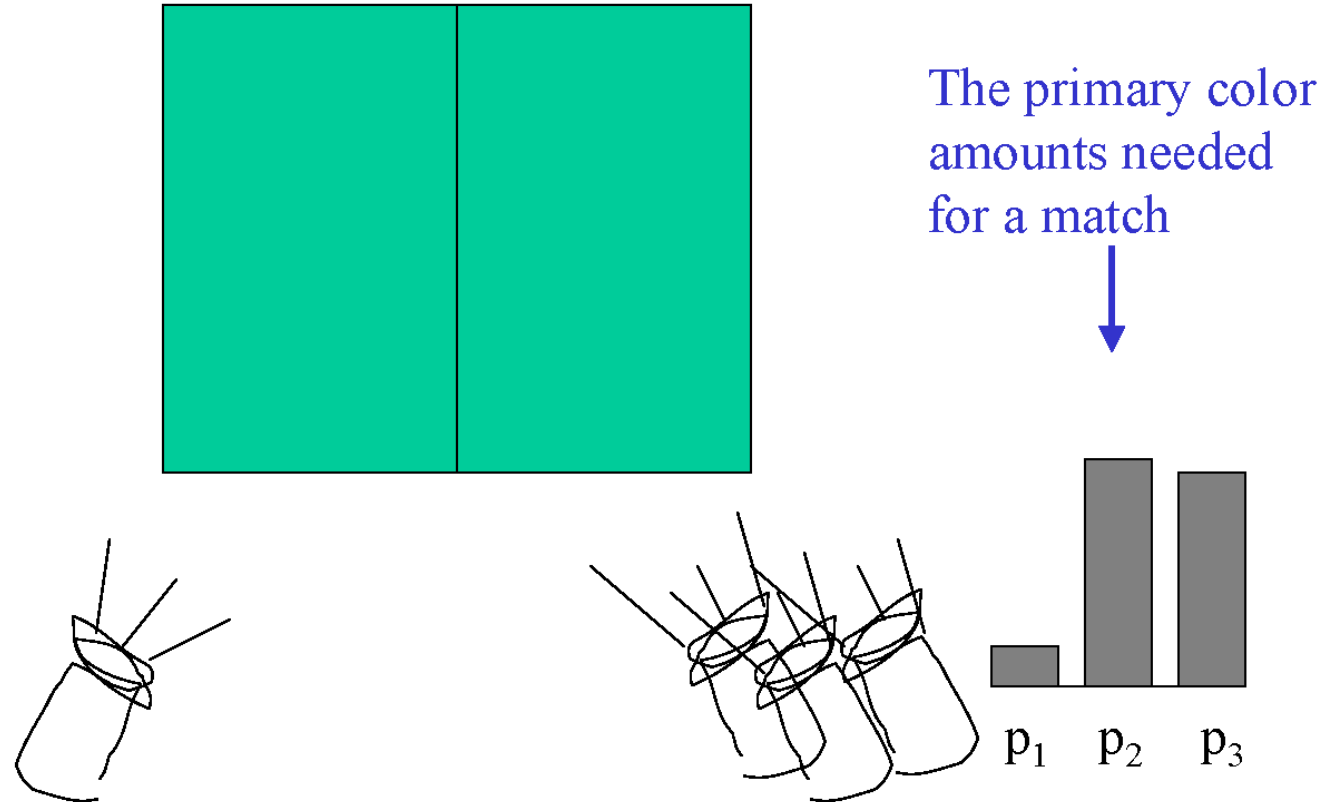
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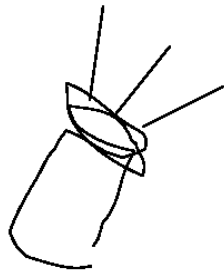
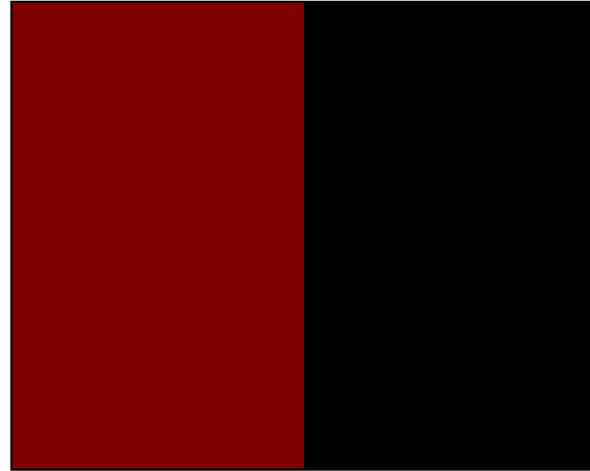
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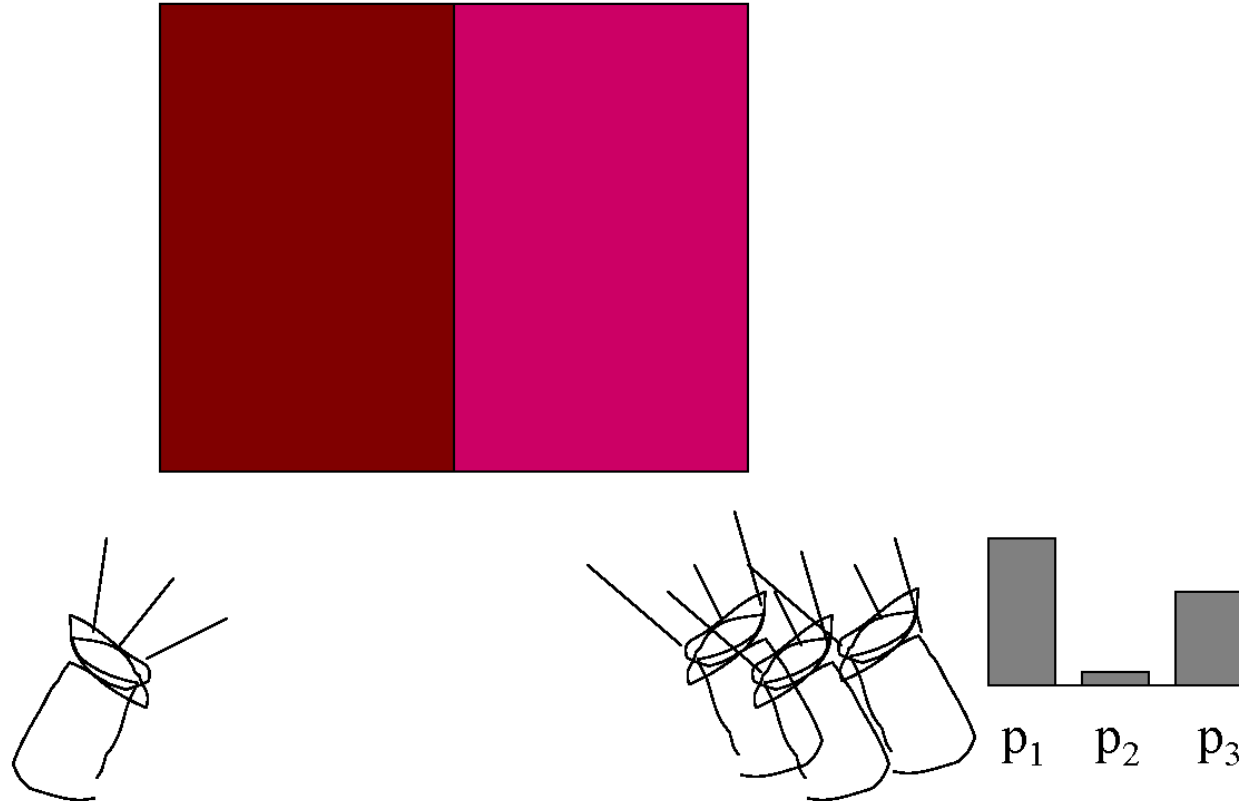


# Color matching experiment 2

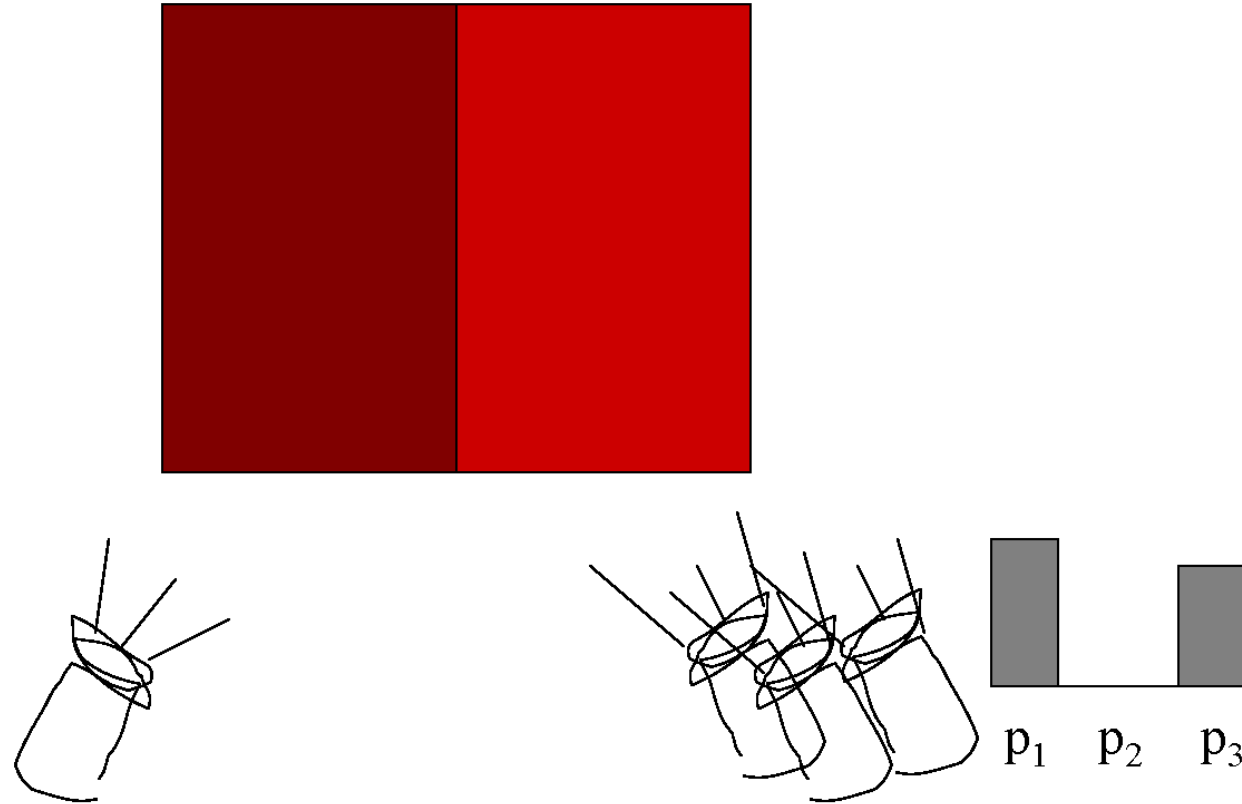




# Color matching experiment 2

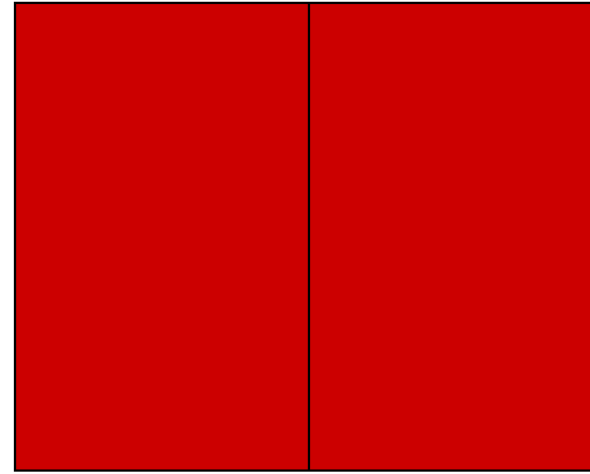


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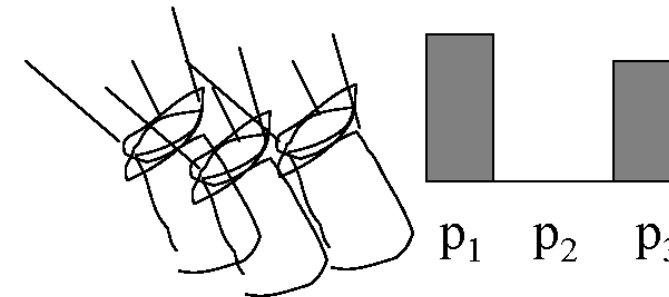
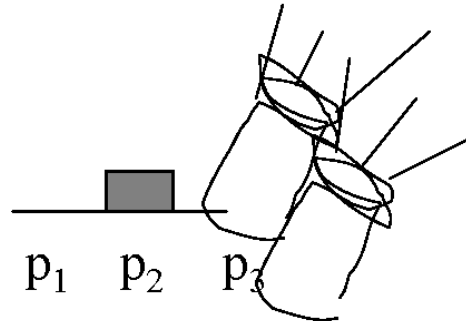
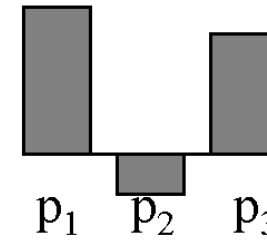


# Color matching experiment 2

We say a “negative” amount of  $p_2$  was needed to make the match, because we added it to the test color’s side.



The primary color amounts needed for a match:



# The principle of trichromacy

- Experimental facts:
  - Three primaries will work for most people if we allow subtractive matching
  - Most people make the same matches.

# Grassman's Laws

- Color matching is (approximately) linear
  - symmetry:  $U=V \iff V=U$
  - transitivity:  $U=V \text{ and } V=W \implies U=W$
  - proportionality:  $U=V \iff tU=tV$
  - additivity: if any two (or more) of the statements
$$U=V,$$
$$W=X,$$
$$(U+W)=(V+X)$$
are true, then so is the third
- These statements are as true as any biological law. They mean that color matching under these conditions is linear.

## Measure color by color-matching paradigm

- Pick a set of 3 primary color lights.
- Find the amounts of each primary,  $e_1$ ,  $e_2$ ,  $e_3$ , needed to match some spectral signal,  $t$ .
- Those amounts,  $e_1$ ,  $e_2$ ,  $e_3$ , describe the color of  $t$ . If you have some other spectral signal,  $s$ , and  $s$  matches  $t$  perceptually, then  $e_1$ ,  $e_2$ ,  $e_3$  will also match  $s$ .

# CIE RGB

- **Tri-stimulus** values: Color defined by three value (R,G,B)
- The amount of Red, Green and Blue needed to form any particular color

# CIE XYZ

- New color matching functions were to be everywhere greater than or equal to zero.
- For the constant energy white point, it was required that  $x = y = z = 1/3$ .



# CIE XYZ model

- RGB -> CIE XYZ model

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.431 & 0.342 & 0.178 \\ 0.222 & 0.707 & 0.071 \\ 0.020 & 0.130 & 0.939 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}$$

- Normalized tristimulus values

$$x = \frac{X}{X + Y + Z} \quad y = \frac{Y}{X + Y + Z} \quad z = \frac{Z}{X + Y + Z}$$

=>  $x+y+z=1$ . Thus,  $x, y$  (chromaticity coordinate) is enough to describe all colors

# CIE XYZ model

- Tristimulus

Red, green, and blue are denoted X, Y, and Z, respectively. A color is defined by its trichromatic coefficients, defined as

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

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

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