

Geog183: Cartographic Design and Geovisualization Spring Quarter 2020

Lecture 7: Color and its use

Color

- Most powerful element in map symbolization
- Invokes unconscious, perceptual and cognitive responses
- Both input (eye) and output (video) concern in cartography
- Color rendering methods use additive and subtractive color
- Color models
 - Hardware
 - RGB
 - CMYK
 - User-oriented
 - HSV
 - Munsell
 - HVC







Color context



Context and illumination





Allred, Sarah R., and Maria Olkkonen. "The Effect of Background and Illumination on Color Identification of Real, 3D Objects." *Frontiers in Psychology* 4 (2013): 821. *PMC*. Web. 25 Apr. 2018.

Not just a good idea, it's the law

- c = 299 792 458 m/ s
- c= 670 444 951 miles per hour
- Eye can process up to
 - Movies run at 24 FPS
 - TV runs at 30 FPS = 33 milliseconds/frame
 - Using 50 FPS, light can travel 5,995,849m between frames
- Effect on light is motion blur at high velocities



Wave theory of EMR: Polarization



EMR Theory: A Duality



Particle Theory of EMR Photons



EMR has a wavelength

- Wavelength (λ) = c / v
- Frequency (f) = $1/\lambda$
- Amplitude (A)



Intensity of EMR = Brightness

- Energy content = E = f(# photons)
- E = hc / λ Planck's constant (h)
- 6.626 x 10^-34 Joules/second
- Basic energy equation
- E.g. UV and visible light on skin
- \bullet UV shorter λ

Electromagnetic spectrum



"Pure" sunlight: absorption features



'Solar Flux Atlas from 296 to 1300 nm' by Robert L. Kurucz, Ingemar Furenlid, James Brault, and Larry Testerman: National Solar Observatory Atlas No. 1, June 1984.

Light interactions

- Shadowing (depth)
- Reflection
- Refraction
- Scattering
- Absorption
- Re-emission





Spectrum and Absorption



Light: Electrical and magnetic dimensions (Polarization)



The Polarized Lens Advantage



Unfiltered (standard lens)

Filtered (polarized lens)

Rods and cones



Fig. 2. The mean absorbance spectra of outer segments of the four classes of human photoreceptors. Curves labelled as follows: '498', mean of eleven rods; '420', mean of three blue-sensitive cones; '534', mean of eleven green-sensitive cones; '564', mean of nineteen red-sensitive cones.

Theories of color perception

- Trichromatic theory
 - RGB cones
- Opponent-process theory
 - Light-dark and two color scales, red-green and blue-yellow
- Both theories have value
- Nerves fire at a constant rate
- Above standard is excitation, below is inhibition

Simultaneous contrast



Almond illusion



Rendering color

- Depends on medium, but one major contrast
- Subtractive color
 - Assumes background color is white, uses filtering pigments to add to surface to create color
 - Add little color, unsaturated and light
 - Add full color, saturated and darker
 - Non-primary colors are blends of MCY
- Additive color
 - Assumes background is black
 - Adds illumination to achieve color
 - More color more saturated, more light brighter
 - Non-primary colors are blends of RGB



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Offset color lithographic printing





Raster graphics





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Raster imaging technologies



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Display details

- Pixelization
- Aliasing and anti-aliasing
- Dithering
- Frame buffers and the refresh rate
- Movement periodicity

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smDpCsVVgPA



Liquid Crystal Display



Light Emitting Diodes

- LED panels: conventional (using discrete LEDs) and surface-mounted device (SMD) panels
- A cluster of red, green, and blue diodes is driven together to form a full-color pixel, usually square
- Pixels are spaced evenly apart and are measured from center to center for absolute pixel resolution
- Largest LED display in the world is over 500 meters long in Suzhou, China
- Largest LED television in the world is the Center Hung Video Display at Cowboys Stadium, which is 49 m × 22 m
- LED TVs using SMD pixels of red, green, and blue diodes mounted in a single package, which is then mounted on the driver PC board
- Individual diodes are smaller than a pinhead and are set very close together
- Reduces maximum viewing distance by 25% from the discrete diode screen at the same resolution



Color models: Cube



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Color production and reproduction

- Requires measurement
- Based on standards
- Names are subjective
- Applies to foveal zone only
- Requires color MODEL





Color models: Wheel (Hue and Saturation)





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CMYK: Subtractive primaries Cyan, magenta, yellow, black



FINAL CMYK

DETAIL VIEW

HSV color model: Perceptual, but not all equal value



Hue: Wavelength Saturation: Amount of pigment Value: Intensity or brightness

Saturation



Intensity









Munsell color model







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Munsell layers



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CIE color model

- Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage
- Objective way to specify color
- Based on three numbers Yxy
- Two dimensional space for range of hue and saturation
- Central white-point (or equal energy)
- Uses RGB theory, color combinations and human subjects for color repetition
- Attempt to rectify perceptual difference in luminescence as a function of hue

CIE color spaces















8 1 8

Increased

Greenness

CIE stimulus adjustment



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Diverging



Qualitative



Summary

- Color is complex and powerful
- Light behaves as both a wave and particles
- Light interacts with all aspects of map viewing
- Colors can be additive or subtractive
- Color models allow color specification and control
- Covered RGB, CMYK, HSV, Munsell and CIE
- Colorbrewer recommends color sequences for sequential, diverging and qualitative color sets
- Don't forget: Hue suggests class, saturation and intensity suggest value