

## What is Color?

- Color is a human perception (a percept).
- Color is not a physical property...
- But, it is related to the light spectrum of a stimulus.

## Can We Measure the Percept of Color?

- Semantic names - red, green, blue, orange, yellow, etc.
- These color semantics are largely culturally invariant, but not precisely.
- Currently, there is no accurate model for predicting perceived color from the light spectrum of a stimulus.
- Currently, noone has an accurate model for predicting the percept of color.

## Can We Tell if Two Colors are the Same?

- Two colors are the same if they match at *all* spectral wavelengths.
- However, we will see that two colors are also the same if they match on a 3 dimensional subspace.
- The values on this three dimensional subspace are called *tristimulus* values.
- Two colors that match are called *metamers*.

## Matching a Color Patch

- Experimental set up:

- Form a reference color patch with a known spectral distribution.

$$\text{Reference Color} \Rightarrow I(\lambda)$$

- Form a second adjustable color patch by adding light with three different spectral distributions.

$$\text{Red} \Rightarrow I_r(\lambda) = \mathbf{R}$$

$$\text{Green} \Rightarrow I_g(\lambda) = \mathbf{G}$$

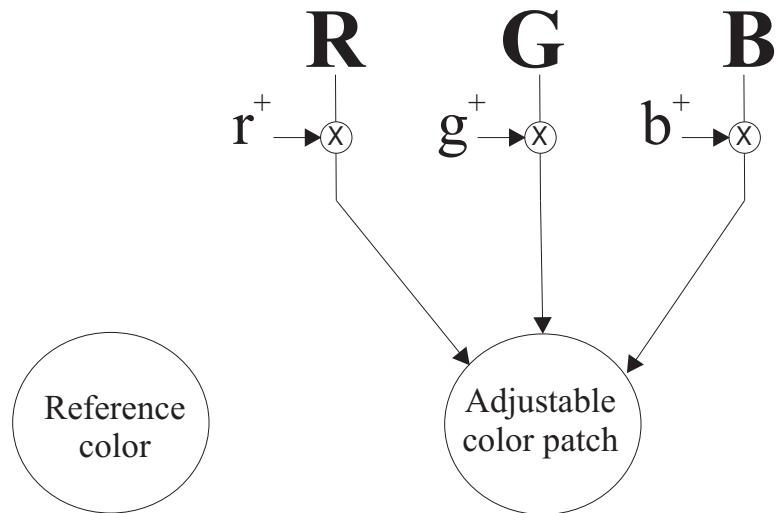
$$\text{Blue} \Rightarrow I_b(\lambda) = \mathbf{B}$$

- Control the amplitude of each component with three individual positive constants  $r^+$ ,  $g^+$ , and  $b^+$ .
- The total spectral content of the adjustable patch is then

$$r^+ I_r(\lambda) + g^+ I_g(\lambda) + b^+ I_b(\lambda) .$$

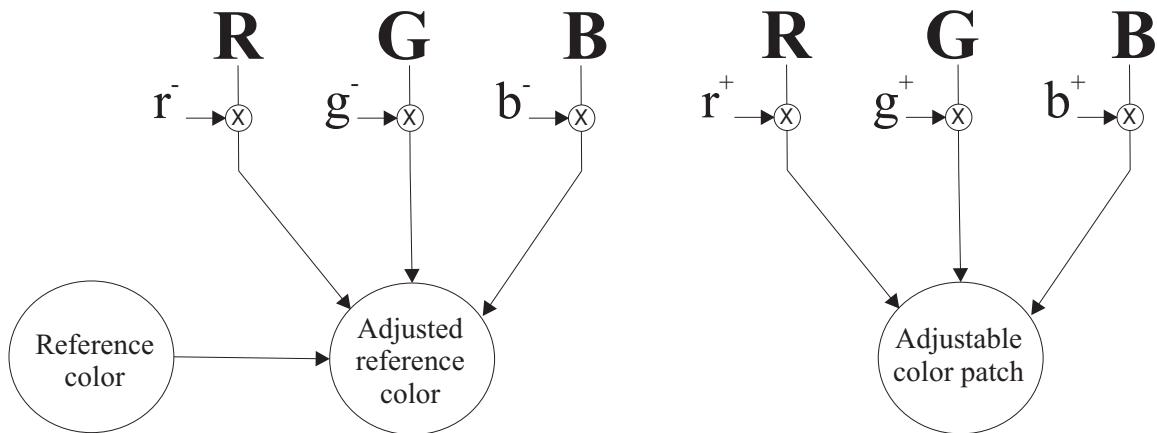
- Choose  $(r^+, g^+, b^+)$  to match the two color patches.

## Simple Color Matching with Primaries



- Choose  $(r^+, g^+, b^+)$  to match the two color patches.
- The values of  $(r, g, b)$  must be positive!
- Definitions:
  - **R**, **G**, and **B** are known as color primaries.
  - $r^+$ ,  $g^+$ , and  $b^+$  are known as tristimulus values.
- Problem:
  - Some colors can not be matched, because they are too “saturated”.
  - These colors result in values of  $r^+$ ,  $g^+$ , or  $b^+$  which are 0.
  - How can we generate negative values for  $r^+$ ,  $g^+$ , or  $b^+$ ?

## Improved Color Matching with Primaries



- Add color primaries to reference color!
- This is equivalent to subtracting them from adjustable patch.
- Equivalent tristimulus values are:

$$r = r^+ - r^-$$

$$g = g^+ - g^-$$

$$b = b^+ - b^-$$

- In this case,  $r$ ,  $g$ , and  $b$  can be both positive and negative.
- All colors may be matched.

## Grassman's Law

- Grassman's law: Color perception is a 3 dimensional linear space.
- Superposition:
  - Let  $I_1(\lambda)$  have tristimulus values  $(r_1, g_1, b_1)$ , and let  $I_2(\lambda)$  have tristimulus values  $(r_2, g_2, b_2)$ .
  - Then  $I_3(\lambda) = I_1(\lambda) + I_2(\lambda)$  has tristimulus values of

$$(r_3, g_3, b_3) = (r_1, g_1, b_1) + (r_2, g_2, b_2)$$

- This implies that tristimulus values can be computed with a linear functional of the form

$$r = \int_0^\infty r_0(\lambda) I(\lambda) d\lambda$$

$$g = \int_0^\infty g_0(\lambda) I(\lambda) d\lambda$$

$$b = \int_0^\infty b_0(\lambda) I(\lambda) d\lambda$$

for some functions  $r_0(\lambda)$ ,  $g_0(\lambda)$ , and  $b_0(\lambda)$ .

- Definition:  $r_0(\lambda)$ ,  $g_0(\lambda)$ , and  $b_0(\lambda)$  are known as color matching functions.

## Measuring Color Matching Functions

- A pure color at wavelength  $\lambda_0$  is known as a line spectrum. It has spectral distribution

$$I(\lambda) = \delta(\lambda - \lambda_0) .$$

Pure colors can be generated using a laser or a very narrow band spectral filter.

- When the reference color is such a pure color, then the tristimulus values are given by

$$r = \int_0^\infty r_0(\lambda) \delta(\lambda - \lambda_0) d\lambda = r_0(\lambda_0)$$

$$g = \int_0^\infty g_0(\lambda) \delta(\lambda - \lambda_0) d\lambda = g_0(\lambda_0)$$

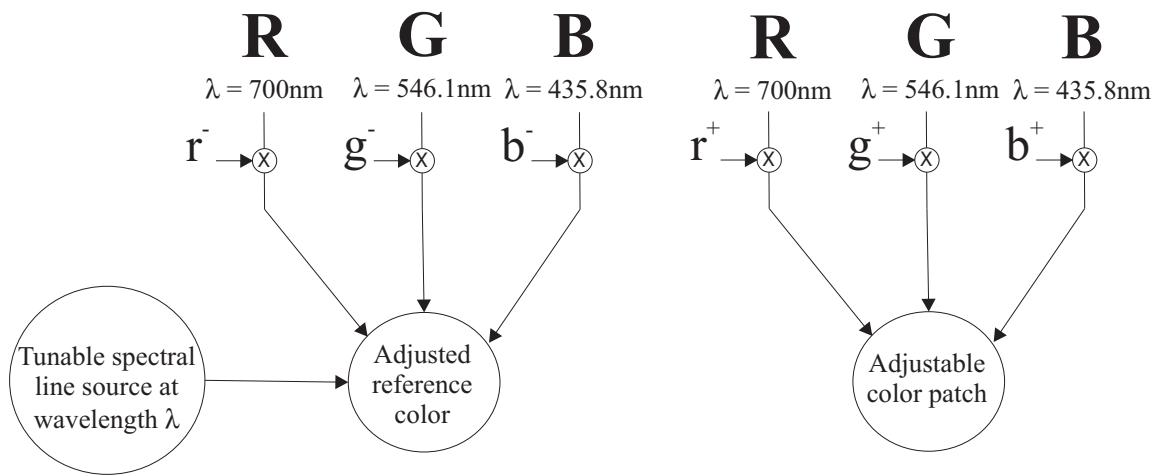
$$b = \int_0^\infty b_0(\lambda) \delta(\lambda - \lambda_0) d\lambda = b_0(\lambda_0)$$

- Method for Measuring Color Matching Functions:
  - Color match to a reference color generated by a pure spectral source at wavelength  $\lambda_0$ .
  - Record the tristimulus values of  $r_0(\lambda_0)$ ,  $g_0(\lambda_0)$ , and  $b_0(\lambda_0)$  that you obtain.
  - Repeat for all values of  $\lambda_0$ .

## CIE Standard RGB Color Matching Functions

- An organization call Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage (CIE) defined all practical standards for color measurements (colorimetry).
- CIE 1931 Standard  $2^\circ$  Observer:
  - Uses color patches that subtended  $2^\circ$  of visual angle.
  - **R, G, B** color primaries are defined by pure line spectra (delta functions in wavelength) at 700nm, 546.1nm, and 435.8nm.
  - Reference color is a spectral line at wavelength  $\lambda$ .
- CIE 1965  $10^\circ$  Observer: A slightly different standard based on a  $10^\circ$  reference color patch and a different measurement technique.

## RGB Color Matching Functions for CIE Standard 2° Observer



- The color matching functions are then given by

$$r_0(\lambda) = r^+ - r^-$$

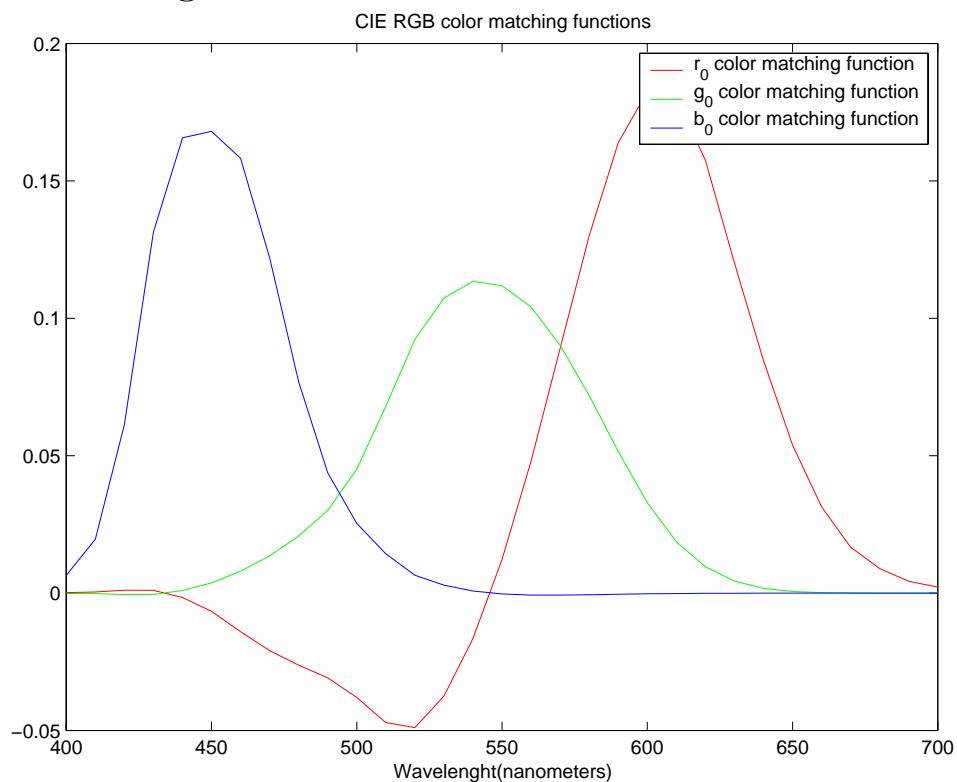
$$g_0(\lambda) = g^+ - g^-$$

$$b_0(\lambda) = b^+ - b^-$$

where  $\lambda$  is the wavelength of the reference line spectrum.

## RGB Color Matching Functions for CIE Standard $2^\circ$ Observer

- Plotting the values of  $r_0(\lambda)$ ,  $g_0(\lambda)$ , and  $b_0(\lambda)$  results in the following.



- Notice that the functions take on negative values.

## Review of Colorimetry Concepts

1.  $\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{B}$  are color primaries used to generate colors.
2.  $(r, g, b)$  are tristimulus values used as weightings for the primaries.

$$\text{Color} = r\mathbf{R} + g\mathbf{G} + b\mathbf{B}$$

$$= [\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{B}] \begin{bmatrix} r \\ g \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

3.  $(r_0(\lambda), g_0(\lambda), b_0(\lambda))$  are the color matching functions used to compute the tristimulus values.

$$r = \int_0^\infty r_0(\lambda) I(\lambda) d\lambda$$

$$g = \int_0^\infty g_0(\lambda) I(\lambda) d\lambda$$

$$b = \int_0^\infty b_0(\lambda) I(\lambda) d\lambda$$

## Problems with CIE RGB

- Some colors generate negative values of  $(r, g, b)$ .
- This results from the fact that the color matching functions  $r_0(\lambda)$ ,  $g_0(\lambda)$ ,  $b_0(\lambda)$  can be negative.
- The color primaries corresponding to CIE RGB are very difficult to reproduce. (pure spectral lines)
- Partial solution: Define new color matching functions  $x_0(\lambda)$ ,  $y_0(\lambda)$ ,  $z_0(\lambda)$  such that:
  - Each function is positive
  - Each function is a linear combination of  $r_0(\lambda)$ ,  $g_0(\lambda)$ , and  $b_0(\lambda)$ .

## CIE XYZ Definition

- CIE XYZ in terms of CIE RGB so that

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_0(\lambda) \\ y_0(\lambda) \\ z_0(\lambda) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{M} \begin{bmatrix} r_0(\lambda) \\ g_0(\lambda) \\ b_0(\lambda) \end{bmatrix}$$

where

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.490 & 0.310 & 0.200 \\ 0.177 & 0.813 & 0.010 \\ 0.000 & 0.010 & 0.990 \end{bmatrix}$$

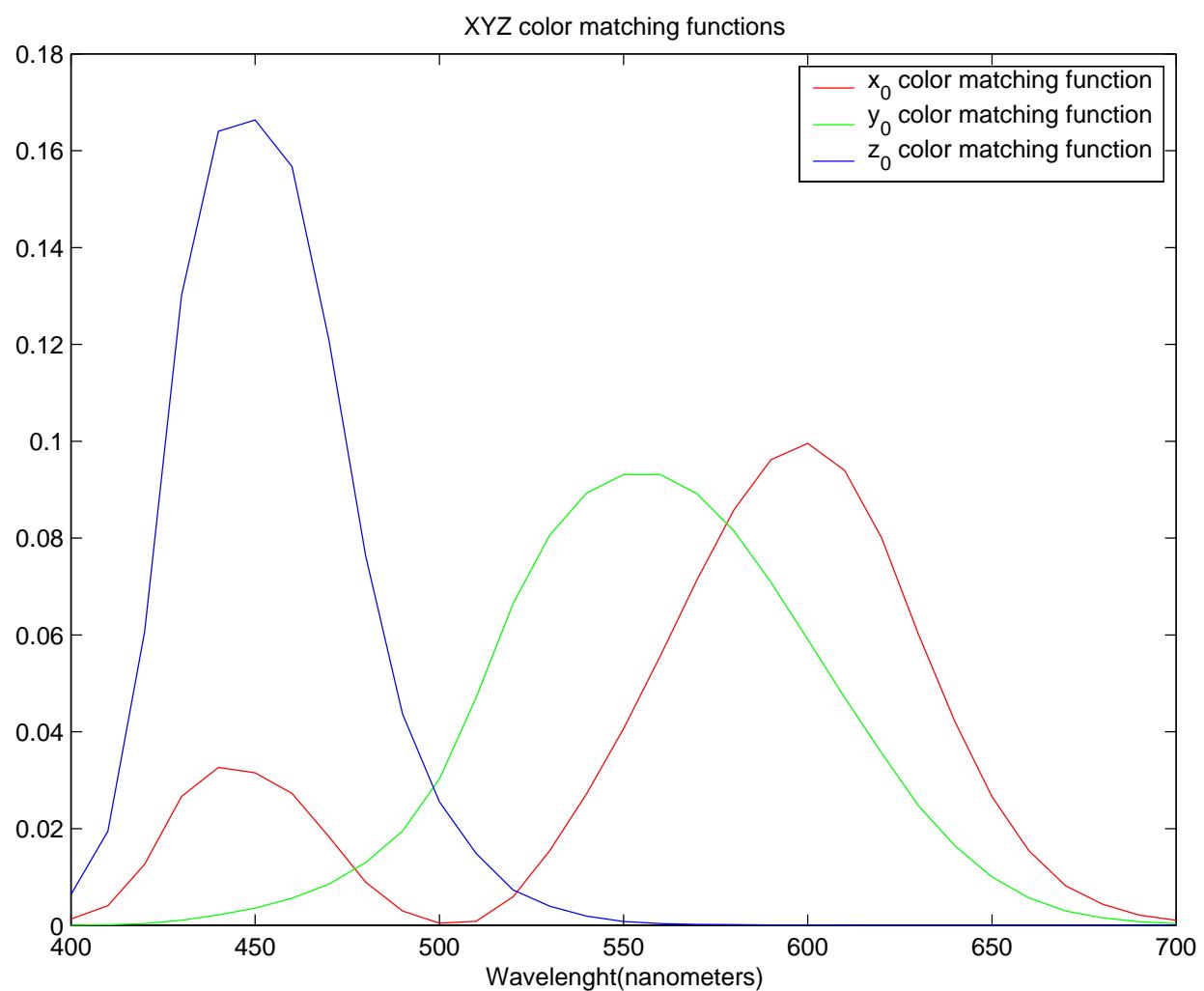
- This transformation is chosen so that

$$x_0(\lambda) \geq 0$$

$$y_0(\lambda) \geq 0$$

$$z_0(\lambda) \geq 0$$

## CIE XYZ Color Matching functions



## XYZ Tristimulus Values

- The XYZ tristimulus values may be calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} &= \int_0^\infty \begin{bmatrix} x_0(\lambda) \\ y_0(\lambda) \\ z_0(\lambda) \end{bmatrix} I(\lambda) d\lambda \\
 &= \int_0^\infty \mathbf{M} \begin{bmatrix} r_0(\lambda) \\ g_0(\lambda) \\ b_0(\lambda) \end{bmatrix} I(\lambda) d\lambda \\
 &= \mathbf{M} \int_0^\infty \begin{bmatrix} r_0(\lambda) \\ g_0(\lambda) \\ b_0(\lambda) \end{bmatrix} I(\lambda) d\lambda \\
 &= \mathbf{M} \begin{bmatrix} r \\ g \\ b \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

## XYZ/RGB Color Transformations

- So we have that XYZ can be computed from RGB as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{M} \begin{bmatrix} r \\ g \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

- Alternatively, RGB can be computed from XYZ as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} r \\ g \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{M}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}$$

- Comments:

- Always use upper case letters for XYZ!
- $Y$  value represents luminance component of image
- $X$  is related to red.
- $Z$  is related to blue.

## XYZ Color Primaries

- The XYZ color primaries are computed as

$$\text{Color} = [\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Z}] \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= [\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{B}] \begin{bmatrix} r \\ g \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= [\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{B}] \mathbf{M}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}$$

- So, theoretically

$$[\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Z}] = [\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{B}] \mathbf{M}^{-1}$$

where

$$\mathbf{M}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.3644 & -0.8958 & -0.4686 \\ -0.5148 & 1.4252 & 0.0896 \\ 0.0052 & -0.0144 & 1.0092 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Problem with XYZ Primaries

$$[\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Z}] = [\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{B}] \begin{bmatrix} 1.3644 & -0.8958 & -0.4686 \\ -0.5148 & 1.4252 & 0.0896 \\ 0.0052 & -0.0144 & 1.0092 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Negative values in matrix imply that spectral distribution of XYZ primaries will be negative.
- The XYZ primaries can not be realized from physical combinations of CIE RGB.
- Fact: XYZ primaries are imaginary!