







Purpose of Color

To label

To measure

To represent and imitate

To enliven and decorate

"Above all, do no harm."

- Edward Tufte

Topics

Color Perception Color Naming Using Color in Visualization

Color Perception Physical World, Visual System, Mental Models

What is Color?										
Physical World	Visual System	Mental Models								
Lights, surfaces, —— objects	→ Eye, optic → nerve, visual cortex	Red, green, brown Bright, light, dark, vivid, colorful, dull Warm, cool, bold, blah, attractive, ugly, pleasant, jarring								
		"Yellow"								











Perception Vs. Measurement

You do not see the spectrum of light

- Eyes make limited measurements
- Eyes physically adapt to circumstance
- You brain adapts in various ways
- Weird stuff also happens

























CIE chromaticity diagram

Spectrum locus

Purple line

Mixture of two lights appears as a straight line











Opponent Color

Definition

- Achromatic, lightness axis
- R-G and Y-B axis
- Separate lightness from chroma channels

First level encoding

- Linear combination of LMS
- Before optic nerve
- Basis for perception
- Defines "color blindness"







Vischeck

Simulates color vision deficiencies

- Web service or Photoshop plug-in
- Robert Dougherty and Alex Wade

www.vischeck.com







Color Models

Physical World	Visual S	System	Mental	lental Models		
Light Energy	Cone Response	→ Opponent – Encoding –	Perceptual Models	→ Appearance Models		
Spectral distribution	Encode as three values	Separate lightness,	Color "Space"	Color in Context		
F(λ)	(L,M,S) CIE (X,Y,Z)	(A,R-G,Y-B)	Hue, lightness saturation	Adaptation, Background, Size, …		
			CIELAB Munsell (HVC)	CIECAM02		
			Color difference "Intuitive" color spa	s aces		
			Color scales			

Axes of CIE LAB

Correspond to opponent signals

- L* = Luminance
- a* = Red-green contrast
- **b* = Yellow-blue contrast**

Scaling of axes to represent "color distance" JND = Just noticeable difference (~2.3 units)

Munsell Atlas

Developed the first perceptual color system based on his experience as an artist (1905)



















































Basic color terms

Chance discovery by Brent Berlin and Paul Kay





Basic Color Terms

Chance discovery by Brent Berlin and Paul Kay

Initial study in 1969 Surveyed speakers from 20 languages Literature from 69 languages































Molecular Models



http://www.indigo.com/models/gphmodel/62003.html



X Y Z X Y	Grouping, Highlighting												
X Y Z X Y													
red 25.37 13.70 0.05 26.27 14.13 0.04 18.41 10.16 0.05 17.43 9.30 0.0 green 22.14 51.24 0.35 20.68 49.17 0.44 21.11 46.00 0.20 16.36 37.95 0.7 blue 13.17 3.71 74.89 15.38 5.20 86.83 11.55 3.37 65.53 9.96 3.44 56.7 gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08 52.96 62.49 67.99 45.54 53.65 58.7 black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.7 red 25.37 13.70 0.05 26.27 14.13 0.04 18.41 10.16 0.05 17.43 9.30 0.0 green 22.14 51.24 0.35 20.68 49.17 0.44 <td< td=""><td></td><td>Х</td><td>Y</td><td>Z</td><td>Х</td><td>Y</td><td>Ζ</td><td>Х</td><td>Y</td><td>Z</td><td>Х</td><td>Y</td><td>Ζ</td></td<>		Х	Y	Z	Х	Y	Ζ	Х	Y	Z	Х	Y	Ζ
green 22.14 51.24 0.35 20.68 49.17 0.44 21.11 46.00 0.20 16.36 37.95 0.7 blue 13.17 3.71 74.89 15.38 5.20 86.83 11.55 3.37 65.53 9.96 3.44 56.7 gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08 52.96 62.49 67.99 45.54 53.65 58.7 black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.75 58.7 black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.75 58.7 gray 25.37 13.70 0.05 26.27 14.13 0.04 18.41 10.16 0.05 17.43 9.30 0.0 green 22.14 51.24 0.35 20.68 49.17 0	red	25.37	13.70	0.05	26.27	14.13	0.04	18.41	10.16	0.05	17.43	9.30	0.00
blue 13.17 3.71 74.89 15.38 5.20 86.83 11.55 3.37 65.53 9.96 3.44 56.73 gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08 52.96 62.49 67.99 45.54 53.65 58.75 black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.57 red 25.37 13.70 0.05 26.27 14.13 0.04 18.41 10.16 0.05 17.43 9.30 0.0 green 22.14 51.24 0.35 20.68 49.17 0.44 21.11 46.00 0.20 16.36 37.95 0.7 blue 13.17 3.71 74.89 15.38 5.20 86.83 11.55 3.37 65.53 9.96 3.44 56.7 gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08	green	22.14	51.24	0.35	20.68	49.17	0.44	21.11	46.00	0.20	16.36	37.95	0.12
gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08 52.96 62.49 67.99 45.54 53.65 58. black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.7 red 25.37 13.70 0.05 26.27 14.13 0.04 18.41 10.16 0.05 17.43 9.30 0.0 green 22.14 51.24 0.35 20.68 49.17 0.44 21.11 46.00 0.20 16.36 37.95 0.7 blue 13.17 3.71 74.89 15.38 52.08 86.83 11.55 3.37 65.53 9.96 3.44 56.7 gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08 52.96 62.49 67.99 45.54 53.65 58.7 black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.70	blue	13.17	3.71	74.89	15.38	5.20	86.83	11.55	3.37	65.53	9.96	3.44	56.14
black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.7 x Y Z X	gray	63.46	73.30	78.05	64.66	71.99	90.08	52.96	62.49	67.99	45.54	53.65	58.14
X Y Z X Y	black	0.66	0.70	0.77	0.63	0.66	1.09	0.47	0.58	0.70	0.44	0.54	0.71
X Y Z X Y													
red 25.37 13.70 0.05 26.27 14.13 0.04 18.41 10.16 0.05 17.43 9.30 0.1 green 22.14 51.24 0.35 20.68 49.17 0.44 21.11 46.00 0.05 16.36 37.95 0.1 blue 13.17 3.71 74.89 15.38 5.20 86.83 11.55 3.37 65.53 9.96 3.44 56.3 gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08 52.96 62.49 67.99 45.54 53.65 58.3 black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.7		Х	Y	Z	Х	Y	Z	Х	Y	Z	Х	Y	Z
green 22.14 51.24 0.35 20.68 49.17 0.44 21.11 46.00 0.20 16.36 37.95 0.7 blue 13.17 3.71 74.89 15.38 5.20 86.83 11.55 3.37 65.53 9.96 3.44 56.7 gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08 52.96 62.49 67.99 45.54 53.65 58.7 black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.7	red	25.37	13.70	0.05	26.27	14.13	0.04	18.41	10.16	0.05	17.43	9.30	0.00
blue 13.17 3.71 74.89 15.38 5.20 86.83 11.55 3.37 65.53 9.96 3.44 56.73 gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08 52.96 62.49 67.99 45.54 53.65 58.73 black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.74	green	22.14	51.24	0.35	20.68	49.17	0.44	21.11	46.00	0.20	16.36	37.95	0.12
gray 63.46 73.30 78.05 64.66 71.99 90.08 52.96 62.49 67.99 45.54 53.65 58. black 0.66 0.70 0.77 0.63 0.66 1.09 0.47 0.58 0.70 0.44 0.54 0.7	blue	13.17	3.71	74.89	15.38	5.20	86.83	11.55	3.37	65.53	9.96	3.44	56.14
black 0.66 0.70 0.77 <mark>0.63 0.66 1.09</mark> 0.47 0.58 0.70 <mark>0.44 0.54 0.1</mark>	gray	63.46	73.30	78.05	64.66	71.99	90.08	52.96	62.49	67.99	45.54	53.65	58.14
	black	0.66	0.70	0.77	0.63	0.66	1.09	0.47	0.58	0.70	0.44	0.54	0.71





Palette Design + Color Names

Minimize overlap and ambiguity of color names												
Color N	Vame (Distanc	e							Salience	Name	
0.00 1.00 1.00 0.98 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 0.20 Tables	1.00 0.00 1.00 0.97 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 0.96 1.00	1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 0.90 0.9	1.00 0.97 1.00 0.00 1.00 0.95 0.99 1.00 1.00 1.00	0.98 1.00 1.00 0.00 0.96 0.91 0.97 1.00 0.99	1.00 1.00 0.95 0.96 0.00 0.97 0.93 0.98 1.00	1.00 1.00 0.99 0.91 0.97 0.00 1.00 1.00	1.00 1.00 1.00 0.97 0.93 1.00 0.00 1.00 1.00	1.00 0.96 0.90 1.00 1.00 0.98 1.00 1.00 0.00 1.00	0.20 1.00 0.99 1.00 0.99 1.00 1.00 1.00 0.00 0.97	.47 .90 .67 .66 .47 .37 .58 .67 .18 .25	blue 62.9% orange 93.9% green 79.8% red 80.4% purple 51.4% brown 54.0% pink 71.7% grey 79.4% yellow 31.2% blue 25.4%	
Table	au- 10							vorago	0.07	.02		
	http://vis.stanford.edu/color-names											

Palette Design + Color Names											
Minimize overlap and ambiguity of color names											
								0			
Color N	Name [Distanc	e							Salience	Name
0.00	1.00	1.00	0.89	0.07	1.00	0.35	0.99	1.00	0.89	.30	blue 50.5%
1.00	0.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.92	1.00	0.84	0.98	0.99	.21	red 27.8%
1.00	0.99	0.00	1.00	0.98	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.17	1.00	.34	green 36.8%
0.89	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.98	1.00	0.71	0.93	1.00	0.32	.55	purple 67.3%
0.07	1.00	0.98	0.98	0.00	1.00	0.36	1.00	0.97	0.95	.20	blue 36.6%
1.00	0.92	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.97	0.99	1.00	.39	orange 51.9%
0.35	0.04	1.00	0.71	0.36	1.00	0.00	0.95	0.92	0.42	.13	Diue 15.7%
1.00	0.64	0.17	1.00	0.07	0.97	0.95	0.00	0.98	0.85	.10	green 21 7%
0.89	0.90	1.00	0.32	0.97	1.00	0.42	0.85	0.00	0.00	30	purple 23.9%
Excel	10	1100	0.02	0100	1100	0.42	0.00	verege	0.97	.00	parpie 201070
Excel	. 10						~	verage	0.07	.27	
http://vis.stanford.edu/color-names											







4. Low luminance colors (blue) hide high frequencies





world's oceans. Phase progresses from red to orange to yellow to green to blue to purple. The lines converge on anphidromic points, singularities on the earth's surface where there is no defined tide. [Winfree, 1987 #1195, p. 17].





Quantitative color encoding

Sequential color scale

Constrain hue, vary luminance/saturation Map higher values to darker colors

Diverging color scale

Useful when data has a meaningful "midpoint" Use neutral color (e.g., grey) for midpoint Use saturated colors for endpoints



Limit number of steps in color to 3-9







Design of sequential color scales

Hue-Lightness *(Recommended)* Higher values mapped to darker colors ColorBrewer schemes have 3-9 steps

Hue Transition Two hues Neighboring hues interpolate better Couple with change in lightness





Diverging color scheme

Hue Transition

Carefully handle midpoint

- Critical class
 - Low, Average, High
 - 'Average' should be gray
- Critical breakpoint
 - Defining value e.g. 0
 - Positive & negative should use different hues

Extremes saturated, middle desaturated

Hints for the colorist

Use only a few colors (~6 ideal) Colors should be distinctive and named Strive for color harmony (natural colors?) Use cultural conventions; appreciate symbolism Beware of bad interactions (red/blue etc.) Get it right in black and white Respect the color blind