



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

# CSCE 590 INTRODUCTION TO IMAGE PROCESSING

**Color Images**  
*Color Spaces*

# Color Image Processing

- The world is colorful
- Color feature is one of the natural cue human used for object detection/recognition
  - Thousands of color shades vs dozens of gray levels
  - Various applications
- Challenges
  - Illumination
  - Variations



<http://okanaganokanogan.com/2015/10/>



<https://johnhowie.wordpress.com/2009/12/22/445/>

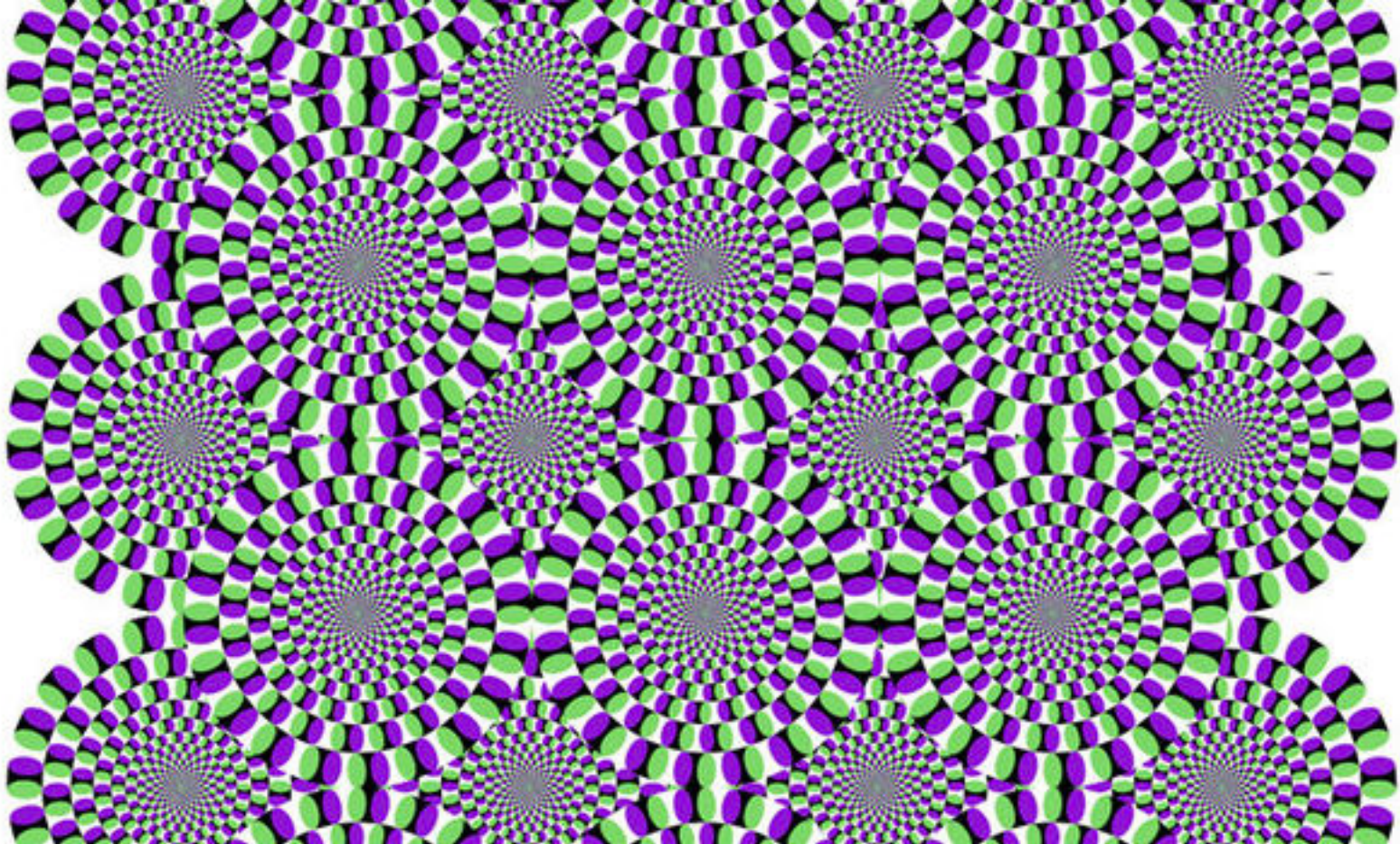


<http://www.tutorialized.com/tutorial/Grasslands-in-3ds-Max/57927>



# Color is powerfull

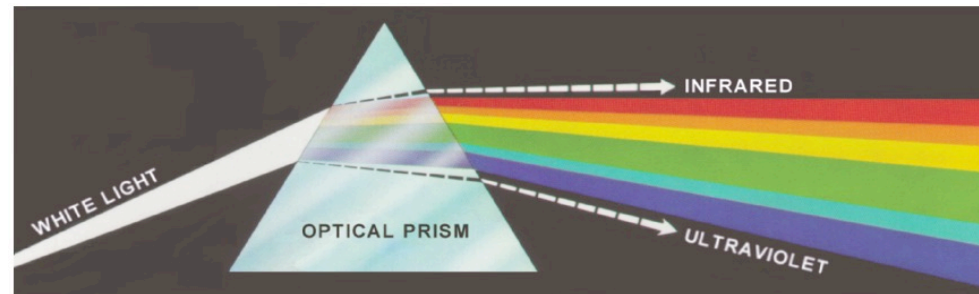
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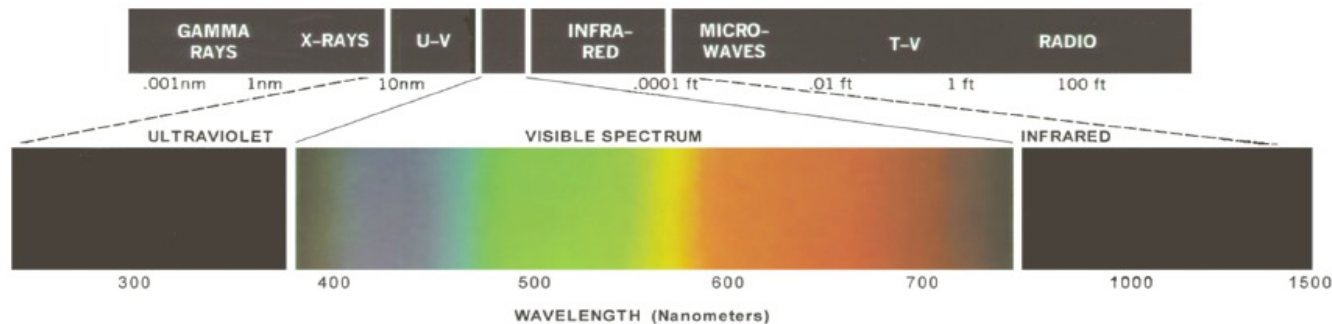
<https://positivr.fr/illusions-optique/>



# Fundamentals of Color Image Processing



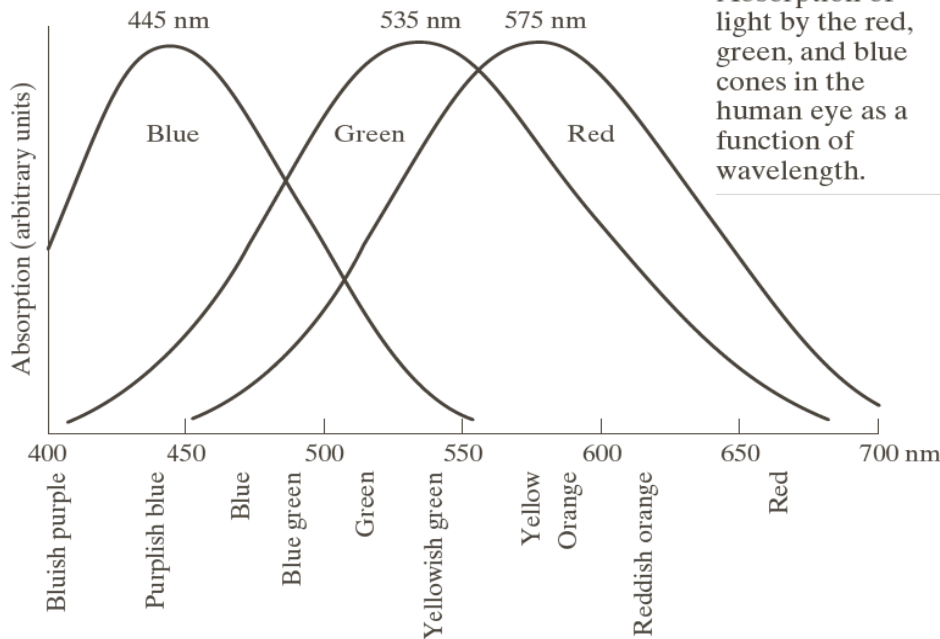
**FIGURE 6.1** Color spectrum seen by passing white light through a prism. (Courtesy of the General Electric Co., Lamp Business Division.)



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

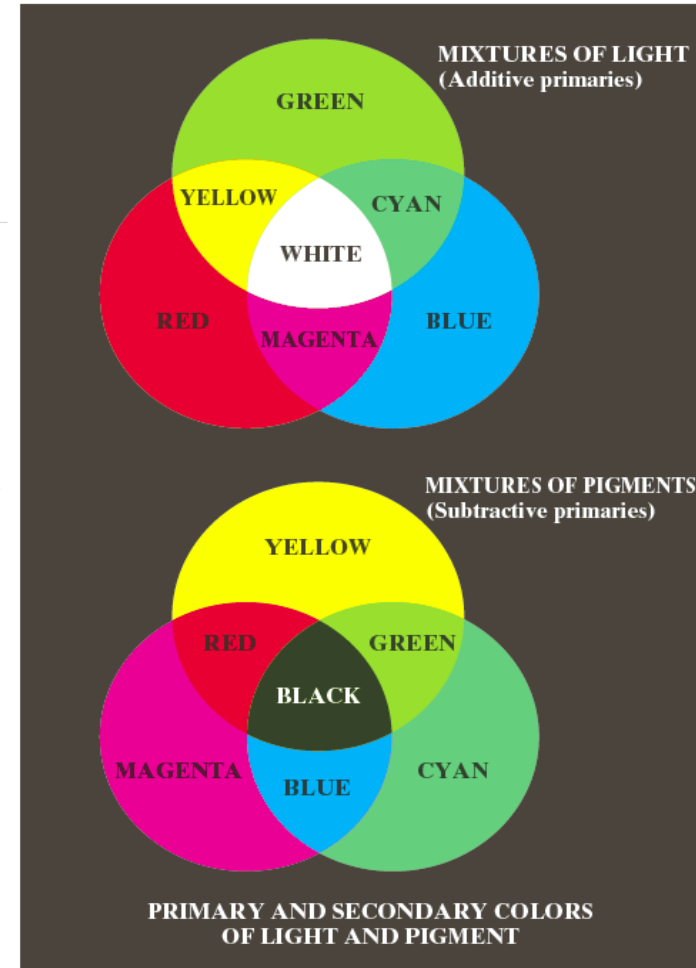


# Color Representations



**FIGURE 6.3**  
Absorption of light by the red, green, and blue cones in the human eye as a function of wavelength.

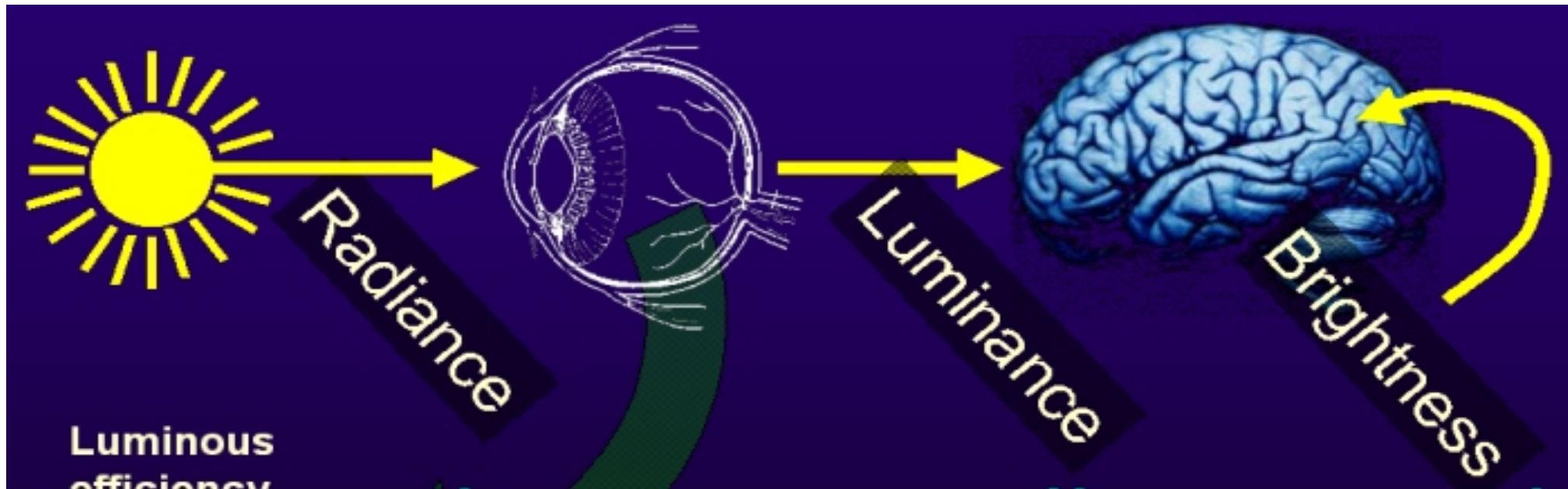
- primary/secondary colors
- primary/secondary pigments
- all visible colors



# Characteristics of Light

- Radiance
- Luminance
- Brightness

Slides courtesy of Prof. Yan Tong



Picture was adapted from Dr. Gordon Kindlmann's talk "**Face-based Luminance Matching for Perceptual Colormap Generation**"  
<http://www.cs.utah.edu/~gk/papers/vis02/talk/>



# Characteristics of Color Light

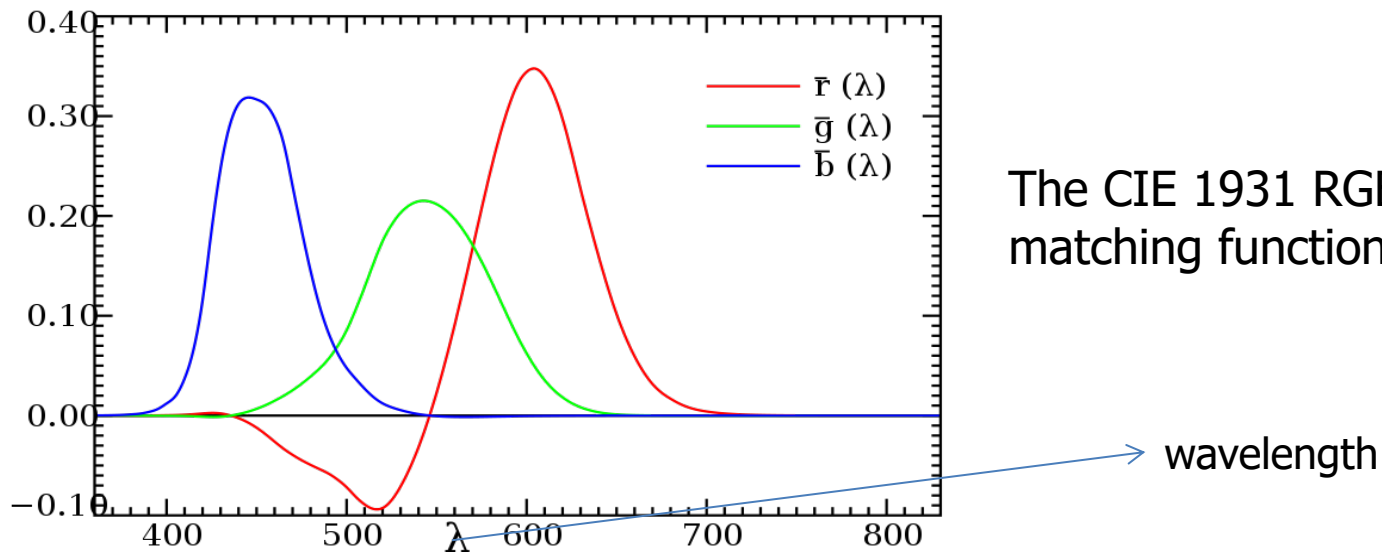
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- Radiance
- Luminance
- Brightness
- Chromaticity
  - Hue – dominant color/wavelength
  - Saturation – color purity
- White and grey has the same chromaticity, while different brightness



# Chromaticity

- Tristimulus values of a color: The amounts of the three primary color to match a test color



The CIE 1931 RGB Color matching functions.

CIE (International Commission on Illumination) RGB matching function

$$R = \int_0^{\infty} I(\lambda) \bar{r}(\lambda) d\lambda$$

$$G = \int_0^{\infty} I(\lambda) \bar{g}(\lambda) d\lambda$$

$$B = \int_0^{\infty} I(\lambda) \bar{b}(\lambda) d\lambda$$

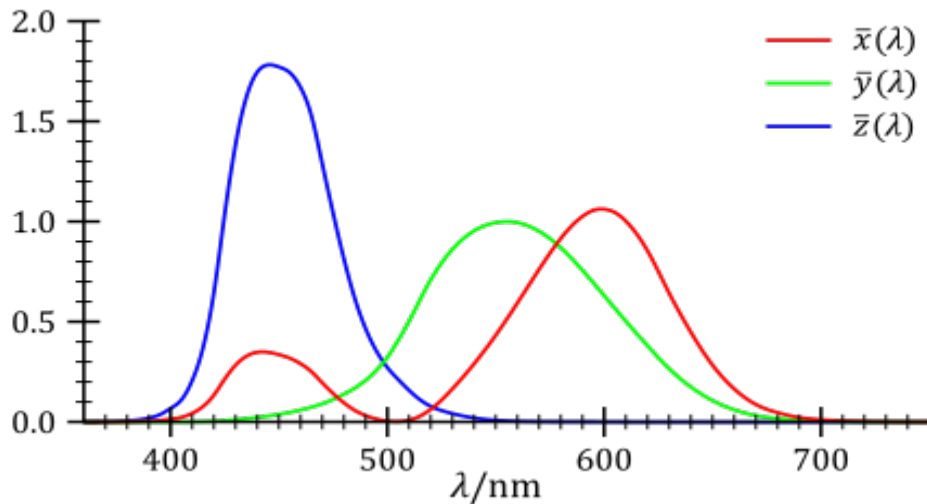
$$\int_0^{\infty} \bar{r}(\lambda) d\lambda = \int_0^{\infty} \bar{g}(\lambda) d\lambda = \int_0^{\infty} \bar{b}(\lambda) d\lambda$$





# Chromaticity

- Tristimulus values of XYZ space



CIE XYZ matching function

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{0.17697} \begin{bmatrix} 0.49 & 0.31 & 0.20 \\ 0.17697 & 0.81240 & 0.01063 \\ 0.00 & 0.01 & 0.99 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}$$

$$X = \int_0^{\infty} I(\lambda) \bar{x}(\lambda) d\lambda$$

$$Y = \int_0^{\infty} I(\lambda) \bar{y}(\lambda) d\lambda \rightarrow \text{Luminance}$$

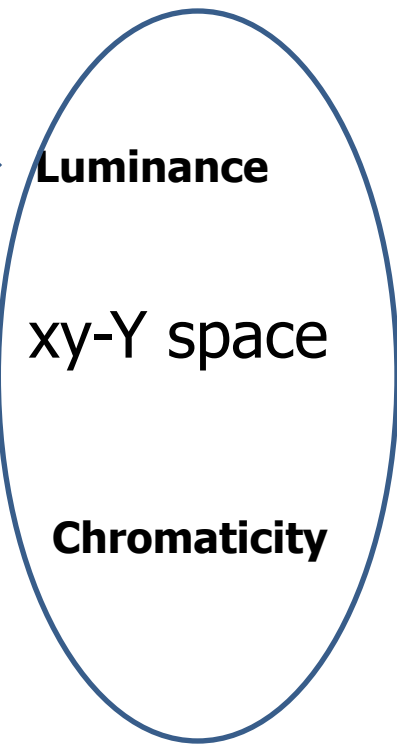
$$Z = \int_0^{\infty} I(\lambda) \bar{z}(\lambda) d\lambda$$

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

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

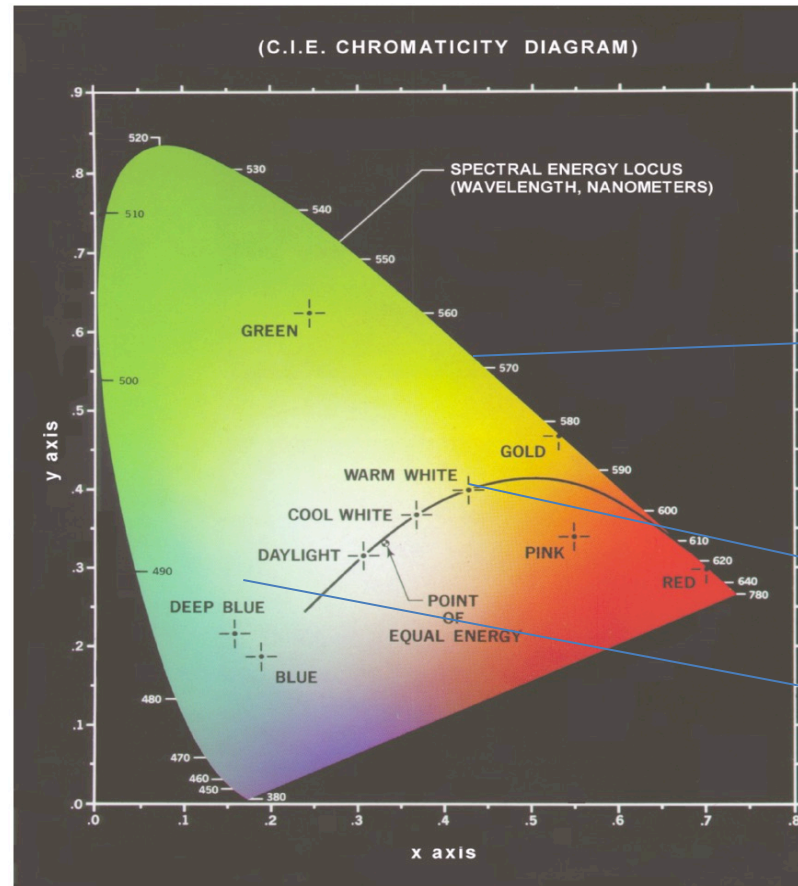
$$z = \frac{Z}{X + Y + Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow z = 1 - x - y$$



# Chromaticity Diagram

- x and y to represent colors



**FIGURE 6.5**  
Chromaticity diagram.  
(Courtesy of the General Electric Co., Lamp Business Division.)

Pure color and fully saturated

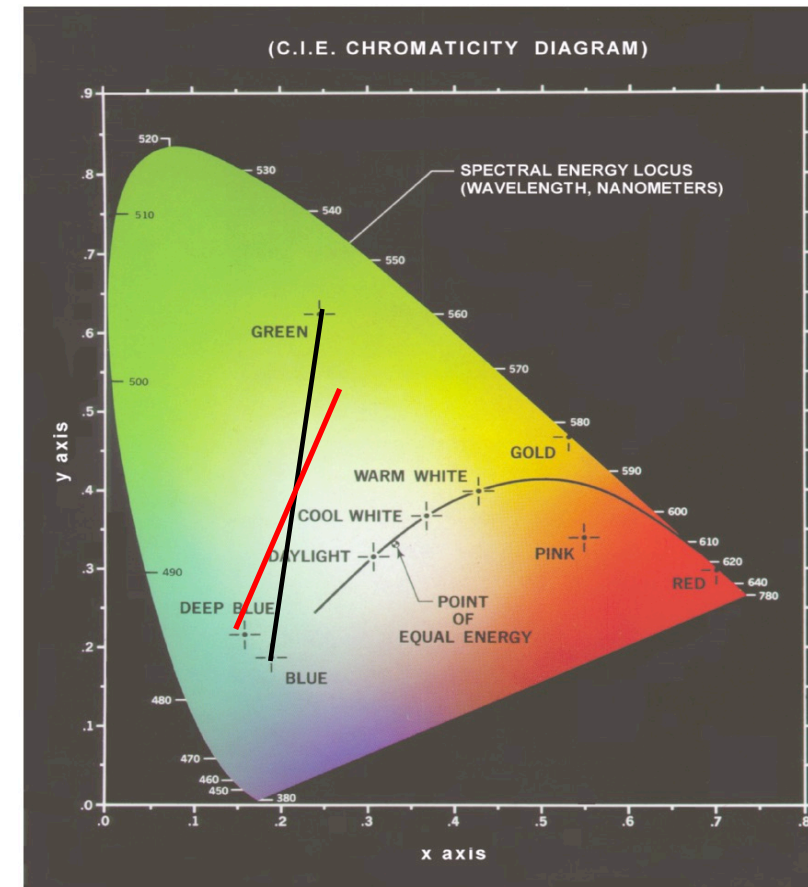
Equal energy with zero saturation

Mixed color with less saturation



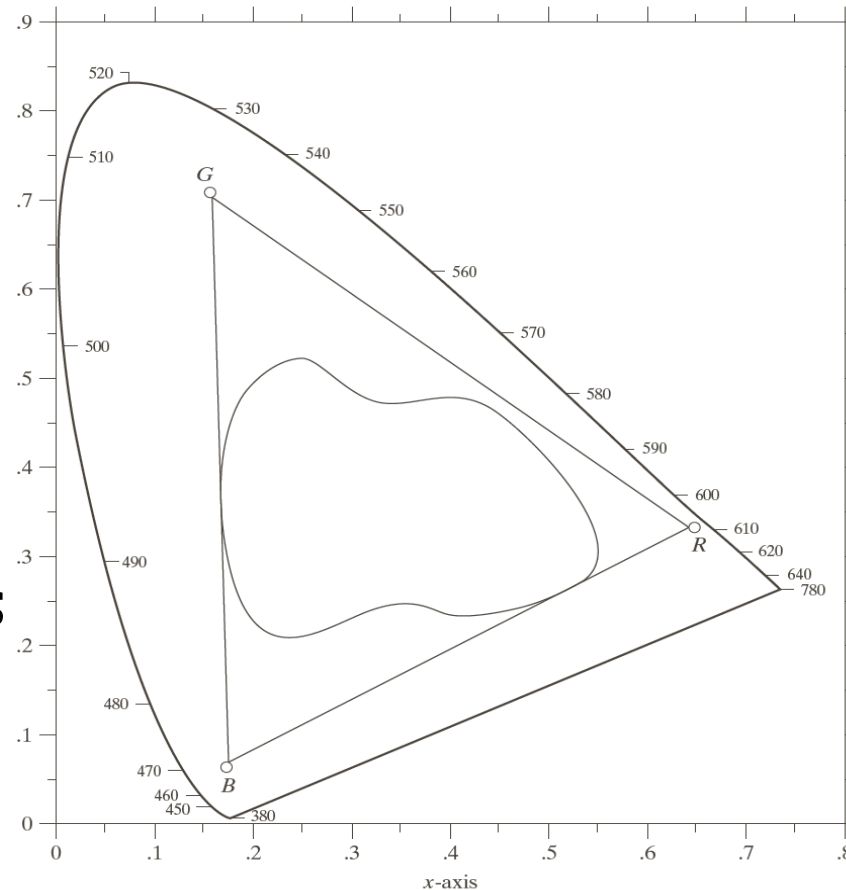
# Chromaticity Diagram (Cont'd)

- Color mixing: any color on a line segment can be generated by the two ending points in the color diagram
- Metamerism: the same color can be generated with different combinations of source colors with the same tristimulus values



# Color Gamut

- Color gamut: a complete subset of colors can be displayed on a device or represented by a color space.
- The color represented by 3 given colors resides in the triangle formed by the 3 points
- Not all colors can be represented by 3 primary colors



**FIGURE 6.6**  
Typical color gamut of color monitors (triangle) and color printing devices (irregular region).



# Color Models

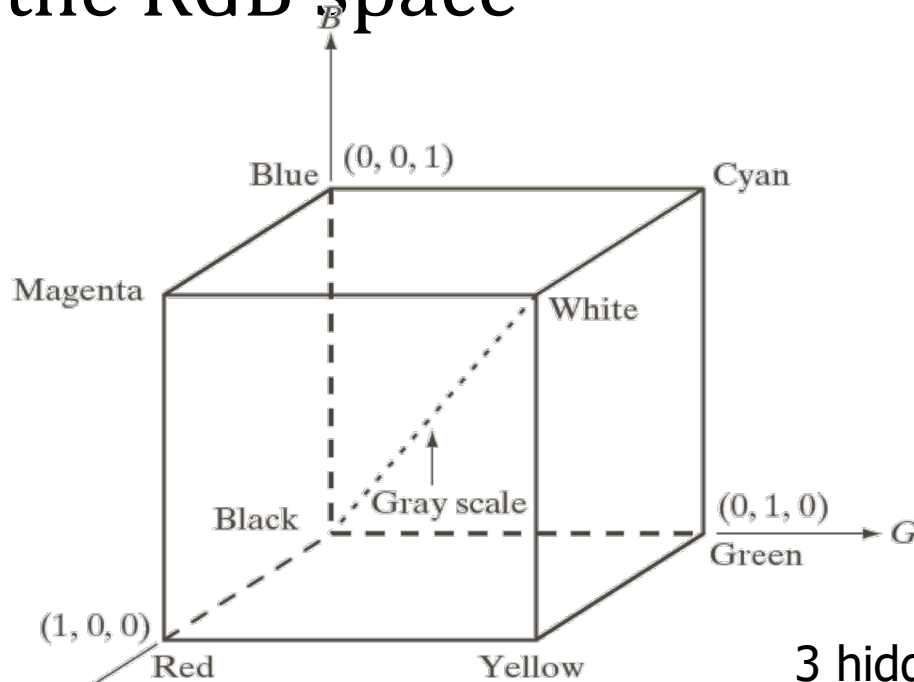
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- Color model (space/system): a coordinate system or a subspace to represent the colors
- RGB model: monitors and cameras
- CMY (Cyan, magenta, and yellow): printing
- HSI (Hue, saturation, and intensity): separate color and gray level information



# RGB Model

- 3D Cartesian coordinate system
- All colors are normalized to  $[0, 1]$
- Pixel depth: number of bits to represent each pixel in the RGB space

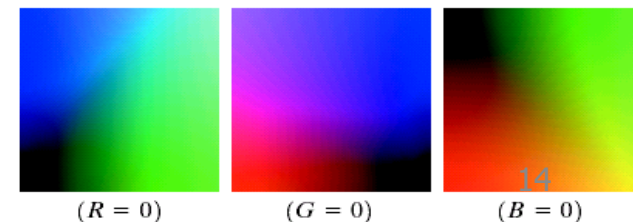


**FIGURE 6.7** Schematic of the RGB color cube. Points along the main diagonal have gray values, from black at the origin to white at point  $(1, 1, 1)$ .



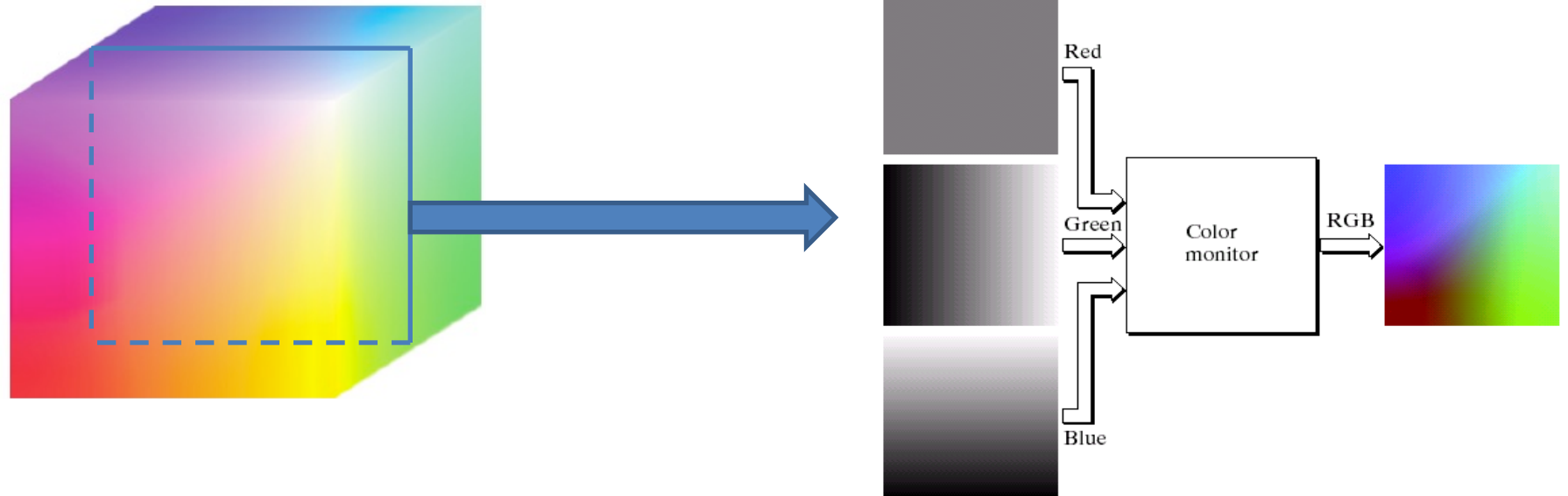
**FIGURE 6.8** RGB 24-bit color cube.

3 hidden planes



# RGB Model (Cont'd)

**FIGURE 6.8** RGB  
24-bit color cube.



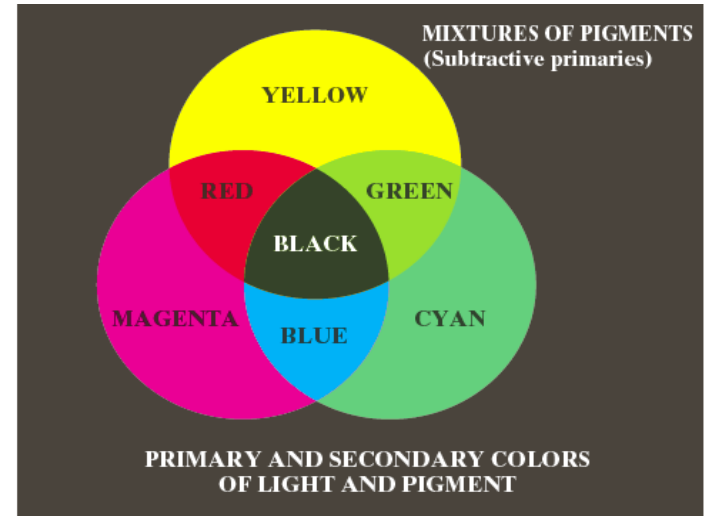
# CMY/CMYK Model

- CMY (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow)

Represent the light reflected from the surface.

$$\begin{bmatrix} C \\ M \\ Y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}$$

- CMYK (CMY + Black)





# HSI Model

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A better model to describe colors.

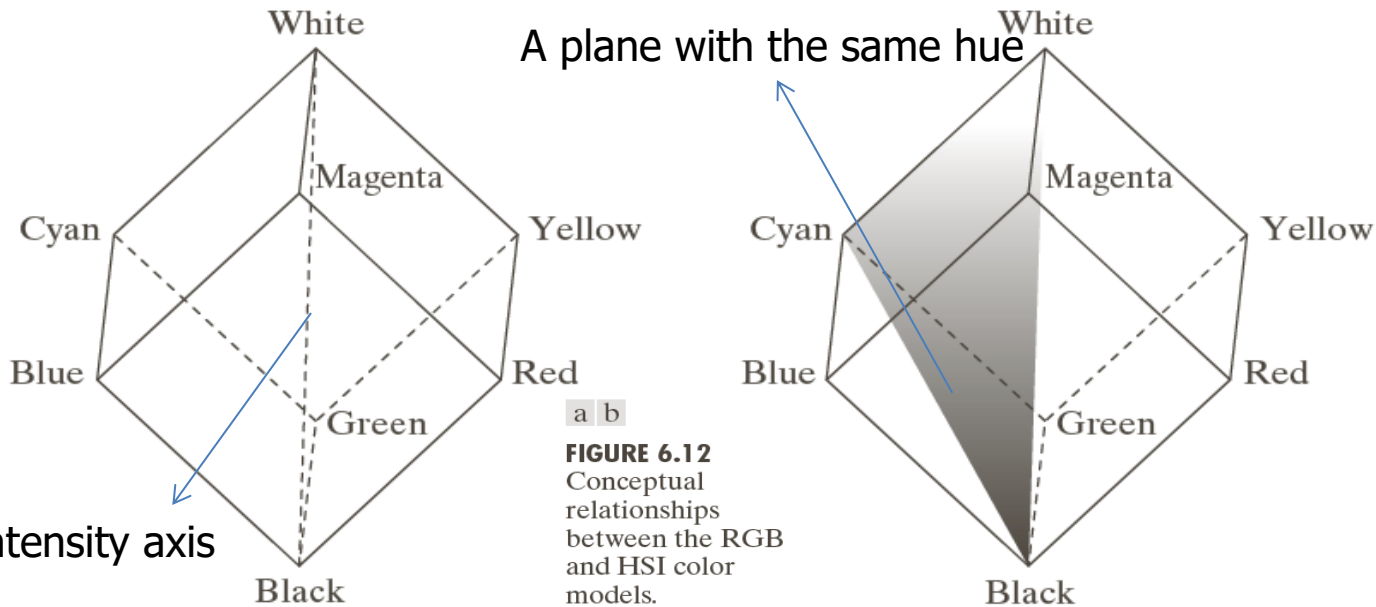
- Hue: the dominant color observed
- Saturation: the purity of the color (how much the color is polluted by white color)
- Value/Intensity: intensity level



# HSI Model

A better model to describe colors.

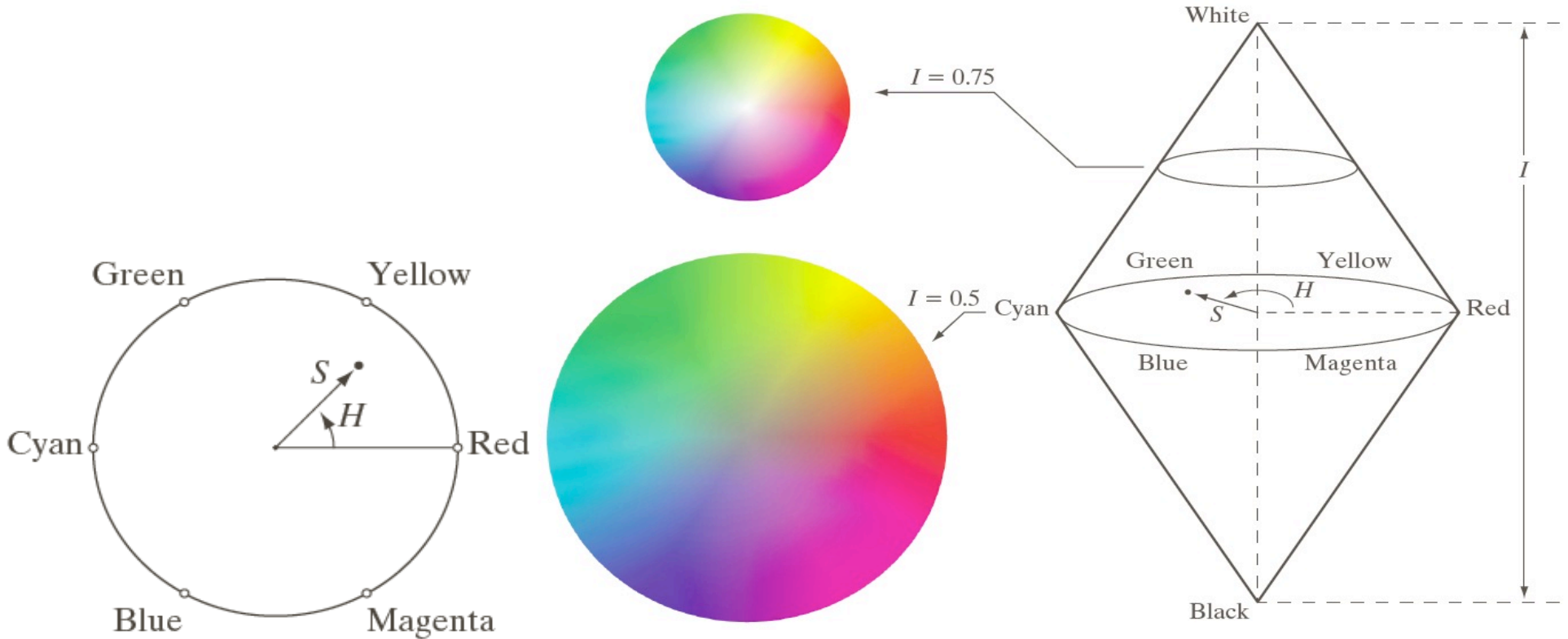
- Hue: the dominant color observed
- Saturation: the purity of the color (how much the color is polluted by white color)
- Value/Intensity: intensity level



**FIGURE 6.12**  
Conceptual  
relationships  
between the RGB  
and HSI color  
models.



# HSI Model



# RGB to HSI

Assume RGB values have been normalized to [0,1]

$$H = \begin{cases} \theta/360 & \text{if } B \leq G \\ 1 - \theta/360 & \text{if } B > G \end{cases} \quad \text{where } \theta = \cos^{-1} \left\{ \frac{0.5[(R-G) + (R-B)]}{\left[ (R-G)^2 + (R-B)(G-B) \right]^{1/2}} \right\}$$

$$S = 1 - \frac{3}{R+G+B} \min(R, G, B) \quad I = \frac{R+G+B}{3}$$

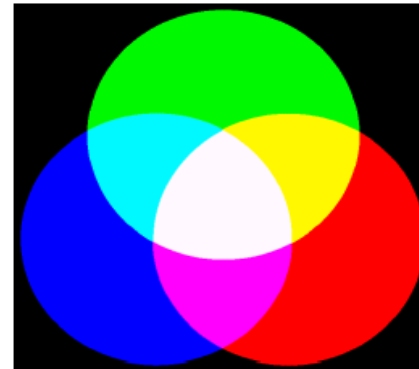
HSI values are in [0,1]



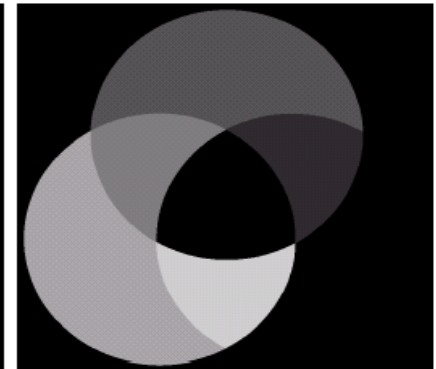
# Case Study for RGB-HSI

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

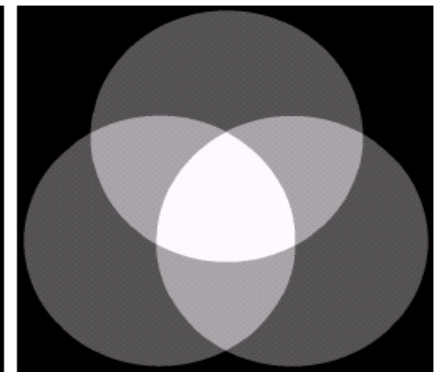
Original RGB



Hue



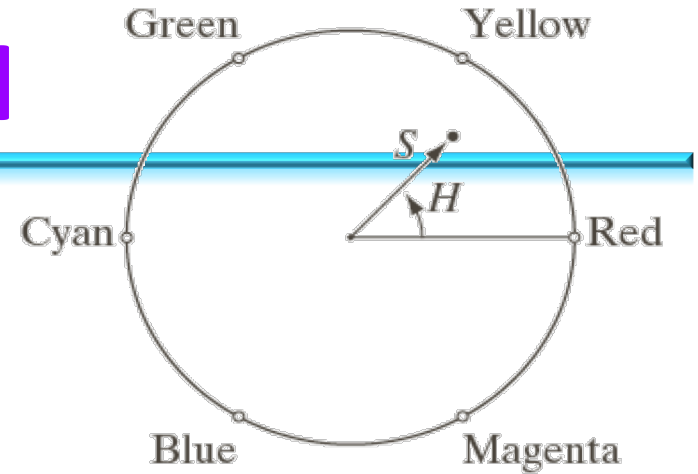
Saturation



Intensity



# RGB to HSI



- Recover  $H$  to  $[0\ 360]$
- RG sector ( $0 \leq H < 120$ ):

$$B = I(1 - S) \quad R = I \left[ 1 + \frac{S \cos H}{\cos(60 - H)} \right] \quad G = 3I - (R + B)$$

- GB sector ( $120 \leq H < 240$ ):  $H = H - 120$

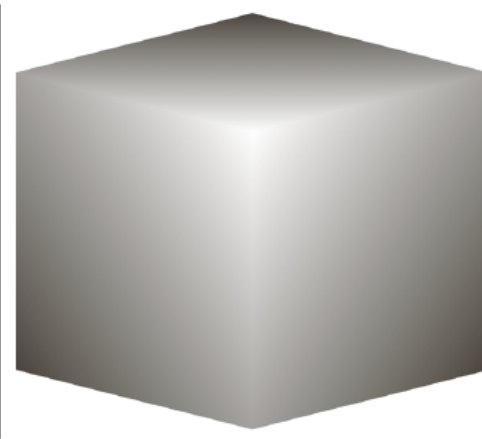
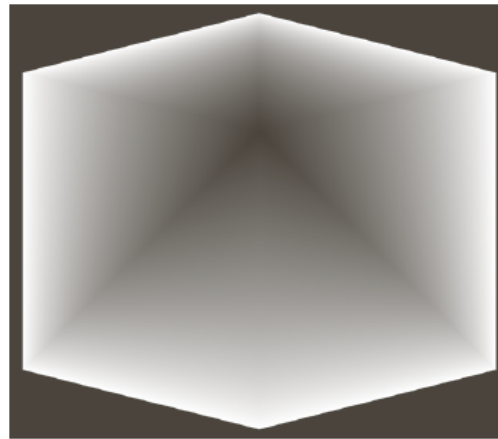
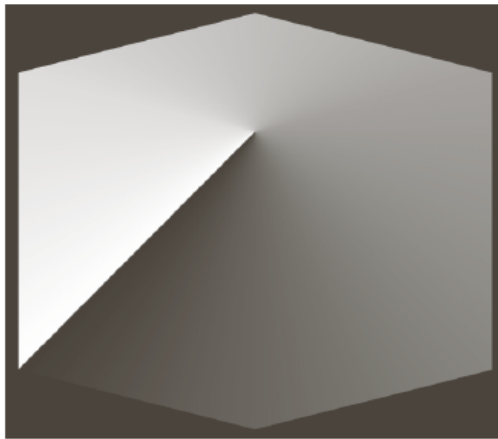
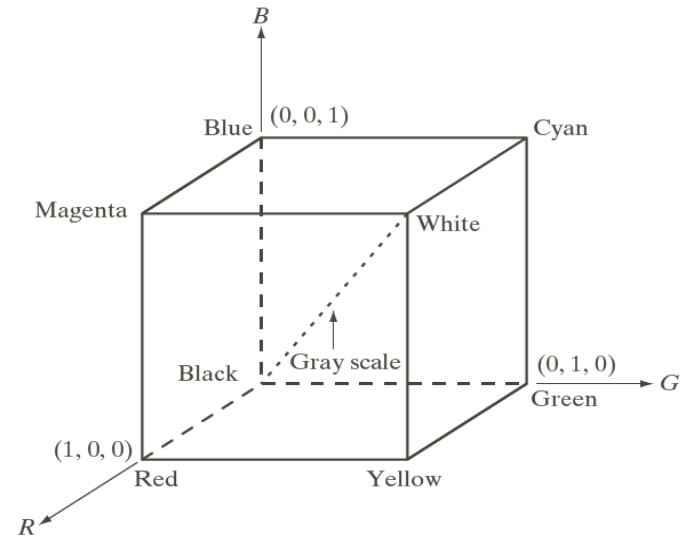
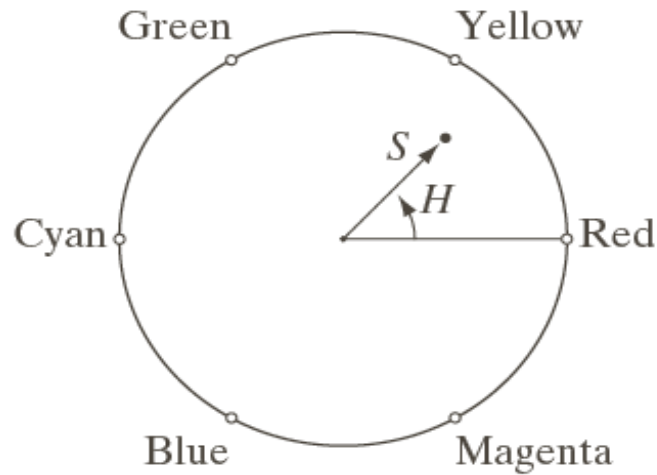
$$R = I(1 - S) \quad G = I \left[ 1 + \frac{S \cos H}{\cos(60 - H)} \right] \quad B = 3I - (R + G)$$

- BR sector ( $240 \leq H \leq 360$ ):  $H = H - 240$

$$G = I(1 - S) \quad B = I \left[ 1 + \frac{S \cos H}{\cos(60 - H)} \right] \quad R = 3I - (G + B)$$



# HSI Model

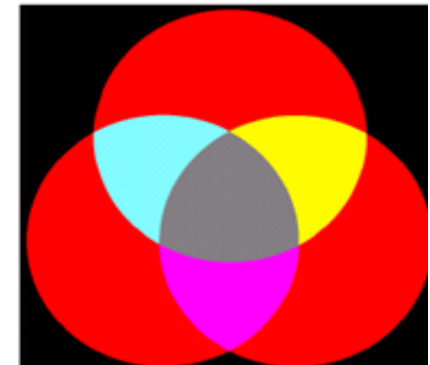
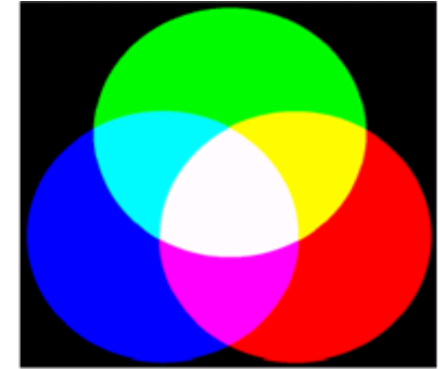
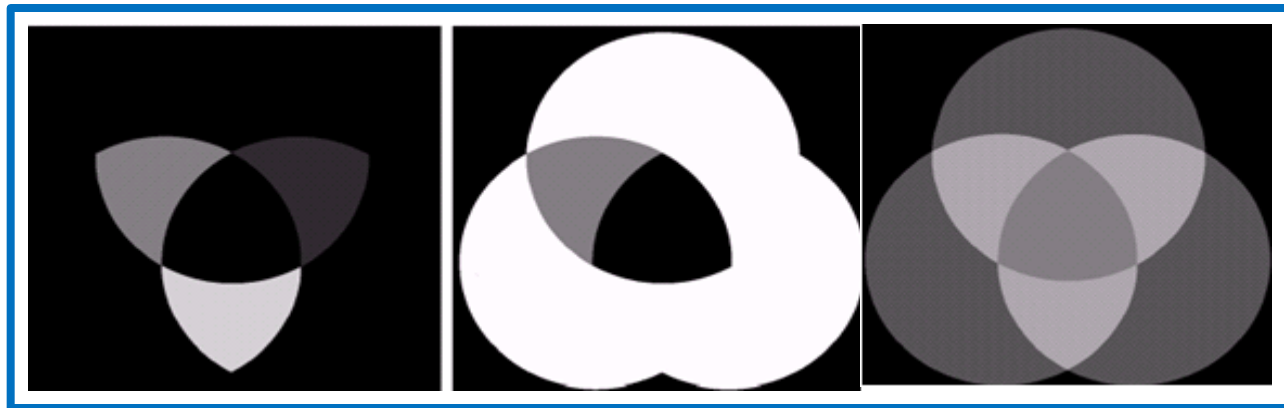


a b c

**FIGURE 6.15** HSI components of the image in Fig. 6.8. (a) Hue, (b) saturation, and (c) intensity images.



# Manipulate



Hue

Saturation

Intensity



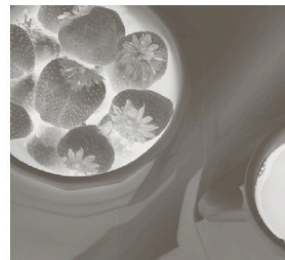
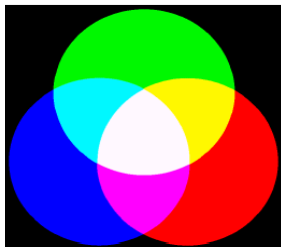
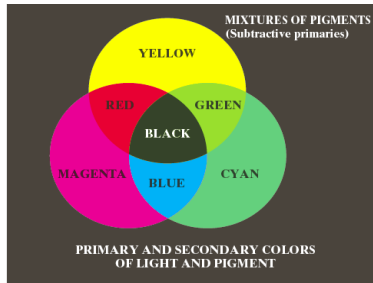


# Full Color Image in Different Color Space



Full color

**FIGURE 6.30** A full-color image and its various color-space components. (Interactive.)



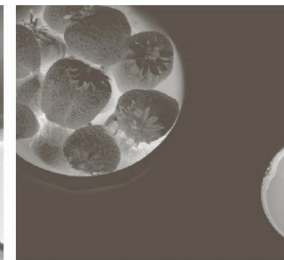
Cyan



Magenta



Yellow



Black



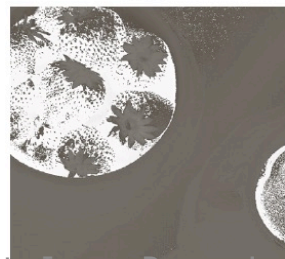
Red



Green



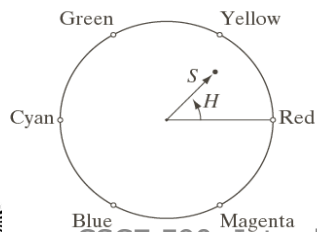
Blue



Saturation



Intensity



# Pseudo Color Image Processing

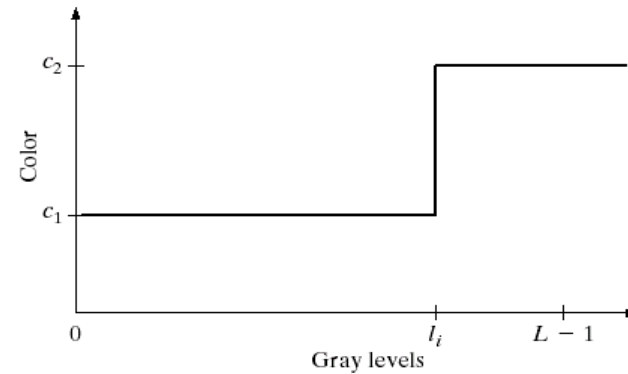
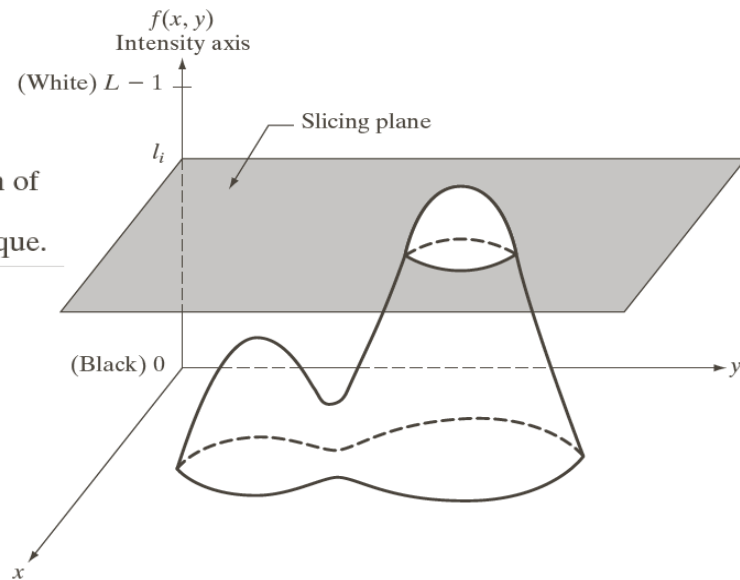
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- Pseudo color/false color: assign colors to gray values
- Enhance the visualization quality of the image
- Segmentation results
- Enhance the intensity difference



# Intensity Slicing

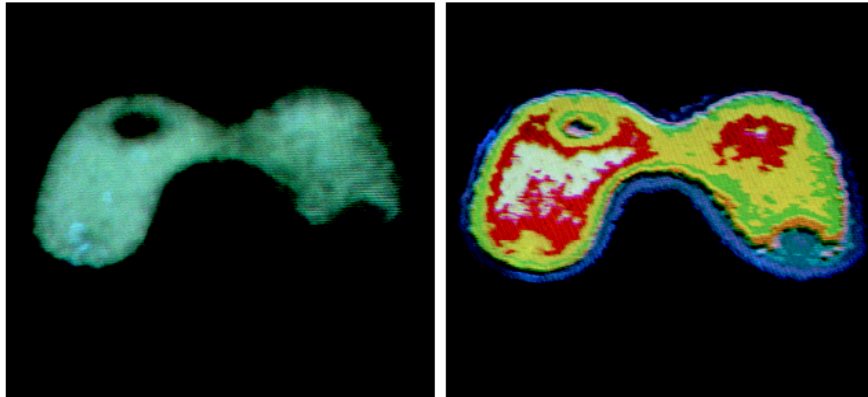
**FIGURE 6.18**  
Geometric interpretation of the intensity-slicing technique.



**FIGURE 6.19** An alternative representation of the intensity-slicing technique.

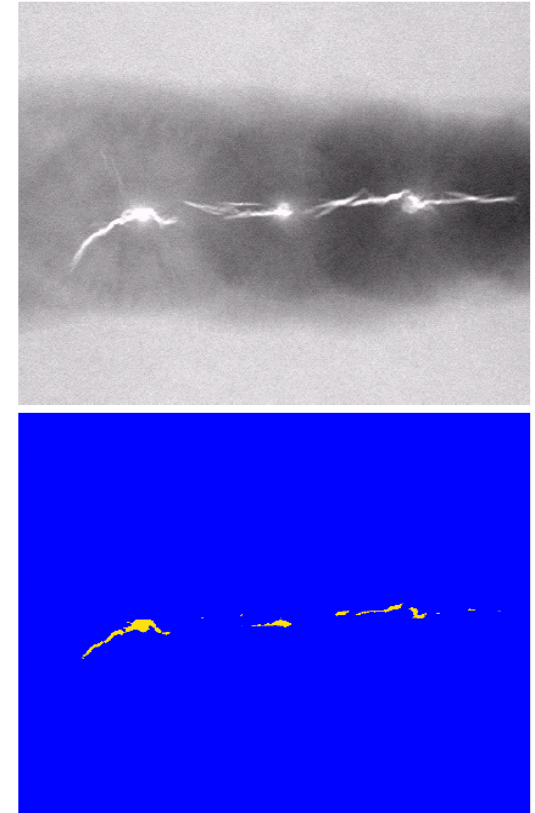


# Examples of Intensity Slicing

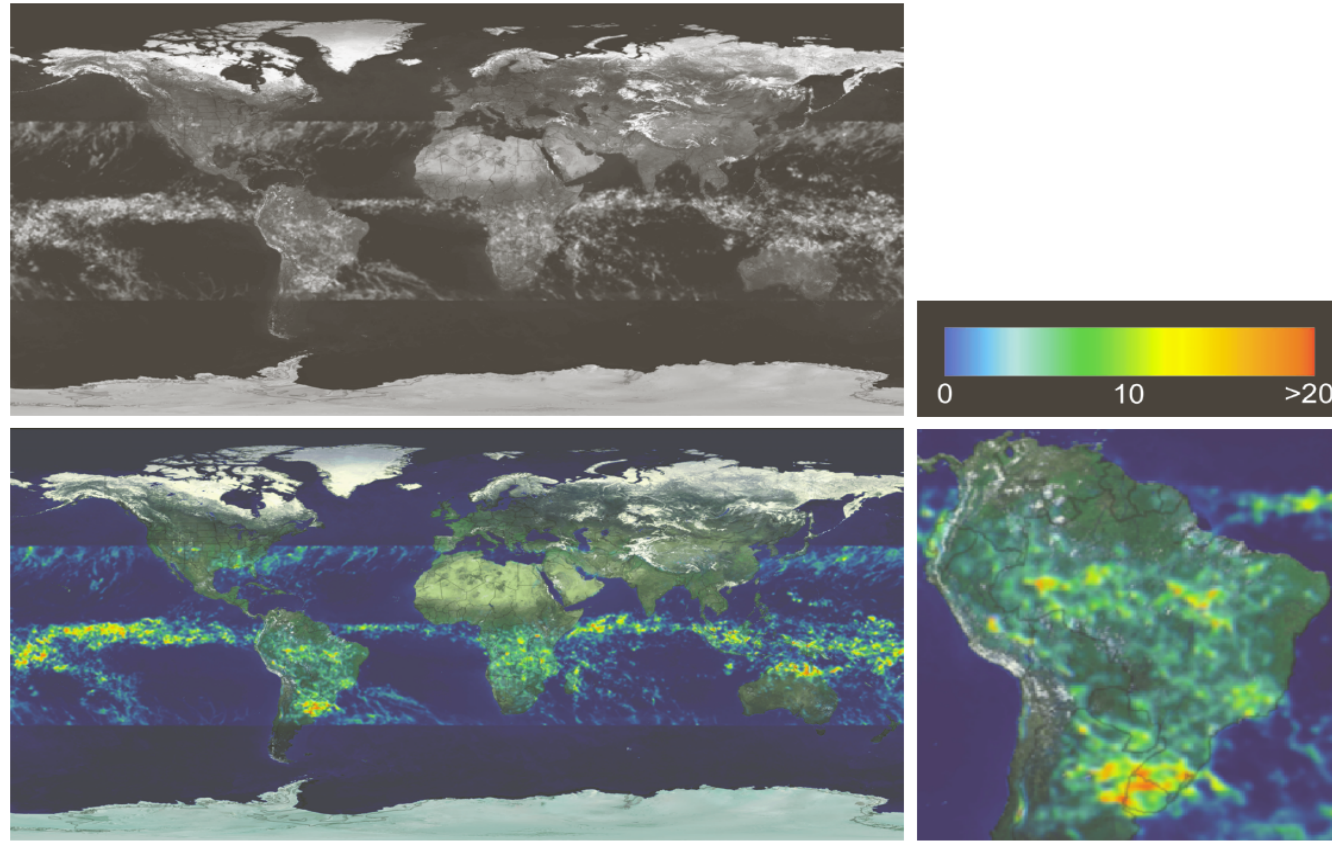


a b  
**FIGURE 6.20** (a) Monochrome image of the Picker Thyroid Phantom. (b) Result of density slicing into eight colors. (Courtesy of Dr. J. L. Blankenship, Instrumentation and Controls Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.)

a  
b  
**FIGURE 6.21**  
(a) Monochrome X-ray image of a weld. (b) Result of color coding. (Original image courtesy of X-TEK Systems, Ltd.)



# Examples of Intensity Slicing



a b  
c d

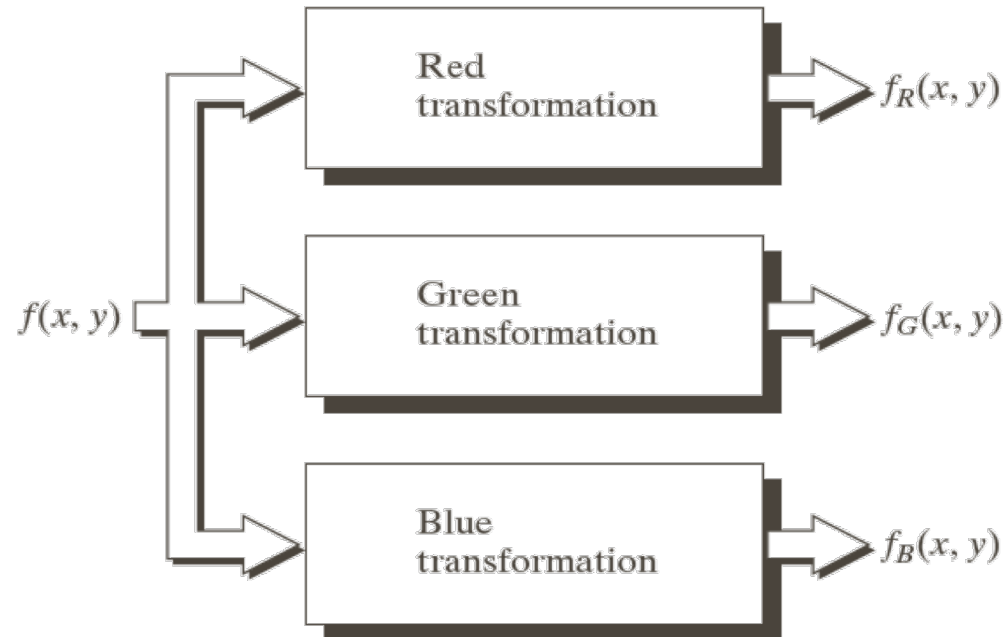
**FIGURE 6.22** (a) Gray-scale image in which intensity (in the lighter horizontal band shown) corresponds to average monthly rainfall. (b) Colors assigned to intensity values. (c) Color-coded image. (d) Zoom of the South American region. (Courtesy of NASA.)



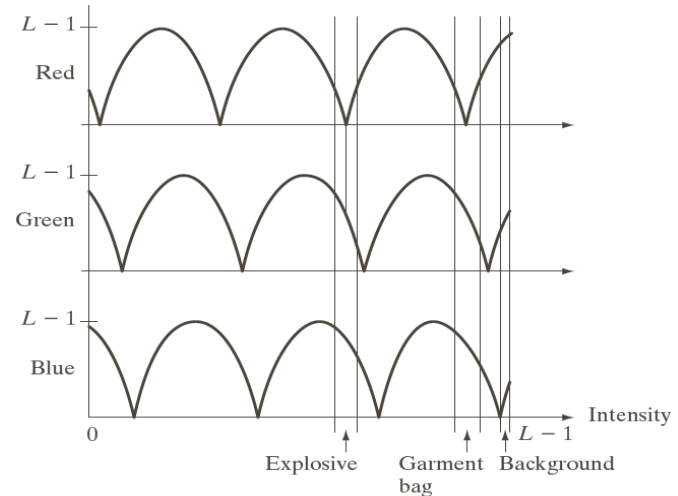
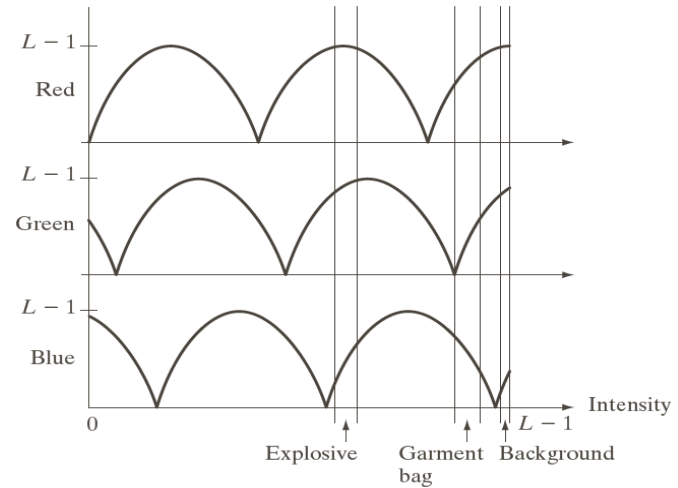
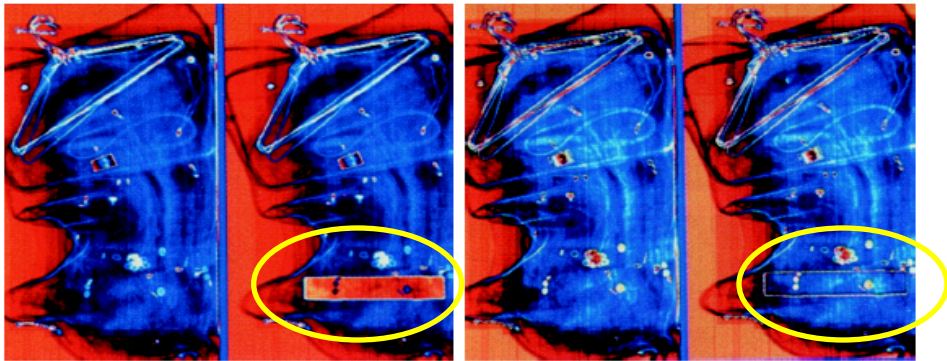
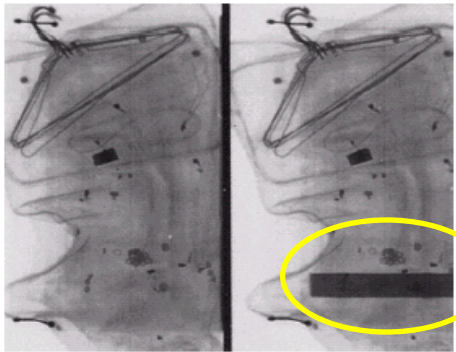
# Intensity to Color Transformation

**FIGURE 6.23**

Functional block diagram for pseudocolor image processing.  $f_R$ ,  $f_G$ , and  $f_B$  are fed into the corresponding red, green, and blue inputs of an RGB color monitor.



# Example



**FIGURE 6.25** Transformation functions used to obtain the images in Fig. 6.24.

a  
b c

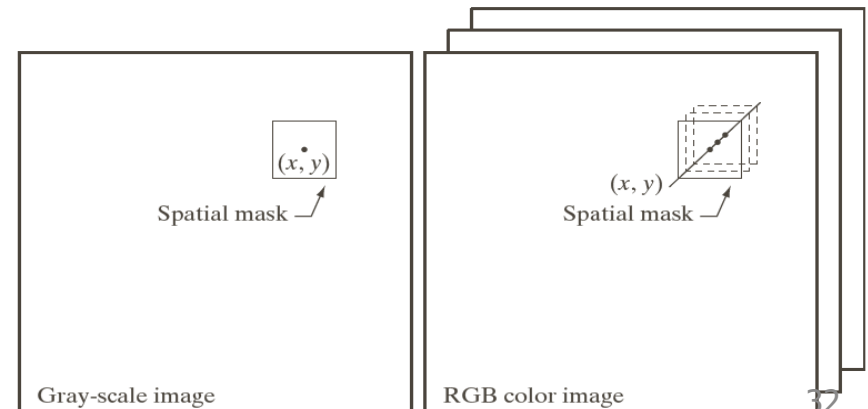
**FIGURE 6.24** Pseudocolor enhancement by using the gray-level to color transformations in Fig. 6.25. (Original image courtesy of Dr. Mike Hurwitz, Westinghouse.)



# Full-color Image Processing

Pixel in color image  $\mathbf{p}(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} p_r(x, y) \\ p_g(x, y) \\ p_b(x, y) \end{bmatrix}$

- Process each component/channel individually, then generate the composite image
- Work on each pixel individually





# Color Transformation

For a color image with  $n$  components

input values for all components

$$s_i = T_i(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Output value for  $i^{\text{th}}$  component      Transformation functions

- Modify intensity
- Color complement (“negative” color image)
- Color slicing
- Tonal correction
- Color balancing
- Histogram processing



# Examples of Color Image Transformation

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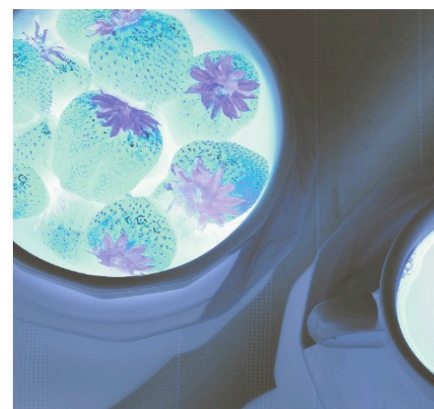


Original image



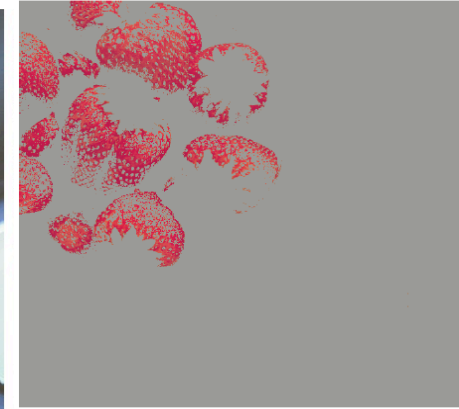
Intensity  
modification

HSI



Complement  
color

RGB

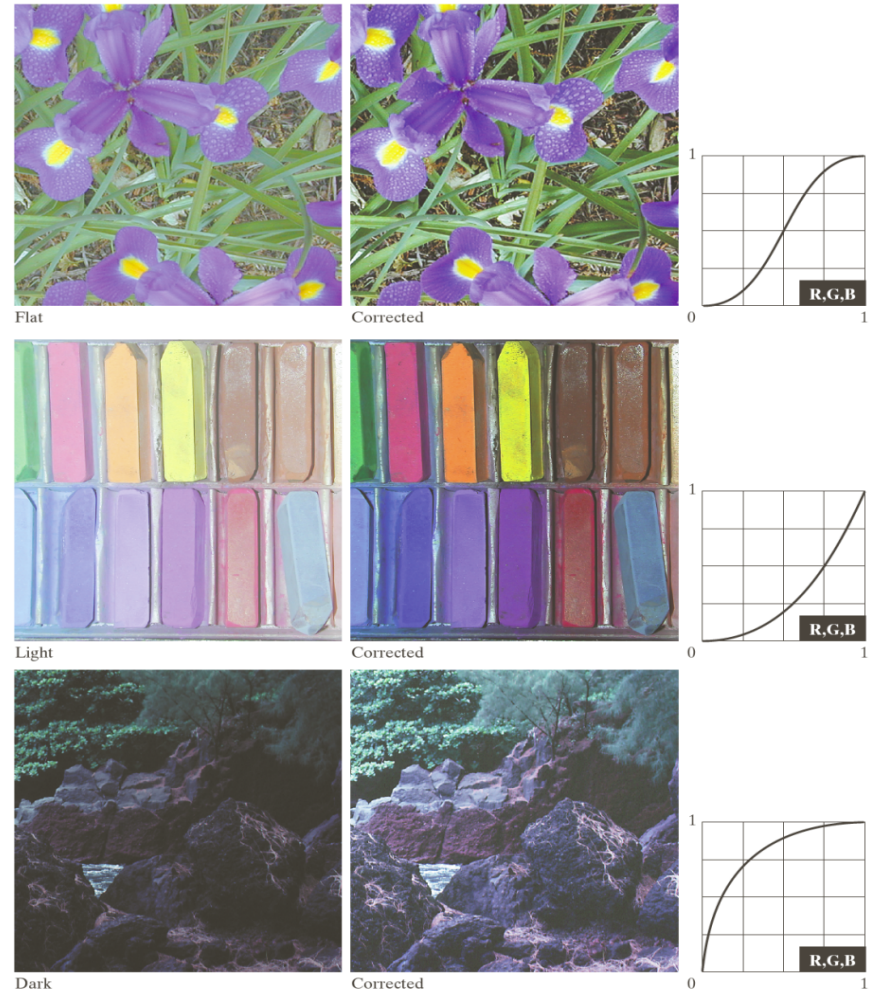


Color slicing

RGB

# Tonal Correction

- Correct the tonal range (distribution of color intensities)
- Recall the intensity transformation in the gray level images
- For RGB model, each component has the same transformation function
- For HSI model, the transformation is applied on the intensity component only



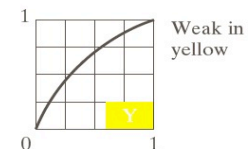
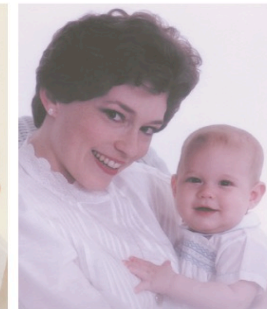
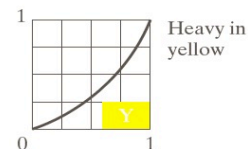
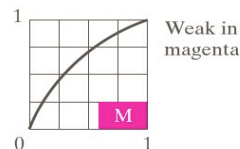
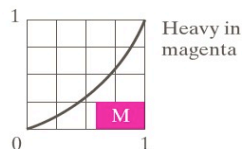
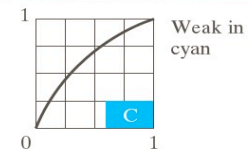
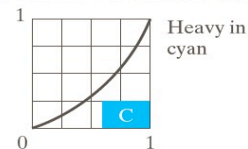
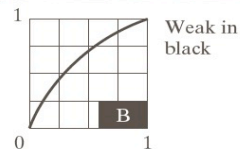
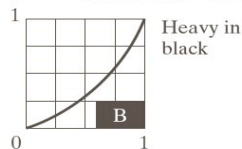
**FIGURE 6.35** Tonal corrections for flat, light (high key), and dark (low key) color images. Adjusting the red, green, and blue components equally does not always alter the image hues significantly.

# Color Balancing

- Correct color unbalance by analyzing a known color in image

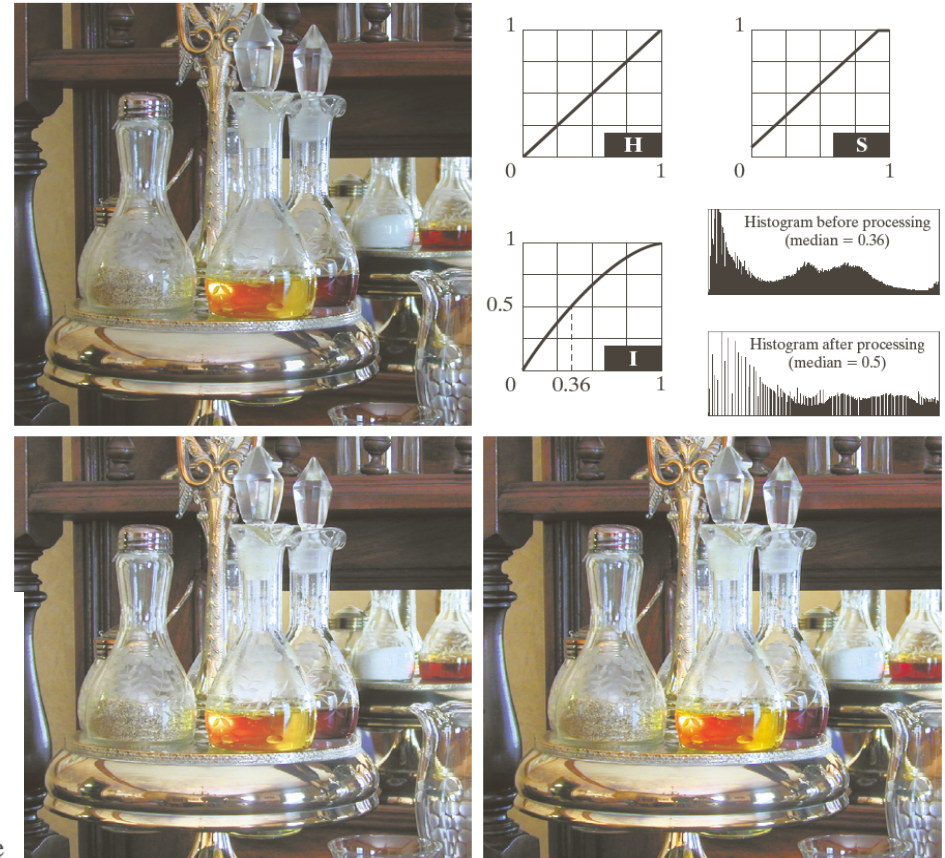


Original/Corrected



# Histogram Processing

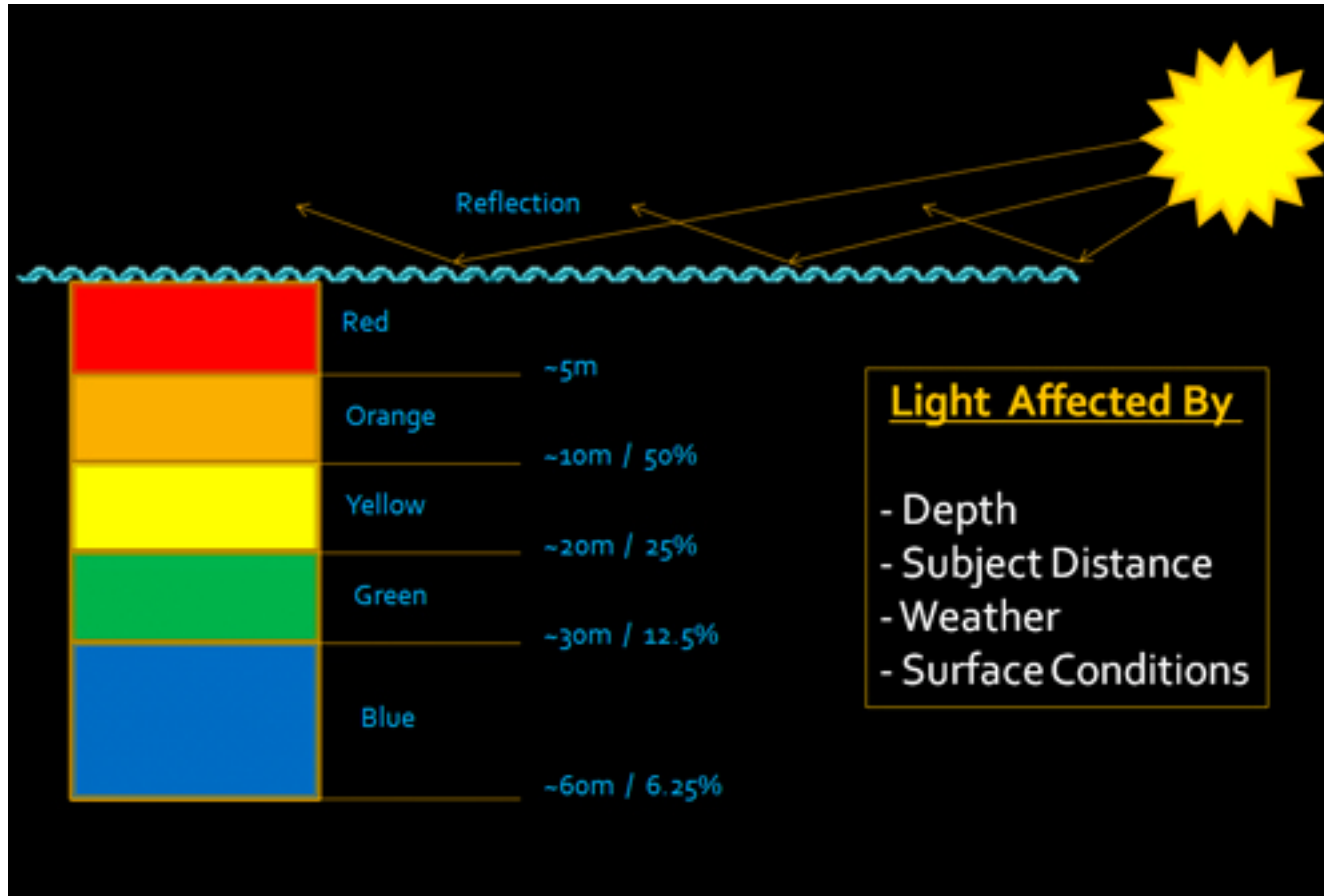
- Step 1: Histogram equalization
- Step 2: Saturation adjustment



a b  
c d

**FIGURE 6.37** Histogram equalization (followed by saturation adjustment) in the HSI color space.

# Color Loss Underwater



# Color Loss Underwater

