
Colorimetry —
Part 3:
CIE tristimulus values

Colorimétrie —
Partie 3: Composantes trichromatiques CIE

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by the International Commission on Illumination (CIE) in cooperation with Technical Committee ISO/TC 274, *Light and lighting*.

This first edition of ISO/CIE 11664-3 cancels and replaces ISO 11664-3:2012 | CIE S 014-3:2011, of which it constitutes a minor revision, incorporating minor editorial updates.

A list of all parts in the ISO 11664 and ISO/CIE 11664 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Colour stimuli with different spectral distributions can look alike. An important function of colorimetry is to determine which stimuli look alike to a given observer with a given set of colour-matching functions. This is done by calculating a set of three tristimulus values for each stimulus. Equality of tristimulus values indicates equality of colour appearance under equal irradiation and viewing conditions. This document is based on long-standing CIE recommendations (see CIE 15^[1]) for the calculation of tristimulus values.

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Colorimetry —

Part 3: CIE tristimulus values

1 Scope

This document specifies methods of calculating the tristimulus values of colour stimuli for which the spectral distributions are provided. These colour stimuli can be produced by self-luminous light sources or by reflecting or transmitting objects.

This document requires that the colour stimulus function be tabulated at measurement intervals of 5 nm or less in a wavelength range of at least 380 nm to 780 nm. Extrapolation methods are suggested for cases where the measured wavelength range is less than 380 nm to 780 nm.

The standard method is defined as summation at 1 nm intervals over the wavelength range from 360 nm to 830 nm. Alternative abridged methods are defined for larger intervals (up to 5 nm) and shorter ranges (down to 380 nm to 780 nm). The alternative methods are to be used only when appropriate and when the user has reviewed the impact on the final results.

This document can be used in conjunction with the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer or the CIE 1964 standard colorimetric observer.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/CIE 11664-1, *Colorimetry — Part 1: CIE standard colorimetric observers*

ISO 23539, *Photometry — The CIE system of physical photometry*

CIE S 017, *ILV: International Lighting Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in CIE S 017 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

4 Symbols and abbreviations

k, k_{10}	normalizing constants
K_m	maximum spectral luminous efficacy of radiation in the CIE standard system of physical photometry
$K_{m,10}$	maximum spectral luminous efficacy of radiation when the $V_{10}(\lambda)$ function is used for photometry
$R(\lambda)$	spectral reflectance factor
$S(\lambda)$	relative spectral distribution of an illuminant
$V(\lambda)$	spectral luminous efficiency function in the CIE standard system of physical photometry
$V_{10}(\lambda)$	spectral luminous efficiency function when the $\bar{y}_{10}(\lambda)$ function is used for photometry
$W_x(\lambda), W_y(\lambda), W_z(\lambda)$	pre-calculated weighting functions for tristimulus integration using the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer
$W_{x,10}(\lambda), W_{y,10}(\lambda), W_{z,10}(\lambda)$	pre-calculated weighting functions for tristimulus integration using the CIE 1964 standard colorimetric observer
x, y, z	chromaticity coordinates calculated using the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer
x_{10}, y_{10}, z_{10}	chromaticity coordinates calculated using the CIE 1964 standard colorimetric observer
$\bar{x}(\lambda), \bar{y}(\lambda), \bar{z}(\lambda)$	colour-matching functions of the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer (also known as the CIE 2° standard colorimetric observer)
$\bar{x}_{10}(\lambda), \bar{y}_{10}(\lambda), \bar{z}_{10}(\lambda)$	colour-matching functions of the CIE 1964 standard colorimetric observer (also known as the CIE 10° standard colorimetric observer)
X, Y, Z	tristimulus values calculated using the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer
X_{10}, Y_{10}, Z_{10}	tristimulus values calculated using the CIE 1964 standard colorimetric observer
$\beta(\lambda)$	spectral radiance factor
$\Delta\lambda$	wavelength interval
$\varphi_\lambda(\lambda)$	colour stimulus function (description of a colour stimulus by the spectral concentration of a radiometric quantity, such as radiance or radiant power, as a function of wavelength)
$\varphi(\lambda)$	relative colour stimulus function (relative spectral distribution of the colour stimulus function)
λ	wavelength
$\rho(\lambda)$	spectral reflectance
$\tau(\lambda)$	spectral transmittance

5 Standard method

5.1 General

This document may be used in conjunction with the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer or the CIE 1964 standard colorimetric observer. If the angle subtended at the eye by the colour stimulus (or fields to be matched in colour) is between about 1° and 4° the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer shall be used. If this angular subtense is greater than 4° the CIE 1964 standard colorimetric observer shall be used. The same colorimetric observer shall be used for all stimuli to be compared with each other.

5.2 Calculation of tristimulus values

In the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric system, tristimulus values X , Y and Z are defined as integrals over the spectral range 360 nm to 830 nm according to [Formulae \(1\) to \(3\)](#):

$$X = k \int_{\lambda} \varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda) \bar{x}(\lambda) d\lambda \quad (1)$$

$$Y = k \int_{\lambda} \varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda) \bar{y}(\lambda) d\lambda \quad (2)$$

$$Z = k \int_{\lambda} \varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda) \bar{z}(\lambda) d\lambda \quad (3)$$

where

- $\varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda)$ is the colour stimulus function to be evaluated;
- $\bar{x}(\lambda), \bar{y}(\lambda), \bar{z}(\lambda)$ are the colour-matching functions of the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer;
- k is a normalizing constant defined in [5.3](#) and [5.4](#).

The standard method for evaluating these integrals is numerical summation from 360 nm to 830 nm at wavelength intervals, $\Delta\lambda$, equal to 1 nm according to [Formulae \(4\) to \(6\)](#):

$$X = k \sum_{\lambda} \varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda) \bar{x}(\lambda) \Delta\lambda \quad (4)$$

$$Y = k \sum_{\lambda} \varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda) \bar{y}(\lambda) \Delta\lambda \quad (5)$$

$$Z = k \sum_{\lambda} \varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda) \bar{z}(\lambda) \Delta\lambda \quad (6)$$

using colour-matching functions $\bar{x}(\lambda), \bar{y}(\lambda), \bar{z}(\lambda)$ defined with seven significant figures in ISO/CIE 11664-1 and a colour stimulus function, $\varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda)$, measured using a symmetrical triangular or trapezoidal bandpass with a half width equal to 1 nm.

Tristimulus values are often evaluated on a relative basis. In such cases the relative colour stimulus function, $\varphi(\lambda)$, may be used instead of the colour stimulus function, $\varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda)$. It is essential that, for stimuli that will be considered together, all the spectral distributions involved be assessed on the same relative basis. The tristimulus values obtained are then relative in the sense that all the values involved may

be multiplied by the same single arbitrary constant, k . In certain cases, however, k shall be chosen according to agreed conventions; these conventions are explained in 5.3 and 5.4.

NOTE The wavelength range of 360 nm to 830 nm is in accordance with established CIE practice (ISO/CIE 11664-1 and Reference [1]). Clause 6 of this document specifies abridged methods that can be used when data are not available over the full range of 360 nm to 830 nm at 1 nm intervals.

5.3 Normalizing constant for self-luminous light sources

For self-luminous objects, the normalizing constant, k , is usually chosen on the grounds of convenience. If, however, in the CIE 1931 standard colorimetric system, the Y value is required to be numerically equal to the absolute value of a photopic photometric quantity, $\varphi_\lambda(\lambda)$ shall be the spectral concentration of the radiometric quantity corresponding to the photometric quantity required, and the constant, k , shall be set equal to $683 \text{ lm}\cdot\text{W}^{-1}$ which is the numerical value of K_m , the maximum spectral luminous efficacy in the CIE system of physical photometry as specified in ISO 23539 | CIE S 010.

5.4 Normalizing constant for reflecting or transmitting objects

For reflecting or transmitting object colours, the colour stimulus function, $\varphi_\lambda(\lambda)$, shall be replaced by the relative colour stimulus function, $\varphi(\lambda)$, evaluated as shown in Formulae (7) to (10).

$$\varphi(\lambda) = R(\lambda)S(\lambda) \tag{7}$$

or

$$\varphi(\lambda) = \beta(\lambda)S(\lambda) \tag{8}$$

or

$$\varphi(\lambda) = \rho(\lambda)S(\lambda) \tag{9}$$

or

$$\varphi(\lambda) = \tau(\lambda)S(\lambda) \tag{10}$$

where

$R(\lambda)$ is the spectral reflectance factor;

$\beta(\lambda)$ is the spectral radiance factor;

$\rho(\lambda)$ is the spectral reflectance;

$\tau(\lambda)$ is the spectral transmittance;

$S(\lambda)$ is the relative spectral distribution of the illuminant.

In all these cases, the constant, k , shall be chosen so that $Y = 100$ for objects for which $R(\lambda)$ [or $\beta(\lambda)$, $\rho(\lambda)$, $\tau(\lambda)$] equals 1 for all wavelengths. Hence, as shown in Formula (11):

$$k = 100 / \sum_{\lambda} S(\lambda) \bar{y}(\lambda) \Delta\lambda \tag{11}$$

where the summation range and interval, and the values of $\bar{y}(\lambda)$, are the same as in Formulae (4) to (6).

The values of Y for all objects are then equal to the percentage values of luminous reflectance factor [in the case of $R(\lambda)$], luminance factor [in the case of $\beta(\lambda)$], luminous reflectance [in the case of $\rho(\lambda)$] or

luminous transmittance [in the case of $\tau(\lambda)$]. This is because the $\bar{y}(\lambda)$ function is identical to the CIE spectral luminous efficiency function $V(\lambda)$.

NOTE All four quantities, $R(\lambda)$, $\beta(\lambda)$, $\rho(\lambda)$ and $\tau(\lambda)$, are ratios. If, for convenience, any of these quantities are reported as percentages, the numerical values must be divided by 100 for the above derivation of k to be correct.

5.5 CIE 1964 standard colorimetric system

The colour-matching functions $\bar{x}_{10}(\lambda)$, $\bar{y}_{10}(\lambda)$, $\bar{z}_{10}(\lambda)$ of the CIE 1964 standard colorimetric observer (ISO/CIE 11664-1) may be used in place of $\bar{x}(\lambda)$, $\bar{y}(\lambda)$, $\bar{z}(\lambda)$. In this case, the symbols X , Y , Z and k shall be replaced by X_{10} , Y_{10} , Z_{10} and k_{10} in all formulae in this document.

NOTE Use of the $\bar{y}_{10}(\lambda)$ function for photometry (as in 5.3), with the appropriate value of $K_{m,10}$, ($683,6 \text{ lm}\cdot\text{W}^{-1}$) has not been standardized or approved by the General Conference on Weights and Measures (Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures, CGPM). However, CIE 165:2005^[2] has recommended that the function can be so used, especially if luminance has to be determined parafoveally.

6 Abridged methods

6.1 General

In some cases, the standard method defined in Clause 5 cannot be used because the colour stimulus function or relative colour stimulus function is not available over the full range of 360 nm to 830 nm in 1 nm intervals.

6.2 Abridged method for data at 5 nm intervals or less

If it is demonstrated that the resulting errors are insignificant for the purpose of the user, tristimulus values X , Y , Z shall be calculated by numerical summation from 380 nm to 780 nm at wavelength intervals, $\Delta\lambda$, equal to 5 nm according to Formulae (4) to (6) using colour-matching functions $\bar{x}(\lambda)$, $\bar{y}(\lambda)$, $\bar{z}(\lambda)$, as defined with seven significant figures in ISO/CIE 11664-1 (see 7.4 for bandwidth requirements).

If the colour stimulus function or relative colour stimulus function data are provided at wavelength intervals of 2 nm, 3 nm or 4 nm, the same method shall be used, subject to the same conditions.

If the wavelength interval is less than 5 nm but not an integer multiple of 1 nm, either the colour-matching functions and the illuminant or the colour stimulus data shall be interpolated so that they match. See 7.3 for guidance on this.

NOTE 1 Some publications give the colour-matching functions from ISO/CIE 11664-1 with values rounded to four significant figures. These rounded values can be used provided that it is demonstrated that the resulting errors are insignificant for the purpose of the user.

NOTE 2 Some CCD array spectrometers record data at unequal wavelength intervals. In this case, $\Delta\lambda$ in Formulae (4), (5), (6) and (11) will vary.

6.3 Abridged method for 10 nm or 20 nm data for reflecting or transmitting objects

This document does not cover abridged methods for 10 nm or 20 nm data. It applies only to data at 5 nm intervals or less.

NOTE 1 A common method for calculating tristimulus values X , Y , Z of reflecting or transmitting object colours at wavelength intervals, $\Delta\lambda$, equal to 10 nm or 20 nm is to use Formulae (12) to (14):

$$X = \sum_{\lambda} R(\lambda) W_x(\lambda) \quad (12)$$

$$Y = \sum_{\lambda} R(\lambda) W_y(\lambda) \quad (13)$$

$$Z = \sum_{\lambda} R(\lambda) W_z(\lambda) \quad (14)$$

where

$R(\lambda)$ is the spectral reflectance factor measured using a symmetrical triangular or trapezoidal bandpass with a half width equal to the wavelength interval (10 nm or 20 nm);

$W_x(\lambda)$, $W_y(\lambda)$ and $W_z(\lambda)$ are pre-calculated weighting functions that take into account the colour-matching functions, the relative spectral distribution of the illuminant, the wavelength interval, the bandwidth and the normalizing constant, to give the best fit to the standard method (see [Clause 5](#)) based on the assumption that $R(\lambda)$ varies smoothly between the measured (10 nm or 20 nm interval) values.

The spectral reflectance factor $R(\lambda)$ may be replaced in [Formulae \(12\)](#) to [\(14\)](#) by the spectral radiance factor $\beta(\lambda)$, the spectral reflectance $\rho(\lambda)$ or the spectral transmittance $\tau(\lambda)$.

NOTE 2 Examples of pre-calculated weighting functions prepared for this purpose are given in ASTM E308-15^[3].

NOTE 3 Details of the calculation of weighting functions have been published (see References [\[4\]](#), [\[5\]](#), [\[6\]](#) and [\[7\]](#)).

6.4 Abridged method for 10 nm or 20 nm data for self-luminous light sources

This document does not cover abridged methods for 10 nm or 20 nm data. It applies only to data at 5 nm intervals or less. Data intervals of larger than 5 nm should not be used for light sources, except when it is demonstrated that the error for a larger interval is negligible for the particular light source being evaluated. For many self-luminous light sources, particularly those with narrow-band features such as fluorescent lamps, gas discharge lamps and light-emitting diodes, calculation of tristimulus values from stimulus functions measured at wavelength intervals, $\Delta\lambda$, greater than 5 nm will not give accurate results.

7 Supplementary treatment of input data

7.1 General

This clause outlines supplementary treatment of data necessary to apply the methods of [Clauses 5](#) and [6](#) or to correct measured data for improved accuracy.

The use of the methods described in [Clauses 5](#) and [6](#) of this document requires that the colour stimulus function, $\varphi_{\lambda}(\lambda)$, or the relative colour stimulus function, $\varphi(\lambda)$, be known over a specified wavelength range, at a specified interval, and with a specified bandwidth. It is important to use the same wavelength range, interval and bandwidth throughout for any set of calculations in which data for different colours are to be compared precisely. In practical applications, however, all the required data may not be available because the measurement was made at intervals greater than specified, and/or unequal wavelength intervals were used, and/or data at the spectral extremes were omitted, and/or the bandwidth was not equal to the sampling interval, and/or the bandpass shape was not a symmetrical triangle or trapezium. Sometimes it is possible to predict the needed but unmeasured data, although calculation from predicted data may be inexact. Thus, prediction methods should only be used if the