

Extra Colour

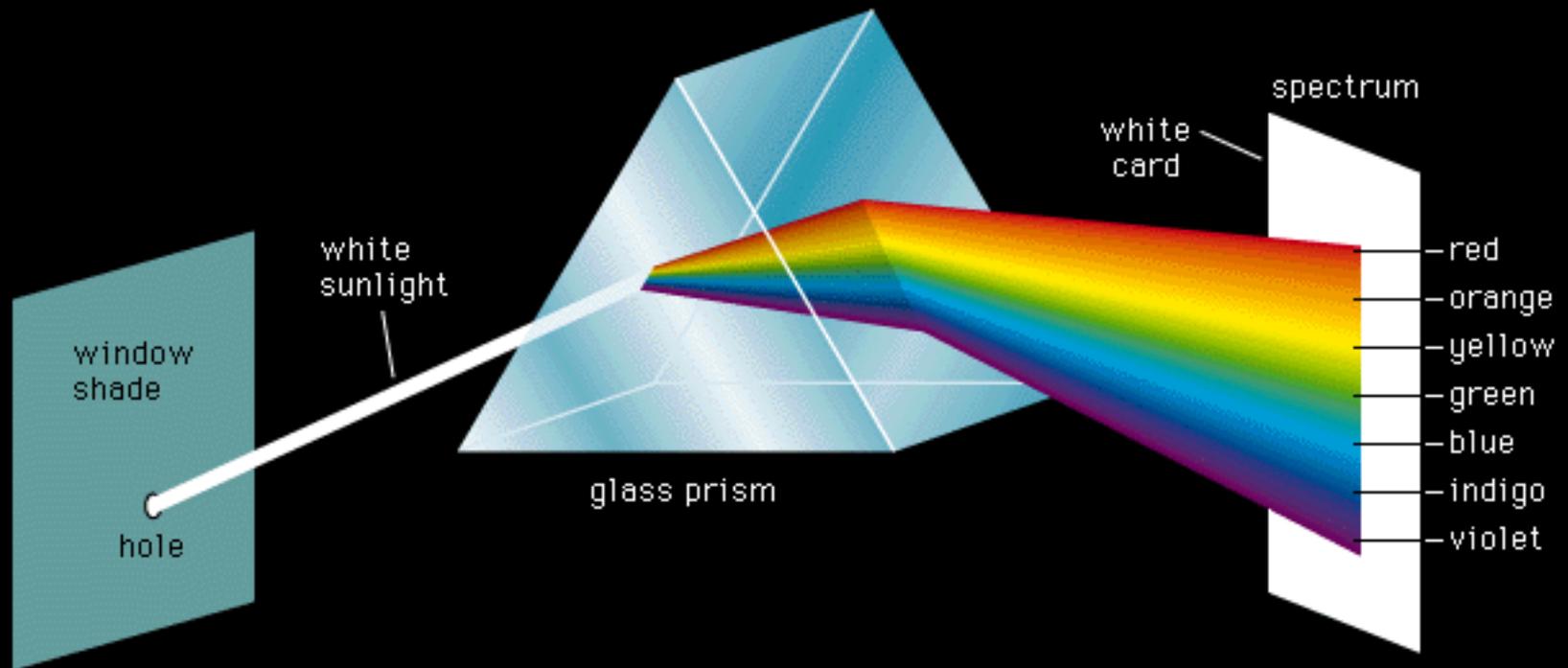
NEUR 0017  
Visual Neuroscience

Andrew  
Stockman

# INTRODUCTION

# Light

400 - 700 nm is important for vision



How dependent are  
we on colour?

No colour...

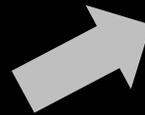


Colour...



But just how  
important is colour?

Split the image into...



ACHROMATIC COMPONENTS



CHROMATIC COMPONENTS



# CHROMATIC COMPONENTS



Chromatic information *by itself* provides relatively limited information...

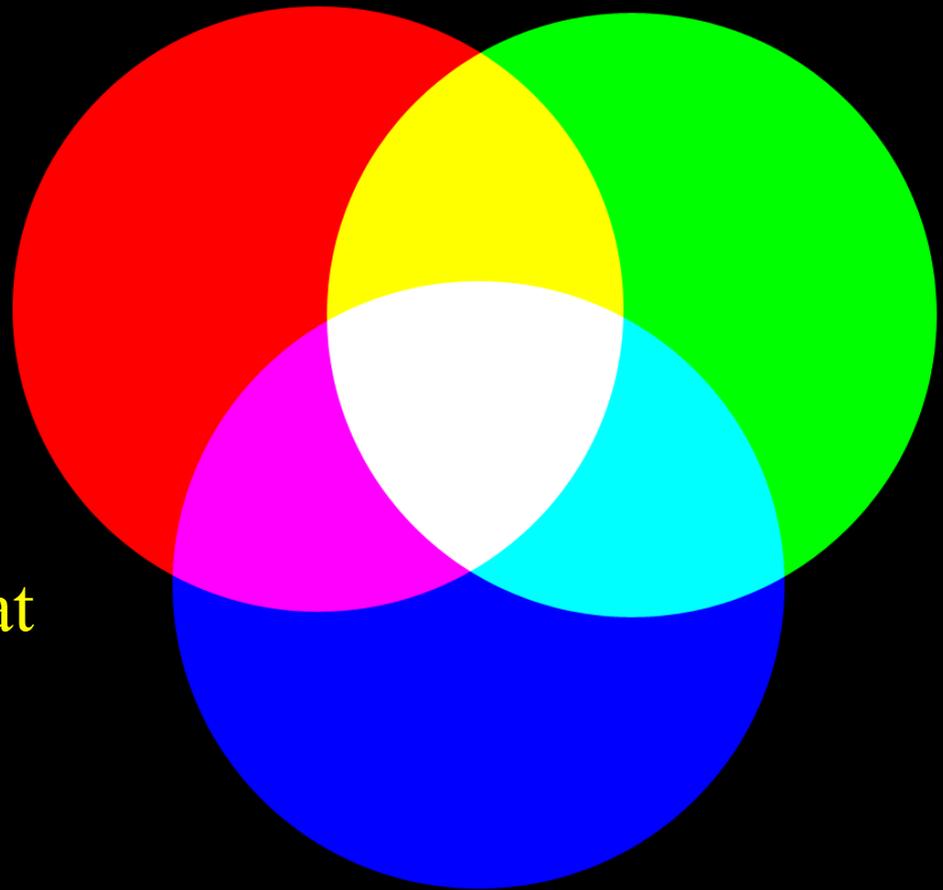
# ACHROMATIC COMPONENTS

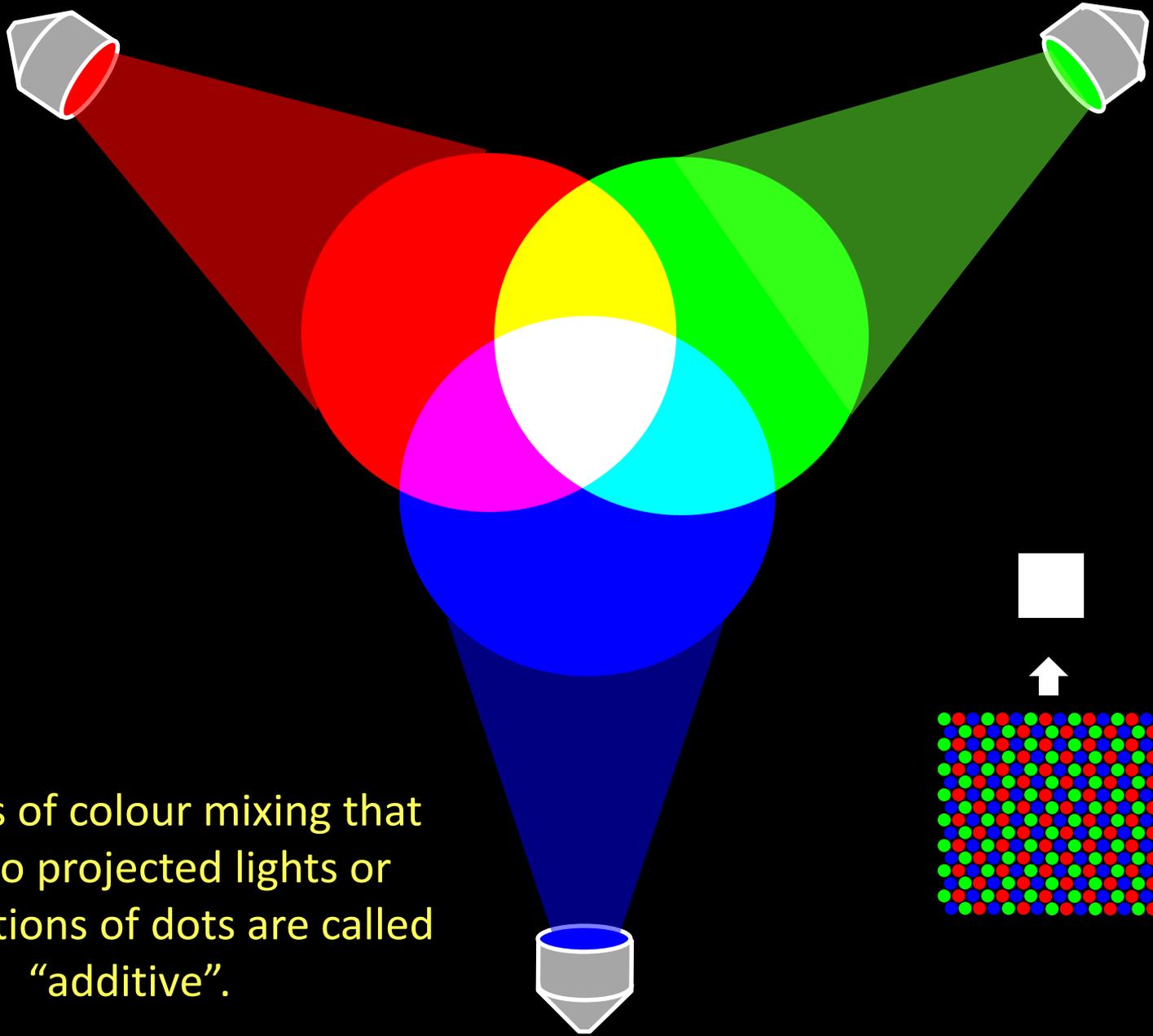


Achromatic information is important for fine detail ...

Trichromacy means that  
colour vision is  
relatively simple.

It is a 3 variable system...





The laws of colour mixing that apply to projected lights or combinations of dots are called “additive”.

But what about mixing paints?

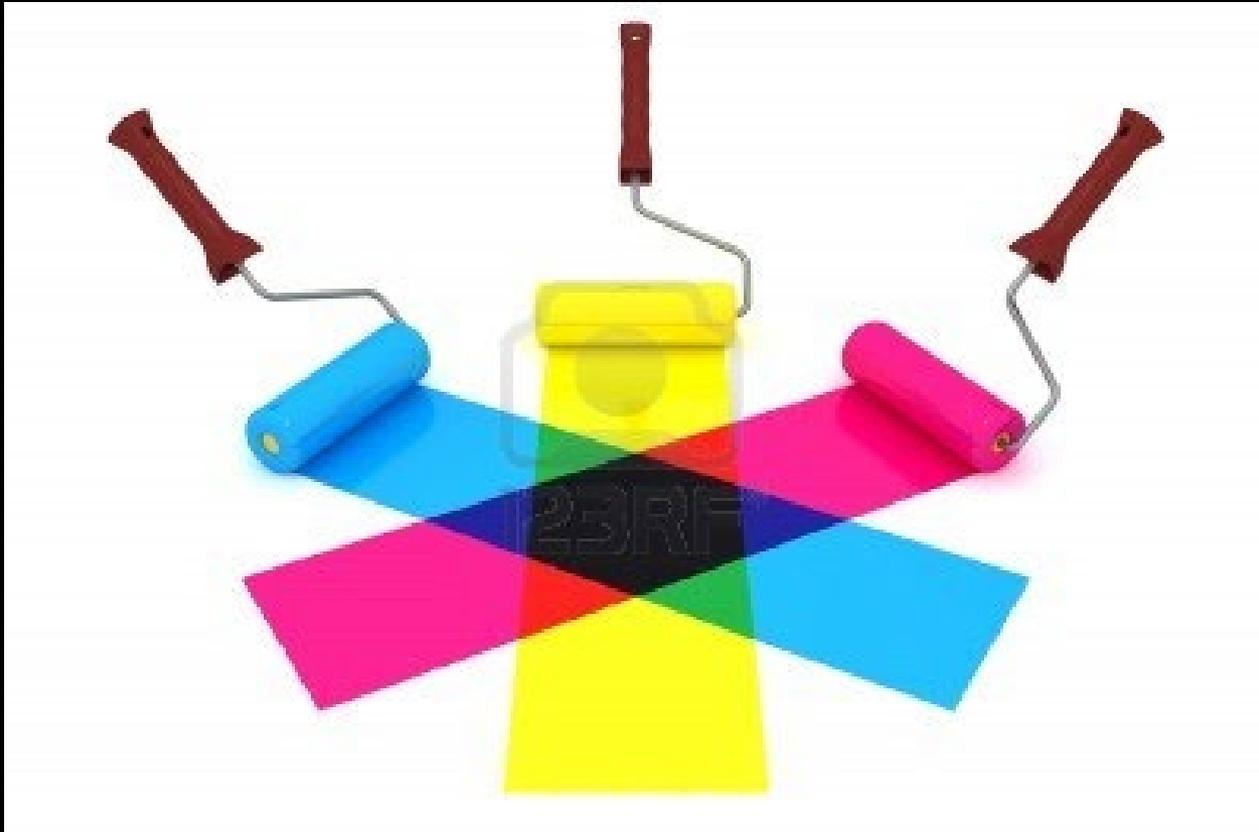
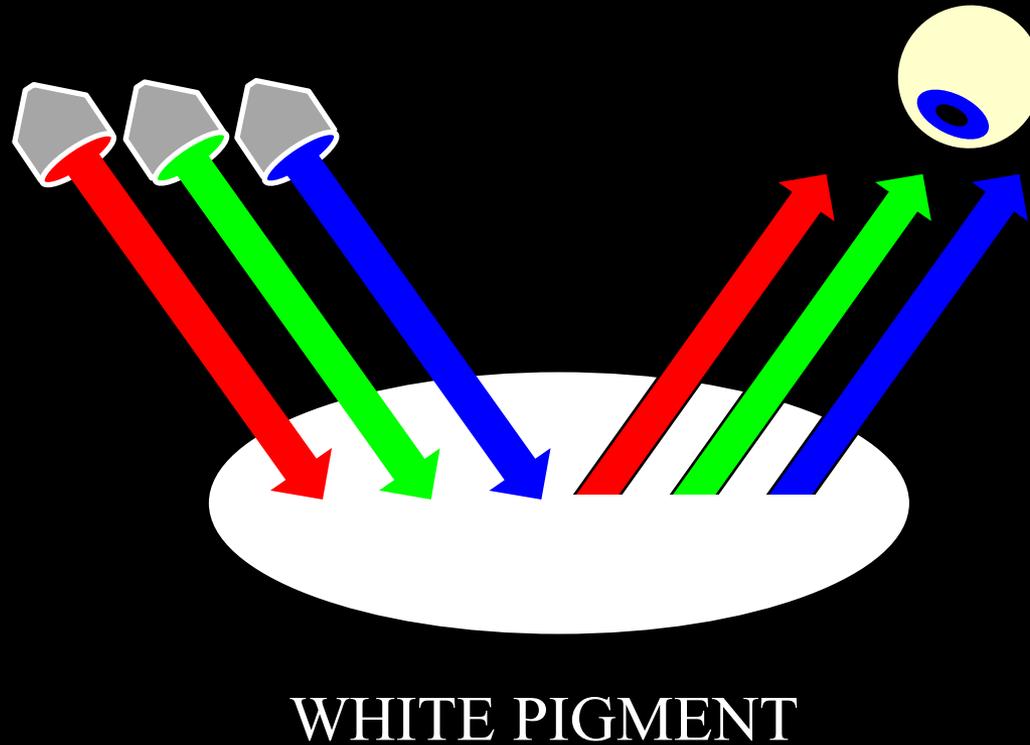
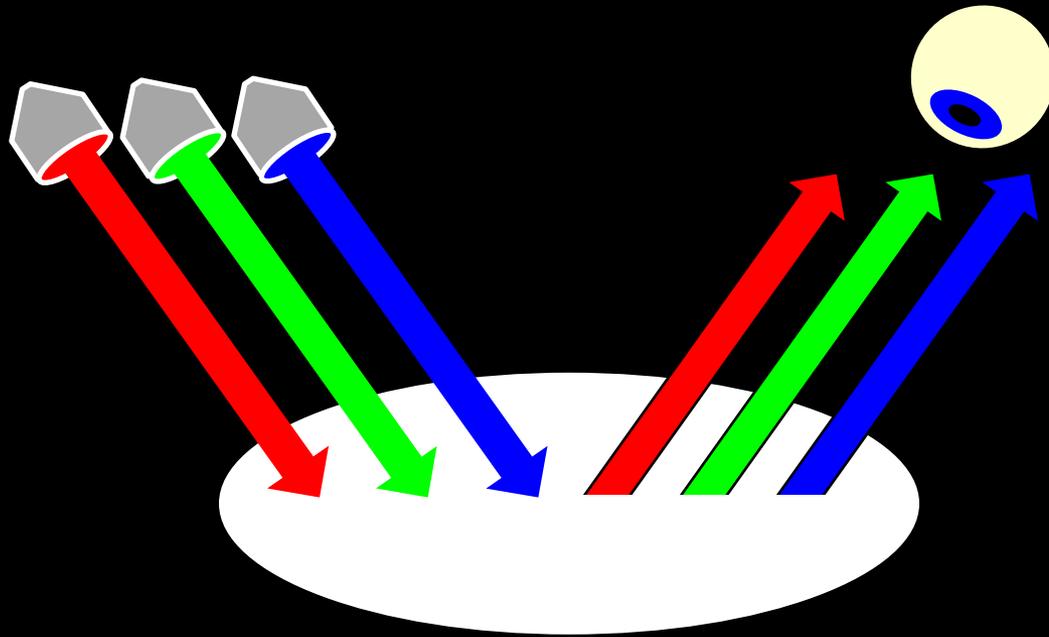


Photo: Jozsef Szasz-Fabian

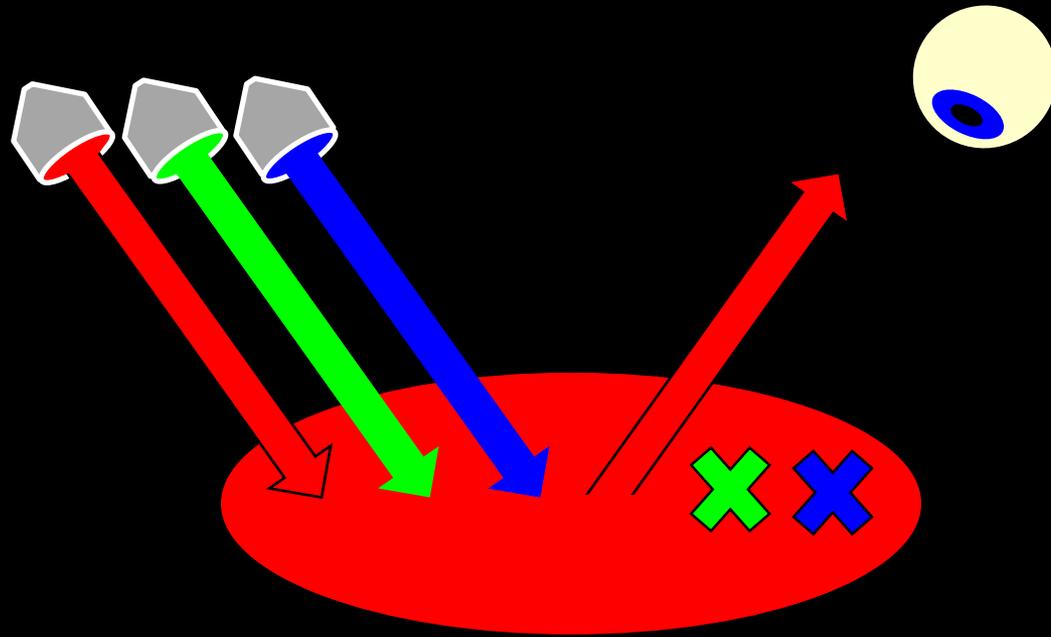
The laws of colour mixing that apply to pigments or paints are different because they depend on what is absorbed or “subtracted” from the reflected light by the pigment.





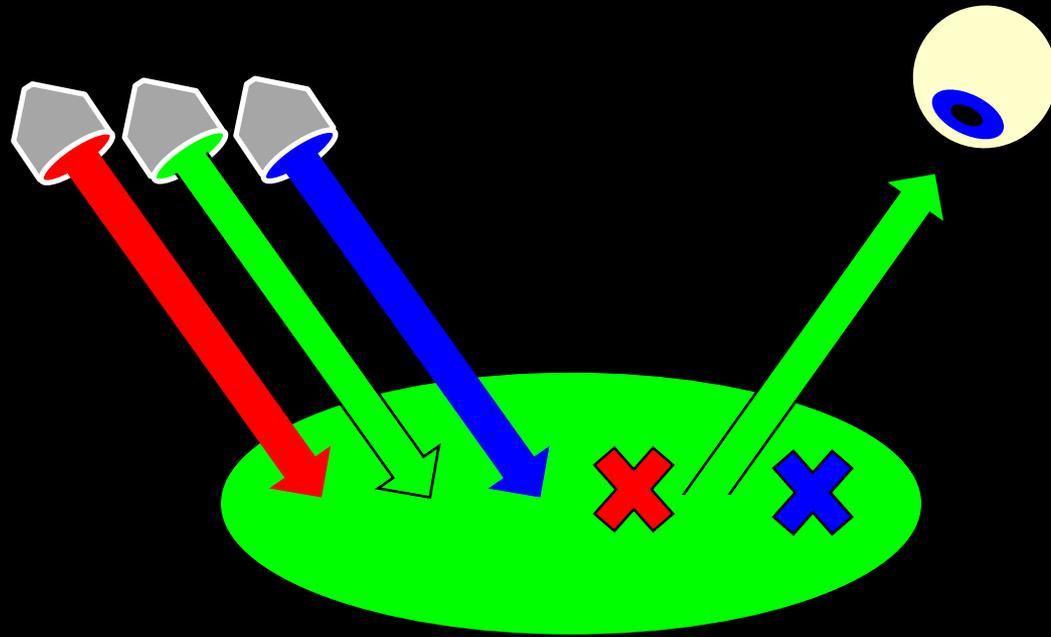
WHITE PIGMENT

A white pigment reflects red, green and blue lights.



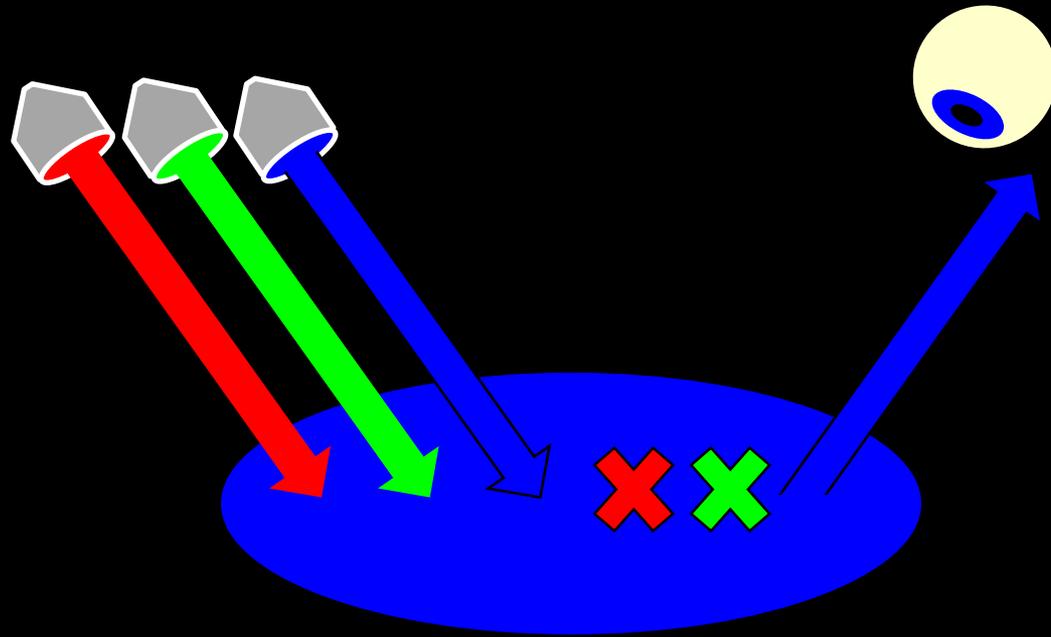
RED PIGMENT

A red pigment subtracts green and blue and reflects red.



GREEN PIGMENT

A green pigment subtracts red and blue and reflects green.

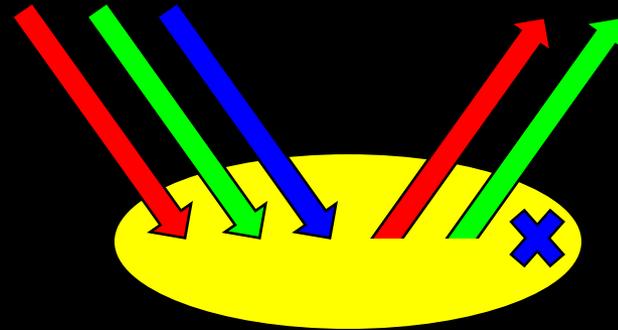


BLUE PIGMENT

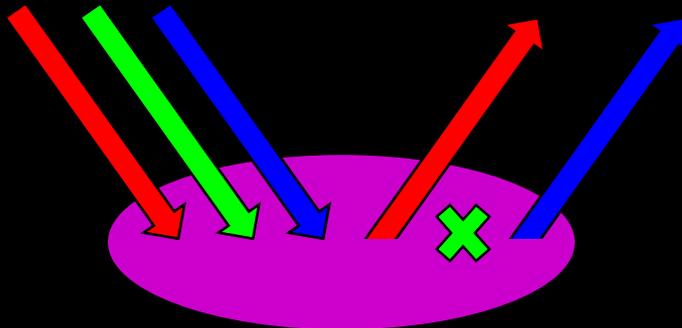
A blue pigment subtracts red and green and reflects blue.

Laws of subtractive colour mixing  
(of paints or pigments)

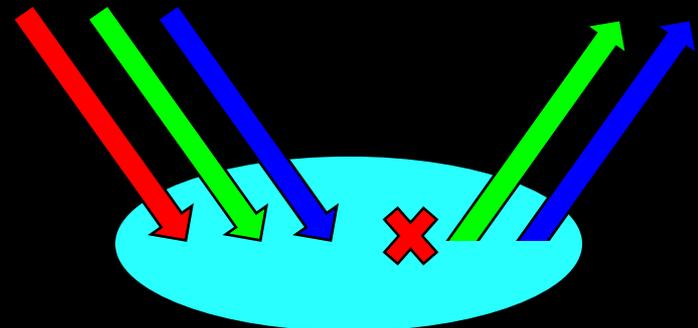
# Subtractive colour mixing (of paints or pigments)



YELLOW PIGMENT

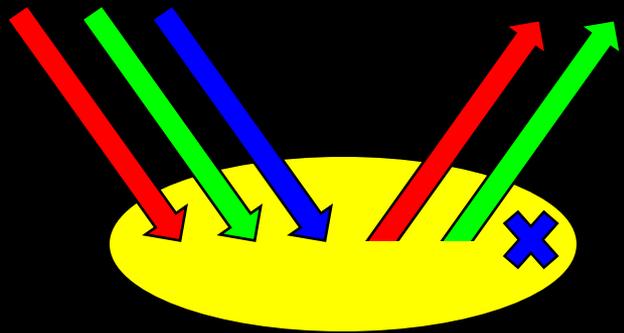


MAGENTA PIGMENT



CYAN PIGMENT

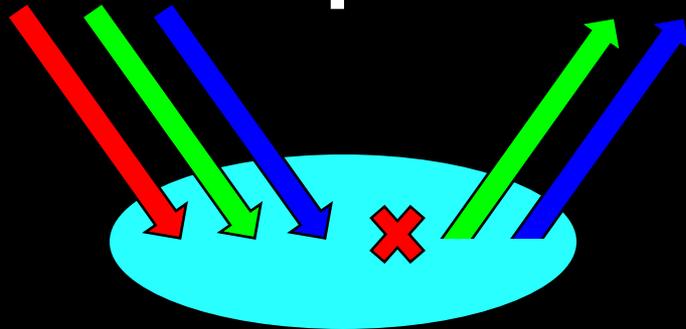
# Subtractive colour mixing



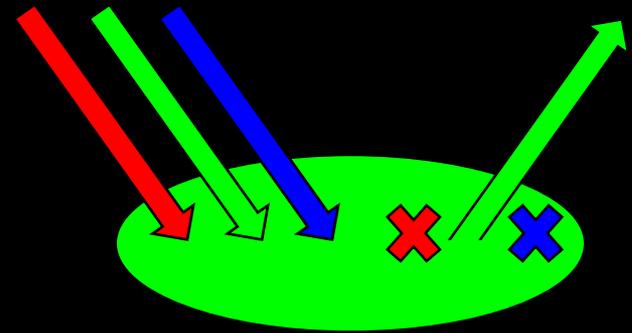
YELLOW PIGMENT

+

=

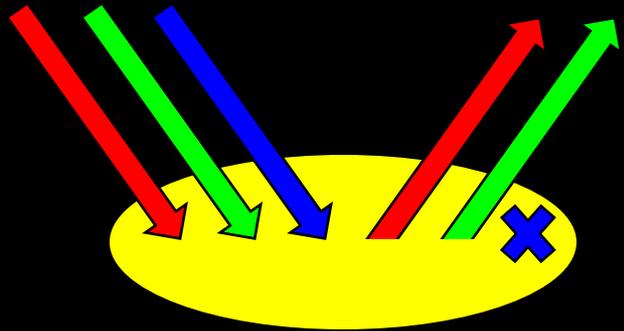


CYAN PIGMENT



GREEN PIGMENT

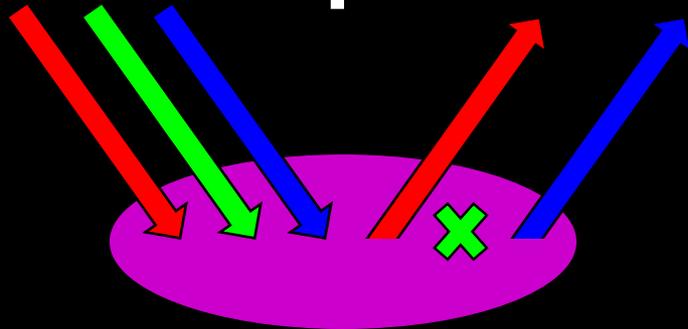
# Subtractive colour mixing



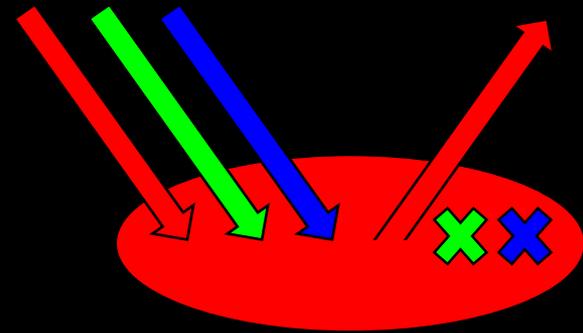
YELLOW PIGMENT

+

=

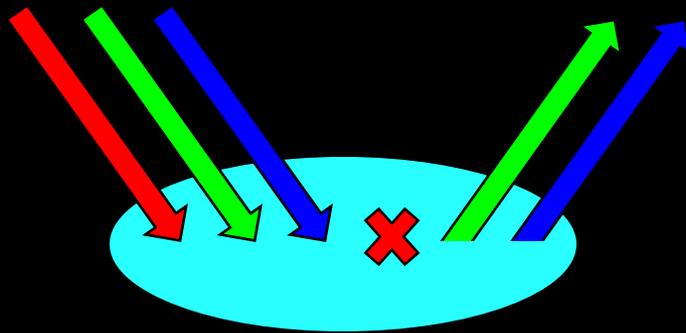


MAGENTA PIGMENT



RED PIGMENT

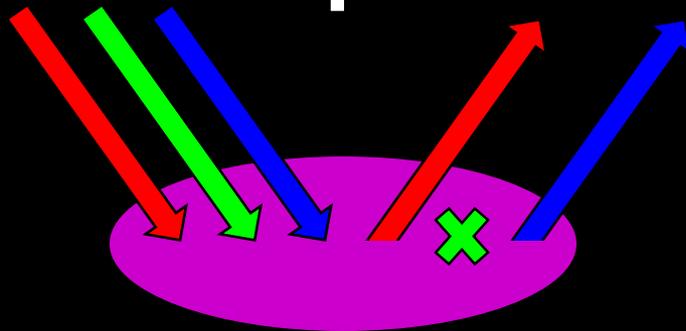
# Subtractive colour mixing



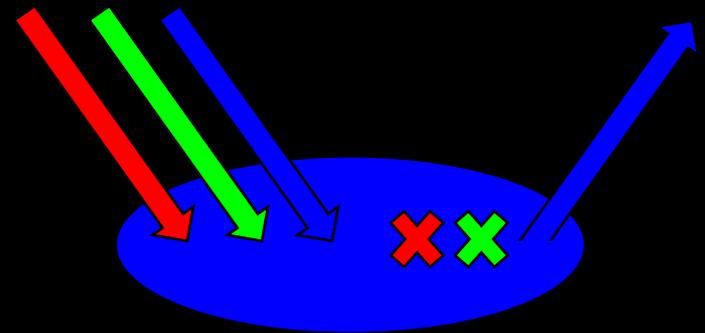
CYAN PIGMENT

+

=



MAGENTA PIGMENT

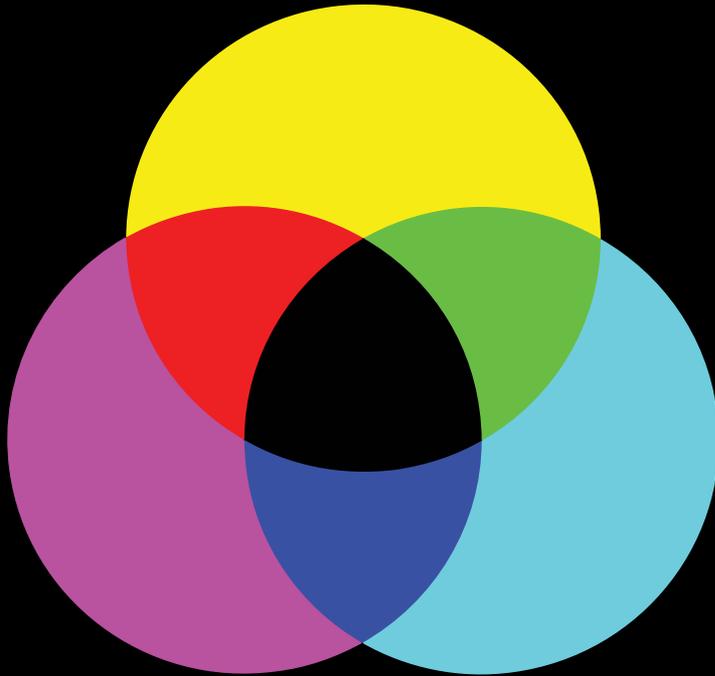


BLUE PIGMENT

# SUBTRACTIVE COLOUR MIXING



## SUBTRACTIVE COLOUR MIXING

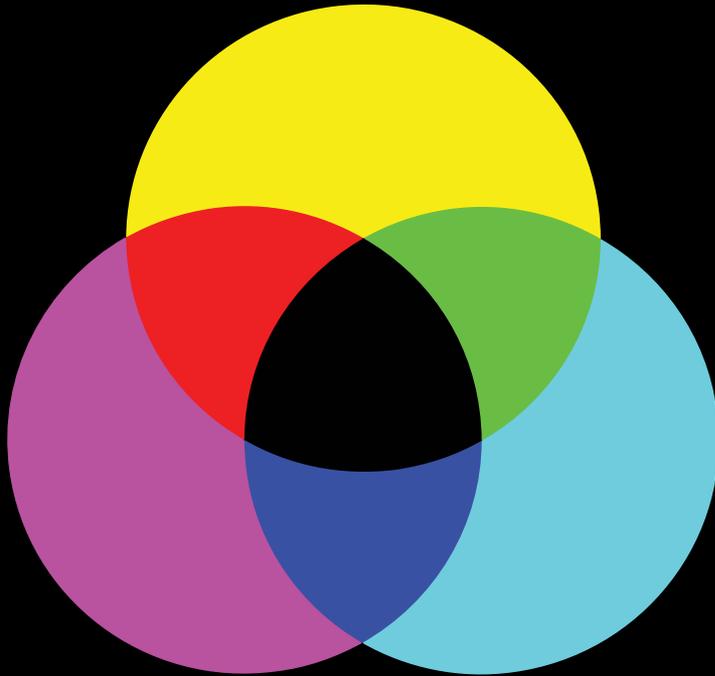


## ADDITIVE COLOUR MIXING



**NOTE THAT THESE MIXING “LAWS” ARE BOTH  
CONSISTENT WITH HUMAN COLOUR VISION  
BEING A TRICHROMAT, THREE VARIABLE SYSTEM.**

## SUBTRACTIVE COLOUR MIXING



## ADDITIVE COLOUR MIXING



But, why is normal human vision a trichromatic, three variable system?

# COLOUR VISION AND MOLECULAR GENETICS

Normal



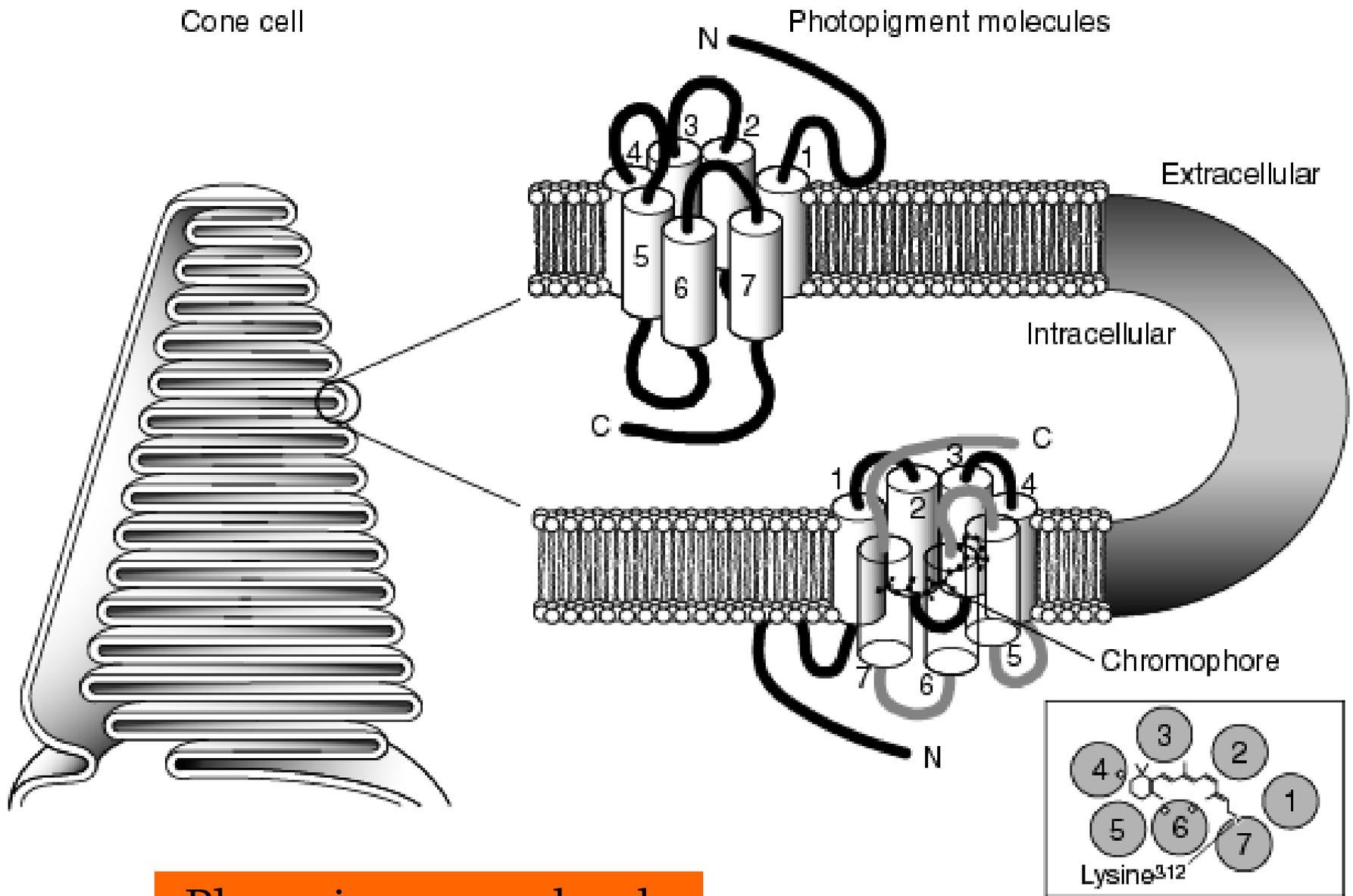
Deuteranope



Protanope



How do red-green  
colour vision  
deficiencies arise?

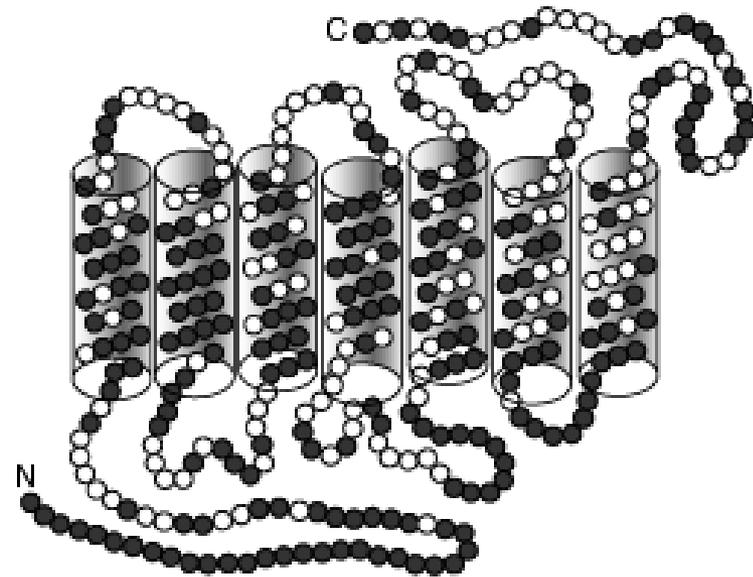


Photopigment molecule

# Amino acid differences between photopigment opsins

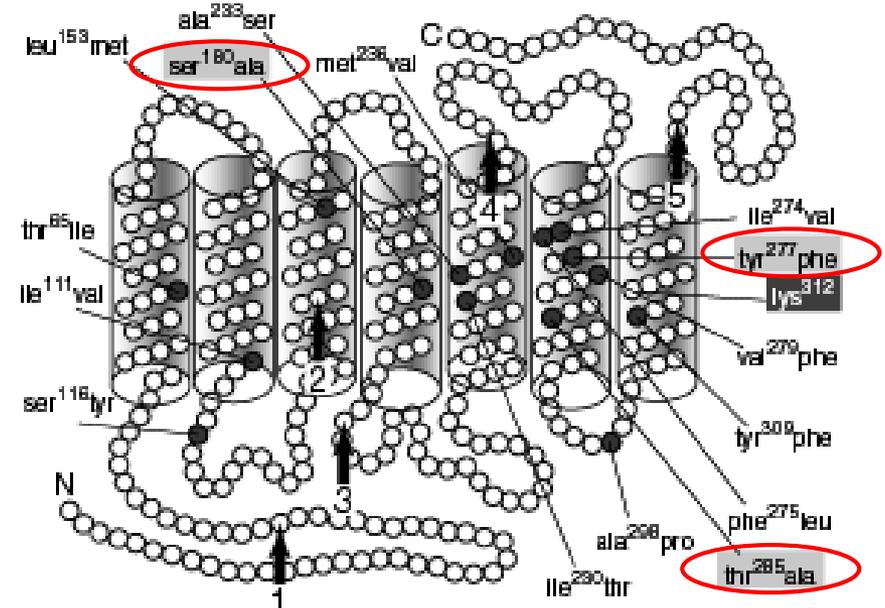
**A**

M- vs S-cone pigment

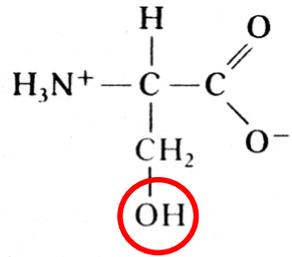


**B**

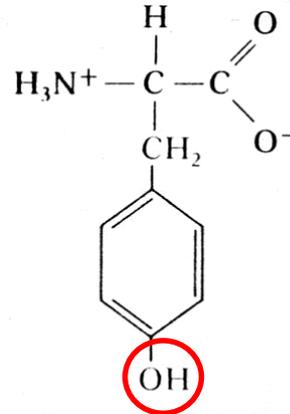
L- vs M-cone pigment



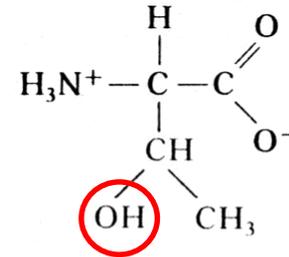
POLAR



Serine (Ser)



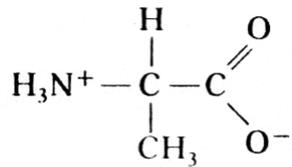
Tyrosine (Tyr)



Threonine (Thr)

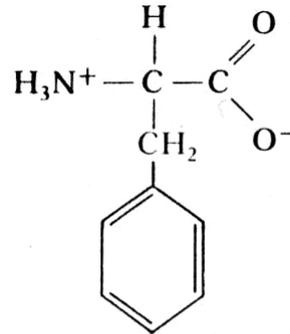
LWS  
all with OH  
group

NON-POLAR



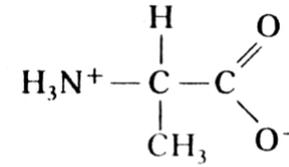
Alanine (Ala)

180



Phenylalanine (Phe)

277



Alanine (Ala)

285

MWS

Spectral shifts

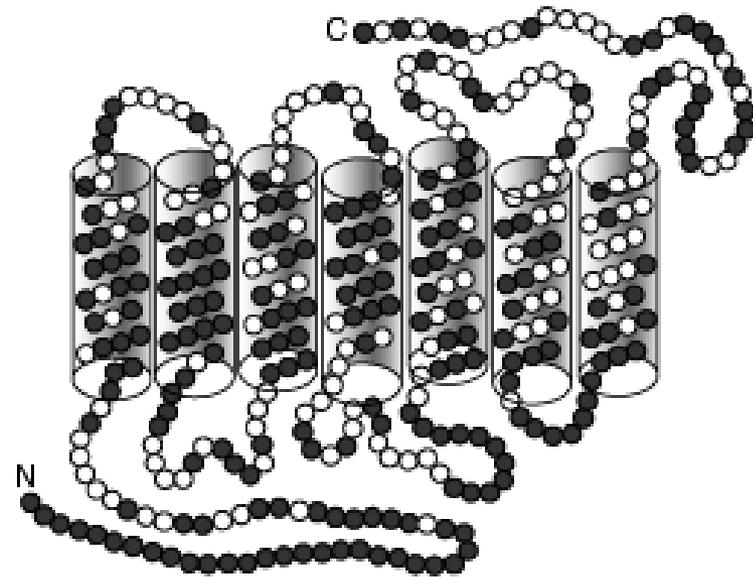
~ 5 nm

~ 25 nm

# Amino acid differences between photopigment opsins

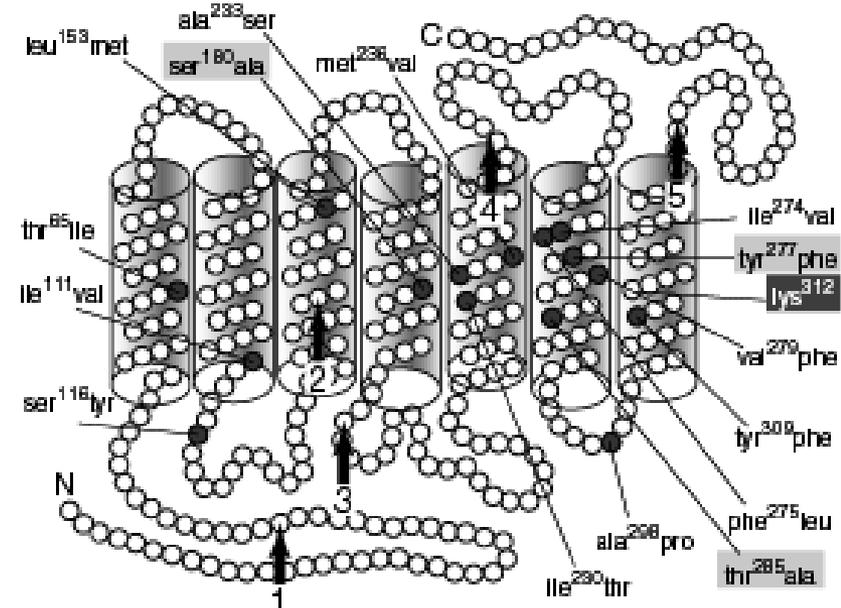
**A**

M- vs S-cone pigment



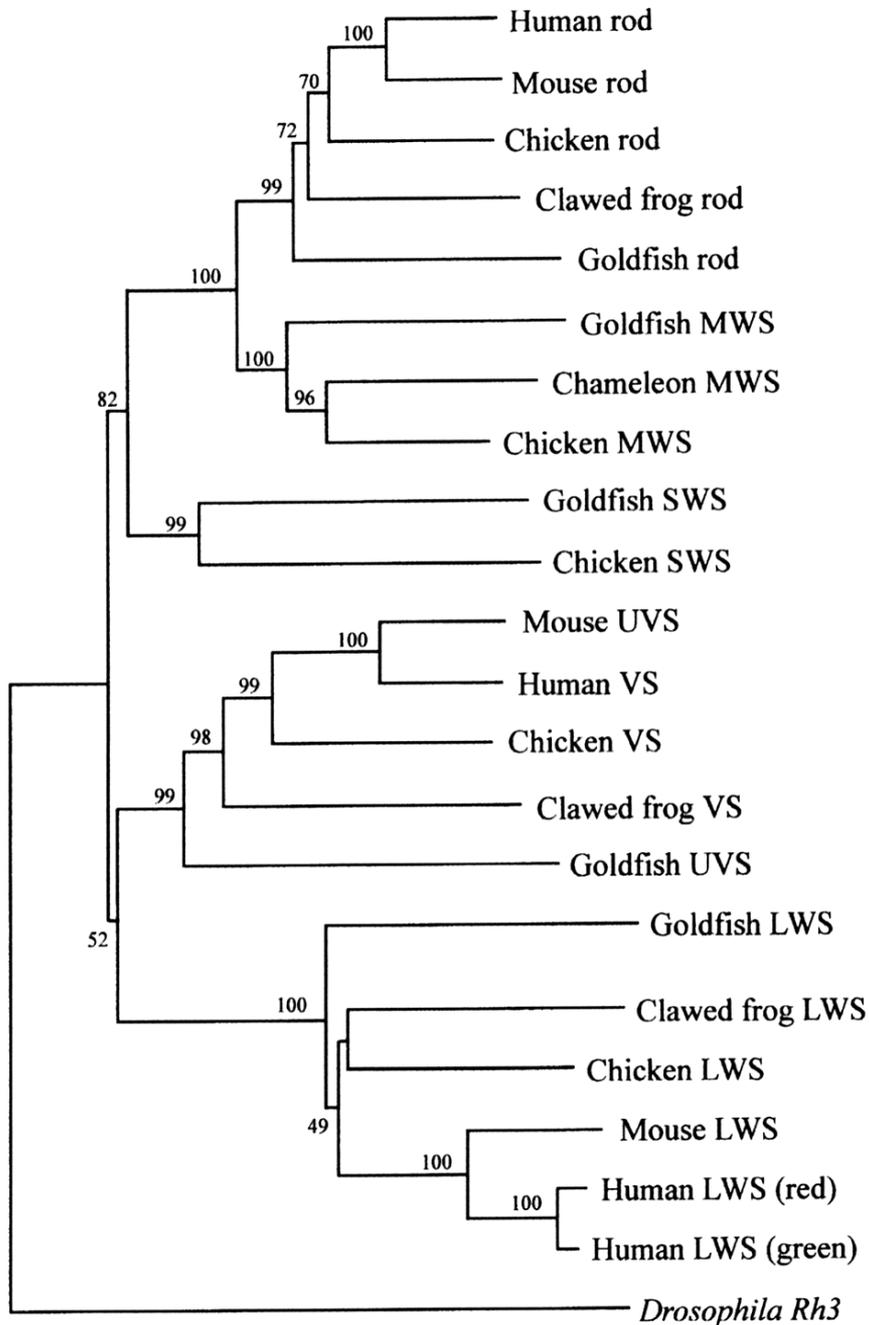
**B**

L- vs M-cone pigment



Why are the M- and L-cone opsins so similar?

# Phylogenetic tree of visual pigments



Rod opsins

About 460 – 520 nm Rh1

MWS cone opsins

About 460 – 520 nm Rh2

SWS cone opsins

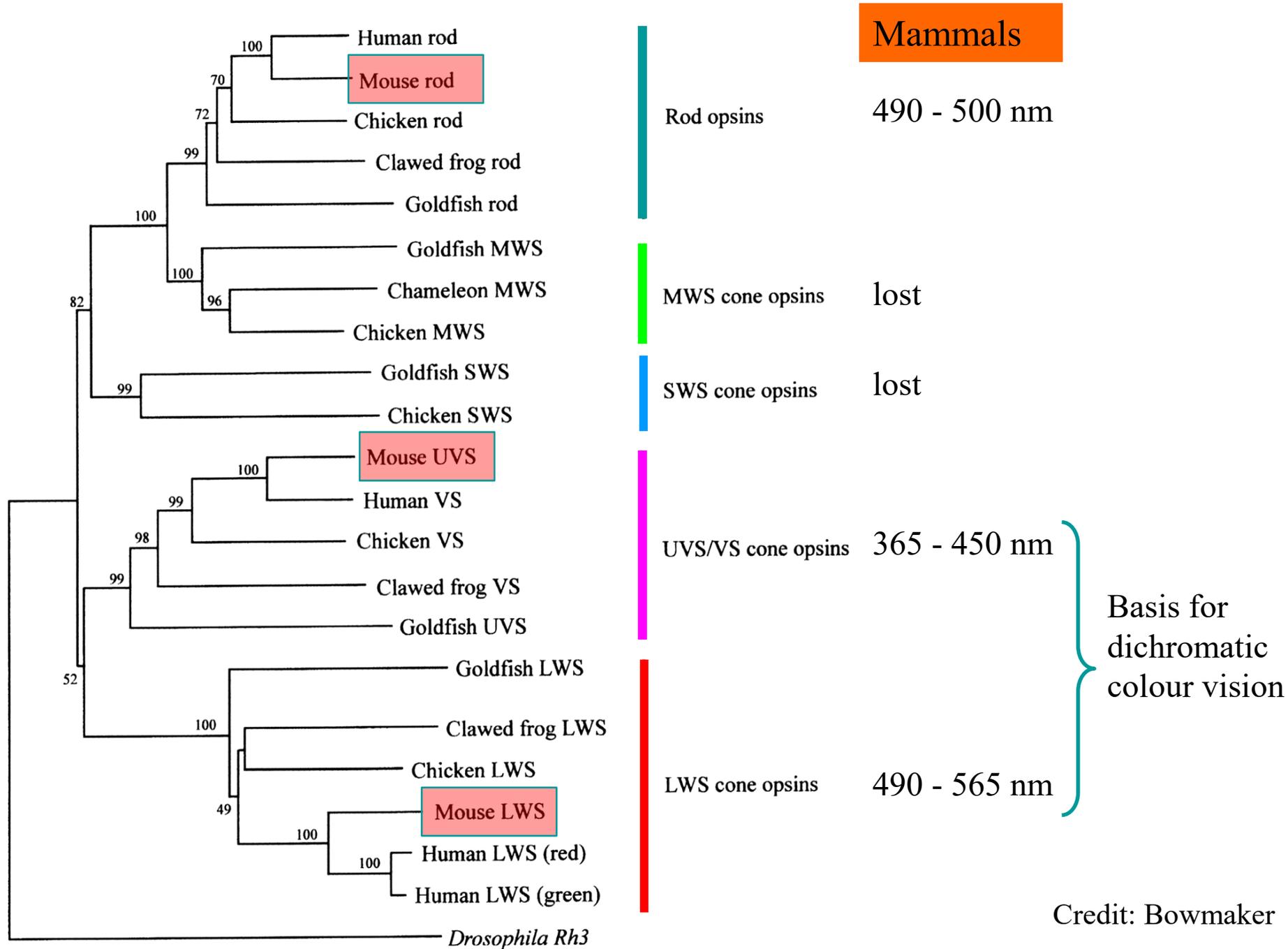
About 420 – 480 nm SWS2

UVS/VS cone opsins

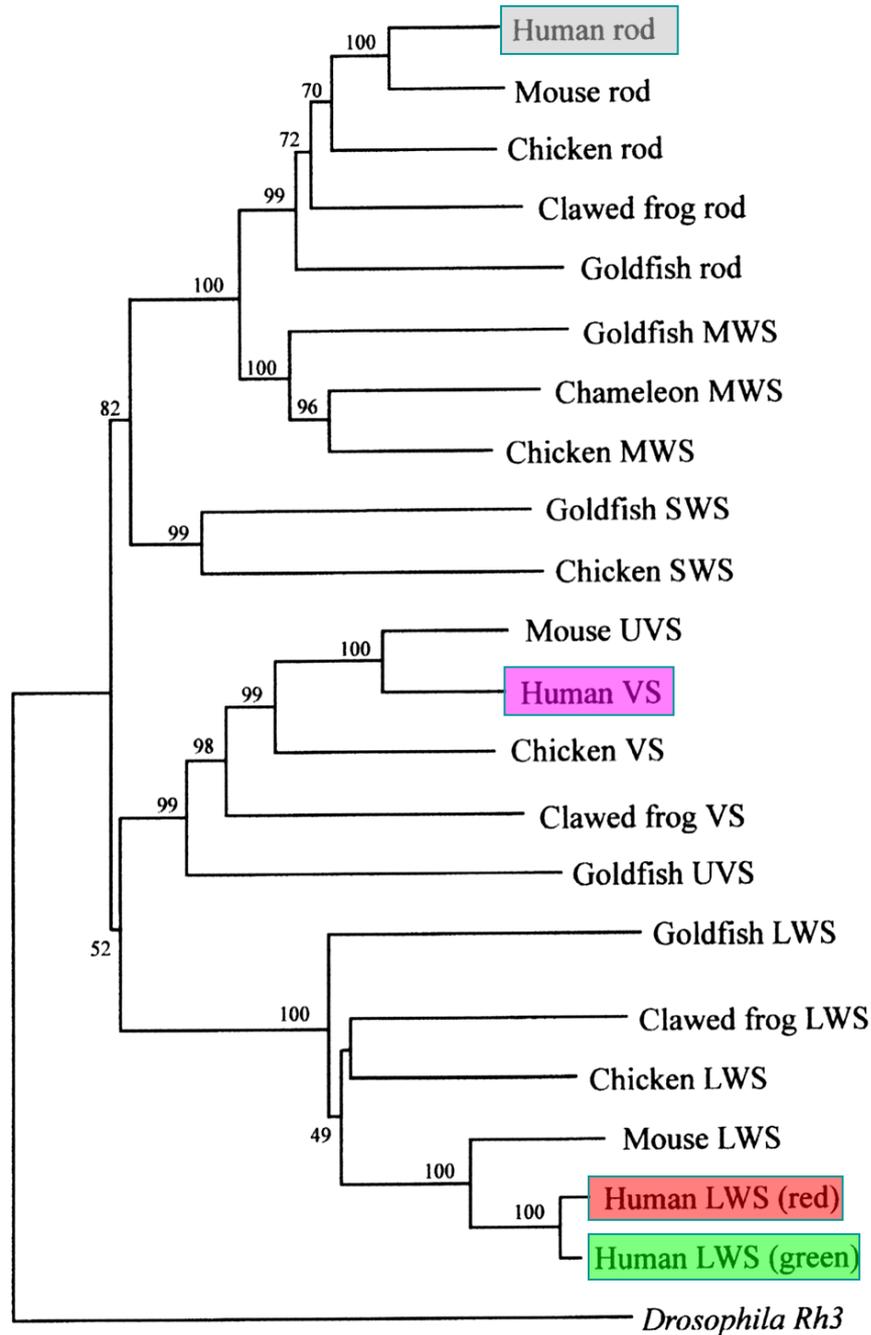
About 355 – 450 nm SWS1

LWS cone opsins

About 490 – 570 nm LWS



Credit: Bowmaker



## Humans

Rod opsins

490 - 500 nm

MWS cone opsins

lost

SWS cone opsins

lost

UVS/VS cone opsins

365 - 450 nm

LWS cone opsins

Gene duplication

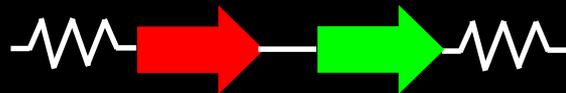
Basis for trichromatic colour vision

Credit: Bowmaker

# Gene duplication on the X-chromosome



Mammal

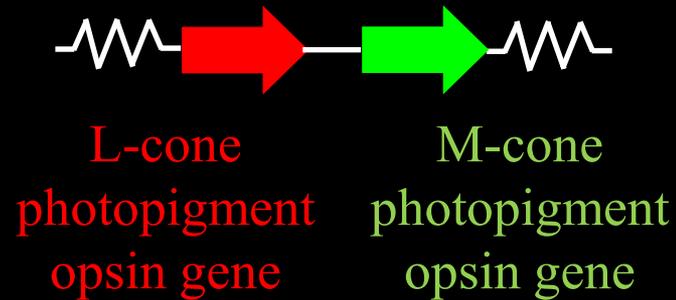


L-cone  
photopigment  
opsin gene

M-cone  
photopigment  
opsin gene

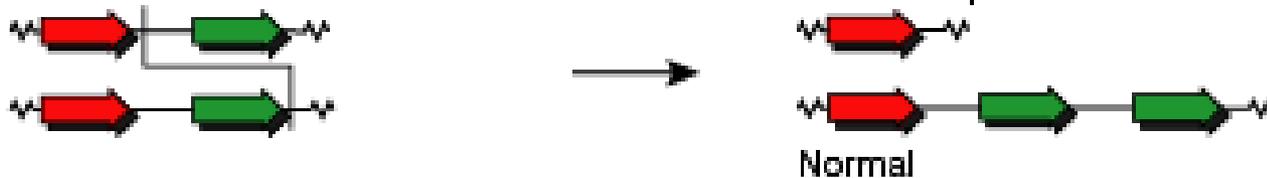
Human/ Old world  
primate

Because these two genes are in a tandem array, and are very similar...



# Crossovers during meiosis are common:

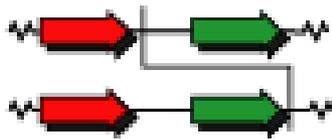
## Intergenic crossover



Intergenic crossovers produce more or less L and M-cone genes on each X chromosome

# Intragenic crossovers produce hybrid or mixed L and M-cone genes

Intergenic crossover

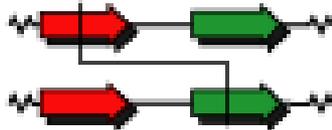


Deuteranope

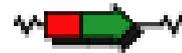


Normal

Intragenic crossover

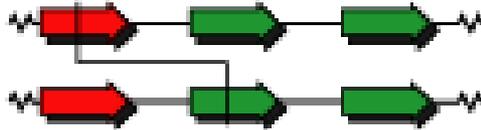


Protanope



Deuteranope or  
Deuteranomalous trichromat

Intragenic crossover

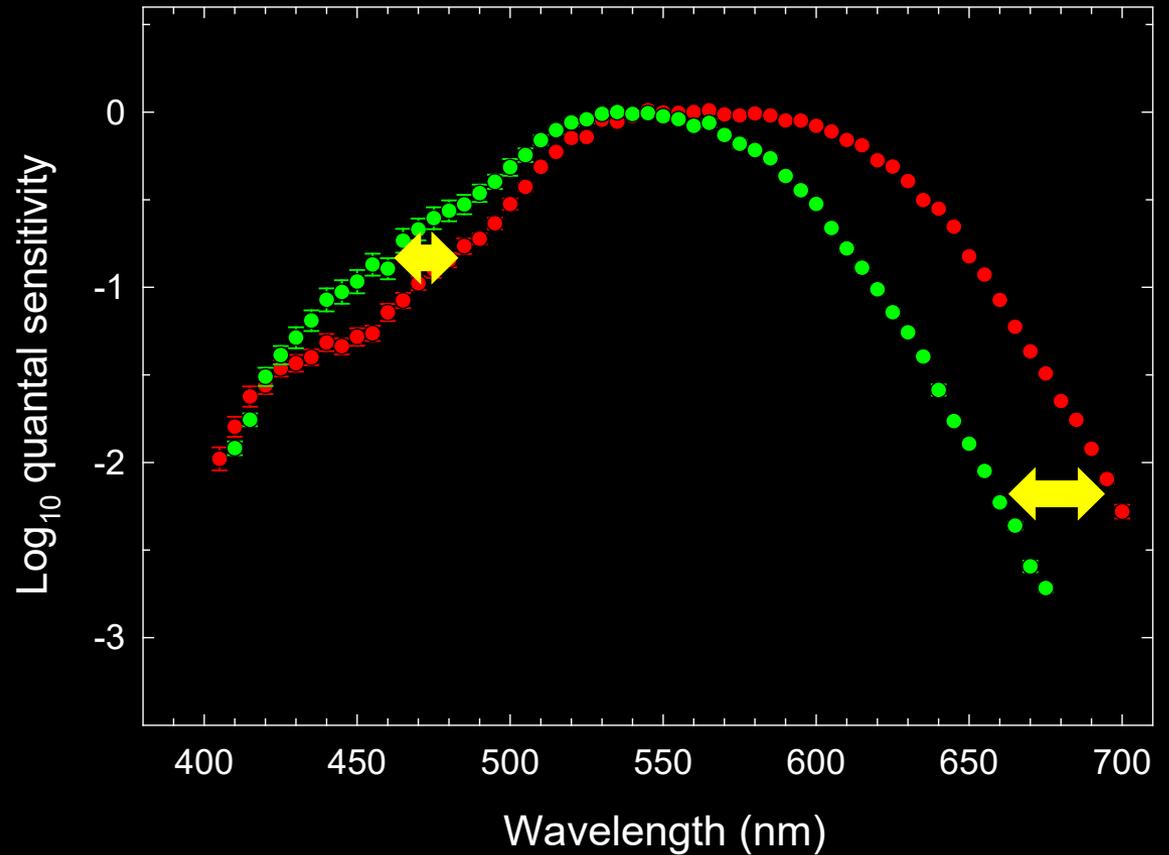
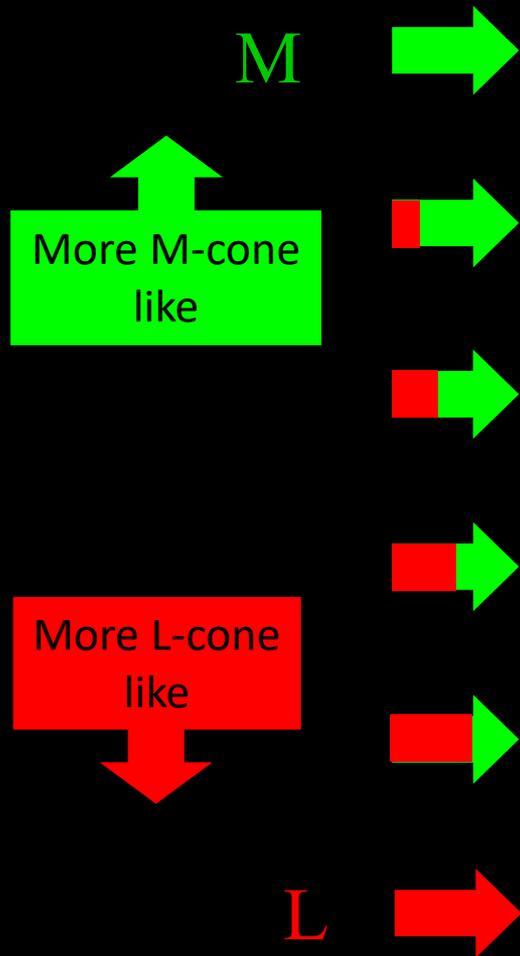


Protanope or  
Protanomalous trichromat



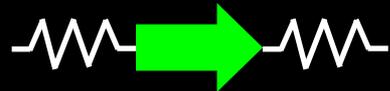
Deuteranope or  
Deuteranomalous trichromat

Hybrid (mixed)  
L/M genes

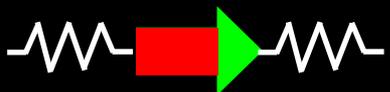
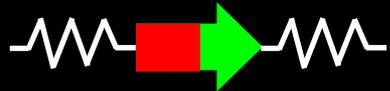
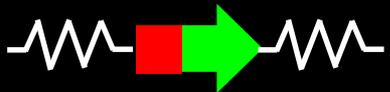
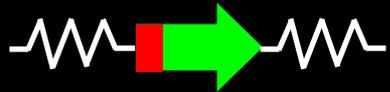


The spectral sensitivities of the hybrid photo-pigments vary between those of the M- and L-cones depending on where the crossover occurs.

# Single-gene dichromats



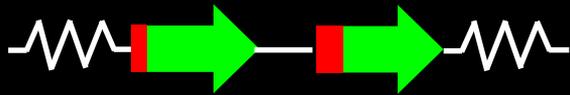
Protanope



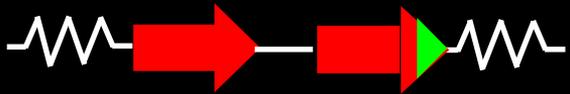
Deuteranope

With a single gene  
male observers must  
be dichromats

# Multiple-gene dichromats

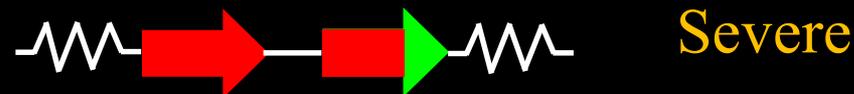
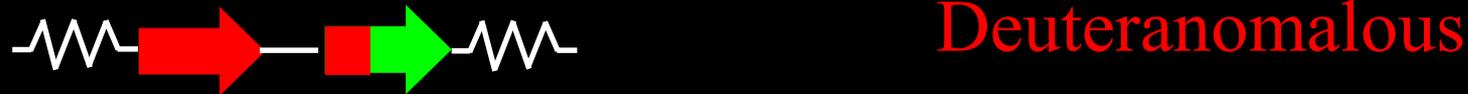
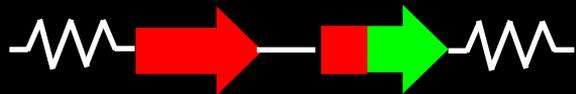
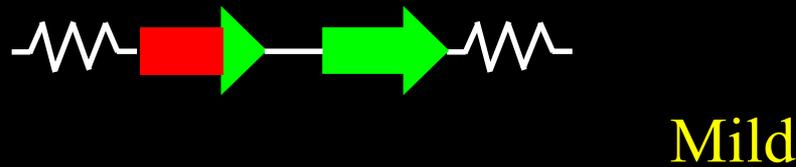
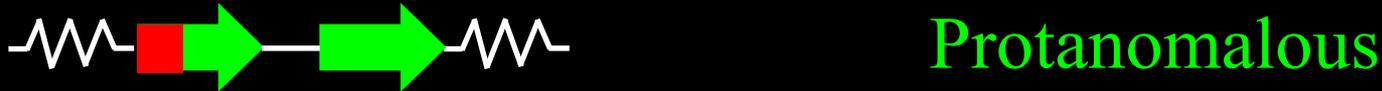
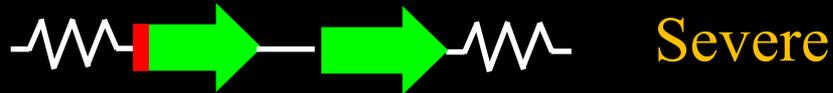


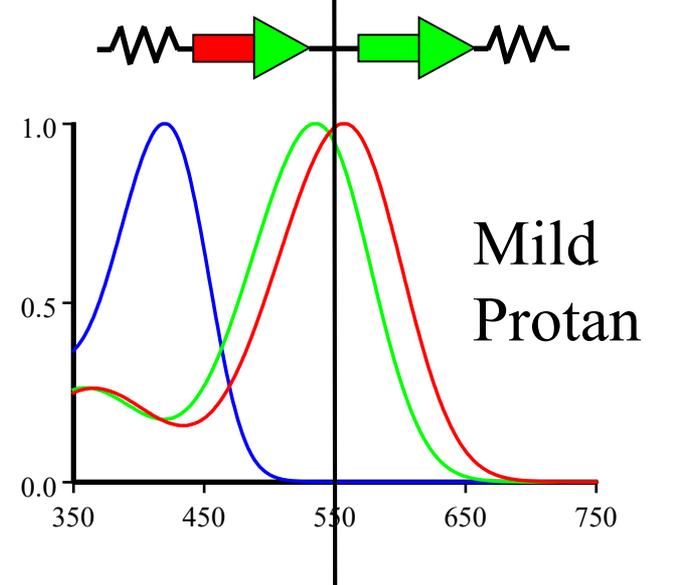
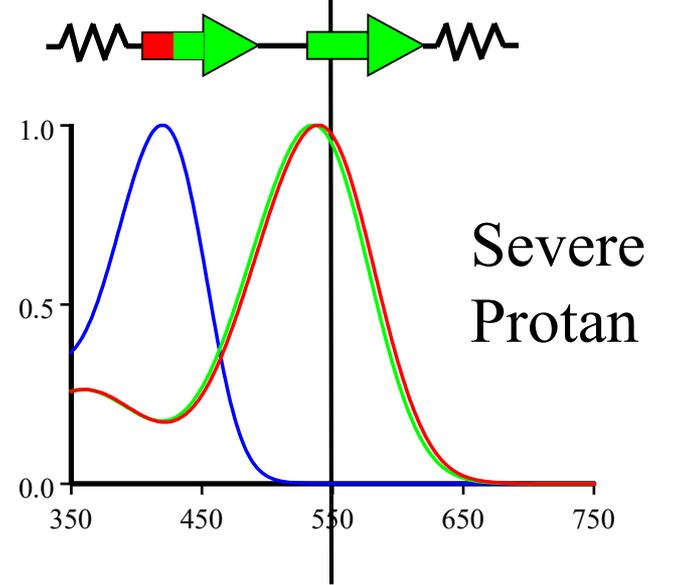
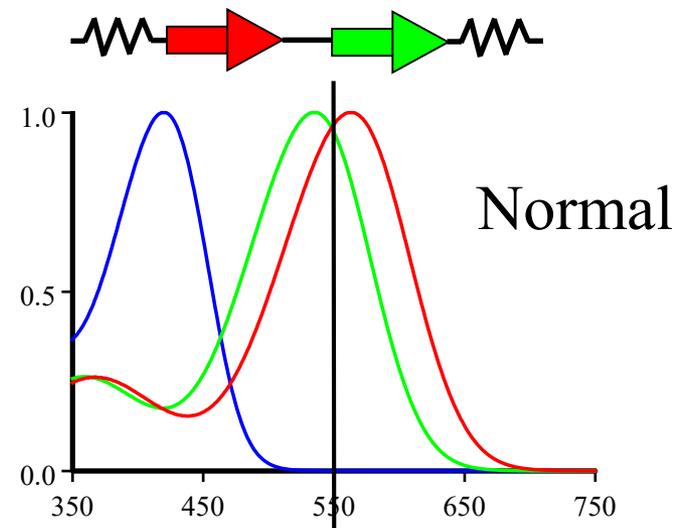
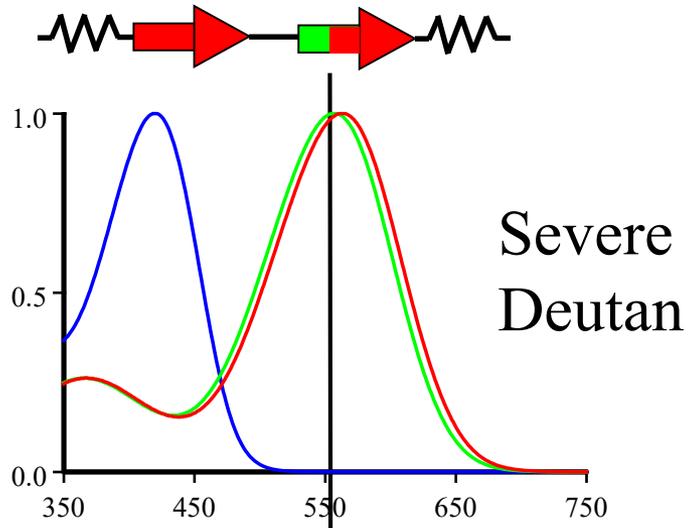
Male observers with two similar genes may also be effectively dichromats if the two genes produce similar photopigments.



# Anomalous trichromats

Male observers with two different genes are “anomalous” trichromats





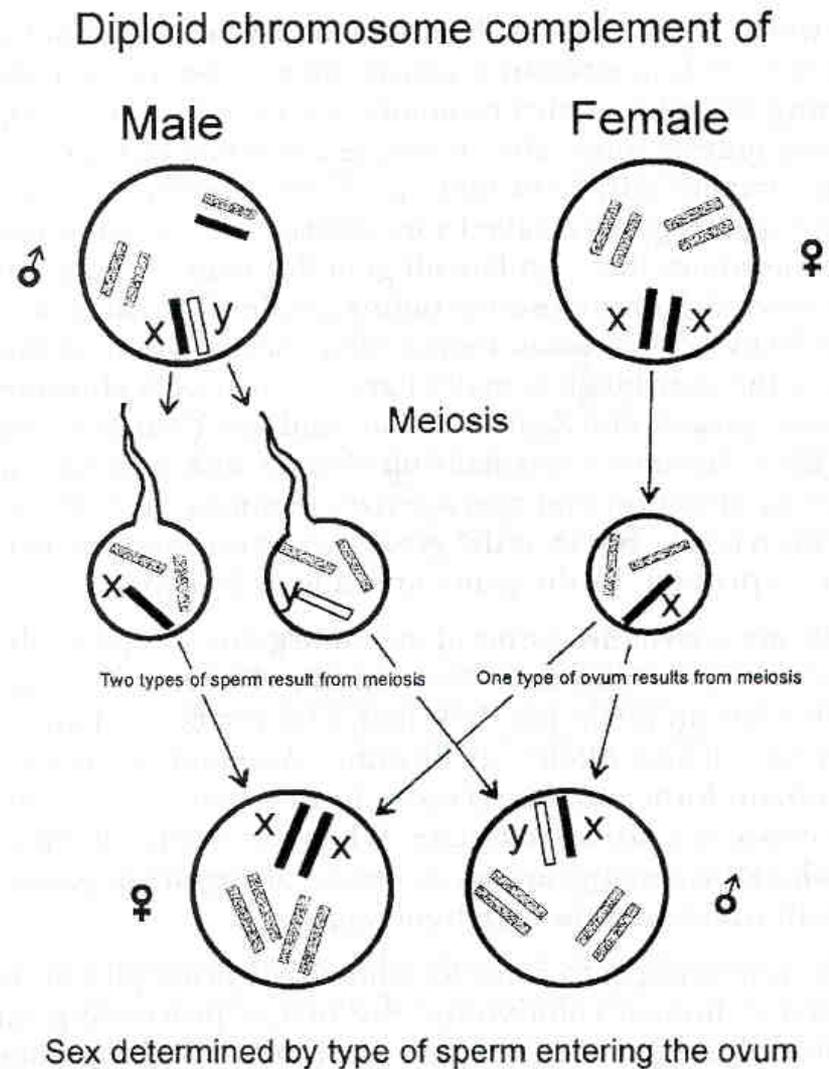
Main types of colour vision defects with approximate proportions of occurrence in the population.

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		percent in UK	
Condition		Male	Female
Protanopia	no L cone	1.0	0.02
Protanomaly	milder form	1.0	0.03
Deuteranopia	no M cone	1.5	0.01
Deuteranomaly	milder form	5.0	0.4
Tritanopia	no SWS cone	0.008	0.008

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# XY inheritance



**Figure 10.17** Prior to fertilization, meiotic division of germ cells results in two types of sperm, but only one type of ovum. Depending on which sperm is effective, the fertilized ovum will have two X cells and be female, or one X and one Y cell and be male. This diagram show why the X cell of the male offspring can come only from the mother. (From Watson, 1976, p. 14.)

The emergence of two longer wavelength (M- and L-cones) is thought to have occurred relatively recently in primate evolution.

Why is it important?

# No red-green discrimination

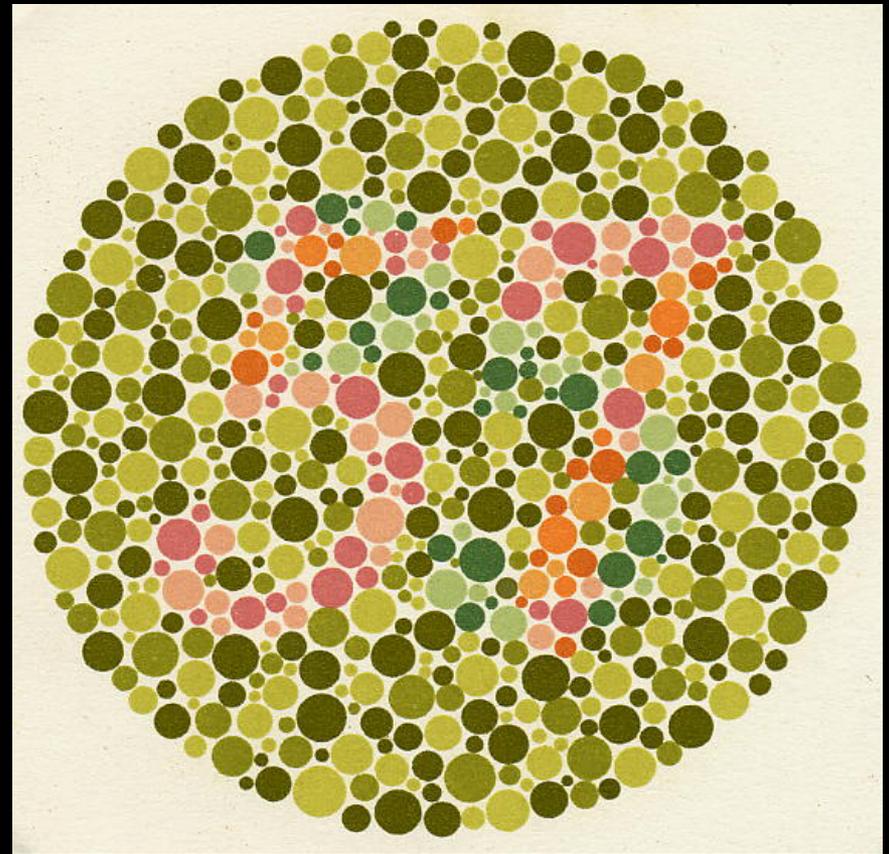
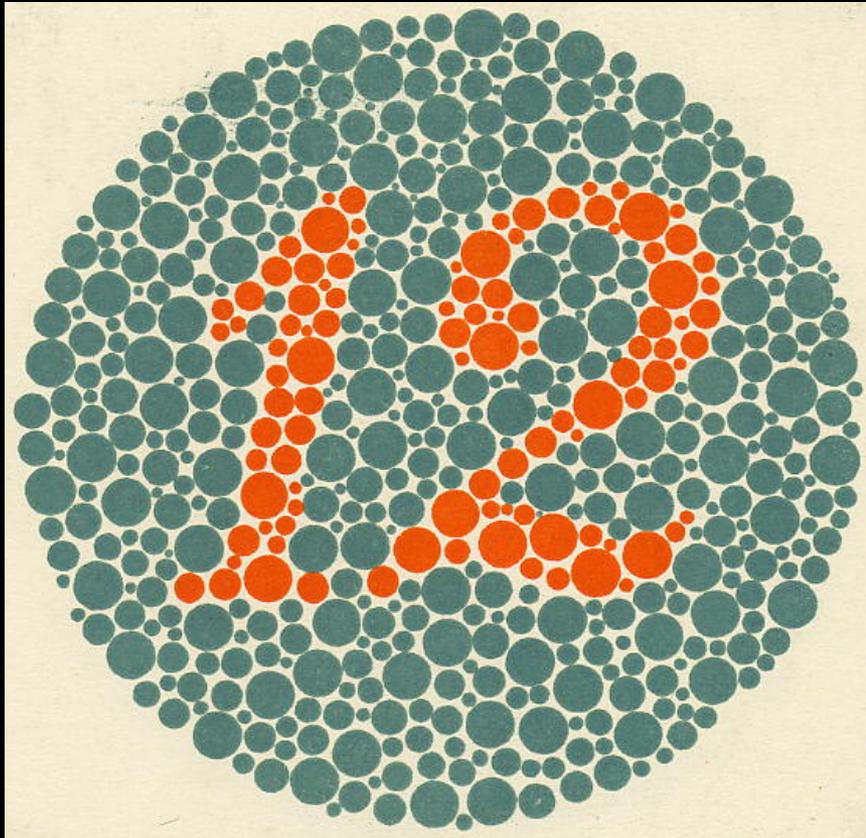


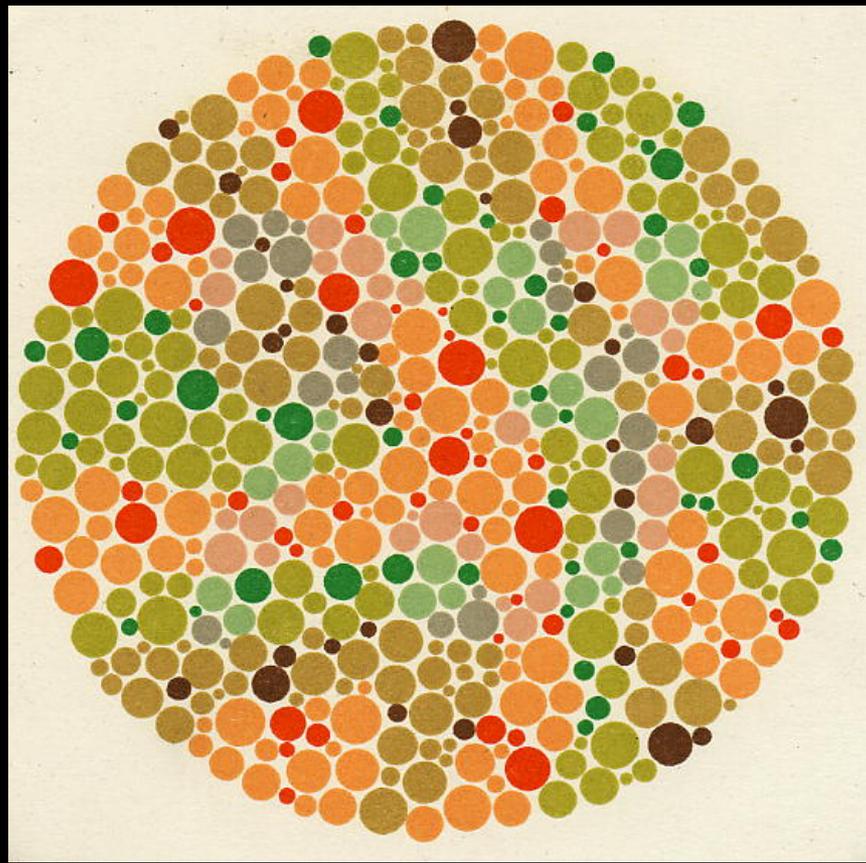
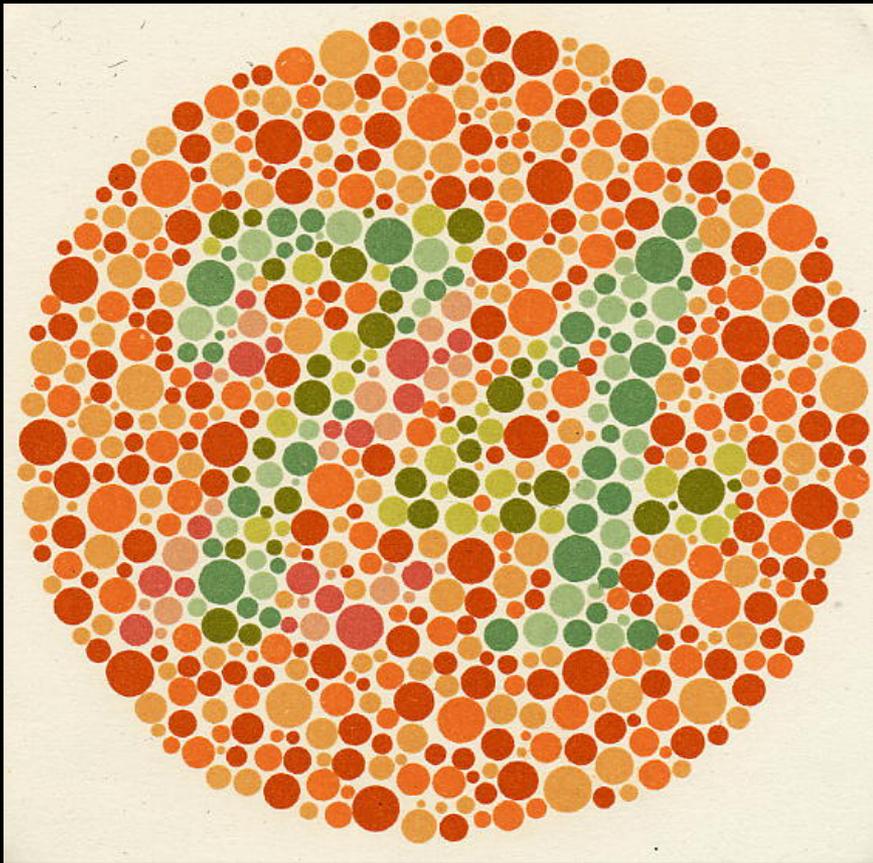
# Red-green discrimination

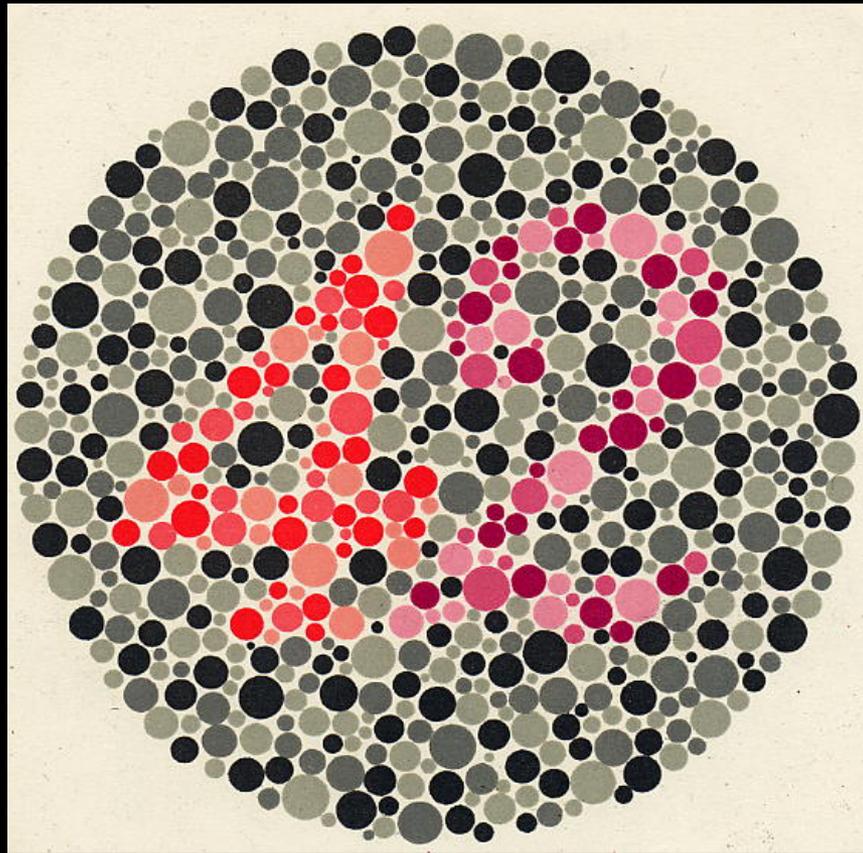


# DIAGNOSING COLOUR VISION DEFICIENCIES

# Ishihara plates



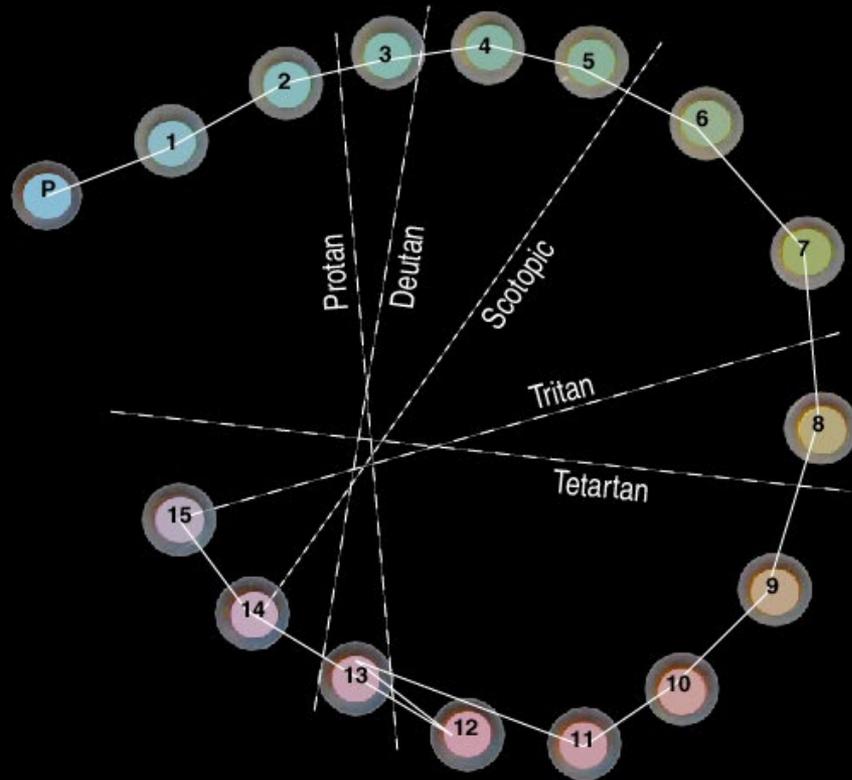




# Tests measuring colour discrimination

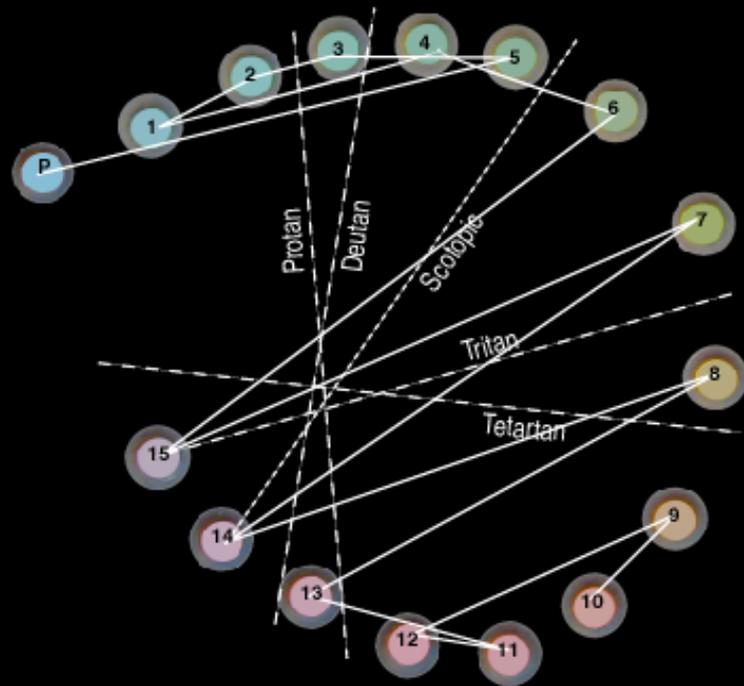
- Farnsworth-Munsell D-15 test

# Farnsworth-Munsell D-15



From: Ted Sharpe

# Farnsworth-Munsell D-15



From: Ted Sharpe

# D15 results

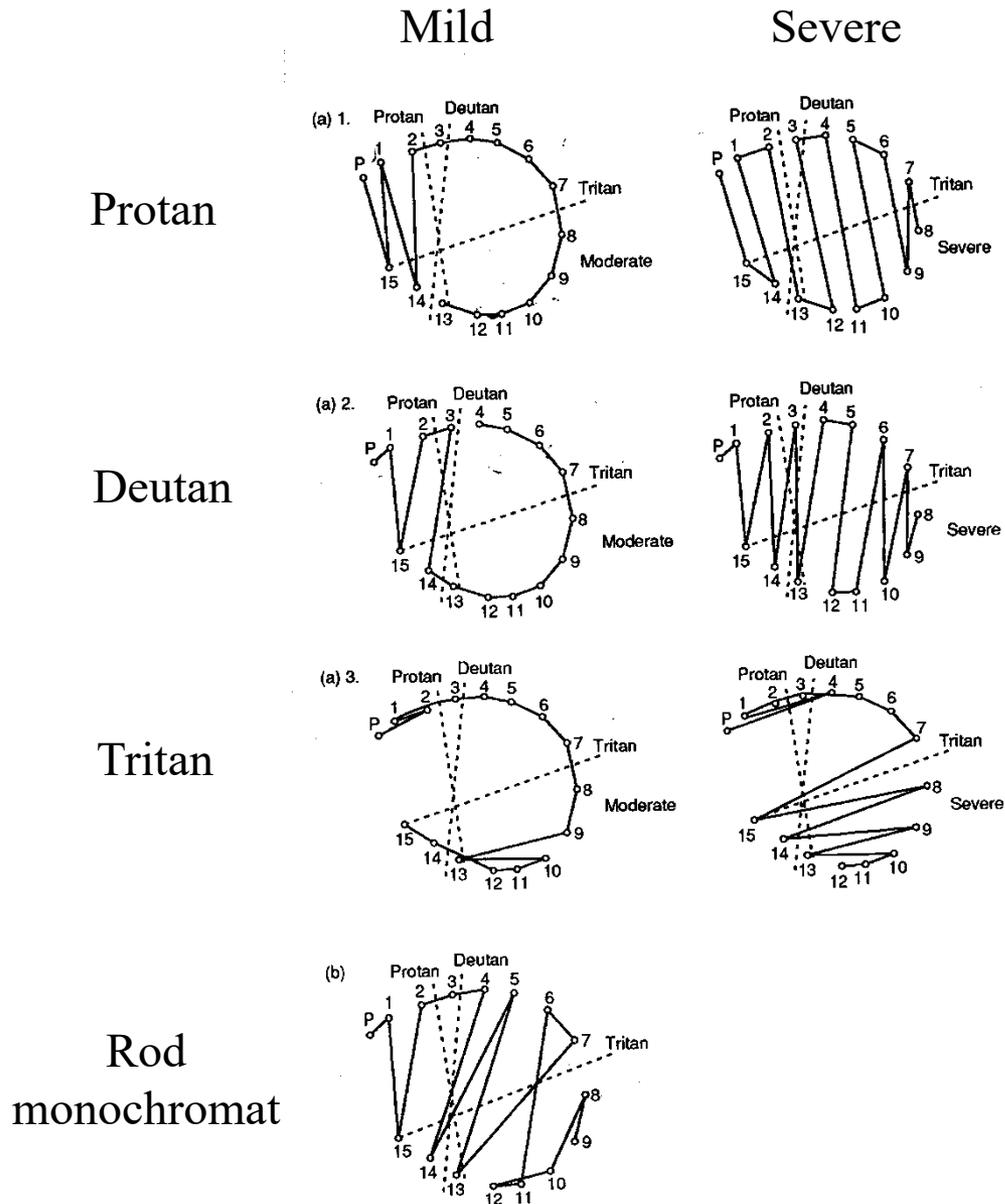
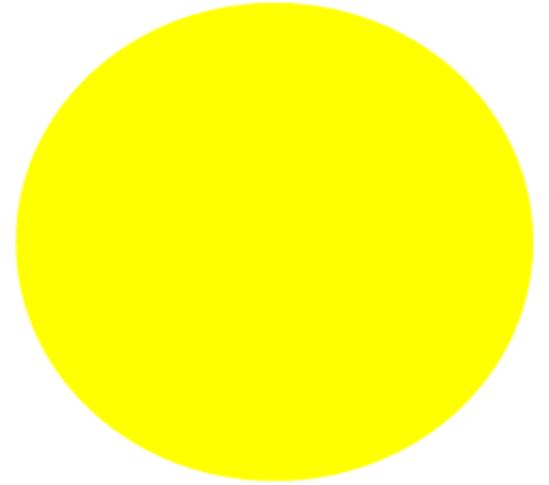
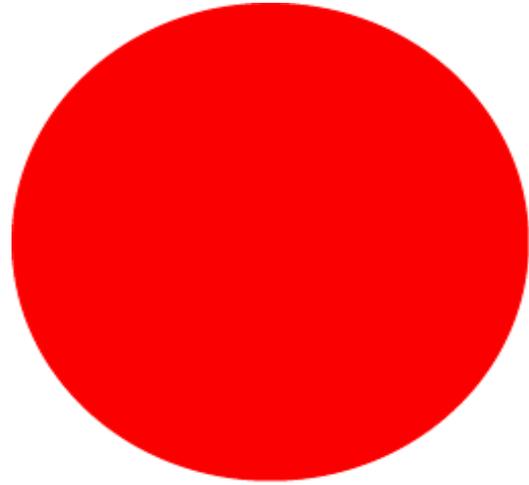


Fig. 7.1 Classification of the type of colour deficiency with the Farnsworth D15 test. (a) Protan, deutan, and tritan defects. 1. Moderate and severe protan defects. 2. Moderate and severe deutan defects. 3. Moderate and severe tritan defects. (b) Typical 'rod' monochromatism. The arrangement represents a lightness scale not isochromatic colour confusions.

Credit: Jenny Birch

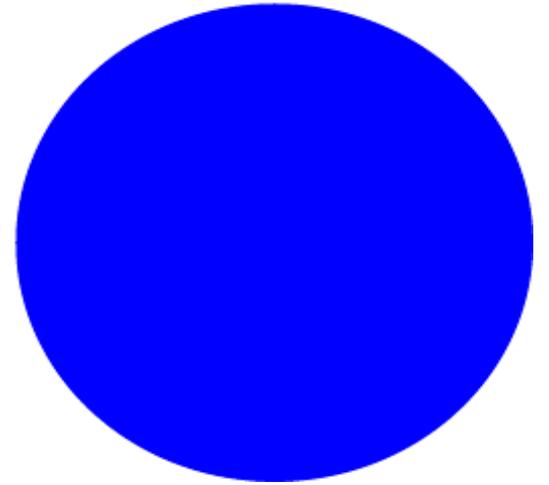
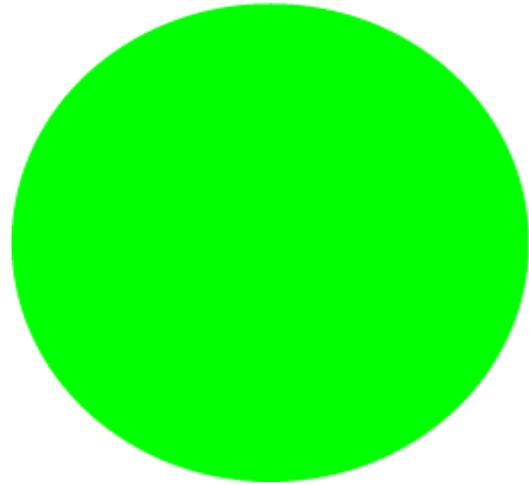
# COLOUR AFTER-EFFECTS

(what precedes the patch)



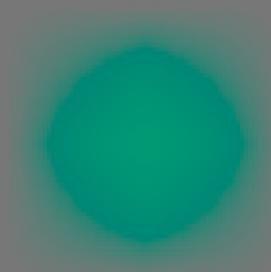
Colour  
after-effects

+



+

You don't have to see things for them  
to produce an after-effect...

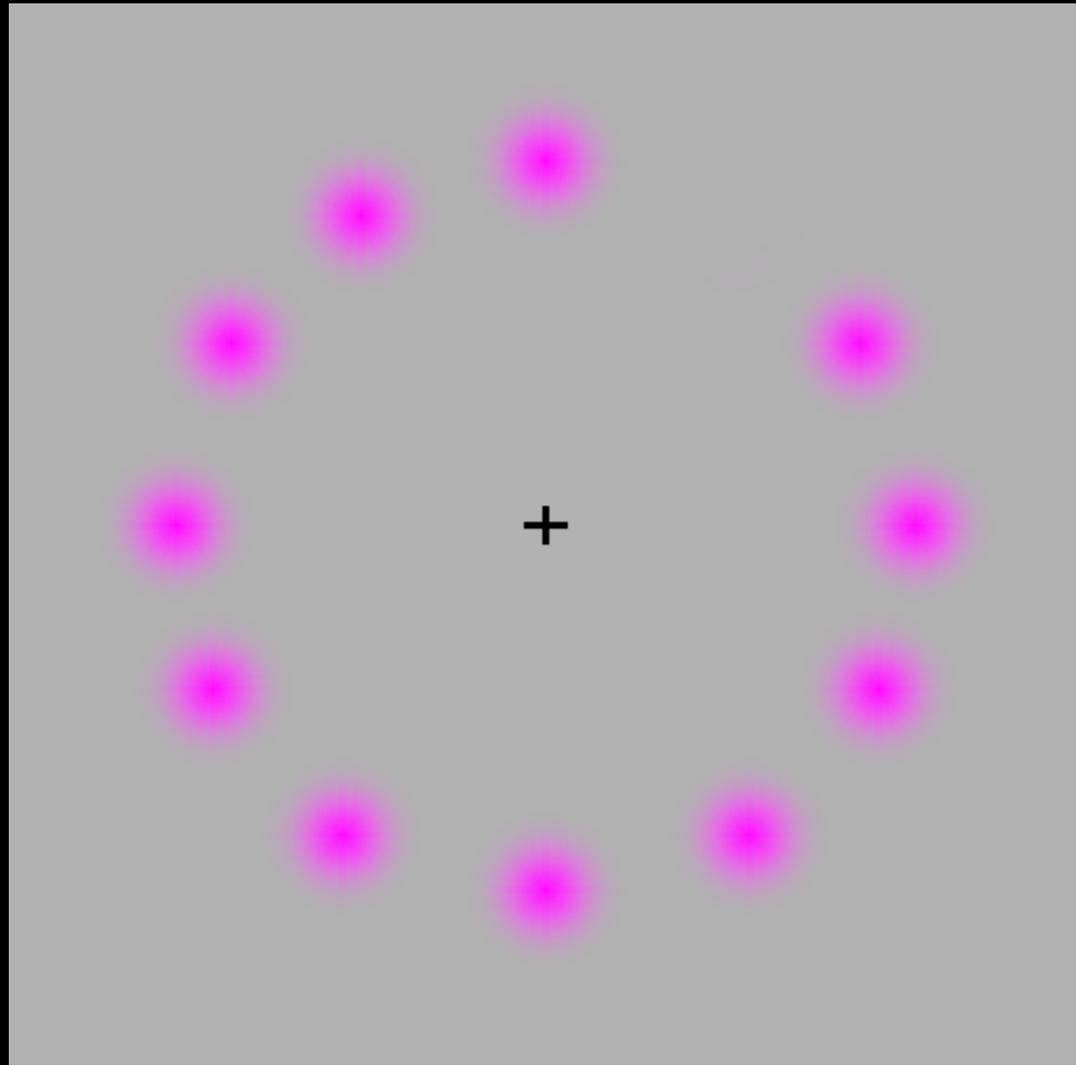




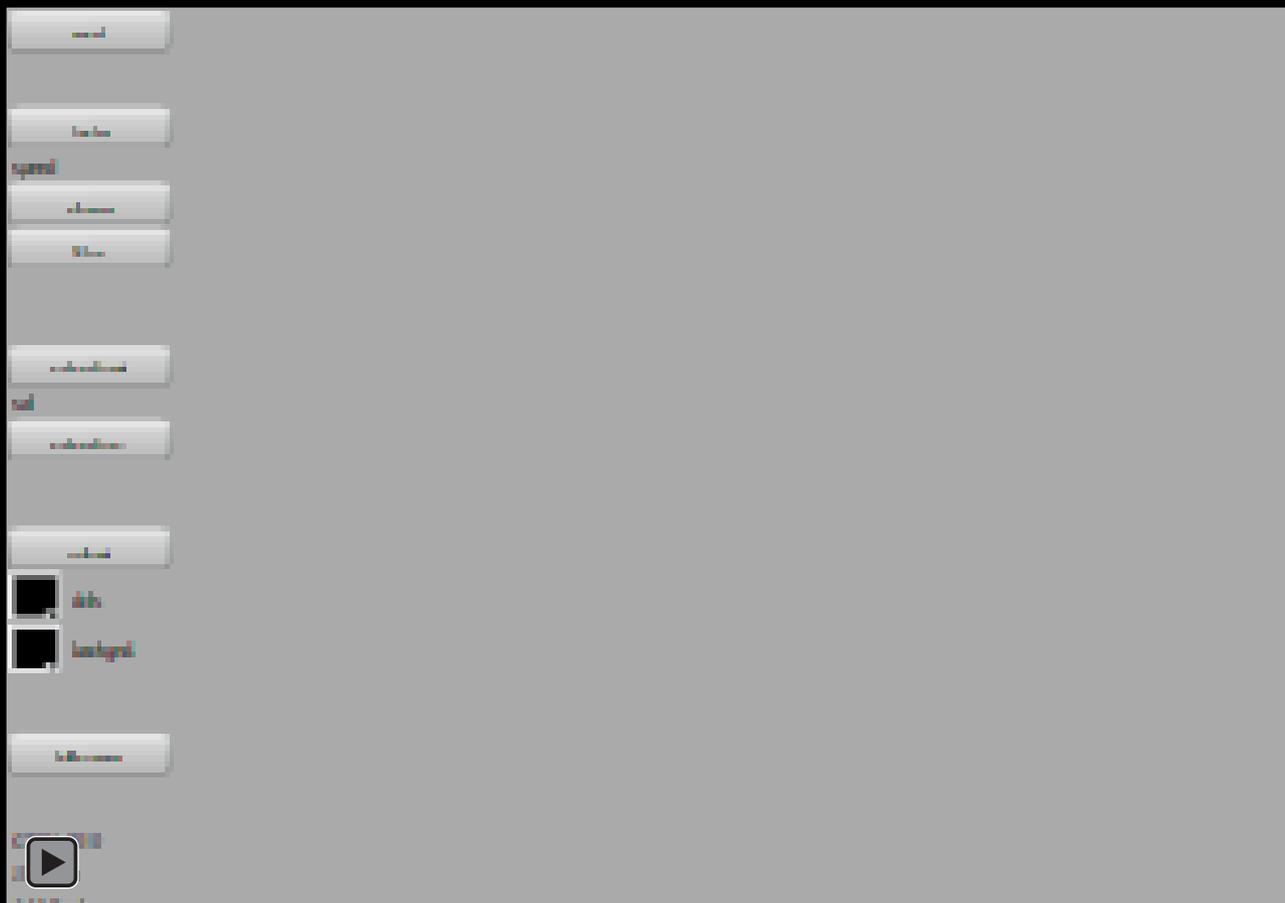




# Lilac chaser or Pac-Man illusion



# Lilac chaser or Pac-Man illusion



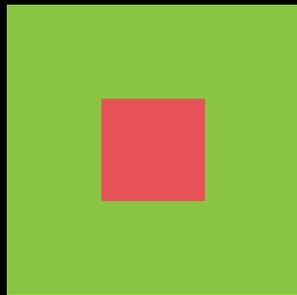
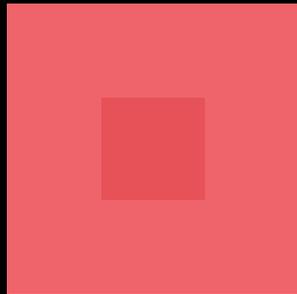
# COLOUR CONTRAST

(what surrounds the patch)

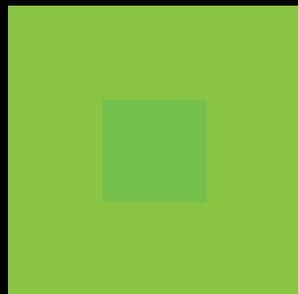
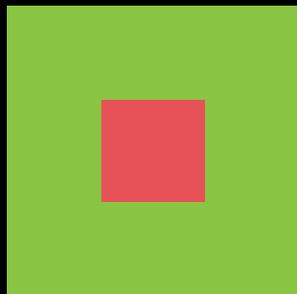
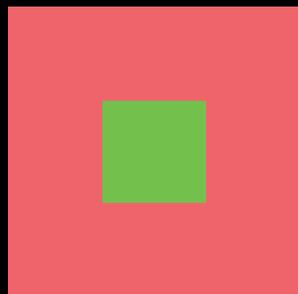
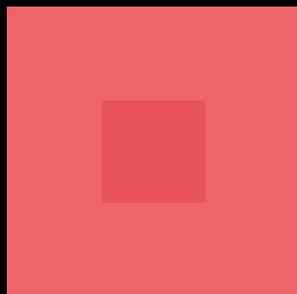
## Color contrast



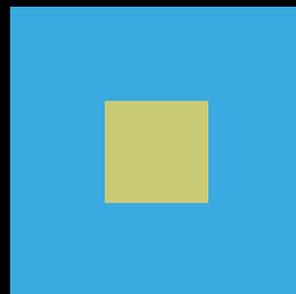
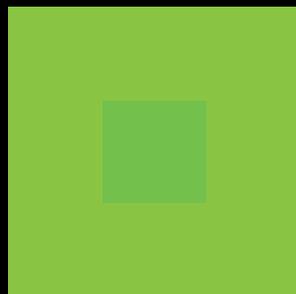
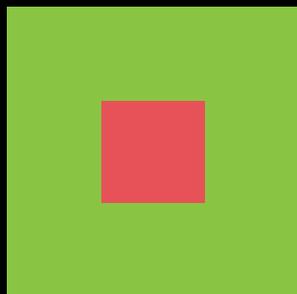
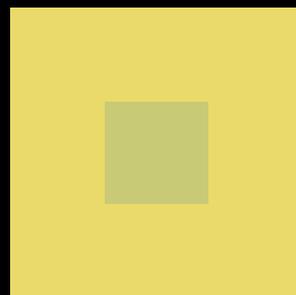
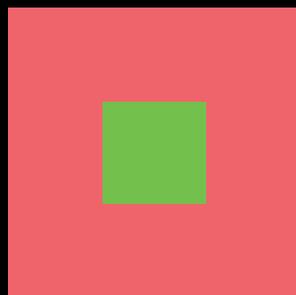
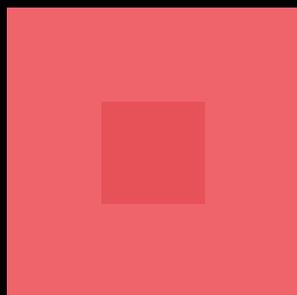
# Color contrast



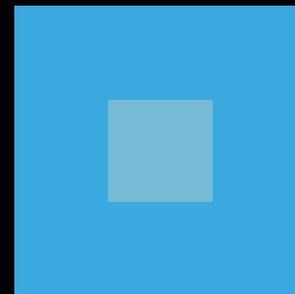
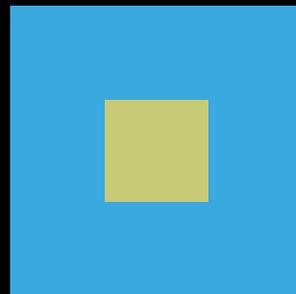
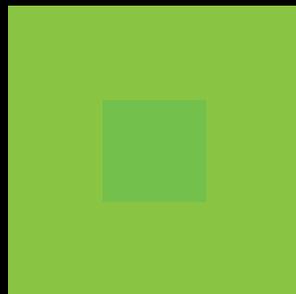
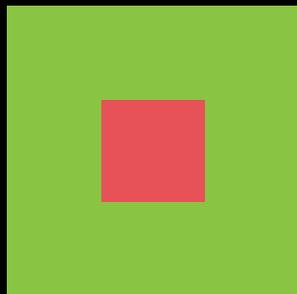
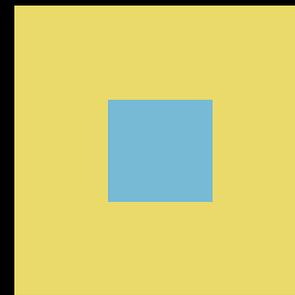
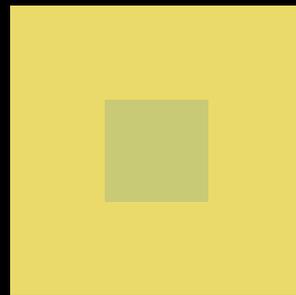
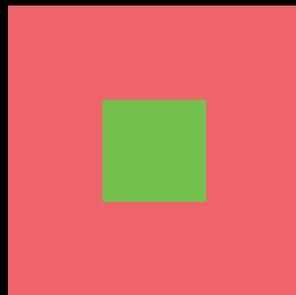
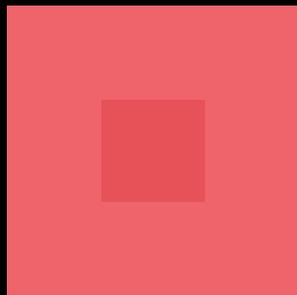
# Color contrast

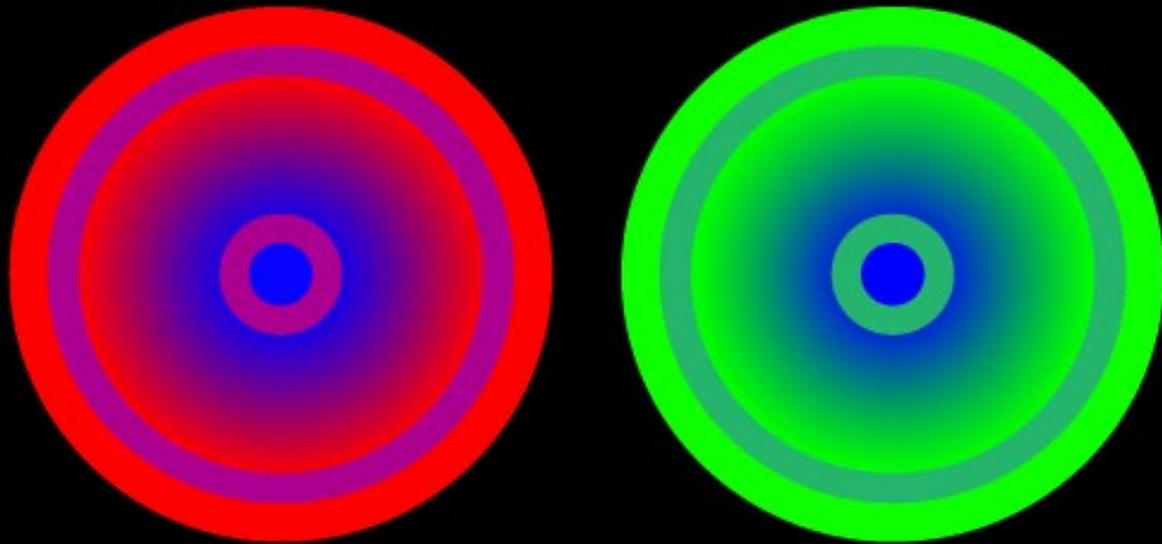


# Color contrast



# Color contrast







# COLOUR ASSIMILATION

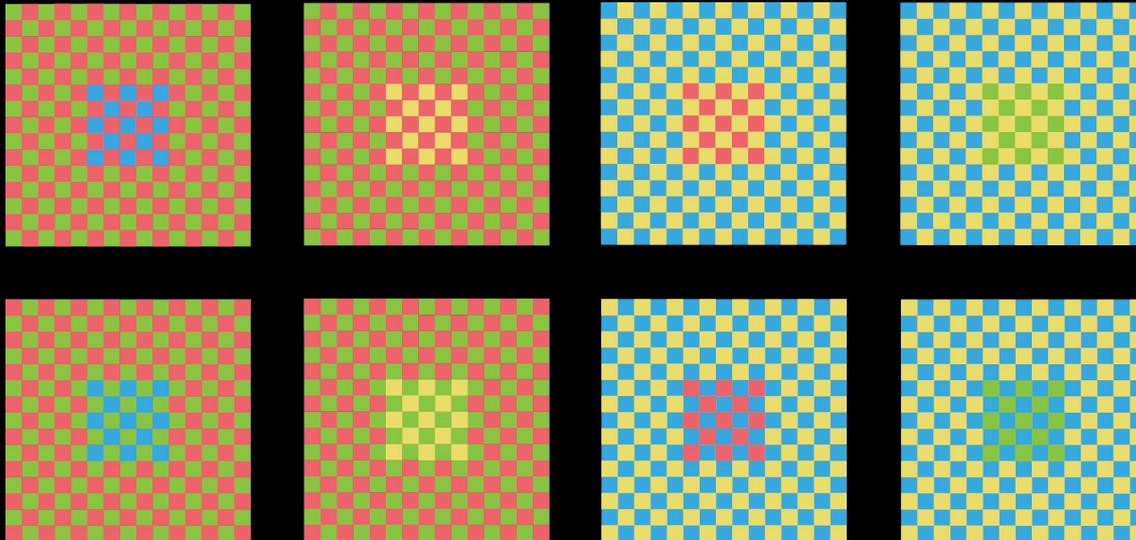
# Colour assimilation



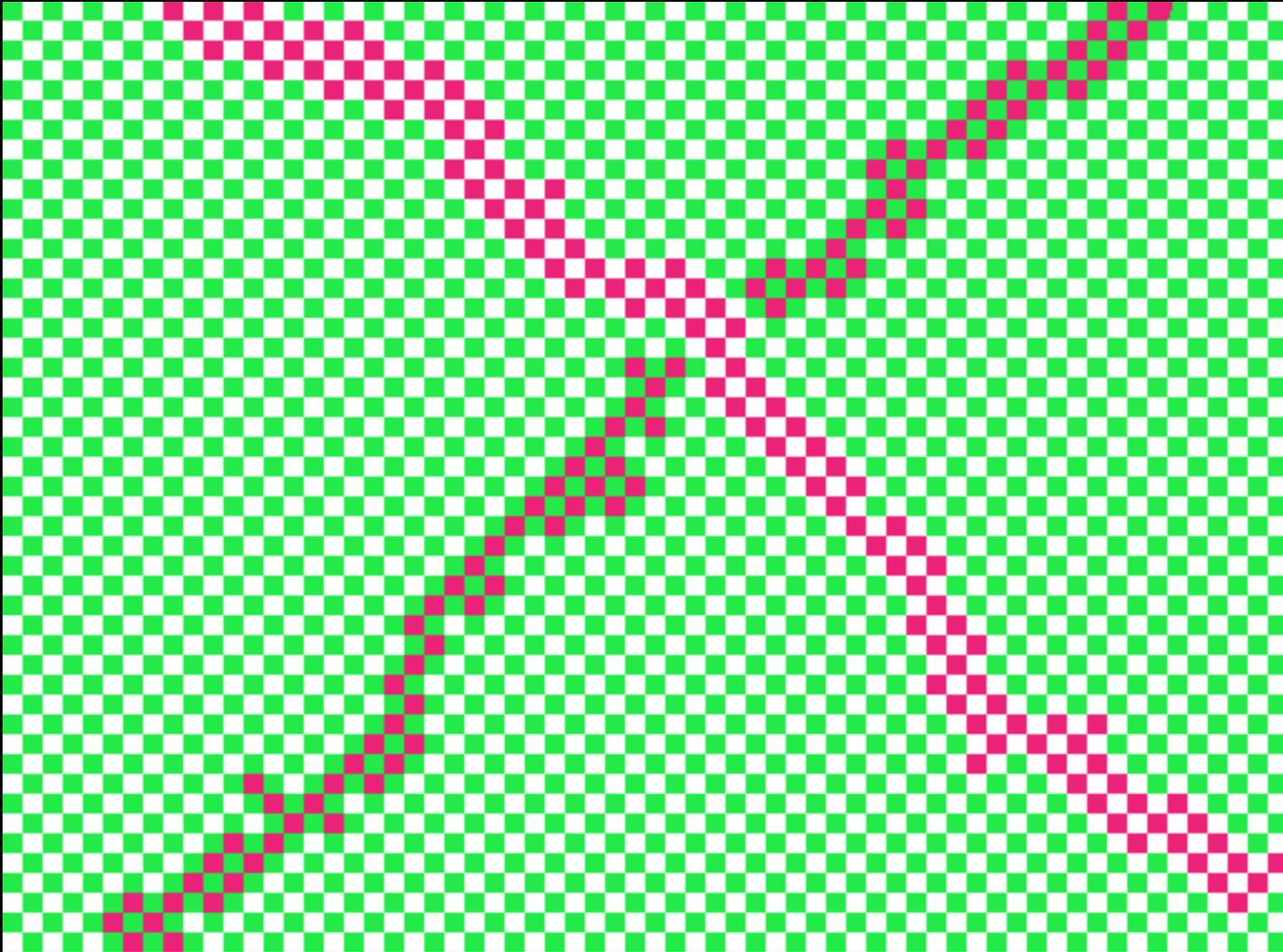
# Colour assimilation



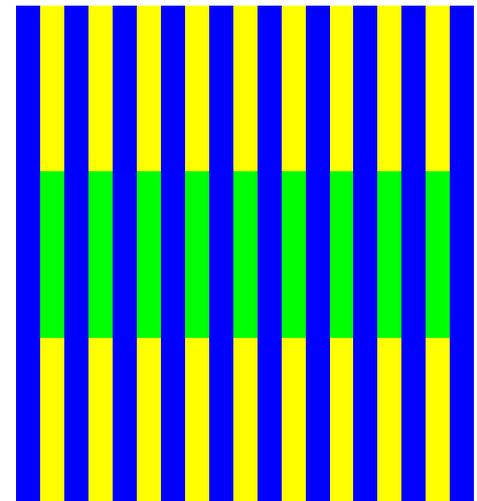
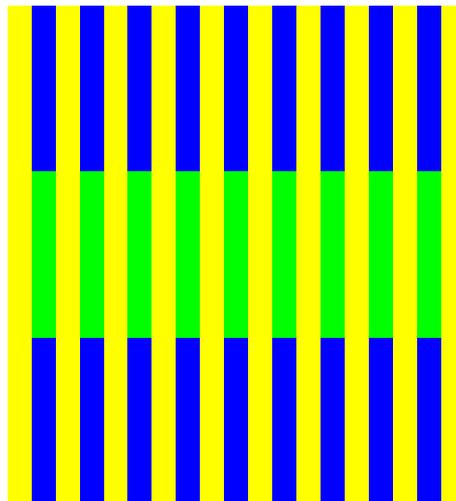
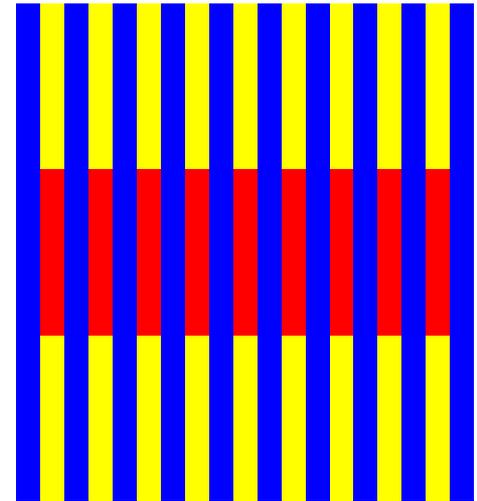
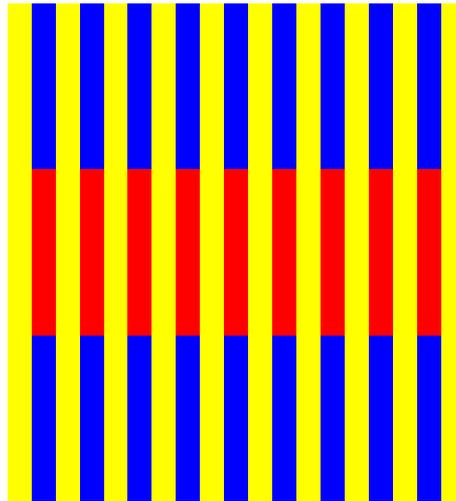
## Colour assimilation



## Colour assimilation



# Munker illusion



# COLOUR CONSTANCY

# Colour constancy

## The Color of Light

*DAYLIGHT FILM*



Tungsten Light  
(uncorrected)



Normal



Fluorescent Light  
(uncorrected)

# Colour constancy

red



green



blue

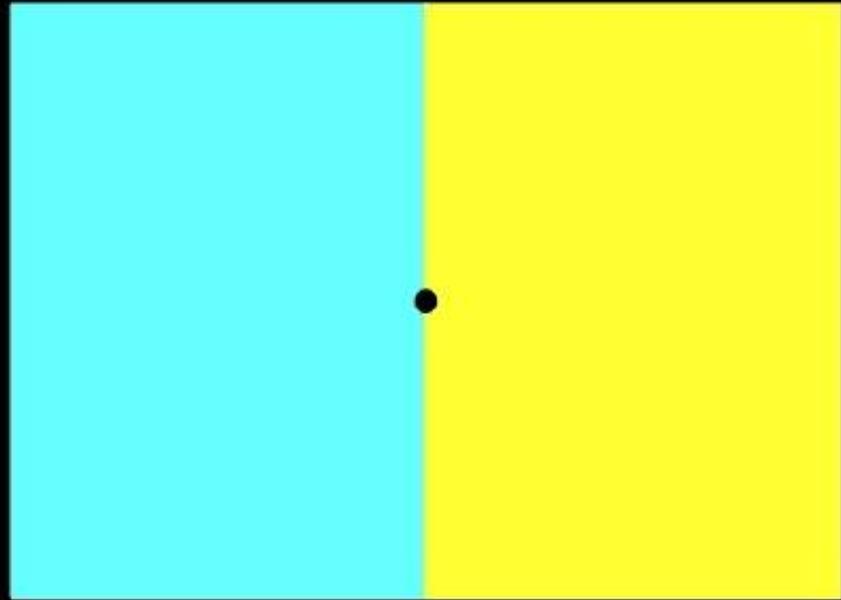


yellow



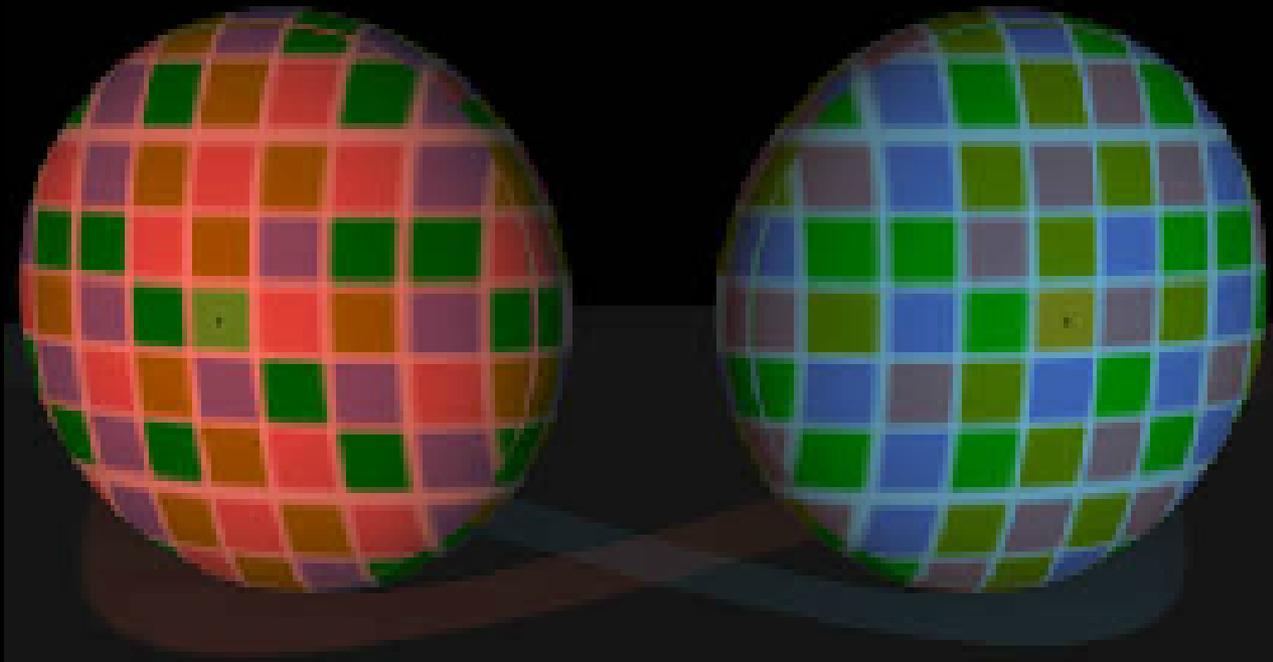
# Chromatic adaptation and colour constancy

The change in colour appearance following adaptation is due to chromatic adaptation. Chromatic adaptation is adaptation to the colour of the ambient illumination.



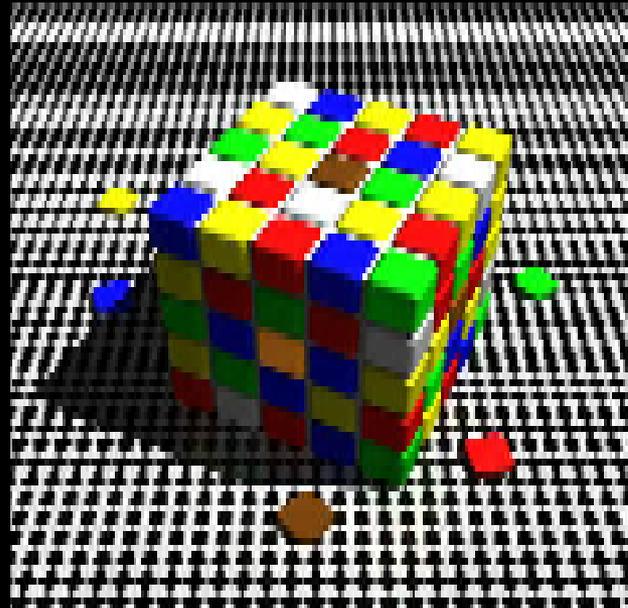
# Colour and the illuminant

▶ Show mask



# Colour and brightness

THE EFFECT OF COLOR ON BRIGHTNESS PERCEPTION



The color of the "lower" checker-like squares in the middle of the upper face of the cube is identical to the "orange" squares in the middle of the shaded face. To prove this, click on the "Flip" button (top) to show an orientation in which all but the center two squares are covered by a mask, or click on the "Mask mask" button (bottom) to manually position the mask over the center squares.

[From Lotto, R. G. & Purves, D. The Effects of Color on Brightness. *Nature Neuroscience* 2, 1010-1014 (1999)]



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This image combines illusions of form and colour. The central element of the two 'X' objects appear very different in colour (dark blue on the left and light yellow on the right). What's more, the angles of each 'X' appear either smaller or larger than 90 degrees.

'MASK'

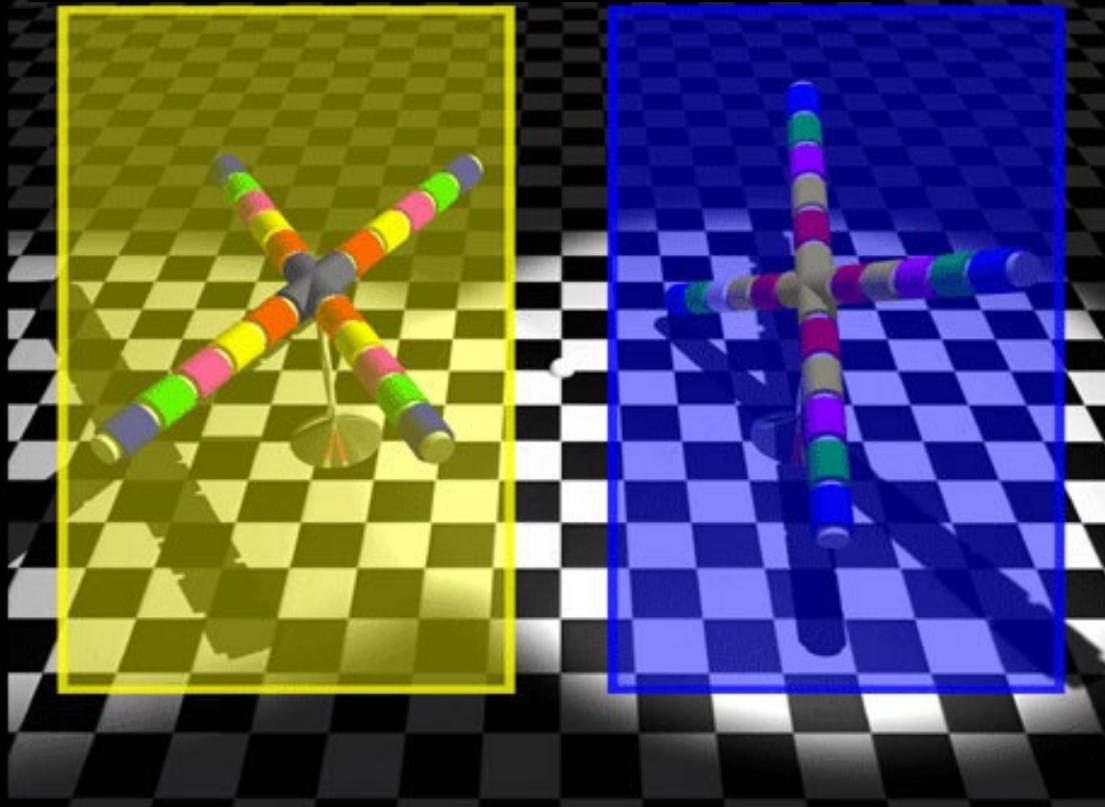
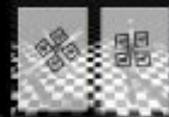


Image by R. Beau Lotto

'IMAGE'

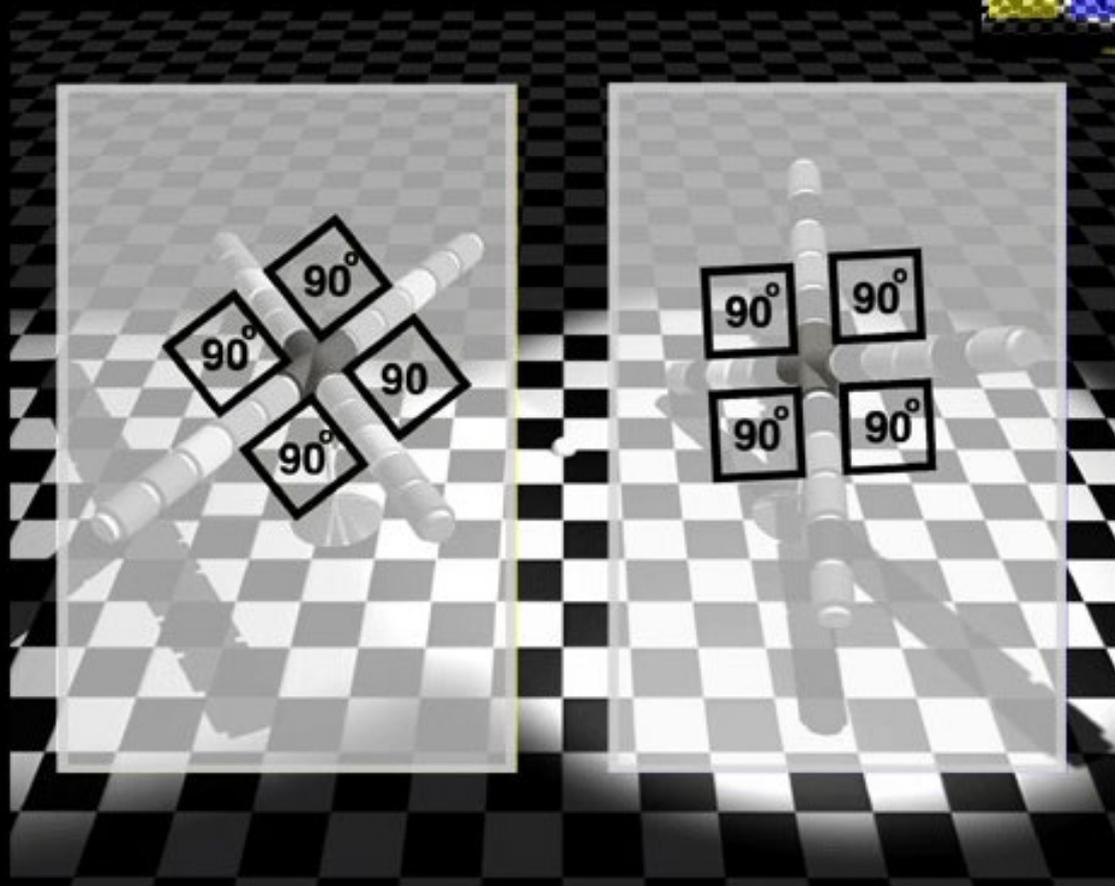
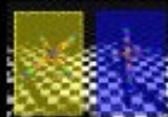


Image by R. Beau Lotto

# Stroop effect

Say to yourself the colours of the **ink** in which the following words are written -- as fast as you can.

So, for **RED**, say “red”.

But for **RED**, say “green”

Ready, steady...

# TEST 1

RED

GREEN

BLUE

YELLOW

PINK

ORANGE

BLUE

GREEN

BROWN

WHITE

GREEN

YELLOW

PINK

RED

ORANGE

BROWN

RED

WHITE

BLUE

YELLOW

WHITE

ORANGE

GREEN

BROWN

RED

How long?

# TEST 2

BLUE

PINK

WHITE

RED

BROWN

BROWN

RED

BLUE

GREEN

ORANGE

YELLOW

BLUE

RED

ORANGE

WHITE

BROWN

RED

GREEN

WHITE

RED

RED

PINK

BLUE

GREEN

WHITE

How long?