Human Photoreceptors



Wavelength (nm)

Evolution of Color Vision



Violet Blue Cyan Green Yellow Red

Mantis shrimp has 12 distinct photoreceptor types!



- With its 12 cones, the mantis shrimp is able to immediately recognize basic colors just by scanning an object with their eyes, rather than using the brain to distinguish different colors of light.
- While it can make quick and reliable determinations of color, the creature is rather bad at discriminating close colors from one another.

- There are more than 500 known species of mantis shrimp, which range in size from less than an inch to over a foot long.
- They mainly live among the coral reefs of tropical oceans — one of the most colorful environments on Earth.
- The mantis shrimp eyes are considered to be <u>the most complex</u> eyes in the animal kingdom.



Color Formation

- The three color receptors in the human eye allow us to see millions of different colors.
- Color formation mechanism in the eye is <u>additive</u>.
- The additive primary colors are red, green, and blue (RGB).



 All the <u>different hues</u> of color that we see can be made by changing the <u>proportions</u> of red, green, and blue <u>light</u>.

Mixing light is <u>additive</u>.

- Inks, dyes, and paints get their color from a <u>subtractive process</u>.
- Chemicals, known as pigments, <u>absorb some</u> <u>colors</u> (that is, <u>subtract from</u> <u>white light</u>) and <u>allow the</u> <u>rest to be reflected</u> – this reflected light makes the color you actually see.
- The subtractive primary colors are cyan, magenta, and yellow (CMY).



Mixing paints or pigments is <u>subtractive</u>.



...computer screen IN DETAIL





Is Color Real?

Additive color mixing is subjective – it provides only the sensation of color.

- Actual wavelength may not be present within the combined spectra of the incoming light.
- For the eye-brain system, there is no difference between pure yellow light and red-green combination.



- What about PINK? MAGENTA? PURPLE?
- <u>Combination colors</u> do not exist within the spectrum of white light, but are recognized as distinct colors by human visual system.

...actually, all "colors" we see could be considered a trick of the mind ©

What color is this tulip? And why?



Indoor and outdoor lighting can be quite different!



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What is Image?

- Generally, an image is a reproduction of the likeness of a subject.
- An optical image may be regarded as the apparent reproduction of an object by means of light.

A real image occurs where light rays coming from an object <u>CONVerge</u>.



Examples: the image on a cinema screen (the source = projector), and the image produced in the eye on an eyeball retina.

A virtual image occurs where light rays only <u>appear to converge</u>.



A <u>mirror image</u> appears positioned behind the mirror, although *light from the source only exists in front of the mirror*: the image exists in a space that is not real in a sense...