

# VISOR Seminar

## Colorimetric characterization of displays and multi-display systems

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Fonds social européen

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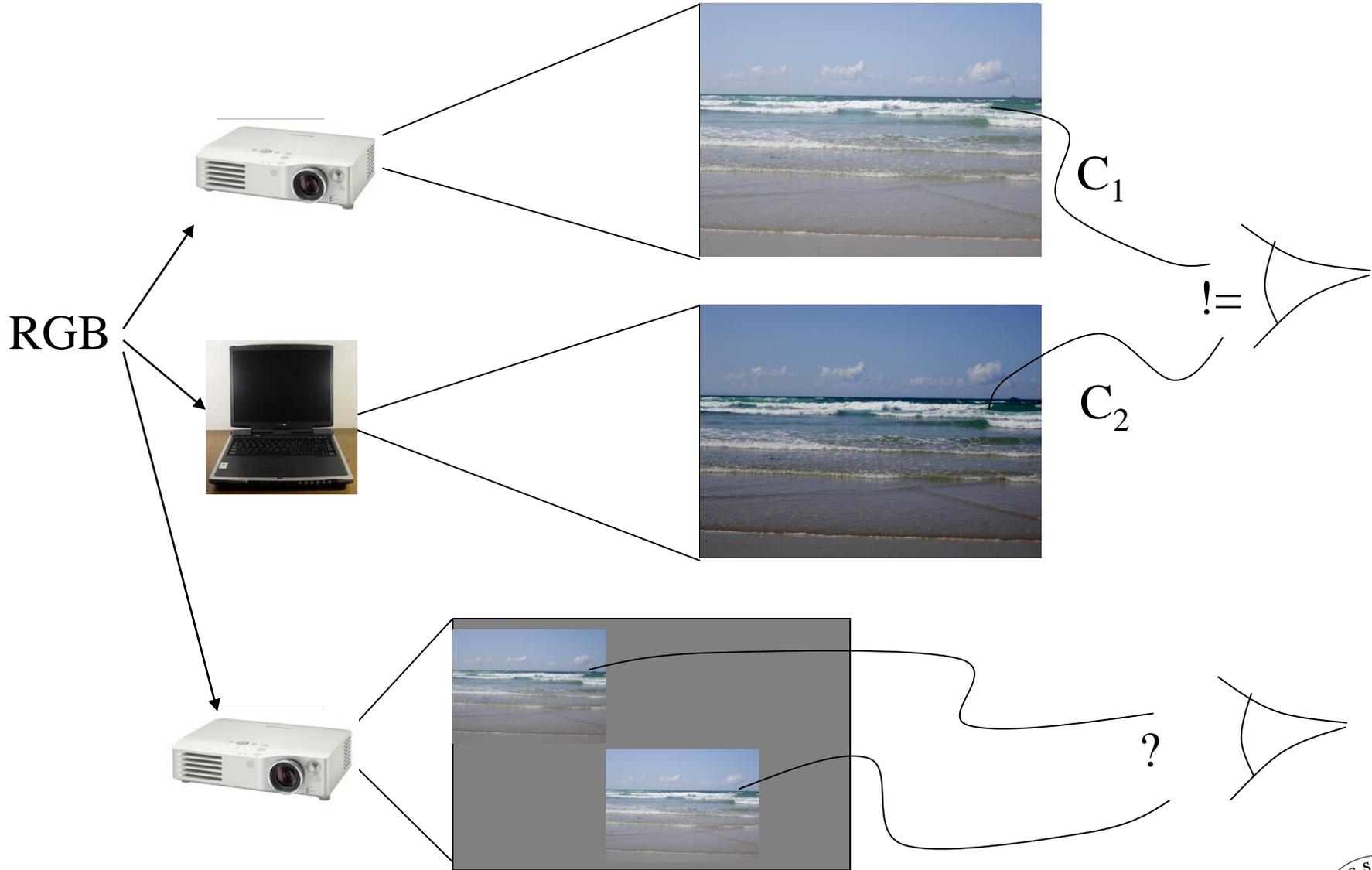


colorlab.no

The Norwegian Color Research Laboratory



Displays never reproduce  
the same color  
for the same input



# Who cares?

# Duality

## Professional vs Consumer



*I am a good worker,*

*Give me more **money!***

**Want to ask for  
more funding ?**

Consumer: aesthetic and intended meaning  
have to be preserved



*I am a good worker,*

*Give me more*

**Get more work!**

Consumer: aesthetic and intended meaning  
have to be preserved



***Color rendering of  
multi-spectral images  
of art paintings under  
different illuminants***

***(Thanks Philippe  
Colantoni and  
the C2RMF)***

**Professional: The color rendering has to be  
perfectly accurate**

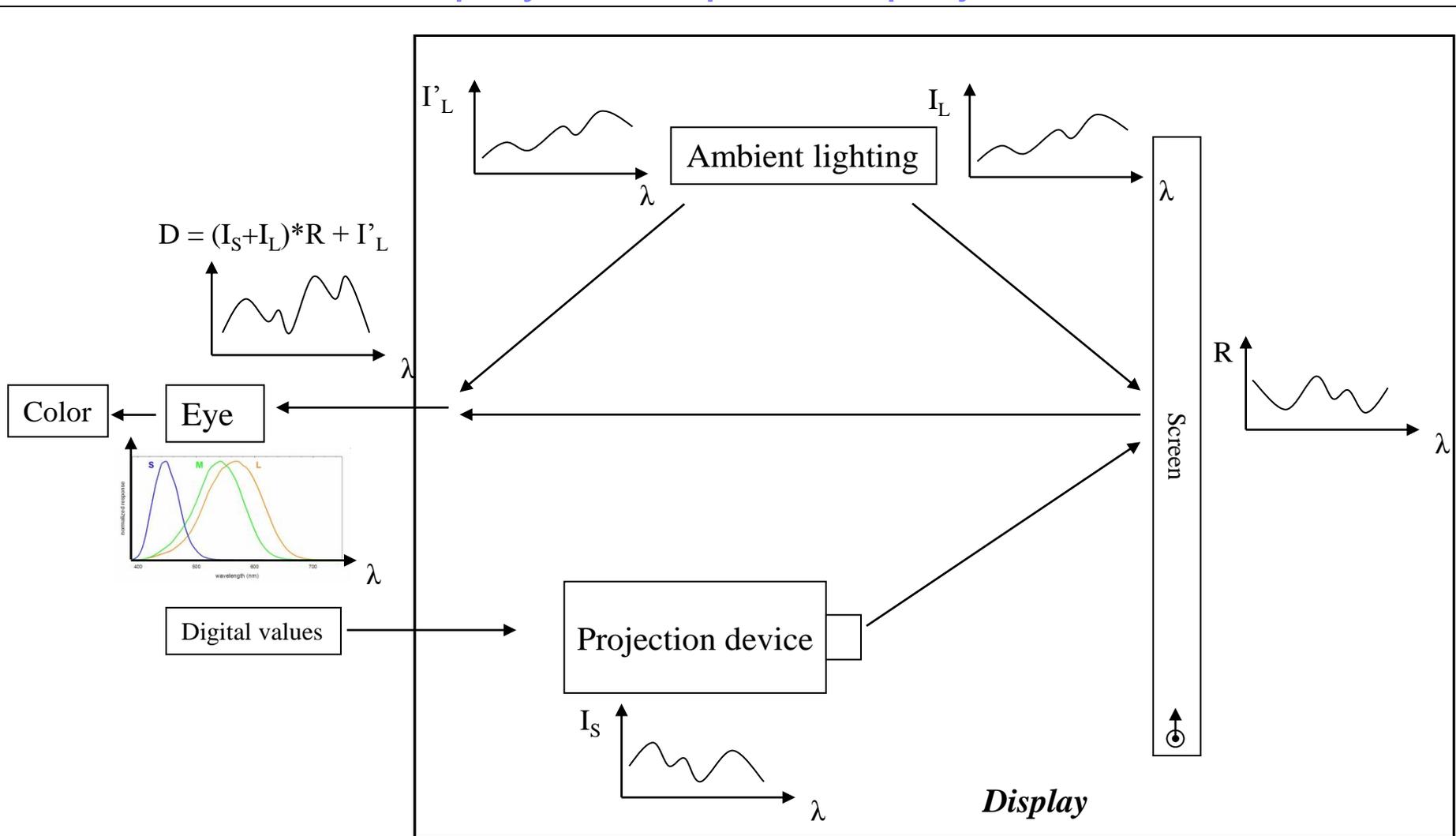
# Agenda

- I. Display and color
- II. Point-wise colorimetric characterization
- III. Spatial considerations
- IV. Conclusion and perspectives

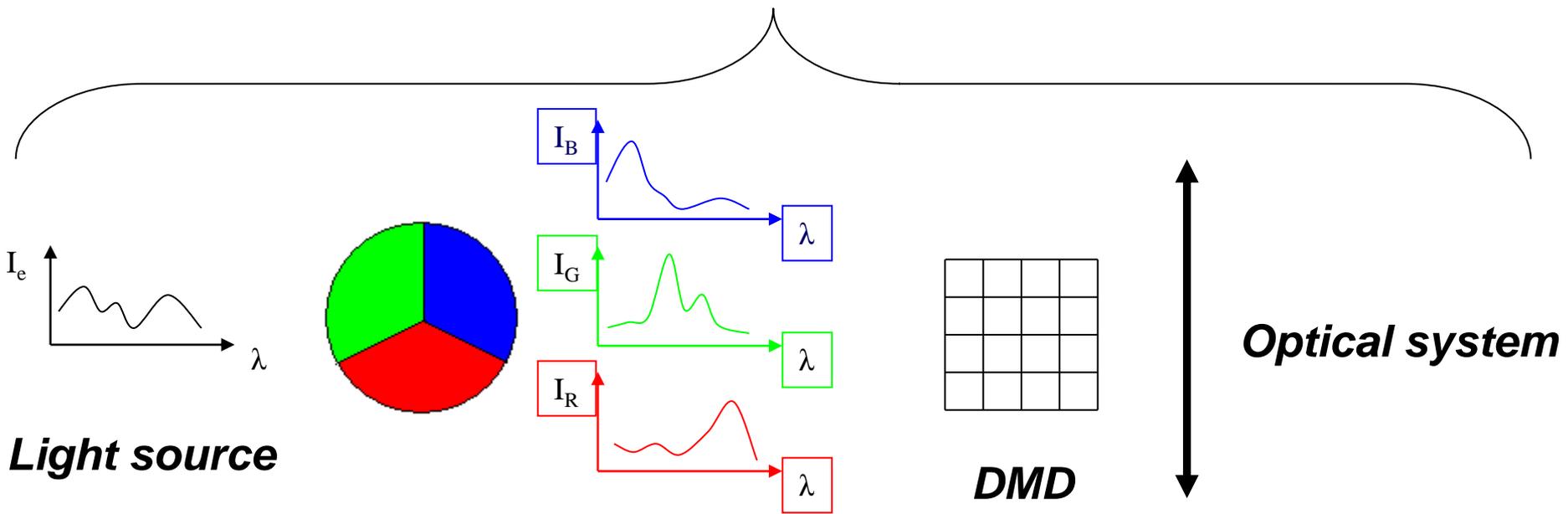
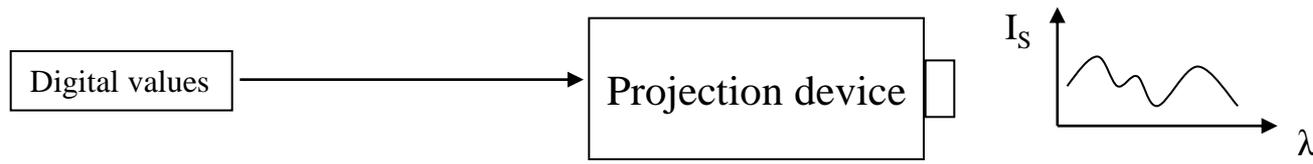
# Agenda

- I. Display and color
  1. Definition
  2. Color metrology
  3. 6 dimensional function:
    - i. Temporal stability (1D)
    - ii. Spatial uniformity (2D)
    - iii. Color (3D)
  4. Color characterization
- II. Point-wise colorimetric characterization
- III. Spatial considerations
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## Display: Example of a projector



# Digital color display device



**Color wheel**  
**Case of a DLP projection device**

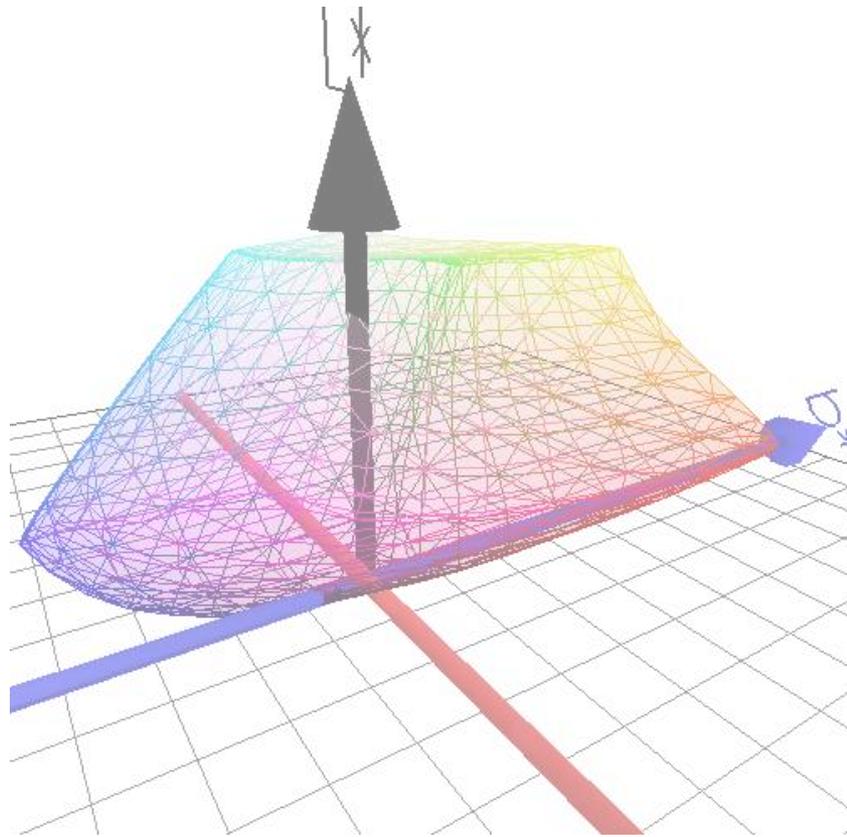
## Measurement and color spaces

- Measurement
  - Spectral measurements & cone response curves
  - Intensity measurement considering filters that mimics the cone response curves
- Color spaces
  - Digital space: RGB
  - Reference color space: A space where we can describe the color relatively to a standard observer
    - Physically (CIEXYZ)
    - Relatively to white adaptation and perceptually uniform (CIELAB)

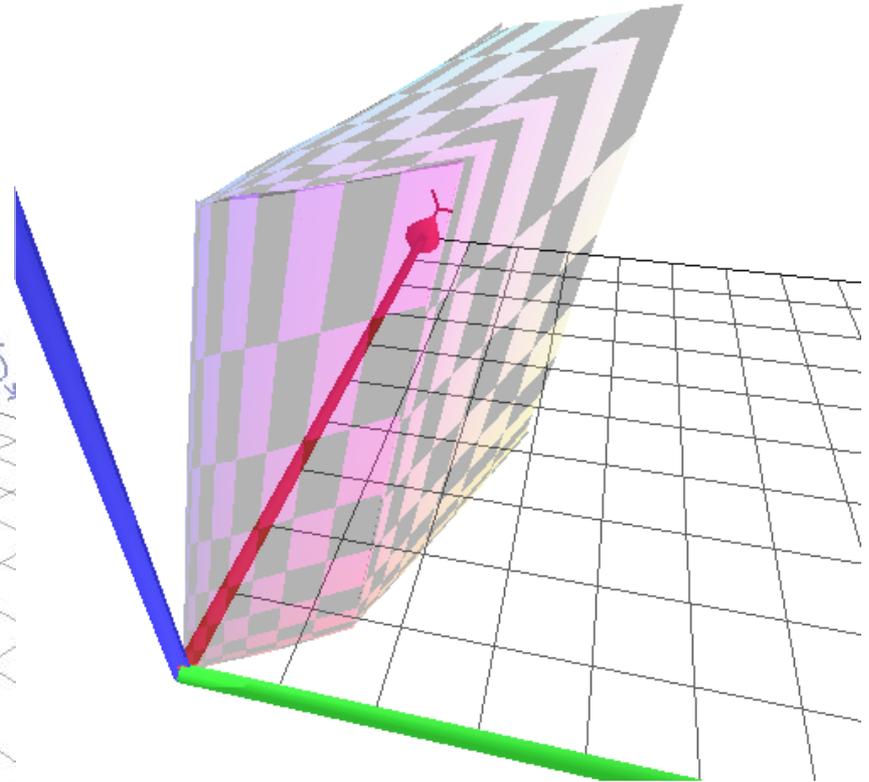
## 6D function

- Temporal stability (1D)
  - Often assumed to be stable
  - Display dependent
- Spatial uniformity (2D)
  - Often assumed to be uniform in chromaticity
  - Strong luminance shift
- Color (3D)
  - Display color gamut (Set of colors reproducible by a display)

# Color gamuts



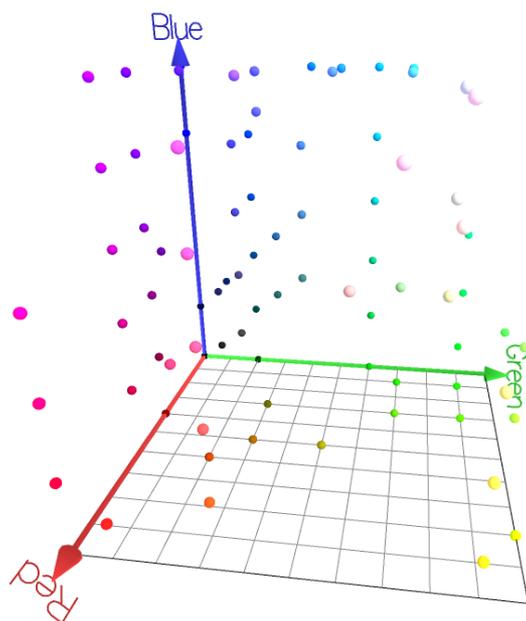
**CIELAB**



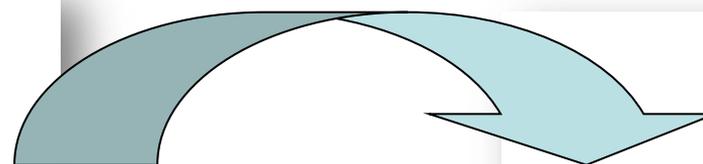
**CIEXYZ**

## Color characterization

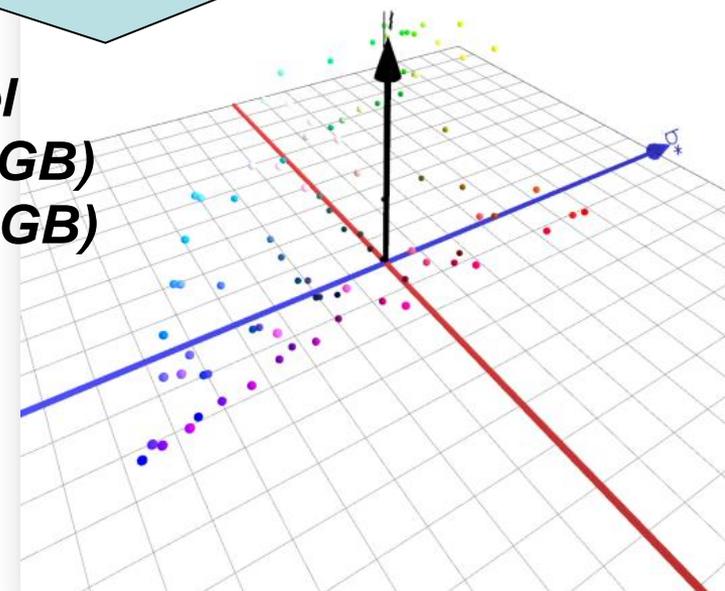
- A model that relates digital input and displayed color (in a reference color space)



**RGB**



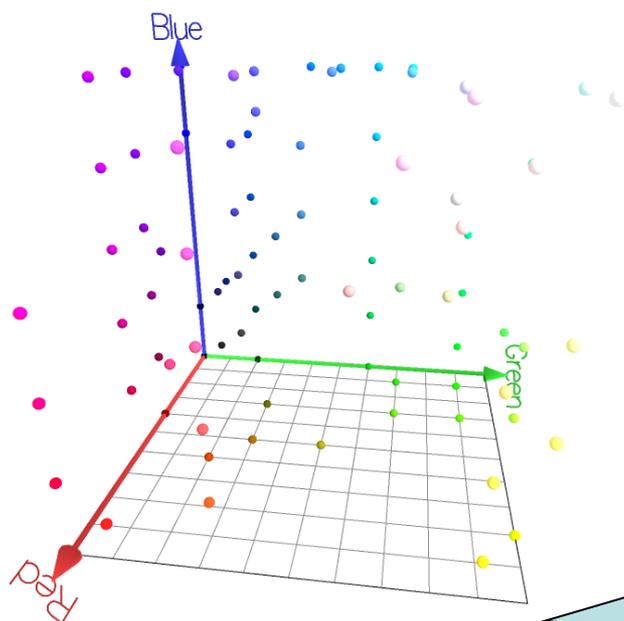
**Forward model**  
 **$CIEXYZ = F(RGB)$**   
 **$CIELAB = F(RGB)$**



**CIELAB**

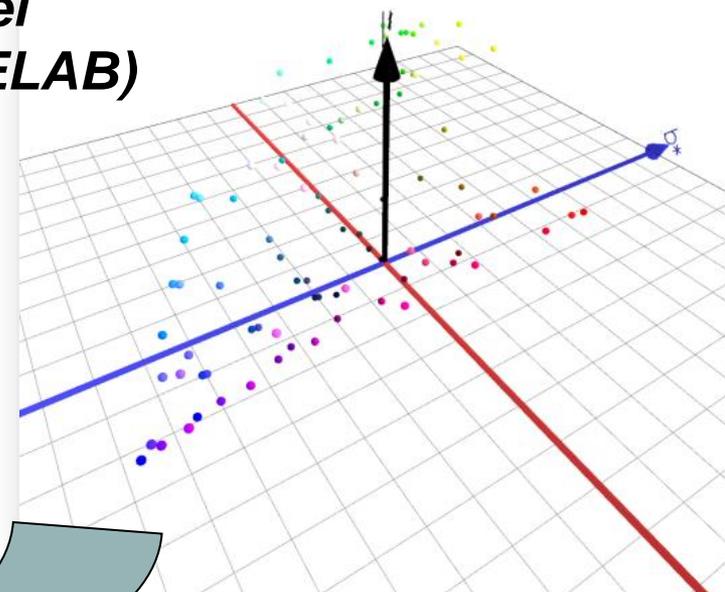
## Color characterization

- A model that relates digital input and displayed color (in a reference color space)

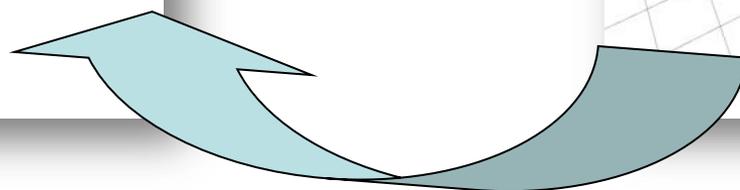


**RGB**

*Inverse model*  
 **$RGB = F^{-1}(CIELAB)$**



**CIELAB**



## Quality

- Metric  $\Delta E_{ab}^* = [(\Delta L^*)^2 + (\Delta a^*)^2 + (\Delta b^*)^2]^{1/2}$
- Quality criterion (Colorimetry)
  - Just Noticeable Difference

## Quality

- Criteria in color imaging
  - Rules of thumb: Hardeberg (1999), Abrardo et al (1996)
  - Only a basis for evaluation, no exact or proved thresholds

$\Delta E_{ab}^*$	Professional		Consumer
Considering	Mean $\Delta E_{ab}^*$	Max $\Delta E_{ab}^*$	Mean $\Delta E_{ab}^*$
$- < 1$	good	good	good
$1 \leq - < 3$	acceptable		
$3 \leq - < 6$	not acceptable	acceptable	acceptable
$6 \leq -$		not acceptable	not acceptable

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  1. Consumer
    - i. Response curve estimation
  2. Professional
    - i. Model based on polyharmonic splines and inversion
  3. Classification
- III. Spatial considerations
- IV. Conclusion and perspectives

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## Consumer example



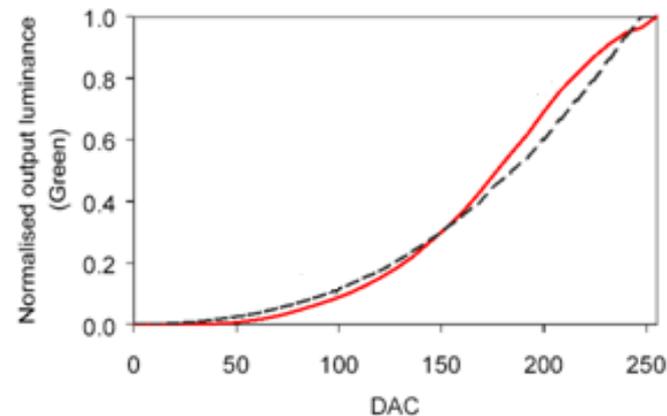
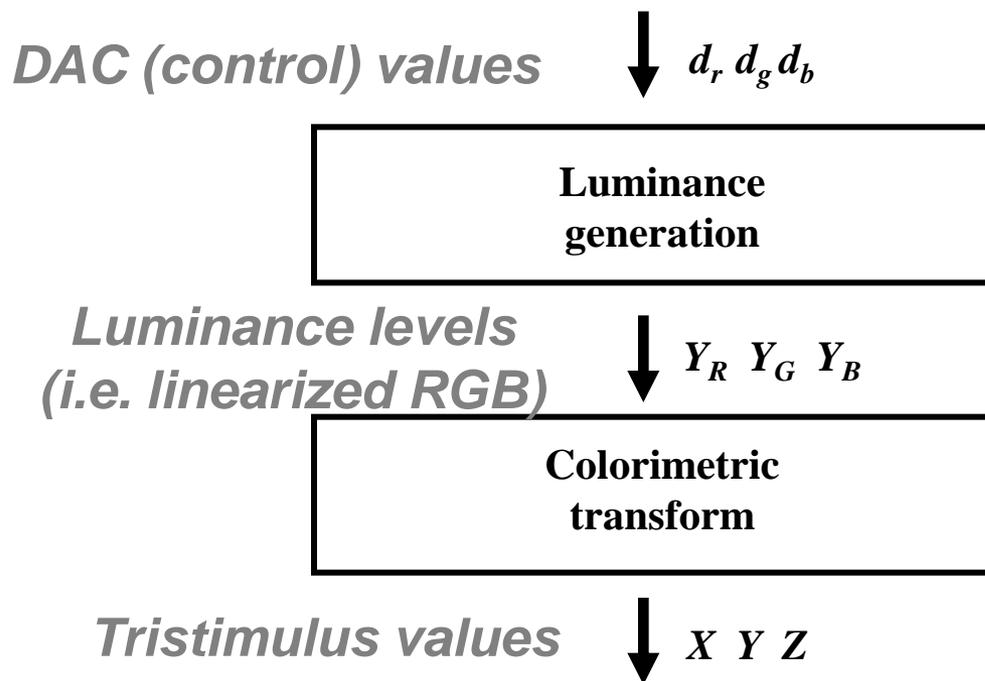
*I am a good worker,*

*Give me more*

***Remember the  
sick looking guy  
and its funding ?***

***No spectroradiometer, photometer or colorimeter at home  
But most probably a camera***

## A simple model

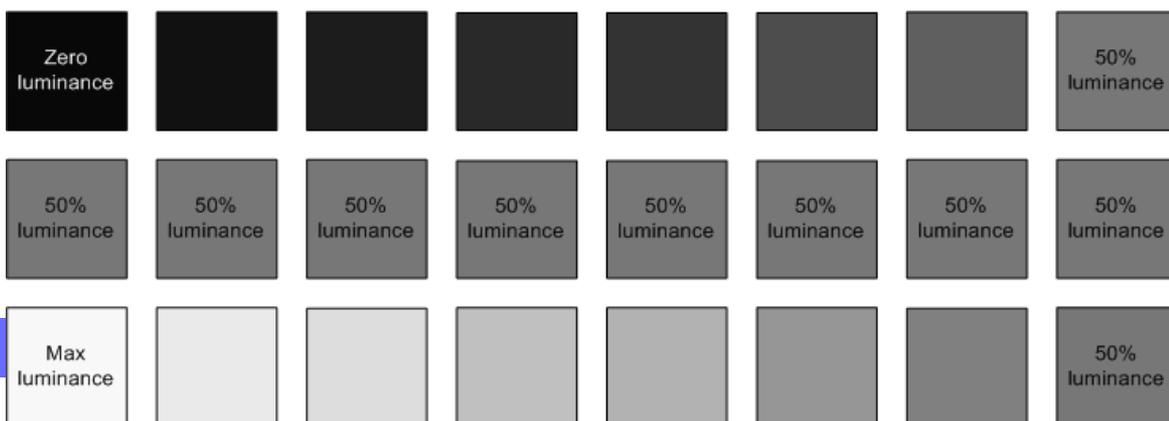
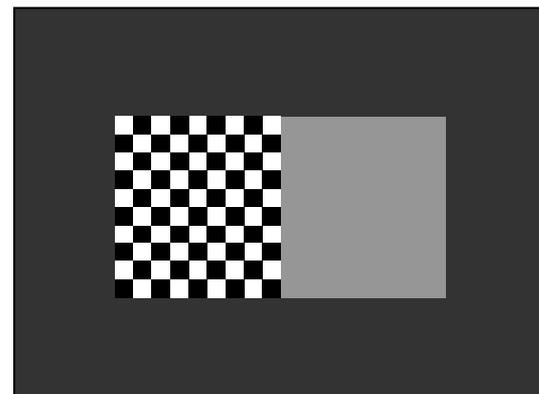


**Suppose additivity and chromaticity constancy**

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{r,max} & X_{g,max} & X_{b,max} \\ Y_{r,max} & Y_{g,max} & Y_{b,max} \\ Z_{r,max} & Z_{g,max} & Z_{b,max} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} Y_R \\ Y_G \\ Y_B \end{bmatrix}$$

## Camera-based response curve estimation

- Originally proposed by Bala et al (2006, 2007)
- 2 tasks
  - Estimating the camera response curve relatively to the display via one visual task
  - Using the camera as a relative photometer to estimate the projector response curve



## Proposal

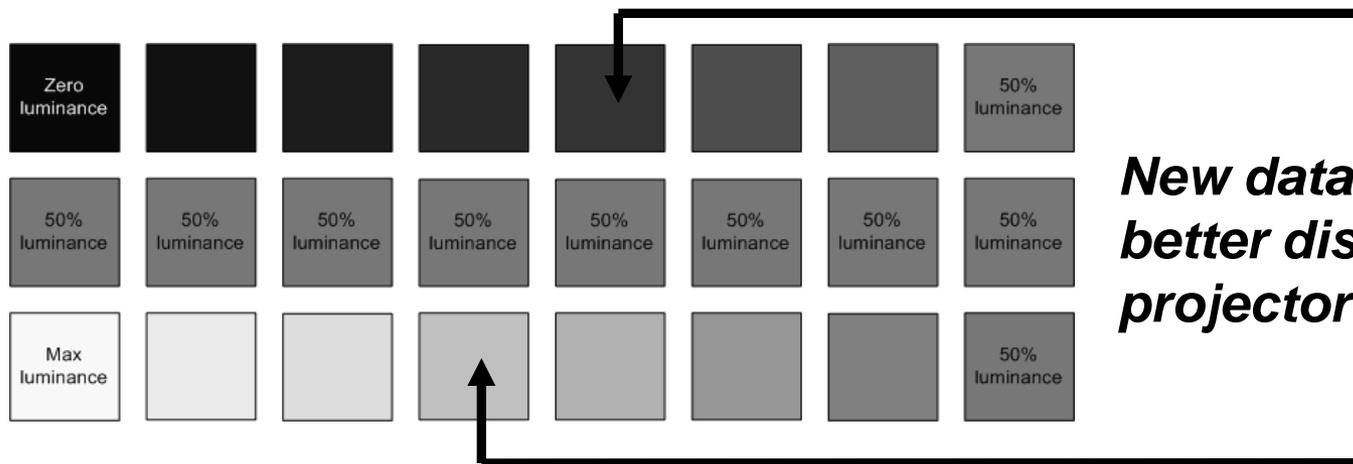
- Adding more visually determined levels
  - Increase the accuracy of the camera response curve estimation
- Individual estimation of each primary
  - Projector response curve can vary severely between channels

Mikalsen, E. B., Hardeberg, J. Y. and Thomas, J.-B. (2008), *Verification and extension of a camera-based end-user calibration method for projection displays*, in 'CGIV'.

## Improvement: Adding visual matching point

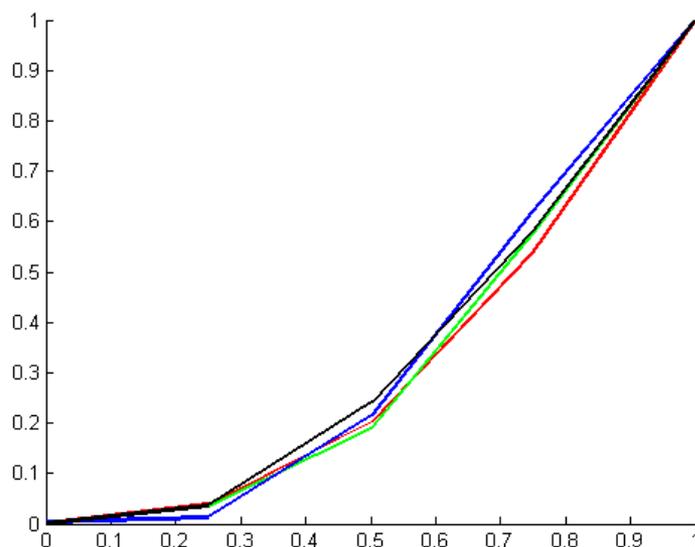
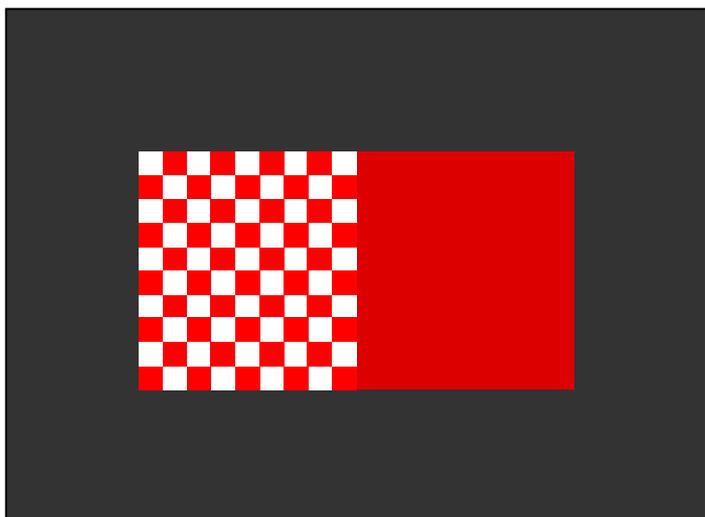


***Adding two new luminances ( 25% and 75% ) to determine the camera response curve***



***New data for the camera and better distribution for the projector***

## Improvement: Individual channel estimation



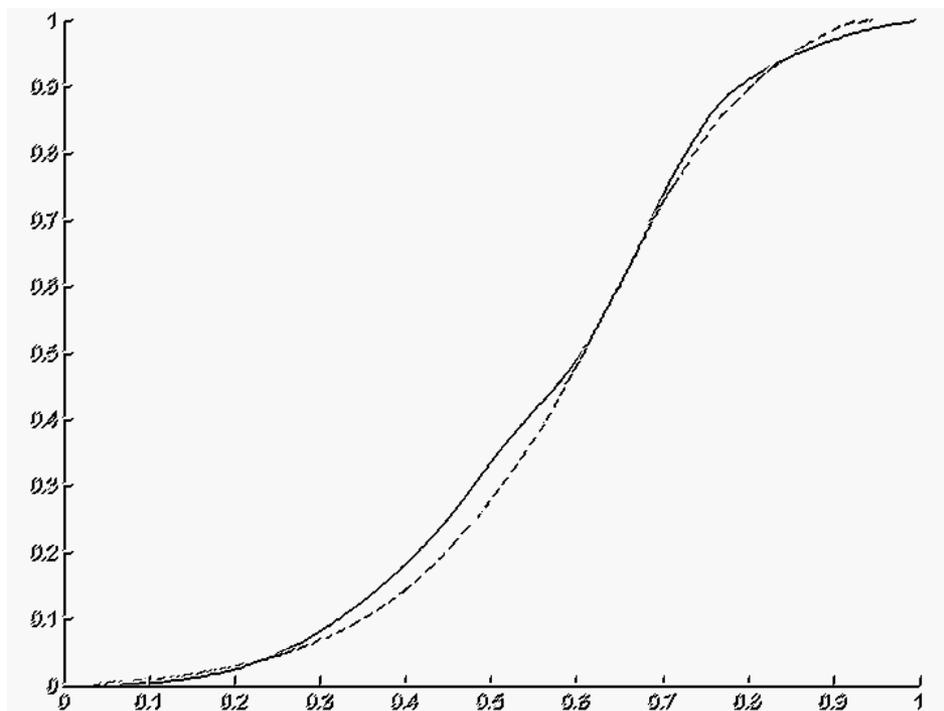
***Individual estimation of R, G and B channel response curves***

***Projector response curves can be significantly different from channel to channel***

## Results

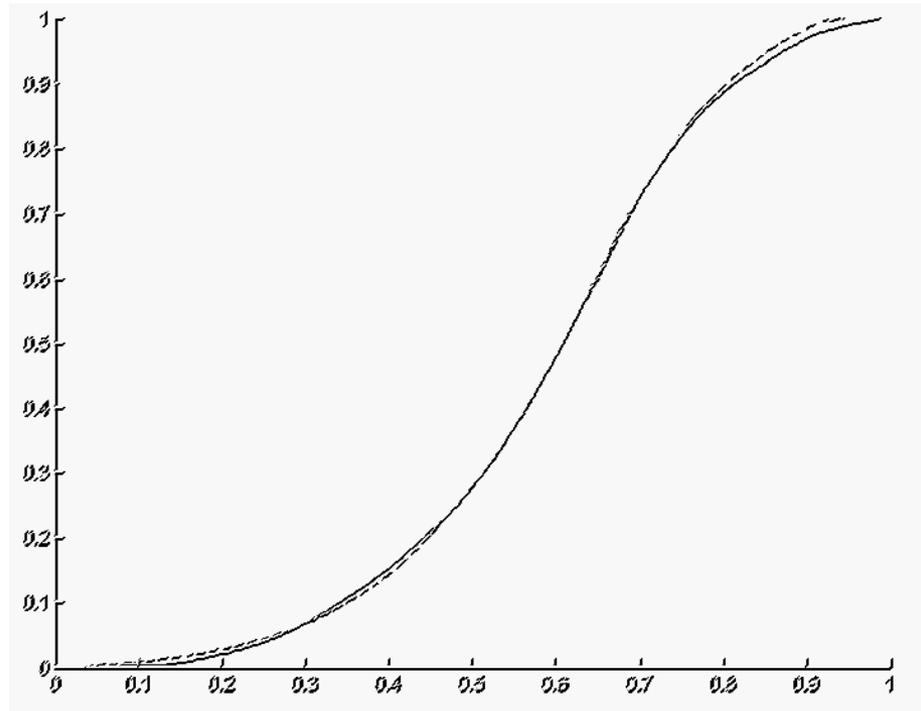
- Projector response curve estimation

Gray 1 (Original method)



$\Delta L = 1.82$

Gray 3



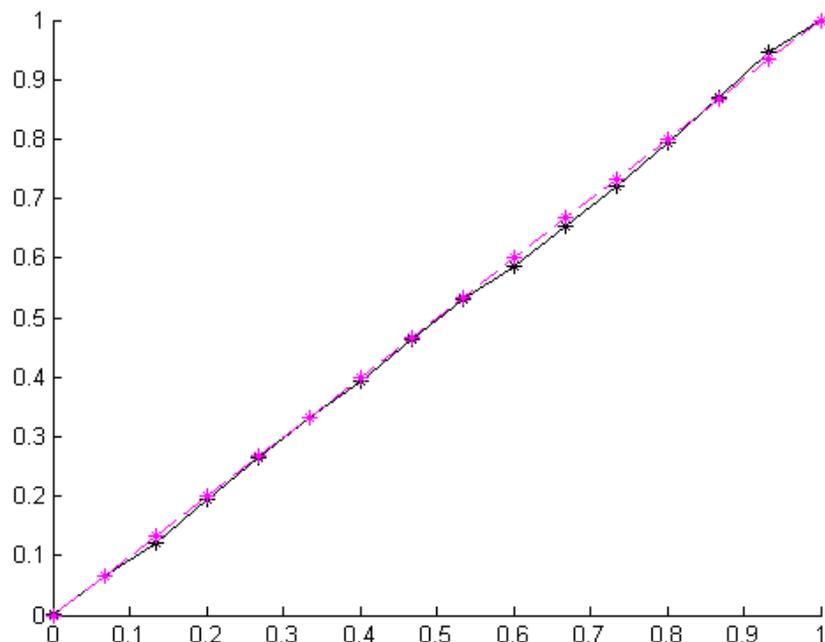
$\Delta L = 0.65$

***Measured response in dashed line: We improved the estimation***

## Results

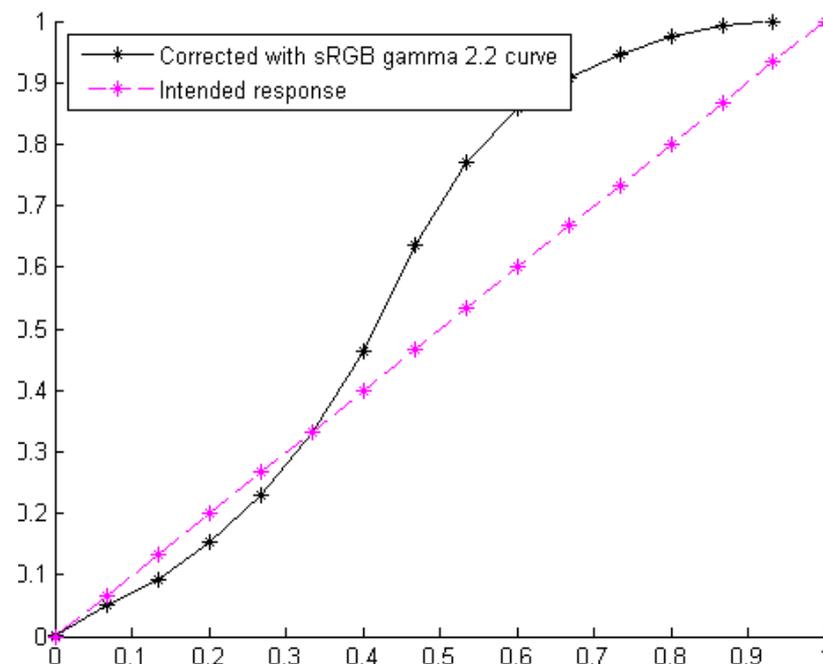
- Correction compared with sRGB

**Gray 3 matching point**



$\Delta L = 0.60$

**sRGB**

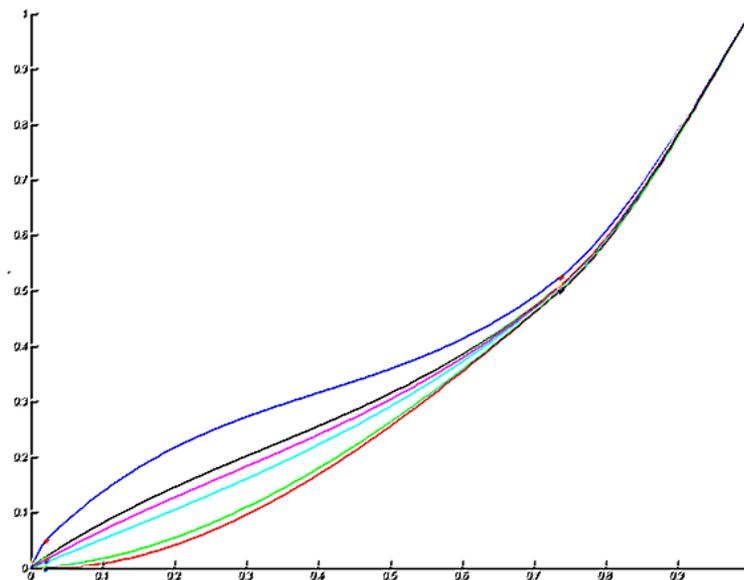


$\Delta L = 10.53$

***Perfect correction in pink***

## Discussion

- Black level estimation
  - Bala and Braun (2006): Flare of about 2% in dim condition
  - Mikalsen et al (2008): Flare estimation is of major importance: We measured it



***Consequences of using several estimation of the black offset while using cubic spline for the interpolation***

## Conclusion

- We increased the accuracy of the method
- Some combinations camera/projector do not work
  - Dynamic range

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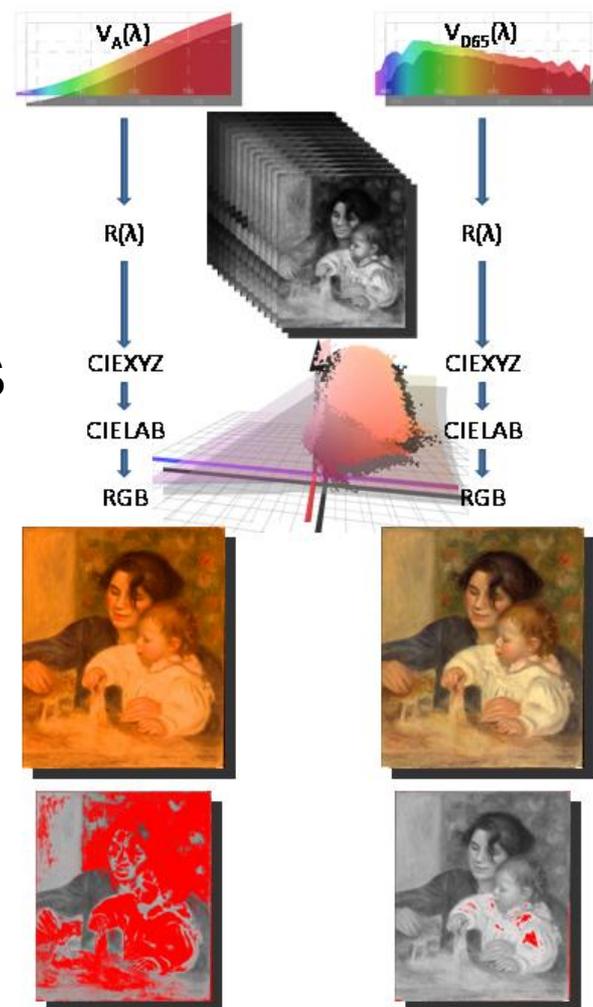
## Professional



***If you investigate art paintings:  
You have a controlled environment, a high quality monitor, a  
spectroradiometer, a super computer, a high quality GPU, etc.***

## Professional application

- Color rendering of multi-spectral images under different illuminants



***Visualizing paintings under different illuminants give some information of interest for experts.***

## 3D Look Up Table

- Technology independent
- Empirical method
  - Number of measurements used to describe the whole transform

## 3D Look Up Table

- Defined by
  - A given number of data
  - A pattern for data distribution
  - An interpolation method

## Proposal

- Iterative refinement of the forward model data set
- Give more freedom to the model parameters
- Optimize the data distribution for the inversion

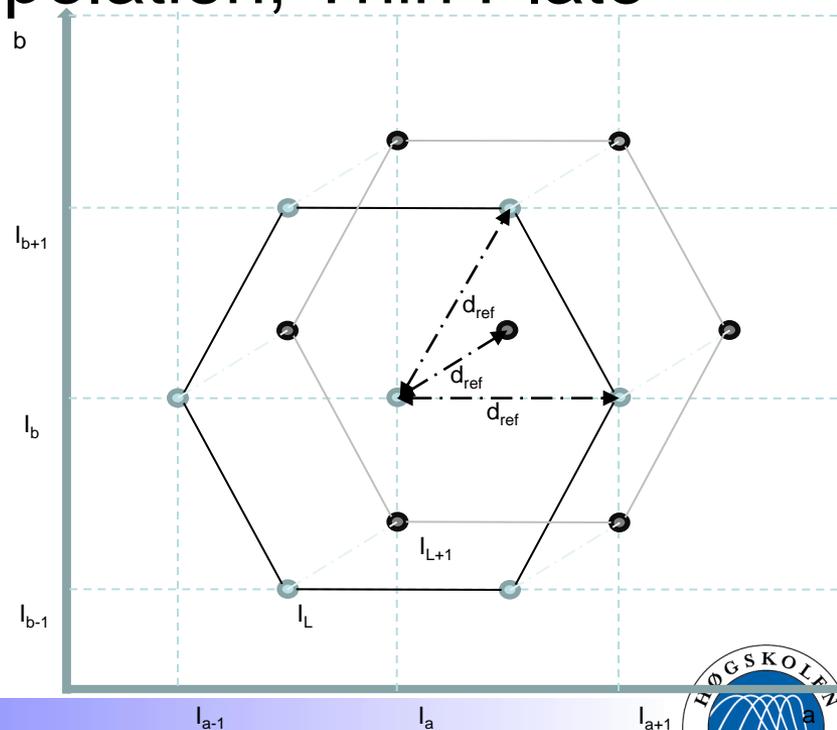
Colantoni, P. and Thomas, J.-B. (2009), ***A color management process for real time color reconstruction of multispectral images***, in 'Lecture Notes in Computer Science', 16th SCIA.

Thomas, J.-B., Colantoni, P., Hardeberg, J. Y., Foucherot, I. and Gouton, P. (2008a), "***A geometrical approach for inverting display color characterization models***", in *JSID*, Vol. 16.

Thomas, J.-B., Colantoni, P., Hardeberg, J. Y., Foucherot, I. and Gouton, P. (2008b), "***An inverse display color characterization model based on an optimized geometrical structure***", in 'proc. SPIE'.

## Forward model

- Forward model proposed by Stauder et al (2006, 2007)
- Radial Basis Function interpolation, Thin Plate Spline kernel
- Regular hexagonal pattern in CIELAB



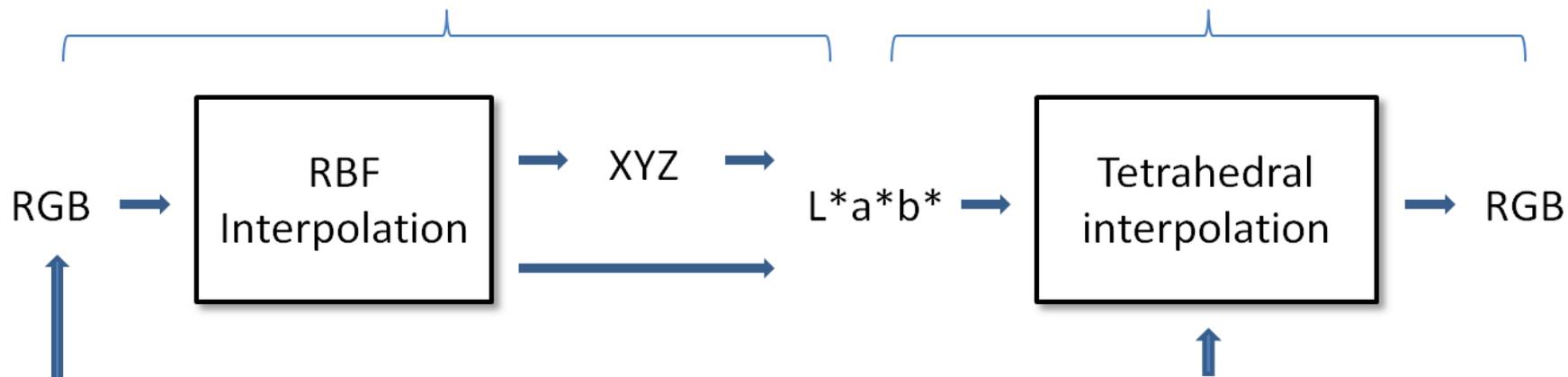
## Inverse model

- Based on an inversion method proposed by Stokes (1997)
  - Creating data for inversion by using the forward model
- Tetrahedral linear interpolation

## Overview

### *Forward model*

### *Inverse model*

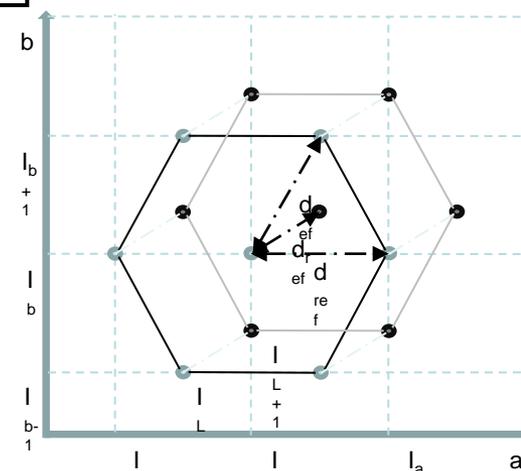
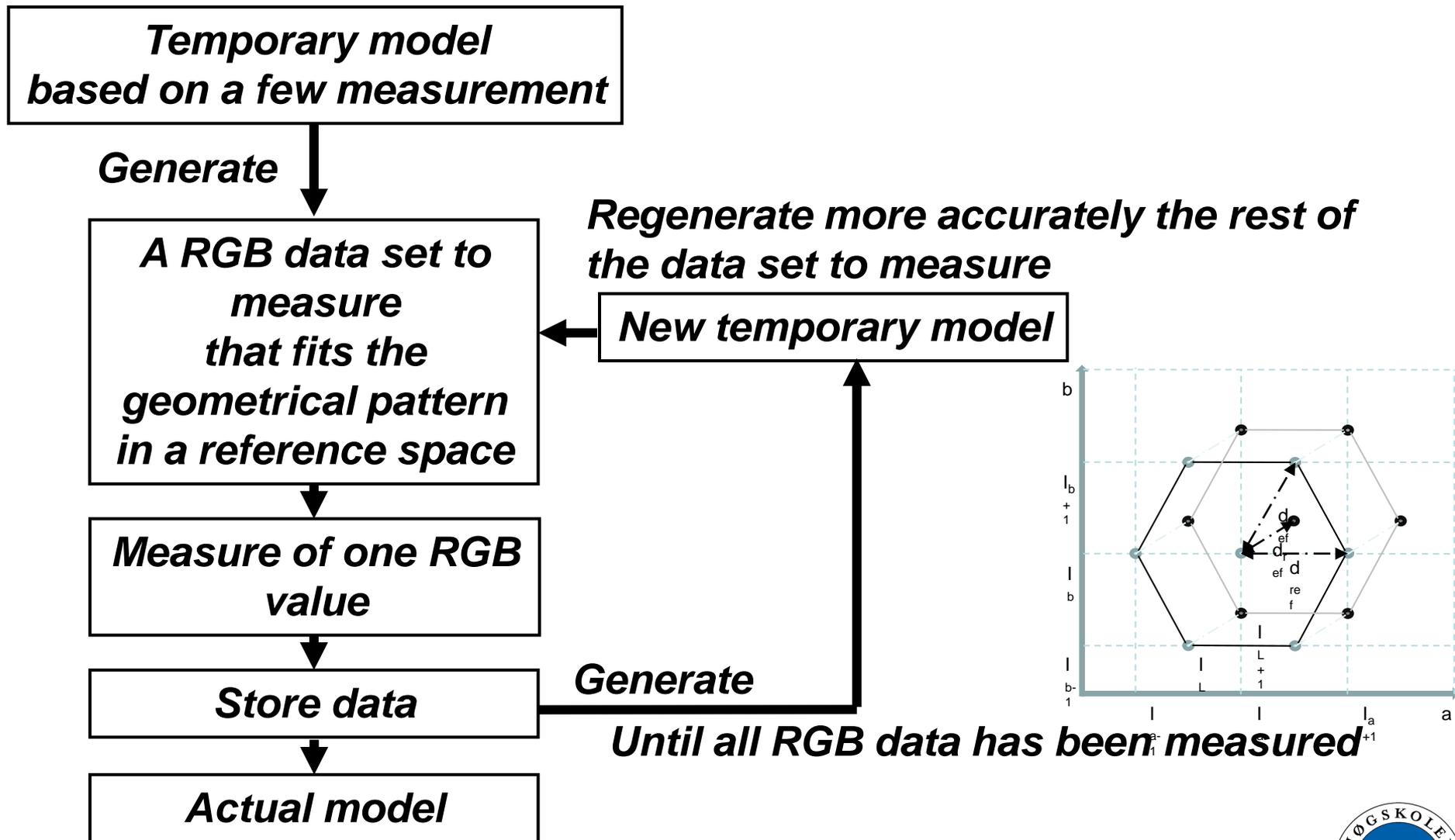


***Give more freedom to the model considering the parameters choice***

***Refine the optimized learning data set***

***Optimize the tetrahedral structure for the inversion***

## Iterative refinement of the optimized data set

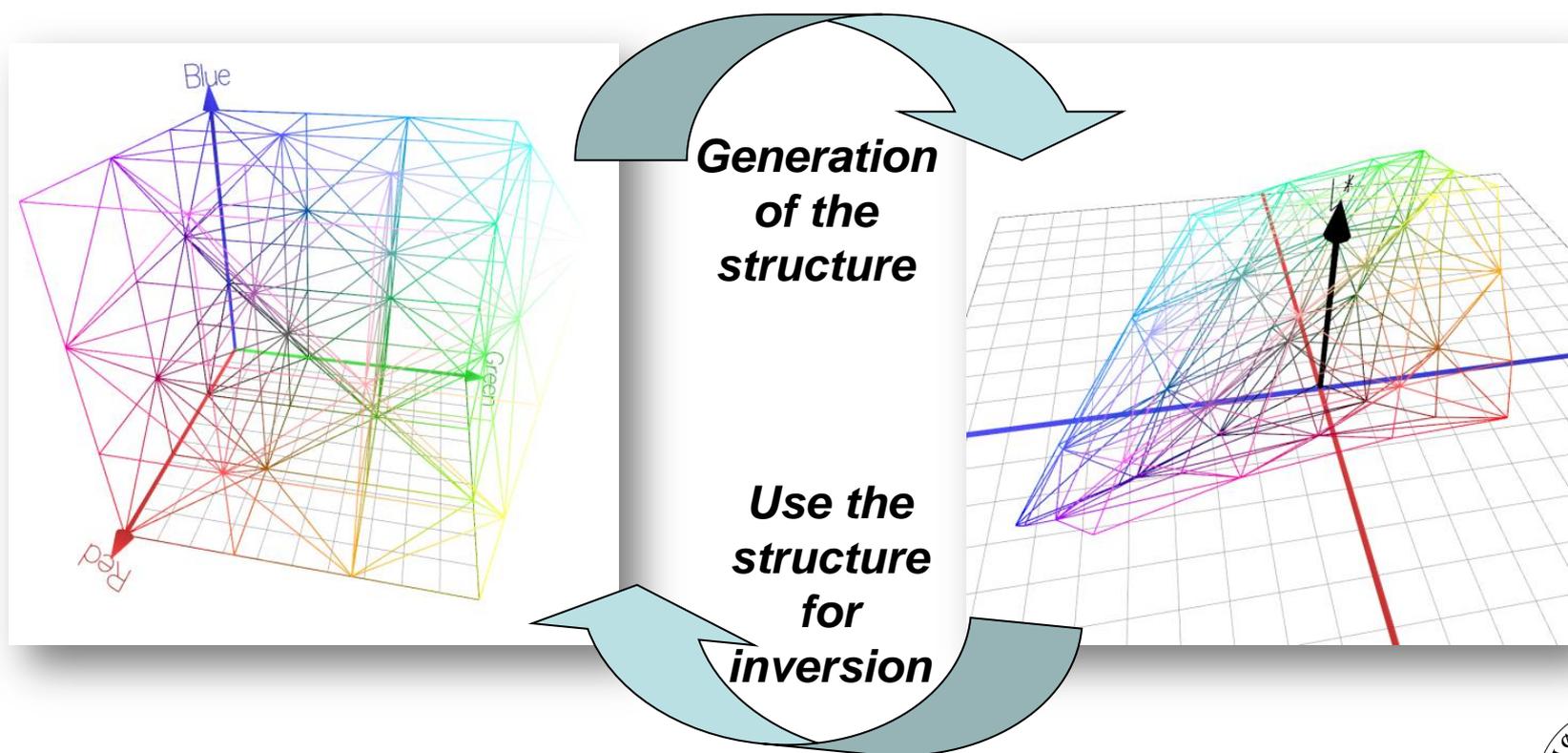


## Parameters choice

- Parameters to optimize
  - Kernels: Biharmonic ( $r$ ), Triharmonic ( $r^3$ ), Thin Plate Spline ( $r^2\log(r)$  and  $r^2\log(r^2)$ )
  - Smoothing factor:  $0 \Rightarrow$  interpolation,  $\neq 0 \Rightarrow$  approximation
  - Color space target: CIE XYZ or CIE LAB
- Brute force approach
  - Cost function:  $\text{mean}(\Delta E^*_{ab}) \times \text{Standard deviation}(\Delta E^*_{ab})$

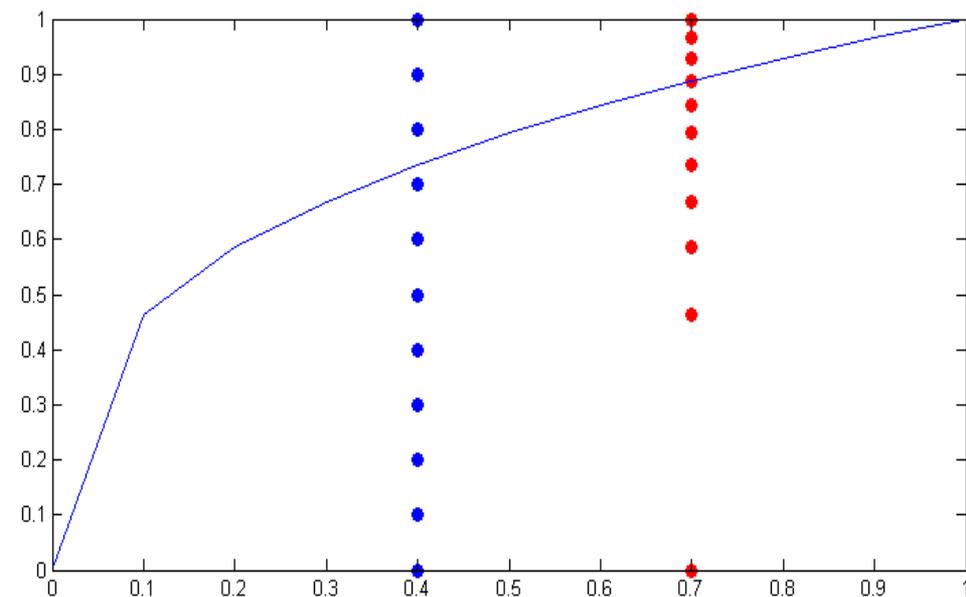
## Inversion not optimized

- Original inverse model based on a regularly spaced grid in RGB



## Problem of distribution

- $\text{CIELAB} = F(\text{RGB})$  is not linear
- Tetrahedral linear interpolation: the accuracy is not the same everywhere in the color space



***Plot of a cubic root function  
 (such as in CIELAB transform)***

***Linearly distributed data (mimic  
 RGB)***

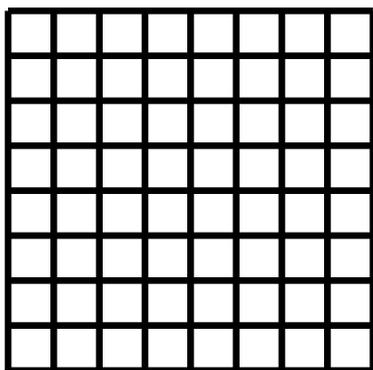
***Data set used for the  
 interpolation (mimic CIELAB)***

## Data redistribution

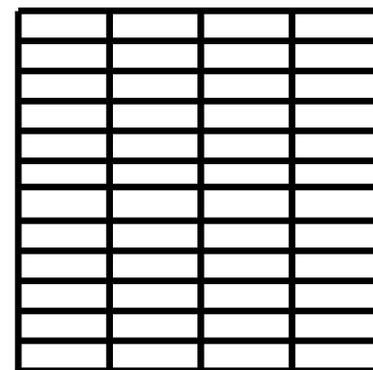
- We proposed different methods for global redistribution
- Other methods exist (Dianat (2006), Groff (2000), etc.)
- Better map of CIELAB or better accuracy on a training set

## Data redistribution

- Only a different data number along R, G and B axis
  - Same training data set as for the forward model
  - Same criterion ( $\text{mean}(\Delta E^*_{ab}) \times \text{Standard deviation}(\Delta E^*_{ab})$ )



***Regular grid data in RG plane***



***Redistributed data in RG plane***

## Results

- Forward: 216 color patches
- Inverse: 36x36x36 data
- Compared with a uniform grid

## Results

**CRT monitor  
 Mitsubishi  
 SB2070**

	Forward model		Inverse model	
	$\Delta E$ Mean	$\Delta E$ Max	$\Delta RGB$ Mean	$\Delta RGB$ Max
Optimized	0.332	1.075	0.00311	0.01267
Uniform	0.435	1.613	0.00446	0.01332

**LCD monitor  
 HP2408w**

	Forward model		Inverse model	
	$\Delta E$ Mean	$\Delta E$ Max	$\Delta RGB$ Mean	$\Delta RGB$ Max
Optimized	1.057	4.985	0.01504	0.1257
Uniform	1.313	9.017	0.01730	0.1168

display device	$\Delta E$ Mean	Mean( $\Delta E$ STD)	$\Delta E$ Max
SB2070 - CRT Mitsubishi	0.234267	0.159998	1.55088
HP2408w - LCD Hewlett-Packard	1.93712	1.35595	10.8971

## Repeatability

## Results

	Forward model		Inverse model	
	$\Delta E$ Mean	$\Delta E$ Max	$\Delta RGB$ Mean	$\Delta RGB$ Max
EIZO CG301W (LCD)	0.783	1.906	0.00573	0.01385
Sensy 24KAL (LCD)	0.956	2.734	0.01308	0.06051
DiamondPlus 230 (CRT)	0.458	2.151	0.00909	0.06380

***Results on other monitors, professional performance on all***



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## Classification

- Based on our results
  - Several displays
  - Several models (PLCC\*, PLVC, GOGO, Bala, Polyharmonic splines)

Thomas, J.-B., Hardeberg, J. Y., Foucherot, I. and Gouton, P. (2007), ***Additivity based LC display color characterization***, in *GCIS'07*.

Thomas, J.-B., Hardeberg, J. Y., Foucherot, I. and Gouton, P. (2008), “***The PLVC color characterization model revisited***”, *Color Research & Application*, Vol. 33.

Colantoni, P. and Thomas, J.-B. (2009), ***A color management process for real time color reconstruction of multispectral images***, in ‘Lecture Notes in Computer Science’, 16th SCIA.

Mikalsen, E. B., Hardeberg, J. Y. and Thomas, J.-B. (2008), ***Verification and extension of a camera-based end-user calibration method for projection displays***, in ‘CGIV’08’.

## Classification

PLVC	Bala	PLCC*	Polyharmonic splines	GOGO
54 (XYZ) measures	1 to 3 visual tasks times 1 to 3 pictures	54 (Y) measures 3 (XYZ)	216 (XYZ) measures	4 to 54 (Y) measures 3 (XYZ)
Technology dependent	Technology dependent	Technology dependent	Technology independent	CRT
Professional or Consumer	Consumer	Professional or Consumer	Professional	Consumer

***The efficiency of a model is dependent on several factors: the number of measurements, the nature of the data to measure, the computational cost, its accuracy, etc.***

***It depends strongly on the display***

# Agenda

- I. Display and color
- II. Point-wise colorimetric characterization
- III. Spatial considerations**
  1. Why ?
  2. Evaluation
    - i. Common approach
    - ii. Global 3D approach
  3. Conclusion
- IV. Conclusion and perspectives

## Why spatial characterization ?

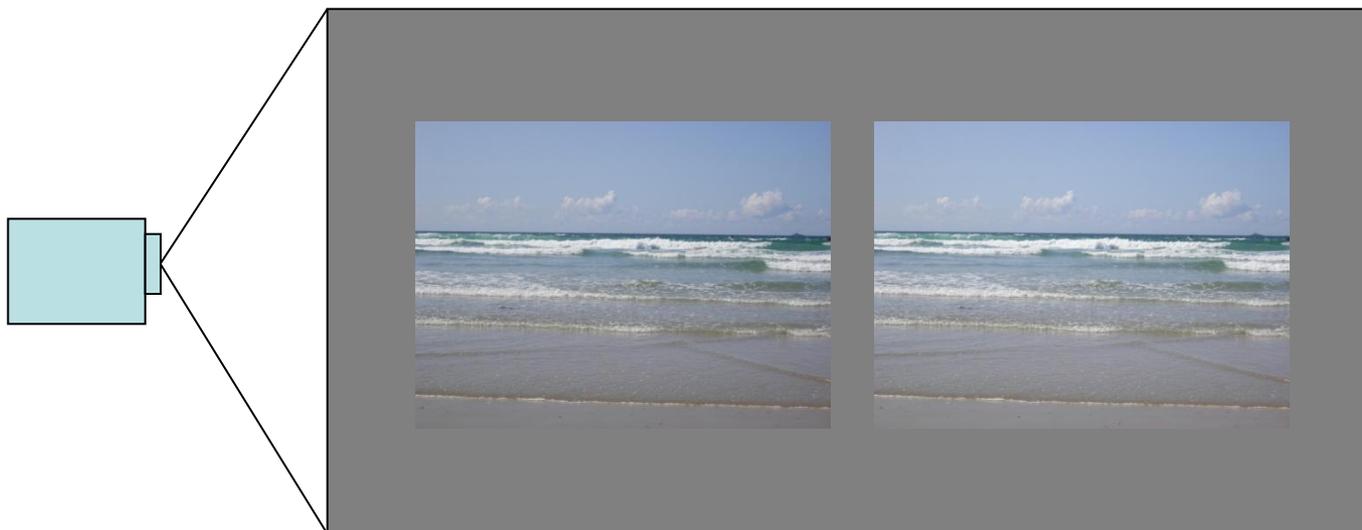
- Need of visual uniformity for multi-display systems



***Multi-projector systems show a strong non-uniformity  
Image from Majumder (2005)***

## Why spatial characterization ?

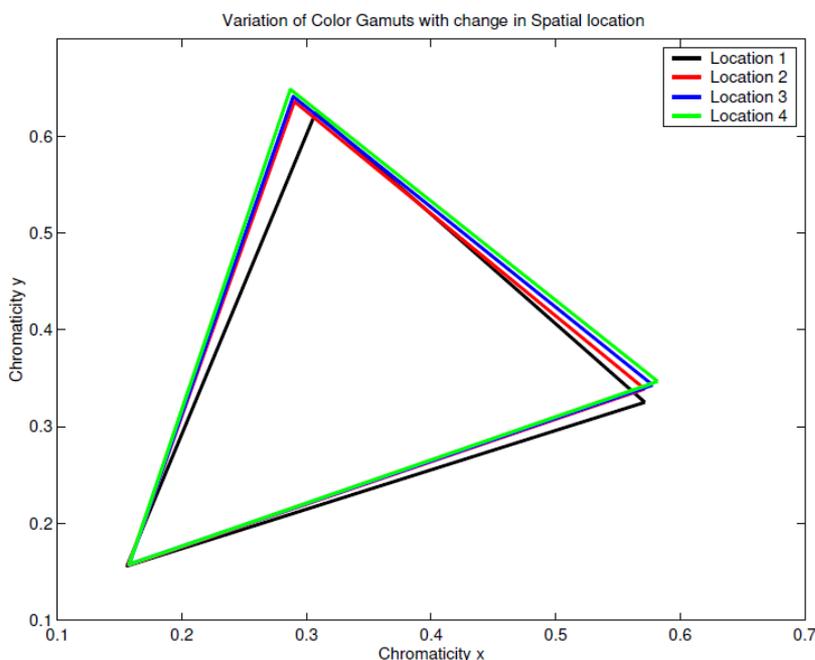
- Need of colorimetric uniformity and colorimetric control for psychovisual experiments



***Tell me when you see a difference between these two images.***

## Proposal

- Assumption of chromaticity spatial homogeneity for many applications



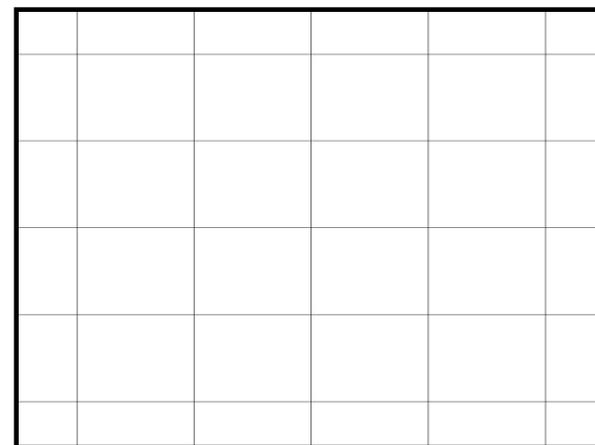
**Majumder and Stevens**  
*IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (2004)*

**Gamut in the chromaticity plane at several locations across one display**

- These gamuts are as different as different displays

## Evaluation

- Common approach
  - Measurement of a color patch at several locations
- Global approach
  - 3D gamut comparison between several locations
- Global reference white: the highest luminance point



Thomas, J.-B. and Bakke, A. M. (2009), *A colorimetric study of spatial uniformity in projection displays*, in 'Lecture Notes in Computer Science', 'CCIW'09'.

## Major measured color difference

LCD1					
$\Delta E_{ab}^*$	1	2	3	4	5
1	9.26	5.24	2.80	2.93	7.53
2	7.89	4.14	1.41	1.81	7.26
3	6.61	4.41	0.00	1.05	5.14
4	9.57	5.10	1.89	1.95	3.68
5	11.64	7.97	6.05	5.75	6.64

LCD2					
$\Delta E_{ab}^*$	1	2	3	4	5
1	6.80	3.80	1.70	3.45	7.36
2	6.77	3.07	0.00	2.82	6.75
3	7.03	2.92	1.97	2.02	5.07
4	5.76	5.44	4.84	4.44	6.11
5	8.07	7.94	7.13	8.57	10.17

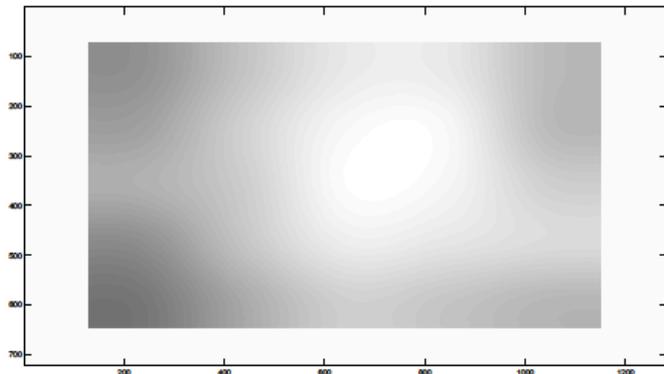
DLP					
$\Delta E_{ab}^*$	1	2	3	4	5
1	21.71	17.60	14.88	15.36	19.09
2	21.58	15.45	12.40	12.78	17.73
3	19.97	12.00	7.20	9.97	16.36
4	18.52	8.94	1.92	5.16	13.11
5	18.18	7.92	0.00	1.25	11.97

- $\Delta E_{ab}^*$  on 3 displays (2 LCD and 1 DLP)
  - Of about 10 units from the center to an angle
  - Up to about 20 units between 2 locations
- Only due to luminance?

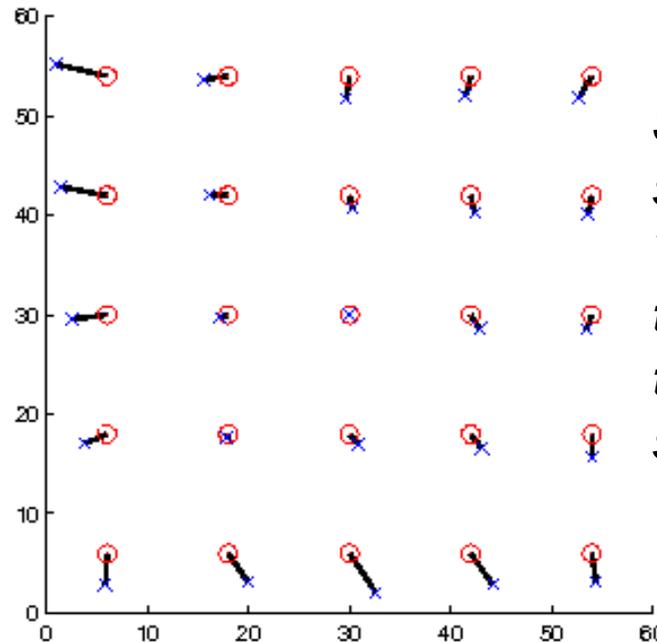
## Lightness and Chroma are varying

LCD1											
$\Delta L^*$	1	2	3	4	5	$\Delta C^*$	1	2	3	4	5
1	-8.92	-4.85	-1.61	-1.60	-5.55	1	5.09	2.46	2.29	1.99	2.49
2	-7.66	-3.72	-0.37	-0.36	-5.55	2	4.68	1.78	1.36	1.81	1.97
3	-6.42	-4.09	0.00	-0.58	-3.74	3	3.53	0.87	0.00	1.65	1.56
4	-9.29	-4.77	-1.29	-1.91	-2.81	4	2.37	0.40	1.39	1.80	2.31
5	-11.27	-7.02	-3.78	-4.64	-5.84	5	3.16	3.41	4.73	3.77	1.91

**Difference in lightness and chroma**



**Spatial lightness shift**



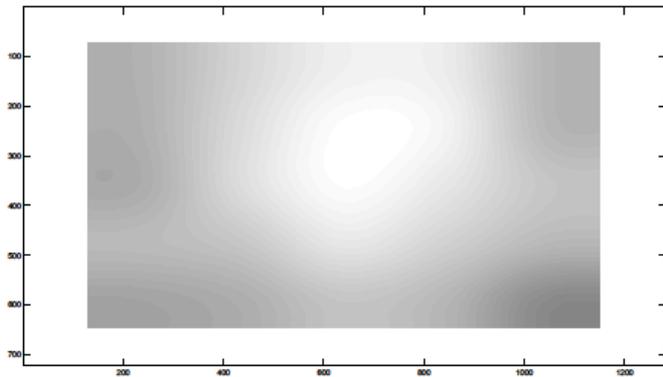
**Spatial chroma shift:**  
 The circles are the references,  
 the cross the shift

## Lightness and Chroma are varying

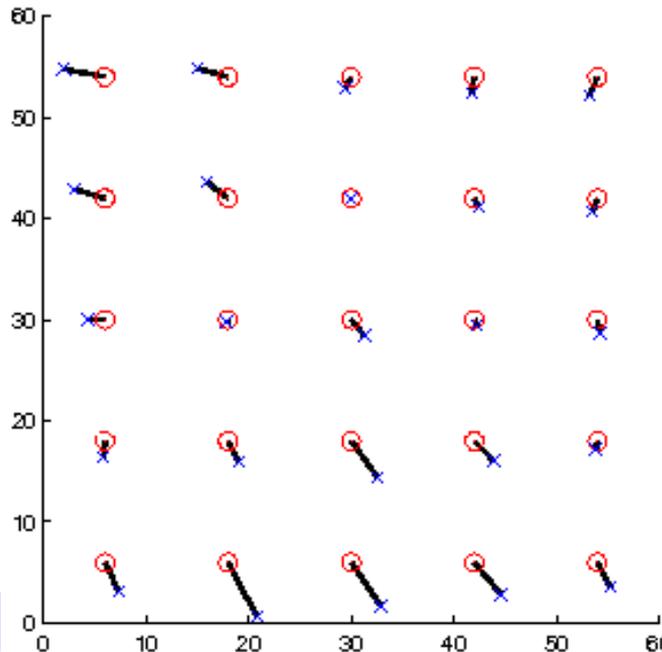
LCD2

$\Delta L^*$	1	2	3	4	5	$\Delta C^*$	1	2	3	4	5
1	-6.49	-3.43	-1.14	-1.53	-6.09	1	4.13	3.09	1.26	1.63	2.03
2	-6.63	-2.93	0.00	-0.90	-5.96	2	3.17	2.68	0.00	0.92	1.38
3	-6.90	-2.85	-0.11	-2.00	-4.78	3	1.67	0.24	1.97	0.66	1.35
4	-5.71	-4.68	-1.94	-3.79	-5.89	4	1.60	2.32	4.44	2.77	0.78
5	-7.59	-6.75	-4.82	-6.09	-9.66	5	3.18	6.03	5.25	4.18	2.76

**Difference in lightness and chroma**



**Spatial lightness shift**

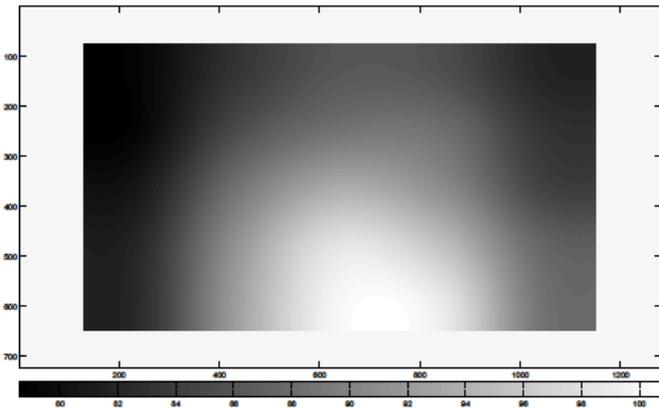


**Spatial chroma shift:**  
 The circles are the references, the cross the shift

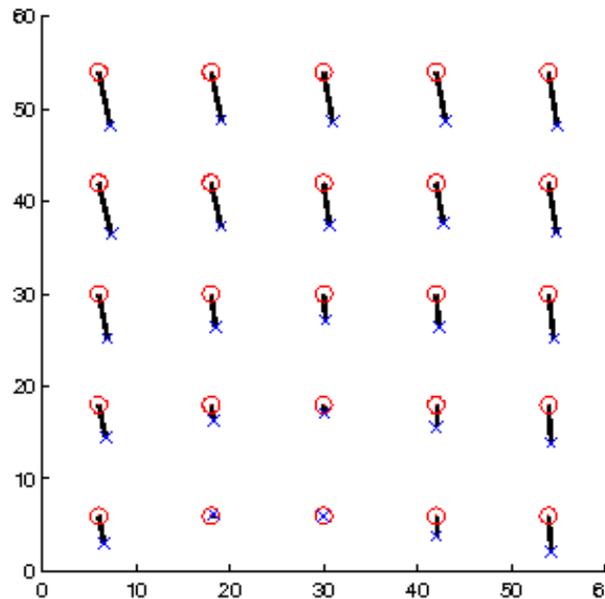
## Lightness and Chroma are varying

DLP											
$\Delta L^*$	1	2	3	4	5	$\Delta C^*$	1	2	3	4	5
1	-20.88	-16.72	-13.84	-14.40	-18.14	1	5.97	5.37	5.47	5.47	5.92
2	-20.90	-14.79	-11.49	-11.83	-16.80	2	5.68	4.85	4.65	4.44	5.40
3	-19.39	-11.46	-6.63	-9.29	-15.60	3	4.94	3.62	2.81	3.56	4.81
4	-18.06	-8.61	-1.68	-4.87	-12.63	4	3.53	1.70	0.92	2.41	4.09
5	-17.77	-7.62	0.00	-1.21	-11.58	5	3.01	0.31	0.00	2.18	3.85

***Difference in lightness and chroma***



***Spatial lightness shift***



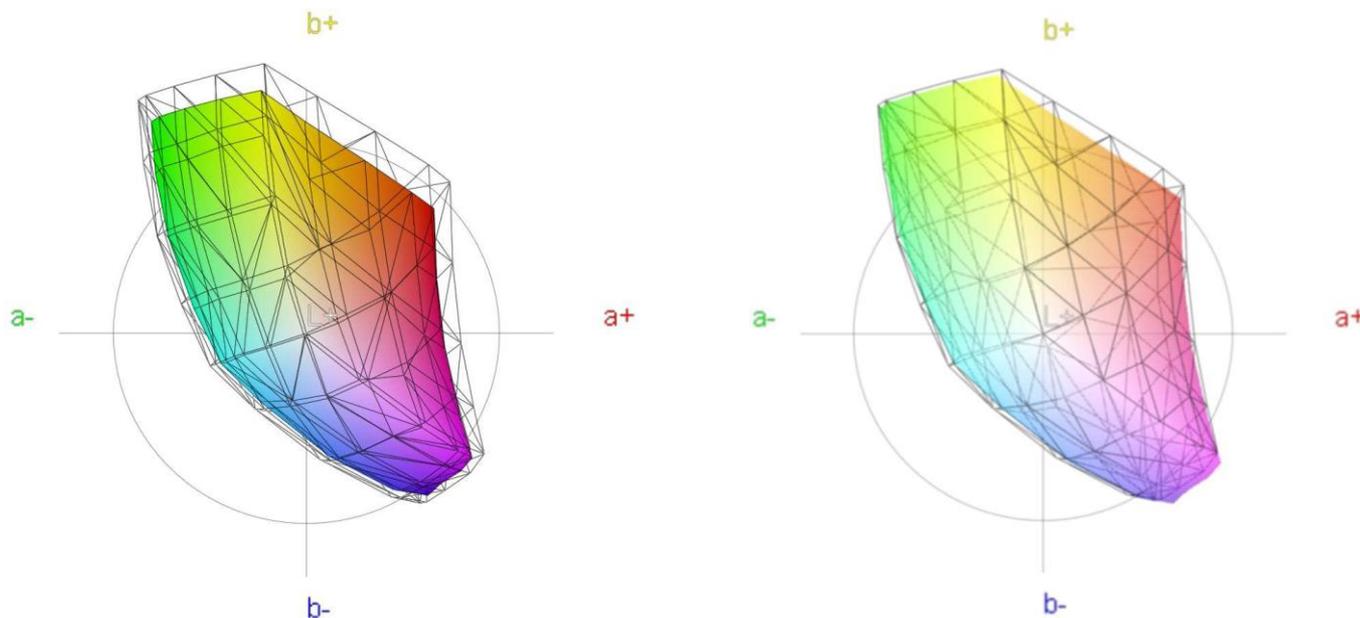
***Spatial chroma shift:  
 The circles are the references,  
 the cross the shift***

## Conclusion

- The assumption that considers the color shift as negligible does not hold

## Global approach

- Gamut volume comparison: Bakke et al (2006)
  - Gamut global difference
  - Percentage of gamut mismatch for each position compared with the reference.



## Local white point vs global white point

- After lightness adjustment there is still a noticeable difference

Gamut mismatch, global white point				Gamut mismatch, local white point			
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### LCD1

%	1	3	5	%	1	3	5
1	27.23	4.90	17.08	1	9.57	3.30	5.72
3	23.92	0.00	16.15	3	7.49	0.00	5.53
5	32.66	9.48	13.50	5	7.90	2.07	4.09

### LCD2

%	1	3	5	%	1	3	5
1	24.84	5.83	19.75	1	9.42	2.48	4.46
3	20.18	0.00	18.79	3	6.00	0.00	2.40
5	29.75	11.01	20.82	5	5.98	1.98	2.48

### DLP

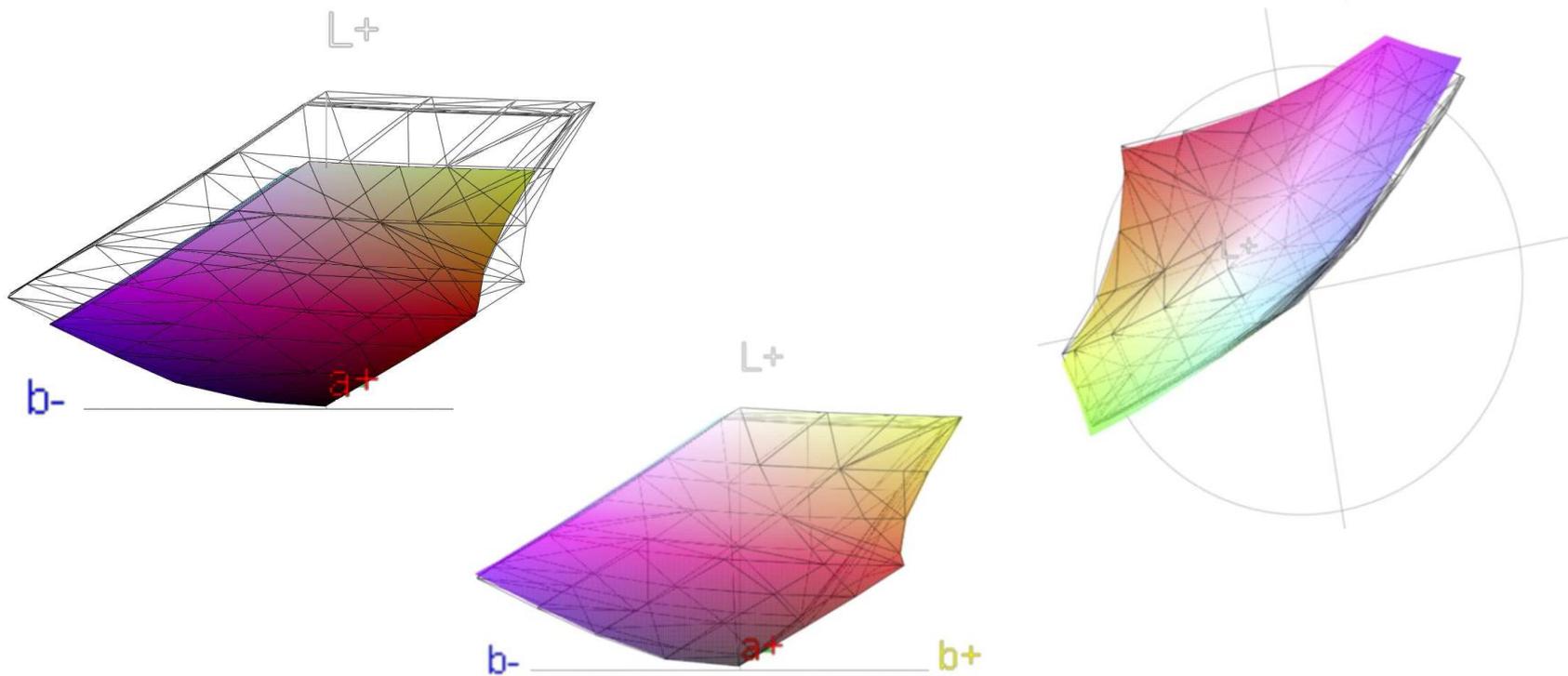
%	1	3	5	%	1	3	5
1	52.36	38.02	41.06	1	8.51	6.86	6.91
3	47.73	18.29	36.28	3	7.96	3.92	6.38
5	43.22	0.00	26.93	5	6.62	0.00	4.87

**Gamut mismatch**

## Global approach

- Relative mismatch comparable to the error introduced when using a simple convex hull as gamut boundary descriptor
- 2.75% inter-device difference at the reference position for the two LCDs.
- Compared with 9.57 or 9.42% intra-device difference

## Visualization



### ***Example: DLP***

***52.36% gamut mismatch mainly due to the luminance shift, but still 8.51% while compensating for it***

## Conclusion

- Assumptions broken:
  - Intra-difference larger than inter-difference
  - Luminance correction might not be enough
- Need to define spatial color characterization models

# Agenda

- I. Display
- II. Point-wise colorimetric characterization
- III. Spatial considerations
- IV. Conclusion and perspectives**
  1. Summary of contributions
  2. Point-wise color characterization
  3. Spatial color characterization

## Summary of contributions

- Display point-wise color characterization
  - Study of models on today technologies
  - Improvement of some models
    - Distribution of data
- Display spatial common assumptions
  - Evaluation
  - Critic

## Point-wise characterization

- Consumer vs Professional
  - Color characterization depends on the need
  - The consumer aims to reach the professional "style"
  - Algorithms are designed: need user-friendly specific (free?) software  
(Direct application)
- Quality
  - Metric and criteria: Is a rule of thumb based on  $\Delta E^*_{ab}$  enough?  
(Applied research)

## Spatial color characterization

- Objective colorimetric spatial characterization  
(Applied research)
- Spatial ICC profiles including a shading table?  
(Direct application)

## Spatial color characterization

- Subjective, perceptual spatial uniformity
  - Limit of colorimetry
  - Metric and criteria of spatial uniformity
  - Image quality
    - The content will influence the perceived uniformity  
(Applied and fundamental research)

## Personal bibliography related to this thesis

### Journals:

**The PLVC display color characterization model revisited**, Jean Baptiste THOMAS, Jon HARDEBERG, Irène FOUCHEROT, Pierre GOUTON, Color Research & Application., 33 (6), pp. 449-460, 2008.

**A geometrical approach for inverting display color-characterization models**, Jean Baptiste THOMAS, Philippe COLANTONI, Jon HARDEBERG, Irène FOUCHEROT, Pierre GOUTON, Journal of the Society for Information Display, 16 (10), pp. 1021-1031, 2008.

**Spatial non-uniformity of color features in projection displays: A quantitative analysis**, Jean-Baptiste Thomas, Arne Magnus Bakke, Jérémie Gerhardt, submitted to Journal of Imaging Science and Technology, in review process.

### Conferences:

**A color management process for real time color reconstruction of multispectral images**, Philippe COLANTONI, Jean Baptiste THOMAS, 16th Scandinavian Conference on Image Analysis, Springer Verlag, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, 5575, Oslo, Norway, 2009.

**Common assumptions in color characterization of projectors**, Arne Magnus Bakke, Jean-Baptiste Thomas, Jérémie Gerhardt, GCIS09, Proc. of Gjøvik Color Imaging Symposium, 4, Gjøvik, Norway, pp. 45-53, 2009.

**A colorimetric study of spatial uniformity in projection displays**, Jean Baptiste THOMAS, Arne Magnus BAKKE, CCIW09, Springer Verlag, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, 5646, Saint-Etienne, France, pp. 160-169, 2009.

**An inverse display color characterization model based on an optimized geometrical structure**, Jean Baptiste THOMAS, Philippe COLANTONI, Jon HARDEBERG, Irène FOUCHEROT, Pierre GOUTON, Color Imaging XIII: Processing, Hardcopy, and Applications, 6807, Proc SPIE, San Jose, California, USA, 6807, pp. 68070A-1-12, 2008.

**Verification and extension of a camera-based end-user calibration method for projection displays**, Espen MIKALSEN, Jon HARDEBERG, Jean Baptiste THOMAS, Proc. CGIV 2008, IS&T, Terrassa, Spain, pp. 575-579, 2008.

**Additivity based LC display color characterization**, Jean Baptiste THOMAS, Jon HARDEBERG, Irène FOUCHEROT, Pierre GOUTON, Gjøvik Color Imaging Symposium, Gjøvik, Norway, June 2007.

# Takk for oppmerksomheten

# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

# Merci de votre attention

Le2I, Université de  
Bourgogne,  
Dijon, France

## QUESTIONS ?

Colorlab, Gjøvik  
University College,  
Gjøvik, Norway



Fonds social européen

Work co-funded by the FSE



colorlab.no

The Norwegian Color Research Laboratory

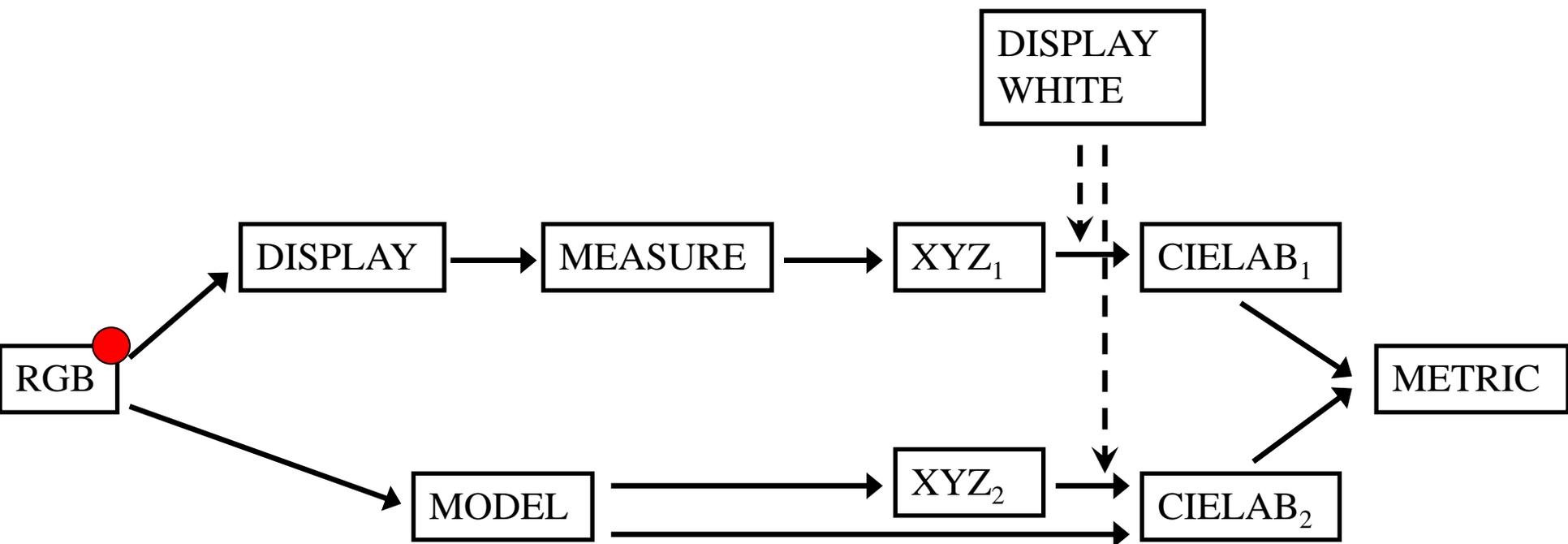


## Color metrology

- Metric

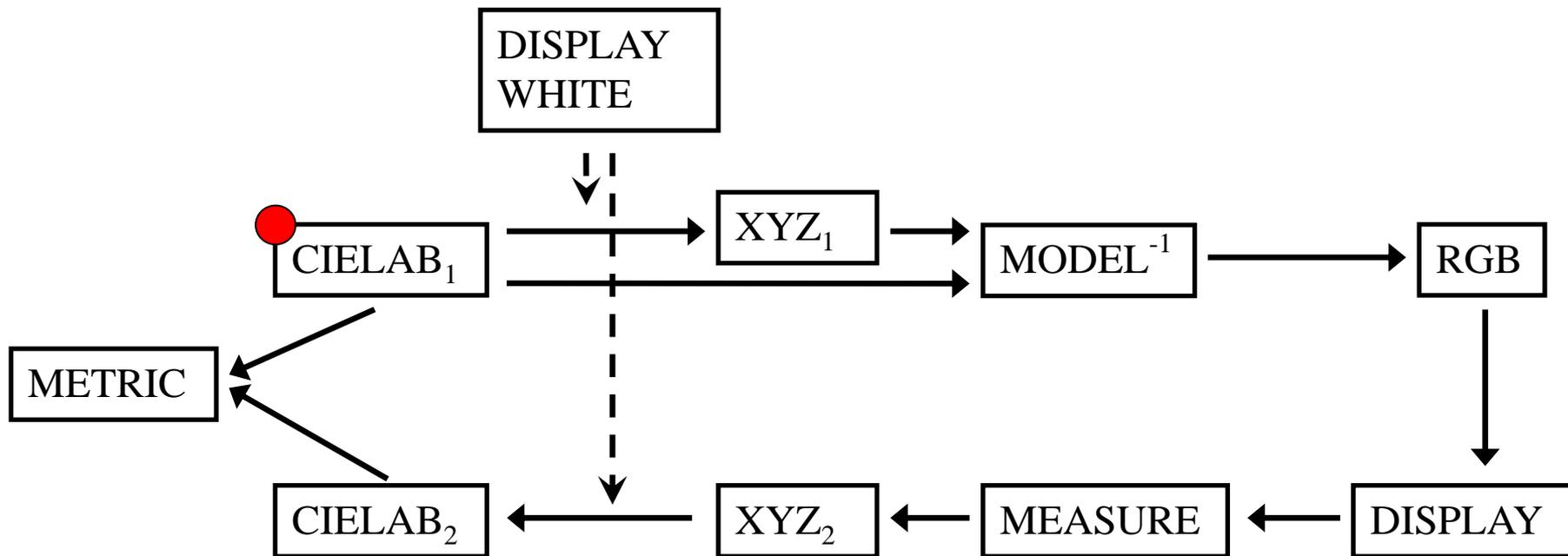
- Choice of  $\Delta E_{ab}^* = [(\Delta L^*)^2 + (\Delta a^*)^2 + (\Delta b^*)^2]^{1/2}$
- Easy to compare with other works (most of works presents  $\Delta E_{ab}^*$ , some works 94, 00)
- Standards in  $\Delta E_{ab}^*$  (as far as I know)
- No specific parameters to tune
- Always more severe than  $\Delta E_{94}^*$ ,  $\Delta E_{00}^*$

## Evaluation: Forward



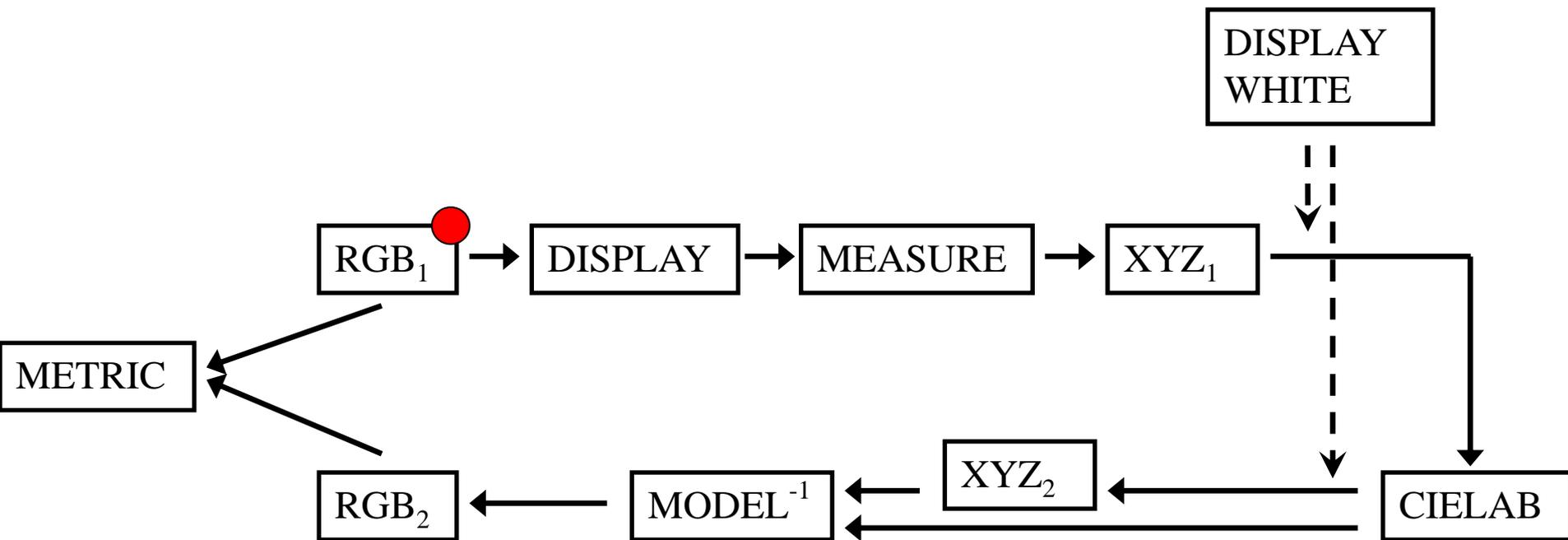
*Evaluation of a forward model scheme*

## Evaluation: Inverse 1



*Perceptual evaluation of the inverse model*

## Evaluation: Inverse 2



*Evaluation of the model inversion*