# S1 appendix to "A model of colour appearance based on efficient coding of natural images" by Jolyon Troscianko \& Daniel Osorio 



The ability of humans and other animals to perceive contrasts is dependent on the spatial frequency of those contrasts. Contrast sensitivity functions describe the contrast a of a sinwave that is detectable at different spatial frequencies. A related phenomenon is contrast constancy, where suprathreshold contrasts appear to be uniform irrespective of spatial frequency.

| Contrast sensitivity <br> functions | Sinewaves are generated with specific <br> Michelson contrasts to ensure the model <br> only permits detectable contrasts. | Generated | Removes sub- <br> threshold <br> contrasts, <br> matching CSF |
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| Contrast constancy | Suprathreshold sinewaves of different <br> spatial frequencies should have equal <br> amplitudes. | Suprathreshold contrast constancy is enhanced by saturation thresholds <br> preventing multiplicative gain effects. |  |

 This family of illusions causes grey targets to differ in perceived brightness dependent on the arrangement of (typically high contrast) surrounds. Some of the
illusions, such as simultaneous contrast and Mach bands have traditionally been attributed to centre-surround antagonism [18]. However the White illusions create the opposite effect, and have variously been attributed to oriented filtering with normalisation [3, 19], T-junctions [e.g. 20], Gestalt/grouping/anchoring based mechanisms [5]. A further set of illusions have been attributed to 3D surface and lighting based inferences [see 20], or atmospheric-based inferences [see 20].
A grey bar flanked by black appears
darker than the same grey flanked by
white




|  | variance and therefore the magnitude of <br> differences. Moreover, we note that the <br> effects our Gabor model fails to predict <br> well are also effects that are only |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| marginally visible to us. |  |

Contrast induction
A target's internal contrast is influenced by the contrast of its surrounds. The causes are unclear, though are generally thought to depend on local normalisation of contrasts.


$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Colour constancy } & \text { Colour constancy causes surfaces to appear to have the same colour under different lighting colours, generally attributed to chromatic adaptation. The } \\ \text { and chromatic } & \text { mechanism by which this occurs is poorly understood, and models of whole scene averages, local surround averages and local maxima do not explain the }\end{array}$ adaptation effects fully [21].


Chromatic simultaneou contrast

Simultaneous contrast causes a target's colour to shift in the opposite direction as its surrounds. This was one of the first visual illusions to have been described 1000 years ago by lbn al-Haytham [23], who noted that green paint surrounded by blue appeared red-tinted, while the same paint surrounded by yellow appeared green-tinted.

| Chromatic | This example from Fairchild [13] shows a |
| :--- | :--- |
| simultaneous | blue-yellow grating. The red squares | simultaneous contrast (upper image) all have the same colour, and the blue squares (lower image) all have the same colour. Simultaneous contrast causes the upper left red to shift to blue/purple, and the upper right red to shift to yellow/orange. Likewise the lower left blue shifts to darker blue and the lower right shifts to pale green.

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Colour Assimilation Also known as the von Bezold spreading effect, this causes a colour to blend with the colour of its surrounds under certain circumstances. This is the opposite of simultaneous contrast, and early research established the conditions that cause each situation.
This illusion developed by David Novick
places beige spheres behind a colour
grating (all these spheres are the same
colour). Spreading causes dramatic colour
shifts in the spheres depending on the
colour of grating in front of them, making
them appear red, green or blue.

## Colour Illusions

A number of the brightness illusions above are also powerful in a chromatic context (though not all). Interesting exceptions include illusory spots such as the Hermann grid (which our model suggests requires orientation-sensitive filters.

|  | Chromatic Chevreul staircase | The concentric circles on the left appear to have internal gradients, but they are actually uniform flat colours. The black line surrounding the circles on the right eliminates the effect. | Adapted from [15] \& [22] | The model is able to simulate the gradients in the staircase, and the control does show flat steps (although the effect reduces toward the centre) | The output figure here shows the RG signal, processed with a bandwidth of 5 | ${ }^{M}$ MWN |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Patterns increase perceived saturation | Shapley et al. [22] show that a checker pattern (left) is perceived to have a higher saturation than the same colour averaged over a larger area (right), even though both have the same average cone stimulation. |  | We simulated Sh input image's RG axis). The outpu increases more axis). | ey et al.'s [22] data by multiplying the gnal by different values (graph's xsignal for the checker pattern the area-averaged RG value ( $y$ - |  |

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