



Standard Practice for Specifying and Matching Color Using the Colorcurve System¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 1541; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

The COLORCURVE[®] System² provides a systematic array of color samples whose arrangement has a simple relationship to the international CIE 1964 system, described in Test Method E 308 and used widely in industry to specify color and color differences from instrumental measurements. The system is based on four main elements: (1) aim points displayed on CIE (CIELAB) a^* , b^* planes at constant L^* ; (2) atlases containing physical representations of those aim points; (3) tables of spectral and colorimetric data for those aim points; and (4) computational methods and computer software that furnish Colorcurve notations and reflectances when CIE data are entered, or tristimulus values and reflectance data when Colorcurve notations are entered. The tristimulus data can be used in color formulation software to formulate specimens with minimum metamerism to the atlas samples.

The Master Atlas consists of 1231 atlas samples approximating the computed aim points and the corresponding data tables. A separate Gray and Pastel Atlas contains 956 additional samples, for a total of 2187 unique samples.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice provides a means for specifying the colors of objects in terms of the Colorcurve system. Both computational and visual methods are included. This practice is applicable to inked, painted, dyed, or mass-colored surfaces viewed by an observer with normal color vision.

1.2 This practice includes a method for producing a color specimen to match a Colorcurve sample.

1.3 This practice does not cover the preparation of specimens. If specimen preparation is required in conjunction with this practice, a mutually agreed upon procedure shall be established.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E12 on Color and Appearance and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E12.07 on Color Order Systems.

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² Colorcurve[®] is a registered U.S. trademark used by ASTM International under the authorization of Colorcurve Systems, Inc. Aspects of Colorcurve technology are covered by U.S. Patent 5 012 482.

- D 1729 Practice for Visual Appraisal of Color and Color Differences of Diffusely-Illuminated Opaque Materials³
- E 284 Terminology of Appearance³
- E 308 Practice for Computing the Colors of Objects by Using the CIE System³
- E 1164 Practice for Obtaining Spectrophotometric Data for Object-Color Evaluation³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of appearance terms in Terminology E 284 are applicable to this practice.

3.2 Definitions:

3.2.1 *chromaticness, n*—the attribute of visual sensation combining the hue and saturation.

3.2.2 *hue, n*—the attribute of color perception by means of which an object is judged to be red, yellow, green, blue, purple, or intermediate between some adjacent pair of these, considered in a closed ring (red and purple being an adjacent pair).

3.3 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.3.1 *Colorcurve atlas, n*—physical exemplification of the Colorcurve system, consisting of a three-dimensional array of 2187 samples displayed on CIELAB cartesian coordinates in two atlases.

3.3.2 *Colorcurve system, n*—a color order system based on the CIE 1964 space, which uses the CIELAB L^* lightness scale

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 06.01.

($L^* = L$) and in which chromaticity is represented by opponent-color scales R/G (reds-greens) and Y/B (yellows-blues).

3.3.3 *lattice scaling constant, n*—ratio of the distance between adjacent samples at a system boundary (CIELAB chroma $C^* = 60$ for a major or minor hue axis) and the distance between the major and adjacent minor hue axes. In the Colorcurve system, this is 1/7.

3.3.4 *major hue axis, n*—in the Colorcurve system, central vertical or horizontal axis, that is, a line of sample points whose notations contain only a single hue term, for example, L45 R3.

3.3.5 *minor hue axis, n*—in the Colorcurve system, central diagonal axis, that is, a line of sample points whose notations contain two hue terms in the same amounts, for example, L45 R3Y3.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 *Visual Method of Determining Colorcurve Notations*—Colorcurve atlas samples are used as references in judging the color of a specimen. Observers shall have normal color vision. Good illumination by either natural daylight or any broad band source shall be used. Specimens shall be viewed on a background with lightness similar to that of the Colorcurve atlas samples with which the specimen is being compared.

4.2 *Computation Method of Determining Colorcurve Notations*—CIE 1964 tristimulus values for standard illuminant D65 and the 1964 supplementary (10°) standard observer are obtained from spectrophotometric or spectrocolorimetric measurements. See Practice E 308 and Practice E 1164. Available computer software can be used to convert the tristimulus values into Colorcurve notations. A Colorcurve notation can be estimated without software by interpolating between the tristimulus values for Colorcurve samples listed in Table 1 or in the data tables furnished with the Colorcurve atlases.

4.3 *Determining Tristimulus Values for Colorcurve Notations*—Tristimulus values for a Colorcurve sample, or color specimen for which a Colorcurve notation is known, are found by referring to Table 1, or the data tables furnished with the Colorcurve atlases. If the specimen's Colorcurve notation lies between those listed in the table, a method of calculating the specimen's tristimulus values is given.

4.4 *Method for Formulating Matches*—The spectrophotometric or spectrocolorimetric data given in the atlas for the chosen aim color are entered into a computer with formulation software, which calculates the match using the colorants characterized in the software.



TABLE 1 Continued

Table with 20 columns (Colorcurve, 400, 420, 440, 460, 480, 500, 520, 540, 560, 580, 600, 620, 640, 660, 680, 700, L*, a*, b*, X, Y, Z) and 28 rows of colorimetric data for various color curves.



TABLE 1 Continued

Table with 20 columns (Colorcurve, 400, 420, 440, 460, 480, 500, 520, 540, 560, 580, 600, 620, 640, 660, 680, 700, L*, a*, b*, X, Y, Z) and 100 rows of colorimetric data.



TABLE 1 Continued

Table with columns: Colorcurve, 400, 420, 440, 460, 480, 500, 520, 540, 560, 580, 600, 620, 640, 660, 680, 700, L*, a*, b*, X, Y, Z. The table lists colorimetric data for various color curves (L80 G3Y3 to L82.50 G1).



TABLE 1 Continued

Table with 20 columns (Colorcurve, 400, 420, 440, 460, 480, 500, 520, 540, 560, 580, 600, 620, 640, 660, 680, 700, L*, a*, b*, X, Y, Z) and 30 rows of data points.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Notational systems that specify and identify colors, and sets of samples that exemplify the systems, have proved to be very useful. The Colorcurve system specifies a large number of sample aim points derived by linear interpolation in CIE 1964 X, Y, Z space within regions bounded by a major and minor hue axis and displayed on CIE 1976 (CIELAB) cartesian coordinates. Colored samples approximating many of these aim points are available in the Colorcurve atlases.⁴ This practice describes how to assign a Colorcurve notation to a color specimen, which gives its position within the Colorcurve system.

5.2 When a color sample has been specified, there is a need for a method to match that color as closely as possible. The Colorcurve system includes the data necessary to minimize metamerism between a Colorcurve sample and a color formulated to match the sample. This practice describes the use of these data.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Visual Method*—Colorcurve system Master Atlas or Gray and Pastel Atlas.⁴

6.2 *Instrumental Method*—Spectrophotometer or spectroradiometer.

6.3 *Color Matching*—Spectrophotometer or spectroradiometer with color formulating software.

7. Description of the Colorcurve System

7.1 Form of the Colorcurve System:

7.1.1 The Colorcurve system has 18 lightness levels beginning at CIELAB $L^* = 30$ and extending upward to the lightest specimens at $L^* = 95$. Each lightness level has a neutral gray at its center and four major hue axes, which divide the color grid into four quadrants. As displayed in the atlas, samples on the vertical axis move upward from blues toward yellows. On the horizontal axis, reds are on the righthand side, and greens are on the left-hand side. Other color samples, which combine two of the major hues in varying proportions, are positioned in the quadrant between the major hues they contain.

NOTE 1—The conventional terms red, green, yellow, and blue are used throughout this practice for convenience; however, this does not imply that the R/G and Y/B axes indicate the locations of the corresponding unitary hues.

7.1.2 Colorcurve notations have two parts, separated by a space; the first part gives the lightness level of the color, and the second gives its chromatic content. An example is L65 R3Y4, in which the L65 signifies a lightness of 65 and the R3Y4 signifies that the color lies three steps from the achromatic axis along the R axis and four steps from the achromatic axis along the Y axis.

7.1.2.1 The data tables included with the atlases contain the spectral reflectance data at 16 points for every atlas sample. These tables describe the aim points quantitatively in three ways: by spectral reflectance values, CIE tristimulus values, and CIELAB values.

NOTE 2—The spectrophotometric data present what the ideal curve of each colored sample would be if it were a perfect match to the theoretical aim point. This ideal curve was calculated using optical constants that describe the color characteristics of each pigment used to make each sample. In some cases, these calculations result in a curve that deviates slightly from the ideal curve of a perfect match. When this variant curve is used to calculate the tristimulus values, these values could differ from the theoretical values. The differences typically are 0.01 to 0.05 in $X, Y,$ or Z .

7.2 *Basis for the Colorcurve System*—The Colorcurve system is based on a simple additive technique that is used to generate aim points for the samples. These are derived from nine starting points (CIELAB a^*, b^* values) at 18 lightness levels (L^*). The lightness levels and gray-point tristimulus values are given in Table 2, and the CIELAB a^* and b^* coordinates for the starting points are given in Table 3.

7.2.1 The CIE tristimulus values, X, Y, Z , for the starting points were combined in appropriate proportions to populate the space. An example of the combining procedure is given in Table 4.

NOTE 3—Tristimulus values (X, Y, Z), not colorants, were combined.

7.2.2 The lattice scaling constant used in the system is 1/7. By using the nine starting points of Table 3, this provides seven intervals between samples along lines connecting adjacent major and minor hue axes at CIELAB chroma $C^* = 60$. Fig. 1 provides an example of the lattice points at a single lightness level ($L^* = 65$), plotted on the CIELAB a^*, b^* diagram. There are 28 lattice points for the chromatic colors in each octant (omitting those on one axis to avoid double counting), or 55 in each quadrant, plus one achromatic point common to all. The Colorcurve atlas contains as many samples at those aim points as can be produced by use of the selected pigments. Table 5 lists the pigments used in producing the atlas samples.

7.2.3 Tristimulus values are additive in the Colorcurve system, but CIELAB values are not. Although lightness levels in the Colorcurve system are the same as CIELAB lightness levels, these lightness levels do not have equal visual spacing.

7.2.4 The additivity rule for the Colorcurve system states that each tristimulus value of a mixture point is the sum of contributions from the tristimulus values of the two end points

TABLE 2 The Lightness Levels of the Colorcurve System

Lightness Level, L^*	Tristimulus Values of Gray Point		
	X	Y	Z
30	5.92	6.24	6.70
35	8.06	8.50	9.13
40	10.67	11.25	12.08
45	13.79	14.54	15.61
50	17.47	18.42	19.78
55	21.74	22.93	24.62
60	26.66	28.12	30.20
65	32.29	34.05	36.56
70	38.64	40.75	43.76
75	45.78	48.28	51.84
80	53.75	56.68	60.86
82.5	58.06	61.23	65.75
85	62.59	66.01	70.88
87.5	67.36	71.03	76.27
90	72.35	76.30	81.93
92.5	77.60	81.83	87.87
93.75	80.31	84.69	90.94
95	83.09	87.62	94.09

⁴ Available from Colorcurve Systems, Inc., 123 N. Third St., Minneapolis, MN 55401.

TABLE 3 Colorcurve a*b* Starting Points for all Lightness Levels

	a*	b*
Red	60	0
Orange	42.5	42.5
Yellow	0	60
Yellow/Green	-42.5	42.5
Green	-60	0
Blue/Green	-42.5	-42.5
Blue	0	-60
Purple	42.5	-42.5
Gray	0	0

being mixed, each weighted by its proportion in the mixture. This additivity implies that tristimulus values are related linearly in the Colorcurve system. However, the user should be warned that to calculate the tristimulus values of an intermediate sample that will fall on one of the eight axes, the data must come from points that bracket the desired point on the same axis. To calculate the tristimulus values of a sample not on a major or minor axis, the data must come from positions that bracket the desired point and lie within an octant bounded by a major and an adjacent minor hue axis. This warning applies to interpolation between points on a single lightness plane since, in this practice, interpolation between lightness planes is conducted first, using the *Y* tristimulus values. These restrictions apply to all calculations assuming additivity, including those in paragraph 7.3, Sections 9 and 10, and the appendixes of this practice.

7.3 Locations of Aim Points and Extrapolations Beyond the Original Boundaries of the System—The tristimulus values of any desired aim point can be determined by use of the following equation, which applies to aim points both within and beyond the boundaries of the system described in 7.2.2, Table 4, and Fig. 1. The equation applies to any plane of constant lightness; thus, there is no equation for tristimulus value *Y*. They are as follows:

$$X = (1/7)[(7 - a)X_{\text{gray}} + bX_{\text{minor}} + (a - b)X_{\text{major}}] \quad (1)$$

$$Z = (1/7)[(7 - a)Z_{\text{gray}} + bZ_{\text{minor}} + (a - b)Z_{\text{major}}]$$

where:

- 1/7 = lattice scaling constant,
- a* = largest value of R, G, Y, or B in the lattice point notation,
- b* = the smallest value of R, G, Y, or B,
- X_{gray} and Z_{gray} = tristimulus values of the achromatic or neutral point at the specified lightness level (Table 2),
- X_{minor} and Z_{minor} = tristimulus values of the $C^* = 60$ point on the minor hue axis nearest to the point sought, and
- X_{major} and Z_{major} = tristimulus values of the $C^* = 60$ point on the major hue axis nearest to the point sought.

Note that all values of *X* and *Z* called for in these equations should be rounded to two figures after the decimal point (as in Table 1). For points on a major hue axis, $b = 0$ and the second term in the equation is zero. For points on a minor hue axis, $a = b$ and the third term is zero. Examples of the use of (Eq 1) are given in Appendix X1 (see also 9.2.2).

8. Colorcurve System Notations by Visual Means

8.1 Lighting and Viewing Conditions:

8.1.1 Observers—The samples and specimens should be viewed by observers with normal color vision.

8.1.2 Use of Natural Daylight—Select a window in which the sun is not shining. A north window is usually selected in the northern hemisphere. Place a table by the window so that light reaches the table top from the observer's side, chiefly from the sky, and at angles centering on 45° from the horizontal. Place a canopy of black cloth above the working surface to prevent errors caused by reflections of light from the ceiling or room objects in the surface of the specimen. View the specimen along a direction just far enough from the perpendicular to avoid reflection from the observer's forehead. The directions of illumination and viewing may be reversed with equivalent results. When using reverse conditions, namely, illumination along the normal and viewing at 45° from normal, a black cloth should be hung opposite to the observer to avoid extraneous reflections being seen on the surfaces of the specimens.

8.1.3 Use of Artificial Light—When choosing a color from a Colorcurve atlas, a color-matching viewing booth or any broad band artificial source that produces a good level of illumination is suitable. Both daylight and incandescent sources are satisfactory. When obtaining a Colorcurve notation for a color specimen that does not contain the same colorants as the Colorcurve samples to which it is compared, use the light source under which the specimen will usually be seen. The provisions of 8.1.2 shall be followed in other respects (see Practice D 1729).

8.2 Selecting a Color From the Colorcurve System—Choose a sample from either of the Colorcurve atlases, and record its notation and the light source used. If the desired color falls between Colorcurve samples, estimate its relative position between those samples and record its notation as a decimal fraction.

NOTE 4—Minor errors may occur because atlas samples may not lie exactly on aim points.

8.3 Determining the Colorcurve System Notation for a Color Specimen:

8.3.1 Locate the page in the appropriate atlas that contains samples with the same lightness as the specimen. Assign the specimen the lightness number for that page. If the lightness of the specimen falls between the lightnesses of the specimens on two adjacent pages, estimate its relative position between the two lightnesses and assign the specimen the appropriate lightness notation as a decimal fraction.

8.3.2 Use a mask to isolate the same size areas of the specimen and Colorcurve samples. Use a white mask when judging light specimens, a gray mask for mid-range specimens, and a black mask for dark specimens. Assign the specimen the notation of the matching Colorcurve sample. If no matching sample exists, locate the two Colorcurve samples between which the specimen falls in chromaticness. Estimate its relative position between the samples, and assign the specimen the appropriate notation as a decimal fraction, for example, L65.5 R3.3 Y4.5.

8.3.3 Record and report the light source used when determining the notation.

TABLE 4 Additive Combination Scheme for the Yellow-Orange-Red Quadrant of the Colorcurve System (Upper Right Quadrant in Fig. 1)^A

Color		Percent in Mixture							
Y7	Y	100	86	71	57	43	29	14	0
	O	0	14	29	43	57	71	86	100
	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y6	Y	86	71	57	43	29	14	0	0
	O	0	14	29	43	57	71	86	86
	G	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	0
	R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Y5	Y	71	57	43	29	14	0	0	0
	O	0	14	29	43	57	71	71	71
	G	29	29	29	29	29	29	14	0
	R	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	29
Y4	Y	57	43	29	14	0	0	0	0
	O	0	14	29	43	57	57	57	57
	G	43	43	43	43	43	29	14	0
	R	0	0	0	0	0	14	29	43
Y3	Y	43	29	14	0	0	0	0	0
	O	0	14	29	43	43	43	43	43
	G	57	57	57	57	43	29	14	0
	R	0	0	0	0	14	29	43	57
Y2	Y	29	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
	O	0	14	29	29	29	29	29	29
	G	71	71	71	57	43	29	14	0
	R	0	0	0	14	29	43	57	71
Y1	Y	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	O	0	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
	G	86	86	71	57	43	29	14	0
	R	0	0	14	29	43	57	71	86
	Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	G	100	86	71	57	43	29	14	0
	R	0	14	29	43	57	71	86	100
N		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	

^A Each group of four numbers, arranged vertically, represents the proportions of the yellow (Y), orange (O), gray (G), and red (R) starting point colors of Table 3 in one of the aim points in the quadrant. The chromatic notations of the points are found by combining the row and column notations at the left and bottom of the table; for example, the point at the upper right has the chromatic notation R7Y7. Note that not all of the aim points correspond to samples in the Colorcurve atlas; see Table 1. Similar schemes for the remaining quadrants can be derived by changing the starting point colors from Table 3. Percentages are rounded; they are exactly 0/7, 1/7, 2/7 ... 7/7 times 100.

9. Determining CIE Data from the Colorcurve Notation of a Color Specimen

9.1 If the Colorcurve sample was selected from one of the atlases, or a specimen was matched to a Colorcurve sample, under natural daylight or Illuminant D65, proceed to 9.2.

9.1.1 If the sample was selected, or matched, under another source, follow the procedures in Practice E 308 (see Note 4 and Note 5) to convert the reflectance values in Table 1 to CIE tristimulus values and then, if desired, to CIELAB notations. In the calculations, use the illuminant corresponding to that source, the CIE 1964 supplementary (10°) standard observer, and a 20-nm wavelength measurement interval, bandpass, and summation interval.

NOTE 5—Each Colorcurve notation is based on a specific reflectance curve; therefore, if the specimen has the same reflectance curve as a Colorcurve sample, although the specimen and corresponding sample will change appearance under different light sources, the relationship between them will remain constant.

NOTE 6—When calculating tristimulus values by the weighted-ordinate method for use with the Colorcurve system, sets of tristimulus weighting factors compatible with those used when the system was defined must be used for highest accuracy. Sets of tristimulus weight factors should be selected from among those given in Practice E 308, Tables 5 or 6 in editions dated 1995 or later. See also 10.1. Specifically, if standard illuminant D65 and the 1964 supplementary standard observer are used, the weight sets in Tables 5.19, 5.20, 6.19, or 6.20 should be used. See elsewhere in Practice E 308 for further information.

9.1.2 If illumination was by a source not listed in Practice E 308, the spectral power distribution of the light source must be determined and then the appropriate weighting applied (see Note 5 and Note 6).

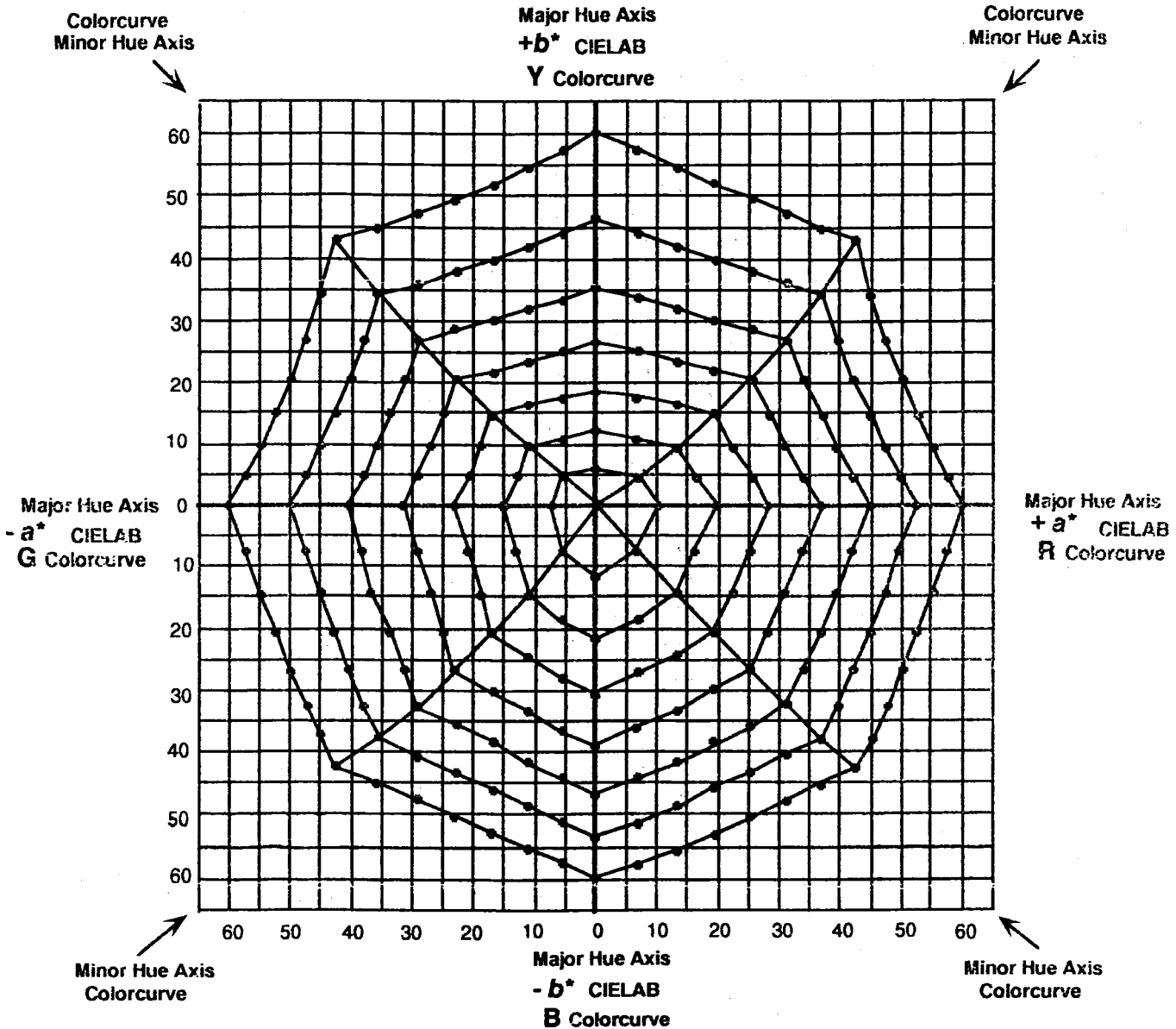
9.2 *Tristimulus Values*—Refer to Table 5 or the tables furnished with the Colorcurve atlases.

9.2.1 If the exact Colorcurve notation of the specimen is found in the tables, read the corresponding tristimulus values to the right on the same row.

9.2.2 If the exact Colorcurve notation of the specimen is not found in the tables, its tristimulus values can be found by use of the CIELAB equations and (Eq 1). Tristimulus value *Y* must first be found from the value of *L* for the specimen, which is the same numerically as CIELAB *L**. Note that Table 1 and the Colorcurve tables contain only aim points for which atlas samples exist; (Eq 1) may require use of the tristimulus values of other aim points, representing the ends of major and minor hue axes. These can be determined from their CIELAB coordinates in Table 3, as described in Appendix X2.

9.2.2.1 It is convenient to use the CIELAB equations in reverse form (Billmeyer and Saltzman,⁵ p. 63). Tristimulus values *X* and *Z* may be found by use of the reverse CIELAB

⁵ Billmeyer, F.W., Jr., and Saltzman, M., *Principles of Color Technology*, 2nd ed., Wiley, New York, NY, 1981.



NOTE 1—This figure compares the spacing of points in the Colorcurve and CIELAB systems, but provides no information stating which, if either, is more nearly equally visually spaced.

FIG. 1 Colorcurve System Lattice Points for $L^* = 65$ Plotted in the CIELAB a^* , b^* Diagram

TABLE 5 Colorcurve Pigments

Pigment	Colour Index Name	Colour Index Number	Manufacturer	Manufacturer's Code
1. Lampblack	Pigment Black 6	77266	Gen. Carbon	Lampblack Superfine #0
2. Titanium dioxide	Pigment White 6	77891	Du Pont	TiPure R902
3. Light yellow	Hoechst	Novoperm Yellow F2G-A
4. Permanent orange	Pigment Orange 43	71105	Hoechst	Hostaperm Orange GR
5. Quinacridone red	Pigment Violet 19	73900	Hoechst	Hostaperm Red E5B-02
6. Carbazole violet	Pigment Violet 23	51319	Hoechst	Hostaperm Violet RL
7. Phthalocyanine blue	Pigment Blue 15	74160	Heubach	Heucophthal Blue GF BT-617
8. Phthalocyanine	Pigment Green 7	74260	Sun Chemical	Phthalo Green 264-0414

equations containing a^* and b^* , followed by use of (Eq 1). Detailed examples of the procedures and their use are given in Appendix X2.

9.3 CIELAB Notations—Use Section 7 of Practice E 308 to calculate CIELAB notations from the tristimulus values of the specimen (see Note 5 and Note 6).

10. Colorcurve System Notations from CIE Measurement

10.1 Determine the spectral reflectance and tristimulus values of the specimen by measurements conforming to Practice E 1164 and Practice E 308, using illuminant D65 and the 1964 supplementary (10°) standard observer (see Note 5).

10.2 Reflectance values, tristimulus values, and CIELAB notations for Colorcurve samples are given in Table 1 and in the data tables furnished with the Colorcurve atlases. If the tristimulus values of the specimen are listed in the table, read the Colorcurve notation from the left-hand column. If the specimen's tristimulus values lie between the values given in the table, calculate the Colorcurve notation for the specimen by interpolation, as follows:

10.2.1 Calculate L^* from tristimulus value Y by using the CIELAB equations. See Practice E 308. An example calculation is given in Appendix X3.

10.2.2 Locate, on the nearest L^* plane to the value of L^* for the specimen, the nearest four lattice points surrounding the specimen, in terms of X and Z .

10.2.3 Repeat 10.2.2 for the nearest L^* plane on the other side of the L^* of the specimen.

10.2.4 By linear interpolation, calculate the values of X and Z for each of the surrounding points at the value of L^* of the specimen. Plot these points on a graph of X versus Z to confirm that the selection of points is correct. See Fig. X3.1 for an example.

10.2.5 From the graph, estimate the approximate decimal parts of the chromatic notation of the specimen. Refine the calculation, if necessary, following the example given in Appendix X3. There will usually be no change from the estimated decimal notations.

10.2.6 Combine the whole number and the decimal parts of the chromatic designations and, using the value of L^* calculated in 10.2.1, obtain the complete Colorcurve notation of the specimen.

11. Formulating a Specimen to Match a Colorcurve Sample

11.1 *Spectrophotometer or Spectrocolorimeter*—Locate the Colorcurve notation for the sample in Table 1, or in the data

tables furnished with the Colorcurve system. Enter the listed reflectance values for that Colorcurve notation into a color formulation system and calculate the least metameric formula with the colorants in the system. Matching reflectance curves will reduce to a minimum the metamerism between the Colorcurve sample and the formulated color specimen under different light sources. Corrections may have to be made for texture or gloss differences between the Colorcurve sample and the specimen.

NOTE 7—A typical formulation system uses spectrophotometric data. The computer tries all possible combinations of a group of colorants to determine which will make the least metameric match. This procedure involves iterating to find a combination with a minimum color difference in the primary light source and then computing the color difference for two other sources. The least metameric formula has the smallest color differences in all three sources. Matching reflectance values of the sample and the specimen at 20-nanometer intervals across the visible spectrum assures that the match will be preserved in all light sources.

12. Report

12.1 *Color Selected from One of the Colorcurve Atlases*—Report the Colorcurve notation for the sample and the light source used when the selection was made.

12.2 *Colorcurve Notation for a Color Specimen*—Report the Colorcurve notation for the specimen, the light source used, and whether or not the reflectance values of the sample and specimen are the same. If the specimen was measured, report instrument identification, illuminating and viewing geometry, and spectral bandpass (when selectable). Report that specular reflection was included in the measurement and the date of measurement.

12.3 *Specimen Formulated to Match a Colorcurve Sample*—Report the Colorcurve notation, CIE tristimulus values, reflectance values, and CIELAB notations, as $L^* a^* b^*$, for the specimen. Report the illuminant(s) used and that specular reflection was included.

13. Keywords

13.1 color; Colorcurve system; color matching; color order systems; color specification

APPENDIXES

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES OF THE USE OF EQ (1)

X1.1 The object of the examples is to calculate the tristimulus values of a point within the bounds of the atlas, and of an extrapolated point. In each case, whole-number Colorcurve notations are used; for other cases, see Appendix X2.

X1.2 *Example 1*—Calculate the tristimulus values of L65 R1Y4, which is within the defined lattice.

X1.2.1 Referring to (Eq 1), here $a = 4$ and $b = 1$. The nearest point on a major hue axis at $C^* = 60$ is L65 Y7; the nearest point on an adjacent minor hue axis at $C^* = 60$ is L65 R7Y7.

X1.2.2 For L65 N, from Table 2, $X_{\text{gray}} = 32.29$, $Y_{\text{gray}} = 34.05$, and $Z_{\text{gray}} = 36.56$. From Table 1 or the Colorcurve atlas table, for L65 R7Y7, $X_{\text{minor}} = 45.59$ and $Z_{\text{minor}} = 12.31$. Similarly, for L65 Y7, $X_{\text{major}} = 32.29$ and $Z_{\text{major}} = 6.78$.

X1.2.3 Substituting into (Eq 1),

$$X = (1/7)[(7 - 4)(32.29) + (1)(45.59) + (4 - 1)(32.29)] = 34.19 \quad (\text{X1.1})$$

$$Z = (1/7)[(7 - 4)(36.56) + (1)(12.31) + (4 - 1)(6.78)] = 20.33$$

The tristimulus values of L65 R1Y4 are thus $X = 34.19$, $Y = 34.05$, and $Z = 20.33$. Note that these values agree with those in Table 1.

X1.3 *Example 2*—Calculate the tristimulus values of L65 R7Y8, a point outside the lattice boundary.

X1.3.1 Here $a = 8$ and $b = 7$, and the major and minor axes are the same as those in Example 1. Substituting into (Eq 1),

$$X = (1/7)[(7 - 8)(32.29) + (7)(45.59) + (8 - 7)(32.29)] = 45.59 \quad (X1.2)$$

$$Z = (1/7)[(7 - 8)(36.56) + (7)(12.31) + (8 - 7)(6.78)] = 8.06$$

The tristimulus values of L65 R7Y8 are $X = 45.59$, $Y = 34.05$, and $Z = 8.06$.

X2. NUMERICAL EXAMPLE FOR CALCULATION OF TRISTIMULUS VALUES FROM COLORCURVE NOTATIONS

X2.1 The object of the example is to calculate the tristimulus values of a specimen with Colorcurve notation L65.5 R2.3B1.8. A computational method, based on the use of (Eq 1), is described.

X2.2 Here, in (Eq 1), $a = 2.3$ and $b = 1.8$. Tristimulus values X , Y , and Z are required for the neutral sample L65.5 N, and X and Z for samples L65.5 R7B7 on the minor axis and L65.5 R7 on the major axis. None of these is listed in Table 1, Table 3, or the Colorcurve atlas table.

X2.3 First obtain tristimulus value Y for $L = \text{CIELAB } L^* = 65.5$. It is most convenient to use the reverse CIELAB equations. The equation for Y is as follows:

$$Y = Y_n[(L^* + 16)/116]^3 \quad (X2.1)$$

The defining conditions for the Colorcurve system are the CIE 1964 supplementary standard observer and standard illuminant $D 65$, for which $X_n = 94.811$, $Y_n = 100.000$, and $Z_n = 107.304$ (Billmeyer and Saltzman,⁵ p. 62). Substituting,

$$Y = 100.000[(65.5 + 16)/116]^3 = 34.68 \quad (X2.2)$$

X2.4 Tristimulus values X_{gray} and Z_{gray} for L65.5 N may be found by using the remaining reverse CIELAB equations, noting that for the N sample $a^* = b^* = 0$:

$$X = X_n\{[(L^* + 16)/116] + a^*/500\}^3 \quad (X2.3)$$

$$X_{\text{gray}} = 94.811\{[(65.5 + 16)/116] + 0\}^3 = 32.88$$

Similarly,

$$Z = Z_n\{[(L^* + 16)/116] - b^*/200\}^3 \quad (X2.4)$$

$$Z_{\text{gray}} = 37.21$$

X2.5 Tristimulus values for samples with notations R7B7 or R7 do not appear in Table 1 or the Colorcurve atlas table for lightnesses near 65.5. They may be calculated by use of the reverse CIELAB equations and their defining values of a^* and b^* in Table 3, followed by the use of (Eq 1). In the latter table, note that notation R means red and notation RB mean purple. For example, for L65.5 R7B7,

$$X_{\text{minor}} = 94.811\{[(65.5 + 16)/116] + (42.5)/500\}^3 = 46.32 \quad (X2.5)$$

$$Z_{\text{minor}} = 107.304\{[(65.5 + 16)/116] - (-42.5)/200\}^3 = 82.22$$

Similarly, for L65.5 R7, $X_{\text{major}} = 52.77$ and $Z_{\text{major}} = 3721$.

X2.6 Substituting the above values into (Eq 1),

$$X = (1/7)[4.7(32.88) + 1.8(46.32) + 0.5(52.77)] = 37.76 \quad (X2.6)$$

$$Z = (1/7)[4.7(37.21) + 1.8(82.22) + 0.5(37.21)] = 48.78$$

X2.7 The tristimulus values corresponding to Colorcurve notation L65.5 R2.3B1.8 are $X = 37.76$, $Y = 34.68$, and $Z = 48.78$.

X3. NUMERICAL EXAMPLE FOR CALCULATION OF COLORCURVE NOTATIONS FROM TRISTIMULUS VALUES

X3.1 The object of the example is to calculate the Colorcurve notation corresponding to $X = 37.75$, $Y = 34.68$, and $Z = 48.80$.

X3.2 Using the CIELAB equations (see 7.4.1 in Practice E 308), calculate the value of L^* corresponding to $Y = 34.68$. It is 65.5. The constant-lightness planes in the Colorcurve lattice nearest this value are 65 and 70.

X3.3 In Table 1, locate four points that surround the specimen point on each plane.

X3.3.1 First locate in which quadrant of the Colorcurve lattice the specimen point will fall. This can be accomplished by calculating CIELAB a^* and b^* for the given tristimulus

values (see X3.2). If both a^* and b^* are positive, the specimen point will fall in the red-yellow quadrant; if a^* is negative and b^* positive, in the yellow-green quadrant; if both a^* and b^* are negative, in the green-blue quadrant; and if a^* is positive and b^* negative, in the blue-red quadrant. For the present example, the specimen point falls in the blue-red quadrant. See also Fig. 1 of this practice.

X3.3.2 The desired points are found to be the following:

Point	L^*	X	Y	Z
R2B1	65	36.99	34.05	42.93
R2B2	65	36.08	34.05	49.30
R3B1	65	39.80	34.05	42.93
R3B2	65	38.89	34.05	49.30
R2E1	70	43.91	40.75	50.82

R2B2	70	42.89	40.75	57.88
R3B1	70	47.04	40.75	50.82
R3B2	70	46.03	40.75	57.89

X3.4 From the above, calculate the tristimulus values of the four surrounding points at $L^* = 65.5$, using the relationship based on the additive linearity of the Colorcurve lattice (see 7.2.4). The value of $Y = 34.68$ for the desired point, at $L^* = 65.5$, is $(34.68 - 34.05)/(40.75 - 34.05) = 0.094 = 9.4\%$ of the distance between the Y value for $L^* = 65$ and $L^* = 70$. By additivity, the value of X for R2B1 (for example) at $L^* = 65.5$ is obtained by adding 9.4% of X at $L^* = 70$ and $(100 - 9.4) = 90.6\%$ of X at $L^* = 65$. The resulting tristimulus values for the four points required, at $L^* = 65.5$, are as follows:

Point	L^*	X	Y	Z
R2B1	65.5	37.64	34.68	43.67
R2B2	65.5	36.72	34.68	50.11
R3B1	65.5	40.48	34.68	43.67
R3B2	65.5	39.56	34.68	50.11

X3.5 Refer to Fig. X3.1. This is a small section of a constant-lightness plane of X versus Z , in which the four selected points surrounding the specimen point are the corners of a parallelogram. Also marked is Point D, the sample point. Using the additive linearity of the Colorcurve lattice, it is possible to estimate the two hue notations of this point to well within 0.1 unit from the graph. A graphical method is described.

X3.5.1 Draw lines on the graph through Point D that are accurately parallel to the pairs of sides of the parallelogram. These lines, between Points E and F, and between Points G and H, are shown in the figure.

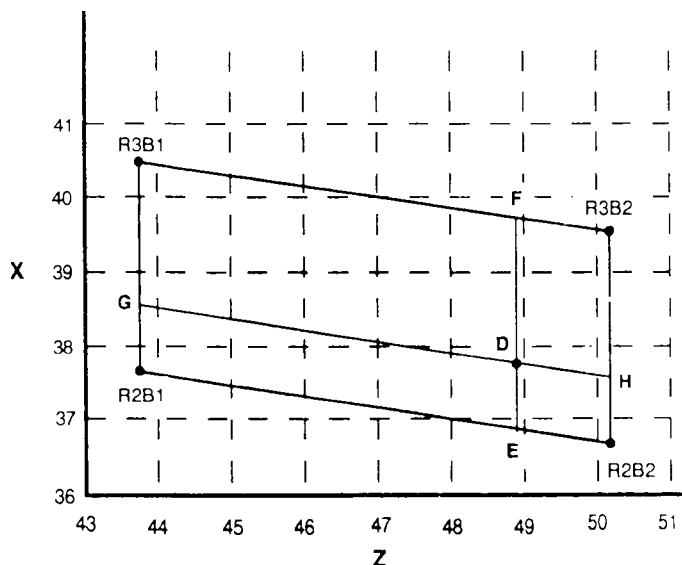


FIG. X3.1 Illustration of Calculation of Colorcurve Notation from Tristimulus Values

X3.5.2 Accurately measure the distances between the following Points: D and E, E and F, and D and G, and G and H.

X3.5.3 The decimal part of the R hue notation of Point D is given by the ratio of the distance from D to E to that from E to F. This ratio is 0.30. Thus, the complete red hue notation of D is R2.30. Similarly, the blue hue notation is found to be B1.80.

X3.6 Rounding to one decimal place, the full Colorcurve notation of the specimen is found to be L65.5 R2.3B1.8.

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