

Weber-Fechner law in CIE 230:2019 for threshold colour differences of surface colours

The Weber-Fechner law describes the lightness L_r^* as *logarithmic* function of L_r . For local adaptation to *Adjacent* colours there is a **visible contrast 100:1**.

The Stevens law describes the lightness L_{CIELAB}^* as *potential* function of $L_r = Y/5$. IEC 61966-2-1 uses a similar potential function $L_{\text{IEC}}^* = m L_r^{1/2,4}$.

For *separate* colours on a grey surround there is a **visible contrast 25:1=90:3,6**. see K. Richter, 2006, Relation of Weber and Stevens law at achromatic threshold. <http://farbe.tu-berlin.de/A/BAMAT.PDF>

Table 1: CIE tristimulus value Y, luminance L, and lightnesses L^*

Colour (matte)	Tristimulus value	office luminance	relative luminance	CIE lightness	relative lightness
(contrast) (25:1=90:3,6)	Y	L [cd/m ²]	L_r = L/L_Z	L_{CIELAB}^* ~ $m L_r^{1/2,4}$	L_r^* = $k \log(L_r)$
White W (paper)	90 =18*5	142 =28,2*5	5	94 =50+44	40 = $k \log(5)$
Grey Z (paper)	18	28,2	1	50	0 = $k \log(1)$
Black N (paper)	3,6 =18/5	5,6 28,2/5	0,2	18 50-32	-40 = $k \log(0,2)$

For the lightness range between $L_r^*=-40$ and 40 the constant is: $k=40/\log(5)=57$