

**Weber-Fechner law in CIE 230:2019 for threshold colour differences of surface colours and two ranges  $0,2 \leq L_r \leq 1$  and  $1 \leq L_r \leq 5$**

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

The *Weber-Fechner* law is equivalent to the linear equation:  $\Delta L_r = c_i L_r$  ( $i=0,1$ ) [1]

*Integration* leads to the logarithmic equation:  $L_r^* = k_i \log(L_r)$  ( $i=0,1$ ) [2]

*Derivation* leads for  $\Delta L_r^* = 1$  to the linear equation:  $L_r / \Delta L_r = k_i$  ( $k_0=46, k_1=63$ ) [3]

For colours in offices the **standard contrast range** is **25:1=90:3,6**.

**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 <sup>2</sup> ]	$L_r$ $=L/L_u$	$L_{\text{CIELAB}}^*$ $\sim m L_r^{1/2,4}$	$L_r^*$ $=k \log(L_r)$
White W (paper)	90 $=18 \cdot 5$	142 $=28,2 \cdot 5$	5	94 $=50+44$	44 $=k_1 \log(5)$
Grey Z (paper)	18	28,2	1	50	0 $=k_0 \log(1)$
Black N (paper)	3,6 $=18/5$	5,6 $28,2/5$	0,2	18 $50-32$	-32 $=k_0 \log(0,2)$

For the two lightness ranges it is  $k_0 = -32/\log(0,2) = 46$  and  $k_1 = 44/\log(5) = 63$ .