

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_{CIELAB}^* as *potential* function of $L_r=Y/5$. IEC 61966-2-1 uses a similar potential function $L_{IEC}^* = m L_r^{1/2,4}$.

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 |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <i>(contrast)</i> <i>(25:1=90:3,6)</i> | Y | L [cd/m ²] | L_r $=L/L_u$ | L_{CIELAB}^* $\sim m L_r^{1/2,4}$ | L_r^* $=k \log(L_r)$ |
| White W (paper) | 90 =18*5 | 142 =28,2*5 | 5 | 94 =50+44 | 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 $k_1=44/\log(5)=63$.