

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

The Weber-Fechner law describes the lightness  $L^*$ , as logarithmic function of  $L_r$ .  
 The Stevens law describes the lightness  $L^*$  as potential function of  $L_r = \gamma L_r$ .  
 IEC 61966-2-1 uses a similar potential function  $L_{TC}^* = m L_r^{1/2.4}$ .  
 The Weber-Fechner law is equivalent to the equation:  $\Delta L_r = c L_r$  [1]  
 Integration leads to the logarithmic equation:  $L_r^* = k \log(L_r)$  [2]  
 Derivation for  $\Delta L_r = 1$  leads to the linear equation:  $L_r \Delta L_r = k_0$  ( $k_0 = 46, k_1 = 63$ ) [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 Y	office luminance L [cd/m <sup>2</sup> ]	relative luminance $L_r = L/L_u$	CIE lightness $L^*$	relative lightness $L_r^* = L^*/L_u^*$
White W (paper)	90	142	5	94	44
Grey Z (paper)	18	28,2	1	50	0
Black N (paper)	3,6	5,6	0,2	18	-32

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

**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  $1 \leq L_r \leq 5$**

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 IEC 61966-2-1 uses a similar potential function  $L_{TC}^* = m L_r^{1/2.4}$ .  
 The Weber-Fechner law is equivalent to the linear equation:  $\Delta L_r = c L_r$  ( $c = 0.1$ ) [1]  
 Integration leads to the logarithmic equation:  $L_r^* = k_1 \log(L_r)$  ( $k_1 = 46$ ) [2]  
 Derivation for  $\Delta L_r = 1$  leads to the linear equation:  $L_r \Delta L_r = k_0$  ( $k_0 = 46, k_1 = 63$ ) [3]  
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For the two lightness ranges it is  $k_0 = -32 \log(0.2) = 46$  and  $k_1 = 44 \log(5) = 63$ .

**line element of Stiles (1946) with „color values”  $L_P, M_D, S_T$**

**three separate color signal functions**

$$F(L_P) = i \ln(1 + 9 L_P)$$

$$F(M_D) = j \ln(1 + 9 M_D)$$

$$F(S_T) = k \ln(1 + 9 S_T)$$

**Taylor-derivations:**

$$\Delta F(L_P, M_D, S_T) = \frac{dF}{dL_P} \Delta L_P + \frac{dF}{dM_D} \Delta M_D + \frac{dF}{dS_T} \Delta S_T$$

$$= \frac{9i}{1+9L_P} \Delta L_P + \frac{9j}{1+9M_D} \Delta M_D + \frac{9k}{1+9S_T} \Delta S_T$$

**line element of Vos & Walraven (1972) with „color values”  $L_P, M_D, S_T$**

**three separate color signal functions**

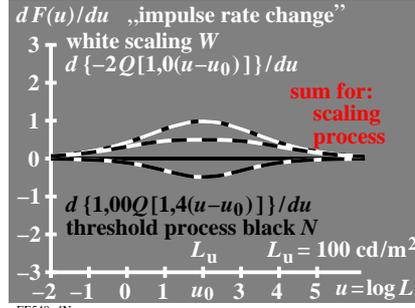
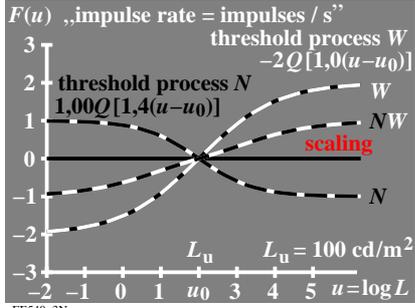
$$F(L_P) = -2i \sqrt{L_P}$$

$$F(M_D) = -2j \sqrt{M_D}$$

$$F(S_T) = -2k \sqrt{S_T}$$

**Taylor-derivations:**

$$\Delta F(L_P, M_D, S_T) = \frac{dF}{dL_P} \Delta L_P + \frac{dF}{dM_D} \Delta M_D + \frac{dF}{dS_T} \Delta S_T$$

$$\Delta F(L_P, M_D, S_T) = \frac{i}{\sqrt{L_P}} \Delta L_P + \frac{j}{\sqrt{M_D}} \Delta M_D + \frac{k}{\sqrt{S_T}} \Delta S_T$$


**functions  $q[k(u-u_0)]$**

„achromatic signal”-description

with  $u = \log L$  ( $L$  = luminance)  
 $u_0 = \log L_u$  ( $L_u$  = surround luminance)

$$q[k(u-u_0)] = 1 + 1/[1 + \sqrt{2} e^{k(u-u_0)}]$$

**function values:**

$$q[k(u-u_0) \rightarrow +\infty] = 1$$

$$q[k(u-u_0) = 0] = \sqrt{2}$$

$$q[k(u-u_0) \rightarrow -\infty] = 2$$

**„achromatic signal”-description**

functions  $Q_{1m}[k(u-u_0)]$

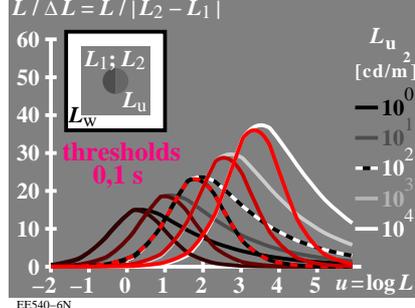
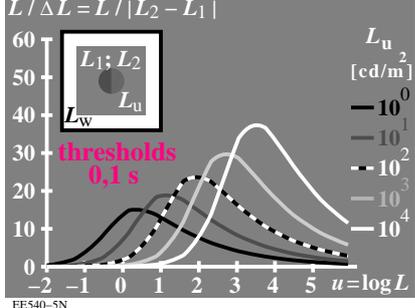
with  $u = \log L$  ( $L$  = luminance)  
 $u_0 = \log L_u$  ( $L_u$  = surround luminance)

$$Q_{1m}[k(u-u_0)] = \frac{l}{\ln \sqrt{2}} \ln q[k(u-u_0)] - m$$

**function values with  $l = m = 1$ :**

$$Q[k(u-u_0) \rightarrow +\infty] = 1$$

$$Q[k(u-u_0) = 0] = 0$$

$$Q[k(u-u_0) \rightarrow -\infty] = -1$$


**„achromatic signal” discrimination**

as function of relative light density  
 $h = \ln H = k(u-u_0)$ ,  $\ln$  = natural log.

$$Q' = \frac{d}{dH} [\ln\{1 + 1/(1 + \sqrt{2}H)\}] / \ln \sqrt{2}$$

$$= -\sqrt{2} / [\ln \sqrt{2} (1 + \sqrt{2}H)(2 + \sqrt{2}H)]$$

**function values:**

$$Q'[k(u-u_0) \rightarrow +\infty] = 0$$

$$Q'[k(u-u_0) = 0] = -0,5$$

$$Q'[k(u-u_0) \rightarrow -\infty] = 0$$

**luminance discrimination**

possibility  $L/\Delta L$  as function of  $H$

with:  $L = 10^u$   $H = e^h = 10^{\log e k(u-u_0)}$

$$dL/du = \ln 10 L$$

$$dH/du = k H$$

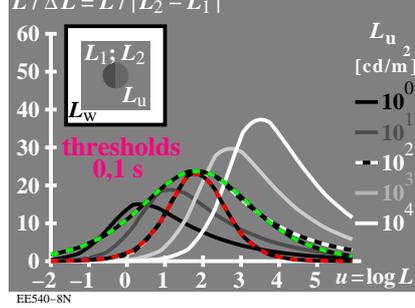
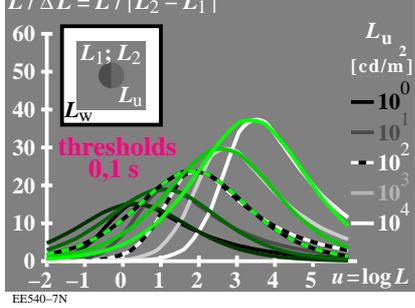
**it follows:  $L/\Delta L = [kH / (dH \ln 10)]$**

$$\frac{L}{\Delta L} = \text{const } H / [(1 + \sqrt{2}H)(2 + \sqrt{2}H)]$$

**function values:**

$$Q'[k(u-u_0) \rightarrow +\infty] = 0$$

$$Q'[k(u-u_0) = 0] = \text{maximum}$$

$$Q'[k(u-u_0) \rightarrow -\infty] = 0$$


**double line element of Richter (1987) for the lighting technology with the luminance  $L = f(L_P, M_D, S_T)$**

$$F(L) = \int_{-\infty}^L (L/\Delta L) dL \text{ (relative lightness?)}$$

$$F(L) = iQ(H) = \begin{cases} iQ(\bar{H}) & (u < u_0) \\ iQ(\bar{H}) & (u \geq u_0) \end{cases}$$

with:  $k=1,4$   $\bar{k}=1$   $i=1$   $\bar{i}=-2$   
 $u = \log L$   $u_0 = \log L_u$   
 $H = e^{k(u-u_0)}$   $\bar{H} = e^{\bar{k}(u-u_0)}$

**double line element of Richter (1987) for the lighting technology with the luminance  $L = f(L_P, M_D, S_T)$**

$$F(L) = \int_{-\infty}^L (L/\Delta L) dL \text{ (relative lightness?)}$$

$$F(L) = iQ(H) \quad H = e^{k(u-u_0)}$$

$$Q(H) = [\ln\{1 + 1/(1 + \sqrt{2}H)\}] / \ln \sqrt{2} - 1$$

**Taylor-derivations:**

$$\Delta F(L) = \frac{dF}{dL} \Delta L = i \frac{dQ}{dH} \Delta H$$

$$= -i \sqrt{2} \Delta H / [\ln \sqrt{2} (1 + \sqrt{2}H)(2 + \sqrt{2}H)]$$

see similar files of the whole serie: <http://farbe.li.tu-berlin.de/EE54.HTM>  
 technical information: <http://farbe.li.tu-berlin.de> or <http://color.li.tu-berlin.de>

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