

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION



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**Multimedia systems and equipment – Colour measurement and management –  
Part 13: Measurement method of display colour properties depending on  
observers**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms and definitions .....	7
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	7
3.2 Abbreviations.....	8
4 Measuring equipment .....	8
4.1 Light-measuring devices .....	8
4.2 Viewing direction coordinate system .....	9
5 Measuring conditions.....	10
5.1 Standard measuring environmental conditions .....	10
5.2 Power supply .....	10
5.3 Warm-up time .....	10
5.4 Standard measuring dark-room conditions .....	10
5.5 Standard set-up conditions .....	10
6 Measuring methods .....	11
6.1 Individual colour-matching functions .....	11
6.2 Reference colours.....	11
6.3 Observer metamerism index .....	12
6.3.1 Purpose.....	12
6.3.2 Measuring conditions.....	12
6.3.3 Measurement method .....	12
7 Reporting form.....	20
Annex A (informative) Generating a set of individual CMFs.....	21
A.1 Age distribution data .....	21
A.2 Example of individual CMFs dataset .....	21
Annex B (informative) XYZ values of reference colour .....	31
Annex C (informative) Measurement method of observer metamerism between different displays .....	32
C.1 General.....	32
C.2 Reference colours and measurement method .....	32
Annex D (informative) Colour-matching process for multi-ORU DUTs.....	33
Annex E (informative) Working example of observer metamerism index.....	35
E.1 Purpose .....	35
E.2 DUT .....	35
E.3 Process .....	35
E.3.1 General .....	35
E.3.2 Colour-matching .....	36
E.3.3 Calculating the SPD of the DUT .....	36
E.3.4 XYZ computation .....	36
E.3.5 Colour difference computation .....	37
E.3.6 Reporting.....	37
Bibliography.....	49

Figure 1 – Representation of the viewing direction (equivalent to the direction of measurement) by the angle of inclination, $\theta$ and the angle of rotation (azimuth angle), $\phi$ in a polar coordinate system .....	9
Figure 2 – DUT Installation conditions.....	11
Figure 3 – Flowchart of the overall evaluation method .....	12
Figure 4 – 4 % area centre box patterns of primary colours.....	13
Figure 5 – Reporting example of a graph of colour-matched metameric pair of reference colour and DUT .....	20
Figure E.1 – RGB primary spectrum of the DUT.....	35
Figure E.2 – Example of graphs of colour-matched metameric pair of reference colour (Macbeth white) and test colour of the DUT .....	38
Table 1 – Reporting form of observer metamerism index.....	20
Table A.1 – Example of age distribution data .....	21
Table A.2 – Total number of individual CMFs example .....	22
Table A.3 – Spectral sensitivity data of the individual CMFs (age group: 22, 27 and 32) .....	22
Table A.4 – Spectral sensitivity data of the individual CMFs (Age group: 37, 42 and 47).....	24
Table A.5 – Spectral sensitivity data of the individual CMFs (Age group: 52, 57 and 62).....	26
Table A.6 – Spectral sensitivity data of the individual CMFs (Age group: 67, 72 and 77).....	28
Table B.1 – Reference XYZ values using CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer.....	31
Table E.1 – Optical properties of the DUT .....	35
Table E.2 – Reference colour XYZ values of age group 22 individual CMFs.....	36
Table E.3 – R, G and B weighting factors of the matched colours (age group 22).....	36
Table E.4 – OMI calculation result of all 7 colours and age groups.....	37
Table E.5 – Reporting of OMI results .....	37
Table E.6 – R, G, B, W spectra of the DUT .....	38
Table E.7 – R, G and B weighting factors of the matched colours .....	47

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT –  
COLOUR MEASUREMENT AND MANAGEMENT –**

**Part 13: Measurement method of display colour  
properties depending on observers**

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Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Technical Specification is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

A list of all parts in the IEC 61966 series, published under the general title *Multimedia systems and equipment – Colour measurement and management*, can be found on the IEC website.

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- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

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The content of the corrigendum 1 (2025-03) has been included in this copy.

## INTRODUCTION

In colorimetry, metamerism or metameric failure is defined as a perceived matching of two colours with different spectral power distributions (SPDs). Illuminant metamerism occurs when two objects match in colour under a specific illuminant, but mismatch under another illuminant with a different SPD. Likewise, observer metamerism (OM) is defined by two stimuli with different SPDs that match in colour for a specific observer. However, the stimuli might not match for another observer. OM is caused by the normal variations in the spectral responsivities of various observers. In other words, observers do not have identical colour-matching functions (CMFs). An observer model that takes into consideration the age and the field size of observers with respect to a standard observer standard observer has already been standardised in the CIE (CIE Pub. 170-1:2006).

Meanwhile, display manufacturers and users have required measurement methods of the OM which occurs in display uses. For example, with the development of display technology and grafting of display technology to various application fields and mass distribution, it has become a common situation for users to use multiple displays at the same time. When using multiple displays at the same time, a user can display the same colour through the calibration process. However, this is only valid for certain observers because of OM. Also, when users watch a single display, there could be observer dependency in colour perception even though the display is calibrated.

Based on the CIE standards and research results of OM, a new Technical Specification is suggested to measure the difference in display colour properties according to the observer in an objective way, excluding subjective effects of evaluators.

# MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT – COLOUR MEASUREMENT AND MANAGEMENT –

## Part 13: Measurement method of display colour properties depending on observers

### 1 Scope

This document defines an objective colour difference metric and a measurement method for observer metamerism caused by displays with different spectral power distributions. This document also specifies the measuring equipment, conditions and methods that are necessary to obtain the metric. This document applies to light-emitting or backlit transmitting colour displays measured under dark-room conditions.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/CIE 11664-1, *Colorimetry – Part 1: CIE standard colorimetric observers*

ISO/CIE 11664-4, *Colorimetry – Part 4: CIE 1976 L\*a\*b\* colour space*

ISO/CIE 11664-6, *Colorimetry – Part 6: CIEDE2000 colour-difference formula*

CIE 170-1:2006, *Fundamental chromaticity diagram with physiological axes – Part 1*

CIE 170-2:2015, *Fundamental chromaticity diagram with physiological axes – Part 2*