

Class 05: RGB Colors

Held: Thursday, 6 September 2007

A problem: Representing colors

- CS is the study of data and algorithms.
- When working with data, we have to think about how to represent it for the computer.
 - We often try to represent data in terms of simpler kinds of data.
 - Numbers are one simple kind of data, but there are others.
- In addition, we need to think about what we might do with the data, and ways in which the representation affects what we might do.

The RGB Representation

- RGB is one of the simplest representations.
- We divide a color up into three basic components: Red, Green, and Blue.
- We assign an "amount" of each color to use.
 - In some variants of RGB, the "amount" is a real number between 0 and 1.
 - More typically, the "amount" is an integer between 0 and 255.
- RGB colors correspond well to the traditional technology for making colors on a raster screen: There are three color beams, and RGB tells each beam how much color to provide.
- We use the numbers 0..255 because these numbers are easy to represent in binary (the underlying way in which the computer represents everything).

An Application: Complementary Colors

- One way to work with colors is to build new colors from old by thinking about “interesting” combinations.
- A standard way to compute a new color is to compute the complement of the old color.
- Traditionally complements are described in terms of a different representation.
- In the abstract, two colors are complementary if they add to grey.
- Of course, that means we need to figure out what it means to add colors.
- In RGB, adding makes some sense: You add the individual components, capping each at 255.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: RGB Colors.
- Reading: RGB Colors.

Notes:

- Remember: Everything I hand out in class (more or less) is available online through the course Web site.
- Make sure that it's clear when you're asking a question and when you're submitting a solution. "HW3" can mean either.
- We'll spend a few minutes discussing what I intend for assignment 3.
- My laptop died, so I am even further behind on everything. I apologize.

Overview:

- Problem: representing colors.
- The RGB representation.
- Complementary colors.

Summary: Today we explore one simple representation of colors, the representation called RGB. We also explore some techniques for working with RGB colors.

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