

## Weber-Fechner law in CIE 230:2019 for threshold colour differences of surface colours; relations between tristimulus value, lightness and luminance

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 equation:  $\Delta L_r = c L_r$  [1]

*Integration* leads to the logarithmic equation:  $L_r^* = k \log(L_r)$ . [2]

*Derivation* leads for  $\Delta L_r^* = 1$  to the linear equation:  $L_r / \Delta L_r = k = 57$ . [3]

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

**Table 1: CIE tristimulus value  $Y$ , luminance  $L$ , and lightness  $L^*$**

Colour (matte)	Tristimulus value	office luminance	relative luminance	CIELAB lightness	TUBJND lightness
(contrast)	$Y$	$L$	$L_r$	$L_{\text{CIELAB}}^*$	$L_{\text{TUBJND}}^*$
(25:1=90:3,6)		[ $\text{cd}/\text{m}^2$ ]	$=L/L_u$	$\sim m L_r^{1/2,4}$	$=k \log(L_r)$
White W (paper)	90 =18*5	142 =28,2*5	5	94 =50+44	40 = $k \log(5)$
Grey Z (paper)	18	28,2	1	50 =50	0 = $k \log(1)$
Black N (paper)	3,6 =18/5	5,6 28,2/5	0,2	18 =50-32	-40 = $k \log(0,2)$

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