

# The Use of Fundamental Color Stimulus to Improve the Performance of Artificial Neural Network Color Match Prediction Systems

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**ABSTRACT:** *In the present investigation attempts were made for the first time to use the fundamental color stimulus as the input for a fixed optimized neural network match prediction system. Four sets of data having different origins (i.e. different substrate, different colorant sets and different dyeing procedures) were used to train and test the performance of the network. The results showed that the use of fundamental color stimulus greatly reduces the errors as depicted by the MSE and  $\Delta$  Cave data and improves the performance of the neural network prediction system. Additionally the use of fundamental color stimulus makes provisions for predicting the concentrations of one data set whilst being trained by a second data set of completely different origin.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Color match prediction, Neural networks, Fundamental color stimulus, Matrix R.*

## INTRODUCTION

Conventional visual color match prediction procedures (using the eye/ brain combination) became obsolete in the twentieth century mainly because of their subjectivity. Therefore the early instrumental color match prediction counterparts were designed in order to assist the visual matcher, to do the same job more objectively. However these early instrumental systems did not find immediate and wide acceptance. The reason for this was

that they employed first generation devices for the color measurement, approximated models for the predictions and analogue computers for the calculations (COMIC being one of the first commercial systems) [1]. All the modern era color match prediction systems have become much more sophisticated. They use modern highly accurate abridged spectrophotometers for the color measurements. Additionally elaborate modifications of

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the two or multi flux models for the prediction combined with high capacity, extremely fast digital computers for the necessary calculations have been made [2]. In such procedures the chosen model determines the exact relationship between the CIE specified color coordinates and the combinatorial concentration of known sets of colorants, and the selection of the colorant set is primarily determined by the optimization of the tolerable degree of metamerism, fastness properties and obviously the price.

In the start of the twenty first century however there has been tendencies to capitalize on the advantages of the eye/brain combination namely because it provides intelligence in addition to which, the eye/brain combination is still the final judge. It seems that as a means to an end, a revision of thought is taking place. Computerized instrumental color match prediction of the next generation would be so designed that not only will it cumulatively combine the advantages of both the visual and the instrumental color match prediction techniques but that it would also provide objective decision making based on integrated super soft computed color matching network systems. This reversion of thought has not as yet been fully commercially realized but would be achieved in the years to come.

Color match prediction based on artificial neural networks would have the following advantages:

- There is no requirement for the provision of a theory relating color to colorant concentration.
- There is no necessity to prepare a special data base for each colorant in order to use these techniques.
- The neural network approach may hopefully be able to learn the behavior of colorant systems where the mathematical descriptions are complex.

The neural networks shortcomings are as follows:

- There is no guarantee that the neural network approach would provide a solution for the color matching.
- Neural networks technique would require a sufficient number of training and test samples made from single and combinatorial colorations for each set of colorants and additionally for changing the substrate, the set of colorants and the dyeing procedure.
- The artificial neural network requires not only to be of a structurally optimized architectural design but also all the other variants (i.e. training algorithms, activation functions, etc.) must be of the right form.
- Different runs of the same neural network for the same data set would not provide the same predictions.

- The neural network cannot make one  $\rightarrow$  many mappings.

- Time requirements for the predictions tend to be comparatively long.

Although the use of genetic and fuzzy logic algorithms have tended to reduce the disabilities and improve the capabilities of the neural networks but the shortcomings have by no means been completely eradicated [3-5].

Additionally there are some coloristic shortcomings inherent to the use of the neural network techniques, which are listed below:

i- There is a need for the preparation of a sufficiently large number of training samples to cover the color gamut and additionally in order to generalize the training of the optimized neural network.

ii- Each variation in the substrate and/or colorant set and/or coloration procedure would require its own training and test samples.

iii- By inputting reflectance into the neural network one would expect the output, i.e. the colorant concentrations, to provide a spectral (i.e. non-metameric) match. However this is not the case since *Wyszecki* [6] hypothesized and *Cohen and Kappauf* [7] provided the means, that the measured reflectance data is composed of two components. A basic fundamental color stimulus component and a second metameric black component unique to each metamer and in every case having tristimulus values of zero.

Strictly speaking, the use of measured reflectance data would not be able to provide true spectrophotometric (non-metameric) matches because it contains the metameric black component.

Based on this premise, that in order to produce true spectrophotometric matches the inputted reflectance function should be the fundamental color stimulus component, the present investigation was carried out in order to provide means by which to minimize some of the shortcomings of the artificial neural network techniques of color match predictions [8, 9].

### **Theoretical background**

In 1953, *Wyszecki* [6] presented the view that the spectral energy distribution of each set of metamers consists, mathematically at least, of two component wavelength distributions: (a) a common basic or fundamental distribution, intrinsically associated with the

Table 1: Data sets preparations.

Variable	Data set 1	Data set 2	Data set 3	Data set 4
Colorants	Terasil*(Yellow 6G, Red R, Blue BG, Blue GN, Violet BL, Brown 3R)	Lanaset* (Yellow 2R, Blue 2R Bordeaux B, Green B)	Lanaset* (Yellow 4GN, Blue 5G, Red 2B, Violet B, Green B)	Terasil*(Yellow GWL, Red F B, Blue 3RL)
Number of samples	383	107	183	142
Substrate	Polyester	Wool serge	Wool serge	Polyester
Dyeing method	Thermosol	Exhaustion	Exhaustion	High temperature
Type of colorants	Disperse	Reactive-metal complex 2:1	Reactive-metal complex 2:1	Disperse

\*) Ciba Specialty Chemicals

tristimulus values that these metamers have in common and (b) a secondary distribution, unique to each metamer and in every case having tristimulus values of (0, 0, 0).

This second distribution or component necessarily involves negative values at some wavelengths along with positive values at others, and the net effect is that the distribution as a whole contributes nothing to the color specification or the perceived color.

Wyszecki saw the fundamental color stimulus function as a linear combination of color-mixture functions and therefore as lying within this color-stimulus space. He further noted that those functions that are metameric blacks must be in a space that is orthogonal to the space of the color-mixture functions.

Matrix R is based on the Wyszecki hypothesis and is an orthogonal projector matrix. Cohen and Kappauf [7] derived matrix R from a set of color matching functions, matrix A, as shown in equation (1):

$$\text{Matrix } R = A(A'A)^{-1}A' \quad (1)$$

Where A' is the transposed of matrix A.

Theoretically, any set of color matching functions can be used. Any reflectance spectra (R) under any chosen observer-illuminant combination can be decomposed into two components, called fundamental color stimulus ( $R_{FCS}$ ) and metameric black ( $R_{MB}$ ) or residual stimulus using matrix R. If the matrix R is multiplied by the measured reflectance spectrum R, the fundamental color stimulus  $R_{FCS}$  is obtained (i.e.  $R_{FCS} = (\text{matrix } R) \times R$ ) and the metameric black  $R_{MB}$  is given by subtracting the

fundamental color stimulus from the measured reflectance spectra i.e.  $R_{MB} = R - R_{FCS}$ .

## EXPERIMENTAL

### Sample preparation

Four different sets of data depicted in Table 1 were utilized in the present work. As can be seen from Table 1 the origins of the data are completely different.

The Texflash spectrophotometer from the Datacolor Company was used for the reflectance measurements of all samples. The measurements were carried out with the specular component included on four layers of folded fabric placed on the large sample port (i.e. 27 mm). The average of three measurements was used to obtain the reflectance data from which different color coordinates under different illuminant/observer combinations were calculated. In this way four sets of data (i.e. data set 1, data set 2, data set 3 and data set 4) were at hand, the origins of which were completely different and were made to create color centers covering as far as possible the gamut of available colors for the given set of colorants. These data could be utilized to test the effect of different substrates, different colorants and different method of dyeing on the predictions of artificial neural networks color match prediction systems.

### Sample selection

Data set 35-1 comprising of 35 color centers was extracted from data set 1 and was not used in the training. A second data set 35-234 comprising nearly the same

color centers as data set 35-1 was selected from the entire data set 2, data set 3 and data set 4. Therefore, data set 35-1 and data set 35-234 formed 35 metameric close (but not exact) matches having parametric differences of less than 1.7  $\Delta E_{CIE1994}$  units under the reference conditions (i.e. illuminant D65 /CIE 1964 Supplementary Standard Colorimetric Observer).

Three hundred forty eight polyester samples being extracted from data set 1 dyed by the thermosol process and were used to train an optimized artificial neural network. Data set 35-1 was used to test the neural network. This would mean that if an artificial neural network trained by data set 1 (comprising of 383 polyester samples dyed by the thermosol process) correctly predicted the recipes (represented by small error factors i.e. mean square error, MSE and/or small  $\Delta C_n = (|C_{na} - C_{np}| / n)$ . Where  $C_{na}$  and  $C_{np}$  denote actual concentration of  $n$  colorants and predicted concentration of  $n$  colorants respectively. When this tested by the data set 35-1 (comprising of 35 polyester samples dyed by the same set of colorants and the same thermosol process), then most probably a well trained artificial neural network has been obtained. However if the same artificial neural network trained by the same data set, i.e. data set 1, could correctly predict the recipes (i.e. with low error factors as mentioned previously) when tested by the data set 35-234 (comprising of 35 samples of wool and polyester samples dyed with different colorants and different methods of dyeing). This would most probably be indicative of a more intelligent artificial neural network insensitive to variables such as substrate, type of colorants and the dyeing process i.e. very much like the intelligent visual predictions. In order to test the above-mentioned premise, the input function of a fixed genetically optimized neural network architecture was varied as is mentioned in the next section.

#### Neural network architecture

MATLAB 6.5 [12] was used as a tool for obtaining color recipes predicted on a fixed optimized  $16 \times 10 \times 10 \times 6$  neural network architecture. The input layer consisted of the measured surface spectral reflectance (or one of its four transformations mentioned below) of the target color centers at 16 wavelengths of 20 nm intervals throughout the visible range of the spectrum between 400-700 nm. The output layer corresponded to the concentrations of the mentioned colorants. The network was trained using

the Scaled Conjugate Gradient Back Propagation algorithm [13]. A positive linear activation function was used in the output layer whilst the logsig function was used in the hidden layers. Training was made to continue over 100000 epochs. Each network was made to run three times and the network with the least MSE was selected for further analysis.

#### Neural network inputs

Networks were trained separately as follows:

1-Trained with the untransformed original measured spectral reflectance i.e.  $R$ .

2-Trained with a transformation based on a weighted cube root coordinates [10]

$$R_{CRC} = \left[ \sum \{\bar{u} \times L\}^2 + \sum \{\bar{v} \times L\}^2 + \sum \{\bar{w} \times L\}^2 \right]^{1/2}$$

where

$$L = 25(R)^{1/3} - 17 \quad (2)$$

3-Trained with a transformation based on the Munsell value polynomial transformation [11]

$$R_{MVP} = 1.2219 \times R - 0.23111 \times R^2 + 0.23951 \times R^3 - 0.021009 \times R^4 + 0.0008404 \times R^5 \quad (3)$$

4-Trained with an exponential transformation

$$R_{EX} = \exp(R) \quad (4)$$

5-Trained with the fundamental color stimulus transformation derived from previously mentioned matrix  $R$  (i.e.  $R_{FCS}$ ).

#### Error estimation

The five mentioned inputs produced five artificial neural networks trained by data set 1. These trained networks were first tested by selected samples of data set 35-1 and then subsequently tested by the second selected 35 samples of data set 35-234. The performance of the five input functions were expressed firstly as the MSE depicted in Figs. 1 to 5 and secondly as average absolute concentration difference between the actual and predicted concentration of individual colorants (i.e.  $\Delta C_1, \Delta C_2 \dots \Delta C_6$ ) and the total average absolute concentration difference of the recipe for all colorants (i.e.  $\Delta C_{ave}$ ) as illustrated in Table 2. The standard deviation of average concentration differences ( $Std(\Delta C_{ave})$ ) obtained when the network was run three times are also given in Table 2.

Table 2: Colorant concentration error for various reflection functions.

Data type	Function	$\Delta C_1$	$\Delta C_2$	$\Delta C_3$	$\Delta C_4$	$\Delta C_5$	$\Delta C_6$	$\Delta C_{ave}$	Std( $\Delta C_{ave}$ )
Trained with 348 samples of data set 1 and tested with data set 35-1	R	0.003	0.027	0.015	0.021	0.005	0.025	0.016	0.003
	R <sub>CRC</sub>	0.004	0.034	0.003	0.023	0.063	0.025	0.025	0.003
	R <sub>MVP</sub>	0.002	0.034	0.014	0.019	0.031	0.025	0.021	0.015
	R <sub>EX</sub>	0.016	0.016	0.009	0.016	0.043	0.025	0.021	0.014
	R <sub>FCS</sub>	0.018	0.018	0.015	0.016	0.063	0.025	0.026	0.002
Trained with data set 1 and tested with data set 35-234	R	0.617	0.036	0.030	2.014	0.590	0.025	0.552	0.074
	R <sub>CRC</sub>	0.306	0.034	0.030	0.736	0.973	0.025	0.351	0.033
	R <sub>MVP</sub>	0.914	0.034	0.030	1.032	0.352	0.025	0.398	0.020
	R <sub>EX</sub>	0.444	0.035	0.036	0.398	0.731	0.045	0.281	0.022
	R <sub>FCS</sub>	0.048	0.028	0.025	0.085	0.088	0.025	0.050	0.004

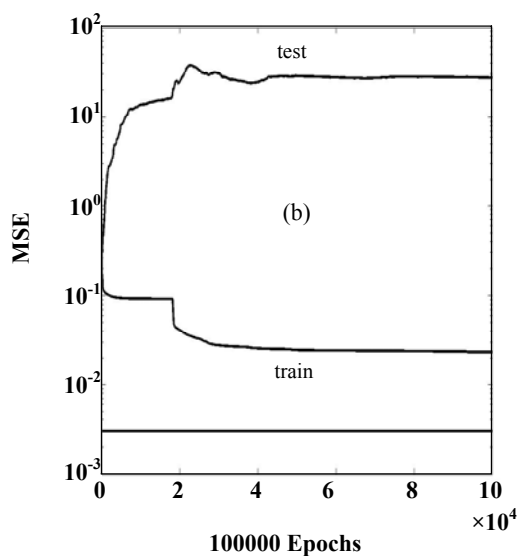
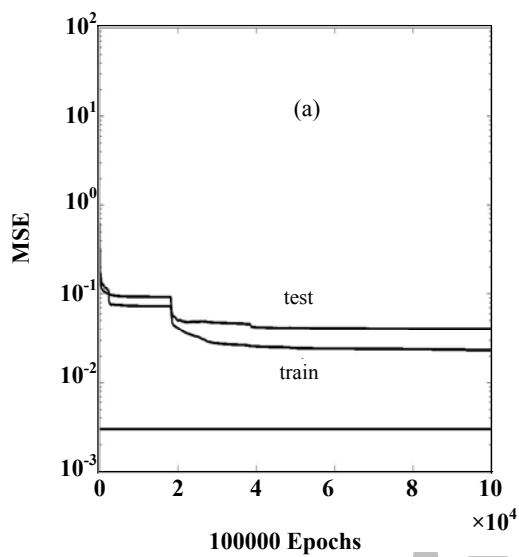
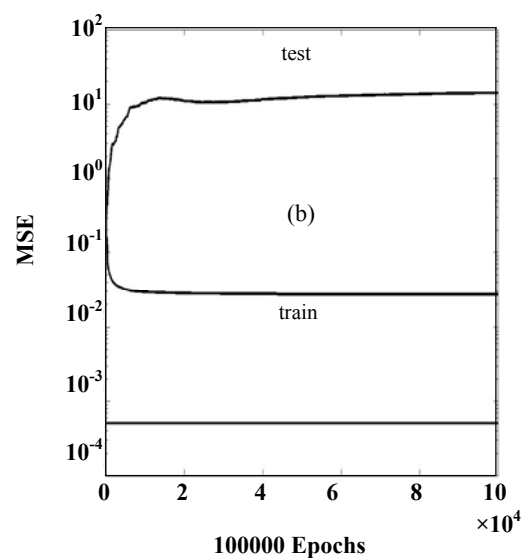
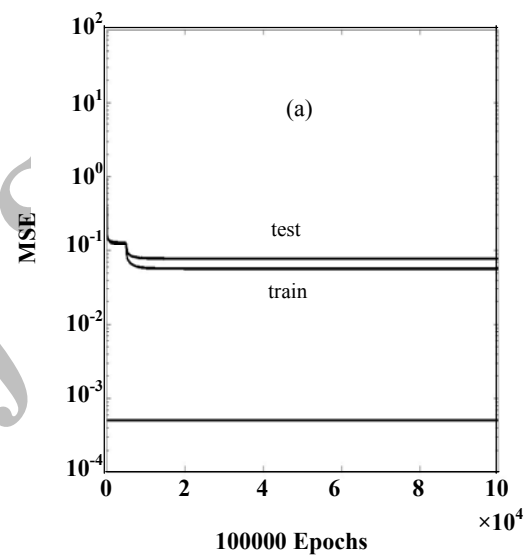


Fig. 1: Train and test results for untransformed measured reflectance(R), a) for data set 35-1, b) for data set 35-234.

Fig. 2: Train and test results for  $R_{MVP}$ , a) for data set 35-1, b) for data set 35-234.

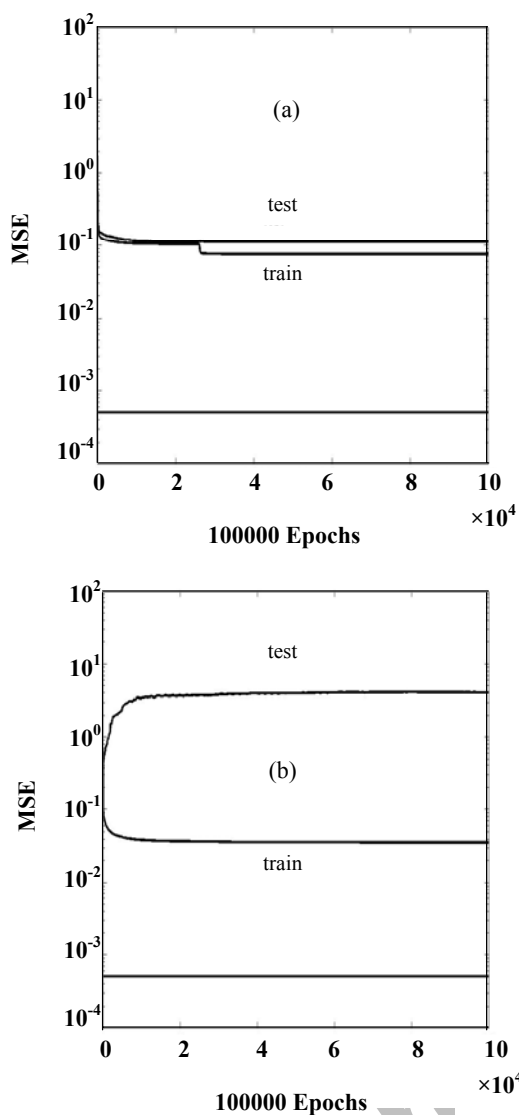


Fig. 3: Train and test results for  $R_{CRC}$ , a) for data set 35-1, b) for data set 35-234.

In the present work, the use of color differences has intentionally been avoided since color differences could give large errors as compared to visual assessments. In addition, to obtain color differences, the predicted recipes would have to first be dyed which would introduce further errors due to the repeatability of the dyeing procedure. Therefore, the performance of the network would be masked by these additional error sources. The use of MSE and concentration differences, most certainly, do not have these disadvantages and would only be indicative of the networks real performances.

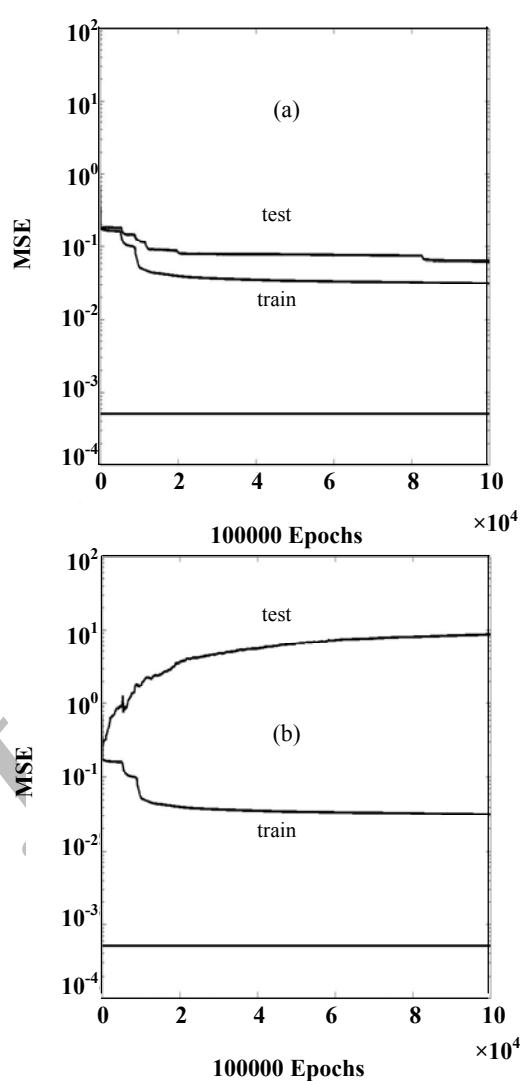


Fig. 4: Train and test results for  $R_{EX}$ , a) for data set 35-1, b) for data set 35-234.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As can be seen from Figures 1 to 5, training with 348 samples of data set 1 and testing with data set 35-1, i.e. the data set of the same origin leads to small MSE for the training and test data. The MSE of the test data almost superimpose on the MSE of the train data being always a little bit higher than the training data irrespective of the input functions. This trend also holds good for concentration differences between the actual and predicted concentrations as is illustrated in Table 2. This is indicative of a well - trained artificial neural network giving

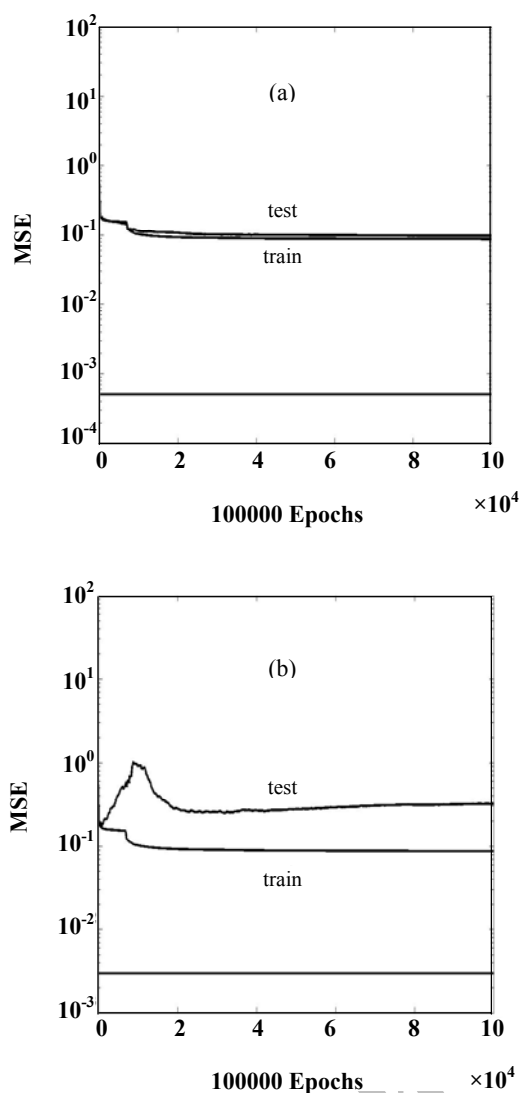


Fig. 5: Train and test results for  $R_{FCS}$ , a) for data set 35-1, b) for data set 35-234.

a maximum average concentration difference of 0.026 (i.e. default of the network's architecture) irrespective of the input function. However, the situation dramatically changes when the training is carried out by data set 1 and tested with data set 35-234, i.e. the data set of completely different origins. As can be seen from the right hand side graphs of Figs. 1 to 5, except for  $R_{FCS}$ , the MSE of the test data for all the other input functions deviate (diverge) from the MSE of the training data; the deviation being maximum for the untransformed function  $R$ .

Similar previous work published elsewhere [8,9] determined the errors involved in such a neural networks

predictions by five statistical parameters namely CV%,  $\gamma$  [14],  $R^2$ , E% [15] and performance factor (PF/4) [16]. Percentage errors depicted by the performance factor were reported to be up to 67 % for the input functions  $R$ ,  $R_{CRC}$ ,  $R_{MVP}$  and  $R_{EX}$ , showing very poor performance. On the other hand a PF/4 of less than a mere 10 percent (i.e. greater than 90 percent accurate predictions) for  $R_{FCS}$  as the input function indicated excellent performance.

All the results favor the utilization of  $R_{FCS}$  as the input function for artificial neural networks match the prediction systems as well as other prediction systems based on all models relating reflectance (color) to colorant concentrations.

This is for the simple reason that  $R_{FCS}$  enhances the capability of such systems by increased generalization of the relationship (i.e. less variables hence more intelligence). How  $R_{FCS}$  is able to increase the intelligence of prediction systems is the 64000 dollar question. It is obviously known that the reflectance data contains much more information than the tristimulus values.

However according to many workers [6,7] the reflectance data comprises of two different parts of data: One part giving the color stimulus component (i.e. part of the reflectance data required to calculate the tristimulus values) and the second part giving the corresponding metameric black component (i.e. part of the reflectance data required to calculate the degree of metamerism ( $R_{MB}$ )).

In early color match prediction systems, attempts were made to obtain spectral non-metameric matches but to no avail. The reason why the early and subsequent spectral match prediction systems were not successful is that the measured reflectance contains too much information (i.e.  $R_{FCS} + R_{MB}$ ) giving rise to miscomprehensions leading to erroneous miscalculations. The spectral match prediction procedures were soon set aside and tristimulus (metameric) match prediction systems became the norm.

However, by the same line of reasoning the measured reflectance contains more than the necessary information required for a tristimulus match to be envisaged and again it would lead to erroneous miscalculations. Based on the same premise the artificial neural network prediction systems would also lead to similar erroneous miscalculations. In addition, to which, there is a further

disadvantage of the artificial neural network not being able to make one→many mappings.

These disadvantages would no longer hold true for metameric samples since the metameric black component is extracted from the measured reflectance in the suggested  $R_{FCS}$  transformation.

We truly believe that the only logical procedure out of such confusion is to split the measured reflectance into its components (i.e.  $R_{FCS}$  and  $R_{MB}$ ). Utilizing  $R_{FCS}$  as the input function for an artificial neural network or any other match prediction system would give outstanding performance as has been shown in the present paper because it produces a real spectral match making the changes in the substrate, set of colorants and dyeing procedures of secondary importance. This would mean vastly reduced number of training samples i.e. optimistically speaking, only one set of training samples covering the entire color gamut would suffice for all predictions irrespective of substrates, set of colorants and dyeing procedures. The predictions made by training with one set of data will hold good for all other sets of data. It would be hoped that the  $R_{FCS}$  input function of this carefully prepared set of data might finally be used to optimize the artificial neural networks architecture itself giving optimized network performances, equal in intelligence to the visual system of match prediction, but with the added advantage of extreme objectivity.

## CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the present investigation was to use a series of transformation of measured reflectance in order to enable an optimized artificial neural network system of color match prediction to predict the concentrations of a given set of colorants of one data set whilst the network was trained by a data set of a completely different origin. The preliminary results demonstrate that  $R_{FCS}$  shows promise for the goals sought after. Should the trend hold true for other sets of data and the visual implications of the percentage errors in concentration differences be acceptable, then vast reduction of training samples can be visualized.

The idea could be extended into visualizing that substrates, sets of colorants and coloration procedures would have no or vastly reduced effects on the predictions.

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