

# **Introduction to High Dynamic Range Photography**

Mehlika Inanici, Ph.D.

University of Washington, Department of Architecture

[inanici@u.washington.edu](mailto:inanici@u.washington.edu)

# Outline

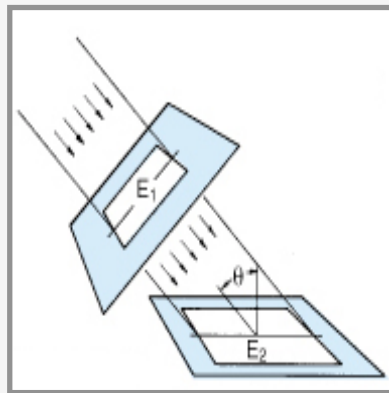
- ❶ Lighting Measurements
- ❷ Measurement with HDR Photography
  - Image Capture
  - Image Generation
  - Data validation
- ❸ Applications
- ❹ Numerical versus Visual Data



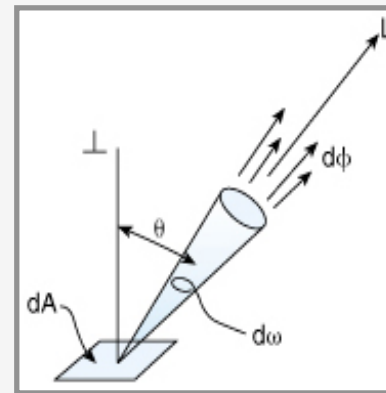
1

# Lighting Measurements

## Illuminance



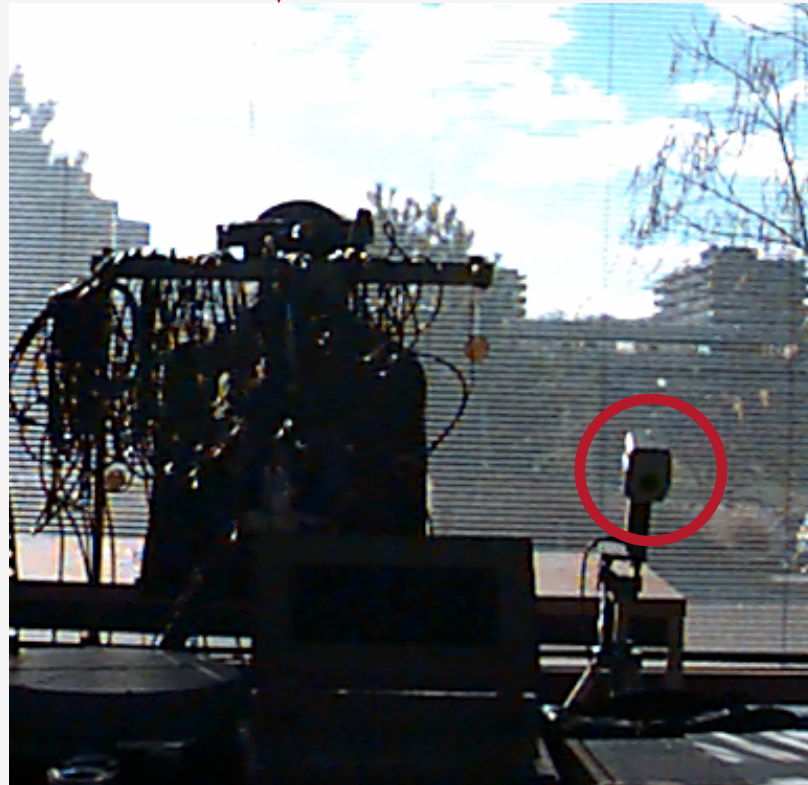
## Luminance



# Luminance



Luminance Meter





# Lighting Dynamics

Sky conditions and sun movement

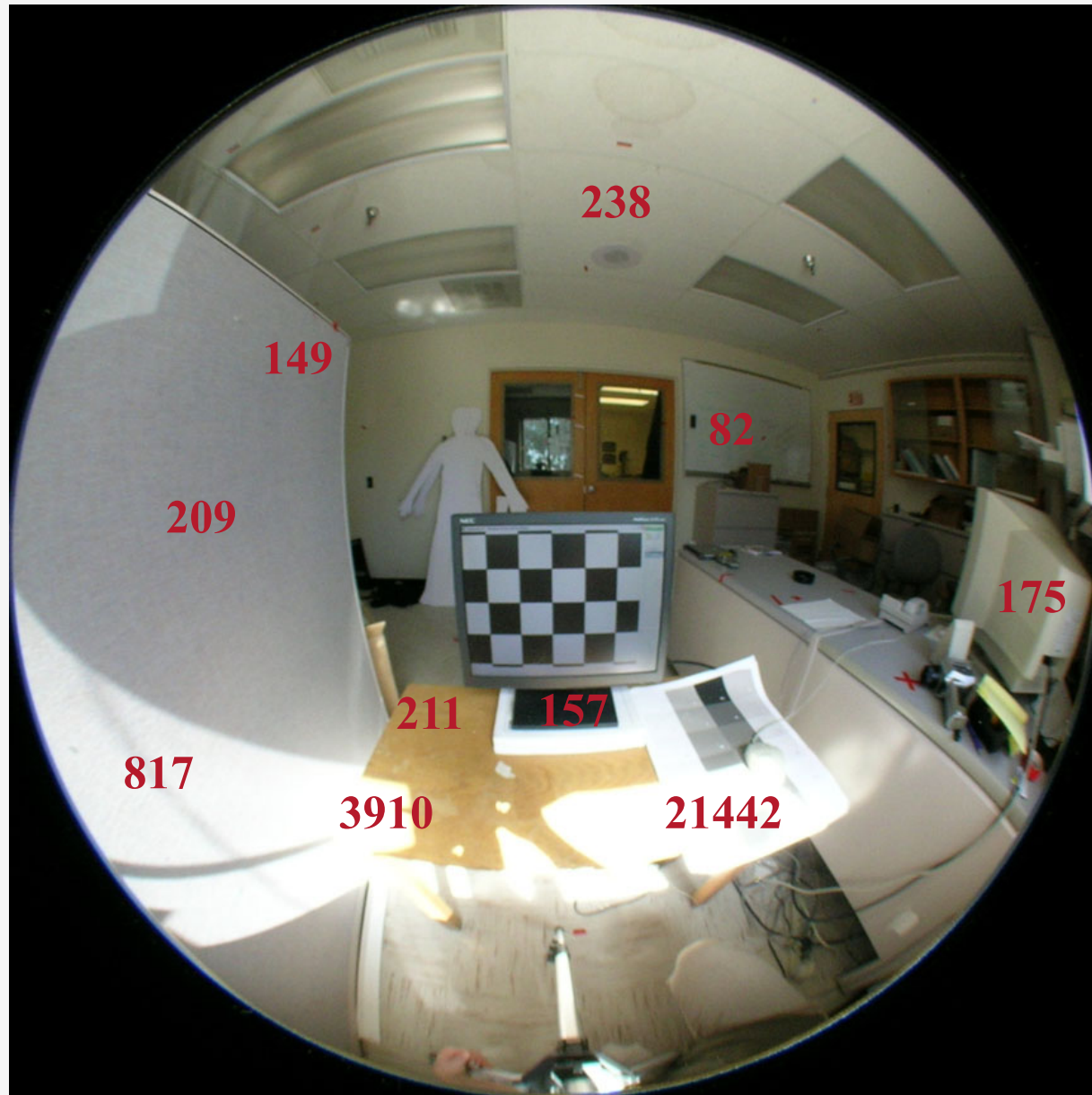
Glazing and Shading Systems

Electric Lighting and Daylighting Controls



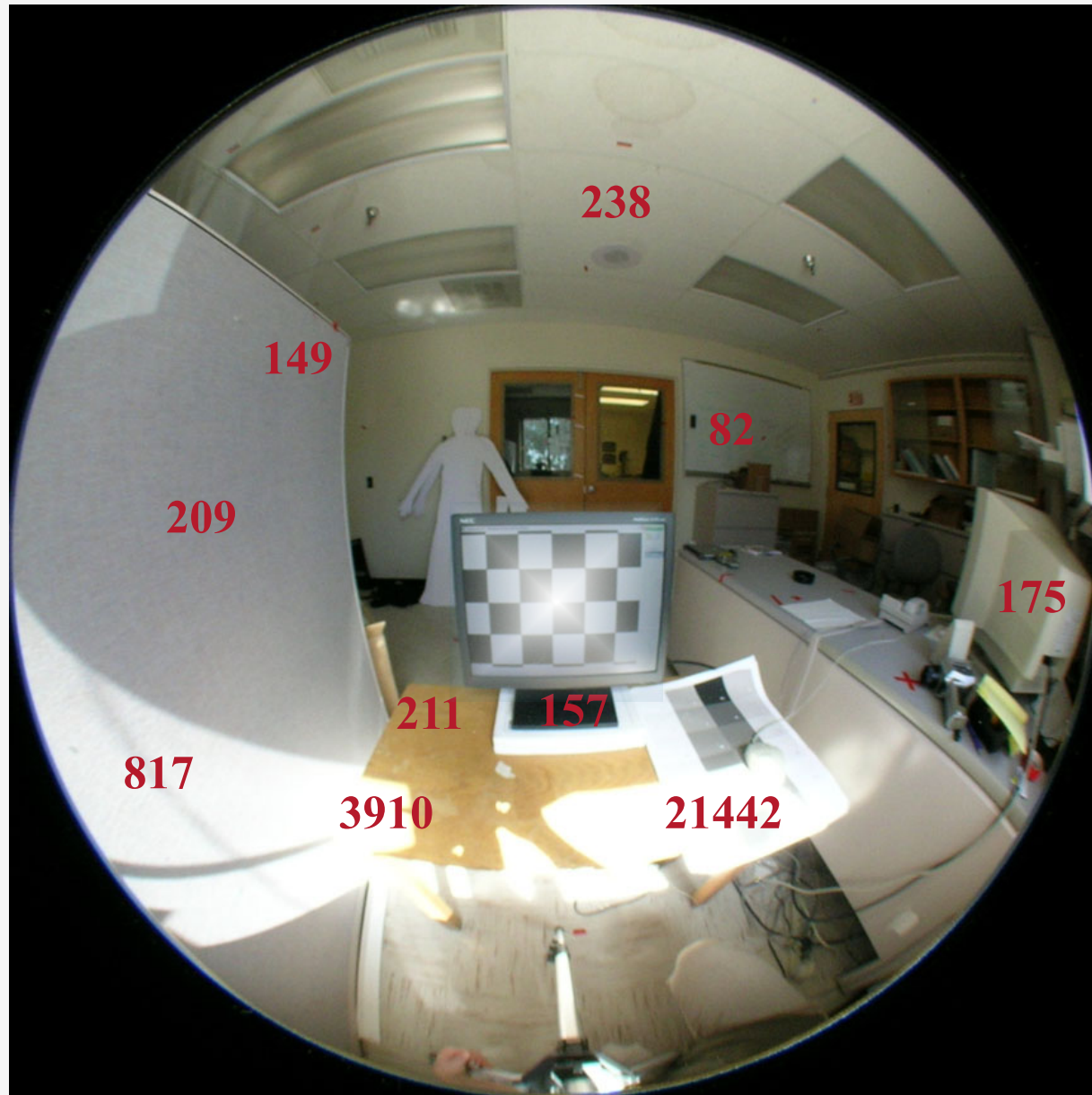


# Spatial Dynamics



**Nits**  
**cd/m<sup>2</sup>**

# Spatial Dynamics

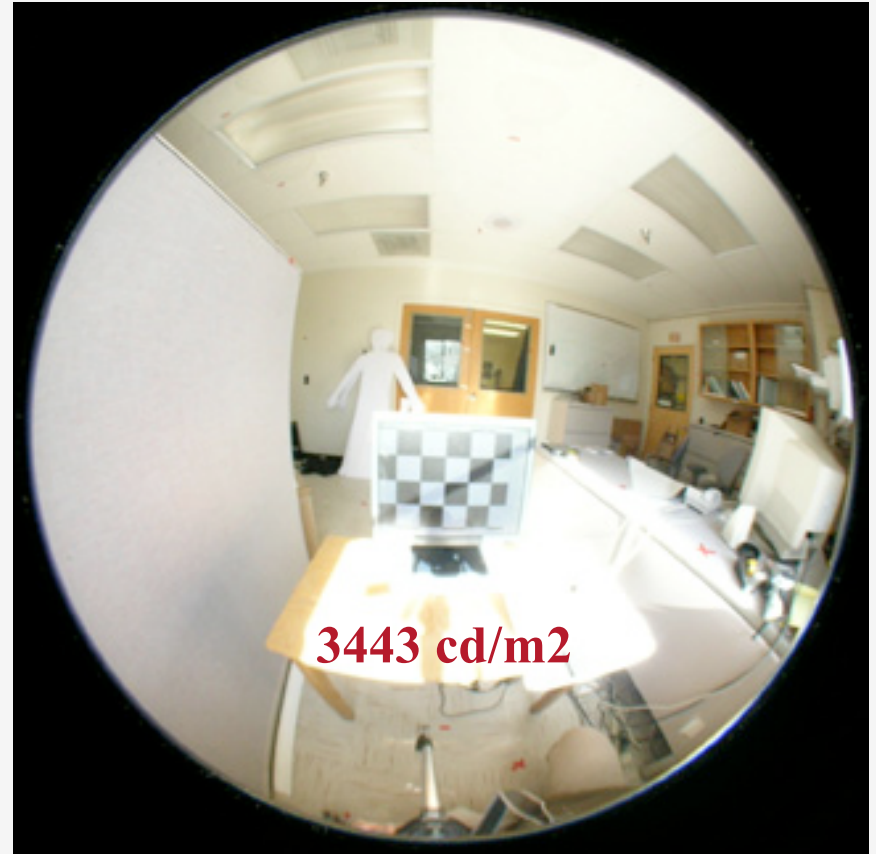


**Nits**  
**cd/m<sup>2</sup>**

# Temporal Dynamics

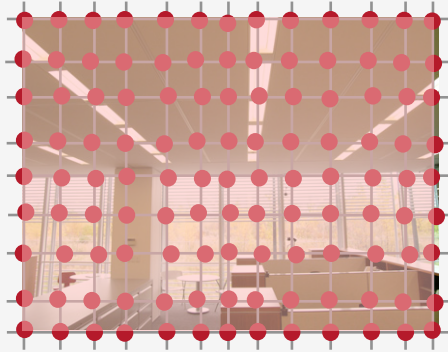


3:16 pm



4:48 pm

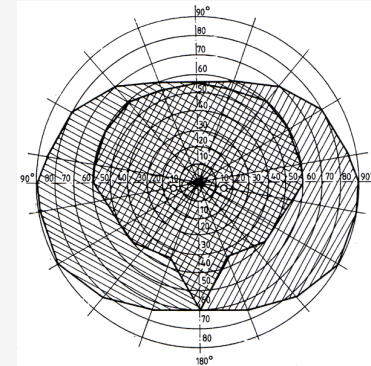
# Measurement & Analysis



High Resolution

Starlight      Sunlight  
10<sup>-6</sup>      cd/m<sup>2</sup>      10<sup>8</sup>

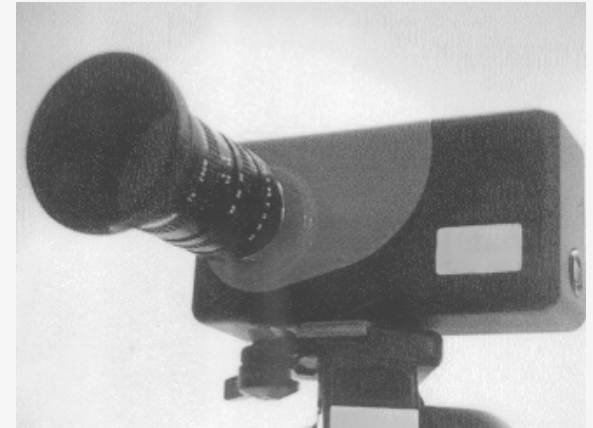
High Dynamic Range



Large field of view



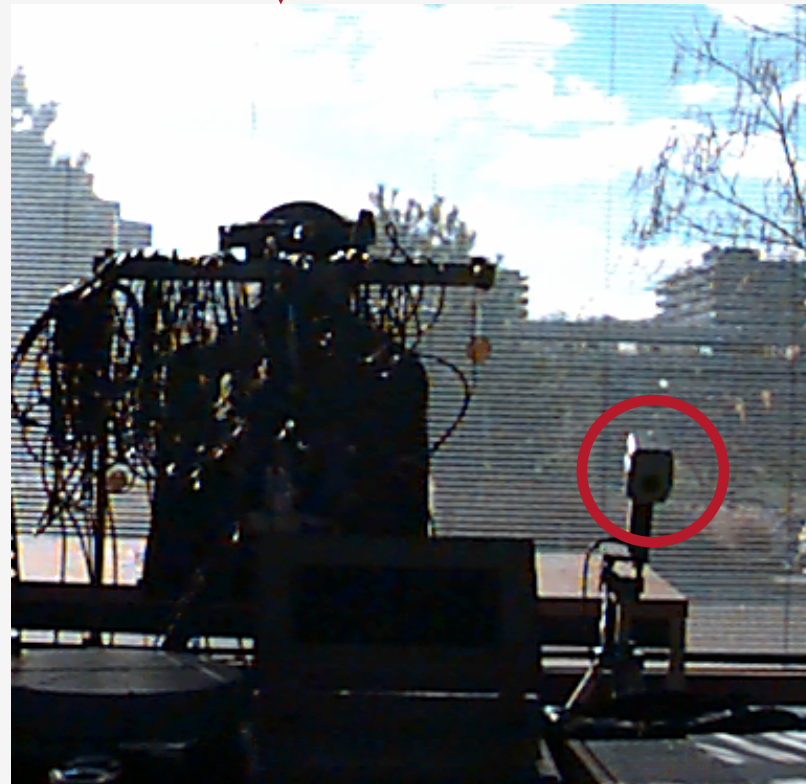
# Luminance



**CCD Camera**

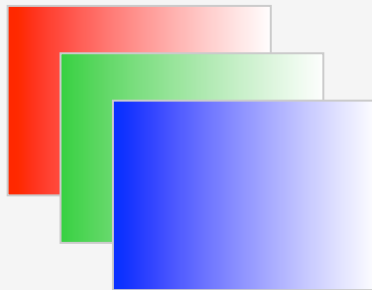
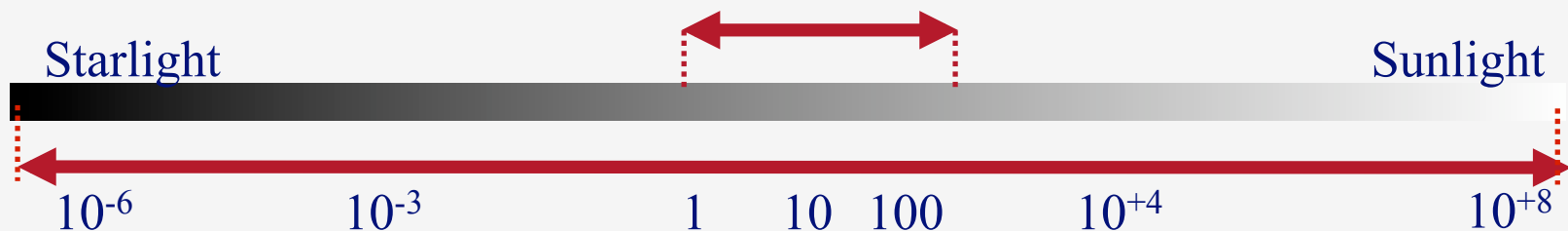


**Luminance Meter**





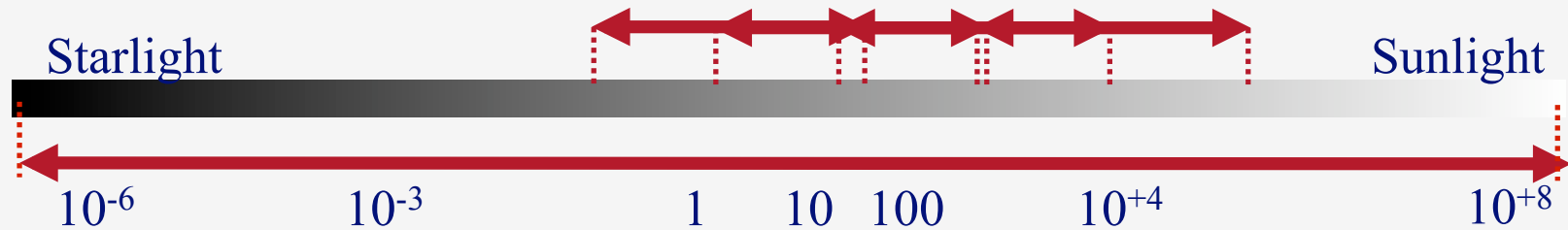
## 2 Photography based Photometry



- Digital and chemical photography
- Conventional display devices
- Low Dynamic Range Image formats

RGB [0 - 255]

# High Dynamic Range Photography

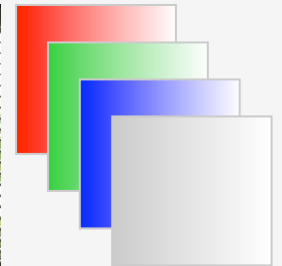
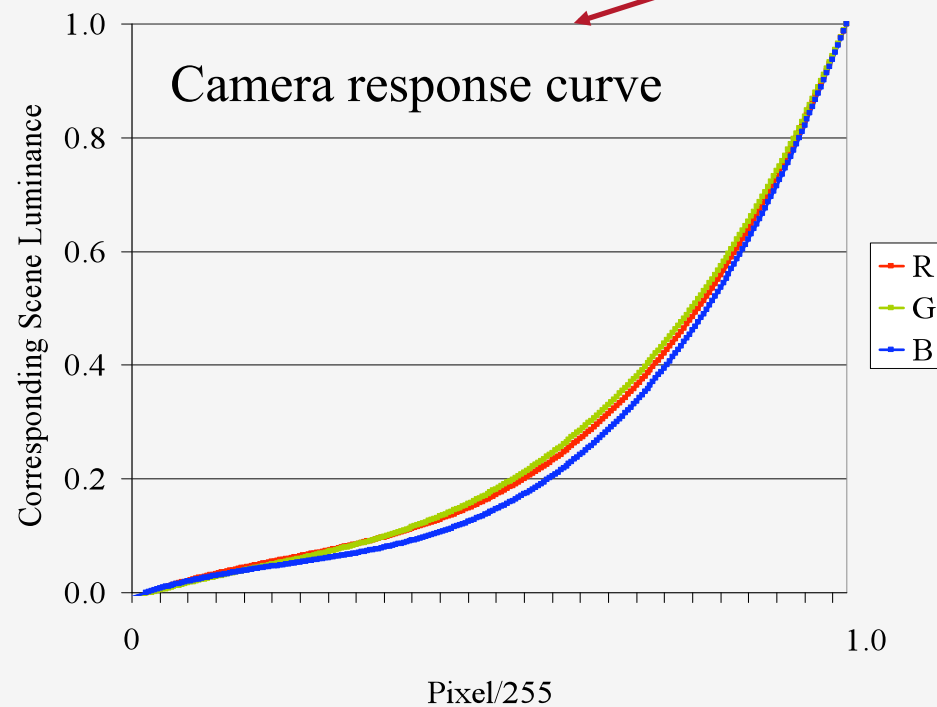


# High Dynamic Range Photography



HDRI Software - Photosphere

HDRI

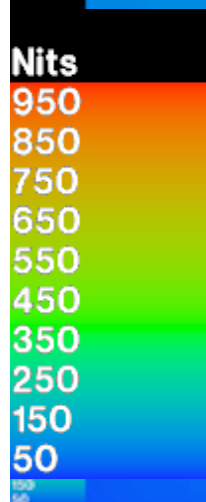
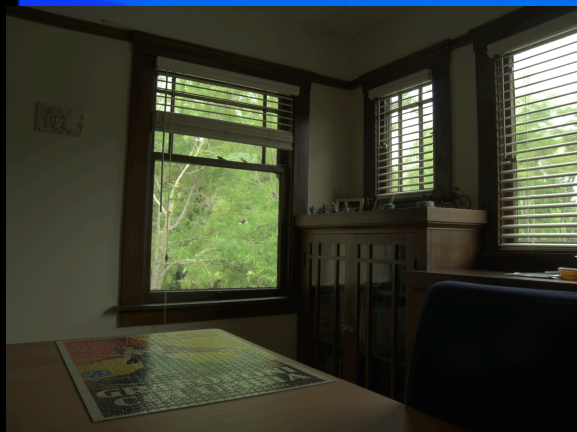




# Demonstration







Generate false-color image and/or iso-contour lines

An HDR photograph can be post-processed to extract photometric information on a pixel scale; this information can be utilized for statistical and mathematical analysis

Pixel Region - lum

☒ Display pixel values

5x5

Upper left pixel X=2333 Y=533

1111	1187	1369	1316	959
725	722	717	604	587
549	522	459	351	289
317	253	214	293	204
200	145	142	218	150

Lower right pixel X=2337 Y=537

Pixel Region - im1

☒ Display pixel values

5x5

Upper left pixel X=2333 Y=533

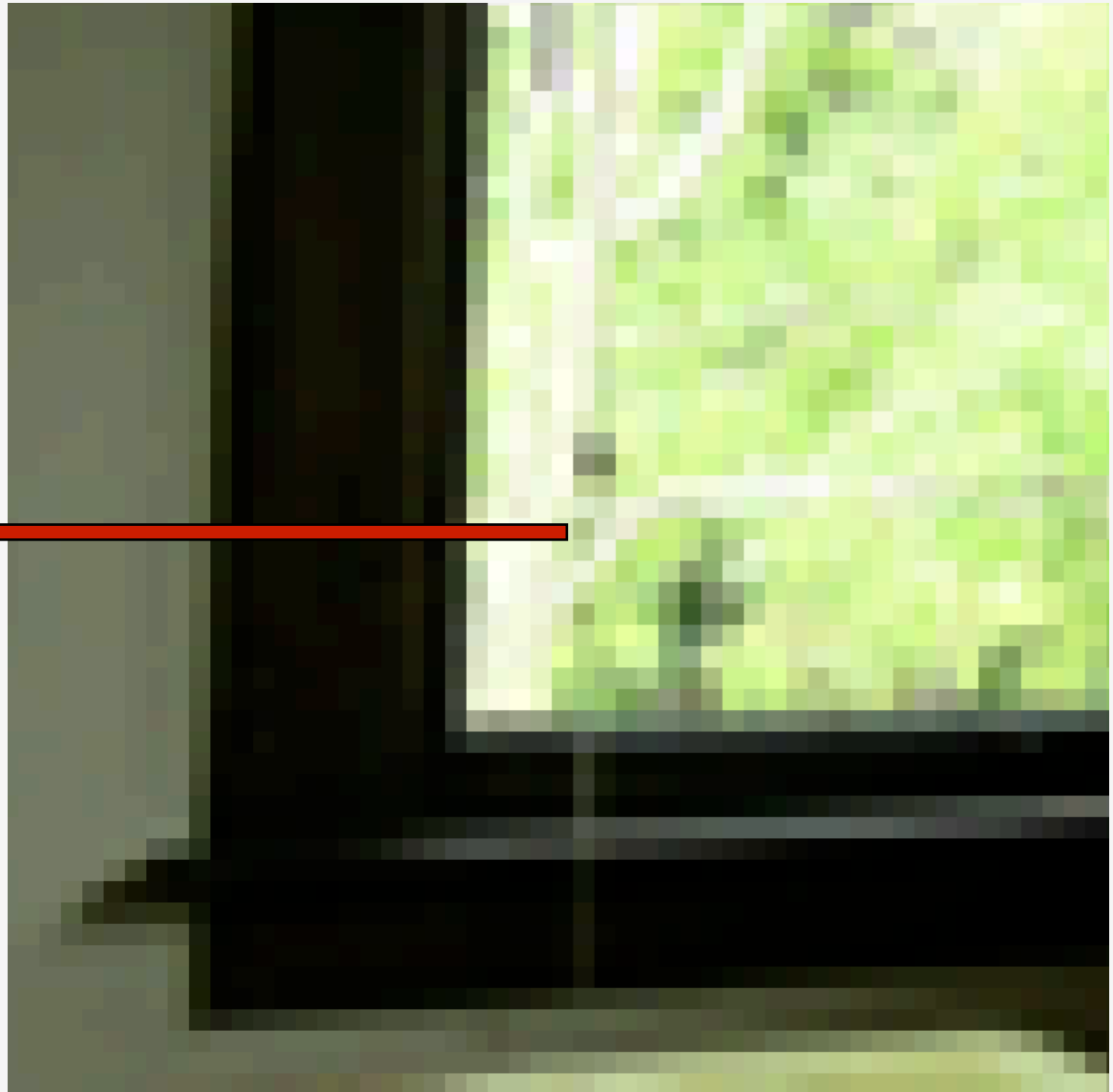
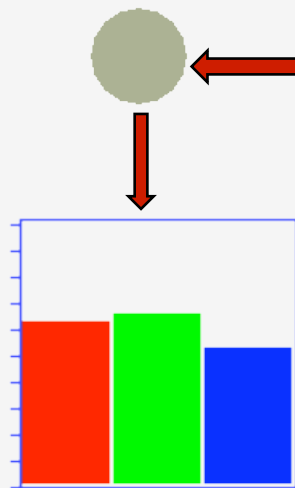
R:201 G:219 B:171 E:129	R:196 G:213 B:169 E:129	R:191 G:209 B:164 E:129	R:183 G:198 B:157 E:129	R:177 G:192 B:150 E:129
R:170 G:180 B:143 E:129	R:165 G:175 B:140 E:129	R:160 G:170 B:134 E:129	R:155 G:164 B:130 E:129	R:151 G:160 B:126 E:129
R:148 G:157 B:121 E:129	R:142 G:149 B:116 E:129	R:139 G:146 B:112 E:129	R:133 G:140 B:109 E:129	R:128 G:133 B:103 E:129
R:125 G:130 B:100 E:129	R:121 G:126 B:95 E:129	R:116 G:120 B:91 E:129	R:110 G:114 B:87 E:129	R:105 G:108 B:84 E:129
R:102 G:105 B:80 E:129	R:95 G:97 B:75 E:129	R:94 G:96 B:71 E:129	R:88 G:89 B:67 E:129	R:87 G:89 B:66 E:129

Lower right pixel X=2337 Y=537

---

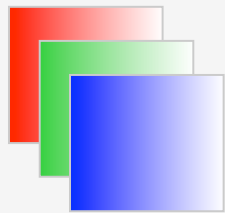
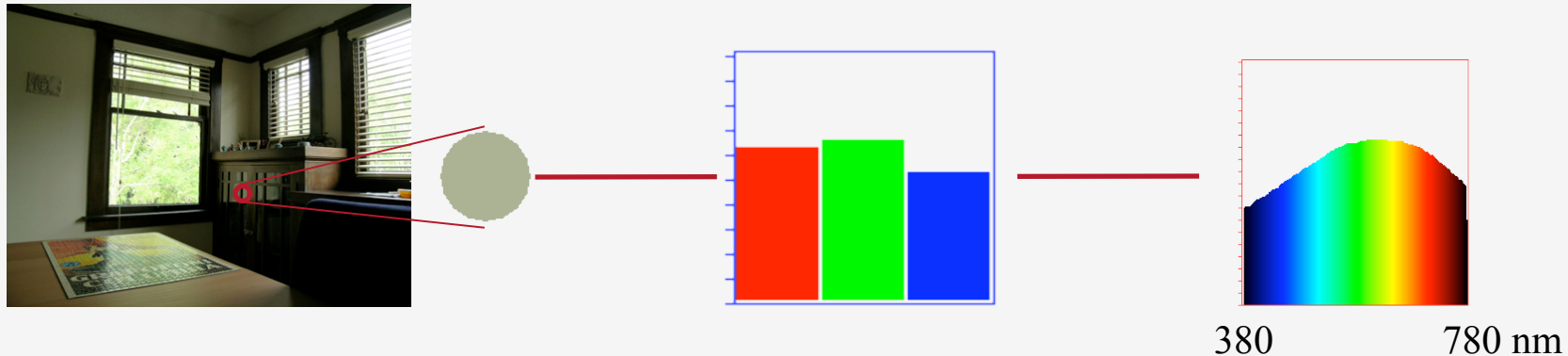
# Some of the HDR Image Formats

- RGBE (Radiance .pic = .hdr) 1989
  - LogLuv TIFF
  - ILM OpenEXR
  - HDR-JPEG
-

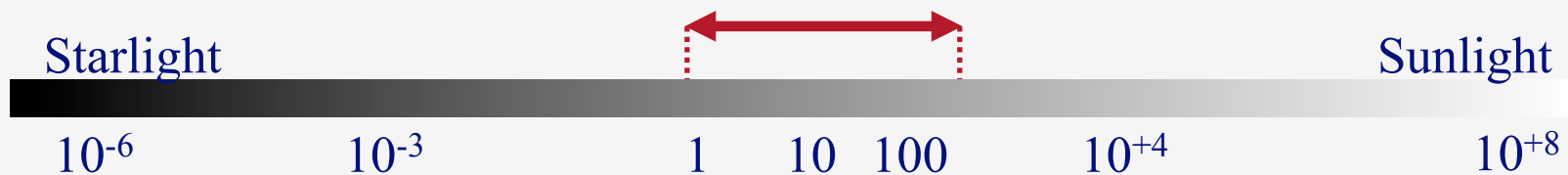




# High Dynamic Range Imagery

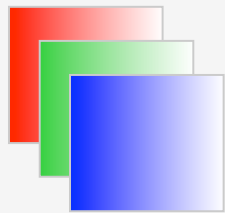
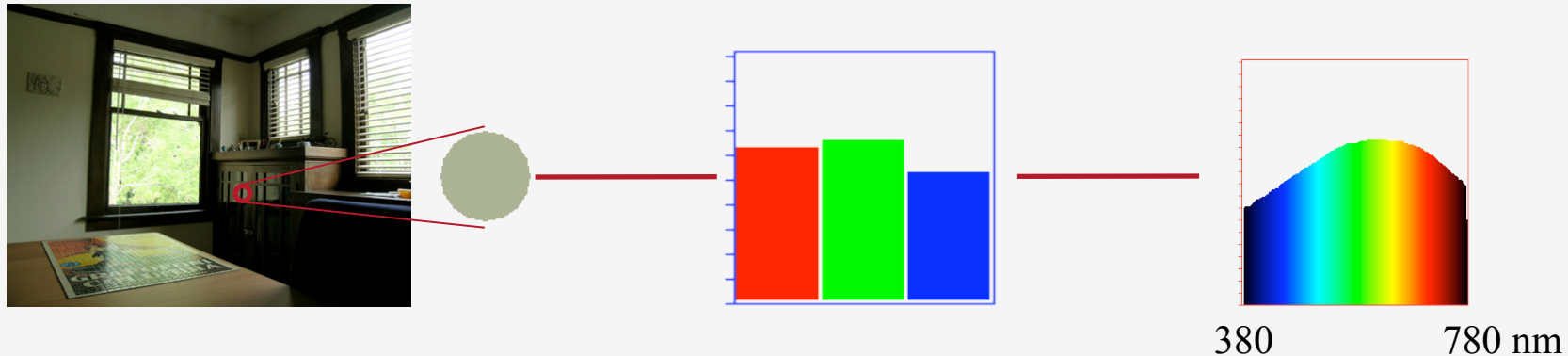


Traditional image formats (Low Dynamic Range Imagery)  
24 bit image formats e.g. TIFF, JPEG, GIF...  
[0 - 255]

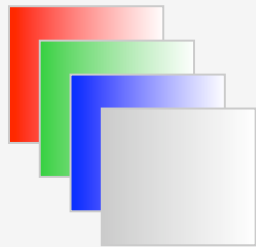
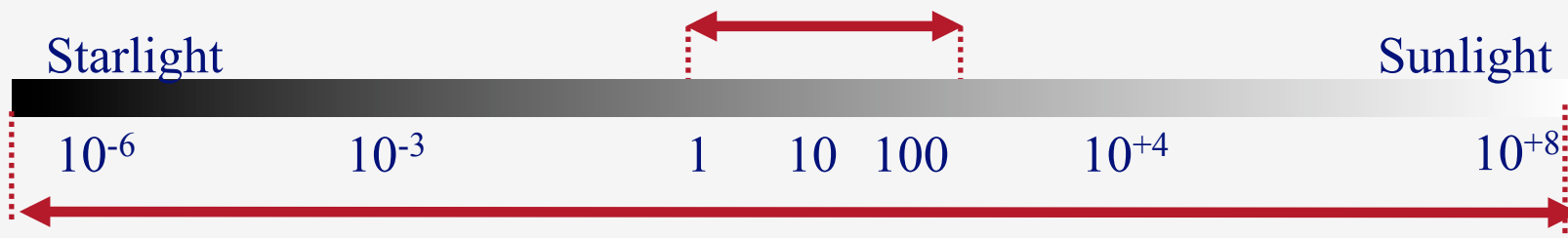


256 \* 256 \* 256 ~ 16 million colors

# High Dynamic Range Imagery



Traditional image formats (Low Dynamic Range Imagery)  
24 bit image formats e.g. TIFF, JPEG, GIF...  
[0 - 255]



High Dynamic Range Imagery  
32 bit image formats e.g. HDR (RGBE, Radiance .pic, .hdr)  
[10<sup>-38</sup> - 10<sup>38</sup>]

# 24 bit Image Format (Low Dynamic Range Format)



TIFF

0 - 255

JPG



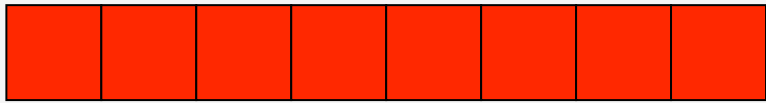
GIF

...



# 32 bit Image Format

## Radiance .pic Format = .hdr



0 - 255



Common Exponent



# Per-pixel Luminance Measurement



222 105 112 100 9 21 34 5

100-111-014-055-00-107-0

2 122 105 112 100 95 128 9

1 122 111 214 255 222 39 1

1	2	222	105	112	100	99	128	9
---	---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	-----	---

0	1	122	111	214	255	229	92	1
---	---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	---

2	0	2	122	105	112	100	94	125
1	0	2	122	105	112	100	94	125

1	9	2	122	105	112	100	94	125
2	1	1	111	214	255	122	105	11

4	1	111	214	233	122	103	11
2	0	255	127	128	100	116	17

4	0	255	127	128	100	116	17
2	189	107	118	188	99	122	

2	189	107	118	188	99	122
3	110	100	135	135	103	130

2	119	120	135	125	122	12
	100	100	105	105	100	

	126	122	125	125	122
	122	122	125	122	122

100	122	125	120	136
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Red

# Green

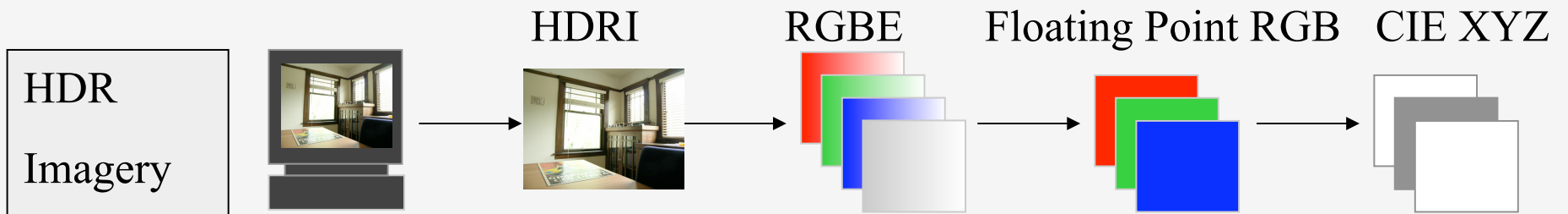
Blue

Exponent (E)

$$red = \frac{R}{255} * 2^{(E-128)}$$

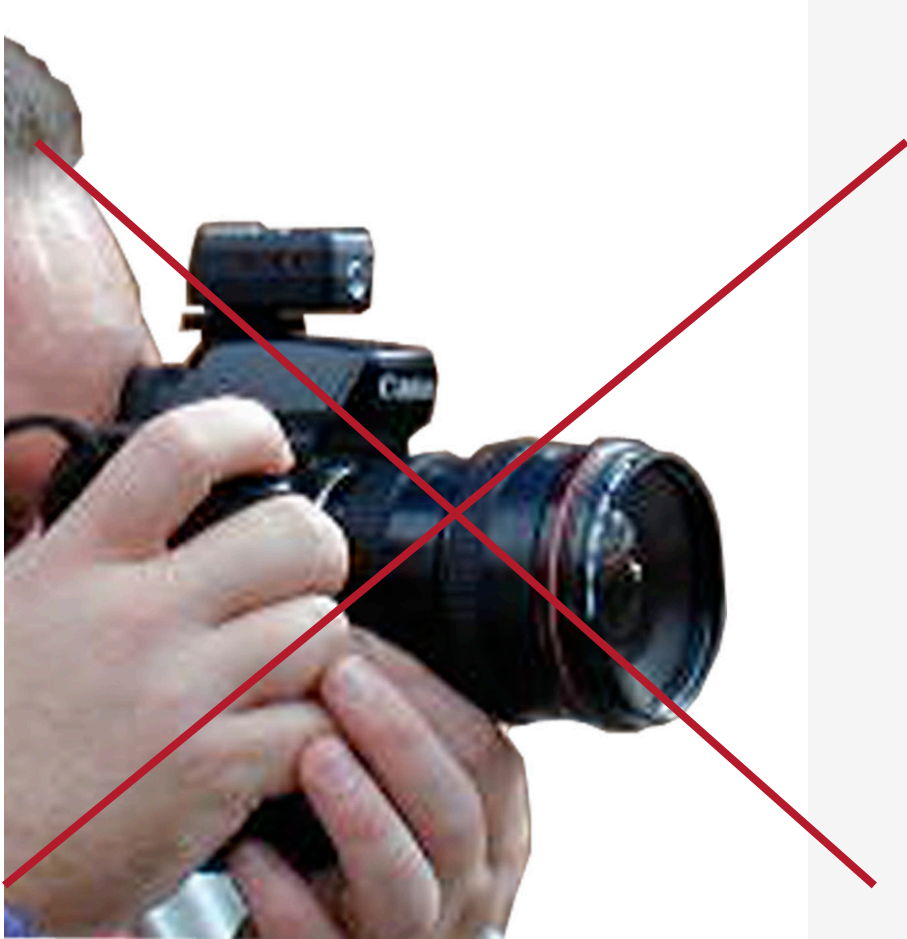
$$green = \frac{G}{255} * 2^{(E-128)}$$

$$blue = \frac{B}{255} * 2^{(E-128)}$$



2a

# HDR Image Capture



#1:

Use a tripod to take multiple exposure photographs!

# Exposure

- Aperture size (F-stop)



f/16



f/11



f/8



f/5.6



f/4



f/2.8

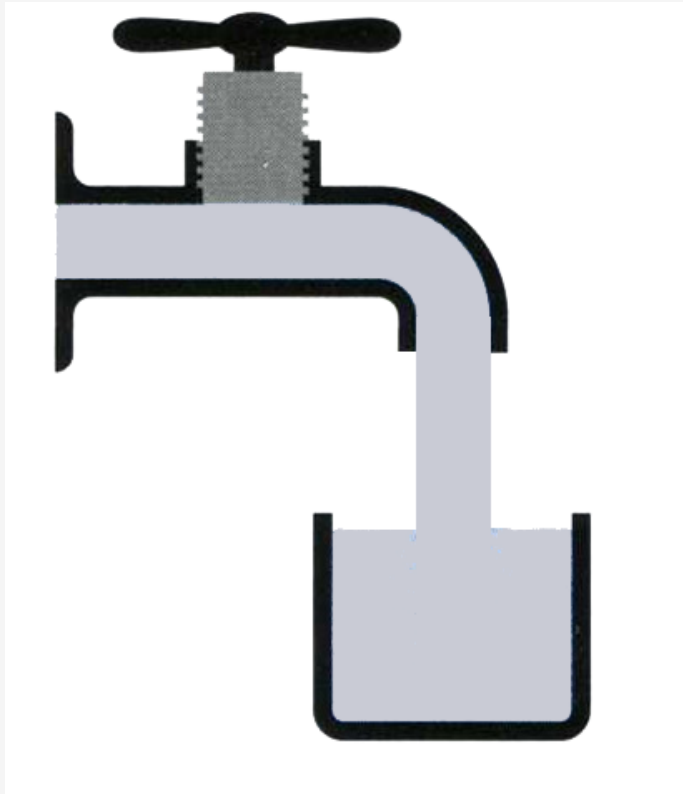


f/2

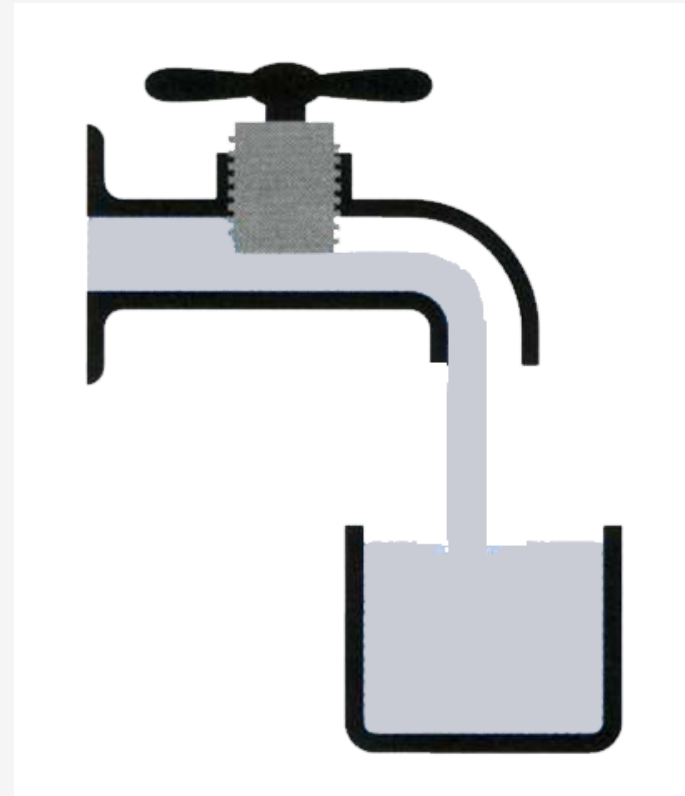
- Shutter speed (Seconds)



# Bucket of Light



Larger aperture size  
Shorter shutter speed



Smaller aperture size  
Longer shutter speed





f/16



f/11



f/8



f/5.6



f/4



f/2.8



f/2

- Aperture size: size of the lens opening
  - The smaller the aperture opening, the greater the depth of field.



f/2.8

Large aperture, less depth of field



f/16

Small aperture, more depth of field





f/16



f/11



f/8



f/5.6



f/4



f/2.8



f/2

- Aperture size: size of the lens opening
  - The smaller the aperture opening, the smaller the vignette effect.
  - Lenses exhibit noticeable light falloff (vignetting) for the pixels far from the optical axis

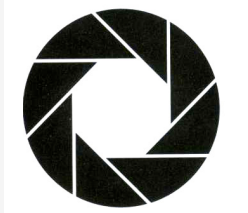
# Shutter Speed (second)

- $1/8000$  s
  - $1/2000$  s
  - $1/500$  s
  - $1/125$  s
  - $1/30$  s
  - $1/8$  s
  - $1/2$  s
- $1/4000$  s
  - $1/1000$  s
  - $1/250$  s
  - $1/60$  s
  - $1/15$  s
  - $1/4$  s
  - $1$  s

Shutter speed is a more reliable measure than aperture size in changing the exposure values!



# Aperture size (f stop)

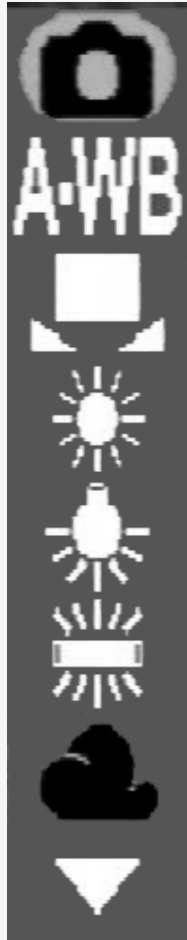


#2:

Use fixed aperture size and vary the shutter speed to change exposure!



# White balance



Auto

White Bal Preset

Daylight

Incandescent

Fluorescent

Cloudy

# White balance



Auto

White Bal Preset

Daylight

Incandescent

Fluorescent

Cloudy

#3:

Set white balance, preferably to Daylight.



# Film Speed

Film speed describes a film's sensitivity to light.



ISO 100



ISO 400



ISO 1000

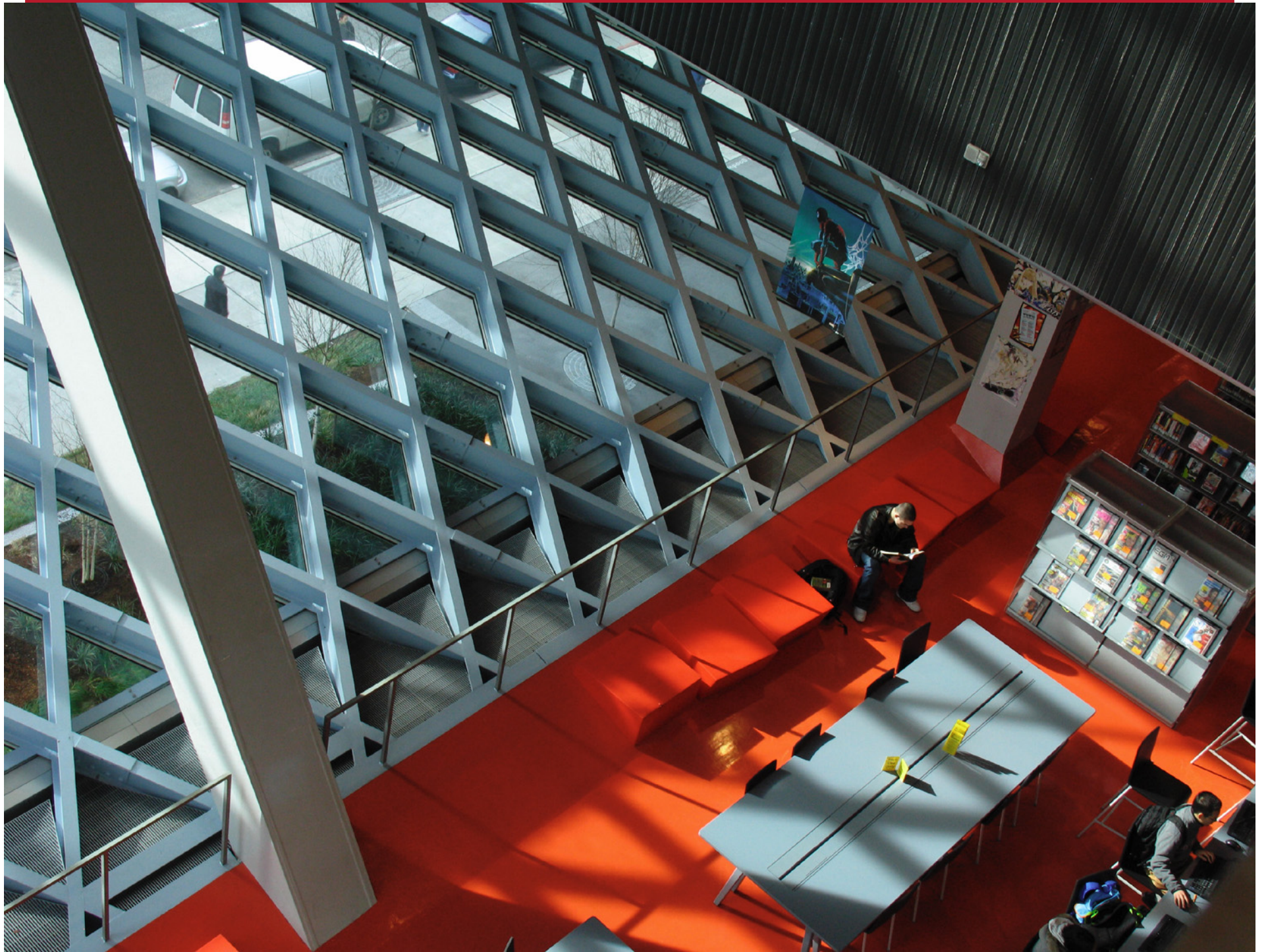
#4: Set film speed to ISO 100



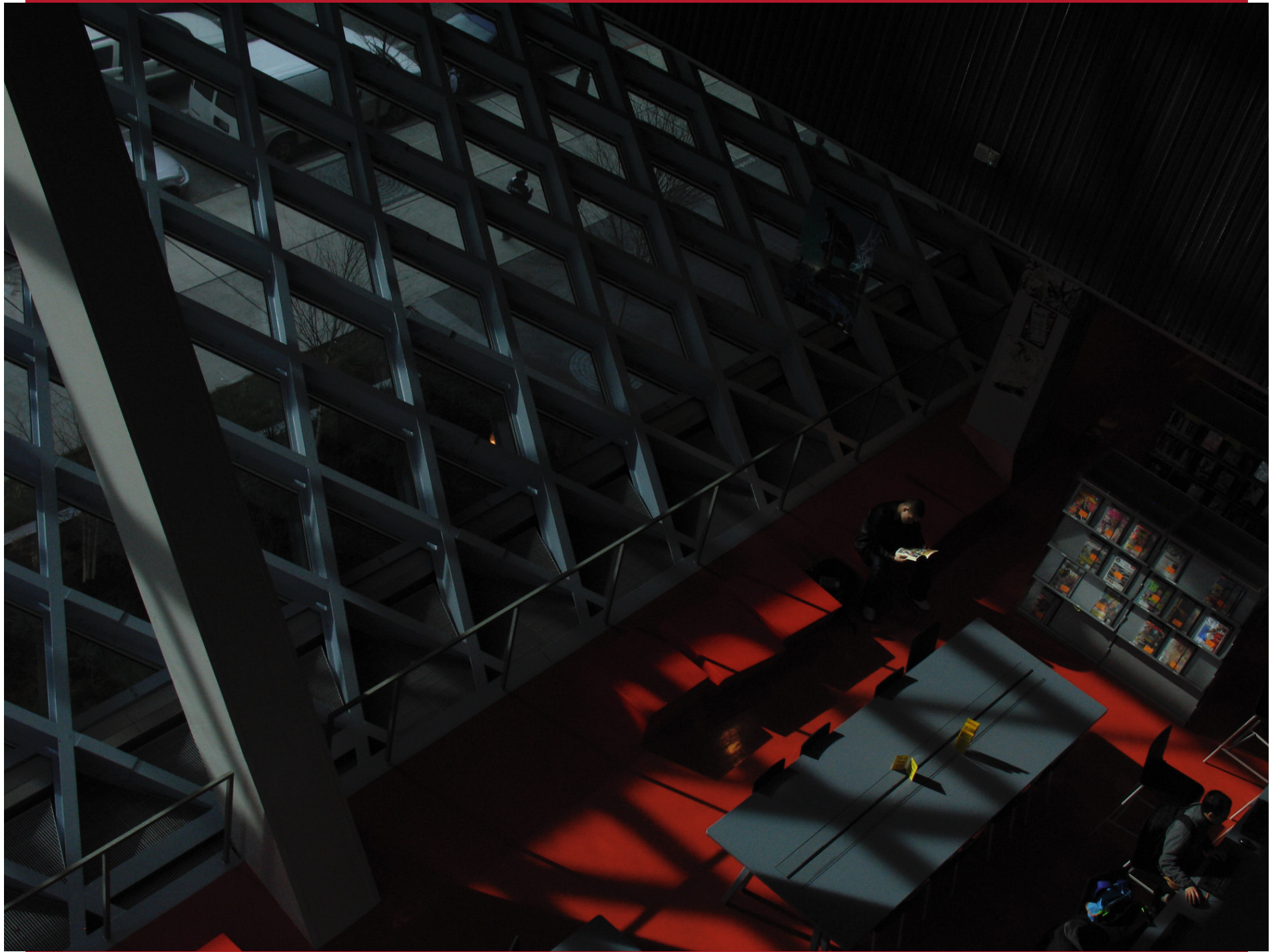
---

# Capturing process

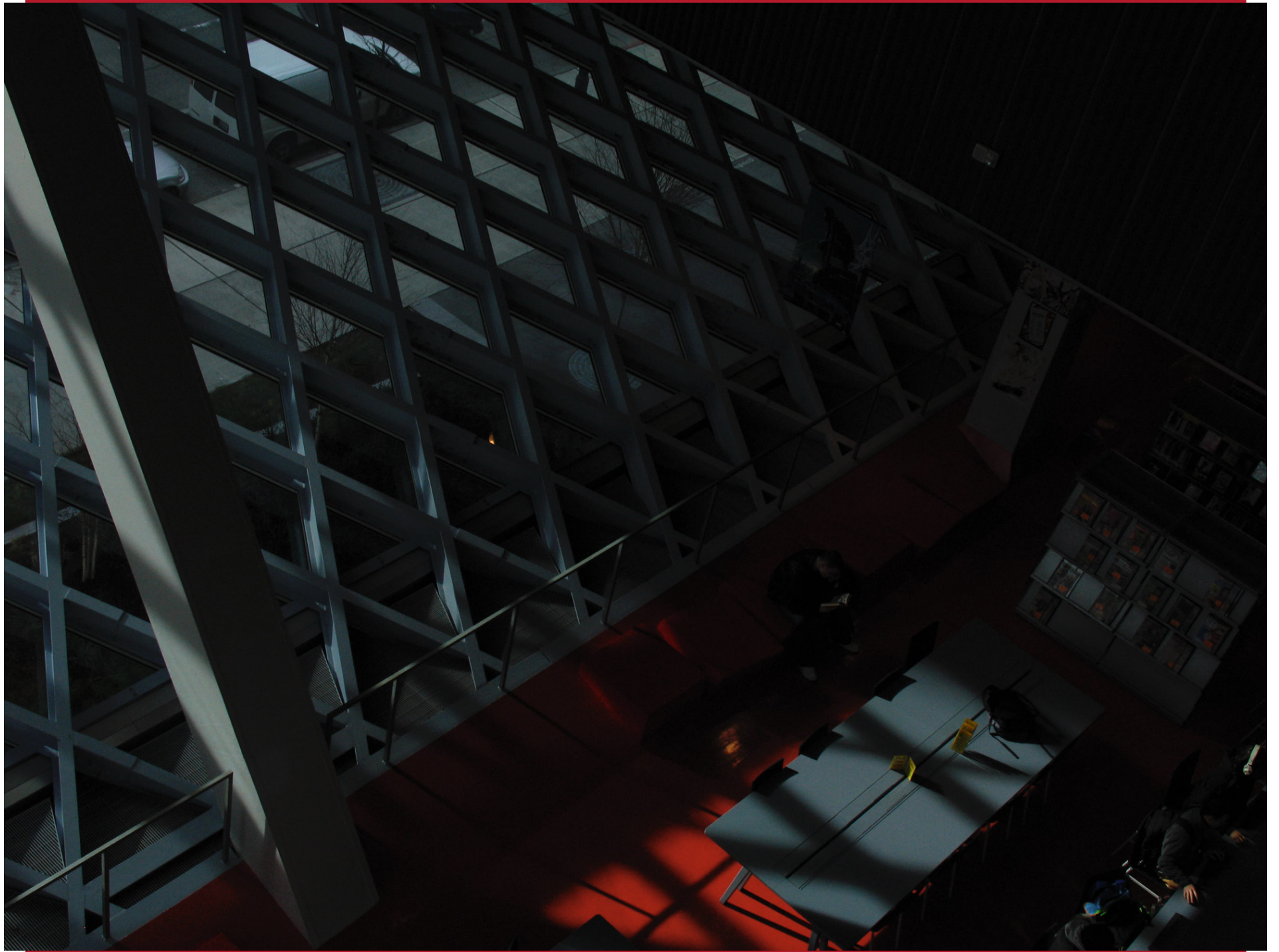
- Use tripod
  - Fix the aperture size
  - Vary only the shutter speed
  - Fix white balance to daylight
  - Fix the film speed to ISO 100
  - Take photographs in a stable environment (motionless, stable lighting conditions)
  - Capture multiple exposures as quickly as possible!
-











---

#5:

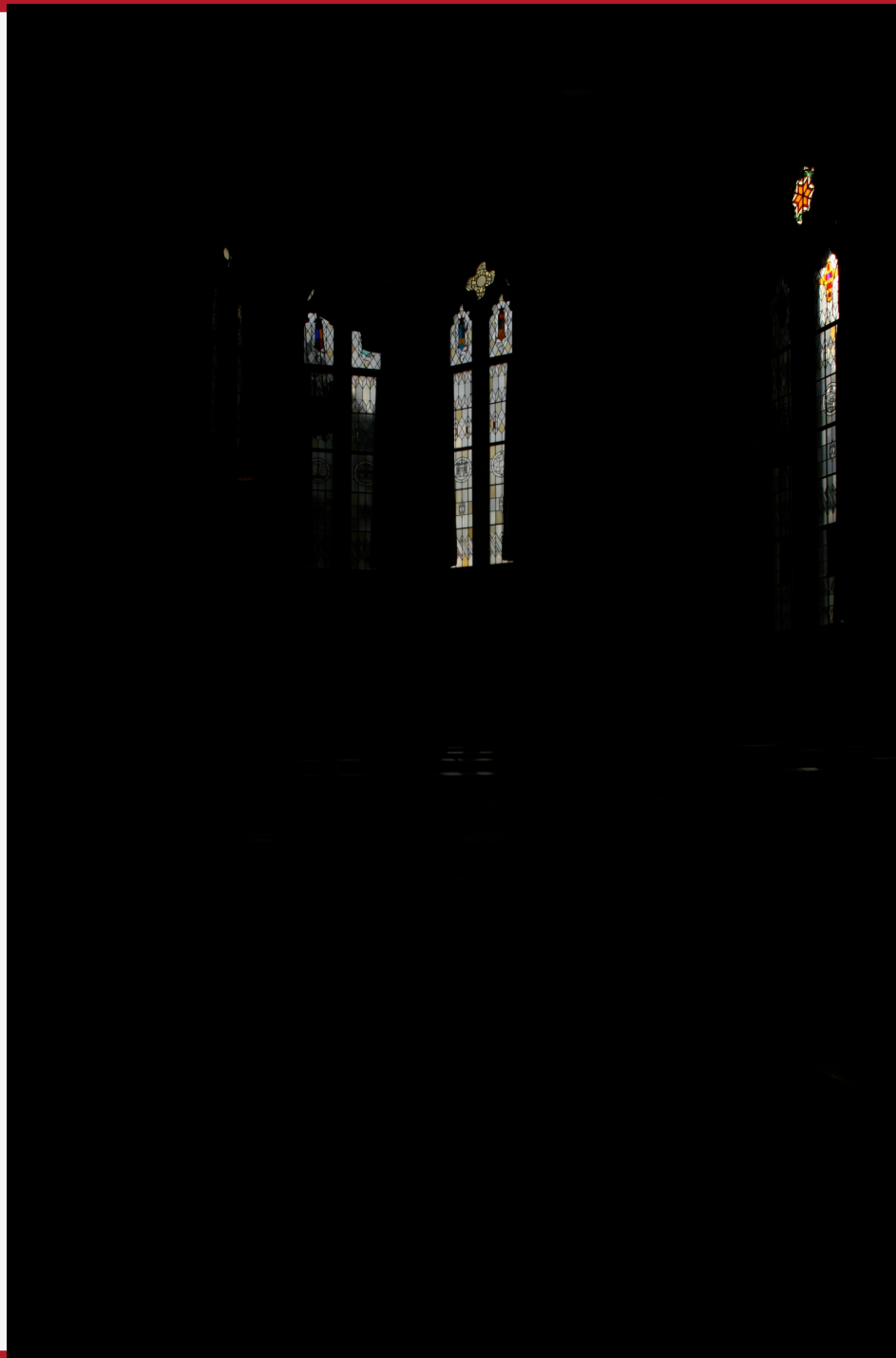
The overexposed image should not be totally washed with light and the under exposed image should not be totally black!

#6:

For a regular HDR assembly, take 6 - 8 exposures to cover the range.

---



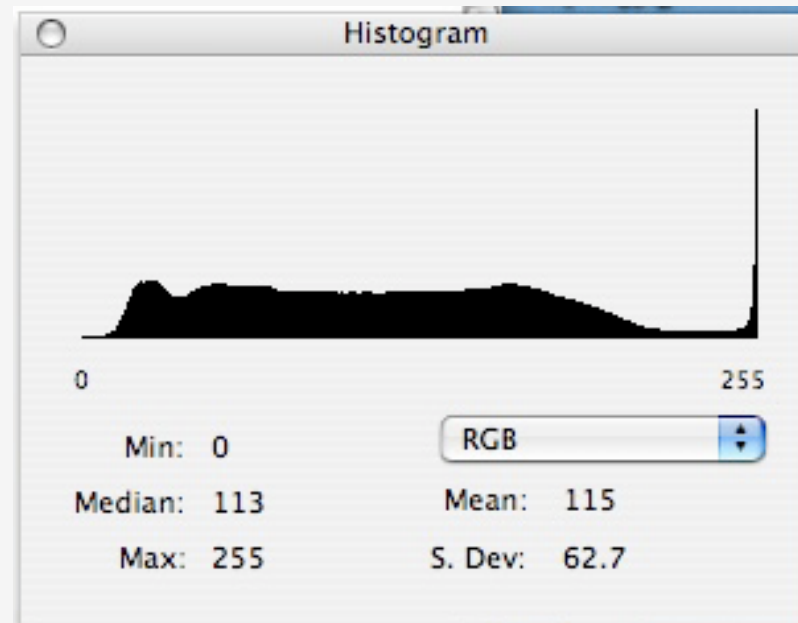
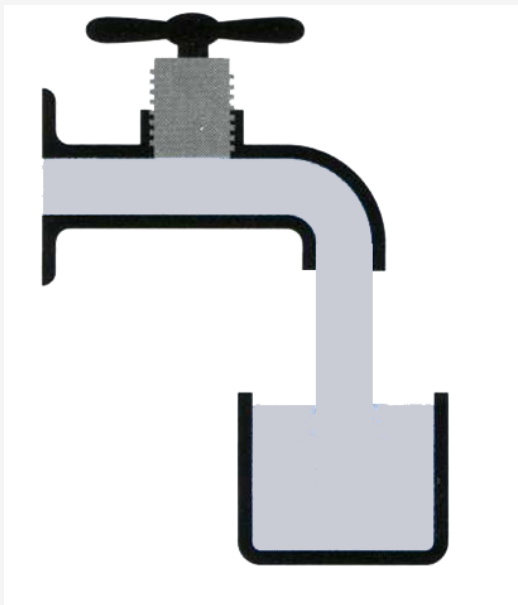


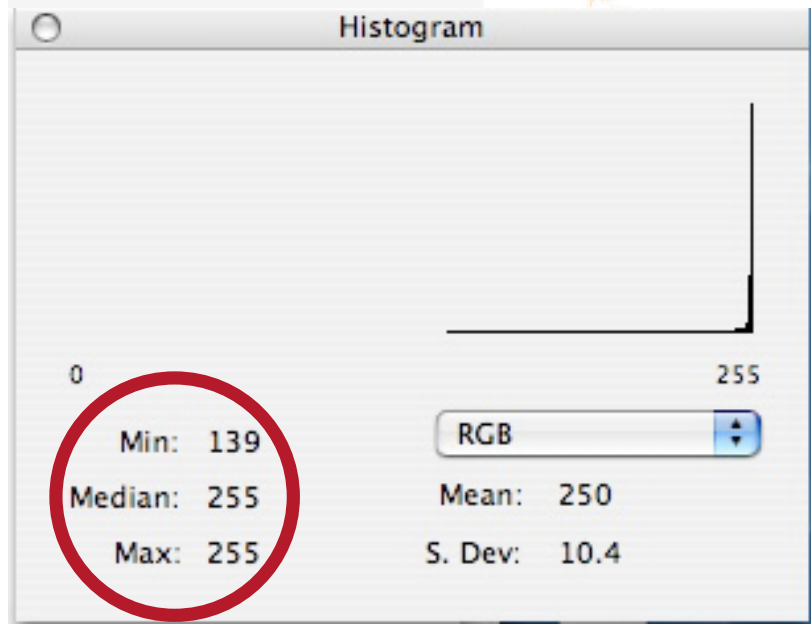


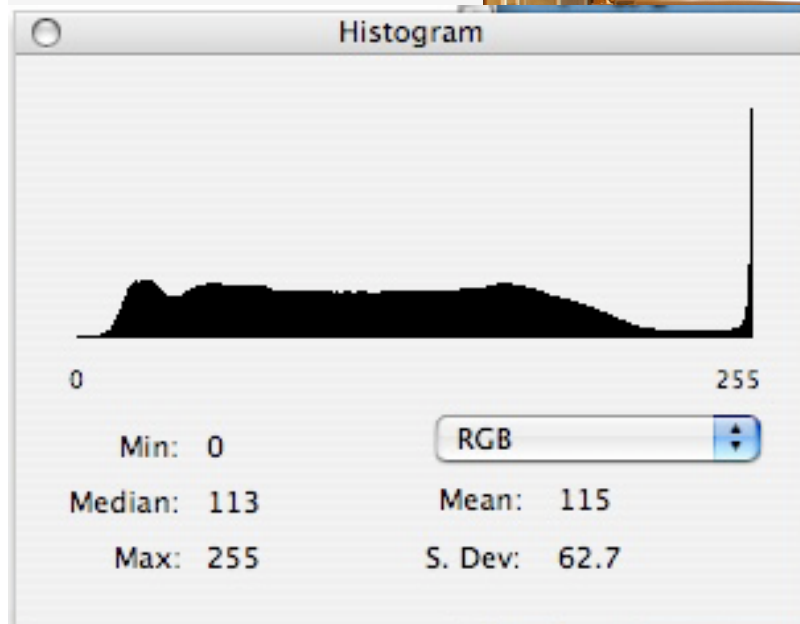


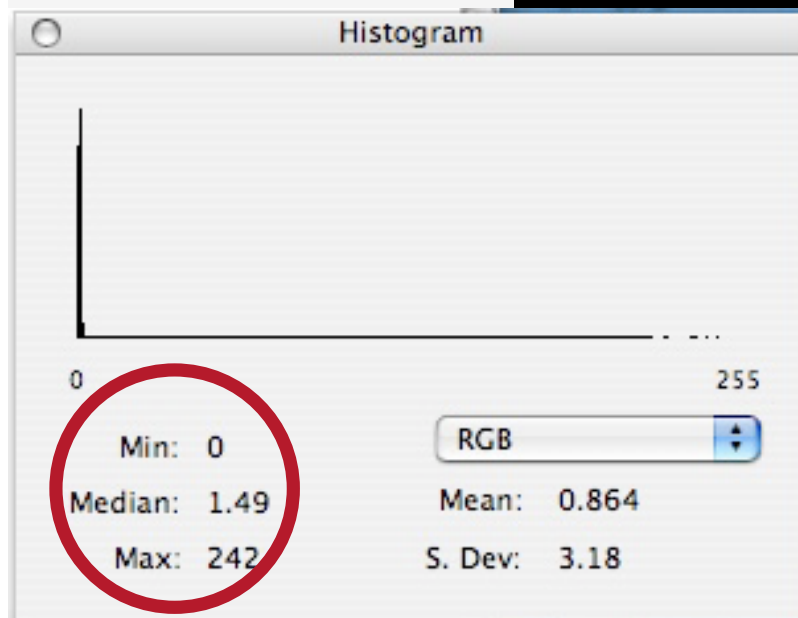
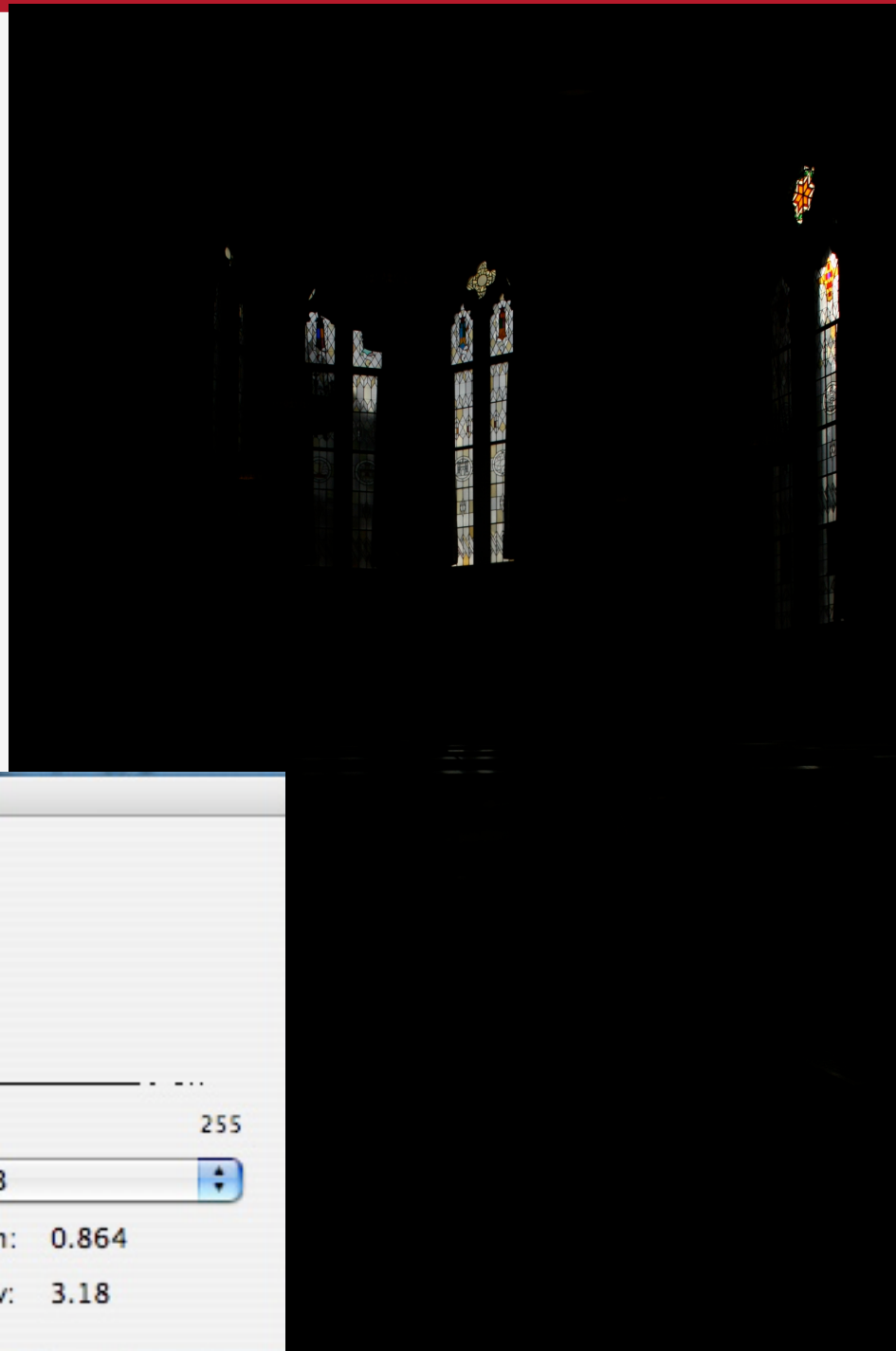


# Is the bucket of light full?

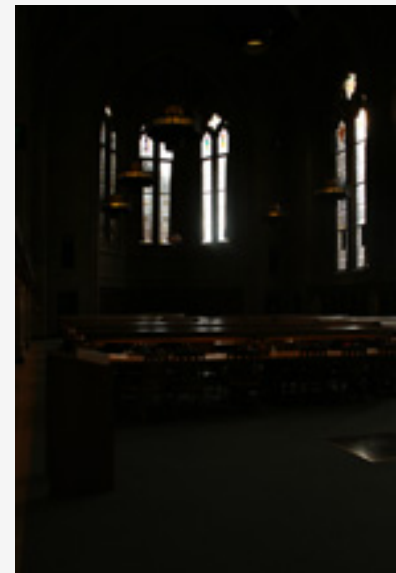
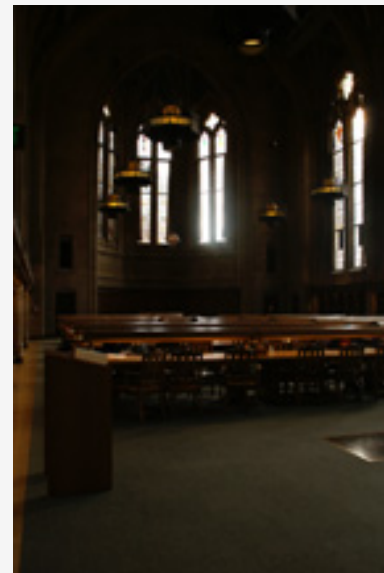
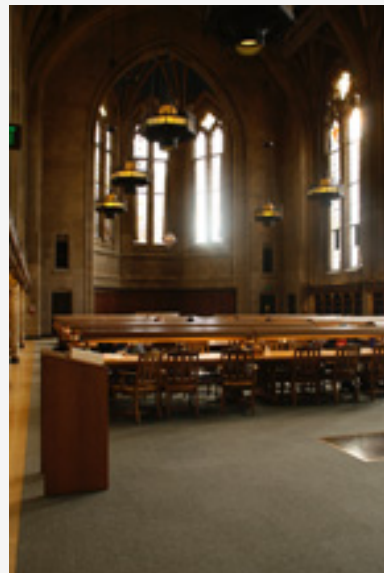






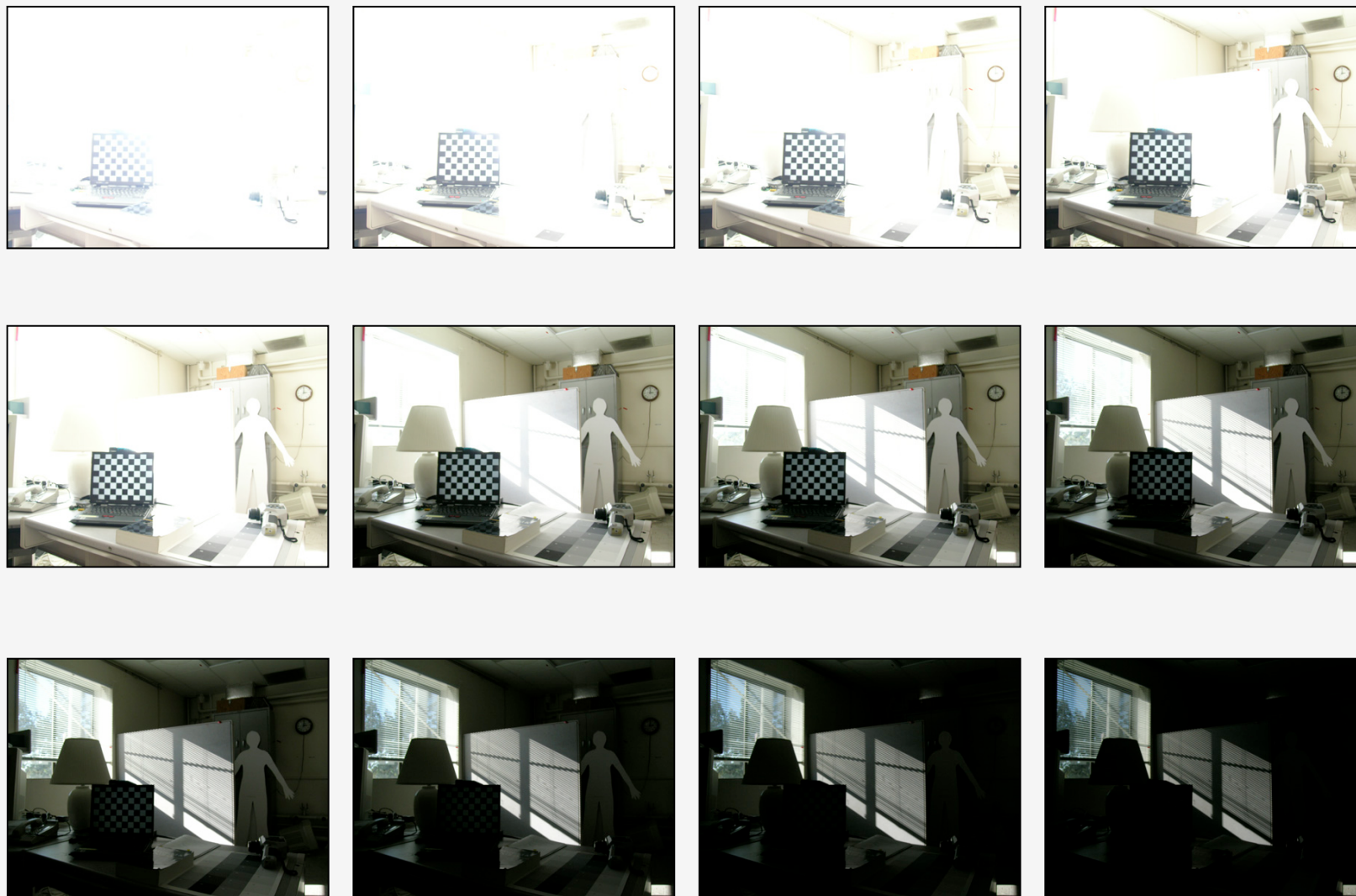






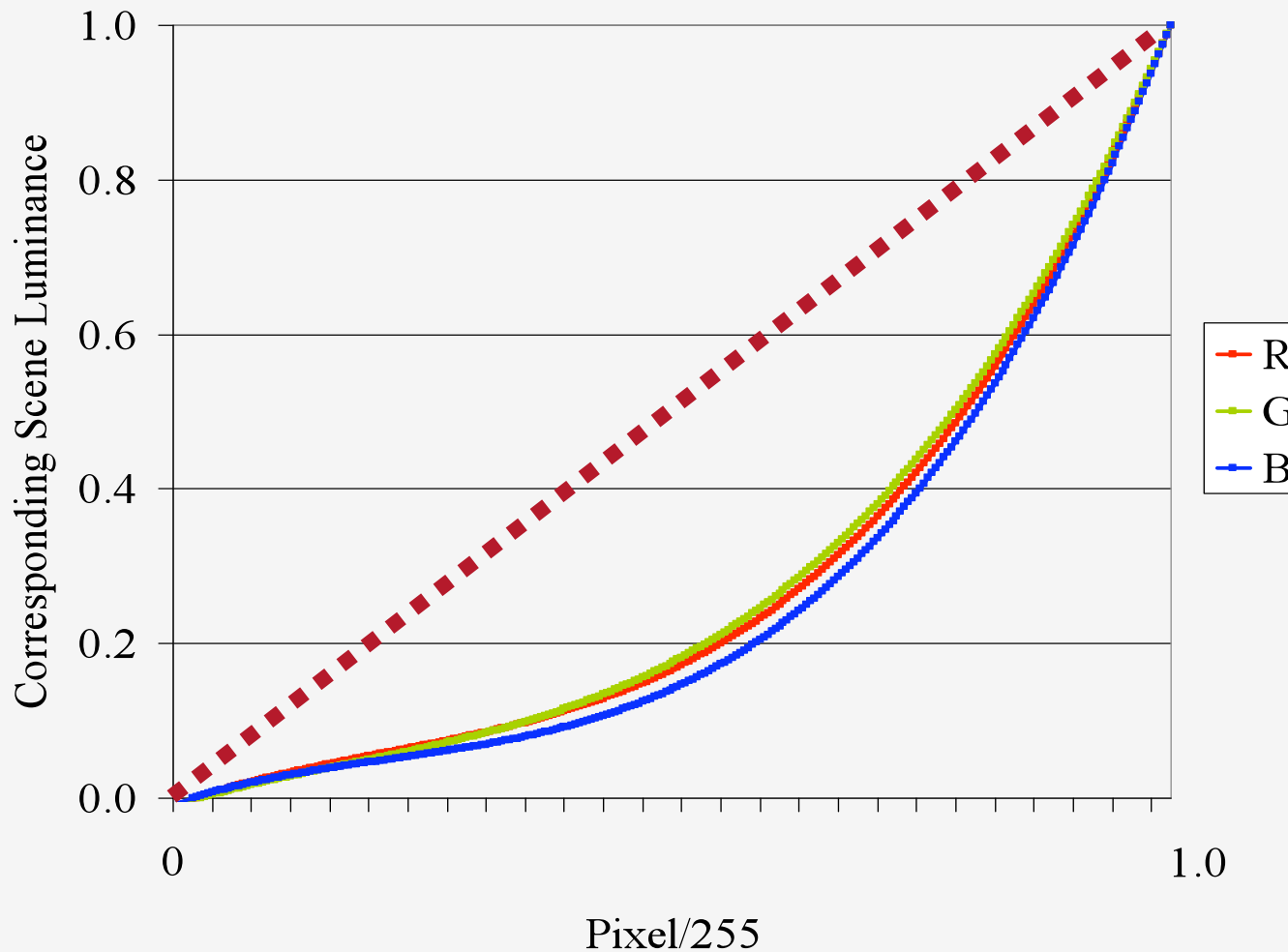


# Camera Response Function



2b

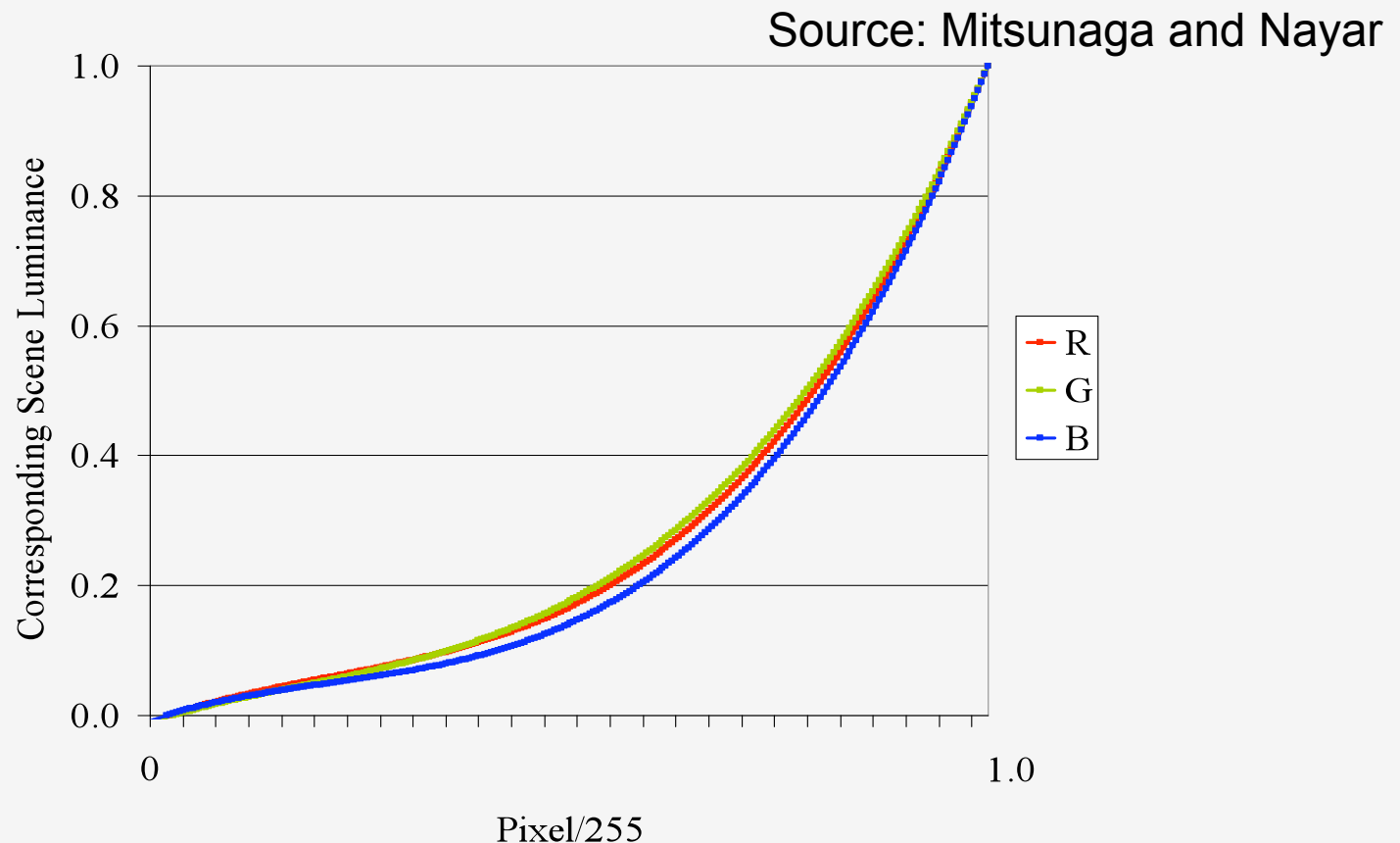
# Camera Response Curve



Every camera has a different calibration curve

# Camera Response Curve

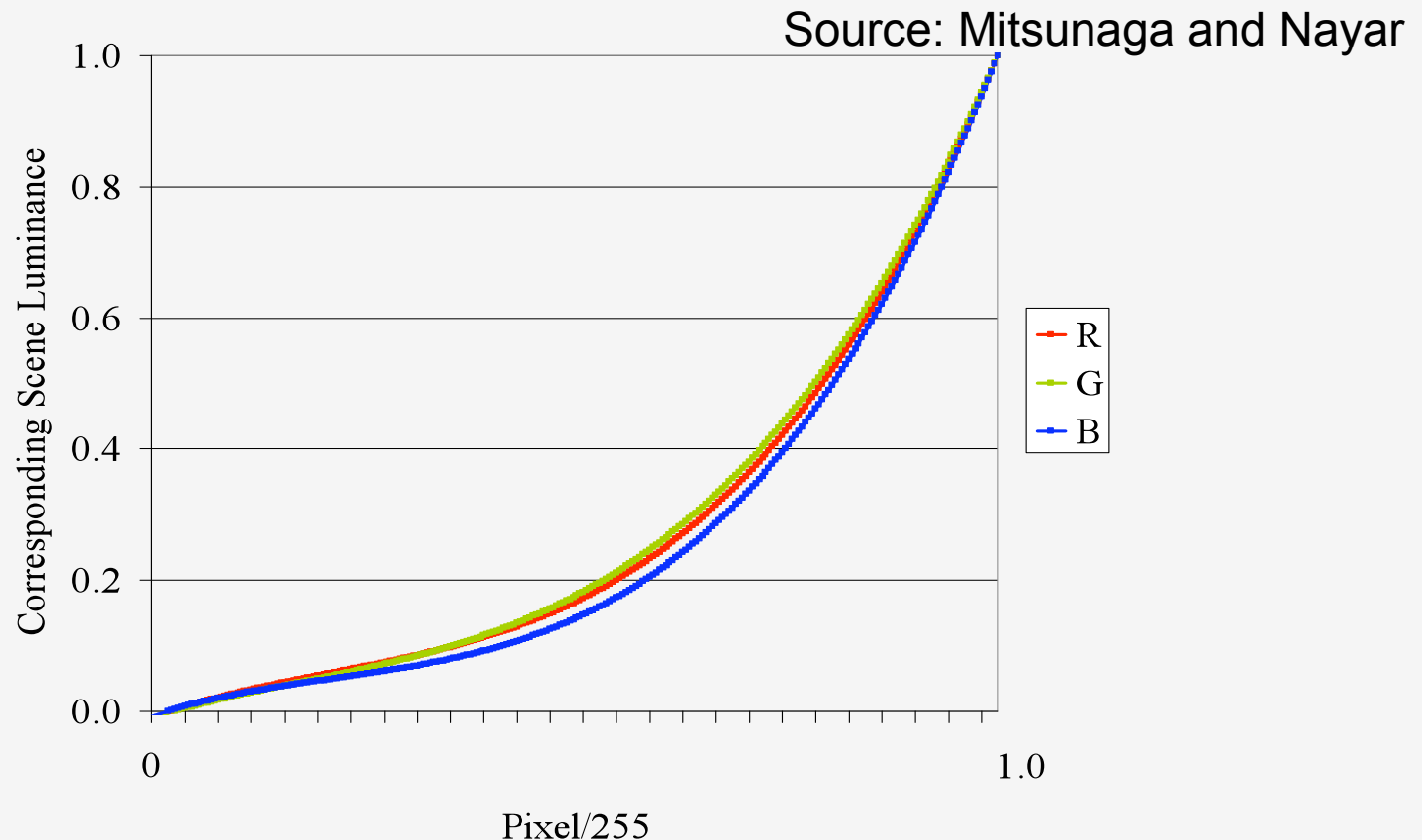
“Polynomial functions that model the accumulated radiometric non-linearities of the image acquisition process, without addressing the individual source of each non-linearity”.



Every camera has a different calibration curve

# Camera Response Curve

Radiometric self-calibration is a computationally derived calibration process that is used to relate the pixel values to the real-world luminances.



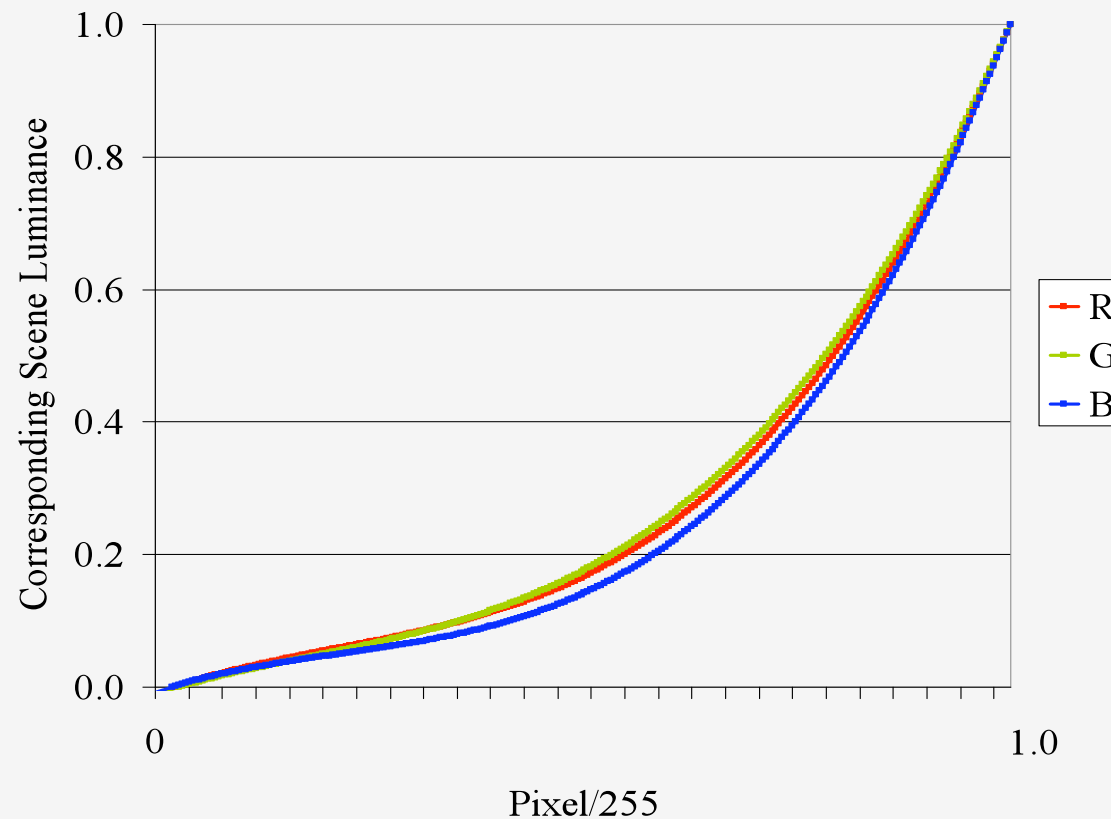
Every camera has a different calibration curve

# Camera Response Curve

$$R = 1.53994x^3 - 0.99492x^2 + 0.46536 - 0.01037$$

$$G = 1.31795x^3 - 0.69784x^2 + 0.38994 - 0.01005$$

$$B = 1.67667x^3 - 1.09256x^2 + 0.42334 - 0.00745$$



Every camera has a different calibration curve



---

#7:

For determining the camera response curve, select a scene that has both low and high luminance values and gradual change within the scene.

#8:

For determining the camera response curve, take as many exposures as you can take with your camera (12+).

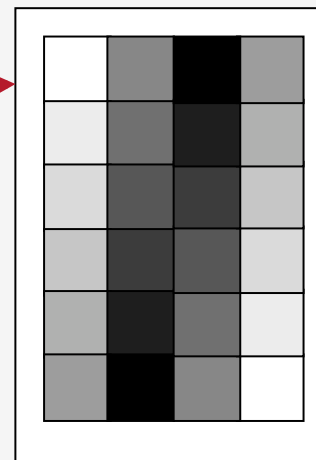
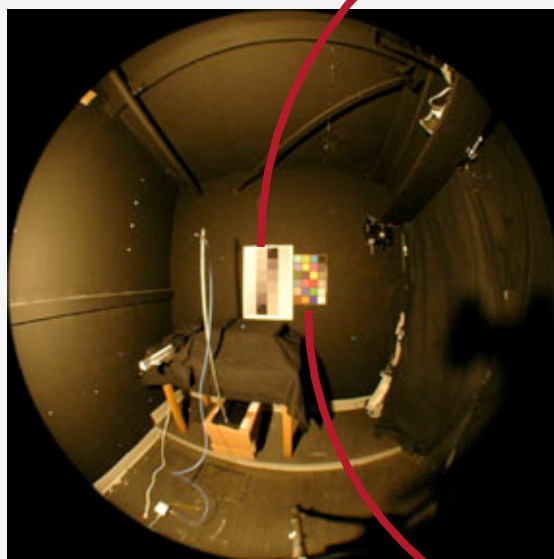
#9:

Use the same response curve for generating subsequent HDR images

---

2c

# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition

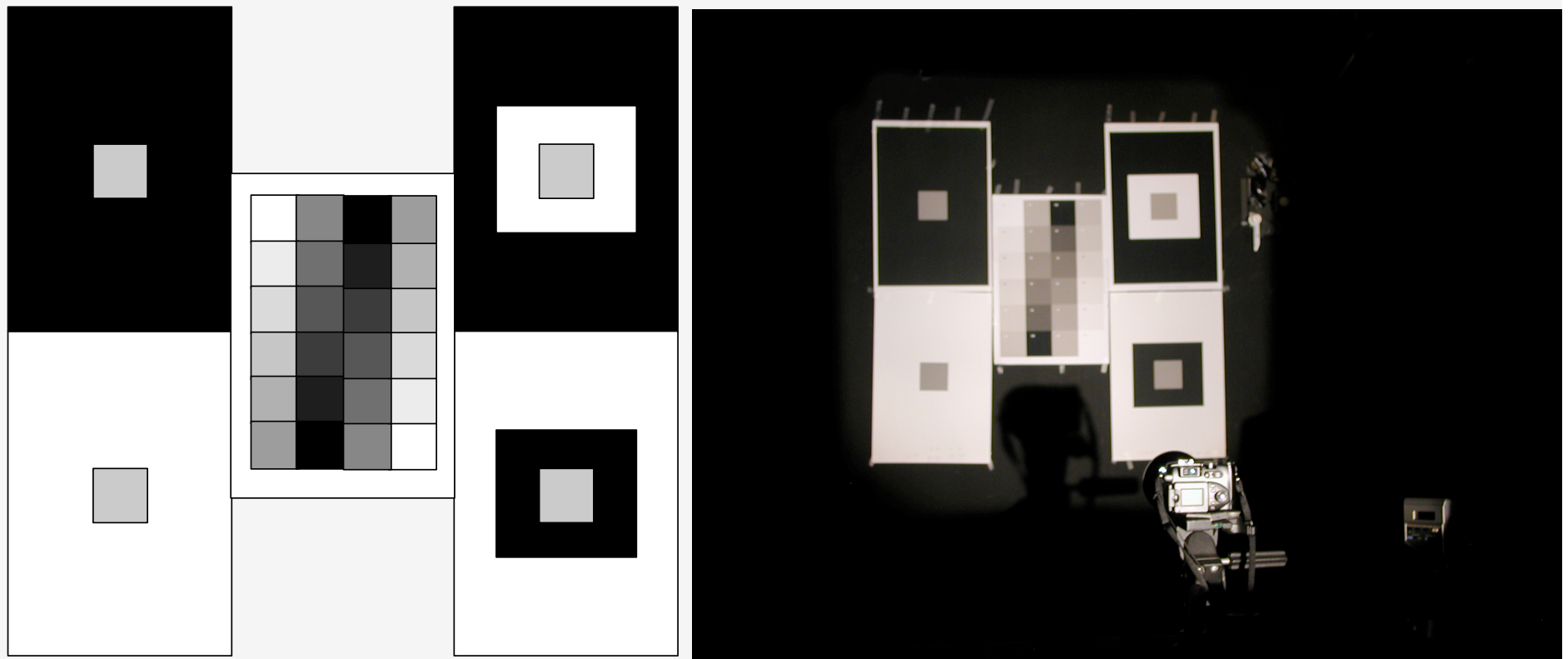


---

# Photosphere

- Developed by Greg Ward
  - Based on “Self Calibration Algorithm” developed by Mitsunaga and Nayar
  - Free
  - Available from: <http://www.anywhere.com>
-

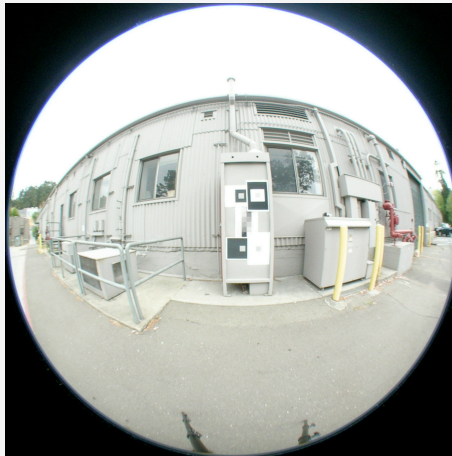
# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition



# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition



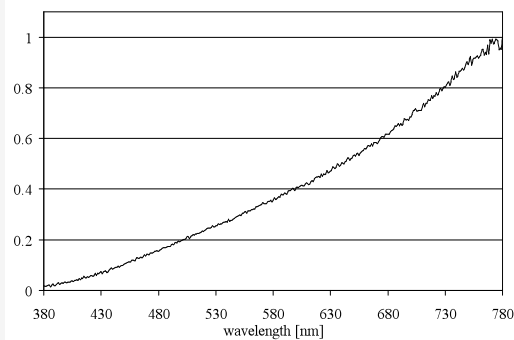
- Incandescent lamp
- Fluorescent Lamp  
(T5, T8, T12 w/ CCT 3000-6500°K)
- High Pressure Sodium
- Metal Halide
- LED



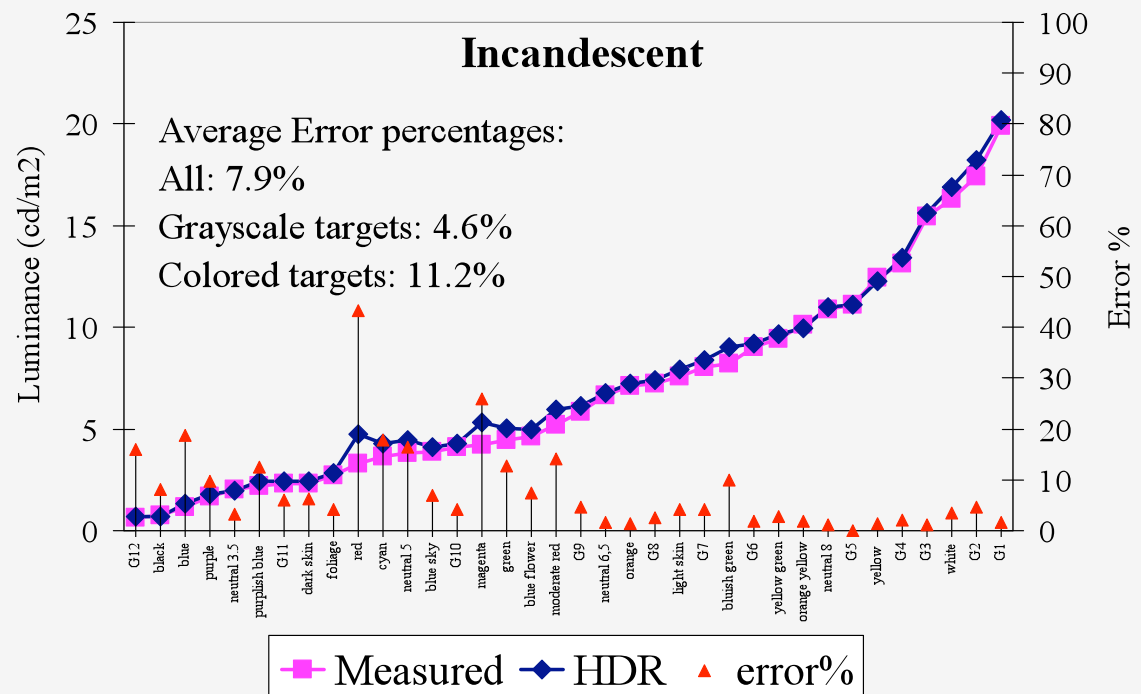


# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition

Spectral data

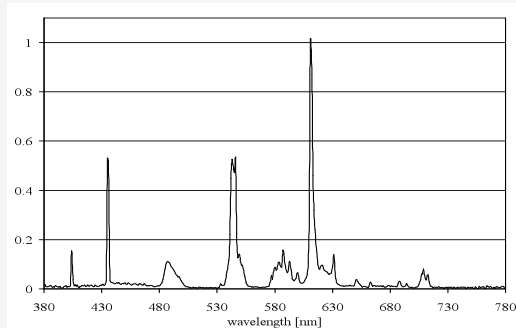


Luminance measurements

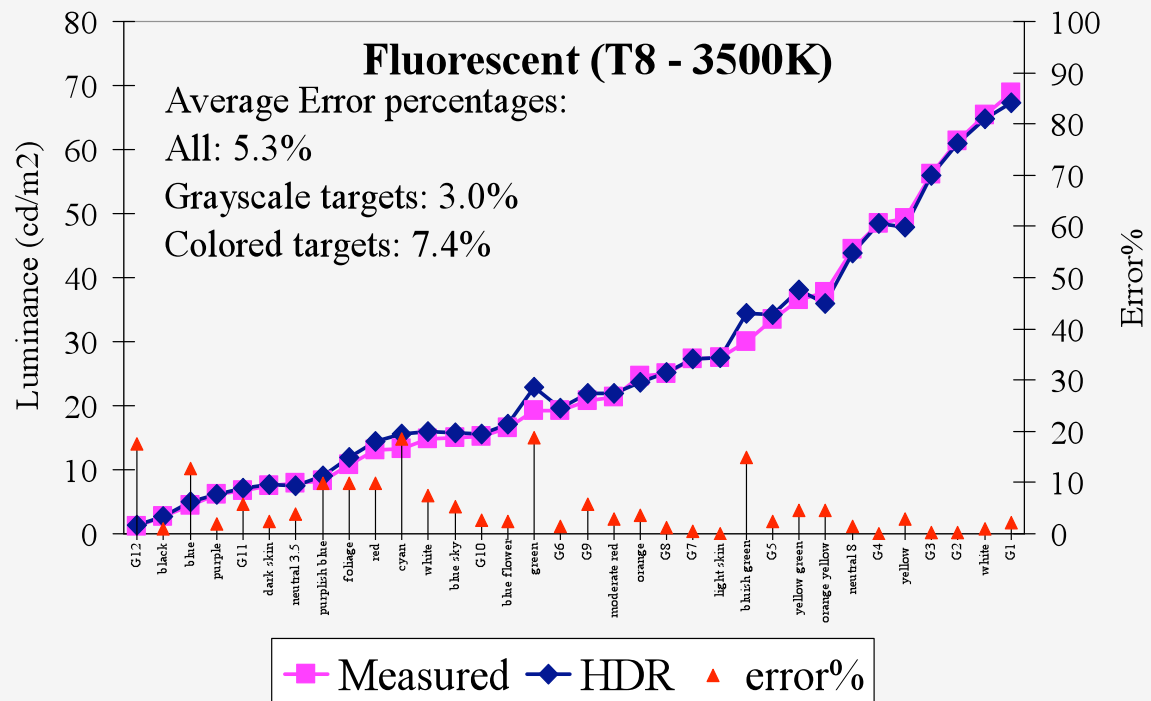


# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition

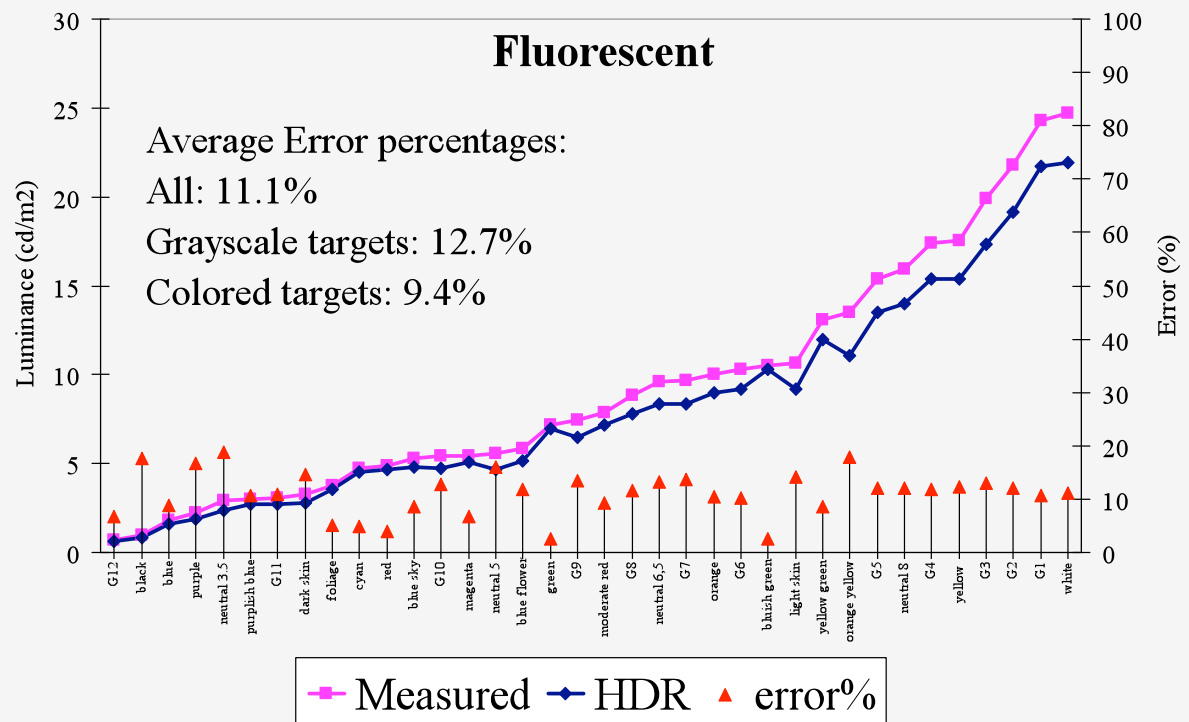
Spectral data



Luminance measurements

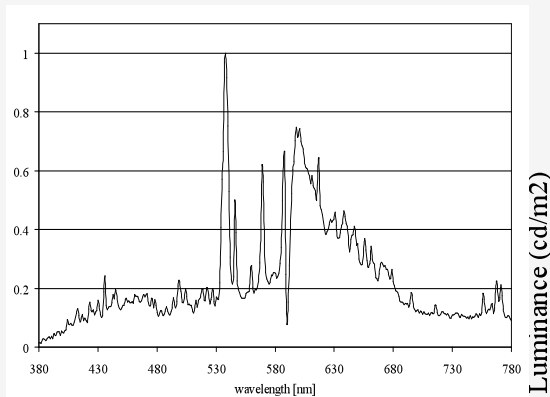


# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition

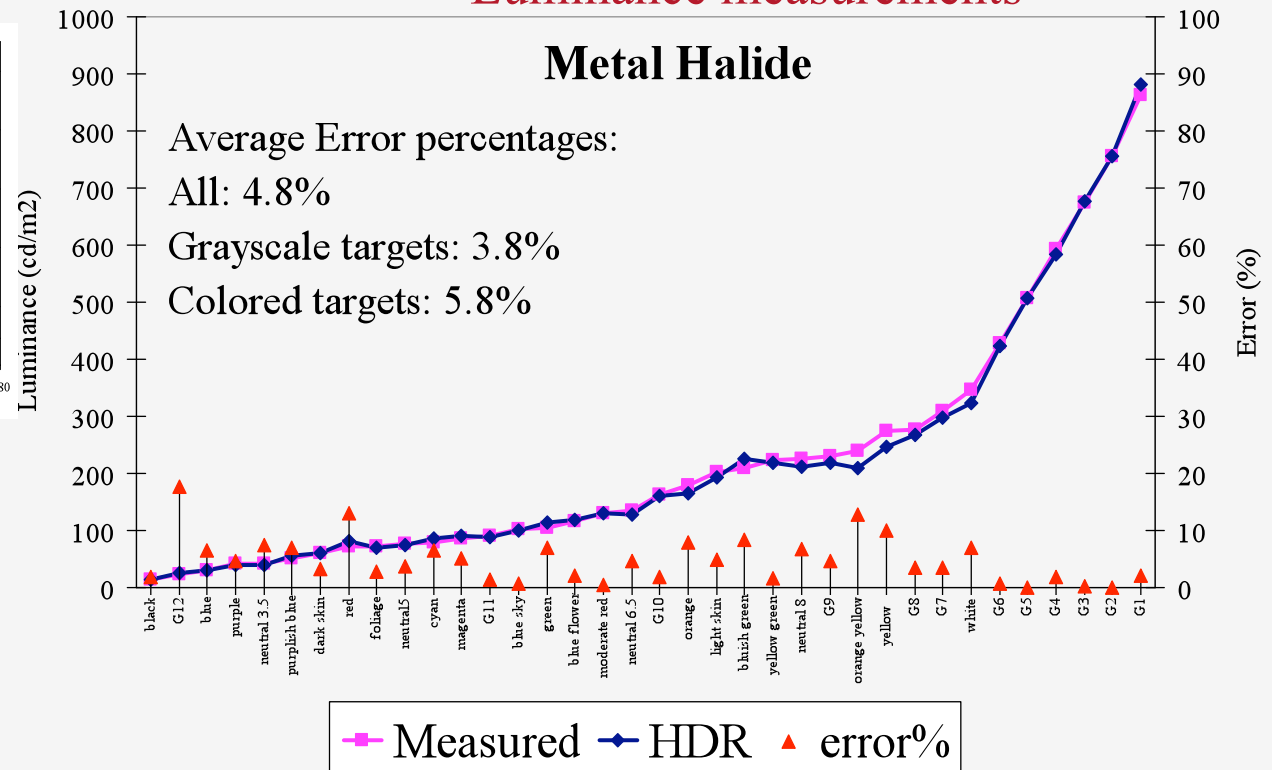


# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition

Spectral data



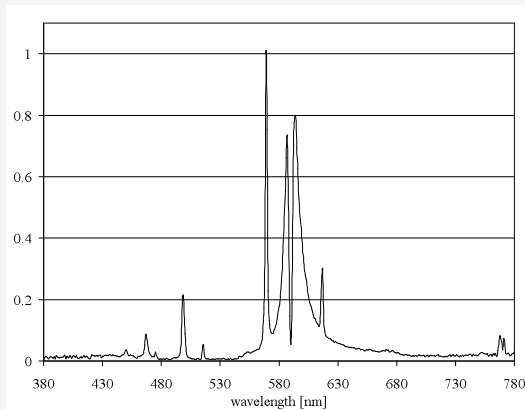
Luminance measurements



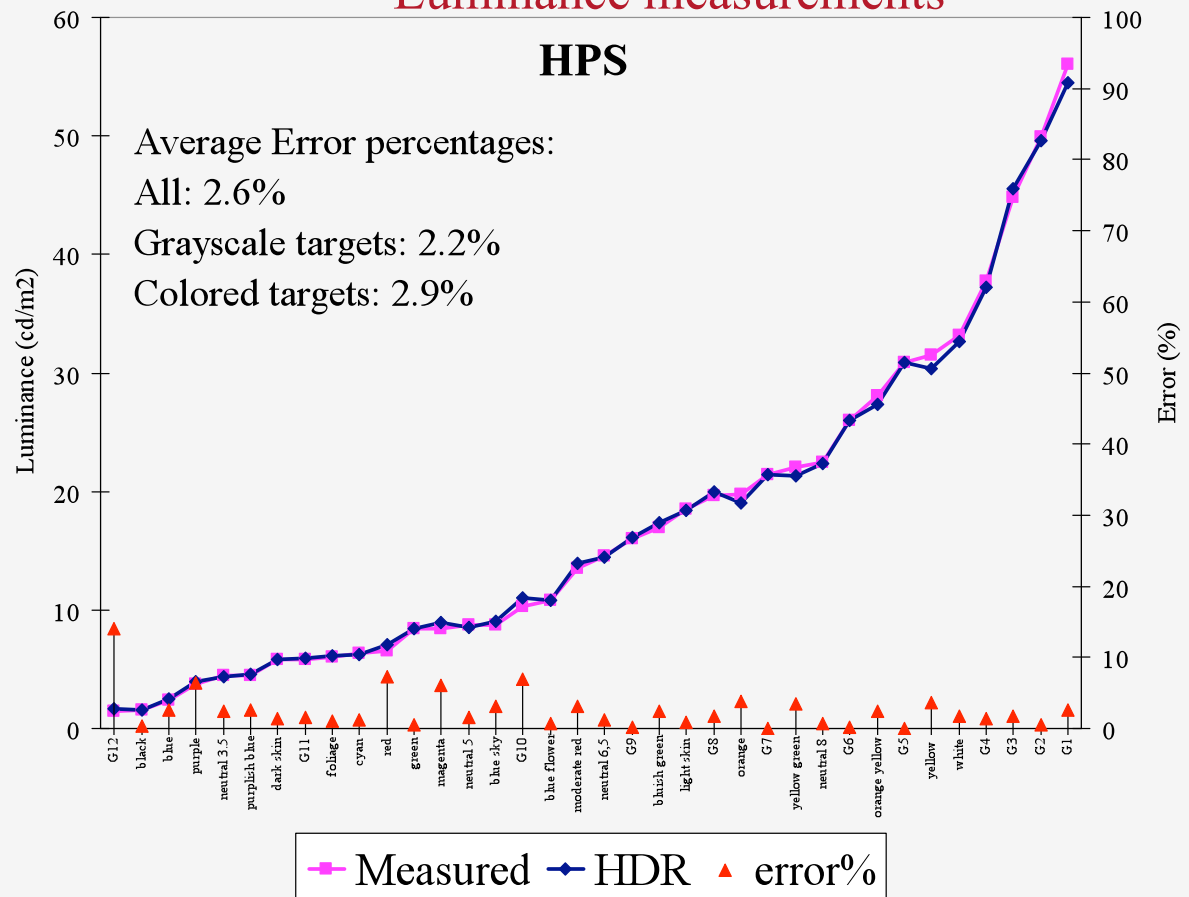


# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition

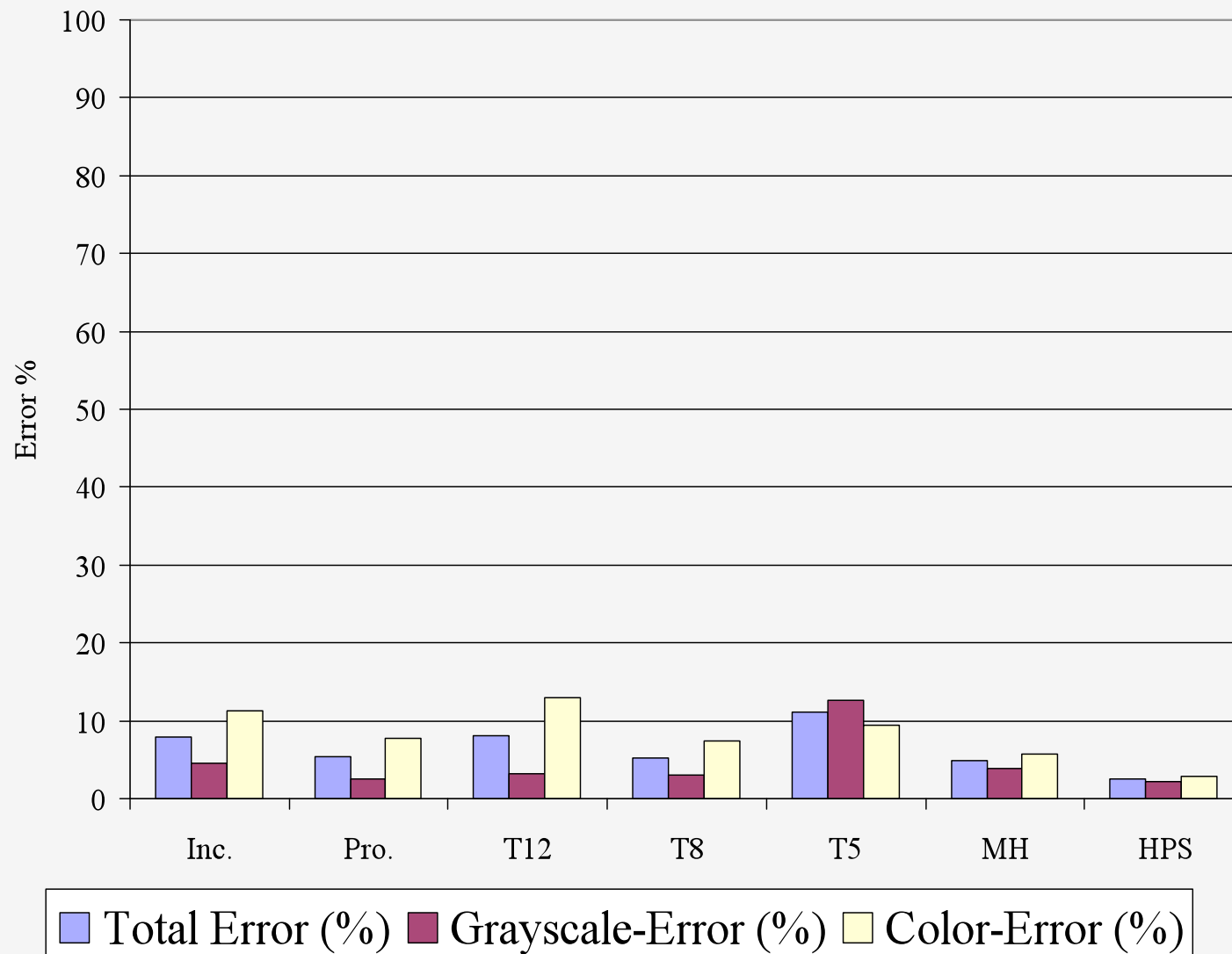
Spectral data

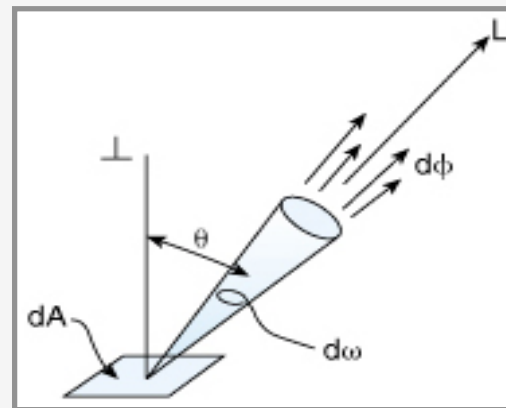


Luminance measurements

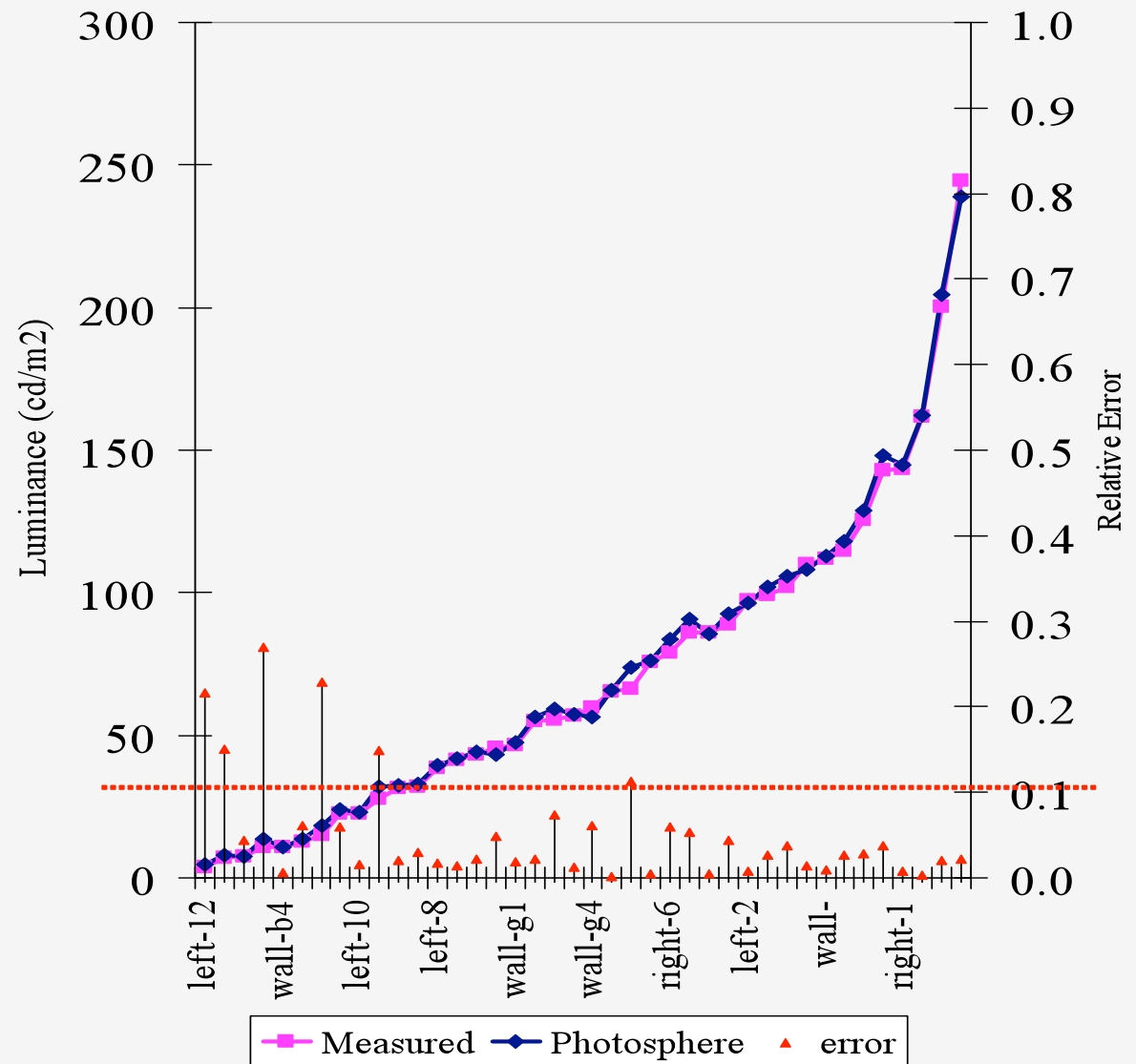


# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition



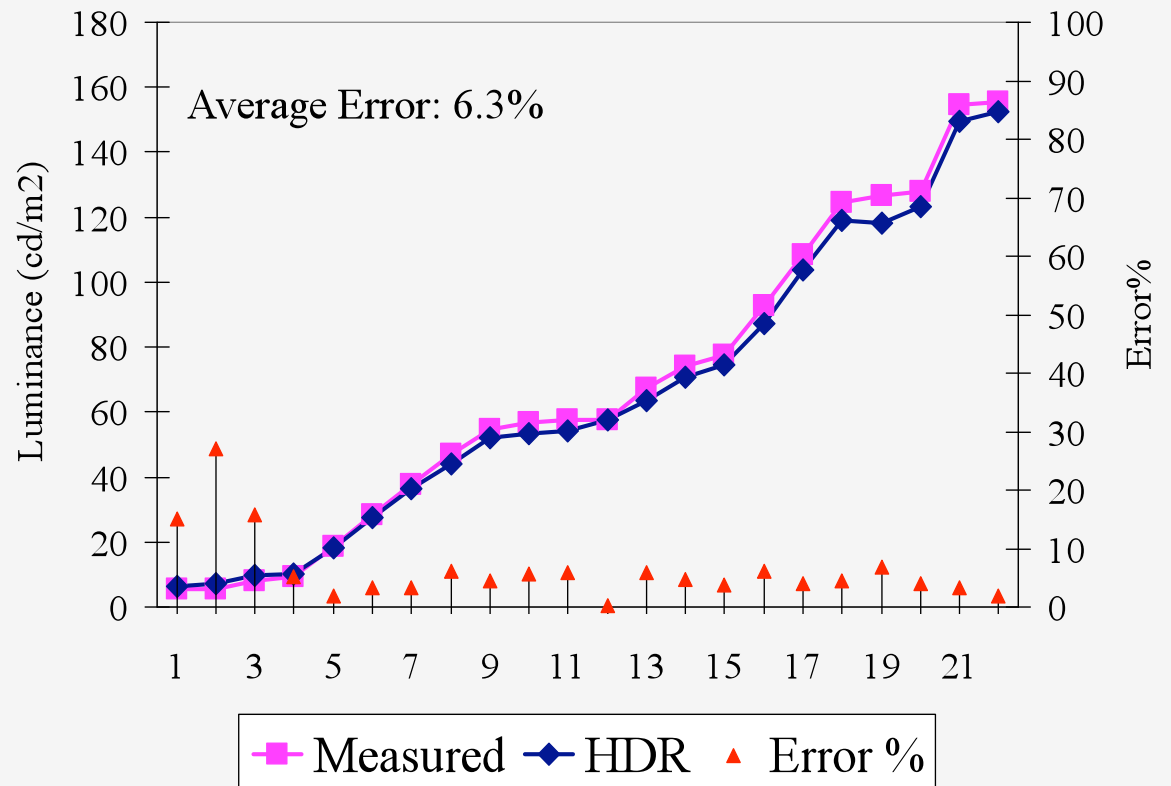


# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition

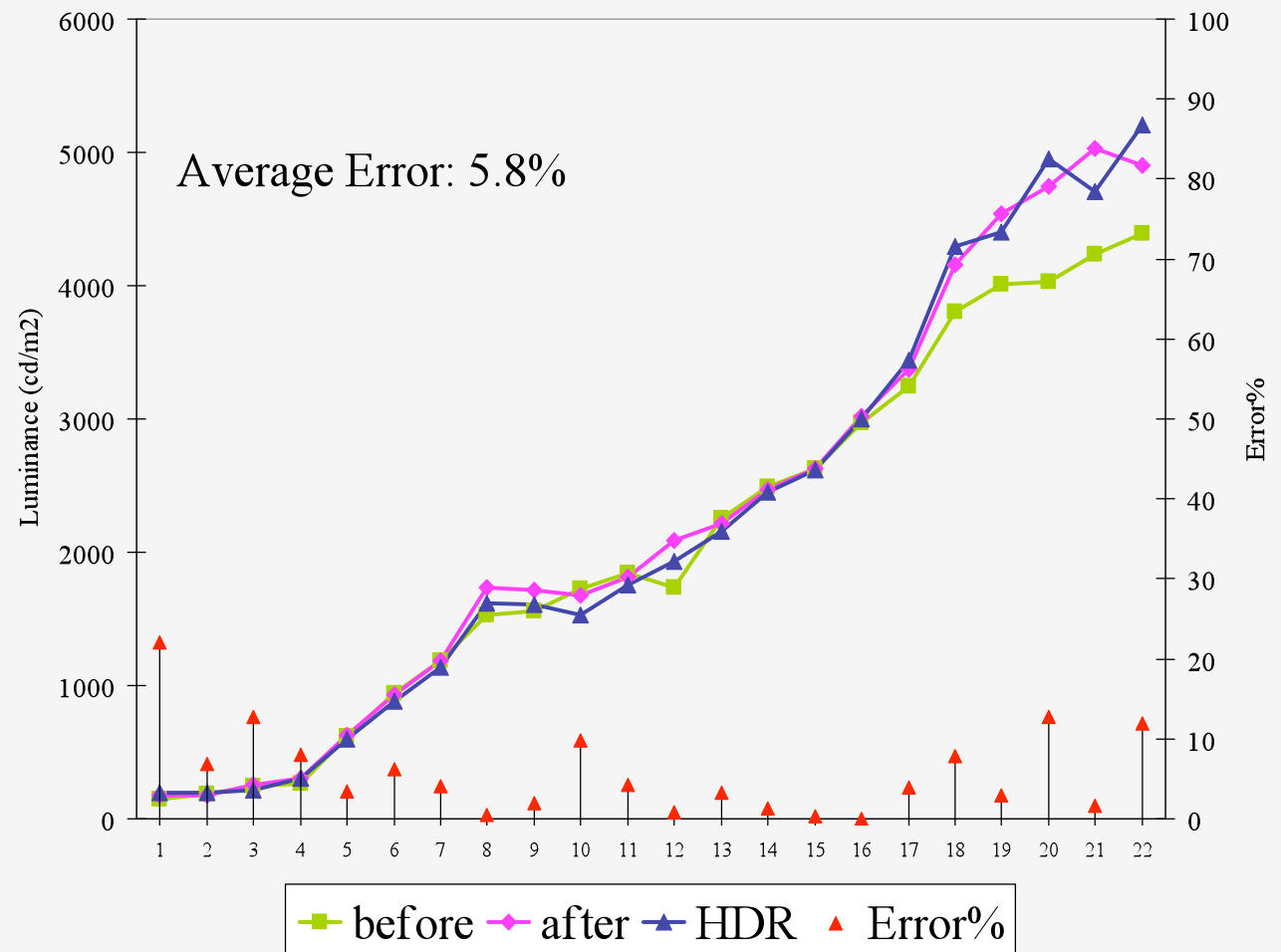
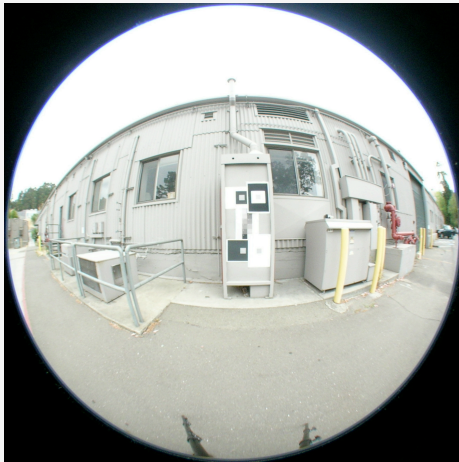




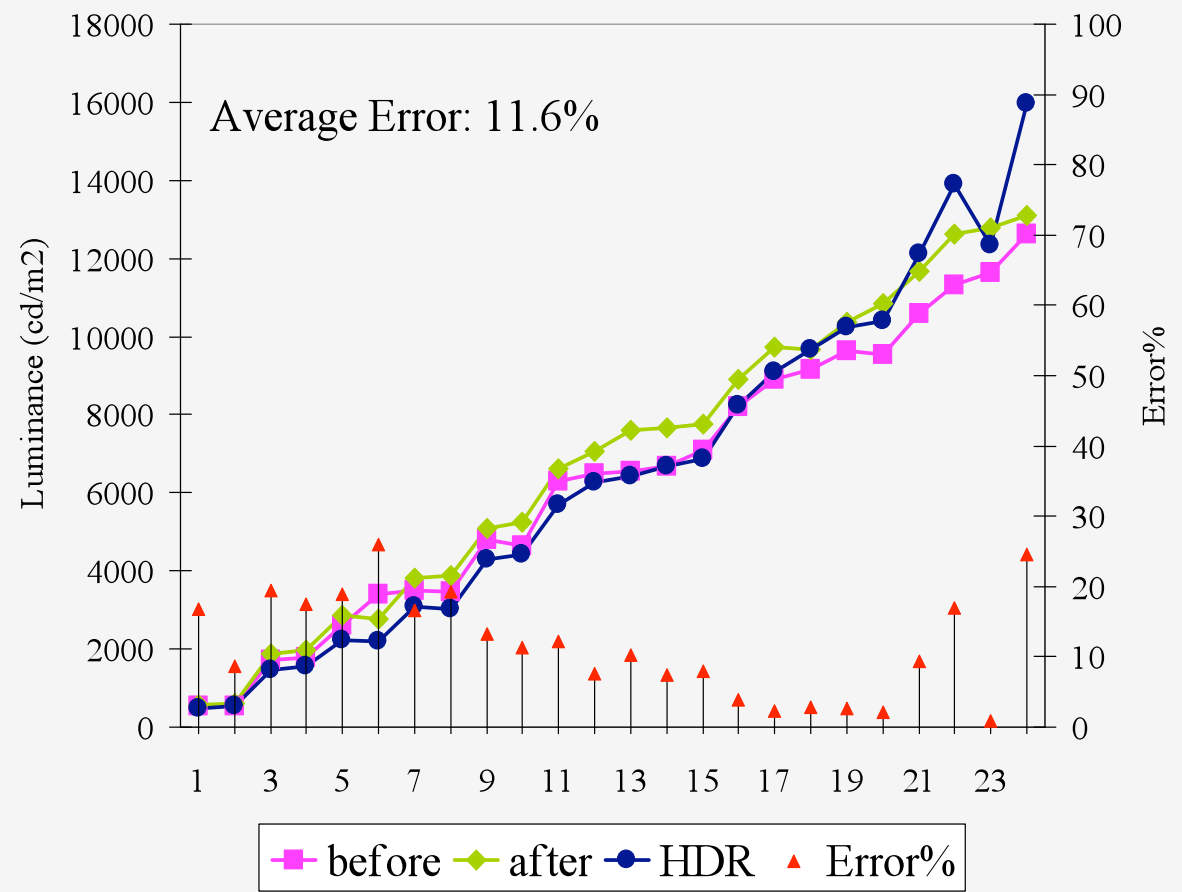
# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition



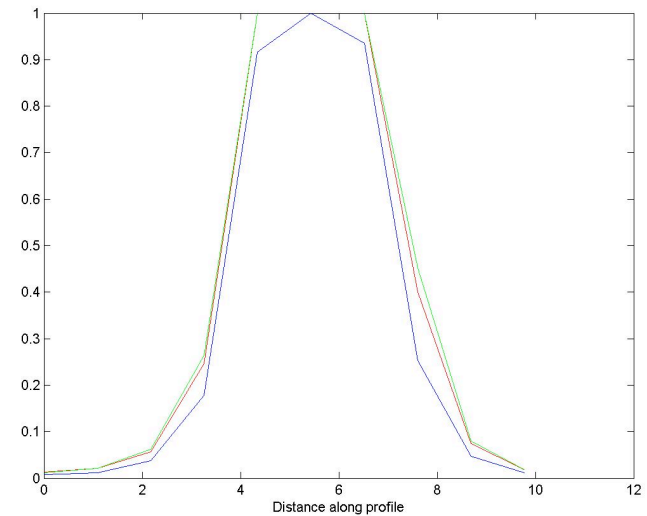
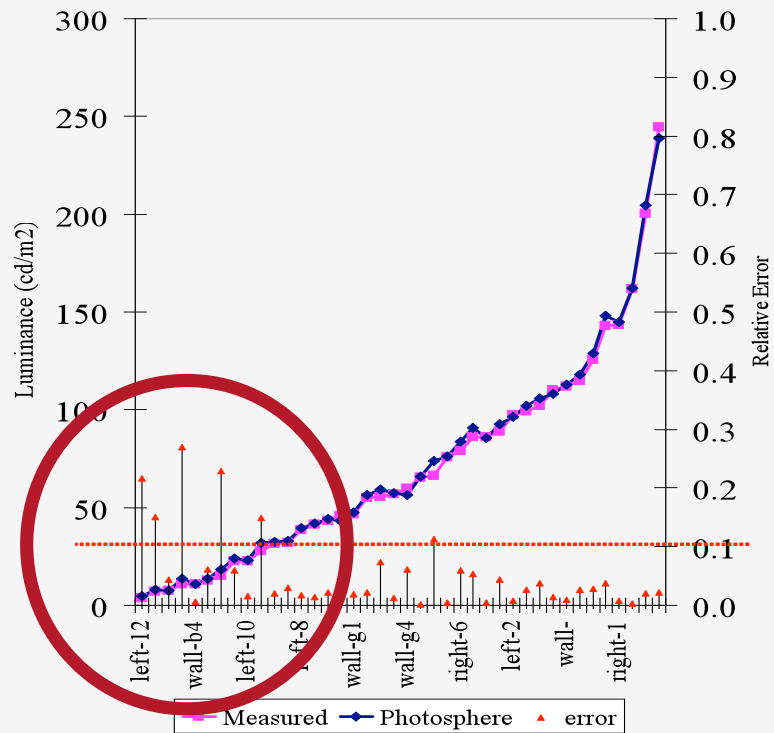
# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition



# Accuracy of HDR Data Acquisition

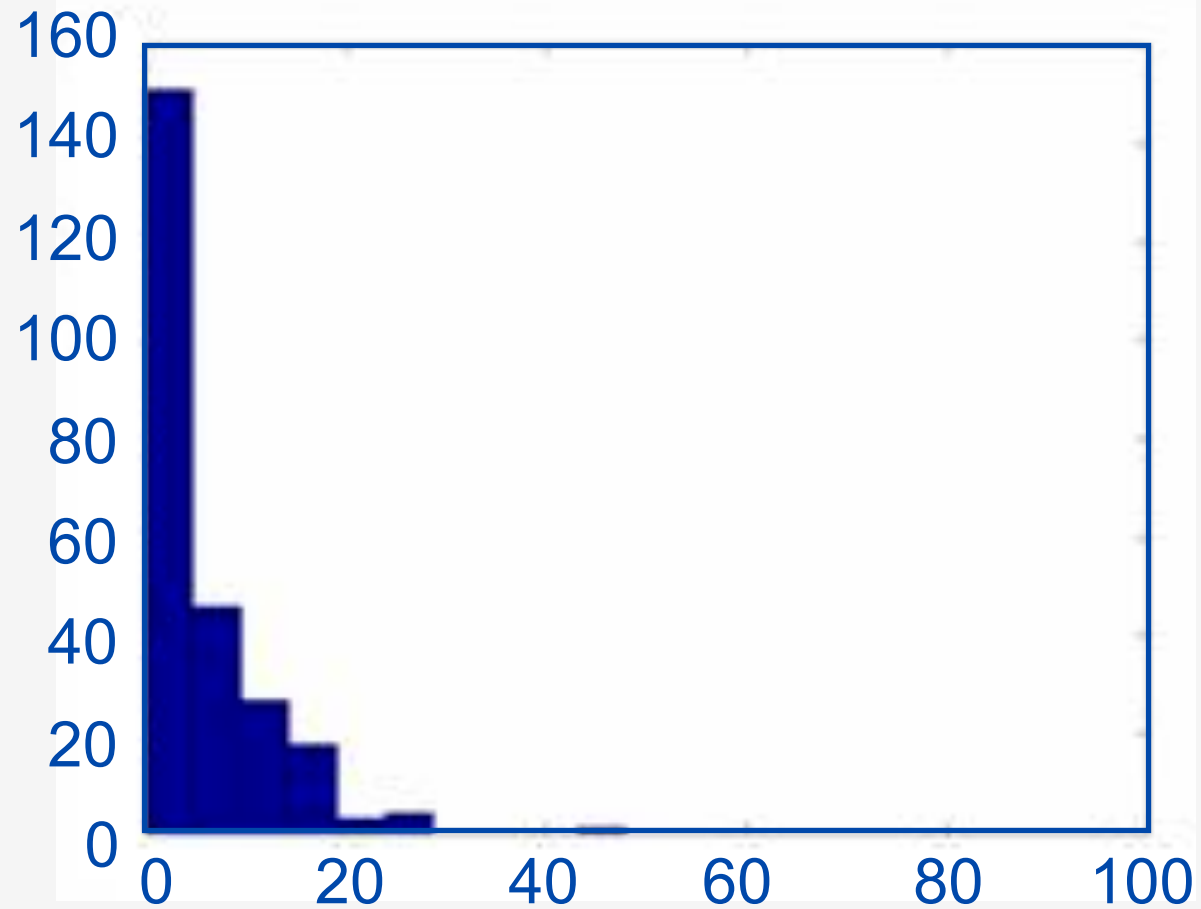
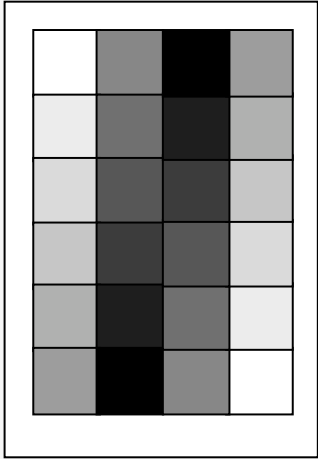


# Point Spread Function

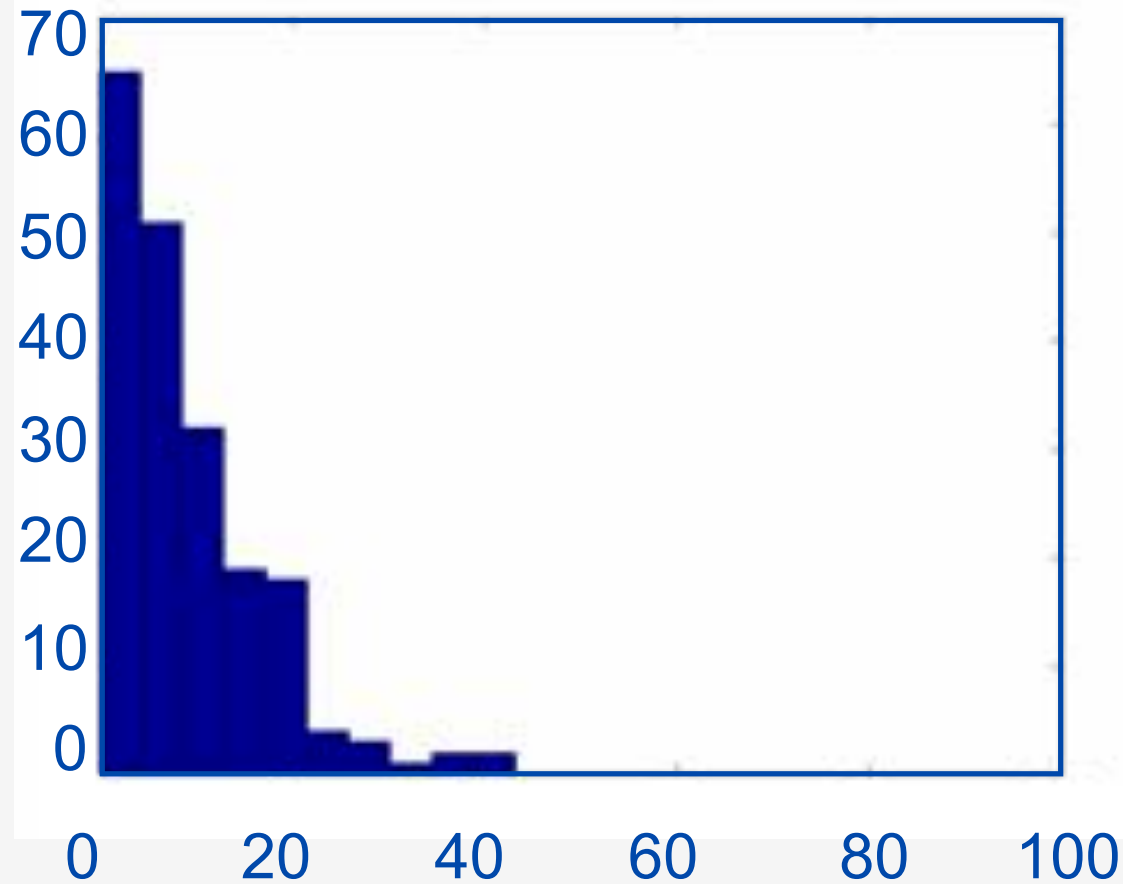
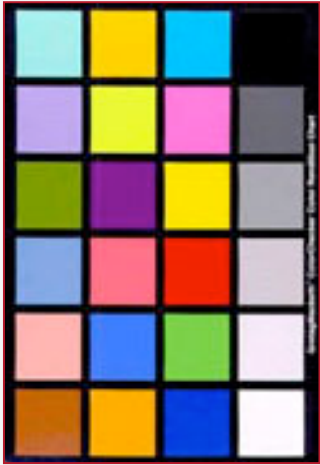




# Grayscale



# Saturated Colors



---

# Assembly process

For good accuracy:

calibrate HDR photographs  
with

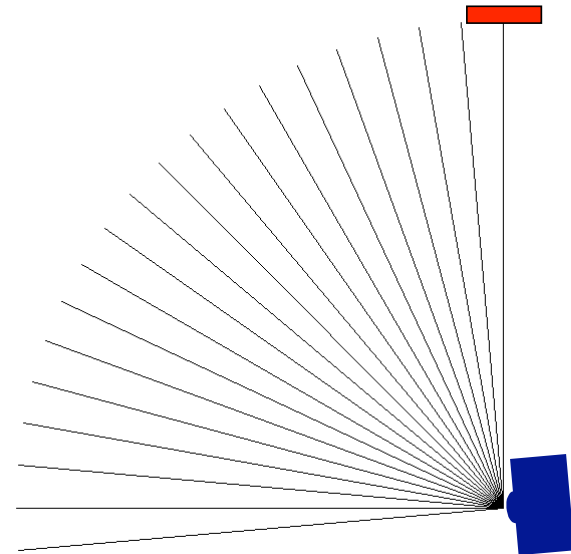
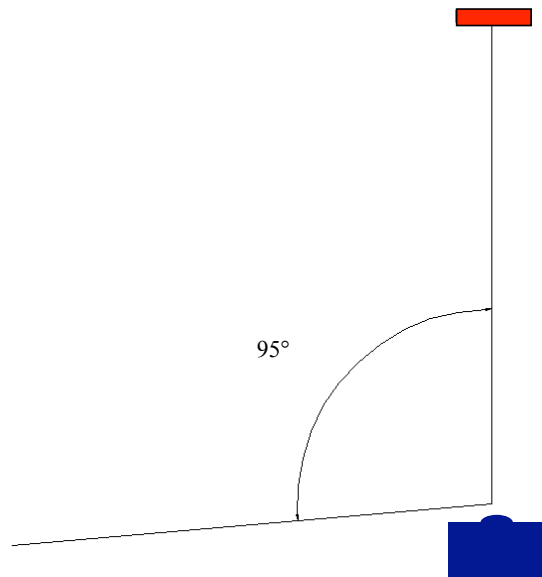
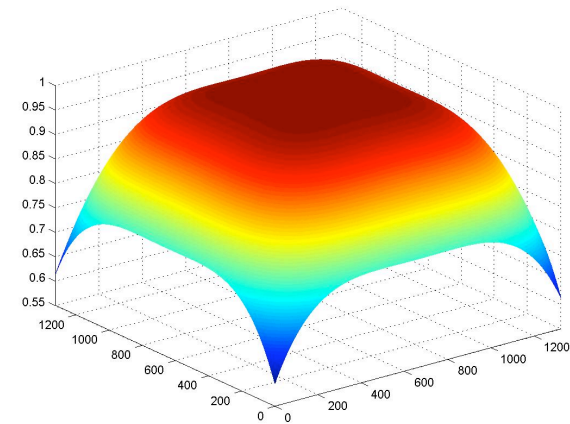
a **single** luminance measurement of  
a mid level grey patch in the scene.

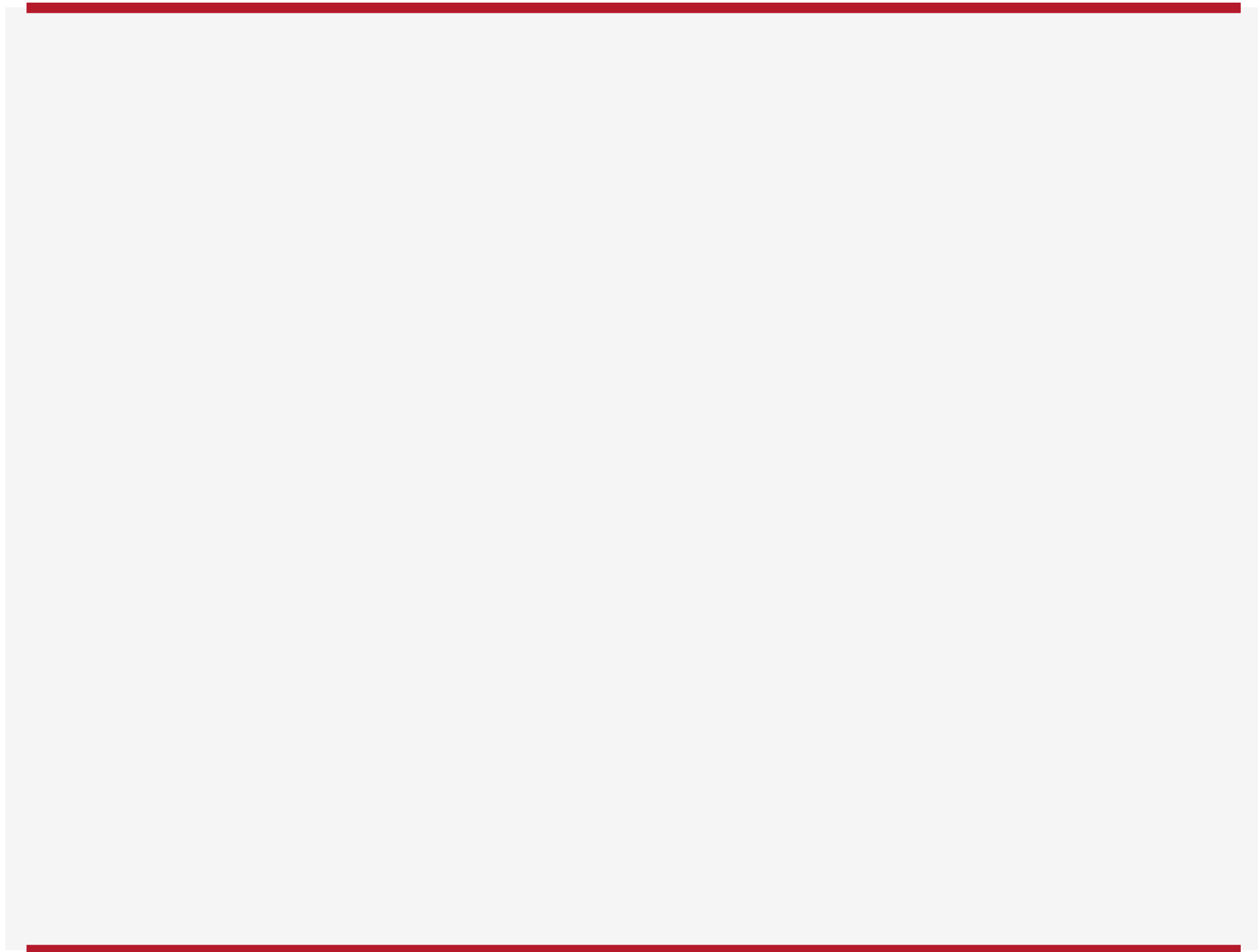
---





# Vignetting



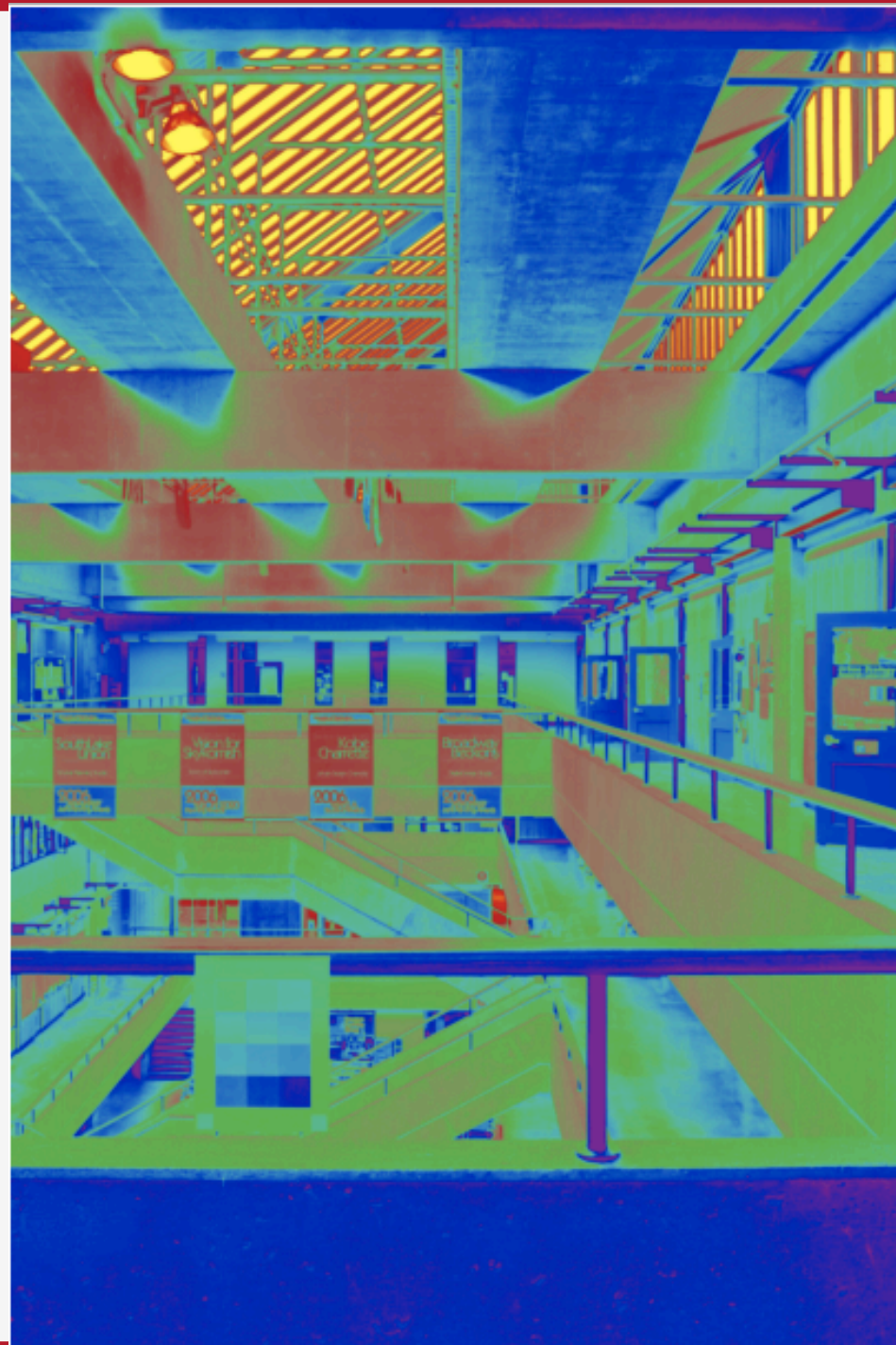
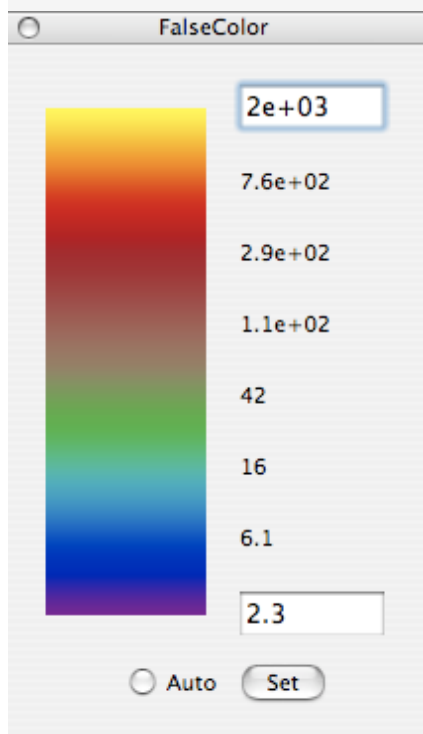


---

# Applications of HDR

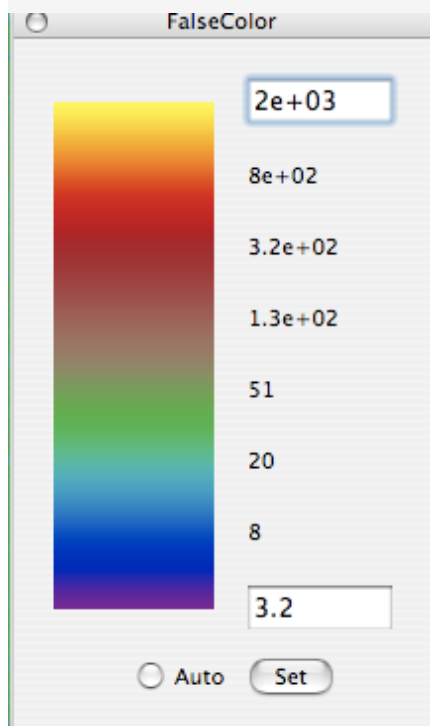
- **Numeric Data**
    - False color images / Iso contour lines
    - Detailed mathematical and statistical analysis
  - **Visual Data**
    - Change exposure to demonstrate the wide luminance range
    - Tone mapping
    - HDR Displays
  - **Image based Lighting**
-



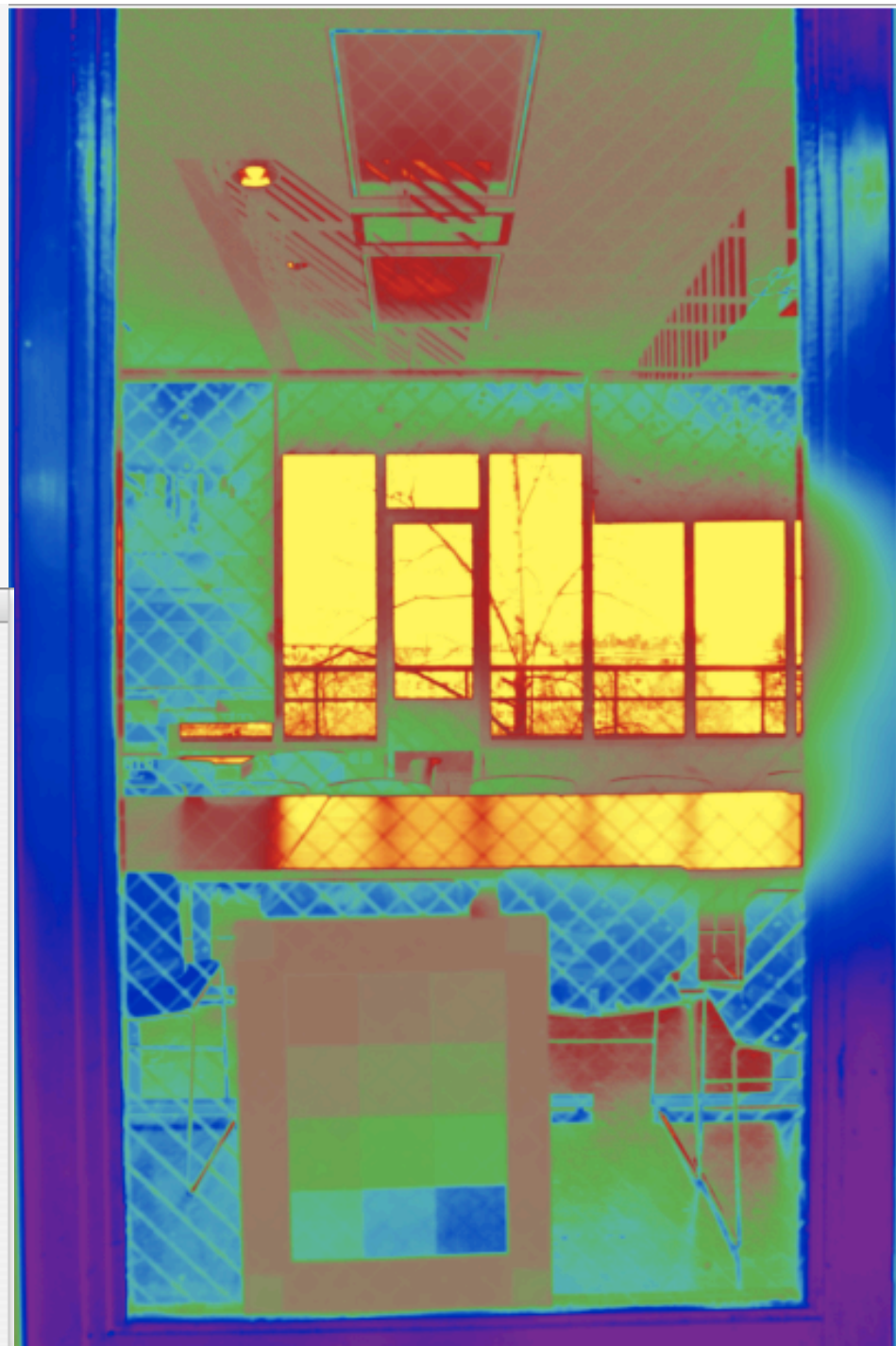
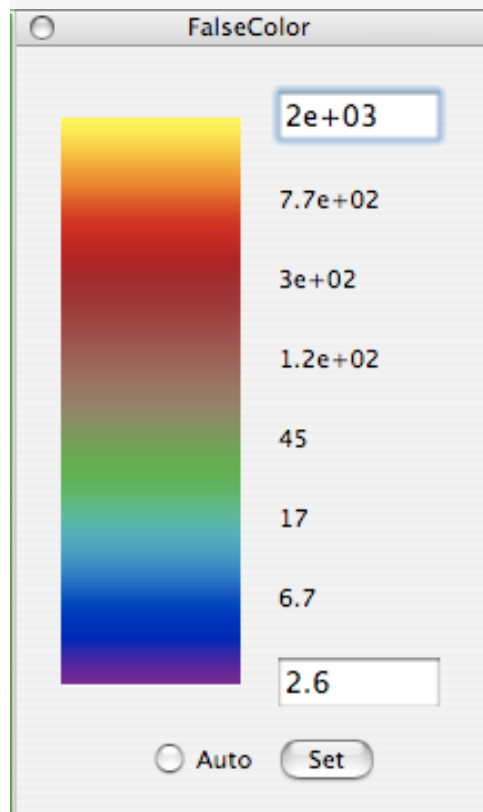












---

CONTRAST

CONTRAST

---



# VDT Visibility



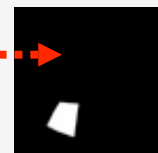
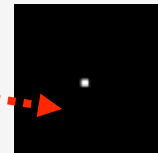
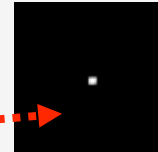
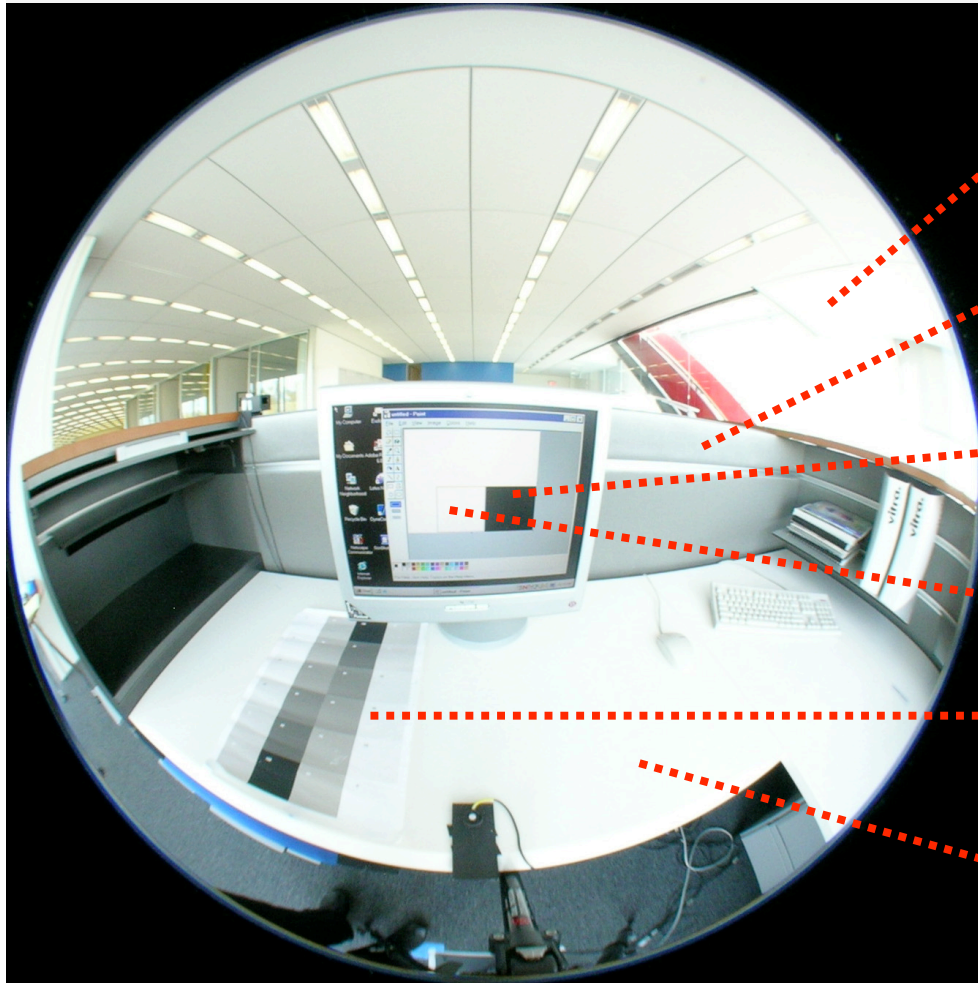
**Contrast: 0.8**

$$\text{Contrast} = \frac{|L_{\text{background}} - L_{\text{task}}|}{L_{\text{background}}}$$



**Contrast: 0.2**

# Data Analysis: Luminance Ratios



*Window* Min L 9 cd/m<sup>2</sup>  
Max L 19522  
Mean L 669

*Wall* Min L 7 cd/m<sup>2</sup>  
Max L 1297  
Mean 233

*Screen* White 230 cd/m<sup>2</sup>  
Black 15  
Contrast 0.93

*Paper* White 239 cd/m<sup>2</sup>  
Black 14  
Contrast 0.94

*Table* Min L 1 cd/m<sup>2</sup>  
Max L 2051  
Mean L 131

	E (lux)	Max. L (cd/m <sup>2</sup> )	L ratio (task: surround)	L ratio (task: wall)
IESNA	200-300	850 2000	3:1	10:1, 40:1 max

---

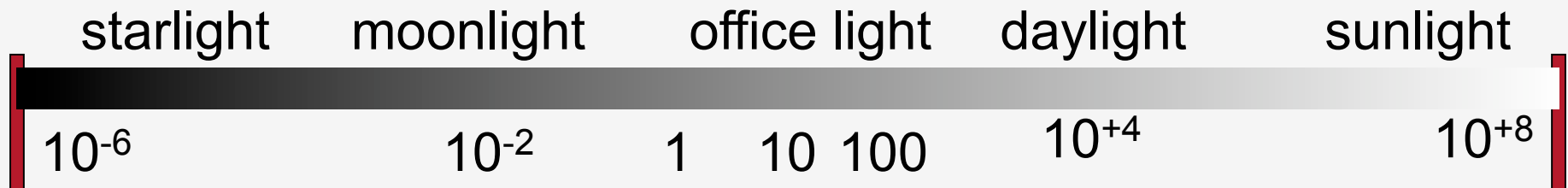
# Image Output

1. Printing (Hardcopy) devices
2. Display (Softcopy) devices
  - Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)
  - Liquid Crystal Displays (LCDs)
  - HDR Display Devices

# Display Devices

0.000001 cd/m<sup>2</sup>

100,000,000 cd/m<sup>2</sup>



*Range of Typical*

CRT Displays: 1 : ~100 cd/m<sup>2</sup>;

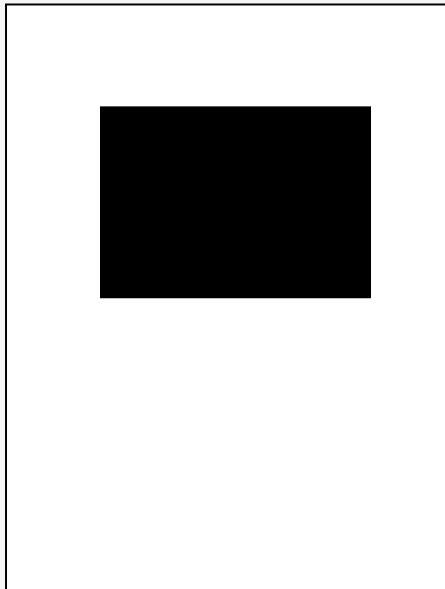
LCD Displays: from ~1 to ~250 cd/m<sup>2</sup>



HDR Displays: from ~1 to 3000 cd/m<sup>2</sup>



# Printed Media



Relies on ambient illumination.

The best contrast: ~100:1  
it is often much less.





Starlight

Sunlight

$10^{-6}$

$10^{-3}$

1

10

100

$10^4$

$10^8$

13

30,850  $\text{cd/m}^2$

Nits

937.5

812.5

687.5

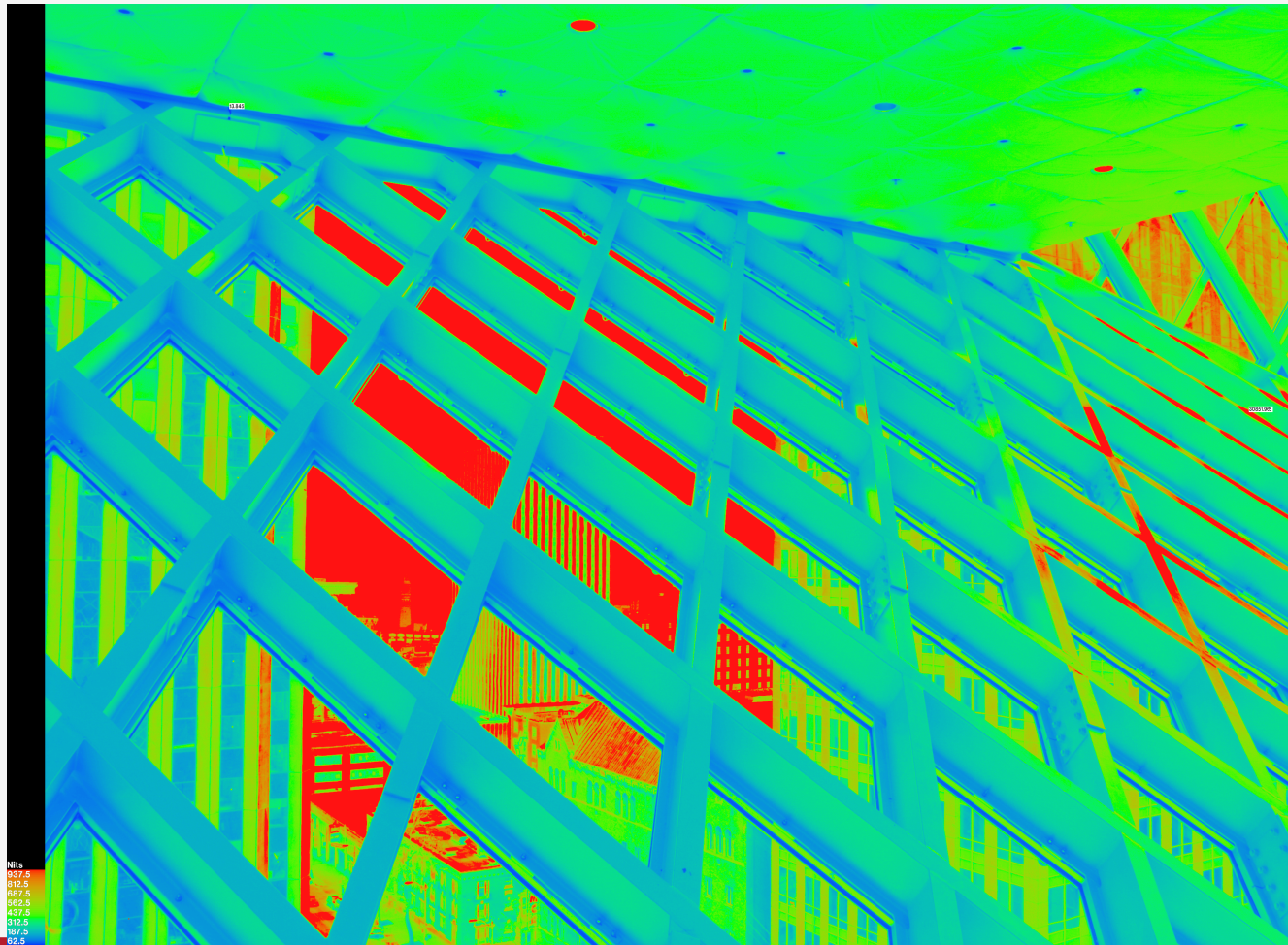
562.5

437.5

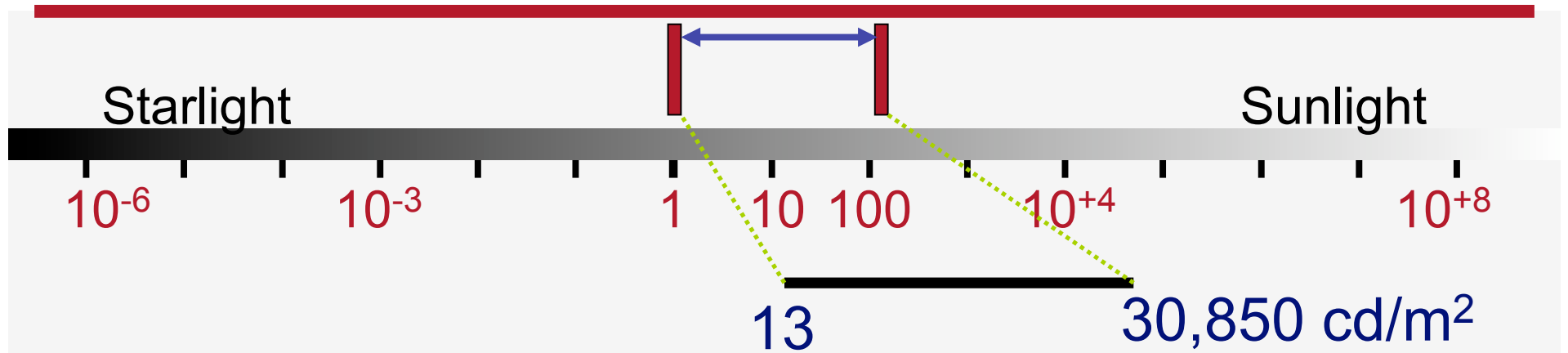
312.5

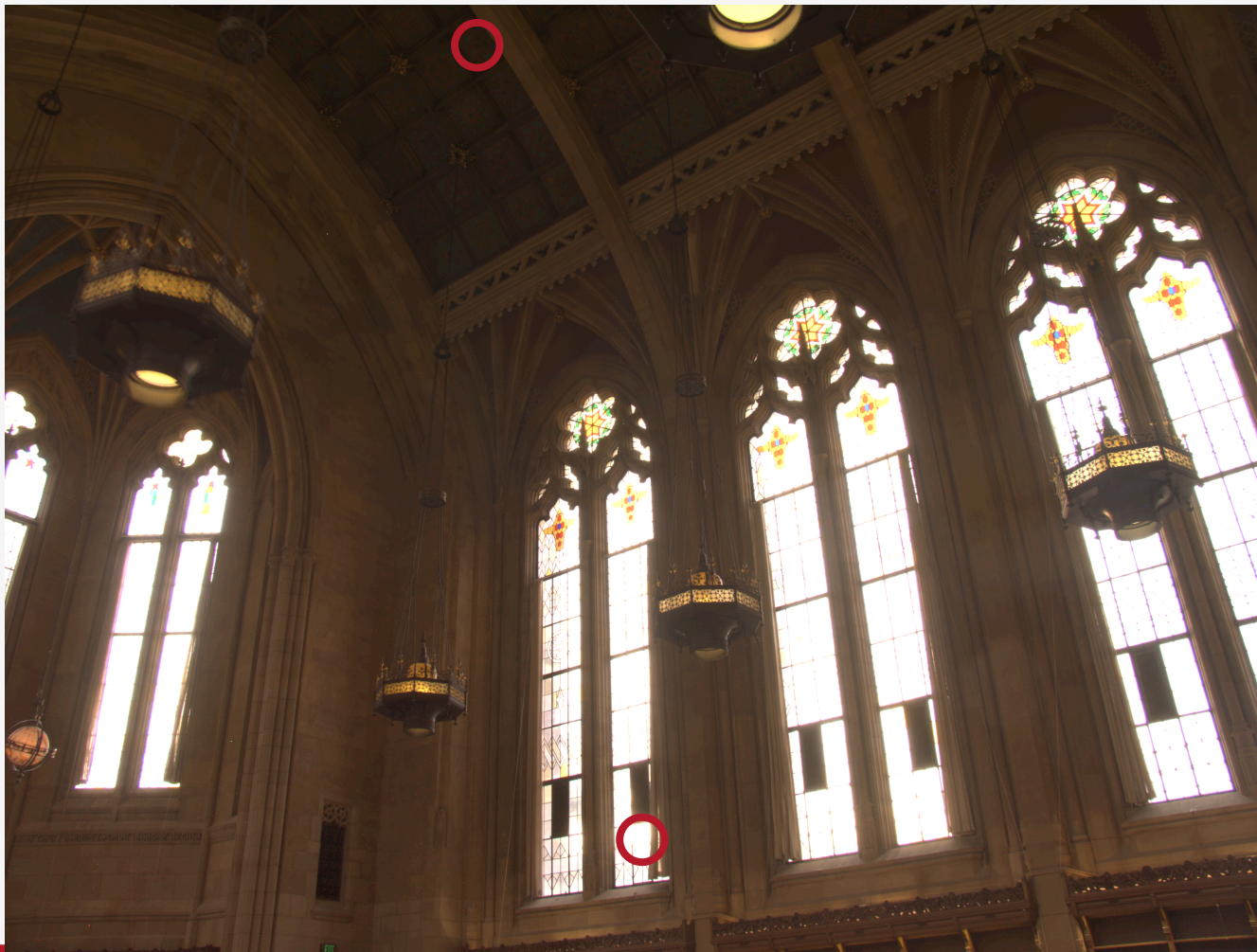
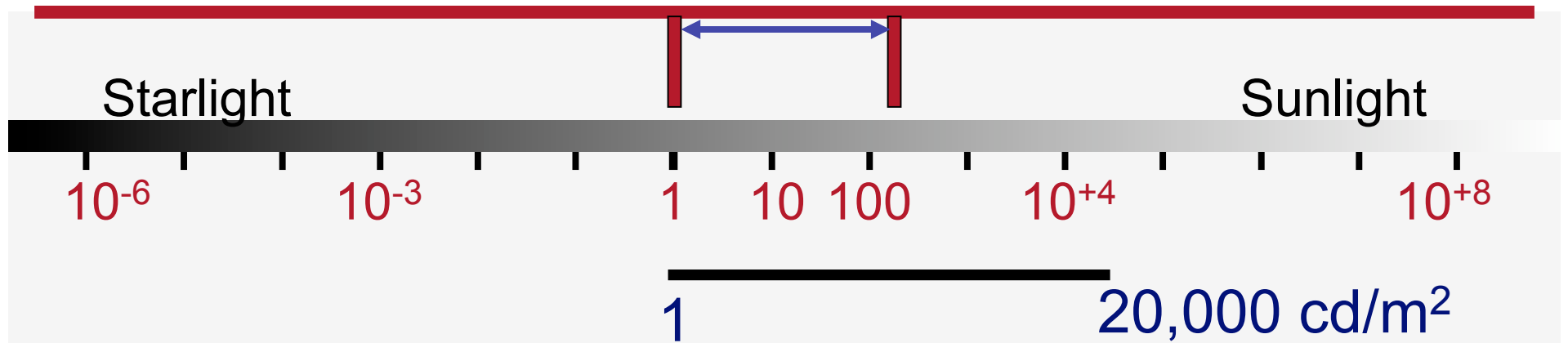
187.5

62.5

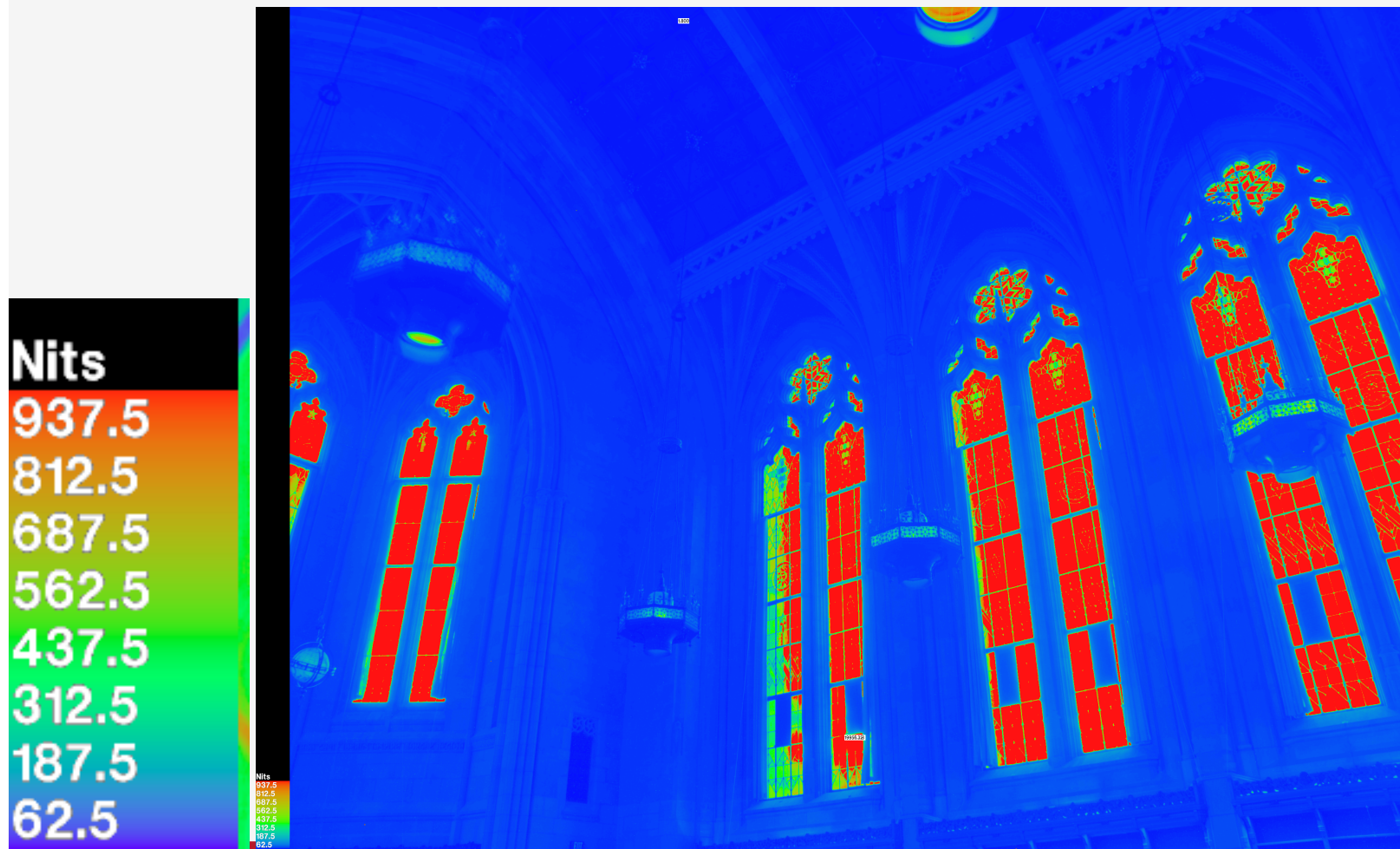
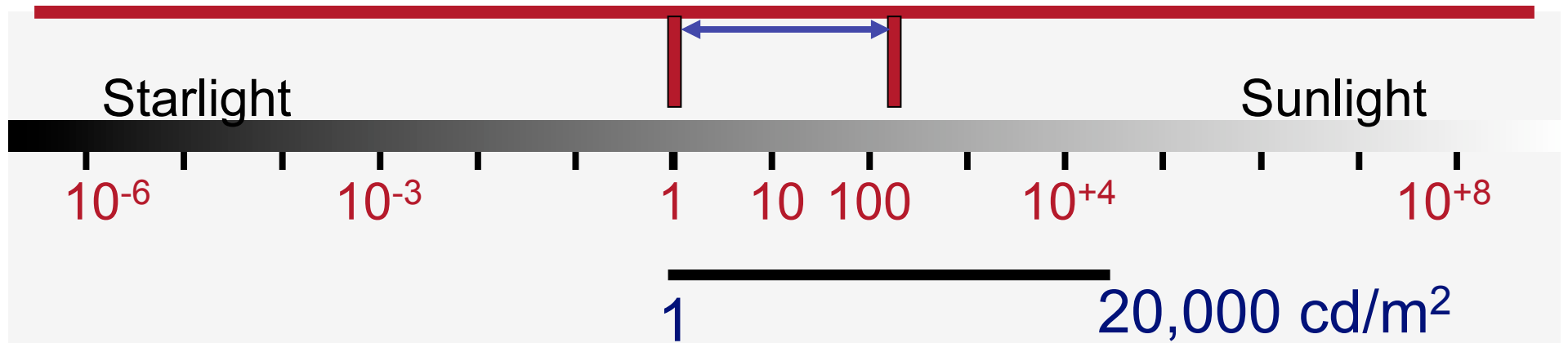












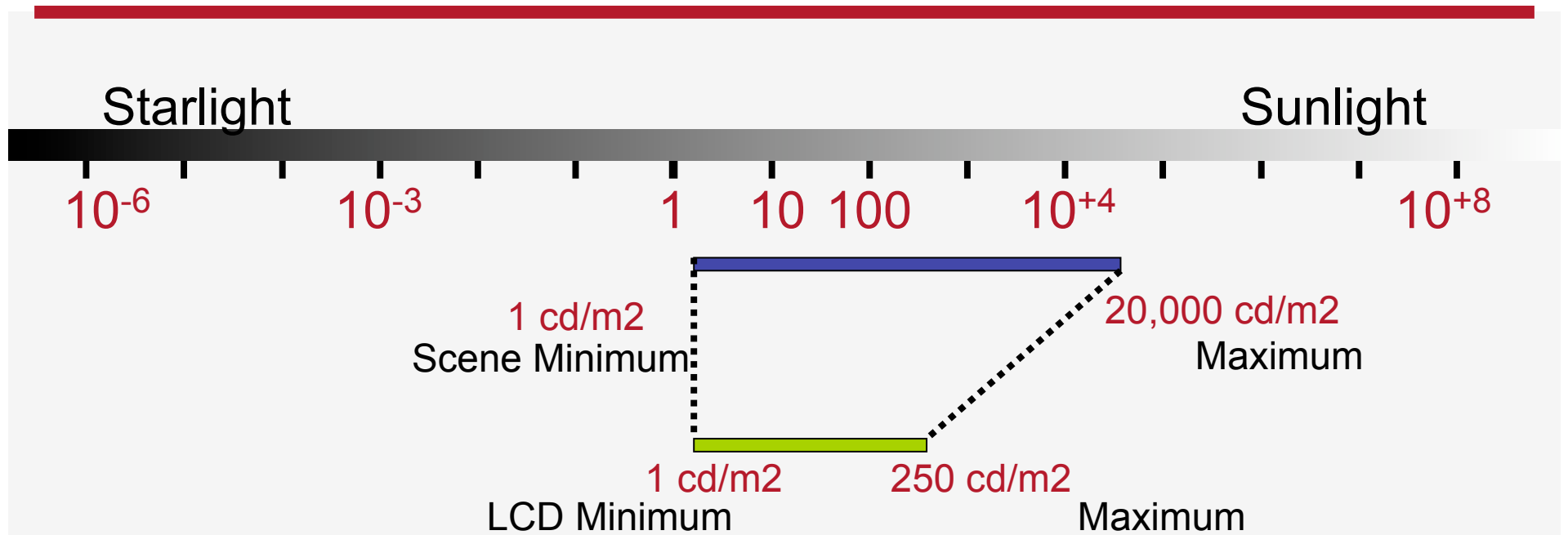


# Discrepancy

- The wide ranges of luminances that are captured

and

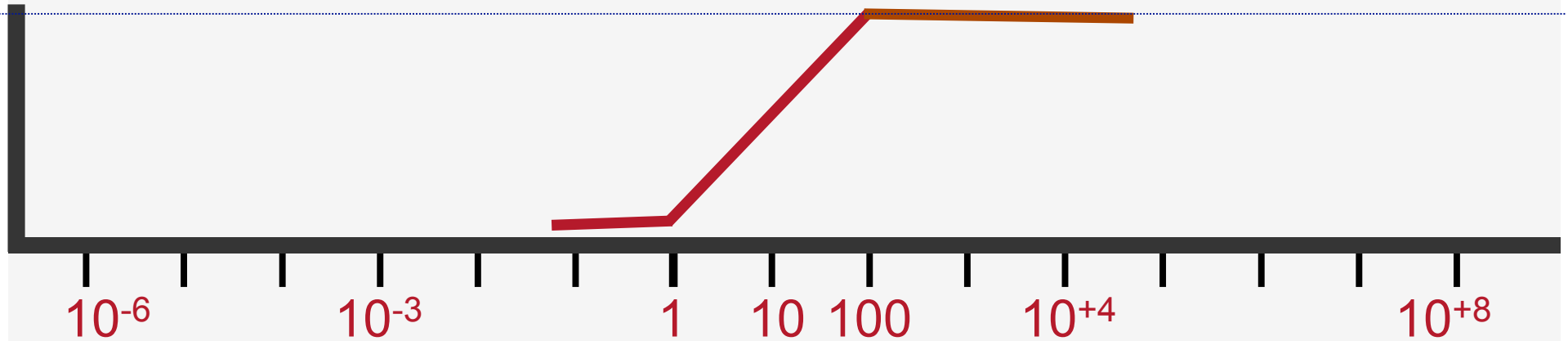
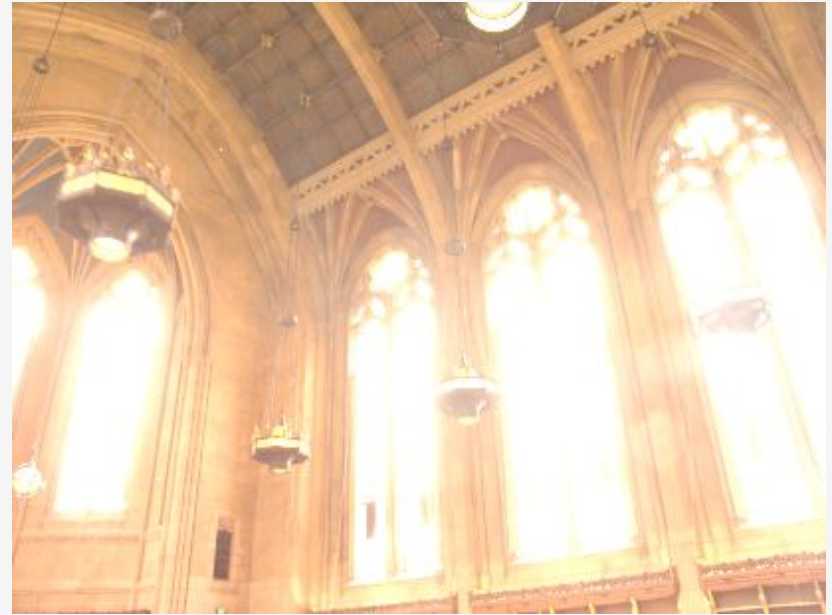
- The small ranges that can be reproduced by existing display devices



How to compress the dynamic range of HDR image to fit into the display range such that the displayed image would represent the original scene in a meaningful way?

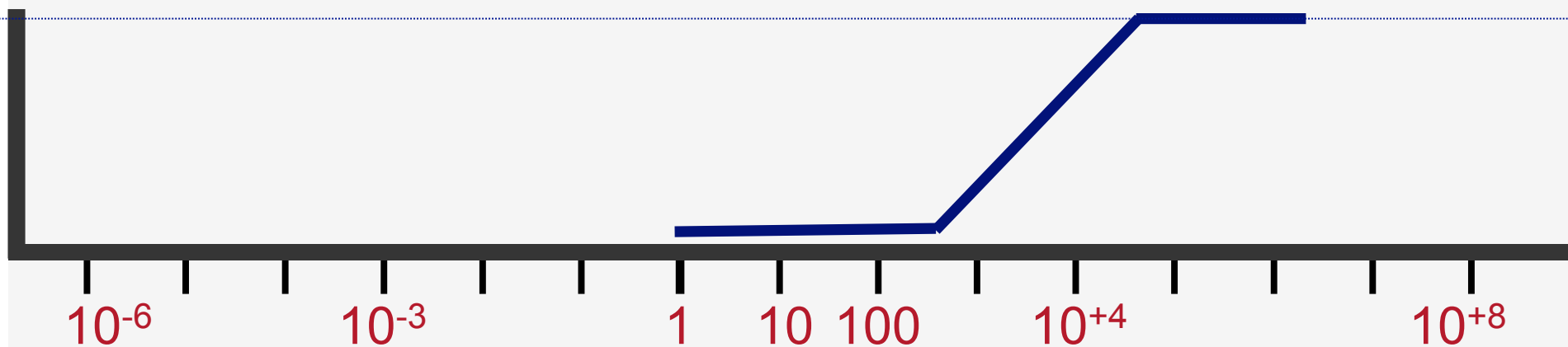
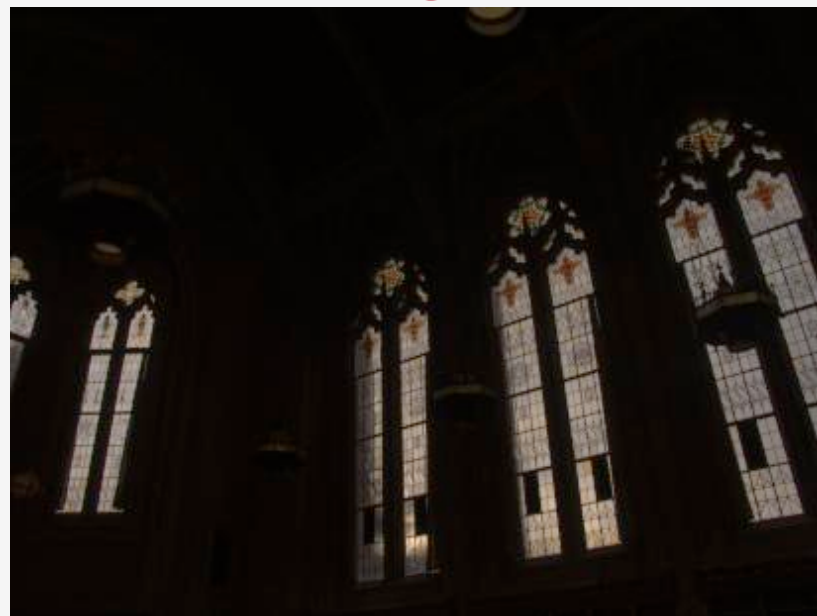
# Solution: Tone Mapping

- Clipping data ?



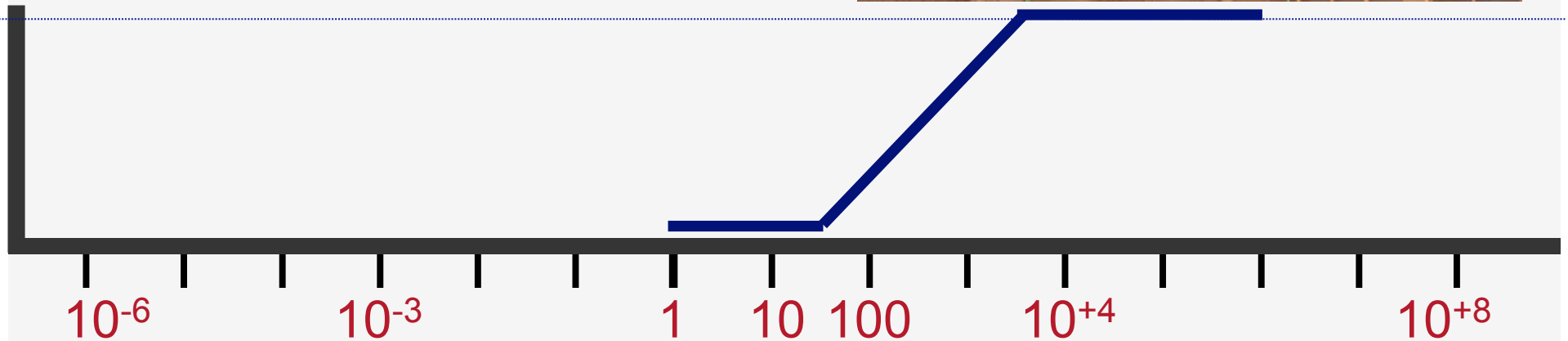
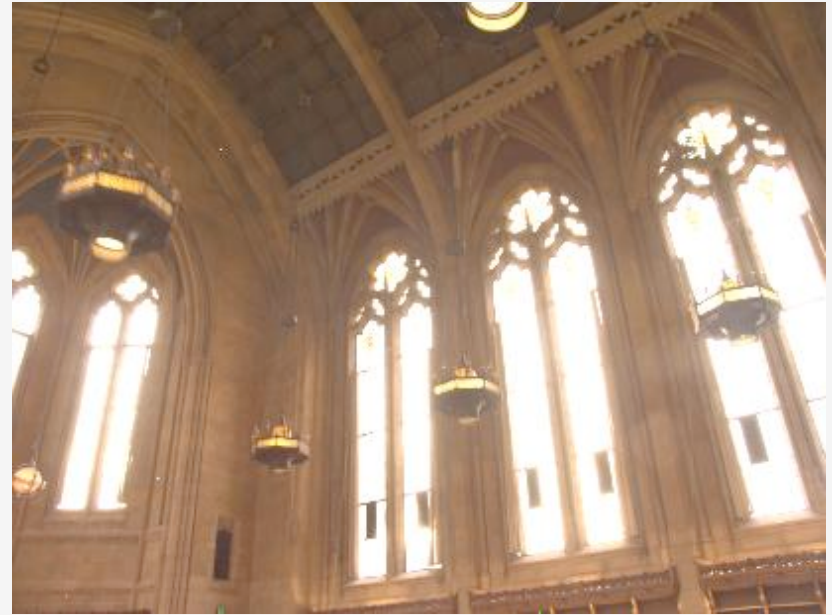
# Solution: Tone Mapping

- Clipping data ?



# Solution: Tone Mapping

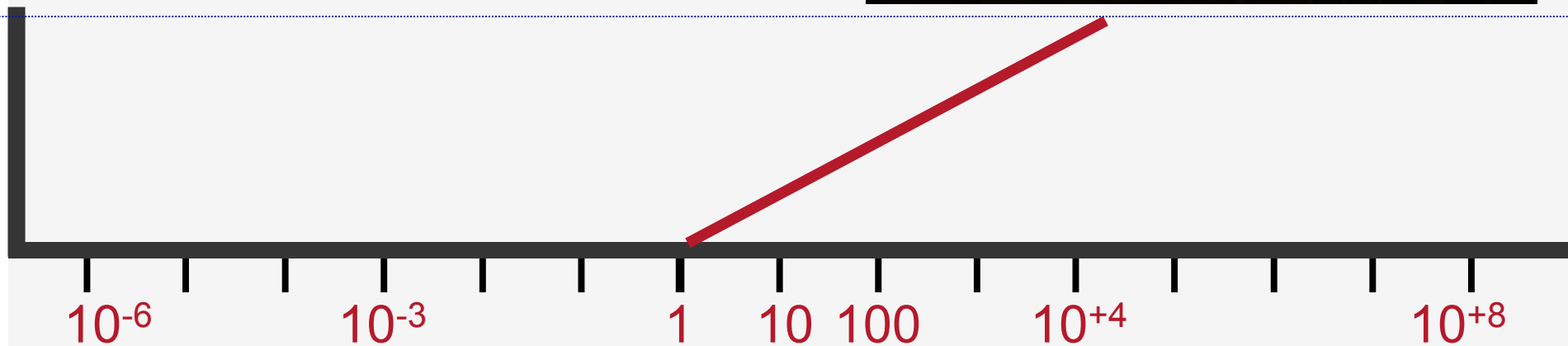
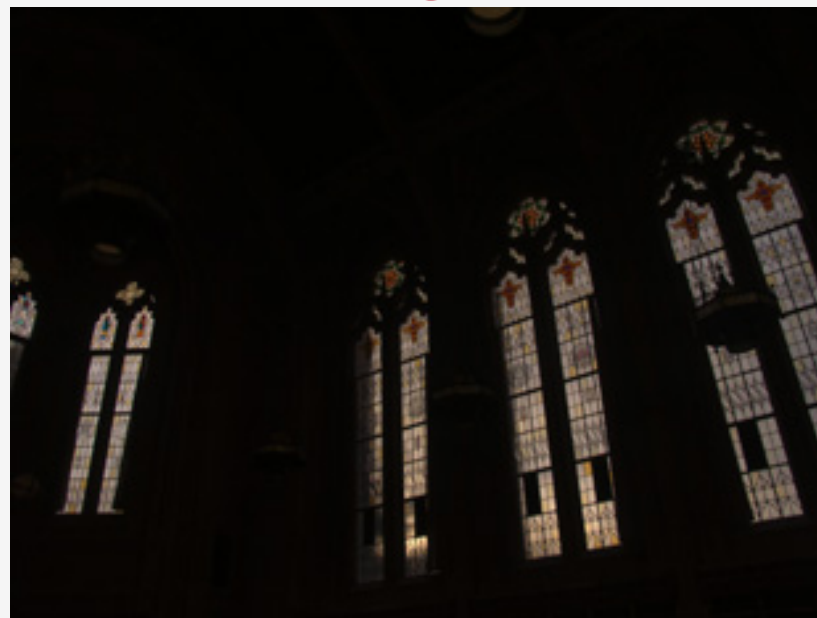
- Clipping data ?





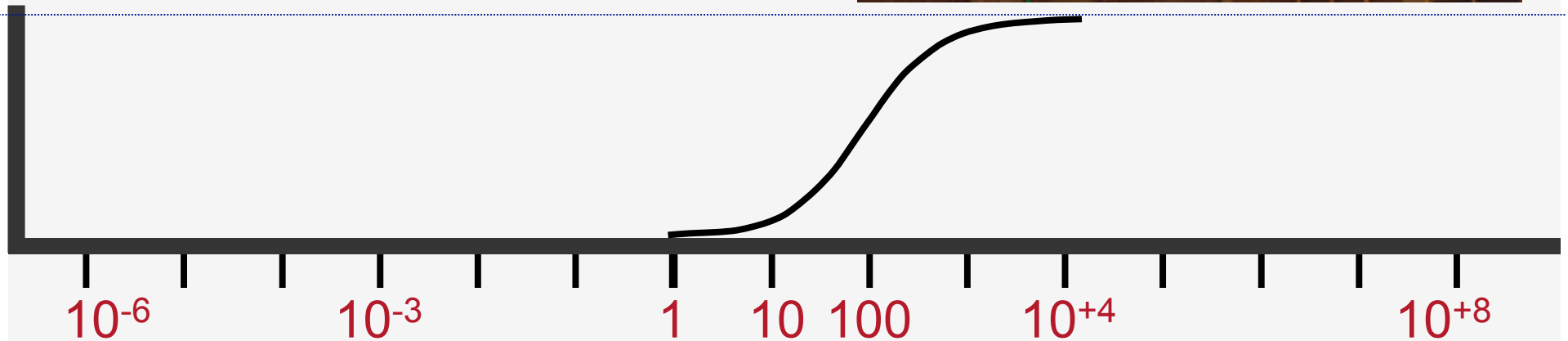
# Solution: Tone Mapping

- Linear scaling?



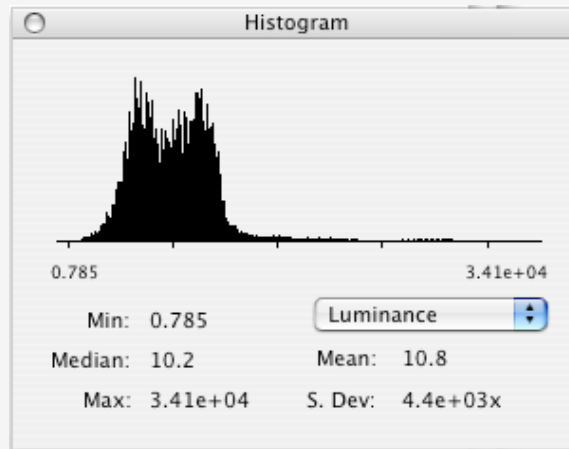
# Solution: Tone Mapping

- Film like?



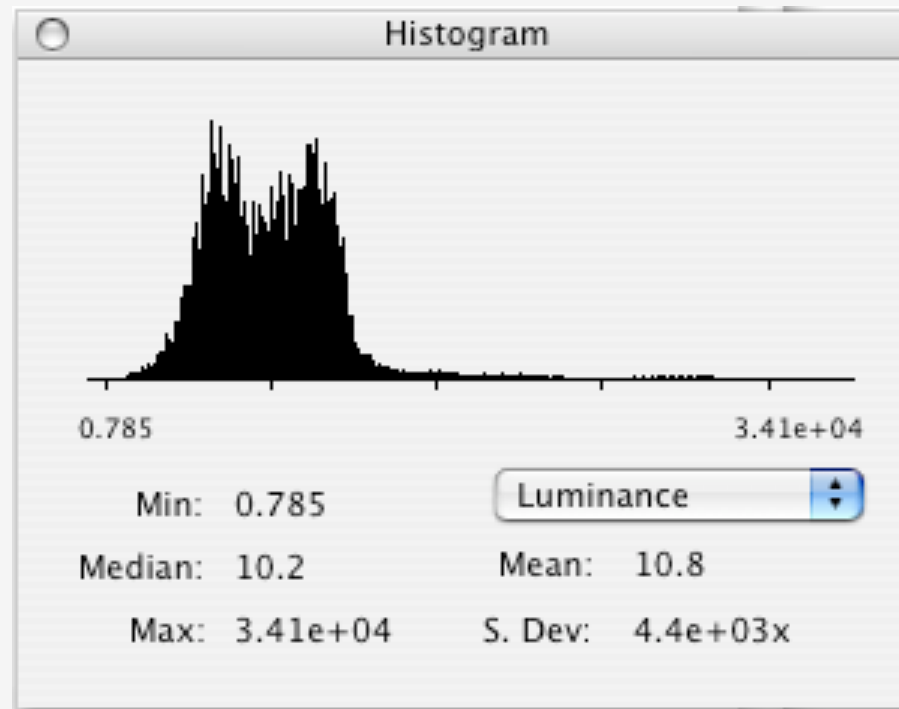
# Solution: Tone Mapping

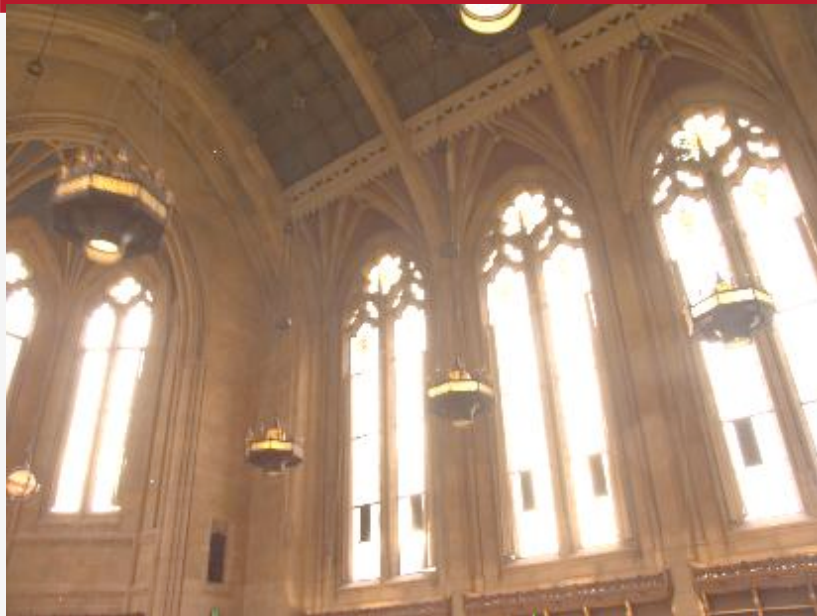
- Histogram



# Histogram Adjustment

Light levels in a image are redistributed more evenly to make better use of the range of display device.

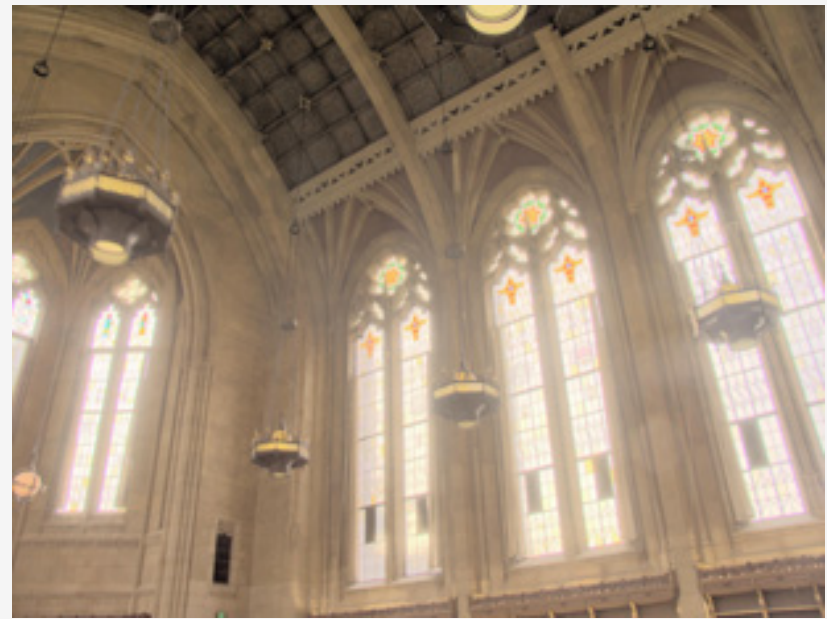




Selected exposure (clipped) Linear mapping



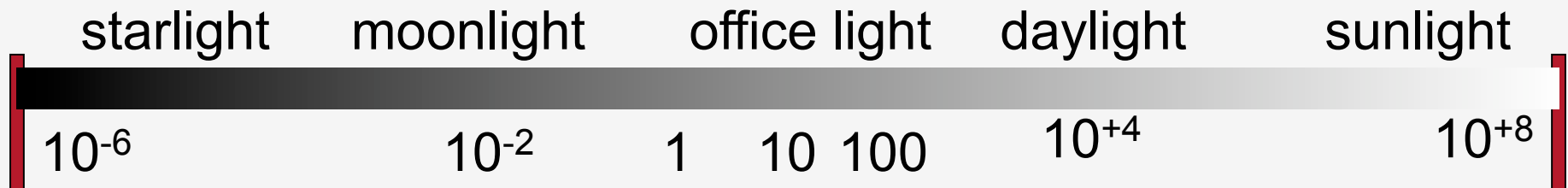
Film like mapping



Histogram adjustment



# Human Visual Adaptation



- The dynamic range simultaneously adapted in a single scene at a given time is around 4 orders of magnitude.

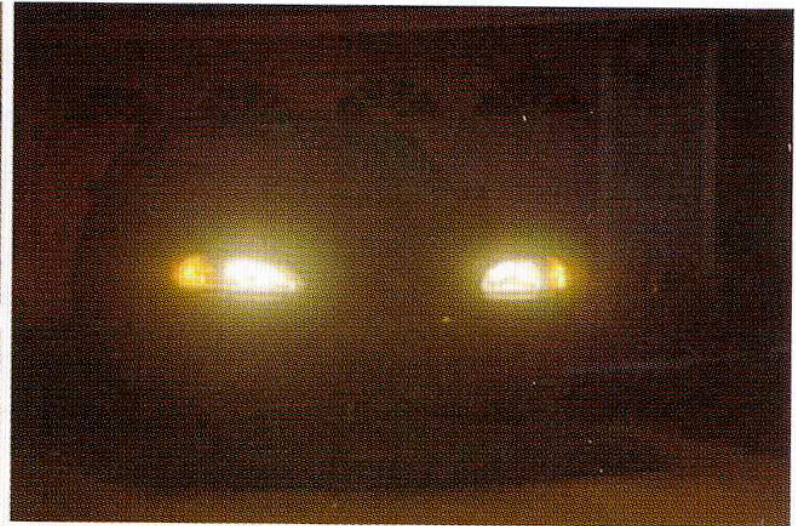
---

# Human Visual Adaptation

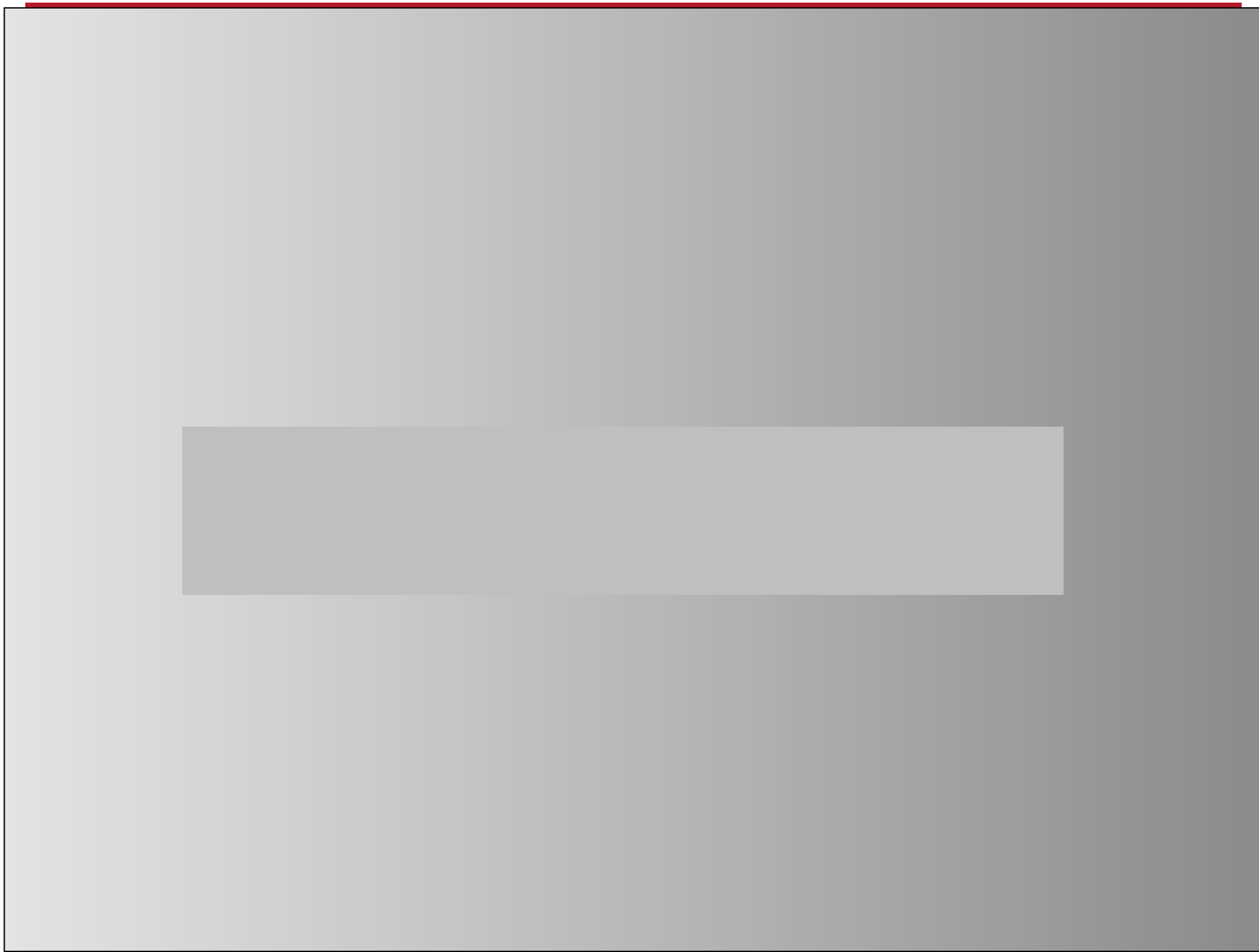
- The visual system functions in this range by adapting to the prevailing conditions of illumination.
  - Adaptation renders our visual system less sensitive in daylight and more sensitive at night.
-

# Human Visual System

- Less sensitive in high luminance levels;
- More sensitive at low luminance levels.



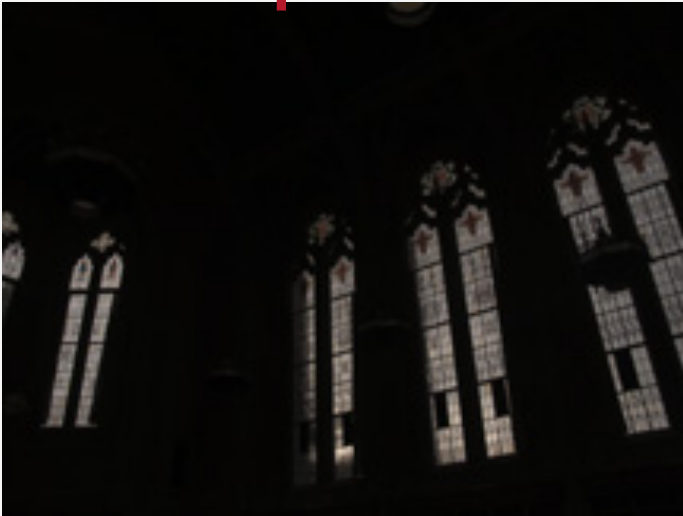
Images from: Reinhard E., Ward G., Pattanaik S., and Debevec P. *High Dynamic Range Imaging*. San Francisco: Morgan Kaufmann, 2006.







# Comparison of few TM Algorithms



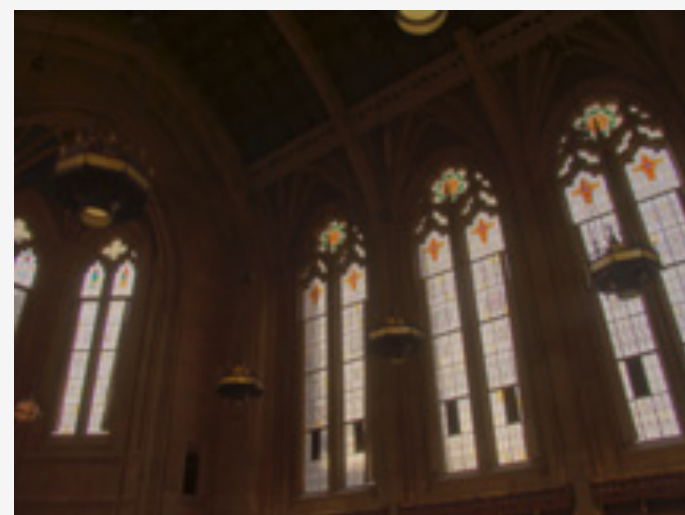
Ferwerda



Tumblin Rushmeier



Ward Histogram



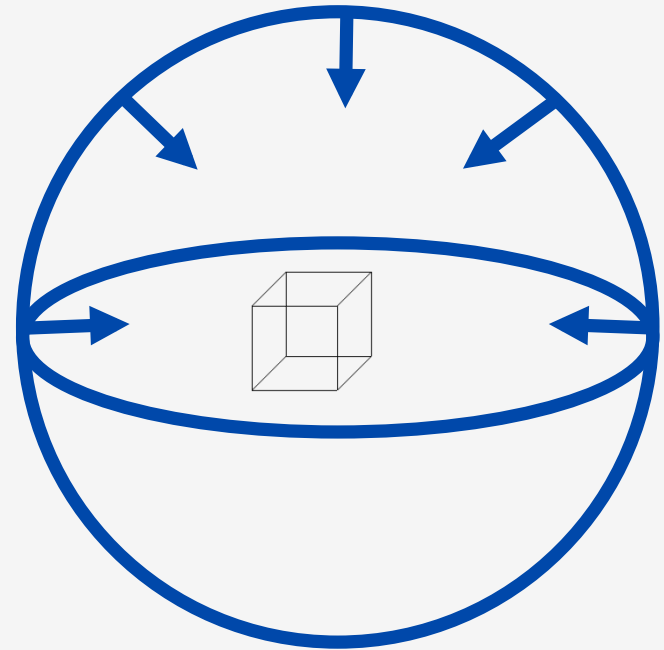
Reinhard et al. Photographic

---

# HDR Photography

- Image Capture
  - Image Assembly
  - HDRI as luminance maps
  - HDRI Analysis
  - HDRI Display
-

# Image based Lighting (IBL) using HDR Photographs to Light the Scene



# IBL: Rendering with Radiance

Single light source  
from right



Single light source  
from top left



Daylight



IBR



---

# Acknowledgements

- “Evaluation of High Dynamic Range Photography as a Luminance Data Acquisition” was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC03-76SF00098 and carried out at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (2004-05).
  - “Development and Evaluation of Image based Sky Models for Daylighting Applications” is being funded by the University of Washington Royalty Research Fund (2009-2010).
-



# **Introduction to High Dynamic Range Photography**

Mehlika Inanici, Ph.D.

University of Washington, Department of Architecture

[inanici@u.washington.edu](mailto:inanici@u.washington.edu)