



joshua pines

chief trouble maker and luddite  
technicolor digital intermediates

“...from scene to screen...”

color enhancement and rendering  
in film and game production

siggraph july27, 2010 los angeles, california



SIGGRAPH2010

You are Here

IRE 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

10 Bit CV 0 64 151 239 326 414 502 489 677 764 852 940 1023

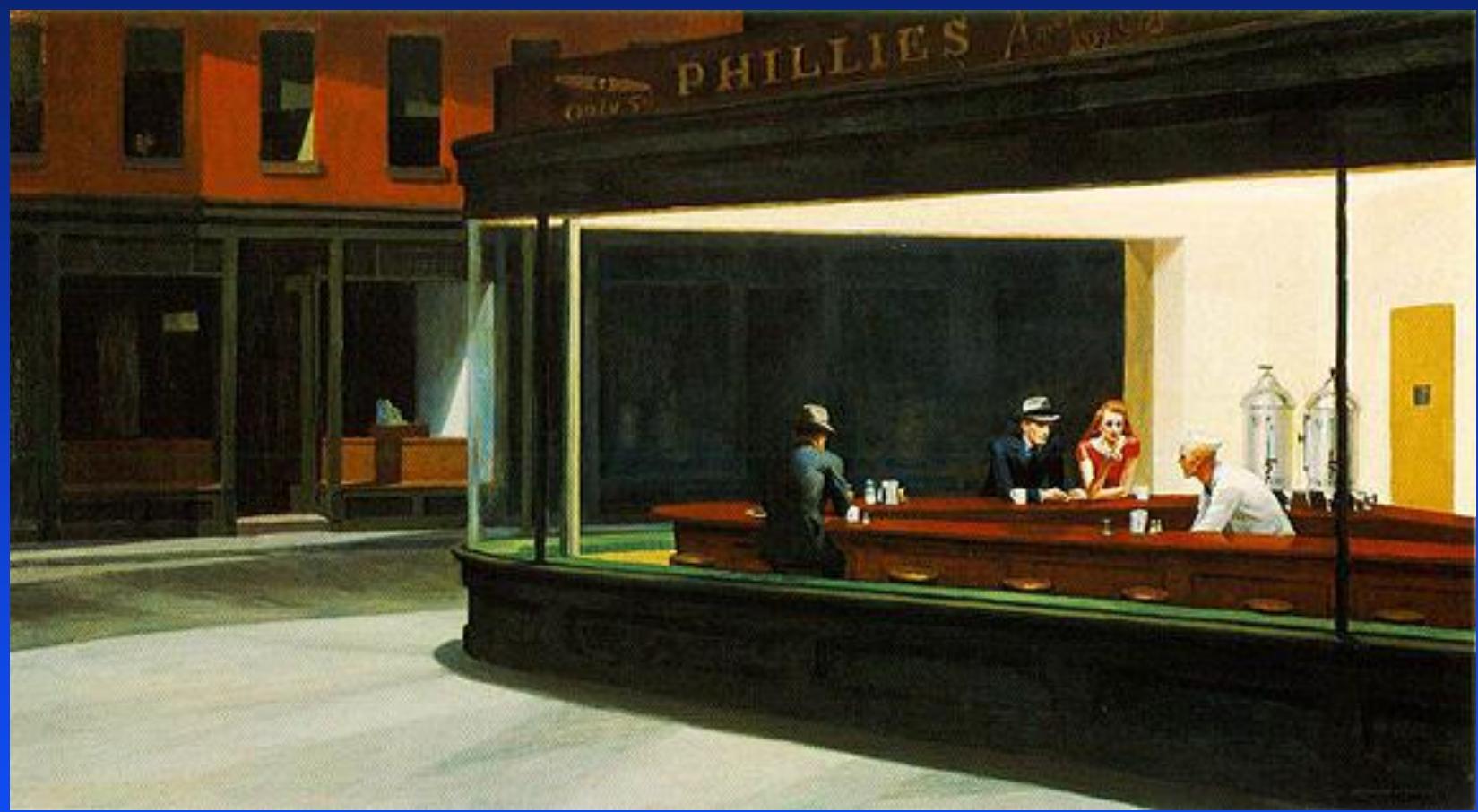


Cave painting, Lascaux, France, 15,000 to 10,000 B.C.













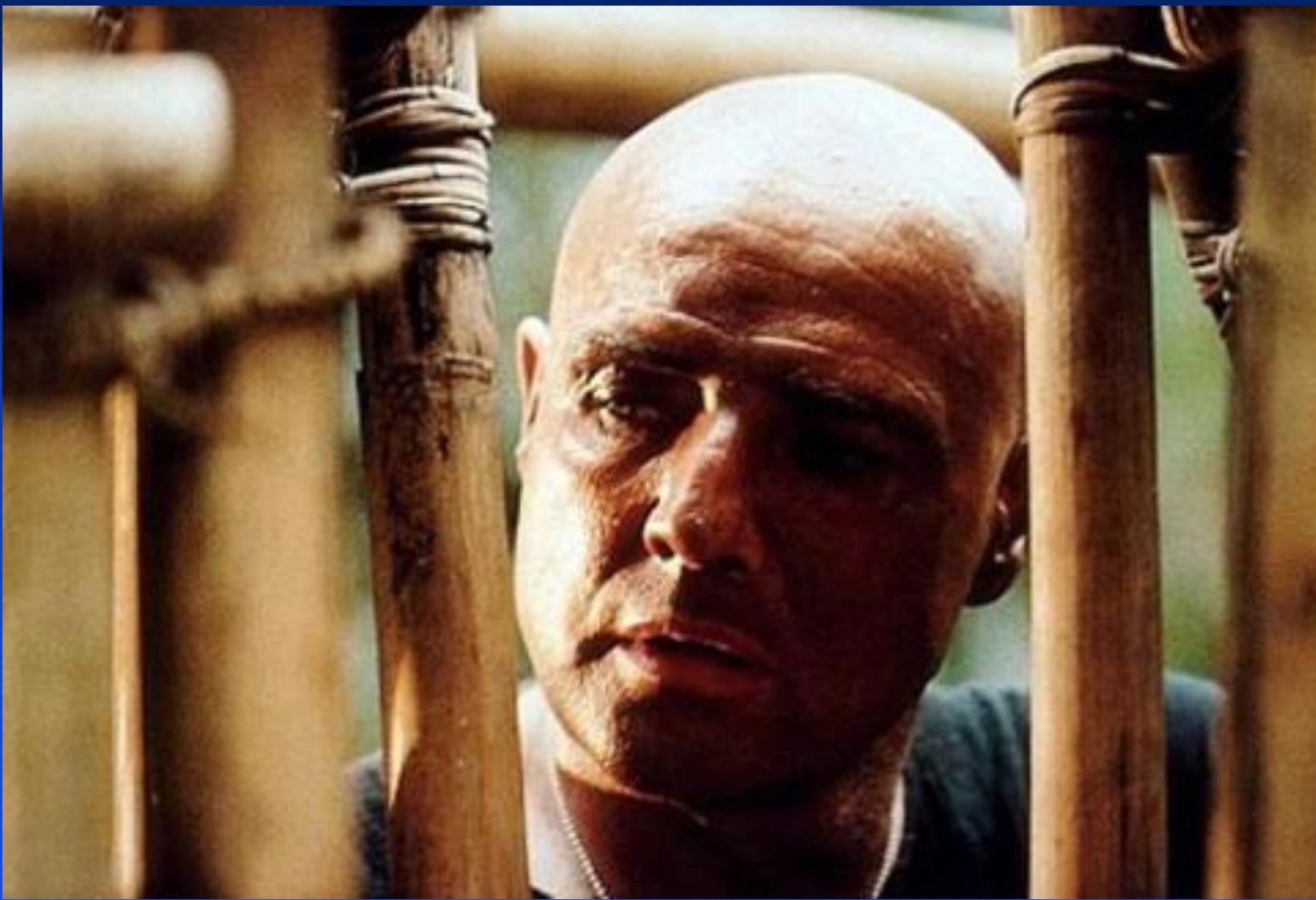












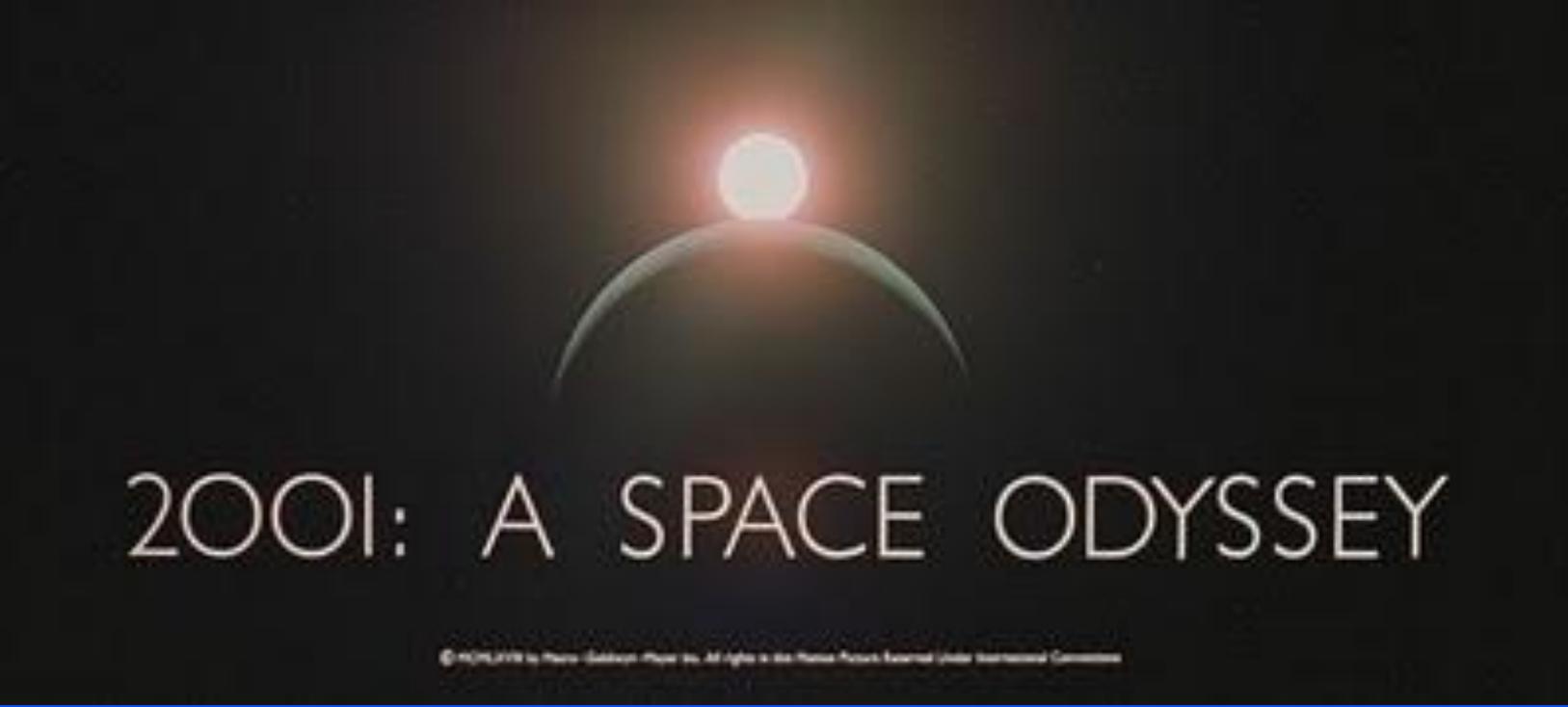
# real world dynamic range



# camera acquisition dynamic range

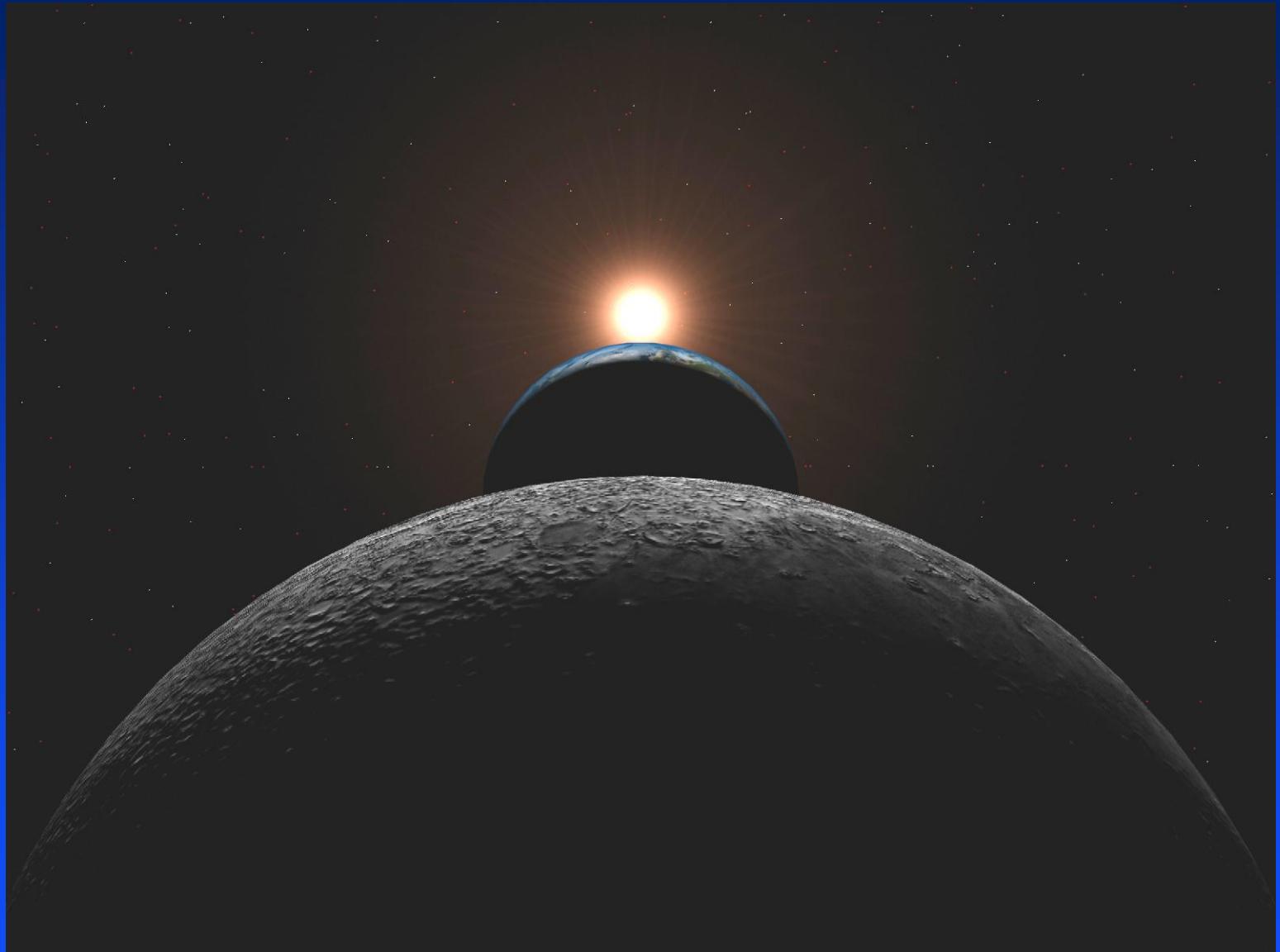


# display dynamic range



# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

© 1968, 1973 by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. All rights in the Motion Picture Reserved under International Copyright.



# real world dynamic range



# camera acquisition dynamic range



# display dynamic range

# real world dynamic range



# camera acquisition dynamic range

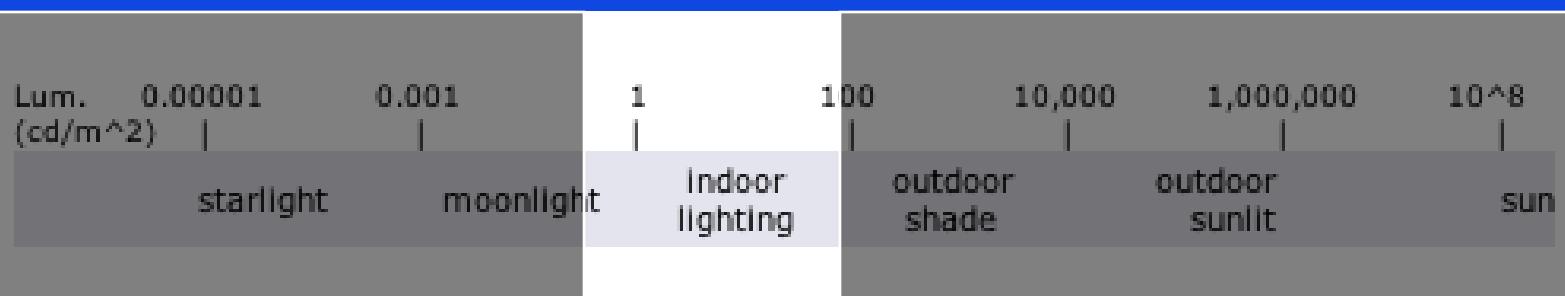


# display dynamic range

# real world dynamic range



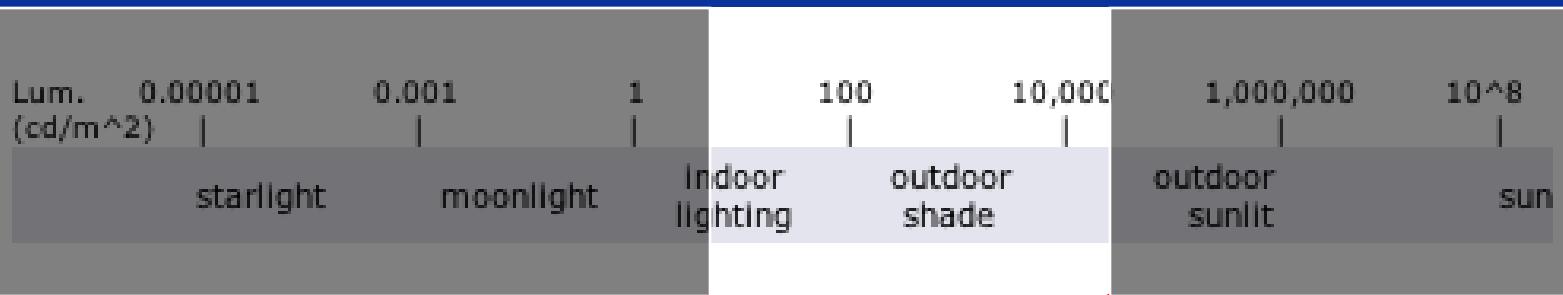
# camera acquisition dynamic range



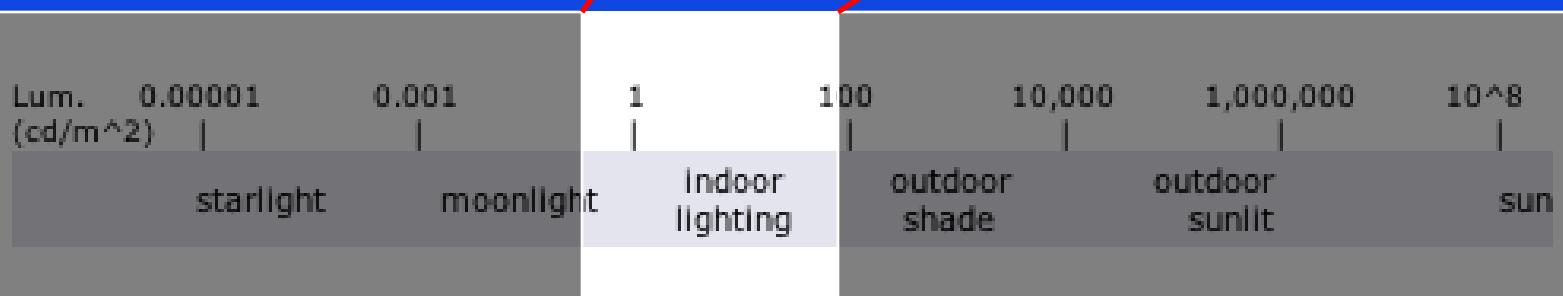
# display dynamic range

first approach -  
scale full acquisition dynamic  
range into display dynamic range

# real world dynamic range



camera acquisition dynamic range

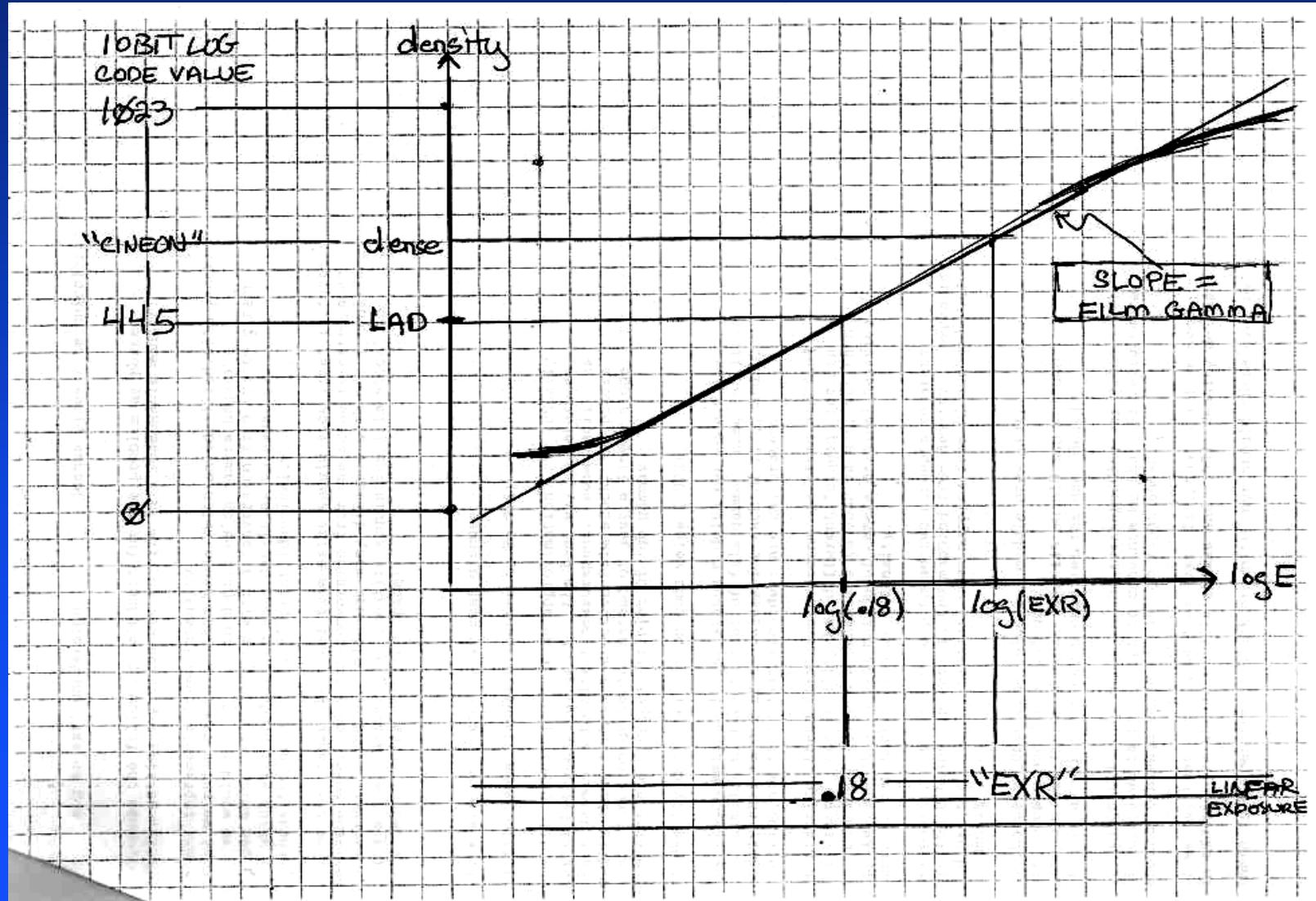


display dynamic range

# marcie - 10 bit log film scan



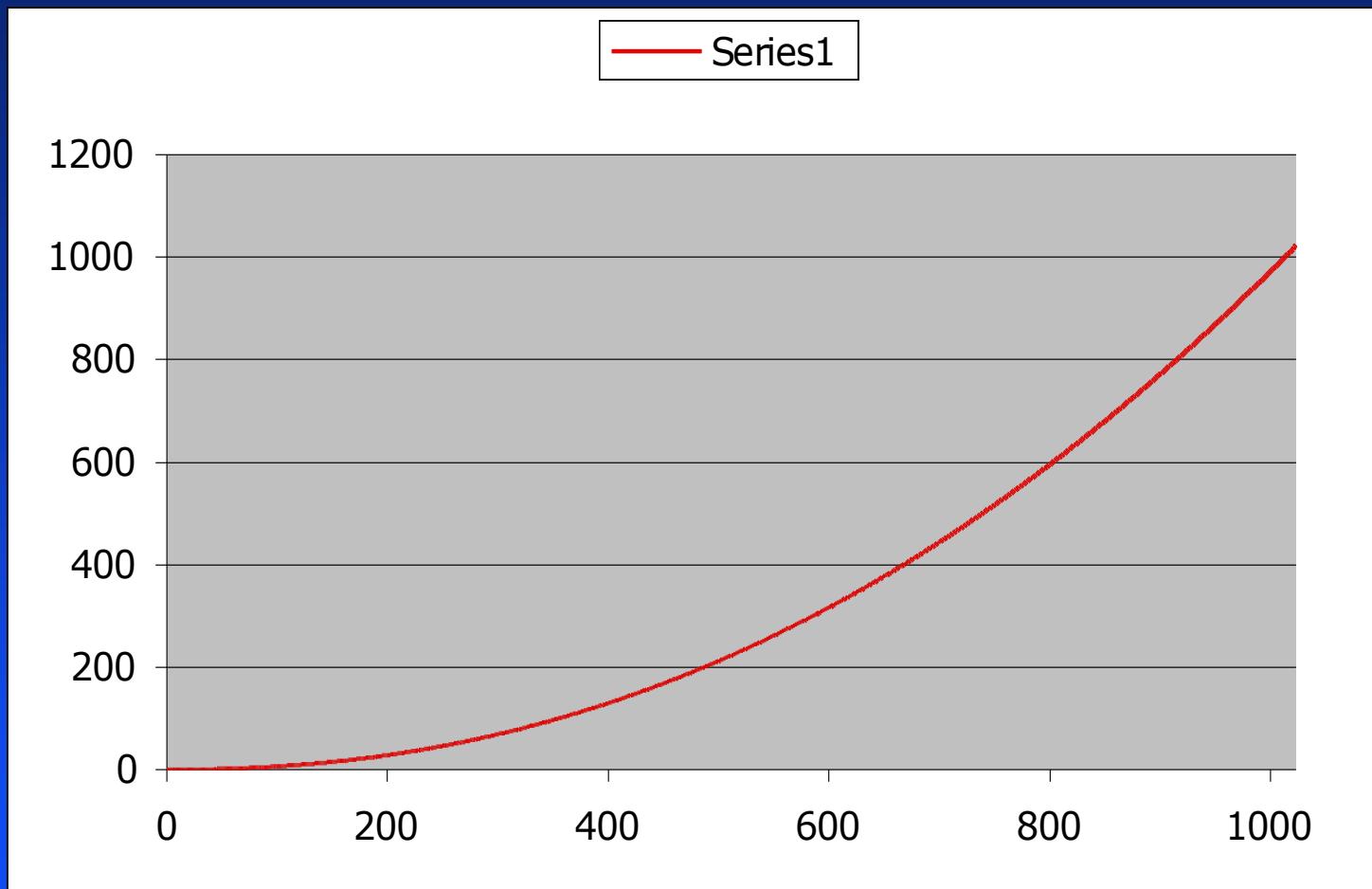
# exr -> 10bit log conversion



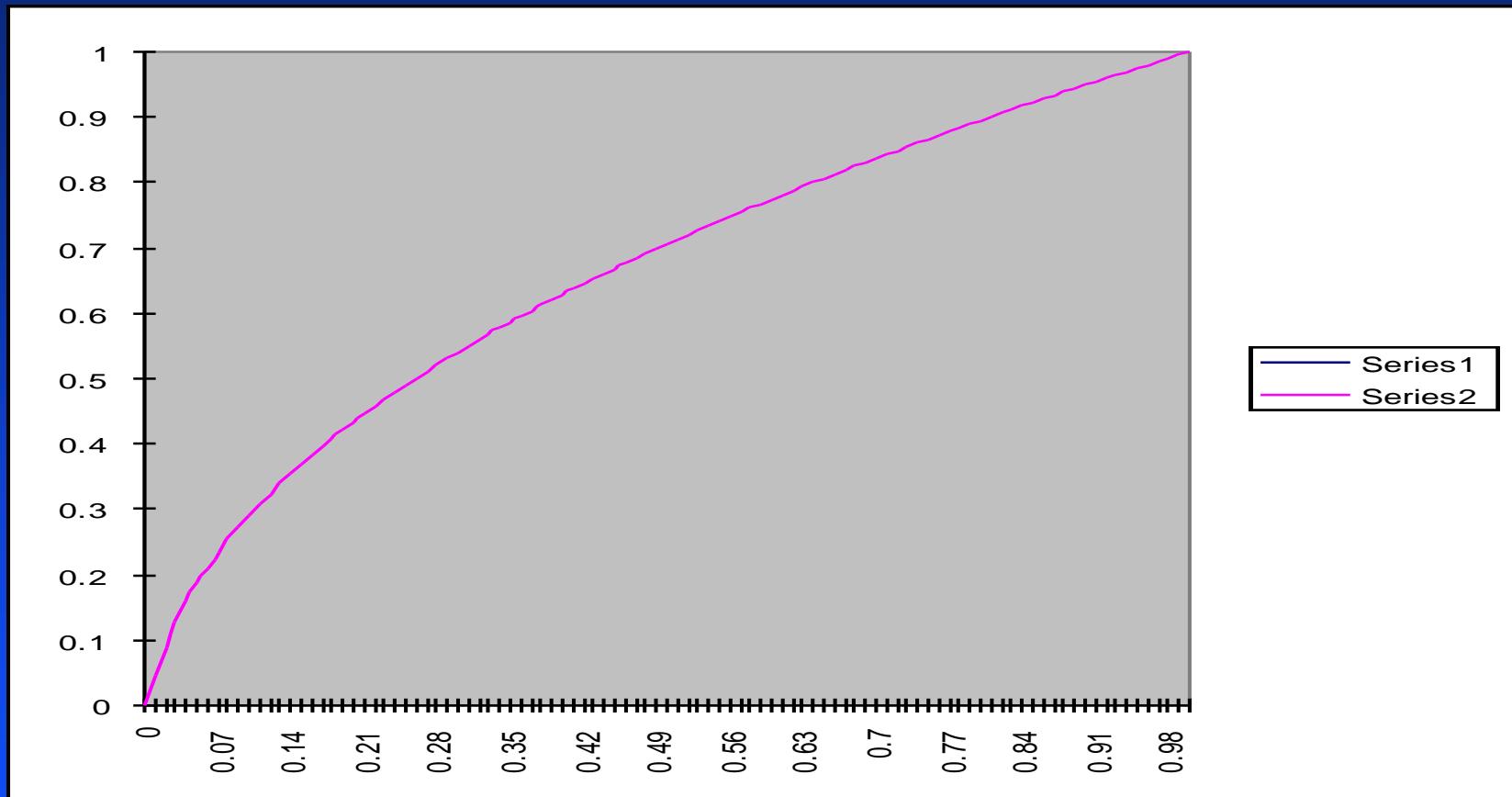
marcie - converted to “radiometric linear”



# “typical” display response



# compensation for display response



marcie - converted to “radiometric linear”

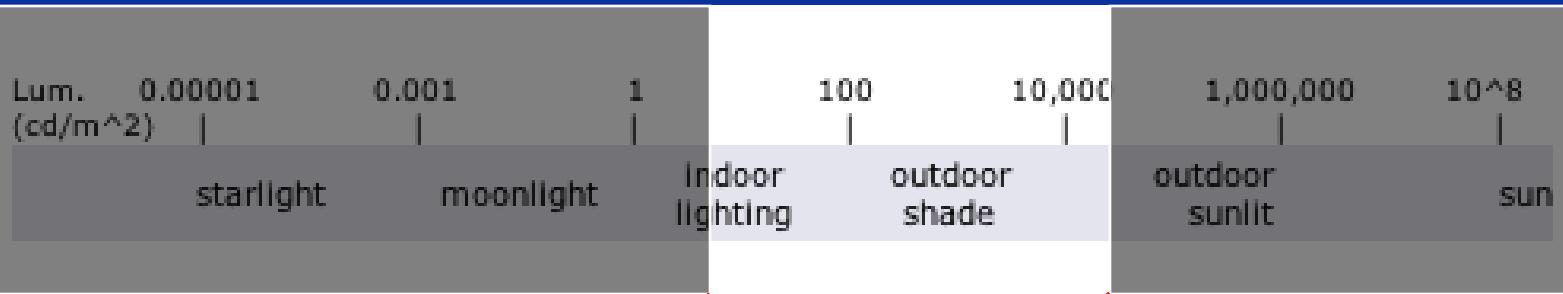


full range acquisition scaled to display  
dynamic range (and gamma corrected)

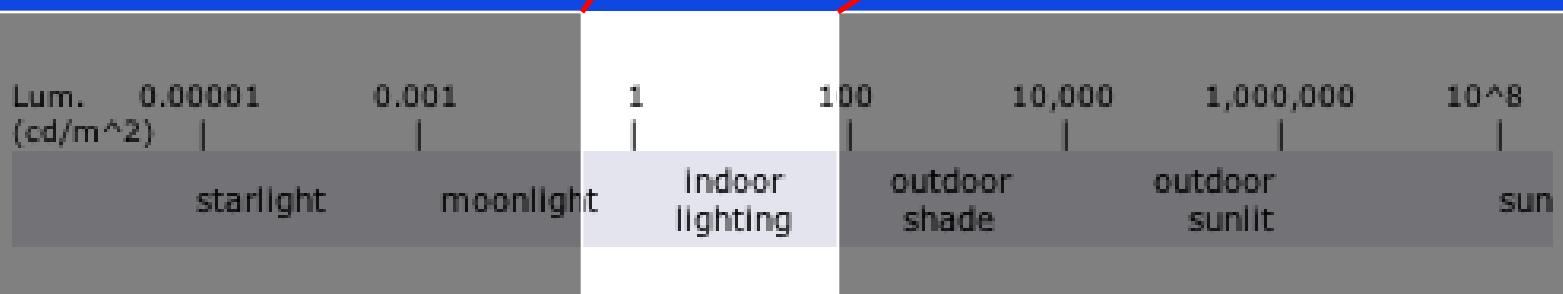


second approach -  
extract display's dynamic range  
from full acquisition dynamic  
range

# real world dynamic range

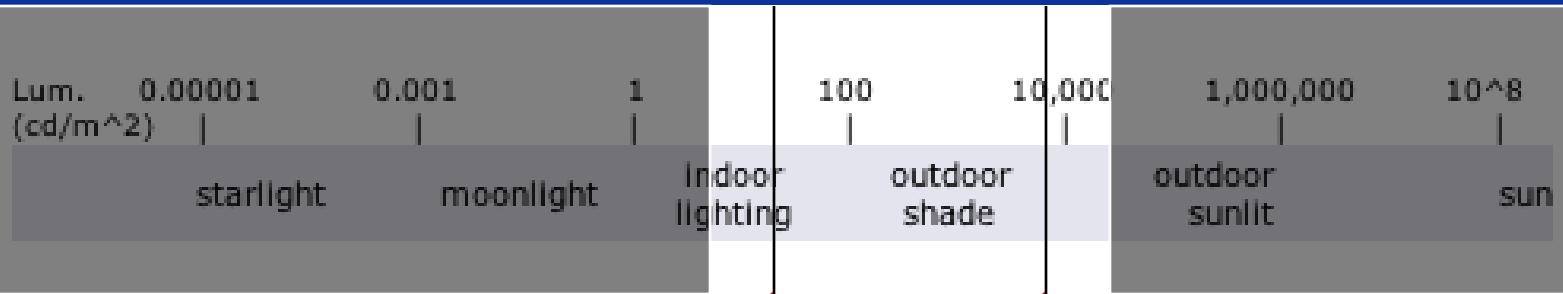


camera acquisition dynamic range

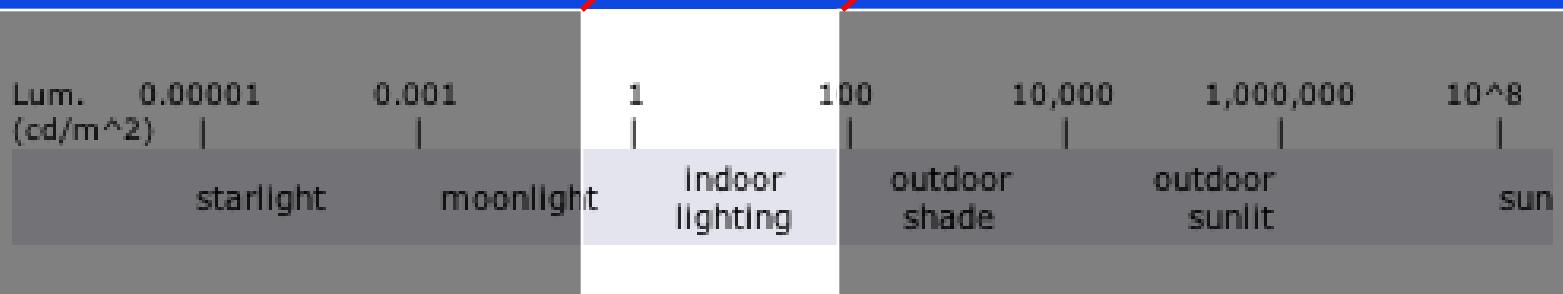


display dynamic range

# real world dynamic range

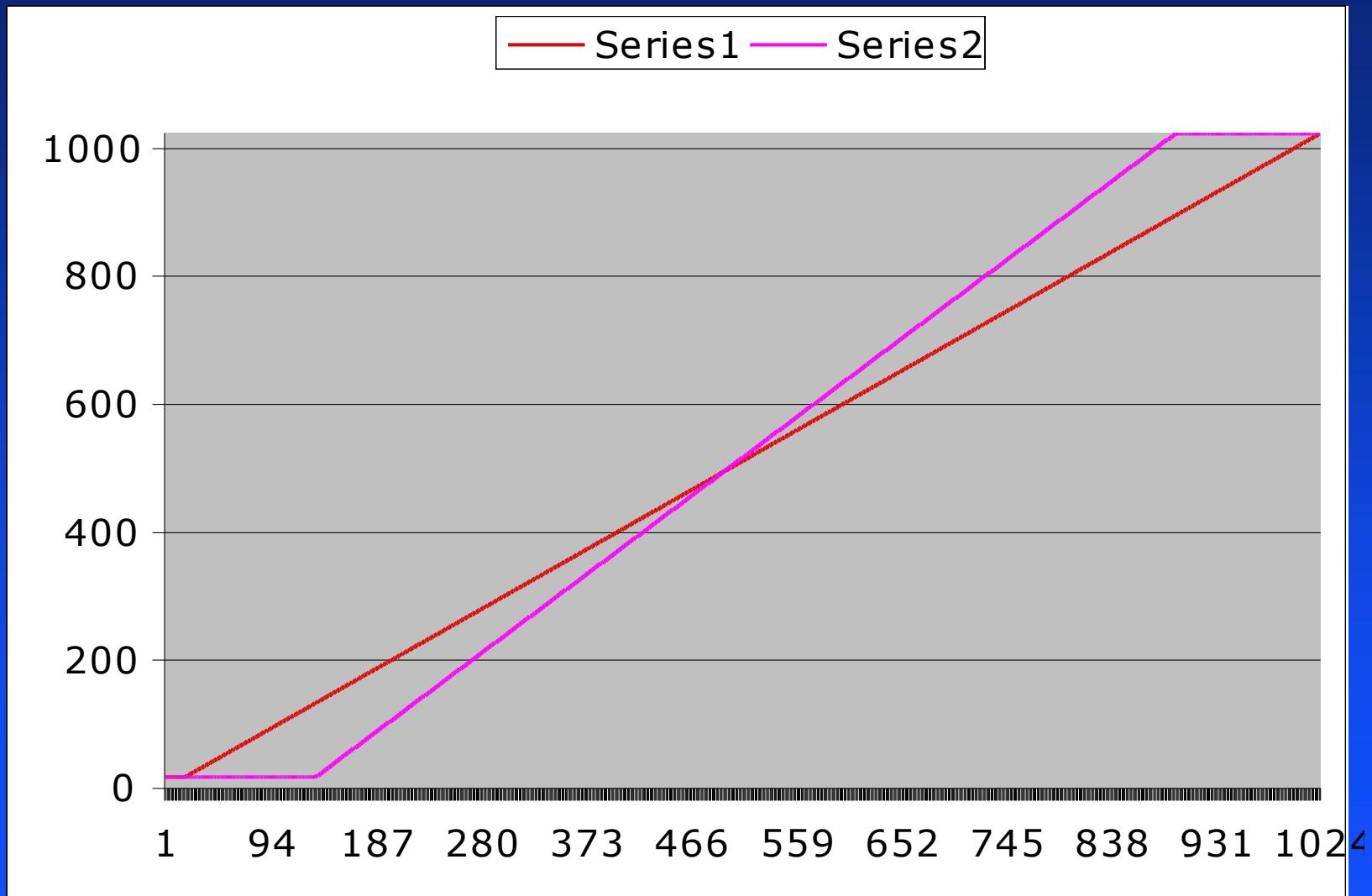


camera acquisition dynamic range



display dynamic range

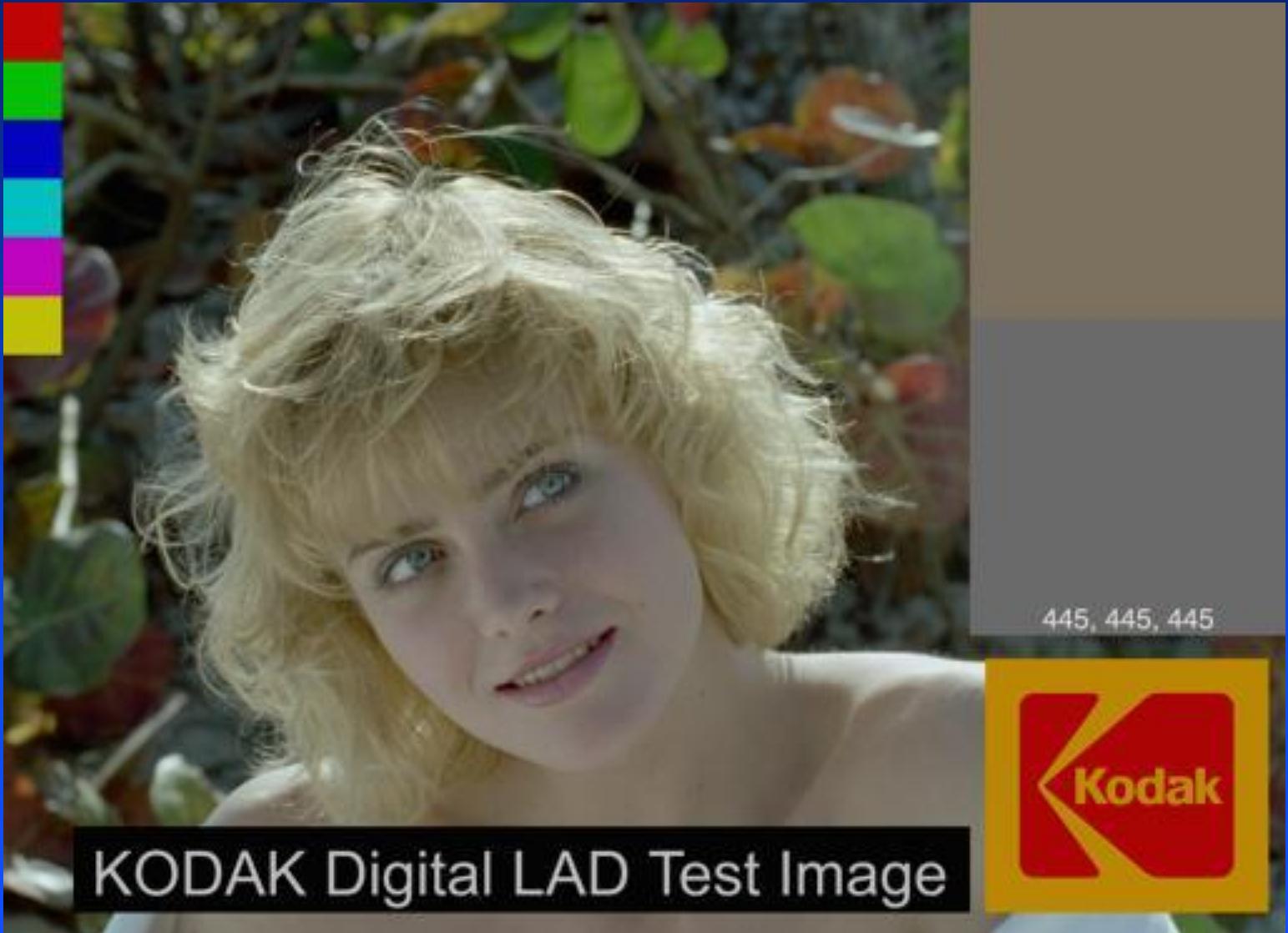
match display dynamic range instead of full acquisition dynamic range



full range acquisition scaled to display  
dynamic range (and gamma corrected)



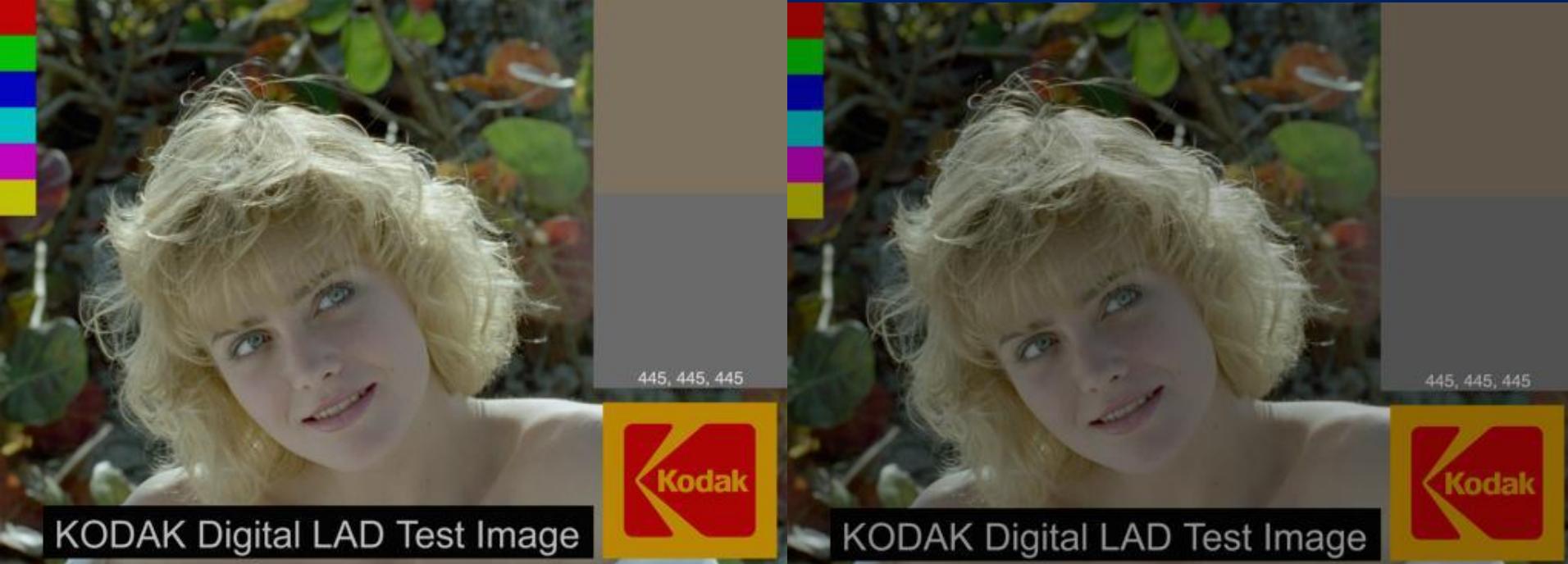
match display dynamic range from acquisition  
preserving relative intensities



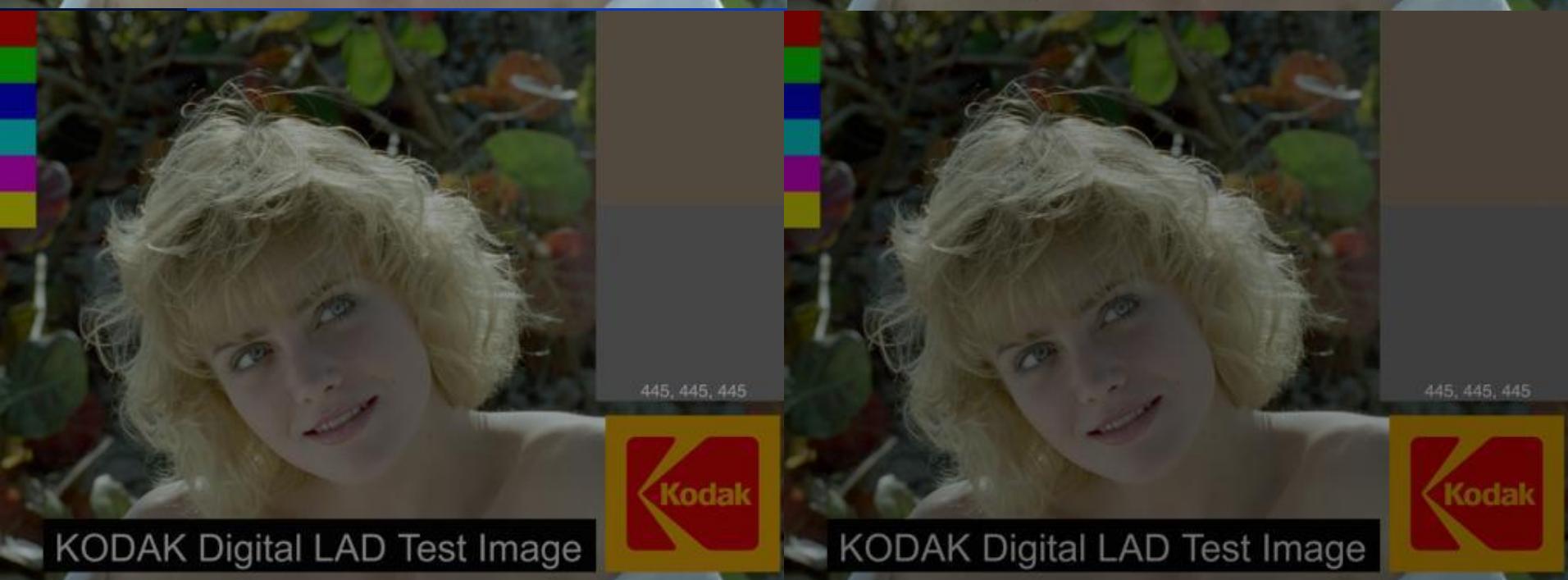
limiting to the display's dynamic range while preserving relative intensities is an improvement - but still looks “low contrast” - why?

limiting to display's dynamic range while preserving relative intensities is an improvement - but still looks “low contrast” - why?

- stevens effect - perceived contrast decreases at lower luminance
- hunt effect - perceived “colorfulness” also decreases at lower luminance



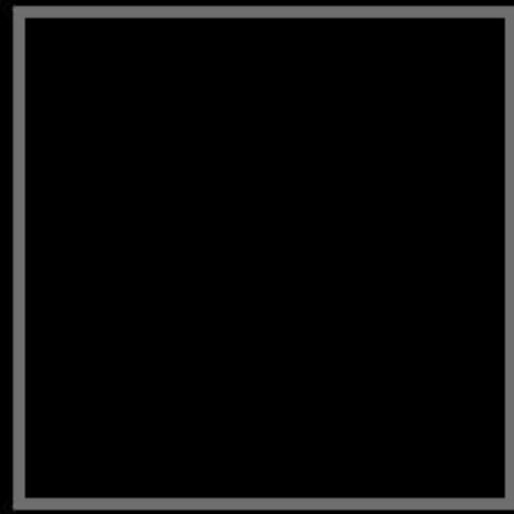
KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

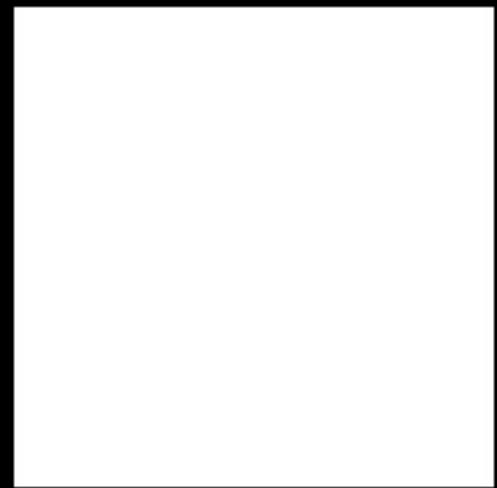


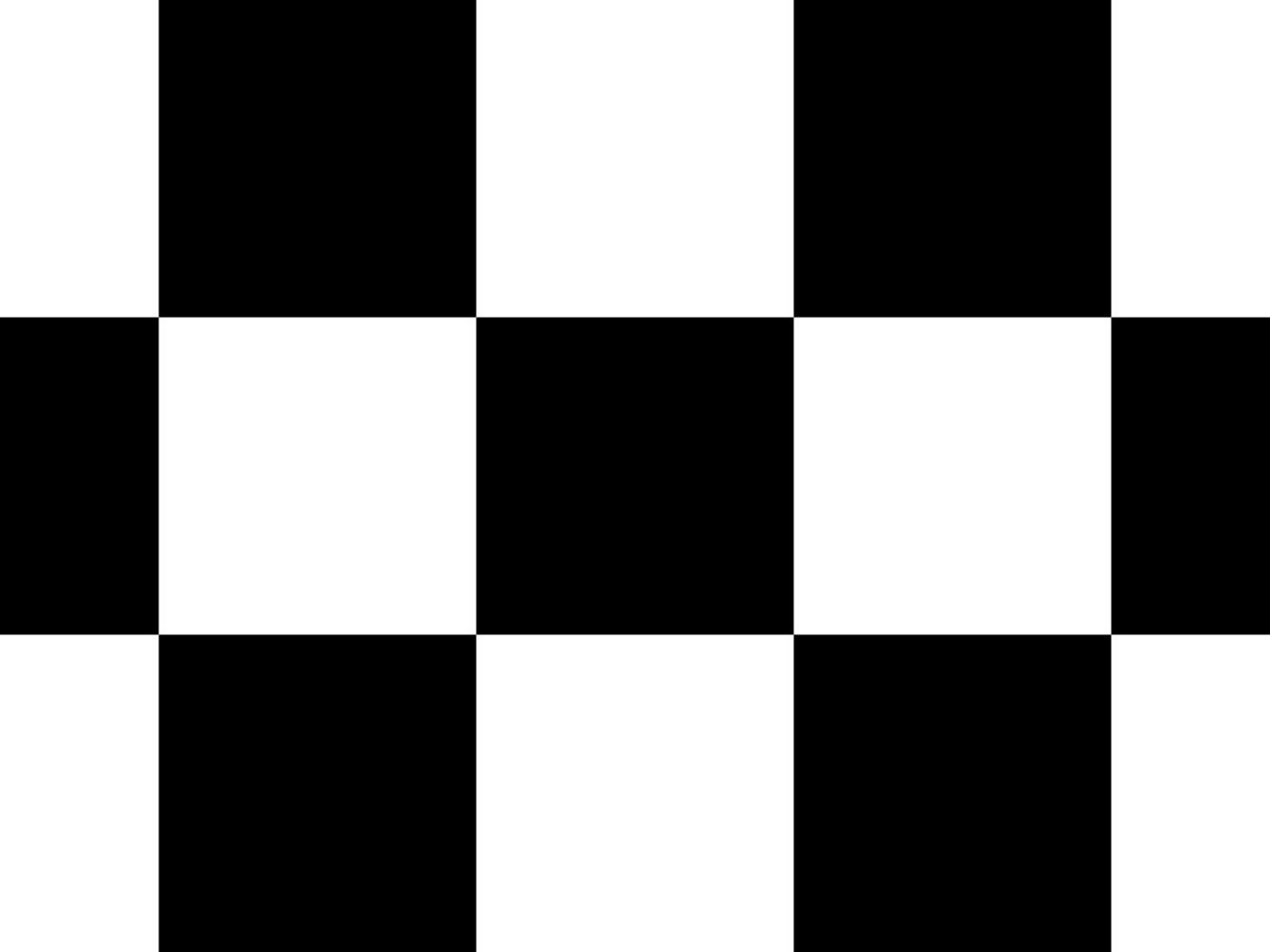
KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

limiting to display's dynamic range while preserving relative intensities is an improvement - but still looks “low contrast” - why?

- stevens effect - perceived contrast decreases at lower luminance
- hunt effect - perceived “colorfulness” also decreases at lower luminance
- display flare characteristics reduce contrast - sequential contrast vs. simultaneous contrast

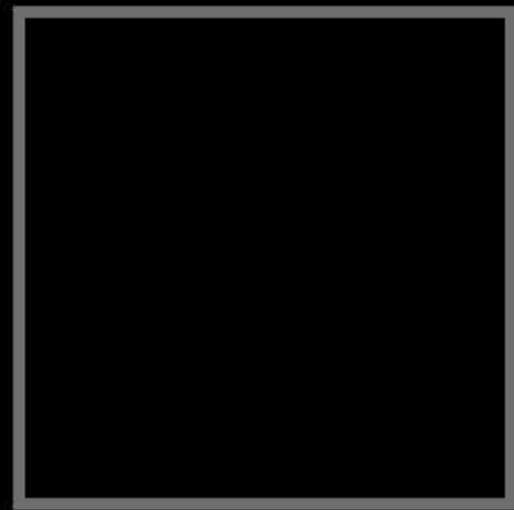


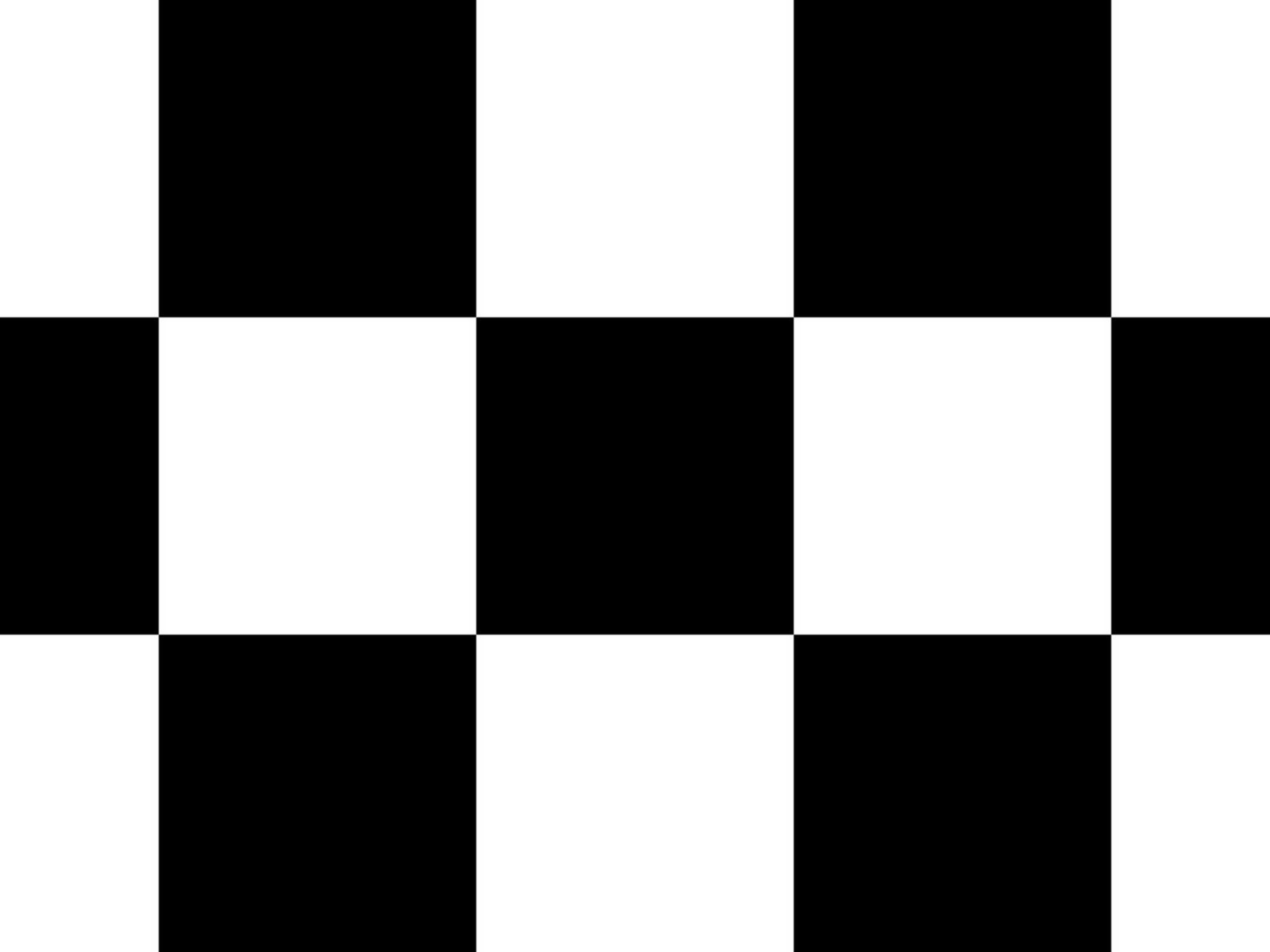


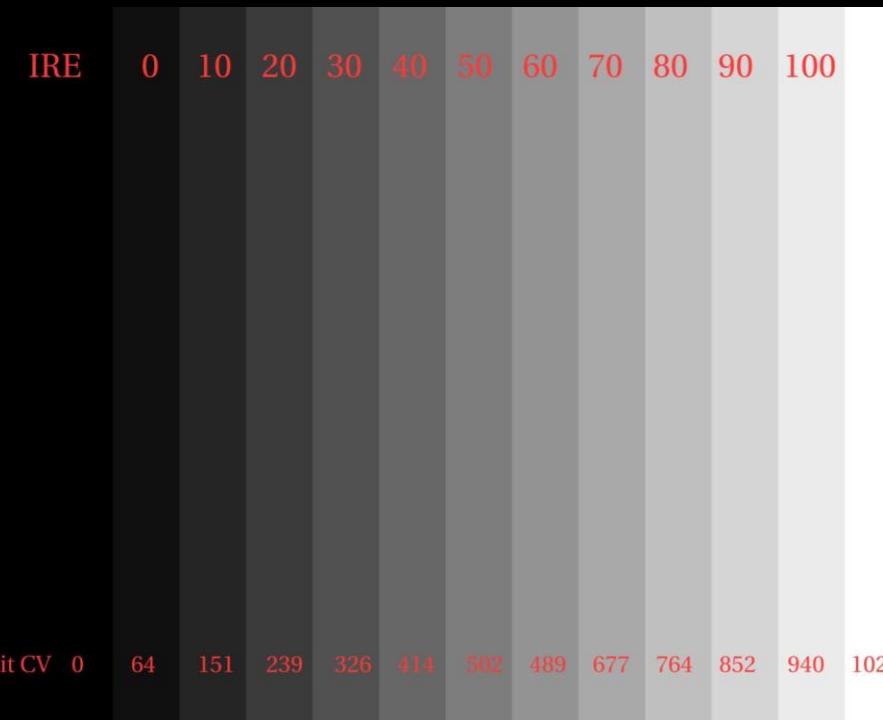


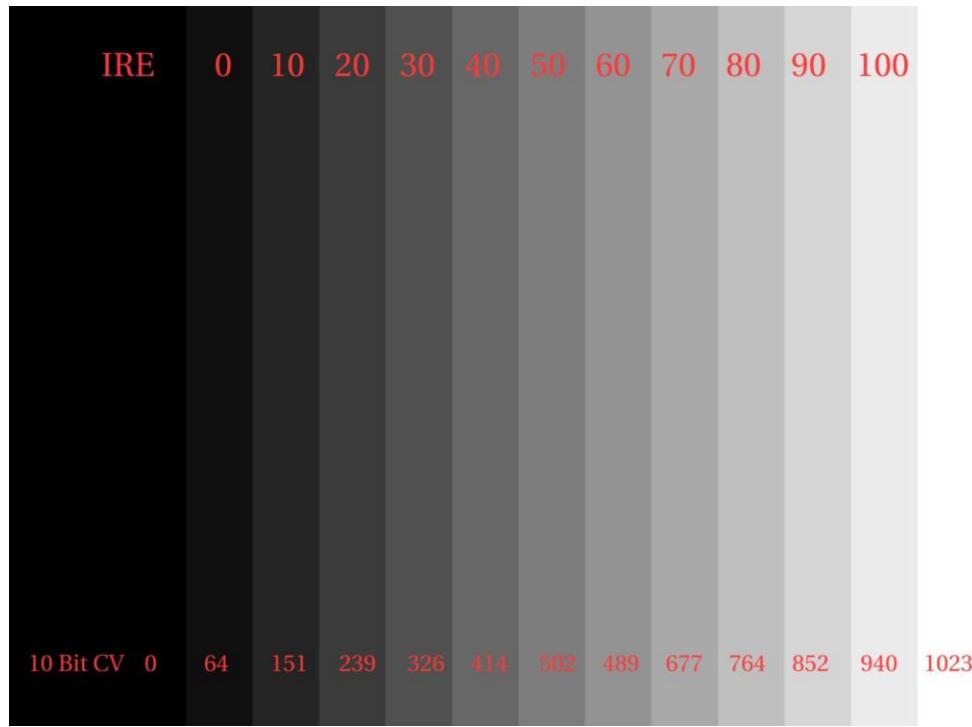
limiting to display's dynamic range while preserving relative intensities is an improvement - but still looks “low contrast” - why?

- stevens effect - perceived contrast decreases at lower luminance
- hunt effect - perceived “colorfulness” also decreases at lower luminance
- display flare characteristics reduce contrast
- bartleson-breneman effect - a “dark” surround decreases perceived contrast









“normal surround” - (office)



“dim surround” - (living room)



“dark surround” - (theatrical)



“normal surround” - (office)  
display gamma = 2.2



“dim surround” - (living room)  
display gamma = 2.4



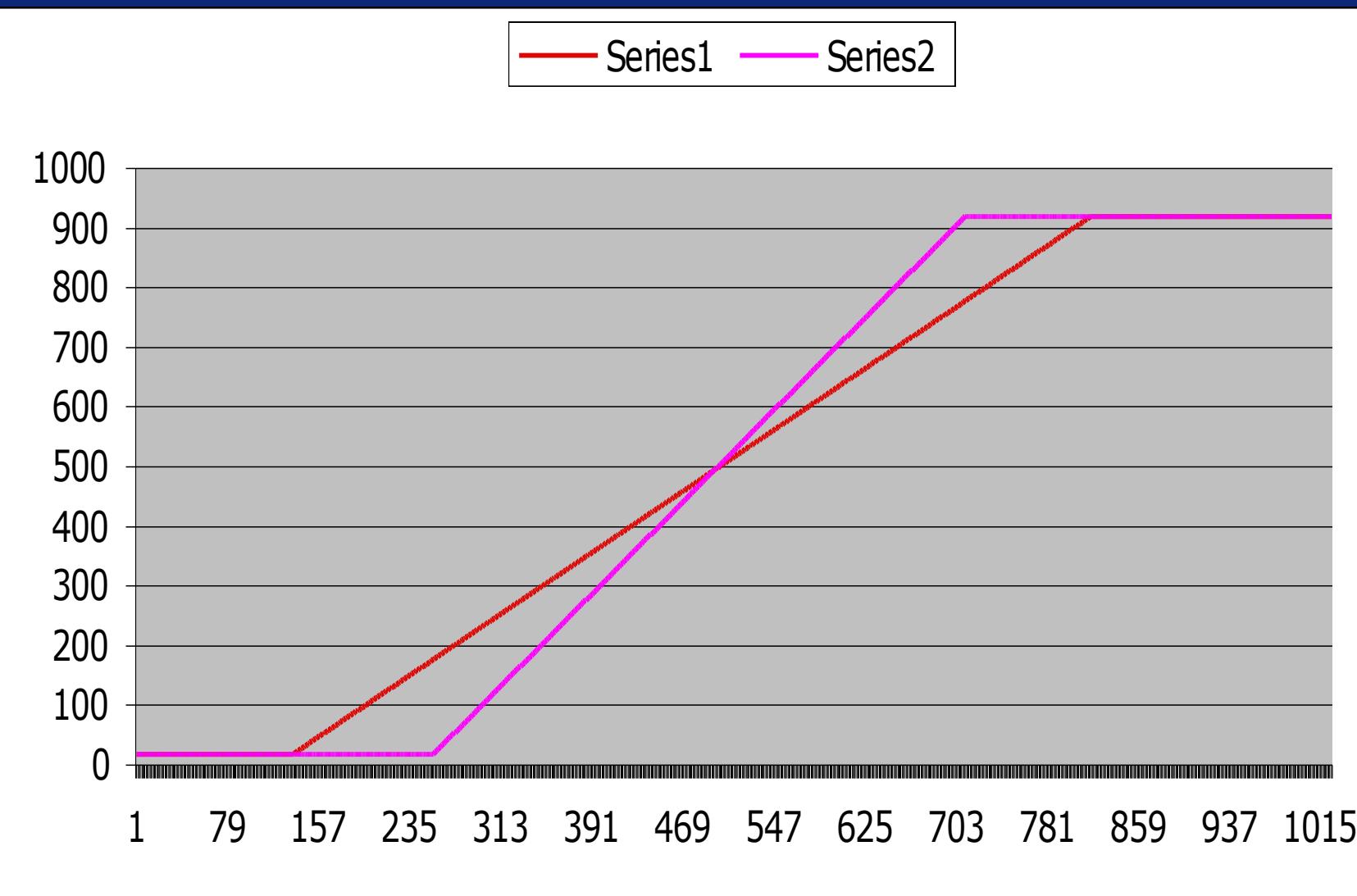
“dark surround” - (theatrical)  
display gamma = 2.6



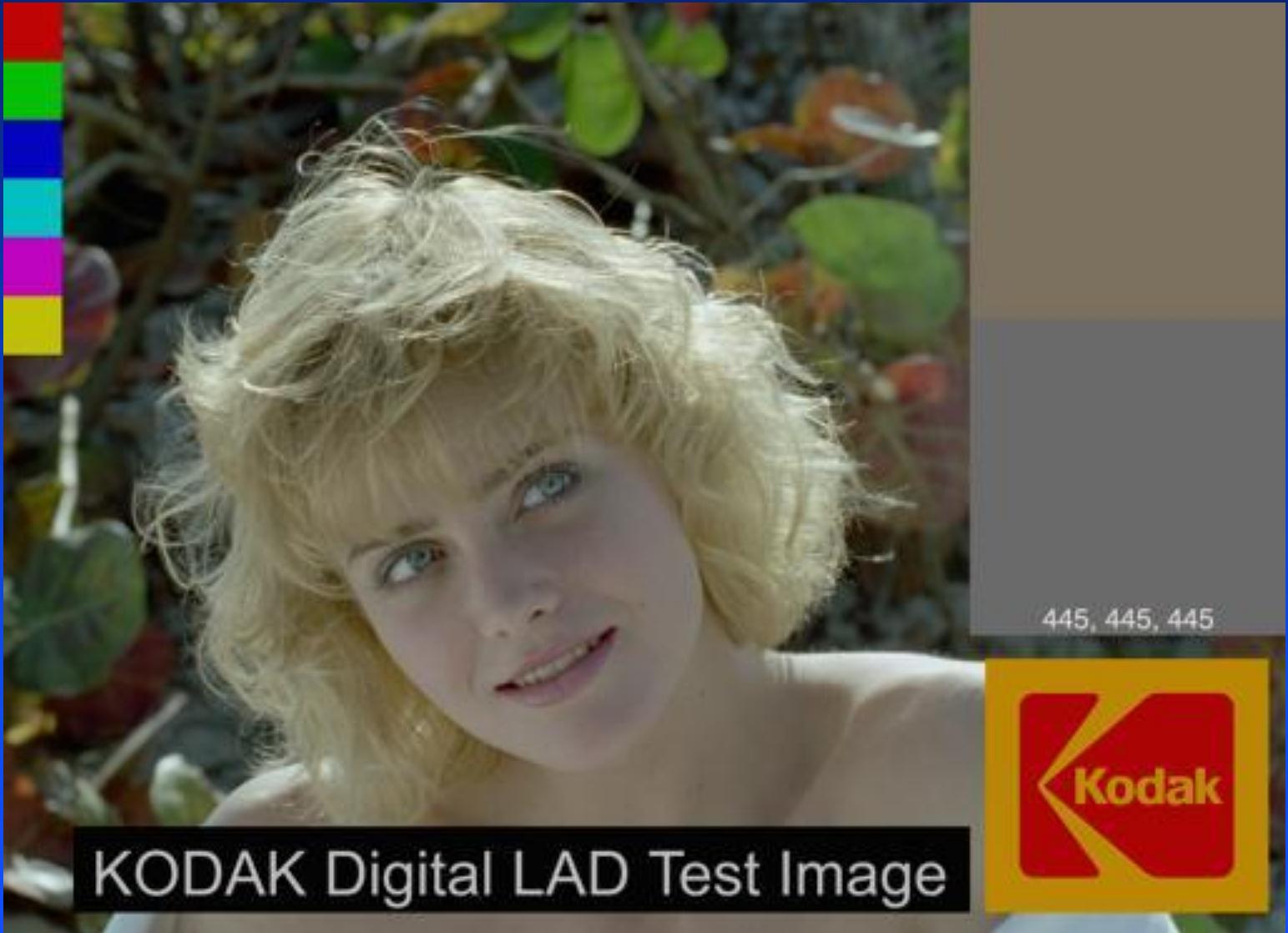
limiting to display's dynamic range while preserving relative intensities is an improvement - but still looks “low contrast” - why?

- stevens effect - perceived contrast decreases at lower luminance
- hunt effect - perceived “colorfulness” also decreases at lower luminance
- display flare characteristics reduce contrast
- bartleson-breneman effect - a “dark” surround decreases perceived contrast

# solution - increase contrast!

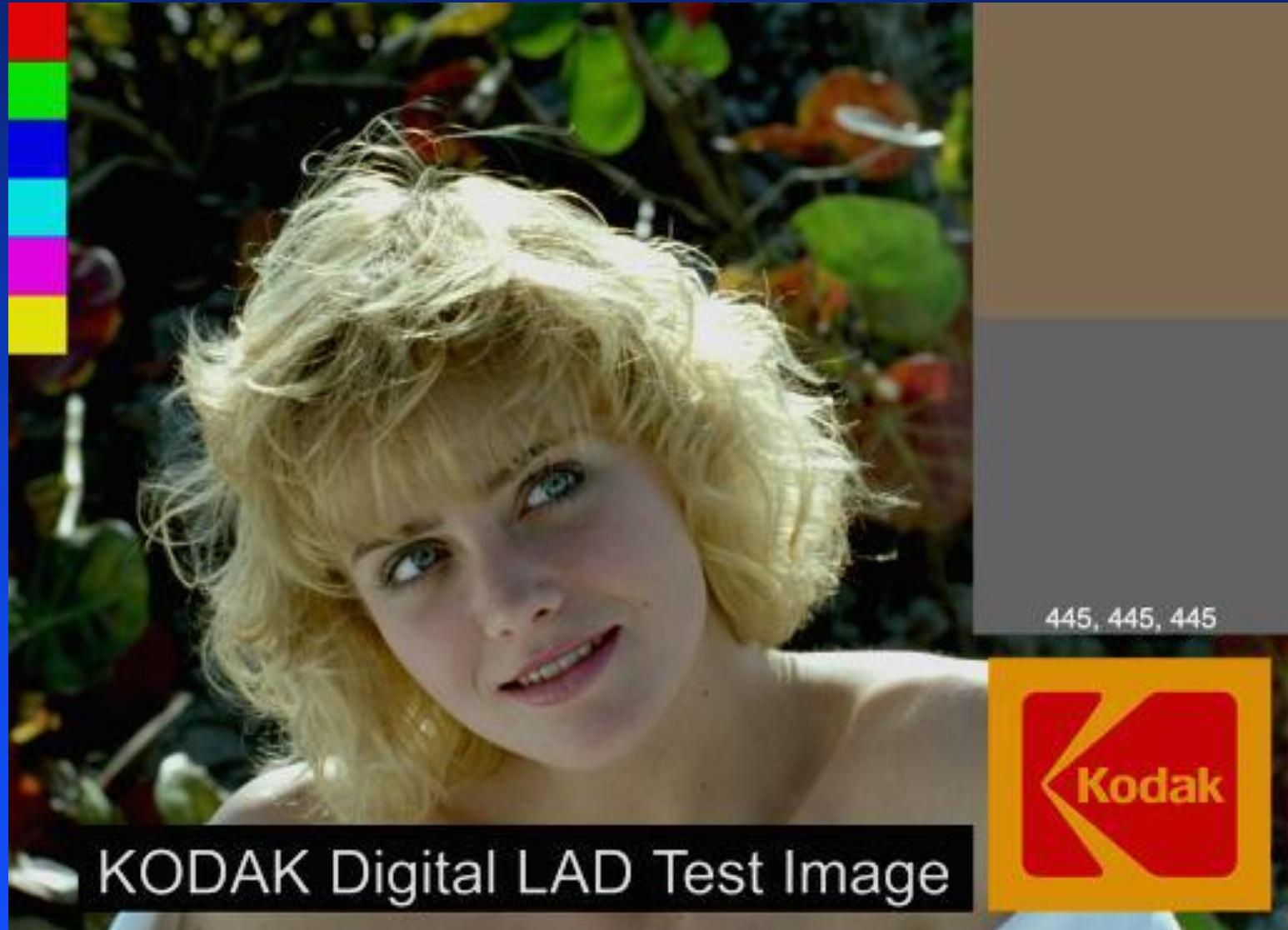


match display dynamic range from acquisition  
preserving relative intensities



match display dynamic range  
add contrast (1.25 - 1.50)

+

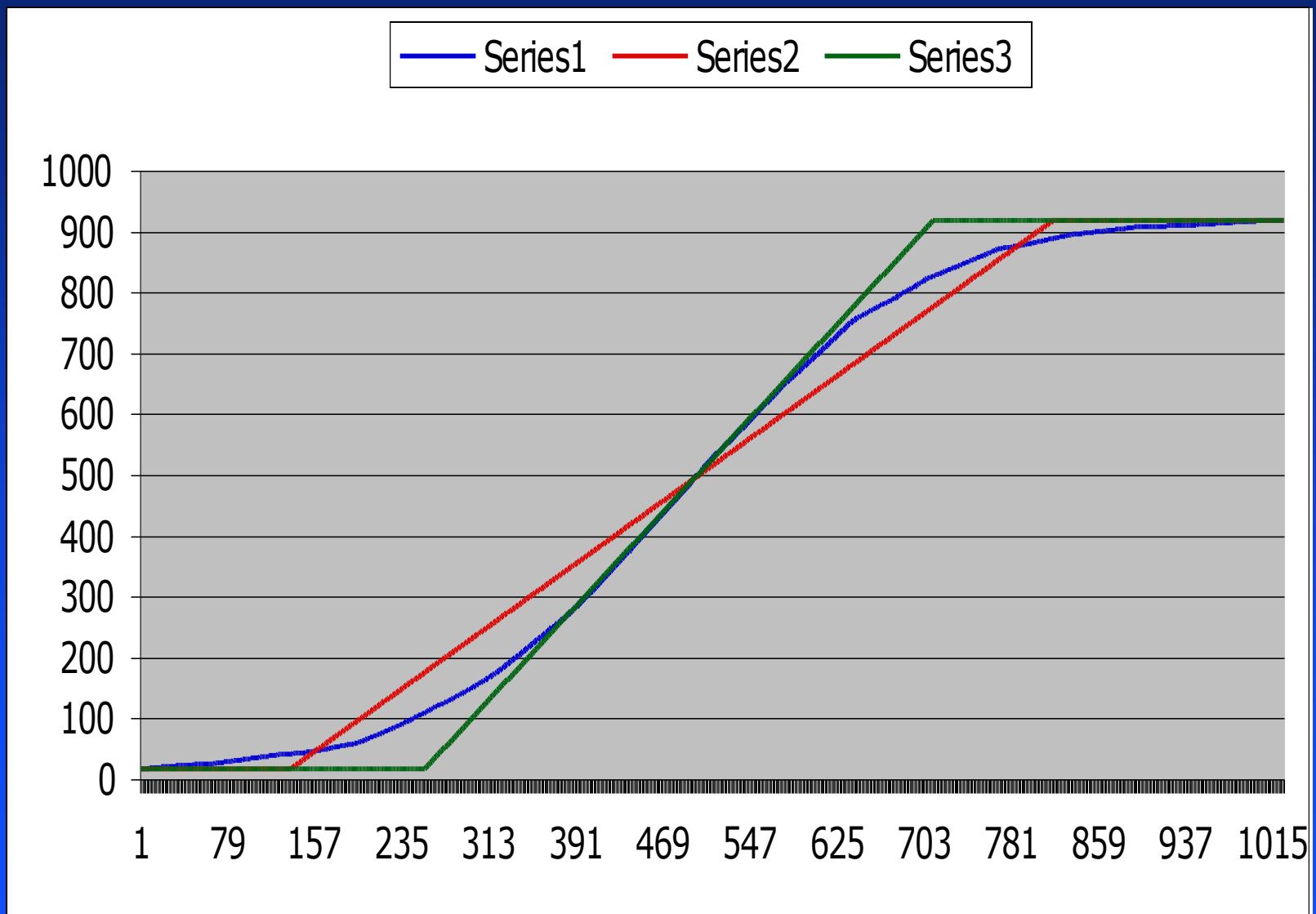


KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

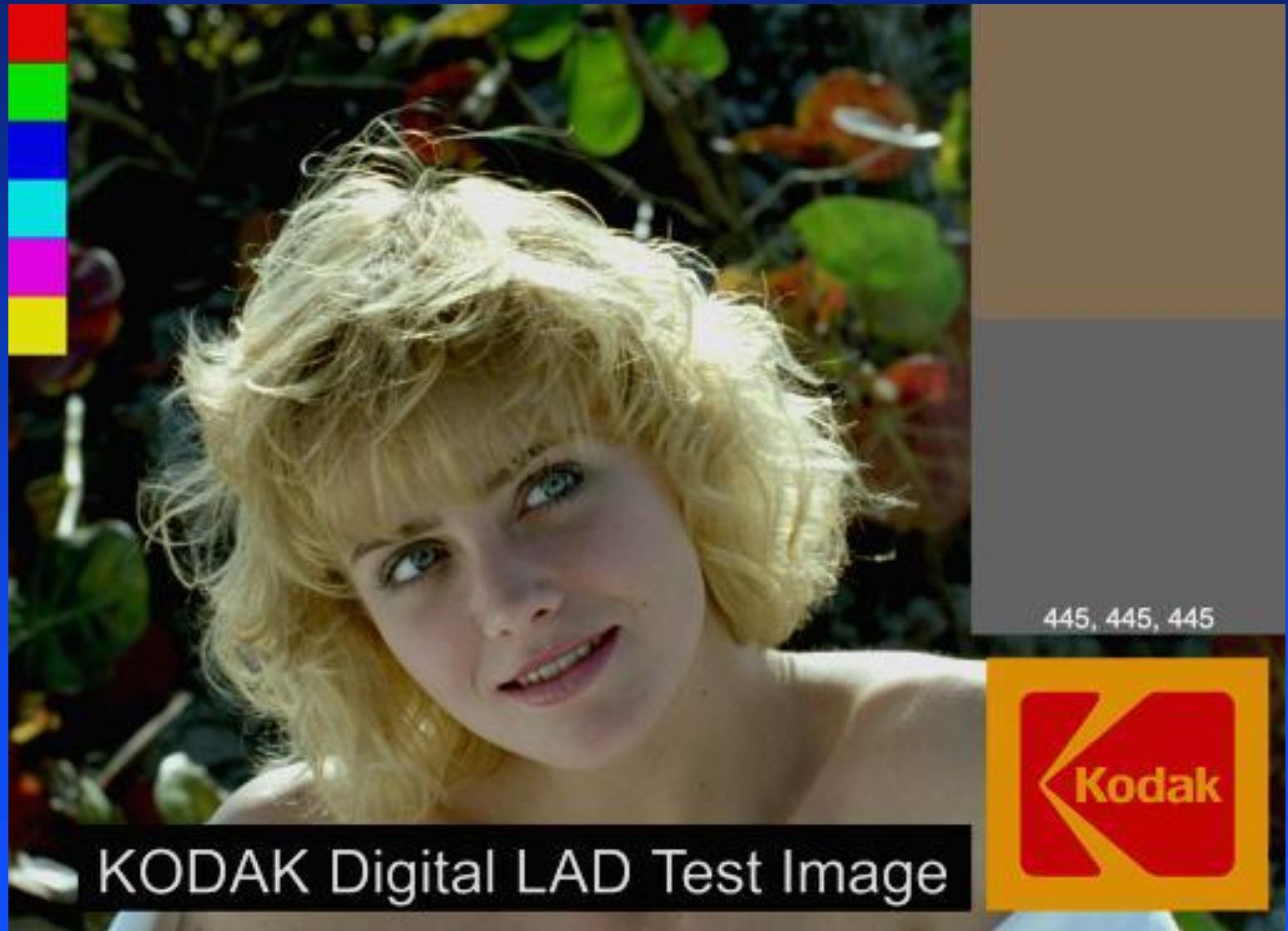
...but now we've added clipping artifacts

- add “toe” and “shoulder” to reduce clipping artifacts
- ...which also brings back some shadow and highlight detail

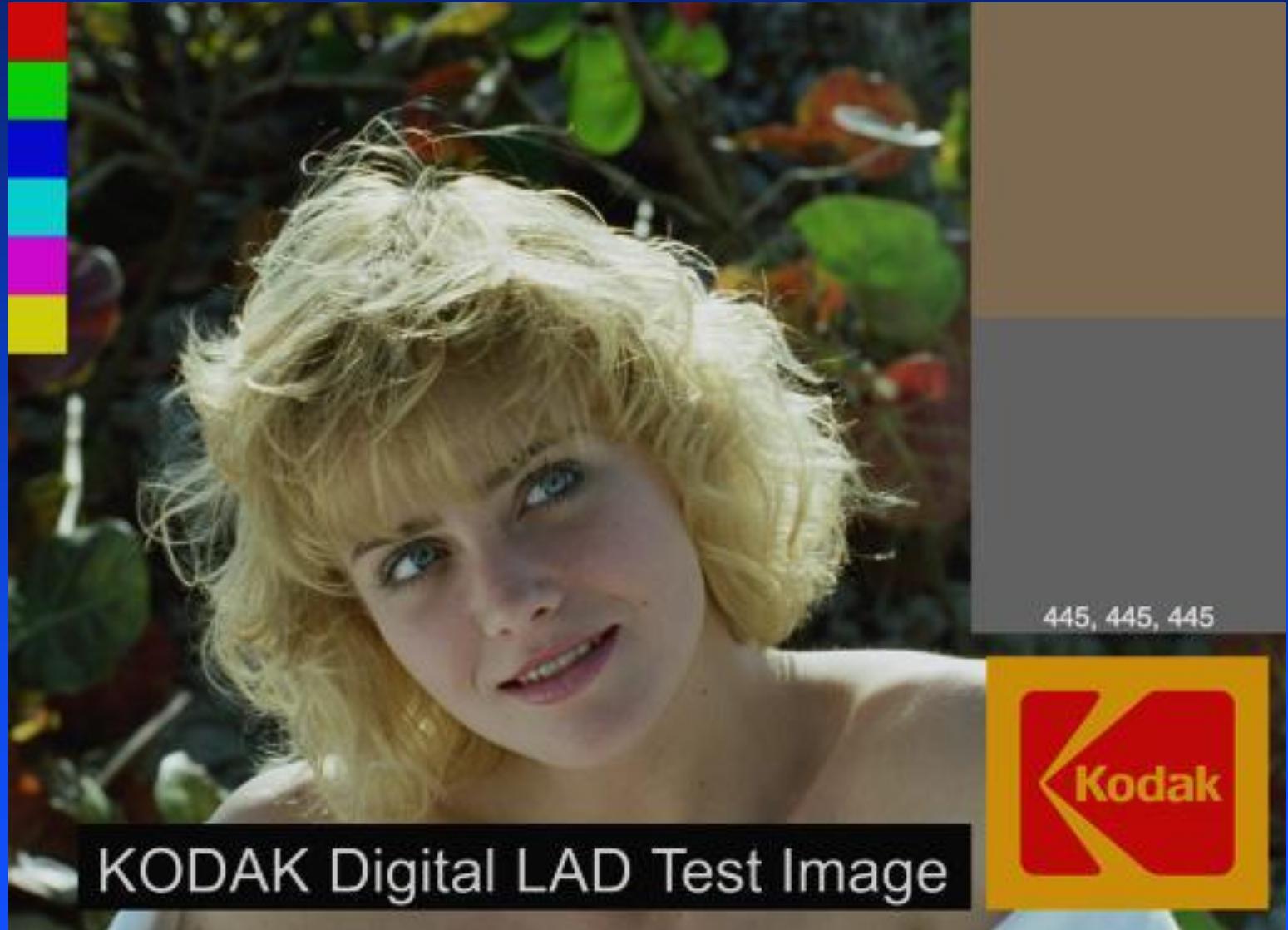
# solution - increase contrast + add toe and shoulder (the infamous “S-curve”)



display dynamic range + add contrast (1.25 -  
1.50)



display dynamic range + add contrast  
+  
add toe and shoulder



KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

display dynamic range + add contrast  
+  
add toe and shoulder (b&w)

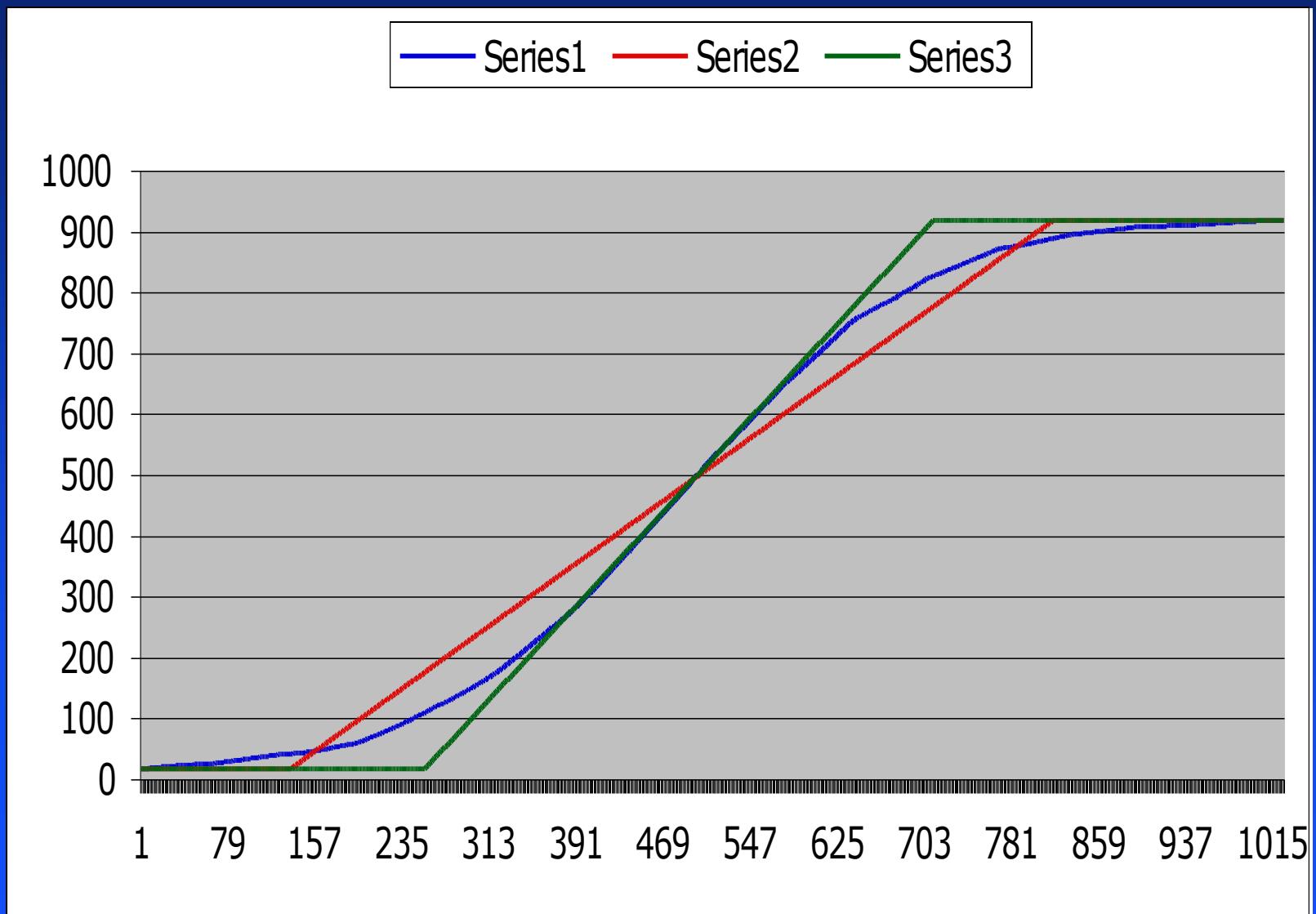


# real film print emulation (b&w)



KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

i cheated - this “simple S-curve” is the real film emulation tone mapping curve



display dynamic range + add contrast  
+  
add toe and shoulder (b&w)



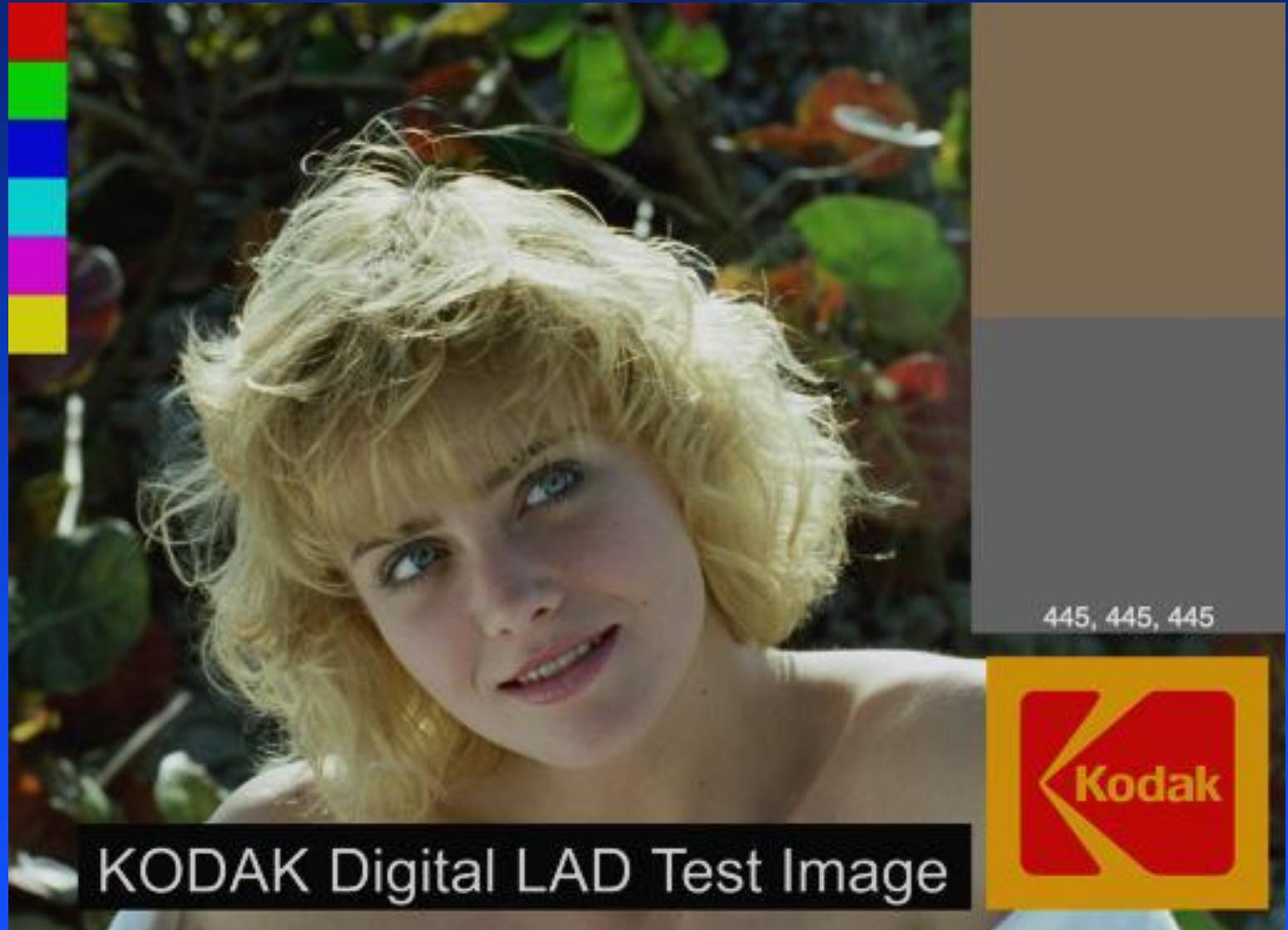
# real film print emulation (b&w)



KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

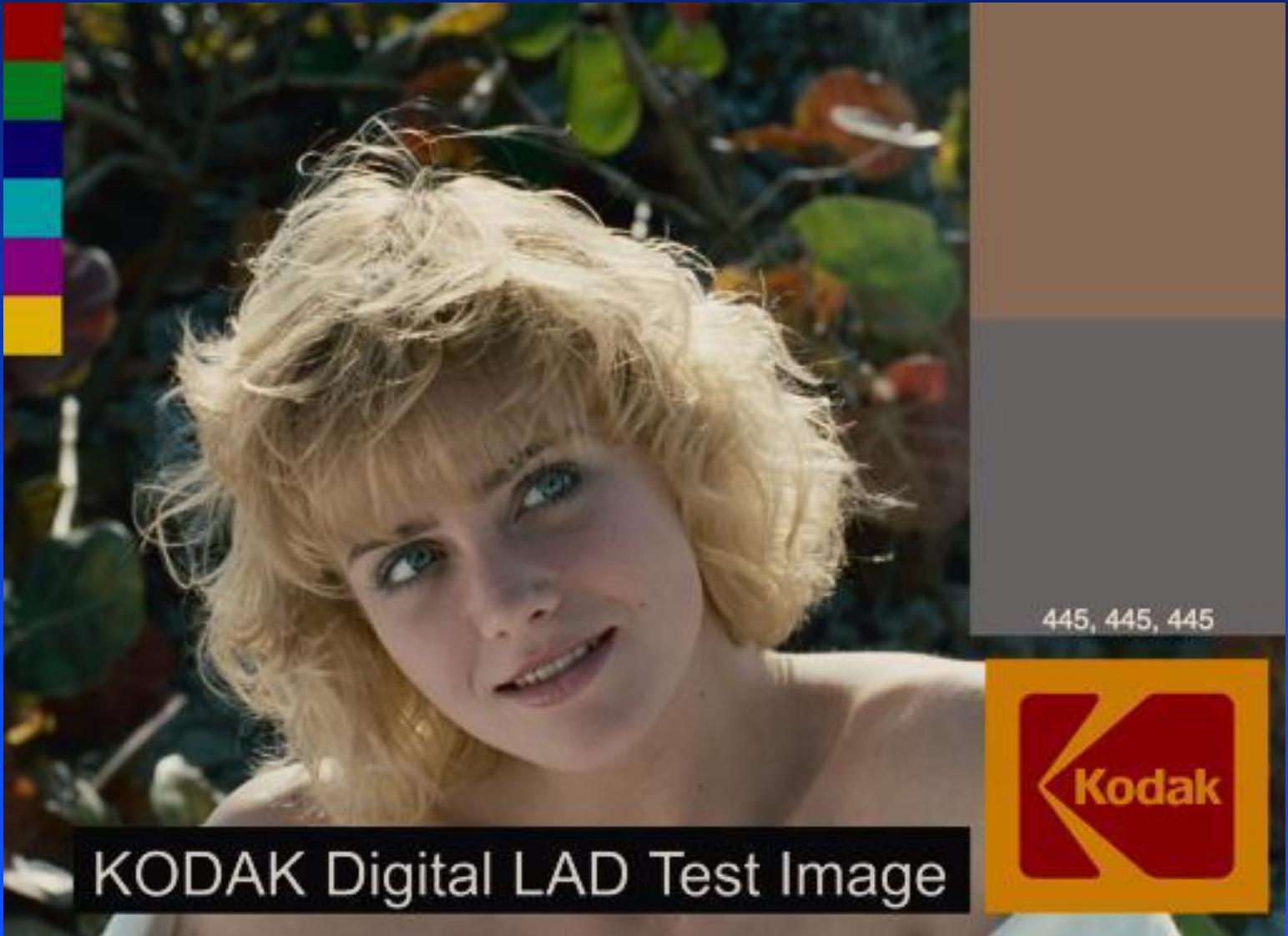


display dynamic range + add contrast  
+  
add toe and shoulder



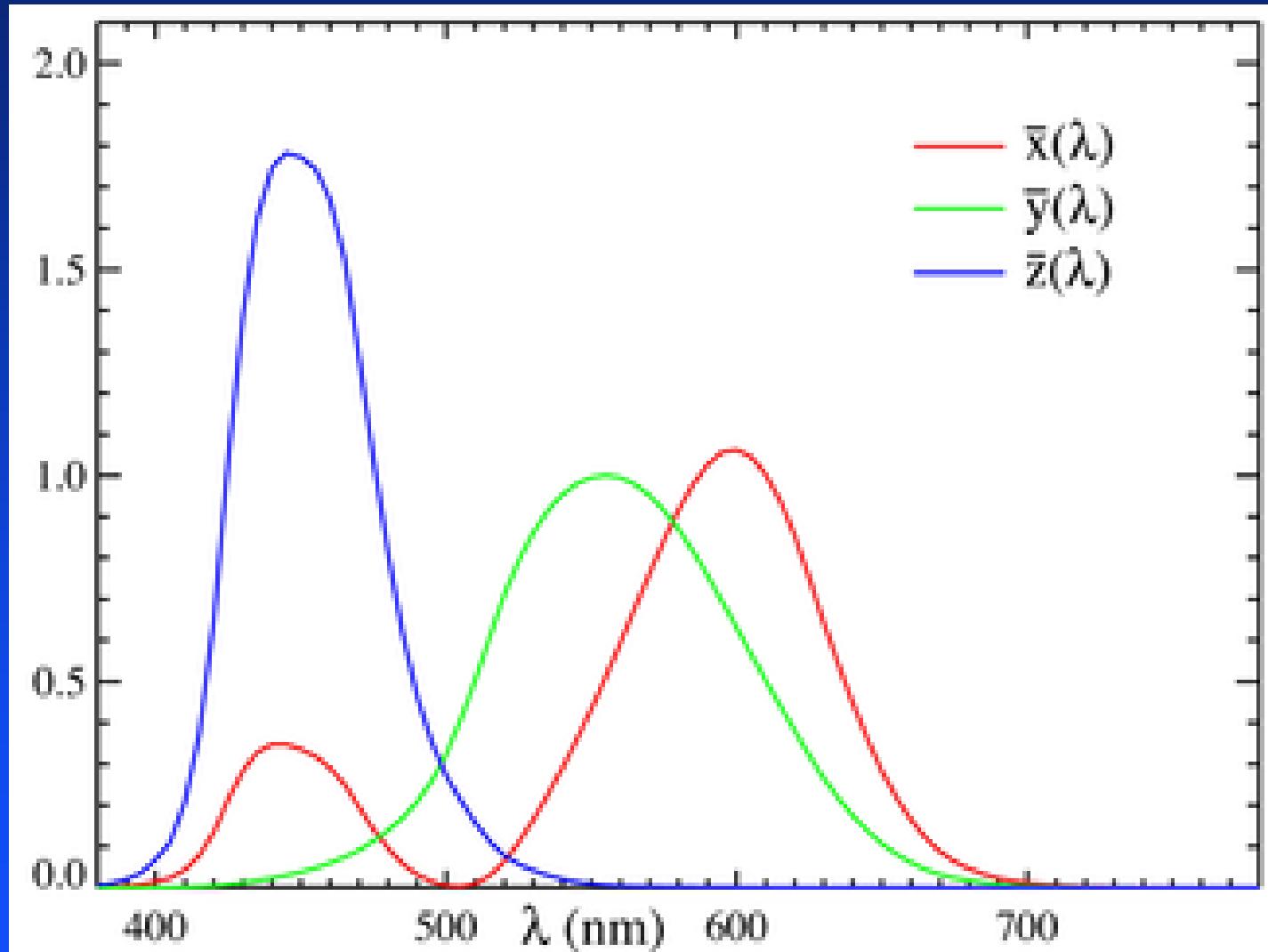
KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

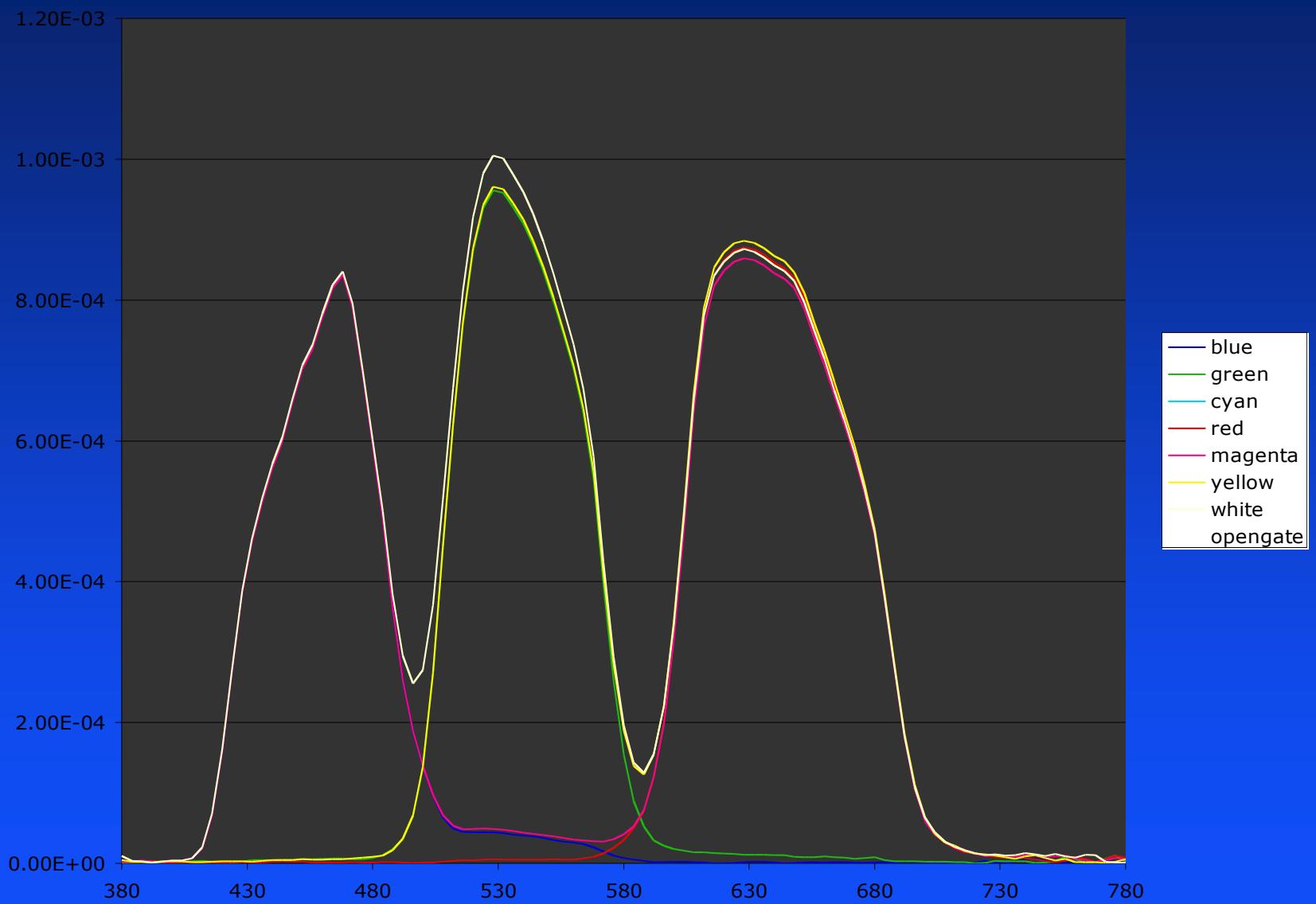
# real film print emulation

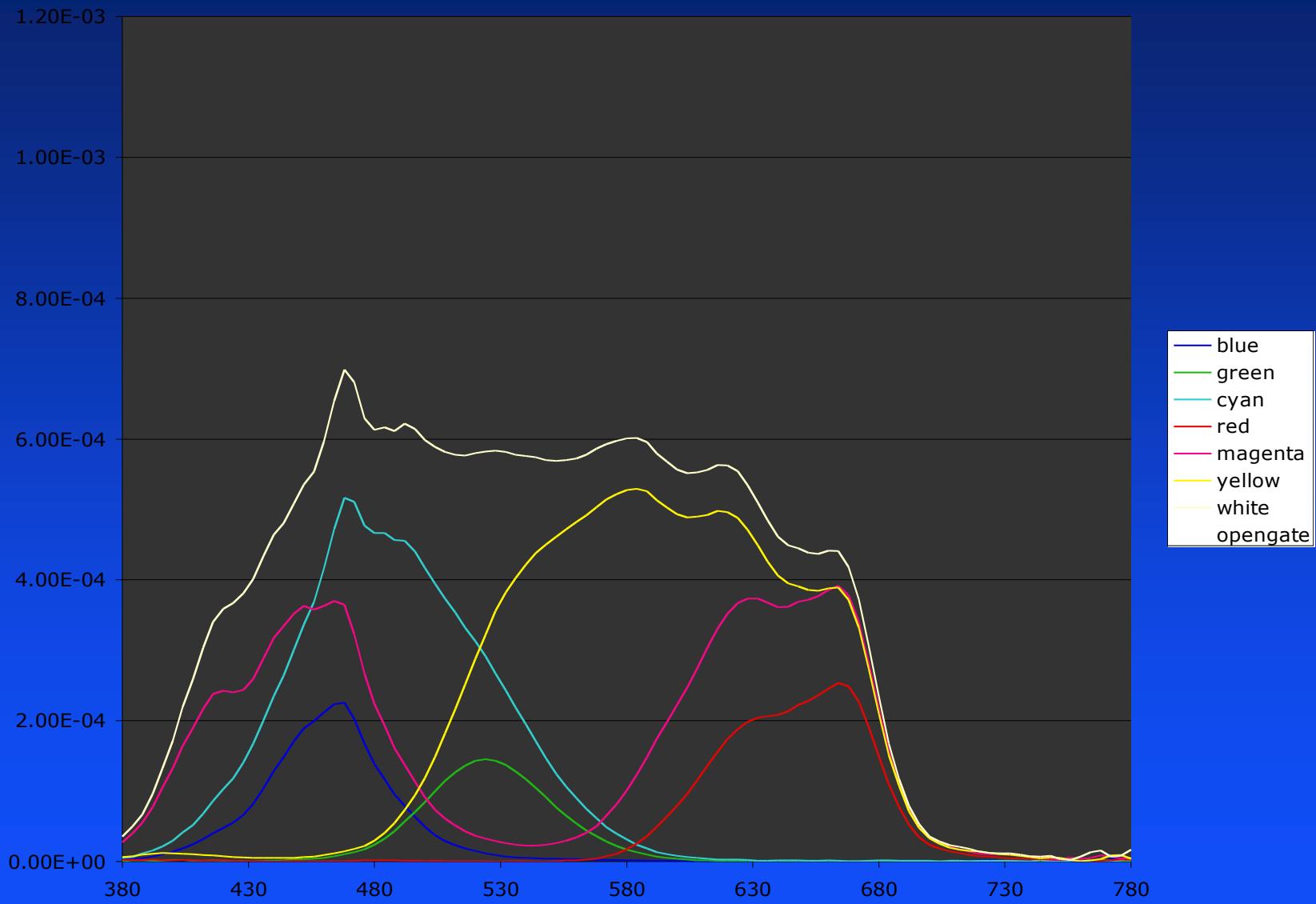


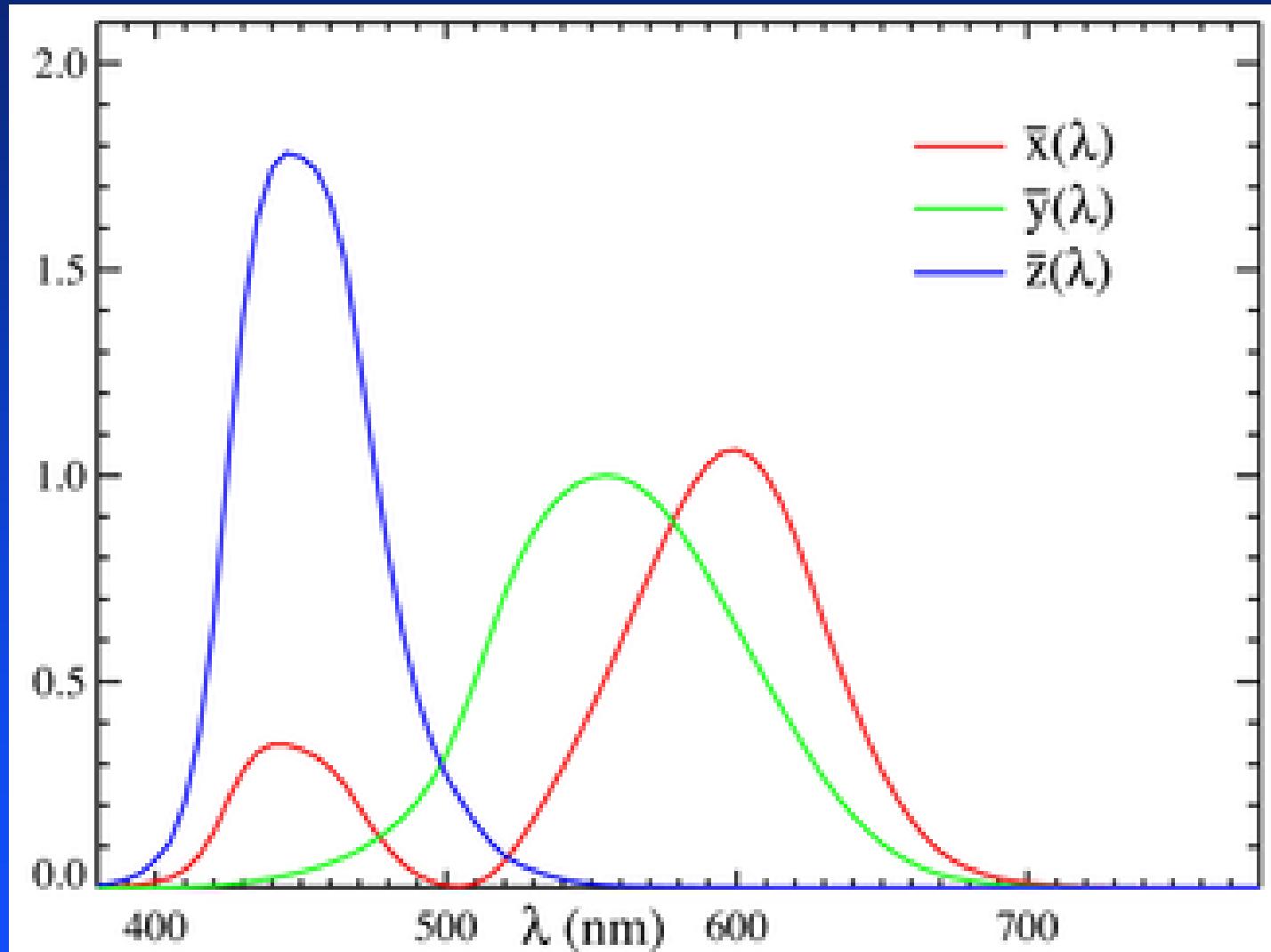


a little color science  
never hurt anybody...





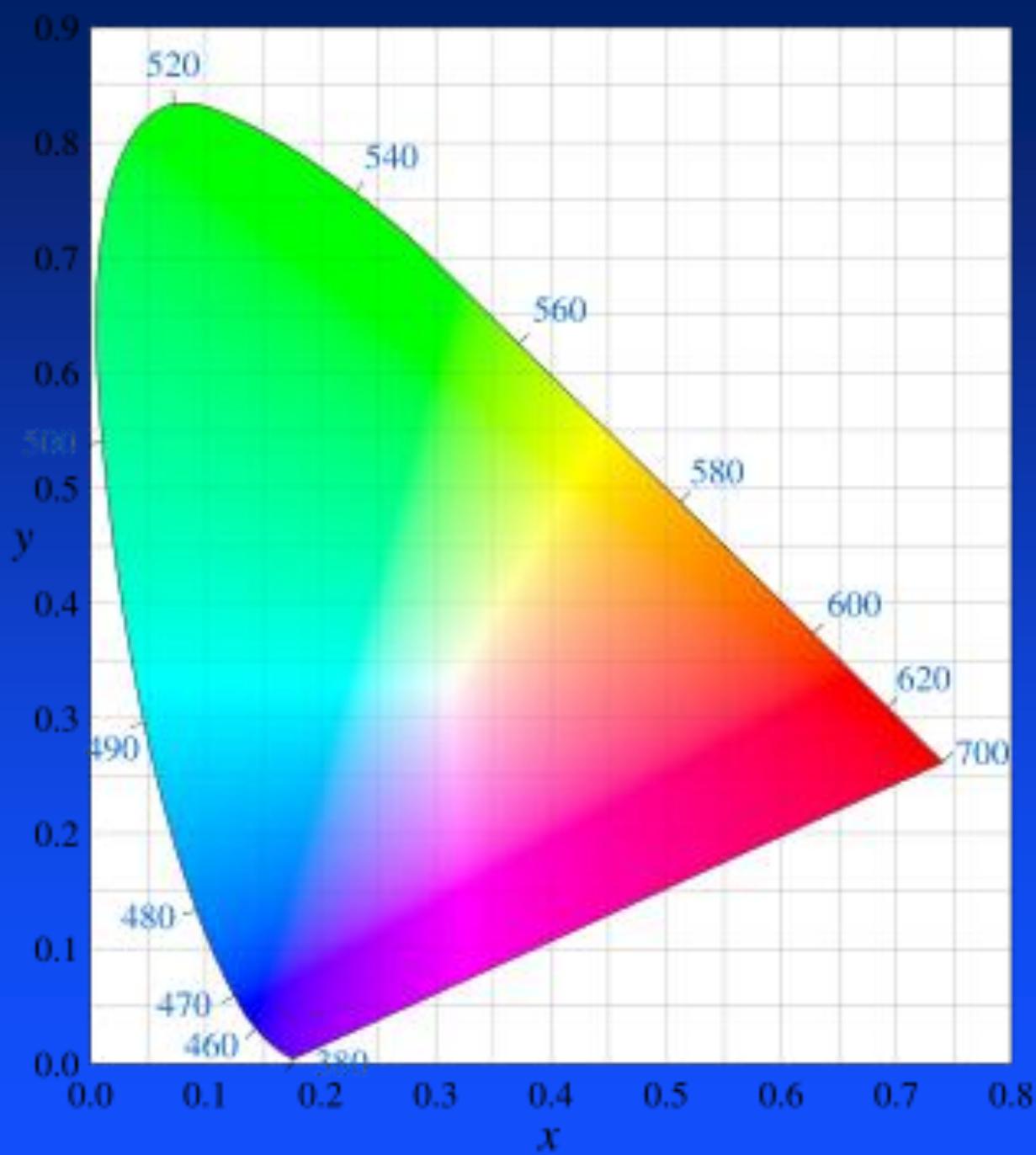


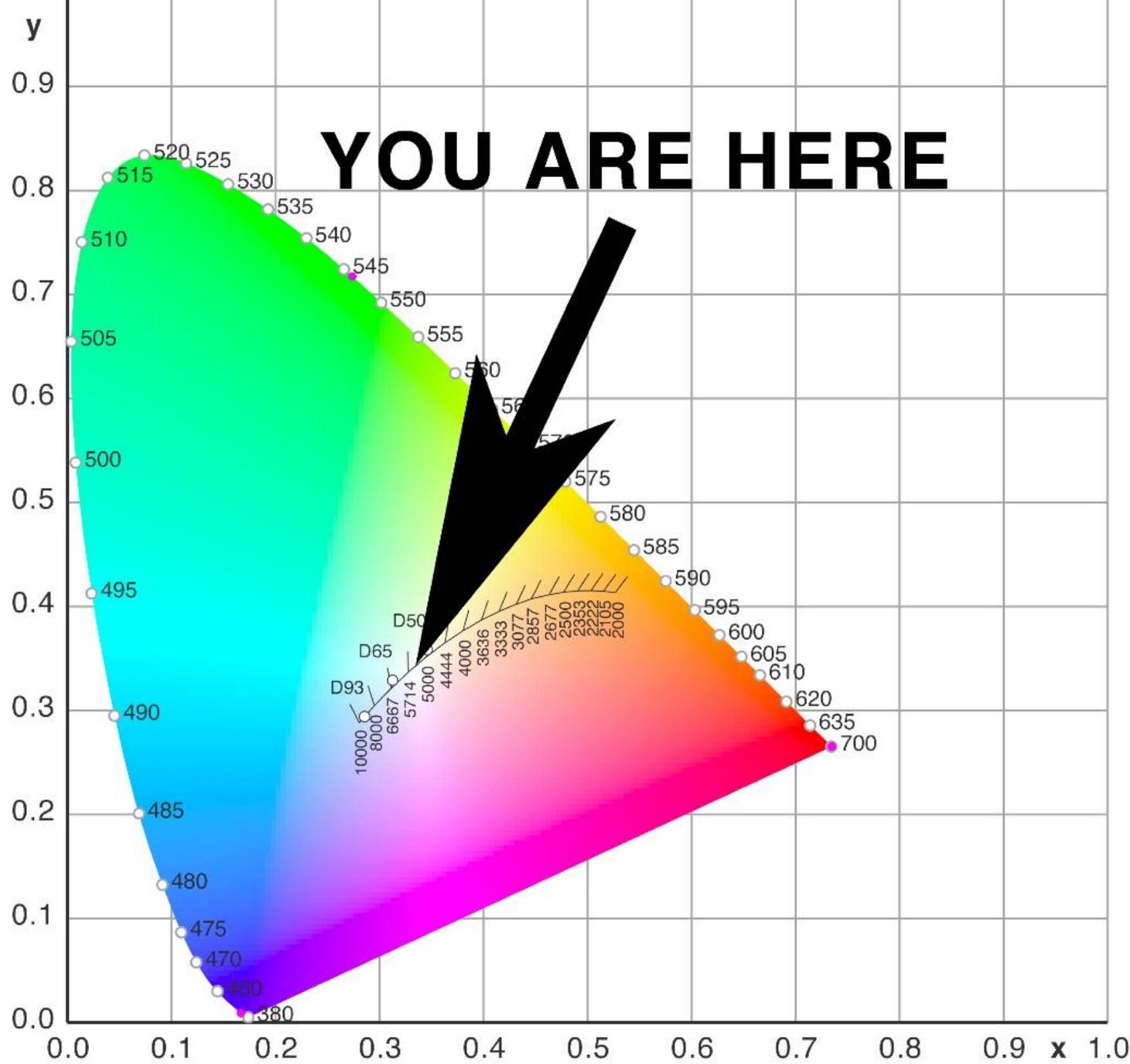


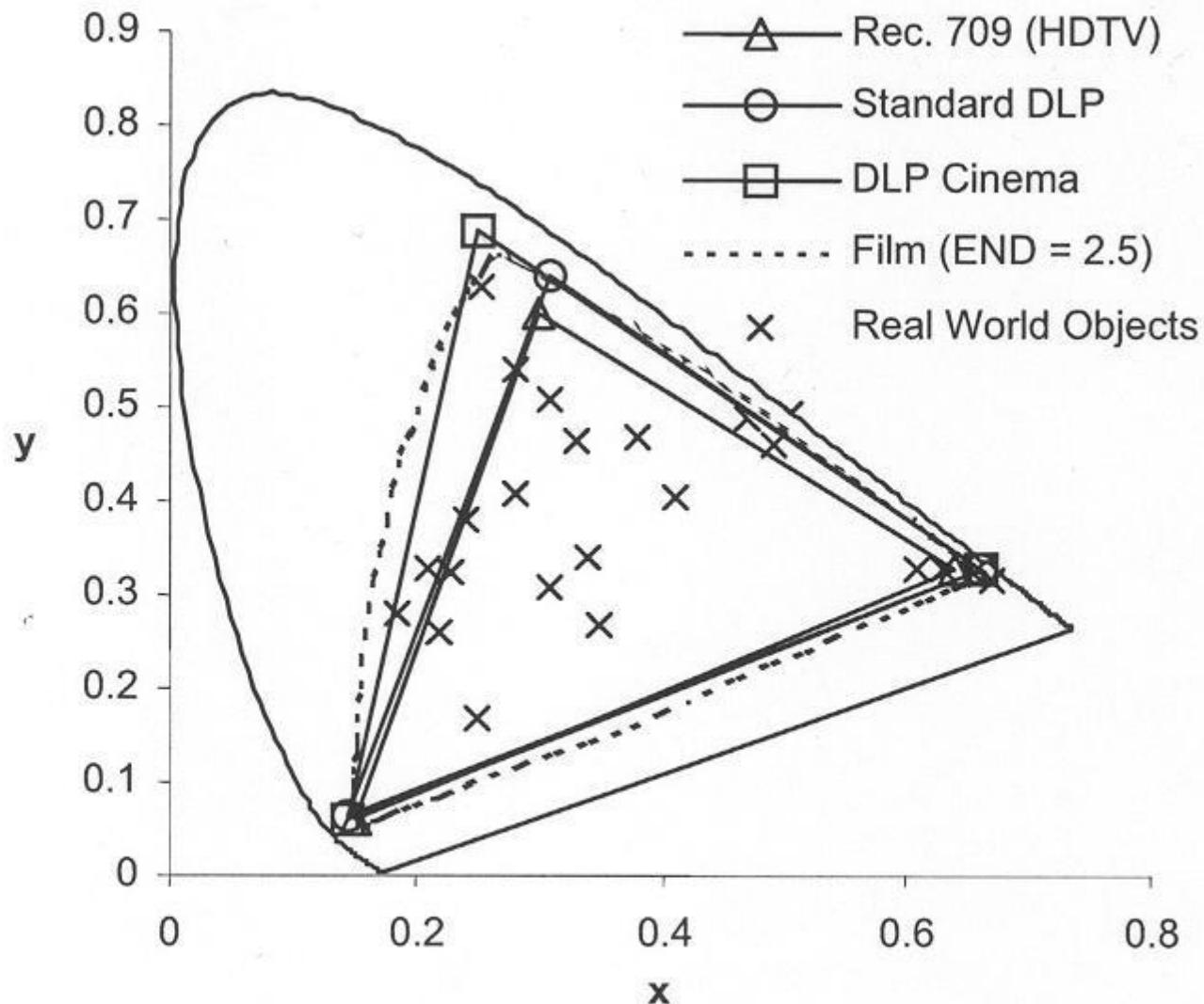
$$x = \frac{X}{X + Y + Z}$$

$$y = \frac{Y}{X + Y + Z}$$

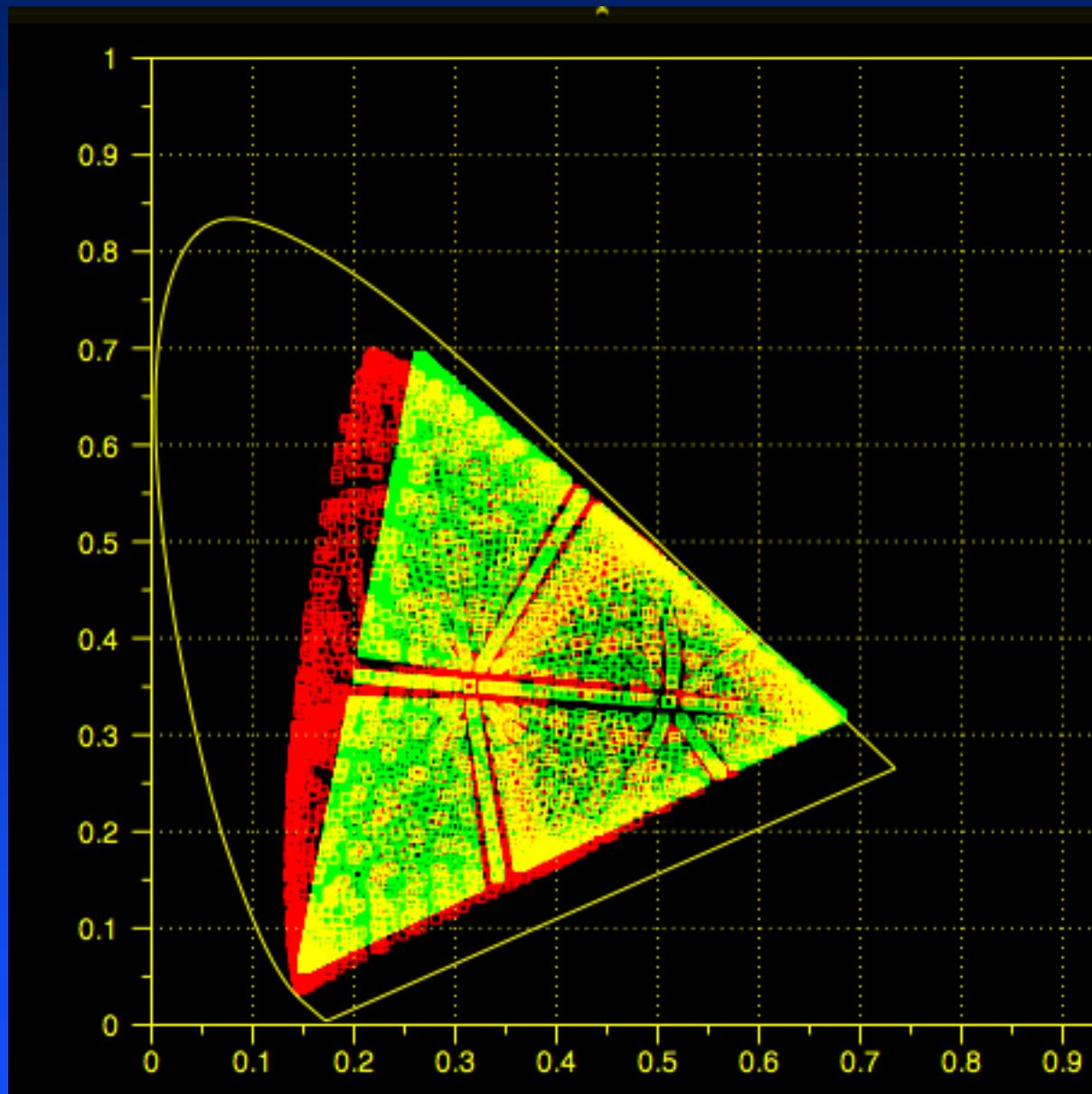
$$z = \frac{Z}{X + Y + Z} = 1 - x - y$$

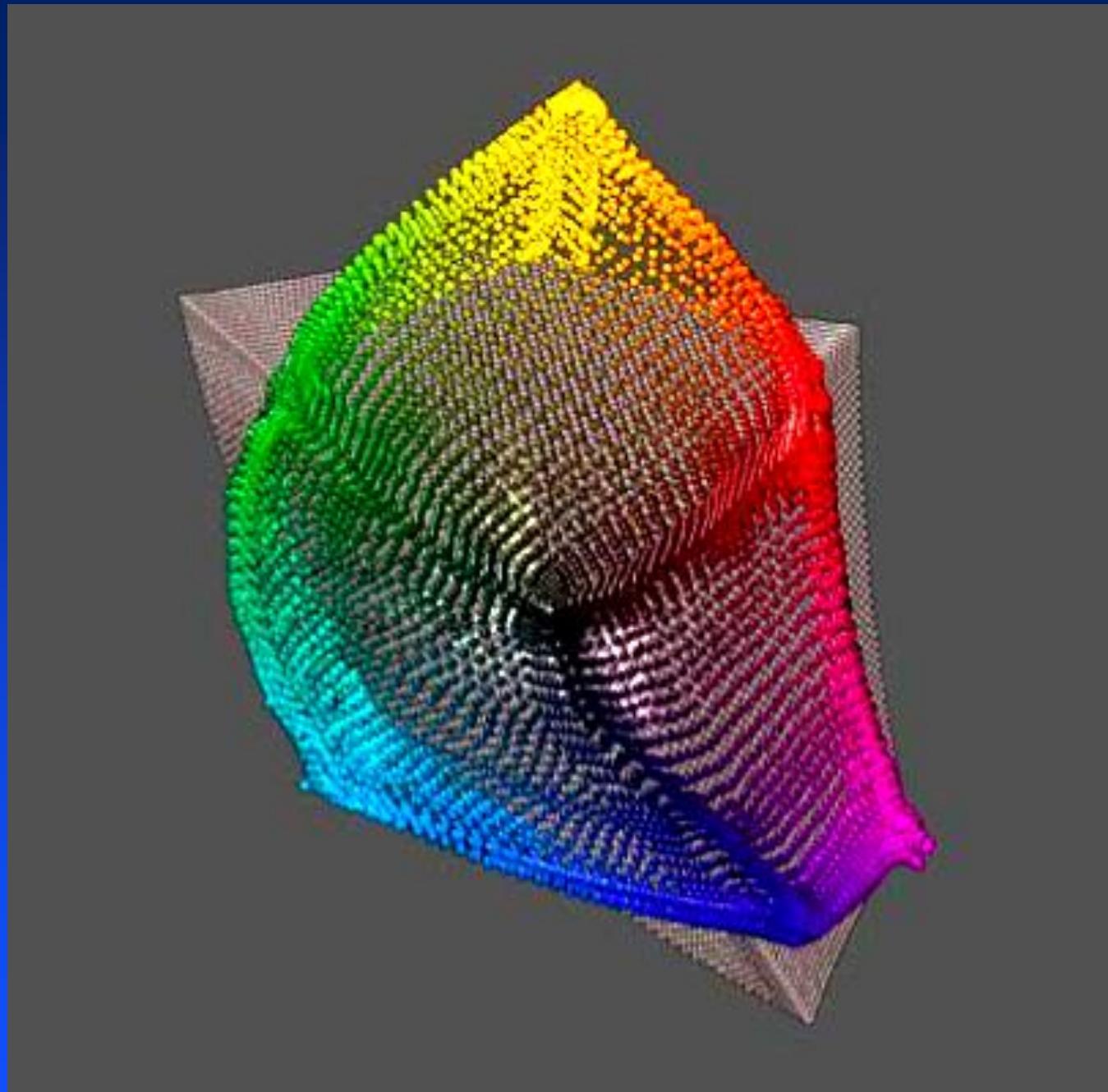




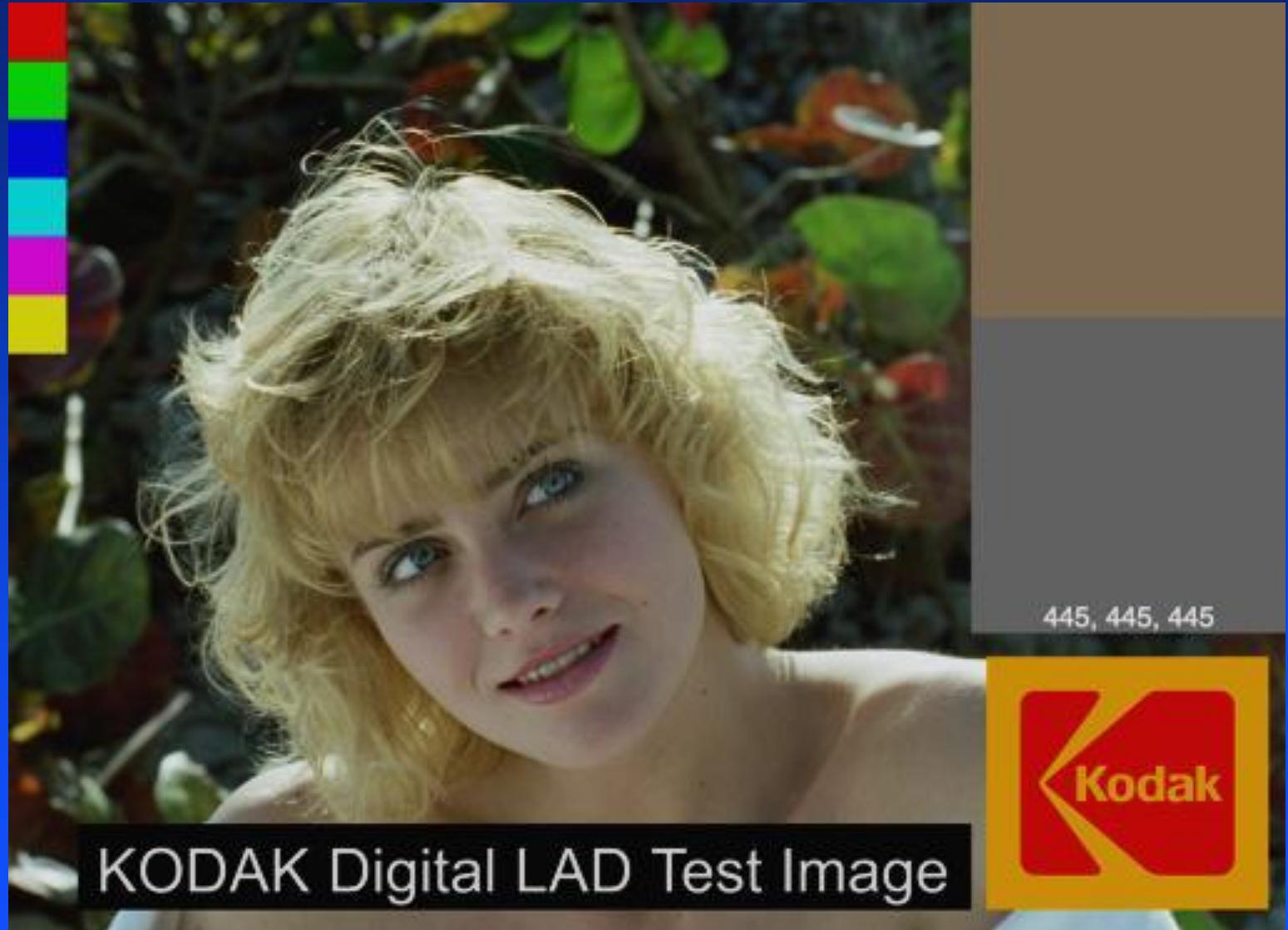


*Figure 5. Color gamut comparison of real-world objects with color gamut of various technologies.*



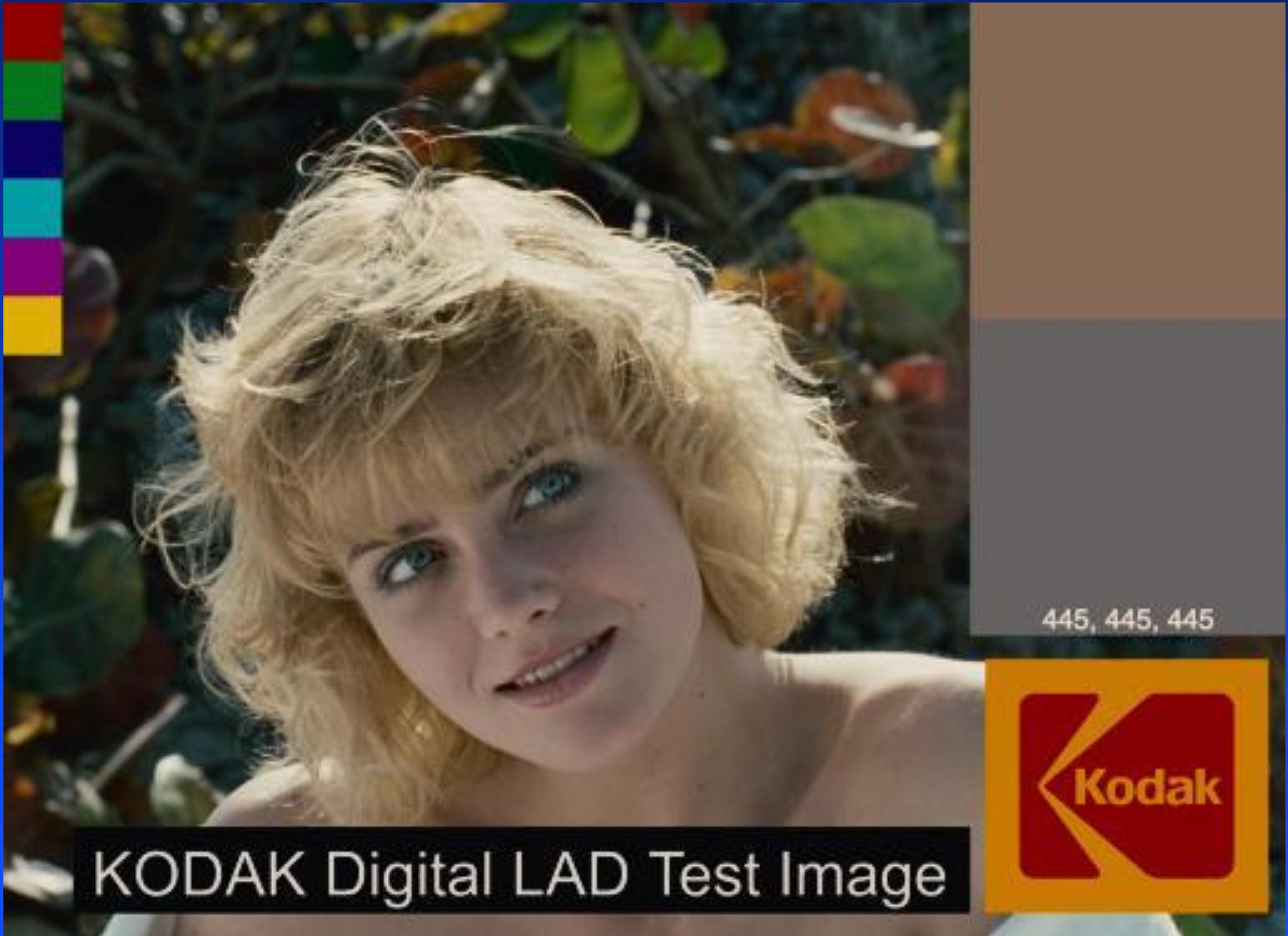


display dynamic range + add contrast  
+  
add toe and shoulder



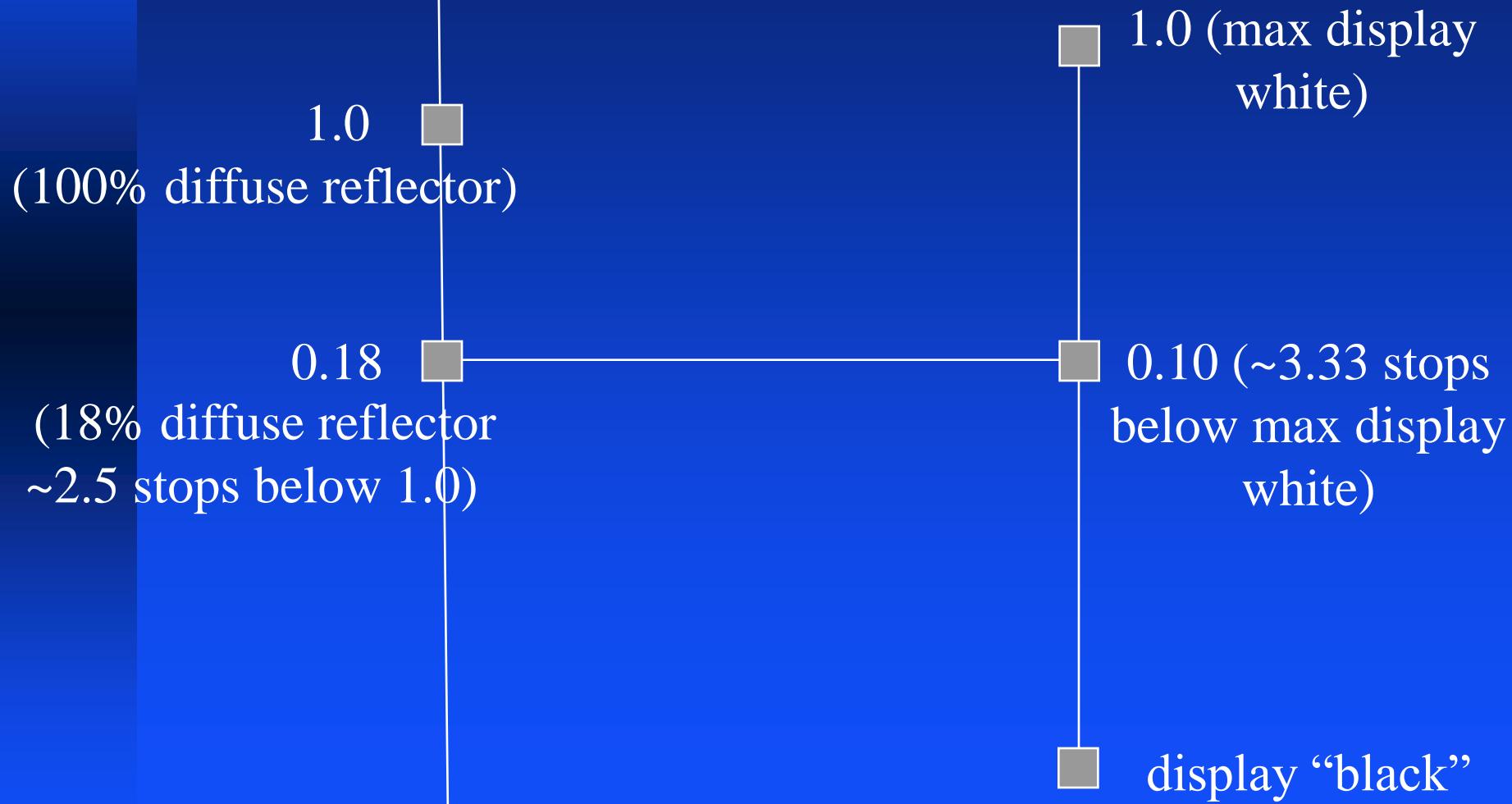
KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

# real film print emulation



mapping “middle grey”  
from scene to display

$$0.18 \rightarrow 0.10$$



# ASC “STeM” movie ”standard evaluation material”



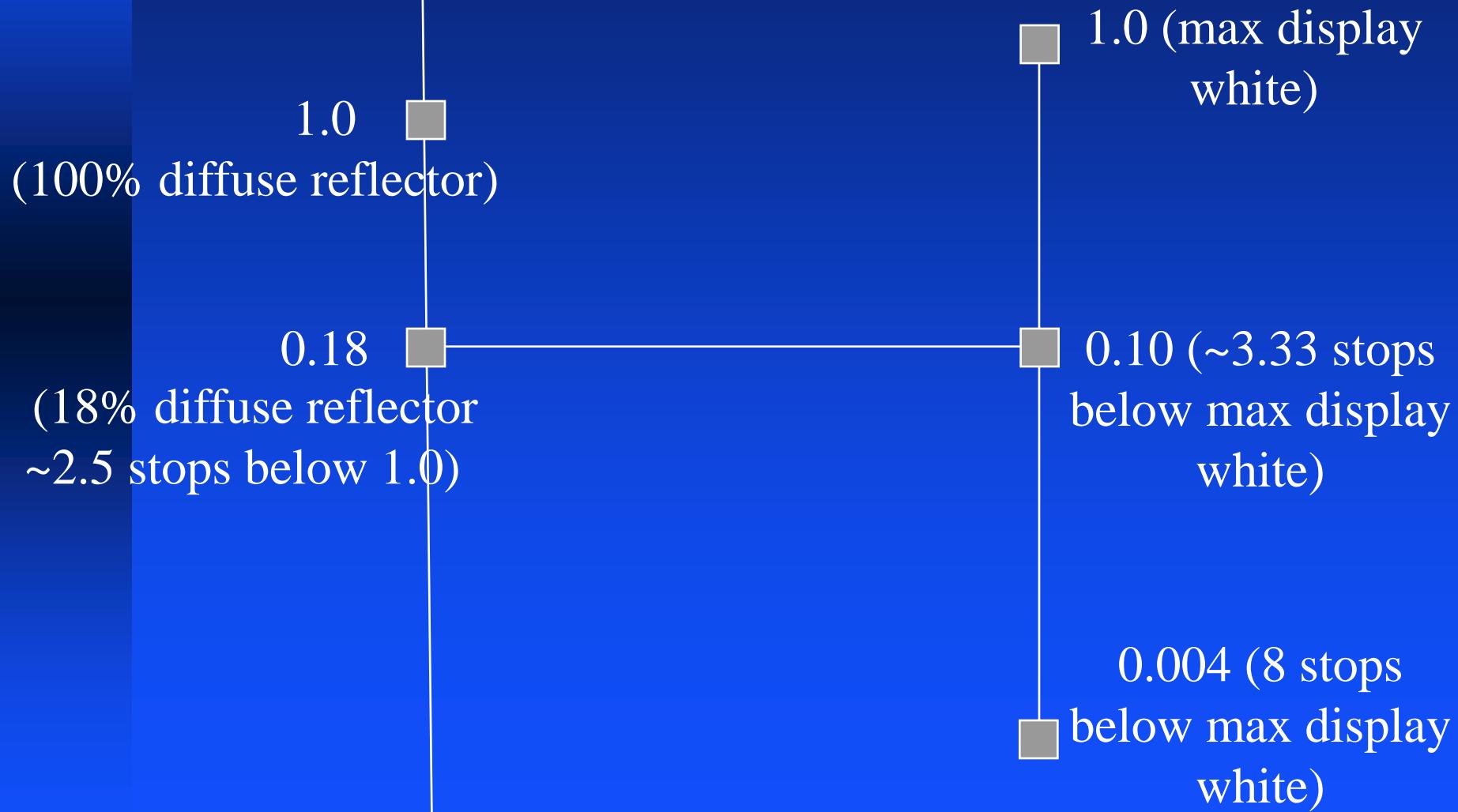
# ASC “STeM” movie

mean rgb linear intensity = 0.11 0.09 0.11



# mapping “middle grey” from scene to display

$$0.18 \rightarrow 0.10$$





# how to build your own rendering transform

# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)



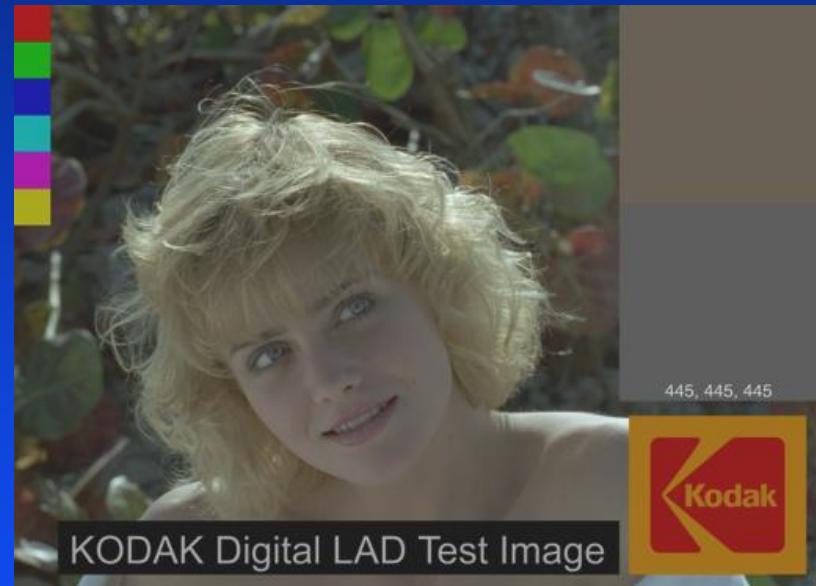
# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)
  - place a "middle gray" 0.18 diffuse reflector "gray card" in scene
- 



# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)
- place a "middle gray" 0.18 diffuse reflector "gray card" in scene
- scale image accordingly (i.e. "properly set the scene exposure")



# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)
- place a "middle gray" 0.18 diffuse reflector "gray card" in scene
- scale image accordingly (i.e. "properly set the scene exposure")
- transform to log



# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)
- place a "middle gray" 0.18 diffuse reflector "gray card" in scene
- scale image accordingly (i.e. "properly set the scene exposure")
- transform to log
- choose dynamic range of "interest" (requires knowledge of display)



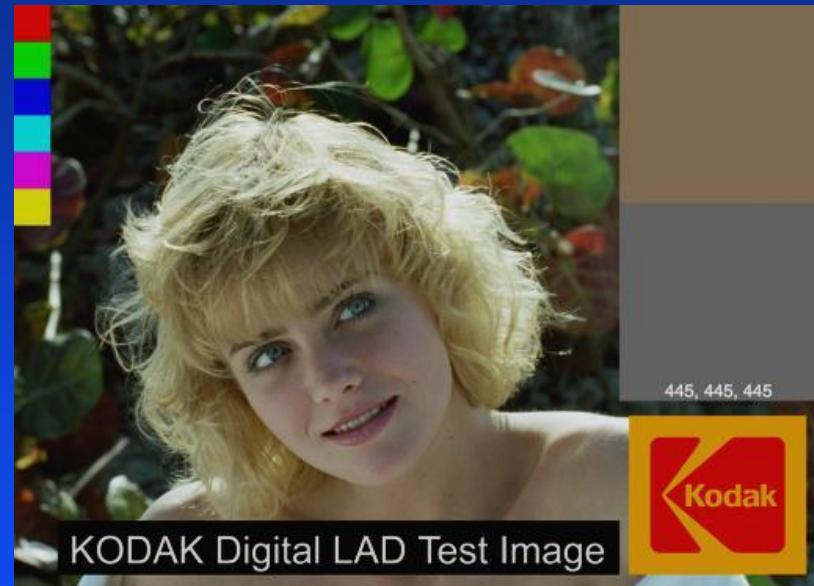
# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)
- place a "middle gray" 0.18 diffuse reflector "gray card" in scene
- scale image accordingly (i.e. "properly set the scene exposure")
- transform to log
- choose dynamic range of "interest" (requires knowledge of display)
- increase contrast in log space around middle gray (  $\log(0.18)$  )



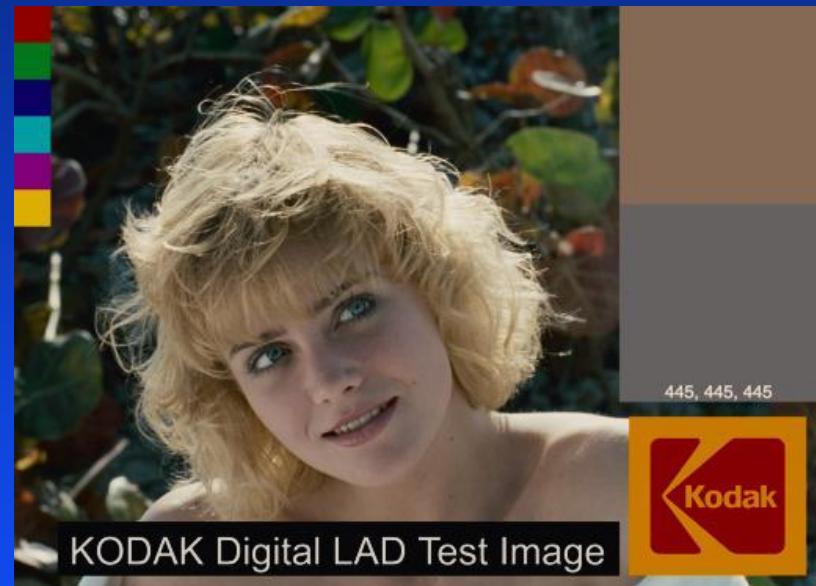
# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)
- place a "middle gray" 0.18 diffuse reflector "gray card" in scene
- scale image accordingly (i.e. "properly set the scene exposure")
- transform to log
- choose dynamic range of "interest" (requires knowledge of display)
- increase contrast in log space around middle gray (  $\log(0.18)$  )
- add toe and shoulder to taste (requires knowledge of display)



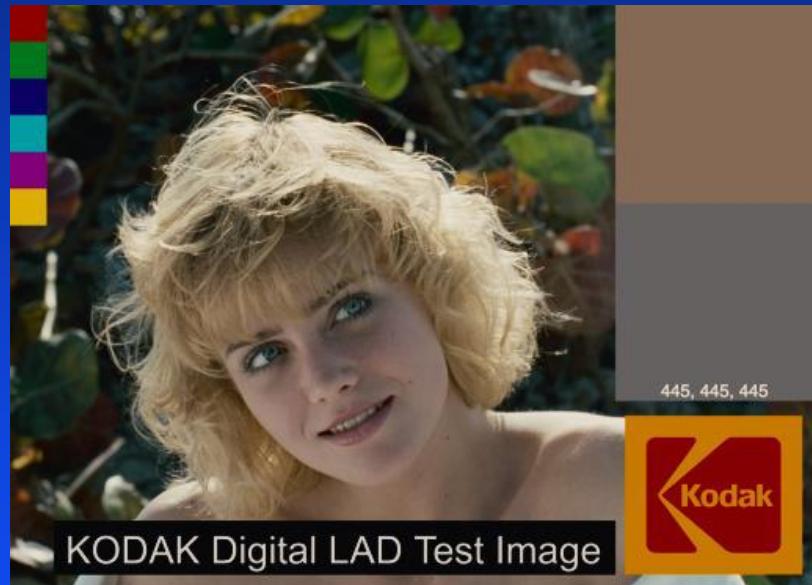
# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)
- place a "middle gray" 0.18 diffuse reflector "gray card" in scene
- scale image accordingly (i.e. "properly set the scene exposure")
- transform to log
- choose dynamic range of "interest" (requires knowledge of display)
- increase contrast in log space around middle gray (  $\log(0.18)$  )
- add toe and shoulder to taste (requires knowledge of display)
- darken saturated colors to taste (i.e. to emulate subtractive-color reproduction)



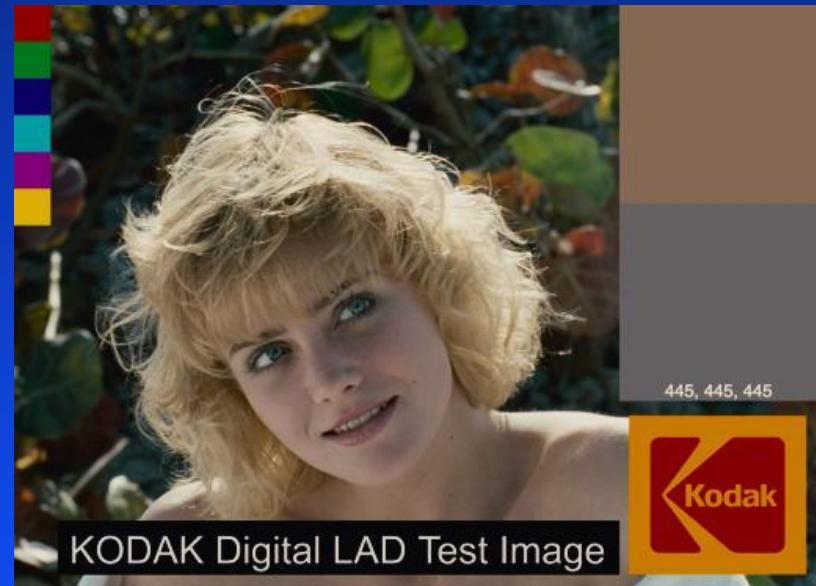
# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)
- place a "middle gray" 0.18 diffuse reflector "gray card" in scene
- scale image accordingly (i.e. "properly set the scene exposure")
- transform to log
- choose dynamic range of "interest" (requires knowledge of display)
- increase contrast in log space around middle gray (  $\log(0.18)$  )
- add toe and shoulder to taste (requires knowledge of display)
- darken saturated colors to taste (i.e. to emulate subtractive-color reproduction)
- transform back to lin



# how to build your own rendering transform

- light scene with cgi linear-light (or obtain linear-light image)
- place a "middle gray" 0.18 diffuse reflector "gray card" in scene
- scale image accordingly (i.e. "properly set the scene exposure")
- transform to log
- choose dynamic range of "interest" (requires knowledge of display)
- increase contrast in log space around middle gray (  $\log(0.18)$  )
- add toe and shoulder to taste (requires knowledge of display)
- darken saturated colors to taste (i.e. to emulate subtractive-color reproduction)
- transform back to lin
- xform to display space - mapping 0.18 to 0.10 of display maximum





traditional film workflow

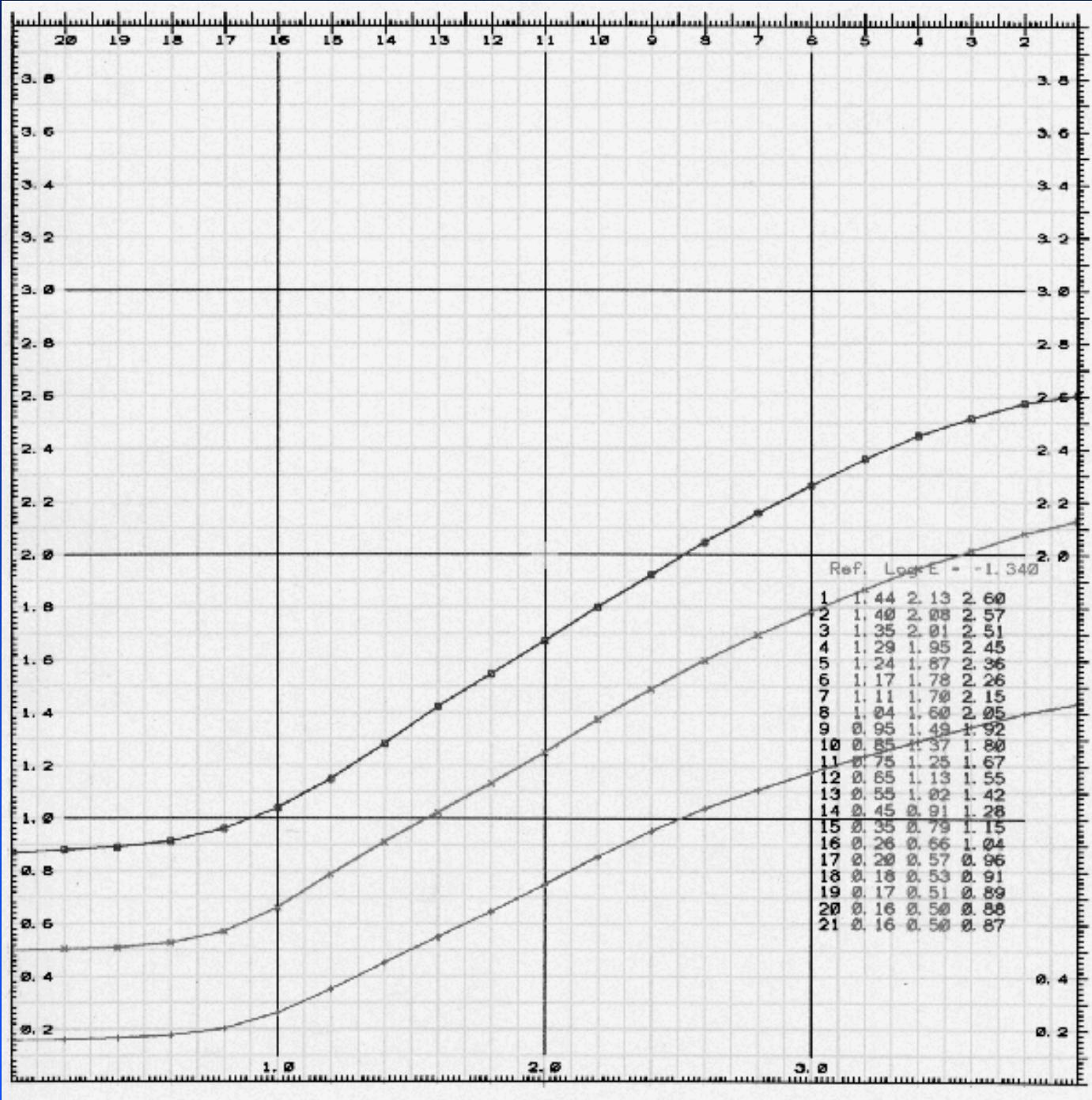
“real world”  
on-set  
scene

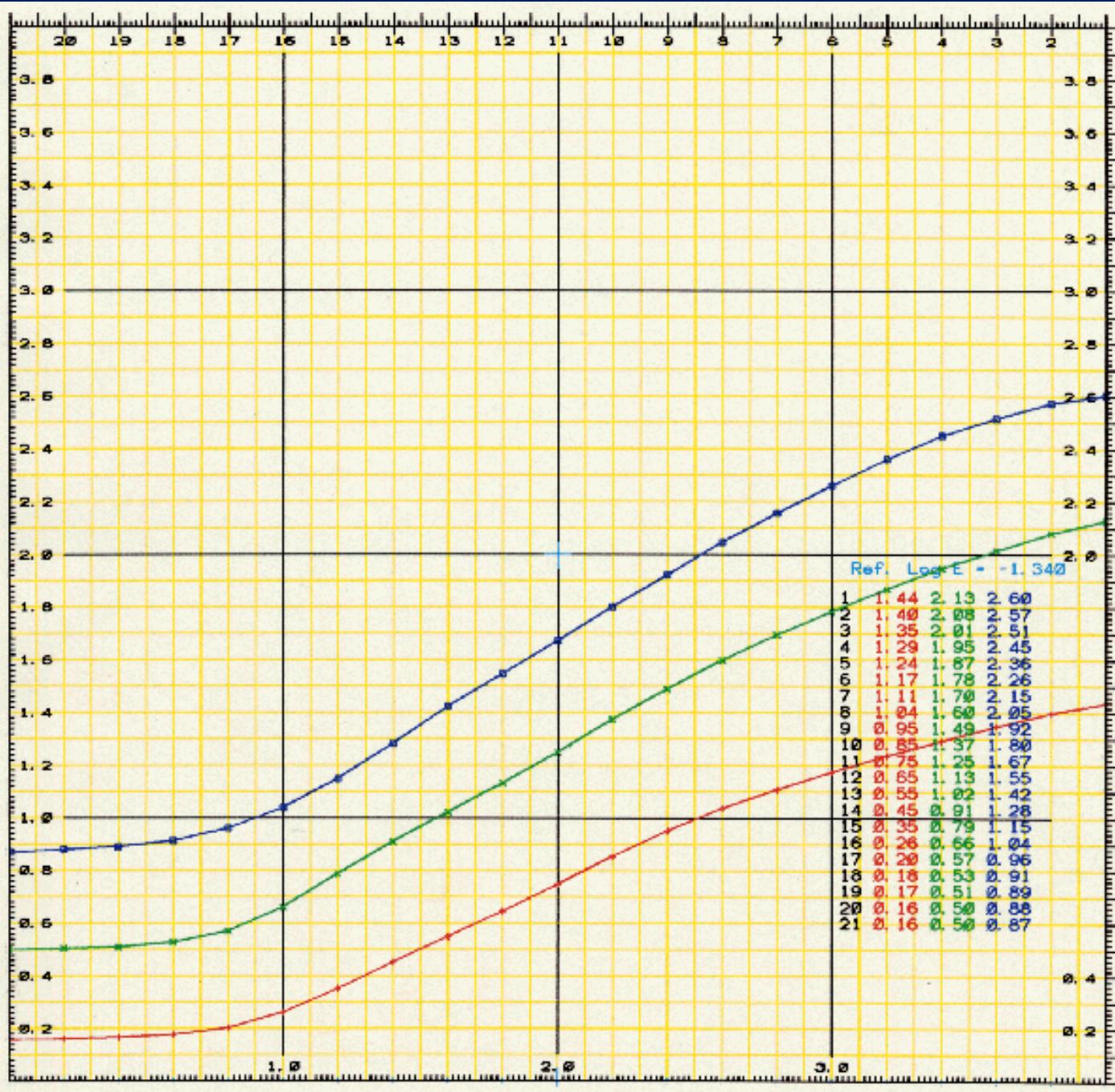
original  
film  
negative  
elements

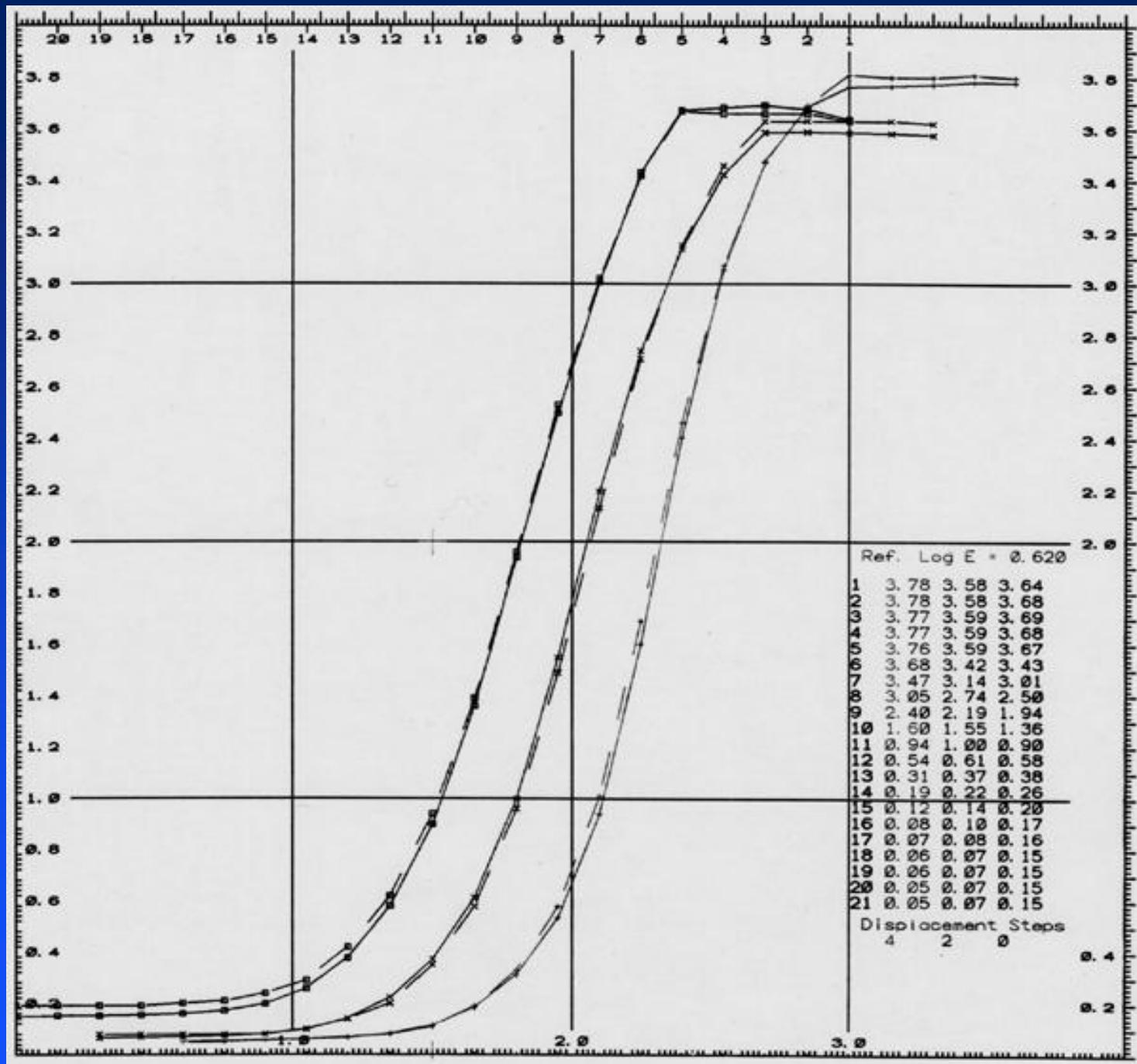
traditional  
film  
colour  
correction

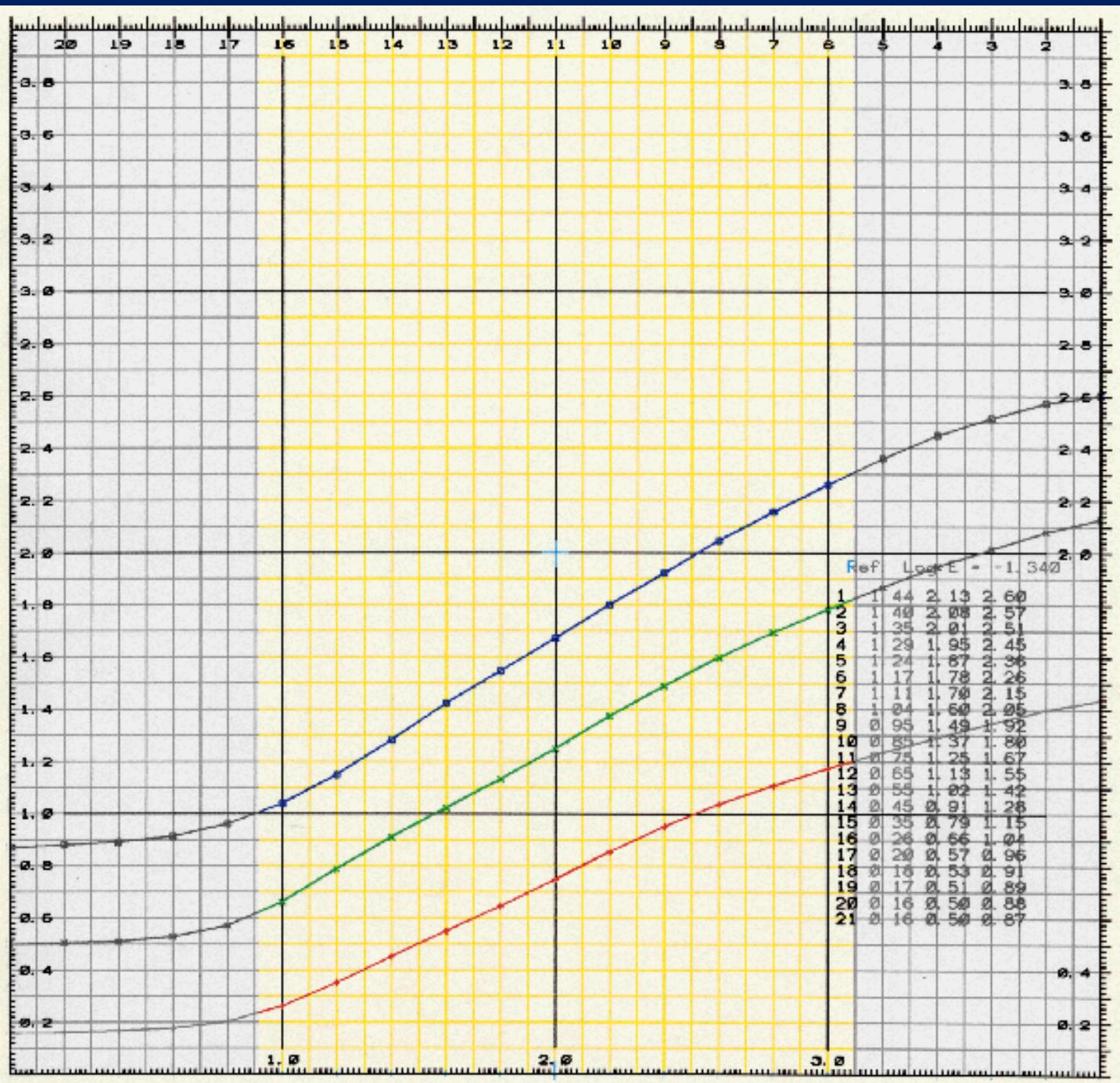
film  
positive  
release  
prints

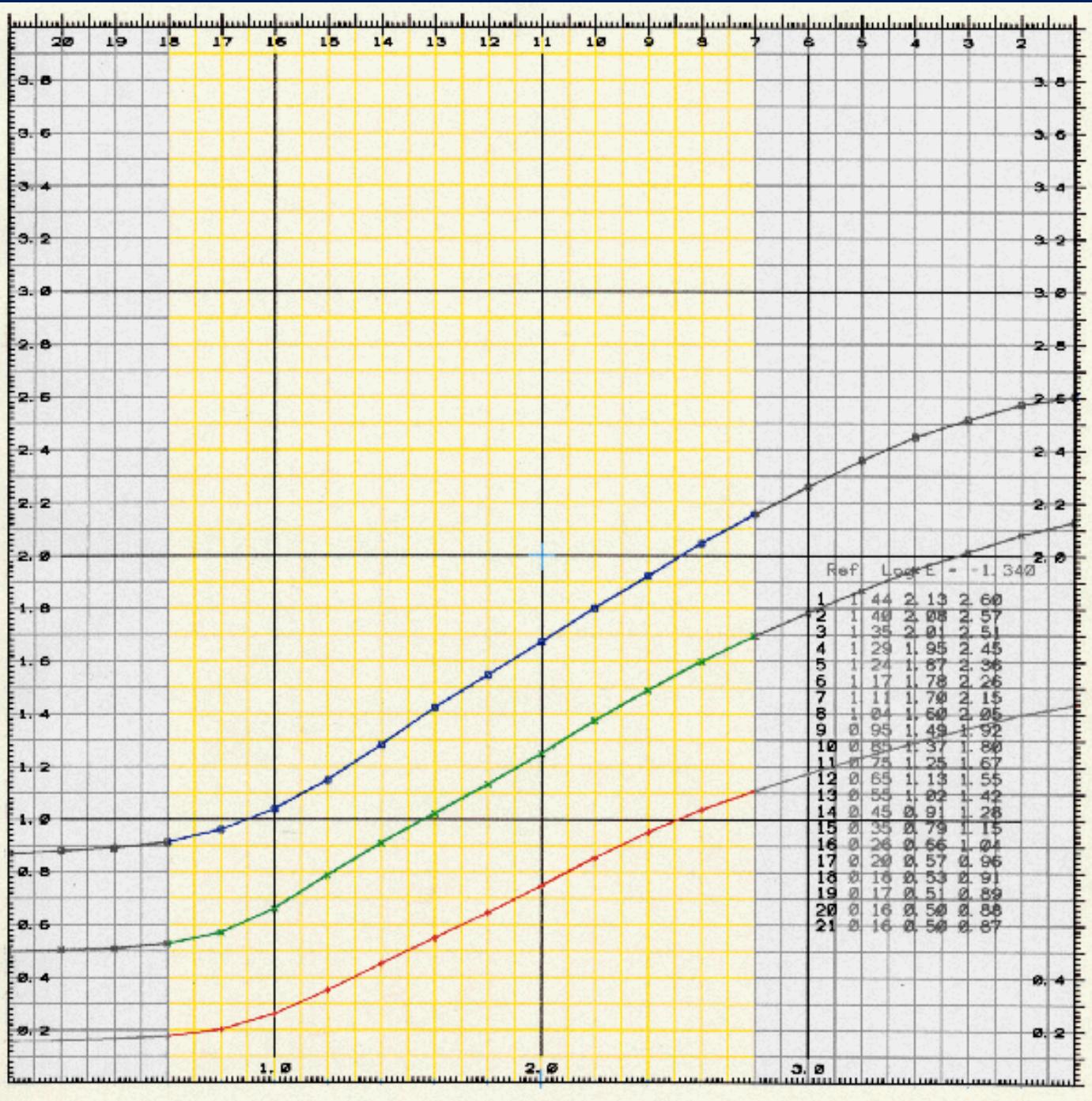
film  
projection

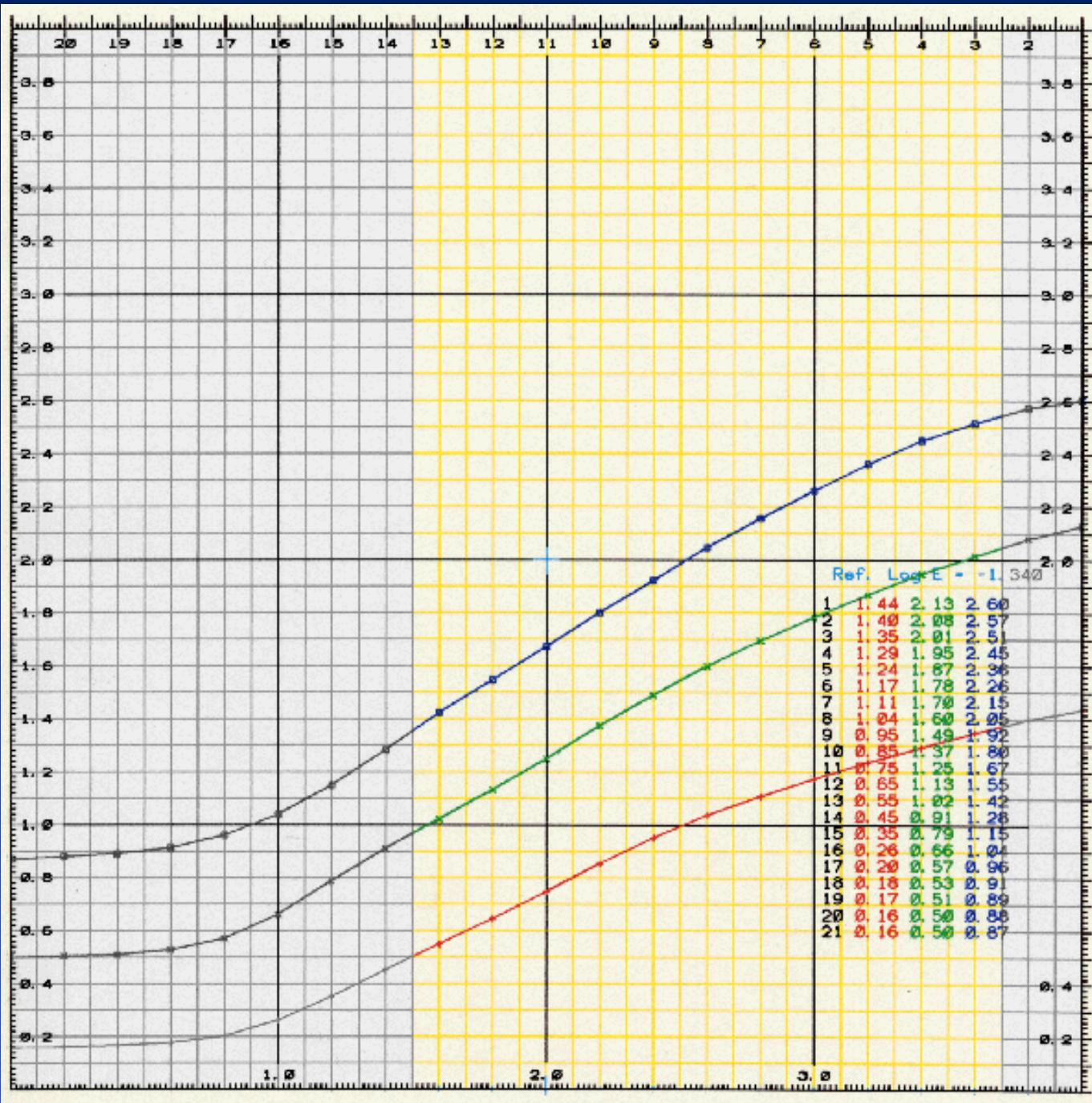


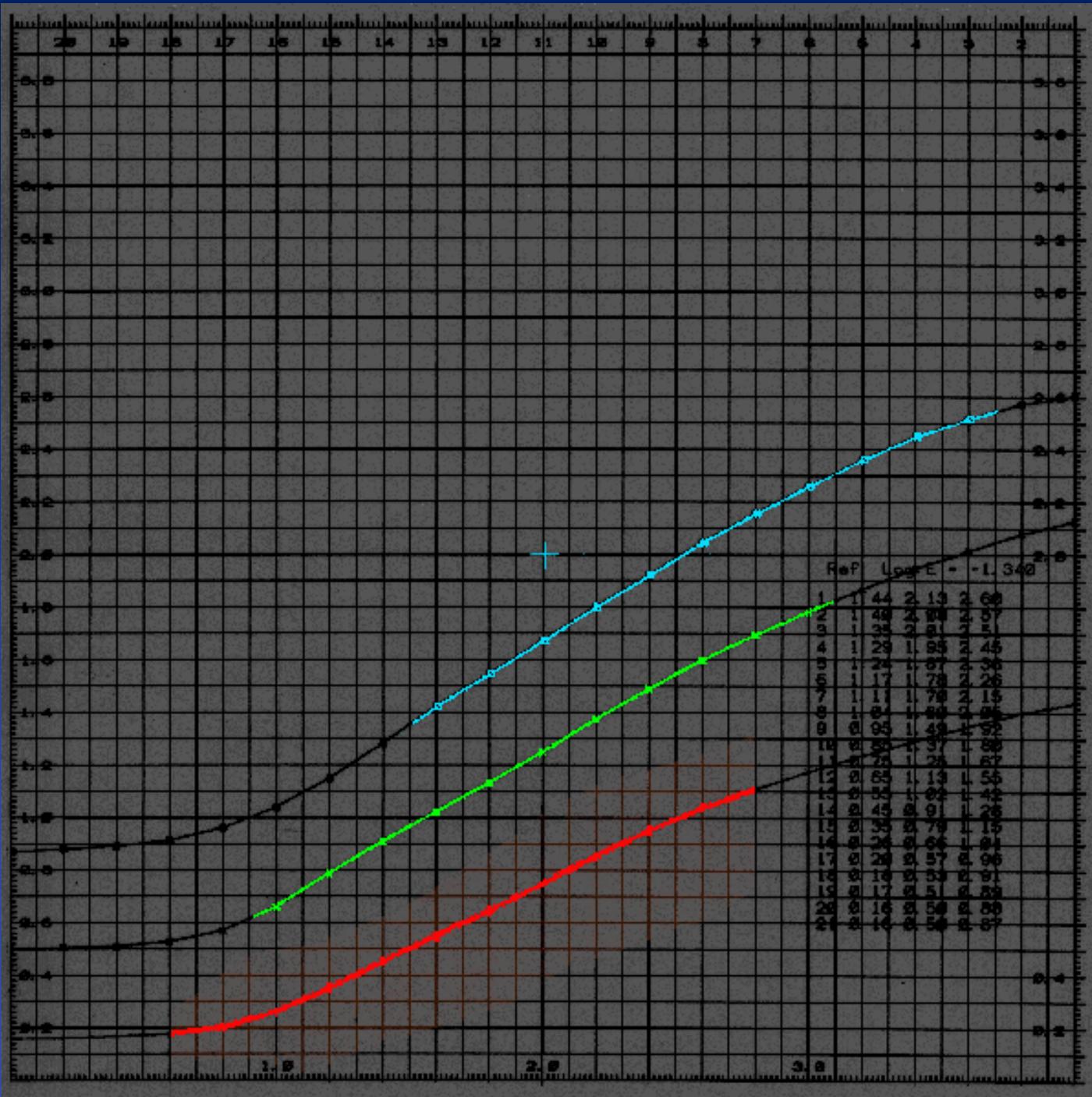








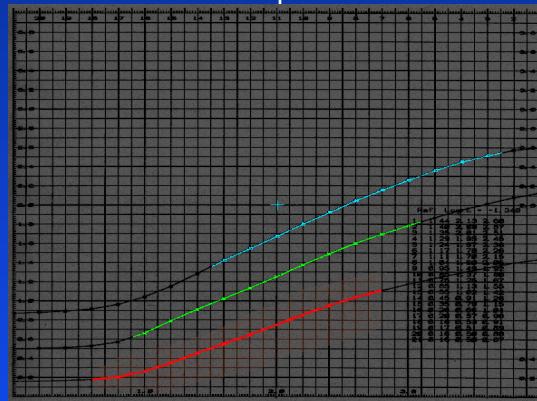




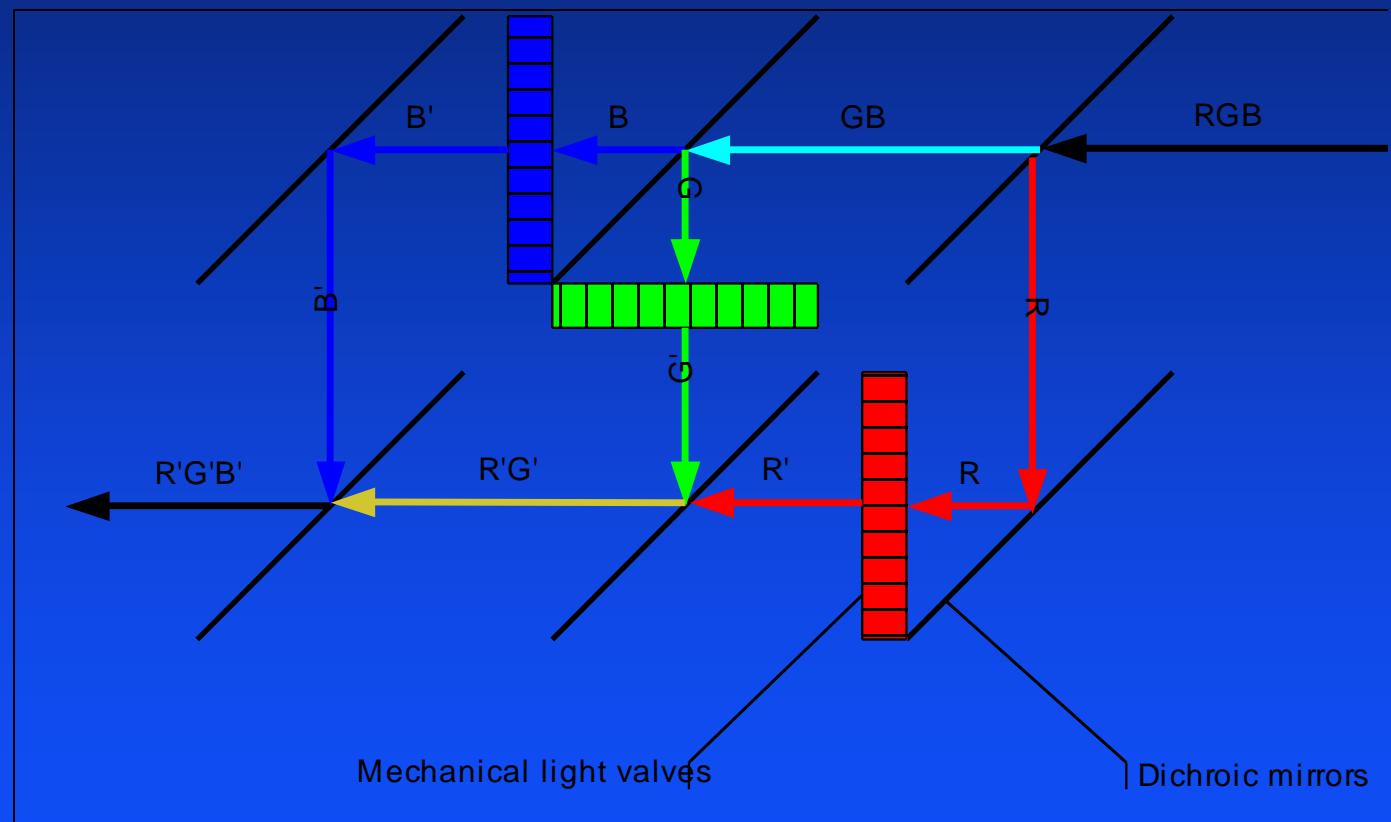
original  
film  
elements

traditional  
film  
colour  
correction

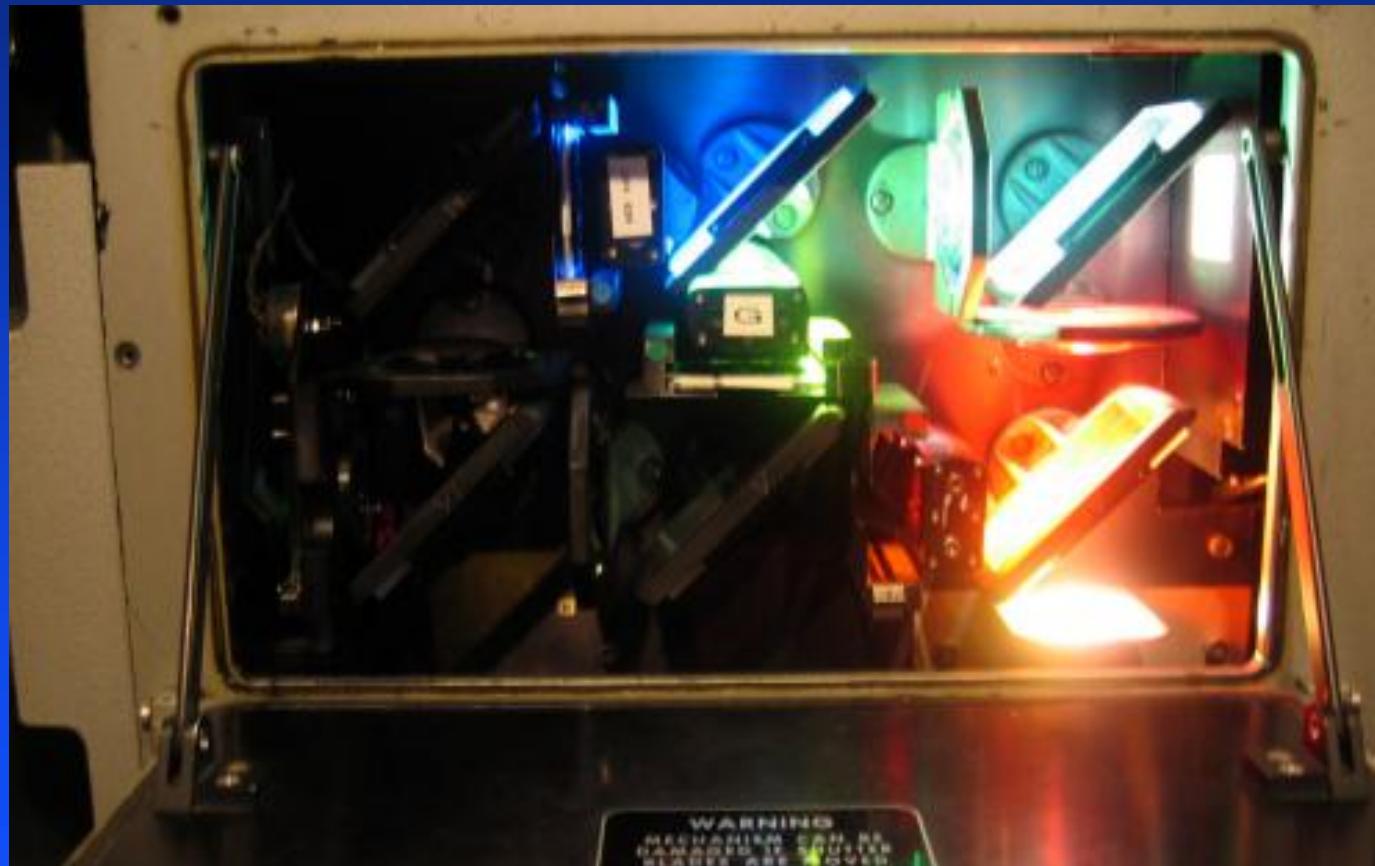
film  
answer  
prints



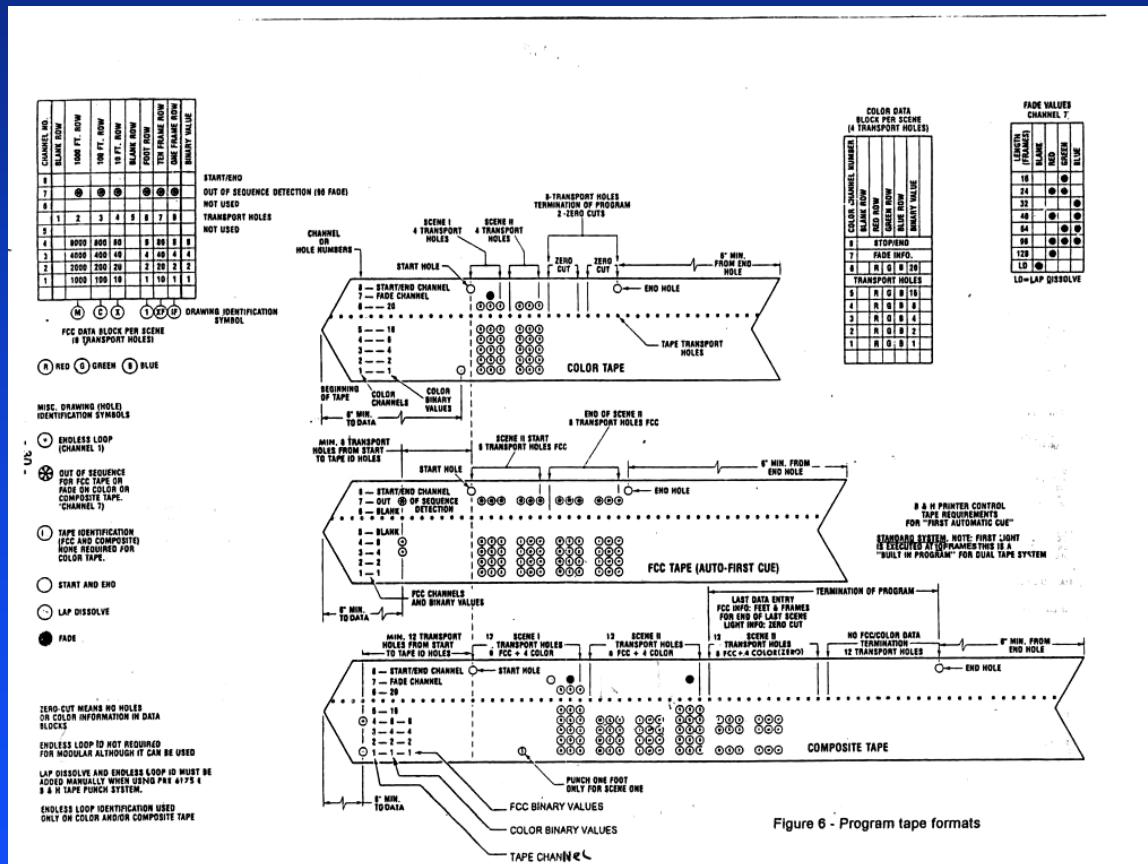
# colour grading optical system



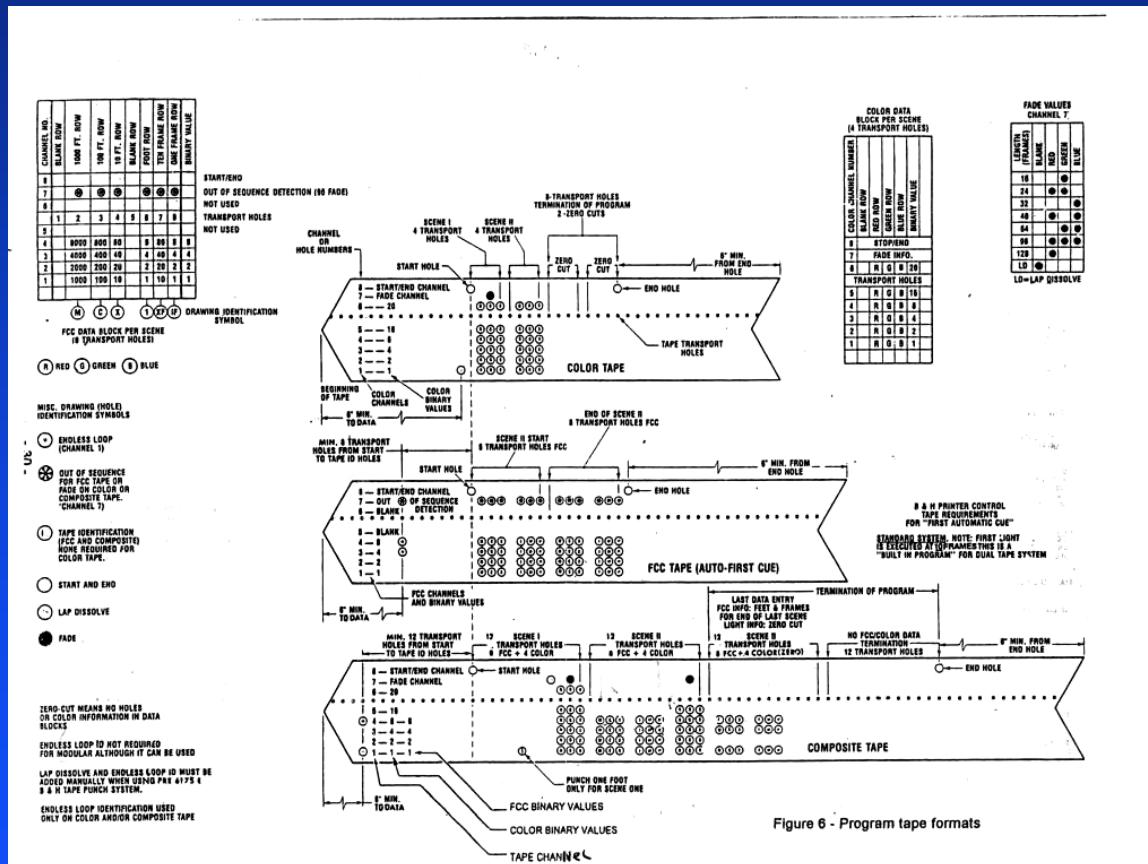
# colour grading optical system

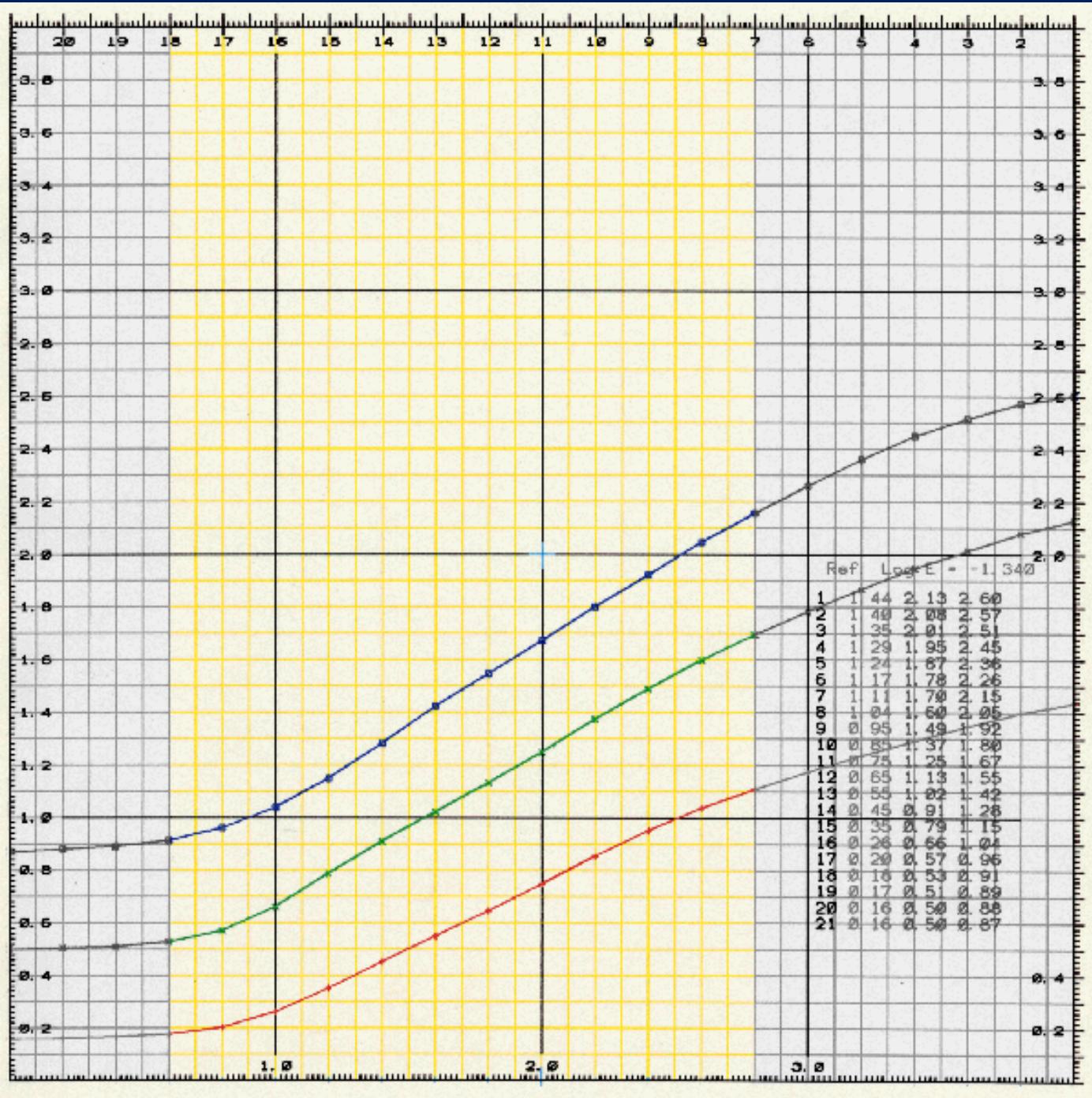


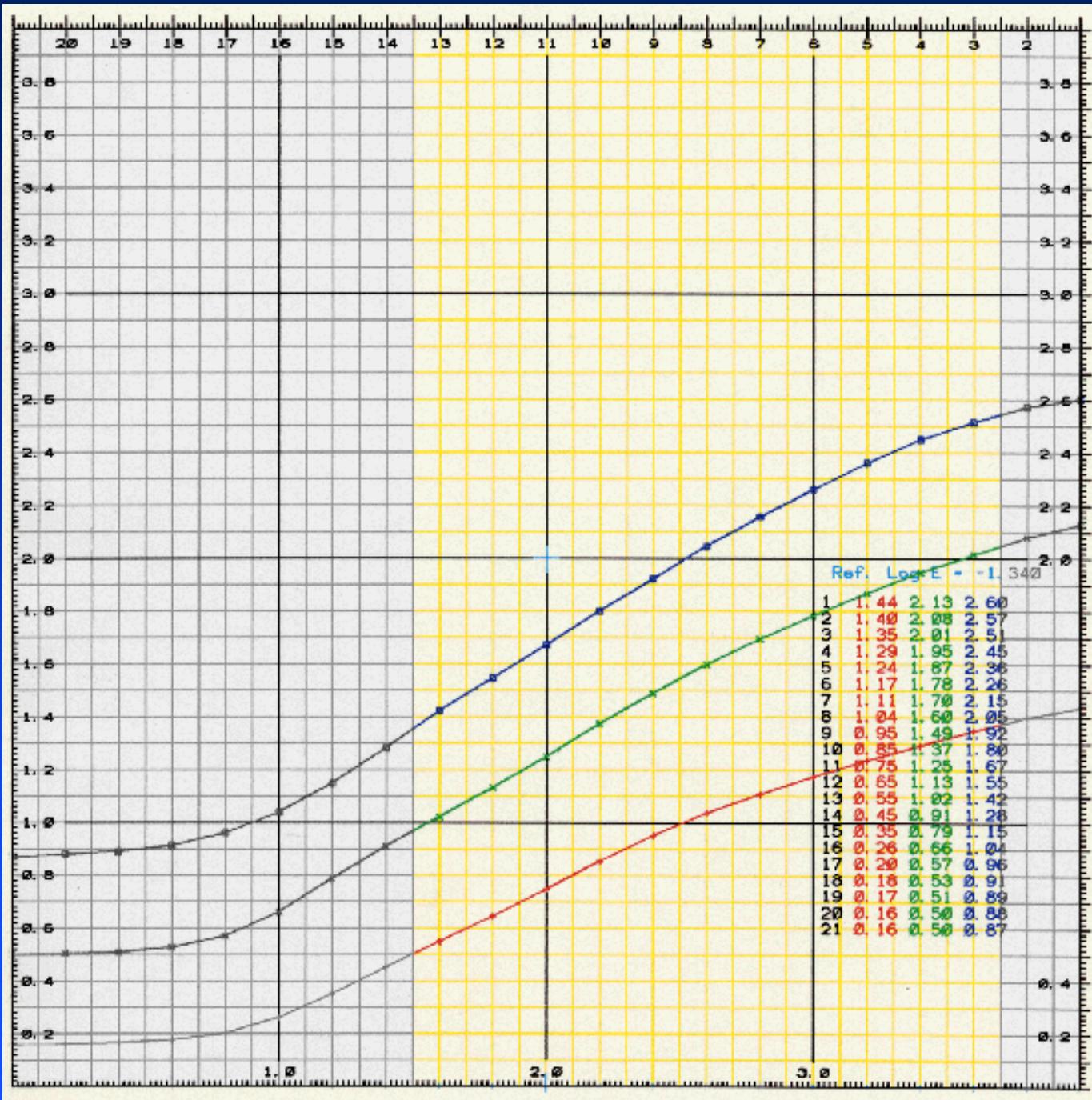
# “ppt” secret decoder ring



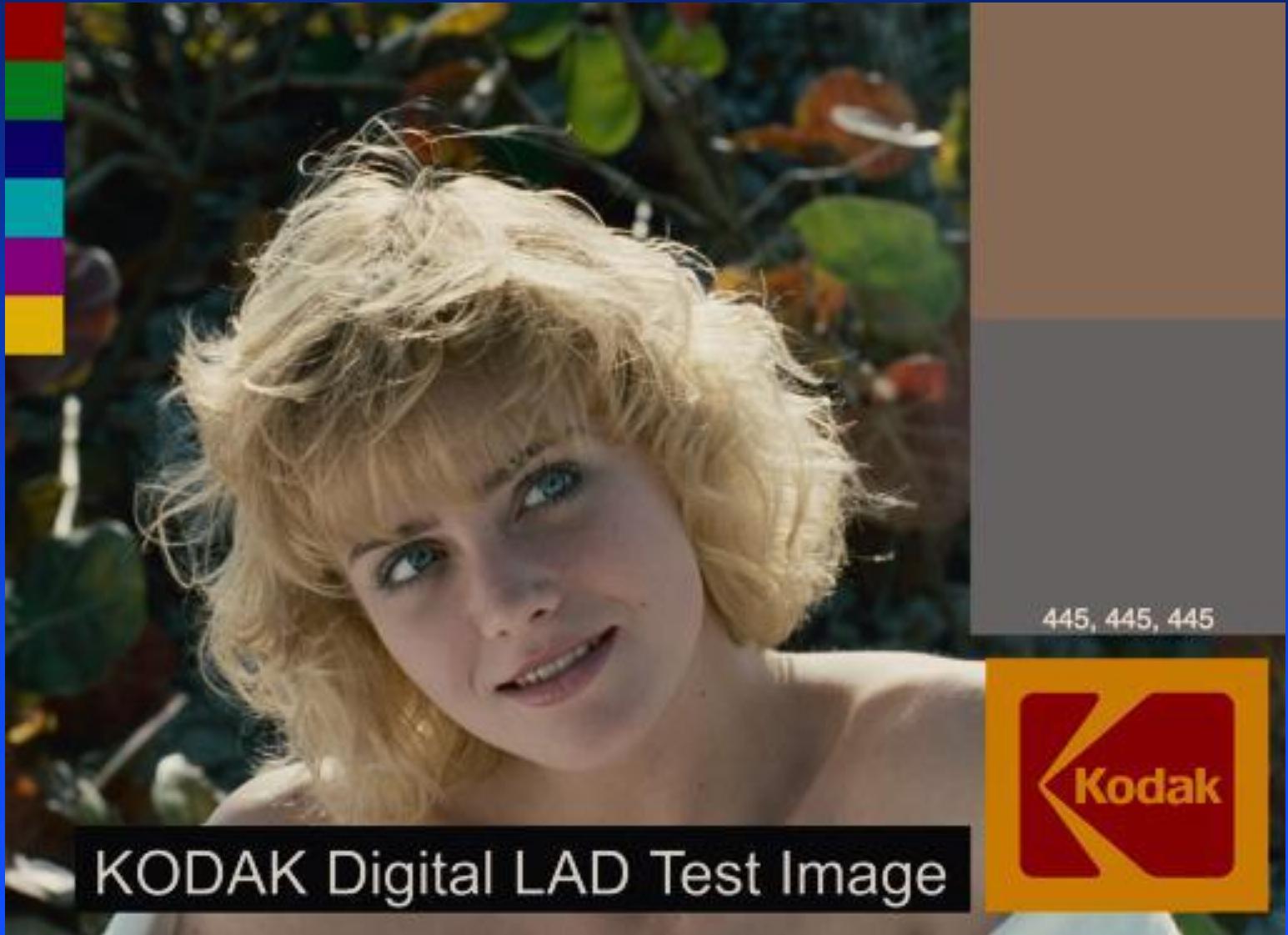
# “ppt” secret decoder ring



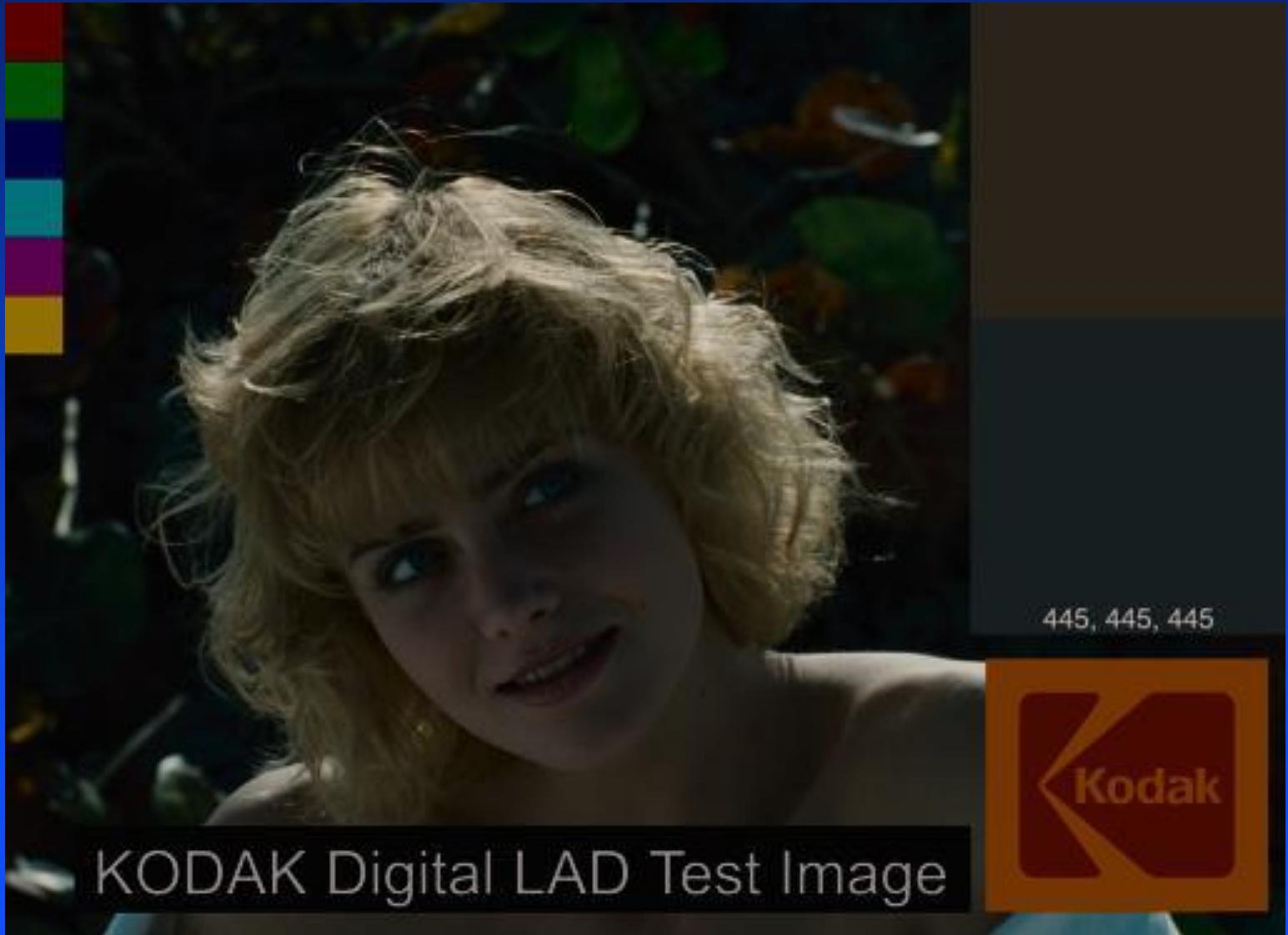




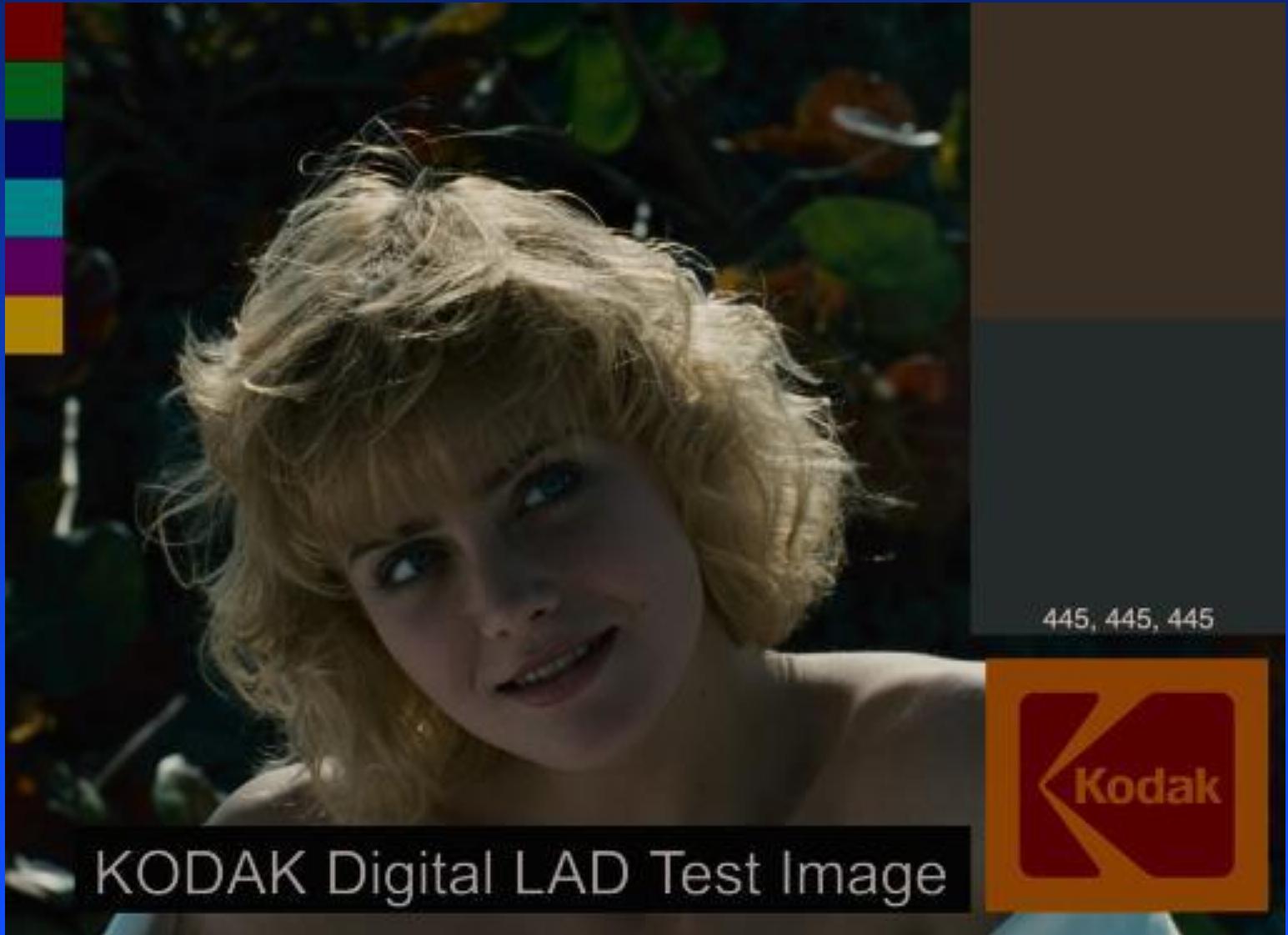
print +0.0 stops



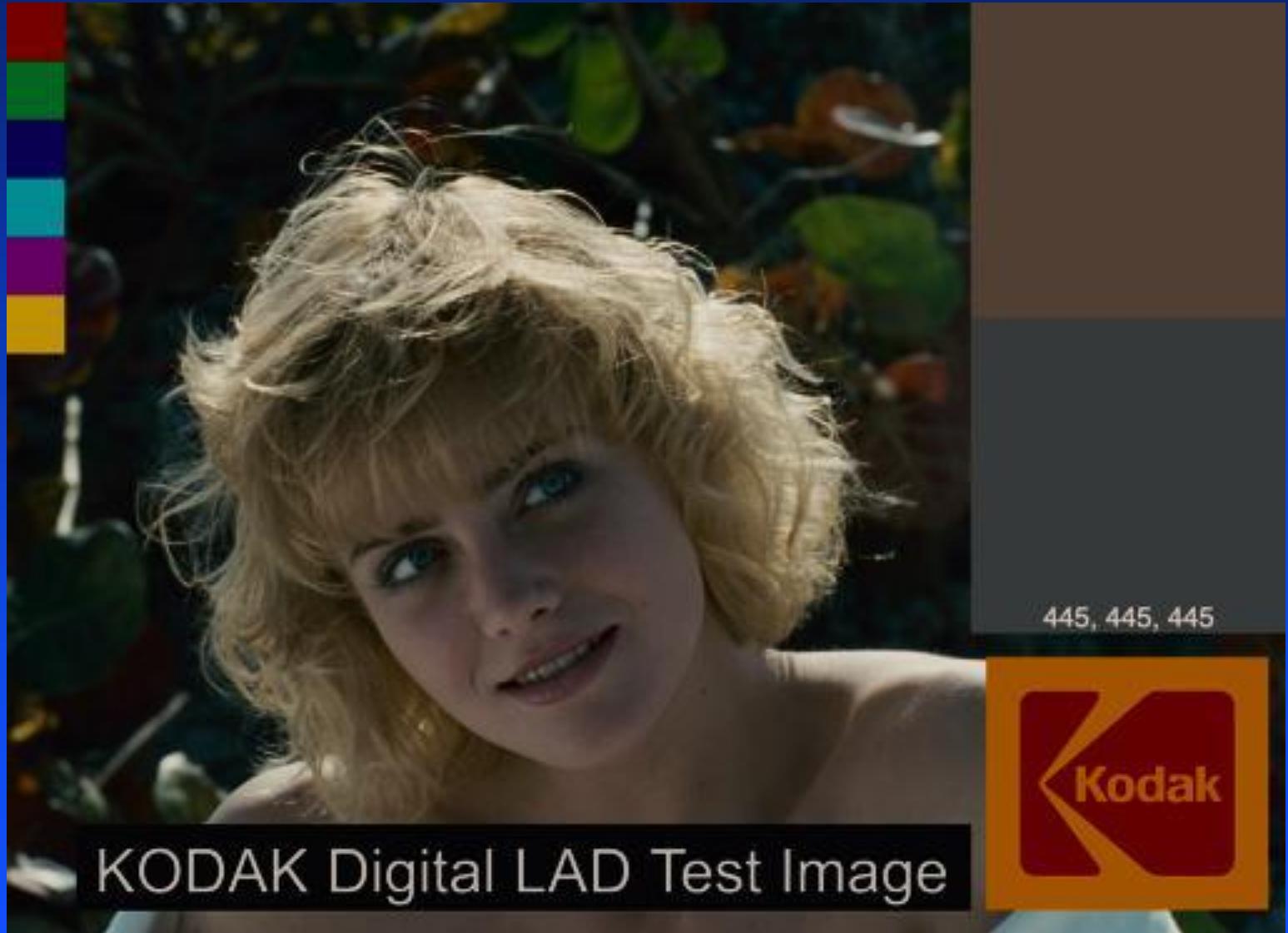
print -2.0 stops



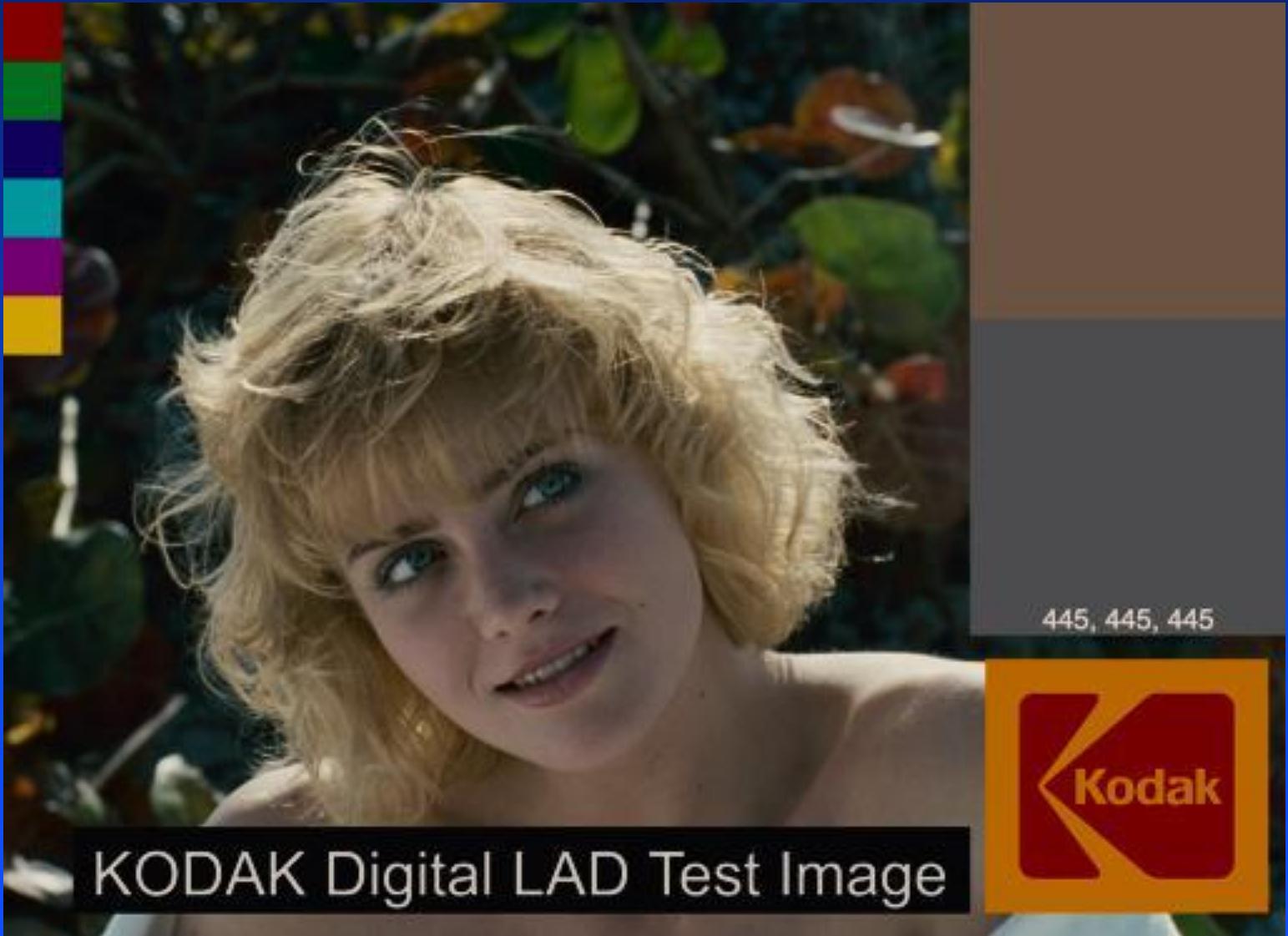
print -1.5 stops



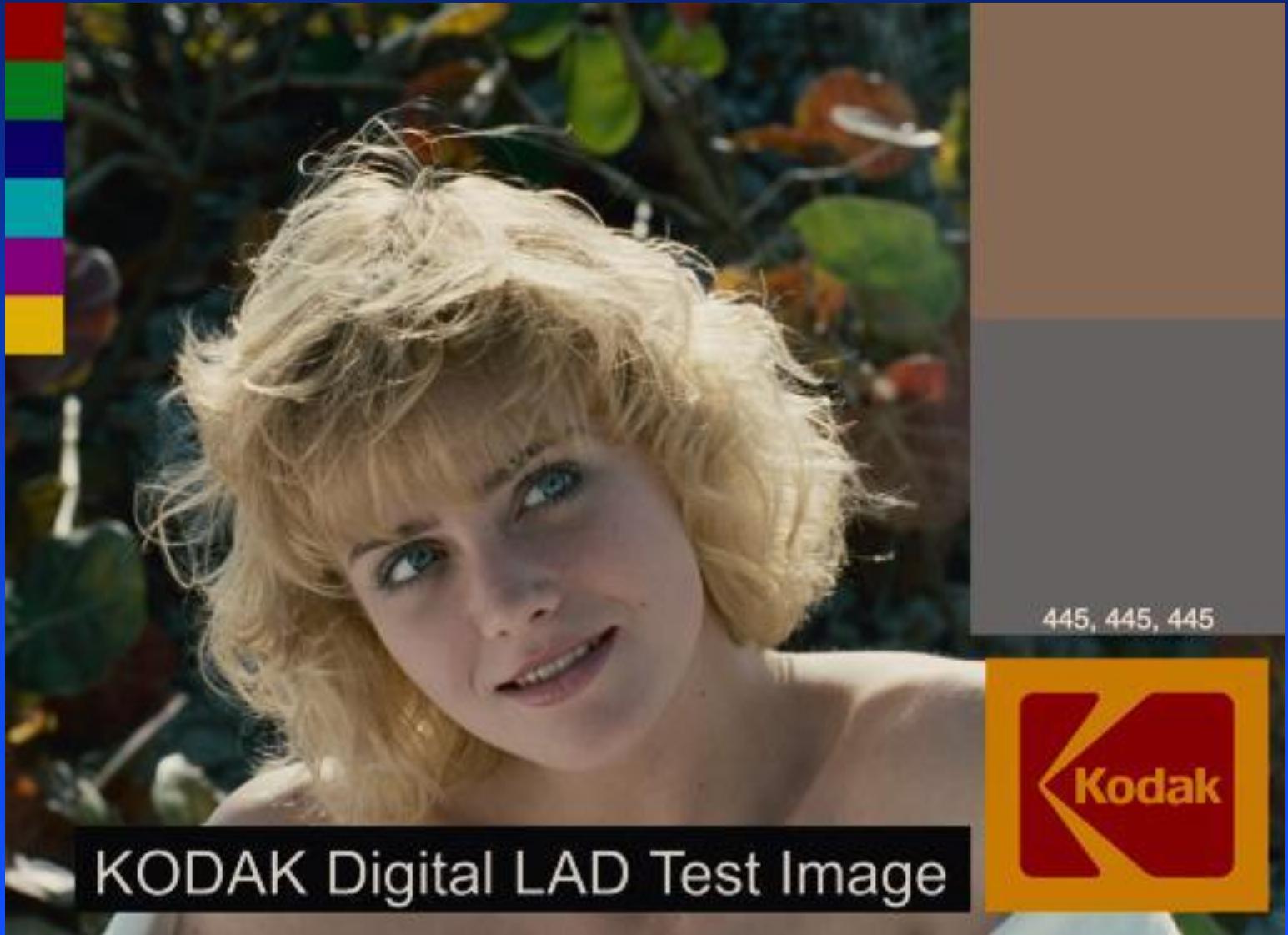
print -1.0 stop



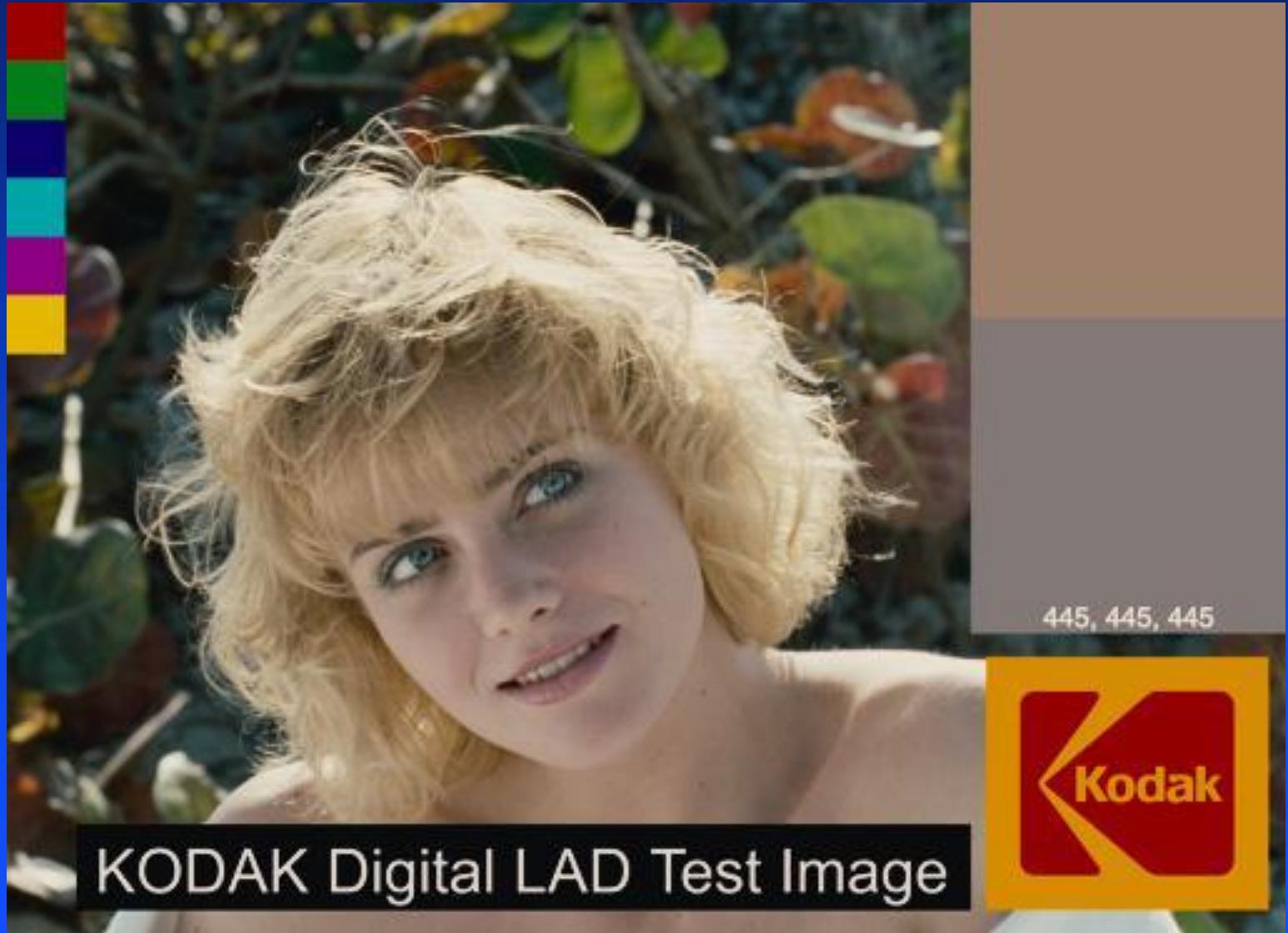
print -0.5 stop



print +0.0 stops

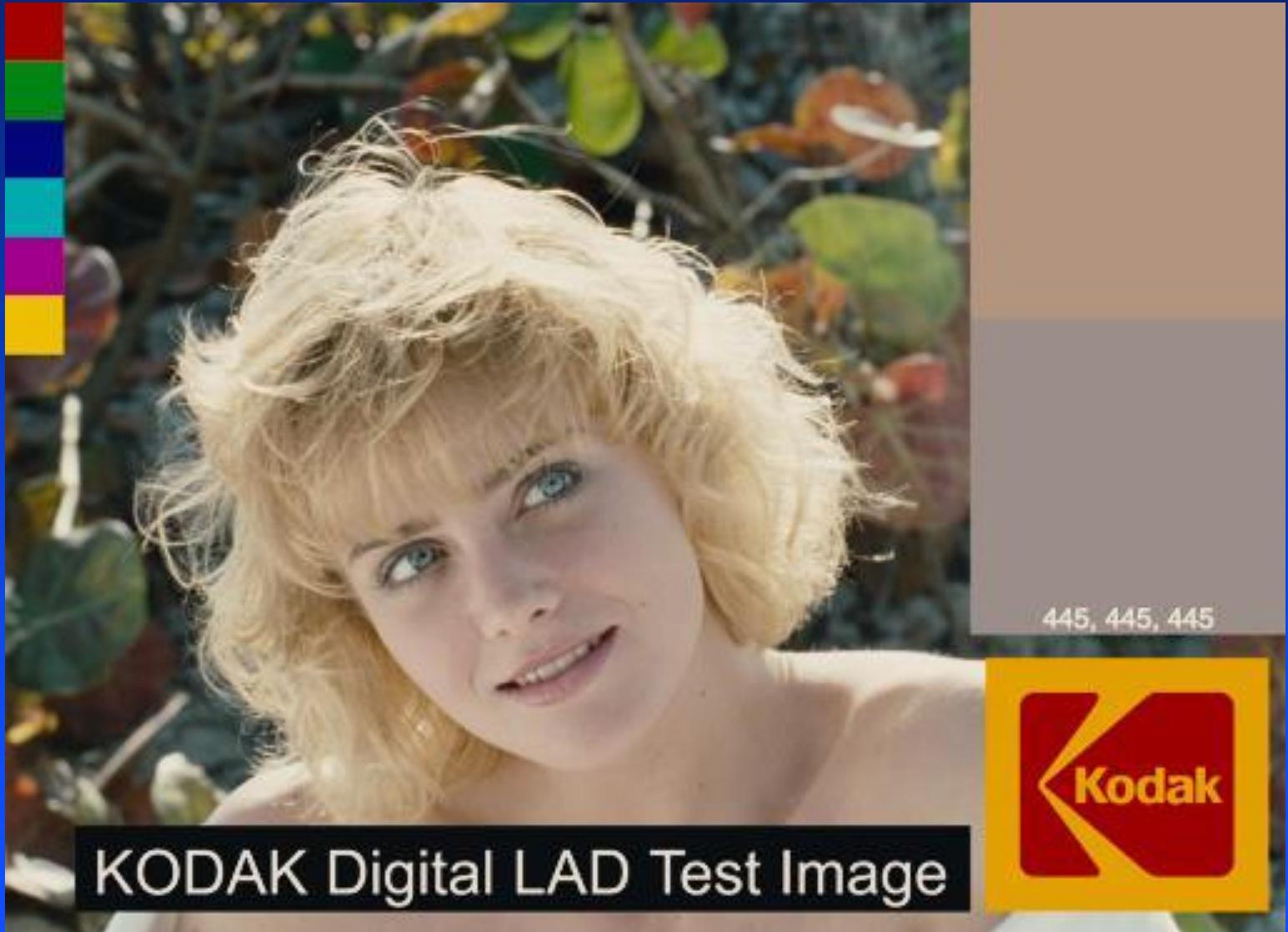


print +0.5 stop



KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

print +1.0 stop

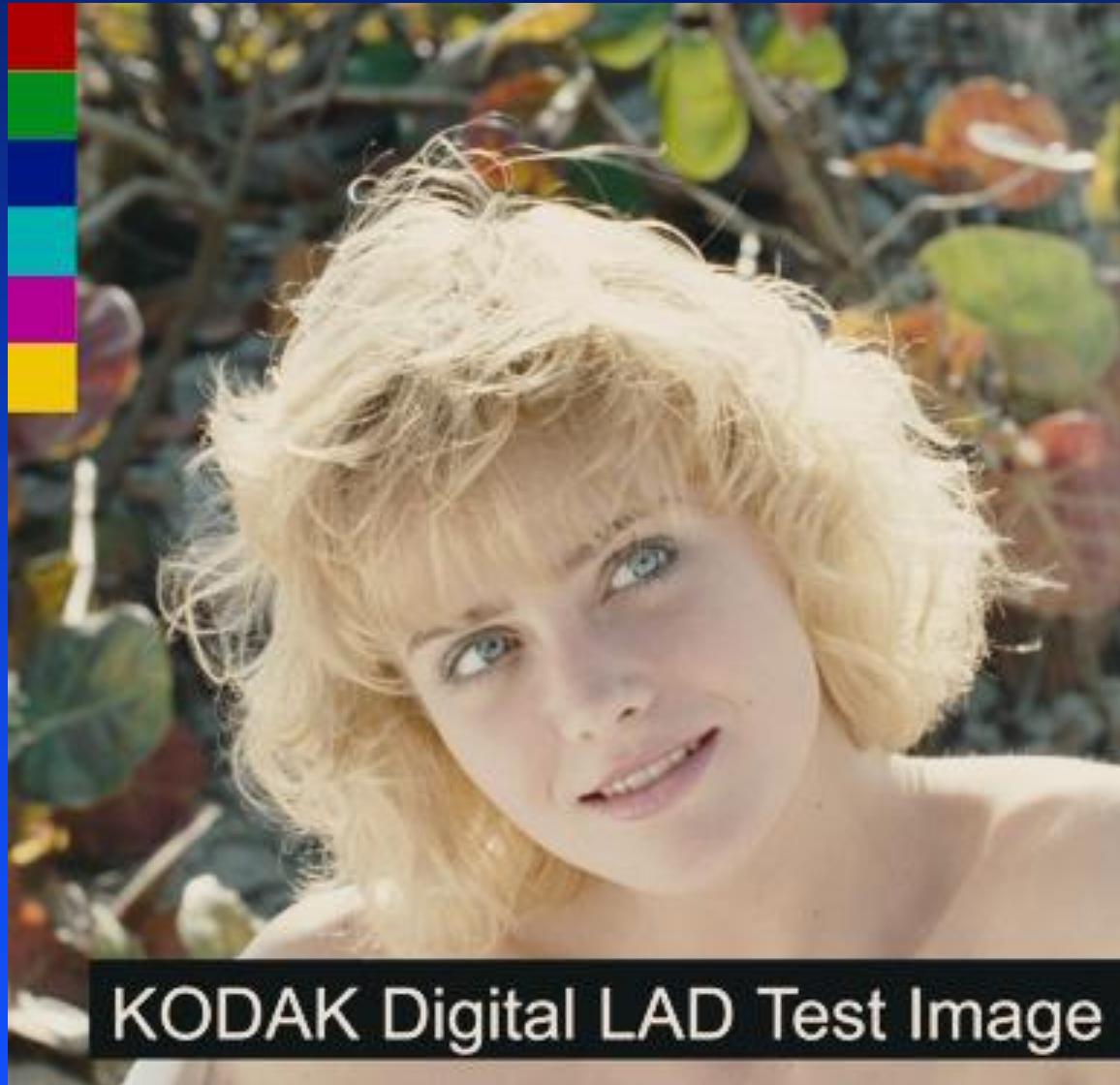


445, 445, 445

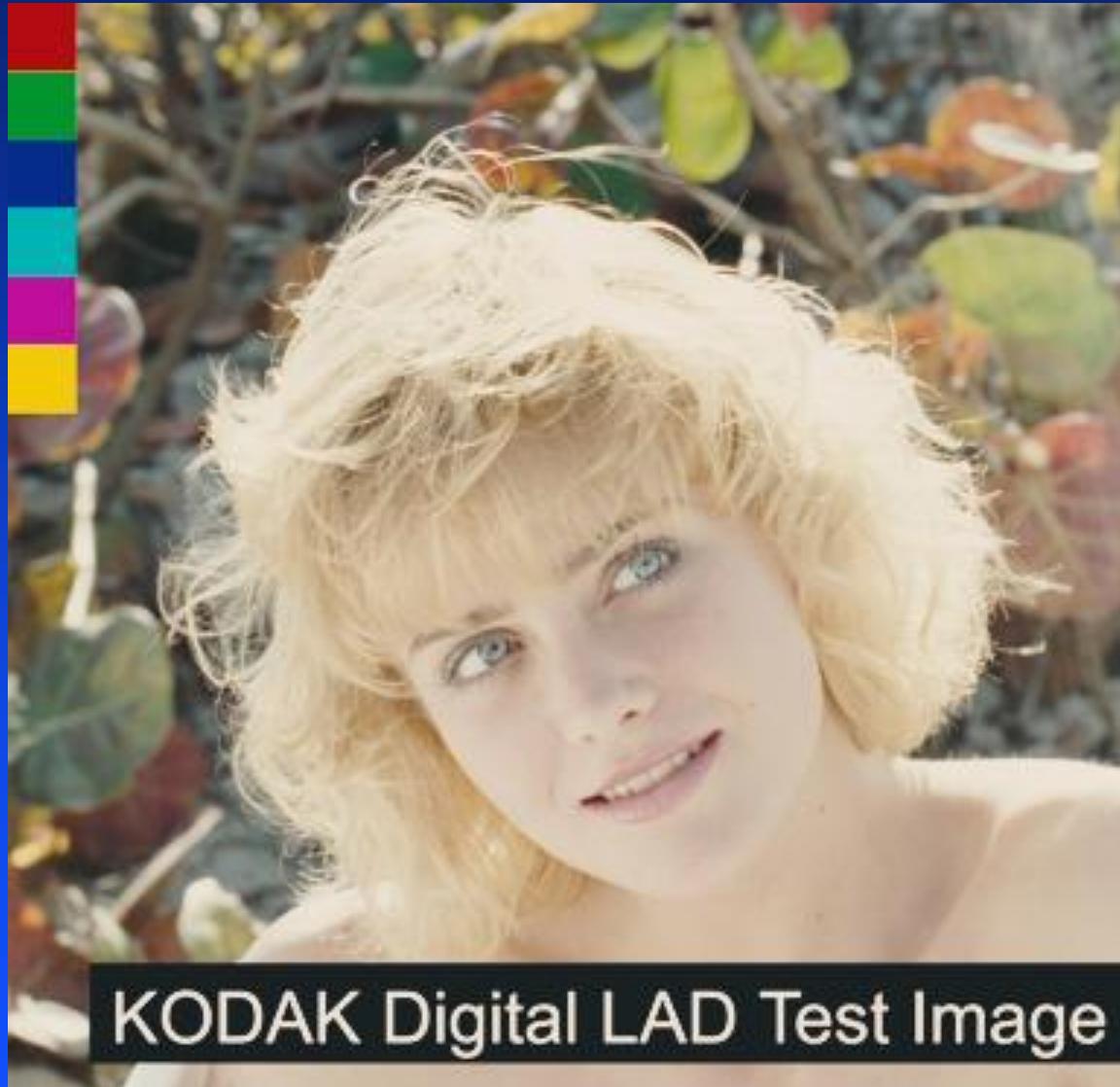


KODAK Digital LAD Test Image

print +1.5 stops



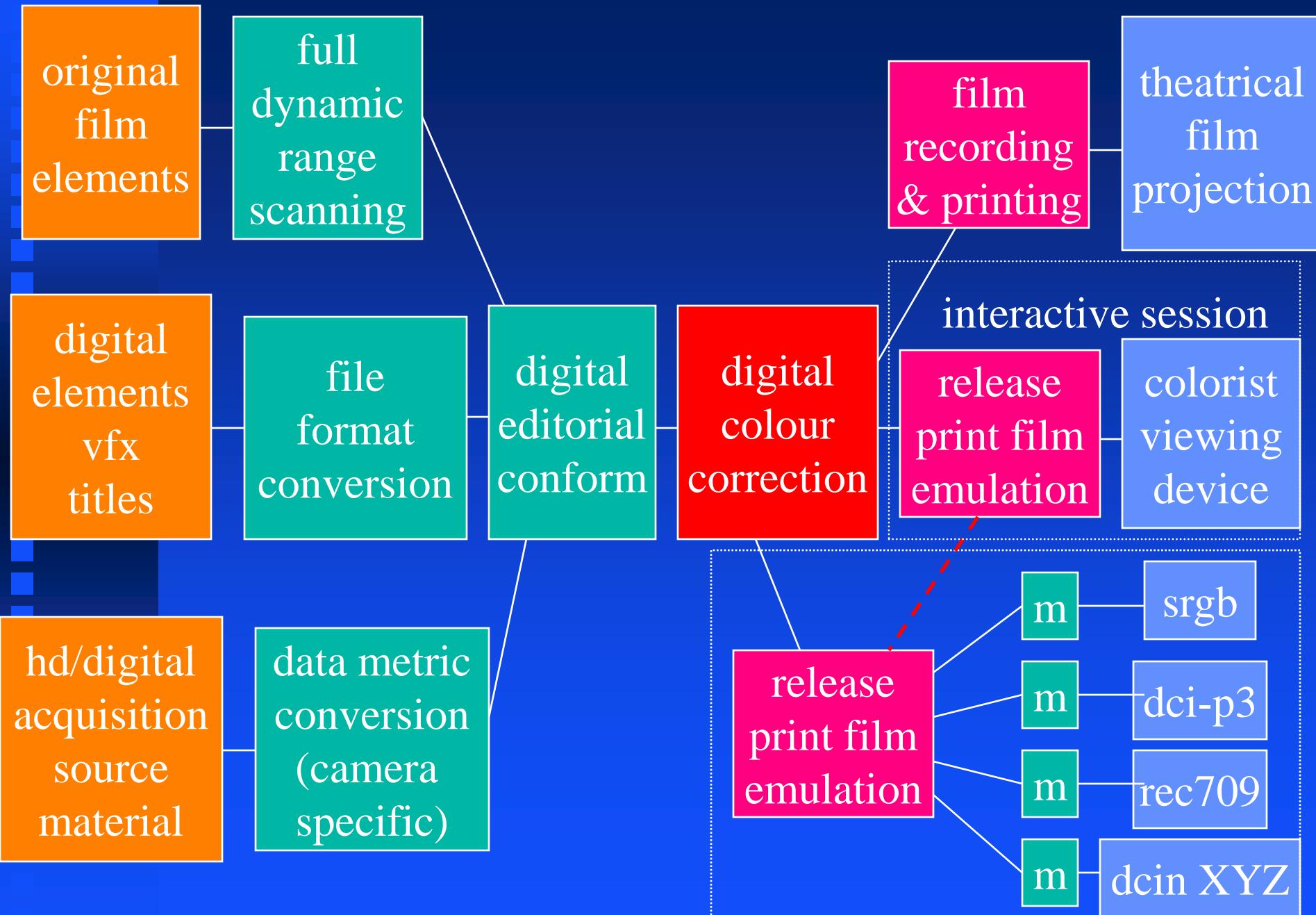
print +2.0 stops



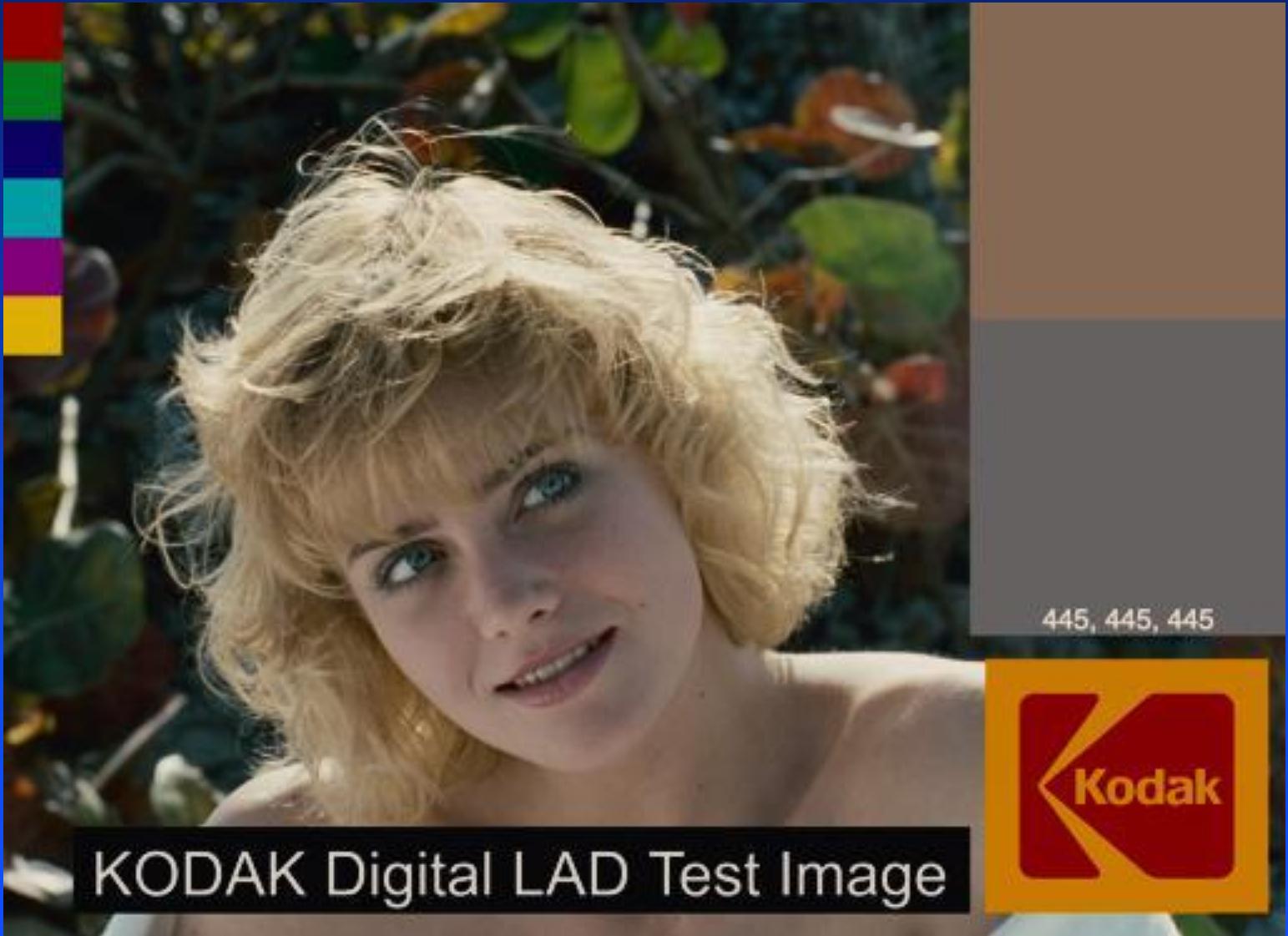
KODAK Digital LAD Test Image



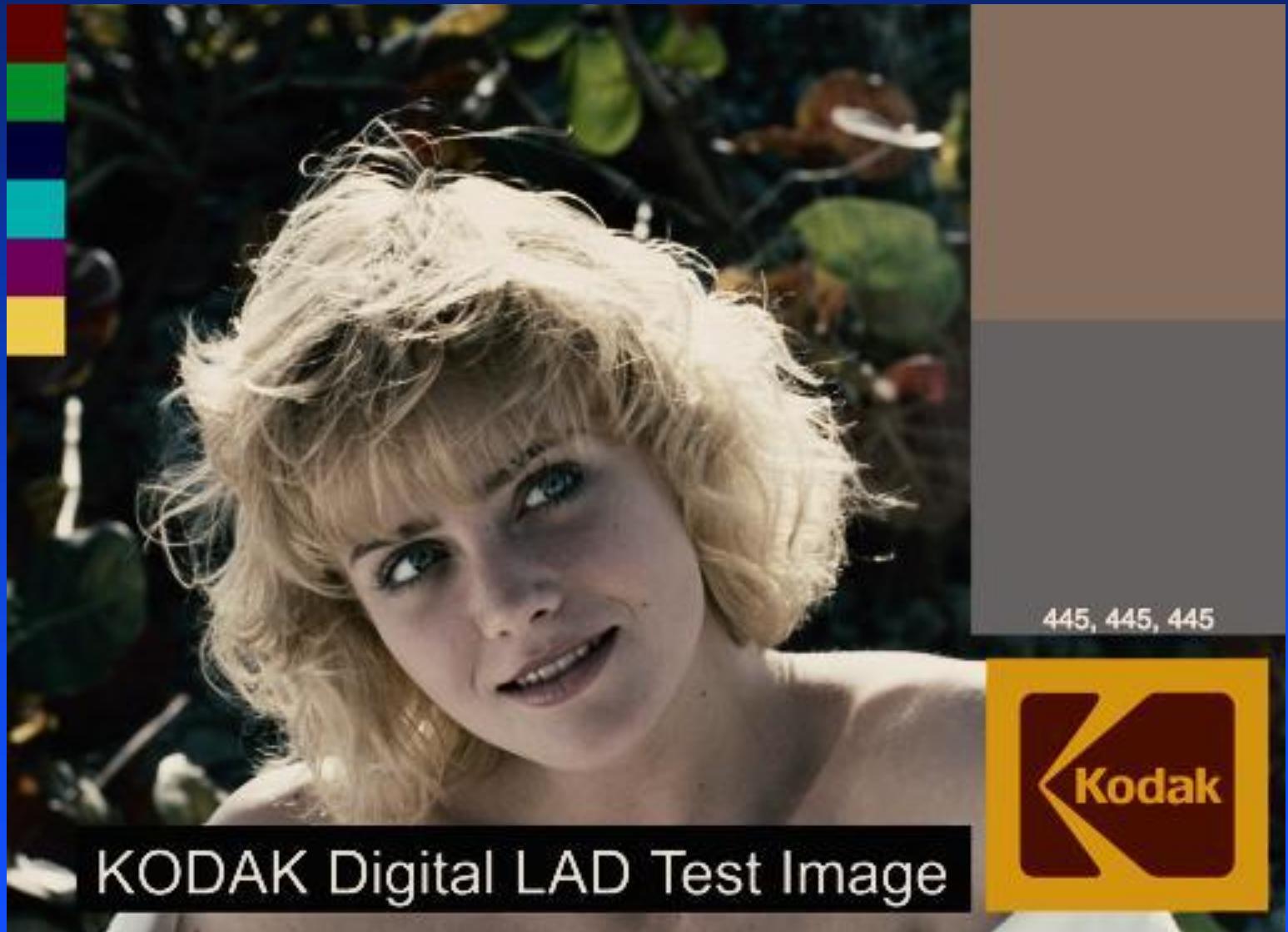
# **digital intermediate workflow**



# “null” colour correction

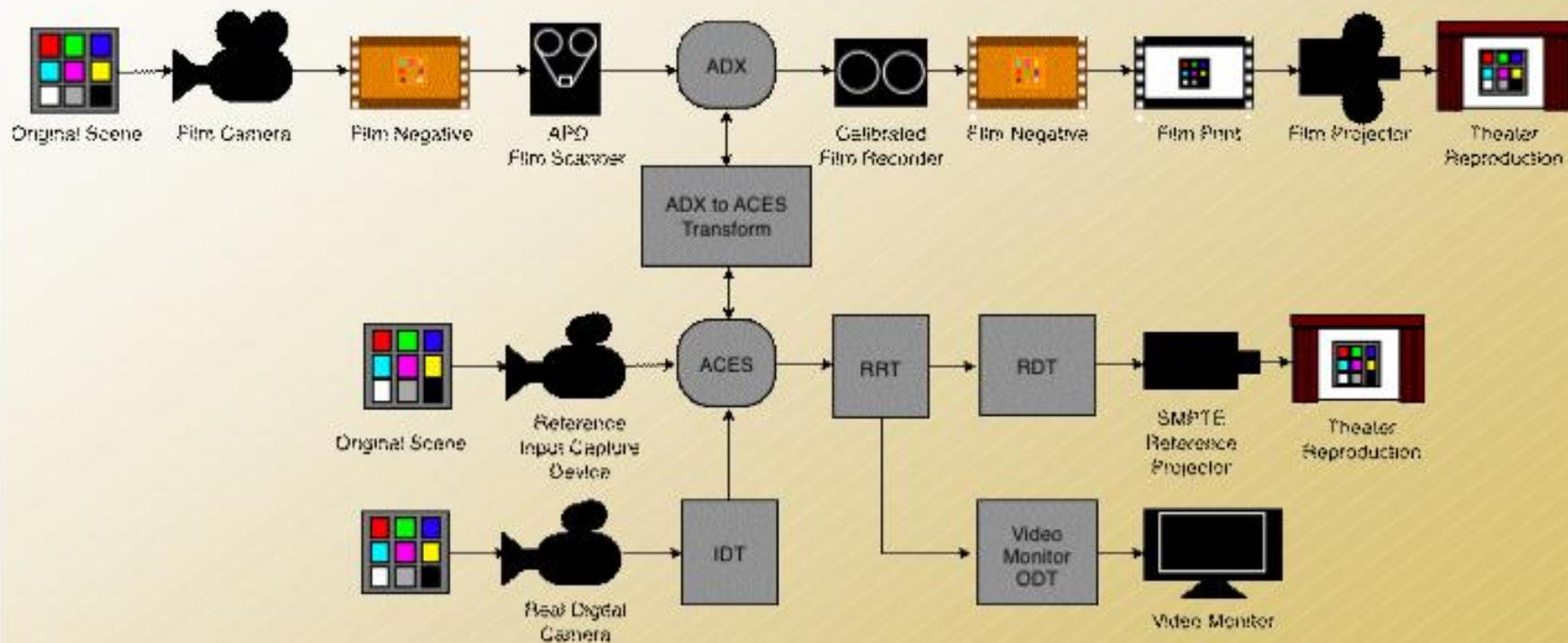


# “bleach bypass” colour correction (extreme hicon + desat)



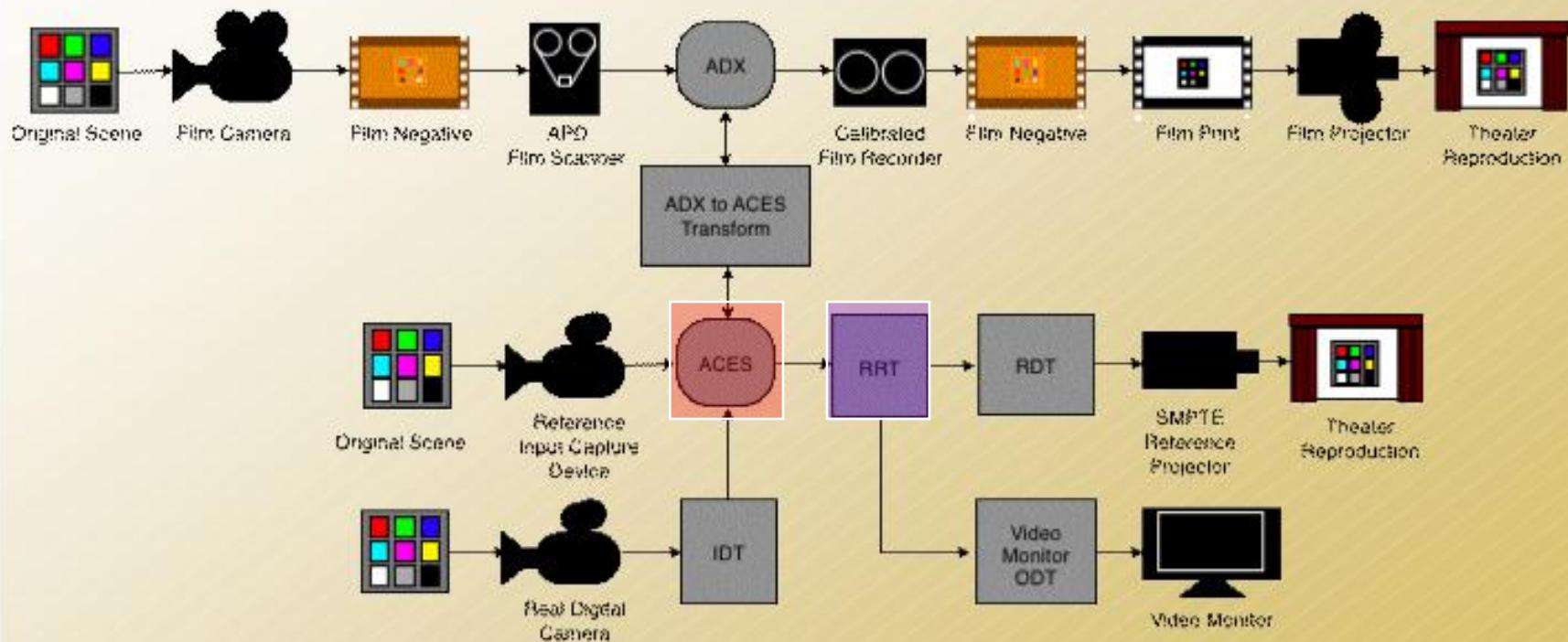


# Idealized System

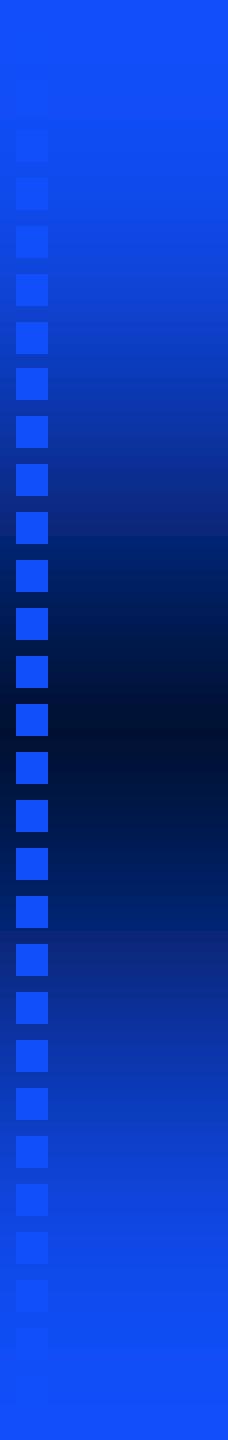




# Idealized System



# scene space vs. display space



# scene space vs. display space

- “input referred”
- “output referred”

# scene space vs. display space

- “input referred”
- cgi “rendering”
- “output referred”
- photoshop

# scene space vs. display space

- “input referred”
- cgi “rendering”
- the laws of physics
- “output referred”
- photoshop
- the talents of artists

# scene space vs. display space

- “input referred”
- cgi “rendering”
- the laws of physics
- high dynamic range
- “output referred”
- photoshop
- the talents of artists
- limited dynamic range

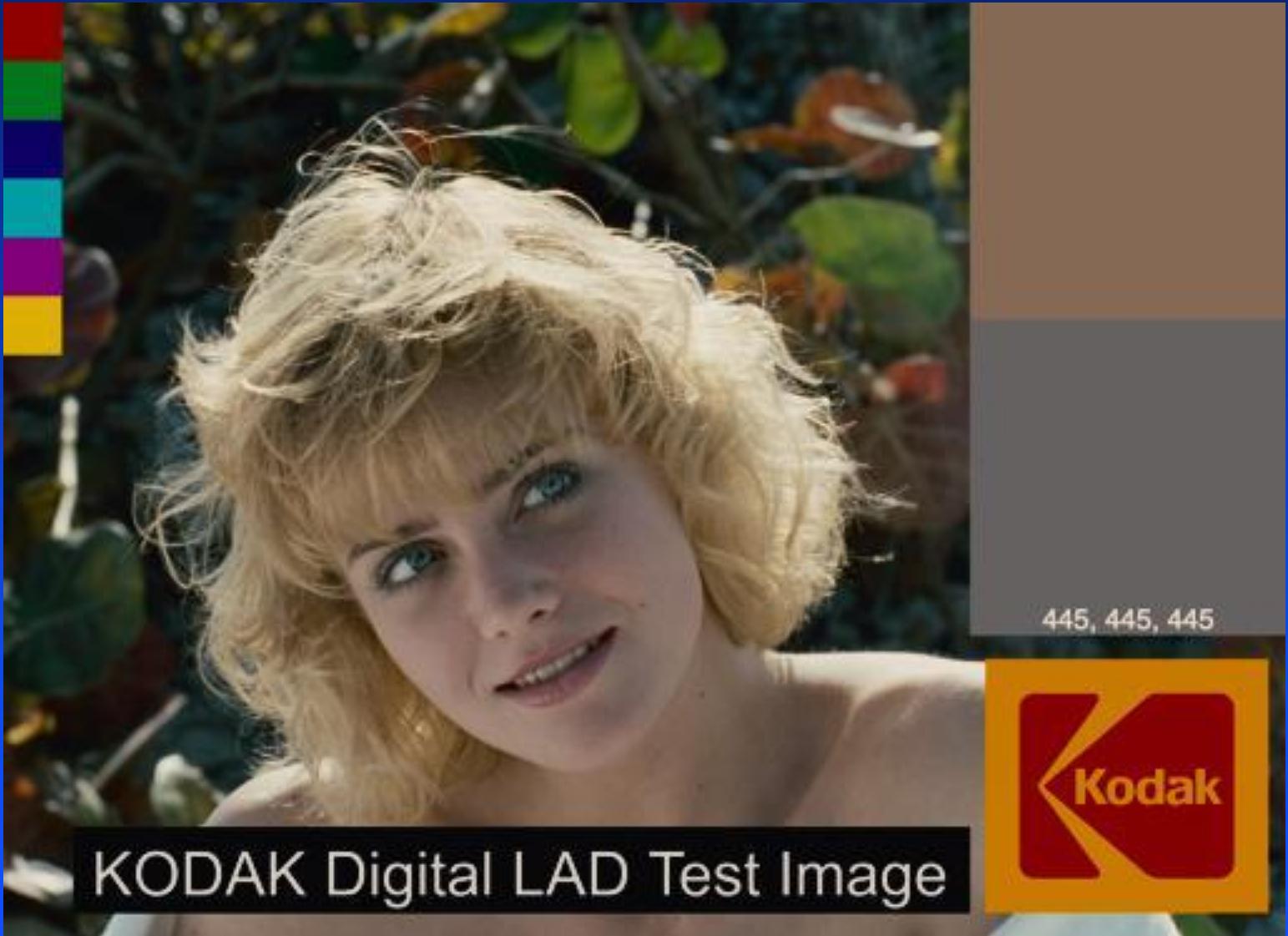
# scene space vs. display space

- “input referred”
- cgi "rendering"
- the laws of physics
- high dynamic range
- 18% diffuse reflector
- “output referred”
- photoshop
- the talents of artists
- limited dynamic range
- 10% of max intensity

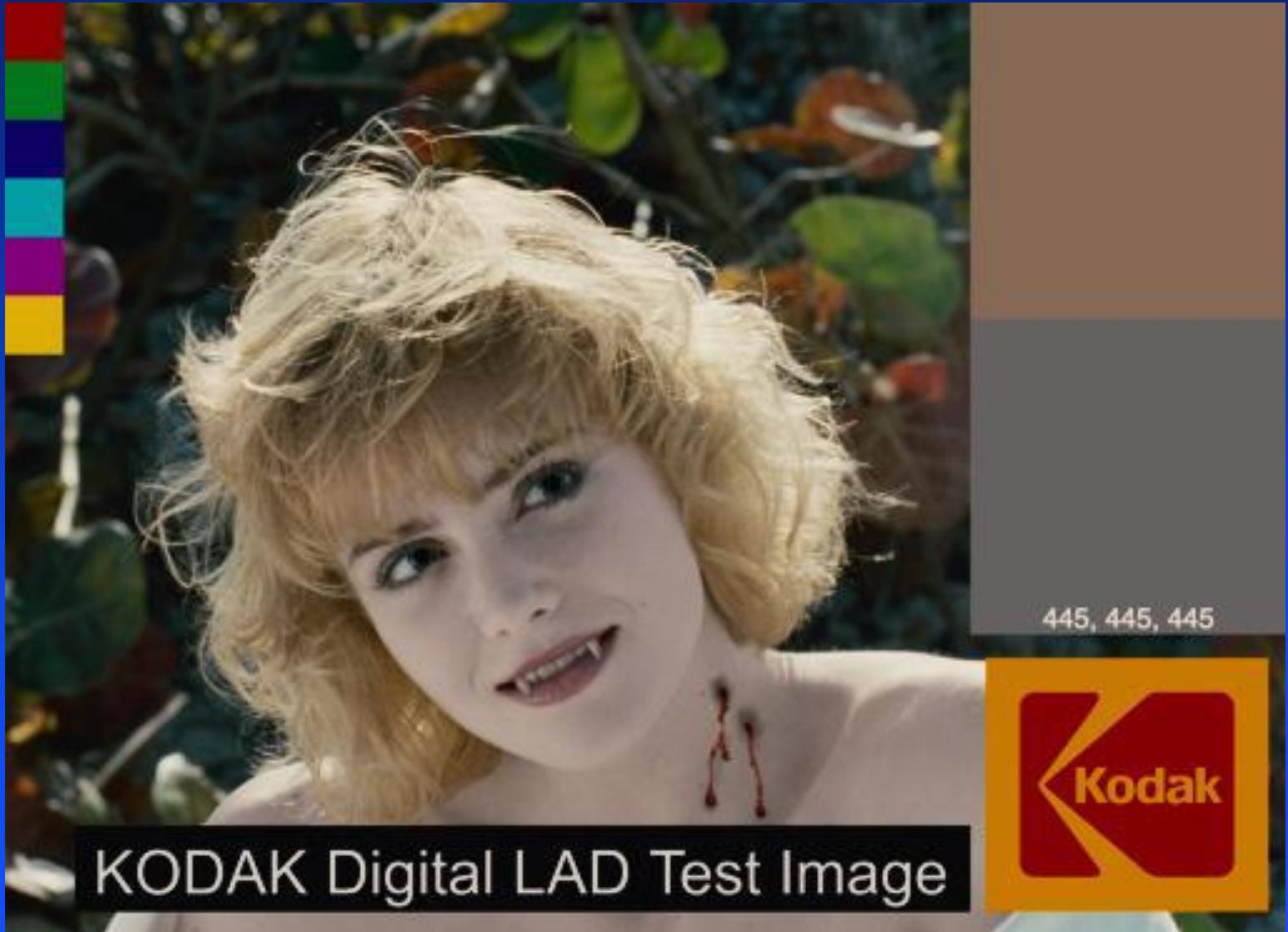
# scene space vs. display space

- “input referred”
- cgi "rendering"
- the laws of physics
- high dynamic range
- 18% diffuse reflector
- werewolves(powerful)
- “output referred”
- photoshop
- the talents of artists
- limited dynamic range
- 10% of max intensity
- vampires(sexy)

# real film print emulation



# vampire film print emulation



*The End*