

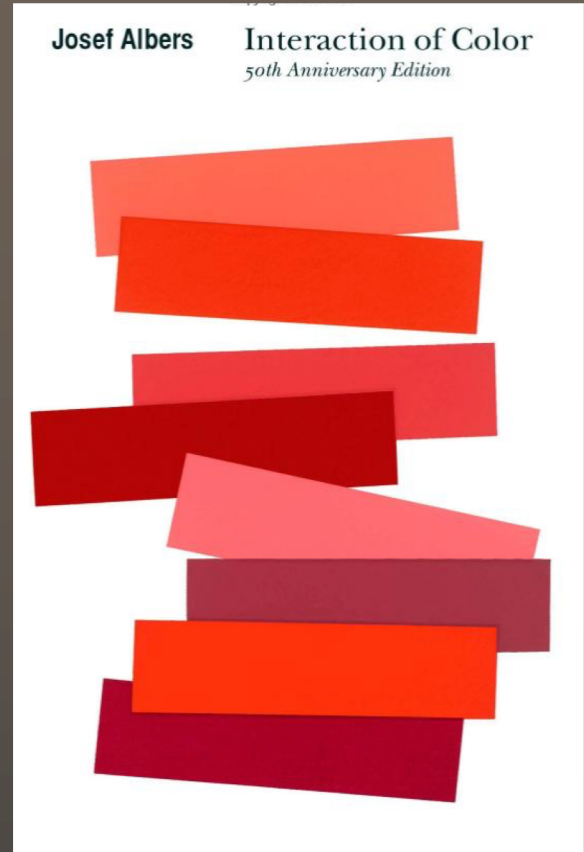


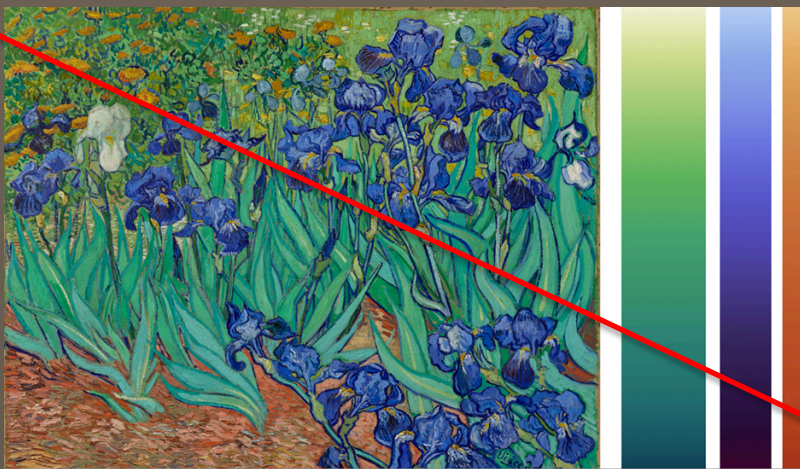
*native habitat*

*Francesca Samsel*

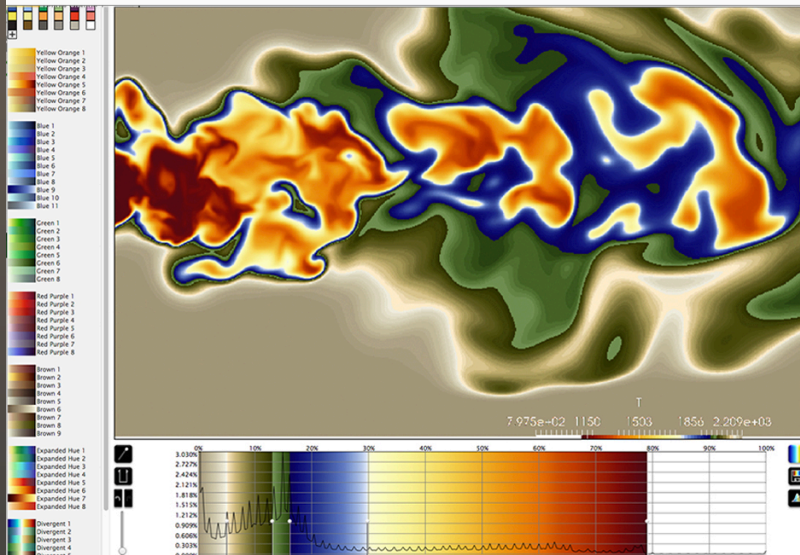
Research Associate  
Center for Agile Technology  
University of Texas at Austin

Color in scientific visualization  
is complicated because  
*our perception of hues*  
*is based on surroundings colors*  
*and in scientific visualization*  
*the data distribution determines*  
*the surrounding color,*  
*not an artist.*

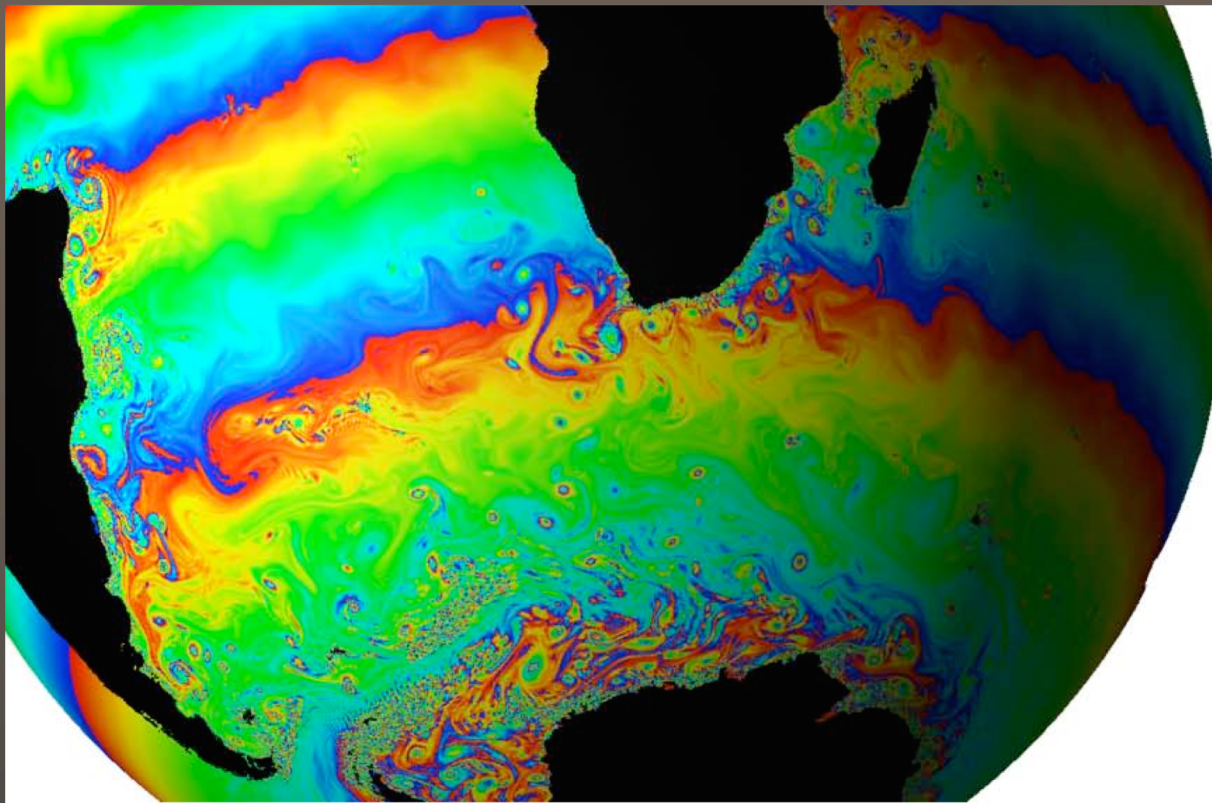




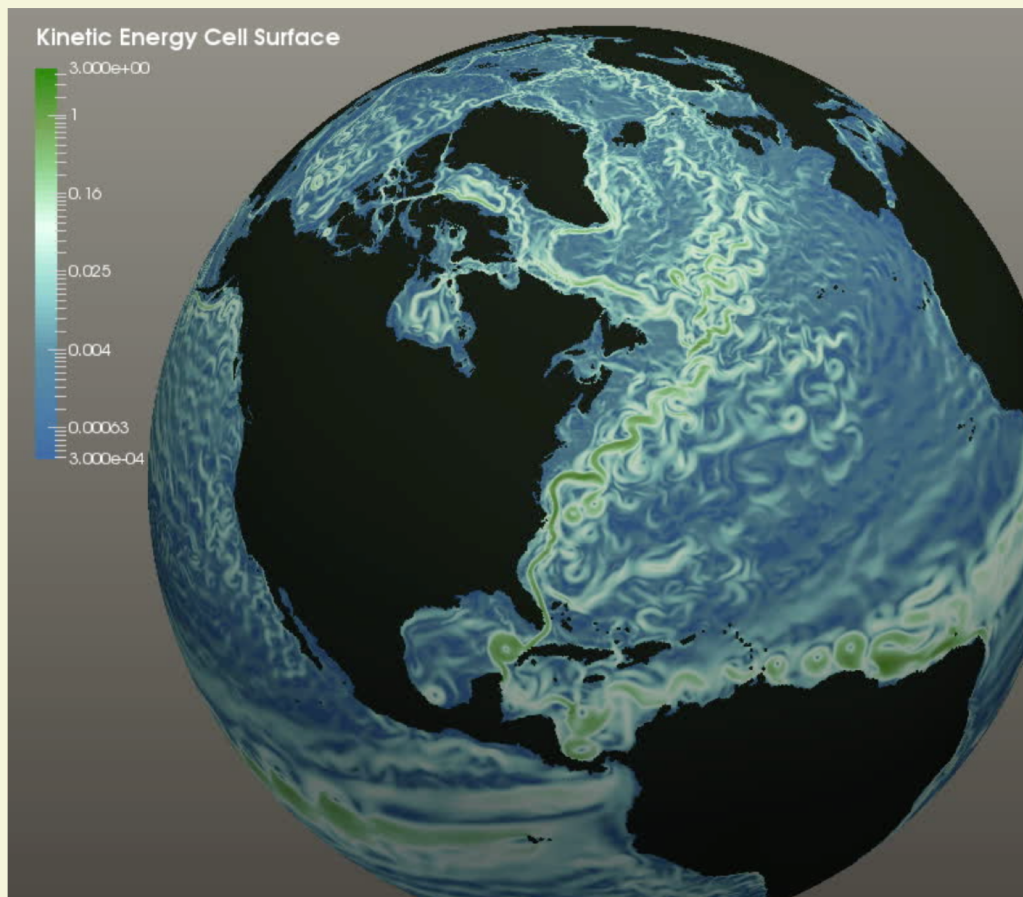
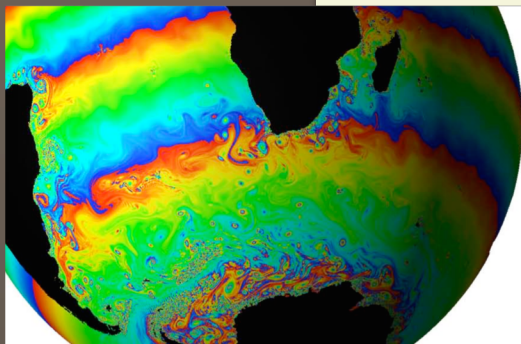
It is not about a pretty picture...  
even if they are pretty.

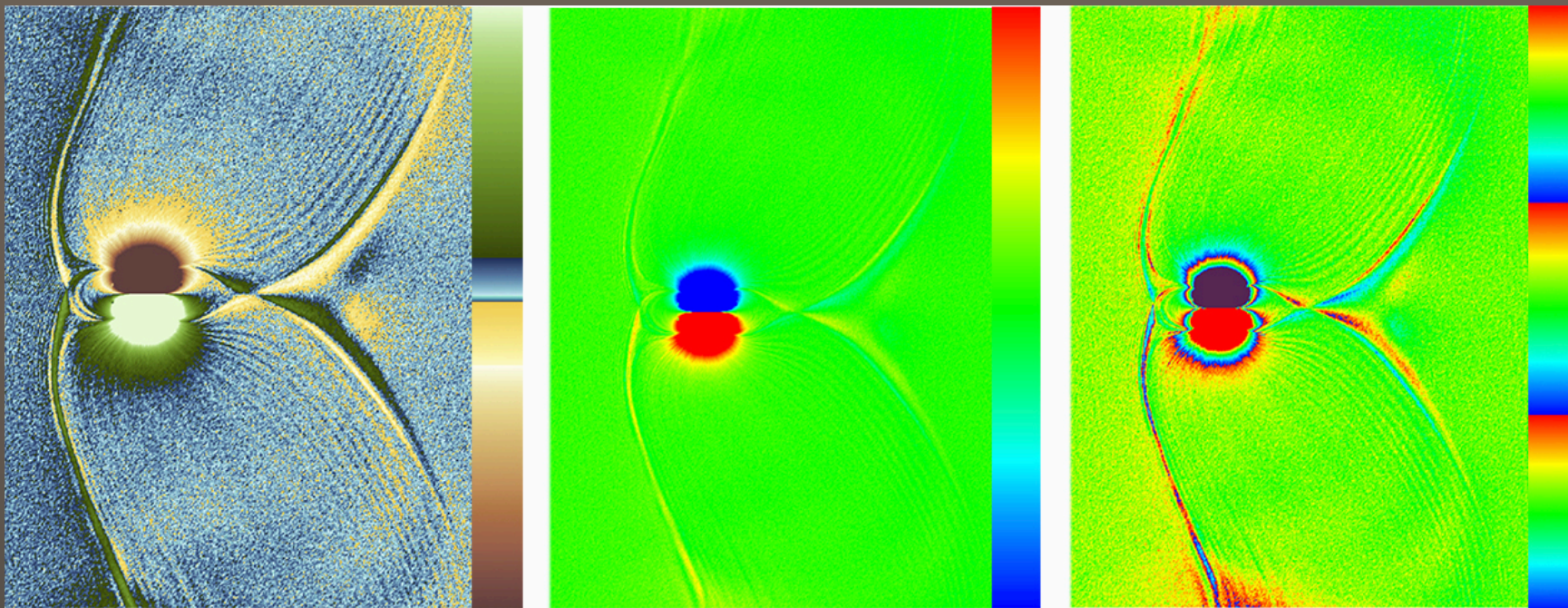


Did you ever wonder why we  
are tuned into beauty?

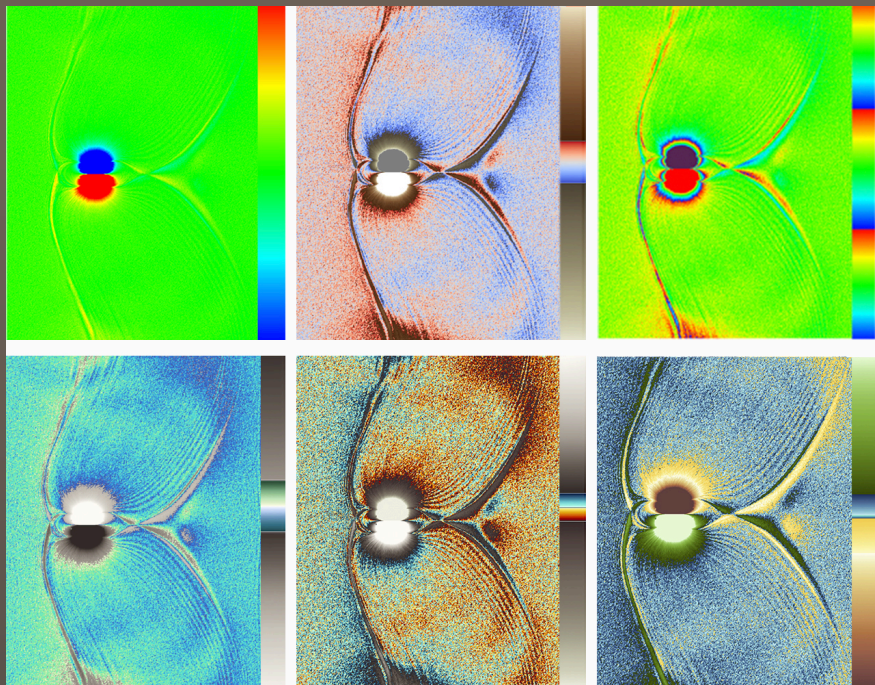


Less is more. Use only the color "volume" that you need.

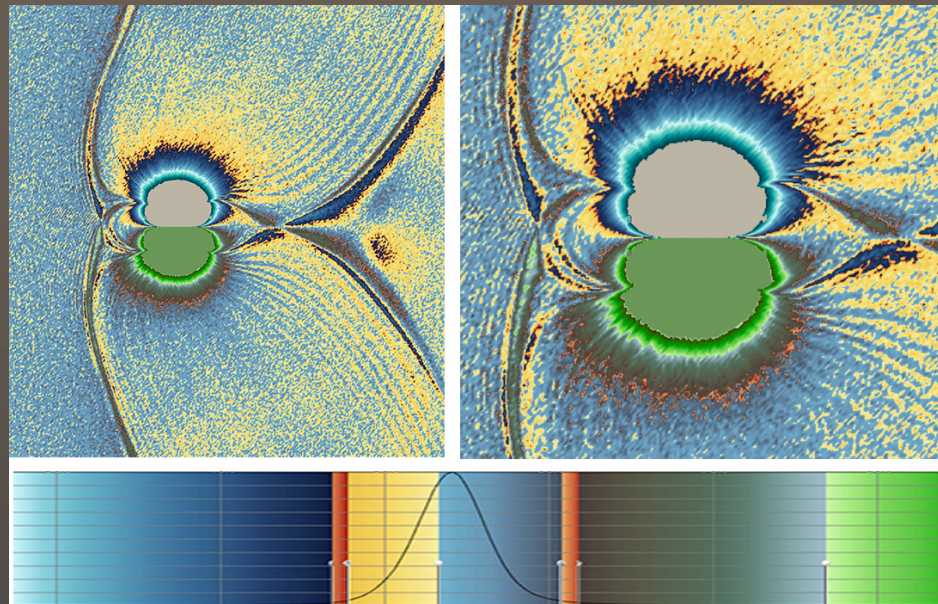




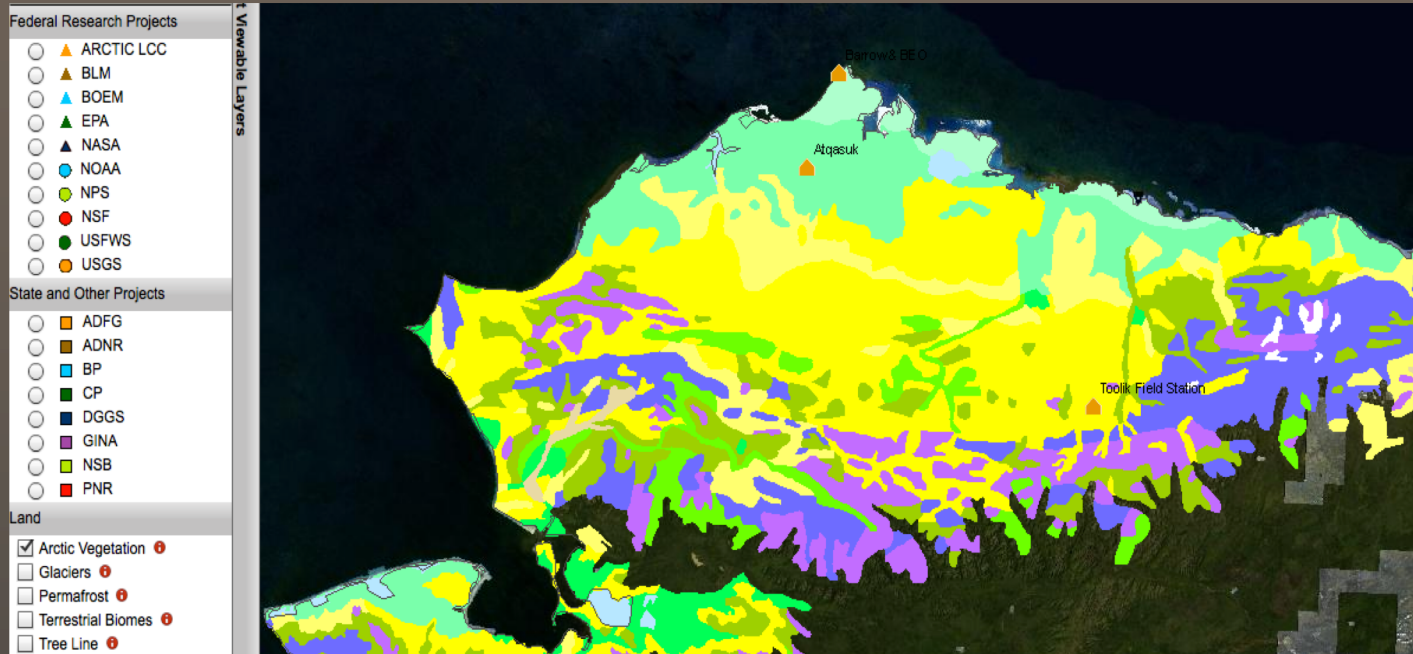
Creating  
**Clarity and Detail**



Tuning your colormap to:  
see more data;  
more clearly and;  
communicate to others  
more **effectively and efficiently**.

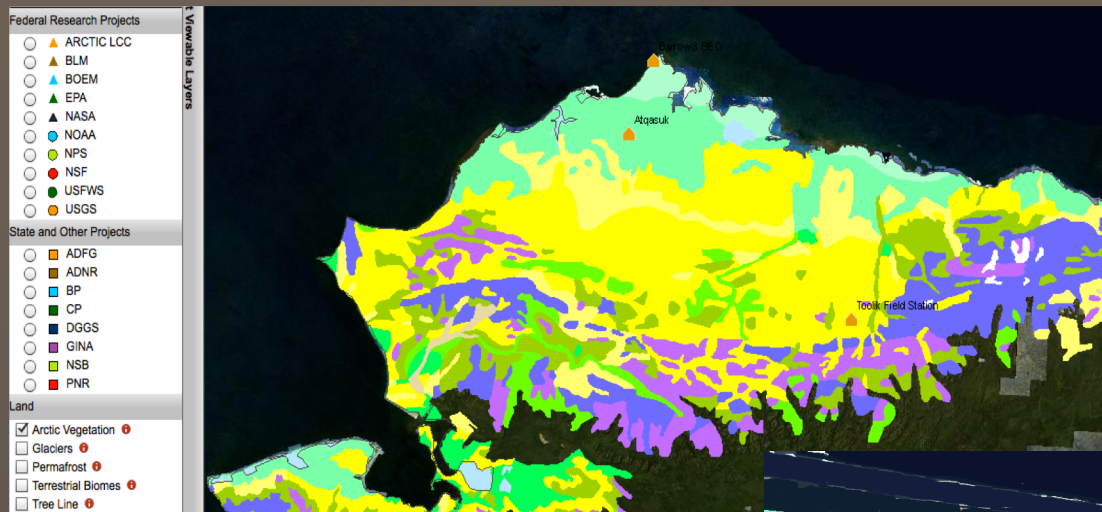


# Arctic tundra vegetation distribution



C. Tweedie, UTEP

done by a good friend... but...



## Data exploration

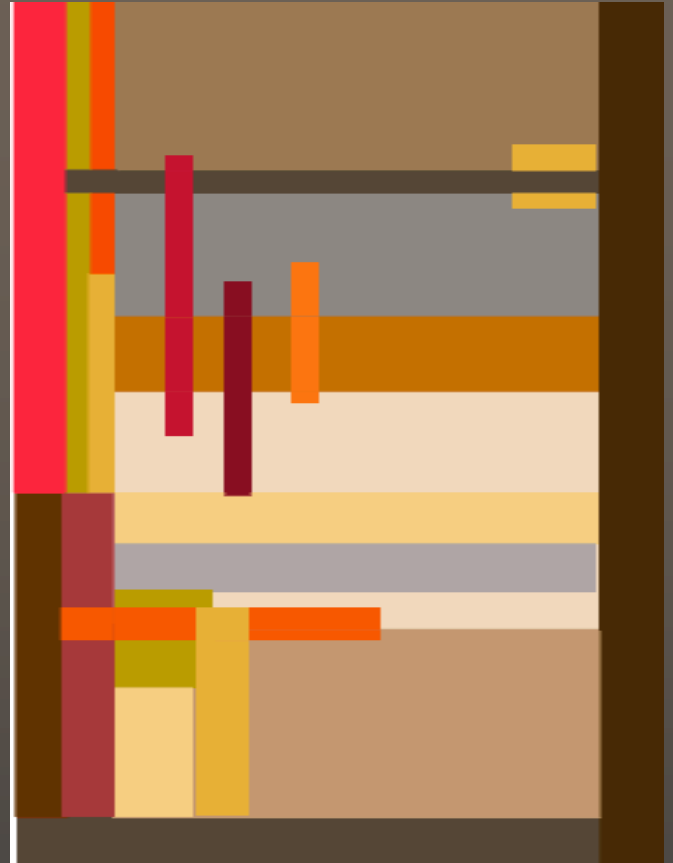


## Simultaneity of Color

the problem child ...



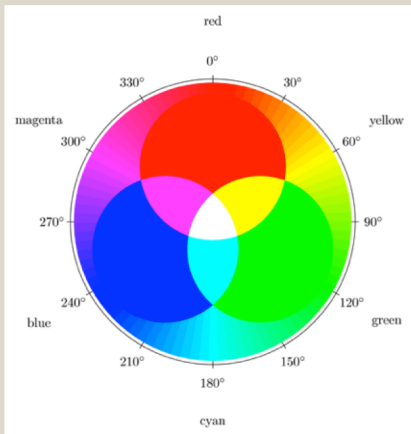
A n environment for thinking ...



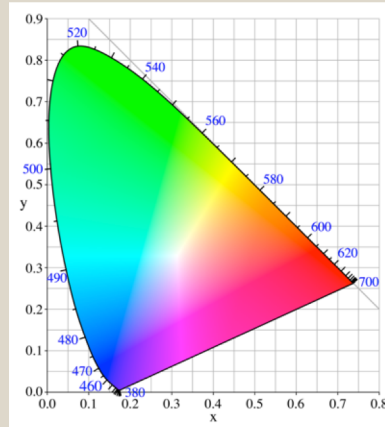
Clarity without cacophony, that's the goal.

# Why is color complicated?

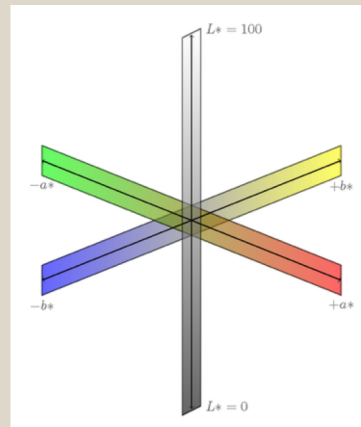
## RGB and CIE LAB



RGB colorspace



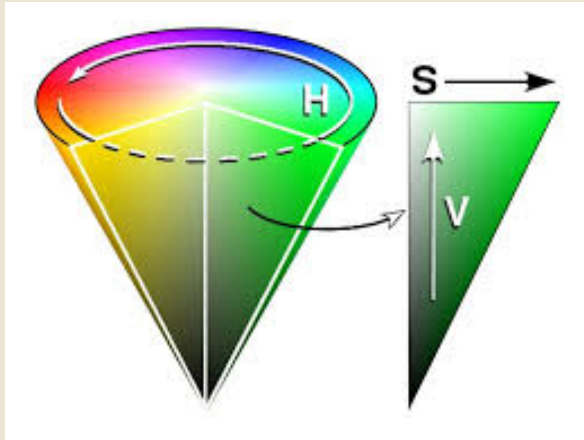
CIE LAB space



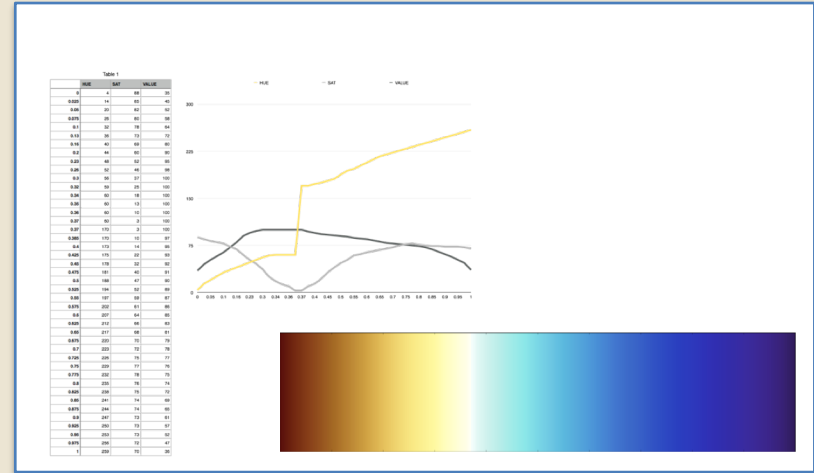
RGB is computer color space.

CIE LAB space, perceptual accurate, is *the best interpolation space*.

# Why Hue, Saturation and Value the human color space



HSV, HSB colorspace



It provides the ability to make subtle adjustments in the human color language.  
Hue, Saturation and Value -- The language of color theory.

# Color **CONTRAST** Theory



## color contrast types

1. hue
2. value
3. saturation
4. complimentary
5. cool warm
6. proportion
7. simultaneity

and....unifying contrast  
analogous color

# Color **CONTRAST** Theory

It is about  **contrast**, not **color**.

The key is to understand  
the types of contrast and  
allocate the intensity of contrast.

**HOWEVER**, You have a contrast budget!

HOWEVER, You have a contrast budget!

HOWEVER, You have a contrast budget!

Use it wisely.

Less is more.

It is a matter of degree,  
degree of contrast,  
degree of intensity.

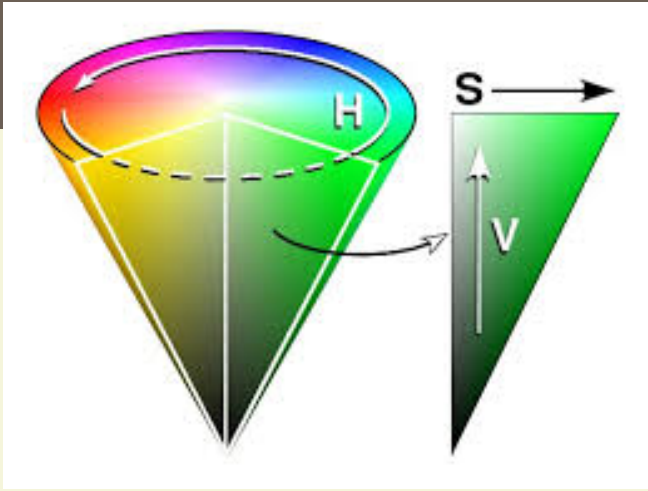


High intensity lowers the  
potential range of contrast.  
It is the budget issue.



Low intensity provides  
wide range of contrast.

# Terms – Hue, Saturation, Value



## Hue

What "color" is it? Green, blue, red..



## Saturation

How pure is it?

How much gray does it have in it?



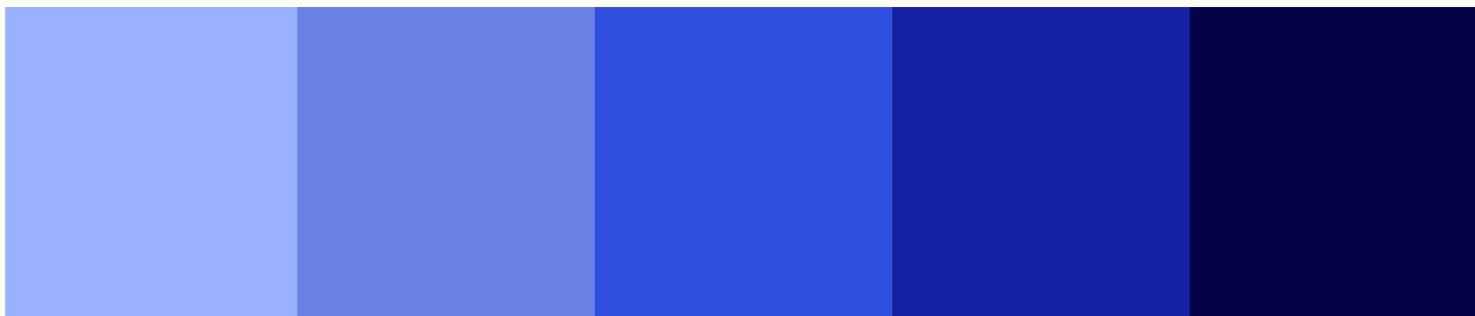
## Value

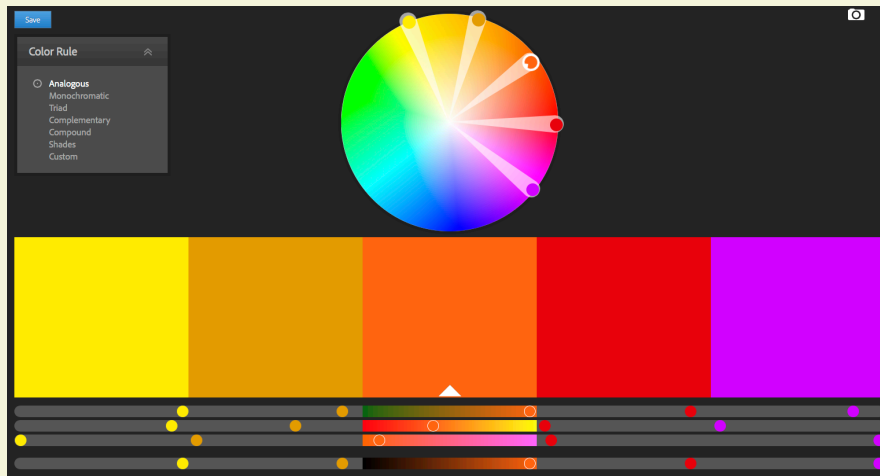
Is it light or dark?





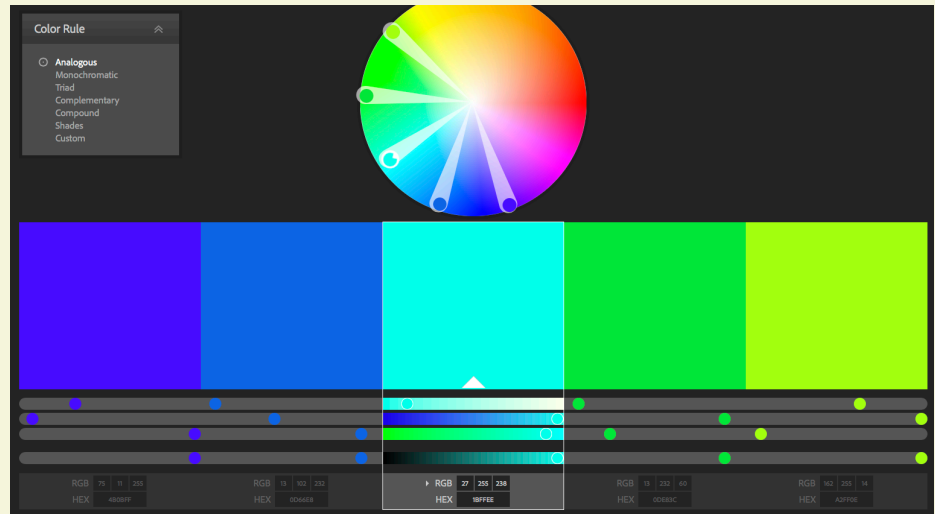
**Value** light to dark





WARM

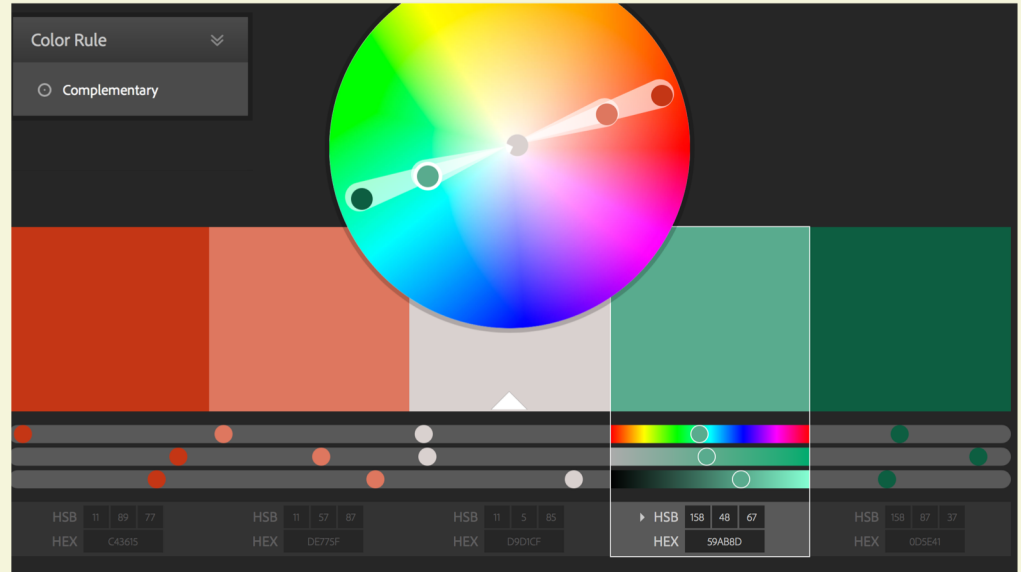
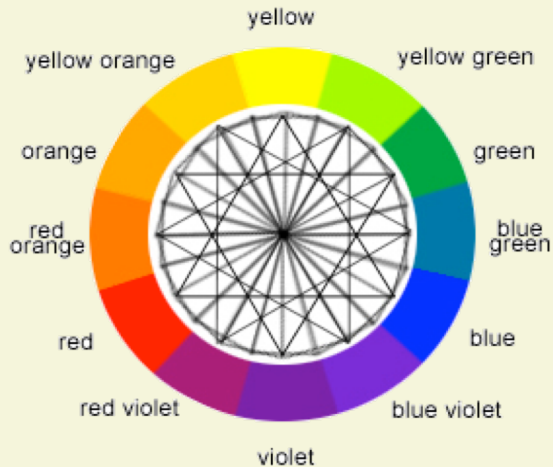
COOL



# Complimentary colors

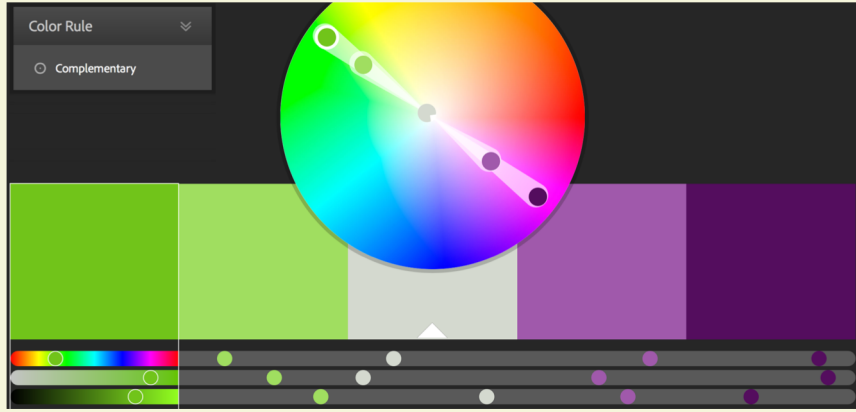
opposite sides of the color wheel... except in digital color...

red – green  
blue – orange  
yellow - purple

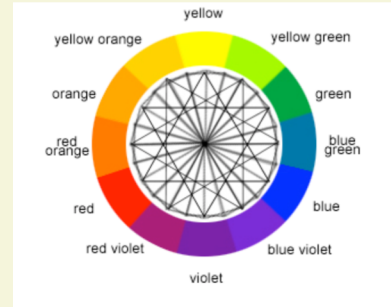


# Complimentary colors

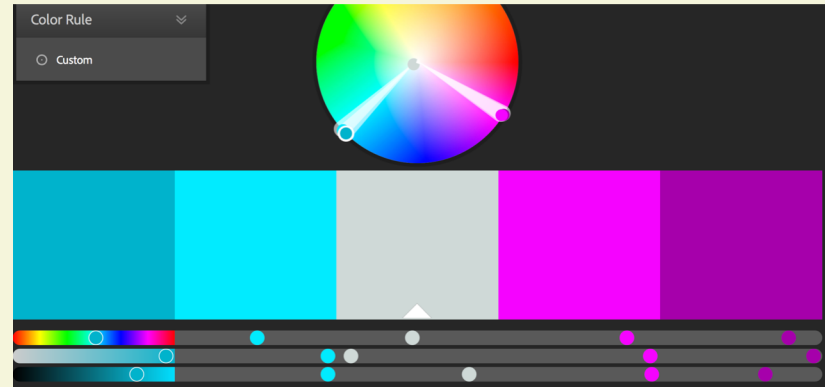
opposite sides of the color wheel



Except when....  
you are using a digital color wheel

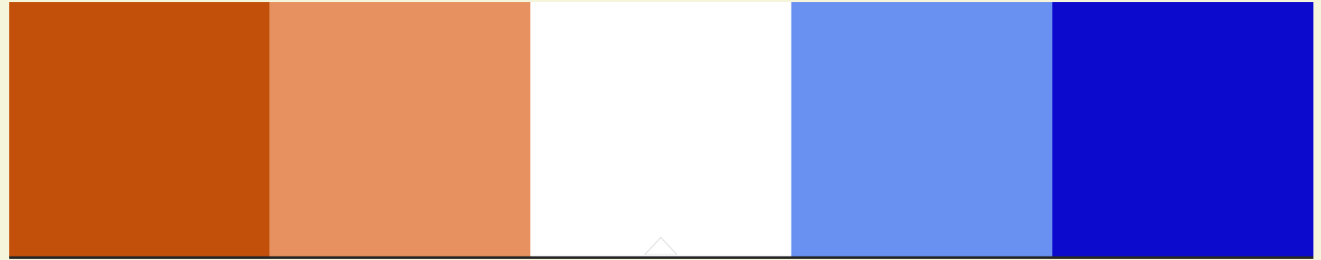
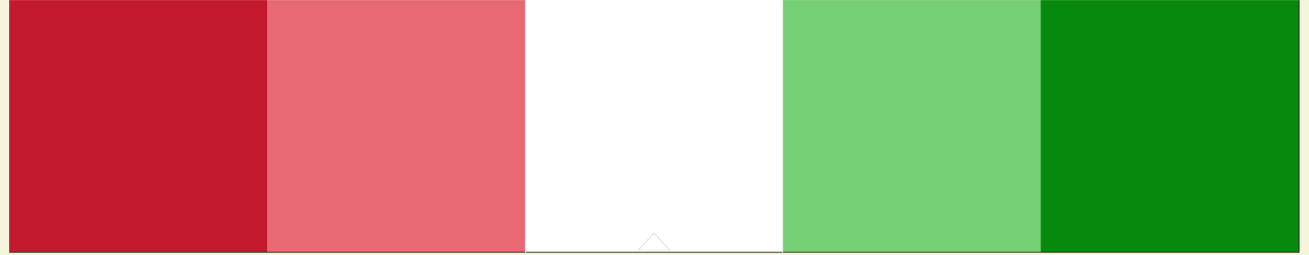


Because you have to squeeze in



Turquoise and Fushia  
somewhere

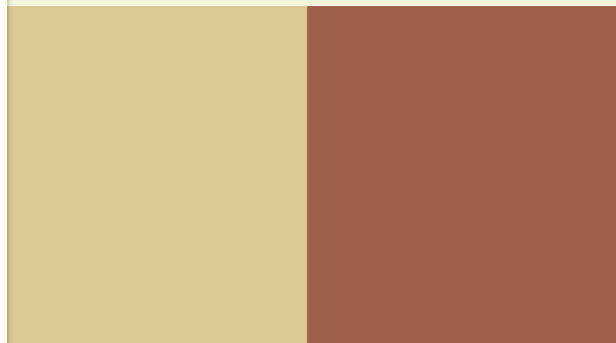
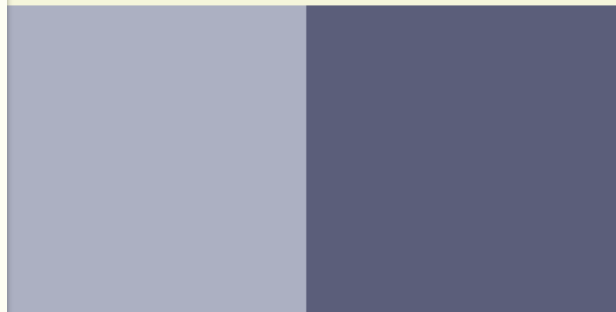
# Complimentary Colors

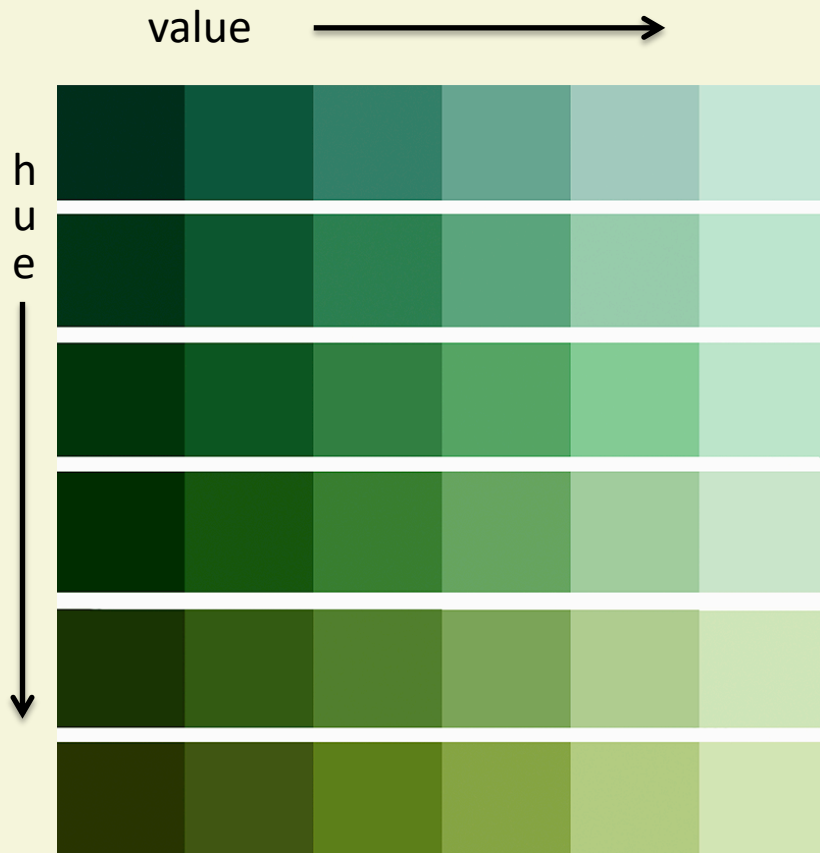


## Analogous Colors



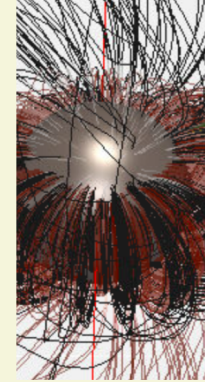
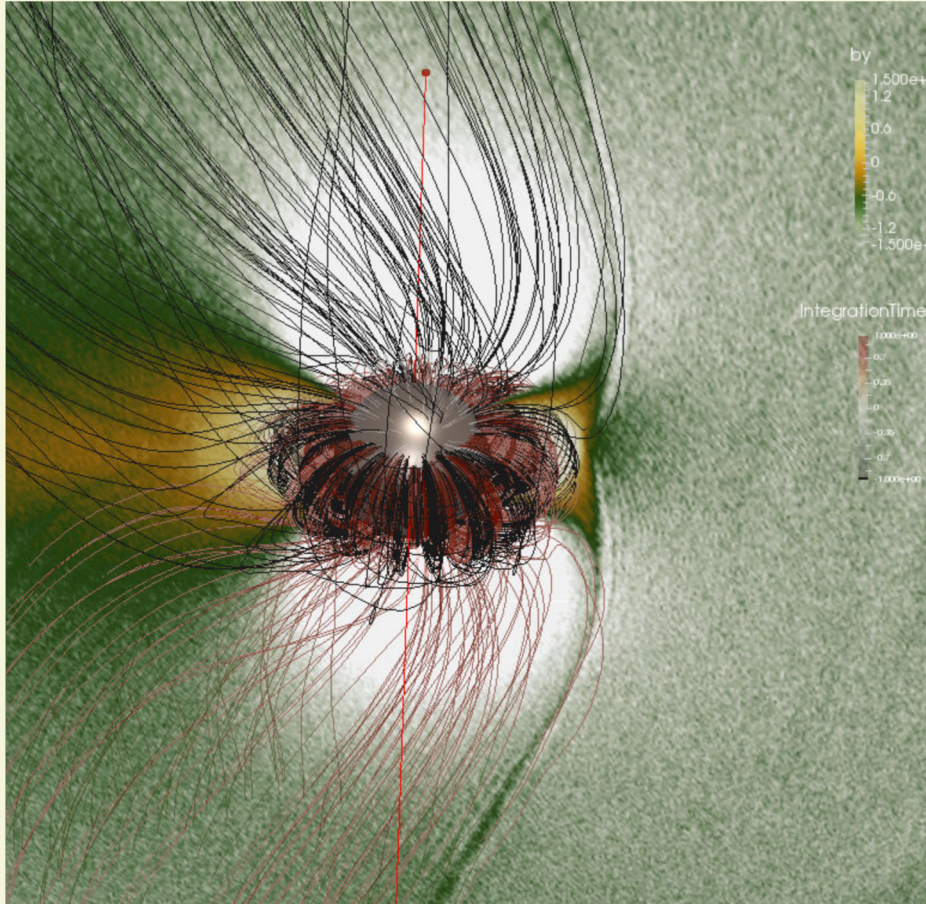
muted compliments





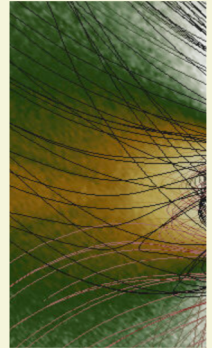
All of these characteristics  
occur within hues as well.

## Employing multiple types of contrast

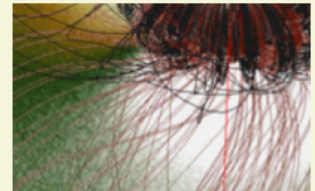


saturation  
and  
value

analogous  
color



complimentary  
color



# Analogous Color

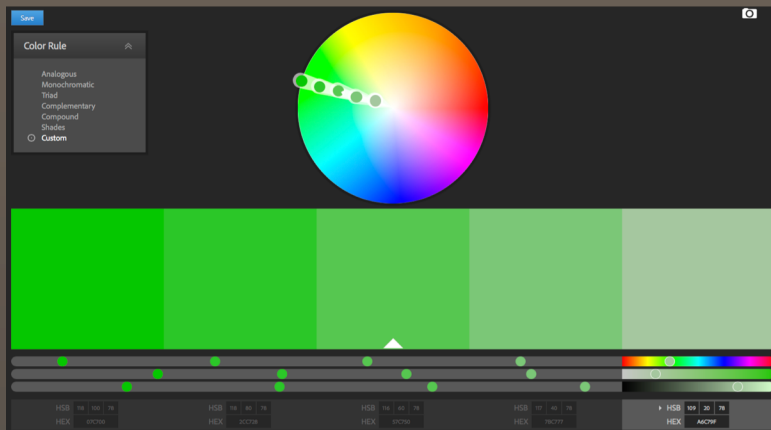
close on the color wheel



note the spiral ...

# SATURATION

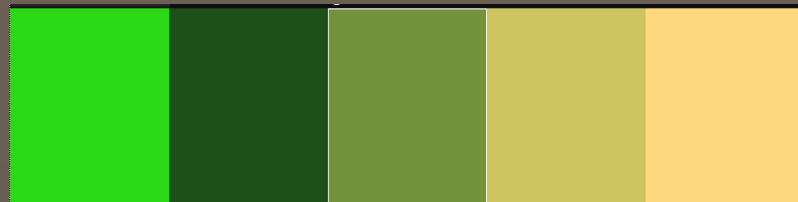
Saturation is  
the amount of gray in the color.



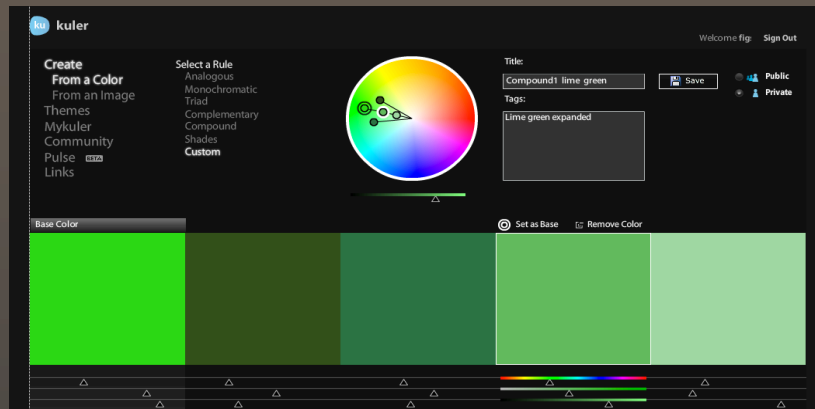
high saturation

low saturation

Weaving  
contrast



Saturation and Hue changes  
hue change - green to yellow



WEAVING saturation and hue changes  
yellow-green, blue-green, yellow-green, blue-green

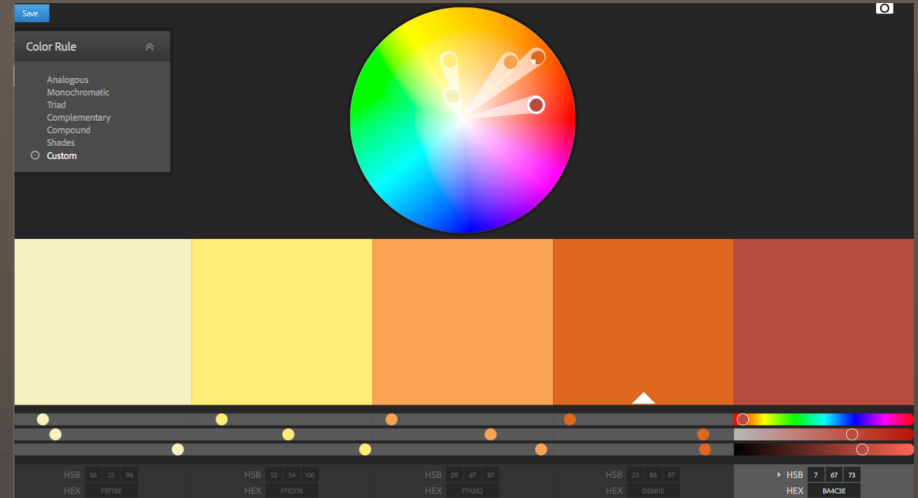
# Analogous Color

close on the color wheel



## Unified but higher contrast contrast

Combining harmony and contrast



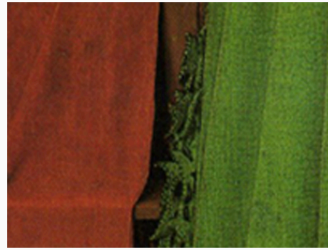
Weaving the saturation levels  
to increase contrast while controlling cacophony.

# Simultaneity of Color





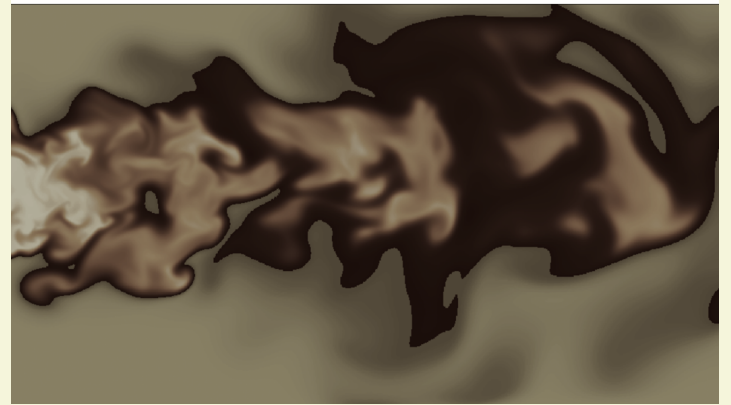
1



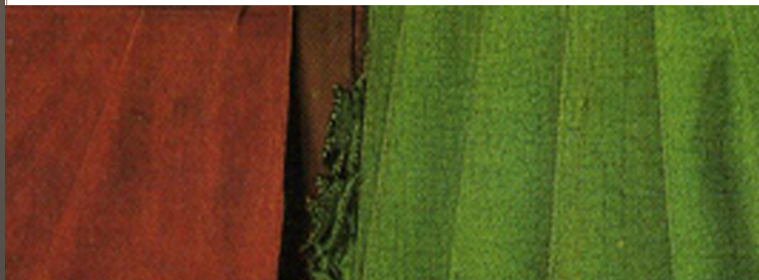
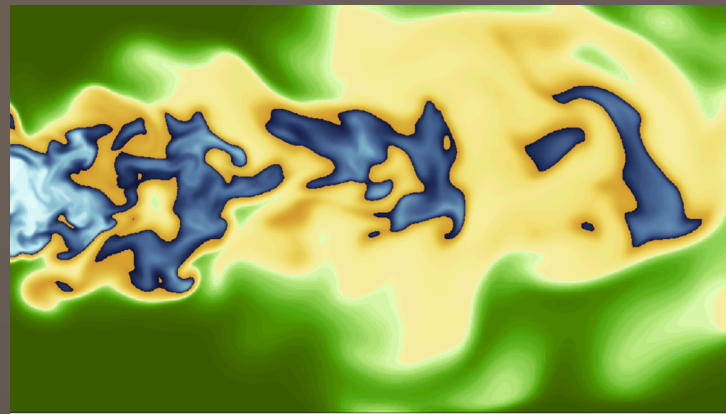
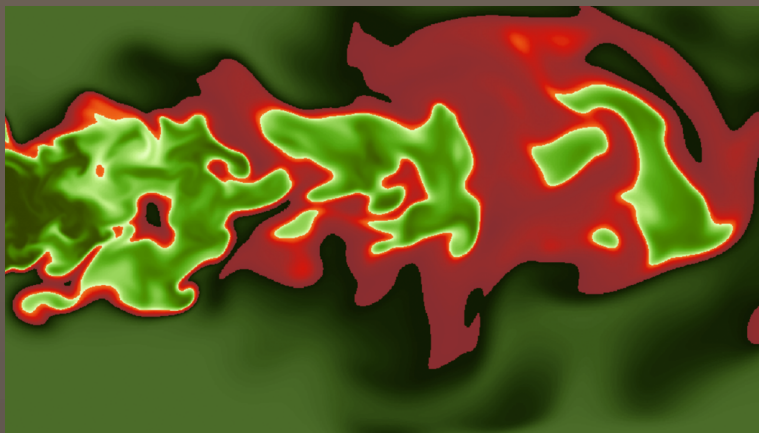
2



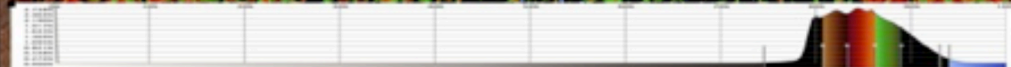
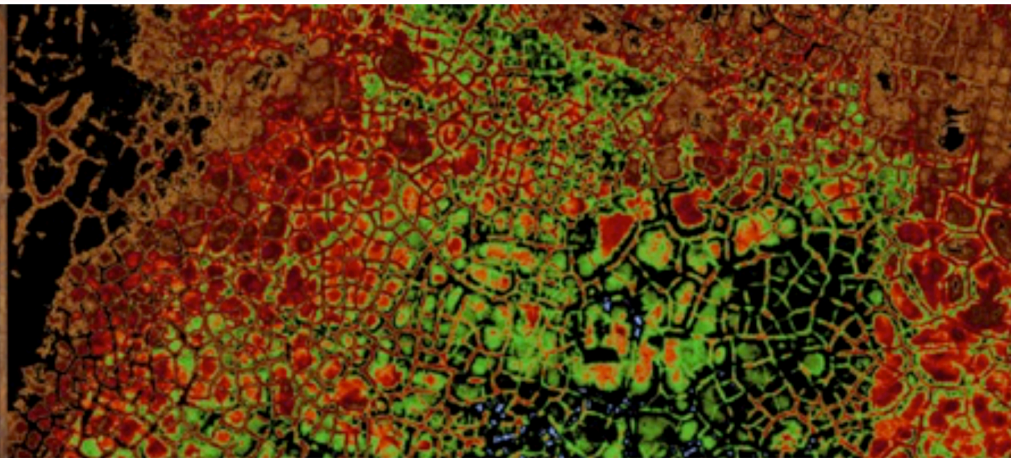
3



VanEyck



QUIZ! What type of contrast?



A

B

C

723027

953827

c7d2c6

eddfed

dbd7aa

7d542b

5e83cf

8fb764

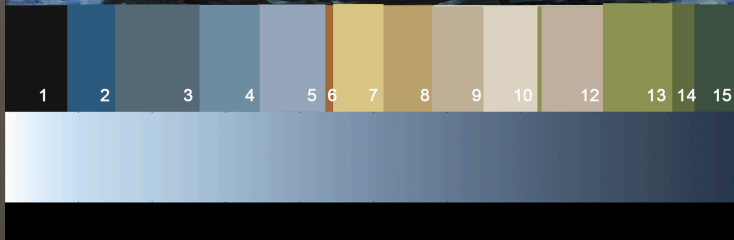
4f7e43

5e4b2a

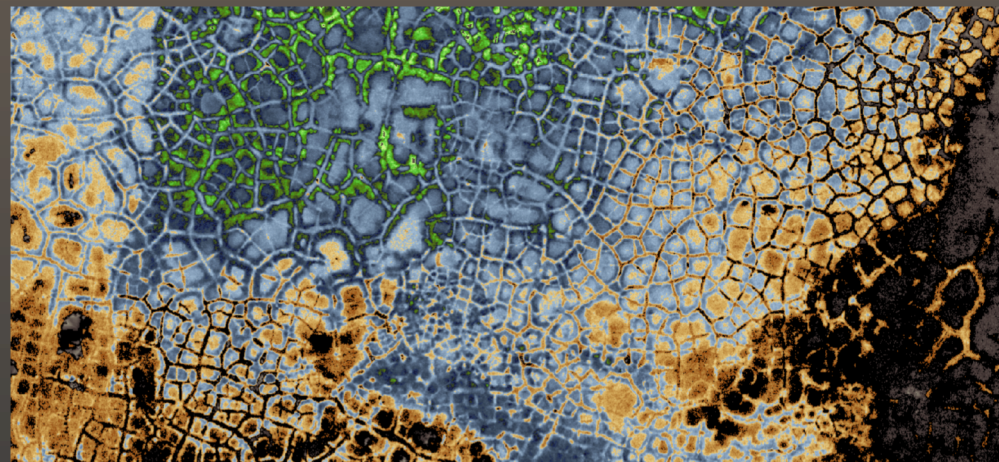
2d1e1a

10100e

Colormaps: A. VanEyck Brown, B. 1028gr2, c. yel15



Underlying contrast type?

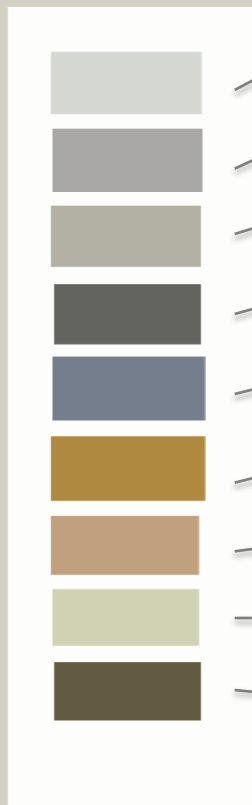


# Neutrals

the power  
of neutrals

a little color goes  
a long way





neutral gray

cool gray

warm gray

dark warm gray

medium cool blue gray

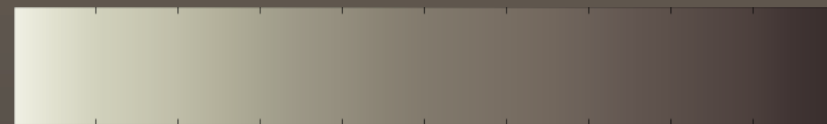
ochre

warm taupe

light cool gray taupe

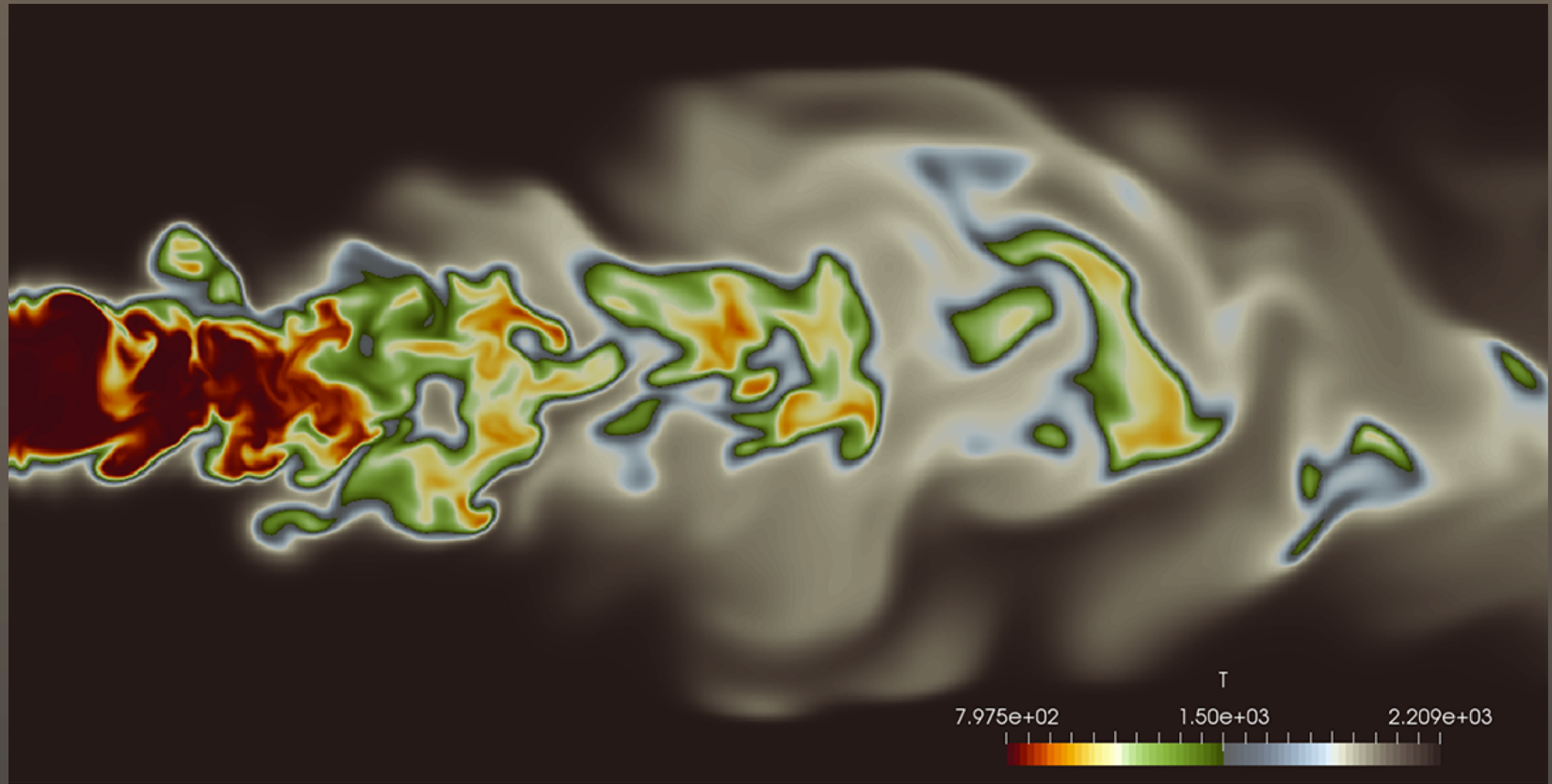
dark cool green gray

medium warm gray



Grays frame the focus colors.

red is important, gray is not....



cool warm and muted cool warm

# The Rules:

## A. Contrast hierarchy:

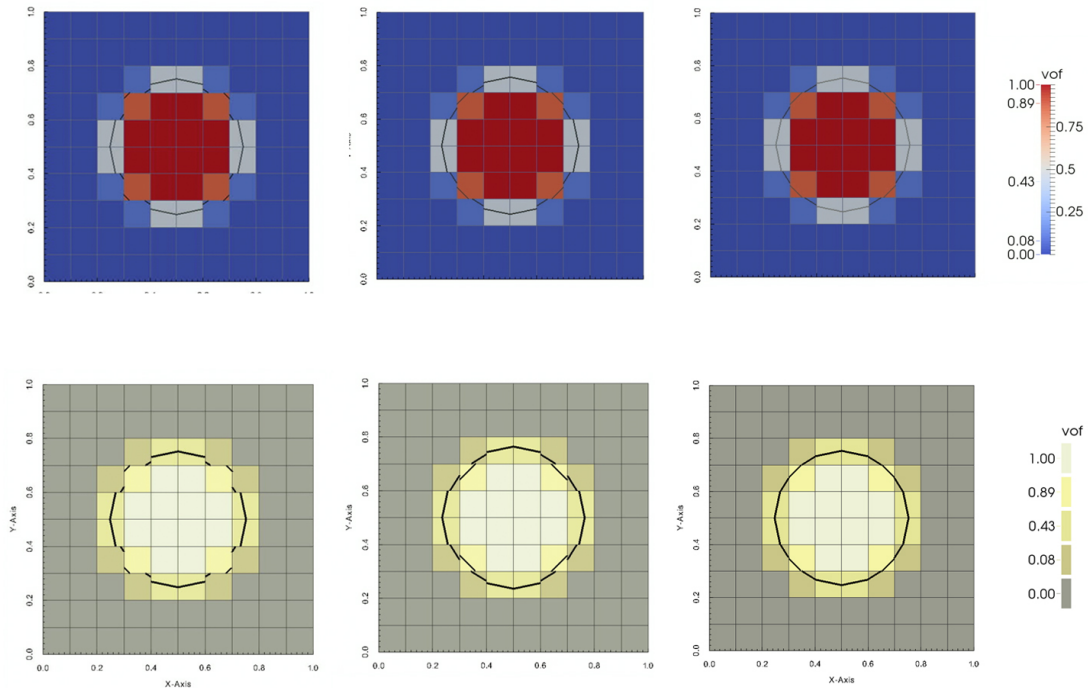
1. value / luminance
2. cool / warm
3. everything else

B. Two types of contrast  
are stronger than one.

C. Your **background** choice is as  
important as your colormap.

D. Cognitively you have a **contrast budget**.  
Use only what you need and you will not go hungry.  
Neutral colors are your friend.

Let's get practical.

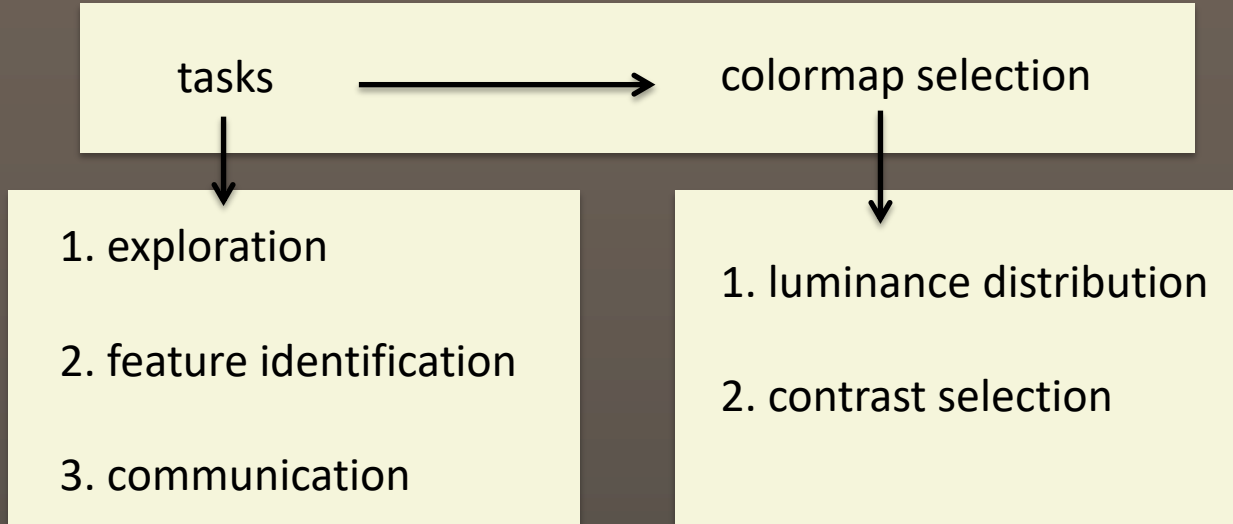


The important element is the position of the black line and how close it is to a true circle.

The second most important is the position of line within the light blue, light red and light yellow squares

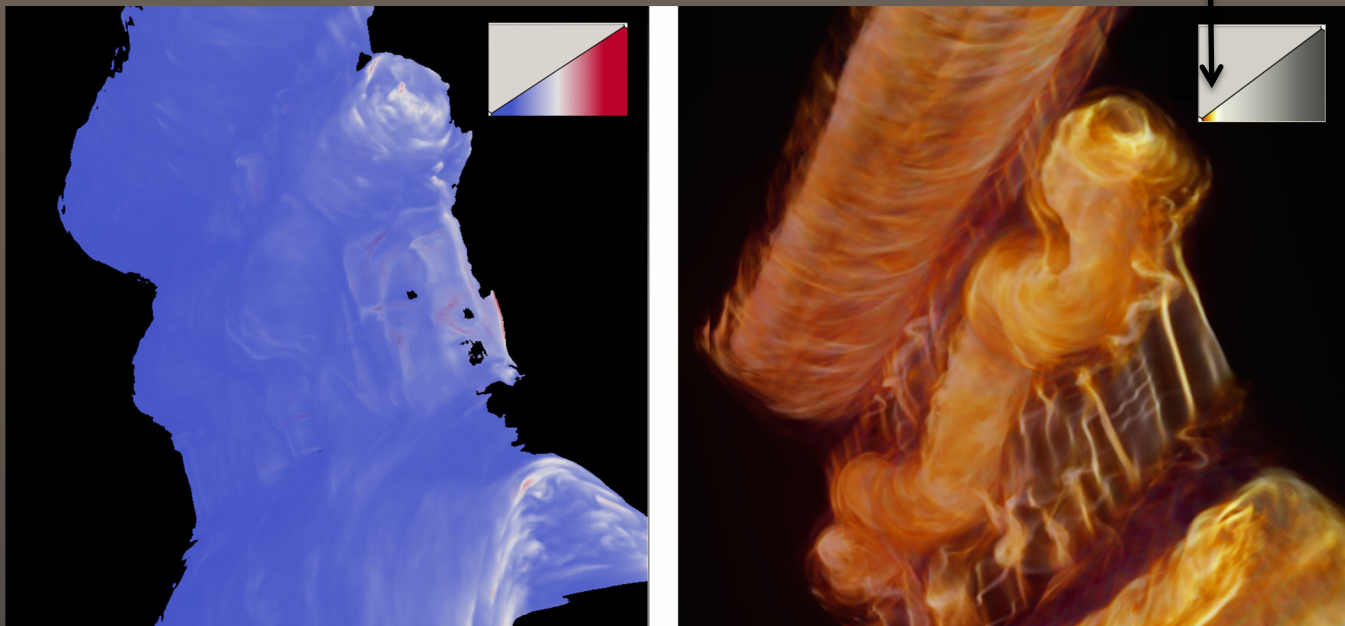
Place the contrast  
where you need it,  
but watch the volume.

## Follow the task.....

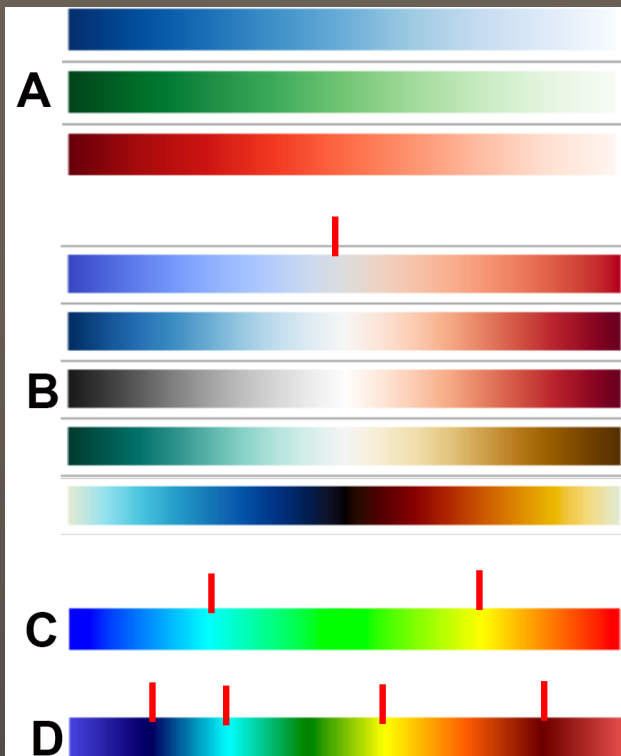


## Contrast distribution

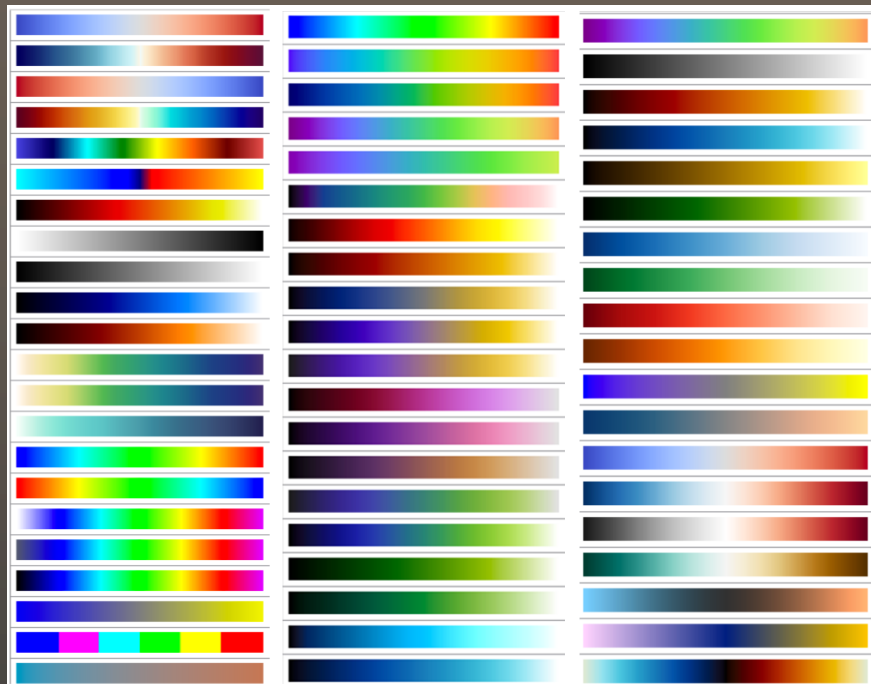
Aligning the contrast with the data



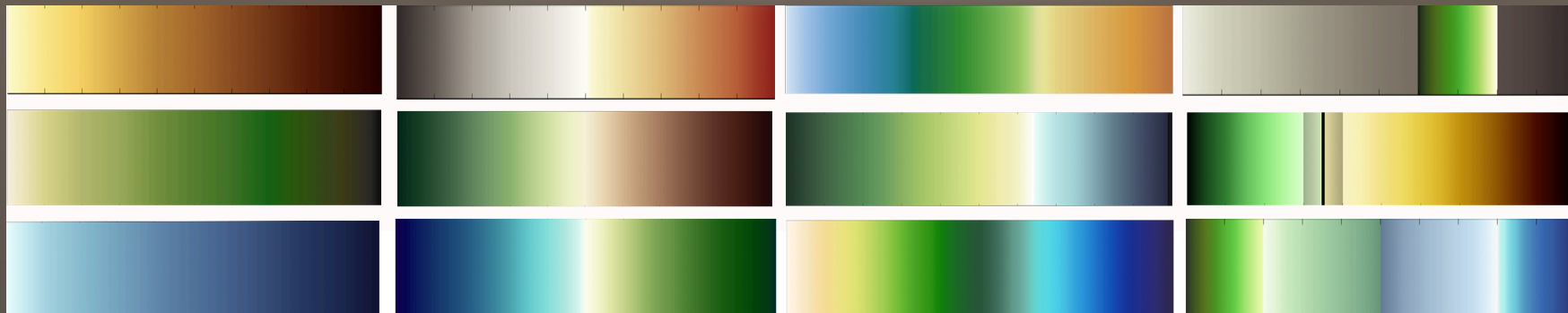
Luminance



Why ParaView's 97 colors  
really provide to 4 to 5 options.



# Luminance Distribution



linear

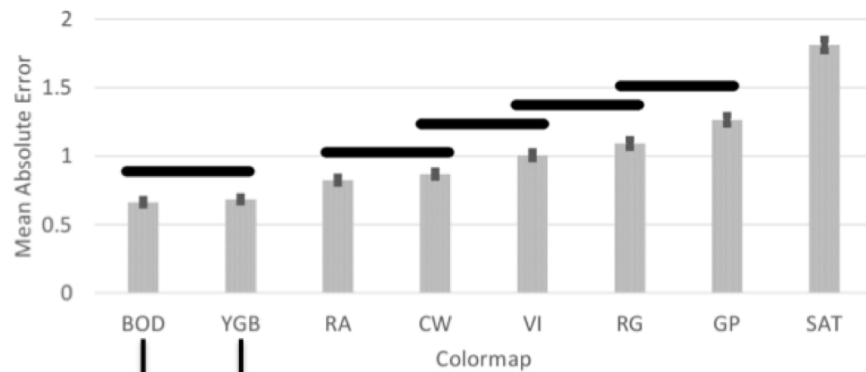
divergent

alternate luminance

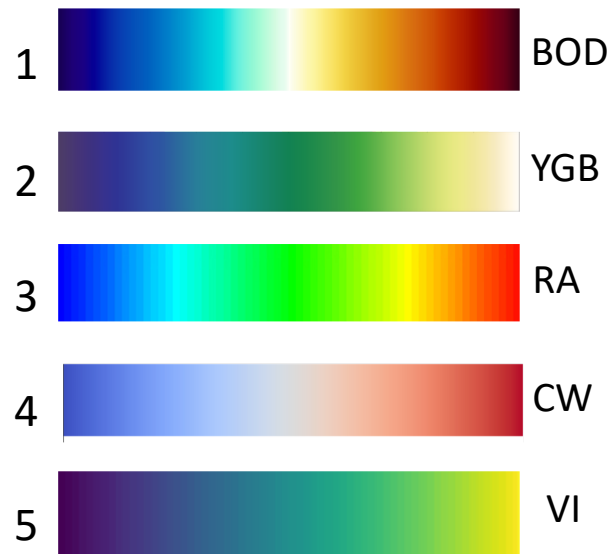
structured colormaps

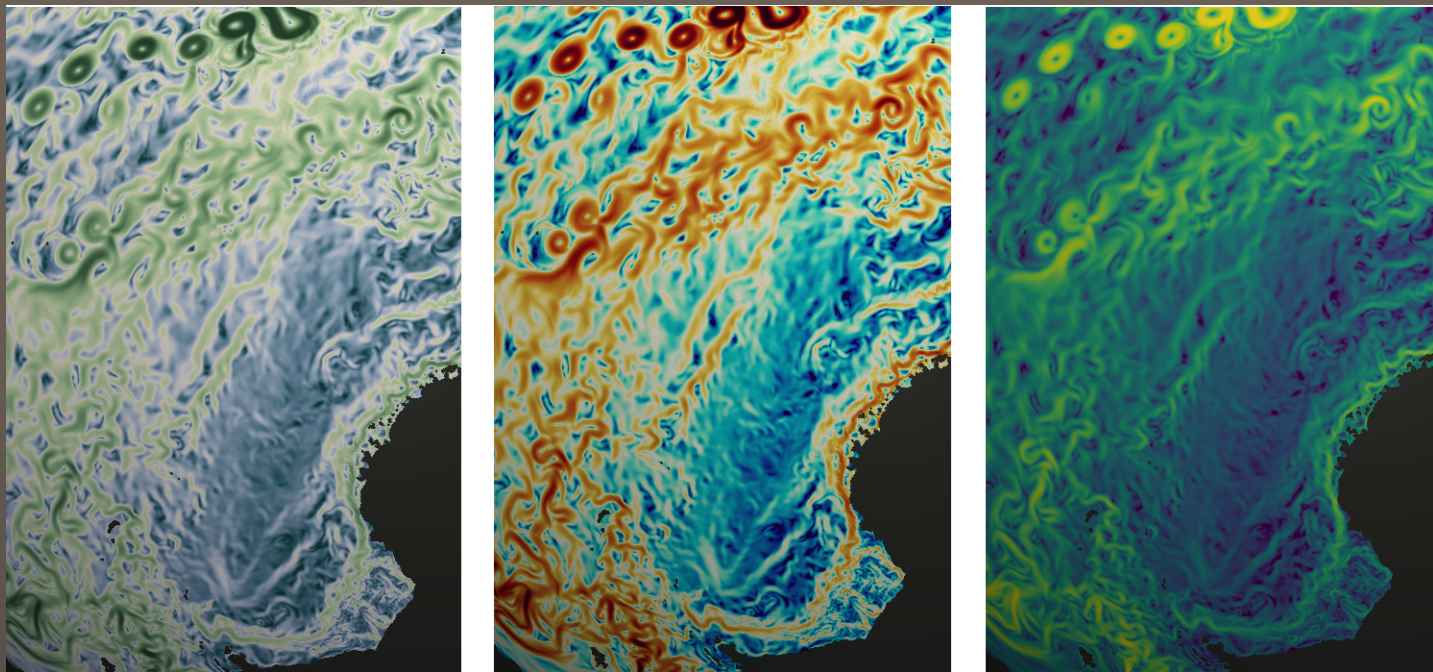
For focus and or resolution power,  
match the luminance structure of your data and or areas of importance.

### Comparison of Mean Error - All Colormaps

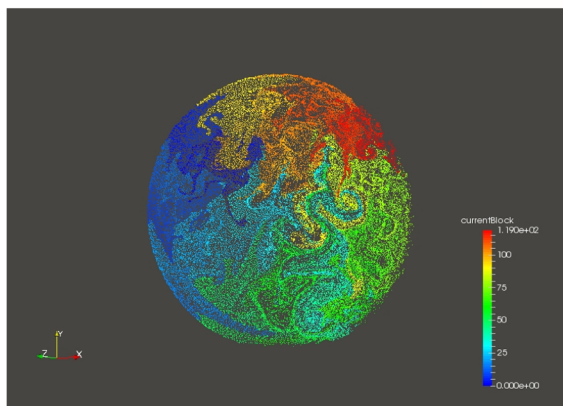
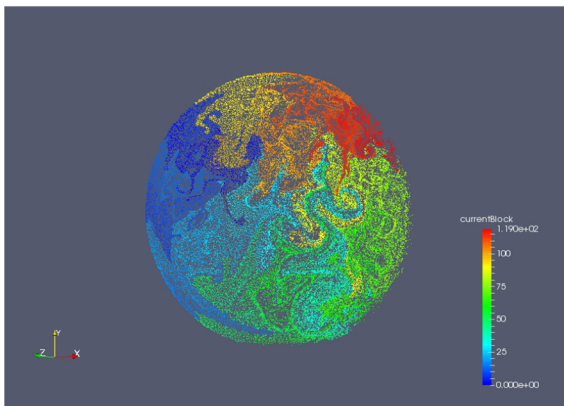


### Discriminative Power





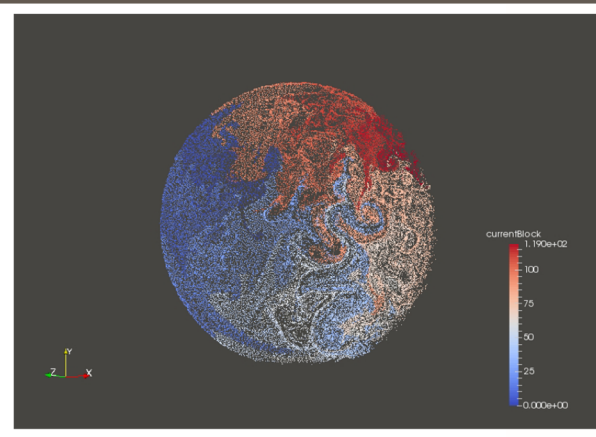
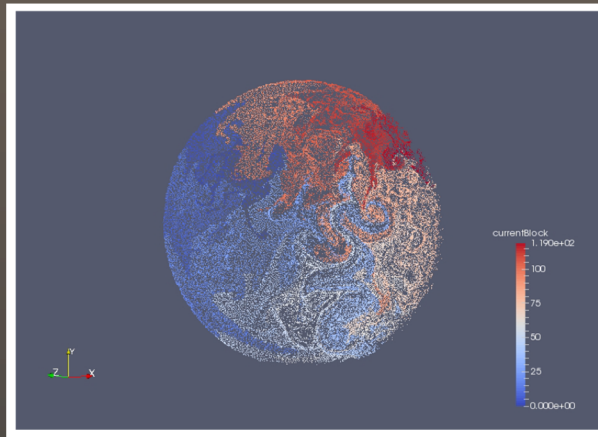
What is your task?      What is your goal?



Change the Paraview  
background default!  
Your life and vis will be calmer.

RGB 107 107 107

The only difference is  
the background color.

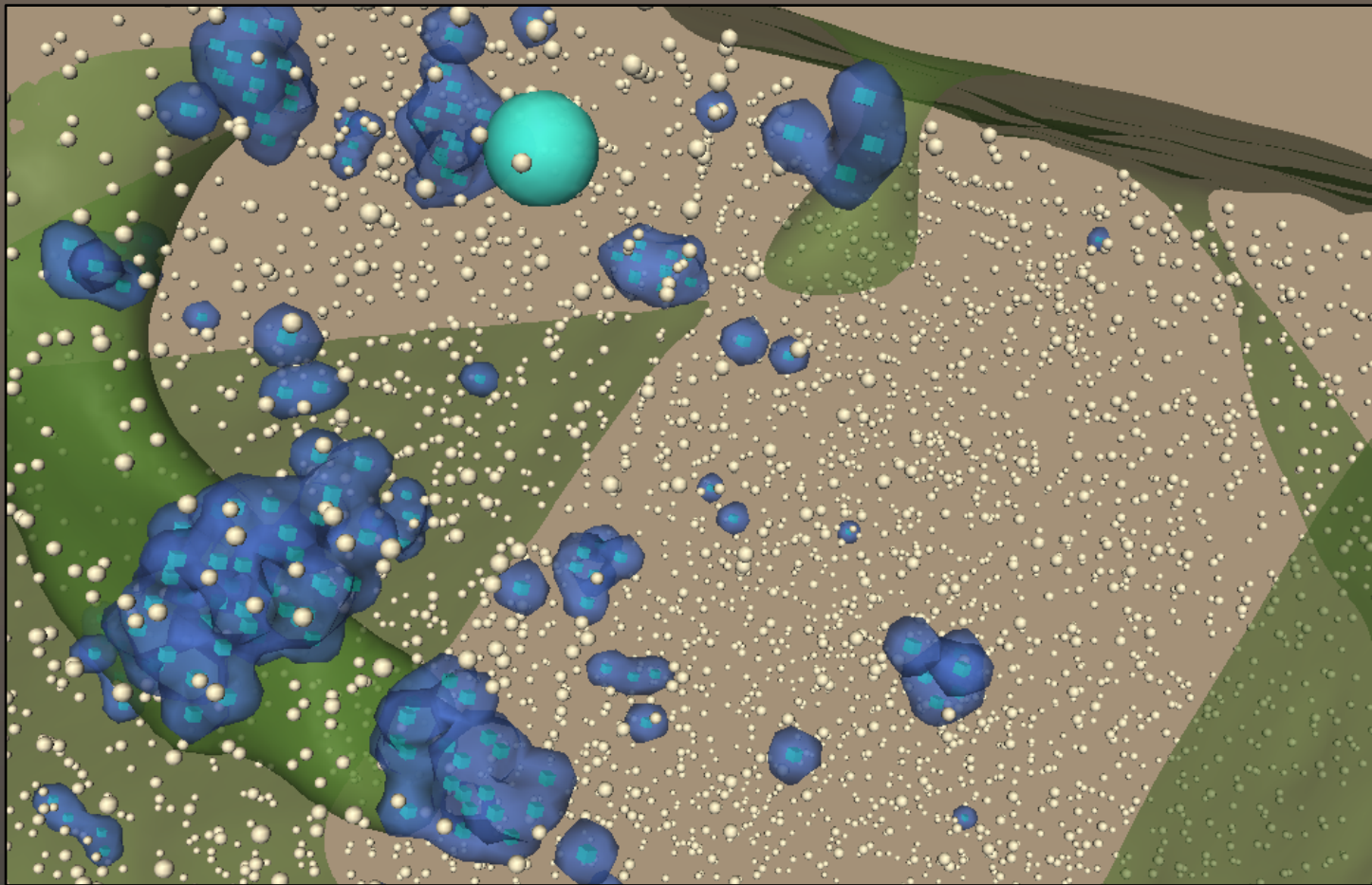


In general, cool colormaps such as the ParaView default,  
need a warm background but in reality,  
the ParaView background is almost always worse.

A few words about  
Color Sets ...

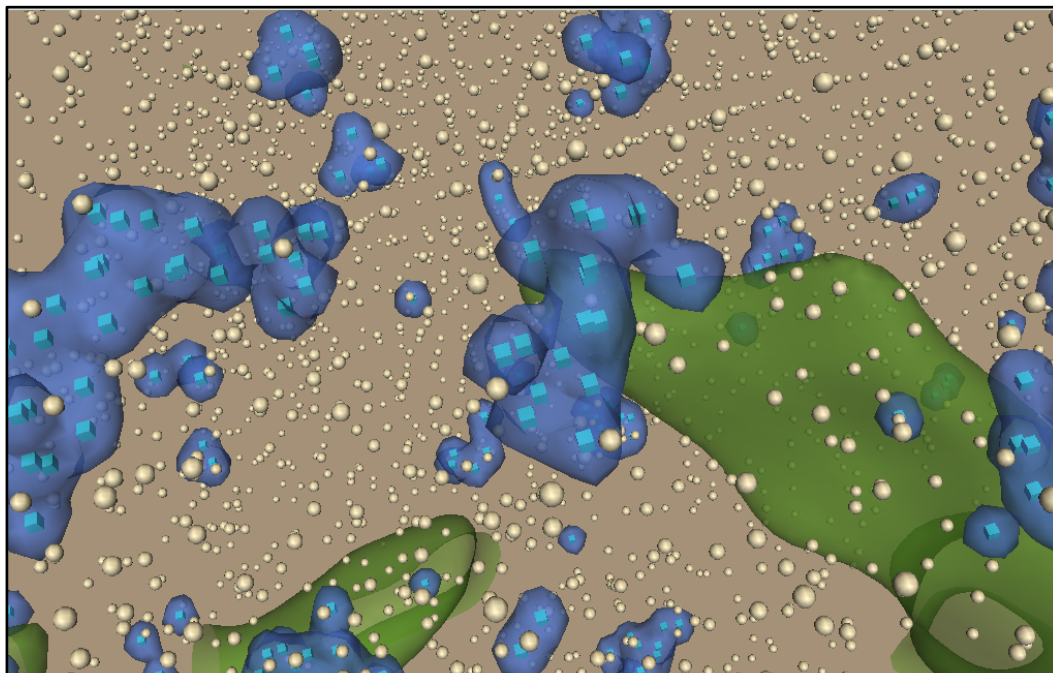
# Color Hierarchy

Using color to  
organize,  
categorize  
and direct attention



# Color sets

Ready-made color sets?  
at [SciVisColor.org](https://SciVisColor.org)  
of course!



100 126 187



101 137 54



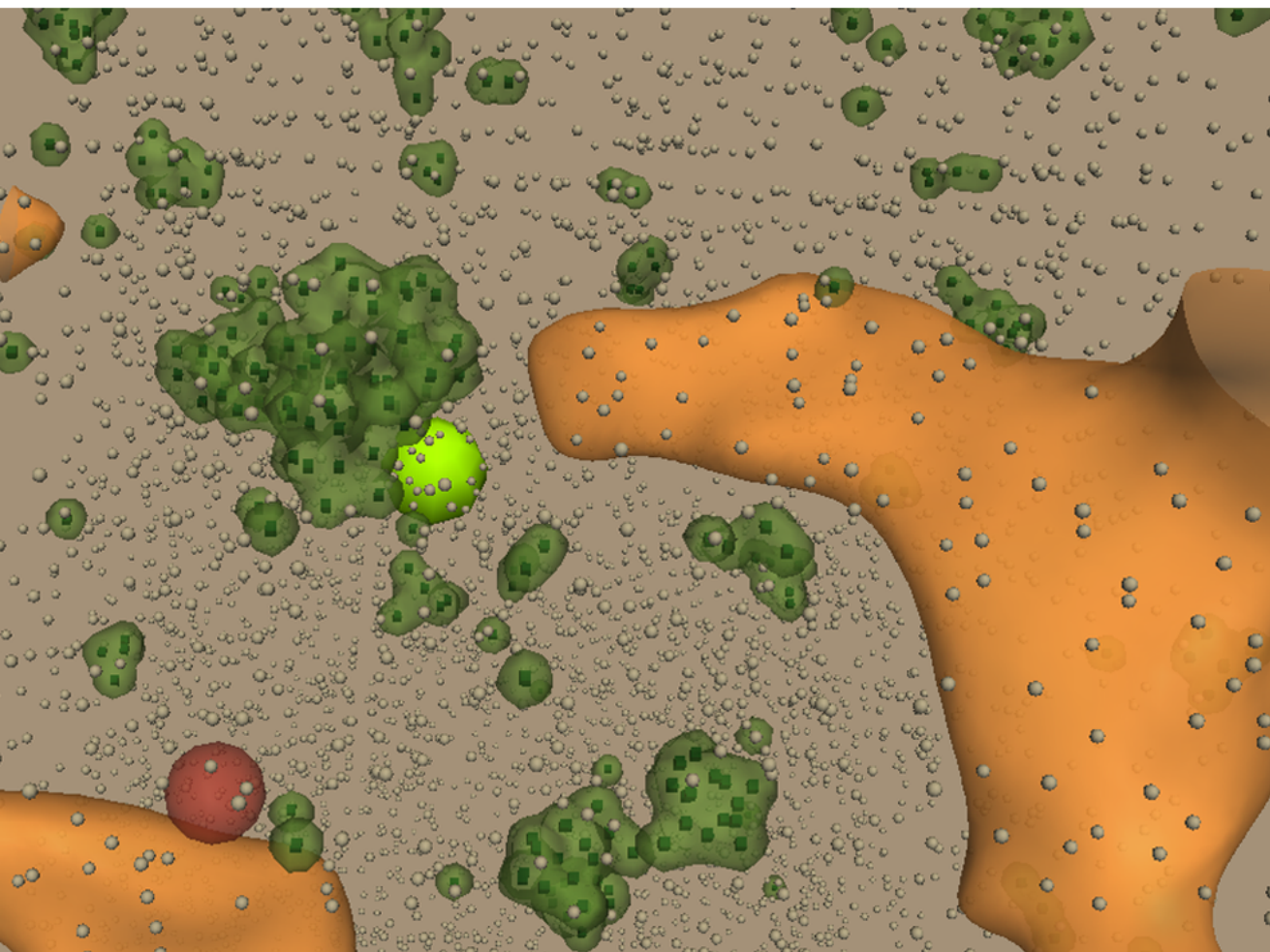
179 161 136



242 231 199



110 204 230



related



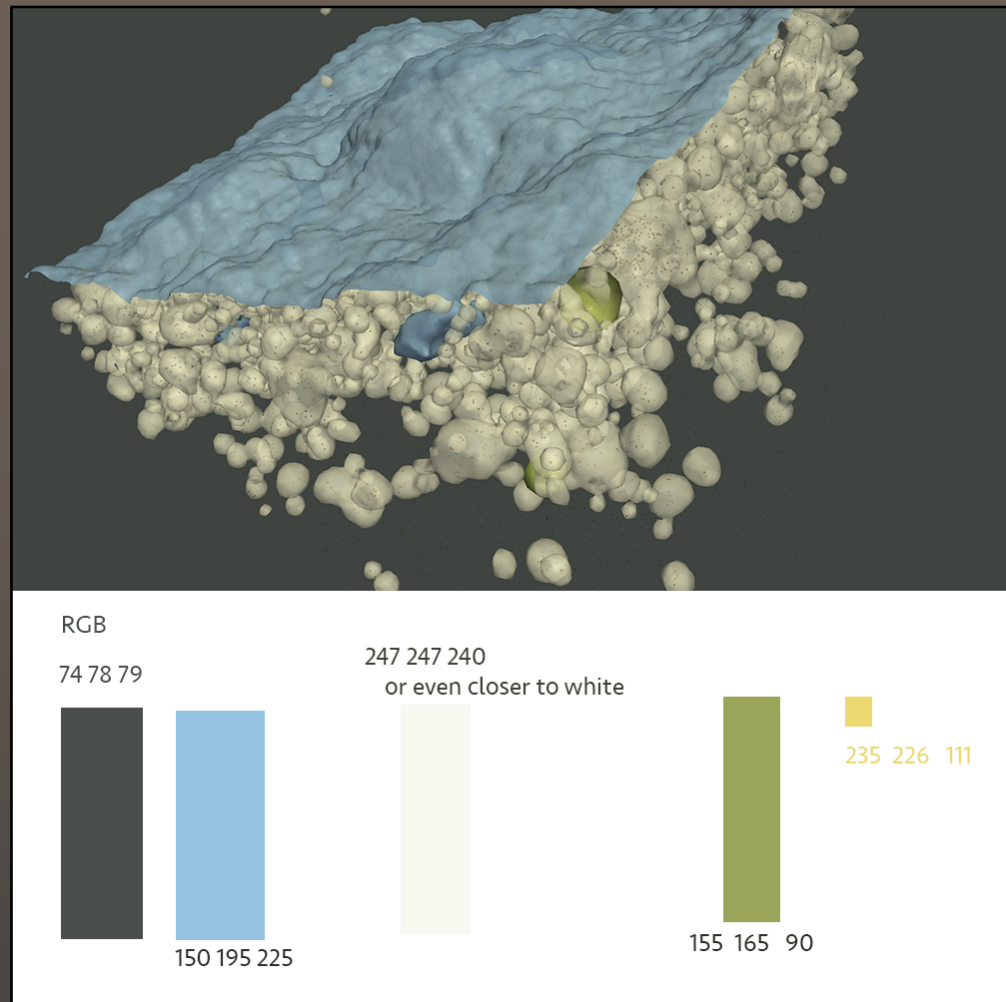
different



related

# Visualization and Analysis of Large-Scale Atomistic Simulations of Plasma–Surface Interactions

Wathsala Widanagamaachchi, Karl D. Hammond,  
Li-Ta Lo,<sup>3</sup> Brian D. Wirth, Francesca Samsel,  
Christopher Sewell, James Ahrens, Valerio Pascucci



## Color Sets

f0e095

afd47e

72c3cf

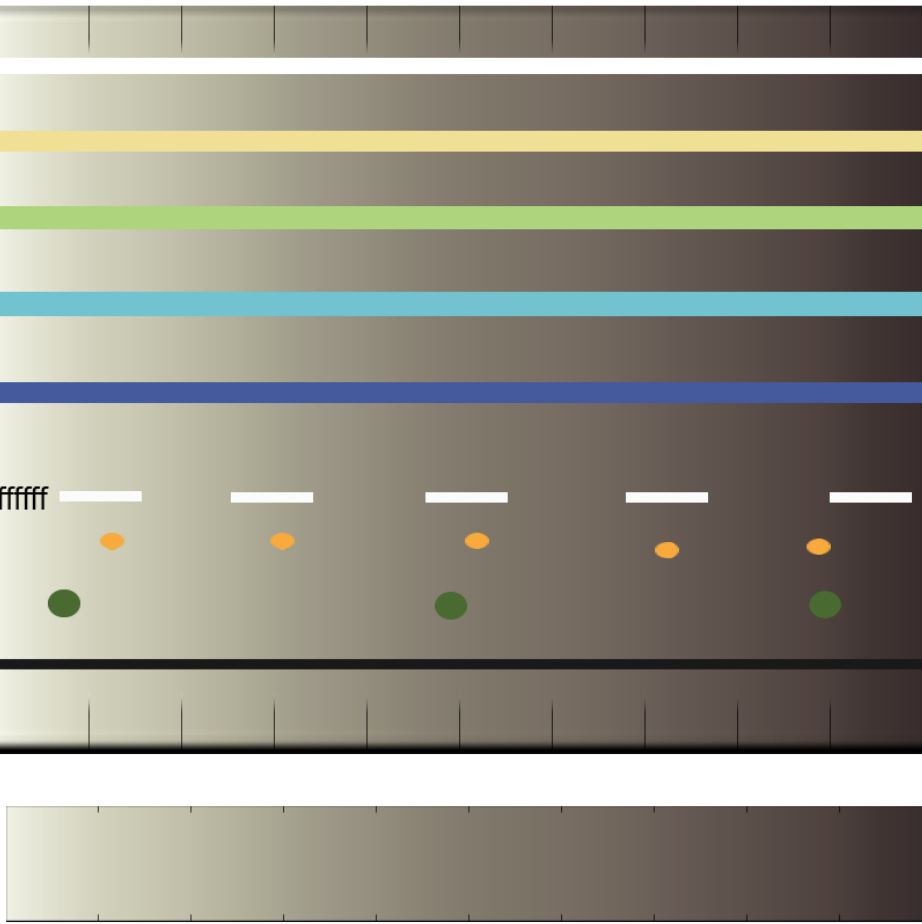
455a9d

f8ab3c

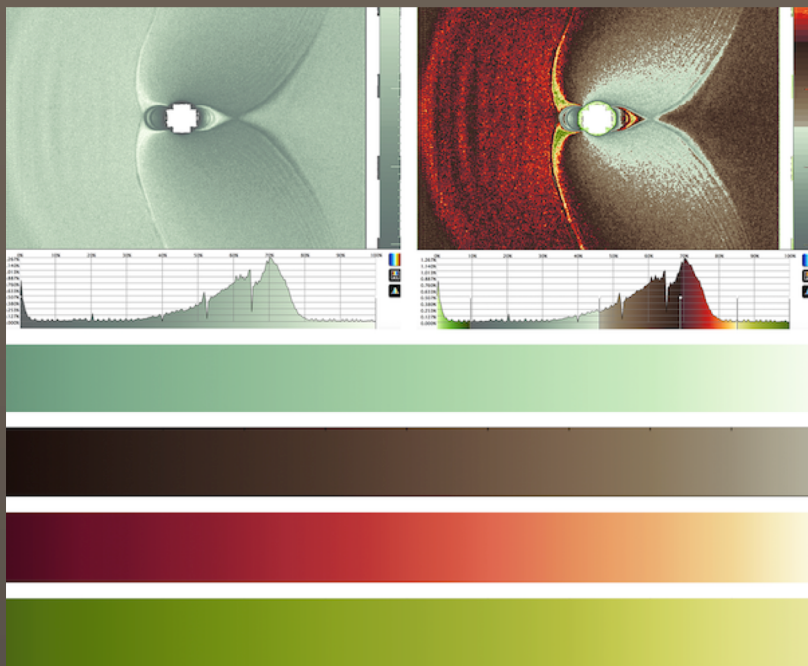
496a31

030303

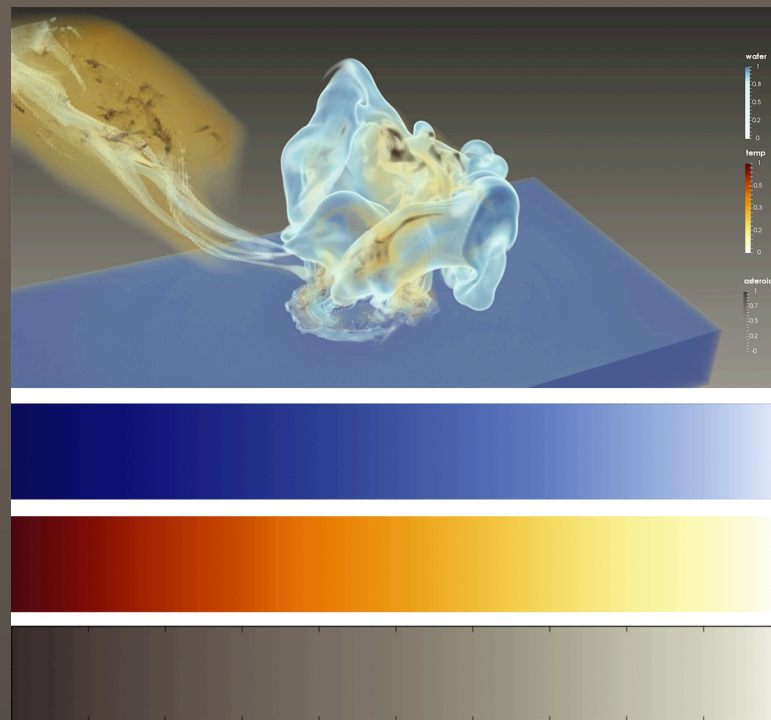
ffffff



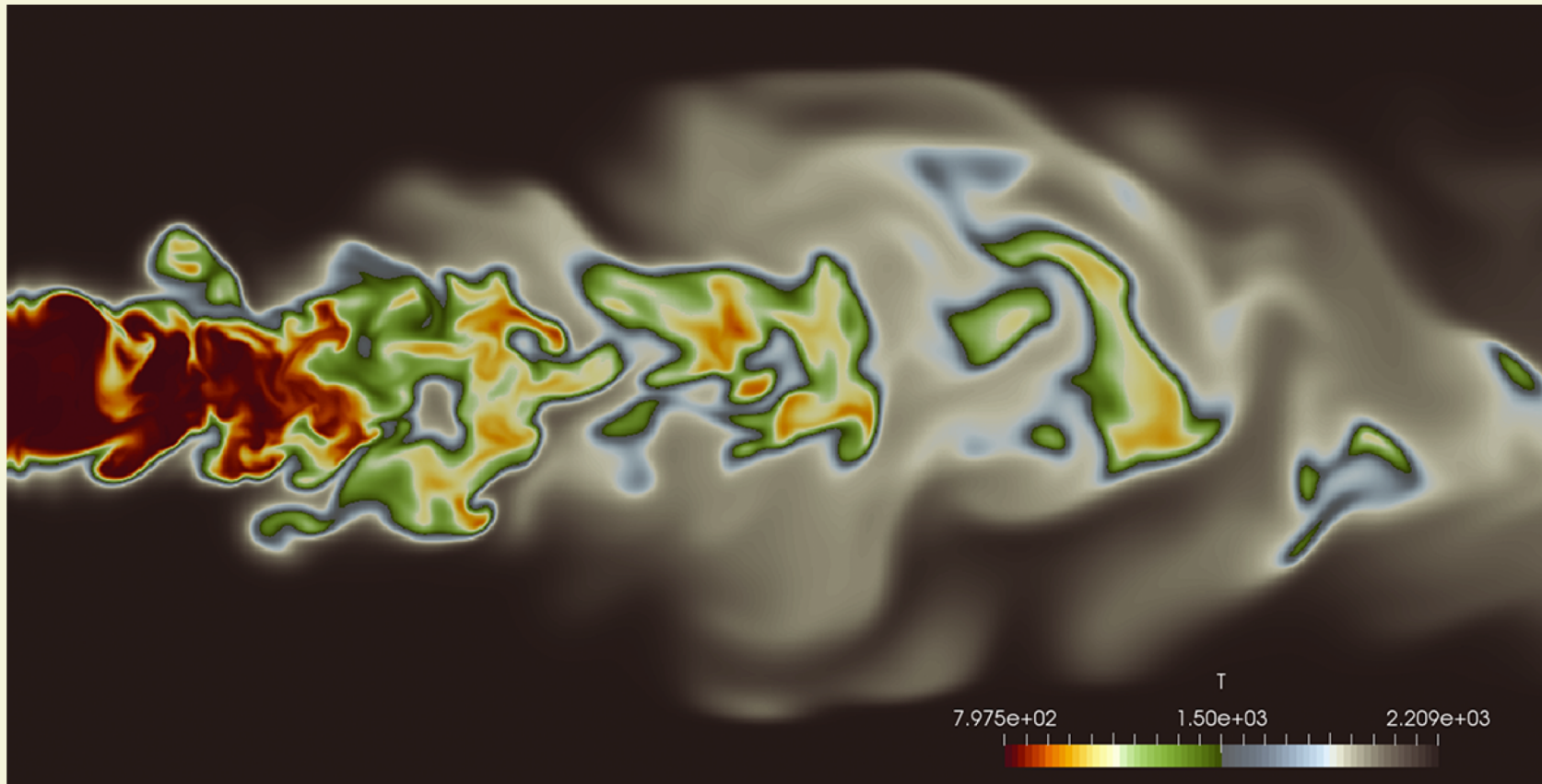
Gray 5 colormap



3D colorsets

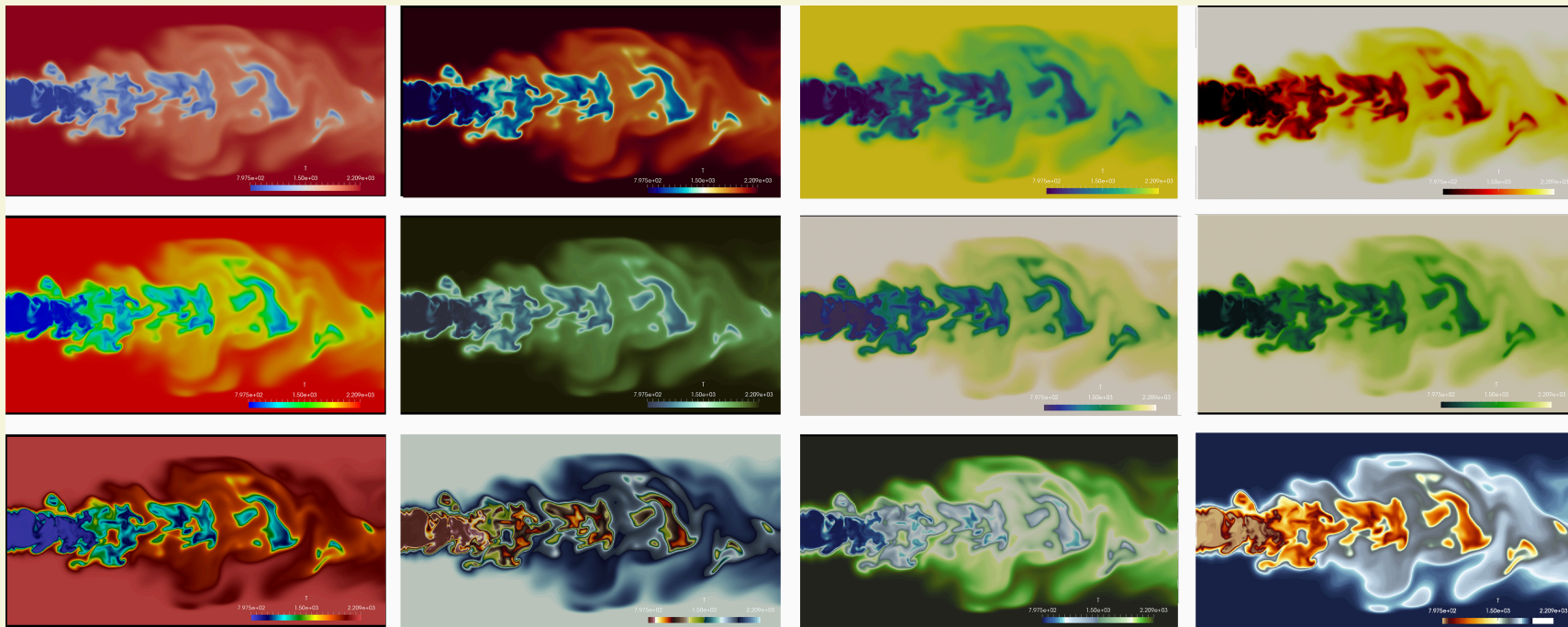


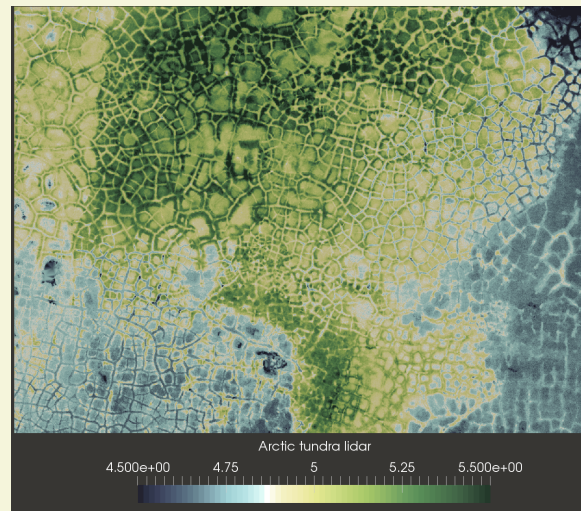
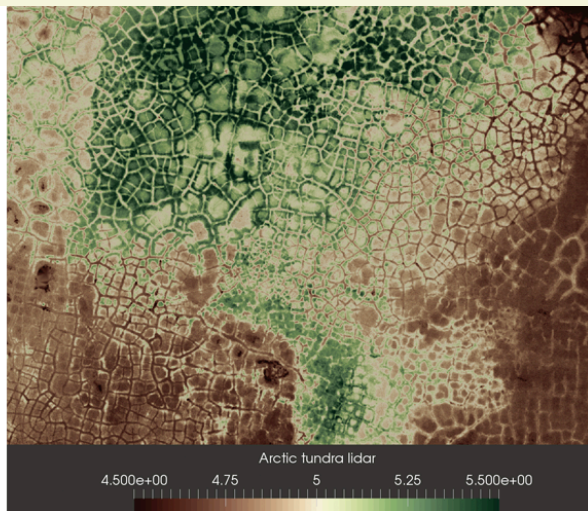
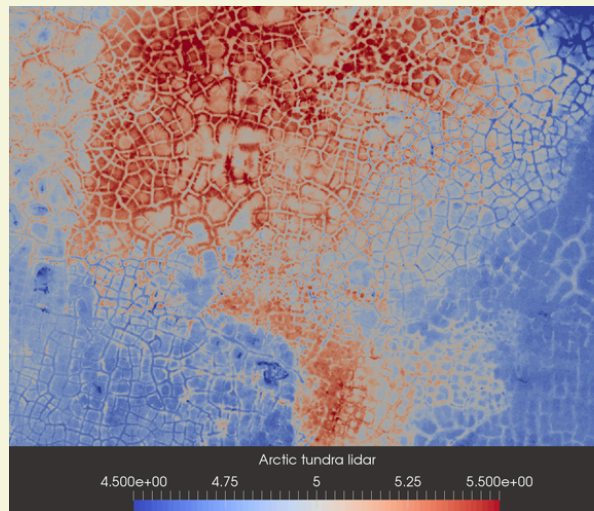
Blue2, yel15, gray5



*Feel the Wave!*

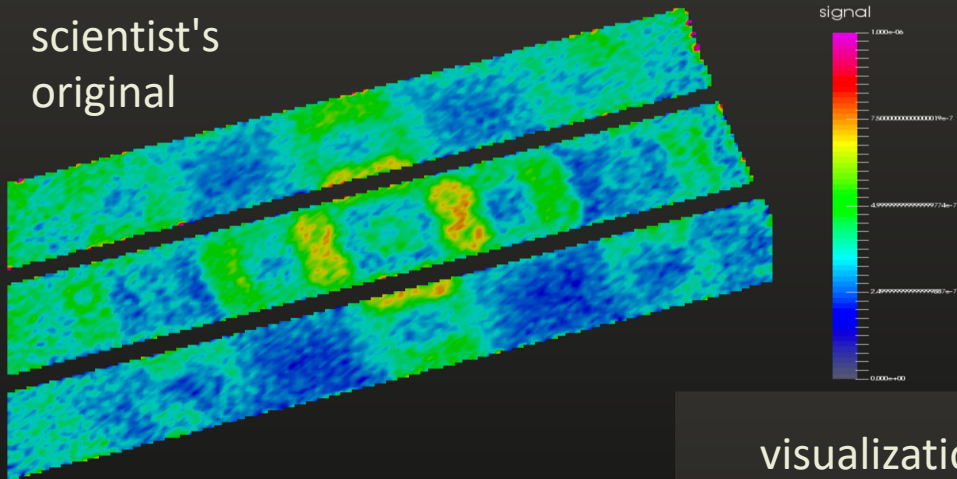
# Comparisons





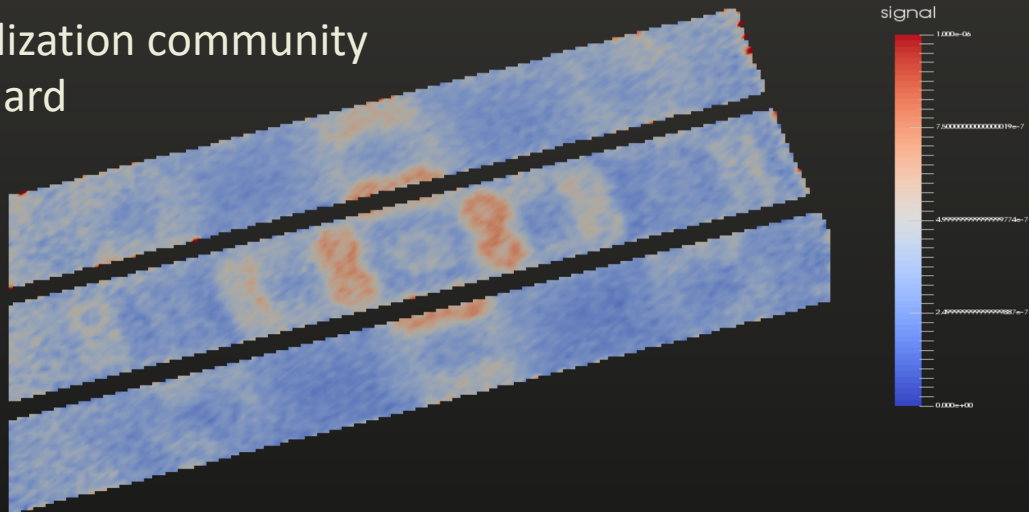
Intuition

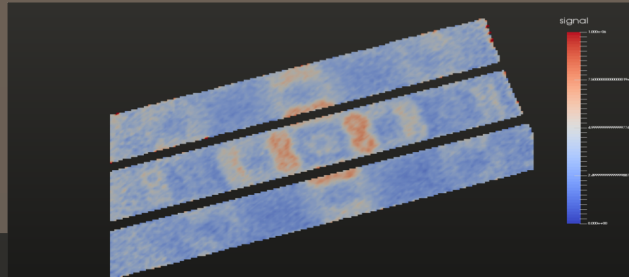
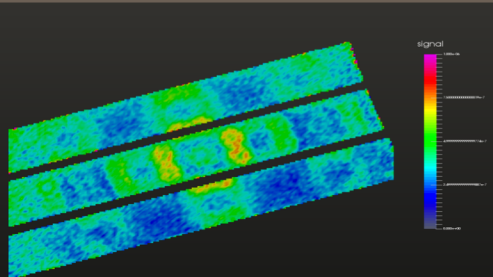
scientist's  
original



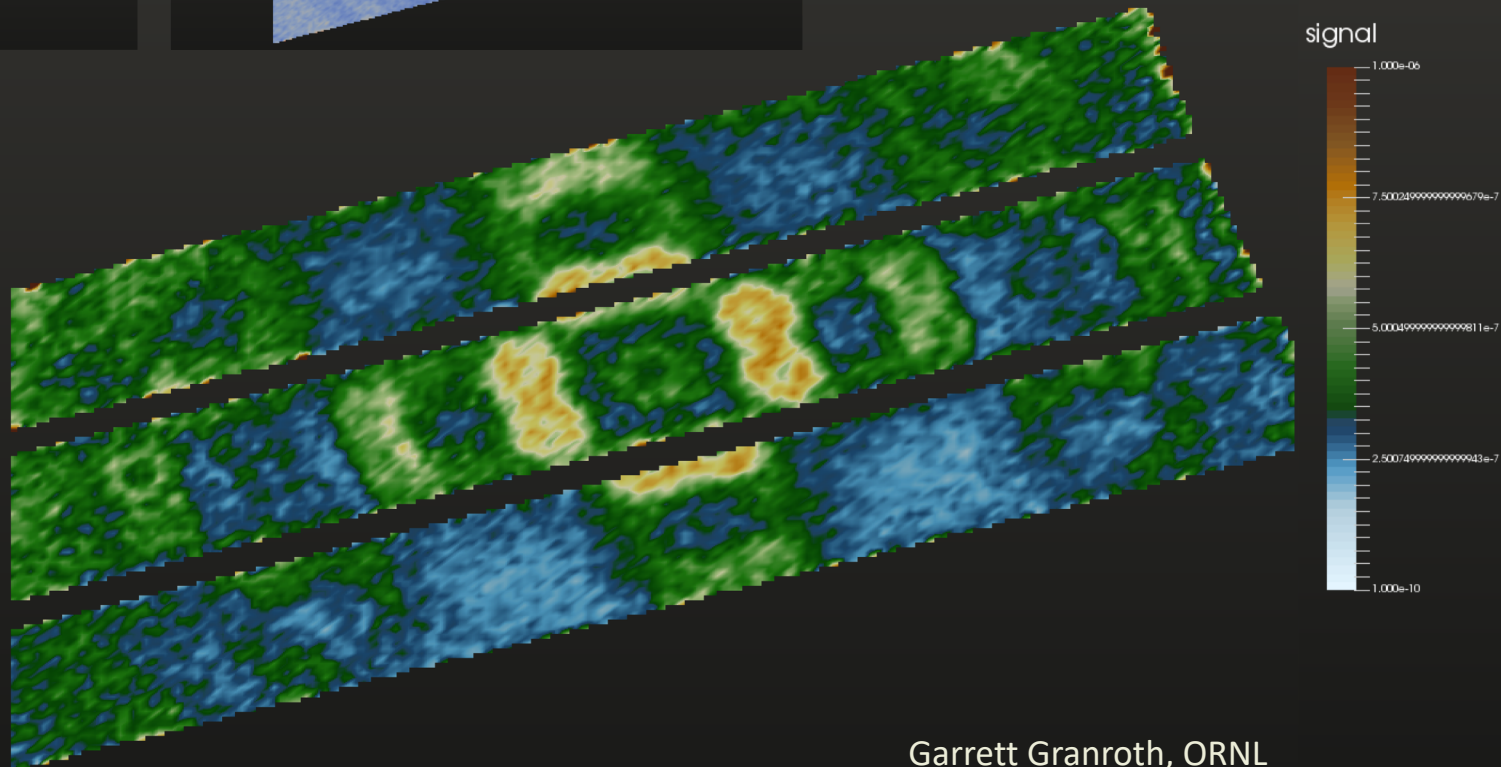
Our work starts with the  
scientist and  
their current needs.

visualization community  
standard





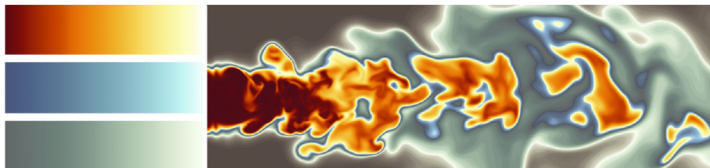
effective, quiet, harmony  
exposing detail



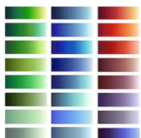
Garrett Granroth, ORNL

was very happy.

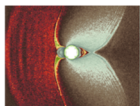
## Sci Vis Color



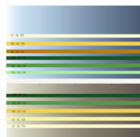
Colormaps, Color Tools and Color Strategies for Scientific Visualization



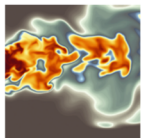
Color Maps



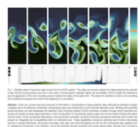
ColorMoves - ACES



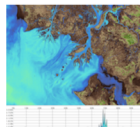
Color Sets



Color Strategies

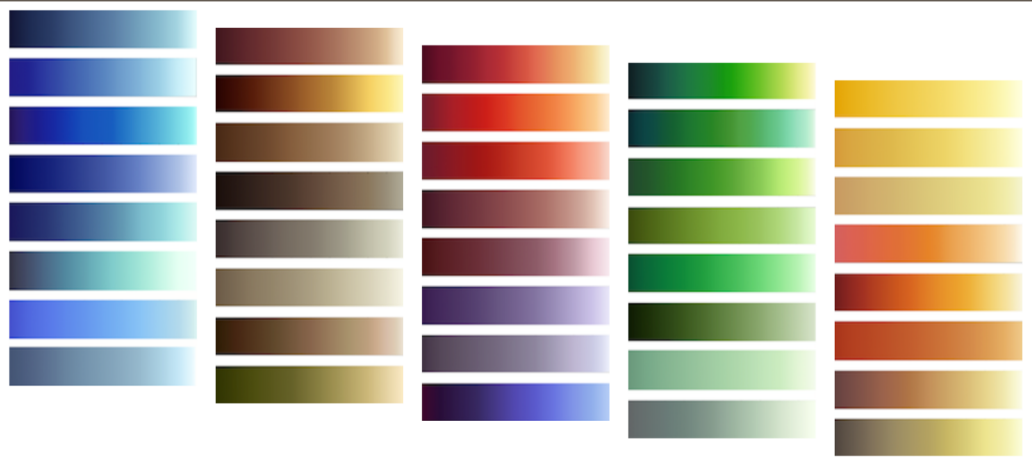


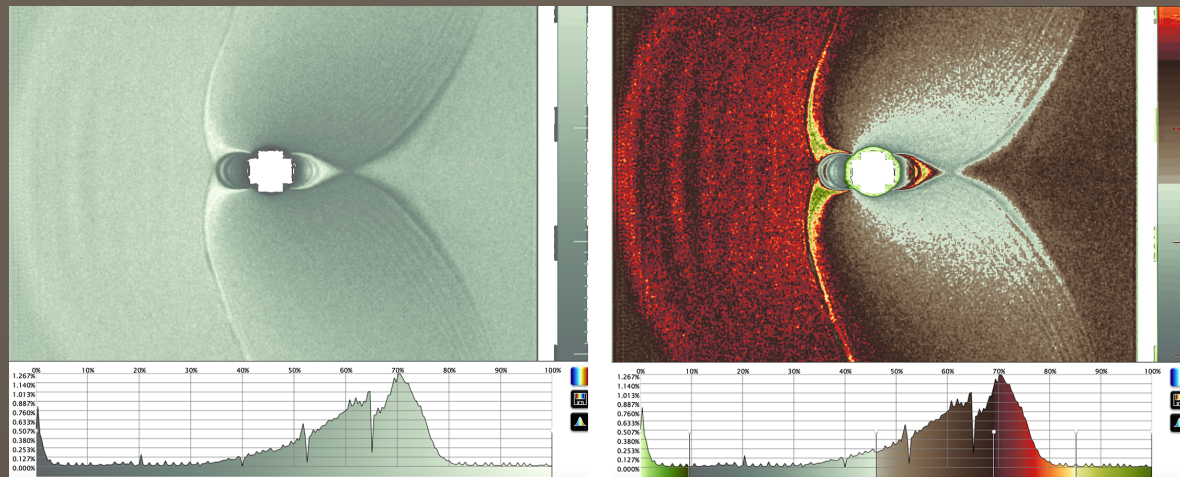
Publications & Projects



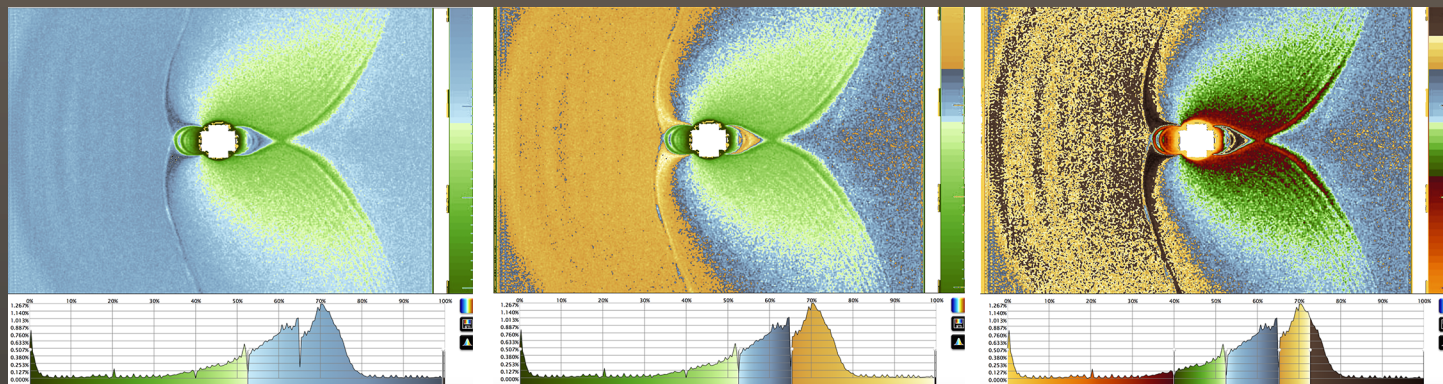
ColorMoves  
The Environment

# SciVisColor.Org

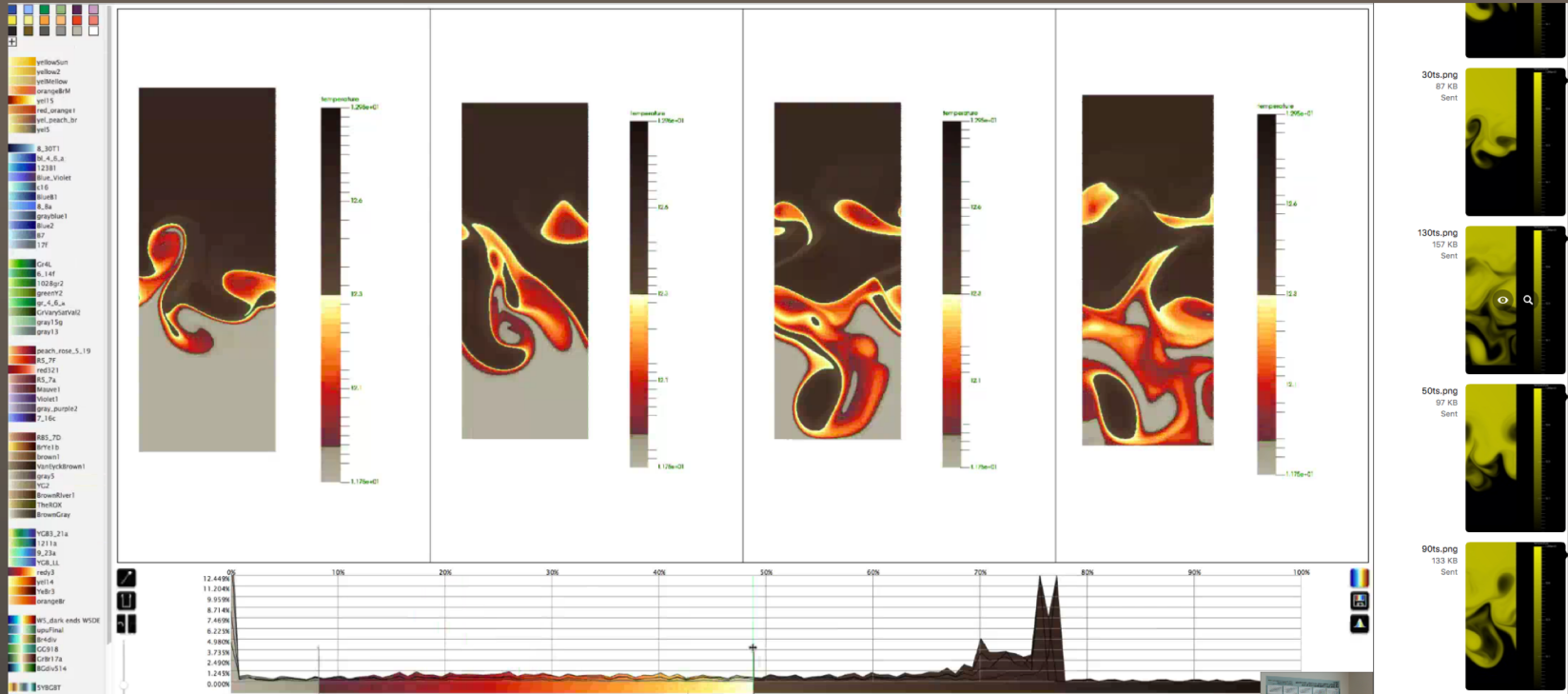


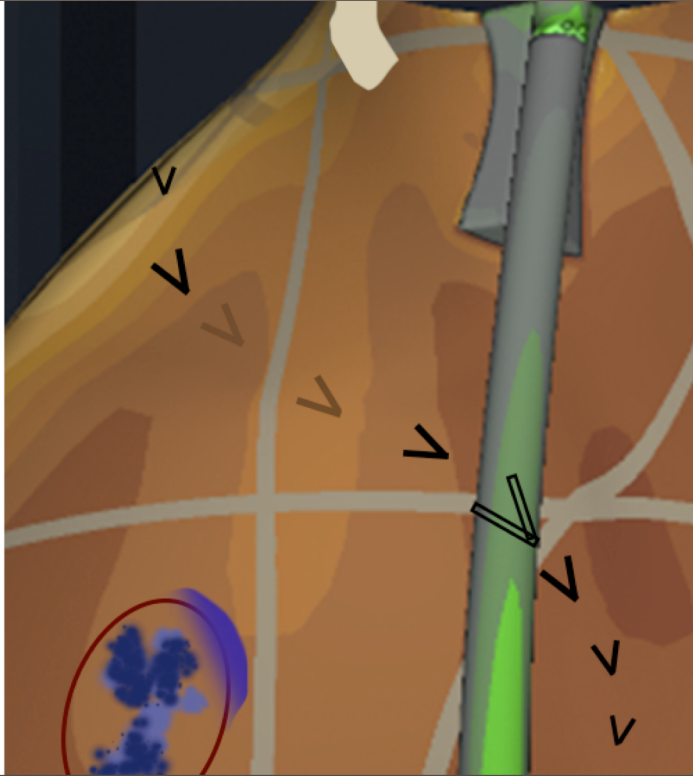


communication



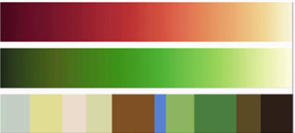
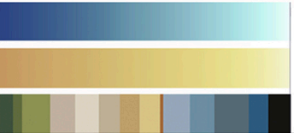



Good for working out colormaps for time-varying data.



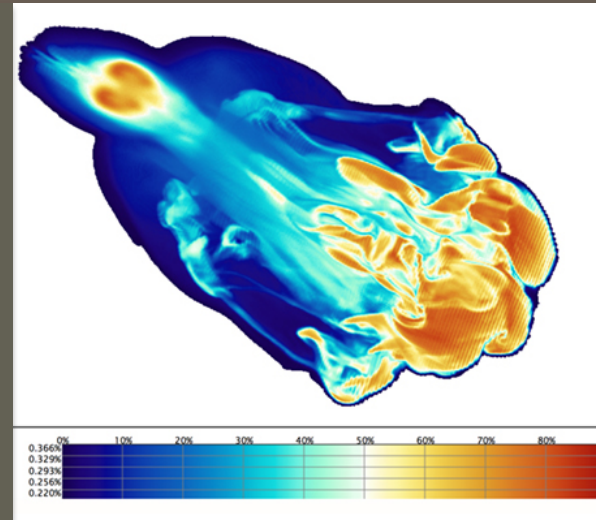
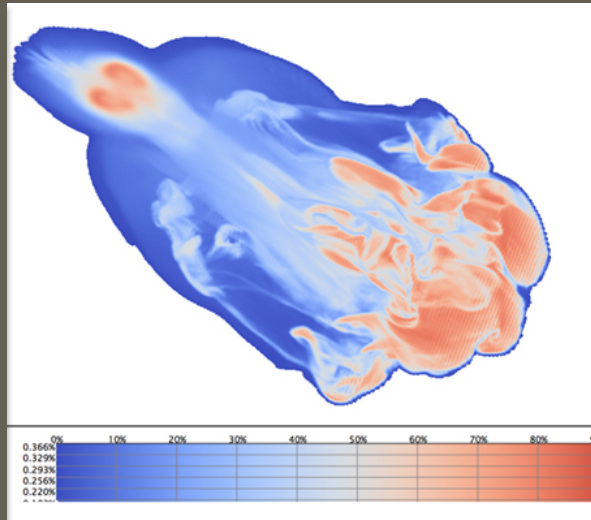
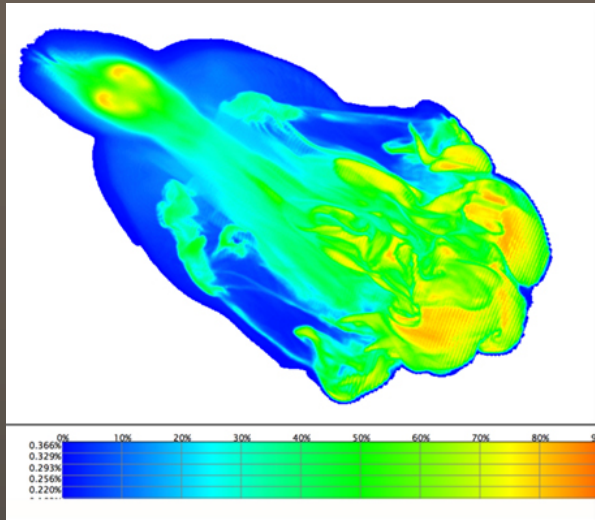


QUIZ TIME!

Can you name the types of contrast?

Artist	van Eyck	Manet	van Gogh	Picasso	Goya
					
	zero point data categorical data	continuous data noisy data	three categories	hierachies of importance	low detail data
task	communication feature id	exploration	communication	feature id communication	communication
affect	serious	calm	exciting		negative
color structure	categorical, context	equally important	two categories	hierachical importance	low levels of detail
color contrast	cool warm, saturation value, complimentary	analogous	secondary triad cool warm	cool warm, saturation hue	hue, saturation

And then there is one's funding....



.... and like it or not, impact matters.

## Your friends:

SciVisColor.org

kuler from Adobe

figs@cat.utexas.edu

ccctool.com