

SENSITIVITY OF THE HUMAN EYE TO LIGHT OF DIFFERENT WAVELENGTHS

The human eye responds to electromagnetic radiation in the wavelength range from about 360 nm (violet) to 820 nm (red), with a peak sensitivity near 555 nm. While the detailed shape of this response curve depends on the individual person, studies on representative samples of human subjects have led to adoption of a standard function relating the perceived brightness (luminous flux) to the actual power of the spectral radiation. This function is referred to as $V(\lambda)$, the photopic spectral luminous efficiency function, and it plays an important role in photometry.

The function $V(\lambda)$, as adopted by the International Commission on Illumination (CIE) is tabulated and plotted below.

References

1. *The Basis for Physical Photometry*, CIE Publication #18.2, 1983.
2. *CIE Standard Colorimetric Observers*, ISO/CIE #10527, 1991.
3. *Kaye and Laby Tables of Physical and Chemical Constants, Sixteenth Edition*, Longman Group Ltd., Harlow, Essex, 1995.

λ/nm	$V(\lambda)$	λ/nm	$V(\lambda)$	λ/nm	$V(\lambda)$
360	0.000004	520	0.710000	670	0.032000
370	0.000012	530	0.862000	680	0.017000
380	0.000039	540	0.954000	690	0.008210
390	0.000120	550	0.994950	700	0.004102
400	0.000396	555	1.000000	710	0.002091
410	0.001210	560	0.995000	720	0.001047
420	0.004000	570	0.952000	730	0.000520
430	0.011600	580	0.870000	740	0.000249
440	0.023000	590	0.757000	750	0.000120
450	0.038000	600	0.631000	760	0.000060
460	0.060000	610	0.503000	770	0.000030
470	0.090980	620	0.381000	780	0.000015
480	0.139020	630	0.265000	790	0.000007
490	0.208020	640	0.175000	800	0.000004
500	0.323000	650	0.107000	810	0.000002
510	0.503000	660	0.061000	820	0.000001

