
Spatial aspects of colour synaesthesia

Combining artistic and scientific methods

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Questions

1. What are the colour profiles of the synaesthetes?
 2. How do their synaesthetic experiences look like?
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Colour Synaesthesia Experiment at the BMBR Gallery in Rotterdam, the Netherlands

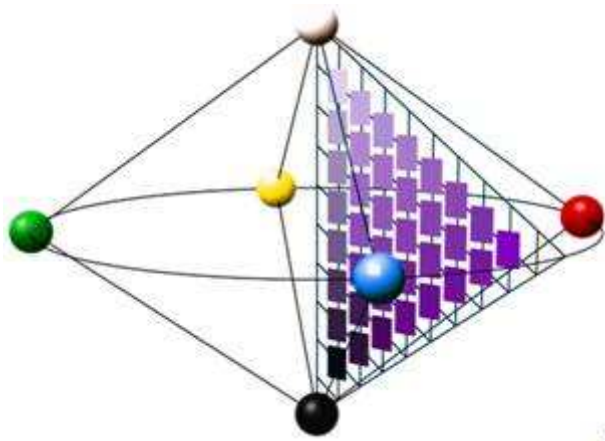
- Invited a group of 8 self-reported synaesthetes



Combining artistic and scientific methods

- Psychological testing (consistency test)
 - Artistic methods (painting experiences)
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Netherlands Color Synesthesia (NeCoSyn) Test



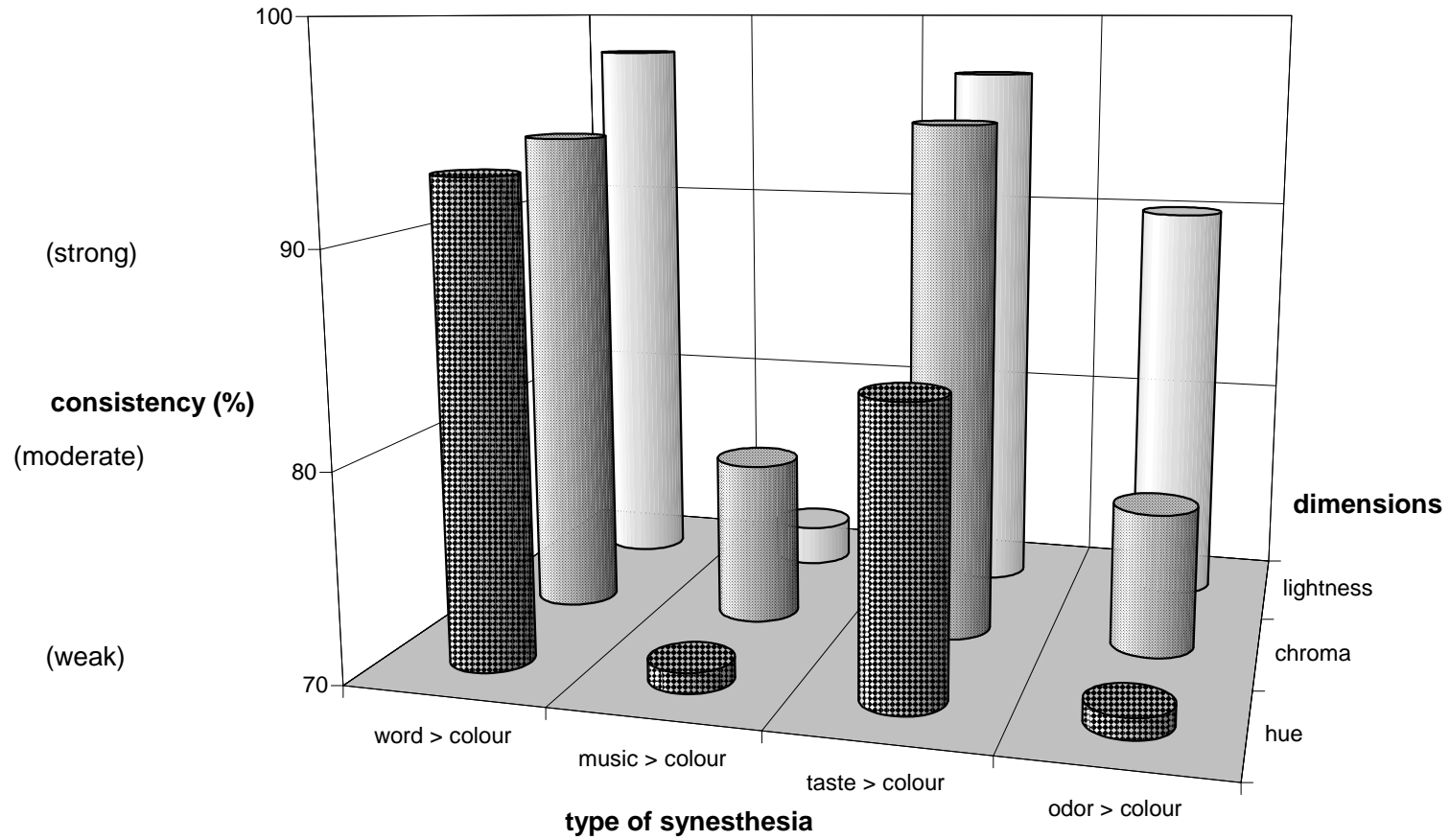
Color space in three dimensions:

- Lightness \updownarrow
- Chroma \leftrightarrow
- Hue \bigcirc

Consistency tests for:

- word \rightarrow colour (dimensions)
 - music \rightarrow colour (dimensions)
 - taste \rightarrow colour (dimensions)
 - odour \rightarrow colour (dimensions)
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NeCoSyn Profile of synesthete MW





Artistic method

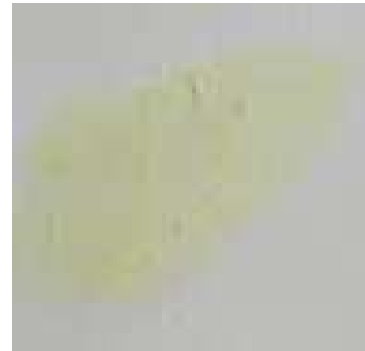
- Painting sounds of letters, musical notes and tastes.
 - One stimulus, one painting
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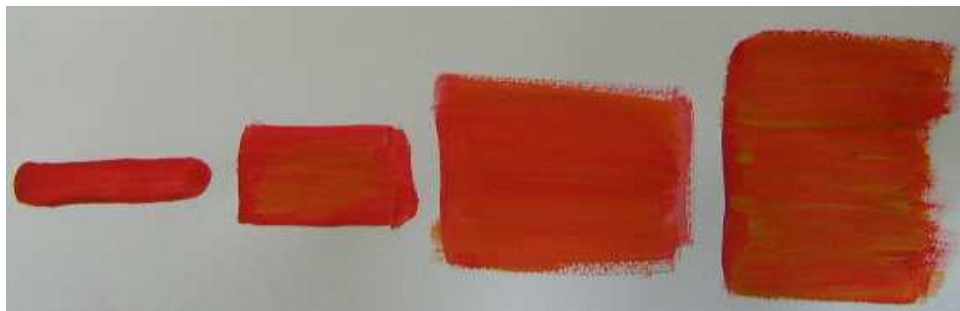
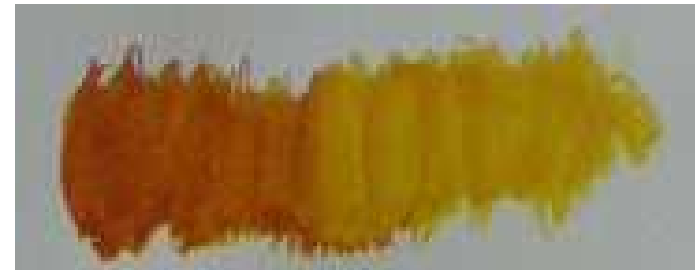
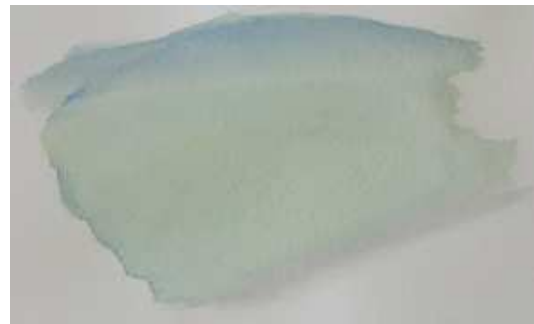
Results

- Differences between synaesthetes
 - Differences within one synaesthete
 - Comparison of artistic and scientific information
 - Free improvisation session
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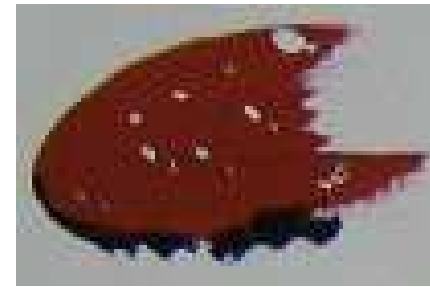
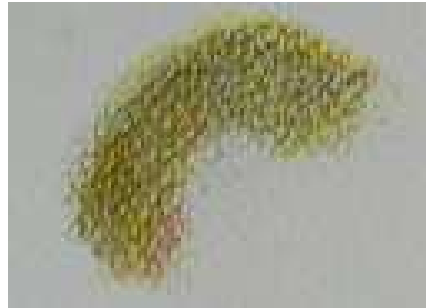
The sound of the letter E



D major chord on trumpet



Taste of honey



Sounds of musical instruments by DB

Played on: double bass guitar trumpet

D major
chord

D minor
chord

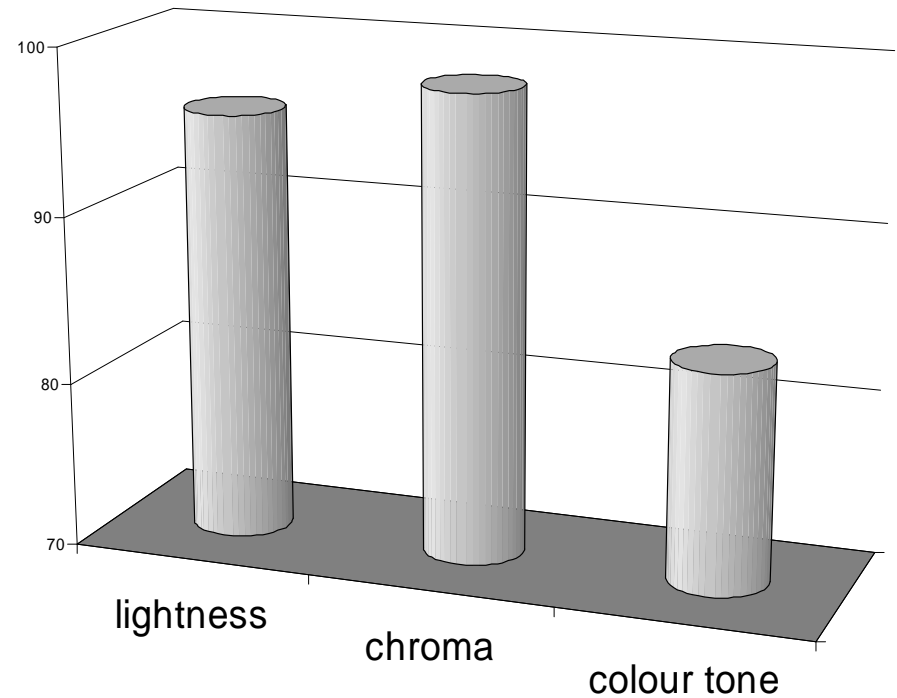


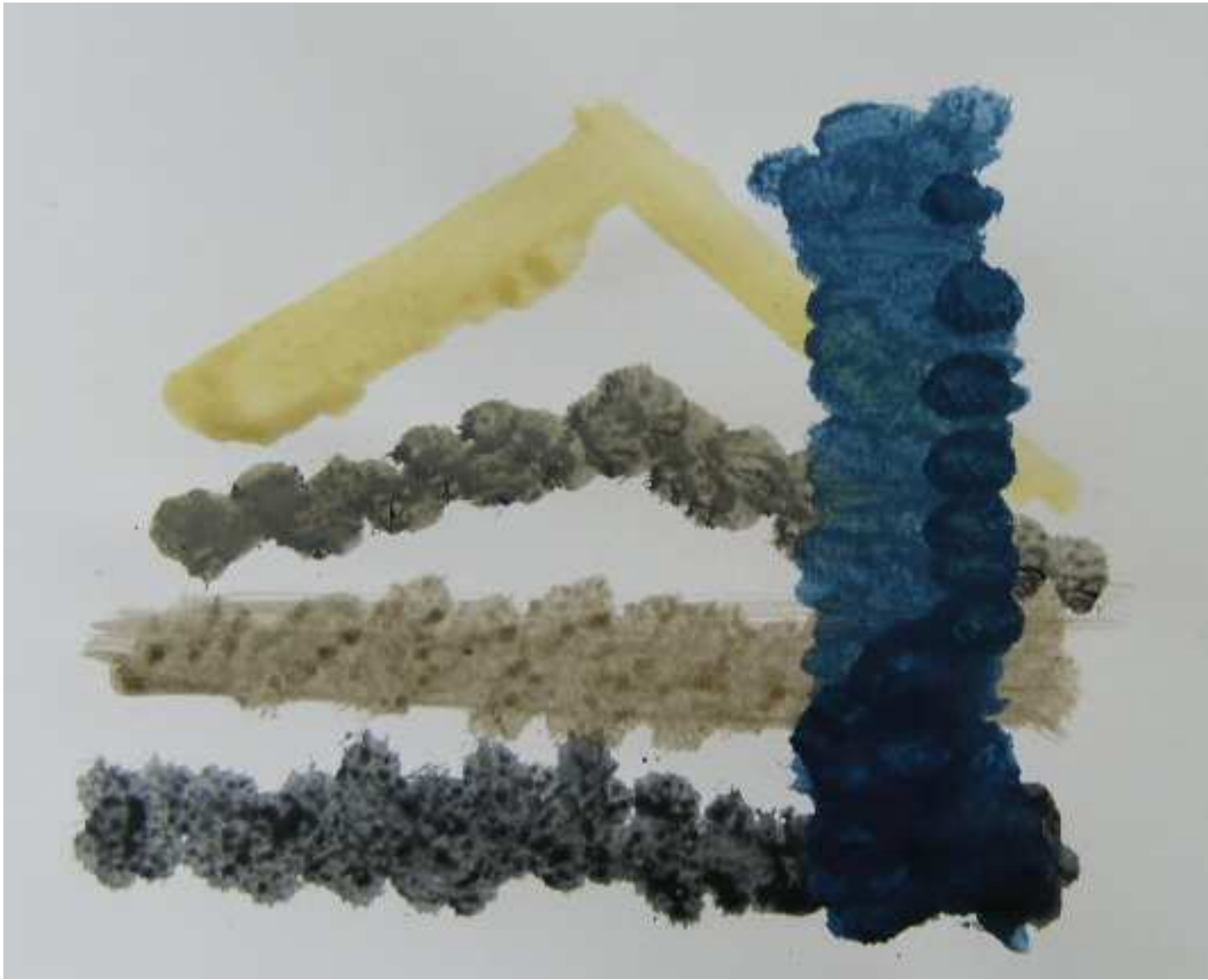
Comparing two types of information on coloured-music synaesthesia of DB

Painting



Test results











Concluding remarks

- Synaesthetic experiences differ
 - not only in color dimensions
 - but also in spatial aspects
 - Artistic methods can add information to scientific testing information
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More info on: www.synesthesie.nl
and the book:

