

# Package ‘khroma’

October 5, 2020

**Title** Colour Schemes for Scientific Data Visualization

**Version** 1.4.0

**Maintainer** Nicolas Frerebeau

<nicolas.frerebeau@u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr>

**Description** An implementation of Paul Tol's colour schemes for use with 'graphics' or 'ggplot2'. These schemes are ready for each type of data (qualitative, diverging or sequential), with colours that are distinct for all people, including colour-blind readers. This package provides tools to simulate colour-blindness and to test how well the colours of any palette are identifiable. Several scientific thematic schemes (geologic timescale, land cover, FAO soils, etc.) are also implemented.

**License** GPL-3

**URL** <https://khroma.archaeo.science>,  
<https://github.com/nfrerebeau/khroma>,  
<https://cran.r-project.org/package=khroma>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/nfrerebeau/khroma/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 3.3)

**Imports** ggplot2, grDevices, grid, scales, spacesXYZ

**Suggests** covr, crayon, fansi, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat, vdiff

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.1

**Collate** 'anomalize.R' 'colour.R' 'compare.R' 'convert.R' 'ggplot2.R'  
'khroma-package.R' 'plot.R' 'scale\_colour\_okabeito.R'  
'scale\_colour\_science.R' 'scale\_colour\_tol.R'

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Nicolas Frerebeau [aut, cre] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5759-4944>>),  
 Brice Lebrun [ctb] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7503-8685>>),  
 Vincent Arel-Bundock [ctb] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2042-7063>>)

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2020-10-05 17:40:02 UTC

## R topics documented:

colour . . . . .	2
compare . . . . .	5
convert . . . . .	6
plot . . . . .	8
scale_colour_land . . . . .	9
scale_colour_soil . . . . .	10
scale_colour_stratigraphy . . . . .	12
scale_okabeito_discrete . . . . .	13
scale_tol_discrete . . . . .	14
scale_tol_diverging . . . . .	17
scale_tol_sequential . . . . .	20

**Index** **24**

---

colour	<i>Colour Palette</i>
--------	-----------------------

---

### Description

Provides qualitative, diverging and sequential colour schemes.

### Usage

```
colour(palette, reverse = FALSE, names = TRUE, lang = "en", force = FALSE, ...)
```

```
color(palette, reverse = FALSE, names = TRUE, lang = "en", force = FALSE, ...)
```

### Arguments

palette	A <a href="#">character</a> string giving the name of the palette to be used (see below).
reverse	A <a href="#">logical</a> scalar: should the resulting vector of colours should be reversed?
names	A <a href="#">logical</a> scalar: should the names of the colours should be kept in the resulting vector?
lang	A <a href="#">character</a> string specifying the language for the colour names. It must be one of "en" (english, the default) or "fr" (french).
force	A <a href="#">logical</a> scalar. If TRUE, forces the colour scheme to be interpolated. It should not be used routinely with qualitative colour schemes, as they are designed to be used as is to remain colourblind-safe.
...	Further arguments passed to <a href="#">colorRampPalette</a> .

**Value**

A palette function with the following attributes, that when called with a single integer argument (the number of levels) returns a (named) vector of colours.

**palette** A **character** string giving the name of the colour scheme.

**type** A **character** string giving the corresponding data type. One of "qualitative", "diverging" or "sequential".

**interpolate** A **logical** scalar: can the color palette be interpolated?

**missing** A **character** string giving the the hexadecimal representation of the colour that should be used for NA values.

**max** An **integer** giving the maximum number of colour values. Only relevant for non-interpolated colour schemes.

For colour schemes that can be interpolated (diverging and sequential data), the colour range can be limited with an additional argument. ‘range’ allows to remove a fraction of the colour domain (before being interpolated; see examples).

**Paul Tol’s Colour Schemes**

The following palettes are available. The maximum number of supported colours is in brackets, this value is only relevant for the qualitative colour schemes (divergent and sequential schemes are linearly interpolated).

**Qualitative data** bright (7), contrast (3), vibrant (7), muted (9), pale (6), dark (6), light (9).

**Diverging data** sunset (11), BuRd (9), PRGn (9).

**Sequential data** YlOrBr (9), iridescent (23), discrete rainbow (23), smooth rainbow (34).

**Qualitative colour schemes**

According to Paul Tol’s technical note, the bright, contrast, vibrant and muted colour schemes are colour-blind safe.

The light colour scheme is reasonably distinct for both normal or colour-blind vision and is intended to fill labelled cells.

The pale and dark schemes are not very distinct in either normal or colour-blind vision and should be used as a text background or to highlight a cell in a table.

Refer to the original document for details about the recommended uses (see references).

**Rainbow colour scheme**

As a general rule, ordered data should not be represented using a rainbow scheme. There are three main arguments against such use (Tol 2018):

- The spectral order of visible light carries no inherent magnitude message.
- Some bands of almost constant hue with sharp transitions between them, can be perceived as jumps in the data.
- Colour-blind people have difficulty distinguishing some colours of the rainbow.

If such use cannot be avoided, Paul Tol's technical note provides two colour schemes that are reasonably clear in colour-blind vision. To remain colour-blind safe, these two schemes must comply with the following conditions:

**discrete rainbow** This scheme must not be interpolated.

**smooth rainbow** This scheme does not have to be used over the full range.

### Okabe and Ito Colour Scheme

The following (qualitative) colour scheme is available:

**okabe ito** Up to 8 colours.

### Scientific Colour Schemes

The following (qualitative) colour schemes are available:

**stratigraphy** International Chronostratigraphic Chart (175 colours).

**land** AVHRR Global Land Cover Classification (14 colours).

**soil** FAO Reference Soil Groups (24 colours).

### Author(s)

N. Frerebeau

### References

Jones, A., Montanarella, L. & Jones, R. (Ed.) (2005). *Soil atlas of Europe*. Luxembourg: European Commission, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. 128 pp. ISBN: 92-894-8120-X.

Okabe, M. & Ito, K. (2008). *Color Universal Design (CUD): How to Make Figures and Presentations That Are Friendly to Colorblind People*. URL: <https://jfly.uni-koeln.de/color/>.

Tol, P. (2018). *Colour Schemes*. SRON. Technical Note No. SRON/EPS/TN/09-002, issue 3.1. URL: <https://personal.sron.nl/~pault/data/colourschemes.pdf>

Commission for the Geological Map of the World

### Examples

```
## Okabe and Ito colour scheme
colour("okabe ito")(8)
plot_scheme(colour("okabe ito")(8))
```

```
## Paul Tol's colour schemes
### Qualitative data
plot_scheme(colour("bright")(7))
plot_scheme(colour("contrast")(3))
plot_scheme(colour("vibrant")(7))
plot_scheme(colour("pale")(6))
plot_scheme(colour("dark")(6))
plot_scheme(colour("muted")(9))
```

```

plot_scheme(colour("light")(9))
### Diverging data
plot_scheme(colour("sunset")(11))
plot_scheme(colour("BuRd")(9))
plot_scheme(colour("PRGn")(9))
### Sequential data
plot_scheme(colour("YlOrBr")(9))
plot_scheme(colour("iridescent")(23))
plot_scheme(colour("discrete rainbow")(14))
plot_scheme(colour("discrete rainbow")(23))
plot_scheme(colour("smooth rainbow")(34))

## Scientific colour schemes
### Geologic timescale
plot_scheme(colour("stratigraphy")(175))
### AVHRR global land cover classification
plot_scheme(colour("land")(14))
### FAO soil reference groups
plot_scheme(colour("soil")(24))

## Adjust colour levels
PRGn <- colour("PRGn")
plot_scheme(PRGn(9, range = c(0.5, 1)))

```

---

compare

*Colour Difference*


---

## Description

Computes CIELAB distance metric.

## Usage

```
compare(x, metric = 2000, diag = FALSE, upper = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

x	A <a href="#">character</a> vector of colours.
metric	An <a href="#">integer</a> value giving the year the metric was recommended by the CIE. It must be one of "1976", "1994", or "2000" (default).
diag	A <a href="#">logical</a> scalar: should the diagonal of the distance matrix be printed?
upper	A <a href="#">logical</a> scalar: should the upper triangle of the distance matrix should be printed?

## Value

A [distance matrix](#).

**Author(s)**

N. Frerebeau

**See Also**

Other diagnostic tools: [convert\(\)](#), [plot\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
# Trichromat
pal <- colour("bright")

(deltaE <- compare(pal(5)))
summary(deltaE)

# Deuteranopia
deu <- convert(pal, mode = "deuteranopia")
compare(deu(5))

# Protanopia
pro <- convert(pal, mode = "protanopia")
compare(pro(5))

# Tritanopia
tri <- convert(pal, mode = "tritanopia")
compare(tri(5))

# Achromatopsia
ach <- convert(pal, mode = "achromatopsia")
compare(ach(5))
```

---

convert

*Simulate Colour-Blindness*

---

**Description**

Simulate Colour-Blindness

**Usage**

```
convert(x, mode)
```

**Arguments**

x	A palette <a href="#">function</a> that when called with a single integer argument (the number of levels) returns a vector of colours (see <a href="#">colour</a> ).
mode	A <a href="#">character</a> string giving the colour-blind vision to be used. It must be one of "deuteranopia", "protanopia", "tritanopia" or "achromatopsia". Any unambiguous substring can be given.

**Value**

A palette `function` that returns a vector of anomalized colours. All the attributes of the initial palette function are inherited, with a supplementary attribute "mode" giving the corresponding colour-blind vision.

**Author(s)**

N. Frerebeau

**References**

Brettel, H., Viénot, F. and Mollon, J. D. (1997). Computerized Simulation of Color Appearance for Dichromats. *Journal of the Optical Society of America A*, 14(10), p. 2647-2655. DOI: [10.1364/JOSAA.14.002647](https://doi.org/10.1364/JOSAA.14.002647).

Tol, P. (2018). *Colour Schemes*. SRON. Technical Note No. SRON/EPS/TN/09-002, issue 3.1. URL: <https://personal.sron.nl/~pault/data/colourschemes.pdf>

Viénot, F., Brettel, H. and Mollon, J. D. (1999). Digital Video Colourmaps for Checking the Legibility of Displays by Dichromats. *Color Research & Application*, 24(4), p. 243-52. DOI: [10.1002/\(SICI\)1520-6378\(199908\)24:4<243::AID-COL5>3.0.CO;2-3](https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1520-6378(199908)24:4<243::AID-COL5>3.0.CO;2-3).

**See Also**

Other diagnostic tools: `compare()`, `plot()`

**Examples**

```
# Trichromat
pal <- colour("bright")
plot_scheme(pal(7))

# Deuteranopia
deu <- convert(pal, mode = "deuteranopia")
plot_scheme(deu(7))

# Protanopia
pro <- convert(pal, mode = "protanopia")
plot_scheme(pro(7))

# Tritanopia
tri <- convert(pal, mode = "tritanopia")
plot_scheme(tri(7))

# Achromatopsia
ach <- convert(pal, mode = "achromatopsia")
plot_scheme(ach(7))
```

---

plot

*Plot Colour Scheme*

---

### Description

plot allows to quickly display a colour scheme returned by [colour](#).

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'colour_scheme'  
plot(x, ...)  
  
plot_scheme(x, colours = FALSE, names = FALSE, size = 1)  
  
plot_map(x)  
  
plot_scheme_colourblind(x)  
  
plot_scheme_colorblind(x)
```

### Arguments

x	A <a href="#">character</a> vector of colours.
...	Currently not used.
colours	A <a href="#">logical</a> scalar: should the hexadecimal representation of the colours be displayed?
names	A <a href="#">logical</a> scalar: should the name of the colours be displayed?
size	A <a href="#">numeric</a> value giving the amount by which plotting text should be magnified relative to the default. Works the same as cex parameter of <a href="#">par</a> .

### Details

plot\_scheme shows colours in a plot.

plot\_map produces a diagnostic map for a given colour scheme.

plot\_scheme\_colorblind shows colours in a plot with different types of simulated color blindness.

### Author(s)

N. Frerebeau, V. Arel-Bundock

### See Also

Other diagnostic tools: [compare\(\)](#), [convert\(\)](#)



**Examples**

```

plot(colour("bright")(7))
plot(colour("smooth rainbow")(256))

## Plot colour schemes
plot_scheme(colour("bright")(7))
plot_scheme(colour("sunset")(11))
plot_scheme(colour("YlOrBr")(9))
plot_scheme(colour("discrete rainbow")(14))

## Plot diagnostic maps
plot_map(colour("bright")(7))
plot_map(colour("sunset")(11))
plot_map(colour("YlOrBr")(9))
plot_map(colour("discrete rainbow")(14))

## Plot simulated color blindness
plot_scheme_colorblind(colour("bright")(7))

```

---

scale\_colour\_land      *AVHRR Global Land Cover Classification Colour Scheme for ggplot2*

---

**Description**

Provides the AVHRR Global Land Cover classification as modified by Paul Tol (colour-blind safe).

**Usage**

```

scale_colour_land(..., lang = "en", aesthetics = "colour")

scale_color_land(..., lang = "en", aesthetics = "colour")

scale_fill_land(..., lang = "en", aesthetics = "fill")

```

**Arguments**

...	Arguments passed on to <a href="#">discrete_scale</a> .
lang	A <a href="#">character</a> string specifying the language for the colour names (see details). It must be one of "en" (english, the default) or "fr" (french).
aesthetics	A <a href="#">character</a> string or vector of character strings listing the name(s) of the aesthetic(s) that this scale works with.

**Details**

Values will be matched based on the soil names.

**Value**

A [discrete](#) scale.

**Author(s)**

N. Frerebeau

**References**

Tol, P. (2018). *Colour Schemes*. SRON. Technical Note No. SRON/EPS/TN/09-002, issue 3.1.  
 URL: <https://personal.sron.nl/~pault/data/colourschemes.pdf>

**See Also**

Other themed colour schemes: [scale\\_colour\\_soil\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_stratigraphy\(\)](#)

Other qualitative colour schemes: [scale\\_colour\\_soil\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_stratigraphy\(\)](#), [scale\\_okabeito\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_discrete](#)

**Examples**

```
library(ggplot2)

land <- data.frame(
  name = c(
    "water", "evergreen needleleaf forest", "deciduous needleleaf forest",
    "mixed forest", "evergreen broadleaf forest", "deciduous broadleaf forest",
    "woodland", "wooded grassland", "grassland", "cropland", "closed shrubland",
    "open shrubland", "bare ground", "urban and built"
  )
)

ggplot2::ggplot(land, ggplot2::aes(fill = name)) +
  ggplot2::geom_rect(aes(xmin = rep(0, 14), xmax = rep(1, 14),
                        ymin = 1:14, ymax = 1:14+1)) +
  ggplot2::scale_y_reverse() +
  scale_fill_land(name = "land")
```

---

 scale\_colour\_soil

*FAO Soil Reference Groups Colour Scheme for ggplot2*


---

**Description**

Provides the FAO Soil Reference Groups colour scheme.

**Usage**

```
scale_colour_soil(..., lang = "en", aesthetics = "colour")
```

```
scale_color_soil(..., lang = "en", aesthetics = "colour")
```

```
scale_fill_soil(..., lang = "en", aesthetics = "fill")
```

**Arguments**

...	Arguments passed on to <a href="#">discrete_scale</a> .
lang	A <a href="#">character</a> string specifying the language for the colour names (see details). It must be one of "en" (english, the default) or "fr" (french).
aesthetics	A <a href="#">character</a> string or vector of character strings listing the name(s) of the aesthetic(s) that this scale works with.

**Details**

Values will be matched based on the soil names.

**Value**

A [discrete](#) scale.

**Author(s)**

N. Frerebeau

**References**

Jones, A., Montanarella, L. & Jones, R. (Ed.) (2005). *Soil atlas of Europe*. Luxembourg: European Commission, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. 128 pp. ISBN: 92-894-8120-X.

**See Also**

Other themed colour schemes: [scale\\_colour\\_land\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_stratigraphy\(\)](#)

Other qualitative colour schemes: [scale\\_colour\\_land\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_stratigraphy\(\)](#), [scale\\_okabeito\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_discrete](#)

**Examples**

```
library(ggplot2)

soil <- data.frame(
  name = c(
    "Acrisol", "Albeluvisol", "Andosol", "Anthrosol", "Arenosol", "Calcisol",
    "Cambisol", "Chernozem", "Cryosol", "Fluvisol", "Kastanozem", "Gleysol",
    "Gypsisol", "Histosol", "Leptosol", "Luvisol", "Phaeozem", "Planosol",
    "Podzol", "Regosol", "Solonchak", "Solonetz", "Umbrisol", "Vertisol"
  )
)

ggplot2::ggplot(soil, ggplot2::aes(fill = name)) +
  ggplot2::geom_rect(aes(xmin = rep(0, 24), xmax = rep(1, 24),
    ymin = 1:24, ymax = 1:24+1)) +
  ggplot2::scale_y_reverse() +
  scale_fill_soil(name = "Soil")
```

---

scale\_colour\_stratigraphy

*Geologic Timescale Colour Scheme for ggplot2*

---

### Description

Provides the geologic timescale colour scheme.

### Usage

```
scale_colour_stratigraphy(..., lang = "en", aesthetics = "colour")
```

```
scale_color_stratigraphy(..., lang = "en", aesthetics = "colour")
```

```
scale_fill_stratigraphy(..., lang = "en", aesthetics = "fill")
```

### Arguments

...	Arguments passed on to <a href="#">discrete_scale</a> .
lang	A <a href="#">character</a> string specifying the language for the colour names (see details). It must be one of "en" (english, the default) or "fr" (french).
aesthetics	A <a href="#">character</a> string or vector of character strings listing the name(s) of the aesthetic(s) that this scale works with.

### Details

Values will be matched based on the unit names.

### Value

A [discrete](#) scale.

### Author(s)

N. Frerebeau

### References

[Commission for the Geological Map of the World.](#)

### See Also

Other themed colour schemes: [scale\\_colour\\_land\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_soil\(\)](#)

Other qualitative colour schemes: [scale\\_colour\\_land\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_soil\(\)](#), [scale\\_okabeito\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_discrete](#)

**Examples**

```
library(ggplot2)

strati <- data.frame(
  name = c("Phanerozoic", "Paleozoic", "Cambrian", "Ordovician", "Silurian",
           "Devonian", "Carboniferous", "Mesozoic", "Triassic", "Cretaceous",
           "Jurassic", "Cenozoic", "Paleogene", "Neogene", "Quaternary"),
  type = c("Eon", "Era", "Period", "Period", "Period", "Period", "Period",
           "Era", "Period", "Period", "Period", "Era", "Period", "Period",
           "Period"),
  start = c(541, 541, 541, 485, 444, 419, 359,
            252, 252, 201, 145, 66, 66, 23, 2.6),
  end = c(0, 252, 485, 444, 419, 359, 252,
          66, 201, 145, 66, 2.6, 23, 2.6, 0)
)

ggplot2::ggplot(strati, ggplot2::aes(fill = name)) +
  ggplot2::geom_rect(aes(xmin = rep(0, 15), xmax = rep(1, 15),
                        ymin = start, ymax = end)) +
  ggplot2::scale_y_reverse() +
  ggplot2::facet_grid(. ~ type) +
  scale_fill_stratigraphy(name = "Stratigraphy")
```

---

scale\_okabeito\_discrete

*Okabe and Ito's Discrete Colour Scheme for ggplot2*

---

**Description**

Provides the qualitative colour scale from Okabe and Ito 2008.

**Usage**

```
scale_colour_okabeito(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
```

```
scale_color_okabeito(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
```

```
scale_fill_okabeito(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "fill")
```

**Arguments**

...	Arguments passed to <a href="#">discrete_scale</a> .
reverse	A <a href="#">logical</a> scalar. Should the resulting vector of colours be reversed?
aesthetics	A <a href="#">character</a> string or vector of character strings listing the name(s) of the aesthetic(s) that this scale works with.

### Details

This qualitative colour scheme is used as given (no interpolation): colours are picked up to the maximum number of supported values (8).

### Value

A [discrete](#) scale.

### Author(s)

N. Frerebeau

### References

Okabe, M. & Ito, K. (2008). *Color Universal Design (CUD): How to Make Figures and Presentations That Are Friendly to Colorblind People*. URL: <https://jfly.uni-koeln.de/color/>.

### See Also

Other colour-blind safe colour schemes: [scale\\_tol\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_diverging](#), [scale\\_tol\\_sequential](#)

Other qualitative colour schemes: [scale\\_colour\\_land\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_soil\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_stratigraphy\(\)](#), [scale\\_tol\\_discrete](#)

### Examples

```
library(ggplot2)

ggplot2::ggplot(mpg, ggplot2::aes(displ, hwy, colour = class)) +
  ggplot2::geom_point() +
  scale_colour_okabeito()
```

---

scale\_tol\_discrete      *Paul Tol's Discrete Colour Schemes for **ggplot2***

---

### Description

Provides qualitative colour scales from Paul Tol's *Colour Schemes*.

### Usage

```
scale_colour_bright(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
```

```
scale_color_bright(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
```

```
scale_fill_bright(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "fill")
```

```
scale_colour_contrast(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
```

```

scale_color_contrast(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_fill_contrast(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "fill")
scale_colour_vibrant(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_color_vibrant(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_fill_vibrant(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "fill")
scale_colour_muted(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_color_muted(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_fill_muted(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "fill")
scale_colour_pale(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_color_pale(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_fill_pale(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "fill")
scale_colour_dark(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_color_dark(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_fill_dark(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "fill")
scale_colour_light(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_color_light(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")
scale_fill_light(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "fill")

```

### Arguments

...	Arguments passed to <a href="#">discrete_scale</a> .
reverse	A <a href="#">logical</a> scalar. Should the resulting vector of colours be reversed?
aesthetics	A <a href="#">character</a> string or vector of character strings listing the name(s) of the aesthetic(s) that this scale works with.

### Details

The qualitative colour schemes are used as given (no interpolation): colours are picked up to the maximum number of supported values.

Palette	Max.
bright	7
contrast	3

vibrant	7
muted	9
pale	6
dark	6
light	9

## Value

A `discrete` scale.

## Qualitative colour schemes

According to Paul Tol's technical note, the bright, contrast, vibrant and muted colour schemes are colour-blind safe.

The light colour scheme is reasonably distinct for both normal or colour-blind vision and is intended to fill labelled cells.

The pale and dark schemes are not very distinct in either normal or colour-blind vision and should be used as a text background or to highlight a cell in a table.

Refer to the original document for details about the recommended uses (see references).

## Author(s)

N. Frerebeau

## References

Tol, P. (2018). *Colour Schemes*. SRON. Technical Note No. SRON/EPS/TN/09-002, issue 3.1.  
URL: <https://personal.sron.nl/~pault/data/colourschemes.pdf>

## See Also

Other colour-blind safe colour schemes: [scale\\_okabeito\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_diverging](#), [scale\\_tol\\_sequential](#)

Other qualitative colour schemes: [scale\\_colour\\_land\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_soil\(\)](#), [scale\\_colour\\_stratigraphy\(\)](#), [scale\\_okabeito\\_discrete](#)

Other Paul Tol's colour schemes: [scale\\_tol\\_diverging](#), [scale\\_tol\\_sequential](#)

## Examples

```
library(ggplot2)

ggplot2::ggplot(mpg, ggplot2::aes(displ, hwy, colour = class)) +
  ggplot2::geom_point() +
  scale_colour_bright()

ggplot2::ggplot(mpg, ggplot2::aes(displ, hwy, colour = class)) +
  ggplot2::geom_point() +
  scale_colour_vibrant()
```



```
ggplot2::ggplot(diamonds, ggplot2::aes(clarity, fill = cut)) +  
  ggplot2::geom_bar() +  
  scale_fill_muted()  
  
ggplot2::ggplot(diamonds, ggplot2::aes(clarity, fill = cut)) +  
  ggplot2::geom_bar() +  
  scale_fill_pale()  
  
ggplot2::ggplot(diamonds, ggplot2::aes(clarity, fill = cut)) +  
  ggplot2::geom_bar() +  
  scale_fill_dark()  
  
ggplot2::ggplot(diamonds, ggplot2::aes(clarity, fill = cut)) +  
  ggplot2::geom_bar() +  
  scale_fill_light()
```

---

scale\_tol\_diverging    *Paul Tol's Diverging Colour Schemes for ggplot2*

---

## Description

Provides diverging colour scales from Paul Tol's *Colour Schemes*.

## Usage

```
scale_colour_sunset(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  midpoint = 0,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)  
  
scale_color_sunset(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  midpoint = 0,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)  
  
scale_fill_sunset(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  midpoint = 0,  
  aesthetics = "fill"  
)
```

```
scale_colour_BuRd(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  midpoint = 0,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)
```

```
scale_color_BuRd(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  midpoint = 0,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)
```

```
scale_fill_BuRd(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  midpoint = 0,  
  aesthetics = "fill"  
)
```

```
scale_colour_PRGn(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  midpoint = 0,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)
```

```
scale_color_PRGn(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  midpoint = 0,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)
```

```
scale_fill_PRGn(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  midpoint = 0,  
  aesthetics = "fill"  
)
```

**Arguments**

...	Arguments passed to <code>continuous_scale</code> .
<code>reverse</code>	A <b>logical</b> scalar. Should the resulting vector of colours be reversed?
<code>range</code>	A length-two <b>numeric</b> vector specifying the fraction of the scheme's colour domain to keep.
<code>midpoint</code>	A length-one <b>numeric</b> vector giving the midpoint (in data value) of the diverging scale. Defaults to 0.
<code>aesthetics</code>	A <b>character</b> string or vector of character strings listing the name(s) of the aesthetic(s) that this scale works with.

**Details**

If more colours than defined are needed from a given scheme, the colour coordinates are linearly interpolated to provide a continuous version of the scheme. Note that the default colour for NA can be overridden by passing a value to `continuous_scale`.

Palette	Max. colours	NA value
sunset	11	#FFFFFF
BuRd	9	#FFEE99
PRGn	9	#FFEE99

**Value**

A **continuous** scale.

**Author(s)**

N. Frerebeau

**References**

Tol, P. (2018). *Colour Schemes*. SRON. Technical Note No. SRON/EPS/TN/09-002, issue 3.1.  
URL: <https://personal.sron.nl/~pault/data/colourschemes.pdf>

**See Also**

Other colour-blind safe colour schemes: [scale\\_okabeito\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_sequential](#)  
Other Paul Tol's colour schemes: [scale\\_tol\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_sequential](#)

**Examples**

```
library(ggplot2)

ggplot2::ggplot(economics, ggplot2::aes(psavert, pce, colour = unemployment)) +
  ggplot2::geom_point() +
  scale_color_sunset(reverse = TRUE, midpoint = 12000)
```

```
ggplot2::ggplot(economics, ggplot2::aes(psavert, pce, colour = unemploy)) +  
  ggplot2::geom_point() +  
  scale_color_BuRd(midpoint = 9000)  
  
ggplot2::ggplot(economics, ggplot2::aes(psavert, pce, colour = unemploy)) +  
  ggplot2::geom_point() +  
  scale_color_PRGn(midpoint = 9000, range = c(0.25, 1))
```

---

scale\_tol\_sequential *Paul Tol's Sequential Colour Schemes for ggplot2*

---

## Description

Provides sequential colour scales from Paul Tol's *Colour Schemes*.

## Usage

```
scale_colour_YlOrBr(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  discrete = FALSE,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)
```

```
scale_color_YlOrBr(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  discrete = FALSE,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)
```

```
scale_fill_YlOrBr(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  discrete = FALSE,  
  aesthetics = "fill"  
)
```

```
scale_colour_iridescent(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  discrete = FALSE,  
  aesthetics = "colour"
```

```
)  
  
scale_color_iridescent(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  discrete = FALSE,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)  
  
scale_fill_iridescent(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  discrete = FALSE,  
  aesthetics = "fill"  
)  
  
scale_colour_discreterainbow(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")  
scale_color_discreterainbow(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "colour")  
scale_fill_discreterainbow(..., reverse = FALSE, aesthetics = "fill")  
  
scale_colour_smoothrainbow(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  discrete = FALSE,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)  
  
scale_color_smoothrainbow(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  discrete = FALSE,  
  aesthetics = "colour"  
)  
  
scale_fill_smoothrainbow(  
  ...,  
  reverse = FALSE,  
  range = c(0, 1),  
  discrete = FALSE,  
  aesthetics = "fill"  
)
```

**Arguments**

...	Arguments passed to <code>continuous_scale</code> .
<code>reverse</code>	A <code>logical</code> scalar. Should the resulting vector of colours be reversed?
<code>range</code>	A length-two <code>numeric</code> vector specifying the fraction of the scheme's colour domain to keep.
<code>discrete</code>	A <code>logical</code> scalar: should the colour scheme be used as a discrete scale?. If TRUE, it is a departure from Paul Tol's recommendations and likely a very poor use of colour.
<code>aesthetics</code>	A <code>character</code> string or vector of character strings listing the name(s) of the aesthetic(s) that this scale works with.

**Details**

If more colours than defined are needed from a given scheme, the colour coordinates are linearly interpolated to provide a continuous version of the scheme, with the exception of the discrete rainbow scheme (see below). Note that the default colour for NA can be overridden by passing a value to `continuous_scale`.

Palette	Max. colours	NA value
YlOrBr	9	#888888
iridescent	23	#999999
discrete rainbow	23	#777777
smooth rainbow	34	#666666

**Value**

A `continuous` scale.

**Rainbow colour scheme**

As a general rule, ordered data should not be represented using a rainbow scheme. There are three main arguments against such use (Tol 2018):

- The spectral order of visible light carries no inherent magnitude message.
- Some bands of almost constant hue with sharp transitions between them, can be perceived as jumps in the data.
- Colour-blind people have difficulty distinguishing some colours of the rainbow.

If such use cannot be avoided, Paul Tol's technical note provides two colour schemes that are reasonably clear in colour-blind vision. To remain colour-blind safe, these two schemes must comply with the following conditions:

**discrete rainbow** This scheme must not be interpolated.

**smooth rainbow** This scheme does not have to be used over the full range.

**Author(s)**

N. Frerebeau

## References

Tol, P. (2018). *Colour Schemes*. SRON. Technical Note No. SRON/EPS/TN/09-002, issue 3.1.  
URL: <https://personal.sron.nl/~pault/data/colourschemes.pdf>

## See Also

Other colour-blind safe colour schemes: [scale\\_okabeito\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_diverging](#)

Other Paul Tol's colour schemes: [scale\\_tol\\_discrete](#), [scale\\_tol\\_diverging](#)

## Examples

```
library(ggplot2)

ggplot2::ggplot(faithfuld, ggplot2::aes(waiting, eruptions, fill = density)) +
  ggplot2::geom_raster() +
  scale_fill_YlOrBr()

ggplot2::ggplot(faithfuld, ggplot2::aes(waiting, eruptions, fill = density)) +
  ggplot2::geom_raster() +
  scale_fill_iridescent(reverse = TRUE)

ggplot2::ggplot(faithfuld, ggplot2::aes(waiting, eruptions, fill = density)) +
  ggplot2::geom_raster() +
  scale_fill_smoothrainbow(range = c(0.25, 1))
```

# Index

- \* **Okabe and Ito's colour scheme**
    - scale\_okabeito\_discrete, 13
  - \* **Paul Tol's colour schemes**
    - scale\_tol\_discrete, 14
    - scale\_tol\_diverging, 17
    - scale\_tol\_sequential, 20
  - \* **color**
    - colour, 2
  - \* **colour palettes**
    - colour, 2
  - \* **colour-blind safe colour schemes**
    - scale\_okabeito\_discrete, 13
    - scale\_tol\_discrete, 14
    - scale\_tol\_diverging, 17
    - scale\_tol\_sequential, 20
  - \* **diagnostic tools**
    - compare, 5
    - convert, 6
    - plot, 8
  - \* **diverging colour schemes**
    - scale\_tol\_diverging, 17
  - \* **qualitative colour schemes**
    - scale\_colour\_land, 9
    - scale\_colour\_soil, 10
    - scale\_colour\_stratigraphy, 12
    - scale\_okabeito\_discrete, 13
    - scale\_tol\_discrete, 14
  - \* **sequential colour schemes**
    - scale\_tol\_sequential, 20
  - \* **themed colour schemes**
    - scale\_colour\_land, 9
    - scale\_colour\_soil, 10
    - scale\_colour\_stratigraphy, 12
- character, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11–13, 15, 19, 22
- color (colour), 2
- colorRampPalette, 2
- colour, 2, 6, 8
- compare, 5, 7, 8
- continuous, 19, 22
- continuous\_scale, 19, 22
- convert, 6, 6, 8
- discrete, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16
- discrete\_scale, 9, 11–13, 15
- distance matrix, 5
- function, 6, 7
- integer, 3, 5
- logical, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 15, 19, 22
- numeric, 8, 19, 22
- par, 8
- plot, 6, 7, 8
- plot\_map (plot), 8
- plot\_scheme (plot), 8
- plot\_scheme\_colorblind (plot), 8
- plot\_scheme\_colourblind (plot), 8
- scale\_color\_bright  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_color\_BuRd (scale\_tol\_diverging),  
17
- scale\_color\_contrast  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_color\_dark (scale\_tol\_discrete),  
14
- scale\_color\_discreterainbow  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_color\_iridescent  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_color\_land (scale\_colour\_land), 9
- scale\_color\_light (scale\_tol\_discrete),  
14
- scale\_color\_muted (scale\_tol\_discrete),  
14
- scale\_color\_okabeito  
(scale\_okabeito\_discrete), 13



- scale\_color\_pale (scale\_tol\_discrete),  
14
- scale\_color\_PRGn (scale\_tol\_diverging),  
17
- scale\_color\_smoothrainbow  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_color\_soil (scale\_colour\_soil), 10
- scale\_color\_stratigraphy  
(scale\_colour\_stratigraphy), 12
- scale\_color\_sunset  
(scale\_tol\_diverging), 17
- scale\_color\_vibrant  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_color\_YlOrBr  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_colour\_bright  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_colour\_BuRd  
(scale\_tol\_diverging), 17
- scale\_colour\_contrast  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_colour\_dark (scale\_tol\_discrete),  
14
- scale\_colour\_discreterainbow  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_colour\_iridescent  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_colour\_land, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16
- scale\_colour\_light  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_colour\_muted  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_colour\_okabeito  
(scale\_okabeito\_discrete), 13
- scale\_colour\_pale (scale\_tol\_discrete),  
14
- scale\_colour\_PRGn  
(scale\_tol\_diverging), 17
- scale\_colour\_smoothrainbow  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_colour\_soil, 10, 10, 12, 14, 16
- scale\_colour\_stratigraphy, 10, 11, 12, 14,  
16
- scale\_colour\_sunset  
(scale\_tol\_diverging), 17
- scale\_colour\_vibrant  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_colour\_YlOrBr  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_okabeito\_discrete, 10–12, 13, 16,  
19, 23
- scale\_tol\_discrete, 10–12, 14, 14, 19, 23
- scale\_tol\_diverging, 14, 16, 17, 23
- scale\_tol\_sequential, 14, 16, 19, 20  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_fill\_bright (scale\_tol\_discrete),  
14
- scale\_fill\_BuRd (scale\_tol\_diverging),  
17
- scale\_fill\_contrast  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_fill\_dark (scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_fill\_discreterainbow  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_fill\_iridescent  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_fill\_land (scale\_colour\_land), 9
- scale\_fill\_light (scale\_tol\_discrete),  
14
- scale\_fill\_muted (scale\_tol\_discrete),  
14
- scale\_fill\_okabeito  
(scale\_okabeito\_discrete), 13
- scale\_fill\_pale (scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_fill\_PRGn (scale\_tol\_diverging),  
17
- scale\_fill\_smoothrainbow  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20
- scale\_fill\_soil (scale\_colour\_soil), 10
- scale\_fill\_stratigraphy  
(scale\_colour\_stratigraphy), 12
- scale\_fill\_sunset  
(scale\_tol\_diverging), 17
- scale\_fill\_vibrant  
(scale\_tol\_discrete), 14
- scale\_fill\_YlOrBr  
(scale\_tol\_sequential), 20