

# Package ‘farver’

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**Type** Package

**Title** High Performance Colour Space Manipulation

**Version** 2.1.2

**Description** The encoding of colour can be handled in many different ways, using different colour spaces. As different colour spaces have different uses, efficient conversion between these representations are important. The 'farver' package provides a set of functions that gives access to very fast colour space conversion and comparisons implemented in C++, and offers speed improvements over the 'convertColor' function in the 'grDevices' package.

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**URL** <https://farver.data-imaginist.com>,  
<https://github.com/thomasp85/farver>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/thomasp85/farver/issues>

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|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| compare_colour | <i>Calculate the distance between colours</i> |
|----------------|---|

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### Description

There are many ways to measure the distance between colours. `farver` provides 5 different algorithms, ranging from simple euclidean distance in RGB space, to different perceptual measures such as CIE2000.

### Usage

```
compare_colour(
  from,
  to = NULL,
  from_space,
  to_space = from_space,
  method = "euclidean",
  white_from = "D65",
  white_to = white_from,
  lightness = 2,
  chroma = 1
)
```

### Arguments

`from, to` Numeric matrices with colours to compare - the format is the same as that for [convert\\_colour\(\)](#). If `to` is not set `from` will be compared with itself and only the upper triangle will get calculated

`from_space, to_space` The colour space of `from` and `to` respectively. `to_space` defaults to be the same as `from_space`.

`method` The method to use for comparison. Either 'euclidean', 'cie1976', 'cie94', 'cie2000', or 'cmc'

`white_from, white_to` The white reference of the `from` and `to` colour space. Will only have an effect for relative colour spaces such as Lab and luv. Any value accepted by [as\\_white\\_ref\(\)](#) allowed.

lightness, chroma

Weight of lightness vs chroma when using CMC. Common values are 2 and 1 (default) for acceptability and 1 and 1 for imperceptibility

### Value

A numeric matrix with the same number of rows as colours in from and the same number of columns as colours in to. If to is not given, only the upper triangle will be returned.

### Handling of non-finite and out of bounds values

NA, NaN, -Inf, and Inf are treated as invalid input and will result in NA values for the colour. If a given colourspace has finite bounds in some of their channels, the input will be capped before conversion, and the output will be capped before returning, so that both input and output colours are valid colours in their respective space. This means that converting back and forth between two colourspaces may result in a change in the colour if the gamut of one of the spaces is less than the other.

### Examples

```
r <- decode_colour(rainbow(10))
h <- decode_colour(heat.colors(15))

# Compare two sets of colours
compare_colour(r, h, 'rgb', method = 'cie2000')

# Compare a set of colours with itself
compare_colour(r, from_space = 'rgb', method = 'cmc')

# Compare colours from different colour spaces
h_luv <- convert_colour(h, 'rgb', 'luv')
compare_colour(r, h_luv, 'rgb', 'luv')
```

---

convert\_colour

*Convert between colour spaces*

---

### Description

This function lets you convert between different representations of colours. The API is reminiscent of `grDevices::convertColor()`, but the performance is much better. It is not assured that `grDevices::convertColor()` and `convert_colour()` provide numerically equivalent conversion at 16bit level as the formula used are potentially slightly different. For all intend and purpose, the resulting colours will be equivalent though.

### Usage

```
convert_colour(colour, from, to, white_from = "D65", white_to = white_from)
```

**Arguments**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| colour               | A numeric matrix (or an object coercible to one) with colours encoded in the rows and the different colour space values in the columns. For all colourspaces except 'cmyk' this will mean a matrix with three columns - for 'cmyk' it means four columns.                                      |
| from, to             | The input and output colour space. Allowed values are: "cmy", "cmyk", "hsl", "hsb", "hsv", "lab" (CIE L*a*b), "hunterlab" (Hunter Lab), "oklab", "lch" (CIE Lch(ab) / polarLAB), "luv", "rgb" (sRGB), "xyz", "xyy" (CIE xyY), "hcl" (CIE Lch(uv) / polarLuv), or "oklch" (Polar form of oklab) |
| white_from, white_to | The white reference of the from and to colour space. Will only have an effect for relative colour spaces such as Lab and luv. Any value accepted by <a href="#">as_white_ref()</a> allowed.  |

**Value**

A numeric matrix with the same number of rows as colour and either 3 or 4 columns depending on the value of to. If colour is given as a data.frame the output will be a data.frame as well

**Handling of non-finite and out of bounds values**

NA, NaN, -Inf, and Inf are treated as invalid input and will result in NA values for the colour. If a given colourspace has finite bounds in some of their channels, the input will be capped before conversion, and the output will be capped before returning, so that both input and output colours are valid colours in their respective space. This means that converting back and forth between two colourspaces may result in a change in the colour if the gamut of one of the spaces is less than the other.

**Note**

This function and [convertColor\(\)](#) are not numerically equivalent due to rounding errors, but for all intend and purpose they give the same results.

**See Also**

[grDevices::convertColor\(\)](#), [grDevices::col2rgb\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
spectrum <- decode_colour(rainbow(10))
spec_lab <- convert_colour(spectrum, 'rgb', 'lab')
spec_lab

# Convert between different white references
convert_colour(spec_lab, 'lab', 'lab', white_from = 'D65', white_to = 'F10')
```

---

 decode\_colour

*Decode RGB hex-strings into colour values*


---

## Description

This is a version of `grDevices::col2rgb()` that returns the colour values in the standard form expected by farver (matrix with a row per colour). As with `encode_colour()` it can do colour conversion on the fly, meaning that you can decode a hex string directly into any of the supported colour spaces.

## Usage

```
decode_colour(colour, alpha = FALSE, to = "rgb", white = "D65", na_value = NA)
```

## Arguments

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| colour   | A character vector of hex-encoded values or a valid colour name as given in <code>grDevices::colours()</code> .   |
| alpha    | If TRUE the alpha channel will be returned as well (scaled between 0 and 1). If no alpha channel exists in the colour it will be assumed 1. If FALSE any alpha channel is ignored.  |
| to       | The output colour space. Allowed values are: "cmy", "cmyk", "hsl", "hsb", "hsv", "lab" (CIE L*ab), "hunterlab" (Hunter Lab), "oklab", "lch" (CIE Lch(ab) / polarLAB), "luv", "rgb" (sRGB), "xyz", "yxy" (CIE xyY), "hcl" (CIE Lch(uv) / polarLuv), or "oklch" (Polar form of oklab) |
| white    | The white reference of the output colour space. Will only have an effect for relative colour spaces such as Lab and luv. Any value accepted by <code>as_white_ref()</code> allowed.   |
| na_value | A valid colour string or NA to use when colour contains NA elements. The general approach in farver is to carry NA values over, but if you want to mimick <code>col2rgb()</code> you should set <code>na_value = 'transparent'</code> , i.e. treat NA as transparent white.         |

## Value

A numeric matrix with a row for each element in colour and either 3, 4, or 5 columns depending on the value of alpha and to.

## Handling of non-finite and out of bounds values

NA, NaN, -Inf, and Inf are treated as invalid input and will result in NA values for the colour. If a given colourspace has finite bounds in some of their channels, the input will be capped before conversion, and the output will be capped before returning, so that both input and output colours are valid colours in their respective space. This means that converting back and forth between two colourspaces may result in a change in the colour if the gamut of one of the spaces is less than the other.

**See Also**

Other encoding and decoding functions: [encode\\_colour\(\)](#), [manip\\_channel](#)

**Examples**

```
# basic use
decode_colour(c('#43e1f6', 'steelblue', '#67ce9fe4'))

# Return alpha as well (no alpha value is interpreted as 1)
decode_colour(c('#43e1f6', 'steelblue', '#67ce9fe4'), alpha = TRUE)

# Decode directly into specific colour space
decode_colour(c('#43e1f6', 'steelblue', '#67ce9fe4'), to = 'lch')
```

---

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| encode_colour | <i>Encode colours into RGB hex-strings</i> |
|---------------|--|

---

**Description**

This is a version of [grDevices::rgb\(\)](#) that works with the standard colour format used in farver (matrix or data.frame with colours in rows). It further support taking input from any colour space.

**Usage**

```
encode_colour(colour, alpha = NULL, from = "rgb", white = "D65")
```

**Arguments**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| colour | A numeric matrix (or an object coercible to one) with colours encoded in the rows and the different colour space values in the columns. For all colourspaces except 'cmyk' this will mean a matrix with three columns - for 'cmyk' it means four columns.                          |
| alpha  | A numeric vector between 0 and 1. Will be recycled to the number of rows in colour. If NULL or a single NA it will be ignored.   |
| from   | The input colour space. Allowed values are: "cmy", "cmyk", "hsl", "hsb", "hsv", "lab" (CIE L*ab), "hunterlab" (Hunter Lab), "oklab", "lch" (CIE Lch(ab) / polarLAB), "luv", "rgb" (sRGB), "xyz", "yxy" (CIE xyY), "hcl" (CIE Lch(uv) / polarLuv), or "oklch" (Polar form of oklab) |
| white  | The white reference of the input colour space. Will only have an effect for relative colour spaces such as Lab and luv. Any value accepted by <a href="#">as_white_ref()</a> allowed.  |

**Value**

A character vector with colours encoded as #RRGGBB(AA)

### Handling of non-finite and out of bounds values

NA, NaN, -Inf, and Inf are treated as invalid input and will result in NA values for the colour. If a given colour space has finite bounds in some of their channels, the input will be capped before conversion, and the output will be capped before returning, so that both input and output colours are valid colours in their respective space. This means that converting back and forth between two colour spaces may result in a change in the colour if the gamut of one of the spaces is less than the other.

### Note

The output may differ slightly from that of `grDevices::rgb()` since `rgb()` doesn't round numeric values correctly.

### See Also

Other encoding and decoding functions: [decode\\_colour\(\)](#), [manip\\_channel](#)

### Examples

```
spectrum <- decode_colour(rainbow(10))

encode_colour(spectrum)

# Attach alpha values
encode_colour(spectrum, alpha = c(0.5, 1))

# Encode from a different colour space
spectrum_hcl <- convert_colour(spectrum, 'rgb', 'hcl')
encode_colour(spectrum_hcl, from = 'hcl')
```

---

manip\_channel

*Modify colour space channels in hex-encoded colour strings*

---

### Description

This set of functions allows you to modify colours as given by strings, without first decoding them. For large vectors of colour values this should provide a considerable speedup.

### Usage

```
set_channel(
  colour,
  channel,
  value,
  space = "rgb",
  white = "D65",
  na_value = NA
```

```
)  
  
add_to_channel(  
  colour,  
  channel,  
  value,  
  space = "rgb",  
  white = "D65",  
  na_value = NA  
)  
  
multiply_channel(  
  colour,  
  channel,  
  value,  
  space = "rgb",  
  white = "D65",  
  na_value = NA  
)  
  
raise_channel(  
  colour,  
  channel,  
  value,  
  space = "rgb",  
  white = "D65",  
  na_value = NA  
)  
  
cap_channel(  
  colour,  
  channel,  
  value,  
  space = "rgb",  
  white = "D65",  
  na_value = NA  
)  
  
get_channel(colour, channel, space = "rgb", white = "D65", na_value = NA)
```

### Arguments

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| colour  | A character string giving colours, either as hexadecimal strings or accepted colour names. |
| channel | The channel to modify or extract as a single letter, or 'alpha' for the alpha channel.     |
| value   | The value to modify with   |
| space   | The colour space the channel pertains to. Allowed values are: "cmy", "cmyk",               |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
|          | "hsl", "hsb", "hsv", "lab" (CIE L*a*b), "hunterlab" (Hunter Lab), "oklab", "lch" (CIE Lch(ab) / polarLAB), "luv", "rgb" (sRGB), "xyz", "yxy" (CIE xyY), "hcl" (CIE Lch(uv) / polarLuv), or "oklch" (Polar form of oklab)   |
| white    | The white reference of the channel colour space. Will only have an effect for relative colour spaces such as Lab and luv. Any value accepted by <a href="#">as_white_ref()</a> allowed.  |
| na_value | A valid colour string or NA to use when colour contains NA elements. The general approach in farver is to carry NA values over, but if you want to mimick <a href="#">col2rgb()</a> you should set na_value = 'transparent', i.e. treat NA as transparent white. |

### Value

A character vector of the same length as colour (or a numeric vector in the case of [get\\_channel\(\)](#))

### See Also

Other encoding and decoding functions: [decode\\_colour\(\)](#), [encode\\_colour\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
spectrum <- rainbow(10)

# set a specific channel
set_channel(spectrum, 'r', c(10, 50))
set_channel(spectrum, 'l', 50, space = 'lab')
set_channel(spectrum, 'alpha', c(0.5, 1))

# Add value to channel
add_to_channel(spectrum, 'r', c(10, 50))
add_to_channel(spectrum, 'l', 50, space = 'lab')

# Multiply a channel
multiply_channel(spectrum, 'r', c(10, 50))
multiply_channel(spectrum, 'l', 50, space = 'lab')

# set a lower bound on a channel
raise_channel(spectrum, 'r', c(10, 50))
raise_channel(spectrum, 'l', 20, space = 'lab')

# set an upper bound on a channel
cap_channel(spectrum, 'r', c(100, 50))
cap_channel(spectrum, 'l', 20, space = 'lab')
```

---

`native-encoding`*Convert to and from the R native colour representation*

---

### Description

Colours in R are internally encoded as integers when they are passed around to graphics devices. The encoding splits the 32 bit in the integer between red, green, blue, and alpha, so that each get 8 bit, equivalent to 256 values. It is very seldom that an R user is subjected to this representation, but it is present in the `nativeRaster` format which can be obtained from e.g. capturing the content of a graphic device (using `dev.capture()`) or reading in PNG files using `png::readPNG(native = TRUE)`. It is very rare that you might need to convert back and forth between this format, but it is provided here for completeness.

### Usage

```
encode_native(colour, ...)
```

```
decode_native(colour)
```

### Arguments

`colour` For `encode_native` either a vector of hex-encoded colours/colour names or a matrix encoding colours in any of the supported colour spaces. If the latter, the colours will be encoded to a hex string using `encode_colour()` first. For `decode_native` it is a vector of integers.

`...` Arguments passed on to `encode_colour()`

### Value

`encode_native()` returns an integer vector and `decode_native()` returns a character vector, both matching the length of the input.

### Examples

```
# Get native representation of navyblue and #228B22
native_col <- encode_native(c('navyblue', '#228B22'))
native_col
```

```
# Convert back
decode_native(native_col)
```

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