

Ch.8: Subtractive Color Mixing. Ch.9: Color-Generating Mechanisms

- 1. Filters. Subtractive Primary Colors.**
- 2. Pigments.**
- 3. Structural Color.**
- 4. Color in Gemstones.**

1. Filters

Play the Interactive app:

<http://www.physicsclassroom.com/Physics-Interactives/Light-and-Color/Color-Filters/Color-Filters-Interactive>

Do q's 1 and 2 in WS 6

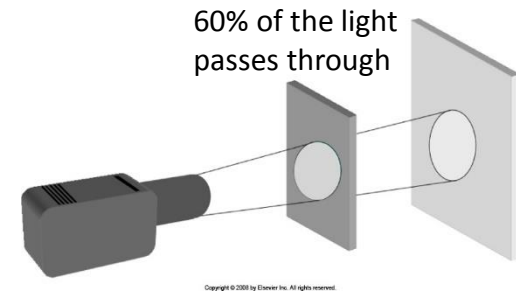
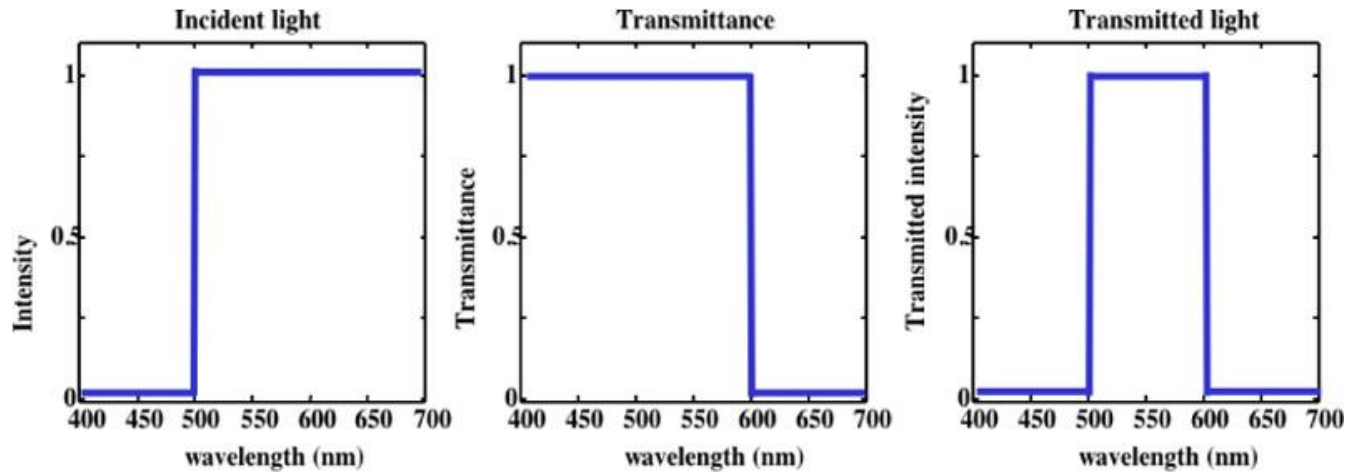


Fig.8.1 A neutral density filter with $T=0.6$

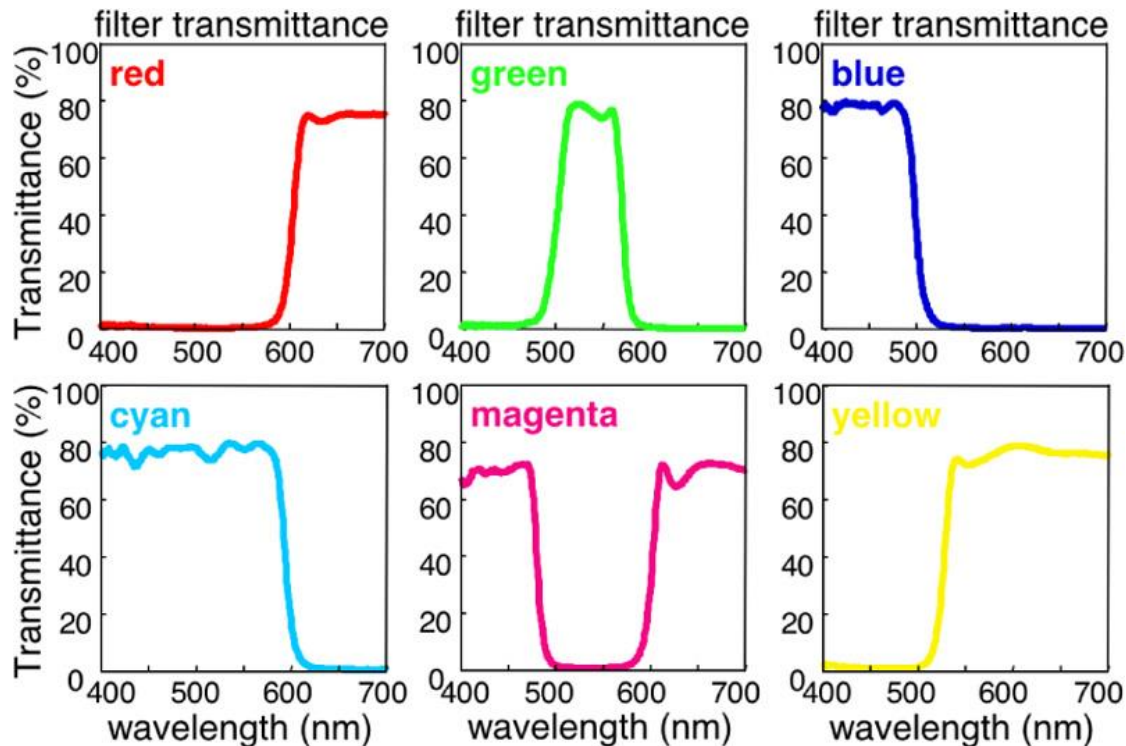
Filters absorb part of the incident spectrum and transmit another part.



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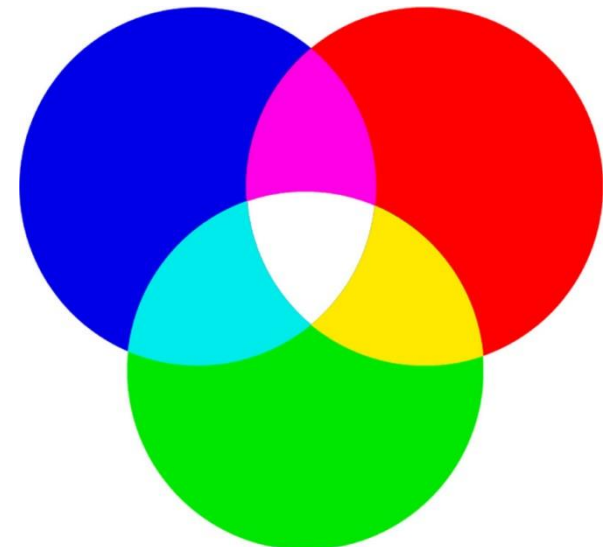
Fig.8.2 What is the color of the incident and transmitted light?

Transmittance curves of real filters – each of Cyan, Magenta, Yellow subtract the additive primary colors R, G, B:



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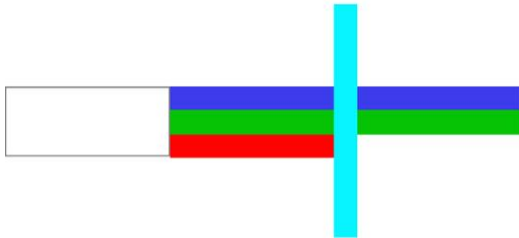
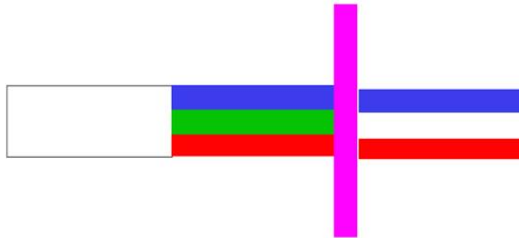
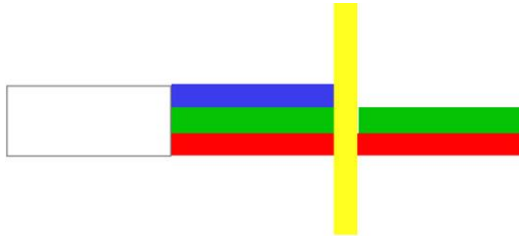
Recall the primary additive colors:



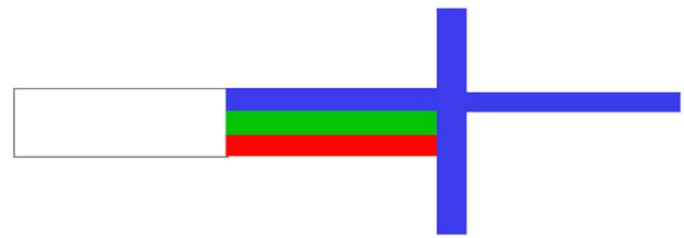
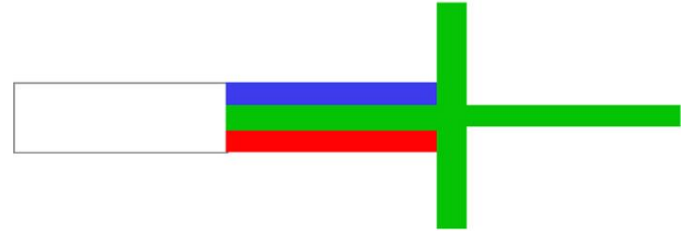
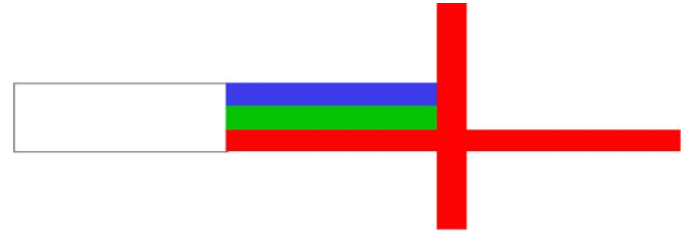
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Q: Which ones are complementary colors?

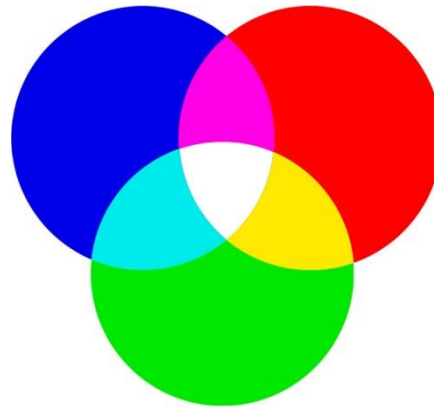
Each filter subtracts (absorbs) its complementary color.
C,M,Y are subtractive primary colors.



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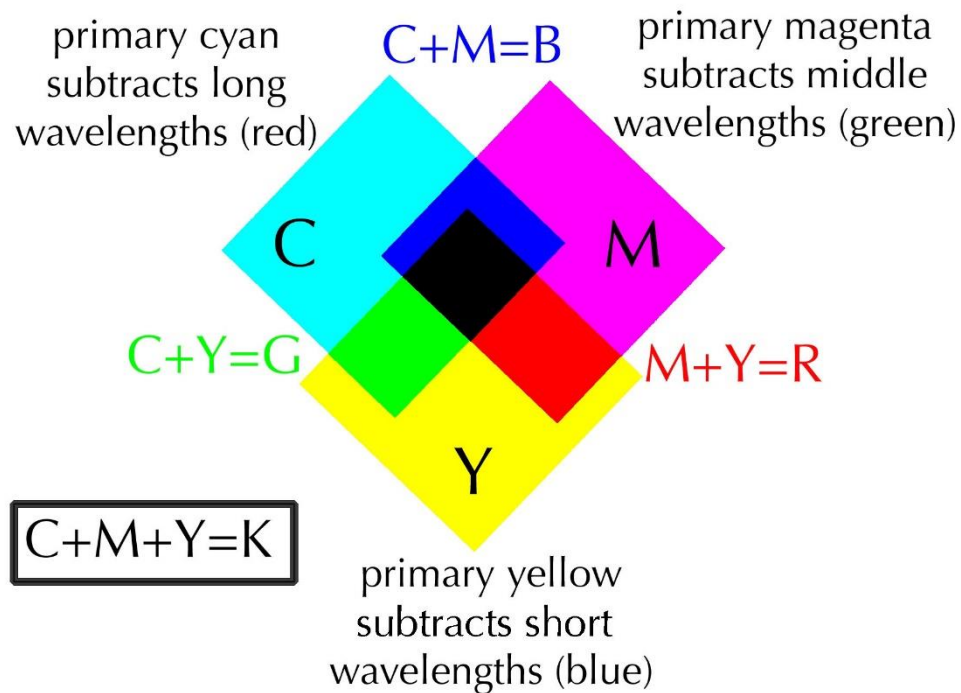


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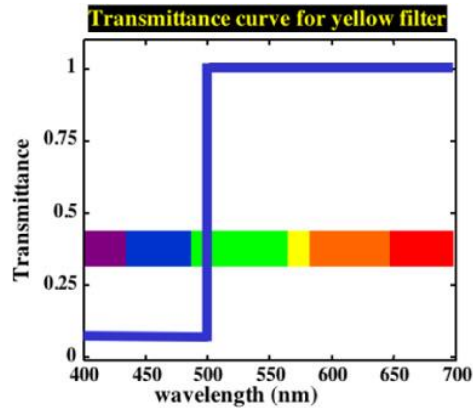


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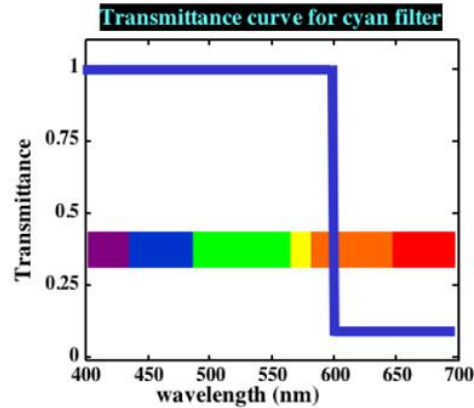
Subtractively (filters): Red + Green = Black
Additively (projectors): Red + Green = Yellow



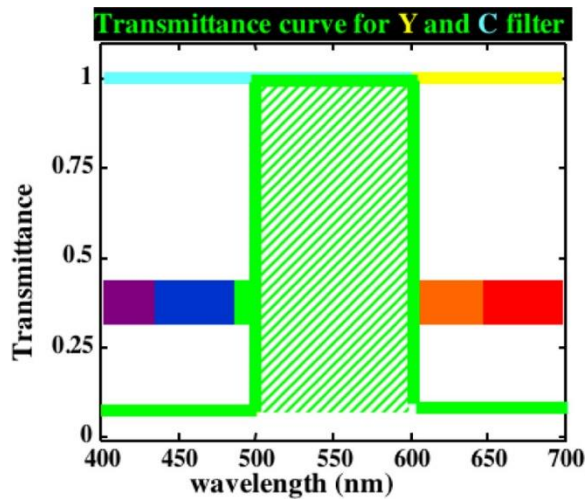
Combining filters: the incident intensity is multiplied by the filter transmittance



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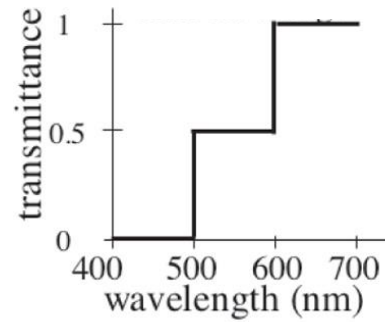


	T_{yellow}	T_{cyan}	$T_y \times T_c$
B	0	1	0
G	1	1	1
R	1	0	0

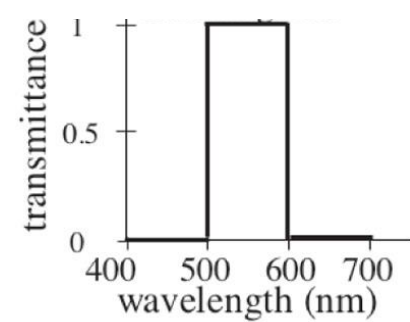


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What colors are these filters?



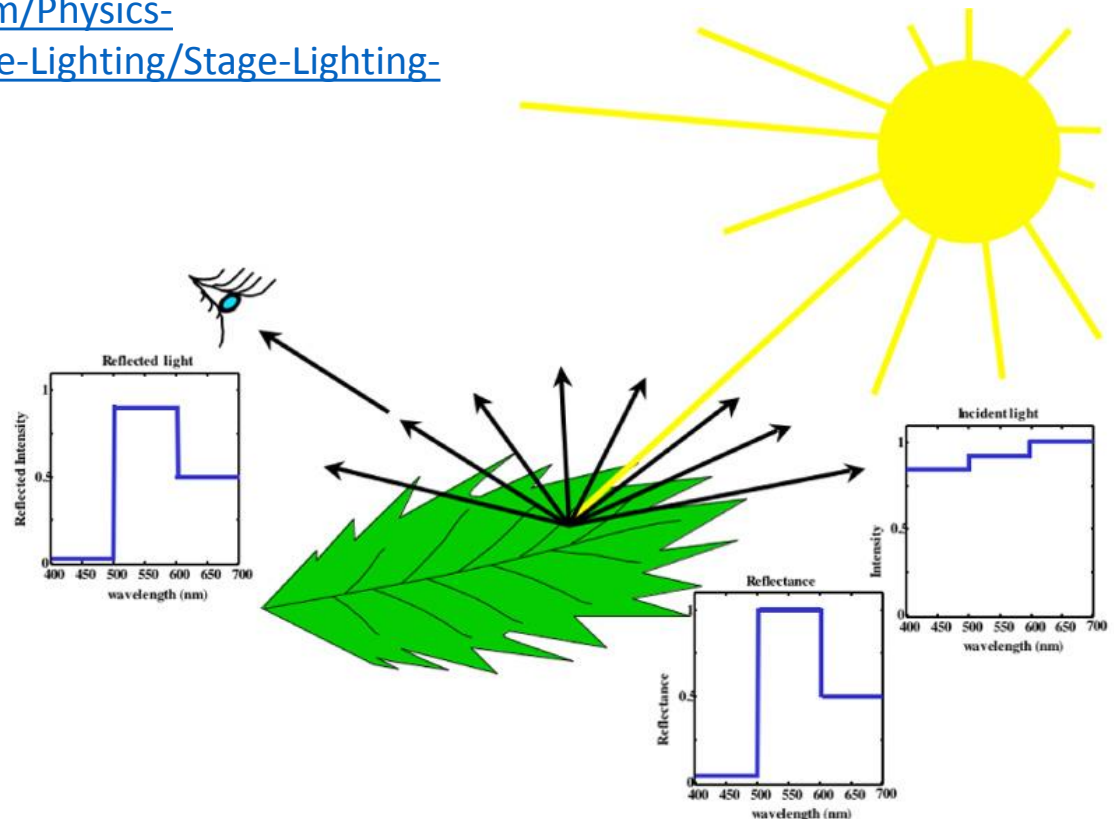
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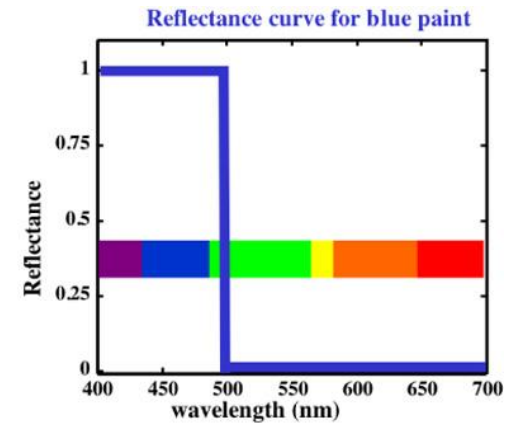
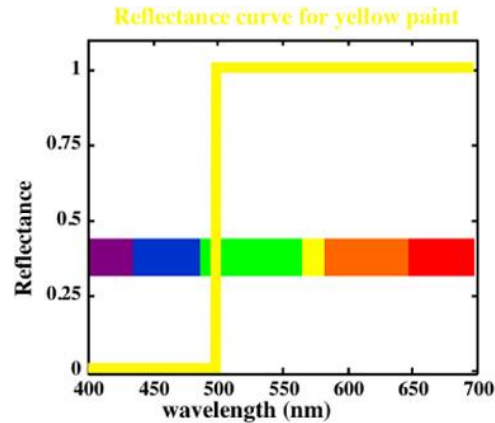
2. Pigments – the color depends on their reflectance and on the incident spectrum

Dependence on incident light:

<http://www.physicsclassroom.com/Physics-Interactives/Light-and-Color/Stage-Lighting/Stage-Lighting-Interactive>

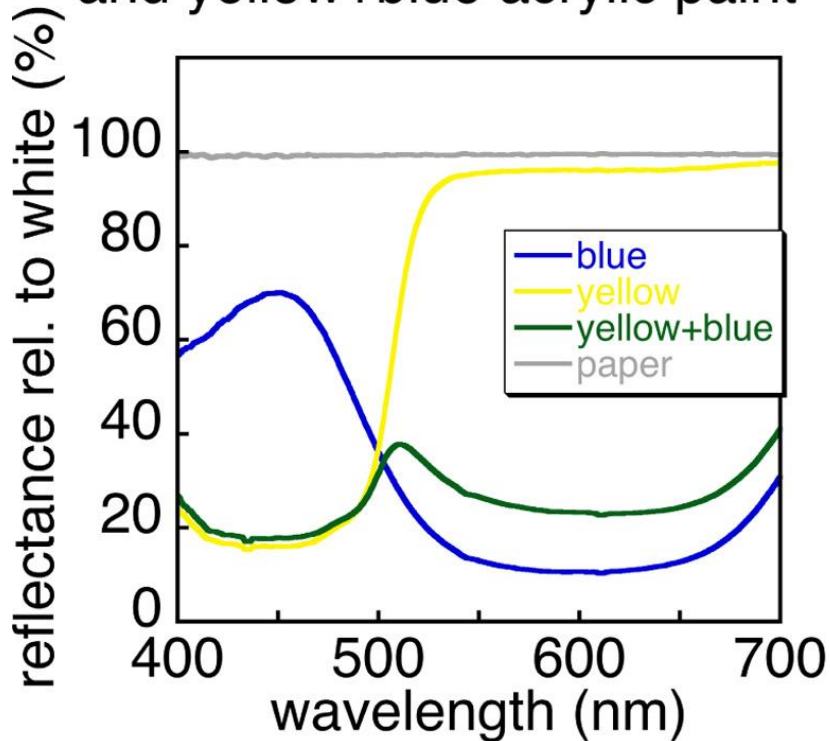


Mixing paints:
 Blue + Yellow = ?



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reflectance curves for yellow, blue
 and yellow+blue acrylic paint



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The idealized steep curves
 will tell $B + Y = \text{Black}$

The real reflectance curves
 are less steep, so the result
 is dark green.

Why do tree leafs change color in the fall?



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Fig.9-1a



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Fig.9-1b

This is one of the topics to explore in Lab Journal 3.

Pigments (cont.)

Watch the video and answer the questions:

- What happens to sunlight illuminating the surface of an orange? A green leaf?
- Do pigments (paints) emit different colors of light?
How do you explain their colors?

Dependence on reflectance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLshU-FokYI>

Animal pigments:

- Melanin (*black, gray, beige, or brown*)
- Carotenoids (*yellow, orange, pink, or red*)

Plant pigments:

- Chlorophylls (*green*)
- Carotenoids (*yellow, orange, pink, or red*)
- Tannin (*black or brown*)
- Anthocyanins (*red or bluish-purple*)



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3. Structural Color

Why is blue such a rare color in nature?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g246c6Bv58>



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Fig.9.2. There is no blue color in this butterfly – it is generated by iridescence. The color of beetle shells is similarly generated.



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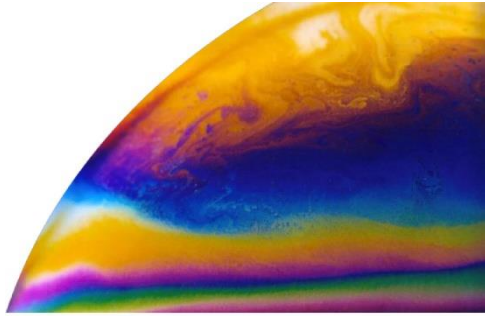
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Pits in CDs also produce structural color

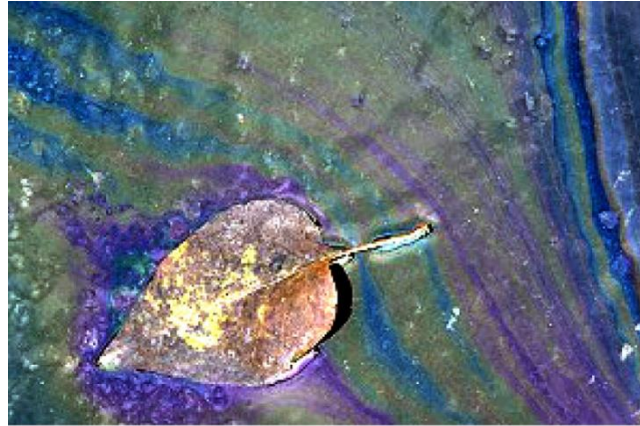


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Examples of interference of light in thin films



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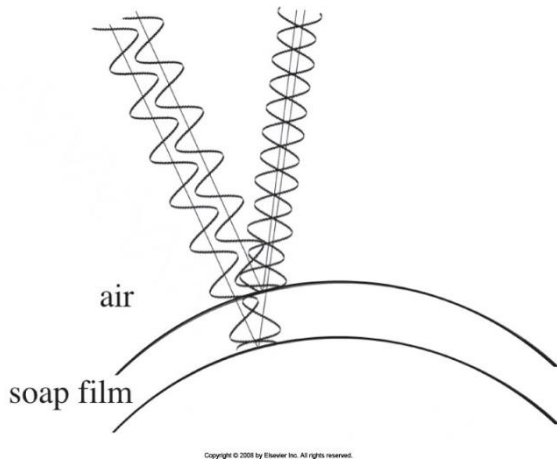


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Interference in soap bubbles.

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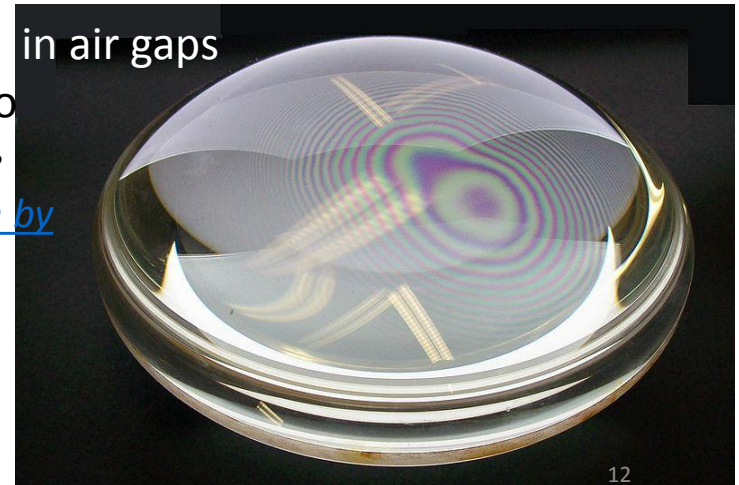
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Figs. 9.3 – 9.5

Example of soap bubbles changing thickness:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4l34jA1fDp4>

Interference in air gaps between two lenses. *In the public domain by user [Ulfbastel](#)*



4. Colors of Gemstones



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Fig.9.10 Different crystals with Cr impurities

Ruby: Al_2O_3 with Cr

Sapphire: Al_2O_3 with Fe, Mg, Ti,
or other inclusions, causing various colors



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Fig.9.11 Same crystal (beryl) with different impurities



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