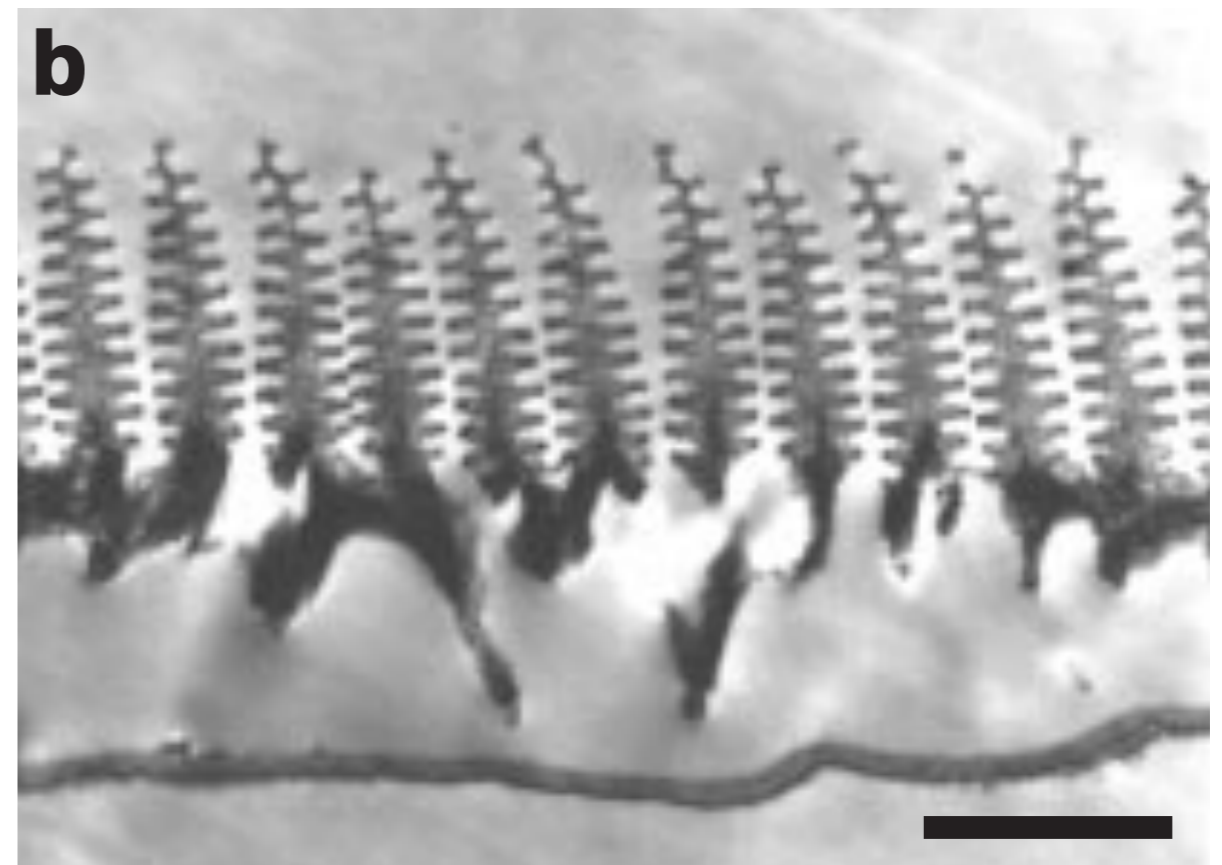


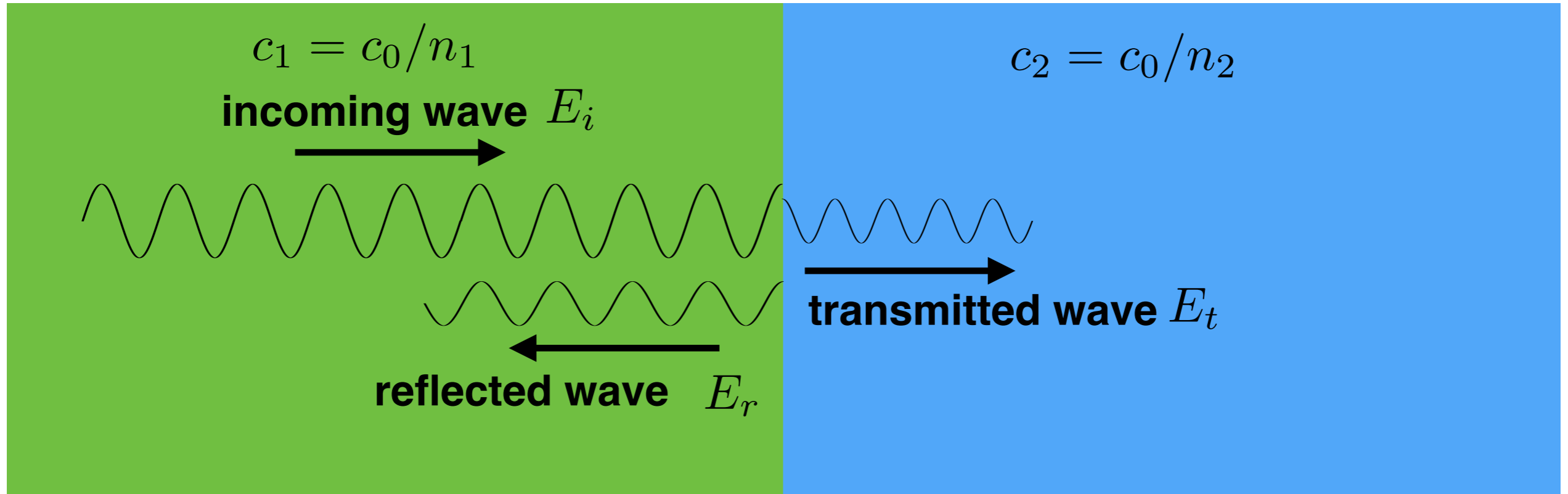
MAE 545: Lecture 3 (2/14)

Structural colors



1.7 μm

Reflection of light at the interface between two media



boundary conditions for incident waves normal to the interface:

$$E_1 = E_2 \quad \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x}$$

amplitude of reflected electric field

$$r \equiv \frac{E_r}{E_i} = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1 + n_2}$$

amplitude of transmitted electric field

$$t \equiv \frac{E_t}{E_i} = \frac{2n_1}{n_1 + n_2}$$

energy density of electromagnetic waves

$$\propto n|E|^2$$

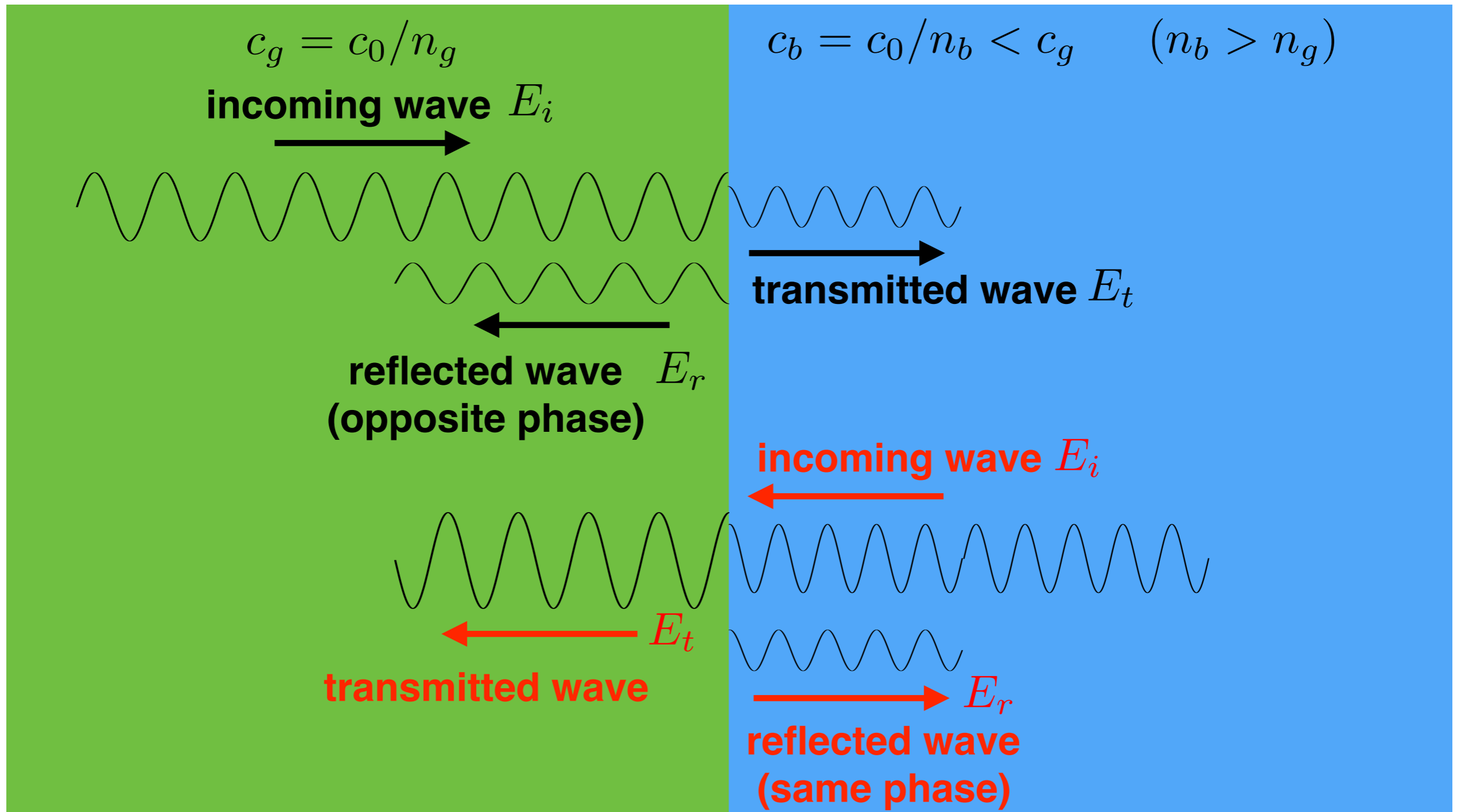
reflectance

$$R \equiv \frac{n_1|E_r|^2}{n_1|E_i|^2} = |r|^2$$

transmittance

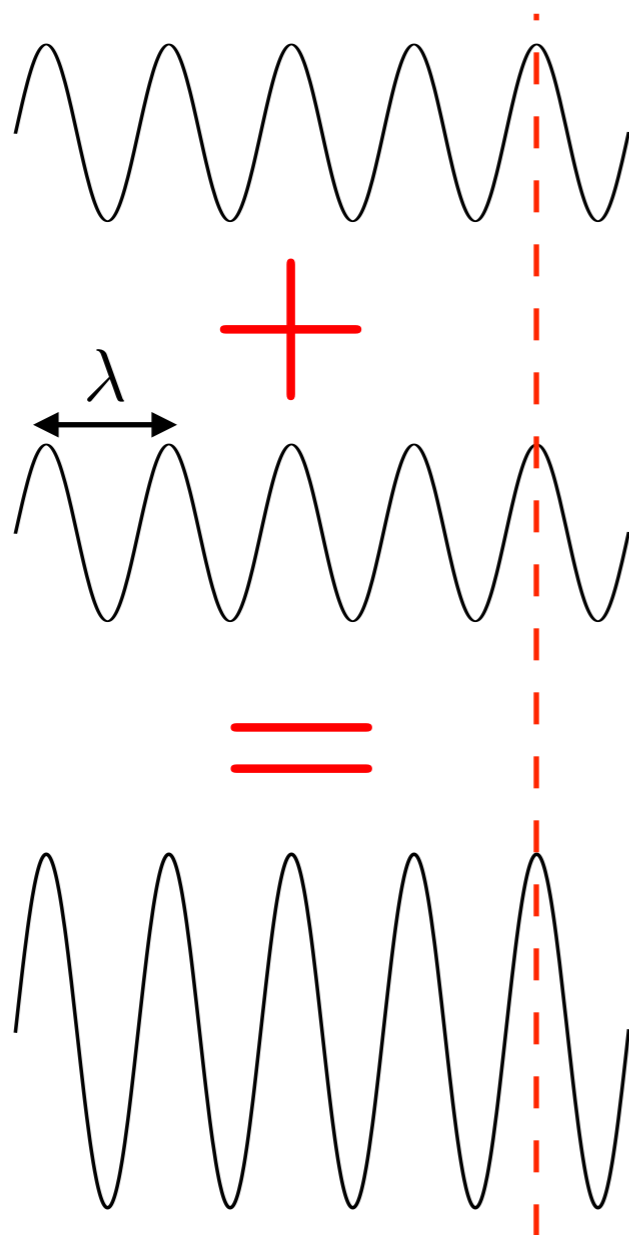
$$T \equiv \frac{n_2|E_t|^2}{n_1|E_i|^2} = |t|^2 \frac{n_2}{n_1} = 1 - R$$

Reflection of light at the interface between two media



Interference

**constructive
interference**



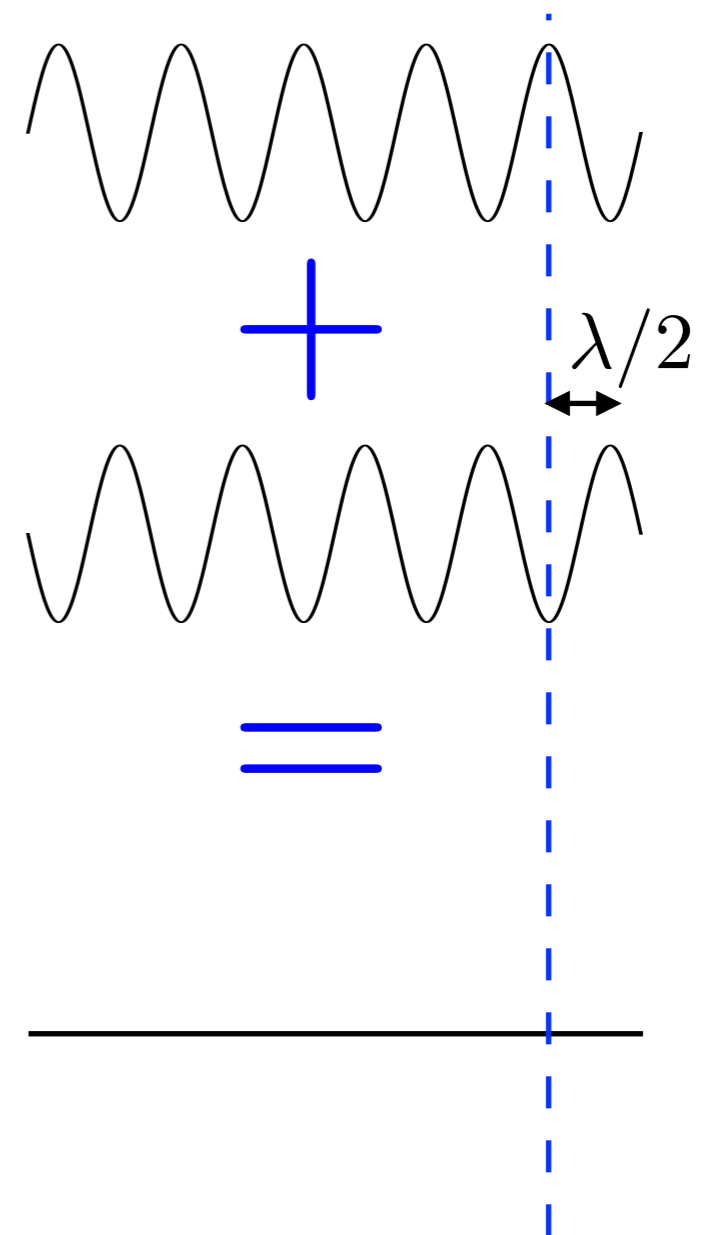
**Constructive interference occurs
when the two waves are in phase:**

waves offset by $m\lambda$,

$$m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

$$e^{ikm\lambda} = e^{i2\pi m} = +1$$

**destructive
interference**



**Destructive interference occurs when
the two waves are out of phase:**

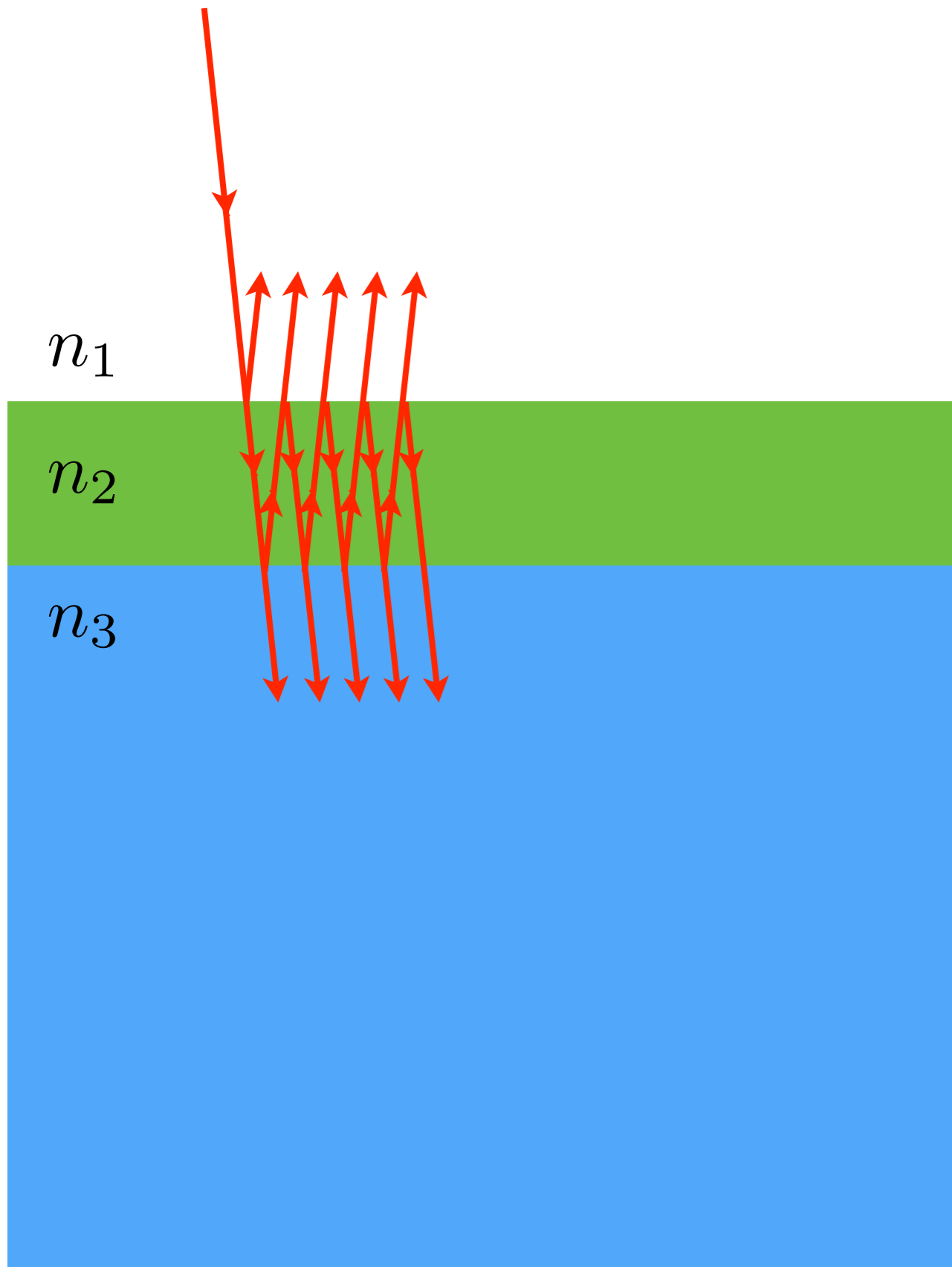
waves offset by $(m + 1/2)\lambda$,

$$m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

$$e^{ik(m+1/2)\lambda} = e^{i(2\pi m + \pi)} = -1$$

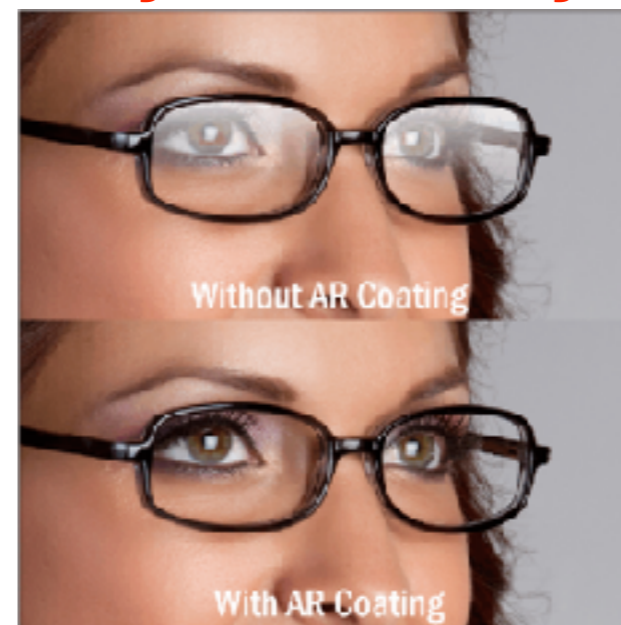
Interference on thin films

Constructive interference of reflected rays results in strongly reflected rays with very little transmission.



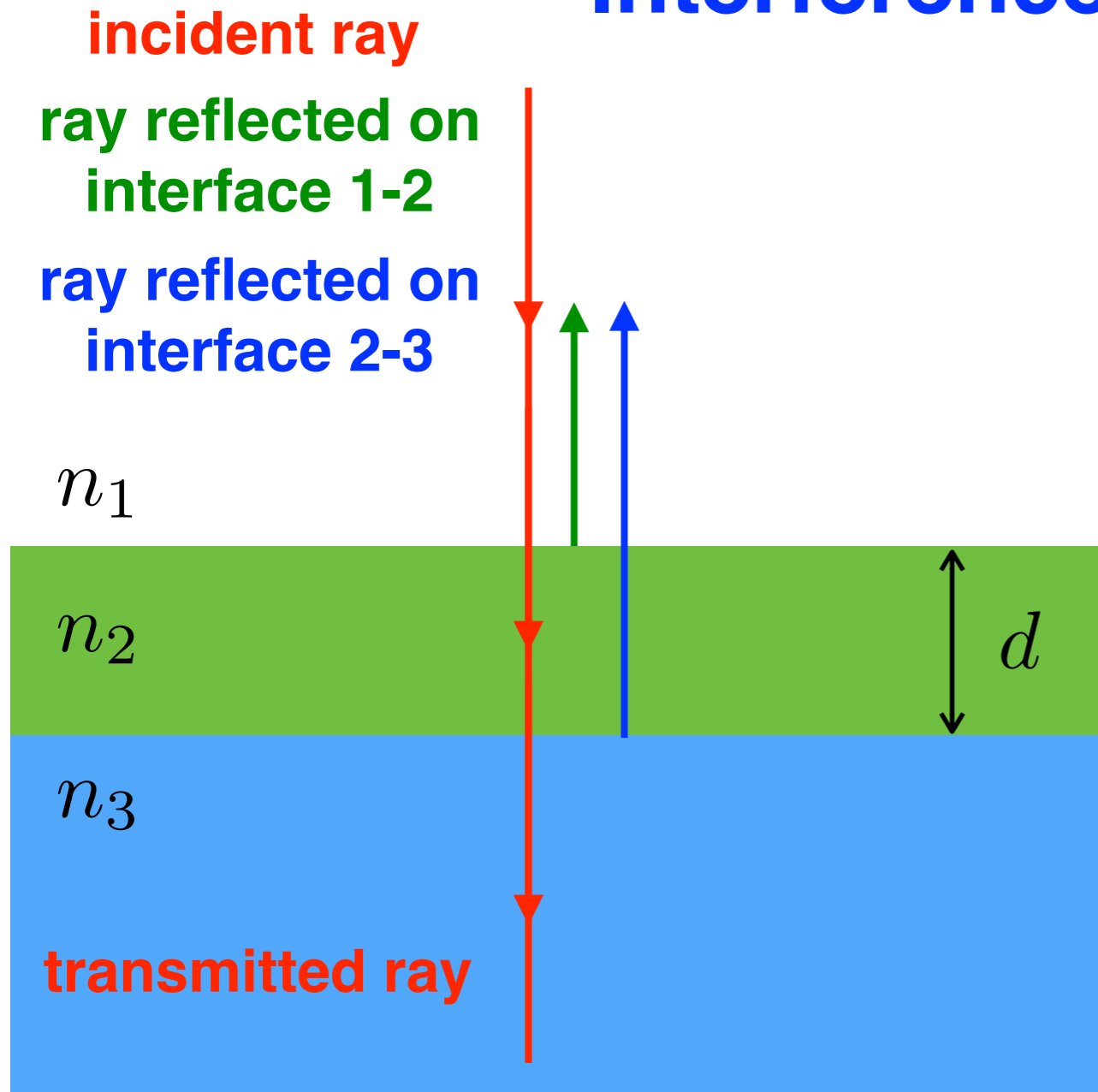
mirrors

Deconstructive interference of reflected rays results in almost perfectly transmitted rays with very little reflection.



antireflective coatings

Interference on thin films



difference between optical path lengths of the two reflected rays

$$OPD = 2n_2d$$

no additional phase difference due to reflections

$$n_1 < n_2 < n_3 \quad n_1 > n_2 > n_3$$

constructive interference of reflected rays

$$OPD = m\lambda$$

destructive interference of reflected rays

$$OPD = (m + 1/2)\lambda$$

$$m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

additional π phase difference due to reflections

$$n_1 < n_2 > n_3 \quad n_1 > n_2 < n_3$$

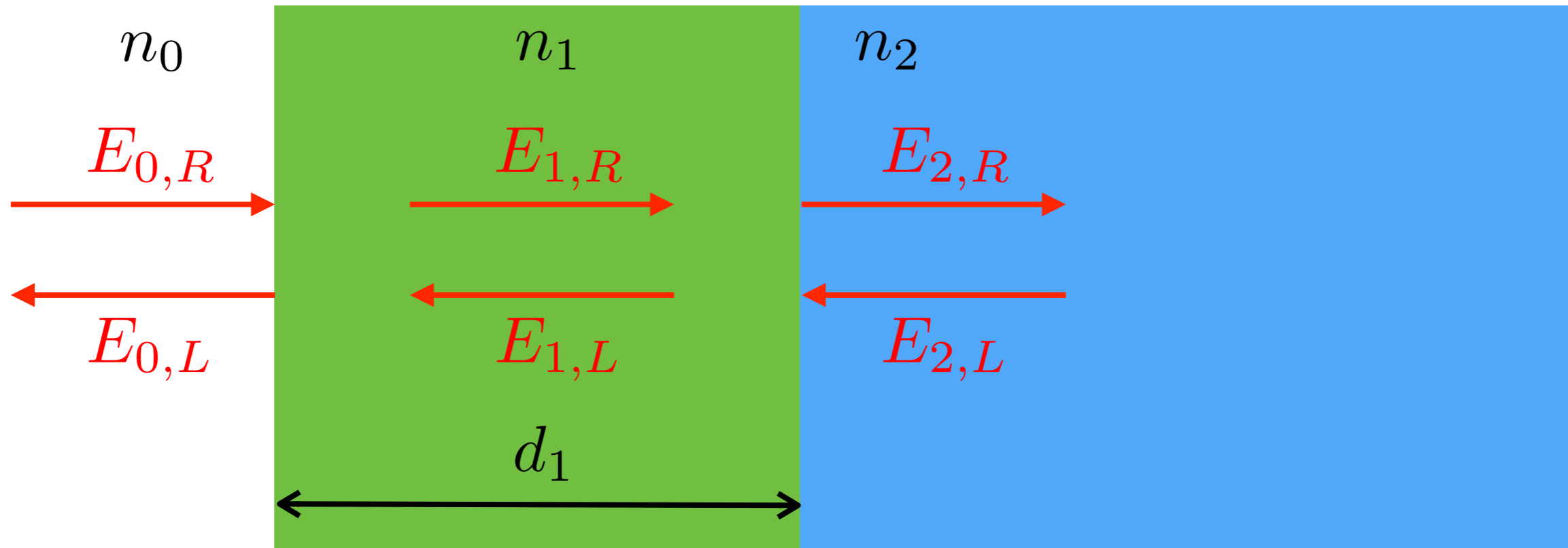
constructive interference of reflected rays

$$OPD = (m + 1/2)\lambda$$

destructive interference of reflected rays

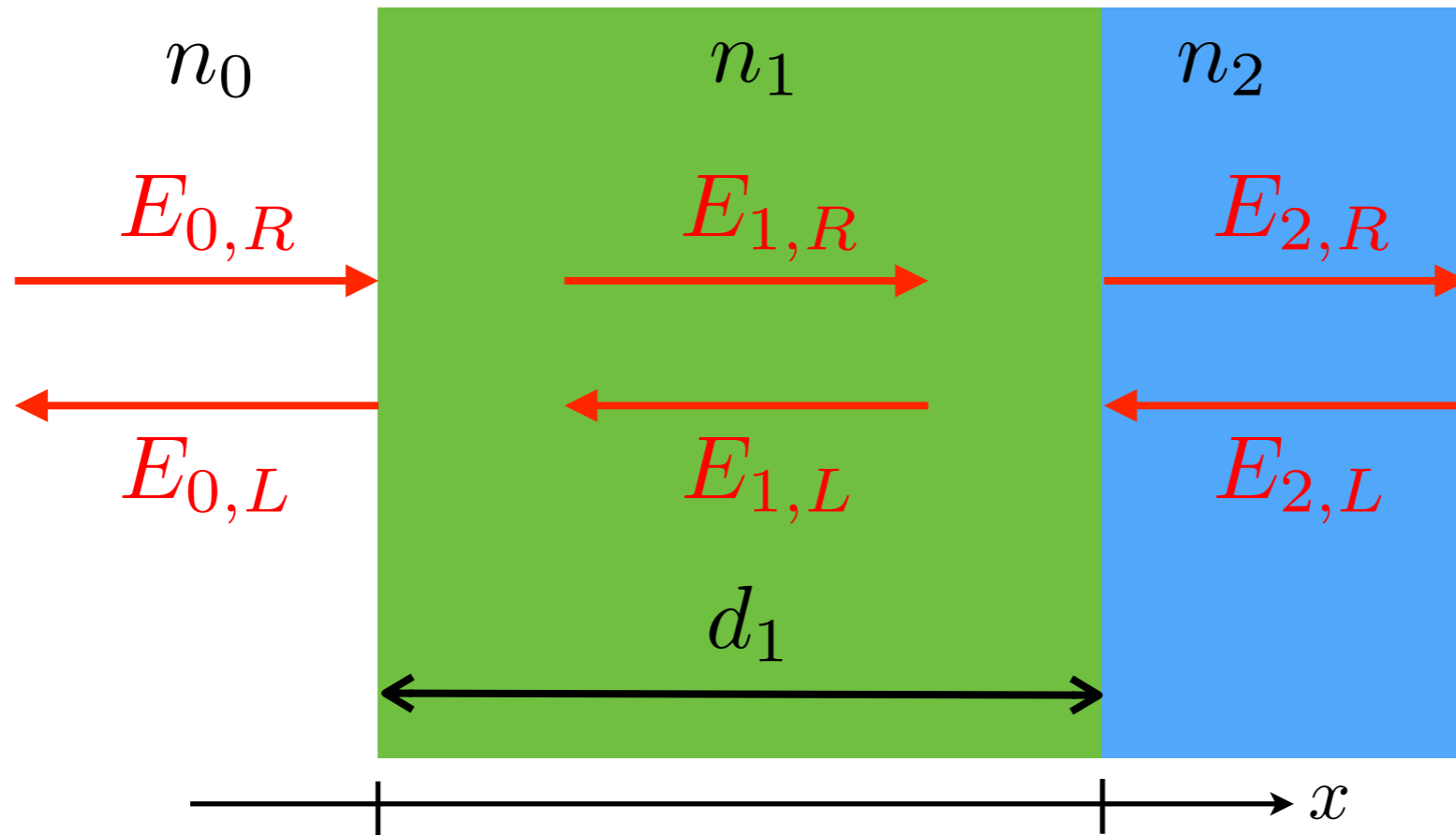
$$OPD = m\lambda$$

Transfer matrices



How can we relate the amplitudes of electromagnetic waves in the region 0 (white) to the amplitudes of electromagnetic waves in the region 2 (blue)?

Transfer matrices



$$k_a = \frac{2\pi n_a}{\lambda} = \frac{n_a \omega}{c_0}$$

Electromagnetic waves in different regions:

$$E_0(x, t) = E_{0,R} e^{i(k_0 x - \omega t)} + E_{0,L} e^{i(-k_0 x - \omega t)}$$

$$E_1(x, t) = E_{1,R} e^{i(k_1 x - \omega t)} + E_{1,L} e^{i(-k_1 x - \omega t)}$$

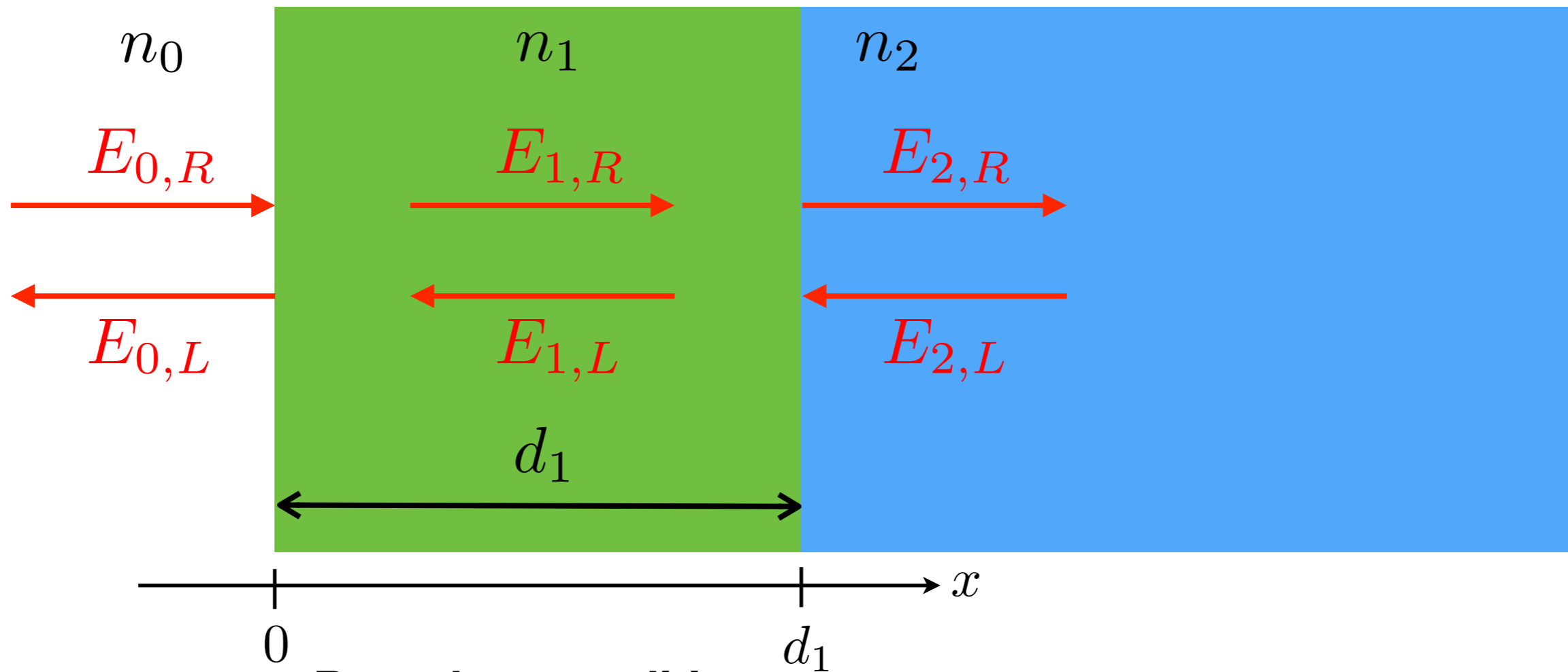
$$E_2(x, t) = E_{2,R} e^{i(k_2 x - \omega t)} + E_{2,L} e^{i(-k_2 x - \omega t)}$$

Boundary conditions:

$$E_0(0, t) = E_1(0, t) \qquad E_1(d_1, t) = E_2(d_1, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial E_0}{\partial x}(0, t) = \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial x}(0, t) \qquad \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial x}(d_1, t) = \frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x}(d_1, t)$$

Transfer matrices



Boundary conditions:

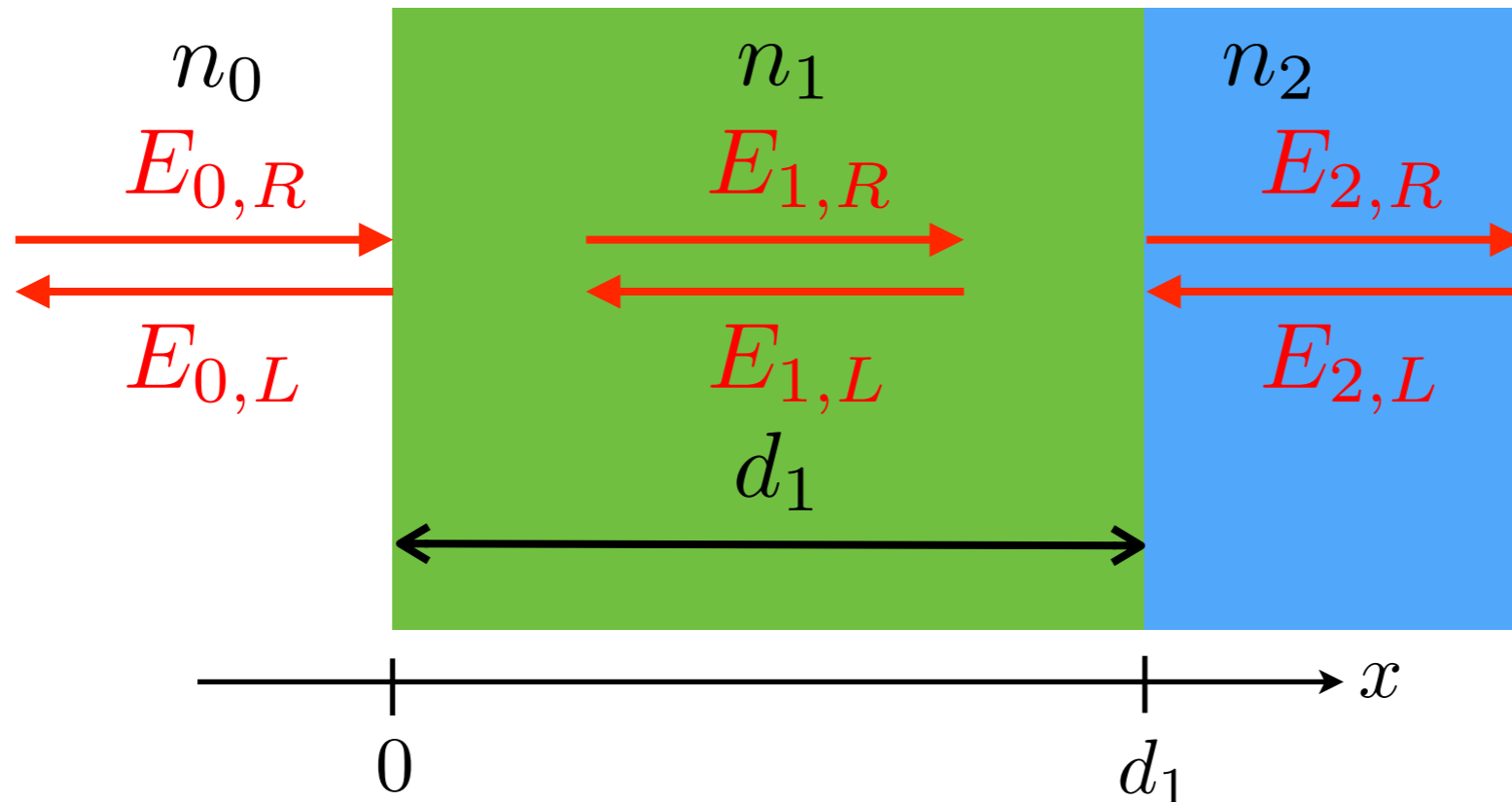
$$E_0(0, t) = E_1(0, t) \quad E_1(d_1, t) = E_2(d_1, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial E_0}{\partial x}(0, t) = \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial x}(0, t) \quad \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial x}(d_1, t) = \frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x}(d_1, t)$$

We would like to relate boundary conditions at two different interfaces via a transfer matrix M_1 :

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_2(d_1, t) \\ \frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x}(d_1, t) \end{pmatrix} = M_1 \begin{pmatrix} E_0(0, t) \\ \frac{\partial E_0}{\partial x}(0, t) \end{pmatrix}$$

Transfer matrices



Electromagnetic waves in regions 1:

$$E_1(x, t) = E_{1,R}e^{i(k_1x - \omega t)} + E_{1,L}e^{i(-k_1x - \omega t)}$$

Relation between boundary conditions:

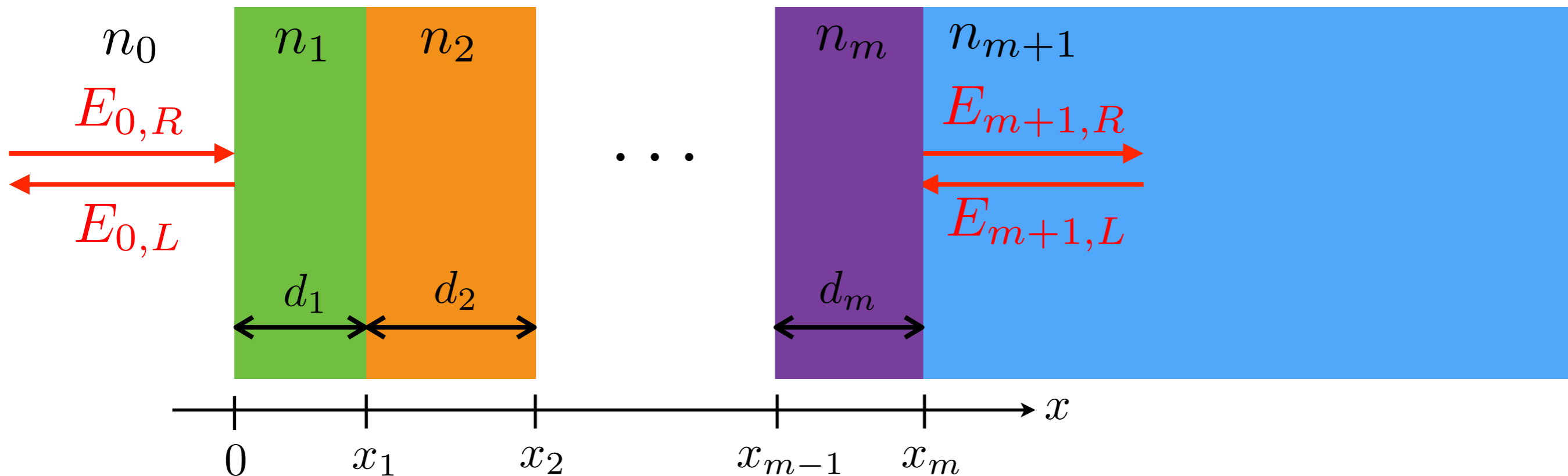
$$\begin{pmatrix} E_1(d_1, t) \\ \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial x}(d_1, t) \end{pmatrix} = M_1 \begin{pmatrix} E_1(0, t) \\ \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial x}(0, t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_{1,R}e^{ik_1d_1} + E_{1,L}e^{-ik_1d_1} \\ ik_1E_{1,R}e^{ik_1d_1} - ik_1E_{1,L}e^{-ik_1d_1} \end{pmatrix} = M_1 \begin{pmatrix} E_{1,R} + E_{1,L} \\ ik_1E_{1,R} - ik_1E_{1,L} \end{pmatrix}$$

Transfer matrix M_1 can be obtained by solving equations above:

$$M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(k_1d_1), & \frac{\sin(k_1d_1)}{k_1} \\ -k_1 \sin(k_1d_1), & \cos(k_1d_1) \end{pmatrix}$$

Transfer matrices



Transfer matrix for m layers:

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_{m+1}(x_m, t) \\ \frac{\partial E_{m+1}}{\partial x}(x_m, t) \end{pmatrix} = M \begin{pmatrix} E_0(0, t) \\ \frac{\partial E_0}{\partial x}(0, t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M = M_m \cdot \dots \cdot M_2 \cdot M_1$$

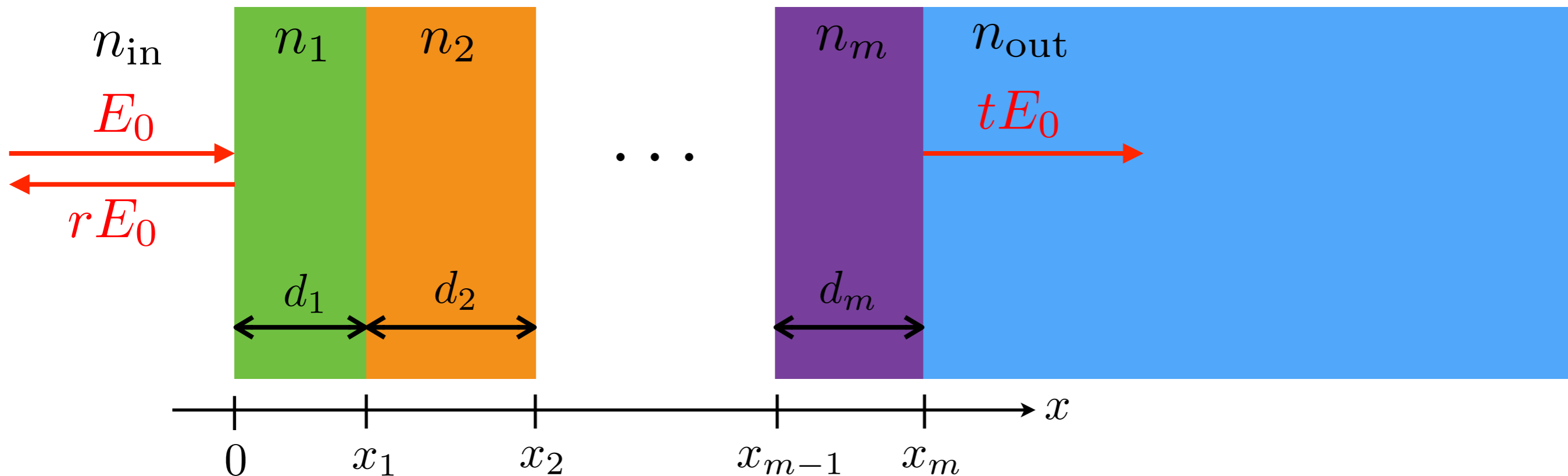
$$M_a = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(k_a d_a), & \frac{\sin(k_a d_a)}{k_a} \\ -k_a \sin(k_a d_a), & \cos(k_a d_a) \end{pmatrix}$$

Note:

$$\det(M) = \det(M_a) = 1$$

$$k_a = \frac{2\pi n_a}{\lambda} = \frac{n_a \omega}{c_0}$$

Transfer matrices



Incoming and outgoing electromagnetic waves:

$$E_{\text{in}}(x, t) = E_0 e^{i(k_{\text{in}}x - \omega t)} + r E_0 e^{i(-k_{\text{in}}x - \omega t)}$$

$$E_{\text{out}}(x, t) = t E_0 e^{i(k_{\text{out}}x - \omega t)}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_{\text{out}}(x_m, t) \\ \frac{\partial E_{\text{out}}}{\partial x}(x_m, t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_{\text{in}}(0, t) \\ \frac{\partial E_{\text{in}}}{\partial x}(0, t) \end{pmatrix}$$

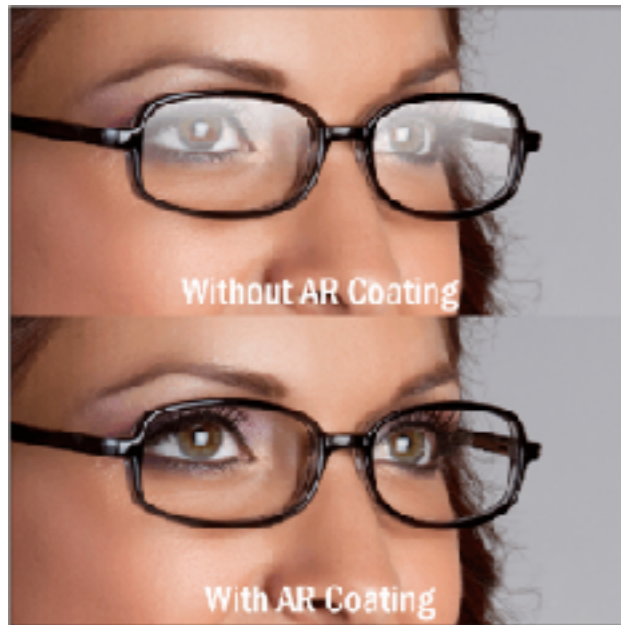
Amplitudes of reflected and transmitted waves:

$$r = \frac{(M_{21} + k_{\text{in}}k_{\text{out}}M_{12}) + i(k_{\text{in}}M_{22} - k_{\text{out}}M_{11})}{(-M_{21} + k_{\text{in}}k_{\text{out}}M_{12}) + i(k_{\text{out}}M_{11} + k_{\text{in}}M_{22})}$$

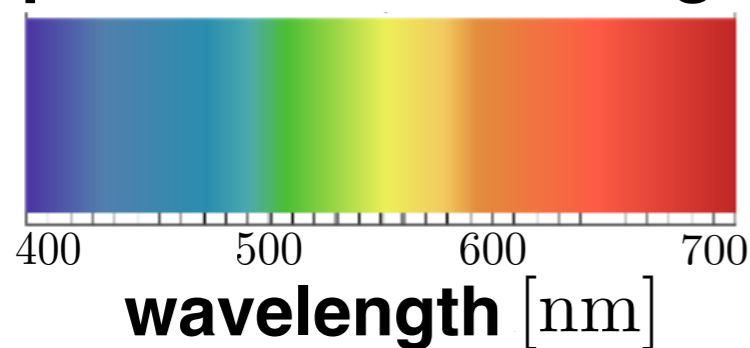
$$t = \frac{2ik_{\text{in}}e^{-ix_mk_{\text{out}}}}{(-M_{21} + k_{\text{in}}k_{\text{out}}M_{12}) + i(k_{\text{out}}M_{11} + k_{\text{in}}M_{22})}$$

Example: antireflective coating

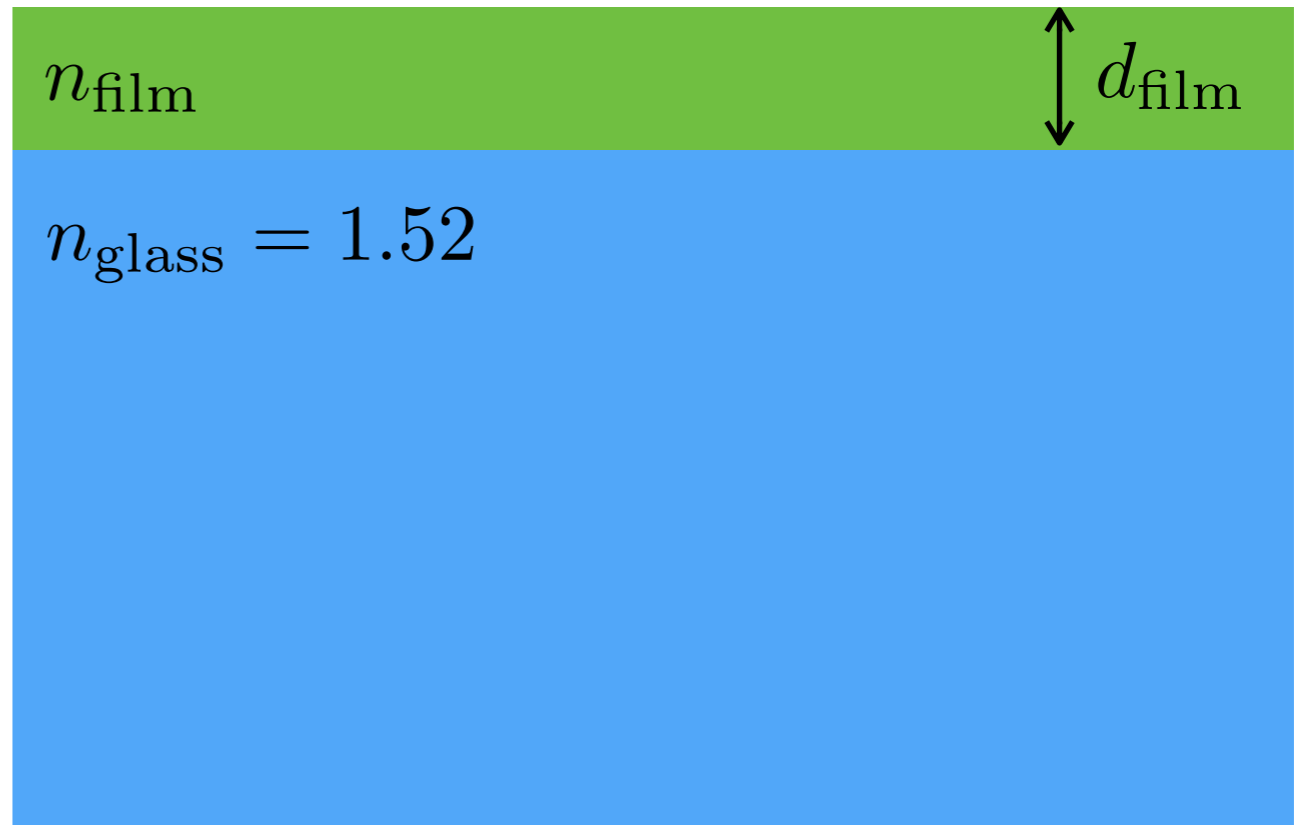
We would like to design a thin film coating for glasses that minimizes reflection of visible light.



spectrum of visible light



$$n_{\text{air}} \approx 1$$



Assume that thin film is made of MgF_2 that can be easily applied with physical vapor deposition:

$$n_{\text{film}} = 1.38$$

Note: the condition for destructive interference of reflected rays can be satisfied only for discrete set of wavelengths λ_0 :

$$2d_{\text{film}}n_{\text{film}} = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)\lambda_0$$
$$m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Example: antireflective coating

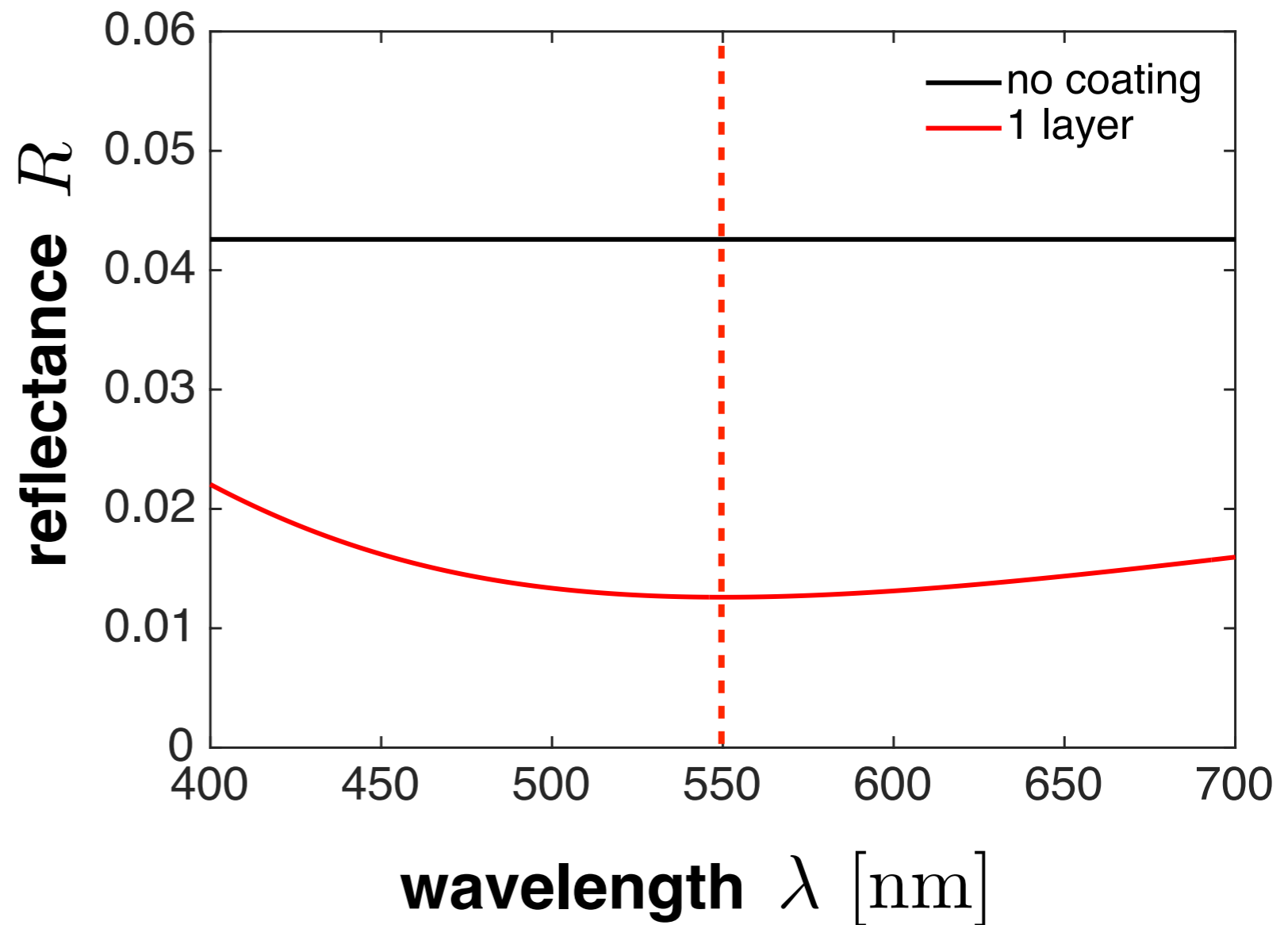
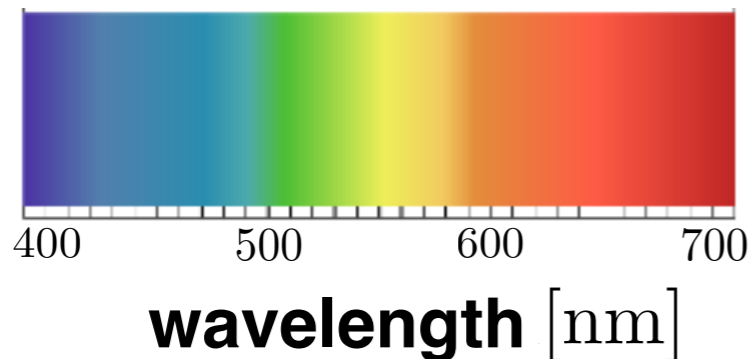
$$n_{\text{air}} \approx 1$$

$$n_{\text{film}} = 1.38$$

$$n_{\text{glass}} = 1.52$$

d_{film}

spectrum of visible light



Use film thickness that corresponds to the destructive interference for the wavelength in the middle of the visible spectrum $\lambda_{\text{target}} = 550$ nm:

$$d_{\text{film}} = \frac{\lambda_{\text{target}}}{4n_{\text{film}}} = 100 \text{ nm}$$

Example: antireflective coating

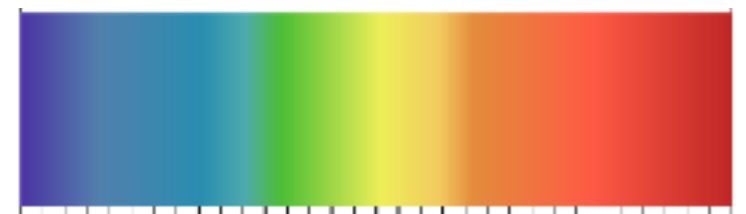
$$n_{\text{air}} \approx 1$$

$$n_{\text{film}} = 1.38$$

 d_{film}

$$n_{\text{glass}} = 1.52$$

spectrum of visible light



400 500 600 700

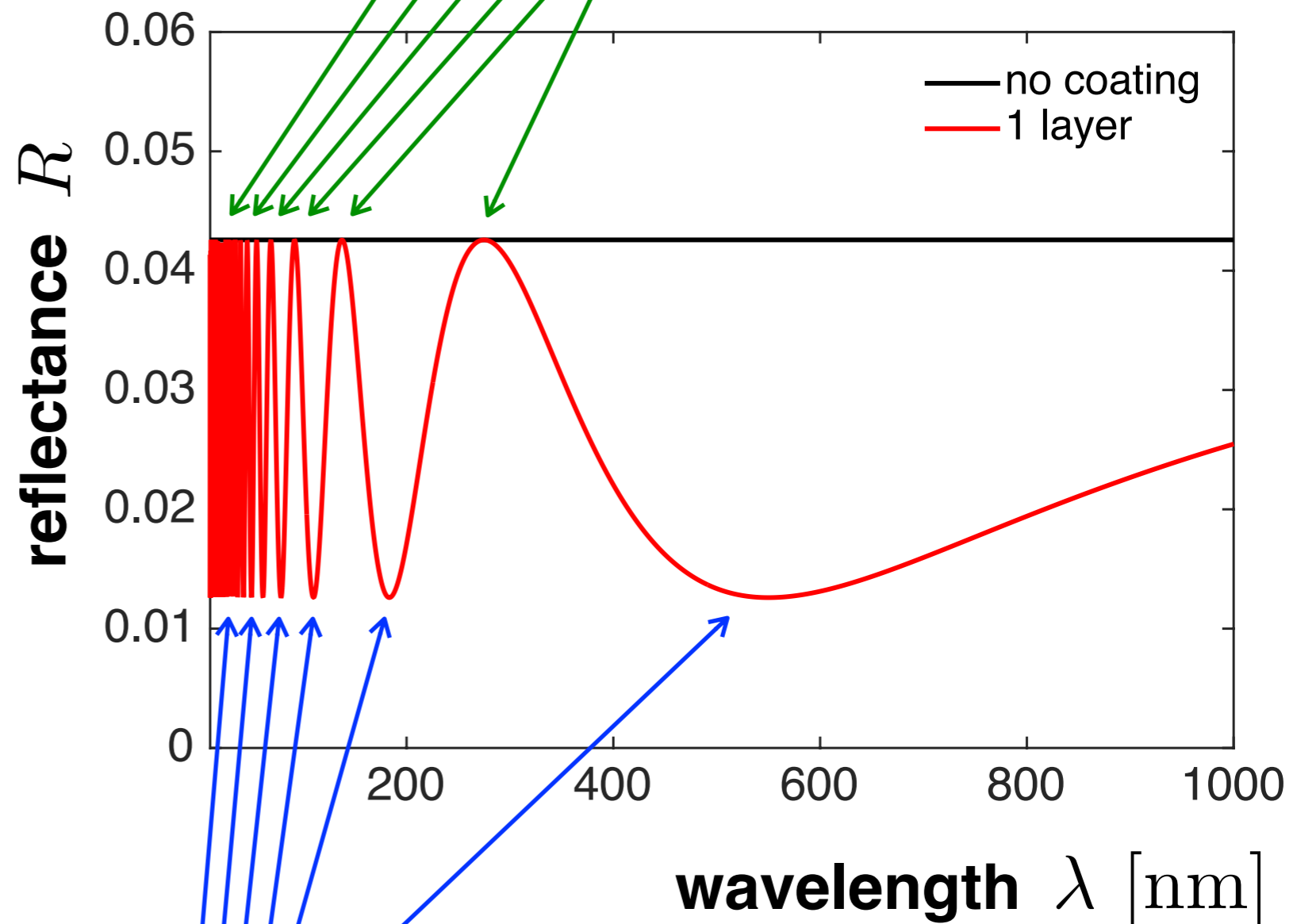
wavelength [nm]

$$\lambda_{\text{target}} = 550 \text{ nm}$$

$$d_{\text{film}} = \frac{\lambda_{\text{target}}}{4n_{\text{film}}} = 100 \text{ nm}$$

constructive interference

$$2n_{\text{film}}d_{\text{film}} = m\lambda$$

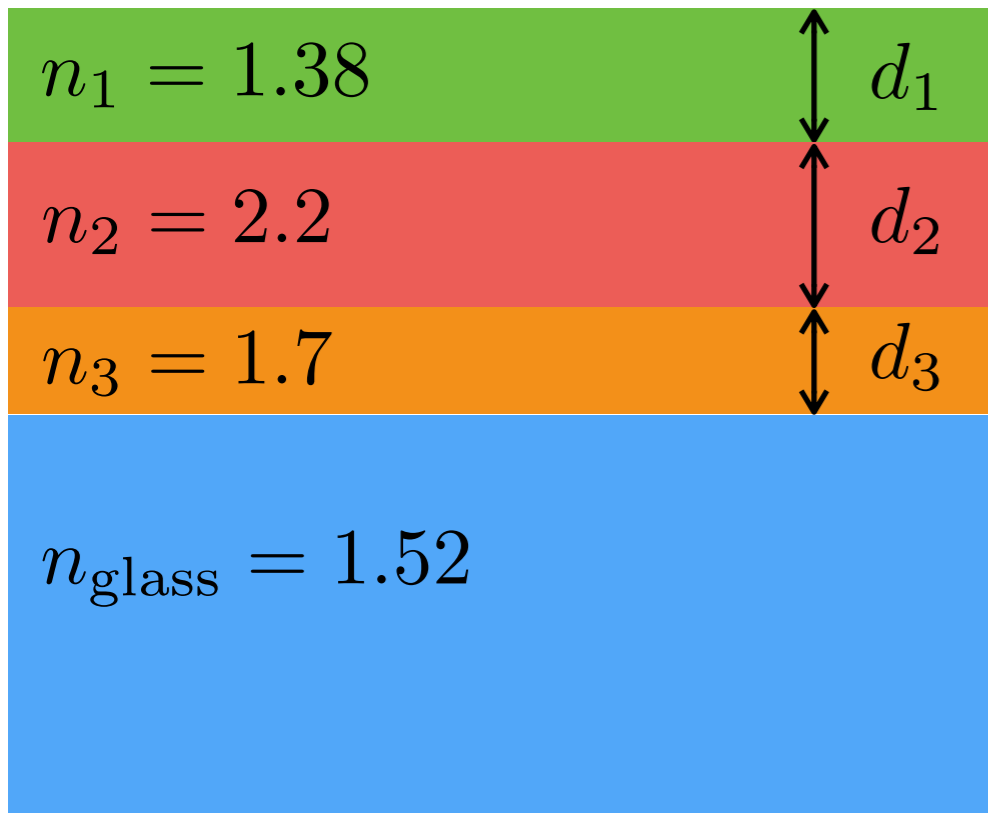


destructive interference

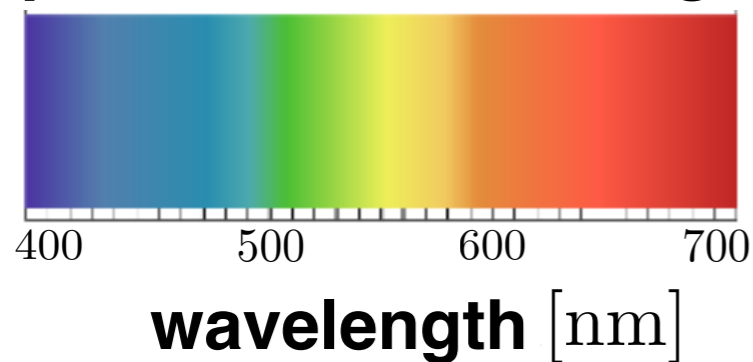
$$2n_{\text{film}}d_{\text{film}} = (m + 1/2)\lambda$$

Example: antireflective coating

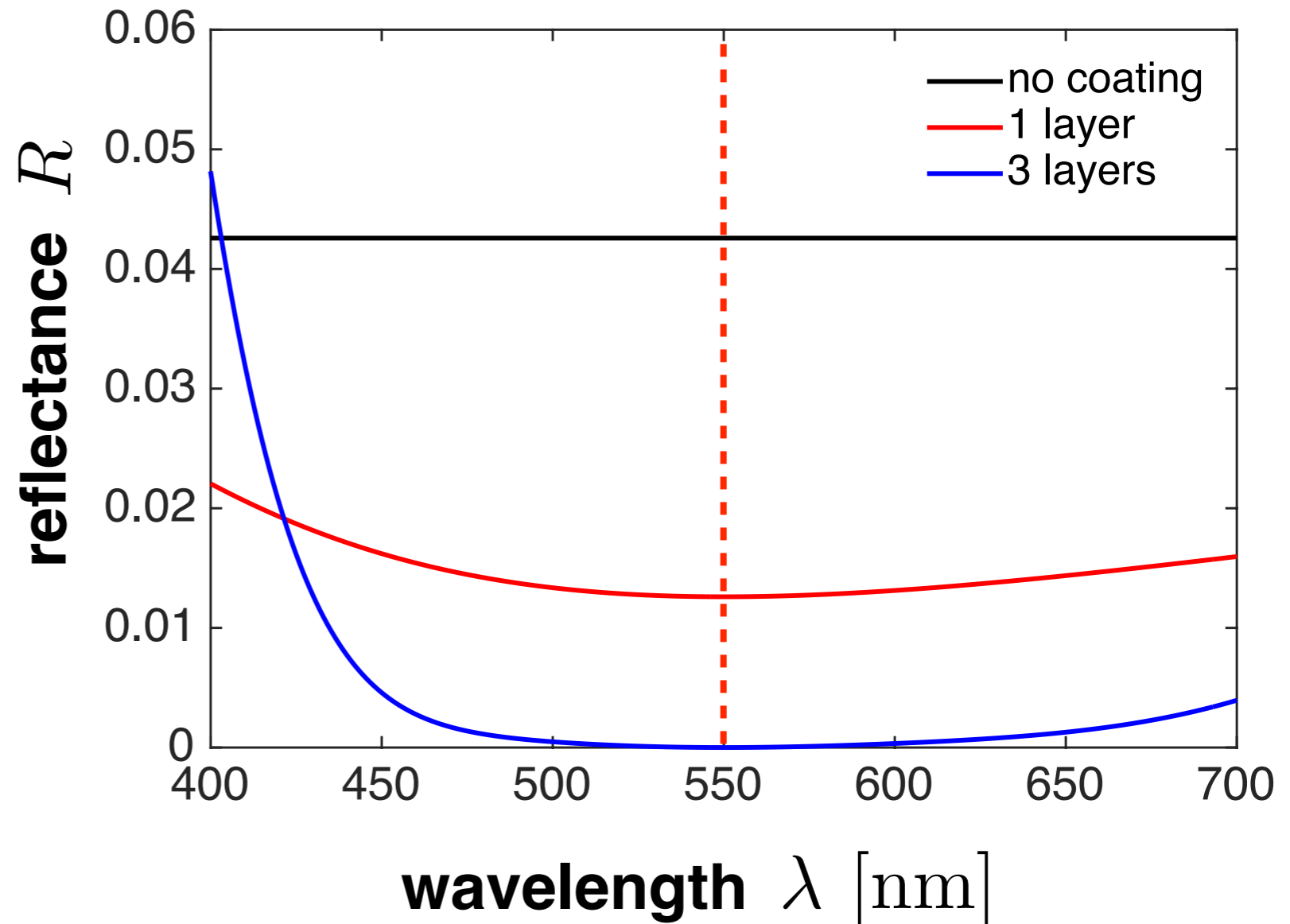
$$n_{\text{air}} \approx 1$$



spectrum of visible light



Multiple layers of coating significantly reduce the reflectance of visible spectrum!



Use film thicknesses that correspond to the destructive interference for the wavelength in the middle of the visible spectrum $\lambda_{\text{target}} = 550 \text{ nm}$:

$$d_1 = \lambda_{\text{target}} / (4n_1)$$

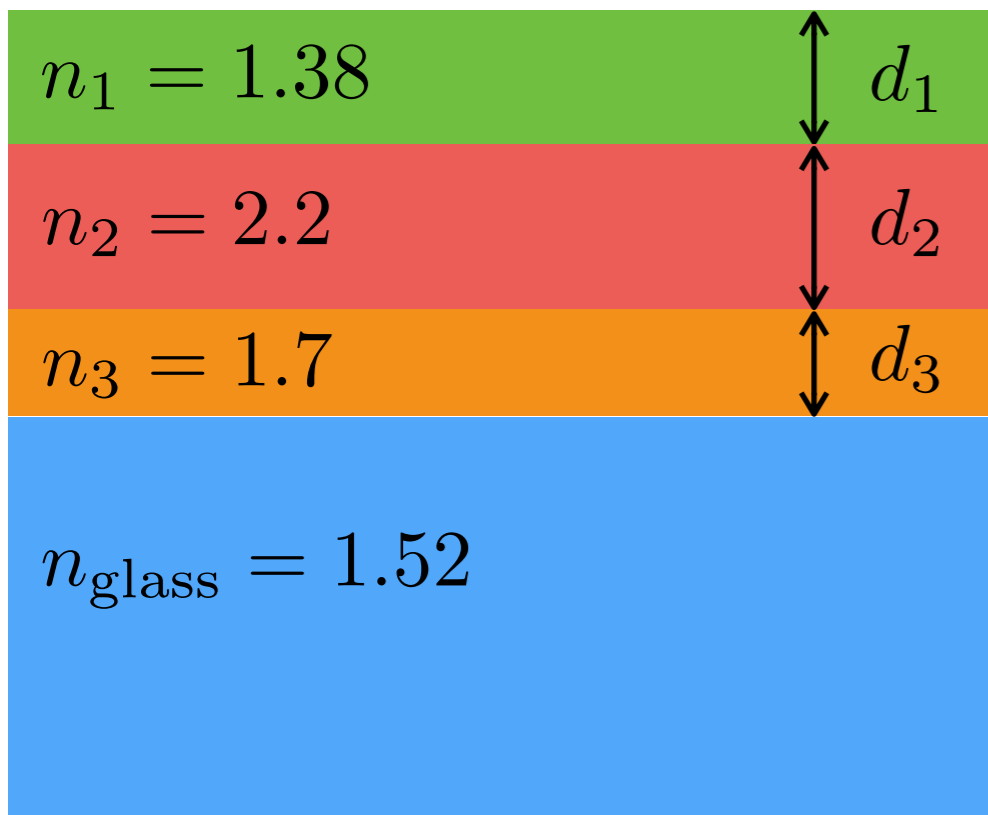
$$d_2 = \lambda_{\text{target}} / (2n_2)$$

$$d_3 = \lambda_{\text{target}} / (4n_3)$$

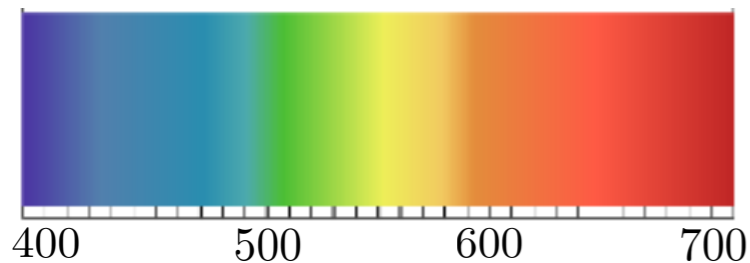
note the additional phase difference!

Example: antireflective coating

$$n_{\text{air}} \approx 1$$



spectrum of visible light



wavelength [nm]

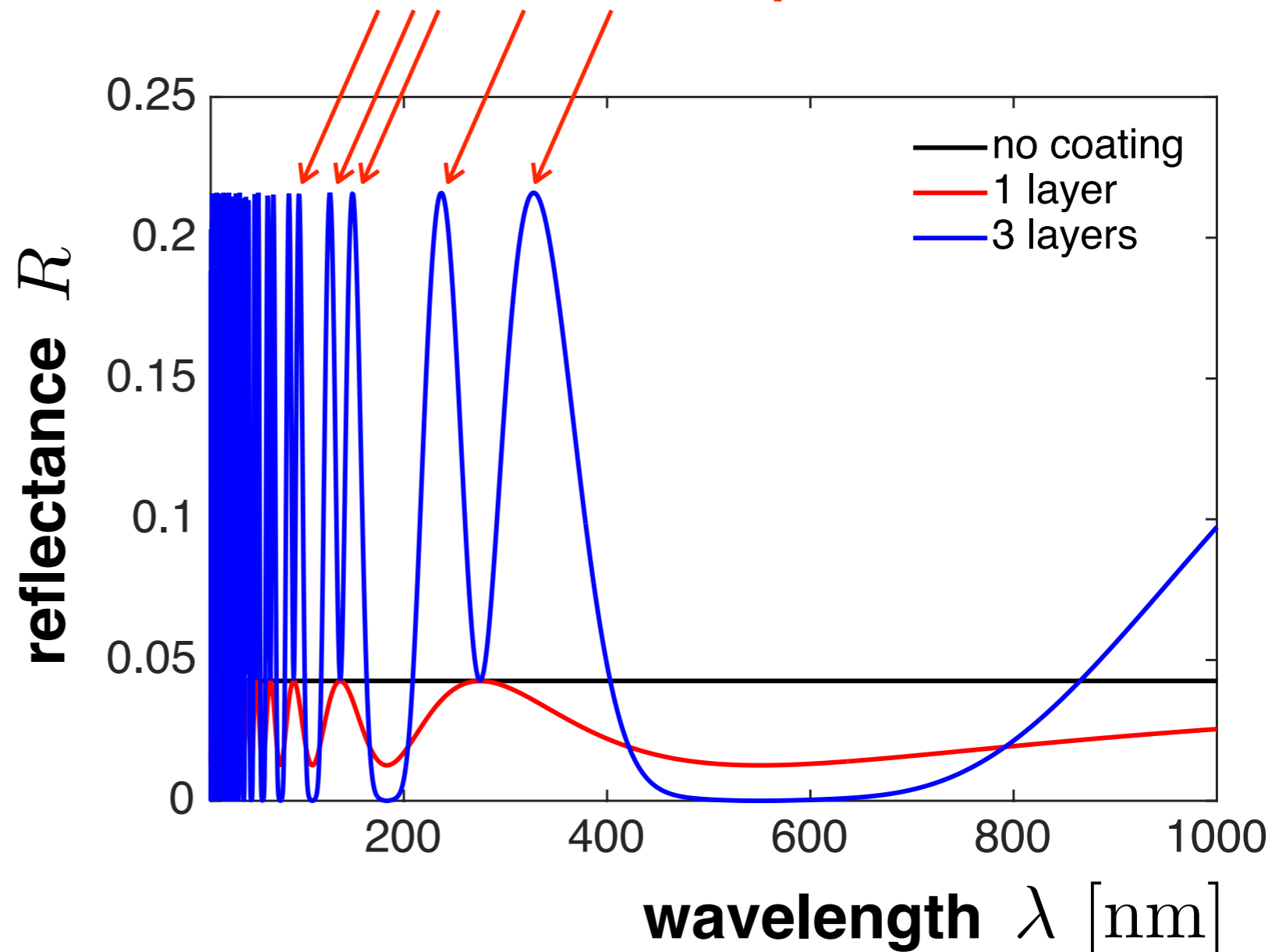
$$\lambda_{\text{target}} = 550 \text{ nm}$$

$$d_1 = \lambda_{\text{target}} / (4n_1)$$

$$d_2 = \lambda_{\text{target}} / (2n_2)$$

$$d_3 = \lambda_{\text{target}} / (4n_3)$$

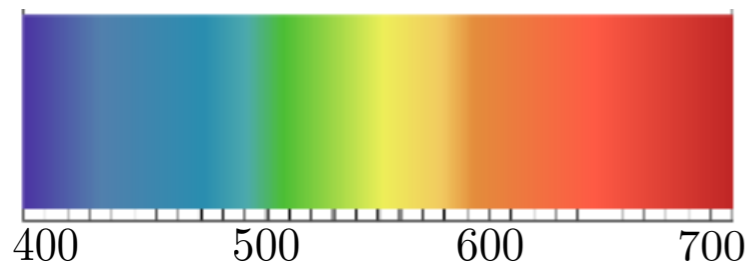
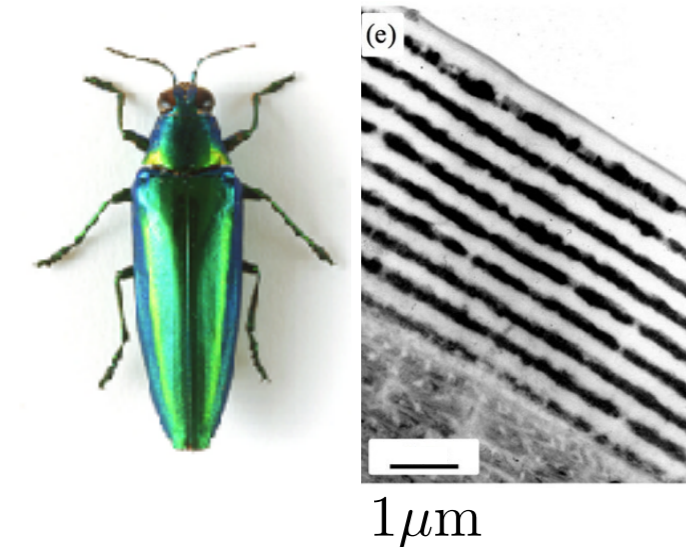
Multiple layers of coating significantly enhance reflectance of certain wavelengths outside the visible spectrum!



Additional peaks (minima) correspond to the constructive (deconstructive) interference for rays scattered on different combination of interfaces.

Example: structural color

Chrysochroa raja beetle



wavelength [nm]

Typical refraction indices:

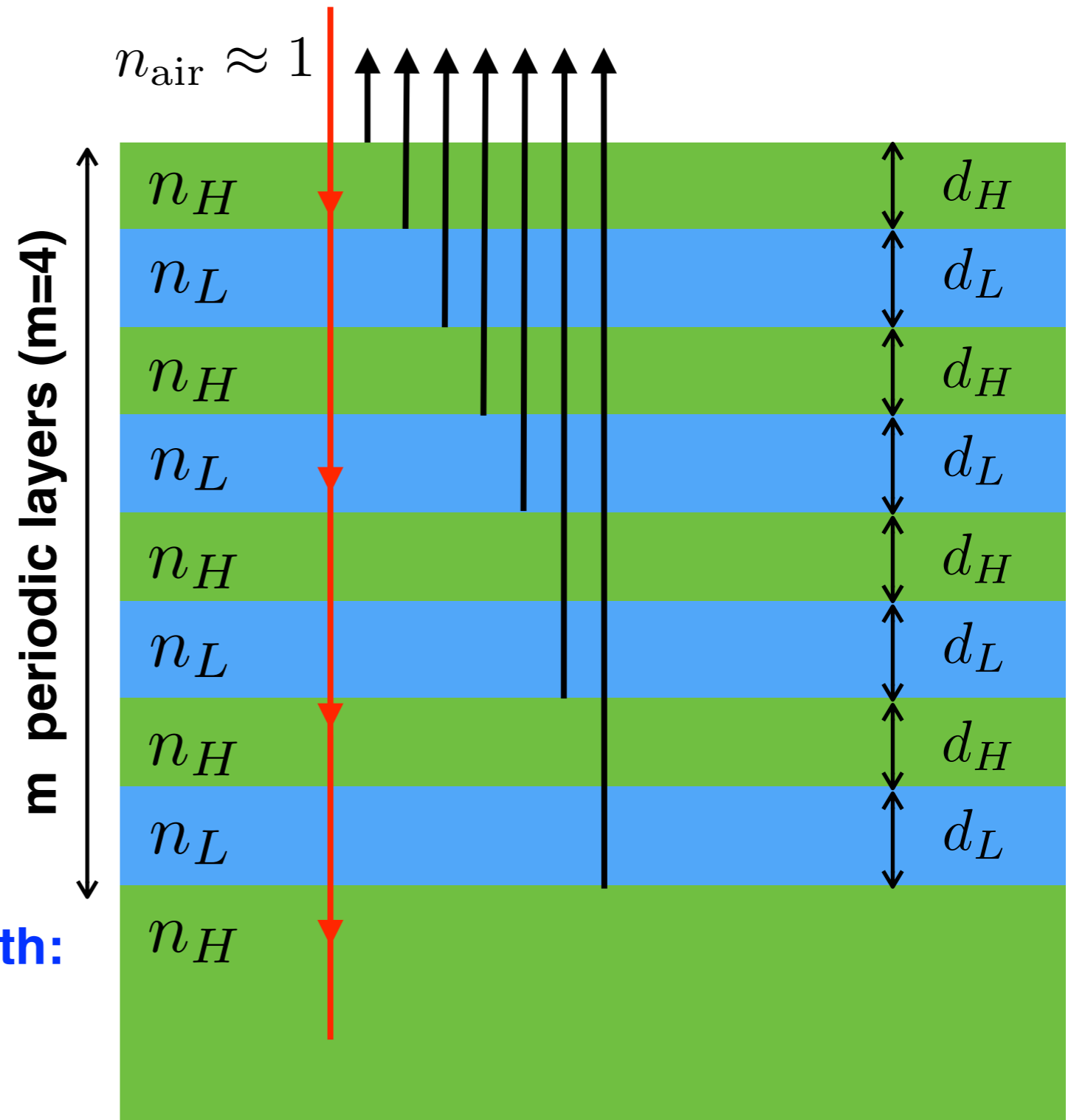
$$n_H = 1.69 \quad n_L = 1.56$$

Constructive interference of reflected rays can be achieved with:

$$d_H = \frac{\lambda_0}{4n_H} = 74 \text{ nm}$$

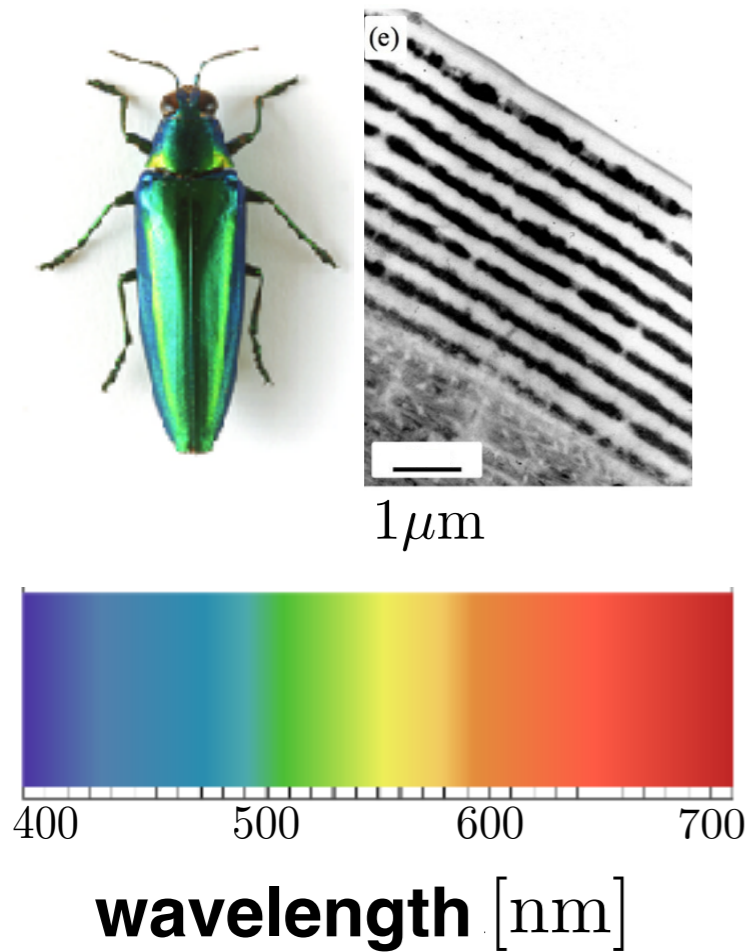
$$d_L = \frac{\lambda_0}{4n_L} = 80 \text{ nm}$$

We would like to design periodic structure, which preferentially reflects green color with $\lambda_0 = 500 \text{ nm}$.

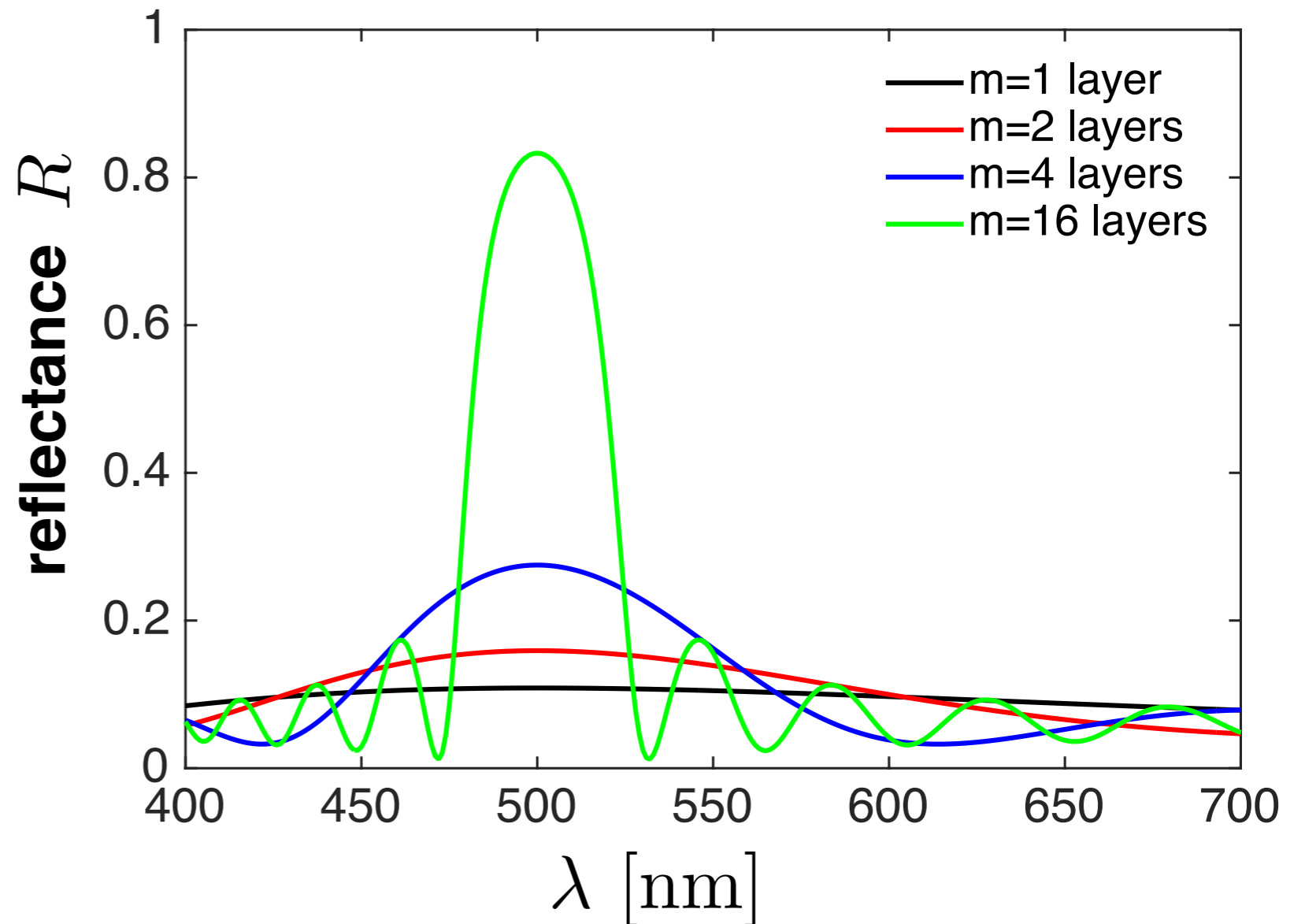


Example: structural color

Chrysochroa raja beetle

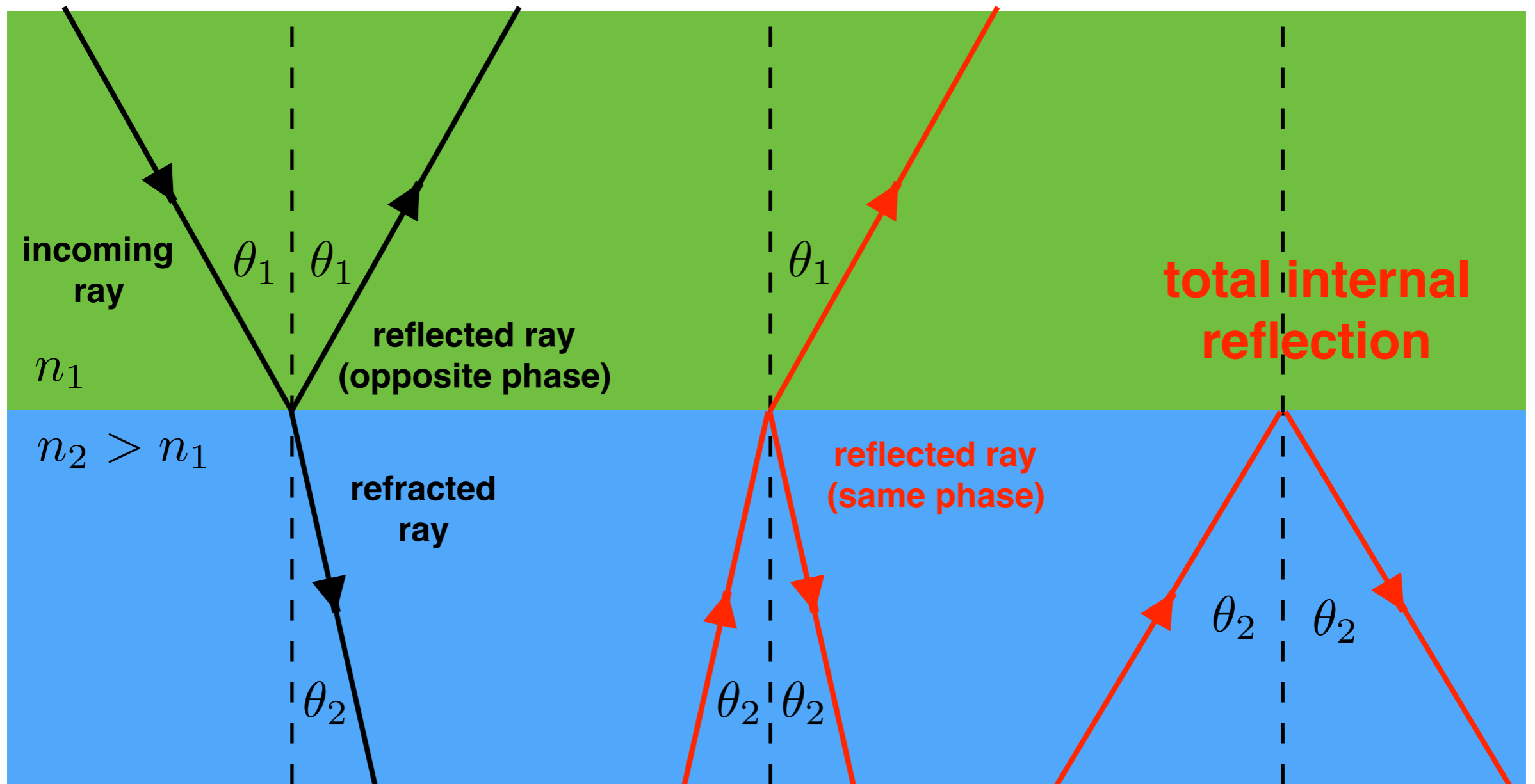


Multiple periodic layers increase the reflectance of target wavelength $\lambda_0 = 500 \text{ nm}$!



In periodic structures high reflectance is achieved for a range of wavelengths around the target wavelength. This range is called band gap.

Refraction of light



Snell's law

$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$$

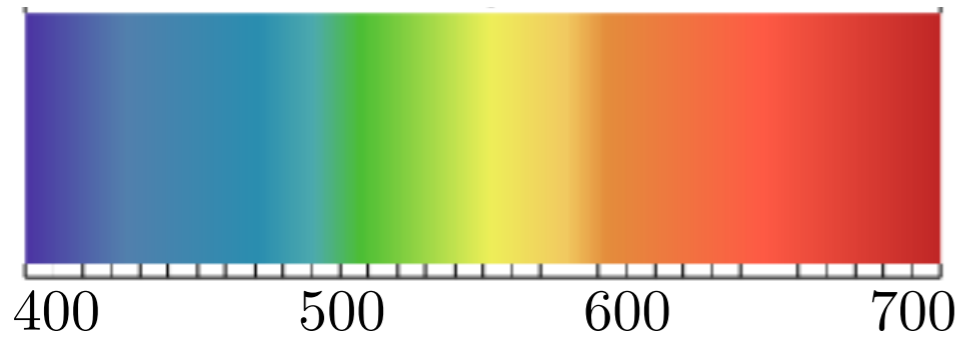
Total internal reflection

$$\theta_2 > \arcsin(n_1/n_2)$$

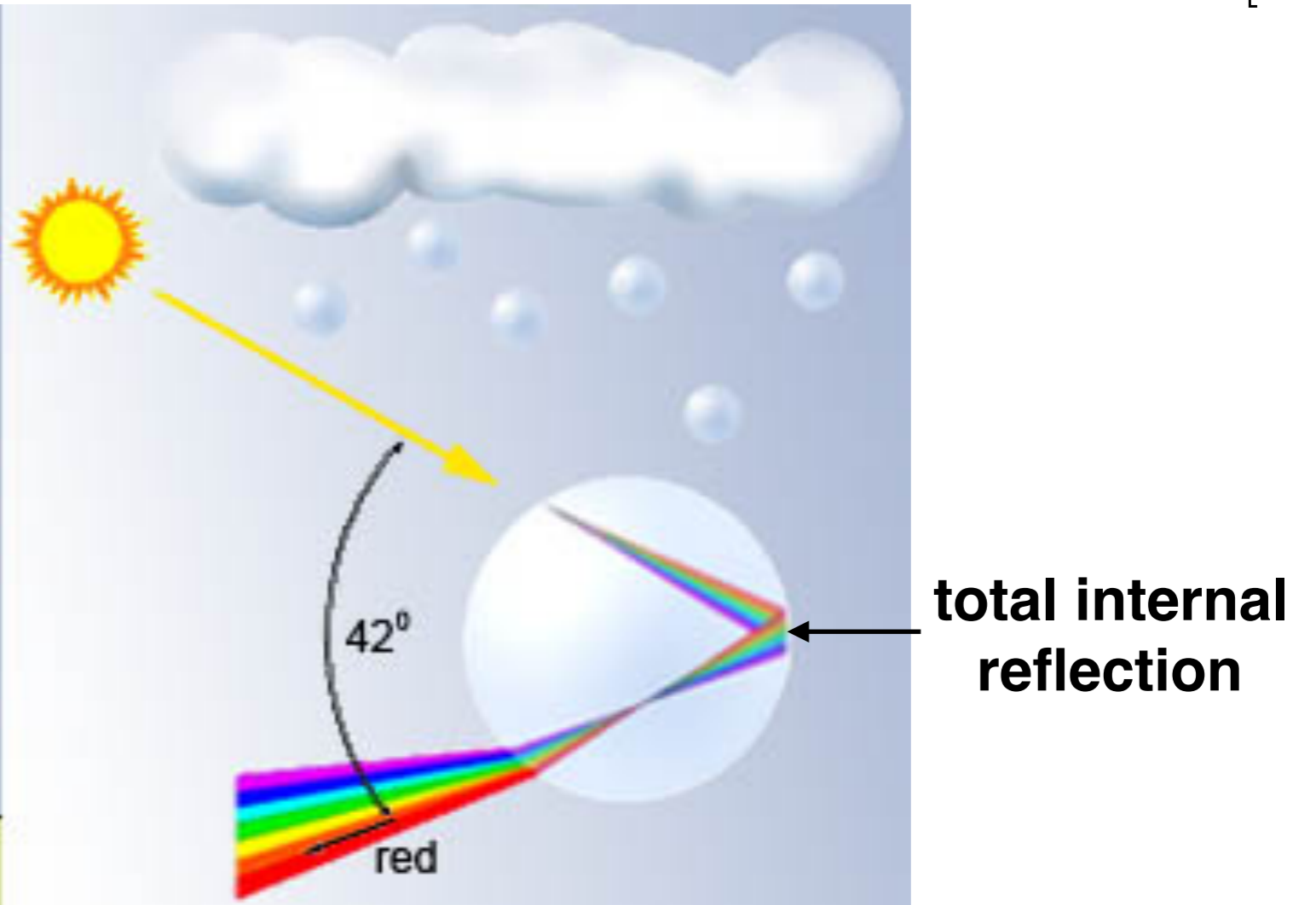
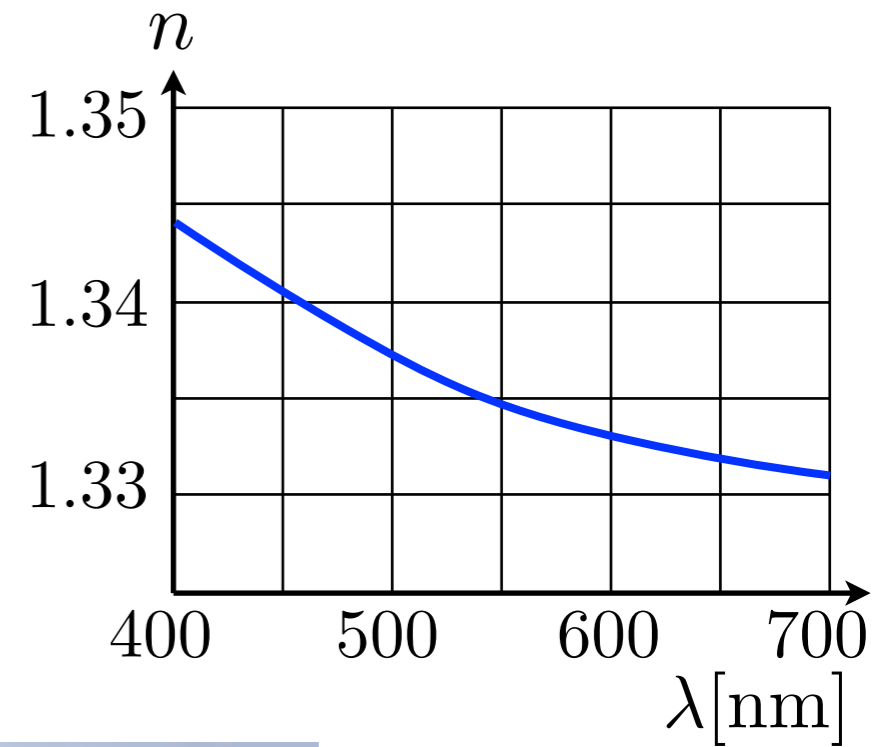
Rainbow

Rainbow forms because refractive index n in water droplets depends on the color (wavelength) of light.

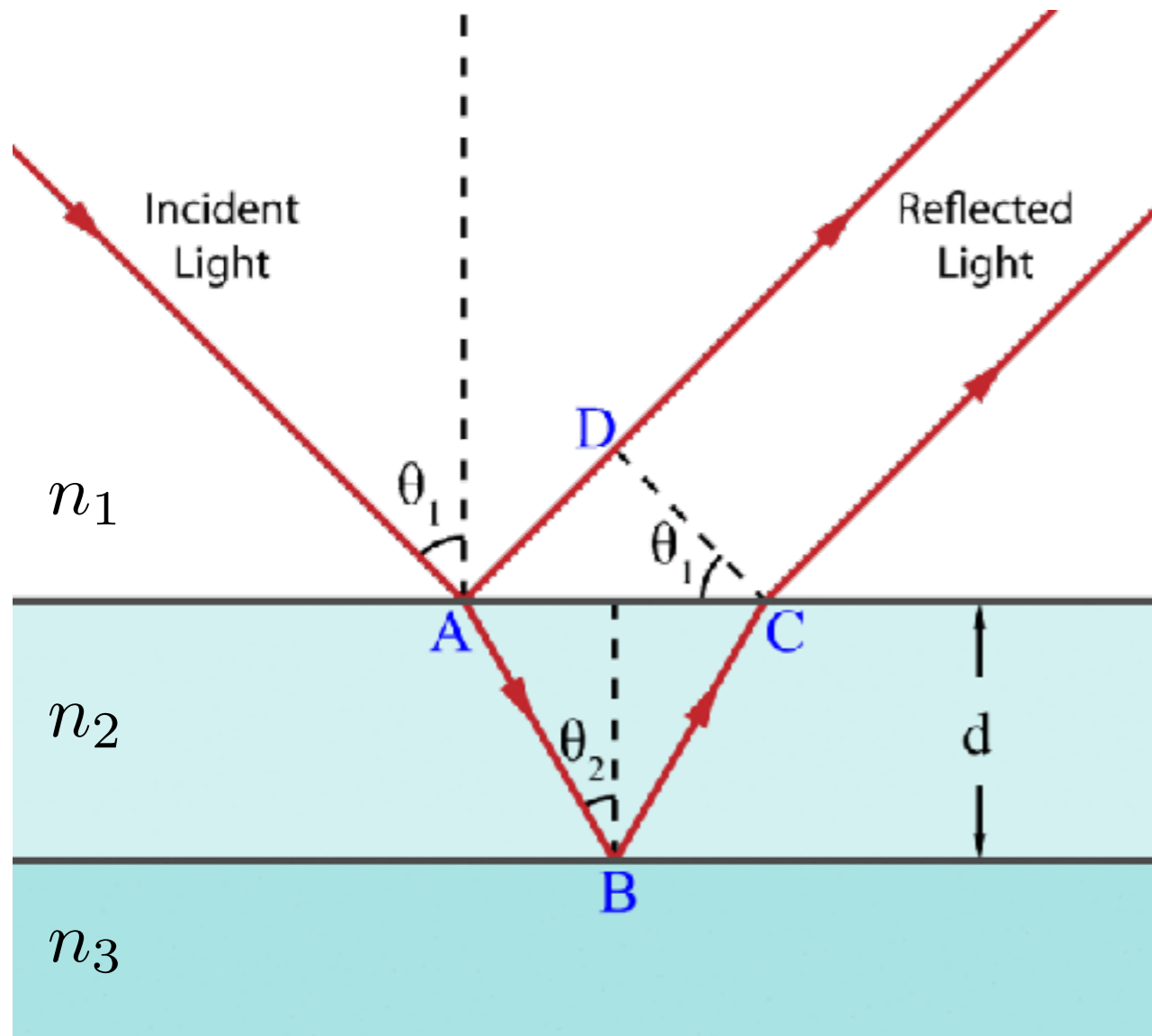
$$n_{\text{purple}} > n_{\text{blue}} > n_{\text{green}} > n_{\text{yellow}} > n_{\text{orange}} > n_{\text{red}}$$



wavelength λ [nm]



Interference on thin films



difference between optical path lengths of the two reflected rays

$$OPD = n_2 (\overline{AB} + \overline{BC}) - n_1 \overline{AD}$$

$$OPD = 2n_2 d \cos(\theta_2)$$

no additional phase difference due to reflections

$$n_1 < n_2 < n_3 \quad n_1 > n_2 > n_3$$

constructive interference

$$OPD = m\lambda$$

destructive interference

$$OPD = (m + 1/2)\lambda$$

$$m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

additional π phase difference due to reflections

$$n_1 < n_2 > n_3 \quad n_1 > n_2 < n_3$$

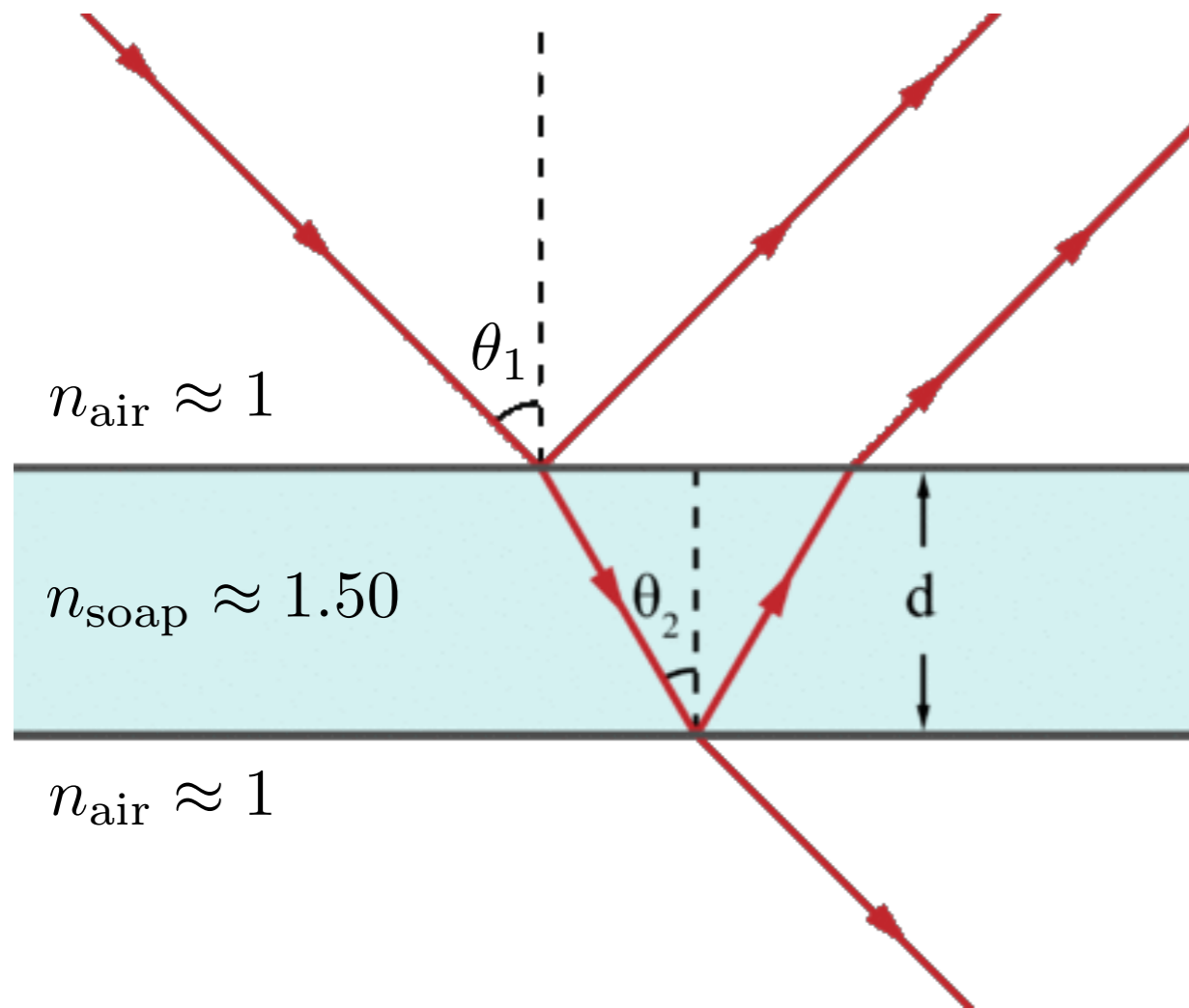
constructive interference

$$OPD = (m + 1/2)\lambda$$

destructive interference

$$OPD = m\lambda$$

Interference on soap bubbles



soap bubble

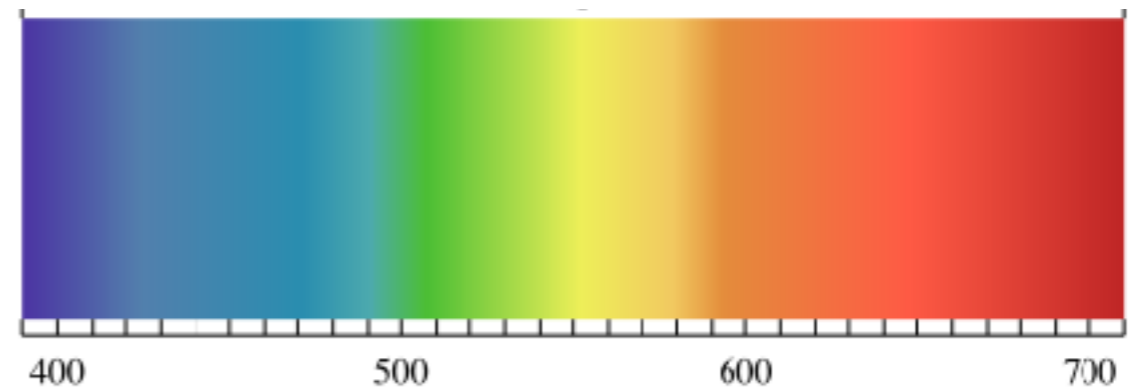


**constructive interference
for different colors happens
at different angles**

$$2dn_{\text{soap}} \cos(\theta_2) = (m + 1/2)\lambda$$

$$m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

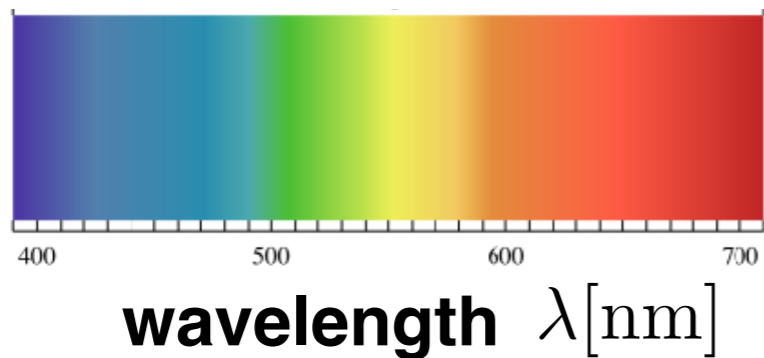
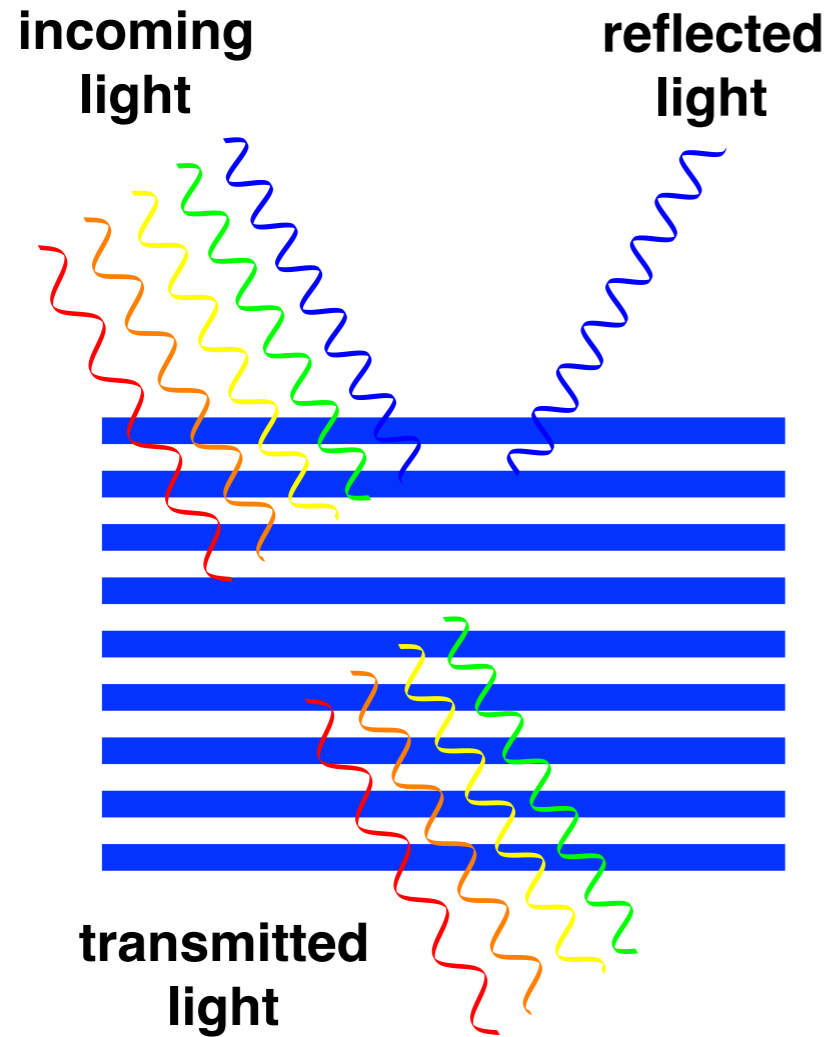
visible spectrum



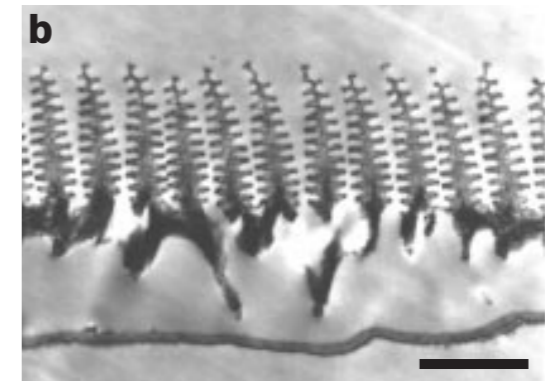
wavelength λ [nm]

Structural colors on periodic structures

Single reflected color on structures with uniform spacing

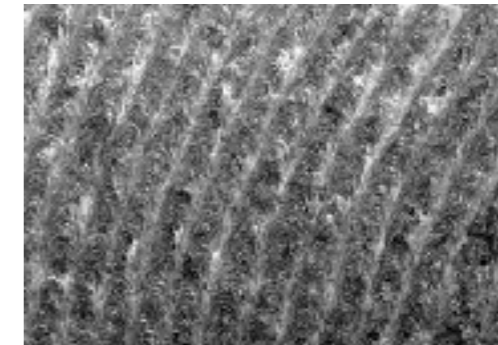


Morpho butterfly



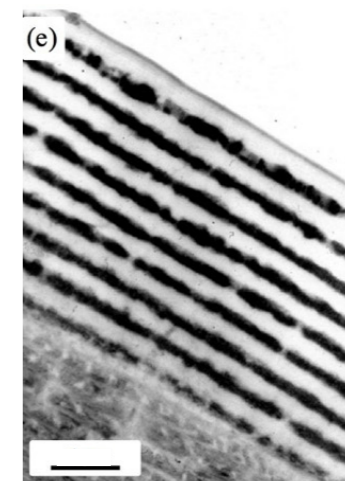
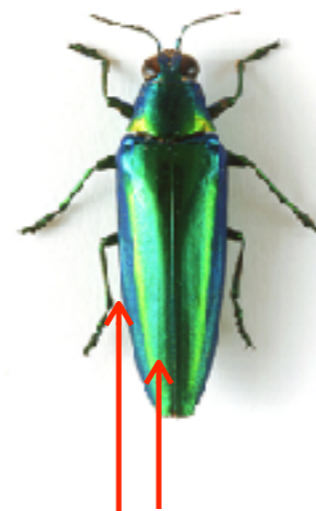
1.7 μm

Marble berry



250nm

Chrysochroa raja beetle

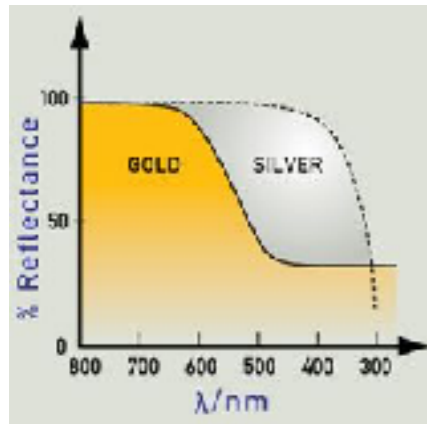
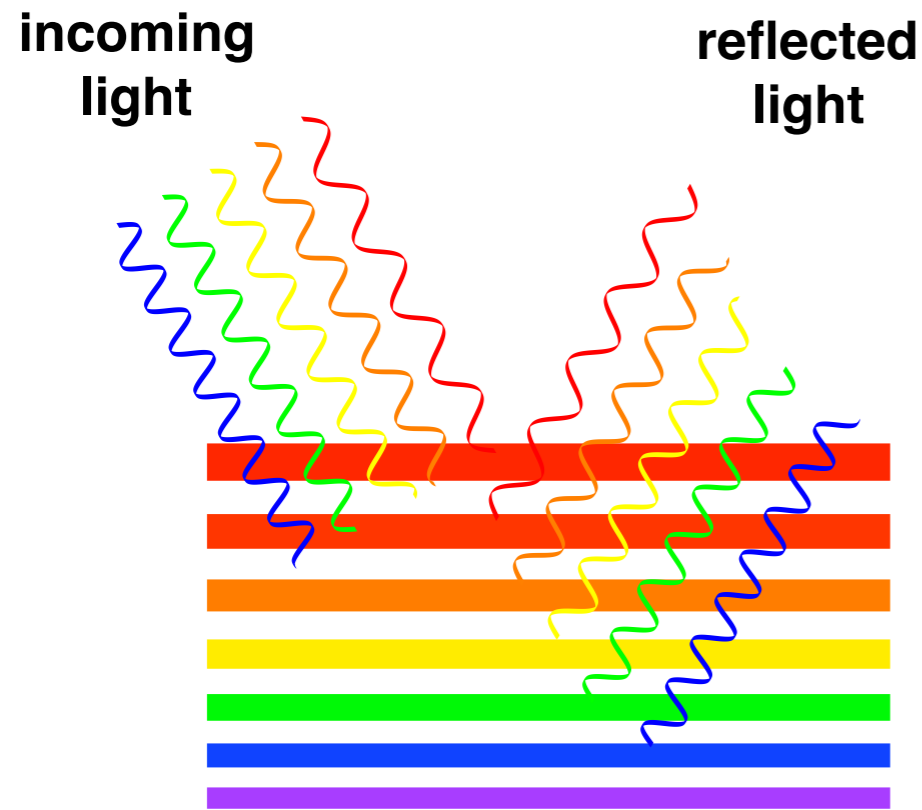


1 μm

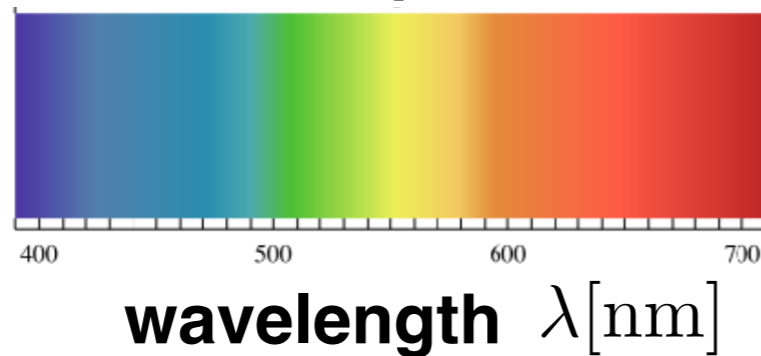
reflected color depends on the viewing angle!

Silver and gold structural colors

Many colors reflected on structures with varying spacing



visible spectrum

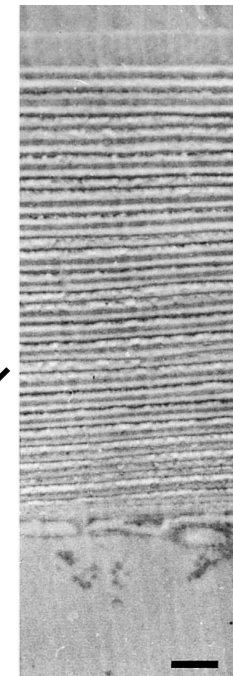


chirped structure

Chrysina limbata beetle



Chrysina aurigans beetle



thicker

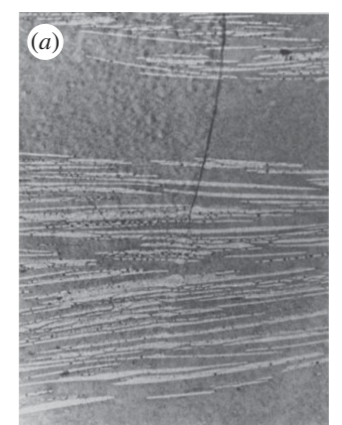
↓

thinner

1 μ m

disordered layer spacing

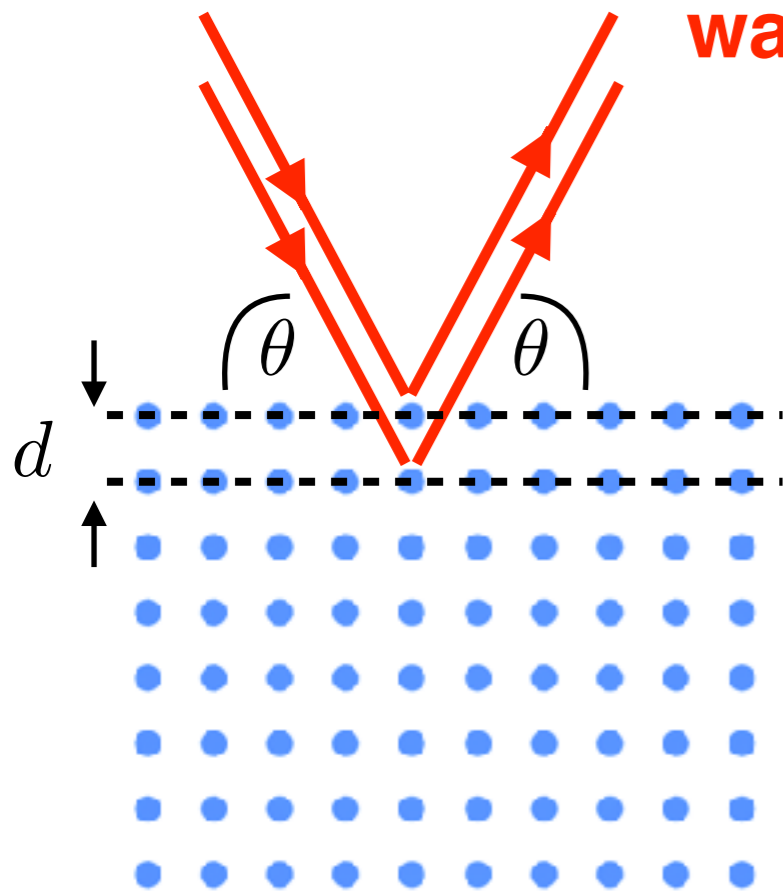
bleak fish



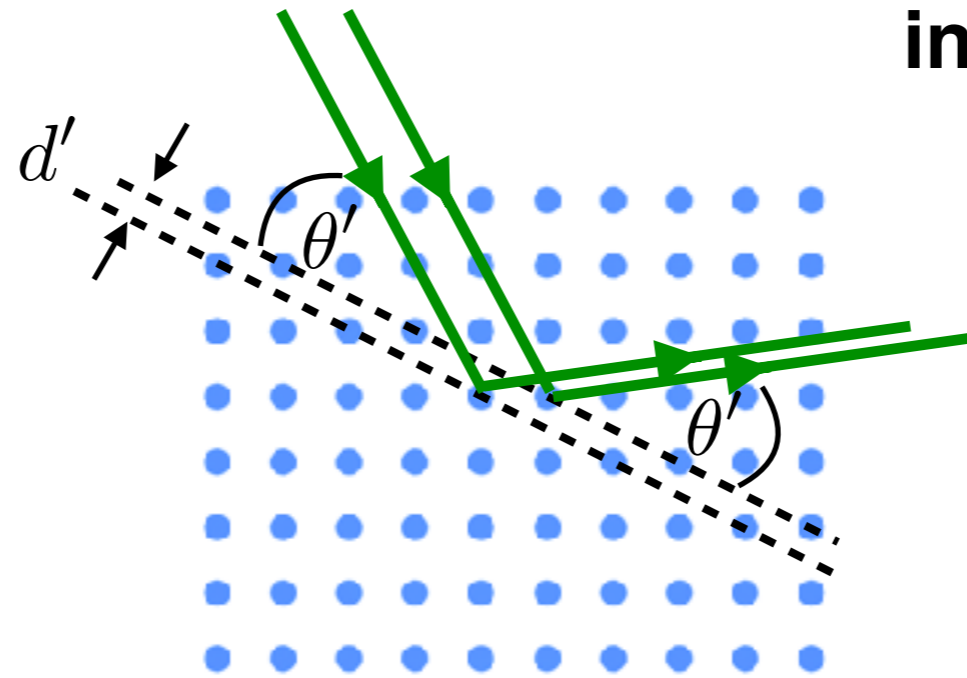
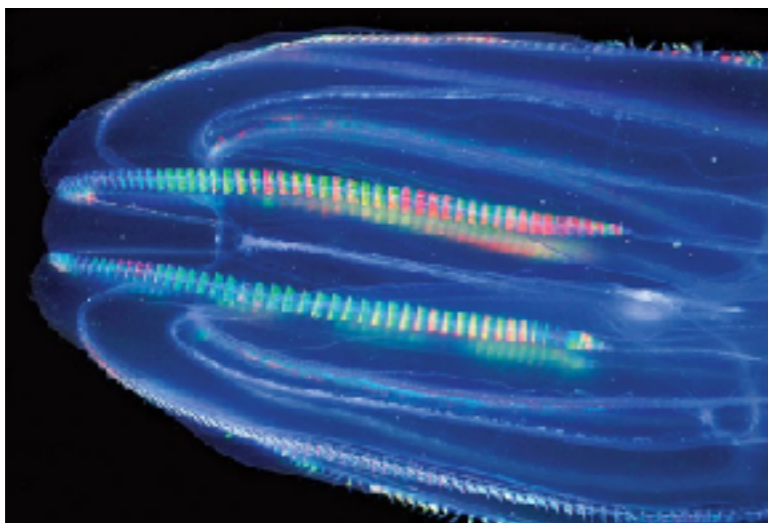
1 μ m

Bragg scattering on crystal layers

Constructive interference for waves with different wavelengths occurs in different crystal planes!



Comb jelly



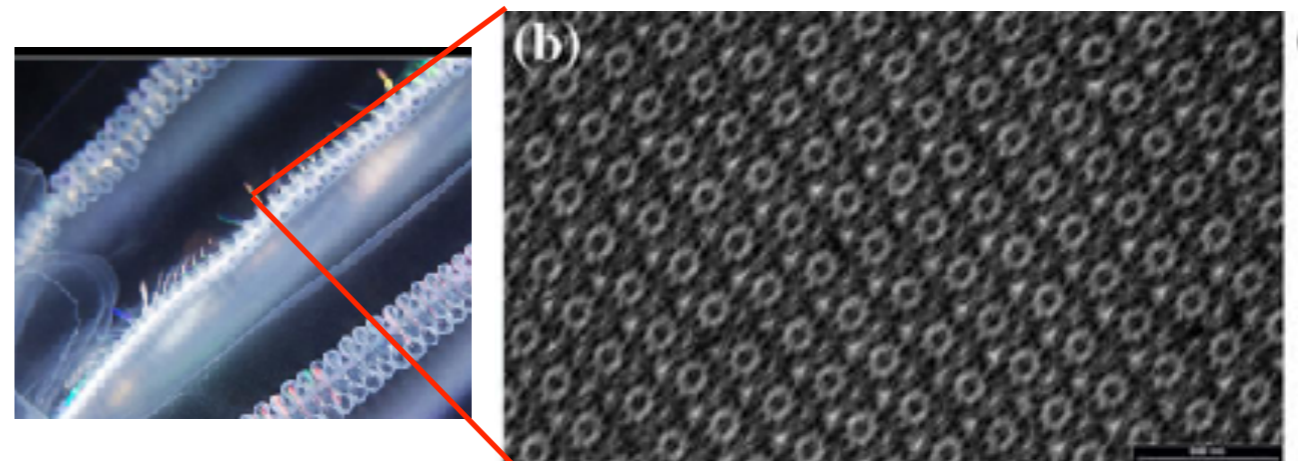
constructive interference condition

$$2d \sin \theta = m\lambda$$

$$2d' \sin \theta' = m\lambda'$$

$$m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

Beating cilia are changing crystal orientation

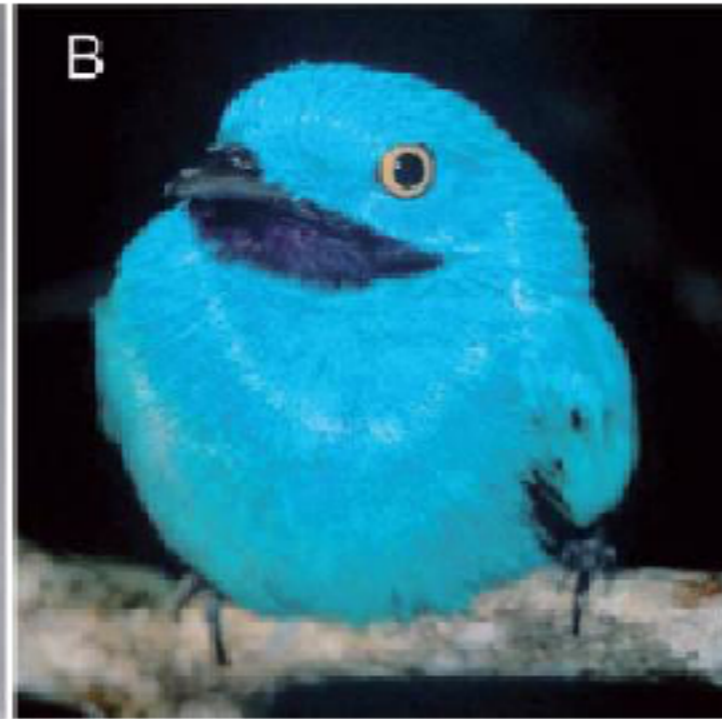


Scattering on disordered structures

Eastern
bluebird



Plum-throated
Cotinga

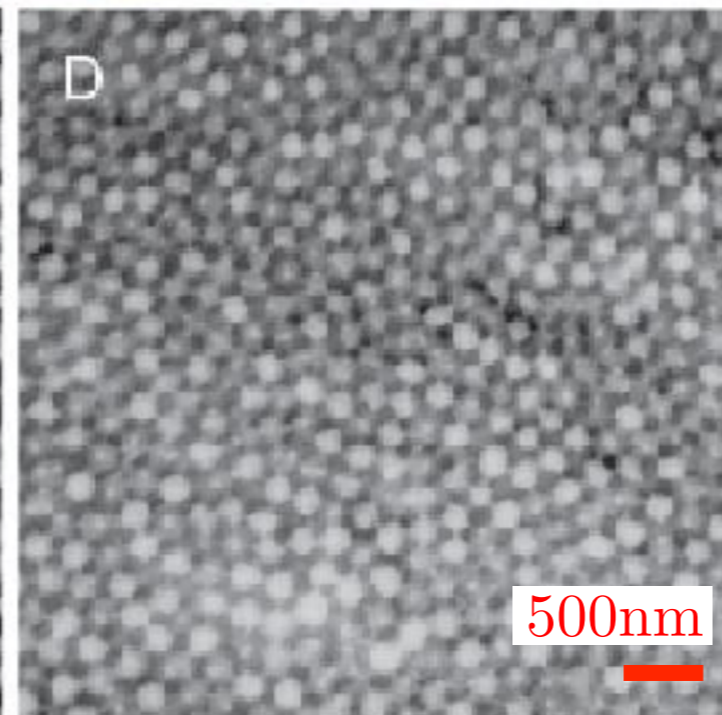
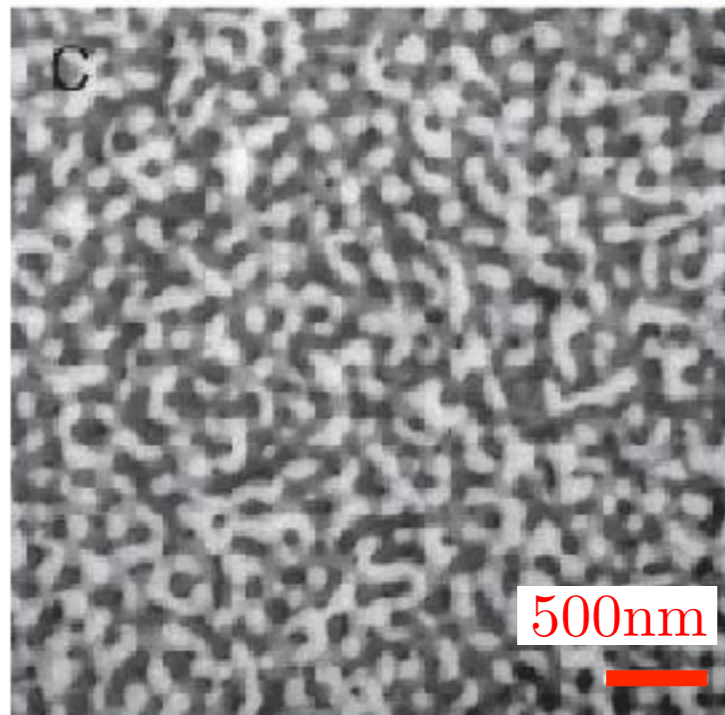


Disordered structures with a characteristic length scale.

This length scale determines what light wavelengths are preferentially scattered.

The selectively reflected wavelengths are the same in all directions!

This gives rise to blue colors in these birds.



V. Saranathan et al.,

J. R. Soc. Interface 9, 2563 (2012)

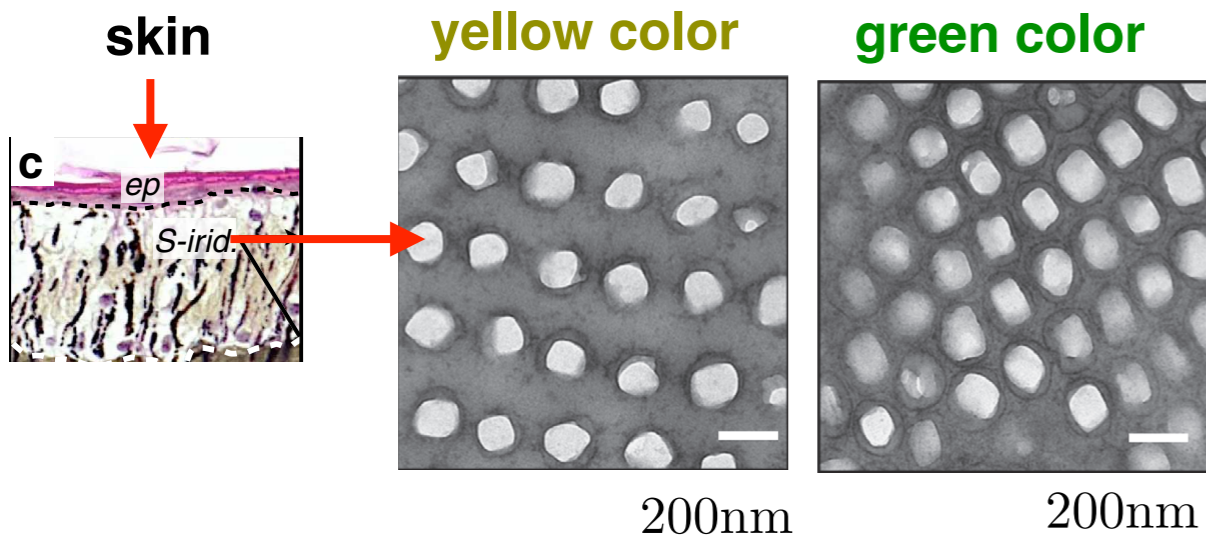
Dynamic structural colors

Chameleon (speed 8x)



J. Teyssier et al., Nat. Comm. 6, 6368 (2015)

Changes in osmotic concentration lead to the swelling of cells in excited chameleon. This changes the spacing of periodic structure from which the ambient light is reflected.

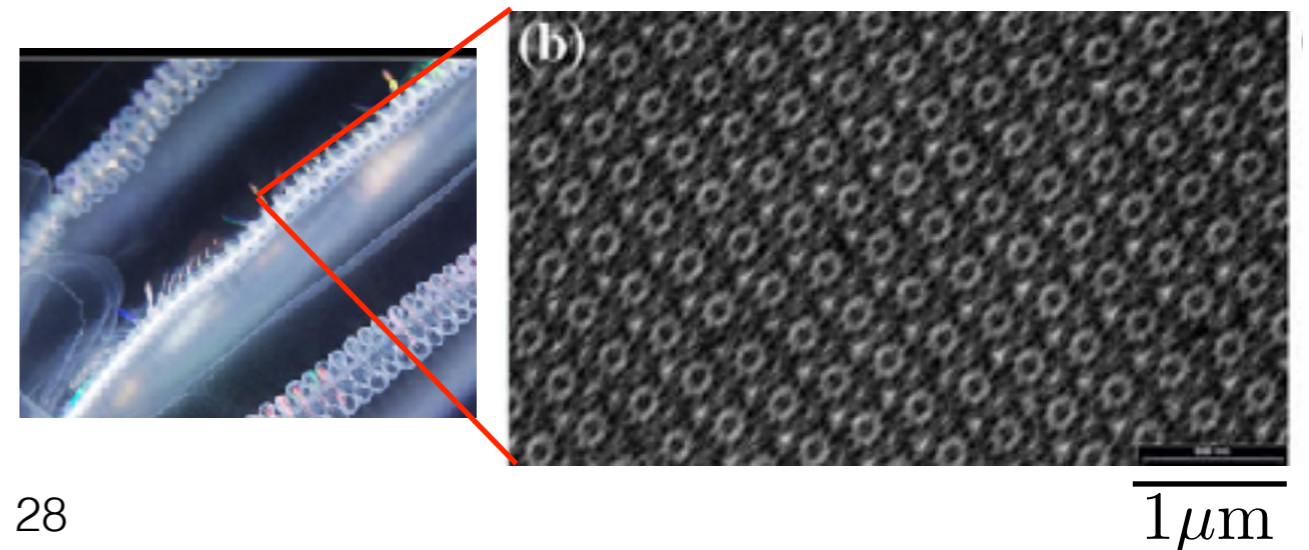


Comb Jelly (real time)



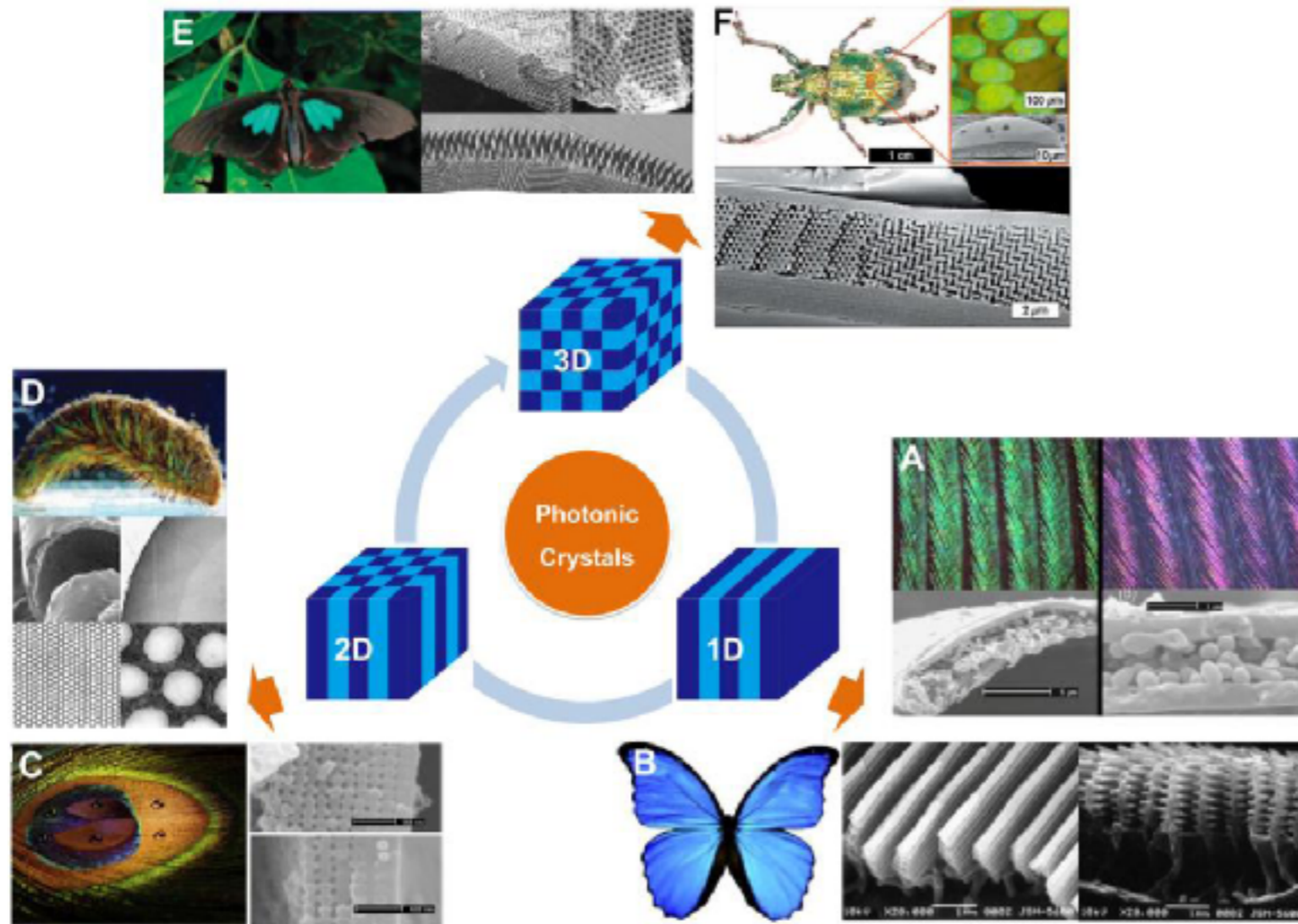
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qy90d0XvJIE>

Rainbow color waves are produced by the beating of cilia, which change the orientation of periodic structure from which the ambient light is reflected.

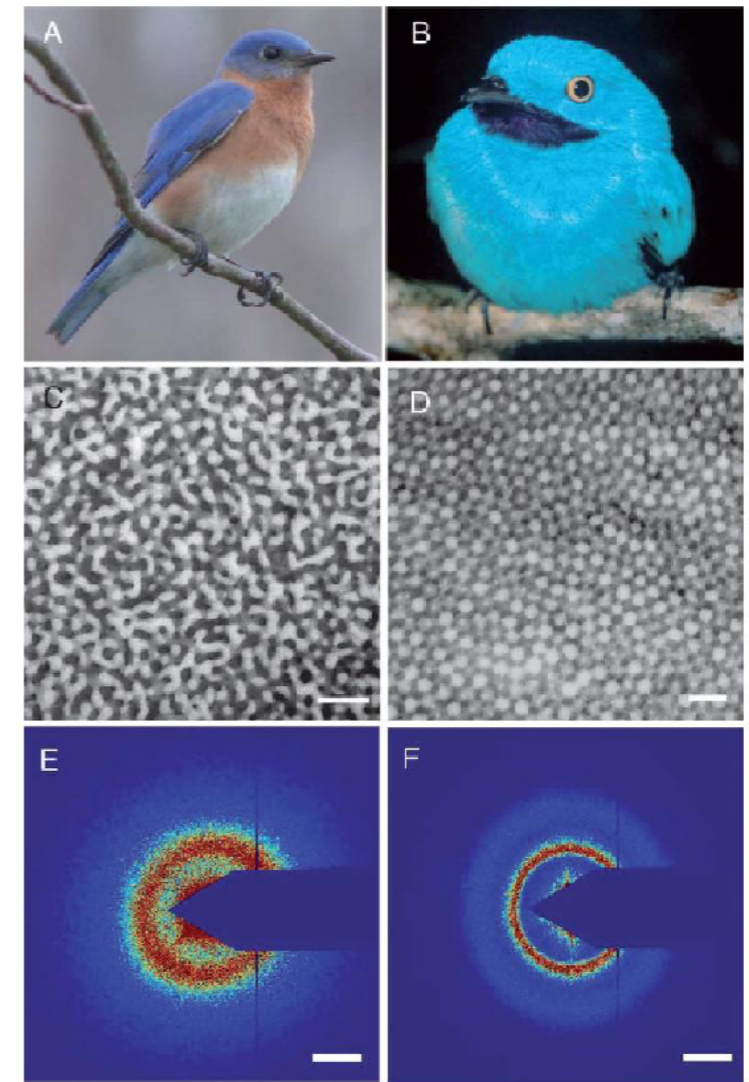


Structural colors

Structural colors of animals and plants appear due to the selective reflection of ambient light on structural features underneath the surface.



H. Wang and K-Q. Zhang,
Sensors 13, 4192 (2013)



V. Saranathan et al.,
J. R. Soc. Interface 9, 2563 (2012)

Noise barriers around the Amsterdam airport



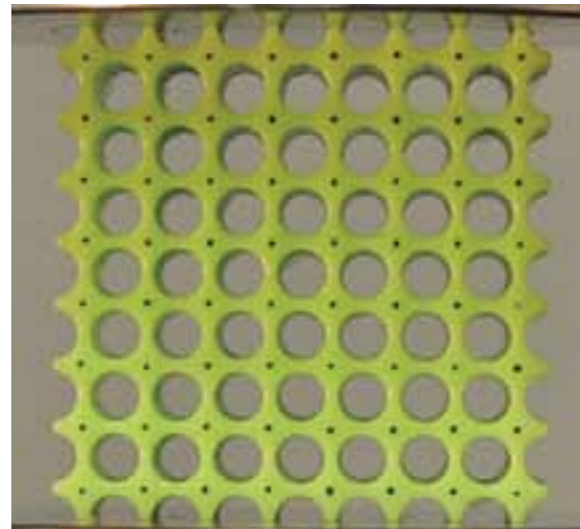
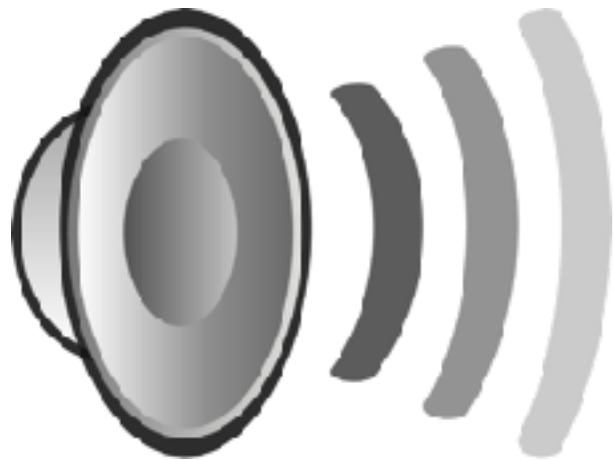
Sound from airplanes that are landing and taking off is reflected from artificial barriers into the atmosphere.

Controllable sound filters

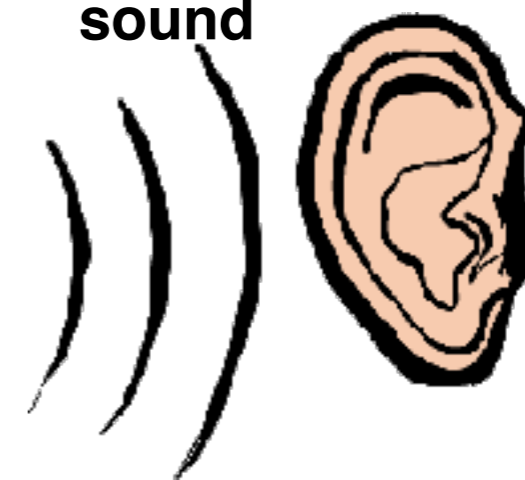
In periodic structures sound waves of certain frequencies (within a “band gap”) cannot propagate. The range of “band gap” frequencies depends on material properties, the geometry of structure and the external load.

undeformed structure

incoming sound

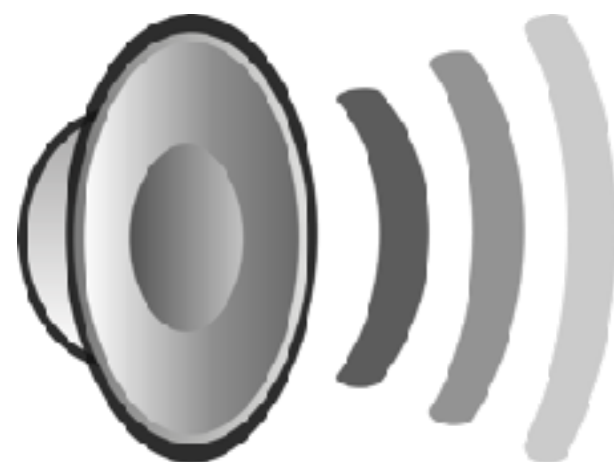


transmitted sound

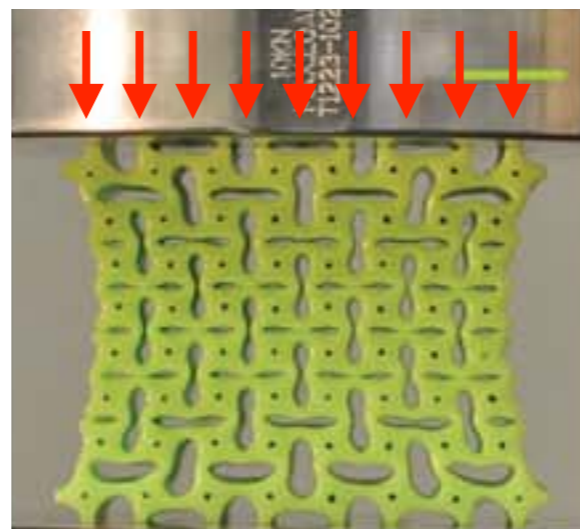


deformed structure

incoming sound

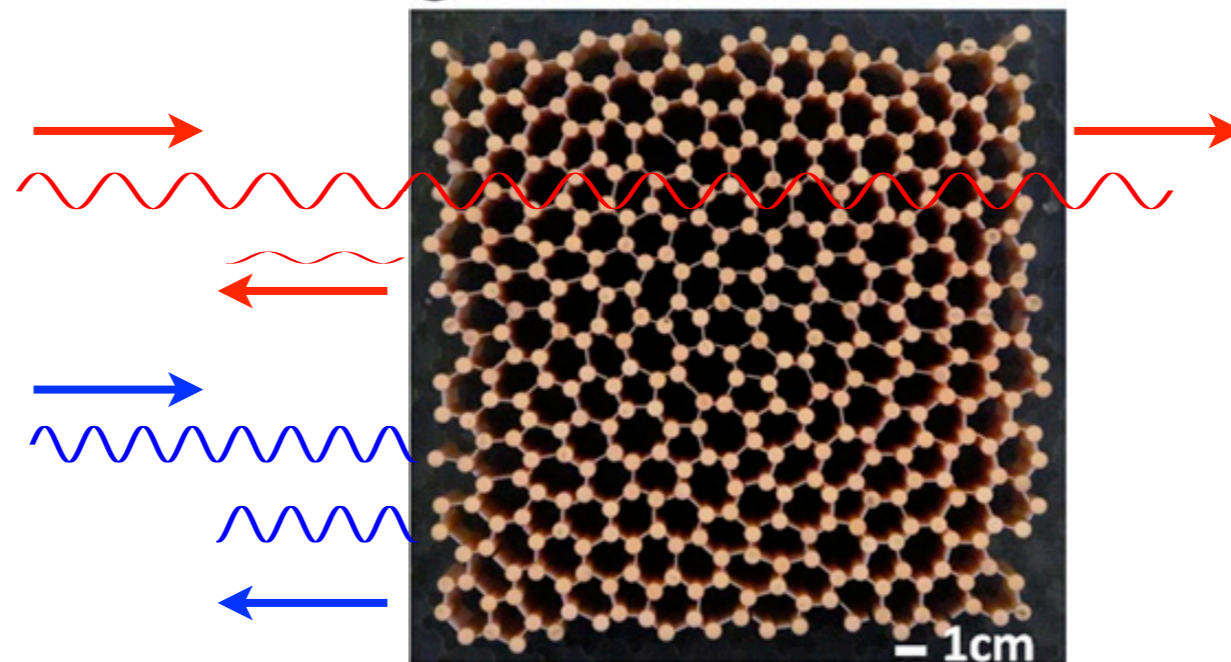


reflected sound



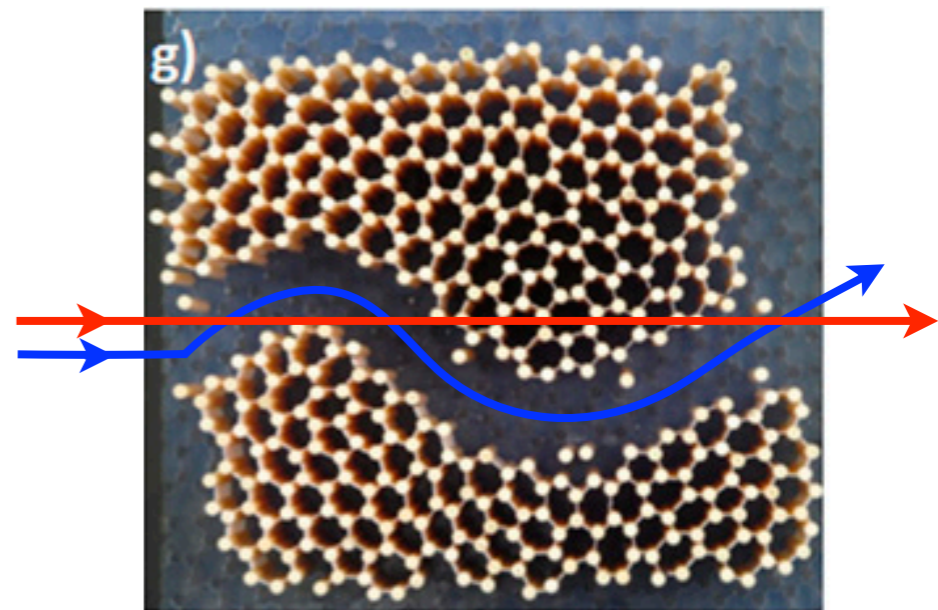
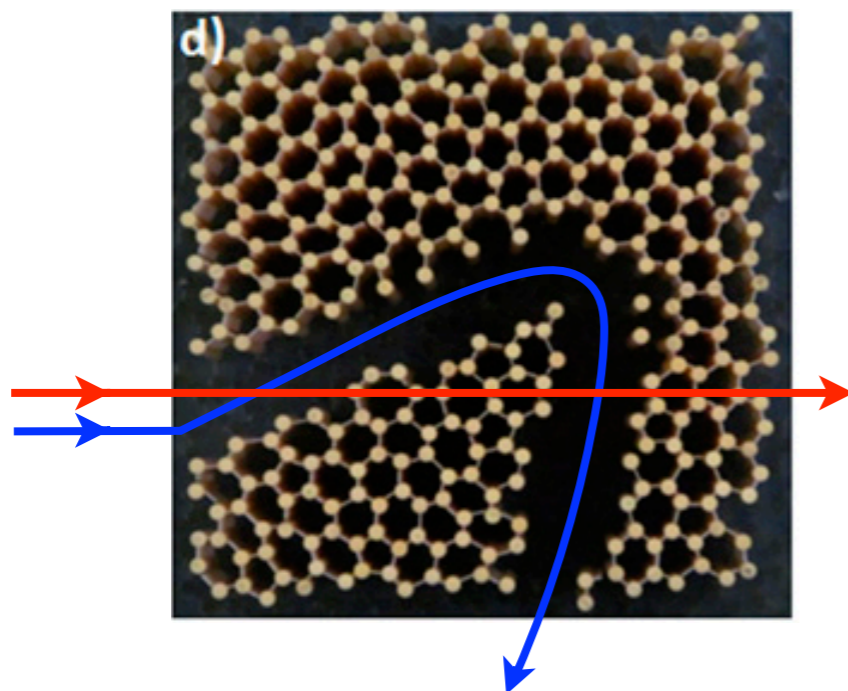
P. Wang, J. Shim and K. Bertoldi,
PRB **88**, 014304 (2013)

Waveguides in disordered structures



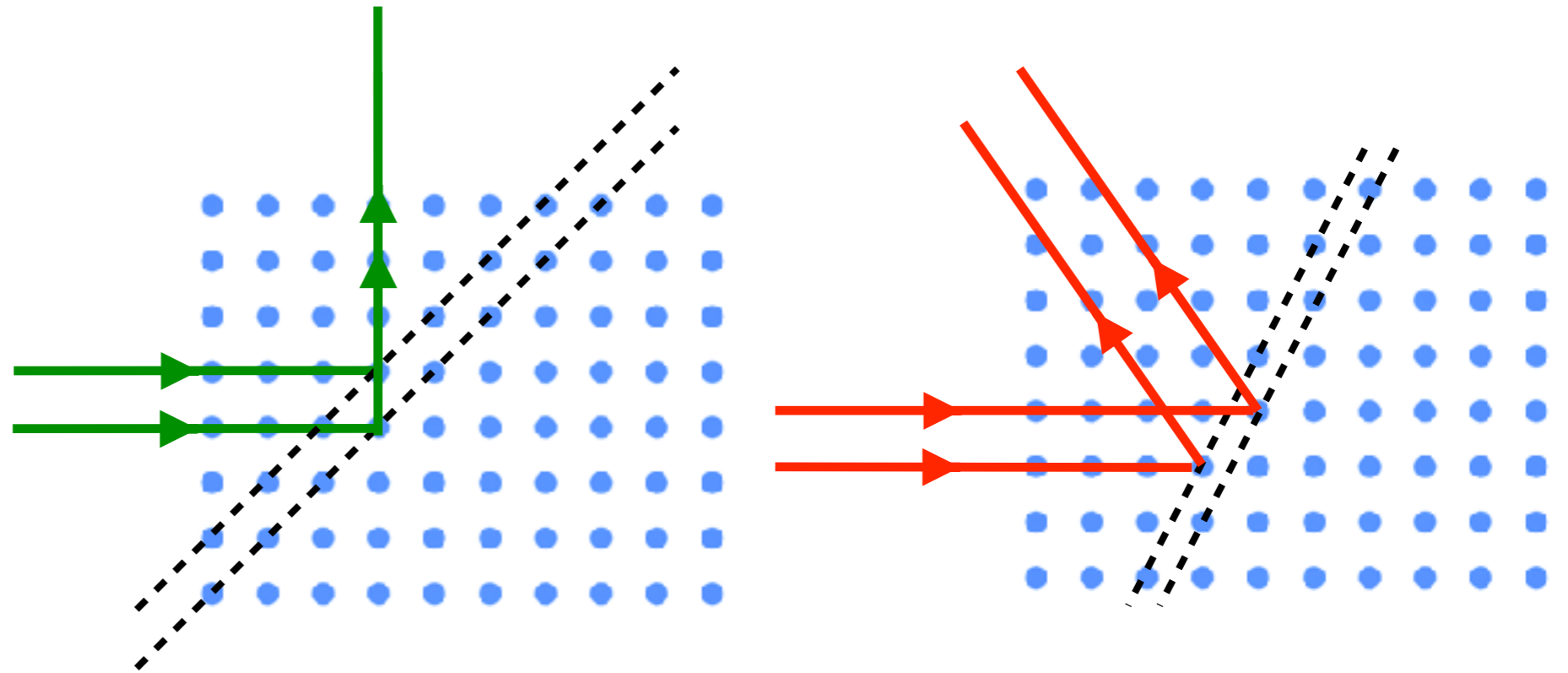
Channels inside structures can be used as guides for waves with wavelengths that are totally reflected from a complete structure!

Note: channels can have arbitrary bends!

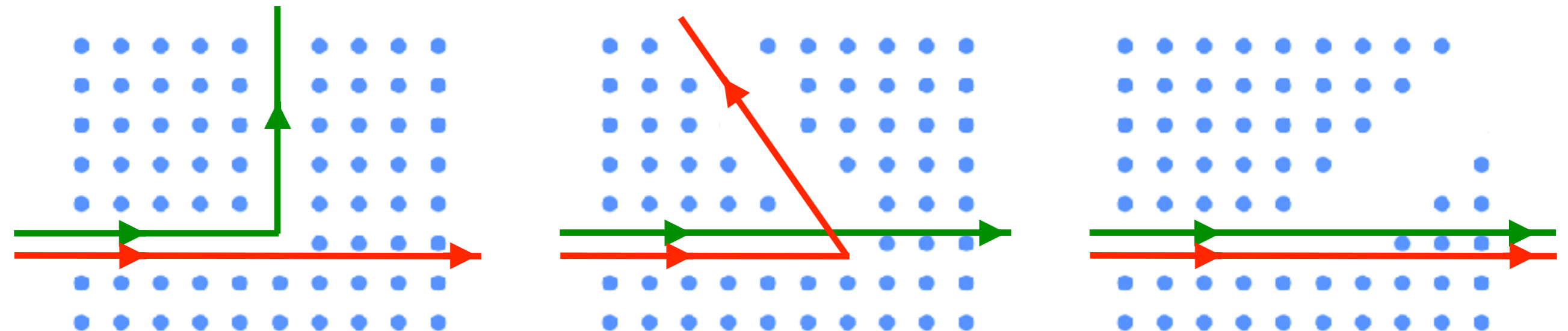


Waveguides in periodic structures

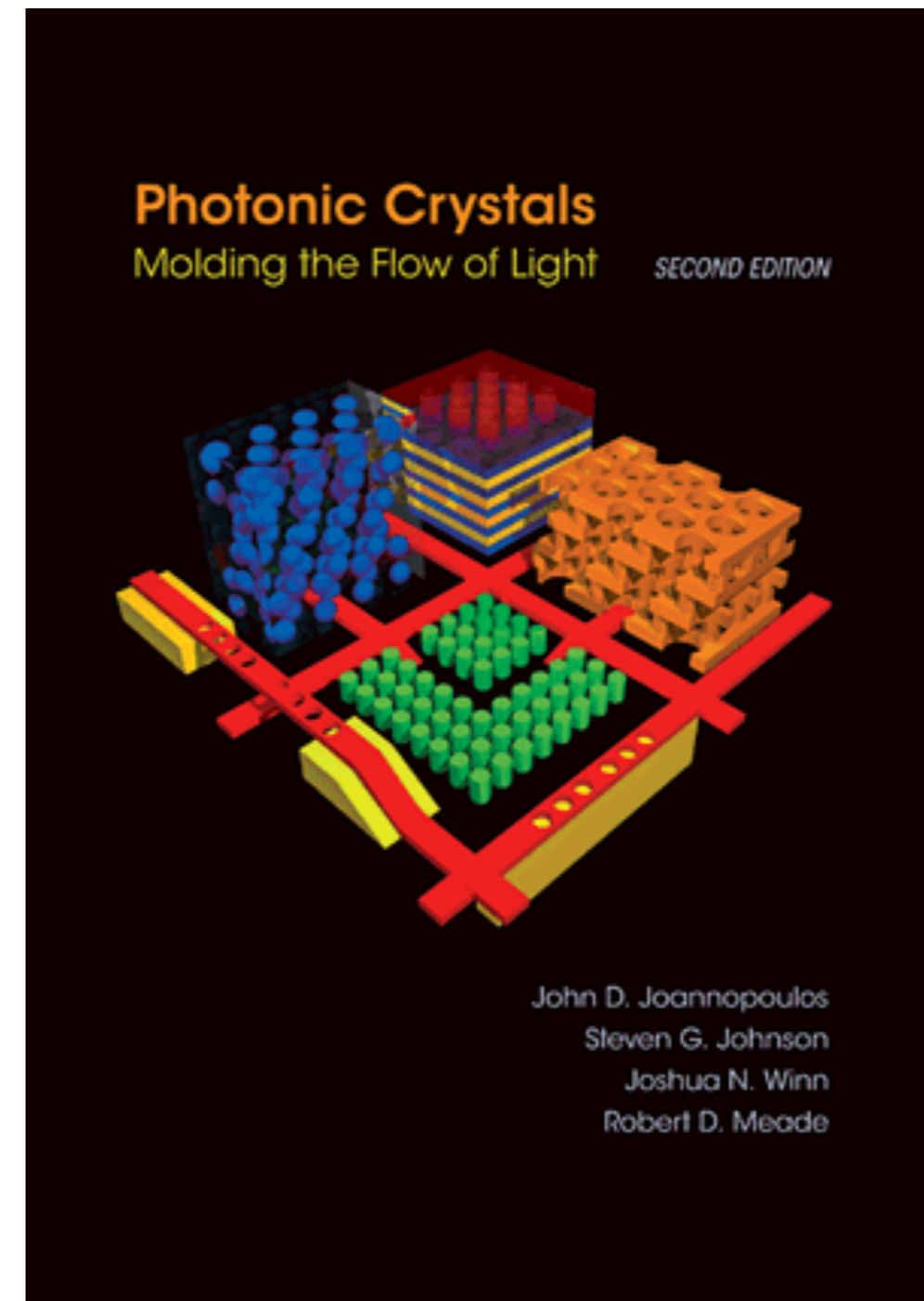
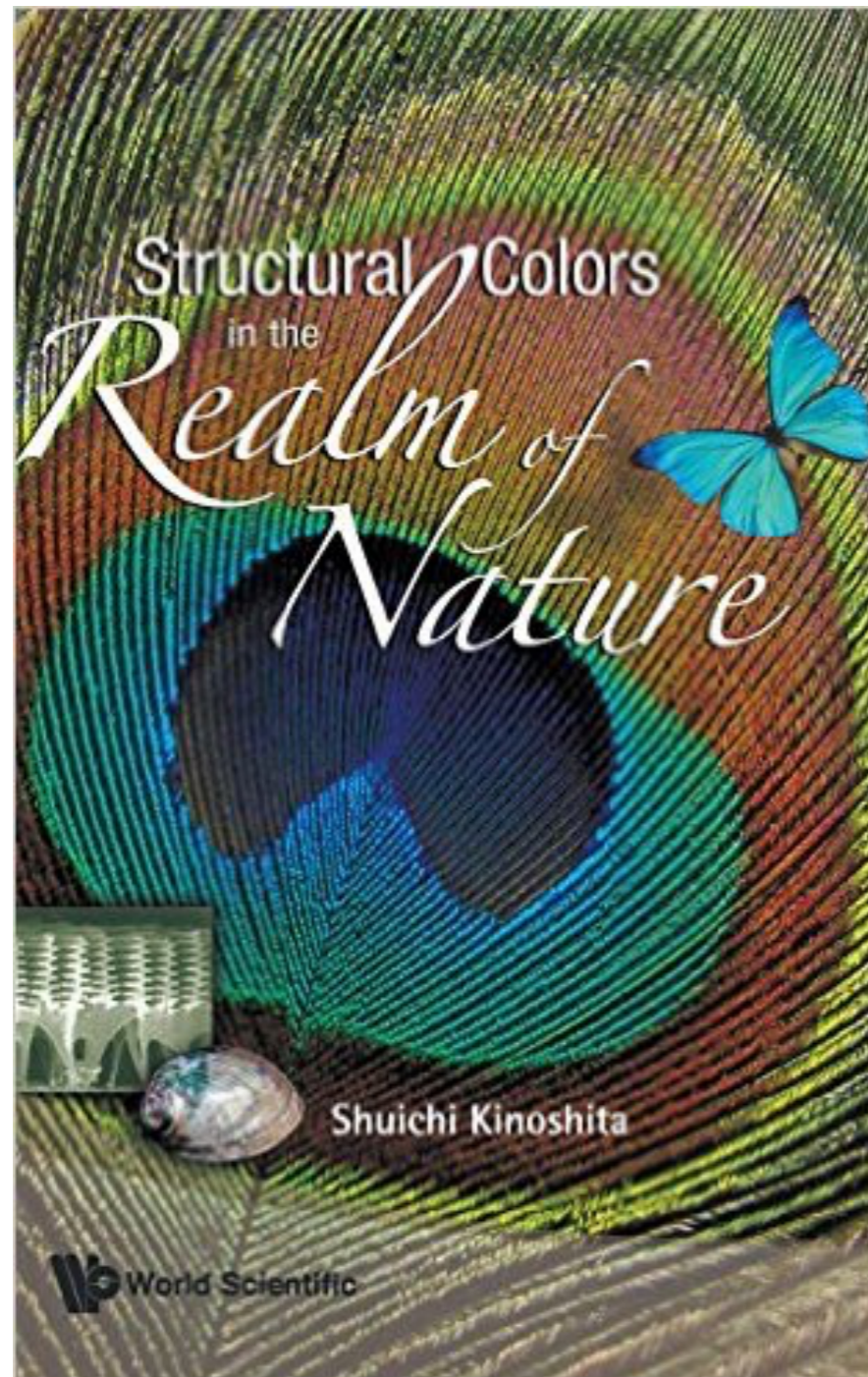
In periodic structures waves are completely reflected only at certain angles.



Note: channels with certain bends act as waveguides only for those waves that are completely reflected at these angles!



Further reading



<http://ab-initio.mit.edu/book/>