

# Spectral Effects: Chromatic Refraction and Wavelength Interference

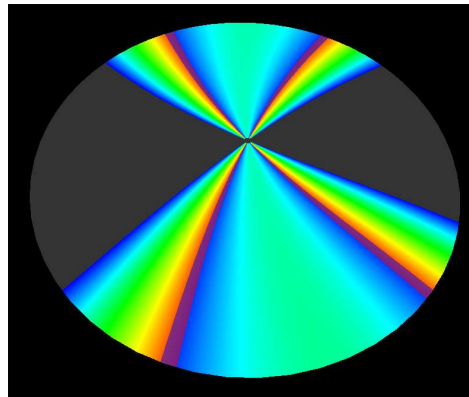
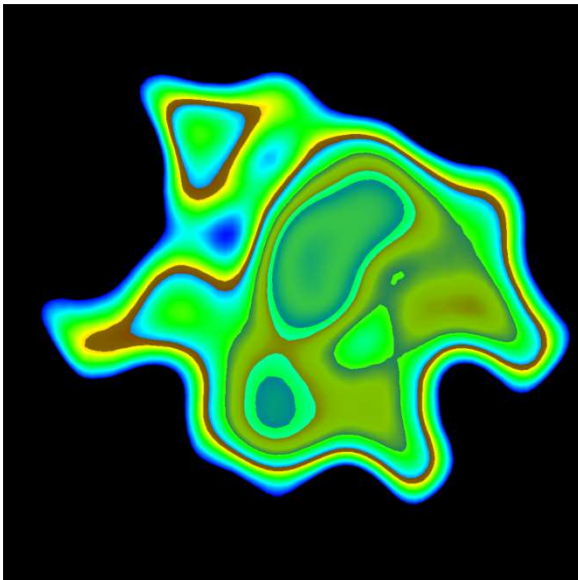


**Oregon State**  
**University**  
**Mike Bailey**

mjb@cs.oregonstate.edu



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

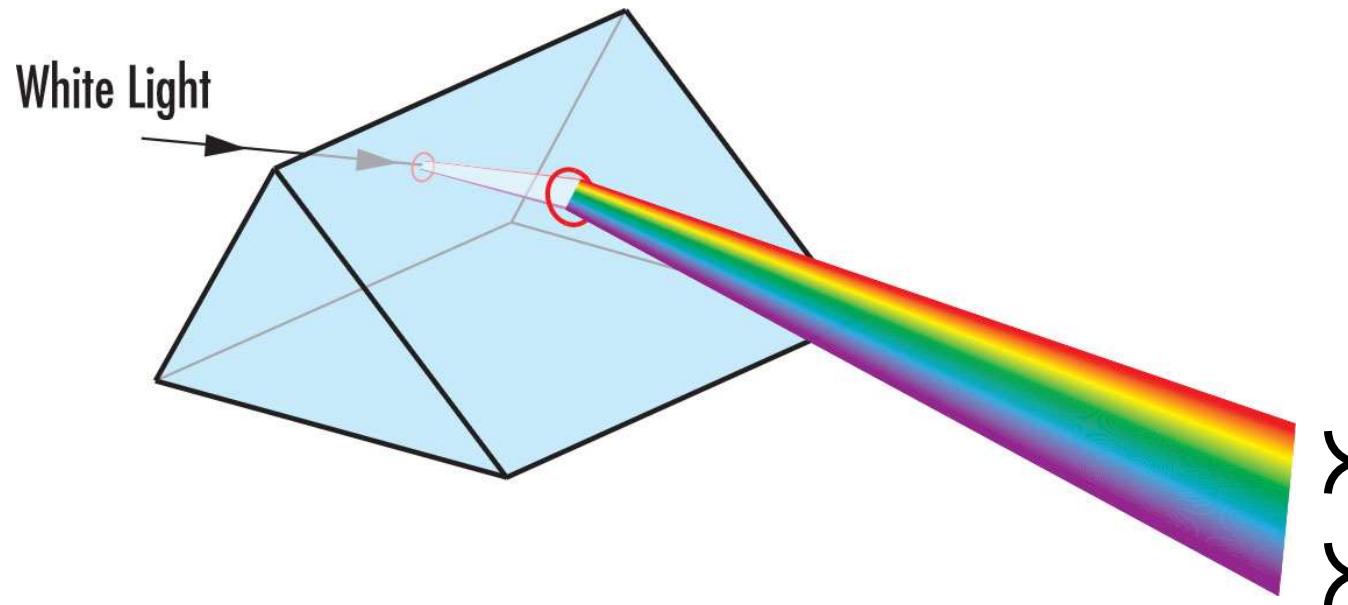


spectraleffects.pptx



mjb – December 22, 2023

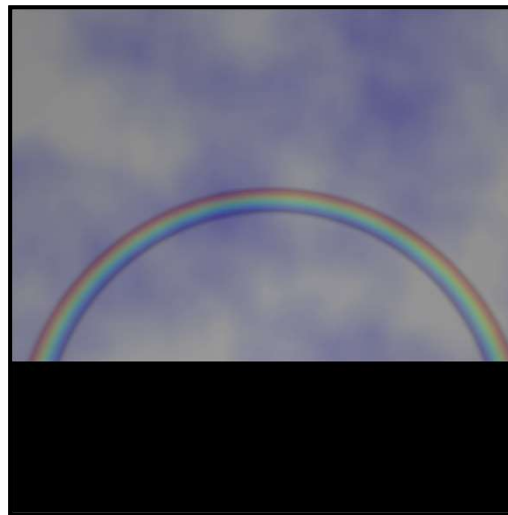
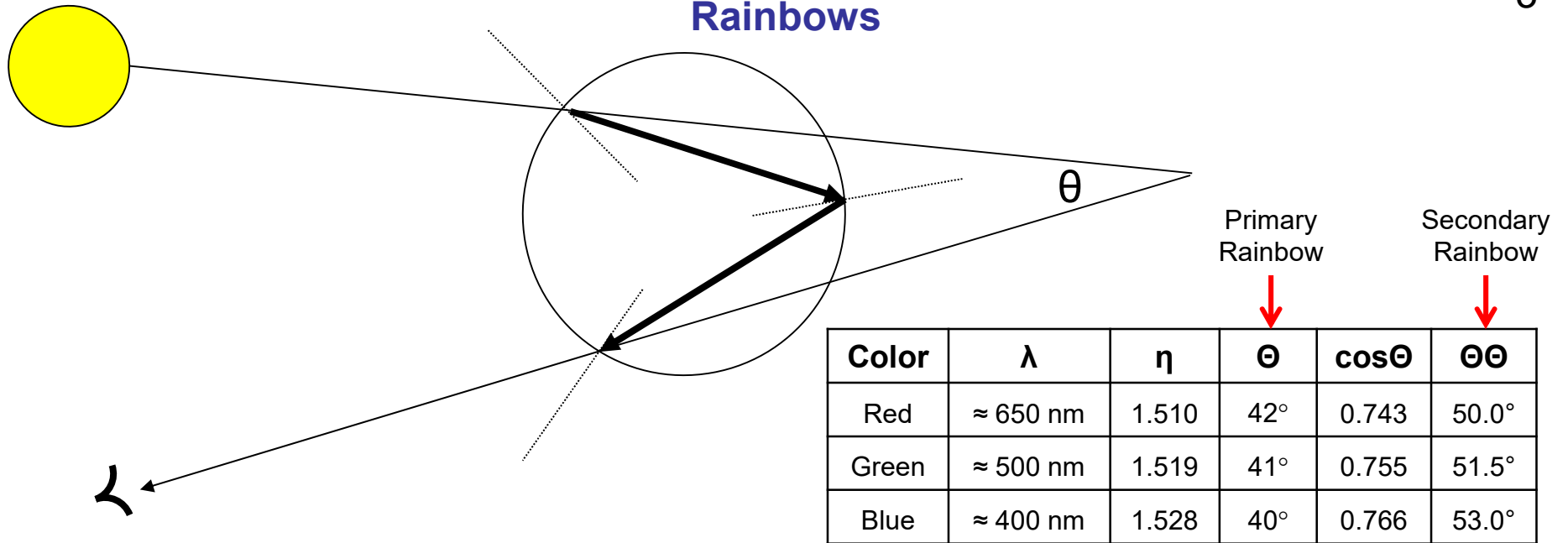
## Each Wavelength of Light Has a Slightly Different Index of Refraction so that each Wavelength Bends Differently in a Prism



<http://www.edmundoptics.com>

Different colors are seen in different places

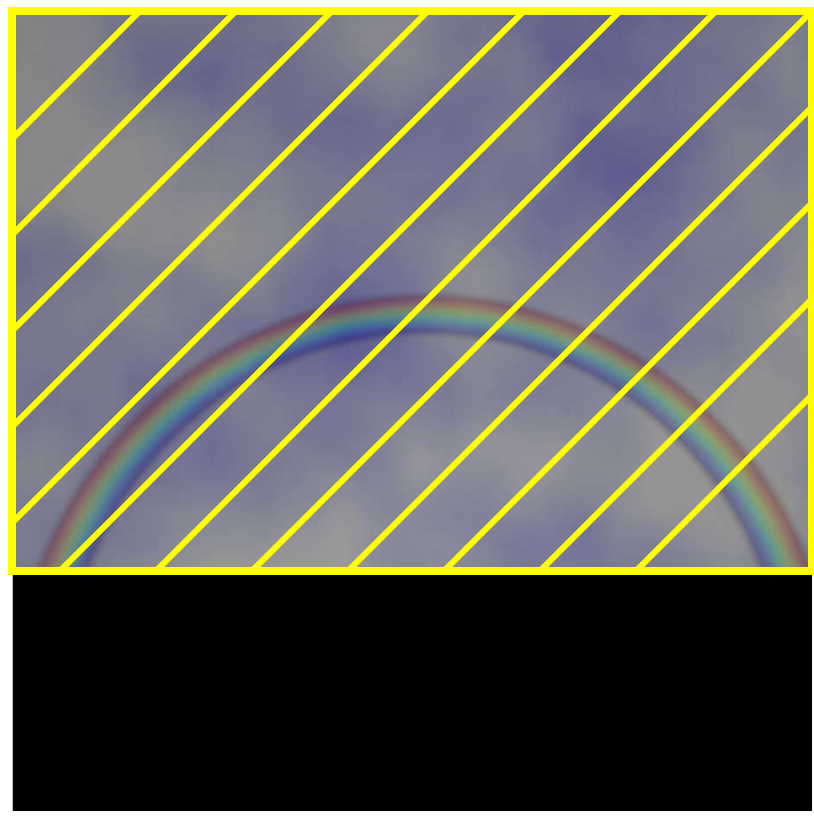
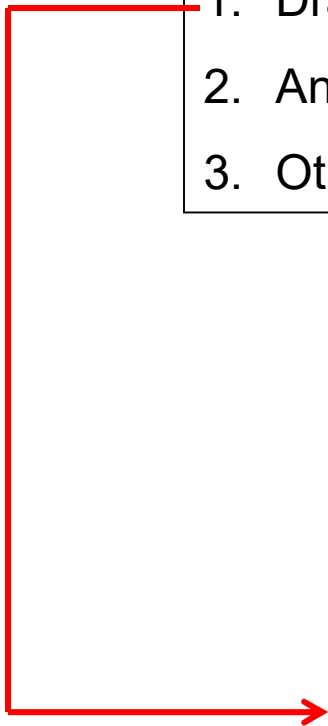
# Rainbows



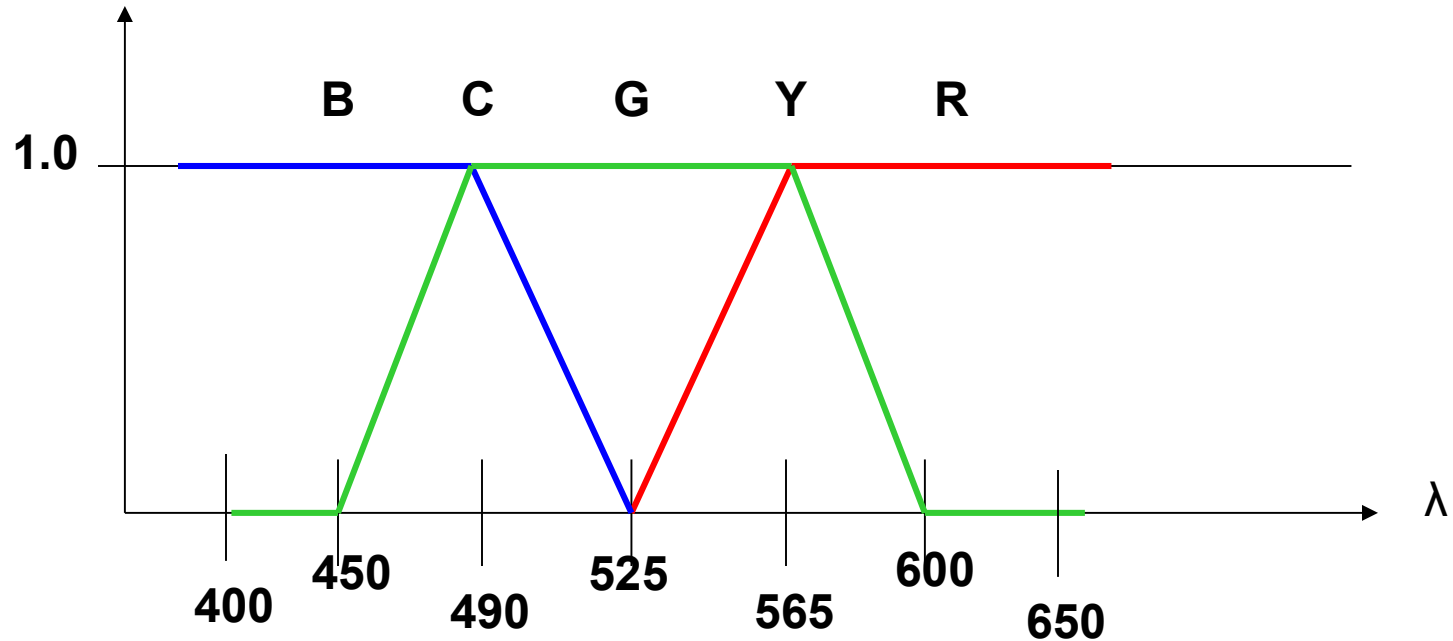
# Rainbow Strategy

Or anything else, really. You just need a large "fragment-generator".

- 1. Draw one big quadrilateral across the scene
- 2. Anywhere that  $.7400 \leq \cos(\Theta) \leq .7700$ , paint a color
- 3. Otherwise, discard.



## Spectral Colors



```
float
Pulse( float min, float max, float tol, float t )
{
    float a = min - tol;
    float b = min + tol;

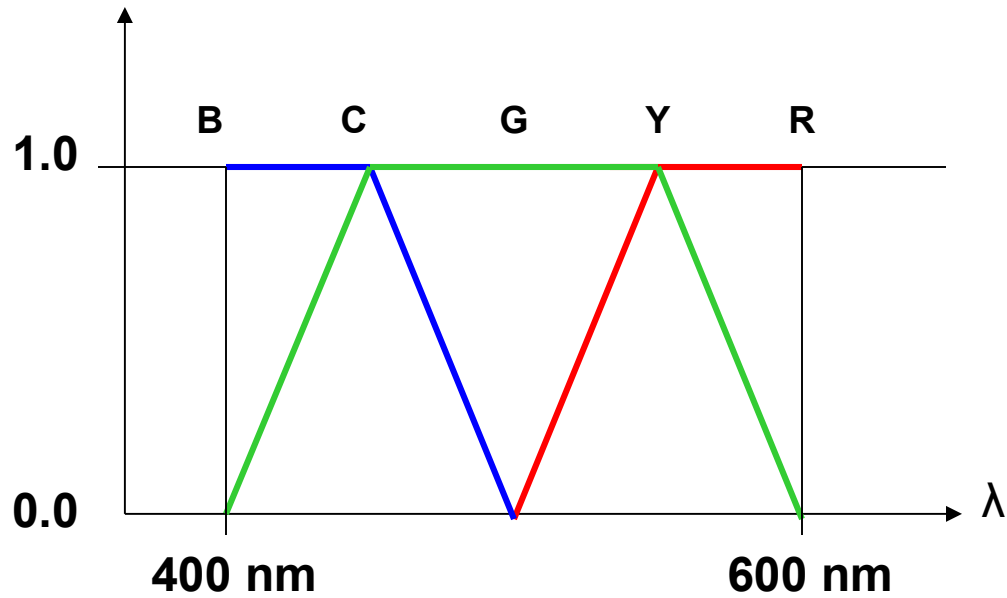
    float c = max - tol;
    float d = max + tol;

    return smoothstep(a,b,t) - smoothstep(c,d,t);
}
```

```
vec3 SunDirection = vec3( 0., SunY, 10. );
vec3 PtToSun = normalize( SunDirection );
vec3 PtToEye = normalize( vec3(0.,0.,0.) - ECposition );
float costheta = dot( PtToEye, PtToSun );

float R = Pulse( .7400, .7490, Tol, costheta );
float G = Pulse( .7490, .7605, Tol, costheta );
float B = Pulse( .7605, .7700, Tol, costheta );
```

## Spectral Colors



```
float t = ( λ - 400. ) / ( 600. - 400. ); // 0. to 1.
vec3 rgb = Rainbow( t );
```

## Changing the Range [0.,1.] to Rainbow Colors

```
vec3
Rainbow( float t )
{
    t = clamp( t, 0., 1. );
    vec3 rgb = vec3( 0., 0., 0. );

    // b -> c
    if( t >= 0. )
    {
        // rgb.r = 0.;
        rgb.g = 4. * ( t - (0./4.) );
        rgb.b = 1.;
    }

    // c -> g
    if( t >= (1./4.) )
    {
        // rgb.r = 0.;
        rgb.g = 1.;
        rgb.b = 1. - 4. * ( t - (1./4.) );
    }

    // g -> y
    if( t >= (2./4.) )
    {
        rgb.r = 4. * ( t - (2./4.) );
        rgb.g = 1.;
        // rgb.b = 0.;
    }

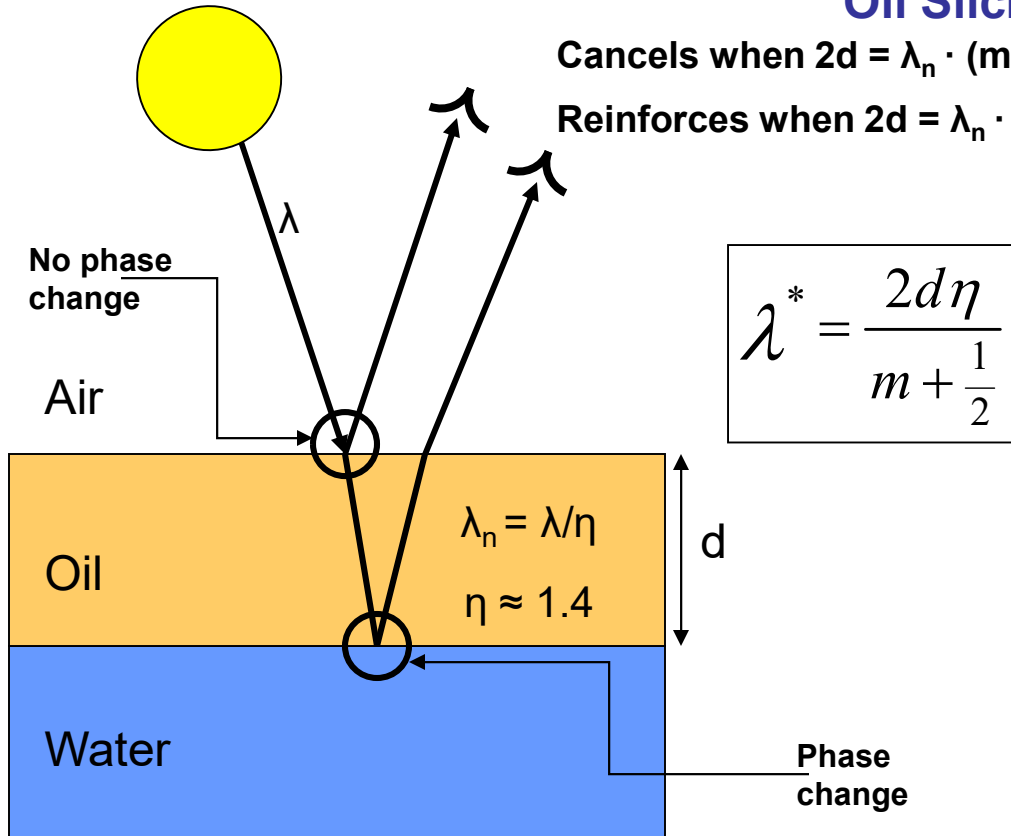
    // y -> r
    if( t >= (3./4.) )
    {
        rgb.r = 1.;
        rgb.g = 1. - 4. * ( t - (3./4.) );
        // rgb.b = 0.;
    }

    return rgb;
}
```

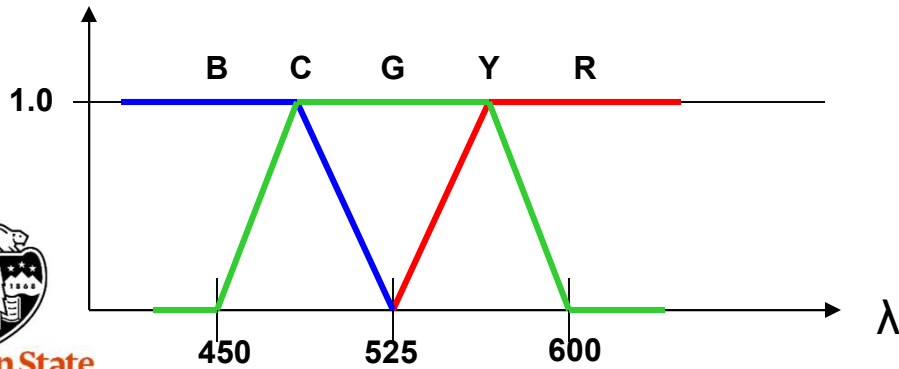
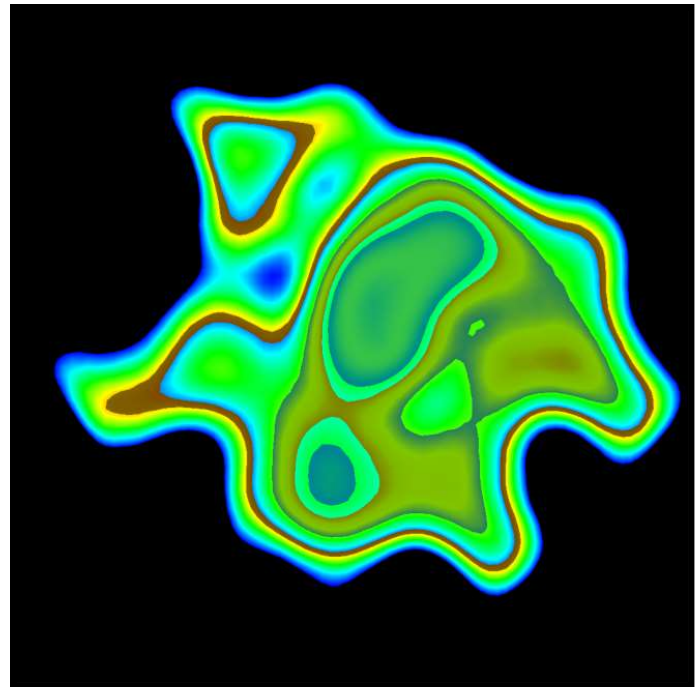
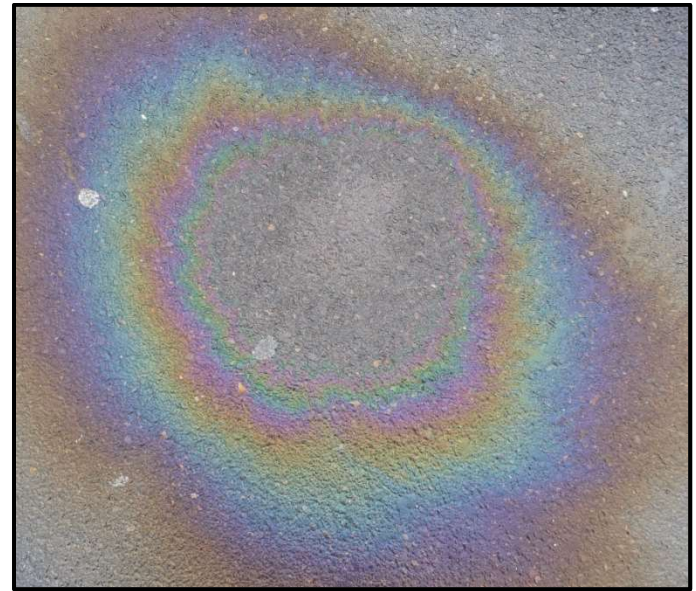
# Oil Slicks

Cancels when  $2d = \lambda_n \cdot (m)$

Reinforces when  $2d = \lambda_n \cdot (m + \frac{1}{2})$

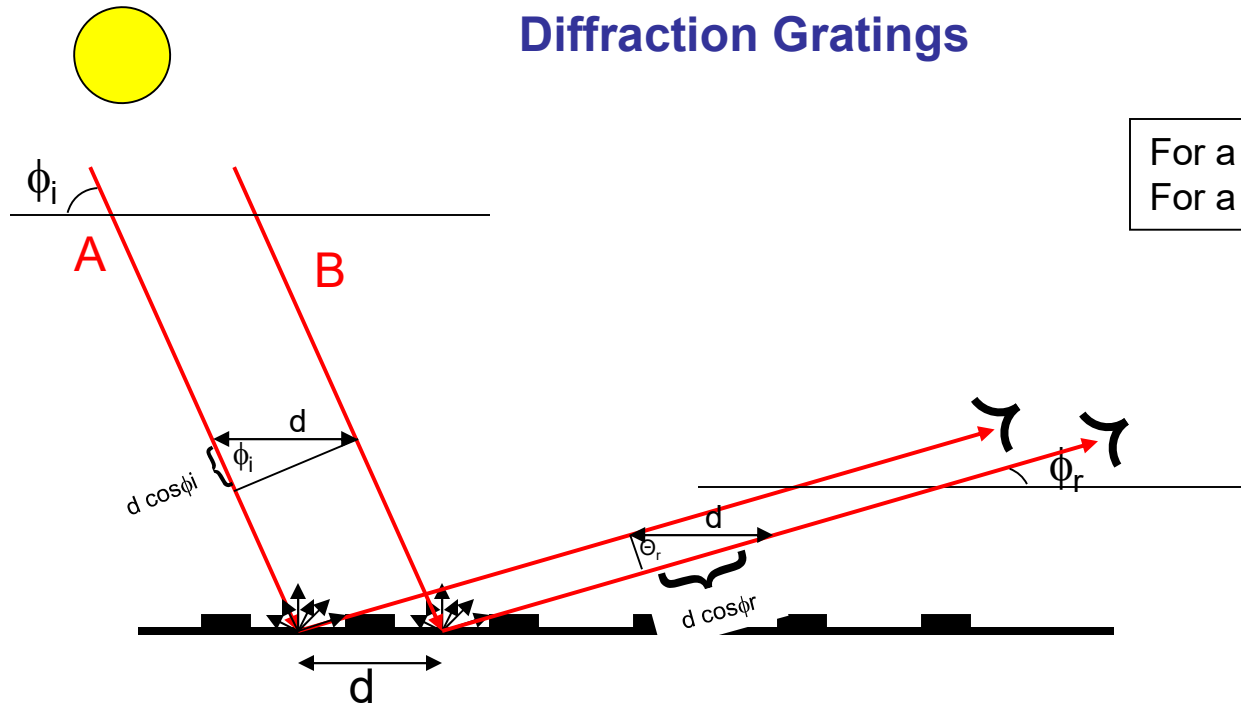


$$\lambda^* = \frac{2d\eta}{m + \frac{1}{2}}$$





## Diffraction Gratings



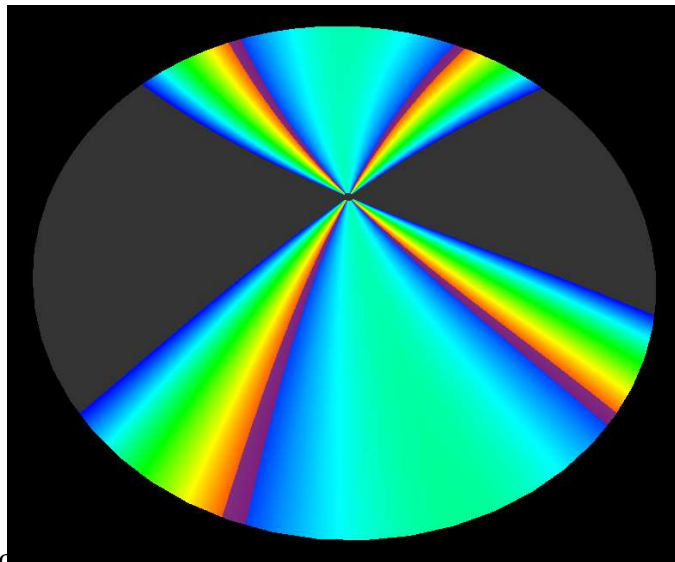
For a CD,  $d = 1600 \text{ nm}$   
For a DVD,  $d = 740 \text{ nm}$

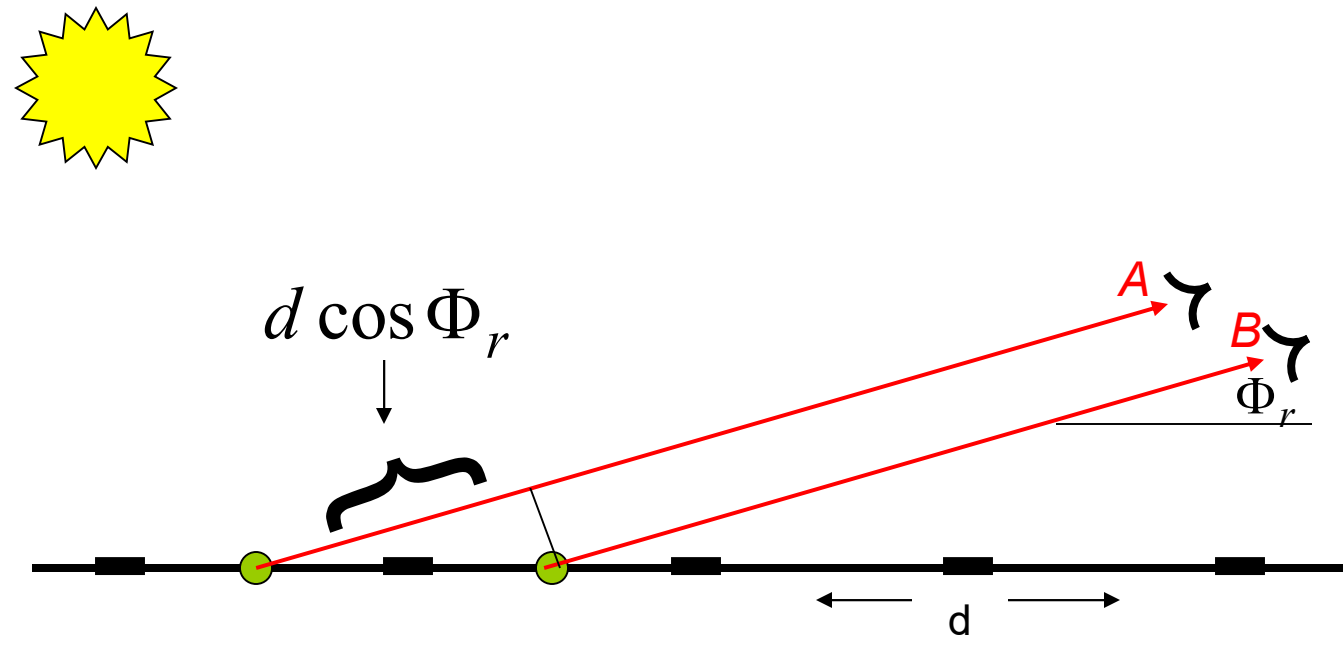
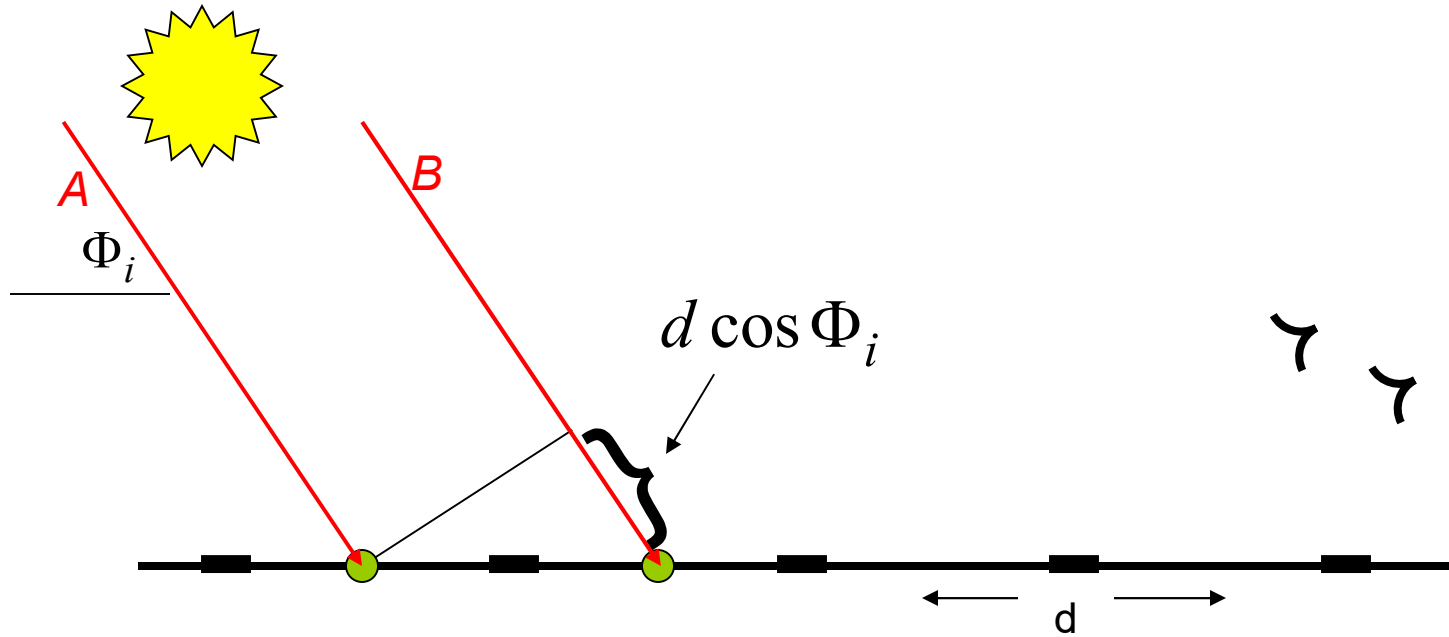
On the way in, Ray A travels  $d \cos(\phi_i)$  **less** than Ray B does.

On the way out, Ray A travels  $d \cos(\phi_r)$  **more** than Ray B does.

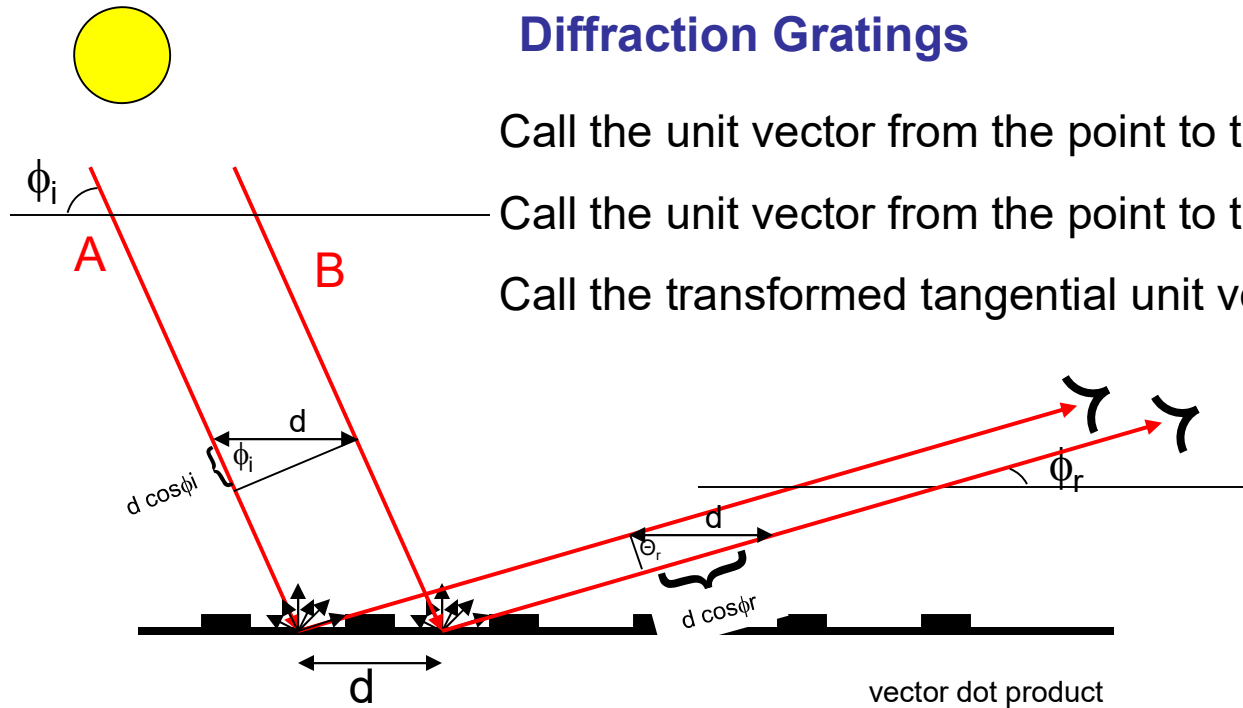
So, wavelengths reinforce when  
 $\text{abs}[ d \cos(\phi_i) - d \cos(\phi_r) ]$  is a multiple of the  
wavelength =  $m\lambda$

$$\lambda^* = d \cdot | \cos(\phi_i) - \cos(\phi_r) | / m$$





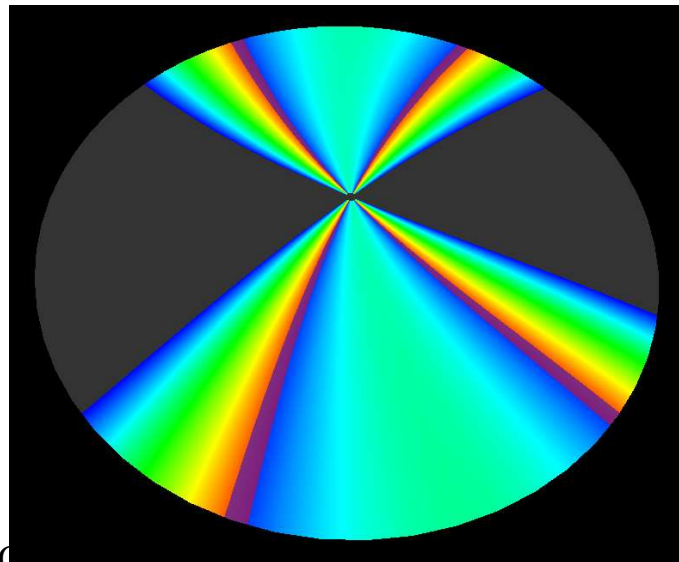
## Diffraction Gratings



Call the unit vector from the point to the light **ToLight**.

Call the unit vector from the point to the eye **ToEye**.

Call the transformed tangential unit vector **Tangent**.



Computer Graphics

Then,  $\cos(\phi_i)$  is  $ToLight \cdot Tangent$

And,  $\cos(\phi_r)$  is  $ToEye \cdot (-Tangent)$

So that  $\cos(\phi_i) - \cos(\phi_r)$  is:  $Tangent \cdot (ToLight + ToEye)$

$$\lambda^* = d \cdot | \cos(\phi_i) - \cos(\phi_r) | / m$$

