

# Structure Colors

## Photonic Structures: Discovery, Replication & Application

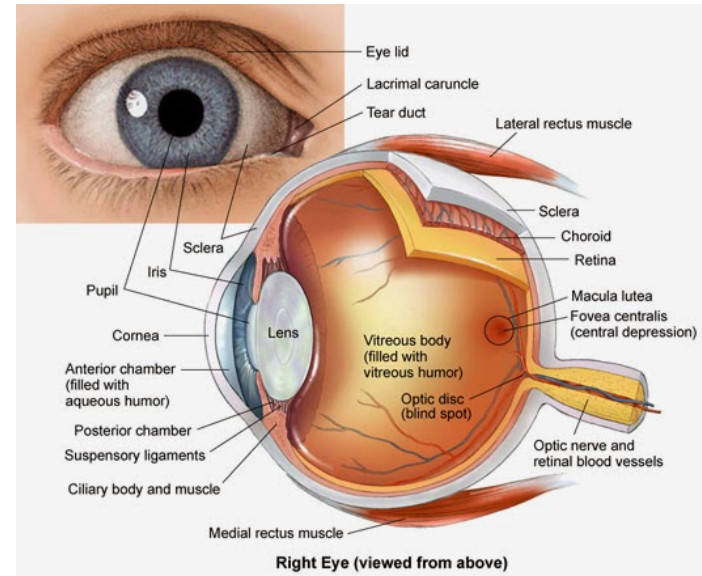
Photonics  
(ELEC-E3240)

Zhipei Sun

Photonics Group  
Department of Electronics and Nanoengineering  
Aalto University

# What is COLOR?

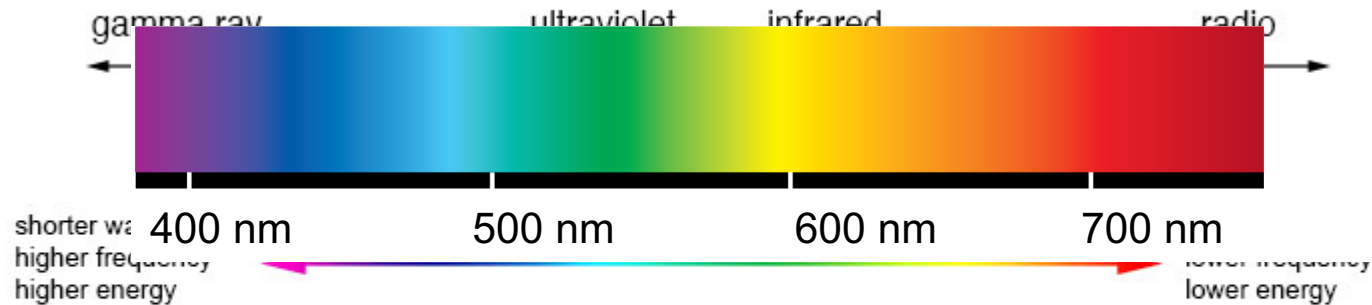
- **Color** is the characteristic of **human visual perception** described through color *categories*, such as **red**, **yellow**, **green**, **blue**, or **purple**. (From wikipedia)
- This perception of color derives from **cone cells** in the human eye when they are stimulated by the **reflected (or luminous) light** from objects.





# Color generation

- Color and spectrum

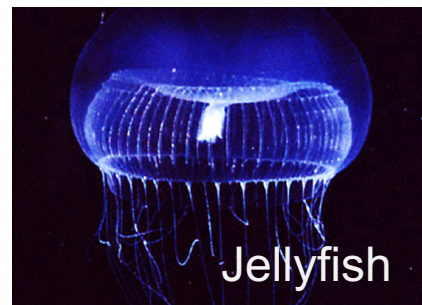


- Color generation in nature

Pigment color



Bioluminescence

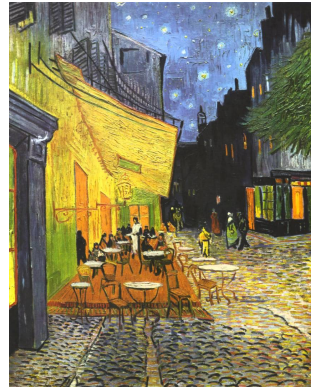


Structure color



# Pigment color

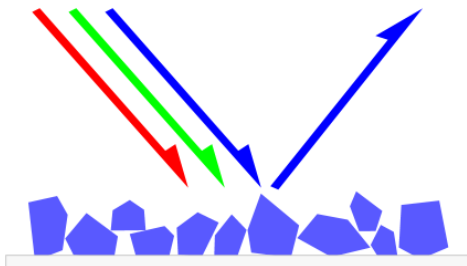
- Tulips from Holland
- Cafe terrace at night  
By van gogh



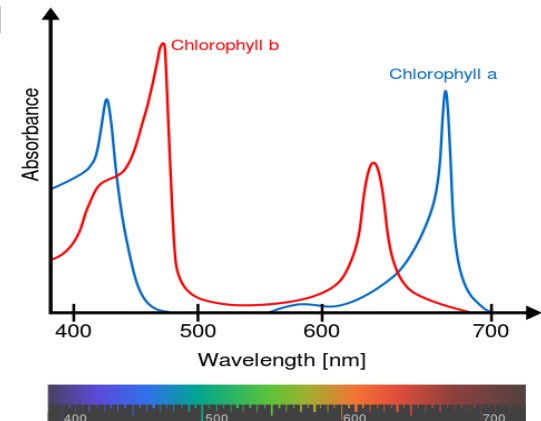
- Eyeshadow from NARS



## Selective absorption



## Chlorophyll





# Transparent Fish (Leptocephalus)

[fb.com/ScienceNaturePage](https://www.facebook.com/ScienceNaturePage)



# Bioluminescence

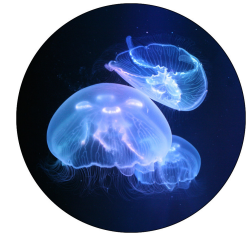
**Chemical reaction:**  $A + B \rightarrow C +$



**Firefly**



**Jellyfish**





# Structural color

- Interactions between **light** and **photonic structures**

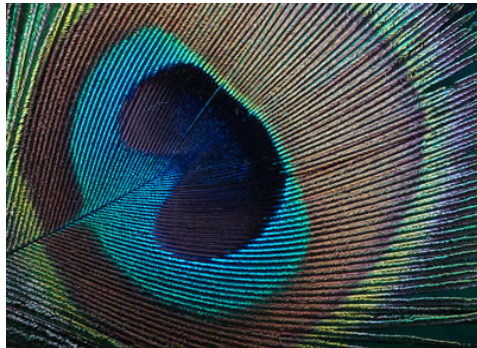
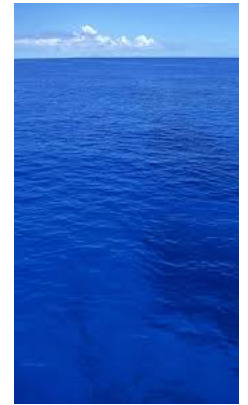
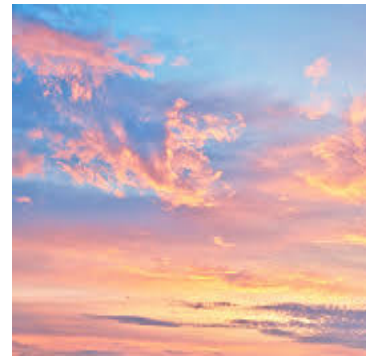
Interference



Diffraction



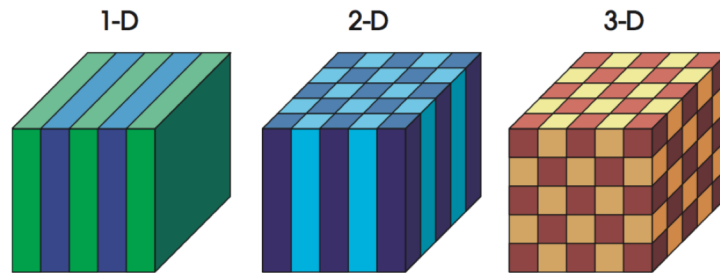
Scattering



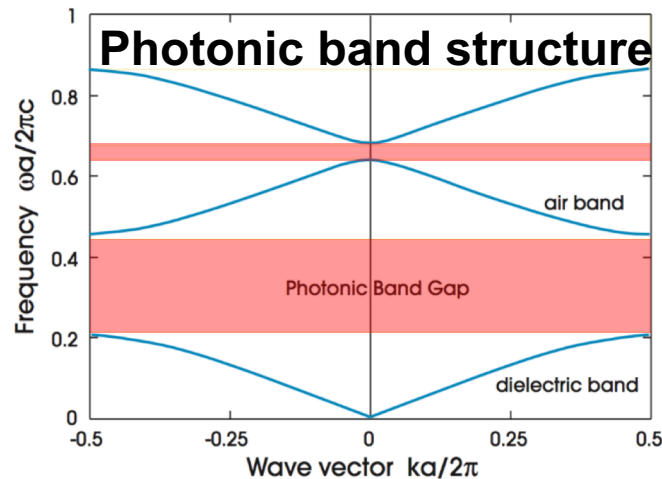
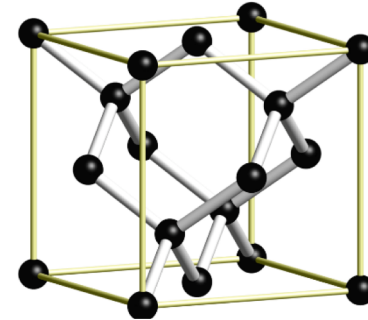
- Communication
- Courtship

# Photonic crystal structures

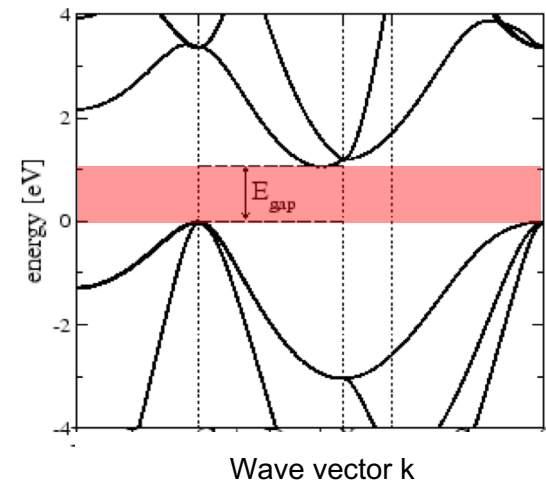
Photonic crystal:



**Si** Diamond crystal structure



Electric band structure

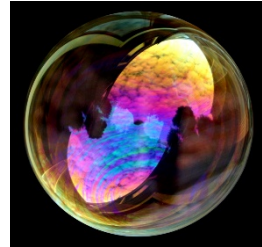
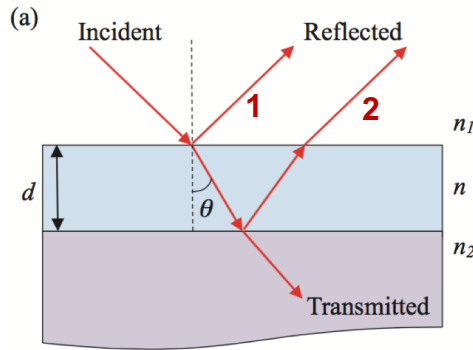




# Mechanism for structural coloration

## interference

- Thin film



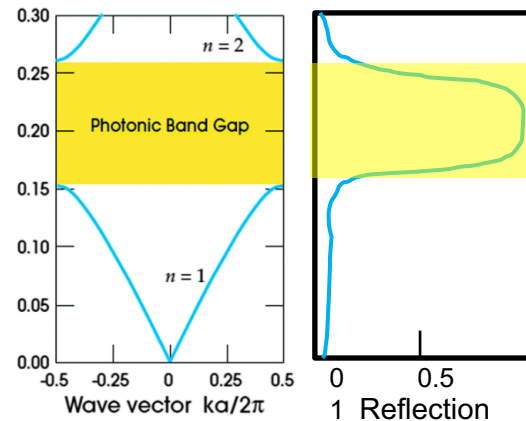
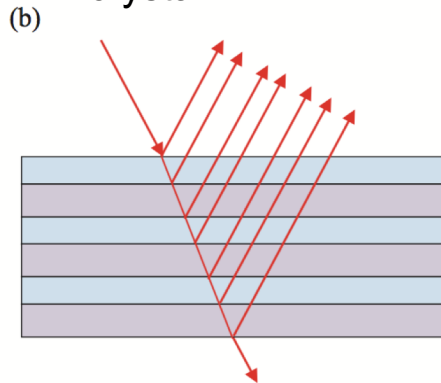
- Constructive interference

Optical path difference

$$2nd \cos\theta = N\lambda$$

$\lambda$   
n: refractive index  
N: order of the mode

- 1D photonic crystal



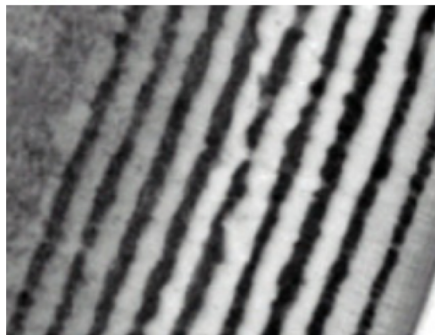
## Parameters

- Refractive index
- Thickness
- Period (filling fraction)
- Incidence/Observation angles

# Photonic crystals (PCs) in nature

## 1D PCs

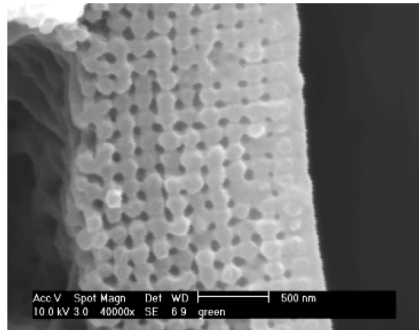
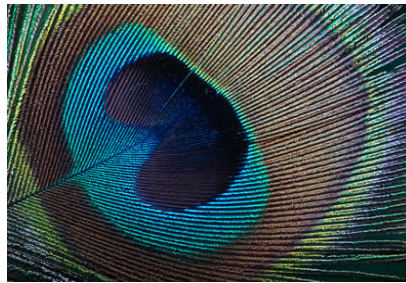
(beetle)



Parker *et al.*, JEB 1998

## 2D PCs

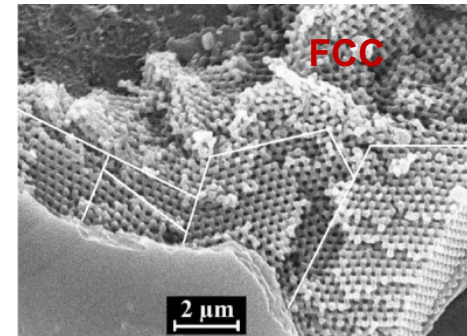
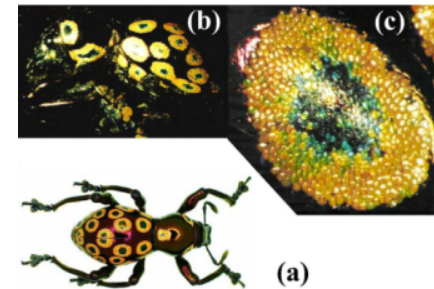
(peacock)



Zi *et al.*, PNAS 2003

## 3D PCs

(weevil)



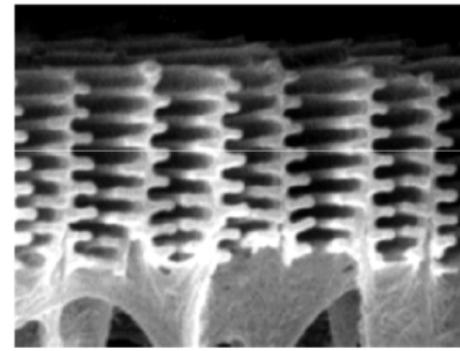
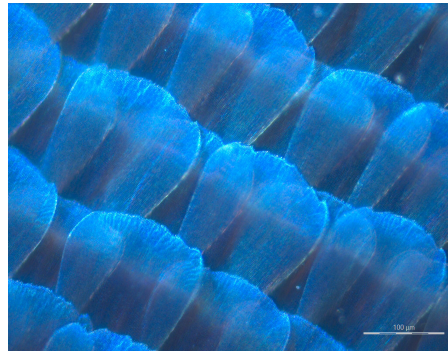
Welch *et al.*, PRE 2007



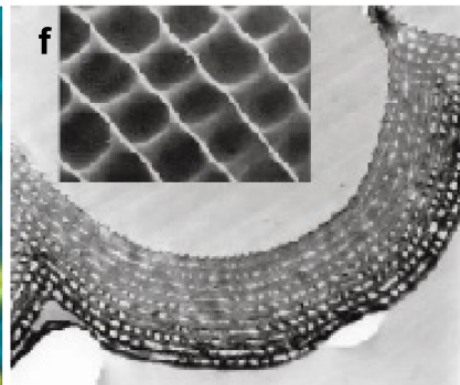
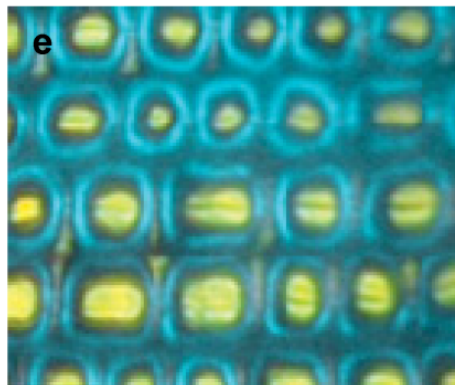
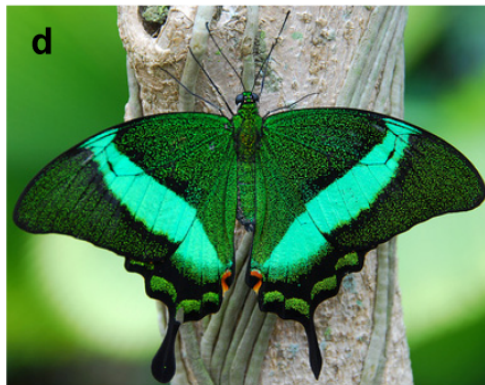
# Photonic crystals (PCs) in nature

## Hybrid

- Brazil morpho



- Indonesian butterfly

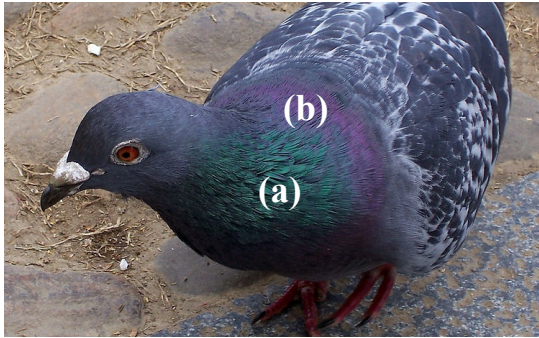


# Properties of structural colors

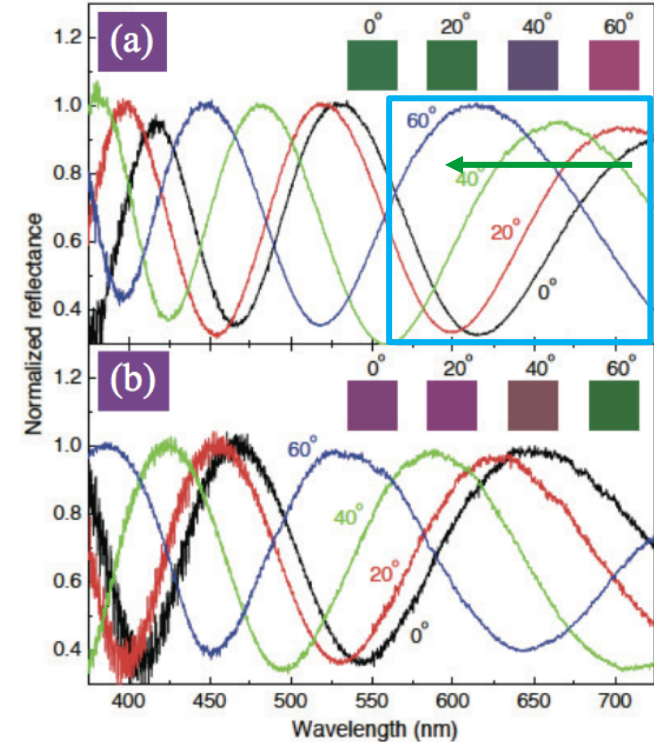
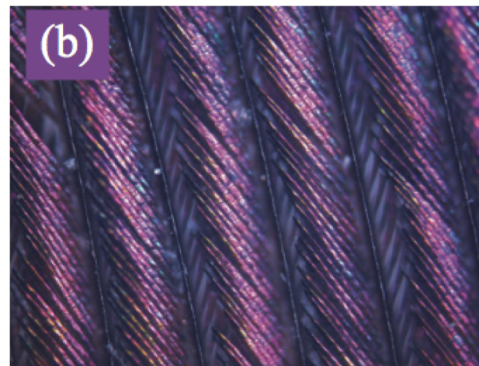
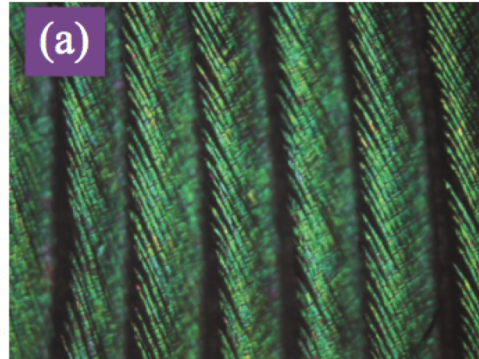
## Iridescence

Color varies with different observation angles

$$2nd \cos\theta = N \lambda$$



Pigeon



# Properties of structural colors

## Color changing with angle

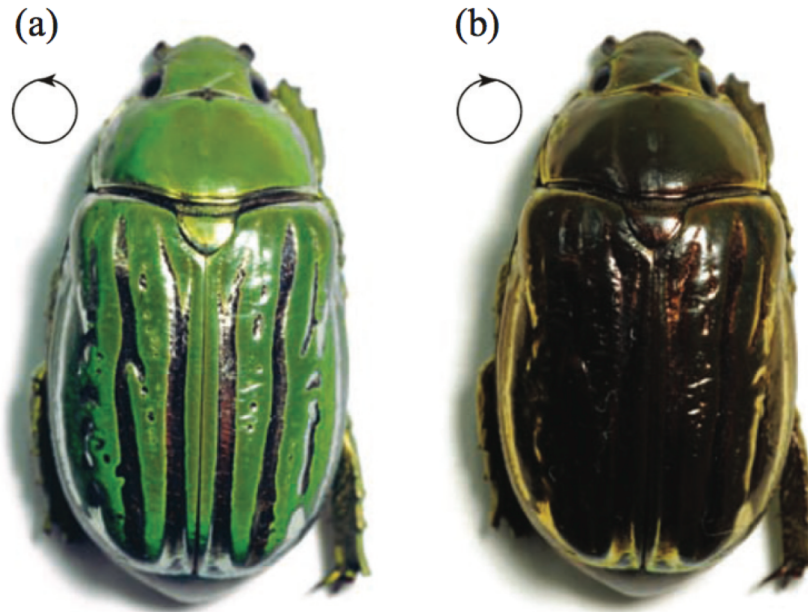


Anna's Hummingbird /Calypte anna



# Properties of structural colors

## Polarization dependence

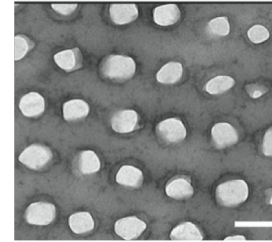


Jewel beetle

Brilliant green color

# Properties of structural colors

## Active color change



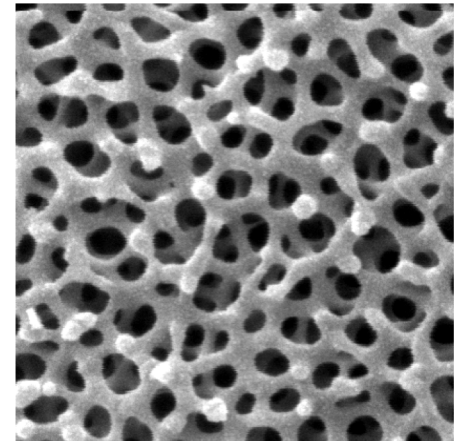
### Parameters

- Refractive index
- Period (thickness)
- Observation angle

Relaxed ----- Excited  
Green Red Yellow

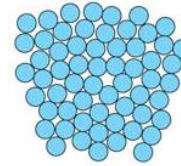
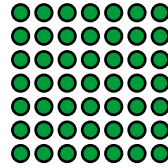
Excited ----- Relaxed  
Red Yellow Green

# What about amorphous photonic structure colors?



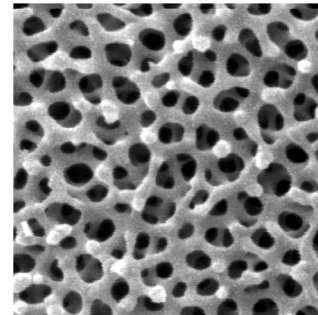


# Amorphous photonic crystals in nature

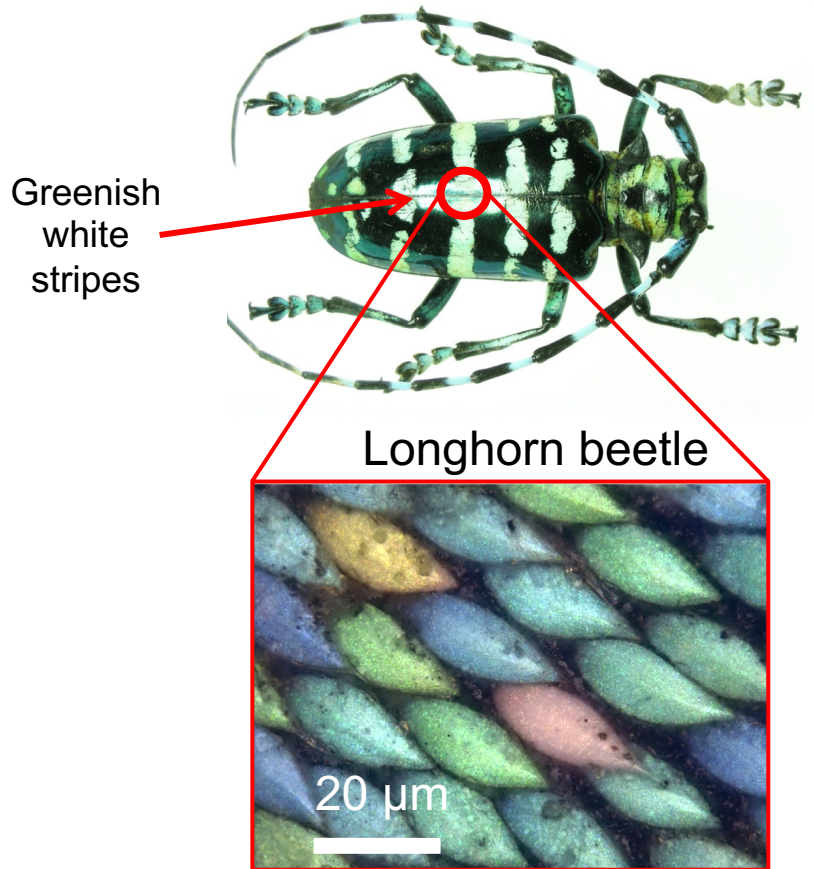


	Periodic	Amorphous
Long-range order	Yes	No
Short-range order	Yes	Yes
Iridescence	Yes	No

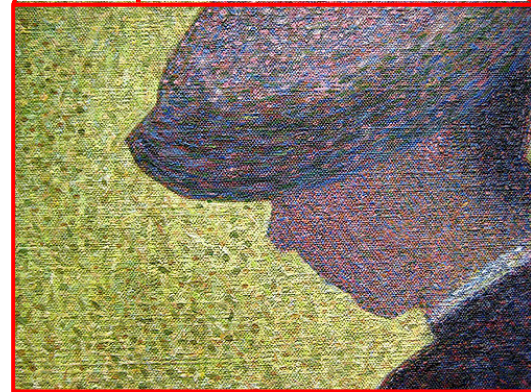
Parrot feather      Amorphous diamond structure



# Amorphous photonic crystals in nature



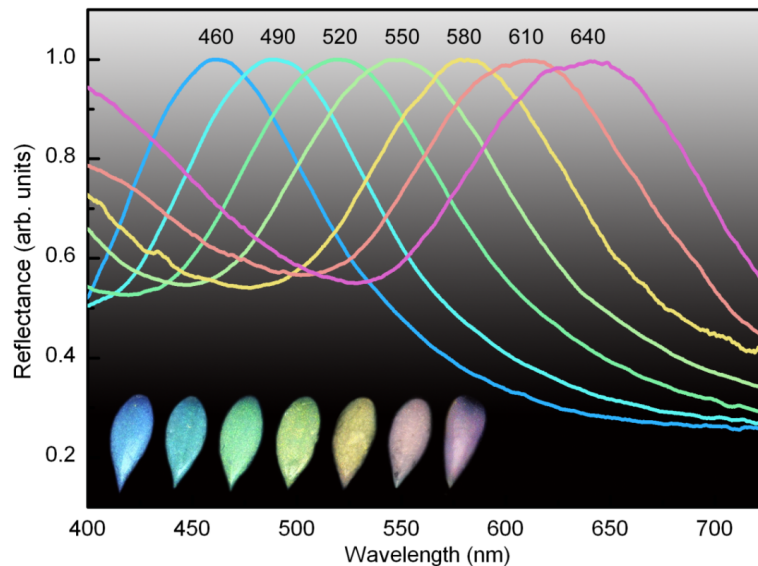
pointillism



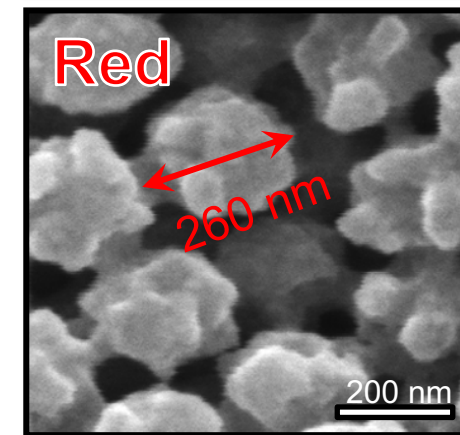
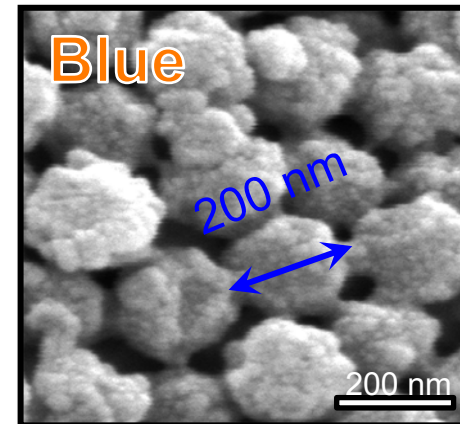
*A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*  
Georges Seurat (1859 - 1891)

# Longhorn beetles

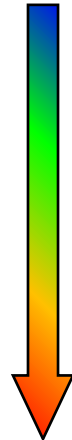
## Spectra and structure analysis of Colored Scales



chitin nanoparticles

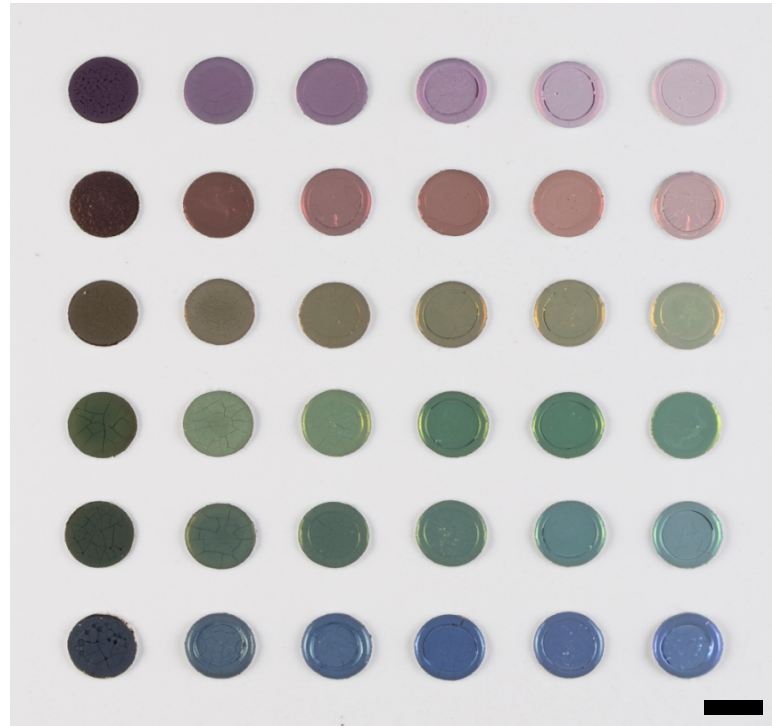


Diverse coloration due to size scaling





# Artificial structure color

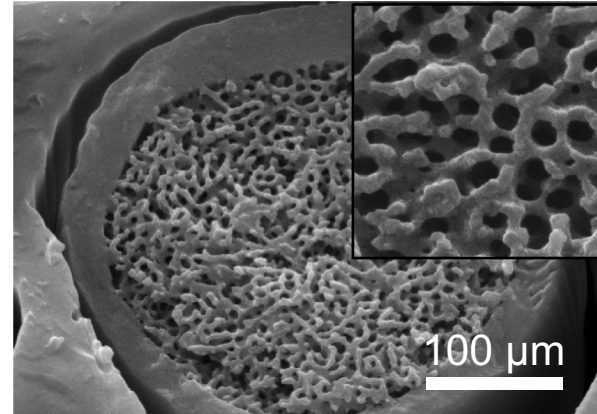


# Fabrication methods

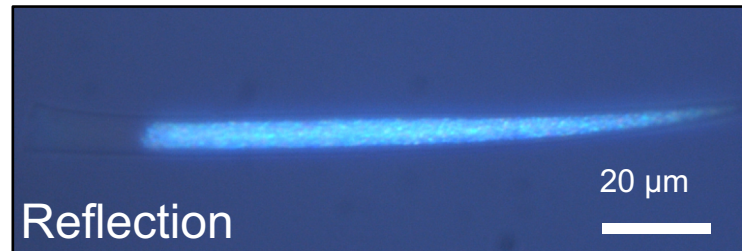
- Inversion from templates
  - ✓ Easy, low-cost
    - limited by templates
- Self-assembly
  - ✓ Low-cost
    - Limited kinds of materials
- Nanofabrication
  - ✓ Targeted, controllable, friendly for imaging processing
    - Expensive, easy for 2D but difficult for 3D

# Inversion from templates

Beetle *Sphingnotus mirabilis*



Spinodal decomposition structure

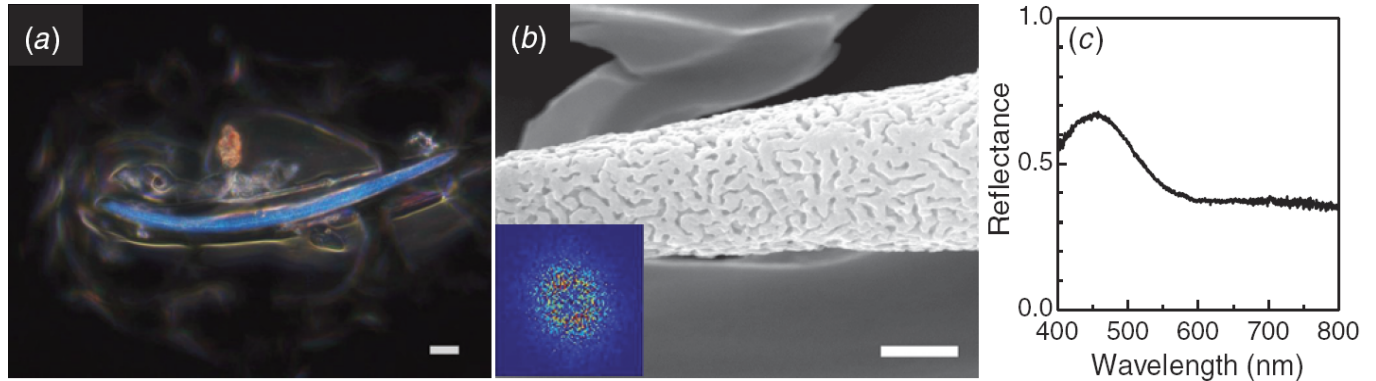




# Inversion from templates

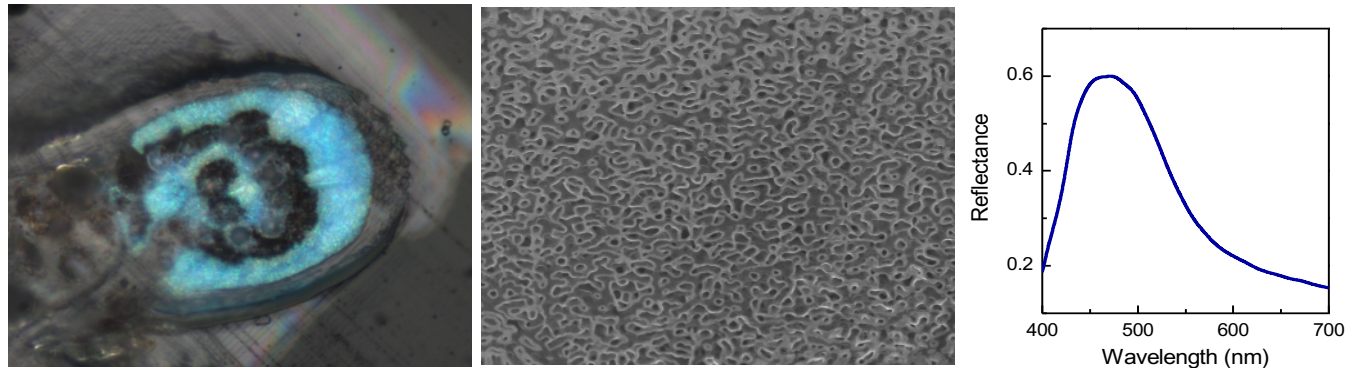
## Inverted $\text{SiO}_2$

Atomic Layer  
Deposition

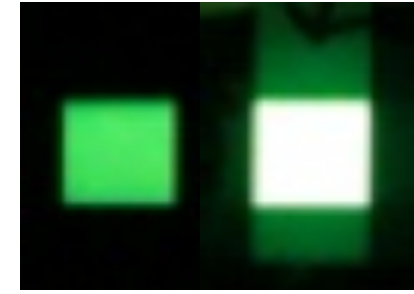
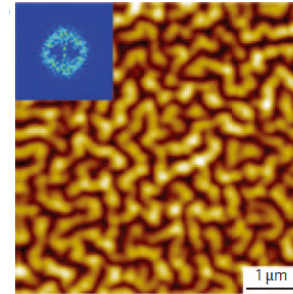
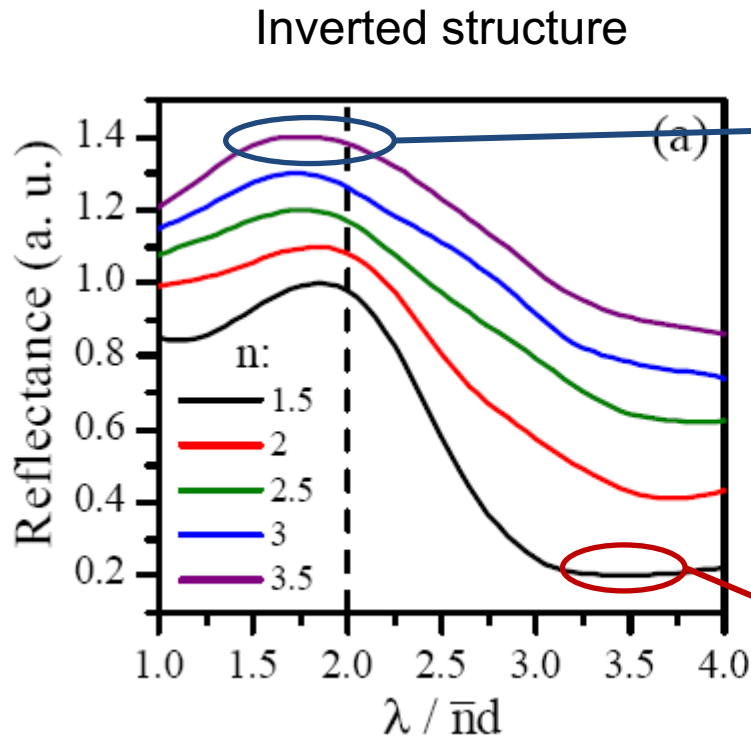


## Inverted $\text{Al}_3\text{O}_3$

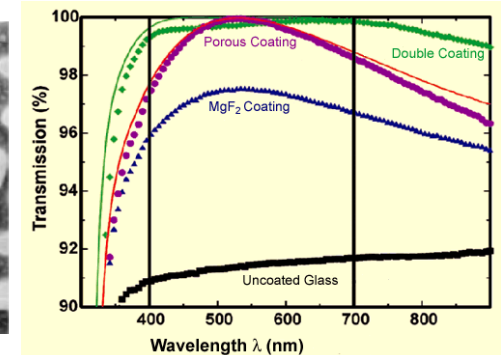
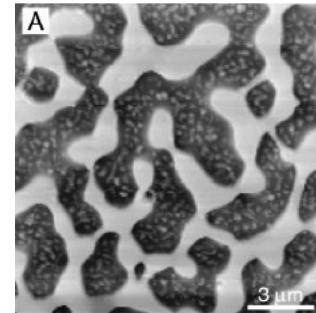
Sol-gel



# Potential applications in photonics

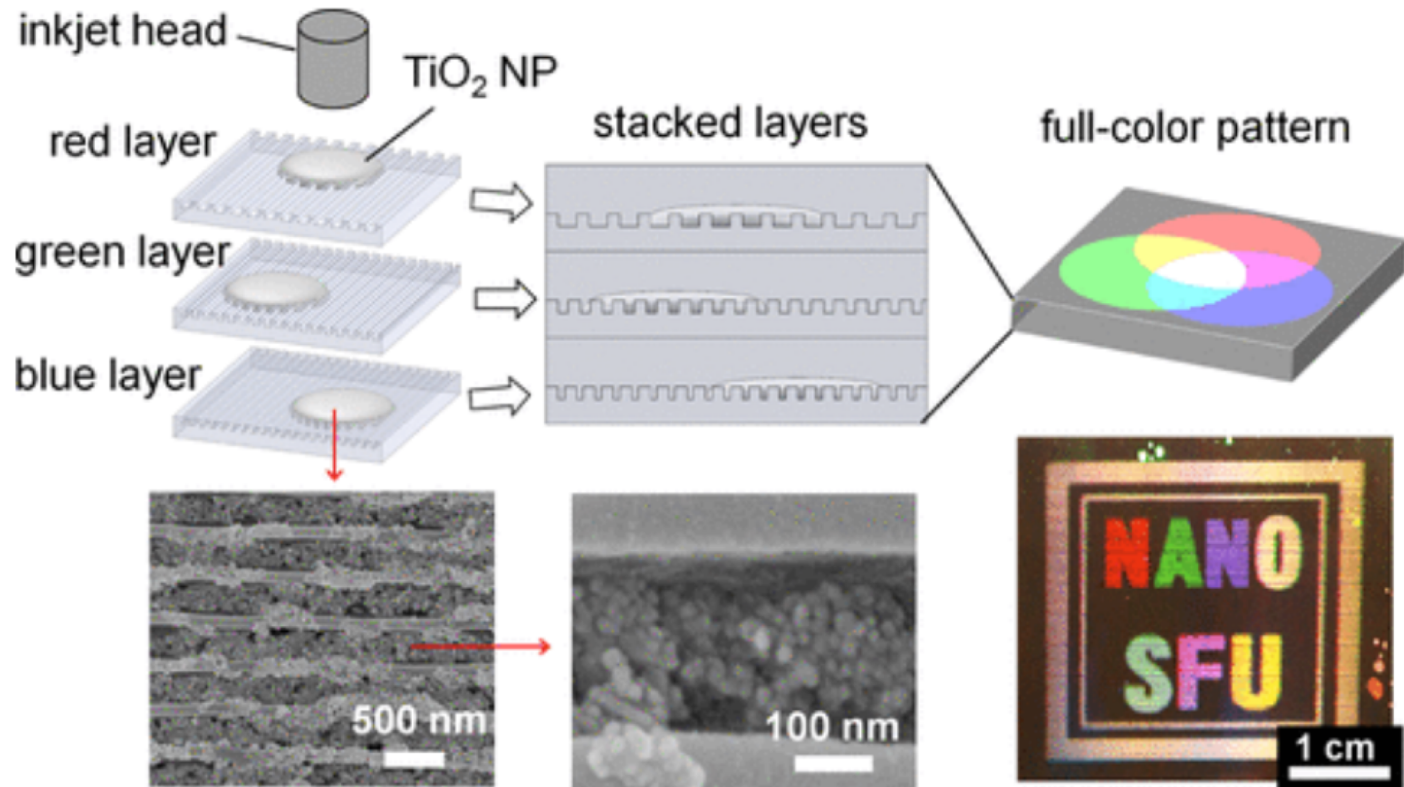


**Enhance light extraction from OLED**  
Nature photonics 4, 222 (2010)

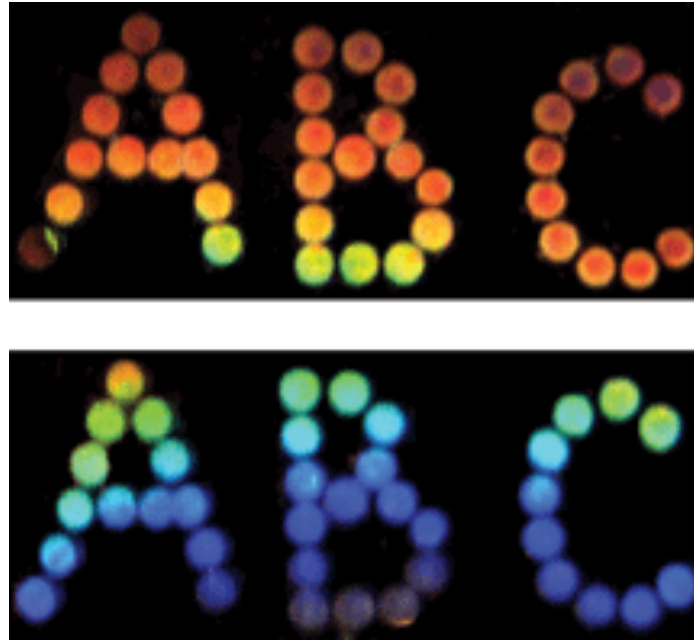


**Antireflection coatings**  
Science 283, 520 (1999)

# Scalable Inkjet-Based Structural Color Printing by Molding Transparent Gratings



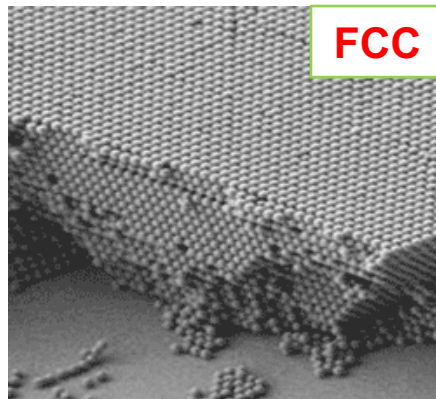
# Self-Assembled Films Display structure color





# Self-assembly

Single-size spheres

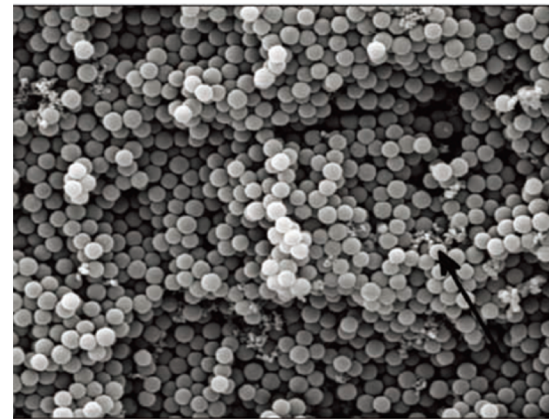


Electrostatic repulsive force

Photonic crystal

P. D. García *et al.*, Adv. Mater. 19, 2597 (2007)

Dual-size spheres: 226 nm & 271 nm

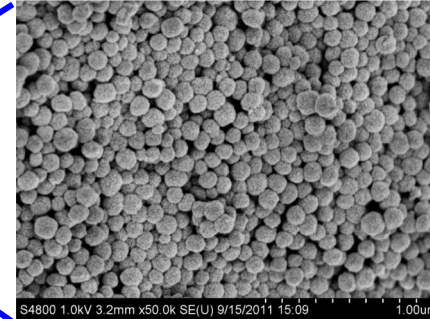
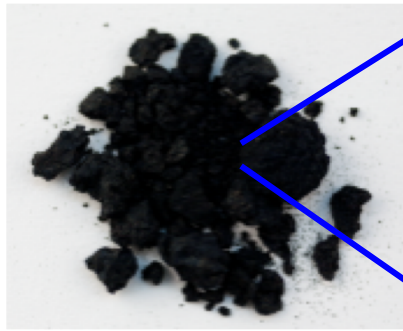
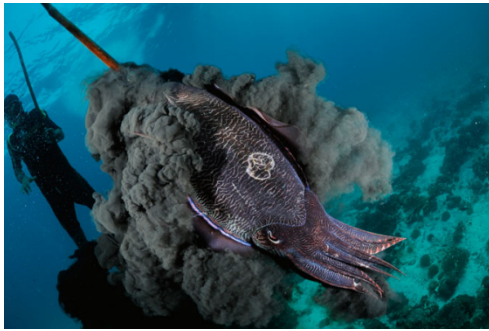


Amorphous photonic structure

J. D. Foster *et al.*, Adv Mater. 22, 2939 (2010)

# Self-assembly

- Using PS spheres, and cuttlefish ink as an additive



Dried cuttlefish ink

Ink particles ~ 110 nm

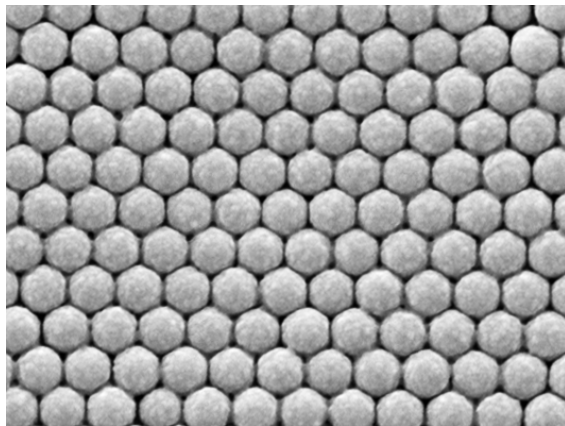
## Advantages

- Non-spherical shape, **easy to attain amorphous structures**
- Broadband absorption, **enhancing color visibility**

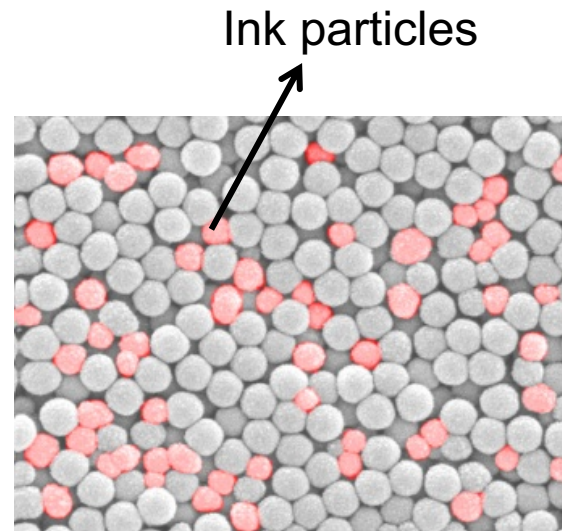
# Self-assembly

## Simple procedure:

- Mixing PS spheres and ink particles in water
- Drop onto a substrate
- Wait for drying



200-nm PS spheres alone



200-nm PS spheres + ink particles



Octopus is changing:  
PATTERN  
COLOR  
BRIGHTNESS  
TEXTURE