## Lecture 10

# Plan Polarized Light and Interference 

## Unpolarized vs. Polarized Light



Electric filed


How to Make Polarized Light


## Light After Two Polarizers



## Details of Light After Two Polarizers



after

Intensity (I)

- Polarization was changed (angle)
- The intensity was reduced $\left(\mathrm{I}=\mathrm{I}_{0} \cos \theta\right)$


## Unpolarized Light After Isotropic Crystal



Isotropic regardless of orientation



No change in ploarization

## Polarized Light After Isotropic Crystal



Isotropic regardless of orientation



No change in ploarization

# Unpolarized Light After Uniaxial Crystal: Orientation Dependence 

## no polarizer


two polarizers


isotropic
anisotropic

## Polarized Light After Uniaxial Crystal: Orientation Dependence



## Demo: Images after Calcite (Uniaxial Crystal) and Polarizer



Nicol Polarizing Prism

Figure 3
Ordinary Ray



## Pleochroism: Change in Contrast and Colors of Crystal Particles under Polarized Light



1.607
1.649
1.607
1.649


Medium $\mathrm{n}=1.662$

## Pleochroism: Change in Colors of Crystal Particles



## Change in Contrast of Crystal Particles

Birefringent Calcite Crystal Electric Vector Orientations


Polarizer

(c)

## Pleochroism: Change in Contrast



## s- and p-Polarized Lights


s: oscillating parallel to the reflection surface p: oscillating perpendicular to the reflection surface

## Reflection of Polarized Light



- More s-polarized light is reflected (30 degree)
- More p-polarized light is refracted
- 100 \% s-polarized is reflected at Brewster angle $\left(\theta_{\mathrm{B}}\right)$
- glass $\left(\sim 56^{\circ}\right)$, water $\left(\sim 55^{\circ}\right)$,


## Polarizer in Daily Life

Light Waves Vibrating


## Direct and Reflected Light



## Images after Polarizer


http://www.cs.mtu.edu/~shene/DigiCam/User-Guide/filter/polarizer.html

## LCD and Polarizer



Figure 3

## More about LCD: Color and Contrast

a pixel consisting of the red, green and blue color


Color
Pixel


Color

Pixel

Pixel

Black, White, and Gray: Nothing, All, or Some

Red, Green and Blue: Pure Colors

Color
Pixel

Pixel

Pixel

Cyan, Purple, and Yellow: Combinations of Two Colors

Mixtures of Three Colors


Pixel


Pixel


Pixel

## Interference of Light


(a) Constructive interference

(b) Destructive interference

- Same directions
- Constant phase relationship (coherent)

Thin Film Interference of Light: Reflection Angle Dependence


## Why and How: Thin Film Interference

incident sunlight


$\operatorname{Red}(\lambda)=720 \mathrm{~nm}$
If wave B travels extra 360 nm , then red is gone, you can see color.

## Complementary Color

CIE xy Chromaticity Diagram


## Color Depends on Thickness


$\operatorname{Red}(\lambda)=720 \mathrm{~nm}$
If wave $B$ and $D$ travels extra $360 \mathrm{~nm}(1 / 2 \lambda)$ and 1080 nm $(3 / 2 \lambda)$, then red is gone, you can see same cyan color.

## Lecture 11

## PLM and Interference

## Polarized Light Microscope

## Polarized Light Microscope Configuration



## What's More in Polarized Light Microscope

- Specialized Stage - a 360-degree circular rotating specimen stage
- Eyepieces with a cross wire reticle (or graticule) to mark the center of the field of view.
- Strain Free Objectives - P, PO, or Pol on the barrel.
- Centerable Revolving Nosepiece
- Strain Free Condenser
- Bertrand Lens
- Compensator and Retardation Plates


## Strain Free Objectives

Strain-Free Objectives for Polarized Light Microscopy


- Strain (or stress): a source of distorted of images
- Use homogenous (isotropic) glasses, crystals and other materials used to make the lenses
- Avoid multiple lenses which are cemented together and mounted in close proximity with tightly fitting frames.


## Circular Stage

Circular Stage with Optional Mechanical Translation Attachment



Figure 6

## Centering Circular Stage

Can be centered via either circular stage or objectives Depends on manufacturer of microscopes


1. Put a recognizable speck of something exactly under the crosshair intersection.
2. Rotate the stage until the speck is as far from the intersection as possible.
3. Turn the stage (or objective) centering screws to move the speck half way back to the crosshair intersection
4. Move the thin section to bring the speck back to the crosshair intersection.

## Microscopic Images with Different Polarizer Setup


plane-polarized light

crossed polarizers

crossed polarizers and a full-wave retardation plate

## How Polarized Light Microscope Works



## Views With and Without Analyzer



## Origin of Colors



- Polarizer
- Polarized light > minerals (uniaxial or biaxial)
- Splits two components with different speeds
- Retardation (R)
- Analyzer > combine
- Destructive interference
- You can see complementary color


## Retardation



## Retardation (R)

- Thickness of crystal (T)
- $\Delta n\left(n_{1}-n_{2}\right)$
- Birefringence (B): $\Delta \mathrm{n}=\mathrm{n}_{1}-\mathrm{n}_{2}$
- B: Highest - lowest refractive index in a material
- Retardation $\propto \mathrm{T} \cdot \Delta \mathrm{n}$

$$
\mathrm{B}=\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{~nm}) /[\mathrm{T}(\mu \mathrm{~m}) \cdot 1000]
$$

| Substance | B |
| :---: | :---: |
| Isotropic (n) | 0 |
| Uniaxial (2n) | $\|\varepsilon-\omega\|$ |
| Biaxial (3n) | $\gamma-\alpha$ |
| Fibers | $\left\|n_{\\|}-\mathrm{n}_{\perp}\right\|$ |

Rock Thin Section: Retardation Depends on Birefringence


## Why Repeating Colors



## Orders of Colors

- Most consistently repeating color is red $\sim 560 \mathrm{~nm}$
- $0-550 \mathrm{~nm}$ : $1^{\text {st }}$
- $550-1100 \mathrm{~nm}: 2^{\text {nd }}$
- 1100-1650 nm: $3^{\text {rd }}$

| Retardation | Color |
| :--- | :--- |
| 0 nm (isotropic) | Black ( $\sim$ gray) |
| $1^{\text {st }}-3^{\text {rd }}$ | Vibrant colors of variety <br> of colors |
| $4^{\text {th }}-8^{\text {th }}$ |  <br> green) |
| Above $8^{\text {th }}$ | White (washed out) |

## Orders of Colors: Fibers



## Birefringence (B)

| Qualitative Term | B |
| :--- | :--- |
| Isotropic | 0 |
| Low | $\mathrm{B}<0.01$ |
| Moderate | $0.01<\mathrm{B}<0.05$ |
| High | $0.05<\mathrm{B}$ |

## Michel Lévy Color Chart



Measure thickness > color > birefringence

## How to Calculate Birefringence




From ML Chart

## How to Calculate Birefringence



## Extinction: Special Orientation

Optical axis is parallel (or perpendicular) to the polarization


Uniaxial crystal

## Types of Extinction


parallel


Symmetrical (distorted)


Symmetrical (distorted)

## Symmetrical Extinction

Refractive Index Ellipsoid

Figure 5


## Basic Vector Operation



## Symmetrical Extinction: Vector Analysis

## What you can see is the magnitude of $R$ (Analyzer Component)


(a)


$$
\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{a}}=0
$$


(b)


Figure 4

$$
R_{b}<R_{c}
$$

## Parallel Extinction: Fibers and Hairs

Cant' see hairs (or fibers) if they are aligned parallel (or perpendicular) to polarization


Parallel Extinction

## Exercise

- Decide isotropic and anisotropic of five of your samples
- Check the extinction
- Measure the size of any of anisotropic mineral sample
- Calculate birefringence of your anisotropic mineral sample

