

**Title:** Structural Color and Iridescence in Transparent Sheared Cellulosic Films

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**Source:** Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics **Volume:** 214 **Issue:** 1  
**Pages:** 25-32 **DOI:** 10.1002/macp.201200351 **Published:** Jan 11 2013

**Document Type:** Article

**Language:** English

**Abstract:** Shear transparent cellulose free-standing thin films can develop iridescence similar to that found in petals of the tulip Queen of the Night. The iridescence of the film arises from the modulation of the surface into bands periodically spread perpendicular to the shear direction. Small amounts of nanocrystalline cellulose (NCC) rods in the precursor liquid-crystalline solutions do not disturb the optical properties of the solutions but enhance the mechanical characteristics of the films and affects their iridescence. Smaller bands periodicity, not affected by the NCC rods, slightly deviated from the shear direction is also observed. NCCs are crucial to tune and understand the film's surface features formation. Our findings could lead to new materials for application in soft reflective screens and devices.

**Author Keywords:** Cellulose free-standing films; Iridescence; Liquid-crystalline polymer solutions; Nanocrystalline cellulose rods; Structural colors

**KeywordsPlus:** Liquid-crystalline solutions; Atomic-Force microscopy; Hydoxypropylcellulose films; Nanocomposite materials; Optical-properties; Alignment Layers

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**Funding:**

Funding Agency	Grant Number
Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (FCT)	PTDC/CTM/099595/2008/2009
	PTDC/CTM/101776/2008
	PTDC/FIS/110132/2009
	PEst-C/CTM/LA0025/2011
	SFRH/BPD/78430/2011
	SFRH/BD/63574/2009
	SFRH/BDP/65133/2009

**Publisher:** Wiley-Verlag

**Publisher Address:** Boschstrasse 12, D-69469 Weinheim, Germany

**ISSN:** 1022-1352

**Citation:** FERNANDES, Susete N.; GENG, Yong; VIGNOLINI, Sílvia; GLOVER, Beverley J.; TRINDADE, Ana C.; CANEJO, Joao P.; ALMEIDA, Pedro L. ; BROGUEIRA, Pedro; GODINHO, Maria H. - Structural Color and Iridescence in Transparent Sheared Cellulosic Films. Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics. ISSN 1022-1352. Vol. 214, nr 1 (2013), p. 25-32.