



The supernumerary bows of the rainbow

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Everyone appreciates the mysterious beauty of a Rainbow picture. The primary bow shows red on the outer part and violet on the inner side. It is caused by light being refracted when entering a droplet of water, then reflected inside on the back of the droplet and refracted again when leaving it. The secondary bow is seen outside the primary arc, and has the order of its colours reversed, with red on the inner side of the arc.

The supernumerary bows are alternating faint bows on the inner side of the primary rainbow (and also outside the secondary rainbow). In this presentation, we will describe the present knowledge and the future perspectives.

A fully funded PhD Scholarship on this topic is open at the University of Granada.

Picture = Contrast-enhanced photograph of a primary bow picture (prepared by Andrew Dunn).