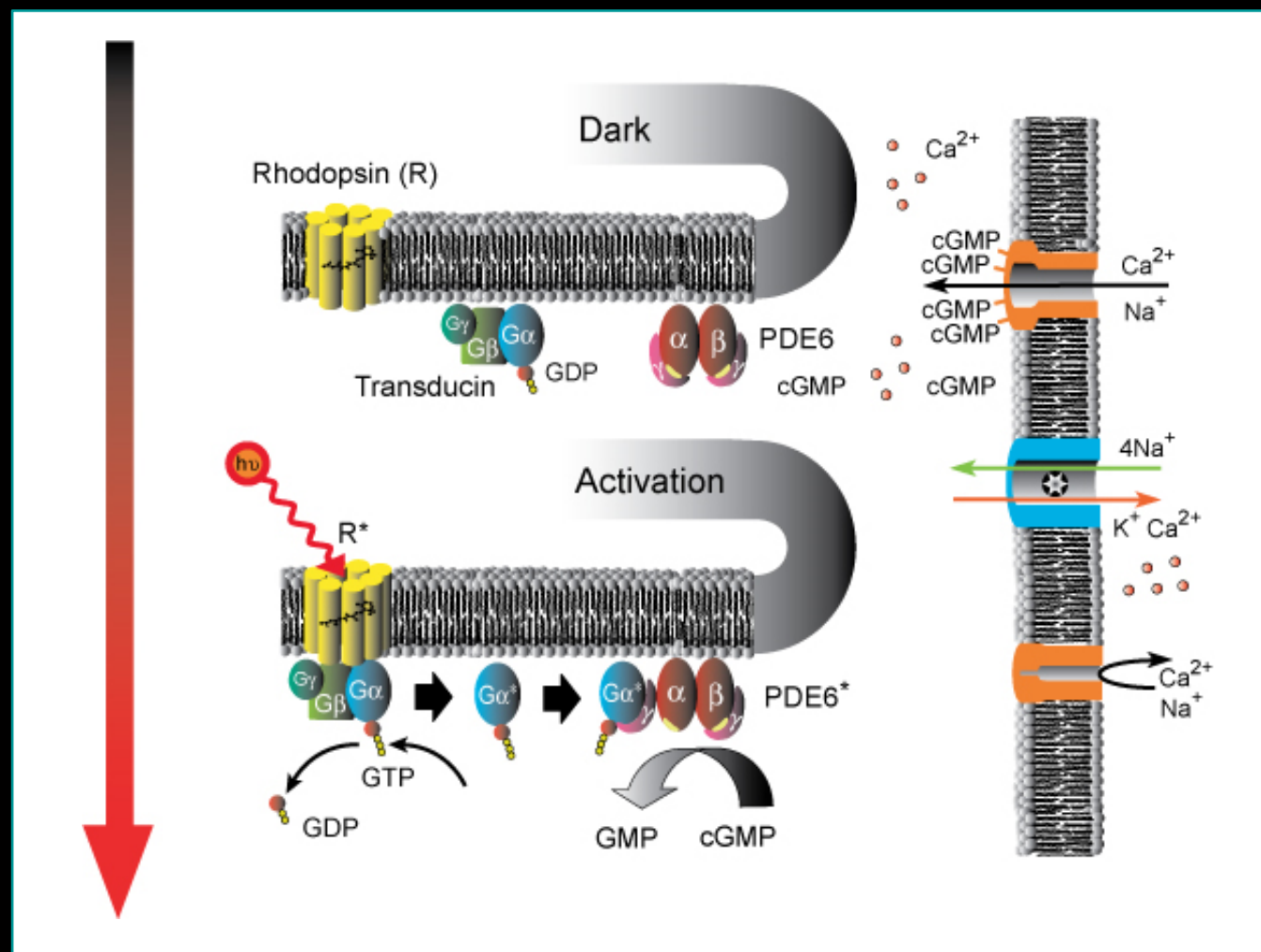


# Photopigments and phototransduction

Andrew Stockman

Ophthalmology MSc

Retina – Uveitis – Oncology module

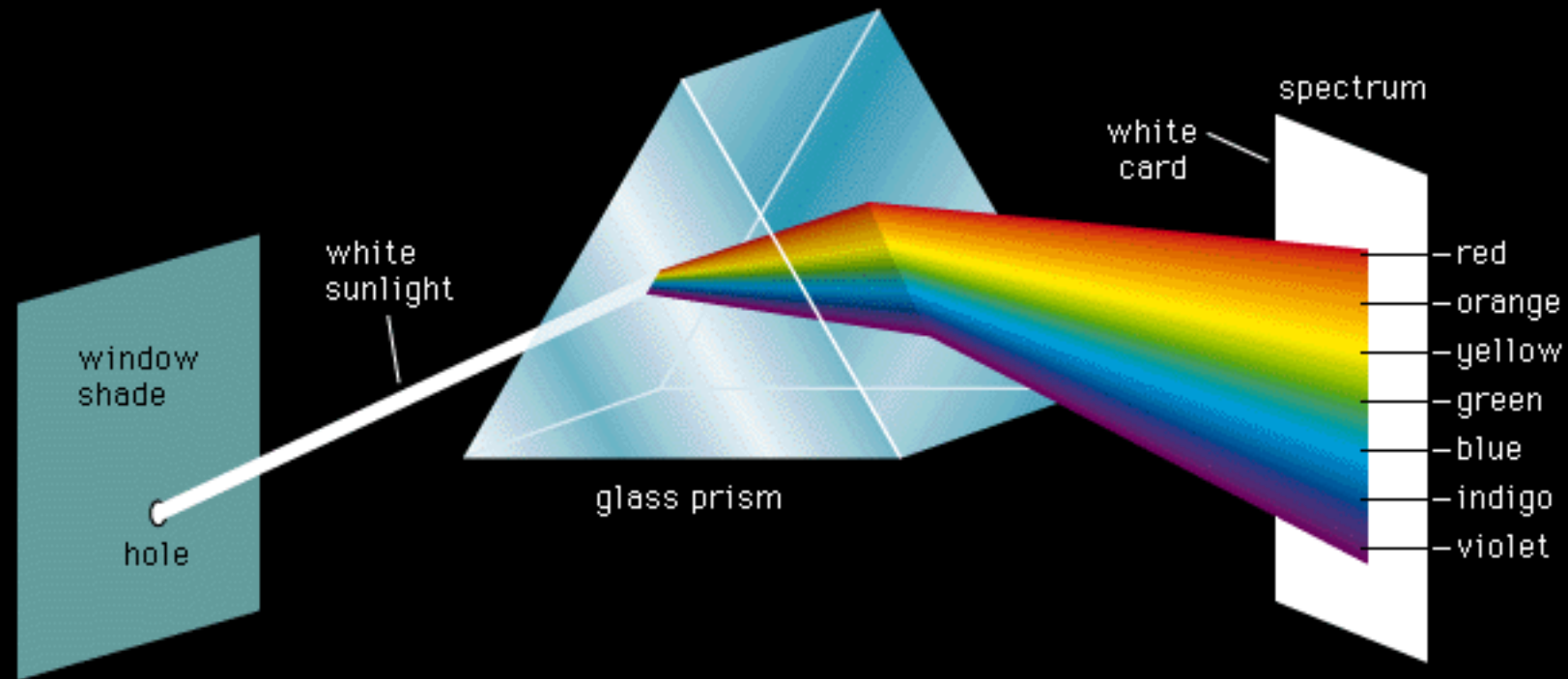


# BACKGROUND

Notes online at <http://www.cvrl.org>

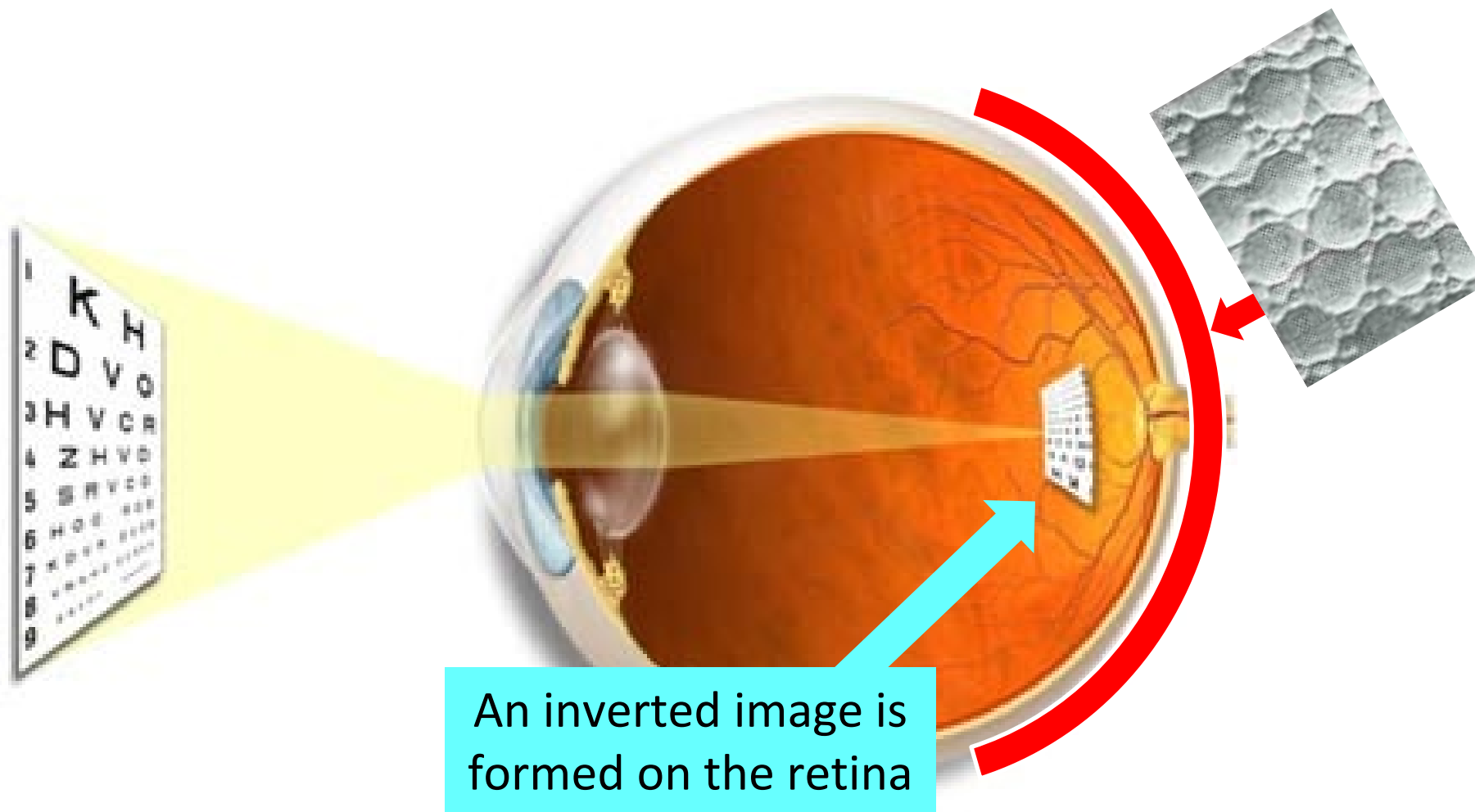
# Light

400 - 700 nm is important for vision

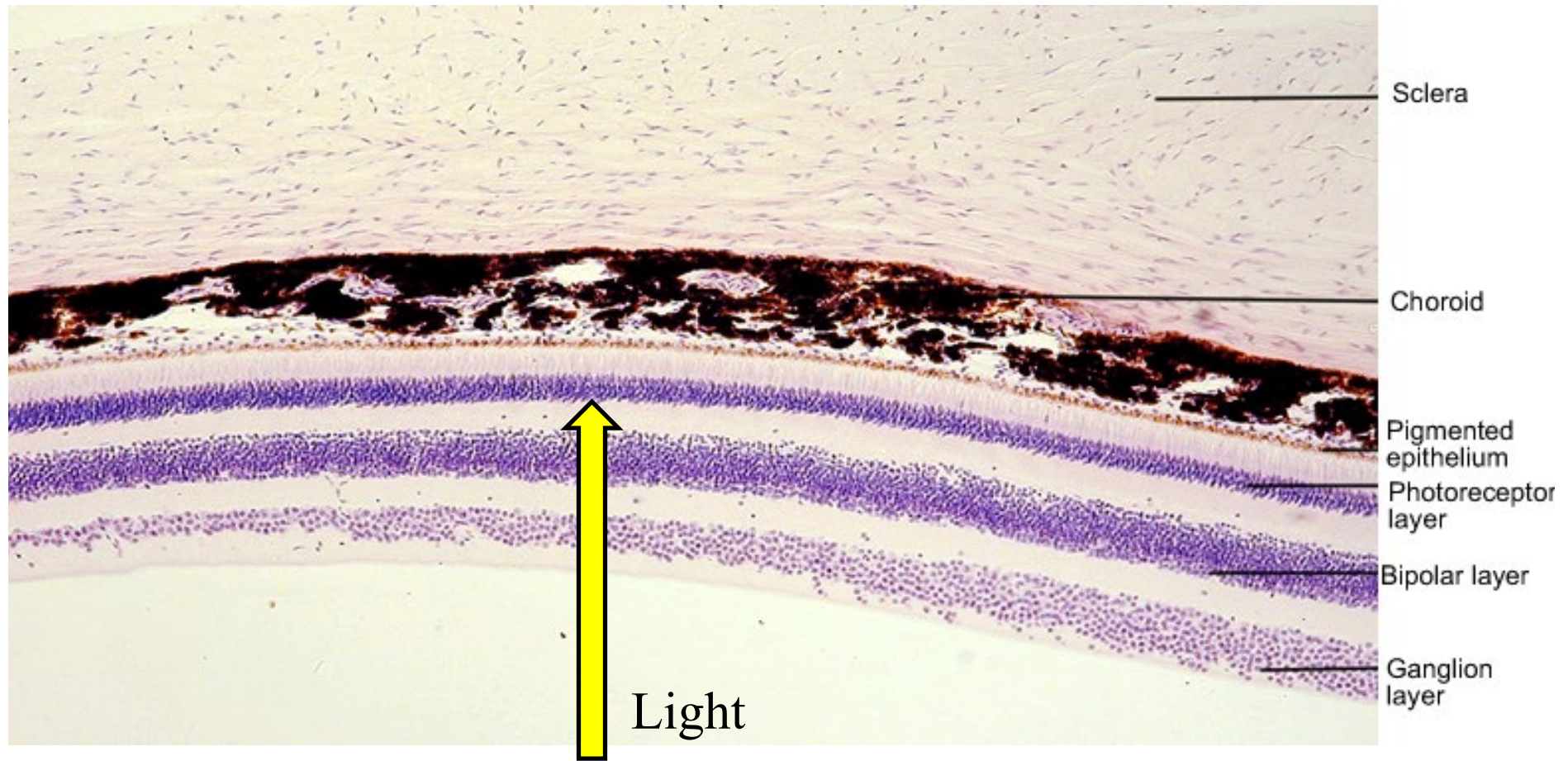


# The eye

The retina is carpeted with light-sensitive rods and cones



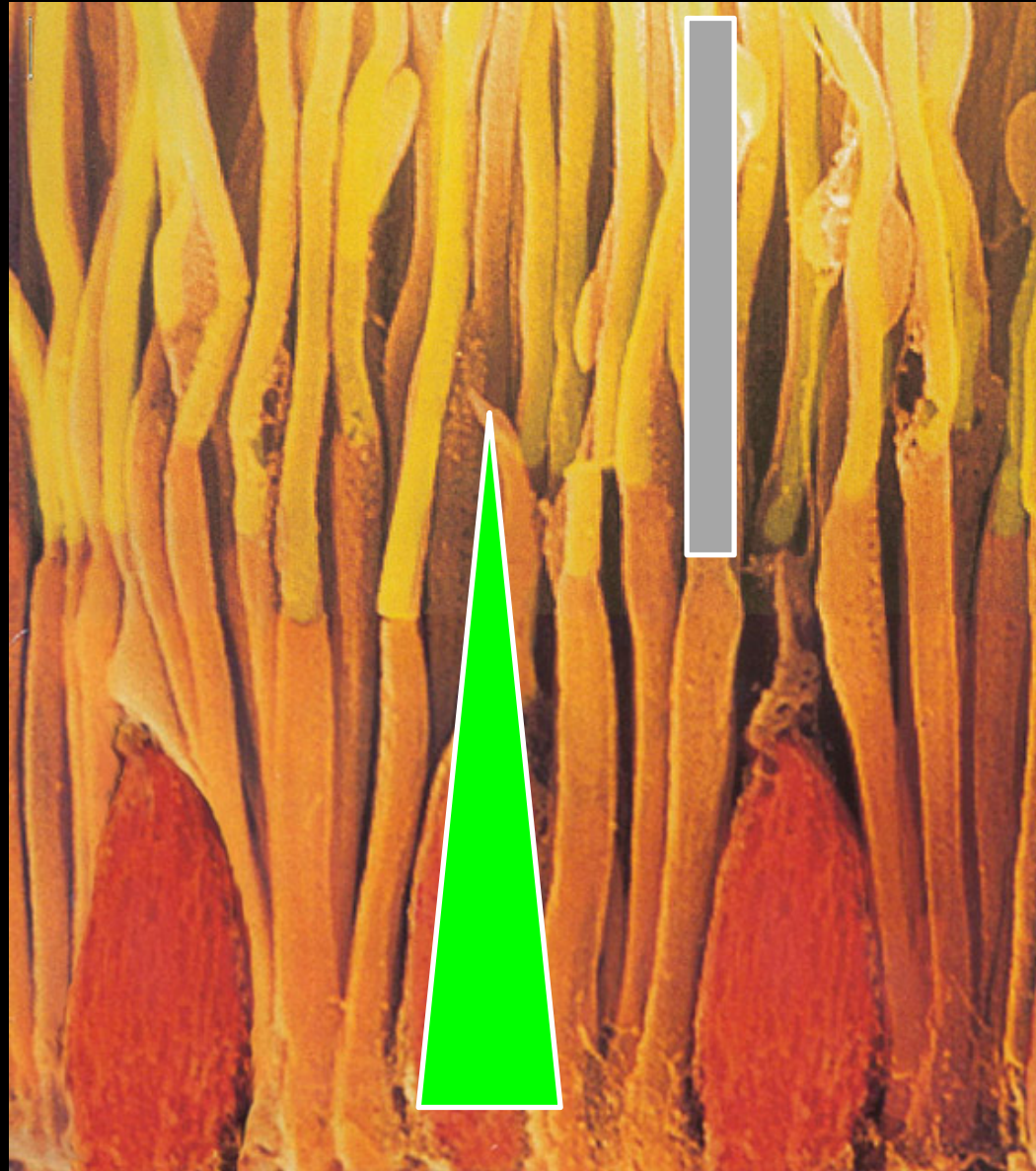
# Retinal Cross-Section



Retina 200 ×

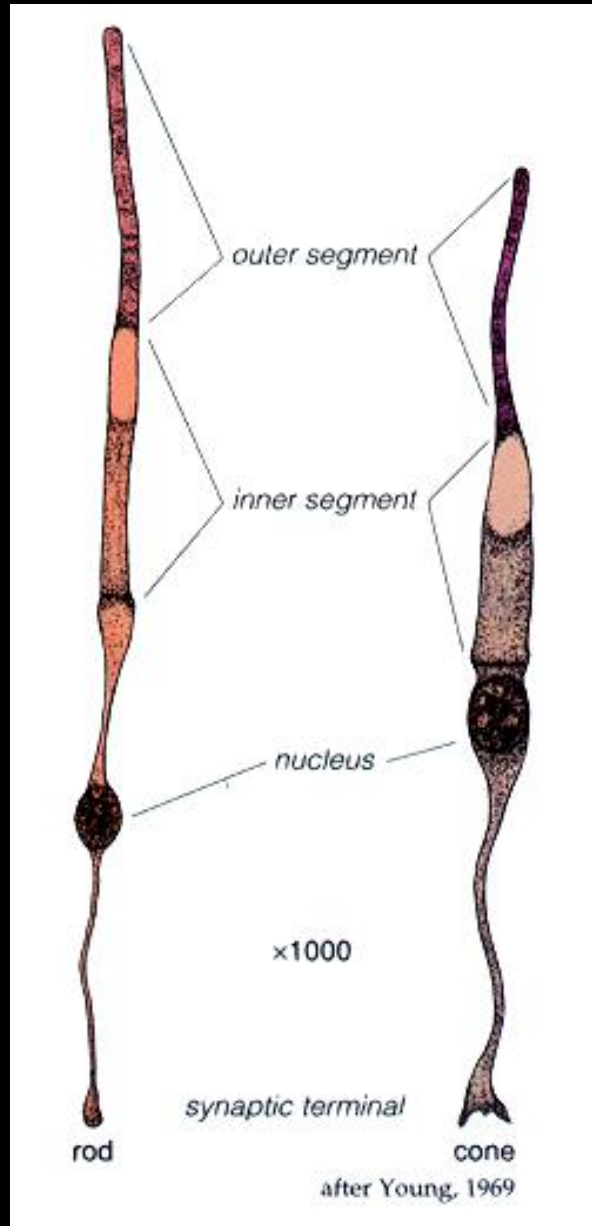


# Rods and cones



*Fig1b. Scanning electron micrograph of the rods and cones of the primate retina. Image adapted from one by Ralph C. Eagle/Photo Researchers, Inc.*

# Human photoreceptors



## Rods

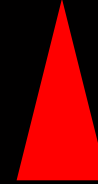
- Achromatic night vision
- 1 type



Rod

## Cones

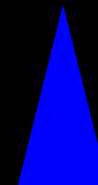
- Daytime, achromatic *and* chromatic vision
- 3 types



Long-wavelength-sensitive (L) or "red" cone



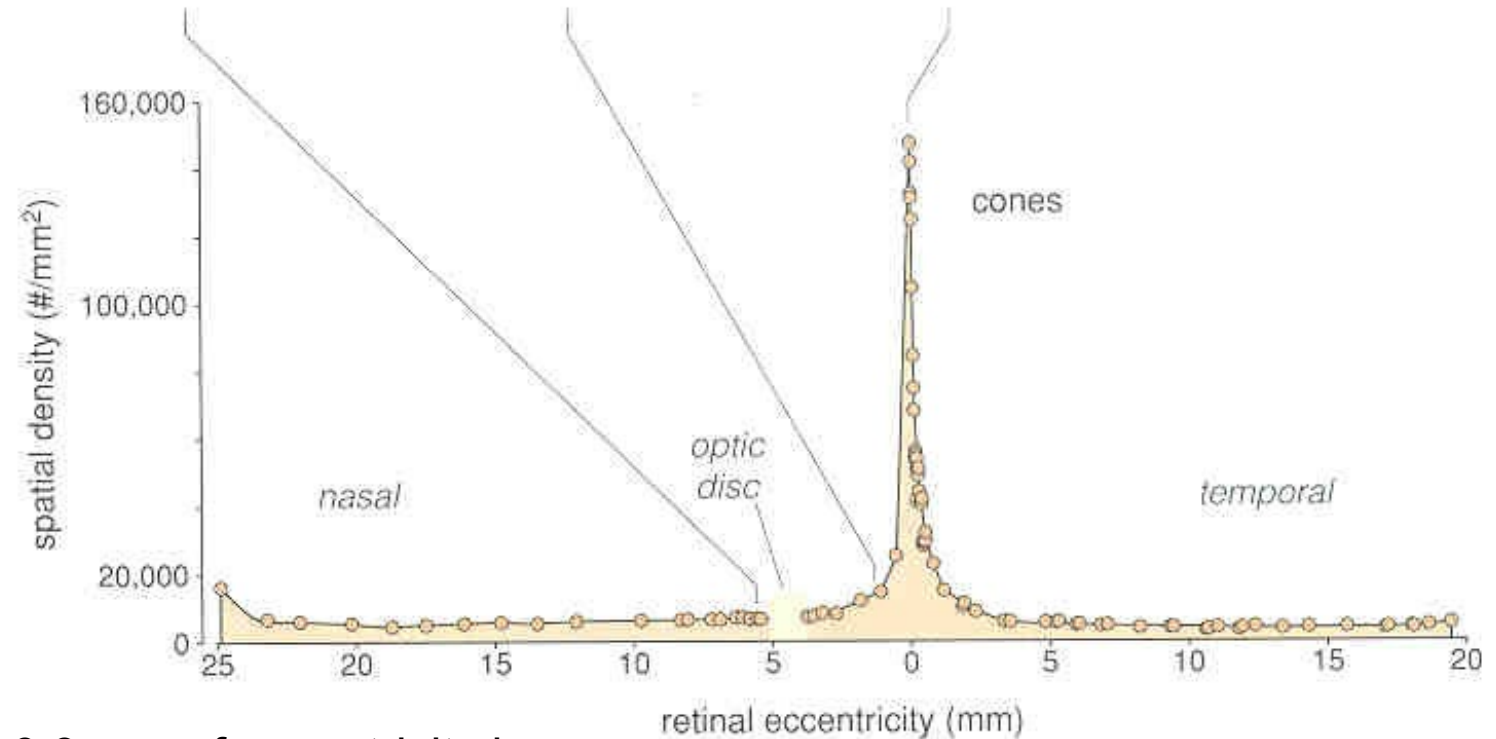
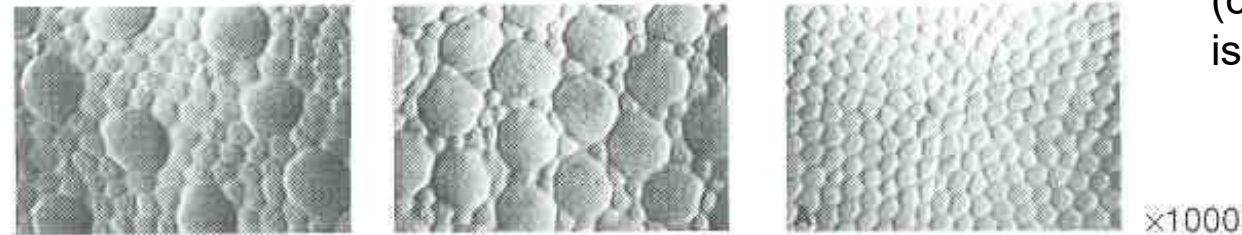
Middle-wavelength-sensitive (M) or "green" cone



Short-wavelength-sensitive (S) or "blue" cone

# Human photoreceptor mosaics

The central foveola  
(c. 1.25 deg diam.)  
is rod free



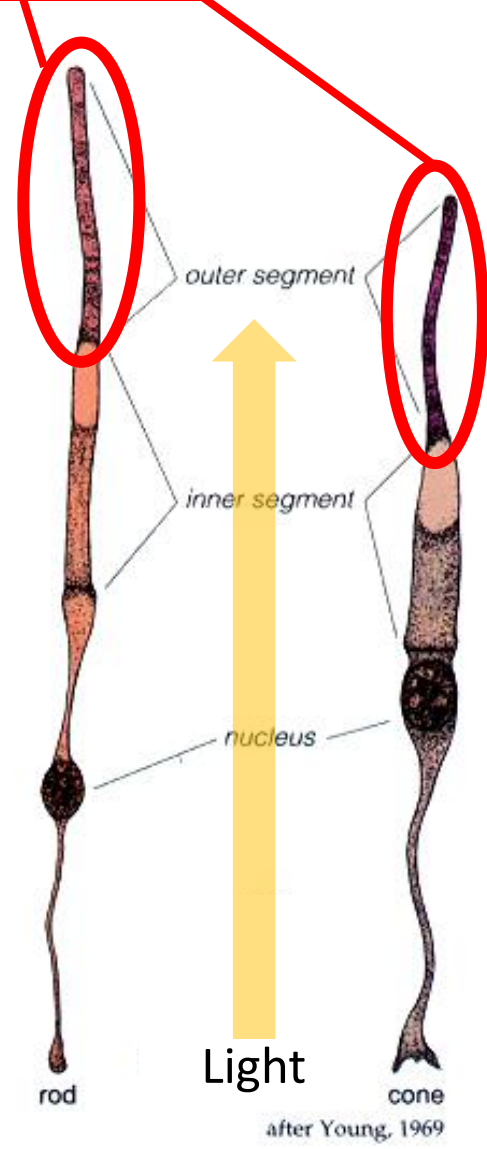
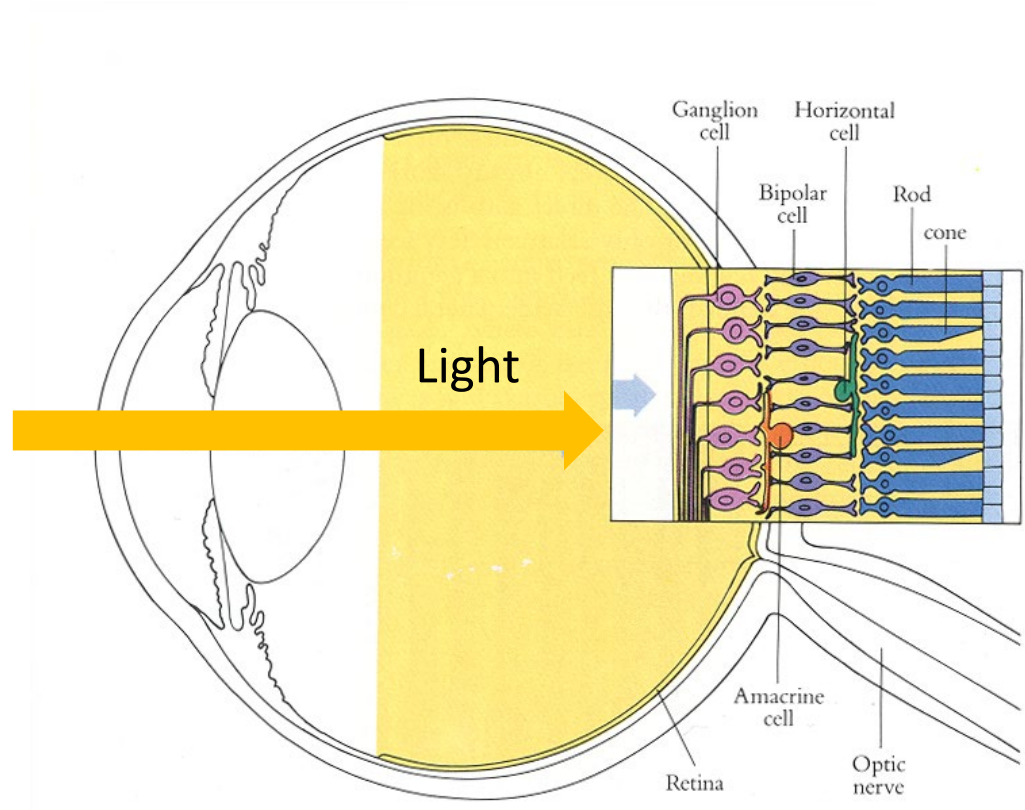
0.3 mm of eccentricity is  
about 1 deg of visual angle

after Østerberg, 1935; as modified by Rodieck 1988;  
micrographs from Curcio et al., 1990

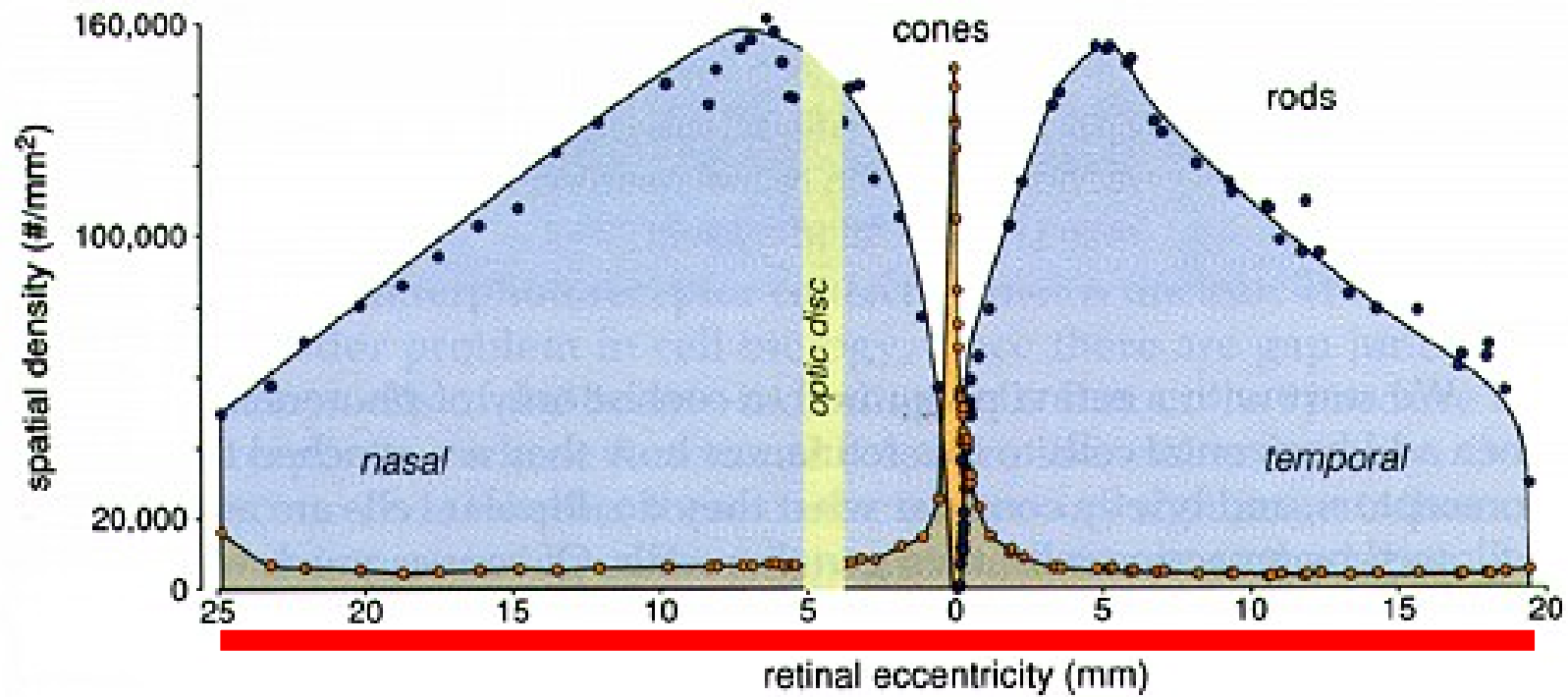
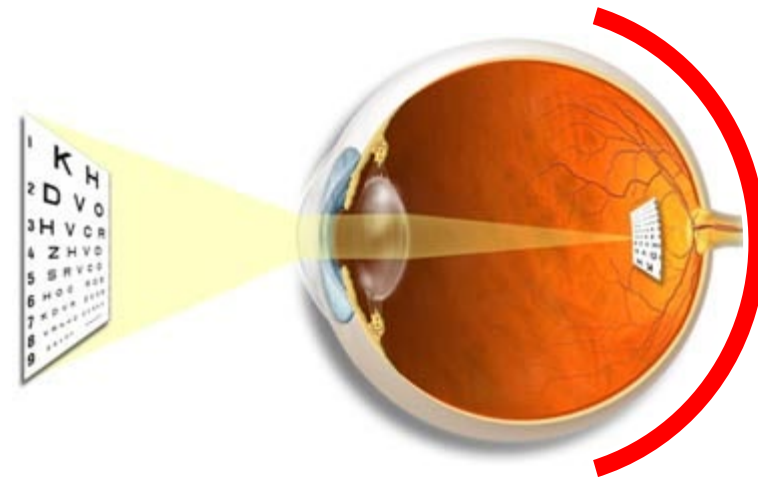


# Light and the eye

The light-sensitive photopigment lies inside the rod and cone outer segments.



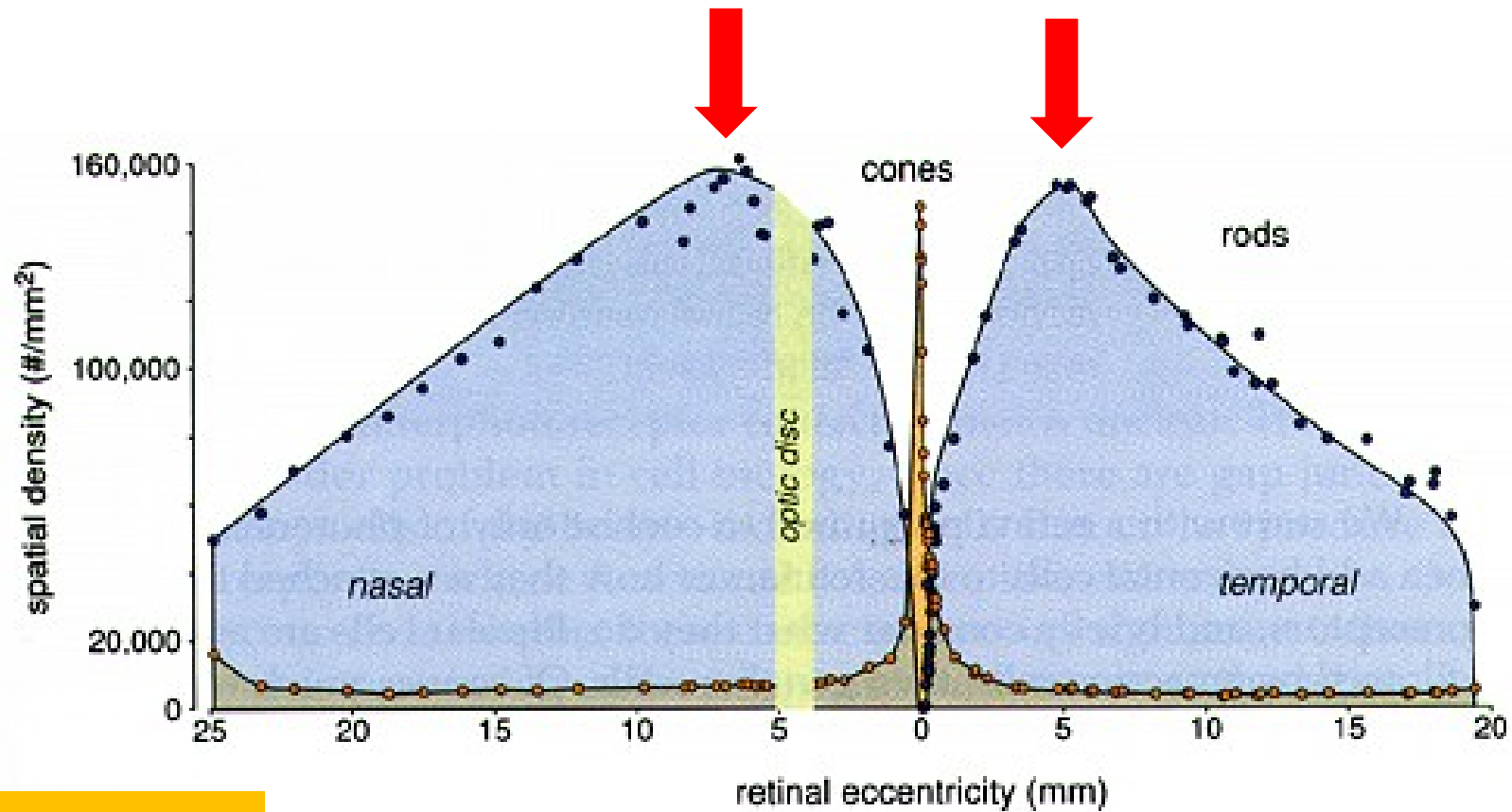
# Rod and cone distribution



0.3 mm of eccentricity is about 1 deg of visual angle

after Österberg, 1935; as modified by Rodieck, 1988

Rod density peaks at about  
20 deg eccentricity

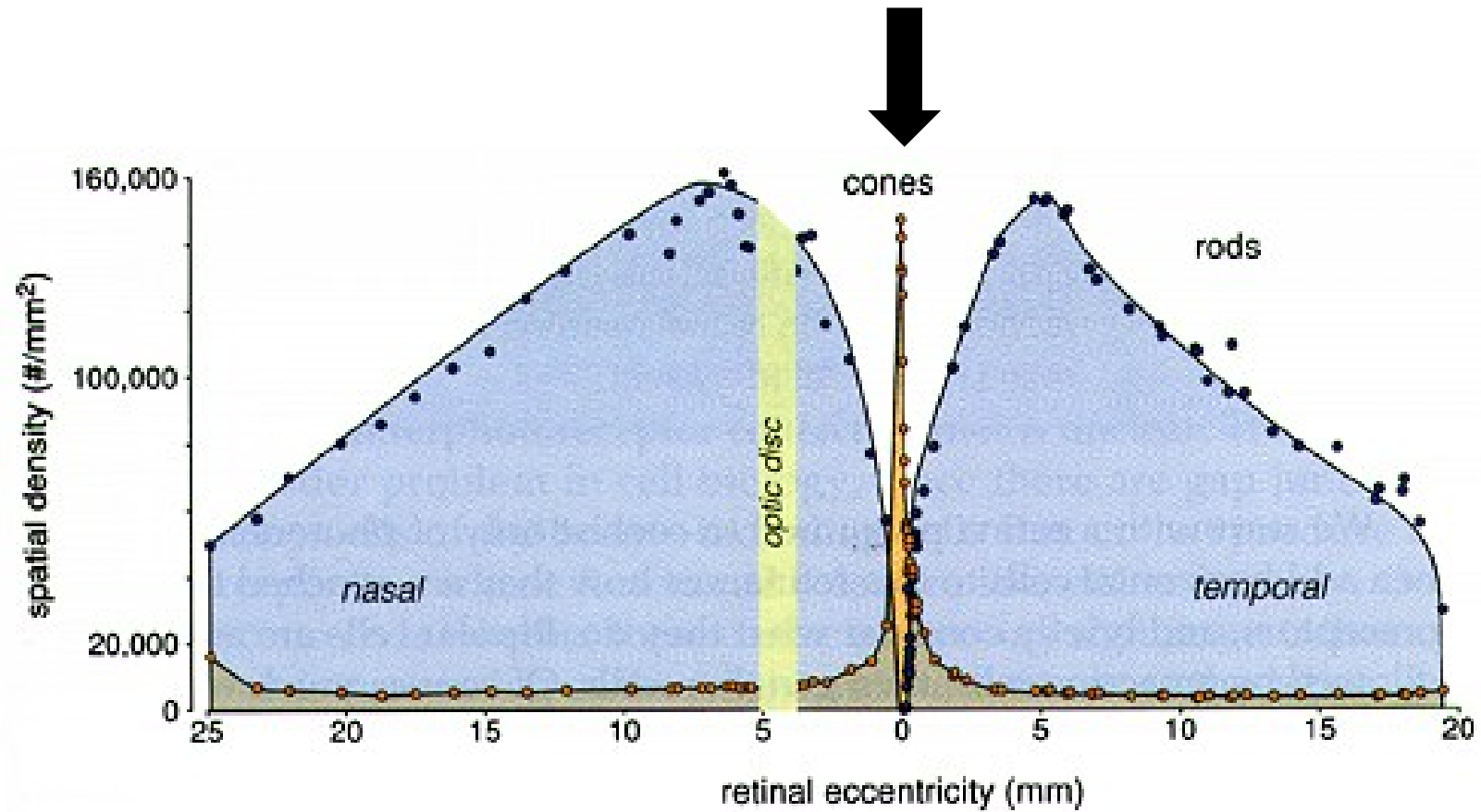


after Østerberg, 1935; as modified by Rodieck, 1968

At night, you have to look  
away from things to see  
them in more detail

During the day, you have to look at things directly to see them in detail

Cones peak at the centre of vision at 0 deg



after Østerberg, 1935; as modified by Rodieck, 1988

Original photograph



# The Human visual system is a foveating system

Simulation of what we see when we fixate with cone vision.



Credit: Stuart Anstis, UCSD



## Facts and figures

There are about 120 million rods. They are absent in the central 0.3 mm diameter area of the fovea, known as the *fovea centralis*.

There are only about 6 to 7 million cones. They are much more concentrated in the fovea.

# Rods and cones

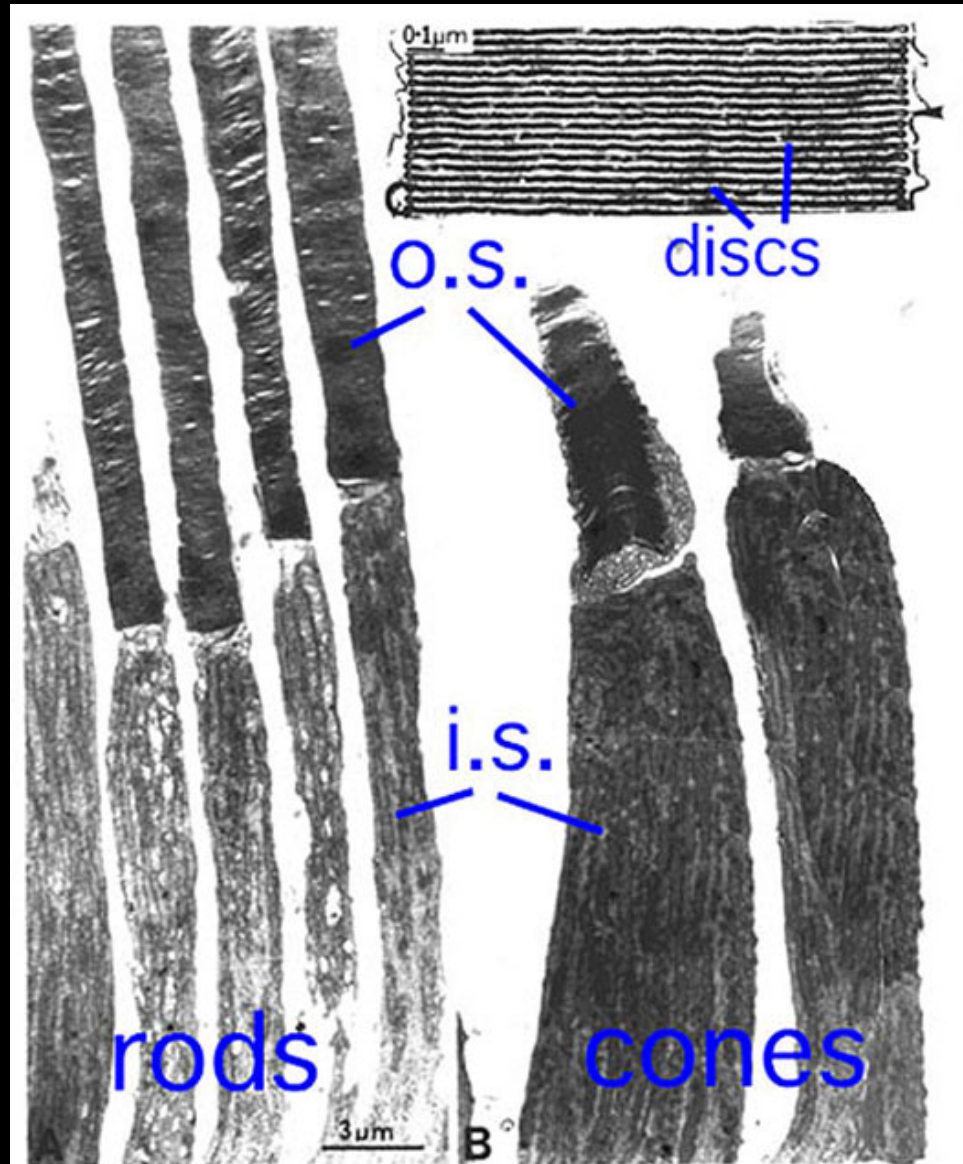


Fig 2. Low magnification EM image of monkey rods and cones with an enlargement of the outer segment discs.

## Rod vision

- Achromatic
- High sensitivity
- Poor detail and no colour



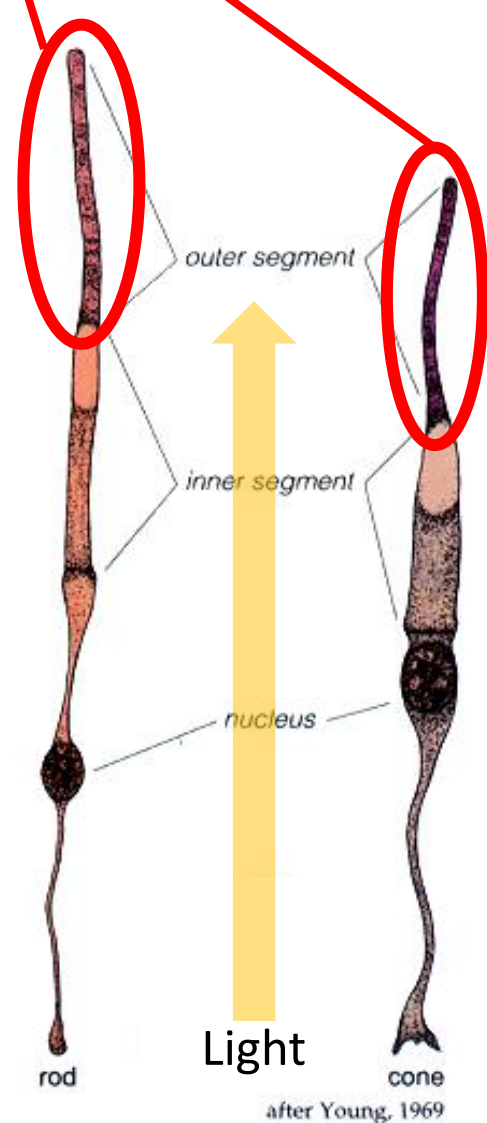
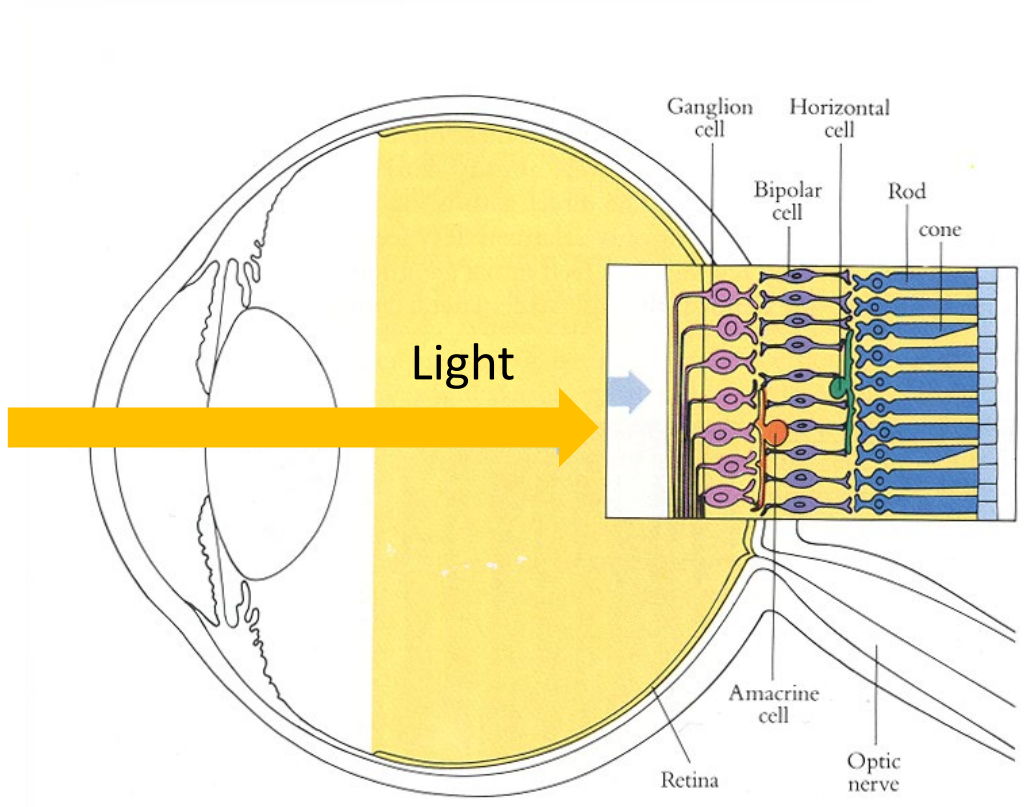
## Cone vision

- Achromatic and chromatic
- Lower sensitivity
- Detail and good colour



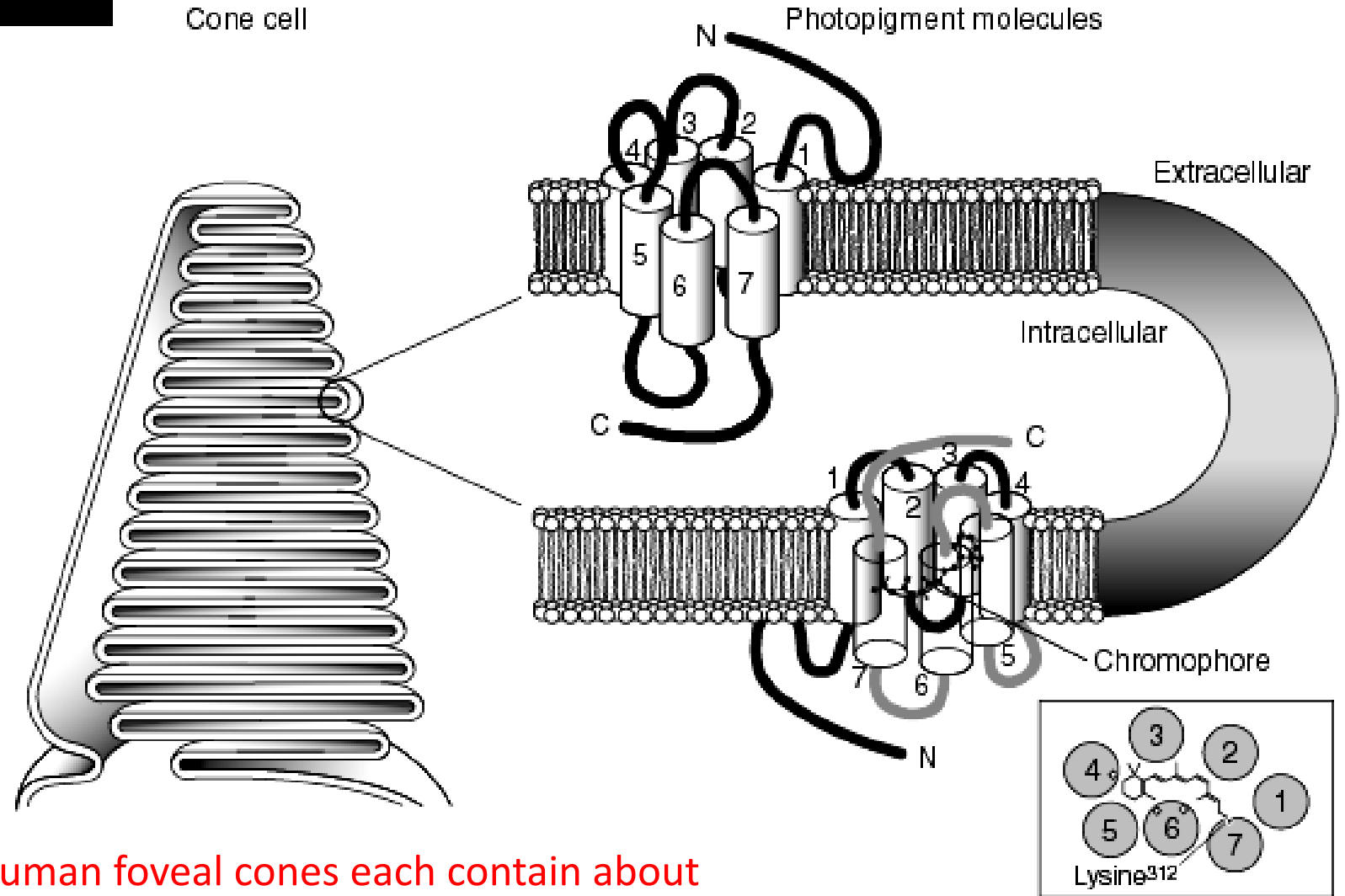
# Light and the eye

The light-sensitive photopigment lies inside the rod and cone outer segments.



# Arrangement of visual pigment molecules

The molecule consists of protein, opsin, forming 7 transmembrane  $\alpha$ -helices, surrounding the chromophore, retinal, the aldehyde of Vitamin A

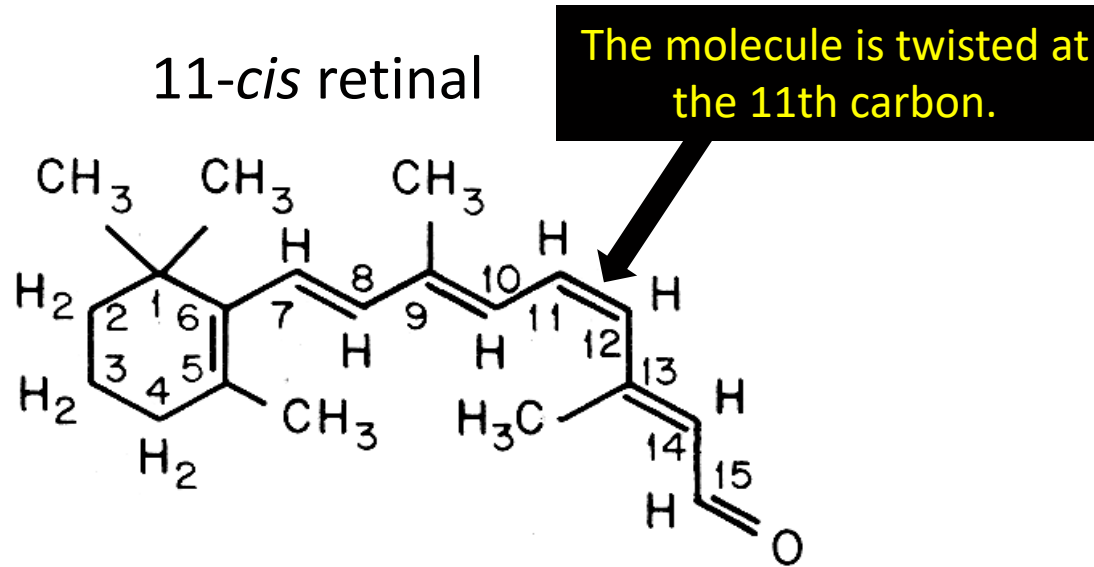


Human foveal cones each contain about  $10^{10}$  visual pigment molecules



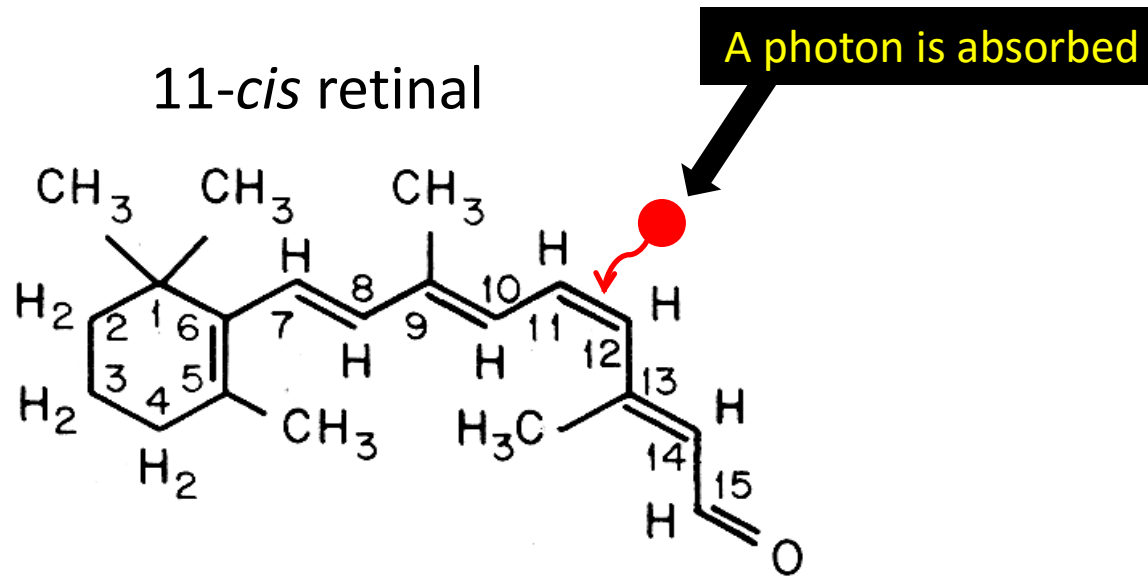
# Chromophore

(*chromo-* colour, + *-phore*, producer)  
Light-catching portion of any molecule



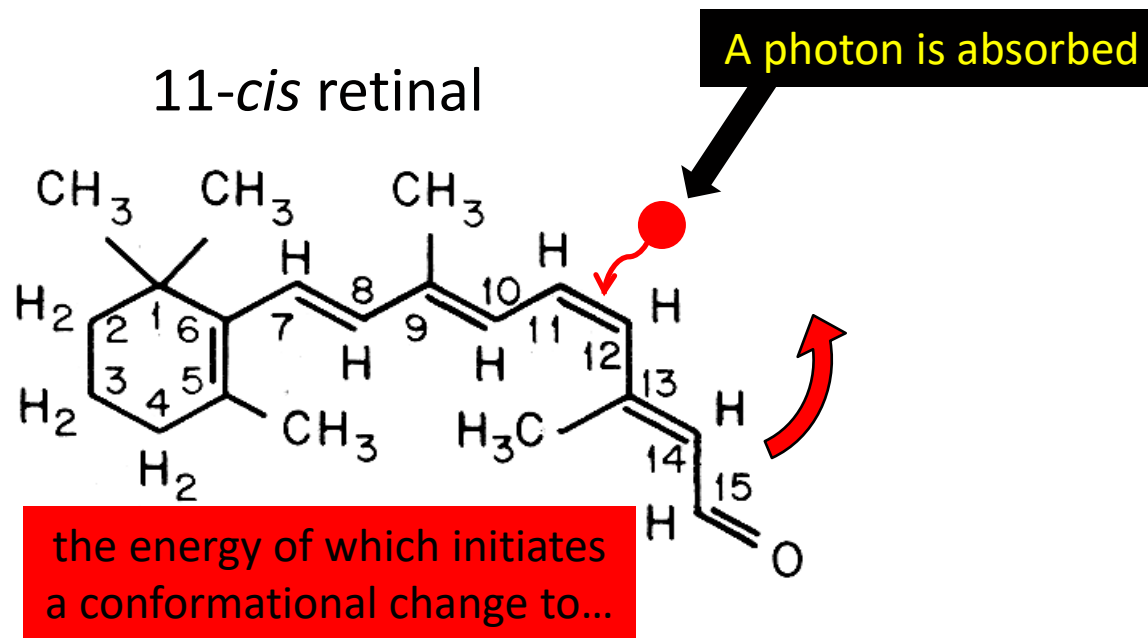
# Chromophore

(*chromo-* colour, + *-phore*, producer)  
Light-catching portion of any molecule



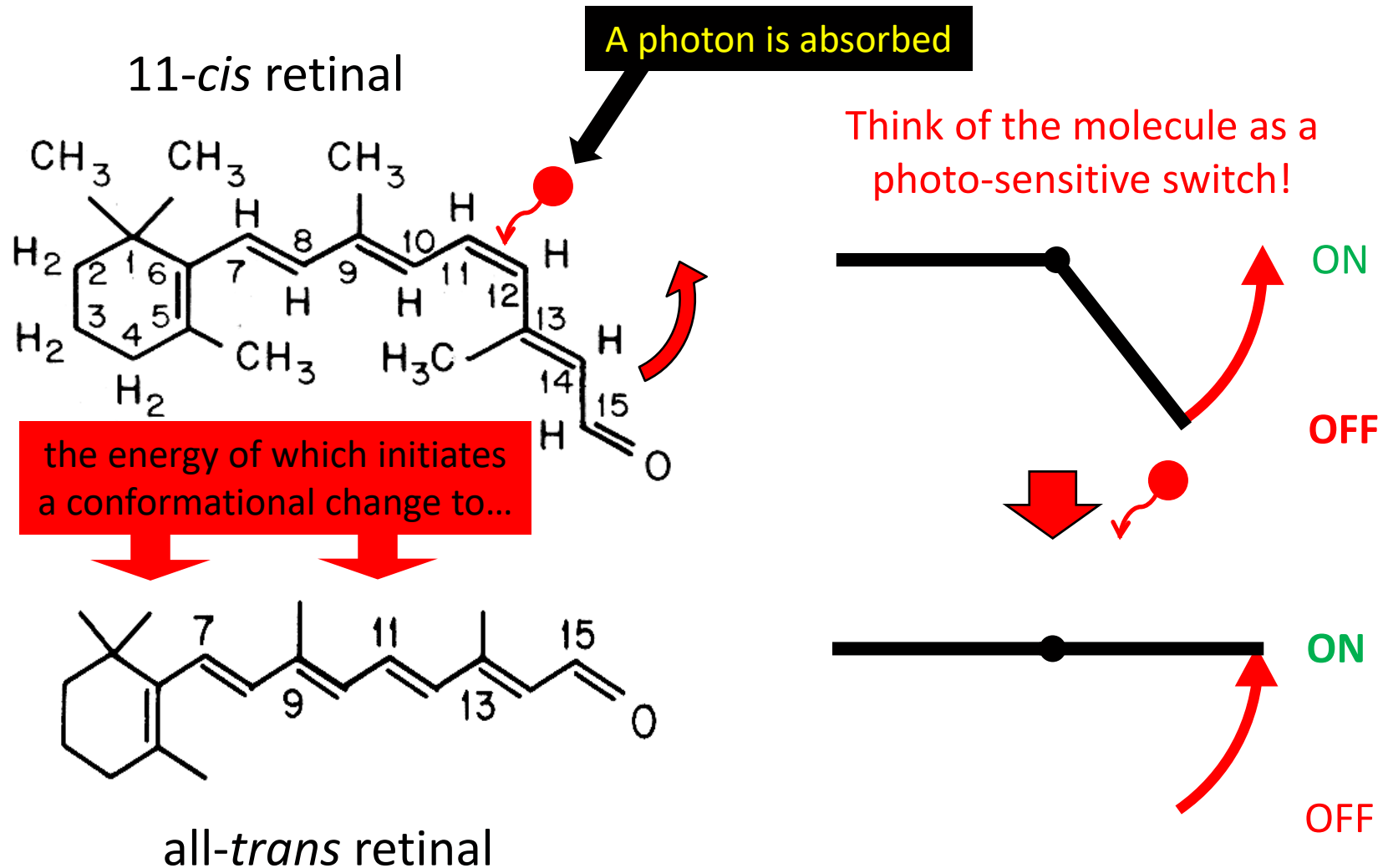
# Chromophore

(*chromo-* colour, + *-phore*, producer)  
Light-catching portion of any molecule



# Chromophore

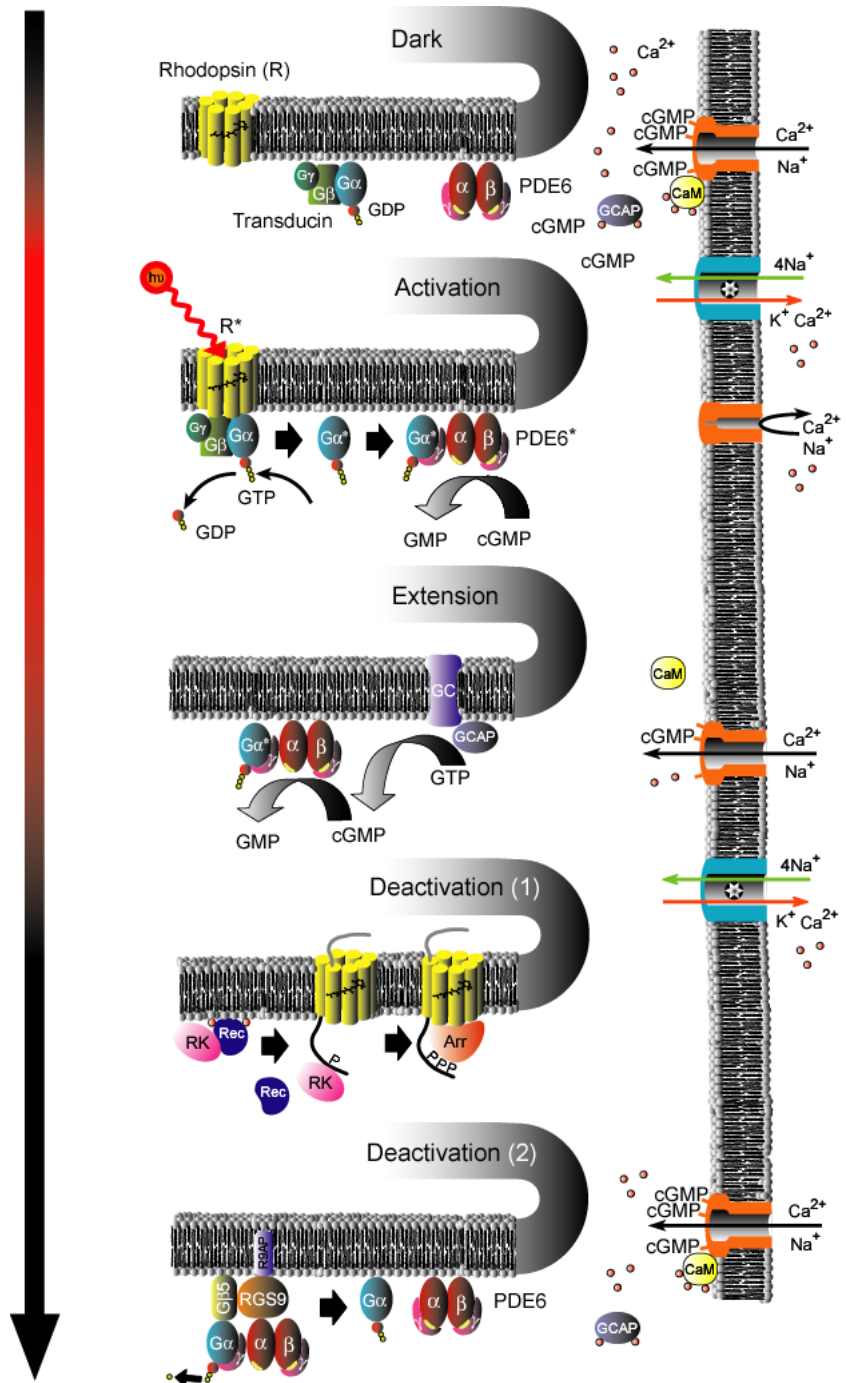
(*chromo-* colour, + *-phore*, producer)  
Light-catching portion of any molecule



# PHOTOTRANSDUCTION

Energy of absorbed photon is converted (transduced) to an electrical neural signal, the receptor potential.



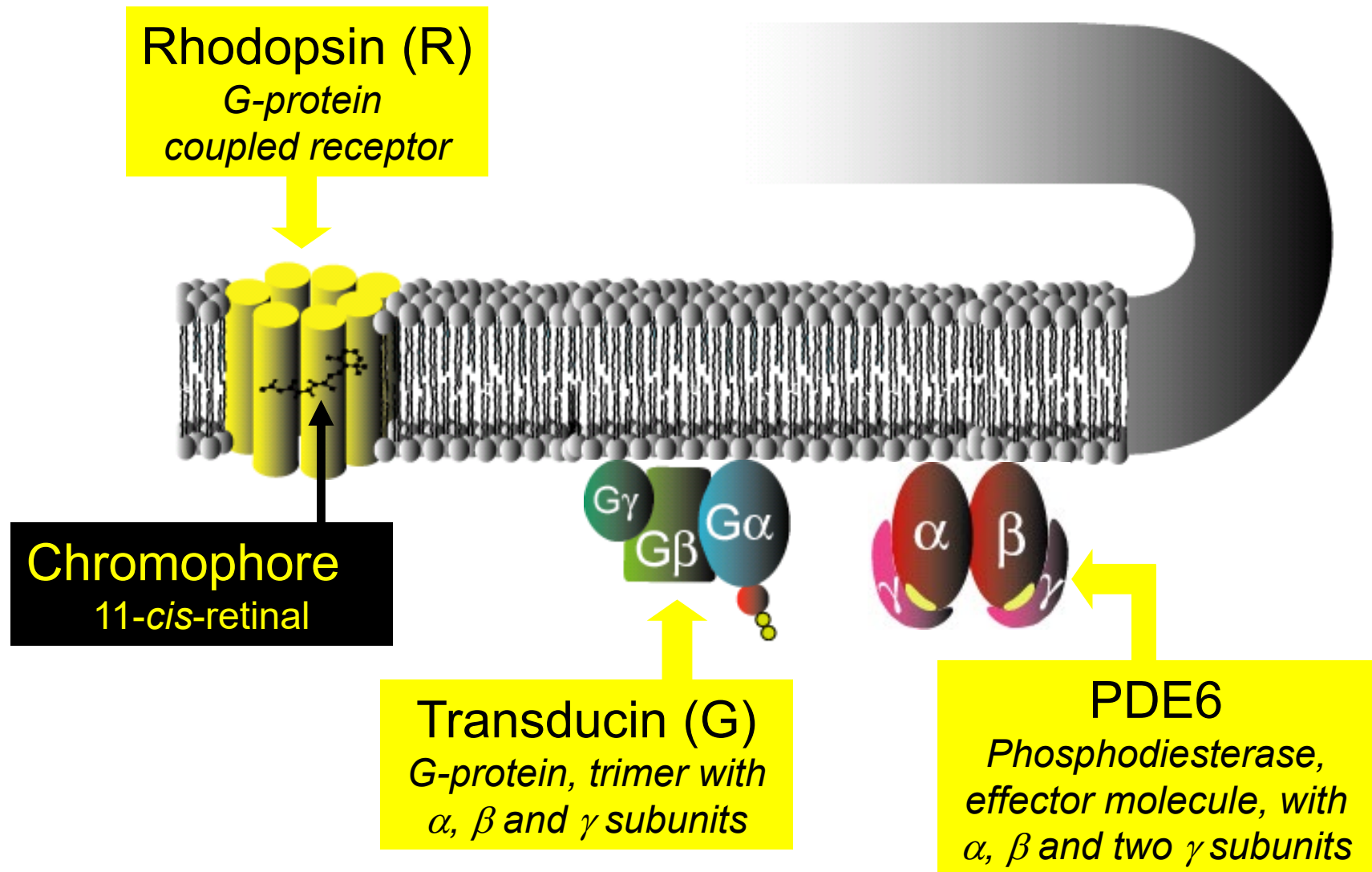


# Phototransduction

- Activation
- Range extension
- Deactivation

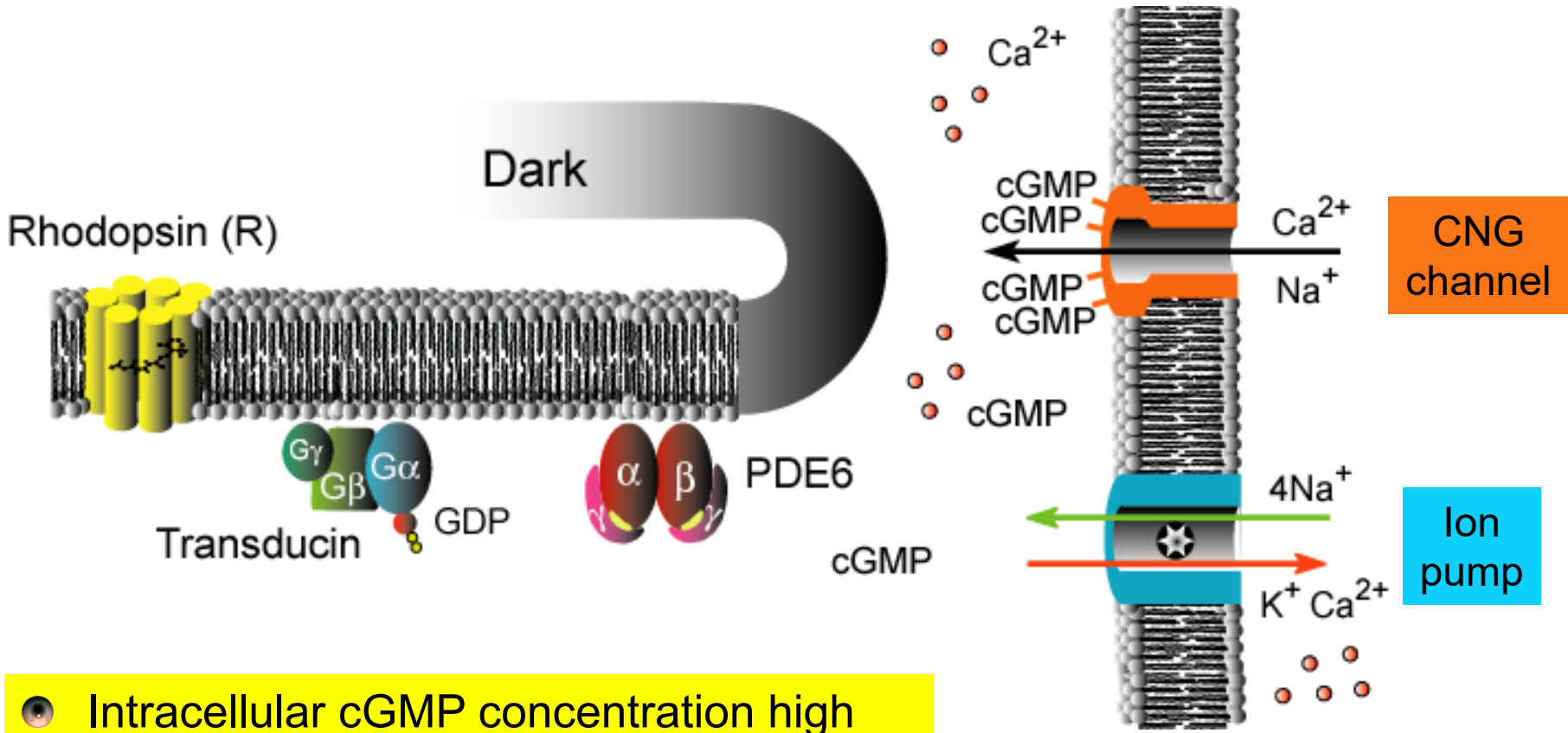
Inspired by:  
 Pugh, Nikonov, & Lamb (1999). *Current Opinion on Neurobiology*, 9, 410-418.  
 Burns & Arshavsky (2005). *Neuron*, 48, 387-401.

# Main molecular players in the cascade



In the Dark...

# In the Dark

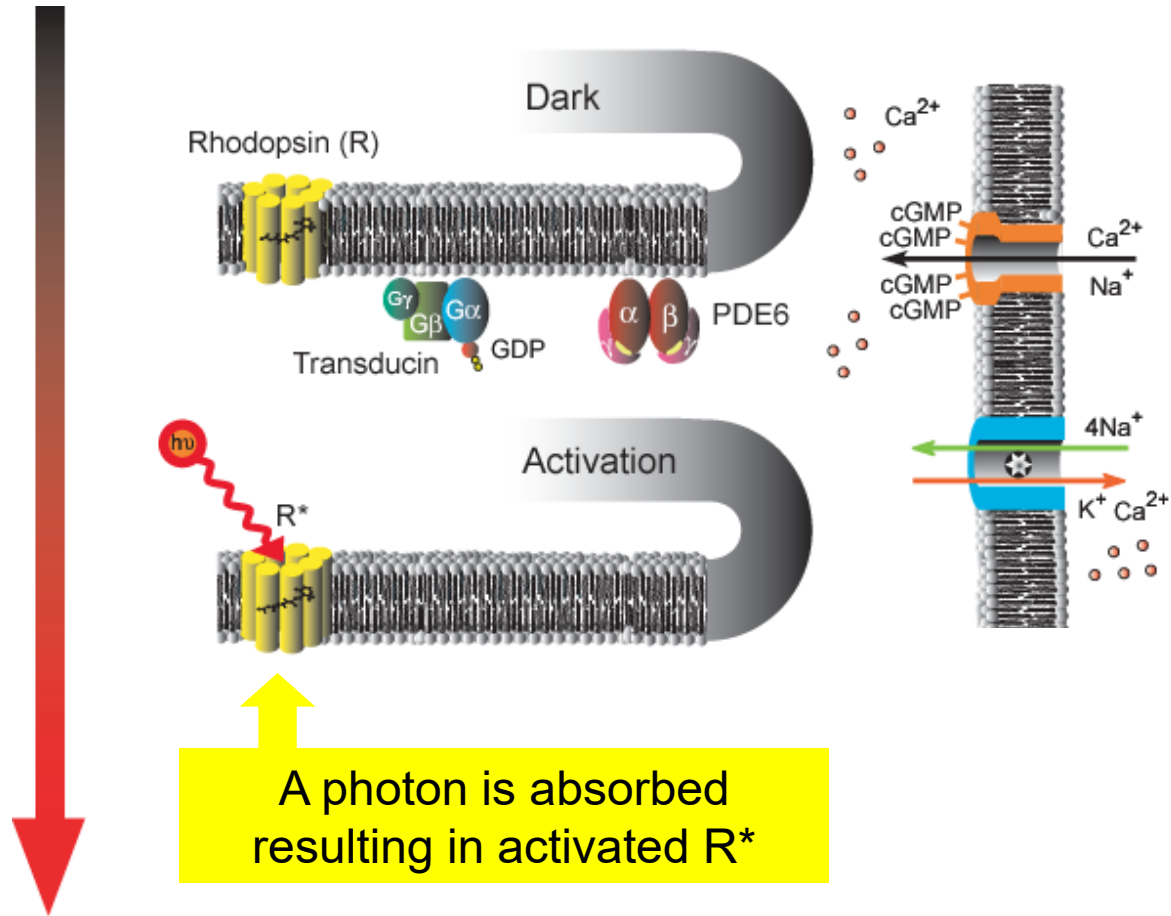


- Intracellular cGMP concentration high
- CNG channels open

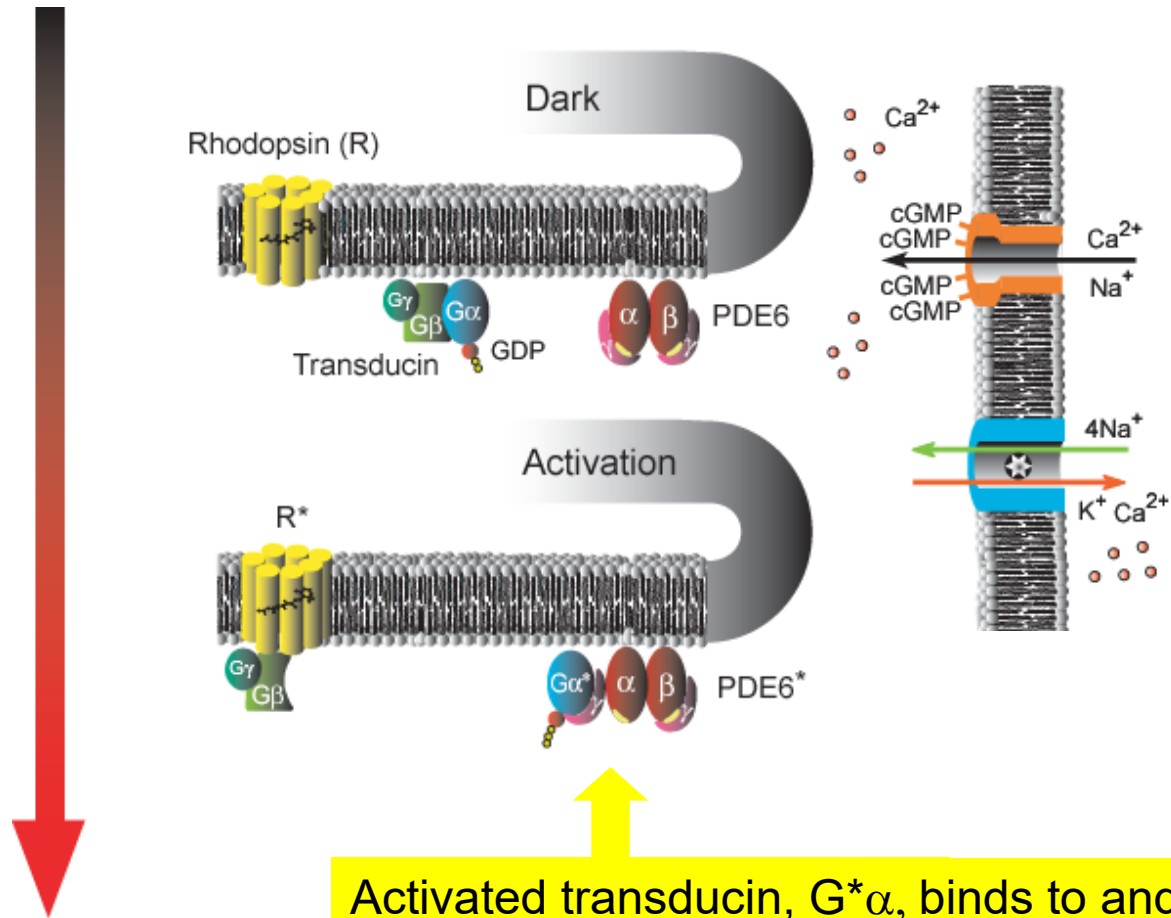
CNG = Cyclic Nucleotide Gated channel

# Activation steps

# Activation steps



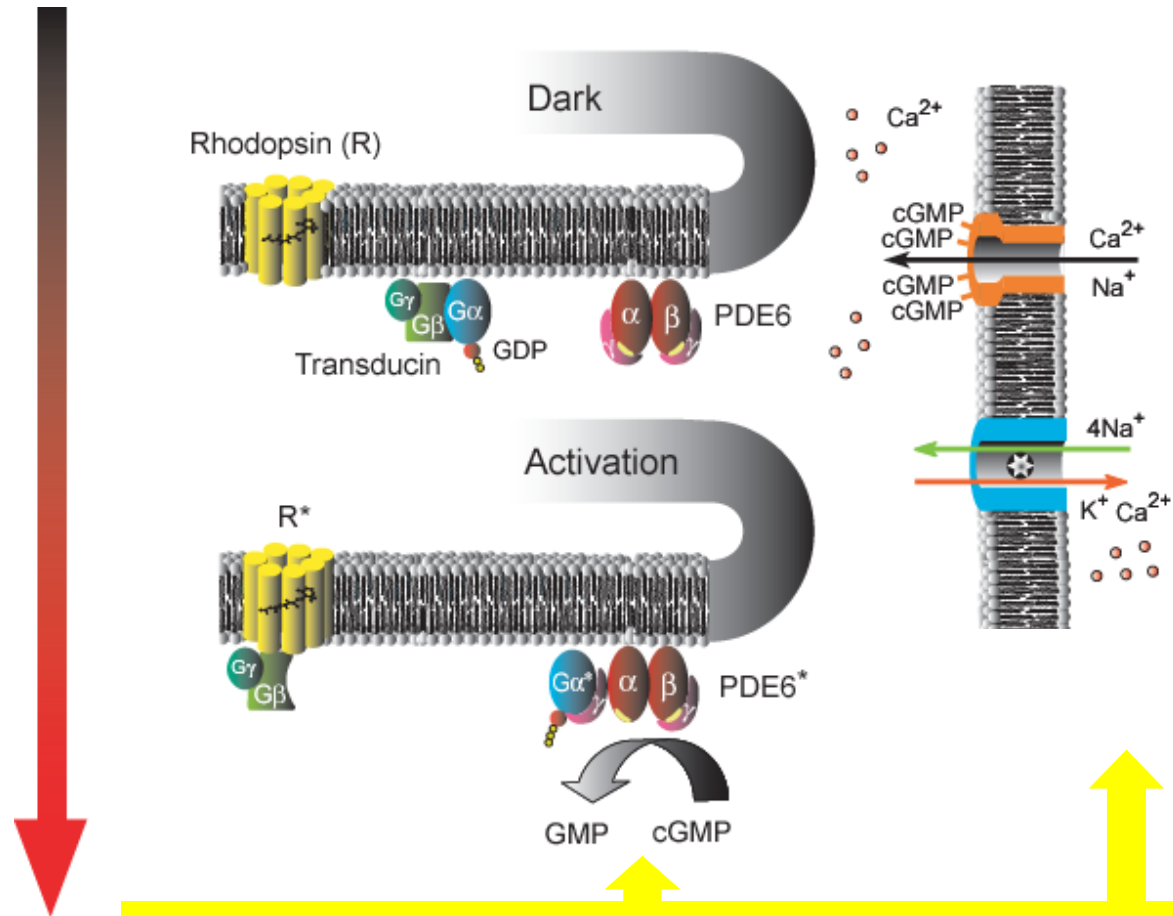
# Activation steps



Activated transducin, G<sup>\*</sup> $\alpha$ , binds to and activates R<sup>\*</sup> catalyses the exchange of GDP for GTP on the G-protein, producing the activated subunit G<sup>\*</sup> $\alpha$ , which dissociates



# Activation steps



The drop in cGMP leads to closure of the CNG channels, which blocks the entry of Na<sup>+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> ions into the outer segment, causing the outer segment to hyperpolarize.

How many photons are needed for us to detect light (when fully dark-adapted)?

When fully dark-adapted, we can  
detect as few as 7-10 photons.

How is this possible?

# Amplification

The absorption of a single photon is sufficient to change the membrane conductance. How?

A single  $R^*$  catalyses the activation of c. 500 transducin molecules. Each  $G^*\alpha$  can stimulate one  $PDE6^*$ , which in turn can break down  $10^3$  molecules of cGMP per second. Thus, a single  $R^*$  can cause the hydrolysis of  $>10^5$  molecules of cGMP per second!

Amplification is beneficial at low light levels, but what negative effects might amplification have at high light levels?

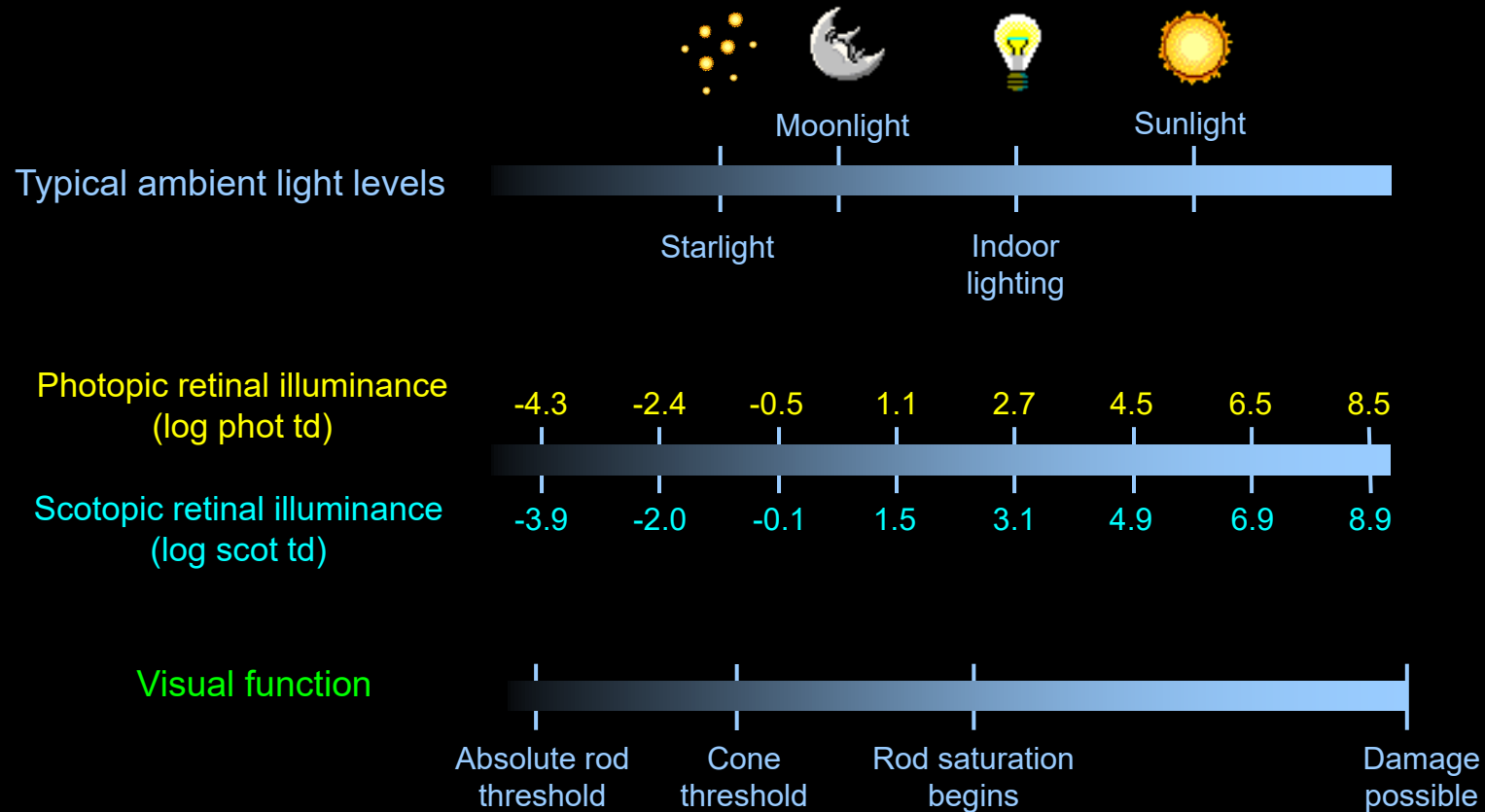
An important function of the photoreceptor  
and the transduction cascade is:

# Range extension and light adaptation

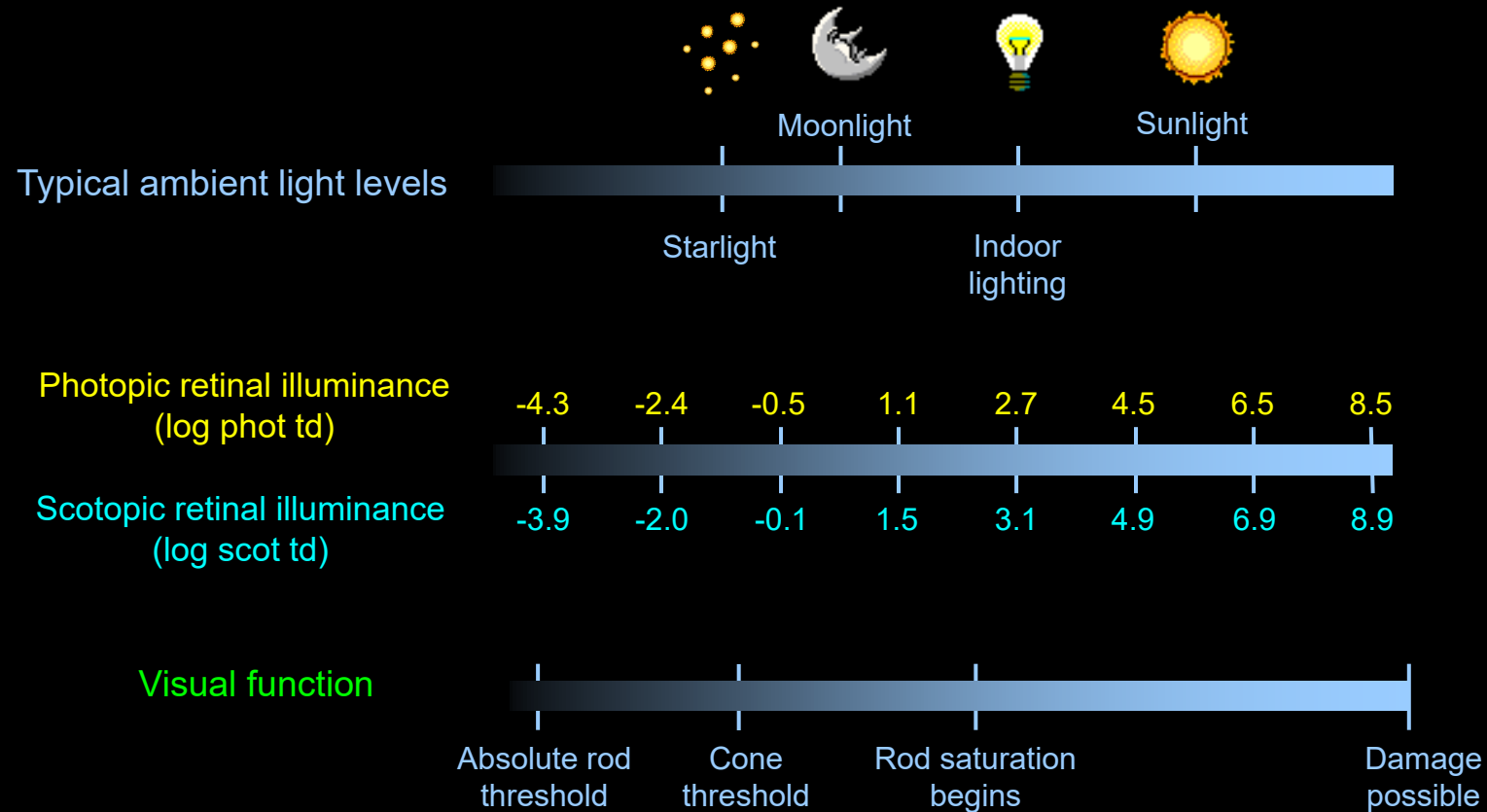


Why is light adaptation or sensitivity regulation important?

Because the visual system must maintain itself within a useful operating range over the roughly  $10^{12}$  change in illumination: from absolute rod threshold to levels at which photoreceptor damage can occur.



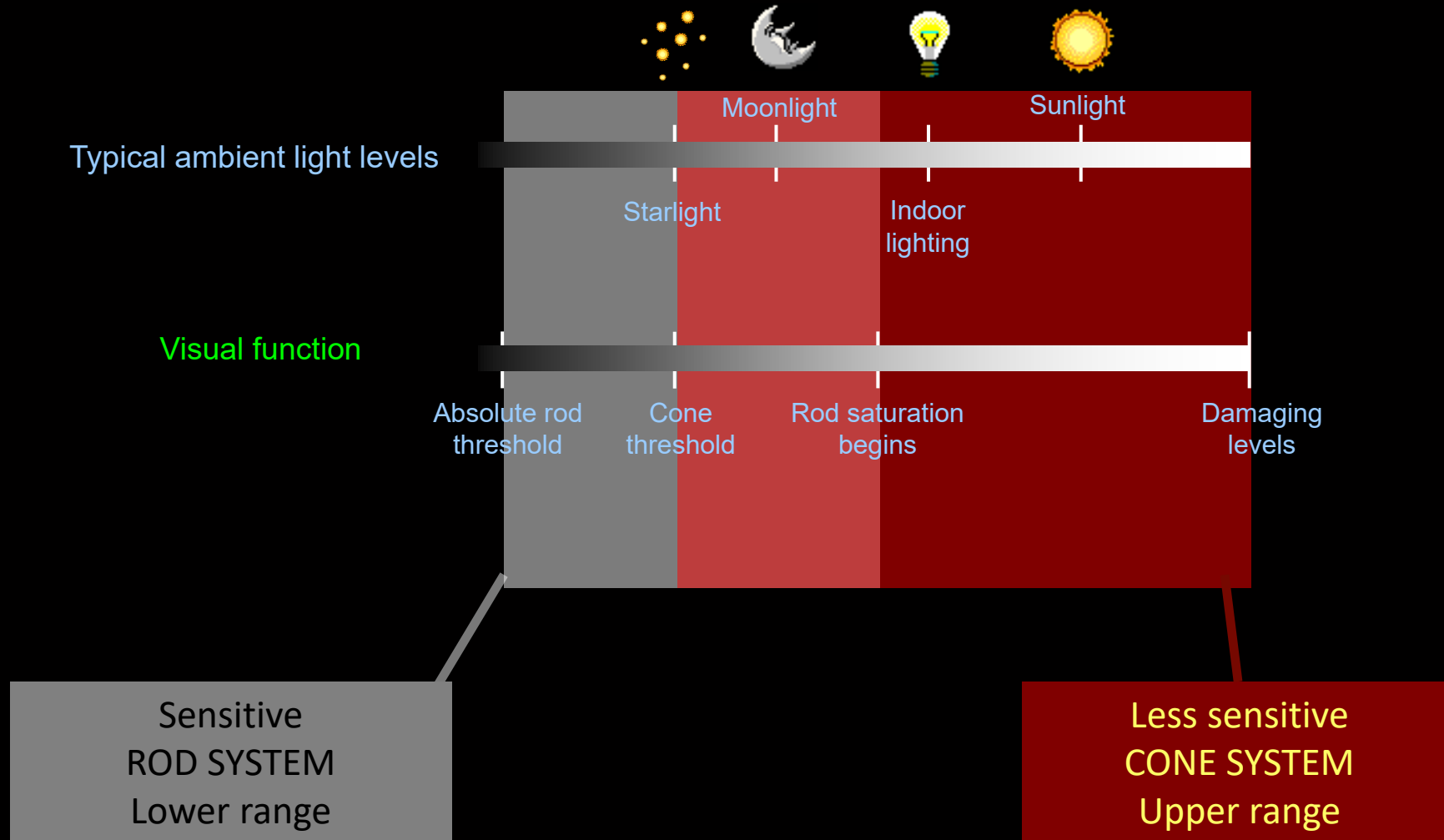
👁️ It must do so despite the fact that a typical postreceptoral neuron can operate over a range of only c.  $10^3$ .



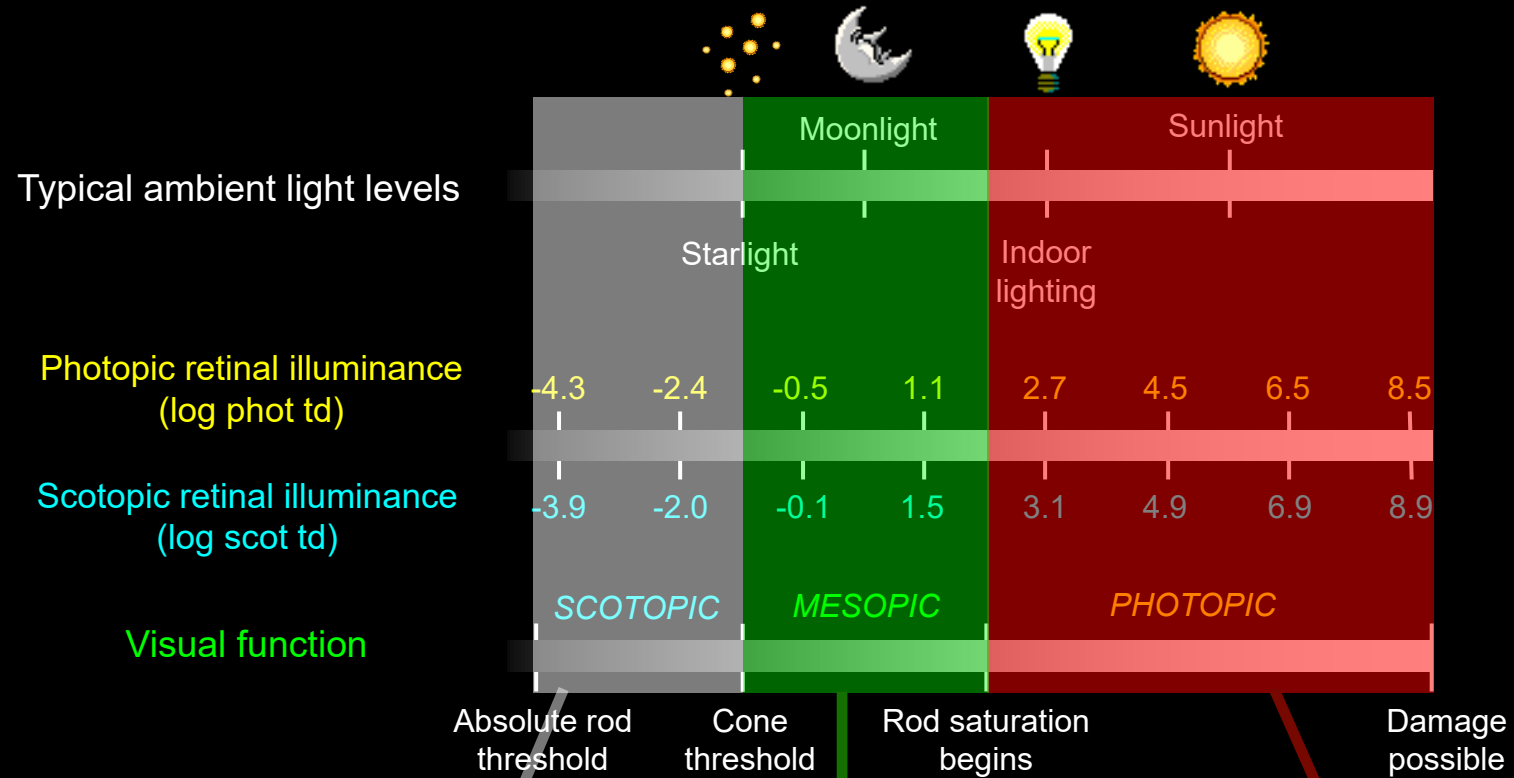
# Rods and cones

Rods that are optimized for low light levels

Cones that are optimized for higher light levels



# Rods and cones



**Scotopic levels**  
(below cone threshold)  
where rod vision functions alone.  
A range of c.  $10^3$

**Mesopic levels**  
where rod and cone vision function together.  
A range of c.  $10^3$

**Photopic levels**  
(above rod saturation)  
where cone vision functions alone.  
A range of  $> 10^6$

## Adaptation and sensitivity...

System must ADAPT to changes in light level

Ideally, the system should be very sensitive at low light levels, so that it can detect a few photons, but then much, much less sensitive at high light levels.

How can this achieved within the transduction cascade?

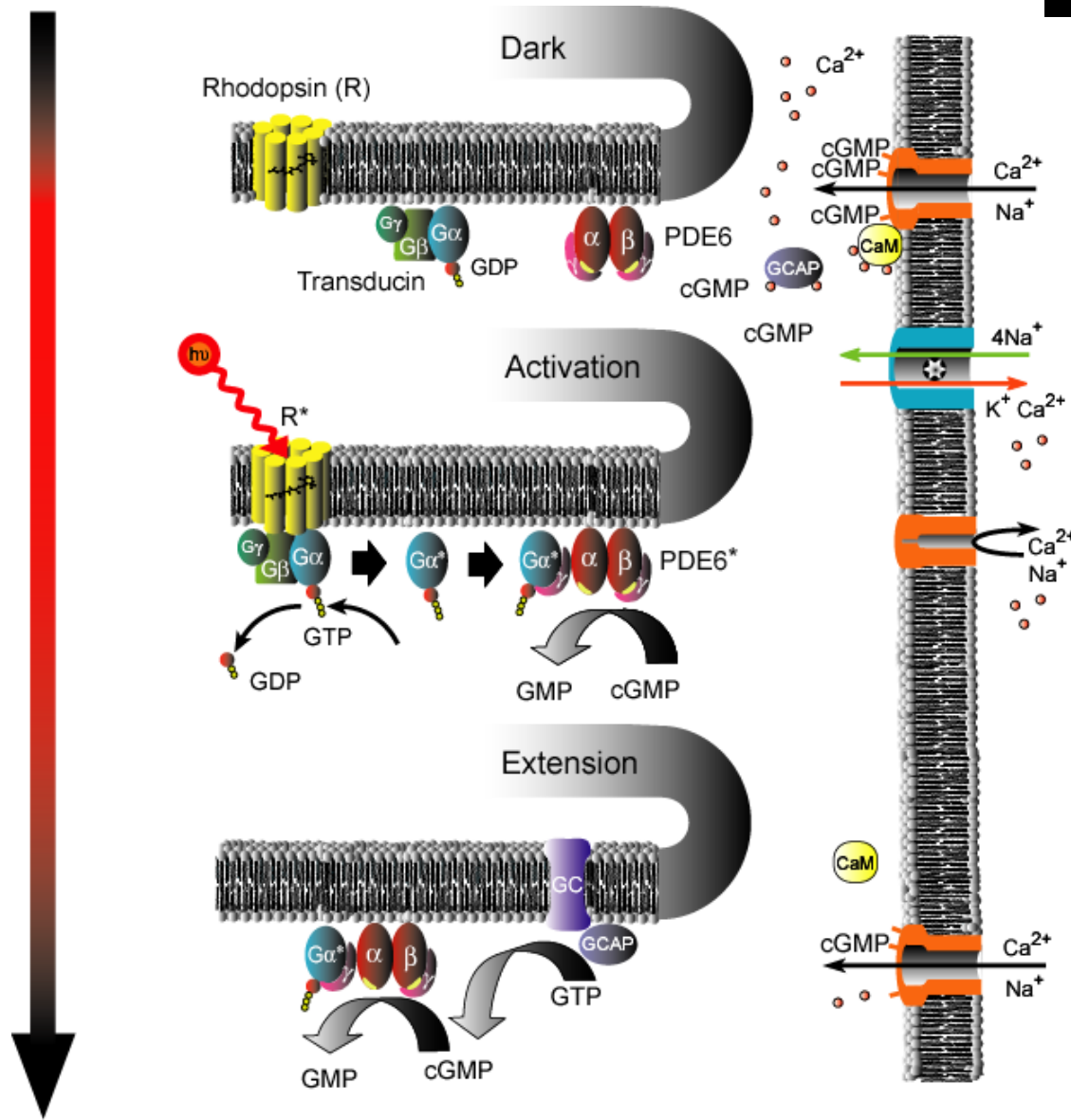
## Adaptation and sensitivity...

At low light levels the sensitivity is very high: A single R\* can cause the hydrolysis of  $>10^5$  molecules of cGMP per second!

But as the light level increases, the system will saturate (as you run out of “stuff”).



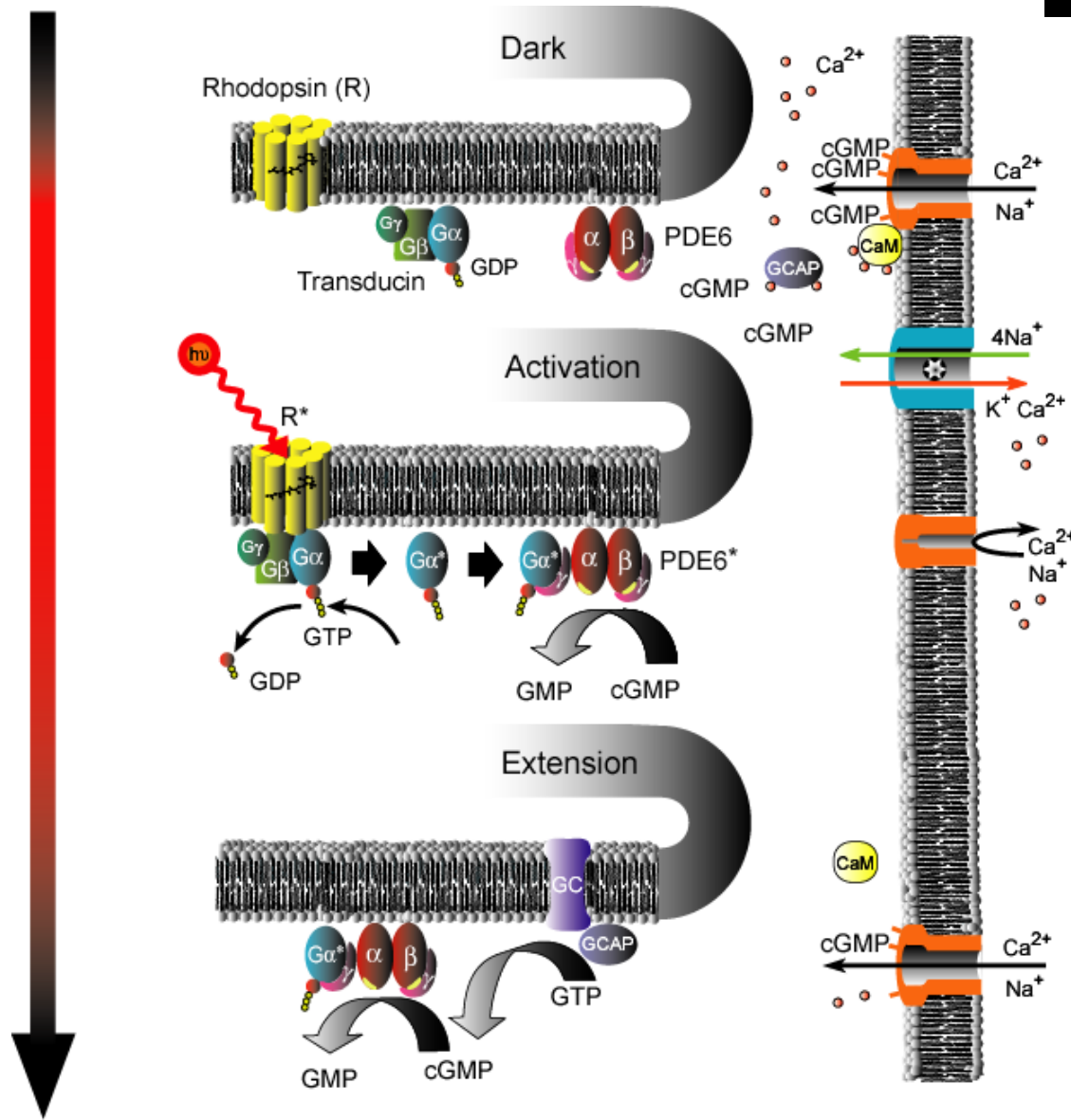
# Range extension (1)



Reduction in  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$  causes Calmodulin (CaM) to dissociate from the CNG channels raising the affinity of the channels for cGMP

$\text{Ca}^{2+}$  feedback

# Range extension (2)



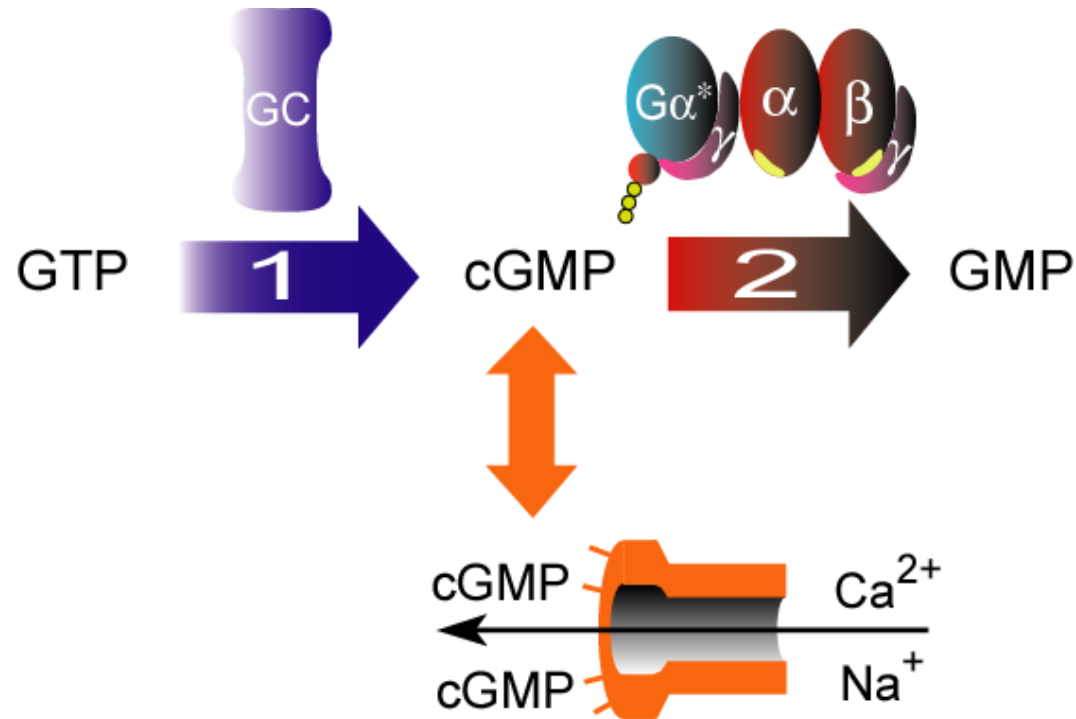
Reduction in [Ca<sup>2+</sup>] causes Calmodulin (CaM) to dissociate from the CNG channels raising the affinity of the channels for cGMP

Reduction in [Ca<sup>2+</sup>] causes dissociation of Ca<sup>2+</sup> from GCAP, allowing it to bind to GC increasing the rate of resynthesis of cGMP

Ca<sup>2+</sup> feedback

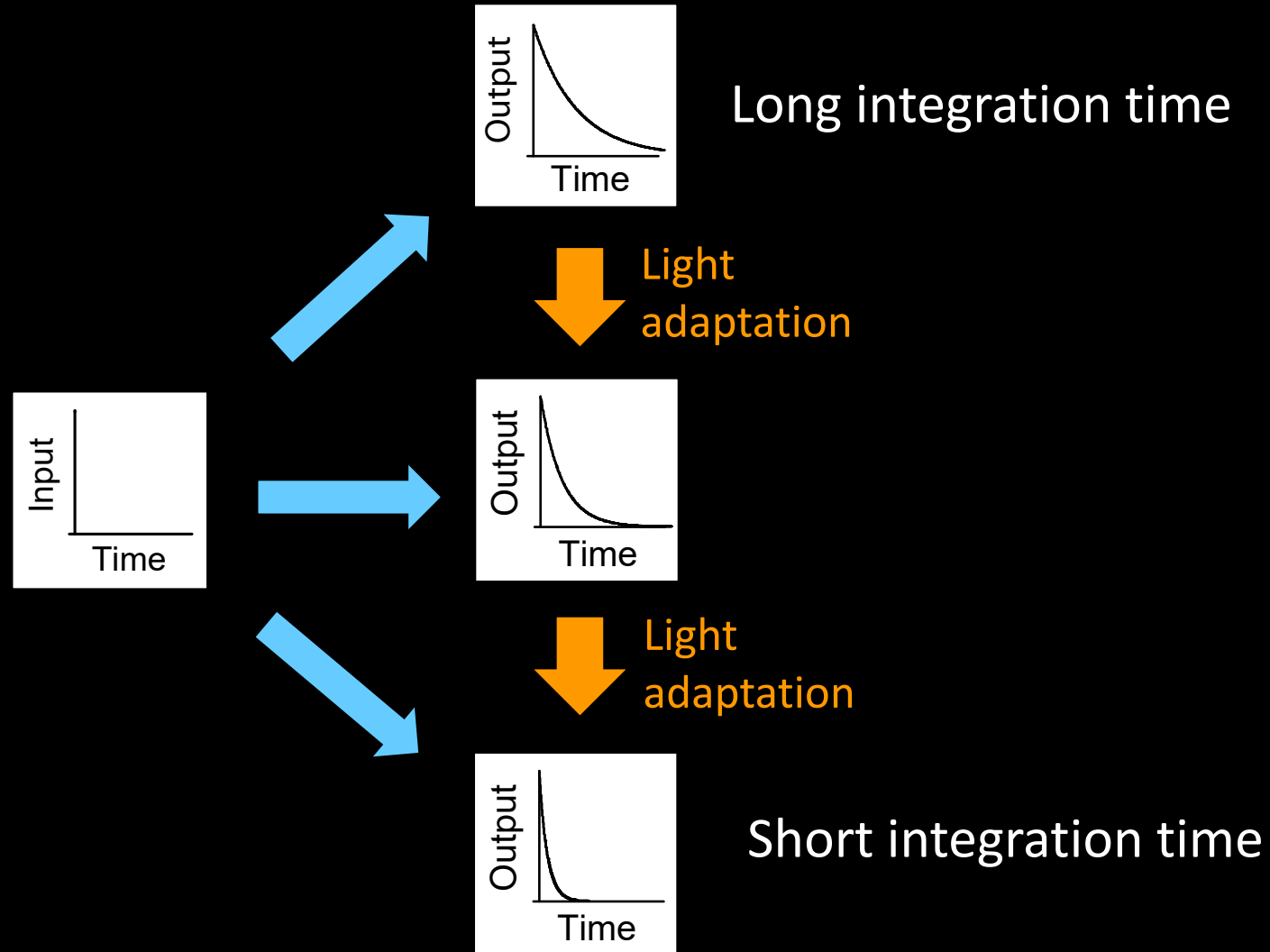
# Adaptation: Speeding up the visual response

Increase in concentration of  $G^*\alpha$ -PDE6\* in light speeds up rate of reaction 2 and speeds up the visual response

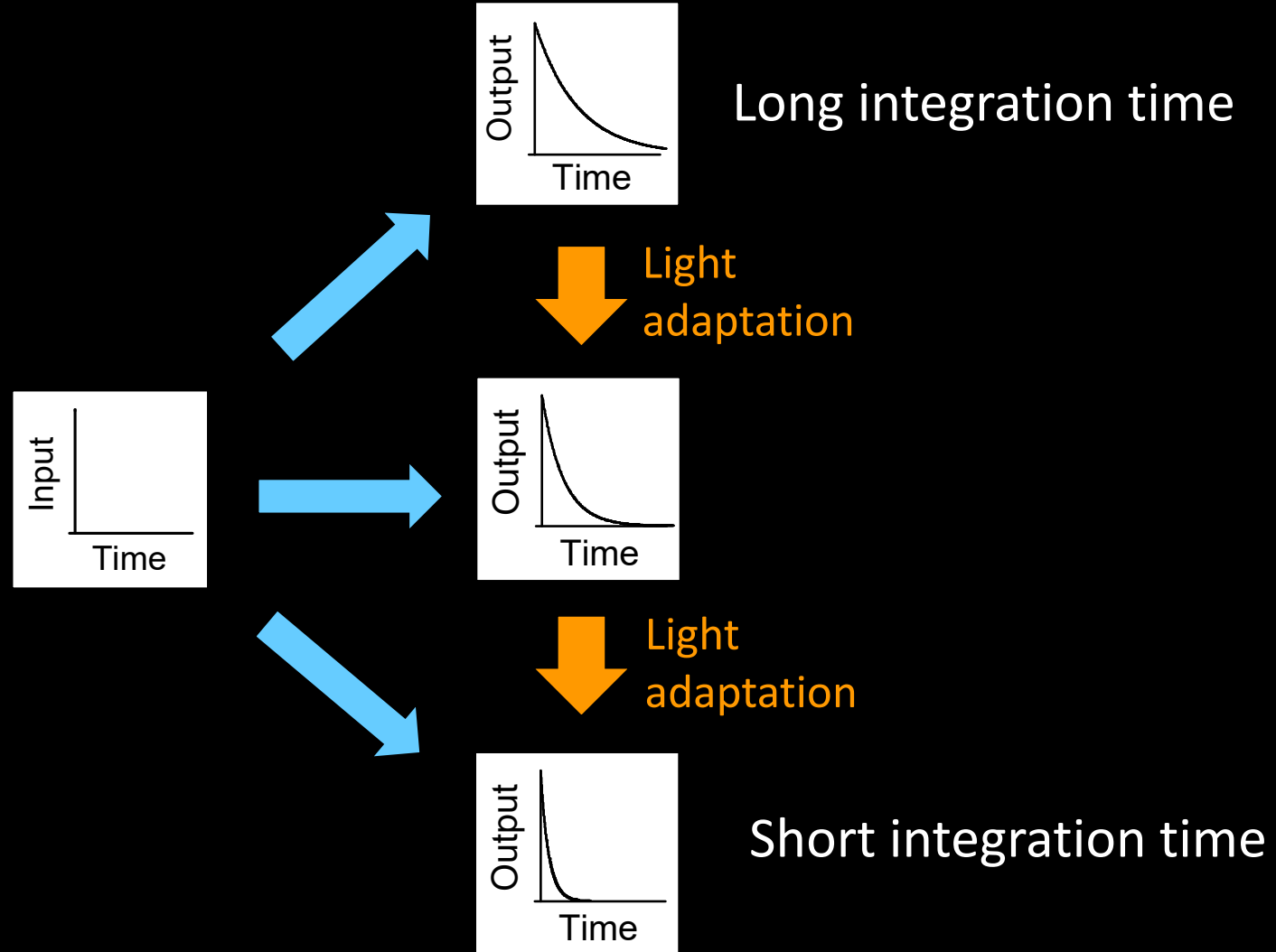




It reduces the integration time of the system...



# What are the benefits of this type of adaptation?



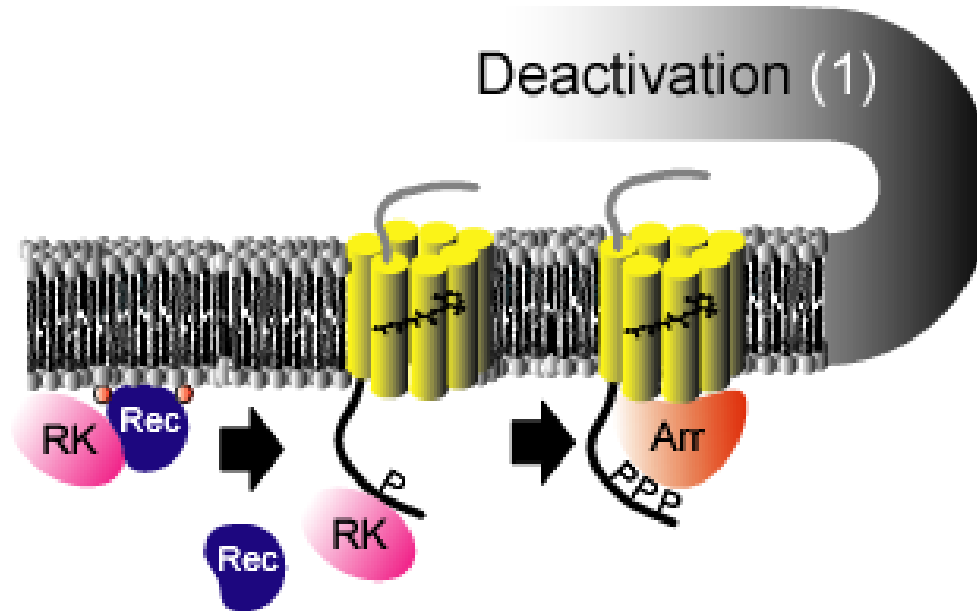
# Deactivation

Speeding up deactivation also decreases temporal integration.



# Deactivation steps

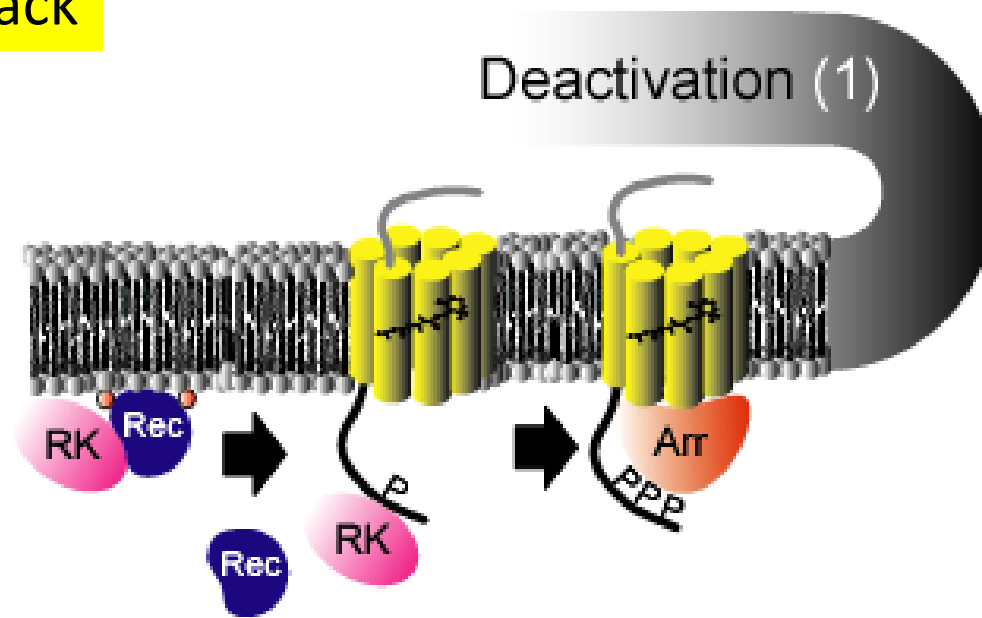
Ca<sup>2+</sup> feedback



Rec-2Ca<sup>2+</sup> forms a complex with RK, blocking its activity. When [Ca<sup>2+</sup>] drops, Ca<sup>2+</sup> dissociates and Rec goes into solution.

# Deactivation steps

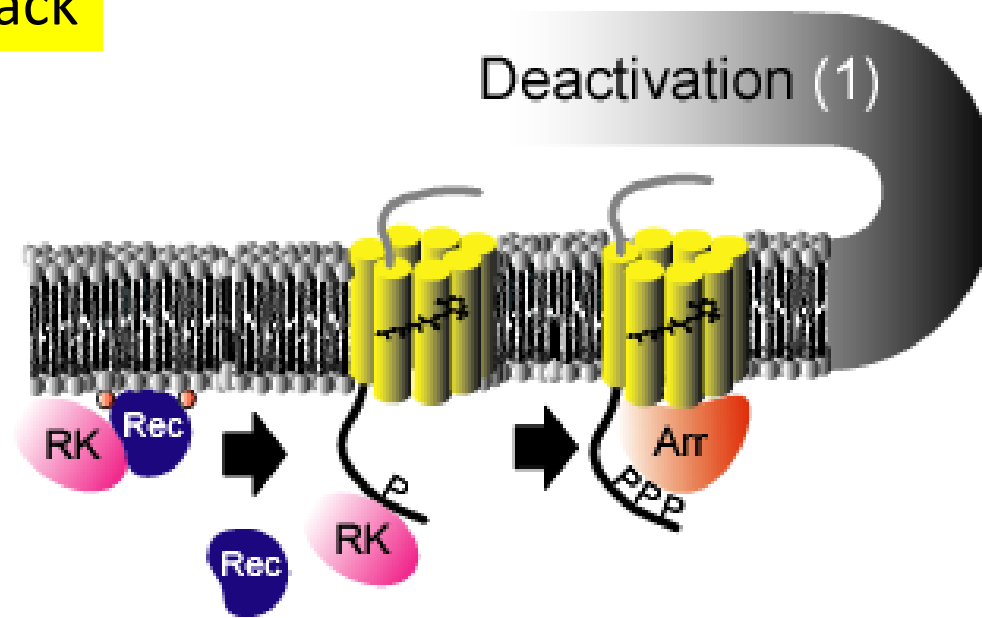
Ca<sup>2+</sup> feedback



Free RK multiply phosphorylates R\*

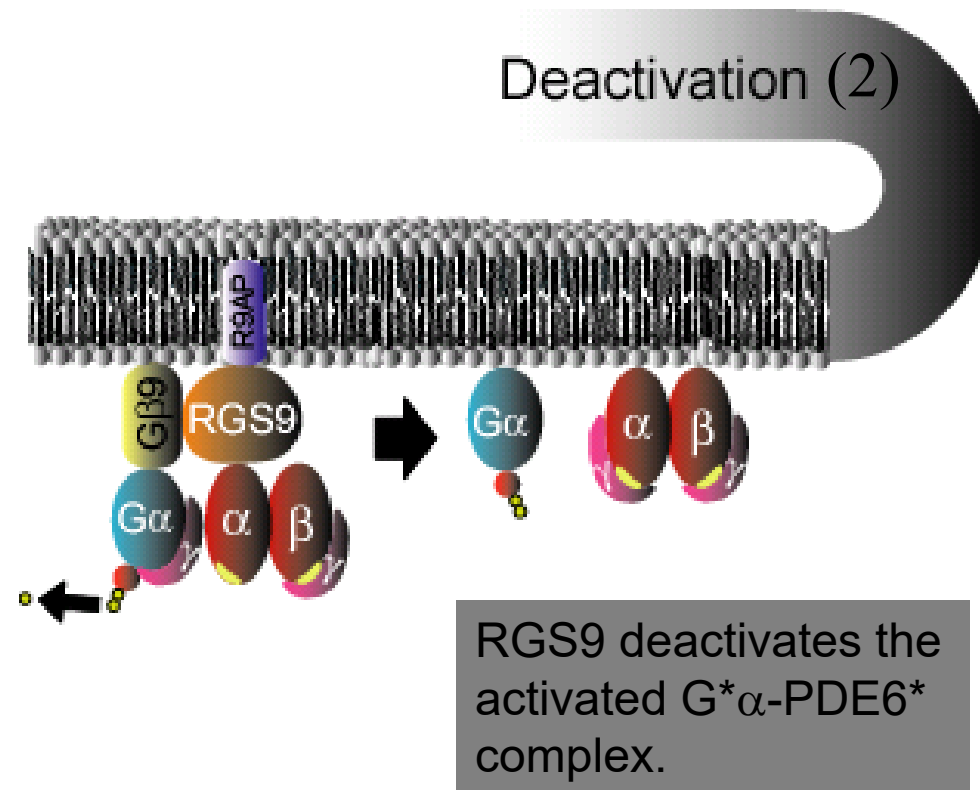
# Deactivation steps

Ca<sup>2+</sup> feedback

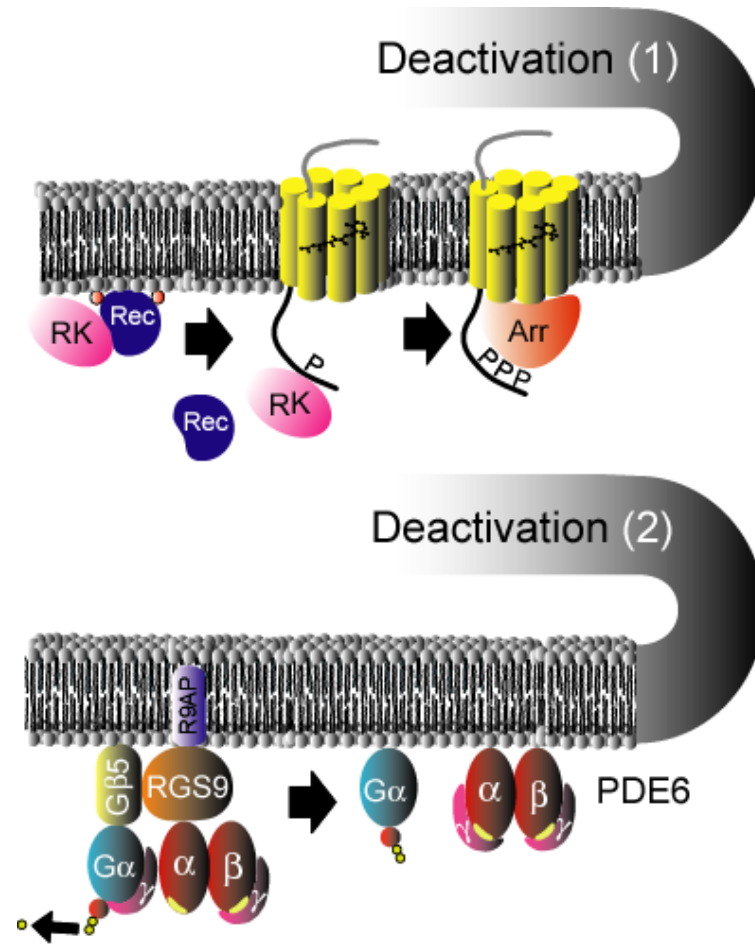


Arrestin (Arr) quenches the phosphorylated R\*

# Deactivation steps



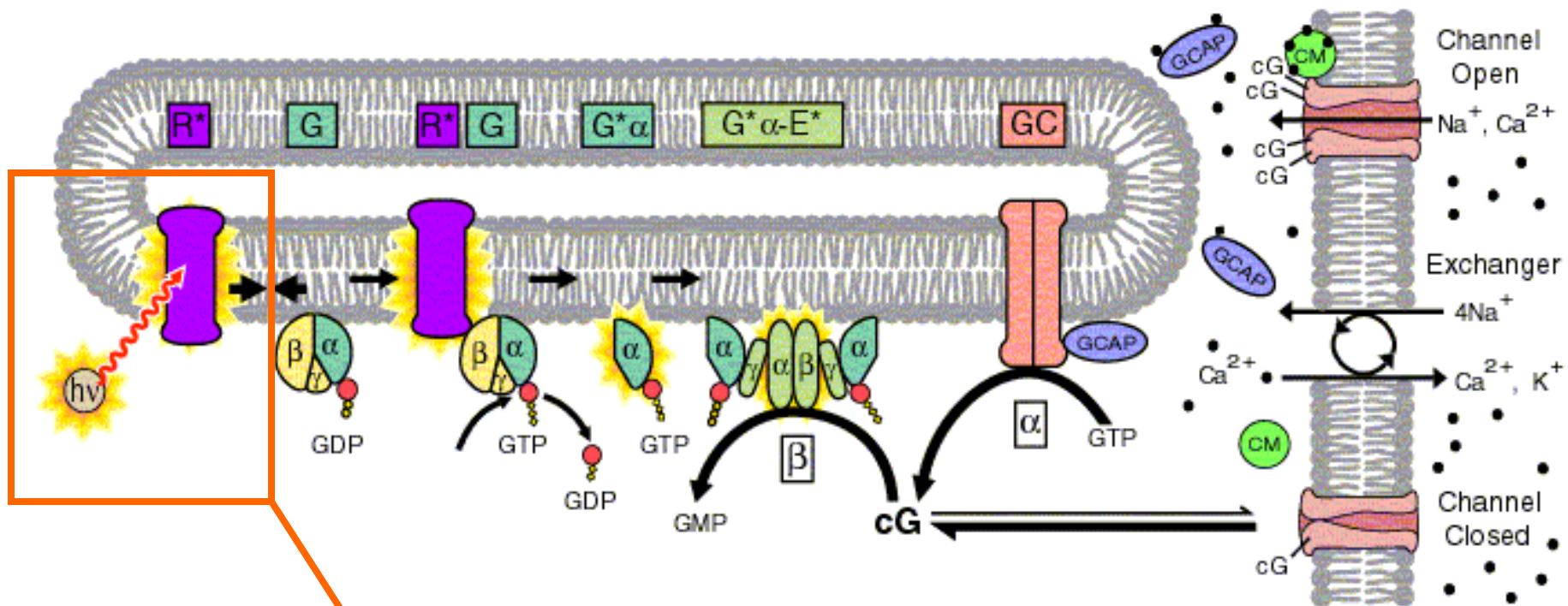
# Deactivation steps



Second run through...

# Phototransduction cascade activation stages

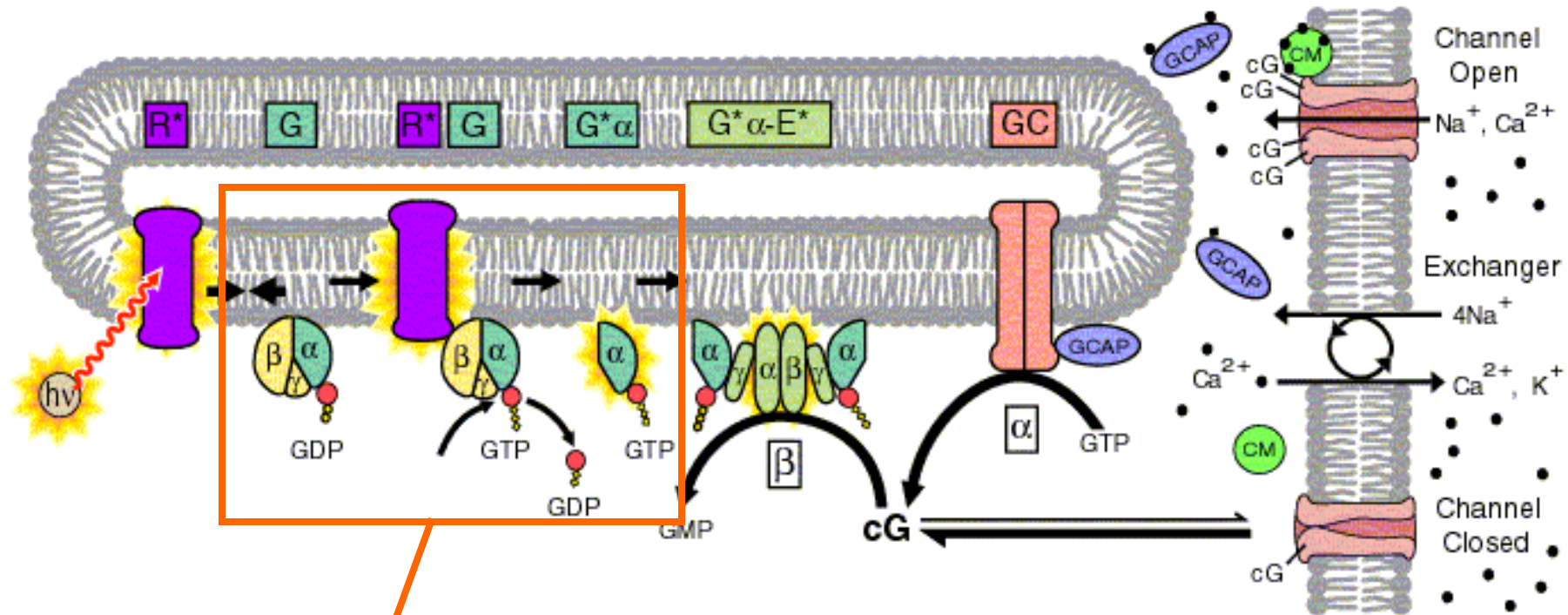
# Activation steps of the phototransduction cascade



A photon is absorbed resulting in activated  $R^*$

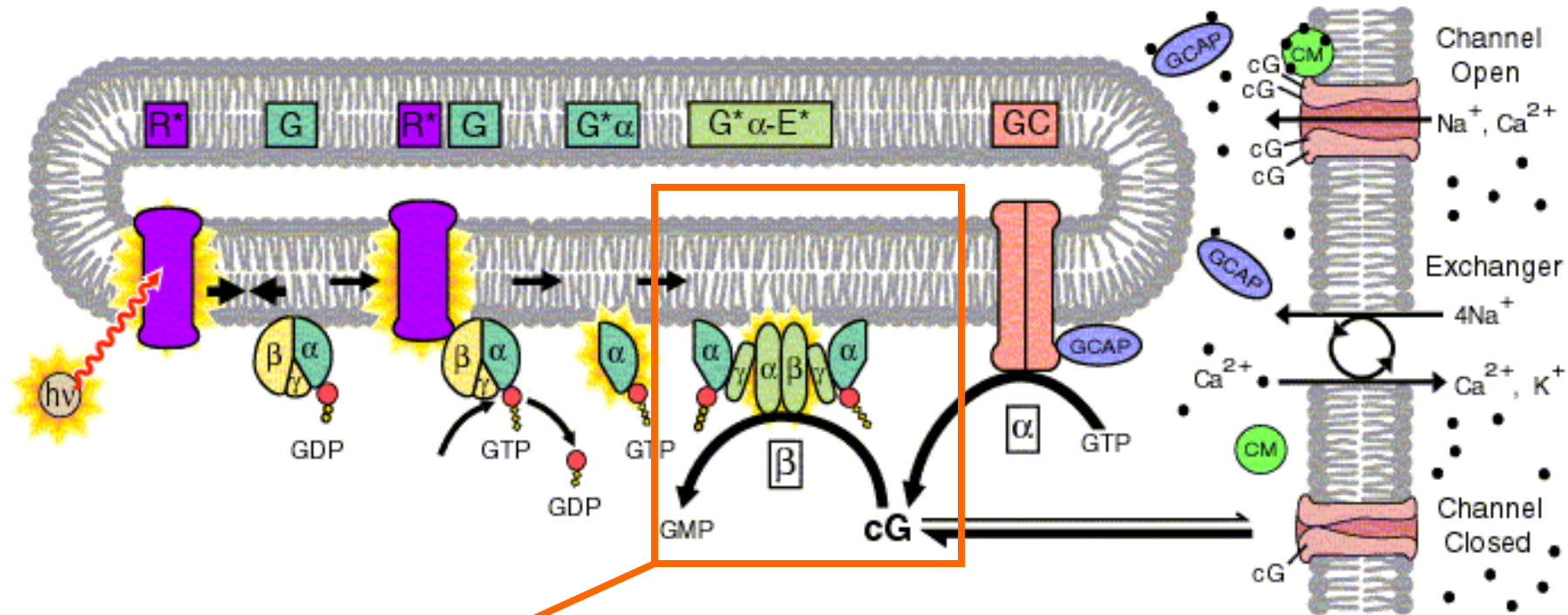


# Activation steps of the phototransduction cascade



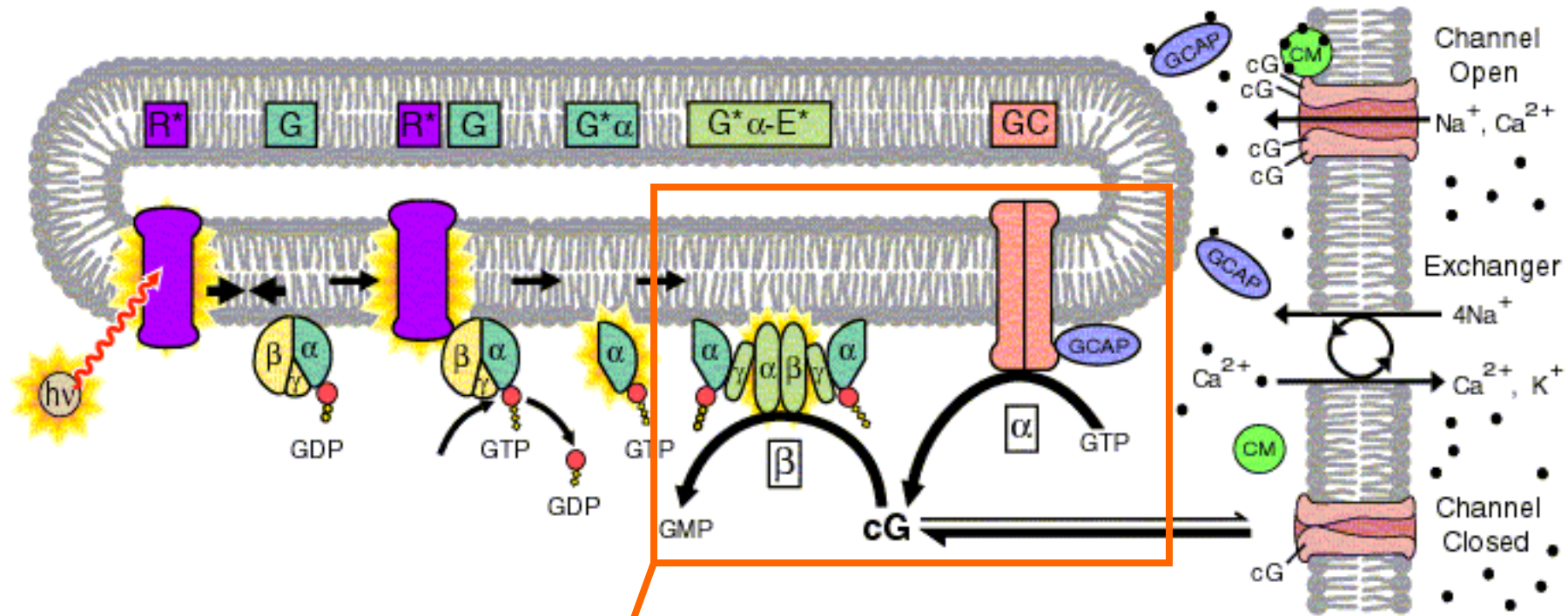
$R^*$  catalyses the exchange of GDP for GTP on the G-protein, producing the activated transducin, subunit  $G^*\alpha$  ( $G\alpha$ -GTP).

# Activation steps of the phototransduction cascade



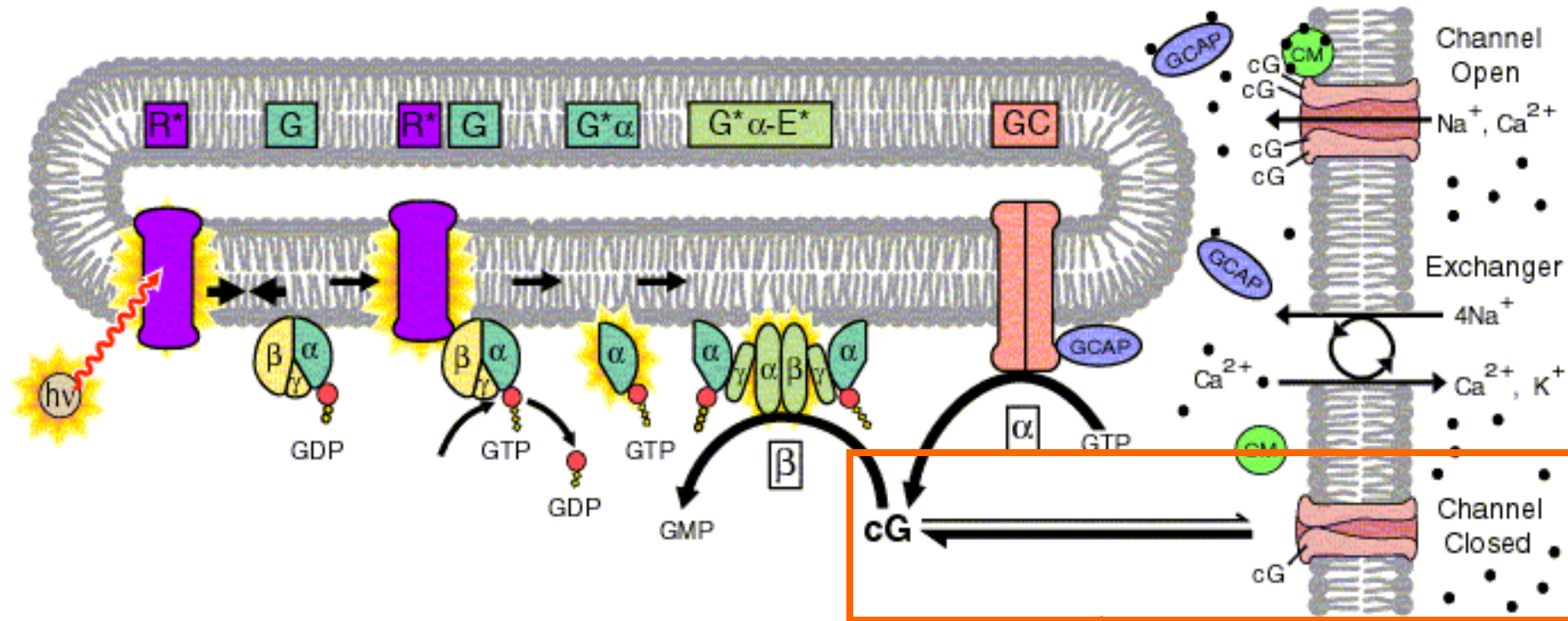
Activated transducin,  $G^*\alpha$ , in turn, binds to and activates phosphodiesterase (PDE6) by displacing  $\gamma$  inhibitory subunits to produce PDE6\*.

# Activation steps of the phototransduction cascade



PDE6\* ( $G^*\alpha-E^*$ ) activity produces a local drop in cytoplasmic cG (cGMP)

# Activation steps of the phototransduction cascade

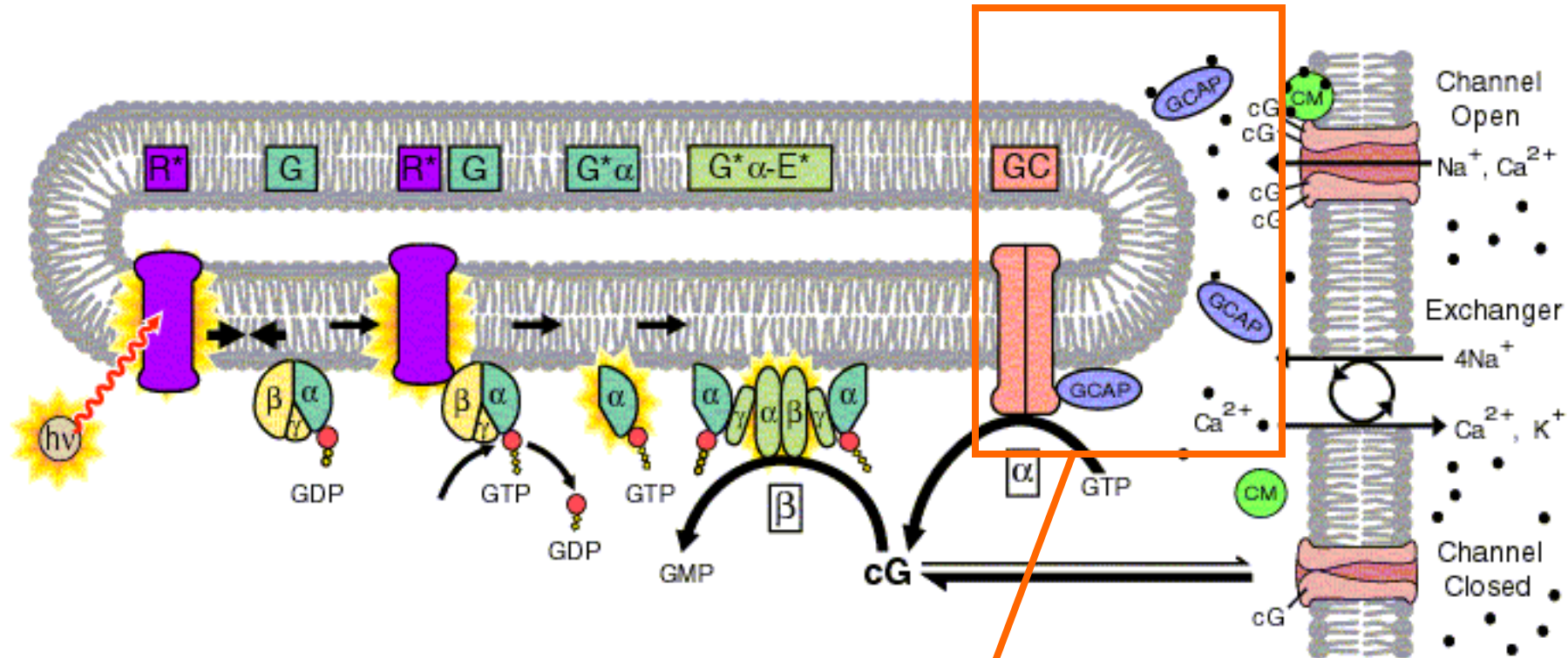


A drop in cGMP leads to closure of cGMP gated channels, blocking the entry of  $Na^+$  and  $Ca^{2+}$  into the outer segment. The ion exchanger continues to function lowering  $[Ca^{2+}]$  in the outersegment.

# Phototransduction cascade inactivation steps

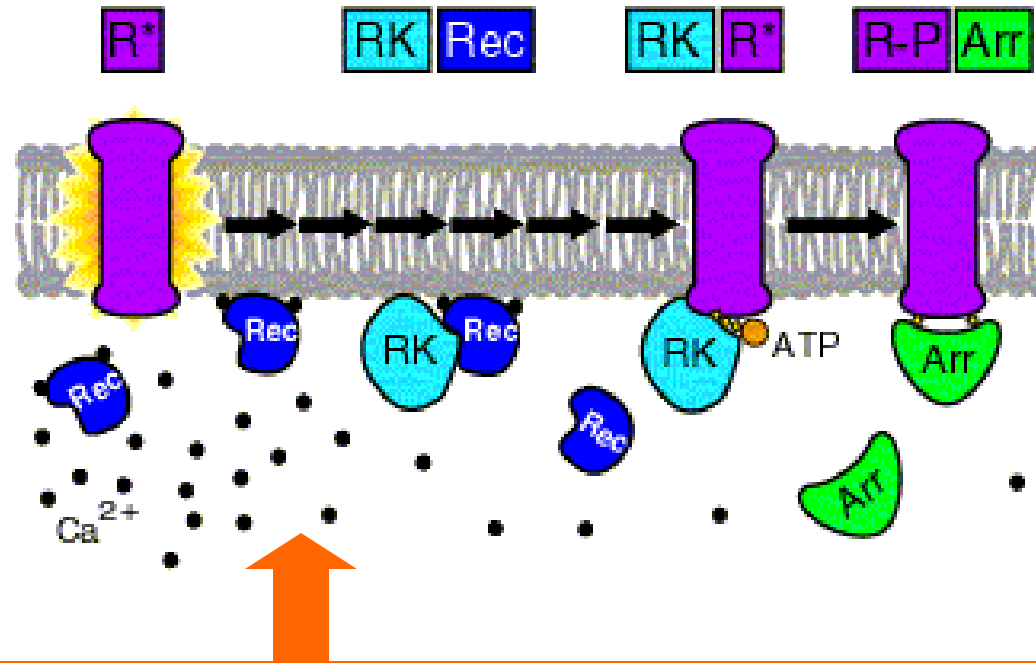


## Inactivation steps of the phototransduction cascade



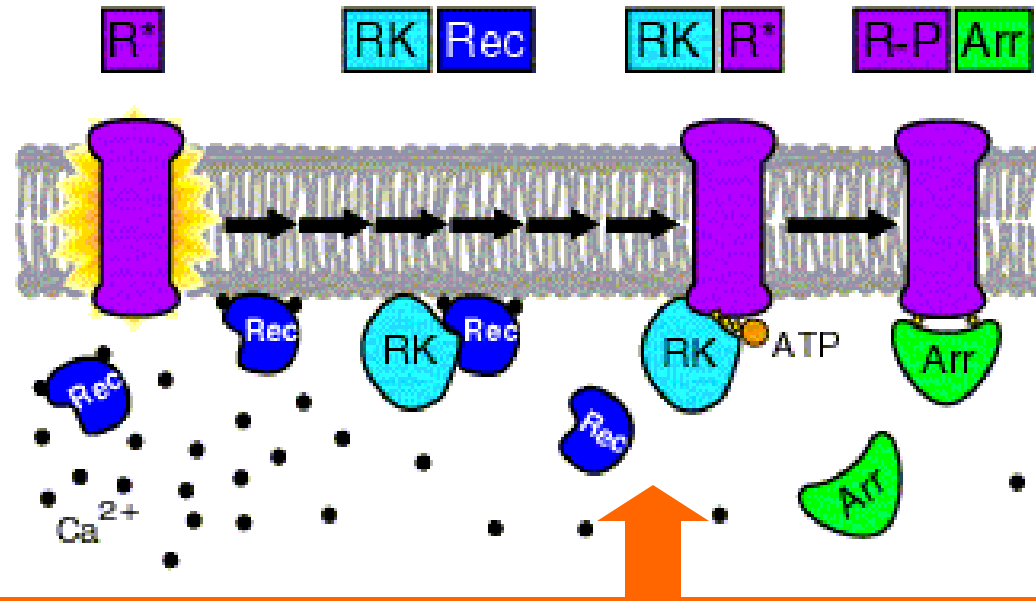
Removal of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  activates guanylate cyclase activating protein, GCAP. Activated GCAP binds to guanylate cyclase, stimulating production of cG.

$\text{Ca}^{2+}$  feedback



In the dark, when  $[Ca^{2+}]$  is high, most of recoverin (Rec) is in the calcium bound form at the membrane;  $Rec-2Ca^{2+}$  forms a complex bond with rhodopsin kinase (RK) blocking its activity.

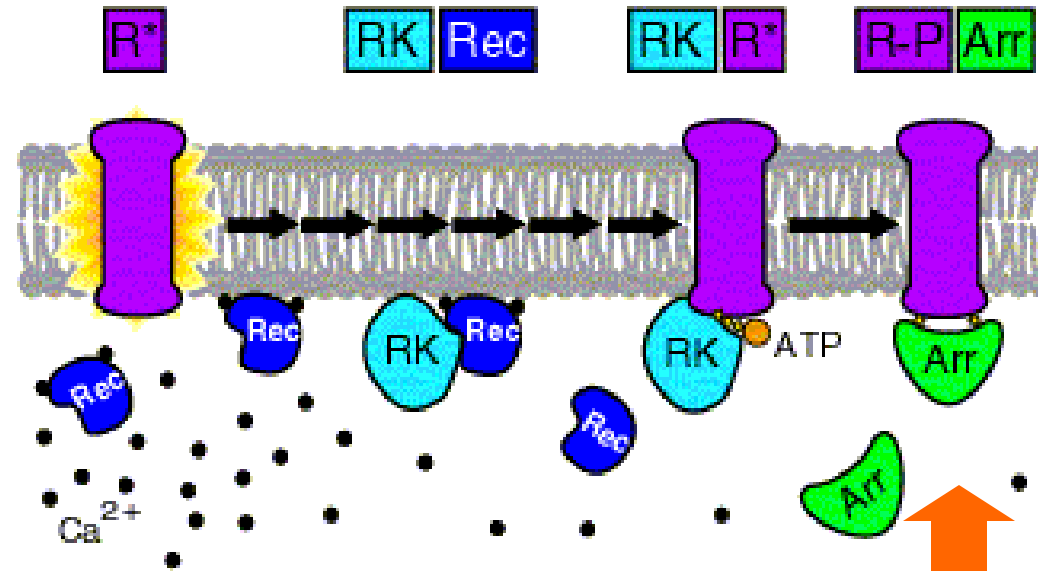
Ca<sup>2+</sup> feedback



When  $[Ca^{2+}]$  drops,  $Ca^{2+}$  dissociates from Rec, which moves into solution. Free RK rapidly increases, increasing its interaction with  $R^*$ , and leading to its rapid phosphorylation.

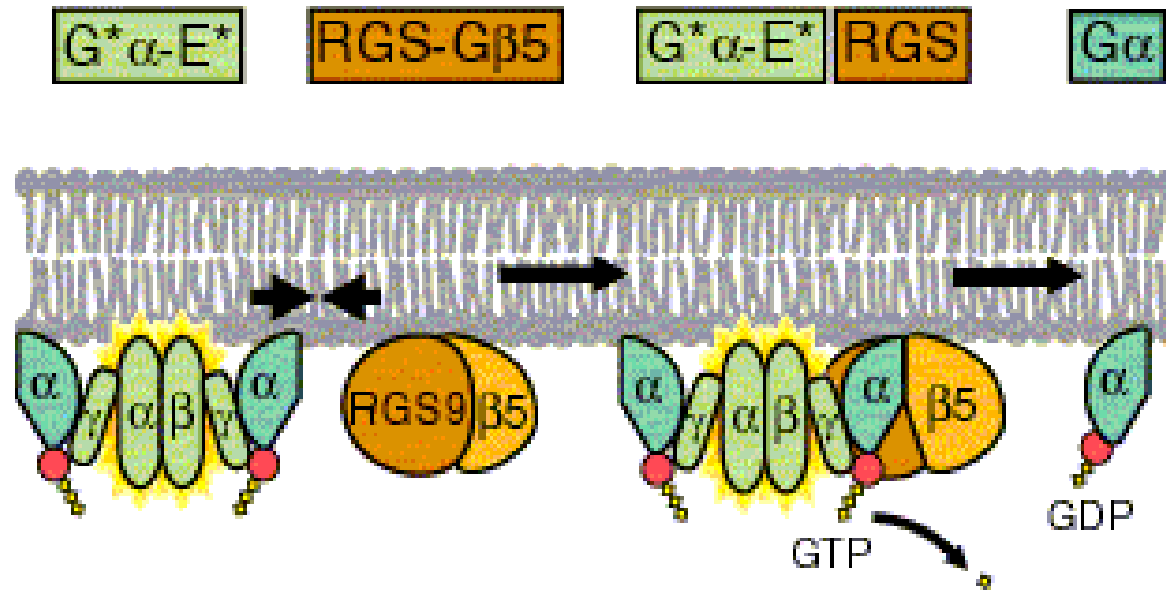
Ca<sup>2+</sup> feedback





Arrestin (Arr) then binds quenching the activity of  $R^*$ .

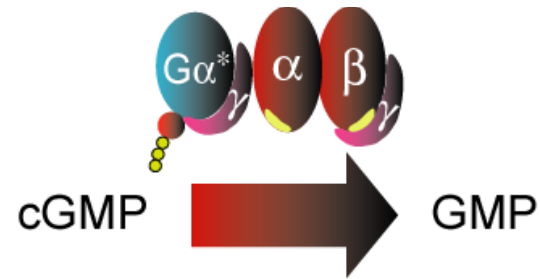
$Ca^{2+}$  feedback



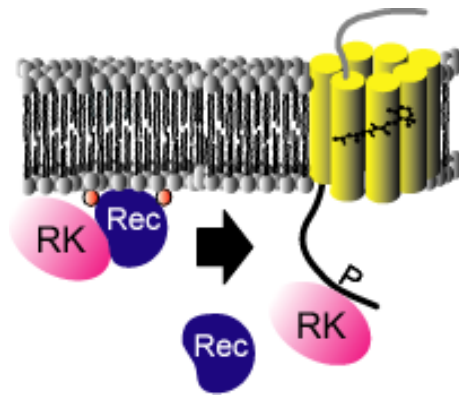
$G^*\alpha-E^*$  is inactivated when the terminal phosphate of its bound GTP is hydrolyzed, which occurs when the RGS9-G $\beta$ 5 protein binds to the complex.

# Summary of molecular adaptation mechanisms

# Mechanisms that shorten the visual integration time

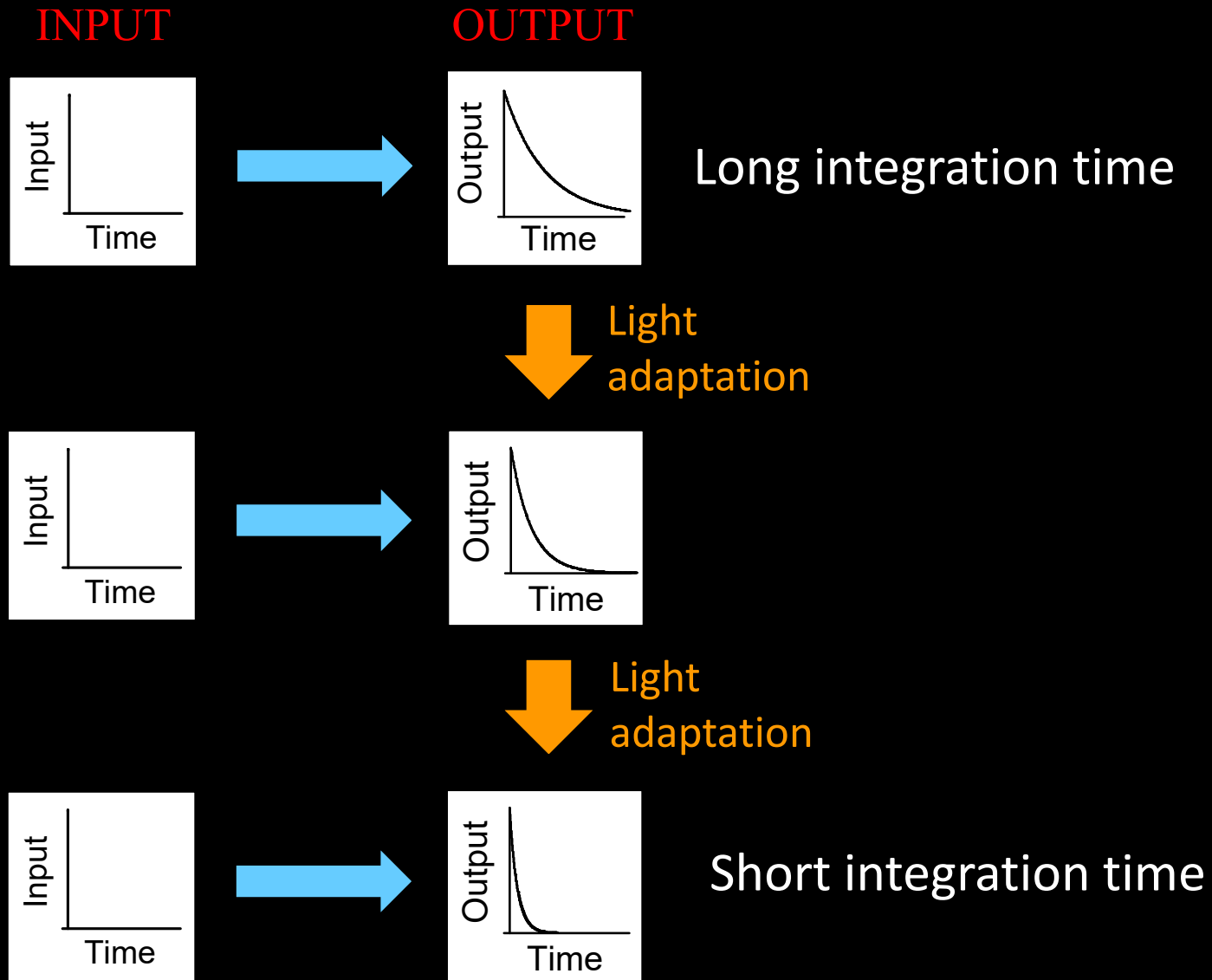


[ $G^*\alpha$ -PDE6\*] dependent Increased rate of hydrolysis of cGMP to GMP

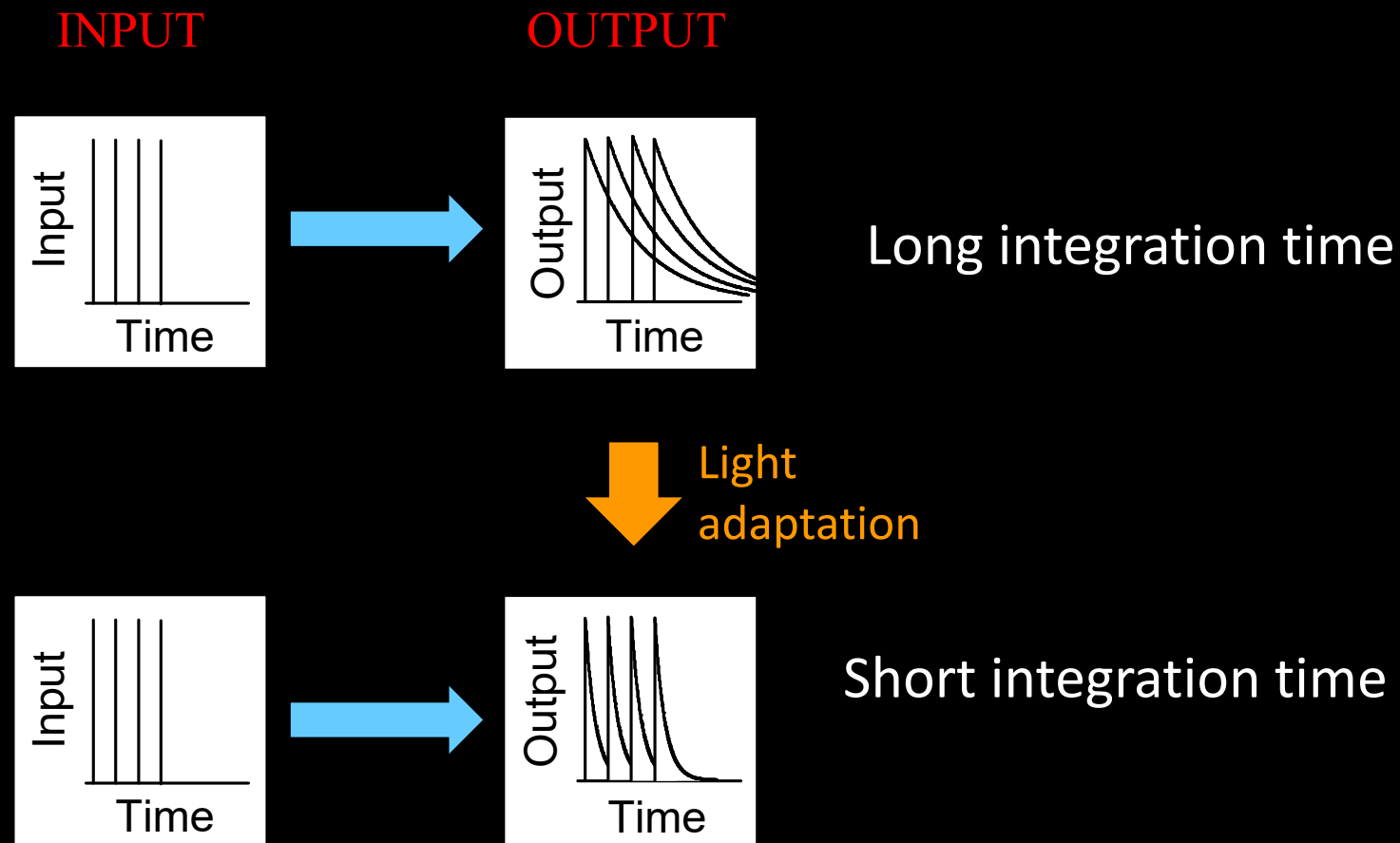


[ $Ca^{2+}$ ] dependent activity of Rec

# Changing the integration time of the system...



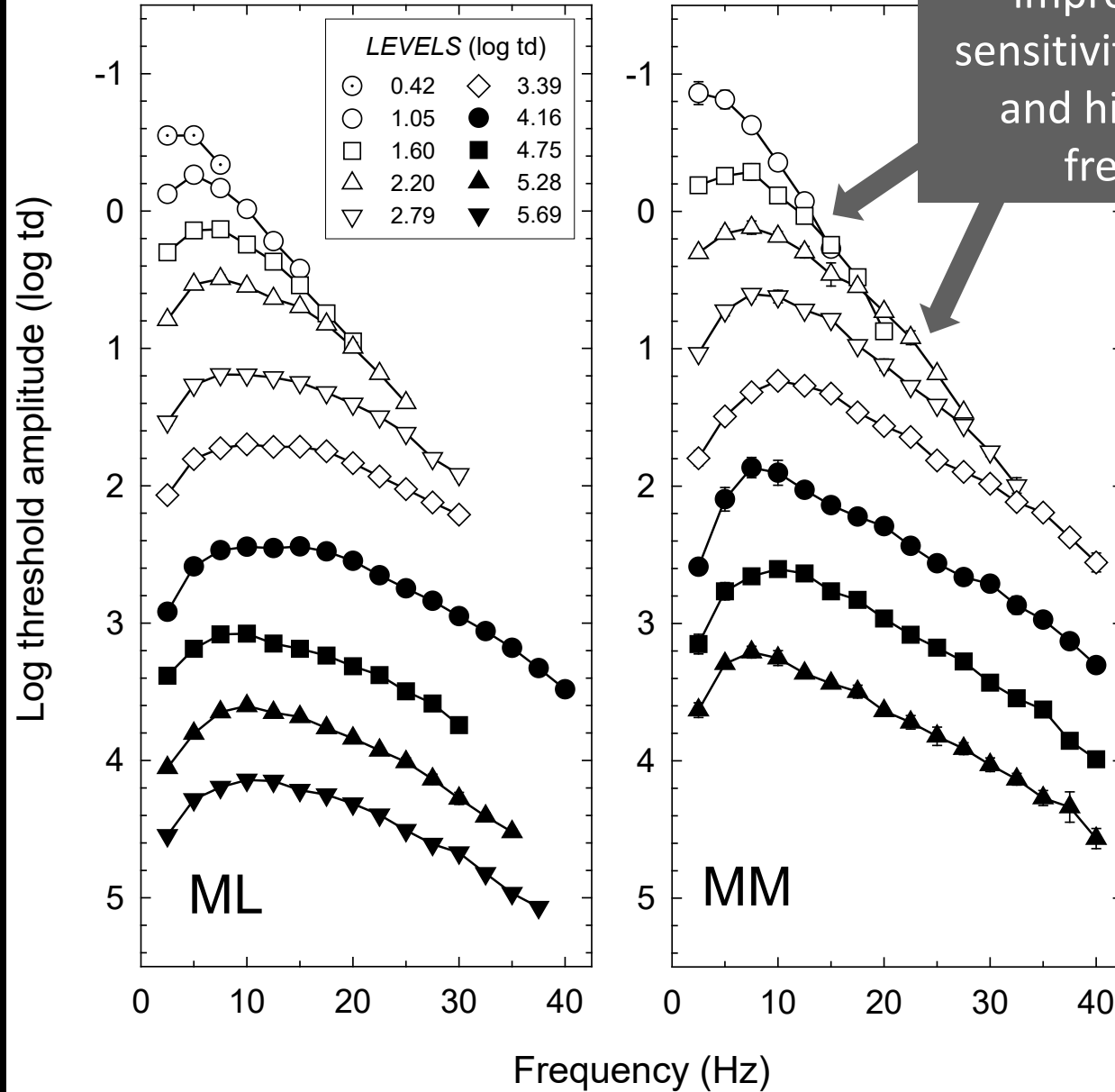
# Shortening the integration time of the system increases sensitivity to higher flicker rates...



# Human temporal response

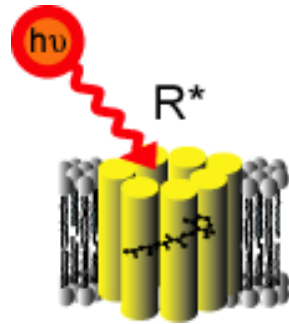
- ▶ An excellent way of characterizing the effects of light adaptation psychophysically is to measure changes in the temporal response.
- ▶ Focus on changes in temporal sensitivity.

# Changes in temporal sensitivity

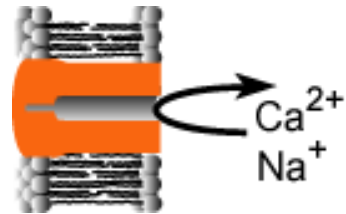




# Mechanisms that simply decrease sensitivity

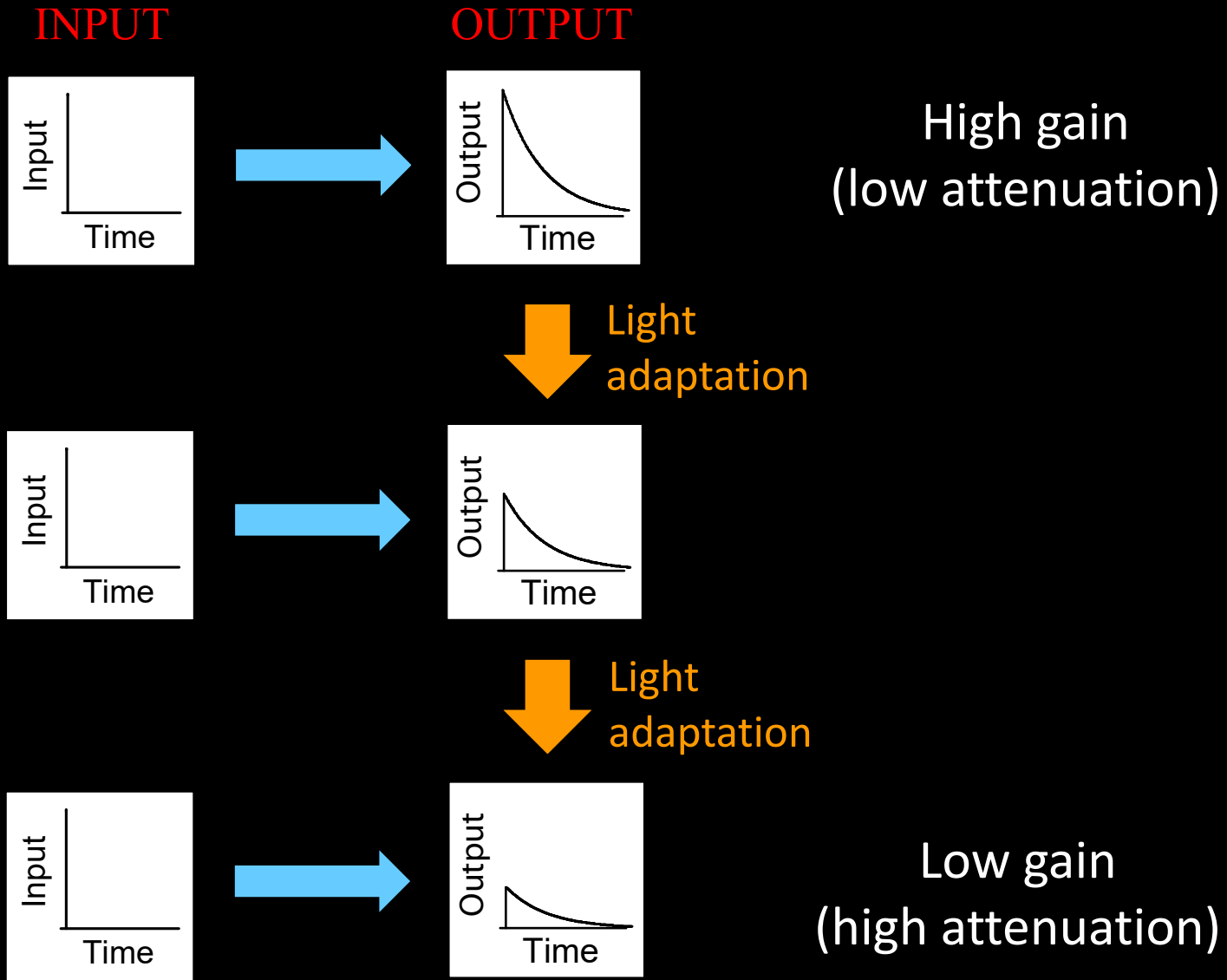


Photopigment bleaching (less photopigment available at high light levels)



Reduction in the number of open CNG-gated channels

# Changing the gain (attenuation) of the system...



# PHOTOTRANSDUCTION – CONES VERSUS RODS

# Cones versus rods

Cones have different isoforms of:

Visual pigment, transducin, arrestin  
PDE6, cGMP channel, and recoverin.

Quantitative differences. In cones:

- (i)  $R^*$  forms 4 times faster than for rods - faster onset of light response.
- (ii)  $R^*$  decays 10-50 times faster (lower amplification factor).
- (iii) GTPase activating protein (RGS-G $\beta$ 5) expressed at much higher levels - shorter  $G^*\alpha$  (activated transducin) lifetime - faster recovery.
- (iv) Clearance of  $Ca^{2+}$  from cone outer segments is several times faster than for rods.
- (v) cGMP channels in cones are twice as permeable to  $Ca^{2+}$  than in rods.

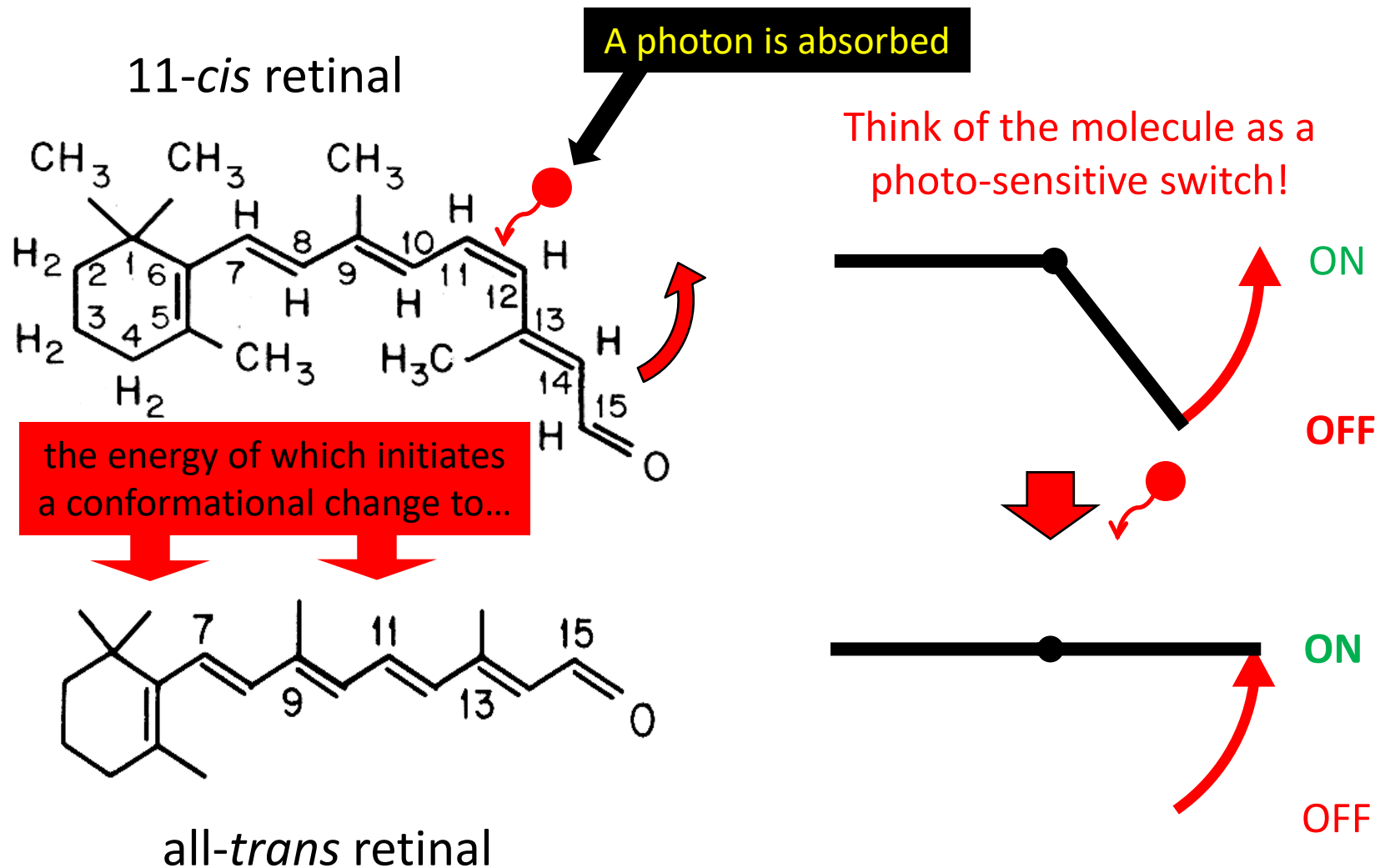
## Cones versus rods

- Cones are 25 - 100 times less sensitive to single photons.
- They catch fewer photons (less visual pigment).
- They respond with faster kinetics (isoforms of transduction cascade).
- They have a much greater ability to adapt to background light.
- They do not saturate at normal environmental light levels.

# TRANSDUCTION AND UNIVARIANCE

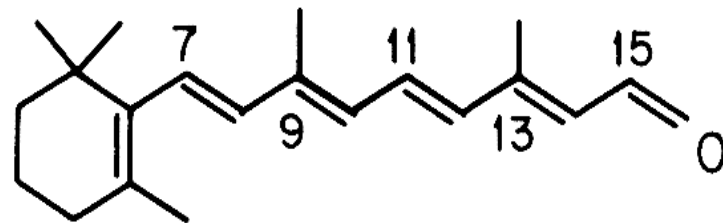
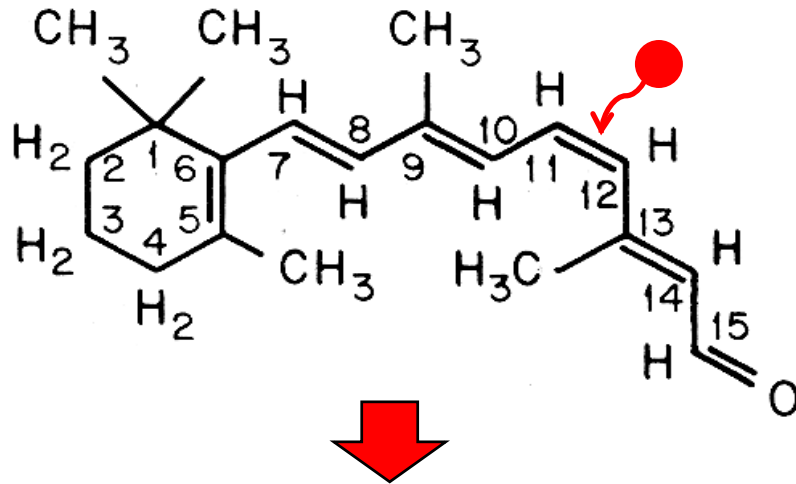
# Chromophore

(*chromo-* colour, + *-phore*, producer)  
Light-catching portion of any molecule



# Chromophore

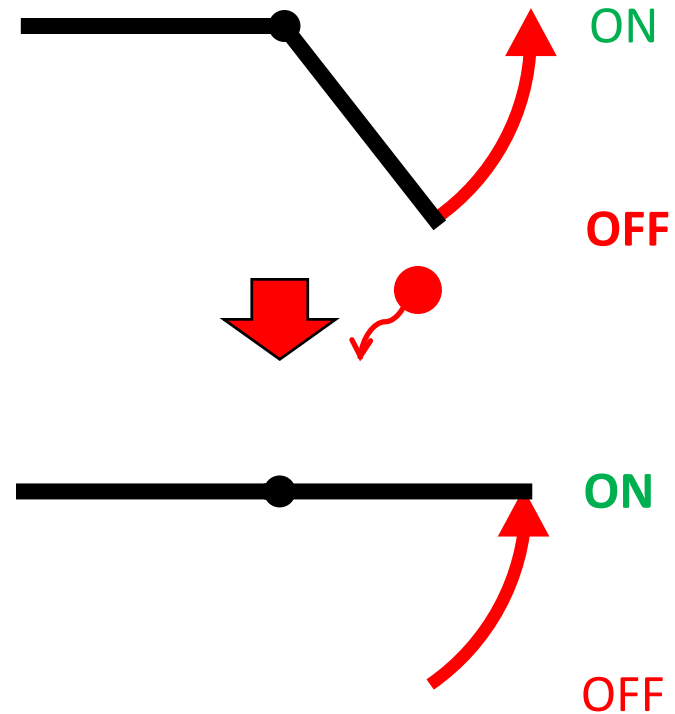
11-*cis* retinal



all-*trans* retinal

Crucially, the event is binary or “all or nothing”.

If a photon is absorbed it has the same effect as any other absorbed photon, whatever its wavelength.



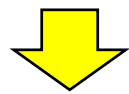
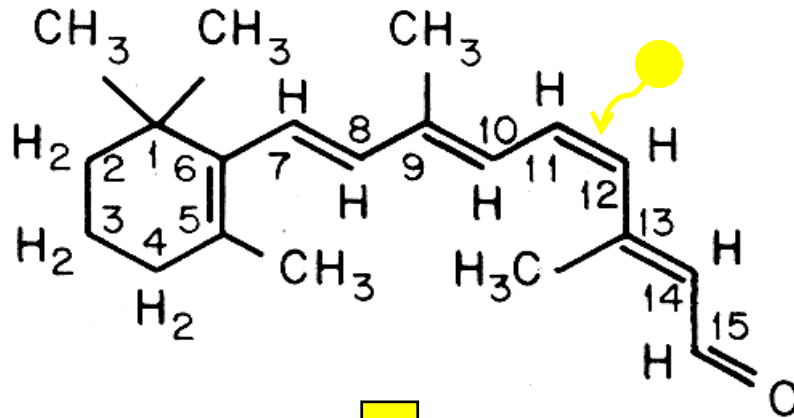


# Chromophore

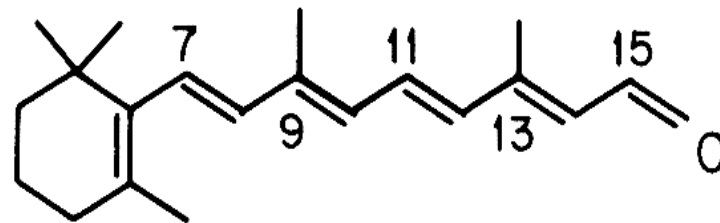
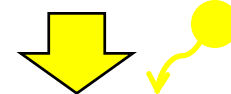
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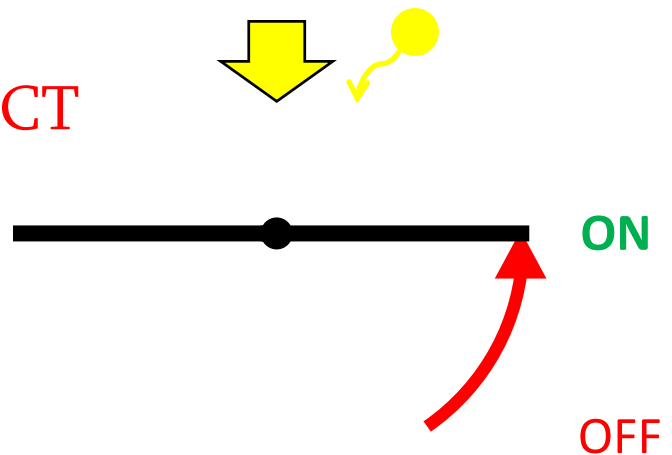
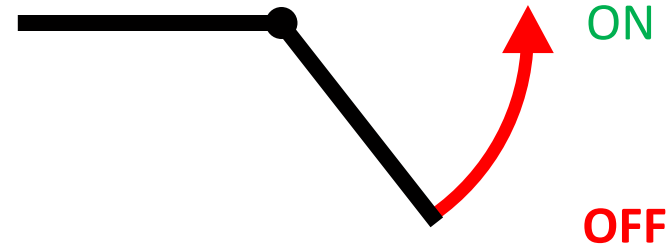
11-*cis* retinal



SAME EFFECT



all-*trans* retinal

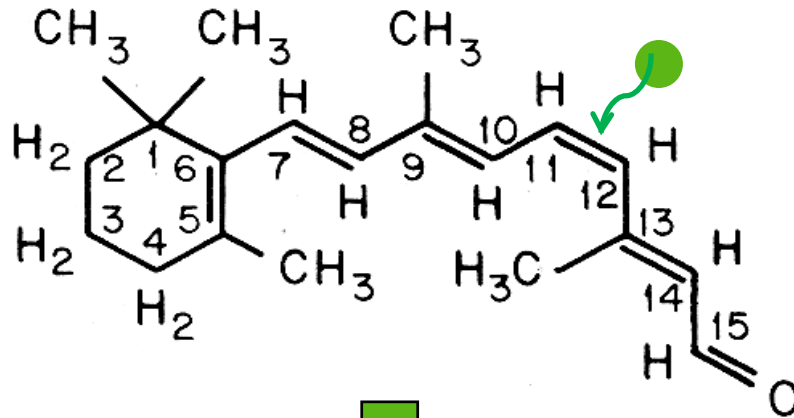


# Chromophore

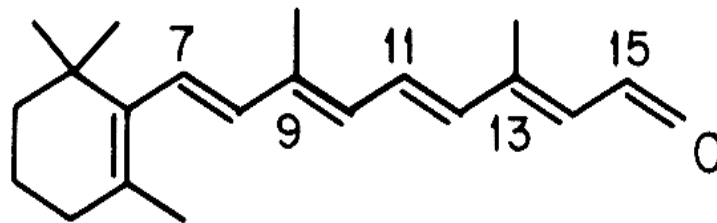
Crucially, the event is binary or “all or nothing”.

If a photon is absorbed it has the same effect as any other absorbed photon, whatever its wavelength.

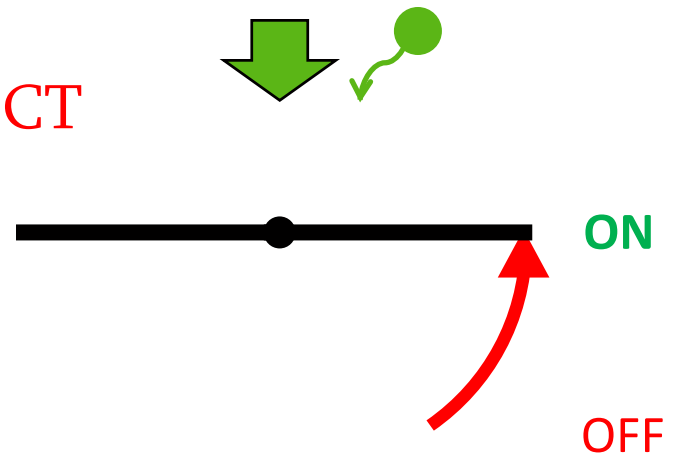
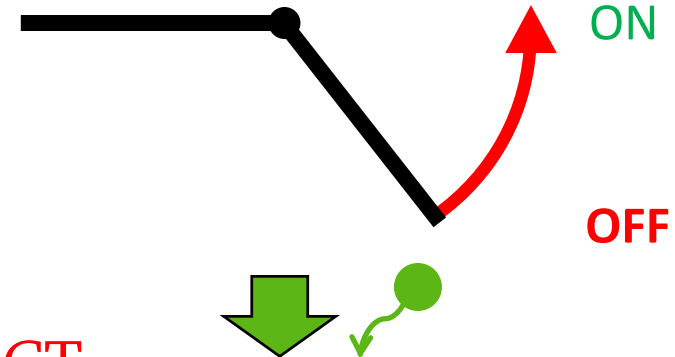
11-*cis* retinal



SAME EFFECT



all-*trans* retinal

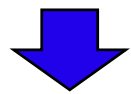
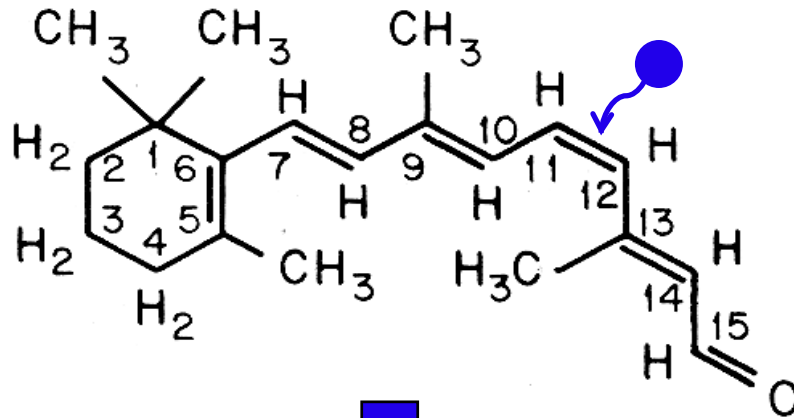


# Chromophore

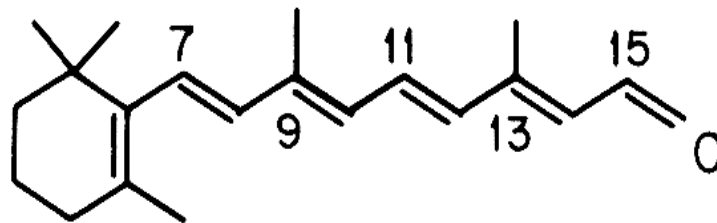
Crucially, the event is binary or “all or nothing”.

If a photon is absorbed it has the same effect as any other absorbed photon, whatever its wavelength.

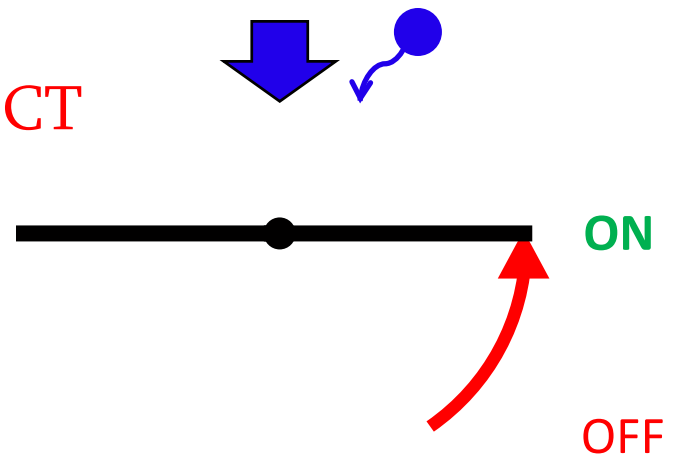
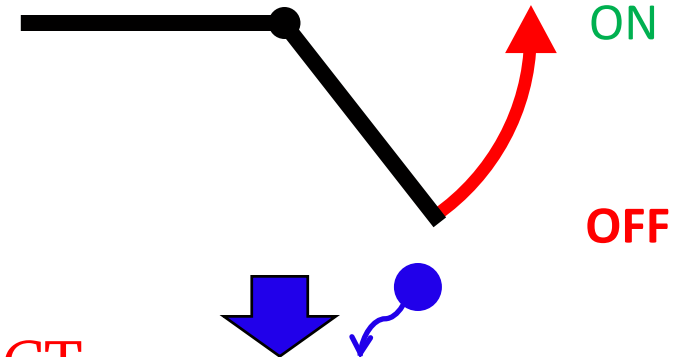
11-*cis* retinal



SAME EFFECT



all-*trans* retinal

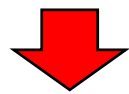
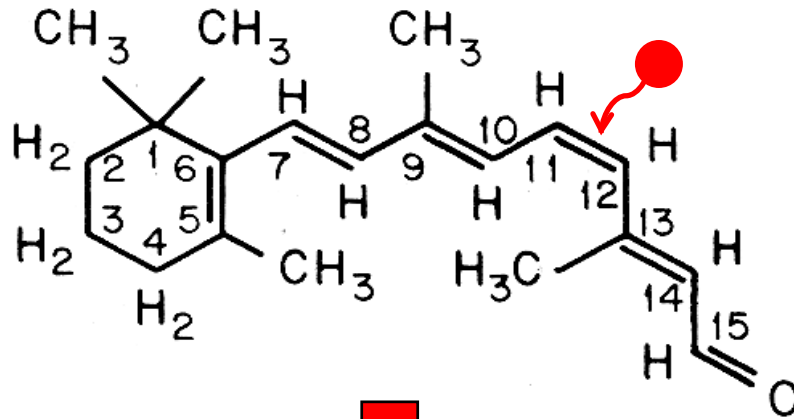


# Chromophore

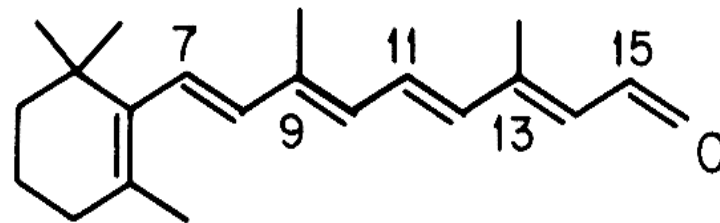
Crucially, the event is binary or “all or nothing”.

If a photon is absorbed it has the same effect as any other absorbed photon, whatever its wavelength.

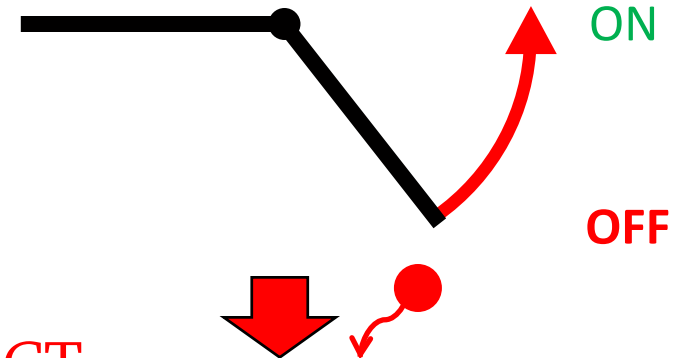
11-*cis* retinal



SAME EFFECT

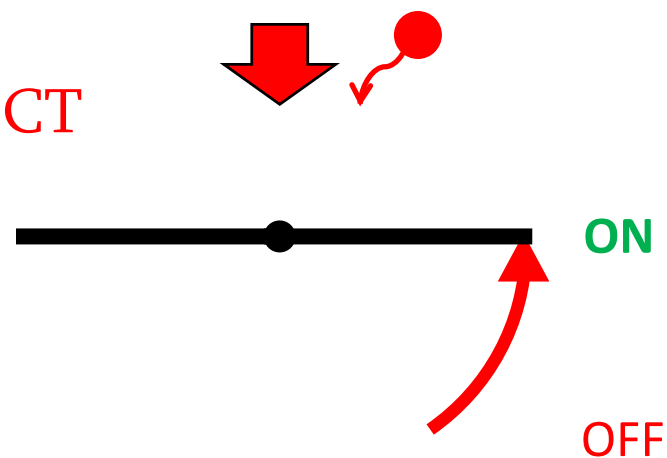


all-*trans* retinal



ON

OFF



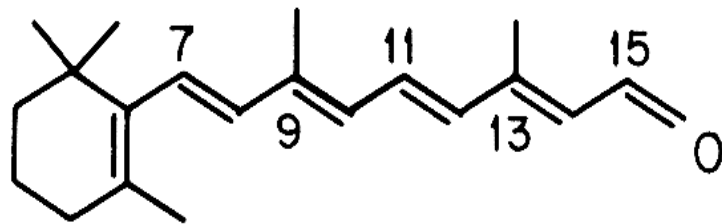
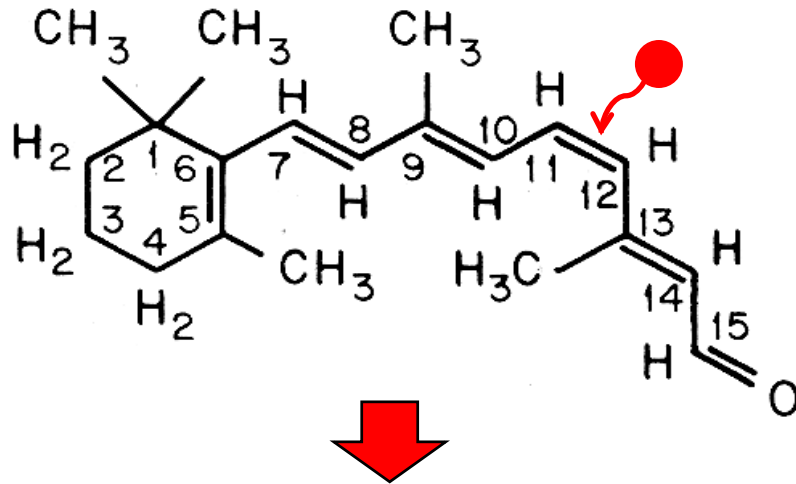
ON

OFF

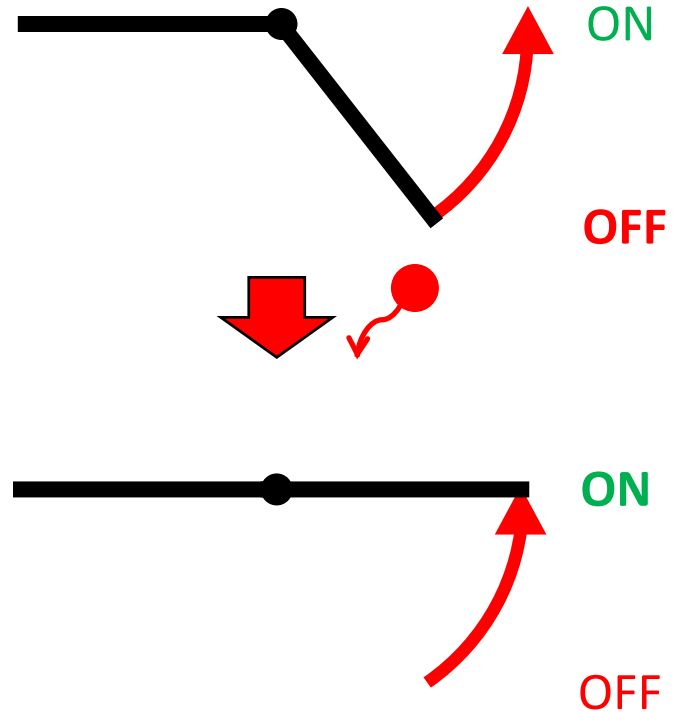
# Chromophore

Can this process encode wavelength (colour)?

11-*cis* retinal



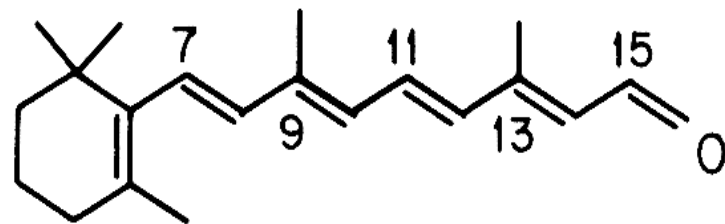
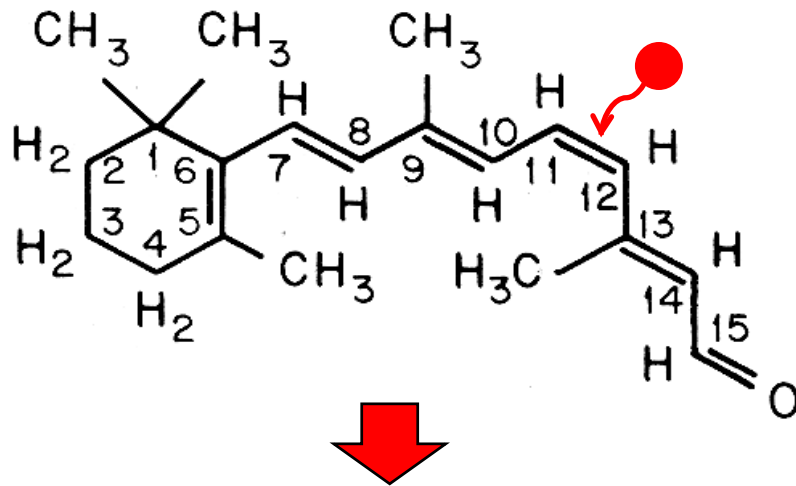
all-*trans* retinal



# Chromophore

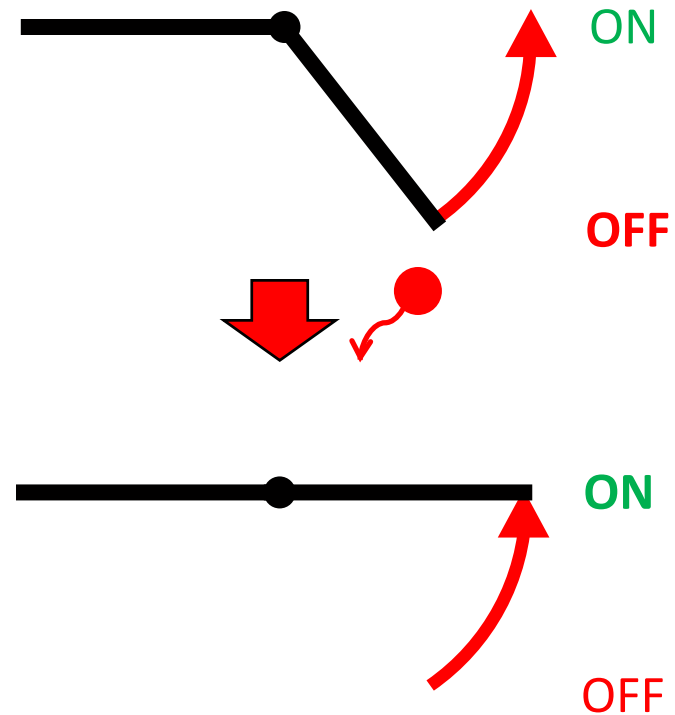
No, it cannot encode wavelength (colour)!

11-*cis* retinal



all-*trans* retinal

It is “UNIVARIANT”



Vision at the photoreceptor stage is relatively simple  
because the output of each photoreceptor is:

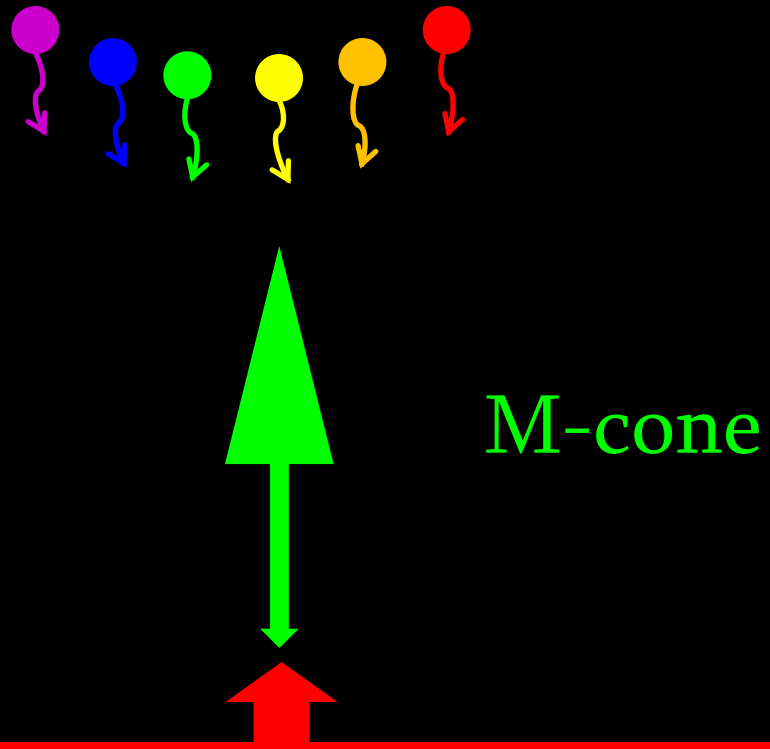
**“UNIVARIANT”**

What does univariance mean in practice?

Use Middle-wavelength-sensitive (M) cones as an example...

# UNIVARIANCE

Crucially, the effect of any absorbed photon is *independent* of its wavelength.

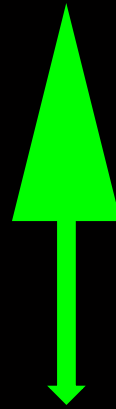
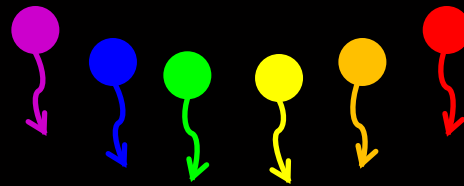


So, if you monitor the cone output, you can't tell which wavelength (energy) of photon has been absorbed.



# UNIVARIANCE

Crucially, the effect of any absorbed photon is *independent* of its wavelength.



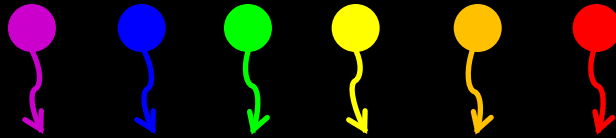
M-cone



All the photoreceptor effectively does is to count photons.

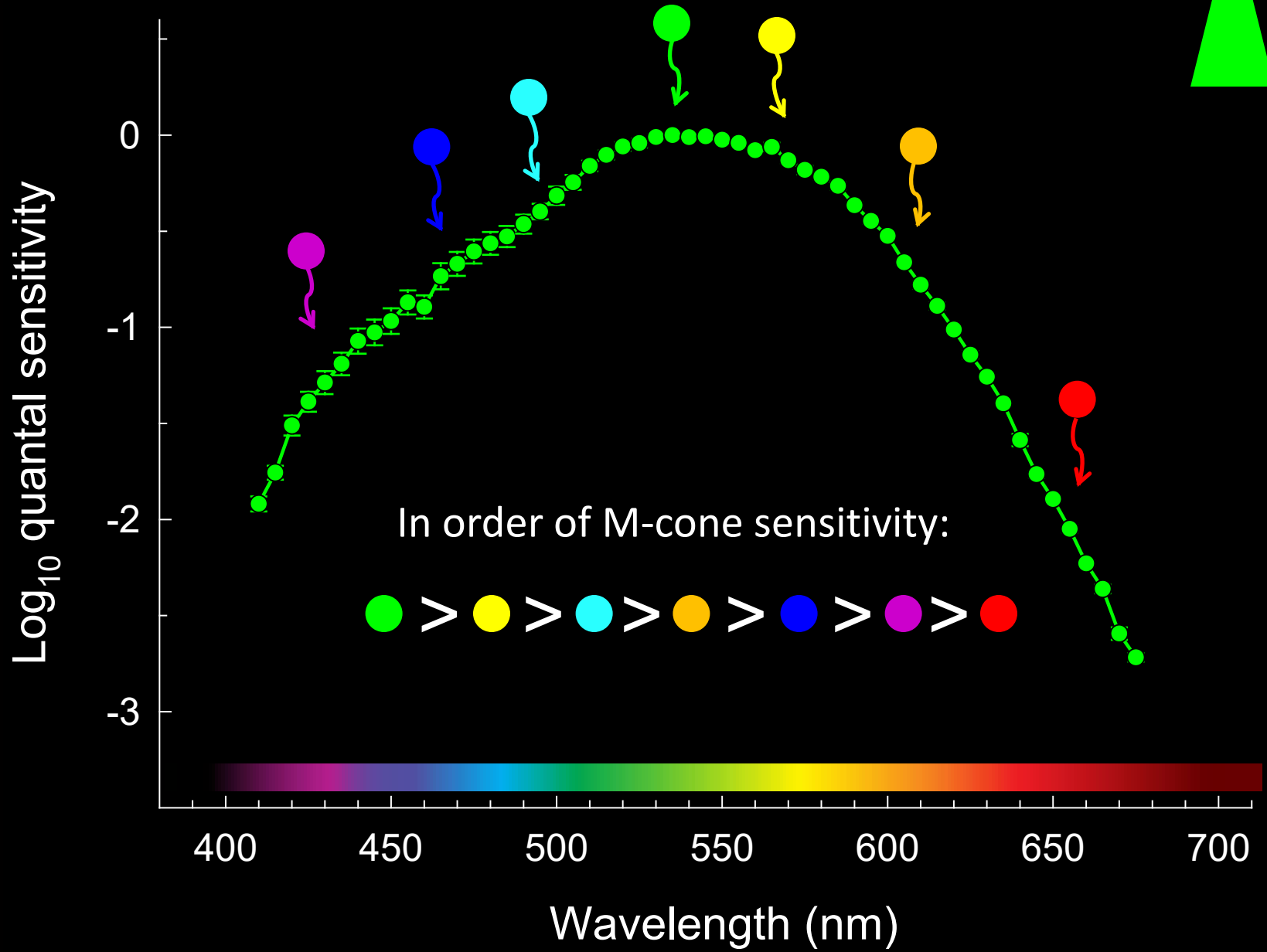
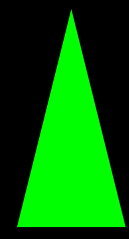
# UNIVARIANCE

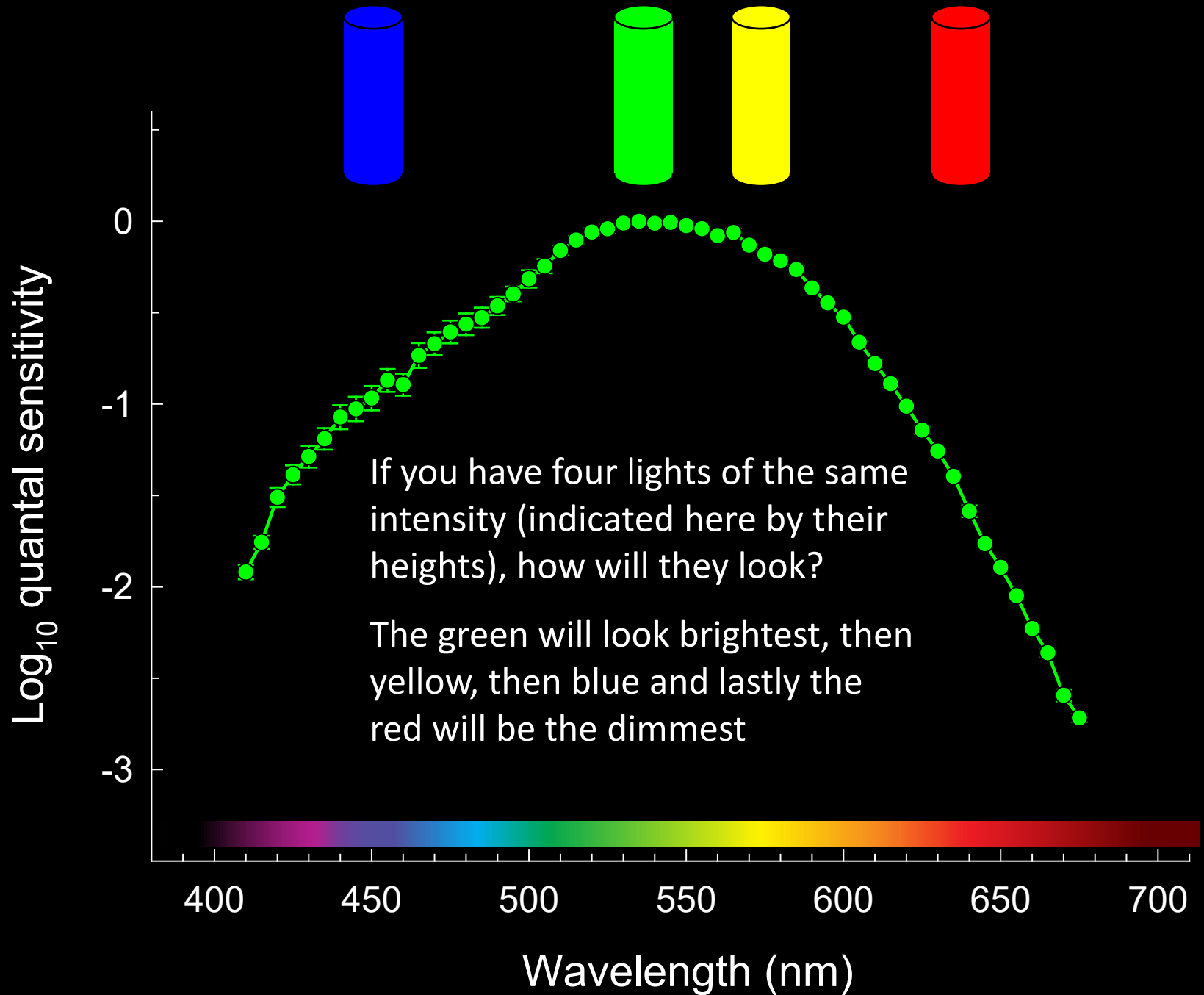
What does vary with wavelength is the **probability** that a photon will be absorbed.

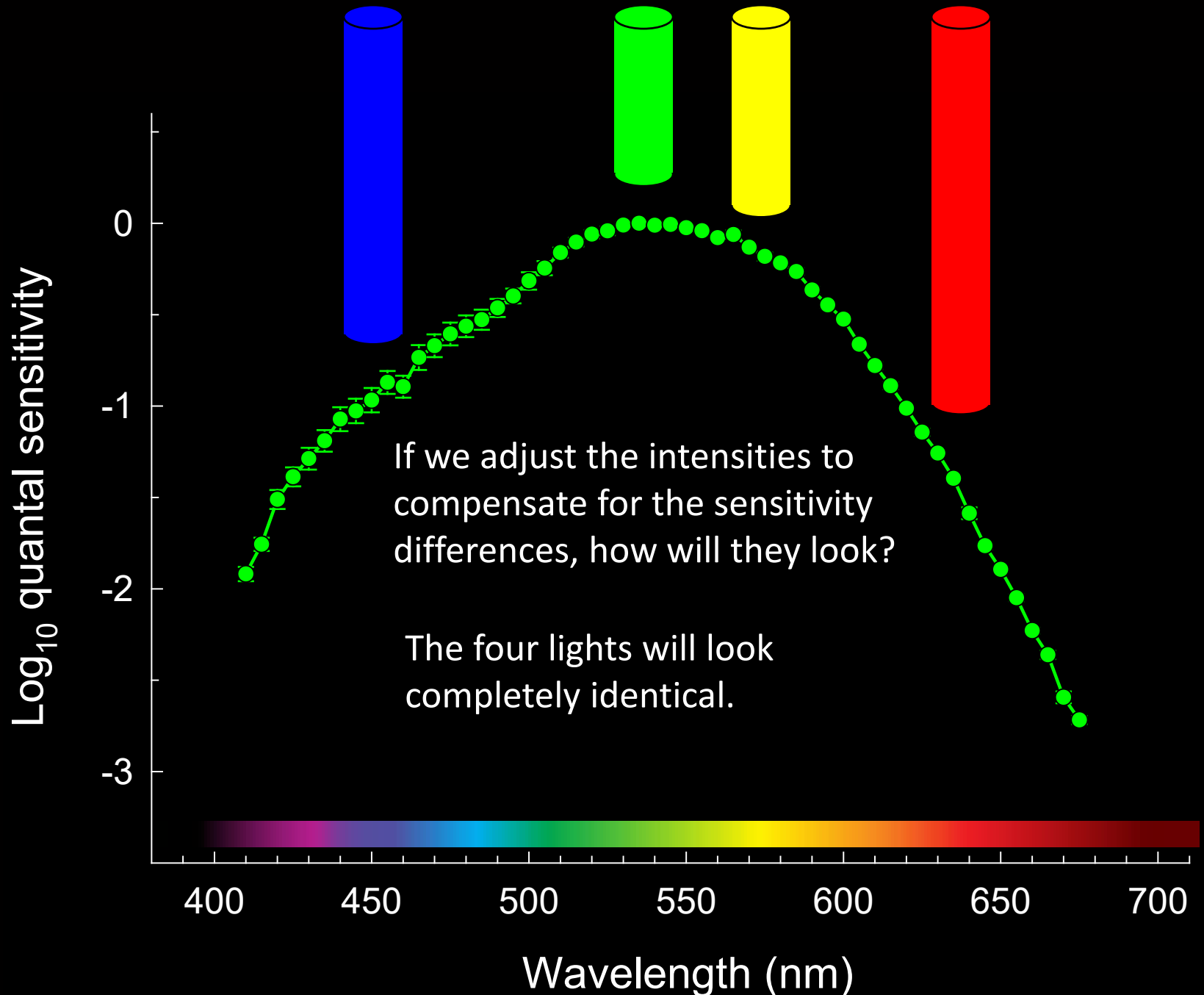


This is reflected in what is called a “spectral sensitivity function”.

Imagine the sensitivity to these photons...









M-cone

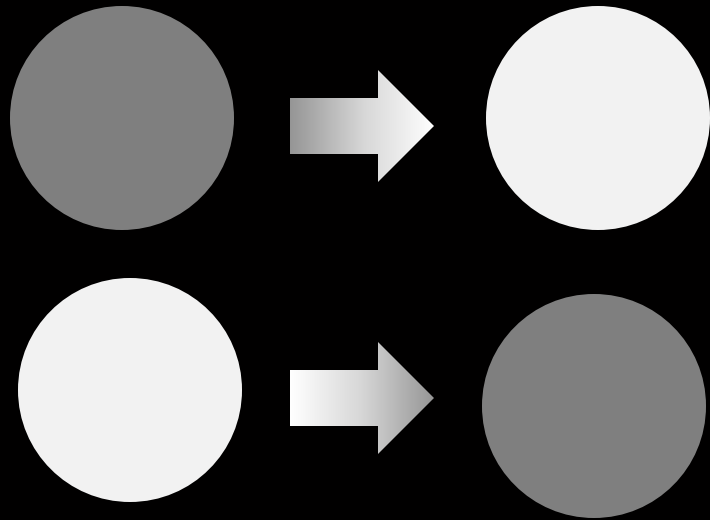
Changes in light intensity are confounded  
with changes in colour (wavelength)

Vision at the photoreceptor stage is relatively simple because the output of each photoreceptor is:

**UNIVARIANT**

# UNIVARIANCE

A change in photoreceptor output can be caused by a change in intensity or by a change in colour. There is no way of telling which.



Each photoreceptor is therefore 'colour blind', and is unable to distinguish between changes in colour and changes in intensity.



# Univariance

If a cone is  $n$  times less sensitive to light A than to light B, then if A is set to be  $n$  times brighter than B, the two lights will appear identical whatever their wavelengths.

If we had only one photoreceptor type  
in our eyes, what colours would we see?

If we had only one photoreceptor, we would be colour-blind...

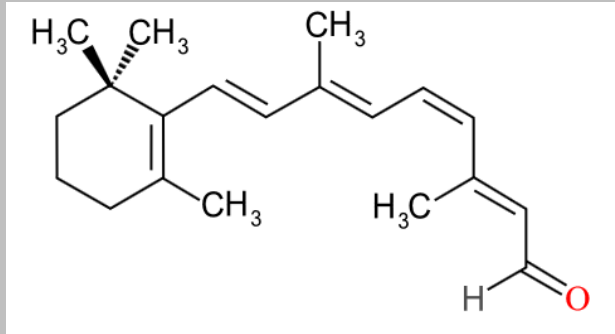


Examples: night vision, blue cone monochromats

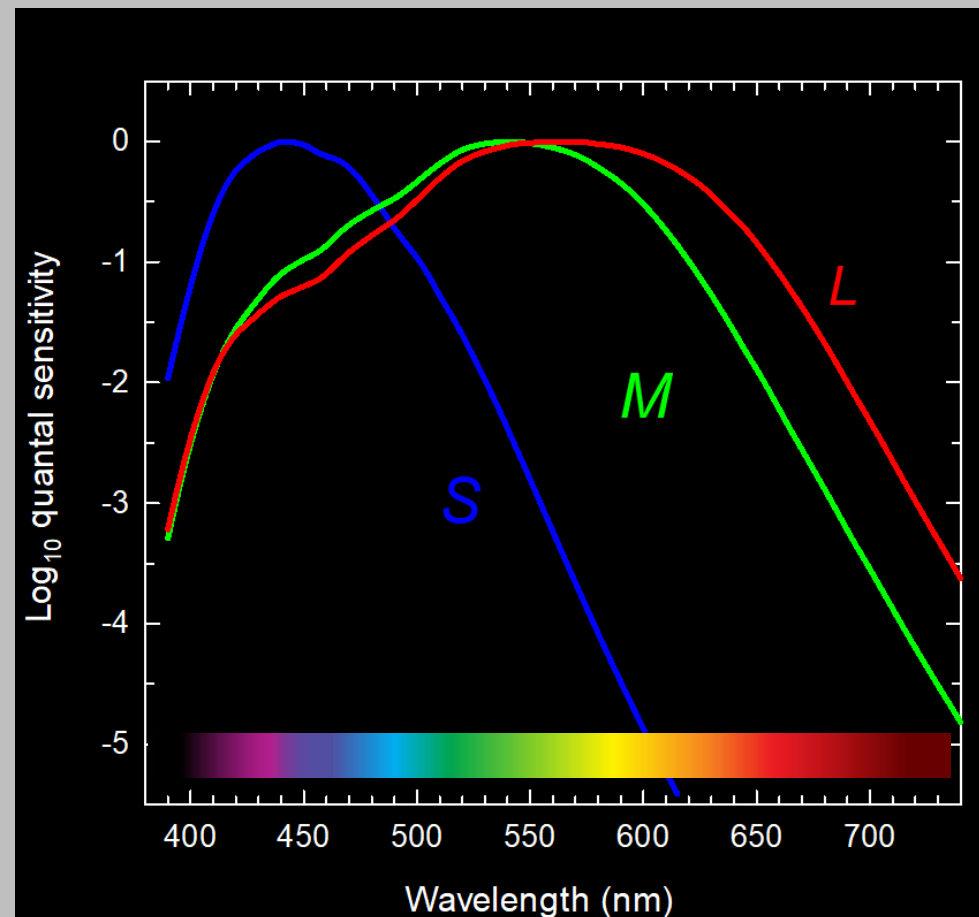
So, how do we see colours?

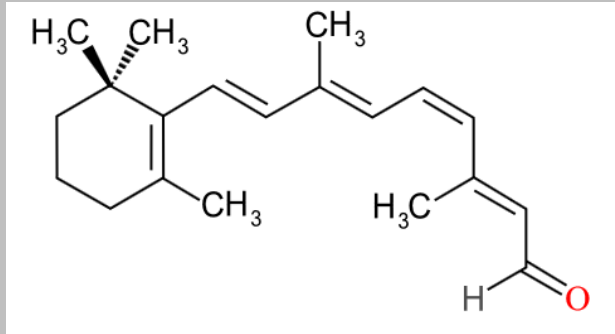
People with normal colour vision  
have three univariant cones with  
different spectral sensitivities...

# CONE SPECTRAL SENSITIVITY DIFFERENCES

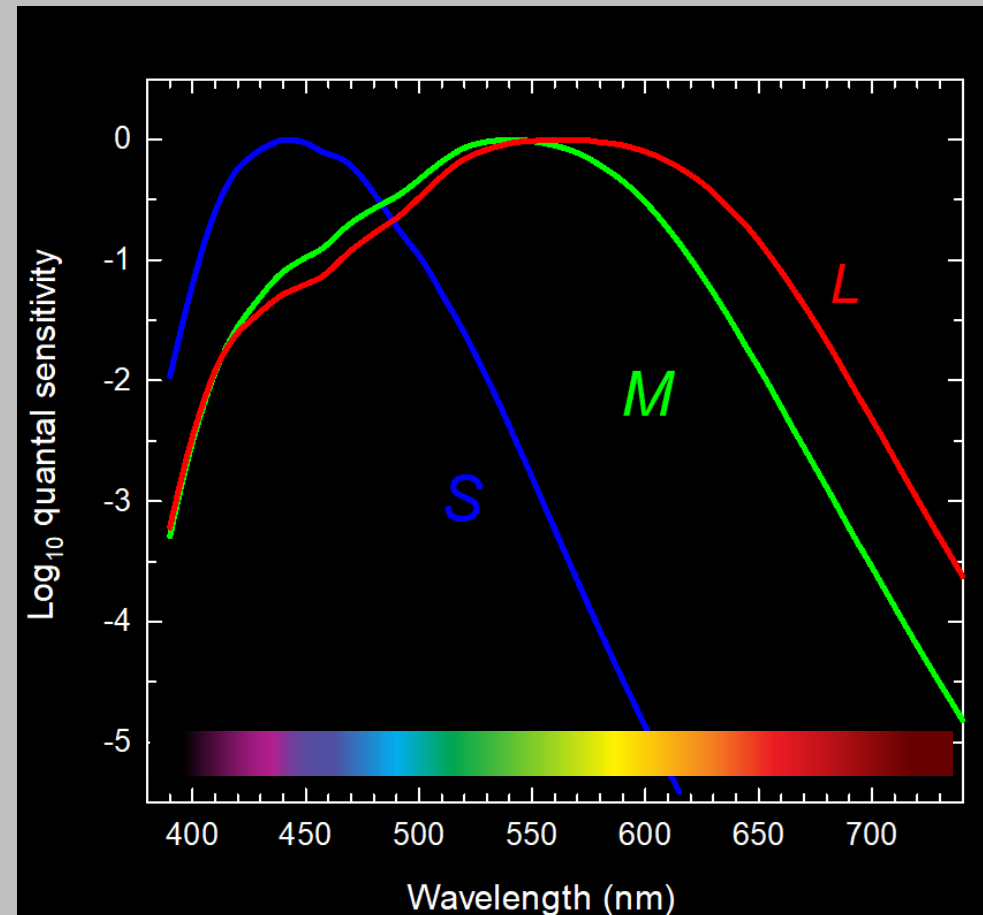
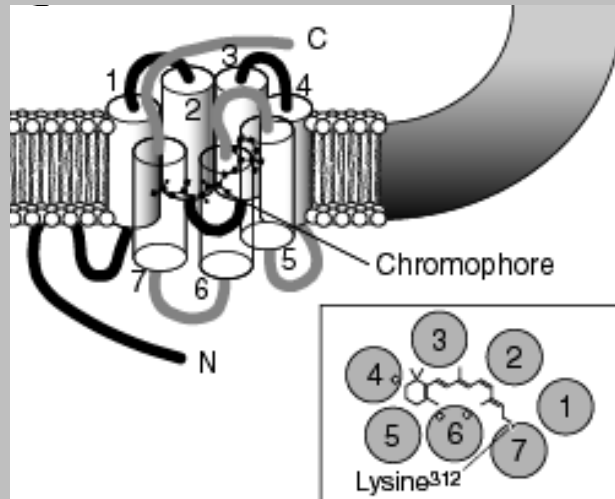


The three cones (and rods) have different spectral sensitivities, but they have the same chromophore (11-*cis*-retinal), so why are the spectral sensitivities different?





They are different because the amino acids in the opsin molecule surrounding the chromophore are different and change the initiation energy.





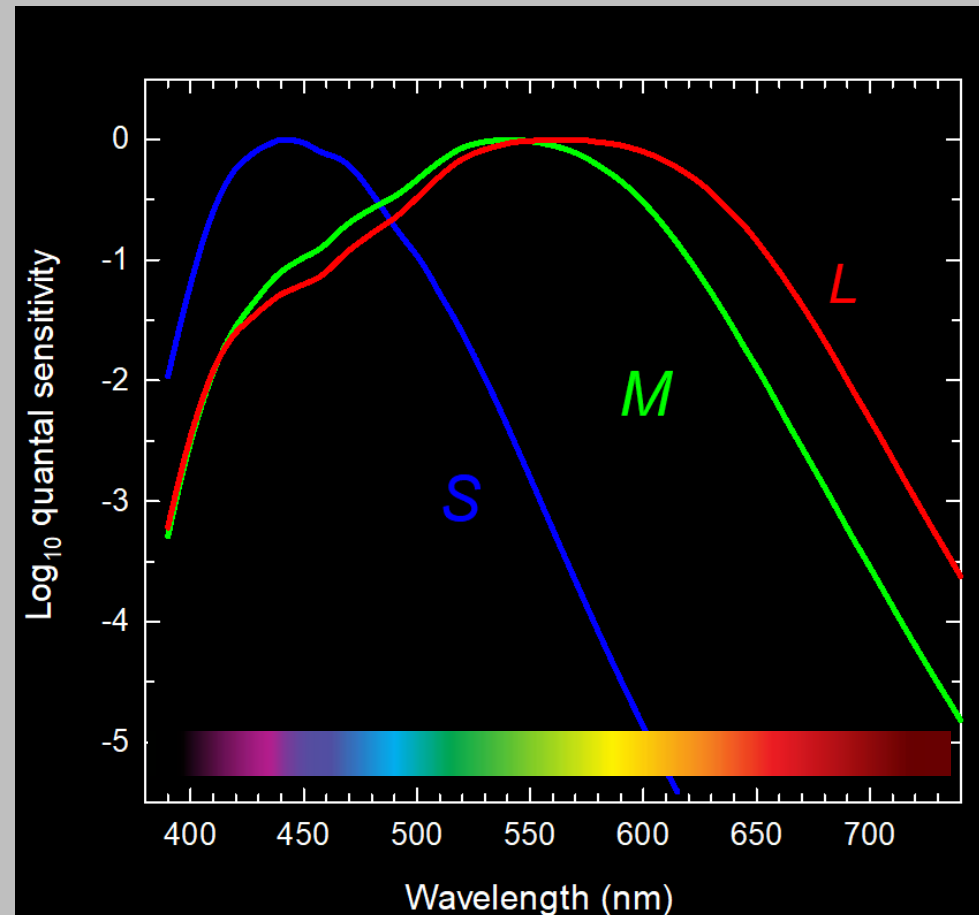
$$E = hc/\lambda$$

$$h = 6.62606957 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s}$$

$$c = 2.99792458 \times 10^8 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$$

We can calculate the initiation energy from the peaks of the spectral sensitivity functions (at the retina).

<b>S</b>	421 nm	$4.72 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$
<b>M</b>	530 nm	$3.75 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$
<b>L</b>	559 nm	$3.55 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$



The spectral sensitivity differences between the M- and L-cone, for example, are due to three amino acid substitutions.

Amino acid position

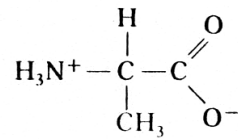
M-cone

L-cone

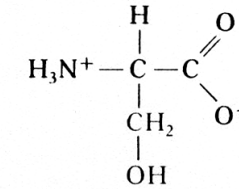
alanine

serine<sup>OH</sup>

180



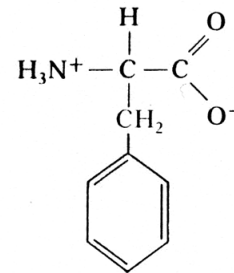
+4 nm



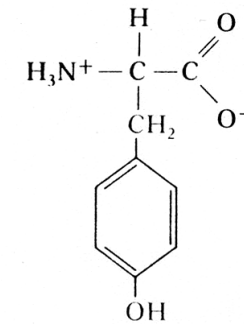
phenylalanine

tyrosine<sup>OH</sup>

277



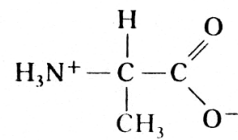
+7 nm



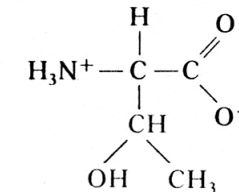
alanine

threonine<sup>OH</sup>

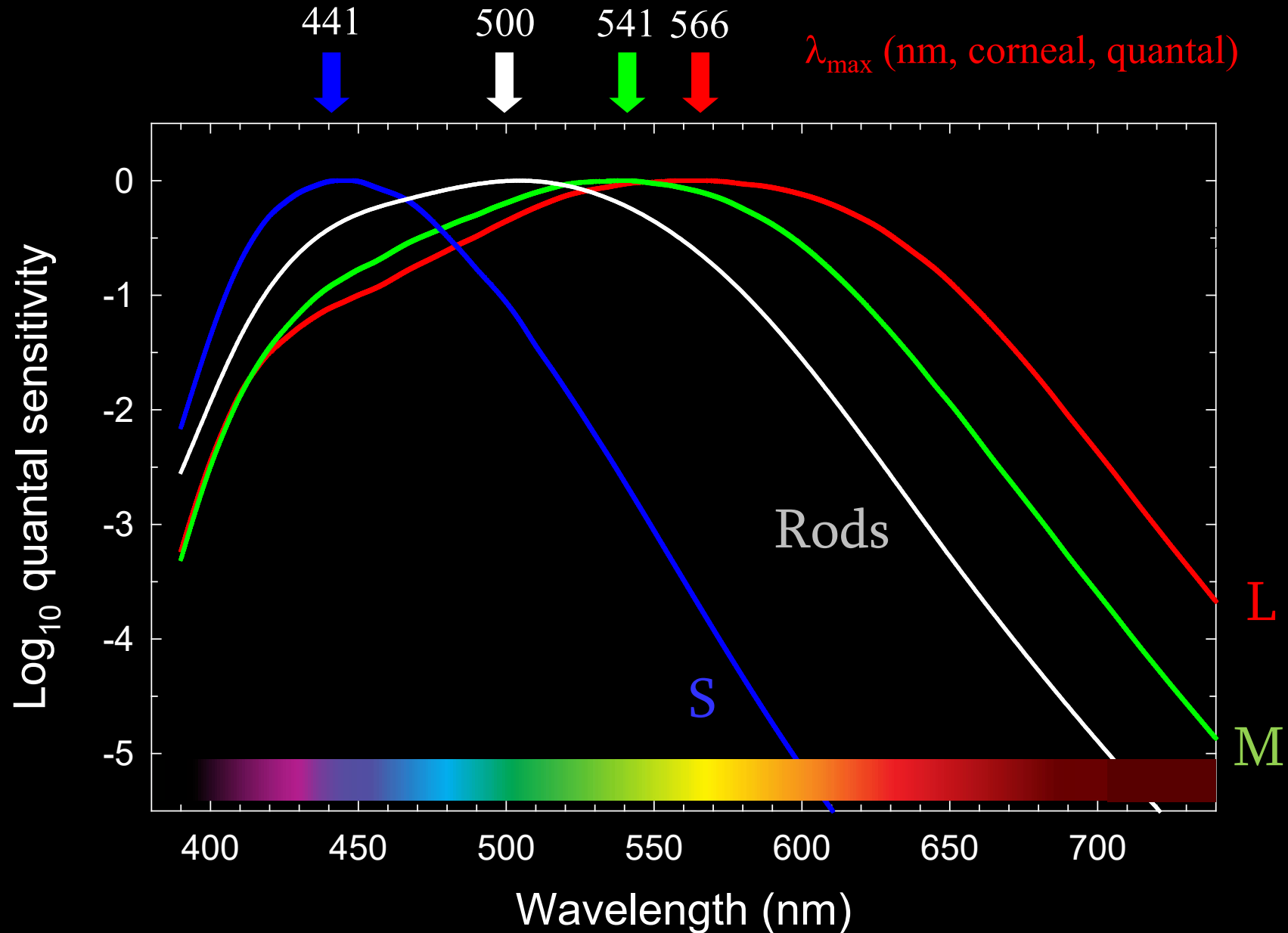
285



+14 nm



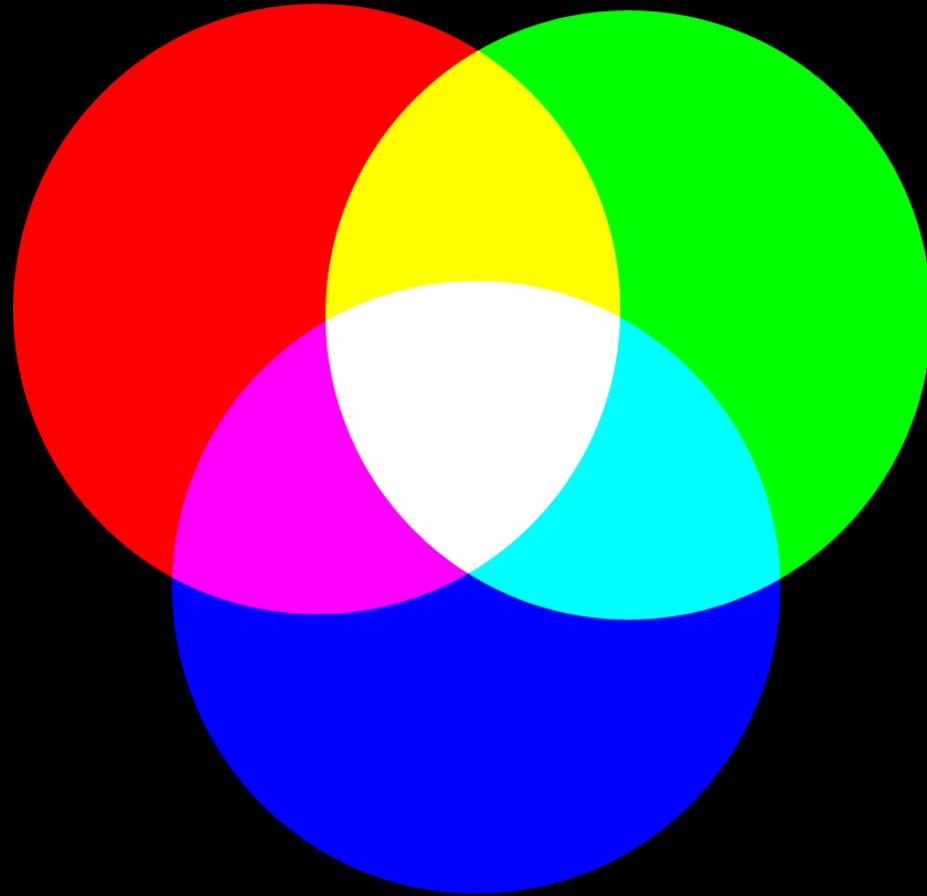
# Four human photoreceptors have different spectral sensitivities



With three cone types with different spectral sensitivities colour vision is three dimensional or:

**TRICHROMATIC**

Trichromacy means  
that colour vision is  
relatively simple.



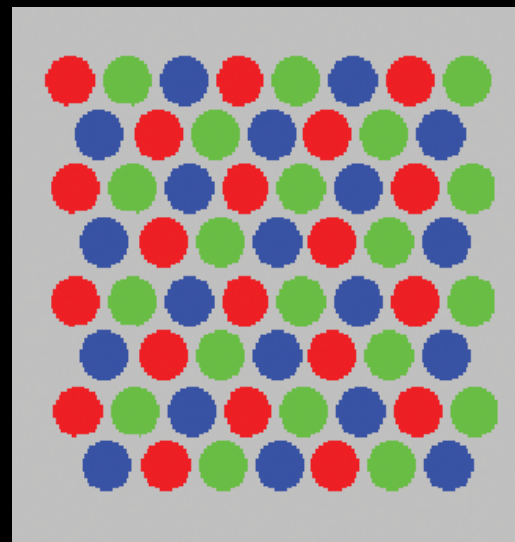
It is a 3 variable system...

# Colour TV

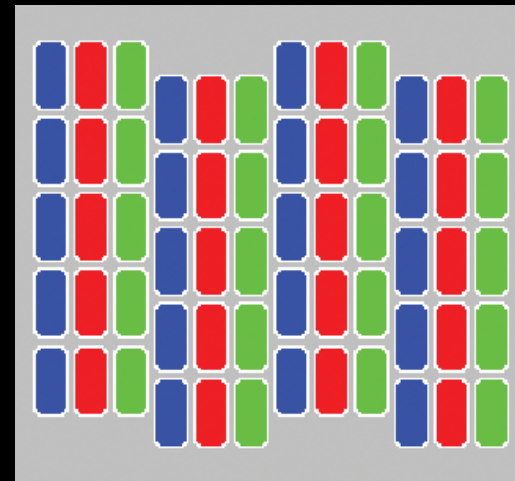
Trichromacy is exploited in colour reproduction, since the myriad of colours perceived can be produced by mixing together small dots of three colours.

If you look closely at a colour television (or this projector output)...

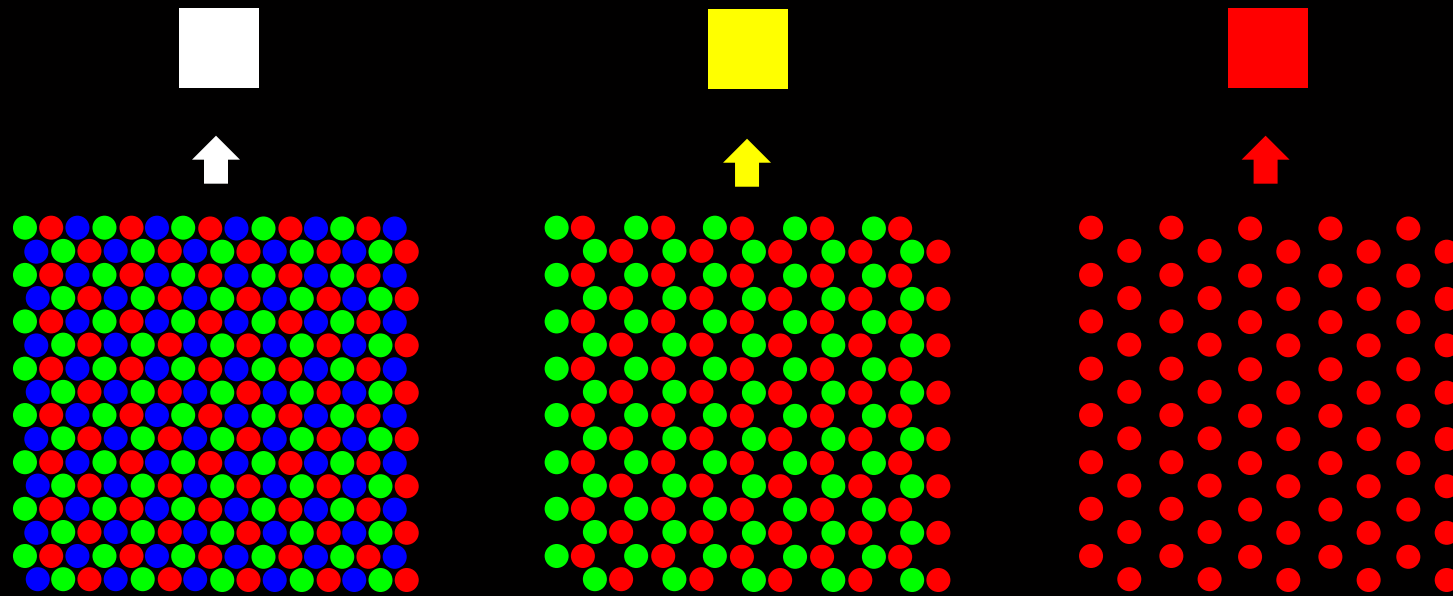
*3-coloured dots*



*3-coloured bars*



The dots produced by a TV or projector are so small that they are mixed together by the eye and thus appear as uniform patches of colour

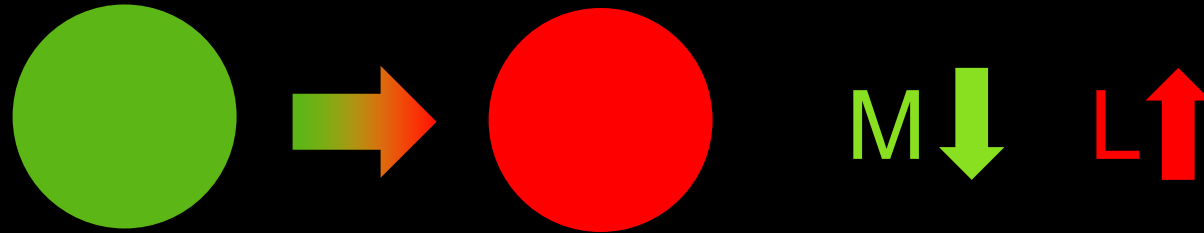


How is colour encoded?

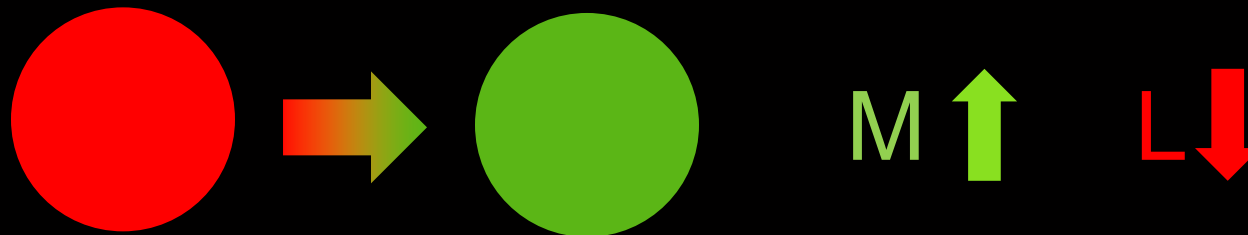


# TRICHROMACY

A change in colour from green to red causes a relative increase in the L-cone output but causes a decrease in the M-cone output.

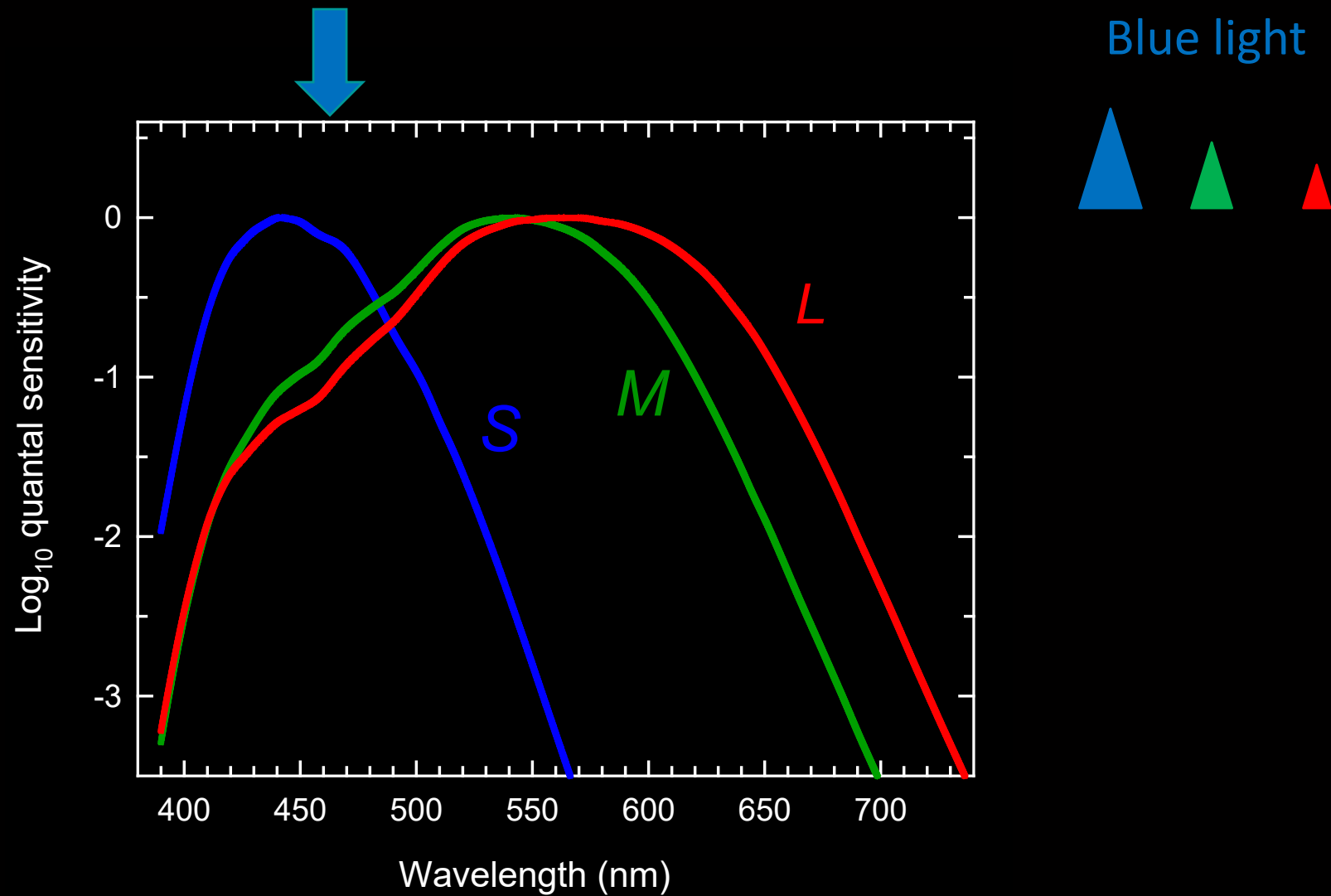


A change in colour from red to green causes a relative increase in the M-cone output but causes a decrease in the L-cone output.

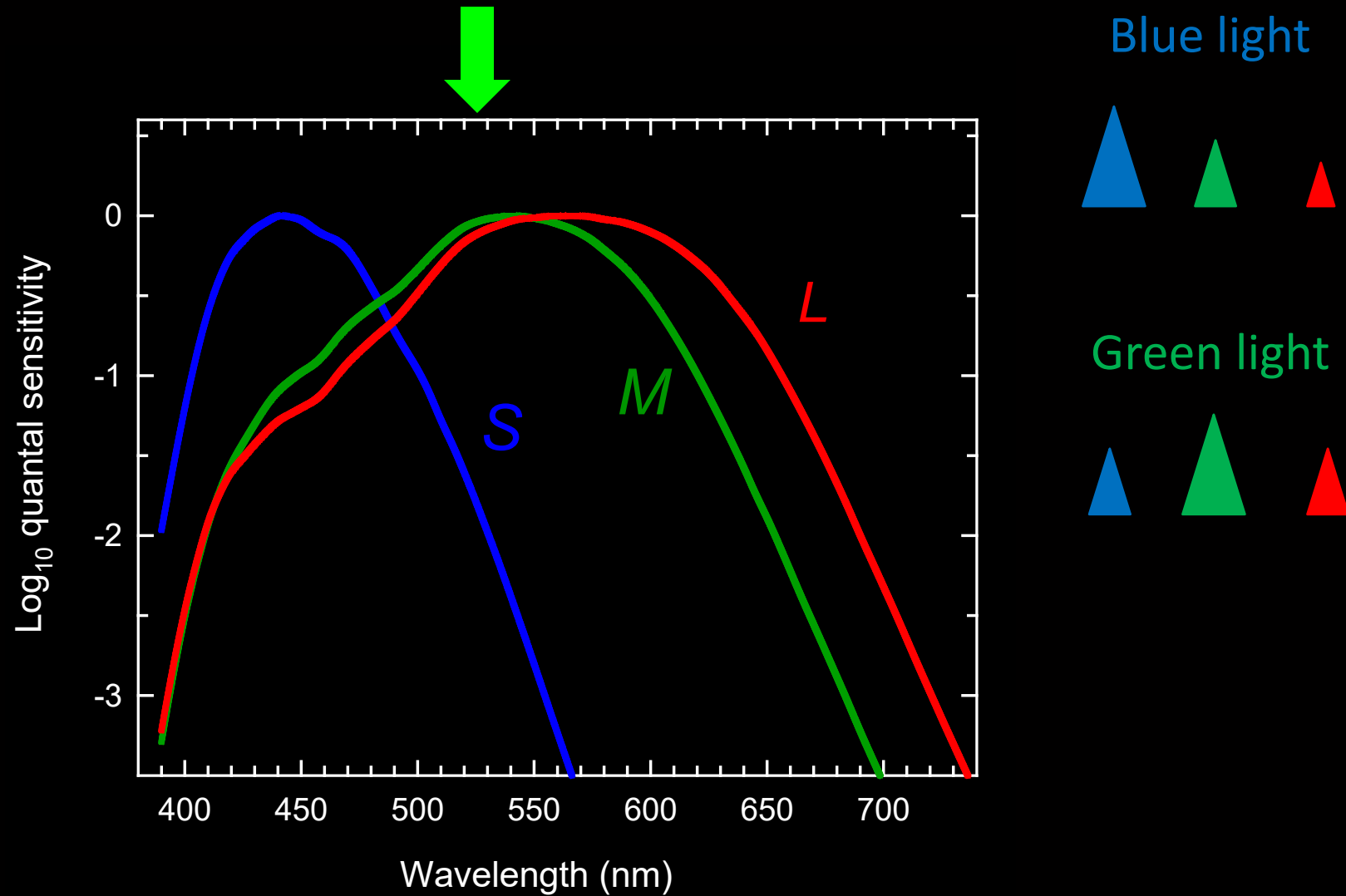


Thus, colour can be encoded by *comparing*  
the outputs of different cone types...

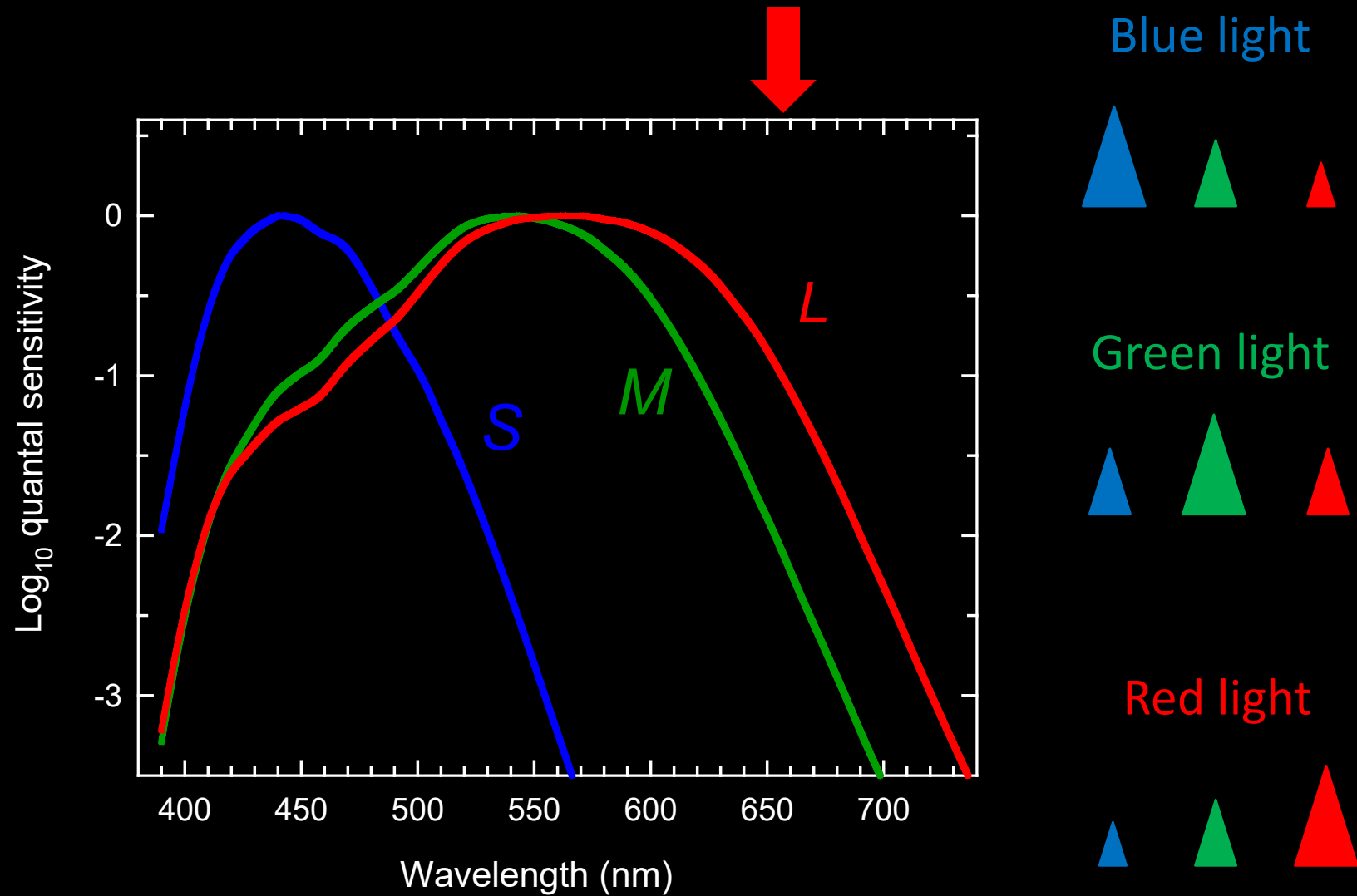
# Colour is encoded by the relative cone outputs



# Colour is encoded by the relative cone outputs



# Colour is encoded by the relative cone outputs



# Colour is encoded by the relative cone outputs

Blue light



Red light



Green light



Purple light



Yellow light



White light



# COLOUR VISION DEFICIENCIES

Not everybody has the same colour vision...

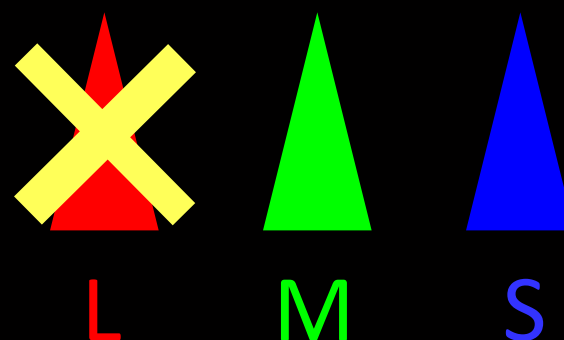
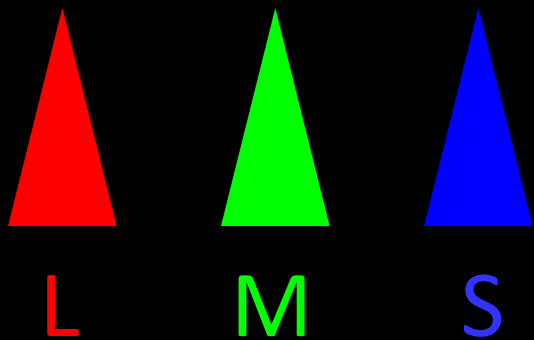
A common form of colour deficiency is red-green colour deficiency.

Two examples are:

Normal



Protanope



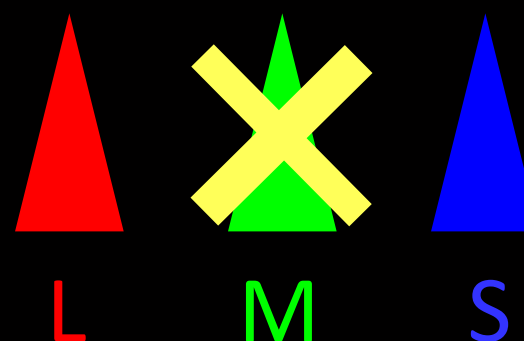
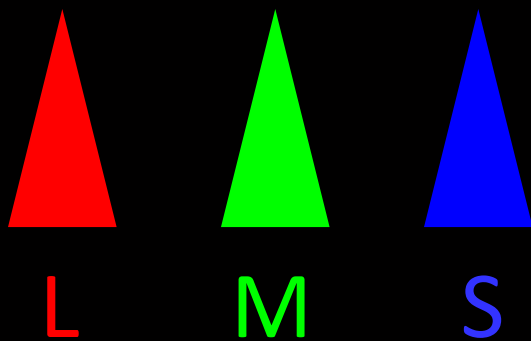
Protanopia



Normal



Deuteranope



Deuteranopia

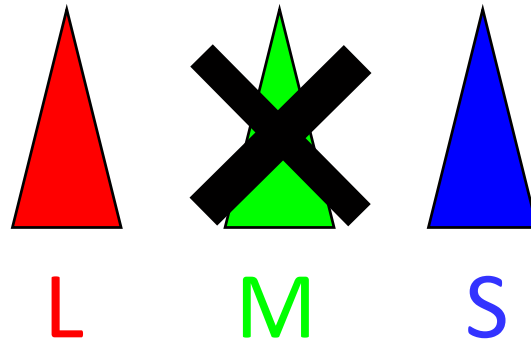
## Deuteranope



Credit: Euro  
Puppy Blog



Dogs are dichromats with only two  
cones peaking at 429 and 555 nm

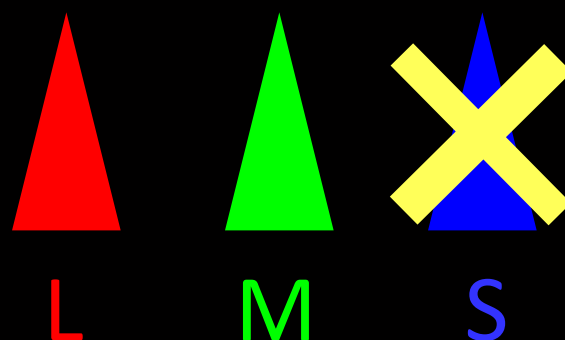
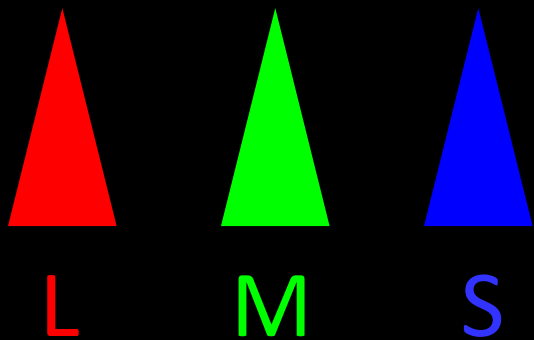




Normal



Tritanope



Tritanopia

Main types of colour vision defects with approximate proportions of appearance in the population.

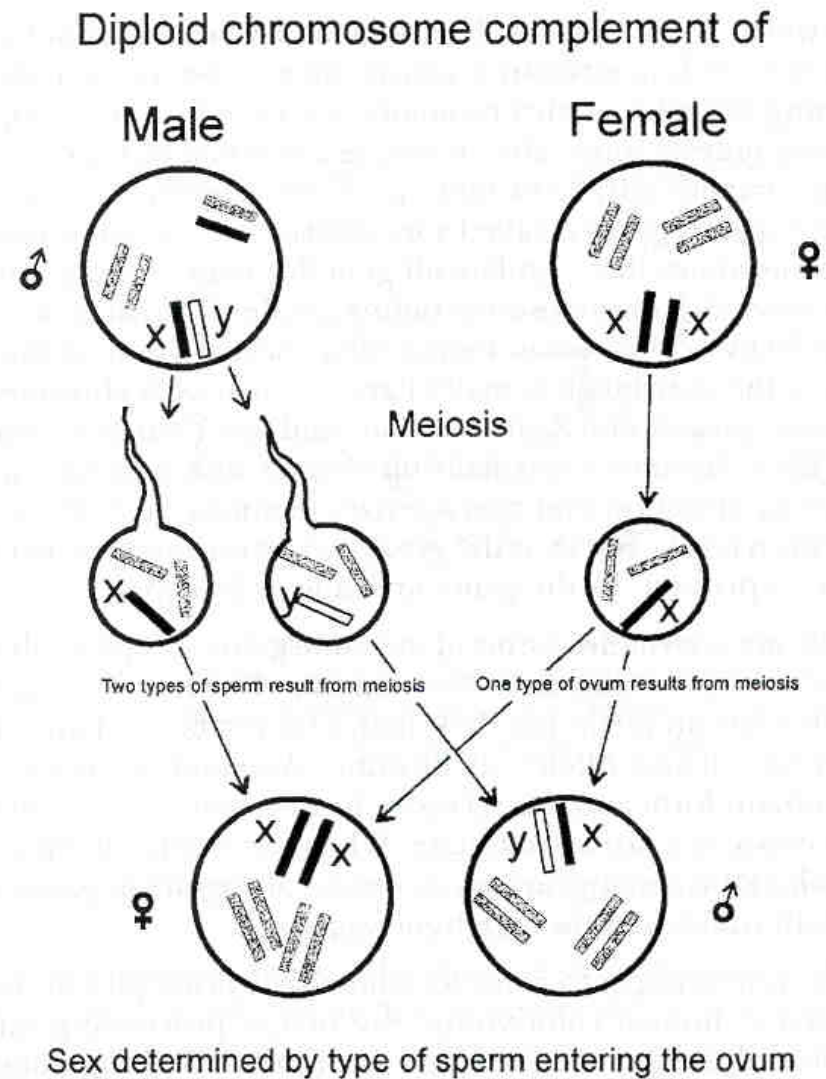
---

		percent in UK	
Condition		Male	Female
Protanopia	no L cone	1.0	0.02
Protanomaly	milder form	1.0	0.03
Deuteranopia	no M cone	1.5	0.01
Deuteranomaly	milder form	5.0	0.4
Tritanopia	no SWS cone	0.008	0.008

---

Why is there this pattern of inheritance?

# XY inheritance



**Figure 10.17** Prior to fertilization, meiotic division of germ cells results in two types of sperm, but only one type of ovum. Depending on which sperm is effective, the fertilized ovum will have two X cells and be female, or one X and one Y cell and be male. This diagram show why the X cell of the male offspring can come only from the mother. (From Watson, 1976, p. 14.)

# COLOUR VISION AND MOLECULAR GENETICS

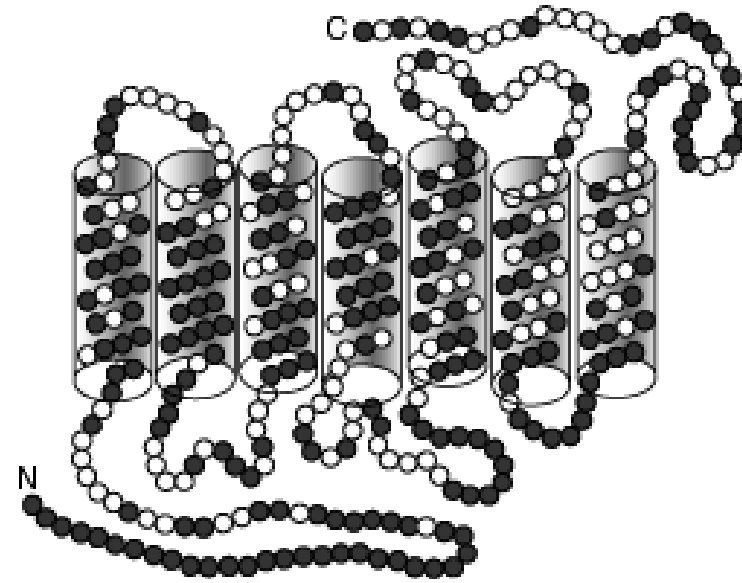
(Origins of red-green colour  
deficiencies)

# Amino acid differences between photopigment opsins

Why are the M- and L-cone opsins so similar?

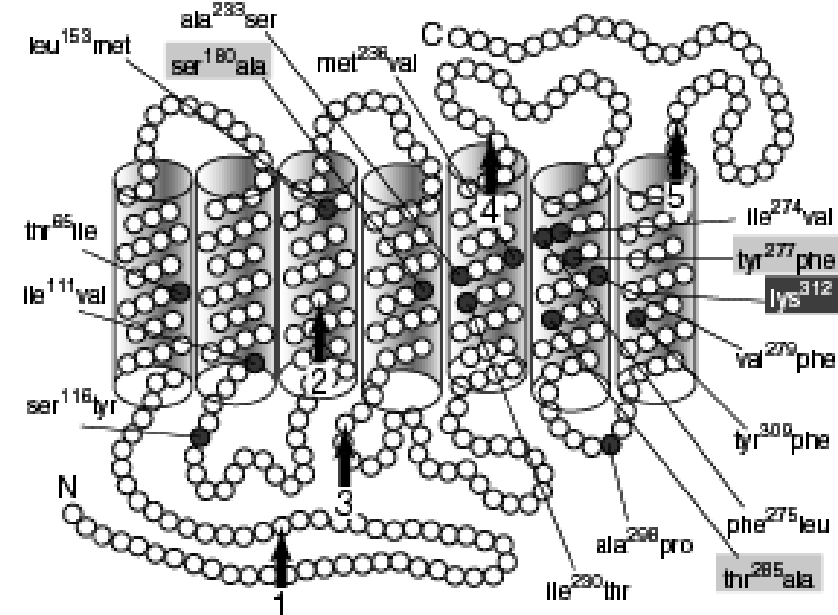
**A**

M- vs S-cone pigment

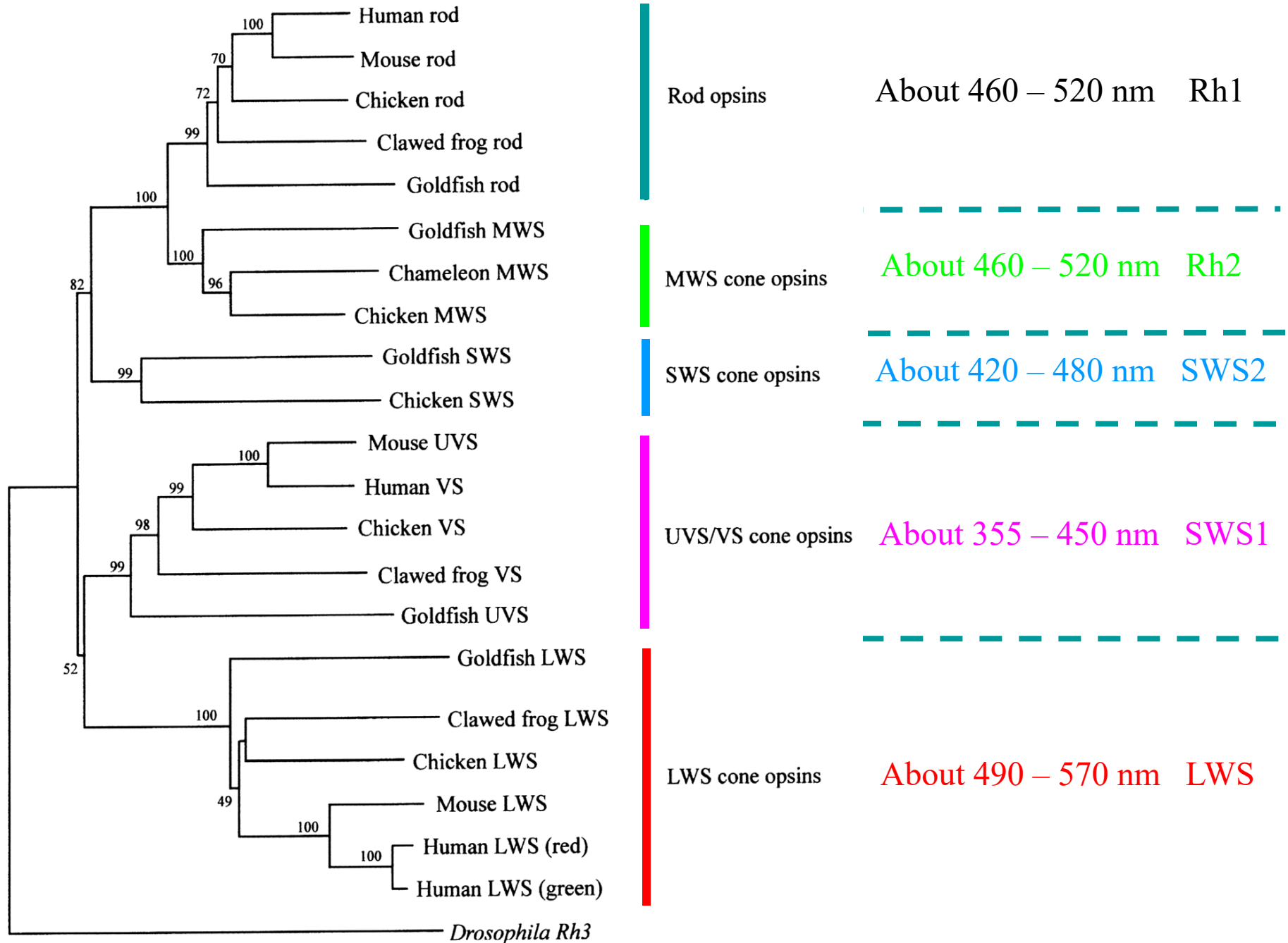


**B**

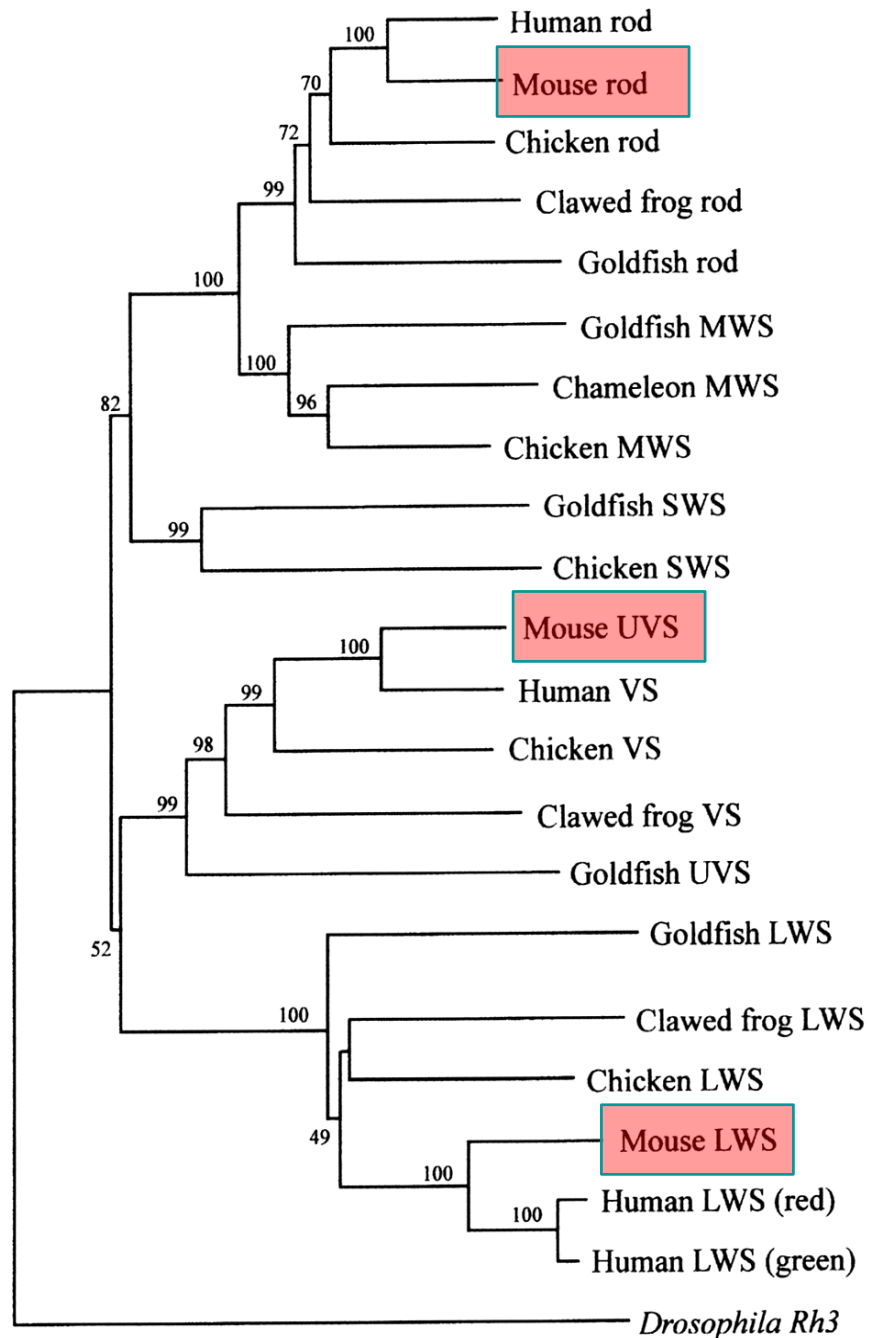
L- vs M-cone pigment



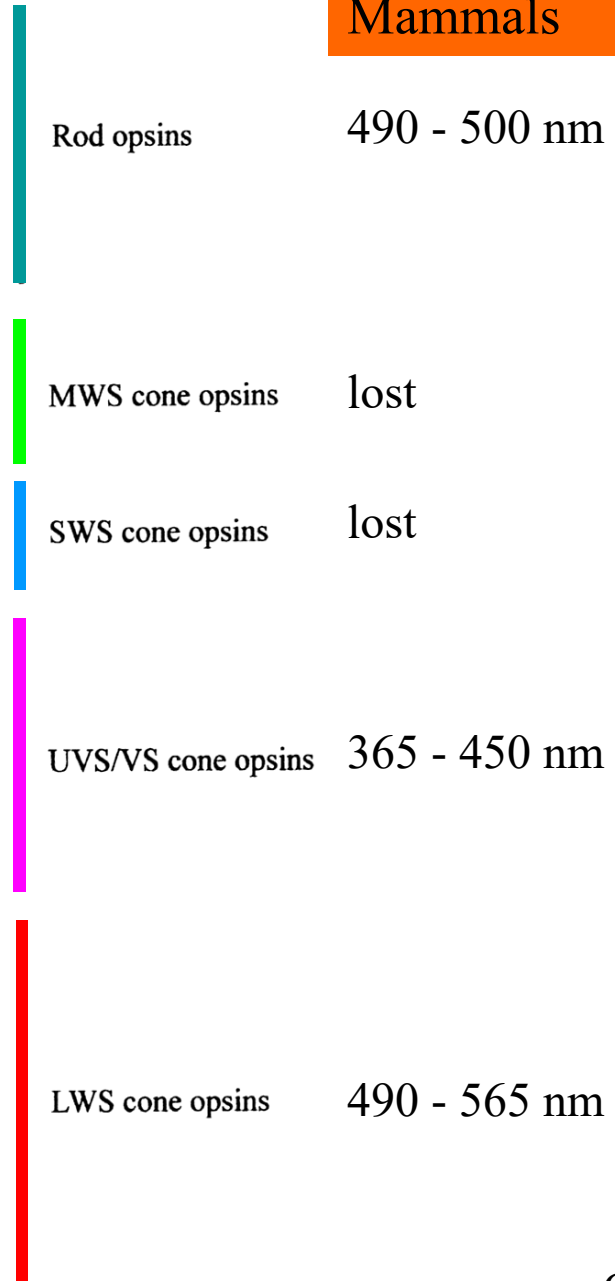
# Phylogenetic tree of visual pigments



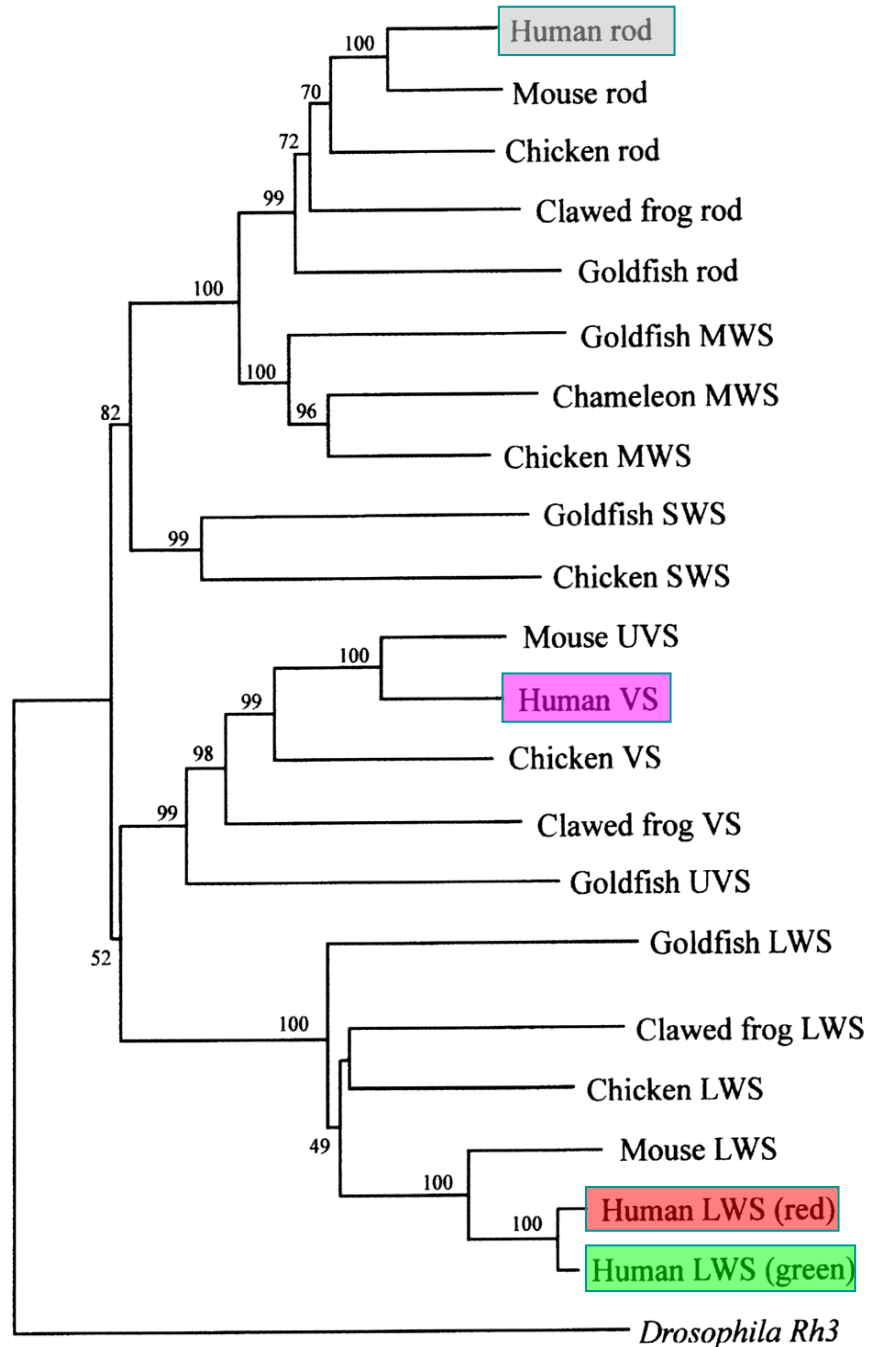




**Mammals**



Basis for dichromatic colour vision



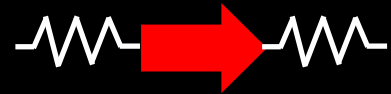
**Humans**

Rod opsins	490 - 500 nm
MWS cone opsins	lost
SWS cone opsins	lost
UVS/VS cone opsins	365 - 450 nm
LWS cone opsins	<p><b>Gene duplication</b></p>

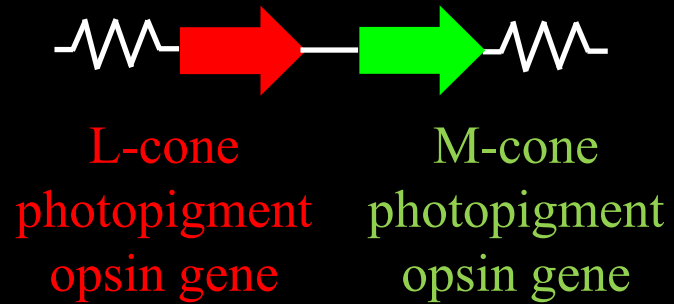
Basis for trichromatic colour vision

Credit: Bowmaker

# Gene duplication on the X-chromosome

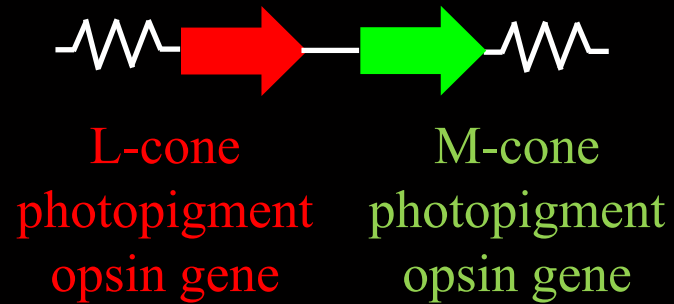


Mammal



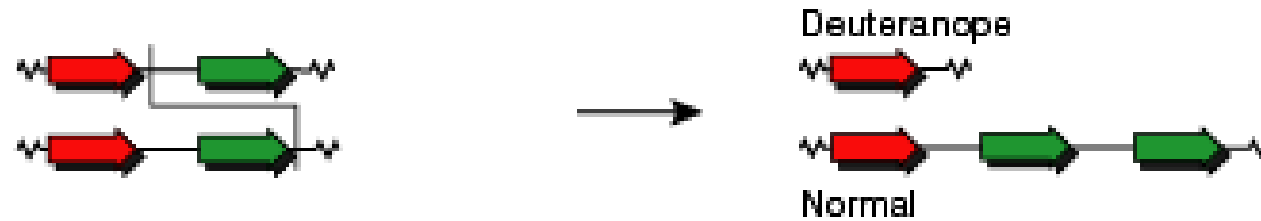
Human/ Old world primate

Because these two genes are in a tandem array, and are very similar...



# Crossovers during meiosis are common:

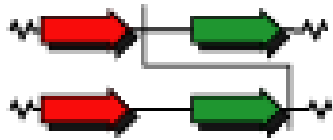
## Intergenic crossover



Intergenic crossovers produce more or less L and M-cone genes on each X chromosome

# Intragenic crossovers produce hybrid or mixed L and M-cone genes

Intergenic crossover

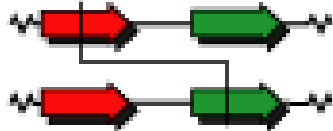


Deuteranope



Normal

Intragenic crossover

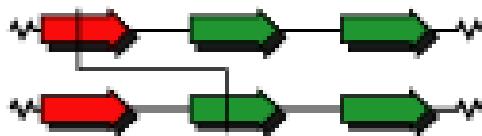


Protanope



Deuteranope or  
Deuteranomalous trichromat

Intragenic crossover



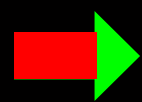
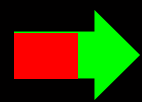
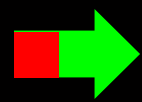
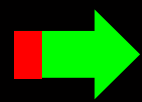
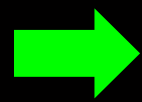
Protanope or  
Protanomalous trichromat



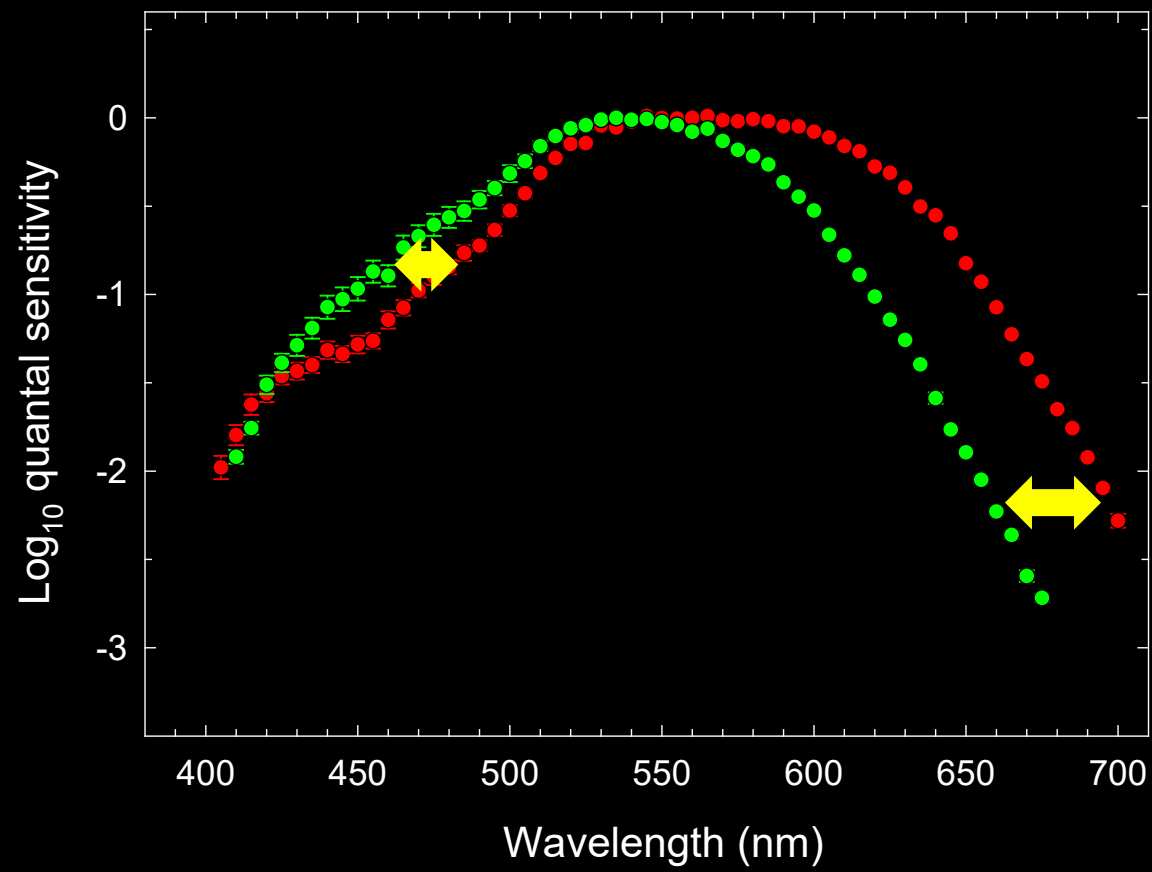
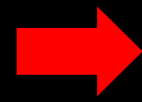
Deuteranope or  
Deuteranomalous trichromat

Hybrid (mixed)  
L/M genes

M

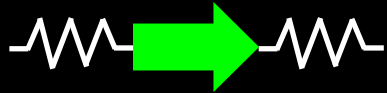


L

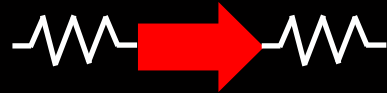
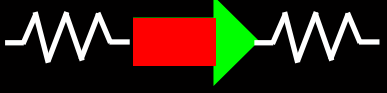
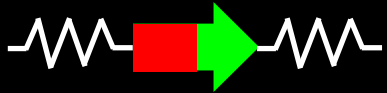
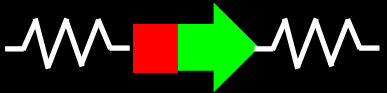
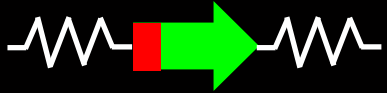


The spectral sensitivities of the hybrid photopigments vary between those of the M- and L-cones depending on where the crossover occurs.

# Single-gene dichromats



Protanope

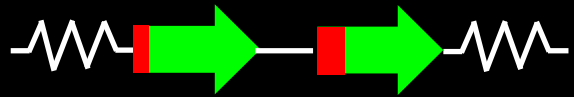


Deuteranope

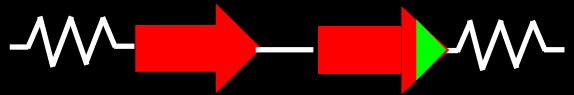
With a single gene male observers must be dichromats



# Multiple-gene dichromats

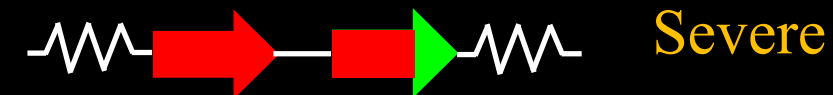
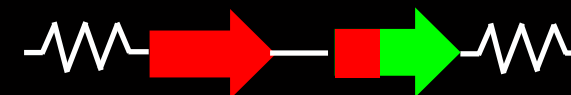
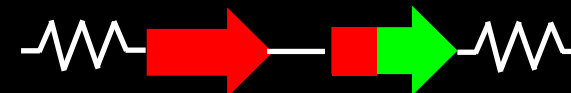
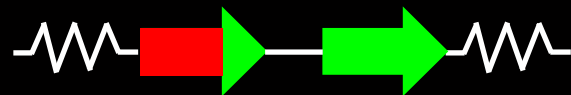
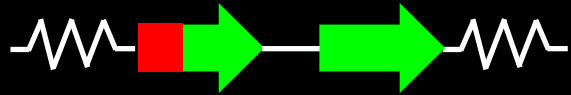
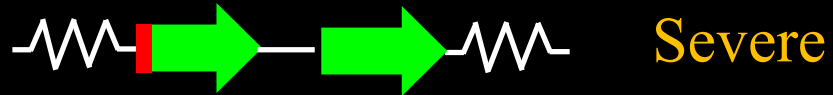


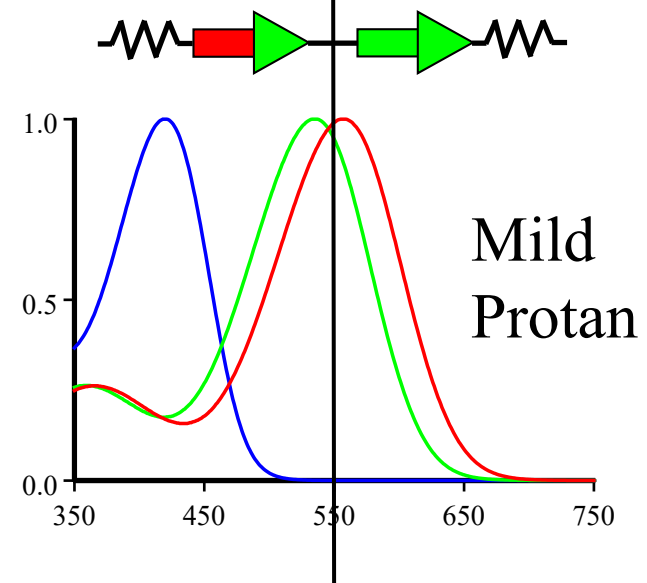
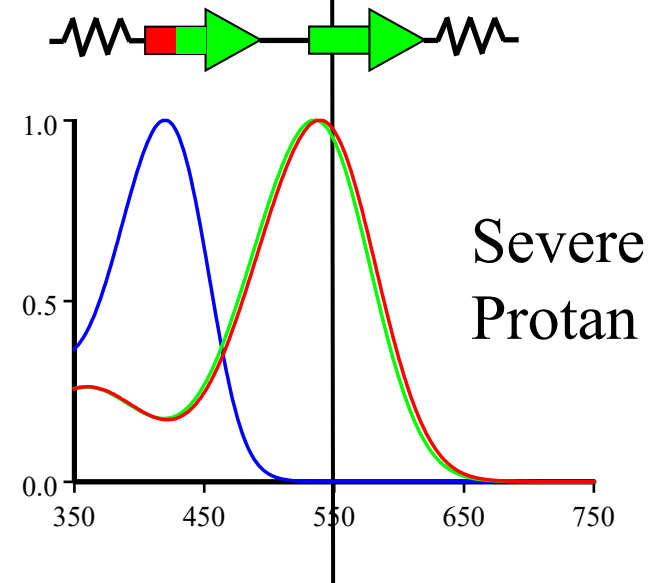
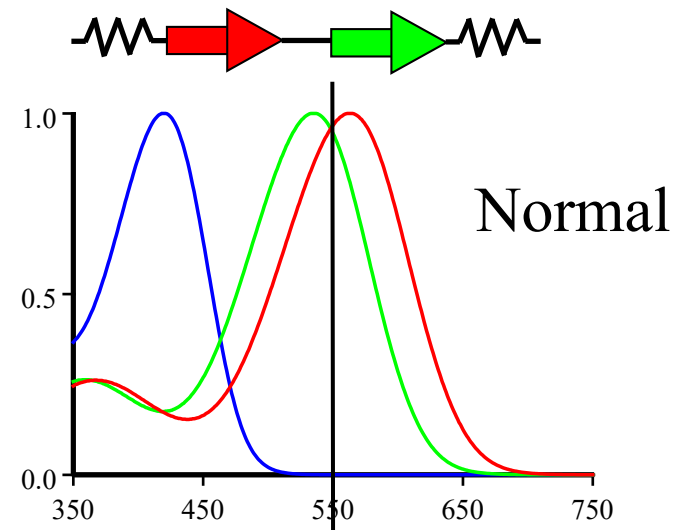
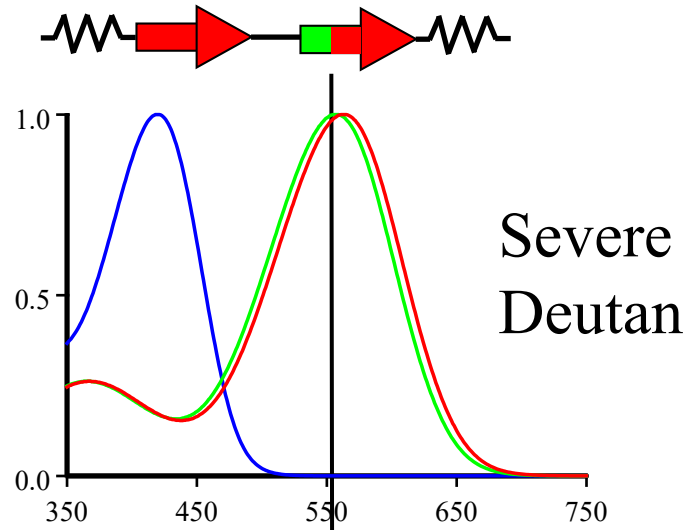
Male observers with two similar genes may also be effectively dichromats



# Anomalous trichromats

Male observers with two different genes are anomalous trichromats





The emergence of two longer wavelength (M- and L-cones) is thought to have occurred relatively recently in primate evolution.

Why is it important?

# No red-green discrimination





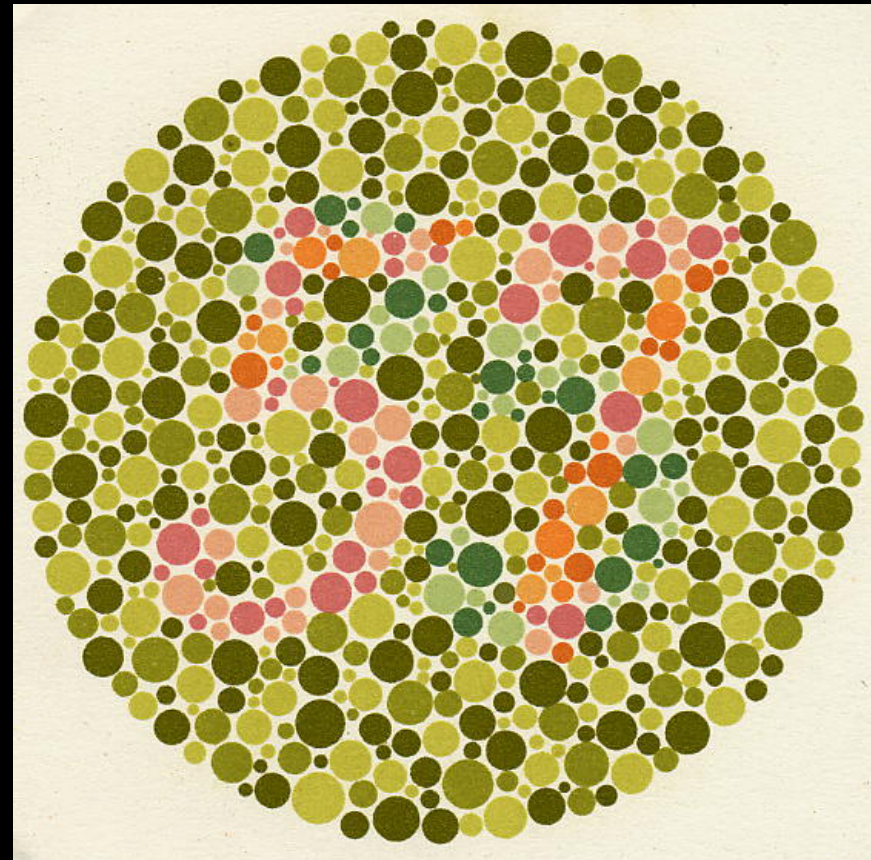
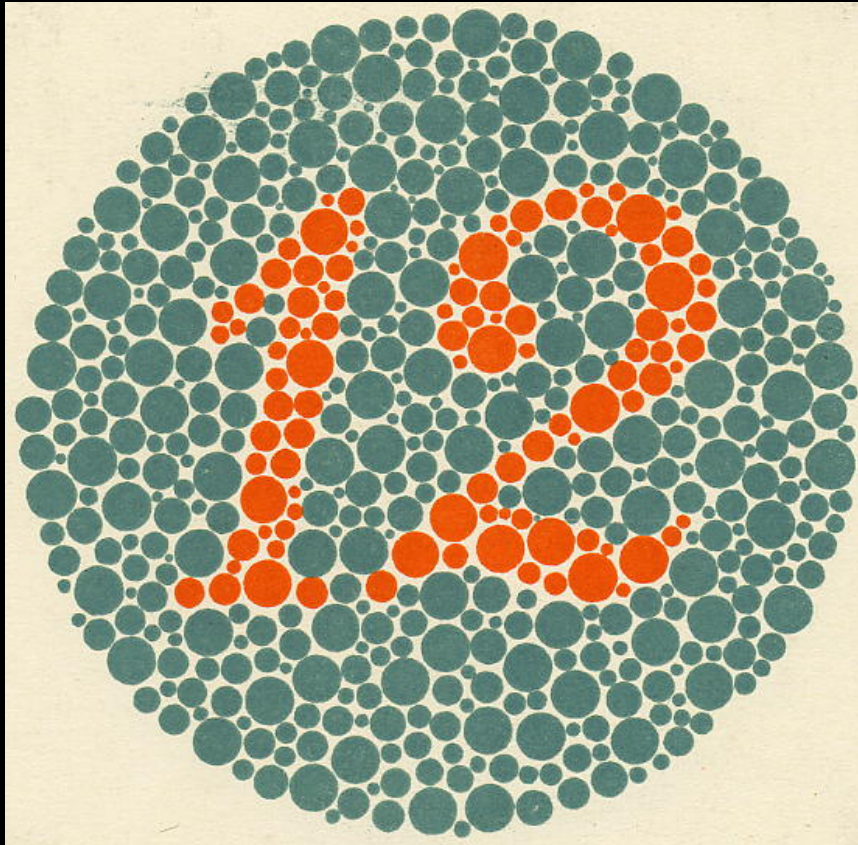
# Red-green discrimination



# DIAGNOSING COLOUR VISION DEFICIENCIES

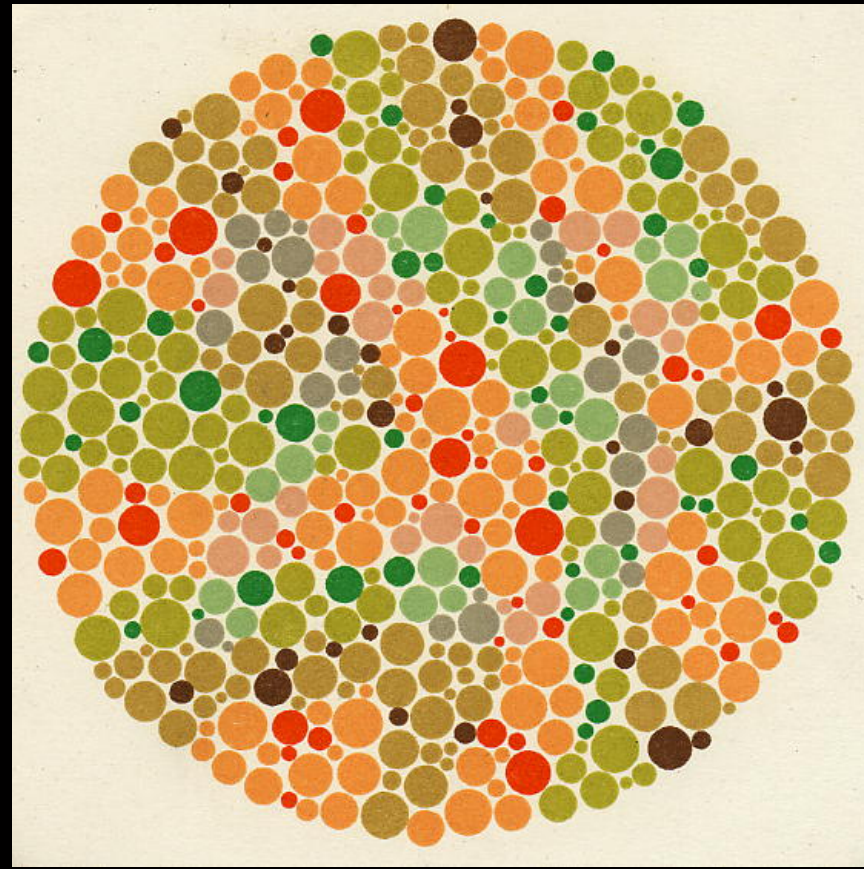
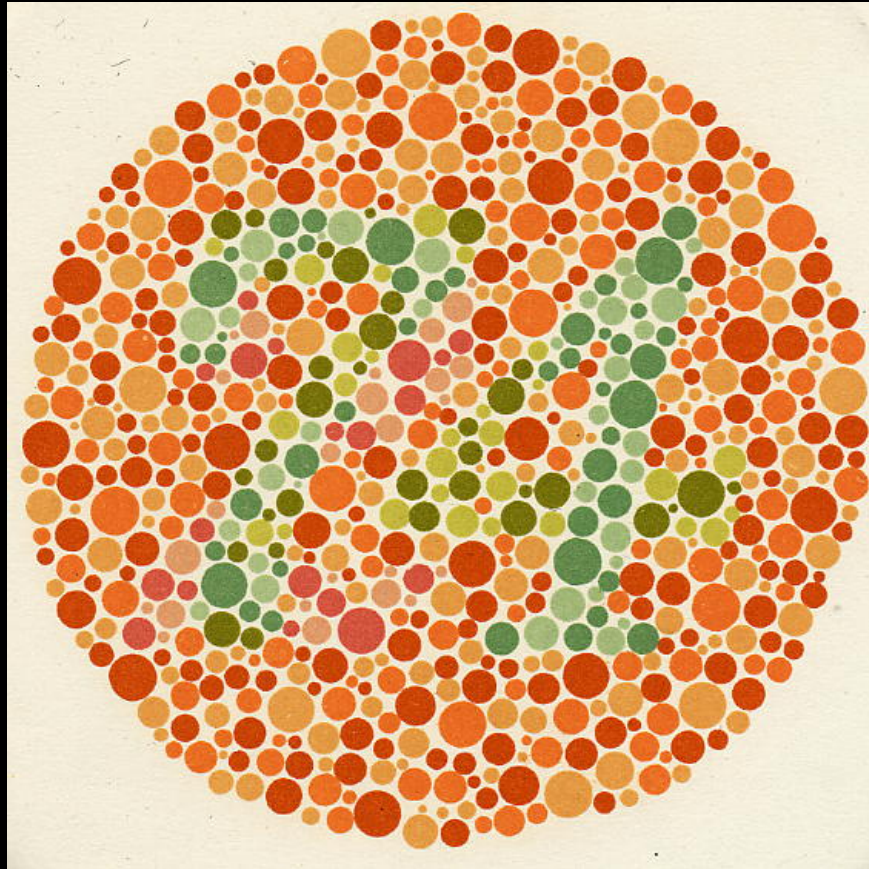


# Ishihara plates

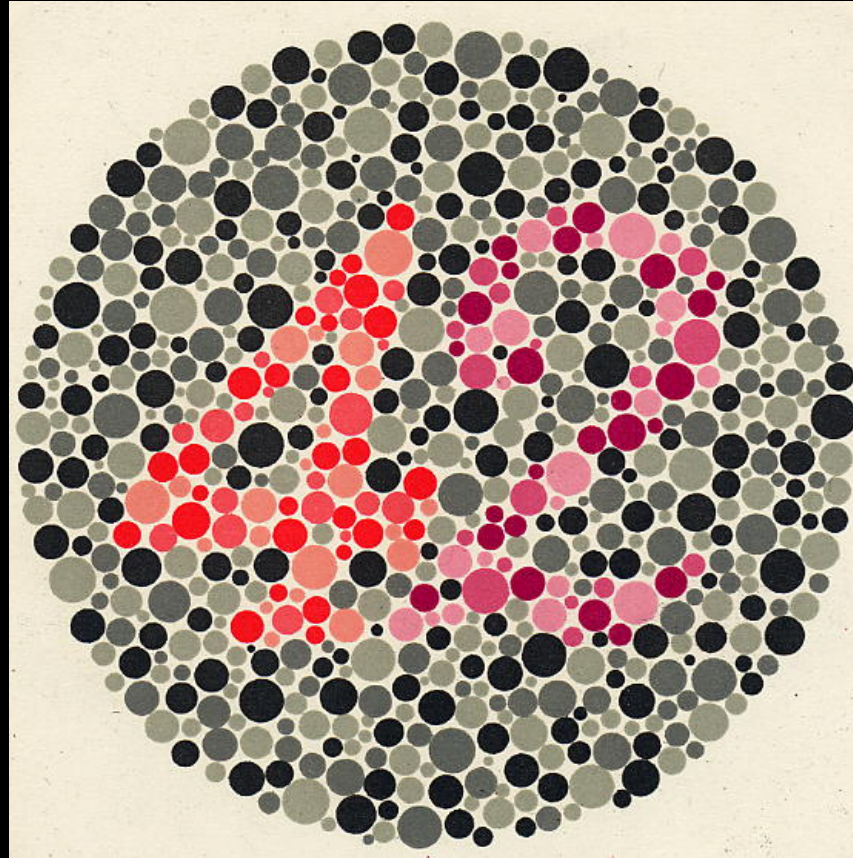




# Ishihara plates



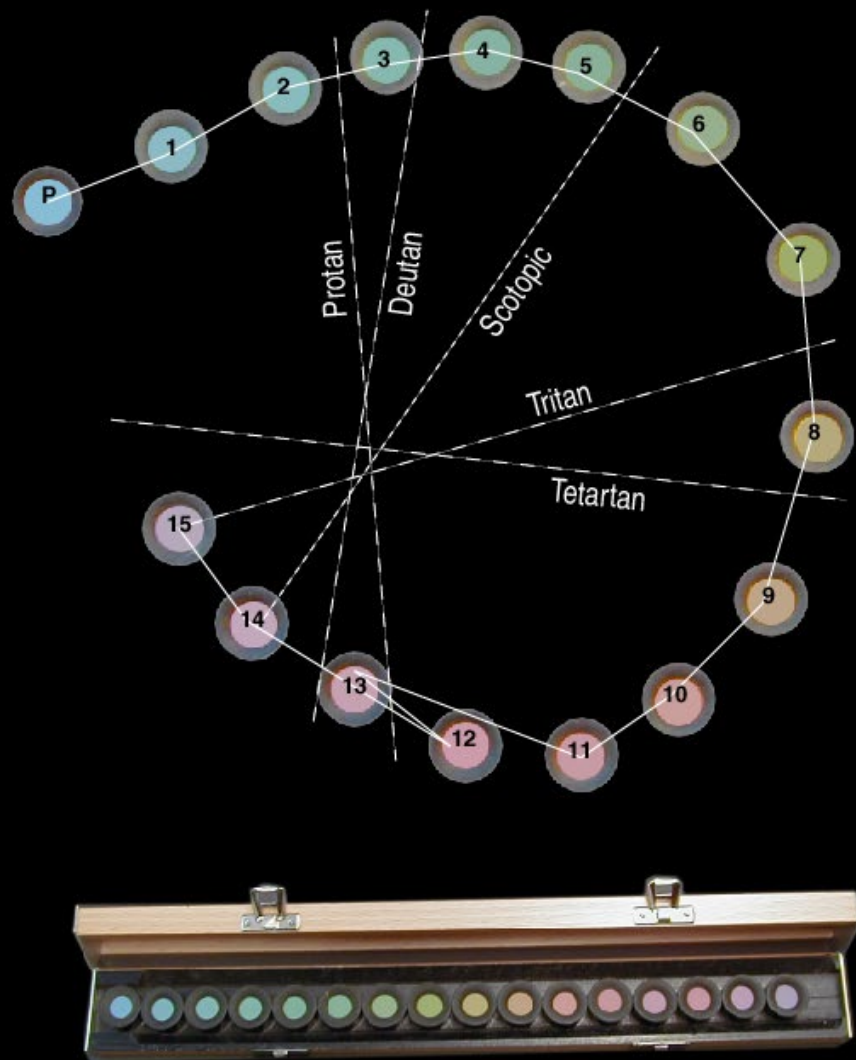
# Ishihara plates



## Tests measuring colour discrimination

- 👁️ Farnsworth-Munsell D-15 test
- 👁️ Farnsworth-Munsell 100-hue test

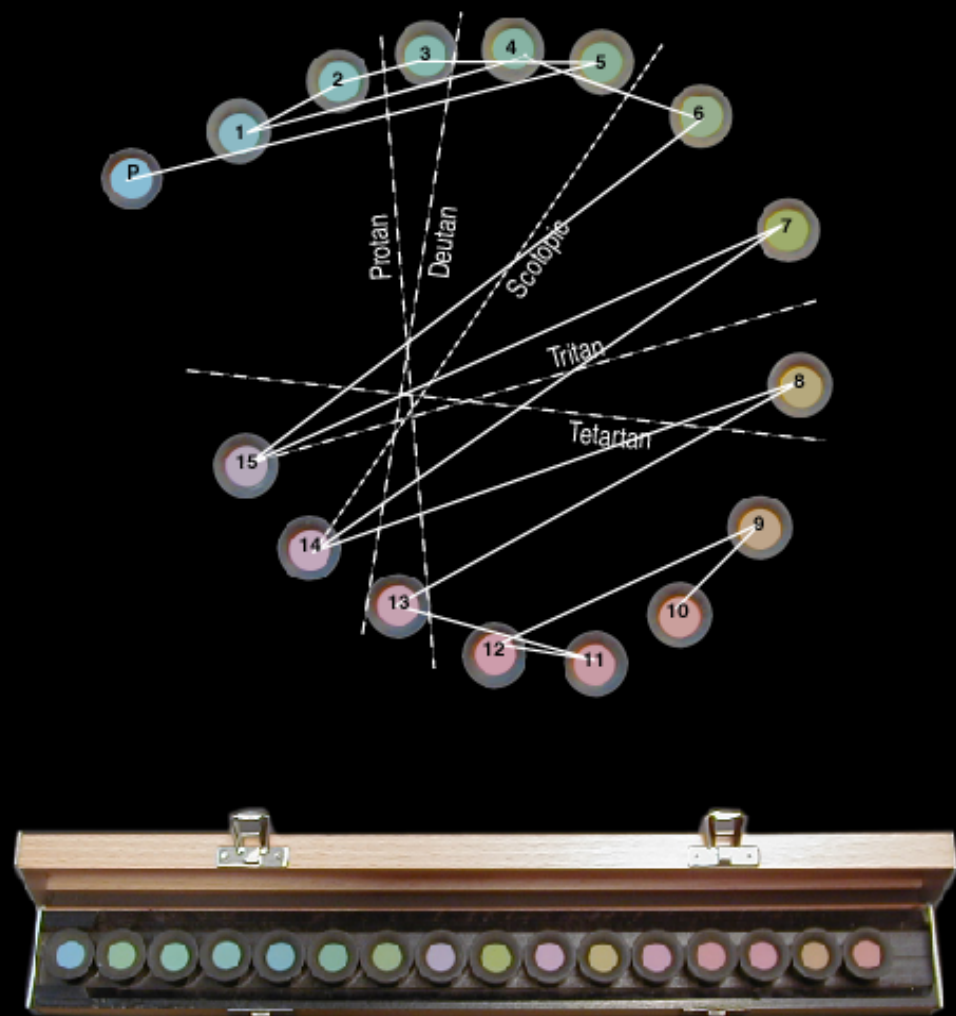
# Farnsworth-Munsell D-15



From: Ted Sharpe



# Farnsworth-Munsell D-15



From: Ted Sharpe

# D15 results

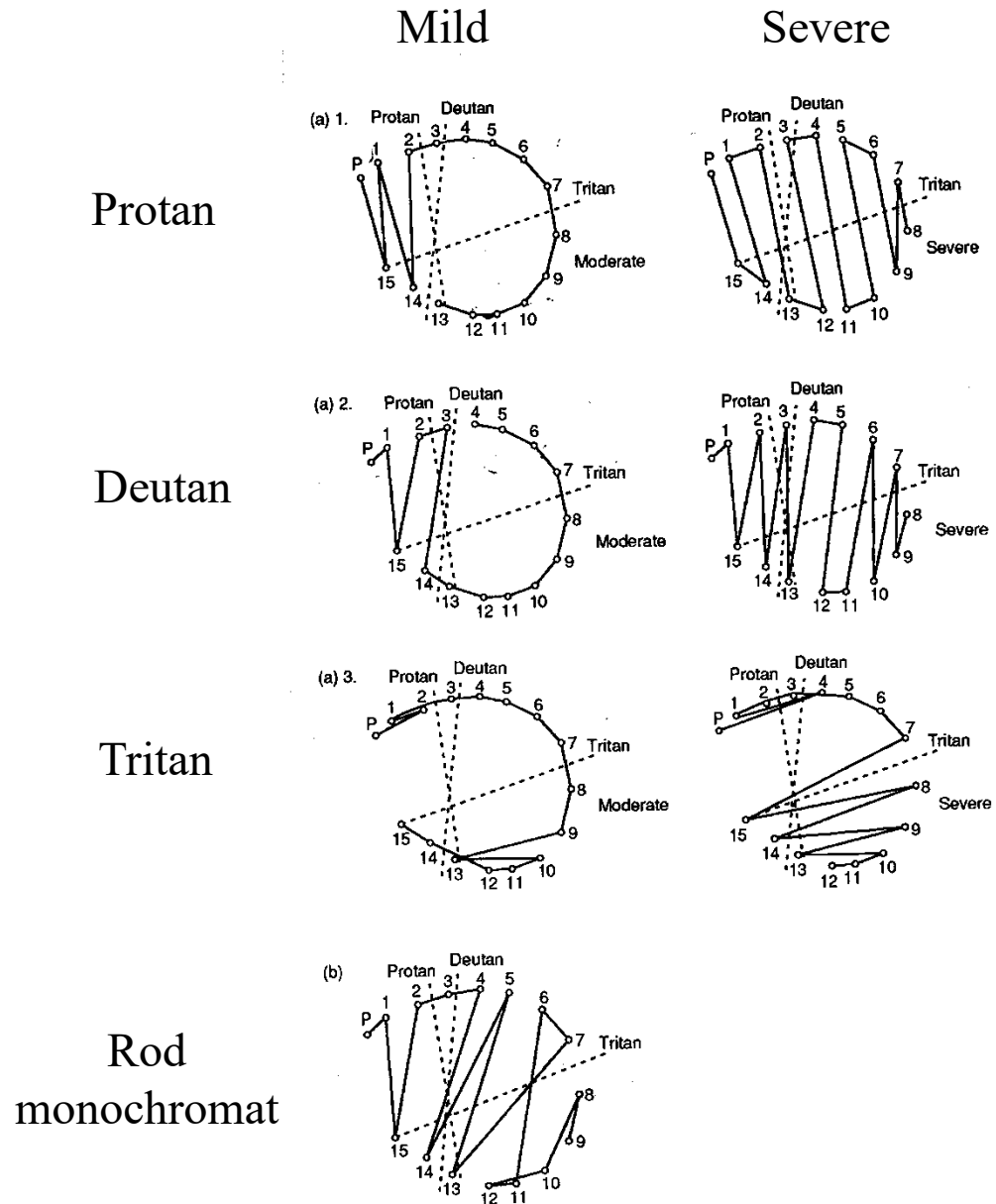


Fig. 7.1 Classification of the type of colour deficiency with the Farnsworth D15 test. (a) Protan, deutan, and tritan defects. 1. Moderate and severe protan defects. 2. Moderate and severe deutan defects. 3. Moderate and severe tritan defects. (b) Typical 'rod' monochromatism. The arrangement represents a lightness scale not isochromatic colour confusions.

Credit: Jenny Birch