Photonic Crystals and Metamaterials: Introduction and Uses

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Photonic Crystals have displayed their vivid properties in the colours of butterflies, beetles and precious stones before they were discovered by Man. An understanding of their one dimensional properties led to the prediction of three dimensional properties in the mid 1980's. Their wide spread adoption in two dimensions have seen their most useful applications. Metamaterials, although used in one form as stained glass since 4th century AD, has undergone a similar epiphany in understanding. However to-date, their most useful applications have not exploited their full potential. The talk will give an introduction to both Photonic Crystals and Metamaterials and look at some of their current uses.