



Thurs 5 February 6.30 pm
Daresbury Laboratory
Warrington



This talk will discuss features of the rainbow: the primary and secondary bows, and the less familiar supernumerary bows (which appear just inside the primary) together with the elusive white bow. Supernumeraries involve interference as well as refraction, and the white bow also involves diffraction. Diffraction, due to the wave nature of light, is responsible for the glory — the coloured halo that we can see on clouds from aeroplanes, or more spectacularly in the Brocken spectre from mountain ridges.



The true halo that we can see fairly frequently around the Sun and the Moon is due to refraction through hexagonal ice crystals, as are other more elusive halo phenomena. These optical events in the sky are not only beautiful but are fairly amazing demonstrations of physics in nature.

This event will be followed by a buffet in the Science Centre and light refreshments will be available from 6.00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

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