

PHOTOCHROMIC OPHTHALMIC SYSTEMS THAT SELECTIVELY FILTER SPECIFIC BLUE LIGHT WAVELENGTHS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application 61/163,227 filed
5 March 25, 2009. This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application
11/933,069 filed October 31, 2007, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application
11/761,892 filed June 12, 2007, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application
11/378,317 filed March 20, 2006 and which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application
60/812,628 filed June 12, 2006. U.S. Patent Application 11/933,069 is also a continuation-
10 in-part of U.S. Patent Application 11/892,460 filed August 23, 2007, which claims priority to
U.S. Provisional Application 60/839,432 filed August 23, 2006, U.S. Provisional Application
60/841,502 filed September 1, 2006, and U.S. Provisional Application 60/861,247 filed
November 28, 2006. U.S. Patent Application 11/933,069 also claims priority to U.S.
Provisional Application 60/978,175 filed October 8, 2007. All of these applications are
15 entirely incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Electromagnetic radiation from the sun continuously bombards the Earth's
atmosphere. Light is made up of electromagnetic radiation that travels in waves. The
electromagnetic spectrum includes radio waves, millimeter waves, microwaves, infrared,
20 visible light, ultra-violet (UVA and UVB), x-rays, and gamma rays. The visible light
spectrum includes the longest visible light wavelength of approximately 700 nm and the
shortest of approximately 400 nm (nanometers or 10^{-9} meters). Blue light wavelengths fall in
the approximate range of 400 nm to 500 nm. For the ultra-violet bands, UVB wavelengths
are from 290 nm to 320 nm, and UVA wavelengths are from 320 nm to 400 nm. Gamma and
25 x-rays make up the higher frequencies of this spectrum and are absorbed by the atmosphere.
The wavelength spectrum of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) is 100-400 nm. Most UVR
wavelengths are absorbed by the atmosphere, except where there are areas of stratospheric
ozone depletion. Over the last 20 years, there has been documented depletion of the ozone
layer primarily due to industrial pollution. Increased exposure to UVR has broad public
30 health implications as an increased burden of UVR ocular and skin disease is to be expected.

[0003] The ozone layer absorbs wavelengths up to 286 nm, thus shielding living beings from exposure to radiation with the highest energy. However, we are exposed to wavelengths above 286 nm, most of which falls within the human visual spectrum (400-700 nm). The human retina responds only to the visible light portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. The shorter wavelengths pose the greatest hazard because they inversely contain more energy. Blue light has been shown to be the portion of the visible spectrum that produces the most photochemical damage to animal retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells. Exposure to these wavelengths has been called the blue light hazard because these wavelengths are perceived as blue by the human eye.

[0004] Cataracts and macular degeneration are widely thought to result from photochemical damage to the intraocular lens and retina, respectively. Blue light exposure has also been shown to accelerate proliferation of uveal melanoma cells. The most energetic photons in the visible spectrum have wavelengths between 380 and 500 nm and are perceived as violet or blue. The wavelength dependence of phototoxicity summed over all mechanisms is often represented as an action spectrum, such as is described in Mainster and Sparrow, "How Much Blue Light Should an IOL Transmit?" Br. J. Ophthalmol., 2003, v. 87, pp. 1523-29 and Fig. 6. In eyes without an intraocular lens (aphakic eyes), light with wavelengths shorter than 400 nm can cause damage. In phakic eyes, this light is absorbed by the intraocular lens and therefore does not contribute to retinal phototoxicity; however it can cause optical degradation of the lens or cataracts.

[0005] The pupil of the eye responds to the photopic retinal illuminance, in trolands, which is the product of the incident flux with the wavelength-dependent sensitivity of the retina and the projected area of the pupil. This sensitivity is described in Wyszecki and Stiles, Color Science: Concepts and Methods, Quantitative Data and Formulae (Wiley: New York) 1982, esp. pages 102-107.

[0006] Current research strongly supports the premise that short wavelength visible light (blue light) having a wavelength of approximately 400 nm – 500 nm could be a contributing cause of AMD (age related macular degeneration). It is believed that the highest level of blue light absorption occurs in a region around 430 nm, such as 400 nm – 460 nm. Research further suggests that blue light worsens other causative factors in AMD, such as heredity, tobacco smoke, and excessive alcohol consumption.

[0007] The human retina includes multiple layers. These layers listed in order from the first exposed to any light entering the eye to the deepest include:

- 1) Nerve Fiber Layer
- 2) Ganglion Cells
- 5 3) Inner Plexiform Layer
- 4) Bipolar and Horizontal Cells
- 5) Outer Plexiform Layer
- 6) Photoreceptors (Rods and Cones)
- 7) Retinal Pigment Epithelium (RPE)
- 10 8) Bruch's Membrane
- 9) Choroid

[0008] When light is absorbed by the eye's photoreceptor cells, (rods and cones) the cells bleach and become unreceptive until they recover. This recovery process is a metabolic process and is called the "visual cycle." Absorption of blue light has been shown to reverse
15 this process prematurely. This premature reversal increases the risk of oxidative damage and is believed to lead to the buildup of the pigment lipofuscin in the retina. This build up occurs in the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) layer. It is believed that aggregates of extra-cellular materials called drusen are formed due to the excessive amounts of lipofuscin.

[0009] Current research indicates that over the course of one's life, beginning with that of
20 an infant, metabolic waste byproducts accumulate within the pigment epithelium layer of the retina, due to light interactions with the retina. This metabolic waste product is characterized by certain fluorophores, one of the most prominent being lipofuscin constituent A2E. In vitro studies by Sparrow indicate that lipofuscin chromophore A2E found within the RPE is maximally excited by 430 nm light. It is theorized that a tipping point is reached when a
25 combination of a build-up of this metabolic waste (specifically the lipofuscin fluorophore) has achieved a certain level of accumulation, the human body's physiological ability to metabolize within the retina certain of this waste has diminished as one reaches a certain age threshold, and a blue light stimulus of the proper wavelength causes drusen to be formed in the RPE layer. It is believed that the drusen then further interfere with the normal
30 physiology/metabolic activity which allows for the proper nutrients to get to the photoreceptors thus contributing to age-related macular degeneration (AMD). AMD is the leading cause of irreversible severe visual acuity loss in the United States and Western World. The burden of AMD is expected to increase dramatically in the next 20 years because

of the projected shift in population and the overall increase in the number of ageing individuals.

[0010] Drusen hinder or block the RPE layer from providing the proper nutrients to the photoreceptors, which leads to damage or even death of these cells. To further complicate this process, it appears that when lipofuscin absorbs blue light in high quantities it becomes toxic, causing further damage and/or death of the RPE cells. It is believed that the lipofuscin constituent A2E is at least partly responsible for the short-wavelength sensitivity of RPE cells. A2E has been shown to be maximally excited by blue light; the photochemical events resulting from such excitation can lead to cell death. See, for example, Janet R. Sparrow et al., "Blue light-absorbing intraocular lens and retinal pigment epithelium protection in vitro," J. Cataract Refract. Surg. 2004, vol. 30, pp. 873-78.

[0011] From a theoretical perspective, the following appears to take place:

- 1) Waste buildup occurs within the pigment epithelial level starting from infancy through out life.
- 2) Retinal metabolic activity and ability to deal with this waste typically diminish with age.
- 3) The macula pigment typically decreases as one ages, thus filtering out less blue light.
- 4) Blue light causes the lipofuscin to become toxic. The resulting toxicity damages pigment epithelial cells.

[0012] The lighting and vision care industries have standards as to human vision exposure to UVA and UVB radiation. Surprisingly, no such standard is in place with regard to blue light. For example, in the common fluorescent tubes available today, the glass envelope mostly blocks ultra-violet light but blue light is transmitted with little attenuation. In some cases, the envelope is designed to have enhanced transmission in the blue region of the spectrum. Such artificial sources of light hazard may also cause eye damage.

[0013] Laboratory evidence by Sparrow at Columbia University has shown that if about 50% of the blue light within the wavelength range of 430 ± 30 nm is blocked, RPE cell death caused by the blue light may be reduced by up to 80%. External eyewear such as sunglasses, spectacles, goggles, and contact lenses that block blue light in an attempt to improve eye health are disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 6,955,430 to Pratt. Other ophthalmic devices whose object is to protect the retina from this phototoxic light include intraocular and

contact lenses. These ophthalmic devices are positioned in the optical path between environmental light and the retina and generally contain or are coated with dyes that selectively absorb blue and violet light.

[0014] Other lenses are known that attempt to decrease chromatic aberration by blocking blue light. Chromatic aberration is caused by optical dispersion of ocular media including the cornea, intraocular lens, aqueous humour, and vitreous humour. This dispersion focuses blue light at a different image plane than light at longer wavelengths, leading to defocus of the full color image. Conventional blue blocking lenses are described in U.S. Patent No. 6,158,862 to Patel et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,662,707 to Jinkerson, U.S. Patent No. 5,400,175 to Johansen, and U.S. Patent No. 4,878,748 to Johansen.

[0015] Conventional methods for reducing blue light exposure of ocular media typically completely occlude light below a threshold wavelength, while also reducing light exposure at longer wavelengths. For example, the lenses described in U.S. Patent No. 6,955,430 to Pratt transmit less than 40% of the incident light at wavelengths as long as 650 nm, as shown in Fig. 6 of Pratt '430. The blue-light blocking lens disclosed by Johansen and Diffendaffer in U.S. Patent No. 5,400,175 similarly attenuates light by more than 60% throughout the visible spectrum, as illustrated in Fig. 3 of the '175 patent.

[0016] Balancing the range and amount of blocked blue light may be difficult, as blocking and/or inhibiting blue light affects color balance, color vision if one looks through the optical device, and the color in which the optical device is perceived. For example, shooting glasses appear bright yellow and block blue light. The shooting glasses often cause certain colors to become more apparent when one is looking into a blue sky, allowing for the shooter to see the object being targeted sooner and more accurately. While this works well for shooting glasses, it would be unacceptable for many ophthalmic applications. In particular, such ophthalmic systems may be cosmetically unappealing because of a yellow or amber tint that is produced in lenses by blue blocking. More specifically, one common technique for blue blocking involves tinting or dyeing lenses with a blue blocking tint, such as BPI Filter Vision 450 or BPI Diamond Dye 500. The tinting may be accomplished, for example, by immersing the lens in a heated tint pot containing a blue blocking dye solution for some predetermined period of time. Typically, the dye solution has a yellow or amber color and thus imparts a yellow or amber tint to the lens. To many people, the appearance of this yellow or amber tint may be undesirable cosmetically. Moreover, the tint may interfere with the normal color

perception of a lens user, making it difficult, for example, to correctly perceive the color of a traffic light or sign.

[0017] Efforts have been made to compensate for the yellowing effect of conventional blue blocking filters. For example, blue blocking lenses have been treated with additional dyes, such as blue, red or green dyes, to offset the yellowing effect. The treatment causes the additional dyes to become intermixed with the original blue blocking dyes. However, while this technique may reduce yellow in a blue blocked lens, intermixing of the dyes may reduce the effectiveness of the blue blocking by allowing more of the blue light spectrum through. Moreover, these conventional techniques undesirably reduce the overall transmission of light wavelengths other than blue light wavelengths. This unwanted reduction may in turn result in reduced visual acuity for a lens user.

[0018] It has been found that conventional blue-blocking reduces visible transmission, which in turn stimulates dilation of the pupil. Dilation of the pupil increases the flux of light to the internal eye structures including the intraocular lens and retina. Since the radiant flux to these structures increases as the square of the pupil diameter, a lens that blocks half of the blue light but, with reduced visible transmission, relaxes the pupil from 2mm to 3mm diameter, will actually increase the dose of blue photons to the retina by 12.5%. Protection of the retina from phototoxic light depends on the amount of this light that impinges on the retina, which depends on the transmission properties of the ocular media and also on the dynamic aperture of the pupil. Previous work to date has been silent on the contribution of the pupil to prophylaxis of phototoxic blue light.

[0019] Another problem with conventional blue-blocking is that it can degrade night vision. Blue light is more important for low-light level or scotopic vision than for bright light or photopic vision, a result which is expressed quantitatively in the luminous sensitivity spectra for scotopic and photopic vision. Photochemical and oxidative reactions cause the absorption of 400 to 450 nm light by intraocular lens tissue to increase naturally with age. Although the number of rod photoreceptors on the retina that are responsible for low-light vision also decreases with age, the increased absorption by the intraocular lens is important to degrading night vision. For example, scotopic visual sensitivity is reduced by 33% in a 53 year-old intraocular lens and 75% in a 75 year-old lens. The tension between retinal protection and scotopic sensitivity is further described in Mainster and Sparrow, "How Much Light Should and IOL Transmit?" Br. J. Ophthalmol., 2003, v. 87, pp. 1523-29.

[0020] Conventional approaches to blue blocking also may include cutoff or high-pass filters to reduce the transmission below a specified blue or violet wavelength to zero. For example, all light below a threshold wavelength may be blocked completely or almost completely. For example, U.S. Pub. Patent Application No. 2005/0243272 to Mainster and
5 Mainster, "Intraocular Lenses Should Block UV Radiation and Violet but not Blue Light," Arch. Ophthalmol., v. 123, p. 550 (2005) describe the blocking of all light below a threshold wavelength between 400 and 450 nm. Such blocking may be undesirable, since as the edge of the long-pass filter is shifted to longer wavelengths, dilation of the pupil acts to increase the total flux. As previously described, this can degrade scotopic sensitivity and increase color
10 distortion.

[0021] Recently there has been debate in the field of intraocular lenses (IOLs) regarding appropriate UV and blue light blocking while maintaining acceptable photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, and circadian rhythms.

[0022] In view of the foregoing, there is a need for an ophthalmic system that can provide
15 one or more of the following:

- 1) Blue blocking with an acceptable level of blue light protection
- 2) Acceptable color cosmetics, i.e., it is perceived as mostly color neutral by someone observing the ophthalmic system when worn by a wearer.
- 3) Acceptable color perception for a user. In particular, there is a need for an
20 ophthalmic system that will not impair the wearer's color vision and further that reflections from the back surface of the system into the eye of the wearer be at a level of not being objectionable to the wearer.
- 4) Acceptable level of light transmission for wavelengths other than blue light wavelengths. In particular, there is a need for an ophthalmic system that allows for selective
25 blockage of wavelengths of blue light while at the same time transmitting in excess of 80% of visible light.
- 5) Acceptable photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, and/or circadian rhythms.

[0023] This need exists as more and more data is pointing to blue light as one of the
30 possible contributory factors in macula degeneration (the leading cause of blindness in the industrialized world) and also other retinal diseases.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0024] Ophthalmic systems are provided that include both a photochromic component and a blue-blocking component.

[0025] In one embodiment, an ophthalmic system comprises at least one blue-blocking component and at least one photochromic component, wherein the blue-blocking component continuously and selectively filters a selected range of blue light wavelengths including a wavelength at about 430 nm, and wherein the photochromic component, when activated, filters visible light including wavelengths outside the selected range of blue light wavelengths.

[0026] In one embodiment, the average transmission across the visible spectrum in the activated system is at least 20% less than the average transmission across the visible spectrum in the inactive system.

[0027] In another embodiment, the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the activated system is less than the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the inactive system.

[0028] In another embodiment, the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the activated system is within 20%, or within 5%, of the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the inactive system.

[0029] In one embodiment, the blue-blocking component is not photochromic.

[0030] In one embodiment, the blue-blocking component selectively filters at least 20%, or at least 50%, of light in the selected range of blue light wavelengths.

[0031] In one embodiment, the selected range of blue light wavelengths includes wavelengths from about 420 nm to about 440 nm, about 410 nm to about 450 nm, or about 400 nm to about 460 nm.

[0032] In another embodiment, the system further comprises at least one additional blue-blocking component that selectively filters a selected range of wavelengths including a chromophore other than A2E.

[0033] In yet another embodiment, the system increases contrast sensitivity by at least 1 point on at least 1 point on a sine wave grating test (e.g., FACT™).

[0034] In another embodiment, the inactive and/or activated system has a yellowness index of less than 8, or less than 5.

[0035] In one embodiment, white light has CIE (x,y) coordinates of (0.33±0.05, 0.33±0.05) when transmitted through the inactive and/or activated system.

5 [0036] In one embodiment, the blue-blocking component comprises at least one of perylene, porphyrin, coumarin, acridine, and derivatives thereof. In some embodiments, the blue-blocking component comprises perylene or a derivative thereof, porphyrin or a derivative thereof, or magnesium tetramesitylporphyrin.

[0037] In another embodiment, the blue-blocking component comprises a blue-blocking dye at a concentration of about 1 ppm to about 50 ppm, or about 2 ppm to about 10 ppm.

[0038] In one embodiment, the photochromic component is activated by at least one of UVB, UVA, blue light, visible light, and infrared wavelengths. In another embodiment, the photochromic component is activated by at least one of UVB, UVA, and infrared wavelengths. In yet another embodiment, the photochromic component is activated by light
15 having a wavelength of about 380 nm to about 410 nm.

[0039] In one embodiment, the system further comprises a UV filter. In one embodiment, the UV filter is positioned posterior to the photochromic component. In another embodiment, the UV filter does not filter the wavelengths that activate the photochromic component to a degree that prevents activation.

20 [0040] In one embodiment, the system is an ophthalmic lens, spectacle lens, contact lens, intra-ocular lens, corneal inlay, corneal onlay, corneal graft, electro-active lens, windshield, or window. In one embodiment, the system is a spectacle lens.

[0041] In one embodiment, at least one of the photochromic component and the blue-blocking component is present throughout the system. In another embodiment, at least one of
25 the photochromic component and the blue-blocking component is localized in the system.

[0042] In one embodiment, the blue-blocking component comprises a blue-blocking layer and/or the photochromic component comprises a photochromic layer.

[0043] In one embodiment, the blue-blocking component is anterior to the photochromic component. In another embodiment, the blue-blocking component is posterior to the
30 photochromic component. In one embodiment, the blue-blocking component is not in

physical contact with the photochromic component. In another embodiment, the blue-blocking component and the photochromic component are intermixed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- 5 [0044] FIGS. 1A and 1B show examples of an ophthalmic system including a posterior blue blocking component and an anterior color balancing component.
- [0045] FIG. 2 shows an example of using a dye resist to form an ophthalmic system.
- [0046] FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary system with a blue blocking component and a color balancing component integrated into a clear or mostly clear ophthalmic lens.
- [0047] FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary ophthalmic system formed using an in-mold coating.
- 10 [0048] FIG. 5 illustrates the bonding of two ophthalmic components.
- [0049] FIG. 6 illustrates exemplary ophthalmic systems using anti-reflective coatings.
- [0050] FIGS. 7A-7C illustrate various exemplary combinations of a blue blocking component, a color balancing component, and an ophthalmic component.
- [0051] FIGS. 8A and 8B show examples of an ophthalmic system including a multi-
15 functional blue blocking and color-balancing component.
- [0052] FIG. 9 shows a reference of observed colors that correspond to various CIE coordinates.
- [0053] FIG. 10 shows the transmission of the GENTEX E465 absorbing dye.
- [0054] FIG. 11 shows the absorbance of the GENTEX E465 absorbing dye.
- 20 [0055] FIG. 12 shows the transmittance of a polycarbonate substrate with a dye concentration suitable for absorbing in the 430nm range.
- [0056] FIG. 13 shows the transmittance as a function of wavelength of a polycarbonate substrate with an antireflective coating.
- [0057] FIG. 14 shows the color plot of a polycarbonate substrate with an antireflective
25 coating.
- [0058] FIG. 15 shows the transmittance as a function of wavelength of an uncoated polycarbonate substrate and a polycarbonate substrate with an antireflective coating on both surfaces.

- [0059] FIG. 16 shows the spectral transmittance of a 106 nm layer of TiO₂ on a polycarbonate substrate.
- [0060] FIG. 17 shows the color plot of a 106 nm layer of TiO₂ on a polycarbonate substrate.
- 5 [0061] FIG. 18 shows the spectral transmittance of a 134 nm layer of TiO₂ on a polycarbonate substrate.
- [0062] FIG. 19 shows the color plot of a 134 nm layer of TiO₂ on a polycarbonate substrate.
- [0063] FIG. 20 shows the spectral transmittance of a modified AR coating suitable for
10 color balancing a substrate having a blue absorbing dye.
- [0064] FIG. 21 shows the color plot of a modified AR coating suitable for color balancing a substrate having a blue absorbing dye.
- [0065] FIG. 22 shows the spectral transmittance of a substrate having a blue absorbing dye.
- [0066] FIG. 23 shows the color plot of a substrate having a blue absorbing dye.
- 15 [0067] FIG. 24 shows the spectral transmittance of a substrate having a blue absorbing dye and a rear AR coating.
- [0068] FIG. 25 shows the color plot of a substrate having a blue absorbing dye and a rear AR coating.
- [0069] FIG. 26 shows the spectral transmittance of a substrate having a blue absorbing dye
20 and AR coatings on the front and rear surfaces.
- [0070] FIG. 27 shows the color plot of a substrate having a blue absorbing dye and AR coatings on the front and rear surfaces.
- [0071] FIG. 28 shows the spectral transmittance of a substrate having a blue absorbing dye and a color balancing AR coating.
- 25 [0072] FIG. 29 shows the color plot of a substrate having a blue absorbing dye and a color balancing AR coating.
- [0073] FIG. 30 shows an exemplary ophthalmic device comprising a film.
- [0074] FIG. 31 shows the optical transmission characteristic of an exemplary film.

- [0075] FIG. 32 shows an exemplary ophthalmic system comprising a film.
- [0076] FIG. 33 shows an exemplary system comprising a film.
- [0077] FIG. 34A and B show pupil diameter and pupil area, respectively, as a function of field illuminance.
- 5 [0078] FIG. 35 shows the transmission spectrum of a film that is doped with perylene dye where the product of concentration and path length yield about 33% transmission at about 437 nm.
- [0079] FIG. 36 shows the transmission spectrum of a film according to the present invention with a perylene concentration about 2.27 times higher than that illustrated in the
10 previous figure.
- [0080] FIG. 37 shows an exemplary transmission spectrum for a six-layer stack of SiO_2 and ZrO_2 .
- [0081] FIG. 38 shows reference color coordinates corresponding to Munsell tiles illuminated by a prescribed illuminant in (L^* , a^* , b^*) color space.
- 15 [0082] FIG. 39A shows a histogram of the color shifts for Munsell color tiles for a related filter. FIG. 39B shows a color shift induced by a related blue-blocking filter.
- [0083] FIG. 40 shows a histogram of color shifts for a perylene-dyed substrate according to the present invention.
- [0084] FIG. 41 shows the transmission spectrum of a system according to the present
20 invention.
- [0085] FIG. 42 shows a histogram summarizing color distortion of a device according to the present invention for Munsell tiles in daylight.
- [0086] FIGS. 43A and B show representative series of skin reflectance spectra from subjects of different races.
- 25 [0087] FIG. 44 shows an exemplary skin reflectance spectrum for a Caucasian subject.
- [0088] FIG. 45 shows transmission spectra for various lenses.
- [0089] FIG. 46 shows exemplary dyes.
- [0090] FIG. 47 shows an ophthalmic system having a hard coat.

[0091] FIG. 48 shows the transmittance as a function of wavelength for a selective filter with strong absorption band around 430 nm.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0092] Embodiments of the present invention relate to an ophthalmic system that performs effective blue blocking while at the same time providing a cosmetically attractive product, normal or acceptable color perception for a user, and a high level of transmitted light for good visual acuity. An ophthalmic system is provided that can provide an average transmission of 80% or better transmission of visible light, inhibit selective wavelengths of blue light ("blue blocking"), allow for the wearer's proper color vision performance, and provide a mostly color neutral appearance to an observer looking at the wearer wearing such a lens or lens system. As used herein, the "average transmission" of a system refers to the average transmission at wavelengths in a range, such as the visible spectrum. A system also may be characterized by the "luminous transmission" of the system, which refers to an average in a wavelength range, that is weighted according to the sensitivity of the eye at each wavelength. Systems described herein may use various optical coatings, films, materials, and absorbing dyes to produce the desired effect.

[0093] More specifically, embodiments of the invention may provide effective blue blocking in combination with color balancing. "Color balancing" or "color balanced" as used herein means that the yellow or amber color, or other unwanted effect of blue blocking is reduced, offset, neutralized or otherwise compensated for so as to produce a cosmetically acceptable result, without at the same time reducing the effectiveness of the blue blocking. For example, wavelengths at or near 400 nm – 460 nm may be blocked or reduced in intensity. In particular, for example, wavelengths at or near 420 – 440 nm may be blocked or reduced in intensity. Furthermore, transmission of unblocked wavelengths may remain at a high level, for example at least 80%. Additionally, to an external viewer, the ophthalmic system may look clear or mostly clear. For a system user, color perception may be normal or acceptable.

[0094] An "ophthalmic system" as used here includes prescription or non-prescription ophthalmic lenses used, e.g., for clear or tinted glasses (or spectacles), sunglasses, contact lenses with and without visibility and/or cosmetic tinting, intra-ocular lenses (IOLs), corneal grafts, corneal inlays, corneal on-lays, and electro-active ophthalmic devices and may be treated or processed or combined with other components to provide desired functionalities

described in further detail herein. The invention can be formulated so as to allow being applied directly into corneal tissue.

[0095] As used herein, an "ophthalmic material" is one commonly used to fabricate an ophthalmic system, such as a corrective lens. Exemplary ophthalmic materials include glass, plastics such as CR-39, Trivex, and polycarbonate materials, though other materials may be used and are known for various ophthalmic systems.

[0096] An ophthalmic system may include one or more blue blocking components. In one embodiment, a blue blocking component is posterior to a color-balancing component. Either of the blue blocking component or the color balancing component may be, or form part of, an ophthalmic component such as a lens. The posterior blue blocking component and anterior color balancing component may be distinct layers on or adjacent to or near a surface or surfaces of an ophthalmic lens. One or more color-balancing components are provided to reduce or neutralize a yellow or amber tint of the posterior blue blocking component, to produce a cosmetically acceptable appearance. For example, to an external viewer, the ophthalmic system may look clear or mostly clear. For a system user, color perception may be normal or acceptable. Further, because the blue blocking and color balancing tints are not intermixed, wavelengths in the blue light spectrum may be blocked or reduced in intensity and the transmitted intensity of incident light in the ophthalmic system may be at least 80% for unblocked wavelengths.

[0097] As discussed previously, techniques for blue blocking are known. The known techniques to block blue light wavelengths include absorption, reflection, interference, or any combination thereof. As discussed earlier, according to one technique, a lens may be tinted/dyed with a blue blocking tint, such as BPI Filter Vision 450 or BPI Diamond Dye 500, in a suitable proportion or concentration. The tinting may be accomplished, for example, by immersing the lens in a heated tint pot containing a blue blocking dye solution for some predetermined period of time. According to another technique, a filter is used for blue blocking. The filter could include, for example, organic or inorganic compounds exhibiting absorption and/or reflection of and/or interference with blue light wavelengths. The filter could comprise multiple thin layers or coatings of organic and/or inorganic substances. Each layer may have properties, which, either individually or in combination with other layers, absorbs, reflects or interferes with light having blue light wavelengths. Rugate notch filters are one example of blue blocking filters. Rugate filters are single thin films of inorganic

dielectrics in which the refractive index oscillates continuously between high and low values. Fabricated by the co-deposition of two materials of different refractive index (e.g. SiO₂ and TiO₂), rugate filters are known to have very well defined stop-bands for wavelength blocking, with very little attenuation outside the band. The construction parameters of the filter

5 (oscillation period, refractive index modulation, number of refractive index oscillations) determine the performance parameters of the filter (center of the stop-band, width of the stop band, transmission within the band). Rugate filters are disclosed in more detail in, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 6,984,038 and 7,066,596, each of which is by reference in its entirety. Another technique for blue blocking is the use of multi-layer dielectric stacks.

10 Multi-layer dielectric stacks are fabricated by depositing discrete layers of alternating high and low refractive index materials. Similarly to rugate filters, design parameters such as individual layer thickness, individual layer refractive index, and number of layer repetitions determine the performance parameters for multi-layer dielectric stacks.

[0098] Color balancing may comprise imparting, for example, a suitable proportion or

15 concentration of blue tinting/dye, or a suitable combination of red and green tinting/dyes to the color-balancing component, such that when viewed by an external observer, the ophthalmic system as a whole has a cosmetically acceptable appearance. For example, the ophthalmic system as a whole may look clear or mostly clear.

[0099] FIG. 1A shows an ophthalmic system including a posterior blue blocking

20 component 101 and an anterior color-balancing component 102. Each component has a concave posterior side or surface 110, 115 and a convex anterior side or surface 120, 125. In system 100, the posterior blue blocking component 101 may be or include an ophthalmic component, such as a single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form. The single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form may be tinted or dyed to perform blue blocking. The anterior

25 color-balancing component 102 may comprise a surface cast layer, applied to the single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form according to known techniques. For example, the surface cast layer may be affixed or bonded to the single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form using visible or UV light, or a combination of the two.

[0100] The surface cast layer may be formed on the convex side of the single vision lens,

30 wafer or optical pre-form. Since the single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form has been tinted or dyed to perform blue blocking, it may have a yellow or amber color that is undesirable cosmetically. Accordingly, the surface cast layer may, for example, be tinted

with a suitable proportion of blue tinting/dye, or a suitable combination of red and green tinting/dyes.

[0101] The surface cast layer may be treated with color balancing additives after it is applied to the single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form that has already been processed to make it blue blocking. For example, the blue blocking single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form with the surface cast layer on its convex surface may be immersed in a heated tint pot which has the appropriate proportions and concentrations of color balancing dyes in a solution. The surface cast layer will take up the color balancing dyes from the solution. To prevent the blue blocking single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form from absorbing any of the color balancing dyes, its concave surface may be masked or sealed off with a dye resist, e.g. tape or wax or other coating. This is illustrated in FIG. 2, which shows an ophthalmic system 100 with a dye resist 201 on the concave surface of the single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form 101. The edges of the single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form may be left uncoated to allow them to become cosmetically color adjusted. This may be important for negative focal lenses having thick edges.

[0102] FIG. 1B shows another ophthalmic system 150 in which the anterior color-balancing component 104 may be or include an ophthalmic component, such as a single vision or multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form. The posterior blue blocking component 103 may be a surface cast layer. To make this combination, the convex surface of the color balancing single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form may be masked with a dye resist as described above, to prevent it taking up blue blocking dyes when the combination is immersed in a heated tint pot containing a blue blocking dye solution. Meanwhile, the exposed surface cast layer will take up the blue blocking dyes.

[0103] It should be understood that the surface cast layer could be used in combination with a multi-focal, rather than a single vision, lens, wafer or optical pre-form. In addition, the surface cast layer could be used to add power to a single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form, including multi-focal power, thus converting the single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form to a multi-focal lens, with either a lined or progressive type addition. Of course, the surface cast layer could also be designed to add little or no power to the single vision lens, wafer or optical pre-form.

[0104] FIG. 3 shows blue blocking and color balancing functionality integrated into an ophthalmic component. More specifically, in ophthalmic lens 300, a portion 303

corresponding to a depth of tint penetration into an otherwise clear or mostly clear ophthalmic component 301 at a posterior region thereof may be blue blocking. Further, a portion 302, corresponding to a depth of tint penetration into the otherwise clear or mostly clear ophthalmic component 301 at a frontal or anterior region thereof may be color

5 balancing. The system illustrated in FIG. 3 may be produced as follows. The ophthalmic component 301 may, for example, initially be a clear or mostly clear single vision or multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form. The clear or mostly clear single vision or multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form may be tinted with a blue blocking tint while its front convex surface is rendered non-absorptive, e.g., by masking or coating with a dye resist as described

10 previously. As a result, a portion 303, beginning at the posterior concave surface of the clear or mostly clear single vision or multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form 301 and extending inwardly, and having blue blocking functionality, may be created by tint penetration. Then, the anti-absorbing coating of the front convex surface may be removed. An anti-absorbing coating may then be applied to the concave surface, and the front convex surface and

15 peripheral edges of the single vision or multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form may be tinted (e.g. by immersion in a heated tint pot) for color balancing. The color balancing dyes will be absorbed by the peripheral edges and a portion 302 beginning at the front convex surface and extending inwardly, that was left untinted due to the earlier coating. The order of the foregoing process could be reversed, i.e., the concave surface could first be masked while

20 the remaining portion was tinted for color balancing. Then, the coating could be removed and a depth or thickness at the concave region left untinted by the masking could be tinted for blue blocking.

[0105] Referring now to FIG. 4, an ophthalmic system 400 may be formed using an in-mold coating. More specifically, an ophthalmic component 401 such as a single vision or

25 multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form which has been dyed/tinted with a suitable blue blocking tint, dye or other additive may be color balanced via surface casting using a tinted in-mold coating 403. The in-mold coating 403, comprising a suitable level and/or mixtures of color balancing dyes, may be applied to the convex surface mold (i.e., a mold, not shown, for applying the coating 403 to the convex surface of the ophthalmic component 401). A

30 colorless monomer 402 may be filled in and cured between the coating 403 and ophthalmic component 401. The process of curing the monomer 402 will cause the color balancing in-mold coating to transfer itself to the convex surface of the ophthalmic component 401. The

result is a blue blocking ophthalmic system with a color balancing surface coating. The in-mold coating could be, for example, an anti-reflective coating or a conventional hard coating.

[0106] Referring now to FIG. 5, an ophthalmic system 500 may comprise two ophthalmic components, one blue blocking and the other color balancing. For example, a first
5 ophthalmic component 501 could be a back single vision or concave surface multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form, dyed/tinted with the appropriate blue blocking tint to achieve the desired level of blue blocking. A second ophthalmic component 503 could be a front single vision or convex surface multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form, bonded or affixed to the back single vision or concave surface multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form, for example
10 using a UV or visible curable adhesive 502. The front single vision or convex surface multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form could be rendered color balancing either before or after it was bonded with the back single vision or concave surface multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form. If after, the front single vision or convex surface multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form could be rendered color balancing, for example, by techniques described
15 above. For example, the back single vision or concave surface multi-focal lens, wafer or optical pre-form may be masked or coated with a dye resist to prevent it taking up color balancing dyes. Then, the bonded back and front portions may be together placed in a heated tint pot containing a suitable solution of color balancing dyes, allowing the front portion to take up color balancing dyes.

20 [0107] Any of the above-described embodiments systems, may be combined with one or more anti-reflective (AR) components. This is shown in FIG. 6, by way of example, for the ophthalmic lenses 100 and 150 shown in FIGs. 1A and 1B. In FIG. 6, a first AR component 601, e.g. a coating, is applied to the concave surface of posterior blue blocking element 101, and a second AR component 602 is applied to the convex surface of color balancing
25 component 102. Similarly, a first AR component 601 is applied to the concave surface of posterior blue blocking component 103, and a second AR component 602 is applied to the convex surface of color balancing component 104.

[0108] FIGS. 7A-7C show further exemplary systems including a blue blocking component and a color-balancing component. In FIG. 7A, an ophthalmic system 700 includes a blue
30 blocking component 703 and a color balancing component 704 that are formed as adjacent, but distinct, coatings or layers on or adjacent to the anterior surface of a clear or mostly clear ophthalmic lens 702. The blue blocking component 703 is posterior to the color-balancing

component 704. On or adjacent to the posterior surface of the clear or mostly clear ophthalmic lens, an AR coating or other layer 701 may be formed. Another AR coating or layer 705 may be formed on or adjacent to the anterior surface of the color-balancing layer 704.

5 [0109] In FIG. 7B, the blue blocking component 703 and color-balancing component 704 are arranged on or adjacent to the posterior surface of the clear or mostly clear ophthalmic lens 702. Again, the blue blocking component 703 is posterior to the color-balancing component 704. An AR component 701 may be formed on or adjacent to the posterior surface of the blue blocking component 703. Another AR component 705 may be formed on
10 or adjacent to the anterior surface of the clear or mostly clear ophthalmic lens 702.

[0110] In FIG. 7C, the blue blocking component 703 and the color-balancing component 704 are arranged on or adjacent to the posterior and the anterior surfaces, respectively, of the clear ophthalmic lens 702. Again, the blue blocking component 703 is posterior to the color-balancing component 704. An AR component 701 may be formed on or adjacent to the
15 posterior surface of the blue blocking component 703, and another AR component 705 may be formed on or adjacent to the anterior surface of the color-balancing component 704.

[0111] FIGs. 8A and 8B show an ophthalmic system 800 in which functionality to both block blue light wavelengths and to perform color balancing may be combined in a single component 803. For example, the combined functionality component may block blue light
20 wavelengths and reflect some green and red wavelengths as well, thus neutralizing the blue and eliminating the appearance of a dominant color in the lens. The combined functionality component 803 may be arranged on or adjacent to either the anterior or the posterior surface of a clear ophthalmic lens 802. The ophthalmic lens 800 may further include an AR component 801 on or adjacent to either the anterior or the posterior surface of the clear
25 ophthalmic lens 802.

[0112] Although FIGs. 7 and 8 depict configurations of particular embodiments, one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the positioning of the blue-blocking component and the color-balancing component may vary according to materials, manufacturing procedures, and applications. For example, a blue-blocking component can be anterior to,
30 posterior two, integral with, or sandwiched between one or more ophthalmic components, e.g., an ophthalmic lens or a photochromic component. Similarly, a color-balancing component can be anterior to, posterior two, integral with, or sandwiched between one or

more ophthalmic components. Also, a blue-blocking component can be positioned variably relative to a color-balancing component (although some embodiments specify that a blue-blocking component is posterior to a color-balancing component).

[0113] To quantify the effectiveness of a color balancing component, it may be useful to observe light reflected and/or transmitted by a substrate of an ophthalmic material. The observed light may be characterized by its CIE (x,y) coordinates to indicate the color of observed light; by comparing these coordinates to the CIE coordinates of the incident light, it is possible to determine how much the color of the light was shifted due to the reflection/transmission. White light is defined to have CIE coordinates of (0.33, 0.33). Thus, the closer an observed light's CIE coordinates are to (0.33, 0.33), the "more white" it will appear to an observer. To characterize the color shifting or balancing performed by a lens, (0.33, 0.33) white light may be directed at the lens, and the CIE of reflected and transmitted light observed. If the transmitted light has a CIE of about (0.33, 0.33), there will be no color shifting, and items viewed through the lens will have a natural appearance, i.e., the color will not be shifted relative to items observed without the lens. Similarly, if the reflected light has a CIE of about (0.33, 0.33), the lens will have a natural cosmetic appearance, i.e., it will not appear tinted to an observer viewing a user of the lens or ophthalmic system. Thus, it is desirable for transmitted and reflected light to have a CIE as close to (0.33, 0.33) as possible.

[0114] FIG. 9 shows a CIE plot indicating the observed colors corresponding to various CIE coordinates. A reference point 900 indicates the coordinates (0.33, 0.33). Although the central region of the plot typically is designated as "white," some light having CIE coordinates in this region can appear slightly tinted to a viewer. For example, light having CIE coordinates of (0.4, 0.4) will appear yellow to an observer. Thus, to achieve a color-neutral appearance in an ophthalmic system, it is desirable for (0.33, 0.33) light (i.e., white light) that is transmitted and/or reflected by the system to have CIE coordinates as close to (0.33, 0.33) as possible after the transmission/reflection. The CIE plot shown in FIG. 9 will be used herein as a reference to show the color shifts observed with various systems, though the labeled regions will be omitted for clarity.

[0115] Absorbing dyes may be included in the substrate material of an ophthalmic lens by injection molding the dye into the substrate material to produce lenses with specific light transmission and absorption properties. These dye materials can absorb at the fundamental peak wavelength of the dye or at shorter resonance wavelengths due to the presence of a

Soret band typically found in porphyrin materials. Exemplary ophthalmic materials include various glasses and polymers such as CR-39[®], TRIVEX[®], polycarbonate, polymethylmethacrylate, silicone, and fluoropolymers, though other materials may be used and are known for various ophthalmic systems.

- 5 [0116] By way of example only, GENTEX day material E465 transmittance and absorbance is shown in FIGS. 10-11. The Absorbance (A) is related to the transmittance (T) by the equation, $A = \log_{10}(1/T)$. In this case, the transmittance is between 0 and 1 ($0 < T < 1$). Often transmittance is express as a percentage, i.e., $0\% < T < 100\%$. The E465 dye blocks those wavelengths less than 465 and is normally provided to block these wavelengths with high optical density ($OD > 4$). Similar products are available to block other wavelengths. For example, E420 from GENTEX blocks wavelengths below 420nm. Other exemplary dyes include porphyrins, perylene, and similar dyes that can absorb at blue wavelengths.

- [0117] The absorbance at shorter wavelengths can be reduced by a reduction of the dye concentration. This and other dye materials can achieve a transmittance of ~50% in the 15 430nm region. FIG. 12 shows the transmittance of a polycarbonate substrate with a dye concentration suitable for absorbing in the 430nm range, and with some absorption in the range of 420nm – 440nm. This was achieved by reducing the concentration of the dye and including the effects of a polycarbonate substrate. The rear surface is at this point not antireflection coated.

- 20 [0118] The concentration of dye also may affect the appearance and color shift of an ophthalmic system. By reducing the concentration, systems with varying degrees of color shift may be obtained. A "color shift" as used herein refers to the amount by which the CIE coordinates of a reference light change after transmission and/or reflection of the ophthalmic system. It also may be useful to characterize a system by the color shift causes by the system due to the differences in various types of light typically perceived as white (e.g., sunlight, incandescent light, and fluorescent light). It therefore may be useful to characterize a system based on the amount by which the CIE coordinates of incident light are shifted when the light is transmitted and/or reflected by the system. For example, a system in which light with CIE coordinates of (0.33, 0.33) becomes light with a CIE of (0.30, 0.30) after transmission may be 25 described as causing a color shift of (-0.03, -0.03), or, more generally, (± 0.03 , ± 0.03). Thus the color shift caused by a system indicates how "natural" light and viewed items appear to a 30

wearer of the system. As further described below, systems causing color shifts of less than (± 0.05 , ± 0.05) to (± 0.02 , ± 0.02) have been achieved.

[0119] A reduction in short-wavelength transmission in an ophthalmic system may be useful in reducing cell death due to photoelectric effects in the eye, such as excitation of A2E.

5 It has been shown that reducing incident light at 430 ± 30 nm by about 50% can reduce cell death by about 80%. See, for example, Janet R. Sparrow et al., "Blue light-absorbing intraocular lens and retinal pigment epithelium protection in vitro," J. Cataract Refract. Surg. 2004, vol. 30, pp. 873-78, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. It is further believed that reducing the amount of blue light, such as light in the 430-460 nm
10 range, by as little as 5% may similarly reduce cell death and/or degeneration, and therefore prevent or reduce the adverse effects of conditions such as atrophic age-related macular degeneration.

[0120] Although an absorbing dye may be used to block undesirable wavelengths of light, the dye may produce a color tint in the lens as a side effect. For example, many blue-
15 blocking ophthalmic lenses have a yellow coloring that is often undesirable and/or aesthetically displeasing. To offset this coloring, a color balancing coating may be applied to one or both surfaces of a substrate including the absorbing dye therein.

[0121] Antireflection (AR) coatings (which are interference filters) are well-established within the commercial ophthalmic coating industry. The coatings typically are a few layers,
20 often less than 10, and typically are used to reduce the reflection from the polycarbonate surface to less than 1%. An example of such a coating on a polycarbonate surface is shown in FIG. 13. The color plot of this coating is shown in FIG. 14 and it is observed that the color is quite neutral. The total reflectance was observed to be 0.21%. The reflected light was observed to have CIE coordinates of (0.234, 0.075); the transmitted light had CIE coordinates
25 of (0.334, 0.336).

[0122] AR coatings may be applied to both surfaces of a lens or other ophthalmic device to achieve a higher transmittance. Such a configuration is shown in FIG. 15 where the darker line 1510 is the AR coated polycarbonate and the thinner line 1520 is an uncoated polycarbonate substrate. This AR coating provides a 10% increase in total transmitted light.
30 There is some natural loss of light due to absorption in the polycarbonate substrate. The particular polycarbonate substrate used for this example has a transmittance loss of

approximately 3%. In the ophthalmic industry AR coatings generally are applied to both surfaces to increase the transmittance of the lens.

[0123] In systems according to the present invention, AR coatings or other color balancing films may be combined with an absorbing dye to allow for simultaneous absorption of blue wavelength light, typically in the 430 nm region, and increased transmittance. As previously described, elimination of the light in the 430 nm region alone typically results in a lens that has some residual color cast. To spectrally tailor the light to achieve a color neutral transmittance, at least one of the AR coatings may be modified to adjust the overall transmitted color of the light. In ophthalmic systems according to the invention, this adjustment may be performed on the front surface of the lens to create the following lens structure:

[0124] Air (farthest from the user's eye) / Front convex lens coating / Absorbing ophthalmic lens substrate / rear concave anti-reflection coating / Air (closest to the user's eye).

[0125] In such a configuration, the front coating may provide spectral tailoring to offset the color cast resulting from the absorption in the substrate in addition to the antireflective function typically performed in conventional lenses. The lens therefore may provide an appropriate color balance for both transmitted and reflected light. In the case of transmitted light the color balance allows for proper color vision; in the case reflected light the color balance may provide the appropriate lens aesthetics.

[0126] In some cases, a color balancing film may be disposed between two layers of other ophthalmic material. For example, a filter, AR film, or other film may be disposed within an ophthalmic material. For example, the following configuration may be used:

[0127] Air (farthest from the user's eye) / ophthalmic material / film / ophthalmic material / air (closest to user's eye).

[0128] The color balancing film also may be a coating, such as a hardcoat, applied to the outer and/or inner surface of a lens. Other configurations are possible. For example, referring to FIG. 3, an ophthalmic system may include an ophthalmic material 301 doped with a blue-absorbing dye and one or more color balancing layers 302, 303. In another configuration, an inner layer 301 may be a color balancing layer surrounded by ophthalmic material 302, 303 doped with a blue-absorbing dye. Additional layers and/or coatings, such as AR coatings, may be disposed on one or more surfaces of the system. It will be

understood how similar materials and configurations may be used, for example in the systems described with respect to FIGS. 4-8B.

5 [0129] Thus, optical films and/or coatings such as AR coatings may be used to fine-tune the overall spectral response of a lens having an absorbing dye. Transmission variation across the visible spectrum is well known and varies as a function of the thickness and number of layers in the optical coating. In the invention one or more layers can be used to provide the needed adjustment of the spectral properties.

10 [0130] In an exemplary system, color variation is produced by a single layer of TiO_2 (a common AR coating material). FIG. 16 shows the spectral transmittance of a 106nm thick single layer of TiO_2 . The color plot of this same layer is shown in FIG. 17. The CIE color coordinates (x, y) 1710 shown for the transmitted light are (0.331, 0.345). The reflected light had CIE coordinates of (0.353, 0.251) 1720, resulting in a purplish-pink color.

15 [0131] Changing the thickness of the TiO_2 layer changes the color of the transmitted light as shown in the transmitted spectra and color plot for a 134 nm layer, shown in FIGS. 18 and 19 respectively. In this system, the transmitted light exhibited CIE coordinates of (0.362, 0.368) 1910, and the reflected light had CIE coordinates of (0.209, 0.229) 1920. The transmission properties of various AR coatings and the prediction or estimation thereof are known in the art. For example, the transmission effects of an AR coating formed of a known thickness of an AR material may be calculated and predicted using various computer
20 programs. Exemplary, non-limiting programs include Essential Macleod Thin Films Software available from Thin Film Center, Inc., TFCalc available from Software Spectra, Inc., and FilmStar Optical Thin Film Software available from FTG Software Associates. Other methods may be used to predict the behavior of an AR coating or other similar coating or film.

25 [0132] In systems according to the present invention, a blue-absorbing dye may be combined with a coating or other film to provide a blue blocking, color balanced system. The coating may be an AR coating on the front surface that is modified to correct the color of the transmitted and/or reflected light. The transmittance and color plot of an exemplary AR coating are shown in FIGS. 20 and 21, respectively. FIGS. 22 and 23 show the transmittance and color plot, respectively, for a polycarbonate substrate having a blue absorbing dye
30 without an AR coating. The dyed substrate absorbs most strongly in the 430 nm region, including some absorption in the 420 – 440 nm region. The dyed substrate may be combined

with an appropriate AR coating as illustrated in FIGS. 20-21 to increase the overall transmittance of the system. The transmittance and color plot for a dyed substrate having a rear AR coating are shown in FIGS. 24 and 25, respectively.

[0133] An AR coating also may be applied to the front of an ophthalmic system (i.e., the surface farthest from the eye of a wearer of the system), resulting in the transmittance and color plot shown in FIGS. 26 and 27, respectively. Although the system exhibits a high transmission and transmitted light is relatively neutral, the reflected light has a CIE of (0.249, 0.090). Therefore, to more completely color balance the effects of the blue absorbing dye, the front AR coating may be modified to achieve the necessary color balance to produce a color neutral configuration. The transmittance and the color plot of this configuration are shown in FIGS. 28 and 29 respectively. In this configuration, both the transmitted and reflected light may be optimized to achieve color neutrality. It may be preferred for the interior reflected light to be about 6%. Should the reflectivity level be annoying to the wearer of the system, the reflection can be further reduced by way of adding an additional different absorbing dye into the lens substrate that would absorb a different wavelength of visible light. However, the design of this configuration achieves remarkable performance and satisfies the need for a blue blocking, color balanced ophthalmic system as described herein. The total transmittance is over 90% and both the transmitted and reflected colors are quite close to the color neutral white point. As shown in FIG. 27, the reflected light has a CIE of (0.334, 0.334), and the transmitted light has a CIE of (0.341, 0.345), indicating little or no color shifting.

[0134] In some configurations, the front modified anti-reflection coating can be designed to block 100% of the blue light wave length to be inhibited. However, this may result in a back reflection of about 9% to 10% for the wearer. This level of reflectivity can be annoying to the wearer. Thus by combining an absorbing dye into the lens substrate this reflection with the front modified anti-reflection coating the desired effect can be achieved along with a reduction of the reflectivity to a level that is well accepted by the wearer. The reflected light observed by a wearer of a system including one or more AR coatings may be reduced to 8% or less, or more preferably 3% or less.

[0135] The combination of a front and rear AR coating may be referred to as a dielectric stack, and various materials and thicknesses may be used to further alter the transmissive and reflective characteristics of an ophthalmic system. For example, the front AR coating and/or

the rear AR coating may be made of different thicknesses and/or materials to achieve a particular color balancing effect. In some cases, the materials used to create the dielectric stack may not be materials traditionally used to create antireflective coatings. That is, the color balancing coatings may correct the color shift caused by a blue absorbing dye in the substrate without performing an antireflective function.

[0136] As discussed previously, filters are another technique for blue blocking. Accordingly, any of the blue blocking components discussed could be or include or be combined with blue blocking filters. Such filters may include rugate filters, interference filters, band-pass filters, band-block filters, notch filters or dichroic filters.

[0137] In embodiments of the invention, one or more of the above-disclosed blue-blocking techniques may be used in conjunction with other blue-blocking techniques. By way of example only, a lens or lens component may utilize both a dye/tint and a rugate notch filter to effectively block blue light.

[0138] Any of the above-disclosed structures and techniques may be employed in an ophthalmic system according to the present invention to perform blocking of blue light wavelengths at or near 400-460 nm. For example, in embodiments the wavelengths of blue light blocked may be within a predetermined range. In embodiments, the range may be $430 \text{ nm} \pm 30 \text{ nm}$. In other embodiments, the range may be $430 \text{ nm} \pm 20 \text{ nm}$. In still other embodiments, the range may be $430 \text{ nm} \pm 10 \text{ nm}$. In embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 90% of incident wavelengths. In other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 80% of incident wavelengths. In other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 70% of incident wavelengths. In other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 60% of incident wavelengths. In other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 50% of incident wavelengths. In other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 40% of incident wavelengths. In still other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 30% of incident

- wavelengths. In still other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 20% of incident wavelengths. In still other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 10% of incident
- 5 wavelengths. In still other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 5% of incident wavelengths. In still other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 1% of incident wavelengths. In still other embodiments, the ophthalmic system may limit transmission of
- 10 the blue wavelengths within the above-defined ranges to substantially 0% of incident wavelengths. Stated otherwise, attenuation by the ophthalmic system of the electromagnetic spectrum at wavelengths in the above-specified ranges may be at least 10%; or at least 20%; or at least 30%; or at least 40%; or at least 50%; or at least 60%; or at least 70%; or at least 80%; or at least 90%; or at least 95%; or at least 99%; or substantially 100%.
- 15 [0139] In some cases it may be particularly desirable to filter a relatively small portion of the blue spectrum, such as the 400 nm – 460 nm region. For example, it has been found that blocking too much of the blue spectrum can interfere with scotopic vision and circadian rhythms. Conventional blue blocking ophthalmic lenses typically block a much larger amount of a wide range of the blue spectrum, which can adversely affect the wearer's
- 20 "biological clock" and have other adverse effects. Thus, it may be desirable to block a relatively narrow range of the blue spectrum as described herein. Exemplary systems that may filter a relatively small amount of light in a relatively small range include system that block or absorb 5-50%, 5-20%, and 5-10% of light having a wavelength of 400 nm – 460 nm, 410 nm – 450 nm, and 420 nm – 440 nm.
- 25 [0140] At the same time as wavelengths of blue light are selectively blocked as described above, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, or at least 95% of other portions of the visual electromagnetic spectrum may be transmitted by the ophthalmic system. Stated otherwise, attenuation by the ophthalmic system of the electromagnetic spectrum at wavelengths outside the blue light spectrum, e.g. wavelengths other than those in a range around 430 nm may be
- 30 20% or less, 15% or less, 10% or less, and in other embodiments, 5% or less.

[0141] Additionally, embodiments of the present invention may further block ultra-violet radiation the UVA and UVB spectral bands as well as infra-red radiation with wavelengths greater than 700 nm.

5 [0142] Any of the above-disclosed ophthalmic system may be incorporated into an article of eyewear, including externally-worn eyewear such as eyeglasses, sunglasses, goggles or contact lenses. In such eyewear, because the blue-blocking component of the systems is posterior to the color balancing component, the blue-blocking component will always be closer to the eye than the color-balancing component when the eyewear is worn. The ophthalmic system may also be used in such articles of manufacture as surgically implantable
10 intra-ocular lenses.

[0143] As used herein, a component "selectively inhibits" or "selectively filters" a wavelength range if it inhibits at least some transmission within the range, while having little or no effect on transmission of visible wavelengths outside the range. For example, if the selective filter filters out wavelengths from 400-460 nm, it attenuates only these wavelengths
15 and does not attenuate other visible wavelengths. Even though the selective filter does not attenuate wavelengths outside the selected range, the filter may be combined in a system with one or more other filters, e.g., a UV filter, an IR filter, or another selective filter directed to a different (although possibly overlapping) selected range. One embodiment of a dual filter system is provided by US 2008/0291392, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.
20 The attenuation within the selected wavelength range can be substantially consistent within the range (as in a rugate filter) or it can vary in attenuation level within the range (as in a dye with an absorption peak). Similarly, the "selected range" indicates the wavelength range that is attenuated by the selective filter. A "selected range of blue light wavelengths" refers to a range of blue light wavelengths within 400-500 nm that does not encompass the entire range
25 of 400-500 nm. Thus, a selective filter attenuates less than the entire spectrum of visible light and preferably less than the entire spectrum of blue light wavelengths (400-500 nm).

[0144] Several embodiments use a film to block the blue light. The film in an ophthalmic or other system may selectively inhibit at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 20%, at least 30%, at least 40%, and/or at least 50% of blue light within the 400 nm – 460 nm range. The film
30 and/or a system incorporating the film may be color balanced to allow for being perception by an observer and/or user as colorless. Systems incorporating a film according to the present invention may have a scotopic luminous transmission of 85% or better of visible

light, and further allow someone looking through the film or system to have mostly normal color vision.

[0145] FIG. 30 shows an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. A film 3002 may be disposed between two layers or regions of one or more base materials 3001, 3003.

5 As further described herein, the film may contain a dye that selectively inhibits certain wavelengths of light. The base material or materials may be any material suitable for a lens, ophthalmic system, window, or other system in which the film may be disposed.

[0146] The optical transmission characteristic of an exemplary film according to the invention is shown in FIG. 31 where about 50% of blue light in the range of $430\text{nm} \pm 10\text{ nm}$ is blocked, while imparting minimal losses on other wavelengths within the visible spectrum. The transmission shown in FIG. 31 is exemplary, and it will be understood that for many applications it may be desirable to selectively inhibit less than 50% of blue light, and/or the specific wavelengths inhibited may vary. It is believed that in many applications cell death may be reduced or prevented by blocking less than 50% of blue light. For example, it may be
15 preferred to selectively inhibit about 40%, more preferably about 30%, more preferably about 20%, more preferably about 10%, and more preferably about 5% of light in the 400-460 nm range. Selectively inhibiting a smaller amount of light may allow for prevention of damage due to high-energy light, while being minimal enough that the inhibition does not adversely affect scotopic vision and/or circadian cycles in a user of the system.

20 [0147] FIG. 32 shows a film 3201 incorporated into an ophthalmic lens 3200 according to the present invention, where it is sandwiched between layers of ophthalmic material 3202, 3203. The thickness of the front layer of ophthalmic material is, by way of example only, in the range of 200 microns to 1,000 microns.

[0148] Similarly, FIG. 33 shows an exemplary system 3300, such as an automotive
25 windshield, according to the present invention. A film 3301 may be incorporated into the system 3300, where it is sandwiched between layers of base material 3302, 3303. For example, where the system 3300 is an automotive windshield, the base material 3302, 3303 may be windshield glass as is commonly used. It will be understood that in various other systems, including visual, display, ophthalmic, and other systems, different base materials
30 may be used without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[0149] In an embodiment, a system according to the invention may be operated in an environment where the relevant emitted visible light has a very specific spectrum. In such a

regime, it may be desirable to tailor a film's filtering effect to optimize the light transmitted, reflected, or emitted by the item. This may be the case, for example, where the color of the transmitted, reflected, or emitted light is of primary concern. For example, when a film according to the present invention is used in or with a camera flash or flash filter, it may be desirable for the perceived color of the image or print to be as close to true color as possible. As another example, a film according to the present invention may be used in instrumentation for observing the back of a patient's eye for disease. In such a system, it may be important for the film not to interfere with the true and observed color of the retina. As another example, certain forms of artificial lighting may benefit from a wavelength-customized filter utilizing the inventive film.

[0150] In an embodiment, the inventive film may be utilized within a photochromic, electro-chromic, or changeable tint ophthalmic lens, window or automotive windshield. Such a system may allow for protection from UV light wavelengths, direct sunlight intensity, and blue light wavelengths in an environment where the tinting is not active. In this embodiment the film's blue light wavelengths protective attributes may be effective regardless of whether the tinting is active.

[0151] In an embodiment, a film may allow for selective inhibition of blue light while being color balanced and will have an 85% or greater scotopic luminous transmission of visible light. Such a film may be useful for lower light transmission uses such as driving glasses or sport glasses, and may provide increased visual performance due to increased contrast sensitivity.

[0152] For some applications, it may be desirable for a system according to the present invention to selectively inhibit blue light as described herein, and have a luminous transmission of less than about 85%, typically about 80-85%, across the visible spectrum. This may be the case where, for example, a base material used in the system inhibits more light across all visible wavelengths due to its higher index of refraction. As a specific example, high index (e.g., 1.7) lenses may reflect more light across wavelengths leading to a luminous transmission less than 85%.

[0153] To avoid, reduce, or eliminate problems present in conventional blue-blocking systems, it may be desirable to reduce, but not eliminate, transmission of phototoxic blue light. The pupil of the eye responds to the photopic retinal illuminance, in trolands, which is the product of the incident flux with the wavelength-dependent sensitivity of the retina and

the projected area of the pupil. A filter placed in front of the retina, whether within the eye, as in an intraocular lens, attached to the eye, as in a contact lens or corneal replacement, or otherwise in the optical path of the eye as in a spectacle lens, may reduce the total flux of light to the retina and stimulate dilation of the pupil, and thus compensate for the reduction in field illuminance. When exposed to a steady luminance in the field the pupil diameter generally fluctuates about a value that increases as the luminance falls.

[0154] A functional relationship between pupil area and field illuminance described by Moon and Spencer, J. Opt. Soc. Am. v. 33, p. 260 (1944) using the following equation for pupil diameter:

$$d = 4.9 - 3 \tanh(\log(L) + 1) \quad (0.1)$$

where d is in millimeters and L is the illuminance in cd/m^2 . FIG. 34A shows pupil diameter (mm) as a function of field illuminance (cd/m^2). FIG. 34B shows pupil area (mm^2) as a function of field illuminance.

[0155] The illuminance is defined by the international CIE standards as a spectrally weighted integration of visual sensitivity over wavelength:

$$\begin{aligned} L &= K_m \int L_{e,\lambda} V_\lambda d\lambda & \text{photopic} \\ L' &= K'_m \int L_{e,\lambda} V'_\lambda d\lambda & \text{scotopic} \end{aligned} \quad (0.2)$$

where K'_m is equal to 1700.06 lm/W for scotopic (night) vision, $K_m = 683.2$ lm/W for photopic (day) vision and the spectral luminous efficiency functions V_λ and V'_λ define the standard photopic and scotopic observers. The luminous efficiency functions V_λ and V'_λ are illustrated in, e.g., Figure 9 of Michael Kalloniatis and Charles Luu, "Psychophysics of Vision," available at <http://webvision.med.utah.edu/Phych1.html>, last visited August 8, 2007, which is incorporated by reference herein.

[0156] Interposition of an absorptive ophthalmic element in the form of an intraocular, contact, or spectacle lens reduces the illuminance according to the formula:

$$\begin{aligned} L &= K_m \int T_\lambda L_{e,\lambda} V_\lambda d\lambda & \text{photopic} \\ L' &= K'_m \int T_\lambda L_{e,\lambda} V'_\lambda d\lambda & \text{scotopic} \end{aligned} \quad (0.3)$$

where T_λ is the wavelength-dependent transmission of the optical element. Values for the integrals in equation 1.3 normalized to the unfiltered illuminance values computed from equation 1.2 for each of the prior-art blue blocking lenses are shown in Table I.

Table I

Reference	Figure	Photopic Ratio	Scotopic Ratio
Unfiltered		1.000	1.000
Pratt '430		0.280	0.164
Mainster 2005/0243272		0.850	0.775
Present System	35	0.996	0.968
Present System	36 (solid line)	0.993	0.947
Present System	37	0.978	0.951

[0157] Referring to Table I, the ophthalmic filter according to Pratt reduces scotopic sensitivity by 83.6% of its unfiltered value, an attenuation that will both degrade night vision and stimulate pupil dilation according to equation 1.1. The device described by Mainster reduces scotopic flux by 22.5%, which is less severe than the Pratt device but still significant.

[0158] In contrast, a film according to the present invention partially attenuates violet and blue light using absorptive or reflective ophthalmic elements while reducing the scotopic illuminance by no more than 15% of its unfiltered value. Surprisingly, systems according to the present invention were found to selectively inhibit a desired region of blue light, while having little to no effect on photopic and scotopic vision.

[0159] In an embodiment, perylene (C₂₀H₁₂, CAS # 198-55-0) is incorporated into an ophthalmic device at a concentration and thickness sufficient to absorb about two thirds of the light at its absorption maximum of 437 nm. The transmission spectrum of this device is shown in FIG. 35. The change in illuminance that results from this filter is only about 3.2% for scotopic viewing conditions and about 0.4% under photopic viewing conditions, as displayed in Table I. Increasing the concentration or thickness of perylene in the device decreases the transmission at each wavelength according to Beer's law. FIG. 36 shows the transmission spectrum of a device with a perylene concentration 2.27 times higher than that for FIG. 6. Although this device selectively blocks more of the phototoxic blue light than the device in FIG. 6, it reduces scotopic illuminance by less than 6% and photopic illuminance by less than 0.7%. Note that reflection has been removed from the spectra in FIGS. 35 and 36 to show only the effect of absorption by the dye.

[0160] Dyes other than perylene may have strong absorption in blue or roughly blue wavelength ranges and little or no absorbance in other regions of the visible spectrum. Examples of such dyes, illustrated in FIG. 46, include porphyrin, coumarin, and acridine based molecules which may be used singly or in combination to give transmission that is reduced, but not eliminated, at 400 nm – 460 nm. The methods and systems described herein

therefore may use similar dyes based on other molecular structures at concentrations that mimic the transmission spectra of perylene, porphyrin, magnesium tetramesitylporphyrin (MgTMP), coumarin, and acridine, or derivatives thereof.

[0161] In one embodiment, a selective filter mimics the transmission spectra of one or more of the exemplary dyes provided herein. The dyes provided herein are thus used as a reference filter to design similar filters using alternative materials. A filter can mimic the transmission spectra of a reference filter by filtering about the same wavelengths. For example, a mimic filter can filter about the same wavelength range as the reference filter $\pm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25$, or 30 wavelengths on one or both ends of the range. In another embodiment, the filter can mimic the transmission spectra of a reference filter by filtering selected wavelengths to about the same inhibition level. For example, the maximum inhibition (or minimum transmission) of the reference filter and the maximum inhibition (or minimum transmission) of the mimic filter can be within about 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30% of one another. In another embodiment, the mimic filter mimics both the wavelength range and the inhibition level of the reference filter.

[0162] The insertion of dye into the optical path according to embodiments of the present invention may be accomplished by diverse methods familiar to those practiced in the art of optical manufacturing. The dye or dyes may be incorporated directly into the substrate, added to a polymeric coating, imbibed into the lens, incorporated in a laminated structure that includes a dye-impregnated layer, or as a composite material with dye-impregnated microparticles.

[0163] According to another embodiment of the invention a dielectric coating that is partially reflective in the violet and blue spectral regions and antireflective at longer wavelengths may be applied. Methods for designing appropriate dielectric optical filters are summarized in textbooks such as Angus McLeod, Thin Film Optical Filters (McGraw-Hill:NY) 1989. An exemplary transmission spectrum for a six-layer stack of SiO_2 and ZrO_2 according to the present invention is shown in FIG. 37. Referring again to Table I, it is seen that this optical filter blocks phototoxic blue and violet light while reducing scotopic illuminance by less than 5% and photopic illuminance by less than 3%.

[0164] Although many conventional blue blocking technologies attempt to inhibit as much blue light as possible, current research suggests that in many applications it may be desirable to inhibit a relatively small amount of blue light. For example, to prevent undesirable effects

on scotopic vision, it may be desirable for an ophthalmic system according to the invention to inhibit only about 30% of blue (i.e., 380-500 nm) wavelength light, or more preferably only about 20% of blue light, more preferably about 10%, and more preferably about 5%. It is believed that cell death may be reduced by inhibiting as little as 5% of blue light, while this
5 degree of blue light reduction has little or no effect on scotopic vision and/or circadian behavior of those using the system.

[0165] As used herein, a film according to the invention that selectively inhibits blue light is described as inhibiting an amount of light measured relative to the base system incorporating the film. For example, an ophthalmic system may use a polycarbonate or other
10 similar base for a lens. Materials typically used for such a base may inhibit a various amount of light at visible wavelengths. If a blue-blocking film according to the present invention is added to the system, it may selectively inhibit 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, and/or 50% of all blue wavelengths, as measured relative to the amount of light that would be transmitted at the same wavelength(s) in the absence of the film.

15 [0166] The methods and devices disclosed herein may minimize, and preferably eliminate, the shift in color perception that results from blue-blocking. The color perceived by the human visual system results from neural processing of light signals that fall on retinal pigments with different spectral response characteristics. To describe color perception mathematically, a color space is constructed by integrating the product of three wavelength-
20 dependent color matching functions with the spectral irradiance. The result is three numbers that characterize the perceived color. A uniform (L^* , a^* , b^*) color space, which has been established by the Commission Internationale de L'eclairage (CIE), may be used to characterize perceived colors, although similar calculations based on alternative color standards are familiar to those practiced in the art of color science and may also be used.
25 The (L^* , a^* , b^*) color space defines brightness on the L^* axis and color within the plane defined by the a^* and b^* axes. A uniform color space such as that defined by this CIE standard may be preferred for computational and comparative applications, since the Cartesian distances of the space are proportional to the magnitude of perceived color difference between two objects. The use of uniform color spaces generally is recognized in
30 the art, such as described in Wyszecki and Stiles, Color Science: Concepts and Methods, Quantitative Data and Formulae (Wiley: New York) 1982.

[0167] An optical design according to the methods and systems described herein may use a palette of spectra that describe the visual environment. A non-limiting example of this is the Munsell matte color palette, which is comprised of 1,269 color tiles that have been established by psychophysical experiments to be just noticeably different from each other.

5 The spectral irradiance of these tiles is measured under standard illumination conditions. The array of color coordinates corresponding to each of these tiles illuminated by a D65 daylight illuminant in (L^* , a^* , b^*) color space is the reference for color distortion and is shown in FIG. 38. The spectral irradiance of the color tiles is then modulated by a blue-blocking filter and a new set of color coordinates is computed. Each tile has a perceived color that is shifted
10 by an amount corresponding to the geometric displacement of the (L^* , a^* , b^*) coordinates. This calculation has been applied to the blue-blocking filter of Pratt, where the average color distortion is 41 just noticeable difference (JND) units in (L^* , a^* , b^*) space. The minimum distortion caused by the Pratt filter is 19 JNDs, the maximum is 66, and the standard deviation is 7 JNDs. A histogram of the color shifts for all 1,269 color tiles is shown in FIG.
15 39A (top).

[0168] Referring now to FIG. 39B, the color shift induced by the Mainster blue-blocking filter has a minimum value of 6, an average of 19, a maximum of 34, and a standard deviation of 6 JNDs.

[0169] Embodiments of the present invention using perylene dye at two concentrations or
20 the reflective filter described above may have substantially smaller color shifts than conventional devices whether measured as an average, minimum, or maximum distortion, as illustrated in Table II. FIG. 40 shows a histogram of color shifts for a perylene-dyed substrate according to the present invention whose transmission spectrum is shown in FIG. 35. Notably, the shift across all color tiles was observed to be substantially lower and
25 narrower than those for conventional devices described by Mainster, Pratt, and the like. For example, simulation results showed (L^* , a^* , b^*) shifts as low as 12 and 20 JNDs for films according to the present invention, with average shifts across all tiles as low as 7-12 JNDs.

Table II

Reference	Figure	Avg. δ (L^*, a^*, b^*)	Min. δ (L^*, a^*, b^*)	Max. δ (L^*, a^*, b^*)	Std. Deviation δ (L^*, a^*, b^*)
Pratt		41	19	66	12
Mainster		19	6	34	6
Present System	35	7	2	12	2
Present System	36	12	4	20	3
Present System	37	7	2	12	2

[0170] In an embodiment, a combination of reflective and absorptive elements may filter harmful blue photons while maintaining relatively high luminous transmission. This may allow a system according to the invention to avoid or reduce pupil dilation, preserve or prevent damage to night vision, and reduce color distortion. An example of this approach combines the dielectric stacks shown in FIG. 37 with the perylene dye of FIG. 35, resulting in the transmission spectrum shown in FIG. 41. The device was observed to have a photopic transmission of 97.5%, scotopic transmission of 93.2%, and an average color shift of 11 JNDs. The histogram summarizing color distortion of this device for the Munsell tiles in daylight is shown in FIG. 42.

[0171] In another embodiment, an ophthalmic filter is external to the eye, for example a spectacle lens, goggle, visor, or the like. When a traditional filter is used, the color of the wearer's face when viewed by an external observer may be tinted by the lens, i.e., the facial coloration or skin tone typically is shifted by a blue-blocking lens when viewed by another person. This yellow discoloration that accompanies blue light absorption is often not cosmetically desirable. The procedure for minimizing this color shift is identical to that described above for the Munsell tiles, with the reflectance of the wearer's skin being substituted for those of the Munsell color tiles. The color of skin is a function of pigmentation, blood flow, and the illumination conditions. A representative series of skin reflectance spectra from subjects of different races is shown in FIGS. 43A-B. An exemplary skin reflectance spectrum for a Caucasian subject is shown in FIG. 44. The (L^*, a^*, b^*) color coordinates of this skin in daylight (D65) illumination are (67.1, 18.9, 13.7). Interposition of the Pratt blue-blocking filter changes these color coordinates to (38.9, 17.2, 44.0), a shift of 69 JND units. The Mainster blue-blocking filter shifts the color coordinates by 17 JND units to (62.9, 13.1, 29.3). By contrast, a perylene filter as described herein causes a color shift of only 6 JNDs, or one third that of the Mainster filter. A summary of the cosmetic color shift of an exemplary Caucasian skin under daylight illumination using various blue-blocking

filters is shown in Table III. The data shown in Table I refer are normalized to remove any effect caused by a base material.

Table III

Reference	Figure	L*	a*	b*	$\delta(L^*,a^*,b^*)$
Skin	14-15	67	19	14	0
Pratt		39	17	44	69
Mainster		63	13	29	17
Present System	35	67	17	19	6
Present System	36	67	15	23	10
Present System	37	67	17	19	6

5 [0172] In an embodiment, an illuminant may be filtered to reduce but not eliminate the flux of blue light to the retina. This may be accomplished with absorptive or reflective elements between the field of view and the source of illumination using the principles described herein. For example, an architectural window may be covered with a film that contains perylene so that the transmission spectrum of the window matches that shown in FIG. 35. Such a filter
10 typically would not induce pupil dilation when compared to an uncoated window, nor would it cause appreciable color shifts when external daylight passes through it. Blue filters according to the present invention may be used on artificial illuminants such as fluorescent, incandescent, arc, flash, and diode lamps, displays, and the like.

[0173] Various materials may be used in making films according to the invention. Two
15 such exemplary materials are Poly Vinyl Alcohol (PVA) and Poly Vinyl Butyral (PVB). In the case of PVA film it may be prepared by partial or complete hydrolysis of polyvinyl acetate to remove the acetate groups. PVA film may be desirable due to beneficial film forming, emulsifying, and adhesive properties. In addition, PVA film has high tensile strength, flexibility, high temperature stability, and provides an excellent oxygen barrier.

20 [0174] PVB film may be prepared from a reaction of polyvinyl alcohol in butanal. PVB may be suitable for applications that require high strength, optical clarity, flexibility and toughness. PVB also has excellent film forming and adhesive properties.

[0175] PVA, PVB, and other suitable films may be extruded, cast from a solution, spin coated and then cured, or dip coated and then cured. Other manufacturing methods known in
25 the art also may be used. There are several ways of integrating the dyes needed to create the desired spectral profile of the film. Exemplary dye-integration methods include vapor deposition, chemically cross linked within the film, dissolved within small polymer micro-

spheres and then integrated within the film. Suitable dyes are commercially available from companies including Keystone, BPI & Phantom.

5 [0176] Most dyeing of spectacle lenses is done after the lens has been shipped from the manufacturer. Therefore, it may be desirable to incorporate a blue-absorbing dye during the manufacture of the lens itself. To do so, the filtering and color balancing dyes may be incorporated into a hard coating and/or an associated primer coating which promotes adhesion of the hard coating to the lens material. For example, a primer coat and associated hard coat are often added to the top of a spectacle lens or other ophthalmic system at the end of the manufacturing process to provide additional durability and scratch resistance for the
10 final product. The hard coat typically is an outer-most layer of the system, and may be placed on the front, back, or both the front and back surfaces of the system.

[0177] FIG. 47 shows an exemplary system having a hard coating 4703 and its associated adhesion-promoting primer coat 4702. Exemplary hard coatings and adhesion promoting primer coating are available from manufacturers such as Tokuyama, UltraOptics, SDC, PPG,
15 and LTI.

[0178] In systems according to the invention, both a blue blocking dye and a color balancing dye may be included in the primer coating 1802. Both the blue blocking and color balancing dyes also may be included in the hard coating 1803. The dyes need not be included in the same coating layer. For example, a blue blocking dye may be included in the hard
20 coating 1803, and a color balancing dye included in the primer coating 1802. The color balancing dye may be included in the hard coating 1803 and the blue blocking dye in the primer coating 1802.

[0179] Primer and hard coats according to the invention may be deposited using methods known in the art, including spin-coating, dip-coating, spray-coating, evaporation, sputtering,
25 and chemical vapor deposition. The blue blocking and/or color balancing dyes to be included in each layer may be deposited at the same time as the layer, such as where a dye is dissolved in a liquid coating material and the resulting mixture applied to the system. The dyes also may be deposited in a separate process or sub-process, such as where a dye is sprayed onto a surface before the coat is cured or dried or applied.

30 [0180] A hard coat and/or primer coat may perform functions and achieve benefits described herein with respect to a film. Specifically, the coat or coats may selectively inhibit blue light, while maintaining desirable photopic vision, scotopic vision, circadian rhythms,

and phototoxicity levels. Hard coats and/or primer coats as described herein also may be used in an ophthalmic system incorporating a film as described herein, in any and various combinations. As a specific example, an ophthalmic system may include a film that selectively inhibits blue light and a hard coat that provides color correction.

5 **[0181]** The selective filter of the present invention can also provide increased contrast sensitivity. Such a system functions to selectively filter harmful invisible and visible light while having minimal effect on photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, and/or circadian rhythms while maintaining acceptable or even improved contrast sensitivity. The invention can be formulated such that in certain embodiments the end residual color of the
10 device to which the selective filter is applied is mostly colorless, and in other embodiments where a mostly clear residual color is not required the residual color can be yellowish. Preferably, the yellowness of the selective filter is unobjectionable to the subjective individual wearer. Yellowness can be measured quantitatively using a yellowness index such as ASTM E313-05. Preferably, the selective filter has a yellowness index that is no more
15 than 50, 40, 35, 30, 25, 23, 20, 15, 10, 9, 7, or 5.

[0182] The invention could include selective light wavelength filtering embodiments such as: windows, automotive windshields, light bulbs, flash bulbs, fluorescent lighting, LED lighting, television, computer monitors, etc. Any light that impacts the retina can be selectively filtered by the invention. The invention can be enabled, by way of example only, a
20 film comprising a selective filtering dye or pigment, a dye or pigment component added after a substrate is fabricated, a dye component that is integral with the fabrication or formulation of the substrate material, synthetic or non-synthetic pigment such as melanin, lutein, or zeaxanthin, selective filtering dye or pigment provided as a visibility tint (having one or more colors) as in a contact lens, selective filtering dye or pigment provided in an ophthalmic
25 scratch resistant coating (hard coat), selective filtering dye or pigment provided in an ophthalmic anti-reflective coat, selective light wave length filtering dye or pigment provided in a hydrophobic coating, an interference filter, selective light wavelength filter, selective light wavelength filtering dye or pigment provided in a photochromic lens, or selective light wavelength filtering dye or pigment provided in a matrix of a light bulb or tube. It should be
30 pointed out that the invention contemplates the selective light wavelength filter selectively filtering out one specific range of wavelengths, or multiple specific ranges of wavelengths, but never filtering out wavelengths evenly across the visible spectrum.

[0183] Those skilled in the art will know readily how to provide the selective light wavelength filter to the substrate material. By way of example only, the selective filter can be: imbibed, injected, impregnated, added to the raw materials of the substrate, added to the resin prior to polymerization, layered within in the optical lens by way of a film comprising the selective filter dye or pigments.

[0184] The invention may utilize a proper concentration of a dye and or pigment such as, by way of example only, perylene, porphyrin or their derivatives. Refer to Figure 48 to observe varying concentration of perylene and the functional ability to block wavelengths of light at around 430 nm. The transmission level can be controlled by dye concentration.

Other dye chemistries allow adjustment of the absorption peak positions.

[0185] Perylene with appropriate concentration levels provides balance in photopic, scotopic, circadian, and phototoxicity ratios while maintaining a mostly colorless appearance:

Table IV

Reference	Photopic Ratio - V_λ (%)	Scotopic Ratio - V'_λ (%)	Phototoxicity Ratio (B_λ) (%)	Circadian Ratio (M'_λ) (%)
Unfiltered	100	100	100	100
Polycarbonate - undyed	88	87	86	74
Pratt	28	16	4	7
Mainster	86	78	39	46
Mainster (-20 nm shift)	86	83	63	56
Mainster (+20 nm shift)	84	68	15	32
HPOO dye (2x)	88	81	50	62
HPOO dye (x)	88	84	64	63
HPOO (x/2)	87	84	72	66
HPOO (x/4)	89	87	79	71

[0186] Increases in contrast sensitivity are observed with appropriate concentration of perylene. See Example 2, Table VI. It should be pointed out that the family of perylene based dyes or pigments are used, by way of example only, for enabling the invention. When such a dye is used, depending upon the embodiment or application, the dye may be formulated such that it is bonded molecularly or chemically to the substrate or a coating that is applied to the substrate such that the dye does not leach out. By way of example only,

applications of this would be for use with contact lenses, IOLs, corneal in-lays, corneal on-lays, etc.

[0187] Selective filters can be combined to hinder other target wavelengths as science discovers other visible light wavelength hazards. For example, selective filters can be combined to hinder more than one target wavelength range as additional hazards are identified. In one embodiment, the system includes 1) a selective filter that reduces the hazard associated with the A2E chromophore and 2) one or more additional filters that reduce another identified hazard, e.g., a visible light wavelength hazard.

[0188] In one embodiment of the invention, a contact lens is comprised of a perylene dye formulated such that it will not leach out of the contact lens material. The dye is further formulated such that it provides a tint having a yellow cast. This yellow cast allows for the contact lens to have what is known as a handling tint for the wearer. The perylene dye or pigment further provides the selective filtering as shown by Figure 48. This filtering provides retinal protection and enhanced contrast sensitivity without compromising in any meaningful way one's photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, or circadian rhythms.

[0189] In the case of the inventive embodiment of a contact lens the dye or pigment can be imparted into the contact lens by way of example only, by imbibing, so that it is located within a central 10 mm diameter or less circle of the contact lens, preferably within 6 – 8 mm diameter of the center of the contact lens coinciding with the pupil of the wearer. In this embodiment the dye or pigment concentration which provides selective light wavelength filtering is increased to a level that provides the wearer with an increase in contrast sensitivity (as opposed to without wearing the contact lens) and without compromising in any meaningful way (one or more, or all of) the wearer's photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, or circadian rhythms.

[0190] Preferably, an increase in contrast sensitivity is demonstrated by an increase in the user's Functional Acuity Contrast Test (FACT™ sine-wave grating test) score of at least about 0.1, 0.25, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 1, 1.25, 1.4, or 1.5. With respect to the wearer's photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, and/or circadian rhythms, the ophthalmic system preferably maintains one or all of these characteristics to within 15%, 10%, 5%, or 1% of the characteristic levels without the ophthalmic system.

[0191] In another inventive embodiment that utilizes a contact lens the dye or pigment is provided that causes a yellowish tint that it is located over the central 5 – 7 mm diameter of

the contact lens and wherein a second color tint is added peripherally to that of the central tint. In this embodiment the dye concentration which provides selective light wavelength filtering is increased to a level that provides the wearer very good contrast sensitivity and once again without compromising in any meaningful way (one or more, or all of) the wearer's photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, or circadian rhythms.

[0192] In still another inventive embodiment that utilizes a contact lens the dye or pigment is provided such that it is located over the full diameter of the contact lens from approximately one edge to the other edge. In this embodiment the dye concentration which provides selective light wavelength filtering is increased to a level that provides the wearer very good contrast sensitivity and once again without compromising in any meaningful way (one or more, or all of) the wearer's photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, or circadian rhythms.

[0193] When various inventive embodiments are used in or on human or animal tissue the dye is formulated in such a way to chemically bond to the inlay substrate material thus ensuring it will not leach out in the surrounding corneal tissue. Methods for providing a chemical hook that allow for this bonding are well known within the chemical and polymer industries.

[0194] In still another inventive embodiment an intraocular lens includes a selective light wavelength filter that has a yellowish tint, and that further provides the wearer improved contrast sensitivity without compromising in any meaningful way (one or more, or all of) the wearer's photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, or circadian rhythms. When the selective filter is utilized on or within an intra-ocular lens it is possible to increase the level of the dye or pigment beyond that of a spectacle lens as the cosmetics of the intra-ocular lens are invisible to someone looking at the wearer. This allows for the ability to increase the concentration of the dye or pigment and provides even higher levels of improved contrast sensitivity without compromising in any meaningful way (one or more, or all of) the wearer's photopic vision, scotopic vision, color vision, or circadian rhythms.

[0195] In still another embodiment of the invention, a spectacle lens includes a selective light wave length filter comprising a dye having perylene wherein the dye's formulation provides a spectacle lens that has a mostly colorless appearance. And furthermore that provides the wearer with improved contrast sensitivity without compromising in any meaningful way (one or more, or all of) the wearer's photopic vision, scotopic vision, color

vision, or circadian rhythms. In this particular embodiment of the invention, the dye or pigment is imparted within a film that is located within or on the surface of the spectacle lens.

[0196] In one embodiment, the system includes both a blue-blocking component and a photochromic component. More particularly, the ophthalmic system can include a blue-blocking component that selectively filters a selected range of blue light wavelengths including a wavelength at about 430 nm, and a photochromic component that, when activated, filters visible light including wavelengths outside the selected range of blue light wavelengths.

[0197] The component descriptors "photochromic" and "blue-blocking" are not necessarily mutually exclusive. For example, the photochromic dye can, but does not necessarily, block at least some blue light wavelengths. Likewise, the blue-blocking component can be photochromic or non-photochromic. In one embodiment, the blue-blocking component is non-photochromic so as to provide continuous blue-blocking functionality, i.e., blue-blocking under all or substantially all lighting conditions. Even in embodiments where the blue-blocking component may be photochromic, it is still preferred that the blue-blocking component is continuously functional under all or substantially all lighting conditions. Thus, the blue-blocking component functions independently from the photochromic component.

[0198] The photochromic blue-blocking system can be, for example, an ophthalmic lens (including prescription and non-prescription lenses), spectacle lens, contact lens, intra-ocular lens, corneal inlay, corneal onlay, corneal graft, electro-active lens, windshield, or window.

[0199] The blue-blocking component can be any of the blue-blocking embodiment described herein. Thus, in one embodiment, the blue-blocking component is at least one of perylene, porphyrin, coumarin, acridine, and derivatives thereof. In one embodiment, the blue-blocking component includes perylene or a derivative thereof. In another embodiment, the blue-blocking component includes porphyrin or a derivative thereof, such as magnesium tetramesitylporphyrin (MgTMP). The blue-blocking component can also include a mixture of dyes.

[0200] In one embodiment, the blue-blocking component selectively filters at least 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 99%, or about 100% of light in the selected range of blue light wavelengths. The selected range of blue light wavelengths can include a wavelengths at about 430 nm, e.g., $430\text{ nm} \pm 10$, 20, or 30 nm. In another

embodiment, the selected range of blue light wavelengths includes wavelengths from about 420 nm to about 440 nm, about 410 nm to about 450 nm, or about 400 nm to about 460 nm.

[0201] Photochromic lenses, such as those manufactured by Transitions Optical, are well known in the art. A photochromic component is activated by an activation stimulus of light having particular wavelengths. The activated photochromic component reduces transmission through the system. In other words, the activated photochromic component darkens the system. When the activation stimulus (e.g., the activating wavelengths) is removed, the photochromic component can return to the inactive state, which is characterized by increased transmission.

10 [0202] In one embodiment, the average transmission across the visible spectrum in the activated system is at least 20% less than the average transmission across the visible spectrum in the inactive system. In other embodiments, activation reduces average transmission across the visible spectrum by at least about 10%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, or 70%.

[0203] In one embodiment, the photochromic component responds quickly to variations in external lighting conditions, typically the source of the activation stimulus. Accordingly, in one embodiment, upon subjecting the inactive photochromic component to the activation stimulus, the photochromic component will convert to the activated state in less than 10, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 minute. Similarly, in another embodiment, upon removal of the activation stimulus, the activated photochromic component will convert to the inactive state in less than 10, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 minute.

[0204] Exemplary photochromic dyes include, but are not limited to: triarylmethanes, stilbenes, azastilbenes, nitrones, fulgides, spiropyrans, naphthopyrans, spiro-oxazines, and quinones.

[0205] The selection of the photochromic component may depend, in part, on the desired activation stimulus. In one embodiment, the photochromic component is activated by at least one of UVB, UVA, blue light, visible light, and infrared wavelengths. In another embodiment, the photochromic component is activated by UVB, UVA, or infrared wavelengths. By selecting UVB or UVA wavelengths as the activation stimulus, the photochromic component will advantageously be activated outdoors and inactivated indoors. Although the activation stimulus may be blue light or other visible wavelengths, these embodiments may darken in indoor settings, which may be undesirable for some applications. Alternatively, if the blue-blocking component is also photochromic, it may be desirable to

have an activation stimulus that could maintain activation of this component, and thus retinal protection, indoors and out.

[0206] In yet another embodiment, the photochromic component is activated by light having a wavelength of about 380 nm to about 410 nm. As described in US 7,166,357, this activation stimulus allows the photochromic component to be activated behind a UV filter, such as an automobile windshield. This advantageously provides ophthalmic lenses that can maintain photo-responsiveness while worn by a user inside a car.

[0207] The system can further include a UV filter, such as a UVA and/or UVB filter. In one embodiment, the UV filter does not prevent the activation of any photochromic component. This can be achieved, for example, by positioning the UV filter behind (posterior to) the photochromic component such that the UV light is incident upon the photochromic component first, but is then filtered by the UV filter before reaching the wearer. In another example, the UV filter does not filter wavelengths that activate the photochromic component, or at least does not filter them to a degree that prevents activation.

[0208] By including both a photochromic component and a blue-blocking component, the system ideally provides retinal protection of blue light wavelengths at all times, while also adjusting transmission of visible light according to external lighting conditions.

[0209] In one embodiment, the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the activated system is less than the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the inactive system. Without being bound by theory, it is believed that the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths decreases when the system is activated because both the blue-blocking component and the photochromic component filter the selected range of blue light wavelengths creating an additive effect. This embodiment features enhanced retinal protection, particularly in the activated state. Bright light conditions may dilate the pupil, increasing the opportunity for retinal damage. With this embodiment, the bright light conditions may also activate the system to provide increased blue light protection, thus protecting the wearer from increased exposure.

[0210] Other environmental conditions, such as temperature variations, particularly colder temperatures, may weaken a photochromic lens's ability to filter blue light wavelengths. Thus, a photochromic system also including a blue-blocking component may compensate for the diminishment in retinal protection under certain environmental conditions.

[0211] In another embodiment, the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the activated system is substantially the same as the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the same system in the inactive state. In one embodiment, the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the activated system is within 50%, 40%, 30%, 25%, 20%, 15%, 10%, 5%, 3%, or 1% of the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the inactive system. In yet another embodiment, the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the activated system is within 50%, 40%, 30%, 25%, 20%, 15%, 10%, 5%, 3%, or 1% of the average transmission across the visible spectrum in the activated system, such that the activated system provides substantially uniform filtering across the visible spectrum. Without being bound by theory, it is believed that the color balance (e.g., CIE of white light transmission and/or Yellowness Index) of a photochromic lens may be significantly disturbed by filtering additional blue wavelengths. By maintaining the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths substantially constant, it is believed that color balance can be substantially maintained. This embodiment features enhanced color balance, while still providing retinal protection regardless of external lighting conditions.

[0212] In one embodiment, to provide a photochromic blue-blocking system having excellent color balance, a photochromic component and a blue-blocking component are selected to achieve an essentially non-additive effect over the selected range of blue light wavelengths. This can be achieved by, for example, selecting a photochromic component that, when activated, primarily filters wavelengths outside the selected range of blue light wavelengths. In this way, the activated photochromic component does not significantly impact the average transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths. Exemplary photochromic dyes suitable for this purpose include those that, when activated, block wavelengths greater than about 400 nm, 410 nm, 420 nm, 430 nm, 440 nm, 450 nm, or 460 nm. In another embodiment, the photochromic dye selectively blocks wavelengths greater than about 430 nm, 440 nm, 450 nm, or 460 nm.

[0213] The photochromic blue-blocking system can also be used to achieve the beneficial characteristics described above herein including contrast sensitivity, color balance, color vision, photopic vision, scotopic vision, and circadian rhythms. Accordingly, in one embodiment, the photochromic blue-blocking system increases contrast sensitivity by at least about 0.1, 0.25, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 1, 1.25, 1.4, or 1.5 points on the Functional Acuity Contrast Test

(FACT™ sine-wave grating test). In another embodiment, the photochromic blue-blocking system has a yellowness index of no more than 50, 40, 35, 30, 25, 23, 20, 15, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1. In yet another embodiment, the photochromic blue-blocking system has a CIE of $(0.33 \pm 0.05, 0.33 \pm 0.05)$ or $(0.33 \pm 0.02, 0.33 \pm 0.02)$ when transmitted through the inactive system, the activated system, or both the inactive and activated system.

[0214] The blue-blocking component and the photochromic component can be prepared according to any method known in the art including, e.g., coating or impregnating a dye into a polymer substrate. Each of the blue-blocking component and the photochromic component can be independently present throughout the system or localized in the system, e.g., in an annular or peripheral portion. Each component can be present as an independent layer. The blue-blocking component can be in physical contact with or isolated from the photochromic layer (e.g., by a barrier layer or other intervening ophthalmic component). The blue-blocking component can be posterior to the photochromic component, or vice versa. In another embodiment, the blue-blocking component and the photochromic component are intermixed and incorporated into a single substrate or coating.

[0215] The blue-blocking component can be present at a concentration of about 1 ppm to about 50 ppm, about 1 ppm to about 20 ppm, about 1 ppm to about 10 ppm, about 1 ppm to about 5 ppm, about 2 ppm to about 10 ppm, or at a concentration of about 1 ppm, 2 ppm, 3 ppm, 4 ppm, 5 ppm, 6 ppm, 7 ppm, 8 ppm, 9 ppm, 10 ppm, 12 ppm, 15 ppm, 17 ppm, 20 ppm, 25 ppm, 30 ppm, 35 ppm, or 50 ppm. These concentrations are particularly effective for perylene and derivatives thereof, but appropriate concentrations can be adapted for different blue-blocking dyes by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0216] The disclosures of all references and publications cited above are expressly incorporated by reference in their entireties to the same extent as if each were incorporated by reference individually.

[0217] As would be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art, various modifications and variations would be apparent from this disclosure and are intended to be within the scope and spirit of the appended claims. Certain embodiments are further described by the following non-limiting examples:

EXAMPLES

[0218] Example 1: A polycarbonate lens having an integral film with varying concentrations of blue-blocking dye was fabricated and the transmission spectrum of each

lens was measured as shown in FIG. 45. Perylene concentrations of 35, 15, 7.6, and 3.8 ppm (weight basis) at a lens thickness of 2.2 mm were used. Various metrics calculated for each lens are shown in Table IV, with references corresponding to the reference numerals in FIG. 45. Since the selective absorbance of light depends primarily on the product of the dye concentration and coating thickness according to Beer's law, it is believed that comparable results are achievable using a hard coat and/or primer coat in conjunction with or instead of a film.

Table V

Lens	Ref.	Photopic Ratio (V_λ)	Scotopic Ratio (V'_λ)	Circadian Ratio (M'_λ)	Phototoxicity Ratio (B_λ)
Unfiltered light (no lens)		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Polycarbonate Lens (no dye)	4510	87.5%	87.1%	74.2%	85.5%
3.8 ppm (2.2 mm)	4520	88.6%	86.9%	71.0%	78.8%
7.6 ppm (2.2 mm)	4530	87.0%	84.1%	65.9%	71.1%
15 ppm (2.2 mm)	4540	88.3%	83.8%	63.3%	63.5%
35 ppm (2.2 mm)	4550	87.7%	80.9%	61.5%	50.2%

10

[0219] With the exception of the 35 ppm dyed lens, all the lenses described in Table IV and FIG. 45 include a UV dye typically used in ophthalmic lens systems to inhibit UV

wavelengths below 380 nm. The photopic ratio describes normal vision, and is calculated as the integral of the filter transmission spectrum and V_λ (photopic visual sensitivity) divided by the integral of unfiltered light and this same sensitivity curve. The scotopic ratio describes vision in dim lighting conditions, and is calculated as the integral of the filter transmission spectrum and V'_λ (scotopic visual sensitivity) divided by the integral of unfiltered light and this same sensitivity curve. The circadian ratio describes the effect of light on circadian rhythms, and is calculated as the integral of the filter transmission spectrum and M'_λ

15

(melatonin suppression sensitivity) divided by the integral of unfiltered light and this same sensitivity curve. The phototoxicity ratio describes damage to the eye caused by exposure to high-energy light, and is calculated as the integral of the filter transmission and the B_λ (phakic UV-blue phototoxicity) divided by the integral of unfiltered light and this same sensitivity curve. Response functions used to calculate these values correspond to those disclosed in Mainster and Sparrow, "How Much Blue Light Should an IOL Transmit?" Br. J. Ophthalmol., 2003, v. 87, pp. 1523-29, Mainster, "Intraocular Lenses Should Block UV Radiation and Violet but not Blue Light," Arch. Ophthalmol., v. 123, p. 550 (2005), and

20

25

Mainster, "Violet and Blue Light Blocking Intraocular Lenses: Photoprotection vs. Photoreception", Br. J. Ophthalmol, 2006, v. 90, pp. 784 -92. For some applications, a different phototoxicity curve is appropriate but the methodology for calculation is the same. For example, for intraocular lens (IOL) applications, the aphakic phototoxicity curve should
5 be used. Moreover, new phototoxicity curves may be applicable as the understanding of the phototoxic light mechanisms improves.

[0220] As shown by the exemplary data described above, a system according to the present invention may selectively inhibit blue light, specifically light in the 400 nm – 460 nm region, while still providing a photopic luminous transmission of at least about 85% and a
10 phototoxicity ration of less than about 80%, more preferably less than about 70%, more preferably less than about 60%, and more preferably less than about 50%. As previously described, a photopic luminous transmission of up to 95% or more also may be achievable using the techniques described herein.

[0221] The principles described herein may be applied to varied illuminants, filters, and
15 skin tones, with the objective of filtering some portion of phototoxic blue light while reducing pupil dilation, scotopic sensitivity, color distortion through the ophthalmic device, and cosmetic color of an external ophthalmic device from the perspective of an observer that views the person wearing the device on their face.

[0222] Several embodiments of the invention are specifically illustrated and/or described
20 herein. However, it will be appreciated that modifications and variations of the invention are covered by the above teachings and within the purview of the appended claims without departing from the spirit and intended scope of the invention. For examples, although the methods and systems described herein have been described using examples of specific dyes, dielectric optical filters, skin tones, and illuminants, it will be understood that alternative
25 dyes, filters, skin colors, and illuminants may be used. Also, the terms "a" or "an" as used in herein means one or more, unless specifically designated as singular.

[0223] Example 2: Nine patients were tested for contrast sensitivity using dye concentrations of 1X and 2X against a clear filter as a control. 7 of the 9 patients showed overall improved contrast sensitivity according to the Functional Acuity Contrast Test
30 (FACT™ sine-wave grating test). See Table VI:

TABLE VI:

Contrast sensitivity test for dye samples with loadings of X and 2X. Test was done in February, 2007 at Vision Associates in Havre de Grace, Maryland by Dr. Andy Ishak. The test consisted of 10 patients, each tested with two filters, using the FACT contrast sensitivity testing process

[illegible]

Comments:

- 1 Patient number 8 data was dropped. This patient was a 60 yr old, diabetic, with cataracts
- 2 Patient 10 was tested in one eye only
- 3 The terms dotted and solid refer to the two eyes of the patients, how they were shown on test result forms
- 4 The headings "NO" refer to lenses with clear filter, ie control. The terms LI and DK refer to the dye loading in the tested filters.
- 5 For each patient, the top line is their actual score. Second line is the difference with filters versus non filtered "control"
- 6 Boxes marked with GREEN showed improvement, boxes with RED showed negative results.
- 7 Total scores (line 22) add up how all patients scored on a specific test column
- 8 Total Difference (column 33) shows how each patient scored overall on all 6 test columns (A-E) for both eyes
- 9 Note, each patient (except #10) had 20 opportunities to score a difference - 2 eyes x 5 columns on the test x 2 filters
- 10 Better and Worse numbers (rows 27-28, columns 34-35) simply add up the opportunities that scored better with the filters or worse, versus the clear control

Results

- 1 7 of the 9 patients showed overall improved contrast sensitivity results (columns 33-35)
- 2 Patients overall showed improvement in both eyes on 18 of the 20 opportunities (2 eyes x two filters x five FACT columns) (rows 27-28)
- 3 On average, patients improved by 0.3 - 1.4 for all 20 opportunities (row 25)

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An ophthalmic system comprising: at least one blue-blocking
2 component and at least one photochromic component,
3 wherein the blue-blocking component continuously and selectively filters a
4 selected range of blue light wavelengths including a wavelength at about 430 nm, and
5 wherein the photochromic component, when activated, filters visible light
6 including wavelengths outside the selected range of blue light wavelengths.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the average transmission across the
2 visible spectrum in the activated system is at least 20% less than the average transmission
3 across the visible spectrum in the inactive system.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the average transmission of the
2 selected range of blue light wavelengths in the activated system is less than the average
3 transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the inactive system.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the average transmission of the
2 selected range of blue light wavelengths in the activated system is within 20% of the average
3 transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the inactive system.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the average transmission of the
2 selected range of blue light wavelengths in the activated system is within 5% of the average
3 transmission of the selected range of blue light wavelengths in the inactive system.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the blue-blocking component is not
2 photochromic.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the blue-blocking component
2 selectively filters at least 20% of light in the selected range of blue light wavelengths.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the blue-blocking component
2 selectively filters at least 50% of light in the selected range of blue light wavelengths.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the selected range of blue light
2 wavelengths includes wavelengths from about 420 nm to about 440 nm.

1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the selected range of blue light
2 wavelengths includes wavelengths from about 410 nm to about 450 nm.

1 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the selected range of blue light
2 wavelengths includes wavelengths from about 400 nm to about 460 nm.

1 12. The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one additional blue-
2 blocking component that selectively filters a selected range of wavelengths including a
3 chromophore other than A2E.

1 13. The system of claim 1, wherein the system increases contrast
2 sensitivity by at least 1 point on a sine wave grating test.

1 14. The system of claim 1, wherein the inactive and/or activated system
2 has a yellowness index of less than 8.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the inactive and/or activated system
2 has a yellowness index of less than 5.

1 16. The system of claim 1, wherein white light has CIE (x,y) coordinates
2 of (0.33±0.05, 0.33±0.05) when transmitted through the inactive and/or activated system.

1 17. The system of claim 1, wherein the blue-blocking component
2 comprises at least one of perylene, porphyrin, coumarin, acridine, and derivatives thereof.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the blue-blocking component
2 comprises perylene or a derivative thereof.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the blue-blocking component
2 comprises porphyrin or a derivative thereof.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the blue-blocking component
2 comprises magnesium tetramesitylporphyrin.

1 21. The system of claim 1, wherein the blue-blocking component
2 comprises a blue-blocking dye at a concentration of about 1 ppm to about 50 ppm.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the blue-blocking component
2 comprises a blue-blocking dye at a concentration of about 2 ppm to about 10 ppm.

1 23. The system of claim 1, wherein the photochromic component is
2 activated by at least one of UVB, UVA, blue light, visible light, and infrared wavelengths.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the photochromic component is
2 activated by at least one of UVB, UVA, and infrared wavelengths.

1 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the photochromic component is
2 activated by light having a wavelength of about 380 nm to about 410 nm.

1 26. The system of claim 1, further comprising a UV filter.

1 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the UV filter is positioned posterior
2 to the photochromic component.

1 28. The system of claim 26, wherein the UV filter does not filter the
2 wavelengths that activate the photochromic component to a degree that prevents activation.

1 29. The system of claim 1, wherein the system is an ophthalmic lens,
2 spectacle lens, contact lens, intra-ocular lens, corneal inlay, corneal onlay, corneal graft,
3 electro-active lens, windshield, or window.

1 30. The system of claim 29, wherein the system is a spectacle lens.

1 31. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the photochromic
2 component and the blue-blocking component is present throughout the system.

1 32. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the photochromic
2 component and the blue-blocking component is localized in the system.

1 33. The system of claim 1, wherein the blue-blocking component
2 comprises a blue-blocking layer and/or the photochromic component comprises a
3 photochromic layer.

1 34. The system of claim 1, wherein the blue-blocking component is
2 anterior to the photochromic component.

1 35. The system of claim 1, wherein the blue-blocking component is
2 posterior to the photochromic component.

1 36. The system of claim 1, wherein the blue-blocking component is not in
2 physical contact with the photochromic component.

- 1 37. The system of claim 1, wherein the blue-blocking component and the
2 photochromic component are intermixed.