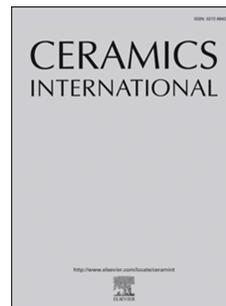


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Ceramic Pigments and Dyes beyond the Inkjet Revolution: from Technological Requirements to Constraints in Colorant Design

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Abstract

The advent of digital decoration has changed the technological requirements of colorants and the way they are applied onto ceramic substrates. This technological revolution has introduced additional steps in colorant production (ink micronization) and new constraints in application (ink-jet printing) that cannot be reproduced in a standard ceramic laboratory, so stretching the distance between academic and industrial research. The goal of this work is to provide an up-to-date picture of ceramic pigments, dyes and effects, with emphasis on their behavior in the current decoration technologies, which are shortly reviewed. Technological performance expected for ceramic colorants and new requirements imposed by digital decoration are discussed in detail. An extensive overview of both industrially used and candidate pigments, dyes and effects is focused on the suitability to different ceramic applications and firing conditions. Finally, lines of future research are outlined and commented.

Key-words: ceramics, colorant, dye, effect, glaze, pigment.

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1. Introduction

Coloration of ceramic materials implies the use of technologies that are different from many other applications, mainly because of the high temperature treatment that imposes specific requirements to colorants. This peculiarity makes it advisable to reappraise the conventional definitions and classification of *colorants* (hereafter used as a comprehensive term for pigments and dyes) in order to explain the terminology commonly utilized in the ceramic industry (Table 1).

The industry of ceramic colorants is apparently a mature sector: almost all pigments, currently on the market, entered in use since the 19th century to 1960 [1,2]. Ceramic pigments and dyes are utilized to bestow color on wall and floor tiles, tableware, sanitaryware, art wares, roof tiles, and enamels (for metallic wares). However, the quantity of colorants globally used in ceramic tile production is much larger (and it grew faster in the last decades) than in all the other sectors and at present represents over 80% of the global demand for ceramic pigments and dyes. For this reason, trends in colorant manufacturing have been essentially driven by the ceramic tile industry.

The strong technological innovation in tile-making that occurred in the 1980s (introduction of fast single firing) and the 1990s (development of porcelain stoneware) had limited effects on the range of pigments and dyes actually used in the industrial practice. This occurred despite the complete change in chemical composition of bodies, frits and glazes [3-5] which now need much higher firing temperatures (from ~900-1000°C of traditional fire to 1100-1160°C for porous tiles and 1180-1240°C for vitrified tiles). Also, the way by which pigments and dyes are applied on ceramic tiles has evolved over time [4-6].

Such a steady picture was revolutionized by the advent of digital decoration of ceramic tiles that took place on a large scale since 2009 [7-9]. The introduction of inkjet printing (IJP) has completely changed both the way colorants are applied onto the ceramic tiles and the technological requirements for pigments and dyes [9-11]. By this way, pigment manufacturers had to face a paradigm shift: the finished product is no longer a powdered colorant (to be admixed with vehicles in the customer's factory) but turned into an ink (encompassing colorant, carrier and additives) with a proper technological behavior certified for each type of inkjet print head and printer. Nowadays, digital decoration is spreading through other ceramic sectors (tableware, decals, etc) and allied industries (glass, artificial stone).

This new situation has important repercussions on the R&D of ceramic colorants. As a matter of fact, the requirements that pigment must fulfil have changed in the last decade: old issues have been readdressed (e.g., reaction kinetics during firing) and new targets appeared (e.g., behavior during micronization). The goal of the present overview is to provide an up-to-date picture of ceramic pigments, dyes and effects, with special attention to technological requirements and suitability of different colorants for the current decoration technologies, in order to shorten the distance between academic research and industry needs.

The paper is structured as follows: technologies used in ceramic decoration are briefly described (section 2) to introduce the technological performance required to ceramic colorants (section 3) with emphasis on the new requirements of digital decoration (section 4). The suitability of both industrially used and candidate pigments and dyes to different ceramic applications is discussed in detail (section 5). Finally, open questions and lines of future research are addressed in section 6.

2. Technological evolution in the ceramic tile industry

A continuous technological upgrading occurred in ceramic tile manufacturing and deeply influenced the way colorants are applied by different decoration techniques and the conditions they undergo during firing [3,5,6].

Basically, five technologies have been utilized to decorate ceramic tiles of different kinds: they are distinguished by application techniques, firing schedules, ceramic matrices, and pigment features, particularly particle size (Fig. 1).

In this framework, the decoration department underwent an evolution over the last decades regarding the application techniques (Fig. 2). In particular, the digital decoration caused two disruptive innovations [9-10]:

- i) IJP replaced almost totally the preceding means of decoration, as only the technological solutions for unglazed bodies survived (at variance of previous advancements that always saw the coexistence for long time of various techniques).
- ii) IJP requires a further step of micronization to get particle size in the submicronic range, while the other techniques make use of standard ceramic pigments, that have the particle size in the micrometer range (Fig. 1). This implies a considerable change in specific surface area of colorants, which in turn affects the color saturation and reaction kinetics during firing.

Figure 3 illustrates how ceramic technologies evolved along the last sixty years, starting from low temperature treatments: slow double-firing, now disappeared, and present day third fire applications (LT). Next step was the fast single-firing at intermediate temperature to produce porous and semi-vitrified tiles (IT). The follow-up was at high temperature for unglazed porcelain stoneware (BO) and then glazed porcelain stoneware (HT). Both the IT and HT decoration technologies are going to be completely replaced by the novel solutions developed to implement IJP and further digital techniques on ceramic tiles (DD).

Further factors have been playing a crucial role, beyond the technological aspects, in the design of ceramic colorants. They are connected with the growing concern on health and safety issues all along the colorant value chain, entailing effluents, gaseous emissions, hazardous substances and, in general, the reduction of chemical risk. Current regulations – like REACH in the EU [12] or TSCA in the USA [13] – may determine the fate of a given colorant. For instance, the occurrence of a carcinogenic ingredient among precursors may turn the manufacture too costly, because of all the preventive measures and controls imposed to the pigment industry [14,15].

3. Technological requirements for ceramic colorants

Pigments and dyes must fulfil a set of technical requirements to be applied in ceramic manufacturing [2,16]. These specifications concerned – in the pre-IJP technologies – essentially refractoriness, color saturation, optical properties, resistance to chemical attack, and particle size distribution. Such requirements will be henceforward discussed in some detail for industrial pigments, whose basic crystallographic and physical features are summarized in Table 2, and for industrial dyes and effects as well, whose general features are described in Table 3.

3.1. Refractoriness

Ceramic pigments must have a high melting point, consistently above the firing temperature they have to withstand in the industrial kiln. Indeed, the melting point reasonably matches the colorant behavior usually recognized in the industrial practice. Significantly, all the pigment structures widely used in large-scale ceramic production melt above 1600°C (Table 2), with the single exception of malayaite, that means at least 400°C above the highest temperature of industrial kilns for ceramic tiles (~1240°C). In particular, melting temperatures above 2000°C correspond to highly stable structures – like baddeleyite, zircon, spinel, or corundum – that are known to withstand high firing temperatures in a wide range of ceramic matrices [2,16]. On the other hand, a melting point in the 1800-2000°C range characterizes reliable host structures – such as

periclase-bunsenite, perovskite or rutile – which, however, denote some instability either at the highest firing temperatures or in touch with aggressive glazes [16-18]. Certain stability problems are recognized when the melting occurs below 1800°C – as for garnet, hematite, willemite and wurtzite – which are generally used in low temperature applications or once encapsulated by protective layers [18-19]. Thus, melting point should be considered as a basic prerequisite in the pigment design.

Completely different is the case of dyes, since a low melting point is needed to ensure an easy and complete dissolution into the ceramic matrix. Particulate dyes exhibit melting temperatures usually in the 900-1100°C range (Table 3), thus well below the firing temperatures of the IT and HT technologies (Fig. 1). A separate case is that of silicate dyes (Cobalt olivine and liebenbergite) that melt over 1400°C, though are readily dissolved in most glazes. Low melting temperatures (600 to 900°C) are typical of the sink effect, which is obtained by drastically boosting the fusibility in order to locally drop the viscosity of glazes or glassy coatings. On the other hand, glitter and luster effects imply crystallization that may occur either during sintering or cooling. Therefore, the melting points of crystallizing phases vary in a wide range: from 900 to 1650°C.

3.2. Color saturation

The typical color palette obtainable with standard ceramic colorants can be plotted in the a^* - b^* equatorial plane of CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$ coordinates (Fig. 4) where $+a^*$ is red, $-a^*$ is green, $+b^*$ is yellow and $-b^*$ is blue [2,16,19-20]. The sector between the $+a^*$ and $+b^*$ axes is rather crowded by several pigments of warm color, going from red to orange and yellow. Less numerous are the industrial colorants in the yellow to green quarter ($+b^*$ to $-a^*$) and some plot in the green to blue ($-a^*$ to $-b^*$) and blue to purple ($-b^*$ to $+a^*$) quarters. It deserves to be noticed there are “pure colors” (i.e., those approaching the highest value of chroma) and “pastel colors” (plotting somehow midway to the origin of axes).

However, it must be emphasized that the concept of color intensity for ceramic applications involves both color saturation and brightness [1,19-20], so it should not be merely expressed by the chromatic coordinates of Figure 4. In order to overcome this limit, the *tinctorial strength* index is proposed for the first time:

$$T^* = (100 - L^*) + C^* = (100 - L^*) + (a^{*2} + b^{*2})^{1/2}$$

where L^* is lightness (0=white, 100=black) and C^* is chroma. It should not be confused with the *tinting strength* (used in paints), the *color strength* (applied in the textile sector) or the *tinctorial power* (utilized in the food industry) all based on the Kubelka-Munk equation.

From this standpoint, the industrial pigments and dyes exhibit tinctorial strength that, in most cases, is in between $T^* \sim 70$ and $T^* \sim 100$ (Fig. 5). These values can be devised as another basic requirement for ceramic pigments and dyes to enter in the industrial practice. Significantly, most of the pigment candidates proposed in the literature – that did not find an industrial application yet – exhibit a tinctorial strength that is lower than the industrial colorant of similar hue. A detailed discussion on the colorant suitability for present day applications is in section 5.

Even more important are the chromatic coordinates of pigments once applied in the various types of ceramic bodies and glazes. Indeed, the performance of ceramic colorants depends to a large extent on the matrix and decreases moving from transparent glazes/glasses to opaque glazes to bodies [19-20]. On the other hand, it is well known that the color yield varies upon the amount of colorant added. Examples for the main ceramic pigments are given in Figure 6. Any direct comparison of the tinctorial strength of different colors, nonetheless, is not fully reliable, because the colorimetric system in use in the ceramic sector, i.e. CIE $L^*a^*b^*$ [21], does not reproduce the intensity of all the colors in the same way [22].

Color has a strong dependence on optical properties and particle size distribution of pigments, which role will be discussed in detail in the next sections. However, the behavior of ceramic dyes is different, since it entails the efficiency by which the metal ions are incorporated – with the desired oxygen coordination number – into the vitreous phase of bodies and glazes.

3.3. Optical properties

Besides the knowledge of the origin of color in ceramics is fundamental for pigment design, a detailed discussion of optical spectra goes beyond the scope of the present overview. Here, *chromophores* (metal ions responsible for coloration once coordinated by a given number of oxygens) are summarized in Table 4. Reference is done to mechanisms behind color development that encompass the crystal field, ligand, and band theories, for which the Reader is addressed to specific treatises [24-27]. These formalisms may be associated to cooperative phenomena, like intervalence charge transfer or paired spin exchange transitions. The chromatic coordinates, by which the tinctorial strength is calculated, are affected by both the refractive indexes and the main absorption bands in the visible spectrum. The difference in refractive indexes between pigments (see Table 2) and the vitreous phase in which they are incorporated determines the degree of light scattering that is often seen as the ability to “cover” the substrate [28-29]. It consequently affects the brightness of color. The refractive index of ceramic glazes and glasses is usually in the 1.50-1.55 range [29]. The difference in refractive indexes between pigment and matrix should be at least 0.2 to ensure an adequate light scattering and therefore a satisfactory covering effect. This requirement implies a threshold for effective pigments as high as 1.75 or so. Indeed, industrial pigments always exhibit refractive indexes over 1.7 and the best performance is found for values over 1.9.

Looking at the optical spectra of the main ceramic pigments and dyes (Fig. 7) it can be appreciated that absorbance bands shift leftwards when colorants are considered in the order: white, yellow, orange, and red. *White pigments* (so called *opacifiers*) have indeed a negligible absorbance in the visible range – as for zircon, baddeleyite and cassiterite – or may induce a yellowish shade, due to a slight absorption of violet wavelengths, as usually occurs with cerianite and rutile.

Yellow pigments absorb intensely all wavelengths above the $\sim 20,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$, so leaving a wide transmittance window (250-500 nm) that ensures bright colors. Two distinct kinds of optical band occur: steep in zircon-Pr and bindheimite pigments and less abrupt in baddeleyite-V, rutile-NiSb, and cassiterite-V pigments. The color shade depends on the wavelength of minimum absorbance, which can shift from the yellow region (where it gives rise to “cold” colors, like zircon-Pr and rutile-NiSb) towards the orange one, determining “warm” yellows, as those of bindheimite, baddeleyite-V, or cassiterite-V pigments.

Red pigments are featured by sharp bands absorbing most of the orange to violet wavelengths, *i.e.* above the $\sim 16,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (below $\sim 600\text{ nm}$) as shown by cadmium sulfoselenide and Cr-doped yttrium aluminate perovskite. By this way, the transmitted light is limited to the red-orange region, resulting in rather dark colors. Magenta to burgundy shades, as those of malayaite-Cr and the so called Cassius’ purple (gold nanoparticles), are originated by an additional transmittance in the blue-violet region, while purple colors require a second minimum of absorbance in the violet region, like that at $\sim 24,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ($\sim 420\text{ nm}$) of the cassiterite-Cr pigment. On the other hand, pink colors have an absorbance band that occurs at the same wavenumber of red pigments (onset at $\sim 16,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$) but with a distinctly weaker intensity, as the case of hematite encapsulated in zircon. The spectrum of Cr-doped corundum reveals, in addition, the transmission of some blue and violet wavelengths, justifying the typical ruby shade.

Orange pigments exhibit optical features intermediate between yellow and red colorants. Cr-doped rutile pigments, for instance, are characterized by a slope not so steep and a rather wide transmittance window, by which light is increasingly absorbed moving from orange (minimum around $15,500\text{ cm}^{-1}$) to green regions of the visible spectrum.

Optical features different from the shutter-like bands observed in red to yellow pigments are necessary in order to get the remaining colors. For instance, a selective wavelength absorption that allows the transmission of either the green or the blue light only. On the other hand, dark colors are obtained through a non-selective light absorption over the whole visible spectrum, but with different intensity for brown, gray and black shades.

Green pigments require a light absorption at both the red-orange and blue-violet extremes of the visible spectrum. The resulting transmission window has a minimal absorption at $\sim 19,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ that is more accentuated for green pigments (e.g., eskolaite, uvarovite) than for bluish-green ones (cochromite) which exhibit a plateau over the green and blue regions.

Blue colorants must absorb selectively the orange to green wavelengths ($15,000$ to $20,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$, 500 - 650 nm) to achieve the desired blue hue, as in the case of the cobalt aluminate spinel pigment. Instead, cobalt dyes (olivine, but also phosphates and borate, see Table 4) are filters less selective, because they absorb also some blue and violet light, giving rise to a deep, ultramarine blue tint. Turquoise shades occur in case of a narrower absorption band – like that of zircon-V pigments, usually extended over the $14,000$ to $17,500\text{ cm}^{-1}$ range (580 - 700 nm) – which let some green light to be transmitted, so the overall hue is between green and blue.

Brown pigments are a variegated family of compounds, exhibiting broad optical spectra, not easily attributable to single bands. A more or less accentuated light absorption is observed growing from red to violet wavelengths. It is the intensity of such an optical hump to discriminate between light brown (e.g., spinel Zn-Cr-Fe) and dark brown shades (e.g., spinel Mn-Cr-Fe and rutile Mn-Sb). The window transmitting in the low energy region of the visible spectrum accounts for brown colors with reddish to yellowish tints.

Black pigments should in principle absorb all the visible spectrum, as it practically occurs in the best cases (like complex Co-Ni-Fe-Cr-Mn spinels). In comparison, eskolaite-hematite pigments have a weak transmission in the red region that is enough to justify some brownish shade. Gray colors are expected to differ from black just for the lower absorbance over the whole visible spectrum (e.g., bunsenite-Co). In reality, some selective absorption can lead to bluish, greenish or yellowish overprints.

3.4. Interaction of pigments and dyes with ceramic matrices

Ceramic pigments must be stable in contact with the melt formed during the firing of glazes and bodies. Therefore, the resistance to chemical attack is a relative concept, depending on the substrate composition (glaze or body) that varies upon the technology used in ceramic manufacturing. In practice, there are different arrays of 'chemical composition x firing schedule', which define a variable degree of aggressiveness of the liquid phase towards the pigment.

The differences in chemical composition among glazes and bodies used by the ceramic industry are illustrated in Figure 8 with reference to the decoration technologies of Figure 1. The main fluxes are arranged in Figure 8A according to their technological role and chemical action against the ceramic pigments [4,28,29]. Account must be taken since there are three basic mechanisms by which a ceramic pigment can be chemically attacked with permanent color deterioration [10]:

a) pigment dissolution in the liquid phase;

b) pigment transformation into another crystalline phase;

c) change in the crystal chemical composition of the pigment, which keeps its structure.

Alkaline fluxes, i.e. Na_2O , K_2O and Li_2O , enhance fusibility, so reducing the maturing temperature, and increase the brightness of glazes (but in the case of lithium a devitrification may occur). Alkali do not enter the crystal structure of pigments and usually do not promote the crystallization of phases hosting transition metal ions [28-29]. Thus, their action is principally to foster pigment dissolution by lowering viscosity and increasing surface tension of melt.

Alkaline-earth fluxes, i.e. MgO , CaO , SrO and BaO , play different roles, depending on concentration and firing conditions, with some variation from one element to another [19,28,30]. At high concentration, they promote devitrification, leading to opaque glazes, but at low percentages tend to improve brightness (useful for glassy coatings). On the other hand, they enhance fusibility at higher firing temperatures, whilst boost viscosity at lower temperatures. Therefore, alkaline-earth fluxes can take part into the chemical attack by various reactions, depending on the colorant. For instance, magnesium can affect spinel pigments, since Mg^{2+} ions compete with divalent transition metal ions (Co^{2+} , Mn^{2+} , Ni^{2+}) mainly to access the tetrahedral site [31]. Similarly, in bunsenite pigments Mg can replace both Ni and Co at the octahedral site [32]. On the other hand, calcium may have opposite functions: it stabilizes Ca-bearing pigments, like garnet and malayaite, but heavily attacks rutile, hematite, and eskolaite, as CaTiO_3 , CaFe_2O_4 and CaCr_2O_4 phases turn to be thermodynamically favored with respect to simple oxides [33]. Eventually, all colorants are attained to some extent by dissolution into the melt, which is more effective at lower viscosity, thus with higher temperature and BaO content.

Strong fluxes, i.e. B_2O_3 , PbO and Bi_2O_3 , reduce viscosity and surface tension of the melt, thus promoting the diffusion in the liquid phase of other glaze components [30]. Account must be taken that present-day glazes are nominally leadless, while bismuth is utilized only in some third fire applications. Boron does not enter the crystal structure of ceramic pigments; thus, its role is essentially to enhance the fluxing effect of alkali.

Zinc oxide has a wide range of effects in glazes, including a fusibility enhancement through the reduction of viscosity and surface tension of the melt or, at high concentration, the tendency to crystallize Zn-phases (gahnite, willemite, hardystonite). Zinc can interfere with the coloration of glazes because it may be incorporated in the crystal structure of many pigments. In fact, it can replace transition metal ions at tetrahedrally- and octahedrally-coordinated sites, e.g. in spinel, periclase, malayaite. In addition, zinc easily reacts with TiO_2 , Cr_2O_3 , Al_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 , and SnO_2 pigments, giving rise to Zn-rich phases [29].

The *silica-to-alumina ratio* governs many chemical and physical properties of glazes and glassy coatings [29,30]. Indeed, the amounts of silica and alumina determine the appearance (transparency and gloss) of glazes, which can be described as matt, semi matt, and bright (Fig. 8B).

Pigment dissolution in bodies and glazes always occurs to some extent, depending on both the phase refractoriness and its solubility in the melt. This phenomenon has commonly a twin effect: loss of the desired color (due to pigment breakdown) and onset of undesired shades due to element "leaching" (transition metal ions incorporated into the glassy phase). No data exist on pigment solubility into ceramic liquid phases, but information is available about some minerals in granitic melts, which can be somehow approximated to those present in porcelain stoneware bodies. The saturation concentration at 1200°C is below 1%wt for cassiterite [34], approximately 1.2%wt for zircon [35], and around 2%wt for rutile [36]. However, the solubility in ceramic melts is difficult to predict from phase diagrams, because of the remarkable complexity of glaze compositions. To overcome this problem, a common practice is to "saturate" the glaze with the major

components of the pigment, in order to improve the chemical stability of colorants. This was typically an additional role of opacifiers, which are usually selected also to ensure the color yield, e.g. tin oxide for cassiterite pigments or zirconium silicate for zircon pigments [2,16]. This solution is no longer feasible with IJP, but it was revitalized in digital decoration by using “primers” and “protective” layers (i.e., glassy coatings with a very low amount of the most aggressive components, like ZnO and alkaline-earth oxides).

Pigment phase transformation is apparently a phenomenon restricted to specific circumstances, as in the classic example of the eskolaite green pigment, once applied on a zinc-bearing glaze: the reaction $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{ZnO}$ leads to the formation of the brown ZnCr_2O_3 spinel [16]. In reality, such reactions are easily overlooked, because the resulting chromatic change can be erroneously attributed to a pigment dissolution. These transformations typically occur when a thermodynamically favored crystalline phase exists in the relevant chemical system, which is usually hard to represent in a phase diagram due to the conspicuous complexity of glaze compositions.

A *change in the pigment crystal chemistry* can affect the chromatic coordinates, since factors that are fundamental in color development are usually modified. Such factors encompass the transition metal ion valence and oxygen coordination, as well as the metal-oxygen distances and distortion of the polyhedron where the cation is accommodated. These phenomena are governed by the partition equilibria, for each ion, between melt and pigment. In addition, the diffusion kinetics through the pigment crystal structure turns crucial. As a rule of thumb, structures with more than one crystallographic site, where transition metal ions can be allocated, are more prone to variation of crystal chemistry. A classic example is spinel: the Ni-free black spinel, once in touch with zinc-rich glazes, changes color by shifting towards a brown shade. This occurs because Zn^{2+} replaces Co^{2+} at the tetrahedral site; as a consequence, light absorption in the red-orange region no longer occurs and the outcome is a brown spinel.

Dye dissolution into the melt formed during firing is required and depends on the composition of ceramic matrices. The different compositional fields of glazes and bodies utilized in the various technologies are illustrated in Figure 8. They imply a spectrum of chemical environments and thermal treatments, hence conditions where dye melting (and the three causes of pigment deterioration) can play with a changing relative weight. This aspect must be considered when the chemical compatibility of a dye/pigment with single components of glazes and bodies is evaluated, as known from the industrial practice (Table 5). Some crystal structures suffer from the attack of alkaline fluxes and particularly strong fluxes (e.g., garnet, pyrochlore, bunsenite, baddeleyite, and cassiterite). It is not a case that the relevant pigments have a relatively low stability, as witnessed by the maximum temperatures allowed in the firing schedules that are among the lowest in industrial colorants. In contrast, pigments based on corundum and spinel structures are more exposed to phase transformations and/or change in their crystal chemistry, especially under the effect of element that can easily be accommodated in the crystal sites (i.e., Zn, Mg, Sn).

Transition elements can be released to the liquid phase, present at high temperature in glazes and bodies, as a consequence of dye dissolution or pigment breakdown or even ion exchange between melt and pigment [2,16]. In case of pigments, such a leaching process determines the dissolution of transition metal ions into the glassy matrix with undesired repercussions on color purity [37]. Each transition metal ion will absorb in the visible light spectrum, depending on its valence and oxygen coordination in the silicate glass, giving rise to specific color shades, which is the mechanism exploited with dyes (Table 6). These more or less accentuated nuances, depending on the transition metal concentration, may significantly alter the original coloration due to the pigment.

Ceramic effects behave either as a dye or a pigment. Sink effects (SE) and bright/matt glasses (BE) must dissolve in the glassy phase, as some speckle effects do. In contrast, glittering (GE) or phosphorescence require crystals dispersed in the glaze. Lusters (LE) are obtained by controlled crystallization during firing.

4. New technological requirements of ceramic colorants for digital decoration

The advent of IJP imposed to move from conventional pigments and dyes delivered as powders towards micronized colorants dispersed in a carrier (ink). This paradigm shift made some technical solutions no longer practicable and, at the same time, introduced new requirements (or emphasized some technological aspects).

For instance, the control on the pigment color saturation, which was commonly achieved through a careful addition of a filler [37], is unappropriated in inks. As a consequence, nowadays pigments must be even more constant in their color performance, because only the colorants (not diluted by filler) are used in inks [10]. On the other hand, no easy adjustment of color saturation by increasing the pigment concentration is possible in IJP, since it has immediate repercussions on the density, shear viscosity and surface tension of the suspension, hence on ink printability [9-11].

New requisites concern the behavior of ceramic pigments during micronization and their interactions with ink carriers and print head components. Particle size distribution assumed a crucial role in IJP, involving the micronization process adopted to make inks. Therefore, pigment grindability is now a key issue for both ink productivity and color saturation, and consequently the relevant parameters, such as the mechanical properties and the resistance to amorphization of the crystal structures of ceramic pigments. Further factors are the interactions between colorant and carrier, as electro-magnetic properties of pigments and dyes.

4.1. Particle size distribution

Most colorants are utilized as powders, directly or as feed in ink making. Therefore, pigments, effects and particulate dyes always undergo, after synthesis, a comminution or disaggregation stage to obtain the desired particle size distribution [37]. Such a process can be performed either by the dry route (typically through jet milling) or by the wet route (ball milling followed by spray-drying) depending on specific needs (e.g., washing any mineralizer residue out).

Particle size is the most important feature to keep under control in the industrial practice, because it affects both the optical properties and reaction kinetics during firing [38,39]. Thus, granulometry ultimately influences tinctorial strength in the various decoration technologies. For this reason, pigment-making companies spend considerable efforts to find out the best particle size distribution for every product to be applied as powder or entering the micronization process for ink-making [37,40].

Different requirements exist in the various applications, as exemplified in Figure 9A. The pigments utilized in conventional technologies (i.e., from LT to VHT and BO) are commonly milled to a median particle diameter in between 3 and 7 μm , irrespective of being allochromatic (AP) or idiochromatic (IP). The same pigments, once addressed to digital inks, undergo a more intensive comminution, down to approximately 1-2 μm or even less, in order to damp the cost of the high-energy micronization process. In contrast, encapsulated pigments are kept to a coarser particle size, in order to preserve the protective coating on the heat-labile pigment, so that the median particle diameter can span from 10 to 20 μm .

The micronization process, carried out in high-energy mills with Y-stabilized zirconia microspheres, leads to a narrow particle size distribution of the colorant dispersed in the ink medium. The median particle diameter for pigments is usually in the 0.3-0.6 μm range, with the d_{90} always below 1 μm [9-11], while micronized

effects are slightly coarser, with a median particle diameter ordinarily from 0.6 to 1 μm . Such a drastic reduction of particle size brings about two different effects: a proportional increase of the specific surface area and a physical deterioration of pigments (see section 4.2 for a further discussion on pigment behavior during milling). Both have relevant repercussions on the colorant performance of inks by two mechanisms: less intense light absorption (due to a loss of pigment) combined with undesired shades (due to transition metals migrating to the glaze or glassy coating, Table 6).

The specific surface area grows from conventional pigments, having normally values close to 1 $\text{m}^2\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, to 15-35 $\text{m}^2\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ in the resulting inks (Fig. 9B). Such an increased specific surface area implies an enhanced reactivity of pigments in touch with glazes and glassy coatings [40-41]. Thus, a much lower resistance to chemical attack is generally observed during firing. This fact reflects on color saturation, which is notoriously weaker in digital inks with respect to conventional pigments [10,41].

4.2. Pigment grindability

As introduced in the previous paragraph, DOD-IJP entails some strict requirements, among which ensuring that >99% of the pigment particles are less than 1 μm in diameter [8,9,11]. Being mainly dependent on the specific energy input (i.e., on the energy supplied to the grinding chamber in relation to the mass of product), pigments micronization down to the requested particles size proves to be the most energy-consuming comminution process per unit weight of product [42]. It derives that comminution of ceramic pigments is a key issue for ink production, which has strong repercussions on tinctorial strength, mechanical properties and resistance to amorphization of the pigment crystal structure.

In an ideal case, when a particle undergoes brittle fracture, a crack propagates through the particle creating new surface area. On the other hand, in the real cases, most of the energy supplied during comminution processes is dissipated into effects other than the new surface itself, e.g., elastic deformations, friction between particles and/or between particles and apparatus walls, heat, vibrations, and so on [43]. Despite the effort in finding the best relationship that can rationalize the energy-dependent particle size variation during a comminution process and, at the same time, to account for all the above-mentioned secondary effects, the main relationship commonly used to describe a comminution processes of a brittle solid originates from a single differential equation of the general form [44]:

$$dE = -K \frac{dx}{x^f(x)} \quad (1)$$

where dE is the infinitesimal energy change per unit weight required during comminution, dx is the infinitesimal size change, x is the particle size, K and $f(x)$ are a constant and a variable dependent on the particle size x , respectively, related with the material (e.g., initial particles size, and particles physical properties) and with the size reduction method [44-47]. When particles fall at the boundary of the micrometric-submicrometric range, $f(x) \rightarrow 2$, and the Rittinger's law is considered the most suitable in describing the energy change in a comminution process [44,46,47]. Rittinger postulated that the energy per unit mass is proportional to the new surface area produced, and the Rittinger's relationship can be easily derived through the integration of equation 1 [44,46,47], such as:

$$E = K \left(\frac{1}{x_2} - \frac{1}{x_1} \right) \quad (2)$$

where E is the net energy (expressed in $\text{J}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$) required to micronize a particle from the initial (x_1) to the final (x_2) particle size (defined as the integrated mean particle size, in m [44,46]) in a given grinding cycle (i.e., time \times milling rounds), and K is expressed in the units of $\text{J}\cdot\text{m}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ [43]. Once eqn. (1) and its derived form (2)

have to be applied in fitting experimental data, a tough limitation occurs in finding the best fit values for K and $f(x)$. In particular, the Rittinger's equation, eqn. (2), requires the values of K and $f(x)$ to be known a priori [46]. In the case of ceramic pigments, the literature on their micronization is limited to few experimental investigations [40,48-51]. From these works, it emerges that the energy required to downsize a particle from x_1 to x_2 (*i.e.*, expressed as the variation of the median particle diameter, d_{50} in μm) is proportional to the total number of milling rounds, r_T [*e.g.*, 40], which is an experimental inference to what postulated by Hukki [44]. In figure 10, the variation of the reciprocal of the particles size (*i.e.*, $(\frac{1}{x_2} - \frac{1}{x_1}) \propto \frac{E}{K}$) for pigments micronized in a pilot plant is plotted as a function of the total milling rounds.

Data in Figure 10 clearly show the strong dependence of particles size reduction on grinding cycles (by definition, proportional to the energy supplied during the comminution process). Along with this observation, a detailed inspection of data in Figure 10 reveals that the particles size reduction strongly depends on the structural features (*i.e.*, crystal structure and chemical composition) of the micronized ceramic pigments. Consistently to what reported by Gngr et al. [40], it appears that ceramic pigments with spinel structure are less grindable than those with rutile and zircon structure, respectively. In addition, while the particle size variation of both zircon and rutile pigments scales almost linearly with the milling rounds, the particle size variation for spinel pigments undergoes a constant but gradual decreasing. In particular, above 2×10^5 and 2.5×10^5 milling rounds for Co-aluminate and CoFe-chromite, respectively, no appreciable particle size variation is observed.

The particles size variation for spinel and zircon ceramic pigments during micronization is highlighted in two distinct plots (A and B, respectively) in Figure 11. Beyond the general remarks of above, the comminution of spinel ceramic pigments returns different micronization trends depending on their crystal chemistry, with Co-aluminate pigments more grindable than Co-ferrite and CoFe-chromite spinel ceramic pigments, which in turn have a common particle downsizing (Fig. 11A).

This behavior apparently contrasts with that highlighted during the comminution of zircon ceramic pigments (Fig. 11B). Although purchased from different manufacturers and investigated at different laboratories [40, 48,50], data in Figure 11B unequivocally show that the zircon structure undergoes the same particles downsizing irrespective of the dopant cation nature. This fact can be readily explained because of the small substitution (or incorporation) of dopant cation within the zircon lattice. Pigment manufacturers produce yellow and turquoise zircon pigments by a doping of about 3% to 5% of Pr^{4+} and V^{4+} , respectively [49,51,52]. It derives that the presence of dopants in small amounts does not influence the grindability of zircon ceramic pigments.

The comparison of the selected data, at the micrometric scale, suggests that the energy supplied during a comminution process is used/dissipated by two main mechanisms related to two different energetic contributions. In the first mechanism, the energy supplied during the comminution process will be mainly devoted to the creation of new surface area, as in the ideal case entailed by the general comminution laws [43-47]. This energy is preserved as long as a particle undergoes brittle fractures: "energy conservation process". The second mechanism implicates a process for which the crystal structure of a particle loses long-range order by means of interatomic bonds breaking and lattice disorder, *i.e.*, the structure undergoes amorphization [53]. Hence, in terms of particle comminution, this process has a "dissipative/non-conservative" energetic contribution. Both mechanisms, and by consequence both energetic contributions, mainly depend on the resistance of a crystal structure to an external compression, which is defined by its isothermal bulk modulus (K_{70} , in GPa) [54,55].

The isothermal bulk modulus (or incompressibility) for the crystal structures of the ceramic pigments under comparison is listed in Table 7. The listed K_{70} , is the average value among several from literature. For sake of clarity the range of variation of K_{70} is also reported in Table 7.

Incompressibility data in Table 7 perfectly match with the grindability ranking derived from the particle size variation of micronized ceramic pigments (see Fig. 10), where the stiffest structure of zircon pigments has the highest rate of micronization, while the more compressible structures of Co-ferrite and CoFe-chromite spinel pigments show a little aptitude at micronizing.

Although the concept of resistance at the compression could be misleading, it results evident, when a crystal structure is stiffer than another, that the process of micronization can be prolonged at higher milling rounds. This means that a particle with a high bulk isothermal modulus undergoes brittle fracture when micronized, and the energy supplied during the comminution process will be largely devoted to the creation new surface area. Conversely, when the energy supplied to micronize a particle dissipates into other effects, the comminution efficiency will drastically decrease. Indeed, data on the phase composition for micronized ceramic pigments achieved by means of X-ray diffraction experiments highlighted a higher tendency to amorphization for spinel pigments than for zircon ceramic pigments [41]. In addition, the different trends for spinel and zircon ceramic pigments in Figure 11 are consistent, although qualitatively, with two different kinds of energy change. Indeed, the ball milling mechanical energy transforms into an energy process which is predominantly conservative in the case of zircon pigments, where the particle downsizing scales linearly with grinding cycles, while it changes into a largely dissipative energy process (e.g., amorphization) in the case of spinel pigments, where the particle downsizing turns to be curvilinear.

Other bulk properties, such as density, which in turns is related with the pressure of amorphization [55], brittleness, hardness, etc. can play important roles during the comminution of ceramic pigments, but the driving force which governs the micronization of ceramic pigments is their resistance at the compression (i.e. the isothermal bulk modulus or incompressibility).

The high-energy micronization is able to progressively damage the crystal structure of colorants, leading eventually to a pigment loss due to amorphization [41]. This phenomenon brings about a lower yield at the end of the micronizing stage, which can vary widely from a few percent to 60% of the initial amount of pigment. The average loss in commercial inks, estimated by X-ray powder diffraction through Rietveld refinement with internal standard, is around 30% (Fig. 12). The differences amongst crystal structures – zircon, rutile, malayaite, and various spinel types – are just indicative, because data are not fully representative of ceramic inks, since the number of samples varies upon the different pigments.

This picture lets the micronization of ceramic pigments to be a crucial stage to define quality, performance, yield and cost of digital inks. Key points for a better comprehension of this process are the dependence of results on the pigment crystal structure, and the chance of a direct estimation of the energy required for pigments comminution. On the other hand, the need of a direct measurement of the Rittinger's constant K and exponent $f(x)$ still represents a challenging issue. Further relevant parameters to be considered during comminution of ceramic pigments encompass the feed size (starting particle diameter) and the evolution of particle size and shape, for increasing milling time, that can reveal the onset of agglomeration phenomena (which mechanism is not fully understood). In addition, type and amounts of additives (dispersant, block copolymers, etc.), grinding media, chamber mill dimension and rotation speed introduce variables that influence the comminution process. These aspects are only partially known and need to be furtherly investigated.

4.3. Colorant interaction with ink carriers

Colorants interact with the carrier and the additives in the various stages of the ink life: micronization, storage, inkjet application on the tile surface, drying and firing. Although, in principle, chemical reactions between the colorant and the organic components should be negligible, there are evidences of some interactions occurring mainly during long time storage and fast firing.

A prolonged contact of some effects (glazes and glassy coatings) with the carrier may turn into a partial solubilization, depending on the type (water, polar and non-polar organic media), pH, etc. Available data for the CoAl_2O_4 pigment point to high ion concentration ($>800 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$) in diethylene glycol, while the dissolution was less significant in aqueous medium [89].

The organic components of the ink deposited on the tile surface undergo a rapid thermal decomposition once entering the first module of roller kiln, where temperatures can be as high as 300 to 500°C. In these shocking conditions, organic compounds can be stripped by the water vapor stream coming out from tiles. Otherwise, they can undergo pyrolysis or combustion under the effect of the hot flue gases flowing from the heating zone of the roller kiln [90,91]. There are clues that the formation of the different organic by-products during combustion, pyrolysis or stripping are affected also by a sort of catalytic action attributable to the pigment present in the ink.

5. Suitability of colorants in the different ceramic technologies

In this section, the suitability of colorants in the various decoration technologies used in ceramic tile-making is overviewed by taking into account different issues: technological behavior, cost, and possible health hazards. The technological performance is considered under various viewpoints: chemical stability during firing, color saturation and purity, and behavior during micronization.

Along with pigments, dyes, and effects currently utilized by the ceramic tile industry, this analysis is extended to colorants under development that were proposed for ceramic applications in the literature. Reference to the Colour Index (C.I., by the Society of Dyers and Colourists) is given, when available. The list of candidate pigments and dyes is not exhaustive: only those with enough pieces of information on technological performance were included in the discussion.

For every colorant, the outcome is given for each decoration technology (as listed in Fig. 1): low temperature (LT), intermediate temperature (IT), high temperature (HT), unglazed body (BO), very high temperature (VHT), and digital decoration (DD). The verdict can be 'suitable' or 'unsuitable'. If suitable, additional information is provided, as: currently in industrial use; no longer in use; never entered in use. If unsuitable, the main motive is indicated: technological reasons; insufficient tinctorial strength or color purity; possible environmental impact or health hazards; economic reasons (high cost of precursors).

Pigments and dyes are hereafter illustrated color by color. In few cases, the color definition is ambiguous (for instance, greenish yellow or yellowish green). As far as possible, it was followed the color attribution given in the literature, but sometimes the technological behavior (coloration in glaze) was in contrast. In this circumstance, technological data were plotted in the most appropriate color graph.

5.1. Red and purple colorants

There are no "universal" colorants able to impart red (or purple) shades with all the ceramic technologies. The rather wide array of colorants utilizable with the LT application turns to be progressively restricted with IT, HT-VHT and BO applications (Fig. 13). The situation is critical in DD, where no frankly red colors can be achieved and burgundy to magenta and purple pigments are employed.

Malayaite doped with Cr is widely used, despite it suffers from some chemical instability in glazes that limits the maximum temperature attainable [92,93]. Control on burgundy color during synthesis is difficult, because different shades develop from relative abundance of multiple chromophores: octahedrally-coordinated Cr^{3+} , tetrahedrally-coordinated Cr^{4+} , and even some Cr^{5+} [94-96]. Color shades are also in accord with co-doping with La, Zn, Fe or Ti [37]. In addition, there is a strong influence of firing conditions and mineralizers on synthesis yield [97-99]. Overall, this pigment behaves best in glazes (typically $T^* \sim 85$ at 1100°C , $T^* \sim 75$ at 1200°C) – with several constraints (Table 5) – and is not suitable in bodies.

Purple of Cassius has a high potential as red pigment, due to an intense plasmonic band of gold nanoparticles ($T^* \sim 80$ at 1150°C). These are rather stable in most applications, even if the highest temperatures the magenta-red color turns into brown [100-102]. There are various synthesis procedures, including soluble salts [103] and ceramic inks [104,105]. The main hindrance is the very high cost, even if the red color can be achieved with diluted concentrations, connected with the growing price of gold. To overcome this limitation, Ag-Au alloys were industrially developed, but never used because the color has a strong yellowish shade [106,107].

Cassiterite doped with Cr was a pigment with a marginal importance in the conventional technologies that has been revitalized by the advent of digital decoration, even though handicapped by the high cost of tin oxide. It bestows a peculiar violet color on glazes ($T^* \sim 60$ at 1200°C) likely originated by a unique combination of different chromophores [95,96]. Color shades are achieved with further dopants (Co, Ce). For as concerns the synthesis, since the traditional ceramic one can cause serious environmental and health problems due to the formation of carcinogenic Cr^{6+} during the process, a wet method can be preferred. This low temperature synthesis limits the Cr oxidation [108-111]. It has a fair stability in glazes [37] and rather good performance in DD.

Cadmoseelite-greenockite solid solution, encapsulated in zircon, provides an unrivalled red color that is the reference colorant for all applications in glazes ($90 < T^* < 100$ at 1200°C). Its stability is satisfactory, if encapsulation is complete, in all matrices but low viscosity glazes [37,112]. The synthesis is complex: the sulfo-selenide seeds must be incorporated in the silicate mass and preserved during formation of zircon [113]. Its utilization in DD is problematic, because micronization can break the encapsulation, leading to chemical attack of the pigment by glaze. However, some application was recently attempted by reducing the particle size prior micronization. A major issue is the high toxicity of cadmium and selenium that imposes a standard control on Cd release from finished ceramic products [114].

Hematite encapsulated in zircon can be used in all technologies but DD, because micronization causes the rupture of the protective envelope made of zircon. Nevertheless, it is mainly addressed to mass-stone and is the reference red pigment in BO application [115]. It has a characteristic pink coral hue (Fig. 14) that turns redder in Zn-bearing matrices ($80 < T^* < 90$ at 1200°C). Encapsulation is a complex process depending on several variables, not straightforward to control, that was investigated in depth [116-121].

Hematite encapsulated in silica presents analogies with the previous pigment: it has a pink color as well, but less performing in glazes ($80 < T^* < 88$ at 1100°C) to the point it is used essentially in BO applications ($60 < T^* < 78$ at 1200°C). A natural analogue is the *Grès de Thiviers* [122-123]. Its synthesis appears to be easier than the hematite-zircon encapsulation and seems possible by various routes [124-130]. It cannot be used in DD.

Yttrium-aluminium perovskite doped with Cr is the most recent ceramic pigment added to the industrial palette [131,132]. It exhibits a red color stemming from Cr^{3+} - Ca^{2+} pairs, where calcium can be substituted by

other impurities coming from mineralizers, like Mg [17,132,133]. Its synthesis is not straightforward, because of the crucial role played by mineralizers [131,134-136]. It is stable particularly in HT glazes ($80 < T^* < 90$ at 1200°C) where it takes advantage by the high content of Ca and Al in these matrices [37,137]. No information exists about its performance in DD, where the high cost of yttrium represents a notable hindrance. Reddish perovskites have been synthesized also with lanthanides (e.g., La, Nd) and with mixed chromophores (Cr+Fe) but coloration is worse [138-140].

Corundum doped with Cr and/or Mn is the basis of two classic rose pigments, rather stable in most applications [141]. Now $(\text{Al,Cr})_2\text{O}_3$ is utilized essentially for LT-IT ($52 < T^* < 62$ at 1140°C) while $(\text{Al,Mn})_2\text{O}_3$ for BO ($60 < T^* < 70$ at 1200°C). Color stems from transitions due to the high crystal field of Cr^{3+} or Mn^{3+} in the Al site [142,143]. Color variants are obtained by co-doping Mn with Ca or P [37]. Not used in DD, both not suitable for quadrichromy and cost of micronization (due to its hardness). Easy synthesis by solid state, possible also in absence of mineralizers [144], and by mechano-synthesis [145].

Gahnite doped with Cr is another classic rose pigment [2,146]. ZnAl_2O_4 is a common phase in zinc-rich glazes, and the pigment is rather stable in all applications. Its synthesis is quite easy, in presence of borate mineralizers [37]. This spinel has been developed in many variants, with Mg, Fe, Ni, Cr, as co-dopants [147-149]. It is still used in LT ($50 < T^* < 60$ at 1050°C) since its incompatibility with B, Ca, Mg and Ba precludes applications at higher temperatures. Peculiar colors – peach to salmon pink (Fig. 14) – are obtained and tend to exhibit some degree of metamerism [37].

There is a set of red and purple pigments not entered in the industrial practice, along with colorants used in the past but now completely abandoned. Modern production does not employ crocoite (PbCrO_4) or further chromate pigments. **Pyrochlore** $\text{Y}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Cr was developed as a burgundy to brown pigment [150,151]. Its color ($60 < T^* < 70$ at 1080°C) is similar to the less intense shades of malayaite-Cr (Fig. 14) and similarly stems from multiple chromophores (Cr^{3+} and Cr^{4+} in octahedral coordination). Synthesis is complicated by an uneasy control on accessory phases [150,152]. Although stable in the main applications, it is handicapped by a higher cost and worse color with respect to industrial colorants. Other pyrochlores were investigated, as reddish brown $\text{Y}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Cr [152] and pink $\text{Er}_2(\text{Zr,Ti})_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Cr [153,154] or $\text{Y}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ co-doped with Cr and Pr [155]. They all suffer from an insufficient tinctorial strength, most of all for as concerns pink $\text{Er}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Cr, which if prepared by solid-state synthesis presents a very pale pink shade whatever the temperature; otherwise, if prepared by sol-gel method shows an intense pink coloration when calcinated at 700°C [153]. The color stability significantly diminishes above this temperature, unless the sample contains zirconium, which stabilizes the fluorite structure and ensures a color intensity also at higher calcination temperature [154].

Further proposals include **CaYAIO₄ doped with Cr** that exhibits pink shades ($55 < T^* < 60$ at 1050°C) comparable to the weakest achieved with encapsulated hematite (Fig. 14). Color stems from Cr^{3+} and Cr^{4+} in a distorted octahedral site [156] and its stability was tested at 1050°C in transparent frit (Ca-Zn-B). **Hematite encapsulated in zirconia** [128] proved to be stable in LT applications ($T^* \sim 77$ at 980°C). Lilac colors were developed exploiting **(Ba,Sr)Zn₂Si₂O₇** and **BaMg₂Si₂O₇** with melilite structure: color is originated by Ni^{2+} in tetrahedral coordination [157,158]; their thermal stability was not tested yet. Purple dyes were obtained by $(\text{Mn,Mg})_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$ solid solutions with **thortveitite** structure. Once thortveitite breaks down during firing, manganese is released to the glaze, which turns colored ($50 < T^* < 65$ at 1080°C) by the effect of Mn^{3+} ion dissolved in the glassy phase [159]. Another dye consisting of **Co phosphate** was described as purple, but final coloration in glaze is blue [160,161].

5.2. Yellow and orange colorants

There is a limited number of yellow colorants utilized in IT and HT-VHT applications that increases considerably once LT is concerned (Fig. 15). Only yellow zircon is employed in BO and DD technologies that makes it a “universal” pigment used in all the ceramic technologies. Mass-stone represents the main demand for orange colorants, mostly satisfied by rutile pigments, sometimes utilized in DD too.

Zircon doped with Pr provides a bright yellow (typically $60 < T^* < 80$ at $1100\text{-}1200^\circ\text{C}$) due to Pr^{4+} incorporated at the Zr site [162-164]. Developed also with other dopants, like Tb^{4+} and Ce^{4+} , but not at the industrial level [165-167]. Its synthesis is not straightforward, as solid, liquid and gas states are involved [168,169], with an important role played by mineralizers and calcination conditions [164,168-172]. It is highly stable in all applications, especially in Zr-rich and Zn-rich coatings [37]. Nevertheless, it is less performing in DD, due to detrimental effect of micronization on color, thus sometimes associated to other yellow or buff pigments [10,49].

Baddeleyite doped with V is a classic pigment with a characteristic yellow egg coloration (usually $40 < T^* < 50$ at $1100\text{-}1200^\circ\text{C}$) which can be tuned by doping with In, Y, Ti, or Al. Such a peculiar shade is related to the occurrence of tiny clusters of V^{5+} oxide included in ZrO_2 that makes it a sort of mordant pigment [173,174]. Its production is quite easy, also with alternatives to solid state synthesis [175-177]. The stability in glazes is generally good, but it is utilized especially in VHT applications [178]. Unsuitable for mass-stone (BO) because it tends to react with silica to form zircon. It is not used in DD, due to its color shade, not optimal in quadrichromy, and unsatisfactory tinctorial strength after micronization. Also, its high specific weight makes the ink more prone to pigment sedimentation.

Greenockite encapsulated in zircon provides a very brilliant yellow color ($T^* \sim 90$ at 1200°C). If encapsulation is complete and preserved during application, the stability in glazes is excellent [179]. As said for the analogous red pigment, the synthesis is complex. Indeed, in order to avoid the airtight container required by the ceramic method, the direct synthesis at low temperature by hydrothermal method is preferred. It entails the complex inclusion of cadmium sulfoselenide into a $\text{SiO}_2\text{-CeO}_2$ glassy phase, which have to be preserved during the zircon formation [113]. Since encapsulation is to some extent broken during micronization, it is not suitable for DD. A major issue is the high toxicity of cadmium, which imposes a standard control on Cd release from finished ceramic products [114].

Cassiterite doped with V is another classic among yellow colorants, but less used than baddeleyite [2], despite good tinctorial strength (typically $50 < T^* < 75$ at $1100\text{-}1200^\circ\text{C}$). The yellow color is originated by multiple chromophores, among which the dominating effect is by clusters of V^{5+} oxide included in tin oxide [2,180]. Co-doping with Ti and/or Al is a common practice to get color variants. Although still used in LT applications and sometimes in IT glazes, it is not employed in DD, as this pigment suffers from higher cost and worse tinctorial strength when compared to zircon-Pr. In addition, the high specific weight of tin oxide makes the ink more prone to sedimentation problems.

Rutile doped with Ni is a bright yellow pigment (commonly $50 < T^* < 60$ below 1150°C) needing a counterion that can be Sb, Nb, W or Mo [181,182]. Its synthesis is easy and can be performed also as solid solution with tin oxide [183,184]. It is employed more in other sectors than in ceramic production because of technological and safety issues. In fact, its stability is ensured only in LT applications, even though it would perform satisfactorily also in IT and as mass-stone. Nonetheless, the classification of nickel oxide as toxic and carcinogenic turned to be a major concern for pigment manufacturers.

Priderite doped with Ni is a traditional yellow pigment characterized by a peculiar primrose hue, not shown in Figure 16 [16,185]. Color is due to Ni^{2+} ion at one of the octahedral sites present in the hollandite-type structure [186]. The stability of $\text{BaTi}_8\text{O}_{17}$ in current glazes is limited, so the use of this pigment is restricted to some LT applications. As for rutile, the occurrence of nickel oxide is self-defeating, implying additional safety measures in the manufacturing cycle.

Srilankite doped with V gives a yellow color due to multiple chromophores: V^{4+} at a strongly distorted octahedral site, $\text{V}^{4+}\text{-V}^{5+}$ intervalence charge transfer, and/or V-O charge transfer [178]. Its synthesis is not straightforward, as it needs the use of Al, In or Y, as counterions, and some Sn in substitution of Ti [187,188]. It is stable in most applications and exhibits a tinctorial strength (declining from $T^*\sim 55$ at 1000°C to $T^*\sim 30$ at 1200°C) midway from baddeleyite-V to zircon-Pr [178]. Although developed at industrial level, it had a very limited success, because of a worse benefit/cost ratio with respect to yellow zircon [188].

Rutile co-doped with Cr and Sb constitutes the reference pigment for orange colors (typically $60 < T^* < 80$ at $1100\text{-}1200^\circ\text{C}$). It can have Nb, Mo or Ta as counterion in replacement of Sb [189-191]. Synthesis is easy and can be performed in rotary furnaces [37]. Nonetheless, color stems from both crystal field (octahedrally-coordinated Cr^{3+}) and charge transfer (Cr-O) electronic transitions [181,182] that are affected by co-doping with Fe and Mn [37,192]. The color stability is good in LT and especially in BO applications, where it is largely used. Usually not employed in IT and HT glazes and not suitable for DD as primary pigment to be micronized. However, it is the pigment formed in-situ when soluble salts based on Ti-Cr-Sb organometallics are applied [104,193].

Pyrochlore $\text{Pb}_2\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_7$ (oxyplumboroméite) was widely used in the past, the so-called *Naples' yellow* [194], as an orange to yellow pigment, with color varying upon doping (Al, Ce, Fe, Sn, Zn). It is now completely abandoned by the ceramic industry for both technological and safety reasons. The former regard the poor thermal stability of the pigment, while the latter follow the ban of lead from modern ceramic manufacturing. This pigment is still used in some LT applications at level of craftsmanship.

There are other yellow and orange colorants proposed in the literature but never entered in the industrial use. For instance, **karrooite** doped with Ni or co-doped with Ni and Sb provides yellow to primrose shades (Fig. 16) rather stable in all applications (typically $30 < T^* < 40$ at $1100\text{-}1200^\circ\text{C}$) but DD [195,196]. Also, V doping was experimented, but it induces a complex structural rearrangement of karrooite crystal lattice, which implies a low purity of the final color, going from orange to buff [195]. For this reason, an employ for the V doping in the production of brown pigments with a $T^* \sim 80$, is much more suggested [197].

Perovskites SrSnO_3 doped with V [198] or Cr and Tb [199], and BaSnO_3 doped with Tb [200] present pale yellow or light orange shades (Fig. 16). The color stability was tested at $1000\text{-}1050^\circ\text{C}$ only with $T^* \sim 50$ [199,200] or not verified at all [198].

Pyrochlore $\text{Y}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$ co-doped with V and Ca [201,202] provides a yellow pigment (Fig. 16) that is stable only in double firing glazes at low temperature ($T^* \sim 60$ at 1000°C). The variants $\text{Y}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ [203] and $\text{Dy}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$ [204] were proposed, also with V^{4+} as chromophore. In addition, lanthanide-based pyrochlores were investigated: $\text{Y}_2\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_7$ [205] and $\text{Er}_2\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_7$ [206] both doped with Mo. Such compounds have an orange color that revealed thermally instable even in a ceramic glaze at 1000°C . Their tinctorial strength is really too low ($T^* \sim 30$) to be taken into account as industrial pigment.

Geikielite MgTiO_3 doped with Ni requires high temperature for a successful calcination (i.e., 1400°C) and the synthesis is thermodynamically unfavored, leading to the co-existence of accessory phases [207]. This pigment shows a yellowish shade comparable to baddeleyite doped with V (Fig. 16) but is instable also in

low temperature glazes ($50 < T^* < 70$ at $1000-1050^\circ\text{C}$). In order to improve the synthesis yield and the stability of this pigment a core-shell structure (consisting of TiO_2 core and outer ilmenite NiTiO_3 shell) obtained through sol-precipitation method was tested. Anyway, the color stability in low temperature glazes (1000°C) has been only qualitatively evaluated [208].

Powellite, CaMoO_4 doped with Cr, is characterized by a bright yellow color comparable to zircon-Pr (Fig. 16). It has excellent performances, with optimum tinctorial strength most of all in LT and IT technologies ($75 < T^* < 80$ at $1000-1080^\circ\text{C}$), but good also in HT and BO applications ($T^* \sim 65$). Synthesis is easy, since pigment is obtained by a solid solution of Cr^{6+} substituting Mo^{6+} in the powellite lattice. Despite that, this pigment releases Cr^{6+} when washed, implying a strong safety hazard [209]. A pigment based on scheelite, CaWO_4 doped with Cr, isostructural with powellite, has a less intense yellow coloration [205].

Yttria doped with Tb^{4+} provides a pale yellow color, which requires Ca^{2+} or Ba^{2+} as counterion to balance Y^{3+} [210]. However, its synthesis is complex, as it involves solid, liquid and gas states and demands high control on the pigment stoichiometry [210]. Tests of this yellow pigment in industrial glazes at 1080°C indicate a good stability of Ca and Ba co-doped $\text{Y}_{1.86}\text{Tb}_{0.14}\text{O}_3$ ($T^* \sim 65$).

Zincite, i.e. ZnO doped with Co, Fe or V, was synthesized as a single phase with wurtzite structure that can give rise to different colors, depending on the dopant [211]. Nevertheless, to date, no tests on the pigments stability or tinctorial strength in glazes have been performed.

Rutile doped with Mo provides yellow to green tones, in accord with calcination temperatures. These compounds are characterized by low tinctorial strength already as calcinated powders ($T^* \sim 50$) and also suffer from color instability in glazes at intermediate temperatures, with a resulting $T^* \sim 10$ at 1165°C [212].

Orange colorants never entered in the industrial use consist essentially of cerianite and perovskite varieties.

Cerianite doped with Pr was extensively investigated and developed industrially, but its use is damped by high cost and specific weight of cerium oxide. The tinctorial strength is apparently good ($70 < T^* < 80$) but, in reality, tested in the $1000-1100^\circ\text{C}$ range only [213,214]. Similar coloration is achieved by doping with Tb, while using mixed lanthanides or other dopants (Cr, Eu, In) ensued a $T^* < 50$ [215]. Color can be tuned in various shades, at best resembling that of buff spinel and orange rutile. The synthesis of Pr-CeO_2 , and to a lesser extent of Tb-CeO_2 , has been profusely investigated in the last decade [216-218]: not only the classical ceramic method, but also by many non-conventional routes (i.e., coprecipitation, flux method, combustion, pyrolysis, hydrothermal, microwave-assisted, and so forth). The results indicate that, opposite to the high temperature ceramic synthesis ($1400-1500^\circ\text{C}$), the non-conventional way – especially the colloidal stabilization route with nitrates and the homogeneous coprecipitation route with oxalates and urea – allows to lower the calcination temperature down to 1100°C . Moreover, these methods enabled the formation of more homogeneous (single phase) solid solutions with optimal tinctorial strength in double-firing glaze ($T^* \sim 80$ at 1050°C). In addition, Pr-CeO_2 embedded in glass-ceramics was proposed as an encapsulated pigment [219].

Pyrochlore $\text{Y}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Pr and Fe, provides an orange to reddish brown color [155]. The synthesis by polymeric sol-gel method at 1400°C produced a defective fluorite structure able to confer high stability to the colorant in IT applications ($68 < T^* < 88$ at 1080°C). As in the case of $\text{Er}_2(\text{Zr,Ti})_2\text{O}_7$, the presence of Zr prevents the transition to an ordered pyrochlore structure with temperature, and allows to obtain an intense coloration of the pigment.

Finally, **gehlenite** $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7$ co-doped with Eu and Zn was proposed as an environment friendly yellow pigment [220].

5.3. Brown to maroon colorants

Brown and maroon colorants are important in ceramic decoration, because most graphics used in tile making are intended to reproduce natural surfaces, like stone, metal, skin and wood of various types, which have commonly a large range of brown shades. In addition, they are generally cheaper than “pure” colors. This makes brown pigments a viable substitute in DD of yellow, black and particularly magenta colorants (Fig. 17). Many brown pigments are based on the spinel structure, taking **chromite** as an archetype, which brownish color stems from Cr^{3+} and Fe^{2+} at the octahedral and tetrahedral sites, respectively. Numerous variants are achieved by the addition of Al, Mn, Ni, and especially Zn to modulate chromatic coordinates. In fact, Zn^{2+} occupies the tetrahedral site, forcing out chromophores like Mn^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Co^{2+} or Ni^{2+} , hence increasing the light transmittance in the yellow to red window. This category includes natural chromite, that is suitable only for mass-stone [221-222], as well as **franklinite** (Zn-Mn-Cr) and **jacobsite** (Mn-Fe-Cr), which ensure different shades, from light brown to coffee [37,223-225]. Doping with Ni (and/or Co) leads toward **trevorite** compositions (Zn-Ni-Fe-Cr) that provide a distinctly darker brown [226,227]. They are used in all applications, including sometimes BO, with tinctorial strength $75 < T^* < 90$ at 1200°C (Fig. 17). Redder shades of brown are widely exploited in DD, where they can replace magenta, despite color does not fit what theoretically required by quadrichromy. Another strategy with spinel pigments is the joint substitution of Zn^{2+} (tetrahedral site) and Al^{3+} and/or Fe^{3+} (octahedral site) that leads to light brown colors, extending to pale yellow or buff, like the case of **zincchromite** (Zn-Fe-Al-Cr). These are stable in all applications, having care to have some zinc in the matrix, and are common ingredients of yellow inks, together with other pigments [228-231]. They are useless in mass-stone since natural color of porcelain stoneware is a kind of light brown. Finally, dark brown is obtained by introducing Sn^{4+} and/or Ti^{4+} at the octahedral site and splitting Fe^{2+} in both four-fold and six-fold coordination in the inverse **ulvöspinel** pigment. Various shades are obtained by adding Cr, Al, and Zn [37], even though a careful control on synthesis is quite difficult. They are stable just in LT and IT applications [10,227].

Rutile co-doped with Cr and W gives a characteristic tobacco brown, appreciated in mass-stone ($70 < T^* < 85$ at 1200°C) but seldom used in LT to IT firing cycles [181,182,185]. It is formed in-situ once Ti-Cr-W organometallics are applied with the soluble salts’ technology [103]. It exhibits a technological behavior similar to the orange rutile co-doped with Sb. Another dark brown pigment, but less common in use, is based on the rutile structure by combining Mn with a counterion (usually Sb, but also Nb or W can be used). Finally, titania doped with Cr, but without a proper counterion, was investigated: its tinctorial strength is worse than the above described rutile pigments [232].

Hematite is a popular brown pigment, which can assume many shades according to Fe:Cr:Al ratios and further dopings [233,234]. On the other hand, various shades of pure hematite appear, mainly due to the variation in crystallinity, particle size, shape and degree of aggregation [235,236]. Thus, the colour of this pigment depends on synthesis route [236]. Hematite is not stable in glazes, but in LT schedules it shows an excellent tinctorial strength, typically $75 < T^* < 95$ at $850\text{-}1000^\circ\text{C}$ [237]. It is sometimes employed in mass-stone, but largely replaced by hematite-zircon and hematite-silica encapsulated pigments.

Iron, Nickel and Vanadium organometallics are applied, as penetrating soluble salts, to get a set of colors going from light brown (V) to brown with greenish (Ni) or reddish (Fe) shades [103]. In Ti-rich bodies, color changes to a brownish gray (Ni and Fe) or a chestnut brown (V).

Pseudobrookite can be easily synthesized by conventional ceramic route at 1300°C , with titania in moderate excess of the Fe_2TiO_5 stoichiometry [238,239]. This pigment exhibits a peculiar, intensely brown coloration

(Fig. 18) but its colouring performance depends on the chemico-physical properties of ceramic matrices: saturated brown shades achieved in low temperature glasses shift to a lighter brown in opacified glazes and fade to a light gray in wall tile glazes, where the high CaO and ZnO content contributes to rapidly dissolve pseudobrookite. Therefore, it is indicated in LT and IT applications ($57 < T^* < 63$ at 1150°C).

Maroon and brown pigments not entered in the industrial use encompass, among others, many perovskites. Perovskite **CaTiO₃ doped with Cr** provides light brown pigment due to the partial substitution of Ti^{4+} with Cr^{4+} in octahedral coordination sites. The synthesis of this colorant is easy, the classical solid-state ceramic route with or without the employ of mineraliser [240-243]. Both the color shade (Fig. 18) and stability strictly depend on the Cr doping of $\text{Ca}(\text{Cr}_x\text{Ti}_{1-x})\text{O}_3$, and on the chemical system of the glaze. It demonstrated to be stable only with low Cr doping ($x=0.04$ mol) in $\text{SiO}_2\text{-B}_2\text{O}_3\text{-CaO}$ glaze systems, with a relatively good color yield, $T^* \sim 66$ at 1050°C [242]. On the other hand, its technological behavior becomes totally instable in $\text{SiO}_2\text{-ZnO-CaO}$ glazes: at low Cr concentration ($x \leq 0.05$) the nuance of the pigment turns pink in glaze ($57 < T^* < 71$ at 1050°C); while at higher Cr doping the color in glaze turns green for the crystallization of chromates, which dissolving in the melt impart this peculiar coloration. The use of mineraliser, in order to avoid the chromates formation, can further affect the color stability in glazes, leading to blue shades [240].

Perovskite **CaTiO₃ doped with V** gives brownish-pink shades, comparable to orange rutile (Fig. 18), thanks to the partial substitution of Ti^{4+} with V^{5+} [244]. The colorant obtained by conventional ceramic route has a relatively good performance in $\text{SiO}_2\text{-CaO-ZnO}$ ceramic glazes ($T^* \sim 70$ at 1050°C) for a solid solution limit near $x=0.2$. Higher amounts of vanadium crystallize $\text{Ca}_2\text{V}_2\text{O}_7$, which dilutes the real amount of saturated $\text{Ca}(\text{V}_x\text{Ti}_{1-x})\text{O}_3$ and diminishes the colour intensity.

Perovskite **CaZrO₃ doped with Cr** presents a brown color ($T^* \sim 50$ at 1050°C) due to the substitution of Zr^{4+} by Cr^{4+} [245]. The pigment proved to be unstable already at 820°C in highly aggressive alkali-boro-fluoro-silicate glazes, with dissolution in the molten glass. At the same time, Cr^{4+} is reduced to Cr^{3+} , responsible for the green color of the glaze. In the same way, **lanthanum aluminate doped with Cr**, $\text{La}(\text{Al,Cr})\text{O}_3$, decomposes in aggressive glazes at low temperatures, entailing a colour degradation [246]. Another perovskite-like compound was proposed: $\text{Er}_6\text{MoO}_{12}$ with a light brown color [247], which proved to be stable in a LT glaze ($T^* \sim 55$ at 1070°C).

Rare earth orthoferrites with a general formula LnFeO_3 , provide brown to orange pigments. The addition of Ln^{3+} ions to Fe_2O_3 induces a change in color of perovskite. In particular, La and Gd form pigments of sienna or orange color, while adding Lu, Tm and Yb a dark reddish brown is achieved. However, they were not yet tested in ceramic glazes [248,249].

Lu₃Ga₅O₁₂ garnet doped with Cr and Ca shows a brownish pink color comparable to some brown spinels (Fig. 18). The pigment is formed by a solid solution of Ca^{2+} and Cr^{4+} substituting for Lu^{3+} in the dodecahedral site of $(\text{Ca}_x\text{Cr}_x\text{Lu}_{3-2x})\text{Ga}_5\text{O}_{12}$ and can be easily obtained by a solid state synthesis. Tests in single firing glaze at 1085°C indicated a good stability of the pigment, but a low final tinctorial strength, $50 < T^* < 60$ at 1085°C [250]. Also, the gallium-gadolinium garnet ($\text{Gd}_3\text{Ga}_5\text{O}_{12}$) doped with Cr was investigated, but no information was disclosed about its color in glazes [251].

Titanite doped with Cr is the titanium equivalent of the Cr-doped malayaite pigment, but instead of a burgundy, its color is a reddish brown [252-254]. No data about its behavior in glazes are available.

BaFe₂O₄ gives a light orange-brown tint. The employ of a polymeric precursor method leads to a high crystallinity material, avoiding the formation of secondary phases, otherwise occurring in the traditional ceramic synthesis. Pigment can be evaluated for LT application, since it showed good stability in ceramic

glaze at 1000°C, with $T^* \sim 70$ [255]. **CaFe₂O₄** and mostly **MgFe₂O₄** provide pigments with a darker brown color with respect to the BaFe₂O₄, but no tests on their stability in ceramic glaze are available to date [256,257].

Mg₂SnO₄ doped with Tb is an inverse spinel that shows a sandy yellow-buff color. The traditional ceramic synthesis is complicated by a difficult control on accessory phases [258]. Moreover, tests for LT applications (Fig. 16) revealed a low tinctorial strength ($T^* \sim 40$ at 1000°C). **Zn₇Sb₂O₁₂ doped with Co** may exhibit different colors, depending on which site – tetrahedral or octahedral – Co²⁺ occupies in substitution of Zn²⁺. Based on doping, it is possible to obtain a yellow to black pigment. However, its behavior in ceramic glazes has not been tested yet [259].

Hibonite doped with Cr, Fe or Mn provides many different rosy-brown shades. Various substitutions are in fact possible at the Al sites in the CaAl₁₂O₁₉ host lattice. When Fe³⁺ is used as a chromophore, the color changes from yellow to red brown to dark chocolate by increasing the doping. When Mn is used, the color varies from burlywood to saddle brown. In the case of Cr-containing samples, the color changes from light rosy brown to grayish green with increasing Cr. Despite the great variety of colors obtainable with a simple solid-solution synthesis, no test on their stability in ceramic glazes is available yet [260].

Celsian doped with Fe in substitution of Ba gives rise to a brownish-pink color [261]. The solid-solution is based on metal-doped BaAl₂Si₂O₈ lattice – where Fe³⁺ is expected to replace Al³⁺ in tetrahedral coordination – and is obtained by the conventional ceramic method. The resulting pigment is chemically stable in classical double firing glaze, but with a too low $T^* \sim 35$ (1050°C).

FeNbO₄ encapsulated in zircon can provide different shades (yellowish brown to earthy yellow) as the content of FeNbO₄ increases with respect to zircon [262]. Control on synthesis is not straightforward, as for complications to arrange a proper encapsulation, as because ixiolite is trimorphic and a phase transition occurs at 1085°C [263]. Anyway, the color of the pigments is not so intense ($T^* \leq 60$) and no data are available on their chemical stability and final tinctorial strength in ceramic glazes.

TiCeO₄ doped with Pr obtained by solid-state reactions, with the substitution of Ce by Pr, has a color going from light pink to maroon, depending on the concentration of praseodymium. The color intensity of the different solid solutions is quite good, but their stability in ceramic matrix has not been investigated yet [264]. Further brown pigments developed at the lab scale include **willemite**, Zn₂SiO₄ doped with Cr [250] and **tialite**, Al₂TiO₅ doped with Mn [265]; both display a buff color (Fig. 18) stable in LT-IT applications, more intense in tialite ($60 < T^* < 64$ at 1050°C) than in willemite ($40 < T^* < 47$ at 1080°C). In addition, **cubic zirconia** takes a light brown color ($T^* \sim 40$ at 1100°C) once co-doped with Ca and Pr [266].

Recently, a range of **light brown phosphate-vanadate dyes** was investigated. They are based on (Mg,Ni)₂P₂O₇ [267]; Ni₃(P,V)₂O₈ and Ni₂(P,V)₂O₇ [268]; (Al,Fe)(P,V)O₄ [269]; (Ni,Co)₂P₂O₇ [270] solid solutions. Their tinctorial strength in LT glazes is in between 60 and 82 at 1065°C (Fig. 16).

5.4. Green colorants

There is no all-season green in the ceramic palette, because the purest colorants have a limited thermal stability, while the most robust pigment – utilizable in every application – gives a coloration midway from green to blue (Fig. 19). In addition, these colorants are now relegated to occasional use in digital decoration, since green is not a basic color in quadrichromy and only special sets for hexachromy include a green ink.

Eskolaite pigments impart rather dull green colors with variable shades, according to doping with Al and/or Fe. In principle, it is highly refractory but suffers from a certain reactivity during firing. It is the reference colorant for mass-stone ($70 < T^* < 80$ at 1200°C) and is still used in LT and occasionally in IT, max $\sim 1100^\circ\text{C}$

[37]. However, its application in glazes is strongly constrained by the well-known incompatibility with Zn, Sn, and Ca [142,271,272]. Eskolaite is occasionally employed in DD as component of complex green inks.

Uvarovite, the so-called *Victoria green*, is based on $\text{Ca}_3\text{Cr}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{12}$ garnet, possibly diluted with Al [273-276]. Unstable already in IT applications (unless in high calcium glazes) it provides the best color at LT ($T^* \sim 70$ at 1000°C). Its use is limited since decades, due to the hazards involved in solid-state synthesis, where CaCrO_4 forms and is responsible for high Cr^{6+} leaching in wastewaters [275].

Gahnite doped with Cr is a classic light green pigment [2,16,277]. Color can be easily tuned by the Al:Cr ratio and possible addition of Co, Fe, Mg, Mn, Sn and Ti as co-dopants. Although rather stable in all applications, it is seldom utilized, because coloration achievable is less saturated than other green pigments ($T^* \sim 85$ at 1080°C).

Cochromite is a spinel based on CoCr_2O_4 with various shades, according to the degree of occupancy of Co^{2+} at the tetrahedral site and Cr^{3+} at the octahedral site, which can be replaced by Mg, Zn, Al and Fe to get greenish blue to bluish green [37,278,279]. It has an excellent stability in glazes, but in Zn-rich ones ($75 < T^* < 80$ at 1200°C); in bodies, its performance ($65 < T^* < 80$ at 1200°C) is less satisfactory [37]. Sometimes used in DD, where the main hindrances are the cost (due to high amount of cobalt) and its hue far away from requirements of quadrichromy [10,280].

Green dyes are utilized exclusively as penetrating soluble salts in BO applications. Resulting colors vary from dark green-olive, based on Cr organometallics, to pale green-buff with Cu organometallics [103].

Liebenbergite, the nickel olivine Ni_2SiO_4 , bestows a greenish yellow shade (Fig. 16) on LT glazes with fair tinctorial strength: $60 < T^* < 75$ at 1050°C [281,282]. It behaves likely as a dye: the color should derive from Ni^{2+} in multiple coordination (five-fold and six-fold) in the glass network. This colorant is not suited for DD and commonly not employed in IT and HT applications, mainly because of its high content of nickel (that makes it a hazardous material) and its color not pure.

Cobalt titanate is a green pigment with grayish-blue shades, based on the inverse spinel Co_2TiO_4 . Although known at the industrial level, it has a poor technological performance (Fig. 19). Its use in LT technology, however, is tackled by high cost due to the amount of cobalt oxide [37].

There is a good number of green colorants not entered in the industrial practice yet.

YCrO_3 perovskite has an intense green color and a good performance in BO and LT, comparable with industrial pigments, but it is more expensive for the high yttria content [133,283,284].

Given by its stability at high temperatures and low thermal expansion coefficient, the **tialite** Al_2TiO_5 structure can be used for pigments production. The presence of metal cations into the two highly distorted octahedral sites inhibits the thermal decomposition of pure tialite and leads to the chromatic properties of pigment. The color is pale ($40 < T^* < 55$ at $1050\text{-}1200^\circ\text{C}$) and may vary from green (Fig. 20) to greenish yellow (Fig. 16) passing from Co to Cr doping, respectively [265,285,286].

A less-pollutant and less-expensive alternative green pigment may be **karroite**, Co-doped MgTi_2O_5 , an allochromatic solid solution for LT-IT applications [195,196]. This pigment exhibits a varied gamut of yellowish-green colors, showing a $55 < T^* < 70$ for calcined at 1200°C (Co molar content: 0–0.4). In glazes, a more turquoise coloration is developed, with a higher chromatic stability in Ca and Zn rich glasses [287].

Cr-doped $\text{Y}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Y}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$ **pyrochlores** show rather similar optical properties. Given by the limited chromium solubility into the structure, any doping beyond 0.06-0.07 Cr atom/formula unit leads to green pigments with red shades, due to the presence of Cr^{4+} in the octahedral site of pyrochlore and of Cr^{3+} in the ternary perovskite side phase [152].

A wet chemical route – like Pechini, solution combustion or coprecipitation – can be used for the production of **zincite** doped at a molecular level [211,288-290]. The presence of Co or Fe into the flattened tetrahedral site, instead of zinc cations, determines a change in pigment color from greenish to yellowish, with a tinctorial strength of about 75 for 0.3 Co²⁺ molar content. In case of coprecipitation method, the solution pH and the precipitation agent nature can affect importantly the chromatic properties of the calcined pigment. In particular, the increase of pH from 7 to 10 by ammonia addition leads to an increase of both a* (i.e. from -16 to -8) and tinctorial strength (i.e. from 45 to 62). Similarly, the color changes from bright green to dark green by increase of calcination temperature (from 950 to 1200°C). The coprecipitated pigments can show high near-infrared reflectance, making them good candidates as cool pigments [288-290].

Yellow-green coloured pigments, with an intensity variation, can be obtained with **cuprates** **R₂BaCuO₅** (R = Y, Sm or Ho) having an orthorhombic structure, gettable by calcination (950-1050°C) or nitrate combustion. These superconducting ceramics contain isolated Cu²⁺ ions, interconnected by direct bonds through oxygen. The colour, given by d-d electronic transitions, is a light green. For Y₂BaCuO₅ obtained by combustion synthesis, the formed aggregates show a brighter color given by their higher surface area. Cuprates show a certain instability and reactivity with the glaze. After firing in ceramic glazes in IT conditions, a light-green to turquoise color is developed (Fig. 20) that can vary as a function of glaze formulation (52 < T* < 72 at 1070°C), leading to an important bubble formation in unleaded matrix [291,292].

Zircon matrix can be used as hosting structure for Cr³⁺ or Co²⁺ ions to produce thermally stable green pigments by aerosol hydrolysis and further synthetic routes [293-295]. The addition of mineralisers is required for the Cr containing systems, to reduce calcination temperature (1500°C) and to limit metal volatilization. The color saturation of pigments is different for Cr (T*~43) and Co (T*~51), the latter showing a greener shade, quite constant between 1100 and 1300°C [293].

The tetragonal **neodymium silicate** Nd₂Si₂O₇ can be prepared by the Pechini sol-gel method and subsequent thermal treatment. The addition of LiCl reduces the required calcination temperature (from 1300 to 1100°C), favoring the formation of the monoclinic structure, hence of a yellowish color. In glazes, the tinctorial strength goes from T*~53 at 1100°C to T*~45 at 1200°C [296].

LnCrTeO₆ has a structure AB₂O₆, with both A and B cations octahedrally coordinated to oxygen and Ln = La, Nd, Gd, Dy, Er, Tm or Yb. It can be used for a kind of “chromium green” for LT application (850-1000°C) having a color comparable to eskolaite (Fig. 20). Cr³⁺ in octahedral coordination acts as chromophore, leading to different shades that can be obtained by direct mixing of oxides and calcination at 1000°C. The colour changes from light to dark green passing from La to Yb, given by an increased crystal field splitting as a result of lattice parameters decreasing, maintaining the same colour shade also at high temperature. The presence of zincite must be controlled, given by its high reactivity with Cr. In presence of frits containing corrosive PbO, a dark green to yellowish hue is obtained. The coloration is rather intense (T*~80 at 1000°C) but thermal stability tested just for low temperatures [297].

For LT applications, also **Pr₂Mo₂O₉** can be used, where Pr is partially substituted by Ca in different amount. Synthesis was performed by both ceramic and wet nitrate routes [298]. The presence of Ca²⁺ instead of Pr³⁺ leads to a structural transition from cubic to monoclinic (when the Ca molar content is higher than 0.2) followed by a color change from green to yellow (25 < T* < 33 at 1050°C). The use of NaF as mineralizer results in a pale yellow that in glaze has just a greenish shadow (Figs. 16 and 20).

Co-Cr phosphates can be produced by simple calcination of precursors and addressed to IT applications. The increase of Co content implies a color change from yellowish green to bluish green [299]. Solid-state

reaction can be exploited also to dope iron oxide Fe_2O_3 by progressive substitution of Fe^{3+} with Sc^{3+} , obtaining a colour change from reddish to greenish yellow [300].

5.5. Blue and turquoise colorants

Blue color in ceramics is commonly obtained by Co^{2+} in tetrahedral coordination in both pigment and dyes [301]. In fact, cobalt ions tend to assume the four-fold coordination also in glazes and glasses [302,303]. This circumstance explains the large recourse to cobalt dyes for the ceramic decoration. Cobalt colorants are characterized by the best performance per molar concentration, leading to brilliant and intense hue already for concentration lower than 1 %wt/wt. Blue colorants gained importance with the advent of inkjet printing as their use turned from occasional (only when necessary to have blue shades) to systematic in any graphics, even when no blue color is present, because of quadrichromy rules (Fig. 21). However, given by raising cost and limited reserves, cobalt became a strategic raw material and the ceramic industry has difficulty in the supply. Furthermore, cobalt shows toxic effects and is subjected to even more strictly environmental regulations. Cobalt appears to be hardly replaceable in order to achieve a deep blue coloration. Despite close to the cyan hue required by quadrichromy, turquoise pigments obtained with alternative chromophore, like V-doped zircon, are not used in DD.

Cobalt olivine is the reference for ultramarine blue. It consists of Co_2SiO_4 doped with Mg or Zn to lower the cobalt consumption [303,304]. It plays as a dye, being completely dissolved in glazes, so the original violet shade turns into a deep blue. It is widely used in glazes, in all the applications from LT to VHT ($90 < T^* < 100$ at 1200°C) but seldom as mass-stone (BO). This dye is the basic component of dark blue inks for DD [10].

Cobalt phosphates are quite popular blue dyes in LT and IT applications ($80 < T^* < 100$ at 1085°C). They are synthesized in crystalline form (sarcopside $\text{Co}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ and lithiophyllite CoLiPO_4 structures) but decompose during firing, releasing Co^{2+} in the glassy phase. Lithiophyllite is preferred because of the lower content of cobalt oxide. They are available in many variants, due to substitution of Co with Mg, Mn, Fe [305-308]. Magnesium borate is another blue dye, having the suanite $(\text{Mg},\text{Co})\text{B}_2\text{O}_5$ crystal structure, which behaves like phosphates during firing [2]. It is sometimes used in LT technology.

Cobalt organometallics are used in BO applications as penetrating soluble salts. They are based, as other cobalt dyes, on Co^{2+} ions dissolved in the glassy phase present in the porcelain stoneware bodies [103]. Color is a characteristic ultramarine blue, as for other dyes [101].

Cobalt aluminate spinel is the most important blue pigment, utilized in every application in glazes and bodies, and especially in DD [10,309]. Its color is purer than cobalt dyes and based on Co^{2+} at a regular tetrahedral site [301,303]. As CoAl_2O_4 , it has a high tinctorial strength ($75 < T^* < 95$ at 1200°C) also in HT and BO applications [310]. There is a second pigment, $(\text{Zn},\text{Co})\text{Al}_2\text{O}_4$, which has similar technological properties ($70 < T^* < 80$ at 1200°C) but a distinctly greener shade (Fig. 22). Several variants are produced by doping with Cr, Fe, Ti and Zn to adjust hue and tinctorial strength [37,311]. It is a partially inverse spinel, implying that a small fraction of Co^{2+} is allocated at the octahedral site, depending on the cooling history [309]. This circumstance can explain color fluctuations in pigment production, since six-fold Co^{2+} provides a pink undertone. Available also in the encapsulated form [312]. A microemulsion-hydrothermal method can be used to obtain ultrafine pigments ($\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$), reducing calcination temperature but increasing costs related to the synthesis [313].

Willemite doped with Co is an alternative blue pigment, even though less stable than spinel [303,314-316]. The color intensity scales with the cobalt concentration in $(\text{Zn},\text{Co})_2\text{SiO}_4$. Despite the good color saturation

($90 < T^* < 100$ at $1100-1200^\circ\text{C}$) it is seldom used in all applications. It is present in some complex blue inks for DD, together with other blue colorants [10].

Zircon doped with V is the reference pigment for turquoise shades. Its color stems from V^{4+} clusters hosted at an interstitial site of the zircon structure [317]. This circumstance explains the well-known difficulties in control and reproducibility of the synthesis [318-320]. It is stable in glazes, where can be used from LT to VHT applications, and in BO as well, with $50 < T^* < 60$ at 1200°C [37,321]. However, it is not utilized in DD yet, because its tinctorial strength is considerably reduced by micronization [40,41].

There are further blue and turquoise colorants that never entered in use.

Hardystonite doped with Co exhibits a blue shade similar to Co-gahnite (Fig. 22) and a tinctorial strength analogous to many cobalt dyes ($T^* \sim 80$ at 1150°C). It is stable in LT and IT firing cycles, but not in HT and BO, where it suffers from low-Ca glazes and bodies [322]. Not suitable in DD, likely because rapidly damaged during micronization. Another class of blue dyes based on calcium silicates is that of **clinopyroxenes**, where Co^{2+} can be accommodated at an octahedral site in substitution of Mg or Ca, giving rise to a violet color [323]. This phase is not stable in glazes and appears to be fully decomposed in IT to HT applications [324]. The chemical attack by the melt leads to the pyroxene breakdown and Co^{2+} ions diffusion, imparting a deep blue coloration and a tinctorial strength ($90 < T^* < 97$ at 1200°C) as good as other dyes.

Celsian doped with Co was recently proposed as blue pigment [261]. In principle, it should be thermally stable, since $\text{BaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ is occasionally present in Ba-rich glazes [29], but polyphasic samples were obtained, where celsian, hexacelsian and unidentified phases occur together. Spectral features clearly indicate a tetrahedrally-coordinated Co^{2+} , which is likely present in some unidentified phase. The hue approaches that of blue spinels (Fig. 22) while tinctorial strength is, at best, $T^* \sim 65$ at 1050°C [261].

Hibonite, $\text{CaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$, has a magnetoplumbite-type structure, which can accommodate a wide variety of ions with different valences and coordinations, making it interesting to pigment production [325]. It is the presence of Co^{2+} at a non-centrosymmetric tetrahedral site that ensures the intense blue color, particularly when Ti^{4+} or Sn^{4+} are used as counterion to compensate the Co^{2+} - Al^{3+} charge mismatch. Pigments can be prepared by solid state reaction at $1350-1400^\circ\text{C}$, also with Co-containing wastes [326]. The most intense hue was obtained for pigments calcined at 1350°C with a Co molar content of 0.3. In BO application, the bluish color ($45 < T^* < 70$ at 1200°C) is similar to what obtained with willemite pigments (Fig. 22). On the contrary, in transparent glazes for IT production, chromatic differences are smaller, so suggesting that hibonite acts as a dye ($80 < T^* < 95$ at 1050°C) for a Co content $0.15 < x < 0.45$. **Hibonite doped with Ni** owes its color – a greenish shade of turquoise closer to cochromite (Fig. 20) than zircon-V (Fig. 22) – to Ni^{2+} at the tetrahedral site of the $\text{CaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ structure [327-329]. Apparently not stable in IT and HT glazes, it seems suitable only for LT ($42 < T^* < 47$ at 1050°C) or BO applications ($32 < T^* < 35$ at 1200°C) and was not considered for DD yet.

Turquoise shades can be imparted by using the nickel equivalent of known cobalt pigments, as the case of **spinel NiAl_2O_4** [330] and **willemite $(\text{Zn,Ni})_2\text{SiO}_4$** [331,332] both exploiting a tetrahedrally-coordinated Ni^{2+} . However, while NiAl_2O_4 has a color similar to zircon-V, willemite-Ni approaches hibonite-Ni (Fig. 22). The calcination temperature modifies the colour by affecting both cations distribution at tetrahedral and octahedral sites and segregation of secondary phases, so limiting their applicability to LT. For instance, in nano-sized $\text{Ni}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Al}_2\text{O}_4$, different cation distribution and optical properties were found as a function of synthesis temperature and nickel content [333]. The higher is the calcination temperature, the greater is the degree of inversion in the spinel structure, with increasing Al^{3+} at the tetrahedral site and Ni^{2+} at the octahedral site. The resulting tetrahedral and octahedral splitting energies cause the change in the spectral

absorption (T^* from 25 to 28 for $0.3 < x < 0.7$). Tintorial strength at 1085°C is $T^* \sim 60$ for NiAl_2O_4 and $T^* \sim 35$ for Ni-willemite [330,331]. Anyway, the presence of nickel can involve safety problems related to its toxicity.

A further class of turquoise pigments derives from the ancient Egyptian blue, i.e. **cuprorivaite** $\text{BaCuSi}_4\text{O}_{10}$, where Cu^{2+} occurs at a 5-fold coordinated site [334,335]. Barium can be replaced by Ca leading to a darkening of the color [336]. However, once in glaze, it takes a green shade (Fig. 20).

Recently, a different blue chromophore was pointed out: Mn^{3+} in 6-fold coordination in the **YInO_3 perovskite** [337,338]. The incorporation of Mn^{3+} at the trigonal bipyramidal site of In^{3+} leads to an ultramarine blue color, given by d-d transitions ($E' \rightarrow A'$). The blue hue is darkened by an increase of Mn content (Mn/Y molar ratio $5 < x < 20$). Colour is strongly influenced by glaze composition and firing temperature, fading away around 900°C in both B-containing glazes and plumbic frits [337]. This behavior severely restricts the end use to very low temperature applications. In any case, the industrial use is hindered by the prohibitive cost of indium and yttrium.

A blue colorant based on the **$\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3\text{-AlO}_3\text{-CoO}$** system was prepared by both solid-state reaction and mechano-synthesis [339]. The result is always multiphasic: YAP perovskite occurs admixed with spinel, YAG, YAM and yttria, in variable amounts depending on calcination temperature. The coloring performance is substantially related to the fraction of CoAl_2O_4 present in the mixture.

Amongst new **blue nanopigments**, the $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$ nanocomposite [340] and the spinel-like phase $\text{Li}_{1.33}\text{Ti}_{1.66}\text{O}_4$ [341] were both prepared by sol-gel methods. The former is doped by Co to obtain a blue colorant usable in DD technology. The color becomes more intense with the increase of Co^{2+} content, but is affected by the calcination temperature, with shift from blue to blue-green, thus limiting the pigment usage at LT and IT application [340]. The latter shows a bright turquoise color, attributed to $\text{Ti}^{3+}\text{-Ti}^{4+}$ intervalence charge transfer, and a thermal stability up to 1000°C [341].

5.6. Black and gray colorants

In ceramics, black and gray are evaluated on a different basis with respect to other colors. Instead of a good tintorial strength, the target is to have the lowest values of brightness and chroma. Therefore, the performance of black and gray colorants is assessed in the $L^*\text{-}C^*$ diagram and not in the $a^*\text{-}b^*$ plane.

There is a couple of universal black pigments that are industrially utilized in all the decoration technologies. In addition, few others are in use for BO or LT-IT applications (Fig. 23). In digital decoration, the black color is not used systematically, even if it is known its fundamental role to control the image quality in quadrichromy.

Among the best black colorants are **complex spinel compositions, based on cochromite** – also containing Fe and Mn – that are widely utilized in all decoration technologies, including inkjet printing, but rarely in bodies. A deep black color is achieved by the many optical bands due to multiple cations (Co^{2+} , Mn^{2+} , Mn^{3+} , Fe^{3+} , Cr^{3+} and sometimes Fe^{2+} , V^{3+} , Cu^{2+}) partitioned between the tetrahedral and octahedral sites [342-346]. The stability of these pigments is excellent, but in zinc-rich glazes, where they tend to assume a brownish nuance. A variant of the previous pigment is another **complex spinel based on nichromite**, used in every decoration technology as well, even though specifically addressed to withstand in Zn-rich environments. The larger affinity between the Jahn-Teller inactive Zn^{2+} (d^{10}) and Co^{2+} (d^7) ions compared to the Jahn-Teller active Ni^{2+} (d^8) ion in chromite spinel, where the strong preference on Cr^{3+} in octahedron prevents Ni^{2+} to be displaced from fourfold to sixfold coordination, provides a possible explanation of the less attitude for Zn to diffuse into nichromite than cochromite lattice. It should be noted that, similar to cochromite, nichromite compositions usually encompass other ions, namely Ni-Fe-Mn-Cr, and

occasionally Co-Cu-V and further elements. The complex interchange between these transition metal ions based on their different affinities related to their specific d orbitals configurations is likely to play a not fully clarified role on explanation of the above observation. The tinctorial strength is the best among black colorants [15,347-351]. Interestingly, nichromite pigments are characterized by C^* on average lower than cochromite, even though L^* values are fully comparable (Fig. 24). Further black spinels (e.g., binary Ni-Fe and Fe-Co or ternary Ni-Fe-Cr) exhibit higher L^* values with respect to complex nichromite-cochromite formulations, but C^* analogous to cochromite-based mixtures. At variance, the addition of Mg gives rise to dark gray pigments.

Another black pigment is **jacobsite**, i.e. a different solid solution of manganese and iron, which occur in multiple valences in both crystal sites of spinel [2], with respect to the brown variant in section 5.3. It is stable in LT-IT and BO applications, where is used because cheaper than complex black spinels, but unsuitable for porcelain stoneware glazes or digital decoration. A peculiar black pigment is **cuprospinel**, an antimagnet based on CuCr_2O_4 with limited doping from other metals [352]. It is stable just in LT and utilized when magnetic properties are needed.

Eskolaite-hematite is a well-known pigment that represents the reference black colorant for porcelain stoneware bodies [353,354]. Its stability in glazes and glassy coatings is limited, especially in presence of Zn, Ca, Ni, and Sn [37,355,356]. As the Cr_2O_3 - Fe_2O_3 solid solution is complete, the pigment synthesis is easy over a wide range of compositions [357], which can give rise to reddish or greenish nuances, depending on the Cr:Fe ratio [358].

Ruthenium organometallics are the dye present in penetrating soluble salts to achieve a black color [103]. No universal gray colorant is able to satisfy all the different requirements of ceramic decoration (Fig. 23). Some pigments are used in traditional techniques (LT, IT, HT) but not in mass-stone or digital decoration, along with technological reasons, because in these applications the gray color is easy to be reproduced dosing properly a black colorant.

Cassiterite SnO_2 doped with Sb is an appreciated gray pigment, available in various shades depending on co-doping with Mn, Ti and Si [37,359,360]. It is a well-known semiconductor: the color stems from electronic transitions due to additional energy levels in the band linked to Sb^{3+} ions. Its electrical conductivity was exploited for special applications, as anti-electrostatic glazes [361,362]. The main limit to its use is the high cost of tin oxide.

Bunsenite encapsulated in zircon was a popular gray pigment, rather stable in all applications but DD. Various shades can be obtained, depending on the Co:Ni ratio and co-doping by Al, Fe, Mn, and Zn [37]. A strong limitation is the toxicity and carcinogenicity of NiO, which likely discouraged the registration in the REACH. In addition, the risk of Ni^{2+} leaching to glazes and bodies, if encapsulation is broken, prevented any use by inkjet printing, which requires micronized pigments.

Cobalt stannate is a gray pigment, with more or less accentuated greenish-blue shades, based on the inverse spinel Co_2SnO_4 (or sometimes a Co-doped cassiterite). Color derives from Co^{2+} at both tetrahedral and octahedral sites, giving rise to blue and pink colors, respectively, and a complex outcome of this mix with a blue prevalence. At variance of cochromite, it is not stable in HT applications [37] and not suited for DD. Its use in LT technology is contrasted by the high cost related to the large percentage of cobalt oxide.

Palladium organometallics are sometimes used to get gray shades by means of penetrating soluble salts [103].

Rutile doped with V and a proper counterion (generally Sb or Nb) is a well-known gray pigment that can show different tones, from bluish to reddish as a function of co-doping [181,182,363]. Its stability is ensured only in LT applications.

Black colorants never entered in use encompass perovskite **LaCoO₃**, which applications are limited to LT-IT. Its dark colour is given by crystal field, intervalence and Co-O charge transfer transitions ensured by different oxidation states of cobalt (Co²⁺ and Co³⁺). The substitution of La with Ca allows reducing the pigment cost without importantly changes is L*, a* and b* parameters [364].

Sr-hexaferrite, SrFe₁₂O₁₉, in principle considered for its magnetic properties, was investigated (as BO and HT) in porcelain stoneware bodies. The addition of Co, Mn, Ni or Fe improved the light absorbance at lower wavenumbers, but resulted always in polyphasic products, containing also hematite and/or magnetite [365]. The color in fired bodies and glazes is a dark gray (L*~35 and C*~2.7) with greenish shades (Fig. 24).

Great interest has been devoted in the latest years to carbon-based pigments, instead heavy metals based ones, in order to reduce toxicity. The target is **carbon encapsulated in zircon**, composed of two insoluble structures: a carbon core and a transparent zircon coating to prevent pigment oxidation [366-370]. Soft-wet chemical routes were used to realize encapsulation, either by covering the carbonous particles or by direct in-situ carbon formation. In-situ carbon provided by carbon-containing precursors favors a homogeneous encapsulation. Many variables must be controlled, among which C/Zr molar ratio, layer thickness and deposition order of zircon precursors, and calcination schedule strongly affect the quality of pigments. A deep black can be obtained (down to L*~14) even though most literature data are in the 21<L*<42 range [370]. A particle size reduction brought about an undesired increase of L* that depends on synthesis parameters, which affect the final cover and pigment dimension. Correctly encapsulated pigments present an excellent color saturation (L*~34 and C*~0.9 at 900°C) in LT glazes [368].

An interesting candidate is **Al₂O₃-MoO_x**, a chemi-adsorbed pigment with a gray color and turquoise nuances (Fig. 22). Its peculiarity consists in clusters of molybdenum oxides that adhere on the corundum surface, where they are incorporated during calcination [371]. For this reason, high temperature annealing can cause a molybdenum volatilisation. Different valences (Mo⁴⁺, Mo⁵⁺, Mo⁶⁺) contribute to a different extent to the final color, even if is the predominant Mo⁵⁺ the main responsible of the characteristic bluish gray. It displays a rather saturated color (60<T*<65 at 1200°C) in both HT and BO applications (Fig. 24).

5.7. White colorants

Opacifiers are extensively employed in all ceramic applications (Fig. 25) to get matt and semi matt glazes [2,372] as well as engobes [373] or white and "super white" porcelain stoneware bodies [37,374]. In contrast, the use of white inks is marginal in digital decoration [10]. White pigments have the basic role to mask the color of substrates by enhancing the light scattering [375]. For this purpose, a strict control on the amount, particle size and shape of white pigment is crucial [376,377] along with proper optical properties (see section 3.3). The final appearance may be dull to bright white, with a variable degree of translucency, and determined surface attributes (matt, semi matt, satin, translucent, etc). The color is usually evaluated by the CIE L* parameter (combined with a* and b* values as low as possible) or by the Kubelka-Munk formalism [39,378]. Opacifiers often fulfil additional functions, as damping the chemical attack to other pigments by saturation of the glaze (e.g., Zr⁴⁺ to improve the stability of Zr-colorants, see section 3.4). In other cases, white pigments are utilized to impart specific characteristics, like scratch resistance or anti-slip ability of ceramic surfaces [379].

Zirconium silicate, obtained by fine milling of natural zircon sands, is the most popular opacifier in all decoration techniques [380-382]. Its success stems from outstanding chemical stability in most ceramic matrices [383-387] and excellent optical properties (almost no light absorption in the visible spectrum, see Figure 7, joined to high refractive indices, Table 2). No significant interaction is known for $ZrSiO_4$ with other pigments [37]. In addition, it is able to improve the stability of Zr-bearing colorants, and rutile pigments as well (Table 5). The main limitation is a certain radioactivity [388] due to small amounts of U and Th in natural zircons (usually 50-100 $mg \cdot kg^{-1}$ each).

Baddeleyite is seldom utilized as opacifier in glazes, because it has good optical properties, but some disadvantages with respect to zirconium silicate [389]. ZrO_2 cannot be employed in mass-stone (zirconia reacts with silica to form zircon) or in digital inks (since they are micronized by zirconia microspheres, the milling yield is too low). In addition, more baddeleyite pigment is required to get the same whiteness, in force of its specific weight higher than zircon. Baddeleyite has a level of radioactivity analogous to zircon [388].

Cassiterite is a historical opacifier, widely used in ancient glazes [390,391]. SnO_2 exhibits the best optical characteristics for a white pigment: high refractive indices and negligible light absorbance in the visible range (Fig. 7). It has a good stability, ensured by its low solubility in ceramic glazes [392] and can be used to enhance the chemical resistance of tin-bearing pigments (malayaite, cassiterite doped with Cr, Sb or V). However, the occurrence of Sn^{4+} in the glaze is detrimental for eskolaite (green and black) and many spinel pigments [37]. Cassiterite is no longer used today, mainly because of its high cost (approximately 5 times that of zircon sand).

Corundum, although a common ingredient in ceramic frits, is seldom used as opacifier in glazes [393-395] but more frequently in engobes and "super white" bodies [37,374,396]. Its behavior is generally satisfactory in the various decoration techniques, and alumina is able to improve the chemical stability of many pigments (Table 5). However, the performance of $\alpha-Al_2O_3$ as white pigment is lesser than other opacifiers in force of the low refractive indices (Table 2).

Zirconium, Cerium and Zinc organometallics provide the "white" color to the palette of soluble salts [103]. Although seldom employed in BO applications, their role has been revitalized by the chance to be used as white effect [397] or as primer in digital decoration.

Spinel $MgAl_2O_4$ is a white pigment proposed for glazes [398,399] where it never entered in use due to its low refractive index (Table 2). Nevertheless, it attracted the industrial interest for white-firing bodies, especially in times of zircon shortage [396]. Gahnite is a common component of Zn-rich glazes, as $ZnAl_2O_4$ and solid solutions with $MgAl_2O_4$. However, it usually occurs as a crystalline phase formed during firing by reaction of Zn and Al present in frits and raw glazes. The direct use of gahnite as white pigment is not carried out in the industrial practice, even though proposed in the literature [400,401].

Rutile and cerianite – although employed by the ceramic industry in the past [402-404] – have nowadays a limited use as opacifier in glazes, despite their very high refractive indices [405]. The main limitation is their unsatisfactory color purity, due to absorption of some violet-blue wavelengths that results in yellowish nuances (Fig. 7). In some glaze compositions, both titania and ceria undergo a rapid crystal growth, incompatible with the opacifier function [406,407]. This tendency is otherwise exploited to get peculiar aesthetic effects, as described in the following section.

There are some opacifiers that found just a limited use in the industrial production. Andalusite, wollastonite, and diopside are sporadically added as white pigments to glazes or porcelain stoneware bodies [29,408-

410]. Glass-ceramic frits (e.g., precipitating baghdadite, $\text{Ca}_3\text{ZrSi}_2\text{O}_9$) or even zincite are sometimes utilized in “super white” batches [411,412]. Sapphirine, $\text{Mg}_6\text{Al}_4\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{20}$, was proposed as opacifier in glazes [413].

5.8. Ceramic effects

The ceramic effects are used to impart peculiar optical, textural and functional properties to ceramic surfaces. Although utilized occasionally in LT, IT and HT applications, they have turned into a fundamental integration of quadrichromy (or hexachromy) in digital decoration. Recently, the pigment industry spent a considerable effort to search for new effects and develop proper suspensions for inkjet printing. This advancement is not mirrored in the scientific literature, where only few contributions deal with ceramic effects.

Account must be taken there is no classification of ceramic effects and no general agreement on criteria and terminology for their description. Therefore, the range of attributes that can be part of ceramic effects is rather wide, especially in the field of surface functionalization of ceramics. In the present review, we consider only the effects commonly utilized in ceramic manufacturing or candidates developed at least to the industrial level (see some examples in Fig. 25).

The **gloss** or **matt** appearance, as bestowed on ceramic surfaces by inkjet decoration, is achieved by micronized transparent glasses or opacified glazes. These materials are formulated according to the conventional glaze technology, conveniently modified to account for the consequence of their small particle size. In fact, the firing behavior of micronized glazes is substantially changed in the kinetics of “melting”, densification and crystallization, if any [414]. It is not disclosed which crystalline phases form in digital inks, among the ones known in ceramic glazes [28,415]. Further effects may be used to realize specific optical appearances (e.g., satin, translucent) by tuning opportunely the amount and features of crystalline compounds and bubbles dispersed in the glaze [28,416]. In particular, translucency can be obtained by using BAS frits ($\text{BaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2$) that precipitate celsian, $\text{BaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ [411].

A classical way to realize a bas-relief pattern on the glaze surface is by a **sink** effect. It is achieved by applying low melting point compounds, typically based on V and Bi. The quintessential sink is vanadium pentoxide, but the incoming restrictions about V_2O_5 (connected with its toxicity and carcinogenicity) have recently moved the industrial interest to bismuth vanadate, a well-known yellow colorant [417-420]. However, the color is lost on melting, leaving just the desired sink.

Lustre effects are pursued since antiquity [421] and for long time fulfilled by noble metal nanoparticles: Au, Pt, Ag, Cu [422-426]. Such applications are nowadays limited to third fire decoration of fine tableware. The metallic appearance on ceramic tiles is typically reproduced by surface precipitation of iron phosphate crystals in appropriate glazes [427]. However, this lustre is difficult to be realized by DD and is characterized by a poor chemical and tribological resistance. Therefore, to overcome these limitations, new solutions were developed in recent years, based on cerianite CeO_2 [428], tenorite CuO [429], scheelite CaWO_4 [430], powellite CaMoO_4 [416] or even stainless steel and a NiCoCrAlY alloy [431]. Gold lustre can be simulated in LT (third fire) also using pearlescent pigments, like TiO_2 -coated mica [432].

The **glittering** effect is since long time known in ceramic decoration and often referred to as *aventurine* [433]. The mechanism behind shimmering glazes was disclosed, consisting of tiny crystal inclusions preferentially oriented in a translucent matrix [434,435]. By this way, light reflection depends on the incident angle, giving rise to a form of goniochromatism [436]. Industrially, the aventurine effect in glazes is imparted through precipitation of hematite in properly designed glazes [435-439].

The creation of a casual **speckle** effect, now easily reproduced by digital decoration graphics, was easily obtained by applying on the glaze colored refractory minerals (e.g., chromite) or man-made colored grains, like titania slag [440].

Phosphorescent glazes have been realized for ceramic tiles by introducing a phosphor, like Eu^{2+} -doped SrAl_2O_4 [441-443]. The main challenge is twice: i) having a sufficiently long afterglow of a proper color, and ii) preserving the phosphor during firing from the chemical attack of glaze. Since efficient phosphors have a limited thermal stability, satisfactory solutions were developed for LT or at most IT firings, best as third fire applications.

Cool pigments are characterized by a high solar reflectance (300-2500 nm) combined with a high thermal emissivity (4000-40000 nm). They are employed to get solar-reflective surfaces, which represent an effective countermeasure to the Urban Heat Island effect [444]. To be suitable for ceramic applications, such pigments must fulfil all requirements listed at sections 3 and 4. For this reason, the attention has been initially focused on current industrial colorants [444-447]. Recently, new cool pigments were proposed, including: yellow chromium-doped scheelite [205]; cyan cobalt-doped celsian, magenta chromium-doped armalcolite, yellow nickel-geikielite, green CrNdO_3 perovskite [447]; iron and tungsten co-doped lanthanum cerium oxide [448]; red-orange Tb-Fe and Pr-Fe co-doped pyrochlore $\text{Y}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ [155,449].

The performance improvement of ceramic products attracted a remarkable industrial interest in the last decade. It has been primarily pursued by surface functionalization through application of functional films or addition of the active compounds to glazes and glassy coatings. Three are the main industrial achievements, amongst the many proposals: **scratch resistant surfaces** have been developed adding soluble salts providing zirconium [396] or titanium and silver [450]; or alternatively nanoparticles of aluminium and zirconium oxides [451]. **Self-cleaning surfaces** have been realized by exploiting the photocatalytic effect of titania nanoparticles [452,453]. Attempts to achieve photocatalytic surfaces in the usual manufacturing conditions were unsuccessful, because of the anatase to rutile transition and concurrent crystal growth during firing at high temperatures [454,455]. Thus, photocatalytic tiles are currently produced by a second fire at low temperature [454,456]. New pigments have been proposed in order to improve both the photocatalytic efficiency and activity under visible light irradiation: they consist of anatase doped with N [457], Nb [458], W [459], rare earths and transition metals [460] or composites of titania and silica [461] and silver [450,462-464]. **Antibacterial activity** has been basically pursued through the application of silver compounds on ceramic surfaces. The challenge is to have enough Ag^+ ions available in the long run, but both silver oxidation and incorporation into the glass network of glazes must be prevented. For this purpose, various composites were proposed: Ag-silica [465], Ag-ZnO [466], Ag-nepheline [467] or Ag with calcium phosphate [468] as well as titania-coated silver nanoparticles [462-464]. However, the direct application of a thin film containing a sufficiently heat-resistant silver compound is at present preferred by the ceramic industry: e.g., Ag_2WO_4 [469], even though the best compromise of cost and performance was achieved with Nasicon-type solid solutions, like $(\text{Na,Ag})\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ [470].

6. Lines of future research

The advent of digital decoration not only has revolutionized how pigments and dyes are manufactured and applied onto ceramic surfaces, but also the manner by which colorants are designed, formulated, and tested. Technological innovation brought about a groundbreaking change, both conceptual and practical, in the way colorant manufacturers conceive and carry out research and development activities.

From the conceptual point of view, the design of ceramic colorants underwent a paradigm shift, with emphasis moving to inks and related matters. This circumstance saw unexpected issues to stand out, such as the behavior of pigments during micronization or the interactions of colorants with organic carriers and additives, among others. At the same time, well-known aspects of decoration technology had to be reappraised at the light of the new characteristics of digital pigments and dyes. For instance, the relationship between color saturation and particle size of pigments, or the increased reactivity of micronized colorants in touch with glazes and glassy coatings. These questions have been magnified by the task to understand phenomena occurring at the scale of the ink drop, with all complications stemming from techniques used for color reproduction (quadrichromy typically plots four different ink drops on the same 64x64 μm target, with 400 dpi of native resolution).

In practice, the R&D laboratory was totally revamped, as new machinery and instrumentations are necessary to faithfully reproduce the industrial processes at the lab or pilot scale. This entails both ink-making (high-energy ball mill for micronization) and decoration (inkjet plotter to print test charts). Not to mention all techniques for ink characterization (including submicronic particle size, viscosity, surface tension) and measurement of the colorimetric coordinates on test charts. At the end of the day, the industry-academia distance increased a lot: before the digital decoration would take place, it was simple – in any ceramic laboratory – to simulate the manufacturing cycle of pigments and dyes. This because all the operations (solid-state synthesis in refractory crucibles, successive washing and milling, application by screen printing, spraying or pouring on ceramic substrates) could be run practically at the same scale of the industrial processes.

Notwithstanding the global diffusion of digital decoration in the ceramic tile industry (and its spreading through other ceramic and glass fields) not every technological question found a fully satisfactory answer yet. Further R&D efforts are necessary to overcome specific technological challenges of inkjet printing of pigments, dyes and effects. Hereafter, the main technological challenges still on the table are shortly reviewed, along with the evergreen issue of the search for new colorants. It is not an exhaustive list, but a summary of hot topics that can represent lines of future research. They pertain to the three pillars aimed at improving: the process efficiency, the performance of colorants, and the environmental sustainability.

Improving the efficiency of the ink-making process, from the colorant viewpoint, means essentially a better control on the micronization step. This task requires a deeper comprehension on the behavior of pigments and glasses during comminution, e.g. which mechanisms are active during high-energy milling in industrial conditions. Key points seem to be: i) the degree of pigment amorphization that is likely the cause of the loss of color saturation in digital inks; ii) the occurrence of plastic deformation and particle agglomeration phenomena during milling of vitreous materials, which is probably behind the current high energy consumption and very low efficiency to get submicronic glazes.

The performance of digital colorants can be improved by various routes, even though R&D investments are now hindered by the low price of digital inks. Two main strategies can be envisaged to enhance the colorant stability in ceramic matrices: i) shielding the pigment from the chemical attack of glaze, or ii) weakening the chemical aggressiveness of glaze against the pigment. The shield option primarily consists in a protective coating applied on a high-performance pigment: the challenge is to go beyond current encapsulation techniques in order to have a proper core-shell structure with the particle size imposed by inkjet printing. The option to damp the glaze aggressiveness needs to understand in depth the mechanisms of decomposition which pigments undergo during firing. This is the only way to improve the dual approach followed in DD, now

entirely empirical. On one hand, the pigment dissolution is minimized by an inert glass (the “protective coating”) or a primer (able to “saturate” the glaze in some ingredients of the pigment) applied respectively after and prior inkjet decoration. On the other hand, undesired color shades, due to a given transition metal ion incorporated in the glaze after pigment leaching, are counterbalanced through another cation (absorbing further visible wavelengths) intentionally released to the glaze by a reformulation of the ink composition.

Reducing the impact of digital decoration on the Environment and Human health is a constant concern pursued by ink-makers and colorant manufacturers through a set of actions on well-defined aspects of pigment manufacturing and application. Sustainability implies also research to ban or minimize the use of toxic ingredients and mitigate the risks all along the chain from colorant synthesis to end use. New questions recently arose and need investigation to prevent possible problems. For instance, any chemical interaction of pigments with the organic compounds constituting the digital ink, particularly during the very early stage of firing, might catalyze the formation of undesired byproducts released to the flue gases.

Finally, the *search for new colorants* should be better focused on the actual (and foreseeable) needs of the ceramic industry. First of all, a complete technological characterization of candidate ceramic colorants is recommended, especially to include the most popular applications (DD with firing temperatures always above 1000°C and commonly close to 1200°C). The industrial interest seems now polarized by new effects and new functionalities (e.g., cool pigments). Looking at present-day color palette, new pigments and dyes should approach the chromatic coordinates of industrial cyan, magenta, yellow and black colorants. Another issue is to prevent problems in the access to colorant raw materials, e.g. by shortage and/or increasing price of some commodities. Considering that DD currently rests on a restricted variety of colorants, suitable alternatives should be actively searched, especially for cobalt (cyan and black inks) and praseodymium (yellow ink) which are likely to turn into critical raw materials in the future.

It must be clear that the lines of research illustrated above have been envisaged from a strictly technological point of view. Therefore, this industry-oriented perspective cannot cover all the possible subjects of investigation on ceramic dyes and pigments. First and foremost, basic research is crucial to provide that solid scientific background for any industrial development, particularly in a manufacturing sector – like ceramic colorants production is – still massively relying on an empirical approach. From this standpoint, investigating basic properties and synthesis processes is essential to improve the knowledge base necessary to understand in depth many facts occurring in the industrial production and ceramic application of pigments, dyes and effects. For instance, relating optical properties with crystal chemistry and structure turns fundamental to an efficacious pigment design. On the other hand, disclosing single and mutual effects of different parameters in the synthesis process is the key to improve industrial-scale operations. Last, but not least, it comes modelling, as a pressing request from colorant-makers to predict and design both physical or chemical features (e.g., optical properties) and behavior during synthesis or ceramic applications of pigments, dyes and effects.

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Ceramic Pigments and Dyes beyond the Inkjet Revolution: from Technological Requirements to Constraints in Colorant Design

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. Technologies used in ceramic tiles manufacturing and related decoration techniques.

Figure 2. Decoration techniques utilized in ceramic tile manufacturing since 1960.

Figure 3. Evolution of ceramic tile decoration technologies: symbols refer to Figure 1.

Figure 4. Gamut of colors (a^*b^* equatorial plane, CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$ coordinates) for industrially-manufactured ceramic pigments and dyes [modified after 2].

Figure 5. Tintorial strength versus color hue of the main industrial ceramic pigments and dyes (for numbers 1 to 25 see Table 4) and candidate colorants proposed in the literature.

Figure 6. Tintorial strength of ceramic pigments in transparent glaze versus opaque glaze (A) and as function of the amount of pigment into porcelain stoneware body (B). Data from [23].

Figure 7. Examples of optical spectra of industrial pigments and dyes used by the ceramic industry.

Figure 8. Approximate fields of chemical composition of glazes, glassy coatings and porcelain stoneware bodies used in the different decoration technologies (see Figure 1 for abbreviations). A) Ternary diagrams of fluxes (% weight) and B) Stull diagram of silica and alumina (Segger formula).

Figure 9. Particle size distribution of colorants: A) micronized pigments and effects in IJP inks (DD) compared with conventional (AP-IP) and encapsulated pigments (EP); B) relationship with specific surface area in micronized pigments (data after [40]).

Figure 10. Variation of the reciprocal of the pigment particle size (i.e., $(\frac{1}{x_2} - \frac{1}{x_1}) \propto \frac{E}{K}$) as a function of the total milling rounds for various ceramic pigments. Symbols refer to: Pr- (yellow squares) and V-doped (cyan squares) zircon pigments [40,49,51]; Co-aluminate (blue circles), Co-ferrite (empty circles), and CoFe-chromate (black circles) spinel pigments [40, 48,50]; Cr,Sb codoped rutile pigments (orange diamonds) [40]. Dashed lines are a reader's eye guide.

Figure 11. Variation of the reciprocal of the pigment particle size as a function of (A) the total milling rounds for spinel [40, 48,50], and (B) zircon [40,49,51] ceramic pigments. Dashed lines are a reader's eye guide.

Figure 12. Box-and-whisker diagram of the degree of pigment amorphization in commercial inks for digital decoration of ceramic tiles (unpublished data).

Figure 13. Technological properties of industrial red to purple ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◻); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (⊠). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

Figure 14. Red and purple colors in glaze, plotted on the a^*b^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$). Numbered fields represent the main industrial colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

Figure 15. Technological properties of industrial yellow to orange ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◻); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (⊠). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

Figure 16. Yellow colors in glaze, plotted on the a^*b^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$). Numbered fields represent the main industrial colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

Figure 17. Technological properties of industrial light brown to maroon ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◻); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (⊠). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

Figure 18. Brown, maroon and orange colors in glaze, plotted on the a^*b^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$). Numbered fields represent the main industrial colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

Figure 19. Technological properties of industrial green ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◻); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (⊠). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

Figure 20. Green colors in glaze, plotted on the a^*b^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$). Numbered fields represent the main industrial colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

Figure 21. Technological properties of industrial blue to turquoise ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◻); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (⊠). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

Figure 22. Blue and turquoise colors in glaze, plotted on the a^*b^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$). Numbered fields represent the main industrial colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

Figure 23. Technological properties of industrial black to gray ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◻); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (⊠). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

Figure 24. Black and gray colors in glaze, plotted on the L^*C^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$).

Figure 25. Technological properties of industrial white pigments (opacifiers) and some ceramic effects. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◻); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (◻). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

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Table 1. Definition of pigment, dye, and effect for ceramic applications and various types currently used by the industry.

Colorant	Definition in the ceramic sector	
Pigment	Pigments are colored, black or white particulate inorganic solids which are largely insoluble in, and essentially physically and chemically unaffected by, the matrix in which they are incorporated (including the melt present in bodies and glazes during firing). They alter appearance by selective absorption and/or by scattering of light. Pigments are usually dispersed in vehicles for application, as for instance in the manufacture of colored powder agglomerates or ceramic inks to decorate glazes and bodies. Pigments retain their crystal structure throughout the ceramic process. Modified after the CPMA ¹ definition.	
IP	Idiochromatic	or “self-colored” pigments, where the chromophore is a major ingredient of the crystal structure, e.g. chromite spinel, FeCr_2O_4 , or uvarovite garnet, $\text{Ca}_3\text{Cr}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$.
AP	Allochromatic	or “other colored” pigments, where the chromophore is present as dopant of the host crystal structure, e.g. praseodymium in zircon, $(\text{Zr},\text{Pr})\text{SiO}_4$, or chromium in malayaite, $\text{Ca}(\text{Sn},\text{Cr})(\text{Si},\text{Cr})\text{O}_5$.
MP	Mordant	pigments, where chromophore occurs as tiny inclusions in the host crystal structure, e.g. vanadium pentoxide into baddeleyite, $\text{ZrO}_2[\text{V}_2\text{O}_5]$. The size of inclusions is smaller than the domain of coherent diffraction, thus the chromophore cannot be detected by X-ray diffraction.
EP	Encapsulated	pigments, where the chromophore agent is coated by a protective layer because heat-labile or chemically attacked by the melt present in glazes and bodies, e.g. cadmium sulfide in zircon, $\text{ZrSiO}_4[\text{CdS}]$. They are sometimes called “occlusion” or “inclusion” pigments. The size of inclusions is larger than the domain of coherent diffraction, thus the pigment may be detected by X-ray diffraction.
Dye	Dyes are colored, black or white organometallic complexes or inorganic substances that are destroyed during firing, thus dissolved into glazes and glasses and the melt present in ceramic bodies. They impart color to a substrate by selective absorption of light. They are soluble complexes or particulates dispersed in vehicles for application, as for instance in the manufacture of soluble salts and ceramic inks to decorate glazes and bodies. Dyes do not retain their crystal structure but may promote crystallization/precipitation of other crystalline substances that occur at the end of the ceramic process. Modified after the ETAD ² definition.	
SD	Soluble salts	are dyes consisting of organometallic complexes in aqueous solutions or solvents, which are decomposed during firing, e.g. Co^{2+} -carboxylate complex. Transition metal ions impart color to the ceramic matrix in which are incorporated.
RD	Reactive dyes	are soluble salts that, reacting during firing with the ceramic matrix, induce the crystallization of colored crystalline phases. Reaction products usually incorporate the transition metal ions provided by the dye, e.g. Ti-Cr-Sb organometallic complexes that lead to the formation of rutile, $(\text{Ti},\text{Cr},\text{Sb})\text{O}_2$.
PD	Crystalline particulates	are inorganic solids, which are dissolved during firing and incorporated into the ceramic matrix. Color is bestowed by transition metal ions migrated in the vitreous phase of bodies and glazes, e.g. Co^{2+} of LiCoPO_4 .
Effect	Effects are particulate inorganic solids that confer peculiar optical and textural features to ceramic surfaces. They typically react during firing with the matrix in which are incorporated, generally ceramic glazes and glasses. They alter appearance by scattering of light and/or by modifying gloss, iridescence or texture of surfaces. Effects are usually dispersed in vehicles for application, as for instance in the manufacture of ceramic inks to decorate glazes. Effects do not retain their crystal structure but may promote the formation of other crystalline and amorphous phases.	
SE	Sink	inducing a bas-relief texture, consisting of slightly depressed zones developed during firing by enhanced fusibility.
BE	Gloss/Matt	turning the surface either shiny (gloss) or opaque (matt) by changing refractive index or precipitating crystals, respectively.
GE	Glitter	sparkling effect, simulating the aventurine glass, achieved by precipitation of properly oriented crystals.
LE	Luster	simulating the brilliance and iridescence of metallic surfaces (steel and precious metals).

¹CPMA: Color Pigments Manufacturers Association. ²ETAD: Ecological and Toxicological Association of Dyes and organic pigments manufacturers.

Table 2. Crystallographic and physical characteristics of the main substances used as ceramic pigments.

Crystal structure	Formula	Symmetry	Space Group	Density (Mg·m ⁻³)	Melting point (°C)	Refractive indices (adim.)			
Baddeleyite	ZrO ₂	monoclinic	<i>P2₁/c</i>	5.75	2710	B	2.13	2.19	2.20
Bunsenite	NiO	cubic	<i>Fm3m</i>	7.45	1955	I	1.74		
Cassiterite	SnO ₂	tetragonal	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	6.95	1630	U	1.97	2.02	
Cerianite	CeO ₂	cubic	<i>Fm3m</i>	7.22	2400	I	2.13		
Corundum	Al ₂ O ₃	trigonal	<i>R-3c</i>	4.05	2050	U	1.76	1.77	
Garnet	Ca ₃ Cr ₂ Si ₃ O ₁₂	cubic	<i>Ia3d</i>	3.59	1370	I	1.86		
Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃	trigonal	<i>R-3c</i>	5.30	1540	U	2.91	3.19	
Hibonite	CaAl ₁₂ O ₁₉	hexagonal	<i>P6₃/mmc</i>	3.84	1910	U	1.79	1.81	
Malayaite	CaSnSiO ₅	monoclinic	<i>A2/a</i>	4.42	1330	B	1.77	1.78	1.80
Perovskite	YAlO ₃	orthorhombic	<i>Pbnm</i>	4.56	1870	B	1.92	1.94	1.95
Priderite	BaNiTi ₇ O ₁₆	tetragonal	<i>I4/m</i>	3.86	1400	U	2.35	2.37	
Pseudobrookite	Fe ₂ TiO ₅	orthorhombic	<i>Bbmm</i>	4.40	1550	B	2.37	2.38	2.40
Pyrochlore	Pb ₂ Sb ₂ O ₇	cubic	<i>Fd3m</i>	5.94	1310	I	1.86		
Rutile	TiO ₂	tetragonal	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.25	1850	U	2.87	2.58	
Spinel	MgAl ₂ O ₄	cubic	<i>Fd3m</i>	3.64	2140	I	1.76		
Srilankite	ZrTiO ₄	orthorhombic	<i>Pbcn</i>	4.77	1840	B	2.33	2.38	2.41
Willemite	Zn ₂ SiO ₄	trigonal	<i>R-3</i>	4.05	1510	B	1.71	1.72	
Wurtzite	CdS	hexagonal	<i>P6₃mc</i>	4.49	1290	B	2.53	2.51	
Zircon	ZrSiO ₄	tetragonal	<i>I4₁/amd</i>	4.65	2550	B	1.92	1.97	

Note: I, U, and B stand for optically Isotropic (a single refractive index), Uniaxial (two refractive indices), and Biaxial (three refractive indices), respectively.

Table 3. Chemical and physical characteristics of the main substances used as ceramic dyes and effects.

Compound	Formula	Structure	Density (Mg·m ⁻³)	Melting point (°C)	Type Table 1	Color/Effect
Cerianite	CeO ₂	cubic, <i>Fm3m</i>	6.95	1630	LE	metallic luster
Chromium	Cr ³⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	green or light brown
Chromium-Antimony	Cr ³⁺ + Sb ⁵⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	yellow
Clinobisvanite	BiVO ₄	monoclinic, <i>I2/a</i>	6.95	~900	SE	sink
Cobalt olivine	Co ₂ SiO ₄	orthorhombic, <i>Pbnm</i>	4.04	1420	PD	blue
Cobalt lithiophylite	LiCoPO ₄	orthorhombic, <i>Pbnm</i>	3.76	~800	PD	blue
Cobalt sarcopside	Co ₃ (PO ₄) ₂	monoclinic, <i>P2₁/c</i>	3.82	1120	PD	blue
Cobalt suanite	MgCoB ₂ O ₅	monoclinic, <i>P2₁/c</i>	2.35	~1100	PD	blue
Cobalt	Co ²⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	blue
Copper	Cu ⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	green
Ferroalluaudite	NaFe ₃ (PO ₄) ₃	monoclinic, <i>C12/c</i>	3.60	~900	LE	metallic luster
Frit (glossy)	Si-B-Na-K-Ca-Ba-O	borosilicate glass	2.4÷2.6	700÷1200 ¹	BE	glossy surface
Frit (matt)	Si-B-Na-K-Ca-Zn-Mg-O	borosilicate glass	2.4÷2.6	700÷1200 ¹	BE	opaque surface
Gold	Au ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	magenta or metallic gold
Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃	trigonal, <i>R-3c</i>	5.30	1540	LE	metallic luster
Iron	Fe ³⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	brown
Iron phosphate	Fe ₂ Fe(P ₂ O ₇) ₂	orthorhombic, <i>Pnma</i>	3.07	940	LE	metallic luster
Liebenbergite	Ni ₂ SiO ₄	orthorhombic, <i>Pbnm</i>	4.60	1650	PD	green
Nickel	Ni ²⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	brown
Palladium	Pd ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	gray
Platinum	Pt ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	metallic platinum
Ruthenium	Ru ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	black
Scheelite	CaWO ₄	tetragonal, <i>I4₁/a</i>	6.01	1580	GE	aventurine
Shcherbinaite	V ₂ O ₅	orthorhombic, <i>Pmmn</i>	3.28	690	SE	sink
Silver	Ag ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	yellow or metallic silver
Tenorite	CuO	monoclinic, <i>C2/c</i>	6.50	1240	GE	aventurine
Vanadium	V ³⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	light brown
Zirconium	Zr ⁴⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	white, matt

¹Softening (maturing) temperature.

Table 4. Color of the main ceramic pigments and dyes. Color Index number and code (Society of Dyers and Colourists). Chromophore: [ion coordination number]. Color origin: Crystal Field theory (CF); Metal Oxygen Charge Transfer (MOCT); Inter-Valence Charge Transfer (IVCT); Band theory (BT); Cooperative Transitions (COT); Paired spin Exchange transitions (PE).

no.	Structure/Name	Formula	Type	C.I. #	C.I. CODE	Chromophore	Origin	Reference
1	Cassius' purple	Au	IP	77482	RED 109	Au nanoparticles	plasmonics	
2	Malayaite	Ca(Sn,Cr)(Si,Cr)O ₅	AP	77301	RED 233	Cr ⁴⁺ [4] Cr ⁴⁺ [6]	CF	
3	Perovskite	Y(Al,Cr)O ₃	AP	—	—	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF COT	
4	Cadmoseelite (<i>in zircon</i>)	ZrSiO ₄ [Cd(Se,S)]	EP	77196	RED 108	band gap	BT	
5	Hematite (<i>in zircon</i>)	ZrSiO ₄ [Fe ₂ O ₃]	EP	77996	RED 232	Fe ³⁺ ↔Fe ³⁺ [6]	PE CF	
	Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃	IP	77491	RED 101	Fe ³⁺ ↔Fe ³⁺ [6]	PE CF	
6	Spinel Jacobsite	(Mn,Fe)(Mn,Fe) ₂ O ₄	IP	77494	BLACK 26	Mn ²⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [4] Mn ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Chromite	(Mn,Fe)(Fe,Cr) ₂ O ₄	IP	77495	BROWN 46	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Chromite	FeCr ₂ O ₄	IP	77500	BROWN 29	Cr ³⁺ [6] Fe ²⁺ [4]	CF MOCT	
7	Rutile	(Ti,Cr,Sb)O ₂	AP	77310	BROWN 24	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Rutile	(Ti,Cr,Nb)O ₂	AP	77896	YELLOW 162	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
8	Rutile	(Ti,Cr,W)O ₂	AP	77897	YELLOW 163	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
9	Baddeleyite	ZrO ₂ [V ₂ O ₅]	MP	77991	YELLOW 160	V ₂ O ₅ V ⁴⁺ [8]	MOCT CF	
	Oxyplumboroméite	Pb ₂ Sb ₂ O ₇	IP	77588	YELLOW 41	band gap	BT	
		(Ti,Ni,Sb)O ₂		77788	YELLOW 53			
10	Rutile	(Ti,Ni,Nb)O ₂	AP	77895	YELLOW 161	Ni ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
		(Ti,Ni,W)O ₂	AP	77902	YELLOW 189			
	Pyrochlore	Y ₂ (Sn,V) ₂ O ₇	AP	—	—	V ⁴⁺ [6]	CF	
	Srilankite	(Zr,Sn,Ti,V,In)O ₂	AP	—	—	V ⁴⁺ [6]	CF	
11	Zircon	(Zr,Pr)SiO ₄	AP	77997	YELLOW 159	Pr ⁴⁺ [8]	CF	
12	Greenockite (<i>in zircon</i>)	ZrSiO ₄ [CdS]	EP	77205	YELLOW 35	band gap	BT	
		ZrSiO ₄ [Cd(S,Se)]	EP	—	ORANGE 20			
	Spinel Gahnite	Zn(Al,Cr) ₂ O ₄	AP	77290	RED 235	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
	Corundum	(Al,Cr) ₂ O ₃	AP	77003	RED 230	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
		(Al,Mn) ₂ O ₃	AP	77005	RED 231	Mn ³⁺ [6]	CF	
13	Spinel Zincchromite	(Zn,Fe)(Cr,Fe,Al) ₂ O ₄	IP	77496	YELLOW 119	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
		Zn(Fe,Cr) ₂ O ₄	IP	77503	BROWN 33			
14	Cassiterite	(Sn,V)O ₂ [V ₂ O ₅]	MP	77862	YELLOW 158	V ₂ O ₅ V ⁴⁺ [6]	MOCT CF	
15	Pridelite	Ba(Ti,Ni) ₈ O ₁₆	AP	77900	YELLOW 157	Ni ²⁺ [6]	CF	
16	Garnet Uvarovite	Ca ₃ Cr ₂ (SiO ₄) ₃	IP	77300	GREEN 51	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
17	Eskolaite	Cr ₂ O ₃	IP	77288	GREEN 17	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
	Olivine Liebensbergite	Ni ₂ SiO ₄	PD	77850	—	Ni ²⁺ [6] Ni ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF	
18	Spinel Co-Ti	Co ₂ TiO ₄	IP	77377	GREEN 50	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
		(Co,Al) ₂ (Al,Ti)O ₄	IP	773465	BLUE 81			
19	Spinel Cochromite	CoCr ₂ O ₄	IP	77344	GREEN 26	Co ²⁺ [4] Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
		(Zn,Co)Cr ₂ O ₄	IP	77343	BLUE 36			
20	Zircon	ZrSiO ₄ .V	AP	77998	BLUE 71	V ⁴⁺ -V ⁴⁺ [4]	CF	
21	Cassiterite	(Sn,Sb)O ₂	AP	77865	BLACK 23	band gap	BT	
	Spinel Hercynite	Fe(Al,Ti) ₂ O ₄	AP	—	—	Fe ²⁺ +Ti ⁴⁺ ↔Fe ³⁺ +Ti ³⁺ [6]	IVCT	
	Spinel Co-Sn	Co ₂ SnO ₄	IP	77368	BLUE 35	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
22	Spinel Gahnite	CoAl ₂ O ₄	IP	77346	BLUE 28	Co ²⁺ [4]	CF MOCT	
		(Co,Zn)Al ₂ O ₄	IP	77347	BLUE 72			
23	Willemite	(Zn,Co) ₂ SiO ₄	AP	77366	BLUE 74	Co ²⁺ [4]	CF MOCT	
24	Olivine	Co ₂ SiO ₄	PD	77364	BLUE 73	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF MOCT	
	Perovskite	Y(Mn,In)O ₃	IP	—	BLUE 86	Mn ³⁺ [6] In ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Lithiophyllite	CoLiPO ₄	PD	77362	VIOLET 14	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF MOCT	
	Sarcopside	Co ₃ (PO ₄) ₂	PD	77363	VIOLET 47	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF MOCT	
	Suanite	MgCoB ₂ O ₅	DY	77352	VIOLET 48	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF MOCT	
25	Cassiterite	(Sn,Cr)O ₂ [CrO ₂]	PD	77863	RED 236	CrO ₂ Cr ⁴⁺ [6] Cr ³⁺ -Cr ³⁺ [6]	IVCT CF	
	Rutile	(Ti,Mn,Sb)O ₂	AP	77899	YELLOW 164	Mn ²⁺ [6] Mn ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Pseudobrookite	Fe ₂ TiO ₅	IP	77501	BROWN 35	Fe ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
		(Al,Fe) ₂ TiO ₅	IP	775435	BROWN 48			
	Spinel Chromite	FeCr ₂ O ₄	IP	77500	BROWN 29	Fe ²⁺ [4] Cr ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Ulvospinel	Fe ₂ TiO ₄	IP	77543	BLACK 12	Fe ²⁺ [4] Fe ²⁺ [6] Fe ²⁺ ↔Fe ³⁺	CF IVCT	
26	Periclase Bunsenite	(Ni,Co)O	IP	77332	BLACK 25	Ni ²⁺ [6] Co ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
27	Rutile	(Ti,V,Sb)O ₂	AP	77898	BLACK 24	V ⁴⁺ [6] V ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
28	Eskolaite-Hematite	(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₃	IP	77288	—	Cr ³⁺ [6] Fe ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Cuprospinel	CuCr ₂ O ₄	IP	77428	BLACK 28	Cr ³⁺ [6] Cu ²⁺ [4]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Nichromite	Ni(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₄	IP	77504	BLACK 30	Ni ²⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [6] Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
29	Spinel Co-ferrite	CoFe ₂ O ₄	IP	77498	BLACK 29	Co ²⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [6] Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
		Co(Fe,Cr) ₂ O ₄	IP	77502	BLACK 27			
30	Spinel complex	(Ni,Co,Mn) (Cr,Mn,Fe) ₂ O ₄	IP	—	—	Ni ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [4] Mn ²⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [6] Mn ³⁺ [6] Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	

Table 5. Chemical stability of ceramic pigments in contact with glazes and bodies: incompatibility (or improved stability) with single components and maximum temperature allowed for industrial firing.

Pigment	Formula	Incompatible with	Improved stability with	T _{max} °C
Baddeleyite	ZrO ₂ [V ₂ O ₅]	B <i>Pb</i>	Zr Ca Mg Ba	1300
Bunsenite	[(Ni,Co)O]ZrSiO ₄	Zn Na K B <i>Pb</i>	Zr	1350
Cassiterite	(Sn,Cr)O ₂ [CrO ₂]	Zn Mg (Na K B)	Sn Ca	1300
Cassiterite	(Sn,V)O ₂ [V ₂ O ₅]	Al	Sn B <i>Pb</i>	1300
Cassiterite	(Sn,Sb)O ₂	Na K B	Sn	1250
Corundum	(Al,Cr) ₂ O ₃	Ca B <i>Pb</i>	Al Zn	1400
Corundum	(Al,Mn) ₂ O ₃	B Zn <i>Pb</i>	Al	1400
Eskolaite	(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₃	Ca Zn Sn Ni	Al	1250
Garnet	Ca ₃ Cr ₂ Si ₃ O ₁₂	Zn <i>Pb</i>	Ca	1200
Hematite	ZrSiO ₄ [Fe ₂ O ₃]		Zr	1250
Malayaite	Ca(Sn,Cr)(Si,Cr)O ₅	Mg Zn Na K B	Ca Sn	1250
Olivine	Co ₂ SiO ₄	Mg		1350
Perovskite	Y(Al,Cr)O ₃	Ca Na K B	Al	1350
Pyrochlore	Pb ₂ Sb ₂ O ₇	Na K B	<i>Pb</i> Zn Al	1050
Rutile	(Ti,Cr,Sb)O ₂	Na K B	Ti Zn Zr	1300
Spinel	CoAl ₂ O ₄	Na K B <i>Pb</i>	Al Zn	1350
Spinel	CoCr ₂ O ₄	Zn Sn Ni	Al	1300
Spinel	Zn-Fe-Al-Cr-Mn	Sn	Zn Al	1400
Spinel	Co-Ni-Mn-Fe-Cr	Zn (Sn Zr)		1400
Willemite	Zn ₂ SiO ₄	Ca	Zn	1200
Wurtzite	ZrSiO ₄ [Cd(Se,S)]	<i>Pb</i>	Cd	1200
Zircon	(Zr,Pr)SiO ₄		Zr Zn <i>Pb</i>	1300
Zircon	ZrSiO ₄ :V		Zr	1300

Table 6. Coloration stemming from dissolution of transition metal ions into a silicate glass.
 In **bold** the most common colors developed in glazes and bodies.

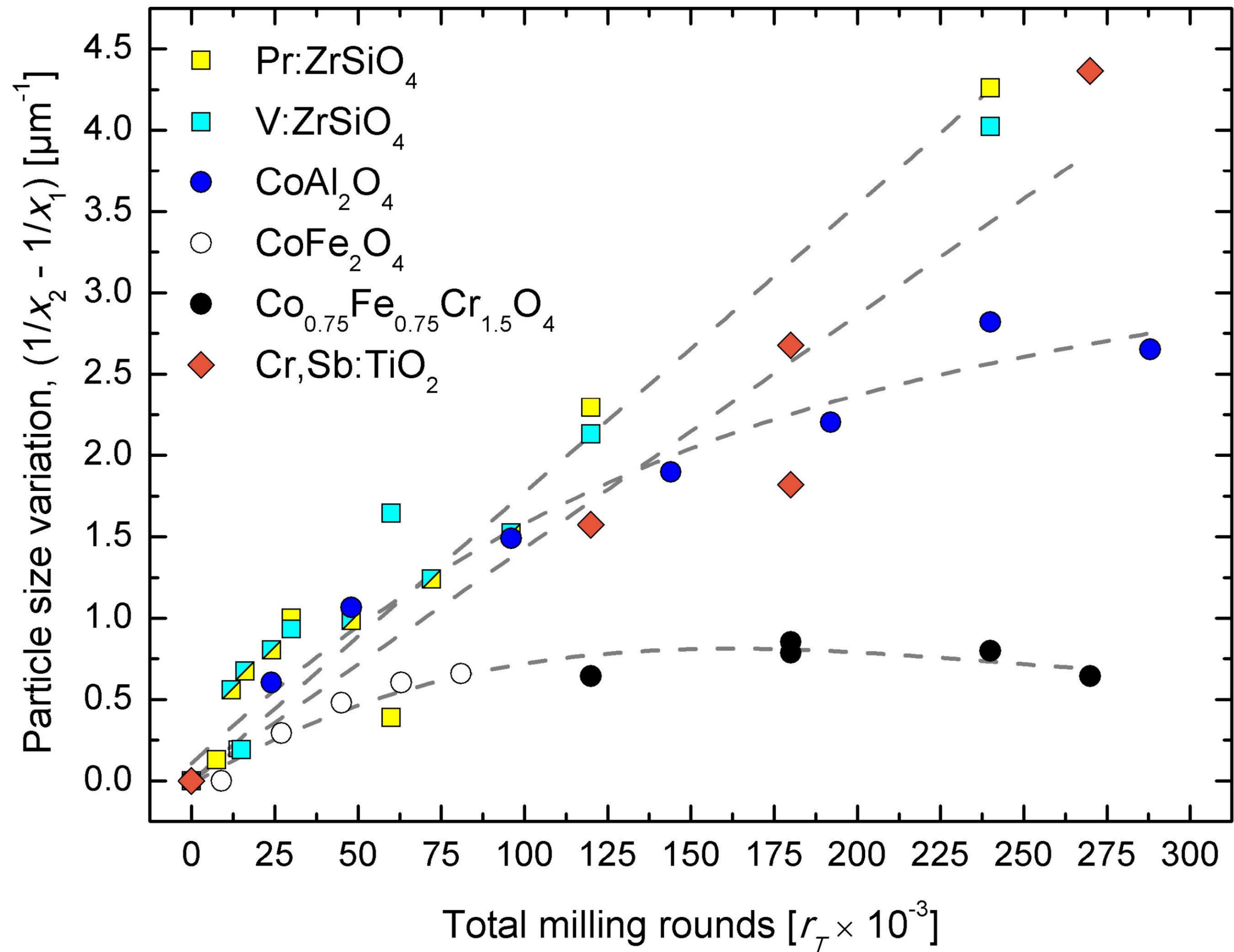
Transition metal ion	Oxygen coordination	Color
Co ²⁺	4	dark blue
Co ²⁺	6	pink
Cr ³⁺	6	emerald green
Cr ⁶⁺	4	yellow
Cu ⁺	6	red
Cu ²⁺	6 (distorted)	green to blue-green
Fe ²⁺	4 to 5	green-blue to green-brown
Fe ³⁺	4	reddish brown
Fe ³⁺	6	yellow-orange
Mn ²⁺	4 to 6	green to blue-green
Mn ³⁺	6 (distorted)	pale red to purplish brown
Ni ²⁺	4	deep purple
Ni ²⁺	5	brown
Ni ²⁺	6	yellow
V ³⁺	6	greenish brown
V ⁴⁺	4 to 5	blue-green
V ⁵⁺	4	yellowish green

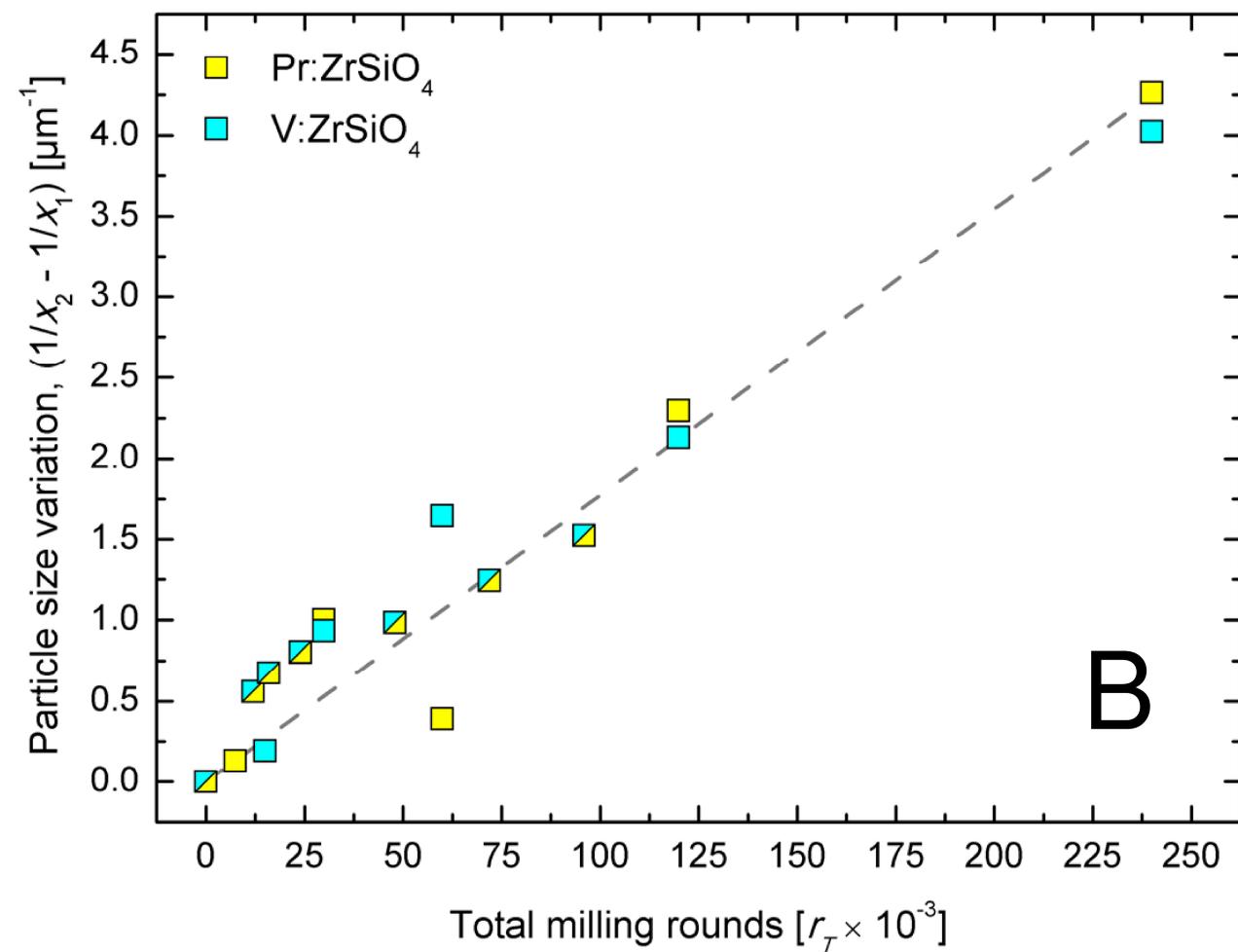
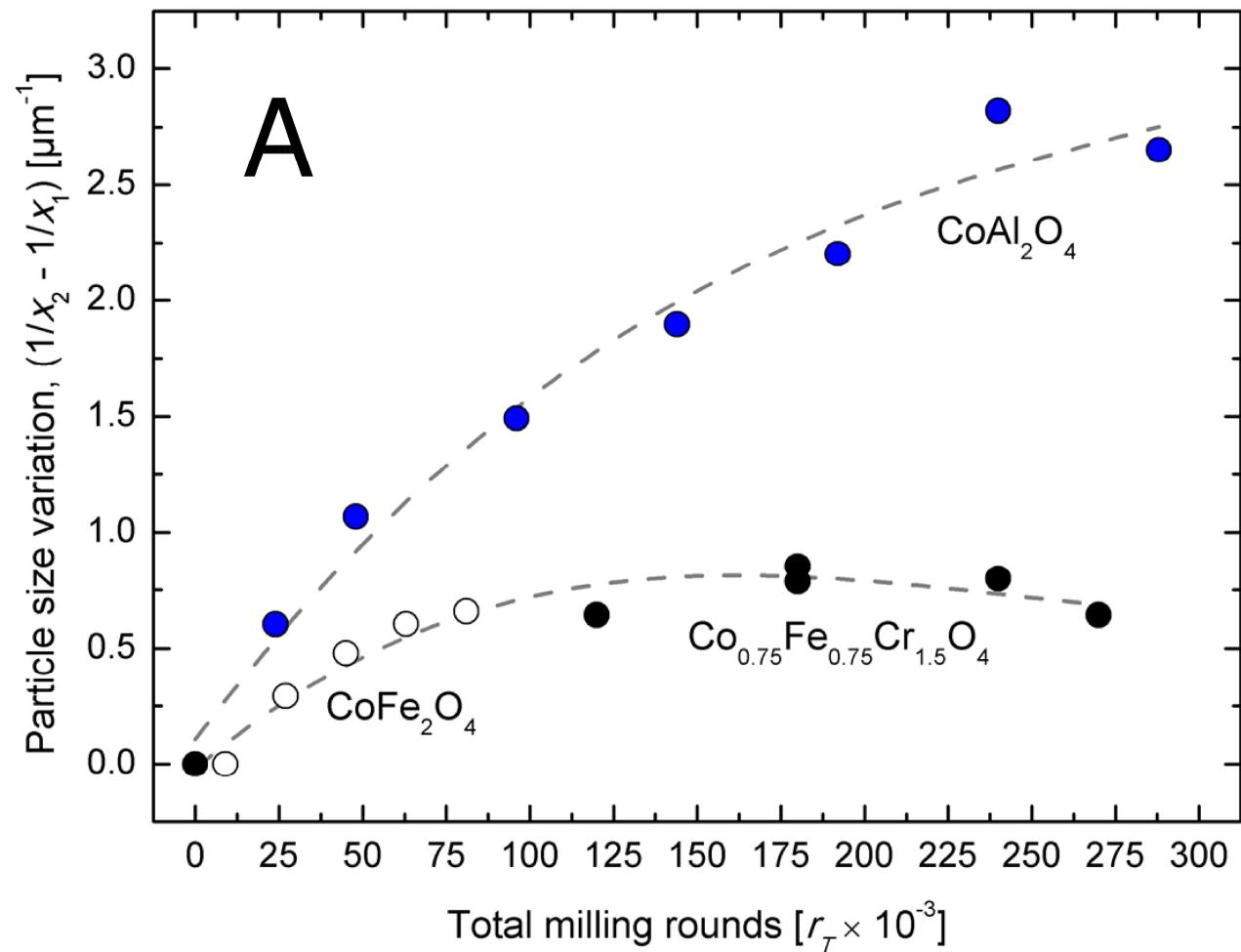
Table 7. Isothermal bulk modulus (K_{70} , in GPa) for the crystal structures of the ceramic pigments under comparison along with its range of variation.

Structure formula	Structure type	Averaged K_{70} [GPa]	K_{70} range [GPa]	Reference
Al_2O_3	corundum	251	242 - 257	[56-63]
$ZrSiO_4$	zircon	226	225 - 228	[64-68]
TiO_2	rutile	212	209 - 216	[69-74]
SnO_2	cassiterite	210	203 - 212	[69,75-77]
$YAlO_3$	Y-aluminate (perovskite)	195	188 - 205	[78-80]
$CoAl_2O_4$	Co-aluminate (spinel)	207	203 - 210	[81,82]
$CoFe_2O_4$	Co-ferrite (spinel)	180	175 - 186	[81,83]
(A) Cr_2O_4 where A: Zn, Mg, Fe	chromite (spinel)	183	181 - 189	[84-86]
$CaTiOSiO_4$	titanite	131	-	[87]
$CaSnOSiO_4$	malayaite	121	-	[88]

Note: the reported isothermal bulk moduli derive from high-pressure X-ray diffraction experiments of single-crystal and powder samples [56-59,66,67,70,71,73-75,78,79,83,84,87,88], elastic constant measurements of single-crystal and powder samples [62,64,65,68,69,76,77,81], and theoretical calculations through various computational methods [60,61,63,72,80,82,85,86].

Technology	Ceramic product	Decoration techniques	Colorant applied as	Firing	Firing reactions with	Pigment size distribution
LT Low Temperature	third-fire applications classic slow double-fired products	rotogravure (silicon roller) screen printing (rotary or flat) flexography airless spraying (see Figure 2)	powder dispersed in paste or glaze	slow double third fire 700-950°C	low temperature glaze	micrometric pigments d ₅₀ =3-7 μm d ₉₀ =7-15 μm encapsulated pigments d ₅₀ =10-20 μm d ₉₀ =15-30 μm
IT Intermediate Temperature	porous (<i>monoporosa</i> , <i>birapida</i>) and semi-vitrified tiles (<i>stoneware</i>)			fast single (double) 1080-1160°C 30-50 min	intermediate temperature glaze	
HT High Temperature	highly vitrified tiles (<i>glazed porcelain stoneware</i>)			fast single 1180-1220°C 50-90 min	high temperature glaze	
BO Body (unglazed)	highly vitrified tiles (<i>unglazed porcelain stoneware</i>)		powder in slip or stuck on granules	fast single 1190-1230°C 60-90 min	porcelain stoneware body	
VHT Very High Temperature	highly vitrified products (<i>vitreous china</i> , <i>porcelain</i>)	decal screen printing painting	powder dispersed in paste or stuck on decal	slow single or double 1250-1400°C	very high temperature glaze	
DD Digital Decoration	all tile types: stoneware, porcelain stoneware, third-fire, birapida, monoporosa	DOD inkjet printing	ink	fast single 700-1240°C 30-90 min	all glazes and bodies	micronized pigments d ₅₀ =0.3-0.7 μm d ₉₀ =0.6-1.0 μm





ZIRCON(yellow or
turquoise)**RUTILE MALAYAITE**

(orange)

(burgundy)

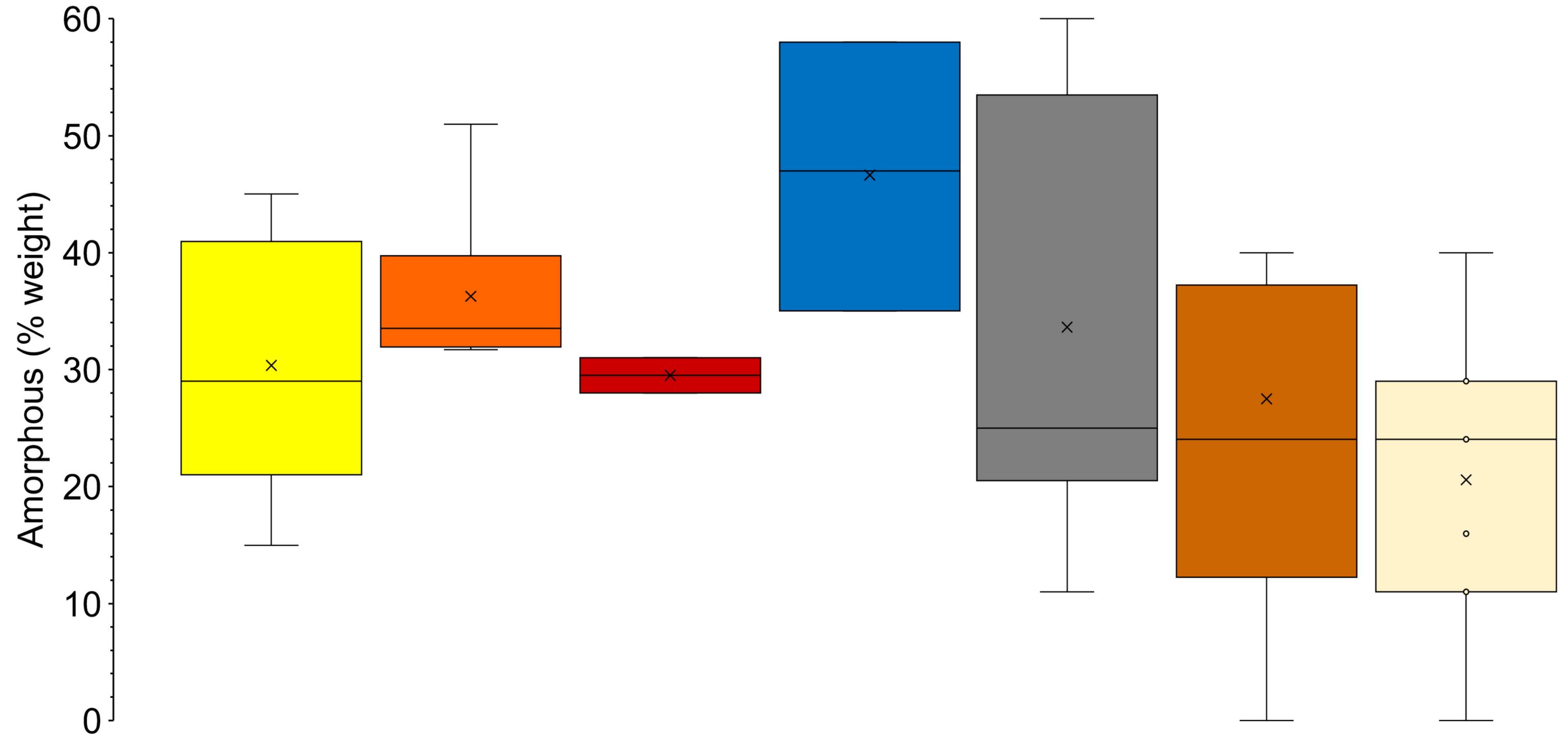
(blue)

(black)

SPINEL

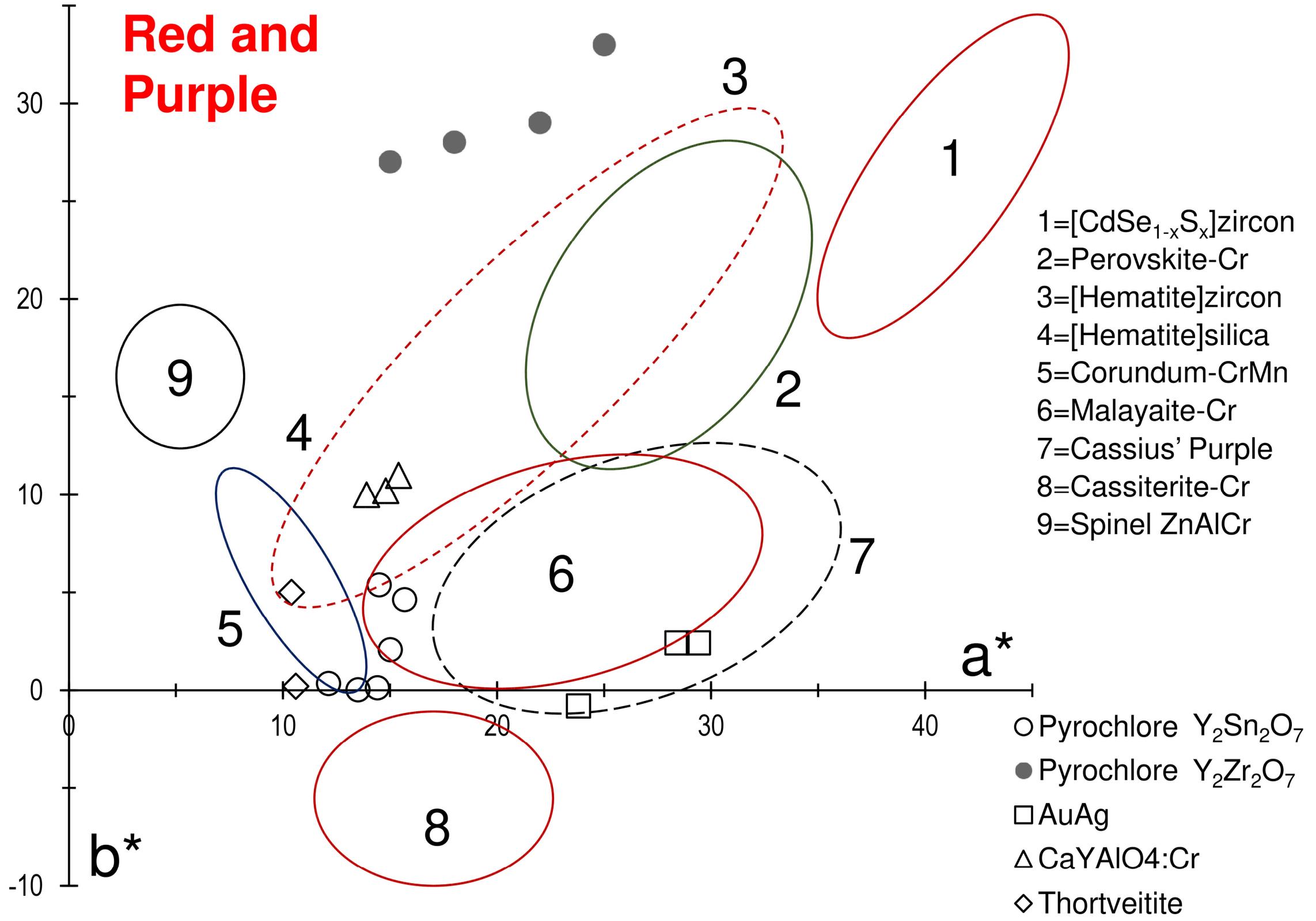
(brown)

(beige)

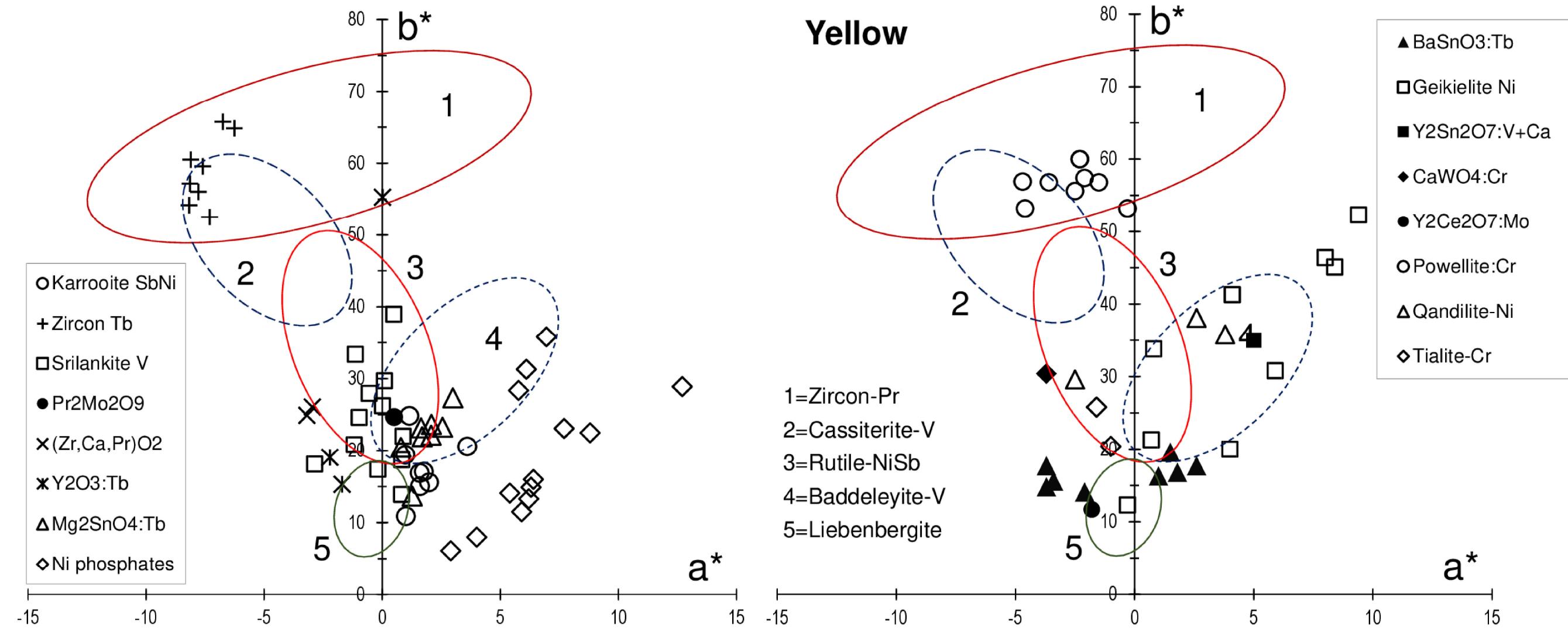


Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Cassius' purple	Au	magenta RED 109	■	□ 3	□ 3	◻●	◻●
Malayaite	Ca(Sn,Cr)(Si,Cr)O ₅	burgundy RED 233	■	■	■	◻/ 1	■
Pyrochlore	Y ₂ (Sn,Cr) ₂ O ₇	burgundy not filed	◻/ 3 4	◻/ 3 4	◻/ 3 4	◻/ 3 4	◻/ 3 4
Cadmoseelite	ZrSiO ₄ [Cd(Se,S)]	red RED108	■	■	■	◻/ 3	◻/ 1 2
Perovskite	Y(Al,Cr)O ₃	red not filed	◻●	◻/ 1	■	◻●	◻/ 1
Hematite (in zircon)	ZrSiO ₄ [Fe ₂ O ₃]	coral pink RED 232	■	■	◻●	◻●	◻/ 1
Hematite (in silica)	SiO ₂ [Fe ₂ O ₃]	coral pink not filed	◻/ 1	◻/ 1	◻/ 1	■	◻/ 1
Corundum	(Al,Mn) ₂ O ₃	pink RED 231	■	◻●	◻●	■	◻/ 4
Corundum	(Al,Cr) ₂ O ₃	pink RED 230	■	◻●	◻●	◻/ 4	◻/ 4
Spinel	Zn(Al,Cr) ₂ O ₄	pink RED 235	■	◻●	◻●	◻/ 1	◻/ 4
Cassiterite	(Sn,Cr)O ₂ [CrO ₂]	purple RED 236	■	■	■	◻/ 3	◻●

Red and Purple

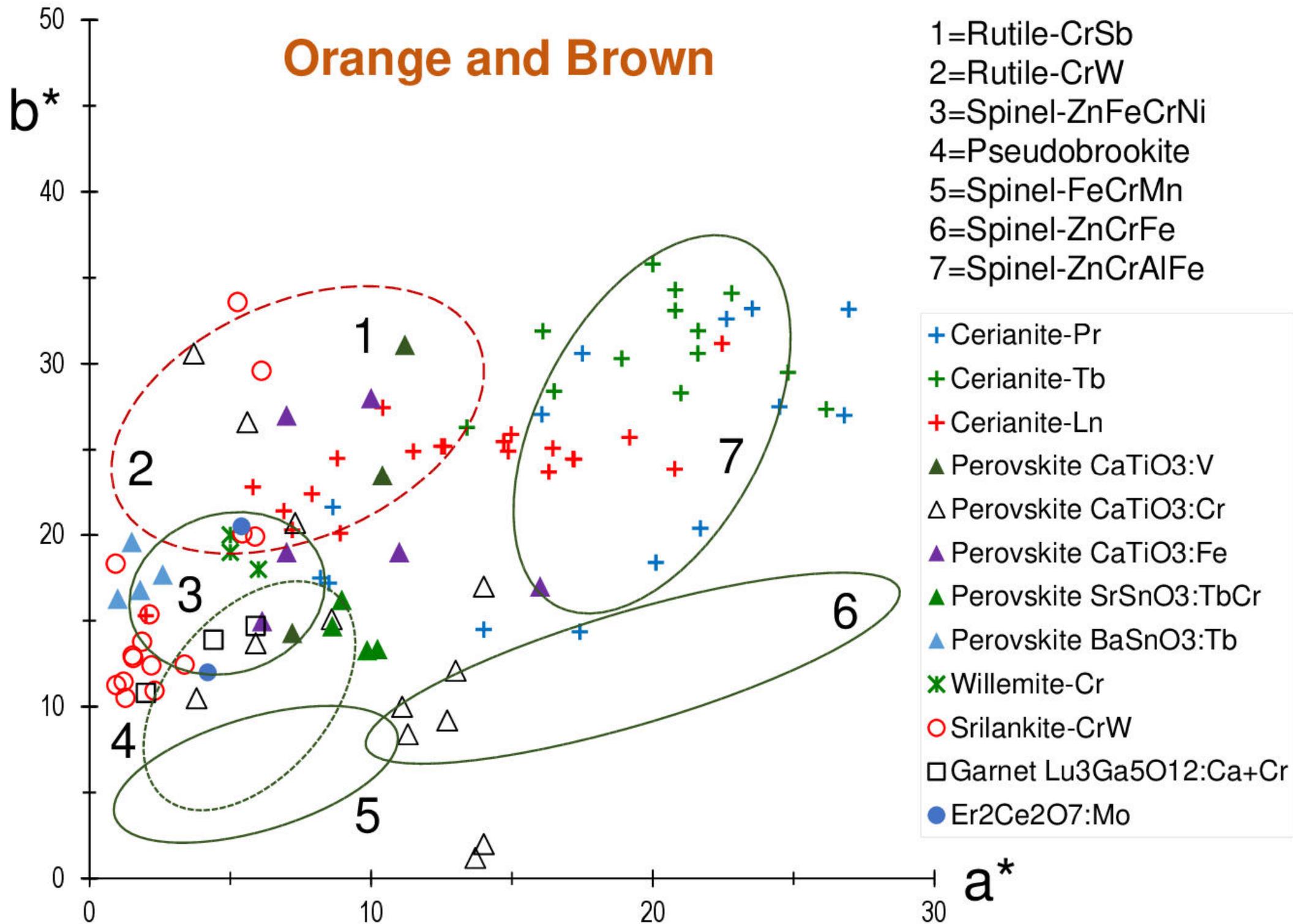


Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Zircon	(Zr,Pr)SiO ₄	yellow YELLOW 159	■	■	■	■	■
Rutile	(Ti,Ni,Sb)O ₂	yellow YELLOW 53	◐	◑ 1 2	◑ 1 2	◑ 2	◑ 1 2
Greenockite	ZrSiO ₄ [CdS]	yellow YELLOW 35	■	■	◐	◑ 3	◑ 1 2
Srilankite	Zr(Ti,Sn,V,In)O ₄	yellow not filed	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ ?
Perovskite	Sr(Sn,V)O ₃ Ba(Sn,Tb)O ₃	yellow not filed	◑ 3	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 3
Baddeleyite	ZrO ₂ [V ₂ O ₅]	yellow YELLOW 160	■	■	■	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 4
Cassiterite	(Sn,V)O ₂ [V ₂ O ₅]	yellow YELLOW 158	■	□ 3	□ 3	◑ 3	◑ 1 4
Priderite	Ba(Ti,Ni) ₈ O ₁₆	primrose YELLOW 157	◐	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4
Pseudobrookite (<i>Karrooite</i>)	Mg(Ti,V) ₂ O ₅	primrose not filed	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4
Pyrochlore	Pb ₂ Sb ₂ O ₇	orange YELLOW 41	■	□ 1 2	◑ 1 2	◑ 1 2	◑ 1 2 4
Cerianite	(Ce,Pr)O ₂	orange-pink not filed	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 3	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 1
Rutile	(Ti,Cr,Sb)O ₂	orange BROWN 24	■	◑ 1	◑ 1	■	◑ 1
Rutile (<i>formed in situ</i>)	Cr+Sb-organomet and Ti-primer	orange not filed	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	■	◐



Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Spinel (<i>Zincochromite</i>)	Zn(Fe,Cr) ₂ O ₄ Zn(Fe,Al,Cr) ₂ O ₄	buff BROWN 33	■	■	■	◻ 1	■
Cr soluble salt V soluble salt	Cr-organometallic V-organometallic	buff not filed	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	■	◻ ●
Spinel (<i>Franklinite</i>)	(Zn,Mn)(Cr,Mn) ₂ O ₄	brown not filed	◻ ●	◻ ●	◻ ●	◻ 1	◻ 1 4
Fe soluble salt Ni soluble salt	Fe-organometallic Ni-organometallic	brown not filed	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	■	◻ ●
Perovskite	Ca(Ti,Cr)O ₃	brown not filed	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4
Spinel (<i>Chromite</i>)	Fe ²⁺ Cr ₂ O ₄	brown BROWN 29	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ ●	◻ 1 4
Hematite	(Fe,Cr,Al) ₂ O ₃	maroon not filed	◻ ●	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ ●	◻ 1 4
Pseudobrookite	Fe ³⁺ ₂ TiO ₅ (Fe ³⁺ ,Al) ₂ TiO ₅	maroon BROWN 35-48	◻ ●	◻ ●	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1
Titanite Karooite	Ca(Ti,Cr)SiO ₅ Mg(Ti,Cr)SiO ₅	maroon not filed	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1
Spinel (<i>Trevorite</i>)	(Zn,Ni)(Fe,Cr) ₂ O ₄ (Zn,Ni)Fe ₂ O ₄	maroon not filed	■	■	■	◻ 1	■
Spinel (<i>Jacobsite</i>)	(Mn,Fe)(Fe,Cr) ₂ O ₄	coffee BROWN 46	■	■	■	◻ ●	◻ 1 4
Rutile	(Ti,Cr,W)O ₂	tobacco YELLOW 163	◻ ●	◻ 1	◻ 1	■	◻ 1
Rutile	(Ti,Mn,Sb)O ₂	dark brown YELLOW 164	◻ ●	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1
Perovskite	LaFeO ₃	dark brown not filed	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1
Spinel (<i>Ulvöspinel</i>)	Fe ²⁺ ₂ TiO ₄	dark brown BLACK 12	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1

Orange and Brown



Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Spinel	CoCr_2O_4	blue-green BLUE 36	■	■	■	☐ 1	■
Eskolaite	$(\text{Cr,Al})_2\text{O}_3$	green GREEN 17	◐	☐ 1	☐ 1	■	☐ 1
Garnet (<i>Uvarovite</i>)	$\text{Ca}_3\text{Cr}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$	green GREEN 51	◐	☐ 1 2	☐ 1 2	☐ 1 2	☐ 1 2
Co-Ti Spinel	Co_2TiO_4	green GREEN 50	◐	☐ 1 3	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1 4
Perovskite	YCrO_3	green not filed	☐ 3	☐ 1 3	☐ 1 3	☐ 3	☐ 1 4
Olivine (<i>Liebenbergite</i>)	Ni_2SiO_4	yellow-green not filed	◐	☐ 2	☐ 1 2	☐ 1 2	☐ 2 4
Cr soluble salt Cu soluble salt	Cr-organometallic Cu-organometallic	green not filed	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	■	☐ 4

Decoration techniques used in ceramic tiles production



**INK-JET
PRINTING**

soluble salts



**SILICON
ROLLER**

flexography



**ROTARY
SCREEN PRINTING**

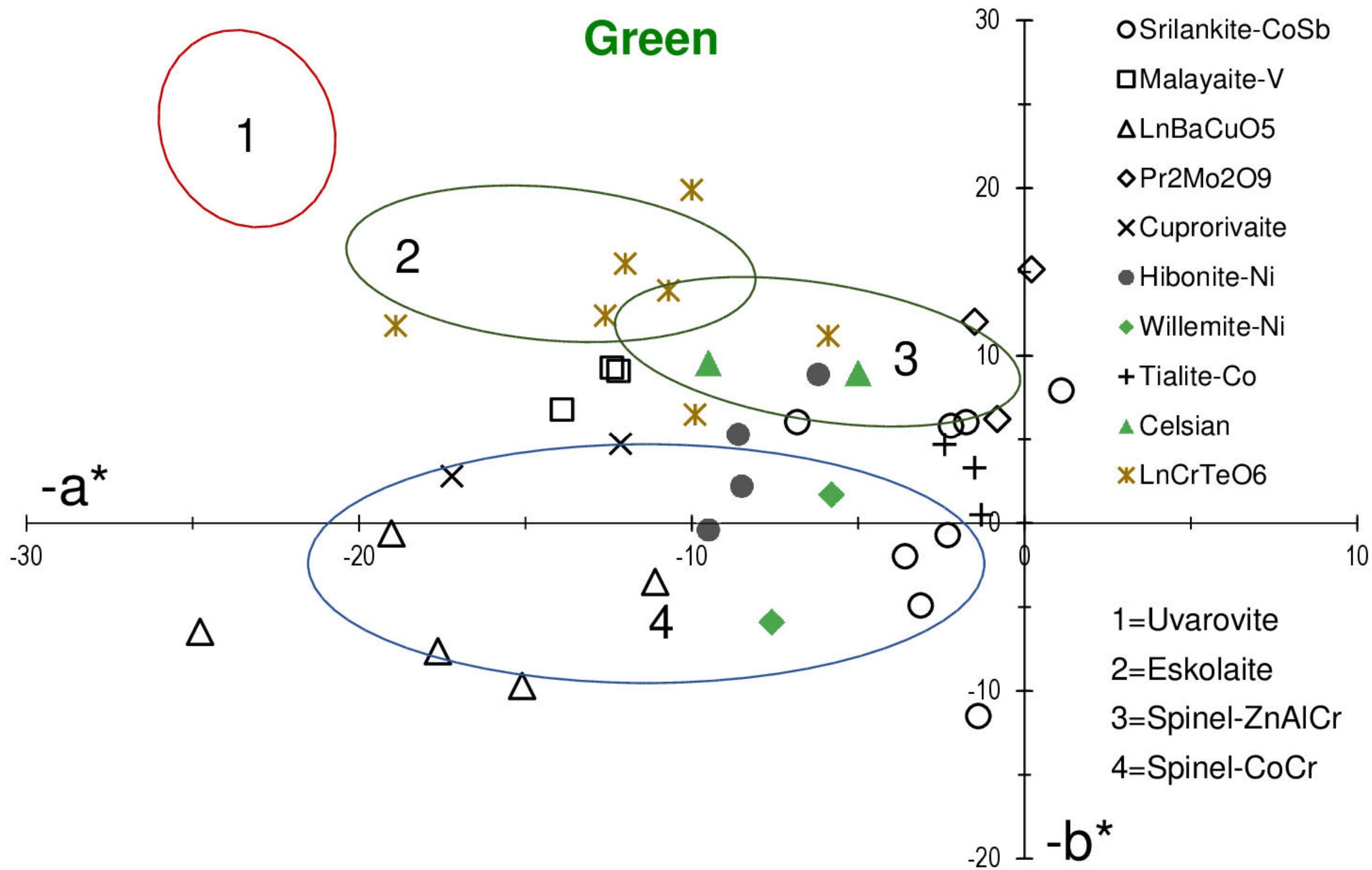
airbrush – chalcography

FLAT SCREEN PRINTING

decal – pad printing

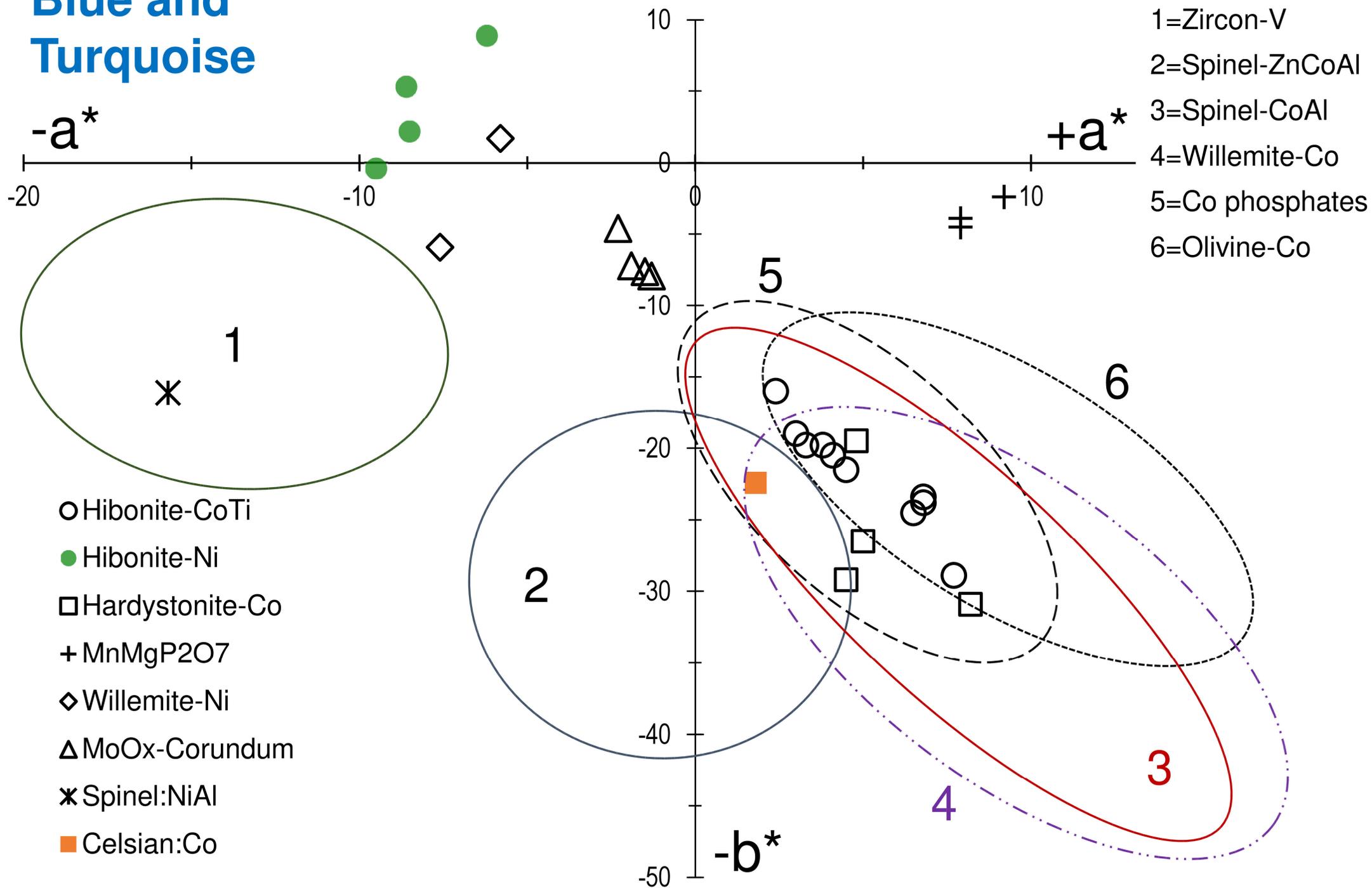


Green



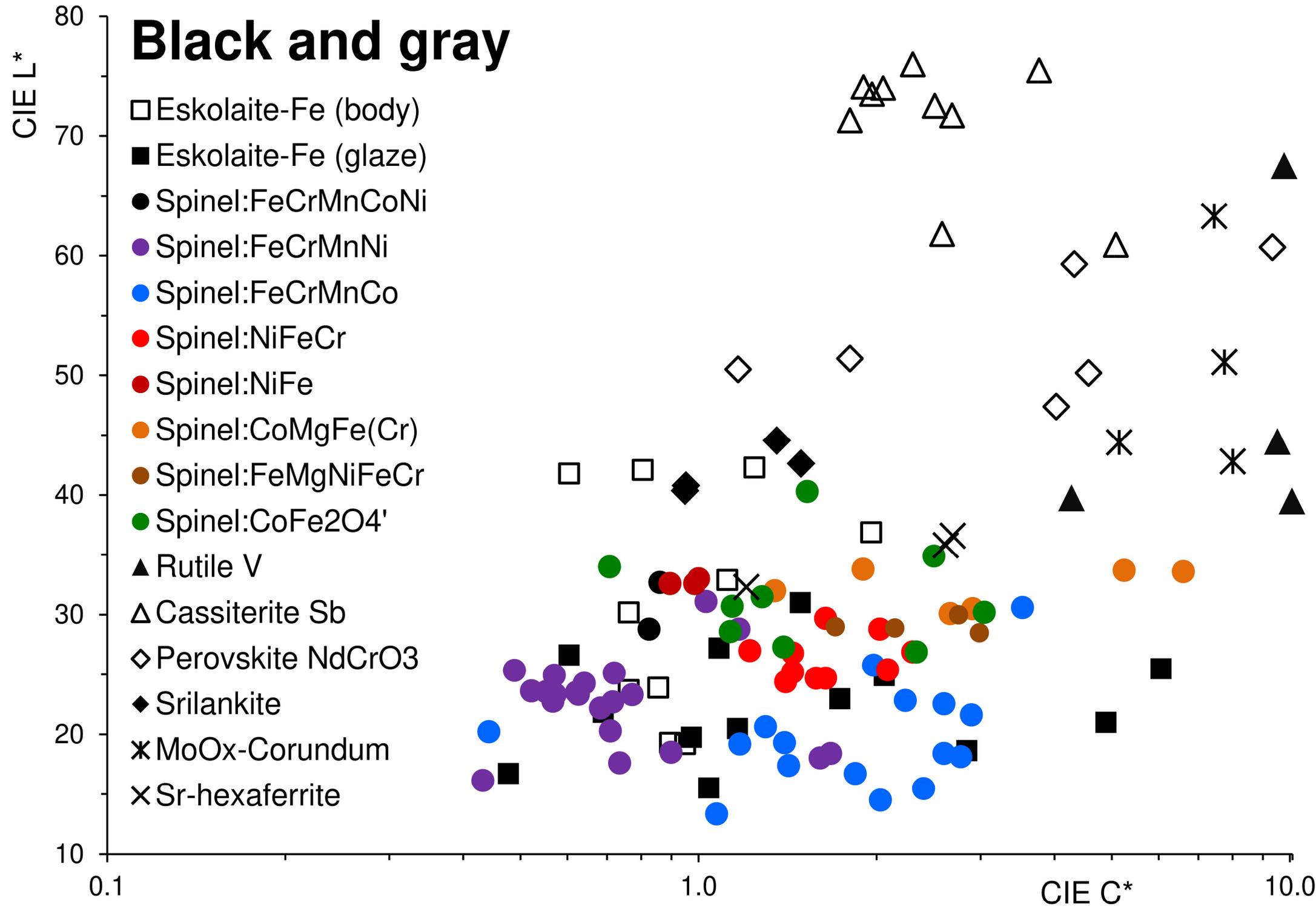
Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Olivine	Co_2SiO_4	dark blue BLUE 73	■	■	■	□●	■
Sarcopside Lithiophylite	$\text{Co}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ CoLiPO_4	dark blue VIOLET 14+47	■	□●	□/ 1	□/ 1	□/ 1
Suanite	$(\text{Mg},\text{Co})\text{B}_2\text{O}_5$	dark blue VIOLET 48	□●	□/ 1	□/ 1	□/ 1	□/ 1
Co soluble salt	Co-organometallic	blue not filed	□/ 1 4	□/ 1 4	□/ 1 4	■	□●
Spinel	CoAl_2O_4 $(\text{Zn},\text{Co})\text{Al}_2\text{O}_4$	blue BLUE 28+72	■	■	■	■	■
Willemite	$(\text{Zn},\text{Co})_2\text{SiO}_4$	blue BLUE 74	□●	□●	□●	□●	□●
Hardystonite	$\text{Ca}_2(\text{Zn},\text{Co})\text{Al}_2\text{O}_7$	blue not filed	□/ 3	□/ 3	□/ 1	□/ 1	□/ 1
Perovskite	$\text{Y}(\text{Mn},\text{In})\text{O}_3$	blue BLUE 86	□/ 3	□/ 3	□/ 3	□/ 3	□/ 1 3
Zircon	$\text{ZrSiO}_4:\text{V}$	turquoise BLUE 71	■	■	■	■	□/ 1
Hibonite	$\text{Ca}(\text{Al},\text{Ni})_{12}\text{O}_{19}$	turquoise not filed	□/ 3	□/ 1	□/ 1	□/ 1	□/ 1

Blue and Turquoise



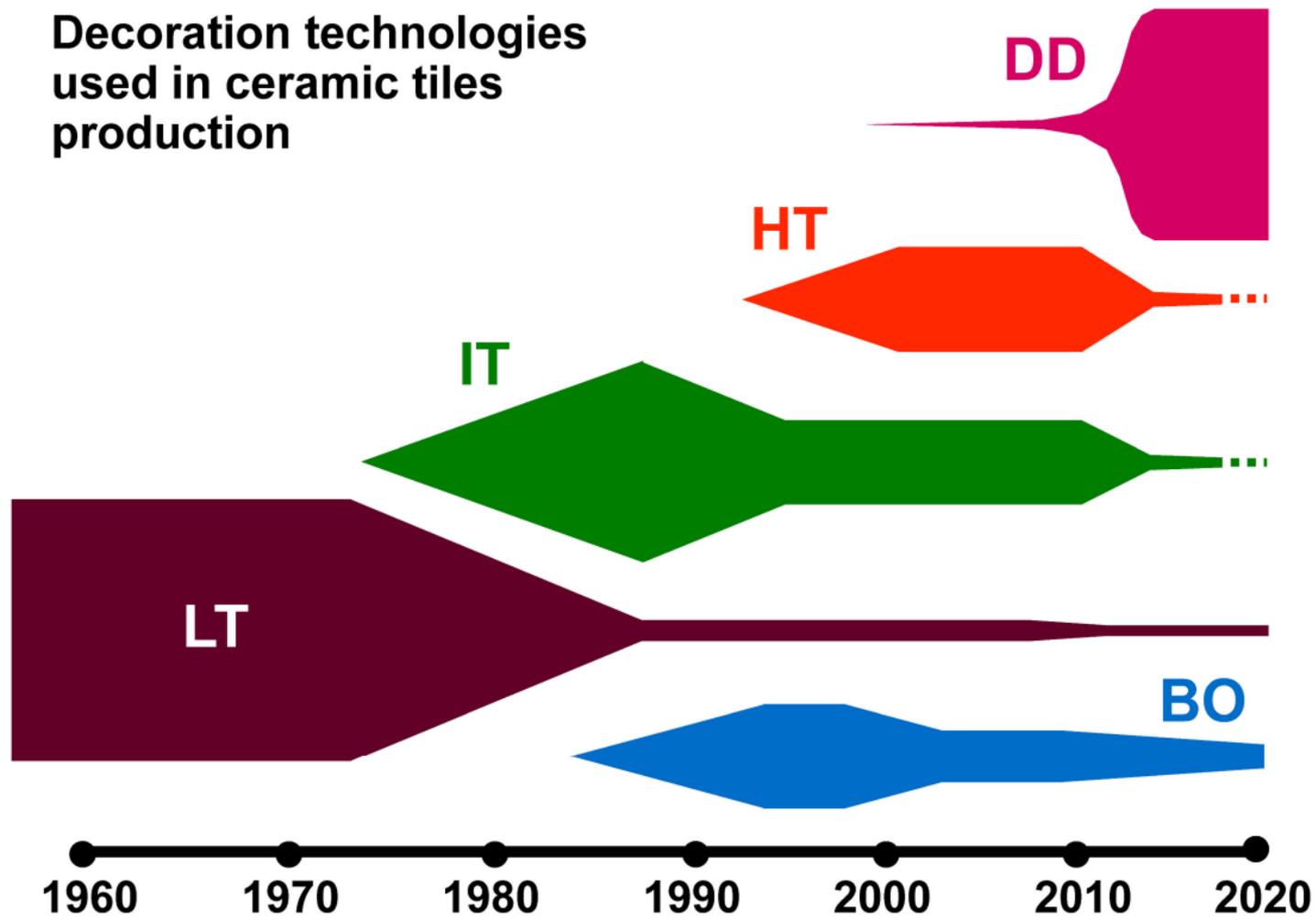
Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Spinel (<i>Nichromite</i>)	(Ni,Fe)(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₄ (Ni,Co,Mn)(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₄	black BLACK 30	■	■	■	◻●	■
Spinel (<i>Cochromite</i>)	(Co,Fe)(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₄ Co(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₄	black BLACK 27-29	■	■	■	◻●	■
Eskolaite- Hematite	(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₃	black not filed	◻●	◻ 1	◻ 1	■	◻/ 1
Spinel (<i>Cuprospinel</i>)	CuCr ₂ O ₄	black BLACK 28	◻●	◻/ 1	◻/ 1	◻/ 1	◻/ 1
Spinel (<i>Jacobsite</i>)	(Mn,Fe)(Mn,Fe) ₂ O ₄	black BLACK 26	◻●	◻●	◻/ 1	◻●	◻/ 1 4
Perovskite	LaCoO ₃	black not filed	◻/ 1	◻/ 1	◻/ 1	◻/ 1	◻/ 1
Ru soluble salt	Ru-organometallic	black not filed	◻/ 1 4	◻/ 1 4	◻/ 1 4	■	◻●
Cassiterite	(Sn,Sb)O ₂	gray BLACK 23	■	■	■	◻/ 1 3	◻/ 4
Co-Sn Spinel	Co ₂ SnO ₄	gray BLUE 81	■	◻●	◻●	◻/ 3	◻/ 4
Bunsenite	(Ni,Co)O	gray BLACK 25	◻●	◻●	◻●	◻/ 2	◻/ 2 4
Rutile	(Ti,V,Sb)O ₂	gray BLACK 24	■	◻ 1	◻/ 1	◻/ 1	◻/ 1
Corundum	Al ₂ O ₃ [MoO _x]	gray not filed	◻/ 3	◻/ 1	◻/ 1	◻/ 3	◻/ 4
Pd soluble salt	Pd-organometallic	gray not filed	◻/ 1 4	◻/ 1 4	◻/ 1 4	◻●	◻/ 1 4

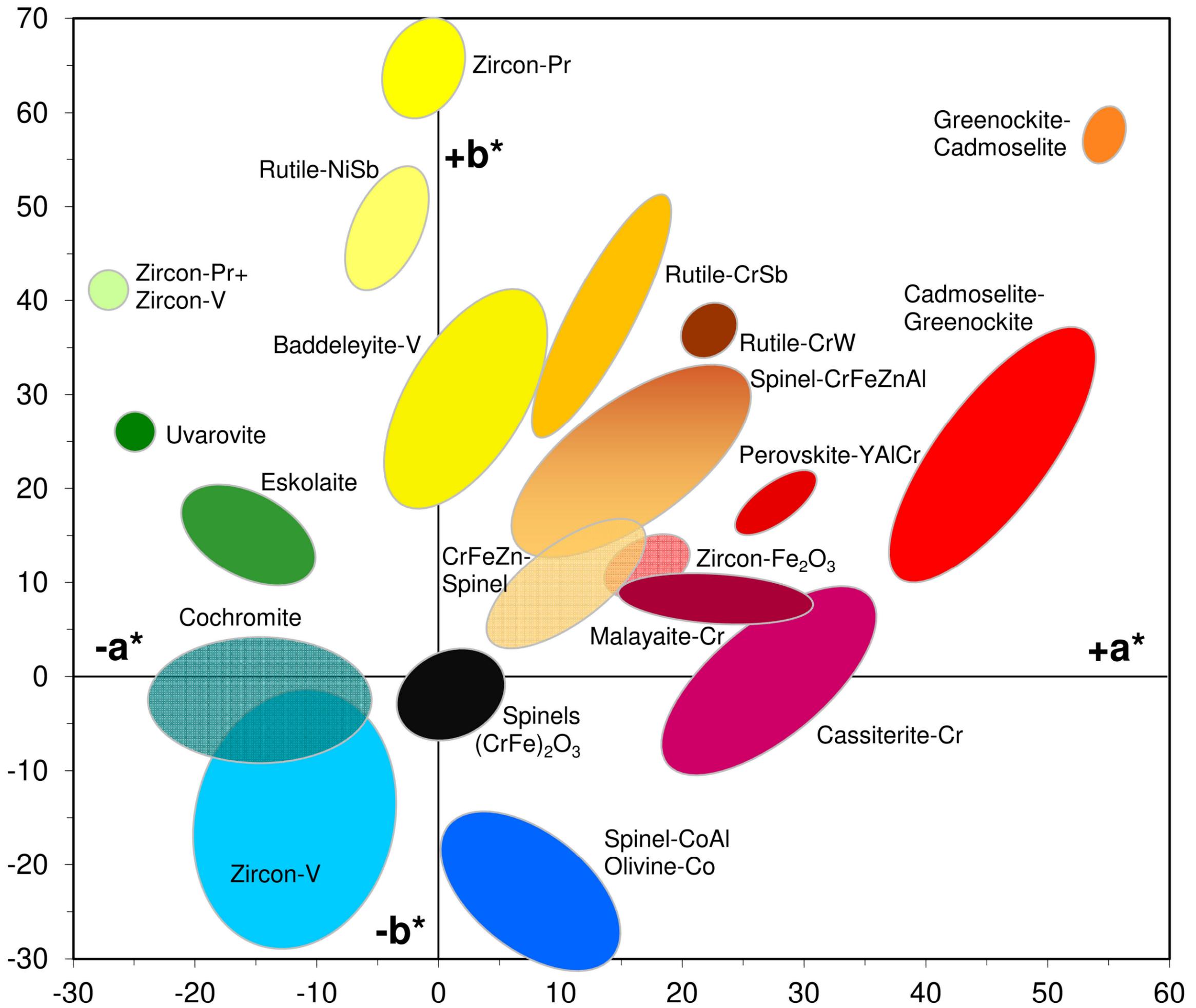
Black and gray

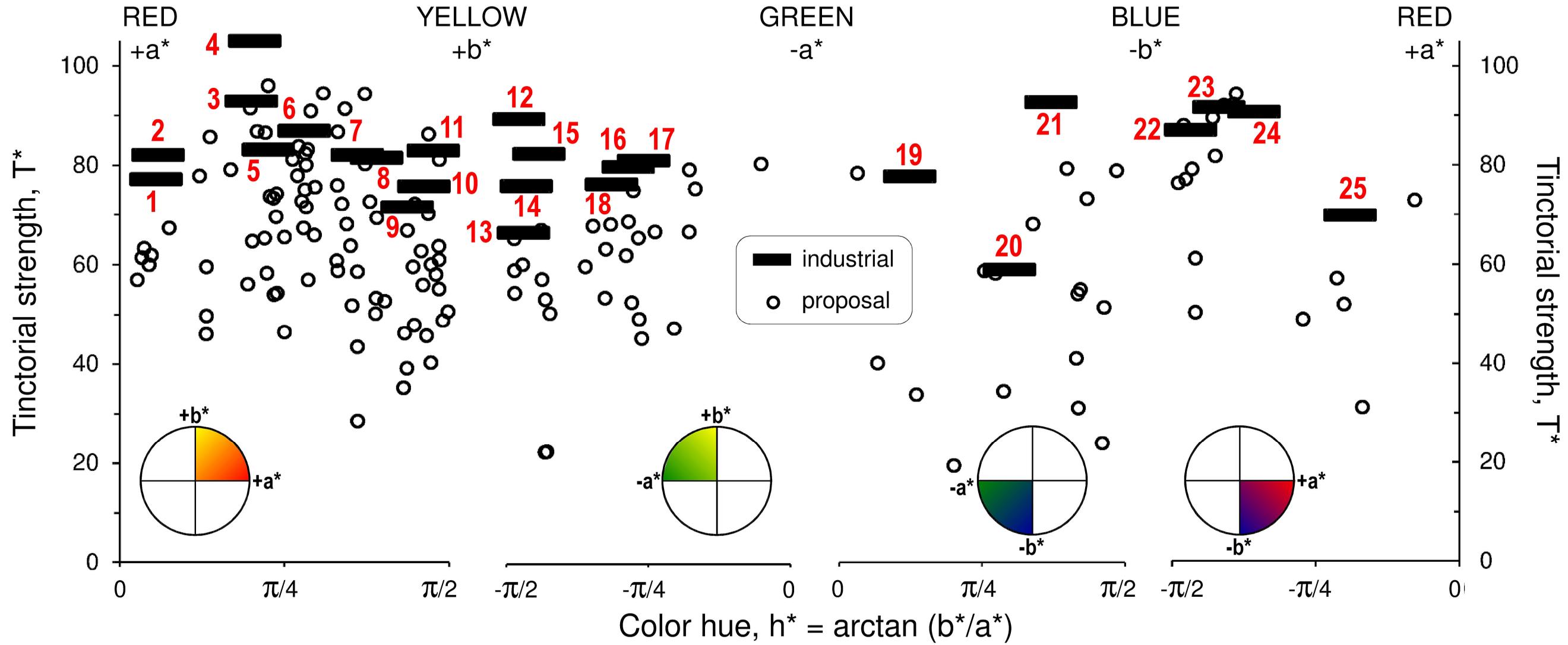


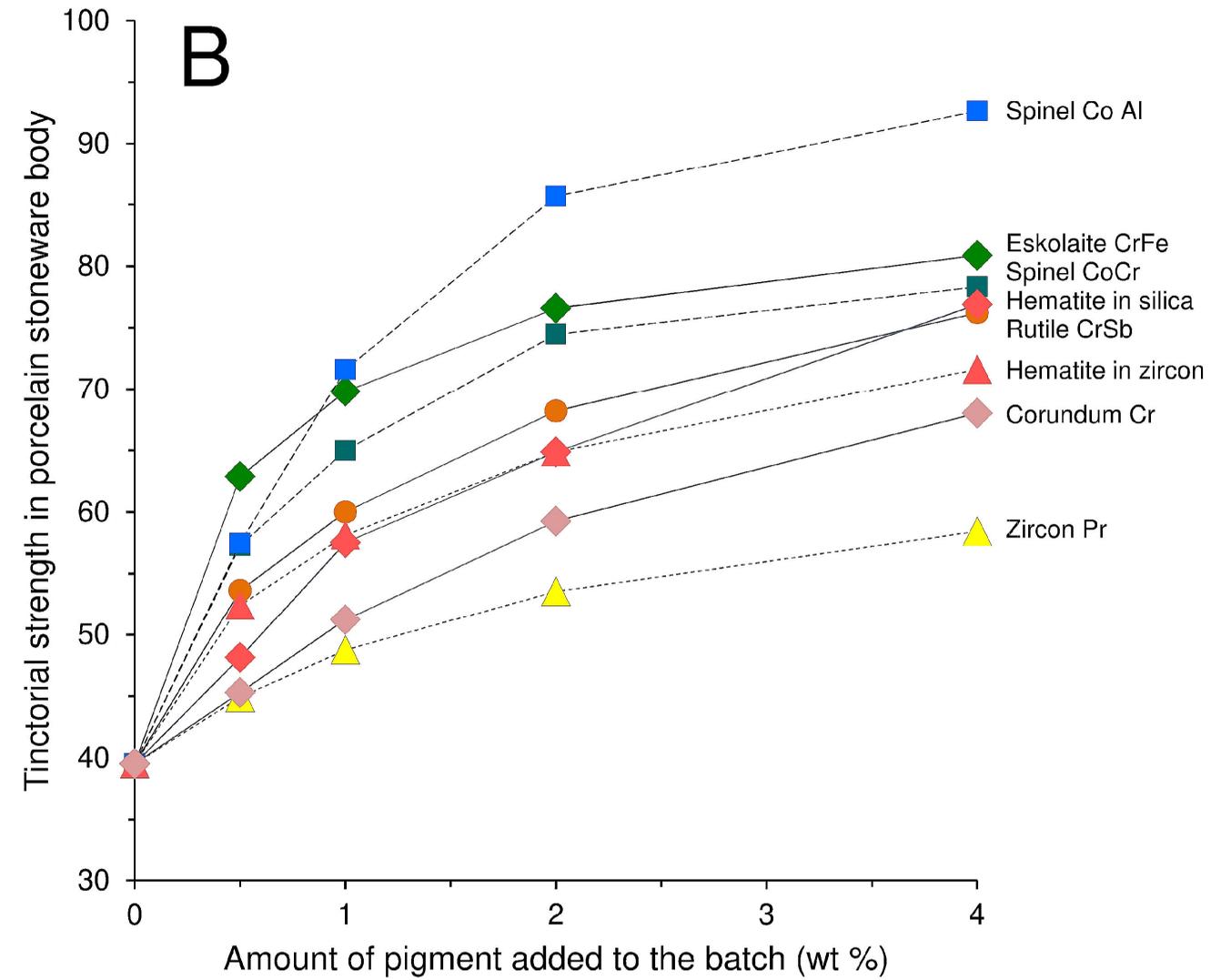
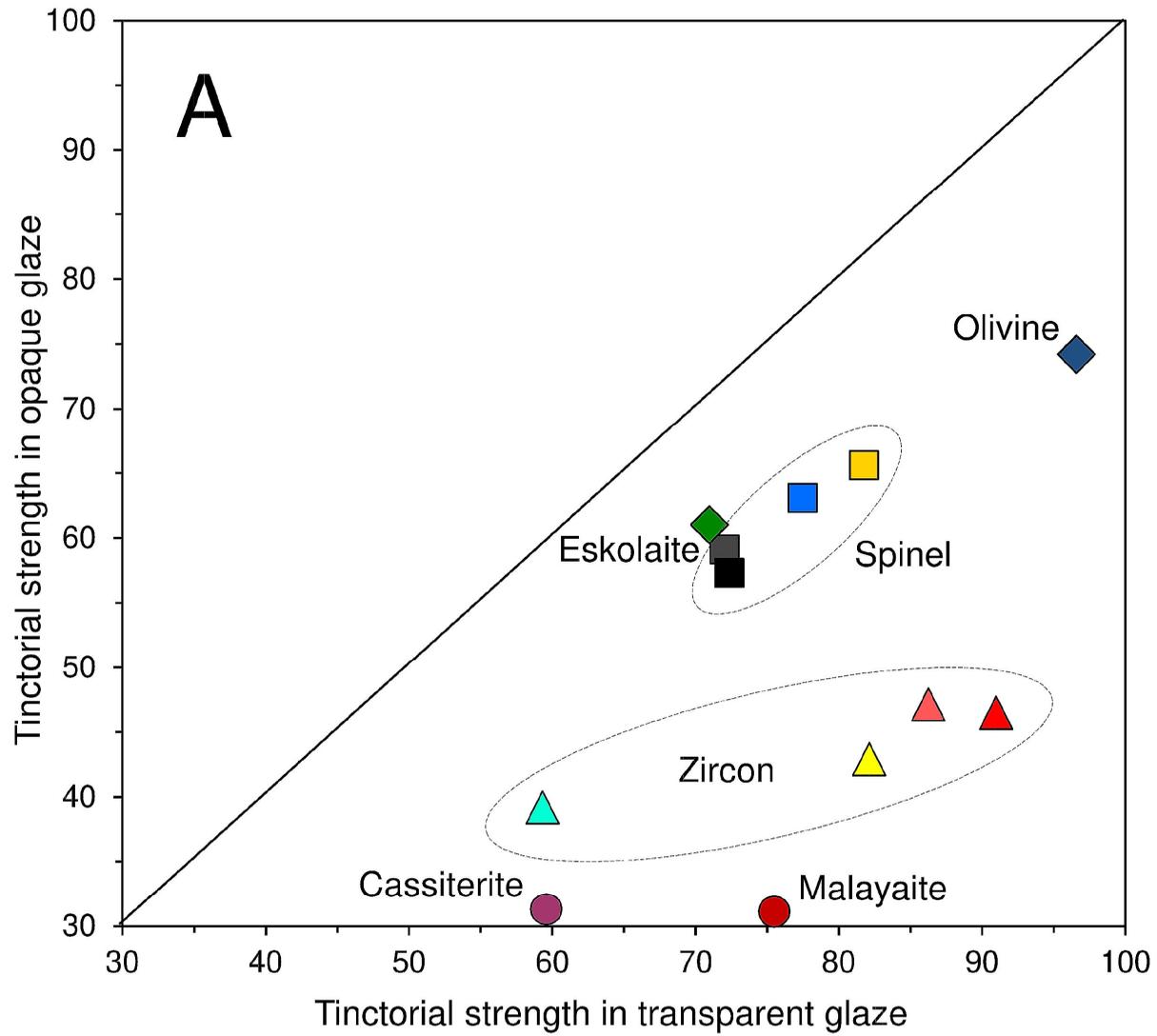
Pigment, Dye, Effect	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Zircon	ZrSiO ₄	white not filed					
Cassiterite	SnO ₂	white WHITE 15		3	3	3	3
Corundum	Al ₂ O ₃	white, effect not filed	4				
Baddeleyite	ZrO ₂	white, effect WHITE 12				1	1
Zr soluble salt	Zr-organometallic	white, effect not filed	1 4	1 4	1 4		
Rutile	TiO ₂	white WHITE 6		1	1	3	1
Spinel	MgAl ₂ O ₄	white not filed	4	4	4	3	4
Cerianite	CeO ₂	effect(white) not filed				3	
Fe phosphates	Fe ₂ Fe(P ₂ O ₇) ₂ NaFe ₃ (PO ₄) ₃	metallic luster			1	1	1
Scheelite	CaWO ₄	metallic luster				1	1
Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃	aventurine				1	1
Shcherbinaite	V ₂ O ₅	sink effect				1	
Clinobisvanite	BiVO ₄	sink effect YELLOW 184				1	
Mica (<i>coated by metal oxide</i>)	KAl ₃ Si ₃ O ₄ (OH) ₂ @TiO ₂ or Fe ₂ O ₃	pearlescent luster		1	1		1
Titania slag	Ti-rich slag	speckle effect		1	1		1 4

Decoration technologies used in ceramic tiles production

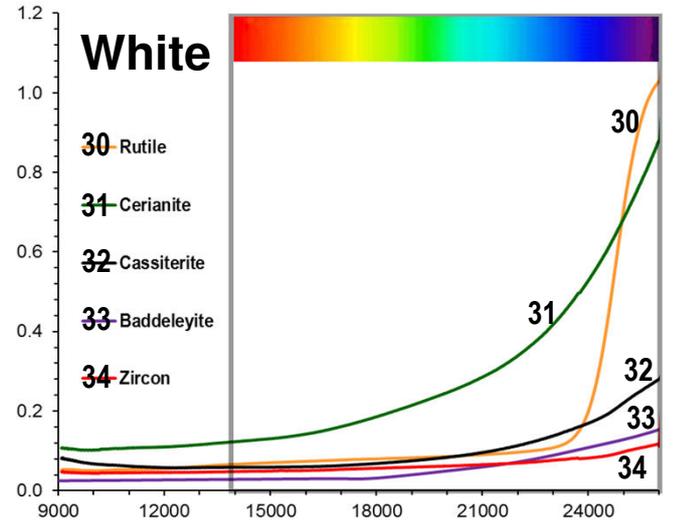
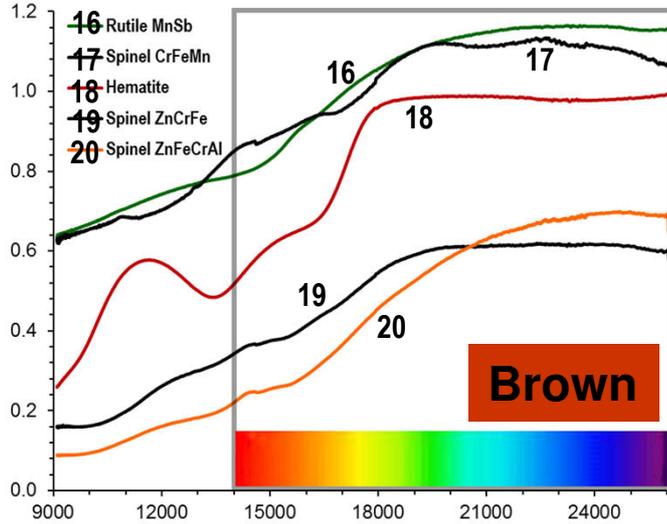
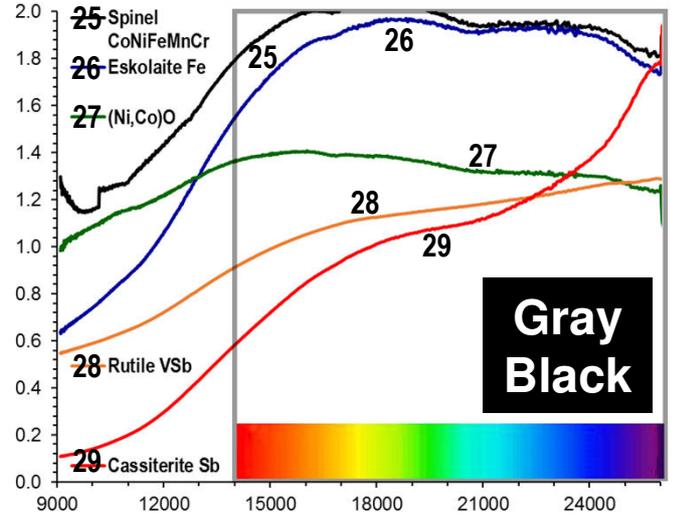
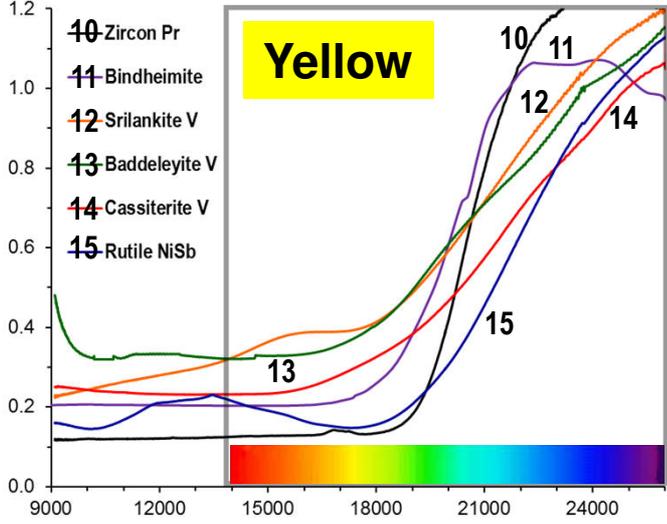
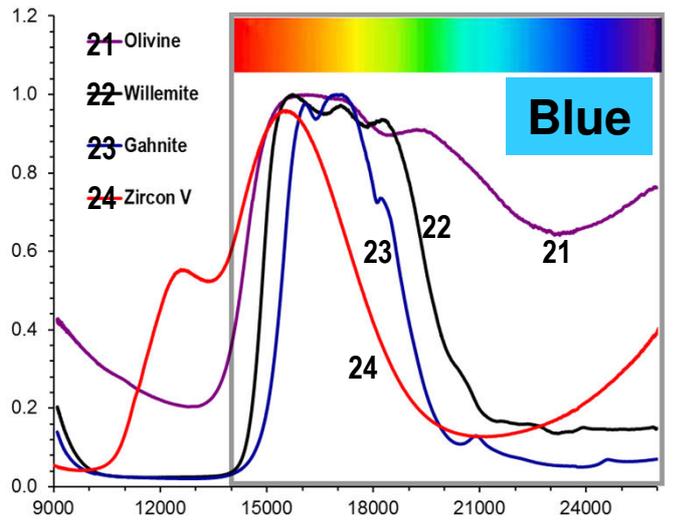
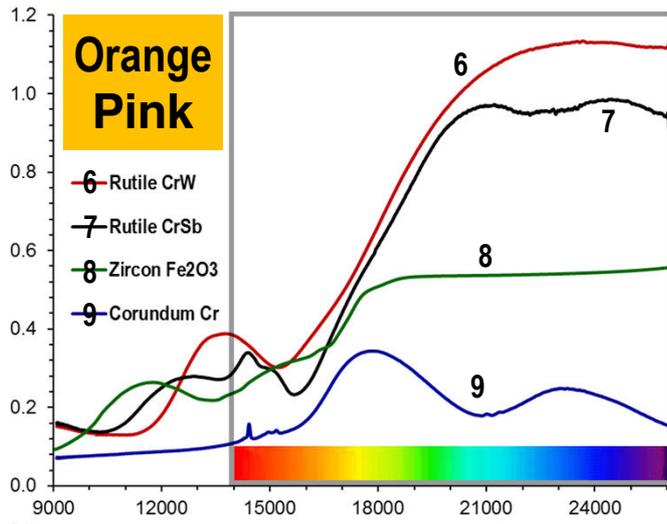
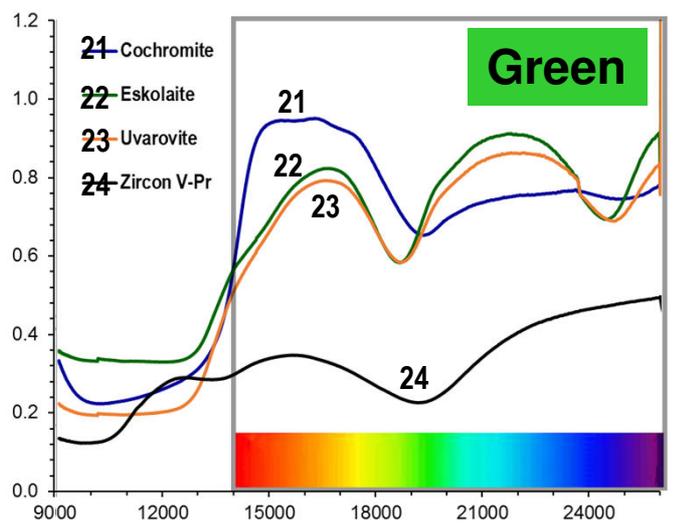
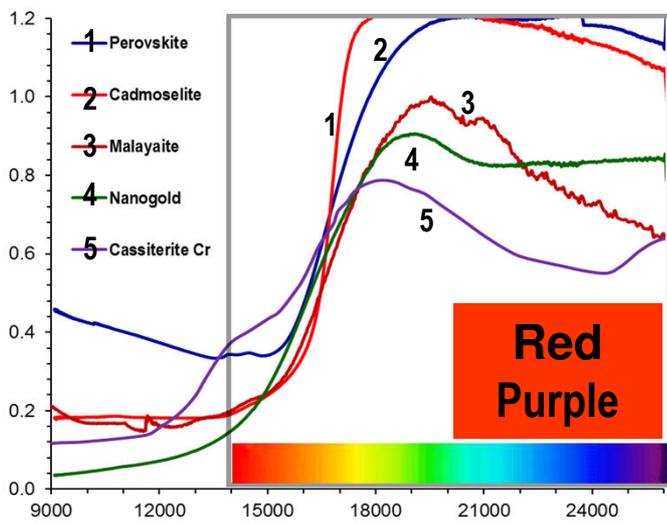




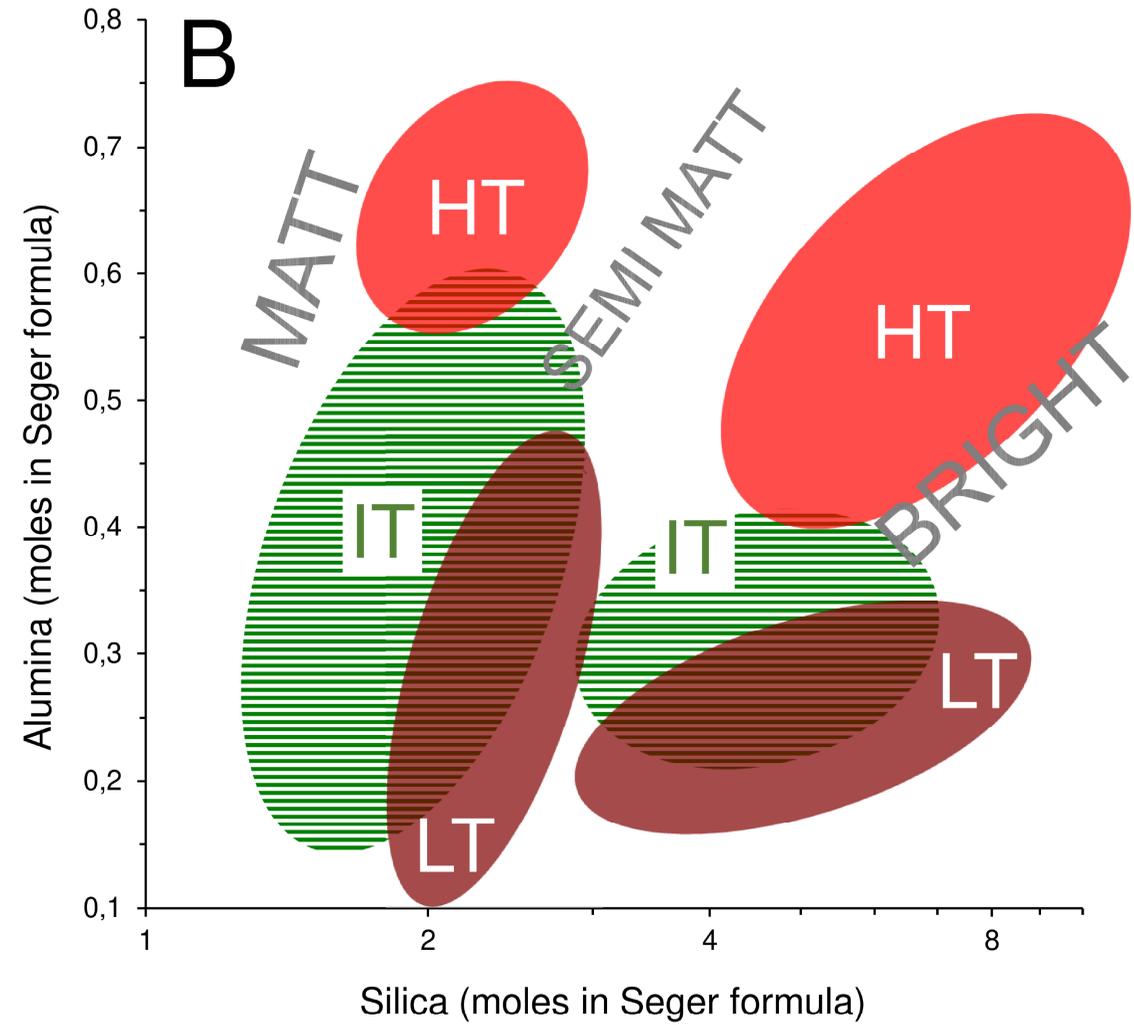
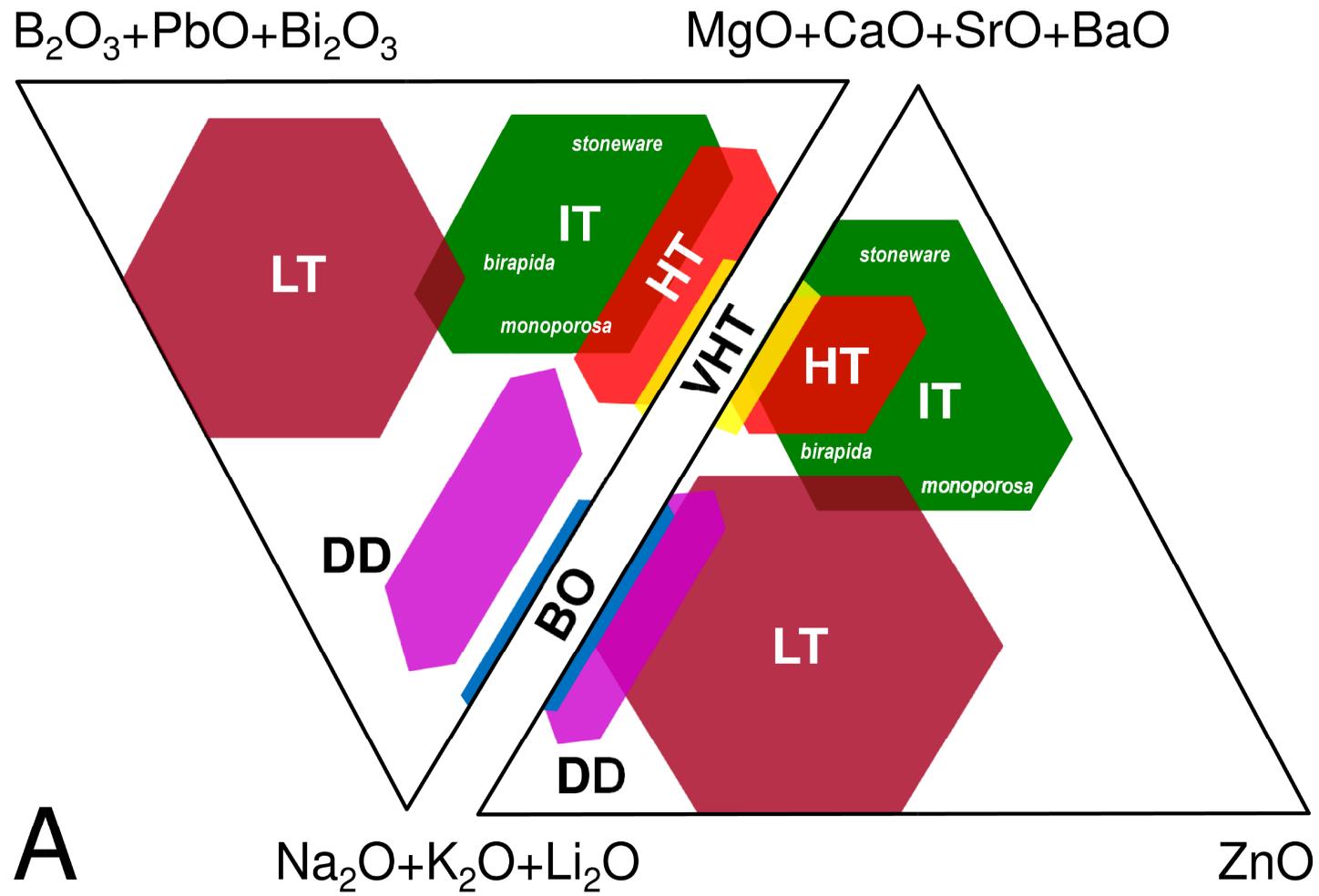


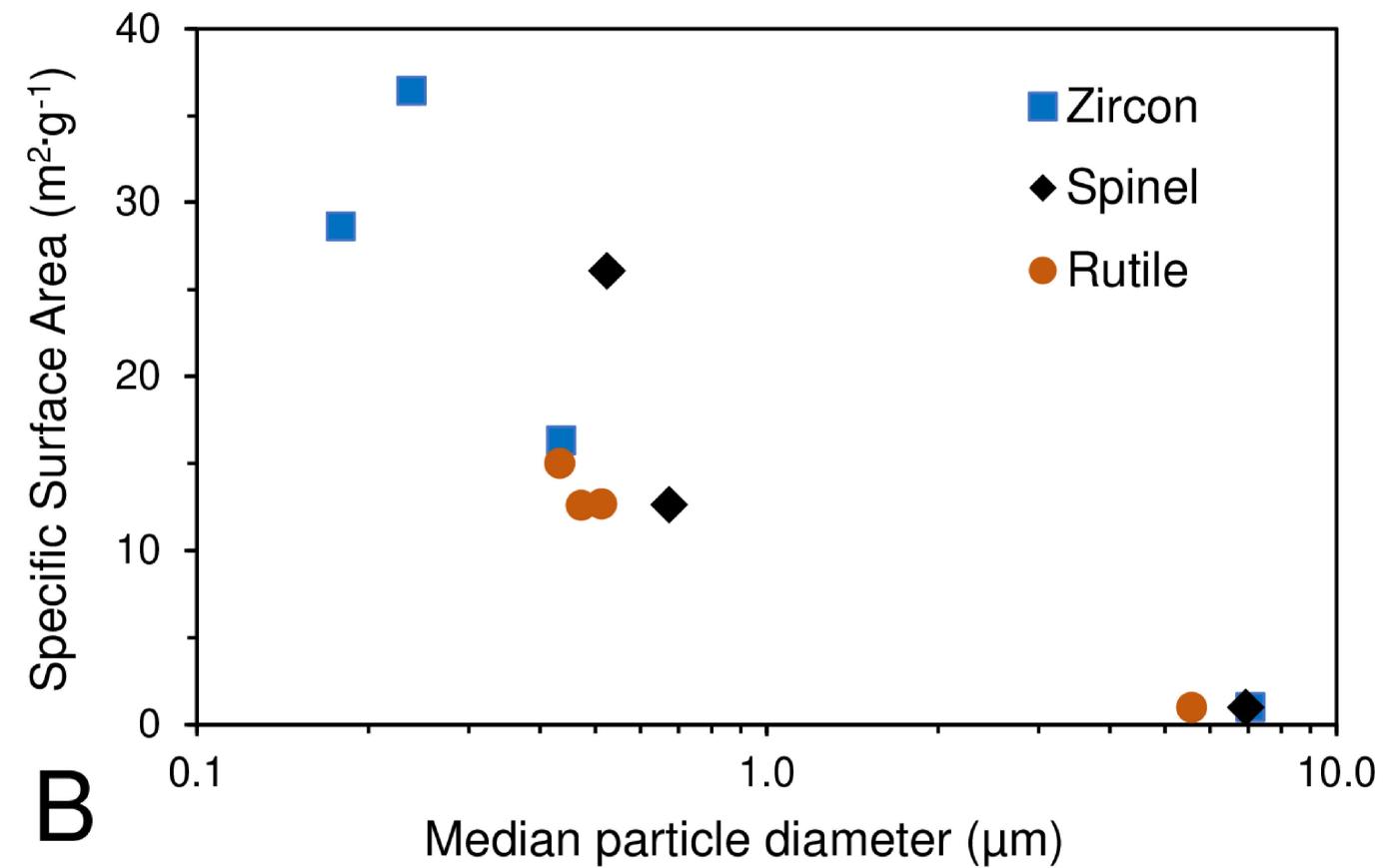
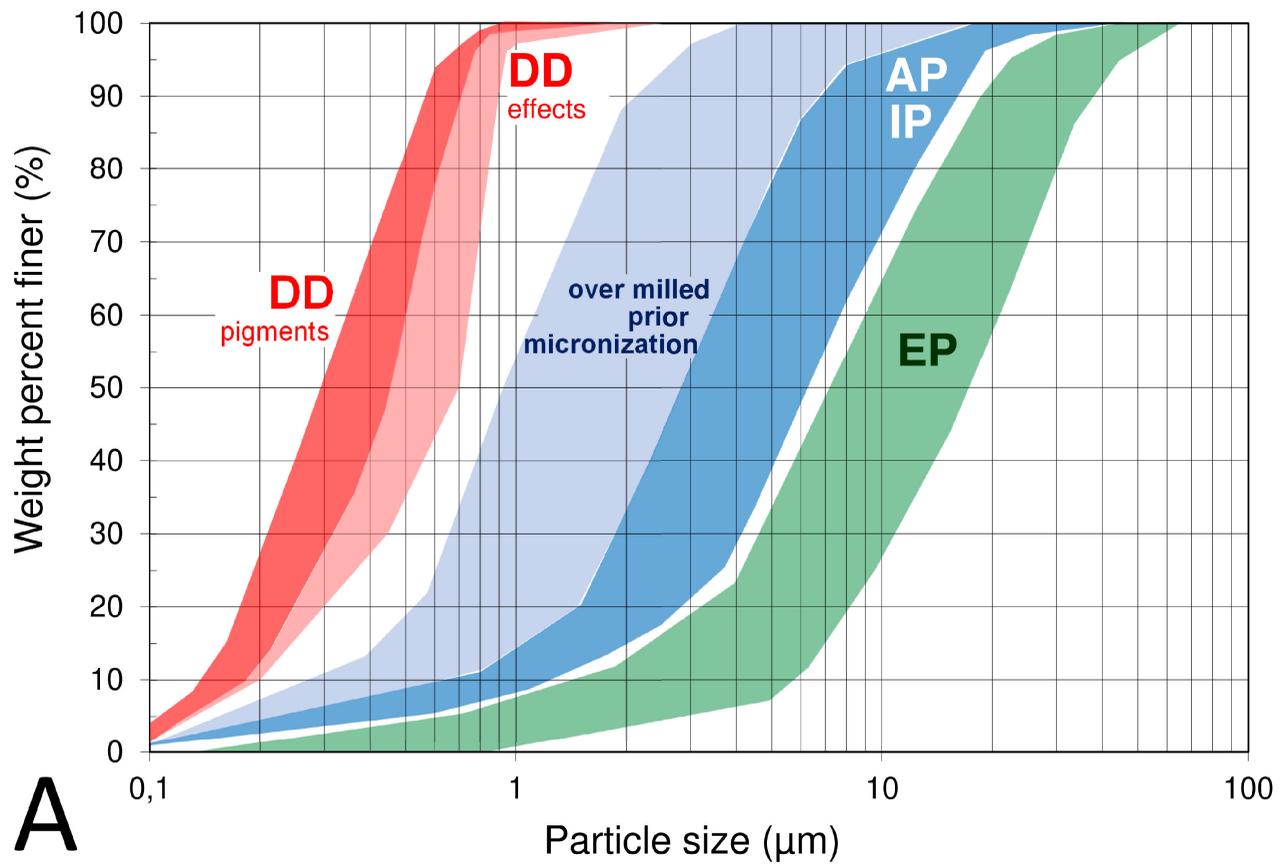


Kubelka-Munk Optical Absorbance (K/S)



Wavenumber (cm⁻¹)





Ceramic Pigments and Dyes beyond the Inkjet Revolution: from Technological Requirements to Constraints in Colorant Design

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Abstract

The advent of digital decoration has changed the technological requirements of colorants and the way they are applied onto ceramic substrates. This technological revolution has introduced additional steps in colorant production (ink micronization) and new constraints in application (ink-jet printing) that cannot be reproduced in a standard ceramic laboratory, so stretching the distance between academic and industrial research. The goal of this work is to provide an up-to-date picture of ceramic pigments, dyes and effects, with emphasis on their behavior in the current decoration technologies, which are shortly reviewed. Technological performance expected for ceramic colorants and new requirements imposed by digital decoration are discussed in detail. An extensive overview of both industrially used and candidate pigments, dyes and effects is focused on the suitability to different ceramic applications and firing conditions. Finally, lines of future research are outlined and commented.

Key-words: ceramics, colorant, dye, effect, glaze, pigment.

1. Introduction

Coloration of ceramic materials implies the use of technologies that are different from many other applications, mainly because of the high temperature treatment that imposes specific requirements to colorants. This peculiarity makes it advisable to reappraise the conventional definitions and classification of *colorants* (hereafter used as a comprehensive term for pigments and dyes) in order to explain the terminology commonly utilized in the ceramic industry (Table 1).

The industry of ceramic colorants is apparently a mature sector: almost all pigments, currently on the market, entered in use since the 19th century to 1960 [1,2]. Ceramic pigments and dyes are utilized to bestow color on wall and floor tiles, tableware, sanitaryware, art wares, roof tiles, and enamels (for metallic wares). However, the quantity of colorants globally used in ceramic tile production is much larger (and it grew faster in the last decades) than in all the other sectors and at present represents over 80% of the global demand for ceramic pigments and dyes. For this reason, trends in colorant manufacturing have been essentially driven by the ceramic tile industry.

The strong technological innovation in tile-making that occurred in the 1980s (introduction of fast single firing) and the 1990s (development of porcelain stoneware) had limited effects on the range of pigments and dyes actually used in the industrial practice.

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* Both authors equally contributed to the study.

§ Corresponding author.

Table 1. Definition of pigment, dye, and effect for ceramic applications and various types currently used by the industry.

Colorant	Definition in the ceramic sector
Pigment	Pigments are colored, black or white particulate inorganic solids which are largely insoluble in, and essentially physically and chemically unaffected by, the matrix in which they are incorporated (including the melt present in bodies and glazes during firing). They alter appearance by selective absorption and/or by scattering of light. Pigments are usually dispersed in vehicles for application, as for instance in the manufacture of colored powder agglomerates or ceramic inks to decorate glazes and bodies. Pigments retain their crystal structure throughout the ceramic process. Modified after the CPMA ¹ definition.
IP	Idiochromatic or "self-colored" pigments, where the chromophore is a major ingredient of the crystal structure, e.g. chromite spinel, FeCr ₂ O ₄ , or uvarovite garnet, Ca ₃ Cr ₂ Si ₃ O ₁₂ .
AP	Allochromatic or "other colored" pigments, where the chromophore is present as dopant of the host crystal structure, e.g. praseodymium in zircon, (Zr,Pr)SiO ₄ , or chromium in malayaite, Ca(Sn,Cr)(Si,Cr)O ₅ .
MP	Mordant pigments, where chromophore occurs as tiny inclusions in the host crystal structure, e.g. vanadium pentoxide into baddeleyite, ZrO ₂ [V ₂ O ₅]. The size of inclusions is smaller than the domain of coherent diffraction, thus the chromophore cannot be detected by X-ray diffraction.
EP	Encapsulated pigments, where the chromophore agent is coated by a protective layer because heat-labile or chemically attacked by the melt present in glazes and bodies, e.g. cadmium sulfide in zircon, ZrSiO ₄ [CdS]. They are sometimes called "occlusion" or "inclusion" pigments. The size of inclusions is larger than the domain of coherent diffraction, thus the pigment may be detected by X-ray diffraction.
Dye	Dyes are colored, black or white organometallic complexes or inorganic substances that are destroyed during firing, thus dissolved into glazes and glasses and the melt present in ceramic bodies. They impart color to a substrate by selective absorption of light. They are soluble complexes or particulates dispersed in vehicles for application, as for instance in the manufacture of soluble salts and ceramic inks to decorate glazes and bodies. Dyes do not retain their crystal structure but may promote crystallization/precipitation of other crystalline substances that occur at the end of the ceramic process. Modified after the ETAD ² definition.
SD	Soluble salts are dyes consisting of organometallic complexes in aqueous solutions or solvents, which are decomposed during firing, e.g. Co ²⁺ -carboxylate complex. Transition metal ions impart color to the ceramic matrix in which are incorporated.
RD	Reactive dyes are soluble salts that, reacting during firing with the ceramic matrix, induce the crystallization of colored crystalline phases. Reaction products usually incorporate the transition metal ions provided by the dye, e.g. Ti-Cr-Sb organometallic complexes that lead to the formation of rutile, (Ti,Cr,Sb)O ₂ .
PD	Crystalline particulates are inorganic solids, which are dissolved during firing and incorporated into the ceramic matrix. Color is bestowed by transition metal ions migrated in the vitreous phase of bodies and glazes, e.g. Co ²⁺ of LiCoPO ₄ .
Effect	Effects are particulate inorganic solids that confer peculiar optical and textural features to ceramic surfaces. They typically react during firing with the matrix in which are incorporated, generally ceramic glazes and glasses. They alter appearance by scattering of light and/or by modifying gloss, iridescence or texture of surfaces. Effects are usually dispersed in vehicles for application, as for instance in the manufacture of ceramic inks to decorate glazes. Effects do not retain their crystal structure but may promote the formation of other crystalline and amorphous phases.
SE	Sink inducing a bas-relief texture, consisting of slightly depressed zones developed during firing by enhanced fusibility.
BE	Gloss/Matt turning the surface either shiny (gloss) or opaque (matt) by changing refractive index or precipitating crystals, respectively.
GE	Glitter sparkling effect, simulating the aventurine glass, achieved by precipitation of properly oriented crystals.
LE	Luster simulating the brilliance and iridescence of metallic surfaces (steel and precious metals).

¹CPMA: Color Pigments Manufacturers Association. ²ETAD: Ecological and Toxicological Association of Dyes and organic pigments manufacturers.

38 This occurred despite the complete change in chemical composition of bodies, frits and glazes [3-5] which
 39 now need much higher firing temperatures (from ~900-1000°C of traditional fire to 1100-1160°C for porous
 40 tiles and 1180-1240°C for vitrified tiles). Also, the way by which pigments and dyes are applied on ceramic
 41 tiles has evolved over time [4-6].

42 Such a steady picture was revolutionized by the advent of digital decoration of ceramic tiles that took place
 43 on a large scale since 2009 [7-9]. The introduction of inkjet printing (IJP) has completely changed both the
 44 way colorants are applied onto the ceramic tiles and the technological requirements for pigments and dyes
 45 [9-11]. By this way, pigment manufacturers had to face a paradigm shift: the finished product is no longer a
 46 powdered colorant (to be admixed with vehicles in the customer's factory) but turned into an ink
 47 (encompassing colorant, carrier and additives) with a proper technological behavior certified for each type of
 48 inkjet print head and printer. Nowadays, digital decoration is spreading through other ceramic sectors
 49 (tableware, decals, etc) and allied industries (glass, artificial stone).

50 This new situation has important repercussions on the R&D of ceramic colorants. As a matter of fact, the
 51 requirements that pigment must fulfil have changed in the last decade: old issues have been readdressed
 52 (e.g., reaction kinetics during firing) and new targets appeared (e.g., behavior during micronization). The goal
 53 of the present overview is to provide an up-to-date picture of ceramic pigments, dyes and effects, with
 54 special attention to technological requirements and suitability of different colorants for the current decoration
 55 technologies, in order to shorten the distance between academic research and industry needs.

56 The paper is structured as follows: technologies used in ceramic decoration are briefly described (section 2)
 57 to introduce the technological performance required to ceramic colorants (section 3) with emphasis on the
 58 new requirements of digital decoration (section 4). The suitability of both industrially used and candidate
 59 pigments and dyes to different ceramic applications is discussed in detail (section 5). Finally, open questions
 60 and lines of future research are addressed in section 6.

Technology	Ceramic product	Decoration techniques	Colorant applied as	Firing	Firing reactions with	Pigment size distribution
LT Low Temperature	third-fire applications classic slow double- fired products	rotogravure (silicon roller) screen printing (rotary or flat) flexography airless spraying (see Figure 2)	powder dispersed in paste or glaze	slow double third fire 700-950°C	low temperature glaze	micrometric pigments d ₅₀ =3-7 μm d ₉₀ =7-15 μm encapsulated pigments d ₅₀ =10-20 μm d ₉₀ =15-30 μm
IT Intermediate Temperature	porous (<i>monoporosa</i> , <i>birapida</i>) and semi- vitrified tiles (<i>stoneware</i>)			fast single (double) 1080-1160°C 30-50 min	intermediate temperature glaze	
HT High Temperature	highly vitrified tiles (<i>glazed porcelain stoneware</i>)		powder in slip or stuck on granules	fast single 1180-1220°C 50-90 min	high temperature glaze	
BO Body (unglazed)	highly vitrified tiles (<i>unglazed porcelain stoneware</i>)		soluble salt	fast single 1190-1230°C 60-90 min	porcelain stoneware body	
VHT Very High Temperature	highly vitrified products (<i>vitreous china</i> , <i>porcelain</i>)		decal screen printing painting	powder dispersed in paste or stuck on decal	slow single or double 1250-1400°C	
DD Digital Decoration	all tile types: stoneware, porcelain stoneware, third-fire, birapida, monoporosa	DOD inkjet printing	ink	fast single 700-1240°C 30-90 min	all glazes and bodies	micronized pigments d ₅₀ =0.3-0.7 μm d ₉₀ =0.6-1.0 μm

61

62 Figure 1. Technologies used in ceramic tiles manufacturing and related decoration techniques.

63 2. Technological evolution in the ceramic tile industry

64 A continuous technological upgrading occurred in ceramic tile manufacturing and deeply influenced the way
 65 colorants are applied by different decoration techniques and the conditions they undergo during firing [3,5,6].
 66 Basically, five technologies have been utilized to decorate ceramic tiles of different kinds: they are
 67 distinguished by application techniques, firing schedules, ceramic matrices, and pigment features,
 68 particularly particle size (Fig. 1).

69 In this framework, the decoration department underwent an evolution over the last decades regarding the
 70 application techniques (Fig. 2). In particular, the digital decoration caused two disruptive innovations [9-10]:

- 71 i) IJP replaced almost totally the preceding means of decoration, as only the technological solutions for
 72 unglazed bodies survived (at variance of previous advancements that always saw the coexistence for
 73 long time of various techniques).
- 74 ii) IJP requires a further step of micronization to get particle size in the submicronic range, while the other
 75 techniques make use of standard ceramic pigments, that have the particle size in the micrometer range
 76 (Fig. 1). This implies a considerable change in specific surface area of colorants, which in turn affects the
 77 color **saturation** and reaction kinetics during firing.

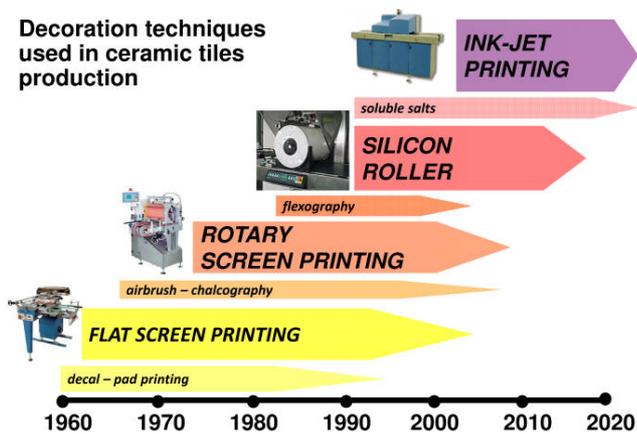


Fig. 2. Decoration techniques utilized in ceramic tile manufacturing since 1960.

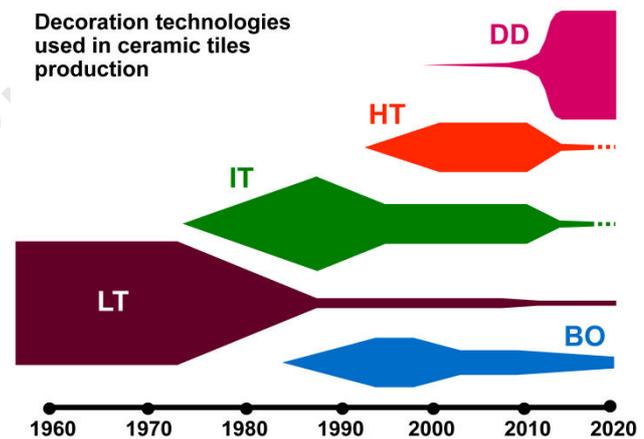


Fig. 3. Evolution of ceramic tile decoration technologies: symbols refer to Figure 1.

78 Figure 3 illustrates how ceramic technologies evolved along the last sixty years, starting from low
 79 temperature treatments: slow double-firing, now disappeared, and present day third fire applications (LT).
 80 Next step was the fast single-firing at intermediate temperature to produce porous and semi-vitrified tiles (IT).
 81 The follow-up was at high temperature for unglazed porcelain stoneware (BO) and then glazed porcelain
 82 stoneware (HT). Both the IT and HT decoration technologies are going to be completely replaced by the
 83 novel solutions developed to implement IJP and further digital techniques on ceramic tiles (DD).

84 Further factors have been playing a crucial role, beyond the technological aspects, in the design of ceramic
 85 colorants. They are connected with the growing concern on health and safety issues all along the colorant
 86 value chain, entailing effluents, gaseous emissions, hazardous substances and, in general, the reduction of
 87 chemical risk. Current regulations – like REACH in the EU [12] or TSCA in the USA [13] – may determine the
 88 fate of a given colorant. For instance, the occurrence of a carcinogenic ingredient among precursors may
 89 turn the manufacture too costly, because of all the preventive measures and controls imposed to the pigment
 90 industry [14,15].

91 3. Technological requirements for ceramic colorants

92 Pigments and dyes must fulfil a set of technical requirements to be applied in ceramic manufacturing [2,16].
 93 These specifications concerned – in the pre-IJP technologies – essentially refractoriness, color saturation,
 94 optical properties, resistance to chemical attack, and particle size distribution. Such requirements will be
 95 henceforward discussed in some detail for industrial pigments, which basic crystallographic and physical
 96 features are summarized in Table 2, and for industrial dyes and effects as well, which general features are
 97 described in Table 3.

Table 2. Crystallographic and physical characteristics of the main substances used as ceramic pigments.

Crystal structure	Formula	Symmetry	Space Group	Density (Mg·m ⁻³)	Melting point (°C)	Refractive indices (adim.)			
Baddeleyite	ZrO ₂	monoclinic	<i>P2₁/c</i>	5.75	2710	B	2.13	2.19	2.20
Bunsenite	NiO	cubic	<i>Fm3m</i>	7.45	1955	I	1.74		
Cassiterite	SnO ₂	tetragonal	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	6.95	1630	U	1.97	2.02	
Cerianite	CeO ₂	cubic	<i>Fm3m</i>	7.22	2400	I	2.13		
Corundum	Al ₂ O ₃	trigonal	<i>R-3c</i>	4.05	2050	U	1.76	1.77	
Garnet	Ca ₃ Cr ₂ Si ₃ O ₁₂	cubic	<i>Ia3d</i>	3.59	1370	I	1.86		
Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃	trigonal	<i>R-3c</i>	5.30	1540	U	2.91	3.19	
Hibonite	CaAl ₁₂ O ₁₉	hexagonal	<i>P6₃/mmc</i>	3.84	1910	U	1.79	1.81	
Malayaite	CaSnSiO ₅	monoclinic	<i>A2/a</i>	4.42	1330	B	1.77	1.78	1.80
Perovskite	YAlO ₃	orthorhombic	<i>Pbnm</i>	4.56	1870	B	1.92	1.94	1.95
Pridelite	BaNiTi ₇ O ₁₆	tetragonal	<i>I4/m</i>	3.86	1400	U	2.35	2.37	
Pseudobrookite	Fe ₂ TiO ₅	orthorhombic	<i>Bbmm</i>	4.40	1550	B	2.37	2.38	2.40
Pyrochlore	Pb ₂ Sb ₂ O ₇	cubic	<i>Fd3m</i>	5.94	1310	I	1.86		
Rutile	TiO ₂	tetragonal	<i>P4₂/mnm</i>	4.25	1850	U	2.87	2.58	
Spinel	MgAl ₂ O ₄	cubic	<i>Fd3m</i>	3.64	2140	I	1.76		
Srilankite	ZrTiO ₄	orthorhombic	<i>Pbcn</i>	4.77	1840	B	2.33	2.38	2.41
Willemite	Zn ₂ SiO ₄	trigonal	<i>R-3</i>	4.05	1510	B	1.71	1.72	
Wurtzite	CdS	hexagonal	<i>P6₃mc</i>	4.49	1290	B	2.53	2.51	
Zircon	ZrSiO ₄	tetragonal	<i>I4₁/amd</i>	4.65	2550	B	1.92	1.97	

98 Note: I, U, and B stand for optically Isotropic (a single refractive index), Uniaxial (two refractive indices), and Biaxial (three refractive indices), respectively.

99 3.1. Refractoriness

100 Ceramic pigments must have a high melting point, consistently above the firing temperature they have to
 101 withstand in the industrial kiln. Indeed, the melting point reasonably matches the colorant behavior usually
 102 recognized in the industrial practice. Significantly, all the pigment structures widely used in large-scale
 103 ceramic production melt above 1600°C (Table 2), with the single exception of malayaite, that means at least
 104 400°C above the highest temperature of industrial kilns for ceramic tiles (~1240°C). In particular, melting
 105 temperatures above 2000°C correspond to highly stable structures – like baddeleyite, zircon, spinel, or
 106 corundum – that are known to withstand high firing temperatures in a wide range of ceramic matrices [2,16].
 107 On the other hand, a melting point in the 1800-2000°C range characterizes reliable host structures – such as
 108 periclase-bunsenite, perovskite or rutile – which, however, denote some instability either at the highest firing
 109 temperatures or in touch with aggressive glazes [16-18]. Certain stability problems are recognized when the
 110 melting occurs below 1800°C – as for garnet, hematite, willemite and wurtzite – which are generally used in
 111 low temperature applications or once encapsulated by protective layers [18-19]. Thus, melting point should
 112 be considered as a basic prerequisite in the pigment design.

Table 3. Chemical and physical characteristics of the main substances used as ceramic dyes and effects.

Compound	Formula	Structure	Density (Mg·m ⁻³)	Melting point (°C)	Type Table 1	Color/Effect
Cerianite	CeO ₂	cubic, <i>Fm3m</i>	6.95	1630	LE	metallic luster
Chromium	Cr ³⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	green or light brown
Chromium-Antimony	Cr ³⁺ + Sb ⁵⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	yellow
Clinobisvanite	BiVO ₄	monoclinic, <i>I2/a</i>	6.95	~900	SE	sink
Cobalt olivine	Co ₂ SiO ₄	orthorhombic, <i>Pbnm</i>	4.04	1420	PD	blue
Cobalt lithiophylite	LiCoPO ₄	orthorhombic, <i>Pbnm</i>	3.76	~800	PD	blue
Cobalt sarcopside	Co ₃ (PO ₄) ₂	monoclinic, <i>P2₁/c</i>	3.82	1120	PD	blue
Cobalt suanite	MgCoB ₂ O ₅	monoclinic, <i>P2₁/c</i>	2.35	~1100	PD	blue
Cobalt	Co ²⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	blue
Copper	Cu ⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	green
Ferroalluaudite	NaFe ₃ (PO ₄) ₃	monoclinic, <i>C12/c</i>	3.60	~900	LE	metallic luster
Frit (glossy)	Si-B-Na-K-Ca-Ba-O	borosilicate glass	2.4÷2.6	700÷1200 ¹	BE	glossy surface
Frit (matt)	Si-B-Na-K-Ca-Zn-Mg-O	borosilicate glass	2.4÷2.6	700÷1200 ¹	BE	opaque surface
Gold	Au ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	magenta or metallic gold
Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃	trigonal, <i>R-3c</i>	5.30	1540	LE	metallic luster
Iron	Fe ³⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	brown
Iron phosphate	Fe ₂ Fe(P ₂ O ₇) ₂	orthorhombic, <i>Pnma</i>	3.07	940	LE	metallic luster
Liebenbergite	Ni ₂ SiO ₄	orthorhombic, <i>Pbnm</i>	4.60	1650	PD	green
Nickel	Ni ²⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	brown
Palladium	Pd ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	gray
Platinum	Pt ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	metallic platinum
Ruthenium	Ru ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	black
Scheelite	CaWO ₄	tetragonal, <i>I4₁/a</i>	6.01	1580	GE	aventurine
Shcherbinaite	V ₂ O ₅	orthorhombic, <i>Pmmn</i>	3.28	690	SE	sink
Silver	Ag ⁰	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	yellow or metallic silver
Tenorite	CuO	monoclinic, <i>C2/c</i>	6.50	1240	GE	aventurine
Vanadium	V ³⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	SD	light brown
Zirconium	Zr ⁴⁺	organometallic complex	—	—	RD	white, matt

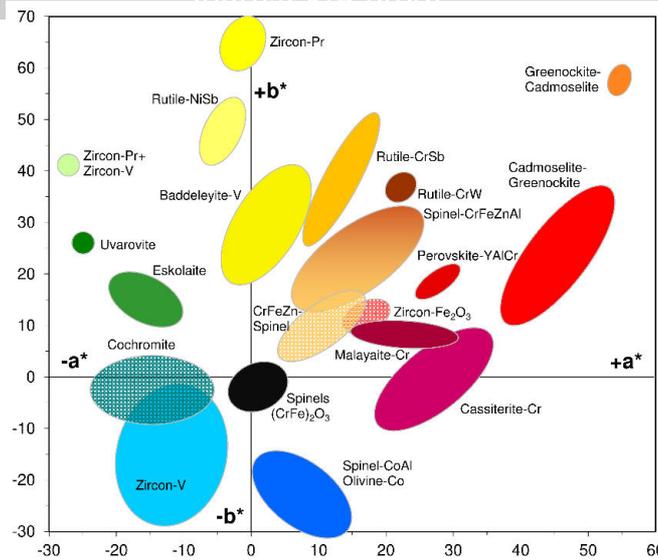
¹Softening (maturing) temperature.

113

114 Completely different is the case of dyes, since a low melting point is needed to ensure an easy and complete
 115 dissolution into the ceramic matrix. Particulate dyes exhibit melting temperatures usually in the 900-1100°C
 116 range (Table 3), thus well below the firing temperatures of the IT and HT technologies (Fig. 1). A separate
 117 case is that of silicate dyes (Cobalt olivine and liebenbergite) that melt over 1400°C, though are readily
 118 dissolved in most glazes. Low melting temperatures (600 to 900°C) are typical of the sink effect, which is
 119 obtained by drastically boosting the fusibility in order to locally drop the viscosity of glazes or glassy coatings.
 120 On the other hand, glitter and luster effects imply crystallization that may occur either during sintering or
 121 cooling. Therefore, the melting points of crystallizing phases vary in a wide range: from 900 to 1650°C.

122 3.2. Color saturation

123 The typical color palette obtainable with standard ceramic colorants can be plotted in the a*-b* equatorial
 124 plane of CIE-L*a*b* coordinates (Fig. 4) where +a* is red, -a* is green, +b* is yellow and -b* is blue
 125 [2,16,19-20]. The sector between the +a* and +b* axes is rather crowded by several pigments of warm color,
 126 going from red to orange and yellow. Less numerous are the industrial colorants in the yellow to green
 127 quarter (+b* to -a*) and some plot in the green to blue (-a* to -b*) and blue to purple (-b* to +a*) quarters. It
 128 deserves to be noticed there are “pure colors” (i.e., those approaching the highest value of chroma) and
 129 “pastel colors” (plotting somehow midway to the origin of axes).



130
131
132

Fig. 4. Gamut of colors (a^*b^* equatorial plane, CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$ coordinates) for industrially-manufactured ceramic pigments and dyes [modified after 2].

133 However, it must be emphasized that the concept of color **intensity** for ceramic applications involves both
134 color saturation and brightness [1,19-20], so it should not be merely expressed by the chromatic coordinates
135 of Figure 4. In order to overcome this limit, the *tinctorial strength* index is proposed for the first time:

136

$$T^* = (100 - L^*) + C^* = (100 - L^*) + (a^{*2} + b^{*2})^{1/2}$$

137 where L^* is lightness (0=white, 100=black) and C^* is chroma. It should not be confused with the *tinting*
138 *strength* (used in paints), the *color strength* (applied in the textile sector) or the *tinctorial power* (utilized in the
139 *food industry*) all based on the Kubelka-Munk equation.

140 From this standpoint, the industrial pigments and dyes exhibit *tinctorial strength* that, in most cases, is in
141 between $T^* \sim 70$ and $T^* \sim 100$ (Fig. 5). These values can be devised as another basic requirement for ceramic
142 pigments and dyes to enter in the industrial practice. Significantly, most of the pigment candidates proposed
143 in the literature – that did not find an industrial application yet – exhibit a *tinctorial strength* that is lower than
144 the industrial colorant of similar hue. A detailed discussion on the colorant suitability for present day
145 applications is in section 5.

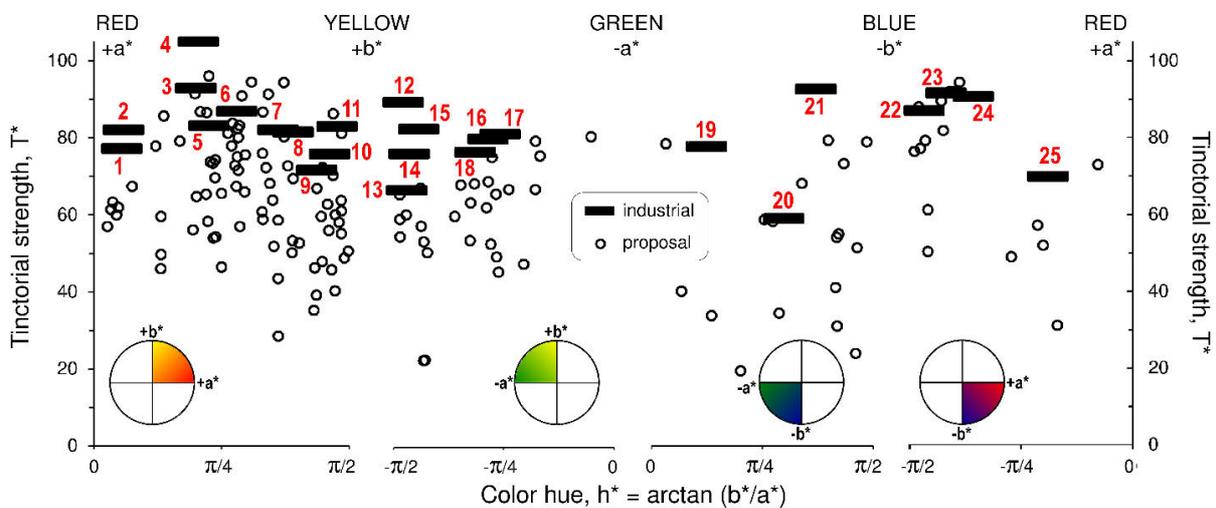


Fig. 5. Tinctorial strength versus color hue of the main industrial ceramic pigments and dyes (for numbers 1 to 25 see Table 4) and candidate colorants proposed in the literature.

Table 4. Color of the main ceramic pigments and dyes. Color Index number and code (Society of Dyers and Colourists). Chromophore: [ion coordination number]. Color origin: Crystal Field theory (CF); Metal Oxygen Charge Transfer (MOCT); Inter-Valence Charge Transfer (IVCT); Band theory (BT); Cooperative Transitions (COT); Paired spin Exchange transitions (PE).

no.	Structure/Name	Formula	Type	C.I. #	C.I. CODE	Chromophore	Origin	Reference
1	Cassius' purple	Au	IP	77482	RED 109	Au nanoparticles	plasmonics	
2	Malayaite	Ca(Sn,Cr)(Si,Cr)O ₅	AP	77301	RED 233	Cr ⁴⁺ [4] Cr ⁴⁺ [6]	CF	
3	Perovskite	Y(Al,Cr)O ₃	AP	—	—	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF COT	
4	Cadmoseelite (<i>in zircon</i>)	ZrSiO ₄ [Cd(Se,S)]	EP	77196	RED 108	band gap	BT	
5	Hematite (<i>in zircon</i>)	ZrSiO ₄ [Fe ₂ O ₃]	EP	77996	RED 232	Fe ³⁺ ↔Fe ³⁺ [6]	PE CF	
	Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃	IP	77491	RED 101	Fe ³⁺ ↔Fe ³⁺ [6]	PE CF	
6	Spinel Jacobsite	(Mn,Fe)(Mn,Fe) ₂ O ₄ (Mn,Fe)(Fe,Cr) ₂ O ₄	IP	77494 774945	BLACK 26 BROWN 46	Mn ²⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [4] Mn ³⁺ [6] Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Chromite	FeCr ₂ O ₄	IP	77500	BROWN 29	Cr ³⁺ [6] Fe ²⁺ [4]	CF MOCT	
7	Rutile	(Ti,Cr,Sb)O ₂ (Ti,Cr,Nb)O ₂	AP	77310 77896	BROWN 24 YELLOW 162	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
8	Rutile	(Ti,Cr,W)O ₂	AP	77897	YELLOW 163	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
9	Baddeleyite	ZrO ₂ [V ₂ O ₅]	MP	77991	YELLOW 160	V ₂ O ₅ V ⁴⁺ [8]	MOCT CF	
	Oxyplumboroméite	Pb ₂ Sb ₂ O ₇	IP	77588	YELLOW 41	band gap	BT	
		(Ti,Ni,Sb)O ₂		77788	YELLOW 53			
10	Rutile	(Ti,Ni,Nb)O ₂ (Ti,Ni,W)O ₂	AP	77895 77902	YELLOW 161 YELLOW 189	Ni ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Pyrochlore	Y ₂ (Sn,V) ₂ O ₇	AP	—	—	V ⁴⁺ [6]	CF	
	Srilankite	(Zr,Sn,Ti,V,In)O ₂	AP	—	—	V ⁴⁺ [6]	CF	
11	Zircon	(Zr,Pr)SiO ₄	AP	77997	YELLOW 159	Pr ⁴⁺ [8]	CF	
12	Greenockite (<i>in zircon</i>)	ZrSiO ₄ [CdS] ZrSiO ₄ [Cd(S,Se)]	EP	77205	YELLOW 35 ORANGE 20	band gap	BT	
	Spinel Gahnite	Zn(Al,Cr) ₂ O ₄	AP	77290	RED 235	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
	Corundum	(Al,Cr) ₂ O ₃ (Al,Mn) ₂ O ₃	AP	77003 77005	RED 230 RED 231	Cr ³⁺ [6] Mn ³⁺ [6]	CF CF	
13	Spinel Zincchromite	(Zn,Fe)(Cr,Fe,Al) ₂ O ₄ Zn(Fe,Cr) ₂ O ₄	IP	77496 77503	YELLOW 119 BROWN 33	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
14	Cassiterite	(Sn,V)O ₂ [V ₂ O ₅]	MP	77862	YELLOW 158	V ₂ O ₅ V ⁴⁺ [6]	MOCT CF	
15	Priderite	Ba(Ti,Ni) ₈ O ₁₆	AP	77900	YELLOW 157	Ni ²⁺ [6]	CF	
16	Garnet Uvarovite	Ca ₃ Cr ₂ (SiO ₄) ₃	IP	77300	GREEN 51	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
17	Eskolaite	Cr ₂ O ₃	IP	77288	GREEN 17	Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
	Olivine Liebensbergite	Ni ₂ SiO ₄	PD	77850	—	Ni ²⁺ [6] Ni ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF	
18	Spinel Co-Ti	Co ₂ TiO ₄ (Co,Al) ₂ (Al,Ti)O ₄	IP	77377 773465	GREEN 50 BLUE 81	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
19	Spinel Cochromite	CoCr ₂ O ₄ (Zn,Co)Cr ₂ O ₄	IP	77344 77343	GREEN 26 BLUE 36	Co ²⁺ [4] Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF	
20	Zircon	ZrSiO ₄ :V	AP	77998	BLUE 71	V ⁴⁺ -V ⁴⁺ [4]	CF	
21	Cassiterite	(Sn,Sb)O ₂	AP	77865	BLACK 23	band gap	BT	
	Spinel Hercynite	Fe(Al,Ti) ₂ O ₄	AP	—	—	Fe ²⁺ +Ti ⁴⁺ ↔Fe ³⁺ +Ti ³⁺ [6]	IVCT	
	Spinel Co-Sn	Co ₂ SnO ₄	IP	77368	BLUE 35	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
22	Spinel Gahnite	CoAl ₂ O ₄ (Co,Zn)Al ₂ O ₄	IP	77346 77347	BLUE 28 BLUE 72	Co ²⁺ [4]	CF MOCT	
23	Willemite	(Zn,Co) ₂ SiO ₄	AP	77366	BLUE 74	Co ²⁺ [4]	CF MOCT	
24	Olivine	Co ₂ SiO ₄	PD	77364	BLUE 73	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF MOCT	
	Perovskite	Y(Mn,In)O ₃	IP	—	BLUE 86	Mn ³⁺ [6] In ³⁺ [6]		
	Lithiophyllite	CoLiPO ₄	PD	77362	VIOLET 14	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF MOCT	
	Sarcopside	Co ₃ (PO ₄) ₂	PD	77363	VIOLET 47	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF MOCT	
	Suanite	MgCoB ₂ O ₅	DY	77352	VIOLET 48	Co ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [5] <i>in glass</i>	CF MOCT	
25	Cassiterite	(Sn,Cr)O ₂ [CrO ₂]	PD	77863	RED 236	CrO ₂ Cr ⁴⁺ [6] Cr ³⁺ -Cr ³⁺ [6]	IVCT CF	
	Rutile	(Ti,Mn,Sb)O ₂	AP	77899	YELLOW 164	Mn ²⁺ [6] Mn ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Pseudobrookite	Fe ₂ TiO ₅ (Al,Fe) ₂ TiO ₅	IP	77501 775435	BROWN 35 BROWN 48	Fe ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Chromite	FeCr ₂ O ₄	IP	77500	BROWN 29	Fe ²⁺ [4] Cr ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Ulvospinel	Fe ₂ TiO ₄	IP	77543	BLACK 12	Fe ²⁺ [4] Fe ²⁺ [6] Fe ²⁺ ↔Fe ³⁺	CF IVCT	
26	Periclase Bunsenite	(Ni,Co)O	IP	77332	BLACK 25	Ni ²⁺ [6] Co ²⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
27	Rutile	(Ti,V,Sb)O ₂	AP	77898	BLACK 24	V ⁴⁺ [6] V ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
28	Eskolaite-Hematite	(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₃	IP	77288	—	Cr ³⁺ [6] Fe ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Cuprospinel	CuCr ₂ O ₄	IP	77428	BLACK 28	Cr ³⁺ [6] Cu ²⁺ [4]	CF MOCT	
	Spinel Nichromite	Ni(Cr,Fe) ₂ O ₄	IP	77504	BLACK 30	Ni ²⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [6] Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
29	Spinel Co-ferrite	CoFe ₂ O ₄ Co(Fe,Cr) ₂ O ₄	IP	77498 77502	BLACK 29 BLACK 27	Co ²⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [6] Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	
30	Spinel complex	(Ni,Co,Mn) (Cr,Mn,Fe) ₂ O ₄	IP	—	—	Ni ²⁺ [4] Co ²⁺ [4] Mn ²⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [4] Fe ³⁺ [6] Mn ³⁺ [6] Cr ³⁺ [6]	CF MOCT	

147 Even more important are the chromatic coordinates of pigments once applied in the various types of ceramic
 148 bodies and glazes. Indeed, the performance of ceramic colorants depends to a large extent on the matrix
 149 and decreases moving from transparent glazes/glasses to opaque glazes to bodies [19-20]. On the other
 150 hand, it is well known that the color yield varies upon the amount of colorant added. Examples for the main
 151 ceramic pigments are given in Figure 6. Any direct comparison of the tinctorial strength of different colors,
 152 nonetheless, is not fully reliable, because the colorimetric system in use in the ceramic sector, i.e. CIE L*a*b*
 153 [21], does not reproduce the intensity of all the colors in the same way [22].

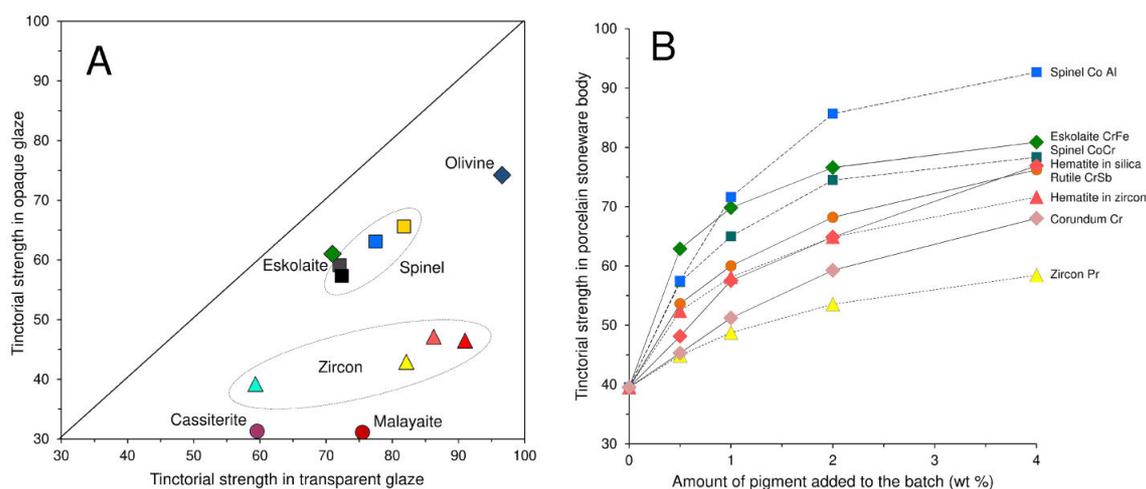


Fig. 6. Tintorial strength of ceramic pigments in transparent glaze versus opaque glaze (A) and as function of the amount of pigment into porcelain stoneware body (B). Data from [23].

154 Color has a strong dependence on optical properties and particle size distribution of pigments, which role will
 155 be discussed in detail in the next sections. However, the behavior of ceramic dyes is different, since it entails
 156 the efficiency by which the metal ions are incorporated – with the desired oxygen coordination number – into
 157 the vitreous phase of bodies and glazes.

158 3.3. Optical properties

159 Besides the knowledge of the origin of color in ceramics is fundamental for pigment design, a detailed
 160 discussion of optical spectra goes beyond the scope of the present overview. Here, *chromophores* (metal
 161 ions responsible for coloration once coordinated by a given number of oxygens) are summarized in Table 4.
 162 Reference is done to mechanisms behind color development that encompass the crystal field, ligand, and
 163 band theories, for which the Reader is addressed to specific treatises [24-27]. These formalisms may be
 164 associated to cooperative phenomena, like intervalence charge transfer or paired spin exchange transitions.
 165 The chromatic coordinates, by which the tinctorial strength is calculated, are affected by both the refractive
 166 indexes and the main absorption bands in the visible spectrum. The difference in refractive indexes between
 167 pigments (see Table 2) and the vitreous phase in which they are incorporated determines the degree of light
 168 scattering that is often seen as the ability to “cover” the substrate [28-29]. It consequently affects the
 169 brightness of color. The refractive index of ceramic glazes and glasses is usually in the 1.50-1.55 range [29].
 170 The difference in refractive indexes between pigment and matrix should be at least 0.2 to ensure an
 171 adequate light scattering and therefore a satisfactory covering effect. This requirement implies a threshold
 172 for effective pigments as high as 1.75 or so. Indeed, industrial pigments always exhibit refractive indexes
 173 over 1.7 and the best performance is found for values over 1.9.

174 Looking at the optical spectra of the main ceramic pigments and dyes (Fig. 7) it can be appreciated that
175 absorbance bands shift leftwards when colorants are considered in the order: white, yellow, orange, and red.
176 *White pigments* (so called *opacifiers*) have indeed a negligible absorbance in the visible range – as for
177 zircon, baddeleyite and cassiterite – or may induce a yellowish shade, due to a slight absorption of violet
178 wavelengths, as usually occurs with cerianite and rutile.

179 *Yellow pigments* absorb intensely all wavelengths above the $\sim 20,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$, so leaving a wide transmittance
180 window (250-500 nm) that ensures bright colors. Two distinct kinds of optical band occur: steep in zircon-Pr
181 and bindheimite pigments and less abrupt in baddeleyite-V, rutile-NiSb, and cassiterite-V pigments. The
182 color shade depends on the wavelength of minimum absorbance, which can shift from the yellow region
183 (where it gives rise to “cold” colors, like zircon-Pr and rutile-NiSb) towards the orange one, determining
184 “warm” yellows, as those of bindheimite, baddeleyite-V, or cassiterite-V pigments.

185 *Red pigments* are featured by sharp bands absorbing most of the orange to violet wavelengths, *i.e.* above
186 the $\sim 16,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (below $\sim 600\text{ nm}$) as shown by cadmium sulfoselenide and Cr-doped yttrium aluminate
187 perovskite. By this way, the transmitted light is limited to the red-orange region, resulting in rather dark
188 colors. Magenta to burgundy shades, as those of malayaite-Cr and the so called Cassius’ purple (gold
189 nanoparticles), are originated by an additional transmittance in the blue-violet region, while purple colors
190 require a second minimum of absorbance in the violet region, like that at $\sim 24,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ($\sim 420\text{ nm}$) of the
191 cassiterite-Cr pigment. On the other hand, pink colors have an absorbance band that occurs at the same
192 wavenumber of red pigments (onset at $\sim 16,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$) but with a distinctly weaker intensity, as the case of
193 hematite encapsulated in zircon. The spectrum of Cr-doped corundum reveals, in addition, the transmission
194 of some blue and violet wavelengths, justifying the typical ruby shade.

195 *Orange pigments* exhibit optical features intermediate between yellow and red colorants. Cr-doped rutile
196 pigments, for instance, are characterized by a slope not so steep and a rather wide transmittance window, by
197 which light is increasingly absorbed moving from orange (minimum around $15,500\text{ cm}^{-1}$) to green regions of
198 the visible spectrum.

199 Optical features different from the shutter-like bands observed in red to yellow pigments are necessary in
200 order to get the remaining colors. For instance, a selective wavelength absorption that allows the
201 transmission of either the green or the blue light only. On the other hand, dark colors are obtained through a
202 non-selective light absorption over the whole visible spectrum, but with different intensity for brown, gray and
203 black shades.

204 *Green pigments* require a light absorption at both the red-orange and blue-violet extremes of the visible
205 spectrum. The resulting transmission window has a minimal absorption at $\sim 19,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ that is more
206 accentuated for green pigments (e.g., eskolaite, uvarovite) than for bluish-green ones (cochromite) which
207 exhibit a plateau over the green and blue regions.

208 *Blue colorants* must absorb selectively the orange to green wavelengths ($15,000$ to $20,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$, 500 - 650
209 nm) to achieve the desired blue hue, as in the case of the cobalt aluminate spinel pigment. Instead, cobalt
210 dyes (olivine, but also phosphates and borate, see Table 4) are filters less selective, because they absorb
211 also some blue and violet light, giving rise to a deep, ultramarine blue tint. Turquoise shades occur in case of
212 a narrower absorption band – like that of zircon-V pigments, usually extended over the $14,000$ to $17,500\text{ cm}^{-1}$
213 range (580 - 700 nm) – which let some green light to be transmitted, so the overall hue is between green and
214 blue.

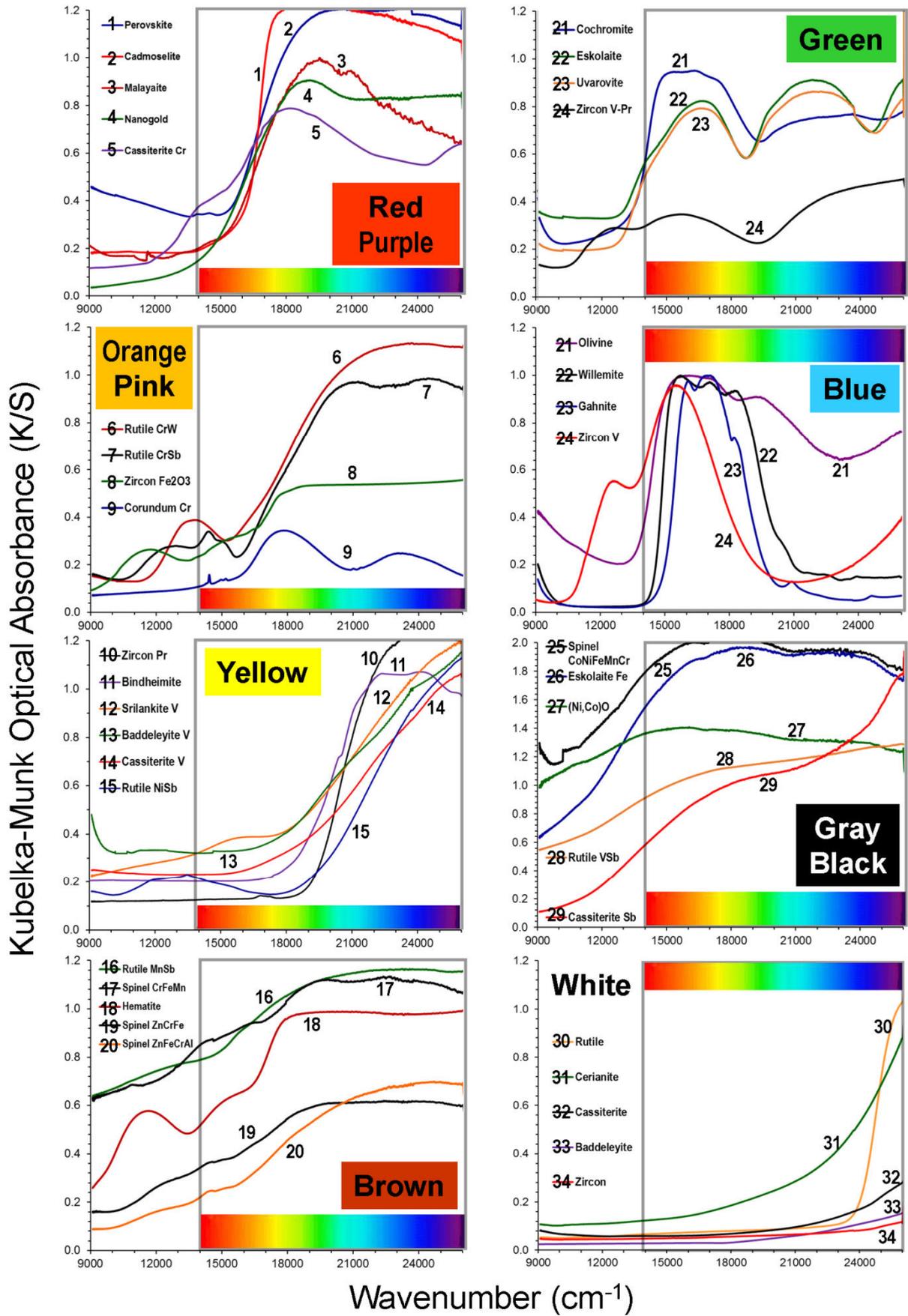


Fig. 7. Examples of optical spectra of industrial pigments and dyes used by the ceramic industry.

215
216

217 *Brown pigments* are a variegated family of compounds, exhibiting broad optical spectra, not easily
218 attributable to single bands. A more or less accentuated light absorption is observed growing from red to
219 violet wavelengths. It is the intensity of such an optical hump to discriminate between light brown (e.g., spinel
220 Zn-Cr-Fe) and dark brown shades (e.g., spinel Mn-Cr-Fe and rutile Mn-Sb). The window transmitting in the
221 low energy region of the visible spectrum accounts for brown colors with reddish to yellowish tints.

222 *Black pigments* should in principle absorb all the visible spectrum, as it practically occurs in the best cases
223 (like complex Co-Ni-Fe-Cr-Mn spinels). In comparison, eskolaite-hematite pigments have a weak
224 transmission in the red region, that is enough to justify some brownish shade. Gray colors are expected to
225 differ from black just for the lower absorbance over the whole visible spectrum (e.g., bunsenite-Co). In reality,
226 some selective absorption can lead to bluish, greenish or yellowish overprints.

227 **3.4. Interaction of pigments and dyes with ceramic matrices**

228 Ceramic pigments must be stable in contact with the melt formed during the firing of glazes and bodies.
229 Therefore, the resistance to chemical attack is a relative concept, depending on the substrate composition
230 (glaze or body) that varies upon the technology used in ceramic manufacturing. In practice, there are
231 different arrays of 'chemical composition x firing schedule', which define a variable degree of aggressiveness
232 of the liquid phase towards the pigment.

233 The differences in chemical composition among glazes and bodies used by the ceramic industry are
234 illustrated in Figure 8 with reference to the decoration technologies of Figure 1. The main fluxes are arranged
235 in Figure 8A according to their technological role and chemical action against the ceramic pigments
236 [4,28,29]. Account must be taken since there are three basic mechanisms by which a ceramic pigment can
237 be chemically attacked with permanent color deterioration [10]:

- 238 a) pigment dissolution in the liquid phase;
- 239 b) pigment transformation into another crystalline phase;
- 240 c) change in the crystal chemical composition of the pigment, which keeps its structure.

241 *Alkaline fluxes*, i.e. Na₂O, K₂O and Li₂O, enhance fusibility, so reducing the maturing temperature, and
242 increase the brightness of glazes (but in the case of **lithium** a devitrification may occur). Alkali do not enter
243 the crystal structure of pigments and usually do not promote the crystallization of phases hosting transition
244 metal ions [28-29]. Thus, their action is principally to foster pigment dissolution by lowering viscosity and
245 increasing surface tension of melt.

246 *Alkaline-earth fluxes*, i.e. MgO, CaO, SrO and BaO, play different roles, depending on concentration and
247 firing conditions, with some variation from one element to another [19,28,30]. At high concentration, they
248 promote devitrification, leading to opaque glazes, but at low percentages tend to improve brightness (useful
249 for glassy coatings). On the other hand, they enhance fusibility at higher firing temperatures, whilst boost
250 viscosity at lower temperatures. Therefore, alkaline-earth fluxes can take part into the chemical attack by
251 various reactions, depending on the colorant. For instance, magnesium can affect spinel pigments, since
252 Mg²⁺ ions compete with divalent transition metal ions (Co²⁺, Mn²⁺, Ni²⁺) mainly to access the tetrahedral site
253 [31]. Similarly, in bunsenite pigments Mg can replace both Ni and Co at the octahedral site [32]. On the other
254 hand, calcium may have opposite functions: it stabilizes Ca-bearing pigments, like garnet and malayaite, but
255 heavily attacks rutile, hematite, and eskolaite, as CaTiO₃, CaFe₂O₄ and CaCr₂O₄ phases turn to be
256 thermodynamically favored with respect to simple oxides [33]. Eventually, all colorants are attained to some
257 extent by dissolution into the melt, which is more effective at lower viscosity, thus with higher temperature
258 and BaO content.

259 *Strong fluxes*, i.e. B_2O_3 , PbO and Bi_2O_3 , reduce viscosity and surface tension of the melt, thus promoting the
 260 diffusion in the liquid phase of other glaze components [30]. Account must be taken that present-day glazes
 261 are nominally leadless, while bismuth is utilized only in some third fire applications. Boron does not enter the
 262 crystal structure of ceramic pigments; thus, its role is essentially to enhance the fluxing effect of alkali.
 263 *Zinc oxide* has a wide range of effects in glazes, including a fusibility enhancement through the reduction of
 264 viscosity and surface tension of the melt or, at high concentration, the tendency to crystallize Zn-phases
 265 (gahnite, willemite, hardystonite). Zinc can interfere with the coloration of glazes because it may be
 266 incorporated in the crystal structure of many pigments. In fact, it can replace transition metal ions at
 267 tetrahedrally- and octahedrally-coordinated sites, e.g. in spinel, periclase, malayaite. In addition, zinc easily
 268 reacts with TiO_2 , Cr_2O_3 , Al_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 , and SnO_2 pigments, giving rise to Zn-rich phases [29].
 269 The *silica-to-alumina ratio* governs many chemical and physical properties of glazes and glassy coatings
 270 [29,30]. Indeed, the amounts of silica and alumina determine the appearance (transparency and gloss) of
 271 glazes, which can be described as matt, semi matt, and bright (Fig. 8B).

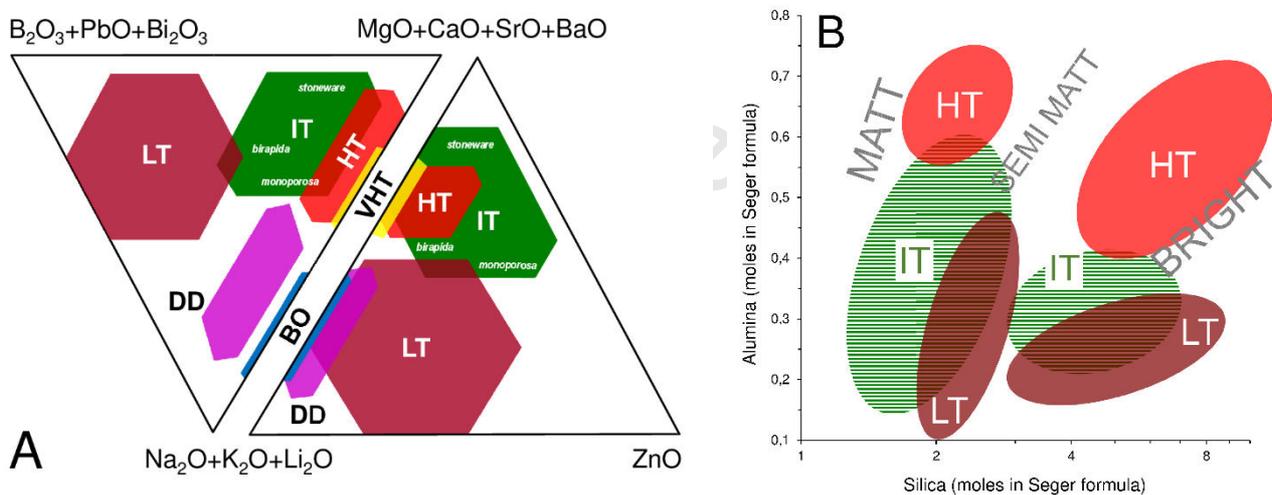


Fig. 8. Approximate fields of chemical composition of glazes, glassy coatings and porcelain stoneware bodies used in the different decoration technologies (see Figure 1 for abbreviations). A) Ternary diagrams of fluxes (% weight) and B) Stull diagram of silica and alumina (Seger formula).

272 *Pigment dissolution* in bodies and glazes always occurs to some extent, depending on both the **phase**
 273 refractoriness and its solubility in the melt. This phenomenon has commonly a twin effect: loss of the desired
 274 color (due to pigment breakdown) and onset of undesired shades due to element “leaching” (transition metal
 275 ions incorporated into the glassy phase). No data exist on pigment solubility into ceramic liquid phases, but
 276 information is available about some minerals in granitic melts, which can be somehow approximated to those
 277 present in porcelain stoneware bodies. The saturation concentration at $1200^\circ C$ is below 1%wt for cassiterite
 278 [34], approximately 1.2%wt for zircon [35], and around 2%wt for rutile [36]. However, the solubility in ceramic
 279 melts is difficult to predict from phase diagrams, because of the remarkable complexity of glaze
 280 compositions. To overcome this problem, a common practice is to “saturate” the glaze with the major
 281 components of the pigment, in order to improve the chemical stability of colorants. This was typically an
 282 additional role of opacifiers, which are usually selected also to ensure the color yield, e.g. tin oxide for
 283 cassiterite pigments or zirconium silicate for zircon pigments [2,16]. This solution is no longer feasible with
 284 IJP, but it was revitalized in digital decoration by using “primers” and “protective” layers (i.e., glassy coatings
 285 with a very low amount of the most aggressive components, like ZnO and alkaline-earth oxides).

286 *Pigment phase transformation* is apparently a phenomenon restricted to specific circumstances, as in the
 287 classic example of the eskolaite green pigment, once applied on a zinc-bearing glaze: the reaction $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3 +$
 288 ZnO leads to the formation of the brown ZnCr_2O_3 spinel [16]. In reality, such reactions are easily overlooked,
 289 because the resulting chromatic change can be erroneously attributed to a pigment dissolution. These
 290 transformations typically occur when a thermodynamically favored crystalline phase exists in the relevant
 291 chemical system, which is usually hard to represent in a phase diagram due to the conspicuous complexity
 292 of glaze compositions.

293 A *change in the pigment crystal chemistry* can affect the chromatic coordinates, since factors that are
 294 fundamental in color development are usually modified. Such factors encompass the transition metal ion
 295 valence and oxygen coordination, as well as the metal-oxygen distances and distortion of the polyhedron
 296 where the cation is accommodated. These phenomena are governed by the partition equilibria, for each ion,
 297 between melt and pigment. In addition, the diffusion kinetics through the pigment crystal structure turns
 298 crucial. As a rule of thumb, structures with more than one crystallographic site, where transition metal ions
 299 can be allocated, are more prone to variation of crystal chemistry. A classic example is spinel: the Ni-free
 300 black spinel, once in touch with zinc-rich glazes, changes color by shifting towards a brown shade. This
 301 occurs because Zn^{2+} replaces Co^{2+} at the tetrahedral site; as a consequence, light absorption in the red-
 302 orange region no longer occurs and the outcome is a brown spinel.

303 Table 5. Chemical stability of ceramic pigments in contact with glazes and bodies [37]: incompatibility (or
 304 improved stability) with single components and maximum temperature allowed for industrial firing.

Pigment structure	Formula	Reduced stability with	Improved stability with	T_{\max} °C
Baddeleyite	$\text{ZrO}_2[\text{V}_2\text{O}_5]$	B Zn (Pb)	Zr Ca Mg Ba	1300
Bunsenite	$[(\text{Ni},\text{Co})\text{O}]\text{ZrSiO}_4$	Zn B Pb (Na K)	Zr	1350
Cassiterite	$(\text{Sn},\text{Cr})\text{O}_2[\text{CrO}_2]$	Zn Mg B (Na K)	Sn Ca (Pb)	1300
Cassiterite	$(\text{Sn},\text{V})\text{O}_2[\text{V}_2\text{O}_5]$	(Al)	Sn (B Pb)	1300
Cassiterite	$(\text{Sn},\text{Sb})\text{O}_2$	Na K B Zn Zr	Sn Pb	1250
Corundum	$(\text{Al},\text{Cr})_2\text{O}_3$	Ca Mg B Pb	Al Zn Si	1400
Corundum	$(\text{Al},\text{Mn})_2\text{O}_3$	B Zn Pb	Al	1400
Eskolaite	$(\text{Cr},\text{Fe})_2\text{O}_3$	Ca Zn Sn Ni	Al	1250
Garnet	$\text{Ca}_3\text{Cr}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$	Zn	Ca Al	1200
Hematite	$\text{ZrSiO}_4[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3]$	Zn Na K B Pb	Zr	1250
Malayaite	$\text{Ca}(\text{Sn},\text{Cr})(\text{Si},\text{Cr})\text{O}_5$	Mg Zn B (Na K)	Ca Sn (Pb)	1250
Olivine	Co_2SiO_4	Mg	Zn	1350
Perovskite	$\text{Y}(\text{Al},\text{Cr})\text{O}_3$	Na K B Pb	Al	1350
Pyrochlore	$\text{Pb}_2\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_7$	Na K B	Pb Zn Al	1050
Rutile	$(\text{Ti},\text{Cr},\text{Sb})\text{O}_2$	Na K B (Zn)	Ti Zr (Pb)	1300
Spinel	CoAl_2O_4	Na K B Pb	Al Zn	1350
Spinel	CoCr_2O_4	Zn Ni (Sn)	(Al)	1300
Spinel	Zn-Fe-Al-Cr-Mn	Sn	Zn Al	1400
Spinel	Co-Ni-Mn-Fe-Cr	Zn Al Zr (Sn)	Ca Na K	1400
Willemite	Zn_2SiO_4	Ca	Zn	1200
Wurtzite	$\text{ZrSiO}_4[\text{Cd}(\text{Se},\text{S})]$	Pb B Zn (Na K)	Zr Cd Si	1200
Zircon	$(\text{Zr},\text{Pr})\text{SiO}_4$	(Na K)	Zr Zn Pb	1300
Zircon	$\text{ZrSiO}_4:\text{V}$	(Na K)	Zr Sn	1300

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305 **Dye dissolution** into the melt formed during firing is required and depends on the composition of ceramic
 306 **matrices**. The different compositional fields of glazes and bodies utilized in the various technologies are
 307 illustrated in Figure 8. They imply a spectrum of chemical environments and thermal treatments, hence
 308 conditions where **dye melting (and the three causes of pigment deterioration) can** play with a changing
 309 relative weight. This aspect must be considered when the chemical compatibility of a **dye/pigment** with single
 310 components of glazes and bodies is evaluated, as known from the industrial practice (Table 5). Some crystal
 311 structures suffer from the attack of alkaline fluxes and particularly strong fluxes (e.g., garnet, pyrochlore,
 312 bunsenite, baddeleyite, and cassiterite). It is not a case that the relevant pigments have a relatively low
 313 stability, as witnessed by the maximum temperatures allowed in the firing schedules that are among the
 314 lowest in industrial colorants. In contrast, pigments based on corundum and spinel structures are more
 315 exposed to phase transformations and/or change in their crystal chemistry, especially under the effect of
 316 element that can easily accommodated in the crystal sites (i.e., Zn, Mg, Sn).
 317 Transition elements can be released to the liquid phase, present at high temperature in glazes and bodies,
 318 as a consequence of **dye dissolution or pigment breakdown or even** ion exchange between melt and pigment
 319 [2,16]. **In case of pigments, such** a leaching process determines the dissolution of transition metal ions into
 320 the glassy matrix with undesired repercussions on color purity [37]. Each transition metal ion will absorb in
 321 the visible light spectrum, depending on its valence and oxygen coordination in the silicate glass, giving rise
 322 to specific color **shades, which is the mechanism exploited with dyes** (Table 6). **These** more or less
 323 accentuated nuances, depending on the transition metal concentration, may significantly alter the original
 324 coloration due to the pigment.

325 Table 6. Coloration stemming from dissolution of transition metal ions in the vitreous phase formed in glazes
 326 and bodies. The most common occurrences are in bold.

Transition metal ion	Oxygen coordination	Color
Co ²⁺	4	dark blue
Co ²⁺	6	pink
Cr ³⁺	6	emerald green
Cr ⁶⁺	4	yellow
Cu ⁺	6	red
Cu ²⁺	6 (distorted)	green to blue-green
Fe ²⁺	4 to 5	green-blue to green-brown
Fe ³⁺	4	reddish brown
Fe ³⁺	6	yellow-orange
Mn ²⁺	4 to 6	green to blue-green
Mn ³⁺	6 (distorted)	pale red to purplish brown
Ni ²⁺	4	deep purple
Ni ²⁺	5	brown
Ni ²⁺	6	yellow
V ³⁺	6	greenish brown
V ⁴⁺	4 to 5	blue-green
V ⁵⁺	4	yellowish green

327 **Ceramic effects** behave either as a dye or a pigment. Sink effects (SE) and bright/matt glasses (BE) must
 328 **dissolve in the glassy phase, as some speckle effects do. In contrast, glittering (GE) or phosphorescence**
 329 **require crystals dispersed in the glaze. Lusters (LE) are obtained by controlled crystallization during firing.**

330 4. New technological requirements of ceramic colorants for digital decoration

331 The advent of IJP imposed to move from conventional pigments and dyes delivered as powders towards
332 micronized colorants dispersed in a carrier (ink). This paradigm shift made some technical solutions no
333 longer practicable and, at the same time, introduced new requirements (or emphasized some technological
334 aspects).

335 For instance, the control on the pigment **color saturation**, which was commonly achieved through a careful
336 addition of a filler [37], is unappropriated in inks. As a consequence, nowadays pigments must be even more
337 constant in their color performance, because only the colorants (not diluted by filler) are used in inks [10]. On
338 the other hand, no easy adjustment of color **saturation** by increasing the pigment concentration is possible in
339 IJP, since it has immediate repercussions on the density, shear viscosity and surface tension of the
340 suspension, hence on ink printability [9-11].

341 New requisites concern the behavior of ceramic pigments during micronization and their interactions with ink
342 carriers and print head components. Particle size distribution assumed a crucial role in IJP, involving the
343 micronization process adopted to make inks. Therefore, pigment grindability is now a key issue for both ink
344 productivity and color **saturation**, and consequently the relevant parameters, such as the mechanical
345 properties and the resistance to **amorphization** of the crystal structures of ceramic pigments. Further factors
346 are the interactions between colorant and carrier, as electro-magnetic properties of pigments and dyes.

347 4.1. Particle size distribution

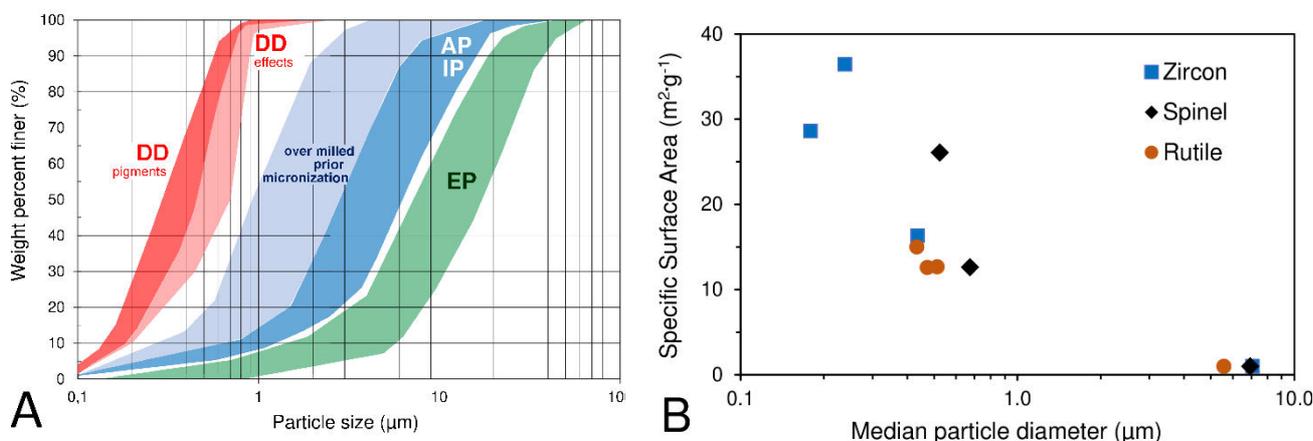
348 Most colorants are utilized as powders, directly or as feed in ink making. Therefore, pigments, effects and
349 particulate dyes always undergo, after synthesis, a comminution or disaggregation stage to obtain the
350 desired particle size distribution [37]. Such a process can be performed either by the dry route (typically
351 through jet milling) or by the wet route (ball milling followed by spray-drying) depending on specific needs
352 (e.g., washing any mineralizer residue out).

353 Particle size is the most important feature to keep under control in the industrial practice, because it affects
354 both the optical properties and reaction kinetics during firing [38,39]. Thus, granulometry ultimately
355 influences **tinctorial strength** in the various decoration technologies. For this reason, pigment-making
356 companies spend considerable efforts to find out the best particle size distribution for every product to be
357 applied as powder or entering the micronization process for ink-making [37,40].

358 Different requirements exist in the various applications, as exemplified in Figure 9A. The pigments utilized in
359 conventional technologies (i.e., from LT to VHT and BO) are commonly milled to a median particle diameter
360 in between 3 and 7 μm , irrespective of being allochromatic (AP) or idiochromatic (IP). The same pigments,
361 once addressed to digital inks, undergo a more intensive comminution, down to approximately 1-2 μm or
362 even less, in order to damp the cost of the high-energy micronization process. In contrast, encapsulated
363 pigments are kept to a coarser particle size, in order to preserve the protective coating on the heat-labile
364 pigment, so that the median particle diameter can span from 10 to 20 μm .

365 The micronization process, carried out in high-energy mills with Y-stabilized zirconia microspheres, leads to
366 a narrow particle size distribution of the colorant dispersed in the ink medium. The median particle diameter
367 for pigments is usually in the 0.3-0.6 μm range, with the d_{90} always below 1 μm [9-11], while micronized
368 effects are slightly coarser, with a median particle diameter ordinarily from 0.6 to 1 μm . Such a drastic
369 reduction of particle size brings about two different effects: a proportional increase of the specific surface
370 area and a physical deterioration of pigments (see section 4.2 for a further discussion on pigment behavior

371 during milling). Both have relevant repercussions on the colorant performance of inks by two mechanisms:
 372 less intense light absorption (due to a loss of pigment) combined with undesired shades (due to transition
 373 metals migrating to the glaze or glassy coating, Table 6).



374 Fig. 9. Particle size distribution of colorants: A) micronized pigments and effects in IJP inks (DD) compared with
 375 conventional (AP-IP) and encapsulated pigments (EP); B) relationship with specific surface area in micronized pigments
 376 (data after [40]).

377 The specific surface area grows from conventional pigments, having normally values close to 1 m²·g⁻¹, to 15-
 378 35 m²·g⁻¹ in the resulting inks (Fig. 9B). Such an increased specific surface area implies an enhanced
 379 reactivity of pigments in touch with glazes and glassy coatings [40-41]. Thus, a much lower resistance to
 380 chemical attack is generally observed during firing. This fact reflects on color saturation, which is notoriously
 381 weaker in digital inks with respect to conventional pigments [10,41].

382 4.2. Pigment grindability

383 As introduced in the previous paragraph, DOD-IJP entails some strict requirements, among which ensuring
 384 that >99% of the pigment particles are less than 1 μm in diameter [8,9,11]. Being mainly dependent on the
 385 specific energy input (i.e., on the energy supplied to the grinding chamber in relation to the mass of product),
 386 pigments micronization down to the requested particles size proves to be the most energy-consuming
 387 comminution process per unit weight of product [42]. It derives that comminution of ceramic pigments is a
 388 key issue for ink production, which has strong repercussions on tinctorial strength, mechanical properties
 389 and resistance to amorphization of the pigment crystal structure.

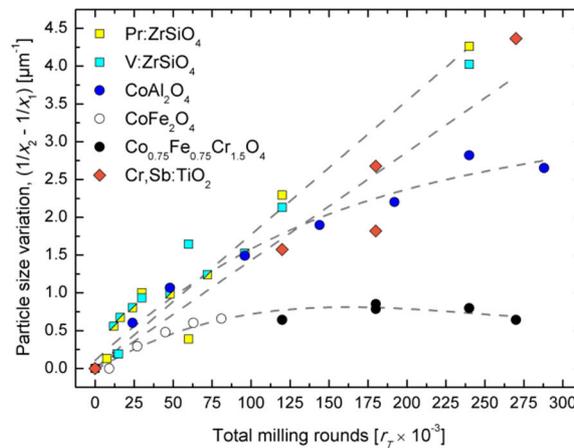
390 In an ideal case, when a particle undergoes brittle fracture, a crack propagates through the particle creating
 391 new surface area. On the other hand, in the real cases, most of the energy supplied during comminution
 392 processes is dissipated into effects other than the new surface itself, e.g., elastic deformations, friction
 393 between particles and/or between particles and apparatus walls, heat, vibrations, and so on [43]. Despite the
 394 effort in finding the best relationship that can rationalize the energy-dependent particle size variation during a
 395 comminution process and, at the same time, to account for all the above-mentioned secondary effects, the
 396 main relationship commonly used to describe a comminution processes of a brittle solid originates from a
 397 single differential equation of the general form [44]:

$$398 \quad dE = -K \frac{dx}{x^{f(x)}} \quad (1)$$

399 where dE is the infinitesimal energy change per unit weight required during comminution, dx is the
 400 infinitesimal size change, x is the particle size, K and $f(x)$ are a constant and a variable dependent on the
 401 particle size x , respectively, related with the material (*e.g.*, initial particles size, and particles physical
 402 properties) and with the size reduction method [44-47]. When particles fall at the boundary of the
 403 micrometric-submicrometric range, $f(x) \rightarrow 2$, and the Rittinger's law is considered the most suitable in
 404 describing the energy change in a comminution process [44,46,47]. Rittinger postulated that the energy per
 405 unit mass is proportional to the new surface area produced, and the Rittinger's relationship can be easily
 406 derived through the integration of equation 1 [44,46,47], such as:

$$407 \quad E = K \left(\frac{1}{x_2} - \frac{1}{x_1} \right) \quad (2)$$

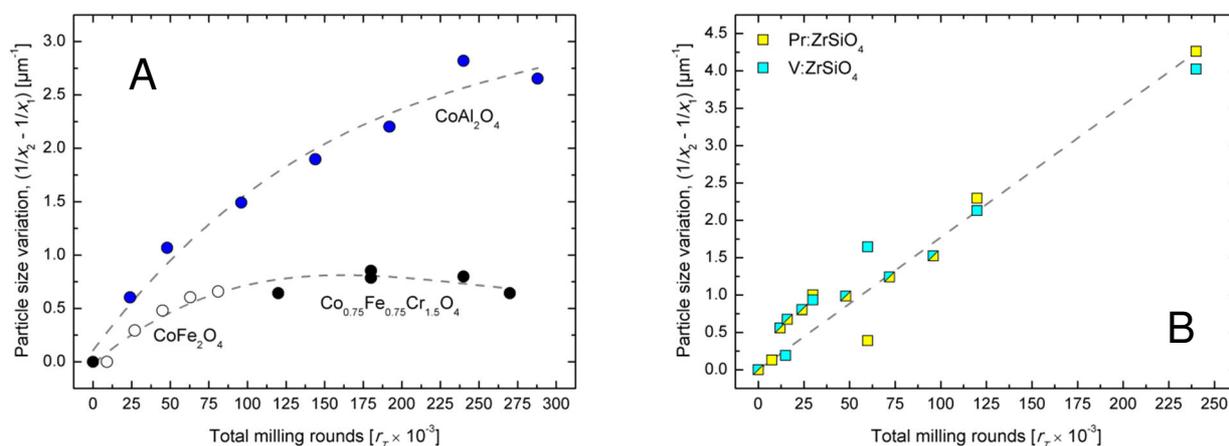
408 where E is the net energy (expressed in $\text{J}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$) required to micronize a particle from the initial (x_1) to the final
 409 (x_2) particle size (defined as the integrated mean particle size, in m [44,46]) in a given grinding cycle (*i.e.*,
 410 time \times milling rounds), and K is expressed in the units of $\text{J}\cdot\text{m}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ [43]. Once eqn. (1) and its derived form (2)
 411 have to be applied in fitting experimental data, a tough limitation occurs in finding the best fit values for K and
 412 $f(x)$. In particular, the Rittinger's equation, eqn. (2), requires the values of K and $f(x)$ to be known a priori [46].
 413 In the case of ceramic pigments, the literature on their micronization is limited to few experimental
 414 investigations [40,48-51]. From these works, it emerges that the energy required to downsize a particle from
 415 x_1 to x_2 (*i.e.*, expressed as the variation of the median particle diameter, d_{50} in μm) is proportional to the total
 416 number of milling rounds, r_T [*e.g.*, 40], which is an experimental inference to what postulated by Hukki [44]. In
 417 figure 10, the variation of the reciprocal of the particles size (*i.e.*, $(\frac{1}{x_2} - \frac{1}{x_1}) \propto \frac{E}{K}$) for pigments micronized in a
 418 pilot plant is plotted as a function of the total milling rounds.



419
 420 Fig. 10. Variation of the reciprocal of the pigment particle size (*i.e.*, $(\frac{1}{x_2} - \frac{1}{x_1}) \propto \frac{E}{K}$) as a function of the total milling rounds
 421 for various ceramic pigments. Symbols refer to: Pr- (yellow squares) and V-doped (cyan squares) zircon pigments
 422 [40,49,51]; Co-aluminate (blue circles), Co-ferrite (empty circles), and CoFe-chromate (black circles) spinel pigments [40,
 423 48,50]; Cr,Sb codoped rutile pigments (orange diamonds) [40]. Dashed lines are a reader's eye guide.

424 Data in Figure 10 clearly show the strong dependence of particles size reduction on grinding cycles (by
 425 definition, proportional to the energy supplied during the comminution process). Along with this observation,
 426 a detailed inspection of data in Figure 10 reveals that the particles size reduction strongly depends on the
 427 structural features (*i.e.*, crystal structure and chemical composition) of the micronized ceramic pigments.
 428 Consistently to what reported by GÜNGÖR et al. [40], it appears that ceramic pigments with spinel structure are
 429 less grindable than those with rutile and zircon structure, respectively. In addition, while the particle size

430 variation of both zircon and rutile pigments scales almost linearly with the milling rounds, the particle size
 431 variation for spinel pigments undergoes a constant but gradual decreasing. In particular, above 2×10^5 and
 432 2.5×10^5 milling rounds for Co-aluminate and CoFe-chromite, respectively, no appreciable particle size
 433 variation is observed.
 434 The particles size variation for spinel and zircon ceramic pigments during micronization is highlighted in two
 435 distinct plots (A and B, respectively) in Figure 11.



436 Fig. 11. Variation of the reciprocal of the pigment particle size as a function of (A) the total milling rounds for spinel [40,
 437 48,50], and (B) zircon [40,49,51] ceramic pigments. Dashed lines are a reader's eye guide.

438 Beyond the general remarks of above, the comminution of spinel ceramic pigments returns different
 439 micronization trends depending on their crystal chemistry, with Co-aluminate pigments more grindable than
 440 Co-ferrite and CoFe-chromite spinel ceramic pigments, which in turn have a common particle downsizing
 441 (Fig. 11A).

442 This behavior apparently contrasts with that highlighted during the comminution of zircon ceramic pigments
 443 (Fig. 11B). Although purchased from different manufacturers and investigated at different laboratories [40,
 444 48,50], data in Figure 11B unequivocally show that the zircon structure undergoes the same particles
 445 downsizing irrespective of the dopant cation nature. This fact can be readily explained because of the small
 446 substitution (or incorporation) of dopant cation within the zircon lattice. Pigment manufacturers produce
 447 yellow and turquoise zircon pigments by a doping of about 3% to 5% of Pr^{4+} and V^{4+} , respectively [49,51,52].
 448 It derives that the presence of dopants in small amounts does not influence the grindability of zircon ceramic
 449 pigments.

450 The comparison of the selected data, at the micrometric scale, suggests that the energy supplied during a
 451 comminution process is used/dissipated by two main mechanisms related to two different energetic
 452 contributions. In the first mechanism, the energy supplied during the comminution process will be mainly
 453 devoted to the creation of new surface area, as in the ideal case entailed by the general comminution laws
 454 [43-47]. This energy is preserved as long as a particle undergoes brittle fractures: "energy conservation
 455 process". The second mechanism implicates a process for which the crystal structure of a particle loses
 456 long-range order by means of interatomic bonds breaking and lattice disorder, *i.e.*, the structure undergoes
 457 **amorphization** [53]. Hence, in terms of particle comminution, this process has a "dissipative/non-
 458 conservative" energetic contribution. Both mechanisms, and by consequence both energetic contributions,

459 mainly depend on the resistance of a crystal structure to an external compression, which is defined by its
 460 **isothermal** bulk modulus (K_{70} , in GPa) [54,55].

461 The isothermal bulk modulus (or incompressibility) for the crystal structures of the ceramic pigments under
 462 comparison is listed in Table 7. The listed K_{70} , is the average value among several from literature. For sake
 463 of clarity the range of variation of K_{70} is also reported in Table 7.

464 Table 7. Isothermal bulk modulus (K_{70} , in GPa) for the crystal structures of the ceramic pigments under
 465 comparison along with its range of variation.

Structure formula	Structure type	Averaged K_{70} [GPa]	K_{70} range [GPa]	Reference
Al ₂ O ₃	corundum	251	242 - 257	[56-63]
ZrSiO ₄	zircon	226	225 - 228	[64-68]
TiO ₂	rutile	212	209 - 216	[69-74]
SnO ₂	cassiterite	210	203 - 212	[69,75-77]
YAlO ₃	Y-aluminate (perovskite)	195	188 - 205	[78-80]
CoAl ₂ O ₄	Co-aluminate (spinel)	207	203 - 210	[81,82]
CoFe ₂ O ₄	Co-ferrite (spinel)	180	175 - 186	[81,83]
(A)Cr ₂ O ₄ where A: Zn, Mg, Fe	chromite (spinel)	183	181 - 189	[84-86]
CaTiOSiO ₄	titanite	131	-	[87]
CaSnOSiO ₄	malayaite	121	-	[88]

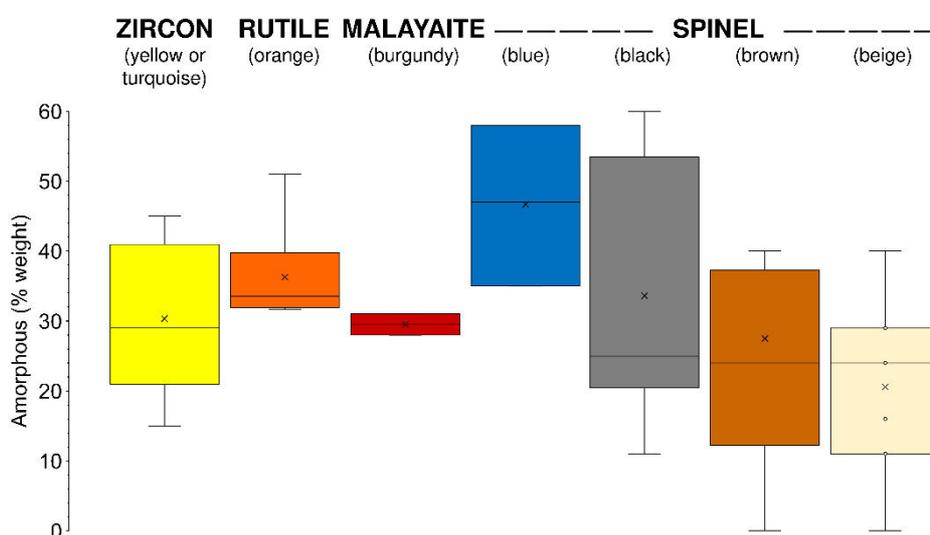
Note: the reported isothermal bulk moduli derive from high-pressure X-ray diffraction experiments of single-crystal and powder samples [56-59,66,67,70,71,73-75,78,79,83,84,87,88], elastic constant measurements of single-crystal and powder samples [62,64,65,68,69,76,77,81], and theoretical calculations through various computational methods [60,61,63,72,80,82,85,86].

466 Incompressibility data in Table 7 perfectly match with the grindability ranking derived from the particle size
 467 variation of micronized ceramic pigments (see Fig. 10), where the stiffest structure of zircon pigments has
 468 the highest rate of micronization, while the more compressible structures of Co-ferrite and CoFe-chromite
 469 spinel pigments show a little aptitude at micronizing.

470 Although the concept of resistance at the compression could be misleading, it results evident, when a crystal
 471 structure is stiffer than another, that the process of micronization can be prolonged at higher milling rounds.
 472 This means that a particle with a high bulk **isothermal** modulus undergoes brittle fracture when micronized,
 473 and the energy supplied during the comminution process will be largely devoted to the creation new surface
 474 area. Conversely, when the energy supplied to micronize a particle dissipates into other effects, the
 475 comminution efficiency will drastically decrease. Indeed, data on the phase composition for micronized
 476 ceramic pigments achieved by means of X-ray diffraction experiments highlighted a higher tendency to
 477 **amorphization** for spinel pigments than for zircon ceramic pigments [41]. In addition, the different trends for
 478 spinel and zircon ceramic pigments in Figure 11 are consistent, although qualitatively, with two different
 479 kinds of energy change. Indeed, the ball milling mechanical energy transforms into an energy process which
 480 is predominantly conservative in the case of zircon pigments, where the particle downsizing scales linearly
 481 with grinding cycles, while it changes into a largely dissipative energy process (e.g., **amorphization**) in the
 482 case of spinel pigments, where the particle downsizing turns to be curvilinear.

483 Other bulk properties, such as density, which in turns is related with the pressure of **amorphization** [55],
 484 brittleness, hardness, etc. can play important roles during the comminution of ceramic pigments, but the
 485 driving force which governs the micronization of ceramic pigments is their resistance at the compression (i.e.
 486 the **isothermal** bulk modulus or incompressibility).

487 The high-energy micronization is able to progressively damage the crystal structure of colorants, leading
 488 eventually to a pigment loss due to **amorphization** [41]. This phenomenon brings about a lower yield at the
 489 end of the micronizing stage, which can vary widely from a few percent to 60% of the initial amount of
 490 pigment. The average loss in commercial inks, estimated by X-ray powder diffraction through Rietveld
 491 refinement with internal standard, is around 30% (Fig. 12). The differences amongst crystal structures –
 492 zircon, rutile, malayaite, and various spinel types – are just indicative, because data are not fully
 493 representative of ceramic inks, since the number of samples varies upon the different pigments.



494

495

496

Fig. 12. Box-and-whisker diagram of the degree of pigment **amorphization** in commercial inks for digital decoration of ceramic tiles (unpublished data).

497 This picture lets the micronization of ceramic pigments to be a crucial stage to define quality, performance,
 498 yield and cost of digital inks. Key points for a better comprehension of this process are the dependence of
 499 results on the pigment crystal structure, and the chance of a direct estimation of the energy required for
 500 pigments comminution. On the other hand, the need of a direct measurement of the Rittinger's constant K
 501 and exponent $f(x)$ still represents a challenging issue. Further relevant parameters to be considered during
 502 comminution of ceramic pigments encompass the feed size (starting particle diameter) and the evolution of
 503 particle size and shape, for increasing milling time, that can reveal the onset of agglomeration phenomena
 504 (which mechanism is not fully understood). In addition, type and amounts of additives (dispersant, block
 505 copolymers, etc.), grinding media, chamber mill dimension and rotation speed introduce variables that
 506 influence the comminution process. These aspects are only partially known and need to be furtherly
 507 investigated.

508 **4.3. Colorant interaction with ink carriers**

509 Colorants interact with the carrier and the additives in the various stages of the ink life: micronization,
510 storage, inkjet application on the tile surface, drying and firing. Although, in principle, chemical reactions
511 between the colorant and the organic components should be negligible, there are evidences of some
512 interactions occurring mainly during long time storage and fast firing.

513 A prolonged contact of some effects (glazes and glassy coatings) with the carrier may turn into a partial
514 solubilization, depending on the type (water, polar and non-polar organic media), pH, etc. Available data for
515 the CoAl_2O_4 pigment point to high ion concentration ($>800 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$) in diethylene glycol, while the
516 dissolution was less significant in aqueous medium [89].

517 The organic components of the ink deposited on the tile surface undergo a rapid thermal decomposition
518 once entering the first module of roller kiln, where temperatures can be as high as 300 to 500°C. In these
519 shocking conditions, organic compounds can be stripped by the water vapor stream coming out from tiles.
520 Otherwise, they can undergo pyrolysis or combustion under the effect of the hot flue gases flowing from the
521 heating zone of the roller kiln [90,91]. There are clues that the formation of the different organic by-products
522 during combustion, pyrolysis or stripping are affected also by a sort of catalytic action attributable to the
523 pigment present in the ink.

524 **5. Suitability of colorants in the different ceramic technologies**

525 In this section, the suitability of colorants in the various decoration technologies used in ceramic tile-making
526 is overviewed by taking into account different issues: technological behavior, cost, and possible health
527 hazards. The technological performance is considered under various viewpoints: chemical stability during
528 firing, color **saturation** and purity, and behavior during micronization.

529 Along with pigments, dyes, and effects currently utilized by the ceramic tile industry, this analysis is extended
530 to colorants under development that were proposed for ceramic applications in the literature. Reference to
531 the Colour Index (C.I., by the Society of Dyers and Colourists) is given, when available. The list of candidate
532 pigments and dyes is not exhaustive: only those with enough pieces of information on technological
533 performance were included in the discussion.

534 For every colorant, the outcome is given for each decoration technology (as listed in Fig. 1): low temperature
535 (LT), intermediate temperature (IT), high temperature (HT), unglazed body (BO), very high temperature
536 (VHT), and digital decoration (DD). The verdict can be 'suitable' or 'unsuitable'. If suitable, additional
537 information is provided, as: currently in industrial use; no longer in use; never entered in use. If unsuitable,
538 the main motive is indicated: technological reasons; insufficient **tinctorial** strength or color purity; possible
539 environmental impact or health hazards; economic reasons (high cost of precursors).

540 Pigments and dyes are hereafter illustrated color by color. In few cases, the color definition is ambiguous (for
541 instance, greenish yellow or yellowish green). As far as possible, it was followed the color attribution given in
542 the literature, but sometimes the technological behavior (coloration in glaze) was in contrast. In this
543 circumstance, technological data were plotted in the most appropriate color graph.

544 **5.1. Red and purple colorants**

545 There are no "universal" colorants able to impart red (or purple) shades with all the ceramic technologies.
546 The rather wide array of colorants utilizable with the LT application turns to be progressively restricted with

547 IT, HT-VHT and BO applications (Fig. 13). The situation is critical in DD, where no frankly red colors can be
 548 achieved and burgundy to magenta and purple pigments are employed.

549 **Malayaite doped with Cr** is widely used, despite it suffers from some chemical instability in glazes that limits
 550 the maximum temperature attainable [92,93]. Control on burgundy color during synthesis is difficult, because
 551 different shades develop from relative abundance of multiple chromophores: octahedrally-coordinated Cr^{3+} ,
 552 tetrahedrally-coordinated Cr^{4+} , and even some Cr^{5+} [94-96]. Color shades are also in accord with co-doping
 553 with La, Zn, Fe or Ti [37]. In addition, there is a strong influence of firing conditions and mineralizers on
 554 synthesis yield [97-99]. Overall, this pigment behaves best in glazes (typically $T^* \sim 85$ at 1100°C , $T^* \sim 75$ at
 555 1200°C) – with several constraints (Table 5) – and is not suitable in bodies.

Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Cassius' purple	Au	magenta RED 109	■	□ 3	□ 3	◐	◐
Malayaite	$\text{Ca}(\text{Sn},\text{Cr})(\text{Si},\text{Cr})\text{O}_5$	burgundy RED 233	■	■	■	◐ 1	■
Pyrochlore	$\text{Y}_2(\text{Sn},\text{Cr})_2\text{O}_7$	burgundy not filed	◐ 3 4	◐ 3 4	◐ 3 4	◐ 3 4	◐ 3 4
Cadmoselite	$\text{ZrSiO}_4[\text{Cd}(\text{Se},\text{S})]$	red RED 108	■	■	■	◐ 3	◐ 1 2
Perovskite	$\text{Y}(\text{Al},\text{Cr})\text{O}_3$	red not filed	◐	◐ 1	■	◐	◐ 1
Hematite (in zircon)	$\text{ZrSiO}_4[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3]$	coral pink RED 232	■	■	◐	◐	◐ 1
Hematite (in silica)	$\text{SiO}_2[\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3]$	coral pink not filed	◐ 1	◐ 1	◐ 1	■	◐ 1
Corundum	$(\text{Al},\text{Mn})_2\text{O}_3$	pink RED 231	■	◐	◐	■	◐ 4
Corundum	$(\text{Al},\text{Cr})_2\text{O}_3$	pink RED 230	■	◐	◐	◐ 4	◐ 4
Spinel	$\text{Zn}(\text{Al},\text{Cr})_2\text{O}_4$	pink RED 235	■	◐	◐	◐ 1	◐ 4
Cassiterite	$(\text{Sn},\text{Cr})\text{O}_2[\text{CrO}_2]$	purple RED 236	■	■	■	◐ 3	◐

Fig. 13. Technological properties of industrial red to purple ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◐); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (◐). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

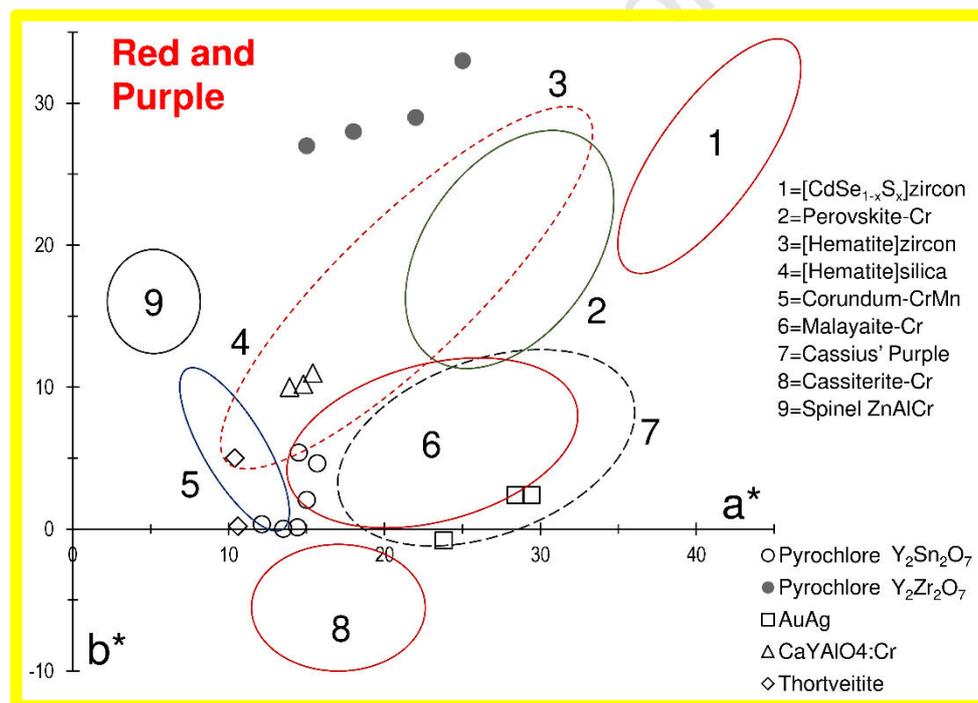
556 **Purple of Cassius** has a high potential as red pigment, due to an intense plasmonic band of gold
 557 nanoparticles ($T^* \sim 80$ at 1150°C). These are rather stable in most applications, even if the highest
 558 temperatures the magenta-red color turns into brown [100-102]. There are various synthesis procedures,
 559 including soluble salts [103] and ceramic inks [104,105]. The main hindrance is the very high cost, even if the
 560 red color can be achieved with diluted concentrations, connected with the growing price of gold. To
 561 overcome this limitation, Ag-Au alloys were industrially developed, but never used because the color has a
 562 strong yellowish shade [106,107].

563 **Cassiterite doped with Cr** was a pigment with a marginal importance in the conventional technologies that
 564 has been revitalized by the advent of digital decoration, even though handicapped by the high cost of tin
 565 oxide. It bestows a peculiar violet color on glazes ($T^* \sim 60$ at 1200°C) likely originated by a unique
 566 combination of different chromophores [95,96]. Color shades are achieved with further dopants (Co, Ce). For
 567 as concerns the synthesis, since the traditional ceramic one can cause serious environmental and health
 568 problems due to the formation of carcinogenic Cr^{6+} during the process, a wet method can be preferred. This

569 low temperature synthesis limits the Cr oxidation [108-111]. It has a fair stability in glazes [37] and rather
570 good performance in DD.

571 **Cadmoseelite-greenockite** solid solution, encapsulated in zircon, provides an unrivalled red color that is the
572 reference colorant for all applications in glazes ($90 < T^* < 100$ at 1200°C). Its stability is satisfactory, if
573 encapsulation is complete, in all matrices but low viscosity glazes [37,112]. The synthesis is complex: the
574 sulfo-selenide seeds must be incorporated in the silicate mass and preserved during formation of zircon
575 [113]. Its utilization in DD is problematic, because micronization can break the encapsulation, leading to
576 chemical attack of the pigment by glaze. However, some application was recently attempted by reducing the
577 particle size prior micronization. A major issue is the high toxicity of cadmium and selenium that imposes a
578 standard control on Cd release from finished ceramic products [114].

579 **Hematite encapsulated in zircon** can be used in all technologies but DD, because micronization causes
580 the rupture of the protective envelope made of zircon. Nevertheless, it is mainly addressed to mass-stone
581 and is the reference red pigment in BO application [115]. It has a characteristic pink coral hue (Fig. 14) that
582 turns redder in Zn-bearing matrices ($80 < T^* < 90$ at 1200°C). Encapsulation is a complex process depending
583 on several variables, not straightforward to control, that was investigated in depth [116-121].



584

585 Fig. 14. Red and purple colors in glaze, plotted on the a^* - b^* plane (CIE-L*a*b*). Numbered fields represent the main
586 industrial colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

587 **Hematite encapsulated in silica** presents analogies with the previous pigment: it has a pink color as well,
588 but less performing in glazes ($80 < T^* < 88$ at 1100°C) to the point it is used essentially in BO applications
589 ($60 < T^* < 78$ at 1200°C). A natural analogue is the *Grès de Thiviers* [122-123]. Its synthesis appears to be
590 easier than the hematite-zircon encapsulation and seems possible by various routes [124-130]. It cannot be
591 used in DD.

592 **Yttrium-aluminium perovskite doped with Cr** is the most recent ceramic pigment added to the industrial
593 palette [131,132]. It exhibits a red color stemming from Cr^{3+} - Ca^{2+} pairs, where calcium can be substituted by
594 other impurities coming from mineralizers, like Mg [17,132,133]. Its synthesis is not straightforward, because

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595 of the crucial role played by mineralizers [131,134-136]. It is stable particularly in HT glazes ($80 < T^* < 90$ at
596 1200°C) where it takes advantage by the high content of Ca and Al in these matrices [37,137]. No
597 information exists about its performance in DD, where the high cost of yttrium represents a notable
598 hindrance. Reddish perovskites have been synthesized also with lanthanides (e.g., La, Nd) and with mixed
599 chromophores (Cr+Fe) but coloration is worse [138-140].

600 **Corundum doped with Cr and/or Mn** is the basis of two classic rose pigments, rather stable in most
601 applications [141]. Now $(\text{Al,Cr})_2\text{O}_3$ is utilized essentially for LT-IT ($52 < T^* < 62$ at 1140°C) while $(\text{Al,Mn})_2\text{O}_3$ for
602 BO ($60 < T^* < 70$ at 1200°C). Color stems from transitions due to the high crystal field of Cr^{3+} or Mn^{3+} in the Al
603 site [142,143]. Color variants are obtained by co-doping Mn with Ca or P [37]. Not used in DD, both not
604 suitable for quadrichromy and cost of micronization (due to its hardness). Easy synthesis by solid state,
605 possible also in absence of mineralizers [144], and by mechanosynthesis [145].

606 **Gahnite doped with Cr** is another classic rose pigment [2,146]. ZnAl_2O_4 is a common phase in zinc-rich
607 glazes, and the pigment is rather stable in all applications. Its synthesis is quite easy, in presence of borate
608 mineralizers [37]. This spinel has been developed in many variants, with Mg, Fe, Ni, Cr, as co-dopants [147-
609 149]. It is still used in LT ($50 < T^* < 60$ at 1050°C) since its incompatibility with B, Ca, Mg and Ba precludes
610 applications at higher temperatures. Peculiar colors – peach to salmon pink (Fig. 14) – are obtained and tend
611 to exhibit some degree of metamerism [37].

612 There is a set of red and purple pigments not entered in the industrial practice, along with colorants used in
613 the past but now completely abandoned. Modern production does not employ crocoite (PbCrO_4) or further
614 chromate pigments. **Pyrochlore** $\text{Y}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Cr was developed as a burgundy to brown pigment
615 [150,151]. Its color ($60 < T^* < 70$ at 1080°C) is similar to the less intense shades of malayaite-Cr (Fig. 14) and
616 similarly stems from multiple chromophores (Cr^{3+} and Cr^{4+} in octahedral coordination). Synthesis is
617 complicated by an uneasy control on accessory phases [150,152]. Although stable in the main applications,
618 it is handicapped by a higher cost and worse color with respect to industrial colorants. Other pyrochlores
619 were investigated, as reddish brown $\text{Y}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Cr [152] and pink $\text{Er}_2(\text{Zr,Ti})_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Cr
620 [153,154] or $\text{Y}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ co-doped with Cr and Pr [155]. They all suffer from an insufficient tinctorial strength,
621 most of all for as concerns pink $\text{Er}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Cr, which if prepared by solid-state synthesis presents a
622 very pale pink shade whatever the temperature; otherwise, if prepared by sol-gel method shows an intense
623 pink coloration when calcinated at 700°C [153]. The color stability significantly diminishes above this
624 temperature, unless the sample contains zirconium, which stabilizes the fluorite structure and ensures a
625 color intensity also at higher calcination temperature [154].

626 Further proposals include **CaYAIO₄ doped with Cr** that exhibits pink shades ($55 < T^* < 60$ at 1050°C)
627 comparable to the weakest achieved with encapsulated hematite (Fig. 14). Color stems from Cr^{3+} and Cr^{4+} in
628 a distorted octahedral site [156] and its stability was tested at 1050°C in transparent frit (Ca-Zn-B). **Hematite**
629 **encapsulated in zirconia** [128] proved to be stable in LT applications ($T^* \sim 77$ at 980°C). Lilac colors were
630 developed exploiting **(Ba,Sr)Zn₂Si₂O₇** and **BaMg₂Si₂O₇** with melilite structure: color is originated by Ni^{2+} in
631 tetrahedral coordination [157,158]; their thermal stability was not tested yet. Purple dyes were obtained by
632 $(\text{Mn,Mg})_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$ solid solutions with **thortveitite** structure. Once thortveitite breaks down during firing,
633 manganese is released to the glaze, which turns colored ($50 < T^* < 65$ at 1080°C) by the effect of Mn^{3+} ion
634 dissolved in the glassy phase [159]. Another dye consisting of **Co phosphate** was described as purple, but
635 final coloration in glaze is blue [160,161].

636 **5.2. Yellow and orange colorants**

637 There is a limited number of yellow colorants utilized in IT and HT-VHT applications that increases
 638 considerably once LT is concerned (Fig. 15). Only yellow zircon is employed in BO and DD technologies,
 639 that makes it a “universal” pigment used in all the ceramic technologies. Mass-stone represents the main
 640 demand for orange colorants, mostly satisfied by rutile pigments, sometimes utilized in DD too.

641 **Zircon doped with Pr** provides a bright yellow (typically $60 < T^* < 80$ at 1100-1200°C) due to Pr^{4+} incorporated
 642 at the Zr site [162-164]. Developed also with other dopants, like Tb^{4+} and Ce^{4+} , but not at the industrial level
 643 [165-167]. Its synthesis is not straightforward, as solid, liquid and gas states are involved [168,169], with an
 644 important role played by mineralizers and calcination conditions [164,168-172]. It is highly stable in all
 645 applications, especially in Zr-rich and Zn-rich coatings [37]. Nevertheless, it is less performing in DD, due to
 646 detrimental effect of micronization on color, thus sometimes associated to other yellow or buff pigments
 647 [10,49].

Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Zircon	$(Zr,Pr)SiO_4$	yellow YELLOW 159	■	■	■	■	■
Rutile	$(Ti,Ni,Sb)O_2$	yellow YELLOW 53	◐	◑ 1 2	◑ 1 2	◑ 2	◑ 1 2
Greenockite	$ZrSiO_4[CdS]$	yellow YELLOW 35	■	■	◐	◑ 3	◑ 1 2
Srilankite	$Zr(Ti,Sn,V,In)O_4$	yellow not filed	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ ?
Perovskite	$Sr(Sn,V)O_3$ $Ba(Sn,Tb)O_3$	yellow not filed	◑ 3	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 3
Baddeleyite	$ZrO_2[V_2O_5]$	yellow YELLOW 160	■	■	■	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 4
Cassiterite	$(Sn,V)O_2[V_2O_5]$	yellow YELLOW 158	■	□ 3	□ 3	◑ 3	◑ 1 4
Pridelite	$Ba(Ti,Ni)_8O_{16}$	primrose YELLOW 157	◐	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4
Pseudobrookite (Karooite)	$Mg(Ti,V)_2O_5$	primrose not filed	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4
Pyrochlore	$Pb_2Sb_2O_7$	orange YELLOW 41	■	□ 1 2	◑ 1 2	◑ 1 2	◑ 1 2 4
Cerianite	$(Ce,Pr)O_2$	orange-pink not filed	◑ 1 3	◑ 1 3	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 1
Rutile	$(Ti,Cr,Sb)O_2$	orange BROWN 24	■	◑ 1	◑ 1	■	◑ 1
Rutile (formed in situ)	Cr+Sb-organomet and Ti-primer	orange not filed	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	■	◐

Fig. 15. Technological properties of industrial yellow to orange ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◐); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (◑). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

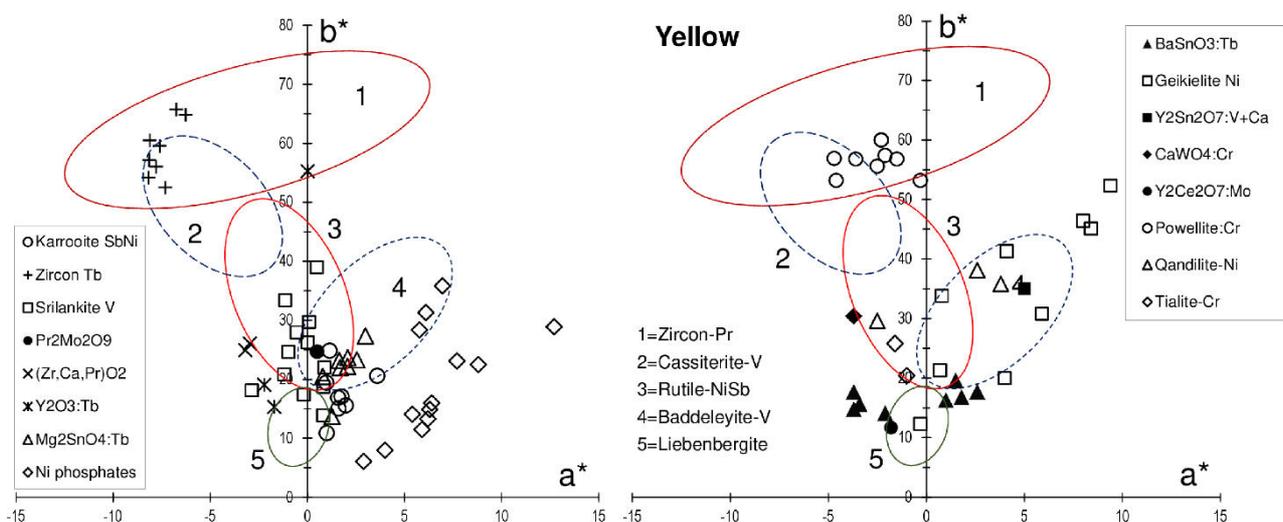
648 **Baddeleyite doped with V** is a classic pigment with a characteristic yellow egg coloration (usually $40 < T^* < 50$
 649 at 1100-1200°C) which can be tuned by doping with In, Y, Ti, or Al. Such a peculiar shade is related to the
 650 occurrence of tiny clusters of V^{5+} oxide included in ZrO_2 that makes it a sort of mordant pigment [173,174]. Its
 651 production is quite easy, also with alternatives to solid state synthesis [175-177]. The stability in glazes is
 652 generally good, but it is utilized especially in VHT applications [178]. Unsuitable for mass-stone (BO)
 653 because it tends to react with silica to form zircon. It is not used in DD, due to its color shade, not optimal in
 654 quadrichromy, and unsatisfactory tinctorial strength after micronization. Also, its high specific weight makes
 655 the ink more prone to pigment sedimentation.

656 **Greenockite encapsulated in zircon** provides a very brilliant yellow color ($T^* \sim 90$ at 1200°C). If
 657 encapsulation is complete and preserved during application, the stability in glazes is excellent [179]. As said
 658 for the analogous red pigment, the synthesis is complex. Indeed, in order to avoid the airtight container
 659 required by the ceramic method, the direct synthesis at low temperature by hydrothermal method is
 660 preferred. It entails the complex inclusion of cadmium sulfoselenide into a $\text{SiO}_2\text{-CeO}_2$ glassy phase, which
 661 have to be preserved during the zircon formation [113]. Since encapsulation is to some extent broken during
 662 micronization, it is not suitable for DD. A major issue is the high toxicity of cadmium, which imposes a
 663 standard control on Cd release from finished ceramic products [114].

664 **Cassiterite doped with V** is another classic among yellow colorants, but less used than baddeleyite [2],
 665 despite good tinctorial strength (typically $50 < T^* < 75$ at $1100\text{-}1200^\circ\text{C}$). The yellow color is originated by
 666 multiple chromophores, among which the dominating effect is by clusters of V^{5+} oxide included in tin oxide
 667 [2,180]. Co-doping with Ti and/or Al is a common practice to get color variants. Although still used in LT
 668 applications and sometimes in IT glazes, it is not employed in DD, as this pigment suffers from higher cost
 669 and worse tinctorial strength when compared to zircon-Pr. In addition, the high specific weight of tin oxide
 670 makes the ink more prone to sedimentation problems.

671 **Rutile doped with Ni** is a bright yellow pigment (commonly $50 < T^* < 60$ below 1150°C) needing a counterion
 672 that can be Sb, Nb, W or Mo [181,182]. Its synthesis is easy and can be performed also as solid solution with
 673 tin oxide [183,184]. It is employed more in other sectors than in ceramic production because of technological
 674 and safety issues. In fact, its stability is ensured only in LT applications, even though it would perform
 675 satisfactorily also in IT and as mass-stone. Nonetheless, the classification of nickel oxide as toxic and
 676 carcinogenic turned to be a major concern for pigment manufacturers.

677 **Priderite doped with Ni** is a traditional yellow pigment characterized by a peculiar primrose hue, not shown
 678 in Figure 16 [16,185]. Color is due to Ni^{2+} ion at one of the octahedral sites present in the hollandite-type
 679 structure [186]. The stability of $\text{BaTi}_8\text{O}_{17}$ in current glazes is limited, so the use of this pigment is restricted to
 680 some LT applications. As for rutile, the occurrence of nickel oxide is self-defeating, implying additional safety
 681 measures in the manufacturing cycle.



682

683 Fig. 16. Yellow colors in glaze, plotted on the a^* - b^* plane (CIE-L*a*b*). Numbered fields represent the main industrial
 684 colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

685 **Srilankite doped with V** gives a yellow color due to multiple chromophores: V^{4+} at a strongly distorted
686 octahedral site, V^{4+} - V^{5+} intervalence charge transfer, and/or V-O charge transfer [178]. Its synthesis is not
687 straightforward, as it needs the use of Al, In or Y, as counterions, and some Sn in substitution of Ti
688 [187,188]. It is stable in most applications and exhibits a tinctorial strength (declining from $T^* \sim 55$ at 1000°C
689 to $T^* \sim 30$ at 1200°C) midway from baddeleyite-V to zircon-Pr [178]. Although developed at industrial level, it
690 had a very limited success, because of a worse benefit/cost ratio with respect to yellow zircon [188].

691 **Rutile co-doped with Cr and Sb** constitutes the reference pigment for orange colors (typically $60 < T^* < 80$ at
692 1100 - 1200°C). It can have Nb, Mo or Ta as counterion in replacement of Sb [189-191]. Synthesis is easy
693 and can be performed in rotary furnaces [37]. Nonetheless, color stems from both crystal field (octahedrally-
694 coordinated Cr^{3+}) and charge transfer (Cr-O) electronic transitions [181,182] that are affected by co-doping
695 with Fe and Mn [37,192]. The color stability is good in LT and especially in BO applications, where it is
696 largely used. Usually not employed in IT and HT glazes and not suitable for DD as primary pigment to be
697 micronized. However, it is the pigment formed in-situ when soluble salts based on Ti-Cr-Sb organometallics
698 are applied [104,193].

699 **Pyrochlore $\text{Pb}_2\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_7$** (oxyplumboroméite) was widely used in the past, the so-called *Naples' yellow* [194],
700 as an orange to yellow pigment, with color varying upon doping (Al, Ce, Fe, Sn, Zn). It is now completely
701 abandoned by the ceramic industry for both technological and safety reasons. The former regard the poor
702 thermal stability of the pigment, while the latter follow the ban of lead from modern ceramic manufacturing.
703 This pigment is still used in some LT applications at level of craftsmanship.

704 There are other yellow and orange colorants proposed in the literature but never entered in the industrial
705 use. For instance, **karrooite** doped with Ni or co-doped with Ni and Sb provides yellow to primrose shades
706 (Fig. 16) rather stable in all applications (typically $30 < T^* < 40$ at 1100 - 1200°C) but DD [195,196]. Also, V
707 doping was experimented, but it induces a complex structural rearrangement of karrooite crystal lattice,
708 which implies a low purity of the final color, going from orange to buff [195]. For this reason, an employ for
709 the V doping in the production of brown pigments with a $T^* \sim 80$, is much more suggested [197].

710 **Perovskites** SrSnO_3 doped with V [198] or Cr and Tb [199], and BaSnO_3 doped with Tb [200] present pale
711 yellow or light orange shades (Fig. 16). The color stability was tested at 1000 - 1050°C only with $T^* \sim 50$
712 [199,200] or not verified at all [198].

713 **Pyrochlore $\text{Y}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$** co-doped with V and Ca [201,202] provides a yellow pigment (Fig. 16) that is stable
714 only in double firing glazes at low temperature ($T^* \sim 60$ at 1000°C). The variants $\text{Y}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ [203] and $\text{Dy}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$
715 [204] were proposed, also with V^{4+} as chromophore. In addition, lanthanide-based pyrochlores were
716 investigated: $\text{Y}_2\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_7$ [205] and $\text{Er}_2\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_7$ [206] both doped with Mo. Such compounds have an orange color
717 that revealed thermally instable even in a ceramic glaze at 1000°C . Their tinctorial strength is really too low
718 ($T^* \sim 30$) to be taken into account as industrial pigment.

719 **Geikielite MgTiO_3** doped with Ni requires high temperature for a successful calcination (i.e., 1400°C) and the
720 synthesis is thermodynamically unfavored, leading to the co-existence of accessory phases [207]. This
721 pigment shows a yellowish shade comparable to baddeleyite doped with V (Fig. 16) but is instable also in
722 low temperature glazes ($50 < T^* < 70$ at 1000 - 1050°C). In order to improve the synthesis yield and the stability
723 of this pigment a core-shell structure (consisting of TiO_2 core and outer ilmenite NiTiO_3 shell) obtained
724 through sol-precipitation method was tested. Anyway, the color stability in low temperature glazes (1000°C)
725 has been only qualitatively evaluated [208].

726 **Powellite**, CaMoO_4 doped with Cr, is characterized by a bright yellow color comparable to zircon-Pr (Fig.
727 16). It has excellent performances, with optimum tinctorial strength most of all in LT and IT technologies
728 ($75 < T^* < 80$ at $1000\text{-}1080^\circ\text{C}$), but good also in HT and BO applications ($T^* \sim 65$). Synthesis is easy, since
729 pigment is obtained by a solid solution of Cr^{6+} substituting Mo^{6+} in the powellite lattice. Despite that, this
730 pigment releases Cr^{6+} when washed, implying a strong safety hazard [209]. A pigment based on scheelite,
731 CaWO_4 doped with Cr, isostructural with powellite, has a less intense yellow coloration [205].

732 **Yttria** doped with Tb^{4+} provides a pale yellow color, which requires Ca^{2+} or Ba^{2+} as counterion to balance Y^{3+}
733 [210]. However, its synthesis is complex, as it involves solid, liquid and gas states and demands high control
734 on the pigment stoichiometry [210]. Tests of this yellow pigment in industrial glazes at 1080°C indicate a
735 good stability of Ca and Ba co-doped $\text{Y}_{1.86}\text{Tb}_{0.14}\text{O}_3$ ($T^* \sim 65$).

736 **Zincite**, i.e. ZnO doped with Co, Fe or V, was synthesized as a single phase with wurtzite structure that can
737 give rise to different colors, depending on the dopant [211]. Nevertheless, to date, no tests on the pigments
738 stability or tinctorial strength in glazes have been performed.

739 **Rutile** doped with Mo provides yellow to green tones, in accord with calcination temperatures. These
740 compounds are characterized by low tinctorial strength already as calcinated powders ($T^* \sim 50$) and also
741 suffer from color instability in glazes at intermediate temperatures, with a resulting $T^* \sim 10$ at 1165°C [212].

742 Orange colorants never entered in the industrial use consist essentially of cerianite and perovskite varieties.

743 **Cerianite** doped with Pr was extensively investigated and developed industrially, but its use is damped by
744 high cost and specific weight of cerium oxide. The tinctorial strength is apparently good ($70 < T^* < 80$) but, in
745 reality, tested in the $1000\text{-}1100^\circ\text{C}$ range only [213,214]. Similar coloration is achieved by doping with Tb,
746 while using mixed lanthanides or other dopants (Cr, Eu, In) ensued a $T^* < 50$ [215]. Color can be tuned in
747 various shades, at best resembling that of buff spinel and orange rutile. The synthesis of Pr-CeO_2 , and to a
748 lesser extent of Tb-CeO_2 , has been profusely investigated in the last decade [216-218]: not only the classical
749 ceramic method, but also by many non-conventional routes (*i.e.*, coprecipitation, flux method, combustion,
750 pyrolysis, hydrothermal, microwave-assisted, and so forth). The results indicate that, opposite to the high
751 temperature ceramic synthesis ($1400\text{-}1500^\circ\text{C}$), the non-conventional way – especially the colloidal
752 stabilization route with nitrates and the homogeneous coprecipitation route with oxalates and urea – allows
753 to lower the calcination temperature down to 1100°C . Moreover, these methods enabled the formation of
754 more homogeneous (single phase) solid solutions with optimal tinctorial strength in double-firing glaze
755 ($T^* \sim 80$ at 1050°C). In addition, Pr-CeO_2 embedded in glass-ceramics was proposed as an encapsulated
756 pigment [219].

757 **Pyrochlore** $\text{Y}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ doped with Pr and Fe, provides an orange to reddish brown color [155]. The synthesis
758 by polymeric sol-gel method at 1400°C produced a defective fluorite structure able to confer high stability to
759 the colorant in IT applications ($68 < T^* < 88$ at 1080°C). As in the case of $\text{Er}_2(\text{Zr,Ti})_2\text{O}_7$, the presence of Zr
760 prevents the transition to an ordered pyrochlore structure with temperature, and allows to obtain an intense
761 coloration of the pigment.

762 Finally, **gehlenite** $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7$ co-doped with Eu and Zn was proposed as an environment friendly yellow
763 pigment [220].

764 5.3. Brown to maroon colorants

765 Brown and maroon colorants are important in ceramic decoration, because most graphics used in tile making
766 are intended to reproduce natural surfaces, like stone, metal, skin and wood of various types, which have

767 commonly a large range of brown shades. In addition, they are generally cheaper than “pure” colors. This
 768 **makes** brown pigments a viable substitute in DD of yellow, black and particularly magenta colorants (Fig.
 769 17). Many brown pigments are based on the spinel structure, taking **chromite** as an archetype, which
 770 brownish color stems from Cr^{3+} and Fe^{2+} at the octahedral and tetrahedral sites, respectively. Numerous
 771 variants are achieved by the addition of Al, Mn, Ni, and especially Zn to modulate chromatic coordinates. In
 772 fact, Zn^{2+} occupies the tetrahedral site, forcing out chromophores like Mn^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Co^{2+} or Ni^{2+} , hence
 773 increasing the light transmittance in the yellow to red window. This category includes natural chromite, that is
 774 suitable only for mass-stone [221-222], as well as **franklinite** (Zn-Mn-Cr) and **jacobsite** (Mn-Fe-Cr), which
 775 ensure different shades, from light brown to coffee [37,223-225]. Doping with Ni (and/or Co) leads toward
 776 **trevorite** compositions (Zn-Ni-Fe-Cr) that provide a distinctly darker brown [226,227]. They are used in all
 777 applications, including sometimes BO, with tinctorial strength $75 < T^* < 90$ at 1200°C (Fig. 17). Redder shades
 778 of brown are widely exploited in DD, where they can replace magenta, despite color does not fit what
 779 theoretically required by quadrichromy. Another strategy with spinel pigments is the joint substitution of Zn^{2+}
 780 (tetrahedral site) and Al^{3+} and/or Fe^{3+} (octahedral site) that leads to light brown colors, extending to pale
 781 yellow or buff, like the case of **zincchromite** (Zn-Fe-Al-Cr). These are stable in all applications, having care
 782 to have some zinc in the matrix, and are common ingredients of yellow inks, together with other pigments
 783 [228-231]. They are useless in mass-stone, since natural color of porcelain stoneware is a kind of light
 784 brown. Finally, dark brown is obtained by introducing Sn^{4+} and/or Ti^{4+} at the octahedral site and splitting Fe^{2+}
 785 in both four-fold and six-fold coordination in the inverse **ulvöspinel** pigment. Various shades are obtained by
 786 adding Cr, Al, and Zn [37], even though a careful control on synthesis is quite difficult. They are stable just in
 787 LT and IT applications [10,227].

Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Spinel (<i>Zincchromite</i>)	$\text{Zn}(\text{Fe},\text{Cr})_2\text{O}_4$ $\text{Zn}(\text{Fe},\text{Al},\text{Cr})_2\text{O}_4$	buff BROWN 33	■	■	■	☐ 1	■
Cr soluble salt V soluble salt	Cr-organometallic V-organometallic	buff not filed	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	■	●
Spinel (<i>Franklinite</i>)	$(\text{Zn},\text{Mn})(\text{Cr},\text{Mn})_2\text{O}_4$	brown not filed	●	●	●	☐ 1	☐ 1 4
Fe soluble salt Ni soluble salt	Fe-organometallic Ni-organometallic	brown not filed	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	■	●
Perovskite	$\text{Ca}(\text{Ti},\text{Cr})\text{O}_3$	brown not filed	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4
Spinel (<i>Chromite</i>)	$\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_4$	brown BROWN 29	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	●	☐ 1 4
Hematite	$(\text{Fe},\text{Cr},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_3$	maroon not filed	●	☐ 1	☐ 1	●	☐ 1 4
Pseudobrookite	$\text{Fe}^{3+}_2\text{TiO}_5$ $(\text{Fe}^{3+},\text{Al})_2\text{TiO}_5$	maroon BROWN 35-48	●	●	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
Titanite Karooite	$\text{Ca}(\text{Ti},\text{Cr})\text{SiO}_5$ $\text{Mg}(\text{Ti},\text{Cr})\text{SiO}_5$	maroon not filed	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
Spinel (<i>Trevorite</i>)	$(\text{Zn},\text{Ni})(\text{Fe},\text{Cr})_2\text{O}_4$ $(\text{Zn},\text{Ni})\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$	maroon not filed	■	■	■	☐ 1	■
Spinel (<i>Jacobsite</i>)	$(\text{Mn},\text{Fe})(\text{Fe},\text{Cr})_2\text{O}_4$	coffee BROWN 46	■	■	■	●	☐ 1 4
Rutile	$(\text{Ti},\text{Cr},\text{W})\text{O}_2$	tobacco YELLOW 163	●	☐ 1	☐ 1	■	☐ 1
Rutile	$(\text{Ti},\text{Mn},\text{Sb})\text{O}_2$	dark brown YELLOW 164	●	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
Perovskite	LaFeO_3	dark brown not filed	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
Spinel (<i>Ulvöspinel</i>)	$\text{Fe}^{2+}_2\text{TiO}_4$	dark brown BLACK 12	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1

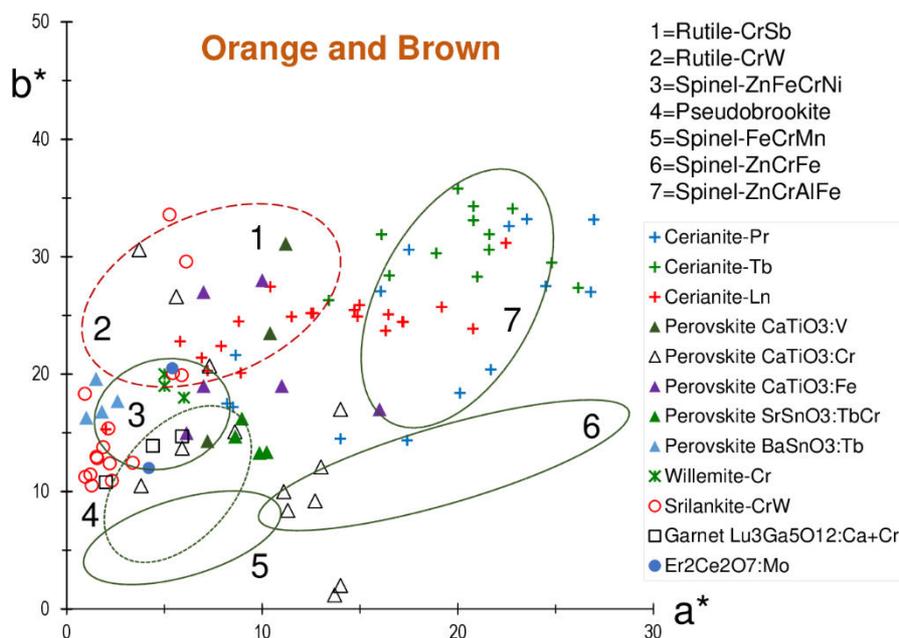
Fig. 17. Technological properties of industrial light brown to maroon ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (●); no longer in use (☐); not entered in use (☐). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color **saturation** and purity (4).

788 **Rutile co-doped with Cr and W** gives a characteristic tobacco brown, appreciated in mass-stone ($70 < T^* < 85$
 789 at 1200°C) but seldom used in LT to IT firing cycles [181,182,185]. It is formed in-situ once Ti-Cr-W
 790 organometallics are applied with the soluble salts technology [103]. It exhibits a technological behavior
 791 similar to the orange rutile co-doped with Sb. Another dark brown pigment, but less common in use, is based
 792 on the rutile structure by combining Mn with a counterion (usually Sb, but also Nb or W can be used). Finally,
 793 titania doped with Cr, but without a proper counterion, was investigated: its **tinctorial** strength is worse than
 794 the above described rutile pigments [232].

795 **Hematite** is a popular brown pigment, which can assume many shades according to Fe:Cr:Al ratios and
 796 further dopings [233,234]. On the other hand, various shades of pure hematite appear, mainly due to the
 797 variation in crystallinity, particle size, shape and degree of aggregation [235,236]. Thus, the colour of this
 798 pigment depends on synthesis route [236]. Hematite is not stable in glazes, but in LT schedules it shows an
 799 excellent tinctorial strength, typically $75 < T^* < 95$ at $850\text{-}1000^\circ\text{C}$ [237]. It is sometimes employed in mass-
 800 stone, but largely replaced by hematite-zircon and hematite-silica encapsulated pigments.

801 **Iron, Nickel and Vanadium organometallics** are applied, as penetrating soluble salts, to get a set of colors
 802 going from light brown (V) to brown with greenish (Ni) or reddish (Fe) shades [103]. In Ti-rich bodies, color
 803 changes to a brownish gray (Ni and Fe) or a chestnut brown (V).

804 **Pseudobrookite** can be easily synthesized by conventional ceramic route at 1300°C , with titania in moderate
 805 excess of the Fe_2TiO_5 stoichiometry [238,239]. This pigment exhibits a peculiar, intensely brown coloration
 806 (Fig. 18) but its colouring performance depends on the chemico-physical properties of ceramic matrices:
 807 saturated brown shades achieved in low temperature glasses shift to a lighter brown in opacified glazes and
 808 fade to a light gray in wall tile glazes, where the high CaO and ZnO content contributes to rapidly dissolve
 809 pseudobrookite. Therefore, it is indicated in LT and IT applications ($57 < T^* < 63$ at 1150°C).



810
 811 Fig. 18. Brown, maroon and orange colors in glaze, plotted on the a^* - b^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$). Numbered fields represent
 812 the main industrial colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

813 Maroon and brown pigments not entered in the industrial use encompass, among others, many perovskites.

814 Perovskite **CaTiO₃ doped with Cr** provides light brown pigment due to the partial substitution of Ti⁴⁺ with
815 Cr⁴⁺ in octahedral coordination sites. The synthesis of this colorant is easy, the classical solid-state ceramic
816 route with or without the employ of mineraliser [240-243]. Both the color shade (Fig. 18) and stability strictly
817 depend on the Cr doping of Ca(Cr_xTi_{1-x})O₃, and on the chemical system of the glaze. It demonstrated to be
818 stable only with low Cr doping (x=0.04 mol) in SiO₂-B₂O₃-CaO glaze systems, with a relatively good color
819 yield, T*~66 at 1050°C [242]. On the other hand, its technological behavior becomes totally instable in SiO₂-
820 ZnO-CaO glazes: at low Cr concentration (x≤0.05) the nuance of the pigment turns pink in glaze (57<T*<71
821 at 1050°C); while at higher Cr doping the color in glaze turns green for the crystallization of chromates, which
822 dissolving in the melt impart this peculiar coloration. The use of mineraliser, in order to avoid the chromates
823 formation, can further affect the color stability in glazes, leading to blue shades [240].

824 Perovskite **CaTiO₃ doped with V** gives brownish-pink shades, comparable to orange rutile (Fig. 18), thanks
825 to the partial substitution of Ti⁴⁺ with V⁵⁺ [244]. The colorant obtained by conventional ceramic route has a
826 relatively good performance in SiO₂-CaO-ZnO ceramic glazes (T*~70 at 1050°C) for a solid solution limit
827 near x=0.2. Higher amounts of vanadium crystallize Ca₂V₂O₇, which dilutes the real amount of saturated
828 Ca(V_xTi_{1-x})O₃ and diminishes the colour intensity.

829 Perovskite **CaZrO₃ doped with Cr** presents a brown color (T*~50 at 1050°C) due to the substitution of Zr⁴⁺
830 by Cr⁴⁺ [245]. The pigment proved to be unstable already at 820°C in highly aggressive alkali-boro-fluoro-
831 silicate glazes, with dissolution in the molten glass. At the same time, Cr⁴⁺ is reduced to Cr³⁺, responsible for
832 the green color of the glaze. In the same way, **lanthanum aluminate doped with Cr**, La(Al,Cr)O₃,
833 decomposes in aggressive glazes at low temperatures, entailing a colour degradation [246]. Another
834 perovskite-like compound was proposed: Er₆MoO₁₂ with a light brown color [247], which proved to be stable
835 in a LT glaze (T*~55 at 1070°C).

836 **Rare earth orthoferrites** with a general formula LnFeO₃, provide brown to orange pigments. The addition of
837 Ln³⁺ ions to Fe₂O₃ induces a change in color of perovskite. In particular, La and Gd form pigments of sienna
838 or orange color, while adding Lu, Tm and Yb a dark reddish brown is achieved. However, they were not yet
839 tested in ceramic glazes [248,249].

840 **Lu₃Ga₅O₁₂ garnet doped with Cr and Ca** shows a brownish pink color comparable to some brown spinels
841 (Fig. 18). The pigment is formed by a solid solution of Ca²⁺ and Cr⁴⁺ substituting for Lu³⁺ in the dodecahedral
842 site of (Ca_xCr_xLu_{3-2x})Ga₅O₁₂ and can be easily obtained by a solid state synthesis. Tests in single firing glaze
843 at 1085°C indicated a good stability of the pigment, but a low final tinctorial strength, 50<T*<60 at 1085°C
844 [250]. Also, the gallium-gadolinium garnet (Gd₃Ga₅O₁₂) doped with Cr was investigated, but no information
845 was disclosed about its color in glazes [251].

846 **Titanite doped with Cr** is the titanium equivalent of the Cr-doped malayaite pigment, but instead of a
847 burgundy, its color is a reddish brown [252-254]. No data about its behavior in glazes are available.

848 **BaFe₂O₄** gives a light orange-brown tint. The employ of a polymeric precursor method leads to a high
849 crystallinity material, avoiding the formation of secondary phases, otherwise occurring in the traditional
850 ceramic synthesis. Pigment can be evaluated for LT application, since it showed good stability in ceramic
851 glaze at 1000°C, with T*~70 [255]. **CaFe₂O₄** and mostly **MgFe₂O₄** provide pigments with a darker brown
852 color with respect to the BaFe₂O₄, but no tests on their stability in ceramic glaze are available to date
853 [256,257].

854 **Mg₂SnO₄ doped with Tb** is an inverse spinel that shows a sandy yellow-buff color. The traditional ceramic
855 synthesis is complicated by a difficult control on accessory phases [258]. Moreover, tests for LT applications

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856 (Fig. 16) revealed a low **tinctorial** strength ($T^* \sim 40$ at 1000°C). **Zn₇Sb₂O₁₂ doped with Co** may exhibit
857 different colors, depending on which site – tetrahedral or octahedral – Co^{2+} occupies in substitution of Zn^{2+} .
858 Based on doping, it is possible to obtain a yellow to black pigment. However, its behavior in ceramic glazes
859 has not been tested yet [259].

860 **Hibonite doped with Cr, Fe or Mn** provides many different rosy-brown shades. Various substitutions are in
861 fact possible at the Al sites in the CaAl_2O_9 host lattice. When Fe^{3+} is used as a chromophore, the color
862 changes from yellow to red brown to dark chocolate by increasing the doping. When Mn is used, the color
863 varies from burlywood to saddle brown. In the case of Cr-containing samples, the color changes from light
864 rosy brown to grayish green with increasing Cr. Despite the great variety of colors obtainable with a simple
865 solid-solution synthesis, no test on their stability in ceramic glazes is available yet [260].

866 **Celsian doped with Fe** in substitution of Ba gives rise to a brownish-pink color [261]. The solid-solution is
867 based on metal-doped $\text{BaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ lattice – where Fe^{3+} is expected to replace Al^{3+} in tetrahedral coordination
868 – and is obtained by the conventional ceramic method. The resulting pigment is chemically stable in classical
869 double firing glaze, but with a too low $T^* \sim 35$ (1050°C).

870 **FeNbO₄ encapsulated in zircon** can provide different shades (yellowish brown to earthy yellow) as the
871 content of FeNbO_4 increases with respect to zircon [262]. Control on synthesis is not straightforward, as for
872 complications to arrange a proper encapsulation, as because ixiolite is trimorphic and a phase transition
873 occurs at 1085°C [263]. Anyway, the color of the pigments is not so intense ($T^* \leq 60$) and no data are
874 available on their chemical stability and final tinctorial strength in ceramic glazes.

875 **TiCeO₄ doped with Pr** obtained by solid-state reactions, with the substitution of Ce by Pr, has a color going
876 from light pink to maroon, depending on the concentration of praseodymium. The color intensity of the
877 different solid solutions is quite good, but their stability in ceramic matrix has not been investigated yet [264].
878 Further brown pigments developed at the lab scale include **willemite**, Zn_2SiO_4 doped with Cr [250] and
879 **tialite**, Al_2TiO_5 doped with Mn [265]; both display a buff color (Fig. 18) stable in LT-IT applications, more
880 intense in tialite ($60 < T^* < 64$ at 1050°C) than in willemite ($40 < T^* < 47$ at 1080°C). In addition, **cubic zirconia**
881 takes a light brown color ($T^* \sim 40$ at 1100°C) once co-doped with Ca and Pr [266].

882 Recently, a range of **light brown phosphate-vanadate dyes** was investigated. They are based on
883 $(\text{Mg},\text{Ni})_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$ [267]; $\text{Ni}_3(\text{P},\text{V})_2\text{O}_8$ and $\text{Ni}_2(\text{P},\text{V})_2\text{O}_7$ [268]; $(\text{Al},\text{Fe})(\text{P},\text{V})\text{O}_4$ [269]; $(\text{Ni},\text{Co})_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$ [270] solid
884 solutions. Their tinctorial strength in LT glazes is in between 60 and 82 at 1065°C (Fig. 16).

885 **5.4. Green colorants**

886 There is no all-season green in the ceramic palette, because the purest colorants have a limited thermal
887 stability, while the most robust pigment – utilizable in every application – gives a coloration midway from
888 green to blue (Fig. 19). In addition, these colorants are now relegated to occasional use in digital decoration,
889 since green is not a basic color in quadrichromy and only special sets for hexachromy include a green ink.

890 **Eskolaite** pigments impart rather dull green colors with variable shades, according to doping with Al and/or
891 Fe. In principle, it is highly refractory but suffers from a certain reactivity during firing. It is the reference
892 colorant for mass-stone ($70 < T^* < 80$ at 1200°C) and is still used in LT and occasionally in IT, max $\sim 1100^\circ\text{C}$
893 [37]. However, its application in glazes is strongly constrained by the well-known incompatibility with Zn, Sn,
894 and Ca [142,271,272]. Eskolaite is occasionally employed in DD as component of complex green inks.

895 **Uvarovite**, the so-called *Victoria green*, is based on $\text{Ca}_3\text{Cr}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{12}$ garnet, possibly diluted with Al [273-276].
896 **Unstable already in IT applications (unless in high calcium glazes) it provides the best color at LT ($T^* \sim 70$ at**

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1000°C). Its use is limited since decades, due to the hazards involved in solid-state synthesis, where CaCrO_4 forms and is responsible for high Cr^{6+} leaching in wastewaters [275].

Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Spinel	CoCr_2O_4	blue-green BLUE 36	■	■	■	☐ 1	■
Eskolaite	$(\text{Cr},\text{Al})_2\text{O}_3$	green GREEN 17	◐	☐ 1	☐ 1	■	☐ 1
Garnet (Uvarovite)	$\text{Ca}_3\text{Cr}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$	green GREEN 51	◐	☐ 1 2	☐ 1 2	☐ 1 2	☐ 1 2
Co-Ti Spinel	Co_2TiO_4	green GREEN 50	◐	☐ 1 3	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1 4
Perovskite	YCrO_3	green not filed	☐ 3	☐ 1 3	☐ 1 3	☐ 3	☐ 1 4
Olivine (Liebenbergite)	Ni_2SiO_4	yellow-green not filed	◐	☐ 2	☐ 1 2	☐ 1 2	☐ 2 4
Cr soluble salt Cu soluble salt	Cr-organometallic Cu-organometallic	green not filed	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	☐ 1 4	■	☐ 4

Fig. 19. Technological properties of industrial green ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◐); no longer in use (☐); not entered in use (☐). Unsuited because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

899 **Gahnite doped with Cr** is a classic light green pigment [2,16,277]. Color can be easily tuned by the Al:Cr
900 ratio and possible addition of Co, Fe, Mg, Mn, Sn and Ti as co-dopants. Although rather stable in all
901 applications, it is seldom utilized, because coloration achievable is less saturated than other green pigments
902 ($T^* \sim 85$ at 1080°C).

903 **Cochromite** is a spinel based on CoCr_2O_4 with various shades, according to the degree of occupancy of
904 Co^{2+} at the tetrahedral site and Cr^{3+} at the octahedral site, which can be replaced by Mg, Zn, Al and Fe to get
905 greenish blue to bluish green [37,278,279]. It has an excellent stability in glazes, but in Zn-rich ones
906 ($75 < T^* < 80$ at 1200°C); in bodies, its performance ($65 < T^* < 80$ at 1200°C) is less satisfactory [37]. Sometimes
907 used in DD, where the main hindrances are the cost (due to high amount of cobalt) and its hue far away from
908 requirements of quadrichromy [10,280].

909 **Green dyes** are utilized exclusively as penetrating soluble salts in BO applications. Resulting colors vary
910 from dark green-olive, based on Cr organometallics, to pale green-buff with Cu organometallics [103].

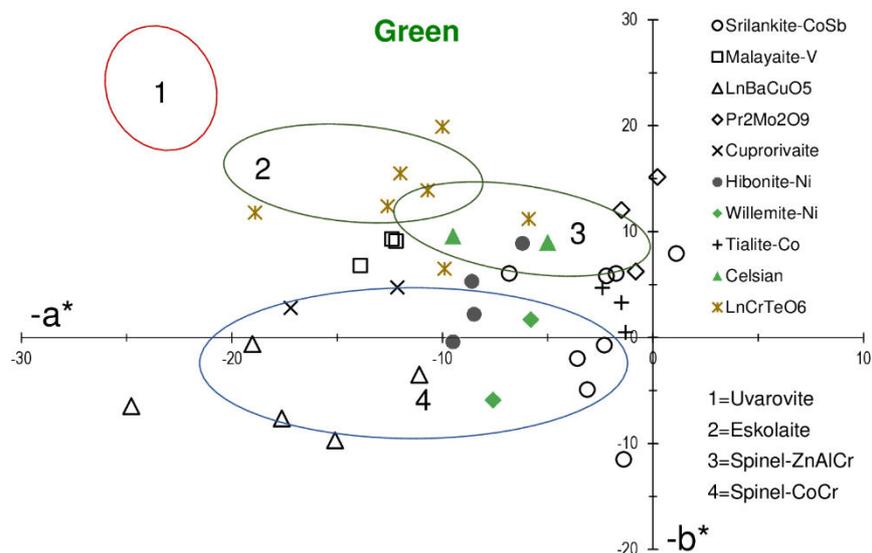
911 **Liebenbergite**, the nickel olivine Ni_2SiO_4 , bestows a greenish yellow shade (Fig. 16) on LT glazes with fair
912 tinctorial strength: $60 < T^* < 75$ at 1050°C [281,282]. It behaves likely as a dye: the color should derive from
913 Ni^{2+} in multiple coordination (five-fold and six-fold) in the glass network. This colorant is not suited for DD and
914 commonly not employed in IT and HT applications, mainly because of its high content of nickel (that makes it
915 a hazardous material) and its color not pure.

916 **Cobalt titanate** is a green pigment with grayish-blue shades, based on the inverse spinel Co_2TiO_4 . Although
917 known at the industrial level, it has a poor technological performance (Fig. 19). Its use in LT technology,
918 however, is tackled by high cost due to the amount of cobalt oxide [37].

919 There is a good number of green colorants not entered in the industrial practice yet.

920 **YCrO_3 perovskite** has an intense green color and a good performance in BO and LT, comparable with
921 industrial pigments, but it is more expensive for the high yttria content [133,283,284].

922 Given by its stability at high temperatures and low thermal expansion coefficient, the **tialite** Al_2TiO_5 structure
 923 can be used for pigments production. The presence of metal cations into the two highly distorted octahedral
 924 sites inhibits the thermal decomposition of pure tialite and leads to the chromatic properties of pigment. The
 925 color is pale ($40 < T^* < 55$ at $1050\text{-}1200^\circ\text{C}$) and may vary from green (Fig. 20) to greenish yellow (Fig. 16)
 926 passing from Co to Cr doping, respectively [265,285,286].



927

928 Fig. 20. Green colors in glaze, plotted on the a^*b^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$). Numbered fields represent the main industrial
 929 colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

930 A less-pollutant and less-expensive alternative green pigment may be **karroite**, Co-doped MgTi_2O_5 , an
 931 allochromatic solid solution for LT-IT applications [195,196]. This pigment exhibits a varied gamut of
 932 yellowish-green colors, showing a $55 < T^* < 70$ for calcined at 1200°C (Co molar content: 0–0.4). In glazes, a
 933 more turquoise coloration is developed, with a higher chromatic stability in Ca and Zn rich glasses [287].
 934 Cr-doped $\text{Y}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Y}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{O}_7$ **pyrochlores** show rather similar optical properties. Given by the limited
 935 chromium solubility into the structure, any doping beyond 0.06-0.07 Cr atom/formula unit leads to green
 936 pigments with red shades, due to the presence of Cr^{4+} in the octahedral site of pyrochlore and of Cr^{3+} in the
 937 ternary perovskite side phase [152].

938 A wet chemical route – like Pechini, solution combustion or coprecipitation – can be used for the production
 939 of **zincite** doped at a molecular level [211,288-290]. The presence of Co or Fe into the flattened tetrahedral
 940 site, instead of zinc cations, determines a change in pigment color from greenish to yellowish, with a
 941 tinctorial strength of about 75 for 0.3 Co^{2+} molar content. In case of coprecipitation method, the solution pH
 942 and the precipitation agent nature can affect importantly the chromatic properties of the calcined pigment. In
 943 particular, the increase of pH from 7 to 10 by ammonia addition leads to an increase of both a^* (i.e. from -16
 944 to -8) and tinctorial strength (i.e. from 45 to 62). Similarly, the color changes from bright green to dark green
 945 by increase of calcination temperature (from 950 to 1200°C). The coprecipitated pigments can show high
 946 near-infrared reflectance, making them good candidates as cool pigments [288-290].

947 Yellow-green coloured pigments, with an intensity variation, can be obtained with **cuprates** R_2BaCuO_5 (R =
 948 Y, Sm or Ho) having an orthorhombic structure, gettable by calcination ($950\text{-}1050^\circ\text{C}$) or nitrate combustion.
 949 These superconducting ceramics contain isolated Cu^{2+} ions, interconnected by direct bonds through oxygen.

950 The colour, given by d-d electronic transitions, is a light green. For Y_2BaCuO_5 obtained by combustion
951 synthesis, the formed aggregates show a brighter color given by their higher surface area. Cuprates show a
952 certain instability and reactivity with the glaze. After firing in ceramic glazes in IT conditions, a light-green to
953 turquoise color is developed (Fig. 20) that can vary as a function of glaze formulation ($52 < T^* < 72$ at 1070°C),
954 leading to an important bubble formation in unleaded matrix [291,292].

955 **Zircon** matrix can be used as hosting structure for Cr^{3+} or Co^{2+} ions to produce thermally stable green
956 pigments by aerosol hydrolysis and further synthetic routes [293-295]. The addition of mineralisers is
957 required for the Cr containing systems, to reduce calcination temperature (1500°C) and to limit metal
958 volatilization. The color saturation of pigments is different for Cr ($T^* \sim 43$) and Co ($T^* \sim 51$), the latter showing a
959 greener shade, quite constant between 1100 and 1300°C [293].

960 The tetragonal **neodymium silicate** $\text{Nd}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ can be prepared by the Pechini sol-gel method and
961 subsequent thermal treatment. The addition of LiCl reduces the required calcination temperature (from 1300
962 to 1100°C), favoring the formation of the monoclinic structure, hence of a yellowish color. In glazes, the
963 tinctorial strength goes from $T^* \sim 53$ at 1100°C to $T^* \sim 45$ at 1200°C [296].

964 **LnCrTeO₆** has a structure AB_2O_6 , with both A and B cations octahedrally coordinated to oxygen and Ln = La,
965 Nd, Gd, Dy, Er, Tm or Yb. It can be used for a kind of “chromium green” for LT application (850 - 1000°C)
966 having a color comparable to eskolaite (Fig. 20). Cr^{3+} in octahedral coordination acts as chromophore,
967 leading to different shades that can be obtained by direct mixing of oxides and calcination at 1000°C . The
968 colour changes from light to dark green passing from La to Yb, given by an increased crystal field splitting as
969 a result of lattice parameters decreasing, maintaining the same colour shade also at high temperature. The
970 presence of zincite must be controlled, given by its high reactivity with Cr. In presence of frits containing
971 corrosive PbO , a dark green to yellowish hue is obtained. The coloration is rather intense ($T^* \sim 80$ at 1000°C)
972 but thermal stability tested just for low temperatures [297].

973 For LT applications, also **Pr₂Mo₂O₉** can be used, where Pr is partially substituted by Ca in different amount.
974 Synthesis was performed by both ceramic and wet nitrate routes [298]. The presence of Ca^{2+} instead of Pr^{3+}
975 leads to a structural transition from cubic to monoclinic (when the Ca molar content is higher than 0.2)
976 followed by a color change from green to yellow ($25 < T^* < 33$ at 1050°C). The use of NaF as mineralizer
977 results in a pale yellow that in glaze has just a greenish shadow (Figs. 16 and 20).

978 **Co-Cr phosphates** can be produced by simple calcination of precursors and addressed to IT applications.
979 The increase of Co content implies a color change from yellowish green to bluish green [299]. Solid-state
980 reaction can be exploited also to dope iron oxide **Fe₂O₃** by progressive substitution of Fe^{3+} with Sc^{3+} ,
981 obtaining a colour change from reddish to greenish yellow [300].

982 **5.5. Blue and turquoise colorants**

983 Blue color in ceramics is commonly obtained by Co^{2+} in tetrahedral coordination in both pigment and dyes
984 [301]. In fact, cobalt ions tend to assume the four-fold coordination also in glazes and glasses [302,303]. This
985 circumstance explains the large recourse to cobalt dyes for the ceramic decoration. Cobalt colorants are
986 characterized by the best performance per molar concentration, leading to brilliant and intense hue already
987 for concentration lower than 1 %wt/wt. Blue colorants gained importance with the advent of inkjet printing as
988 their use turned from occasional (only when necessary to have blue shades) to systematic in any graphics,
989 even when no blue color is present, because of quadrichromy rules (Fig. 21). However, given by raising cost
990 and limited reserves, cobalt became a strategic raw material and the ceramic industry has difficulty in the

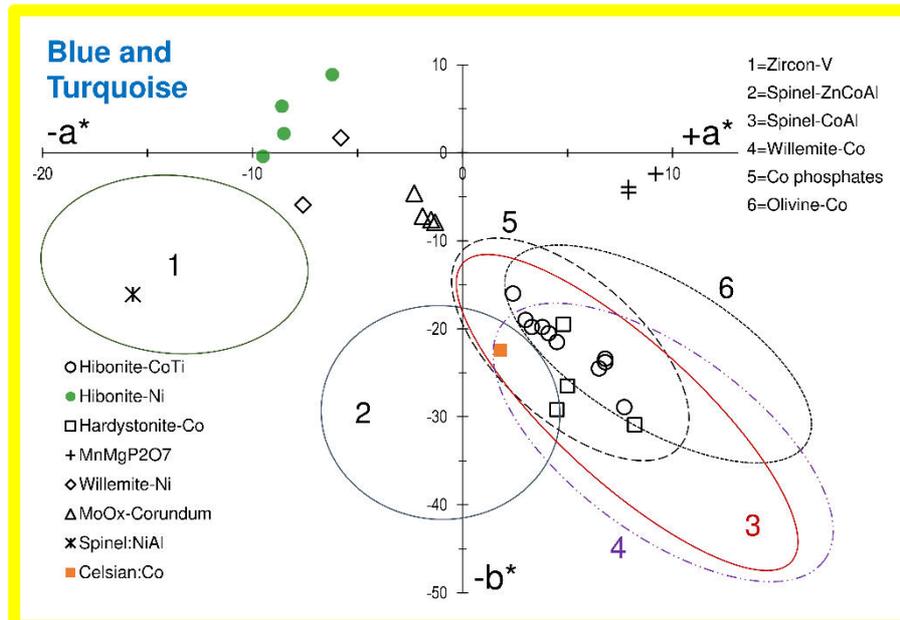
991 supply. Furthermore, cobalt shows toxic effects and is subjected to **even** more strictly environmental
 992 regulations. Cobalt appears to be hardly replaceable in order to achieve a deep blue coloration. Despite
 993 close to the cyan hue required by quadrichromy, turquoise pigments obtained with alternative chromophore,
 994 like V-doped zircon, are not used in DD.

Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Olivine	Co_2SiO_4	dark blue BLUE 73	■	■	■	◐	■
Sarcopside Lithiophyllite	$\text{Co}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ CoLiPO_4	dark blue VIOLET 14+47	■	◐	◑ 1	◑ 1	◑ 1
Suanite	$(\text{Mg},\text{Co})\text{B}_2\text{O}_5$	dark blue VIOLET 48	◐	◑ 1	◑ 1	◑ 1	◑ 1
Co soluble salt	Co-organometallic	blue not filed	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	◑ 1 4	■	◐
Spinel	CoAl_2O_4 $(\text{Zn},\text{Co})\text{Al}_2\text{O}_4$	blue BLUE 28+72	■	■	■	■	■
Willemite	$(\text{Zn},\text{Co})_2\text{SiO}_4$	blue BLUE 74	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
Hardystonite	$\text{Ca}_2(\text{Zn},\text{Co})\text{Al}_2\text{O}_7$	blue not filed	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 1	◑ 1	◑ 1
Perovskite	$\text{Y}(\text{Mn},\text{In})\text{O}_3$	blue BLUE 86	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 3	◑ 1 3
Zircon	$\text{ZrSiO}_4:\text{V}$	turquoise BLUE 71	■	■	■	■	◑ 1
Hibonite	$\text{Ca}(\text{Al},\text{Ni})_{12}\text{O}_{19}$	turquoise not filed	◑ 3	◑ 1	◑ 1	◑ 1	◑ 1

Fig. 21. Technological properties of industrial blue to turquoise ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◐); no longer in use (◑); not entered in use (◑). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color **saturation** and purity (4).

995 **Cobalt olivine** is the reference for ultramarine blue. It consists of Co_2SiO_4 doped with Mg or Zn to lower the
 996 cobalt consumption [303,304]. It plays as a dye, being completely dissolved in glazes, so the original violet
 997 shade turns into a deep blue. It is widely used in glazes, in all the applications from LT to VHT ($90 < T^* < 100$ at
 998 1200°C) but seldom as mass-stone (BO). This dye is the basic component of dark blue inks for DD [10].
 999 **Cobalt phosphates** are quite popular blue dyes in LT and IT applications ($80 < T^* < 100$ at 1085°C). They are
 1000 synthesized in crystalline form (sarcopside $\text{Co}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ and lithiophyllite CoLiPO_4 structures) but decompose
 1001 during firing, releasing Co^{2+} in the glassy phase. Lithiophyllite is preferred because of the lower content of
 1002 cobalt oxide. They are available in many variants, due to substitution of Co with Mg, Mn, Fe [305-308].
 1003 Magnesium borate is another blue dye, having the suanite $(\text{Mg},\text{Co})\text{B}_2\text{O}_5$ crystal structure, which behaves like
 1004 phosphates during firing [2]. It is sometimes used in LT technology.
 1005 **Cobalt organometallics** are used in BO applications as penetrating soluble salts. They are based, as other
 1006 cobalt dyes, on Co^{2+} ions dissolved in the glassy phase present in the porcelain stoneware bodies [103].
 1007 Color is a characteristic ultramarine blue, as for other dyes [101].
 1008 **Cobalt aluminate spinel** is the most important blue pigment, utilized in every application in glazes and
 1009 bodies, and especially in DD [10,309]. Its color is purer than cobalt dyes and based on Co^{2+} at a regular
 1010 tetrahedral site [301,303]. As CoAl_2O_4 , it has a high tinctorial strength ($75 < T^* < 95$ at 1200°C) also in HT and
 1011 BO applications [310]. There is a second pigment, $(\text{Zn},\text{Co})\text{Al}_2\text{O}_4$, which has similar technological properties
 1012 ($70 < T^* < 80$ at 1200°C) but a distinctly greener shade (Fig. 22). Several variants are produced by doping with
 1013 Cr, Fe, Ti and Zn to adjust hue and tinctorial strength [37,311]. It is a partially inverse spinel, implying that a

1014 small fraction of Co^{2+} is allocated at the octahedral site, depending on the cooling history [309]. This
 1015 circumstance can explain color fluctuations in pigment production, since six-fold Co^{2+} provides a pink
 1016 undertone. Available also in the encapsulated form [312]. A microemulsion-hydrothermal method can be
 1017 used to obtain ultrafine pigments ($\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$), reducing calcination temperature but increasing costs related to
 1018 the synthesis [313].



1019
 1020 Fig. 22. Blue and turquoise colors in glaze, plotted on the a^*b^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$). Numbered fields represent the main
 1021 industrial colorants, while symbols refer to colorants proposed in the literature but not entered in use yet.

1022 **Willemite doped with Co** is an alternative blue pigment, even though less stable than spinel [303,314-316].
 1023 The color intensity scales with the cobalt concentration in $(\text{Zn},\text{Co})_2\text{SiO}_4$. Despite the good color saturation
 1024 ($90 < T^* < 100$ at $1100\text{-}1200^\circ\text{C}$) it is seldom used in all applications. It is present in some complex blue inks for
 1025 DD, together with other blue colorants [10].

1026 **Zircon doped with V** is the reference pigment for turquoise shades. Its color stems from V^{4+} clusters hosted
 1027 at an interstitial site of the zircon structure [317]. This circumstance explains the well-known difficulties in
 1028 control and reproducibility of the synthesis [318-320]. It is stable in glazes, where can be used from LT to
 1029 VHT applications, and in BO as well, with $50 < T^* < 60$ at 1200°C [37,321]. However, it is not utilized in DD yet,
 1030 because its tinctorial strength is considerably reduced by micronization [40,41].

1031 There are further blue and turquoise colorants that never entered in use.

1032 **Hardystonite doped with Co** exhibits a blue shade similar to Co-gahnite (Fig. 22) and a tinctorial strength
 1033 analogous to many cobalt dyes ($T^* \sim 80$ at 1150°C). It is stable in LT and IT firing cycles, but not in HT and
 1034 BO, where it suffers from low-Ca glazes and bodies [322]. Not suitable in DD, likely because rapidly
 1035 damaged during micronization. Another class of blue dyes based on calcium silicates is that of
 1036 **clinopyroxenes**, where Co^{2+} can be accommodated at an octahedral site in substitution of Mg or Ca, giving
 1037 rise to a violet color [323]. This phase is not stable in glazes and appears to be fully decomposed in IT to HT
 1038 applications [324]. The chemical attack by the melt leads to the pyroxene breakdown and Co^{2+} ions diffusion,
 1039 imparting a deep blue coloration and a tinctorial strength ($90 < T^* < 97$ at 1200°C) as good as other dyes.

1040 **Celsian doped with Co** was recently proposed as blue pigment [261]. In principle, it should be thermally
1041 stable, since $\text{BaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ is occasionally present in Ba-rich glazes [29], but polyphasic samples were
1042 obtained, where celsian, hexacelsian and unidentified phases occur together. Spectral features clearly
1043 indicate a tetrahedrally-coordinated Co^{2+} , which is likely present in some unidentified phase. The hue
1044 approaches that of blue spinels (Fig. 22) while tinctorial strength is, at best, $T^* \sim 65$ at 1050°C [261].

1045 **Hibonite**, $\text{CaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$, has a magnetoplumbite-type structure, which can accommodate a wide variety of ions
1046 with different valences and coordinations, making it interesting to pigment production [325]. It is the presence
1047 of Co^{2+} at a non-centrosymmetric tetrahedral site that ensures the intense blue color, particularly when Ti^{4+}
1048 or Sn^{4+} are used as counterion to compensate the Co^{2+} - Al^{3+} charge mismatch. Pigments can be prepared by
1049 solid state reaction at 1350 - 1400°C , also with Co-containing wastes [326]. The most intense hue was
1050 obtained for pigments calcined at 1350°C with a Co molar content of 0.3. In BO application, the bluish color
1051 ($45 < T^* < 70$ at 1200°C) is similar to what obtained with willemite pigments (Fig. 22). On the contrary, in
1052 transparent glazes for IT production, chromatic differences are smaller, so suggesting that hibonite acts as a
1053 dye ($80 < T^* < 95$ at 1050°C) for a Co content $0.15 < x < 0.45$. **Hibonite doped with Ni** owes its color – a
1054 greenish shade of turquoise closer to cochromite (Fig. 20) than zircon-V (Fig. 22) – to Ni^{2+} at the tetrahedral
1055 site of the $\text{CaAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ structure [327-329]. Apparently not stable in IT and HT glazes, it seems suitable only for
1056 LT ($42 < T^* < 47$ at 1050°C) or BO applications ($32 < T^* < 35$ at 1200°C) and was not considered for DD yet.

1057 Turquoise shades can be imparted by using the nickel equivalent of known cobalt pigments, as the case of
1058 **spinel NiAl_2O_4** [330] and **willemite $(\text{Zn},\text{Ni})_2\text{SiO}_4$** [331,332] both exploiting a tetrahedrally-coordinated Ni^{2+} .
1059 However, while NiAl_2O_4 has a color similar to zircon-V, willemite-Ni approaches hibonite-Ni (Fig. 22). The
1060 calcination temperature modifies the colour by affecting both cations distribution at tetrahedral and
1061 octahedral sites and segregation of secondary phases, so limiting their applicability to LT. For instance, in
1062 nano-sized $\text{Ni}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Al}_2\text{O}_4$, different cation distribution and optical properties were found as a function of
1063 synthesis temperature and nickel content [333]. The higher is the calcination temperature, the greater is the
1064 degree of inversion in the spinel structure, with increasing Al^{3+} at the tetrahedral site and Ni^{2+} at the
1065 octahedral site. The resulting tetrahedral and octahedral splitting energies cause the change in the spectral
1066 absorption (T^* from 25 to 28 for $0.3 < x < 0.7$). Tinctorial strength at 1085°C is $T^* \sim 60$ for NiAl_2O_4 and $T^* \sim 35$ for
1067 Ni-willemite [330,331]. Anyway, the presence of nickel can involve safety problems related to its toxicity.

1068 A further class of turquoise pigments derives from the ancient Egyptian blue, i.e. **cuprorivaite** $\text{BaCuSi}_4\text{O}_{10}$,
1069 where Cu^{2+} occurs at a 5-fold coordinated site [334,335]. Barium can be replaced by Ca leading to a
1070 darkening of the color [336]. However, once in glaze, it takes a green shade (Fig. 20).

1071 Recently, a different blue chromophore was pointed out: Mn^{3+} in 6-fold coordination in the **YInO_3 perovskite**
1072 [337,338]. The incorporation of Mn^{3+} at the trigonal bipyramidal site of In^{3+} leads to an ultramarine blue color,
1073 given by d-d transitions ($E' \rightarrow A'$). The blue hue is darkened by an increase of Mn content (Mn/Y molar ratio
1074 $5 < x < 20$). Colour is strongly influenced by glaze composition and firing temperature, fading away around
1075 900°C in both B-containing glazes and plumbic frits [337]. This behavior severely restricts the end use to
1076 very low temperature applications. In any case, the industrial use is hindered by the prohibitive cost of indium
1077 and yttrium.

1078 A blue colorant based on the **Y_2O_3 - AlO_3 - CoO** system was prepared by both solid-state reaction and
1079 mechanosynthesis [339]. The result is always multiphasic: YAP perovskite occurs admixed with spinel, YAG,
1080 YAM and yttria, in variable amounts depending on calcination temperature. The coloring performance is
1081 substantially related to the fraction of CoAl_2O_4 present in the mixture.

1082 Amongst new **blue nanopigments**, the $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$ nanocomposite [340] and the spinel-like phase
 1083 $\text{Li}_{1.33}\text{Ti}_{1.66}\text{O}_4$ [341] were both prepared by sol-gel methods. The former is doped by Co to obtain a blue
 1084 colorant usable in DD technology. The color becomes more intense with the increase of Co^{2+} content, but is
 1085 affected by the calcination temperature, with shift from blue to blue-green, thus limiting the pigment usage at
 1086 LT and IT application [340]. The latter shows a bright turquoise color, attributed to Ti^{3+} - Ti^{4+} intervalence
 1087 charge transfer, and a thermal stability up to 1000°C [341].

1088 5.6. Black and gray colorants

1089 In ceramics, black and gray are evaluated on a different basis with respect to other colors. Instead of a good
 1090 tinctorial strength, the target is to have the lowest values of brightness and chroma. Therefore, the
 1091 performance of black and gray colorants is assessed in the L^*C^* diagram and not in the a^*b^* plane.

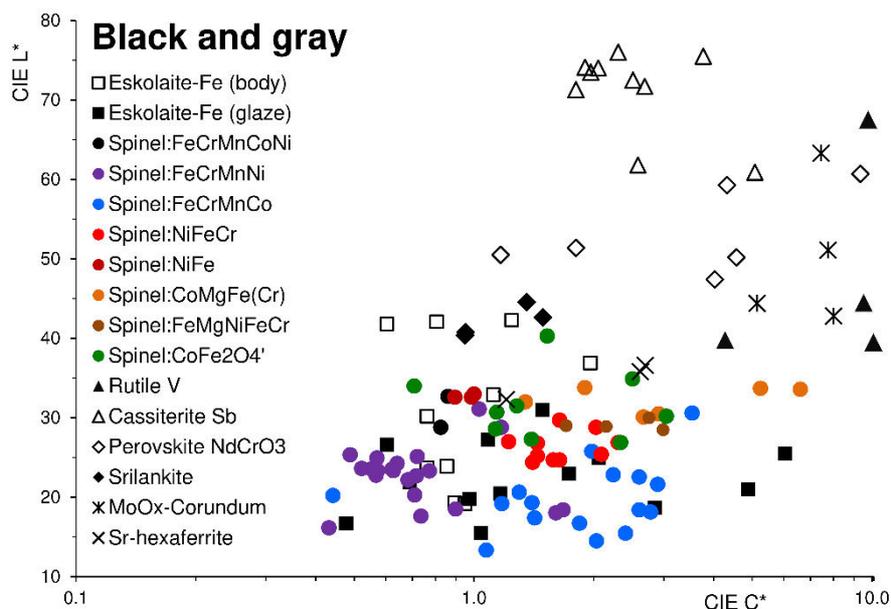
1092 There is a couple of universal black pigments that are industrially utilized in all the decoration technologies.
 1093 In addition, few others are in use for BO or LT-IT applications (Fig. 23). In digital decoration, the black color
 1094 is not used systematically, even **if it is known** its fundamental role to control the image quality in
 1095 quadrichromy.

Colorant	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Spinel (<i>Nichromite</i>)	$(\text{Ni,Fe})(\text{Cr,Fe})_2\text{O}_4$ $(\text{Ni,Co,Mn})(\text{Cr,Fe})_2\text{O}_4$	black BLACK 30	■	■	■	◻	■
Spinel (<i>Cochromite</i>)	$(\text{Co,Fe})(\text{Cr,Fe})_2\text{O}_4$ $\text{Co}(\text{Cr,Fe})_2\text{O}_4$	black BLACK 27-29	■	■	■	◻	■
Eskolaite- Hematite	$(\text{Cr,Fe})_2\text{O}_3$	black not filed	◻	◻ 1	◻ 1	■	◻ 1
Spinel (<i>Cuprospinel</i>)	CuCr_2O_4	black BLACK 28	◻	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1
Spinel (<i>Jacobsite</i>)	$(\text{Mn,Fe})(\text{Mn,Fe})_2\text{O}_4$	black BLACK 26	◻	◻	◻ 1	◻	◻ 1 4
Perovskite	LaCoO_3	black not filed	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1
Ru soluble salt	Ru-organometallic	black not filed	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	■	◻
Cassiterite	$(\text{Sn,Sb})\text{O}_2$	gray BLACK 23	■	■	■	◻ 1 3	◻ 4
Co-Sn Spinel	Co_2SnO_4	gray BLUE 81	■	◻	◻	◻ 3	◻ 4
Bunsenite	$(\text{Ni,Co})\text{O}$	gray BLACK 25	◻	◻	◻	◻ 2	◻ 2 4
Rutile	$(\text{Ti,V,Sb})\text{O}_2$	gray BLACK 24	■	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1
Corundum	$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3[\text{MoO}_x]$	gray not filed	◻ 3	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 3	◻ 4
Pd soluble salt	Pd-organometallic	gray not filed	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻	◻ 1 4

Fig. 23. Technological properties of industrial black to gray ceramic pigments and dyes. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◻); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (◻). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

1096 Among the best black colorants are **complex spinel compositions, based on cochromite – also**
 1097 **containing Fe and Mn** – that are widely utilized in all decoration technologies, including inkjet printing, but
 1098 rarely in bodies. A deep black color is achieved by the many optical bands due to multiple cations (Co^{2+} ,
 1099 Mn^{2+} , Mn^{3+} , Fe^{3+} , Cr^{3+} and sometimes Fe^{2+} , V^{3+} , Cu^{2+}) partitioned between the tetrahedral and octahedral
 1100 sites [342-346]. The stability of these pigments is excellent, but in zinc-rich glazes, where they tend to

1101 assume a brownish nuance. A variant of the previous pigment is another **complex spinel based on**
 1102 **nichromite**, used in every decoration technology as well, even though specifically addressed to withstand in
 1103 **Zn-rich environments**. The larger affinity between the Jahn-Teller inactive Zn^{2+} (d^{10}) and Co^{2+} (d^7) ions
 1104 compared to the Jahn-Teller active Ni^{2+} (d^8) ion in chromite spinel, where the strong preference on Cr^{3+} in
 1105 octahedron prevents Ni^{2+} to be displaced from fourfold to sixfold coordination, provides a possible
 1106 explanation of the less attitude for Zn to diffuse into nichromite than cochromite lattice. It should be noted
 1107 that, similar to cochromite, nichromite compositions usually encompass other ions, namely Ni-Fe-Mn-Cr, and
 1108 occasionally Co-Cu-V and further elements. The complex interchange between these transition metal ions
 1109 based on their different affinities related to their specific d orbitals configurations is likely to play a not fully
 1110 clarified role on explanation of the above observation. The tinctorial strength is the best among black
 1111 colorants [15,347-351]. Interestingly, nichromite pigments are characterized by C^* on average lower than
 1112 cochromite, even though L^* values are fully comparable (Fig. 24). Further black spinels (e.g., binary Ni-Fe
 1113 and Fe-Co or ternary Ni-Fe-Cr) exhibit higher L^* values with respect to complex nichromite-cochromite
 1114 formulations, but C^* analogous to cochromite-based mixtures. At variance, the addition of Mg gives rise to
 1115 dark gray pigments.



1116 Fig. 24. Black and gray colors in glaze, plotted on the L^* - C^* plane (CIE- $L^*a^*b^*$).

1118 Another black pigment is **jacobsite**, i.e. a different solid solution of manganese and iron, which occur in
 1119 multiple valences in both crystal sites of spinel [2], with respect to the brown variant in section 5.3. It is stable
 1120 in LT-IT and BO applications, where is used because cheaper than complex black spinels, but unsuitable for
 1121 porcelain stoneware glazes or digital decoration. A peculiar black pigment is **cuprospinel**, an antimagnet
 1122 based on $CuCr_2O_4$ with limited doping from other metals [352]. It is stable just in LT and utilized when
 1123 magnetic properties are needed.

1124 **Eskolaite-hematite** is a well-known pigment that represents the reference black colorant for porcelain
 1125 stoneware bodies [353,354]. Its stability in glazes and glassy coatings is limited, especially in presence of
 1126 Zn, Ca, Ni, and Sn [37,355,356]. As the Cr_2O_3 - Fe_2O_3 solid solution is complete, the pigment synthesis is

1127 easy over a wide range of compositions [357], which can give rise to reddish or greenish nuances,
1128 depending on the Cr:Fe ratio [358].

1129 **Ruthenium organometallics** are the dye present in penetrating soluble salts to achieve a black color [103].

1130 No universal gray colorant is able to satisfy all the different requirements of ceramic decoration (Fig. 23).
1131 Some pigments are used in traditional techniques (LT, IT, HT) but not in mass-stone or digital decoration,
1132 along with technological reasons, because in these applications the gray color is easy to be reproduced
1133 dosing properly a black colorant.

1134 **Cassiterite SnO₂ doped with Sb** is an appreciated gray pigment, available in various shades depending on
1135 co-doping with Mn, Ti and Si [37,359,360]. It is a well-known semiconductor: the color stems from electronic
1136 transitions due to additional energy levels in the band linked to Sb³⁺ ions. Its electrical conductivity was
1137 exploited for special applications, as anti-electrostatic glazes [361,362]. The main limit to its use is the high
1138 cost of tin oxide.

1139 **Bunsenite encapsulated in zircon** was a popular gray pigment, rather stable in all applications but DD.
1140 Various shades can be obtained, depending on the Co:Ni ratio and co-doping by Al, Fe, Mn, and Zn [37]. A
1141 strong limitation is the toxicity and carcinogenicity of NiO, which likely discouraged the registration in the
1142 REACH. In addition, the risk of Ni²⁺ leaching to glazes and bodies, if encapsulation is broken, prevented any
1143 use by inkjet printing, which requires micronized pigments.

1144 **Cobalt stannate** is a gray pigment, with more or less accentuated greenish-blue shades, based on the
1145 inverse spinel Co₂SnO₄ (or sometimes a Co-doped cassiterite). Color derives from Co²⁺ at both tetrahedral
1146 and octahedral sites, giving rise to blue and pink colors, respectively, and a complex outcome of this mix with
1147 a blue prevalence. At variance of cochromite, it is not stable in HT applications [37] and not suited for DD. Its
1148 use in LT technology is contrasted by the high cost related to the large percentage of cobalt oxide.

1149 **Palladium organometallics** are sometimes used to get gray shades by means of penetrating soluble salts
1150 [103].

1151 **Rutile doped with V** and a proper counterion (generally Sb or Nb) is a well-known gray pigment that can
1152 show different tones, from bluish to reddish as a function of co-doping [181,182,363]. Its stability is ensured
1153 only in LT applications.

1154 Black colorants never entered in use encompass perovskite **LaCoO₃**, which applications are limited to LT-IT.
1155 Its dark colour is given by crystal field, intervalence and Co-O charge transfer transitions ensured by different
1156 oxidation states of cobalt (Co²⁺ and Co³⁺). The substitution of La with Ca allows reducing the pigment cost
1157 without importantly changes is L*, a* and b* parameters [364].

1158 **Sr-hexaferrite**, SrFe₁₂O₁₉, in principle considered for its magnetic properties, was investigated (as BO and
1159 HT) in porcelain stoneware bodies. The addition of Co, Mn, Ni or Fe improved the light absorbance at lower
1160 wavenumbers, but resulted always in polyphasic products, containing also hematite and/or magnetite [365].

1161 The color in fired bodies and glazes is a dark gray (L*~35 and C*~2.7) with greenish shades (Fig. 24).

1162 Great interest has been devoted in the latest years to carbon-based pigments, instead heavy metals based
1163 ones, in order to reduce toxicity. The target is **carbon encapsulated in zircon**, composed of two insoluble
1164 structures: a carbon core and a transparent zircon coating to prevent pigment oxidation [366-370]. Soft-wet
1165 chemical routes were used to realize encapsulation, either by covering the carbonous particles or by direct
1166 in-situ carbon formation. In-situ carbon provided by carbon-containing precursors favors a homogeneous
1167 encapsulation. Many variables must be controlled, among which C/Zr molar ratio, layer thickness and
1168 deposition order of zircon precursors, and calcination schedule strongly affect the quality of pigments. A

1169 deep black can be obtained (down to $L^* \sim 14$) even though most literature data are in the $21 < L^* < 42$ range
1170 [370]. A particle size reduction brought about an undesired increase of L^* that depends on synthesis
1171 parameters, which affect the final cover and pigment dimension. Correctly encapsulated pigments present an
1172 excellent color saturation ($L^* \sim 34$ and $C^* \sim 0.9$ at 900°C) in LT glazes [368].

1173 An interesting candidate is $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-MoO}_x$, a chemi-adsorbed pigment with a gray color and turquoise nuances
1174 (Fig. 22). Its peculiarity consists in clusters of molybdenum oxides that adhere on the corundum surface,
1175 where they are incorporated during calcination [371]. For this reason, high temperature annealing can cause
1176 a molybdenum volatilisation. Different valences (Mo^{4+} , Mo^{5+} , Mo^{6+}) contribute to a different extent to the final
1177 color, even if is the predominant Mo^{5+} the main responsible of the characteristic bluish gray. It displays a
1178 rather saturated color ($60 < T^* < 65$ at 1200°C) in both HT and BO applications (Fig. 24).

1179 **5.7. White colorants**

1180 Opacifiers are extensively employed in all ceramic applications (Fig. 25) to get matt and semi matt glazes
1181 [2,372] as well as engobes [373] or white and “super white” porcelain stoneware bodies [37,374]. In contrast,
1182 the use of white inks is marginal in digital decoration [10]. White pigments have the basic role to mask the
1183 color of substrates by enhancing the light scattering [375]. For this purpose, a strict control on the amount,
1184 particle size and shape of white pigment is crucial [376,377] along with proper optical properties (see section
1185 3.3). The final appearance may be dull to bright white, with a variable degree of translucency, and
1186 determined surface attributes (matt, semi matt, satin, translucent, etc). The color is usually evaluated by the
1187 CIE L^* parameter (combined with a^* and b^* values as low as possible) or by the Kubelka-Munk formalism
1188 [39,378]. Opacifiers often fulfil additional functions, as damping the chemical attack to other pigments by
1189 saturation of the glaze (e.g., Zr^{4+} to improve the stability of Zr-colorants, see section 3.4). In other cases,
1190 white pigments are utilized to impart specific characteristics, like scratch resistance or anti-slip ability of
1191 ceramic surfaces [379].

1192 **Zirconium silicate**, obtained by fine milling of natural zircon sands, is the most popular opacifier in all
1193 decoration techniques [380-382]. Its success stems from outstanding chemical stability in most ceramic
1194 matrices [383-387] and excellent optical properties (almost no light absorption in the visible spectrum, see
1195 Figure 7, joined to high refractive indices, Table 2). No significant interaction is known for ZrSiO_4 with other
1196 pigments [37]. In addition, it is able to improve the stability of Zr-bearing colorants, and rutile pigments as
1197 well (Table 5). The main limitation is a certain radioactivity [388] due to small amounts of U and Th in natural
1198 zircons (usually $50\text{-}100 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ each).

1199 **Baddeleyite** is seldom utilized as opacifier in glazes, because it has good optical properties, but some
1200 disadvantages with respect to zirconium silicate [389]. ZrO_2 cannot be employed in mass-stone (zirconia
1201 reacts with silica to form zircon) or in digital inks (since they are micronized by zirconia microspheres, the
1202 milling yield is too low). In addition, more baddeleyite pigment is required to get the same whiteness, in force
1203 of its specific weight higher than zircon. Baddeleyite has a level of radioactivity analogous to zircon [388].

Pigment, Dye, Effect	Formula	Color	Application – Technology (see Fig. 1)				
			LT	IT	HT-VHT	BO	DD
Zircon	ZrSiO ₄	white not filed	◻	■	■	■	■
Cassiterite	SnO ₂	white WHITE 15	■	◻ 3	◻ 3	◻ 3	◻ 3
Corundum	Al ₂ O ₃	white, effect not filed	◻ 4	◻	◻	◻	◻
Baddeleyite	ZrO ₂	white, effect WHITE 12	◻	◻	◻	◻ 1	◻ 1
Zr soluble salt	Zr-organometallic	white, effect not filed	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻ 1 4	◻	◻
Rutile	TiO ₂	white WHITE 6	◻	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 3	◻ 1
Spinel	MgAl ₂ O ₄	white not filed	◻ 4	◻ 4	◻ 4	◻ 3	◻ 4
Cerianite	CeO ₂	effect(white) not filed	◻	◻	■	◻ 3	◻
Fe phosphates	Fe ₂ Fe(P ₂ O ₇) ₂ NaFe ₃ (PO ₄) ₃	metallic luster	■	■	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻ 1
Scheelite	CaWO ₄	metallic luster	■	■	◻	◻ 1	◻ 1
Hematite	Fe ₂ O ₃	aventurine	◻	■	■	◻ 1	◻ 1
Shcherbinaite	V ₂ O ₅	sink effect	■	■	■	◻ 1	■
Clinobisvanite	BiVO ₄	sink effect YELLOW 184	■	■	■	◻ 1	■
Mica (coated by metal oxide)	KAl ₃ Si ₃ O ₄ (OH) ₂ @TiO ₂ or Fe ₂ O ₃	pearlescent luster	■	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻	◻ 1
Titania slag	Ti-rich slag	speckle effect	◻	◻ 1	◻ 1	◻	◻ 1 4

Fig. 25. Technological properties of industrial white pigments (opacifiers) and some ceramic effects. Symbols: widely used (■); limited use (◻); no longer in use (□); not entered in use (◻). Unsuitable because of: technological behavior (1), health hazard (2), cost (3), color saturation and purity (4).

1204 **Cassiterite** is a historical opacifier, widely used in ancient glazes [390,391]. SnO₂ exhibits the best optical
1205 characteristics for a white pigment: high refractive indices and negligible light absorbance in the visible range
1206 (Fig. 7). It has a good stability, ensured by its low solubility in ceramic glazes [392] and can be used to
1207 enhance the chemical resistance of tin-bearing pigments (malayaite, cassiterite doped with Cr, Sb or V).
1208 However, the occurrence of Sn⁴⁺ in the glaze is detrimental for eskolaite (green and black) and many spinel
1209 pigments [37]. Cassiterite is no longer used today, mainly because of its high cost (approximately 5 times
1210 that of zircon sand).

1211 **Corundum**, although a common ingredient in ceramic frits, is seldom used as opacifier in glazes [393-395]
1212 but more frequently in engobes and “super white” bodies [37,374,396]. Its behavior is generally satisfactory
1213 in the various decoration techniques, and alumina is able to improve the chemical stability of many pigments
1214 (Table 5). However, the performance of α-Al₂O₃ as white pigment is lesser than other opacifiers in force of
1215 the low refractive indices (Table 2).

1216 **Zirconium, Cerium and Zinc organometallics** provide the “white” color to the palette of soluble salts [103].
1217 Although seldom employed in BO applications, their role has been revitalized by the chance to be used as
1218 white effect [397] or as primer in digital decoration.

1219 **Spinel** MgAl₂O₄ is a white pigment proposed for glazes [398,399] where it never entered in use due to its low
1220 refractive index (Table 2). Nevertheless, it attracted the industrial interest for white-firing bodies, especially in
1221 times of zircon shortage [396]. Gahnite is a common component of Zn-rich glazes, as ZnAl₂O₄ and solid

1222 solutions with MgAl_2O_4 . However, it usually occurs as a crystalline phase formed during firing by reaction of
1223 Zn and Al present in frits and raw glazes. The direct use of gahnite as white pigment is not carried out in the
1224 industrial practice, even though proposed in the literature [400,401].

1225 **Rutile** and **cerianite** – although employed by the ceramic industry in the past [402-404] – have nowadays a
1226 limited use as opacifier in glazes, despite their very high refractive indices [405]. The main limitation is their
1227 unsatisfactory color purity, due to absorption of some violet-blue wavelengths that results in yellowish
1228 nuances (Fig. 7). In some glaze compositions, both titania and ceria undergo a rapid crystal growth,
1229 incompatible with the opacifier function [406,407]. This tendency is otherwise exploited to get peculiar
1230 aesthetic effects, as described in the following section.

1231 There are some opacifiers that found just a limited use in the industrial production. Andalusite, wollastonite,
1232 and diopside are sporadically added as white pigments to glazes or porcelain stoneware bodies [29,408-
1233 410]. Glass-ceramic frits (e.g., precipitating baghdadite, $\text{Ca}_3\text{ZrSi}_2\text{O}_9$) or even zincite are sometimes utilized in
1234 “super white” batches [411,412]. Sapphirine, $\text{Mg}_6\text{Al}_4\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{20}$, was proposed as opacifier in glazes [413].

1235 **5.8. Ceramic effects**

1236 The ceramic effects are used to impart peculiar optical, textural and functional properties to ceramic
1237 surfaces. Although utilized occasionally in LT, IT and HT applications, they have turned into a fundamental
1238 integration of quadrichromy (or hexachromy) in digital decoration. Recently, the pigment industry spent a
1239 considerable effort to search for new effects and develop proper suspensions for inkjet printing. This
1240 advancement is not mirrored in the scientific literature, where only few contributions deal with ceramic
1241 effects.

1242 Account must be taken there is no classification of ceramic effects and no general agreement on criteria and
1243 terminology for their description. Therefore, the range of attributes that can be part of ceramic effects is
1244 rather wide, especially in the field of surface functionalization of ceramics. In the present review, we consider
1245 only the effects commonly utilized in ceramic manufacturing or candidates developed at least to the the
1246 industrial level (see some examples in Fig. 25).

1247 The **gloss** or **matt** appearance, as bestowed on ceramic surfaces by inkjet decoration, is achieved by
1248 micronized transparent glasses or opacified glazes. These materials are formulated according to the
1249 conventional glaze technology, conveniently modified to account for the consequence of their small particle
1250 size. In fact, the firing behavior of micronized glazes is substantially changed in the kinetics of “melting”,
1251 densification and crystallization, if any [414]. It is not disclosed which crystalline phases form in digital inks,
1252 among the ones known in ceramic glazes [28,415]. Further effects may be used to realize specific optical
1253 appearances (e.g., satin, translucent) by tuning opportunely the amount and features of crystalline
1254 compounds and bubbles dispersed in the glaze [28,416]. In particular, translucency can be obtained by using
1255 BAS frits ($\text{BaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2$) that precipitate celsian, $\text{BaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ [411].

1256 A classical way to realize a bas-relief pattern on the glaze surface is by a **sink** effect. It is achieved by
1257 applying low melting point compounds, typically based on V and Bi. The quintessential sink is vanadium
1258 pentoxide, but the incoming restrictions about V_2O_5 (connected with its toxicity and carcinogenicity) have
1259 recently moved the industrial interest to bismuth vanadate, a well-known yellow colorant [417-420]. However,
1260 the color is lost on melting, leaving just the desired sink.

1261 **Lustre** effects are pursued since antiquity [421] and for long time fulfilled by noble metal nanoparticles: Au,
1262 Pt, Ag, Cu [422-426]. Such applications are nowadays limited to third fire decoration of fine tableware. The
1263 metallic appearance on ceramic tiles is typically reproduced by surface precipitation of iron phosphate

1264 crystals in appropriate glazes [427]. However, this lustre is difficult to be realized by DD and is characterized
1265 by a poor chemical and tribological resistance. Therefore, to overcome these limitations, new solutions were
1266 developed in recent years, based on cerianite CeO_2 [428], tenorite CuO [429], scheelite CaWO_4 [430],
1267 powellite CaMoO_4 [416] or even stainless steel and a NiCoCrAlY alloy [431]. Gold lustre can be simulated in
1268 LT (third fire) also using pearlescent pigments, like TiO_2 -coated mica [432].

1269 The **glittering** effect is since long time known in ceramic decoration and often referred to as *aventurine*
1270 [433]. The mechanism behind shimmering glazes was disclosed, consisting of tiny crystal inclusions
1271 preferentially oriented in a translucent matrix [434,435]. By this way, light reflection depends on the incident
1272 angle, giving rise to a form of goniochromatism [436]. Industrially, the aventurine effect in glazes is imparted
1273 through precipitation of hematite in properly designed glazes [435-439].

1274 The creation of a casual **speckle** effect, now easily reproduced by digital decoration graphics, was easily
1275 obtained by applying on the glaze colored refractory minerals (e.g., chromite) or man-made colored grains,
1276 like titania slag [440].

1277 **Phosphorescent** glazes have been realized for ceramic tiles by introducing a phosphor, like Eu^{2+} -doped
1278 SrAl_2O_4 [441-443]. The main challenge is twice: i) having a sufficiently long afterglow of a proper color, and
1279 ii) preserving the phosphor during firing from the chemical attack of glaze. Since efficient phosphors have a
1280 limited thermal stability, satisfactory solutions were developed for LT or at most IT firings, best as third fire
1281 applications.

1282 **Cool pigments** are characterized by a high solar reflectance (300-2500 nm) combined with a high thermal
1283 emissivity (4000-40000 nm). They are employed to get solar-reflective surfaces, which represent an effective
1284 countermeasure to the Urban Heat Island effect [444]. To be suitable for ceramic applications, such
1285 pigments must fulfil all requirements listed at sections 3 and 4. For this reason, the attention has been
1286 initially focused on current industrial colorants [444-447]. Recently, new cool pigments were proposed,
1287 including: yellow chromium-doped scheelite [205]; cyan cobalt-doped celsian, magenta chromium-doped
1288 armalcolite, yellow nickel-geikielite, green CrNdO_3 perovskite [447]; iron and tungsten co-doped lanthanum
1289 cerium oxide [448]; red-orange Tb-Fe and Pr-Fe co-doped pyrochlore $\text{Y}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ [155,449].

1290 The performance improvement of ceramic products attracted a remarkable industrial interest in the last
1291 decade. It has been primarily pursued by surface functionalization through application of functional films or
1292 addition of the active compounds to glazes and glassy coatings. Three are the main industrial achievements,
1293 amongst the many proposals: **scratch resistant surfaces** have been developed adding soluble salts
1294 providing zirconium [396] or titanium and silver [450]; or alternatively nanoparticles of aluminium and
1295 zirconium oxides [451]. **Self-cleaning surfaces** have been realized by exploiting the photocatalytic effect of
1296 titania nanoparticles [452,453]. Attempts to achieve photocatalytic surfaces in the usual manufacturing
1297 conditions were unsuccessful, because of the anatase to rutile transition and concurrent crystal growth
1298 during firing at high temperatures [454,455]. Thus, photocatalytic tiles are currently produced by a second
1299 fire at low temperature [454,456]. New pigments have been proposed in order to improve both the
1300 photocatalytic efficiency and activity under visible light irradiation: they consist of anatase doped with N
1301 [457], Nb [458], W [459], rare earths and transition metals [460] or composites of titania and silica [461] and
1302 silver [450,462-464]. **Antibacterial activity** has been basically pursued through the application of silver
1303 compounds on ceramic surfaces. The challenge is to have enough Ag^+ ions available in the long run, but
1304 both silver oxidation and incorporation into the glass network of glazes must be prevented. For this purpose,
1305 various composites were proposed: Ag-silica [465], Ag-ZnO [466], Ag-nepheline [467] or Ag with calcium

1306 phosphate [468] as well as titania-coated silver nanoparticles [462-464]. However, the direct application of a
1307 thin film containing a sufficiently heat-resistant silver compound is at present preferred by the ceramic
1308 industry: e.g., Ag_2WO_4 [469], even though the best compromise of cost and performance was achieved with
1309 Nasicon-type solid solutions, like $(\text{Na,Ag})\text{Zr}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ [470].

1310 6. Lines of future research

1311 The advent of digital decoration not only has revolutionized how pigments and dyes are manufactured and
1312 applied onto ceramic surfaces, but also the manner by which colorants are designed, formulated, and tested.
1313 Technological innovation brought about a groundbreaking change, both conceptual and practical, in the way
1314 colorant manufacturers conceive and carry out research and development activities.

1315 From the conceptual point of view, the design of ceramic colorants underwent a paradigm shift, with
1316 emphasis moving to inks and related matters. This circumstance saw unexpected issues to stand out, such
1317 as the behavior of pigments during micronization or the interactions of colorants with organic carriers and
1318 additives, among others. At the same time, well-known aspects of decoration technology had to be
1319 reappraised at the light of the new characteristics of digital pigments and dyes. For instance, the relationship
1320 between color **saturation** and particle size of pigments, or the increased reactivity of micronized colorants in
1321 touch with glazes and glassy coatings. These questions have been magnified by the task to understand
1322 phenomena occurring at the scale of the ink drop, with all complications stemming from techniques used for
1323 color reproduction (quadrichromy typically plots four different ink drops on the same $64 \times 64 \mu\text{m}$ target, with
1324 400 dpi of native resolution).

1325 In practice, the R&D laboratory was totally revamped, as new machinery and instrumentations are necessary
1326 to faithfully reproduce the industrial processes at the lab or pilot scale. This entails both ink-making (high-
1327 energy ball mill for micronization) and decoration (inkjet plotter to print test charts). Not to mention all
1328 techniques for ink characterization (including submicronic particle size, viscosity, surface tension) and
1329 measurement of the colorimetric coordinates on test charts. At the end of the day, the industry-academia
1330 distance increased a lot: before the digital decoration would take place, it was simple – in any ceramic
1331 laboratory – to simulate the manufacturing cycle of pigments and dyes. This because all the operations
1332 (solid-state synthesis in refractory crucibles, successive washing and milling, application by screen printing,
1333 spraying or pouring on ceramic substrates) could be run practically at the same scale of the industrial
1334 processes.

1335 Notwithstanding the global diffusion of digital decoration in the ceramic tile industry (and its spreading
1336 through other ceramic and glass fields) not every technological question found a fully satisfactory answer
1337 yet. Further R&D efforts are necessary to overcome specific technological challenges of inkjet printing of
1338 pigments, dyes and effects. Hereafter, the main technological challenges still on the table are shortly
1339 reviewed, along with the evergreen issue of the search for new colorants. It is not an exhaustive list, but a
1340 summary of hot topics that can represent lines of future research. They pertain to the three pillars aimed at
1341 improving: the process efficiency, the performance of colorants, and the environmental sustainability.

1342 *Improving the efficiency of the ink-making process*, from the colorant viewpoint, means essentially a better
1343 control on the micronization step. This task requires a deeper comprehension on the behavior of pigments
1344 and glasses during comminution, e.g. which mechanisms are active during high-energy milling in industrial
1345 conditions. Key points seem to be: i) the degree of pigment amorphization that is likely the cause of the loss
1346 of color **saturation** in digital inks; ii) the occurrence of plastic deformation and particle agglomeration

1347 phenomena during milling of vitreous materials, which is probably behind the current high energy
1348 consumption and very low efficiency to get submicronic glazes.

1349 *The performance of digital colorants can be improved* by various routes, even though R&D investments are
1350 now hindered by the low price of digital inks. Two main strategies can be envisaged to enhance the colorant
1351 stability in ceramic matrices: i) shielding the pigment from the chemical attack of glaze, or ii) weakening the
1352 chemical aggressiveness of glaze against the pigment. The shield option primarily consists in a protective
1353 coating applied on a high-performance pigment: the challenge is to go beyond current encapsulation
1354 techniques in order to have a proper core-shell structure with the particle size imposed by inkjet printing. The
1355 option to damp the glaze aggressiveness needs to understand in depth the mechanisms of decomposition
1356 which pigments undergo during firing. This is the only way to improve the dual approach followed in DD, now
1357 entirely empirical. On one hand, the pigment dissolution is minimized by an inert glass (the “protective
1358 coating”) or a primer (able to “saturate” the glaze in some ingredients of the pigment) applied respectively
1359 after and prior inkjet decoration. On the other hand, undesired color shades, due to a given transition metal
1360 ion incorporated in the glaze after pigment leaching, are counterbalanced through another cation (absorbing
1361 further visible wavelengths) intentionally released to the glaze by a reformulation of the ink composition.

1362 *Reducing the impact of digital decoration on the Environment and Human health* is a constant concern
1363 pursued by ink-makers and colorant manufacturers through a set of actions on well-defined aspects of
1364 pigment manufacturing and application. Sustainability implies also research to ban or minimize the use of
1365 toxic ingredients and mitigate the risks all along the chain from colorant synthesis to end use. New questions
1366 recently arose and need investigation to prevent possible problems. For instance, any chemical interaction of
1367 pigments with the organic compounds constituting the digital ink, particularly during the very early stage of
1368 firing, might catalyze the formation of undesired byproducts released to the flue gases.

1369 Finally, the *search for new colorants* should be better focused on the actual (and foreseeable) needs of the
1370 ceramic industry. First of all, a complete technological characterization of candidate ceramic colorants is
1371 recommended, especially to include the most popular applications (DD with firing temperatures always
1372 above 1000°C and commonly close to 1200°C). The industrial interest seems now polarized by new effects
1373 and new functionalities (e.g., cool pigments). Looking at present-day color palette, new pigments and dyes
1374 should approach the chromatic coordinates of industrial cyan, magenta, yellow and black colorants. Another
1375 issue is to prevent problems in the access to colorant raw materials, e.g. by shortage and/or increasing price
1376 of some commodities. Considering that DD currently rests on a restricted variety of colorants, suitable
1377 alternatives should be actively searched, especially for cobalt (cyan and black inks) and praseodymium
1378 (yellow ink) which are likely to turn into critical raw materials in the future.

1379 It must be clear that the lines of research illustrated above have been envisaged from a strictly technological
1380 point of view. Therefore, this industry-oriented perspective cannot cover all the possible subjects of
1381 investigation on ceramic dyes and pigments. First and foremost, basic research is crucial to provide that solid
1382 scientific background for any industrial development, particularly in a manufacturing sector – like ceramic
1383 colorants production is – still massively relying on an empirical approach. From this standpoint, investigating
1384 basic properties and synthesis processes is essential to improve the knowledge base necessary to
1385 understand in depth many facts occurring in the industrial production and ceramic application of pigments,
1386 dyes and effects. For instance, relating optical properties with crystal chemistry and structure turns
1387 fundamental to an efficacious pigment design. On the other hand, disclosing single and mutual effects of
1388 different parameters in the synthesis process is the key to improve industrial-scale operations. Last, but not

1389 least, it comes modelling, as a pressing request from colorant-makers to predict and design both physical or
 1390 chemical features (e.g., optical properties) and behavior during synthesis or ceramic applications of
 1391 pigments, dyes and effects.

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Declaration of interests

On behalf of all the authors, I declare that we have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

Michele Dondi

