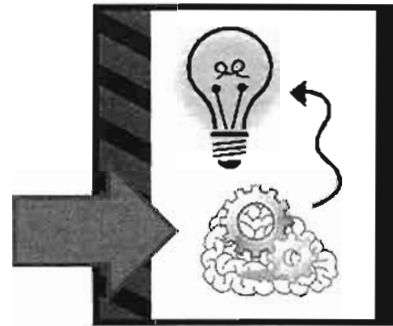


Materiales fotoluminiscentes: *Aplicaciones*

Prof. Guillermo Orellana, UCM



21 de Junio de 2010

Ideal characteristics of luminescent pigments for security inks (multiplexed encoding)

- Strong, single **emission wavelength** or single narrow emission band for each individual luminescent substance;
- **Emission spectrum** independent of the exciting light (in certain range of the exciting wavelength);
- Single **light source** for all luminescent substances used in the mixture;
- **No interaction** (*energy transfer*) among different fluorescent molecules, i.e., each luminescent substance should respond to the exciting light independently;
- **No influence of matrix** material on the emission features;
- Good **miscibility** of all luminescent substances in the selected matrix material/solvent systems;
- Easy **tuneable** intensity *and* wavelength of fluorescent spectrum.



S. Chang et al., *Optics Express* 2004, 12, 143-147.

Multiplexed encoding with quantum dots for security inks

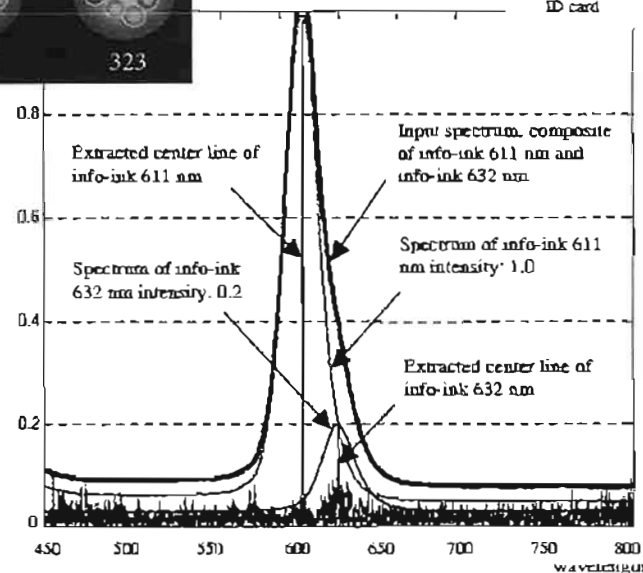
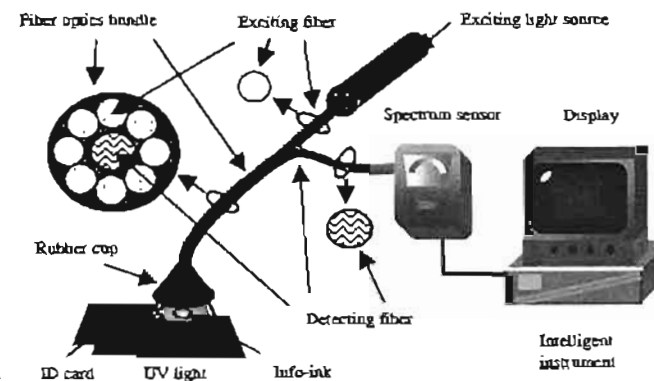
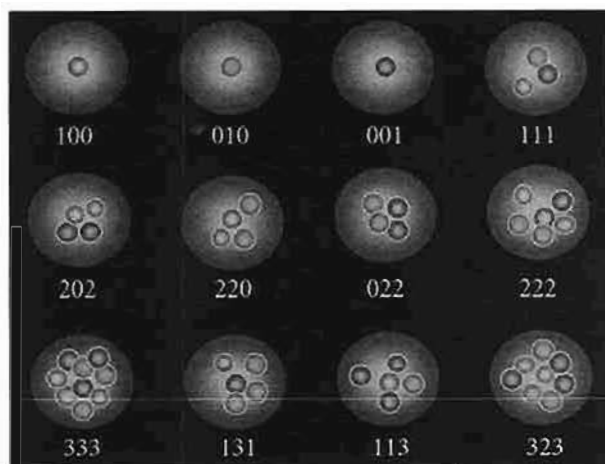


Illustration of the **deconvolution** procedure:

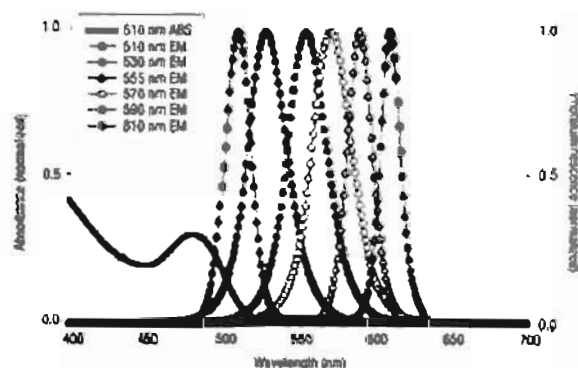
- Noise removal.
- Find *wavelengths* (max.) and *intensities* of individual spectra.

S. Chang et al., *Optics Express* 2004, 12, 143-147.

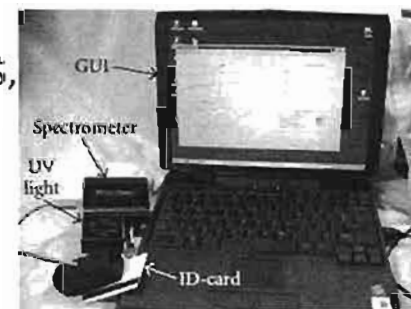
Advantages/disadvantages of quantum dots for multiplexed encoding of security inks



- Nanometer sized.
- Easy to *incorporate* in inks.
- *Photostability*.
- Excellent *tuneability*.
- Very *narrow* emission bands.
- Wide *excitation* wavelength range.



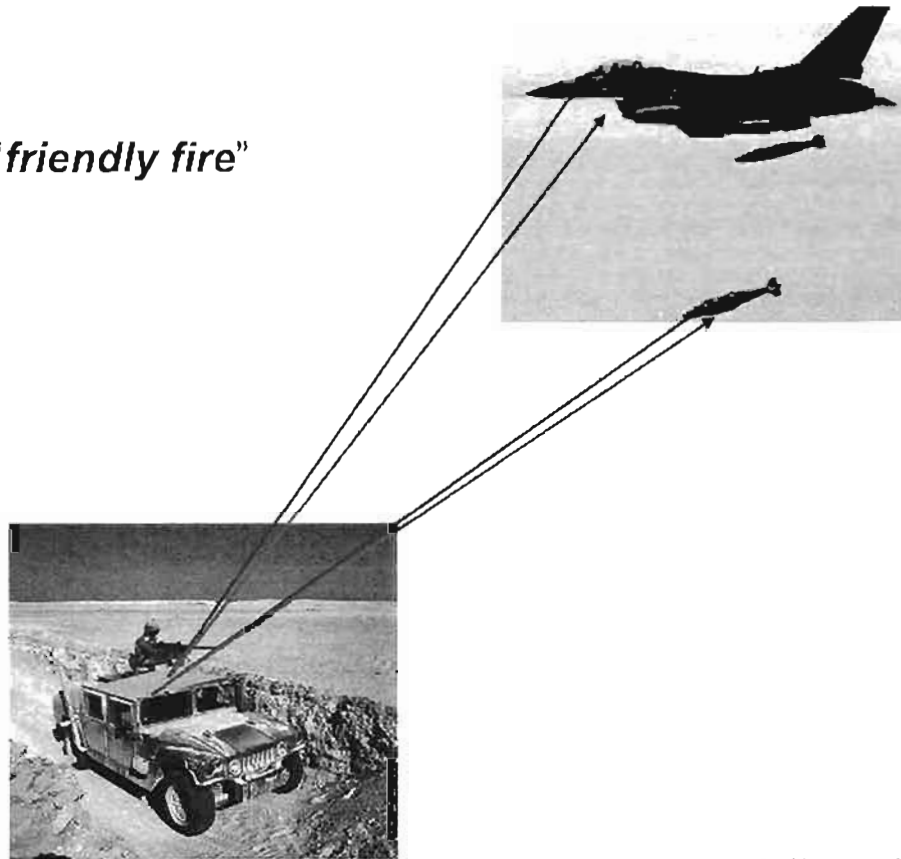
- Difficult to *handle* due to their size.
- *Toxicity* (material, size).
- Tendency to slow aggregation (*drift*).
- Sensitivity to fluorescent *interferents* (oils, polymers, additives...) due to spectrum shape changes.
- *Price* (300-600 \$, 60 mg)



S. Chang et al., *J. Nanomater.* 2008, 589532.

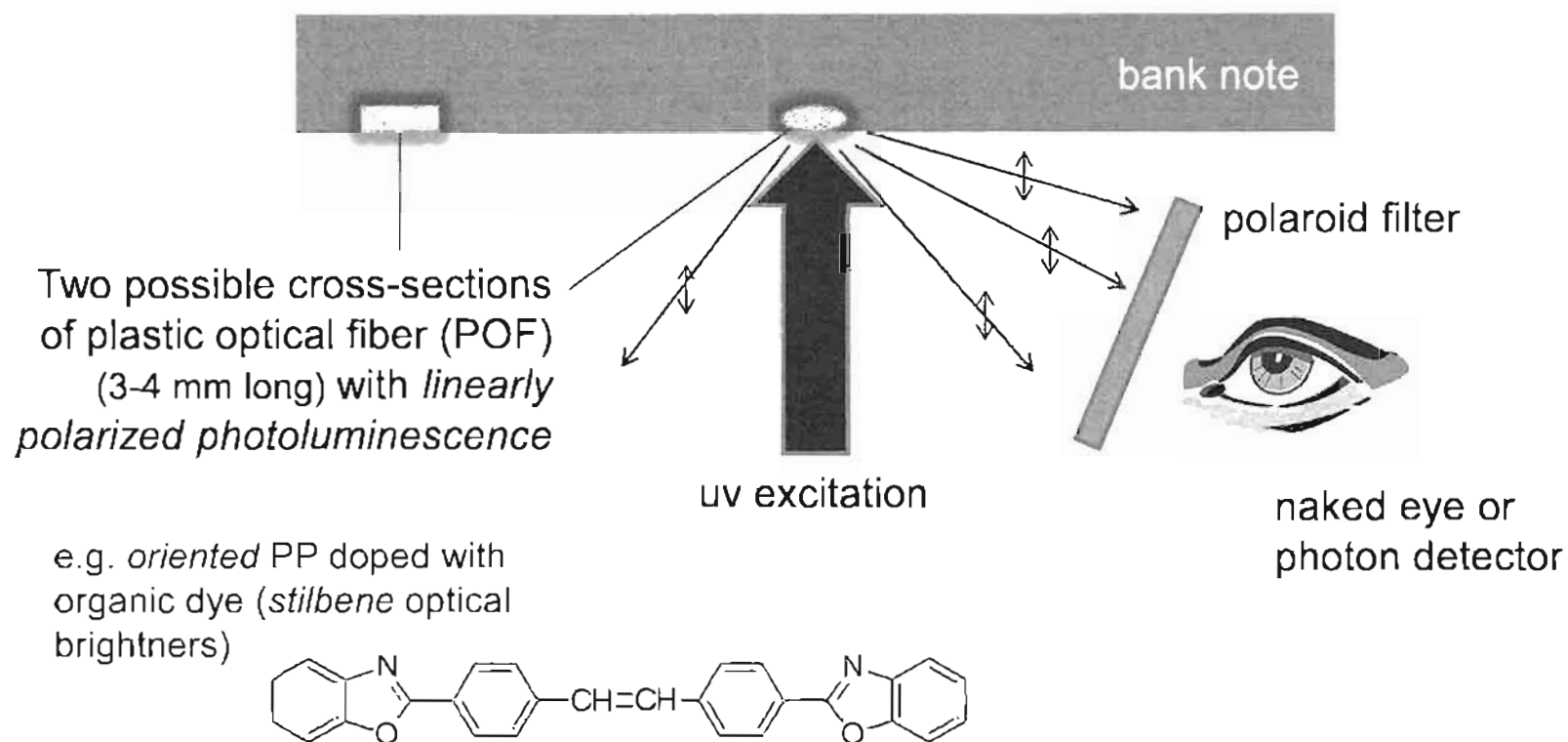
Other potential applications of quantum dots for multiplexed encoding

Avoidance of “*friendly fire*”



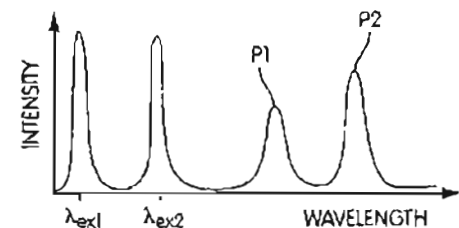
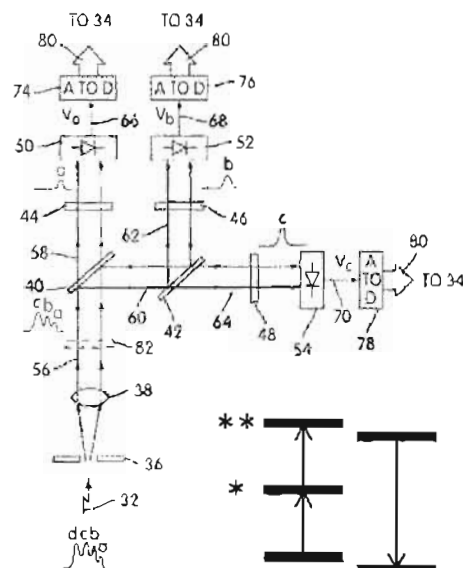
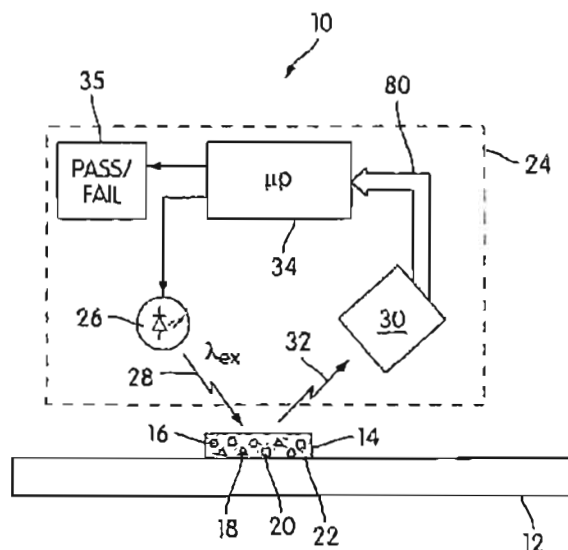
S. Chang et al., *J. Nanomater.* 2008, 589532.

Photoluminescent optical fiber with anisotropic cross-section

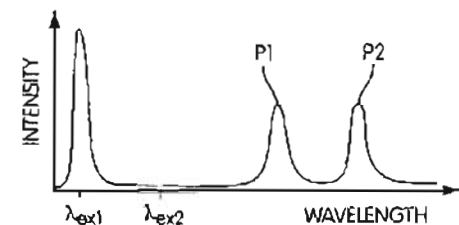


Grob & Franken (Landquart), WO2004/104277

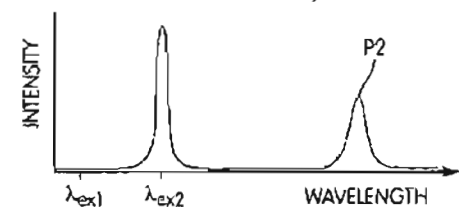
Photoluminescent security inks with blends of up-conversion pigments



Simultaneous exc. with 2 wlgths. of a two-luminophore mixture (e.g. $Y_{2-x}Eu_xO_3 + (Sr_{1-x}Ba_x)_2SiO_4:Eu$)



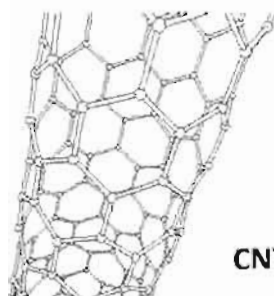
Exc. with only 1 wlgth. of a two-luminophore mixture (P1 absorbs ONLY WL1)



- (14) **Photoluminescent ink** containing a mixture of 2-3 pigments (16) NIR absorber: **Yb(III)** compound; emitter: **Tm(III)**, **Er(III)**, **Yb(III)**
- (24) **Detector** of the chosen photoluminescence property (intensity at a WL or region, ratio of PL intensities, peak WL, emission lifetime, emission rise time, emission spectrum shape, etc.)
- (28) **Excitation wavelength** (380-780 nm)

Li & Yang (Intematix Corp.), US2010/0102250

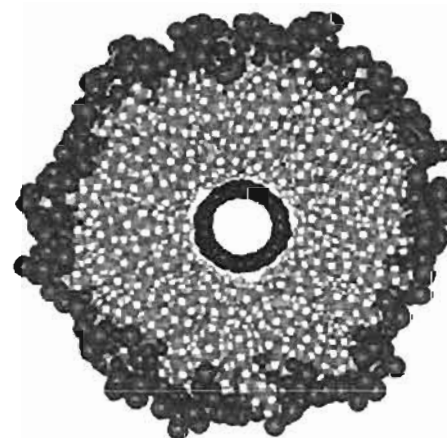
Security inks with invisible photoluminescence



CNTs

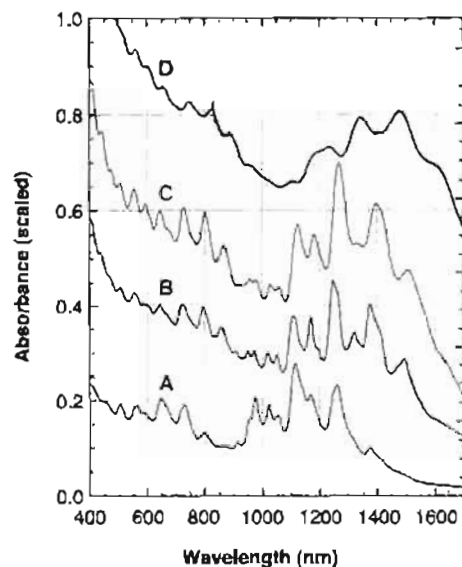

 $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 671; \lambda_{\text{em}} = 1125\text{--}1700 \text{ nm}$

3 nm

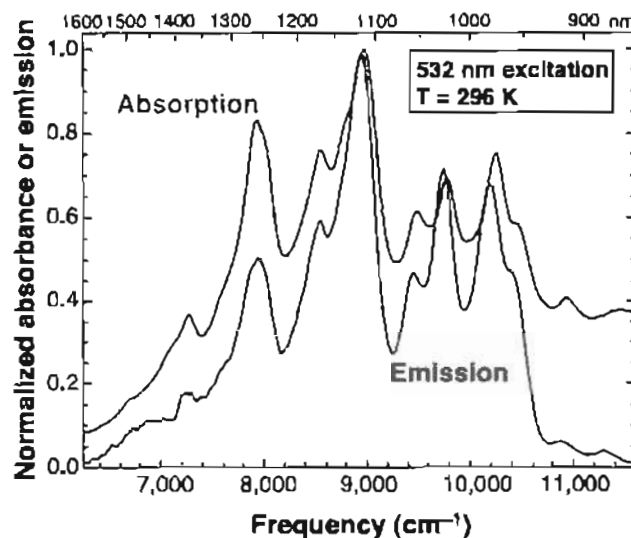


CNT protected by surfactant shell to prevent aggregation that kills photoluminescence

(O'Connell et al., *Science* 2002, 27, 593–596)



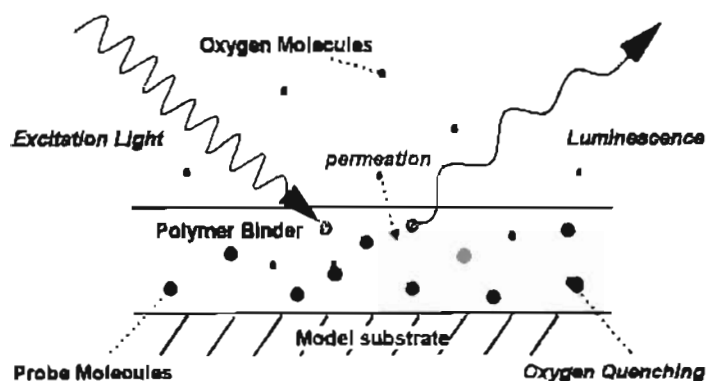
Absorption spectrum of CNT
(A) individual; (D) aggregated.



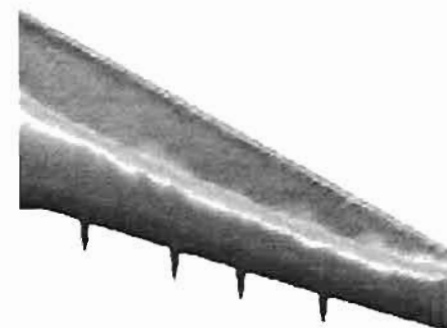
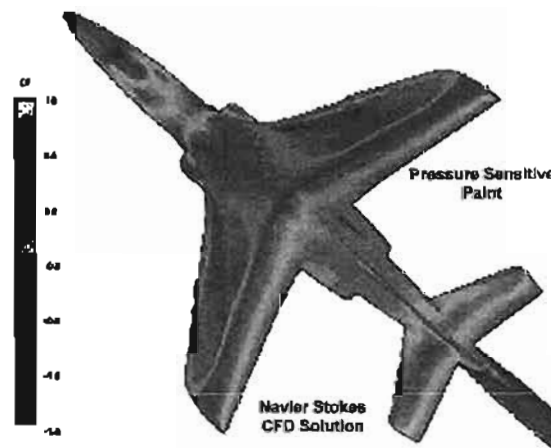
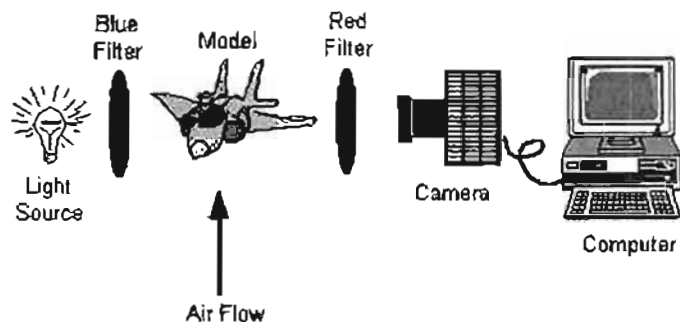
Bandgap luminescence of CNT; each size has
its own characteristic absorption and emission wavelengths.

Weisman et al. (Rice Univ.), US7,682,523

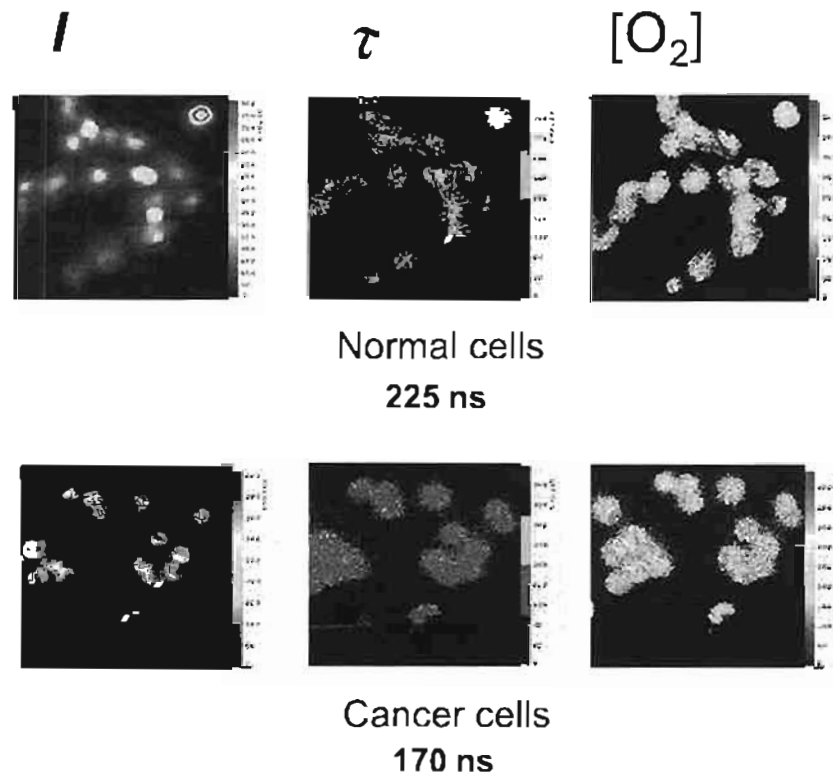
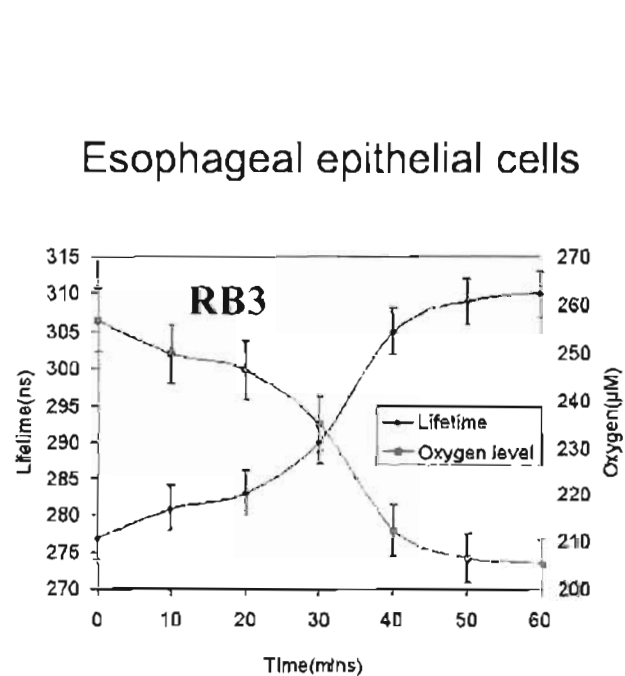
Photoluminescent pressure-sensitive paints



$$I_0/I = \tau_0/\tau = 1 + K_{SV} P_{O_2}$$

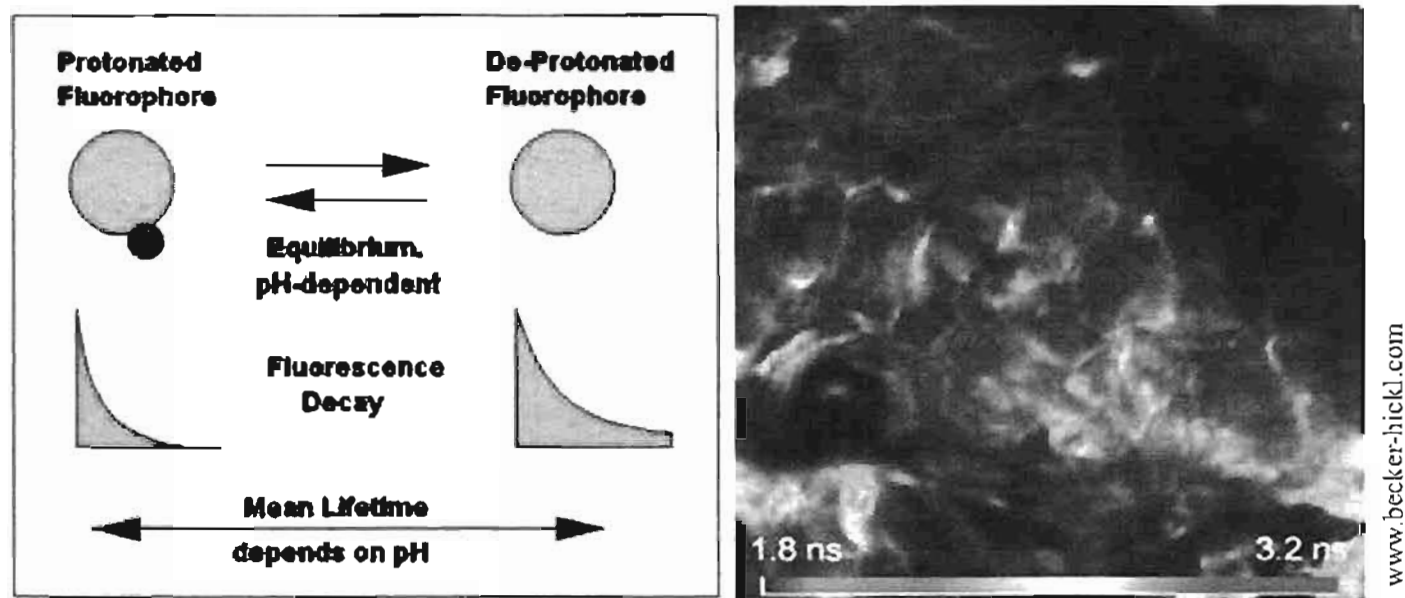


Luminescence lifetime imaging of oxygen levels in (living) cancer cells



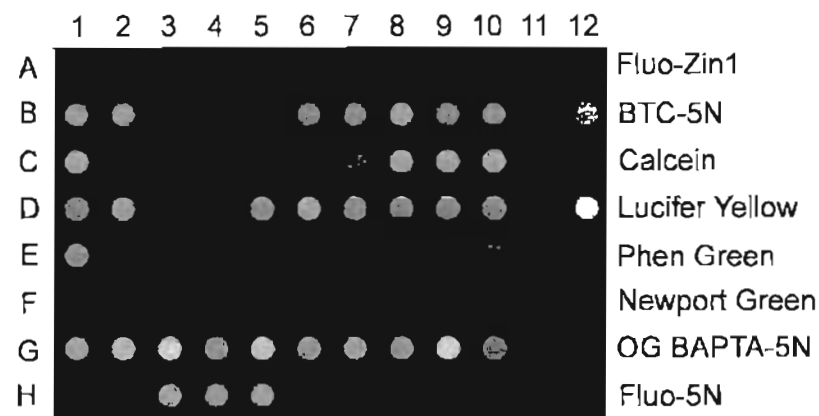
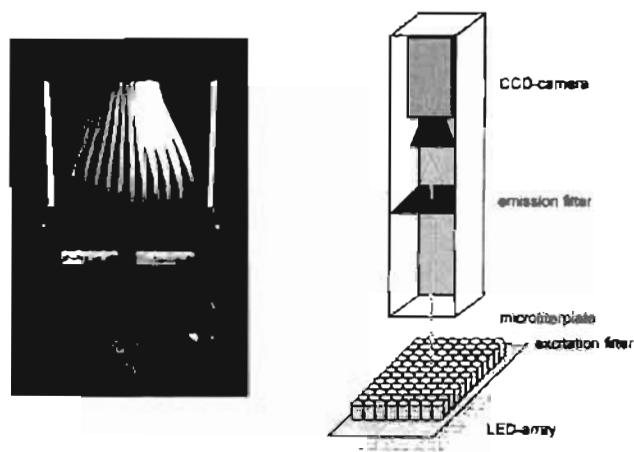
Sud, Zhong, Beer & Mycek, *Optics Express* 2006, 14, 4412.

Luminescence lifetime imaging of pH in skin tissue



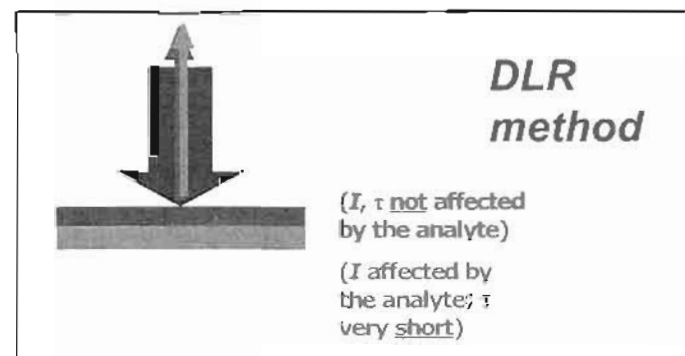
Lifetime image of skin tissue stained with BCECF (a carboxyfluorescein derivative): pH gradients in the extracellular matrix of the epidermis.

Luminescence imaging of metal ions and anion sensor arrays



← (the same mixture of ions in each well of the row)

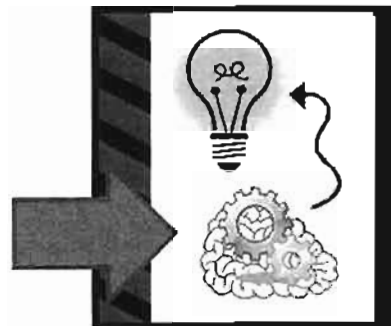
Column No.	Ca ²⁺ [μM]	Cu ²⁺ [μM]	Ni ²⁺ [μM]	Zn ²⁺ [μM]	Cd ²⁺ [μM]
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	1	1	1	1
3	10	10	10	10	10
4	100	100	100	100	100
5	1	0	0	0	0
6	0	1	0	0	0
7	0	0	1	0	0
8	0	0	0	1	0
9	0	0	0	0	1
10	10	0	0	0	0
11	0	10	0	0	0
12	0	0	10	0	0



O. S. Wolfbeis and co-workers, *Anal. Chem.*, 2003, 75, 4389.

Materiales fotoluminiscentes

Prof. Guillermo Orellana, UCM



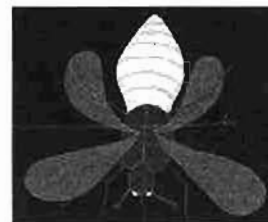
21 de Junio de 2010

Características de los materiales "inteligentes"

- **Estímulo** al que el material inteligente responde (luz, electricidad, campo magnético, presencia de un estímulo químico,...).
- Tipo de **propiedad** (absorción, **luminiscencia**, corriente eléctrica, índice de refracción,...) que cambia en el material bajo el efecto inductor del estímulo (*respuesta*).
- Magnitud o grado de la **respuesta**
- Aplicaciones, generalidad, etc.



Fenómenos luminiscentes naturales



Historia Medicinal
(Sevilla, 1565)
Lignum nephriticum
¡Primer método
para detección de
falsificaciones!
(madera)

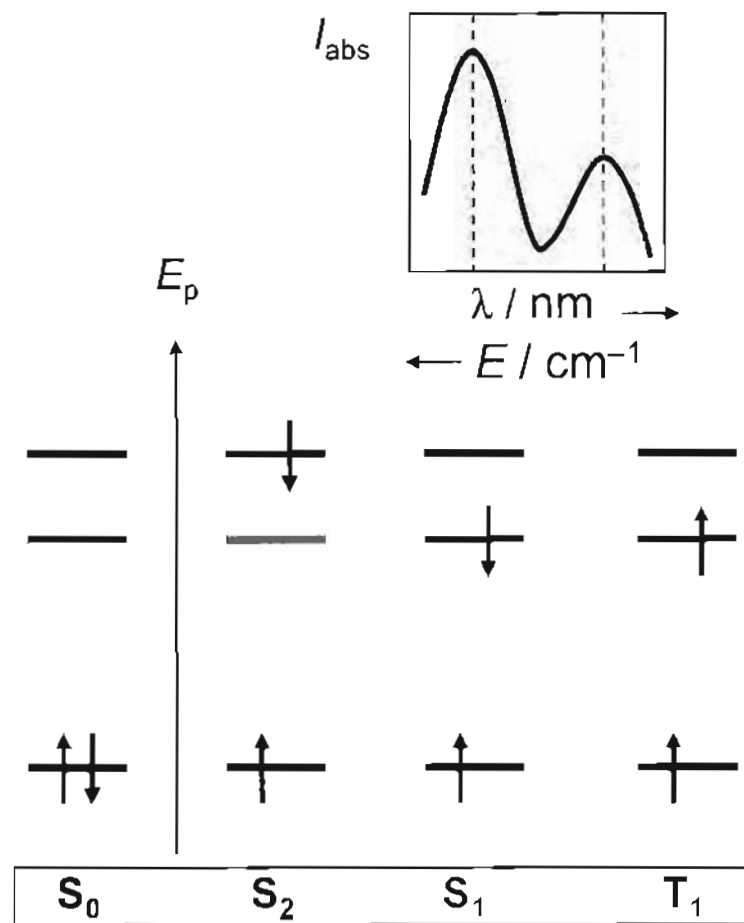


“lumen” + “essentia” = hecho de luz

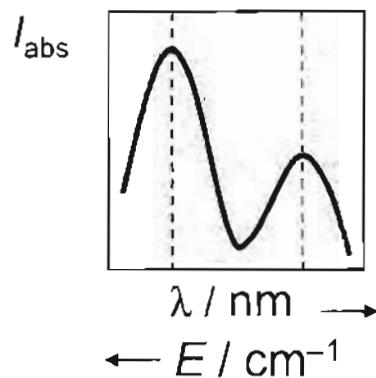
Índice de la presentación

- **Qué es luminiscencia** (fluorescencia/fosforescencia)
- **Tecnología** para la medida e interrogación
- **Tipos** de compuestos y materiales luminiscentes
- **Naturaleza multi-paramétrica** de la emisión luminiscente
 - *Intensidad*
 - *Dependencia con la longitud de onda*
 - *Tiempo de vida (cinética) de la emisión*
 - *Polarización (anisotropía).*
- **Ejemplos de aplicación** (hasta donde permita el tiempo disponible)

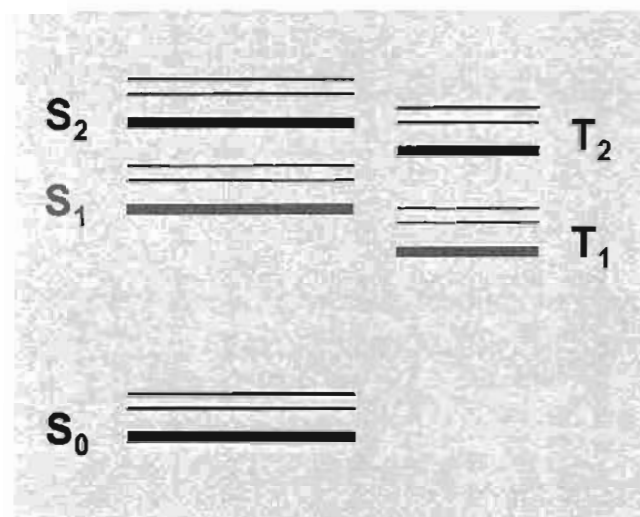
Estados electrónicos excitados



"Molecular orbitals diagram"

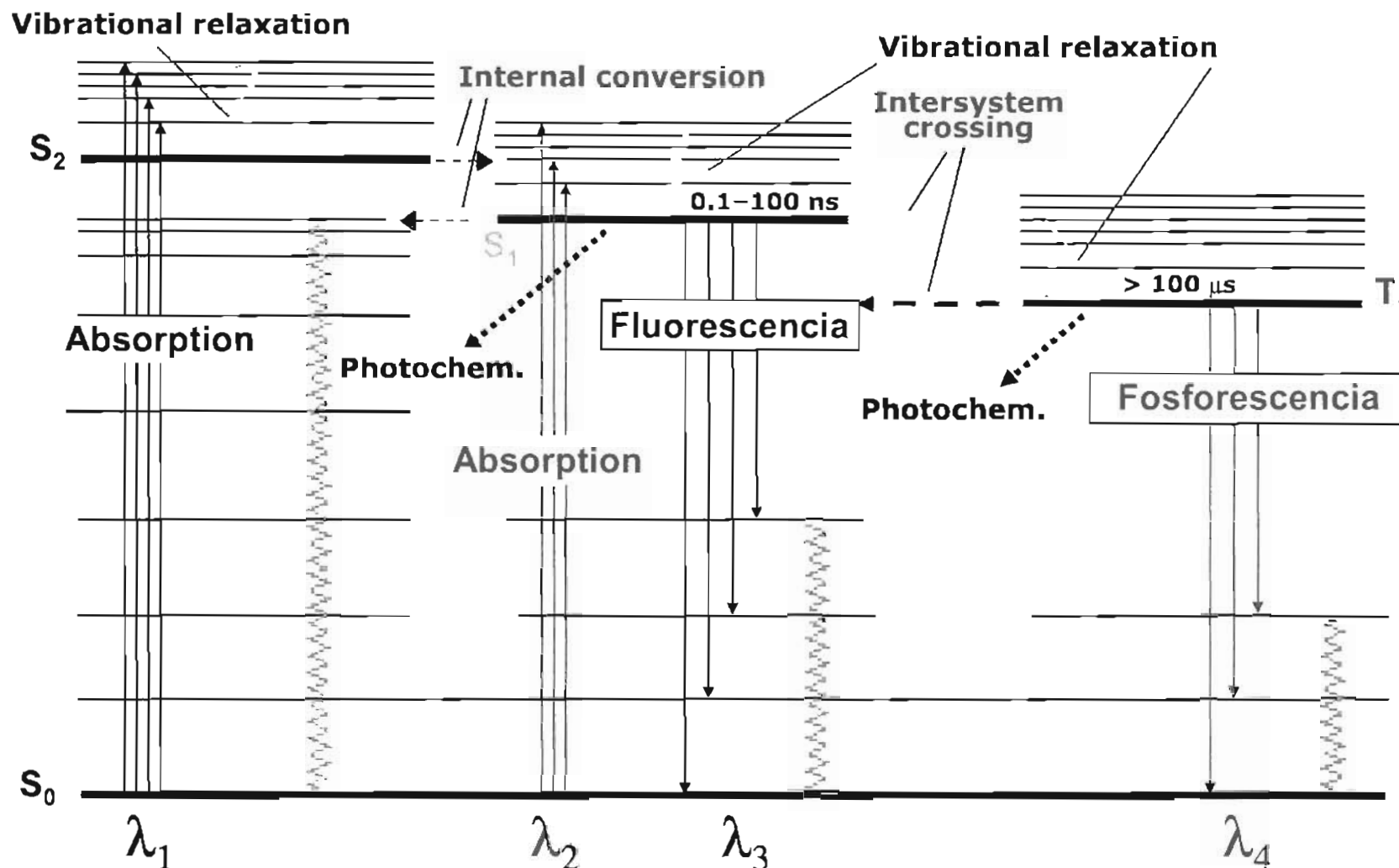


$$E = h\nu$$

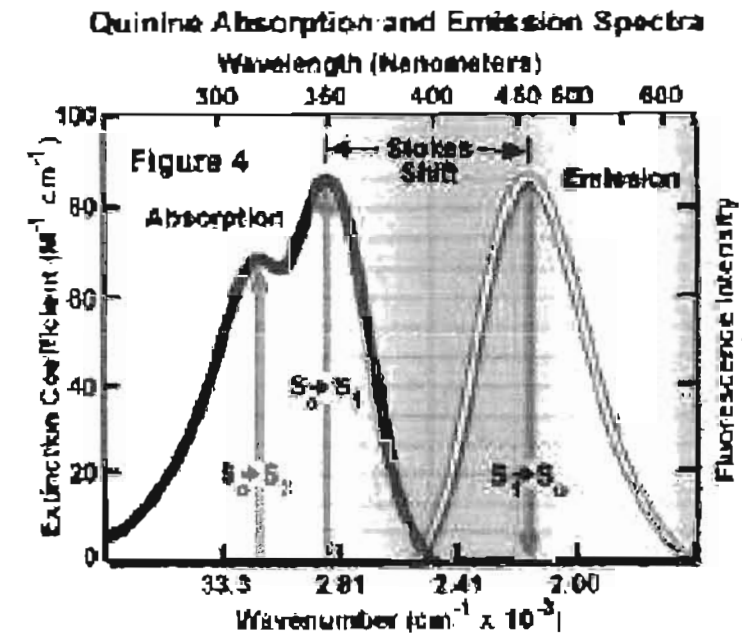
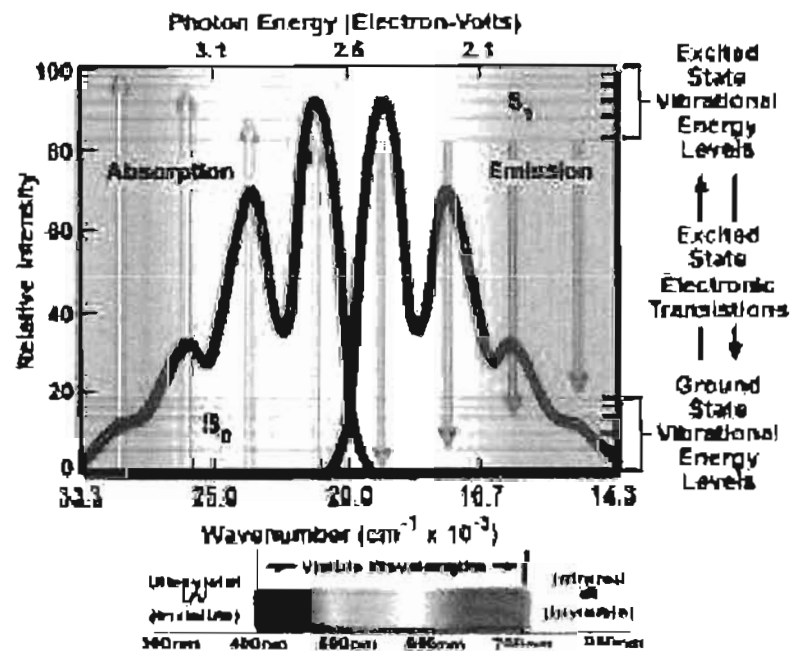


"Jablonski diagram"

¿Qué es luminiscencia?

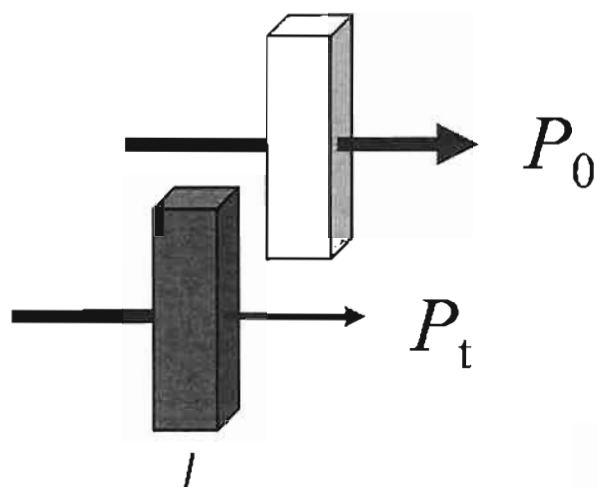


Luminescence spectrum

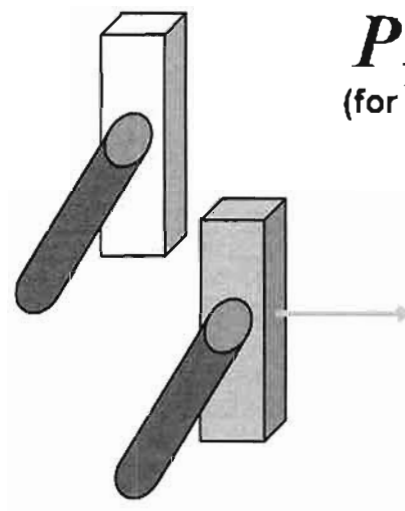
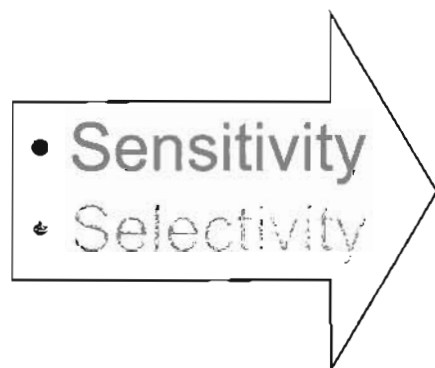


$$\Phi = \frac{\text{emitted photons/t}}{\text{absorbed photons/t}}$$

Luminescence- vs. absorption-based monitoring

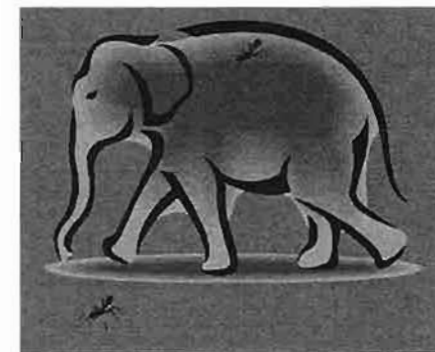


$$A = \log\left(\frac{P_0}{P_t}\right) = \epsilon lc$$

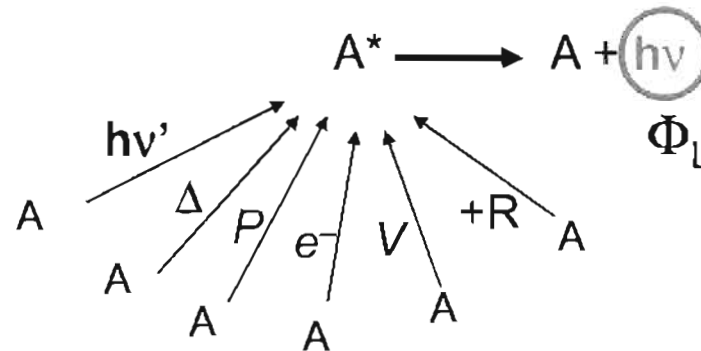


$$P_f = k\epsilon\Phi_f P_0 lc$$

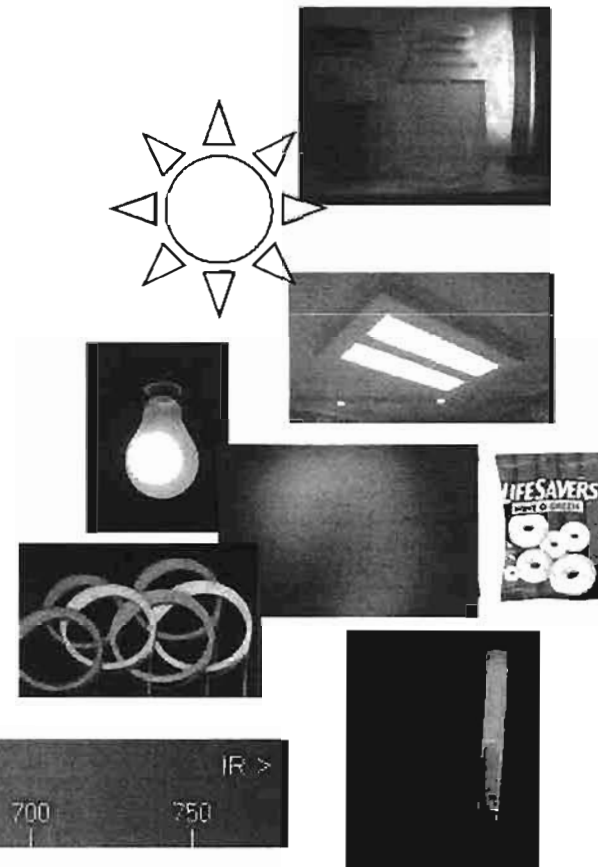
(for weakly absorbing solutions)



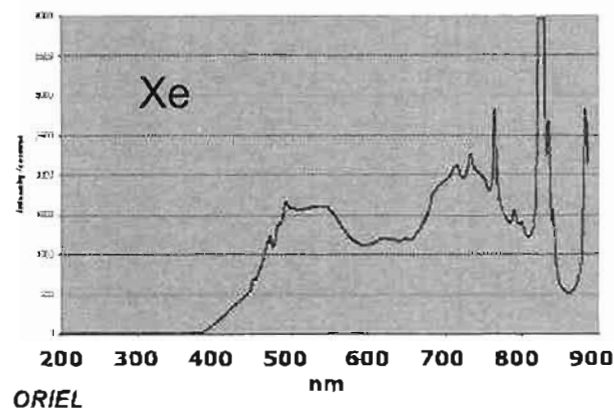
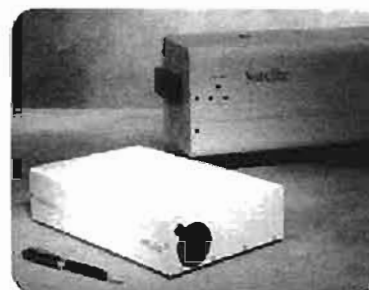
Remember: luminescence always arises from deactivation of electronic excited states



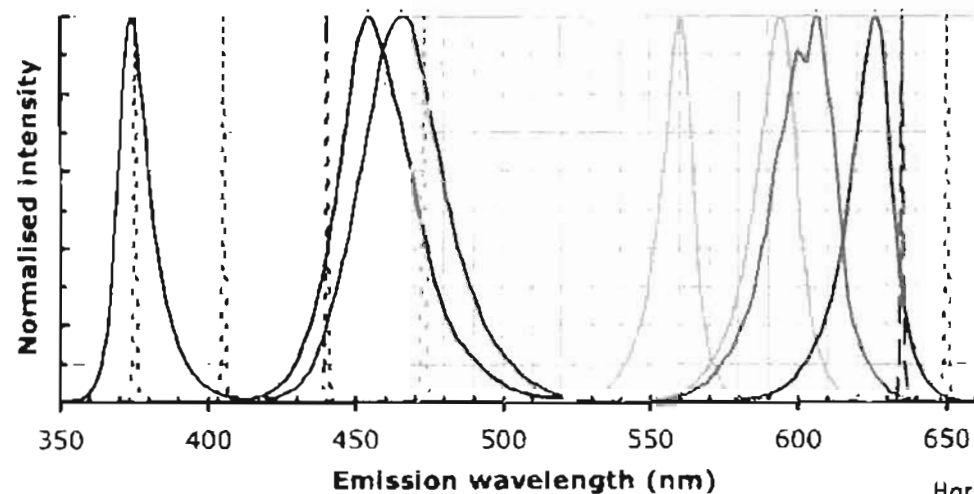
- (Photo)luminescence
- Thermoluminescence
- Triboluminescence (piezolum.)
- Cathodoluminescence
- Electroluminescence
- Chemiluminescence (biolum.)



Instrumentation for luminescence measurements: light sources

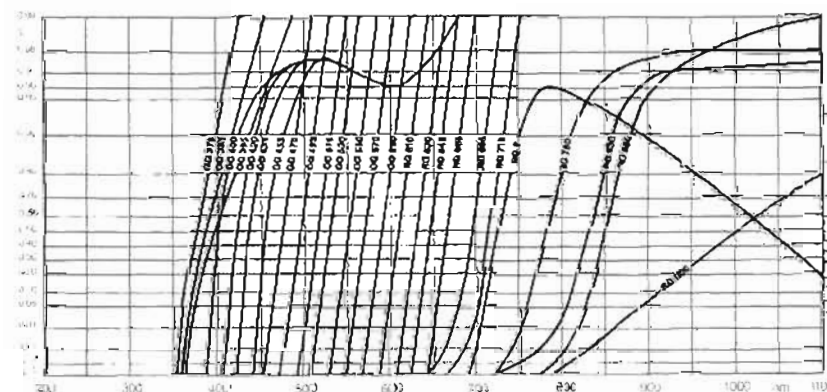
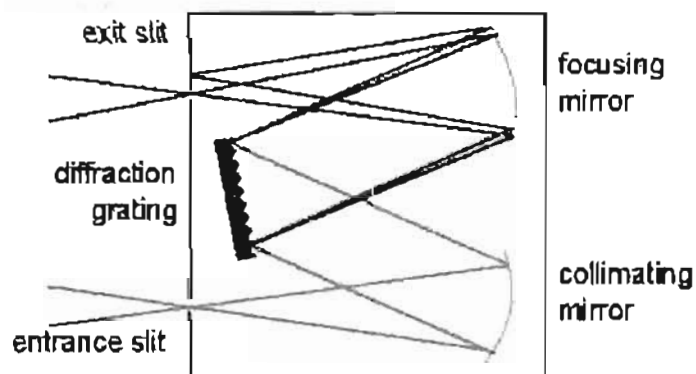
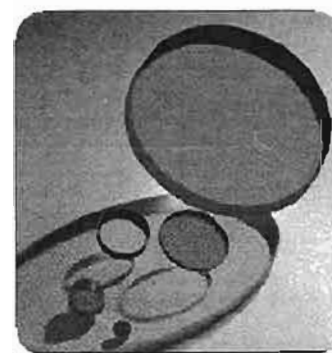
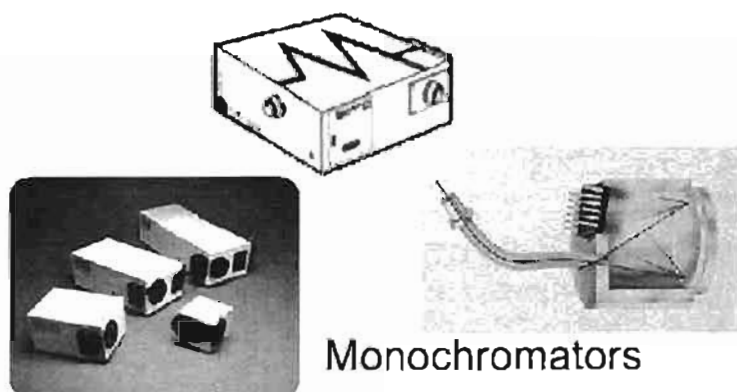


ORIEL

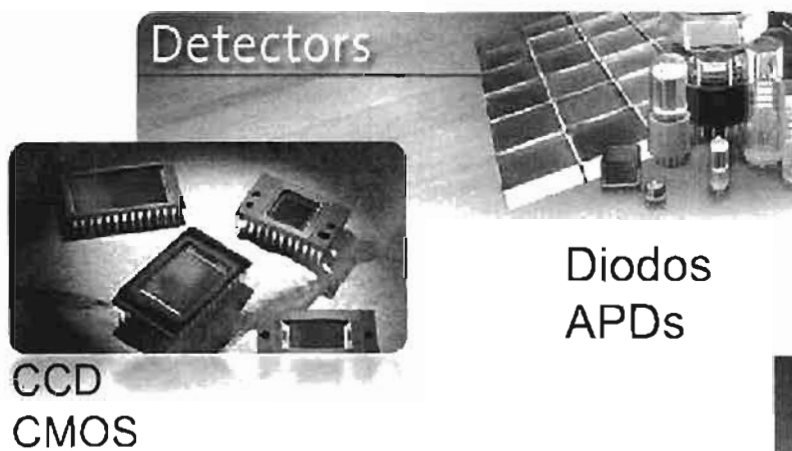


Horiba

Instrumentation for luminescence measurements: wavelength selectors

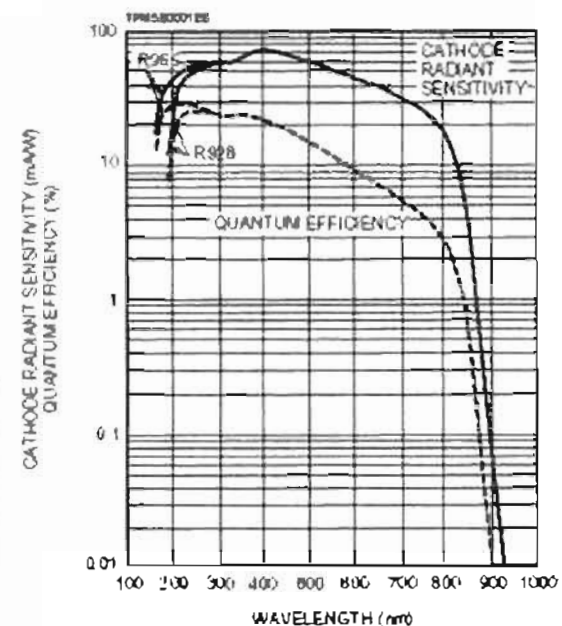


Instrumentation for luminescence measurements: detectors



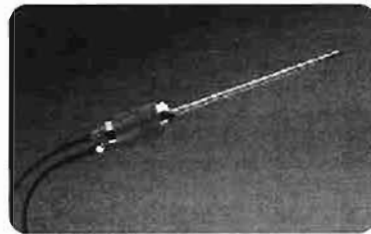
Diode arrays

PMTs

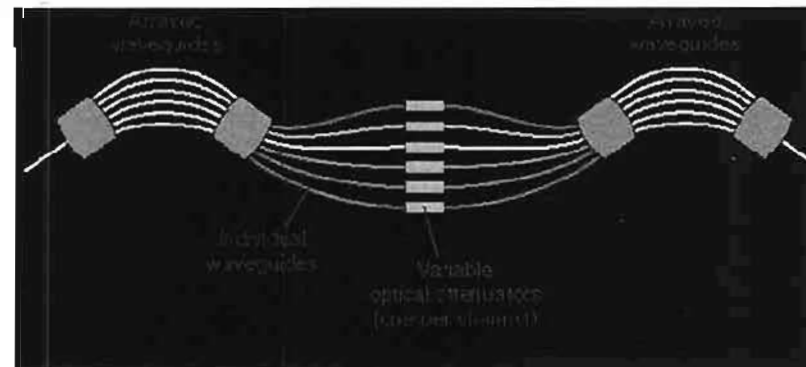
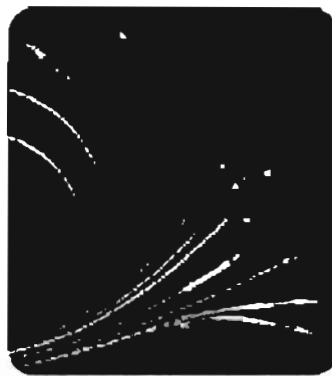


Hamamatsu

Instrumentation for luminescence measurements: light pipes & waveguides



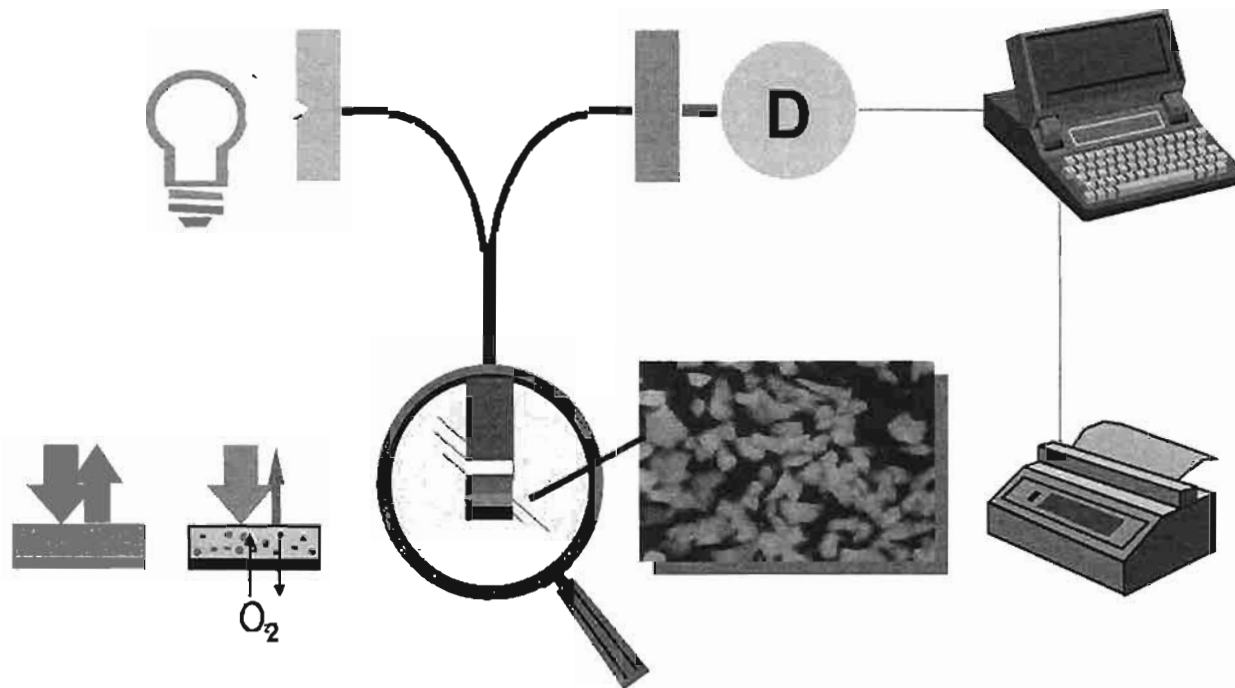
Optical fibers



Planar waveguides

Luminescent chemosensory

(indicator-, fiberoptic-based depicted)

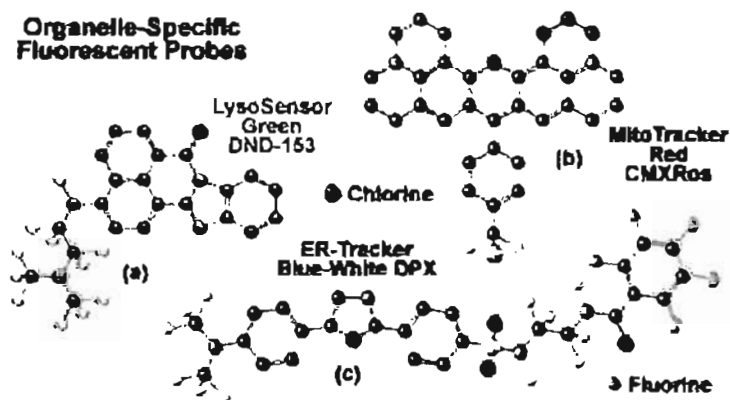
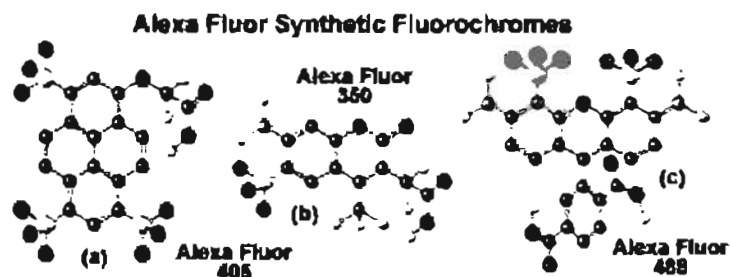
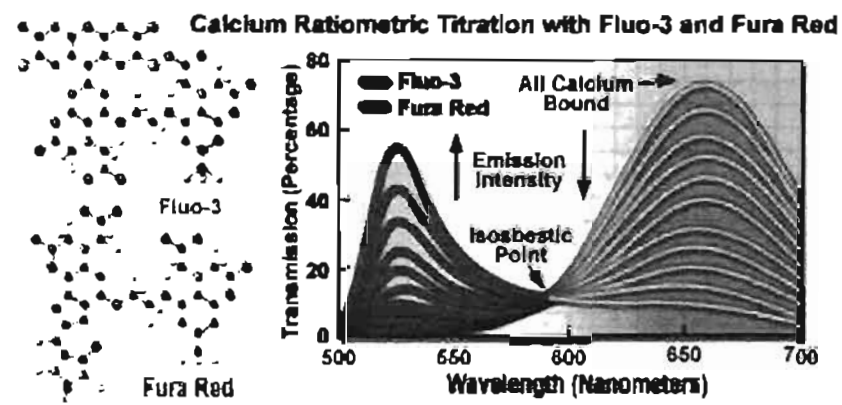
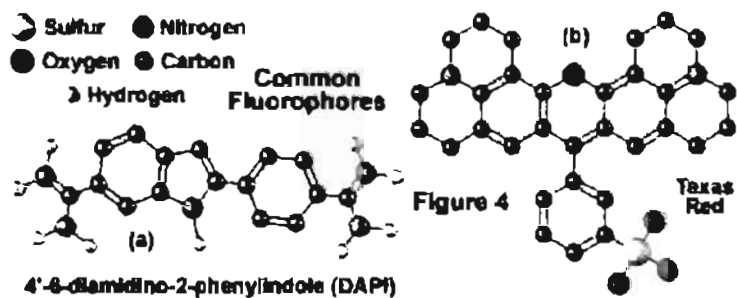


Typical (organic) fluorophores

**Common
features or...**

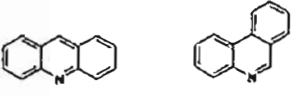
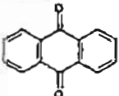
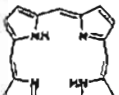
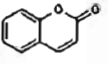
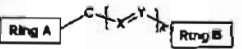
**can fluorescence be
predicted?**

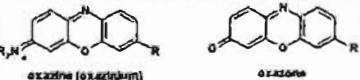
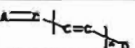
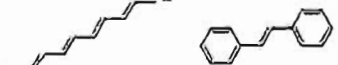
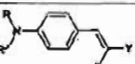
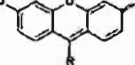
Typical (organic) fluorophores



Families of organic fluorophores

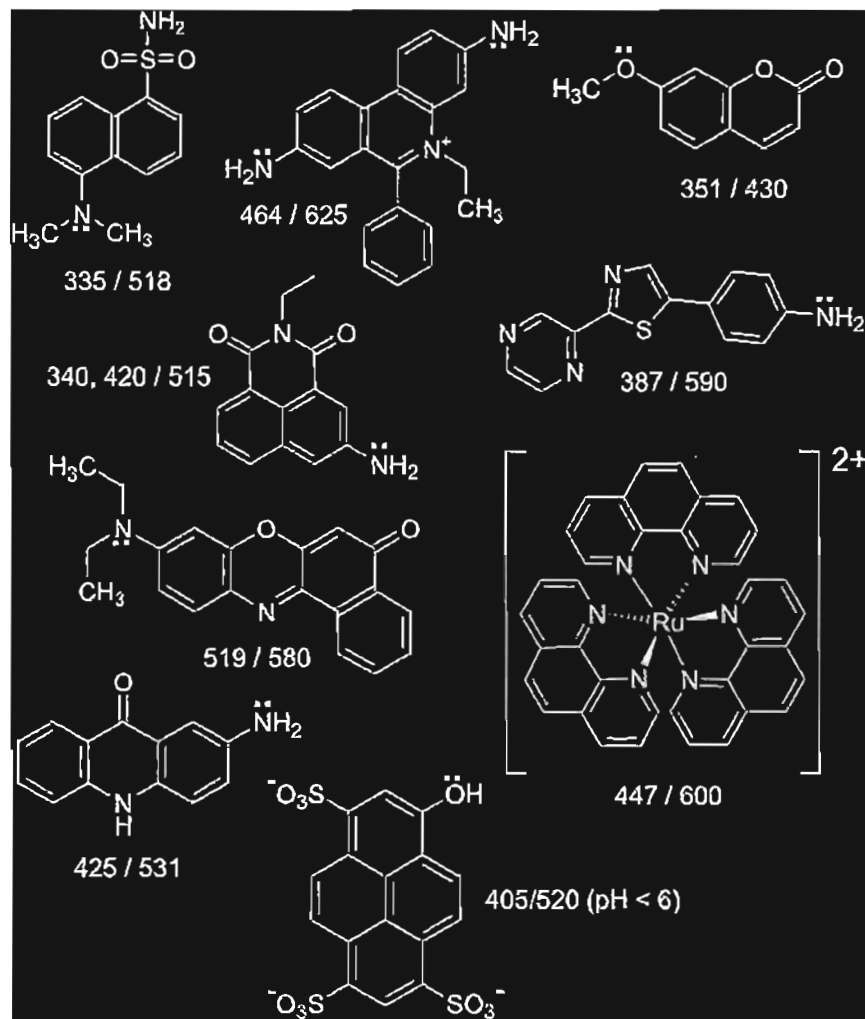
Table of fluorophoric substructures for classification

Chromophore	Structure
Acridine, phenanthridine	 Acridine Phenanthridine
Anthraquinone	 Anthraquinone
Aza[18]annulen	 Aza[18]annulen
Benzimidazole	 Benzimidazole
Coumarin	 Coumarin
Cyanine and azamethine	 Cyanine Ring A and B contain donor and acceptor nitrogen atom. In azamethine dyes, either X or Y is a nitrogen atom.

Naphthalimide	 Naphthalimide
Oxazine and Oxazone	 Oxazine (oxazolinum) Oxazone
Oxonol	Polymethine dyes with bridges between ring systems that contain oxygen atoms.
Polymethine	 Polymethine dyes A is an electron acceptor group, D is an electron donor group. Subclasses that belong to Polymethine dyes are: • Cyanine and azamethine • Oxonols • Benzimidazols • Indolenis • Styryl dyes • Coumann
Polyene	 Polyene
Styryl	 Styryl
Thiazole	 Thiazole
Xanthene	 Xanthene

Classification refers to Conn's Biological Stains, 10th edition, R. W. Horabin, J. A. Korman ed., BIOS Scientific Publishers, Oxford, UK, 2002

Intramolecular charge-transfer luminophores



Large Stokes shift!
Sensitivity to solvent

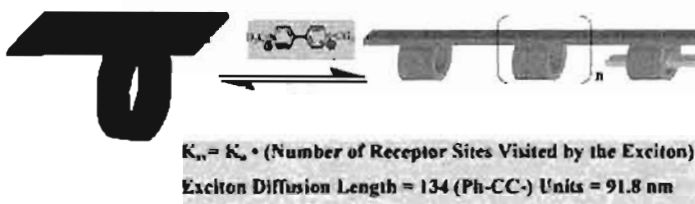
Amplifying Fluorescent Conjugated Polymers

Excitons in AFPs are highly mobile and can diffuse throughout an isolated polymer **chain** or within an AFP solid by mechanisms that involve both *through space* dipolar couplings and *strong mixing* of electronic states.

Monomeric Chemosensor: Sensitivity determined by the equilibrium constant

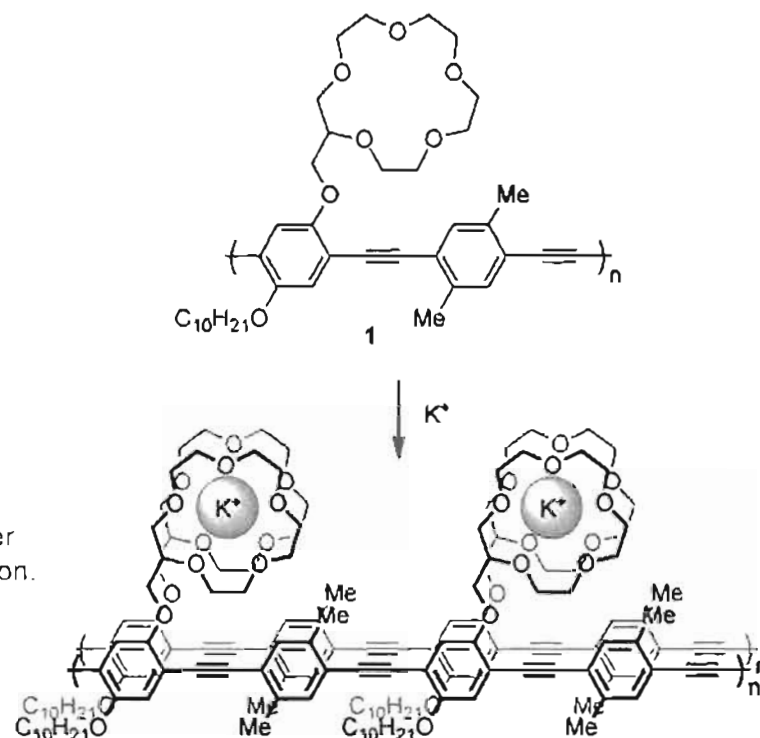


Receptor Wired in Series: Amplification due to a collective system response



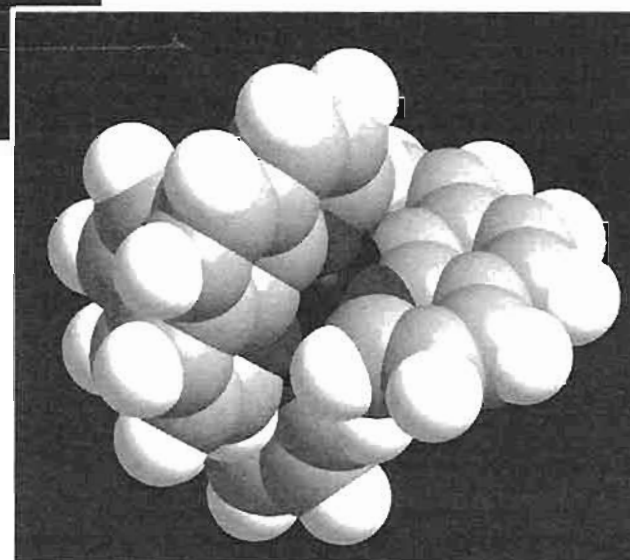
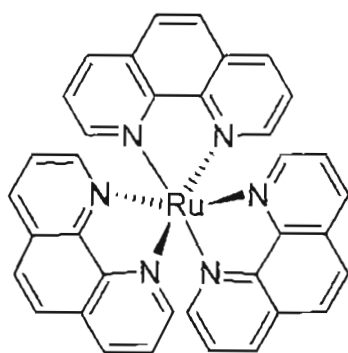
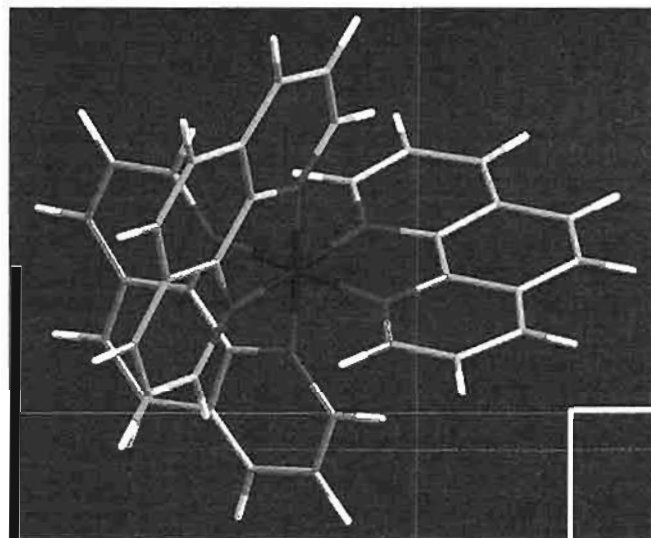
Demonstration of amplified quenching in a CP. The quencher can be bound to any of the repeating units visited by the exciton.

K^+ -induced aggregation of crown ether-functionalized AF polymer (emission red shift, 434 to 459, and fluorescence quenching).

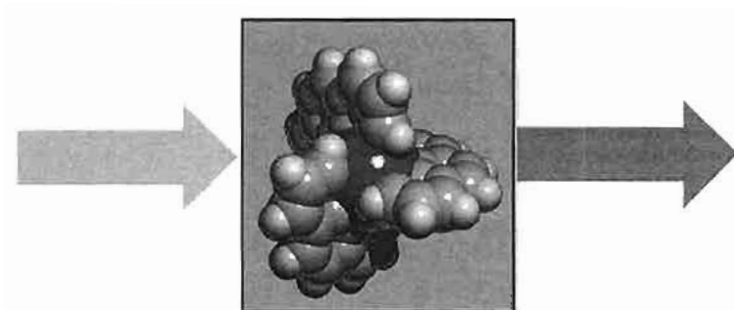


Thomas, Joly & Swager, *Chem. Rev.* 2007, 107, 1339.

Metal-organic luminophores: Ru(II) polypyridyls



Features of the luminescent Ru(II) polypyridyls



G. Orellana & D. García-Fresnadillo, in *Optical Sensors: Industrial, Environmental and Diagnostic Applications*.
Naranayaswamy and Wolfbeis, Eds.,
Springer (2004)

☺ *Advantages*

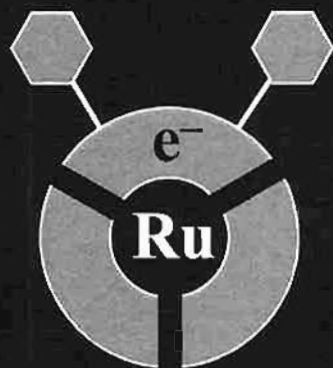
- Visible absorption, strong emission
- Stokes' shift (150-200 nm)
- Long emission lifetimes (0.1 - 9 μ s)
- (Photo)stability
- “Tunable” properties
 - towards the analyte (photochemistry/photophysics)
 - towards the immobilization procedure

☹ *Limitations*

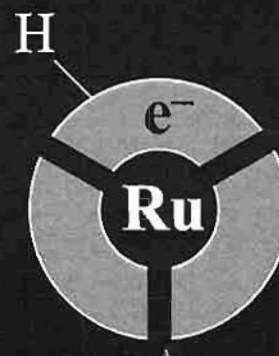
- Ionic compounds
- Oxygen, temperature cross-talk



Engineering of the coordinating ligands

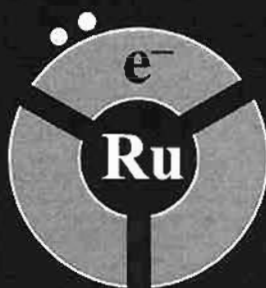


Enhanced τ
(O_2 sensitivity)



Sensitive to
BASES

3MLCT excited state

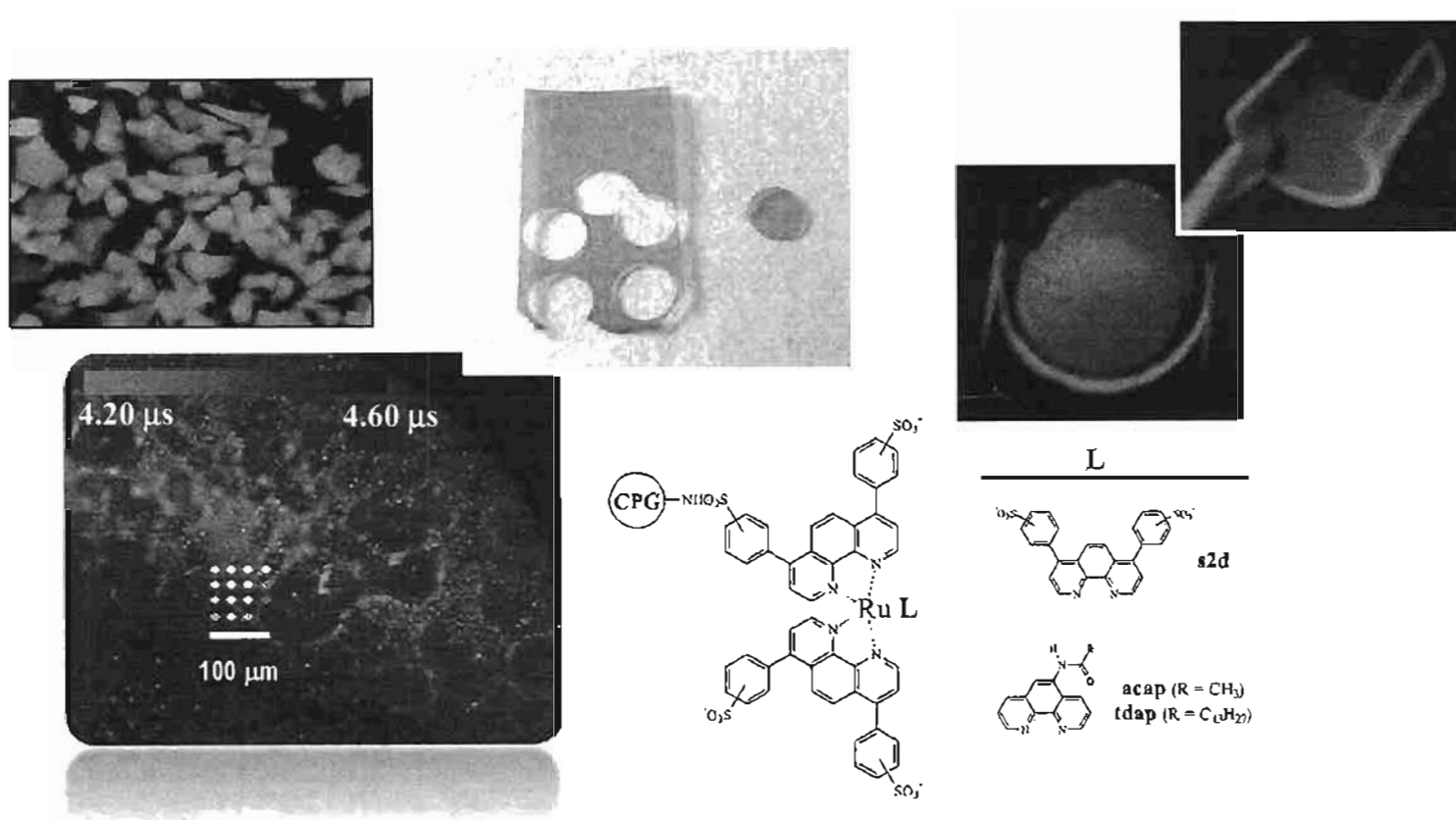


Sensitive to
ACIDS



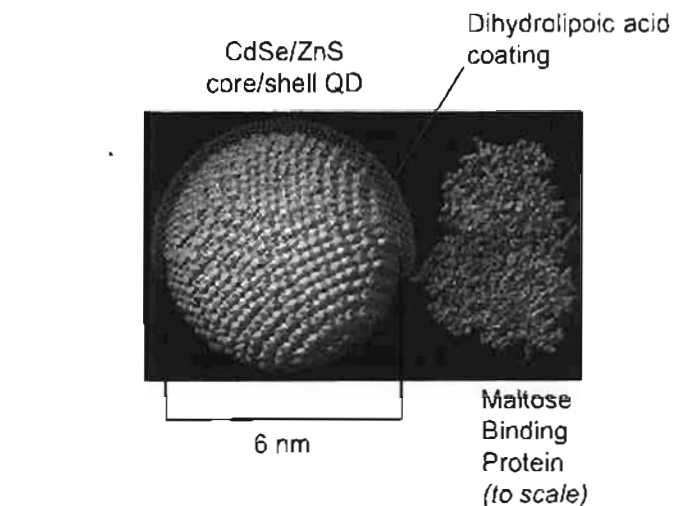
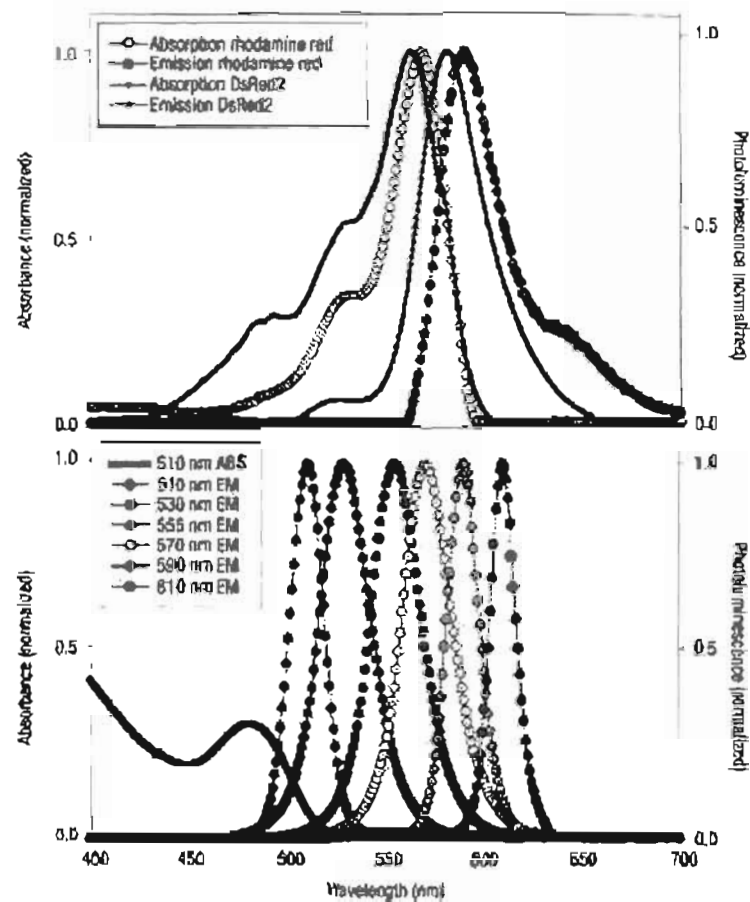
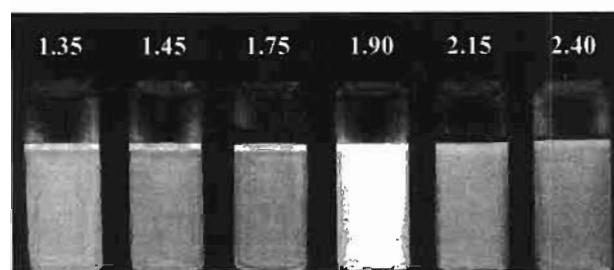
Sensitive to
polarity

Fabrication of photoluminescent materials containing Ru(II) polypyridyls



G. Orellana et al, in *Frontiers in Chemical Sensors: Novel Principles and Techniques*, G. Orellana and M.C. Moreno-Bondi (Eds.), Springer, 2005; pp. 189–225.

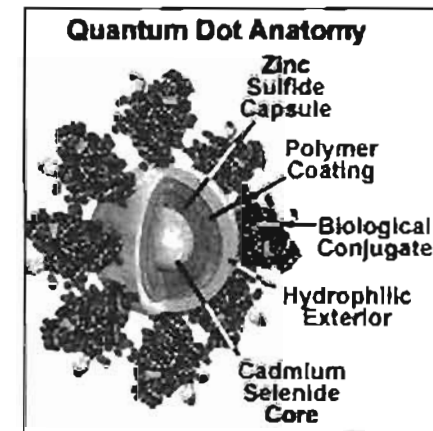
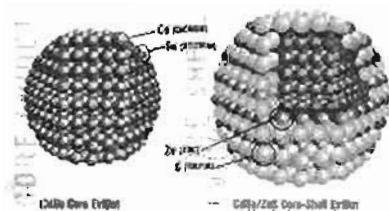
Inorganic fluorophores: Quantum dots


 $r_{\text{CdSe core}} / \text{nm}$


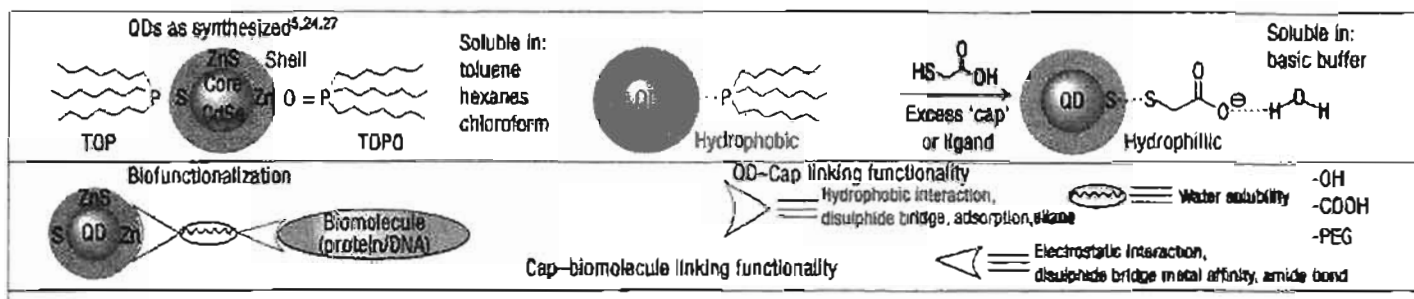
I. L. Menditz et al., *Nature Materials* 2005, 4, 435–446.

Quantum dots features (vs. organic fluorophores)

- QDs have 10–100x **absorption** coefficient.
- QDs **emission** very narrow (FWMH 30 nm, *if monodisperse!*).
- **Tuneable** emission maximum, large **Stokes shift**.
- QDs are highly **photostable**.
- Ease of **protein coating** to confer binding specificity.
- Intermittent emission (**blinking**) under continuous excitation (*Auger ionization?*).
- Metal **toxicity** and **security** issues due to particle size.



Functionalization of the quantum dots

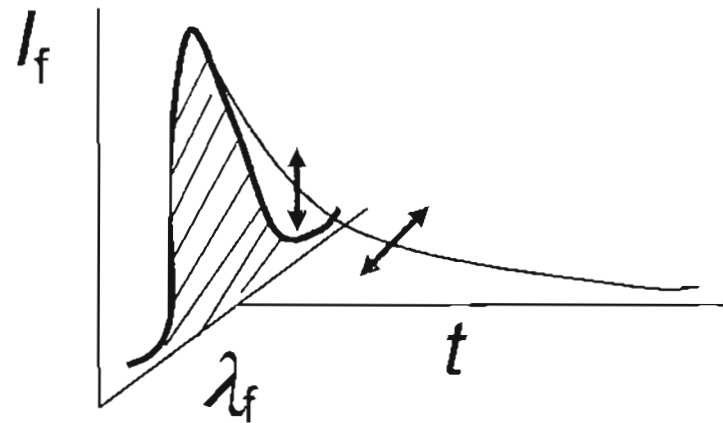


Representative surface-capping strategies	Mechanism of interaction	Examples
a Monothiolated caps $n = 1$: mercaptoacetic acid $n = 2, 10, 16$: benzyl $R = -H, -CH_2COOH$ $HS(CH_2)_{11}(OCH_2CH_2)_n$ $n = 3, 5, -12$	Covalent thiol bond	Mercapto carbonic acids ³⁰ Alkylthiol terminated DNA ³¹ Thioalkylated oligo-ethyleneglycols ³²
b Bidentate thiols $R = -OH, -(OCH_2CH_2)_nOH$ $n = 3, 5, -12$	Two interactions/ligand	Dihydrolipic acid derivatives ^{33,43}
c Silane shell or box dendrimer $R = -SH, -NH_2, -PO_3CH_3$	Crosslinked shell	Mercaptopropyl silanols ^{34,40} Amino box dendrimers ³¹

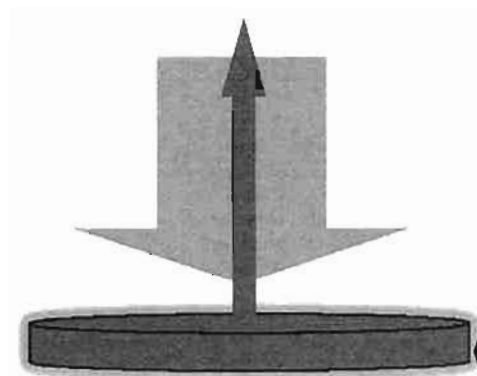
I. L. Menditz et al., *Nature Materials* 2005, 4, 435–446.

Luminescence: a multi-parametric technique

- ✓ Emission intensity
- ✓ Emission spectrum
- ✓ Emission kinetics (*lifetime*)
- ✓ Emission anisotropy (*polarization*)



Materials based on indicator dye luminescence intensity measurements



$$P_f = \kappa \Phi_f P_0 l c$$

(ONLY for weakly absorbing solutions!)

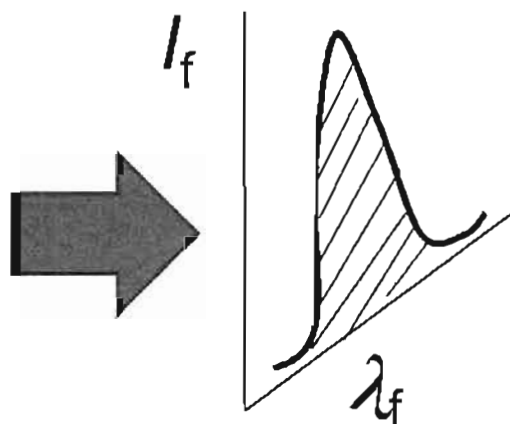
A proper design must address:

- Instrumental (κ) factors
- Indicator ϵ and Φ_f (concentration, thickness)
- Response time (polymer support, thickness)
- Excitation source P_0 (signal, photobleaching)
- Polymer support (light abs/scattering, analyte selectivity)

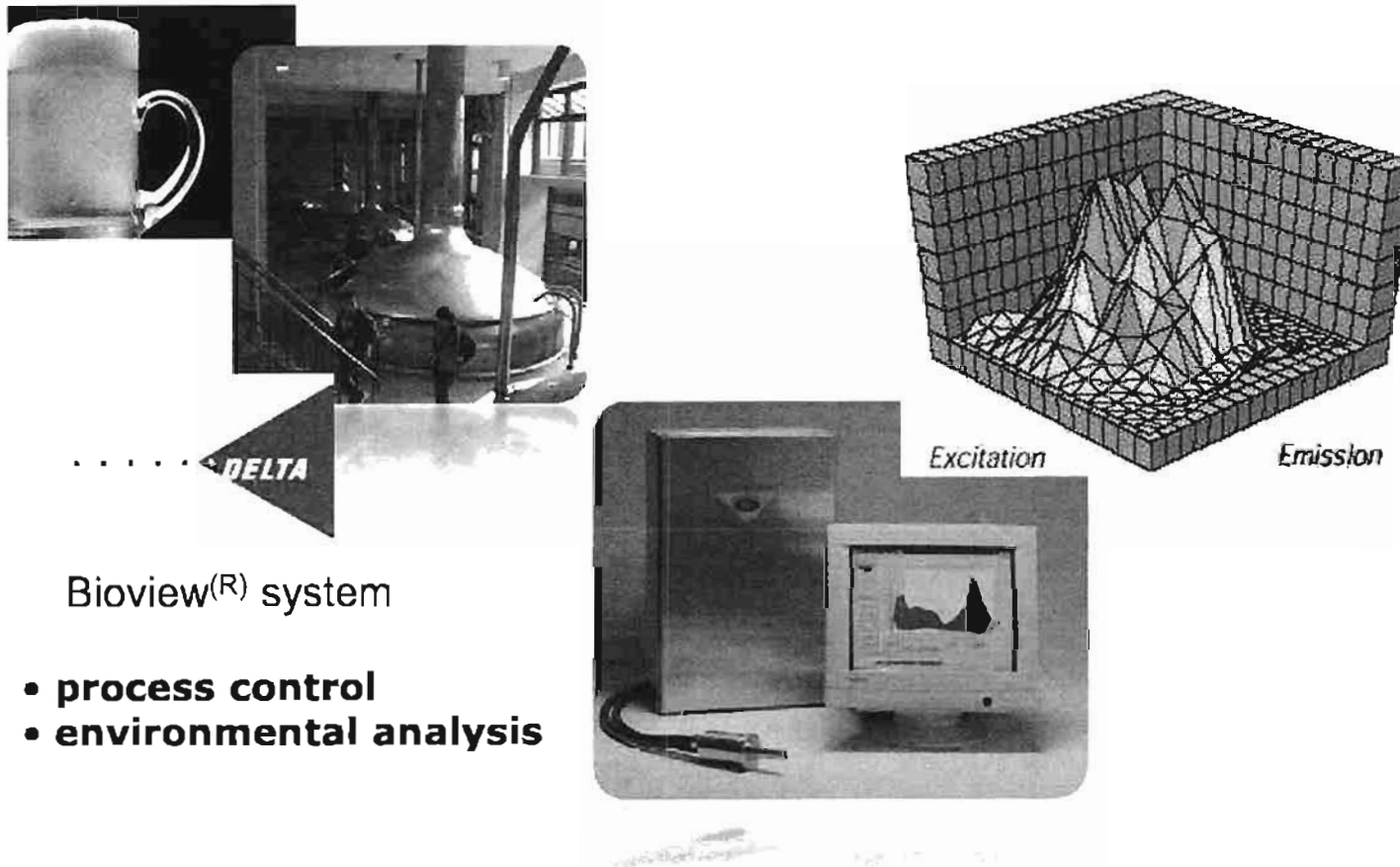
G. Orellana et al., In *Frontiers in Chemical Sensors: Novel Principles and Techniques*, Orellana and Moreno-Bondi, Eds., Springer (2005); **chapter 5**.

Remember: Luminescence is a multi-parametric technique

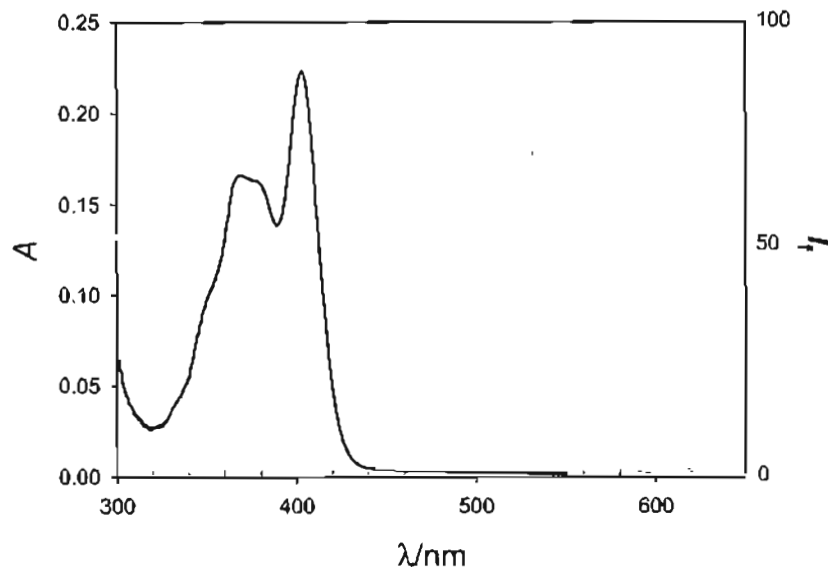
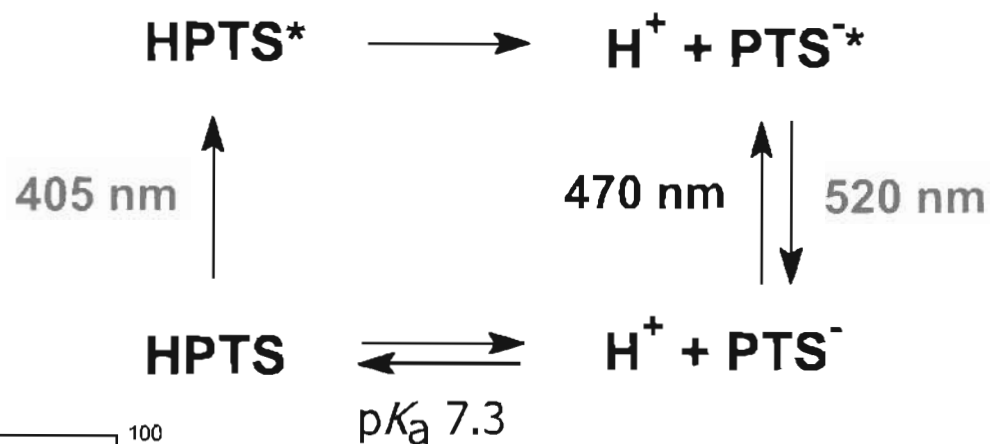
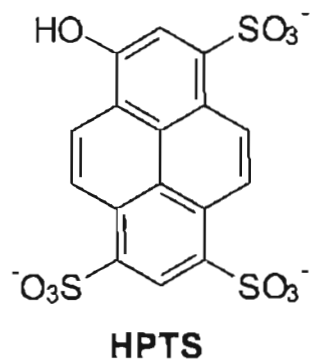
- ✓ Emission intensity
- ✓ Emission spectrum
- ✓ Emission kinetics (*lifetime*)
- ✓ Emission anisotropy (*polarization*)



Excitation-emission matrix as a source of specificity



Ratiometric photoluminescent indicator dyes

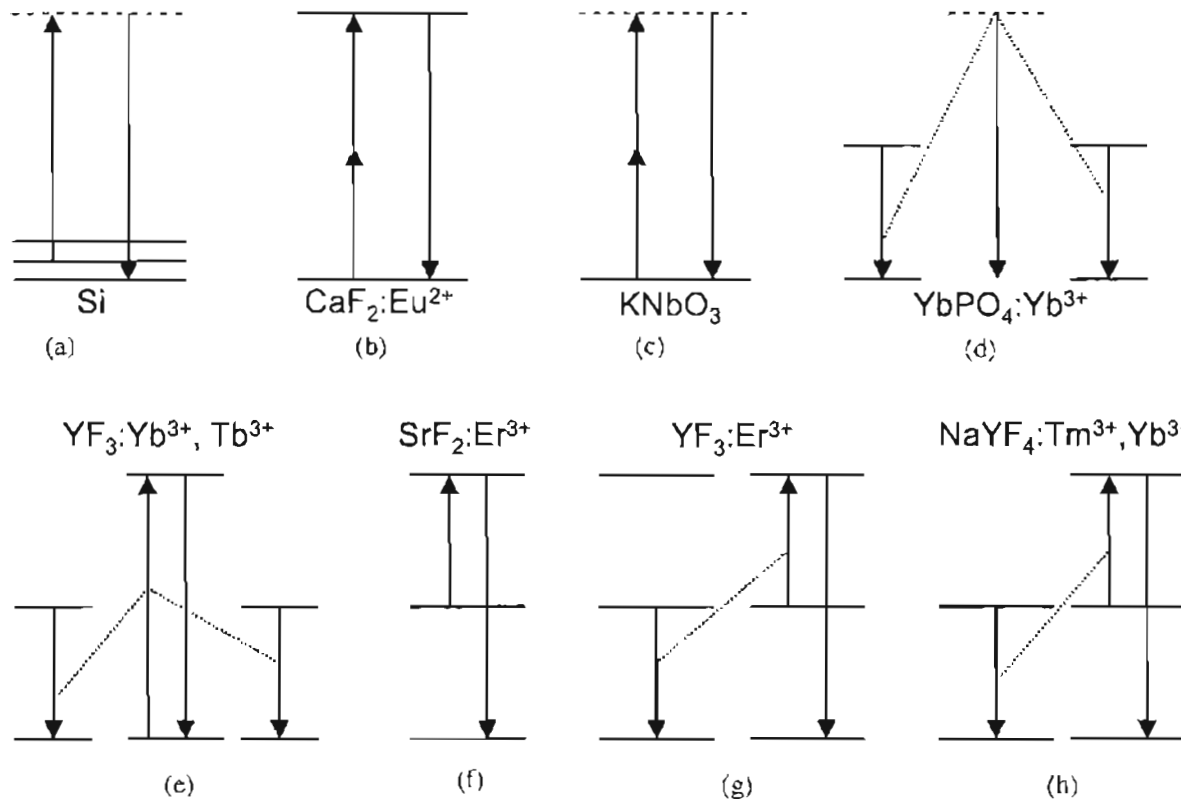


$$\text{Signal} = \frac{I_{\text{f}}(\text{ex}460)}{I_{\text{f}}(\text{ex}405)}$$

Photoluminescent up-conversion pigments

“Materials that are capable of absorbing photons of a certain energy E_1 and emitting photons with another energy E_2 , such that $E_2 > E_1$ ”.

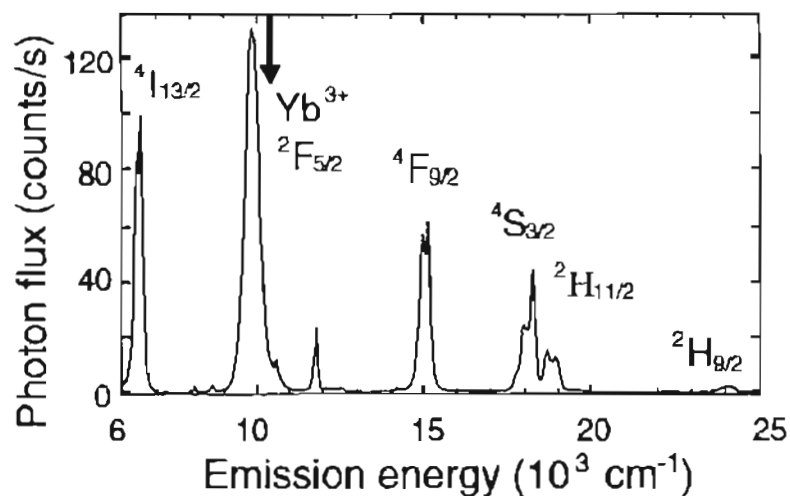
The majority of compounds that are able to perform UC involve trivalent lanthanides (Ln^{3+}) (have metastable levels of the 4f electrons)



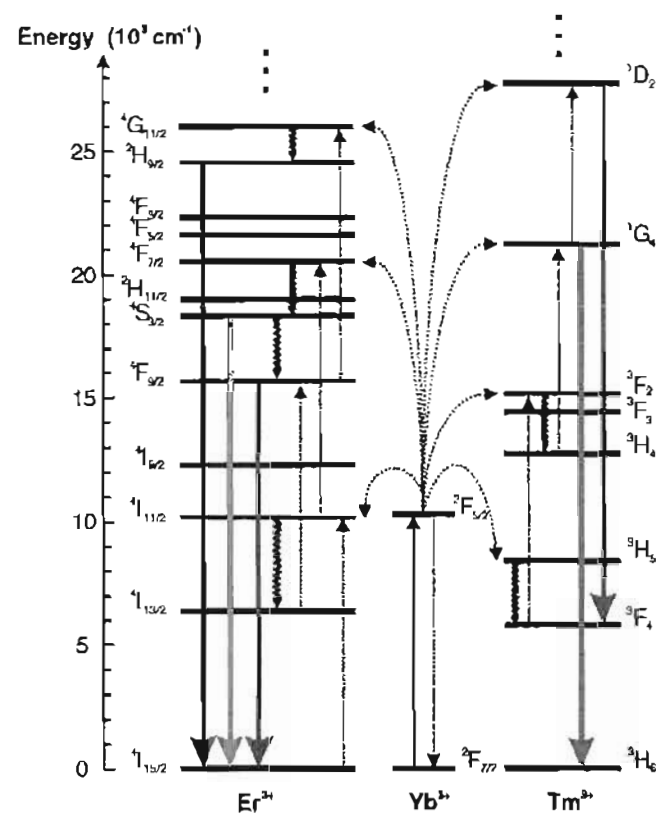
- a) Anti-stokes Raman
- b) Two-photon excitation
- c) Second harmonic gen.
- d) Cooperative luminesc.
- e) Cooperative sensitization
- f) Excited state absorption
- g) Energy transfer up-conv.
- h) Sensitized energy-transfer up-conversion

Photoluminescent up-conversion pigments

Most of the well-known upconverting phosphors contain trivalent rare earth ions as the active components, typically Pr^{3+} , Nd^{3+} , Er^{3+} , Tm^{3+} , or Yb^{3+} (typically, NIR absorption, VIS emission)

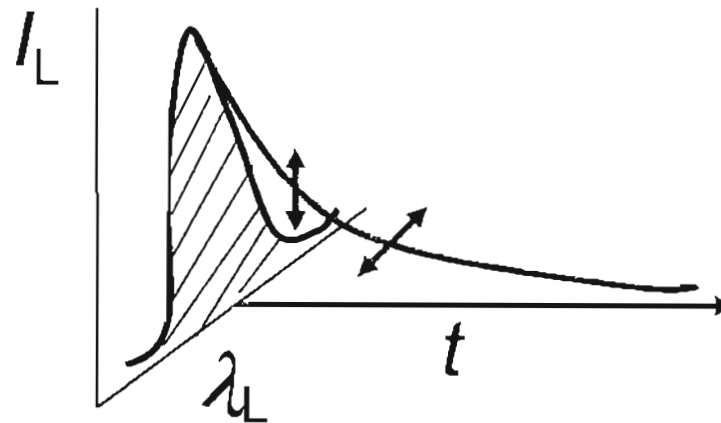


Upconversion and downconversion emission spectrum of a $\text{NaYF}_4:\text{Er}^{3+}, \text{Yb}^{3+}$ sample under $10\,238 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ excitation

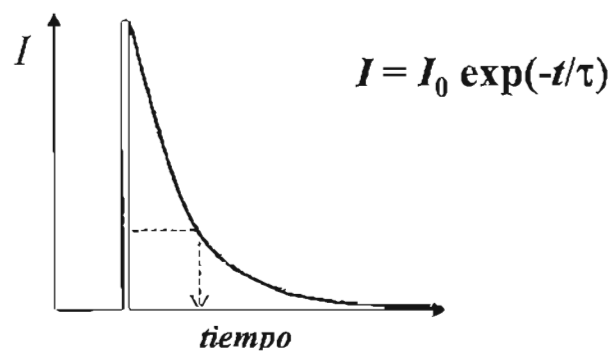


Tiempo de vida de la *luminiscencia*: "la tercera dimensión"

- ✓ **Intensidad** de emisión
- ✓ **Espectro** de emisión
- ✓ **Cinética** (*tiempo de vida*) de la emisión
- ✓ **Anisotropía** (*polarización*) de la emisión



Tiempo de vida de emisión



$$\tau = \frac{1}{k_{-1}}$$



Medida de tiempo de vida de emisión

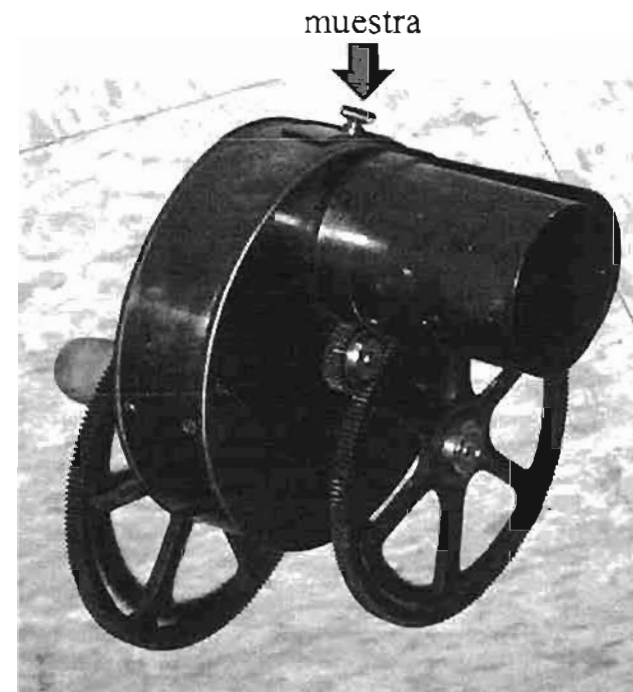
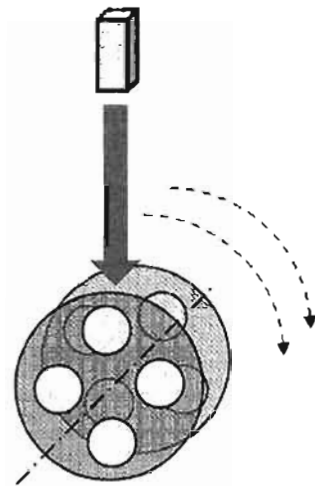
A. Técnicas con resolución temporal (*time-resolved detection techniques*)

- **Excitación con lámpara** (*excitation with a lamp*)
 - **lenta** ("fosforoscopios")/**slow** ("phosphoroscopes")
 - **rápida** (*flash photolysis* convencional)/**fast** (*original flash photolysis*)
- **Excitación con laser pulsado** (*laser flash "photolysis", laser kinetic spectrometry*)
- **Conteo de fotones individuales correlacionados con el tiempo**
(*TC-SPC = SPT, time-correlated single photon counting = single photon timing*)

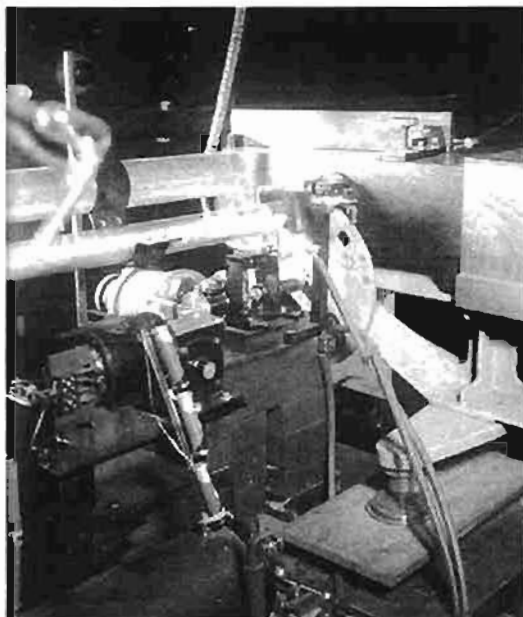
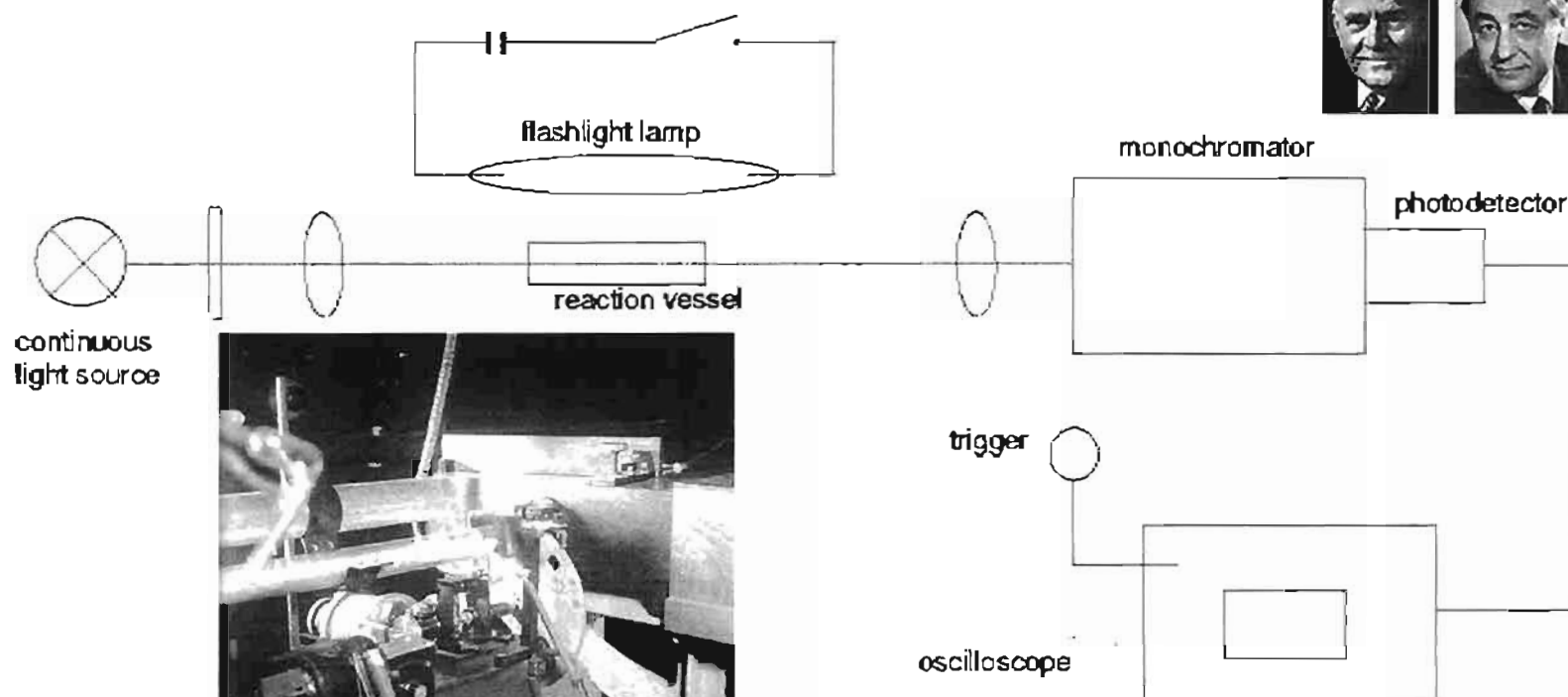
B. Técnicas con resolución de fase (*phase-sensitive detection techniques*)

Fosforoscopio de Becquerel

Say "Becquerel" and the average physicist immediately thinks of *Henri Becquerel* (1852-1909) who discovered the phenomenon of **radioactivity** in 1896 while investigating the phosphorescence of uranium compounds. His father, **Alexandre-Edmond Becquerel** (1820-1891) is best known for his work on **luminescence** and **phosphorescence**; the scientific dynasty was established by his grandfather A.C. *Becquerel* (1788-1878), who developed the differential galvanometer.



Flash photolysis

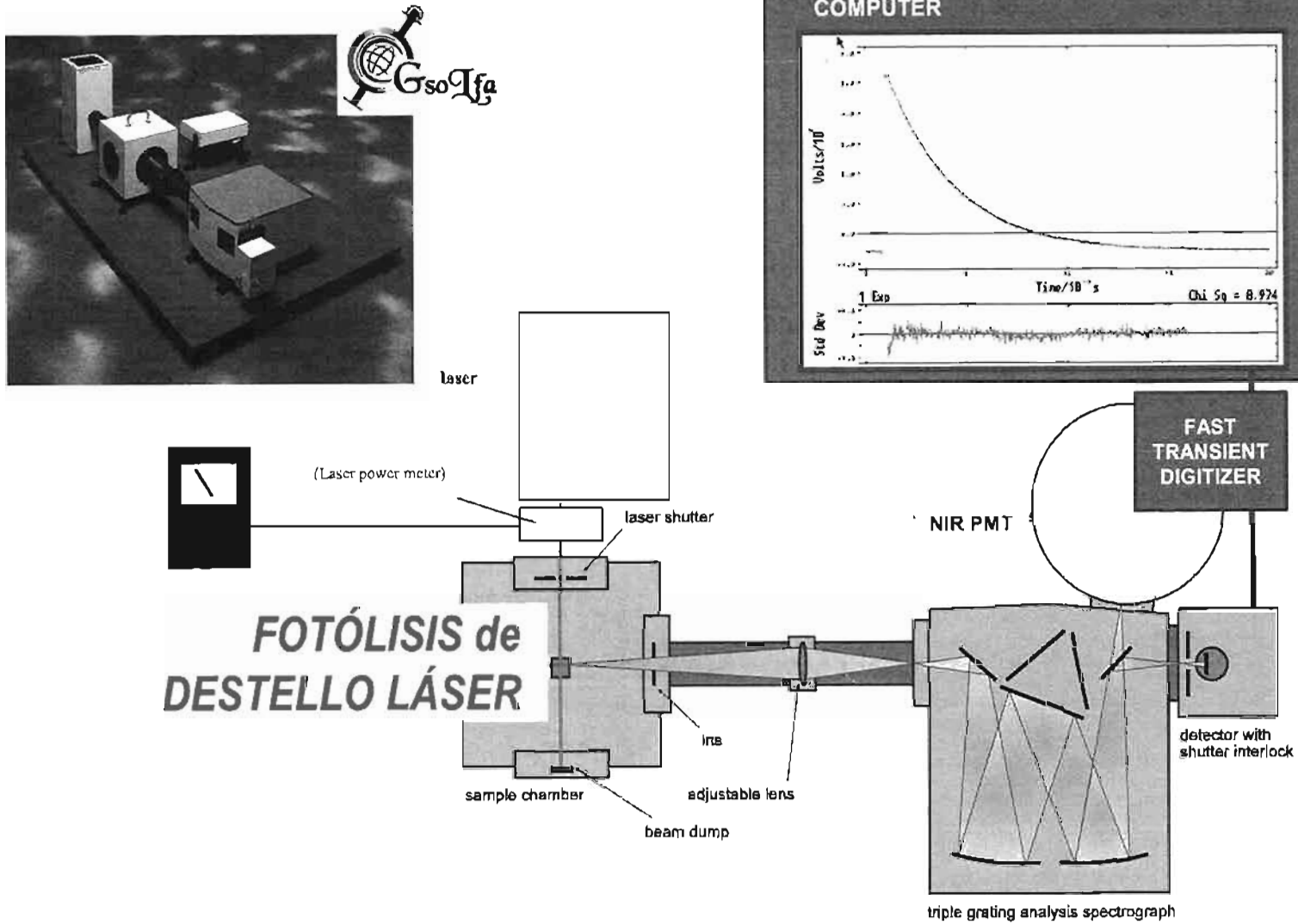


Photograph of the first flash photolysis system at Norrish & Porter laboratory (Cambridge)

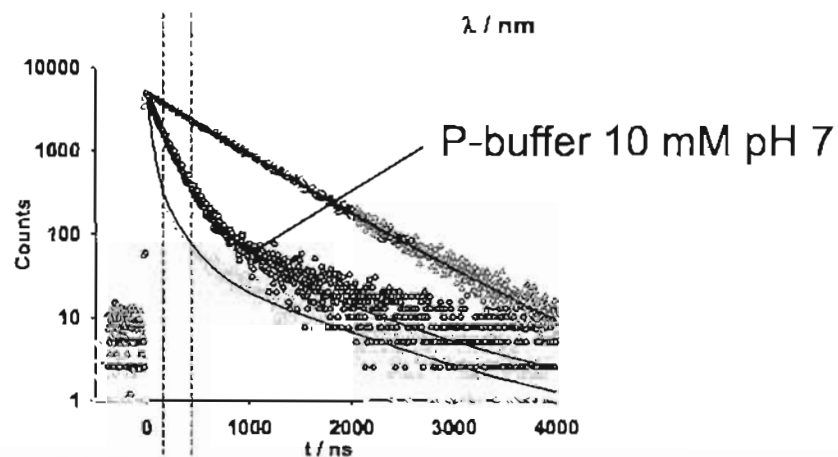
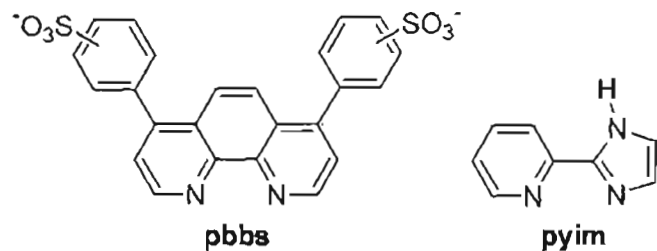
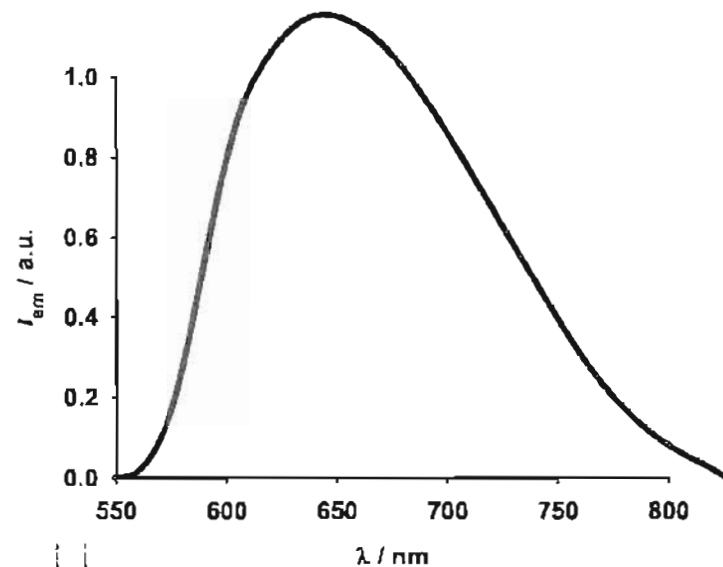
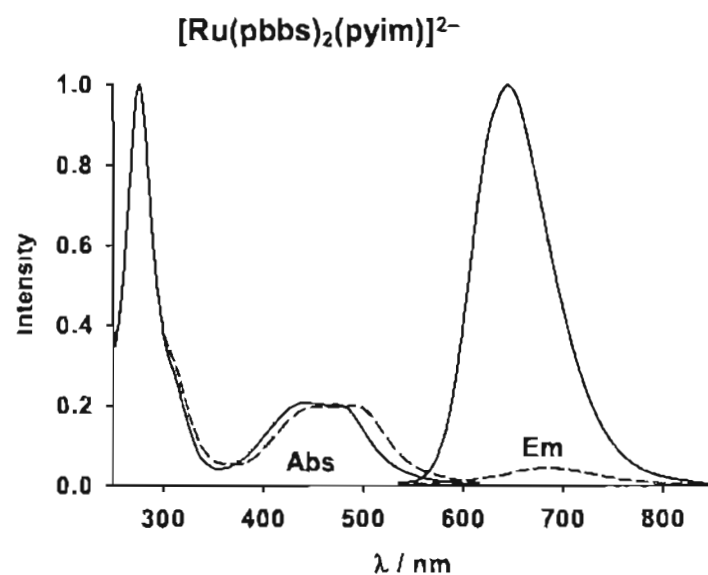
R. G. W. Norrish and G. Porter, Chemical Reactions produced by very high light intensities, *Nature*, **1949**, 164, 658.

G. Porter, Flash photolysis and spectroscopy – A new method for the study of free radical reactions, *Proc. R. Soc. London, Ser. A*, **1950**, 200, 284–300.



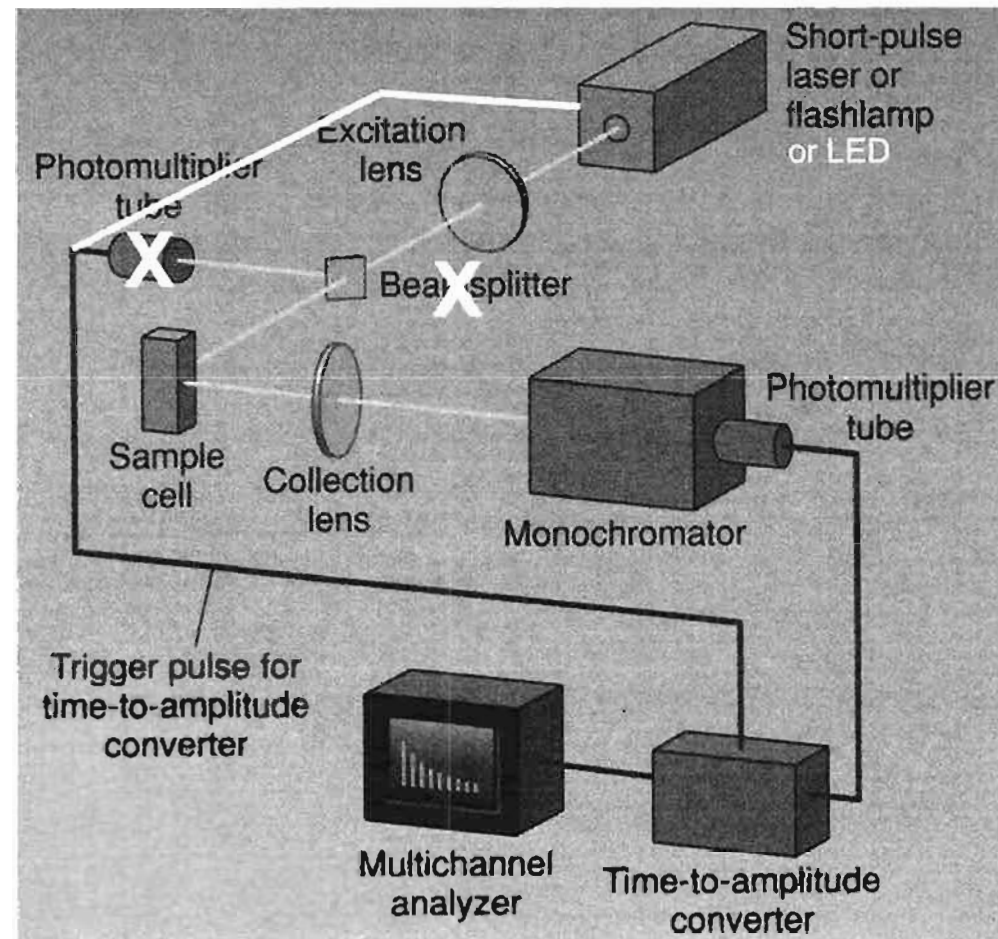


Time-resolved emission spectroscopy (TRES)

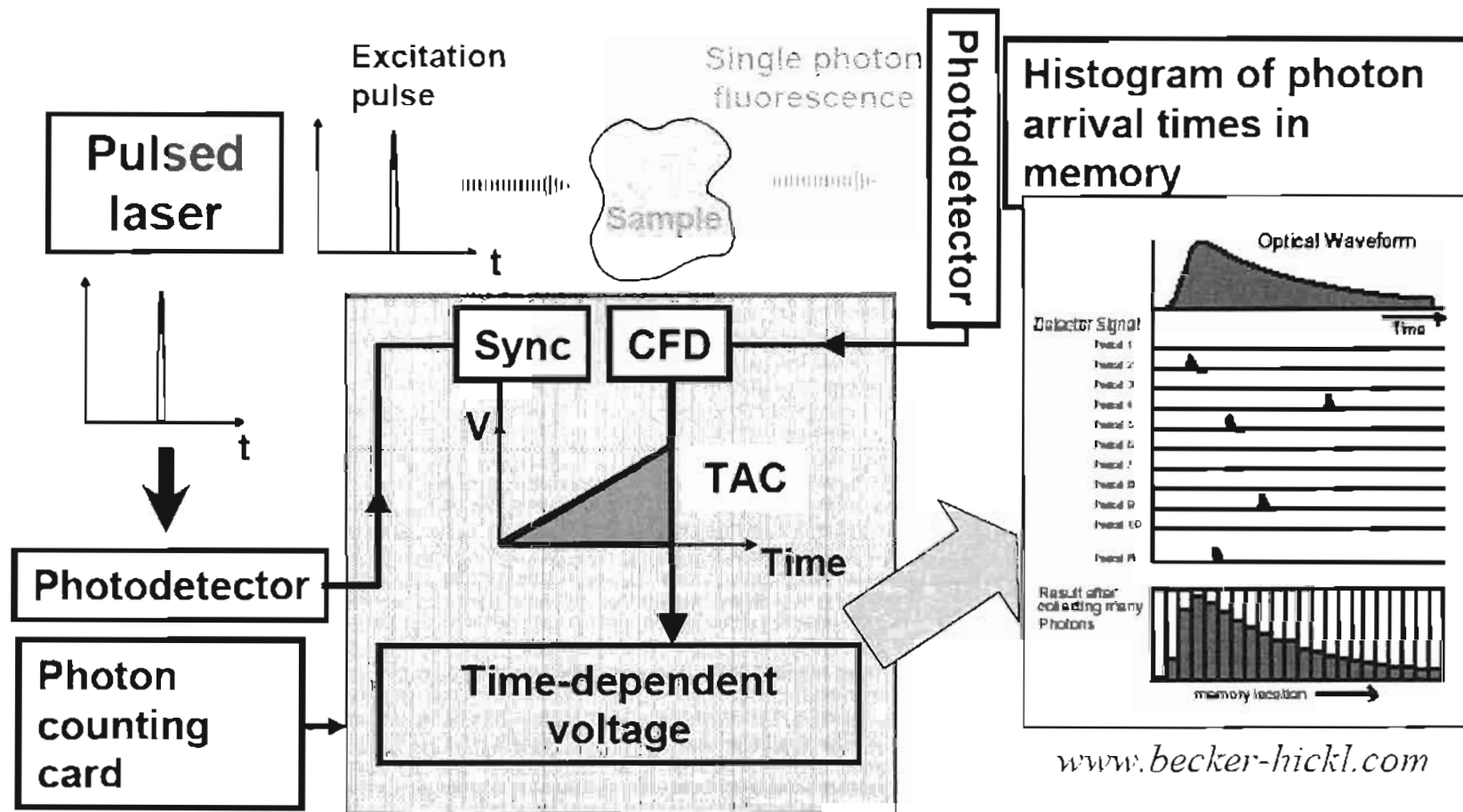


G. Orellana and co-workers, *Anal. Chem.* 2010, 82, 5195–5204

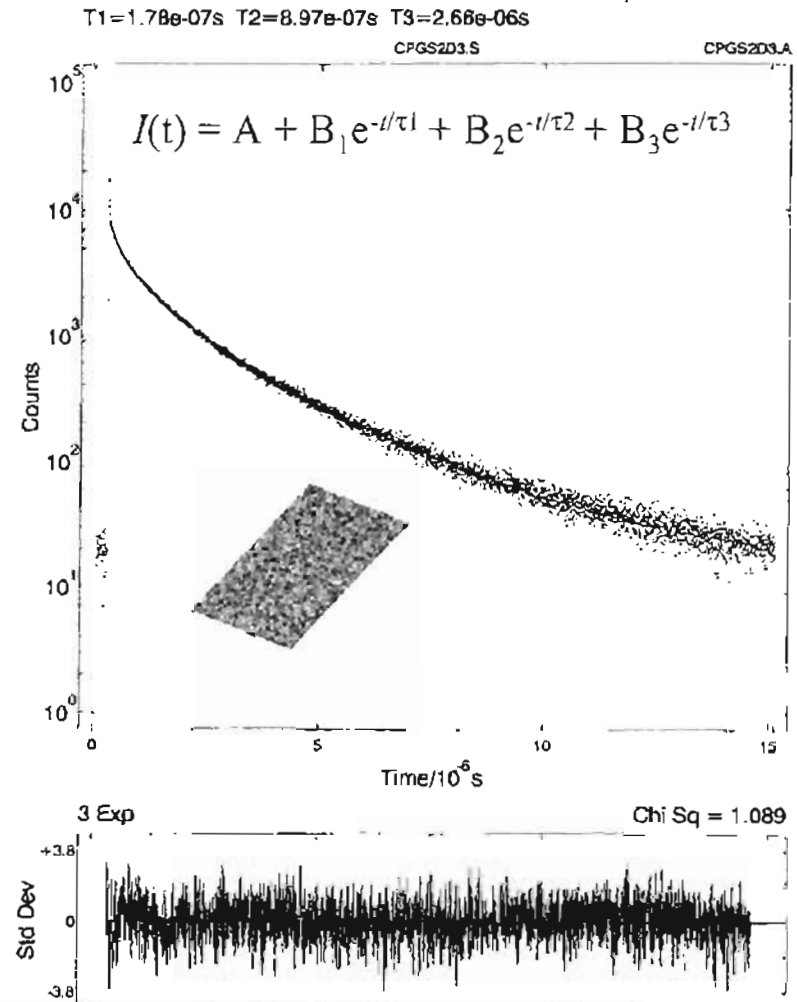
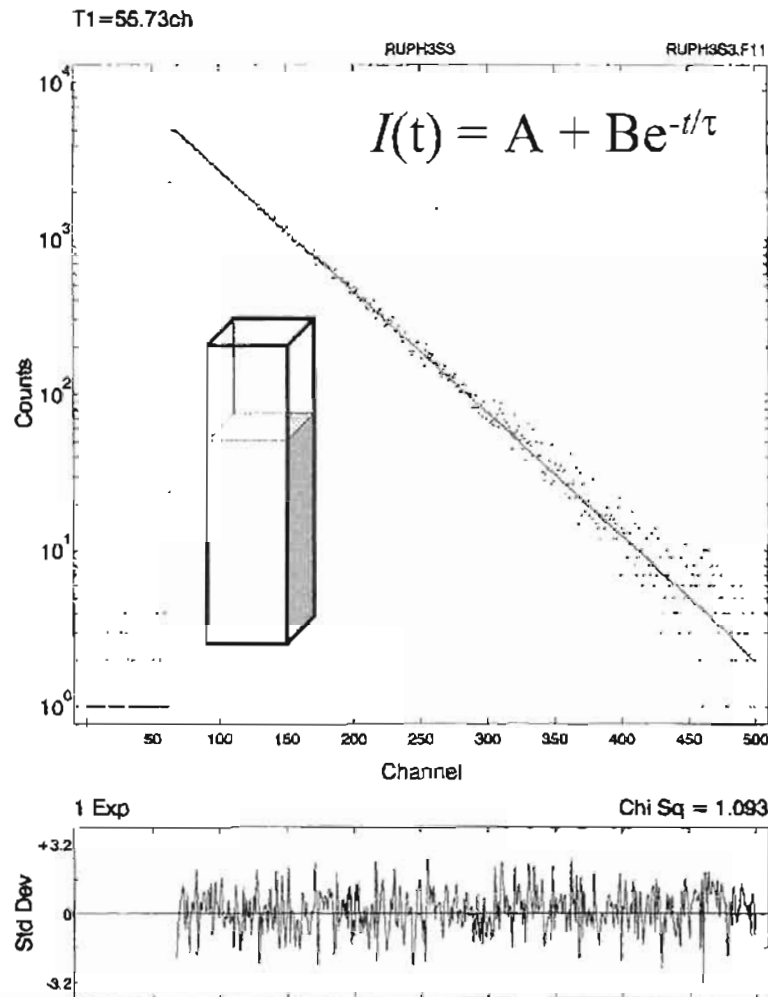
Single-photon timing (SPT, TC-SPC)



El experimento SPT



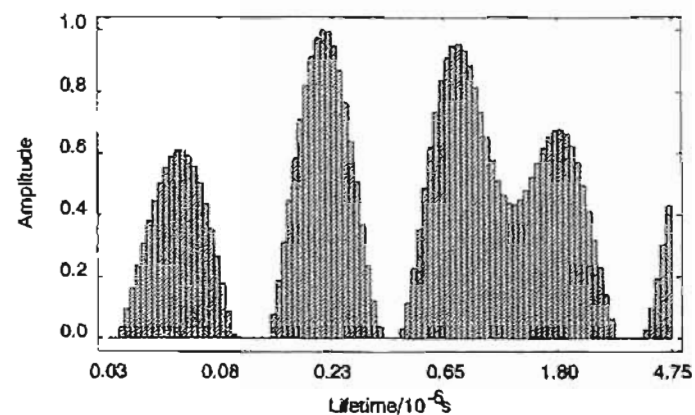
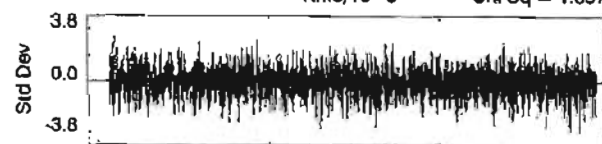
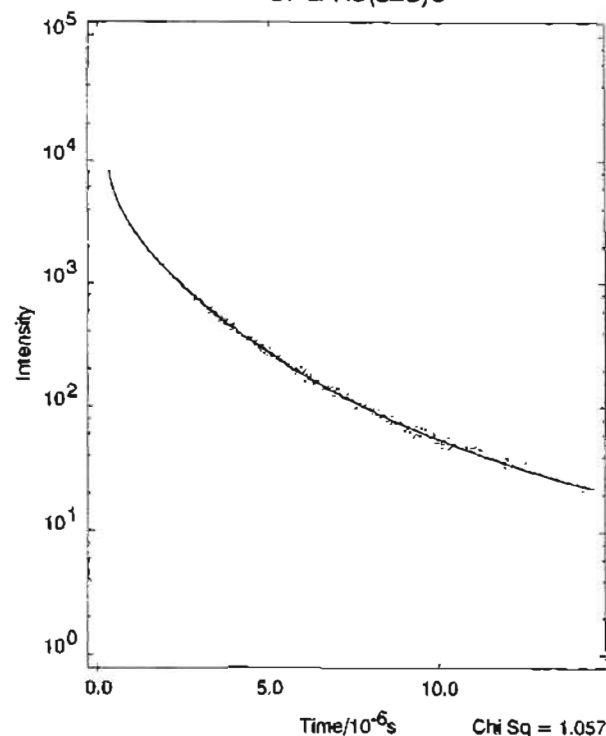
Exponencial vs. multiexponencial



Análisis de distribución



CPGS2D3.S CPGS2D3.DNH
 Ex=379nm ExPol=No Em=625nm EmPol=No Temp=25.8 C
 CPG-Ru(s2d)3



DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

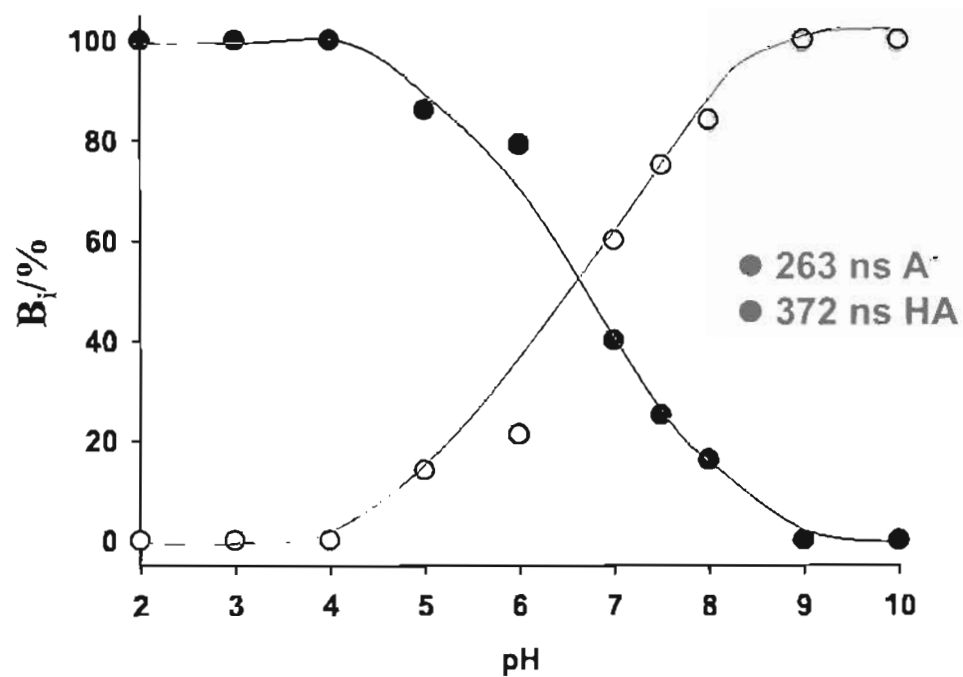
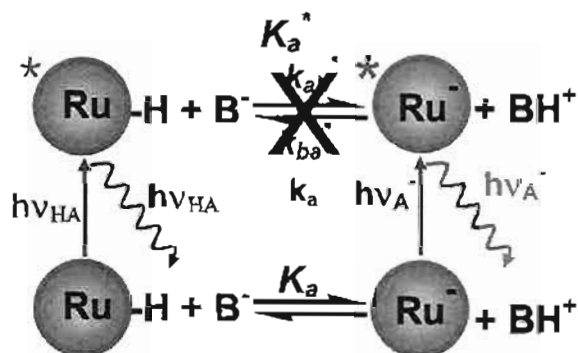
Analysis Mode : High Res

Peak Statistics :

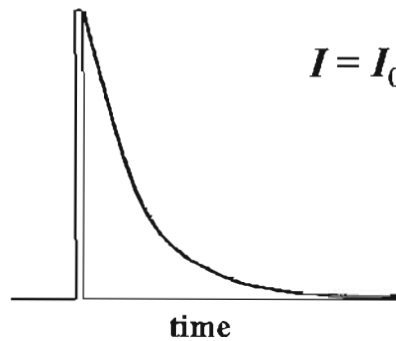
	Mean Lifetime	Std Dev	Rel %
T1	5.866e-08s	1.297e-08s	1.34
T2	2.225e-07s	4.695e-08s	7.74
T3	7.741e-07s	1.798e-07s	28.56
T4	1.831e-06s	4.072e-07s	47.57
T5	4.629e-06s	2.622e-07s	14.90

Análisis global

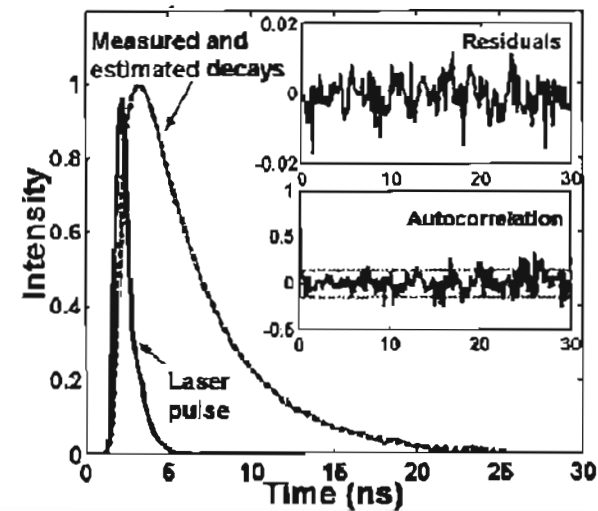
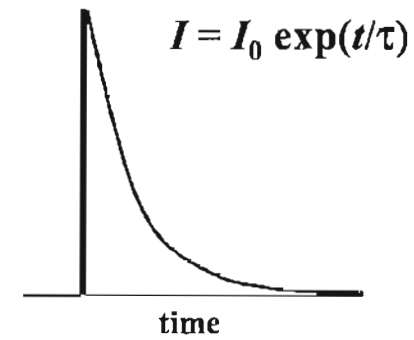
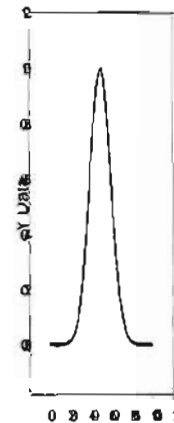
$$I(t) = A + B_1 e^{-t/\tau_1} + B_2 e^{-t/\tau_2}$$



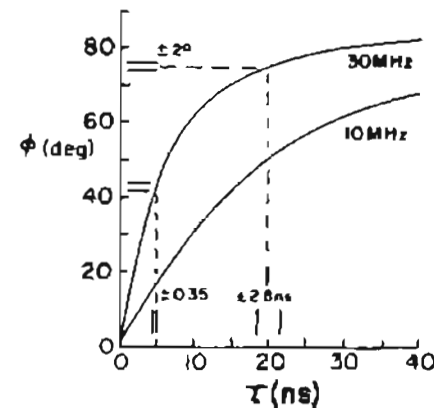
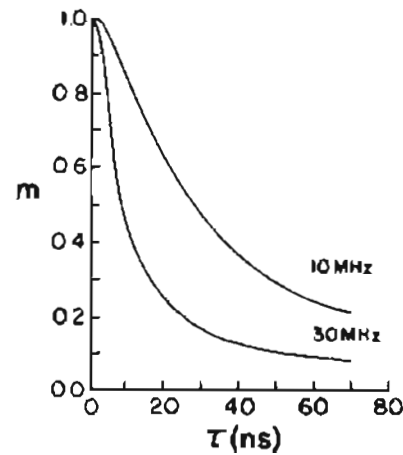
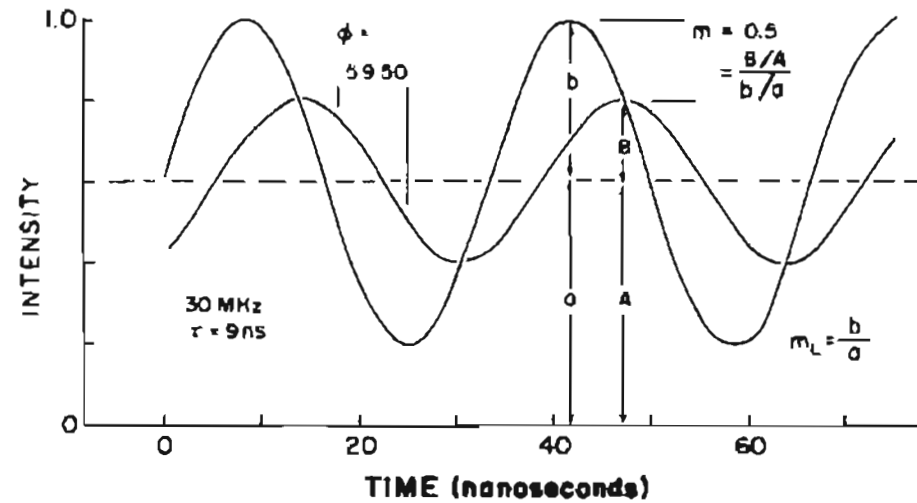
Medida de tiempos de vida cortos: deconvolución de la señal



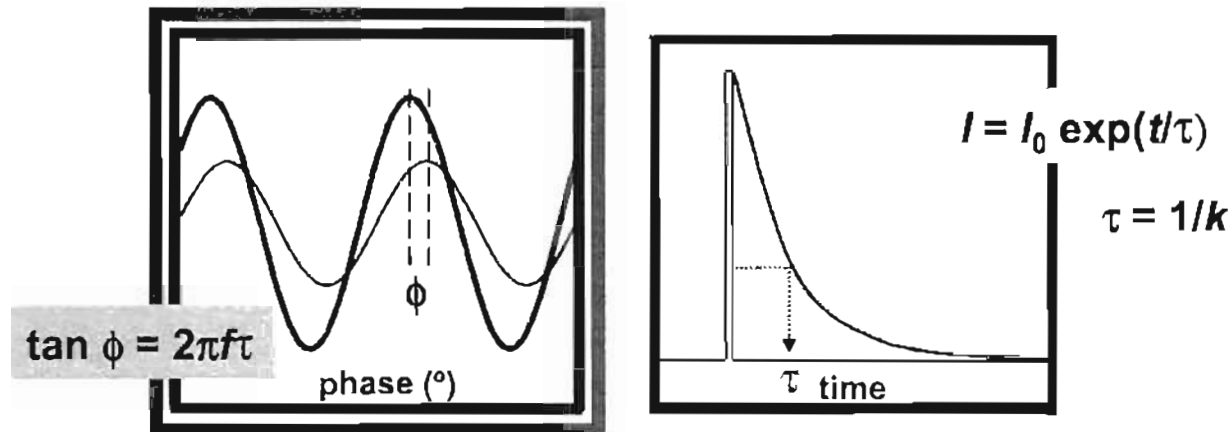
$$I = I_0 \exp(t/\tau)$$



Detección sensible a la fase

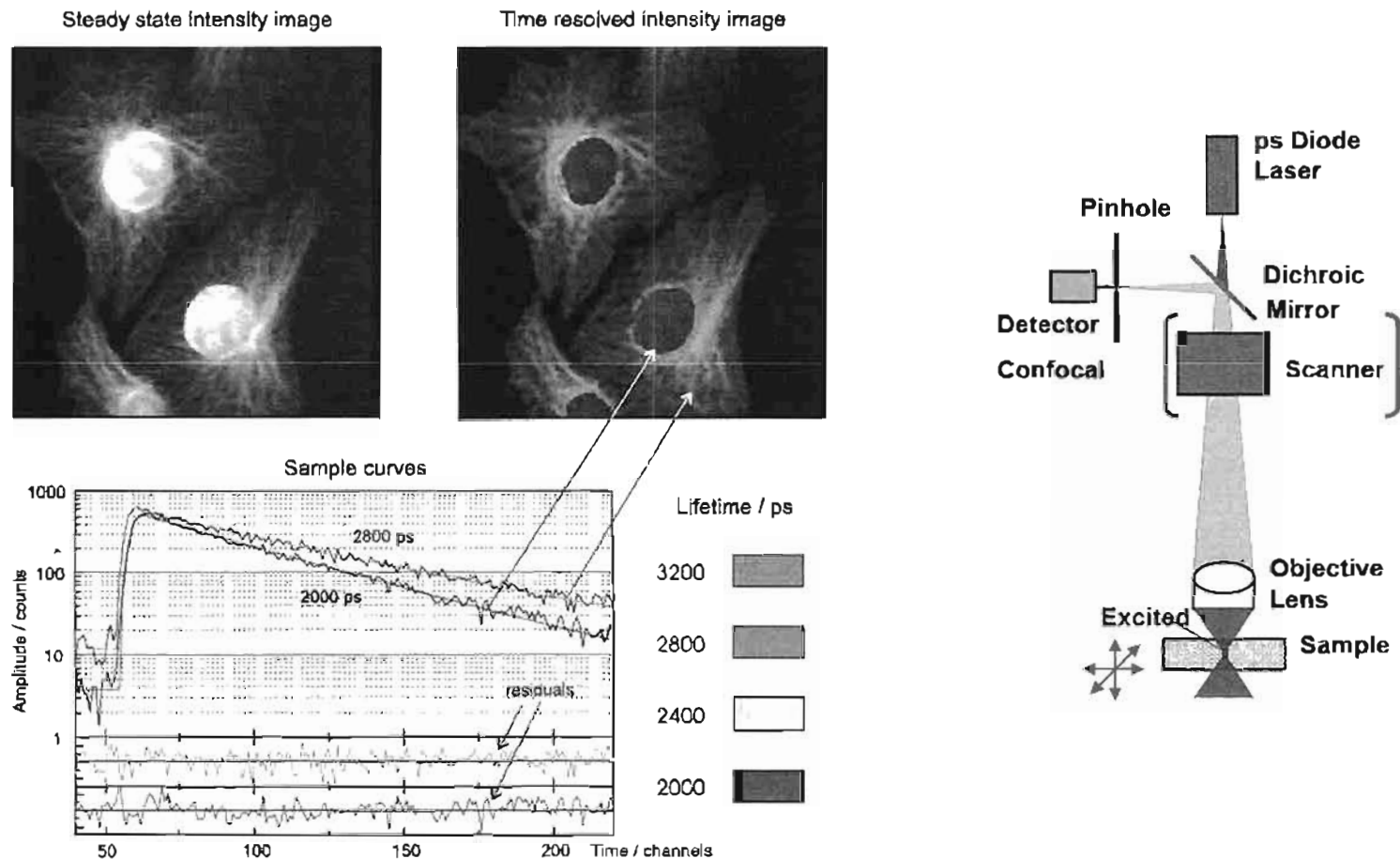


Luminescence lifetime (emission kinetics)

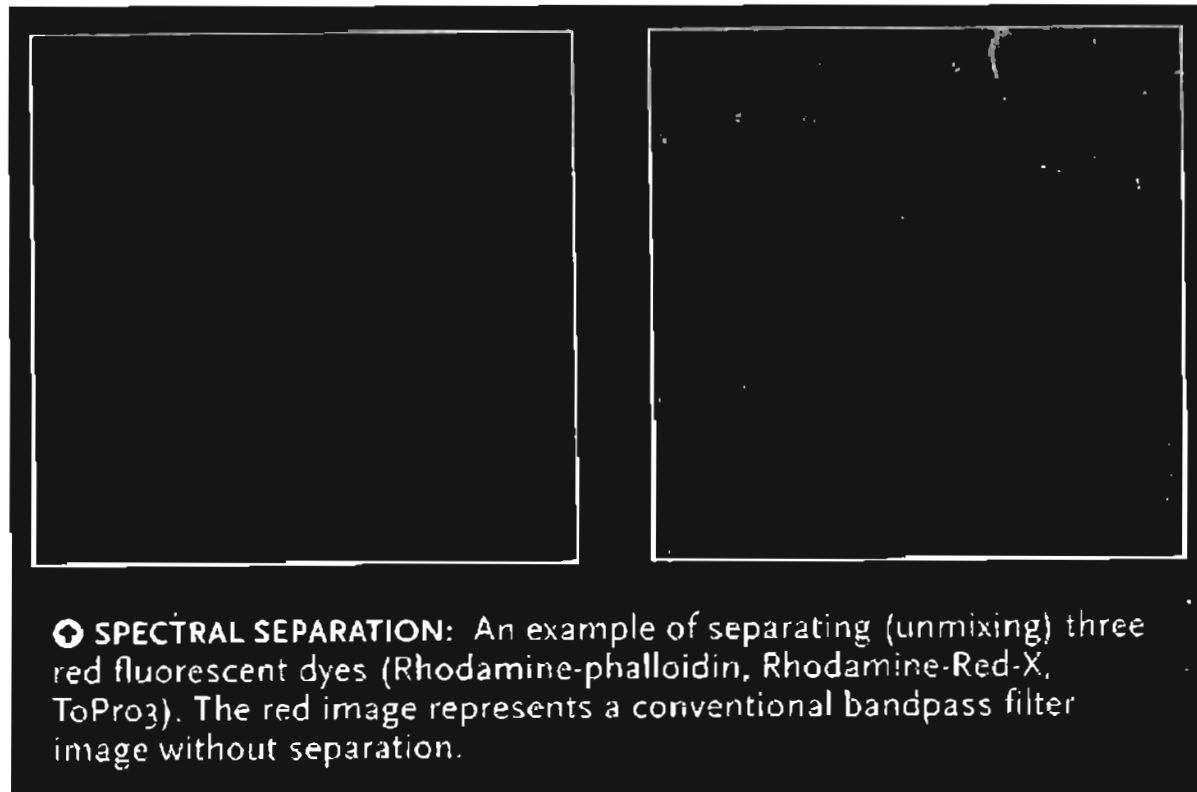


- *No interference* from the **ambient light**.
- *No effect* of the **indicator leaching** or **bleaching**.
- *No effect* of the **excitation source intensity** or **photodetector aging**.
- *More simple* acquisition and data processing *electronics* due to the **limited bandwidth** of the sinusoidal tone(s) used for excitation of the luminescence.
- Possibility of using **cheaper** electro-optic components.

Fluorescence lifetime imaging (FLIM)

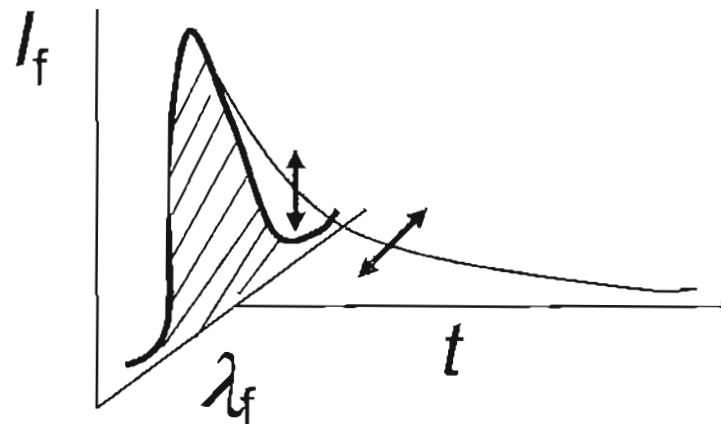


Fluorescence lifetime imaging (FLIM)



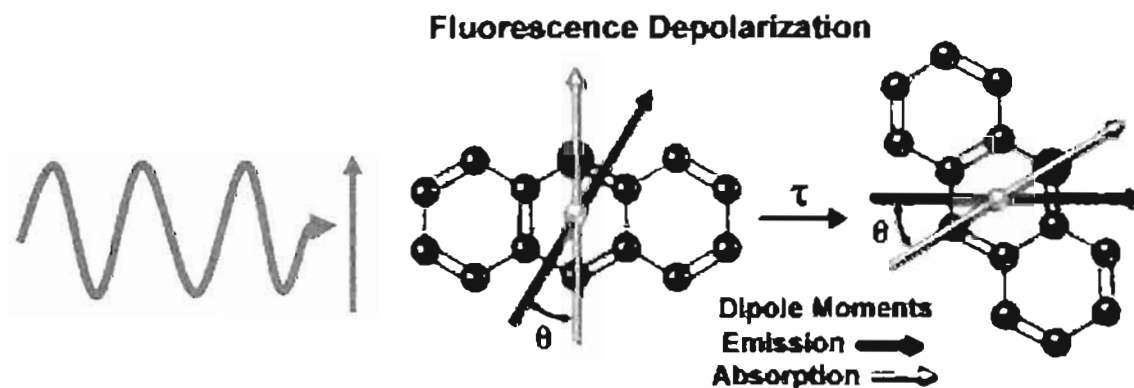
Luminescence: a multi-parametric technique

- ✓ Emission **intensity**
- ✓ Emission **spectrum**
- ✓ Emission **kinetics (lifetime)**
- ✓ Emission **anisotropy (polarization)**



Luminescence polarization (anisotropy)

- When a population of luminophores is illuminated by a **linearly polarized** incident **light**, those whose transition moments are oriented in a direction close to that of the electric vector of the incident beam are **preferentially** excited (*photoselection*).
- Because the distribution of excited luminophores is **anisotropic**, the emitted luminescence is also anisotropic.
- Any change in direction of the transition moment *during the lifetime* of the excited state will cause this anisotropy to decrease, i.e. will induce a partial (or total) **depolarization** of luminescence.

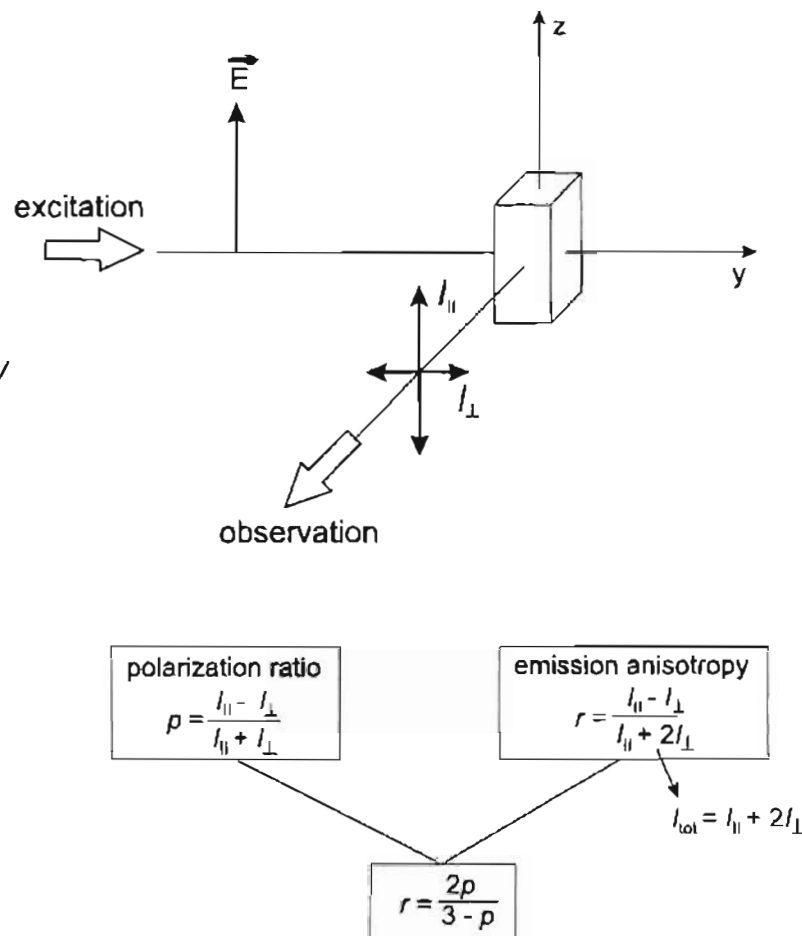


Luminescence polarization (anisotropy)

Causes of fluorescence depolarization

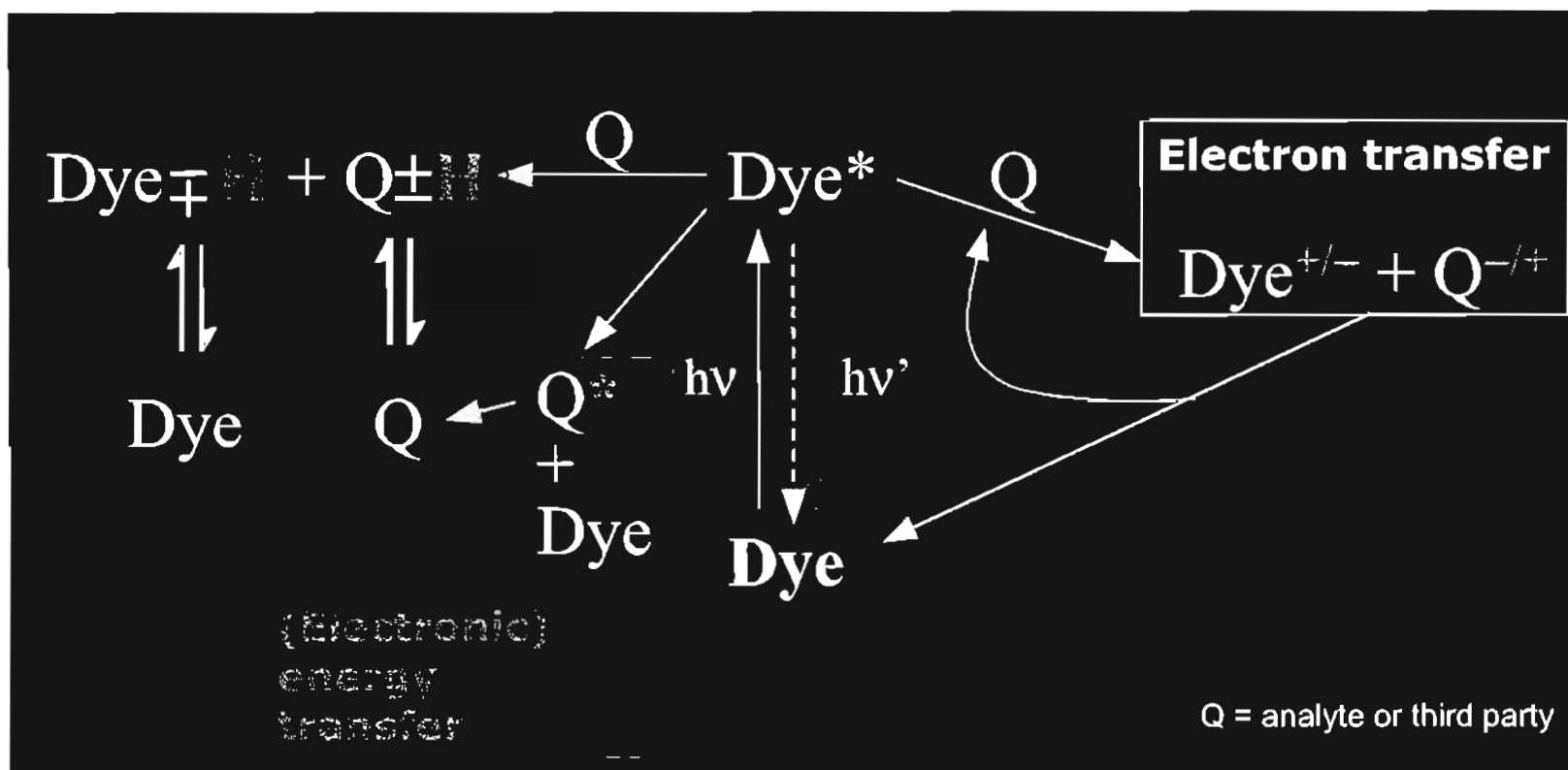
- *non-parallel* absorption and emission transition moments
- *torsional vibrations*
- *Brownian motion*
- to another molecule with different orientation. *transfer of the excitation energy*

Fluorescence polarization measurements can thus provide useful *information* on molecular mobility, size, shape and flexibility of molecules, fluidity of a medium, and order parameters.



Principles of reversible luminescence sensing by photochemical quenching processes

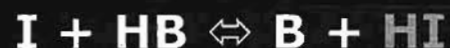
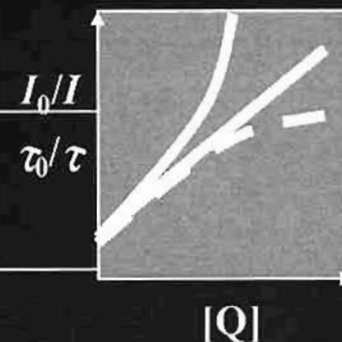
“Quenching”: a decrease or total extinction of the fluorophore emission due to an external agent



Luminescence lifetime-based sensing by photochemical quenching processes



$$\frac{\tau_0}{\tau} = 1 + K_{SV}[Q]$$



$$pK_a^* = pK_i + \log(\tau_{HI}/\tau_I)$$

(**ONLY** if equilibrium in the excited state is established!)

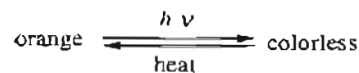
Radioluminiscencia

WELCOME TO SMART PHOTOCHROMIC MATERIALS !!!

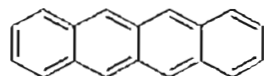


Materiales fotocromicos

- Concepto de fotocromismo
- Tipos de compuestos y materiales fotocromicos
 - Inorgánicos
 - Orgánicos
- Aplicaciones de materiales fotocromicos a diferentes productos / tecnologías

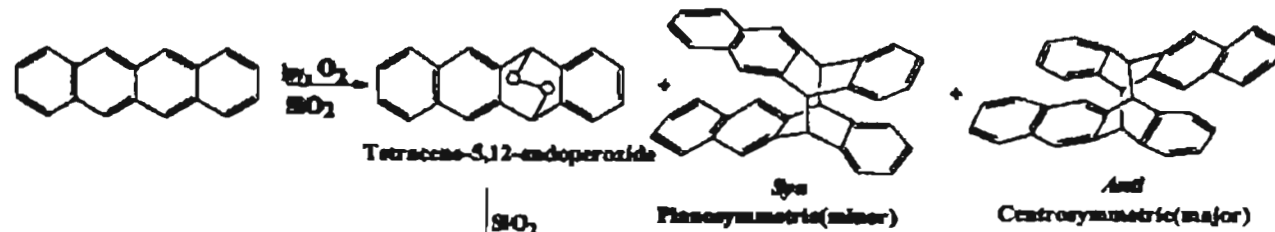


□ J. Fritzsche, *Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. (Paris)* 1867, 69, 1035.



tetracene

cambio de color inducido por la luz y que es reversible



Concepto de fotocromismo *phos-chroma* = luz y color

SÉANCE DU 30 OCTOBRE 1950.

903

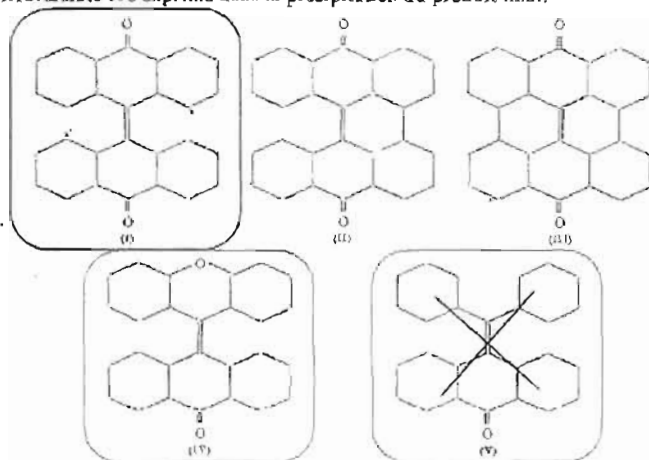
les éprouvettes sont passives très rapidement et le restent, quel que soit leur état de surface initial. Il en est ainsi pour l'acide sulfurique $d \rightarrow 1,4$ additionné de 2000 ppm d'acide nitrique à 30°C ou de 20 000 à 90°C.

CHIMIE PHYSIQUE. — *Photochrome dans la série de la bianthrone.*

Note (*) de M. YERONIA KRYZHNERO, présentée par M. Antoine LECASSAGNE.

Dans un travail récent (*) nous avons décrit en détails la thermochromie des dérivés de la bianthrone (I) et de quelques substances apparentées. Dans l'étude de ces phénomènes, un effet additionnel a été observé que nous voudrions décrire ici, sans discuter sa base théorique.

Si une solution de bianthrone est irradiée par la raie 3650 Å à -60°C, sa couleur verte se change en rouge brunâtre. L'effet est très net déjà après une minute d'irradiation. Il est d'un caractère transitoire et réversible, car en réchauffant la solution à la température ordinaire on récupère la bianthrone inaltérée. Evidemment, ce phénomène est différent de la réaction photochimique qui se produit à température ordinaire et qui donne l'hélianthrone (II) et la naphthodianthrone (III) (*). Cette dernière réaction est irréversible et s'exprime dans la précipitation du produit final.



(*) Séance du 9 octobre 1950.

(*) BERSON, LOWENTHAL, BERGMAN et POLLMAN, *Bull. Soc. Chim.* (sous presse).(*) BROCKMANN et MUELLER, *Ber.*, 83, 1950, p. 348.

ACADÉMIE DES SCIENCES.

904

La xanthylidène-anthrone (IV) montre le même comportement. A -70° et en une minute, la couleur verte assez faible de la solution devient très intense; la couleur disparaît en réchauffant, et la substance peut être récupérée quantitativement à partir de la solution. A température ordinaire, l'irradiation produit un précipité insoluble.

En raison du fait que les bianthrone substituées en 4-4' ne présentent pas de thermochromie à température élevée (*), il est intéressant de remarquer qu'elles se comportent comme la bianthrone (I) quand on irradie leurs solutions à -60° :

Diméthoxy-4,4' bianthrone : verdâtre → vert foncé;

Diméthyl-4,4' bianthrone : verdâtre → bleu foncé;

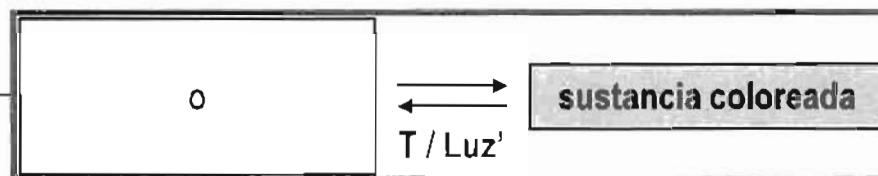
Dibromo-4,4' bianthrone : vert jaunâtre → vert foncé.

A la température ordinaire, ces trois substances ne sont pas affectées par une irradiation de durée moyenne.

L'effet est limité aux bianthrone et à la xanthylidène-anthrone; les benzohydrylidène-anthrone (V) ne le présentent pas.

Estudiado desde mediados del sXIX

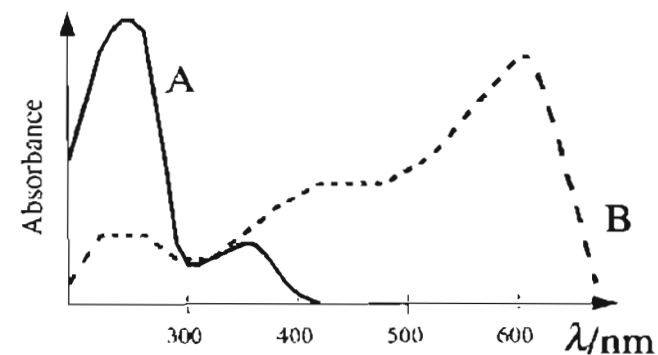
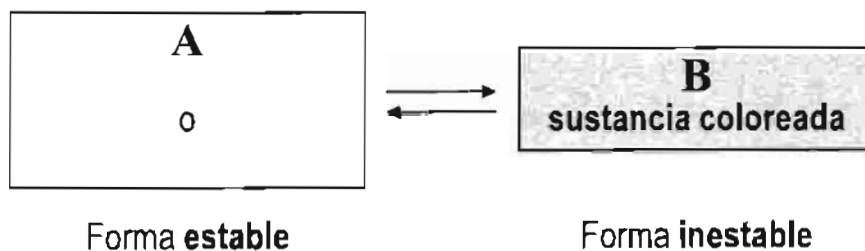
- iluminación con luz UV-Visible
- cambio de color o aparición del mismo
- transformación rápida
- reversible (con temperatura o luz)
- reproducible con otros colorantes...
- ... pero no con todos... ¿con cuáles?



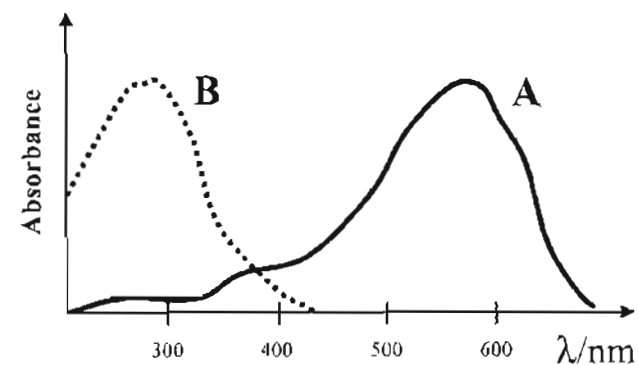
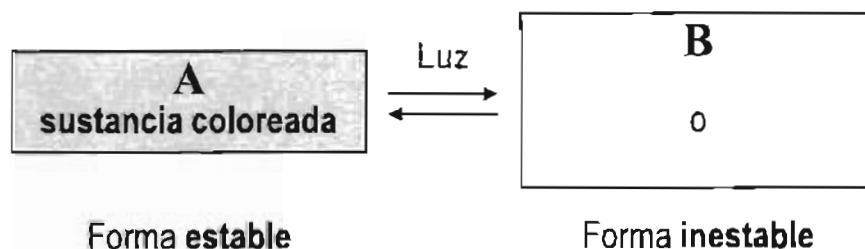
Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. (Paris) 1950, 231, 903-904. Chem. Eur. J. 2006, 12, 3345-3354.

Tipos de fotocromismo

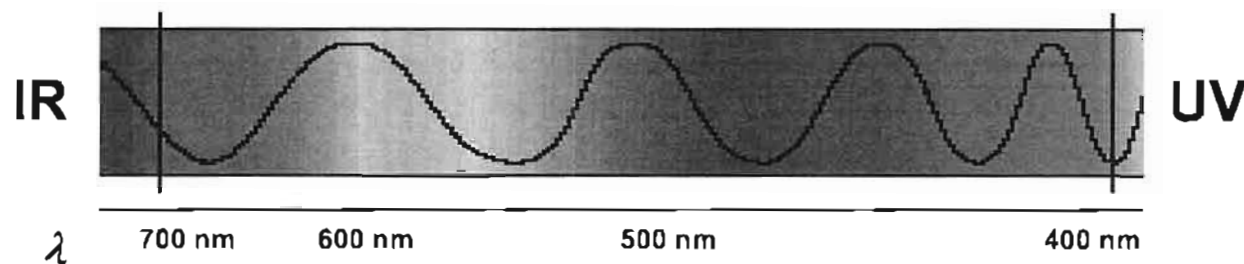
FOTOCROMISMO POSITIVO



FOTOCROMISMO NEGATIVO O INVERSO



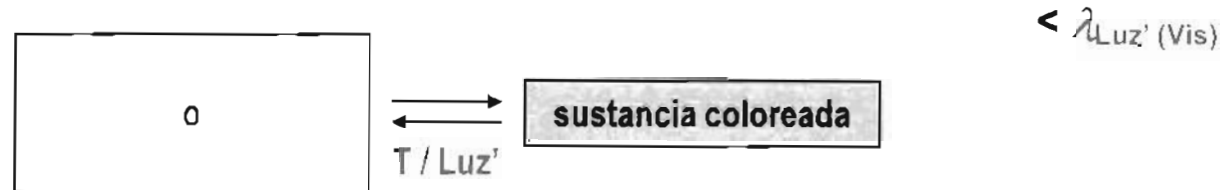
El espectro de luz visible y su color...



La luz absorbida y el color observado...

λ Wavelengths absorbed (nm)	Observed color
380–460	yellow
380–500	orange
440–560	red
480–610	purple
540–650	blue
380–420 and 610–700	green

Tipos de fotocromismo



- Tipo T: *revierte térmicamente*
 - Más usados en **aplicaciones convencionales:**
 - Lentes oftálmicas
 - Decoración
 - Textiles
 - Tintas y barnices
 - Impresión de seguridad
- Tipo P: *revierte fotoquímicamente*
 - Más usados en **aplicaciones tecnológicas:**
 - Superficies / Movimiento mecánico
 - Colorantes funcionales en:
 - Electrónica
 - Química
 - Comunicación / Transducción
 - Computación ...
 - interruptores o aparatos moleculares optoelectrónicos
 - (molecular switches / devices)

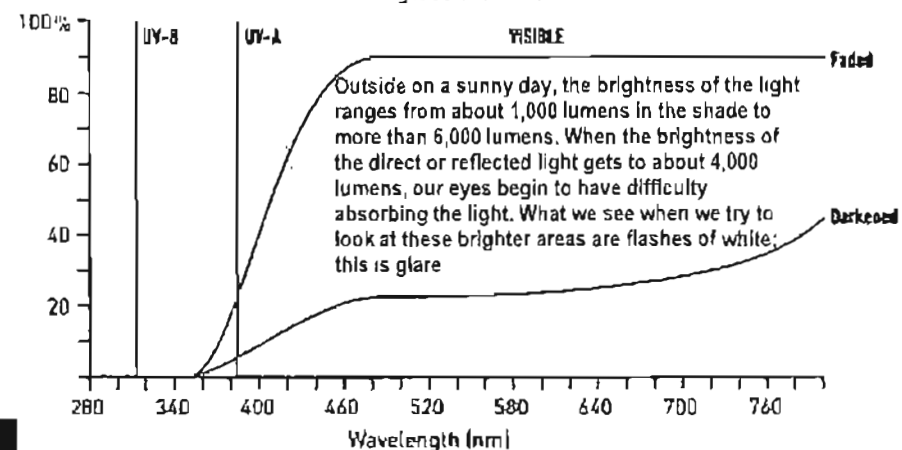
Comercialización de los primeros materiales fotocromicos, 1960s



Stanley Donald Stookey He was a research director at **Corning Glass Works** for 47 years doing R & D in glass and ceramic development. His inventions include Fotoform, CorningWare, Cericor, Pyroceram and Photochromic Ophthalmic glass eyewear

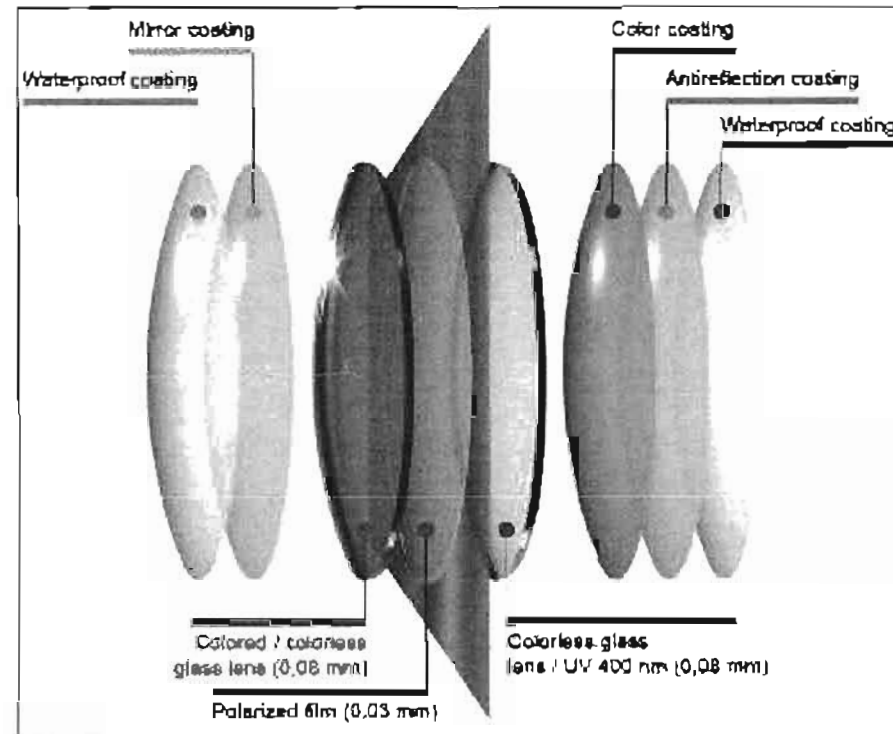


Transmission characteristics for glass Photochromic

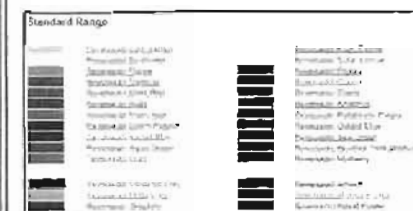
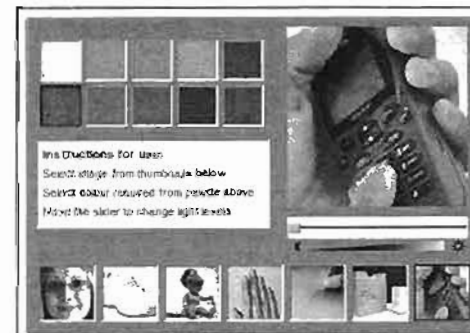


I+D+i en materiales fotocromicos 1960/2010

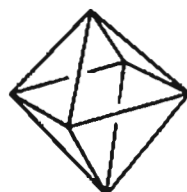
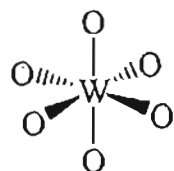
- Al principio se utilizaron materiales inorgánicos: **vidrio** y **haluros de plata**
- Modernamente se usan **plásticos** y **colorantes orgánicos**
 - Más robustos
 - Más ligeros
- Actualmente se están desarrollando **múltiples aplicaciones**



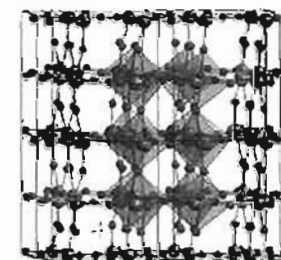
Now you see it – now you don't...
Attention-grabbing effects involving the sudden generation or disappearance of colour in response to light



Materiales fotocromáticos inorgánicos: WO_3



**Material semiconductor
basado en óxido metálico**



Efecto fotocromático observado en películas delgadas de material amorfo (nanopartículas de 1-5 nm Ø)

- Existencia de defectos estructurales superficiales (vacantes de O y cationes W^{n+} no equivalentes) que conducen a la separación de cargas $+$ y e^-
- Los e^- estabilizados son los responsables de la absorción del fotón
- WO_3 amorfo presenta mejor fotocromismo que el cristalino debido a su mayor cantidad de defectos
- El calor o la presencia de O_2 disminuyen el fotocromismo
- La presencia de medios próticos (agua, alcohol) aumenta el fotocromismo

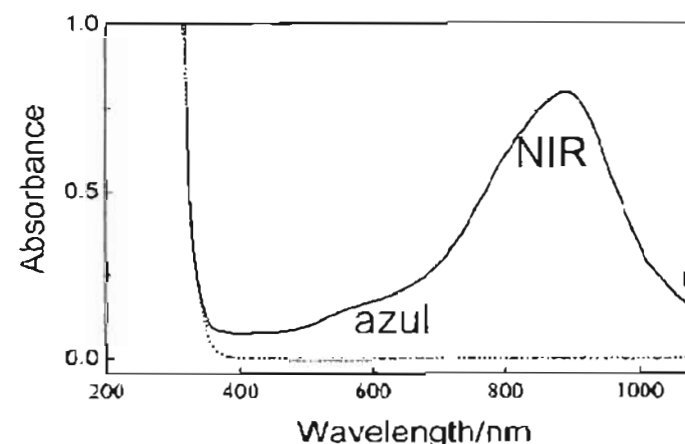


Fig. 1 UV-vis absorption spectra of tungsten oxide film: (a) before and (b) after UV-light irradiation. The film was prepared from the oxide colloid with a 0.3 M concentration of oxalic acid and pH ~ 1 .⁴⁷

Materiales fotocromicos inorgánicos: WO_3

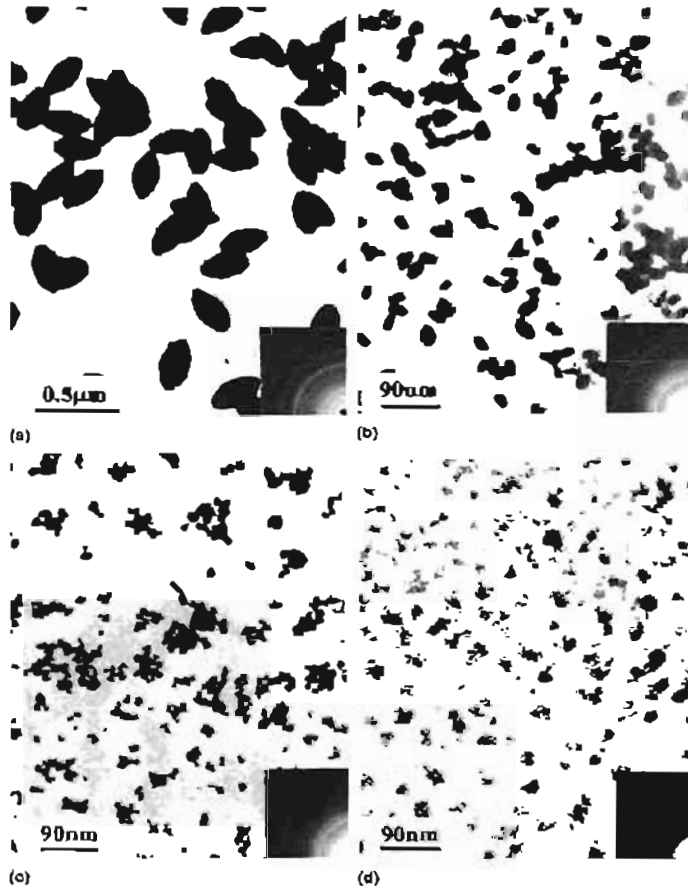


Fig. 3 TEM micrographs and electron diffraction patterns of nanocrystalline oxide films prepared from colloid solutions with different oxalic acid concentrations; (a) 0.1, (b) 0.3, (c) 0.4, and (d) 0.8 M.⁴⁷

- A menor $\varnothing$ de partícula se desplaza el máximo de absorción hacia menores λ
- A menor $\varnothing$ de partícula son más amorfas, aumentando el fotocromismo
- La mayor concentración de oxalato atrapa los huecos (vacantes de O) suprimiendo la recombinación electrón-hueco

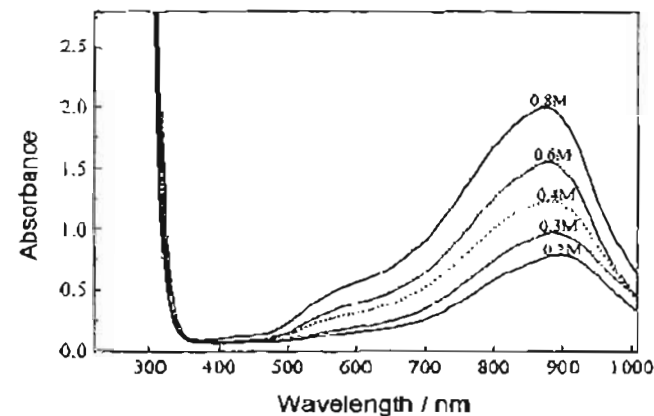


Fig. 2 UV-vis absorption spectra of tungsten oxide film with different oxalic acid concentrations after UV-light irradiation, where the pH was fixed at 1.⁴⁷

Materiales fotocromicos inorgánicos: WO_3

El efecto fotocromico se puede mejorar mediante dopaje con nanopartículas de Au o de otros óxidos (MoO_3 , ZnO)

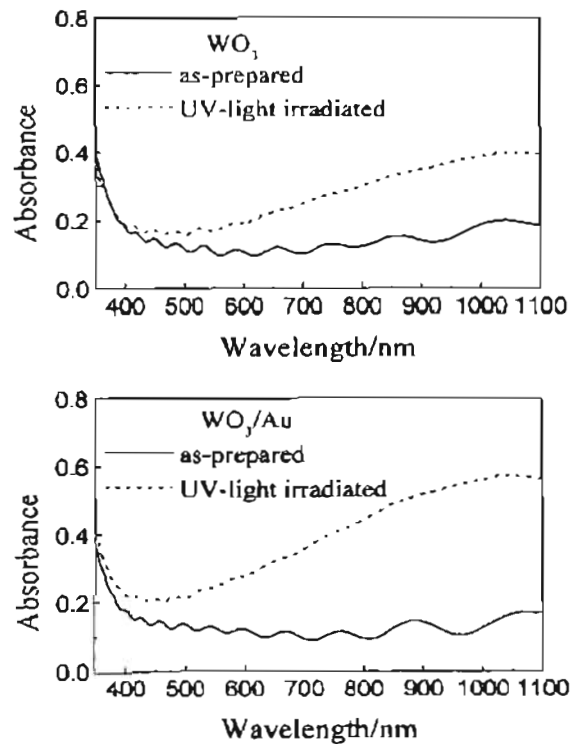


Fig. 5 Absorption spectra for thin films of WO_3 and $\text{WO}_3\text{-Au}$ before and after UV-light irradiation for 3 min in air.⁵⁶

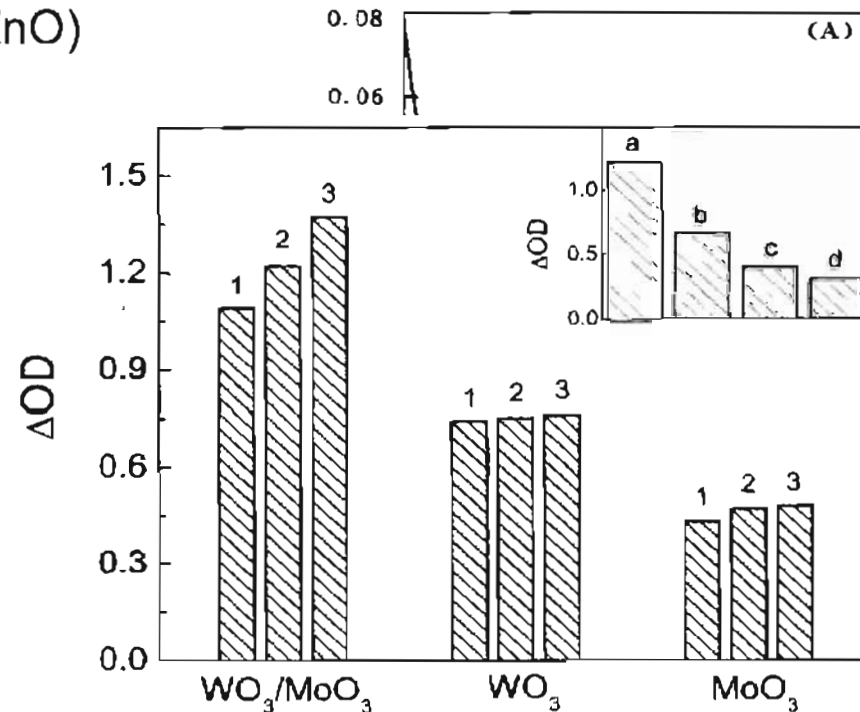


Fig. 7 Photochromic response at 800 nm of 92% WO_3 -8% MoO_3 , WO_3 , and MoO_3 thin films after 5 min UV-light irradiation in N_2 in different vol% of $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ vapor: (1) 0.25%, (2) 0.5%, and (3) 1%. Inset: photochromic response of a 92% WO_3 -8% MoO_3 thin film in 0.5 vol% vapors of (a) ethanol, (b) methanol, (c) *n*-propanol, and (d) isopropanol.⁸⁰

Materiales fotocromáticos inorgánicos: WO_3

Reversibilidad del efecto fotocromático

- En general el WO_3 presenta alta fatigabilidad tras la primera decoloración térmica $\Rightarrow$ 1 ciclo
- La combinación de WO_3 con moléculas orgánicas (sales de amonio $\text{R}-\text{NH}_3^+$) mediante autoensamblaje de capas permite obtener materiales híbridos con las ventajas de ambos tipos de compuestos:

Inorgánicos: fortaleza, estabilidad térmica, resistencia química

Orgánicos: ligereza, flexibilidad, versatilidad

- La presencia de los grupos amonio forma puentes de H que facilitan la separación hueco/e- aumentando el fotocromismo y permiten aumentar el nº de ciclos
- Al poner las muestras coloreadas en aire a la oscuridad revierten al color inicial (la presencia de O_2 destruye las vacantes de O, más rápidamente al calentar)

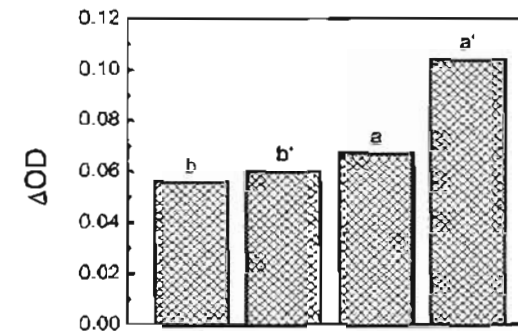
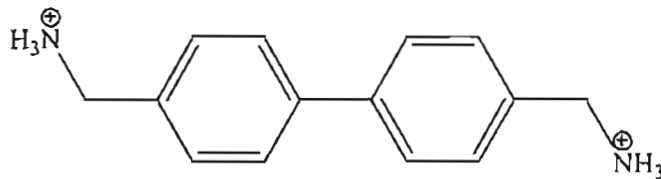


Fig. 13 Photochromic response at 900 nm of (a, a') a 28-layer WO_3 -1,10-DAD SAM film and (b, b') a 40-layer WO_3 -4,4'-BAMBp SAM film. (a,b): As-prepared or bleached films; (a',b'): the films after 3 min UV-light irradiation in air.^[63]

Materiales fotocromicos híbridos inorgánico/orgánico: iodoplumbatos

Material semiconductor híbrido basado en haluro metálico

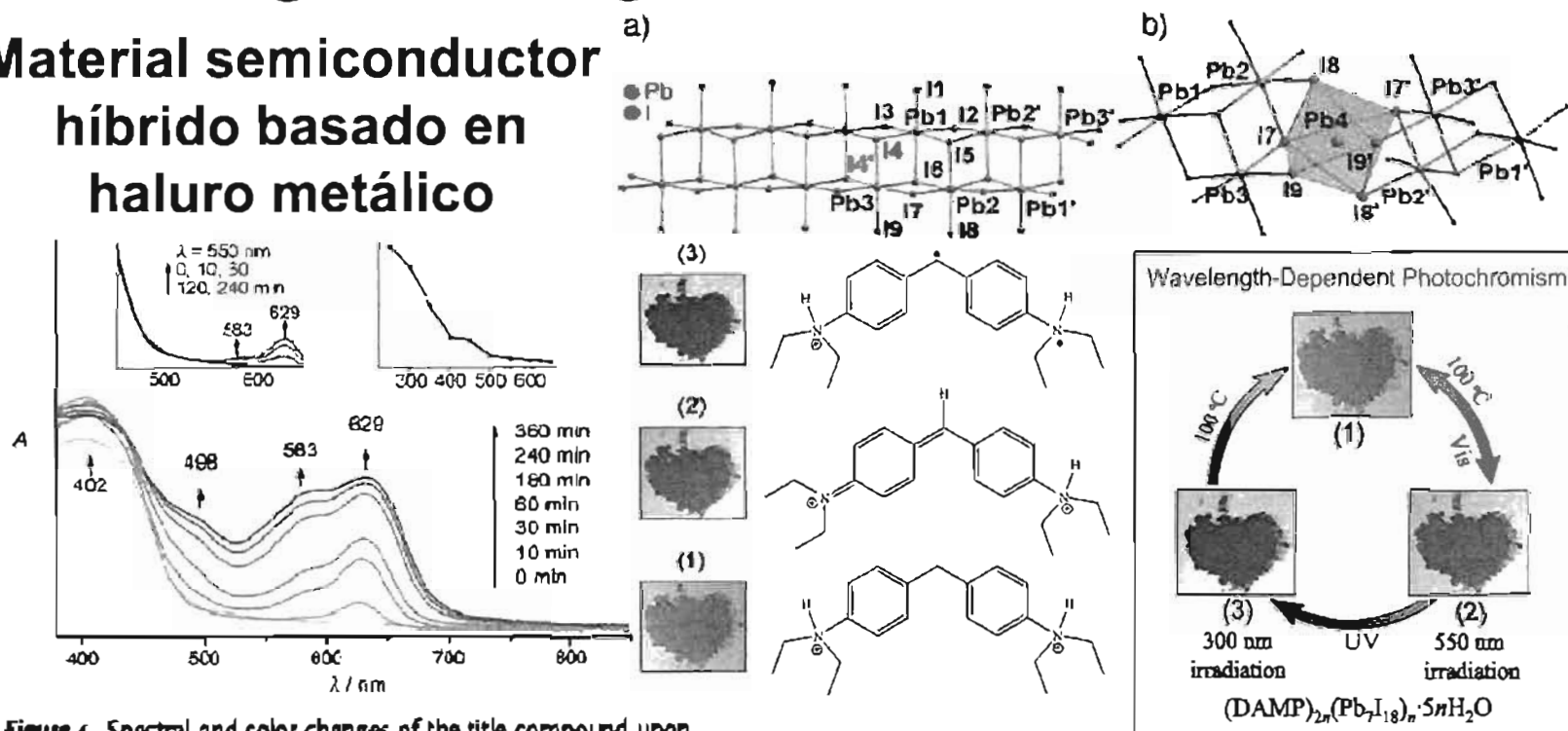
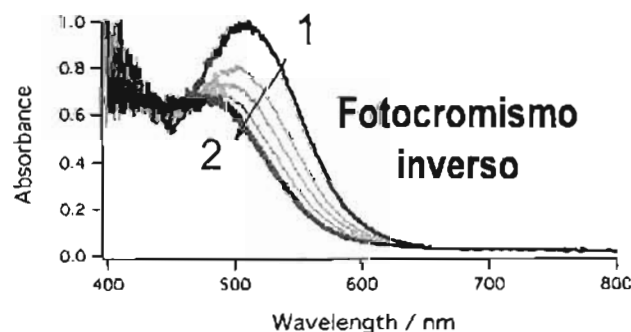
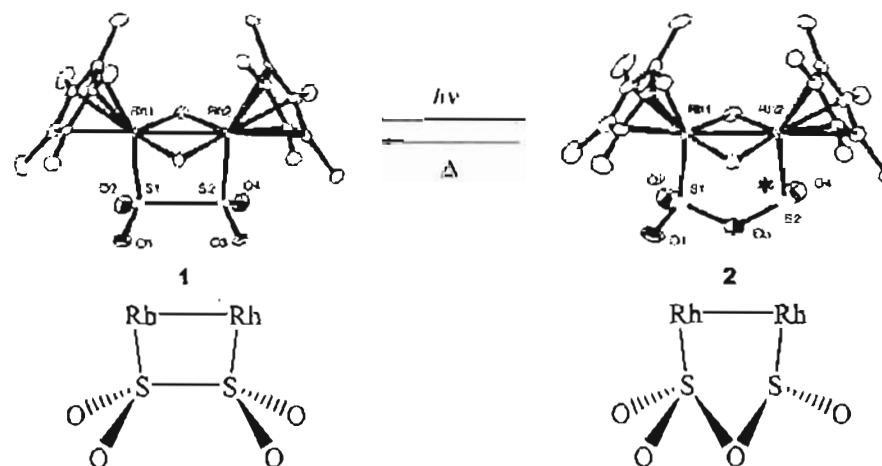


Figure 4. Spectral and color changes of the title compound upon repeated irradiation at 300 nm at 25 °C. Left inset: Spectral changes of the compound upon repeated irradiation at 550 nm at 25 °C. Right inset: Plot of absorbance at 498 nm after irradiation at various wavelengths for 10 min. The powder samples of 1, 2, and 3 are shown on the right.

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2008, 47 4149-4152.

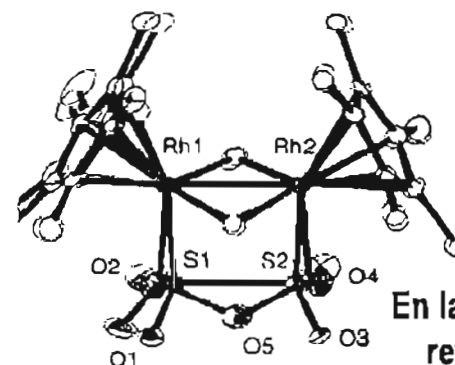
Materiales fotocromicos híbridos: complejos organometálicos

Complejo dinuclear de Rh



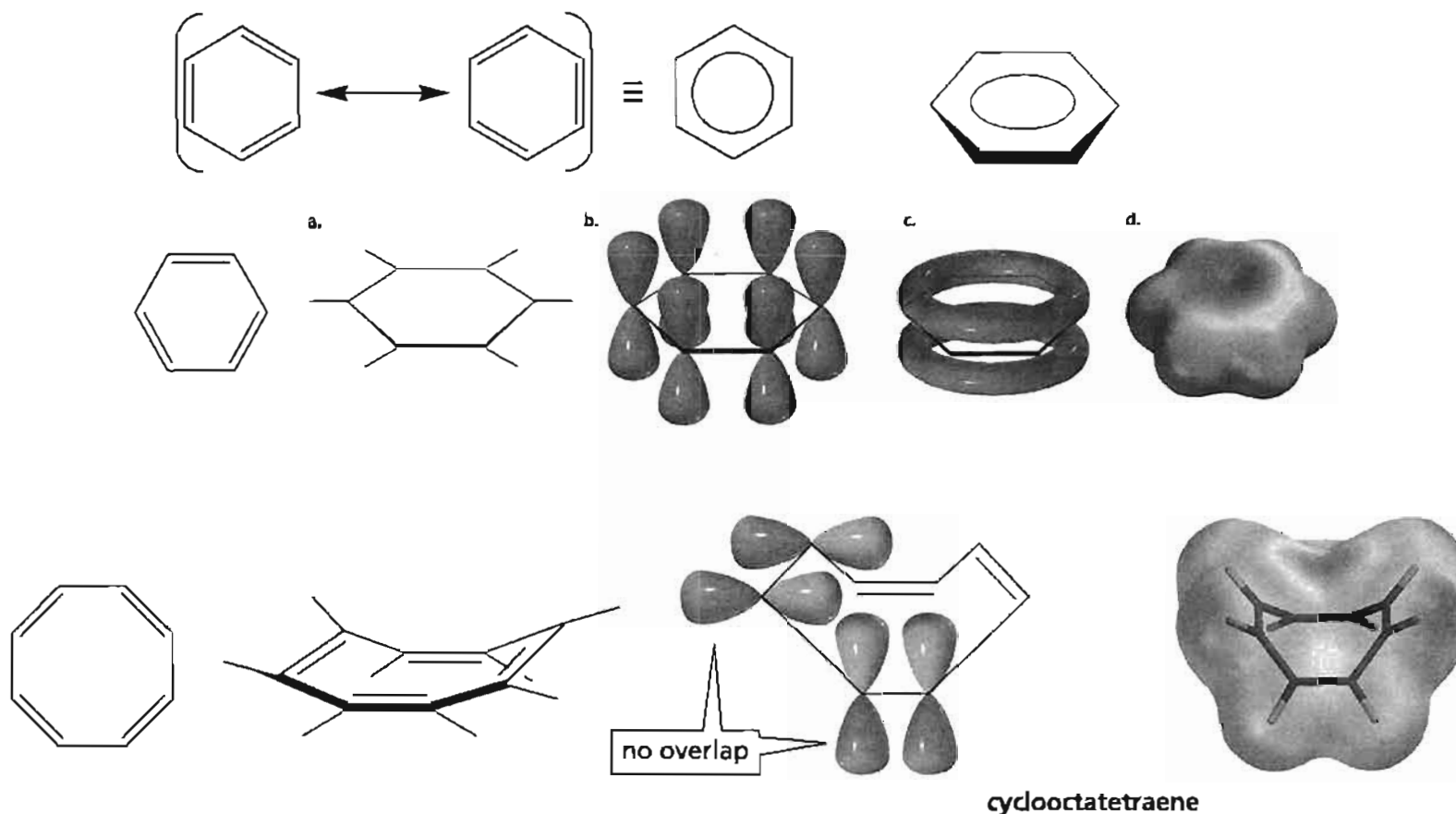
Irradiation time-resolved UV-vis spectra of 1 (blue) to 2 (red) in micro-crystalline powder

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2006, 45, 6473-6476.

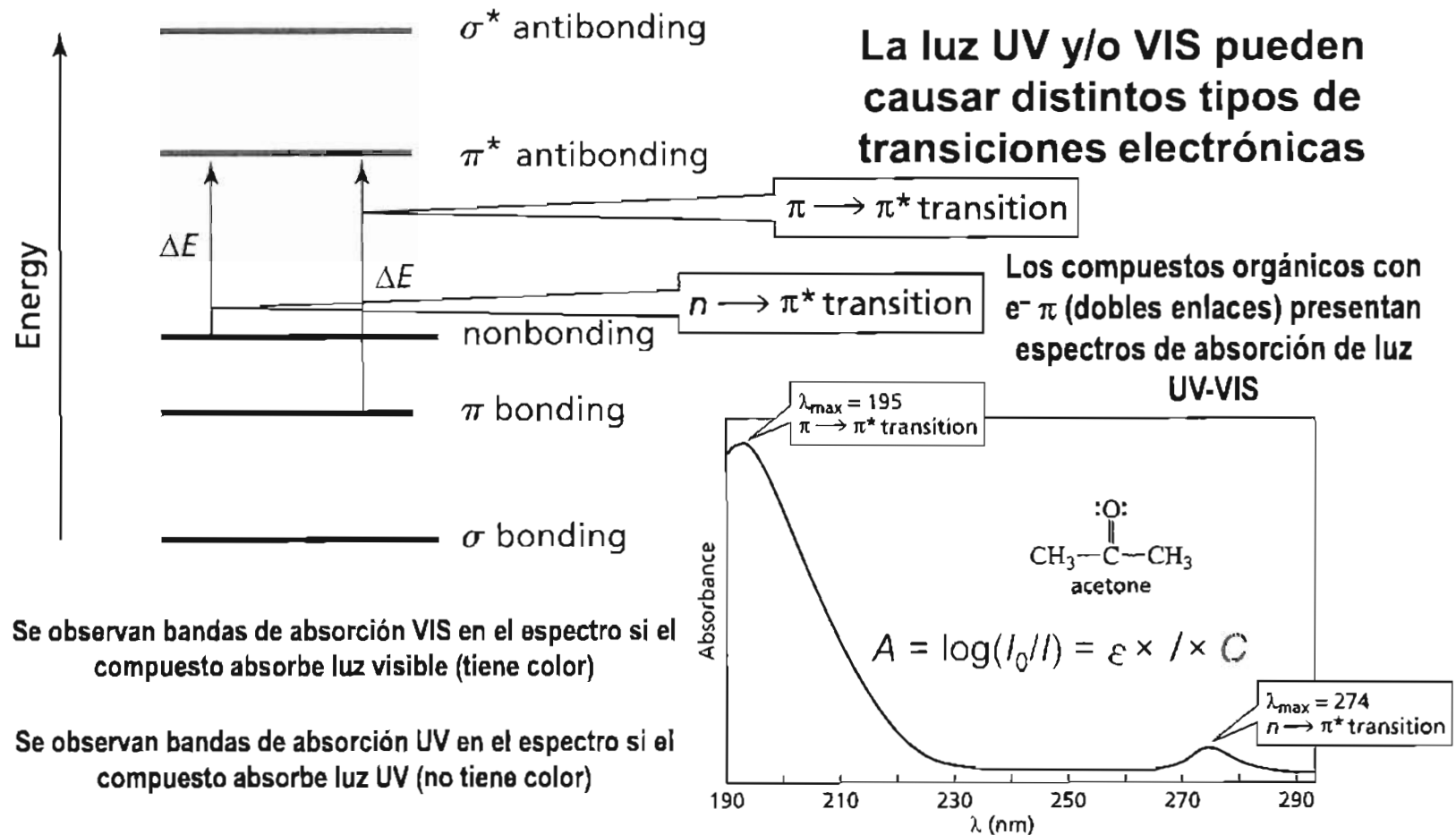


En la transformación reversible la red cristalina se reorganiza y varía su volumen un 1%

Materiales fotocromicos orgánicos: unos fundamentos de Q. Org. ...



Materiales fotocromáticos orgánicos: unos fundamentos de Q. Org. ...



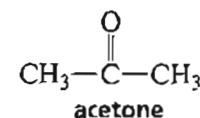
Materiales fotocromicos orgánicos: unos fundamentos de Q. Org. ...

Efecto de la conjugación en $\lambda_{\max}$

Table 8.3 Values of $\lambda_{\max}$ and ϵ for Ethylene and Conjugated Dienes

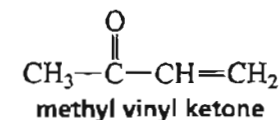
Compound	$\lambda_{\max}$ (nm)	ϵ
$\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CH}_2$	165	15,000
	217	21,000
	256	50,000
	290	85,000
	334	125,000
	364	138,000

$\lambda_{\max}$ y ϵ se incrementan al aumentar
el nº de dobles enlaces conjugados



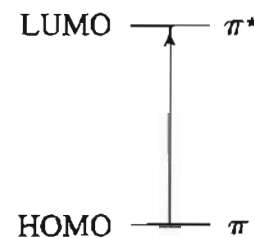
$$n \longrightarrow \pi^* \quad \lambda_{\max} = 270 \text{ nm}$$

$$\pi \longrightarrow \pi^* \quad \lambda_{\max} = 187 \text{ nm}$$

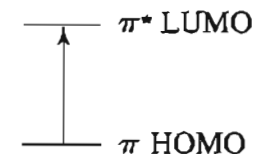
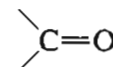


$$\lambda_{\max} = 324 \text{ nm}$$

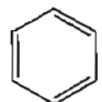
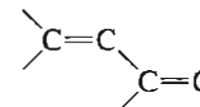
$$\lambda_{\max} = 219 \text{ nm}$$



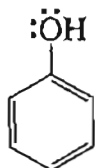
nonconjugated π electrons



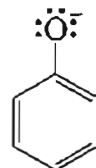
conjugated π electrons



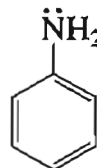
benzene
255 nm



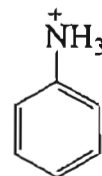
phenol
270 nm



phenolate ion
287 nm



aniline
280 nm



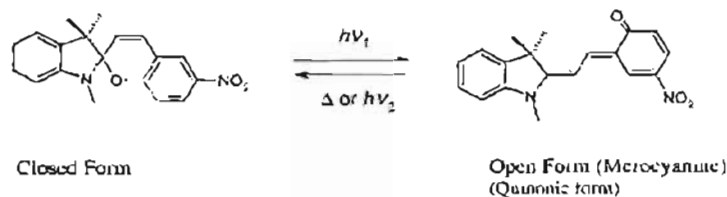
anilinium ion
254 nm

$\lambda_{\max}$ y ϵ también varían en
función de los grupos de átomos
(grupos funcionales) unidos a los
dobles enlaces conjugados

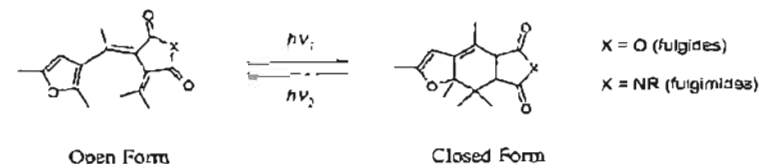
Materiales fotocromicos orgánicos

- Reacciones **pericíclicas** ($6 e^- \pi$) entre *moléculas isómeras*

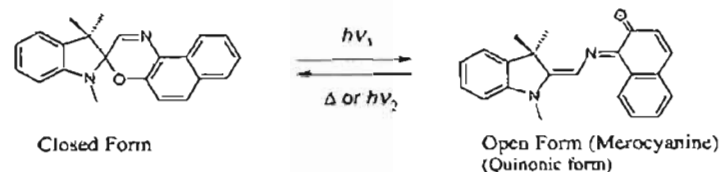
Spiropyrans



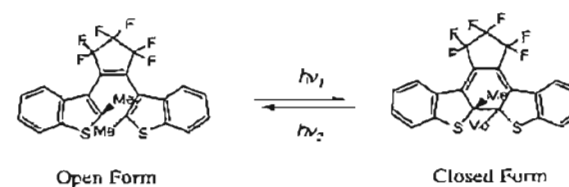
Fulgides and fulgimides



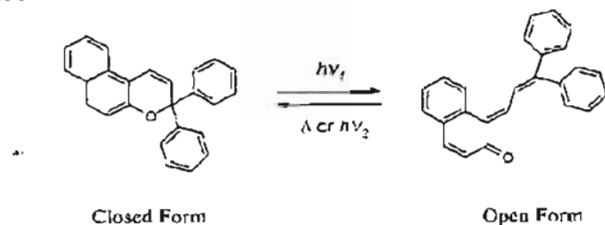
Spirooxazines



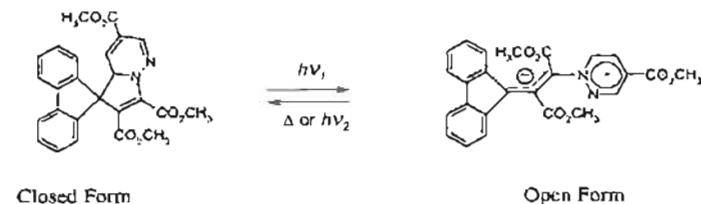
Diarylethenes and related compounds



Chromenes



Spirodihydroindolizines

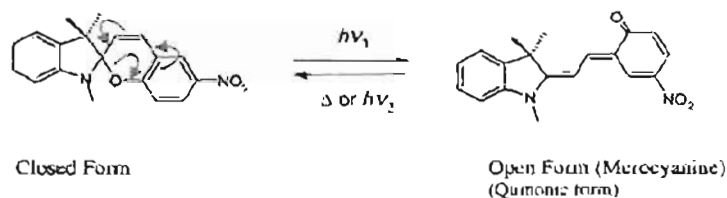


□ Pure Appl. Chem. 2001, 73, 639-665.

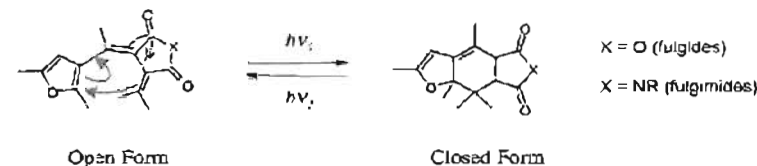
Materiales fotocromicos orgánicos

- Reacciones **pericíclicas** ($6 e^- \pi$) entre *moléculas isómeras*

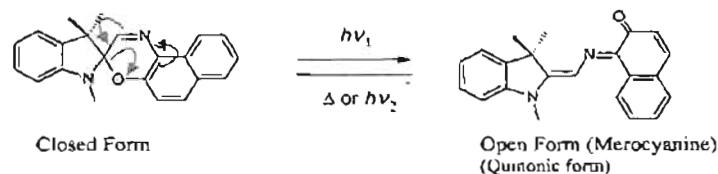
Spiropyrans



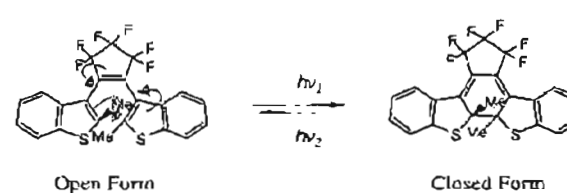
Fulgides and fulgimides



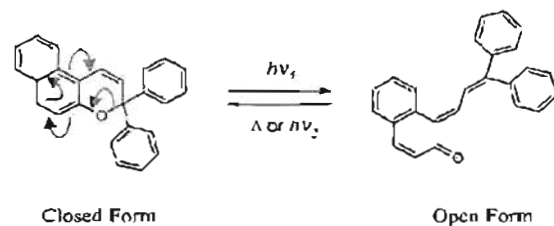
Spirooxazines



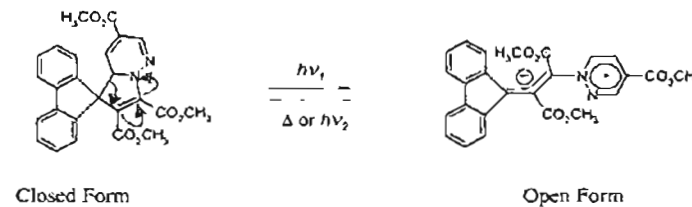
Diarylethenes and related compounds



Chromenes

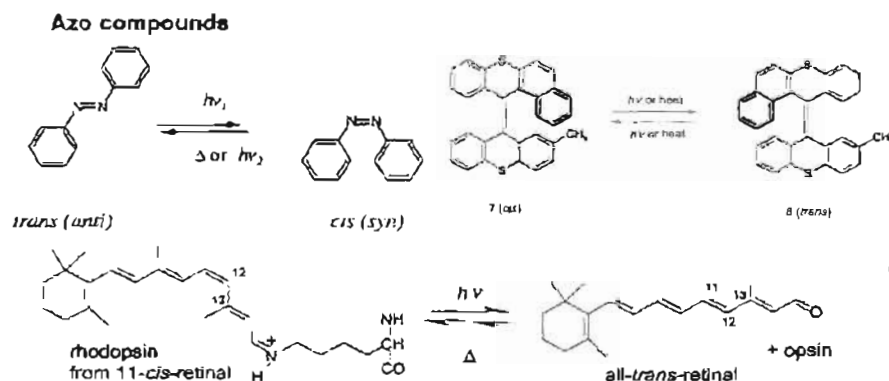


Spirodihydroindolizines



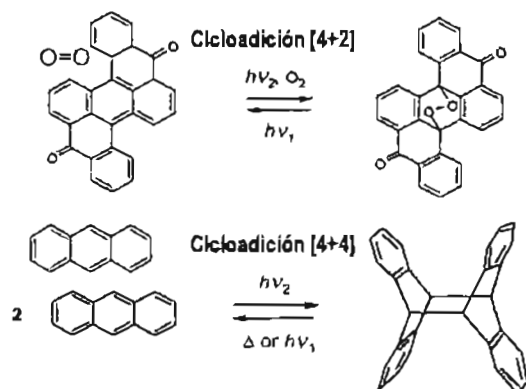
Materiales fotocromicos orgánicos

• Isomerización *cis-trans*



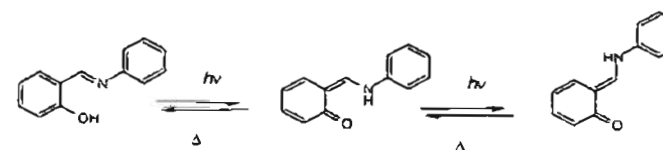
• Reacciones pericíclicas ($6 e^- \pi$)

Polycyclic aromatic compounds



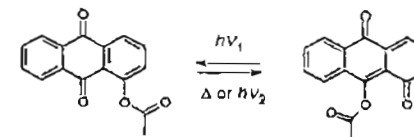
• Transferencia protónica (H^+)

Anils and related compounds (hydrogen transfer)



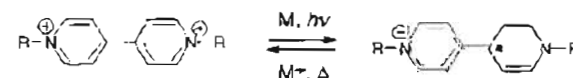
• Transferencia de grupo funcional

Polycyclic quinones (periaryloxyquinones)



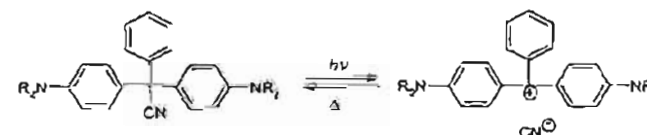
• Transferencia electrónica (e^-)

Viologens



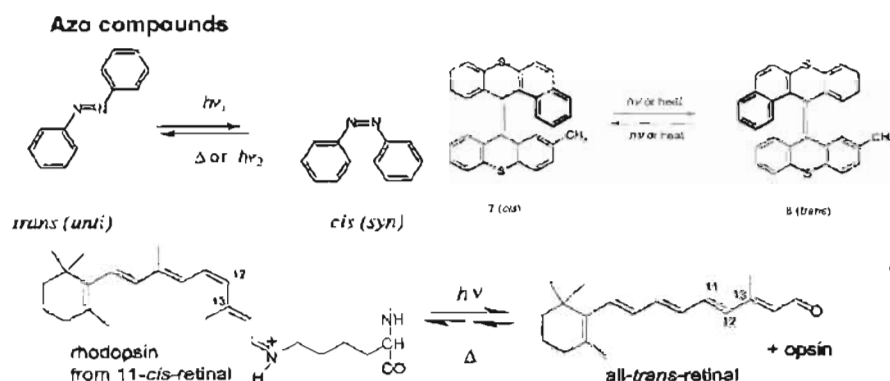
• Disociación

Triarylmethanes



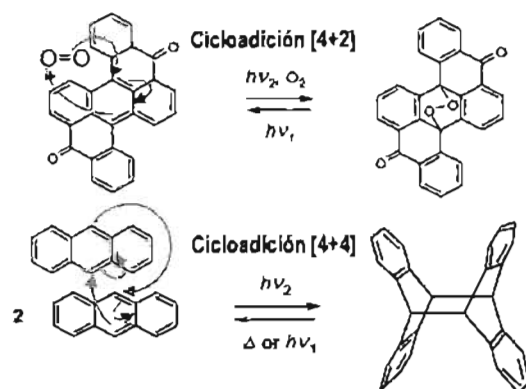
Materiales fotocromicos orgánicos

• Isomerización *cis-trans*



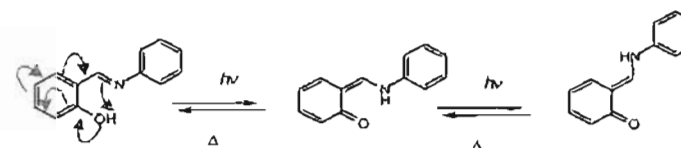
• Reacciones pericíclicas (6 e⁻ π)

Polycyclic aromatic compounds



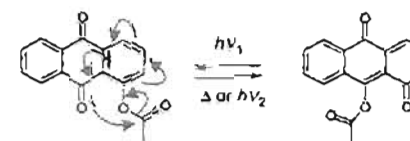
• Transferencia protónica (H⁺)

Anils and related compounds (hydrogen transfer)



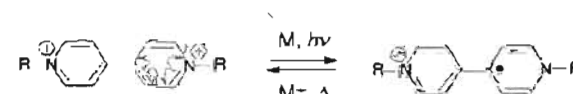
• Transferencia de grupo funcional

Polycyclic quinones (periaryloxyquinones)



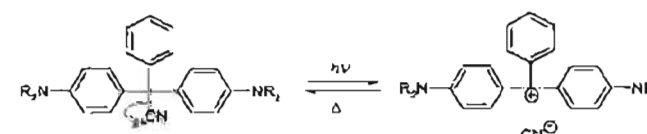
• Transferencia electrónica (e⁻)

Viologens



• Disociación

Triarylmethanes



Parámetros fotocromicos importantes

- Colorabilidad, $A_0(\lambda)$**

Capacidad para desarrollar color tras un pulso de luz, $A_0(\lambda) = k_{(l_0)} \times \Phi_{col} \times \epsilon_B \times C_A$

- Fatiga**

Disminución de la capacidad de fotoactivación con el tiempo por la degradación del colorante (típicamente por oxidación) $\Rightarrow$ disminuye nº ciclos de activación

- Vida media**

En irradiación continua,

t^* o $t_{1/2}$

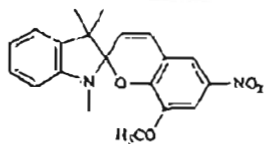
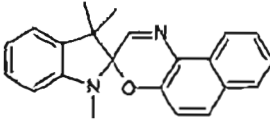
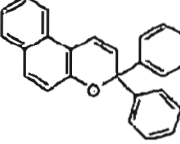
Tiempo que tarda en alcanzar la mitad de la absorbancia inicial

$$t_{1/2} = \Delta A_0^{\max} / 2$$

- Constante cinética de decoloración térmica**

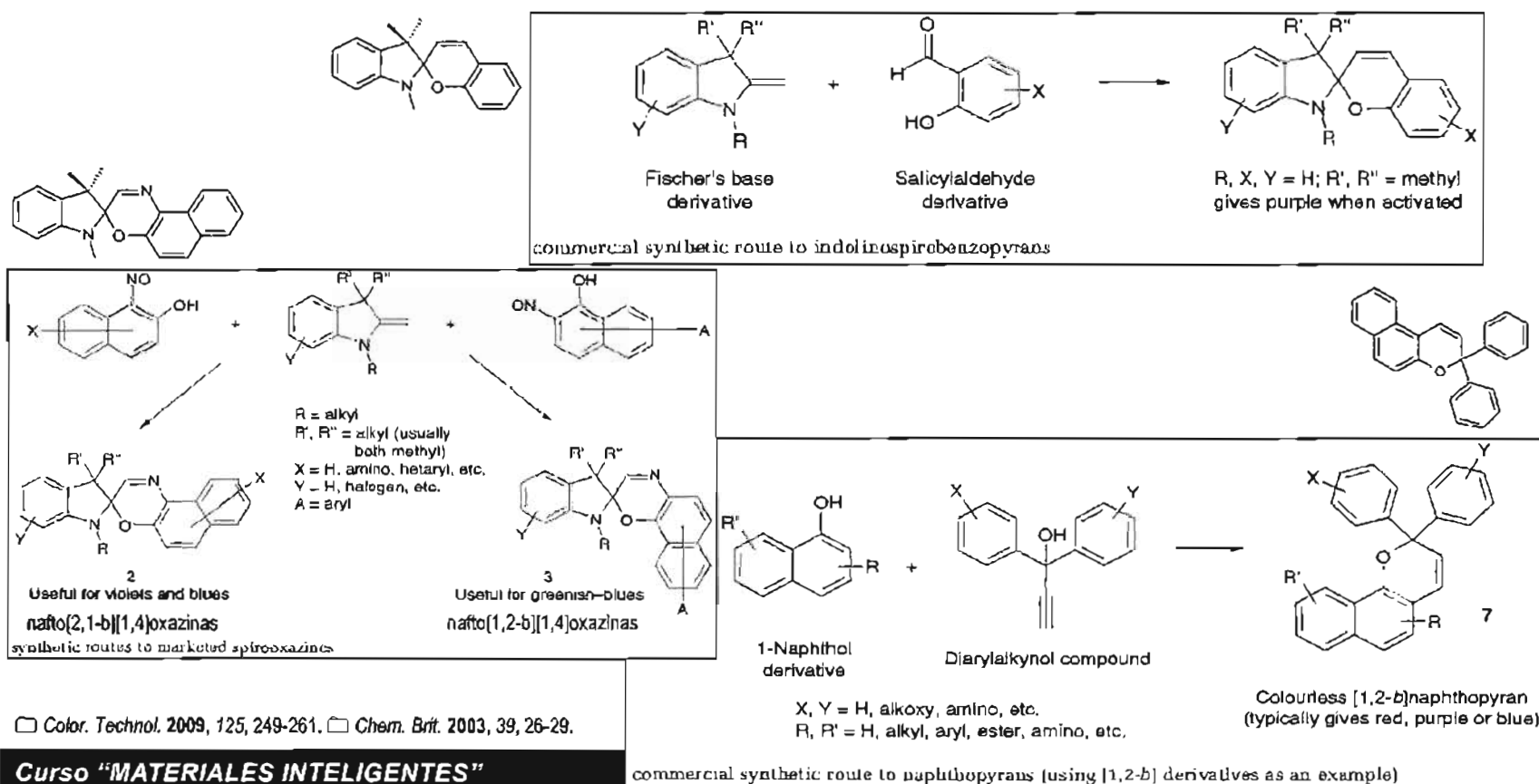
Cinética de 1^{er} orden, k_{Δ}

Table 1. Photochromic parameters in diluted toluene solutions.

Compound ($2.5 \times 10^{-5} M$) in toluene	Colored Form $\lambda_{\max} / nm$	$A_0(\lambda)$ $t=0$	k_{Δ} / s^{-1}	$t^*(\lambda_{20})$
 6-nitro-8-methoxy BIPS	615	4.6	0.02	7.5 min
 1,3,3-trimethylspiro[indoline-naphthoxazine]	594	1.08	0.54	8.5 h
 3,3-diphenyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran	432	0.84	0.09	7.5 h

Características de colorantes fotocromicos industrialmente importantes

- Alta eficiencia de **fotocoloración** por luz UV / Vis
- Fotodegradación poco eficiente $\Rightarrow$ **Estable**
- **Decoloración** moderadamente eficiente por calor / luz
- Facilidad de **síntesis** en cantidad suficiente



Factores en materiales fotocromáticos tipo T

- **Colorante:**

- activación rápida desde la forma incolora a la coloreada
- decoloración a velocidad adecuada para la aplicación $\Rightarrow$ Vida media $t_{1/2}$
- intensa absorción de luz por la forma coloreada (cambio apreciable aun a baja concentración)
- leve "color residual" para la forma incolora
- fotocromismo poco dependiente de la temperatura
- fotoestabilidad para la forma incolora y la coloreada
- resistencia a la fatiga que conduce al debilitamiento del color. P.ej. lentes $\Rightarrow$ 2 años de vida
- buena solubilidad en la matriz polimérica (no disperso)

- **Polímero:**

- poco rígido (más volumen disponible para los cambios de forma moleculares) influye en las cinéticas del fotocromismo (activación y decoloración)
- polímeros de baja T_g (polietilenos, siliconas,...con cadenas flexibles)

- **Polaridad de la matriz:**

- influye en las cinéticas del fotocromismo
- influye en el tono de color, ya que los colorantes suelen ser solvatocrómicos

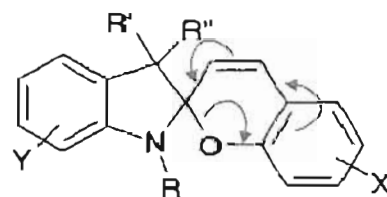
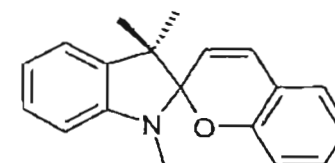
- **Capacidad de combinación de distintos colorantes:**

- para aplicaciones que requieren mezclas de colorantes las propiedades fotocromáticas deben estar emparejadas (cinéticas, tonos de color,...)
- uso de colorantes de la misma familia (p.ej. naftopiranos)
- uso de colorantes con diferente patrón de sustituyentes

Colorantes comerciales de tipo T

Espiropiranos

- + Síntesis fácil
- + Colores intensos (violetas, azules,...)
- + Se decoloran a velocidad adecuada
- Fuerte dependencia de T que debilita el color
- Poca fotoestabilidad
- Débil resistencia a la fatiga
- ~ Sustitución de O por S permite absorción NIR (pero disminuye la fotoestabilidad)

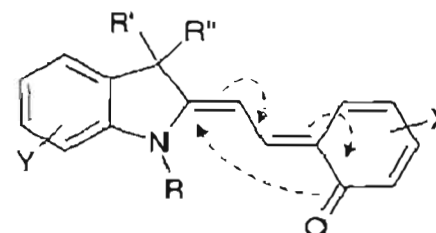
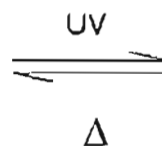


Indolinoespirobenzopirano

Colourless spiropyran 1

R = alkyl; R', R'' = alkyl (usually both methyl)

X, Y = H, halogen, nitro, etc.

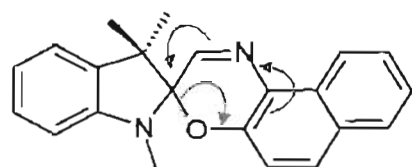
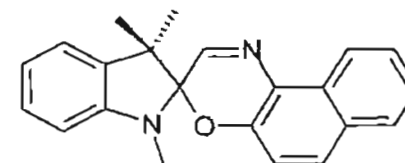


Coloured photomerocyanine dye
(mixture of isomers – others not shown)

Colorantes comerciales de tipo T

Espirooxazinas

- + Síntesis fácil
- + Colores intensos (azules, rojos, púrpuras,...)
- + Muy buena resistencia a la fatiga
- + Alta fotoestabilidad (desarrollo de lentes fotocromicas en 1980–1990)
- + Color y cinética de decoloración optimizables con sustitución adecuada



Closed Form

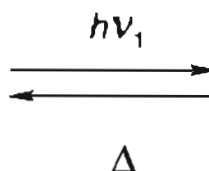
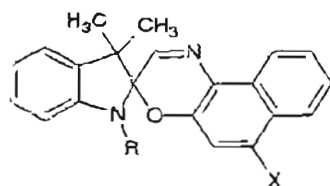
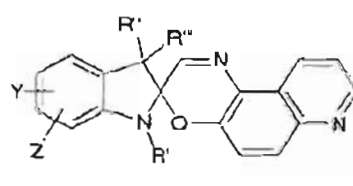
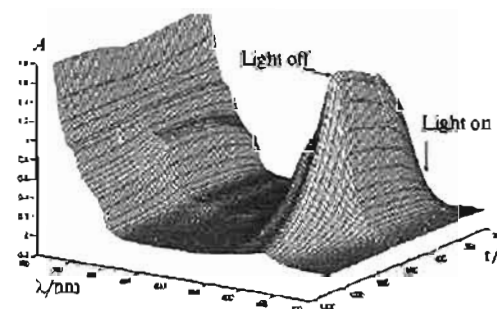
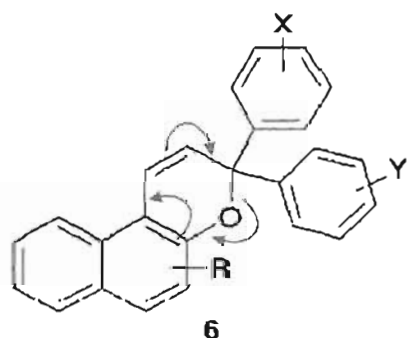
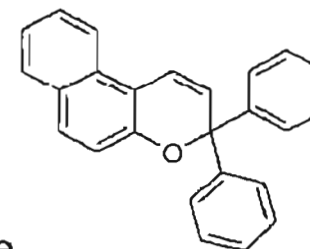
Open Form (Merocyanine)
(Quinonic form)4 X = N-piperidino
industrially useful spirooxazine types5
Indolinoespiropiridobenzoxazinas
derivadas de 5-nitroso-6-hidroxiquinolina

Fig. 5. Evolution of the electronic absorption spectrum of photochromic 8-cyanoundolno-spirobenzoxazine (toluene, 25 °C).

Colorantes comerciales de tipo T

Naftopiranos (cromenos)

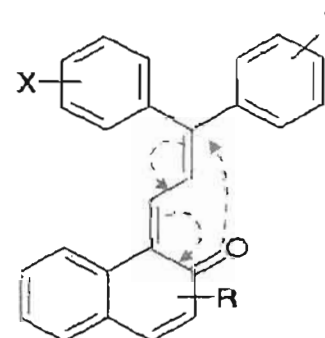
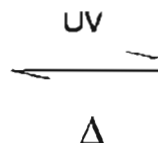
- + Alta fotoestabilidad
- + Fotocromismo poco dependiente de T
- + Síntesis económica, aun con diferentes tipos de sustituyente
- + Toda la gama de colores (amarillo, naranja, rojo, púrpura, azul)
- + Los más usados comercialmente para lentes fotocrómicas



Colourless [2,1-*b*]naphthopyran

X, Y = H, alkoxy, amino, etc.

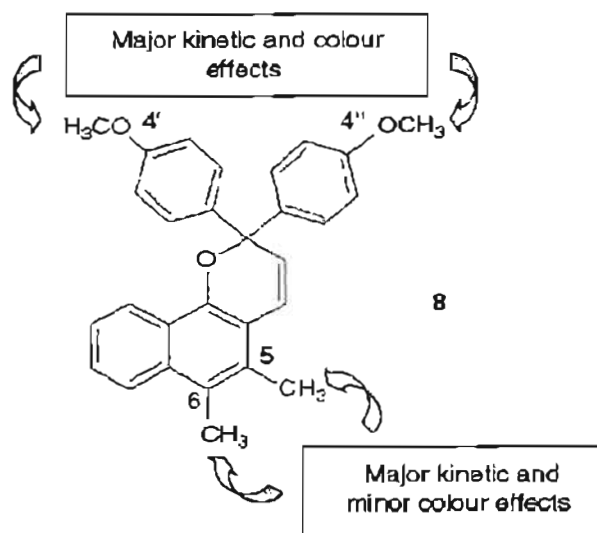
R = H, amino, etc.



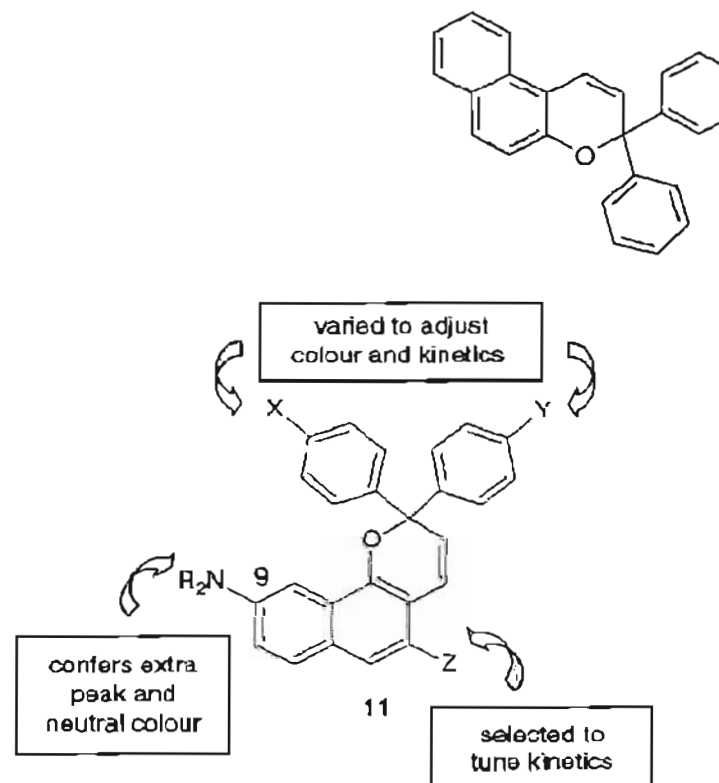
Coloured dye; typically yellow, orange or red
(mixture of isomers – others not shown)

Colorantes comerciales de tipo T

Naftopiranos (cromenos)



Substituent effects in some commercial naphthopyrans



Incorporación de colorantes fotocromicos en polímeros

- En **masa**, disueltos en monómero o resina que se cura con calor o UV
- Por **recubrimiento superficial** mediante **inmersión** o **centrifugación** (*spin-/dip- coating*)
- Por **imbibición** (adsorción + difusión hacia el interior del polímero $\sim 0.2 \mu\text{m}$)
- **Laminación** (incorporación de un film de material fotocromico a modo de *sandwich* entre dos láminas de polímero)

En principio, **no todos los polímeros sirven** para la incorporación de moléculas fotocromicas (*han de permitirles adoptar la conformación plana*).

Son mejores los de estructura menos rígida:

- + polietileno
- + polipropileno
- + poliuretano
- + cloruro de polivinilo

Unos fundamentos sobre polímeros ...

Monomer	Repeating unit	Polymer name	Uses
$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$	polyethylene	film, toys, bottles, plastic bags
$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{Cl}$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{Cl}$	poly(vinyl chloride)	"squeeze" bottles, pipe, siding, flooring
$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_3$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{CH}_3$	polypropylene	molded caps, margarine tubs, indoor/outdoor carpeting, upholstery
$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	polystyrene	packaging, toys, clear cups, egg cartons, hot drink cups
$\text{CF}_2=\text{CF}_2$	$-\text{CF}_2-\text{CF}_2-$	poly(tetrafluoroethylene) Teflon®	nonsticking surfaces, liners, cable insulation
$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$	poly(acrylonitrile) Orlon®, Acrilan®	rugs, blankets, yarn, apparel, simulated fur
$\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{COCH}_3$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{COCH}_3)-$	poly(methyl methacrylate) Plexiglas®, Lucite®	lighting fixtures, signs, solar panels, skylights
$\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{OCCH}_3$	$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{OCCH}_3$	poly(vinyl acetate)	latex paints, adhesives

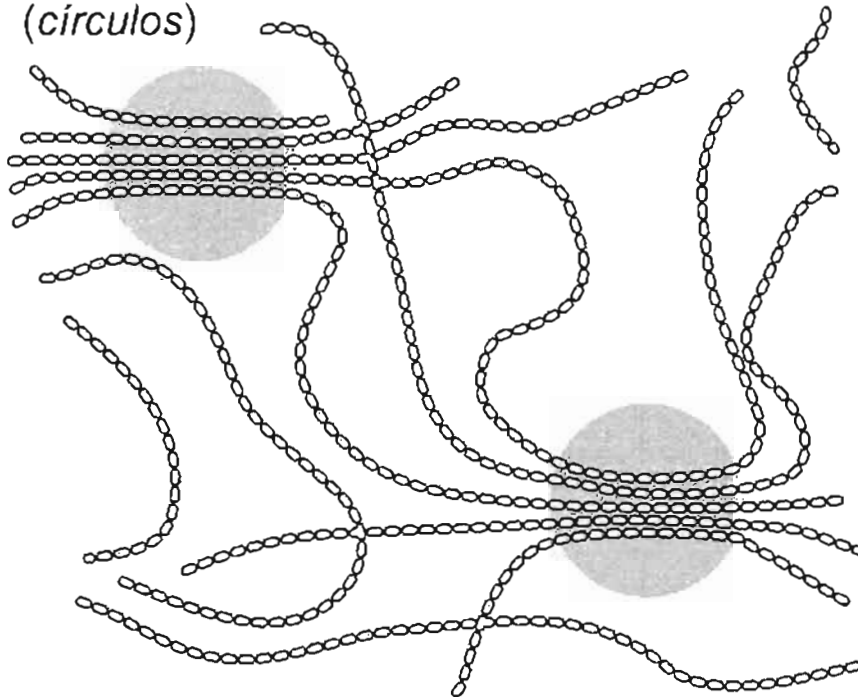
Unos fundamentos sobre polímeros ...

Monomer	Copolymer name	Uses
$\text{CH}_2=\underset{\text{Cl}}{\text{CH}}$ vinyl chloride + $\text{CH}_2=\underset{\text{Cl}}{\text{CCl}}$ vinylidene chloride	Saran	film for wrapping food
$\text{CH}_2=\underset{\text{C}_6\text{H}_5}{\text{CH}}$ styrene + $\text{CH}_2=\underset{\text{C}\equiv\text{N}}{\text{CH}}$ acrylonitrile	SAN	dishwasher-safe objects, vacuum cleaner parts
$\text{CH}_2=\underset{\text{C}\equiv\text{N}}{\text{CH}}$ acrylonitrile + $\text{CH}_2=\underset{\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2}{\text{CH}}$ 1,3-butadiene + $\text{CH}_2=\underset{\text{C}_6\text{H}_5}{\text{CH}}$ styrene	ABS	bumpers, crash helmets, telephones, luggage
$\text{CH}_2=\underset{\text{CH}_3}{\text{CCH}_3}$ isobutylene + $\text{CH}_2=\underset{\text{CH}_3}{\text{CHC}=\text{CH}_2}$ isoprene	butyl rubber	inner tubes, balls, inflatable sporting goods

Unos fundamentos sobre polímeros ...

Segmento de un polímero lineal que se pliega varias veces sobre sí mismo en dos **regiones cristalinas**

(círculos)



Los **polímeros cristalinos** (polímeros con muchas regiones cristalinas) son:

- duros
- rígidos
- quebradizos

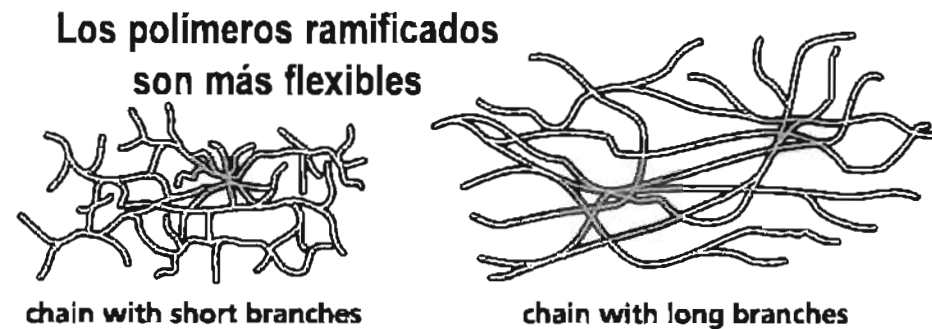
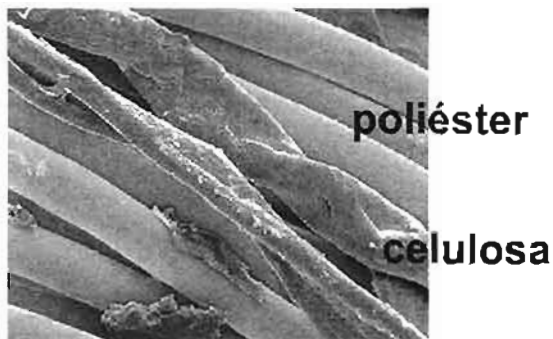
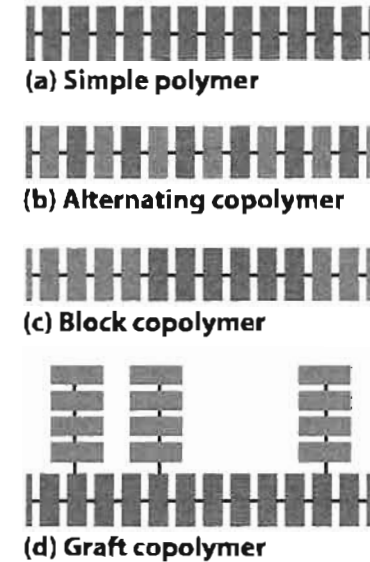
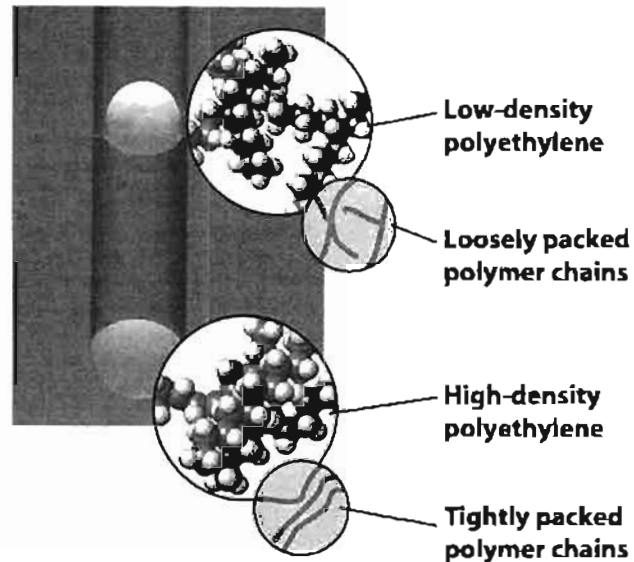
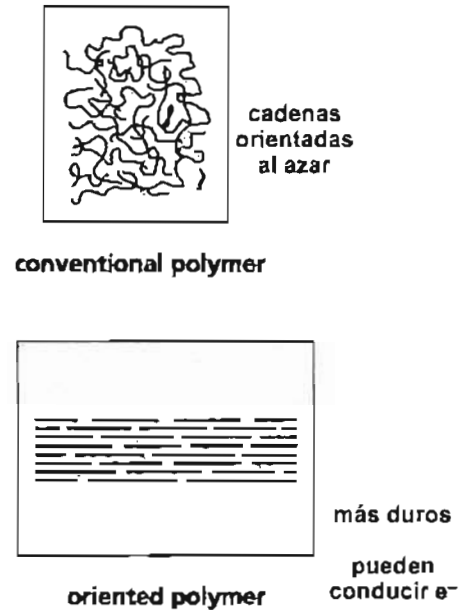
Los **polímeros con cadenas orientadas al azar** son:

- blandos
- flexibles

Table 28.7 Properties of Polyethylene as a Function of Crystallinity

Crystallinity (%)	55	62	70	77	85
Density (g/cm ³)	0.92	0.93	0.94	0.95	0.96
Melting point (°C)	109	116	125	130	133

Unos fundamentos sobre polímeros ...



Unos fundamentos sobre polímeros ...

Termoplásticos

Son polímeros que tienen **regiones amorfas** no cristalinas y **regiones cristalinas** bien ordenadas

Elastómeros

Polímeros que son **elásticos**, se pueden estirar y luego retornan a su forma original

Plastificante

Es un compuesto orgánico que se añade al polímero para hacerlo más flexible