

# Structure and dynamics in weakly ordered systems studied by emission and mobility probes

Weakly ordered systems

Emission probes

Mobility probes

Pedro F. Aramendía.  
Universidad de Buenos Aires

# Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales Universidad de Buenos Aires

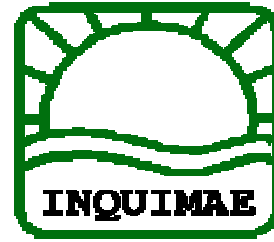
Geographical Situation

Ciudad  
Universitaria

Buenos Aires



My office



# Weakly ordered systems

Polymers in films or in solution

Composite materials

Gels

Liquid crystals

Microemulsions

Relevant questions:

Microdomains: which is their structure? (main features)

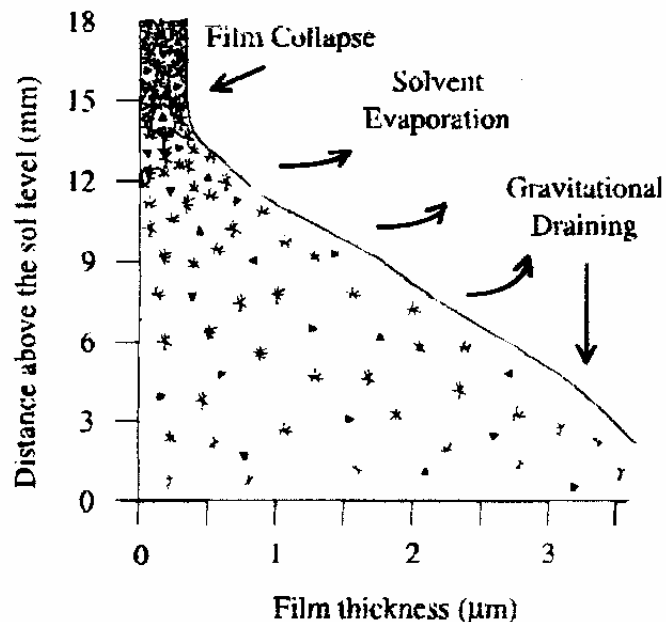
Which is the characteristic time for their change?

Microheterogeneity  $\leftrightarrow$  relaxation dynamics

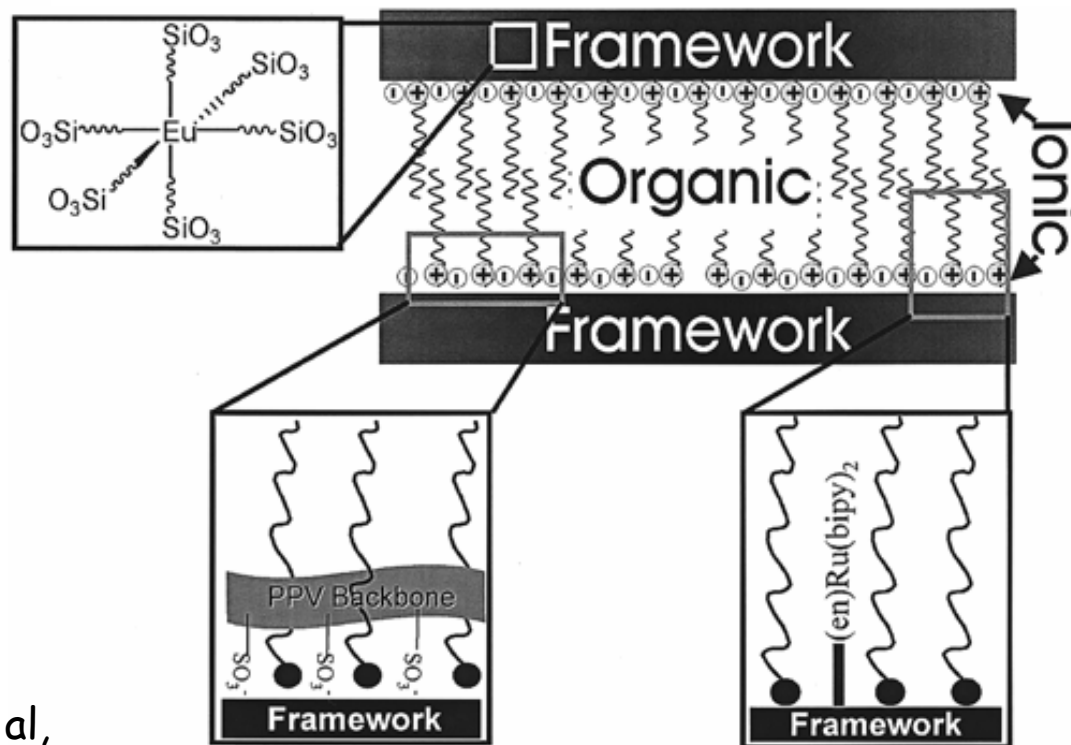
Spatial and time domains.



# Inorganic or hybrid sol-gel



M. Huang et al. Chem. Mater 12 (2000) 231.

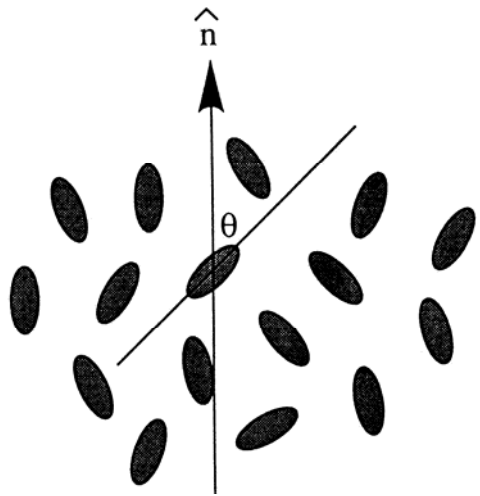


R. Hernandez, et al, JACS 123 (2001)1248.

# Liquid Crystals

## Nematic

### Uniaxial



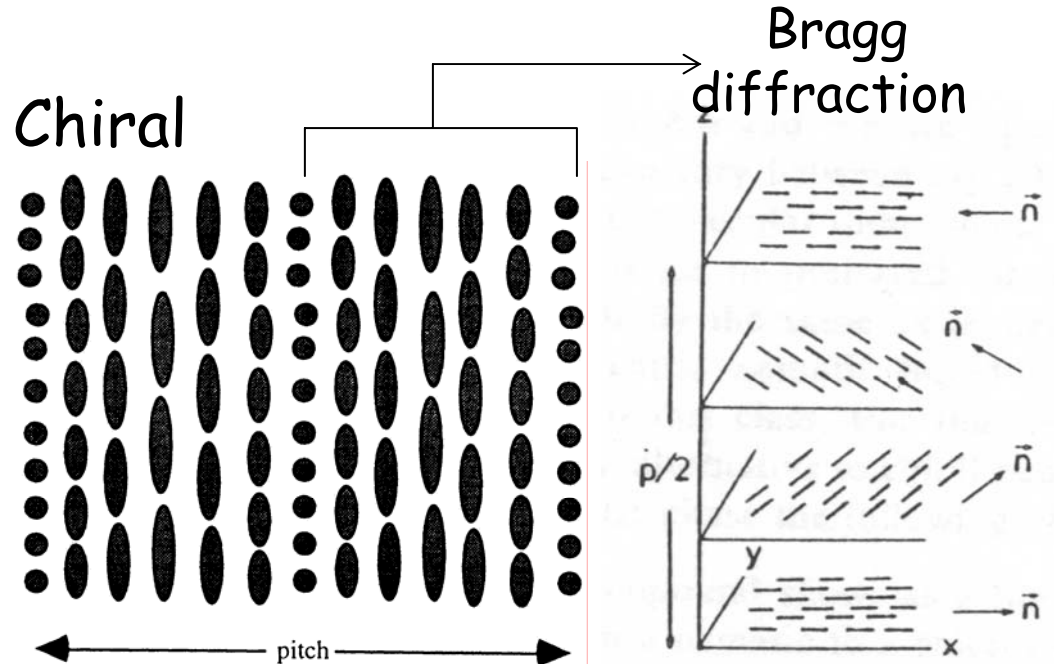
Order parameter:

$$S = 1/2 \langle 3 \cos^2 \theta - 1 \rangle$$

$$S \approx (1 - p[T/T_C])^q$$

## Twisted nematic

### Chiral



Director:

$$n_x = \cos(q * z + \varphi)$$

$$n_y = \sin(q * z + \varphi)$$

$$n_z = 0$$

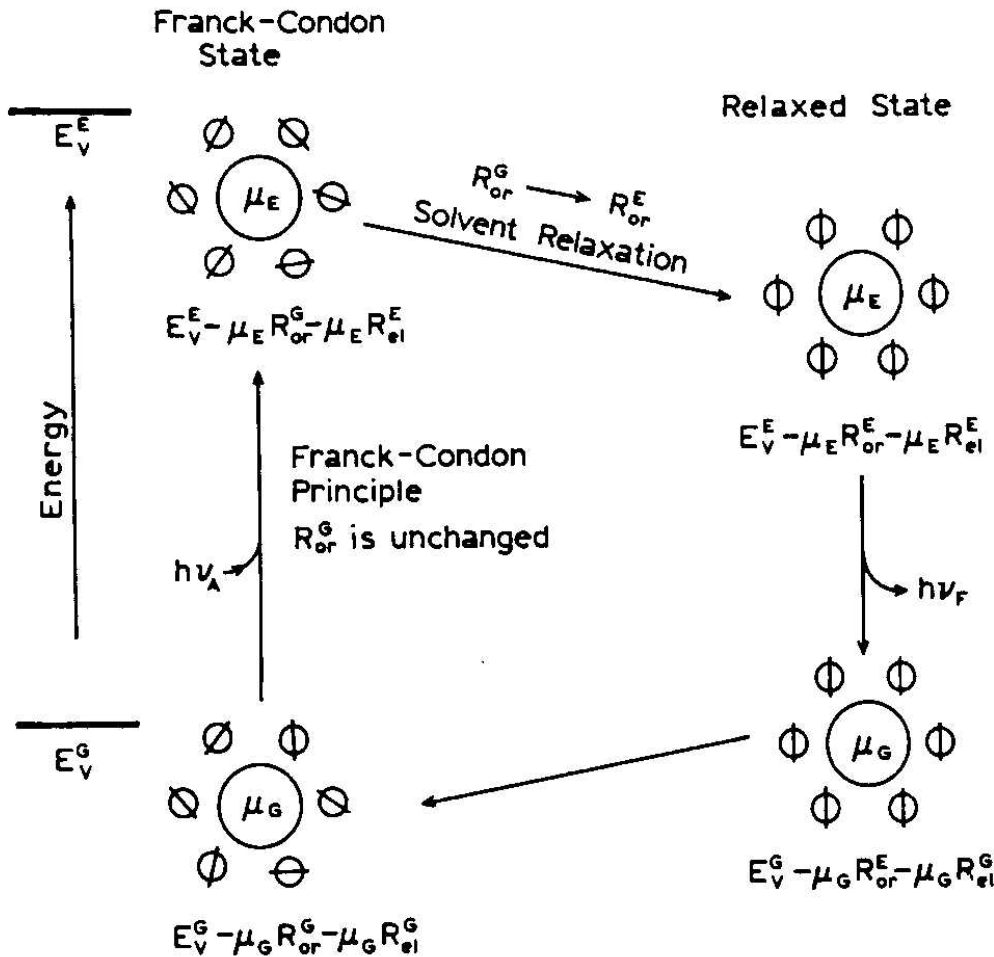
Pitch:

$$L = \pi / |q|$$

$$q = (c * \beta)^{-1}$$

# Emission probes

## Fluorescence. Characteristics.



Spectrum and Stokes shift

Red edge effect

Polarization

Electronic energy transfer

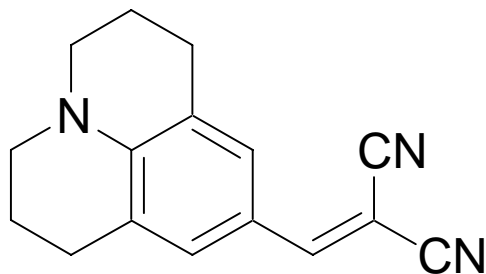
Quenching

Single molecule fluorescence

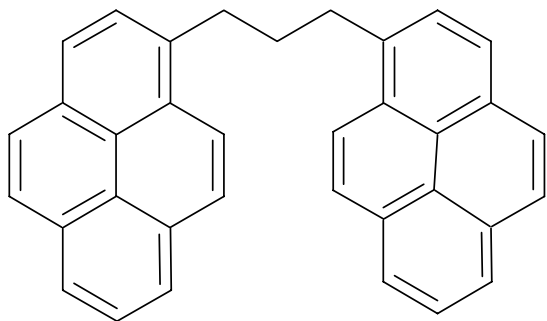


# Mobility probes

Internal rotors  
Photoisomerization

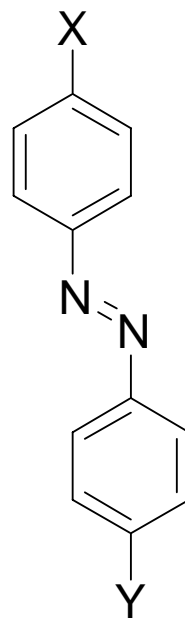


JMN

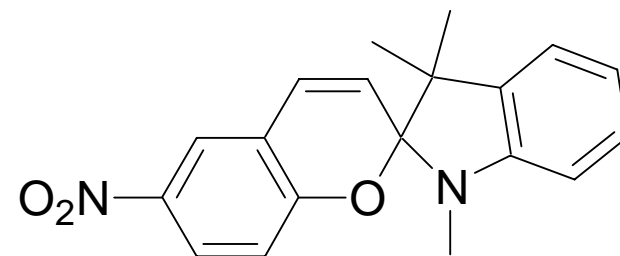


Di-pyrenyl propane

Excimers  
Emission anisotropy



Azobenzenes

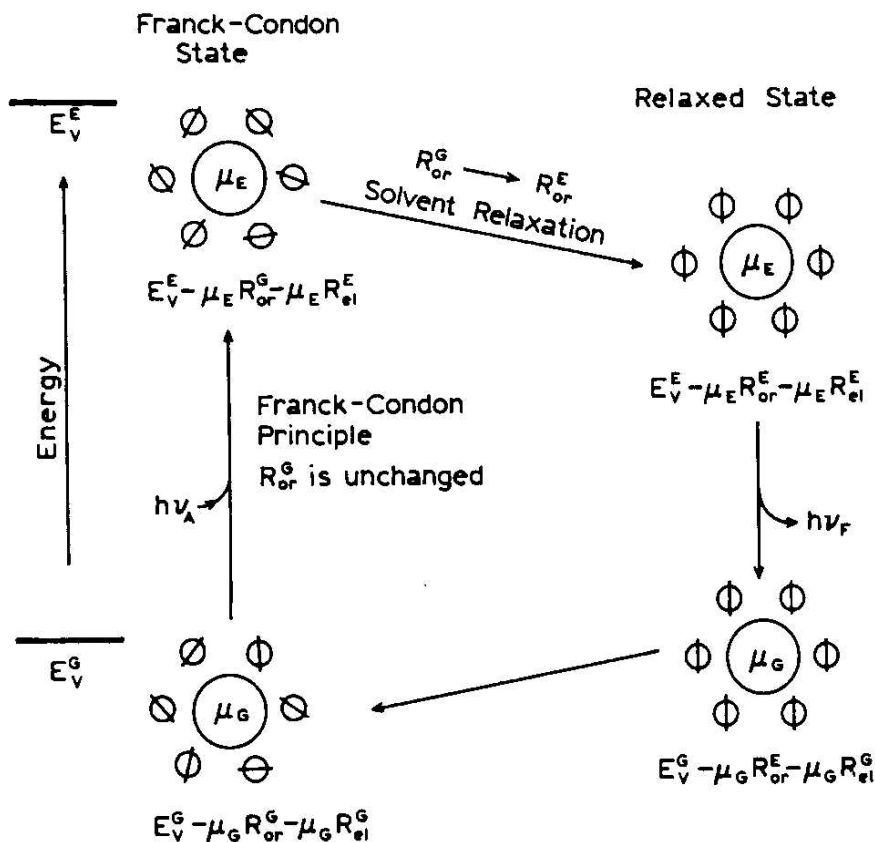


Spiropyrans

# Fluorescence

Spectrum and Stokes shift

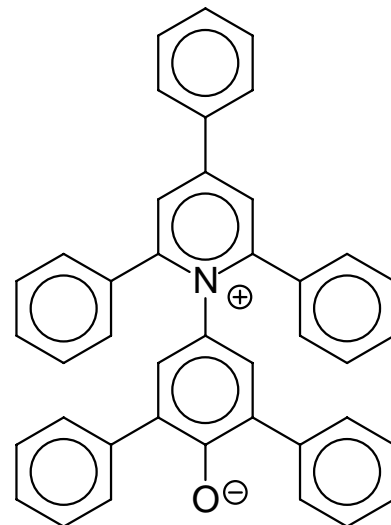
Solvatochromic scales: what do they measure?



$E_T(30)$

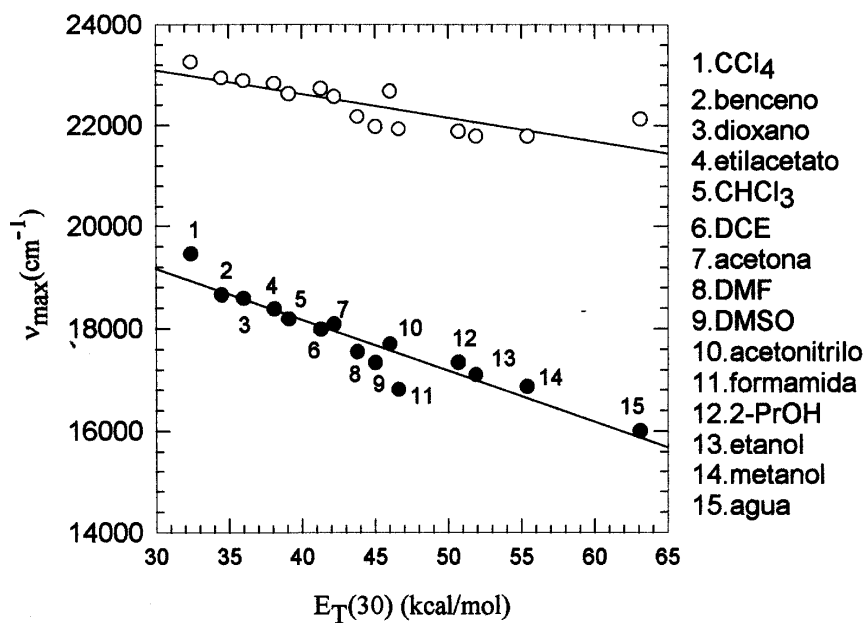
Pyrene

Emission correlated with  $E_T(30)$

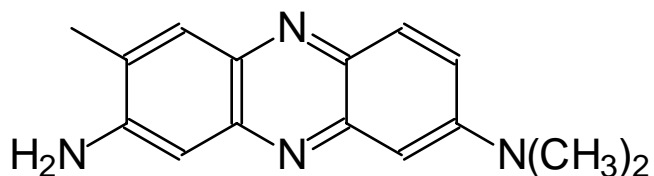


$E_T(30)$

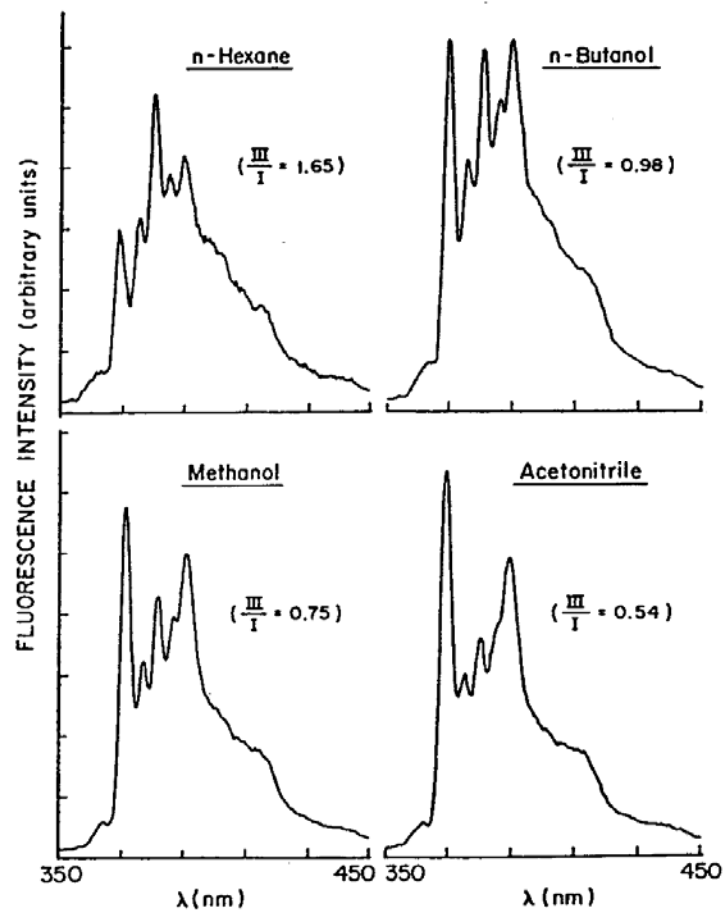
# Solvatochromic scales: what do they measure?



Neutral red



Polarity and HBD capability



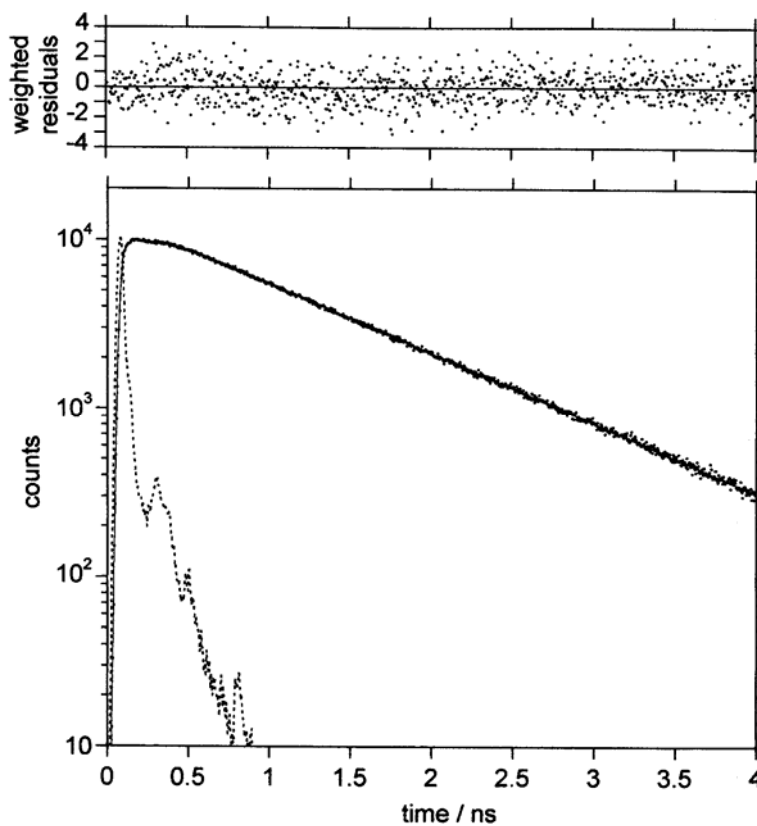
Ratio  $I_{III}/I_I$  for pyrene

Polarity

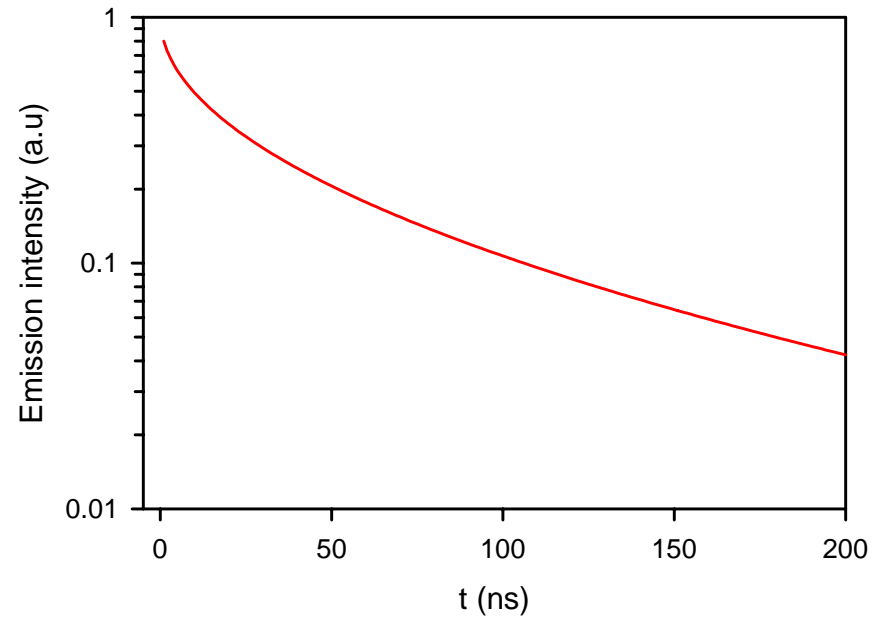
# Fluorescence

## Fluorescence lifetime and time-resolved emission spectroscopy

### Emission decay



Decay of POPOP in cyclohexane



$$\langle t \rangle = \frac{\int t \cdot I_f(t) \cdot dt}{\int I_f(t) \cdot dt}$$

# Dynamic domains for the kinetics

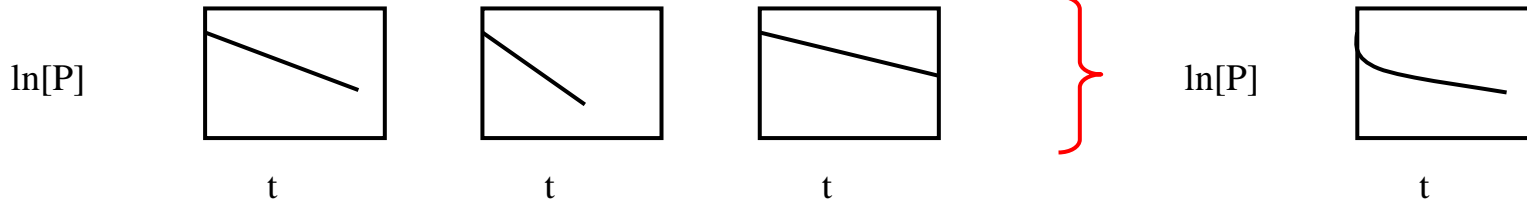
Comparison between the characteristic times of relaxation:

$\tau_P$  : of the metastable state

$\tau_M$  : of the environment

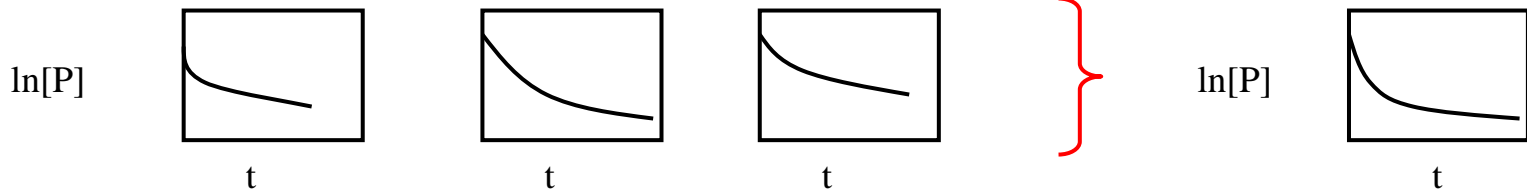
## 1: Distribution:

$$\tau_M \gg \tau_P$$



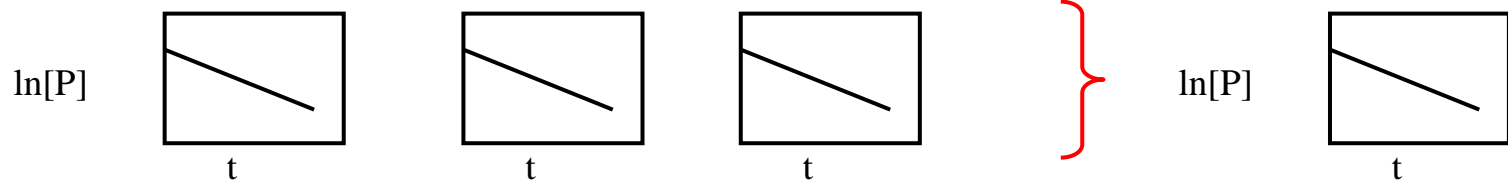
## 2: Dynamic:

$$\tau_M \approx \tau_P$$



## 3: Equilibrium:

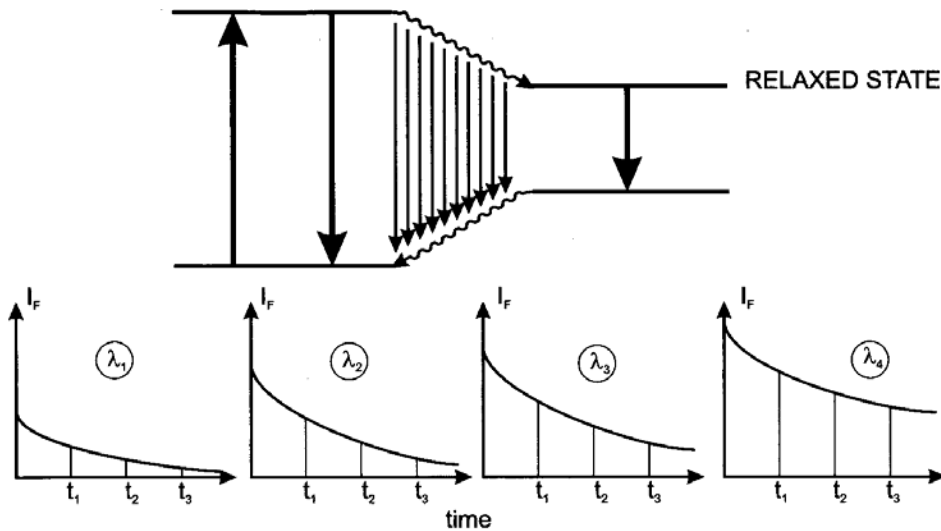
$$\tau_M \ll \tau_P$$



# Fluorescence

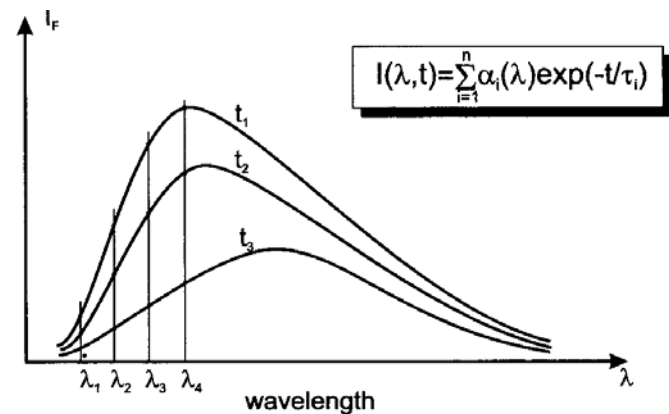
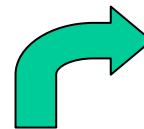
Fluorescence lifetime and time-resolved emission spectroscopy

TRES: time-resolved emission spectra



Decay registered at various emission wavelengths

Build emission spectra at different times



Relaxation

Excited state reaction

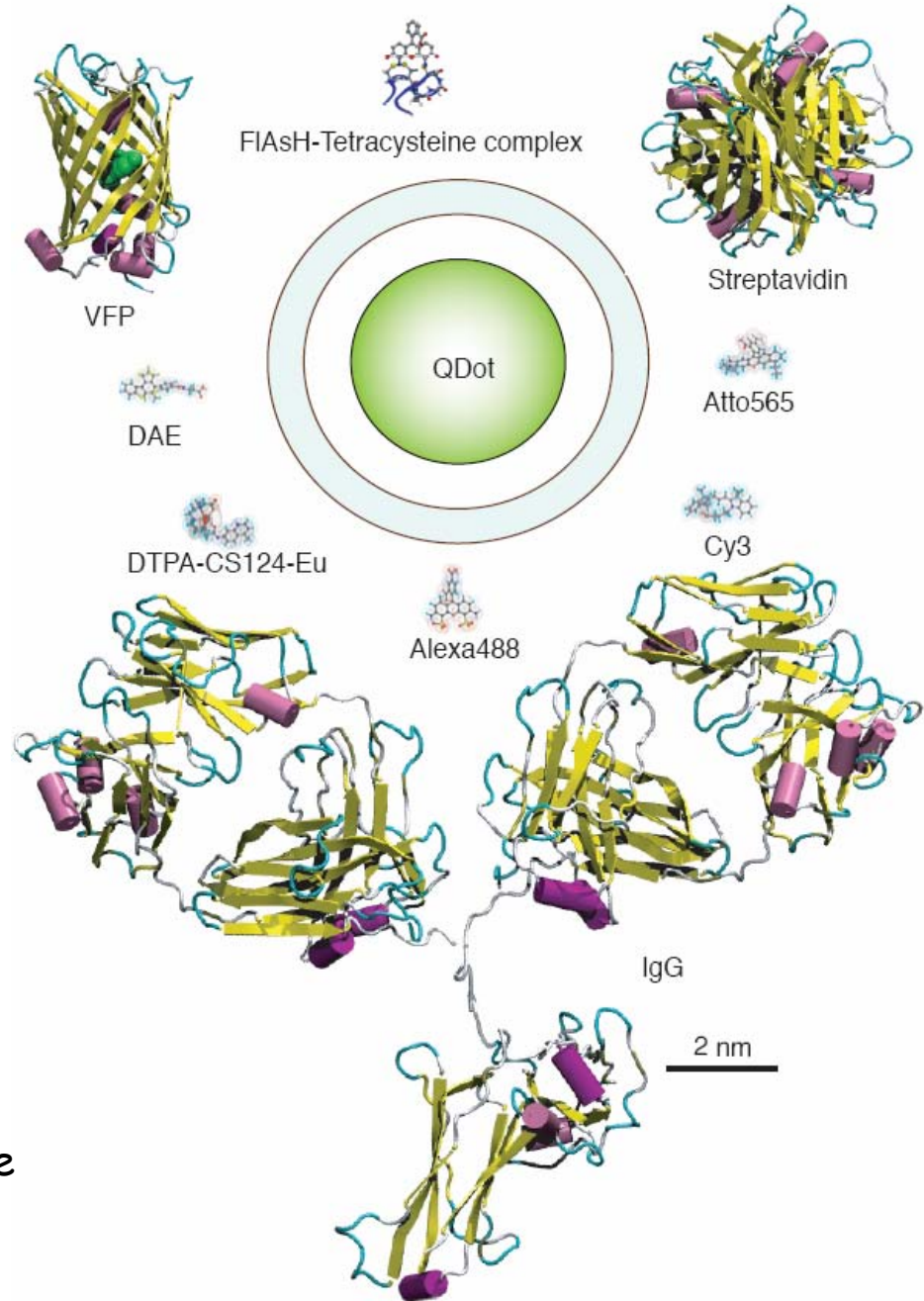
excimer

proton exchange

energy transfer

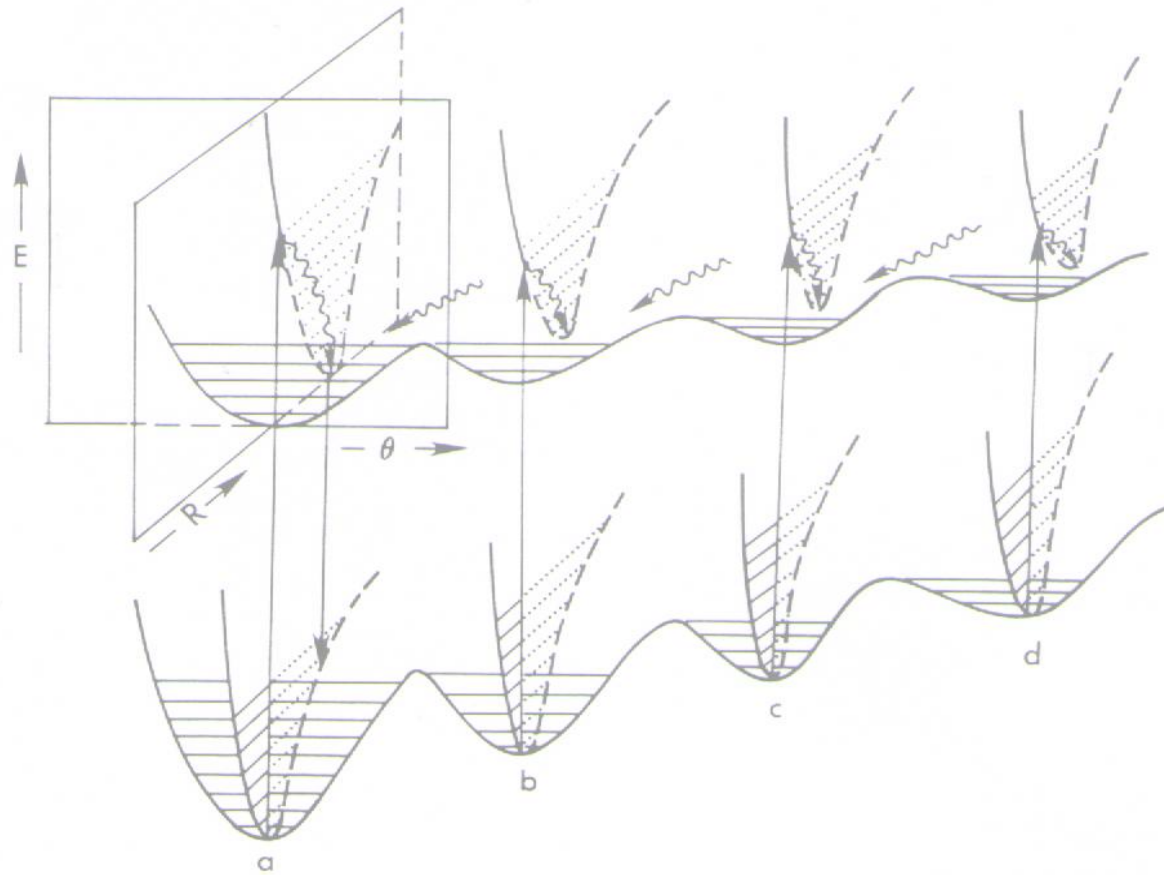
# Emission probes

## Relative size



E. Jares-Erijman, T. Jovin. Nature Struct. Biology. 2004

# Red Edge Excitation Shift (REES)



Ground and excited-state potential curves for different sites  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  and  $d$  differing in the orientation of surrounding molecules,  $\theta$ , but having the same intermolecular separation  $R$ . Site  $a$  represents the most stable conformation with the largest interaction energy while site  $d$  represents the least favorable situation.



# Red edge excitation shift (REES)

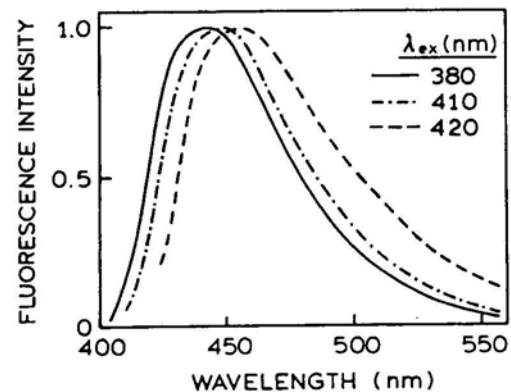
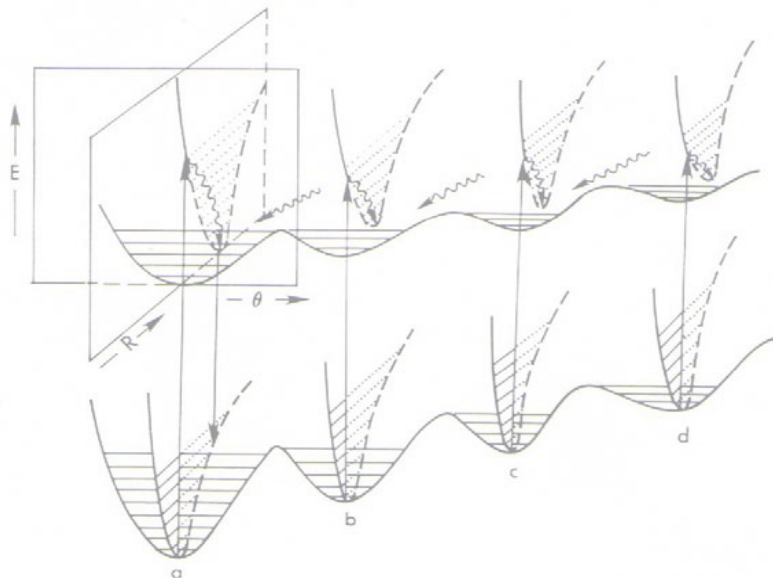
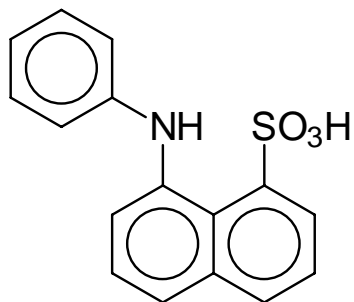


Figure 7.36. Fluorescence emission spectra of 1,8-ANS in 1-propanol at 77 K for various excitation wavelengths. The excitation and the emission bandpass are both 5 nm. Revised from Ref. 74.



ANS

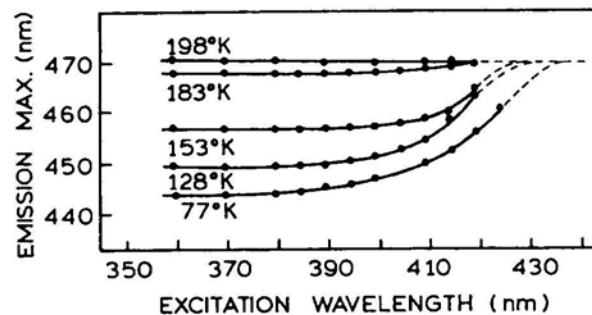
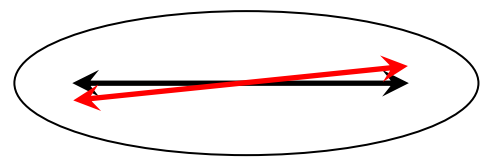
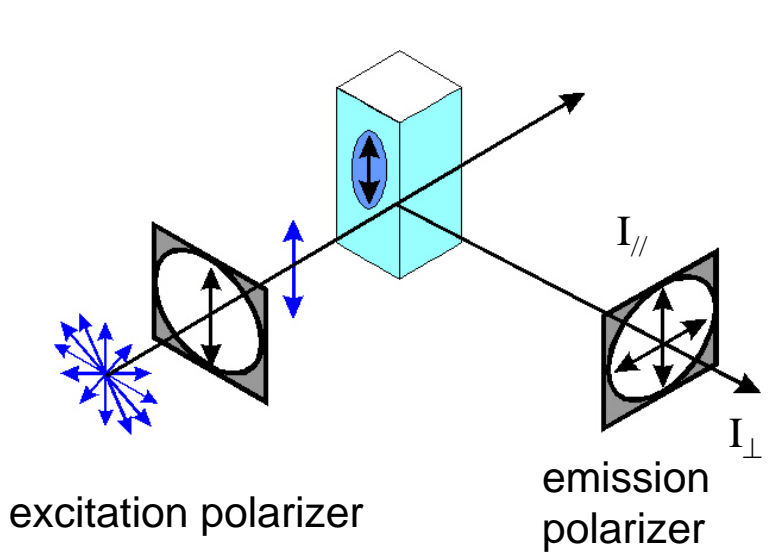


Figure 7.37. Temperature dependence of fluorescence excitation red shift for 1,8-ANS in 1-propanol. Revised from Ref. 74.

# Fluorescence anisotropy



Absorption moment

Emission moment

$$r(t) = \frac{I_{//}(t) - I_{\perp}(t)}{I_{//}(t) + 2I_{\perp}(t)}$$

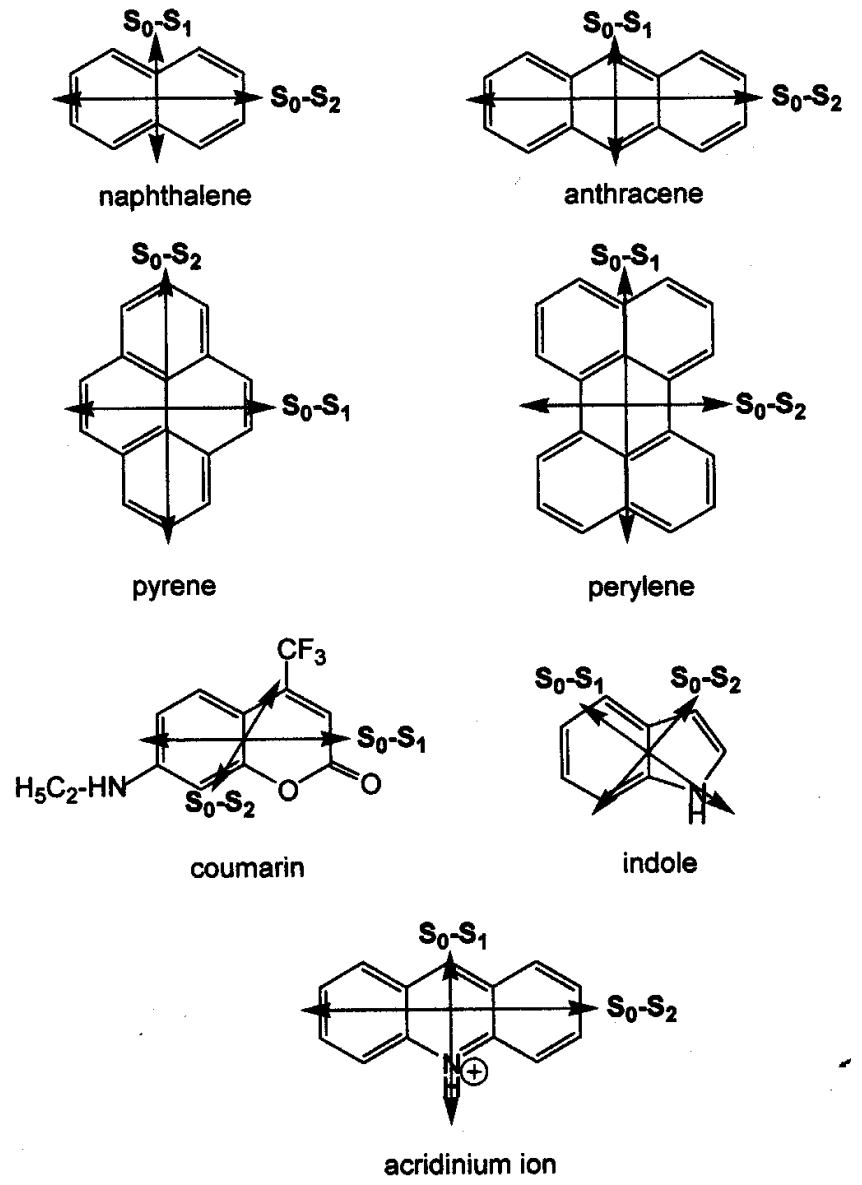
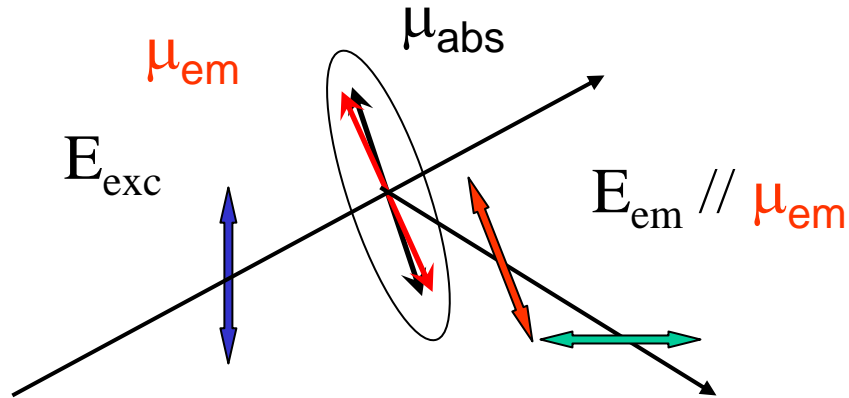


Fig. 2.3. Examples of molecules with their absorption transition moments.

# Fluorescence anisotropy



$$I_{abs} \propto E_{exc}^2 \mu_{abs}^2 \cos^2 \theta_{abs}$$

$$I_{em} \propto I_{abs} \phi_f \cos^2 \theta_{em}$$

If the molecule rotates during the excited state lifetime, the polarization of the emission changes.

Thus, emission anisotropy measures the molecular rotation during the excited state time window

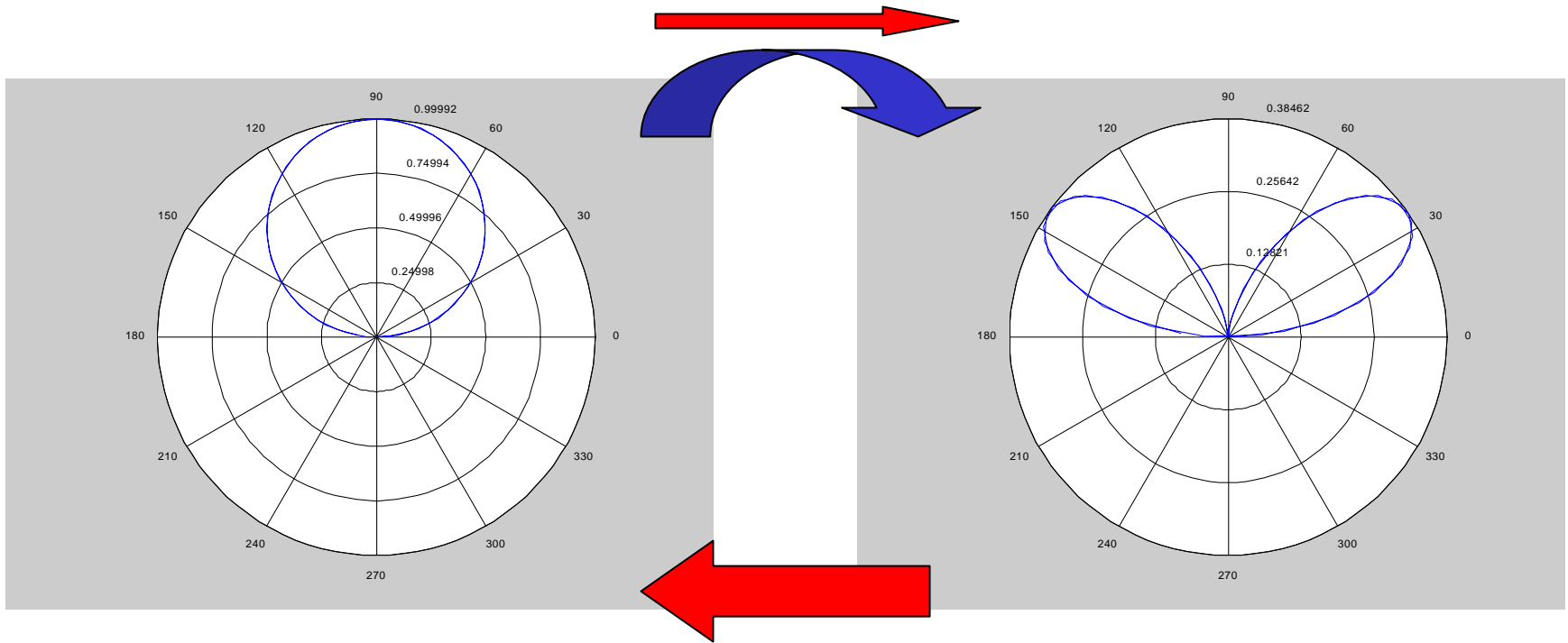
# Fluorescence anisotropy

Photoselection

**After:** preferential orientation in the polarization direction

**Before:** random orientation

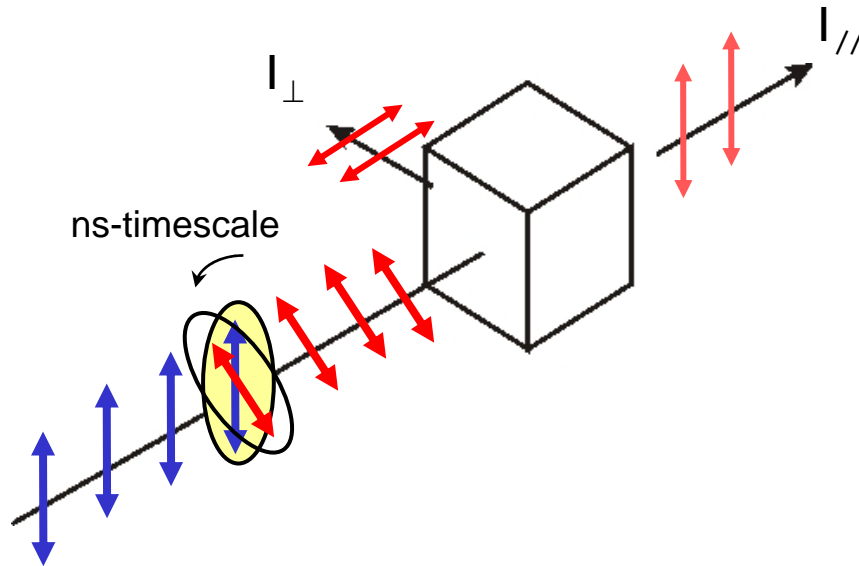
Polarization of the absorbed light



Rotational diffusion

# Fluorescence anisotropy

## Effect of rotational diffusion



$\phi_r$  : Rotational correlation time

## Fluorescence anisotropy

$$r = \frac{I_{//} - I_{\perp}}{I_{//} + 2I_{\perp}}$$

Depends on viscosity ( $\eta$ ), temperature, specific interactions with the environment ( $C$ ), shape and volume of fluorophore ( $V_h$ ).

$$\phi_r = \frac{C \cdot \eta \cdot V_h}{kT}$$

# Fluorescence: Energy transfer

Förster type:

- Electrical interaction between the donor (D) emission transition dipole and the acceptor (A) absorption transition dipole (Resonance effect).
- Distance and orientation dependent

$$k_{\text{ET}}(r) = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{D}}^0} \cdot \left( \frac{R_0}{R} \right)^6$$

$k_{\text{ET}}$ : energy transfer rate constant

$R_0$ : Förster distance

$\tau_{\text{D}}^0$  : Fluorescence lifetime of the energy donor

$$\Phi_{\text{ET}} = \frac{k_{\text{ET}}}{\frac{1}{\tau_{\text{D}}^0} + k_{\text{ET}}} = \frac{1}{1 + \left( \frac{R}{R_0} \right)^6}$$

# Spectral overlap integral

$$R_0^6 = \phi_D \cdot \kappa^2 \cdot \left( \frac{9000 \cdot \ln 10}{128 \pi^5 N_A n^4} \right) \cdot J(\lambda)$$

$J(\lambda)$ : spectral overlap  
 $F_D(\lambda)$ : Donor emission  
 $\epsilon_A(\lambda)$ : Acceptor absorption

$$J(\lambda) = \int_0^{\infty} F_D(\lambda) \cdot \epsilon_A(\lambda) \cdot \lambda^4 \cdot d\lambda$$

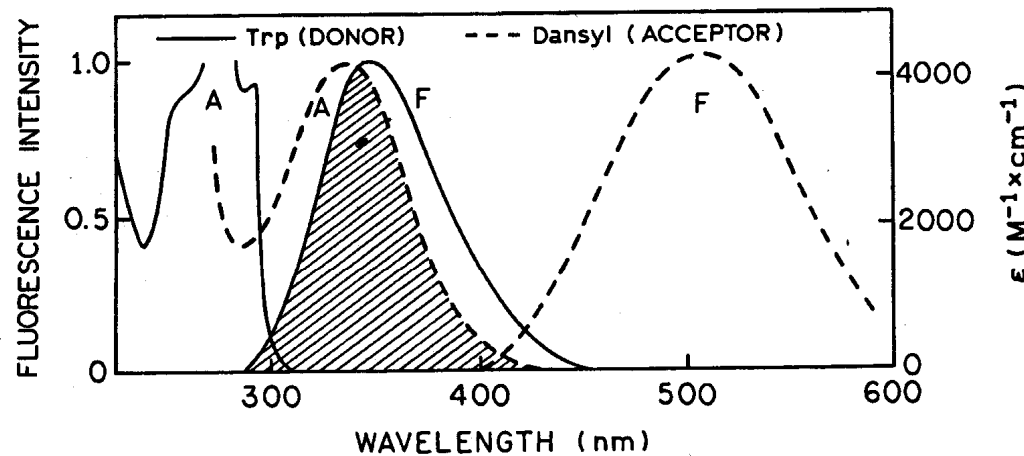
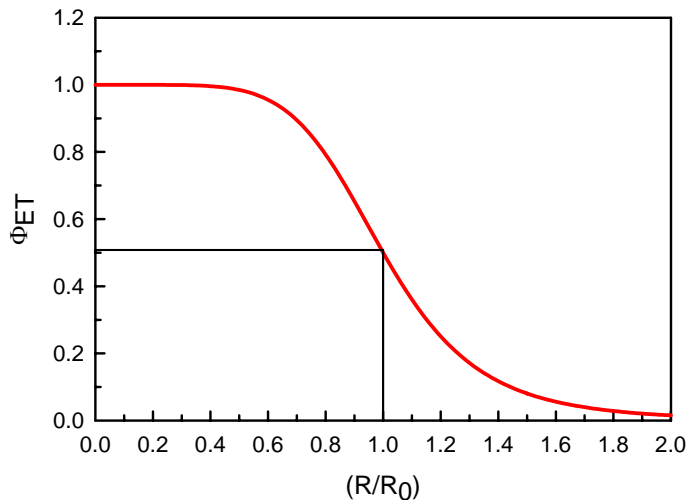


Figure 13.8. Overlap integral (shaded area) for energy transfer from a tryptophan donor to a dansyl acceptor on melittin.  $R_0 = 23.6 \text{ \AA}$ . Data from Ref. 24.

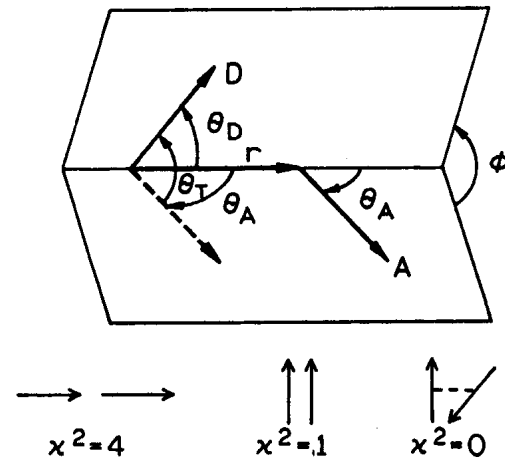
# Förster energy transfer

## Distance dependence



Useful range 1 - 10 nm

## Orientation dependence

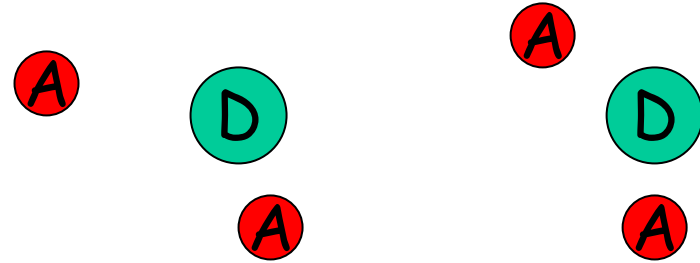
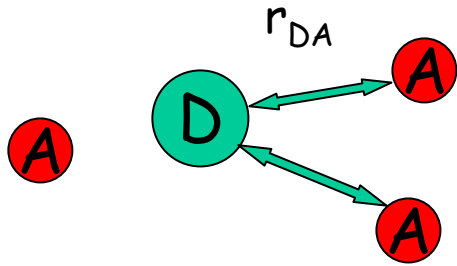


$$x^2 = (\cos \theta_T - 3 \cos \theta_D \cos \theta_A)^2$$

$$x^2 = (\sin \theta_D \sin \theta_A \cos \phi - 2 \cos \theta_D \cos \theta_A)^2$$



# Förster energy transfer Donor emission decay



The decay is heterogeneous and depends on the acceptor distribution

$$I_{\text{FD}}(t) = I_{\text{FD}}(0) \cdot \exp\left[-t / \tau_D^0 - 2\gamma \cdot (t / \tau_D^0)^{1/2}\right]$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \cdot [A] \cdot \frac{4}{3} \pi R_0^3$$

Random distribution

# Förster energy transfer

## Distance distribution

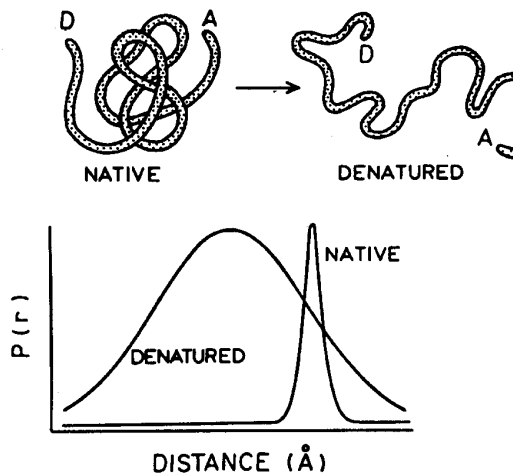


Figure 14.1. Distribution of donor-acceptor distances for a native and a denatured protein. The probability functions  $P(r)$  are peak normalized.

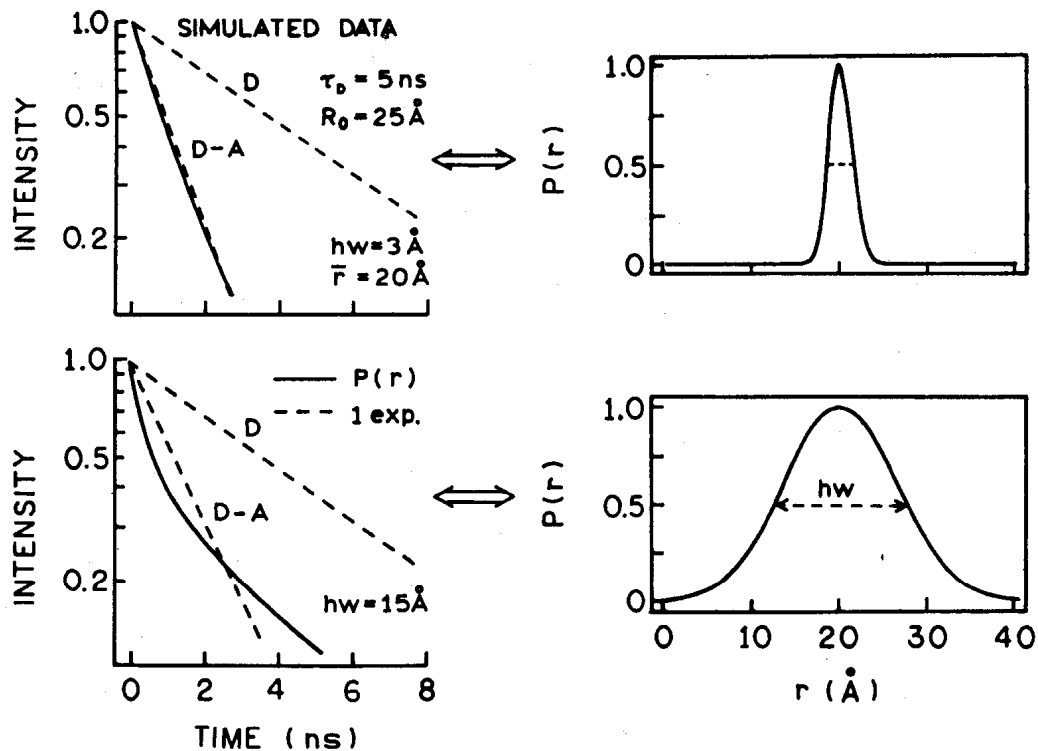
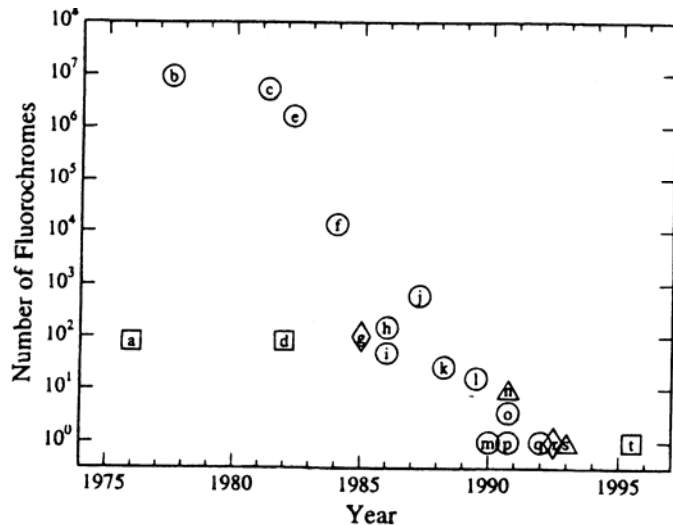


Figure 14.2. Simulated data illustrating the effect of D-A distance distributions of different half-widths ( $hw$ ) (right) on the TD intensity decay of the donor (left): —, Donor intensity decay in the presence of acceptor; ---, single-exponential fits to the donor intensity decay in the presence (D-A) and absence (D) of acceptor.

# Single molecule fluorescence

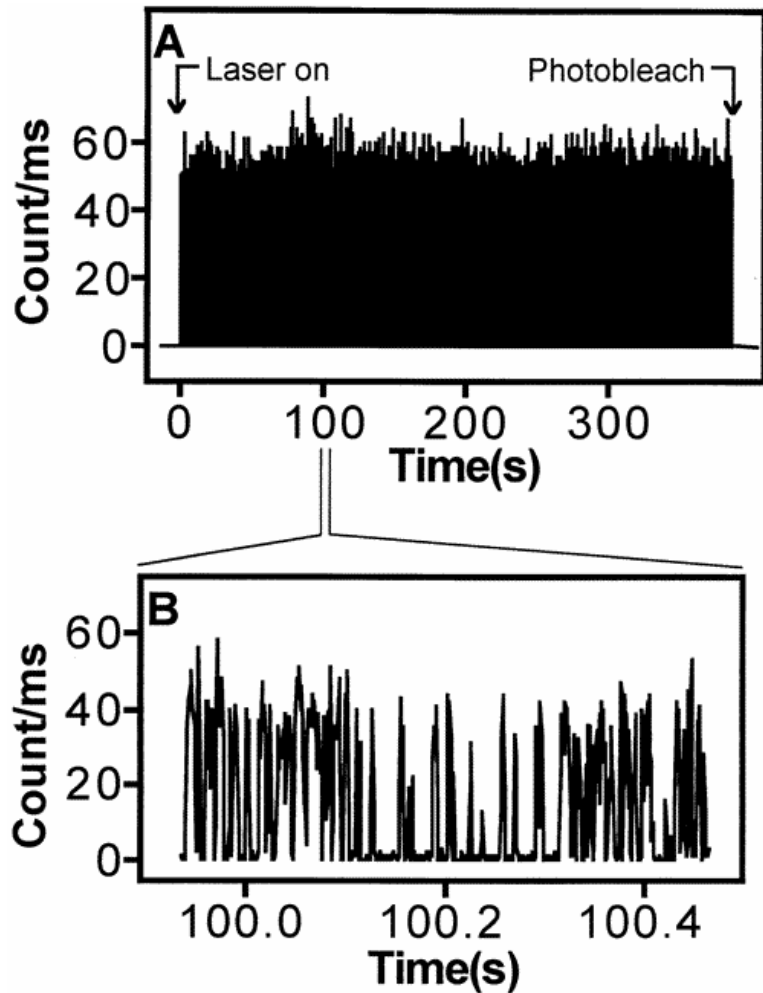


R. Keller et al. *Chem. Rev.* 99 (1999) 2929

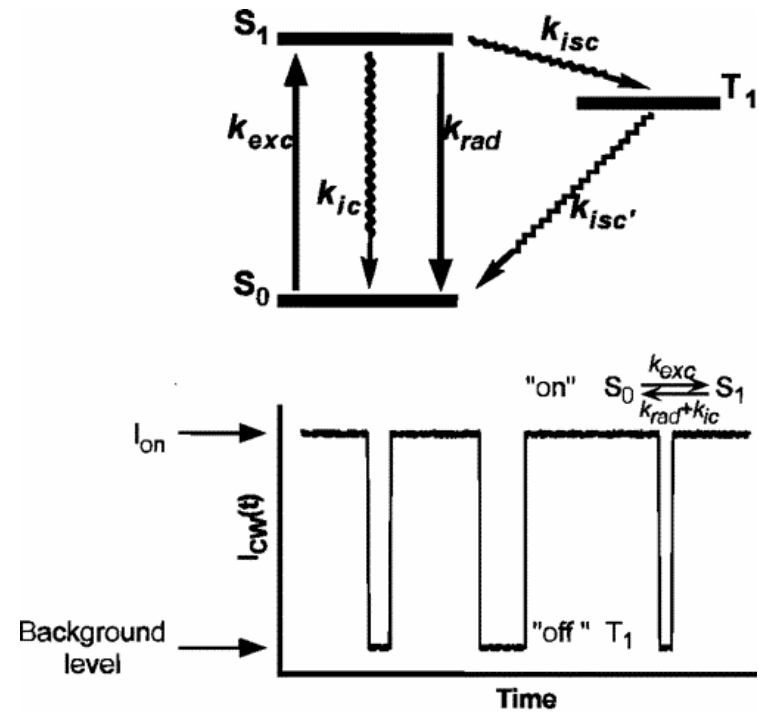
## Distinctive features

- Individual behavior
- Distribution of values instead of average in bulk measurements
- Spatial resolution (scanning microscopy)
- Single molecule photochemistry:
  - Blinking
  - One step photobleaching

# Single molecule fluorescence



## Blinking



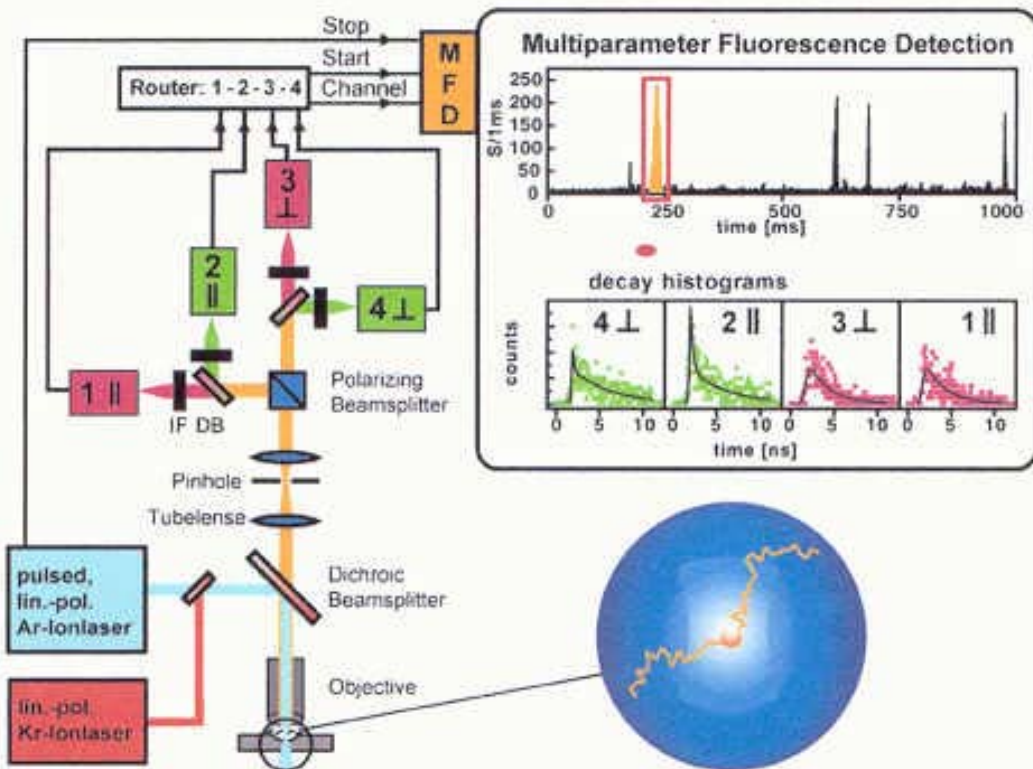
$$I_{on} = k_{exc} \frac{k_{rad}}{k_{rad} + k_{ic} + k_{isc}} E_{det}$$

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{on}} = k_{exc} \frac{k_{isc}}{k_{rad} + k_{ic} + k_{isc}}$$

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{off}} = k_{isc'}$$

# Single molecule fluorescence

## Single Molecule Multiparameter Fluorescence Spectroscopy



✓ Two time bases

✓ Two channels: donor and acceptor

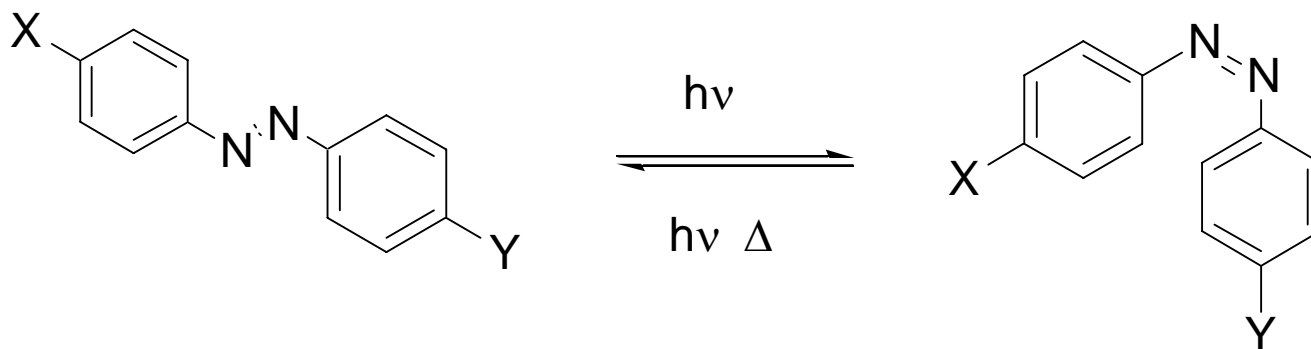
✓ Two polarization directions in each channel

✓ Simultaneous measure of  $I_{fD}$ ;  $I_{fA}$ ;  $\tau$ ;  $r$

# Mobility probes

Photoisomerization

a)  $E \leftrightarrow Z$



E/Z ratio at the photostationary state

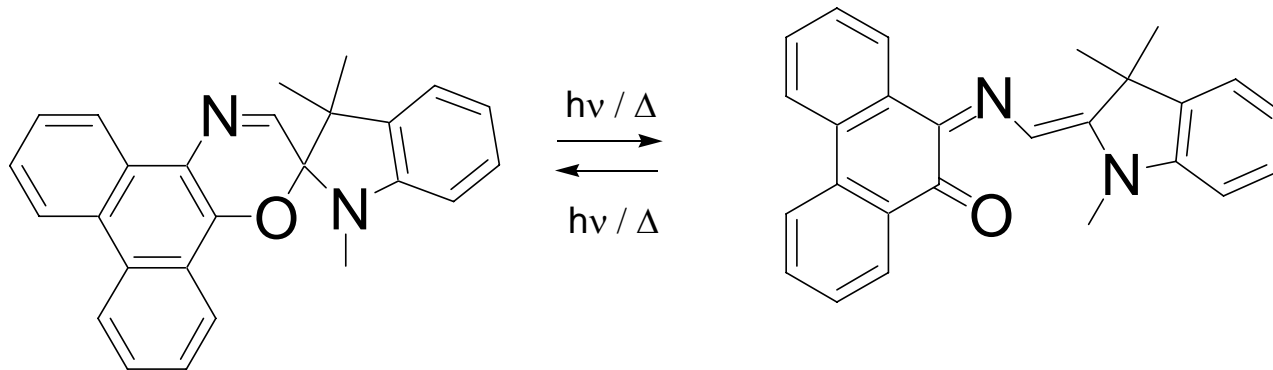
Structure	Compound	Group	$\tau$ (s)	Bands
X = Y = H	Azobenzene	Azobenzene	$> 10^3$	$(n-\pi^*) < (\pi-\pi^*)$
X = N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Y = H	4-(Dimethylamino)- azobenzene	Aminoazobenzene	$\sim 10$	$(n-\pi^*) \sim (\pi-\pi^*)$
X = N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Y = NO <sub>2</sub>	4-(Dimethylamino)-4'- nitroazobenzene	Pseudostilbene <i>"push-pull"</i>	$\sim 10^{-3}$	$(n-\pi^*) > (\pi-\pi^*)$

# Mobility probes

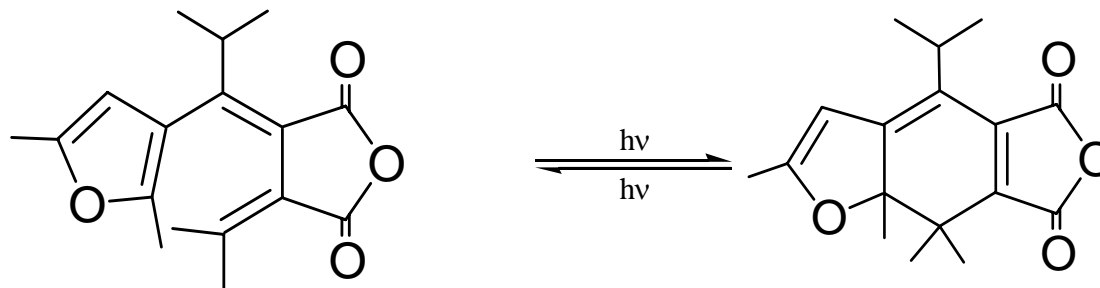
Photoisomerization

b) Cyclization  $\leftrightarrow$  ring opening

Spirooxazines

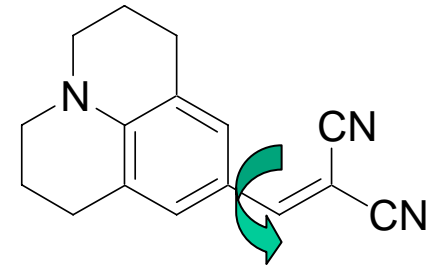


Furylfulgides



# Mobility probes

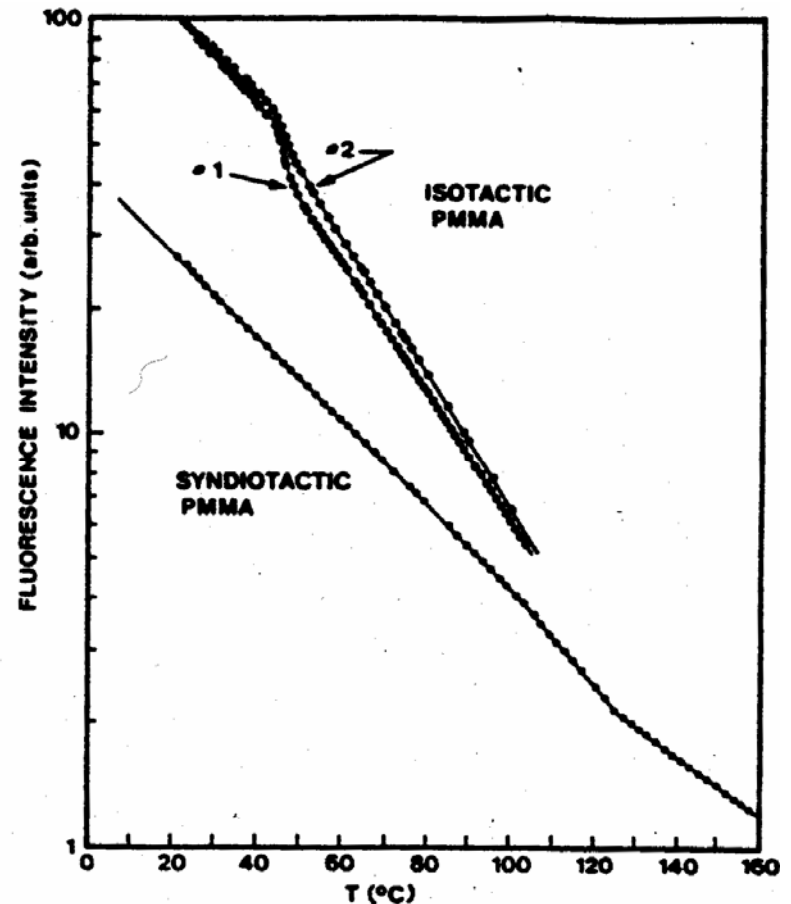
## Internal rotations



JMN

Internal rotation competes with emission

Temperature dependent (viscosity) or free volume dependent emission intensity



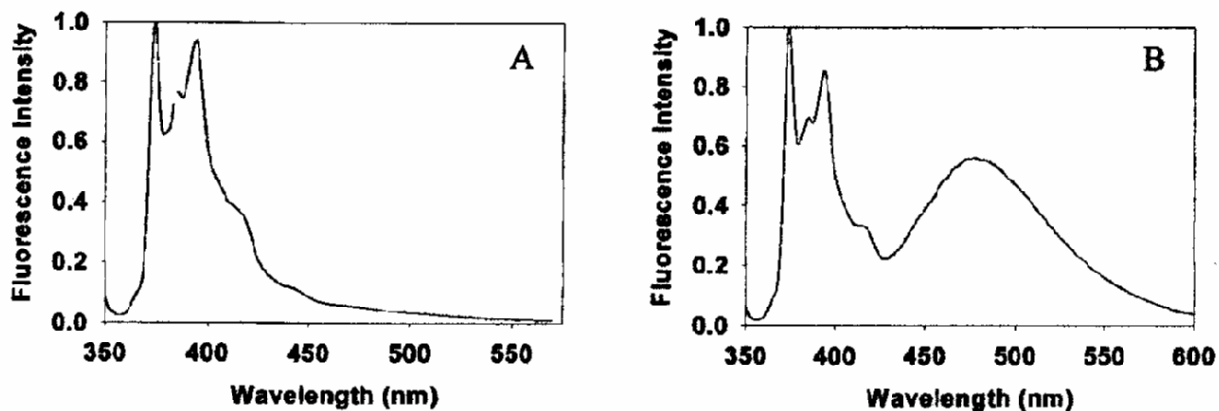
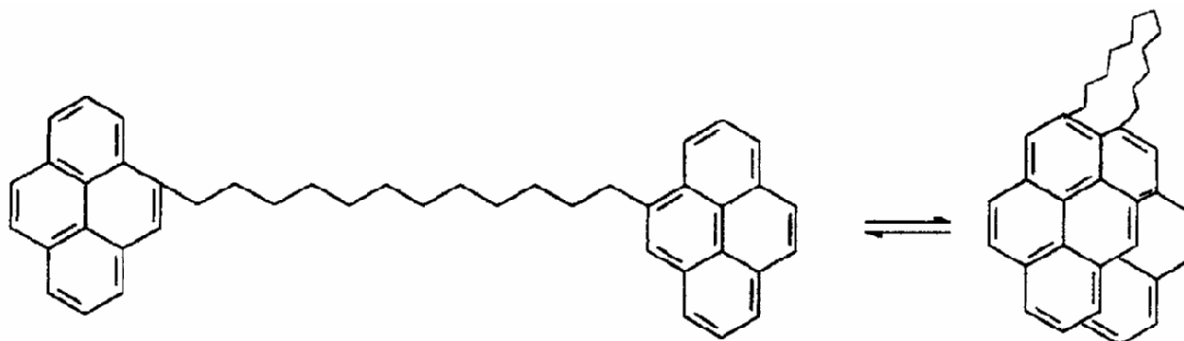
R. O. Loutfy. Photophysical and photochemical tools in polymer science. 1986. Reidel Publ. Co.



# Mobility probes

Emission decay dynamics and spectroscopy

Excimer formation



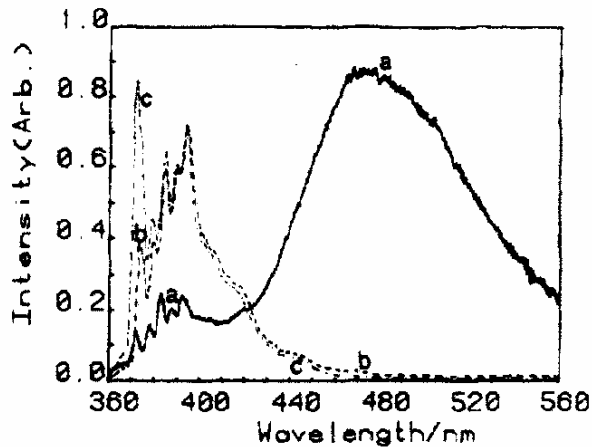
**Figure 5.** Open and closed forms of 1,12(bispyrenyl)dodecane and the corresponding emission profiles of (A) the extended form (monomer emission) and (B) the compact form (excimer emission) (adapted from ref 14).

# Mobility probes

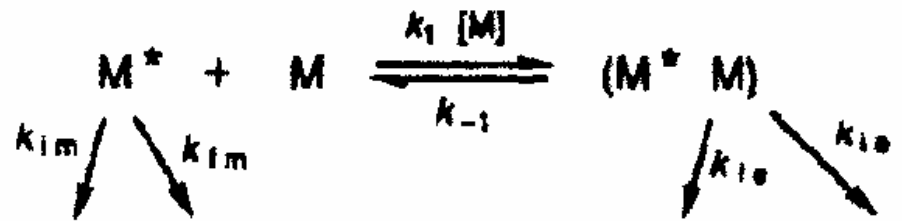
Free volume evidences in polymers and in gels

## Excimer formation of pyrene in PDMS.

D.Y.Chu & J.K.Thomas. *Macromolecules* 230 (1990) 2217



**Figure 1.** Emission spectra of 0.01 M pyrene fluorescence (a) in poly(dimethylsiloxane) (PDMS; 50 cP) (—), (b) in polystyrene (---), and (c) in epoxy film (-.-).



Excimer formation is twice faster in PDMS of  $10^4$  to  $10^6$  cP than in squalane (HC) of 35 cP

# Mobility probes

Free volume evidences in polymers and in gels

Emission anisotropy

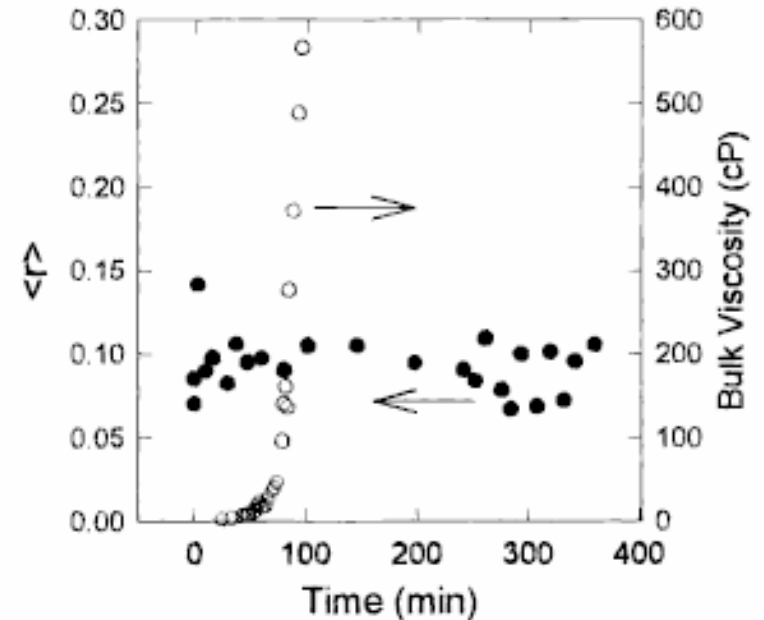
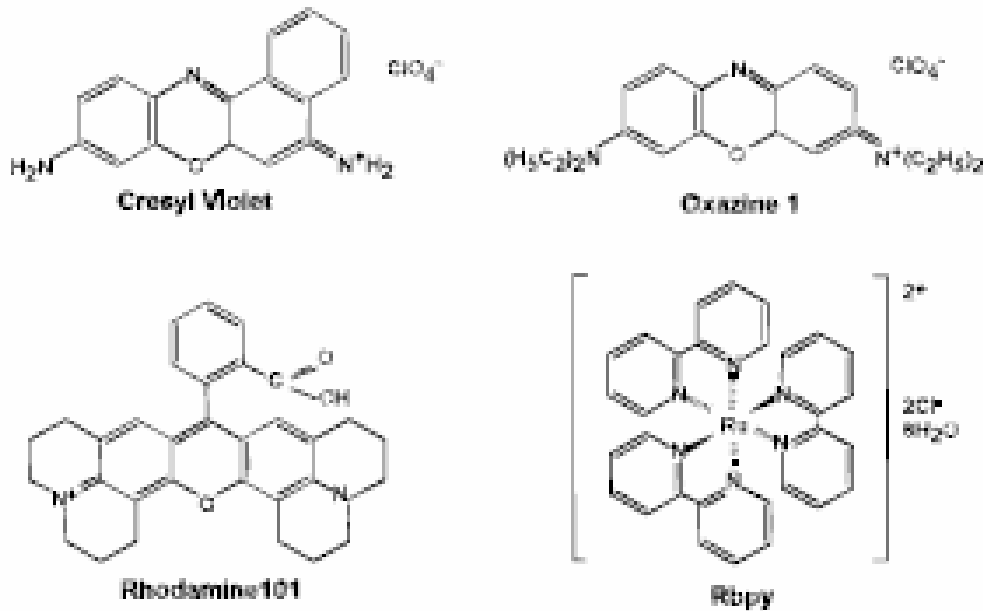


Figure 9. Steady-state anisotropy,  $\langle r \rangle$ , of Ox1 in gel A (●) and the gel bulk viscosity (○) as a function of time at 65 °C.

# Mobility probes

Gels tested by PRODAN decay lifetime and anisotropy.

## Aging of gels and polymers

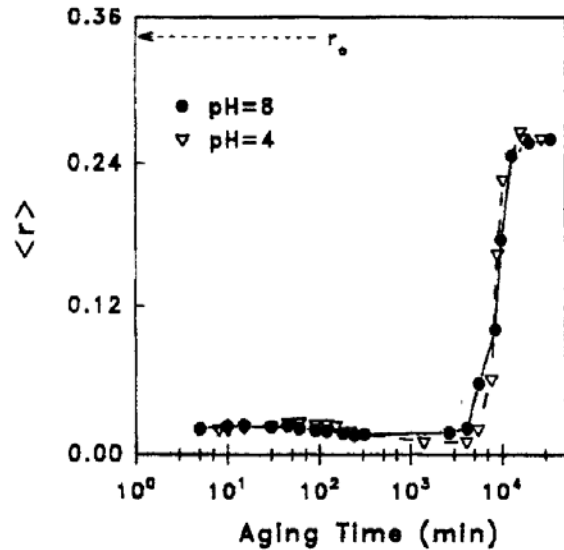


Figure 2. Steady-state anisotropy of PRODAN-doped TMOS sol-gels processed at pH 8 (●) and pH 4 (▽) as a function of aging time.

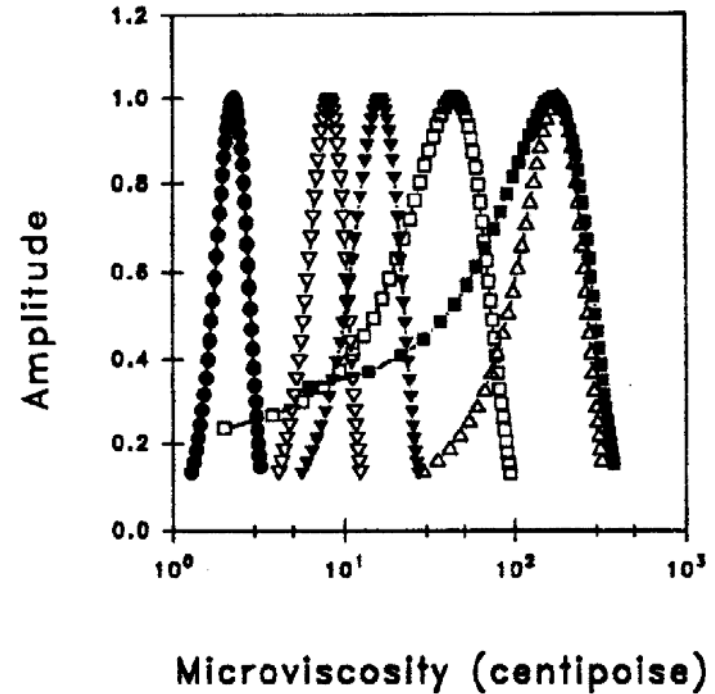


Figure 7. Recovered microviscosity distribution for a PRODAN-doped TMOS sol-gel (pH 8) after aging for 4 (●), 95 (▽), 141 (▼), 165 (□), 245 (■), and 573 h (△).

**Table 2. Fluorescent Probes Utilized in the Study of Sol-Gel-Derived Nanocomposites**

probe	uses	refs
7-azaindole (7AI)	polarity, homogeneity, and surface silanol content	23a, 23b, 33, 55
1-bromo-4-(bromoacetyl)naphthalene dansyl	surfactant mobility	74
2,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI)	polarity, viscosity	48, 51
1,1',3,3',3',3'-hexamethylindotricarbocyanine iodide (HITC)	protein accessibility	86
oxazine-1 fluorescein	accessibility of cells	75
fluorescein-dextran ketocyanine dye	solvent rigidity	61
prodan	polarity, viscosity	62
pyranine	pH, polarity, leaching	79
pyrene	protein accessibility	87
pyrene-labeled liposomes	pH, mobility	59
1,12-bis(1-pyrenyl) dodecane	polarity	35
pyrene-coumarin 153	polarity, homogeneity	22, 33, 55
2-p-toluidinyl naphthalene-6-sulfonate (2,6-TNS)	microviscosity	22, 49, 74
Ru(bpy) <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> -methyl viologen	pH, alcohol/water ratio	23b, 41, 72, 73
rhodamine 6G	mobility	73
ruthenium complexes	polarity	32, 34, 47, 53, 63
ClRe(CO) <sub>3</sub> -2-2'-bipyridine	surfactant concentration	63, 71, 73, 74
Eu(III)	accessibility	47, 53
	molecular imprinting	77
	entrapped liposome behavior	78
	mobility	50
	mobility in hydrophobic regions of glass	60, 69, 70
	mobility in thin films	71
	mobility in polar regions of glass	69, 70
	mobility of entrapped solvent	
	accessibility to O <sub>2</sub>	32, 53
	development of matrix	44
	solvent motions	76
	molecular templating	25
		76

## Review on fluorescent probes for nanocomposite materials.

Two classes of materials are analyzed:

Class I: Sol-gels with dispersed organic additives.

Class II. Sol-gels with attached organic functionalities.

Keeling-Tucker & Brennan.  
Chem. Mater. 13 (2001) 3331

## Examples to work out next time:

- ✓ HBD probes in PVA
  - ✓ Eu(III) complexes in silica gels
  - ✓ Spiropyrans and fulgides in LC
  - ✓ Coumarins & rhodamines in crosslinked polystyrene
  - ✓ Spiropyrans and spirooxazines in poly(alkylacrylates)
  - ✓ Rhodamine in PVA
- SS & TR Fluorescence
  - Electronic energy transfer
  - Photoisomer absorption
  - Fluorescence anisotropy
  - Photoisomer absorption
  - Single molecule blinking

## Processes

- ✓ Gelation & gel ageing
- ✓ Spatial and time heterogeneity in polymer films
- ✓ Free volume in polymers
- ✓ Photoinduced CD in liquid crystals