

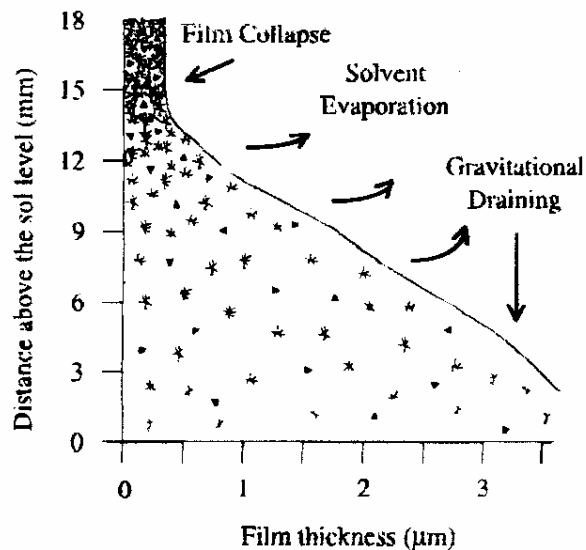
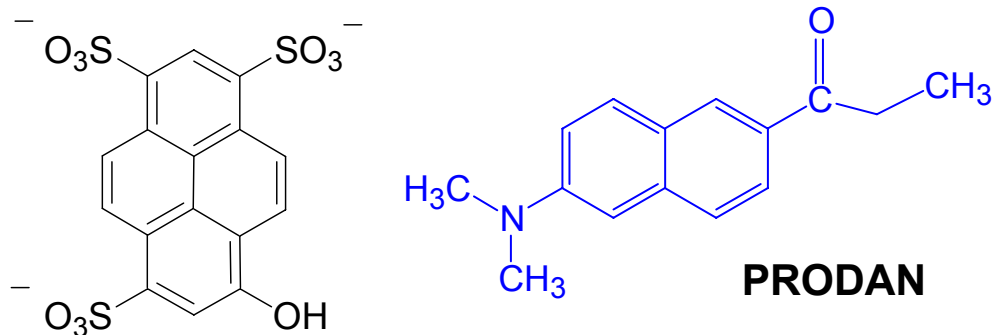
# Structure and dynamics in weakly ordered systems studied by emission and mobility probes

## Examples

Pedro F. Aramendía.  
Universidad de Buenos Aires

# In-situ monitoring of the gelation of dip-coated films

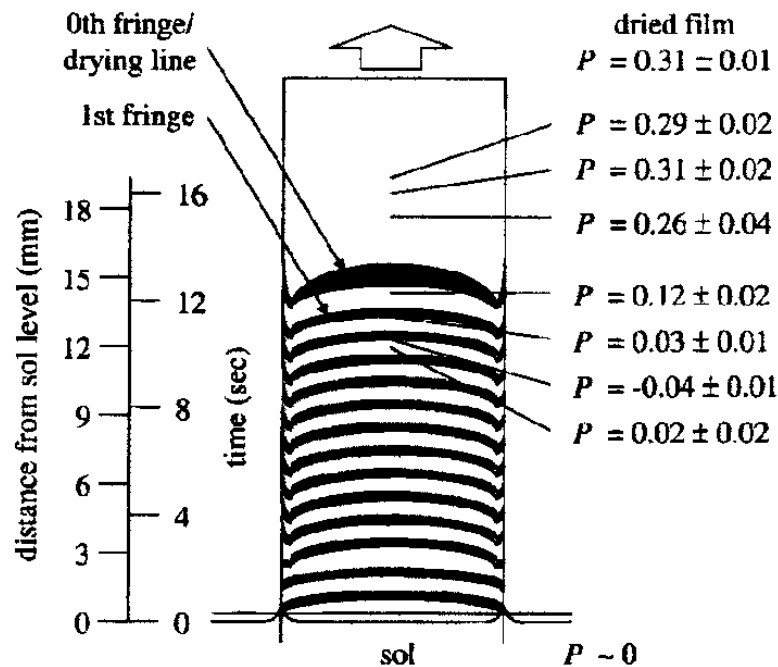
Probes: Pyranine and Prodan  
Emission polarization



PYRANINE

$$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{P} - \frac{1}{3} \right)$$

- Probes rotate freely until the film is ca. 500nm thick
- Aging of the sol also restricts the mobility



# Aging of TMOS gels

Gels tested by Prodan decay lifetime and anisotropy.

$$r = \frac{r_0}{1 + \frac{\tau_f}{\phi_r}} \quad \phi_r = \frac{\eta V_h}{kT}$$

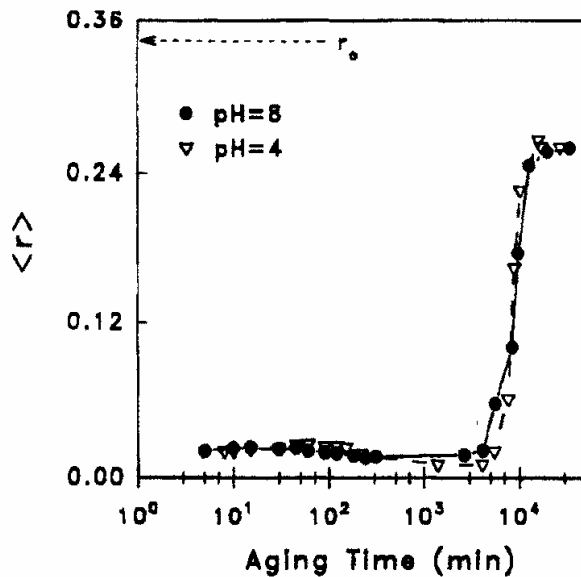


Figure 2. Steady-state anisotropy of PRODAN-doped TMOS sol-gels processed at pH 8 (●) and pH 4 (▼) as a function of aging time.

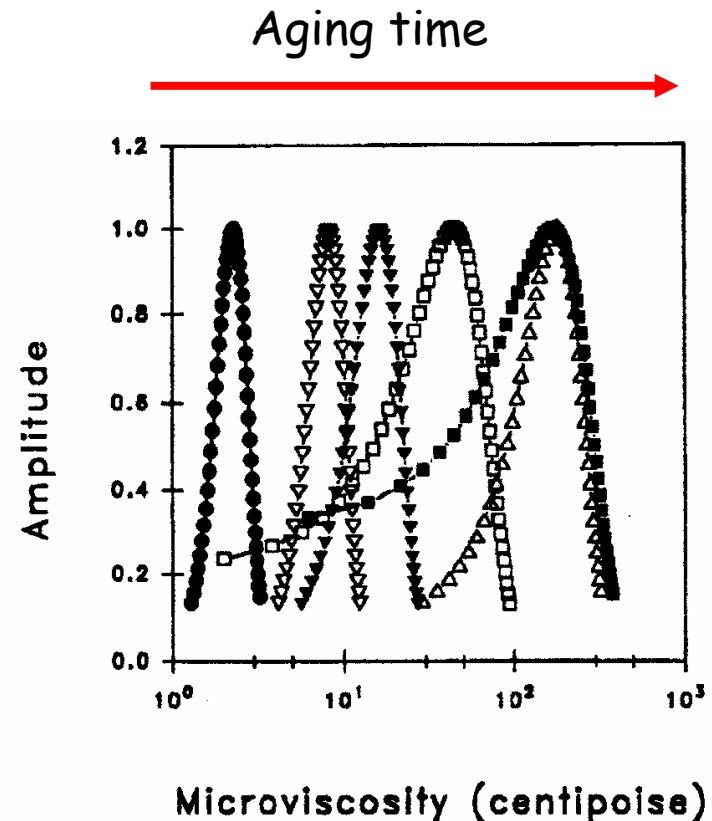
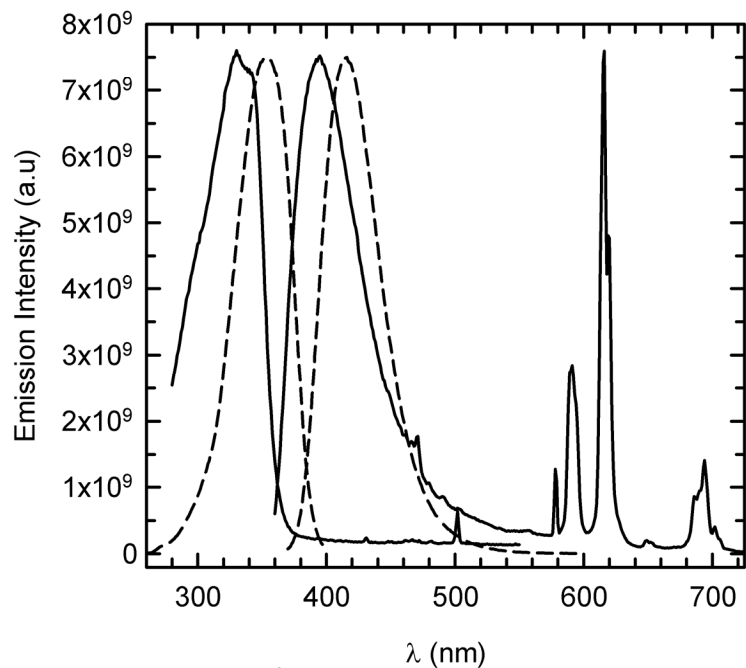
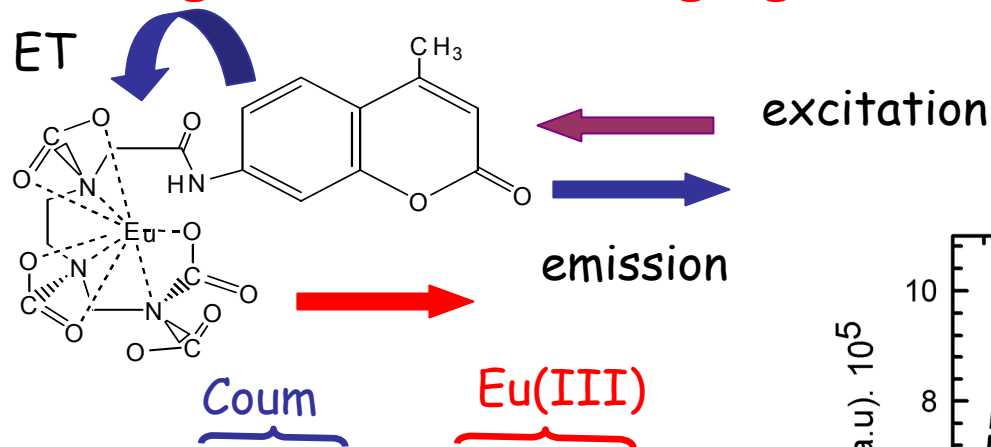


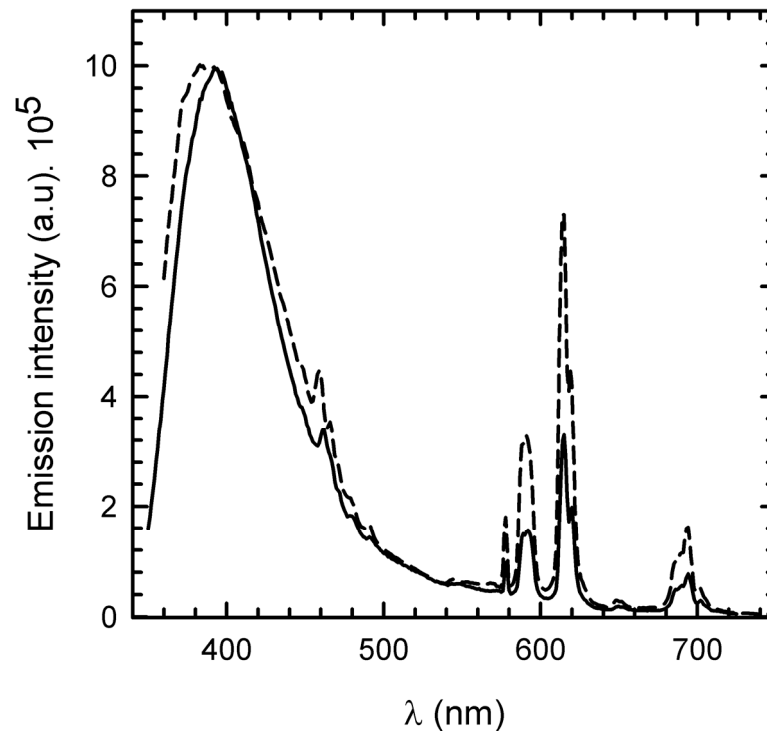
Figure 7. Recovered microviscosity distribution for a PRODAN-doped TMOS sol-gel (pH 8) after aging for 4 (●), 95 (▼), 141 (▼), 165 (□), 245 (■), and 573 h (△).

# Energy transfer in Eu(III)-antenna complex in silica gels: Effect of aging



Aqueous solution

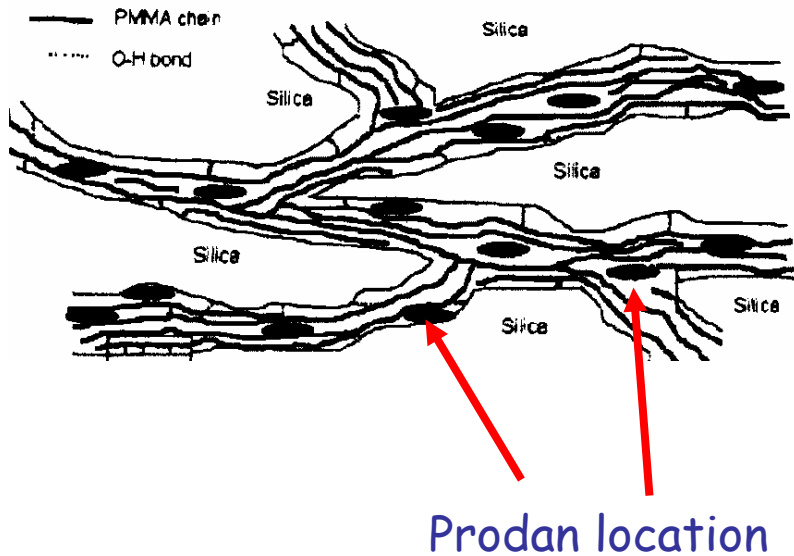
Eu(dtpa)Coum



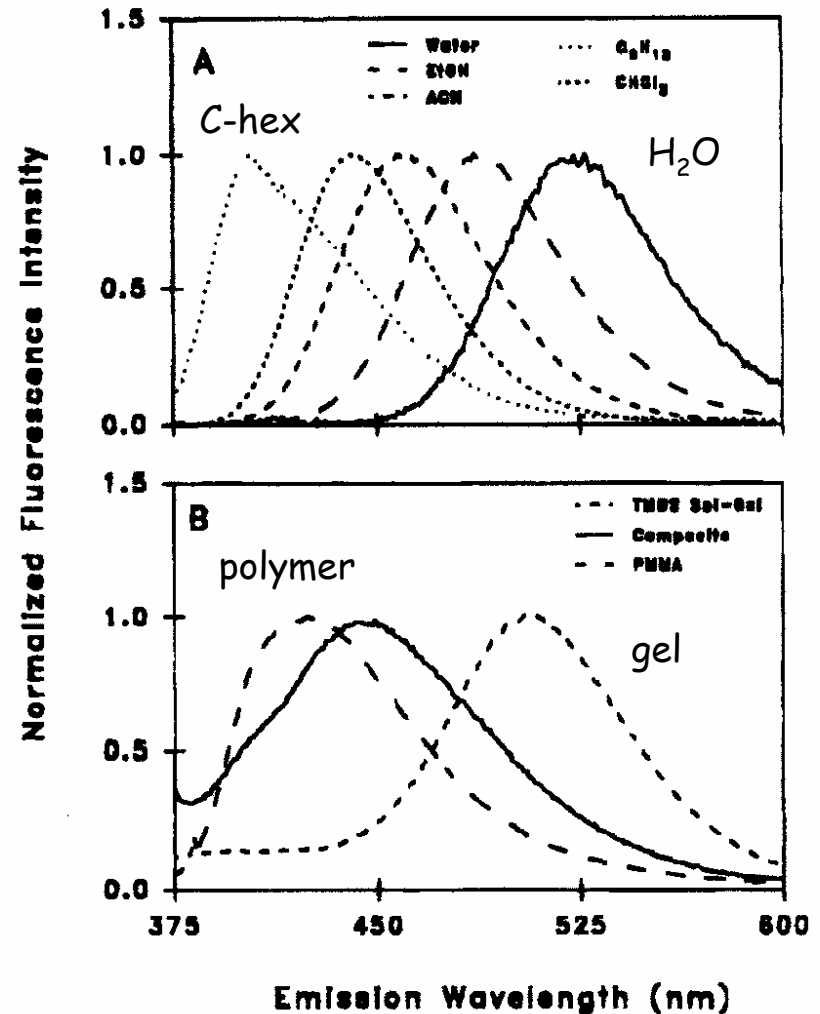
Silica gel 6 months difference

# Polymer-gel composite material

- PMMA-silica-gel
- Prodan as probe
- Steady state and time-resolved spectroscopy



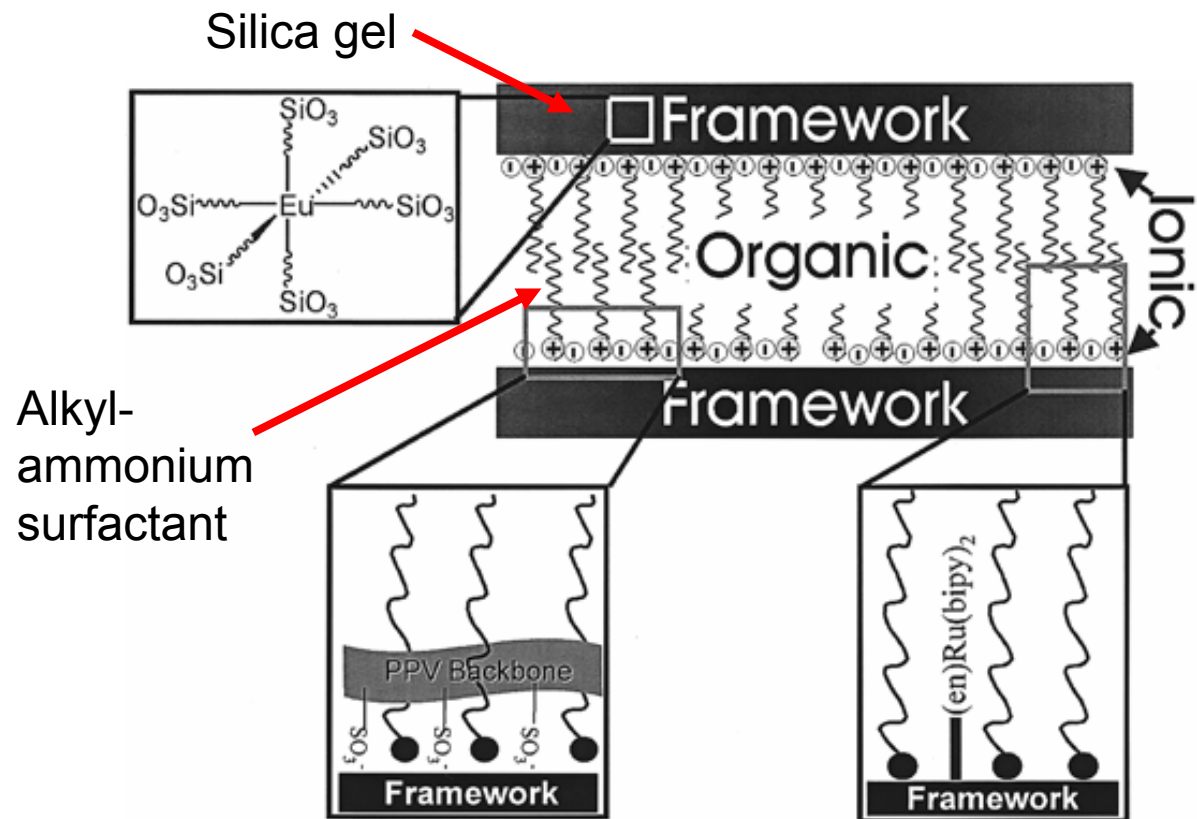
Prodan locates in PMMA and is influenced by the -OH bonds of the gel



Emission spectra in different solvents and in the composite

# Controlled placement of luminescent probes in mesostructured sol-gel thin films

Probing different environments with multiple probes

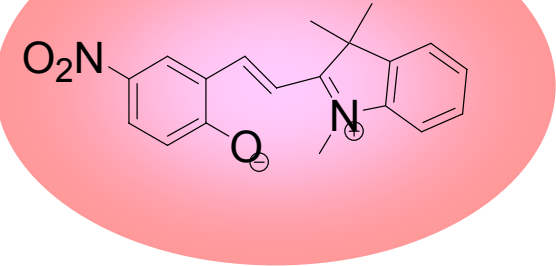
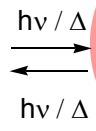
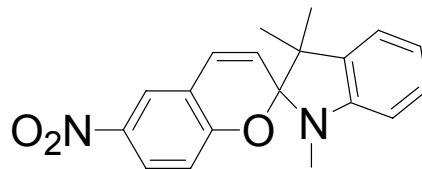


Probes:

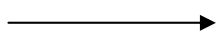
- Eu(III) in the silica gel
- Anionic polymer in the ionic layer (Poly-2,5-methoxy,propyloxysulfonate phenylene vinylene)
- Ru(II)(bipy)<sub>2</sub>(en) attached to the framework surface

Steady state,  
time resolved emission  
emission anisotropy

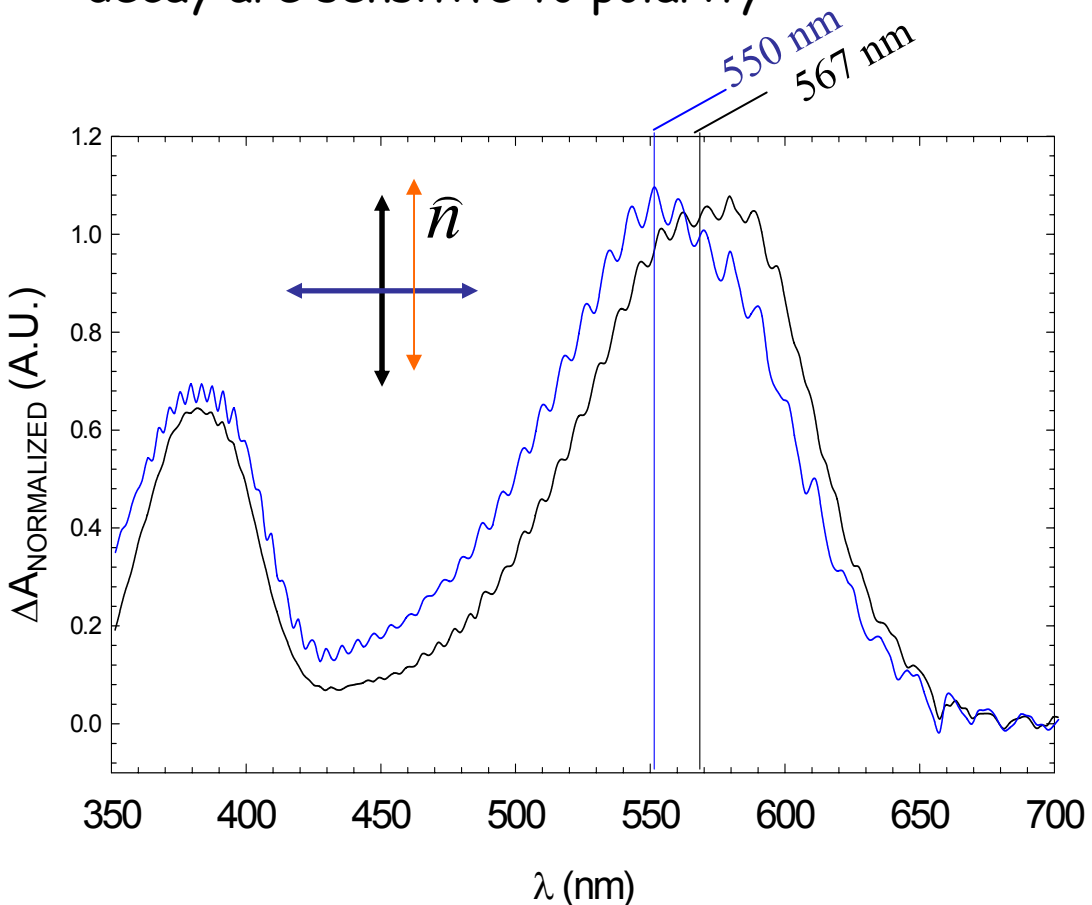
# SPIROPYRAN in NEMATIC LC



- The absorption of the merocyanine form and its decay are sensitive to polarity



Difference between perpendicular and parallel absorption



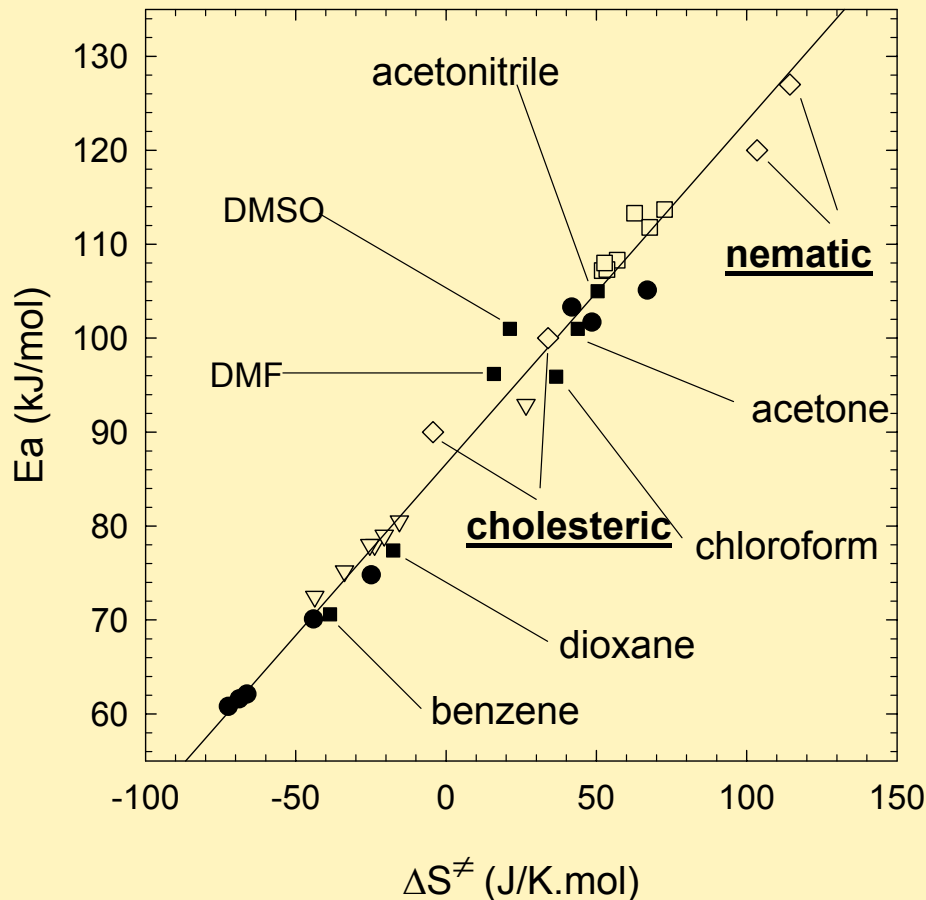
Environment similar to acetonitrile (553 nm,  $\perp$ ) or acetone (565 nm,  $\parallel$ )

Biexponential decay ( $\parallel$   $\gamma$   $\perp$ )  
High  $E_a$  y  $\Delta S^\ddagger$ .

$k^{30^\circ}$ ( $s^{-1}$ )	$6,7 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$2,4 \cdot 10^{-3}$
$E_a$ (kJ/mol)	130	126
$\Delta S^\ddagger$ (J/K.mol)	134	113

Bossi, Aramendía, unpublished results

# SPIROPYRAN in NEMATIC LC

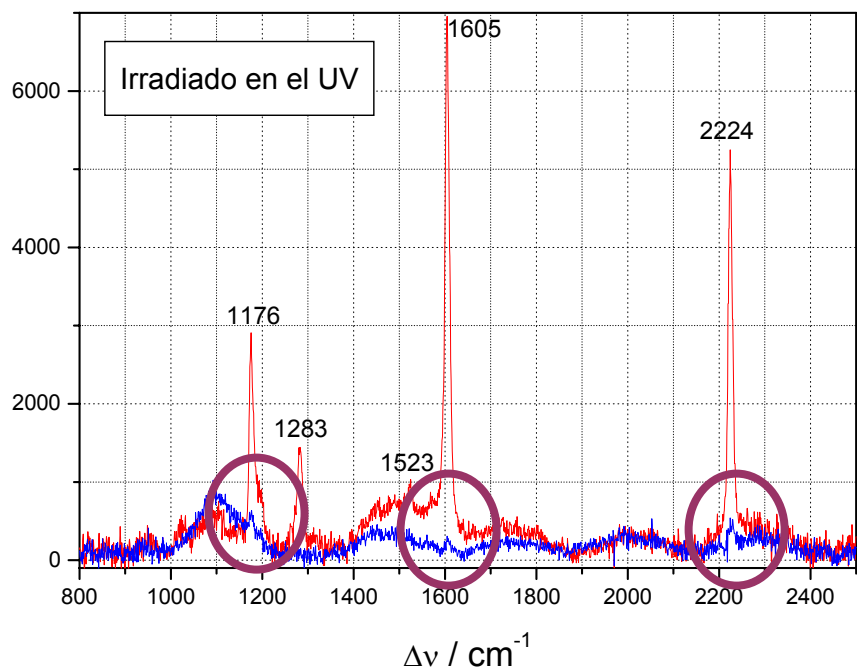
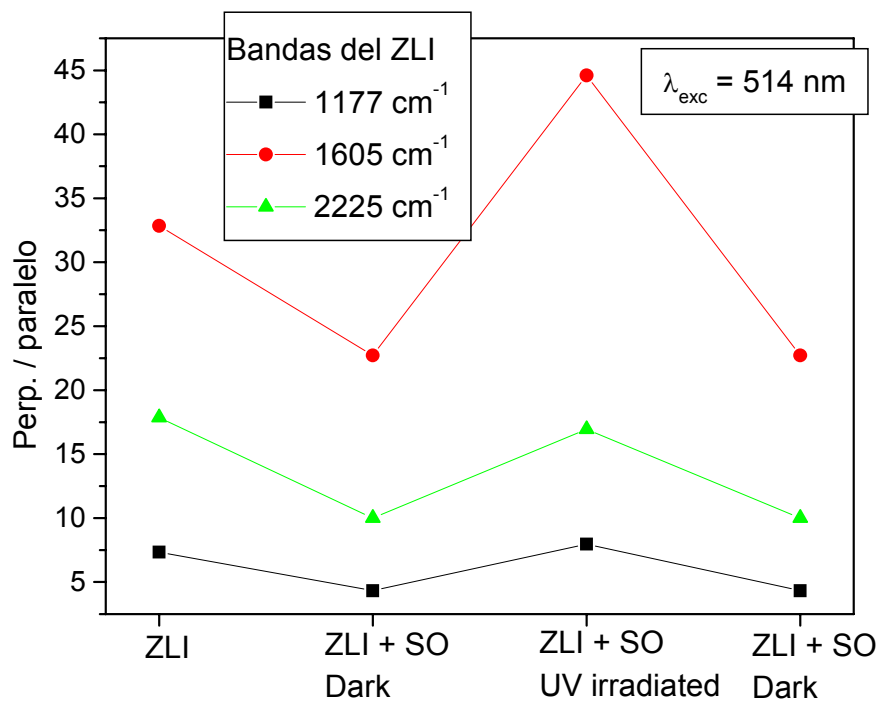
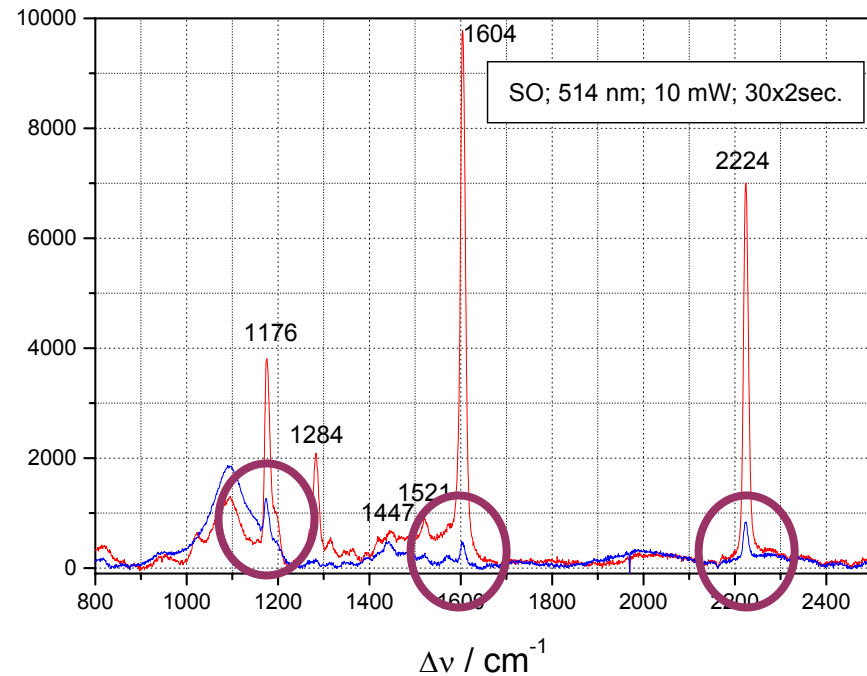
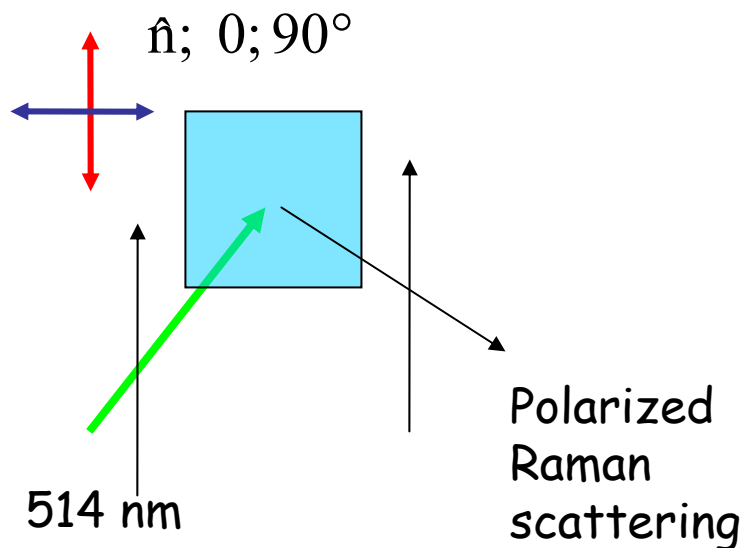


$E_a$  y  $\Delta S^\ddagger$  of MC decay are linearly related in fluids.

The slope: 365 K is quite apart from the average temperature: 310 K



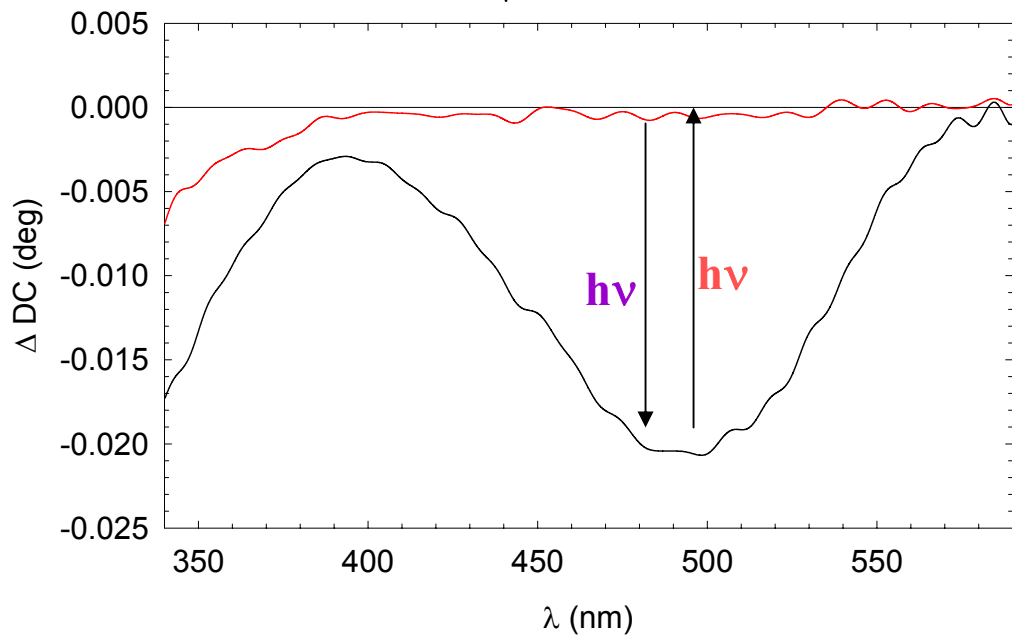
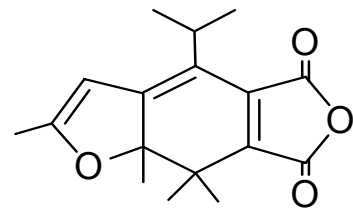
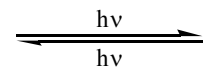
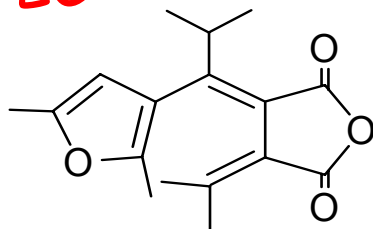
# Spirooxazine in nematic LC



Bossi, Murgida, Aramendía, unpublished results

# Fulgides in twisted nematic LC

Circular  
Dichroism



Cholesteric  
Phase  
Reversible  
Signal

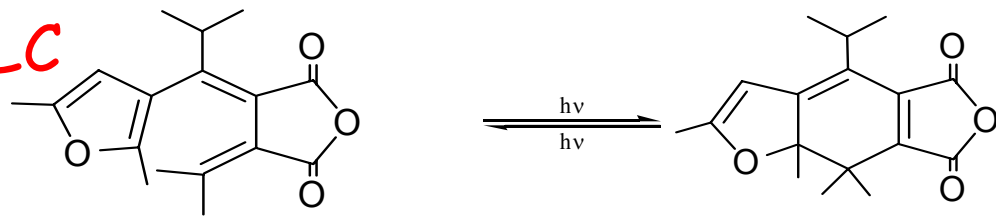
Chiral order of  
the mesophase



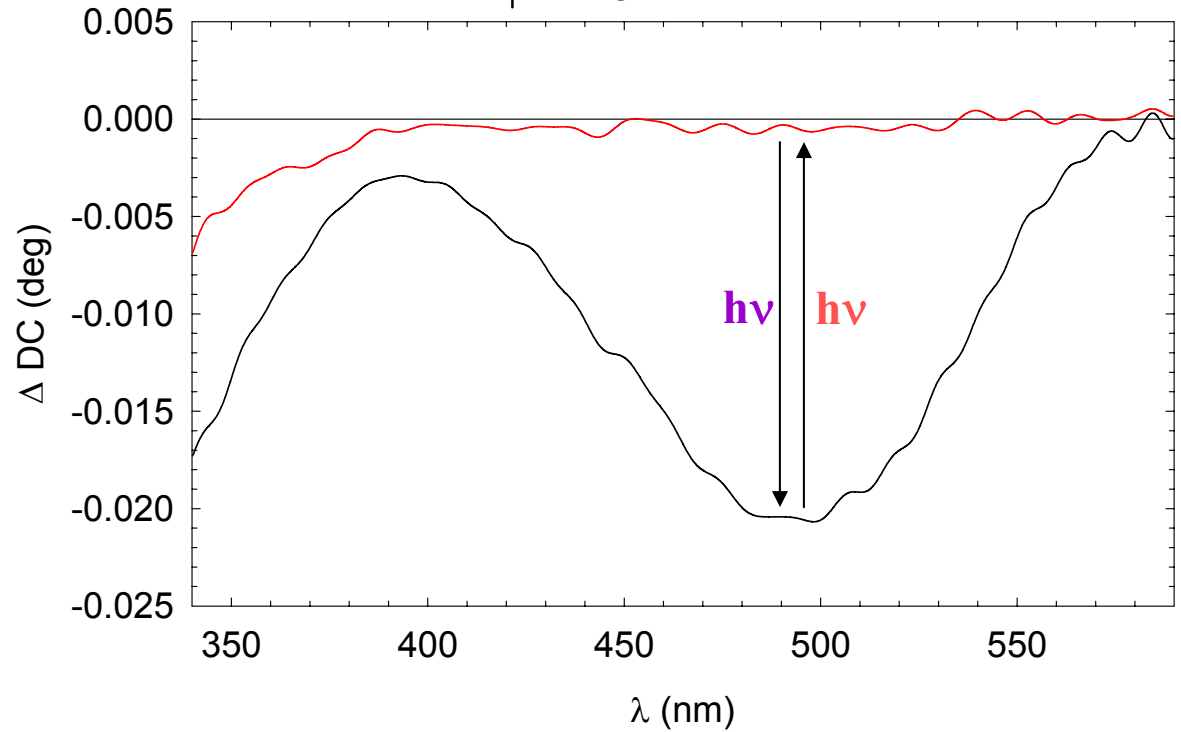
Solution

NO SIGNAL

# Fulgides in twisted nematic LC



Circular  
Dichroism



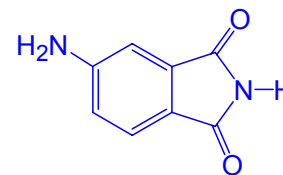
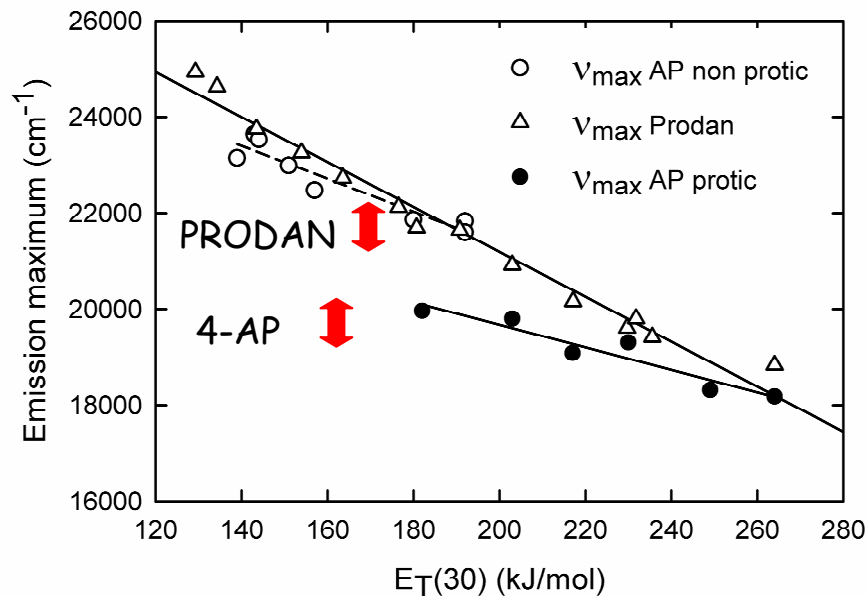
$$\theta_{CD}(\nu) = 0,576lc[\underbrace{\varepsilon_L(\nu) - \varepsilon_R(\nu)}_{\Delta\varepsilon_{LD}(\lambda)}]$$

$$\Delta\varepsilon_{CD}(\lambda) = -P\Delta n\bar{\nu}\Delta\varepsilon_{LD}(\lambda)/2$$

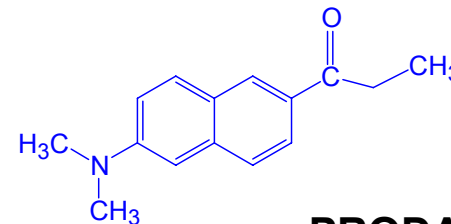
$$\Delta A_{LD} \approx 1,3 \cdot 10^{-3}$$

# Relaxations in PVA

## Solvatochromic plots for PRODAN and 4-AP

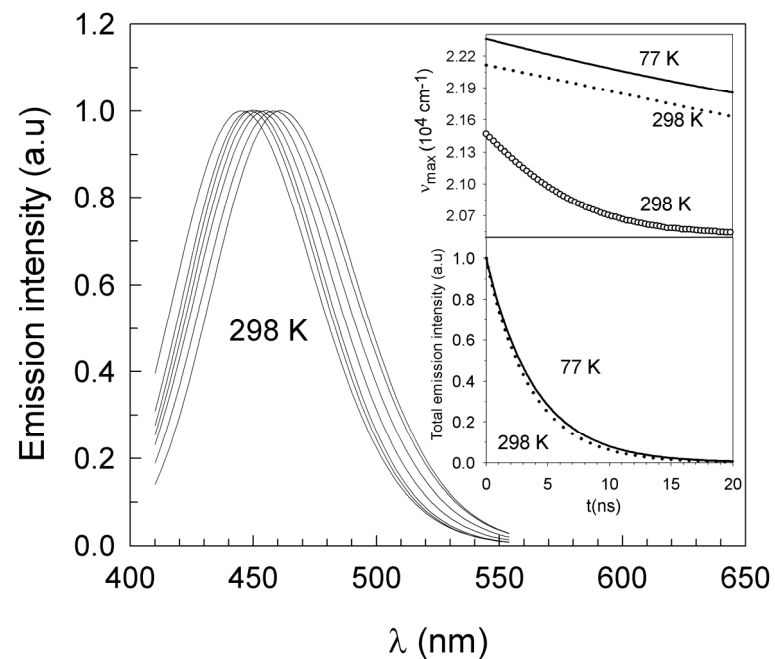


4-AP

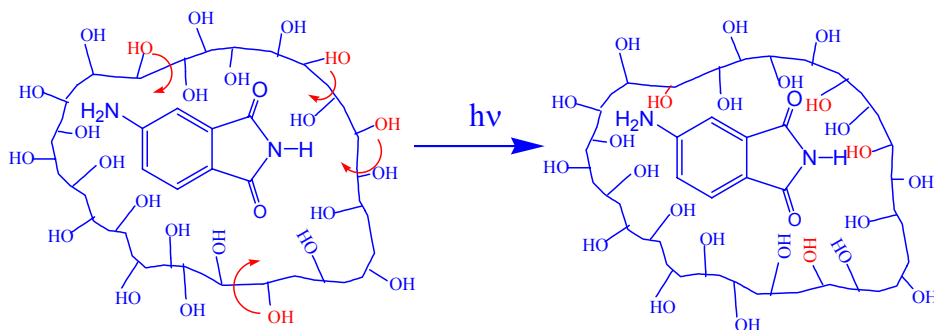


PRODAN

## TRES of Prodan in PVA



## OH-pockets in PVA



# Dynamic domains for the kinetics

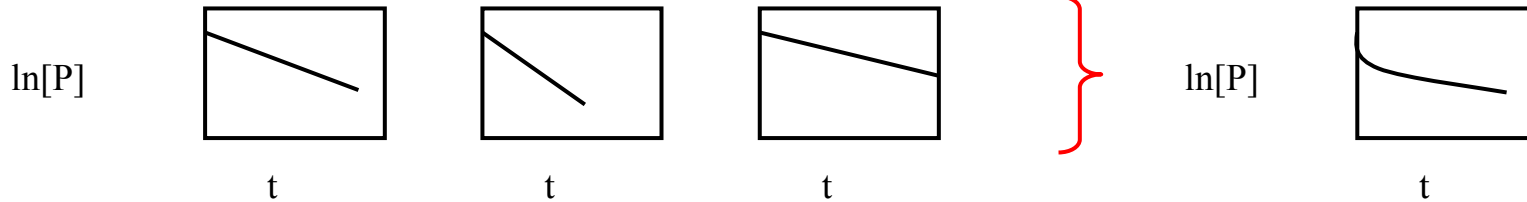
Comparison between the characteristic times of relaxation:

$\tau_P$  : of the metastable state

$\tau_M$  : of the environment

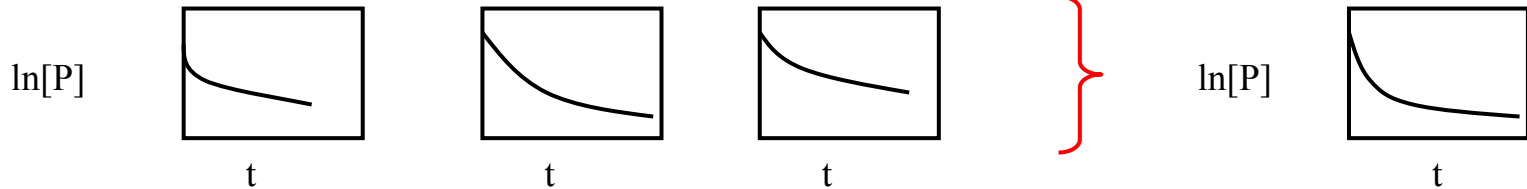
1: Distribution:

$\tau_M \gg \tau_P$



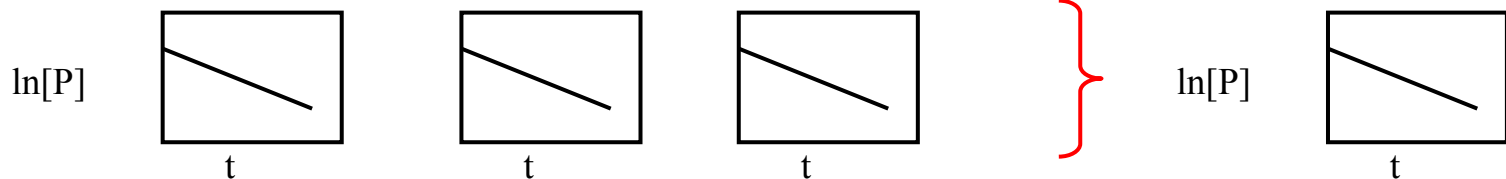
2: Dynamic:

$\tau_M \approx \tau_P$



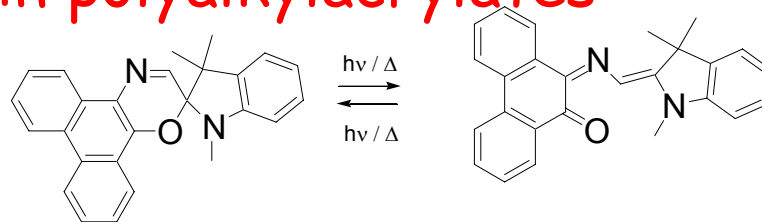
3: Equilibrium:

$\tau_M \ll \tau_P$



# Isomerization of spirooxazines in polyalkylacrylates

Testing: Decay of metastable open form



## Systems

- Three polyalkylacrylates of different side chain length
- Different rigidity, decreasing: PMMA > PEMA > PiBMA
- Four naphtho- and phenanthrospirooxazines

## Relaxation based decay

$$k = (k_0 - k_\infty) \cdot \exp(-t/\tau_m) + k_\infty$$

$k_0$  and  $k_\infty$ : initial and relaxed decay rate constants

$\tau_m$ : relaxation time of the medium controlling the isomerization

## Average activation energies; 4 probes

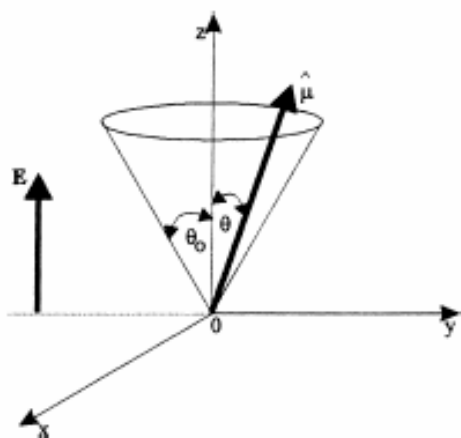
Polymers	PMMA	PEMA	PiBMA
$E_a(k_0)$	64±2	65±4	61±2
$E_a(k_\infty)$	72±9	78±8	78±4
$E_a(1/\tau_m)$	62±5	60±6	56±4
$E_{rel} = E_a(k_\infty) - E_a(k_0)$	8±7	14±4	18±3

The softest polymer stabilizes more the extended open form

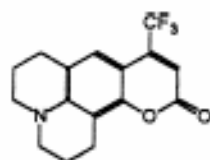
# Emission anisotropy of dyes embedded in polystyrene-co-2%-divinylbenzene

The probes rotate freely in a restricted volume

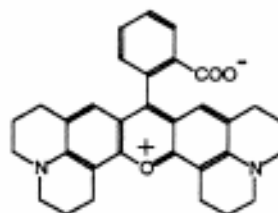
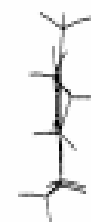
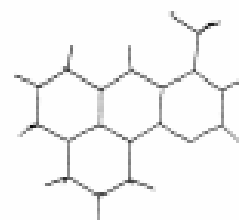
Wobbling in cone model



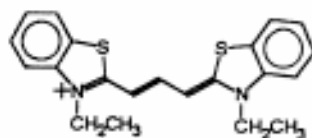
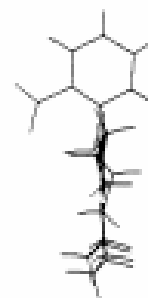
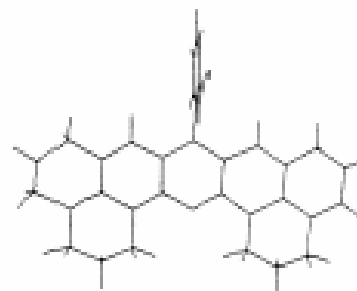
	$\tau_f$ (ns)	$\langle r \rangle$	$r_0$	$S^a$	$\theta_0^b$
Coumarin	$\sim 5^c$	$0.018 \pm 0.003$	$0.375^d$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$	$71^\circ \pm 1^\circ$
DTCI	$0.3^e$	$0.033 \pm 0.003$	$0.370^f$	$0.30 \pm 0.01$	$65^\circ \pm 1^\circ$
Rhodamine 101	$5.2^g$	$0.044 \pm 0.003$	$0.365$	$0.35 \pm 0.01$	$62^\circ \pm 1^\circ$



Coumarin 153



Rhodamine 101



DTCl

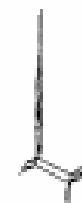
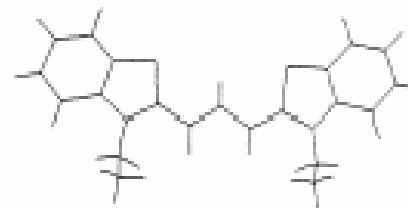


Fig. 1. Structures of the dye molecules

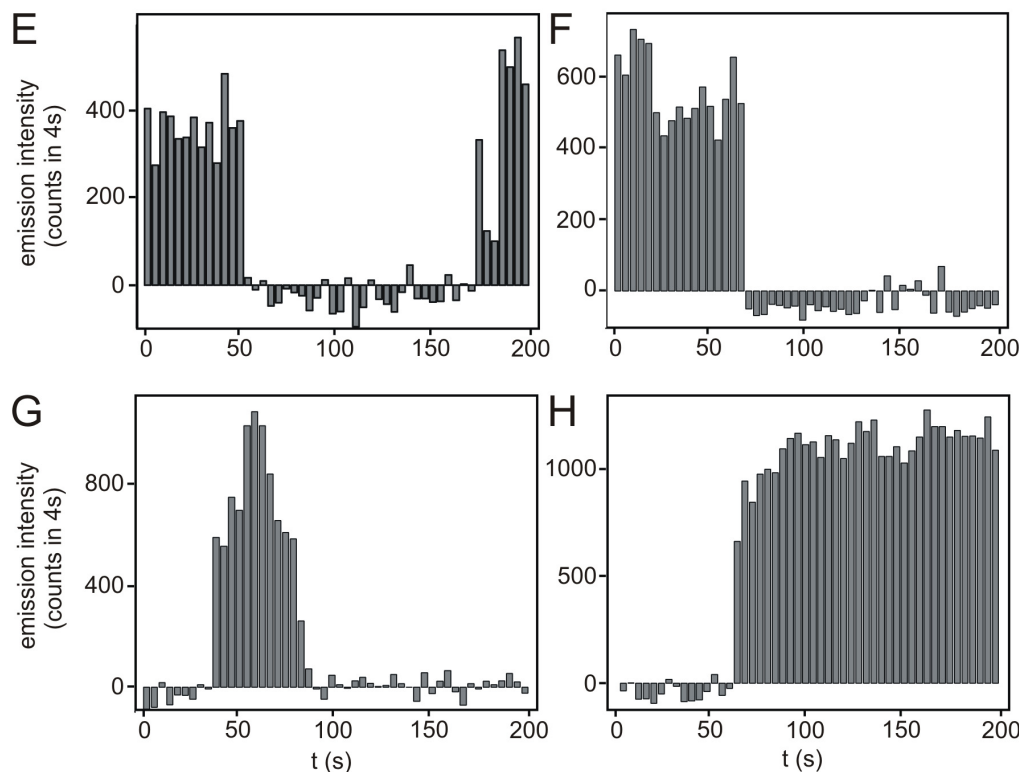
10Å





# Single molecule blinking of Atto dyes in PVA

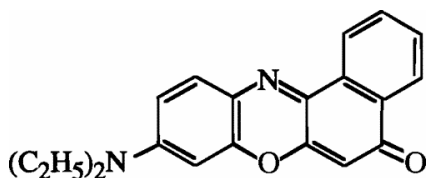
Time traces  
of selected  
single  
molecules



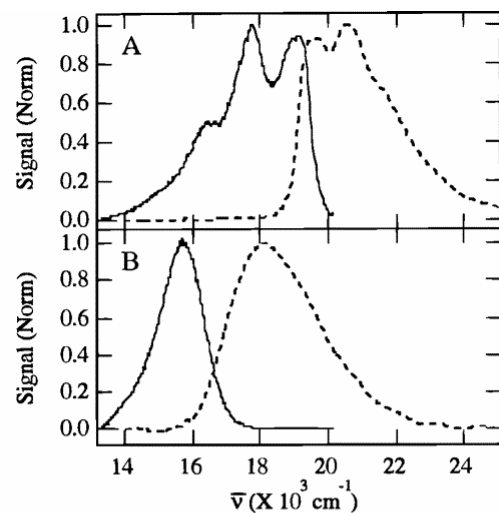
Frame 1 (Status)	Frame 4 (Status)	Frame 20 (Status)	Emission intensity on frame 20 (Nr of molecules)	Standard deviation <sup>a</sup>
ON	--	ON	747 (77)	500
OFF	--	ON	583 (50)	270
--	ON	ON	750 (79)	492
--	OFF	ON	570 (48)	271

Blinking molecules  
locate in different  
environments than  
bright ones

# Microheterogeneity by single molecule emission spectra

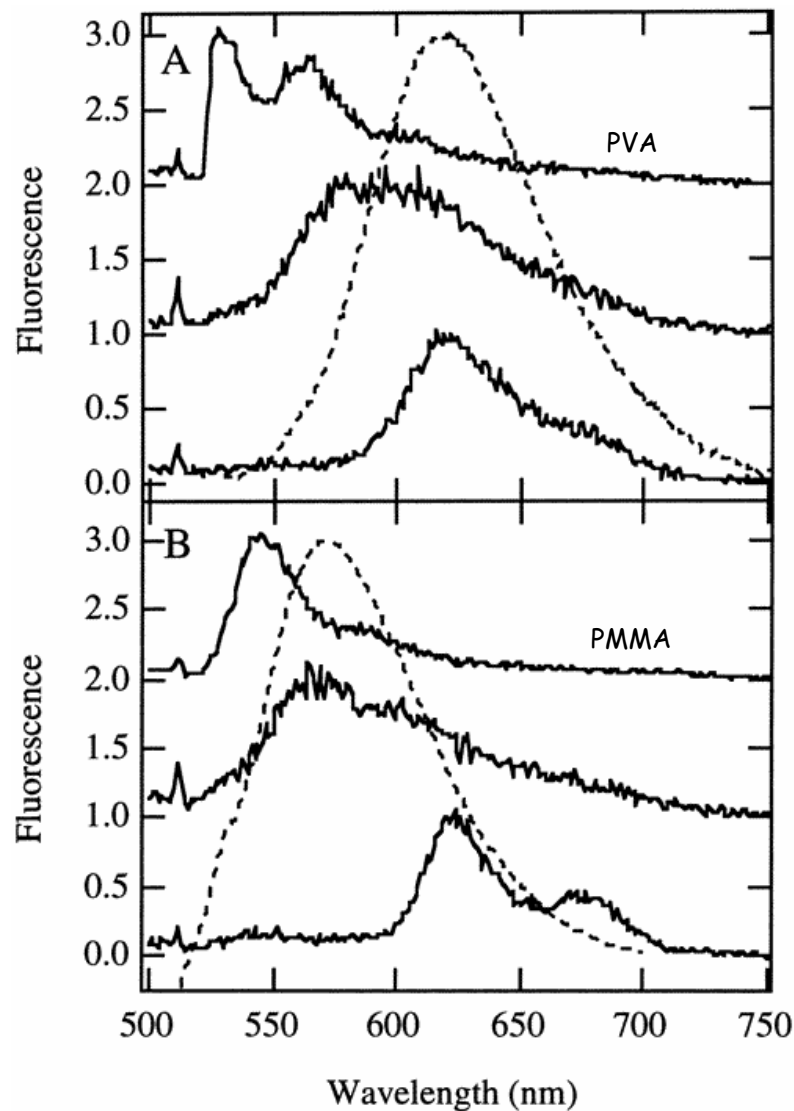
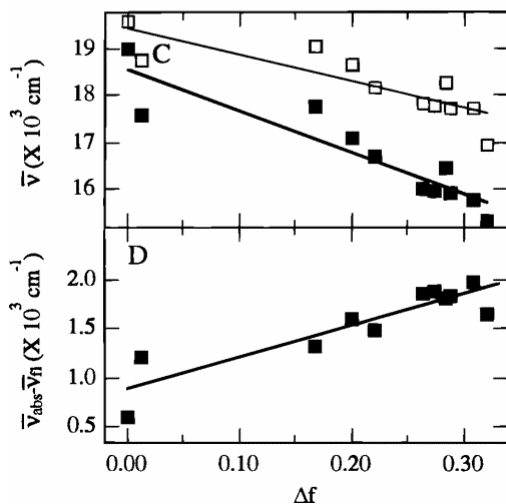


Nile red

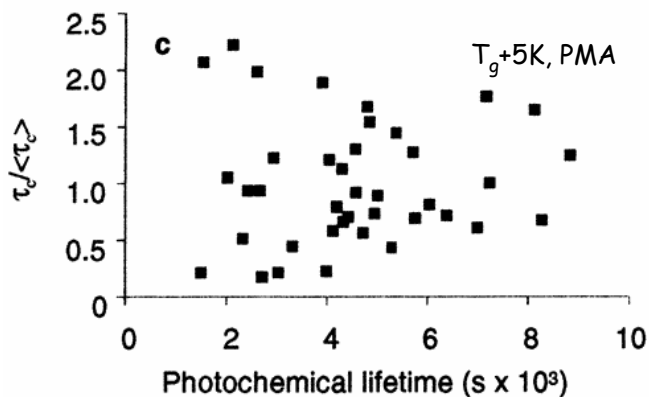
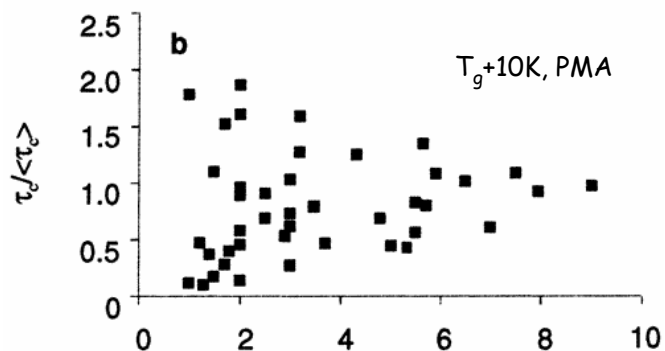
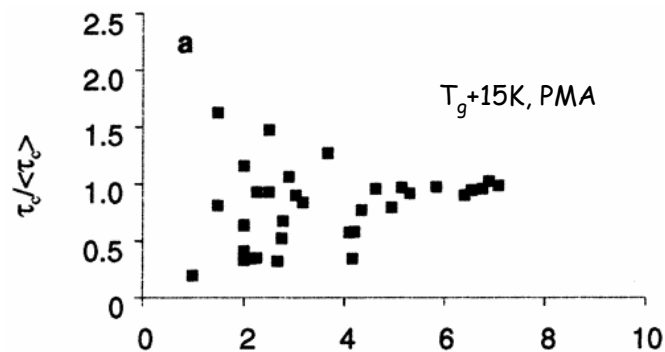
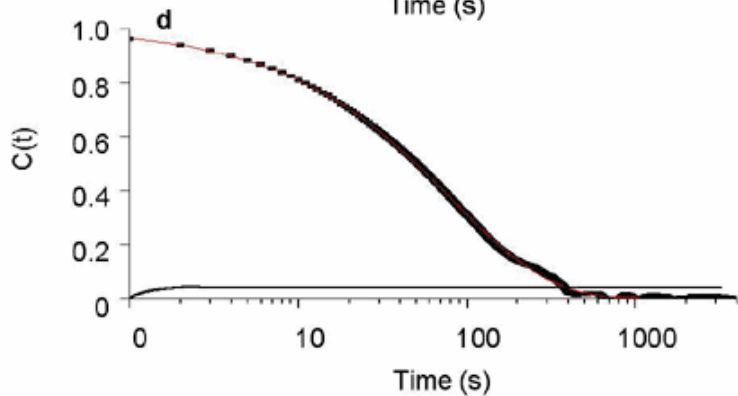
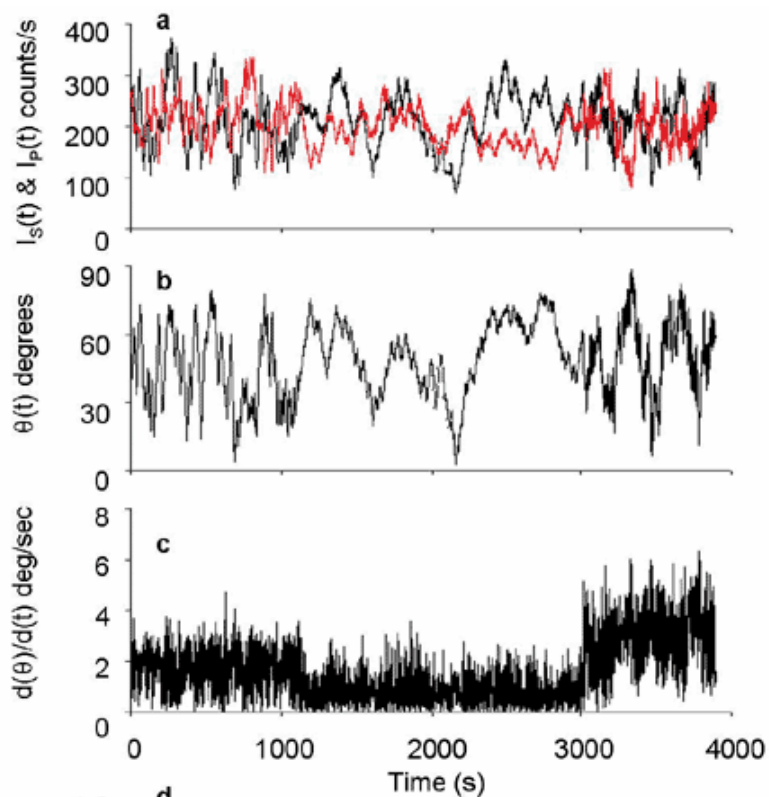


hexane

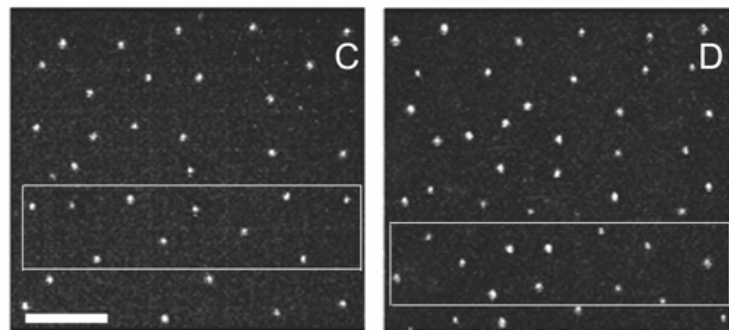
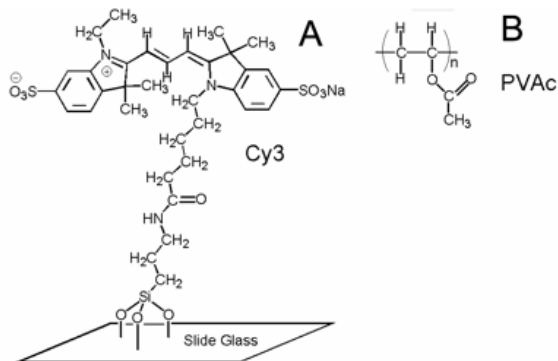
methanol



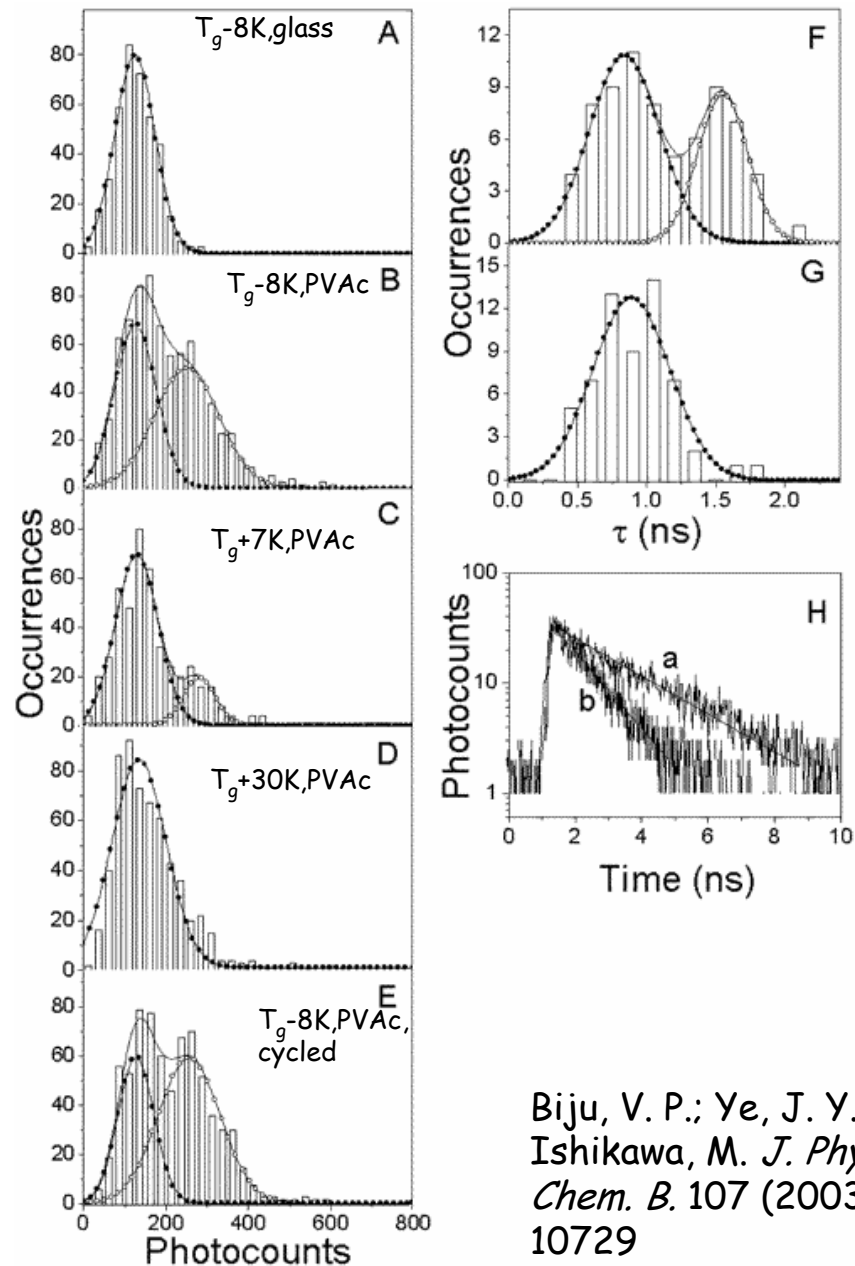
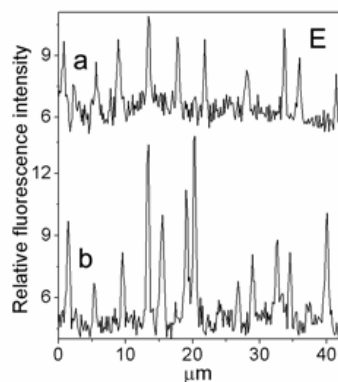
# Local orientational fluctuations of Rh6G in PMA and PnBMA



# Spatial heterogeneity in PVAc thin films



10  $\mu\text{m}$

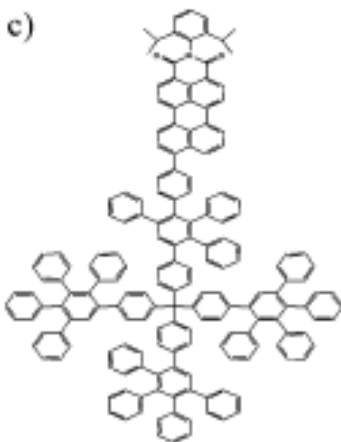


Biju, V. P.; Ye, J. Y.;  
Ishikawa, M. *J. Phys. Chem. B.* 107 (2003) 10729

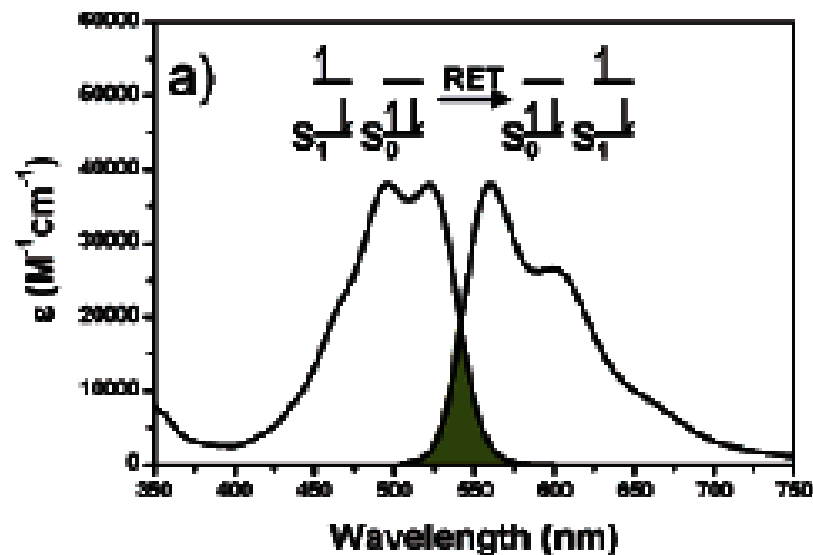
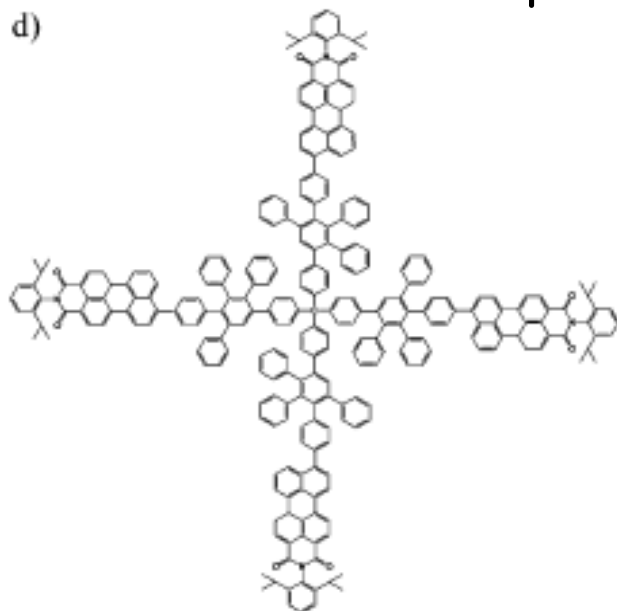
# Electronic energy transfer in multichromophoric systems

Dendrimers with peryleneimide chromophores

C1P1p



C1P4p



Absorption and emission of C1P1p and C1P4p in toluene. Spectral overlap is shadowed

C1P1p and C1P4p

$$\phi_f = 0.98$$

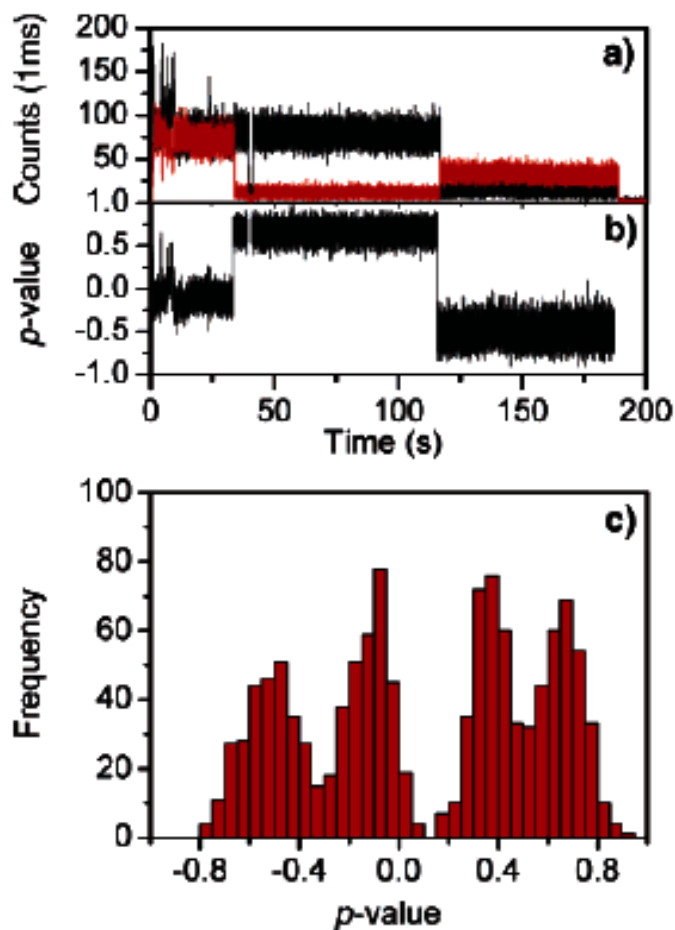
$$\tau_f = 4 \text{ ns}$$

Anisotropy decay

$$\phi_r = 0.05 \text{ ns and } 1.7 \text{ ns}$$

# Electronic energy transfer in multichromophoric systems

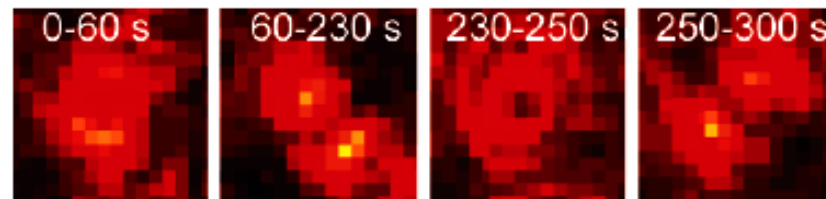
Single molecule emission anisotropy of C1P4p immobilized in a polymer matrix



**FIGURE 4.** Example of (a) a transient of C1P4p where the parallel and perpendicular component were detected separately, (b) the polarization value of the trace in panel a, and (c) a histogram of the four  $p$  levels of the trace in panel b.

Electronic energy migration in a single molecule

Three dimensional orientation of the emission dipole of a single C1P4p molecule immobilized in a polymer matrix



**FIGURE 5.** Emission patterns taken from a series of consecutive defocused images recorded for a single C1P4p in a 100 nm Zeonex film. Images were recorded at  $1 \mu\text{m}$  defocusing to the glass surface. Time intervals, during which successive patterns have been observed, are listed underneath the images. The emission pattern of a single C1P4p molecule changes as function of time. The patterns provide direct evidence that different chromophores of the C1P4p emit in time as different dipole orientations.

# Acknowledgements

- Marcia Levitus
- Mariano Bossi
- Beatriz Barja
- Amanda Remorino

## Collaborations

J.L.Bourdelande

Teresa Atvars

Daniel Murgida

J.B.Rodriguez

Thomas Gensch

Funding: ANPCyT, CONICET, Fundacion Antorchas,  
DAAD, VW Stiftung





## Examples to work out next time:

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

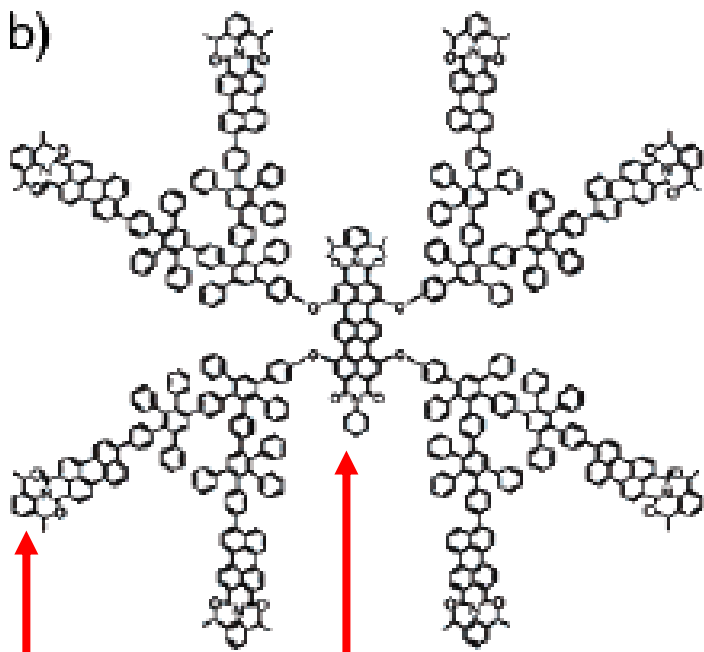
## Processes

- ✓ Gel aging
- ✓ Spatial and time heterogeneity in polymer films
- ✓ Free volume in polymers
- ✓ Photoinduced CD in liquid crystals

# Electronic energy transfer in multichromophoric systems

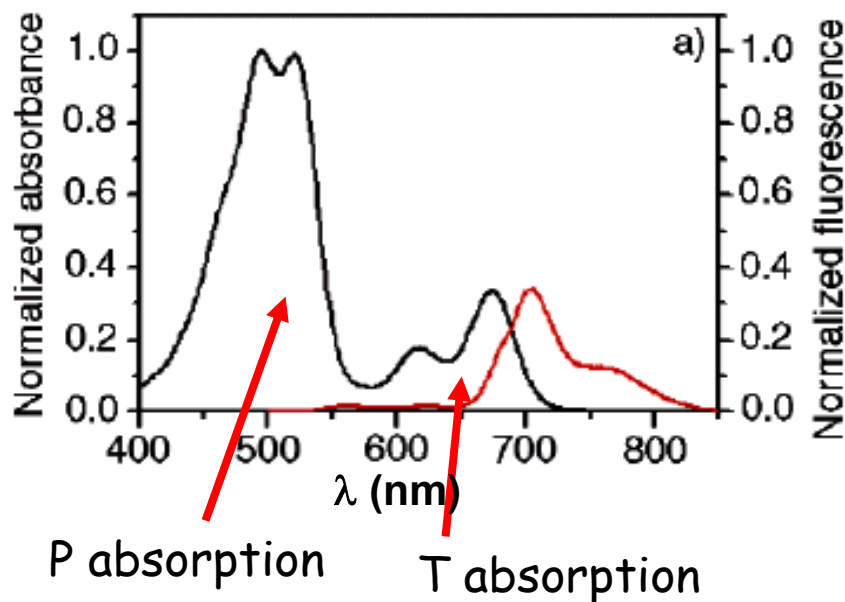
Dendrimer with different chromophores

T2P8



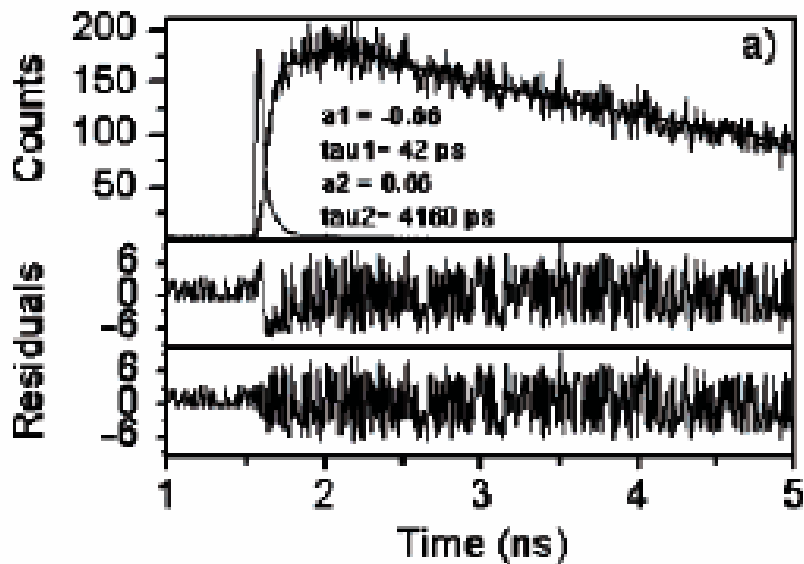
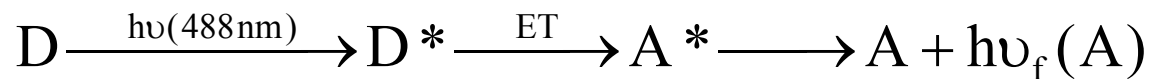
Peryleneimide (P) Terrylenediimide (T)

Absorption and emission of T2P8 in toluene.



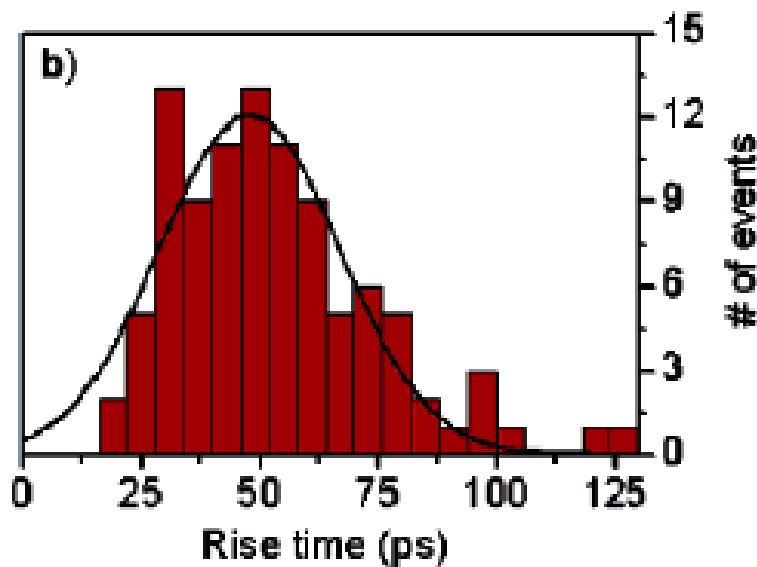
Antenna effect is expected

# Electronic energy transfer in multichromophoric systems



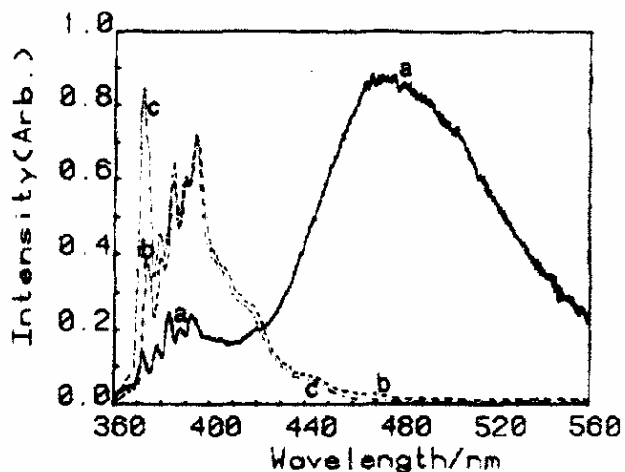
Time resolved emission of a single molecule of T2P8 monitored at the T emission

Histogram of the emission risetime of 100 T2P8 molecules.  
Broad distribution of conformations

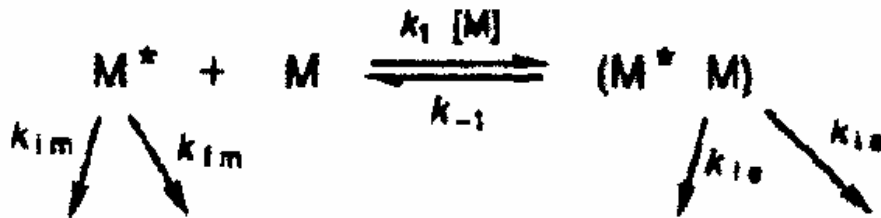


# Excimer formation of pyrene in PDMS.

Steady state emission and fluorescence lifetime of pyrene



**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

## Free volume evidence in polymers