

Experiment 3: Fluorescence Spectroscopy

I: Introduction to steady state spectra

Prelab Lecture 30jan19
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WHAT IS FLUORESCENCE?

ALL light comes from fluorescence, e.g., the **sun**, **light bulbs**, **fire**, **cell phone screens**, **some chemical reactions**, etc.

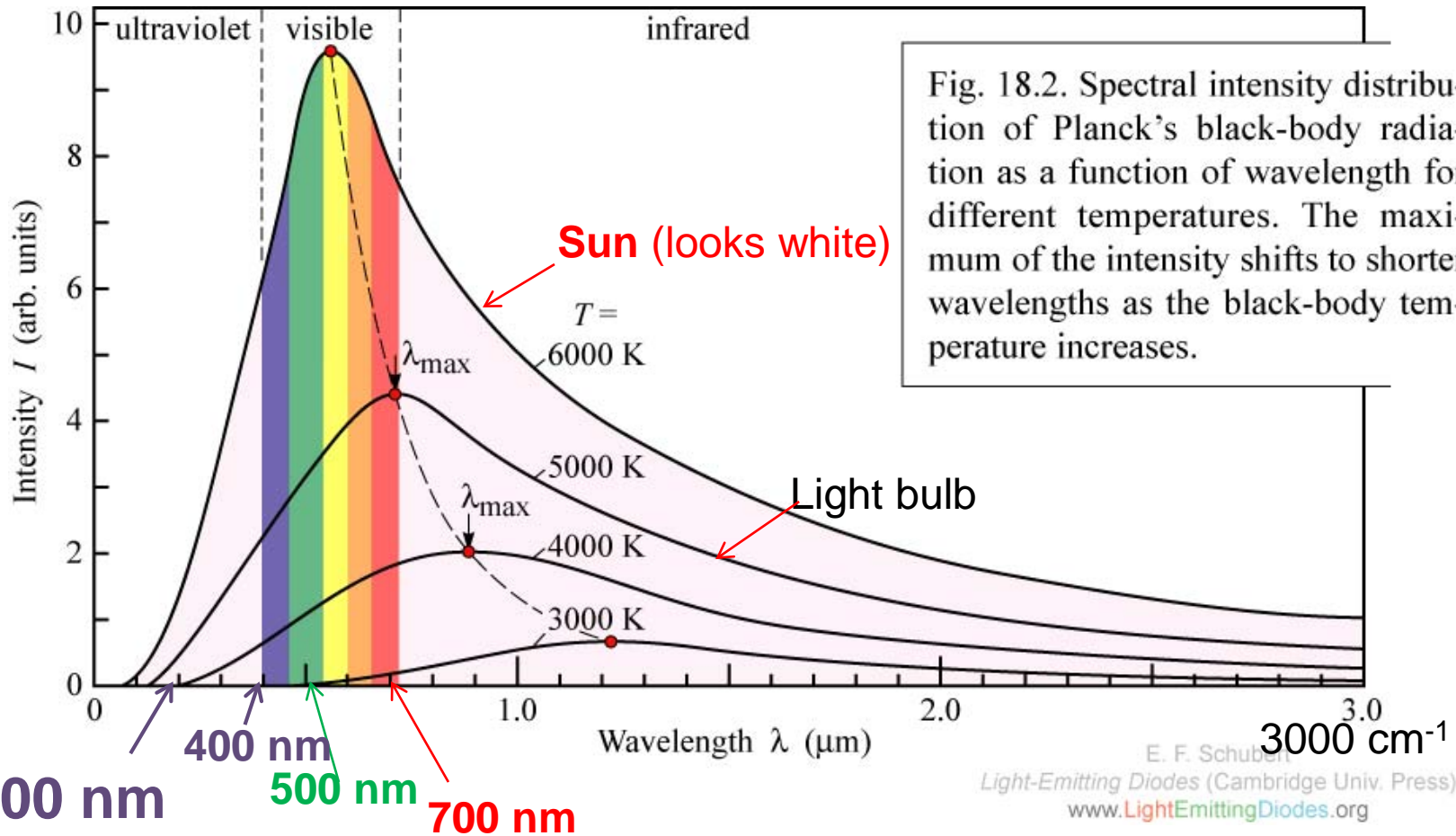
Fluorescence *usually* refers to a form of **spontaneous emission** in the Visible or UV wavelengths coming promptly from an electronically excited state (decay time ps to μs i.e., 10^{-12} to 10^{-6} s).

The most-used fluorescence probes have **nanosecond** decay times.

Spontaneous emission happens whenever a system is in an excited state. **WHY?**

ANSWER: caused by strong fluctuations in the zero-point electromagnetic field, present even in dark vacuum!

Electromagnetic radiation is emitted by **all** objects not at 0 Kelvin.



200 nm

Where N₂ and O₂ start to absorb

500 nm

700 nm

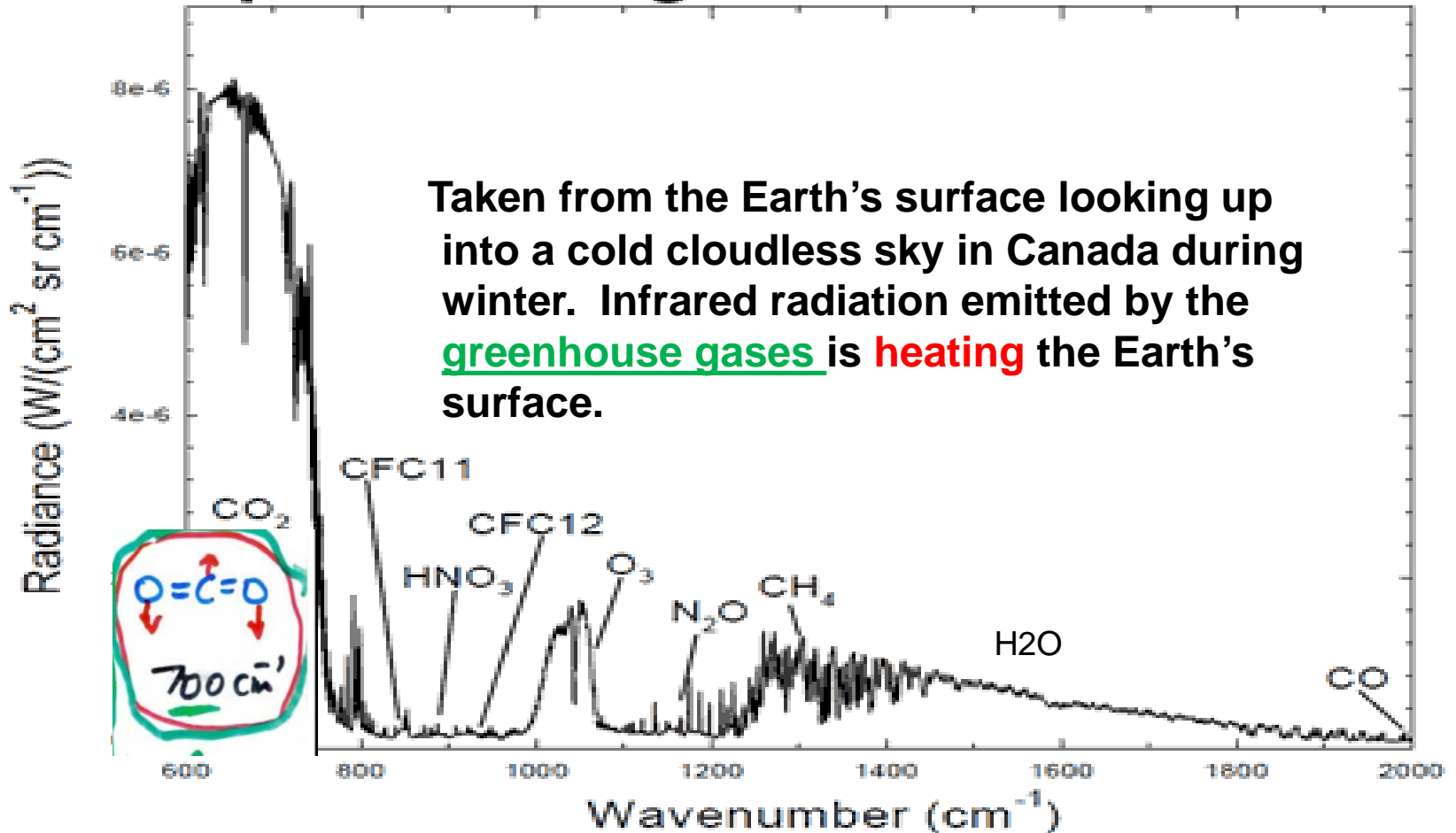
Temperature dependence is from the **Boltzmann** ratio for probability to be in an excited state:

$$N_{\text{excited}}/N_{\text{ground}} = \exp(\Delta E/k_B T),$$

where $\Delta E = h\nu = hc/\lambda$

IR fluorescence from the atmosphere.

Evidence: looking skyward with an IR spectrometer:
Spectrum of greenhouse radiation

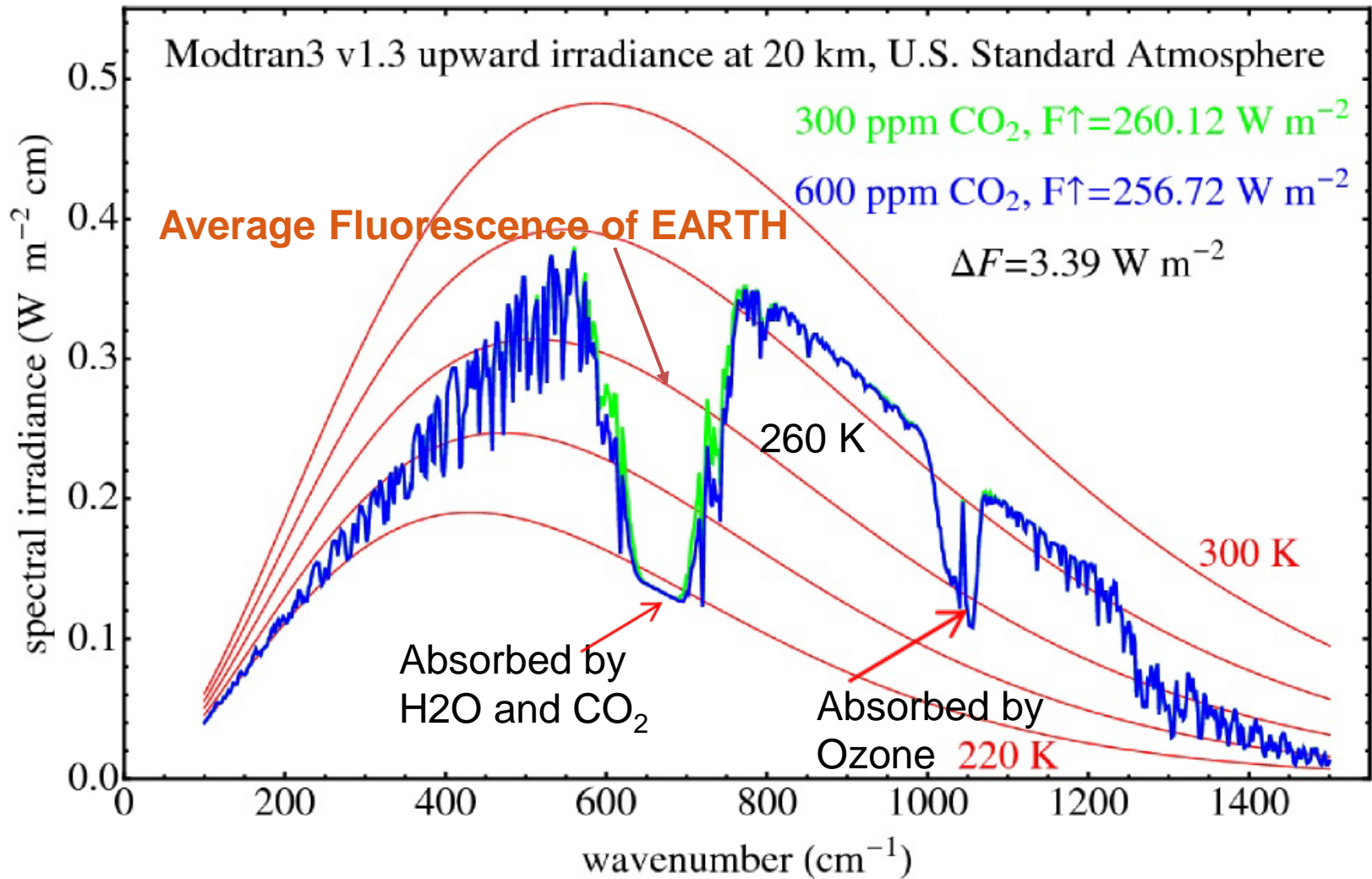


Why is CO₂ so strong compared to water??

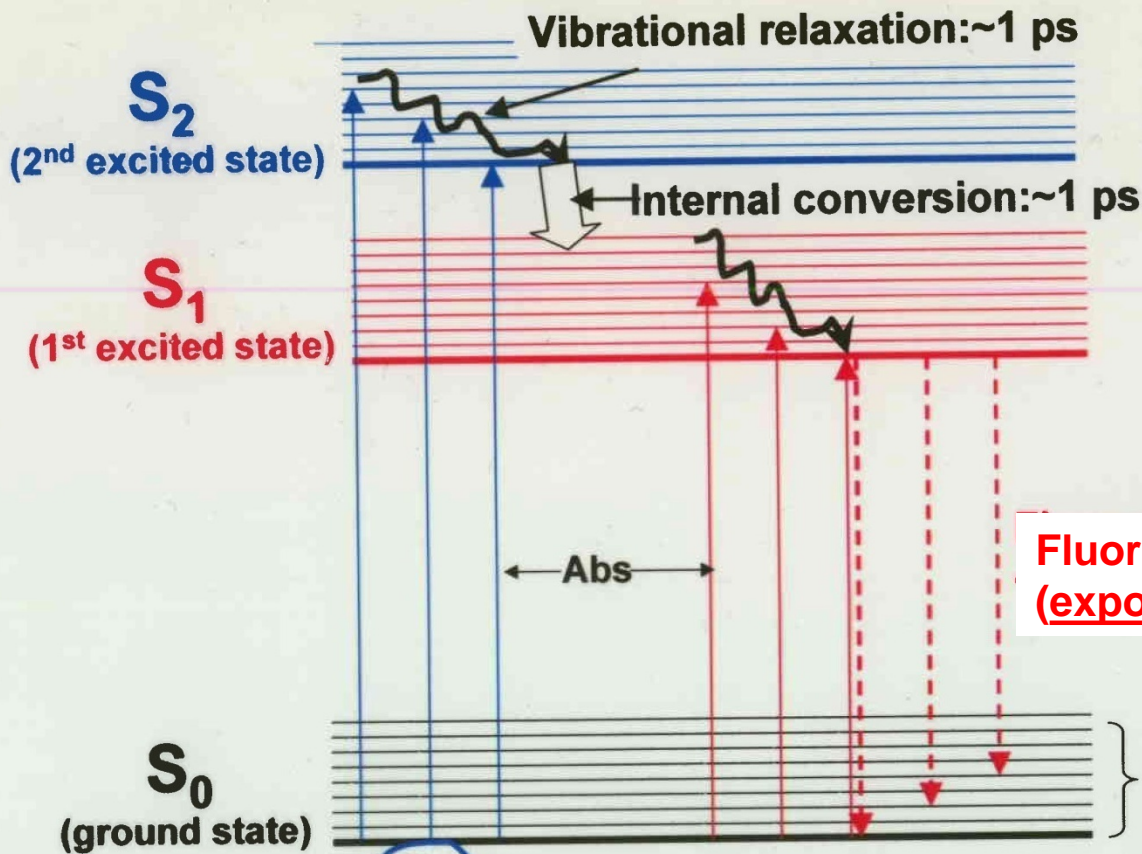
There is much more water in air.

([Evans 2006](#)).

Fluorescence of EARTH at different temperatures seen from space.



ABSORPTION & FLUORESCENCE



**Jablonski
Diagram**

**Fluorescence lifetime ~5 ns
(exponential decay)**

Vibrational levels

Kasha's Rule:

Fluorescence is 99.9% from S_1 ***independent*** of excitation wavelength; ***~mirror image*** of S_1 abs.

S_2 abs

S_1 abs

S_1 fluor

Wavelength →

Beer-Lambert Law



$$\frac{d[\text{photon}]}{dt} = -k[M][\text{photon}] = -k[M]I$$

$$[\text{photon}] = \text{light intensity} = I$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = -k[M]I, \text{ where } k[M] \text{ is a pseudo first - order rate constant}$$

for the disappearance of photons

Intensity of beam
falls off exponentially

$$f = \frac{I}{I_0} = e^{-k[M]t} = e^{-k[M]x/c} = 10^{\frac{-k[M]x}{2.303c}} = 10^{-\epsilon[M]x} = 10^{-A}$$

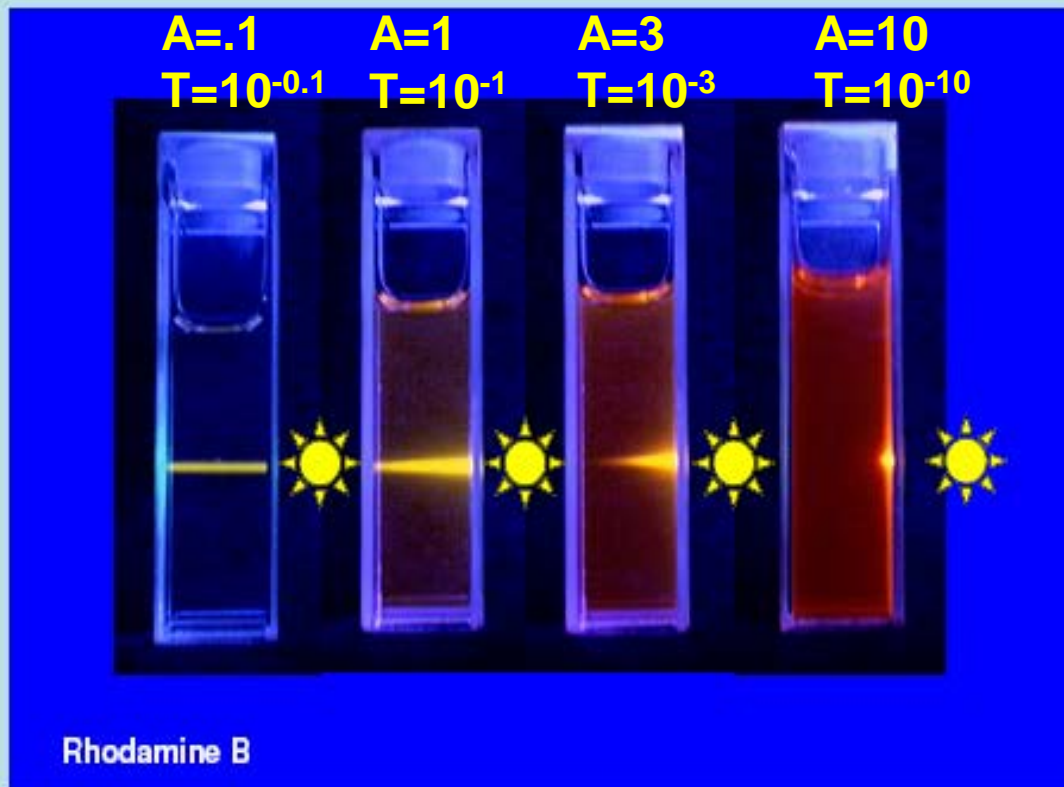
In this context **f = fraction of photons remaining after travelling distance x**
i.e., **f = Transmittance = T = 10^{-εcx} = 10^{-A}**

10^{-A} is just telling you that **A = εcx = -log T**

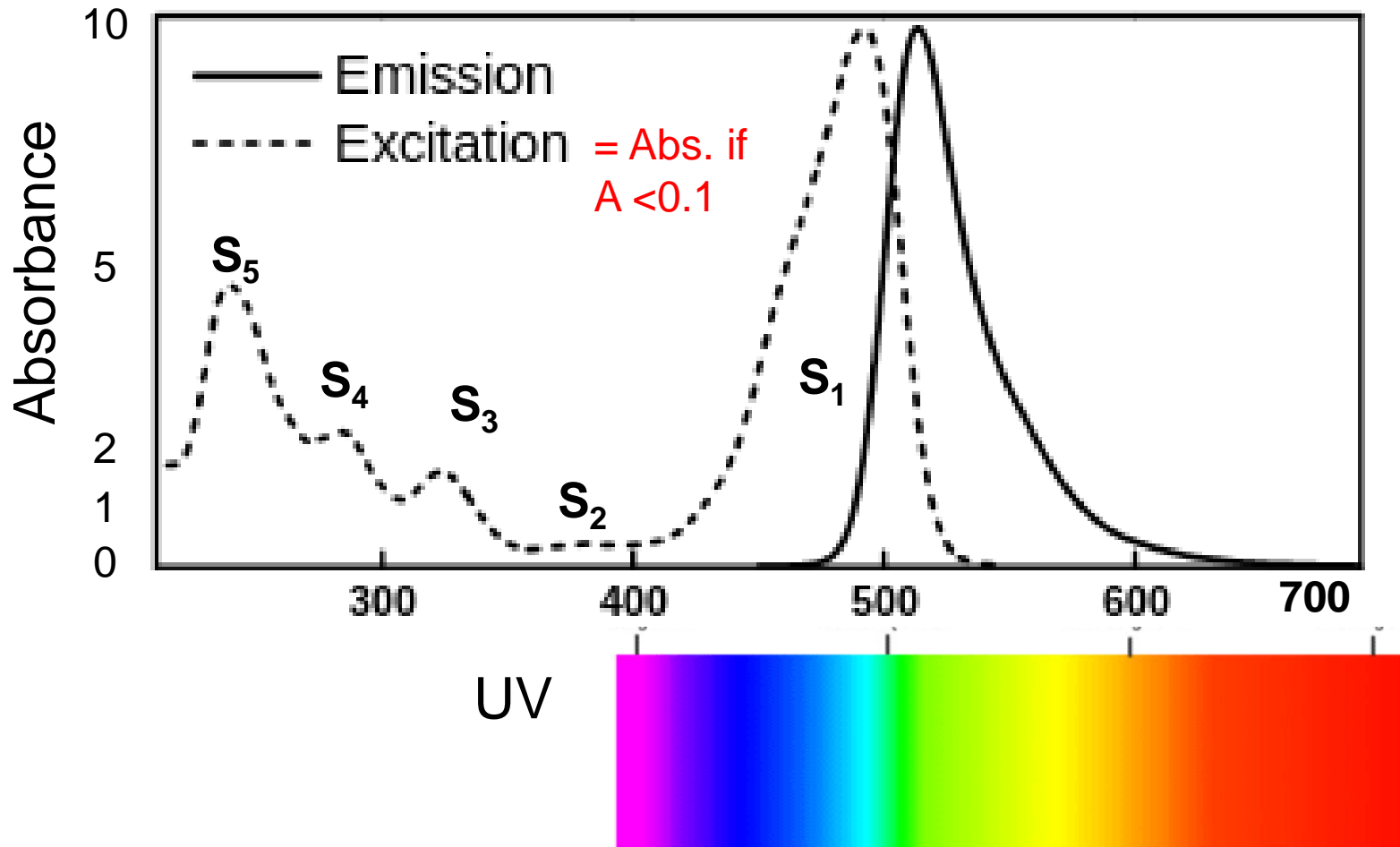
Attenuation of the Excitation Light through Absorbance

Sample concentration
& the *inner filter effect*

Guess the Absorbance



Fluorescein



file:///J:/374-14/Fluorescence-I/Application%20Notes%20-%20HORIBA.htm

Fluorescence from single molecules under a microscope

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDald68tTz0>

Fig. 13.34 Tinoco et al.

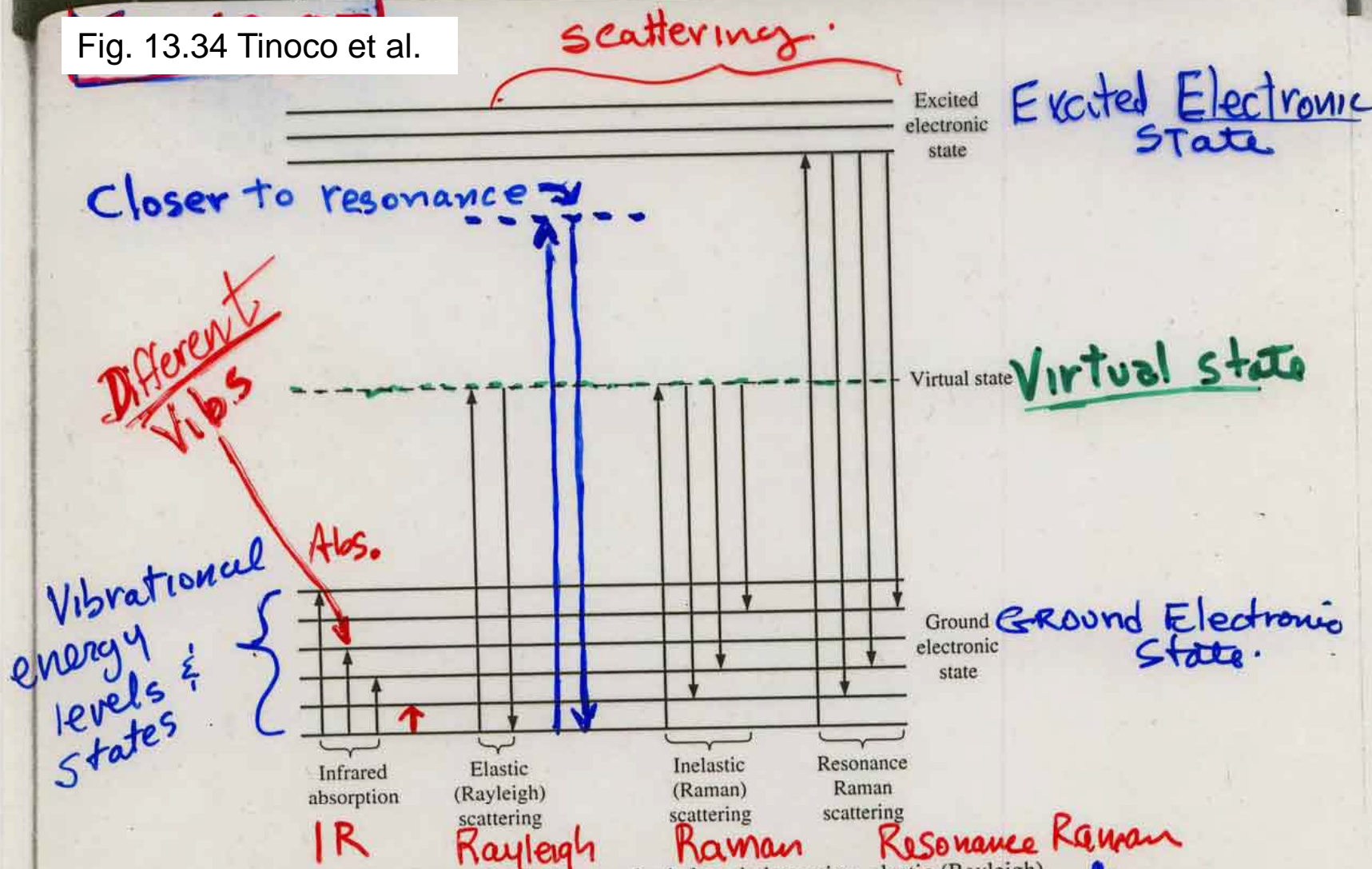


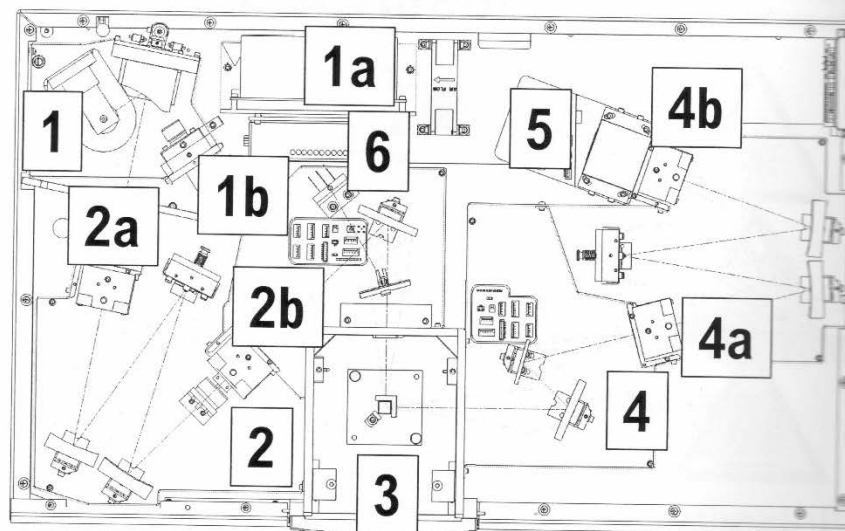
Fig. 10.41 Energy-level diagram for infrared absorption, elastic (Rayleigh) scattering, and inelastic (Raman) scattering. Transitions between vibrational energy levels of the ground electronic state absorb infrared radiation; not all transitions are allowed. For elastic scattering the frequency of the incident light is equal to the frequency of the scattered light. For inelastic scattering the frequency of the scattered light is different from that of the incident light. The virtual state shown can have any energy; the scattering of light occurs in any region of the spectrum.

~ 1000 times enhanced.

How do we measure fluorescence and scattering?

Optical layout

Horiba Fluorimeter



- 1 Xenon arc-lamp and lamp housing
- 1a Xenon-lamp power supply
- 1b Xenon flash lamp (FluoroMax[®]-4P only)
- 2 Excitation monochromator
- 2a & 2b Slits
- 3 Sample compartment
- 4 Emission monochromator
- 4a & 4b Slits
- 5 Signal detector (photomultiplier tube and housing)
- 6 Reference detector (photodiode and current-acquisition module)
- Host computer (not on diagram)

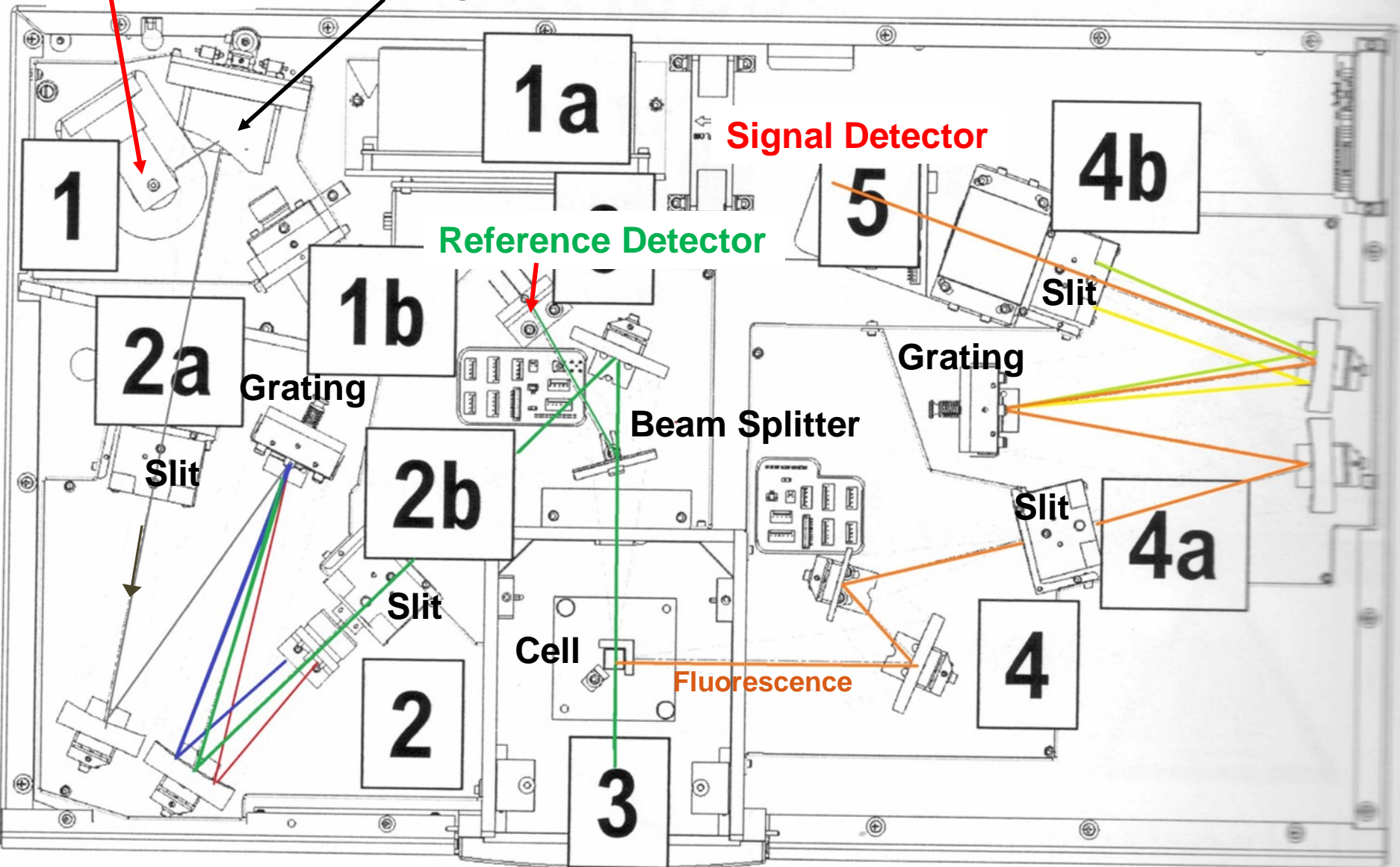
Illuminator (xenon arc-lamp, 1)

The continuous light source is a 150-W ozone-free xenon arc-lamp. Light from the lamp is collected by a diamond-turned elliptical mirror, and then focused on the entrance slit of the excitation monochromator. The lamp housing is separated from the excitation monochromator by a quartz window. This vents heat out of the instrument, and protects against the unlikely occurrence of lamp failure.



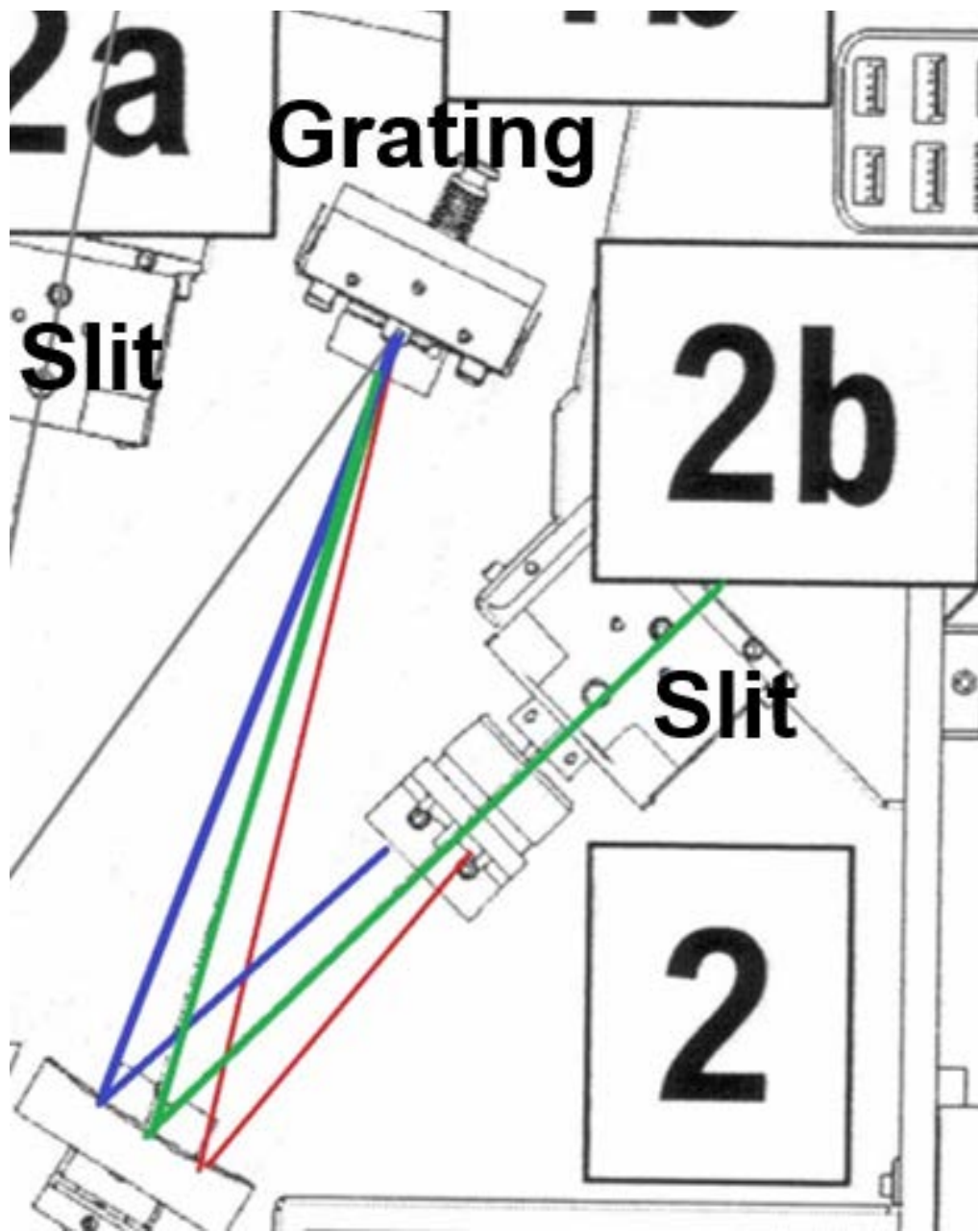
**150 W
Xenon Arc**

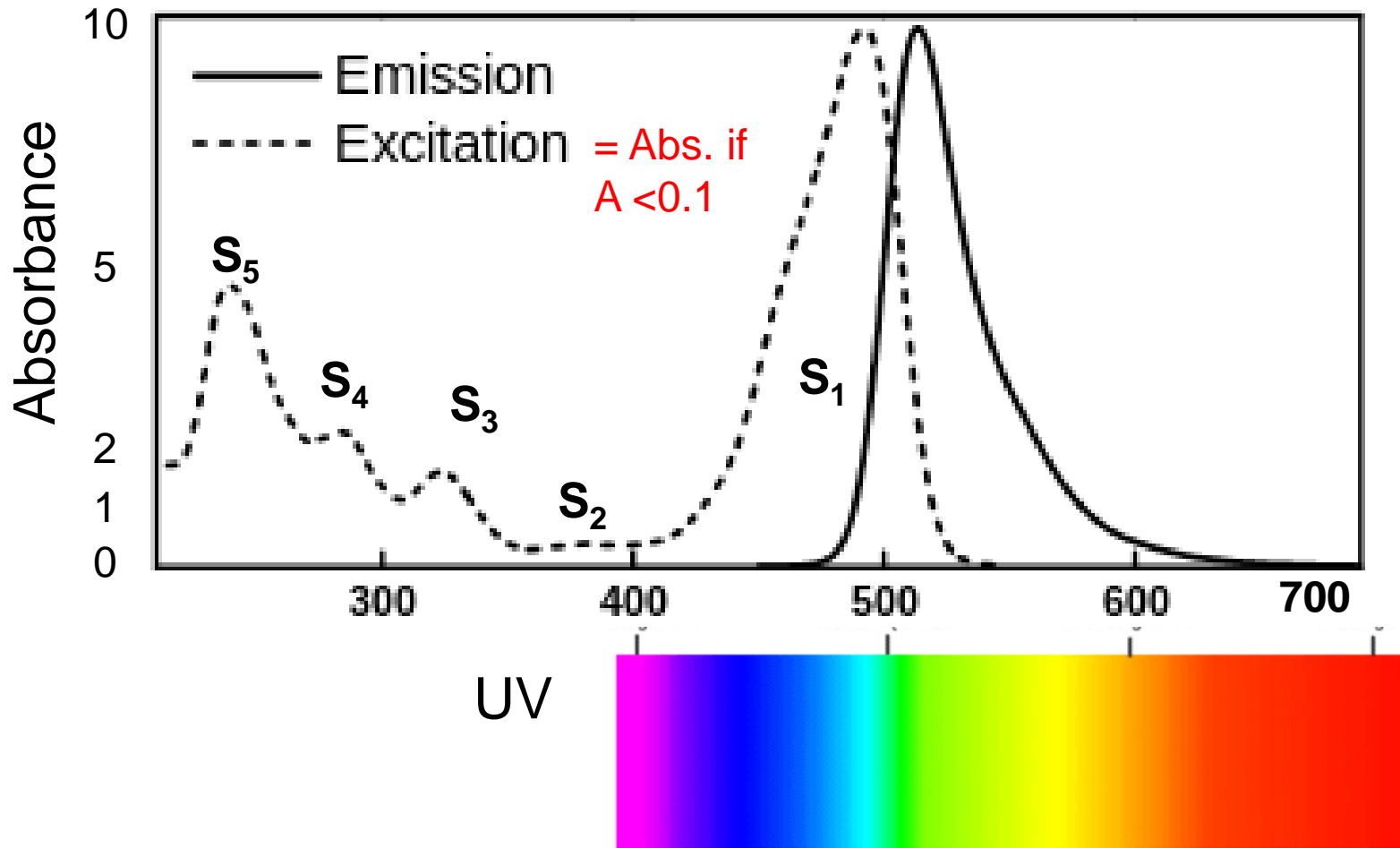
**Parabolic mirror
focuses light on slit**



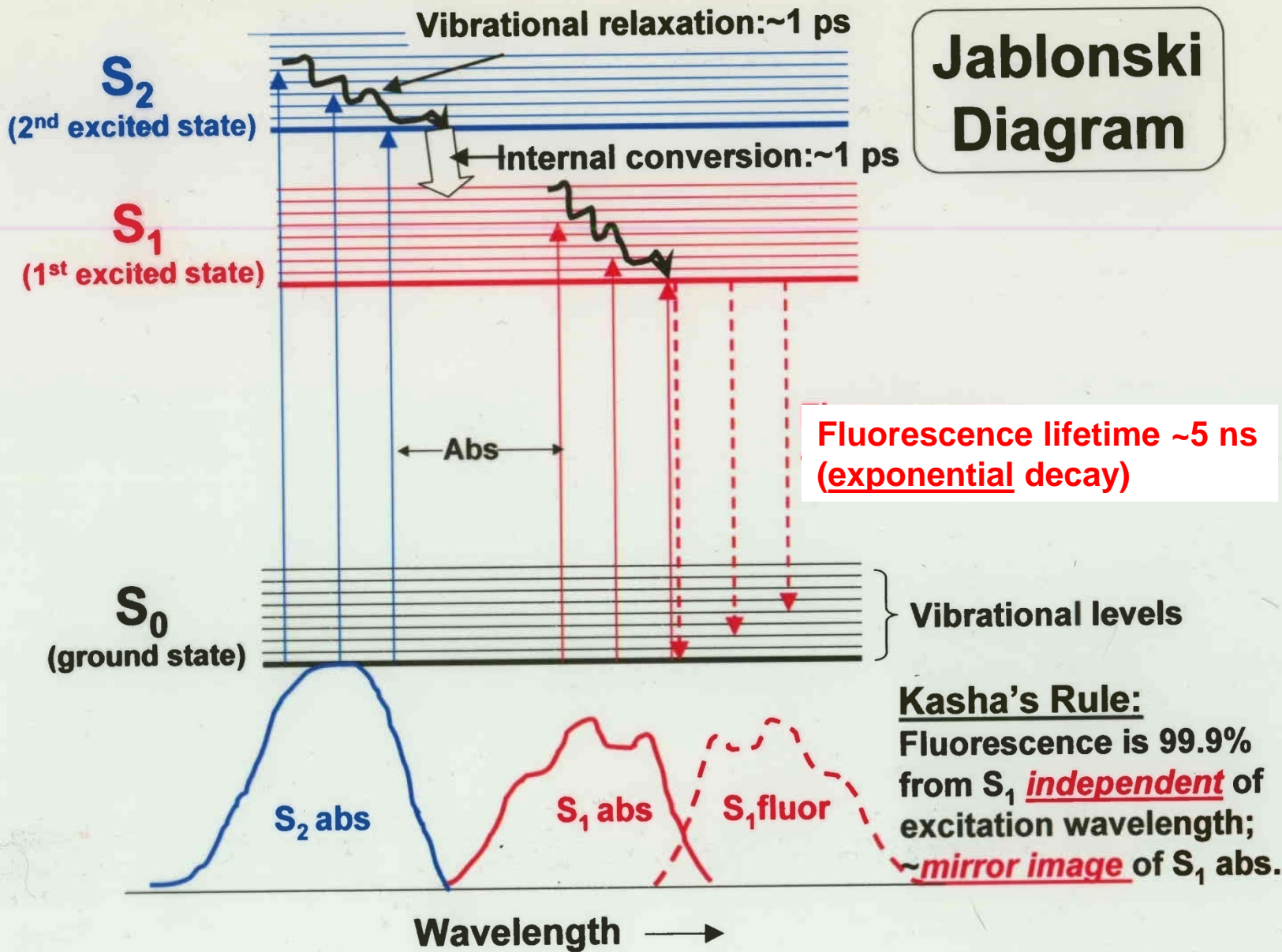
Excitation Monochromator

Emission Monochromator



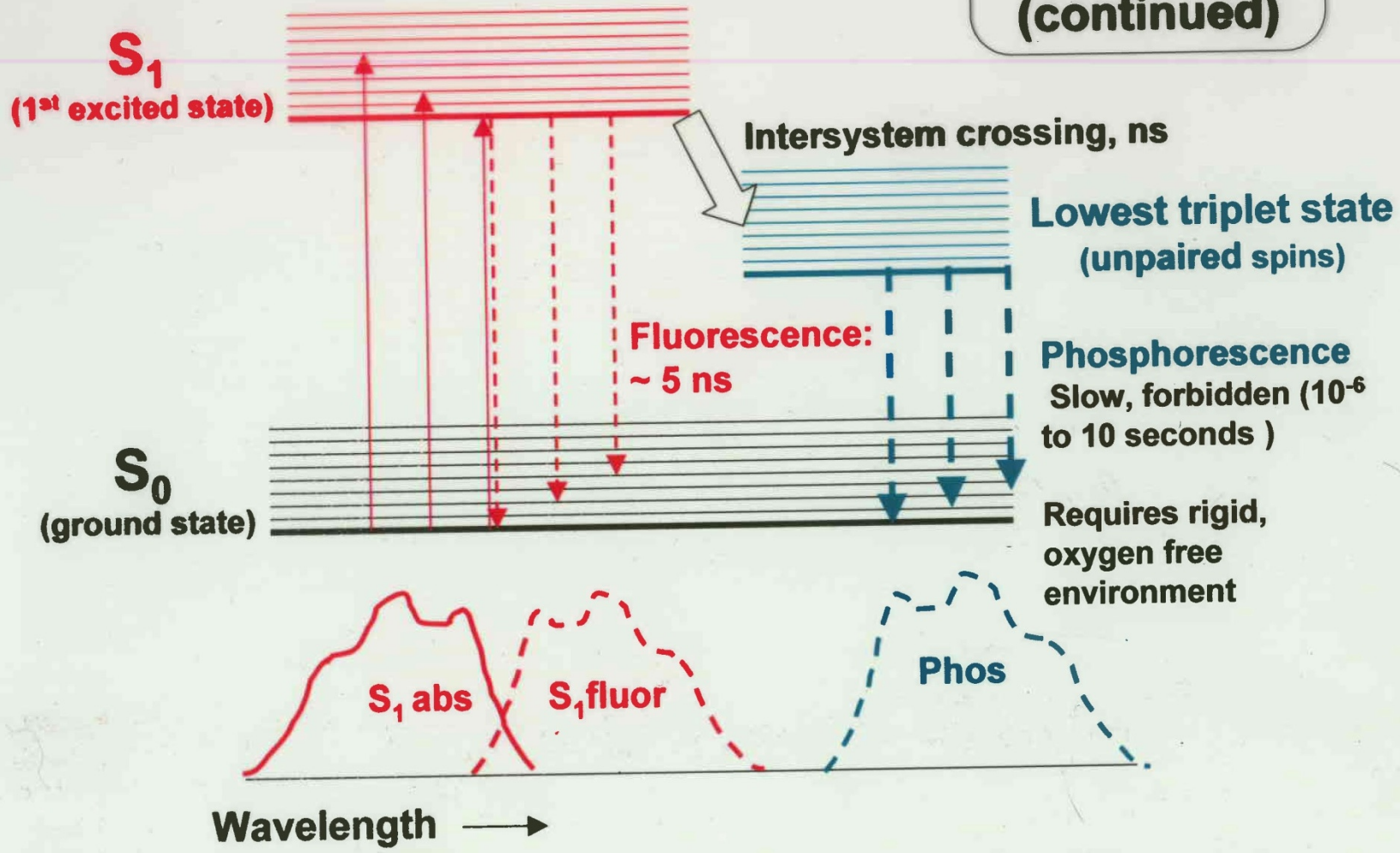


ABSORPTION & FLUORESCENCE



Phosphorescence

Jablonski Diagram (continued)



Fluorescence Quantum Yield

4.2.3 Fluorescence Quenching by Iodide

1. Calculate the quantum yield for each concentration of the iodide, [Q], using numbers from the Theory document and :

$$\text{Quantum Yield} = \Phi_f = \frac{k_{rad}}{k_{rad} + k_{ic} + k_{isc} + k_q[Q]}$$

Fluorescence Lifetime = 1/(sum of rate constants)

$$= 1/(k_{rad} + k_{ic} + k_{isc} + k_q[Q]) = \tau_f$$

What is fluorescence lifetime?

$$d[\text{excited molecules}]/dt = -k [\text{excited molecules}]$$

$$d(\text{Intensity})/dt = -k (\text{Intensity}) \quad \mathbf{1^{\text{st}} \text{ order reaction}}$$

Solution to this differential equation?

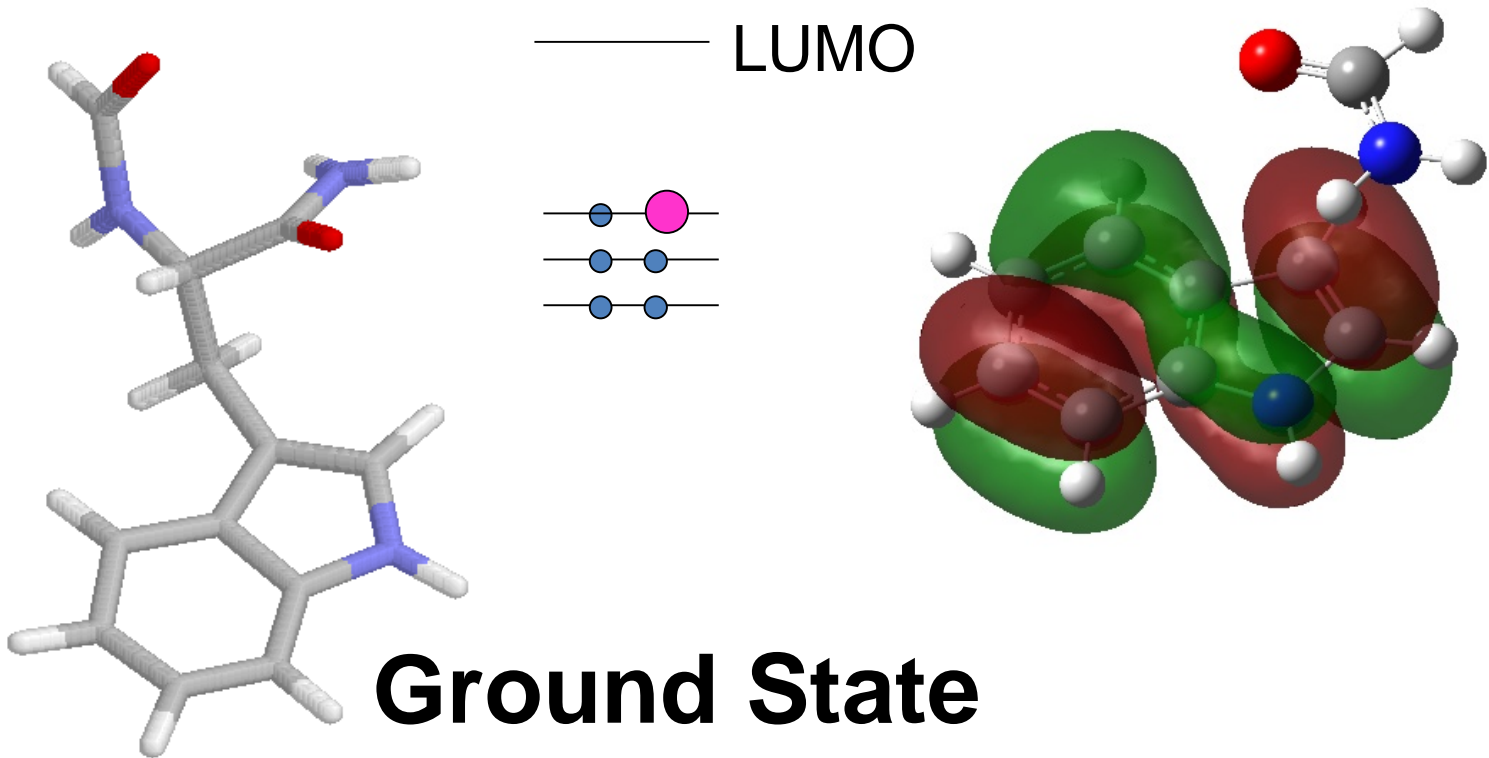
$$\text{Fluor. intensity at time } t = (\text{Fluor. Intensity at time } 0) \times \mathbf{e^{-kt}}$$

$$\text{or} \quad = (\text{Fluor. Intensity at time } 0) \times \mathbf{e^{-t/\tau}}$$

$$\mathbf{\tau = \text{“lifetime”} = 1/k}$$

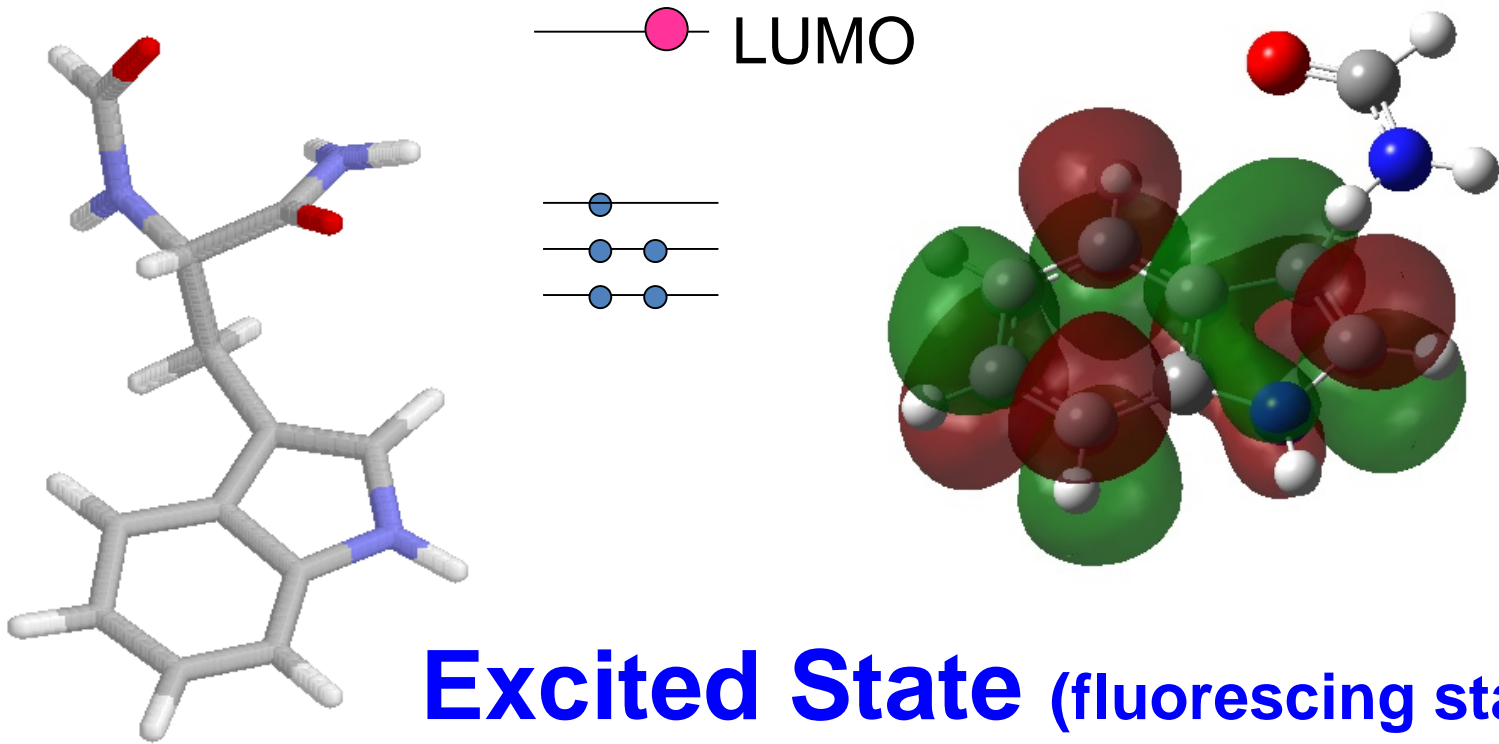
$$\mathbf{\tau = \text{inverse of } 1^{\text{st}} \text{ order rate constant}}$$

“Quenching”



Ground State

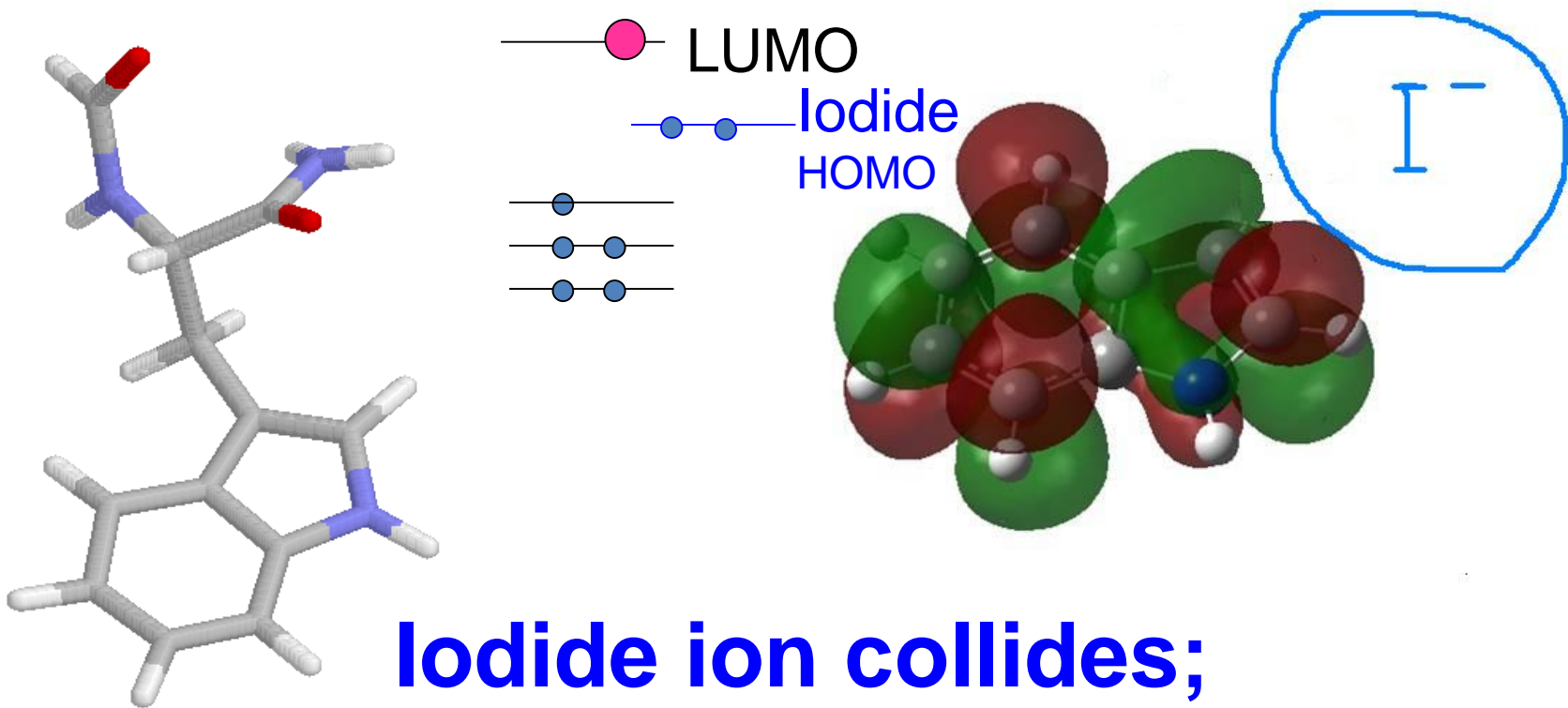
**Highest Occupied Molecular
Orbital**



Excited State (fluorescing state)

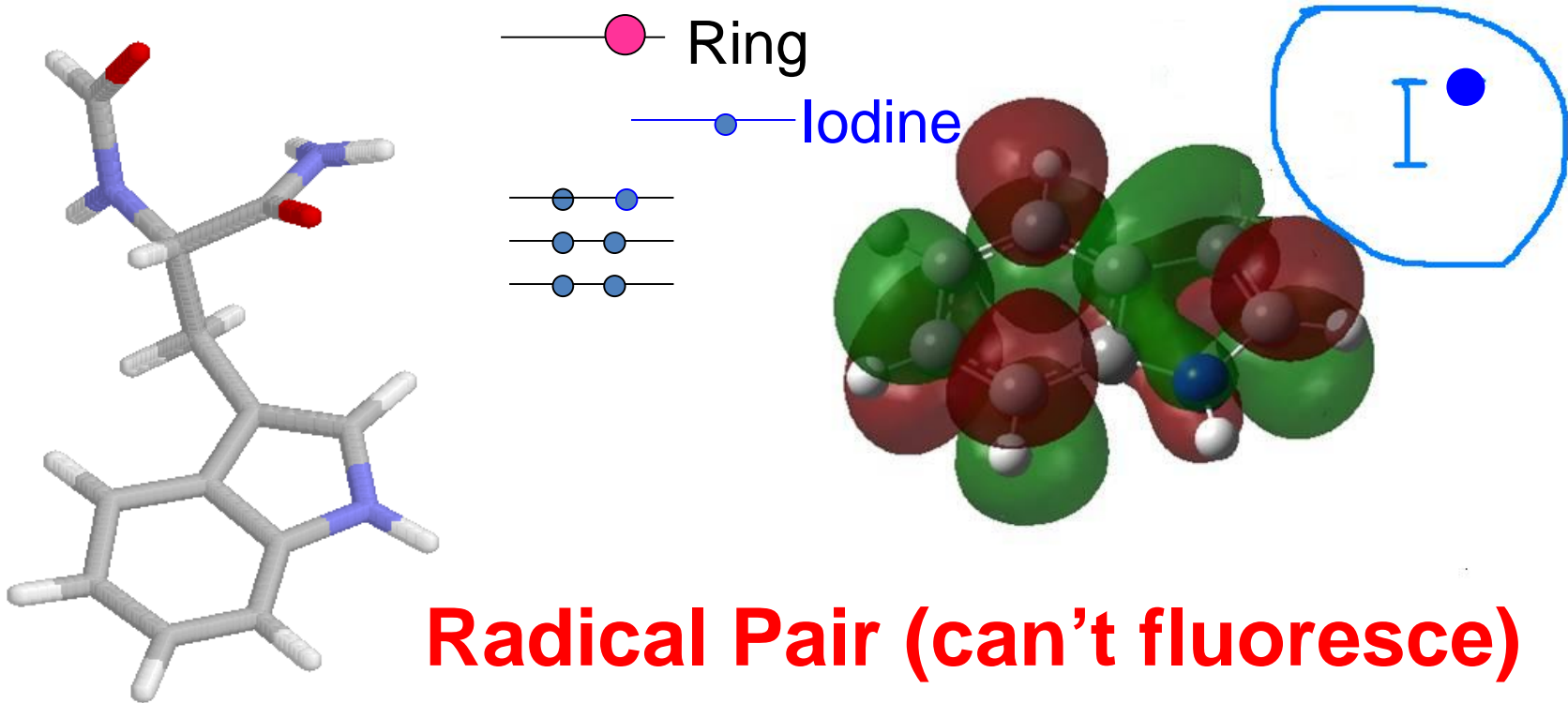
**Lowest Unoccupied Molecular
Orbital (electron excited)**

Quenching by iodide ion



Iodide ion collides;
(has higher HOMO)
will quench fluorescence

Electron transfer from I⁻ to indole makes a radical pair that cannot fluoresce.
(would violate Pauli exclusion)



Electron transferred from iodide
to vacancy in HOMO of ring
i.e., QUENCHING