

Mastering Photoactive Materials through Self-Assembly

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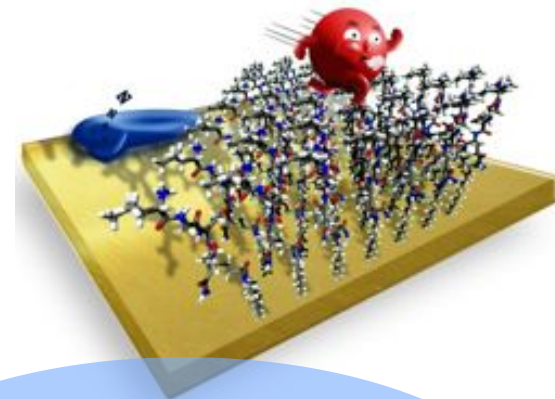
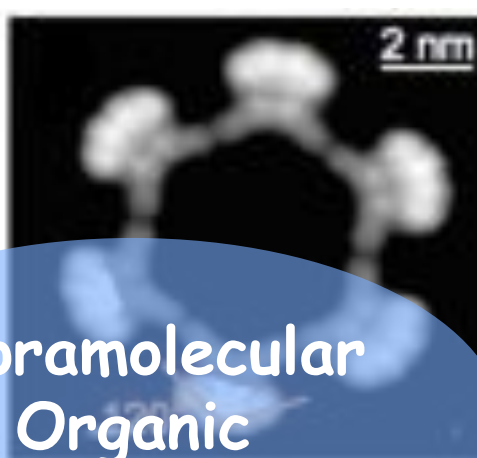
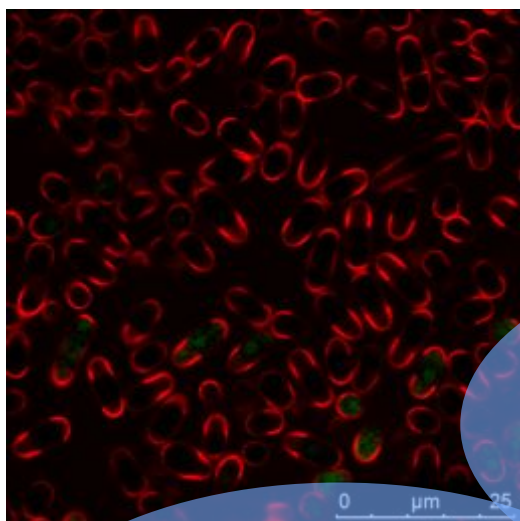
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Department of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Trieste, Piazzale Europa 1, Trieste, Italy



The Abdus Salam
International Centre
for Theoretical Physics
50th Anniversary 1964-2014





Supramolecular
Organic
Nanochemistry

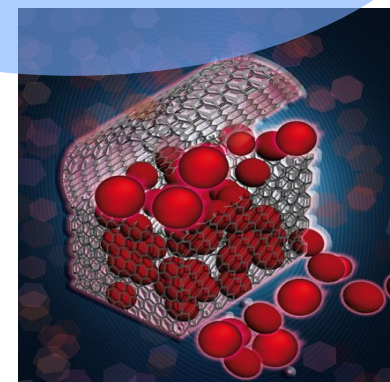
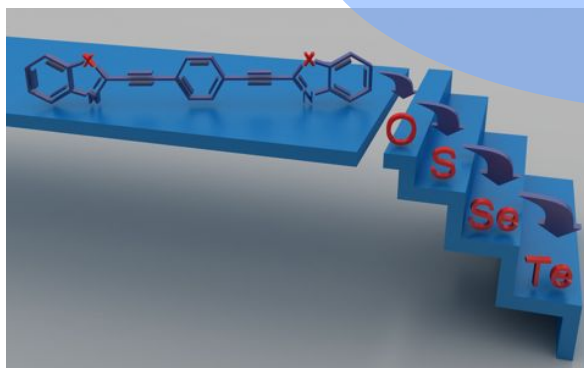
Biomimetic
Nanostructuring
of Surfaces

Supramolecular
Chemistry with
Living Systems

Organic
Chemistry

Advanced Materials
on Carbon-based
Nanostructures

Newly Emissive π -
Conjugated Materials



**Mimicking and Controlling
Natural or Artificial Systems**

**Molecular Structure
?
Macroscopic Structure**

**Controlled Organization by
Programming Directionality at All
Levels**

An hierarchical approach

Submolecule

Molecule

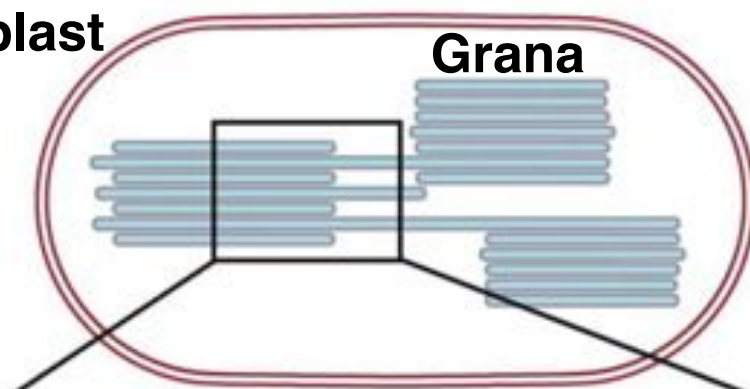
Supramolecule

Nano and Micro level

Macroscopic functions

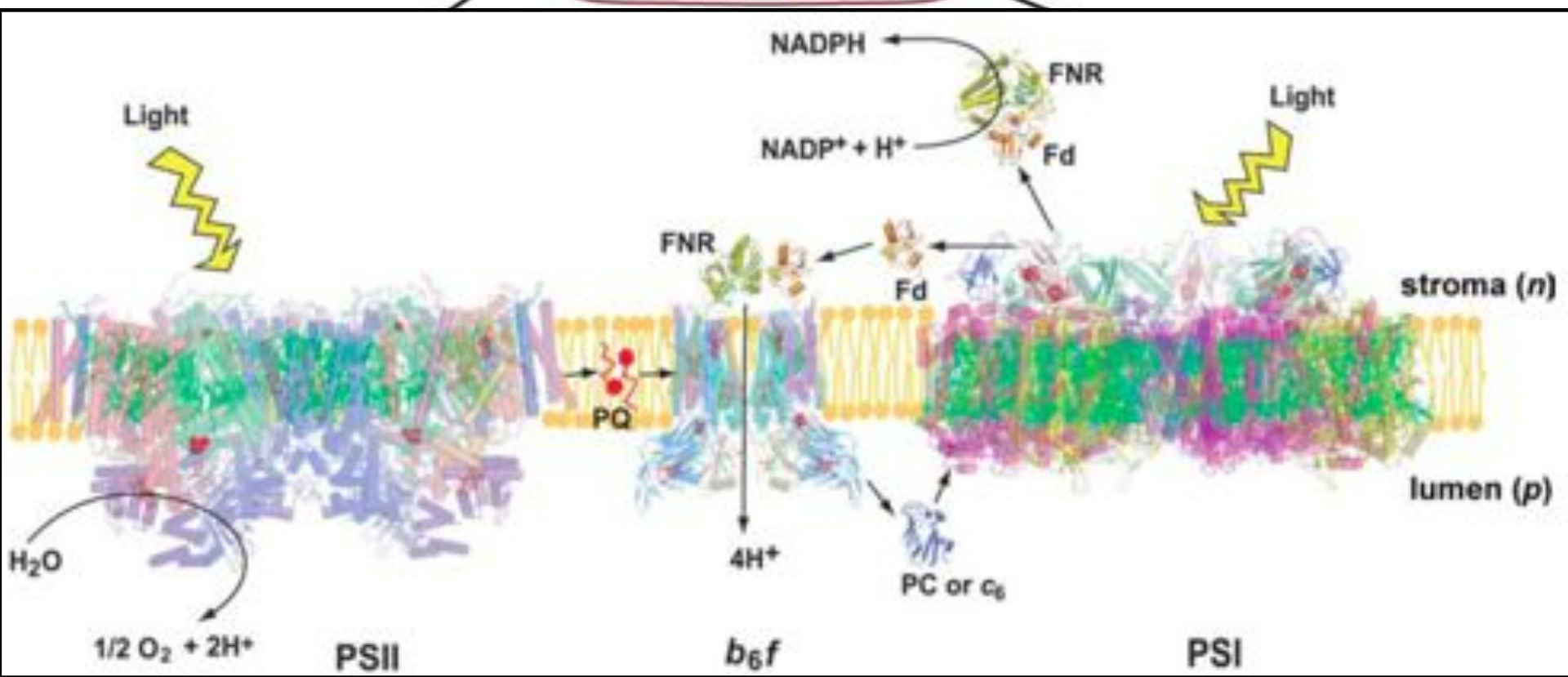
Thylakoid membrane organization: the PSII and PSI system

Chloroplast

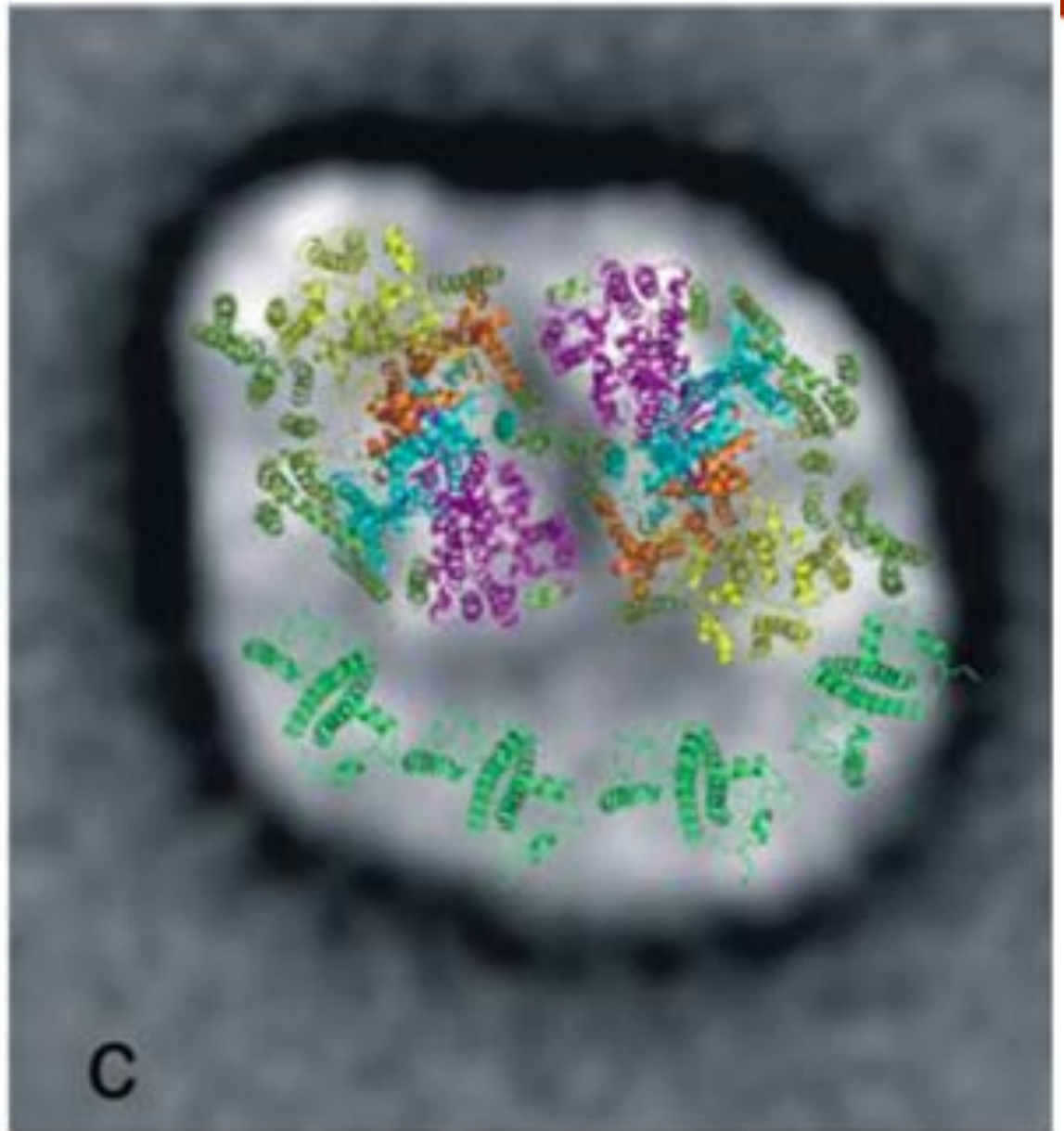
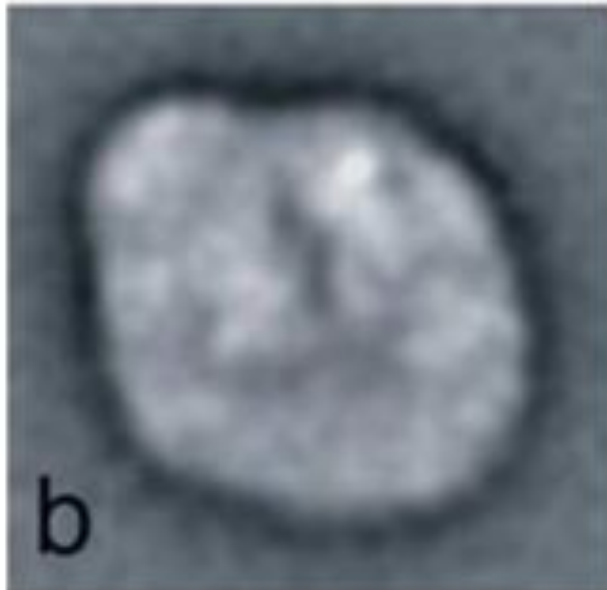
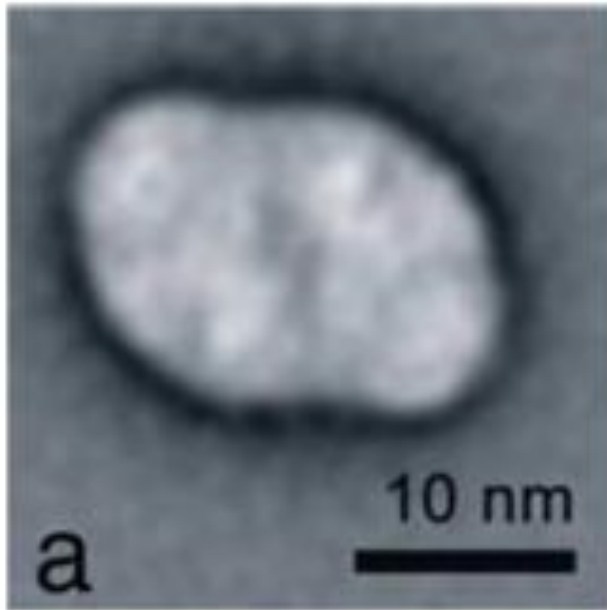


Grana

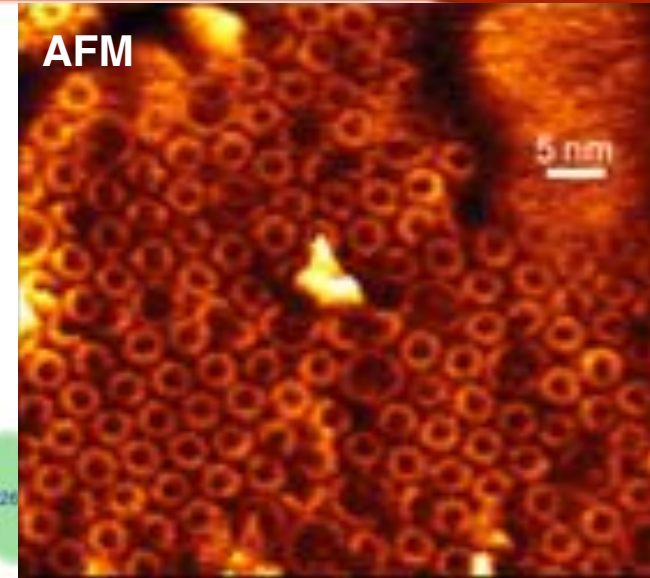
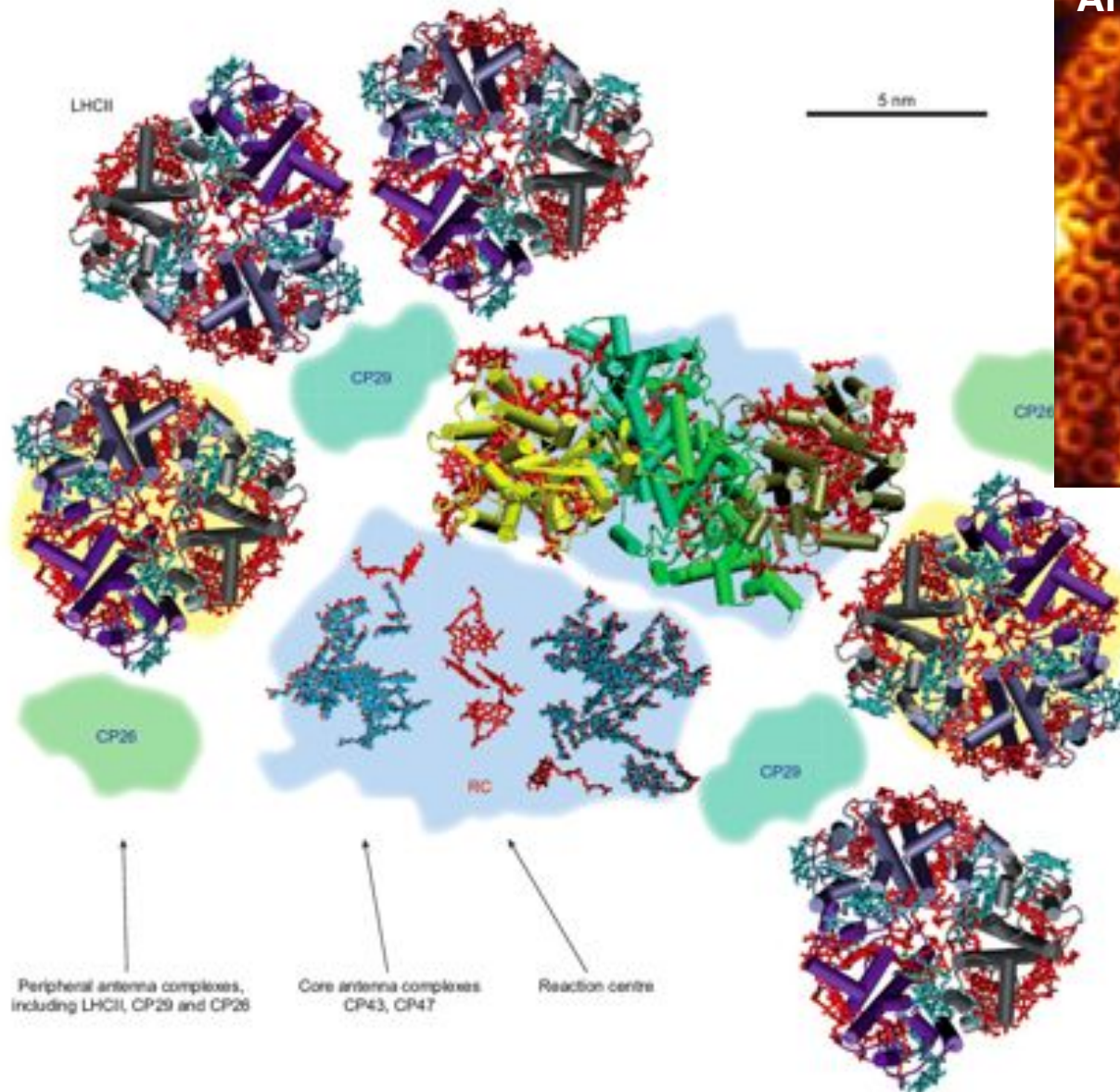
Photosynthetic Protein Complexes, P. Fromme Ed., 2008.



Electron microscopy projection of a PSII core & LHC complexes

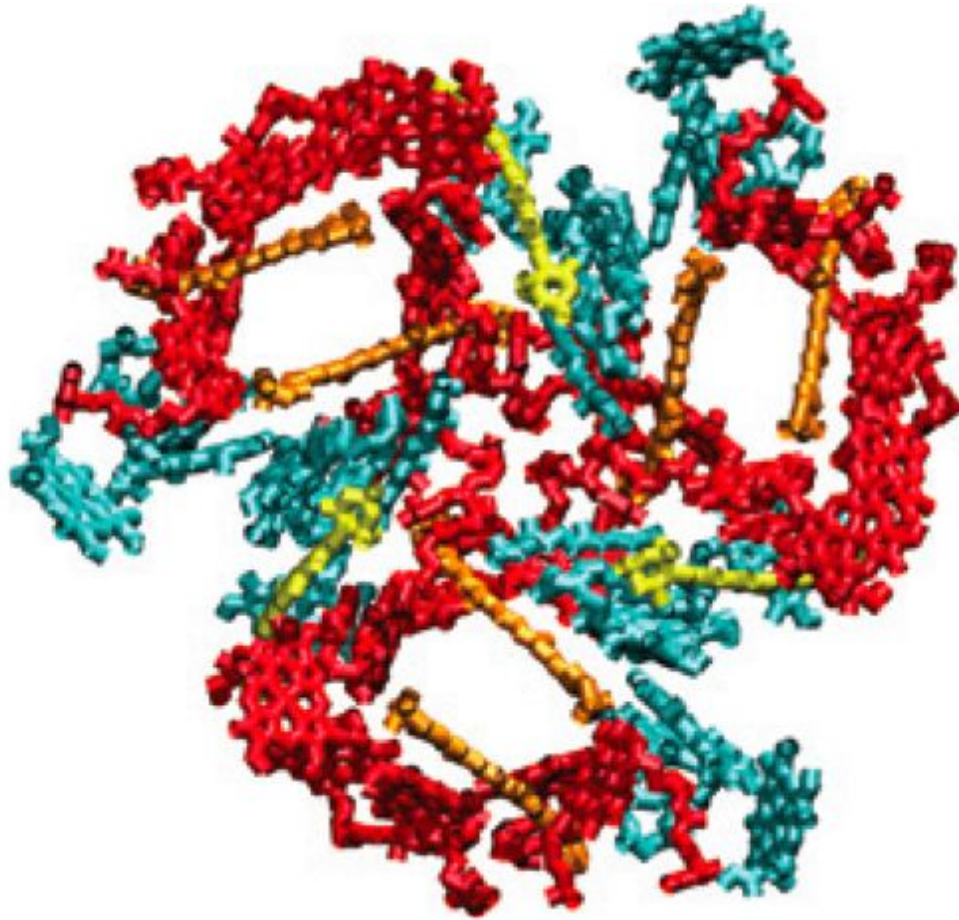


Structural organization of photosystem II (PSII) in higher plants



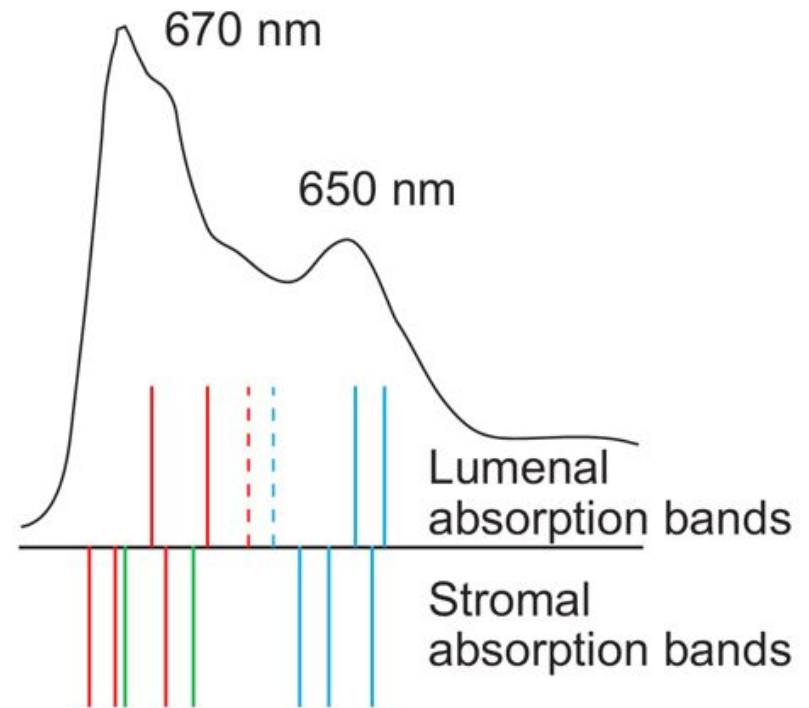
Nature Chem. 2011, 3, 763

Structural and light-absorption characteristics of a LCHII



Chlorophyll-a (RED) Chlorophyll-b (BLUE)
Lutein (ORANGE) Violoxanthin (YELLOW)
(the neoxanthin is omitted)

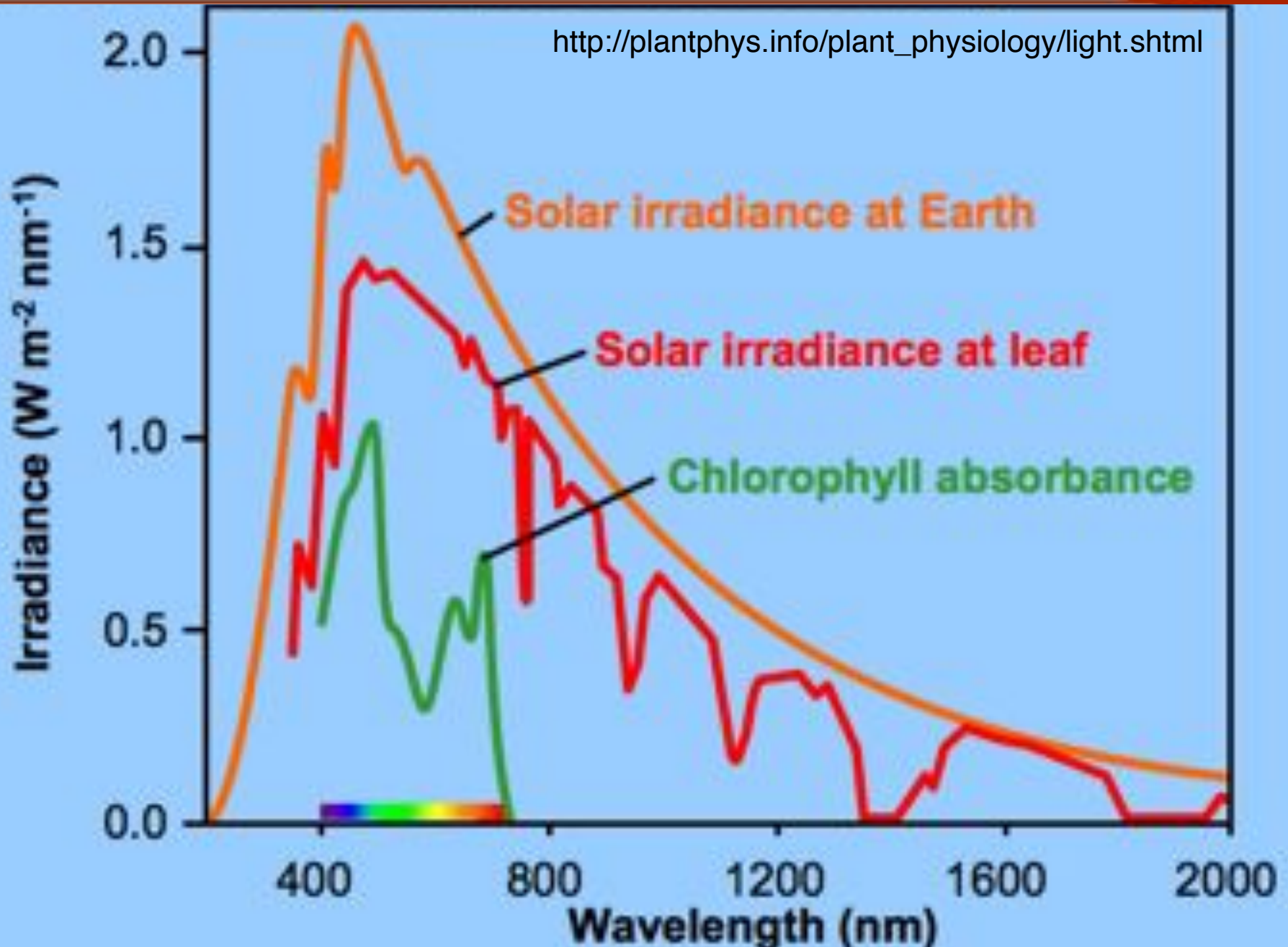
UV-vis absorption spectrum at 77K



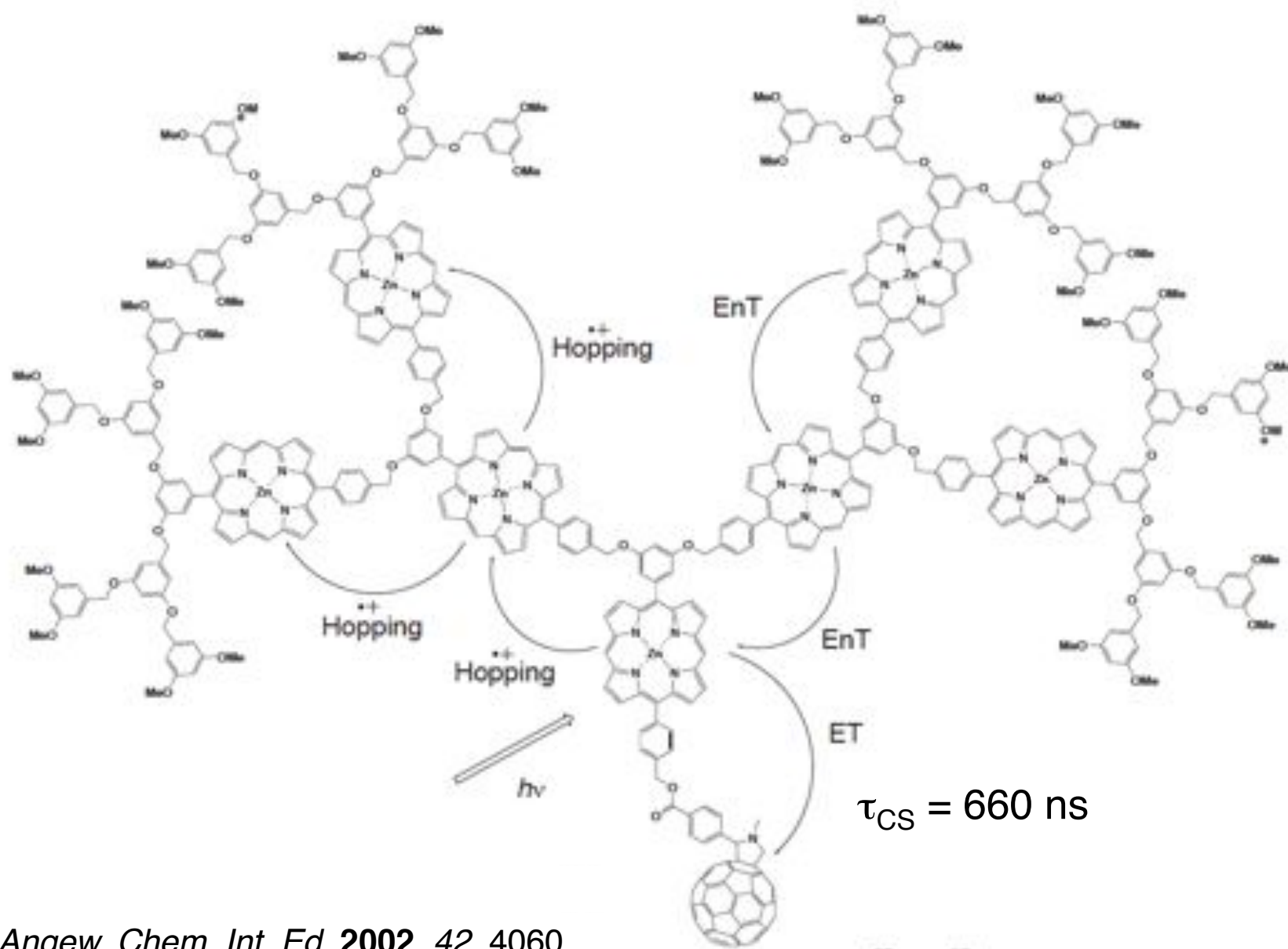
Nature Chem. **2011**, 3, 763

Solar Energy vs Plant absorbance

http://plantphys.info/plant_physiology/light.shtml

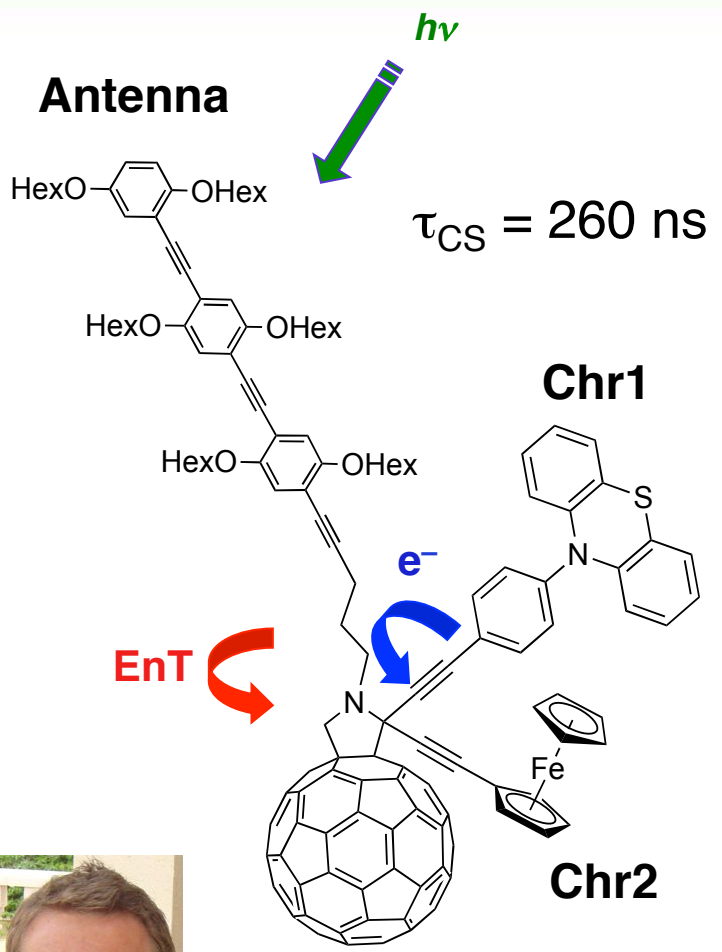


Mimicking photosynthetic reaction centers

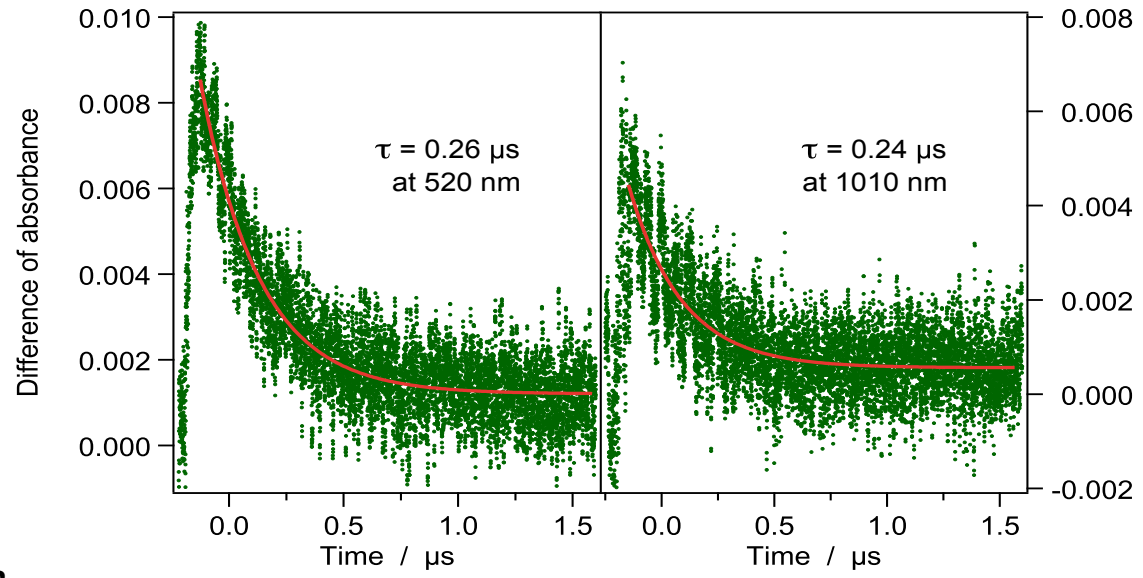
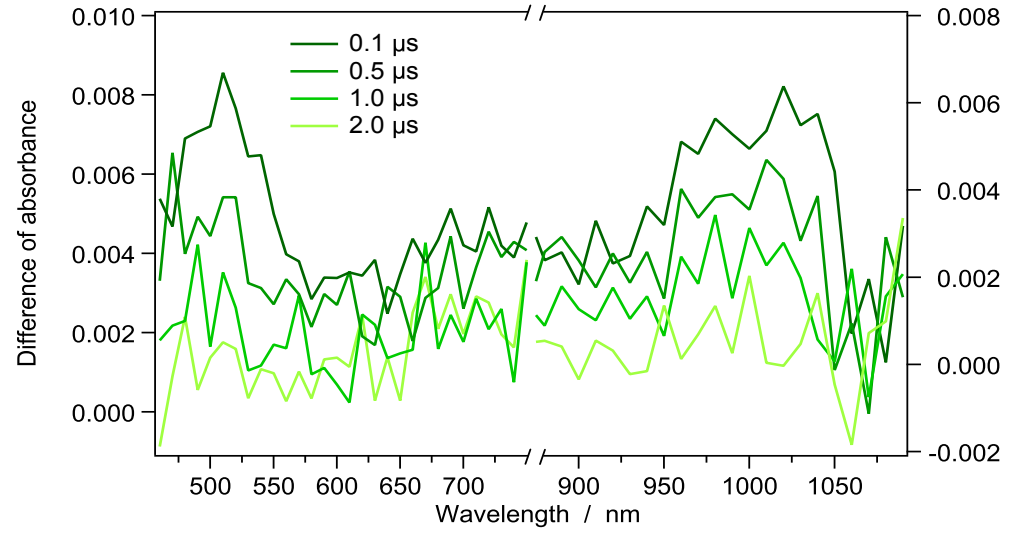


Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2002**, *42*, 4060

Fullerene-based molecular antennas



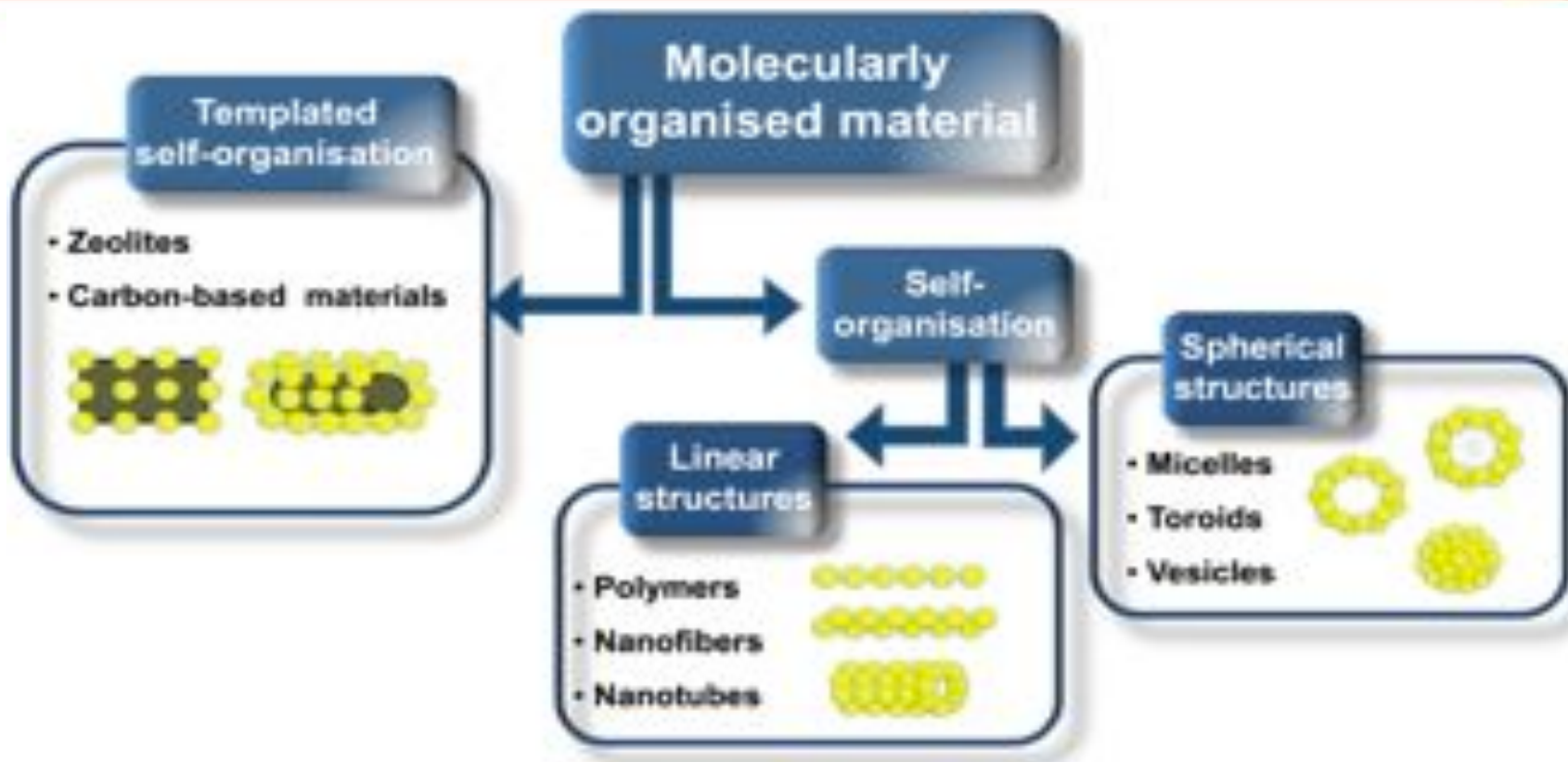
Dr. A. Kremer



Benzonitrile at 293 K

Unpublished results, in preparation.

Nanostructuring approaches



Non-covalent Interactions

H-Bonding
(4-120 kJ/mol)

Metal Coordination
(40-120 kJ/mol)

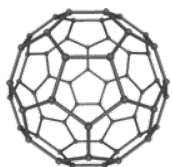
Halogen Bonding
(20-40 kJ/mol)

Electrostatic
(50-200 kJ/mol)

Dipolar Interactions
(5-50 kJ/mol)

Low-dimensional carbon nanostructures

Molecular
 C_{60}



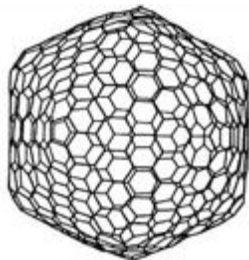
Smalley, R. E. *et al.*
Nature
1985, 318, 162

C_{70}



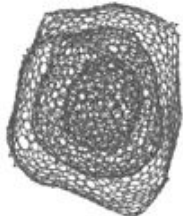
Whetten, R. L. *et al.*
J. Phys. Chem.
1990, 94, 8630

C_{540}



Kroto, H.
Pure Appl. Chem.
1990, 62, 407

Particellar
Nano-onions Nano-diamond

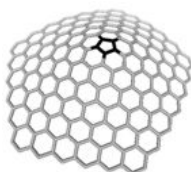


Ugarte, D.
Nature
1992, 359, 707

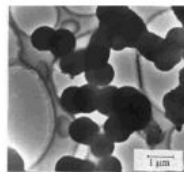


Greiner, N. R. *et al.*
Nature
1990, 343, 244

Nano-cones Nano-beads



Sattler, K. *et al.*
Chem. Phys. Lett.
1994, 220, 192



Zhao, X. L. *et al.*
Carbon
1998, 36, 507

Nano-horns Nano-dots

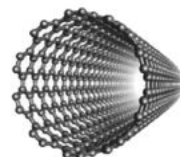


Iijima, S. *et al.*
Chem. Phys. Lett.
2000, 321, 514



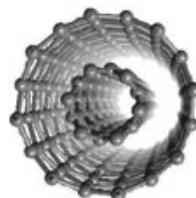
Scrivens, W. A. *et al.*
J. Am. Chem. Soc.
2004, 126, 12736

1D
SWCNTs



Ichihashi, T. *et al.*
Nature
1993, 363, 603

DWCNTs



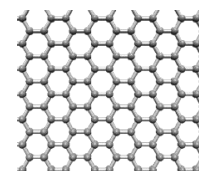
Zakharov, D. N. *et al.*
Carbon
2001, 39, 761

MWCNTs



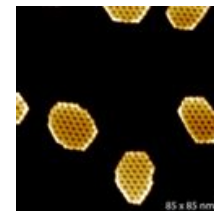
Iijima, S.
Nature
1991, 354, 56

2D
Graphene



Novoselov, K. S. *et al.*
Science
2004, 306, 666

Graphene
nanodots



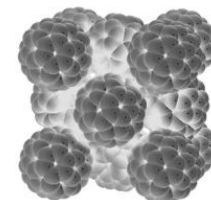
Novoselov, K. S. *et al.*
Science
2008, 320, 356

Graphene
nanoribbons



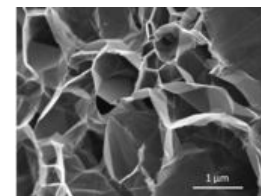
Dresselhaus, M. S. *et al.*
Phys. Rev. B
1996, 54, 17954

3D
Fullerite



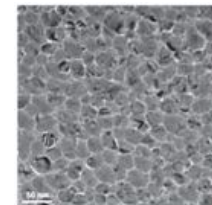
Thiel, F. A. *et al.*
Nature
1991, 351, 380

Graphene
nanoplatelets



Thiel, F. A. *et al.*
Nature
1991, 351, 380

Nanocrystalline
diamond films



Gruen, D. M. *et al.*
Annu. Rev. Mater. Sci.
1999, 29, 211

Carbon nanotubes

PROPERTIES

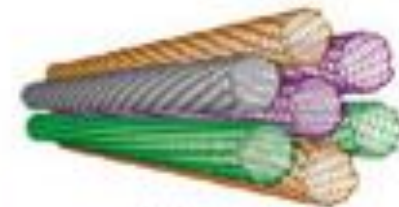
- **High carrier mobilities** ($\sim 1,20,000 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$)
- **Large surface areas** ($\sim 1600 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$)
- **Absorption in the IR range** (E_g : 0.48 to 1.37 eV)
- **Conductance** - Independent of the channel length
- **Great current carrying capability** – 10^9 A cm^{-2}
- **Semiconducting CNTs** – Ideal solar cells
- **Mechanical strength & Chemical stability**

CURRENT DRAWBACKS

- **Not homogenous structural distribution**
- **Mixtures of metallic and semiconductor**
- **Different diameters**



SWNT

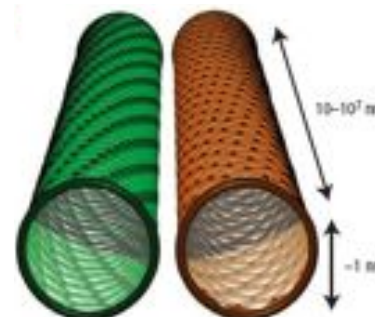


SWNT bundle



MWNT

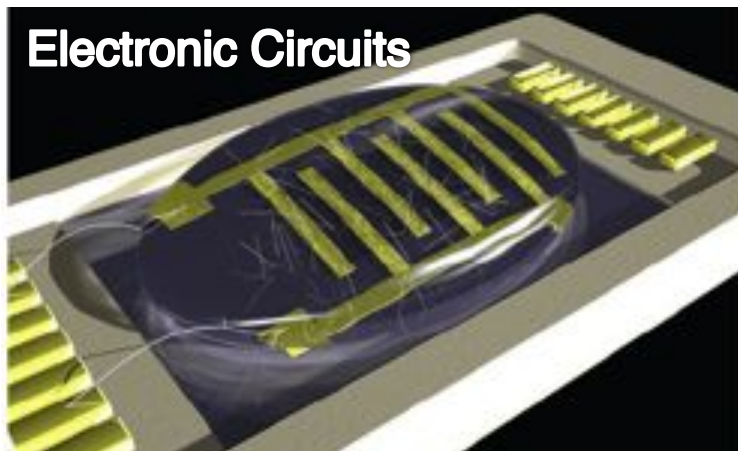
Chiral and Achiral SWCNTs



Mirror Images



Electronic Circuits



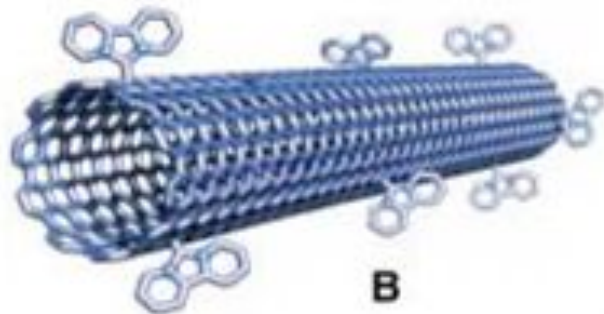
Solar Cells



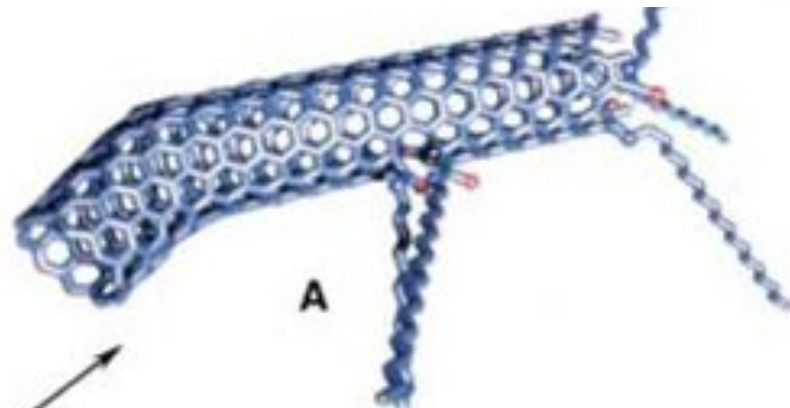
Nature Nanotech. 2008, 3, 387.

Chemistry of Carbon Nanotubes

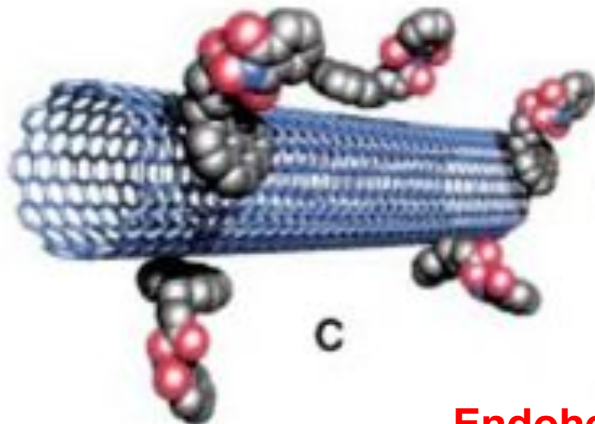
Covalent sidewall functionalization



Defect-group functionalization

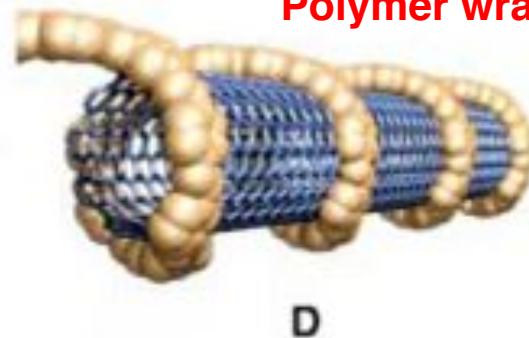


Noncovalent exohedral functionalization with surfactants



SWNT

Polymer wrapping



Endohedral functionalization with C₆₀



(a) Hirsch, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 1853; (b) Haddon, R. C. *et al. Acc. Chem. Res.* **2002**, *35*, 1105 (c) Khlobystov A. N. *et al. Acc. Chem. Res.* **2005**, *38*, 901; (d) Prato, M. *et al. Chem. Rev.* **2006**, *106*, 1105; (e) Bonifazi, D. *et al. Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2009**, *38*, 2214.

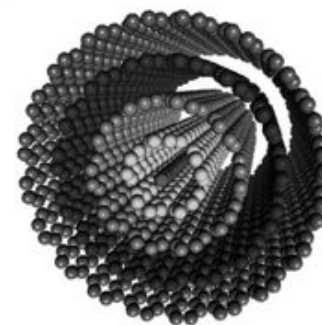
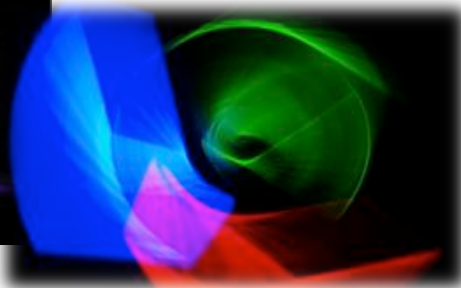
Creation of new CNT-based luminescent hybrids



Lanthanides

- Intense line-like emission
- Long lifetime decay
- Ease of synthesis/tuning of properties

K. Binnemans, *Chem. Rev.* **2009**, *109*, 4283; S. V. Eliseeva, J.-C. G. Bunzli, *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2010**, *39*, 189.



CNTs

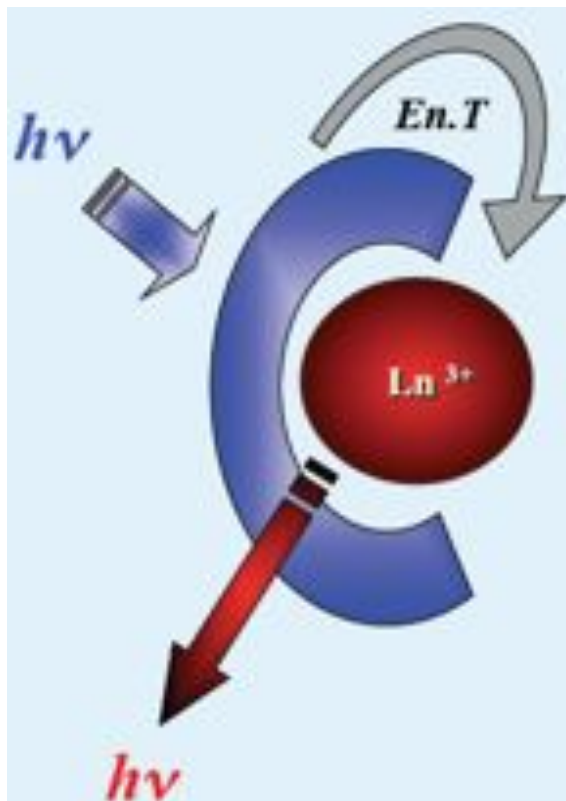
- Conducting or semiconducting properties
- One-dimensional structure
- Several functionalization methodologies available

S. Iijima, *Nature* **1991**, *354*, 56; C. N. R. Rao, B. C. Satishkumar, A. Govindaraj, M. Nath, *ChemPhysChem* **2001**, *2*, 78.

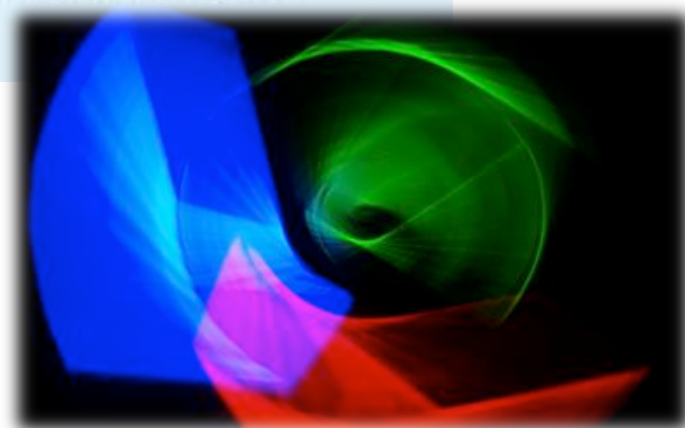
PROBLEMATICS:

- Interchromophoric quenching issues
- Difficulties to preserve structural organization

Rare-earth complexes

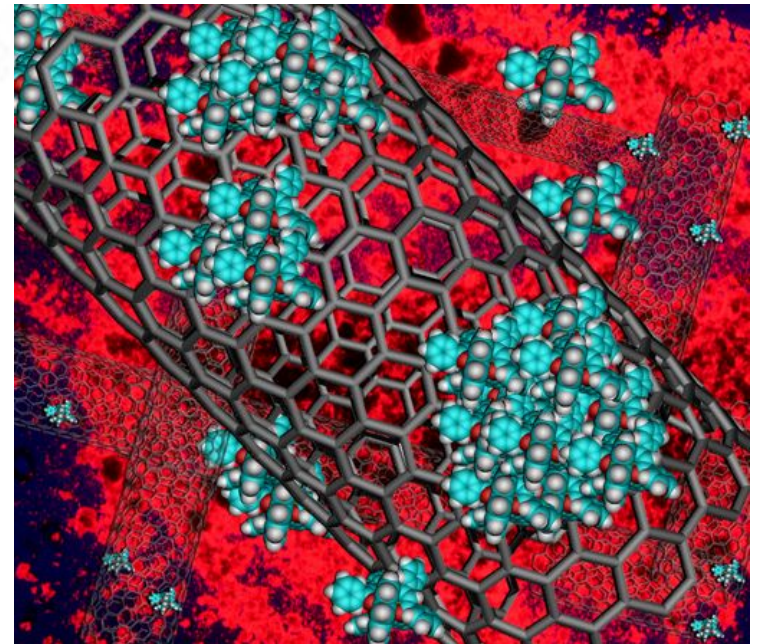
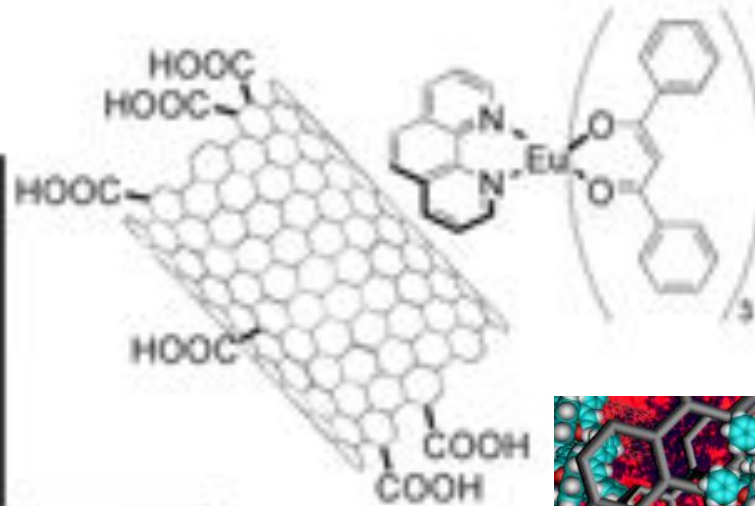
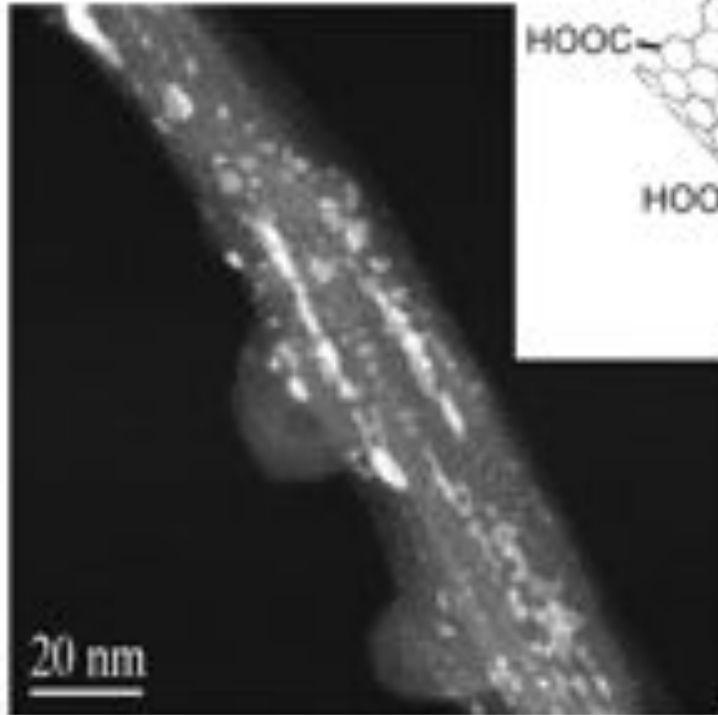


- *Internal transitions (f orbitals)*
- *Intense and line-like emission bands*
- *Long-lived el. excited states (μs - ms)*
- *Broad emission range (Vis-NIR)*
- *PROTECTION OF THE EMITTER BY THE EXTERNAL LIGAND SHELL*

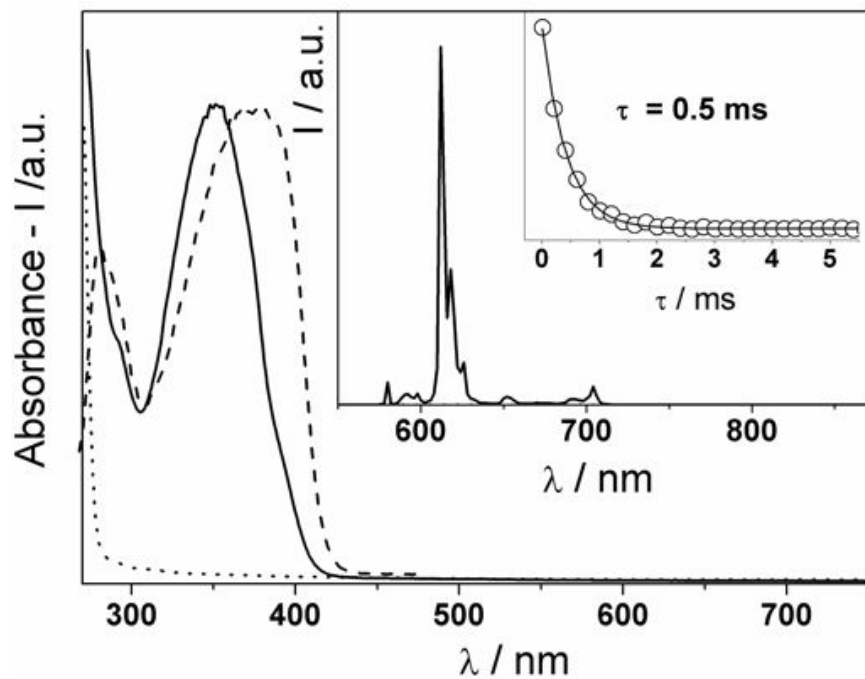


SWCNTs coated with Eu(III) complexes

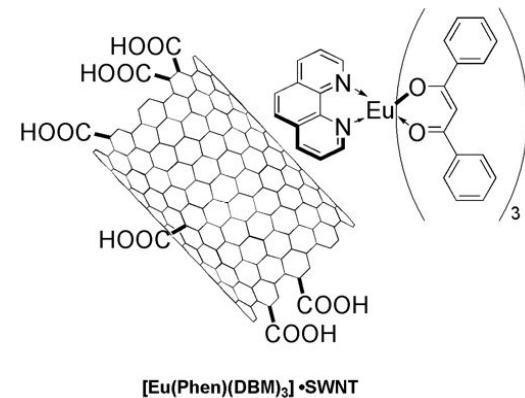
Z-contrast ADF-STEM
micrographs



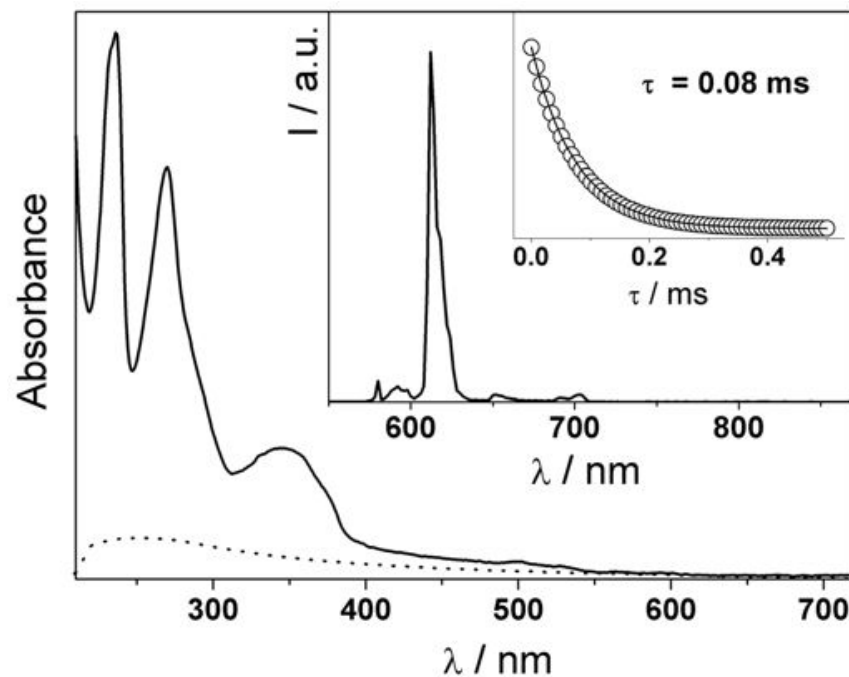
Steady-state UV-Vis absorption and emission



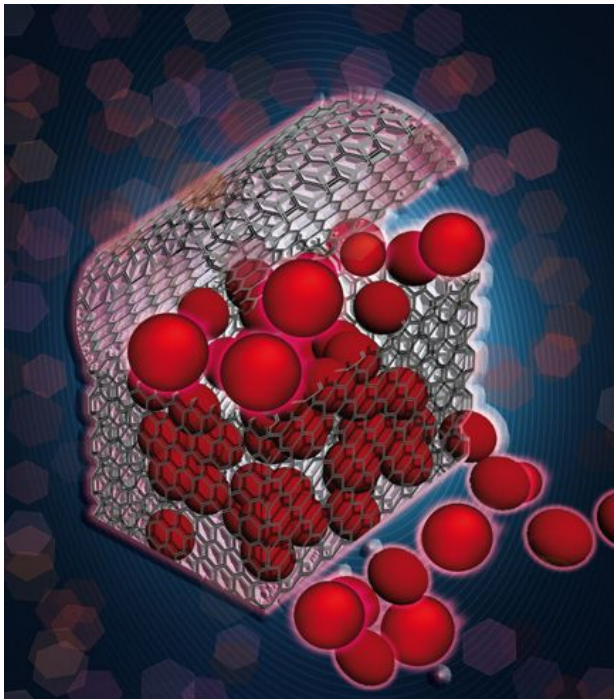
T = 298 K
Matrix: Polyethylene



T = 298 K
MeOH Solution



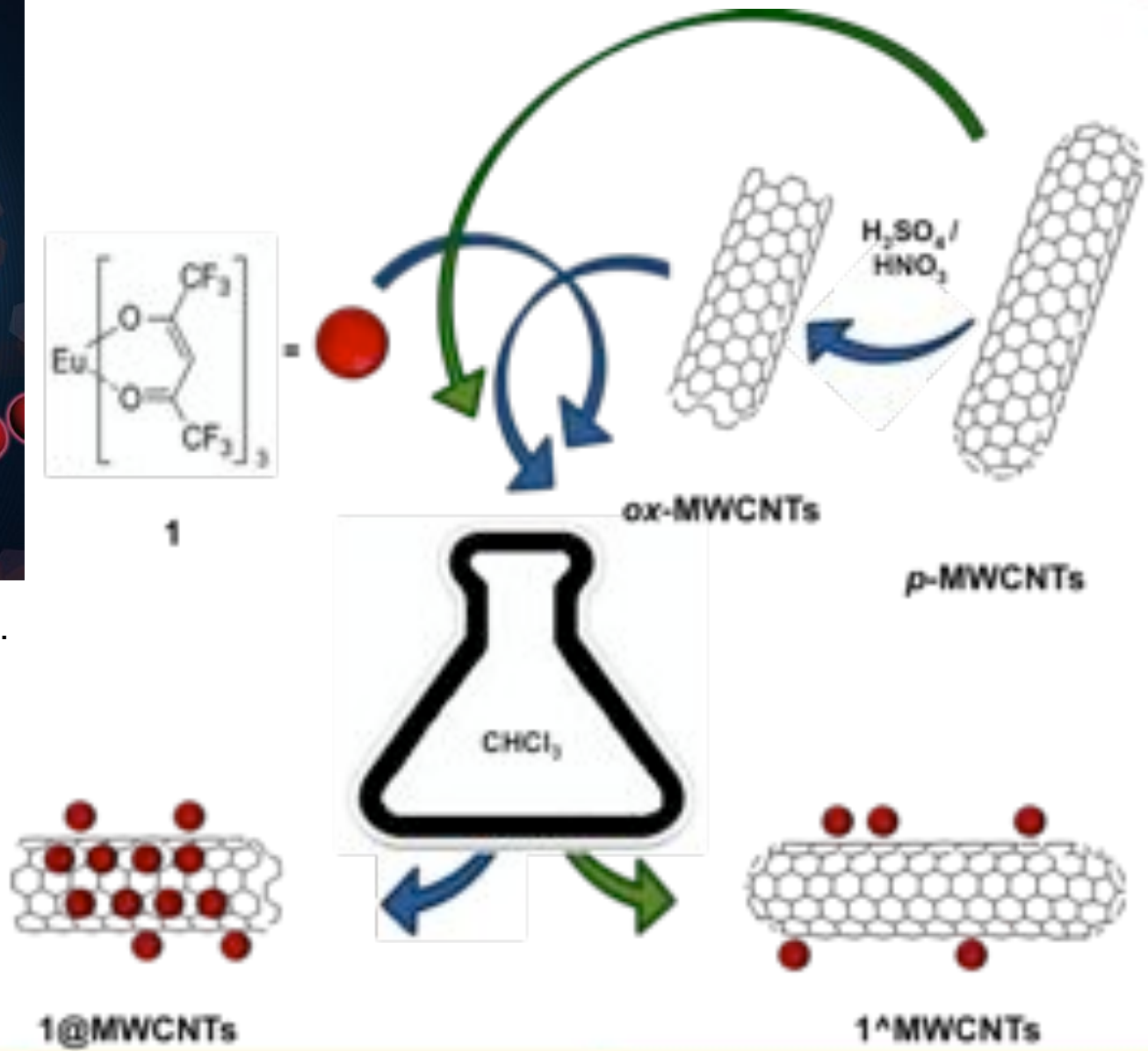
Luminescent CNTs-Eu(III) host-guest complexes



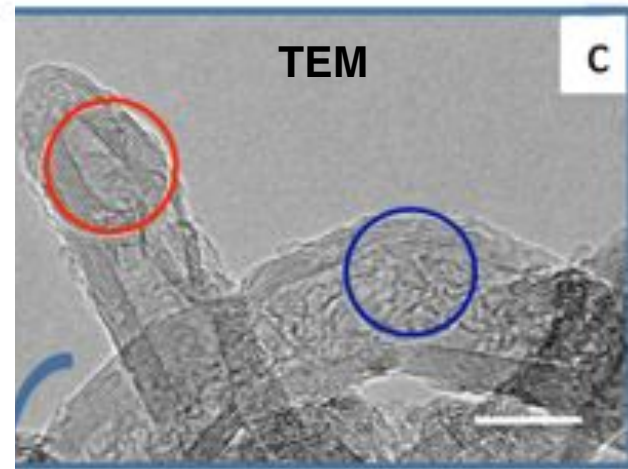
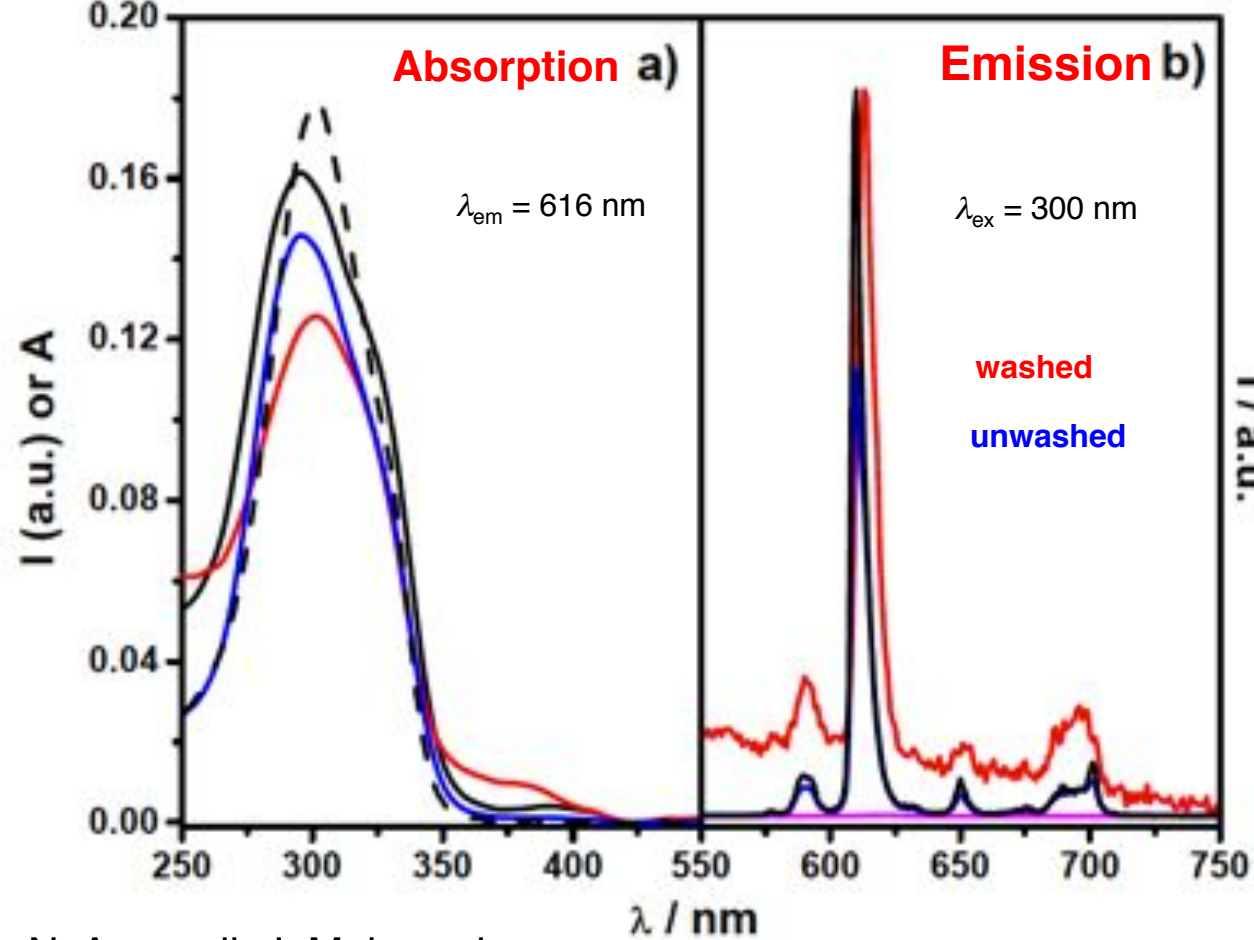
Chem. Eur. J. 2011, 17, 8533.



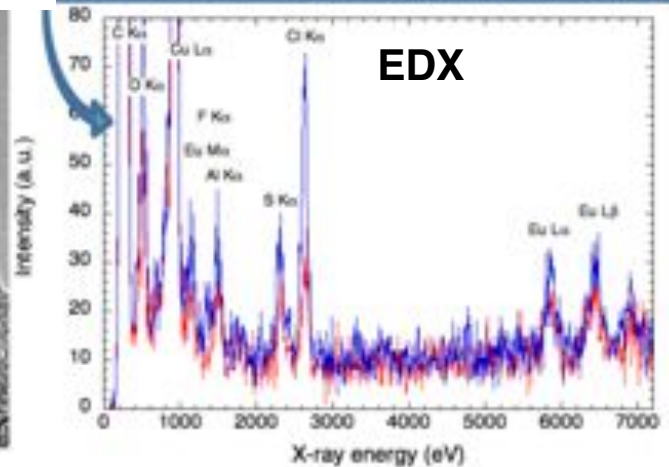
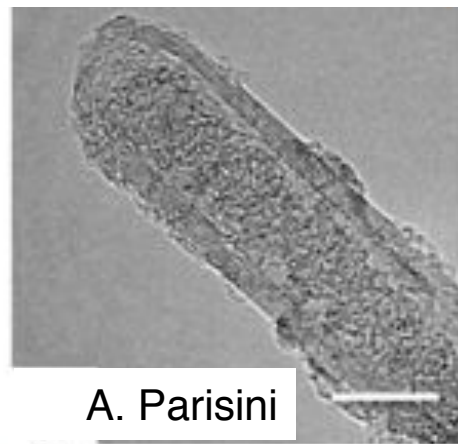
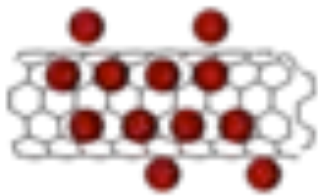
Dr. L. Maggini



Structural and Photophysical Characterization (Emission and TEM)

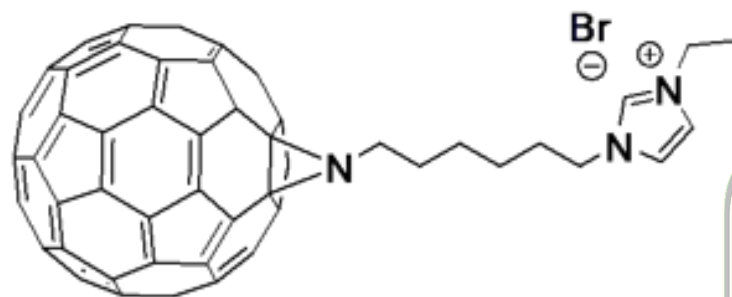


N. Armaroli, J. Mohanraj

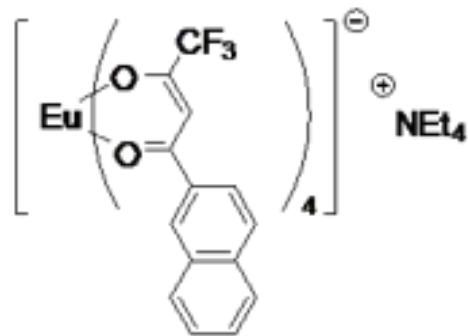


Non-covalent decoration of MWCNTs through ion-pairing interactions

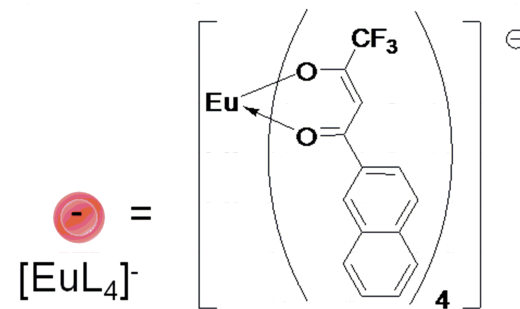
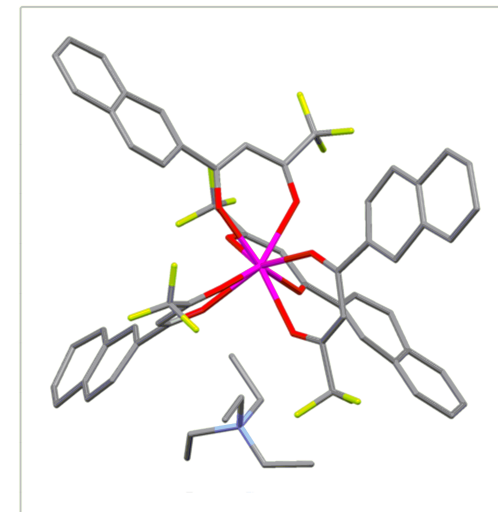
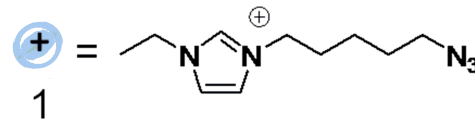
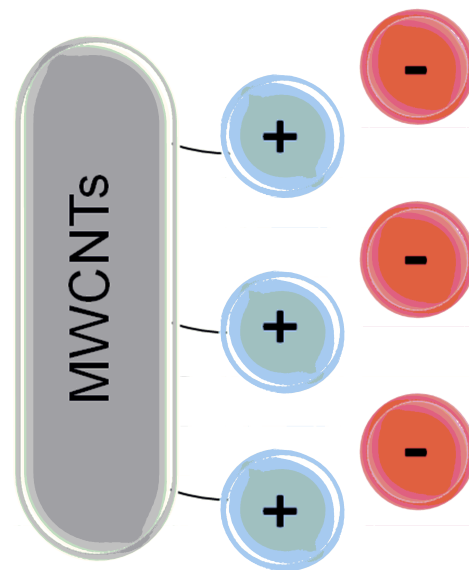
STRATEGY: exploit the coulombic interactions between ionic liquids and negatively-charged Lanthanide complexes

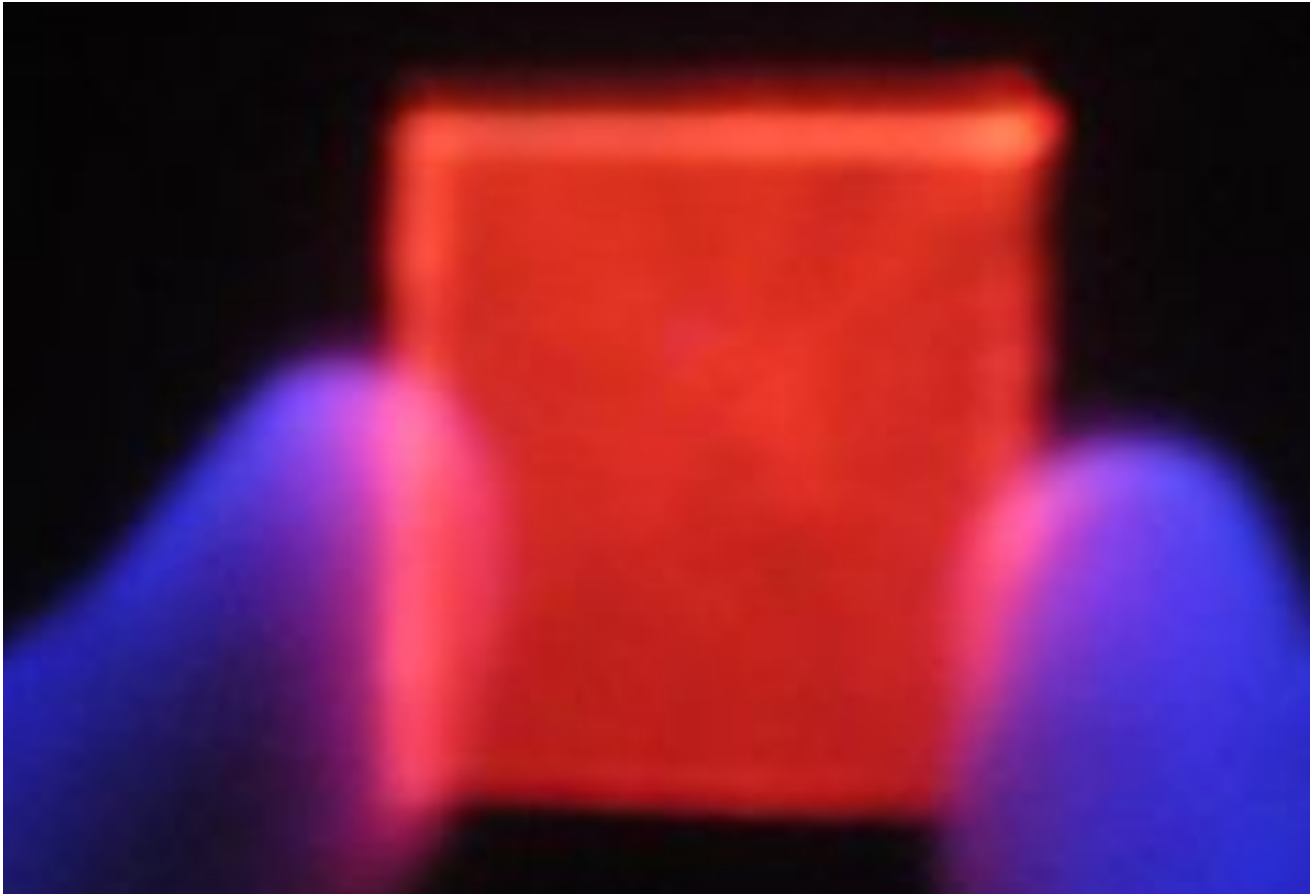


"Ionic Assembly"

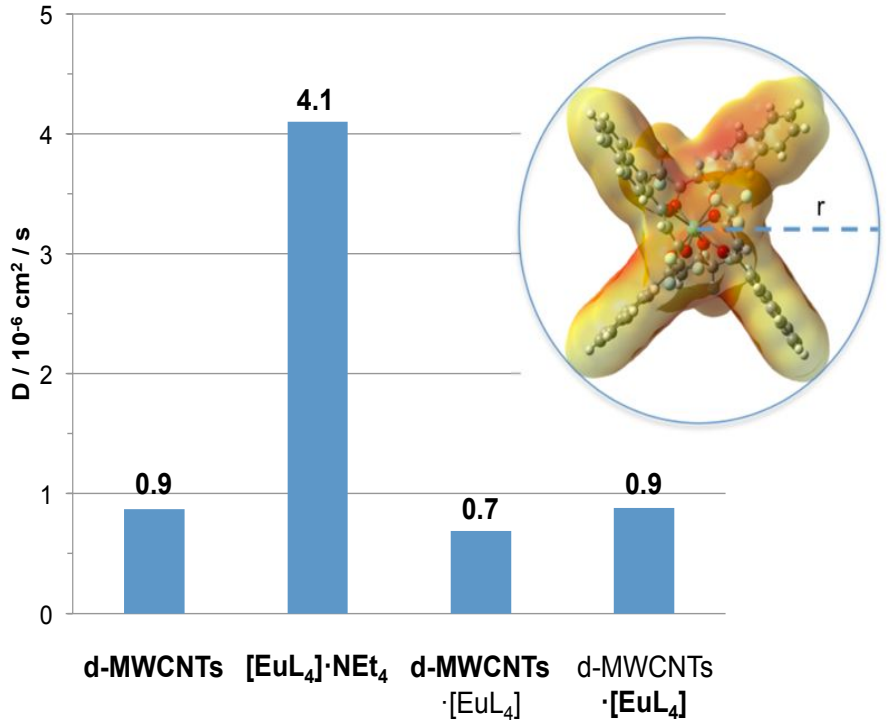
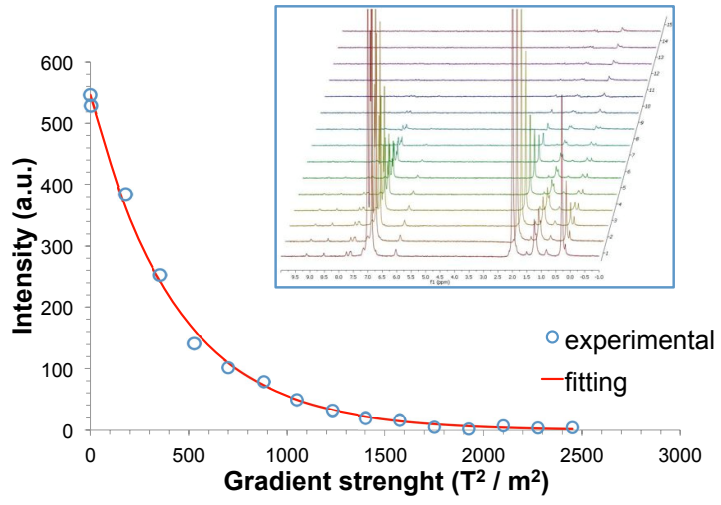


Europium complexes designed and synthesized by the group of Prof. M. Pietraszkiewicz

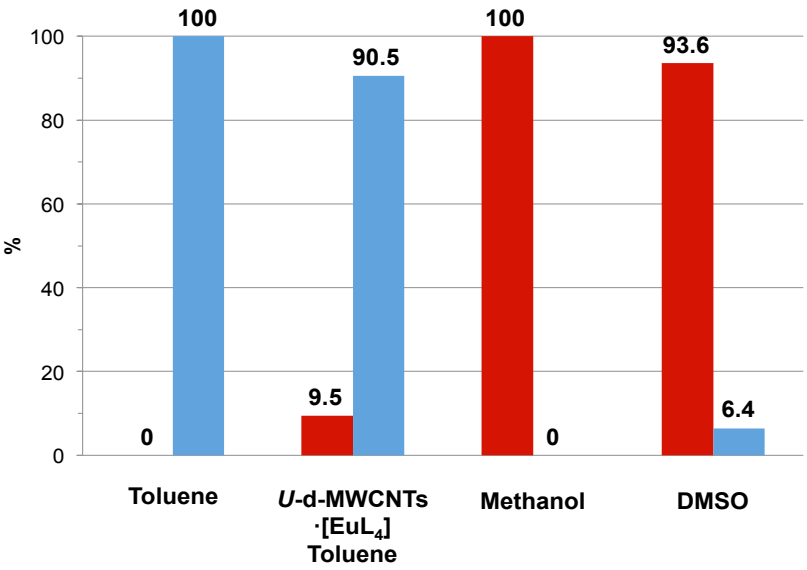




DOSY-NMR: effectiveness of the ion-pairing



Free $[\text{EuL}_4]$ and d-MWCNTs $\cdot [\text{EuL}_4]$

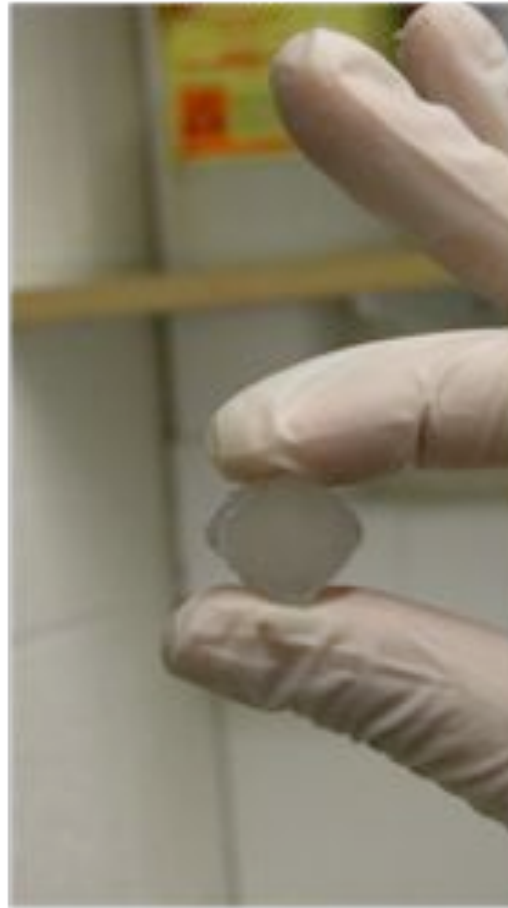
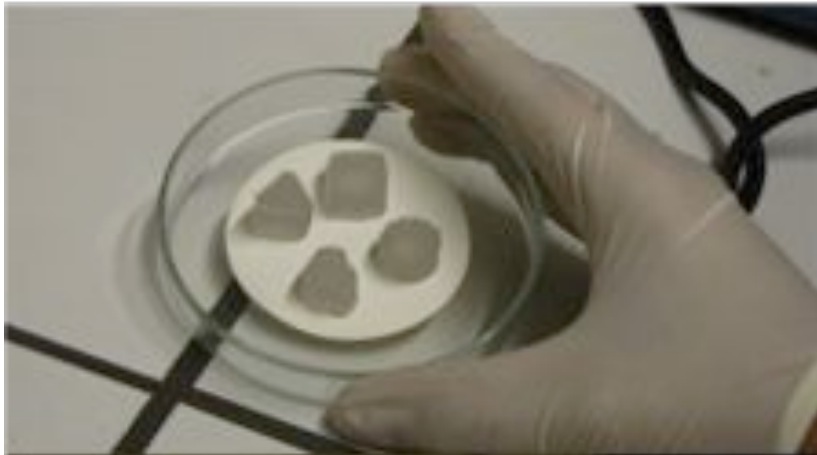


The DOSY eq.
 $I = I_0 \exp(-D \times \Delta q)$

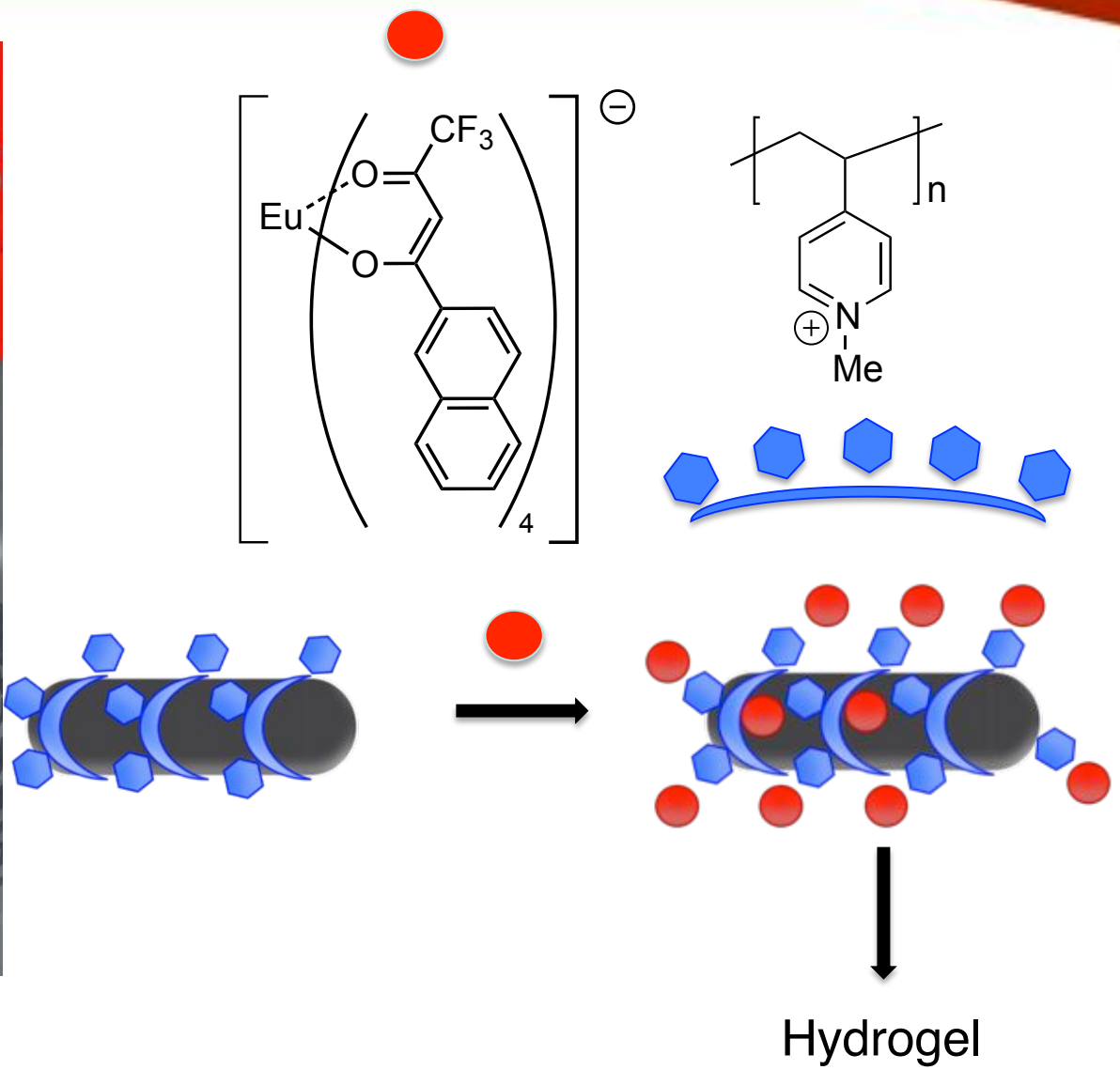
Stokes-Einstein eq.
 $D = (k_B \times T) / (4 \times \pi \times \eta \times r)$

r_{cal} & r_{exp} : 1.2 & 1.3 nm for **free $[\text{EuL}_4]$**
 r_{exp} : 5.7 nm for **d-MWCNTs $\cdot [\text{EuL}_4]$**

Dispersion in polymers

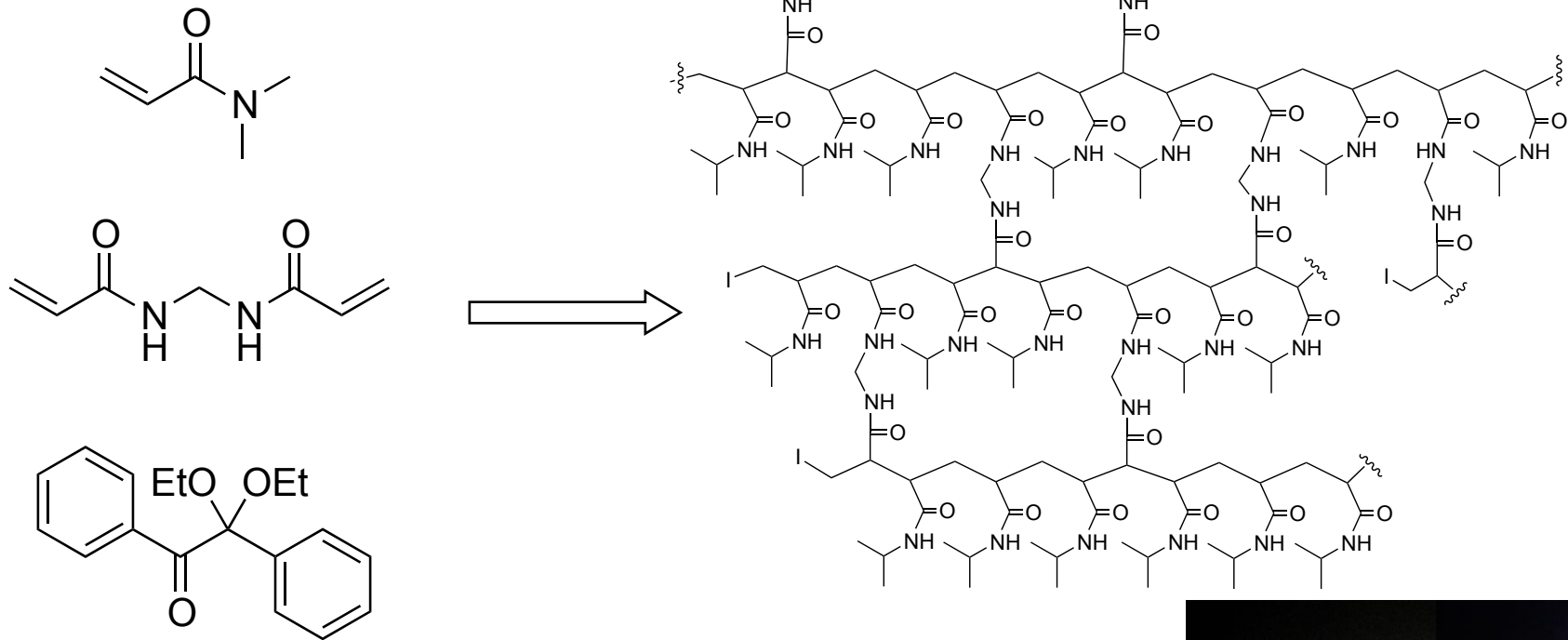


Towards functional materials: CNT-hydrogels

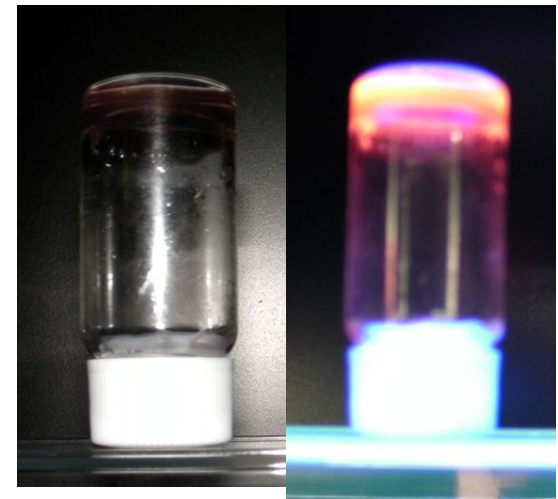


Adv. Mater. 2013, 25, 2462.

Hydrogels: preparation

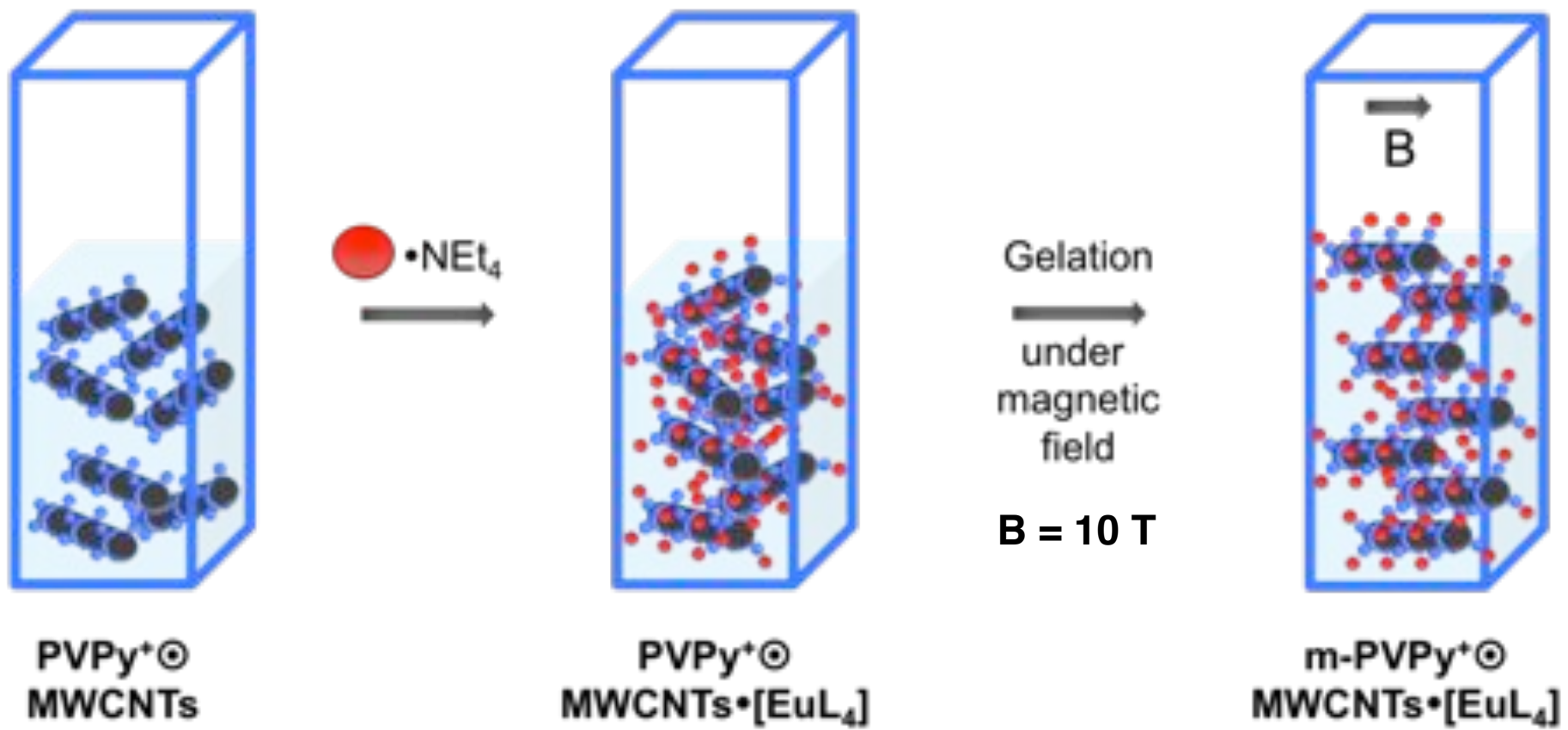


- Addition of the complex to the suspension of CNTs
- Addition of the gelators followed by sonication (1 min)
- Irradiation (20 min)

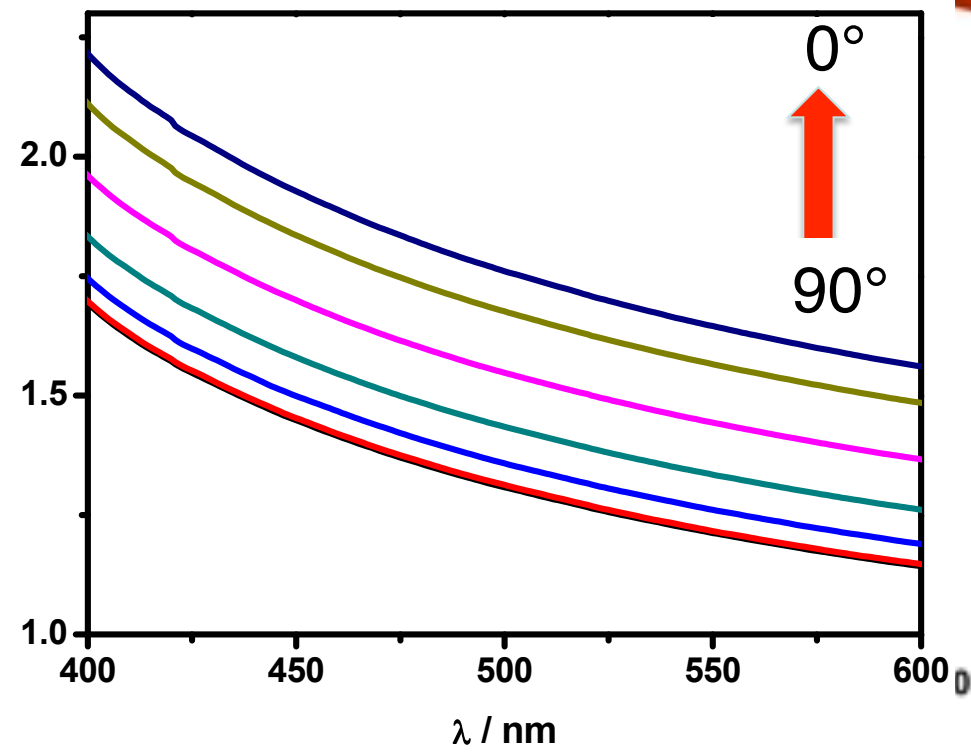
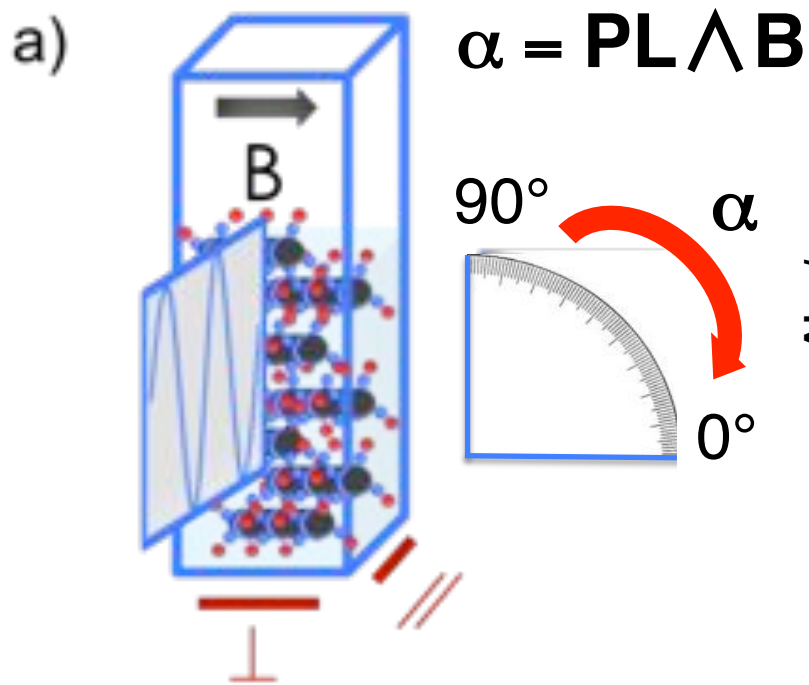


Dr. I. Ishida (Riken Institute, Japan)

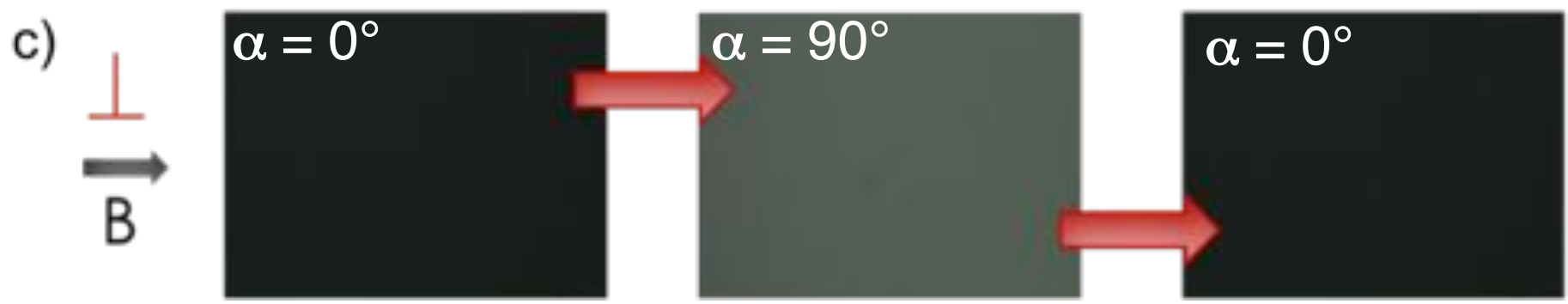
Anisotropic luminescent hydrogels: CNT templates



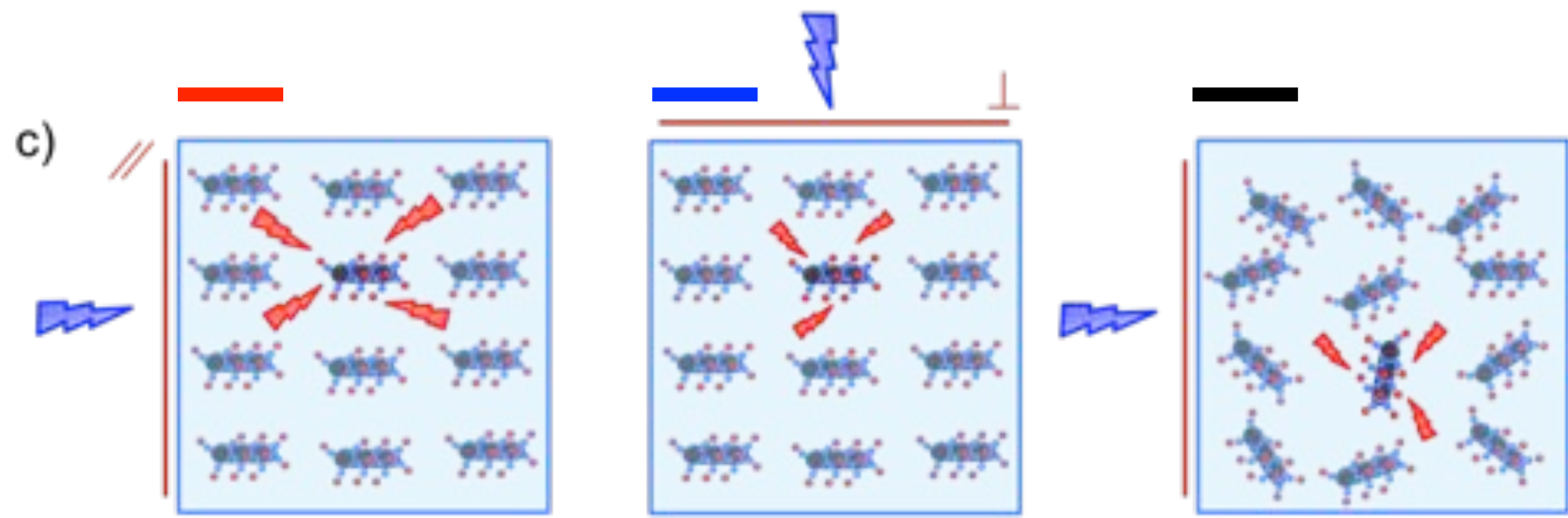
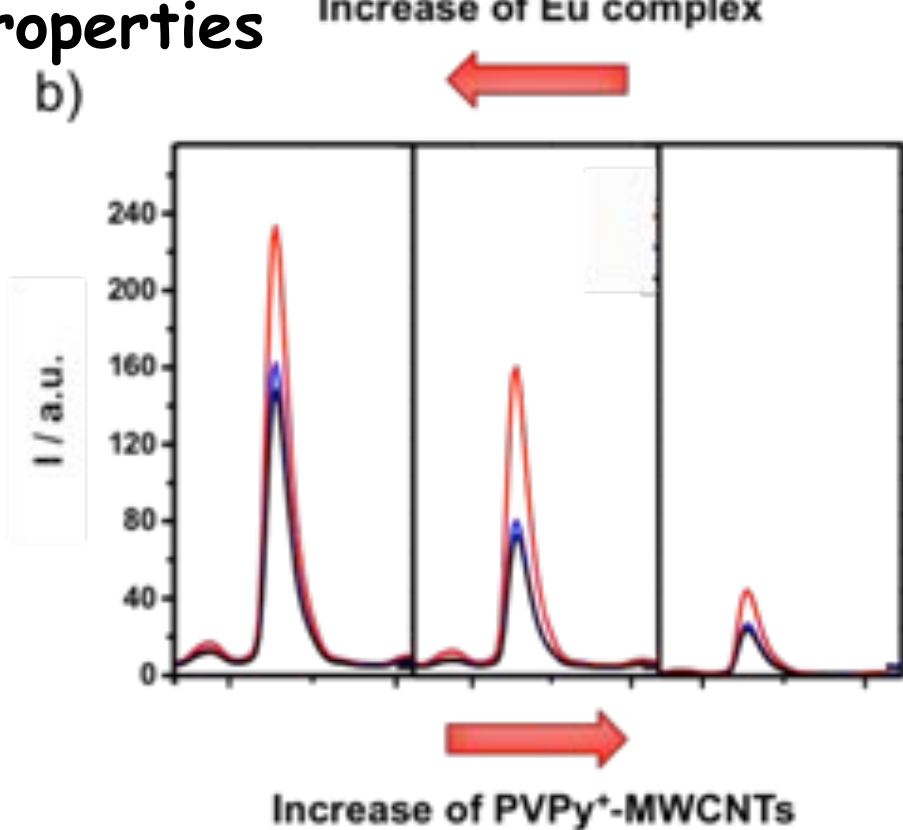
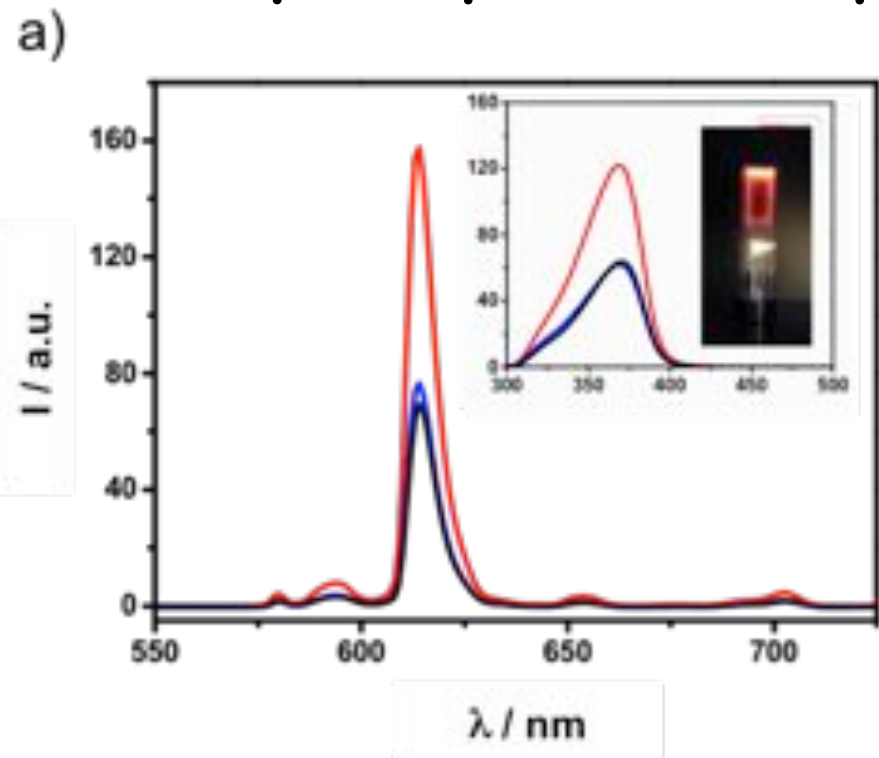
Polarized UV-Vis adsorption

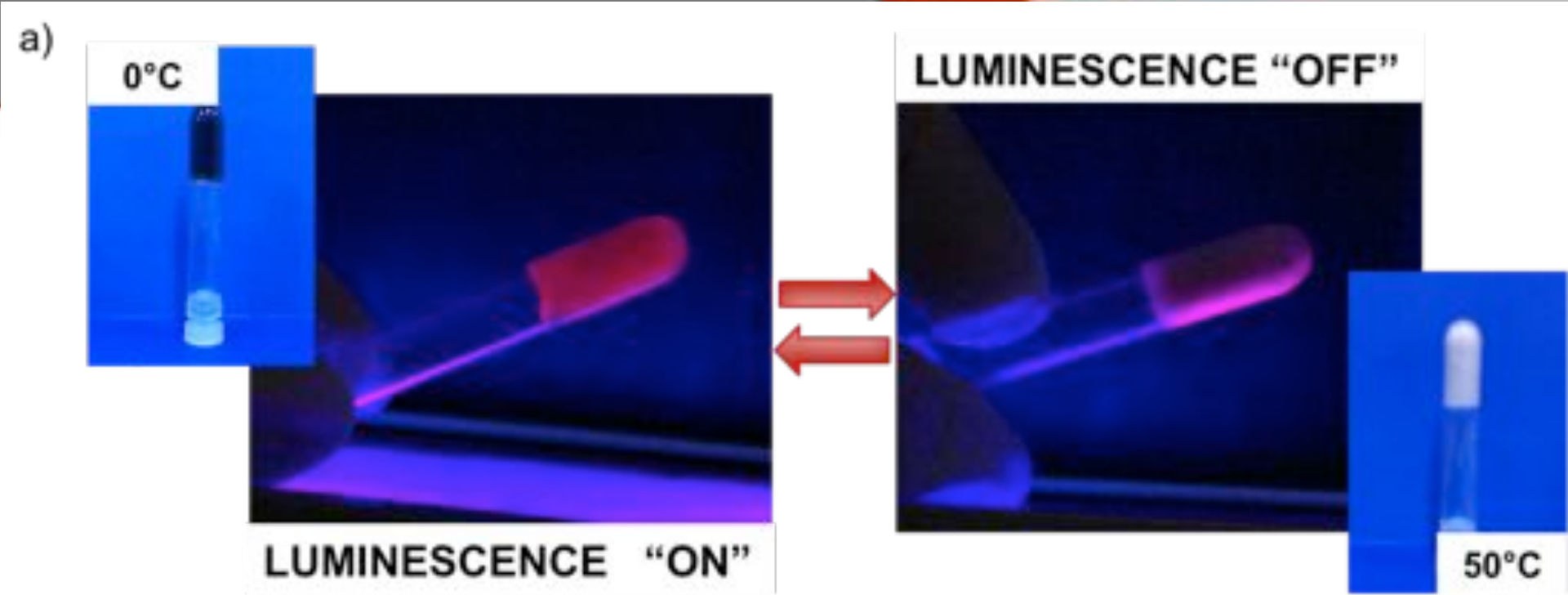


Polarised microscope images

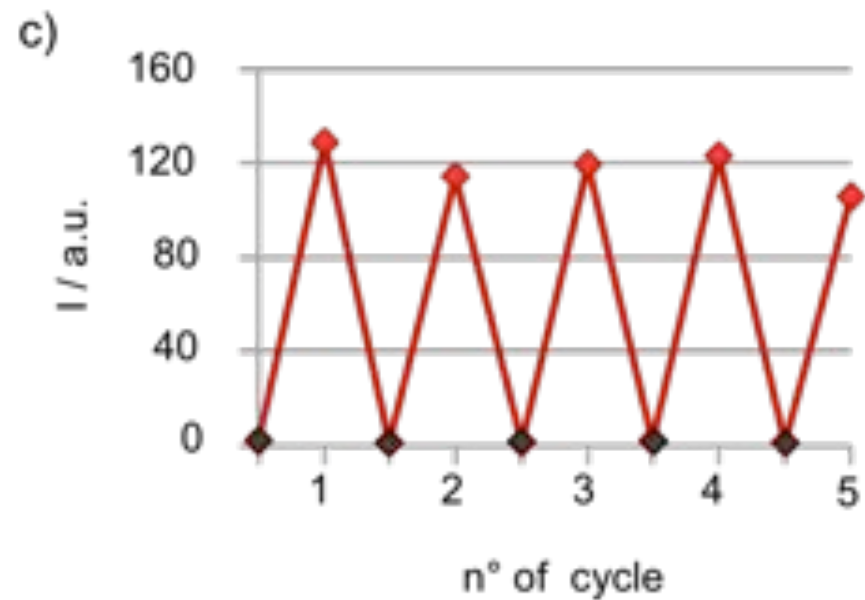
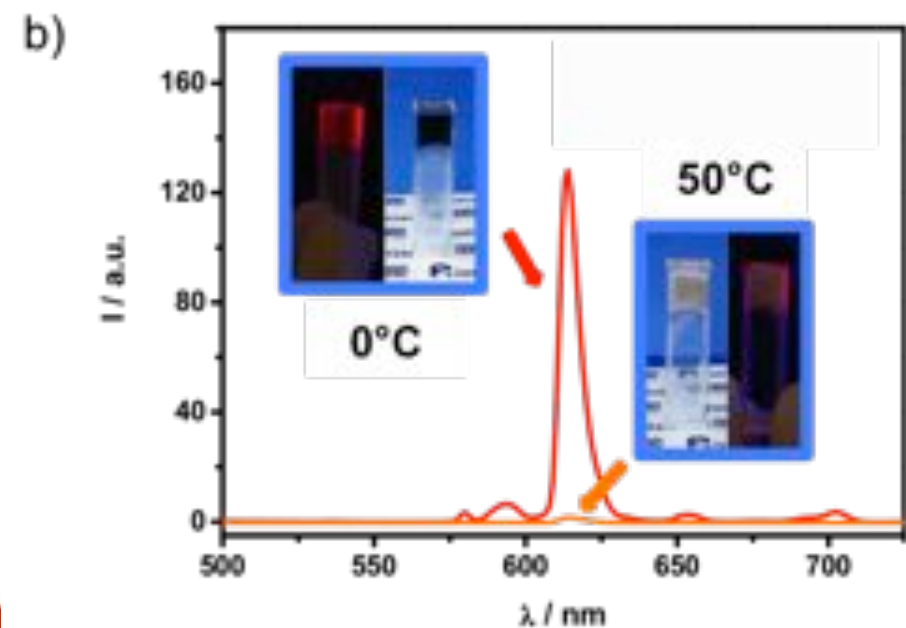


Anisotropic emission properties

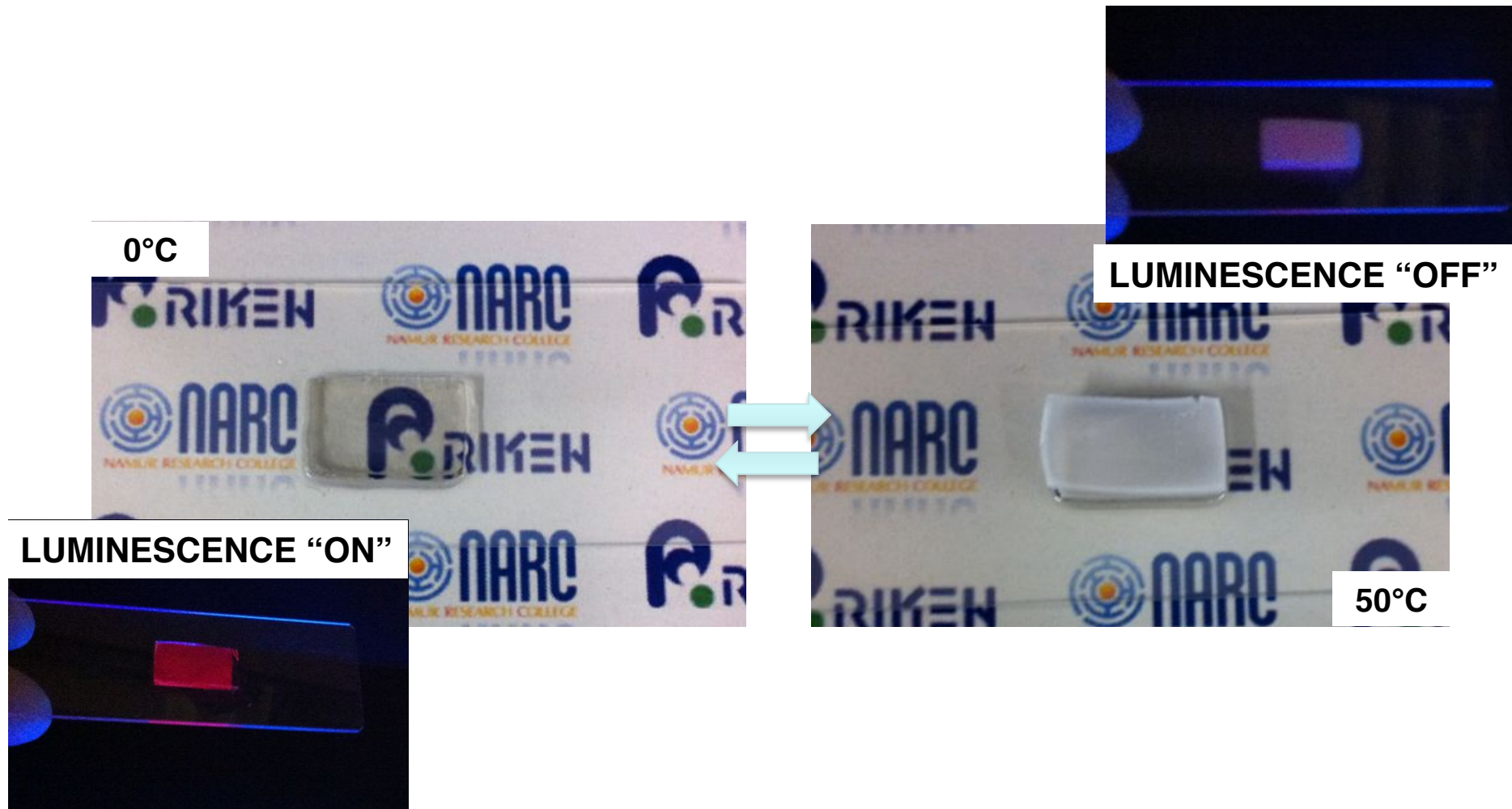




Low critical solution temperature (LCST at 33 °C)



Thermoresponsive luminescent hydrogels

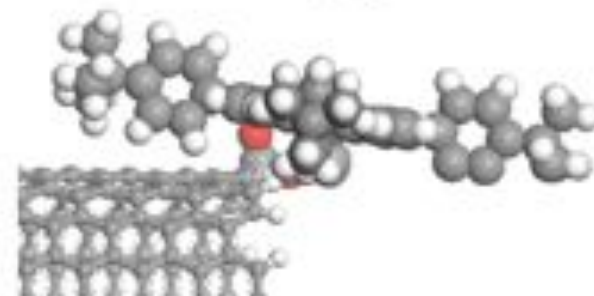
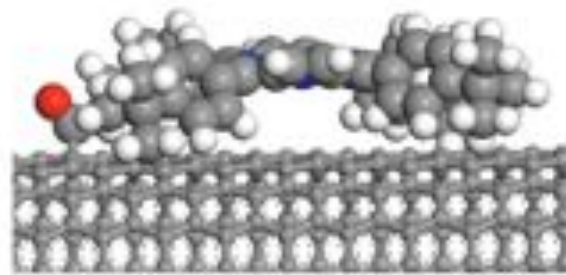
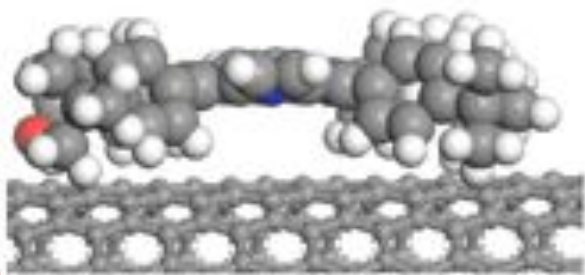
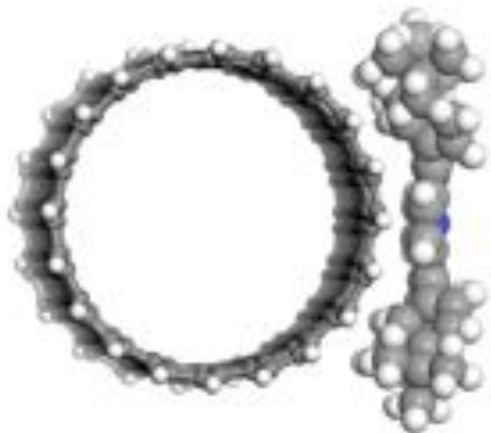
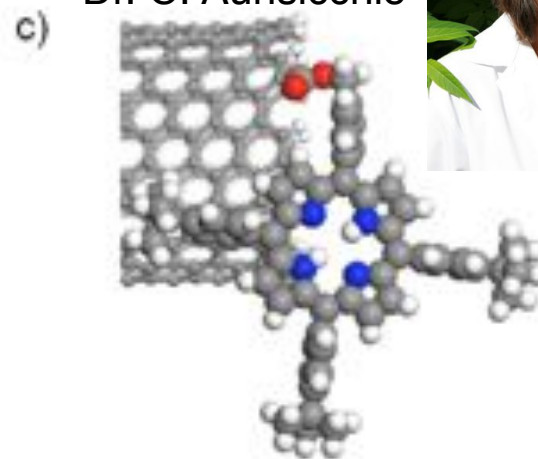
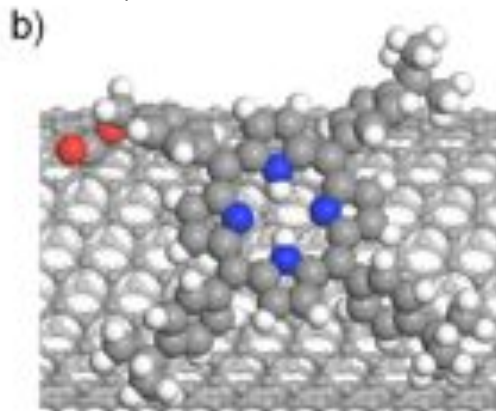
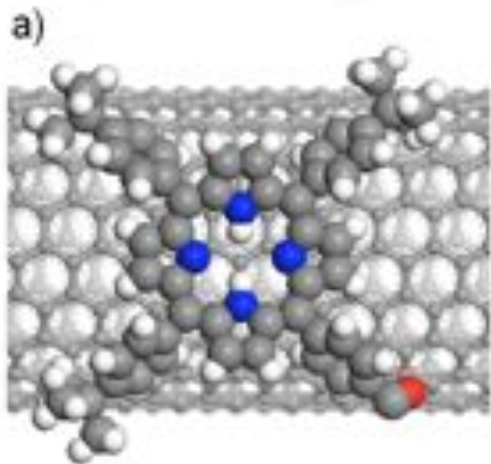


UV-images thin films (height 1 mm) + second polymerisation of NIPAM on the thin film (total height \approx 2 mm)

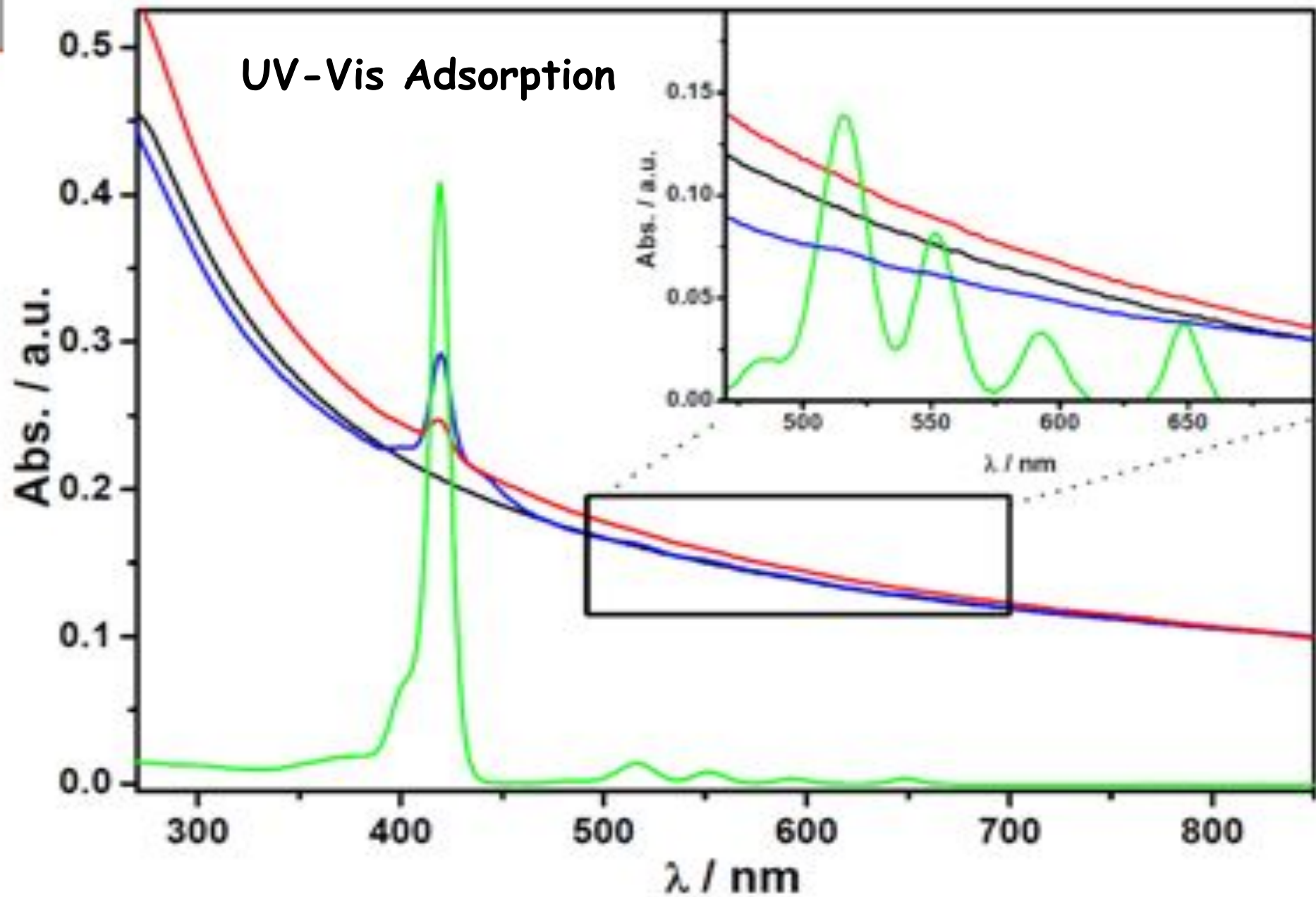
Computational Modelling

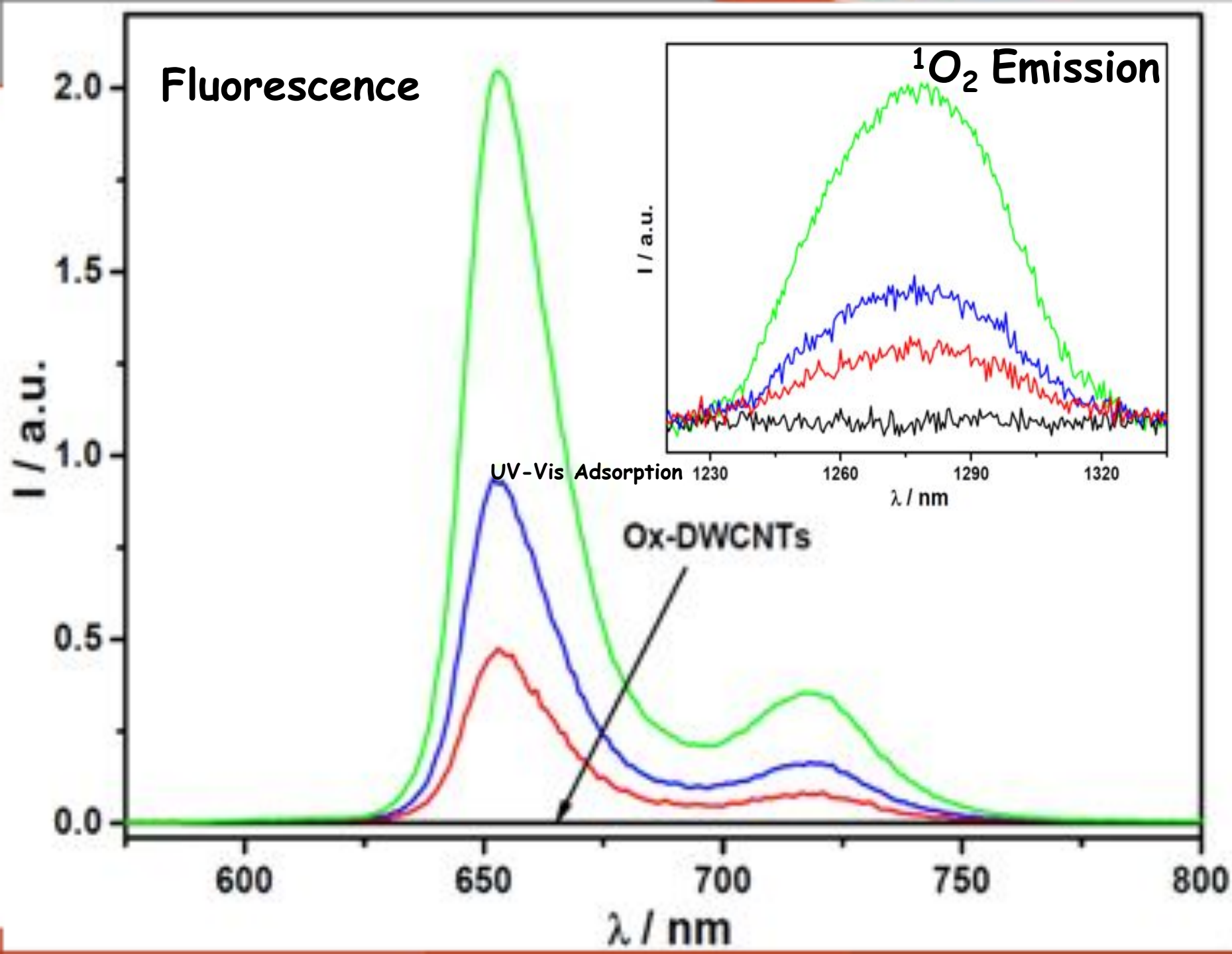
(software: Material Studio 5.0 with Dreiding force field)

Dr. C. Aurisicchio

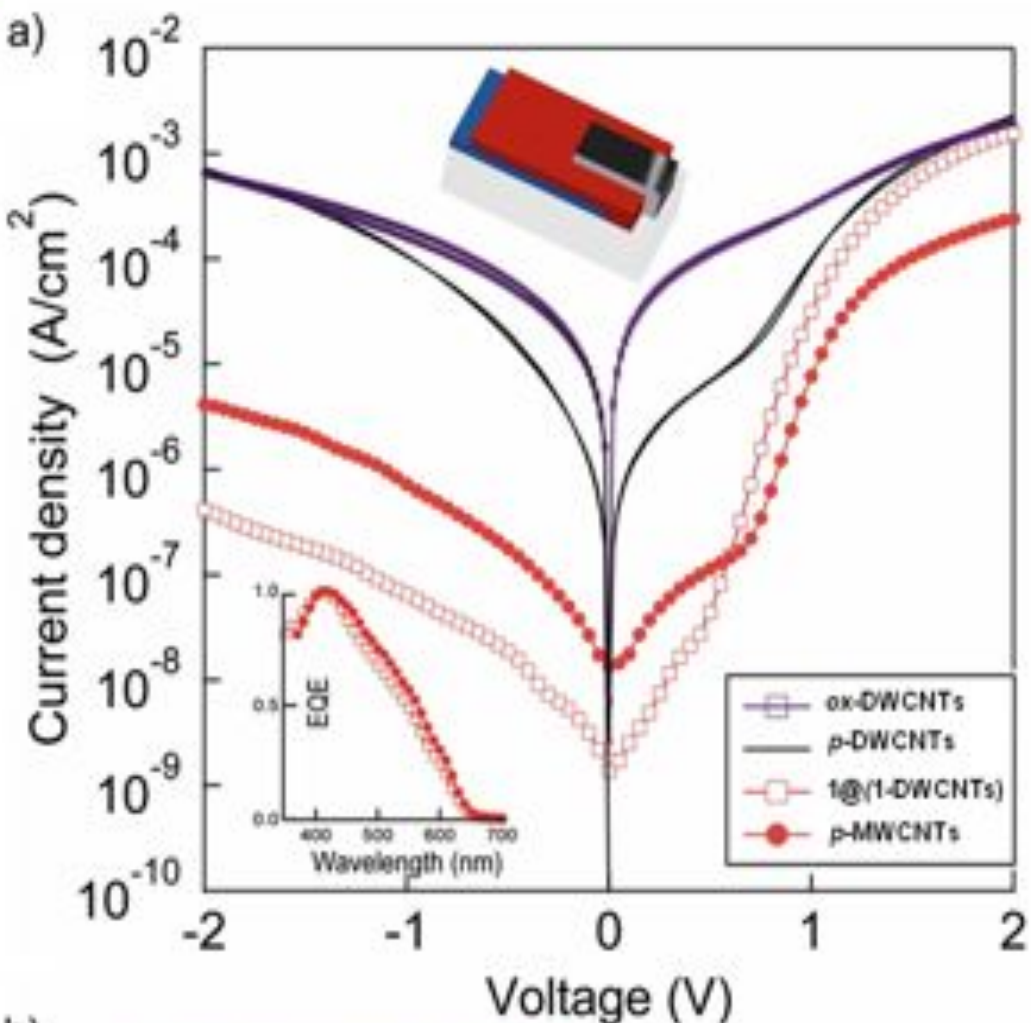


UV-Vis Adsorption



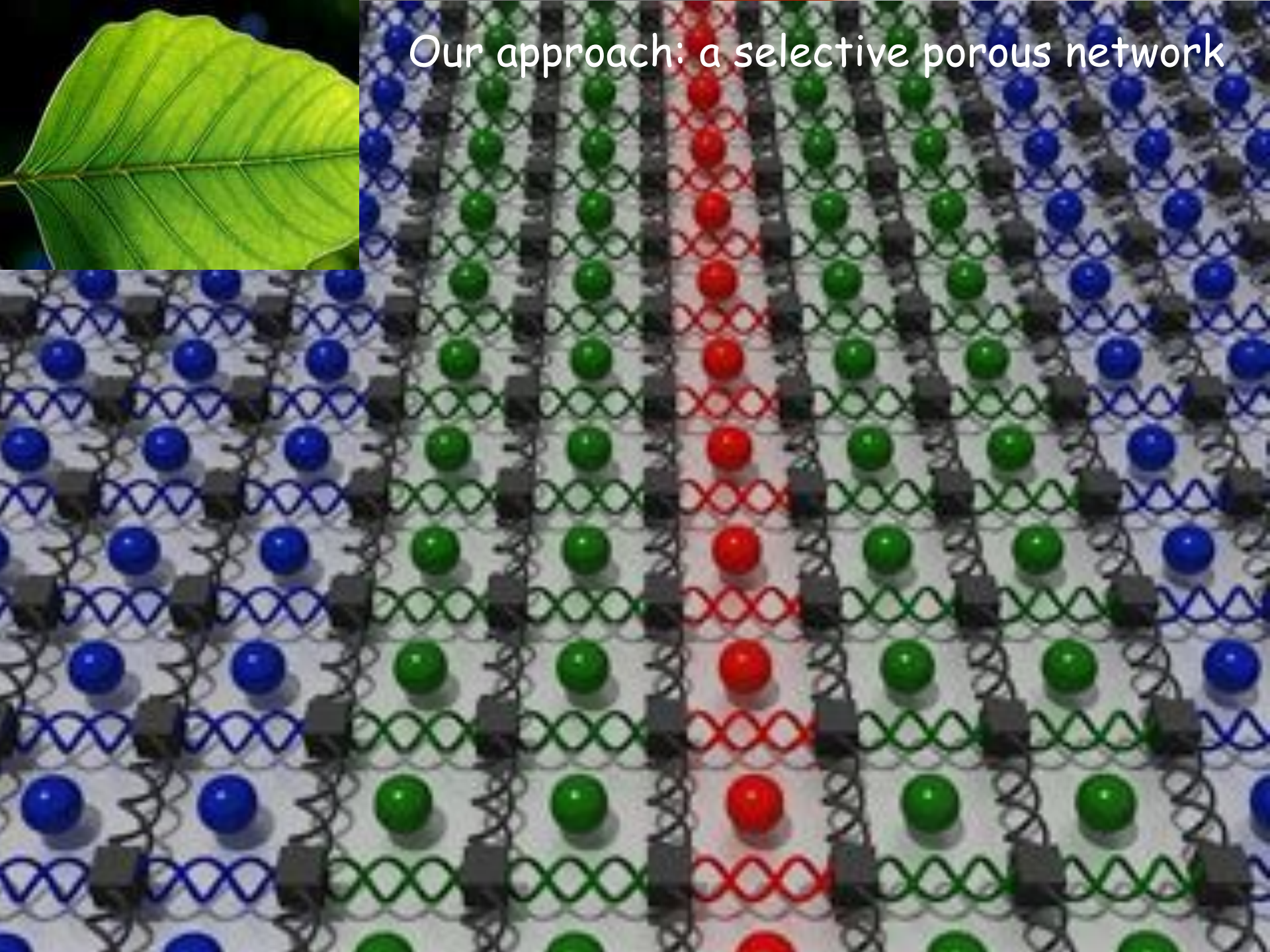


Organic Diode: Conductivity Experiments










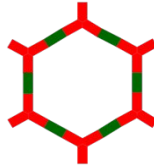


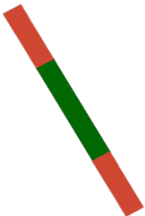

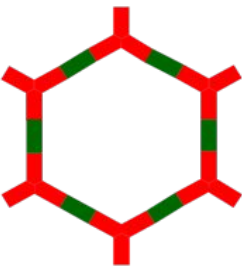
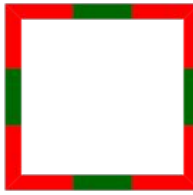


Our approach: a selective porous network

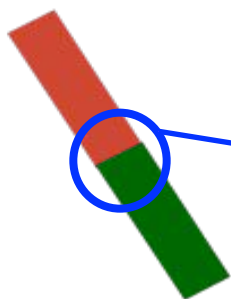


Molecular engineering

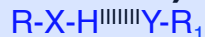
- **Multicomponent:** angular unit: control of the shape & linear unit: control of the size
- **Controlled:** fixed geometry of the molecules

Assembling Units	 180°	 60°	 120°	 90°
 180°				
 180°				

- **Directional Recognition:** non-covalent highly-directional interactions



H-Bonding
(4-120 kJ/mol)



Halogen Bonding
(20-40 kJ/mol)



Metal Coordination
(40-120 kJ/mol)



Electrostatic
(50-200 kJ/mol)



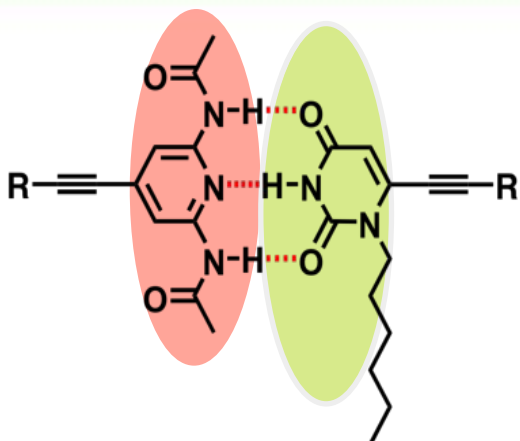
Dipolar Interactions
(5-50 kJ/mol)



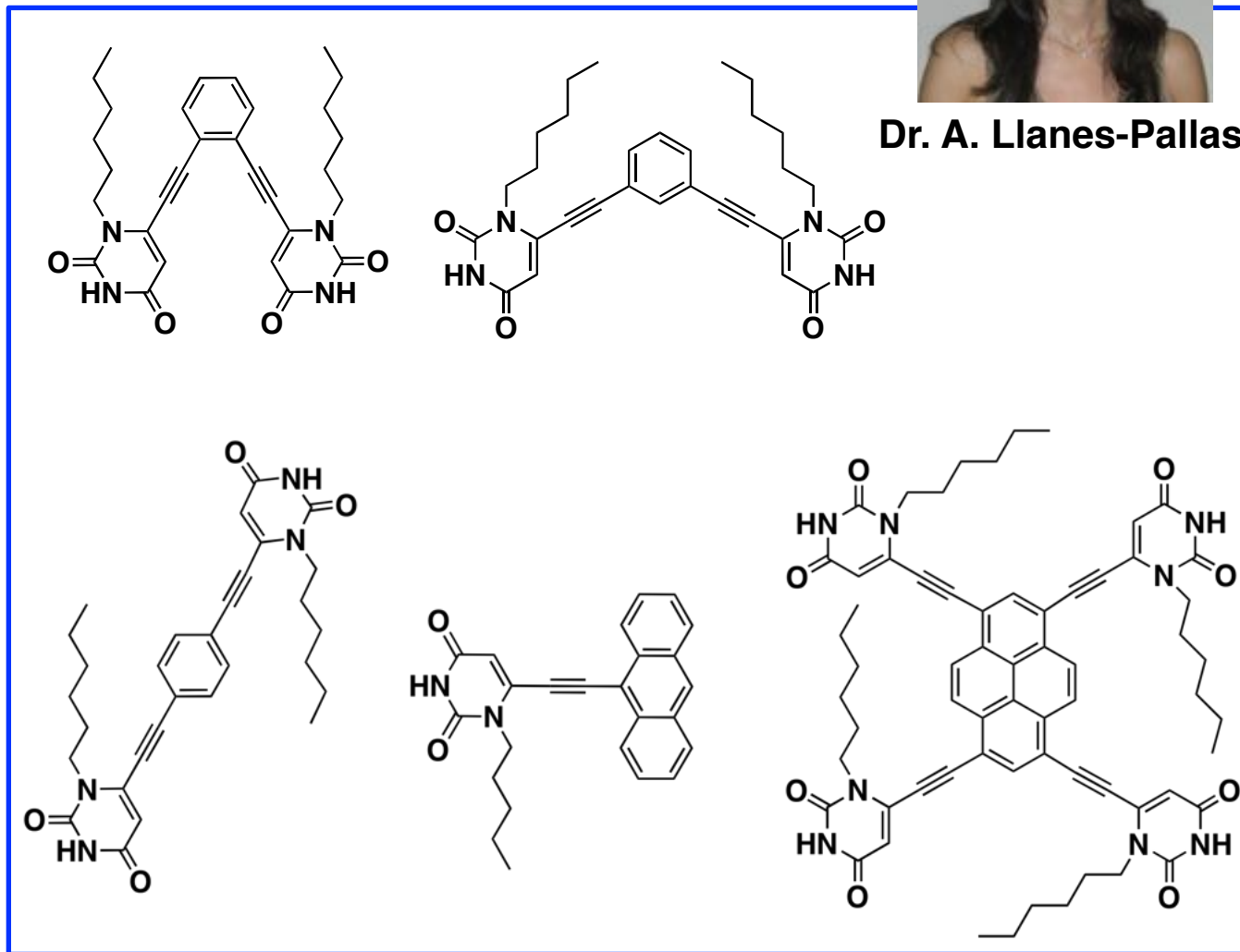
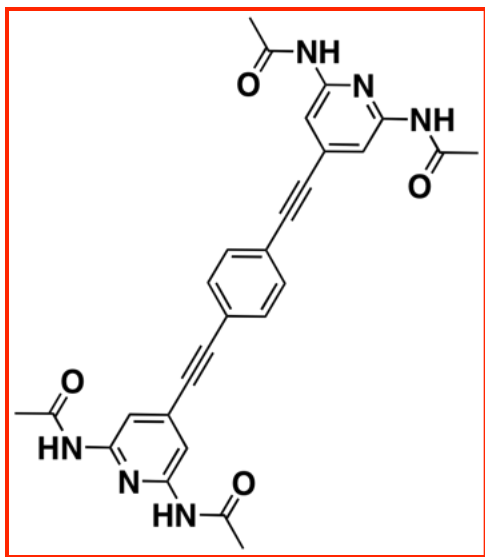
Triply H-bonded supramolecular polymers



Dr. A. Llanes-Pallas

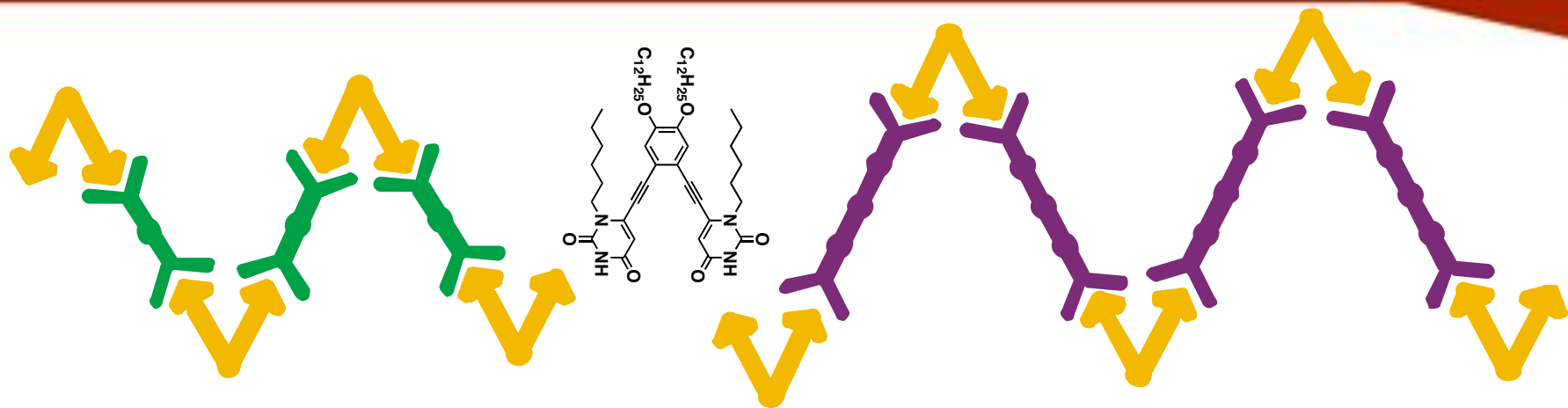


J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun., **1994**, 42, 197



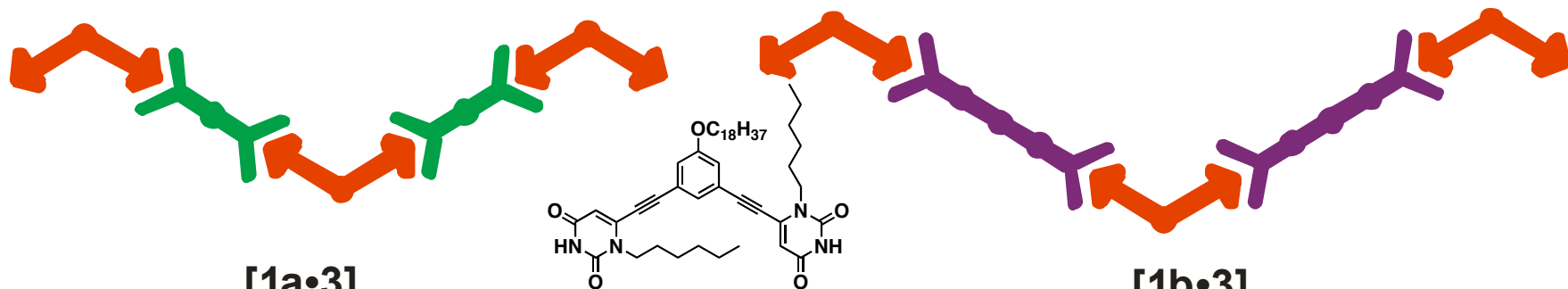
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2008**, 41, 7726; *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 509; *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 13062; *Chem. Commun.* **2009**, 3525; **HOT PAPER**; *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2009**, 19, 1207.

Triply H-bonded supramolecular polymers



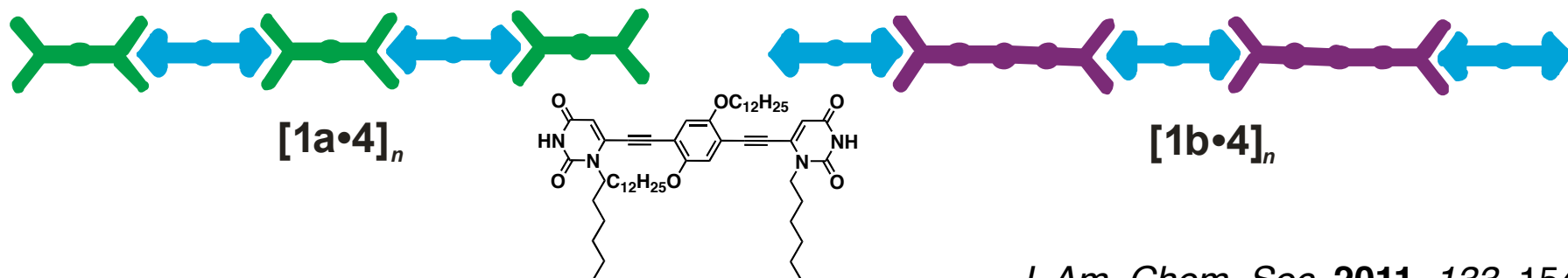
[1a·2]_n

[1b·2]_n



[1a·3]_n

[1b·3]_n

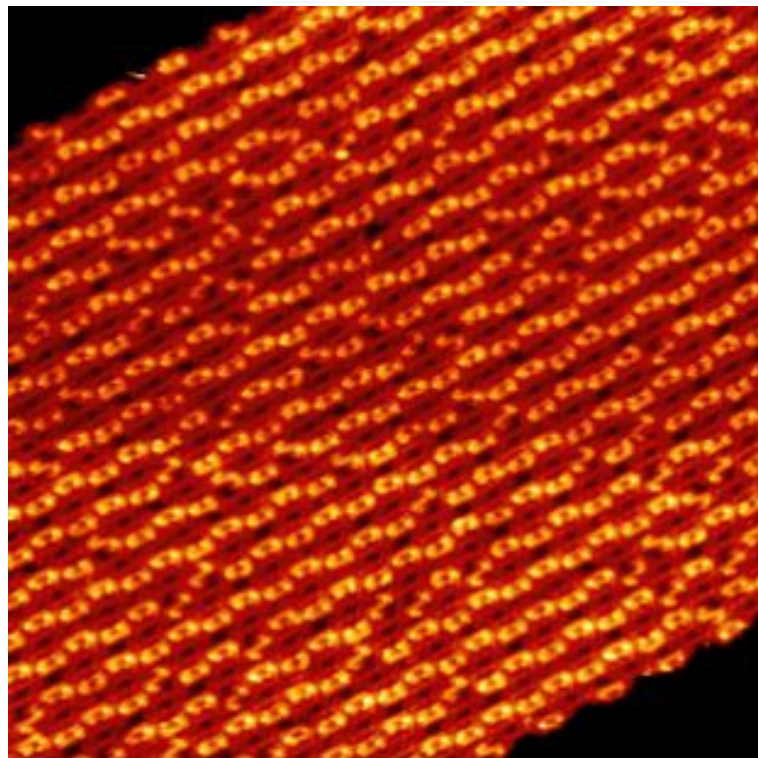
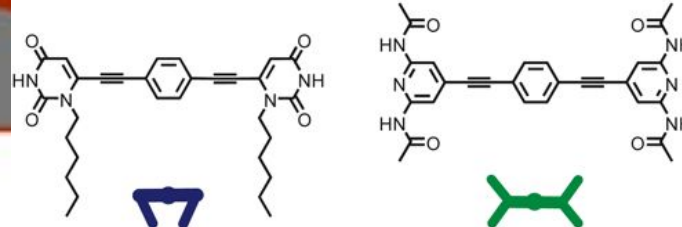


[1a·4]_n

[1b·4]_n

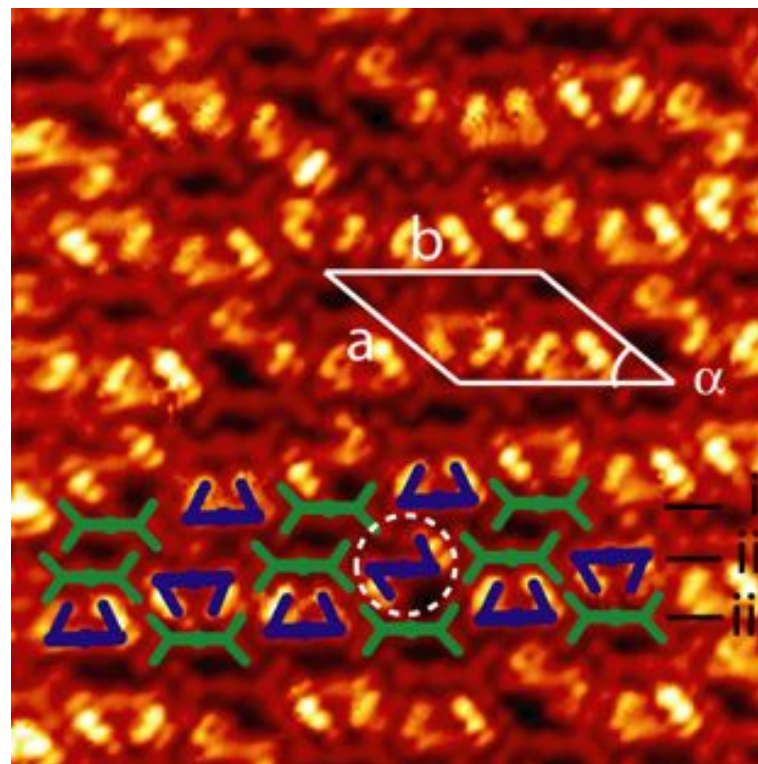
Linear Assemblies on Ag(111)

In coll. with M. Stohr (Univ. Groningen)



41.5×41.5 nm²

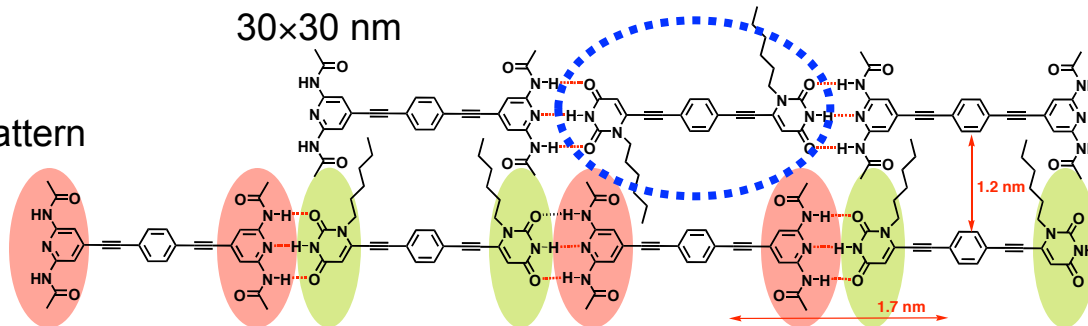
Surface: **Ag(111)**
Tip: **Pt-Ir**
T: 383 K



30×30 nm

Proposed
self-assembled pattern

3.7 × 2.4 nm
 $\alpha \approx 58 \pm 4^\circ$



Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2008**, *41*, 7726

Conclusions ?

Thanks to All !!!!



"If you think that education is expensive, try ignorance - D. Bok"