

# Infrared microscopy

## From macro to nano scale on the molecules of life

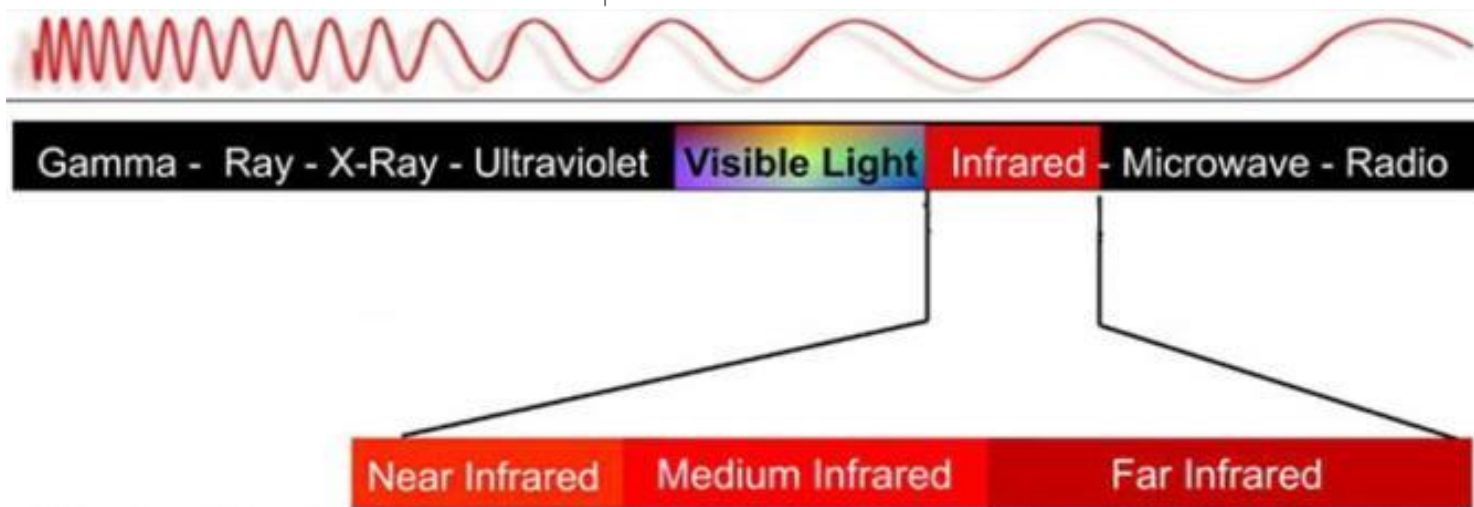
Lisa Vaccari  
SISSI beamline manager

- Infrared Spectroscopy
  - Basic Concepts on Theory and Instrumentation
- A brief history of IR spectroscopy at SR facilities
- IRSR: Generation and properties
- Infrared bio-spectroscopy
- From macro to nanoscale on the molecules of Life
  - Soft X-ray radiation damage
  - SR Collective Enhanced IR Absorption microscopy for protein conformational studies
  - Vibrational spectroscopy at the nanoscale

# Infrared Spectroscopy

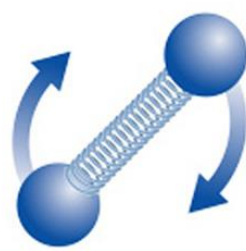
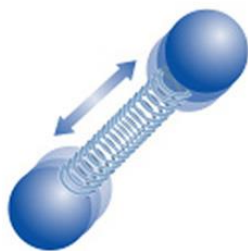
## Basic Concepts on Theory and Instrumentation

# Electromagnetic Spectrum: a closer view into the IR spectral range



	NIR	MIR		FIR
$\lambda$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	0.74	3	30	300
$\nu$ (THz)	400	100	10	1
$\bar{\nu}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\sim 13000$	$\sim 3333$	$\sim 333$	$\sim 33$
E (eV)	1.65	0.413	0.041	0.004
E (Kcal/mol)	37	10	1	0.1

Molecular Vibrations



Molecular Rotations

# Infrared Spectroscopy

## Basic concepts on Theory

### The Born-Oppenheimer Approximation

**1- Electronic motion and nuclear motion in molecules can be separated and independently considered**

$$\Psi_{molecule}(\vec{r}_i, \vec{R}_j) = \Psi_{electrons}(\vec{r}_i, \vec{R}_j) \cdot \Psi_{nuclei}(\vec{R}_j)$$

The electronic wavefunction depends upon the nuclear positions but not on nuclei velocities → The nuclear motion is so much slower than electron motion that nuclei can be considered to be fixed.

Electronic transitions ( $10^{-15}$  s) are at least  $10^2$  times faster than nuclear transitions and involve energies 10 to 50 times greater

### Degree of freedom

Degree of freedom is the number of variables required to completely describe the motion of a particle/molecule. For a molecule made by N atoms (ions) moving in 3-dimensional space, the degree of freedom becomes 3N. For non-linear molecules, all translational/rotational motions can be described in terms of translation/rotations along/around 3 axes. The remaining 3N-6 degrees of freedom constitute vibrational motion. For a linear molecule however there are only 2 rotational degrees of freedom for any linear molecule leaving 3N-5 degrees of freedom for vibration.

**2- Vibrational and rotational motion can also be considered independently**

- The energies involved in rotational transitions ( $10^{-10}$  s) are about  $10^3$  times smaller than the ones involved in vibrational transitions ( $10^{-13}$  s). Pure vibrational transitions falls in the MIR-FIR regime, while pure rotational transition in the FIR-THz regime

# Infrared Spectroscopy

## Basic concepts on Theory

### The classical description of vibrational motion

The simplest example: a diatomic heteronuclear molecule AB

$$\mu_{AB} = \frac{m_A m_B}{m_A + m_B} \quad \text{Reduced Mass of AB molecule}$$

The equilibrium internuclear distance is denoted by  $r_{eq}$ . However as a result of molecular vibrations, the internuclear distance is continuously changing; let this distance be called  $r(t)$ .

$$\text{Let } x(t) = r(t) - r_{eq}$$

When  $x$  is non-zero, a restoring force  $F$  exists which tries to bring the molecule back to  $x=0$ , that is equilibrium. For small displacements this force can be taken to be proportional to  $x$ .

$$F(\text{restoring force}) = -k \cdot x$$

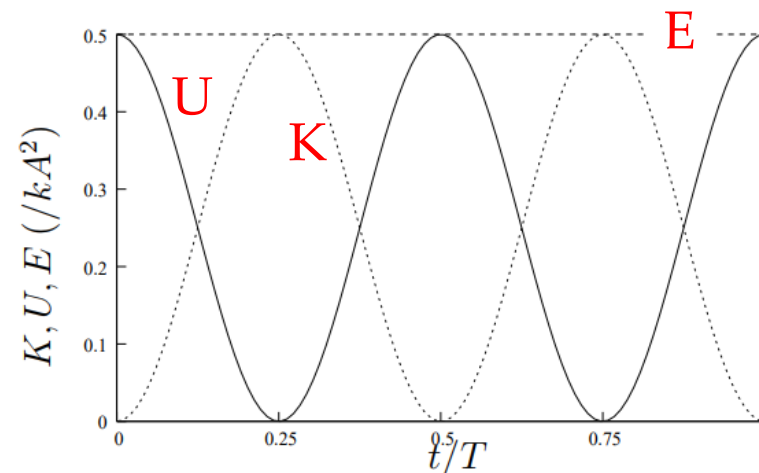
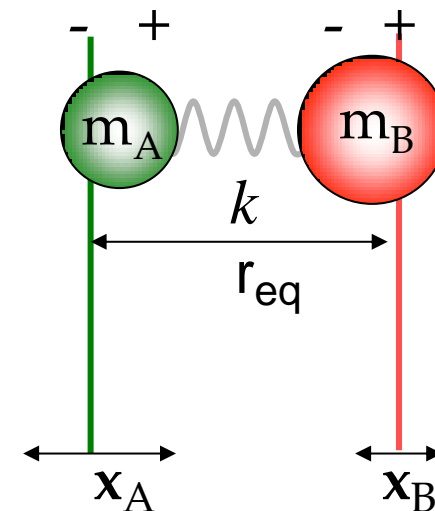
$$k = \text{Force constant [Nm}^{-1}\text{]}$$

$$x(t) = A \sin(2\pi\nu t)$$

[The Hooke's law]

$$\nu = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu_{AB}}}$$

$$E = K + U = \frac{1}{2} k A^2$$



# Infrared Spectroscopy: Basic concepts

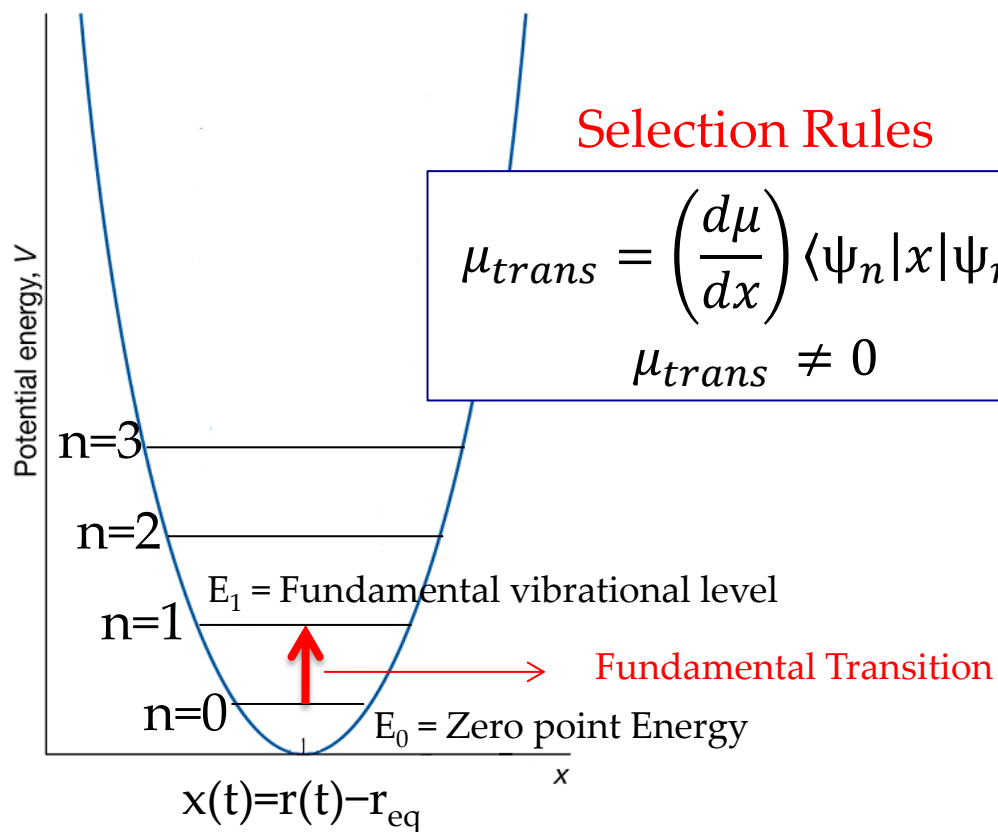
## Quantum mechanical Model of harmonic oscillator

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{8\pi^2\mu_{AB}} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{2}kx^2\psi = E\psi$$

$$E_{vib} = h\nu(n + 1/2)$$

n: Vibrational quantum number (0,1,2,3,...)

A series of equally spaced never ending vibrational levels



### Selection Rules

$$\mu_{trans} = \left( \frac{d\mu}{dx} \right) \langle \psi_n | x | \psi_{n'} \rangle$$

$$\mu_{trans} \neq 0$$

$$\left( \frac{d\mu}{dx} \right) \neq 0$$

Vibrations that do not induce variation of the dipole moment of the molecule are forbidden

For a homonuclear molecule AA there are not vibrational transitions allowed

$$\langle \psi_n | x | \psi_{n'} \rangle \neq 0$$

$$\Delta n = \pm 1$$

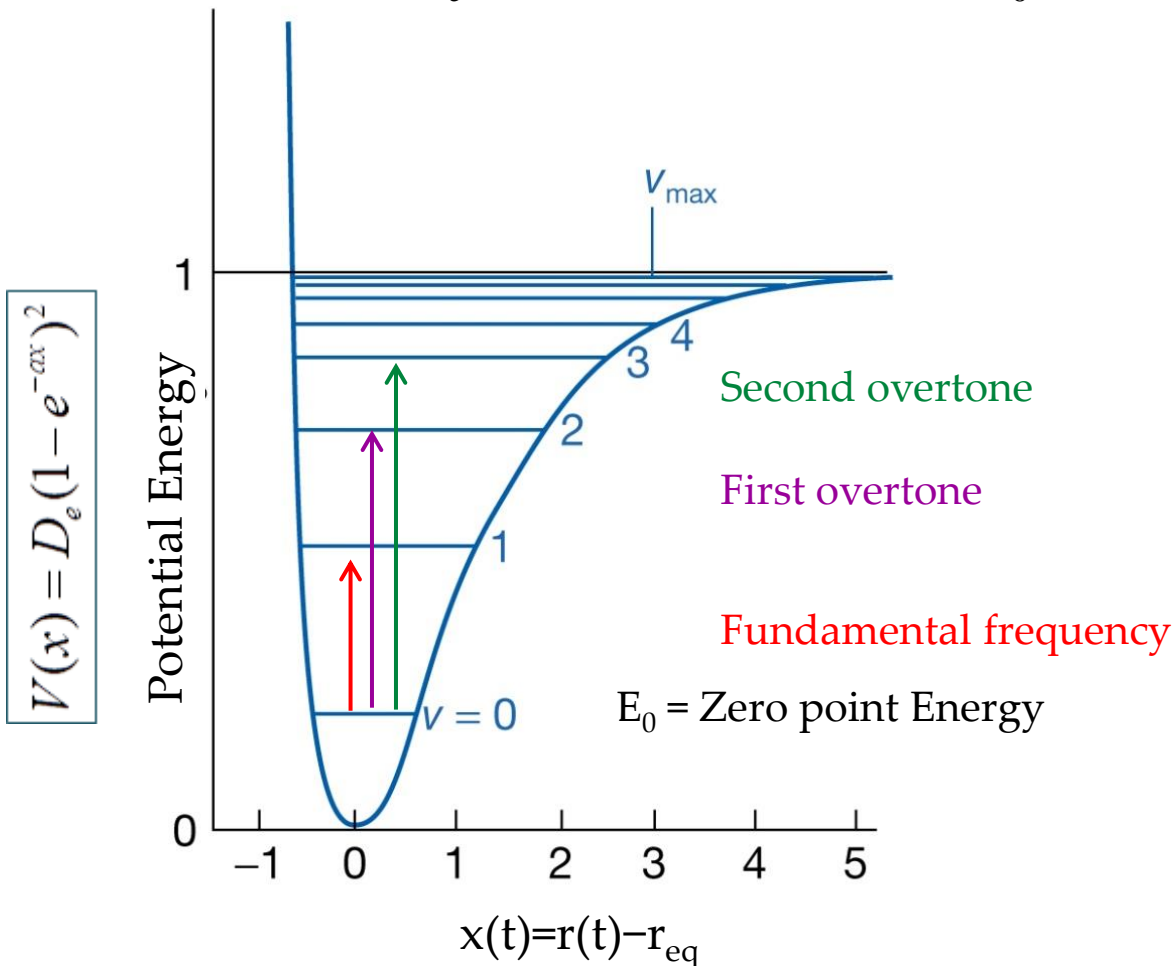


# Infrared Spectroscopy: Basic concepts

## Quantum mechanical Model of anharmonic oscillator

$$E_{vib} = h\nu_e [ (n + 1/2) - x_0(n + 1/2)^2 + \text{higher terms} ]$$

$\nu_e$  = harmonic frequency  $x_0$  = anharmonic constant



### Selection Rules

$$\left( \frac{d\mu}{dx} \right) \neq 0$$

$$\Delta n = \pm \text{integer}$$

Overtone bands are observed, with frequencies usually lower than the whole multiples of fundamental.

Combination bands are also allowed (two vibrational quantum number changes at the same time)

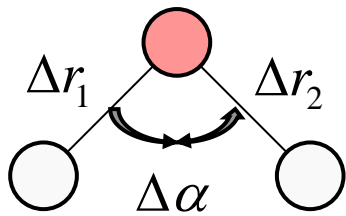


# Infrared Spectroscopy: Basic concepts

## Normal modes of vibration

- A normal mode is a molecular vibration where some or all atoms vibrate together at the same frequency.
- The number of “normal modes” is equal to the vibrational degree of freedom available
- Each mode has a definite frequency of vibration. Sometimes 2 or 3 modes may have the same frequency but that does not change the fact that they are distinct modes; these modes are called degenerate.

The 3 normal modes of vibration of a triatomic molecule, defined by 3 normal coordinates ( $Q_1, Q_2, Q_3$ ) may be defined in terms of internal coordinates



$$Q_1 = l_{11}\Delta r_1 + l_{21}\Delta r_2 + l_{31}\Delta \alpha \quad \nu_1$$

$$Q_2 = l_{12}\Delta r_1 + l_{22}\Delta r_2 + l_{32}\Delta \alpha \quad \nu_2$$

$$Q_3 = l_{13}\Delta r_1 + l_{23}\Delta r_2 + l_{33}\Delta \alpha \quad \nu_3$$

$$E_{vib} = \sum_{i=1}^{3N-6} \left( n_i + \frac{1}{2} \right) h \nu_i$$

$$E_0 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{3N-6} h \nu_i$$

3 quantum numbers:  $n_1, n_2, n_3$

3 fundamental vibrations :

$$E(0,0,0) \rightarrow E(1,0,0) \quad \nu_1$$

$$E(0,0,0) \rightarrow E(0,1,0) \quad \nu_2$$

$$E(0,0,0) \rightarrow E(0,0,1) \quad \nu_3$$

Overtones and combinations bands

$$(000) \rightarrow (020) \quad 2\nu_2$$

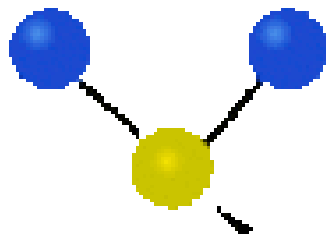
$$(000) \rightarrow (110)$$

# Infrared Spectroscopy

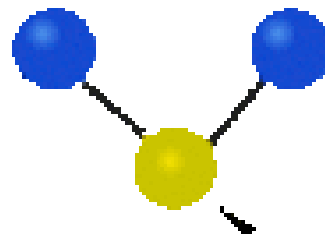
## Basic concepts on Theory

### Stretching modes ( $\nu$ )

Symmetric Stretching

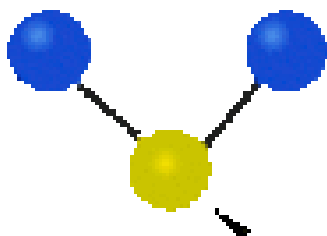


Antisymmetric Stretching

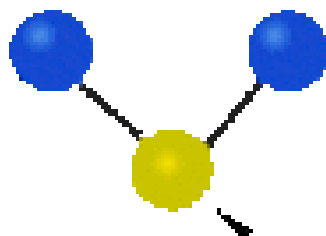


### Deformation modes

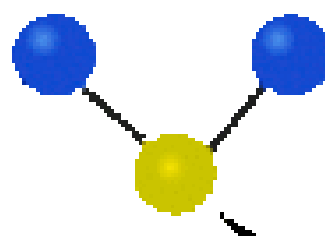
Scissoring ( $\delta$ )



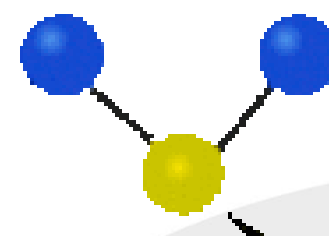
Rocking ( $r$  or  $\rho$ )



Wagging ( $\omega$ )



Twisting ( $\tau$ )



In plane deformations

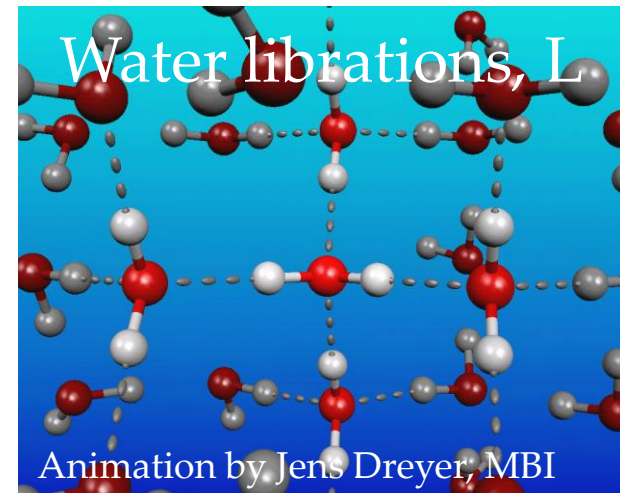
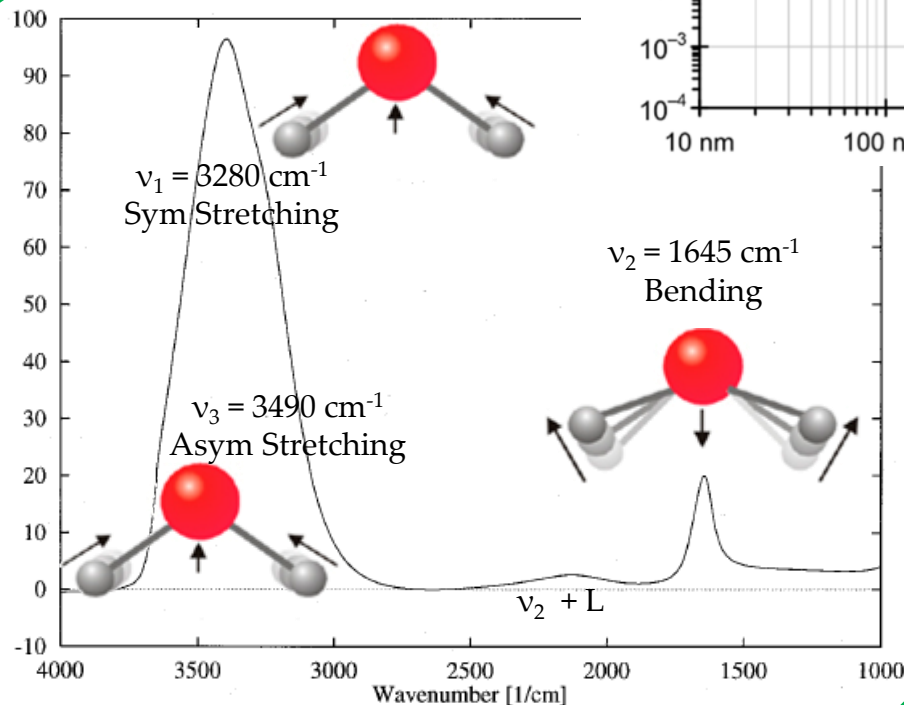
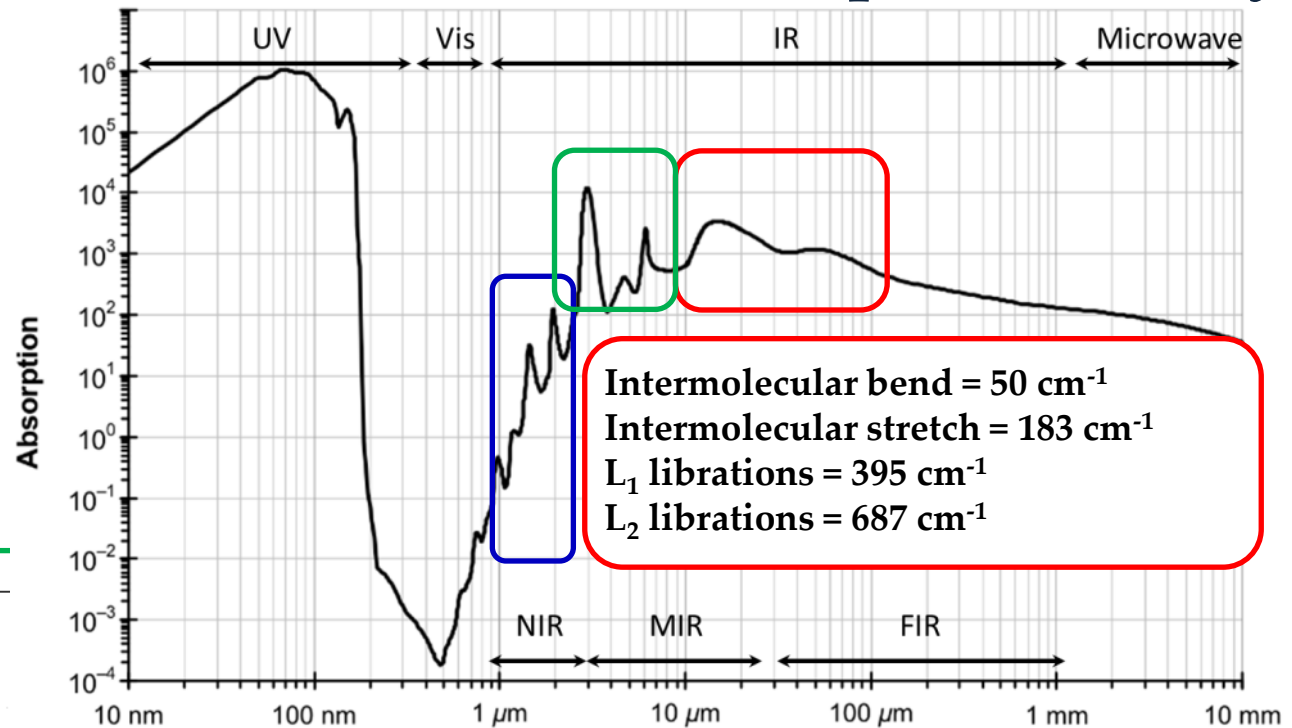
Out plane deformations

# Infrared Spectroscopy

## Basic concepts on Theory

### Vibrational Spectrum of liquid water

Overtone  
and  
combination bands



# Infrared Spectroscopy

## Basic concepts on Theory

### FROM PEAK POSITION, INTENSITY AND WIDTH

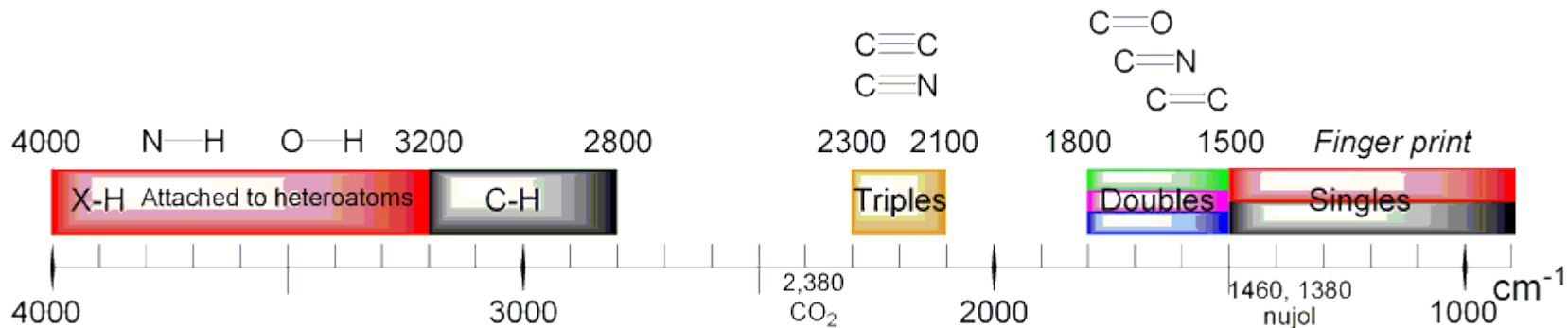
NATURE OF ATOMS INVOLVED IN THE SPECIFIC VIBRATION

PARAMETERS OF THE ATOMIC BOND : BOND STRENGTH AND LENGTH

BOND CONFORMATION: DOUBLE BOND CIS/TRANS, .....

CHEMICAL ENVIRONMENT (THROUGH MODULATION OF THE DIPOLE MOMENT)

ROTATIONAL MODES IN THE FIR REGION



### FROM WHOLE SPECTRUM

NATURE OF THE MOLECULE: SPECTRAL FINGERPRINT=> MOLECULAR IDENTIFICATION

SAMPLE INTERACTIONS: FREE/BOUND WATER ...

SAMPLE EVOLUTION: REACTION KINETIC, AGING, PHYSICO CHEMICAL TREATMENT,  
CONSTRAINTS (PRESSURE, TEMPERATURE, pH) ...

### QUANTITATIVE or SEMI-QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

SIMPLE MIXTURES: BEER LAMBERT BOUGUER LAW

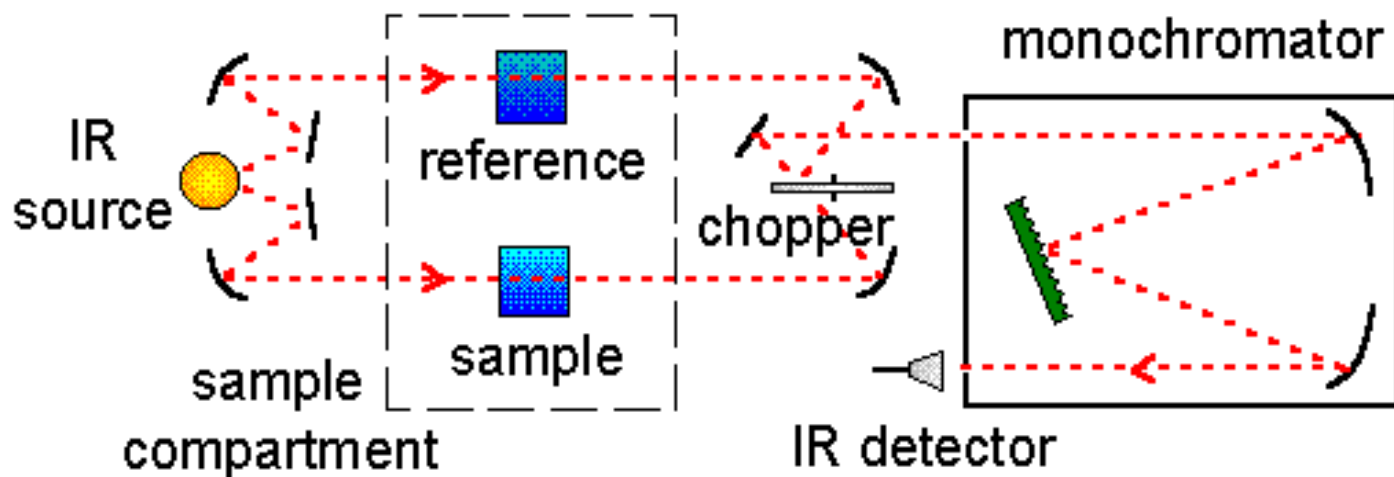
## Basic concepts on Instrumentation

When dealing with molecular species (normal modes of vibration  $3N-6$ ), the absorption profile at a single frequency (or limited spectral range) is scarcely useful. Only a multi-frequency profile can account for the system complexity and its interaction with the environment



An FTIR spectrum needs to be energy resolved over a large spectral range

### The past instrumentation: Dispersive Interferometers



©1995 CHP

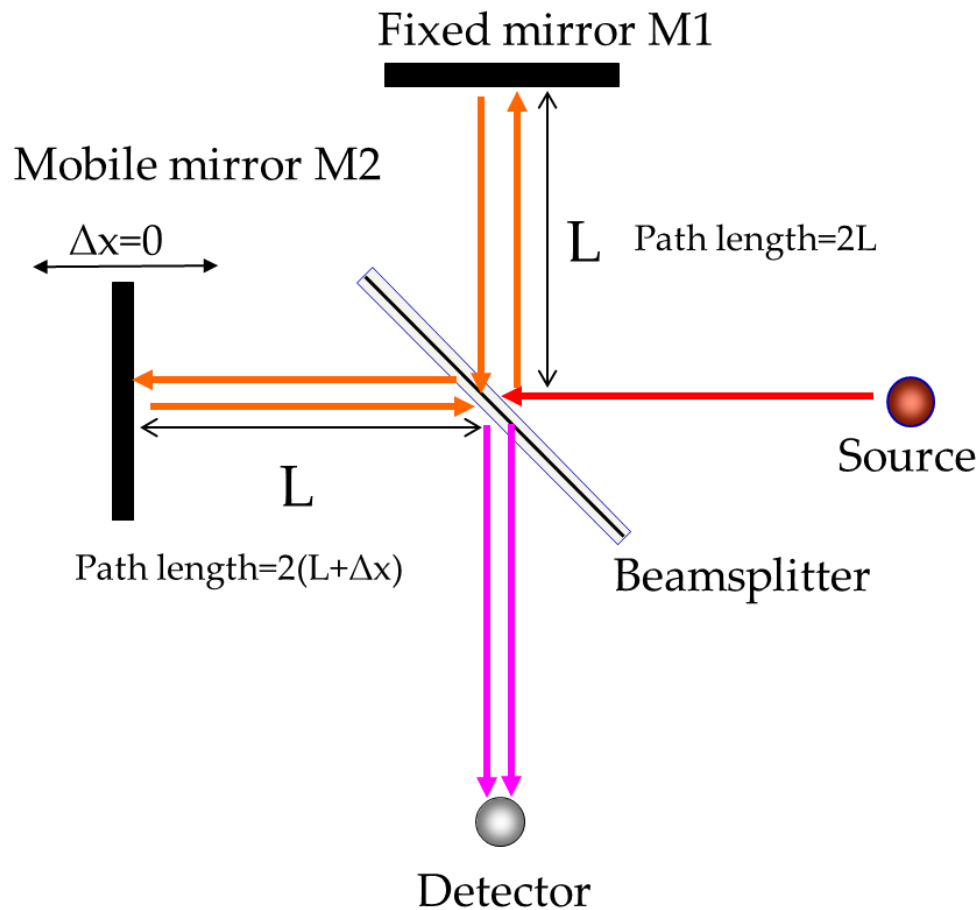
[http://www.chemicool.com/definition/fourier\\_transform\\_infrared\\_spectrometer\\_ftir.htm](http://www.chemicool.com/definition/fourier_transform_infrared_spectrometer_ftir.htm)

This slow acquisition time limited the wide spreading of infrared spectroscopy until 1960s', when Fourier Transform Interferometer have been first proposed.

# Infrared Spectroscopy

## Basic concepts on Instrumentation

### The present instrumentation: Fourier Transform InfraRed Interferometers



***Optical Path Difference \_ OPD***  
 $2\Delta x=2vt$        $v = \text{mirror velocity}$

#### ⇒ Conventional sources

NIR: Tungsten lamp  
 MIR: Glow bar (SiC)  
 FIR: Hg-Arc

#### ⇒ Beamsplitters

NIR:  $\text{CaF}_2$   
 MIR: KBr  
 FIR: Mylar, Silicon

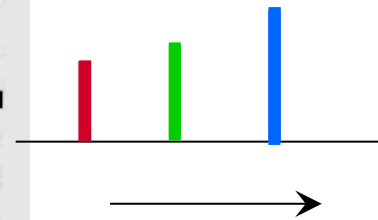
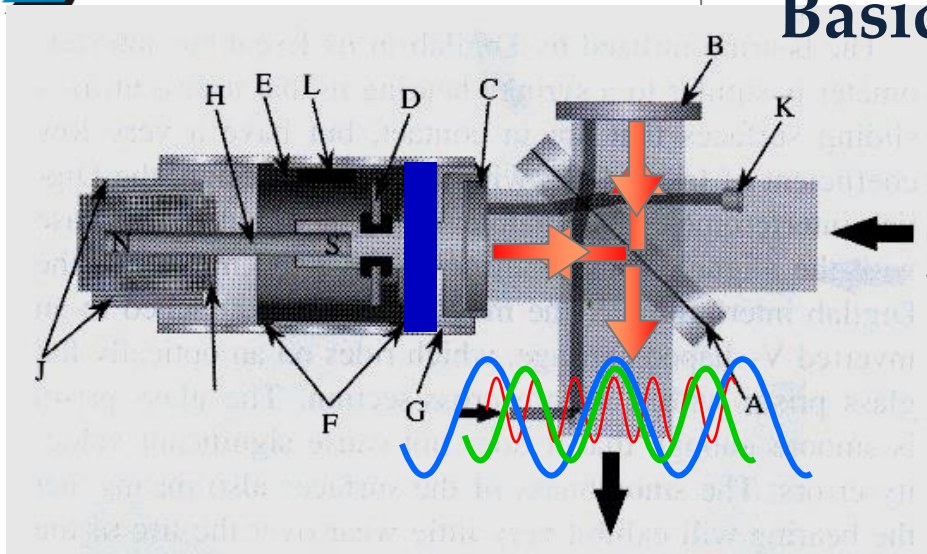
#### ⇒ Detectors

NIR – InGaAs, InSb, Ge, Si room temperature detectors  
 MIR: Room temperature DLaTGS  
       Nitrogen cooled MCT  
 FIR – He Cooled Silicon Bolometer  
       Room temperature DLaTGS



# Infrared Spectroscopy

## Basic concepts on Instrumentation



For a single wavelength

$$I(x) = I(\tilde{\nu})[1 + \cos(2\pi x \tilde{\nu})]$$

For a polychromatic source

$$I(x) = \int I(\tilde{\nu})d\tilde{\nu} + \int I(\tilde{\nu}) \cos(2\pi x \tilde{\nu})d\tilde{\nu}$$

$$I(\text{ZPD}) = 2 \int I(\tilde{\nu})d\tilde{\nu} = I_0$$

$$I(x) = \frac{1}{2}I_0 + \int I(\tilde{\nu}) \cos(2\pi x \tilde{\nu})d\tilde{\nu}$$

$$I(x) - \frac{1}{2}I_0 = I'(x) = \int I(\tilde{\nu}) \cos(2\pi x \tilde{\nu})d\tilde{\nu}$$

$$I(\tilde{\nu}) \propto \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} I'(x) \cos(2\pi x \tilde{\nu})dx$$

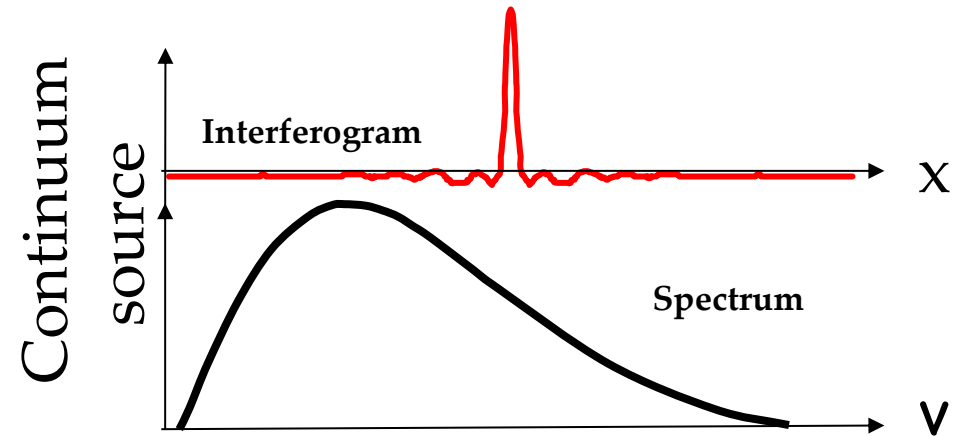
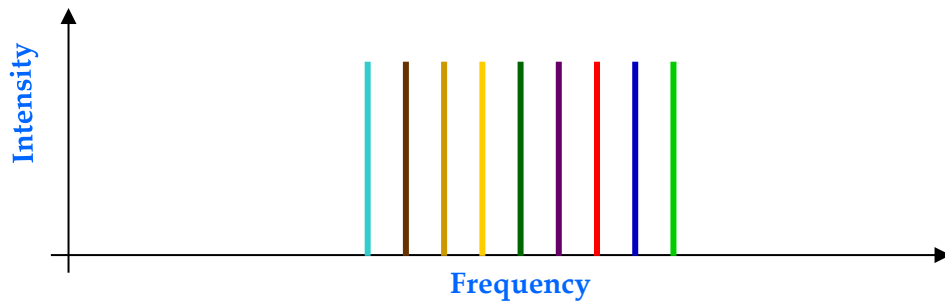
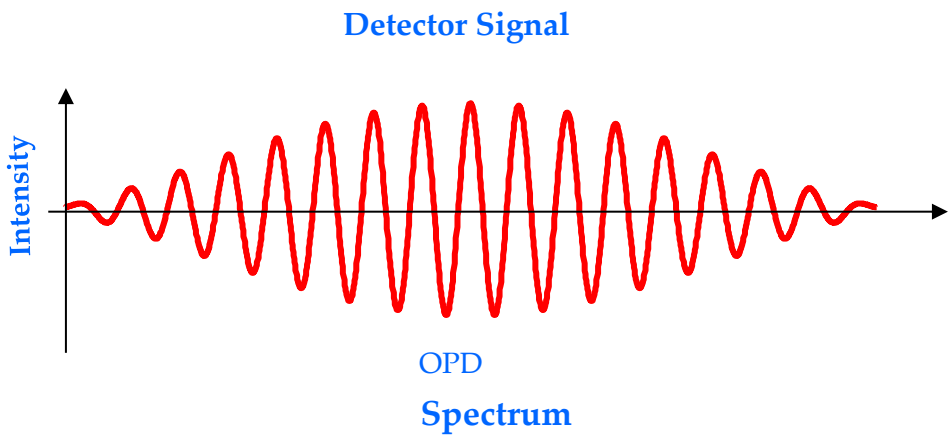
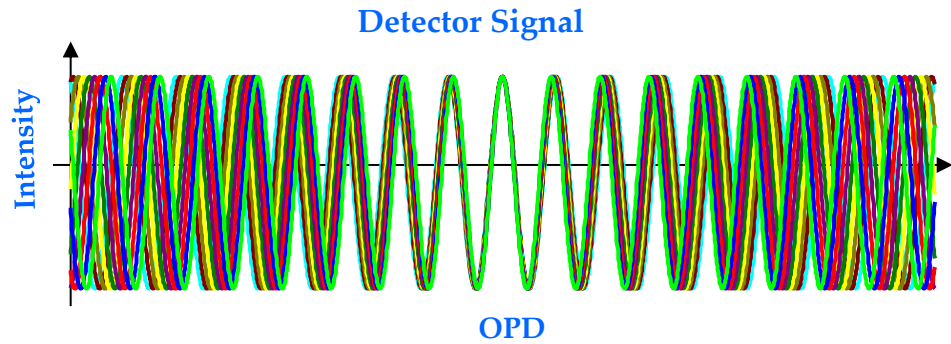
Fourier Transform (FT) →



Elettra  
Sincrotrone  
Trieste

# Infrared Spectroscopy

## Basic concepts on Instrumentation





# A brief history of IR spectroscopy at SR facilities

*Volume 1.*

*July-August, 1893.*

*Number 1.*

THE  
PHYSICAL REVIEW.

A STUDY OF THE TRANSMISSION SPECTRA OF  
CERTAIN SUBSTANCES IN THE INFRA-RED.

BY ERNEST F. NICHOLS.

WITHIN a few years the study of obscure radiation has been greatly advanced by systematic inquiry into the laws of dispersion of the infra-red rays by Langley,<sup>1</sup> Rubens,<sup>2</sup> Rubens and Snow,<sup>3</sup> and others. Along with this advancement has come the more extended study of absorption in this region. The absorption of atmospheric gases has been studied by Langley<sup>1</sup> and by Ångström.<sup>4</sup> Ångström<sup>5</sup> has made a study of the absorption of certain vapors in relation to the absorption of the same substances in the liquid state, and the absorption of a number of liquids and solids has been investigated by Rubens.<sup>6</sup>

In the present investigation, the object of which was to extend this line of research, the substances studied were: plate glass, hard rubber, quartz, lamp-black, cobalt glass, alcohol, chlorophyll, water, oxyhæmoglobin, potassium alum, ammonium alum, and ammonium-iron alum.

<sup>1</sup> Report on Mt. Whitney Expedition, Profess. Papers, U. S. Signal Service, XV.

<sup>2</sup> Annalen der Physik und Chemie, N. F. XLV., p. 238.

<sup>3</sup> Annalen der Physik und Chemie, N. F. XLVI., p. 529.

<sup>4</sup> Bihang till K. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Handlingar, Band 15, Afd. 1, No. 9.

<sup>5</sup> Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Academiens Forhandlingar, 1890, No. 7, Stockholm.

<sup>6</sup> Annalen der Physik und Chemie, N. F. XLV., p. 258.

# IR beamlines

## The Cinderella Story

- 1976 Meyer and Lagarde (LURE, Orsay) published the first paper on IRSR
- 1981 Duncan and Yarwood observed at Daresbury the first IRSR emission
- 1985 The first IRSR spectrum (on N<sub>2</sub>O) is collected at Bessy (Berlin)
- 1986 The first beamline was opened to users at UVSOR (Japan)
- 1987 Started the brilliant story of IR-beamlines at NSLS Brookhaven (USA)
- 1992 In Europe: Orsay (France), Lund (Sweden), Daresbury (GB)
- 1995 First international workshop on IRSR, Rome (Italy)
- 2001 First IR beamline in Italy (SINBAD@DAΦNE)
- 2006 Second beamline in Italy (SISSI@Elettra)
- ⋮
- ⋮
- Today Many mores





More than 40 IRSR beamlines worldwide



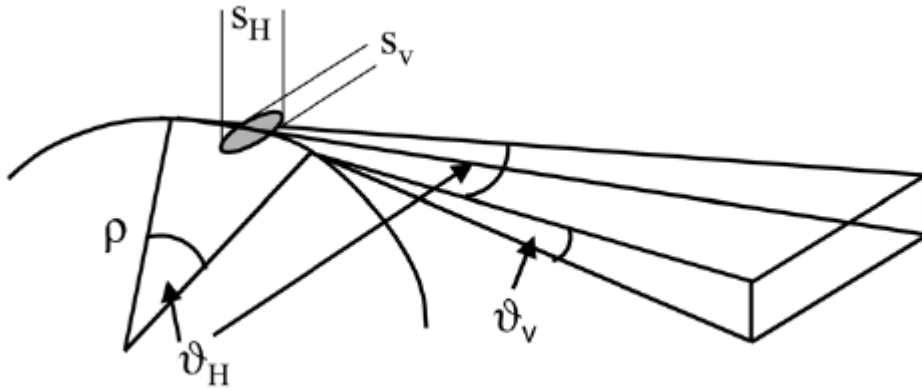
# IRSR: Generation and properties

# IRSR Generation

## Bending Magnet IRSR

Extrapolation of the Schwinger equations (1949) by WD Ducan and GP William (1980s)

*Infrared synchrotron radiation from electron storage rings; Appl Opt. 1983 22(18):2914.*



$$P_{BM}(\lambda) = 4.38 \times 10^{14} \times I \times \theta_H \times bw \times \left( \frac{\rho}{\lambda} \right)^{1/3} \text{ photons} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \quad [1]$$

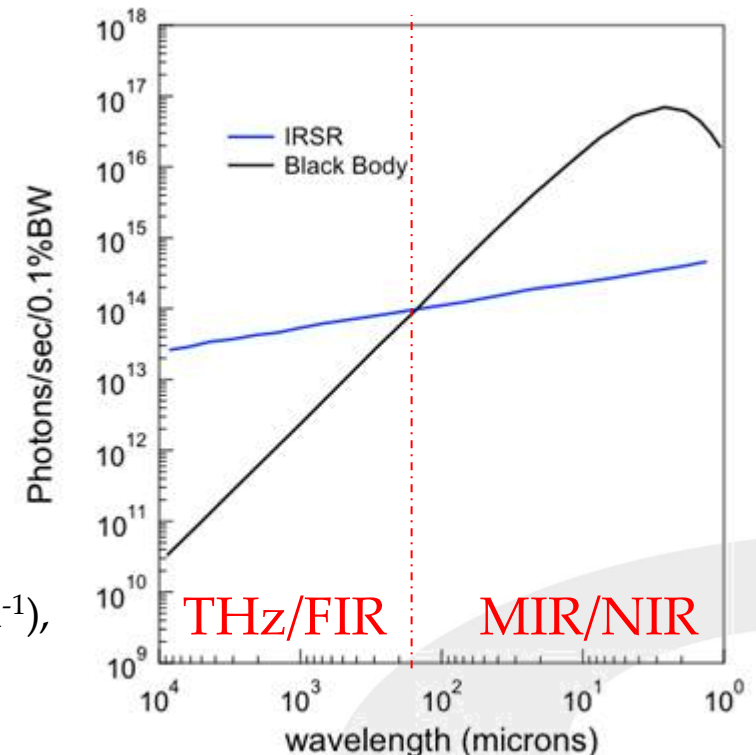
$I$  = Current(A)

$\theta_H$  = Horizontal Collection Angle(rads)

$bw$  = Bandwidth(%)

$\rho, \lambda$  = Radius of the ring, Wavelength(same units)

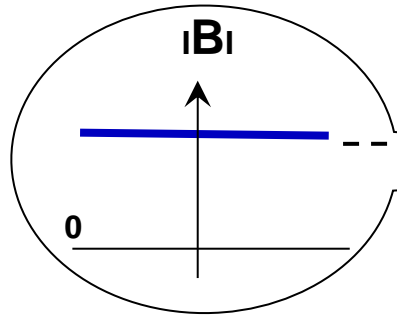
$P(\lambda)$  as obtained in [1], in the spectral range 1 to  $10^4 \mu\text{m}$  ( $10^4$  to  $1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), for a current of **1 A**, a horizontal angle  $\theta_H = 100 \text{ mrad}$ s and  $\rho = 5 \text{ m}$ . Comparison with the emission for a BB source at 2000K.



# IRSR Generation

## Bending Magnet IRSR

### Constant Field Emission

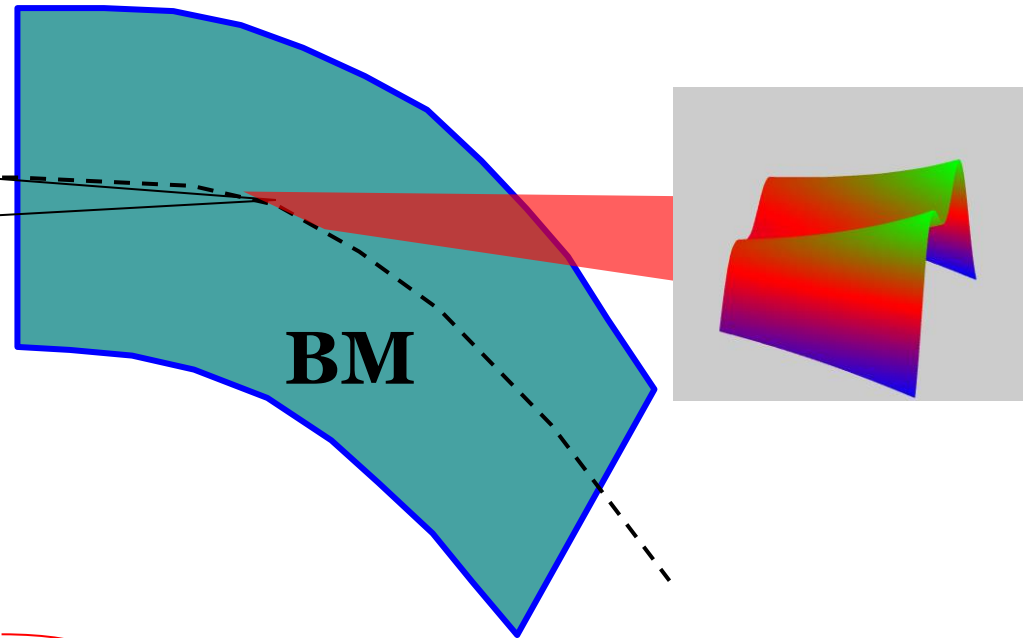


$$\theta_{V-Nat} = 1.66 \left( \frac{1000 \times \lambda}{\rho} \right) \quad [\lambda] = \mu\text{m}; [\rho] = \text{m}$$

Angular range into which 90% of the emitted photons travel

	$\lambda$ [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	$\nu$ [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]	THz	$\theta_{V-Nat}$
NIR	1	10000	300	9.2
	10	1000	30	19.8
	100	100	3	42.2
FIR	1000	10	0.3	90.3

Calculated for Elettra  $\rho = 5.5$  m.



Very large extraction apertures are needed for IR beamlines for:

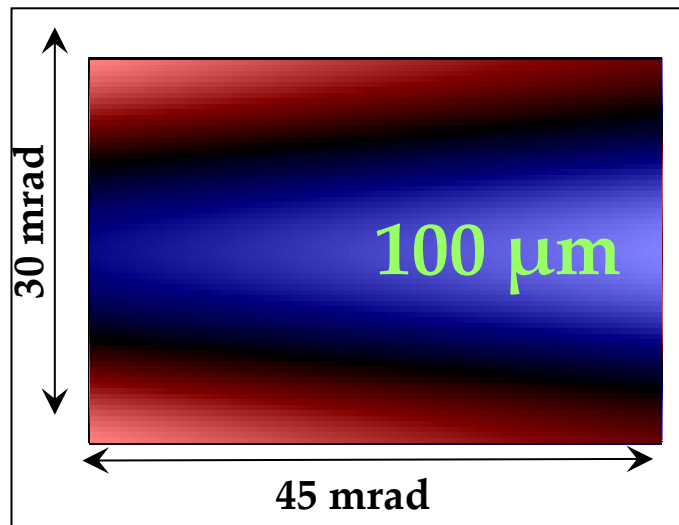
- Maximizing the flux ( $\theta_H$ )
- Allowing efficient extraction of lower energy components of IR synchrotron emission ( $\theta_v$ )

# IRSR Generation

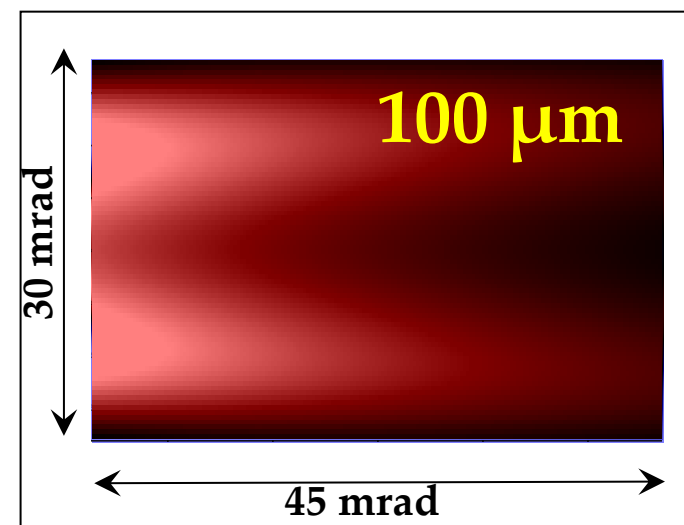
## Bending Magnet IRSR

Vertical opening angle depends on the electron energy (through bending magnet radius)

***INDUS***  
0.45 GeV  
45 mrad H X 30 mrad V  
BM



***DIAMOND***  
3.0 GeV  
45 mrad H X 30 mrad V  
BM

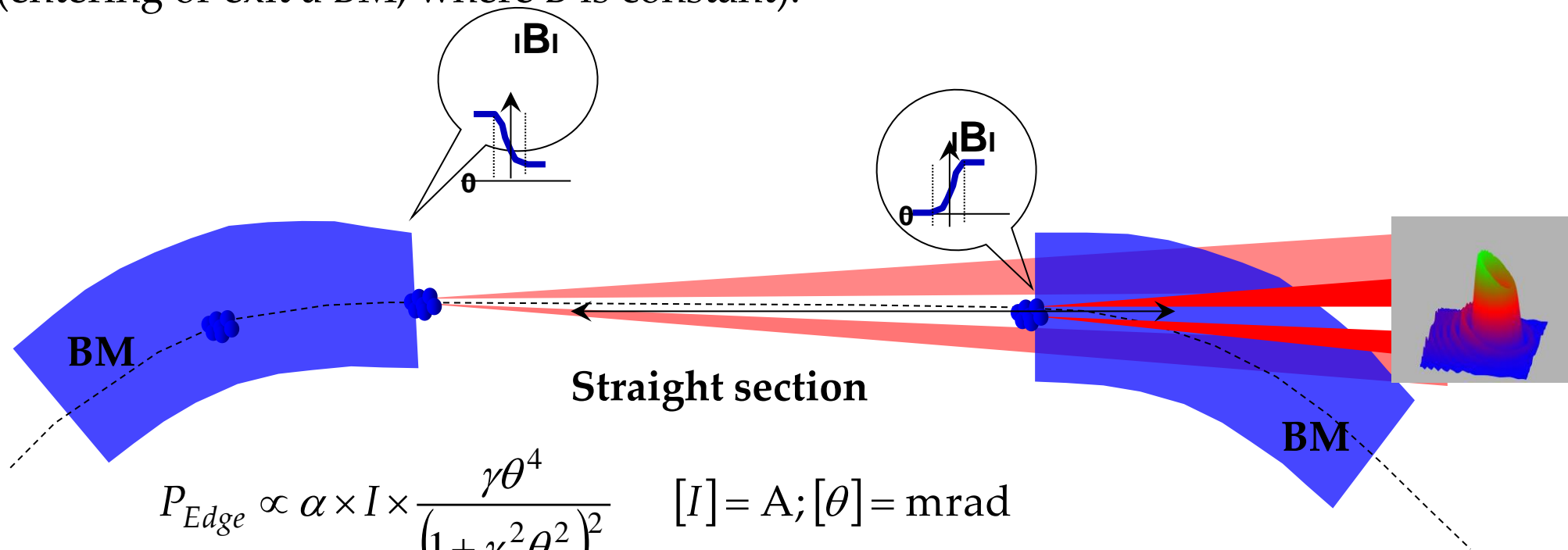




# IRSR Generation

## Edge Radiation

Edge radiation is produced when electrons experience a changing magnetic field (entering or exit a BM, where B is constant).



$$P_{Edge} \propto \alpha \times I \times \frac{\gamma \theta^4}{(1 + \gamma^2 \theta^2)^2} \quad [I] = A; [\theta] = \text{mrad}$$

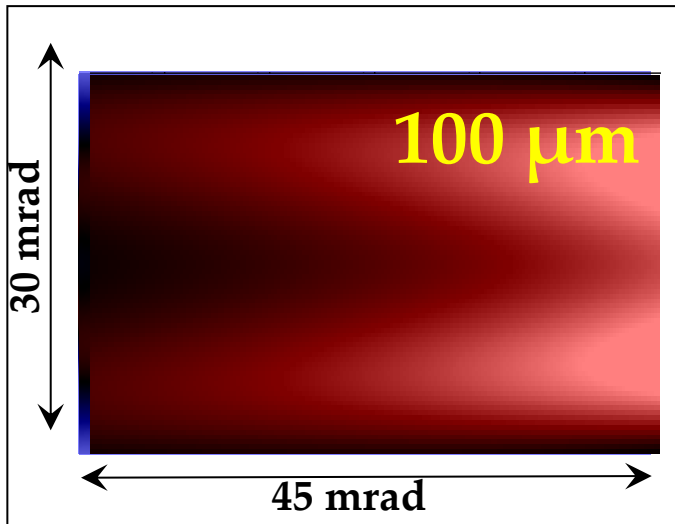
$\gamma$  = Lorentz Factor;  $\alpha$  = Fine Structure Constant

- Edge radiation has a ring structure characterized by interference pattern
- Being  $\Theta_{\max} \sim 1/\gamma \sim 10$  mrad, it is spatially confined and intrinsically bright
- It is radially polarized

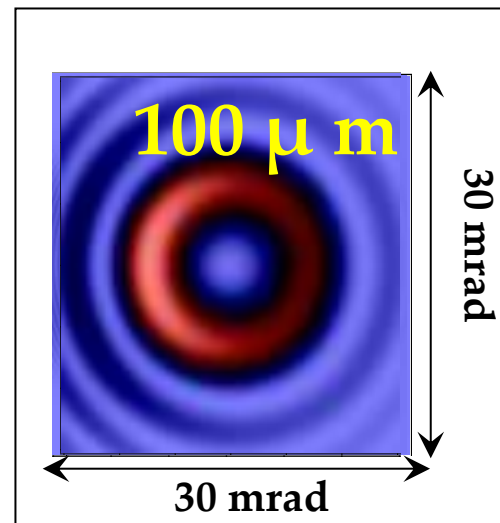
# IRSR Generation

## Edge Radiation

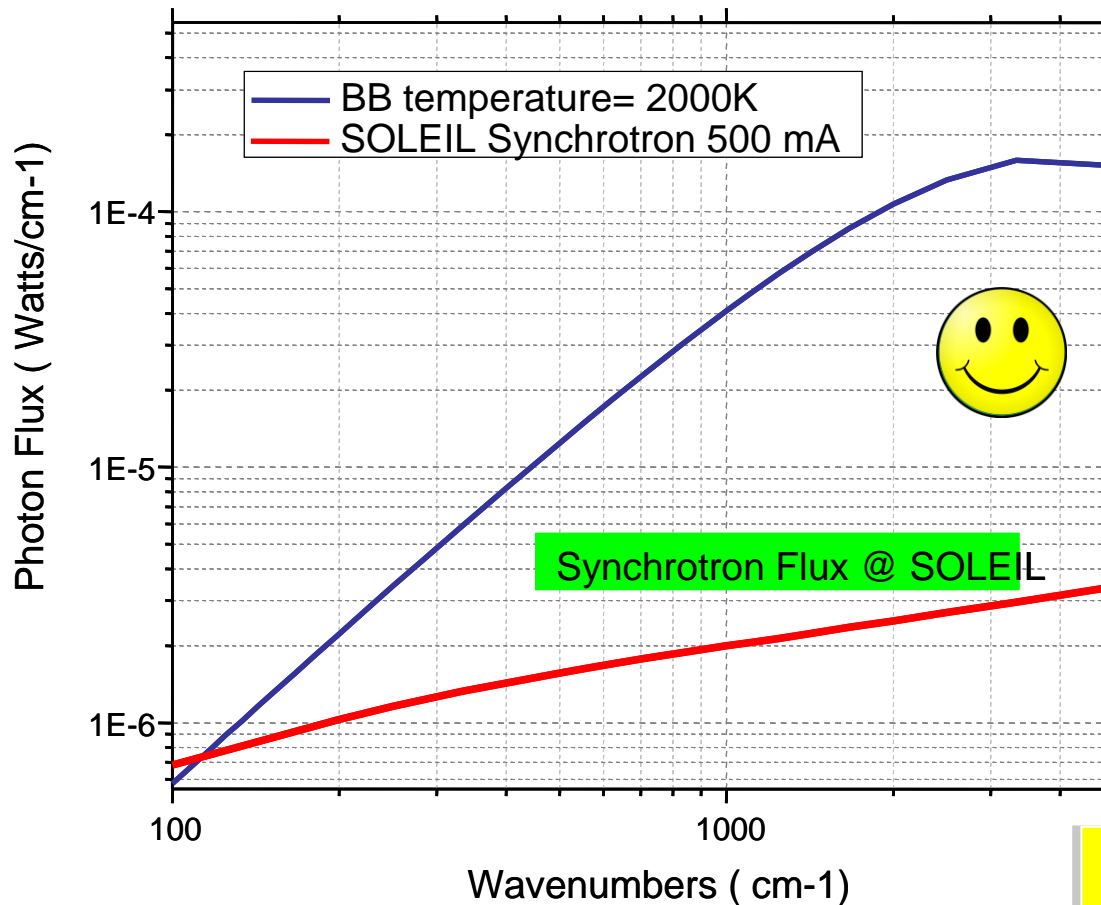
**SOLEIL**  
2.75 GeV  
45 mrad H X 30 mrad V  
BM



**SOLEIL**  
2.75 GeV  
30 mrad H X 30 mrad V  
BM



## The brightness advantage

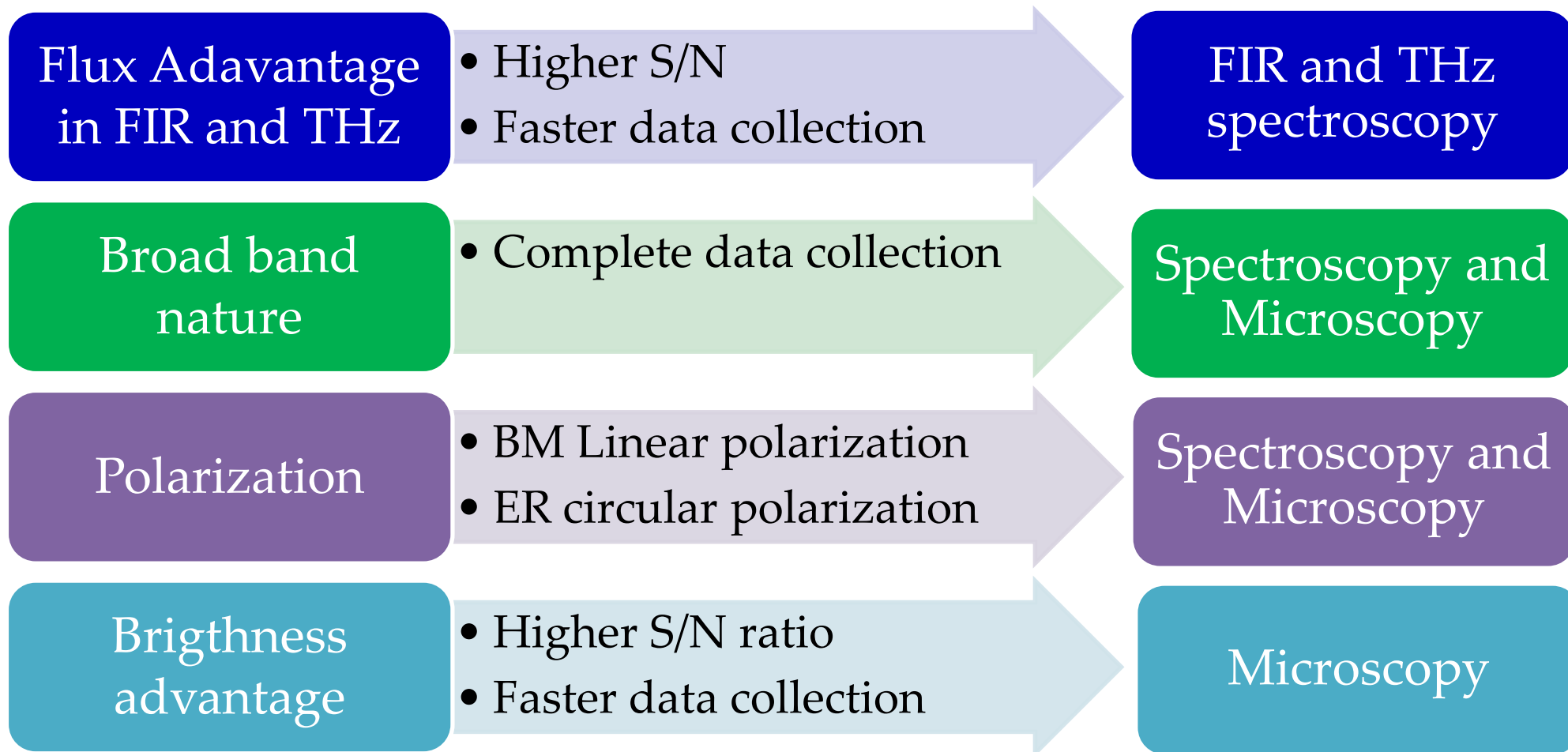


**Synchrotron IR is much brighter !**

$$B(\lambda) \approx \frac{3.8 \times 10^{20} \times bw \times I}{\lambda^2}$$

$$[\lambda] = \mu\text{m}; [I] = \text{A}; [bw] = \%$$

## Exploitation of IRSR advantages





Elettra  
Sincrotrone  
Trieste

# SISSI

## Synchrotron Infrared Source for Spectroscopy and Imaging

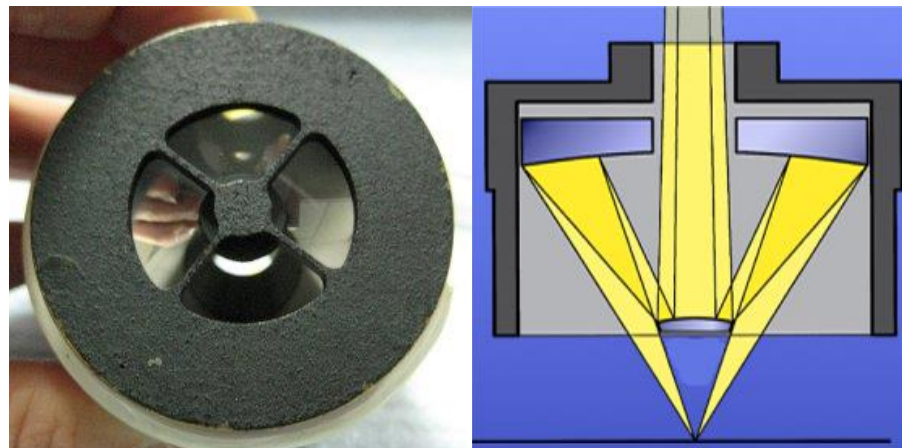
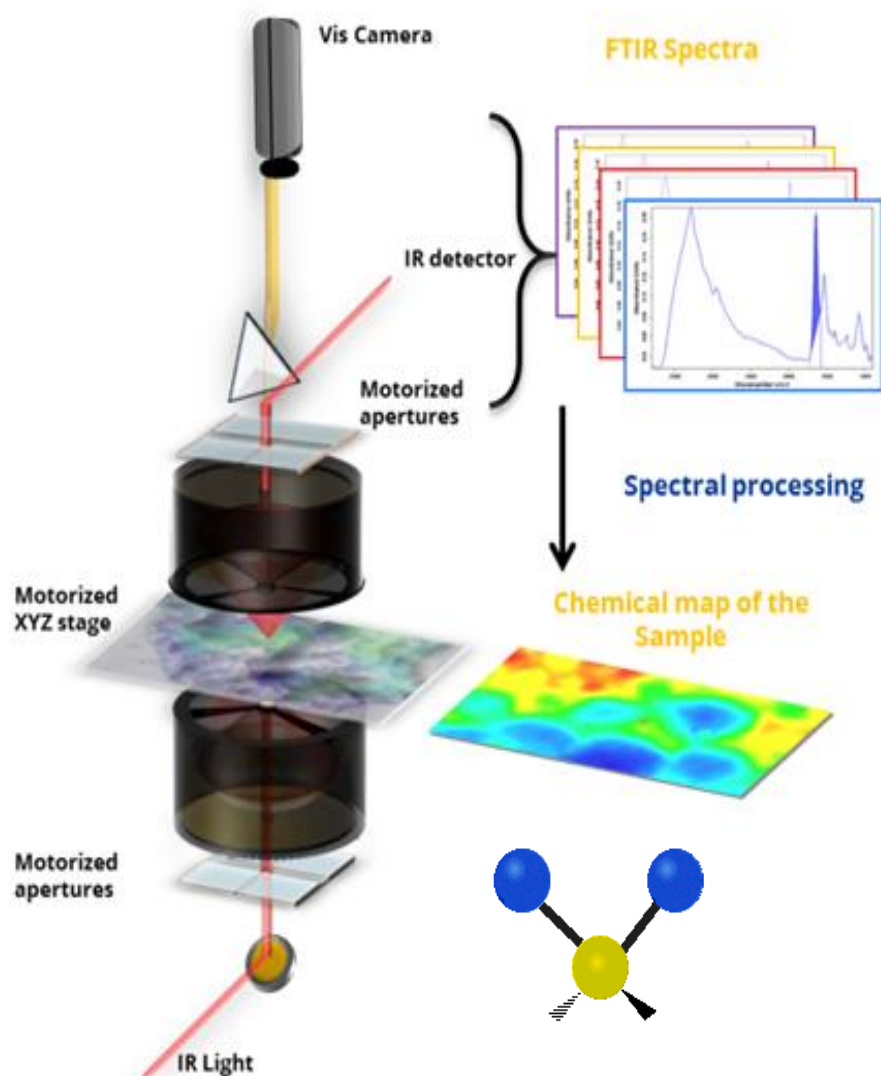


SISSI @Elettra - Photo courtesy of CERIC-ERIC , Photographer: Roberto Barnabà



# FTIR Microspectroscopy

## Schwarzschild objective



FTIR microscopy is a far-field microscopy

Lateral resolution,  $\delta$ , is diffraction limited

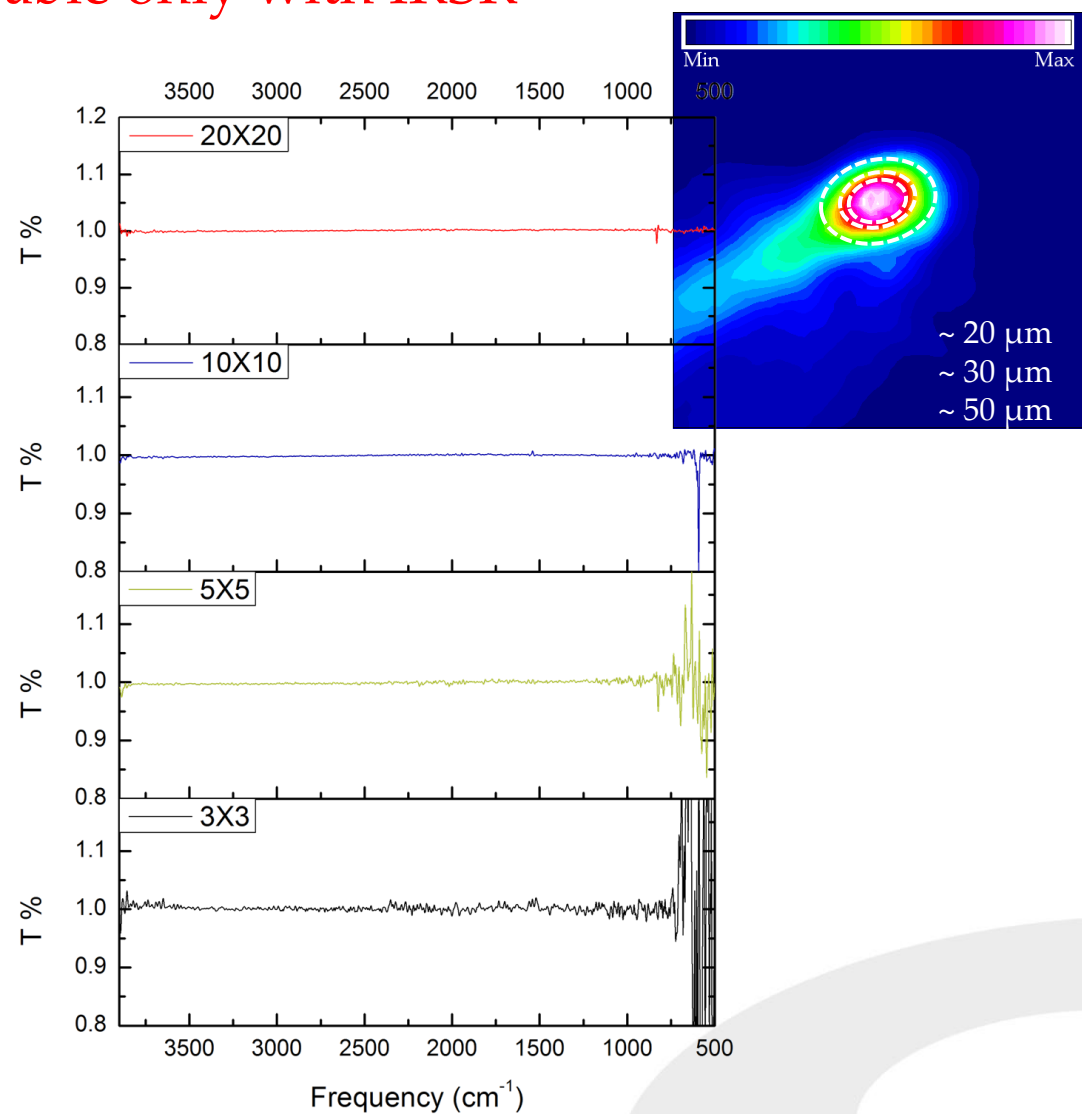
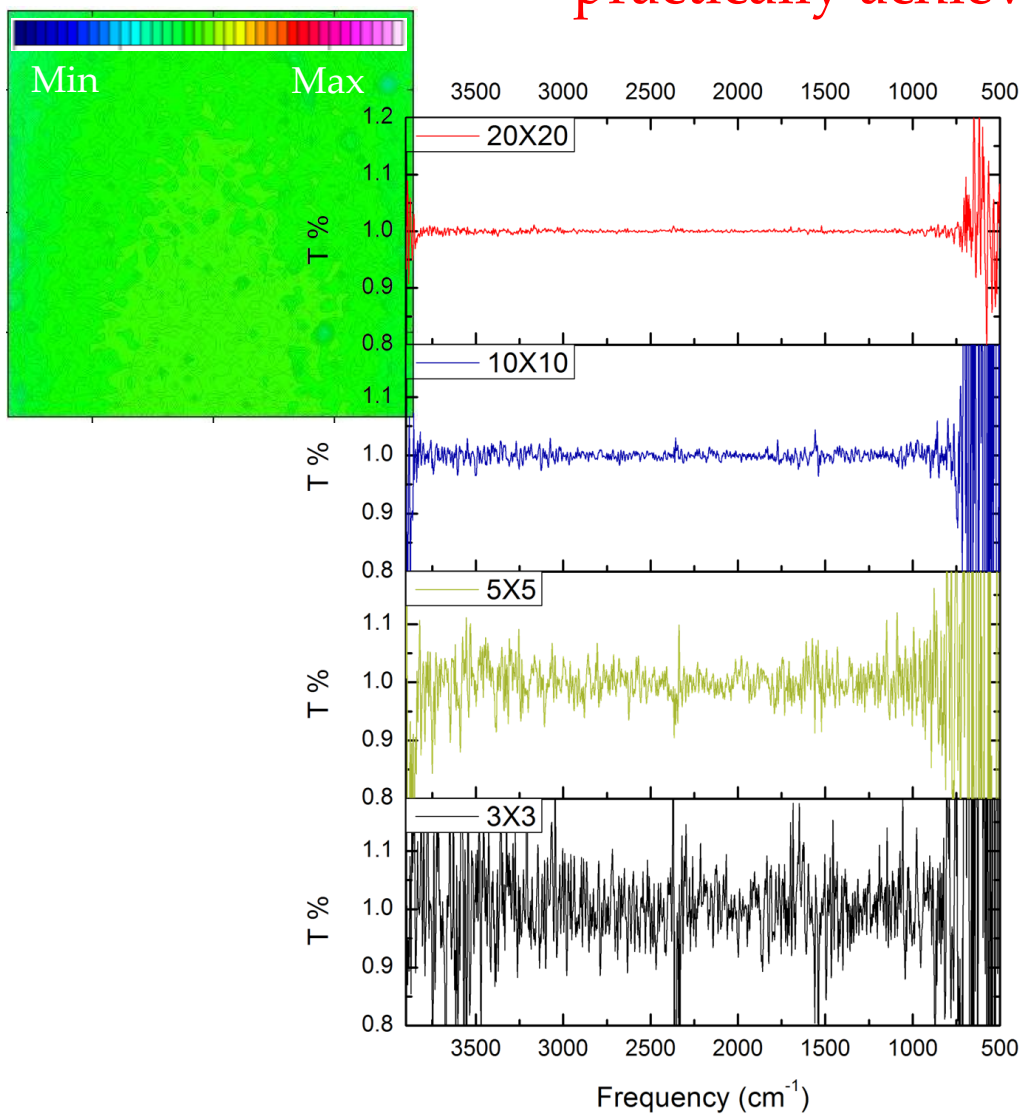
$$d \approx 0.61 \lambda / NA$$

Objective NA	Wavelength	$\delta$
0.4	10 $\mu\text{m}$ (1000 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\sim 15 \mu\text{m}$
	2.5 $\mu\text{m}$ (4000 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\sim 4 \mu\text{m}$
0.65	10 $\mu\text{m}$ (1000 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\sim 9,5 \mu\text{m}$
	2.5 $\mu\text{m}$ (4000 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\sim 2,5 \mu\text{m}$

Diffraction Limited FTIR Microscopy is practically achievable only with IRSR

Conventional Source

IRSR



S/N ratio at SISSI for diverse knife-edge aperture settings (lateral resolution)

# Infrared bio-spectroscopy

## From macro to nanoscale on the molecules of Life



**Biospectroscopy** is the spectroscopy of the **Molecule of Life**

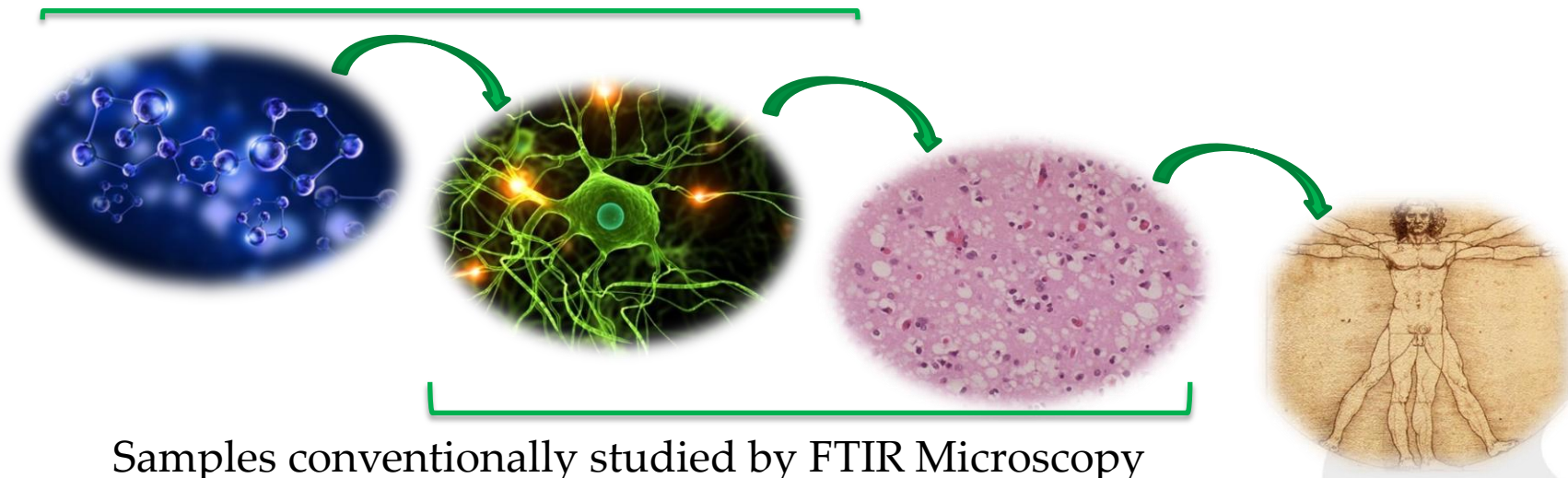
Organic molecules are the Molecules of Life.

They are built on chains of carbon atoms, usually very long (bio-macromolecules)

There are four main groups of bio-macromolecules to build sub-cellular structure, cells, tissue, organs up to living beings:

**Proteins; Lipids; Nucleic Acids; Carbohydrates**

Samples conventionally studied by FTIR Spectroscopy

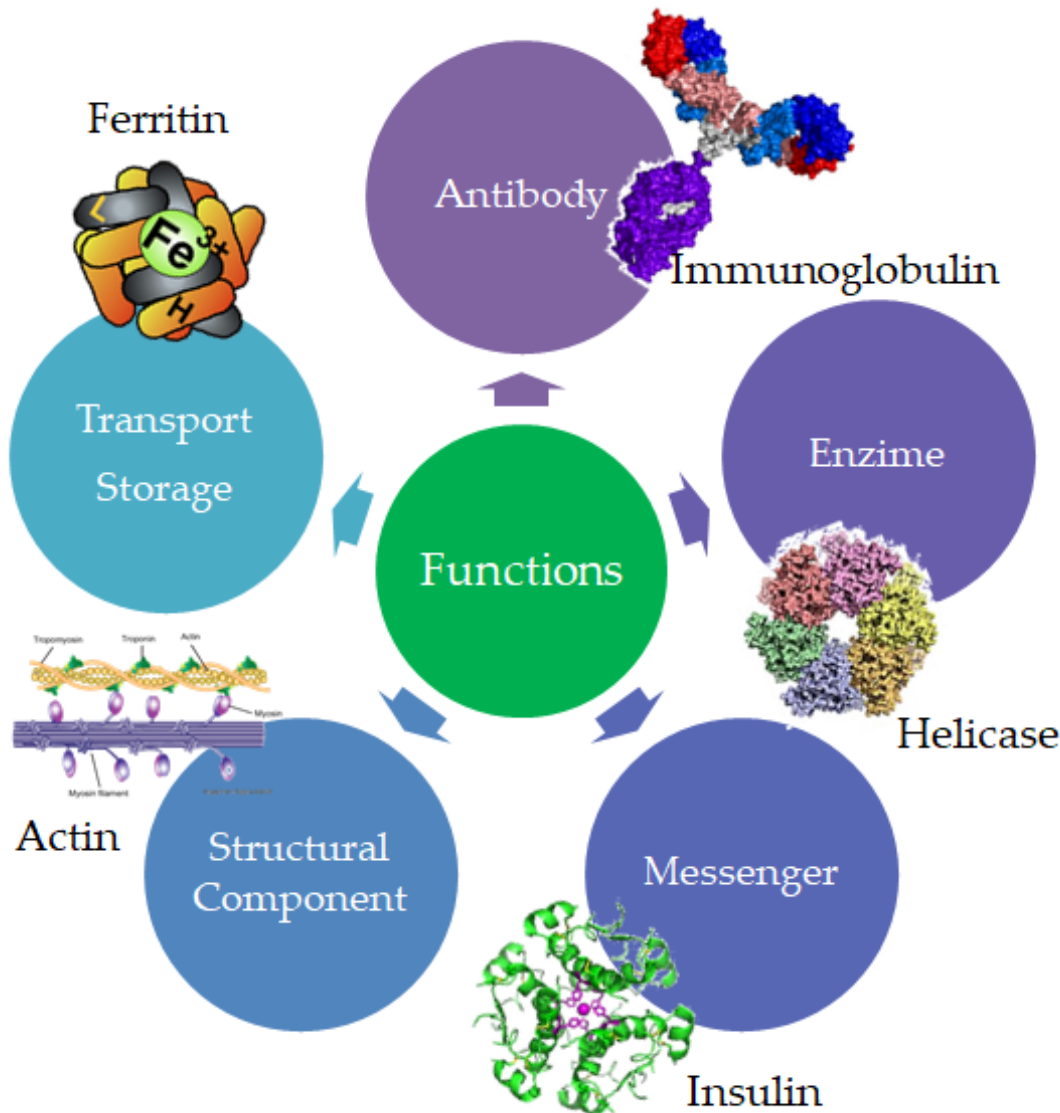


Samples conventionally studied by FTIR Microscopy

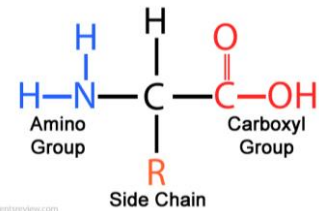
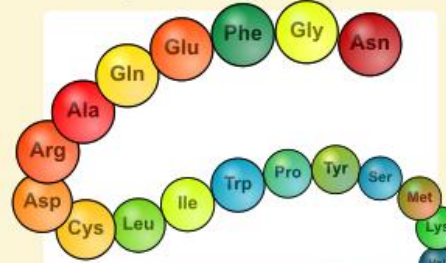


# Proteins Functions and Structure

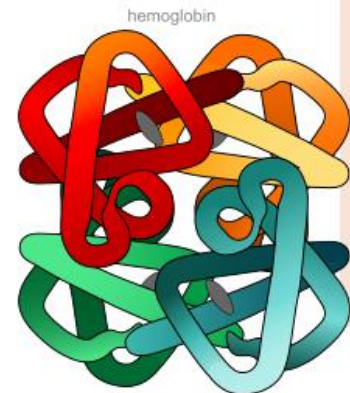
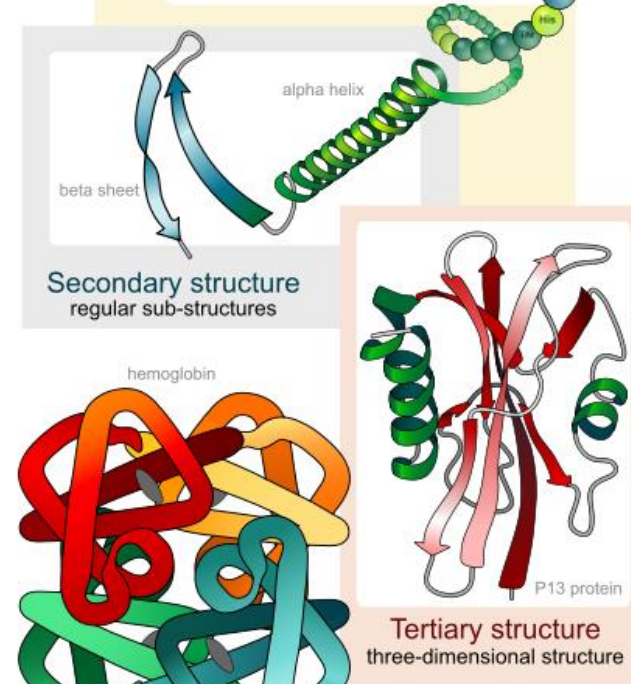
Proteins perform a vast array of functions within organisms, exhibiting activity strictly related to their structure (Structure-Activity relationship)



Primary structure  
amino acid sequence



Secondary structure  
regular sub-structures



Tertiary structure  
three-dimensional structure

Quaternary structure  
complex of protein molecules

# FTIR spectroscopy for protein conformational studies

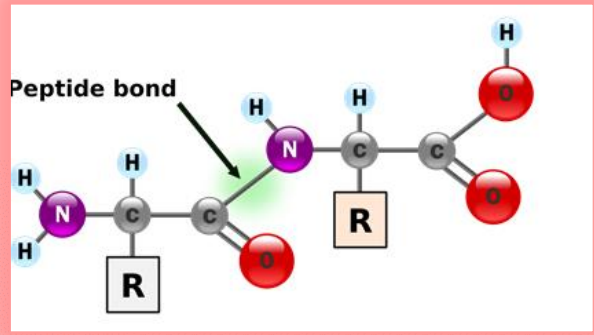
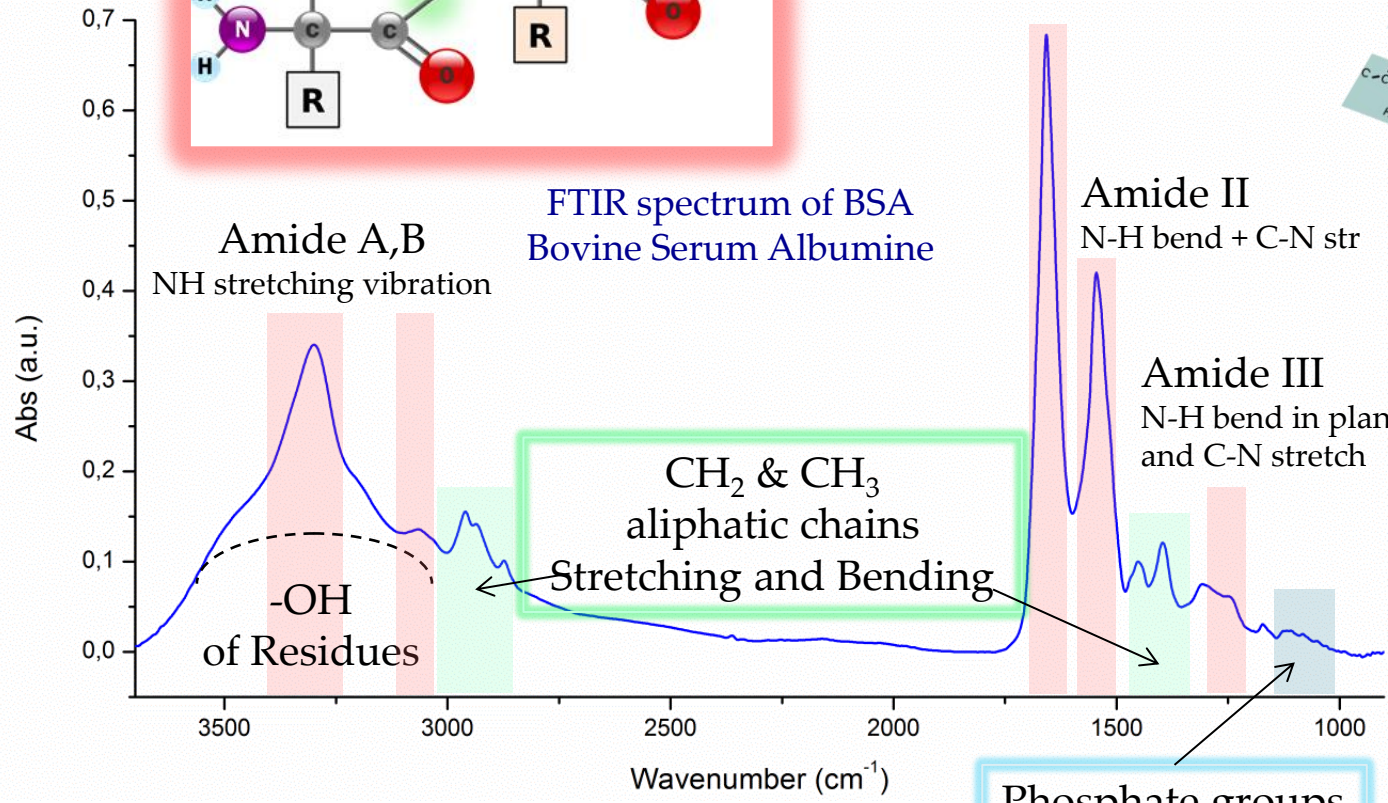
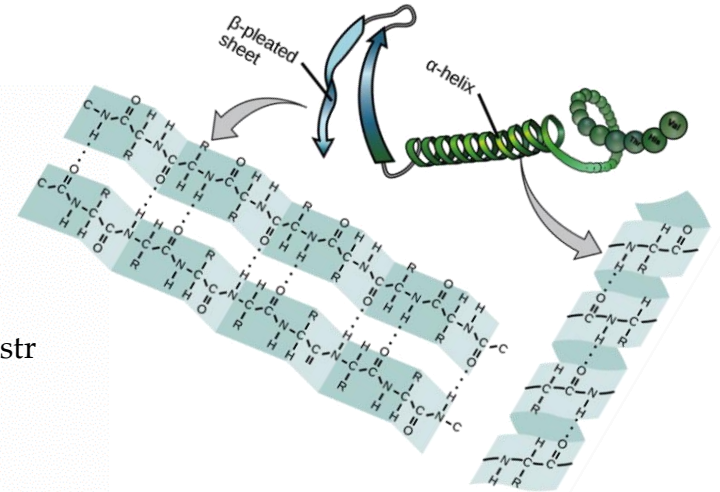
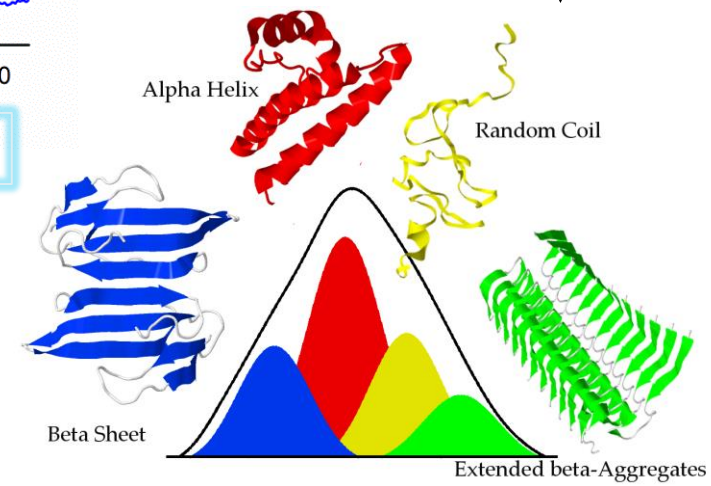


Image credit: OpenStax Biology.

**Amide I**  
C=O str + C-N str + NH bend



Different H-bonding networks for different peak positions

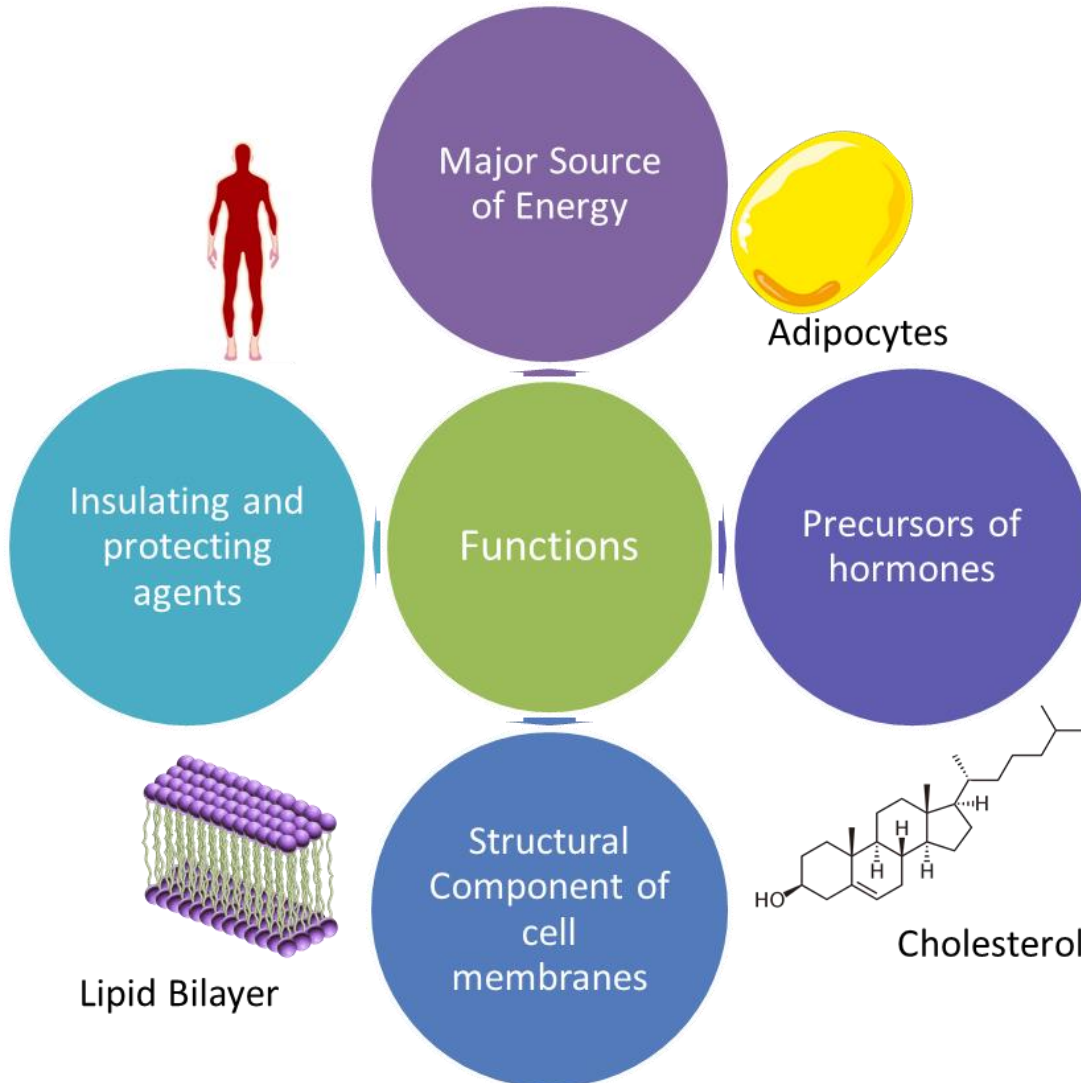


Amide I band is particularly sensitive to protein secondary structure, and conventionally employed for protein conformational studies



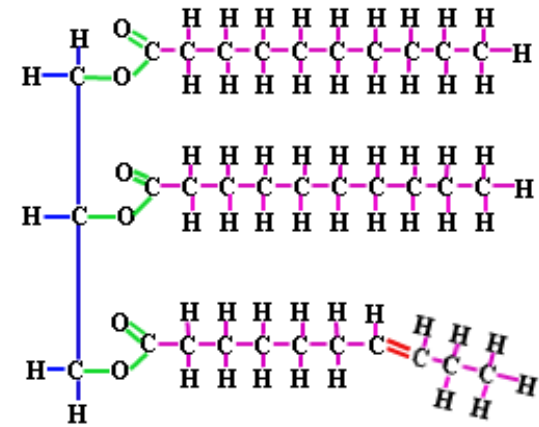
Elettra  
Sincrotrone  
Trieste

# Lipids Functions and Structure

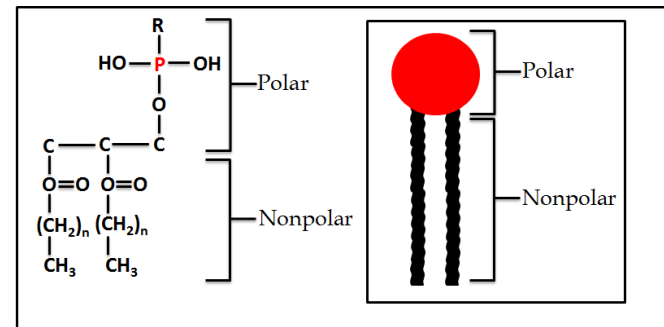


Glycerol

Fatty acids



Triglyceride

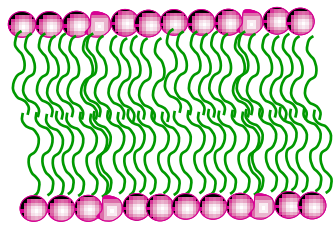


Phospholipids

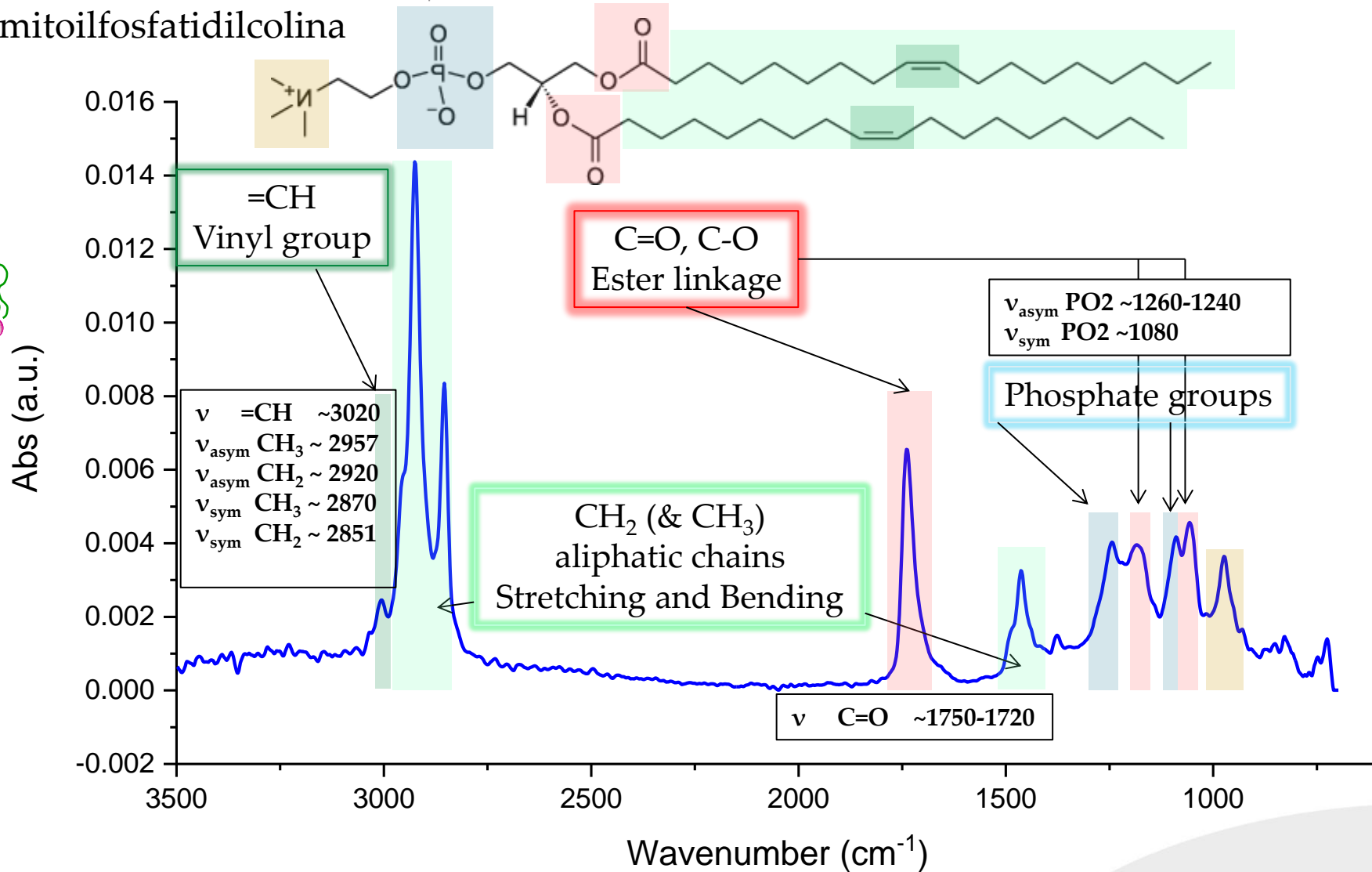
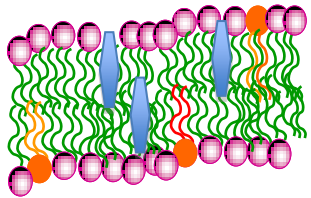


# FTIR spectroscopy of lipid

DOPC - Dipalmitoilfosfatidilcolina



Viscous  
To  
Fluid



CH<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub> ratio: methyl-branched fatty acids increase membrane fluidity

=C-H: Unsaturated fatty acids increase membrane fluidity

Shifts and broadening of the methyl and methylene bands are indicative of increased lipid disorder/fluidity



Elettra  
Sincrotrone  
Trieste

DNA stores information

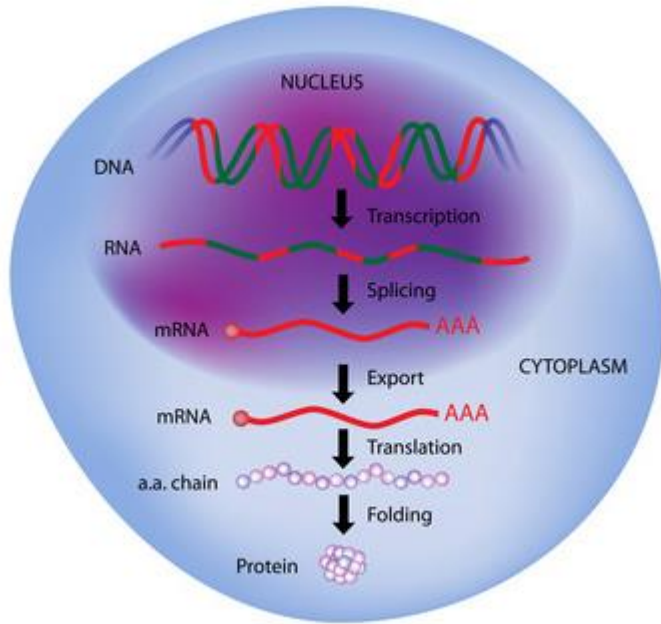


Image credit  
<https://www.wonderwhizkids.com/gene-expression>

RNA transfer information

# Nucleic acids Structure and Function

## Components of Nucleic Acids


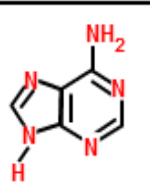
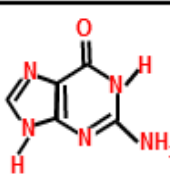
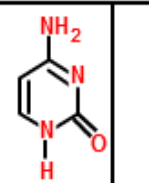
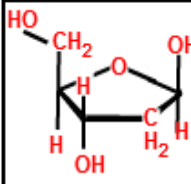
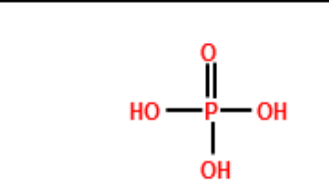

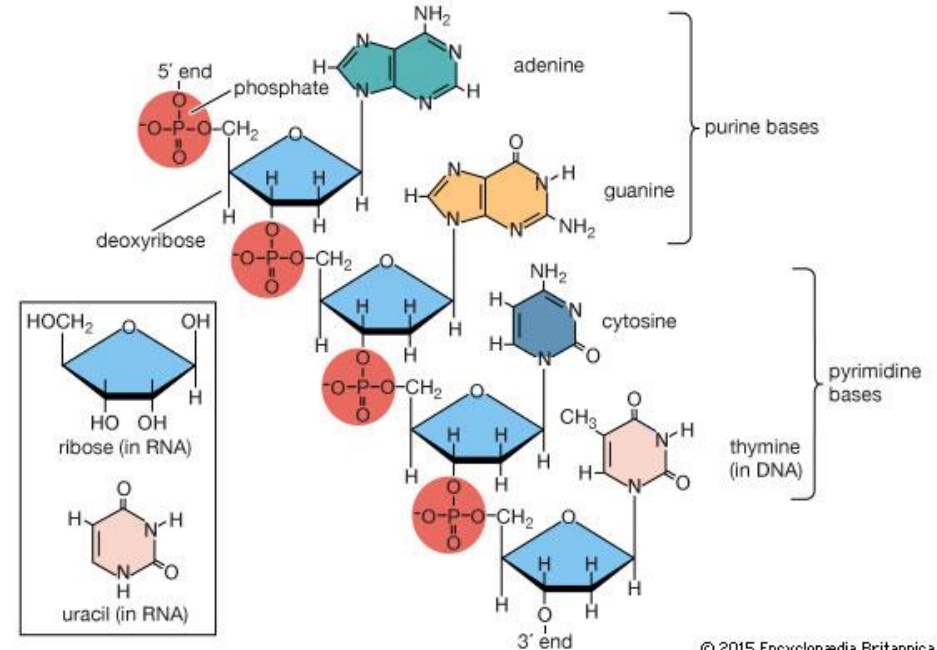
	DNA only	DNA & RNA		RNA only
Nitrogen bases	 Thymine	 Adenine	 Guanine	 Uracil
sugar & phosphate	 2-Deoxyribose	 Phosphate		 Ribose

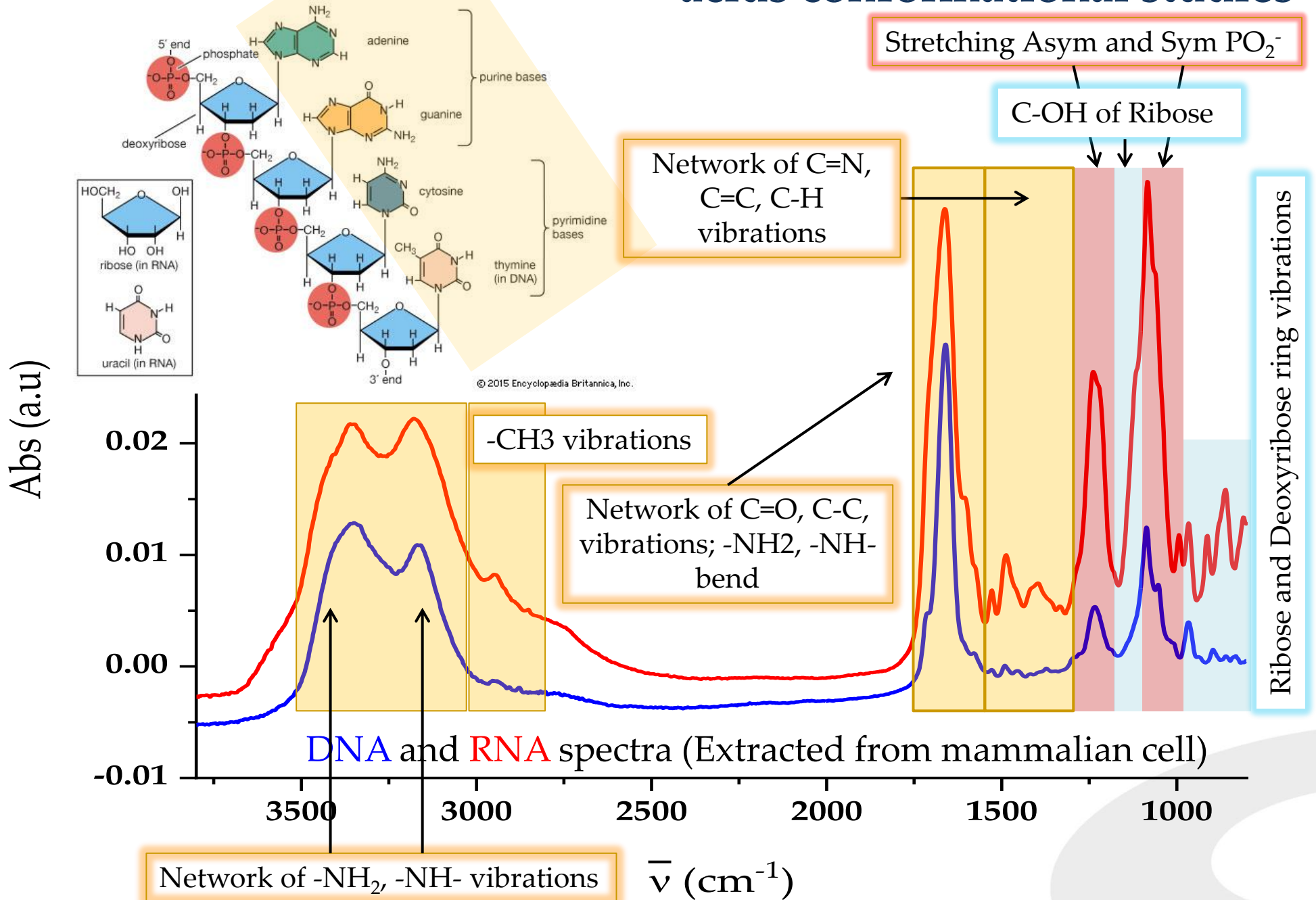
Image credit  
<https://biology.tutorvista.com/biomolecules/nucleic-acids.html>





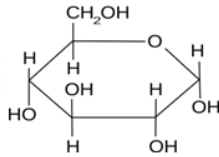
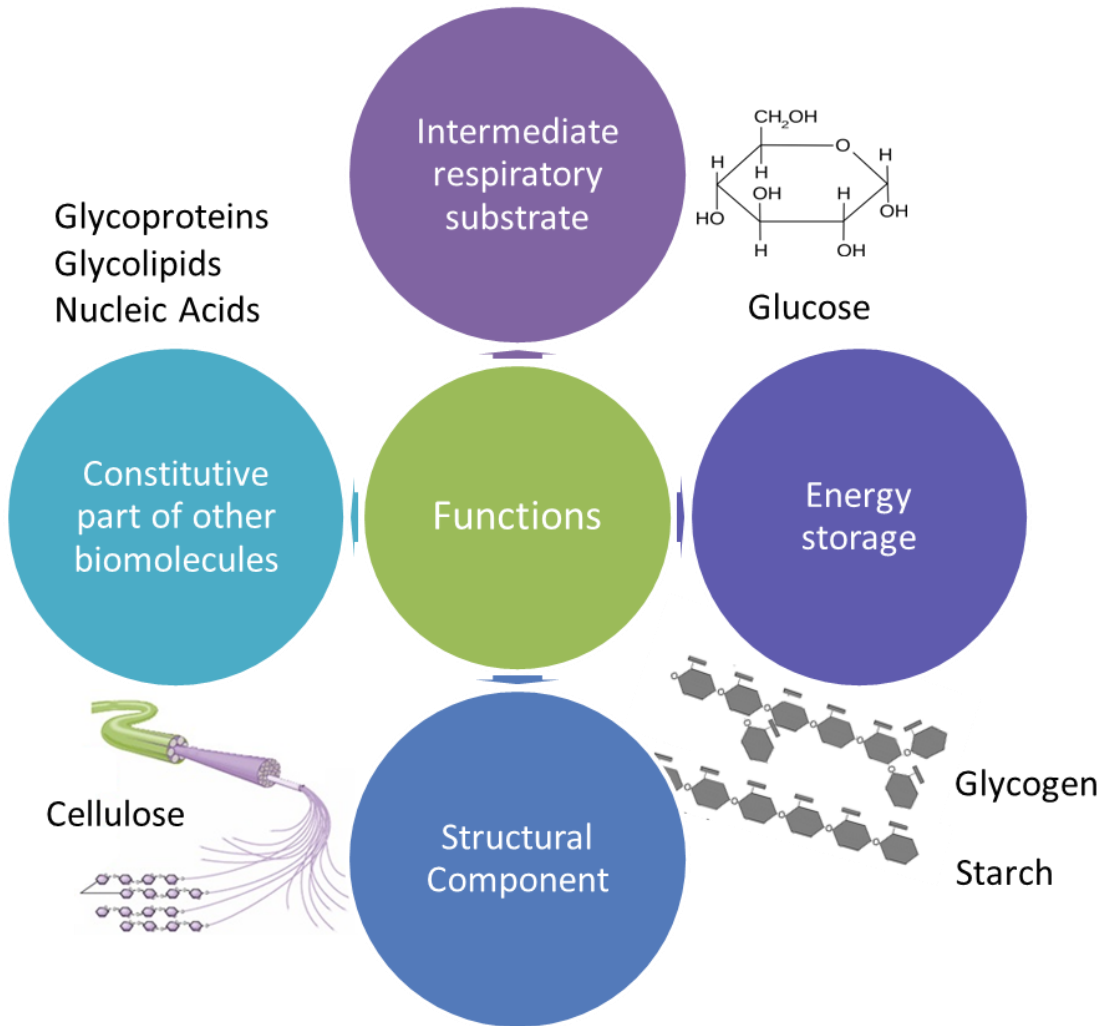
Elettra  
Sincrotrone  
Trieste

# FTIR spectroscopy for Nucleic acids conformational studies



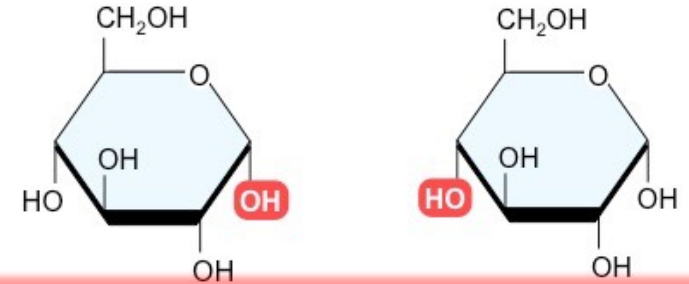


# Carbohydrates Structure and Function

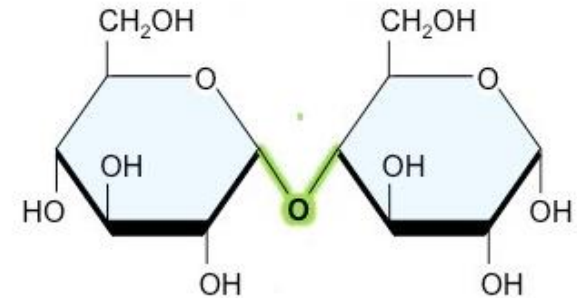


Glucose

## Monosaccharides

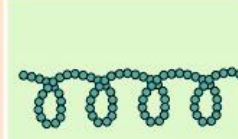
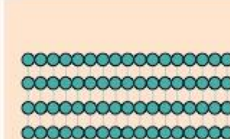
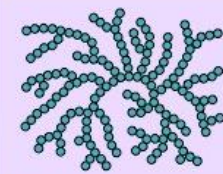


## Disaccharides



Glycosidic bond

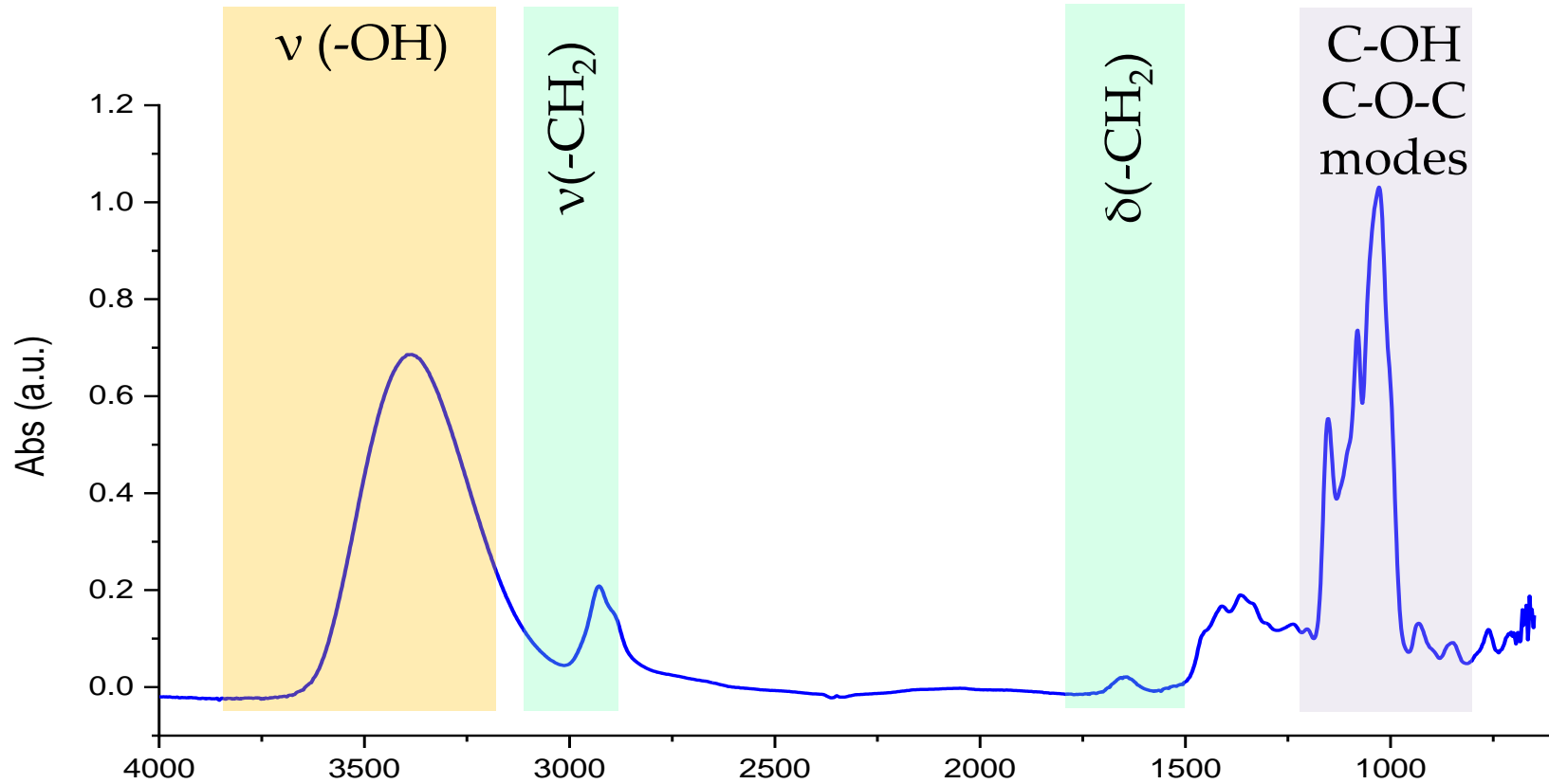
## Polysaccharides



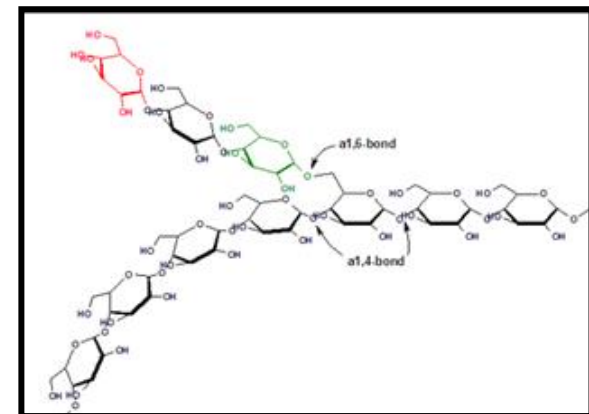
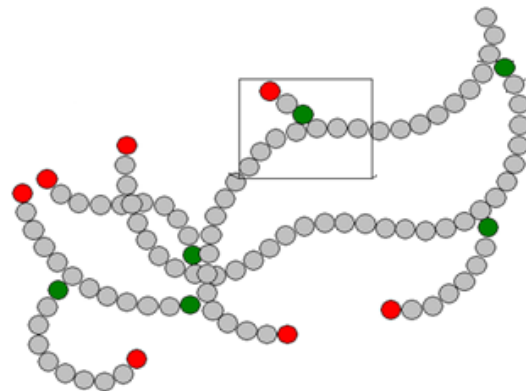




# Carbohydrates Structure and Function

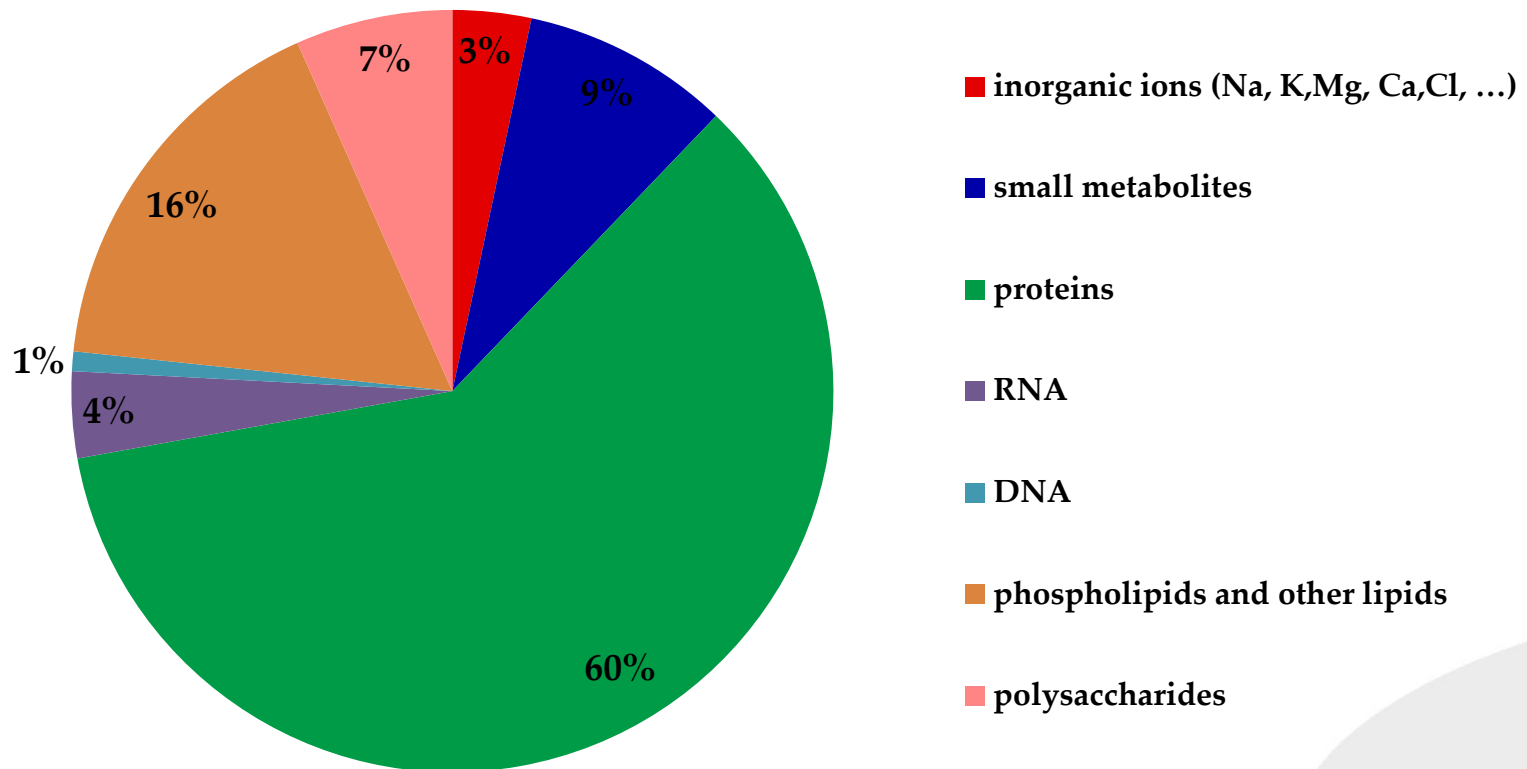


GLYCOGEN

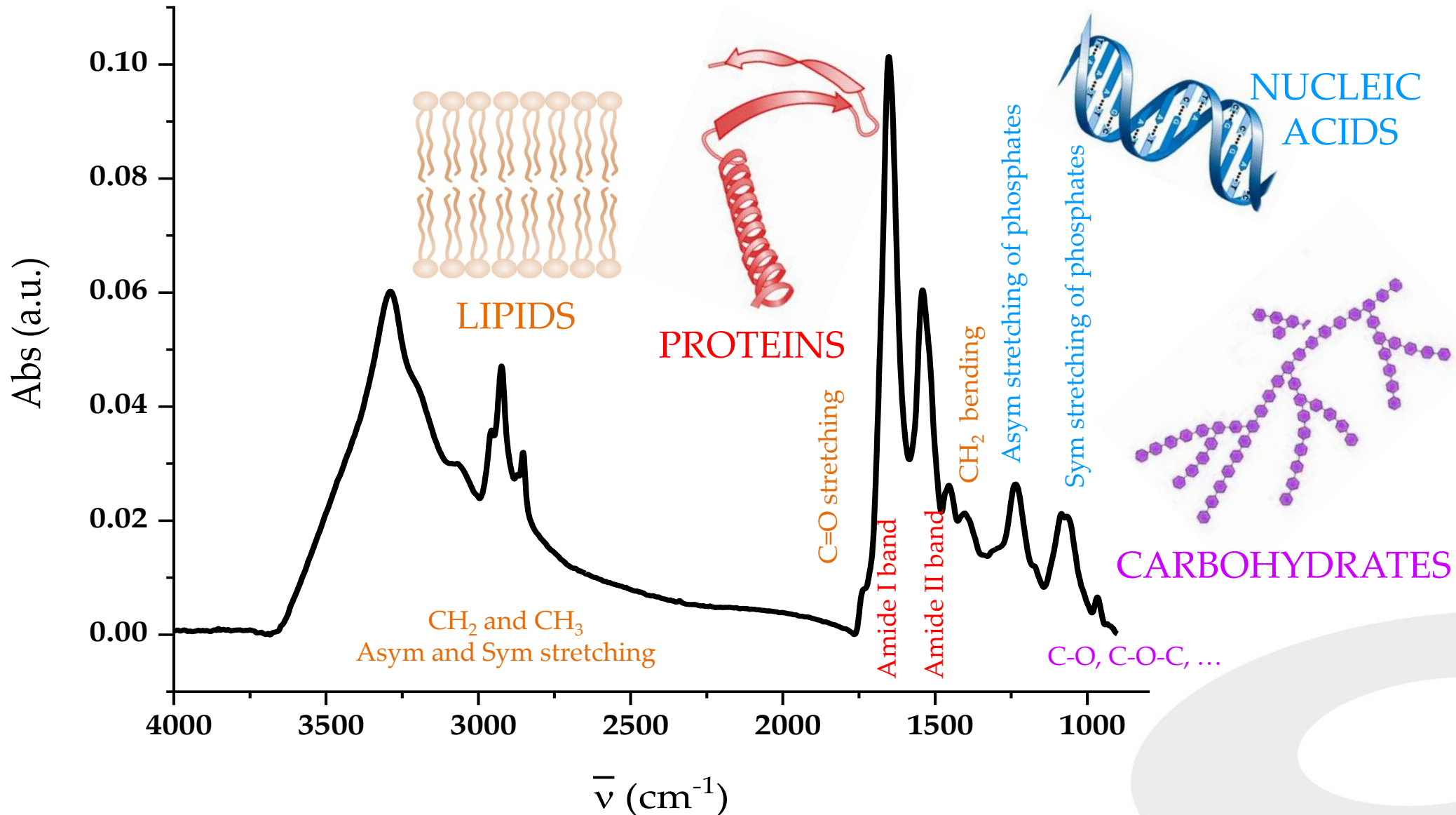


At a first glance, the FTIR spectrum of a mammalian cell can be viewed as the over imposition of the diverse spectral contribution of each individual components

**Typical mammalian dried cell chemical composition  
(component percent of total cell weight)**



Band intensity, position, width and shape (band components) are sensitive to subtle biochemical changes of bio-specimens.



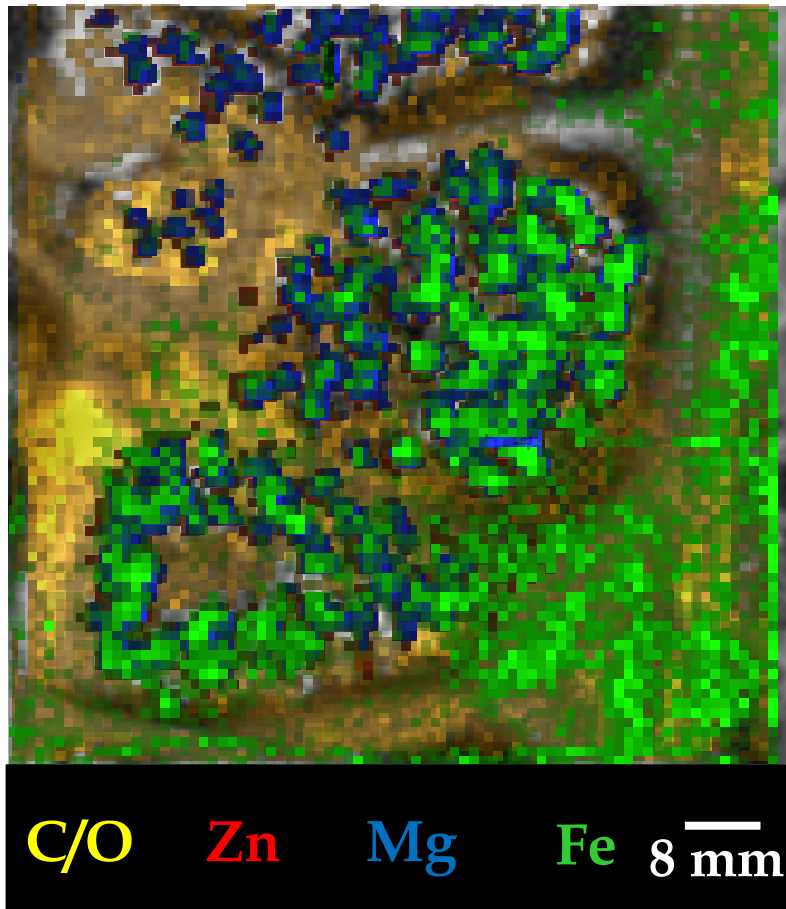
# Infrared bio-spectroscopy

## From macro to nanoscale on the molecules of Life

Soft X-ray Radiation damage

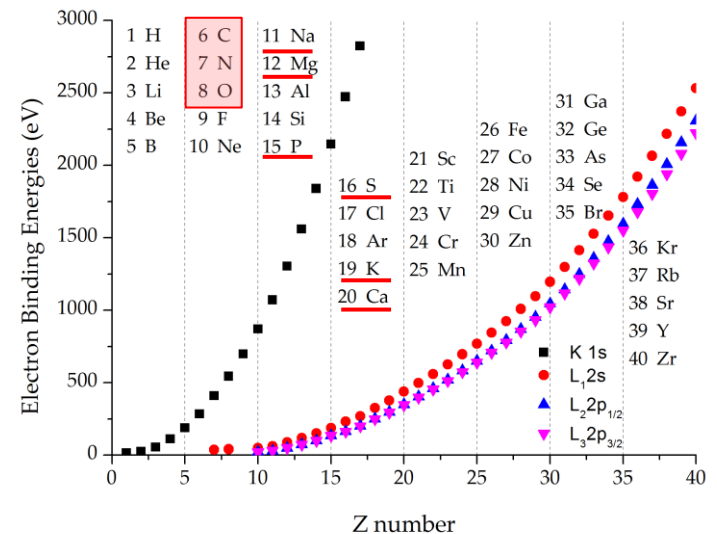
## TwinMic Beamline at Elettra

Functionality and toxicity of Zn in wheat



## • Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

- Radiation damage induced by X-rays on biological samples is one of the remaining bottlenecks for their ultrastructural characterization by X-ray microscopy techniques
- X-ray nanofocusing is a today reality but the extent to which the lateral resolution can be pushed without unacceptable bio-sample degradation is still an open question



- Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

Literature Survey

The very same radiation that induces damage is exploited for probing it

Radiation damage is dose dependent

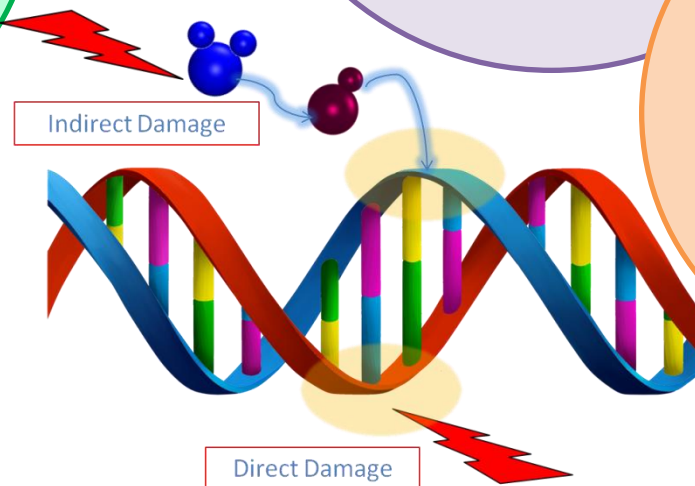
Radiation damage depends on sample preparation

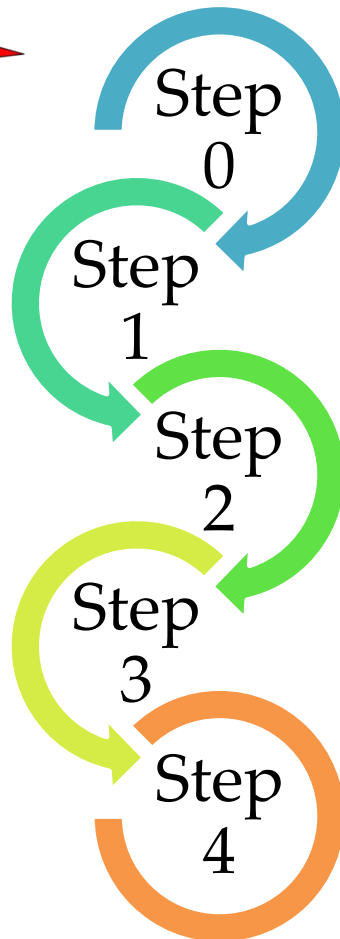
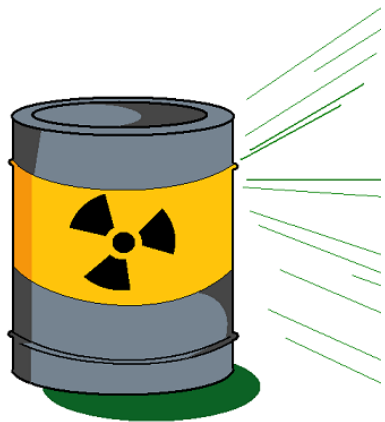
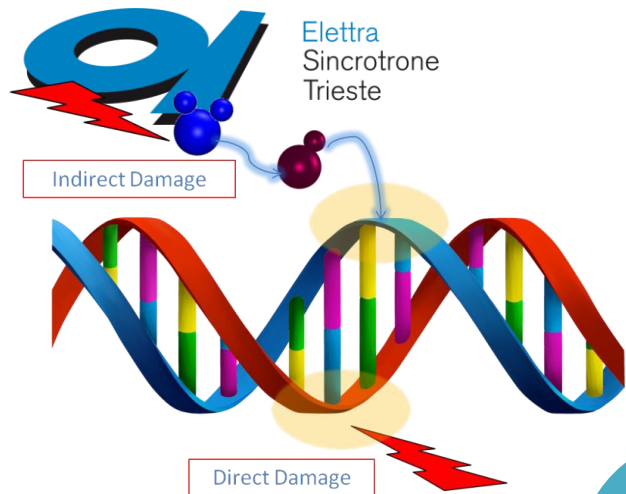
Hydrated samples undergo more relevant changes with respect to fixed ones

Cryo-XRM better preserves the structural integrity of bio-samples

Radiolytic effects undergone by a specific molecule strongly depend on the sample architecture

Genetic material is extremely sensitive to ionizing radiation





## Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

### Design of Experiment



Hek293T cells (human embryonic kidney)

Cell growth on 100 nm  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  membranes  
Cell fixation with PFA 3.7% and overnight air drying

Cell drying in vacuum @ TwinMic  
( $p < 10^{-5}$  mbar) for 1:30 hour

Low Dose STXM mapping @ TwinMic 1 keV  
Estimated dose:  $2 \cdot 10^6$  Gy

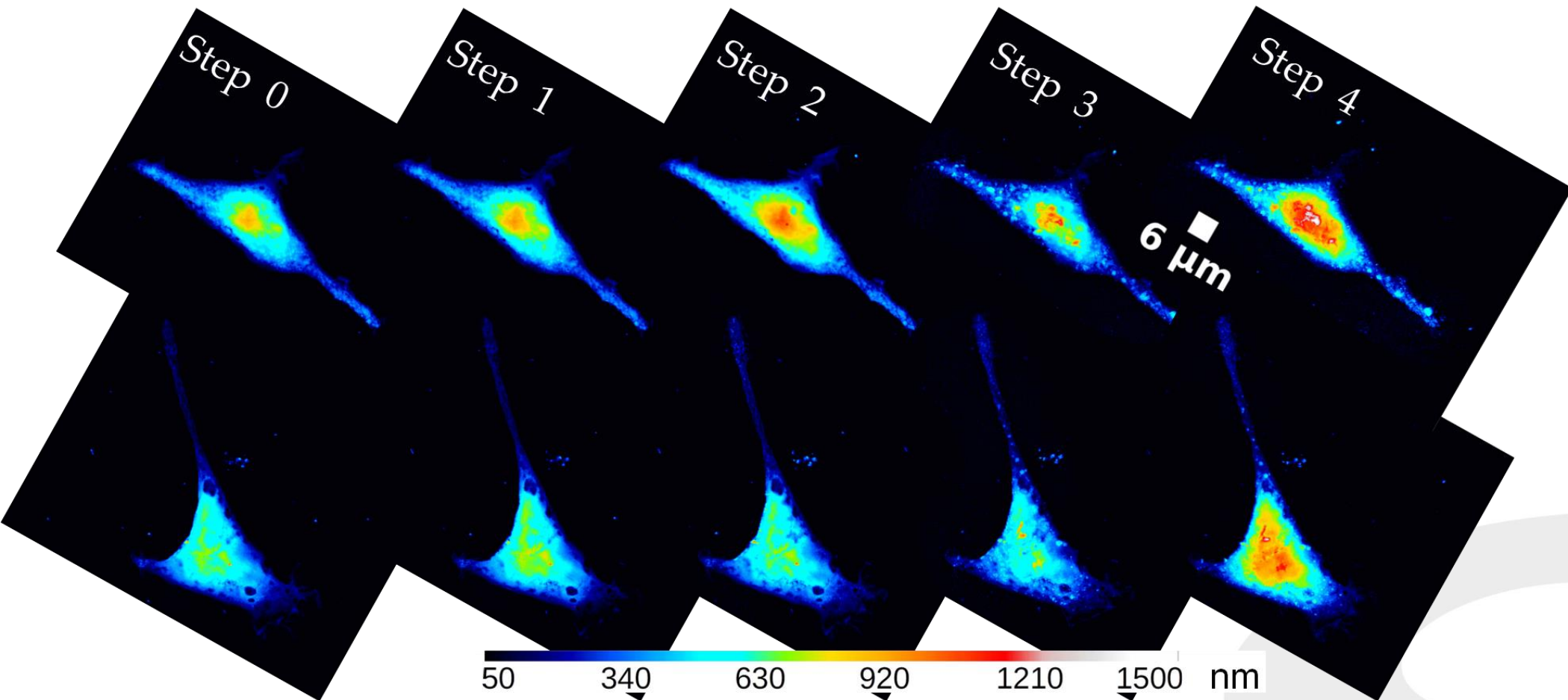
High Dose STXM mapping @ TwinMic 1 keV  
Estimated dose:  $2 \cdot 10^7$  Gy  
Cumulative estimated dose:  $2.2 \cdot 10^7$  Gy

Very high dose STXM mapping @ TwinMic 1 keV  
Estimated dose:  $6 \cdot 10^8$  Gy  
Cumulative estimated dose:  $6.2 \cdot 10^8$  Gy

- Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

AFM outcomes

- Minimal cell shrinkage
- Evident degradation/thinning of pseudopodia terminations
- Appreciable thickness variations, especially on the nuclear region at Step 4
- Outstanding topographical changes: nanometric pits and bulges increase in number and size when increasing dose





- Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

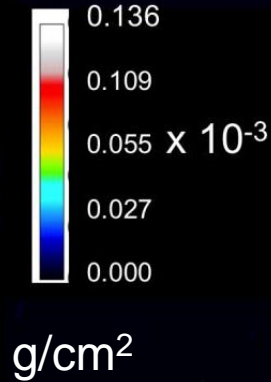
### X-ray Microscopy Outcomes

Mass Thickness  $\rho t = -\ln \frac{(I/I_0)}{\mu^*}$

Step 2 ( $\sim 10^6$  Gy)

Step 3 ( $\sim 10^7$  Gy)

Step 4 ( $\sim 10^8$  Gy)



Mass absorption coefficient

Element	Mass fraction
C	0.5
N	0.16
H	0.07
O	0.25
P+S	0.02

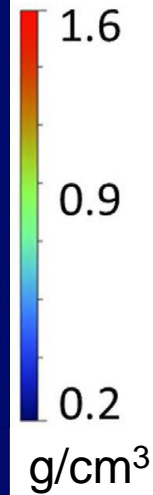
- Mass Thickness decreases with increasing dose



- Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

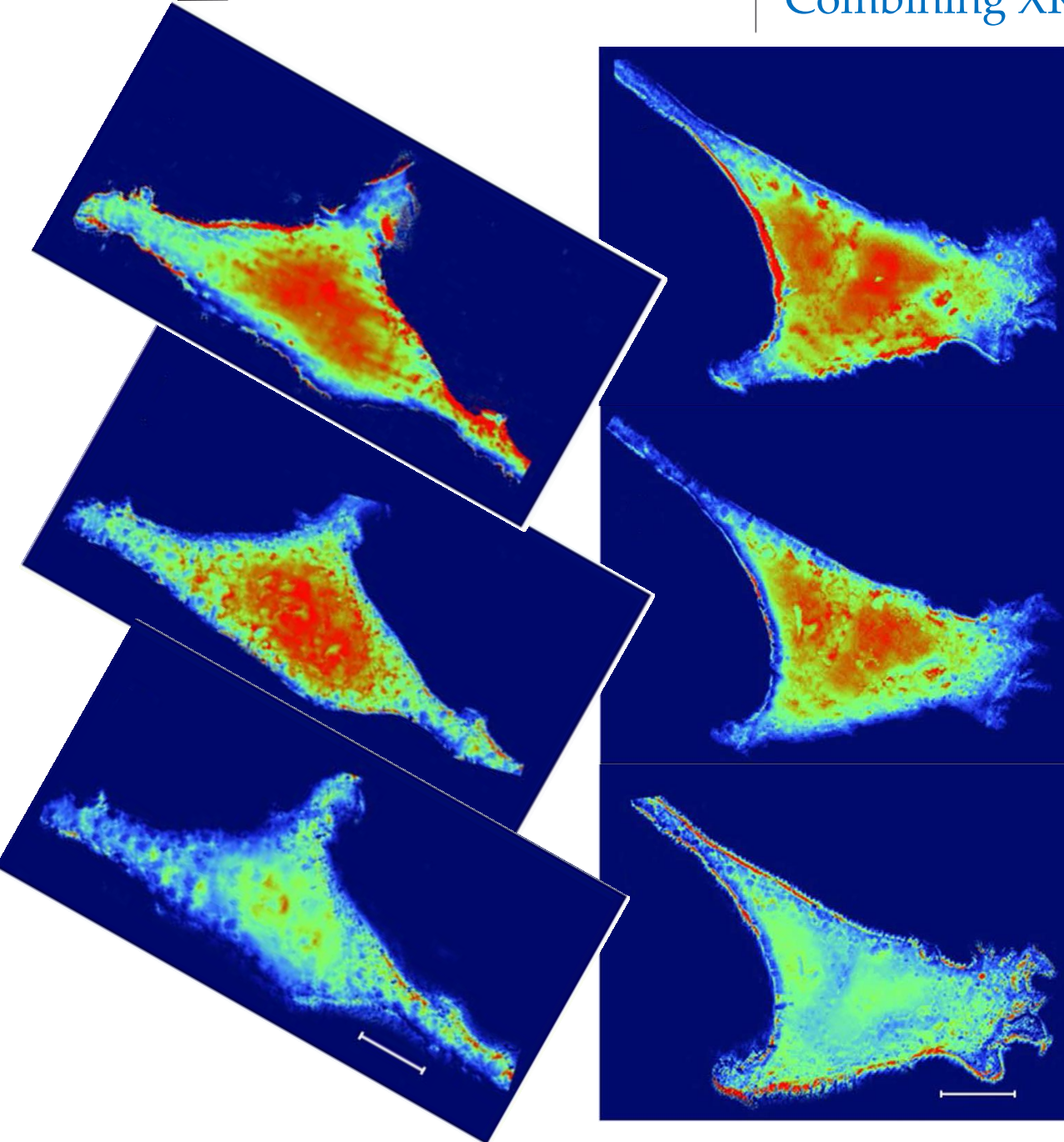
## Combining XRM and AFM

**XRM cell images  
normalized over  
AFM cell thickness**



$$\rho = -\ln \frac{(I/I_0)}{\mu^* t}$$

- Progressive reduction of the cell density with increasing X-ray dose

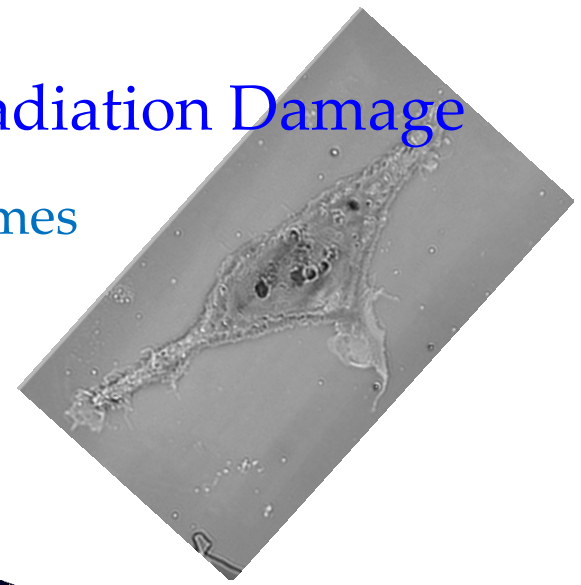




Elettra  
Sincrotrone  
Trieste

# Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

FTIRM outcomes



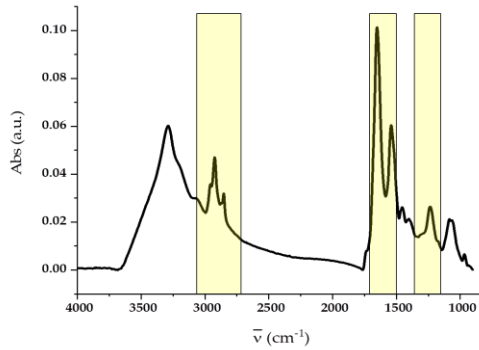
Step 0

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4



Min

Max

Lipids

2988-2830 cm<sup>-1</sup>

Proteins

1702-1480 cm<sup>-1</sup>

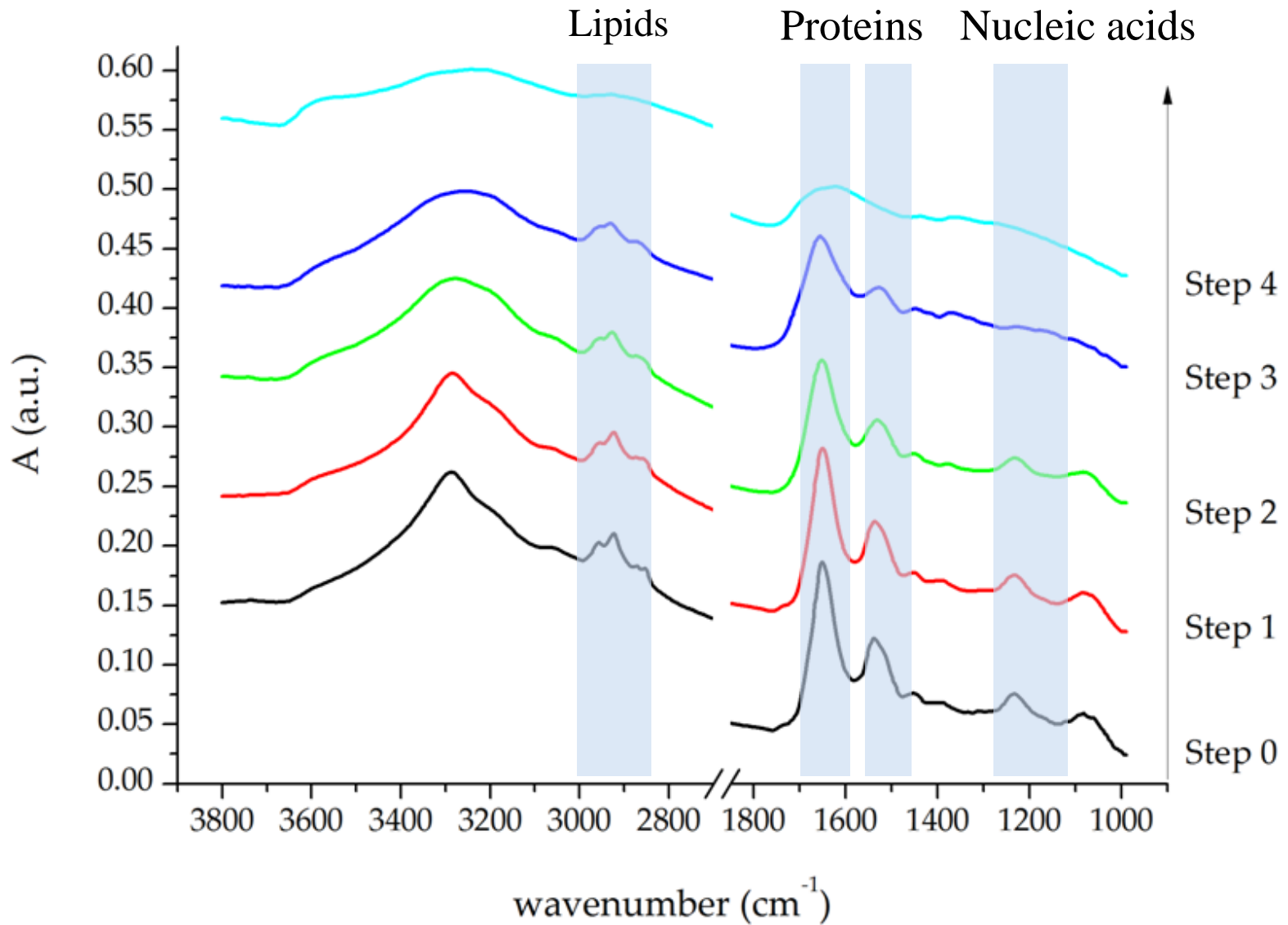
Nucleic acids

1270-1190 cm<sup>-1</sup>



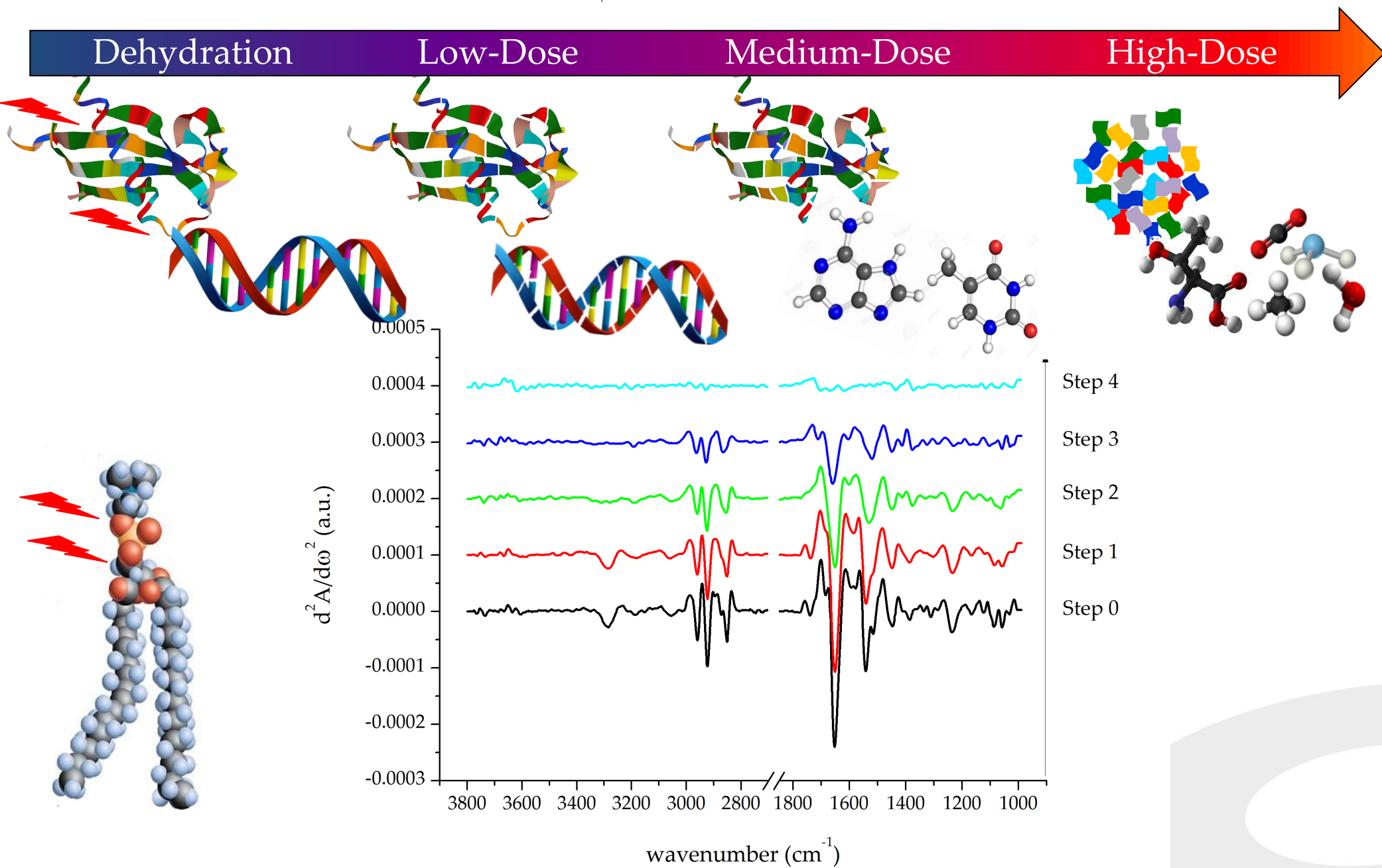
- Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

FTIRM outcomes



- Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

FTIRM outcomes

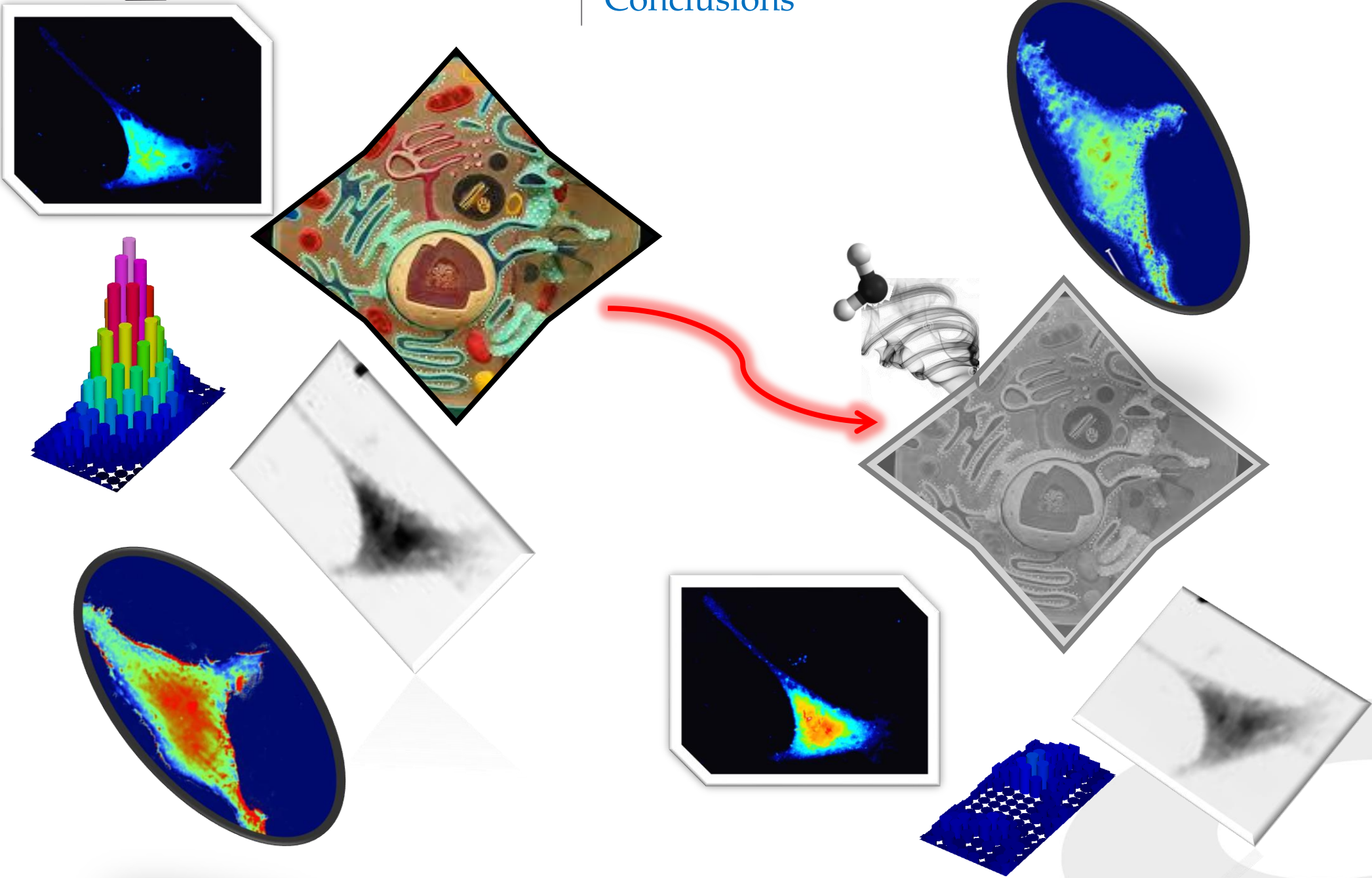




Elettra  
Sincrotrone  
Trieste

- Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

## Conclusions

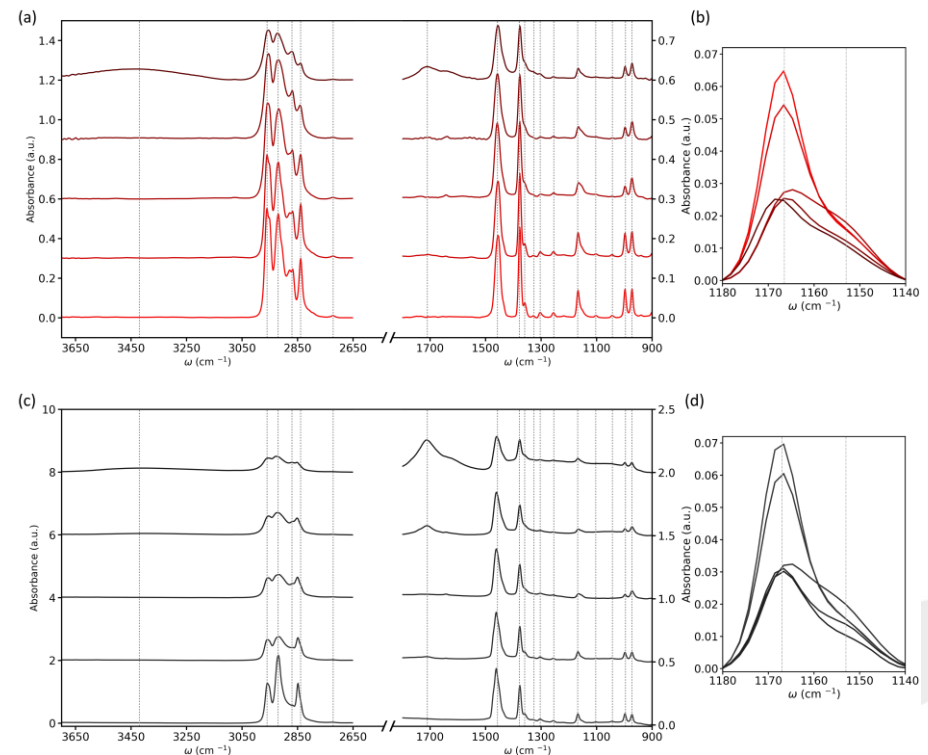
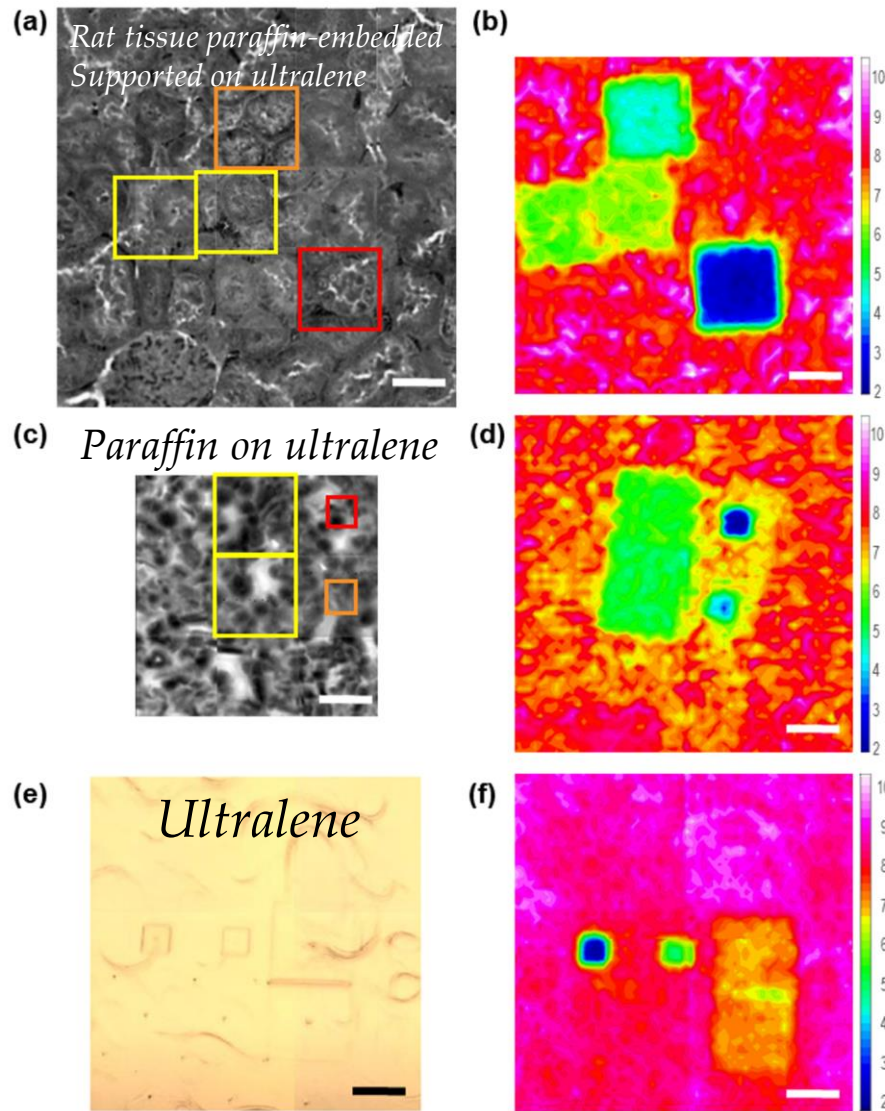


# Soft X-ray Radiation Damage

## The role of substrate and embedding media

Polymeric substrates, such as ultralene, and embedding media, such as paraffin, degrade under X-ray exposure.

X-ray effects on bio-matter MUST be decoupled from oxidative damage induced on supporting/embedding materials.



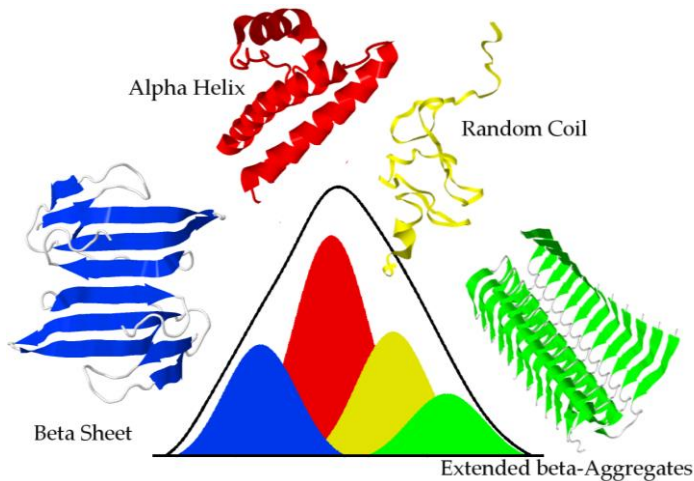
# Infrared bio-spectroscopy

## From macro to nanoscale on the molecules of Life

### SR Collective Enhanced IR Absorption microscopy for protein conformational studies



# How to defeat the detection limit



## *FTIR spectroscopy is largely employed for protein conformational studies*

The vibrational approach can be very useful for proteins that are not crystallizable or available in limited quantities, as usually protein of biological relevance are.

Moreover, the possibility to detect protein conformation and conformational variations in liquid environment can provide data of outstanding biological relevance.

*The major problem is represented by the detection limit of FTIR spectroscopy for the investigation of protein in solutions, that sets in the low mM range*

More sensitivity is required in order to investigate protein conformation in liquid environment at concentrations biologically relevant (in the nM range)

## *Plasmonic help us!*

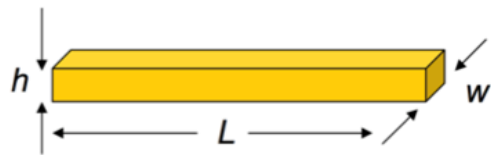
Plasmonic structures are metallic/semiconductor patterned structures that relies on Surface Plasmons. Surface Plasmons are coupled oscillations that arise from the interaction between light and the conduction electrons in a metal or semiconductor.

A surface plasmon can effectively squeeze light into tiny, sub-wavelength volumes. Within these volumes, the optical fields can be strongly enhanced--well beyond that of the incident wave used to create the excitation--effectively magnifying the light-matter interaction.

*The detection limit of the technique is improved of several orders of magnitude!*

# How to defeat the detection limit

## Surface-Enhanced InfraRed Absorption (SEIRA)

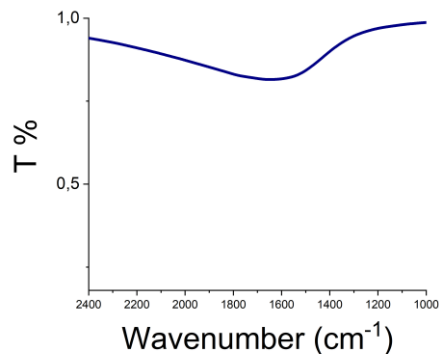
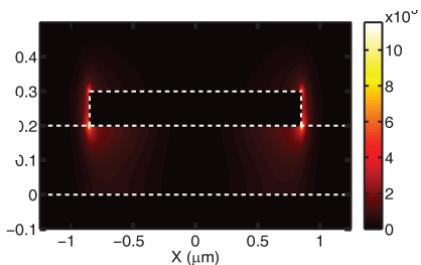


$h=w=100\text{nm}$   
 $L=1900\text{ nm}$

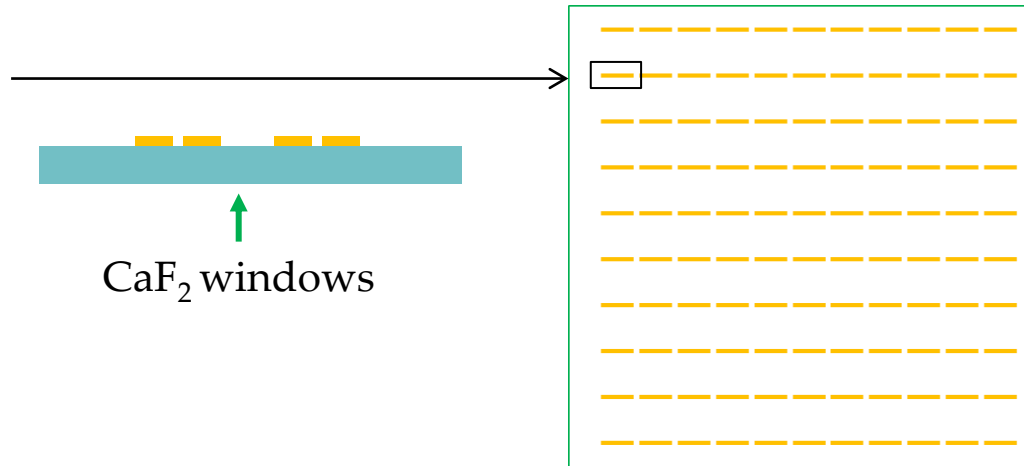
+

Nanorod gap=50nm  
Linear array gap=5mm

Single nanorod  
Signal enhancement  $\sim 10^3$



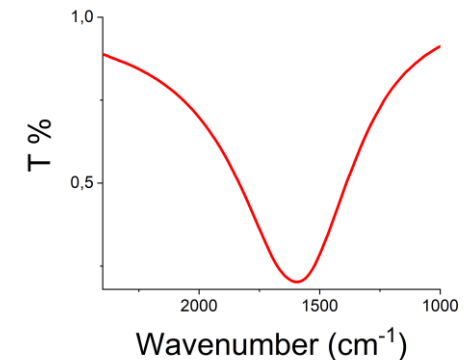
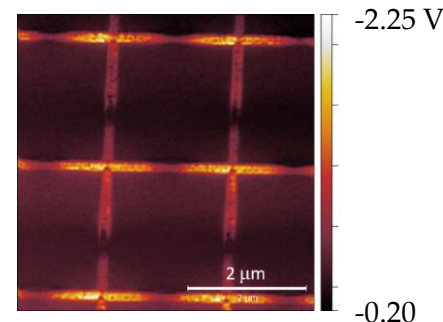
## Collective Enhancement InfraRed Absorption (CEIRA)



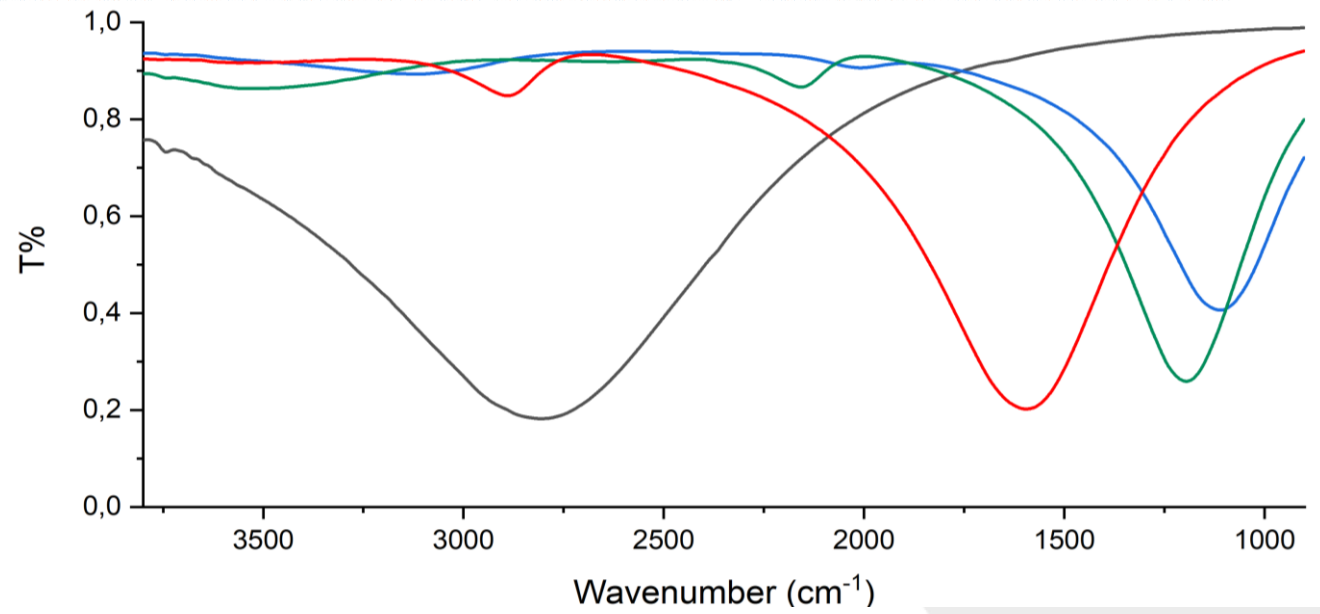
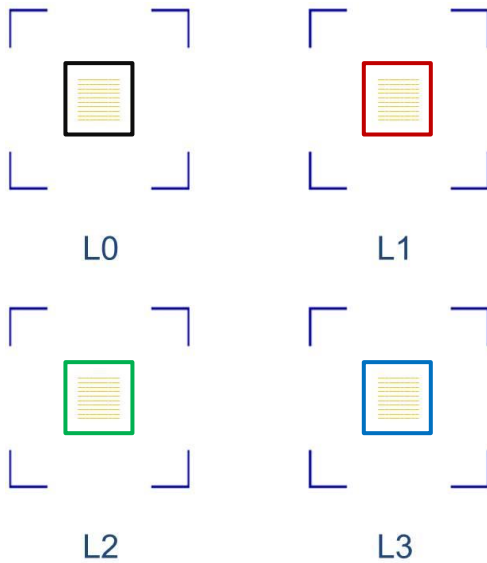
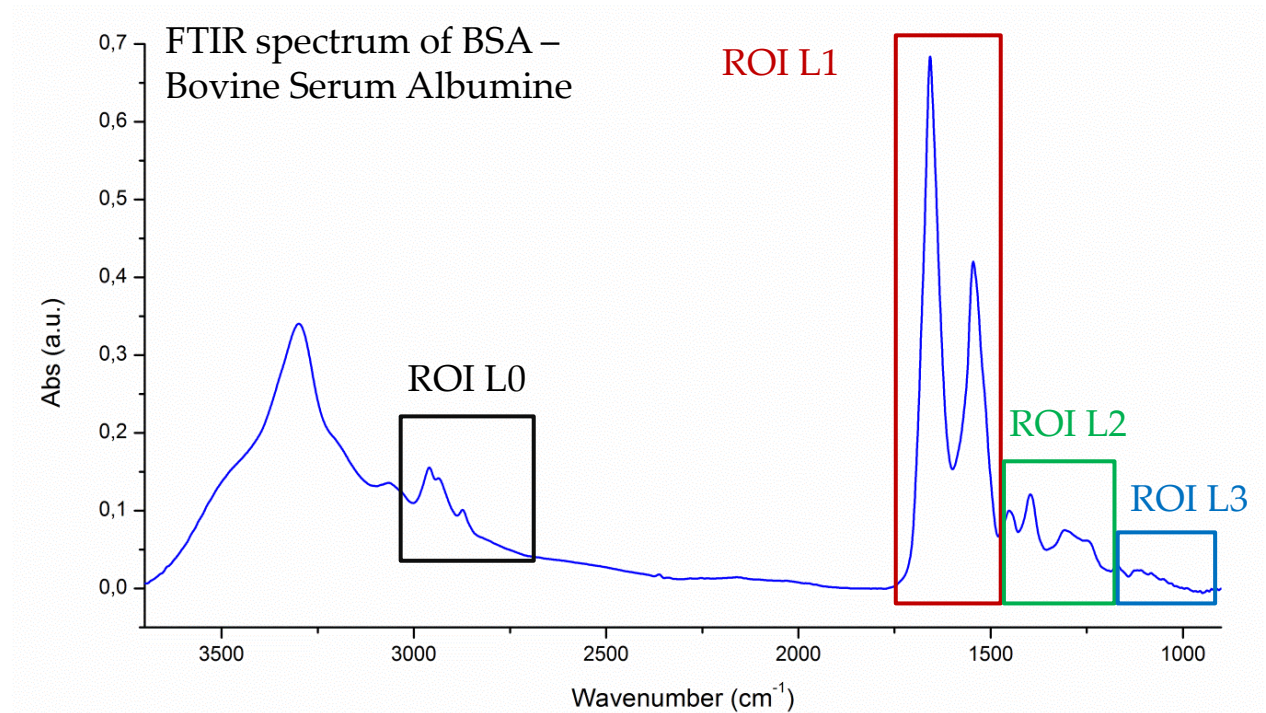
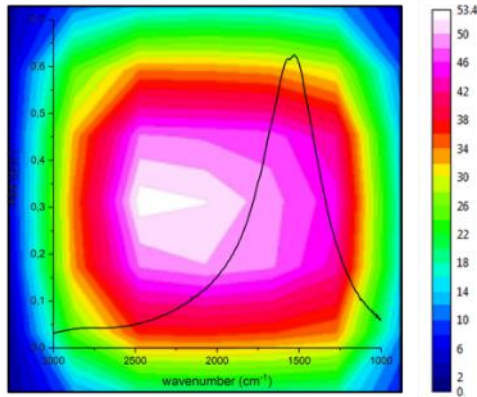
CaF<sub>2</sub> windows

CEIRA devices design, simulation and fabrication developed in collaboration Dr. Andrea Toma of IIT in Genova

CEIRA substrate  
Signal enhancement  $\sim 10^5$



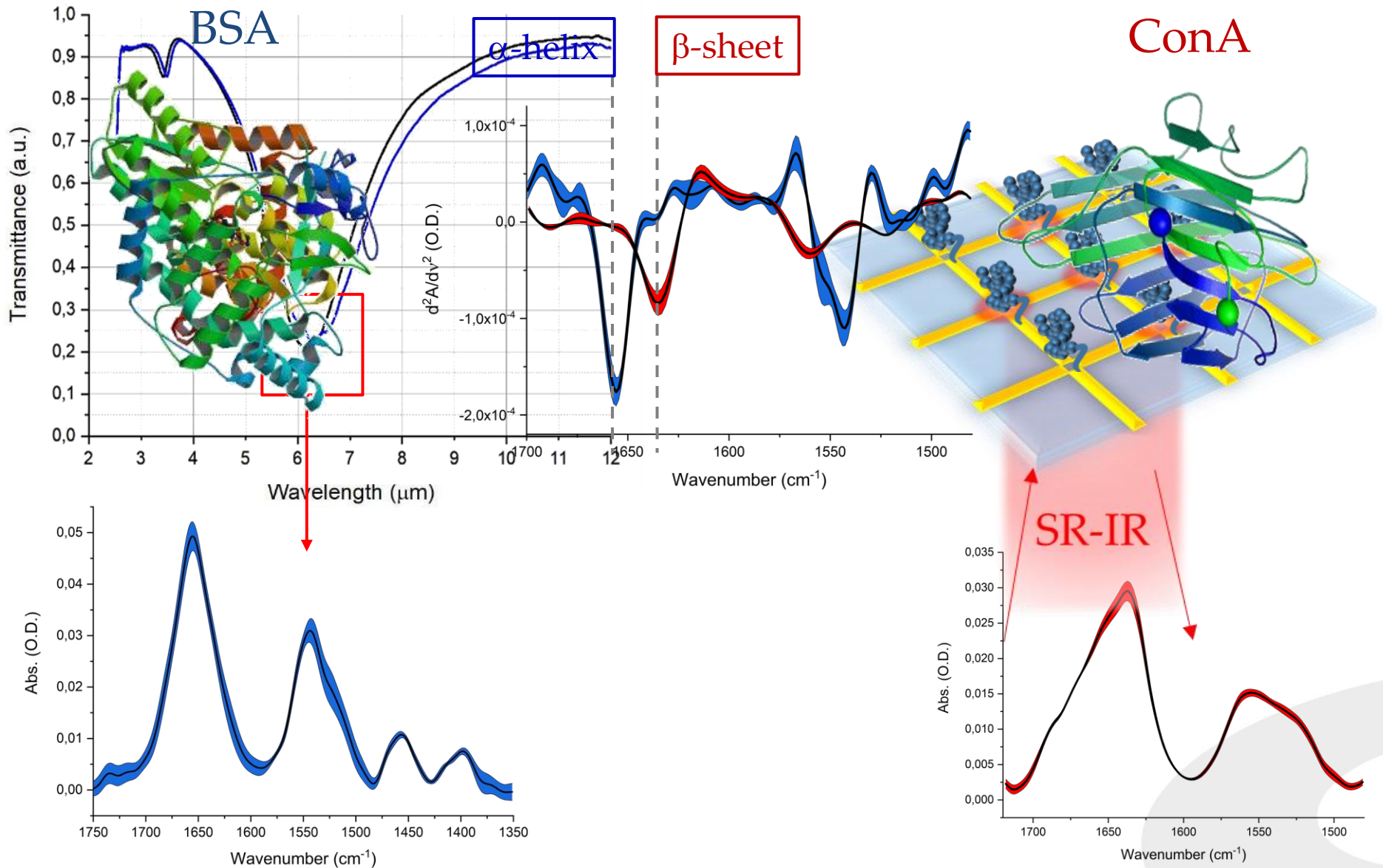
# How to defeat the detection limit



# How to defeat the detection limit

Resonance response L1

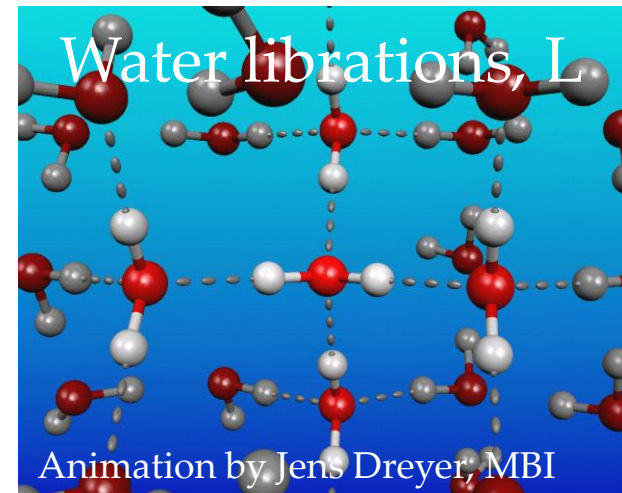
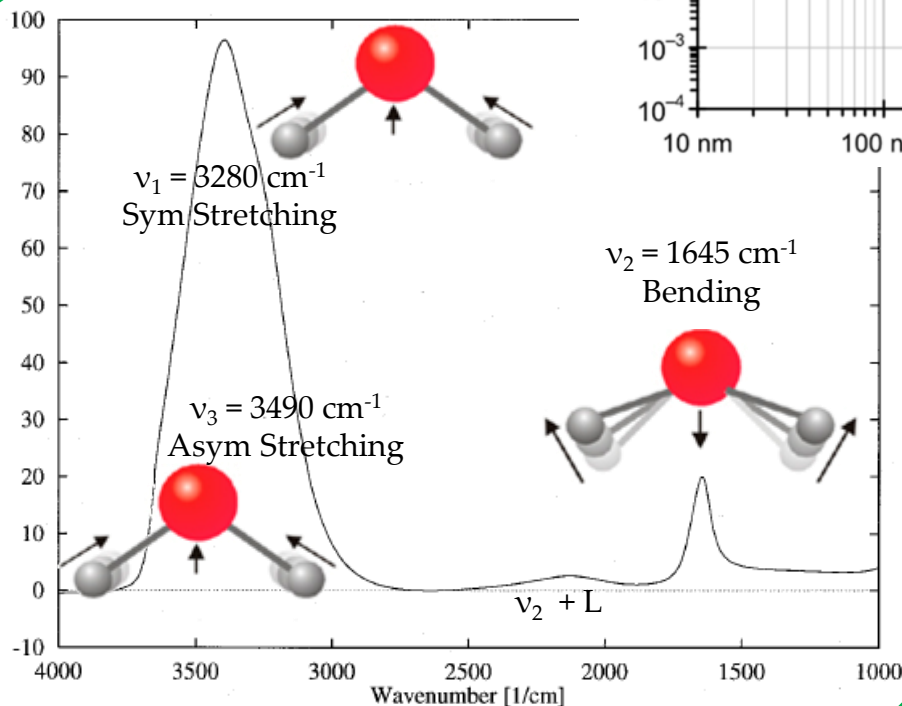
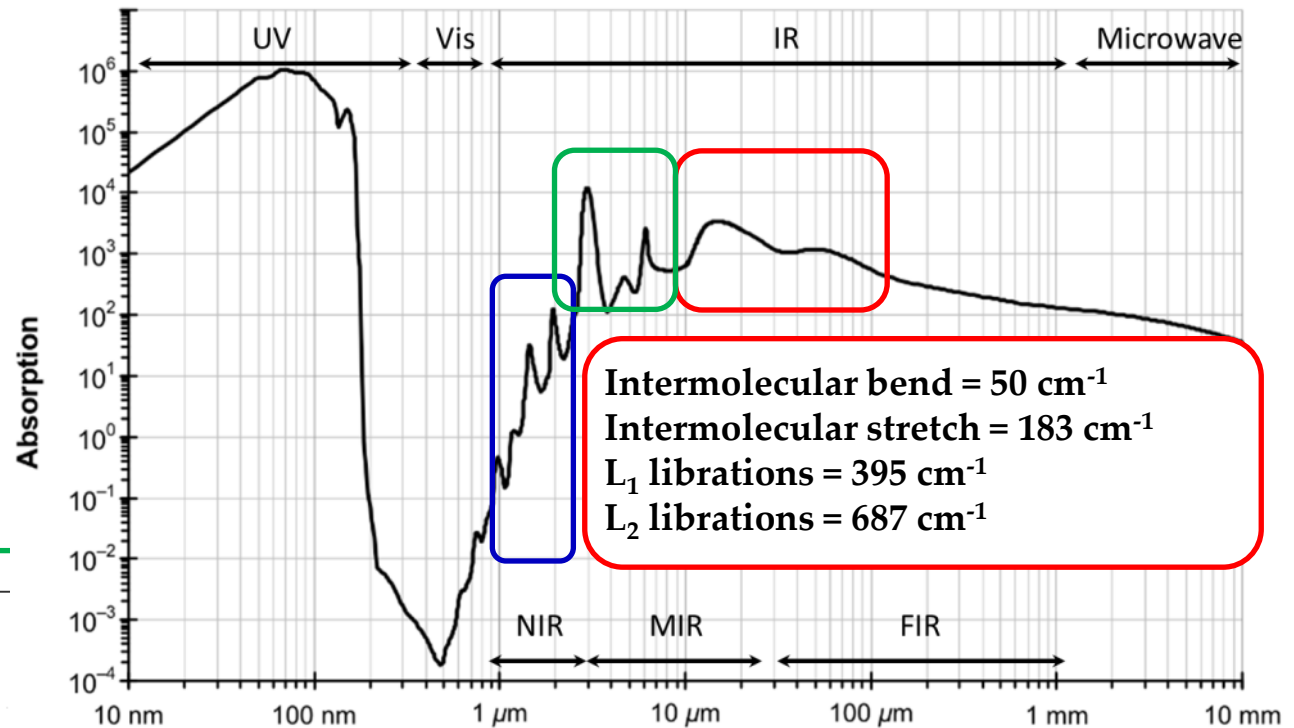
Resonance response L1+BSA



# How to defeat the water limit

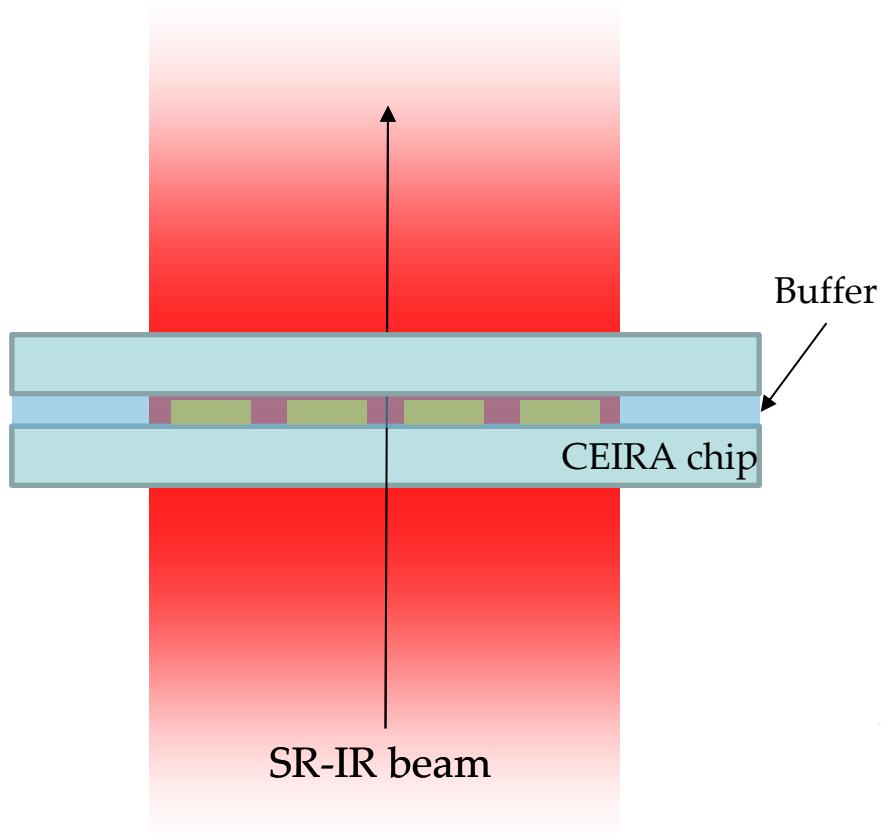
## Vibrational Spectrum of liquid water

Overtone  
and  
combination bands



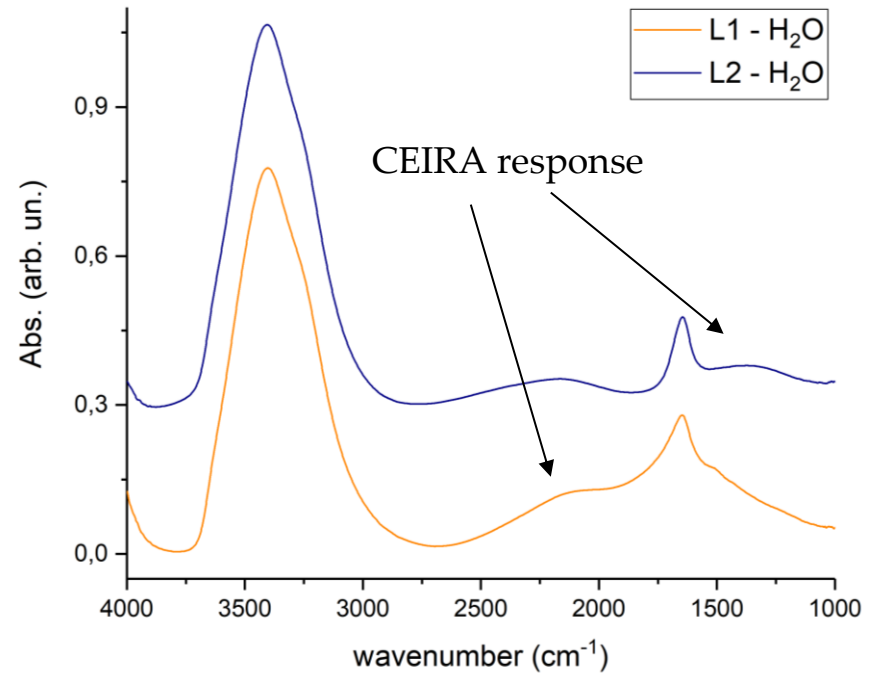


## CEIRA measurements in transmission mode in water condition

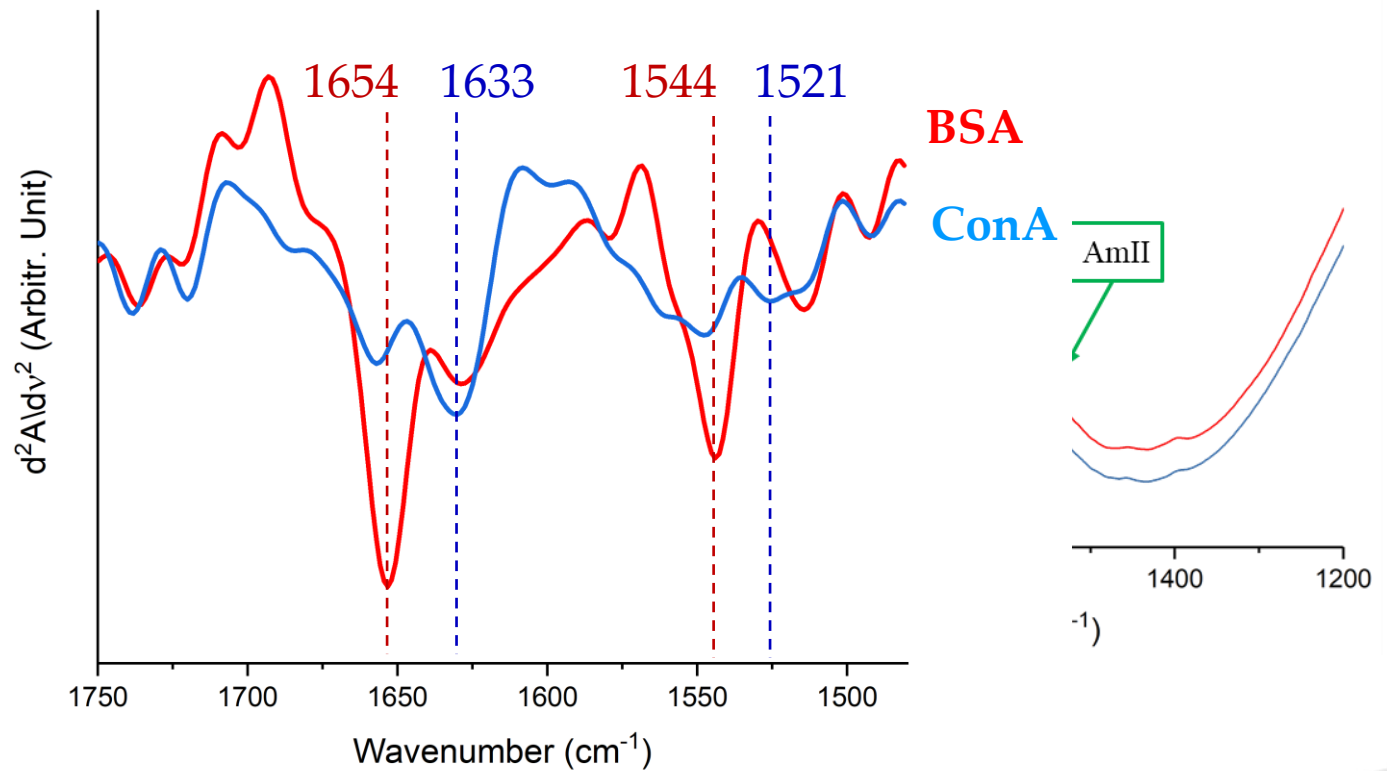
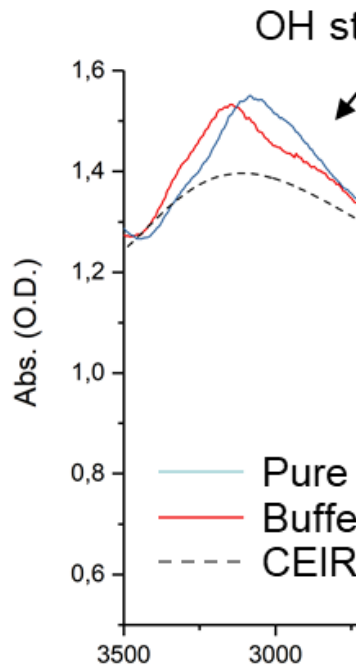


## How to defeat the water limit

### CEIRA substrate response in dry condition



## Plasmonic Internal Reflection (PIR)



R. Adato and H. Altug, *Nat. com.* **4**, 2154 (2013)

# Infrared bio-spectroscopy

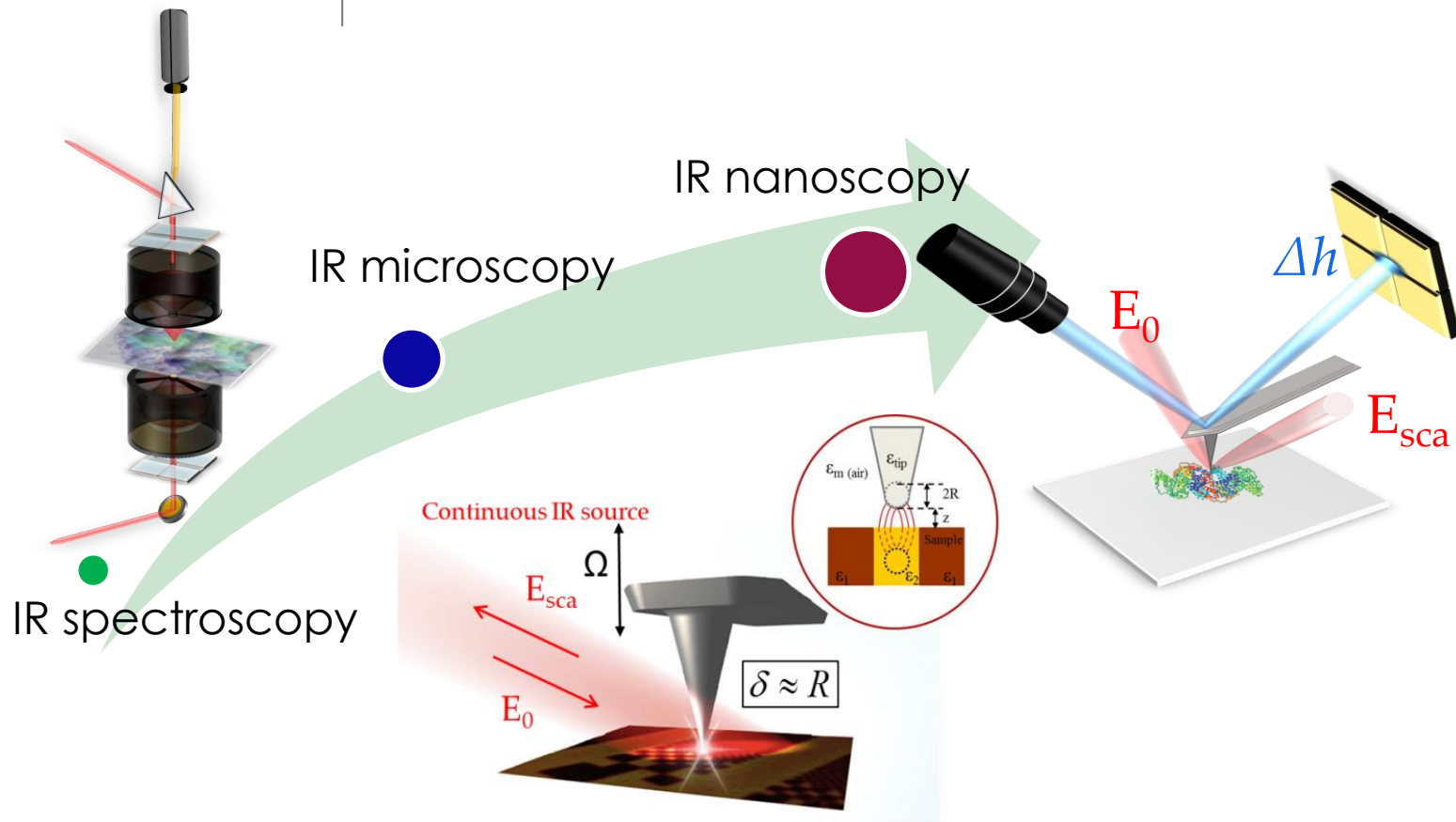
## From macro to nanoscale on the molecules of Life

Vibrational spectroscopy at the nanoscale





# Vibrational characterization at the nanoscale

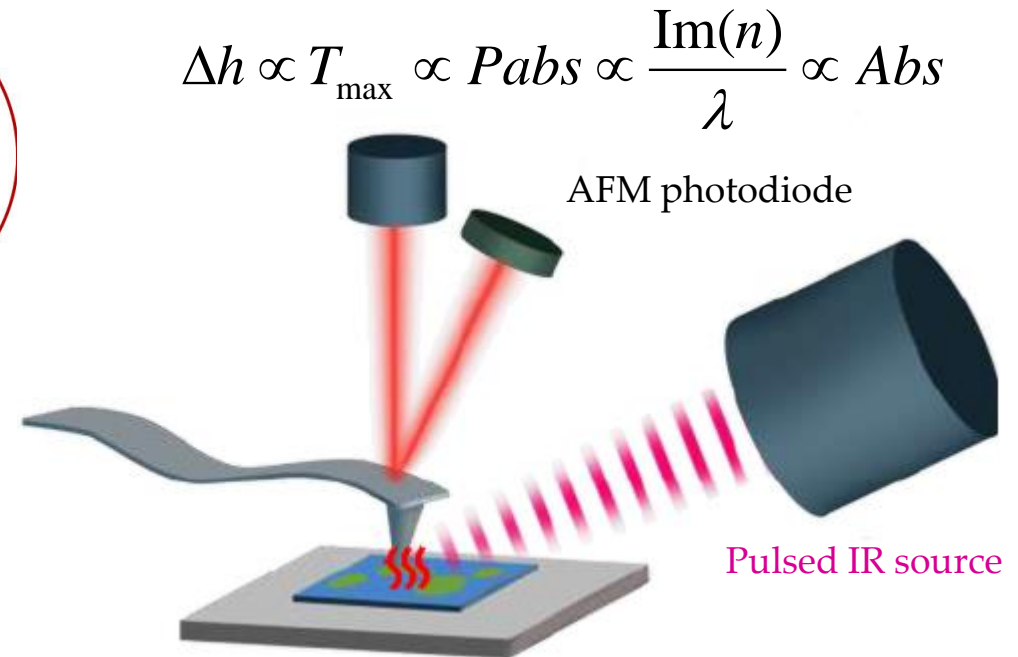
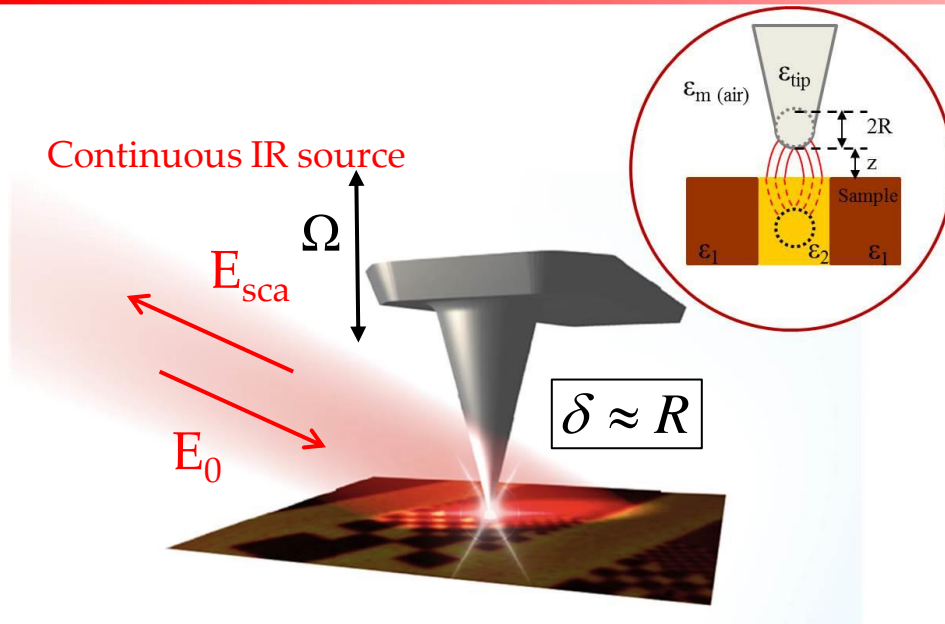


*IR nanospectroscopy allows non-damaging vibro-electronic nano-resolved characterization of materials with a lateral resolution wavelength independent, namely limited by the tip-size.*

*IR nanospectroscopy opens a unique opportunity for covering the gap in lateral resolution existing today between X-ray and IR microscopies, opening unique prospects for understanding the complexity of matter at nano- micro- and macro- scale, for both condensed matter and bio-oriented researches.*

## Scattering-type Scanning Near-field Infrared Microscopy: s-SNIM

## Photo-Thermal Expansion: PTE



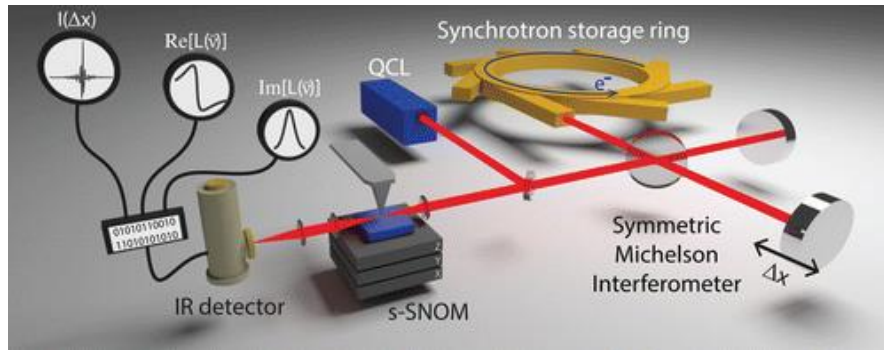
$$E_{sca} \propto \alpha_{eff} E_0 = s e^{i\varphi} E_0$$

$$\alpha_{eff} = \alpha_{eff}(\epsilon_{medium}, \alpha_{tip}, R, z, \epsilon_{sample})$$

Fritz Keilmann and Rainer Hillenbrand  
*Optical oscillation modes of plasmon particles observed in direct space by phase-contrast near-field microscopy*,  
Applied Physics B 73, 239 (2001)

A. Dazzi, R. Prazeres, F. Glotin, and J. M. Ortega  
*Local infrared microspectroscopy with subwavelength spatial resolution with an atomic force microscope tip used as a photothermal sensor*, Optics Letters, 30(18), pp. 2388-2390 (2005)

# Near-field IRSR programs worldwide



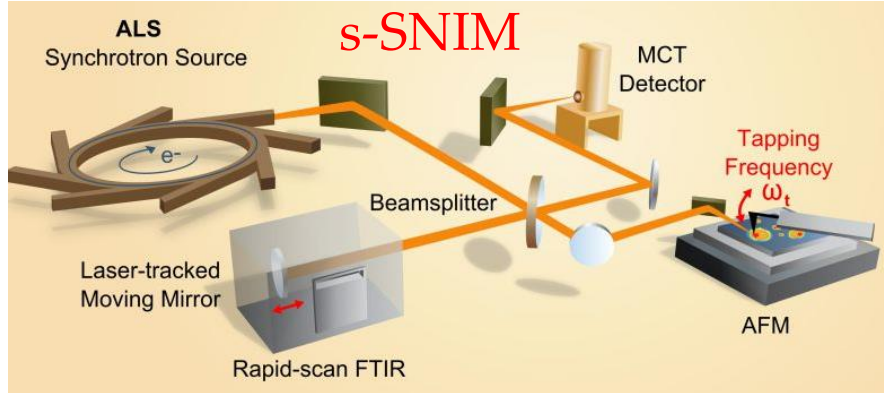
P. Hermann, A. Hoehl, A. Patoka, F. Huth, E. Rühl, and G. Ulm, *Optics Express* 21, 2913 (2013)

Not user dedicated



Benjamin Pollard, Francisco C. B. Maia, Markus B. Raschke, and Raul O. Freitas, *Nano Lett.*, 16 (1), 55–61 (2016)

Open to users since 2015



Hans A. Bechtel, Eric A. Muller, Robert L. Olmon, Michael C. Martin and Markus B. Raschke, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 111, 7191–7196 (2014)

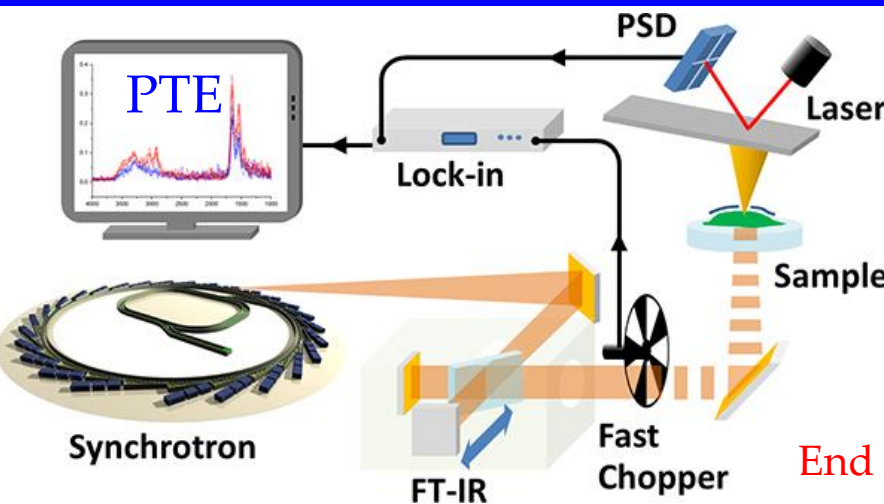
5.4 open to users since 2014; Second endstation opening soon



Projects just started



Commissioning phase



End of commissioning phase

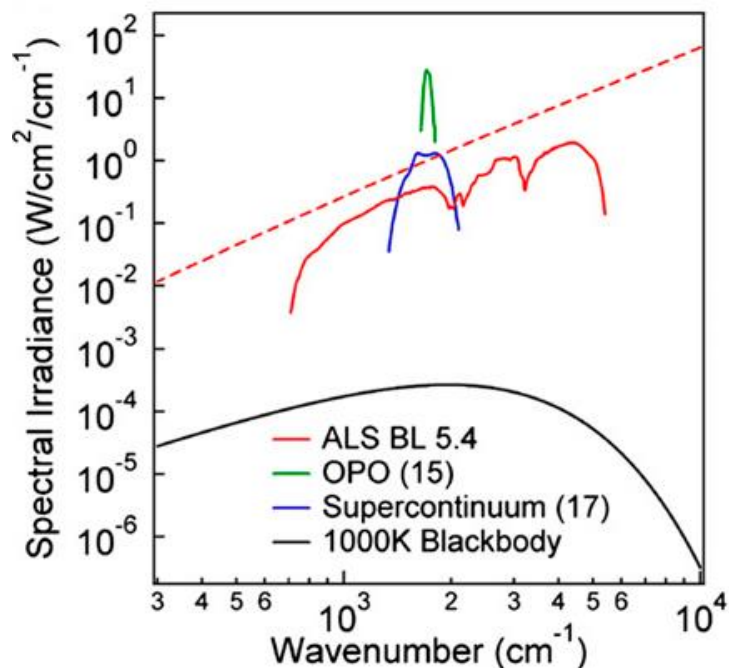
Paul M. Donaldson, Chris S Kelley, Mark D. Frogley, Jacob Filik, Katia Wehbe, and Gianfelice Cinque, *Optics Express* 24, 1852–864 (2016)



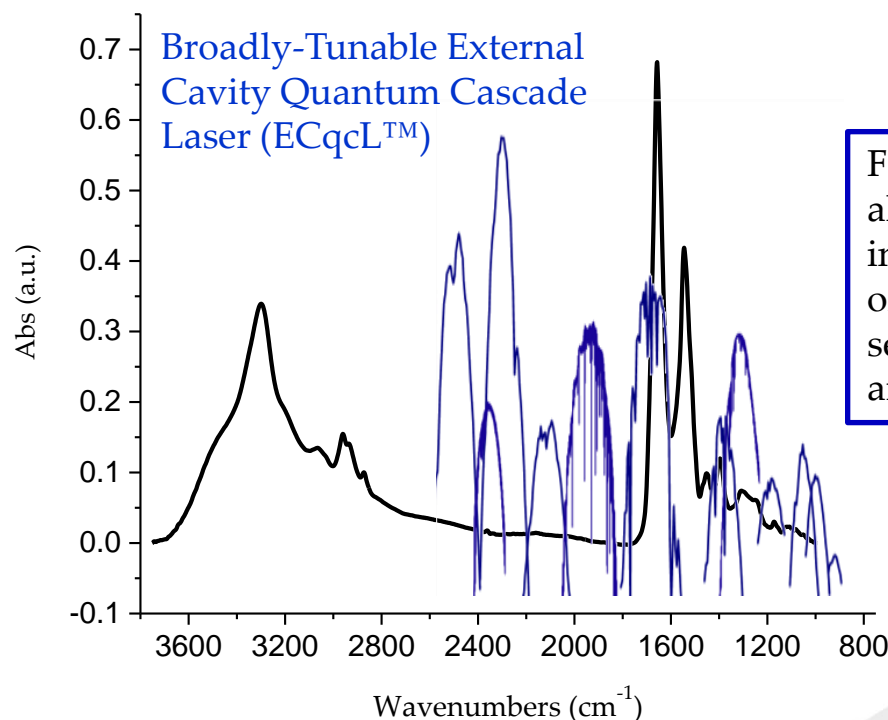
# Opportunities offered by IRSR

- Ultra-broadband nature
- Superior density of power for spectral interval
- Superior spectral stability

The ultra-broadband nature of IRSR makes it the ideal source for IR nanospectroscopy



Hans A. Bechtel, Eric A. Muller, Robert L. Olmon, Michael C. Martin and Markus B. Raschke, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 111, 7191–7196 (2014)



For barely covering almost half of the interesting MIR part of the spectrum, several QCL chips are needed.

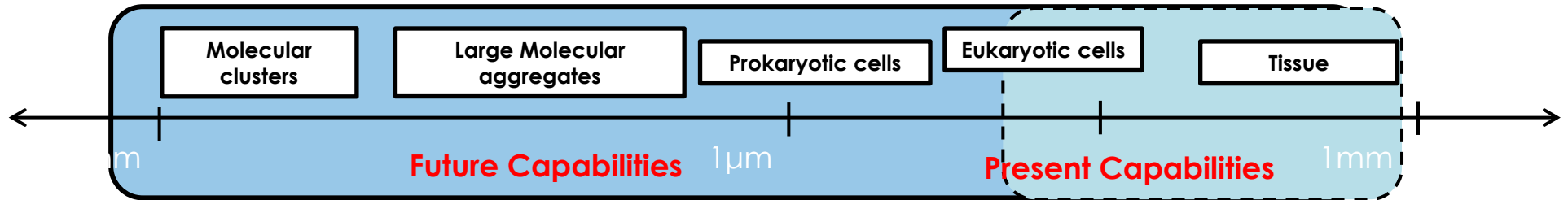
S/N ratio is the key parameter for vibrational analysis.

The superior stability of IRSR compensates for the lower spectral density, without inducing radiation damage

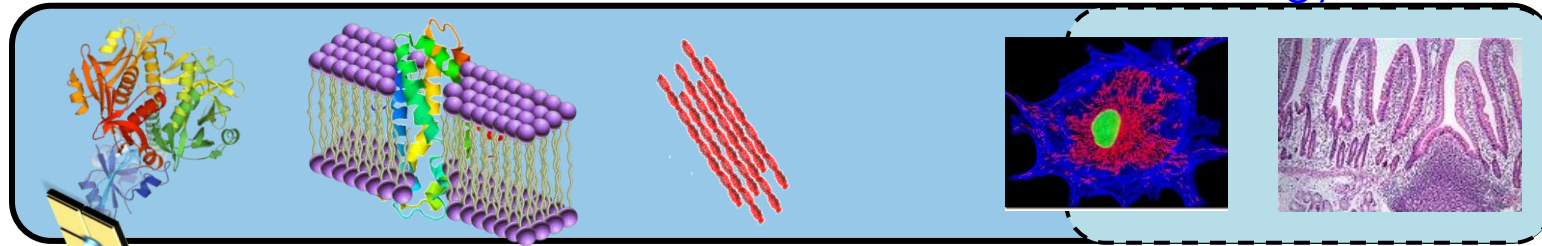
Only the ultra-broadband nature of IRSR can guarantee the **selectivity** requirements for chemical and biochemical analysis



# New fields of Life Sciences



## From Protein Science to Cellular and Tissue Biology



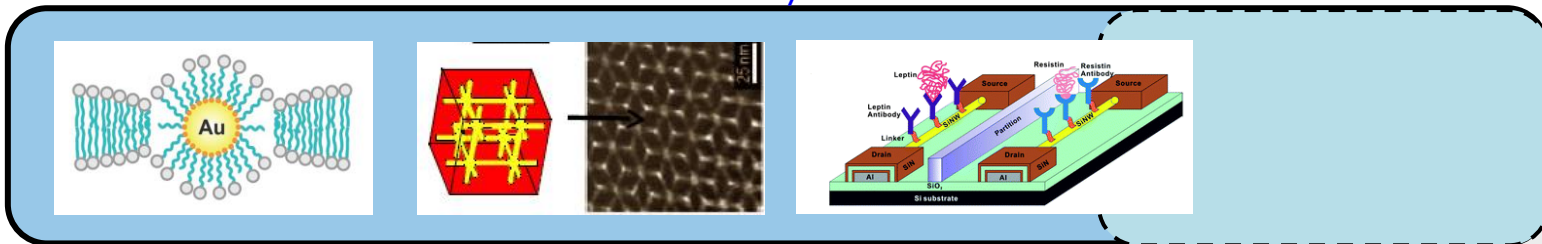
Biophysics  
Biotechnology  
Biology  
Biomedicine

## From a Single Organism to Cell Community



Antibiotic  
Resistance  
CO<sub>2</sub>  
sequestration  
Bio-  
mineralization

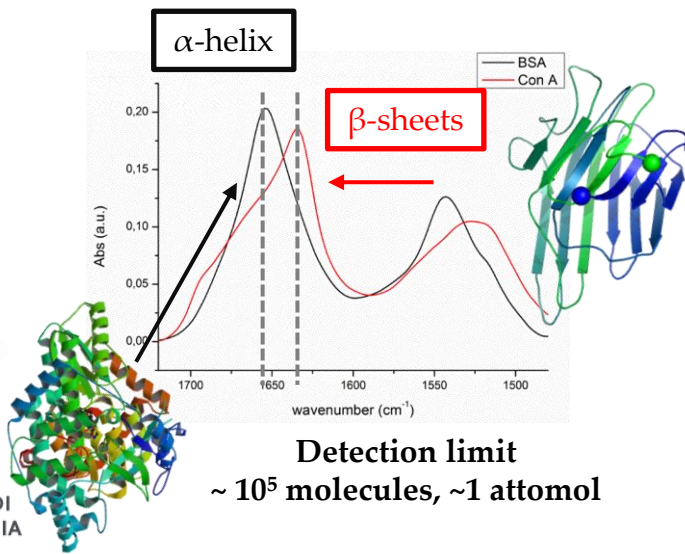
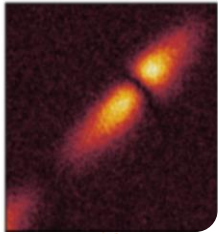
## Functional chemistry of smart materials



Smart materials  
for electronics,  
for energy,  
medicine, and  
bio-sensor

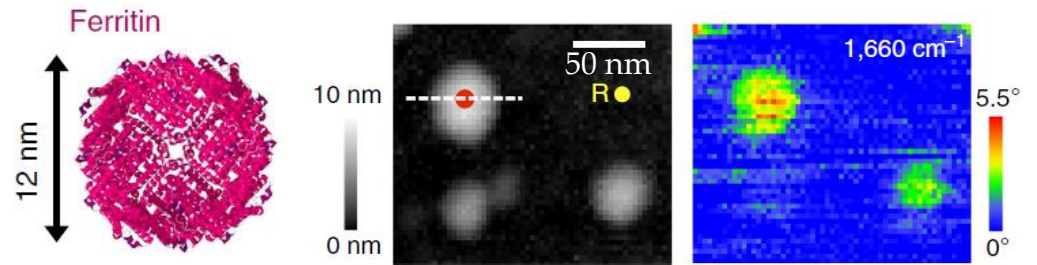
## Plasmonic devices for SR-CEIRA microscopy (Collective enhanced IR Absorption)

n-IR signal

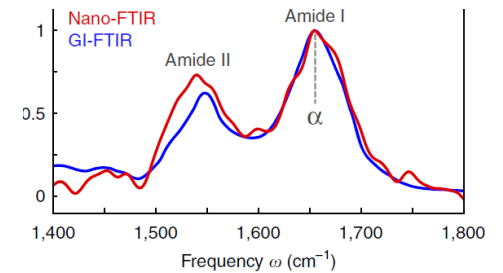


**iit** ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI TECNOLOGIA

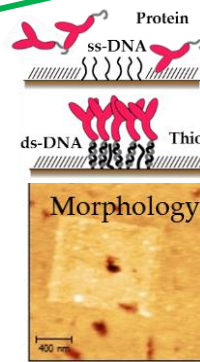
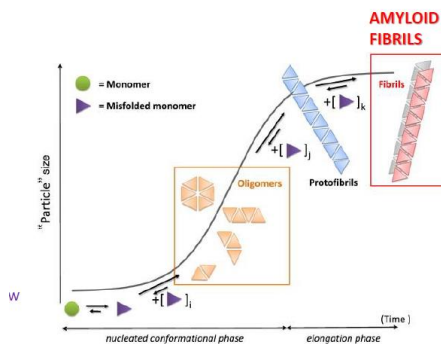
Structural Analysis of individual protein complexes by n-IR



Iban Amenabar et. al, Nature Communications 4, Article number: 2890 (2013)



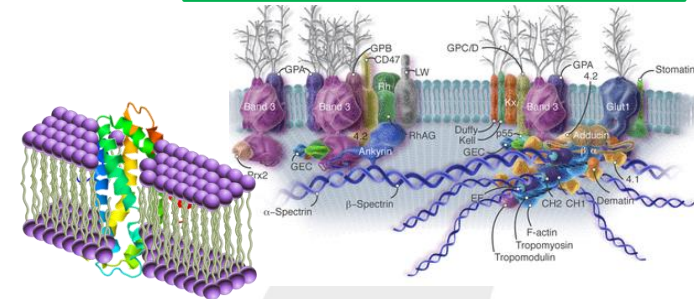
## Amyloidogenic disorders



Microarray biosensor

$\omega_3 = 1230 \text{ cm}^{-1}$   
DNA

## Protein membranes



Biophysics, biotechnology, Thin films

Transmembrane protein models



Elettra  
Sincrotrone  
Trieste

Thank you for your attention

[www.elettra.eu](http://www.elettra.eu)