

Fluorescence Microscopy

part2

Gabriele Baj
gbaj@units.it

FLUORESCENCE A SMALL SUMMARY

- What is it?
- Where does it come from?
- Advantages
- Disadvantages

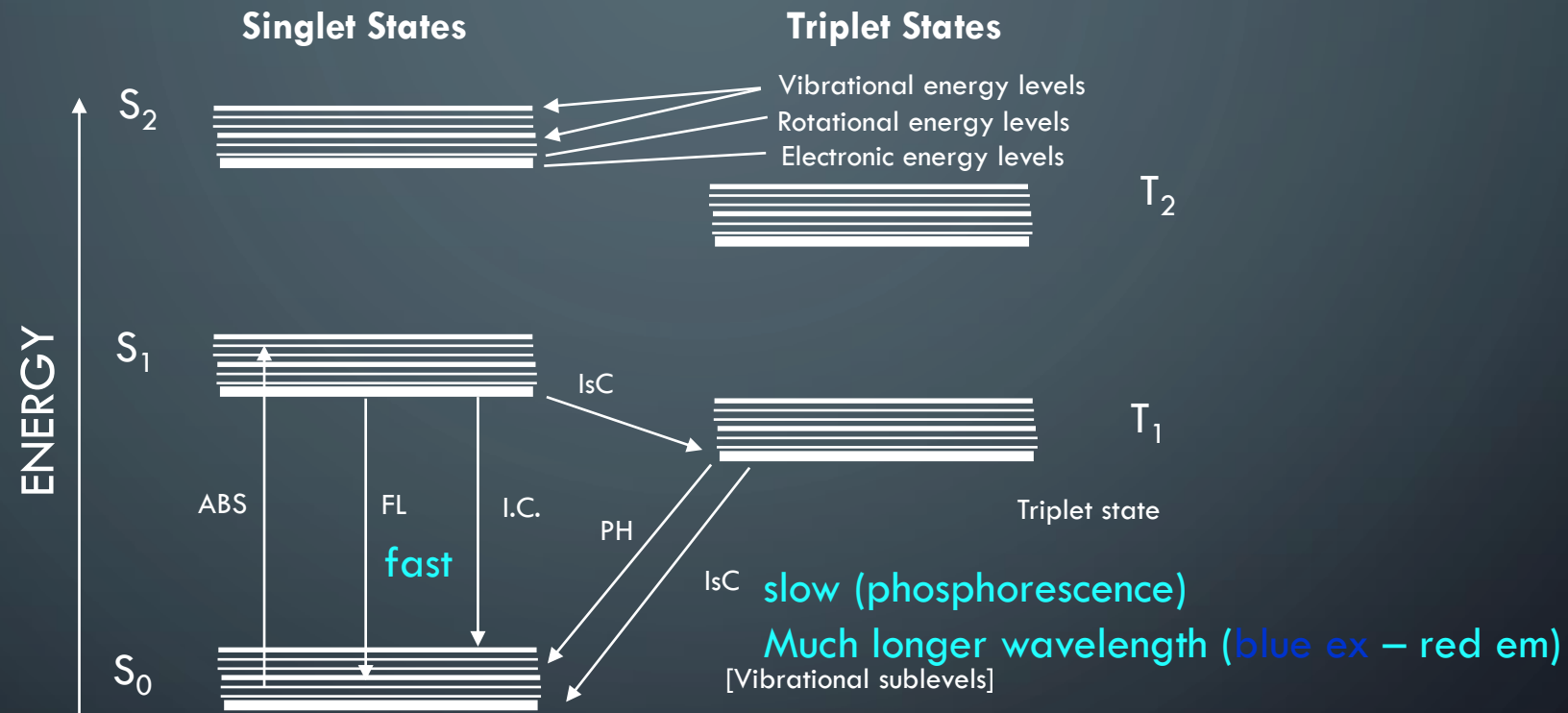
FLUORESCENCE

- **Chromophores** are components of molecules which absorb light
- e.g. from protein most fluorescence results from the indole ring of tryptophan residue
- They are generally **aromatic rings**



FLUORESCENCE

Jablonski Diagram



ABS - Absorbance

FL - Fluorescence

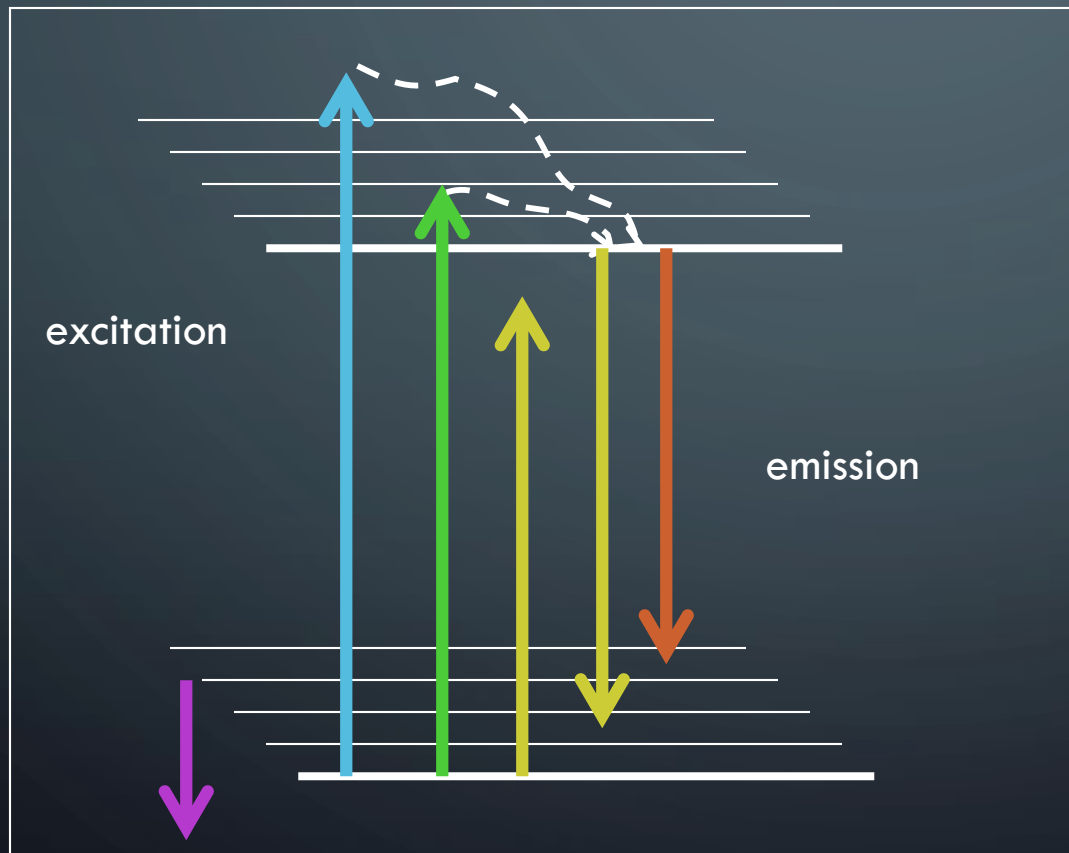
I.C.- Nonradiative Internal Conversion

S 0.1.2 - Singlet Electronic Energy Levels

T 1,2 - Corresponding Triplet States

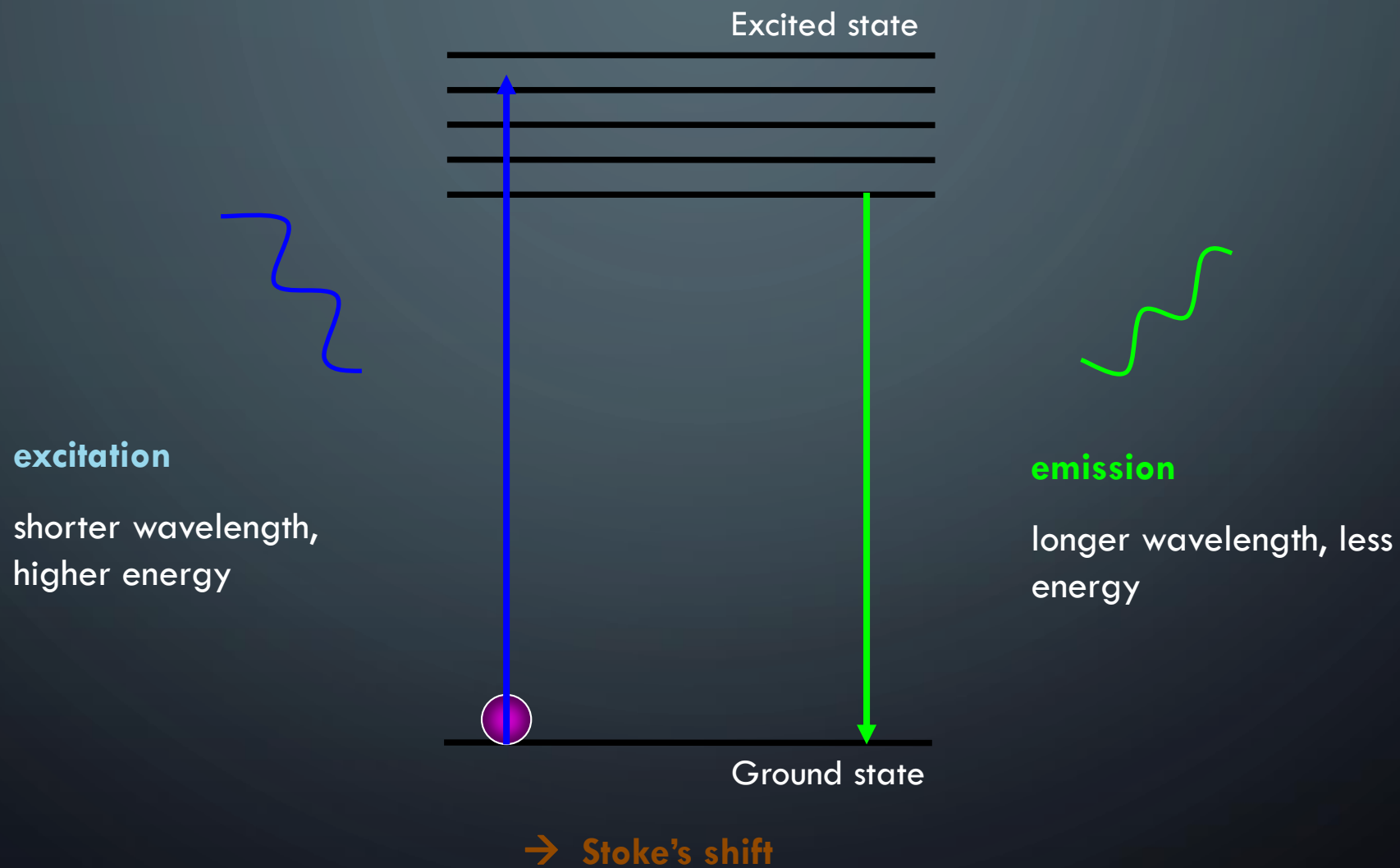
ISC - Intersystem Crossing PH - Phosphorescence

FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY: BASICS OF THEORY

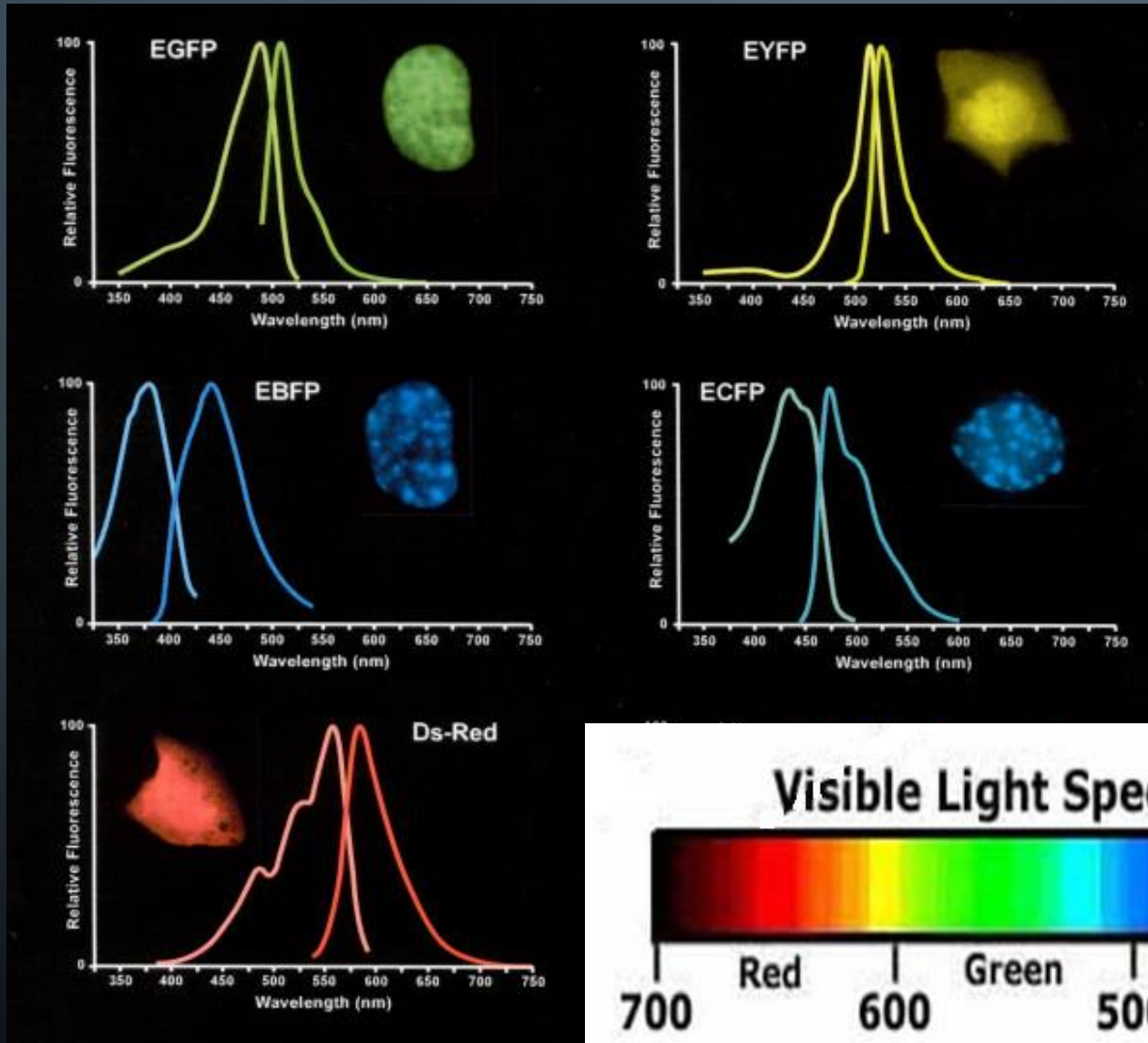


- Absorbance spectrum limits excitation.
- Energy states limit excitation
- Molecule returns to lowest vibrational state emitting heat
- Light is emitted on return to ground state

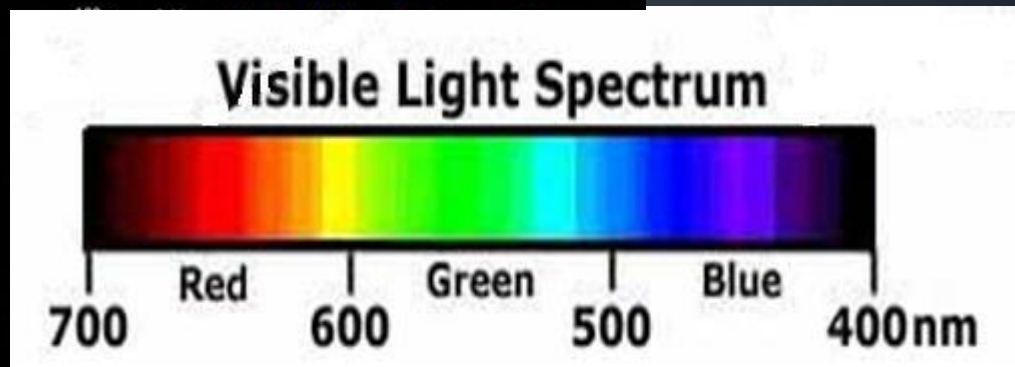
FLUORESCENCE



Fluorophores (Fluorochromes, chromophores)



- Special molecular structure
- Aromatic systems (PI-systems) and metal complexes (with transition metals)
- characteristic excitation and emission spectra

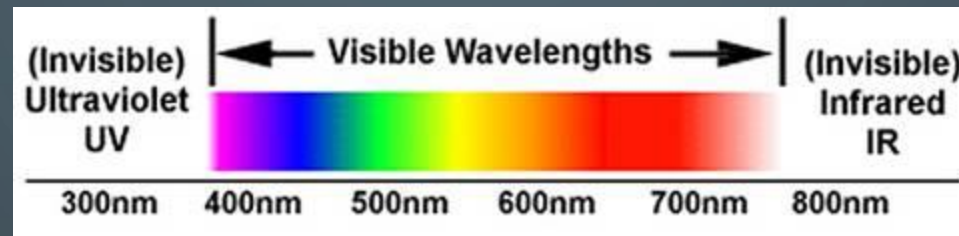


STOKE'S SHIFT

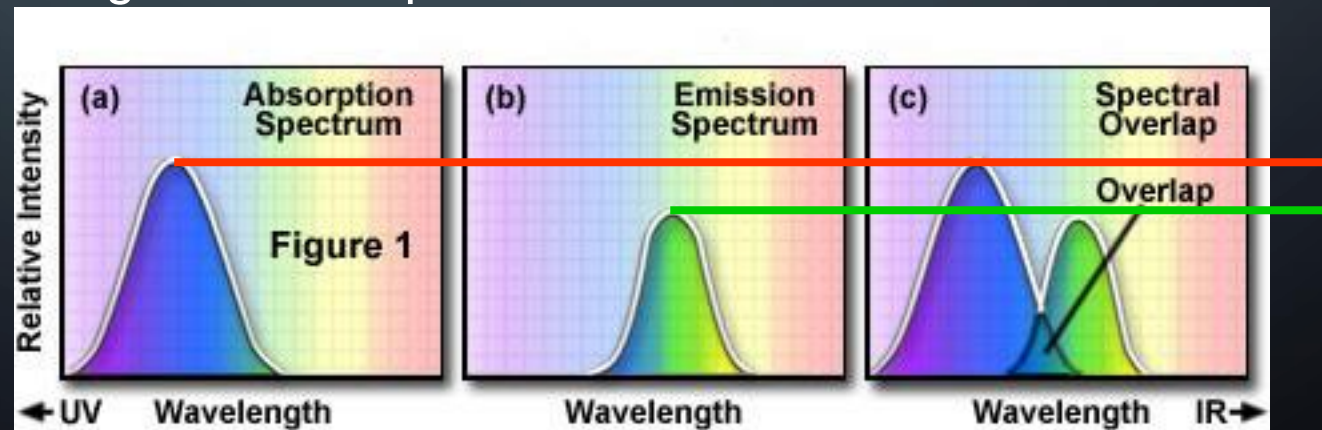
✓ The emission spectrum of an excited fluorophore is usually shifted to longer wavelengths when compared to the absorption or excitation spectrum

Excitation 495 nm

Emission: 520 nm

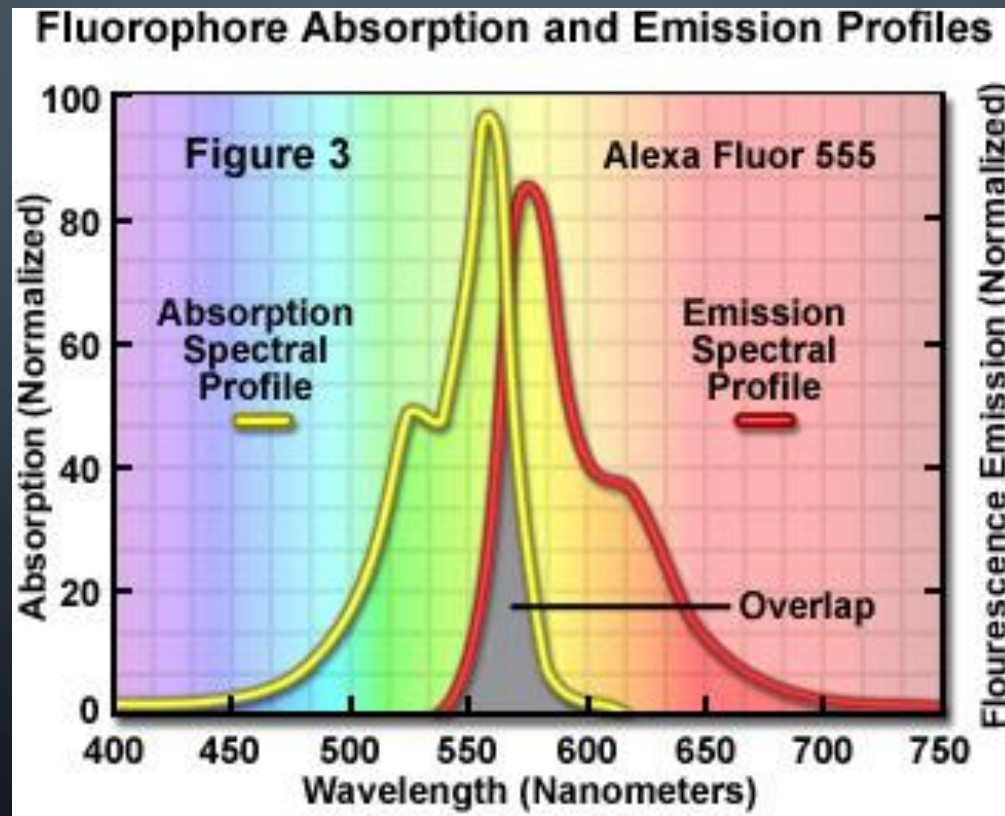


- The intensity of the fluorescence is very weak in comparison with the excitation light (10^{-3} to 10^{-5}).
- The emitted light re-radiates spherically in all directions.
- Dark background is required to enhance resolution.

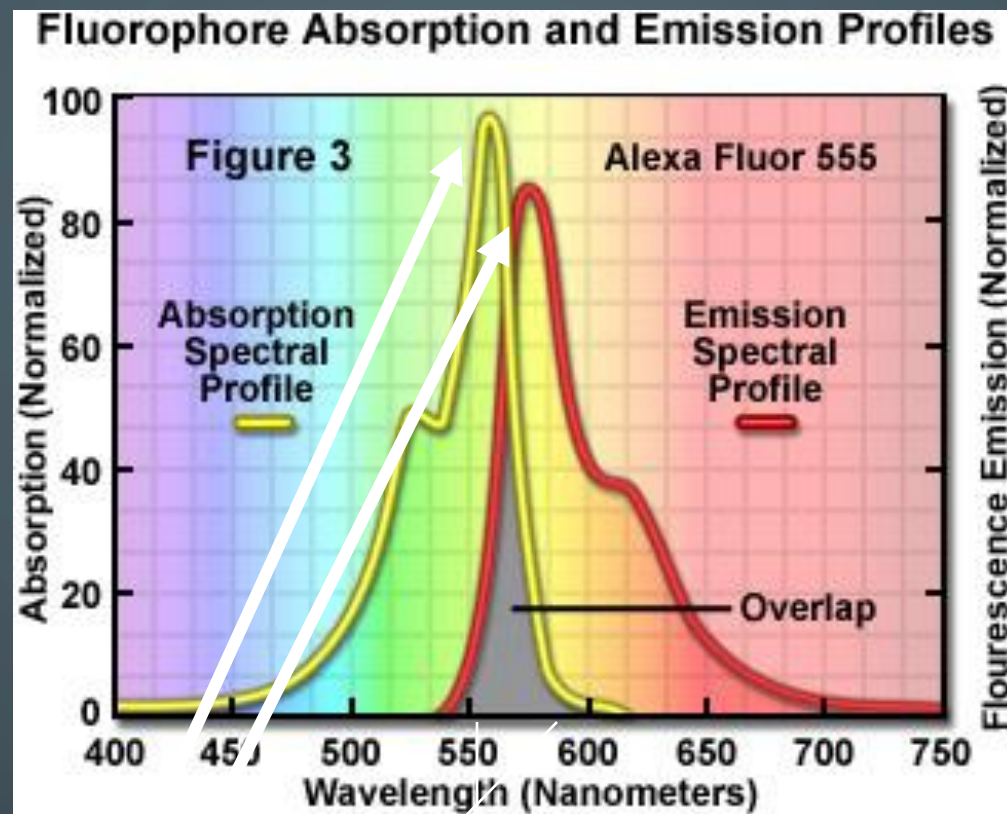


STOKE'S SHIFT

✓ As Stokes' shift values increase, it becomes easier to separate excitation from emission light through the use of fluorescence filter combinations.



**Remember
Dichoric
Mirror ???**



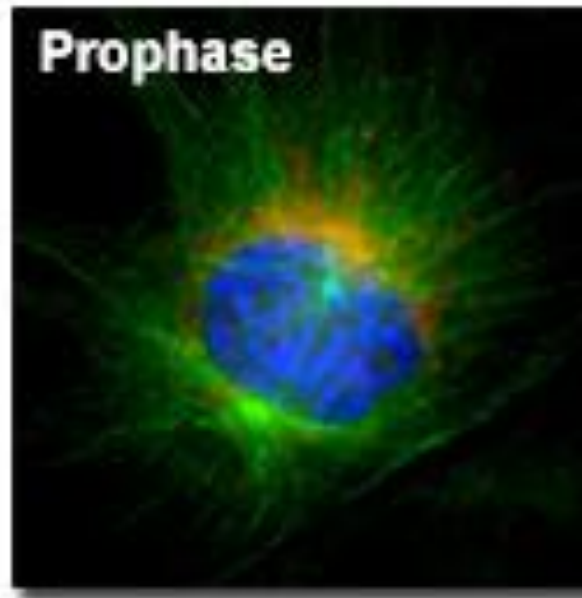
Data for Alexa Fluor 555

- absorbs light in the yellow-green region
- produces yellow-orange emission
- to achieve maximum fluorescence intensity
 - a fluorophore is usually excited at wavelengths near or at the peak of the excitation curve,
 - And detected at widest possible range of emission wavelengths that include the emission peak

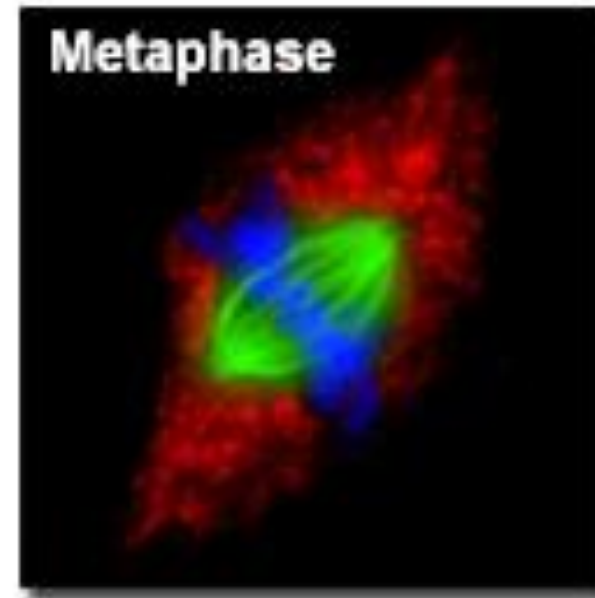
Mitosis in Rat Kangaroo Epithelial Kidney Cells



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

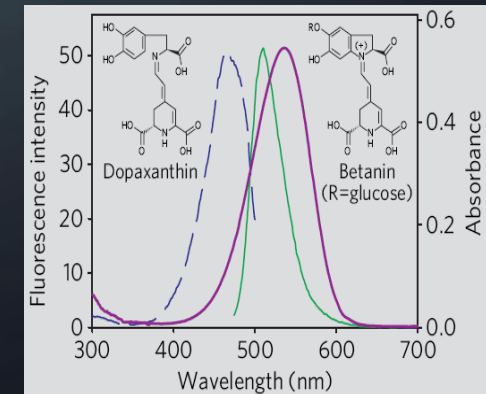
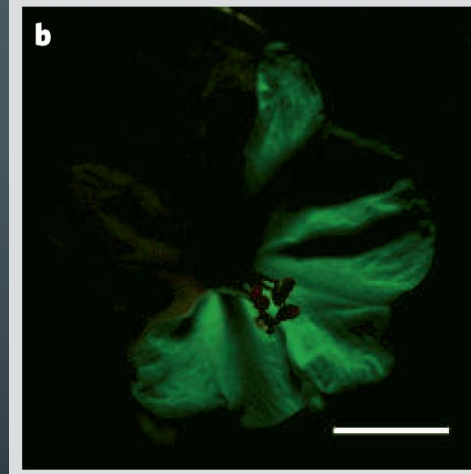
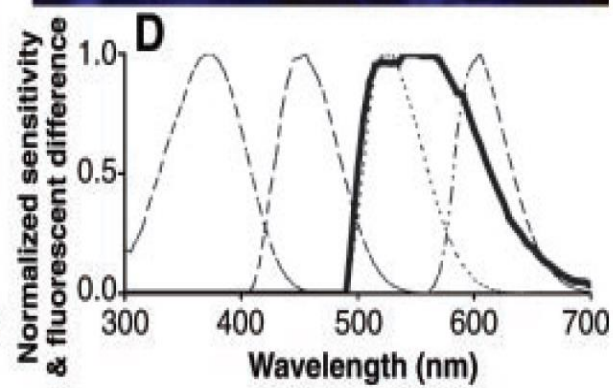
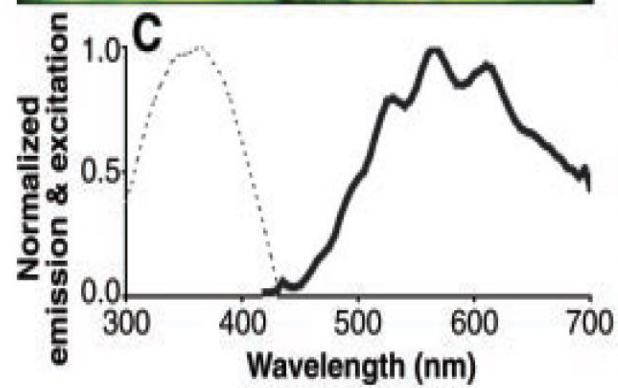
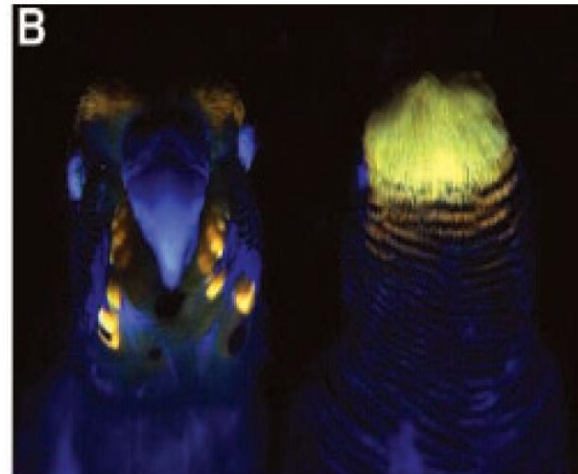
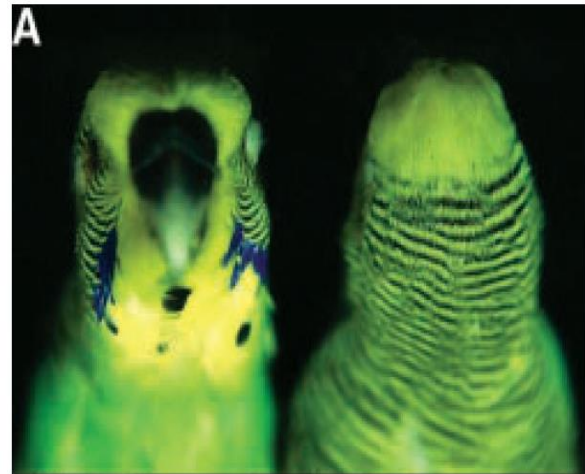


(e)



(f)

NATURAL FLUORESCENCE



PARAMETERS

- Extinction Coefficient

- ϵ refers to a single wavelength (usually the **absorption maximum**)

- Quantum Yield

- Q_f is a measure of the integrated photon emission over the fluorophore spectral band

- At sub-saturation excitation rates, fluorescence intensity is proportional to the product of ϵ and Q_f

$$\phi = \frac{\text{Number of emitted photons}}{\text{Number of absorbed photons}}$$

- Lifetime $1 - 10 \times 10^{-9}$ secs (1-10 ns)

FLUORESCENCE

Stokes Shift

- is the energy difference between the lowest energy peak of absorbance and the highest energy of emission

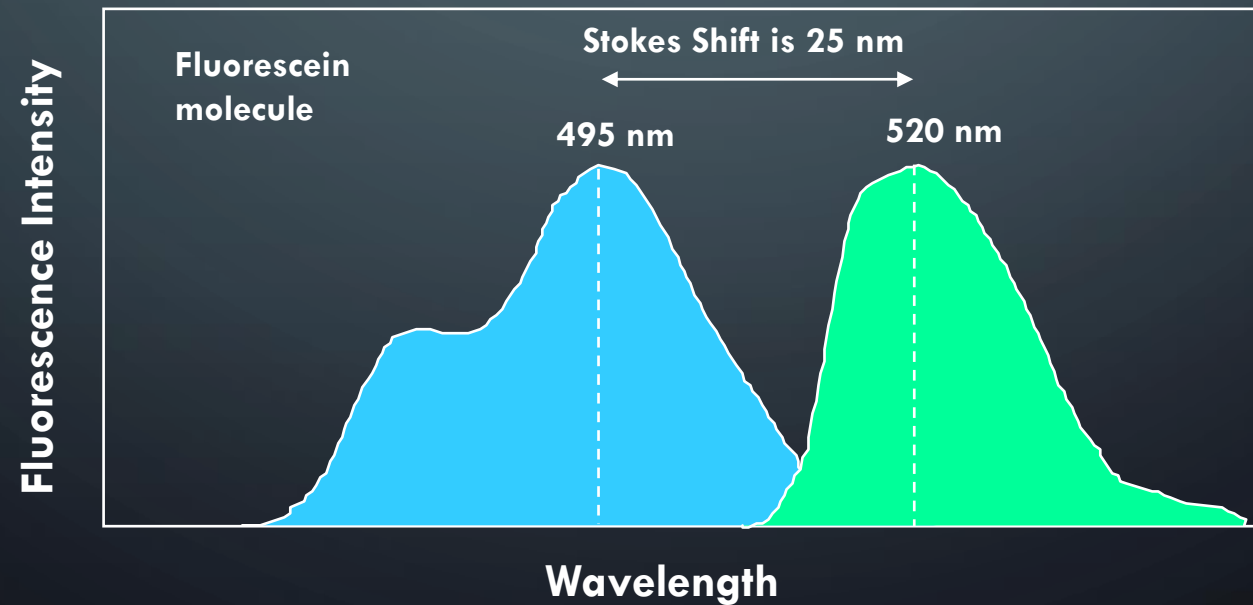
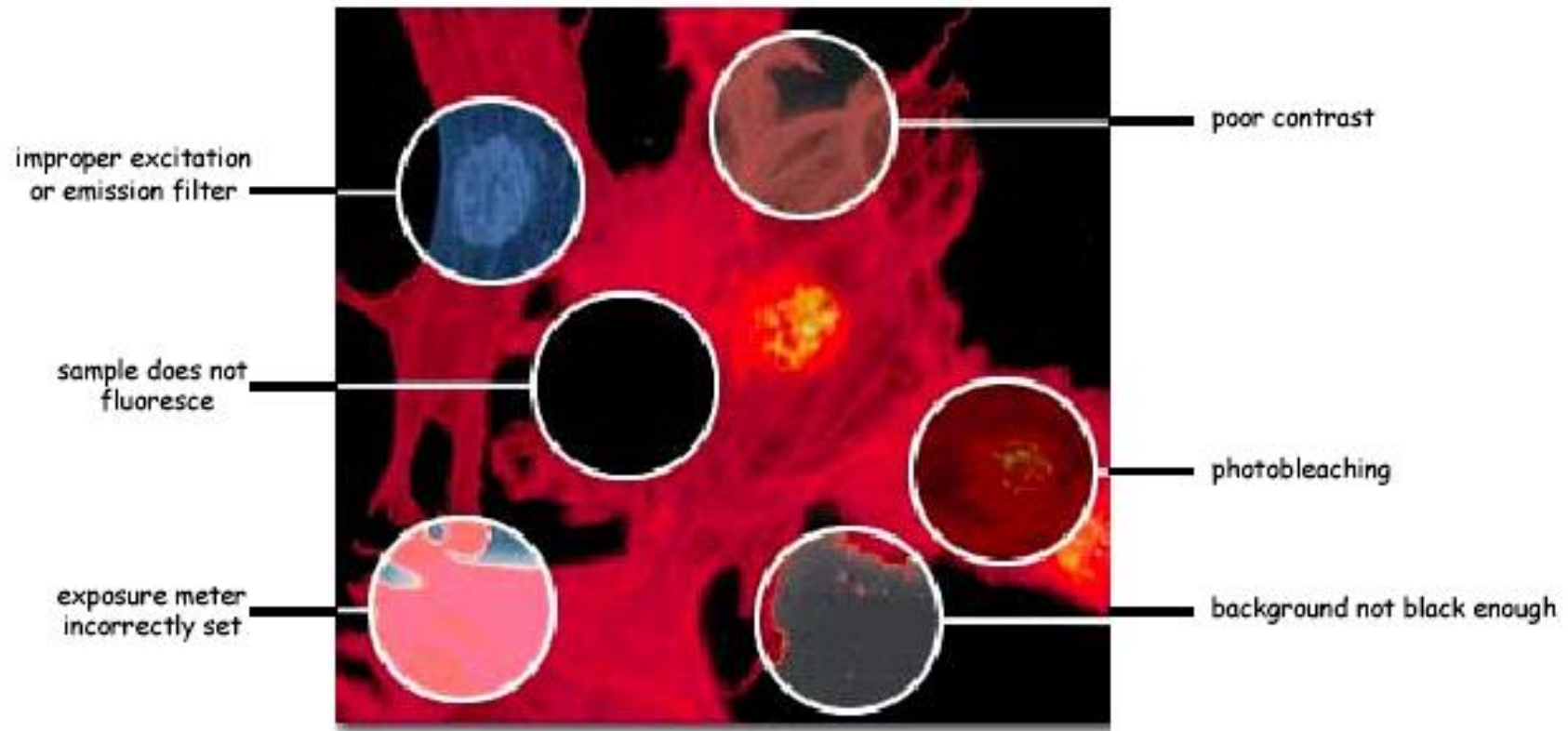


Figure 3: Problems with Fluorescence microscopy



FLUORESCENCE EXCITATION SPECTRA

Intensity

related to the **probability** of the event

Wavelength

the **energy** of the light absorbed or
emitted

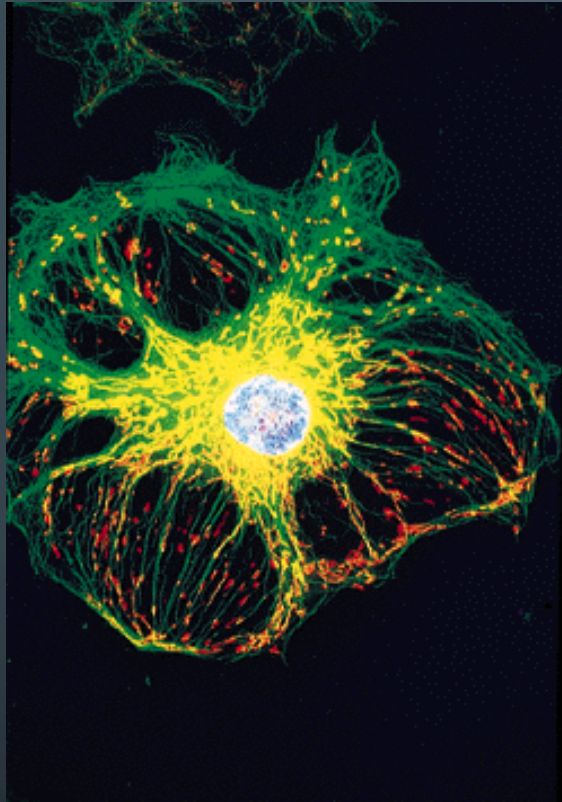
FLUORESCENCE

The **longer** the wavelength the **lower** the energy

The **shorter** the wavelength the **higher** the energy
e.g. UV light from sun causes the sunburn
not the red visible light

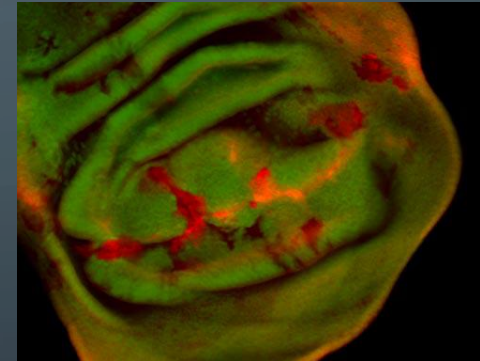
MULTICHANNEL FLUORESCENCE LABELLING

- Direct coupling to macromolecules
- Fluorescent dyes and substrates
- Fluorescent fusion proteins
- Fluorescent Antibodies

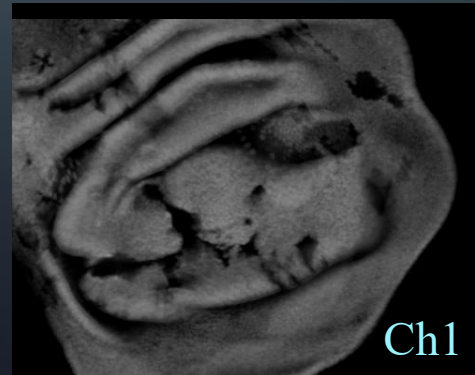


Arterial endothelial cell
Ch1(Green) FITC Tubulin
Ch2(Red) mitotracker
Ch3(Blue) DAPI

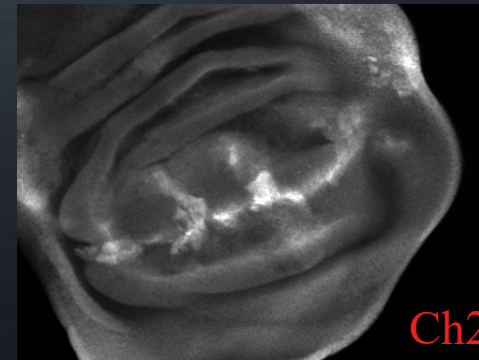
Ch1(Green)
UBI-GFP



Ch2(Red)
Texas Red
anti-rabbit
& Rabbit anti-
BGal



Ch1



Ch2

PHOTOBLEACHING

- Defined as the **irreversible destruction** of an excited fluorophore (discussed in later lecture)
- Methods for countering photobleaching
 - Scan for shorter times
 - Use high magnification, high NA objective
 - Use wide emission filters
 - Reduce excitation intensity
 - Use “**antifade**” reagents (not compatible with viable cells)

QUENCHING

Not a chemical process

Dynamic quenching =- Collisional process usually controlled by mutual diffusion

Typical quenchers – oxygen

Aliphatic and aromatic amines (IK, NO₂, CHCl₃)





















Static Quenching

Formation of ground state complex between the fluorophores and quencher with a non-fluorescent complex (temperature dependent – if you have higher quencher ground state complex is less likely and therefore less quenching)












ANTIFADE AGENTS

- Many quenchers act by **reducing oxygen concentration** to prevent formation of singlet oxygen
- Satisfactory for fixed samples but not live cells!
- **Antioxidants** such as propyl gallate, hydroquinone, p-phenylenediamine are used
- Reduce O_2 concentration or use singlet oxygen quenchers such as carotenoids (50 mM crocetin or etretinate in cell cultures); ascorbate, imidazole, histidine, cysteamine, reduced glutathione, uric acid, trolox (vitamin E analogue)

PROBES FOR PROTEINS

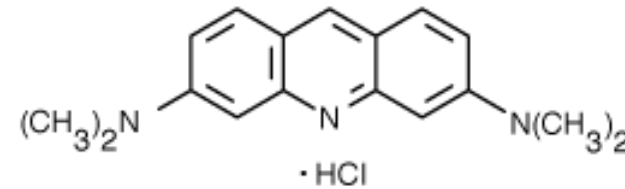
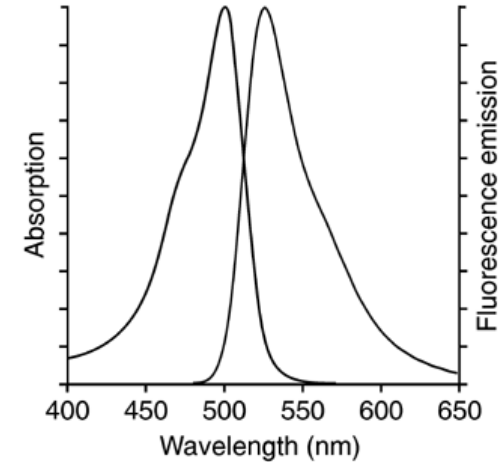
Probe		Excitation		Emission	
FITC	488		525		
PE	488		575		
APC	630		650		
PerCP™	488		680		
Cascade Blue	360		450		
Coumerin-phalloidin	350		450		
Texas Red™	610		630		
Tetramethylrhodamine-amines	550		575		
CY3 (indotrimethinecyanines)	540		575		
CY5 (indopentamethinecyanines)	640		670		

PROBES FOR NUCLEIC ACIDS

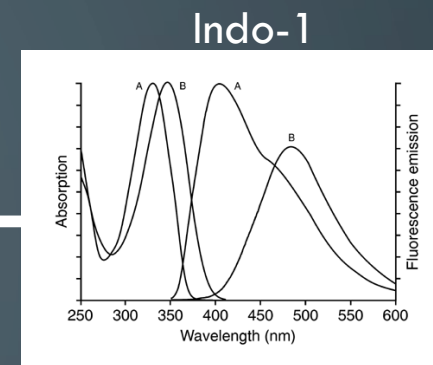
• Hoechst 33342 (AT rich) (uv)	346		
• DAPI (uv)	359		461
• POPO-1	434		456
• YOYO-1	491		509
• Acridine Orange (RNA)	460		
• Acridine Orange (DNA)	502		6
• Thiazole Orange (vis)	509		525
• TOTO-1	514		3
• Ethidium Bromide	526		4
• PI (uv/vis)	536		620
• 7-Aminoactinomycin D (7AAD) 555			



DNA PROBES

- AO
 - **Metachromatic** dye
 - concentration dependent emission
 - double stranded NA - Green
 - single stranded NA - Red
- AT/GC binding dyes
 - AT rich: DAPI, Hoechst, quinacrine
 - GC rich: antibiotics bleomycin, chromamycin, olivomycin, rhodamine 800



PROBES FOR IONS



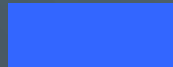





• INDO-1	E_x 350		E_m 405/480	
• QUIN-2	E_x 350		E_m 490	
• Fluo-3	E_x 488		E_m 525	
• Fura -2	E_x 330/360		E_m 510	

INDO-1: 1H-Indole-6-carboxylic acid, 2-[4-[bis[2-[(acetyloxy)methoxy]-2-oxoethyl]amino]-3-[2-[2-[bis[2-[(acetyloxy)methoxy]-2-oxoethyl]amino]-5-methylphenoxy]ethoxy]phenyl]-, (acetyloxy)methyl ester $[C_{47}H_{51}N_3O_{22}]$ (just in case you want to know....!!)

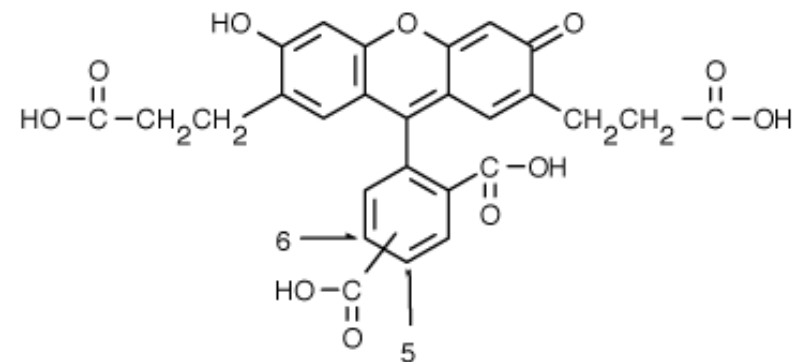
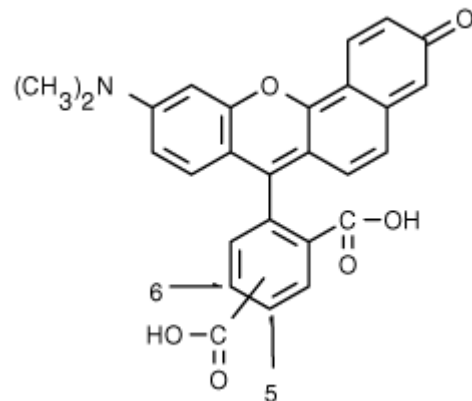
FLUO-3: Glycine, N-[4-[6-[(acetyloxy)methoxy]-2,7-dichloro-3-oxo-3H-xanthen-9-yl]-2-[2-[2-[bis[2-[(acetyloxy)methoxy]-2-oxoethyl]amino]-5-methylphenoxy]ethoxy]phenyl]-N-[2-[(acetyloxy)methoxy]-2-oxoethyl]-, (acetyloxy)methyl ester

PH SENSITIVE INDICATORS

Probe		Excitation		Emission
• SNARF-1 $C_{27}H_{19}NO_6$		488		575
• BCECF $C_{27}H_{20}O_{11}$	 	488 440/488	 	525/620 525

SNARF-1: Benzenedicarboxylic acid, 2(or 4)-[10-(dimethylamino)-3-oxo-3H- benzo[c]xanthene-7-yl]-

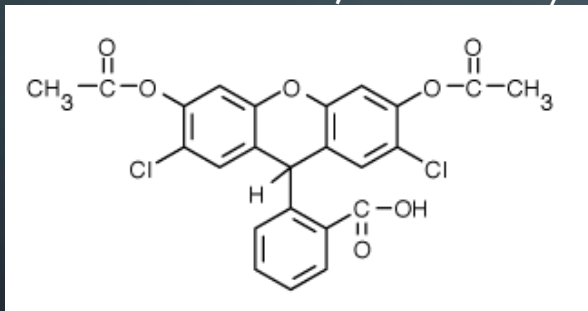
BCECF: Spiro(isobenzofuran-1 (3H),9'-(9H) xanthene)-2',7'-dipropionic acid, ar-carboxy-3',6'-dihydroxy-3-oxo-



PROBES FOR OXIDATION STATES

Probe	Oxidant	Excitation	Emission
• DCFH-DA	(H ₂ O ₂)	488	525
• HE	(O ₂ ⁻)	488	590
• DHR 123	(H ₂ O ₂)	488	525

DCFH-DA: 2',7'-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (2',7'-dichlorofluorescein diacetate; H₂DCFDA)



C₂₄H₁₆Cl₂O₇

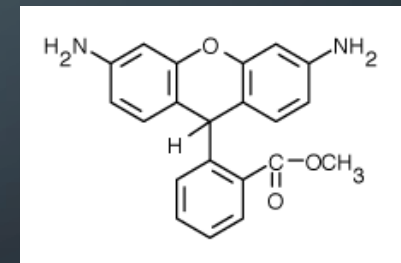
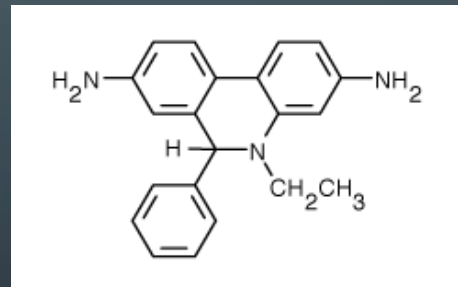
C₂₁H₂₁N₃

C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₃




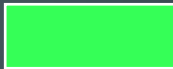

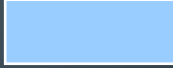
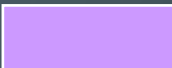
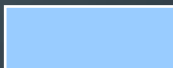








DCFH-DA - dichlorofluorescein diacetate

HE - hydroethidine 3,8-Phenanthridinediamine, 5-ethyl-5,6-dihydro-6-phenyl-

DHR-123 - dihydrorhodamine 123 Benzoic acid, 2-(3,6-diamino-9H-xanthene-9-yl)-, methyl ester



SPECIFIC ORGANELLE PROBES

Probe	Site	Excitation	Emission
BODIPY	GOLGI	505	 511 
NBD	GOLGI	488	 525 
DPH	LIPID	350	 420 
TMA-DPH	LIPID	350	 420 
RHODAMINE 123	MITOCHONDRIA	488	 525 
DIO	LIPID	488	 500 
DII-CN-(5)	LIPID	550	 565 
DIO-CN-(3)	LIPID	488	 500 

BODIPY - borate-dipyrromethene complexes
DPH – diphenylhexatriene

NBD - nitrobenzoxadiazole
TMA - trimethylammonium

OTHER PROBES OF INTEREST

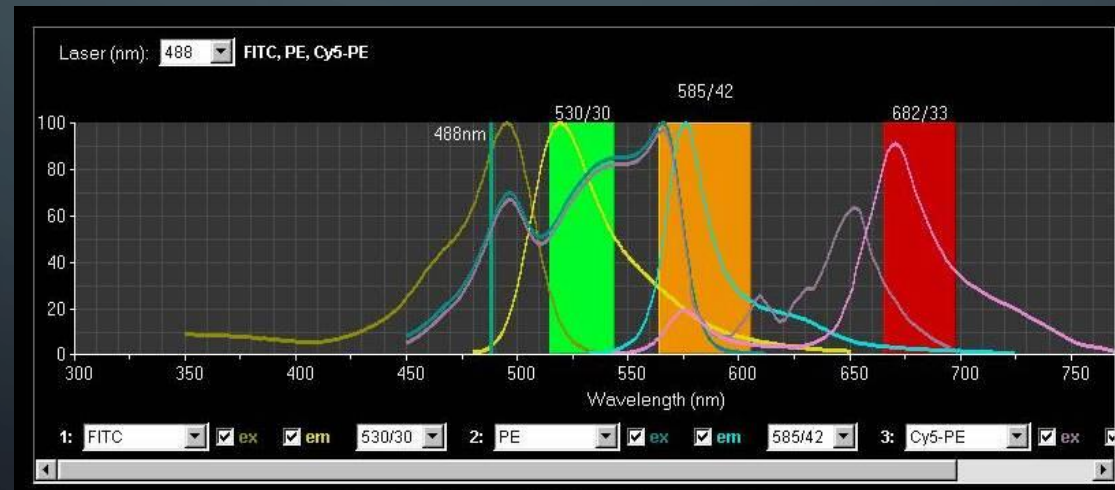
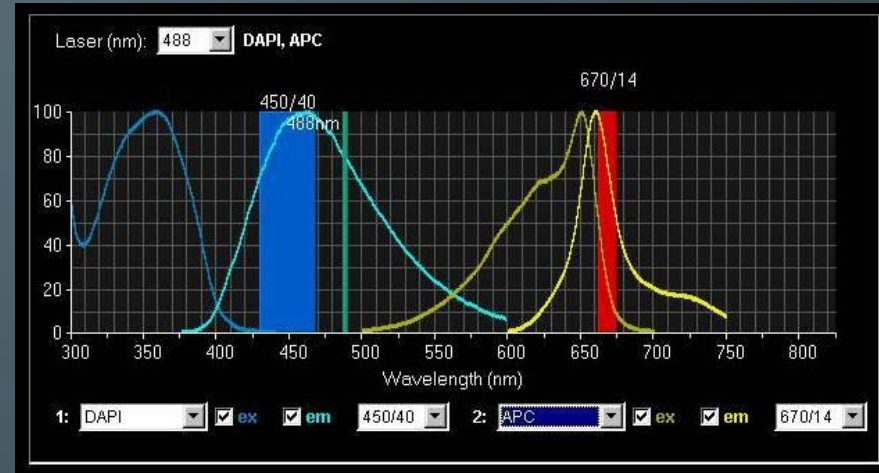
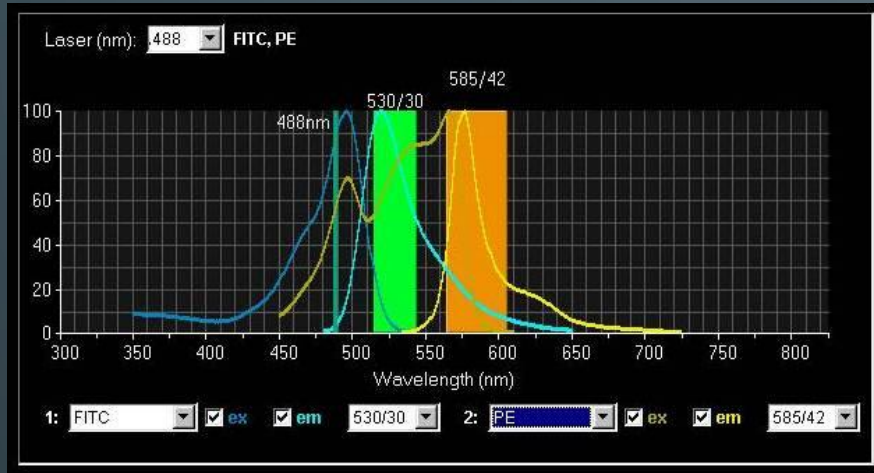
- GFP - *Green Fluorescent Protein*
 - GFP is from the chemiluminescent jellyfish *Aequorea victoria*
 - excitation maxima at 395 and 470 nm (quantum efficiency is 0.8) Peak emission at 509 nm
 - contains a p-hydroxybenzylidene-imidazolone chromophore generated by oxidation of the Ser-Tyr-Gly at positions 65-67 of the primary sequence
 - Major application is as a reporter gene for assay of promoter activity
 - requires no added substrates

MULTIPLE EMISSIONS

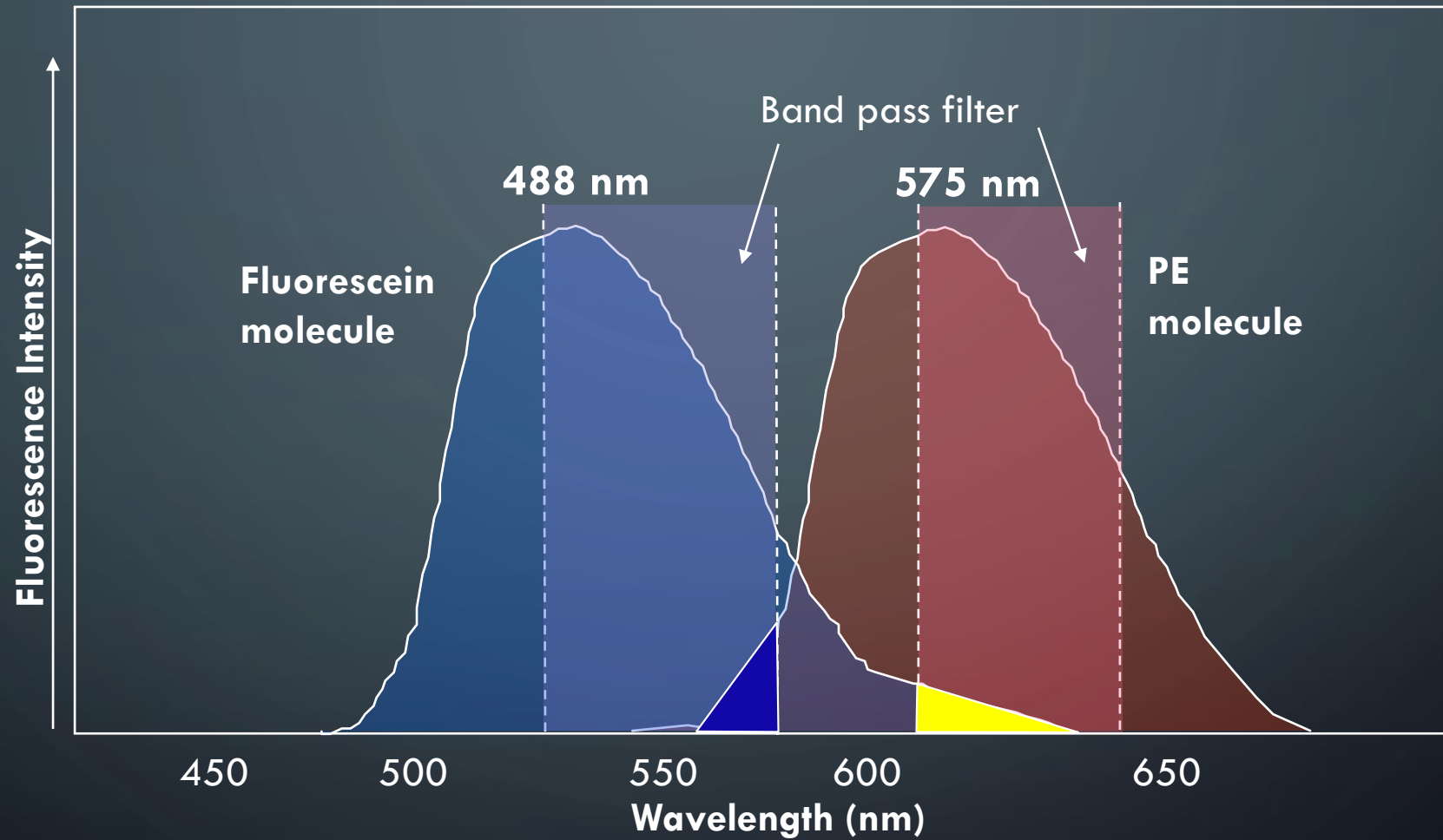
- Many possibilities for using multiple probes with a single excitation
- Multiple excitation lines are possible
- Combination of multiple excitation lines or probes that have same excitation and quite different emissions
 - e.g. Calcein AM and Ethidium (**ex 488 nm**)
 - emissions **530 nm** and **617 nm**

FILTER COMBINATIONS

- The band width of the filter will change the intensity of the measurement



FLUORESCENCE OVERLAP



The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are white line-art illustrations of circuit boards or neural networks, with lines connecting to small circles.

Fluorescence microscopy

- Principle and practical consideration

Fluorescence microscopy

Excites and observe fluorescent molecules

The most commonly used microscopy

High resolution, sensitive with low background, multi-channel...

comes with variations (fancy names).

deconvolution, OMX, deltavision

confocal, spinning disc, two photon

TIRF, FRAP, FRET, FLIM, iFRAP, FCS ...

PALM, STED, STORM, SIM, (super-resolution)

still in development

What can you do with a fluorescence microscope?

For example:

Determine the localisation of specific (multiple) proteins

Determine the shape of organs, cells, intracellular structures

Examine the dynamics of proteins

Study protein interactions or protein conformation

Examine the ion concentration etc.

can observe in live cells

FLUORESCENCE TECHNIQUES

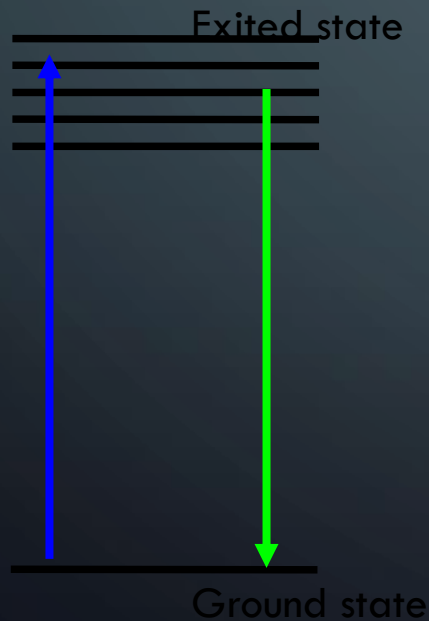
SPECIAL APPLICATIONS:

- FRET and FLIM
- FRAP and photoactivation
- TIRF

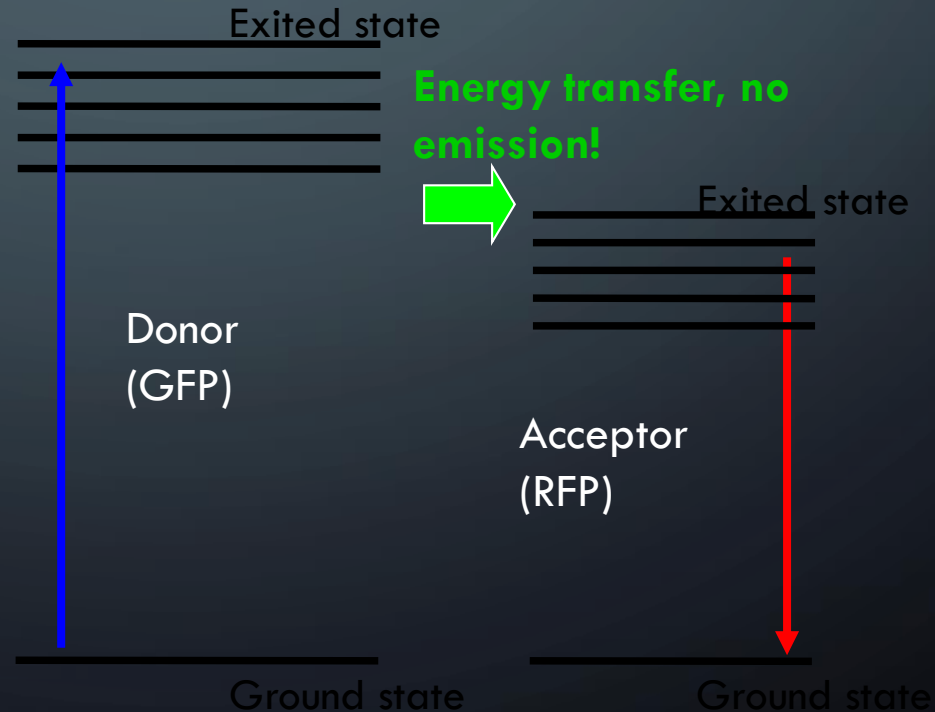
FRET (FLUORESCENCE RESONANCE ENERGY TRANSFER)

- method to investigate molecular interactions
- **Principle:** a close acceptor molecule can take the excitation energy from the donor (distance ca 1-10 nm)

No FRET



FRET situation: **Excitation** of the donor (GFP) but **emission** comes from the acceptor (RFP)



FRET

ways to measure:

- **Acceptor emission**

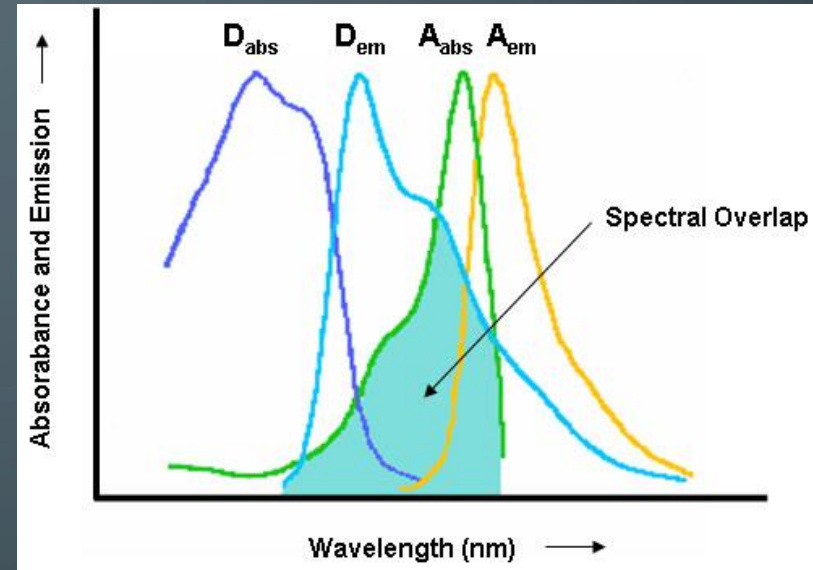
Detect the emission of the acceptor after excitation of the donor, e.g. excite GFP with 488 but detect RFP at 610 (GFP emission at 520)

- **Donor emission after acceptor bleaching** take image of donor, then bleach acceptor (with acceptor excitation wavelength - RFP:580nm), take another image of donor → should be brighter!

FRET

You need:

- a suitable FRET pair
(with overlapping excitation/emission curves)



Disadvantages:

- Bleed through (because of overlapping spectra)
→ Limitation of techniques (filters etc)
- Photobleaching only with fixed samples
- Intensity depends on concentrations etc

FLIM

(FLUORESCENCE LIFETIME IMAGING MICROSCOPY)

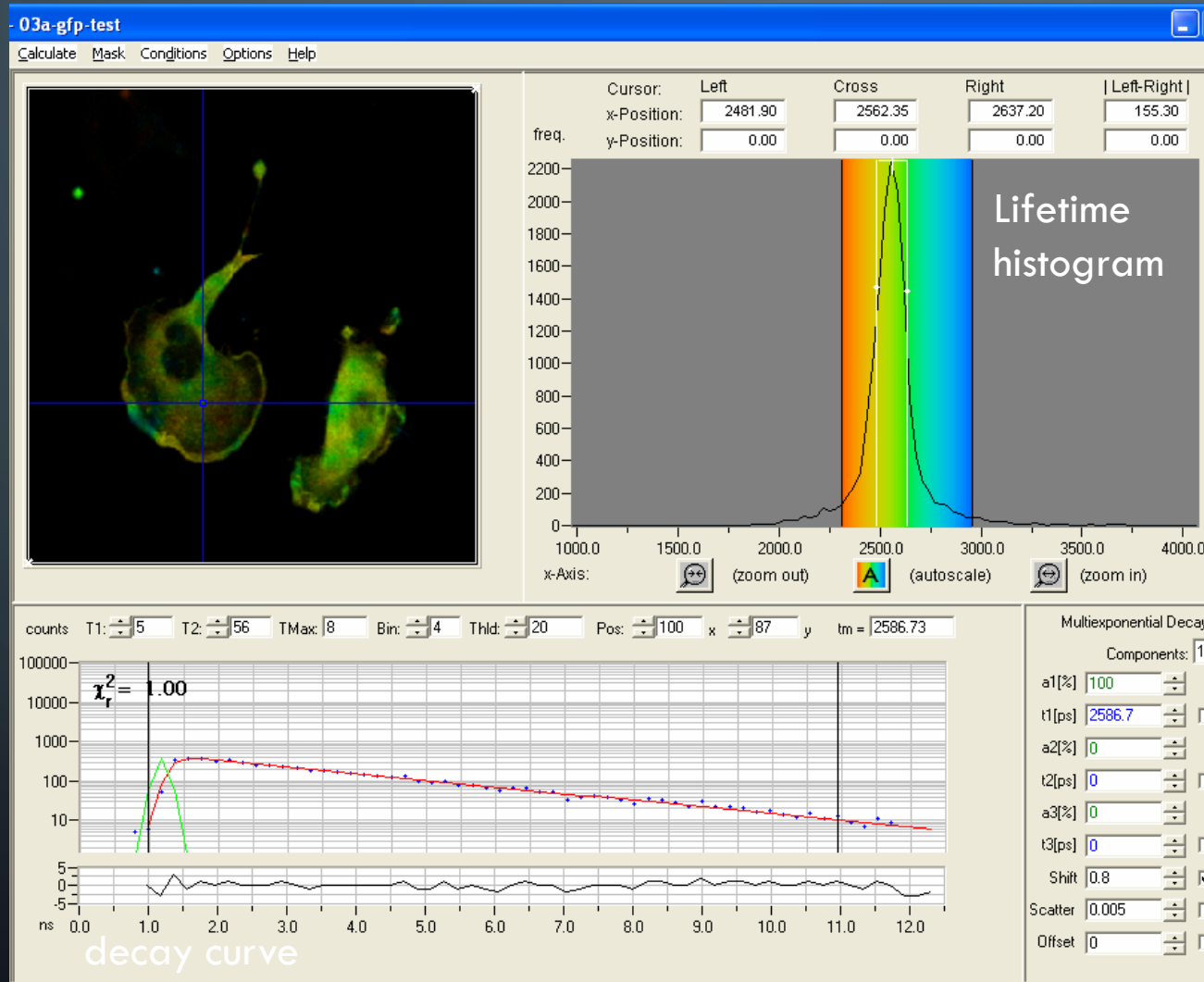
- measures the lifetime of the excited state (delay between excitation and emission)
- every fluorophore has a unique natural lifetime
- lifetime can be changed by the environment, such

as:

- ✓ Ion concentration
- ✓ Oxygen concentration
- ✓ pH
- ✓ **Protein-protein interactions**



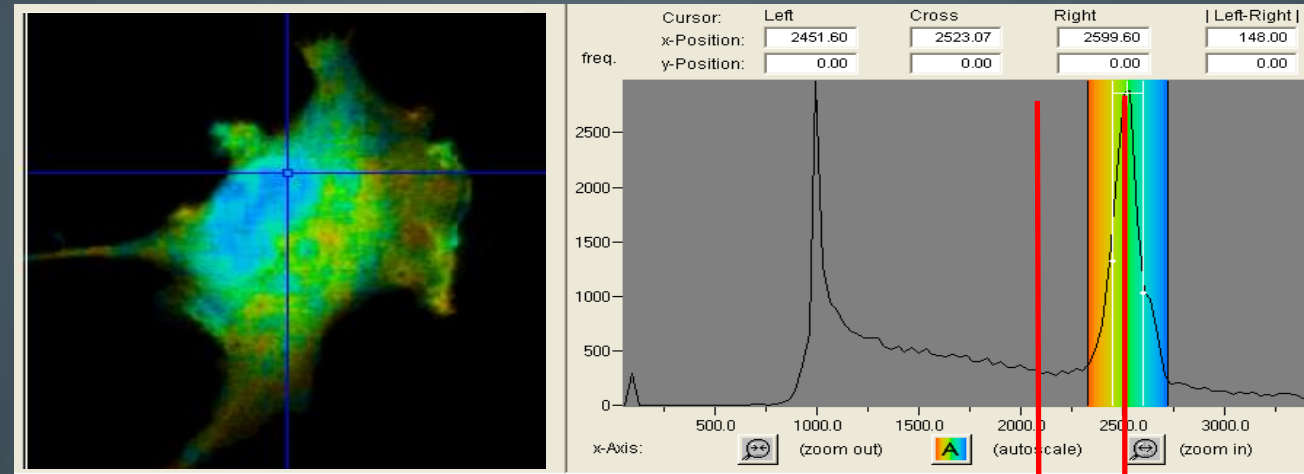
FLIM



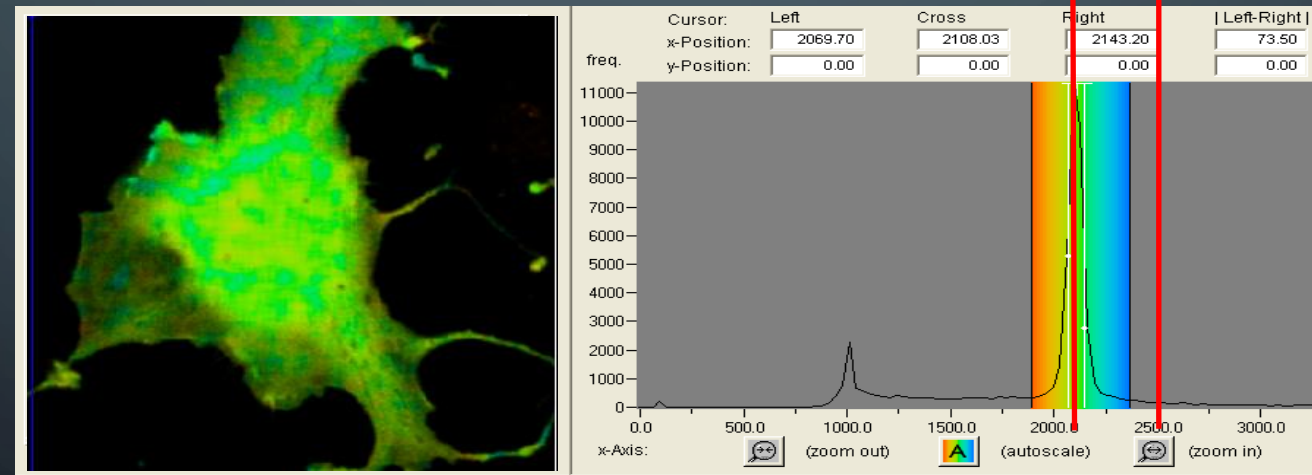
Excitation of many electrons at the same time → count the different times when they are falling back down (i.e. photons are emitted)

lifetime = 1/2 of all electrons are fallen back

EXAMPLE OF FLIM-FRET MEASUREMENT



GFP expressed in COS 1 cell: average lifetime of 2523 ps



fused GFP-RFP expressed in COS 1 cell: average lifetime of 2108 ps

FLIM

You still need: a suitable FRET-pair with the right orientation of the π -orbitals

→ Interaction of proteins is not enough, because fluorophores have to be close enough and in the right orientation!

Use of FLIM: measurements of concentration changes (Ca^{2+}), pH change etc, Protein interactions

→ FRET: Leica confocal 2 or Olympus FV 1000

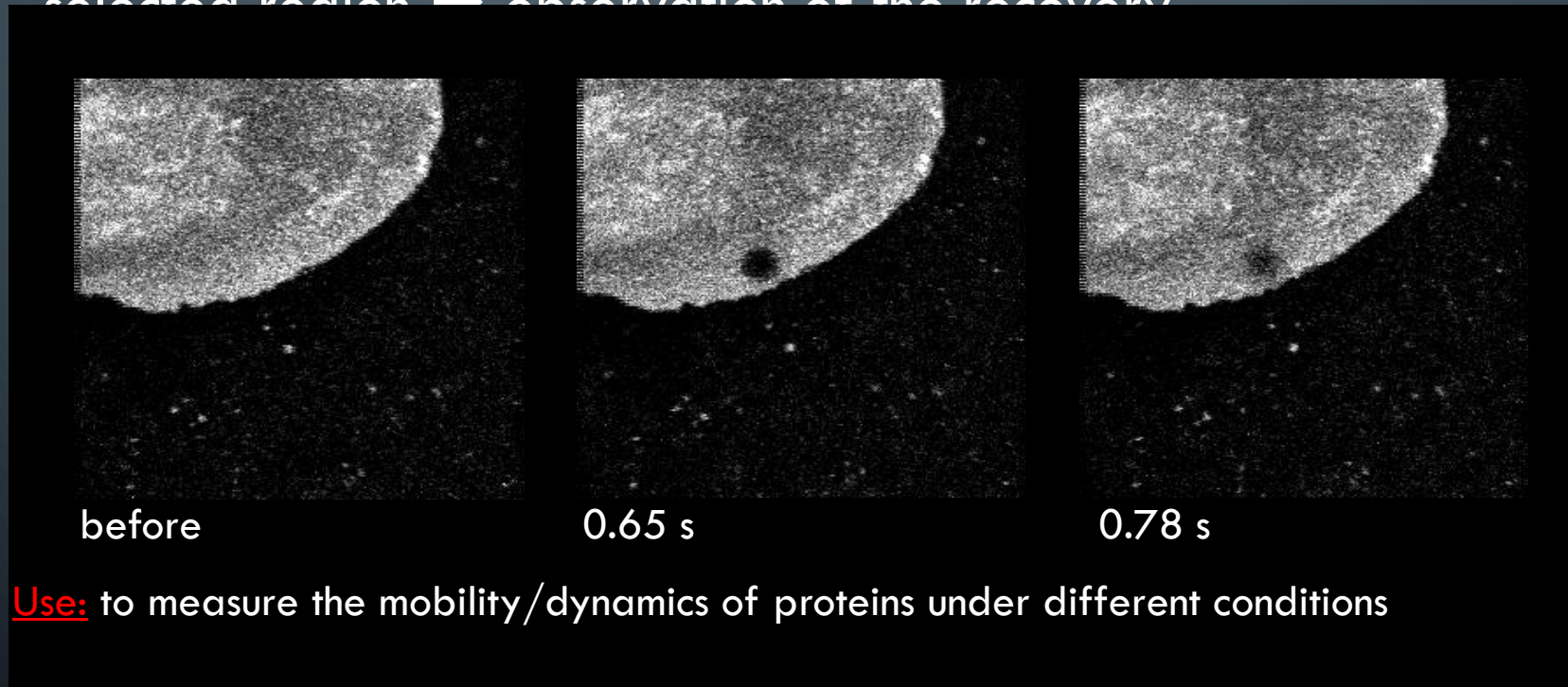
→ FLIM: Leica confocal 1 and soon LIFA system from Lambert Instruments

SPECIAL APPLICATIONS:

- FRET and FLIM
- **FRAP and photoactivation**
- TIRF

FRAP (FLUORESCENCE RECOVERY AFTER PHOTBLEACHING)

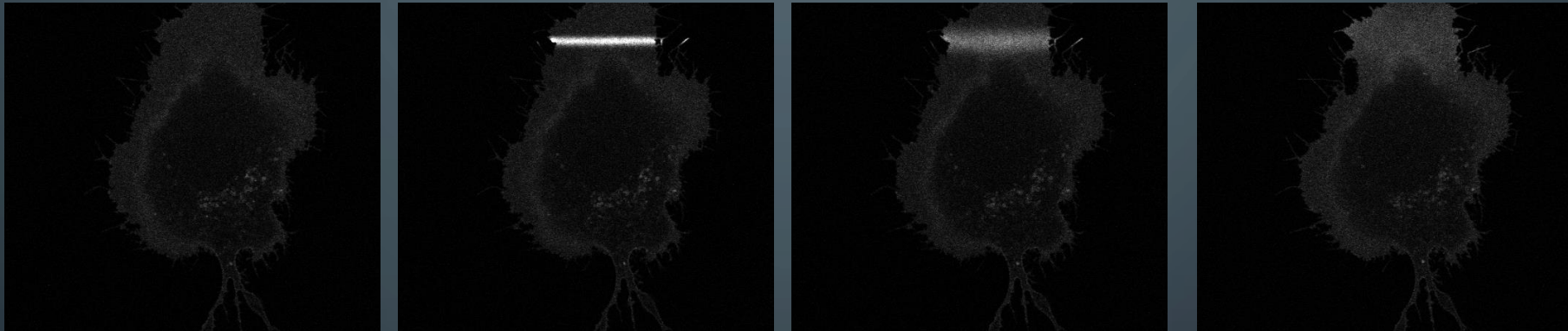
- Intense illumination with 405 laser bleaches the sample within the selected region → observation of the recovery



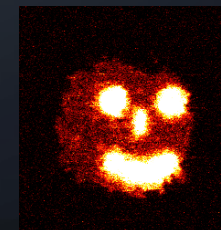
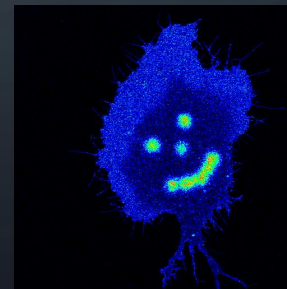
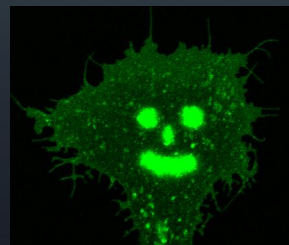
→ Olympus FV 1000

PHOTOACTIVATION

- Fluorophore only becomes active (= fluorescent) if excited (e.g. with 405 laser) due to structural change



Pictures taken from a activation movie: activation of a line trough the lamellipodia of the cell, activated GFP_F diffuses quickly

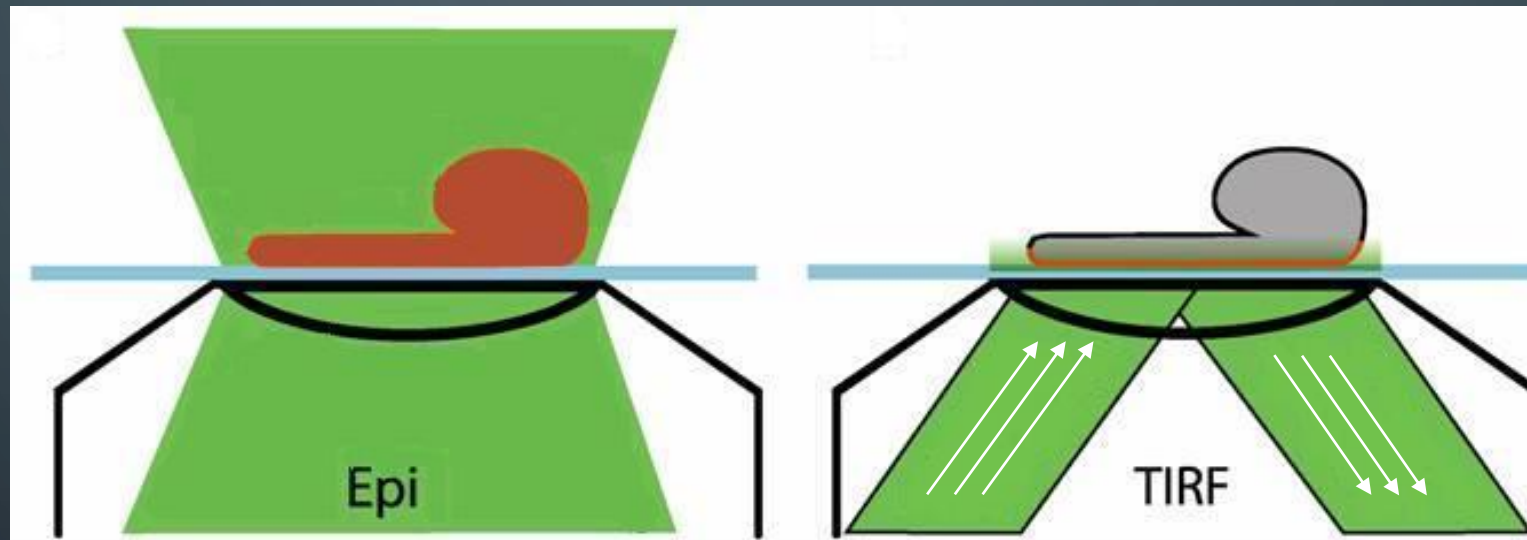


→ Olympus FV 1000

SPECIAL APPLICATIONS:

- FRET and FLIM
- FRAP and photoactivation
- **TIRF**

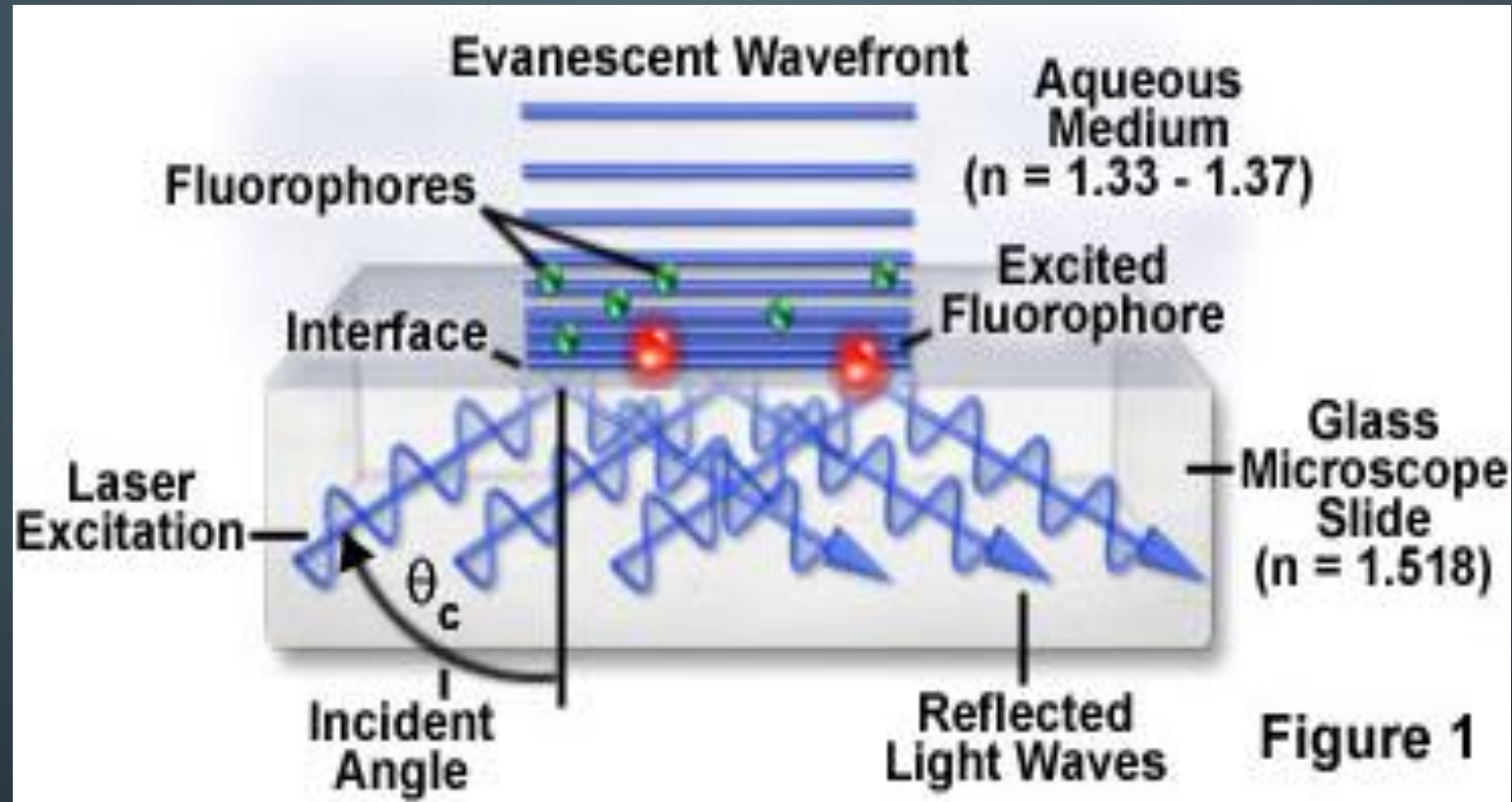
TIRF (TOTAL INTERNAL REFLECTION FLUORESCENCE)



You need:

- TIRF objectives with high NA
- TIRF condensor, where you are able to change the angle of illumination
- Glass coverslips

TIRF



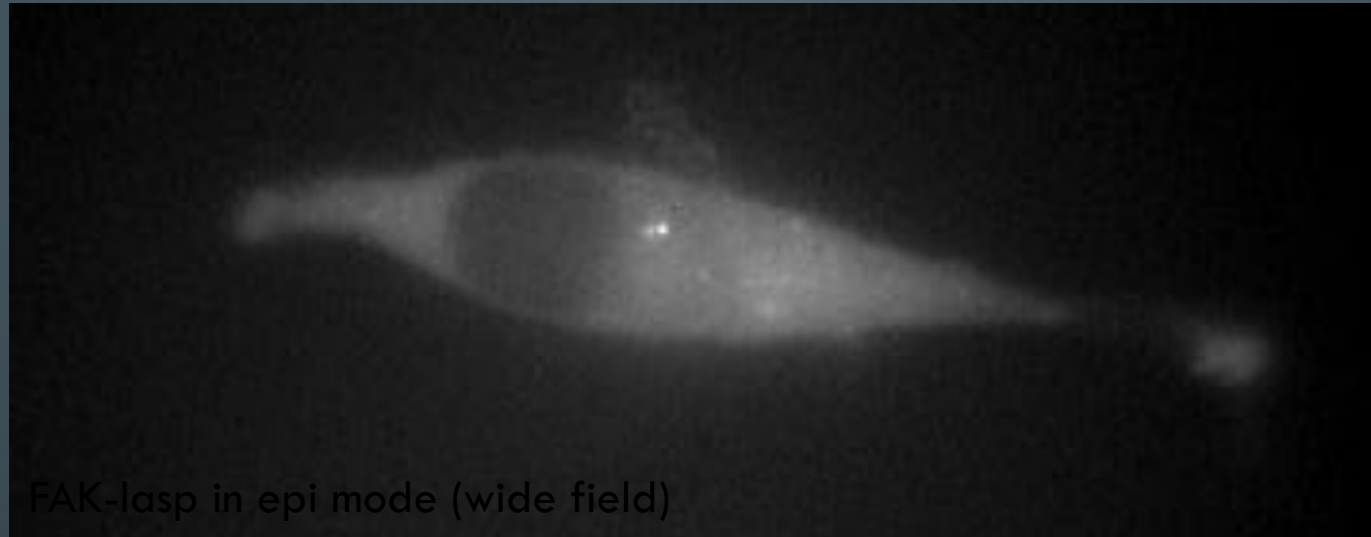
micro.magnet.fsu.edu

Result: very thin section at the bottom of the sample \rightarrow 150-200nm

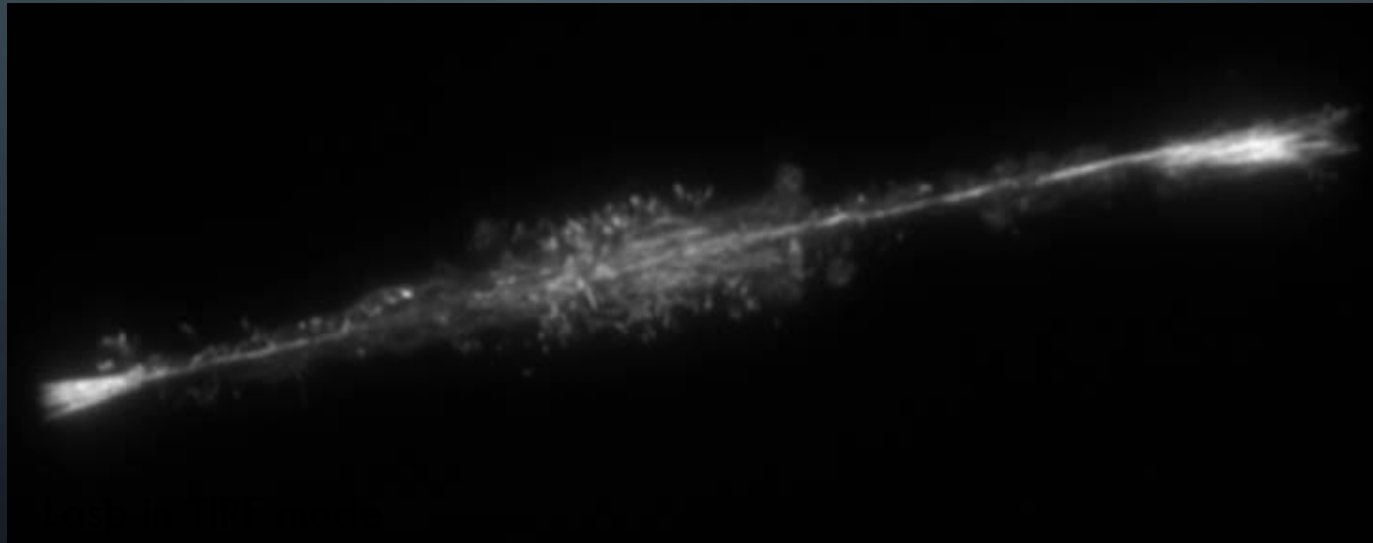
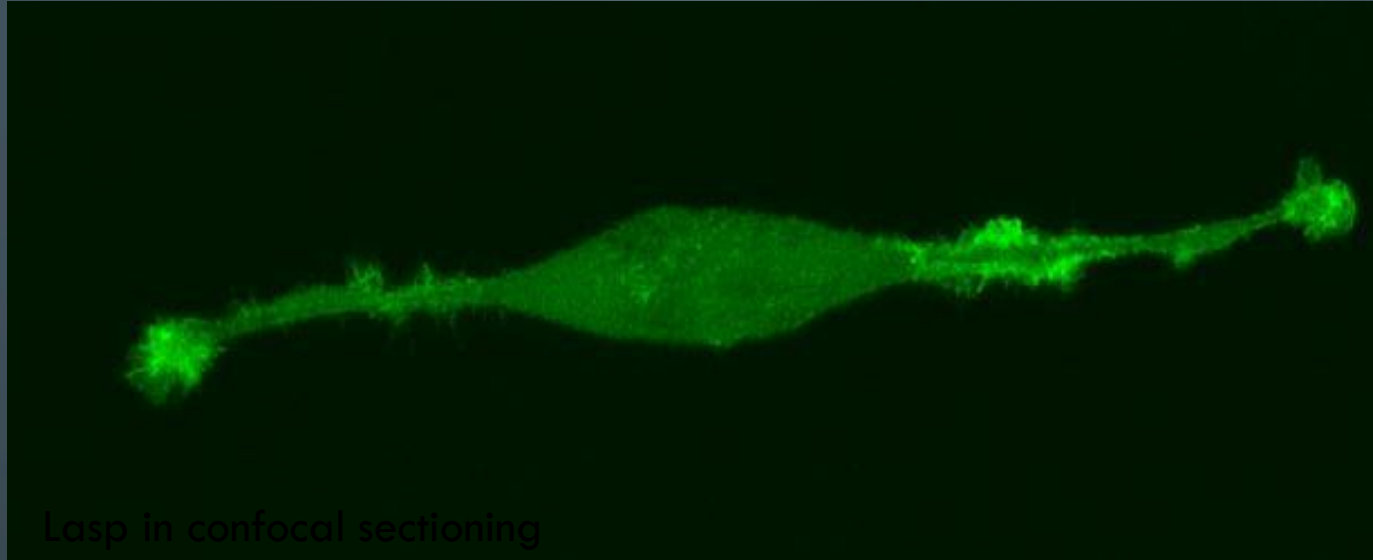
Use: to study membrane dynamics (endocytosis, focal adhesions, receptor binding)

\rightarrow Nikon TE 2000

TIRF VS EPI



TIRF VS EPI



SUMMARY/COMPARISON

method	excitation	detection	sectioning	use
Wide field	Whole sample	Whole sample	No sectioning	Simple fluorescence samples
confocal	Whole sample	One z-plane	350-500nm	High contrast images, optical sectioning
2-Photon	One z-plane	One z-plane	500-700nm	Deep tissue imaging, optical sectioning
FLIM/FRET				Protein interactions
FRAP + photoactivation	405 laser (UV)			dynamics/mobility
TIRF	Only bottom plane	Only bottom plane	150-200nm	Membrane dynamics