

Photochemistry



G. Ciamician

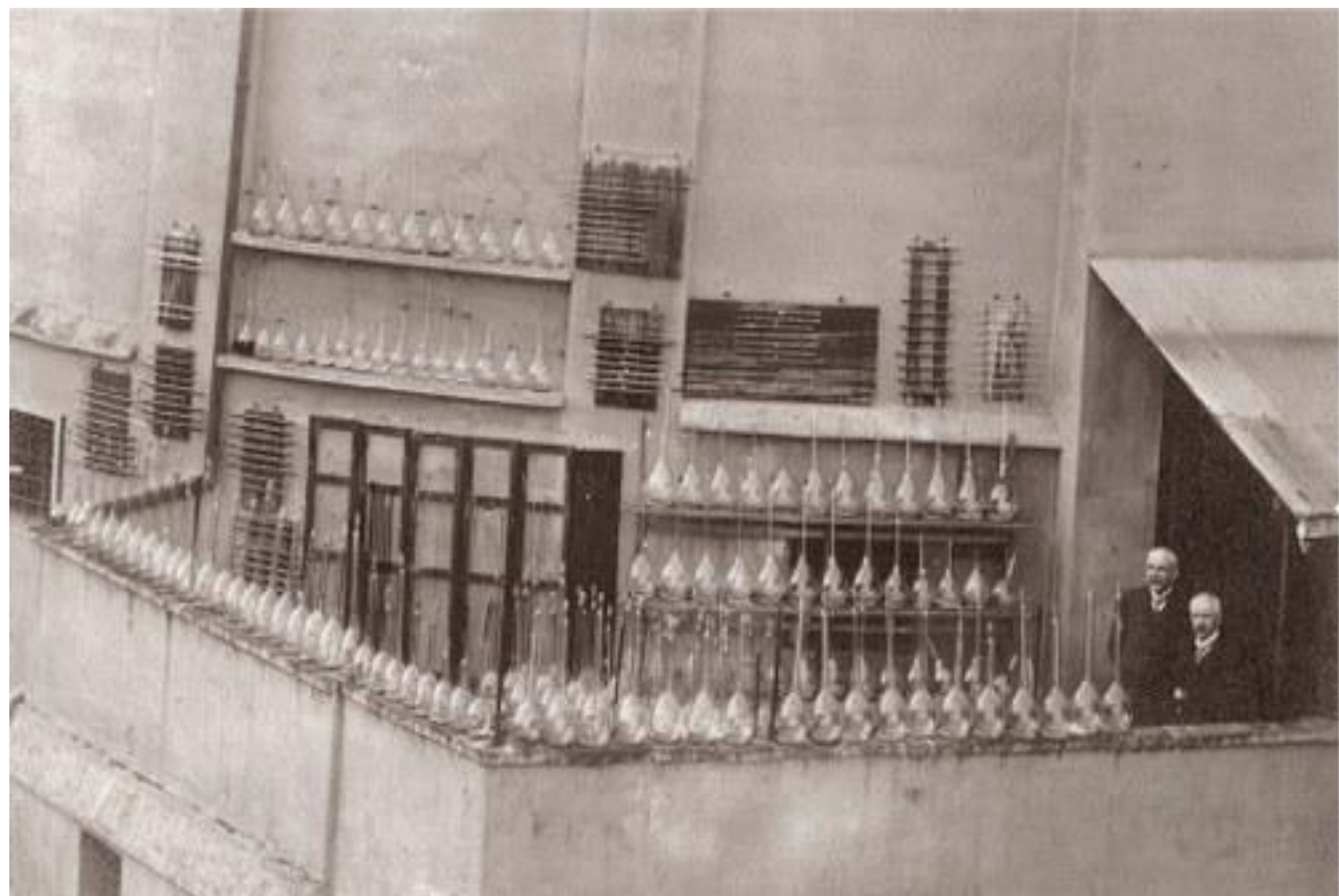
**Giacomo Luigi
Ciamician**

**Trieste 1857 –
Bologna 1922**

Chissà che in avvenire non sia possibile mandare in effetto delle reazioni fotochimiche, come sarebbe la seguente: gli ultimi prodotti della combustione, i rifiuti che le fabbriche mandano nell'aria, sono l'anidride carbonica e il vapore acqueo. **Dato un opportuno catalizzatore** si dovrebbe potere, con la partecipazione dell'energia solare, trasformarli in metano ed ossigeno i quali, bruciando, ridarebbero, naturalmente, in forma di calore tutta l'energia acquistata dal sole. Quando un tale sogno fosse realizzato le industrie sarebbero ricondotte ad un ciclo perfetto, a macchine che produrrebbero lavoro colla forza della luce del giorno, che non costa nulla e non paga tasse!

(Giacomo Luigi Ciamician)

Impariamo a imitare la natura e a fare come le piante, piuttosto che fare concorrenza alle piante con l'industria chimica fondata sul "catrame".



SCIENCE

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CONTENTS

<i>The Photochemistry of the Future: PROFESSOR GIACOMO CIAMICIAN</i>	385
<i>The First International Eugenics Congress: PROFESSOR RAYMOND PEARL</i>	395
<i>Industrial Education in the Philippines</i>	396
<i>Graduates from American Colleges and Universities</i>	397
<i>The Harpswell Laboratory</i>	397
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	398
<i>University and Educational News</i>	400
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>The Policy of the Geological Survey: DR. GEO. OTIS SMITH. School Grades—to What Type of Distribution shall they conform? DR. A. P. WEISS</i>	401
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Colman on Nature's Harmonic Unity: PROFESSOR ARNOLD EMCH. Case's Revision of the Amphibia and Pisces of the Permian of North America: DR. MAURICE G. MEHL....</i>	407
<i>Notes on Infectious Abortion in Cattle: DR. FRANK M. SURFACE</i>	409
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>The Effects of Alkaloids on the Development of Fish (Fundulus) Embryos: DR. J. F. MCCLENDON. On the Relationship between the Bilateral Asymmetry of the Unilocular Fruit and the Weight of the Seed which it produces: DR. J. ARTHUR HARRIS. Heat Conductivity of Crystals: DR. R. W. CLARK. Some Curious Cases of Selective Reflection in Ultra-violet Light: GUSTAVE MICHAUD</i>	412

THE PHOTOCHEMISTRY OF THE FUTURE¹

MODERN civilization is the daughter of coal, for this offers to mankind the solar energy in its most concentrated form; that is, in a form in which it has been accumulated in a long series of centuries. Modern man uses it with increasing eagerness and thoughtless prodigality for the conquest of the world and, like the mythical gold of the Rhine, coal is to-day the greatest source of energy and wealth.

The earth still holds enormous quantities of it, but coal is not inexhaustible. The problem of the future begins to interest us, and a proof of this may be seen in the fact that the subject was treated last year almost at the same time by Sir William Ramsay before the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Portsmouth and by Professor Carl Engler before the *Versammlung deutscher Naturforscher und Aerzte* at Karlsruhe. According to the calculations of Professor Engler Europe possesses to-day about 700 billion tons of coal and America about as much; to this must be added the coal of the unknown parts of Asia. The supply is enormous but, with increasing consumption, the mining of coal becomes more expensive on account of the greater depth to which it is necessary to go. It must therefore be remembered that in some regions the deposits of coal may become practically useless long before their exhaustion.

Is fossil solar energy the only one that may be used in modern life and civilization? That is the question.

¹MSB. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹General lecture before the International Congress of Applied Chemistry, New York, September 11, 1912.

THE PHOTOCHEMISTRY OF THE FUTURE (1912)

GIACOMO CIAMICIAN (1857-1922)

(Translation supplied by the author)

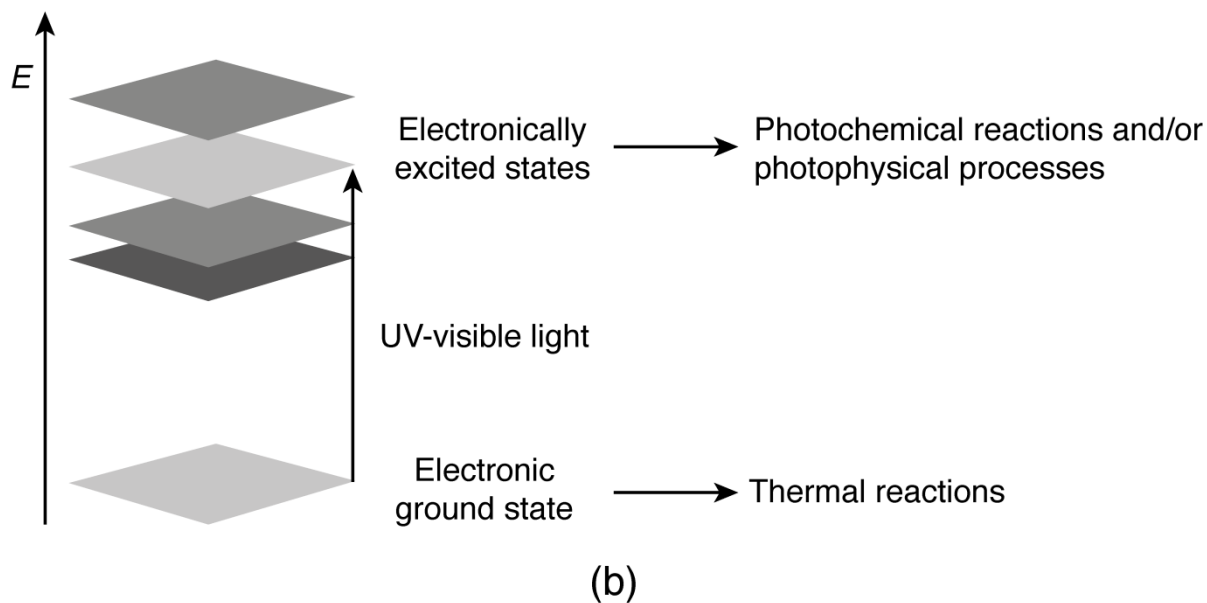
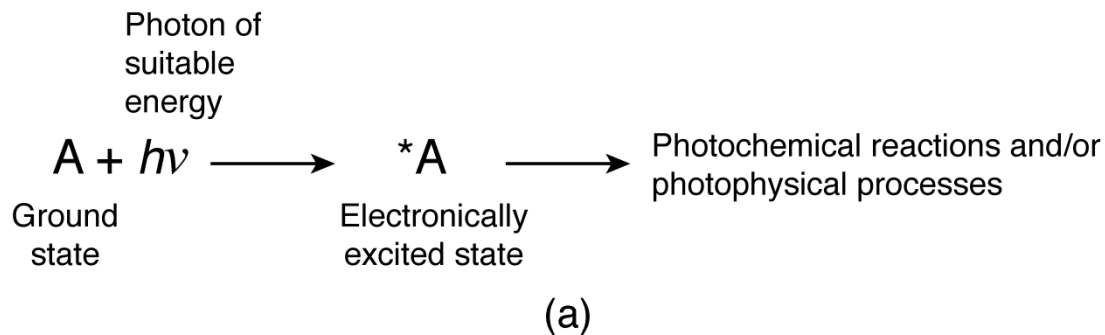
Modern civilization is the daughter of coal for this offers to mankind the solar energy in its most concentrated form: that is in a form in which it has been accumulated in a long series of centuries.

And if in a distant future the supply of coal becomes completely exhausted, civilization will not be checked by that, for life and civilization will continue as long as the sun shines! If our black and nervous civilization, based on coal, shall be followed by a quieter civilization based on the utilization of solar energy, that will not be harmful to progress and to human happiness.

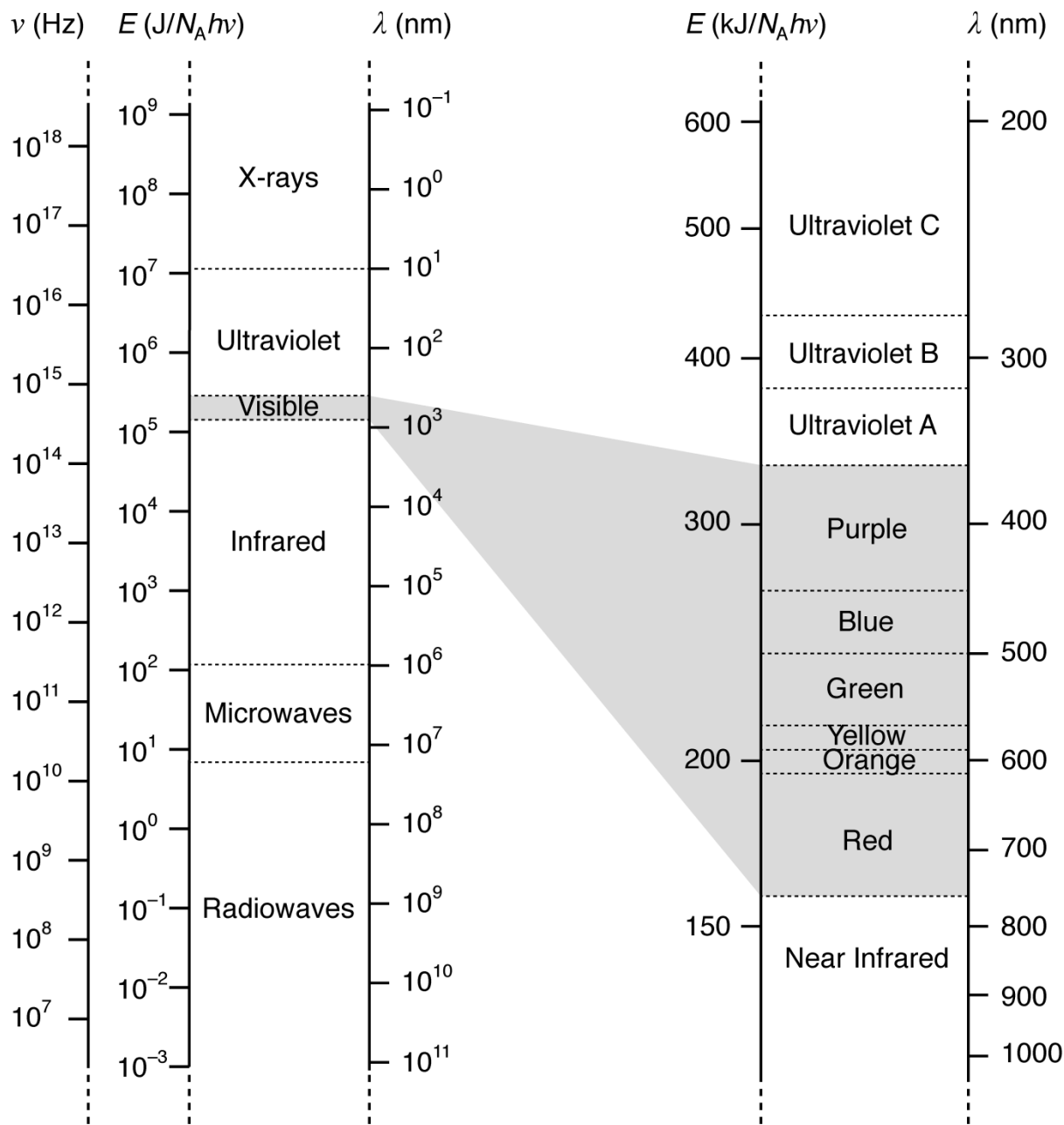
The photochemistry of the future should not however be postponed to such distant times; I believe that industry will do well in using from this every day all the energies that nature puts at its disposal. So far, human civilization has made use almost exclusively of fossil solar energy.

Would it not be advantageous to make better use of radiant energy?

Photochemistry and photophysics



Electromagnetic spectrum



Which is the involved energy

The simplest and most common paradigm:

One molecule absorbs one photon.

The energy of **one PHOTON** at **200 nm** = $9.95 \cdot 10^{-19}$ J

The energy of **one PHOTON** at **1000 nm** = $1.99 \cdot 10^{-19}$ J

One mole of photons = one **EINSTEIN**

The energy of **one EINSTEIN** at **200 nm** = 599 kJ (143 kcal)

The energy of **one EINSTEIN** at **1000 nm** = 119.8 kJ (28.6 kcal)

Quantitative aspects

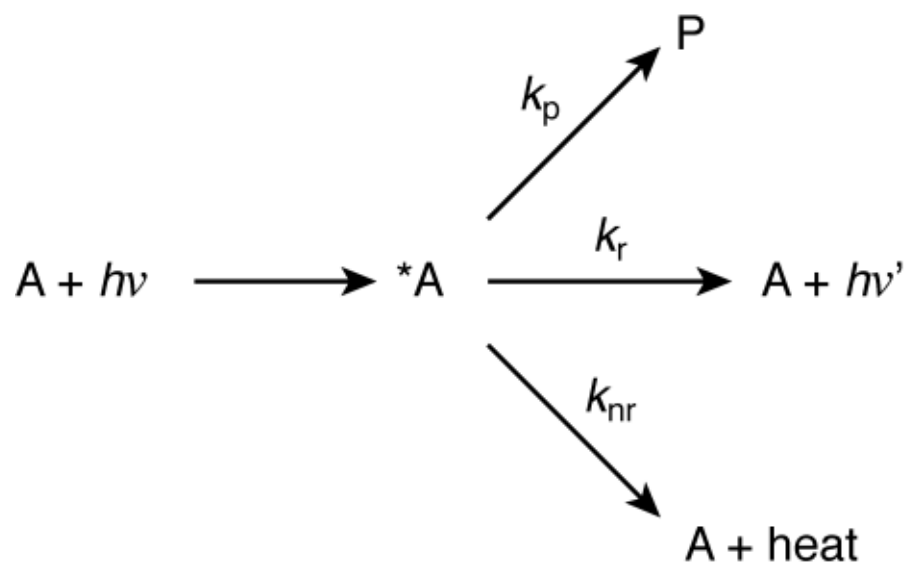
The Grotthus-Draper law:

Only the light absorbed is effective in producing photochemical change.

The Lambert – Beer law $A = \log (I_0/I) = \epsilon bc$

Quantitative aspects

Primary processes



Photoreaction
(chemical reaction)

Luminescence
(radiative deactivation)

Degradation to heat
(non radiative deactivation)

Lifetime of the excited state:

$$\tau(*A) = \frac{1}{k_p + k_r + k_{nr}} = \frac{1}{\sum_j k_j}$$

Efficiency of each process:

$$\eta_i(*A) = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j} = k_i \tau(*A)$$

Quantitative aspects

Quantum Yield of a primary process:

$$\Phi_i = \frac{\text{Number of molecules undergoing that process}}{\text{Number of photons absorbed by the reactant}}$$

Under conditions for a **stationary state**:

$$\frac{d[*A]}{dt} = I_m - k_p[*A] - k_r[*A] - k_{nr}[*A] = 0$$

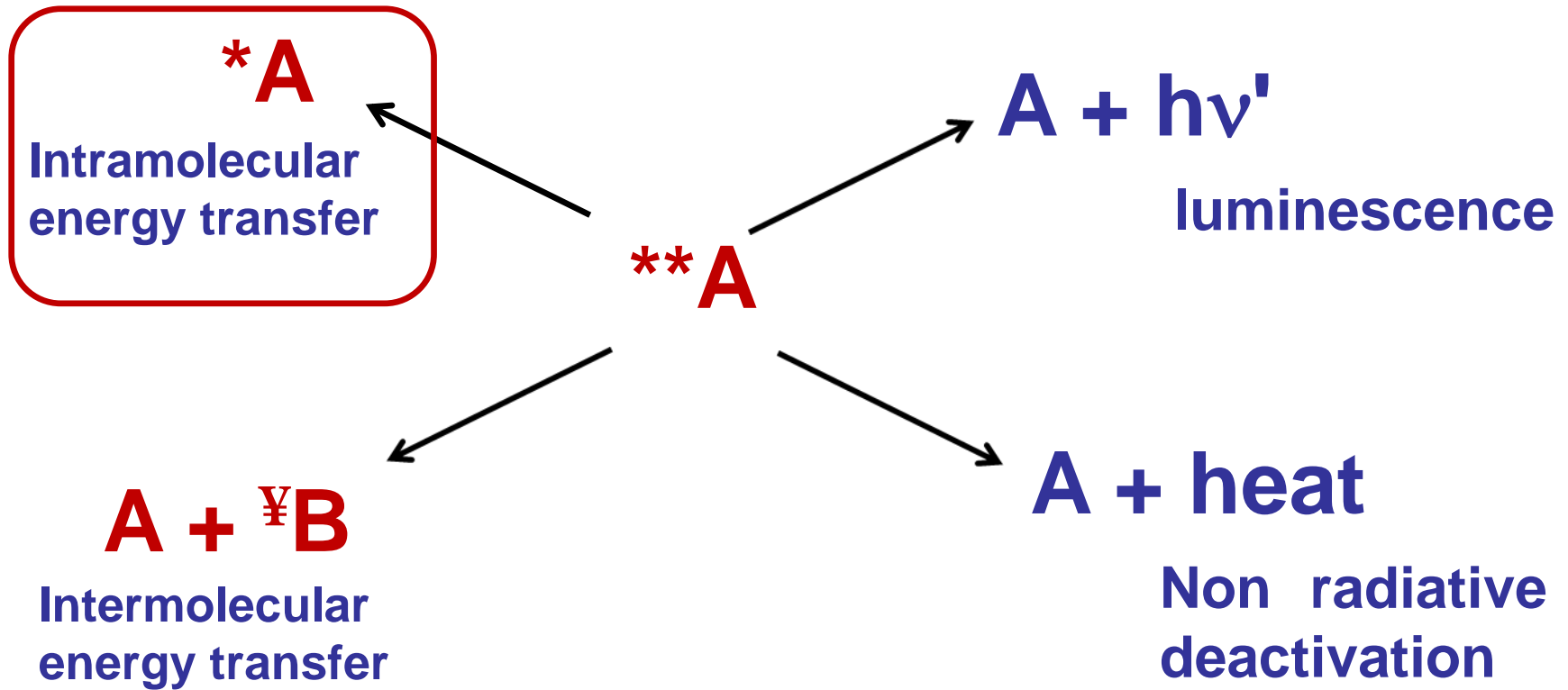
Quantum Yield of process p:

$$\Phi_p = \frac{k_p[*A]}{I_m} = \frac{k_p}{k_p + k_r + k_{nr}}$$

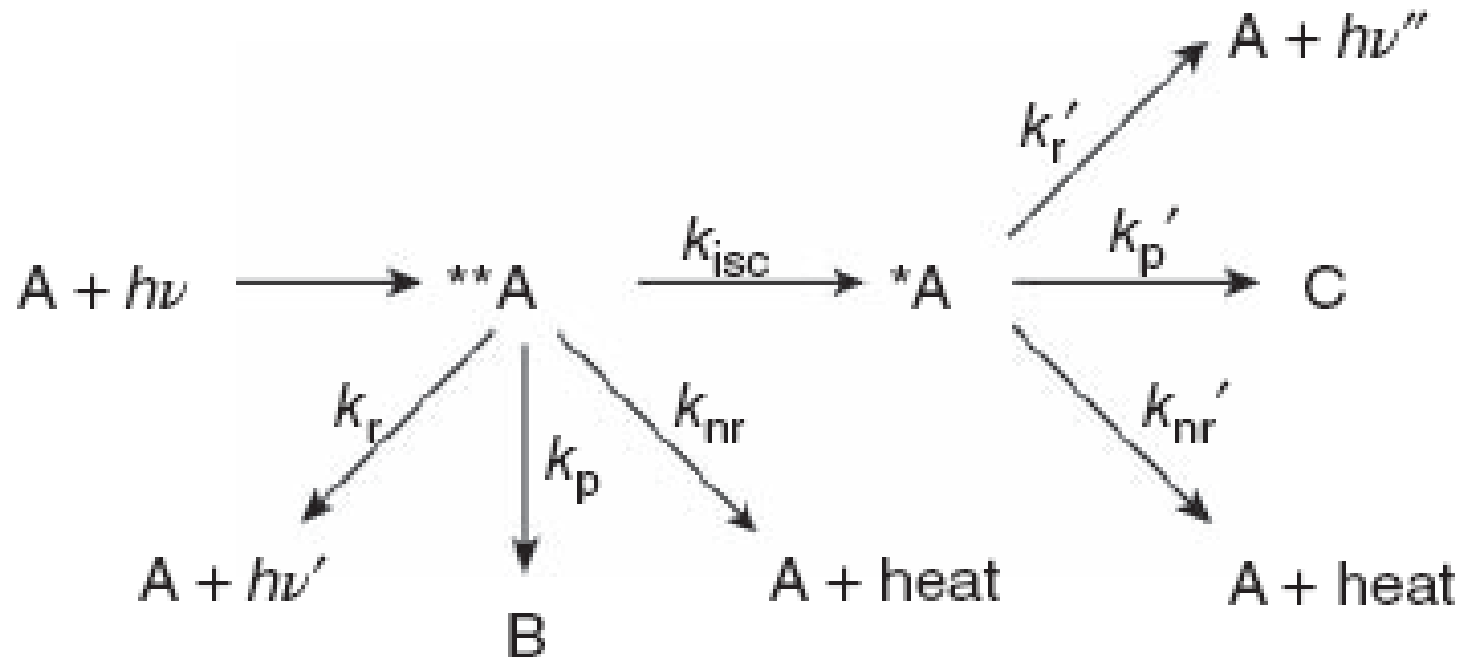
Quantum Yield of process i:

$$\Phi_i = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \Phi_i = k_i \tau(*A) = \eta_i(*A)$$

Photophysical Processes



Schematic representation of photophysical and photochemical processes



Jablonski diagram

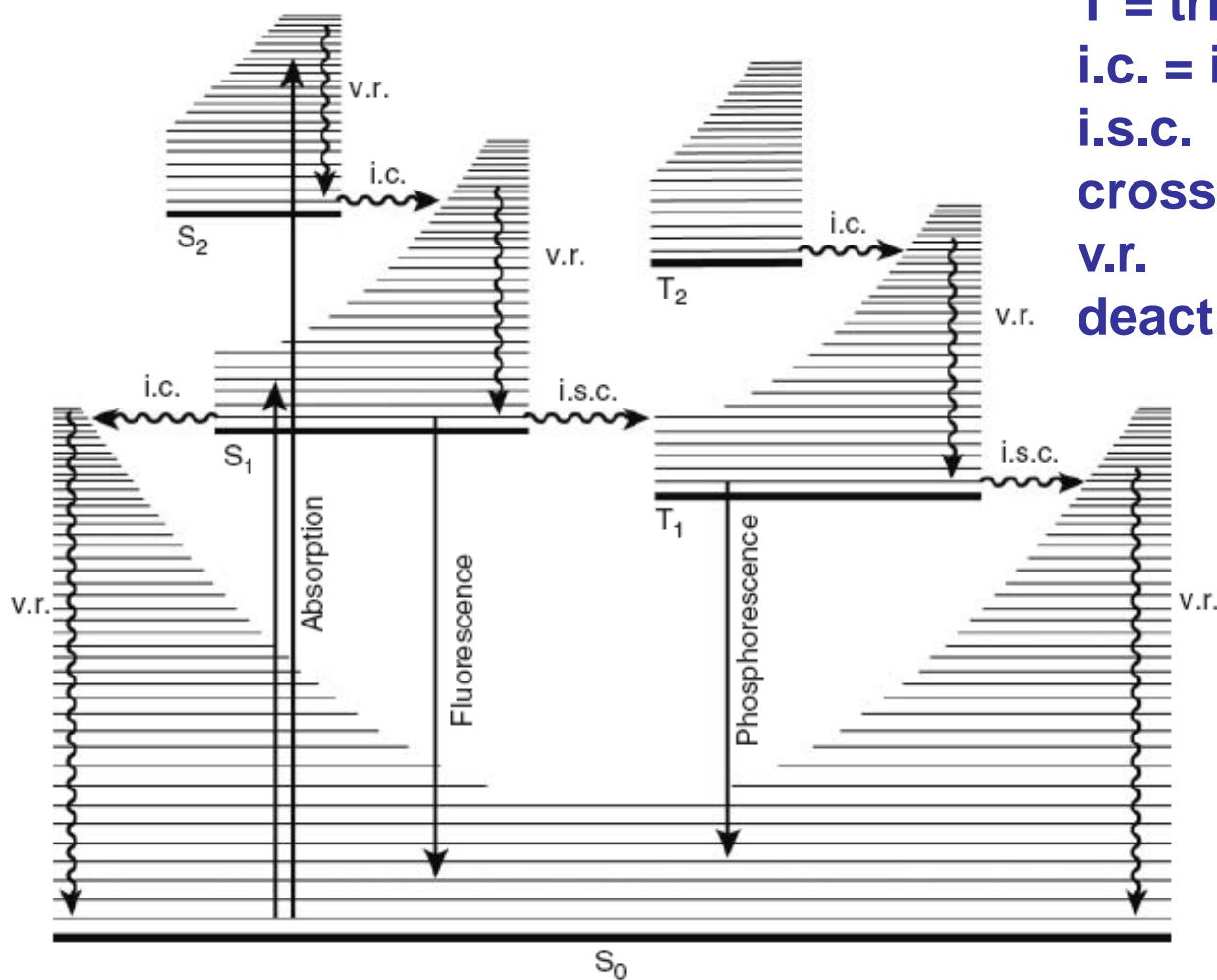
S = singlet state

T = triplet state

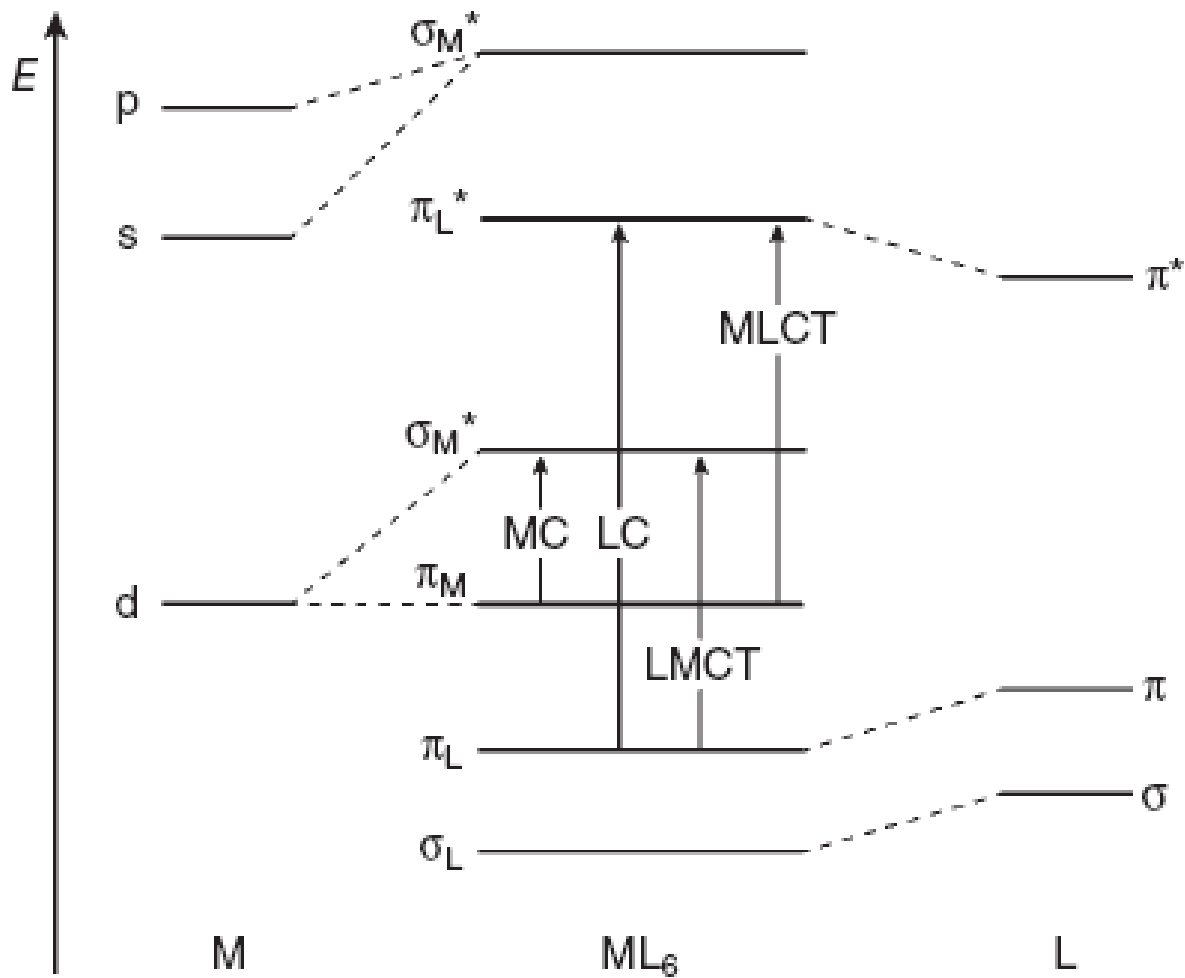
i.c. = internal conversion

i.s.c. = intersystem
crossing

v.r. = vibrational
deactivation



***Possible electronic transitions for an
octahedral complex ML_6***



Tanabe-Sugano diagram for $[\text{Cr}(\text{en})_3]^{3+}$

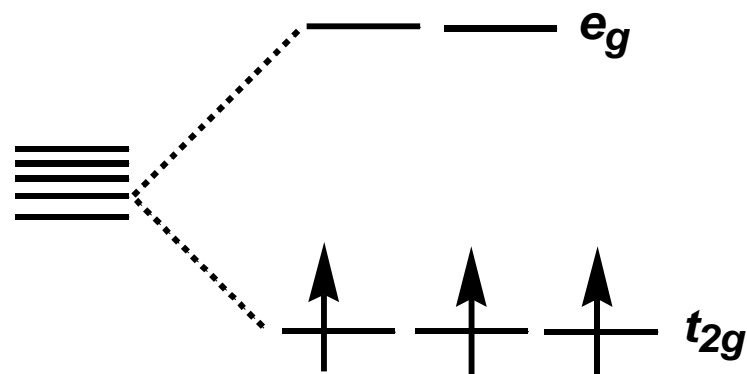
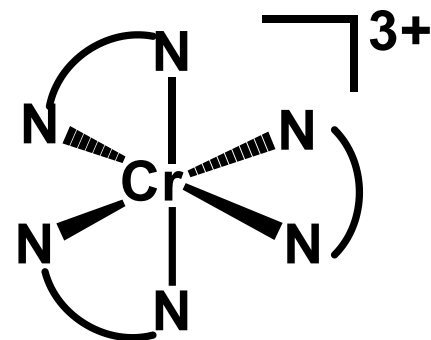
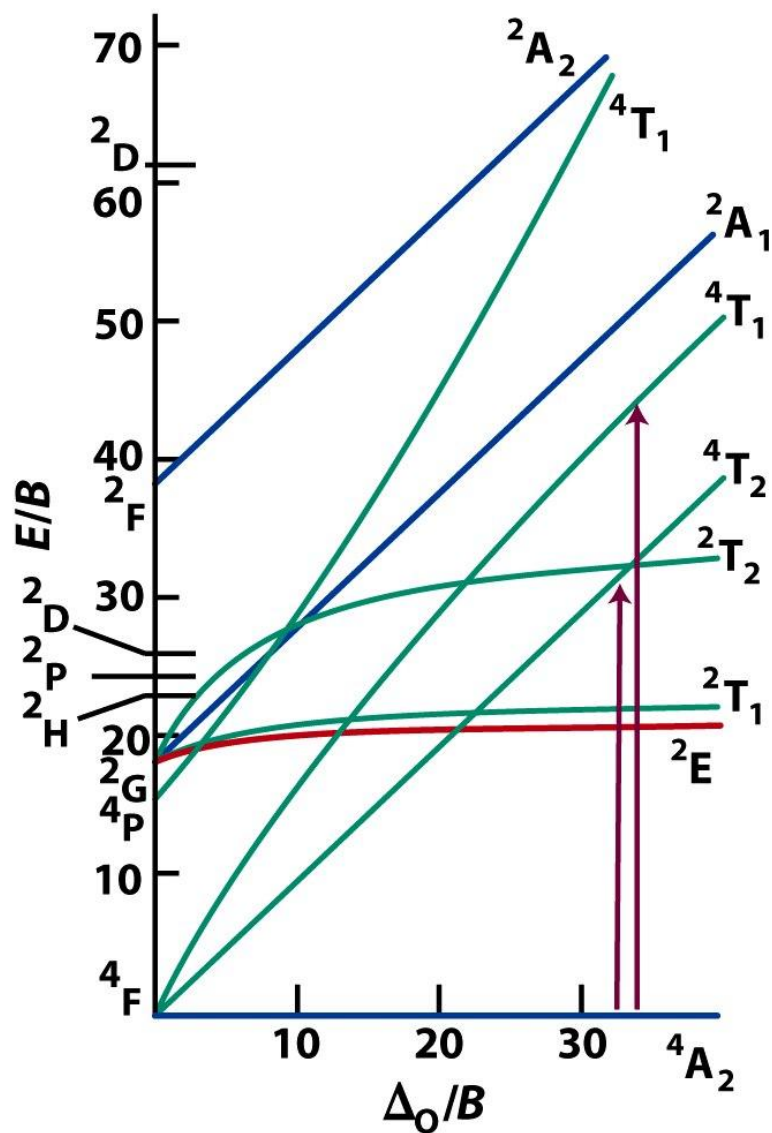
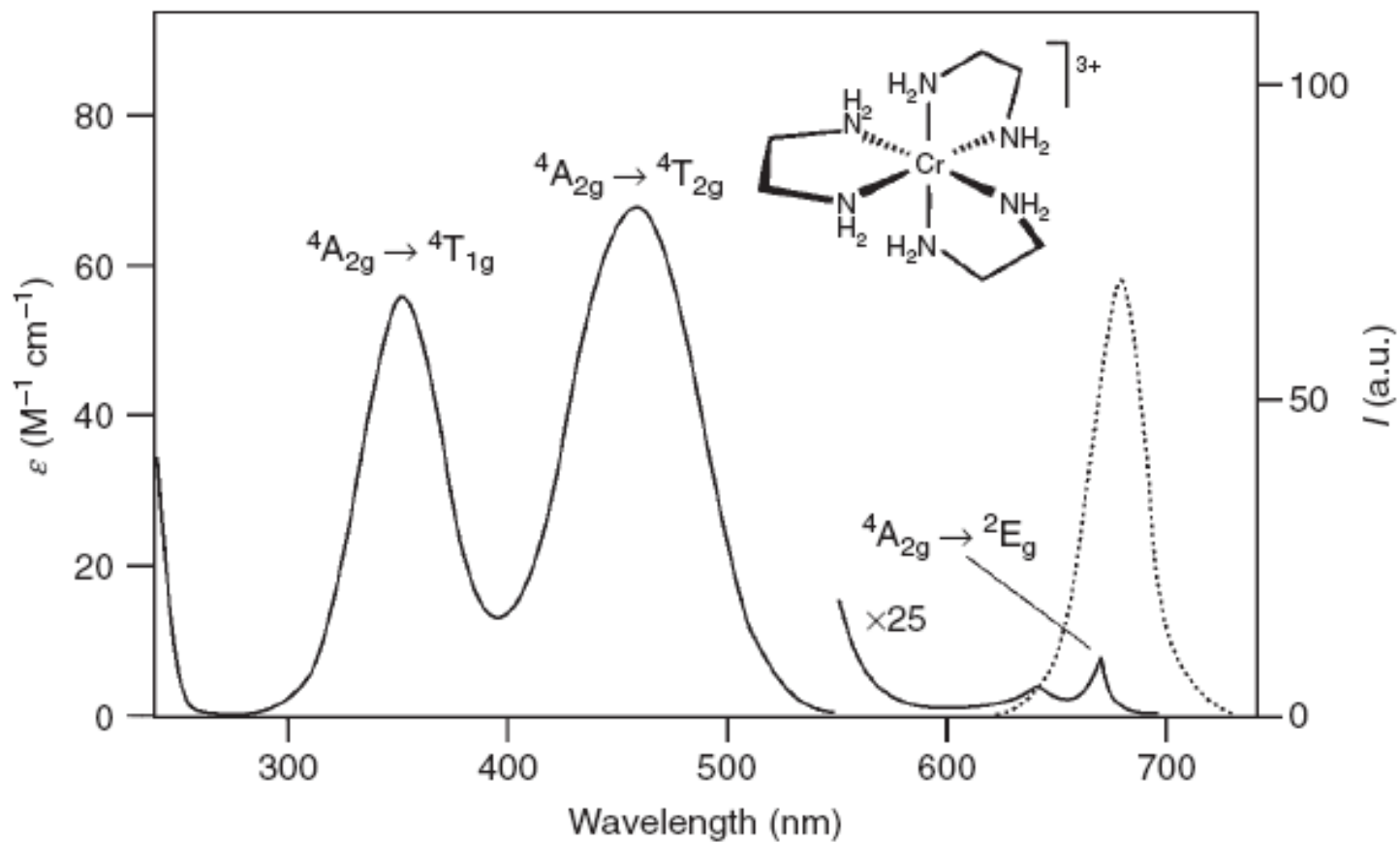


Figure 19-27

Shriver & Atkins Inorganic Chemistry, Fourth Edition

© 2006 by D. F. Shriver, P. W. Atkins, T. L. Overton, J. P. Rourke, M. T. Weller, and F. A. Armstrong

Absorption and emission spectra of $[\text{Cr}(\text{en})_3]^{3+}$



Jablonski diagram of $[\text{Cr}(\text{en})_3]^{3+}$

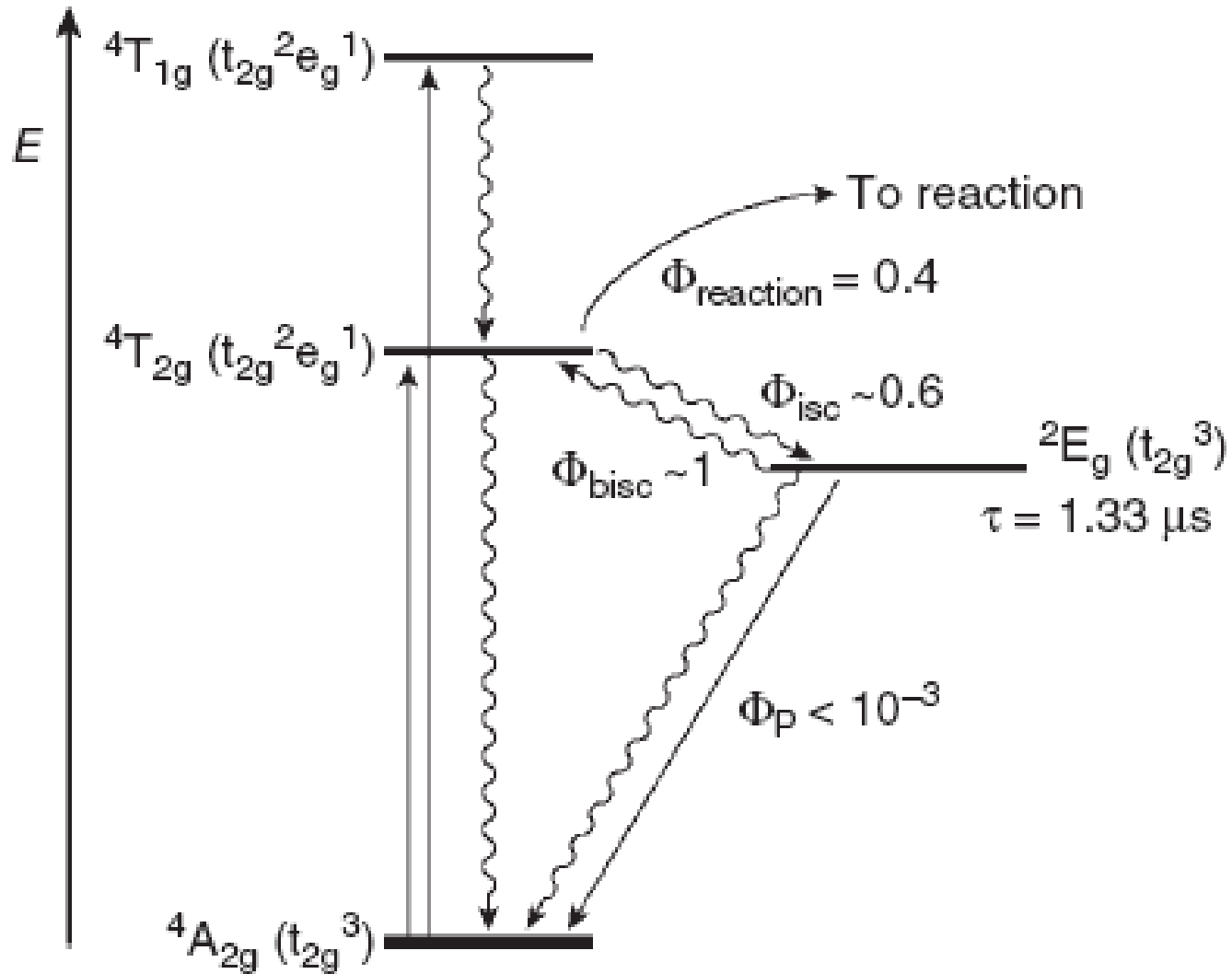
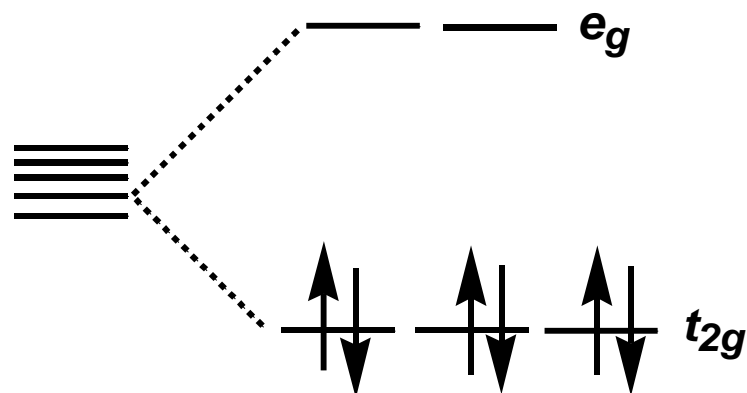
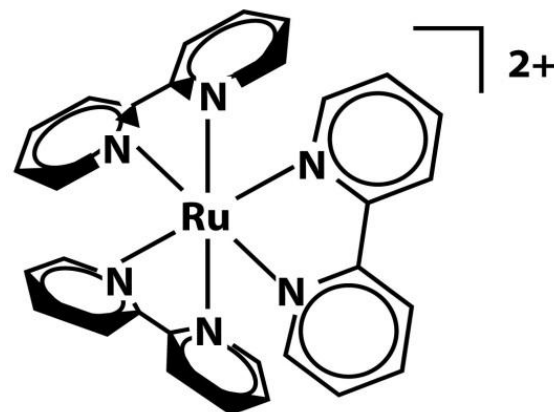
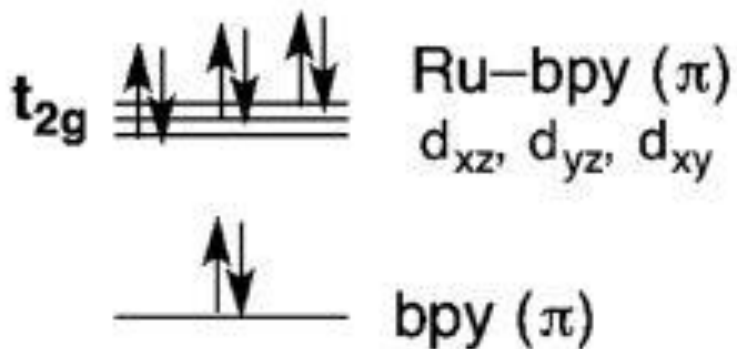
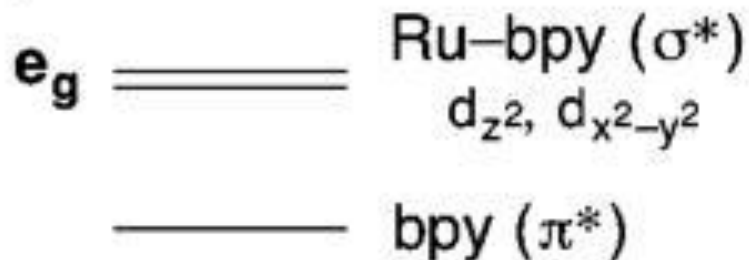
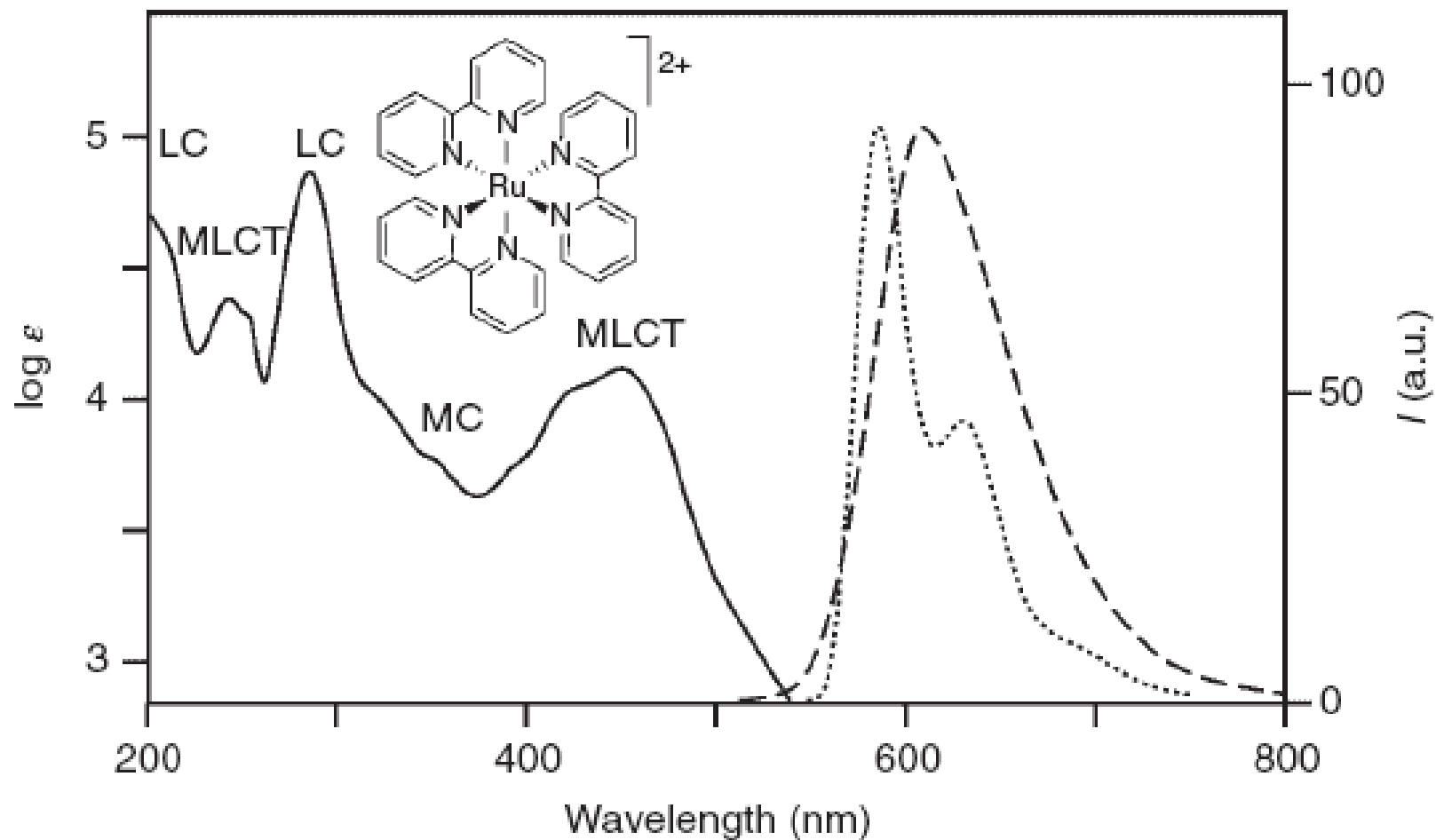


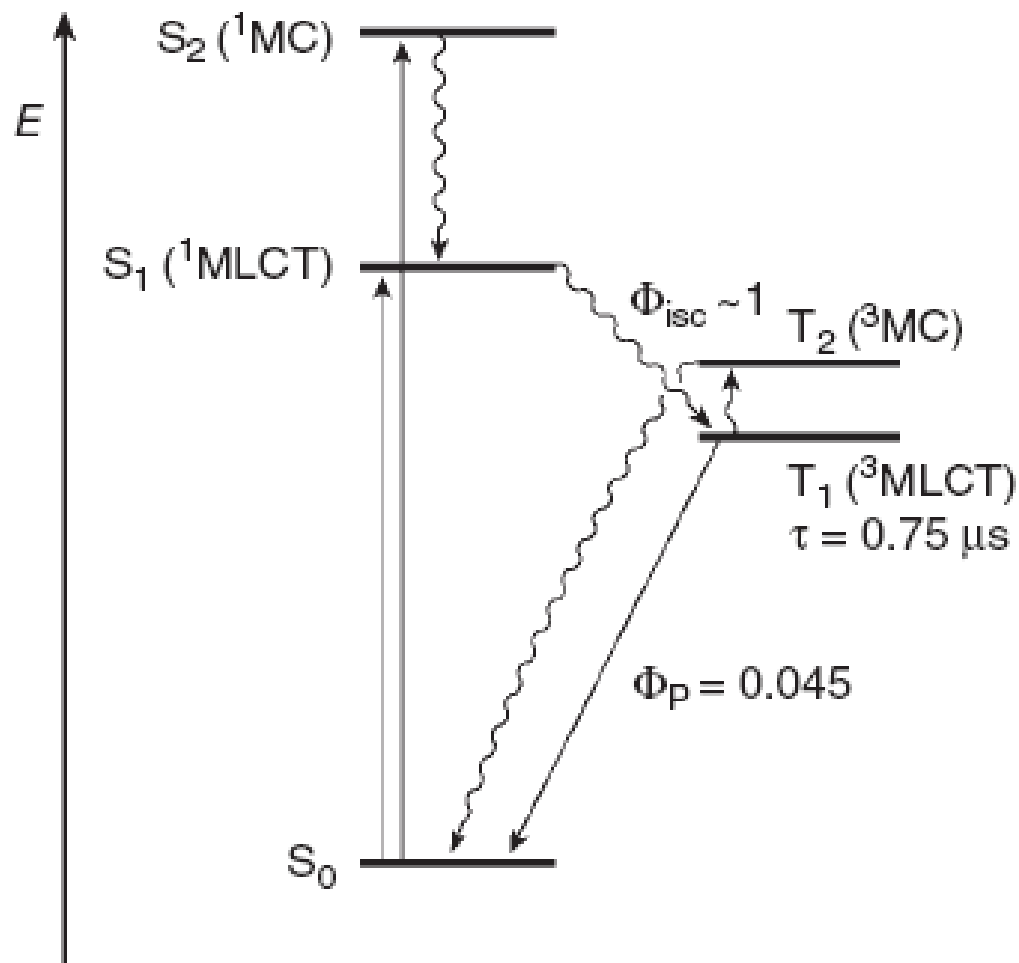
Diagram of frontier orbitals of $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]^{2+}$



Absorption and emission spectra of $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]^{2+}$



Jablonski diagram of $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]^{2+}$



*The excited state as a **new molecule***

Properties which vary from ground-state molecules to excited-state molecules:

- ✓ Lifetime;
- ✓ Energy;
- ✓ Geometry;
- ✓ Dipole moments;
- ✓ Electron transfer;
- ✓ Proton transfer;
- ✓ Aggregation.

Lifetime

Lifetime of excited states which decay following processes with first-order rate constant

$$\tau(^*A) = \frac{1}{k_p + k_r + k_{nr}} = \frac{1}{\sum_j k_j}$$

10^{-12} s – tens of s

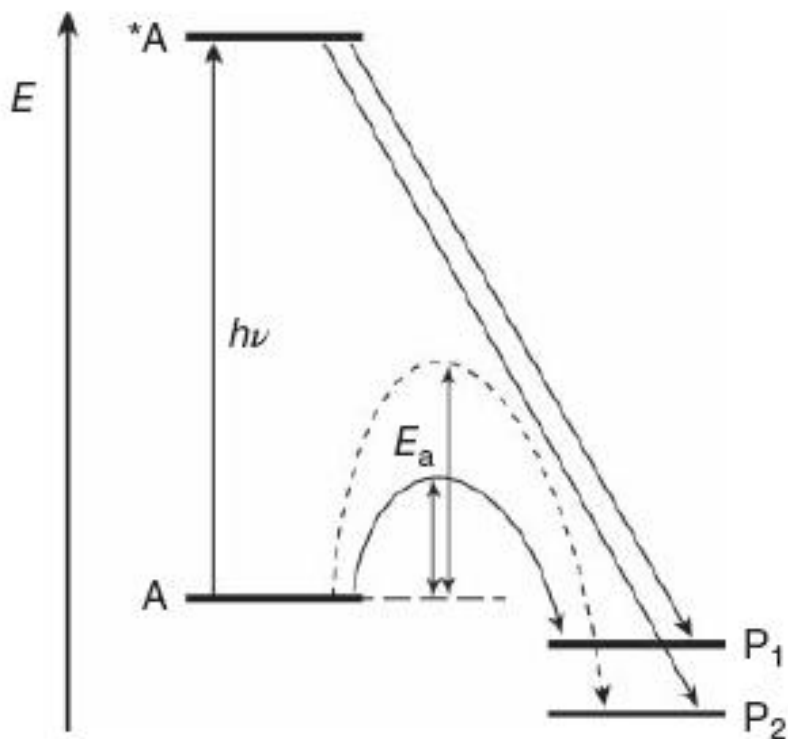
Energy

The **energy** of an excited state is taken as the energy difference between the lowest vibrational levels of the excited state and the corresponding ground state.

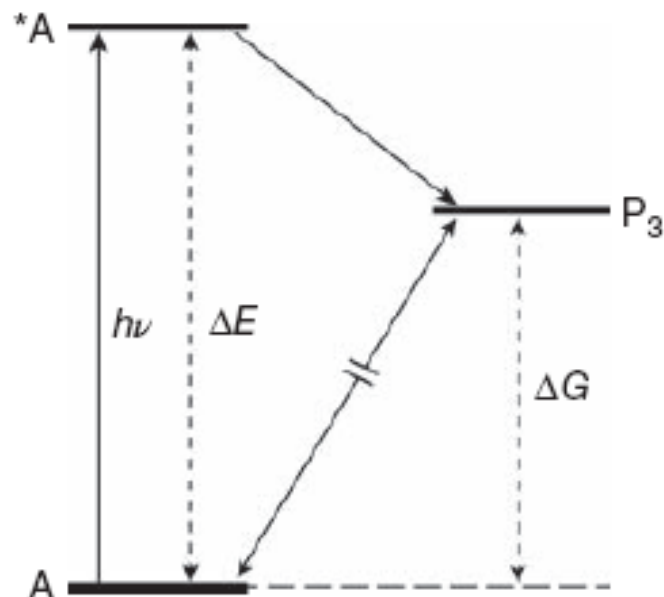
$150 - 1250 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} > E_{gs}$

Energy and reaction paths

Kinetic aspects



Thermodynamic aspects



In photochemical reactions **selectivity** is assured by the **peculiar electronic structure** of the excited state.

Geometry

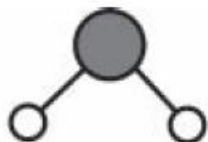
Since the **electronic configuration** of the excited state is significantly **different** from that of the ground state, it is then reasonable to expect that the **geometry** of the excited state is **different** from that of the ground state.

Geometry

Ground state

Excited state

H₂O

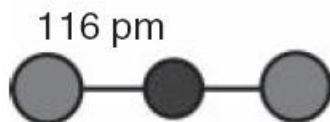


1A_1 $\mu \neq 0$

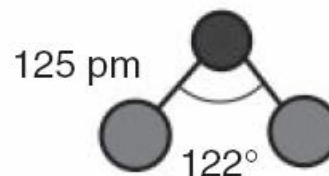


$^3\Pi_u$ $\mu = 0$

CO₂

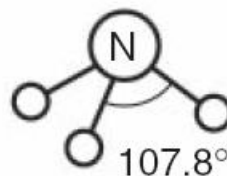


$^1\Sigma_g$ $\mu = 0$

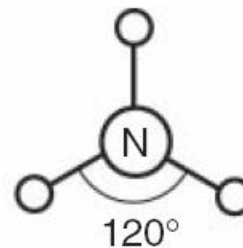


1B_2 $\mu \neq 0$

NH₃

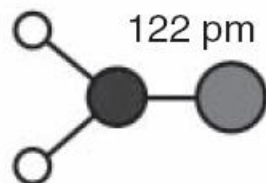


1A_1

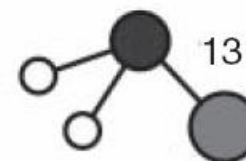


$^1A_2''$

CH₂O



1A_1 $\mu = 2.3$ D

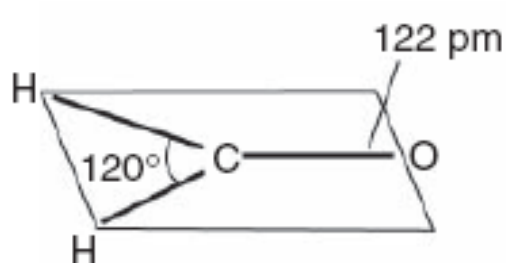


$\mu = 1.3$ D
 $^3A''$ ($n \rightarrow \pi^*$)

Dipole moments

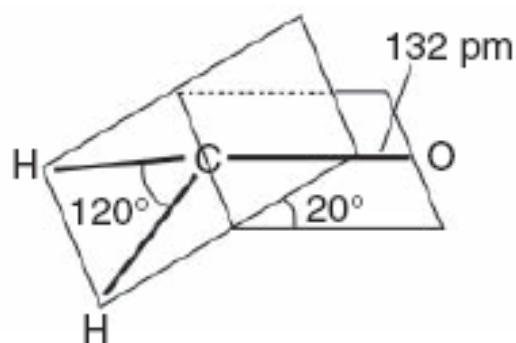
Dipole moments of molecules in electronic excited states might be different from those of the molecules in the ground state, as a consequence of both changes in geometry and redistribution of electrons.

Formaldehyde



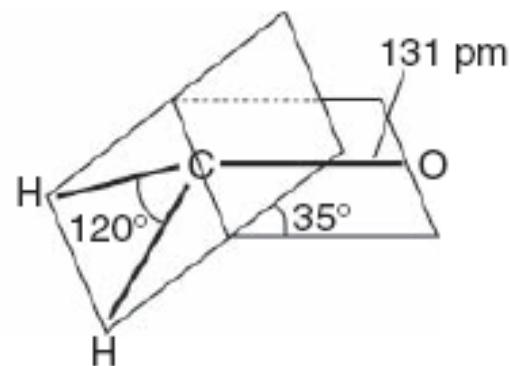
1A_1

(a) Planar, $\mu = 2.3$ D



$^1A_2(n, \pi^*)$

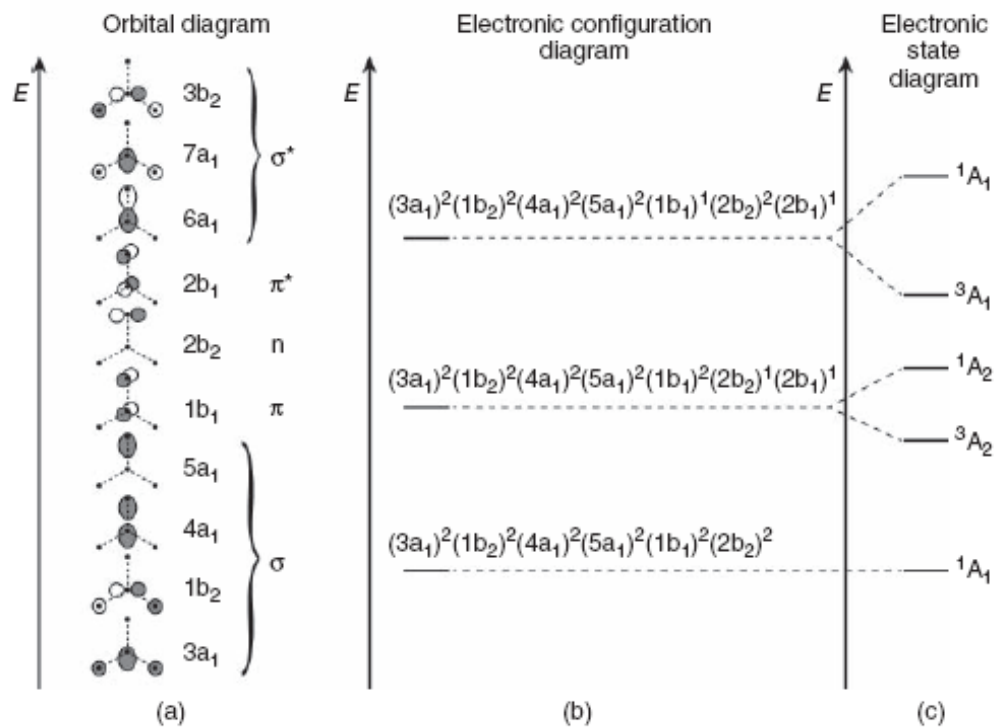
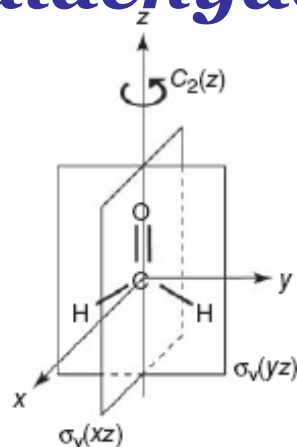
(b) Bent, $\mu = 1.6$ D



$^3A_2(n, \pi^*)$

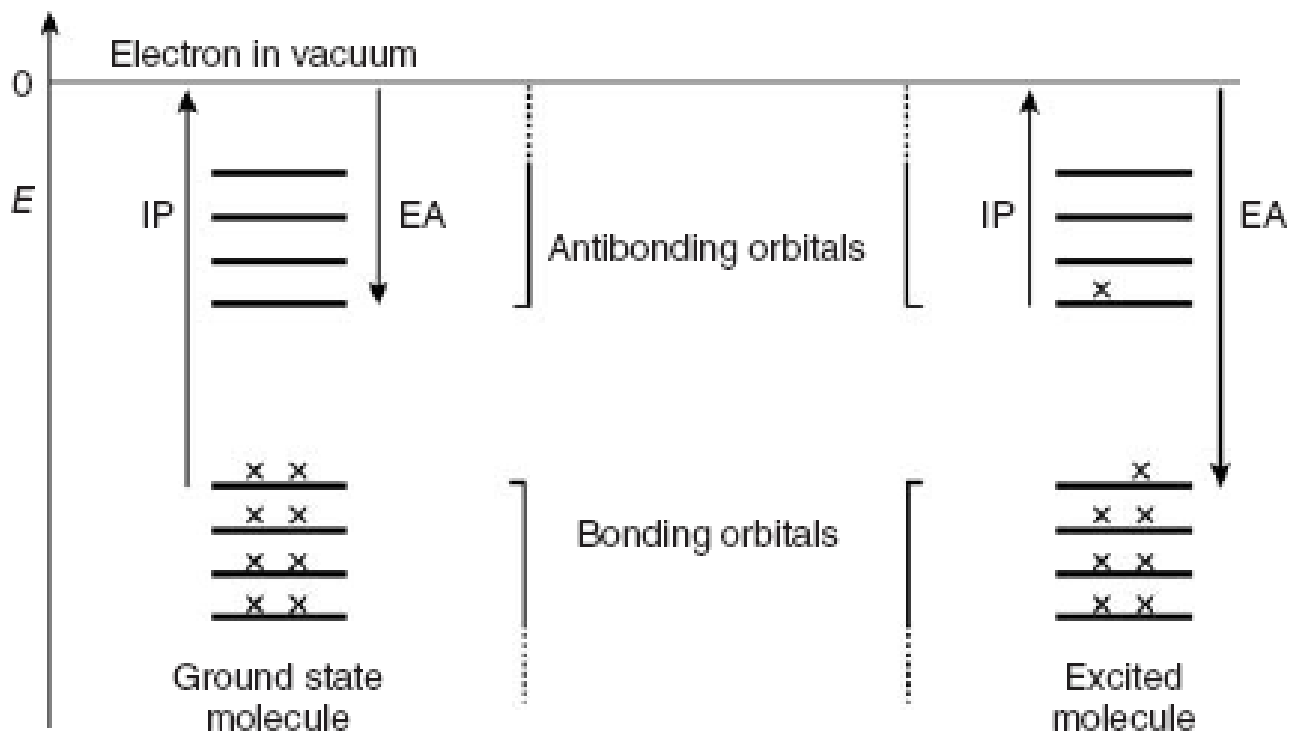
(c) Bent, $\mu = 1.3$ D

Formaldehyde

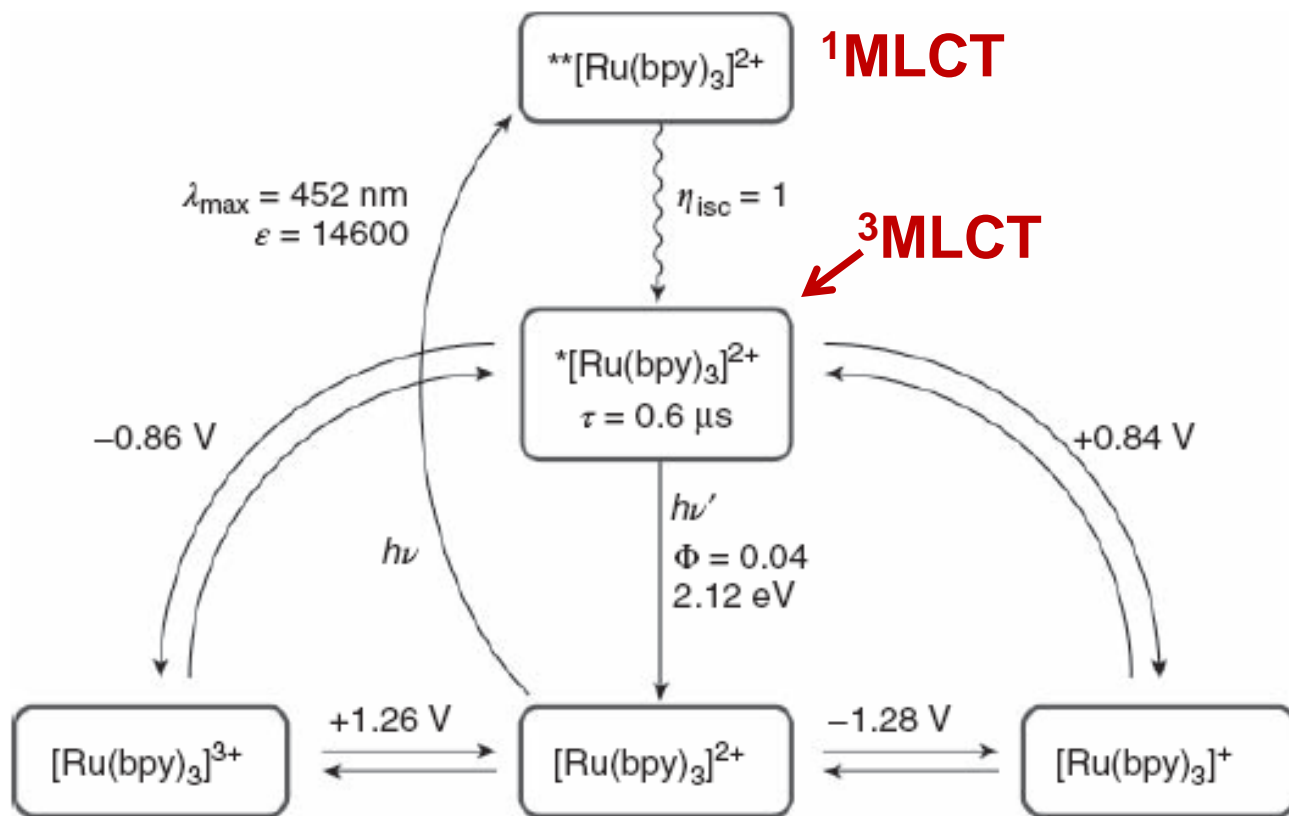
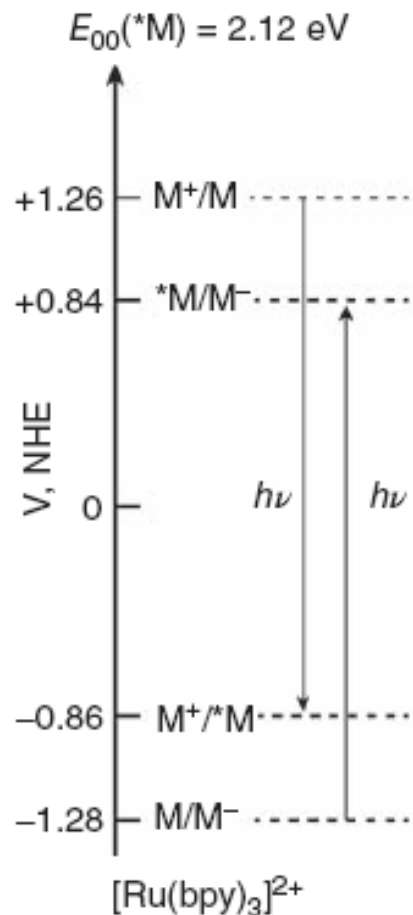


Electron transfer

Molecules in electronically excited states are both **better electron donors** and **better electron acceptors** than when they are in their **ground state**.



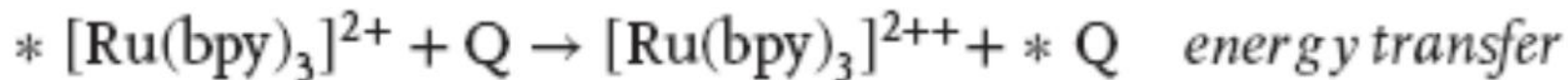
Electrochemistry of the excited state



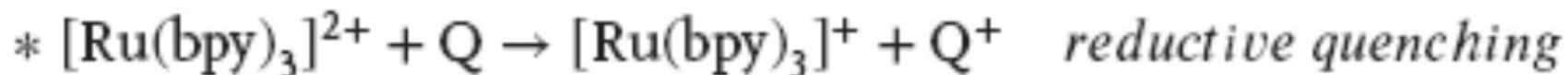
Better **electron donor** for
2.12 V (1.26 V + 0.86 V)

Better **electron acceptor**
for 2.12 V (0.84 V + 1.28 V)

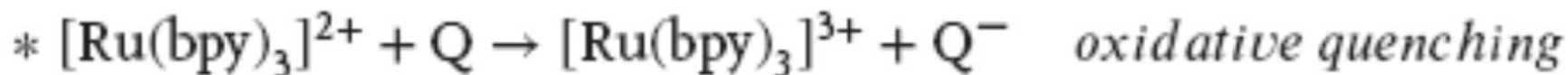
Possible processes of the excited state



Better electron acceptor for 2.12 V (0.84 V + 1.28 V)

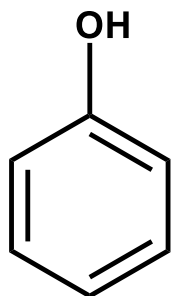


Better electron donor for 2.12 V (1.26 V + 0.86 V)



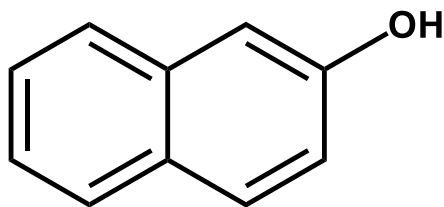
Proton transfer

Charge redistribution caused by light excitation is also expected to influence the acid-base behaviour of a molecule.



$$\text{pK}_a(\text{S}_0) = 10$$

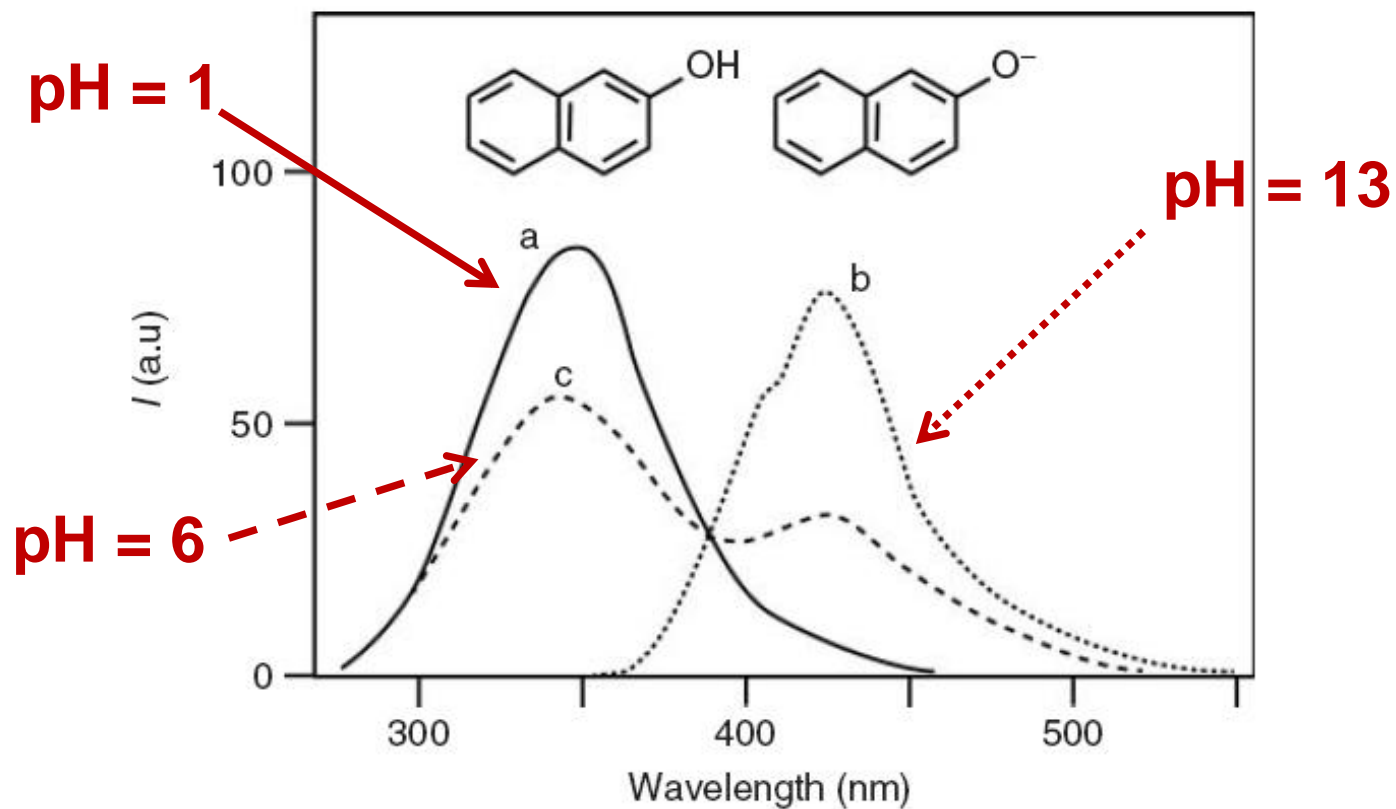
$$\text{pK}_a(\text{S}_1) = 4$$



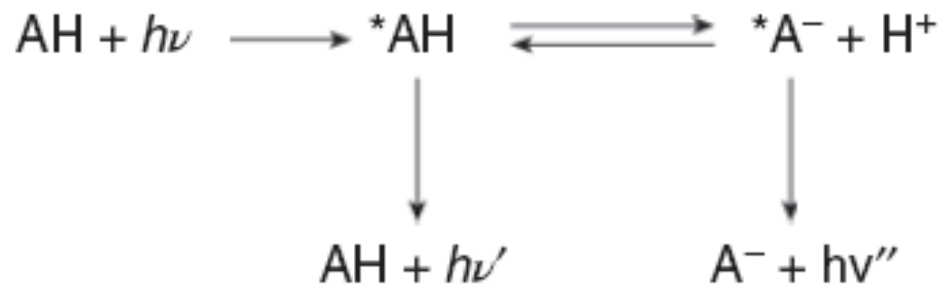
$$\text{pK}_a(\text{S}_0) = 9.5$$

$$\text{pK}_a(\text{S}_1) = 3.1$$

Proton transfer



Adiabatic proton transfer



Excimers and exciplexes

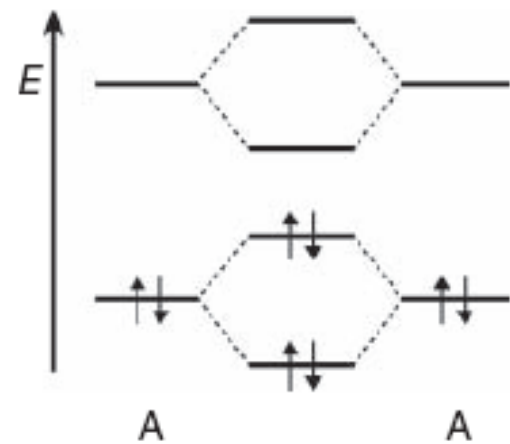
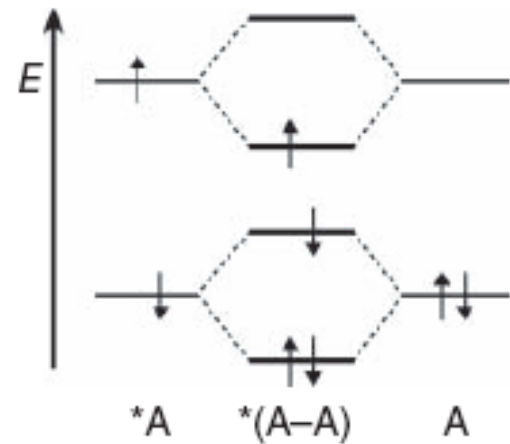
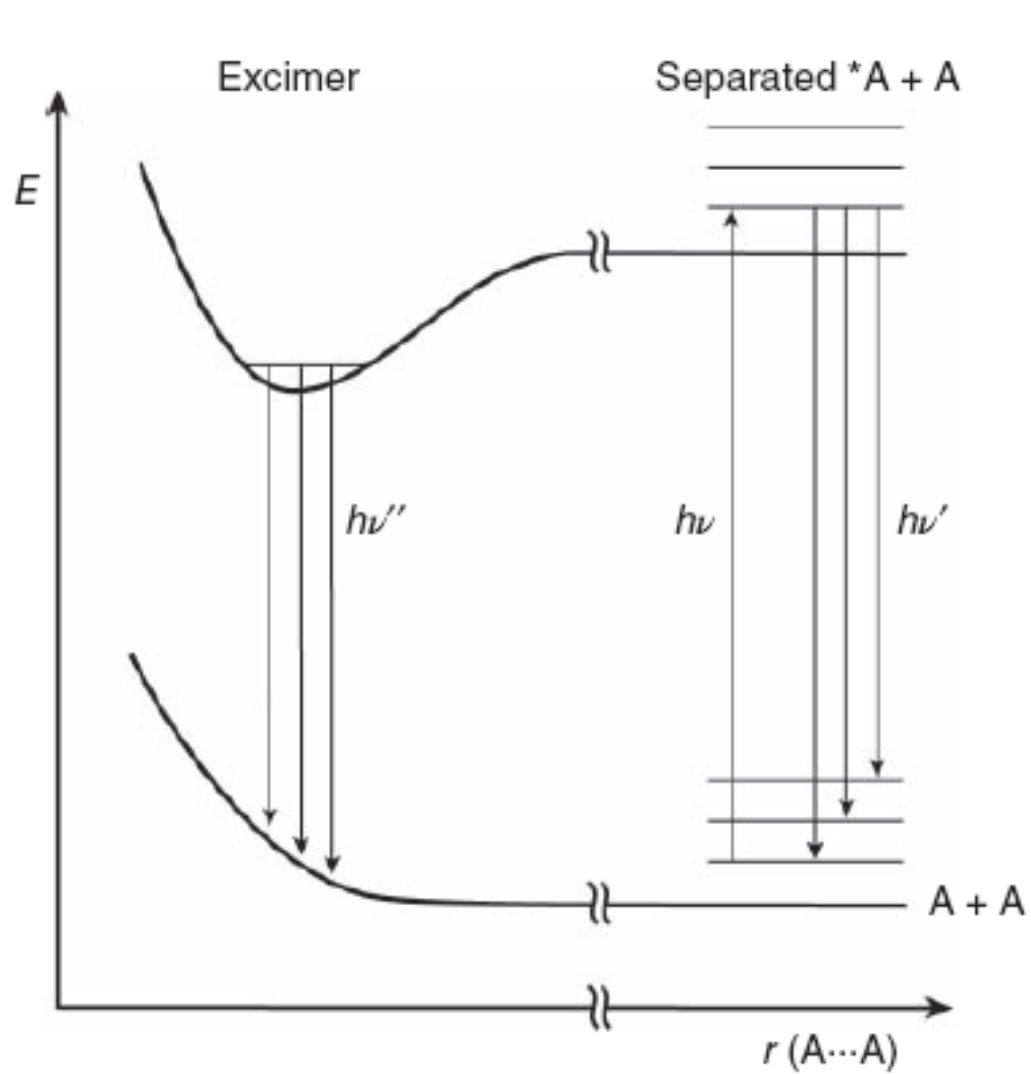
Excimer: $^*A + A \rightarrow ^*[A - A] \text{ excimer}$



Exciplex: $^*A + B \rightarrow ^*[A - B] \text{ exciplex}$



Excimers and exciplexes



Emission spectrum of pyrene

