Basic Fluorescence Instrumentation

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Slide acknowledgements Dr. Theodore Hazlett, Dr. Joachim Müller

Fluorometers

Chronos (ISS Inc., Champaign, IL, USA)

Fluorometer Components

Light Source

Sample Compartment

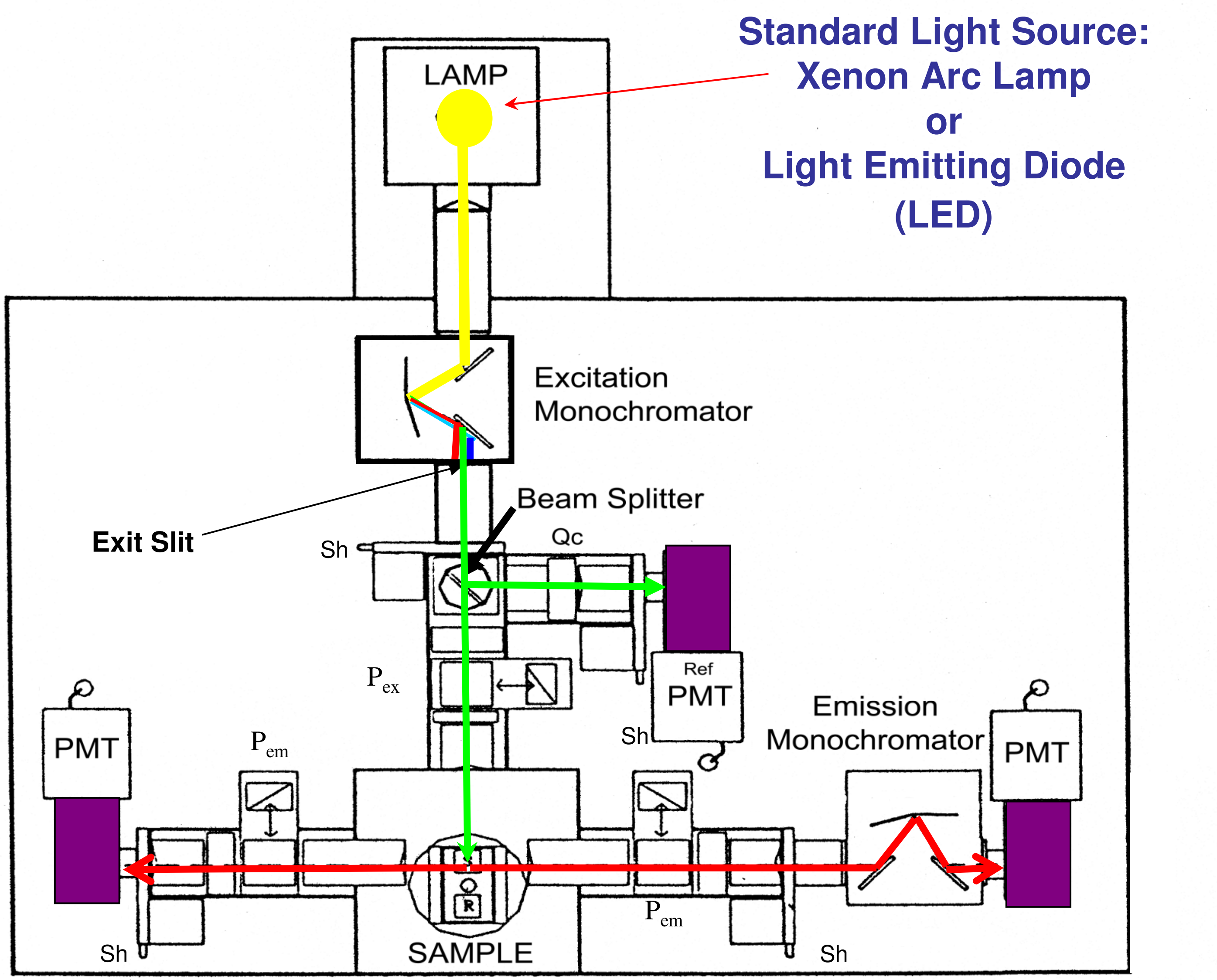
Detectors

Wavelength Selection

Polarizers

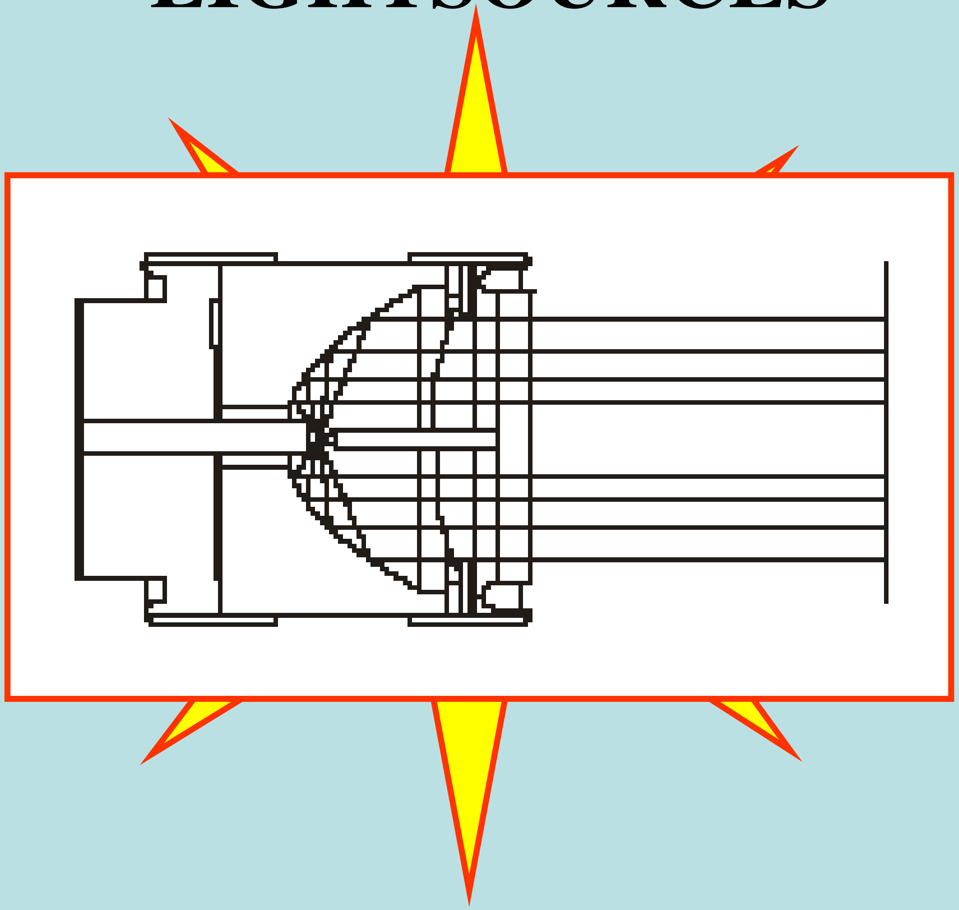
Computer & Software

The Laboratory Fluorometer



ISS (Champaign, IL, USA) Photon Counting Fluorometer

LIGHTSOURCES

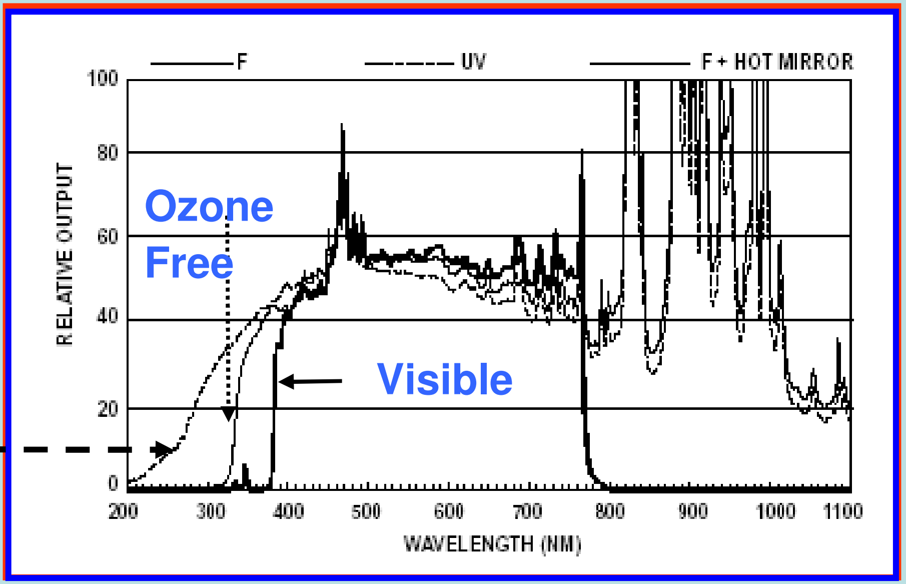


Lamp Light Sources: Arc Lamps (1)

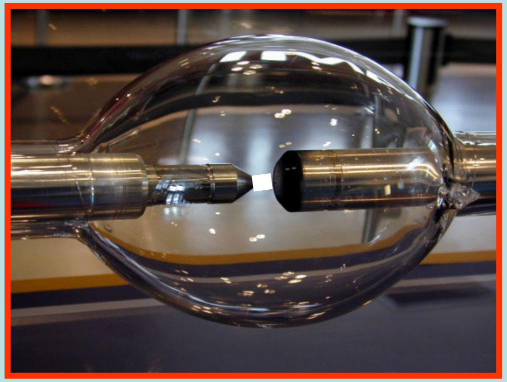
1. Xenon Arc Lamp

Lamp Emission Spectra:

UV

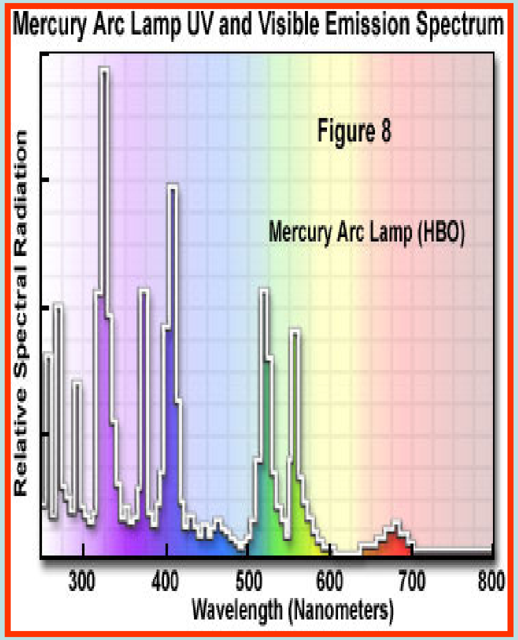


(wide range of wavelengths)



15 kW Xenon arc lamp

2. High Pressure Mercury Lamps

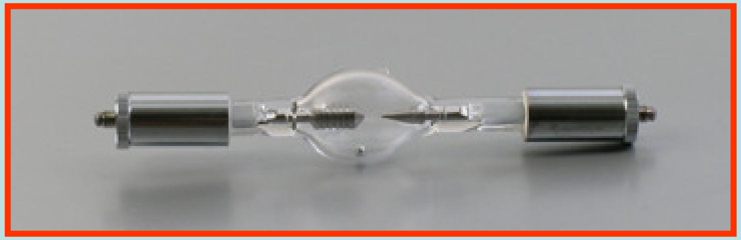


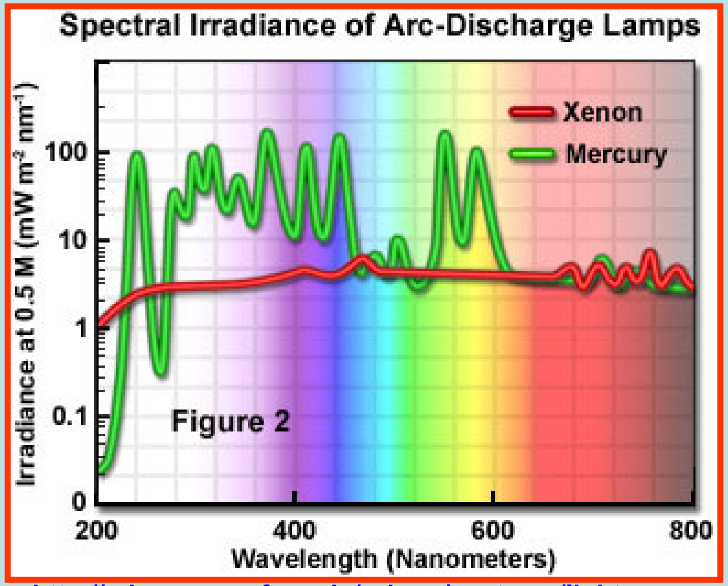
(High Intensities but concentrated in specific lines)

http://microscopy.fsu.edu/primer/anatomy/lightsources

Lamp Light Sources: Arc Lamps (2)

3. Mercury-Xenon Arc Lamp (greater intensities in the UV)





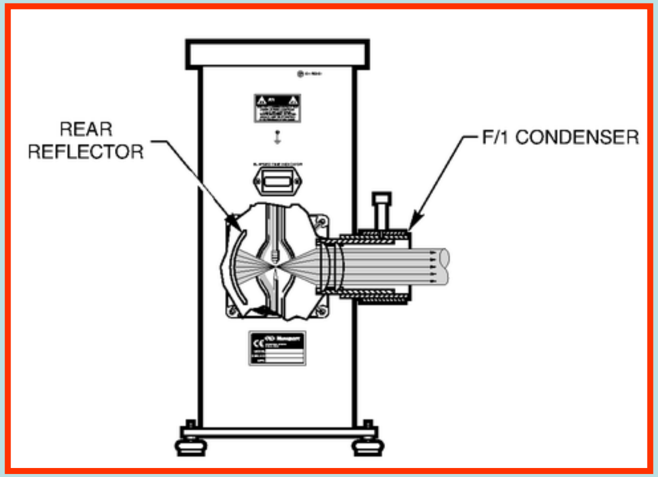
http://microscopy.fsu.edu/primer/anatomy/lightsources

ARC LAMP ISSUES:

- Lifetime
- Stability (flicker + drifts)
- Safety
  - •high internal gas pressures (potential eye damage)
  - •hot
  - •never stare into burning lamp
  - •do not touch with bare hands (fingerprints on quartz lamp envelope)

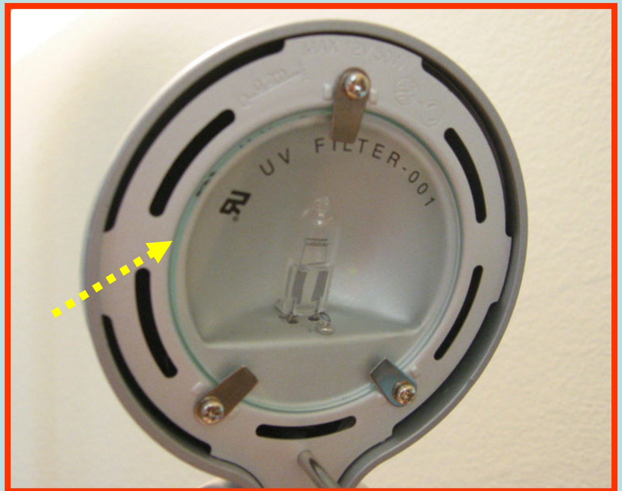
LAMP HOUSING + OPTICS :

Conventional OR **Compact**



Lamp Light Sources: Incandescent

4. Tungsten-Halogen Lamps



A Tungsten-Halogen lamp with a filter (arrow) to remove UV light.

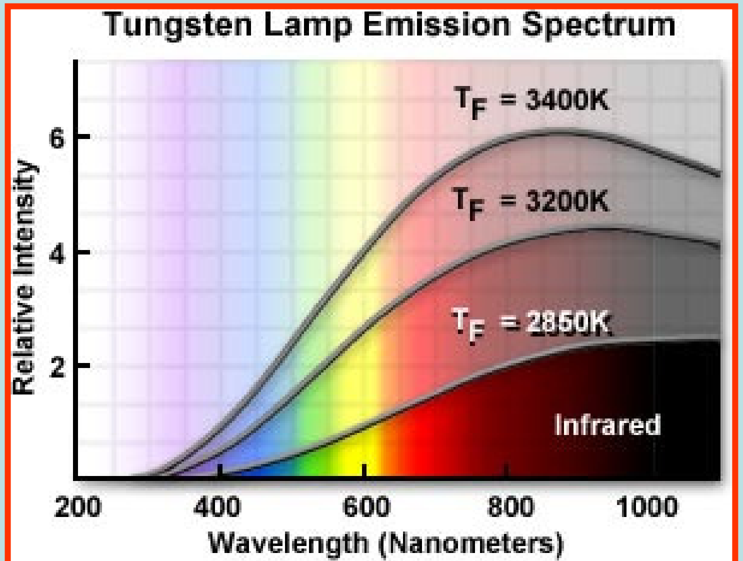
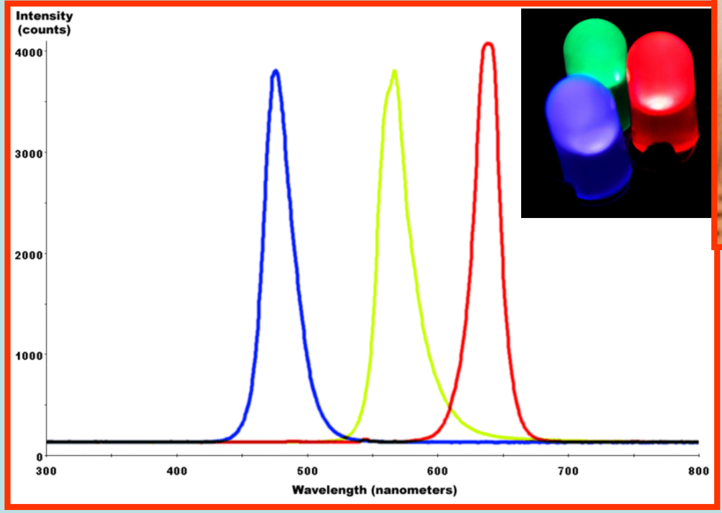


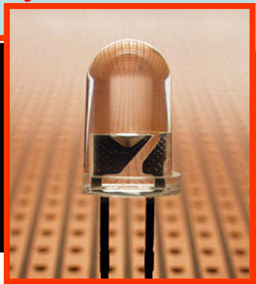
Figure 2

The color temperature varies with the applied voltage (average values range from about 2200 K to 3400 K).

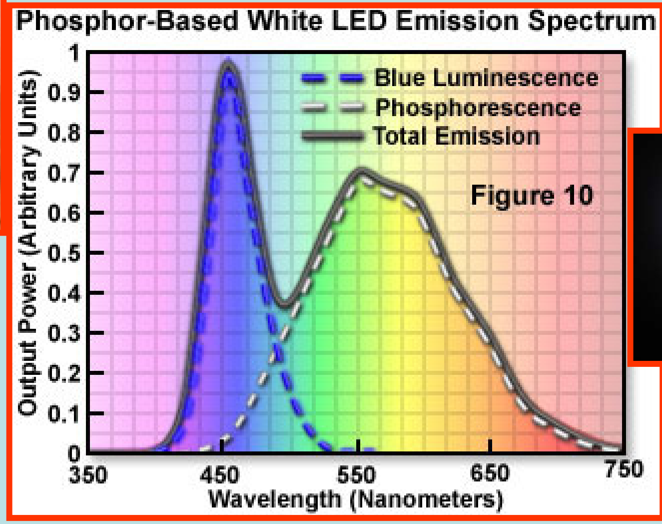
Lamp Light Sources: Semiconductor (1)

5. Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)

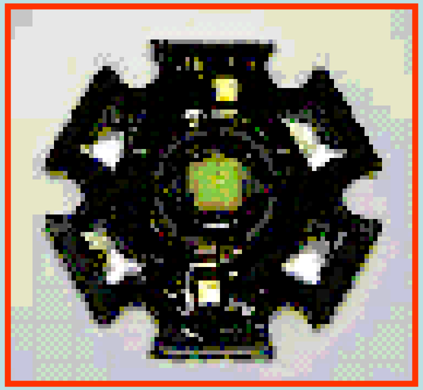




Spectra for blue, yellow-green, and red LEDs. **FWHM** spectral bandwidth is approximately 25 nm for all three colors.



White LED: typical emission spectrum



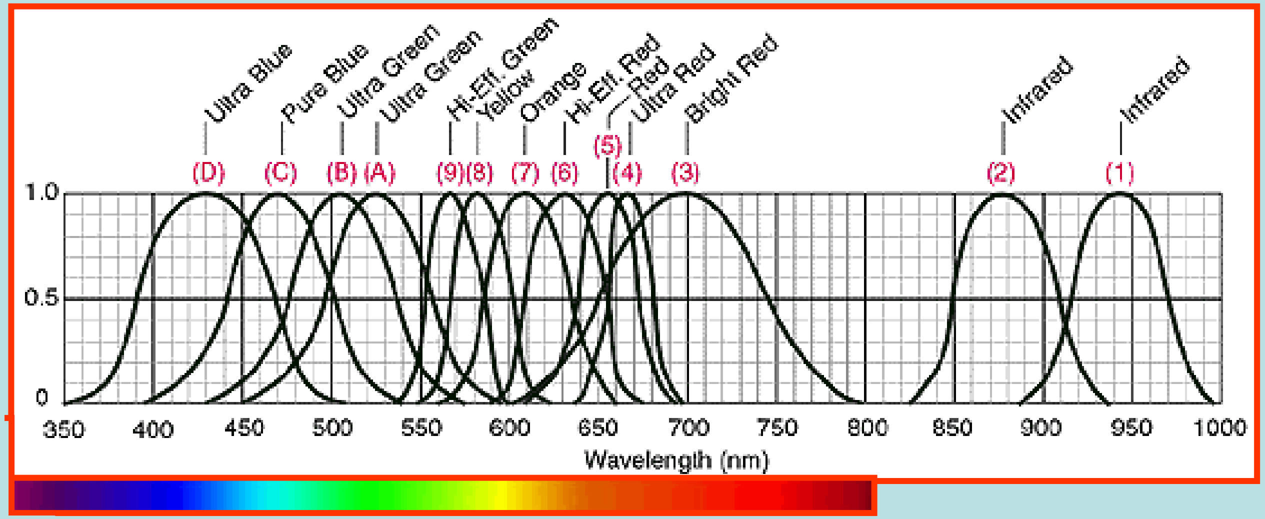
Superbright LED

Lamp	Luminous Flux (Lumens)	Spectral Irradiance (Milliwatt/Square Meter/Nanometer)
HBO 100 Watts	2200	30 (350-700 nm)
XBO 75 Watts	1000	7 (350-700 nm)
Tungsten 100 Watts	2800	< 1 (350-700 nm)
LED (Blue, 450 nm)	160	6

Lamp Light Sources: Semiconductor (2)

5. Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)

Wavelengths from 260 nm to 2400 nm



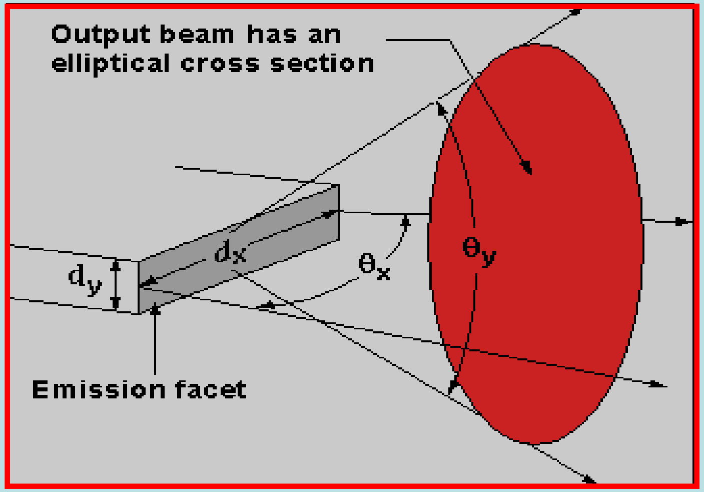
Deep – UV LEDs $\lambda \approx 260\ \text{nm}$

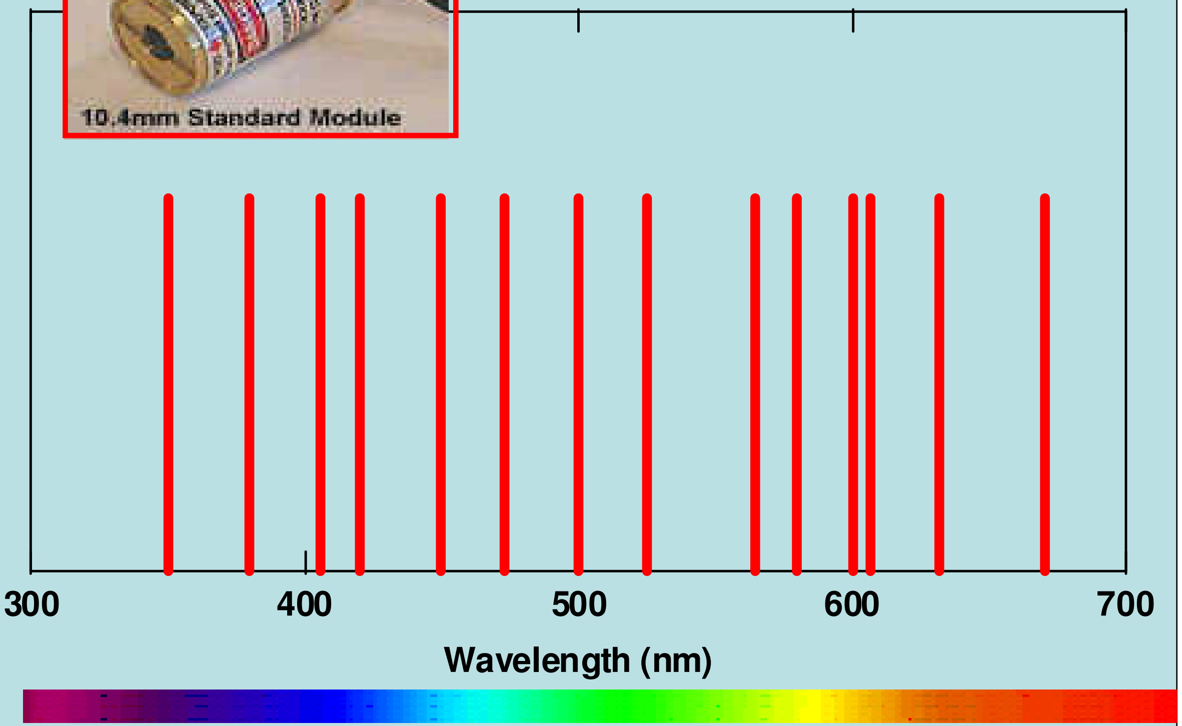
Lenslet

Reflector

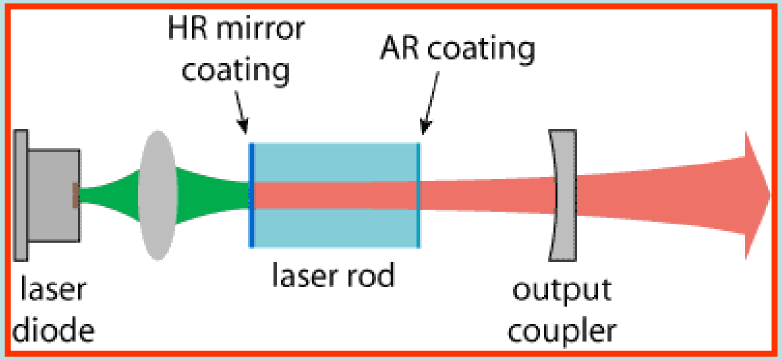
Near UV LED

Laser Light Sources: Diode Lasers





(DPSS) Diode-pumped solid state laser



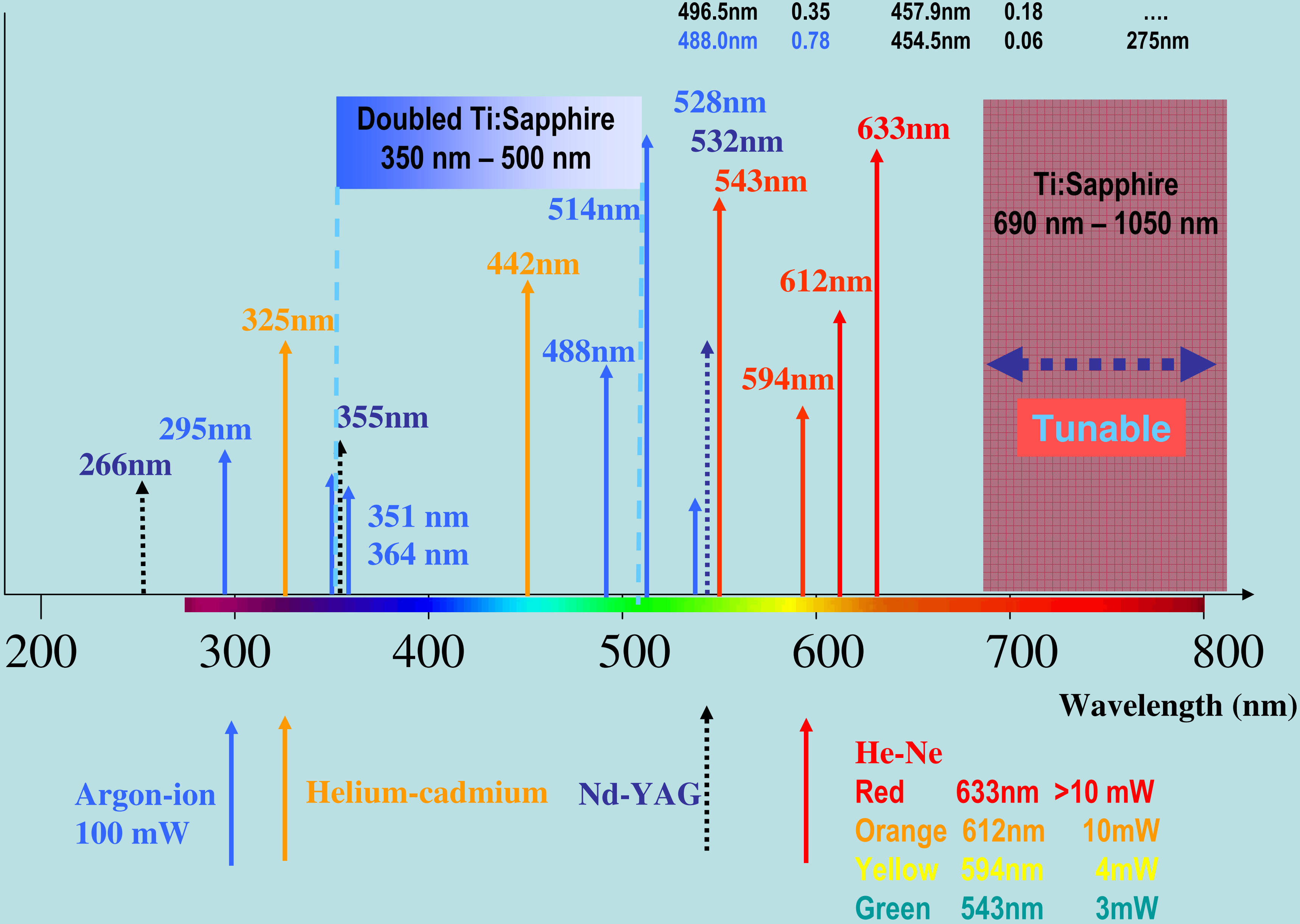
Many Wavelengths (nm) Available:

262, 266, 349, 351, 355, 375, 405, 415, 430, 440, 447, 473, 488, 523, 527, 532, 542, 555, 561, 584-593, 638, 655, 658, 671, 685, 785, 808, 852, 946, 980, 1047, 1053, 1064, 1080, 1313-1342, 1444, 1550

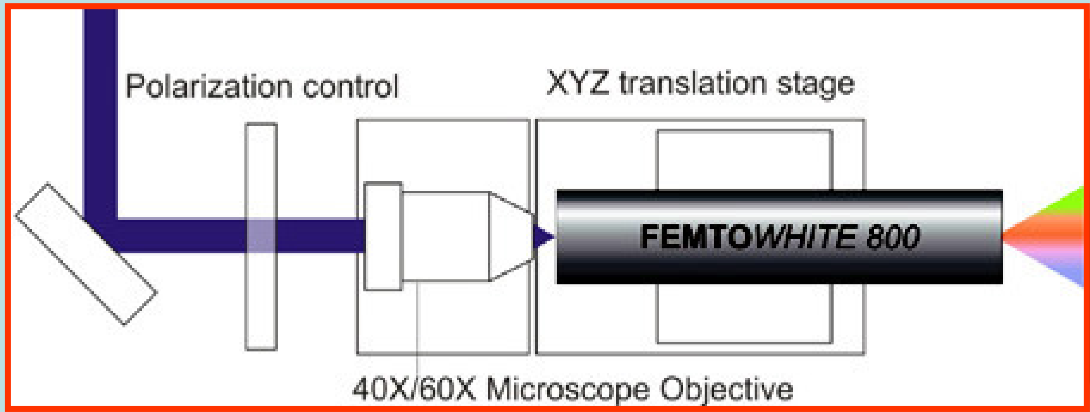
Laser Light Sources

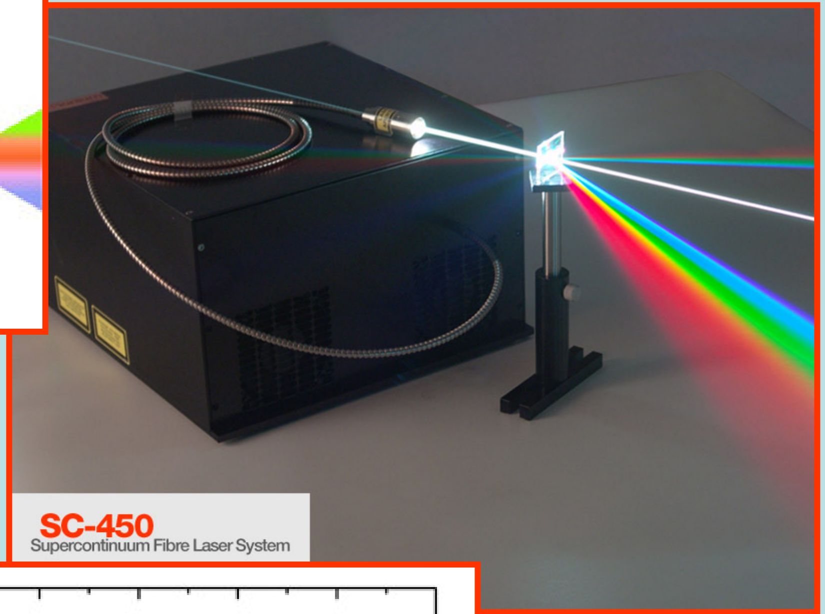
Argon Ion:

Wavelength	Rel Pwr	Wavelength	Rel Pwr	Wavelength
528.7nm	0.16	476.5nm	0.29	437nm
514.5nm	1.0	472.7nm	0.10	364nm
501.7nm	0.2	465.8nm	0.07	351nm
496.5nm	0.35	457.9nm	0.18	....
488.0nm	0.78	454.5nm	0.06	275nm

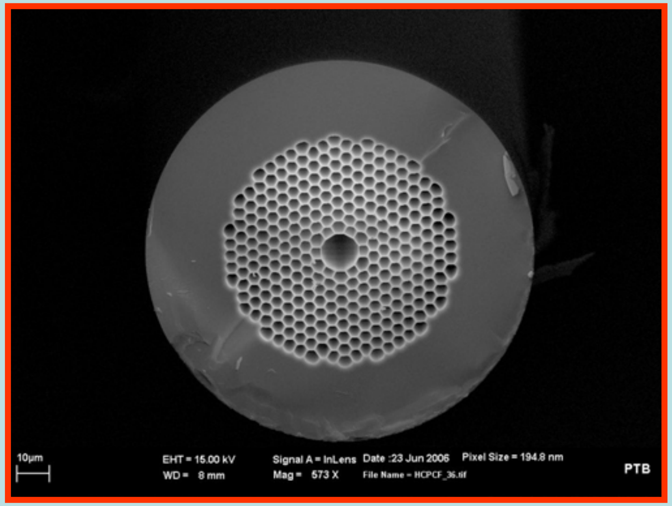


Supercontinuum White Light

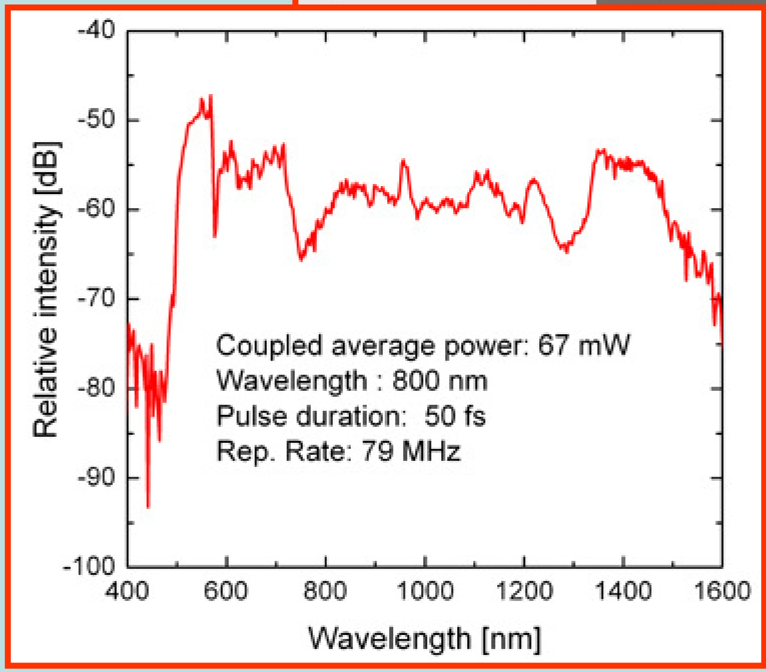




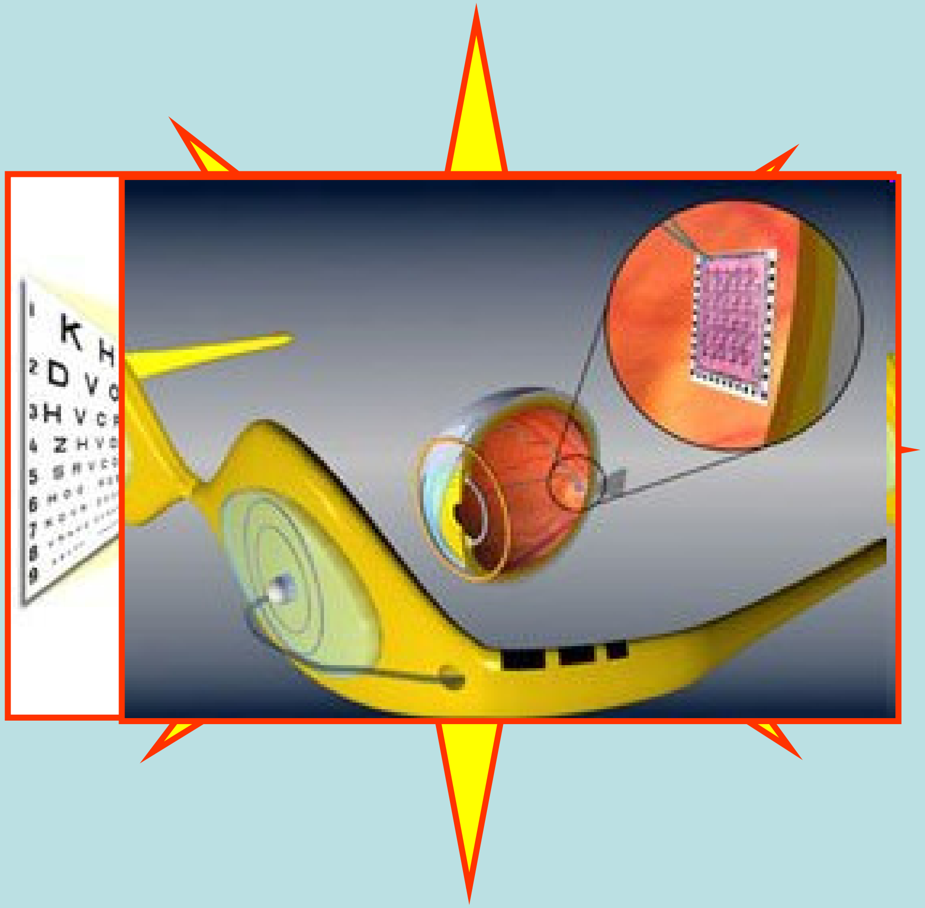
Ultrashort pulsed light
focused into photonic crystal fiber



Photonic crystal fiber optic



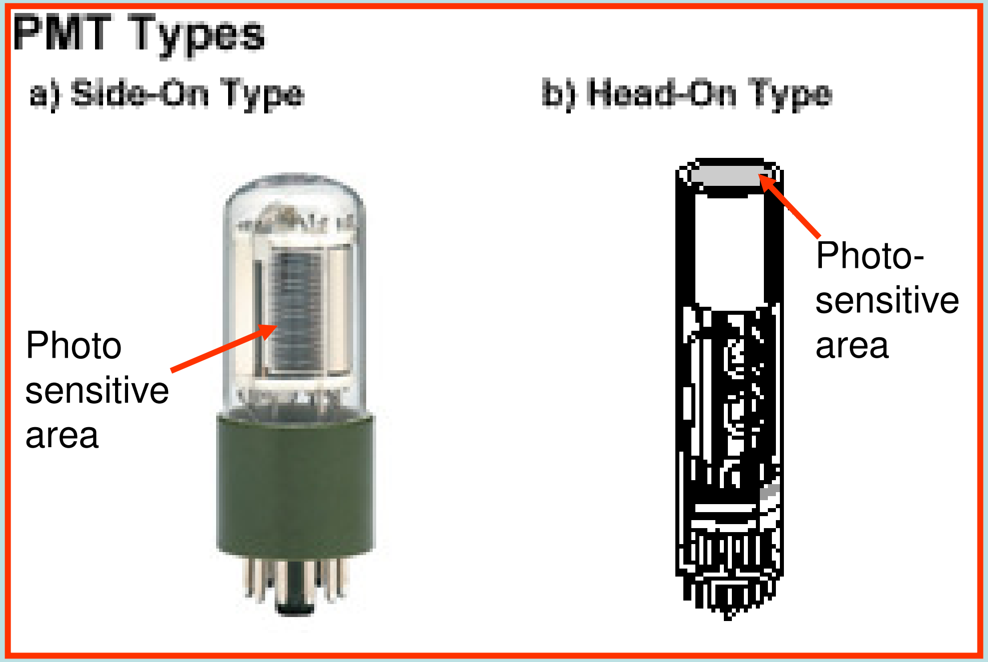
Detectors



Conversion of Light into an Electrical Signal

Non-Imaging Detector:

Photomultiplier (PMT)

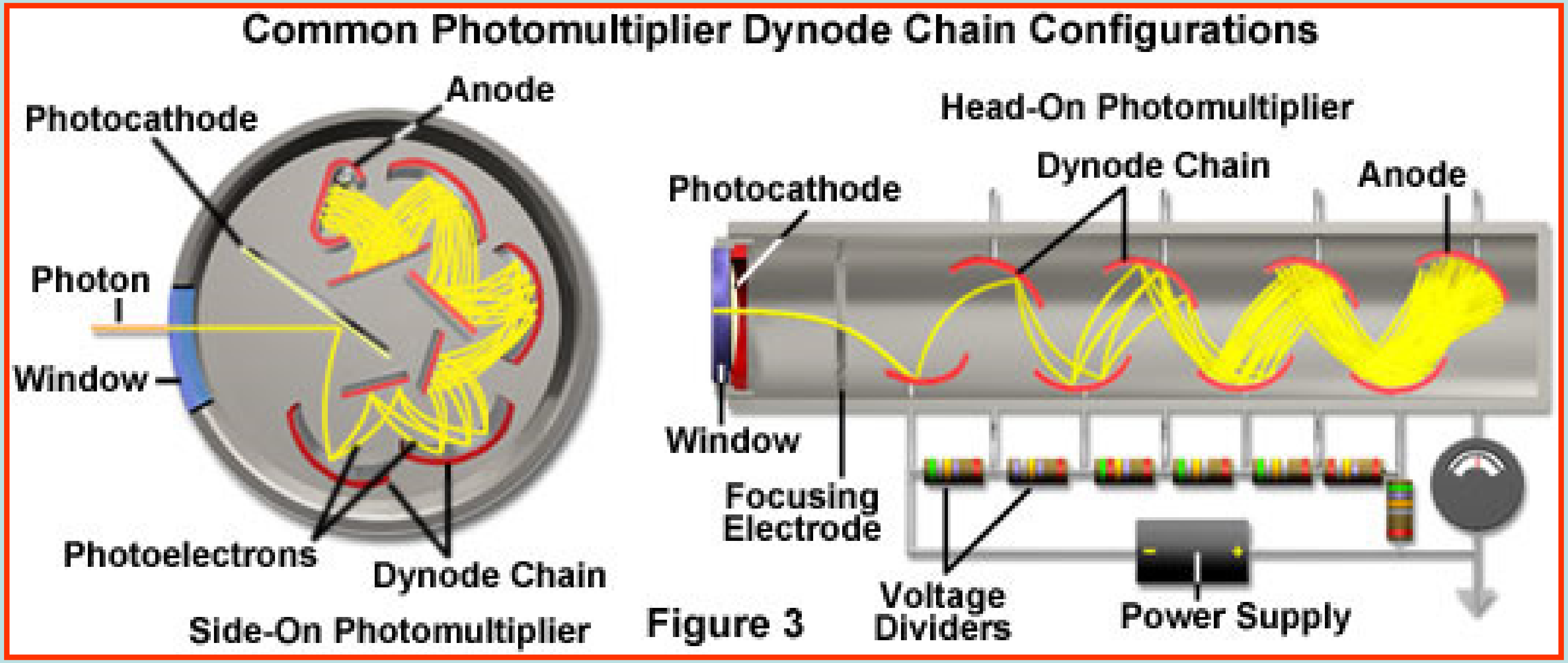


Imaging Detector: Microchannel Plate (MCP) PMT

MCP & Electronics
(ISS Inc. Champaign, IL USA)

PMT Geometries

Side-On PMT **Head-On PMT**



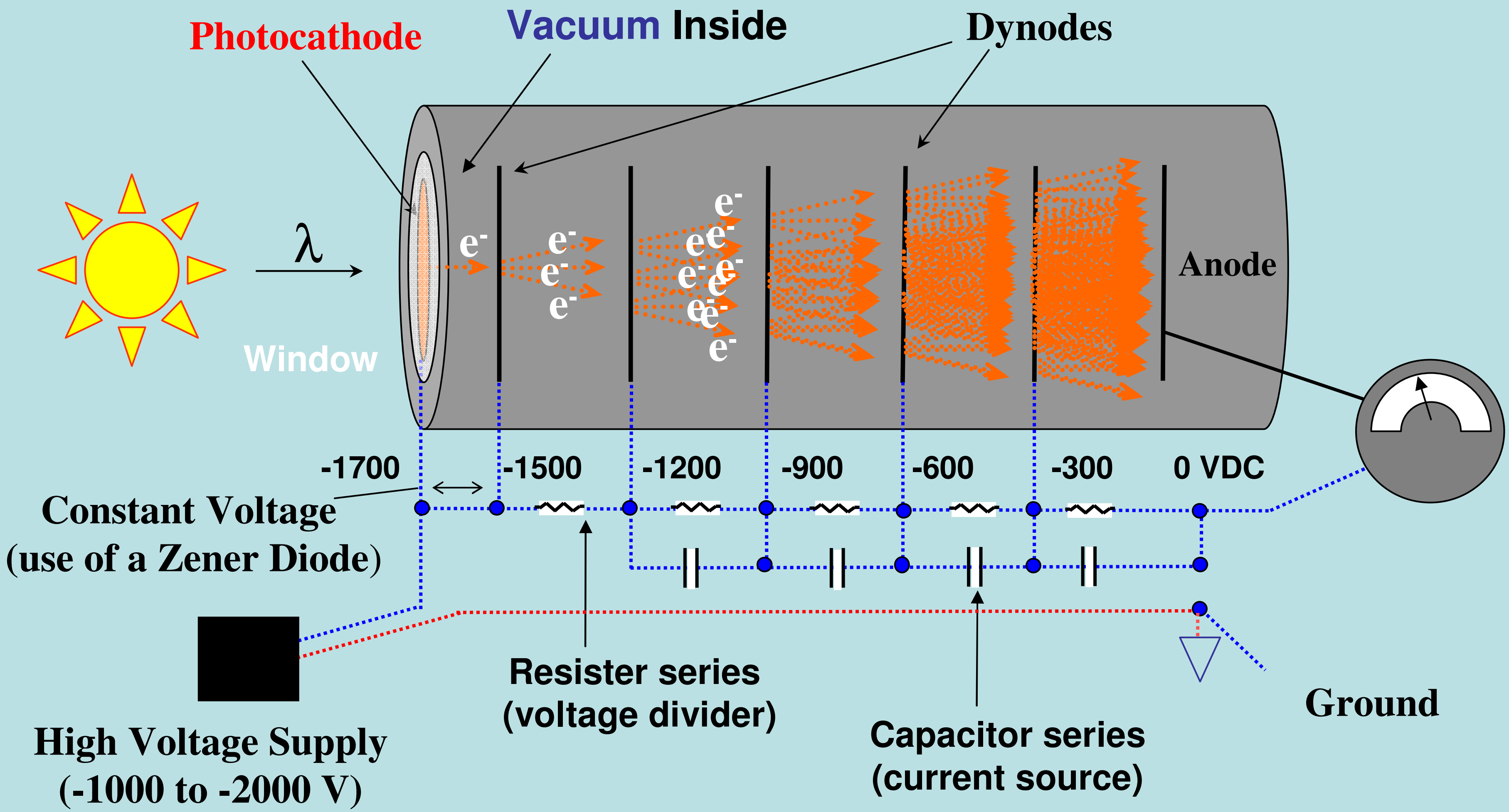
Opaque photocathode **Semitransparent Photocathode**

Slightly enhanced quantum efficiency

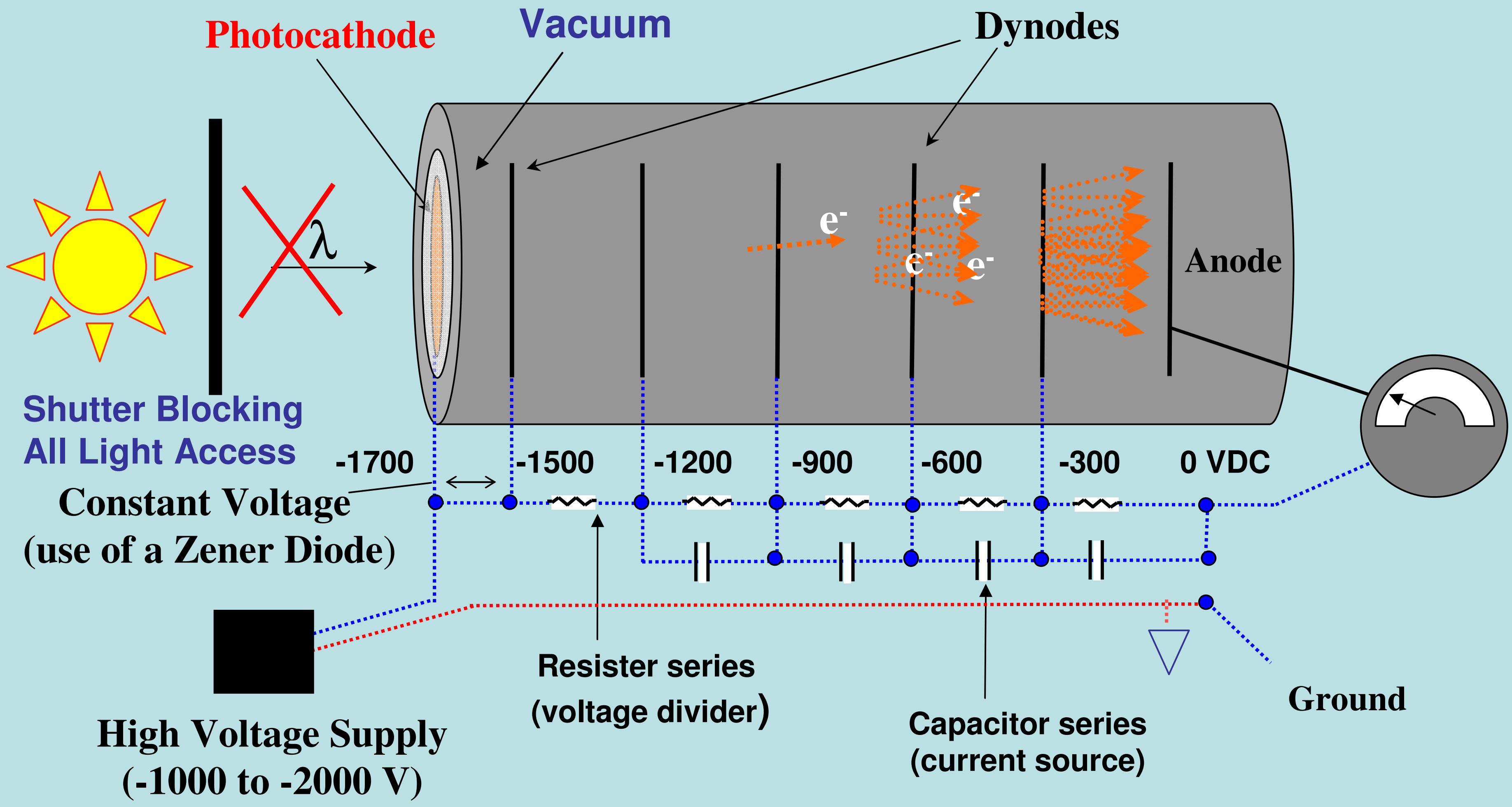
Smaller afterpulsing
Count rate linearity better
Better spatial uniformity

Faster response time (compact design)
Less affected by a magnetic field

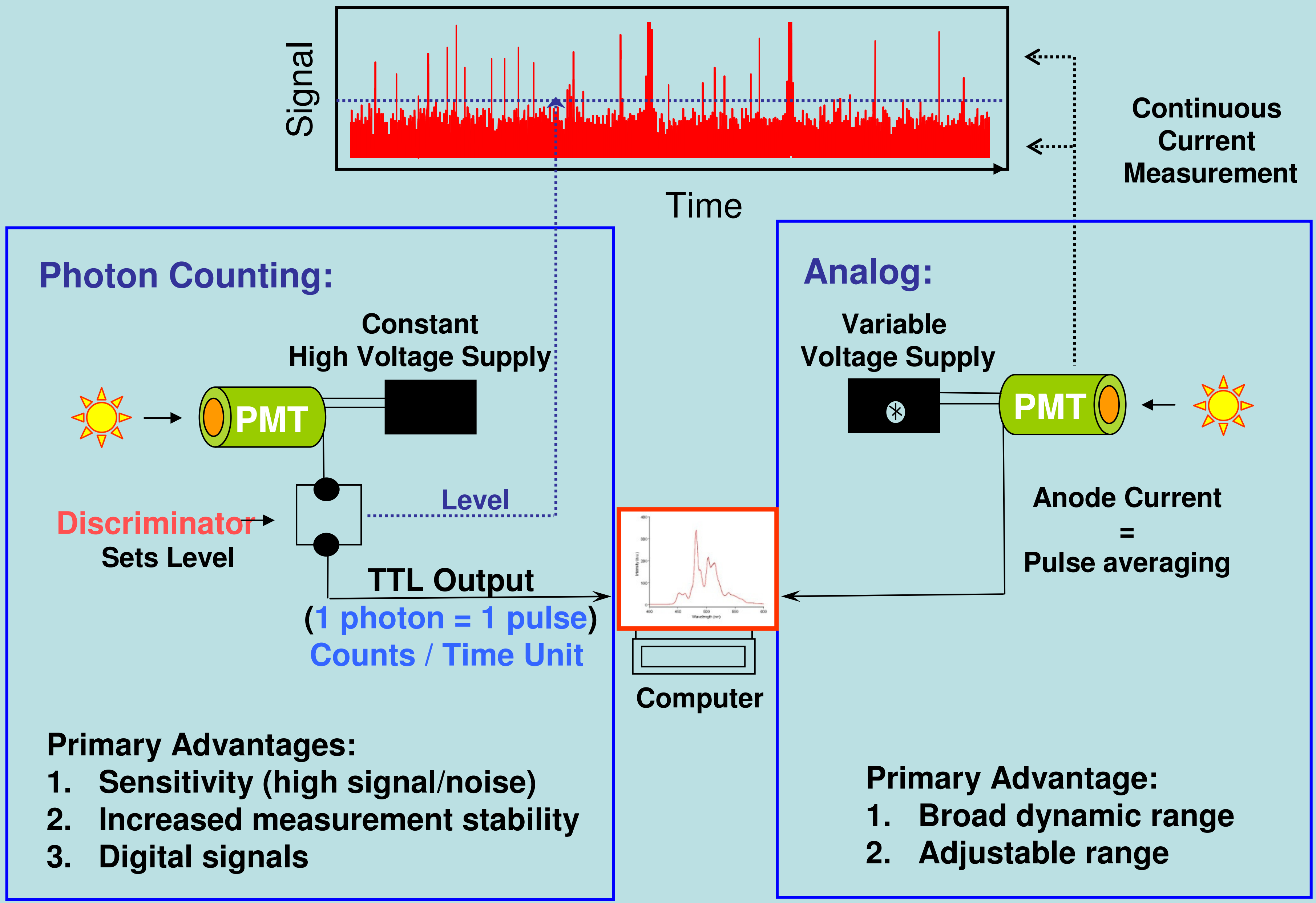
The Classic PMT Design
End-On Tube



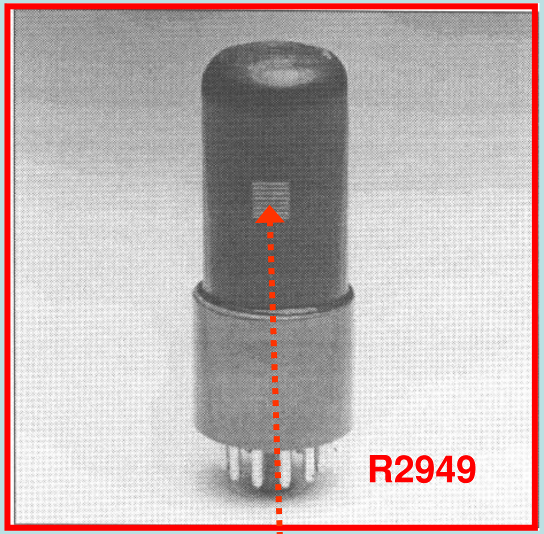
The Detector Dark Signal



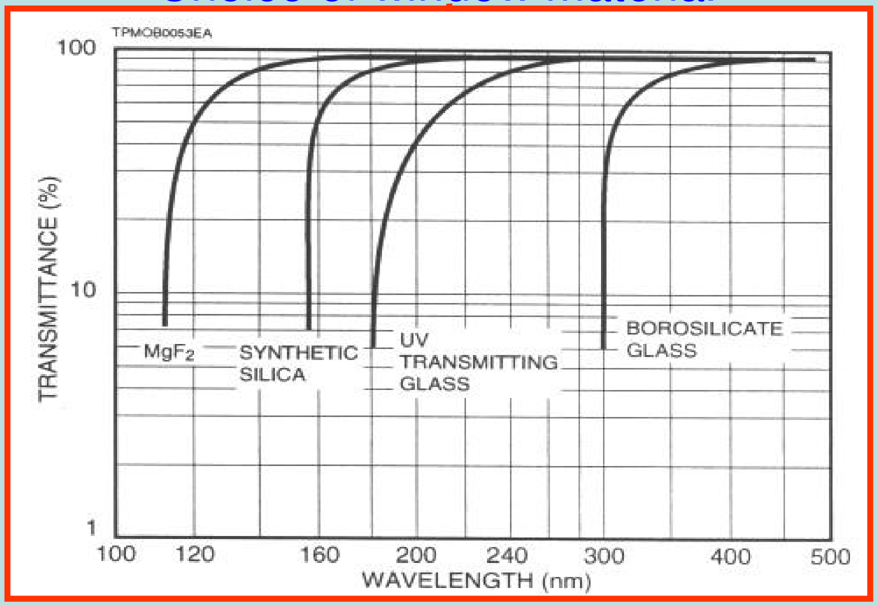
Photon Counting (Digital) and Analog Detection



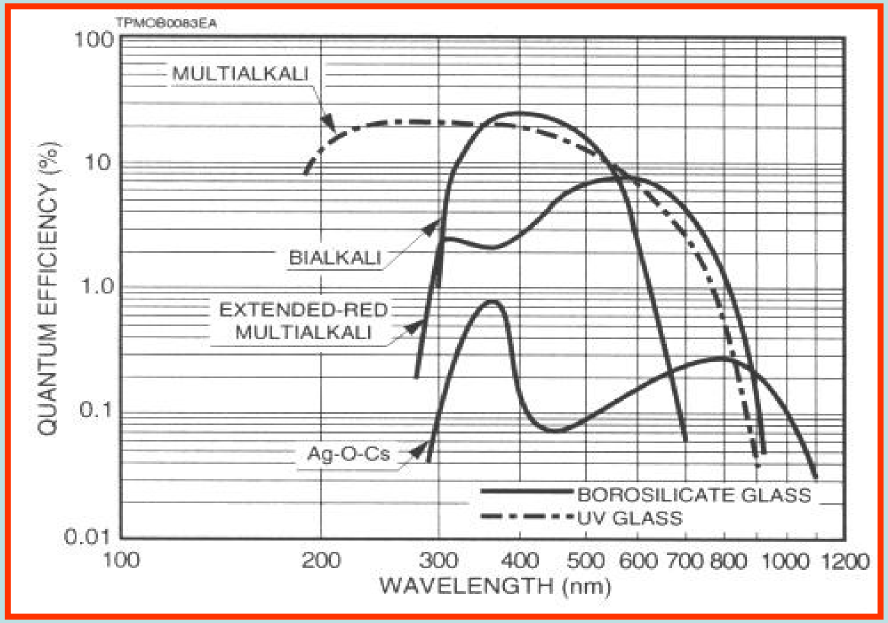
Hamamatsu R928 PMT Family
Side-On Tube



Choice of window material



Cathode material



Wavelength dependent
Quantum Efficiency

Hamamatsu H7422P-40 PMT

P : selected for photon counting

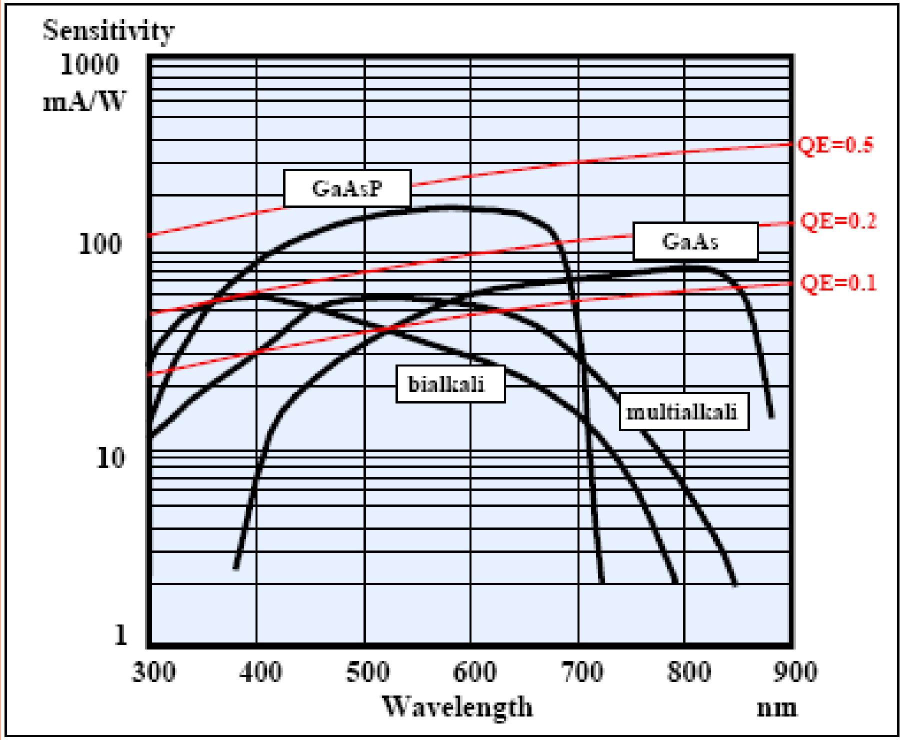


Fig. 13: Sensitivity of different photocathodes [34]

40% Quantum Efficiency

300 – 720 nm GaAsP spectral response

Time resolution 150 – 250 psec

After-pulsing at highest gain

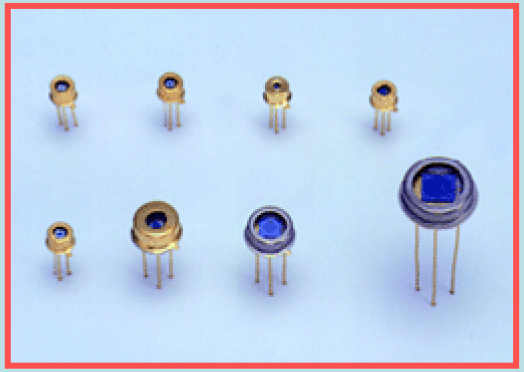
http://usa.hamamatsu.com/hcpdf/parts_H/H7422_series.pdf

http://www.hpk.co.jp/Eng/products/ETD/pmtmode/m-h7422e.htm

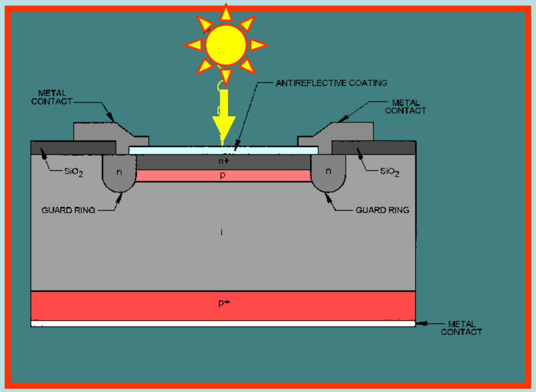
http://www.becker-hickl.de/pdf/tcvgbh1.pdf

Avalanche Photodiodes (APDs)

APD for analog detection



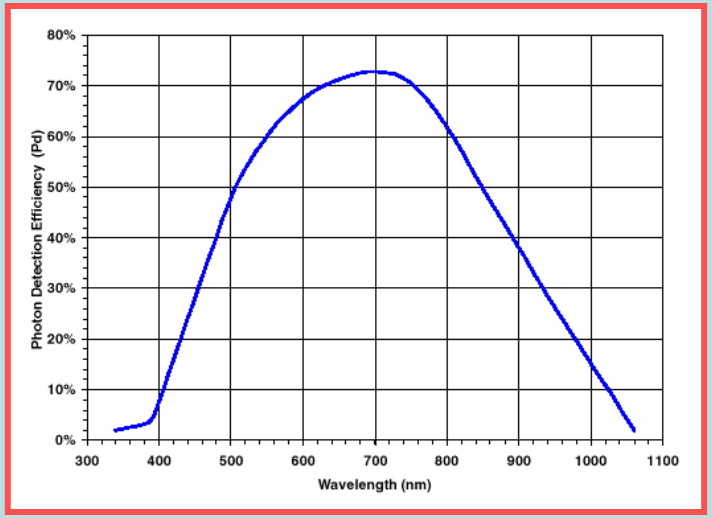
The silicon avalanche photodiode (Si APD) has a fast time response and high sensitivity in the near infrared region. APDs are available with active areas from 0.2 mm to 5.0 mm in diameter and low dark currents (selectable). *Photo courtesy of Hamamatsu*



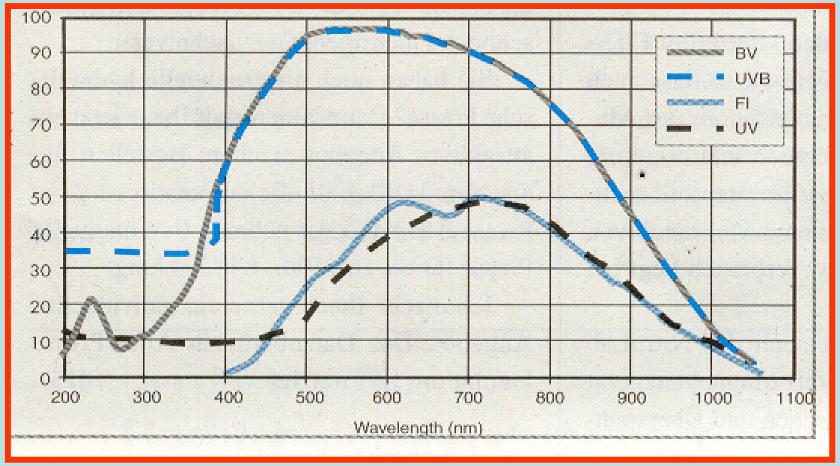
APD for photon counting

Single photon counting module (SPCM) from Micro Photon Devices

70% Quantum Efficiency



Electron Multiplying Charge Coupled Devices (EMCCD)
For Very Fast and Sensitive Bio-Imaging



Andor model iXon DV885
EMCCD camera
Thermo-electrically cooled to – 90 °C
Pixel size 8x8 µm,
readout speed 35 MHz
Single photon sensitivity

Quantum efficiency Newton EMCCD chip
FI: Front Illuminated
UV: Front Illuminated with UV coating
BV: Back Illuminated with VIS range AR coating
UVB: Back Illuminated with AR as well as UV coating

Gain adjustable between 1 and ~ 1000
Quantum Efficiency close to 100%

http://www.andor-tech.com/

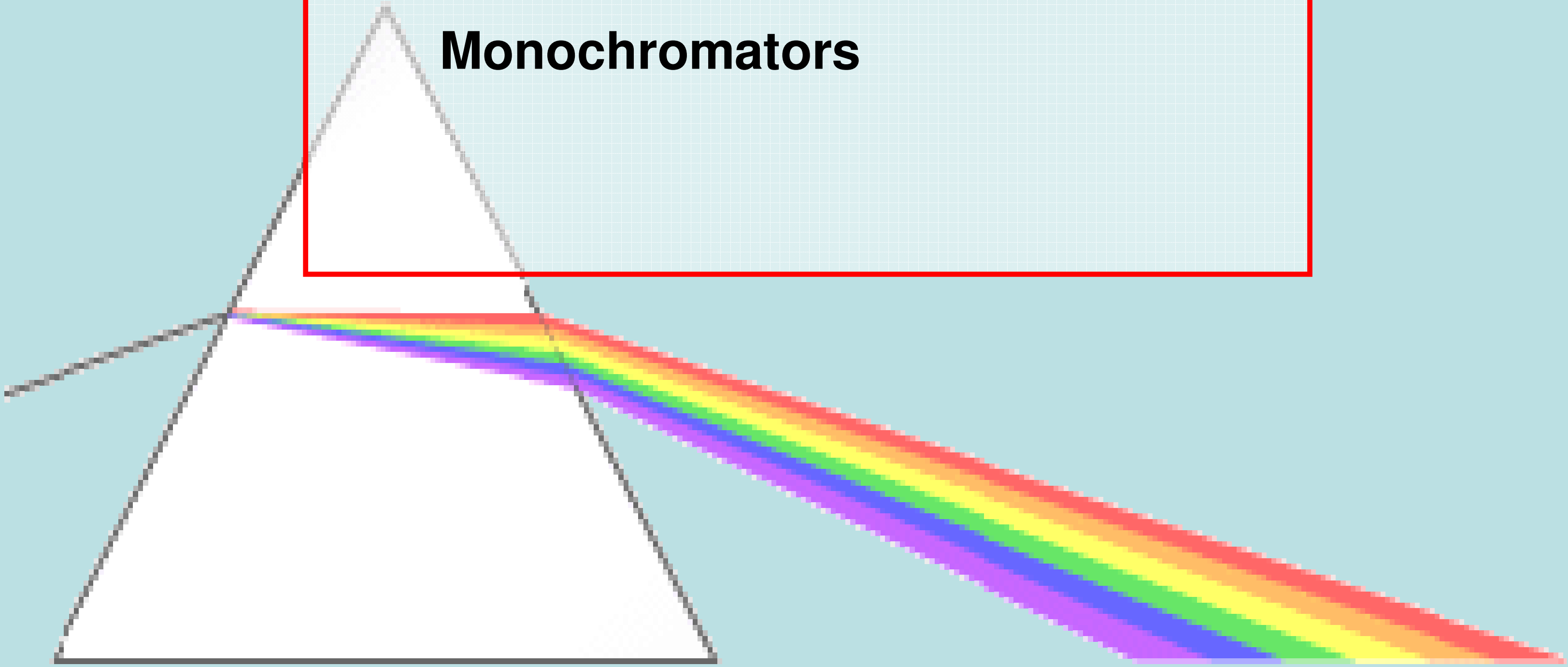
http://www.roperscientific.de/photonmax.html

Wavelength Selection

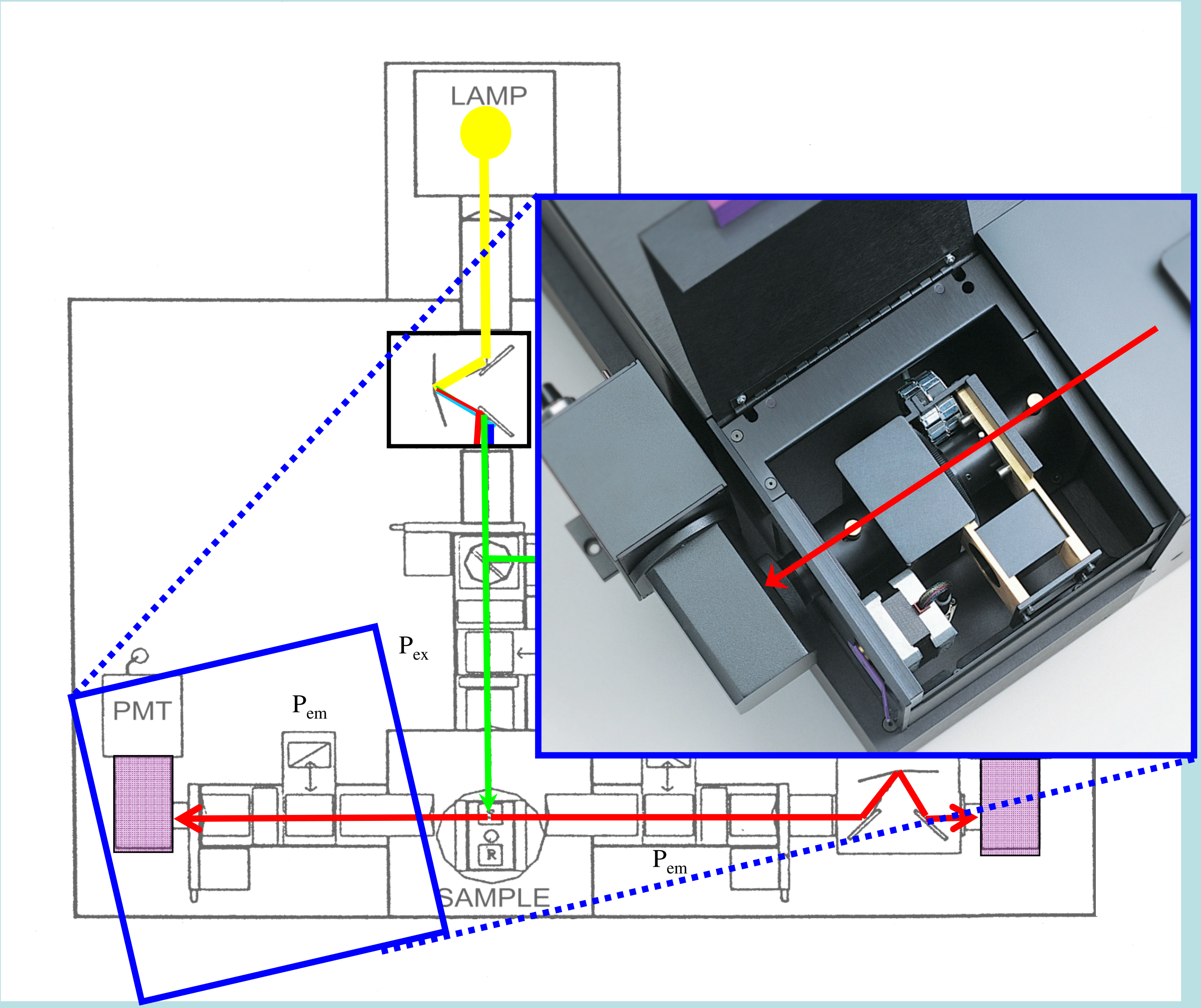
Fixed Optical Filters

Tunable Optical Filters

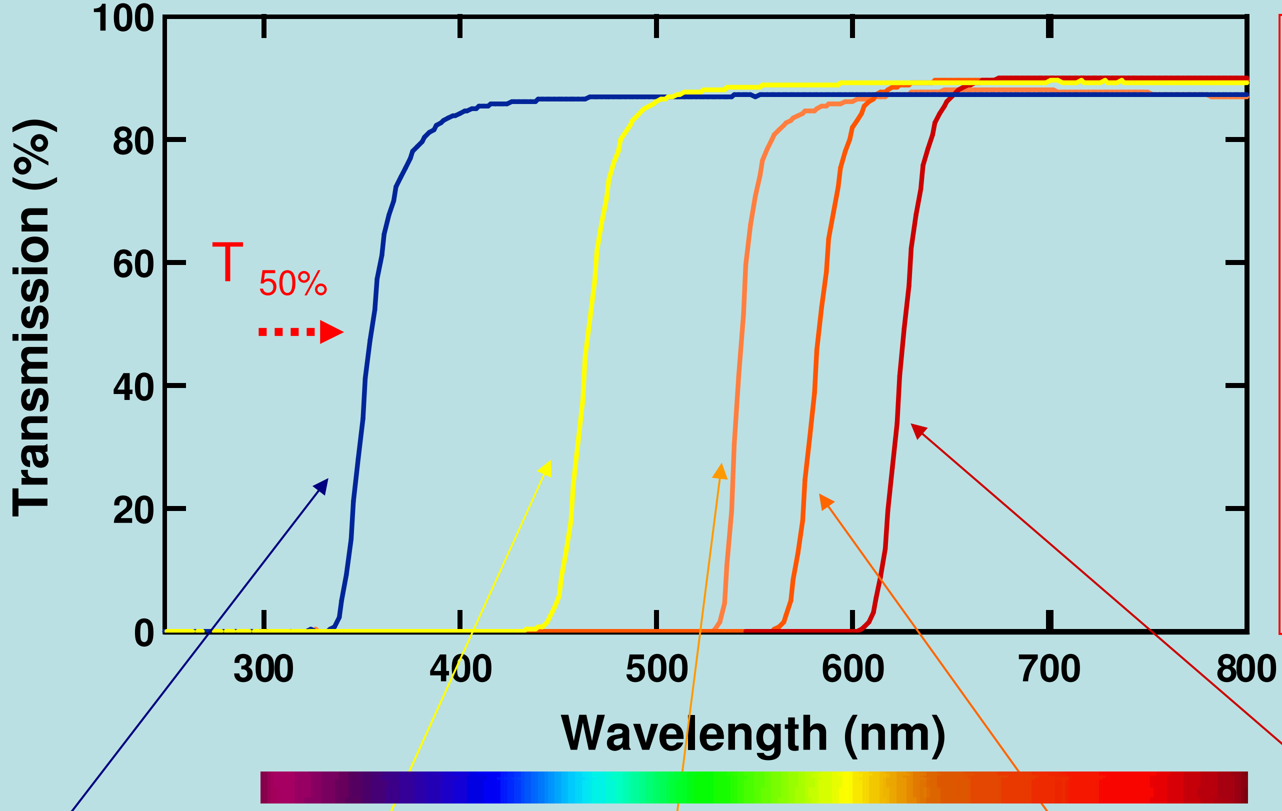
Monochromators



Optical Filter Channel



Long Pass Optical Filters
Based on Absorption of Light

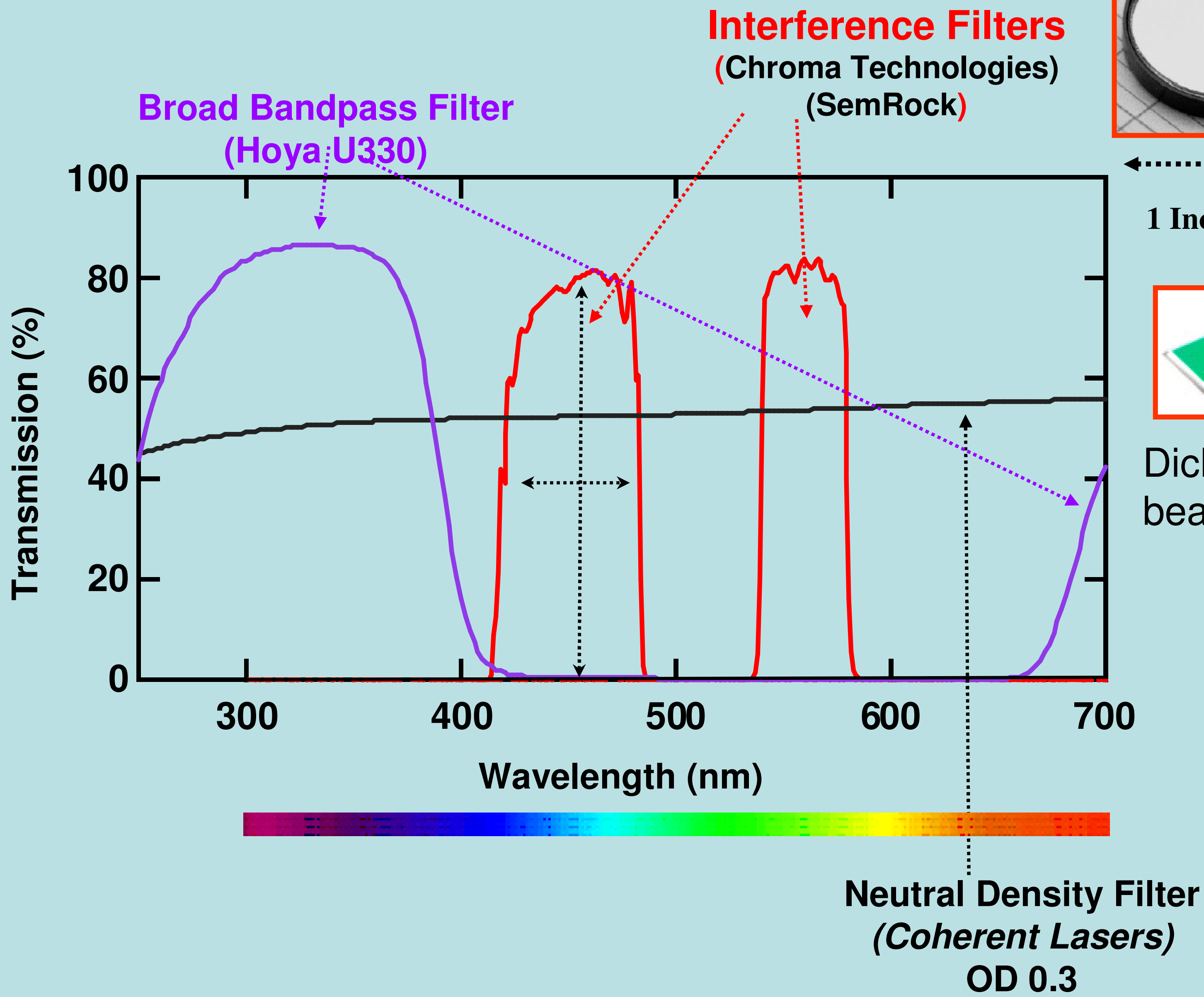


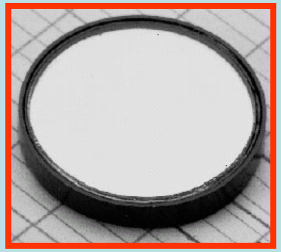
Spectral Shape
Thickness
Physical Shape

but also possibly

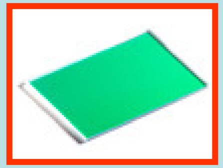
Substrate Fluorescence (!?)

Better Optical Filter Types…





1 Inch Diameter

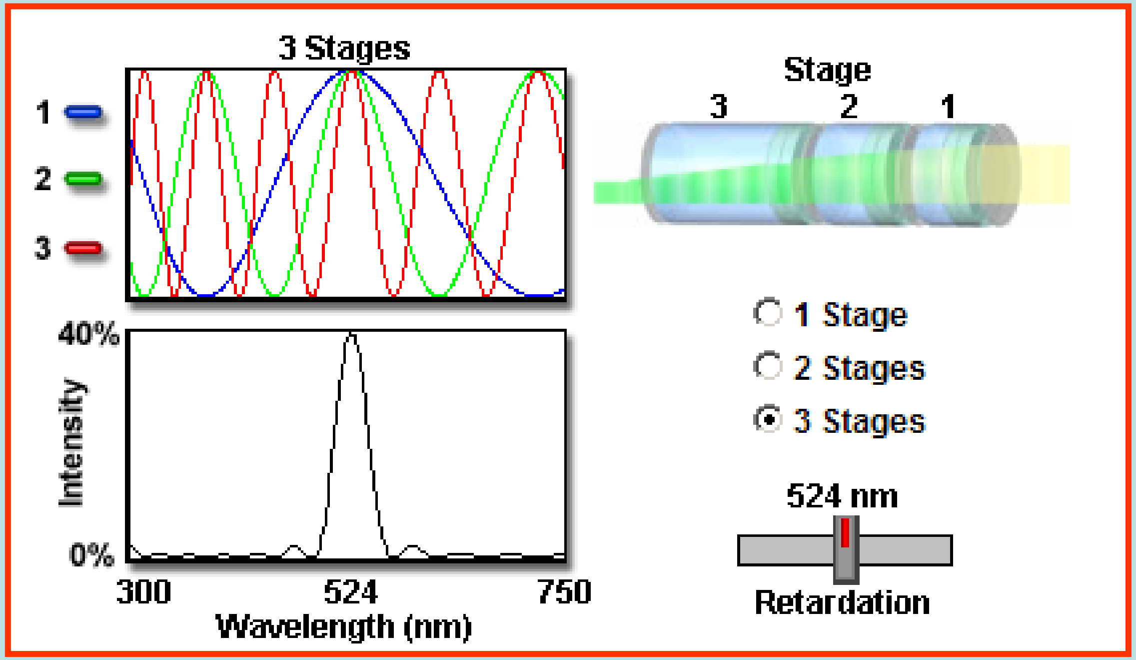


Dichroic beamsplitters

Tunable Optical Filters

Liquid Crystal Filters:

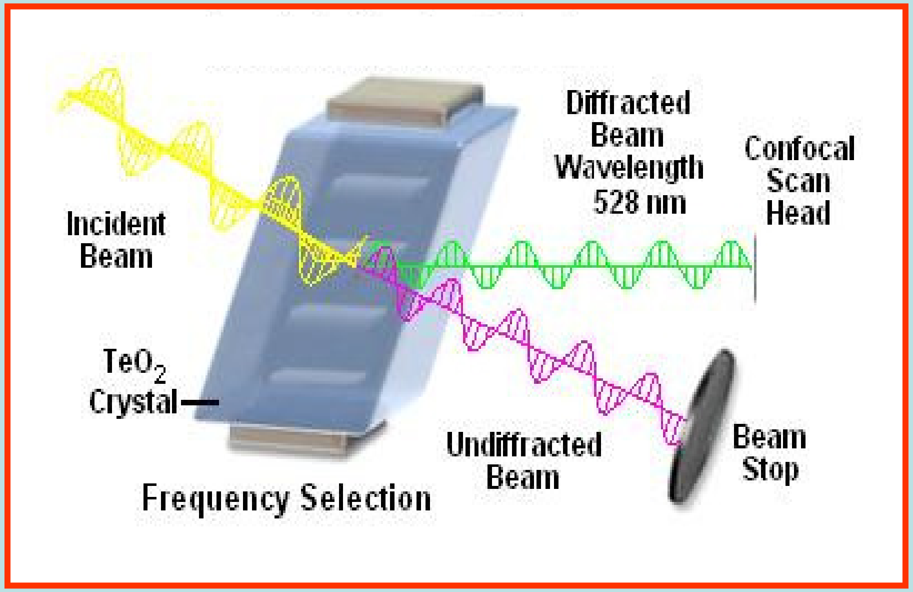
An electrically controlled liquid crystal elements to select a specific visible wavelength of light for transmission through the filter at the exclusion of all others.



AO Tunable Filters:

The AOTF range of acousto-optic (AO) devices are solid state optical filters. The wavelength of the diffracted light is selected according to the frequency of the RF drive signal.

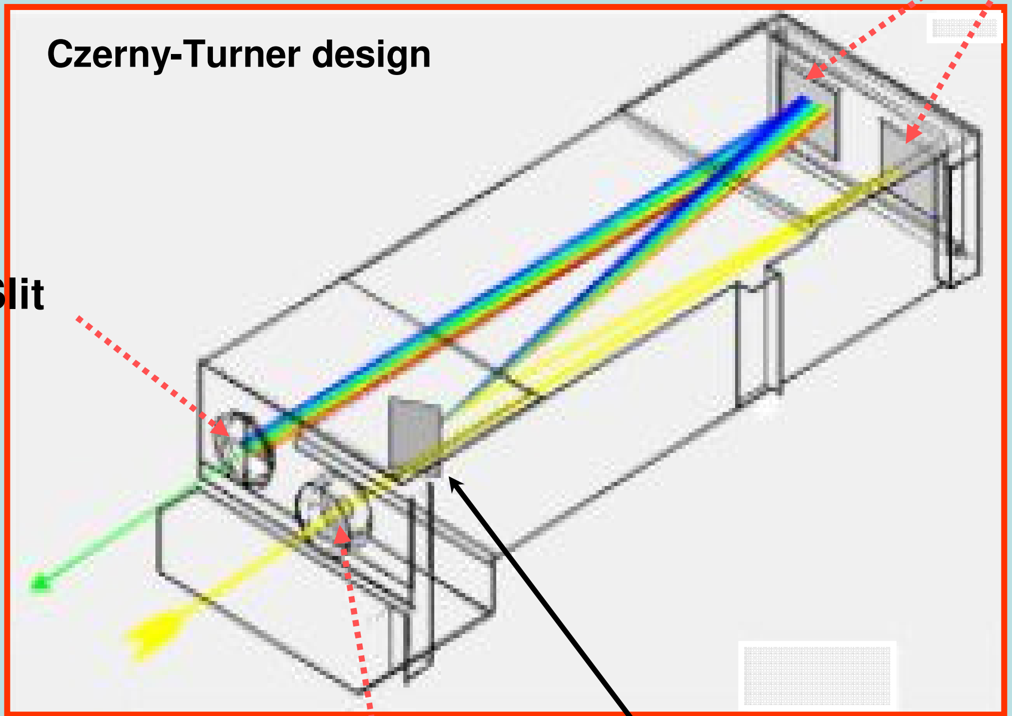
µsec. switching time



Confocal Microscopy

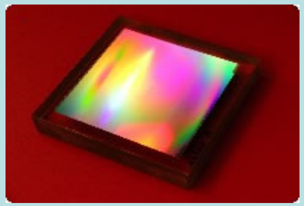
Monochromators

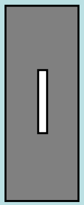
Mirrors



Exit Slit

1. Slit Width (mm) is the dimension of the slits.
2. Bandpass is the FWHM at the selected wavelength.
3. The *dispersion* is the factor to convert slit width to bandpass.

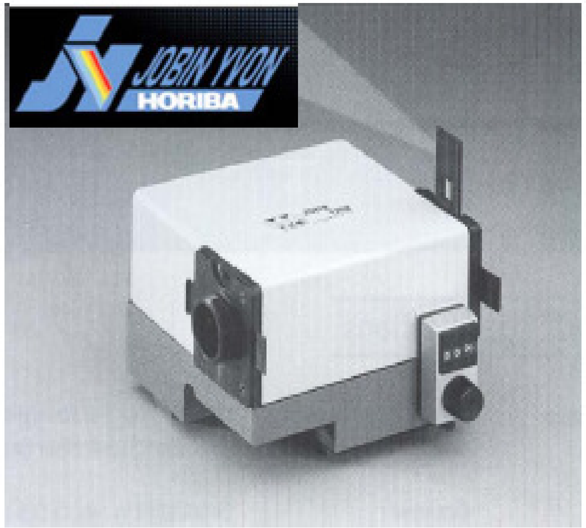




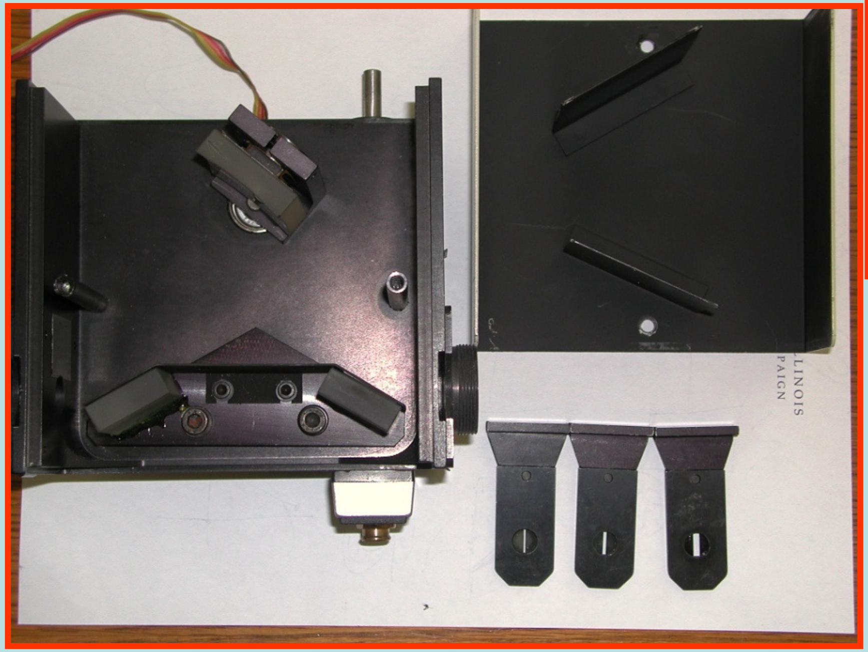
Entrance slit

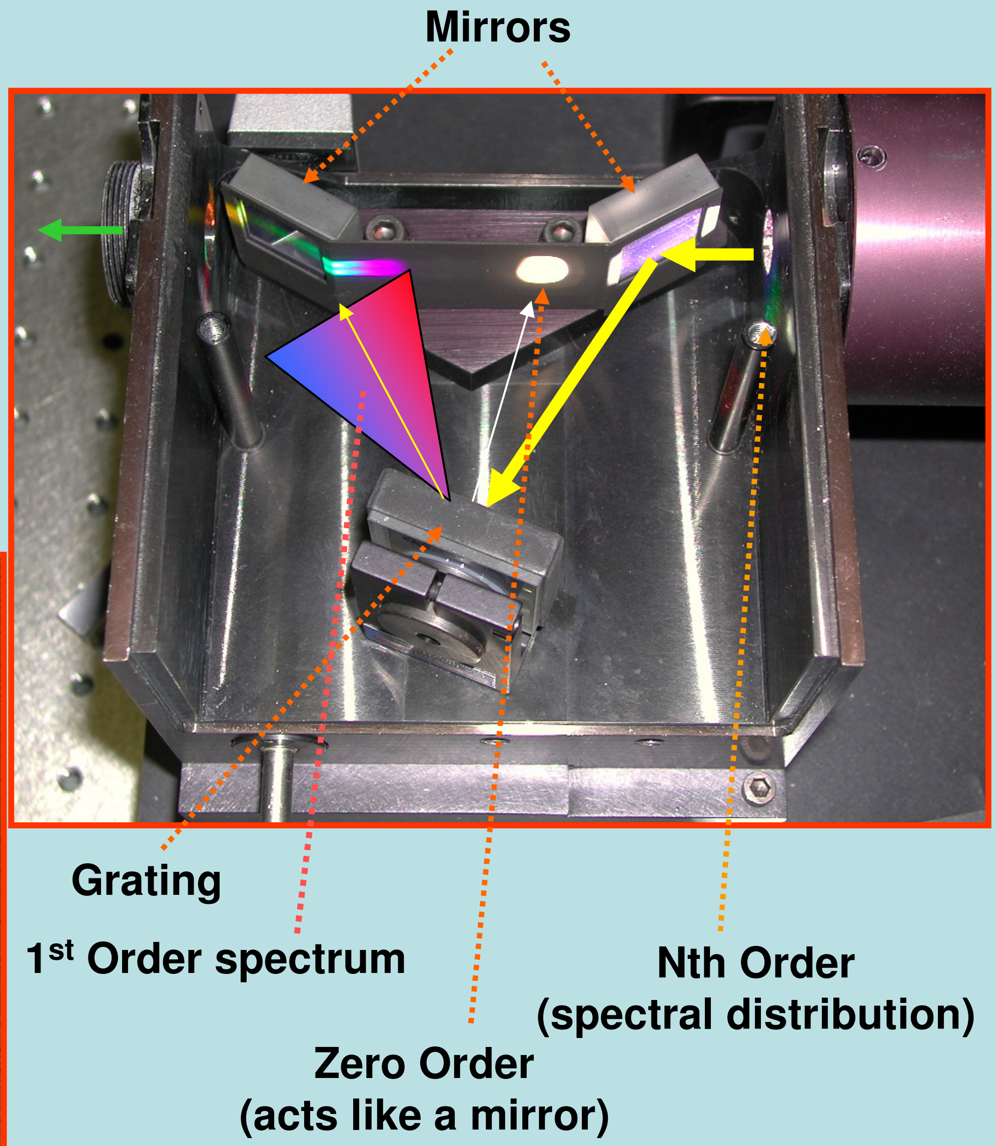
Rotating Diffraction Grating
(Planar or Concave)

The Inside a Monochromator: Tunable Wavelengths



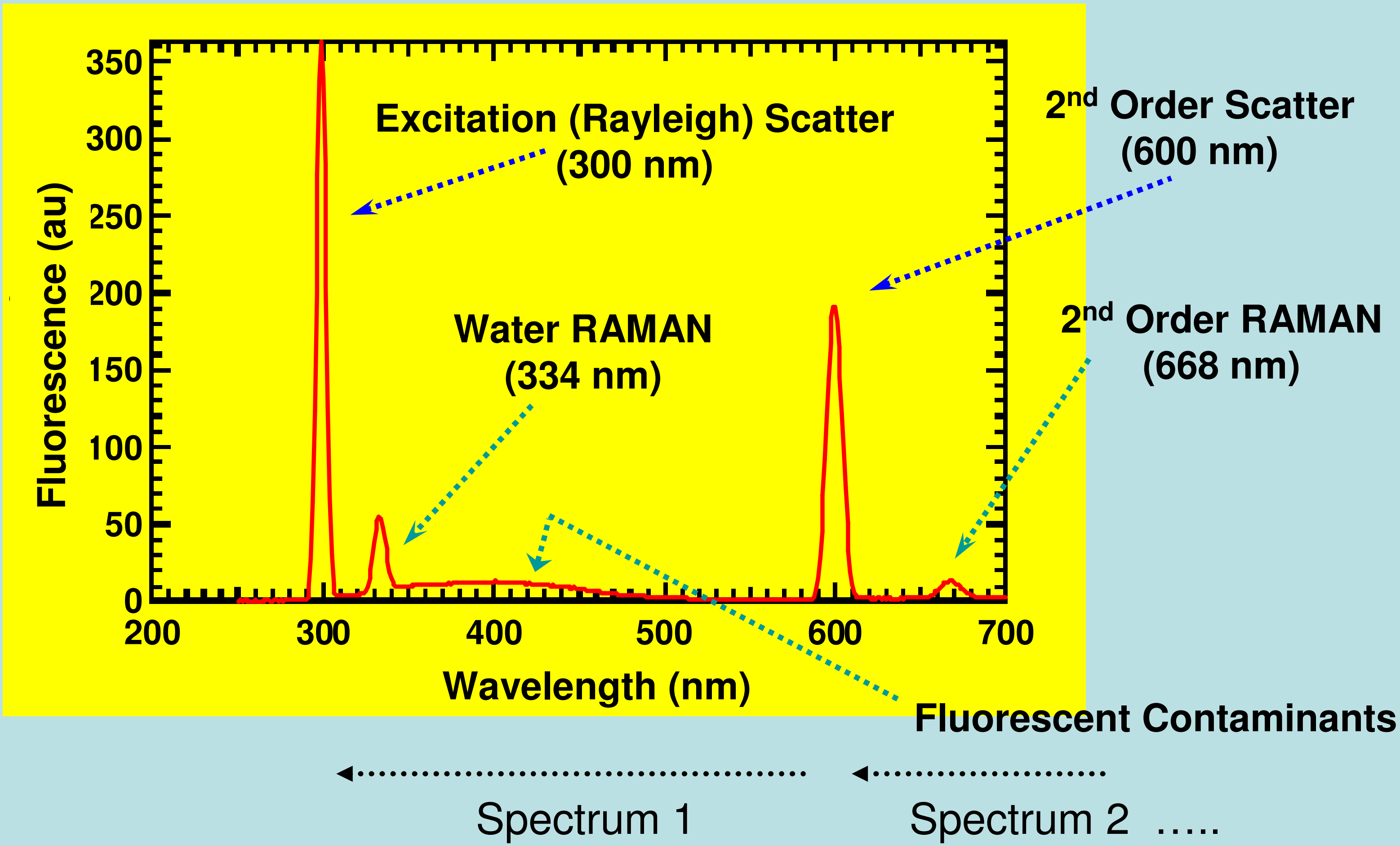
H10 Monochromator



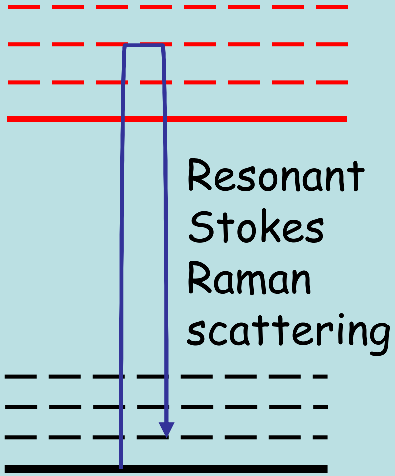


Higher Order Light Diffraction & Spectral Features

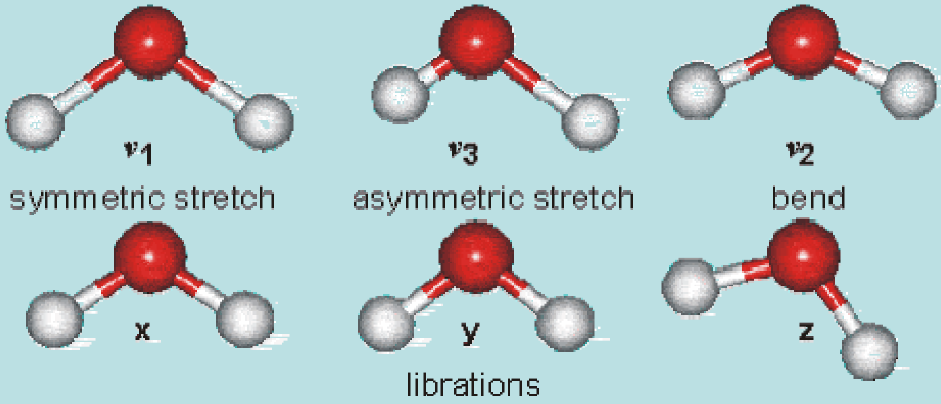
Emission Scan:
Excitation 300 nm
Glycogen in PBS



Raman Scatter of Water



Vibrational modes of water



Energy for the OH stretch vibrational mode in water (expressed in inverse wavenumbers): 3200 cm^{-1}

Simple formula to calculate the wavelength of the Raman peak:

(1) Insert the excitation wavelength (eg. 490 nm) in the following equation:

$$\frac{10^7}{\frac{10^7}{490} - 3200} = 581 \text{ nm}$$

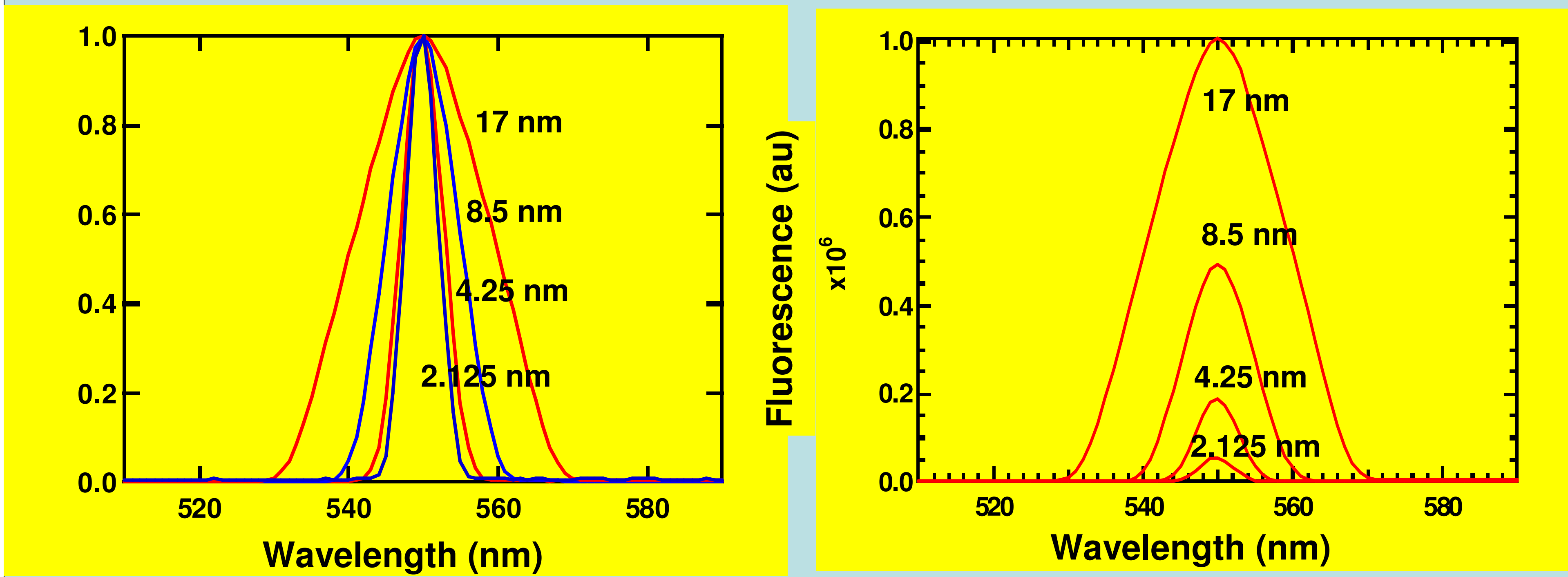
(2) The result specifies the position of the Raman peak in nanometers (i.e. the Raman peak of water is located at 581 nm for this excitation wavelength of 490 nm.

Changing the Spectral Bandpass

1. Drop in intensity
2. Narrowing of the spectral selection

@ Fixed Excitation Bandpass = 4.25 nm

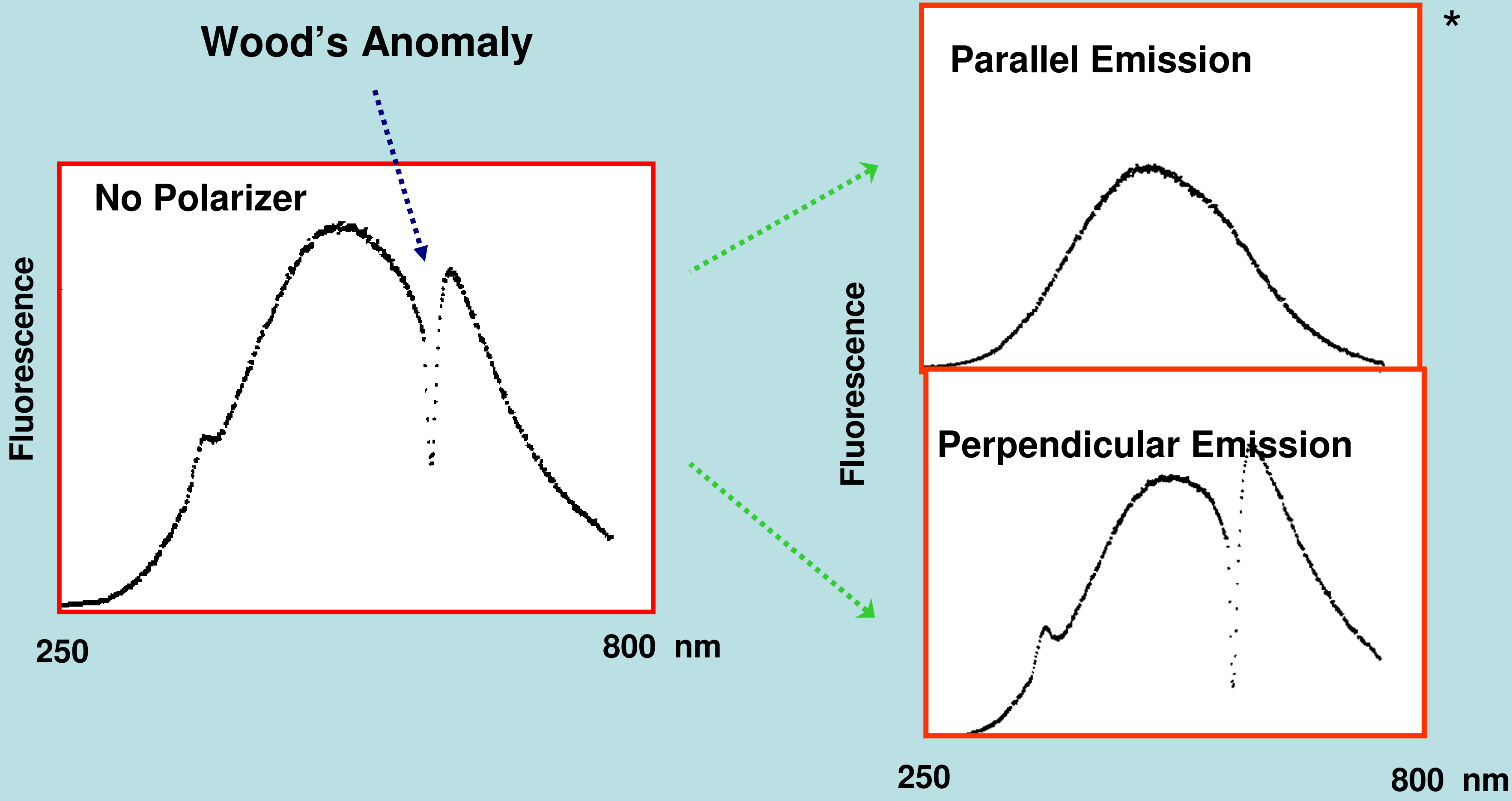
Changing the Emission Bandpass



Collected on a SPEX Fluoromax - 2

Monochromator Polarization Bias

Tungsten Lamp Profile Collected on an SLM Fluorometer

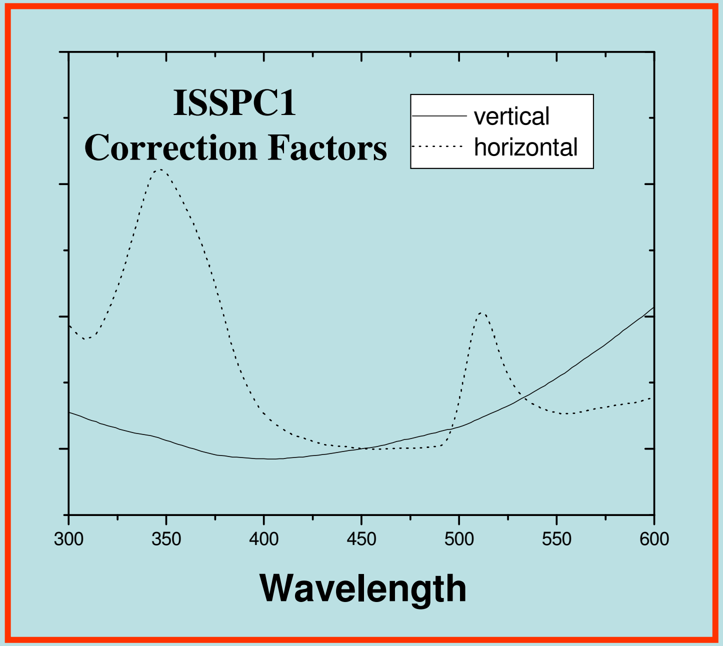


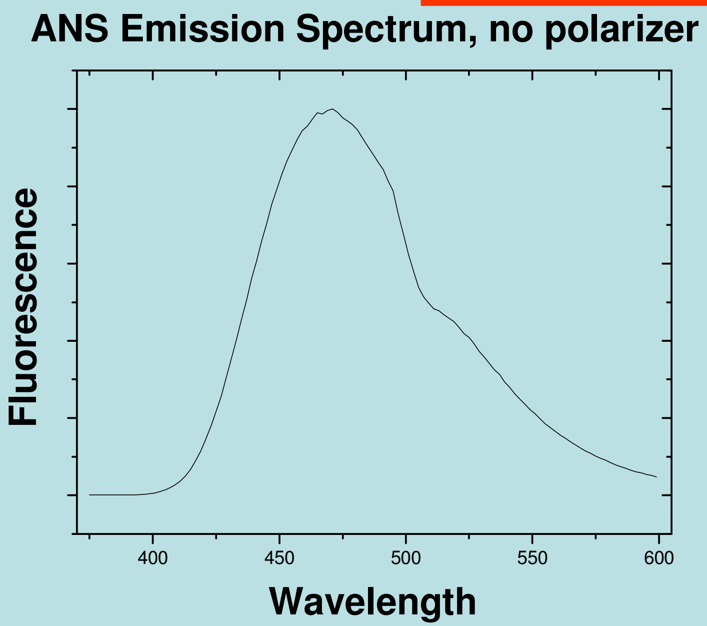
Technical vs. Absolute spectra

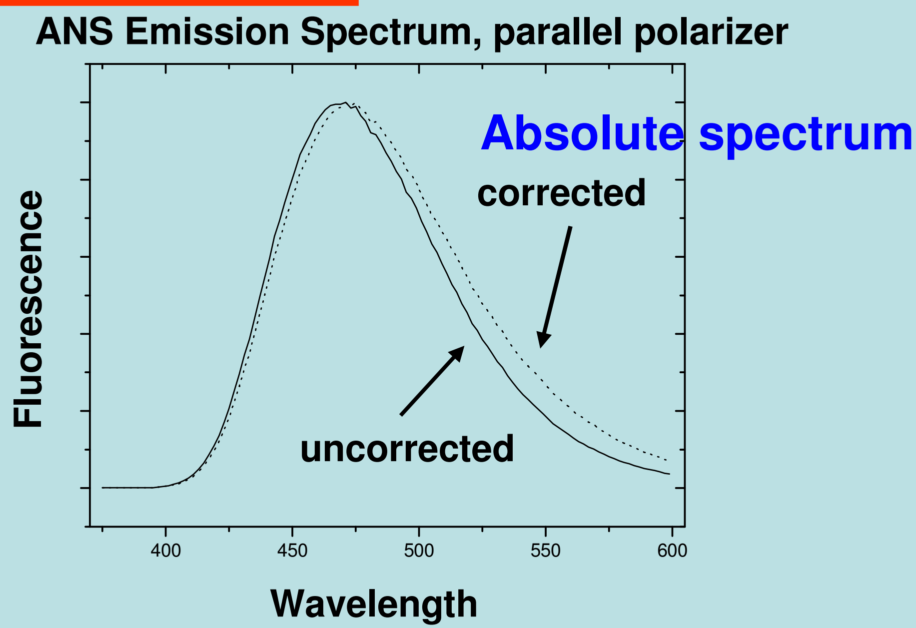
Jameson et. al.,
Methods in Enzymology (2002), 360:1
for more on the correction
of (emission) spectra

Adapted from Jameson, D.M., Instrumental Refinements in Fluorescence Spectroscopy: Applications to Protein Systems., in Biochemistry, Champaign-Urbana, University of Illinois, 1978.

Correction of Emission Spectra



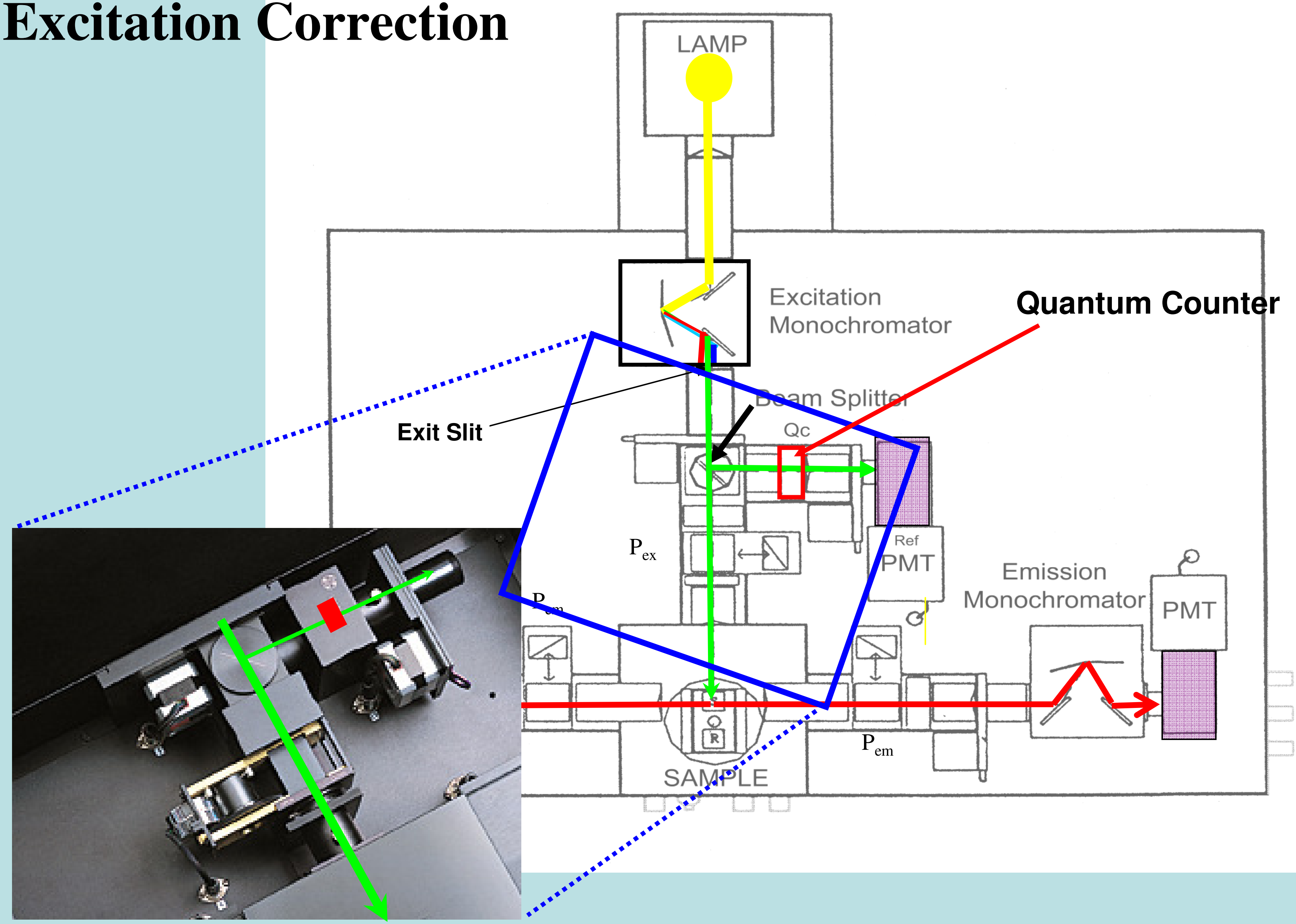




Technical spectrum

from Jameson et. al., Methods in Enzymology, 360:1

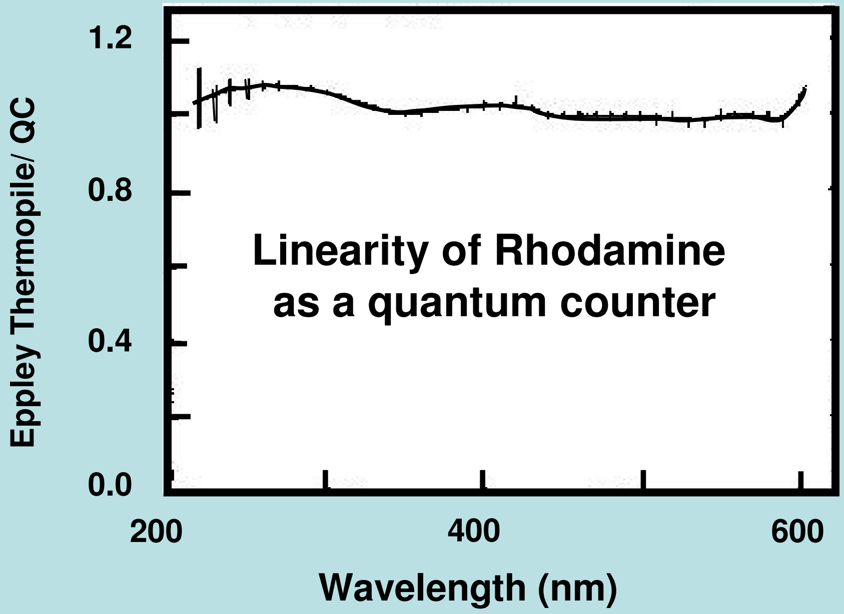
Excitation Correction

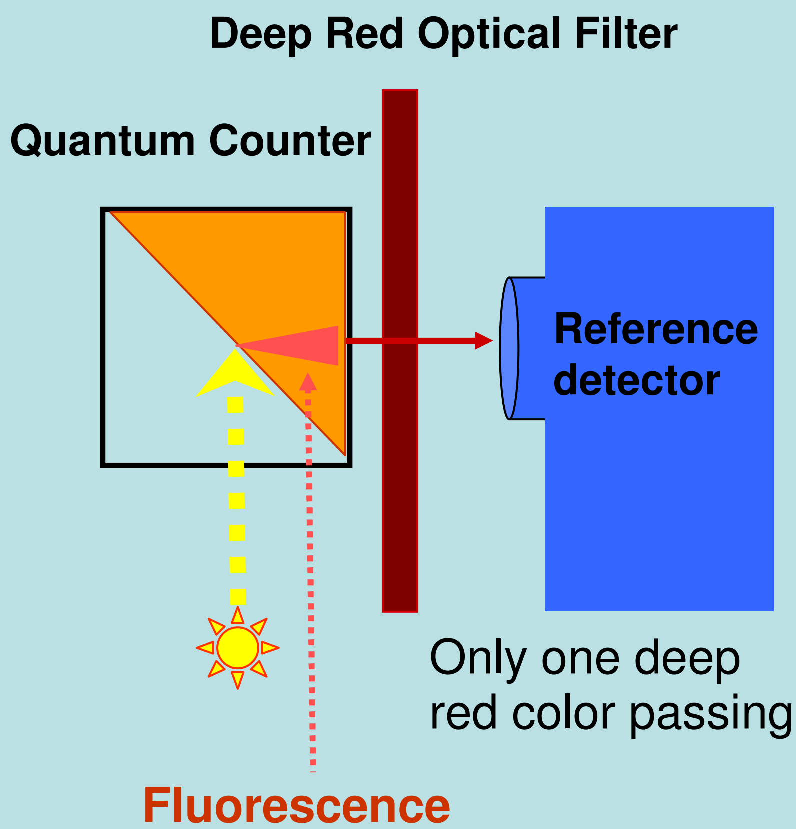


The Instrument Quantum Counter

Common Quantum Counters (optimal range) *

Rhodamine B	(220 - 600 nm)
Fluorescein	(240 - 400 nm)
Quinine Sulfate	(220 - 340 nm)

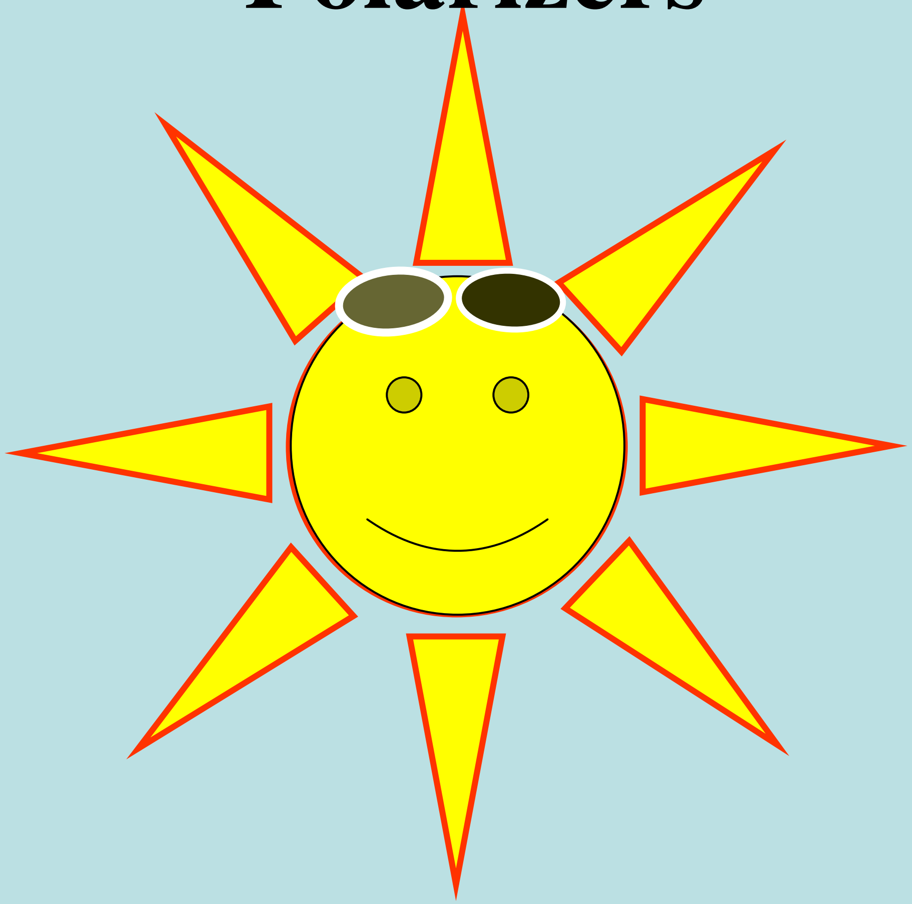




The maximum inner filter effect needed !

** Melhuish (1962) J. Opt. Soc. Amer. 52:1256*

Polarizers



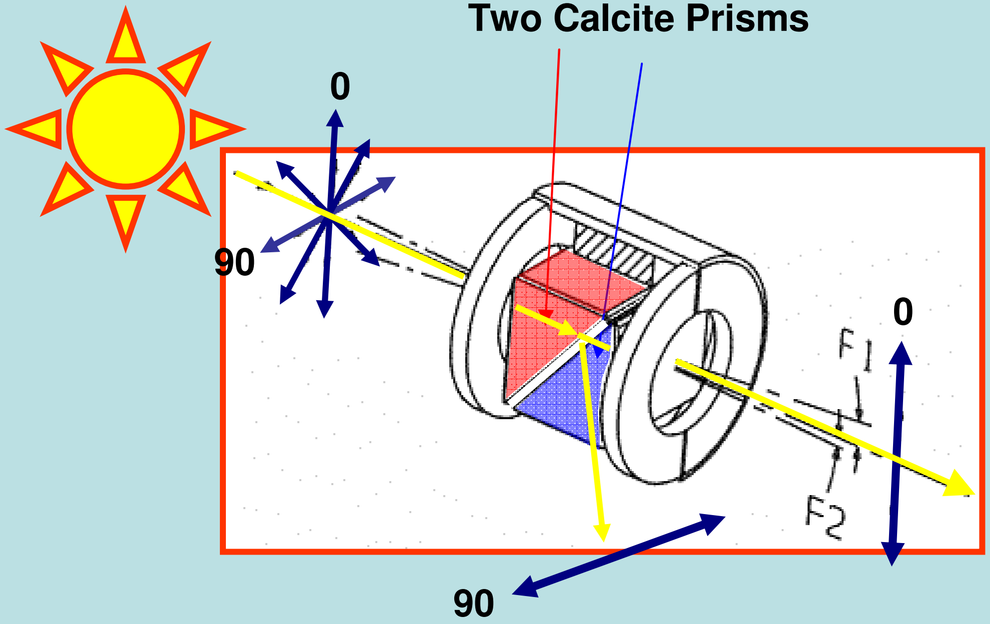
Polarizers

Common Types:

- **Glan Taylor (air gap)**
- **Glan Thompson**
- **Sheet Polarizers**

Sheet polarizer

The *Glan Taylor* prism polarizer



Two UV selected calcite prisms are assembled with an intervening air space. The calcite prism is birefringent and cut so that only one polarization component continues straight through the prisms. The spectral range of this polarizer is from 250 to 2300 nm. At 250 nm there is approximately 50% transmittance.

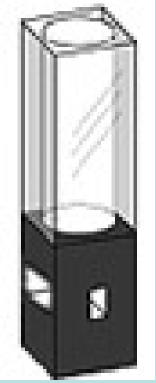
Filter Choice For Steady-State as well as Time-Resolved Polarization Measurements

Make sure, absolutely no scattered excitation light is detected !

Use a high quality emission filter

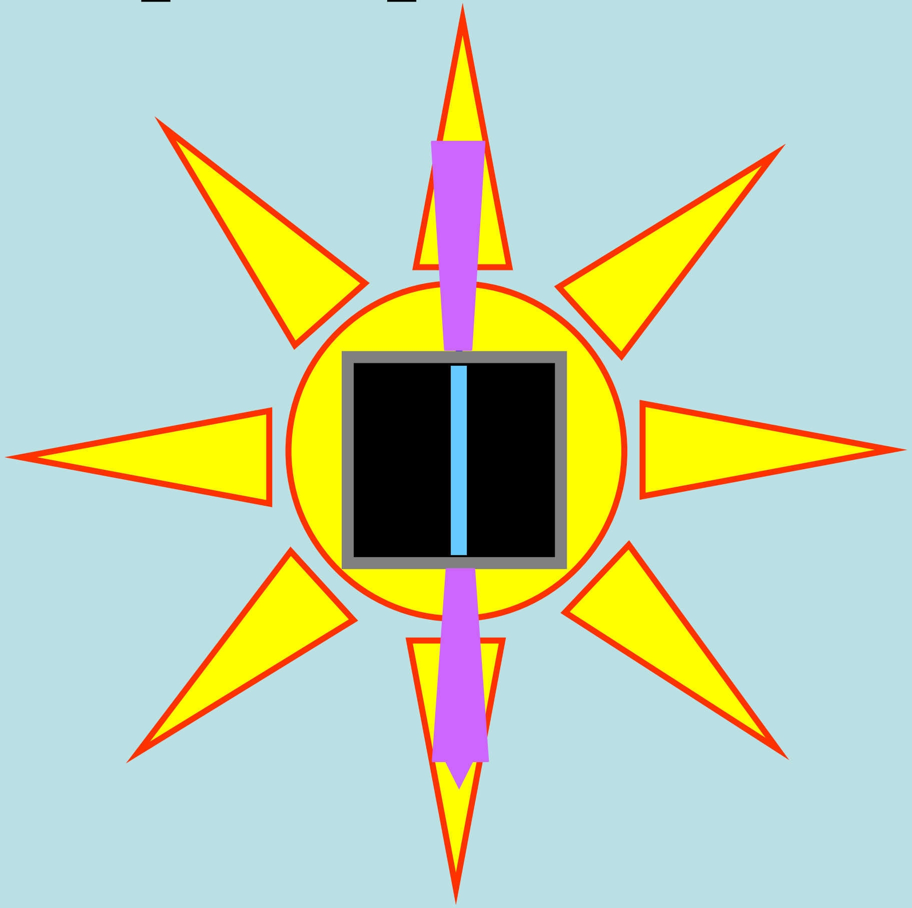
Why ?

$$P = \frac{I_{//} - I_{\perp}}{I_{//} + I_{\perp}}$$



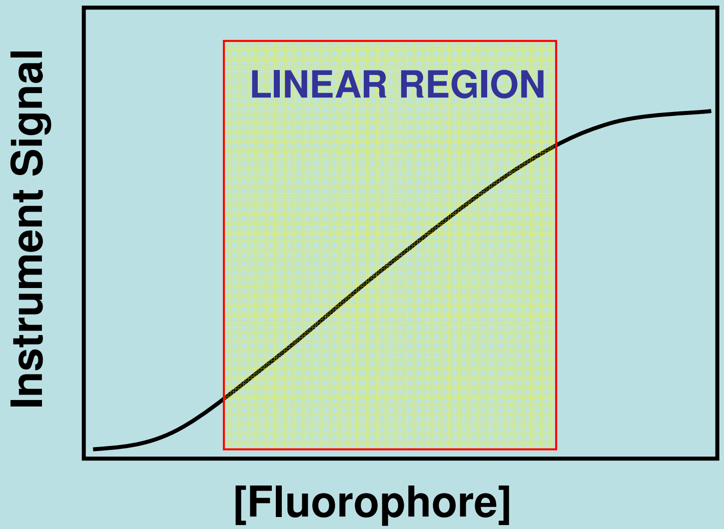
Scattered excitation light influences $I_{//}$

Sample Optimization

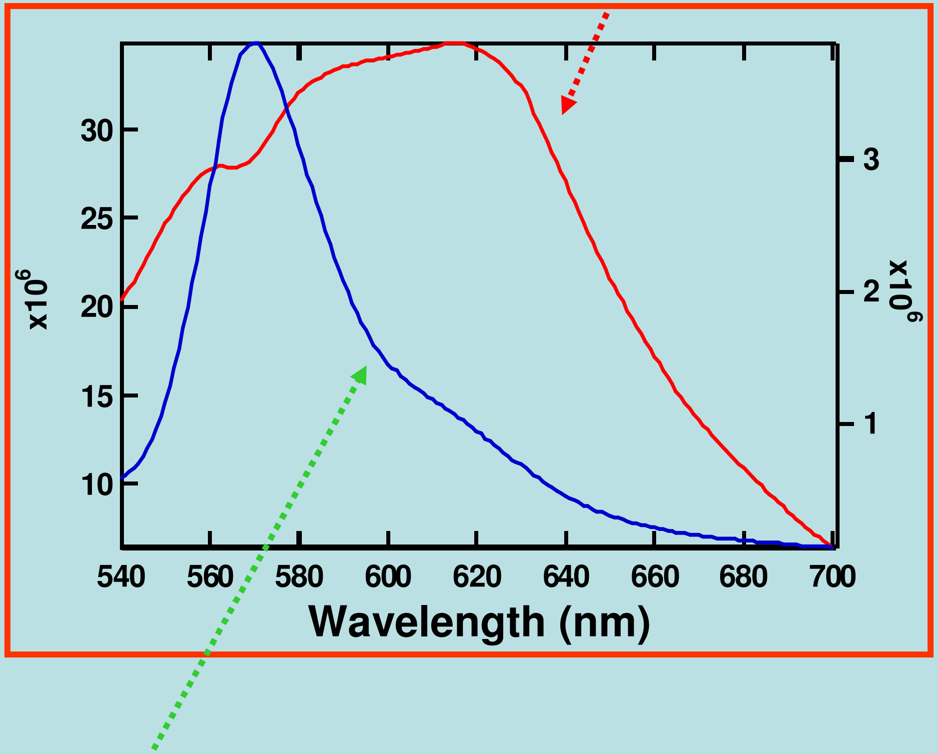


Signal Attenuation of the Excitation Light
PMT Saturation

Fluorescence vs. Signal



Excess Detection Saturating Emission

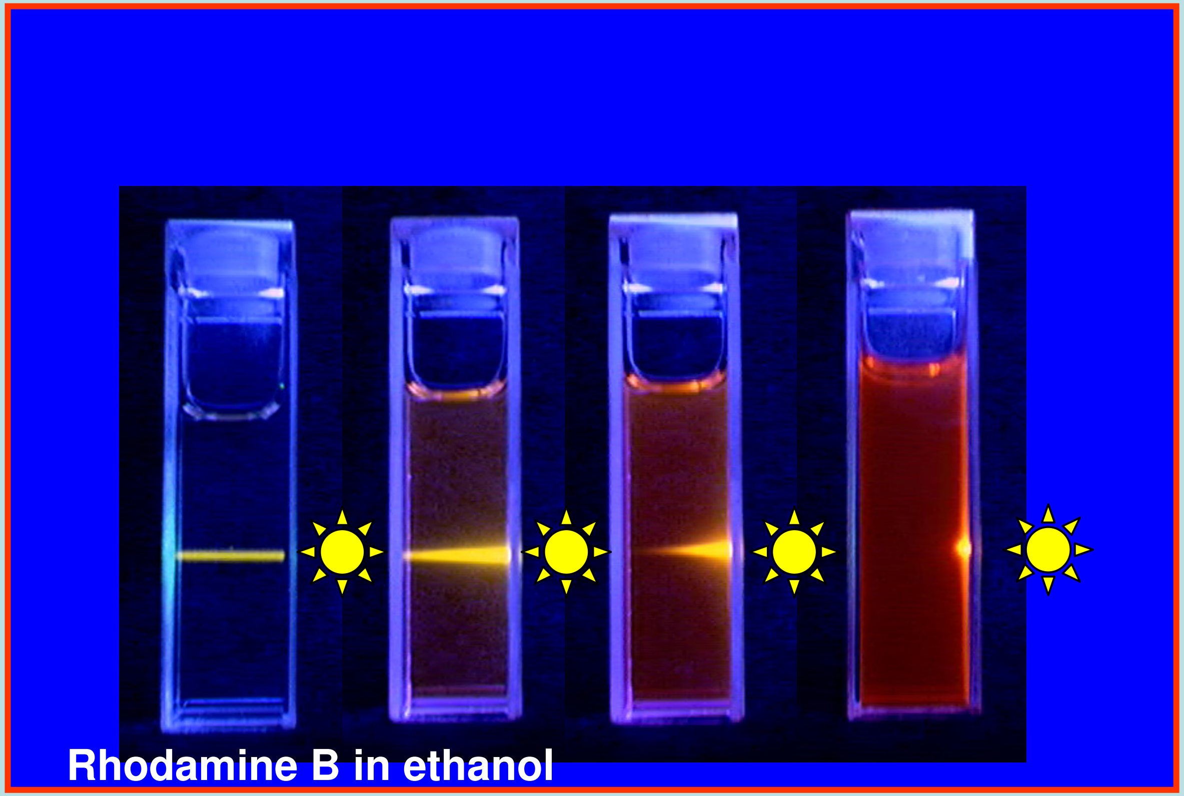


Reduced emission intensity
1. ND Filters
2. Narrow monochromator slit widths
3. Move off absorbance peak

Concentration

Attenuation of the Excitation Light through Absorbance

Sample concentration
& the *inner filter effect*



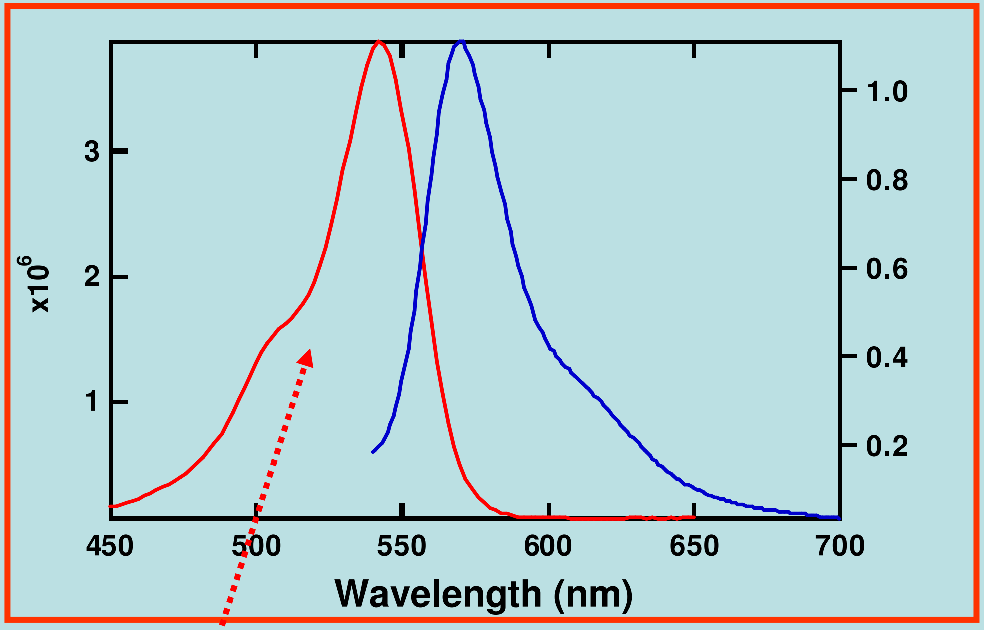
Look down into sample cuvette and check by eye how the beam looks like

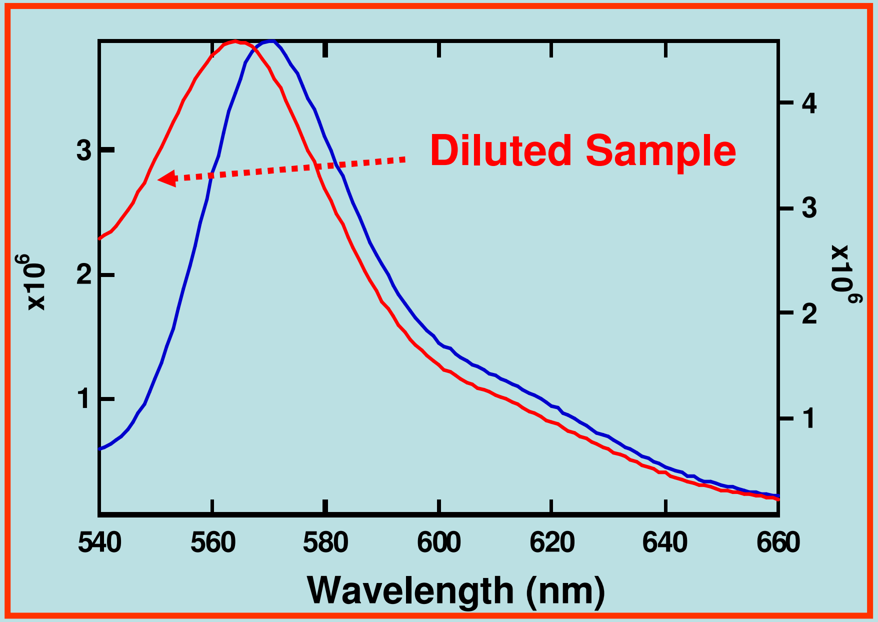
OD_{532} 0.04 1 3 >30

Correct Optical Density (OD)

from Jameson et. al., Methods in Enzymology (2002), 360:1

The Second Half of the *Inner Filter Effect* : Attenuation of the Emission Signal

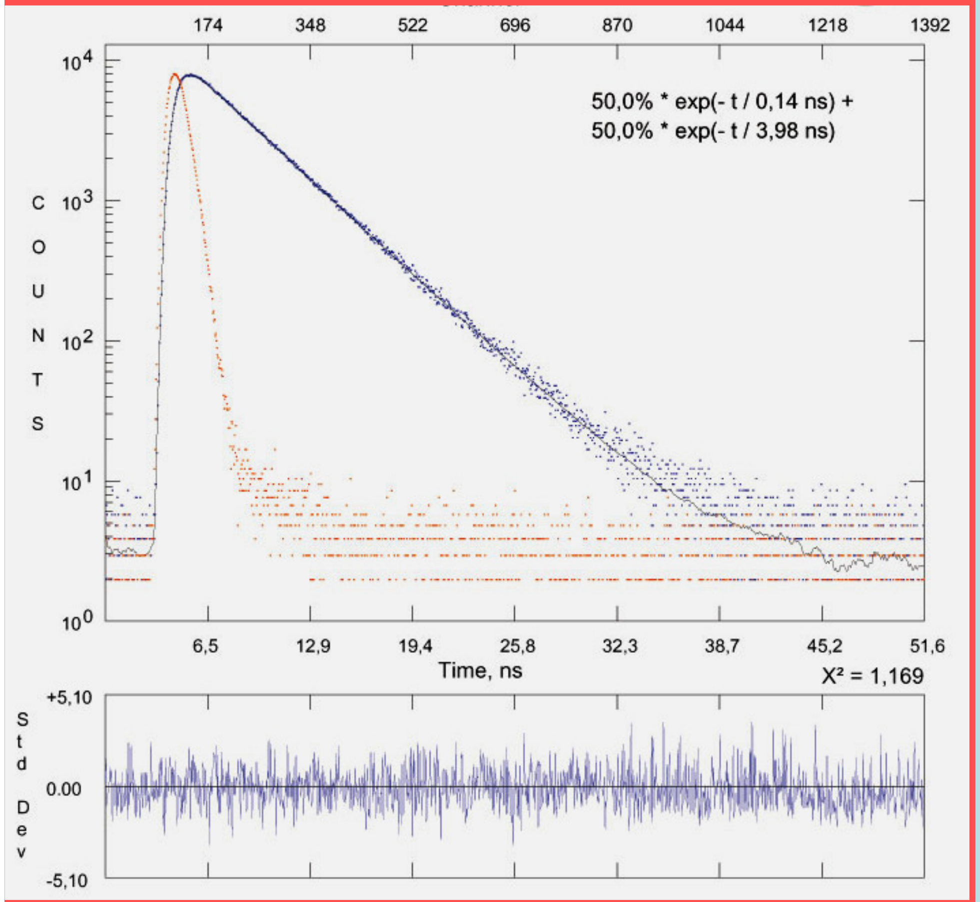


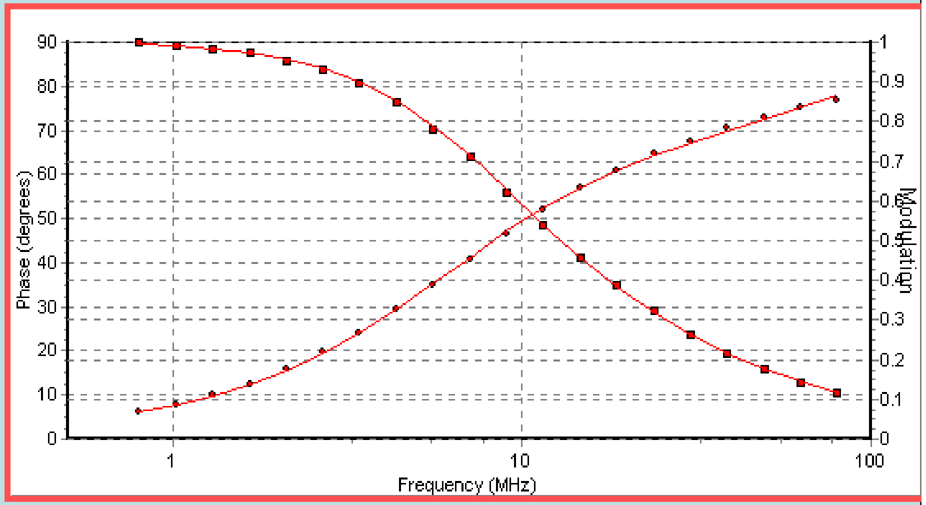


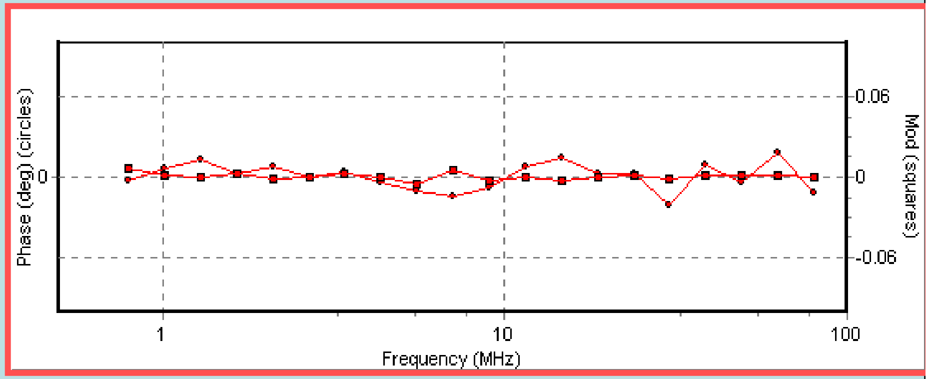
Absorbance Spectrum

(1) Spectral Shift
(2) Change in Spectral Shape

Lifetime Instrumentation







Light Sources for Decay Acquisition: Frequency and Time Domain Measurements

Pulsed Light Sources (frequency & pulse widths)

Mode-Locked Lasers

- ND:YAG (76 MHz) (150 ps)
- Pumped Dye Lasers (4 MHz Cavity Dumped, 10-15 ps)
- Ti:Sapphire lasers (80 MHz, 150 fs)
- Mode-locked Argon Ion lasers

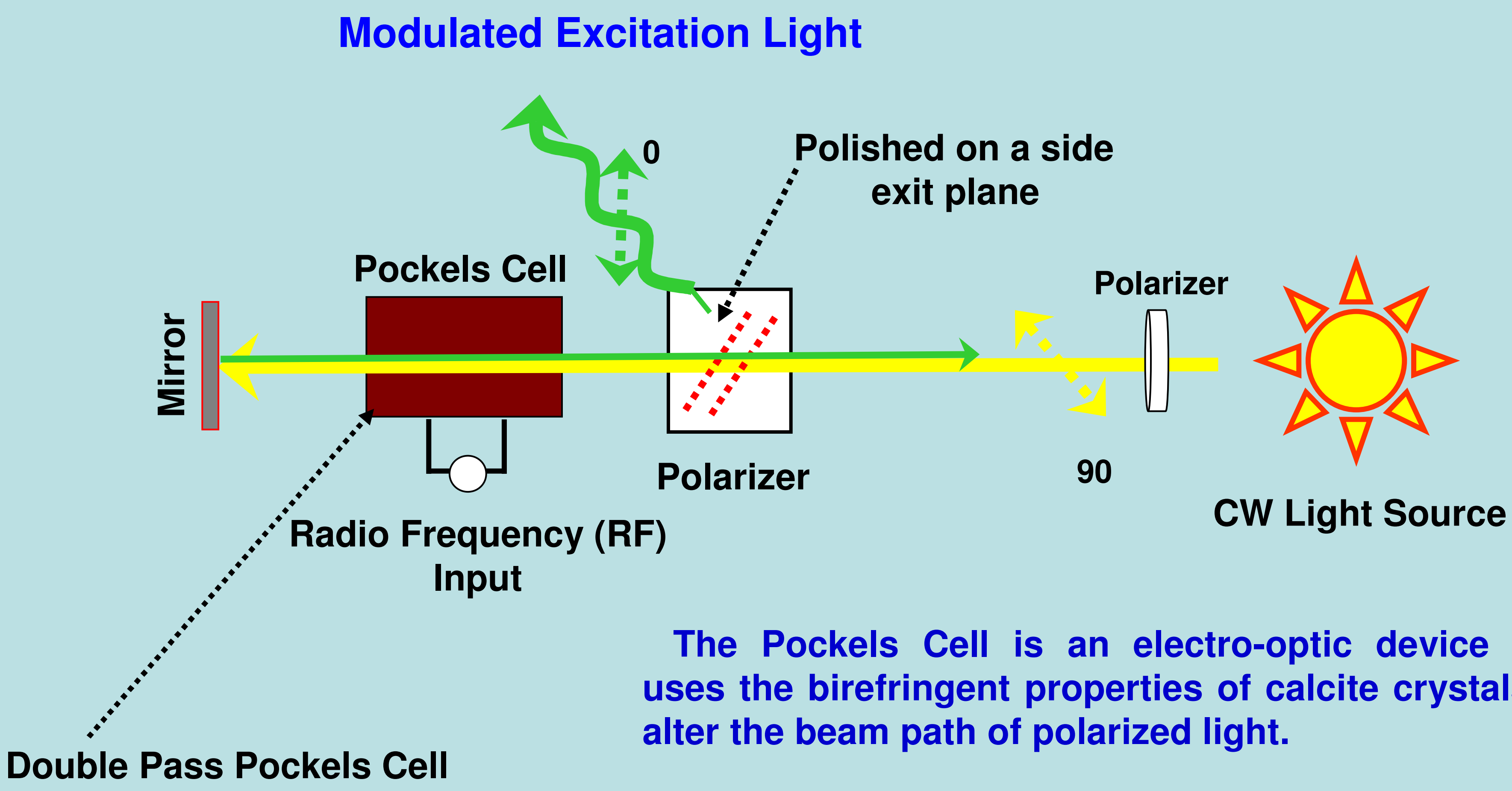
Directly Modulated Light Sources

- Diode Lasers (short pulses in ps range, & can be modulated by synthesizer)
- LEDs (directly modulated via synthesizer, 1 ns, 20 MHz)

Flash Lamps

- Thyratron-gated nanosecond flash lamp (PTI), 25 KHz, 1.6 ns
- Coaxial nanosecond flashlamp (IBH), 10Hz-100kHz, 0.6 ns

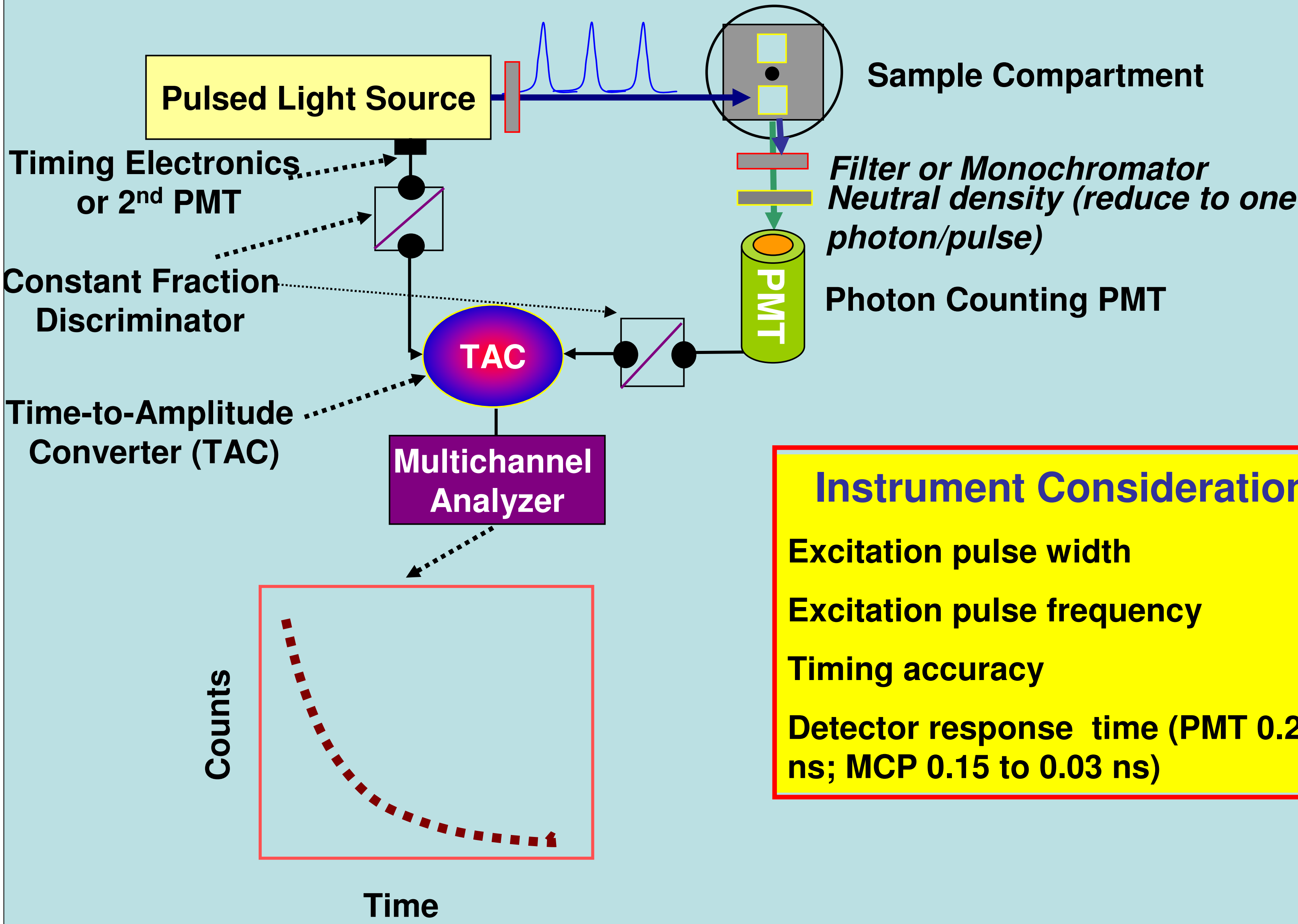
Modulation of Continuous Wave Light
Use of a Pockels Cell Modulator



The Pockels Cell is an electro-optic device that uses the birefringent properties of calcite crystals to alter the beam path of polarized light.

In applying RF power, the index of refraction is changed and the beam exiting the side emission port (0 polarized) is enhanced or attenuated. In applying RF the output light becomes modulated.

Time Correlated Single Photon Counting (TCSPC)



Instrument Considerations

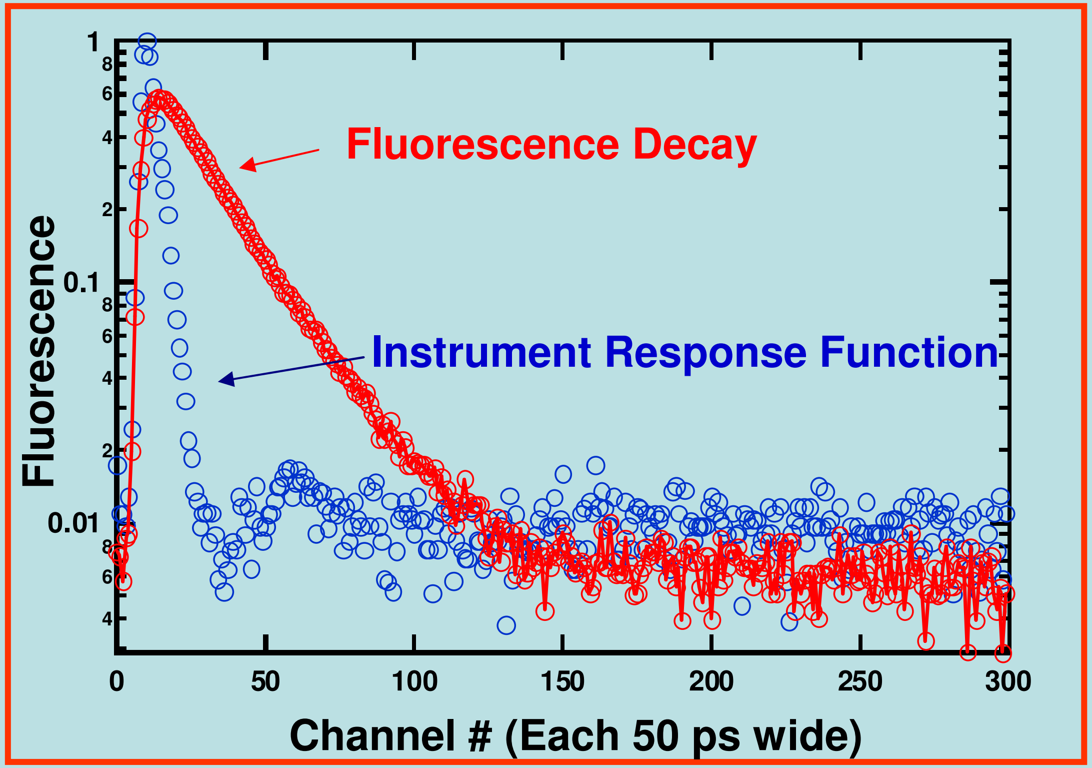
Excitation pulse width

Excitation pulse frequency

Timing accuracy

Detector response time (PMT 0.2-0.9 ns; MCP 0.15 to 0.03 ns)

Histograms Built one Photon Count at a Time …



(1) The pulse width and instrument response times determine the time resolution.

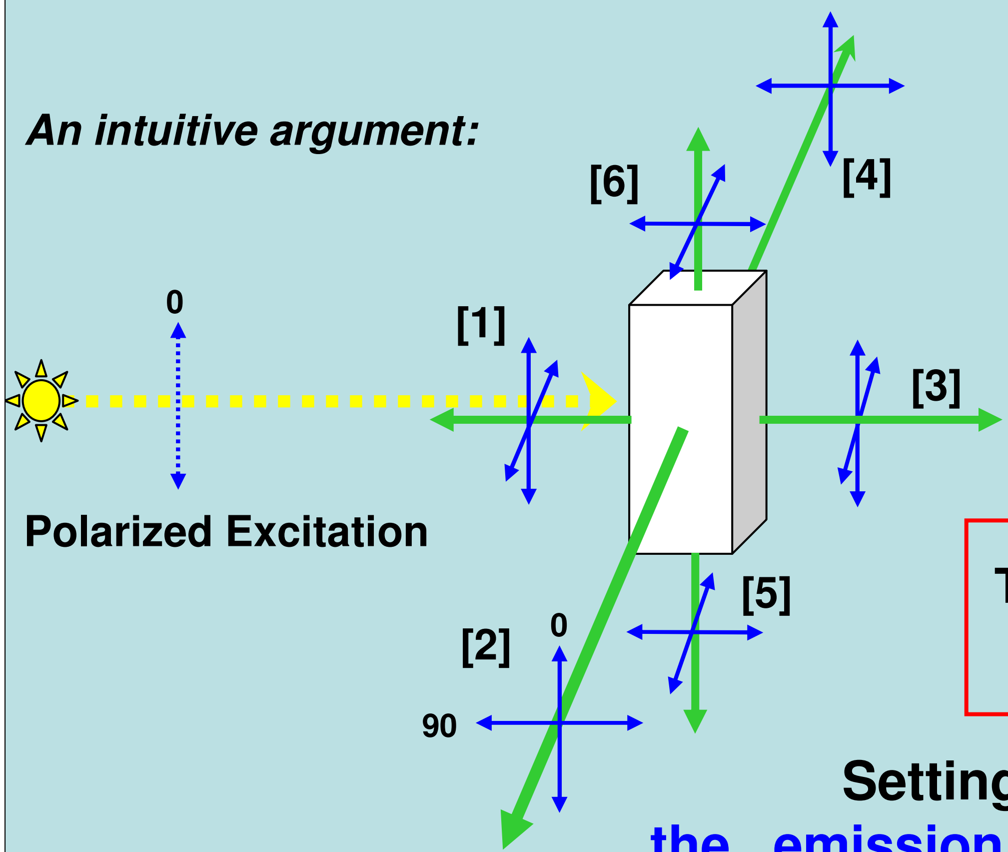
(2) The pulse frequency also influences the time window. An 80 MHz pulse frequency (Ti:Sapphire laser) would deliver a pulse every 12.5 ns and the pulses would interfere with photons arriving later than the 12.5 ns time.

Polarization Correction: Magic Angle

There is still a polarization bias due to the geometry of our excitation and collection (even without a monochromator) !!

Corrective polarizer settings

An intuitive argument:



[1] = $I_0 + I_{90}$
[2] = $I_0 + I_{90}$
[3] = $I_0 + I_{90}$
[4] = $I_0 + I_{90}$

[5] = $2 \times I_{90}$
[6] = $2 \times I_{90}$

Total = $4 \times I_0 + 8 \times I_{90}$

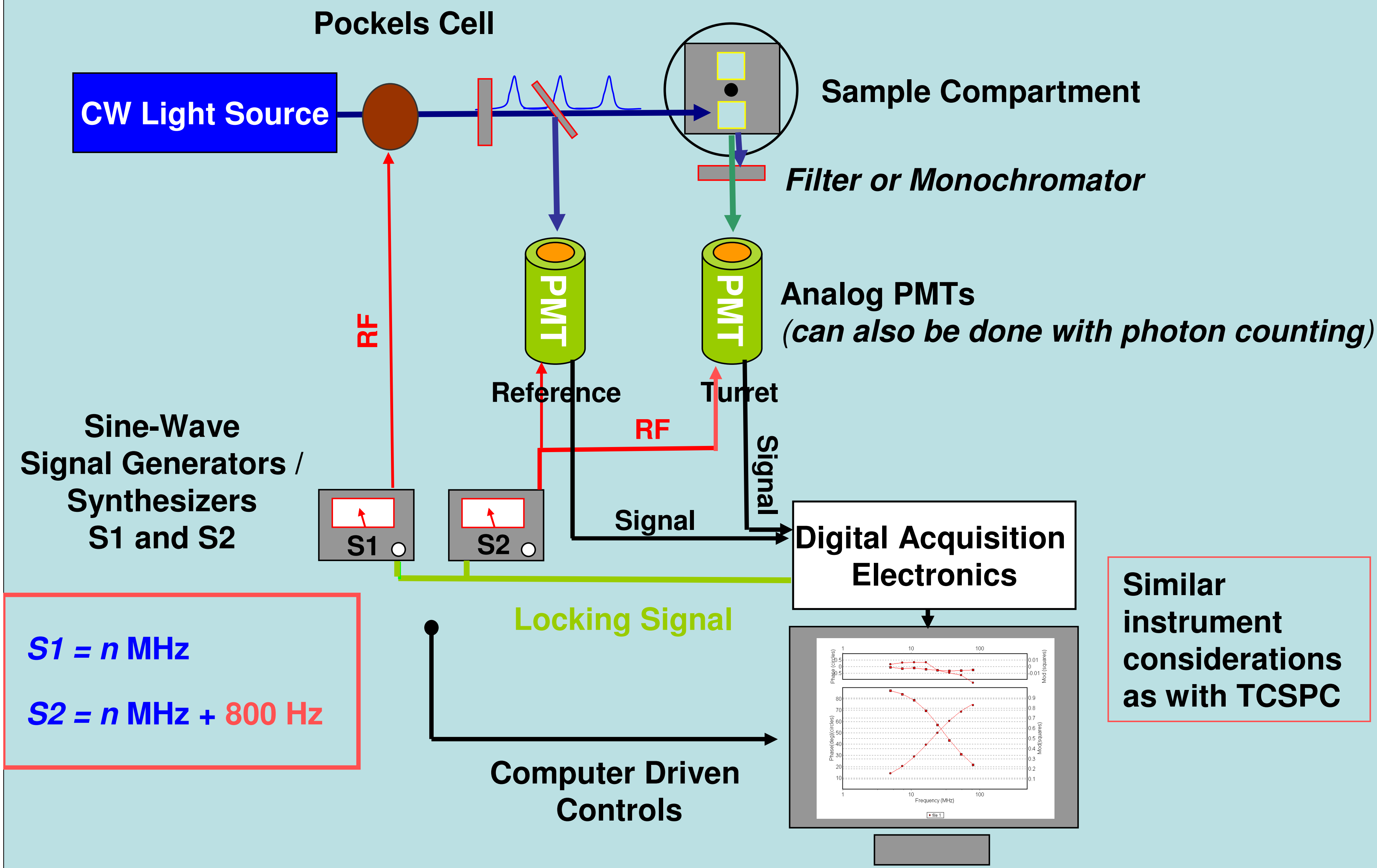
The total Intensity is proportional to:
$I_0 + 2 \times I_{90}$

Setting the excitation angle to 0° and the emission polarizer to 54.7° the proper weighting of the vectors is achieved.*

$\sin^2 54.7° = 2/3$

*Spencer & Weber (1970) J. Chem Phys. 52:1654

Frequency Domain Fluorometry



S1 = n MHz

S2 = n MHz + 800 Hz

Similar instrument considerations as with TCSPC

Instrument Validation through Fluorescent Standards

Tab. 6.2. Lifetime of various compounds in deoxygenated fluid solutions at 20 °C. Averages of the values measured by eight laboratories by either pulse fluorometry (four laboratories) or phase fluorometry (four laboratories)[a]

Compound[b]	*Solvent*	*Lifetime* $\bar{\tau}$ (ns)[c]	100 $s/\bar{\tau}$	λ^{ex} (nm)	λ^{em} (nm)	*d*	*e*
NATA	Water	3.04 ± 0.04	1.2	295–325	325–415	5	4
Anthracene	Methanol	5.1 ± 0.3	6.4	300–330	380–442	6	6
	Cyclohexane	5.3 ± 0.2	3.0	295–325	345–442	5	5
9-Cyanoanthracene	Methanol	16.5 ± 0.5	6.0	295–325	370–442	6	5
	Cyclohexane	12.4 ± 0.5	4.1	295–325	345–380	4	3
Erythrosin B	Water	0.089 ± 0.002	2.5	488, 514, 568	515–575	5	4
	Methanol	0.48 ± 0.02	5.0	488, 514	515–560	5	5
9-Methylcarbazole	Cyclohexane	14.4 ± 0.4	2.5	295–325	360–400	5	4
DPA	Methanol	8.7 ± 0.5	5.9	295–344	370–475	7	7
	Cyclohexane	7.3 ± 0.5	6.2	295–344	345–480	7	6
PPO	Methanol	1.64 ± 0.04	2.4	295–330	345–425	7	7
	Cyclohexane	1.35 ± 0.03	2.5	295–325	345–425	6	6
POPOP	Cyclohexane	1.13 ± 0.05	4.3	295–325	380–450	4	4
Rhodamine B	Water	1.71 ± 0.07	4.1	488–514	515–630	5	4
	Methanol	2.53 ± 0.08	3.1	295, 488, 514	515–630	6	5
Rubrene	Methanol	9.8 ± 0.3	2.6	300, 330, 488, 514	530–590	5	5
SPA	Water	31.2 ± 0.4	1.4	300–330	370–510	5	5
p-Terphenyl	Methanol	1.16 ± 0.08	7.0	284–315	330–380	6	6
	Cyclohexane	0.99 ± 0.03	2.9	295–315	330–390	4	4

a) Data collected by N. Boens and M. Ameloot.
b) Abbreviations used: NATA: N-acetyl-L-tryptophanamide, DPA: 9,10-diphenylanthracene, POPOP: 1,4-bis(5-phenyloxazol-2-yl)benzene, PPO: 2,5-diphenyloxazole, SPA: N-(3-sulfopropyl)acridinium. All solutions are deoxygenated by repetitive freeze–pump–thaw cycles or by bubbling N_2 or Ar through the solutions.
c) The quoted errors are sample standard deviations

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(\tau_i - \bar{\tau})^2}.$$

d) Number of lifetime data measured.
e) Number of lifetime data used in the calculation of the mean lifetime $\bar{\tau}$ and its standard deviation s. The difference between columns d and e gives the number of outliers.

•B. Valeur (2002) *Molecular Fluorescence. Principles and Applications*, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim.
•Boens et al. Anal Chem. 2007 Mar 1;79(5):2137-49. Epub 2007 Feb 1.


Thank You for your attention