

Principles of Fluorescence

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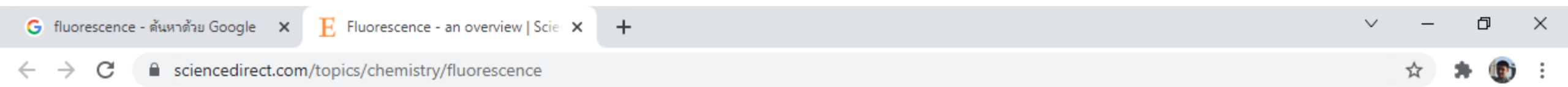
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1. Explain the following aspects of experimental methods used in physiological research: Principles, Methods, Interpretation, Advantages and Disadvantages
2. Apply the knowledge to choose appropriate methods in experimental designs and appraise the choice of methods employed in literatures
3. Participate in discussion of designing or appraising physiological experiments in literatures

Objectives

- Describe principles of fluorescence
- Select appropriate fluorochromes
- Select suitable fluorescent applications

What is fluorescence?



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Fluorescence

Fluorescence is the process where a material absorbs light at a high energy, short wavelength and emits light at a lower energy, usually visible, wavelength.

From: [Developments in Surface Contamination and Cleaning: Detection, Characterization, and Analysis of Contaminants, 2012](#)

Related terms:

[Photon](#), [Protein](#), [Ligand](#), [Quantum Dot](#), [Ion](#), [Nanoparticle](#), [Fluorescence Intensity](#), [Wavelength](#), [pH Value](#), [Luminiscence Type](#)

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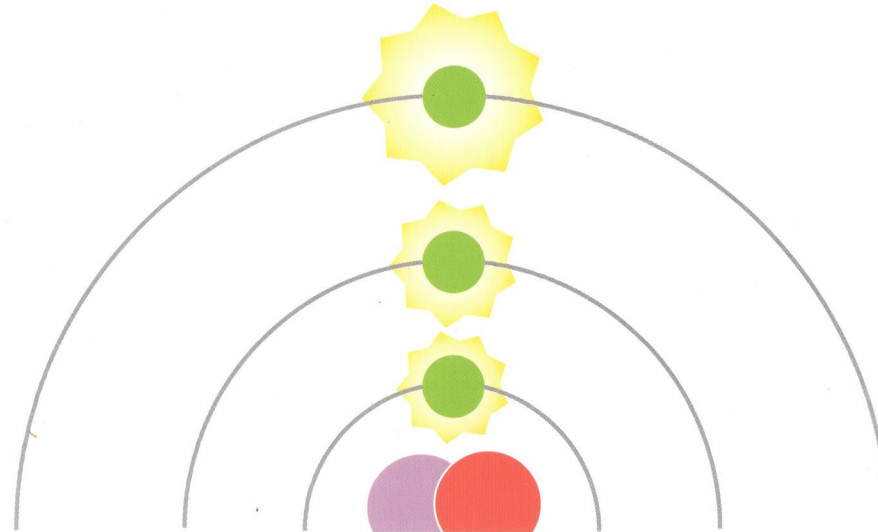


Quantum physics

All balls are made of atoms.

Electron energy level

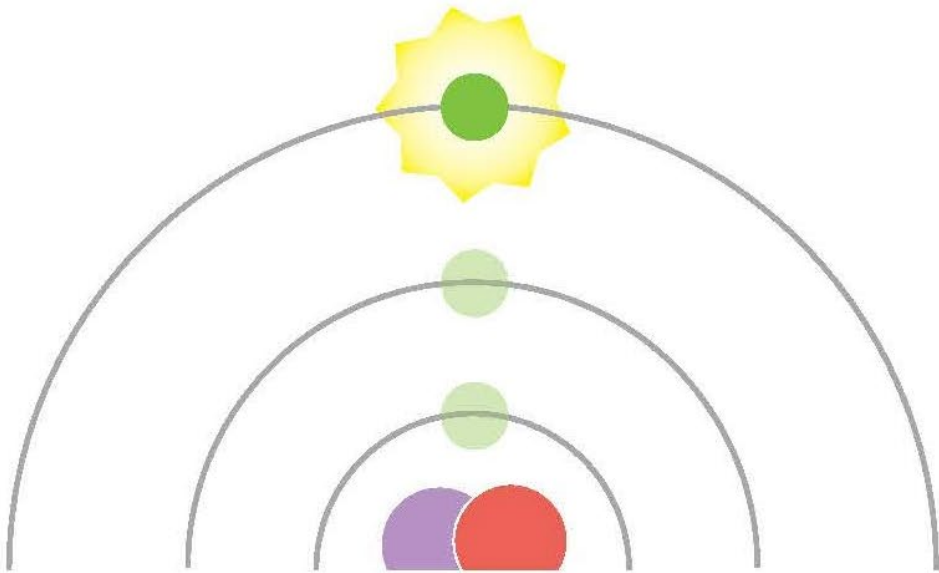
- At atomic level, electrons move around the nucleus in orbits/shells



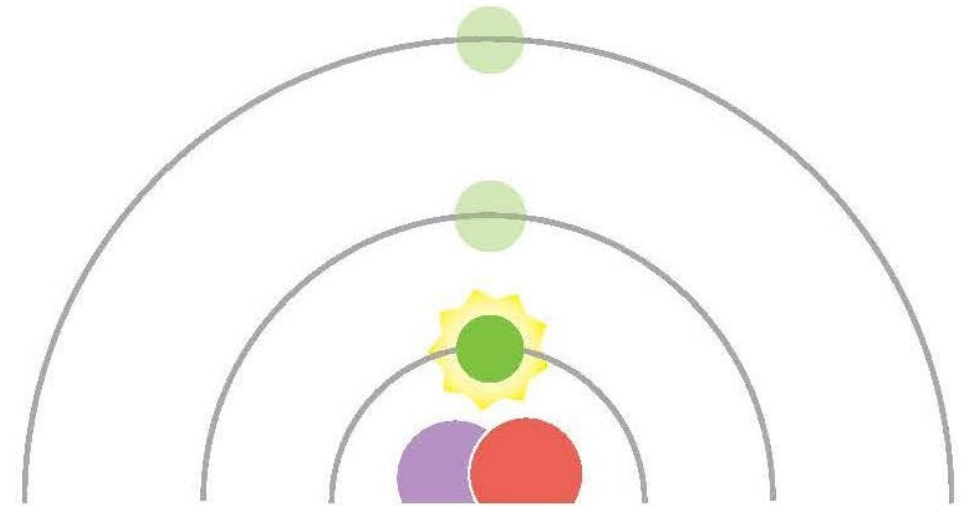
All **electrons** have **energy**.

Electron energy level

- Each orbit has its own specific energy level



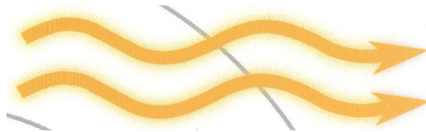
This **electron** has the most energy.



This **electron** has the least energy.

Electron energy level

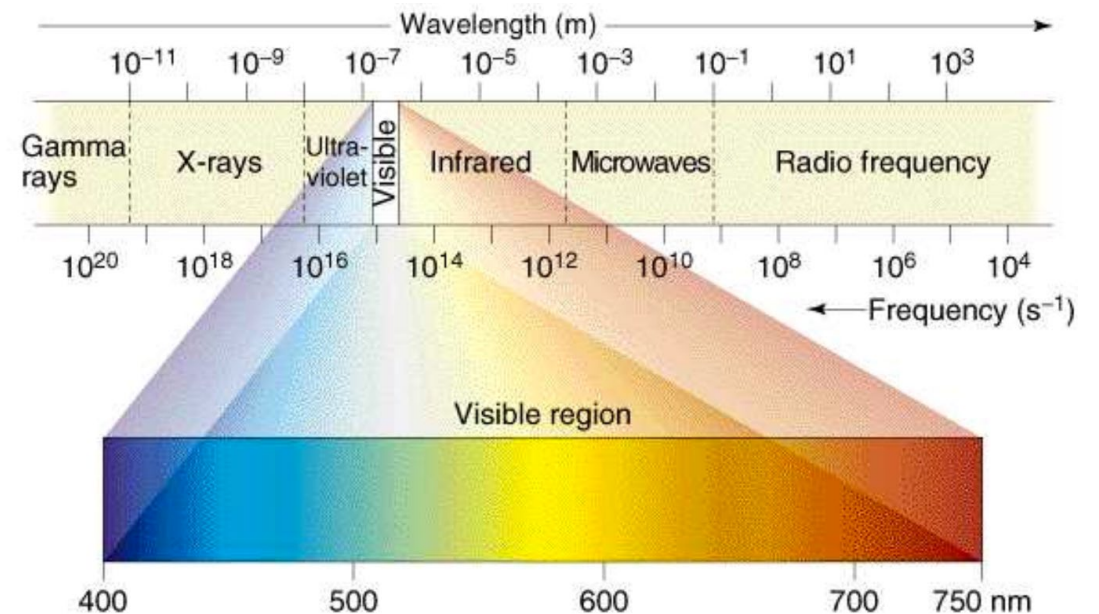
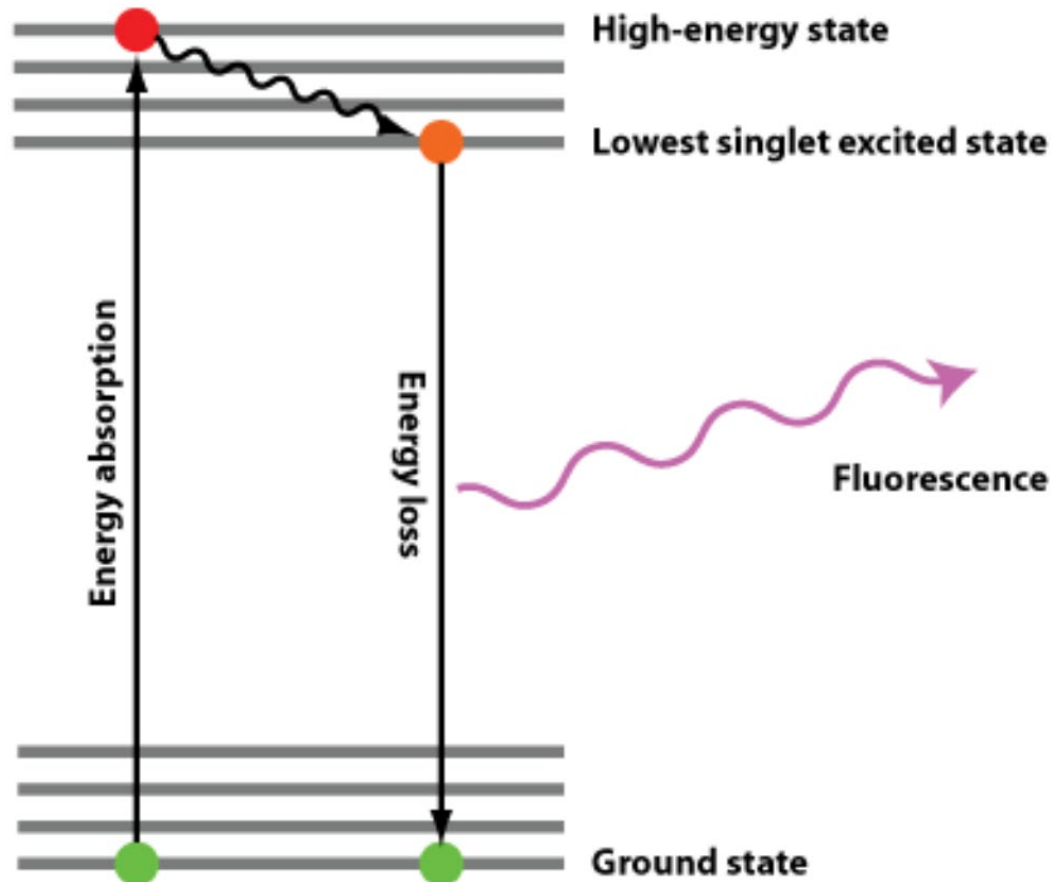
- Electrons can move between orbits by receiving or releasing energy



This amount of **energy is a quantum.**

What is fluorescence?

= Energy output emission from electrons movement

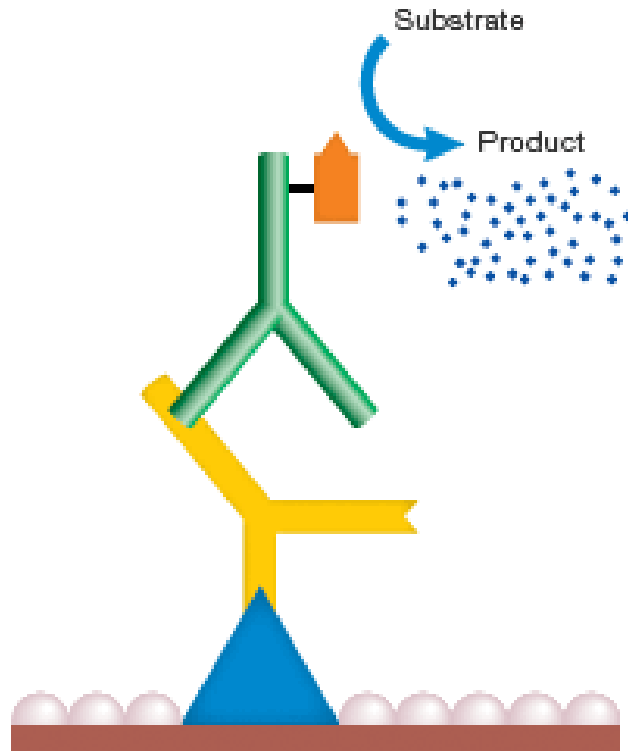


Why fluorescence?

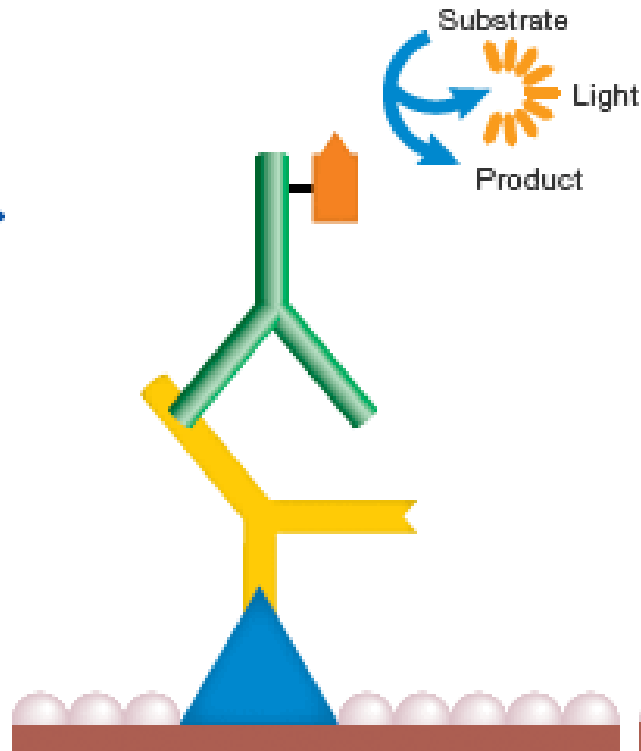
1. Light-based detection system
 - Machine for light detection is well developed
 - CCD camera
 - Filters
 - Examples
 - Colorimetric (Color absorbance)
 - Luminescence
 - Fluorescence
2. Specificity

Light-based detection method

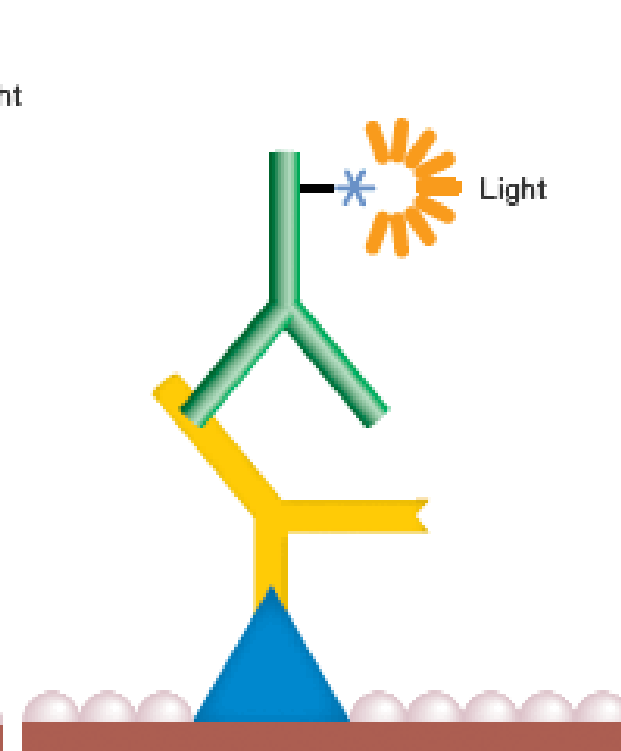
A. Colorimetric



B. Chemiluminescence



C. Fluorescence

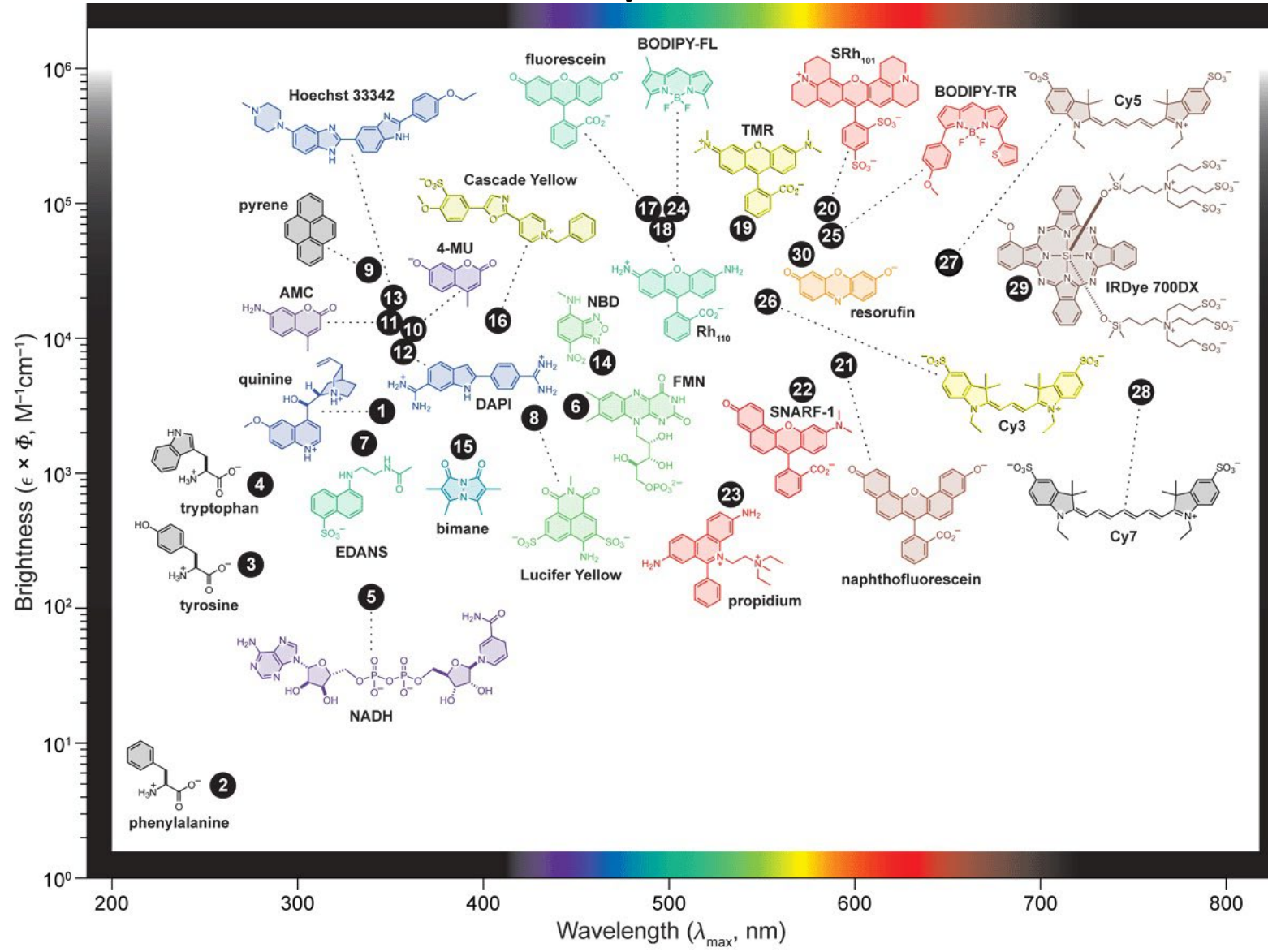




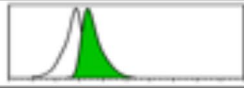
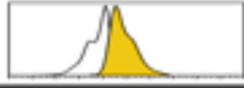
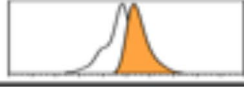
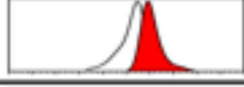
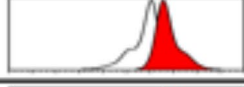
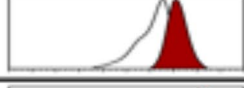
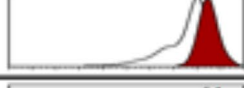
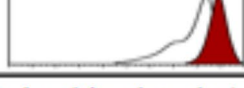
Fluorochromes/Fluorophores

- Materials with fluorescent property
- Proteins
 - GFP, YFP, CFP, RFP, Td-Tomato, ...
- Non-proteins
 - Fluorescein, Rhodamine, Texas Red, Alexa Fluoro, ...

Fluorochromes/Fluorophores



Fluorochromes/Fluorophores

Spectral Properties of DyLight Fluorescent Dyes					
Emission	Fluor	Ex/Em†	See Spectra	$\epsilon^{\dagger\dagger}$	Spectrally Similar Dyes
Blue	DyLight 350	353/432		15K	Alexa Fluor* 350, AMCA
Blue	DyLight 405	400/420		30K	Alexa Fluor 405, Cascade Blue*
Green	DyLight 488	493/518		70K	Alexa Fluor 488, fluorescein, FITC
Yellow	DyLight 550	562/576		150K	Alexa Fluor 546, Alexa Fluor 555, Cy3*, TRITC
Red	DyLight 594	593/618		80K	Alexa Fluor 594, Texas Red*
Red	DyLight 633	638/658		170K	Alexa Fluor 633
Red	DyLight 650	652/672		250K	Alexa Fluor 647, Cy5*
Near IR	DyLight 680	692/712		140K	Alexa Fluor 680, Cy5.5*
Near IR	DyLight 750	752/778		210K	Alexa Fluor 750
Infrared	DyLight 800	777/794		270K	IRDye* 800

†Excitation and emission maxima in nanometers (+/- 4nm) in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS)
††Molar extinction coefficient ($M^{-1} cm^{-1}$) at the absorption maximum

DAPI, Hoechst

Pacific Blue

AF488, GFP, FITC, PE

AF555, Cy3

Texas Red

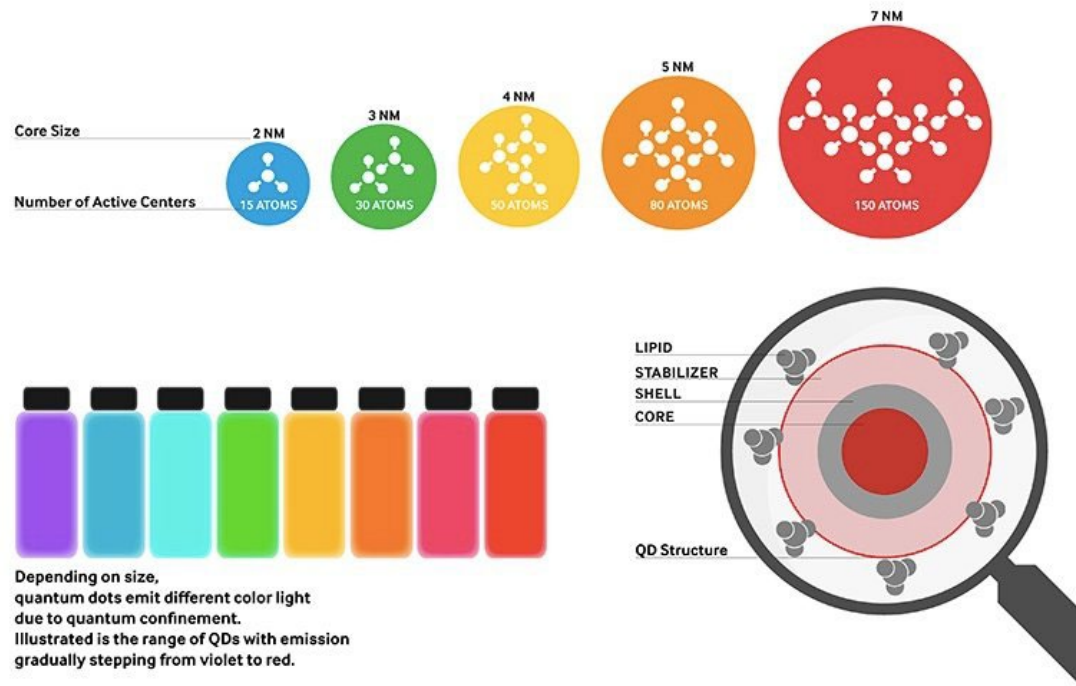
APC, Cy5

Cy5.5

Cy7



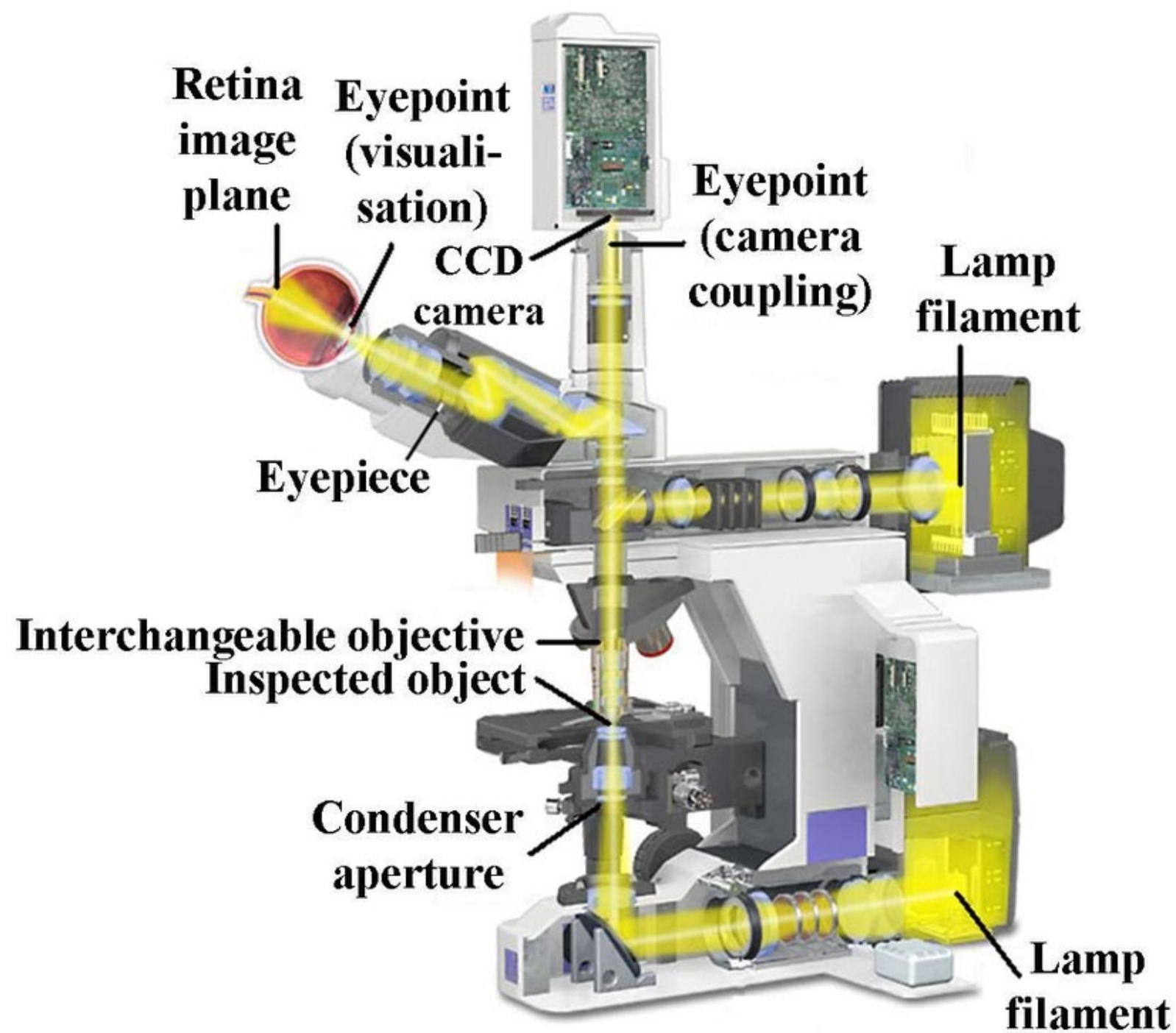
Quantum dots



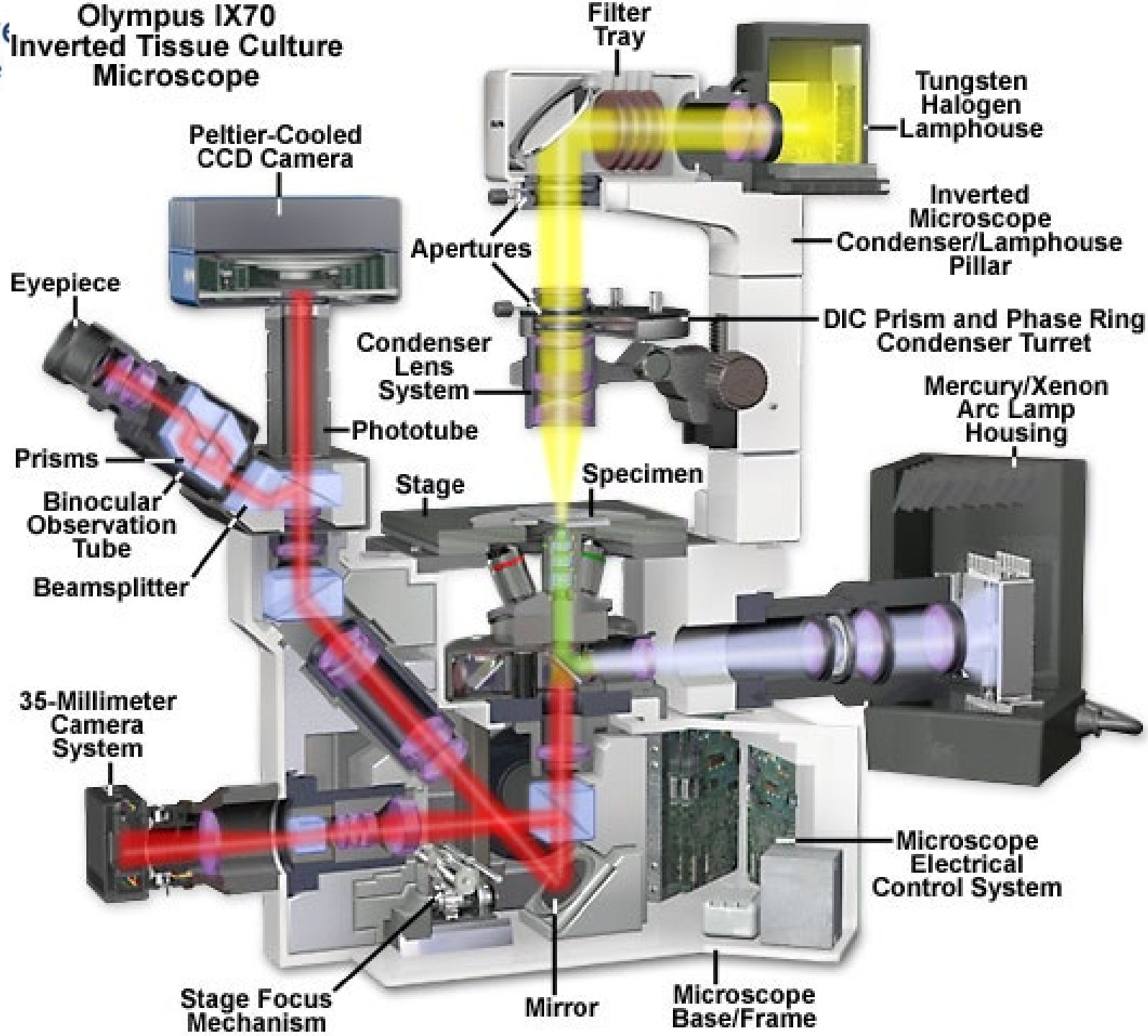
What should we do if we want to work with fluorescence?

Example:

- Protein detection in tissue samples using fluorescence dyes
- Immunohistochemistry / Immunofluorescent staining
 - (Lecture 12: Principles of histological and imaging studies)
- Solution:
 - Microscope → Fluorescent microscope



Olympus IX70 Inverted Tissue Culture Microscope



Example

- Protein detection in tissue samples using fluorescence dyes
- Fluorescent microscope
 - Which fluorophore should be used?
 - Check the microscope specs!!

Olympus IX70 Inverted Phase C

microscopecentral.com/products/olympus-ix70-inverted-phase-contrast-dic-fluorescence-microscope

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Head:	Front & Side Photo Port
Eyepieces:	10x Eyepieces
Nosepiece:	6 Position
Objectives:	UPlanFLN 4x PhL UPlanFL 10x CPlan 10x PhC LCPlanFL 20x Ph1 - CAP-P 1.1 LCPlanFL 20x - CAP-P 1.1
Stage:	XY Mechanical
Condenser:	0.55 N.A. w/ IX-LWPO DP10, DP20, Ph1, Phc
Fluorescence	Mercury Lamphouse & Power Supply 5 Position Fluorescence Turret WIBA, NU Filters

↑

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REVIEWS

Example

- Protein detection in tissue samples using fluorescence dyes
- Fluorescent microscope
 - Which fluorophore should be used?
 - ~~• Check the microscope specs!!~~
 - Fluorescent system(s) equipped with the microscope

Camera adapter:

- 1x C-mount adapter

Camera:

- Bestscope 8.3MP color CMOS camera

Computer & Software:

- Dell laptop computer with Windows 10
- ImageJ analysis software
- Camera software

Accessories:

- Necessary power and communication cables

This configuration includes any 3 of these new filter sets.

- New filter set - **DAPI** (EX: 365/28nm, DM: 405nm, EM: 445/50nm) (Dye compatibility: DAPI/Hoechst/AlexaFluor 350)
- New filter set - **EGFP/FITC/Cy2** (EX: 475/30nm, DM: 500nm, EM: 530/40nm) (Dye compatibility: EGFP/FITC/Cy2/AlexaFluor 488)
- New filter set - **TRITC/Cy3/Dsred** (EX: 545/20nm, DM: 562nm, EM: 605/60nm) (Dye compatibility: TRITC/Cy3/RFP/Rhodamine/AlexaFluor 546)
- New filter set - **Texas Red** (EX: 560/20nm, DM: 585nm, EM: 630/40nm) (Dye compatibility: Texas Red/mCherry/AlexaFluor 594)
- New filter set - **Cy5** (May require an upgraded light source) (EX: 630/50nm, DM: 662nm, EM: 695/50nm) (Dye compatibility: Cy5/AlexaFluor 647/Draq5)

This microscope's imaging capabilities:

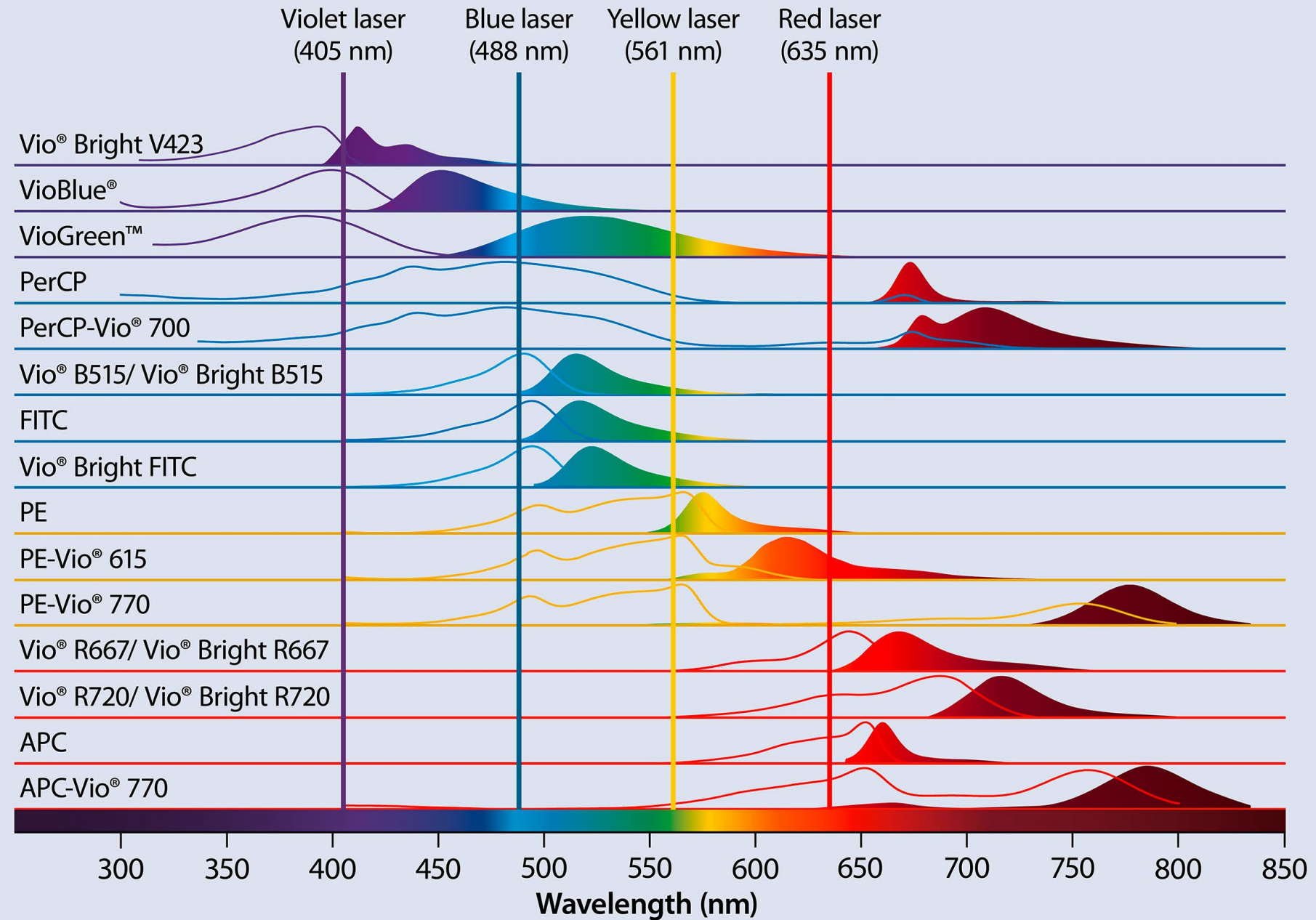
Imaging software highlights:

- Ability to take still images and live videos of your samples
- Display, annotate, edit, calibrate, measure, analyze, process, print, and save raster
- Variable linear measurements such as line segment, radius values, and others

We can customize this microscope to fit your requirements:



Fluorescence spectra overview





Emission	Fluor	Ex/Em†	See Spectra
Blue	DyLight 350	353/432	
Blue	DyLight 405	400/420	
Green	DyLight 488	493/518	
Yellow	DyLight 550	562/576	
Red	DyLight 594	593/618	
Red	DyLight 633	638/658	
Red	DyLight 650	652/672	
Near IR	DyLight 680	692/712	
Near IR	DyLight 750	752/778	
Infrared	DyLight 800	777/794	

Laser Line	Laser Type
~ 405 nm	Diode
~ 440 nm	Diode
473 nm	Doubled DPSS
488.0 nm	Ar-ion gas
~ 488 nm	Doubled OPS
514.5 nm	Ar-ion gas
515.0 nm	Doubled DPSS
561.4 nm	Doubled DPSS
568.2 nm	Kr-ion gas
593.5 nm	Doubled DPSS
632.8 nm	HeNe gas
~ 635 nm	Diode
647.1 nm	Kr-ion gas

Example

- Protein detection in tissue samples using fluorescence dyes
- Fluorescent microscope
 - Which fluorophore should be used?
 - Fluorescent system(s) equipped with the microscope
 - Choose fluorophores that their spectra are compatible with the microscope

What should be concerned when working with fluorescence?

2 most common problems

1. Autofluorescence
2. Bleaching / Fading



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Autofluorescence

Autofluorescence (AF) is defined as **natural fluorescence** emission of tissue arising from **endogenous fluorophores** after exposure and activation by radiation of a suitable wavelength.

From: [Critical Reviews in Oncology/Hematology, 2016](#)

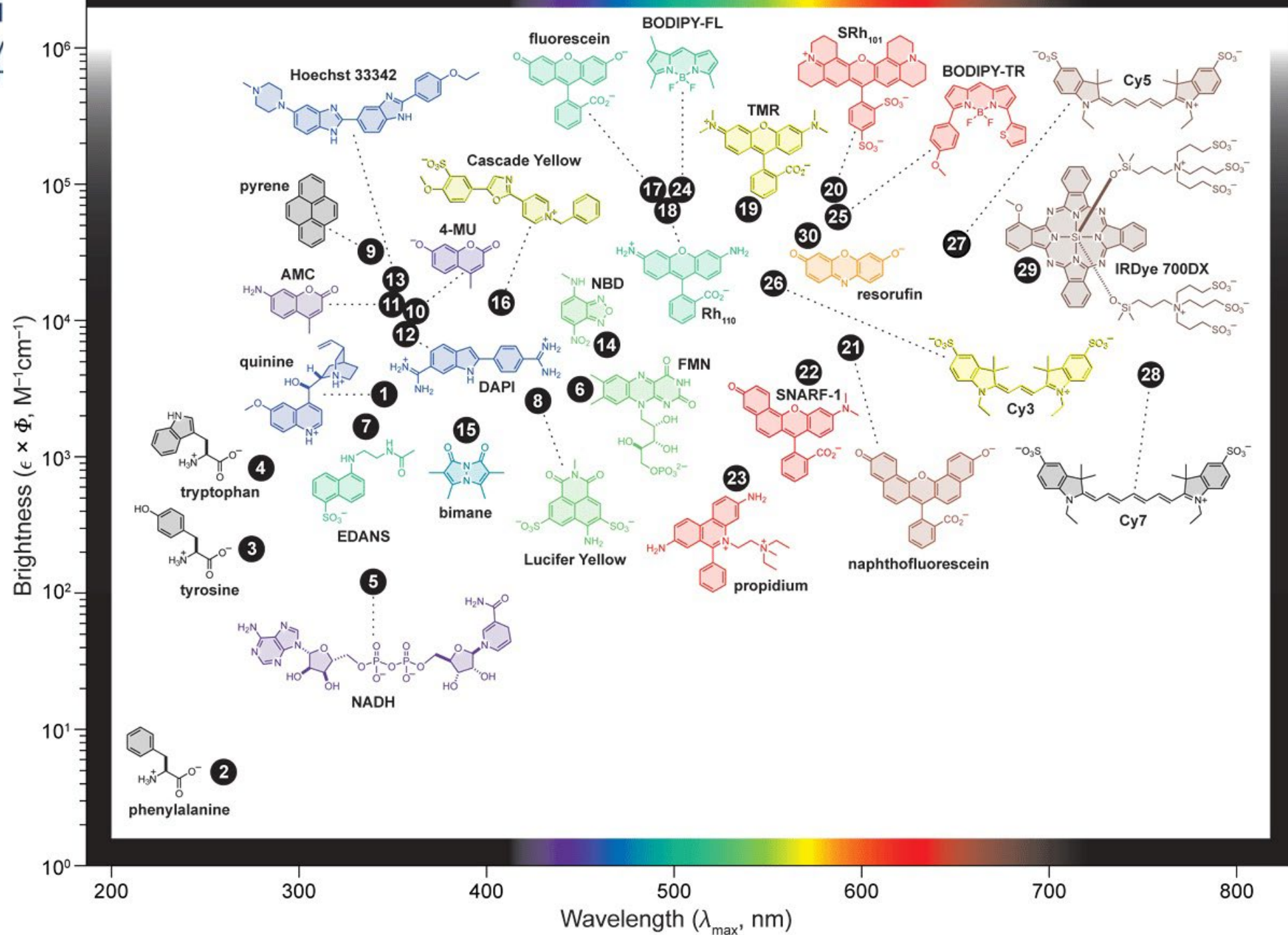
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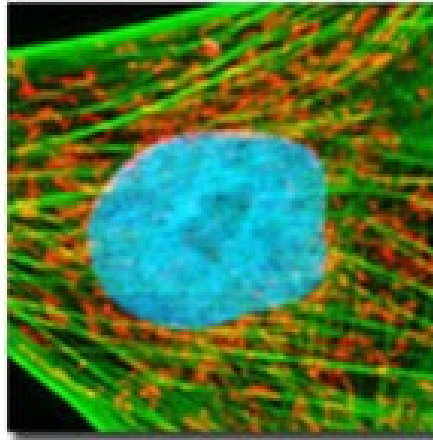
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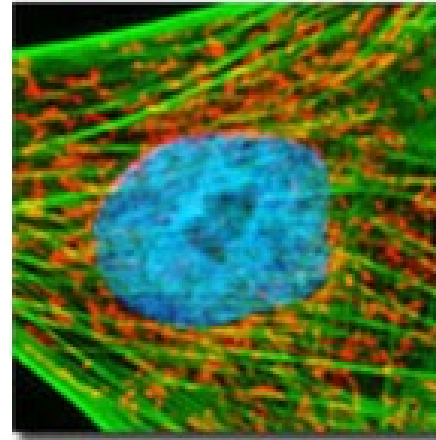


Bleaching/Fading

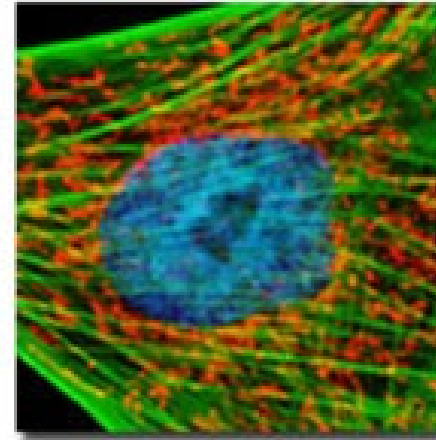
Photobleaching Rates in Multiply Stained Specimens



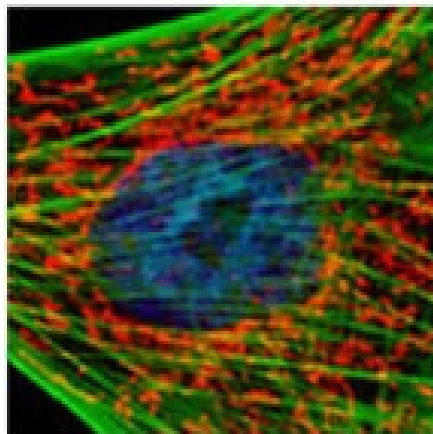
(a)



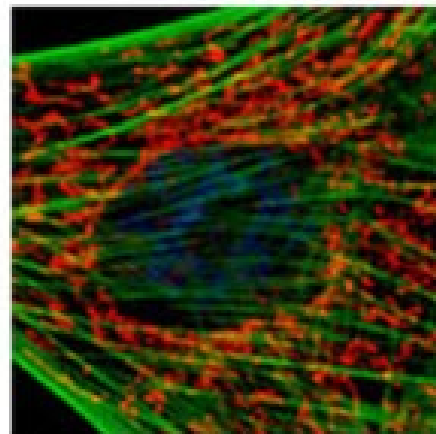
(b)



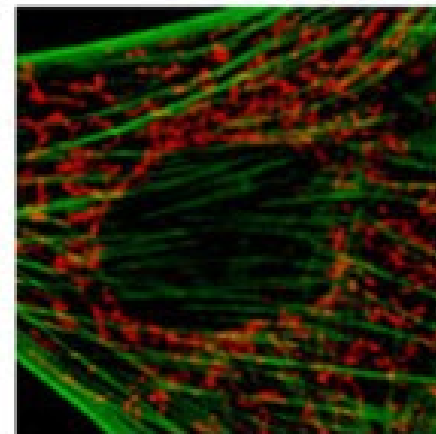
(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

Images
taken at
2 minutes
interval

Applications

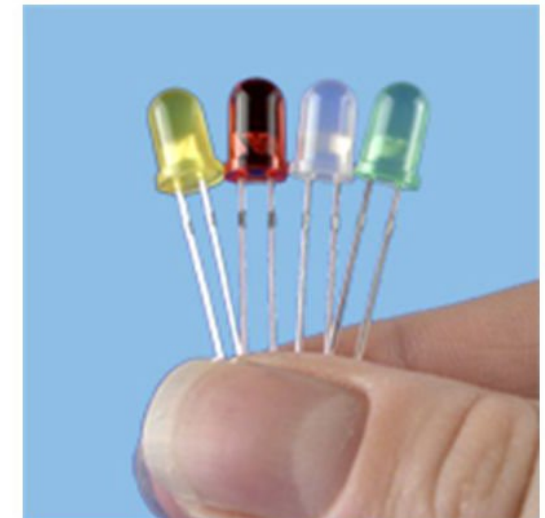
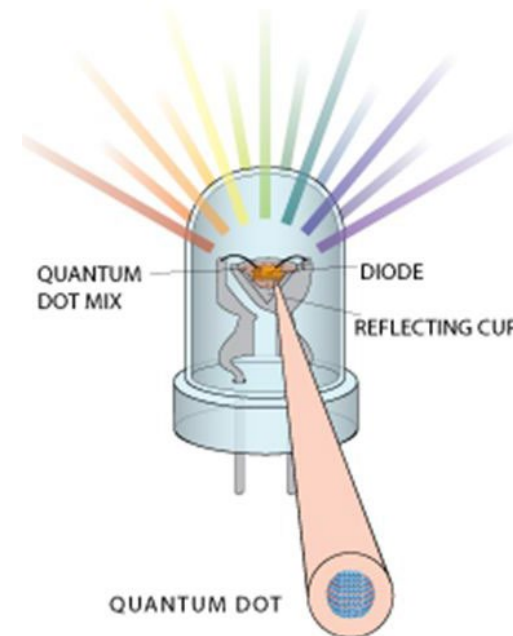
Have you used/seen fluorescence in any experiments?
What did you use/see?

Fluorescent lamp/light bulb



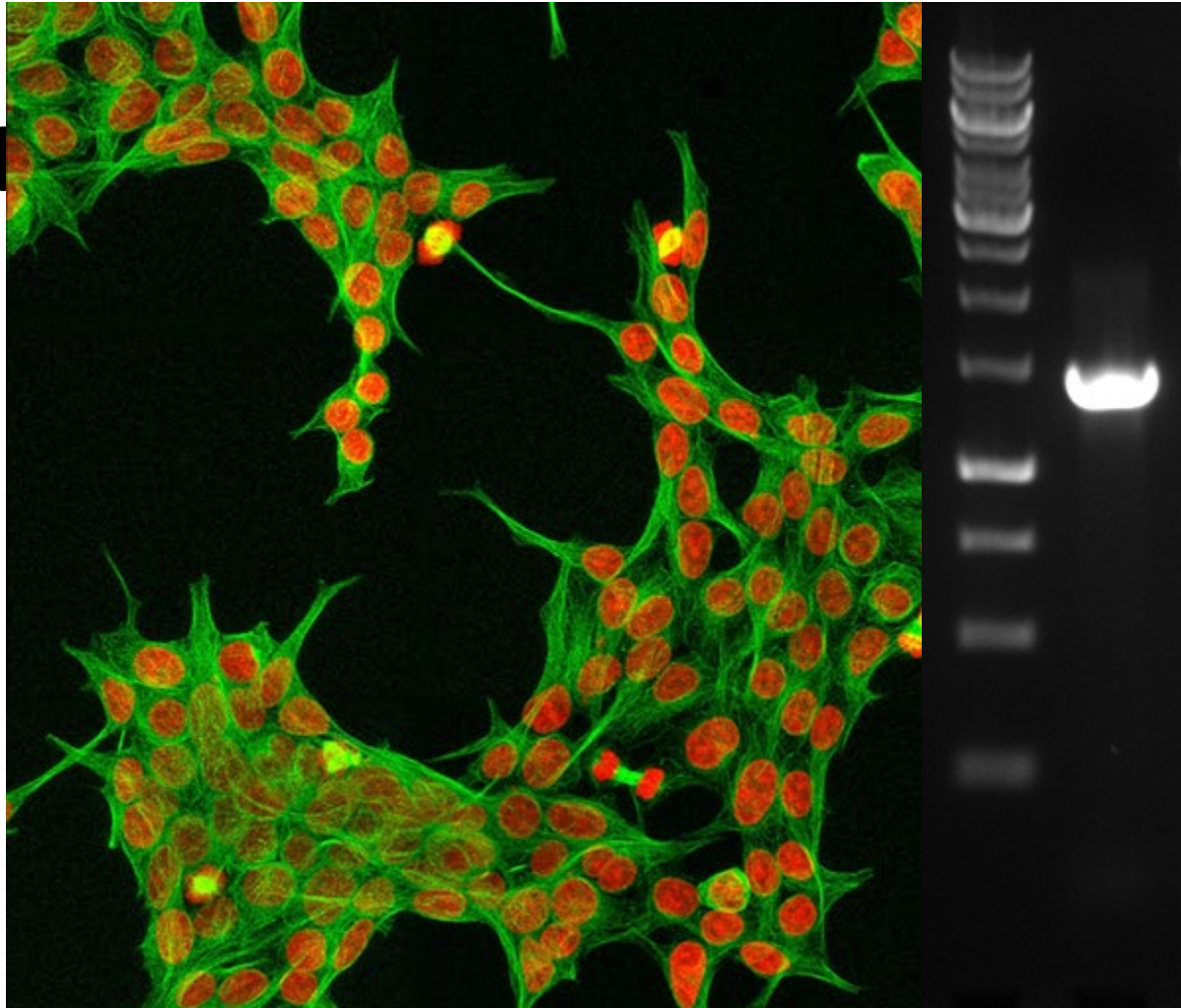
Quantum dots

Quantum Dot LED



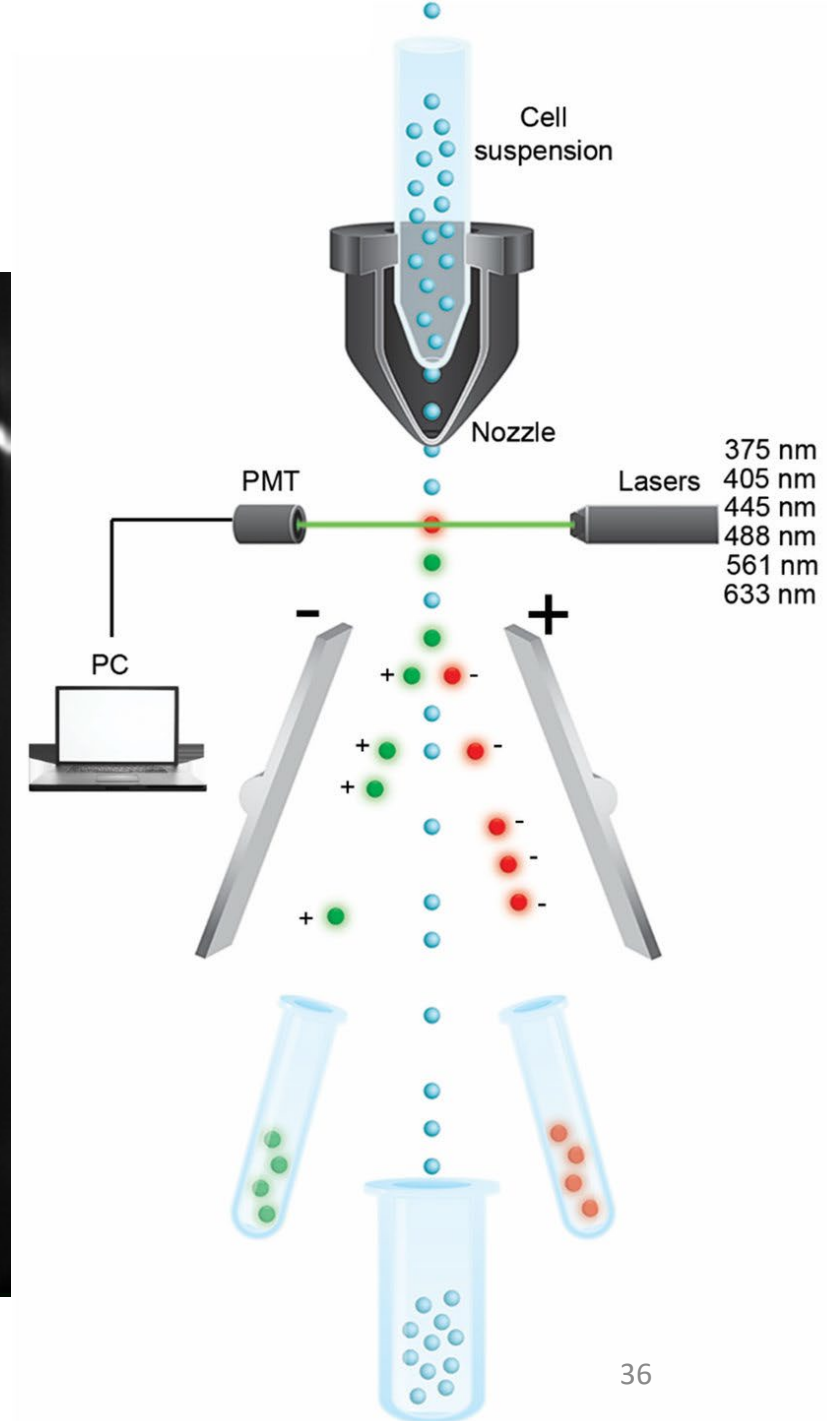
Biomedical research

- Direct



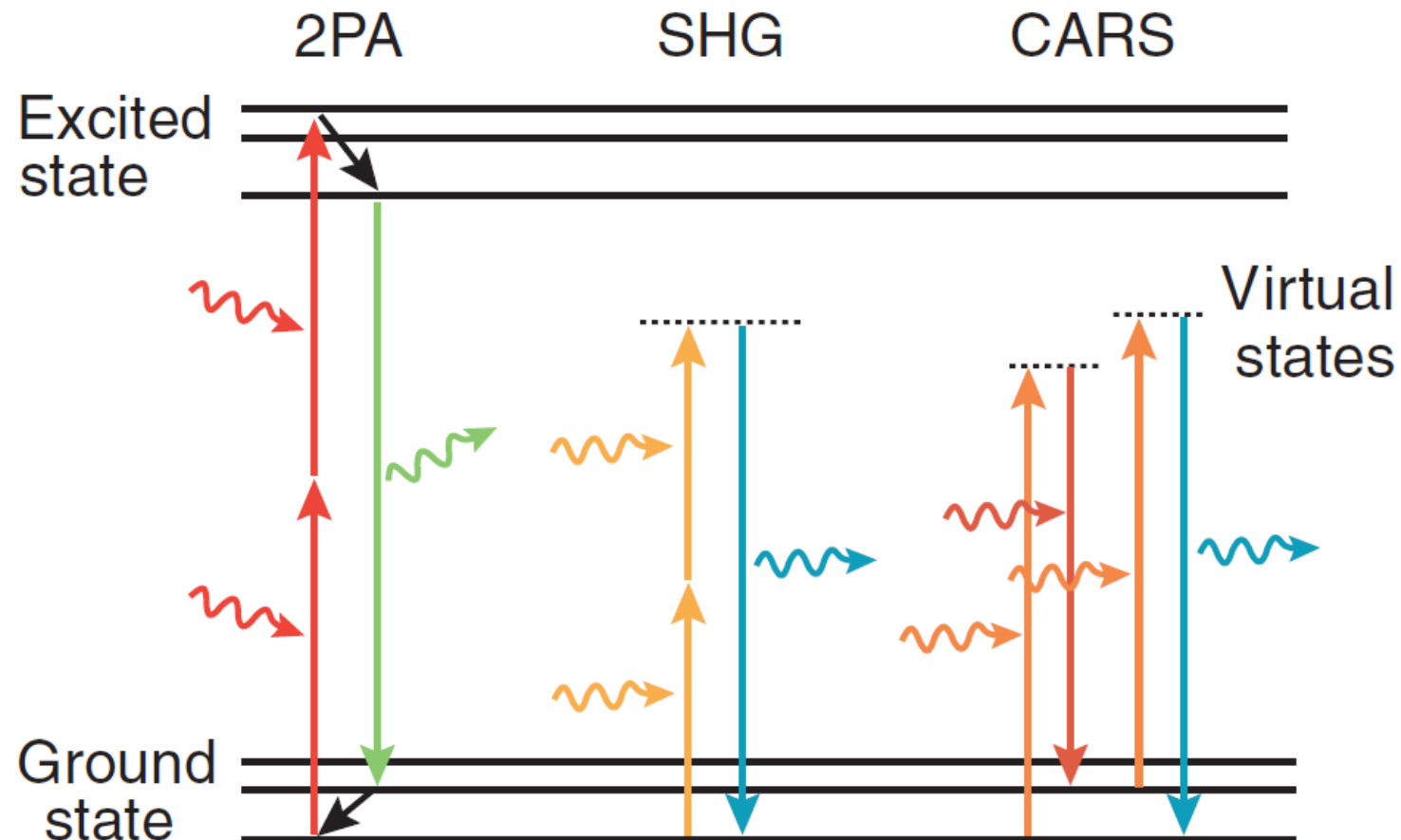
Staining

Flow cytometry/FACS – Fluorescent Activated Cell Sorting



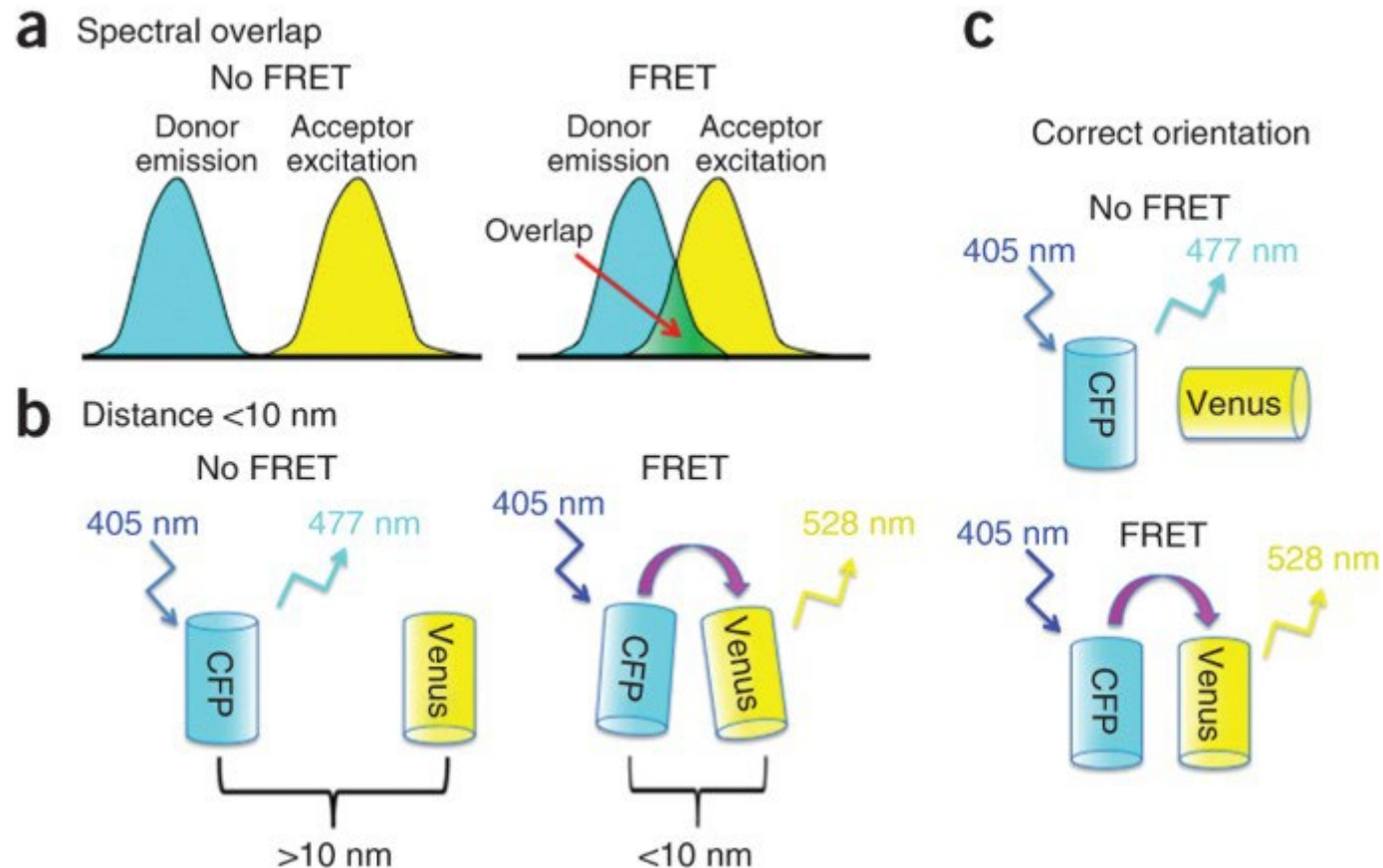
Biomedical research

- Multiphoton microscopy



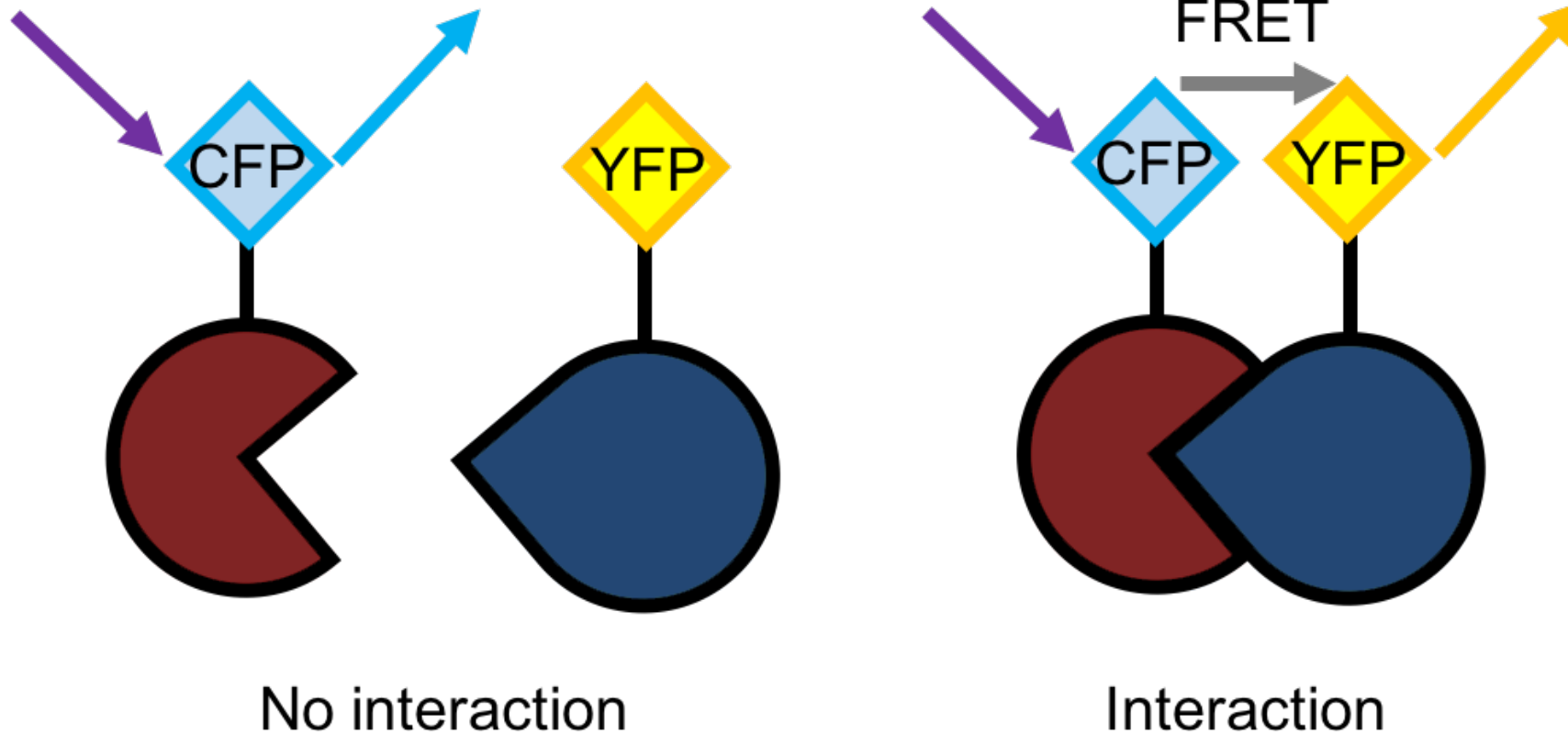
Biomedical research

- FRET: Fluorescent Resonance Energy Transfer



Biomedical research

- FRET: Fluorescent Resonance Energy Transfer



Questions?

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