Biological Spectroscopy

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The electromagnetic spectrum

The electromagnetic spectrum



The longer the wavelength the lower the energy

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



 $\begin{array}{l} \lambda \text{ - wavelength, meter} \\ C - wave's velocity, m/s \\ \nu \ \text{ - frequency, } s^{\text{-1}}\text{=}\text{Hz} \end{array}$

Wave-particle duality

Light is a Wave:



Light is a Particle: - Light also acts as a stream of particles with defined units

Light is made up of particles called photons with defined energy

What is absorption?



$$E_2 - E_1 = \Delta E = h\nu$$

Absorption of electromagnetic radiation is the way by which the energy of a photon is taken up by the electron.

Only photons of certain energy will be absorbed \bigcup Only light of certain wavelength will be absorbed

Example of absorbance spectrum



DNA absorbance



Why not a single peak?

Why not a single peak?





Low temperature – resolving peaks



Tetrazine spectra: Electronic, vibrational and rotational energy levels



Different Spectroscopies

- UV-Vis concentration determination, redox changes, identification
- Fluorescence emission of UV/Vis by certain molecules
- · FT-IR vibrational transitions of molecules
- · FT-NMR nuclear spin transitions
- X-Ray Spectroscopy electronic transitions of core electrons

Why should we learn this stuff? After all, nobody solves structures with UV any longer!

Many organic molecules have chromophores that absorb UV

UV absorbance is about 1000 x easier to detect per mole than NMR

Still used in following reactions where the chromophore changes. Useful because timescale is so fast, and sensitivity so high. Kinetics, esp. in biochemistry, enzymology.

Most quantitative Analytical chemistry in organic chemistry is conducted using HPLC or any chromatography with UV detectors

One wavelength may not be the best for all compound in a mixture.

Absorbance spectroscopy

UV/Vis-NIR spectroscopy

What region of the EM spectrum are we interested in?

| UVC | 210-280 nm |
|---------|-------------|
| UVB | 280-320 nm |
| UVA | 320-400 nm |
| Visible | 400-700 nm |
| Far Pod | 700-1100 pm |

 Far Red
 700-1100 nm

 Near-Infra red
 1100-2500 nm (9000 cm ⁻¹ - 4000 cm ⁻¹) (increasingly important for materials science)

 Mid Infrared
 2500-6600 nm (4000 - 60 cm ⁻¹) (unual to electronic acception)

Terminology

Light Intensity – P, lesser after passing through the sample, $P < P_0$

Transmittance - The light passing through a sample

 $T = P / P_0$ can be expressed in %

T=100% - no absorbance, T=0% – no light left after sample Po

Absorbance - A measure of the extent to which a substance transmits light

A = log (1/T)

A=0 no absorbance, corresponds to 100% transmittance A=1 - only 10% light left A=2 - only 1% light left



Absorption and Transmission

Consider a beam of light on a material – It can be scattered, absorbed, or transmitted



Transmitted light

Light emerges propagating in the same direction as the incident light

Absorbed light
 Energy from light is absorbed in the volume of the material

Scattered light

- Light emerges in a different direction from the incident light

The Bougier-Beer-Lambert Law

An Empirical law – i.e. based on observation not theoretical derivation

The Bougier-Beer-Lambert Law

 $A = log (P_{\alpha}/P)$

 $A = \mathcal{E} \times c \times l$

c - concentration of the light-absorbing matter l - light path length

 \mathcal{E} – extinction coefficient, or coefficient of proportionality; an intrinsic property of the light absorbing matter



Path length l

Solvent only

P

 P_0

Usuallty is measured at particular wavelength



Law

- The intensity of light passing through a sample decreases exponentially and the absorbance of light is proportional to the concentration of the chromophore
- The absorbance of light is proportional to the pathlength through which the light travels

 $\mathsf{A} = \epsilon \mathsf{cl}$

A is absorbance, c is concentration (mol L⁻¹), I is pathlength (in cm) and ϵ is the molar absorptivity (L mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹)





Beer-Lambert Law

Linear absorbance with increased concentration--directly proportional

Makes UV/VIS spectroscopy useful for quantitative analysis

Above a certain concentration the linearity curves down, loses direct proportionality. Due to molecular associations at higher concentrations. Must demonstrate linearity in validating response in an analytical procedure.

A beam of radiation can be attenuated (extinguished) not only by absorption but also by **scattering**

What is scattering?

When light encounters matter, matter not only re-emits light in the forward direction, but it also re-emits light in all other directions.

This is called scattering – the redirection of radiation out of the original direction of propagation.

Contrast with absorption, which involves conversion of EM energy to heat or chemical energy.

> Light scattering is everywhere. All molecules scatter light. Surfaces scatter light. Scattering causes milk and clouds to be white and the daytime sky to be blue. It is the basis of nearly all optical phenomena.

Rayleigh scattering





Beer-Lambert Law

- · Beer's law is valid at low concentrations, but breaks down at higher concentrations
- For linearity, A < 1





give you 0.02 Abs at 260 nm in a cuvette of 1 cm lengths

Examples



UV determination of protein concentration

If no extinction coefficient information exists for a protein or protein mixture of interest, and a rough estimate of protein concentration is required for a solution that has no other interfering substances, assume cpercent = 10. Most protein extinction coefficients (cpercent) fall in the range 4.0-24.0.3 Therefore, although any given protein can vary ionitions the tops. significantly from $\epsilon_{1\%}$ = 10, the average for a mixture of many different proteins will likely be close to 10.

NADH/NAD+



Millimolar redox extinction coefficient of NADH is ^{1cm}Abs_{340nm} of 6.22

 $1 \text{ cm}_{1\text{ mM}} \epsilon_{340\text{ nm}} = 6.22$

It means that 1mM solution gives absorbance of 6.22 at 340 nm in 1 cm cuvette



Cytochromes





Cytochromes





Examples





Examples



Protein determination: BCA method (Bicinchoninic Acid)





Beer-Lambert Law

- If your unknown has a higher concentration than your highest standard, you have to ASSUME that linearity still holds (NOT GOOD for quantitative analysis)
- Unknowns should ideally fall
 within the standard range
- Scattering



Scheme of the spectrophotometer



Light source: Mercury-Xenon Arc Lamp, Tungsten-Halogen Lamp, Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) or Lasers

Monochromator: supplies light within a narrow range of wavelengths

Detector: Photomultiplier or photon counter - measures the light intensity

How Do UV spectrometers work?



Matched quartz cuvettes Sample in solution at ca. 10⁻⁵ M. System protects PM tube from stray light D2 lamp-UV Tungsten lamp-Vis Double Beam makes it a difference technique



Diode Array Detectors



Diode array alternative puts grating, array of photosens. Semiconductors after the light goes through the sample. Advantage, speed, sensitivity,

Resolution is 1 nm, vs 0.1 nm for normal UV (can be solved by including more diodes).

High resolution requires more photodiodes, i.e. higher price.

Various types of spectrophotometers







Principles of Fluorescence

Luminescence

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- · Emission of photons from electronically excited states
 - Two types of luminescence: Relaxation from singlet excited state Relaxation from triplet excited state

We will consider

<u>Photoluminescence</u> - a process in which a substance absorbs photons (electromagnetic radiation) and then re-radiates photons.

Principles of Fluorescence

3. Types of emission

- Fluorescence return from excited singlet state to ground state; does not require change in spin orientation (more common of relaxation)
- Phosphoresence return from a triplet excited state to a ground state; electron requires change in spin orientation
- Emissive rates of fluorescence are several orders of magnitude faster than that of phosphorescence

Principles of Fluorescence



Absorption of light – excitation of the electron and jump from the ground state to the higher vibrational state – femtoseconds 10^{-15}

Decay from the higher vibrational state to the lowest excited state – picoseconds $10^{\cdot 12}\,$

Decay to the ground state with emission of a photon – nanoseconds $10^{.9}$

Wavelength and energy



The longer the wavelength the lower the energy

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





The excitation and emission spectra of a fluorophore and the correlation between the excitation amplitude and the emission intensity. General diagram of the excitation and emission spectra for a fluorophore (left). The intensity of the emitted light (Em1 and Em2) is directly proportional to the energy required to excite a fluorophore at any excitation wavelength (Ex1 and Ex2, respectively; right).



Mirror-image rule

• Emission spectra is typically a mirrorimage of the absorption spectra (excitation spectra) Stokes (guy with tonic water) Shift • The energy of emission is less than energy of absorption • Emission occurs at longer wavelengths



Fluorescence

•Chromophores are components of molecules which absorb light •They generally have aromatic rings •If they are able to emit light – they are fluorophores. In protein most fluorescence results from the tryptophan residues



•Quantum yield (Q, Φ) -gives the efficiency of the fluorescence process = the number of emitted photons relative to the number of absorbed photons •the higher the Q the brighter the emission •max Q is 1.0 or 100% •fluorophores with Q ~ 0.15 or 15% are still considered good



Instrumentation

Spectrofluorometers

Fluorescence scanners

Microplate readers





Fluorescence microscopes

Fluorospectrophotomener components



Light source: Mercury-Xenon Arc Lamp, Tungsten-Halogen Lamp, Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) or Lasers

Monochromator: supplies light within a narrow range of wavelengths

Detector: Photomultiplier or photon counter - measures the light intensity

Fluorescence spectroscopy in biochemical applications:

1. Steady-state (constant illumination and observation)

2. Resonance energy transfer (RET) (Förster distances)

3. Fluorescence anisotropy (photoselective excitation by polarized light, information on size and shape; protein-protein associations, membrane fluidity etc)

4. Time-resolved (measures intensity or anisotropic decay, pulse of light)

5. Quenching (information on the solvent accessibility of the fluorophore)

6. Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy (FCS) (association reactions in very small volumes)

7. Single molecule detection (SMD) (on immobilized fluorophores)

8. Cellular imaging (confocal microscopy)



Fluorescence of protein cofactors

Some of the protein cofactors can be identified in by characteristic spectra:

e.g. NADH or NADPH – maximum emission at 460 nm

FAD or FMN – flavin cofactors maximum emission at 525 nm

Redox-dependent spectra

Absorbance and fluorescence of tryptophan and tyrosine



Fluorescence in polypeptides is provided by aromatic amino acids

Trp emission is fingerprint of protein conformation

INTENSIT



indole ring fluorescence is dependent on the environment/localization

• from 315 to 355 nm

could shift due to conformational changes

Spectral classes of Trp • emission max ~ 315 nm - very hydrophobic environment, usually buried residue • emission max ~ 330-340 nm partially exposed residue • emission max ~ 350 nm - exposed residue, also in denaturated proteins



Simple fluorescent measurements (ligand binding)



Change in the fluorescent spectra of molybdate-sensing protein ModE from *E.coli* upon addition of molybdate. Aliquotes of ligand were added to a solution of 60 μ M protein and changes in the fluorescence at 350 nm were monitored. Saturation occurres at the concetration of 60 μ M of ligand, showing that there is one binding side per protein. Binding of the ligand leads to 50% quenching of the fluorescence. [Boxer et al., 2004].

Extra resources in the web

http://www.invitrogen.com/site/us/en/home/support/Tutorials.html

You are probably already familiar with fluorescence as a property of some substances that "given the dark". A large waity of dissoverces thermical in how been synthesized and modified to specifically interact with cellular structures in order to make them detectable in many different controls. With sophistical microscopes and instruments, is a possible to detect, image, and measure the semont of disorescence in samples as small as individual cells, and with multiple interescent colors. The combination of graduatized disorderus chimicals and estimates the subscent colors. The combination of graduatized disorderus chimicals and estimates the subscent colors.



FRET = Förster Resonance Energy Transfer

Non-radiative energy transfer between molecules with overlapping emission-excitation spectra.

First Identified in 1946 by Theodor Förster

FRET: The Size

Allows for qualitative and quantitative measurement of very close interactions



FRET = Förster Resonance Energy Transfer



Energy is transferred through the resonant coupling of the dipole moments of donor and acceptor

Energy transition between a donor and acceptor with a finite probability based on proximity

DISTANCE : Donor and acceptor molecules must be in close proximity (10-100 Å)

SPECTRUM OVERLAP: The absorption spectrum of the acceptor must overlap the fluorescence emission spectrum of the donor

NO "FLUORESCENCE ENERGY" TRANSFER

FRET = Förster Resonance Energy Transfer

FRET: principle



- 2 fluorescent molecules (here blue and green)
 - One is the « donor » (blue)One is the acceptor (green)
- When both are very close to each other, FRET occurs. The emission of the donor is reduced and the emission of the acceptor is increased.
- Allows to quantitate interactions at a molecular level.

What dyes to use?

| Special Properties of Dyright Profescent Dyes | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| Emission | Fluor | Ex/Em ¹ | See Spectra | 8 ¹¹ | Spectrally Similar Dyes | | | |
| Blue | DyLight 350 | 353/432 | | 15K | Alexa Fluor* 350, AMCA | | | |
| Blue | DyLight 405 | 400/420 | 1 | 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 847, Cy5* | | | |
| Near IR | DyLight 680 | 692/712 | | 140K | Alexa Fluor 680, Cy5.5* | | | |
| Near IR | DyLight 755 | 754/776 | | 220K | Alexa Fluor 750 | | | |
| Infrared | DyLight 800 | 777/794 | | 270K | IRDye* 800 | | | |

Application of FRET

- · Receptor / ligand binding
- · Detection of nucleic acid hybridization
- Membrane fusion assays
- Distribution and transport of lipids
- Protein folding or conformational changes in proteins
- FRET can also be used for binding assay, as it also detects
 distance changes at the molecular level

Fluorescent confocal microscopy

Confocal laser scanning microscopy is a technique for obtaining high-<u>resolution</u> optical images with depth selectivity. Excitation lasers with different wavelengths can be used and emission from different fluorophores obtained (it is possible to measure up to 5-6 channels).



Dermal Fibroblast Cells

GREEN – Actine - Alexa Fluor 488 RED – mitochondria - MitoTracker Red BLUE - DNA probe - DRAQ5



Fluorescent Microscope



Fluorescence Microscope with Color Video (CCD) 35 mm Camera





Probes for Proteins

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

Tracking mitochondria (red fluorescence) and microtubule from cytoskeleton (green fluorescence)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N51QgkRl26I



FRAP - Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LicQb_SnCSI Method to monitor mobility of membrane proteins



Textbooks and online resources

http://www.chm.davidson.edu/vce/spectrophotometry/index.html http://www.invitrogen.com/site/us/en/home/support/Tutorials.html http://www.enzim.hu/~szia/cddemo/edemo0.htm

Physical biochemistry : applications to biochemistry and molecular biology - David Freifelder (any edition)



Principles of Fluorescence Spectroscopy Joseph R. Lakowicz (Ed. 2006 or earlier)

Green Fluorescent Proteins

Dr Alexander Galkin

The First Human GFP Transgenic?



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2008



Prize share: 1/3





Martin Chalfie Roger Y. Tsien Prize share: 1/3 Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2008 was awarded jointly to Osamu Shimomura, Martin Chalfie and Roger Y. Tsien "for the discovery and development of the green fluorescent protein, GFP".

+Douglas Prasher





Osamu Shimomura – initially tried to extract luciferase from jellyfish, but failed! 50000 jellyfish were processed to isolate aequorin and GFP Nobel Prize, 2008









Test-run of ring-cutters by Johnsons, 1968







Isolation of GFP Chromophore

GFP (100 mg)

Denature at 90 °C Digest with papain Extraction with butanol at pH 1 TLC purification

Isolated chromophore

(0.1 mg)

FEBS Lett. 104, 220-2 (1979)

Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) from hydroid jellyfish *Aequorea victoria*

Discovery – 1962 Cloning – 1992 Application – 1994





Day light

Luminescent in dark

Wild Type GFP

- GFP traditionally refers to the protein first isolated from the jellyfish Aequorea victoria.
- GFP is a protein which exhibits bright green fluorescence when exposed to blue light.



 The protein sequence and its resultant three-dimensional folding structure into the 11-strand β-barrel, is most likely crucial to the formation of the chromophore and its bioluminscene.



10' - 10' 1 10' 10' Wavelength (meter

10 " 10" - 15"

The Fluoropore Active Site

 GFP has the ability to exhibit intrinsic fluorescence thanks to three amino acids that cyclise (Ser65-Tyr66-Gly67) and then undergo an oxidation step during a complex maturation process.





The formed active chromophore contains conjugated double bonds. These double bonds store and release the energy from

Green Fluorescent Protein



Wild Type GFP

- The GFP from *A. victoria* has a major excitation peak at a wavelength of 395 nm and a minor one at 475 nm. Its emission peak is at 509 nm which is in the lower green portion of the visible spectrum.
- The GFP from the sea pansy (*Renilla reniformis*) has a single major excitation peak at 498 nm



Wild Type GFP



Blue light is given off by another chemical reaction (bioluminescent or chemiluminescence reaction) involving the protein aequorin inside the jellyfish. This blue light is absorbed by the conjugated double bonds of the chromophore resulting in the release of energy in the form of a visible green light (fluorescent reaction).

http://www.lifesci.ucsb.edu/~biolum/chem/index.html



Function in nature?

Lukyanov and his group have found that fluorescent proteins can act as electron donors when excited. According to their proposal published in Nature Chemical Biology the excited green chromophore (GFP) donates an electron to an electron acceptor forming a short lived intermediate. If no electron acceptor is available the intermediate is permanently bleached, however if it reacts with an electron acceptor the GFP reddens (GFP).



The purpose of both bioluminescence and GFP fluorescence in jellyfish is unknown.













Summarizing Green Fluorescent Protein features for applications:

- Small: only 26.9kDa in size.
- Very stable: has an unusual barrel structure encompassing the hexapeptide chromophore. GFP is resistant to heat, alkaline pH, detergents, photobleaching, chaotropic salts, organic salts, and many proteases. •
- Fluorescence properties: absorbs light at 395 and 470nm, emits green fluorescence at 509nm. Now altered spectrum available from mutants.
- Versatile: could be cloned and expressed in almost all organisms, and every major cellular compartment. Auto-fluorescence: no fixation needed, no sacrifice of host, no co-factors needed.
- Non-invasive and nontoxic in most cases. •
- Quantifiable: its expression is easily detected, and quantifiable. •

Glow Worms - A New Method of Looking at C. elegans Gene Expression



Volume 13 No. 1 October 1, 1993





limitations with wild-type GFP

- wild-type GFP can be excited by light at two different absorption peaks, which the optimal excitation one is by UV light. This is problematic if one wants to use GFP in live cells, since UV radiation can damage them.
- Hence, using techniques such as **site-directed mutagenesis**, mutants have been created with strong absorption peaks corresponding to blue light.

Limitations with wild-type GFP

- Wild-type GFP folds poorly at 37°C, so it limits its usefulness for in vivo experiments in the lab.
- ✓ mutants of GFP such as Enhanced Green Fluorescent Protein (EGFP) get around this problem.
- · It can take up to four hours to fold GFP correctly
- ✓ an engineered version known as Superfolder GFP partly solves this problem.

- A smorgasbord of mutants have been derived from GFP to emit different wavelengths of light; these include :
 - cyan fluorescent protein (CFP)
 - yellow fluorescent protein (YFP)
 - blue fluorescent protein (BFP)
- The palette of fluorescent proteins available to researchers is supplemented by DsRed, a red fluorescent protein derived from the Discosoma coral, and its derivatives.

Changes in the amino acids in the fluorophore region, as well as in amino acids downstream from the fluorophore, result in changes in the color the fluorophore emits.

| Color | Amino aci | ids 64 | 65 66 | 67 | 68 6 | 59 72 | 2 145 | 5 146 | 153 | 163 | 203 |
|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Green | wtGFP | Phe-S | Ser-Tyr-0 | Gly-\ | /al-G | InSer- | Tyr-A | \snI | VetV | alT | hr |
| Green | EGFP | Leu- | Thr | | | | | | | | |
| Blue | EBFP | Leu- | Thr-His | | | | Phe | | | | |
| Yellow | EYFP | Phe- | Gly | L | .eu | Ala- | | | | Ту | r |
| Cyan | ECFP | Leu- | Thr-Trp- | | | | lle | eTh | nrAla | 9 | |



Textbooks and online resources

http://www.chm.davidson.edu/vce/spectrophotometry/index.html

http://www.invitrogen.com/site/us/en/home/support/Tutorials.html

GFP: http://www.conncoll.edu/ccacad/zimmer/GFP-ww/GFP-1.htm http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/101/motm.do?momID=42 http://www.chm.bris.ac.uk/motm/GFP/GFPh.htm



Principles of Fluorescence Spectroscopy Joseph R. Lakowicz (Ed. 2006 or earlier) THE END