

4 th winter School of Computational Chemistry Sharif University of Technology

# SPECTROSCOPY

Fluorescence & phosphorescence

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# ❑Fluorescence

# A form of luminescence,

where a molecule absorbs light of a specific energy (usually ultraviolet) and then emits light of lower energy (usually visible). This emitted light has a longer wavelength than the absorbed light, causing the phenomenon to be visible under specific conditions.



### ❑ Radiative transitions

involve the absorption of a photon, if the transition occurs to a higher energy level, or the emission of a photon, for a transition to a lower level.  $1A^*$ 

❑ nonradiative transitions

Nonradiative transitions arise through several different mechanisms:

- 1. Vibrational relaxation: Relaxation of the excited state to its lowest vibrational level. This process involves the dissipation of energy from the molecule to its surroundings, and thus it cannot occur for isolated molecules.
- 2. Internal conversion (IC): It occurs when a vibrational state of an electronically excited state can couple to a vibrational state of a lower electronic state.
- 3. intersystem crossing (ISC):This is a transition to a state with a different spin multiplicity. In molecules with large spin-orbit coupling, intersystem crossing is much more important than in molecules that exhibit only small spin-orbit coupling. ISC can be followed by phosphorescence.



1.Excitation: A molecule in its ground state (S0) absorbs a photon with enough energy to jump to an excited state (S1 or higher). This energy excites an electron from a lower energy orbital to a higher energy one.

2.Internal Conversion (Non-radiative relaxation): In most cases, the molecule doesn't stay in the excited state for long. It loses some energy through vibrations and rotations (internal conversion) to reach a lower vibrational level within the same excited state (S1').

3.Fluorescence Emission: From the lower vibrational level of the excited state (S1'), the molecule returns to the ground state (S0) by emitting a photon. This emitted photon has less energy (longer wavelength) than the absorbed one because some energy was lost during internal conversion.

4.Stokes Shift: The difference in energy between the absorbed and emitted photon is called the Stokes shift. It's usually small for molecules in solution and larger for gases due to less interaction with surrounding molecules.

# ❑ What types of molecules and materials exhibit fluorescence?

There are many molecules that are luminescent in nature such as;

- a few of the amino acids
- chlorophylls
- natural pigments

Typically, organic fluorescent molecules have aromatic rings and pi-conjugated electrons in them. Depending on their size and structure, organic dyes can emit from the UV out into the near-IR.

# Example: Fluorescein

Imagine a fluorescein molecule, commonly used in highlighters and biological markers. When exposed to ultraviolet light (around 490 nm), an electron in the molecule gets excited to a higher energy level. While in the excited state, the molecule loses some energy through vibrations (non-radiative relaxation) and settles to a lower vibrational level. Finally, it returns to the ground state by emitting a photon with longer wavelength (around 530 nm), appearing green to our eyes.





# Benzene as an Example in orca



# Computational steps

E.S.

G.S. Step 1. Optimize the ground state. GS.XYZ file

Step 2. Make sure that the optimized geometry is at minimum (not Maximum)!!  $\longrightarrow$  GS.hess file

Step 3. Perform a TD calculation to get an insight to electronic absorption spectrum.  $\longrightarrow$ Absorption spectrum

Step 4. Optimize the first excited state.  $\longrightarrow$  ES.XYZ file

Step 5. Make sure that the optimized geometry of step 3 is at minimum (not Maximum)!!  $\longrightarrow$  ES.hessian file

Fluorescence Step 6. Now calculate the Fluorescence spectrum by ESD module. .spectrum file

# Step 1: Optimize the ground state

# optimization of Benzene

! B3lYP def2-SVP OPT

## \* xyz 0 1



# $\checkmark$  check "optimization convergence"



Everything but the energy has converged. However, the energy appears to be close enough to convergence to make sure that the final evaluation at the new geometry represents the equilibrium energy. Convergence will therefore be signaled now

#### \*HURRAY\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\* THE OPTIMIZATION HAS CONVERGED \*\*\*

\*

# Step 2. Make sure that the optimized geometry is at minimum (not Maximum)!!



 $35:$ 

3195.65 cm\*\*-1

------------------------

# Step 3. Perform a TD calculation to get an insight to electronic absorption spectrum.



#### Solenzene-TD.out - Avogadro



### Step 3. ESD as an alternative module to calculate absorption

# absorption spectrum of Benzene- vertical gradient approximation (VG)-FC LEVEL !B3LYP DEF2-SVP TIGHTSCF ESD(ABS) %pal nprocs 3 end

```
%TDDFT NROOTS 10
       IROOT 1
END
%ESD GSHESSIAN "benzene-freq.hess"
     HESSFLAG VG #DEFAUIT
     END
```
\* xyzfile 0 1 benzene-opt.xyz end



ARSORPTION SPECTRUM VIA TRANSITION FLECTRIC DIPOLE MOMENTS

AS you can see if you run the absorption calculation under FC level of theory of transition dipole moment in the case of Benzene molecule, the data points related to HT term are zero in .spectrum file.

![](_page_14_Picture_11.jpeg)

Step 3. ESD as an better alternative module to calculate absorption with considering Herzberg Teller term

# absorption spectrum of Benzene- vertical gradient-considering Herzberg-Teller term (HT)

![](_page_15_Picture_15.jpeg)

Step 4. Optimize the first excited state

(YOU CAN JUMP FROM THIS STEP IF YOU WANT TO RUN , VG APPROXIMATION IN FLUORESCENCE JOB)!!!

# Excited state geometry optimization of Benzene

! B3lYP def2-SVP OPT

%pal nprocs 3 end

%TDDFT NROOTS 1 IROOT 1 #specify the excited state you want to optimize END

\* xyzfile 0 1 benzene-opt.xyz end

# Step 5. Make sure that the optimized geometry of step 4 is at minimum (not Maximum)!!

![](_page_17_Picture_35.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_36.jpeg)

Step 6. Now calculate the Fluorescence spectrum by ESD module

You can choose any of the described methods to obtain the PES by choosing the HESSFLAG

# fluorecence spectrum of Benzene-Vertical Gradient approximation (VG) !B3LYP DEF2-SVP TIGHTSCF ESD(FLUOR)

%pal nprocs 2 end **%TDDFT NROOTS 5** IROOT<sub>1</sub> **END** %ESD GSHESSIAN "benzene-freq.hess" HESSFLAG VG #DEFAULT **LINES VOIGT** LINEW 75 **INLINEW 200 END** \* xyzfile 0 1 benzene-opt.xyz end

![](_page_18_Picture_38.jpeg)

# Fluorescence rate

- When you select ESD(FLUOR) on the main input, the rate will be printed on the output at the end, with the contributions from FC and HT discriminated.
- **If you use CPCM,**

it will be multiplied by the square of the refractive index.

■ In case you calculate a rate without CPCM (and still want to consider the solvent), don't forget to multiply the final rate for this factor!

# The ideal model: Adiabatic Hessian

![](_page_20_Picture_8.jpeg)

# FLUORESCENCE rate considering solvent

n= 1.3749 refractive index of hexan

![](_page_21_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure 8.43: Predicted absorption (right) and emission (left) spectrum for benzene in hexane at 298.15 K.

# Phosphorescence

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

# ❑ nonradiative transitions

Nonradiative transitions arise through several different mechanisms:

- 1. Vibrational relaxation: Relaxation of the excited state to its lowest vibrational level. This process involves the fluorescence dissipation of energy from the molecule to its surroundings, and thus it cannot occur for isolated molecules.
- 2. Internal conversion (IC): It occurs when a vibrational state of an electronically excited state can couple to a vibrational state of a lower electronic state.
- 3. intersystem crossing (ISC):This is a transition to a state with a different spin multiplicity. In molecules with large spinorbit coupling, intersystem crossing is much more important than in molecules that exhibit only small spinorbit coupling. ISC can be followed by phosphorescence.

![](_page_23_Figure_7.jpeg)

!B3LYP DEF2-TZVP(-F) CPCM(ETHANOL) OPT FREQ

%pal nprocs 12 end

%TDDFT NROOTS 5 IROOTMULT TRIPLET

**END** 

\* XYZ 0 1

![](_page_24_Picture_26.jpeg)

 $\ast$ 

![](_page_25_Picture_27.jpeg)

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Everything but the energy has converged. However, the energy appears to be close enough to convergence to make sure that the final evaluation at the new geometry represents the equilibrium energy. Convergence will therefore be signaled now

### \*HURRAY\*

\*\*\* THE OPTIMIZATION HAS CONVERGED \*\*\*

-------------------------------------TD-DFT/TDA EXCITED STATES (SINGLETS)

the weight of the individual excitations are printed if larger than 1.0e-02 STATE 1: E= 0.093415 au 2.542 eV 20502.3 cm\*\*-1  $\langle$ S\*\*2 $\rangle$  = 0.000000 22a -> 23a : 0.992038 (c= -0.99601086) STATE 2: E= 0.146693 au 3.992 eV 32195.4 cm\*\*-1  $\langle$ S\*\*2 $\rangle$  = 0.000000 21a -> 23a : 0.971978 (c= -0.98588942) 22a -> 24a : 0.023777 (c= -0.15419839) 6.319 eV 50964.3 cm\*\*-1  $\langle$ S\*\*2 $\rangle$  = 0.000000 STATE 3: E= 0.232210 au 18a -> 23a : 0.988264 (c= 0.99411444) STATE 4: E= 0.237018 au 6.450 eV 52019.5 cm\*\*-1  $\langle 3 \times 2 \rangle$  = 0.000000 21a -> 23a : 0.024567 (c= 0.15673813) 22a -> 24a : 0.964175 (c= -0.98192419) STATE 5: E= 0.243610 au 6.629 eV 53466.3 cm\*\*-1  $\langle$ S\*\*2 $\rangle$  = 0.000000 14a -> 23a : 0.022405 (c= -0.14968427) 19a -> 23a : 0.942147 (c= 0.97064252) 20a -> 24a : 0.014711 (c= 0.12128949)

TD-DFT/TDA EXCITED STATES (TRIPLETS) -------------------------------------

the weight of the individual excitations are printed if larger than 1.0e-02

STATE 1: E= 0.073747 au 2.007 eV 16185.6 cm\*\*-1  $\langle 3 \times 2 \rangle$  = 2.000000  $0.012117$  (c= 0.11007604)  $21a - 24a$  :  $22a - 23a$  :  $0.983341$  (c= 0.99163538) STATE 2: E= 0.126403 au 3.440 eV 27742.2 cm\*\*-1  $\langle$ S\*\*2 $\rangle$  = 2.000000  $21a - 23a$ :  $0.942745$  (c= -0.97095055)  $0.050525$  (c=  $-0.22477761$ )  $22a - 24a$  : STATE 3: E= 0.164139 au 4.466 eV 36024.4 cm\*\*-1  $\langle 8 \times 2 \rangle$  = 2.000000  $0.013102$  (c= -0.11446532)  $14a \rightarrow 24a$ : 15a -> 23a : 0.039416 (c= 0.19853403)  $19a \rightarrow 24a$ : 0.028231 (c= -0.16802161) 20a -> 23a : 0.913246 (c= 0.95563893) STATE 4: E= 0.184854 au 5.030 eV 40570.8 cm\*\*-1  $\langle 3x \cdot 2x \rangle = 2.000000$  $0.076816$  (c= 0.27715652)  $14a - 23a$  :  $19a - 23a$  :  $0.857824$  (c= 0.92618762) 20a -> 24a : 0.055831 (c= -0.23628635)  $6.078$  eV STATE 5: E= 0.223362 au  $49022.3$  cm\*\*-1  $\langle 5 \rangle$ \*\*2> = 2.000000  $12a - 23a$  :  $0.027067$  (c= -0.16451986) 16a -> 23a : 0.028576 (c= -0.16904473) 18a -> 23a : 0.919664 (c= 0.95899126)  $0.016341$  (c= -0.12783354)

![](_page_27_Picture_12.jpeg)

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![](_page_27_Picture_13.jpeg)

# #optimozation and frequency calculation of ground triplet state !B3LYP DEF2-TZVP(-F) CPCM(ETHANOL) OPT FREQ %pal nprocs 12 end \* XYZfile 0 3 biacetyl-opt-freq-td.xyz

![](_page_28_Picture_29.jpeg)

#### \*HURRAY\*

\*\*\* \*\*\* THE OPTIMIZATION HAS CONVERGED 

![](_page_28_Picture_30.jpeg)

```
NAME = biased-phosphorescence.inp| 1> # phosphorescence spectrum of biacetyl
1 \quad 2| 3> !B3LYP DEF2-TZVP(-F) TIGHTSCF CPCM(ETHANOL) ESD(PHOSP) RI-SOMF(1X)
1 4> *TDDFT NROOTS 20
 5> DOSOC TRUE
 6> TDA FALSE
1 7> IROOT 1
1 \t 8 END
| 9> %ESD GSHESSIAN "BIA.hess"
| 10> TSHESSIAN "BIA T1.hess"
1 11> DOHT TRUE
1 12> DELE 17130
113 END
| 14> * XYZFILE 0 1 BIA.xyz
| 15> $NEW JOB
| 16> !B3LYP DEF2-TZVP(-F) TIGHTSCF CPCM(ETHANOL) ESD(PHOSP) RI-SOMF(1X)
| 17> *TDDFT NROOTS 20
1 18> DOSOC TRUE
| 19> TDA FALSE
\vert 20> IROOT 2
|21\rangle END
| 22> %ESD GSHESSIAN "BIA.hess"
| 23> TSHESSIAN "BIA T1.hess"
| 24> DOHT TRUE
| 25> DELE 17130
126 END
\vert 27> * XYZFILE 0 1 BIA.xyz
| 28> $NEW JOB
| 29> !B3LYP DEF2-TZVP(-F) TIGHTSCF CPCM(ETHANOL) ESD(PHOSP) RI-SOMF(1X)
| 30> *TDDFT NROOTS 20
| 31> DOSOC TRUE
| 32> TDA FALSE
| 33> IROOT 3
134 END
| 35> %ESD GSHESSIAN "BIA.hess"
| 36> TSHESSIAN "BIA T1.hess"
| 37> DOHT TRUE
| 38> DELE 17130
| 39> END
| 40> * XYZFILE 0 1 BIA.xyz
\vert 41>
\vert 42>
                                ****END OF INPUT****
```
![](_page_29_Picture_1.jpeg)

### JOB<sub>1</sub>

The calculated phosphorescence rate constant is 5.058676e+00 s-1\* with 87.20% from FC and 12.80% from HT

\*The rate is multiplied by the square of the refractive index

The phosphorescence spectrum was saved in biacetyl-phosphorescence.spectrum

Total run time: 5 hours 8 minutes 40 seconds

### \*\*\*\*ORCA ESD FINISHED WITHOUT ERROR\*\*\*\*

Timings for individual modules:

![](_page_30_Picture_31.jpeg)

### JOB<sub>2</sub>

The calculated phosphorescence rate constant is 1.981669e+00 s-1\* with 14.02% from FC and 85.98% from HT

\*The rate is multiplied by the square of the refractive index

The phosphorescence spectrum was saved in biacetyl-phosphorescence\_job2.spectrum

Total run time: 4 hours 31 minutes 51 seconds

\*\*\*\*ORCA ESD FINISHED WITHOUT ERROR\*\*\*\*

Timings for individual modules:

![](_page_31_Picture_29.jpeg)

### JOB<sub>3</sub>

The calculated phosphorescence rate constant is 9.646268e+02 s-1\* with 94.55% from FC and 5.45% from HT

\*The rate is multiplied by the square of the refractive index

The phosphorescence spectrum was saved in biacetyl-phosphorescence job3.spectrum

Total run time: 3 hours 53 minutes 54 seconds

#### \*\*\*\*ORCA ESD FINISHED WITHOUT ERROR\*\*\*\*

Timings for individual modules:

![](_page_32_Picture_33.jpeg)

#### \*\*\*\*ORCA TERMINATED NORMALLY\*\*\*\*

TOTAL RUN TIME: 0 days 14 hours 2 minutes 39 seconds 518 msec

# Calculation of rates

The calculation of the Phosphorescence rate is a little more involved, for there are three triplets that contribute so that the observed rate must be taken as an average of the three:

$$
k_{av}^{phosp} = \frac{k_1 + k_2 + k_3}{3}
$$

To be even more strict and account for the Boltzmann population distribution at a given temperature T:

$$
k_{av}^{phosp} = \frac{k_1 + k_2 e^{-(\Delta E_{1,2}/k_B T)} + k_3 e^{-(\Delta E_{1,3}/k_B T)}}{1 + e^{-(\Delta E_{1,2}/k_B T)} + e^{-(\Delta E_{1,3}/k_B T)}}
$$

where  $\Delta$ E1,2 is the energy difference between the first and second states, and so on.

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

E singlet =-306.26233263 Eh

E triplet = -306.35867333 Eh

Adiabatic difference energy= 0.9634070 hartree

After completion of each calculation, the rates for the three triplets were

K1=7.47 s−1 , K2=0.80 s−1 and K3=542 s−1 .

In the figure, the final calculated rate is about 183 s−1 , while the best experimental value is 102 s−1 (at 77K) ,with about 40% deriving from the HT effect

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

Figure 8.46: The experimental (dashed red) and theoretical (solid black, displaced by about 2800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) phosphorescence spectra for biacetyl, in ethanol at 298 K.