

# Quantitative predictions of photochemistry from excited state decay rate calculations

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# Computational Photochemistry

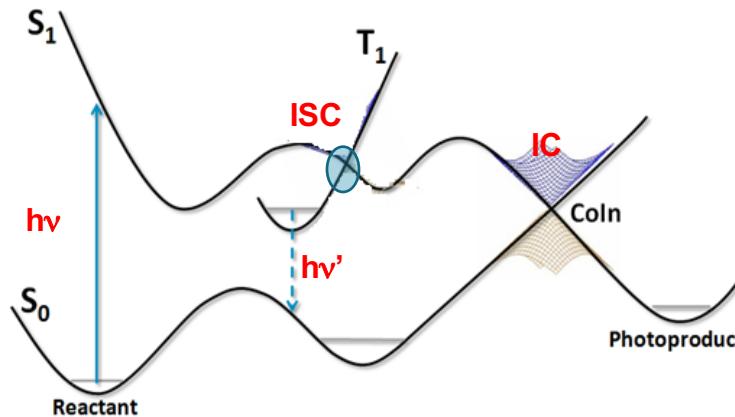
1. Photophysics & Adiabatic chemistry
2. Non-adiabatic photochemistry

] $\rightarrow$  Quantum chemistry

3. Time-resolved information & Quantum yields

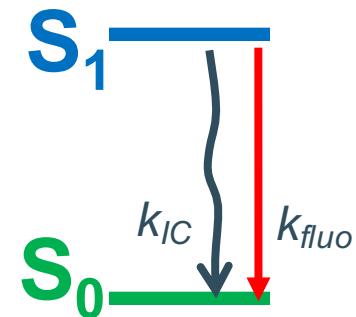
$\rightarrow$  1. Dynamic approach

2. Static approach: Calculation  
of rate constants from first principles



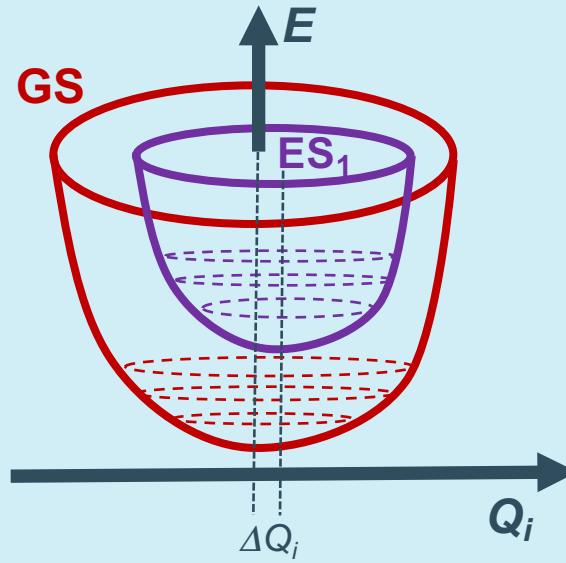
## ❖ Static approach:<sup>1</sup>

- Benchmark quantum chemical methods for the ES: Geometries, ES energies, gradients, vibronic, SOCs, NACs, etc
- Use diverse ES decay rate formalisms providing access to radiative ( $k_r$ ) and nonradiative rates ( $k_{nr}$ )
- Develop realistic kinetic models and derive of the kinetic master equations:



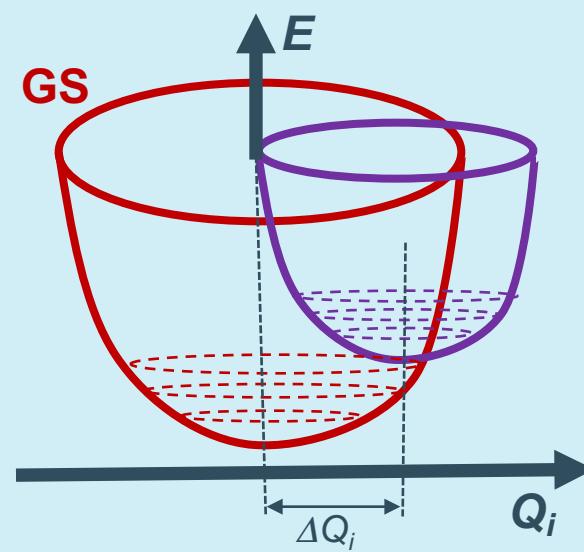
# Challenge: Non-radiative deactivation decay rates

## Weak coupling regime



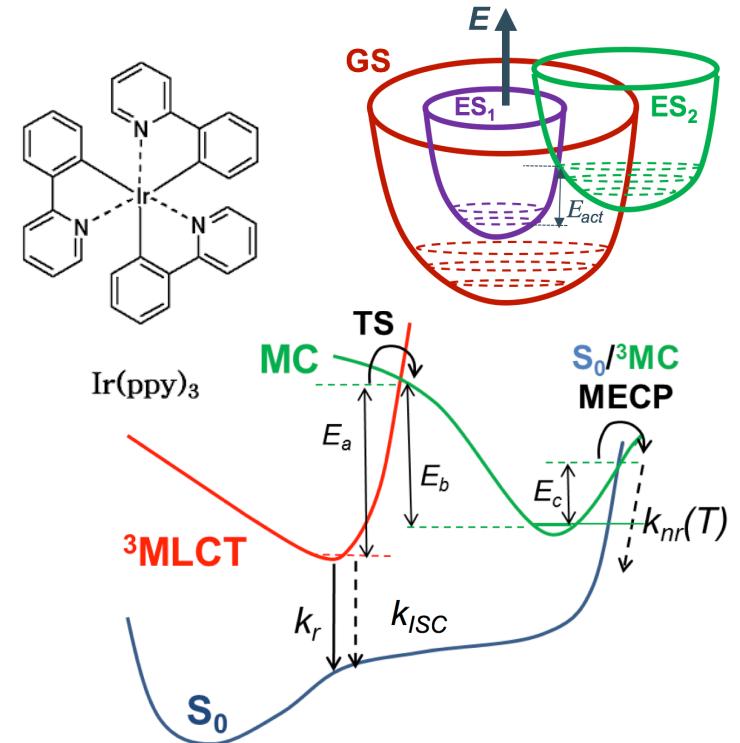
Rigid molecules /  
Fluorophores / Phosphors

## Strong coupling regime



Non-adiabatic  
photochemistry

## Predicting PLQY of phosphors:<sup>1</sup>



**Take home message:** An exploration of the ES PES is needed!

# Excited state decay rates: Thermal vibration correlation function (TVCF) theory

- $k_{IC}$  and  $k_r$  are computed with **Thermal Vibration Correlation Function (TVCF)**<sup>1</sup> theory:
- $k_{IC}$ : Fermi-Golden rule expression

$$k_{ic} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |H'_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_{fi} + E_{fv_f} - E_{iv_i}) \quad \text{where: } H'_{fi} = -\hbar^2 \sum_l \langle \Phi_f \Theta_{fv_f} | \frac{\partial \Phi_i}{\partial Q_{fl}} \frac{\partial \Theta_{iv_i}}{\partial Q_{fl}} \rangle$$

Applying Condon Approximation:

$$k_{ic} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \sum_{kl} R_{kl} Z_{iv}^{-1} \sum_{v_i, v_f} e^{-\beta E_{iv_i}} P_{kl} \delta(E_{fi} + E_{fv_f} - E_{iv_i}) \quad \text{where } R_{kl} = \langle \Phi_f | \hat{P}_{fk} | \Phi_i \rangle \langle \Phi_i | \hat{P}_{fl} | \Phi_f \rangle \\ P_{kl} = \langle \Theta_{fv_f} | \hat{P}_{fk} | \Theta_{iv_i} \rangle \langle \Theta_{iv_i} | \hat{P}_{fl} | \Theta_{fv_f} \rangle$$

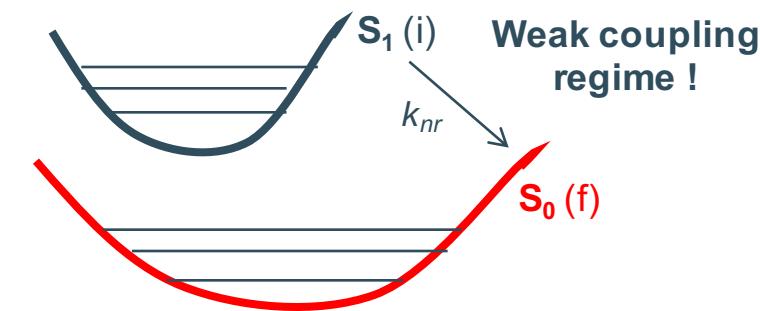
The delta function is Fourier transformed:

$$k_{ic} = \frac{1}{\hbar^2} \sum_{kl} R_{kl} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt [e^{i\omega_{if}t} Z_{iv}^{-1} \rho_{ic,kl}(t, T)] \quad \text{TVCF for IC}$$

- $k_r$ : Einstein spontaneous emission

$$k_r = \frac{8\pi^2 v_{fi}^3}{3\varepsilon_0 \hbar c^3} \mu_{fi}^2 \approx \frac{f v_{fi}^2}{1.5}$$

Or by integrating the computed emission spectra (by TVCF):



**MOMAP:** Multidimensional harmonic oscillator model coupled to quantum chemical calculations where displacements, distortions and Duschinsky rotations effects<sup>2</sup>

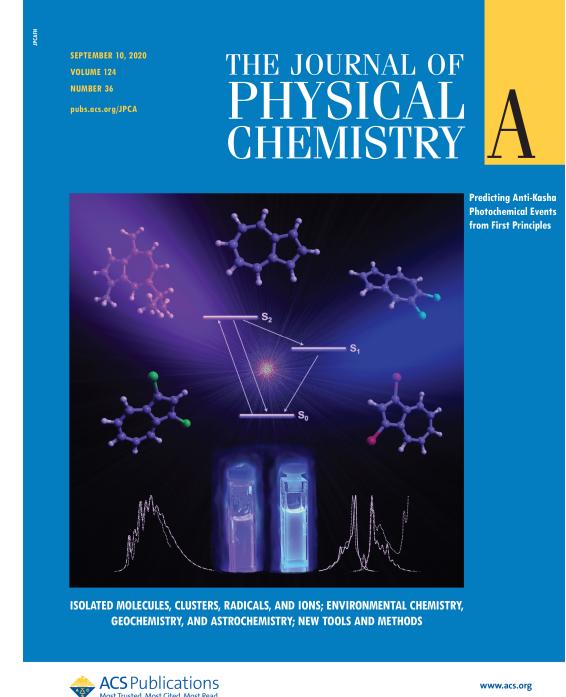
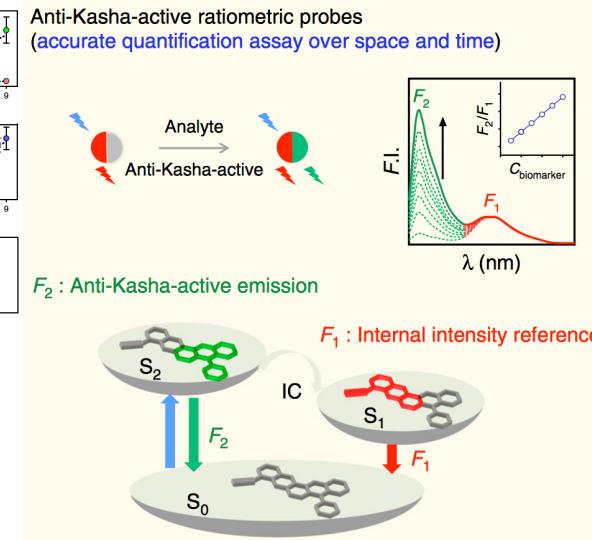
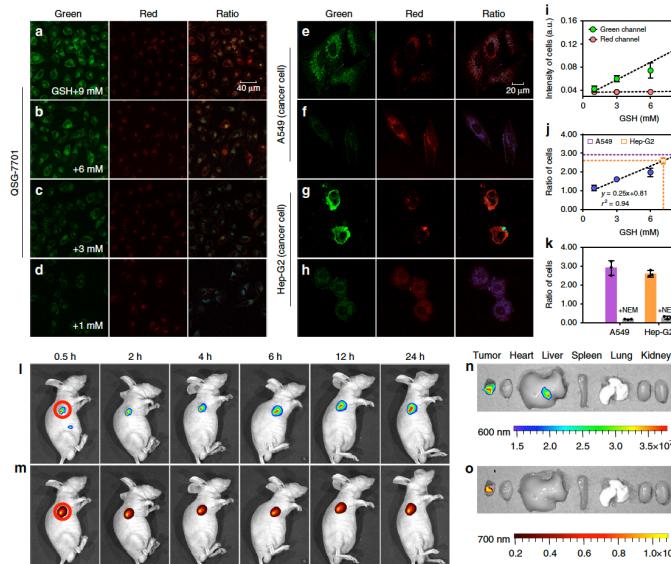
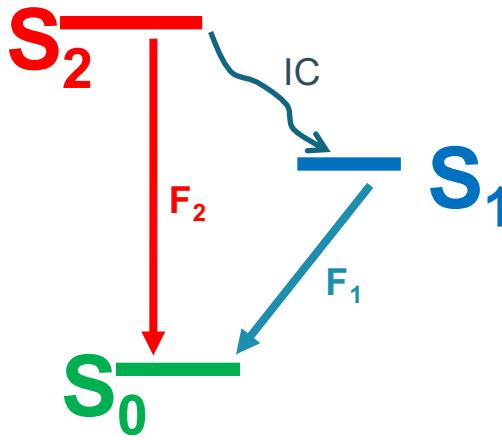
We need: GS and ES geometries, 2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives, NACs, etc.

$$k_r = \int_0^{\infty} \sigma_{em}(\omega) d\omega = \int_0^{\infty} \sigma_{em}^{FC}(\omega) d\omega + \sum_k \sigma_{em,k}^{FC/HT}(\omega) d\omega + \sum_{k,l} \sigma_{em,kl}^{HT}(\omega) d\omega \\ \vec{\mu}_{fi} = \vec{\mu}_0 + \sum_k \vec{\mu}_k Q_k + \sum_{k,l} \vec{\mu}_{kl} Q_k Q_l$$

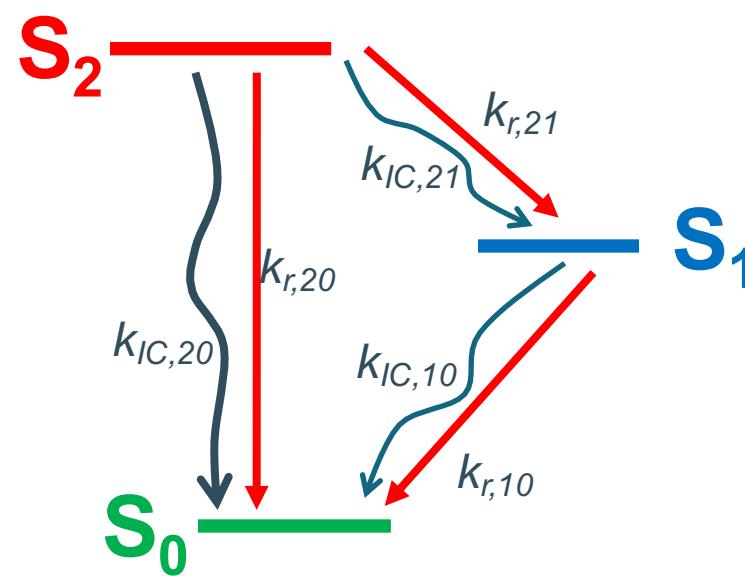
<sup>1</sup>Shuai et al., J. Phys. Chem. A, 114, 7817 (2010)

# Outline

- Computational protocol to predict anti-Kasha emissions:

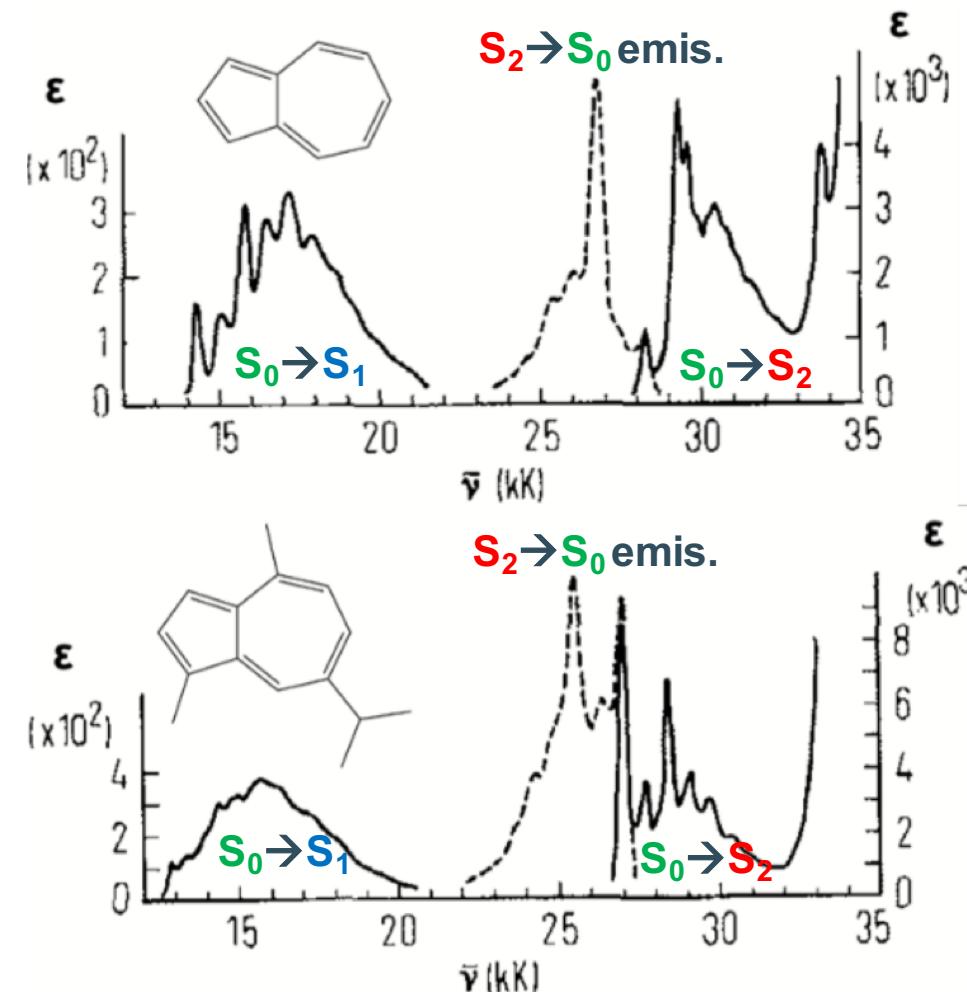


# Kinetic model for anti-Kasha photoluminescence: azulenes



$$\phi_{20} = k_{r,20} * \tau_2 \approx \frac{k_{r,20}}{k_{r,20} + k_{ic,21}}$$

$$\phi_{10} \approx \frac{k_{r,10}}{k_{r,10} + k_{ic,10}} * \frac{k_{ic,21}}{k_{r,20} + k_{ic,21}}$$



# Azulene's anti-Kasha photoluminescence: benchmarking electronic structure methods

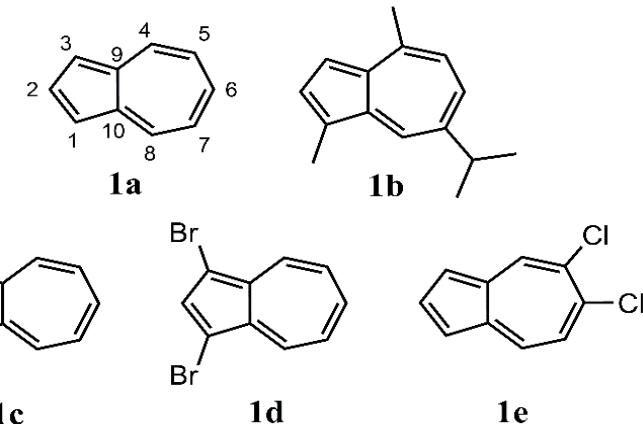
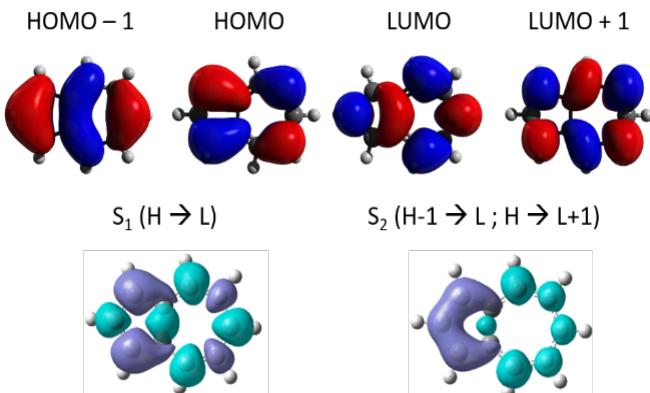
□ TD-PBE0/6-31G(d) and ADC(2)/def2-TZVP (between parentheses) results:

$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$ :

	E <sub>v</sub> (eV)	f (au)	E <sup>0-0</sup> (eV)	Exp. E <sup>0-0</sup> (eV) <sup>1</sup>
1a	2.47 (2.24)	0.008 (0.009)	2.04 (1.81)	1.77

$S_0 \rightarrow S_2$ :

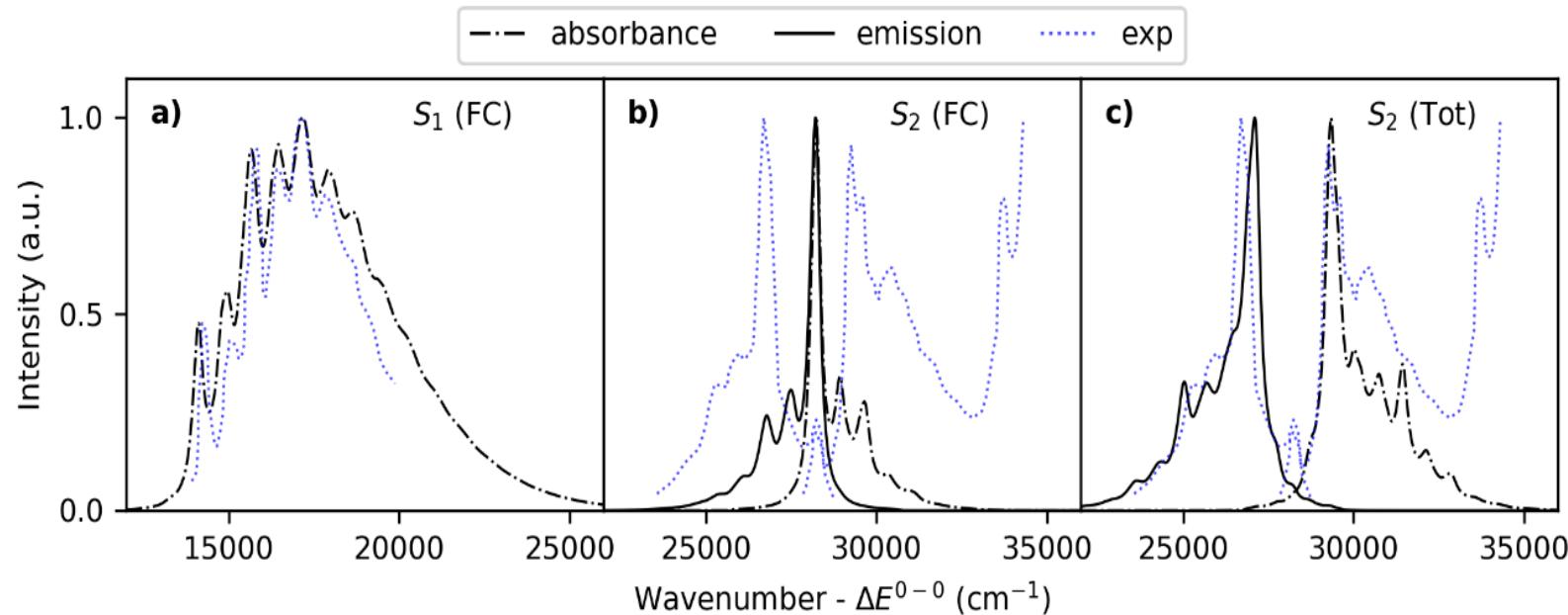
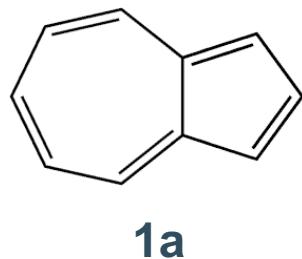
	E <sub>v</sub> (eV)	f (au)	E <sup>0-0</sup> (eV)	Exp. E <sup>0-0</sup> (eV) <sup>1</sup>
1a	3.77 (3.85)	0.002 (0.005)	3.61 (3.66)	3.50



K. Veys

# Azulene's anti-Kasha photoluminescence: UV-Vis spectra

## □ TVCF absorption and emission spectra:

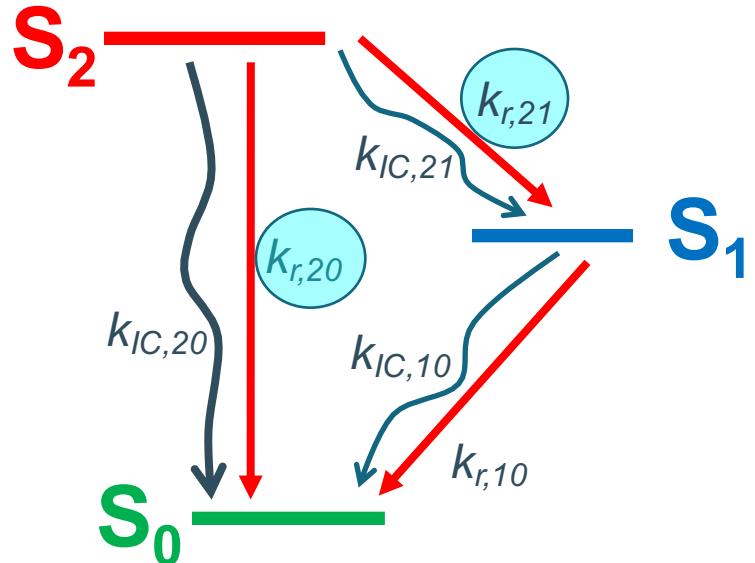


Based on:

- 1) ADC(2)/def2-TZVP energy gaps
- 2) ADC(2)/def2-TZVP TDMs
- 3) TD-PBE0/6-31G(d) geometries and Hessian calculations

HT effects are important for the  $S_2$  band of **1a**

# Azulene's anti-Kasha photoluminescence: $k_r$ calculations



$$k_{r,20} \gg k_{r,21}$$

$$k_r = \frac{8\pi^2 v_{fi}^3}{3\varepsilon_0 \hbar c^3} \mu_{fi}^2 \approx \frac{f v_{fi}^2}{1.5}$$

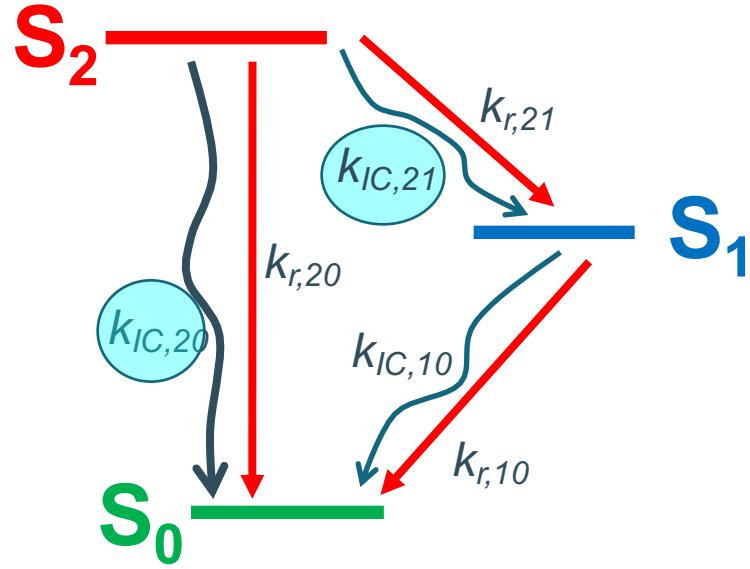
- Computed  $k_r$  values with TVCF (experimental values between parentheses)<sup>1,2</sup>:

	k <sub>r</sub> ( $\times 10^7$ s <sup>-1</sup> )	
	S <sub>1</sub> $\rightarrow$ S <sub>0</sub>	S <sub>2</sub> $\rightarrow$ S <sub>0</sub>
1a	0.16	2.7 (2.3±0.1)
1b	0.12	1.7 (3.2±0.4)
1c	0.15	2.5 (3.6±0.1)
1d	0.20	2.7 (3.5)
1e	0.12	1.2 (2.4)

Based on:

- 1) ADC(2)/def2-TZVP energy gaps
- 2) ADC(2)/def2-TZVP TDMs
- 3) TD-PBE0/6-31G(d) geometries and Hessian calculations

# Azulene's anti-Kasha photoluminescence: $k_{nr}$ calculations



$$k_{IC,21} \ggg k_{IC,20}$$

$$k_{IC} = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\hbar}\right) H^2 * FCWD$$

$$FCWD = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda RT}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta G + \lambda)^2}{4\pi\lambda RT}\right)$$

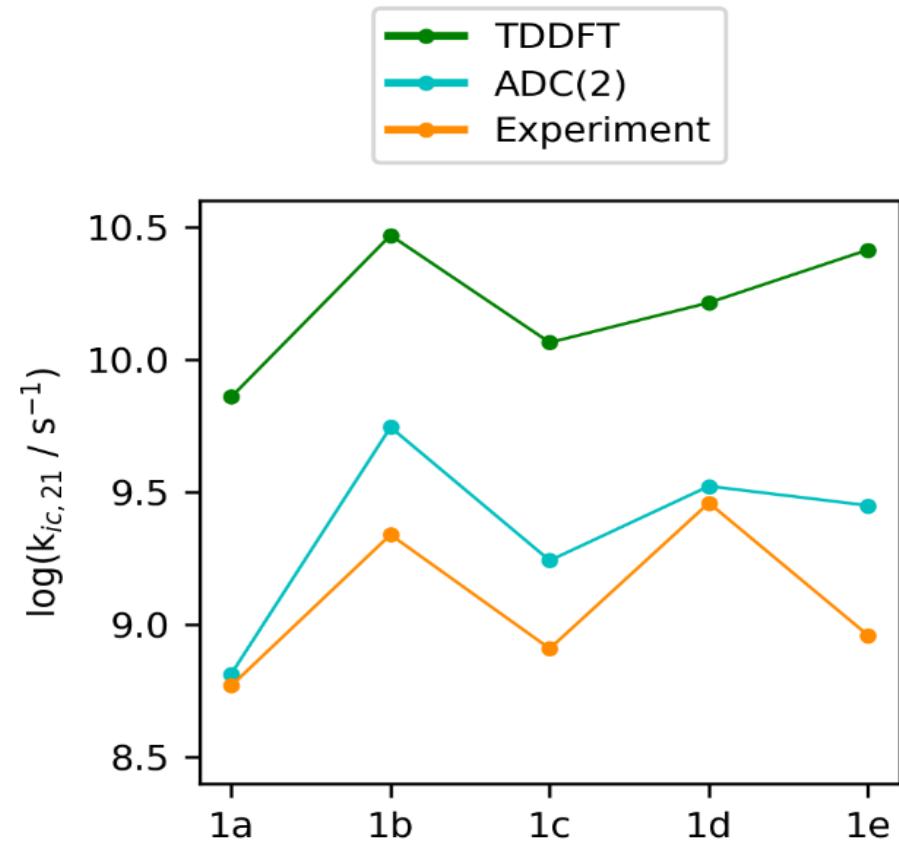
- Computed  $k_{IC}$  values with TVCF (experimental values between parentheses)<sup>1,2</sup>:

	$k_{ic} (s^{-1})$	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	$S_2 \rightarrow S_1$
1a	$1.9 \times 10^{11}$		$6.3 \times 10^8 (5.3 \pm 1.2 \times 10^8)$
1b	$6.7 \times 10^{11}$		$5.5 \times 10^9 (2.1 \pm 0.1 \times 10^9)$
1c	$7.8 \times 10^{11}$		$1.7 \times 10^9 (7.0 \pm 1.2 \times 10^8)$
1d	$1.0 \times 10^{12}$		$3.3 \times 10^9 (2.9 \times 10^9)$
1e	$4.6 \times 10^{11}$		$2.7 \times 10^9 (9.0 \times 10^8)$

Based on:

- 1) ADC(2)/def2-TZVP energy gaps
- 2) ADC(2)/def2-TZVP NACs for  $S_1 \rightarrow S_0$  and  $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$
- 3) CIS/6-31G(d) NACs for  $S_2 \rightarrow S_1$
- 4) TD-PBE0/6-31G(d) Hessian calculations

# Azulene's anti-Kasha photoluminescence: $k_{nr}$ calculations

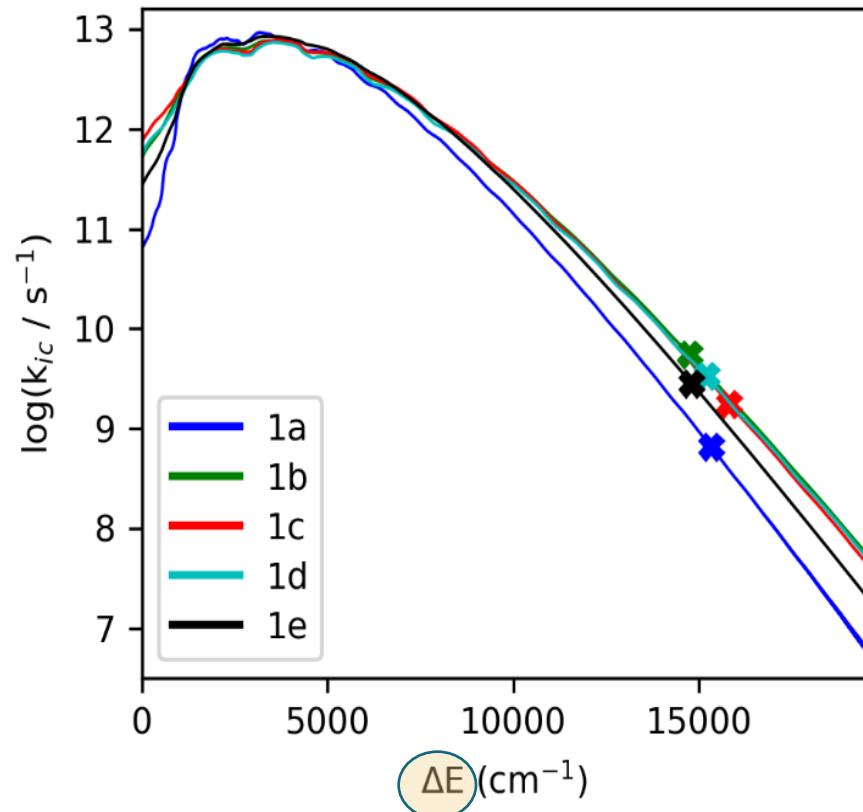


$$k_{IC} = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\hbar}\right) H^2 * FCWD$$
$$FCWD = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda RT}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta E + \lambda)^2}{4\pi\lambda RT}\right)$$

Small energetic inaccuracies lead to large errors  
in the  $k_{IC}$  rate calculations

# Azulene's anti-Kasha photoluminescence: $k_{nr}$ calculations

- Translating our TVCF results into a simplified Marcus model:

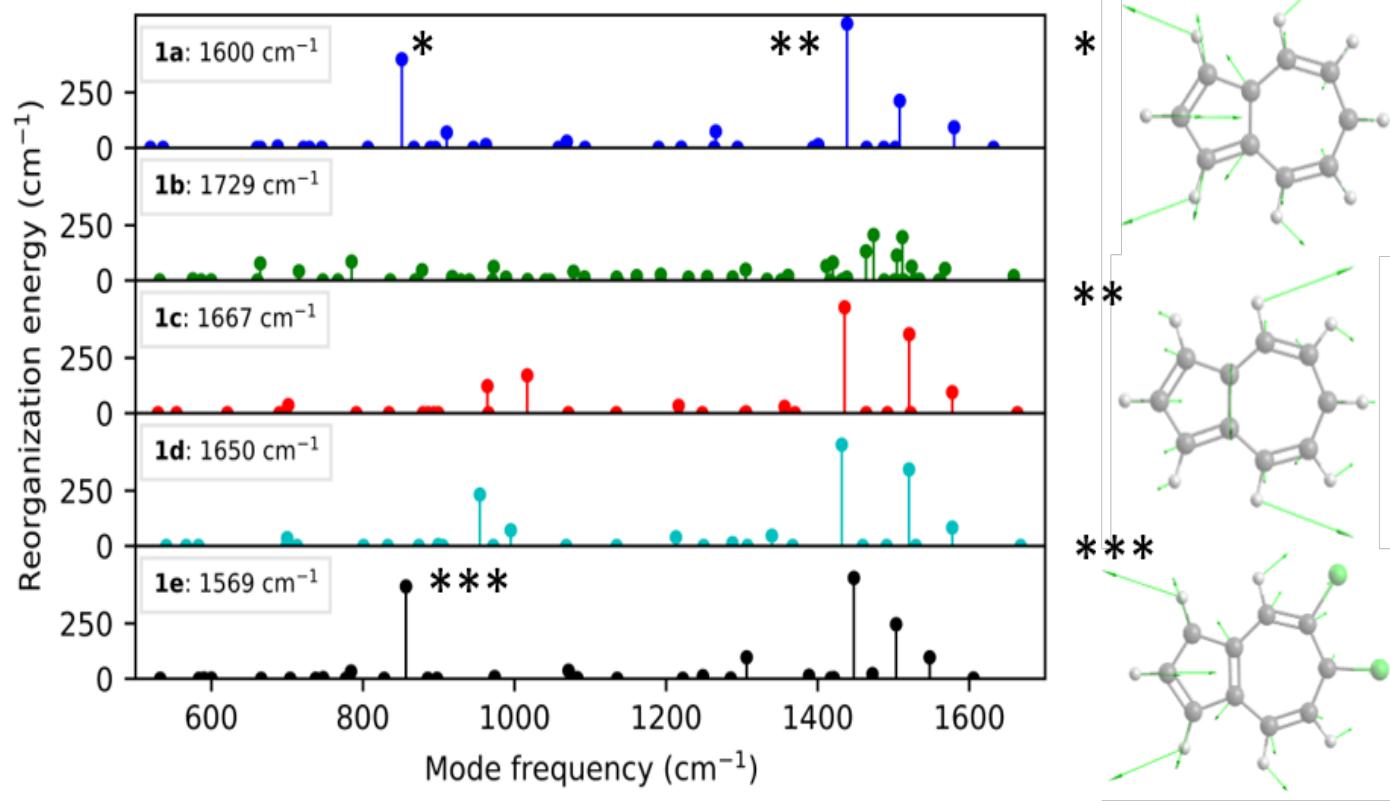


$$k_{IC} = \left( \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \right) H^2 * FCWD$$
$$FCWD = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda RT}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta E + \lambda)^2}{4\pi\lambda RT}\right)$$

For 1a-1e: breakdown of the energy gap law  
Reorganization energies ( $\lambda$ ) dictate the  $k_{IC}$  values

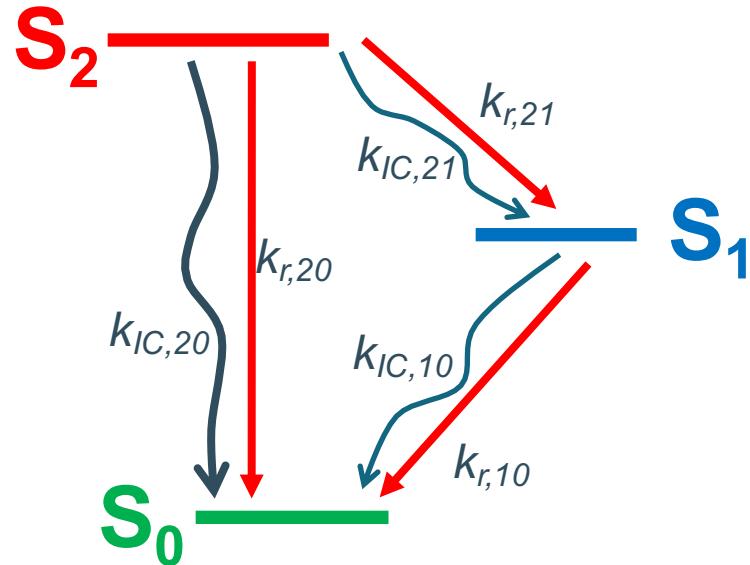
# Azulene's anti-Kasha photoluminescence: $k_{nr}$ calculations

- Reorganization energies ( $\lambda$ ) for each mode of **1a-1e**:  $\lambda$  dictate the  $k_{IC}$  values:



We can identify the accepting modes promoting the internal conversion decays

# Azulene's anti-Kasha photoluminescence: $\phi_{20}$ and $\phi_{10}$



$$\phi_{20} = k_{r,20} * \tau_2 \approx \frac{k_{r,20}}{k_{r,20} + k_{ic,21}}$$

$$\phi_{10} \approx \frac{k_{r,10}}{k_{r,10} + k_{ic,10}} * \frac{k_{ic,21}}{k_{r,20} + k_{ic,21}}$$

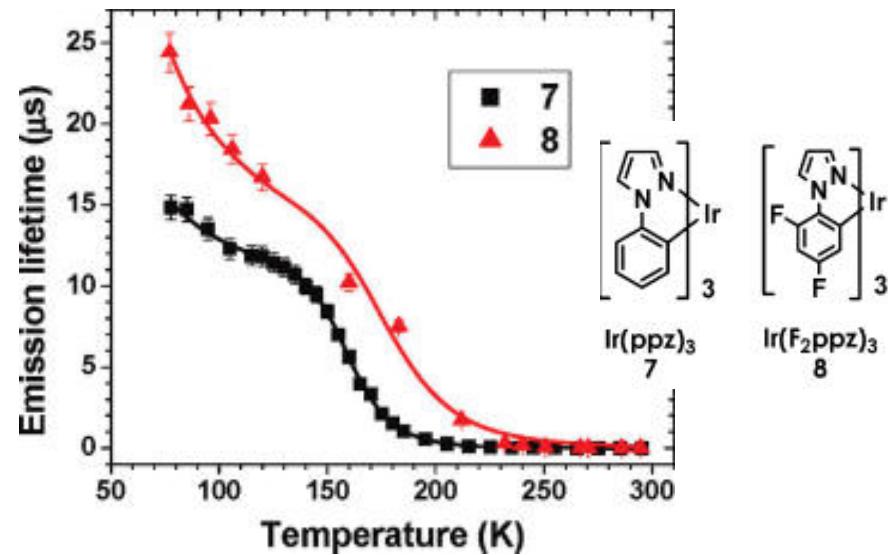
- Computed  $\phi_{20}$  and  $\phi_{10}$  values (experimental values between parentheses):

	$\phi$ (%)	
	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	$S_2 \rightarrow S_0$
<b>1a</b>	$8.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.3 (3.5 \pm 0.4)$
<b>1b</b>	$1.8 \times 10^{-4}$	$0.31 (1.5 \pm 0.1)$
<b>1c</b>	$1.9 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.5 (5.0 \pm 0.9)$
<b>1d</b>	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$0.82 (1.2)$
<b>1e</b>	$2.6 \times 10^{-4}$	$0.44 (2.6)$

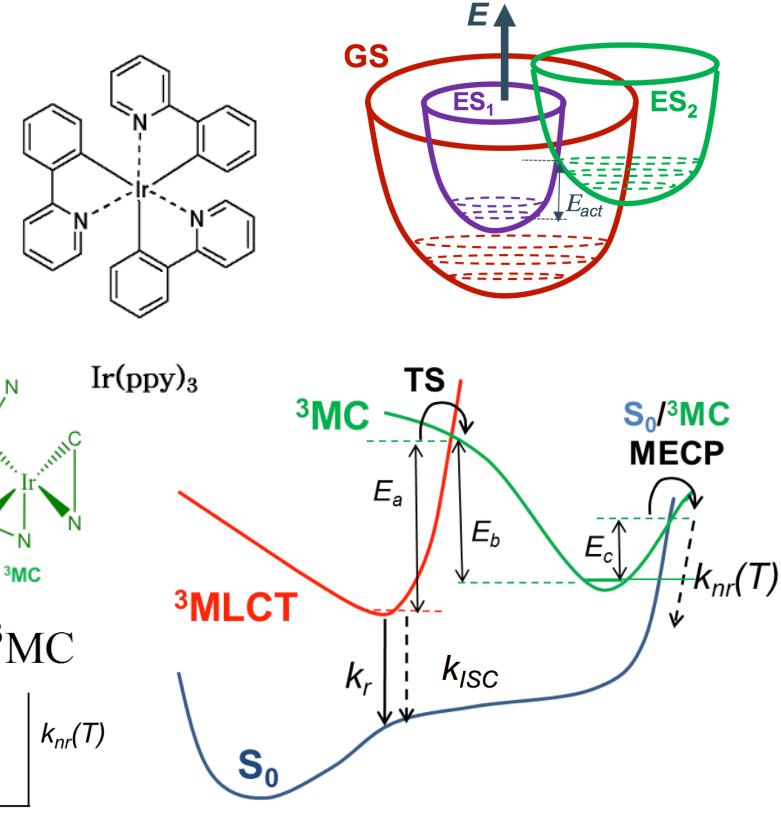
- Computed and experimental  $\phi_{20}$  and  $\phi_{10}$  values in the same order of magnitude.
- Some of the trends within the series recovered by the calculations.

# Outline

- Computational protocol to predict the temperature-dependent photoluminescence lifetimes and yields of phosphors.



Thompson et. al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, 131, 9813.



D. Escudero, et. al. *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2013, 19, 15639

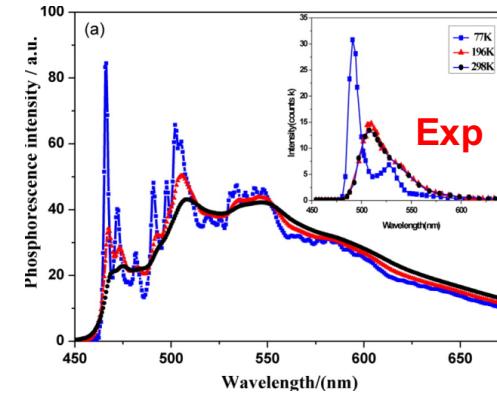
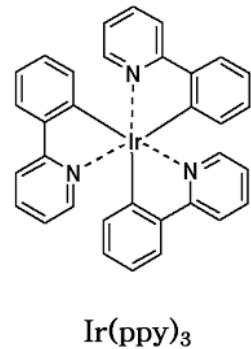
# Excited-state modelling of phosphors

- For phosphor molecules: **Ir(III), Re(I), Ru(II), Pt(II) complexes:**

**TD-DFT errors: 0.1-0.4 eV:**  
Hybrid xc functionals with 20-25% HF exchange outperform the rest of functionals for vertical excitation energies.  
Balanced description of all possible excited states: MC, MLCT, LC, etc.

- D. Escudero, L. González. JCTC, 8, 203 (2012)  
D. Escudero, W. Thiel. JCP, 140, 194105 (2014)  
L. Freitag, L. González et al. Coord. Chem. Rev. 304, 146 (2015)  
C. Daniel, Top. Curr. Chem. 368, 377-413 (2016)  
F. Plasser et al., J. Phys. Chem. A, 119, 1023 (2015)

- **Prediction of color:** Accurate computed emission energies + vibronic couplings.



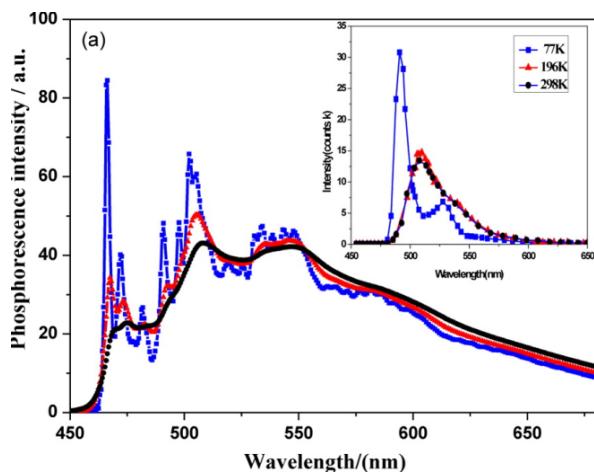
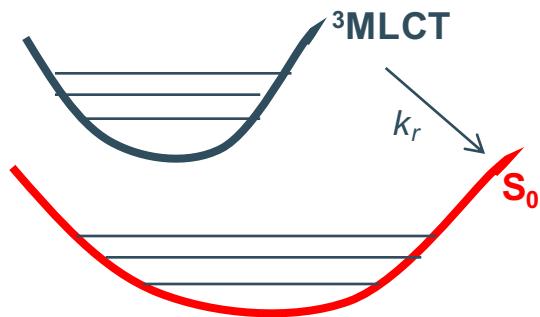
Q. Peng, Z. Shuai et al., *J. Chem. Theory and Comput.*, 9, 1132 (2013)

- **Can we predict the phosphorescent lifetimes and efficiencies?**

- $\Phi_{\text{phos}} = k_r / (k_r + \sum k_{nr})$  •  $k_r$  easy to compute provided that only 1 state is involved in emission
- $\tau = 1 / (k_r + \sum k_{nr})$  •  $\sum k_{nr}$  are cumbersome to compute

# Excited state decay rate theory: calculation of $k_r$

□  $k_r$ : Einstein spontaneous emission



$$k_r^i = k_r(S_0, T_{em}^i) = \frac{4\alpha_0^3}{3t_0} \Delta E_{S-T}^3 \sum_{j \in \{x,y,z\}} |M_j^i|^2$$

$$M_j^i = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\langle S_0 | \hat{\mu}_j | S_n \rangle \langle S_n | \hat{H}_{SO} | T_{em}^i \rangle}{E(S_n) - E(T_{em})} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\langle S_0 | \hat{H}_{SO} | T_n \rangle \langle T_n | \hat{\mu}_j | T_{em}^i \rangle}{E(T_n) - E(S_0)}, j \in \{x, y, z\}$$

- Self-consistent SOC-TDDFT (ADF)
- Perturbative SOC-TDDFT (ADF, BDF)
- QR-TDDFT (Dalton)

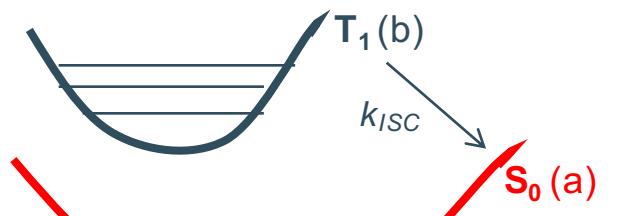
❖ Are the  $k_r$  values temperature dependent?

$$k_r = \frac{k_{r,I} + k_{r,II} \exp(-E_{II,I}/k_B T) + k_{r,III} \exp(-E_{III,I}/k_B T)}{1 + \exp(-E_{II,I}/k_B T) + \exp(-E_{III,I}/k_B T)}$$

YES! Boltzmann distribution of the three spin sublevels

# Excited state decay rate theory: calculation of $k_{nr}$ ( $k_{ISC}$ )

- $k_{nr}$  (i.e.,  $k_{ISC}$ ) is computed with **Thermal Vibration Correlation Function (TVCF)**<sup>1</sup> theory.



$$k_{b \rightarrow a} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \sum_{vu} P_{av} \left| H'_{bu,av} + \sum_{cw} \frac{H'_{bu,cw} H'_{cw,av}}{E_{bv} - E_{cw}} \right|^2 \delta(E_{av} - E_{bu})$$

where  $H' \Psi_{av} = -\hbar^2 \frac{\partial \Phi_a}{\partial Q_{bl}} \frac{\partial \Theta_{av}}{\partial Q_{bl}} + H^{SO} \Phi_a \Theta_{av}$

Applying TVCF and Condon Approximations:

$$k_{isc}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{\hbar^2} R_{ba}^{isc} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega_{ab} t} \rho_{isc}^{(0)}(t, T)$$

<sup>1</sup>Z. Shuai et. al., *J. Chem. Theory and Comput.*, **9**, 1132 (2013)

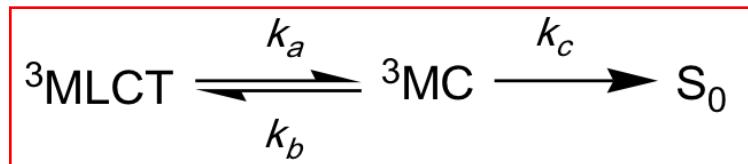
- Multidimensional harmonic oscillator model coupled to DFT and TD-DFT calculations where displacements, distortions and Duschinsky rotations of the PES (**MOMAP**)<sup>2</sup>

We need: GS and ES geometries, 2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives, SOCs, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Shuai, Z.; Peng, Q.; Niu, Y. L.; Geng, H. MOMAP, a Free and Open-Source Molecular Materials Property Prediction Package, revision 0.2.004; Shuai group: Beijing, CN, 2014, <http://www.shuaigroup.net/>

# Excited state decay rate theory: calculation of $k_{nr}(T)$

□  $k_{nr}(T)$  :



$$d(^3\text{MC})/dt = 0 \rightarrow k_{nr}(T) = k_c k_a / (k_c + k_b)$$

$$E_a > E_b > E_c : k_{nr}(T) = A_0 A \exp(-E_a/k_B T),$$

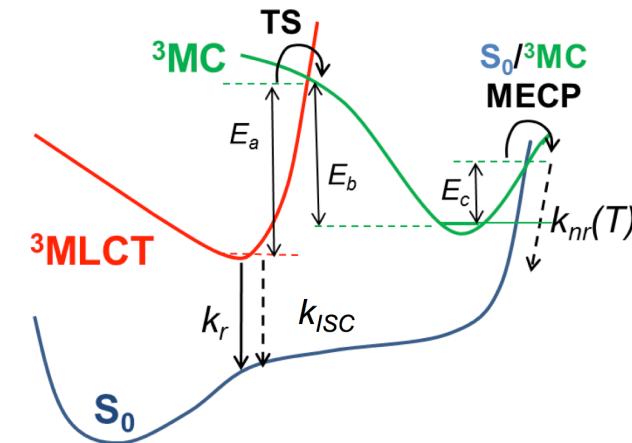
$$\text{where } A_0 = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{E_c - E_b}{k_B T}\right)}$$

- ❖ Prefactor ( $A$ ) obtained with **canonical variational transition state (CVT)** dynamics, based on the computed UDFT energy profiles for the thermally activated nonradiative decay (**POLYRATE**)<sup>3</sup>

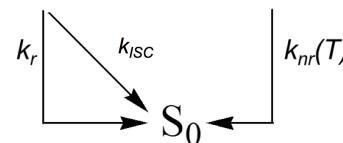
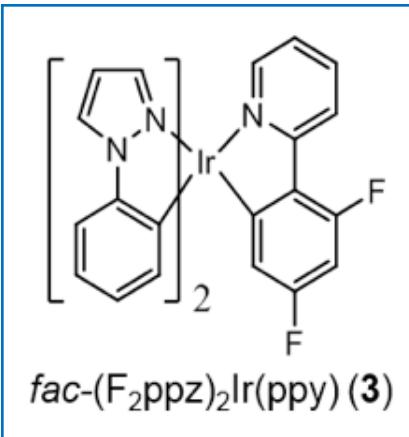
We need: Accurate  $E_a$  values (PWPB95-D3/6-31G\*)<sup>4</sup> and the IRC profiles

<sup>3</sup> Zheng, J. et al. *POLYRATE*, version 2010; University of Minnesota: Minneapolis, MN, 2010

<sup>4</sup> Steinmetz, M et. al. *ChemistryOpen* 2013, 2, 115



# Blue Phosphor



Computational details:

$k_r / k_{nr}$  / SOCs:  
TD-B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)/LANL2DZ

$k_{nr}(T)$ :  
PWPPB95-D3/6-31G\*//  
B3LYP/6-31G-d,p)

$$\tau(T) = \frac{1}{k_r + k_{\text{ISC}} + k_{\text{nr}}(T)}$$

$$\Phi_P(T) = \frac{k_r}{k_r + k_{\text{ISC}} + k_{\text{nr}}(T)}$$

Temperature (K)	$k_r$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$k_{\text{ISC}}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$k_{\text{nr}}(T)$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	Global Lifetime (μs)	$\Phi_P$
77	$1.5994 \times 10^4$	$1.7781 \times 10^5$	$4.433E-12$	5.1598	0.083
196	$1.8236 \times 10^5$	$2.9713 \times 10^5$	$4.933E+03$	2.0405	0.384
298	$3.0281 \times 10^5$	$6.0007 \times 10^5$	$5.691E+06$	0.1516	0.046
400	$3.8287 \times 10^5$	$1.4561 \times 10^6$	$2.166E+08$	0.0046	0.002

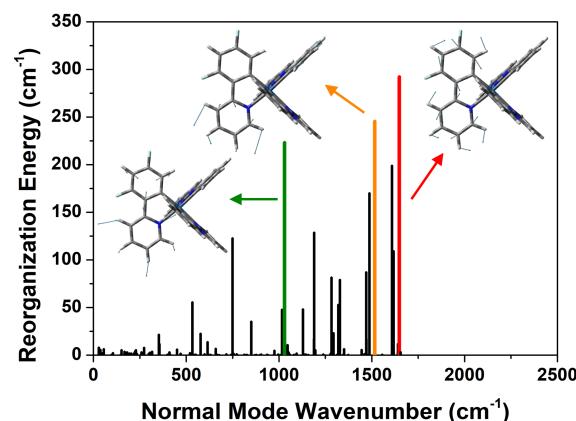
CVT dynamics:

$$k_{nr}(T) = AA_0 \exp(-E_a/k_B T)$$

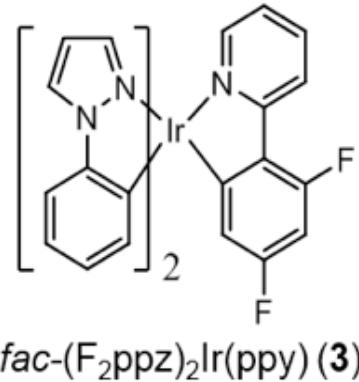
$$A (\text{s}^{-1}) = 1.47 \times 10^{13}$$

$$E_{act} = 2836 \text{ cm}^{-1} (\text{PWPPB95-D3/6-31G*})$$

$$\ln[k_{\text{nr}}(T_1 \rightarrow S_0)] = -\frac{\left(\Delta E_{\text{ad}} - \sum_k \lambda_k\right)^2}{4 \sum_k \lambda_k \bar{E}_k} + \ln\left(\frac{1}{\hbar} \left\langle S_0 \left| \hat{H}^{\text{SO}} \right| T_1 \right\rangle^2 \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\sum_k \lambda_k \bar{E}_k}}\right)$$

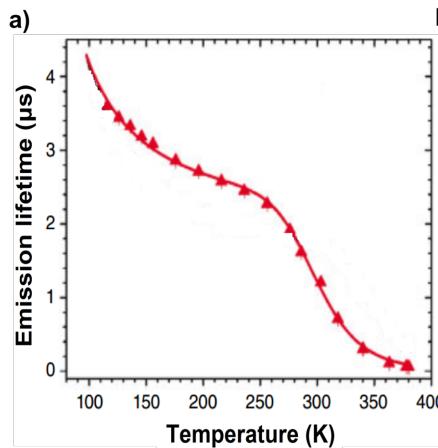


# Blue Phosphor



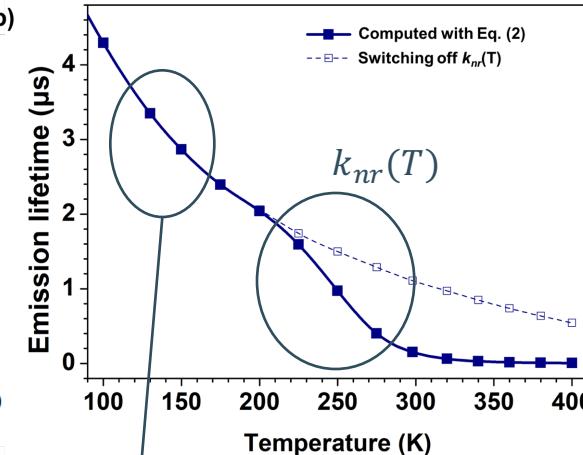
*fac*-(F<sub>2</sub>ppz)<sub>2</sub>Ir(ppy) (3)

## Experimental



Thompson et. al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, 131, 9813.

## Computed



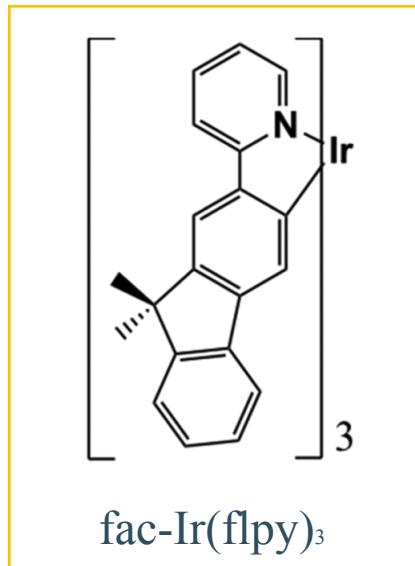
$$k_r = \frac{k_{r,I} + k_{r,II} \exp(-E_{II,I}/k_B T) + k_{r,III} \exp(-E_{III,I}/k_B T)}{1 + \exp(-E_{II,I}/k_B T) + \exp(-E_{III,I}/k_B T)}$$

- Phosphorescent efficiencies and lifetimes can be estimated at any given temperature.

$\Phi$ (theo, RT)	$\Phi$ (theo, 196K)
0.05	0.39

- This protocol can be applied to all-kind of Ir(III) complexes (from blue to red)
- Can be used for the automatic in silico prescreening of phosphors for PhOLEDs

# Yellow/Orange Phosphor



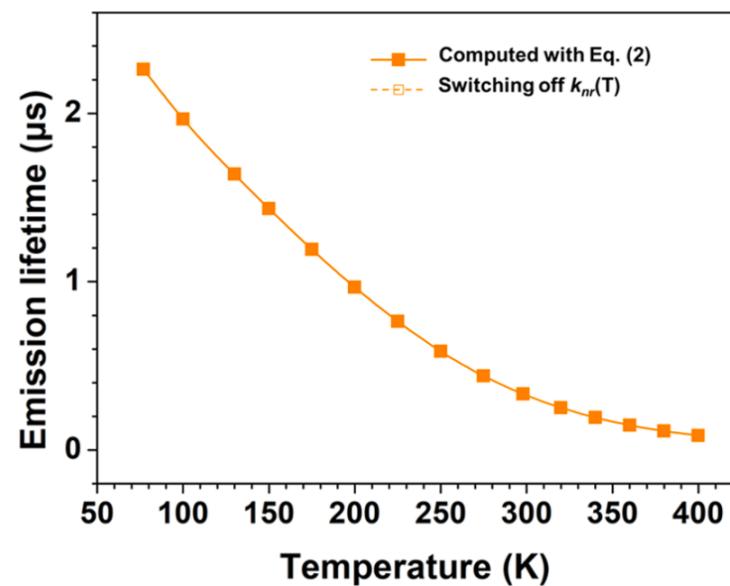
Computational details:

$k_r / k_{nr} / \text{SOCs}$ :  
TD-B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)/LANL2DZ

$k_{nr}(T)$ :  
PWPB95-D3/6-31G\*//B3LYP/6-31G-d,p

$$\tau(T) = \frac{1}{k_r + k_{\text{ISC}} + k_{\text{nr}}(T)} \quad \Phi_p(T) = \frac{k_r}{k_r + k_{\text{ISC}} + k_{\text{nr}}(T)}$$

Temperature(K)	$k_r$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$k_{\text{ISC}}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$k_{\text{nr}}(T)$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	Global Lifetime (μs)	$\Phi_p$
77	$1.9351 \times 10^5$	$2.4871 \times 10^5$	$2.201 \times 10^{-33}$	2.2613	0.438
200	$2.4398 \times 10^5$	$7.9016 \times 10^5$	$3.551 \times 10^{-5}$	0.9670	0.236
298	$2.5399 \times 10^5$	$2.7525 \times 10^6$	$2.243 \times 10^1$	0.3326	0.084 <b>Exp=0.29</b>



CVT dynamics:

$$A (\text{s}^{-1}) = 1.97 \times 10^{13}$$

$$E_{\text{act}} = 5182 \text{ cm}^{-1} (\text{PWPB95-D3/6-31G*})$$

**DESIGN RULE to attain large  $\Phi_p$  values at RT:**  
 $E_{\text{act}} > 4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$

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## ➤ Collaborators:

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Shuai (Tsinghua  
University)  
Qian Peng (ICAS)



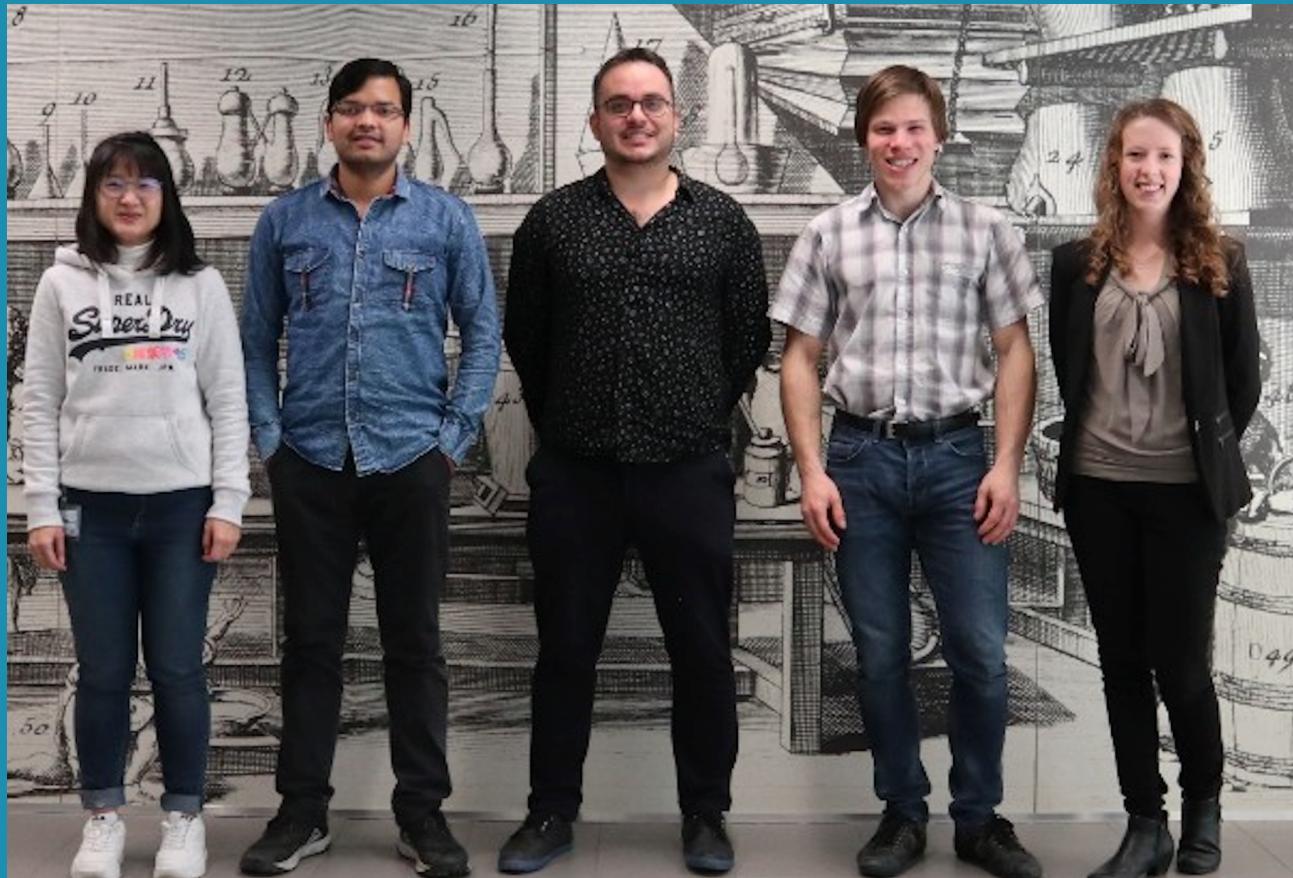
Prof. Denis  
Jacquemin  
(CEISAM,  
France)



## ➤ My research group:

MsC students;  
Milena Roehrs  
Daniel Vidal  
Sylvio Arroliga-Rocha  
Marziogiussepe Gentile

PhD students:  
Koen Veys  
Prashant Kumar



ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Department of Chemistry

KU LEUVEN