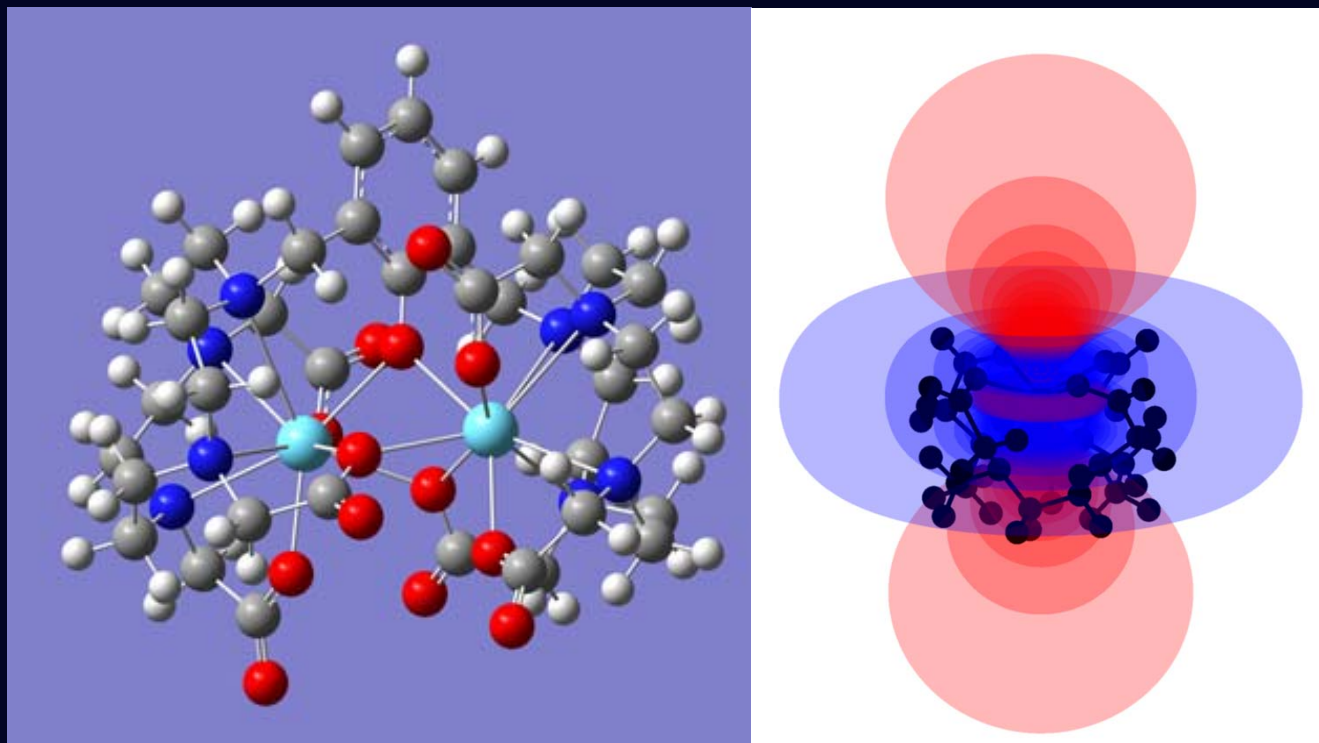
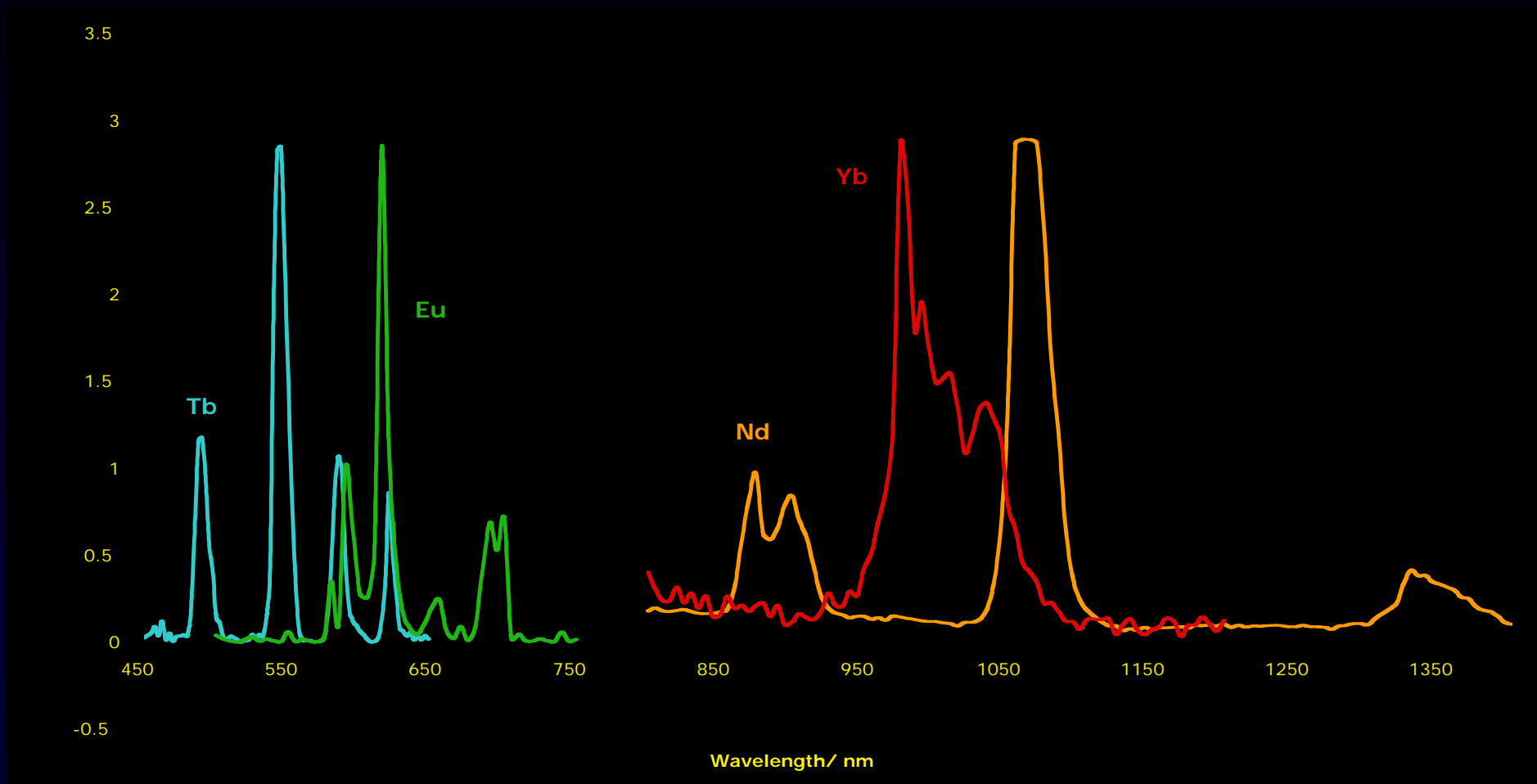


# Probing the Solution Speciation and Coordination Environment of f-Element complexes by NMR and Emission Spectroscopy

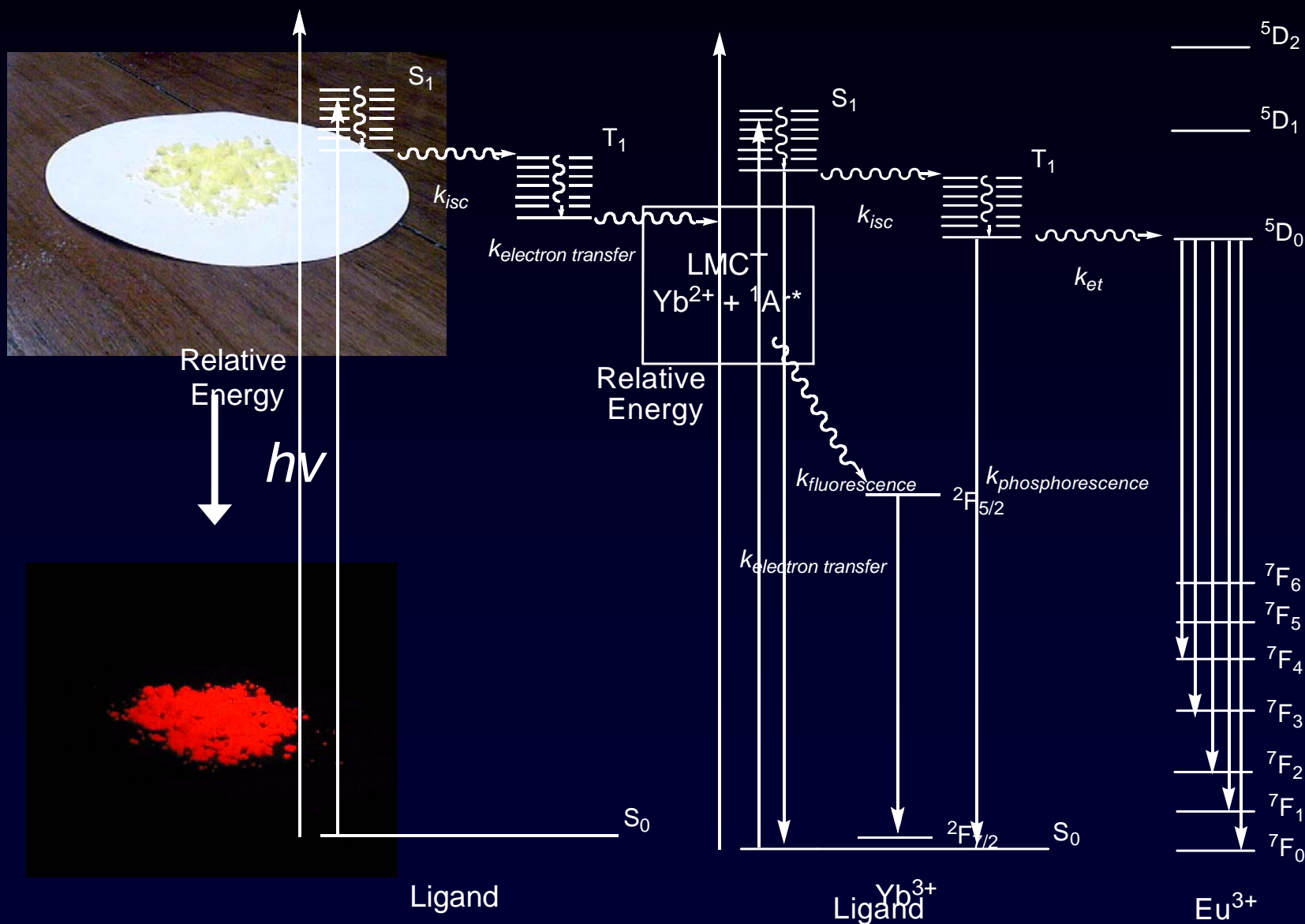


# Lanthanide Luminescence



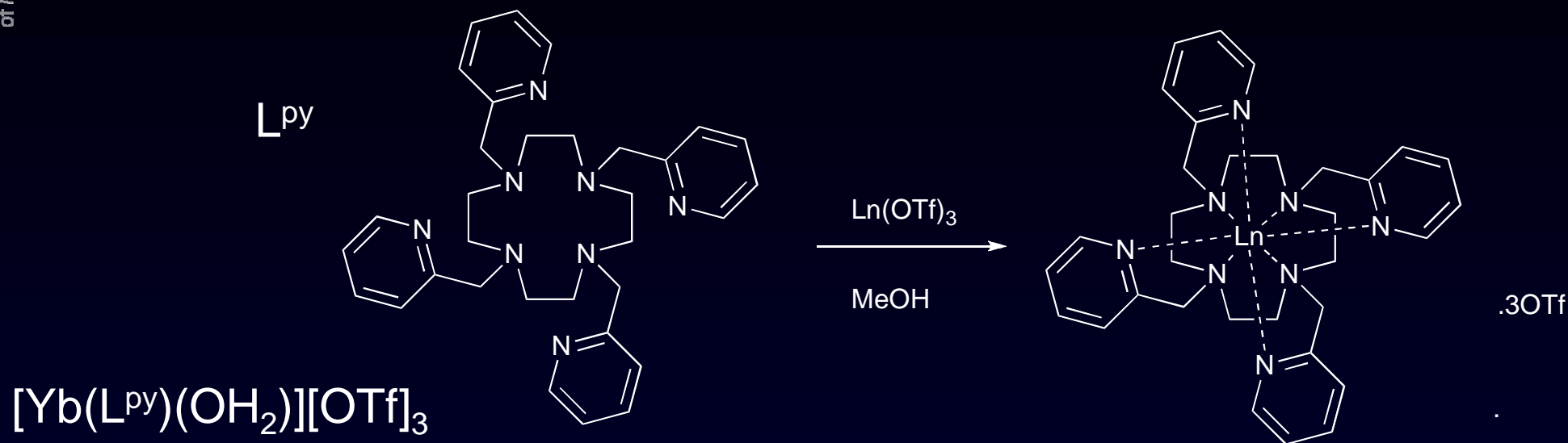
- Emission spectra span the visible and near IR regions
- Choice of sensitising chromophore important
- Lifetimes range nanosecond to millisecond order

# Lanthanide Luminescence

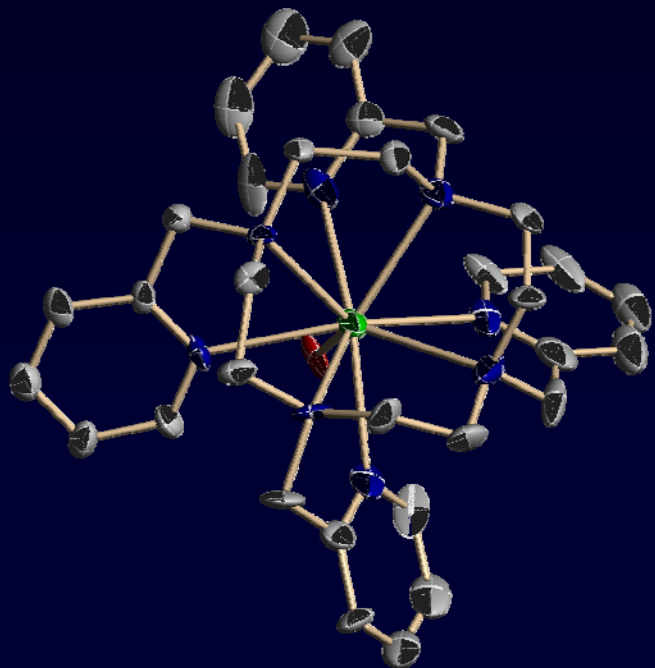


LMCT mediated energy transfer mechanism

# Tetra Picolyl Substituted Cyclen



$Ln = La, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Tm, Er, Yb$



Mono-capped SAP ( $\phi = 39^\circ$ )

- Ave.  $Yb-N_{cyclen}$  2.63 Å
- Ave  $Yb-N_{py}$  2.52 Å
- $Yb-OH_2$  2.40 Å

Nd TSAP ( $\phi = 24^\circ$ )

Eu TSAP ( $\phi = 25^\circ$ )

Gd SAP ( $\phi = 36^\circ$ )

Tb SAP ( $\phi = 37^\circ$ )

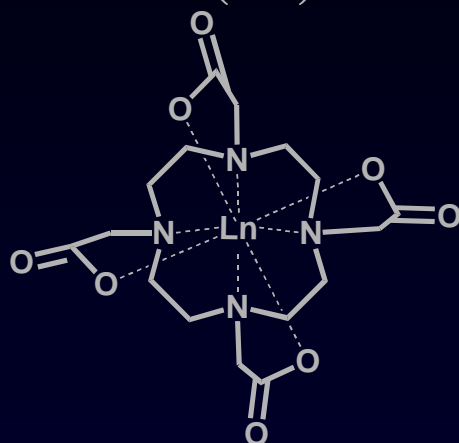
Er SAP ( $\phi = 38^\circ$ )

Change in solid state coordination geometry across the series

# Solution Coordination Isomerism

Twisted Square Antiprism

$\Delta(\delta\delta\delta\delta)$



Arm  
Rotation

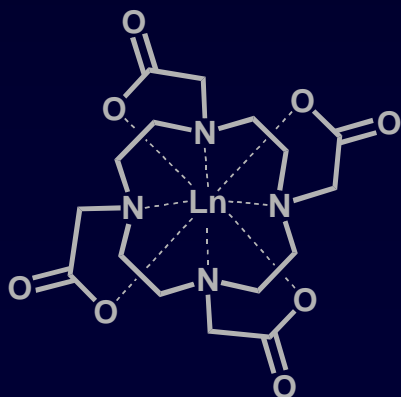
Square Antiprism

$\Lambda(\delta\delta\delta\delta)$



Ring Inversion

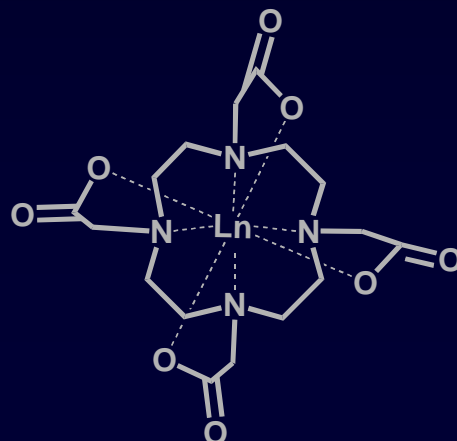
Ring Inversion



Square Antiprism

$\Delta(\lambda\lambda\lambda\lambda)$

Arm  
Rotation



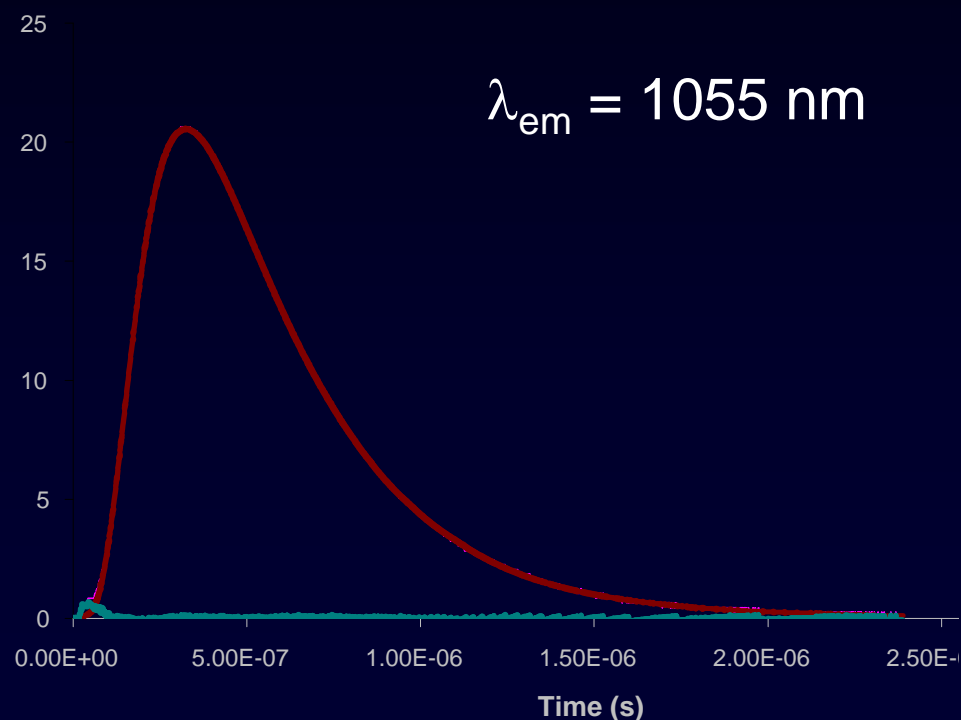
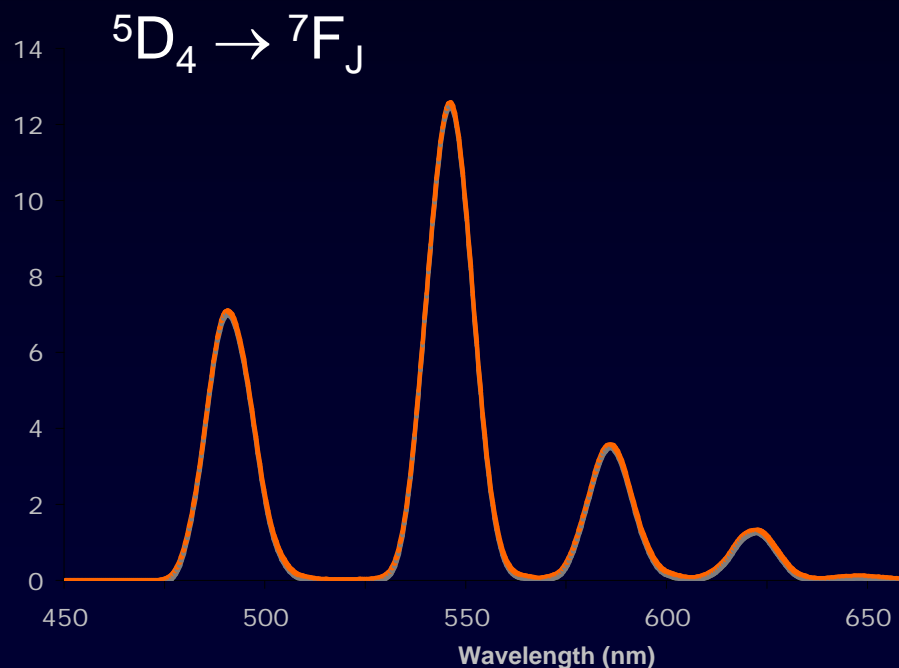
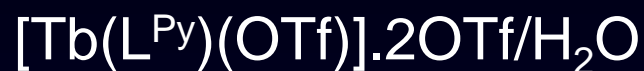
Twisted Square Antiprism

$\Lambda(\lambda\lambda\lambda\lambda)$

- Four stereoisomers
- Interconversion by pendant arm rotation and ring inversion
- TSAP faster H<sub>2</sub>O exchange
- Same isomerism for DO3A complexes

# Solution Studies

Steady state and time resolved luminescence studies:



- Kinetic traces for Yb, Pr and Nd fitted to a bi-exponential decay
- Eu and Tb follow mono-exponential decay kinetics

# Lifetime Measurements

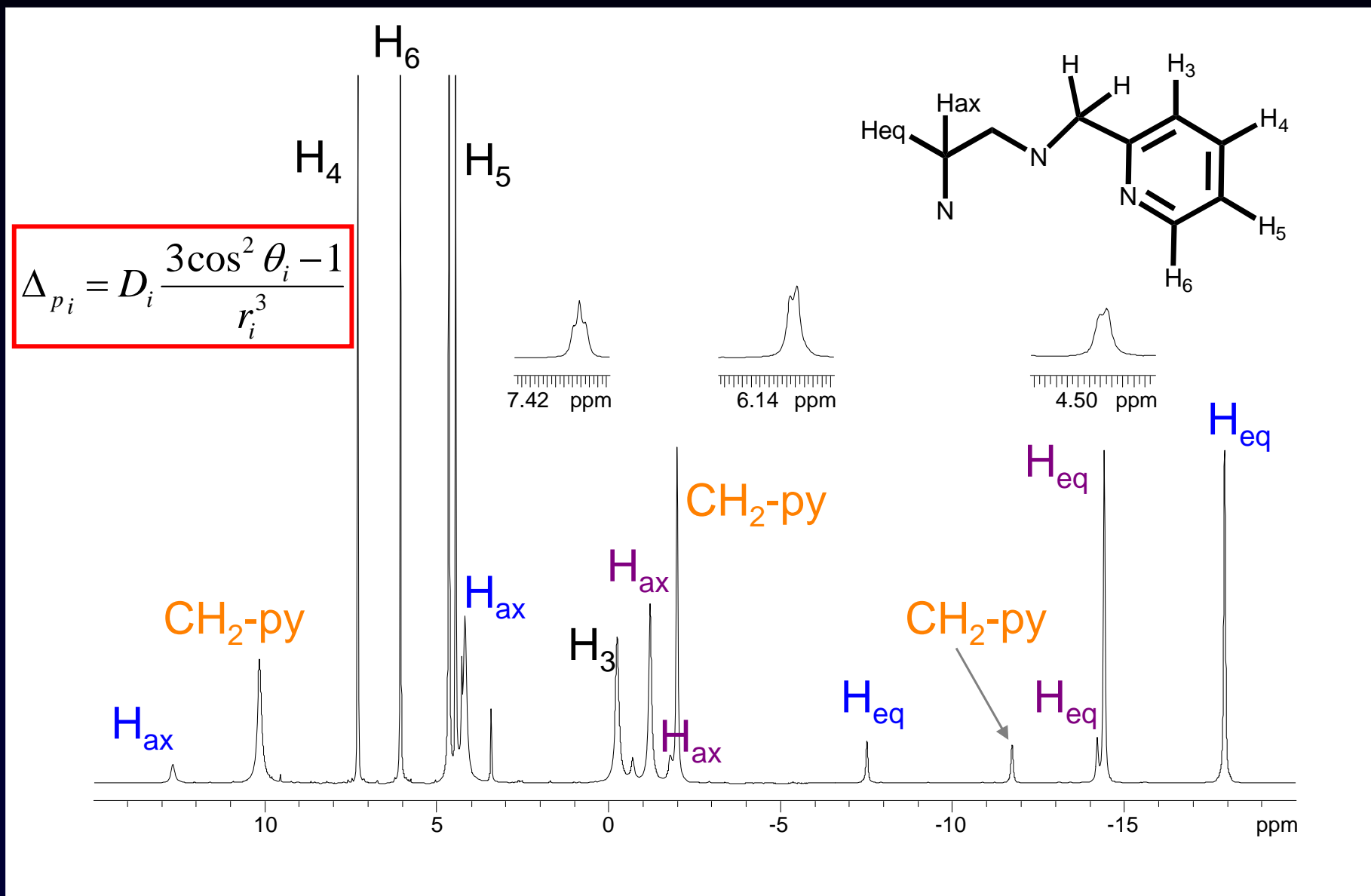
Complex	$\tau_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/\mu\text{s}$	$\tau_{\text{D}_2\text{O}}/\mu\text{s}$	$q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$
Nd	0.22 50 %	0.35 50 %	0.0
	0.09 50 %	0.17 50 %	0.4
Pr	-	0.08 67 %	-
	-	0.12 33 %	-
Eu	720	1130	0.4
Tb	2060	2540	0.2
Yb	1.63	4.47	0.3

$$q = A(k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - k_{\text{D}_2\text{O}} - B) \quad (\text{Eu, Tb})$$

$$q = A(k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - k_{\text{D}_2\text{O}}) - B \quad (\text{Nd})$$

Number of inner sphere  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules approximates to 0

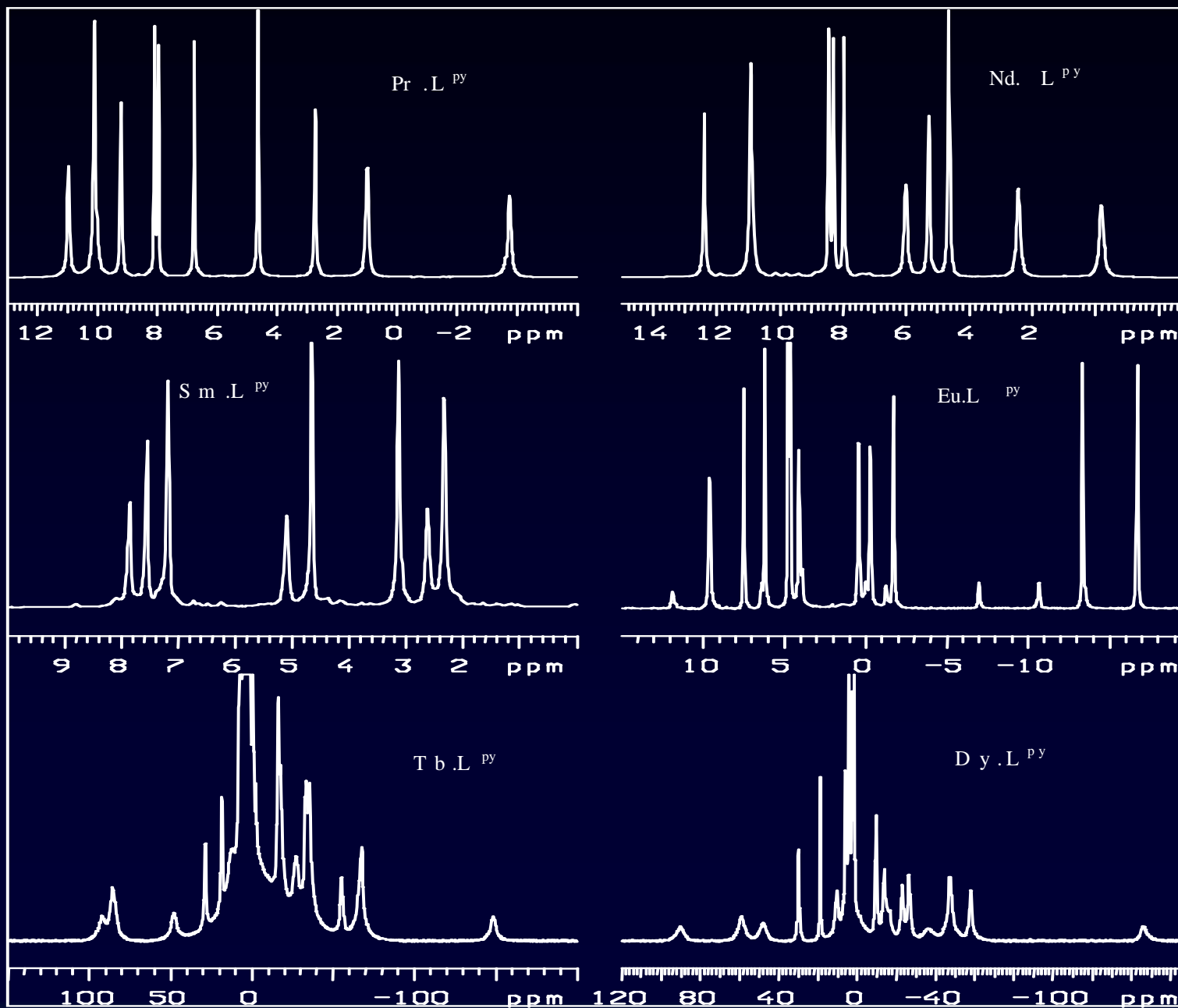
# $^1\text{H}$ NMR Spectrum of $\text{Eu}(\text{L}^{\text{py}})/\text{D}_2\text{O}$



Solution conformation different to solid state geometry

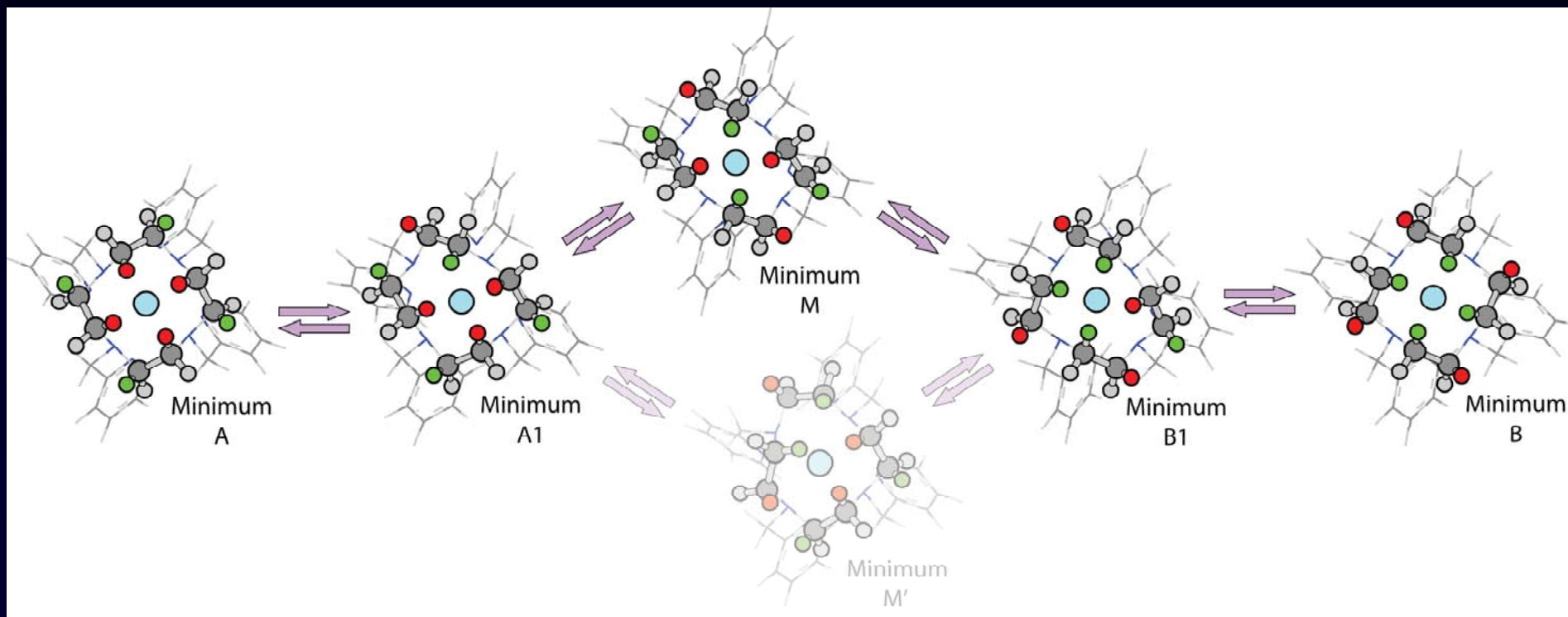


# $^1\text{H}$ NMR Spectra of $\text{Ln}(\text{L}^{\text{py}})/\text{D}_2\text{O}$



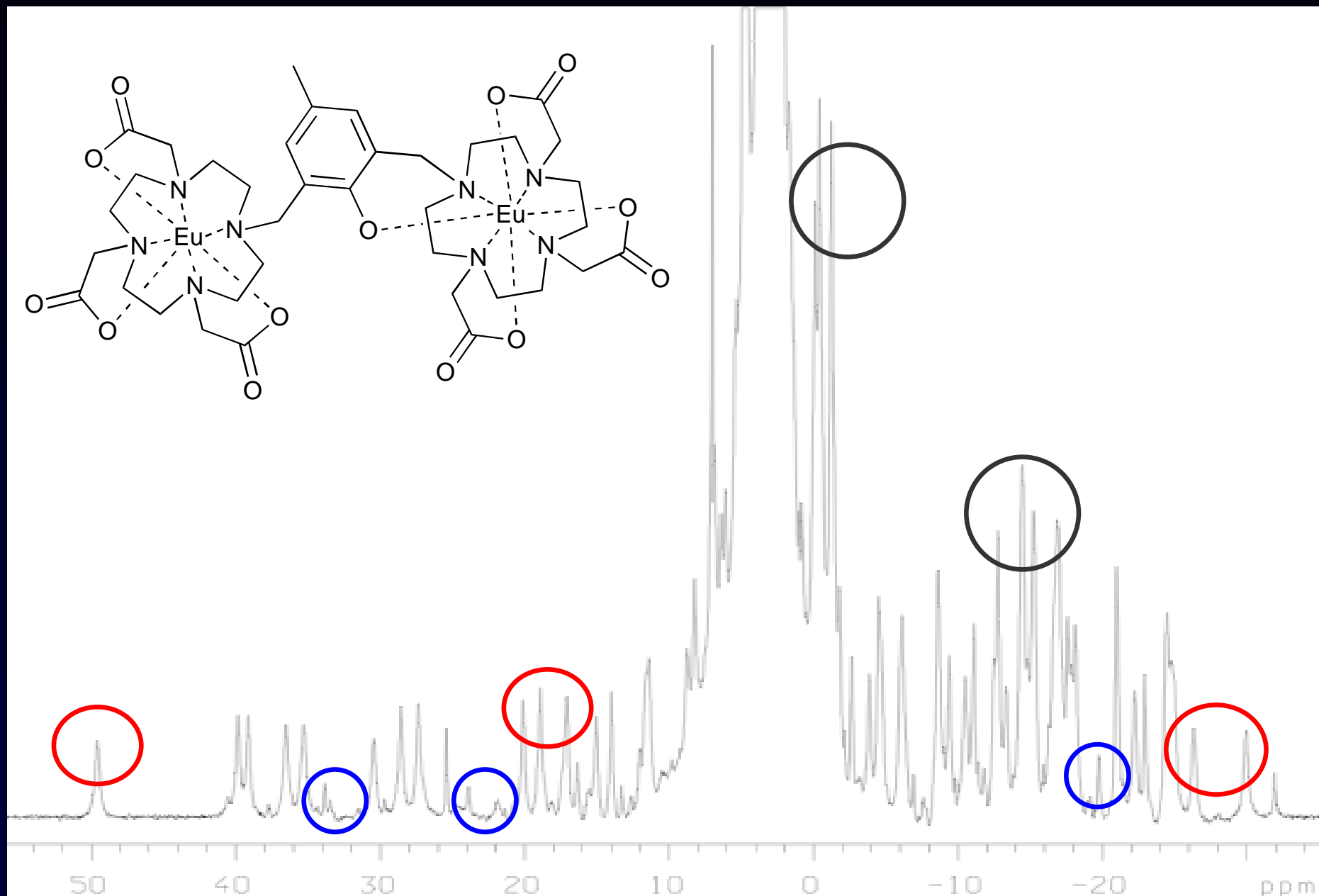
# DFT Calculations of $Y(L^{py})$

DFT scan through cyclen ring isomerisation pathway



The isomerisation process is a sequence of single-joint inversion pathways

# Bimetallic Complexes: $^1\text{H}$ NMR



# Luminescence Studies

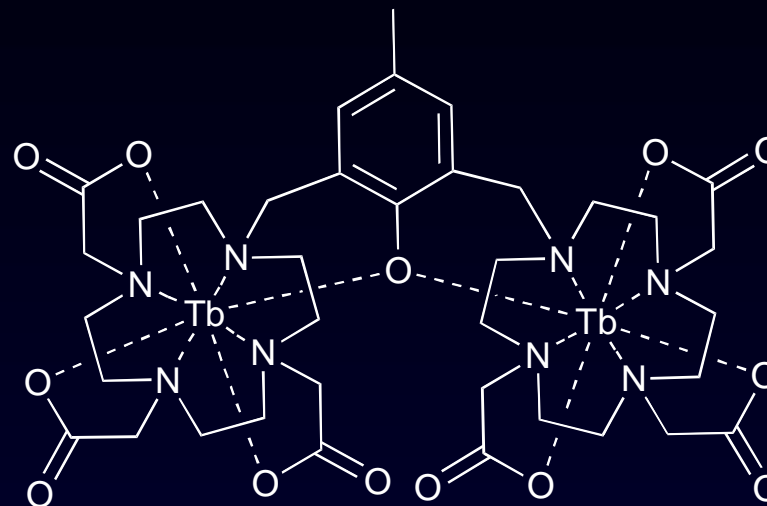


$$\tau_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \text{ 0.51 \& 1.67 } \mu\text{s}$$

$$\tau_{\text{D}_2\text{O}} \text{ 1.17 \& 4.95 } \mu\text{s}$$

$$q = 0.3 \& 1$$

Differentiated binding sites



$$\tau_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \text{ 2.26 ms}$$

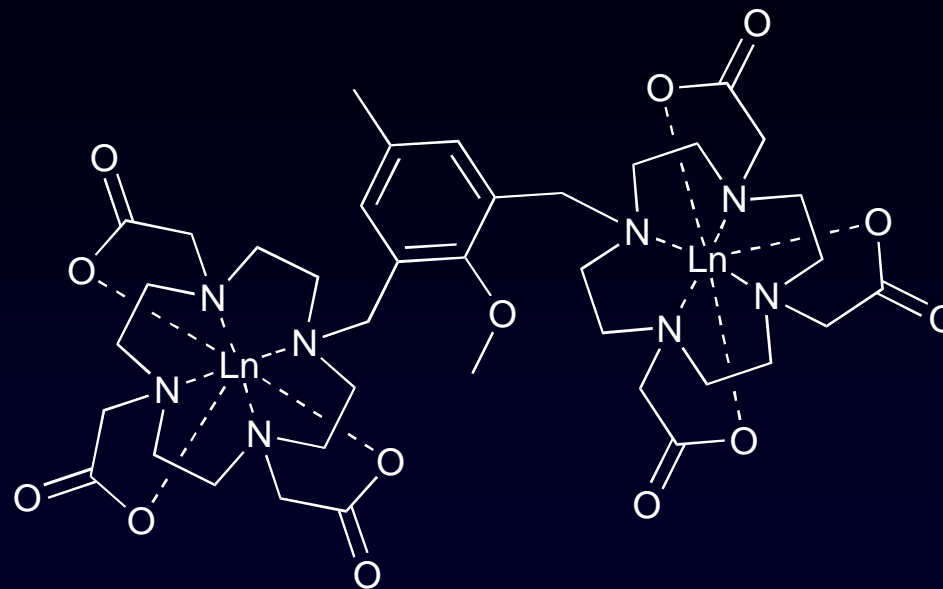
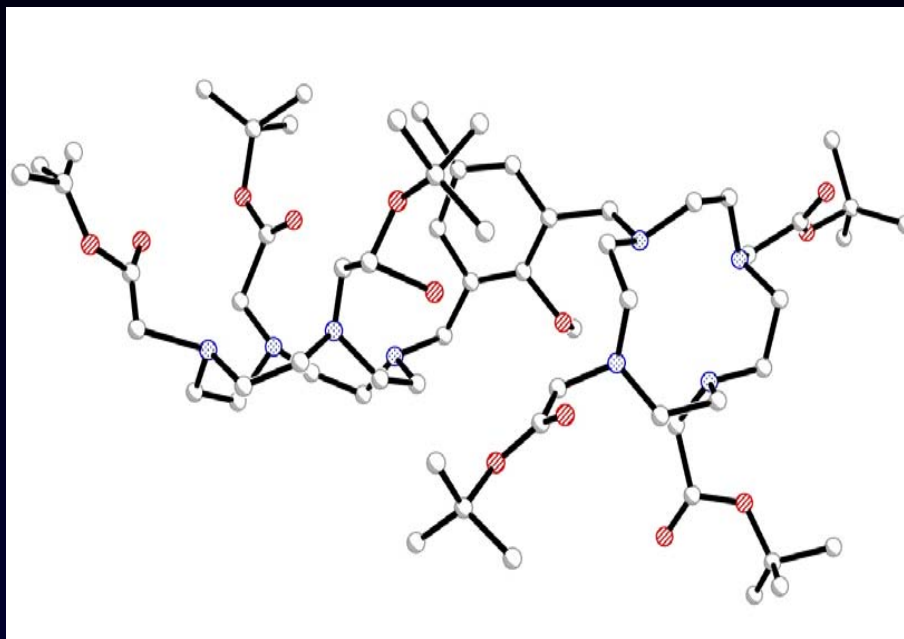
$$\tau_{\text{D}_2\text{O}} \text{ 2.55 ms}$$

$$q = 0$$

Non-distinguishable binding sites

Open vs. closed conformation

# Anisole Derivative



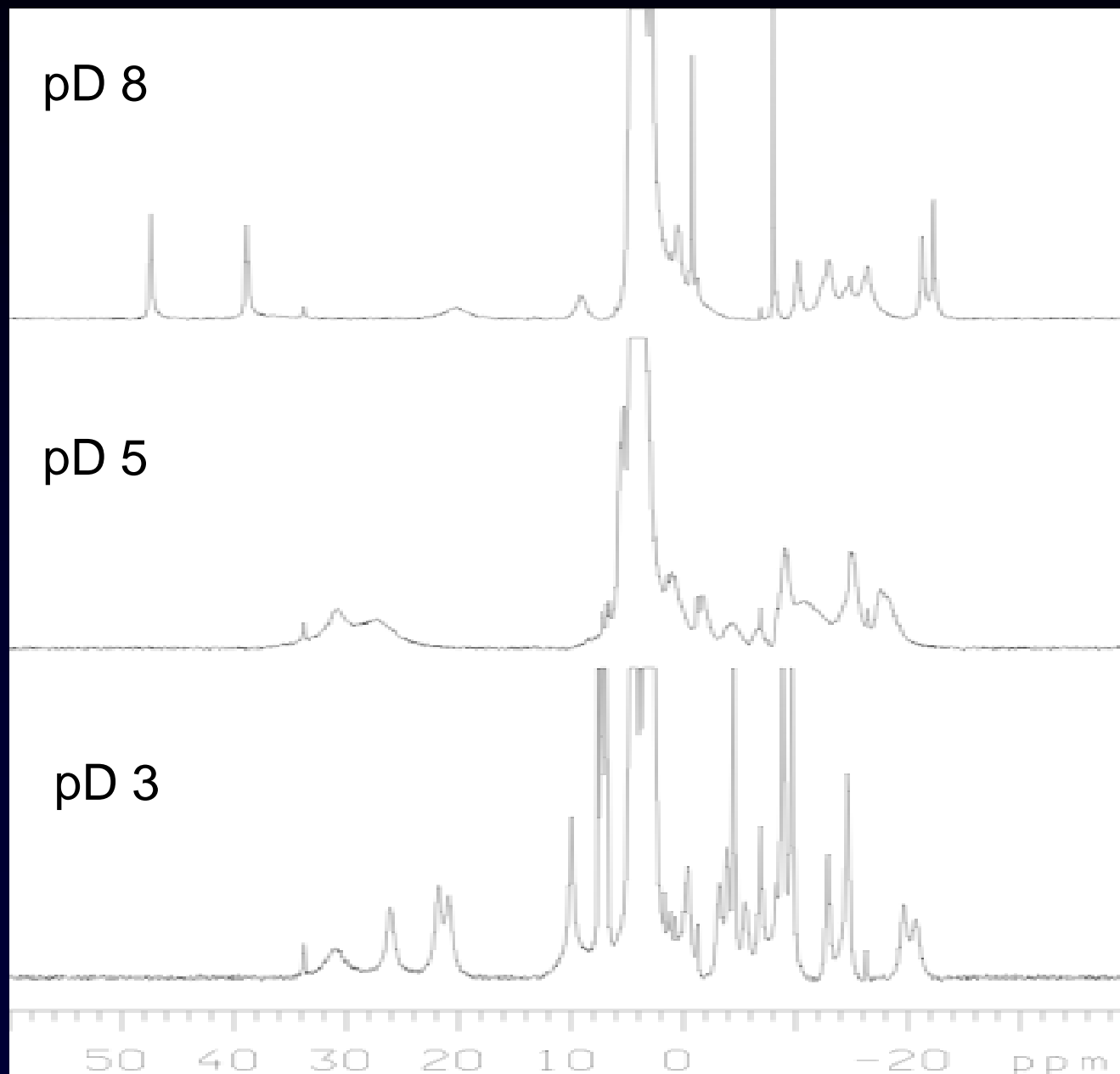
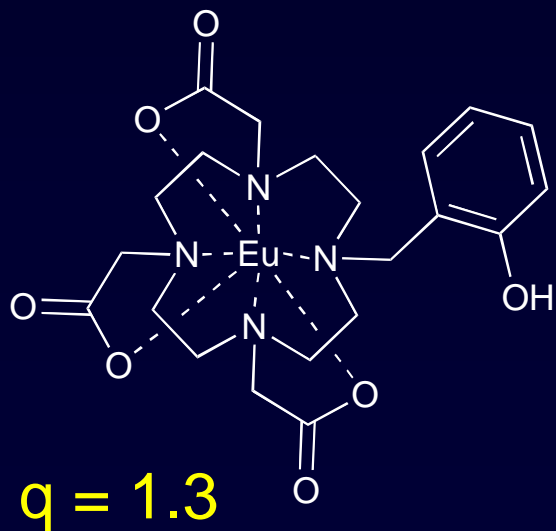
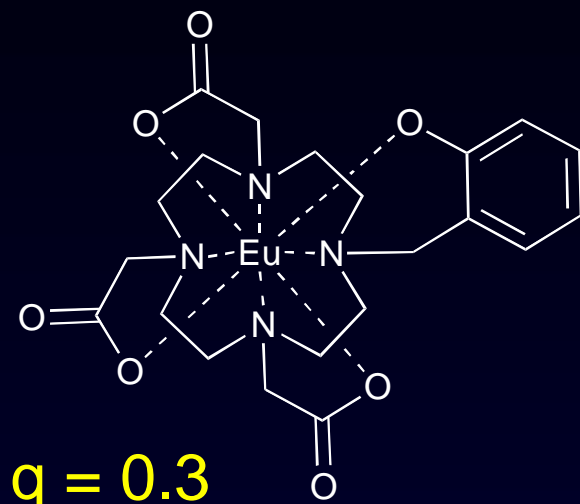
Eu  $\tau_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  0.50 ms,  $\tau_{\text{D}_2\text{O}}$  1.45 ms,  $q = 1.3$

Tb  $\tau_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  1.31 ms,  $\tau_{\text{D}_2\text{O}}$  1.87 ms,  $q = 0.8$

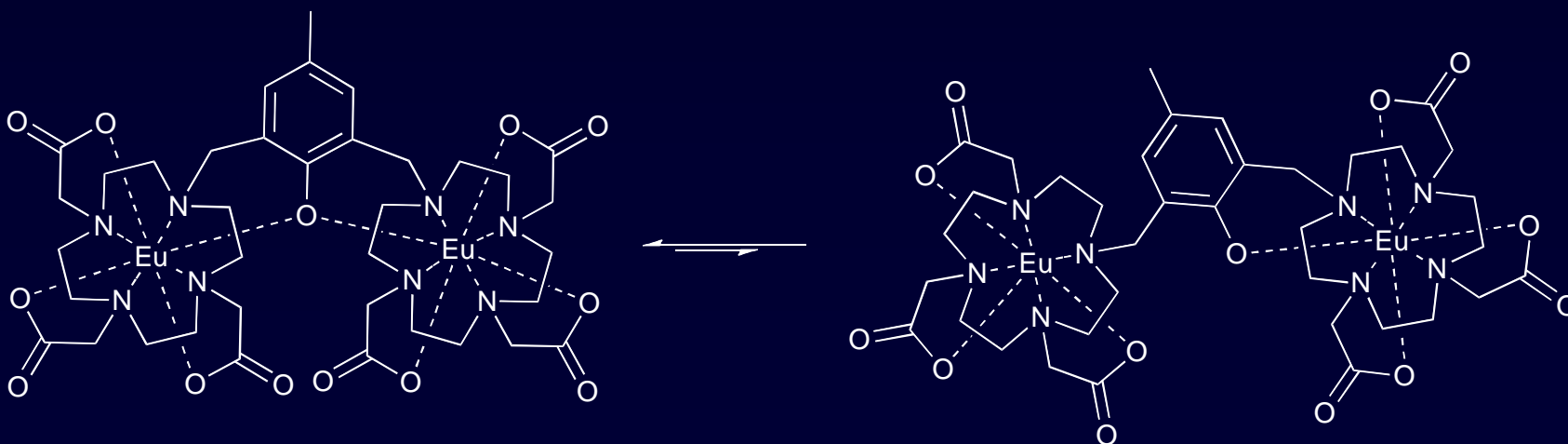
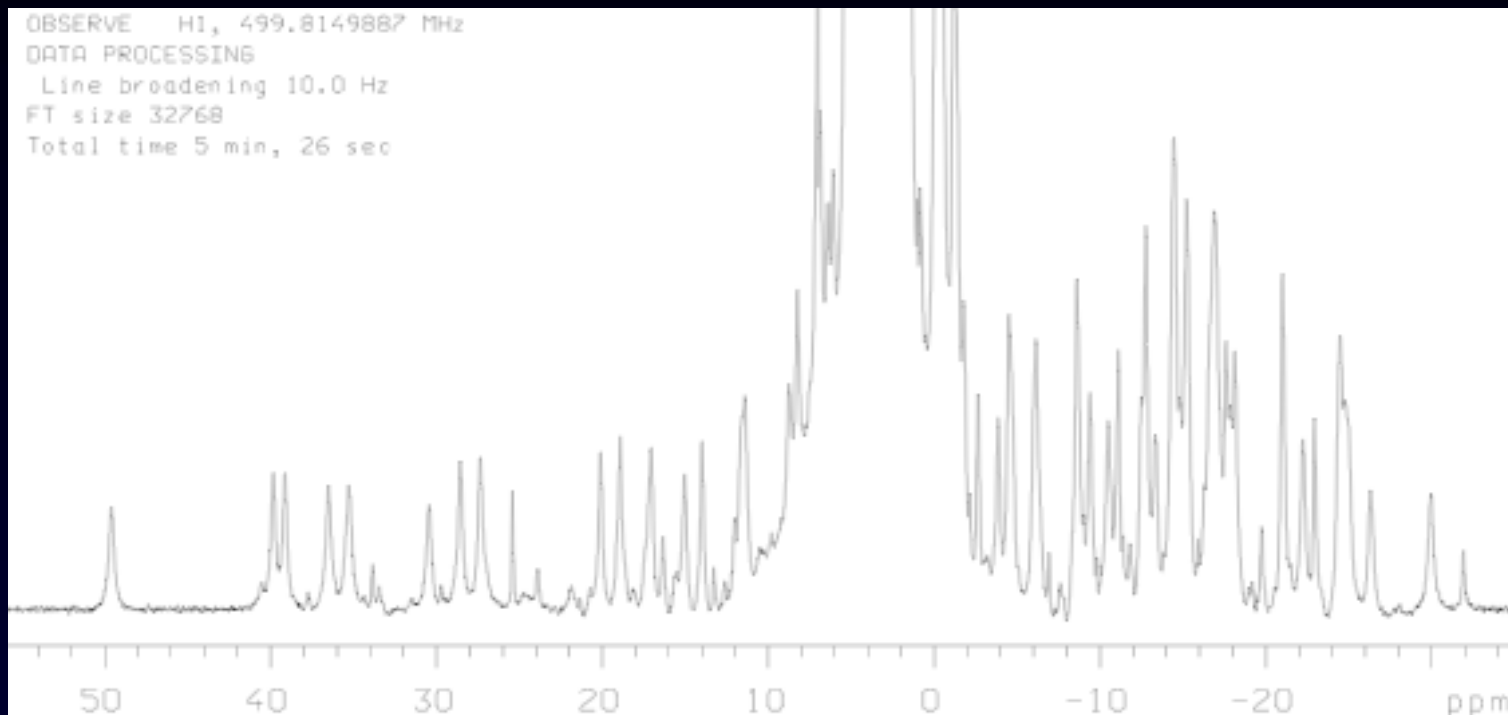
Yb  $\tau_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  1.42  $\mu\text{s}$ ,  $\tau_{\text{D}_2\text{O}}$  4.63  $\mu\text{s}$ ,  $q = 0.4$

Removal of coordinative ability of phenol

# pH Dependence of $^1\text{H}$ NMR Spectra

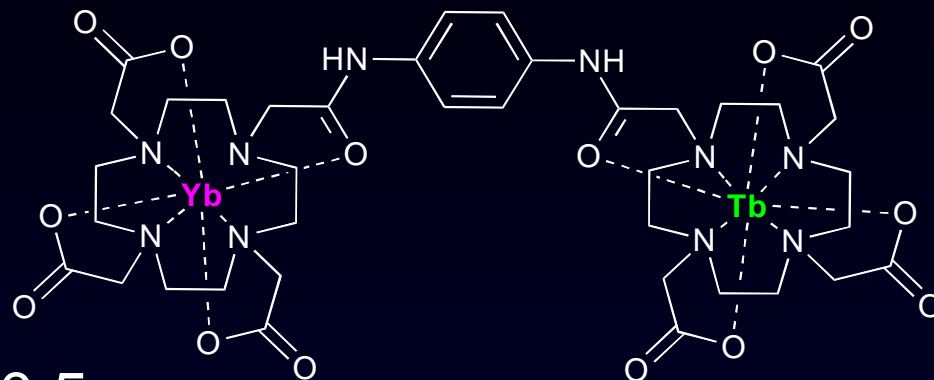


# $^1\text{H}$ NMR Spectra Independent of pH



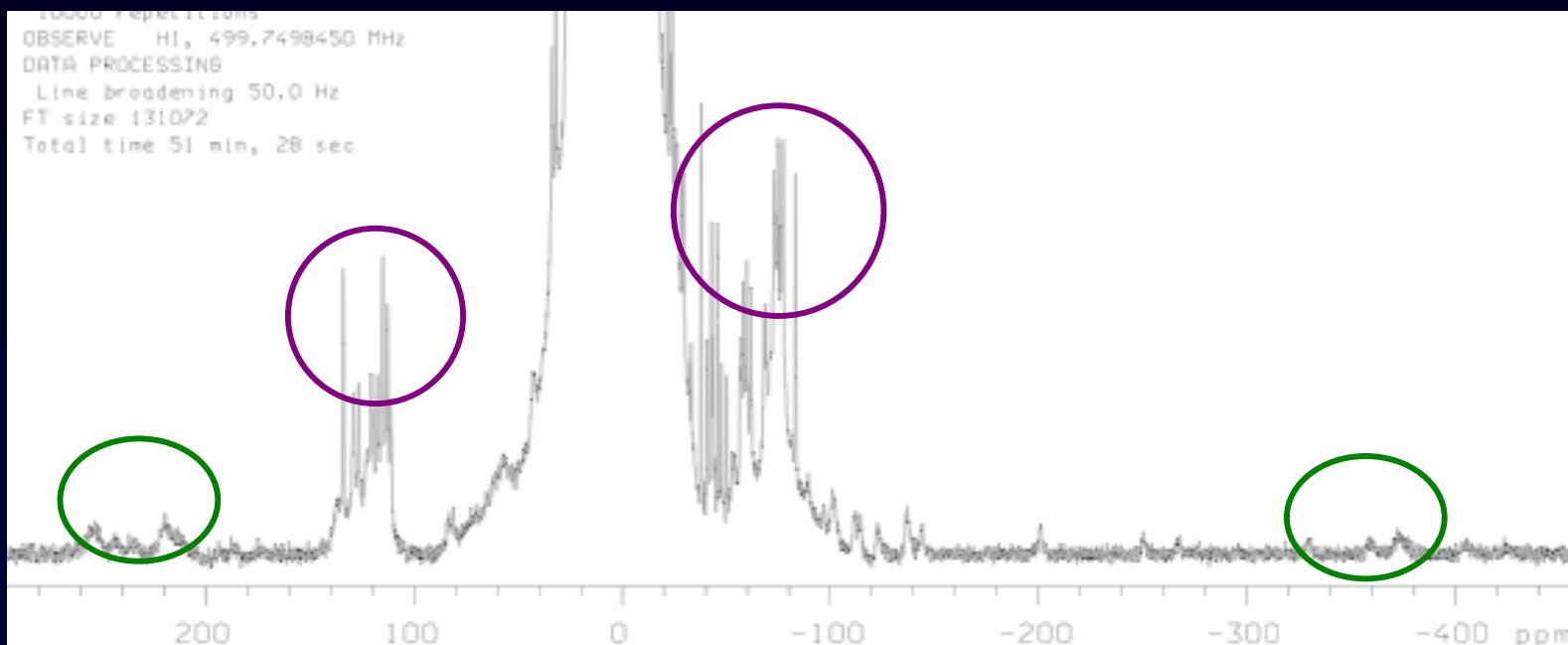
# Selective Introduction of $\text{Ln}^{3+}$

Orthogonal  
protections



$$q_{\text{Yb}} = 0.5$$

$$q_{\text{Tb}} = 0.6$$





# Summary

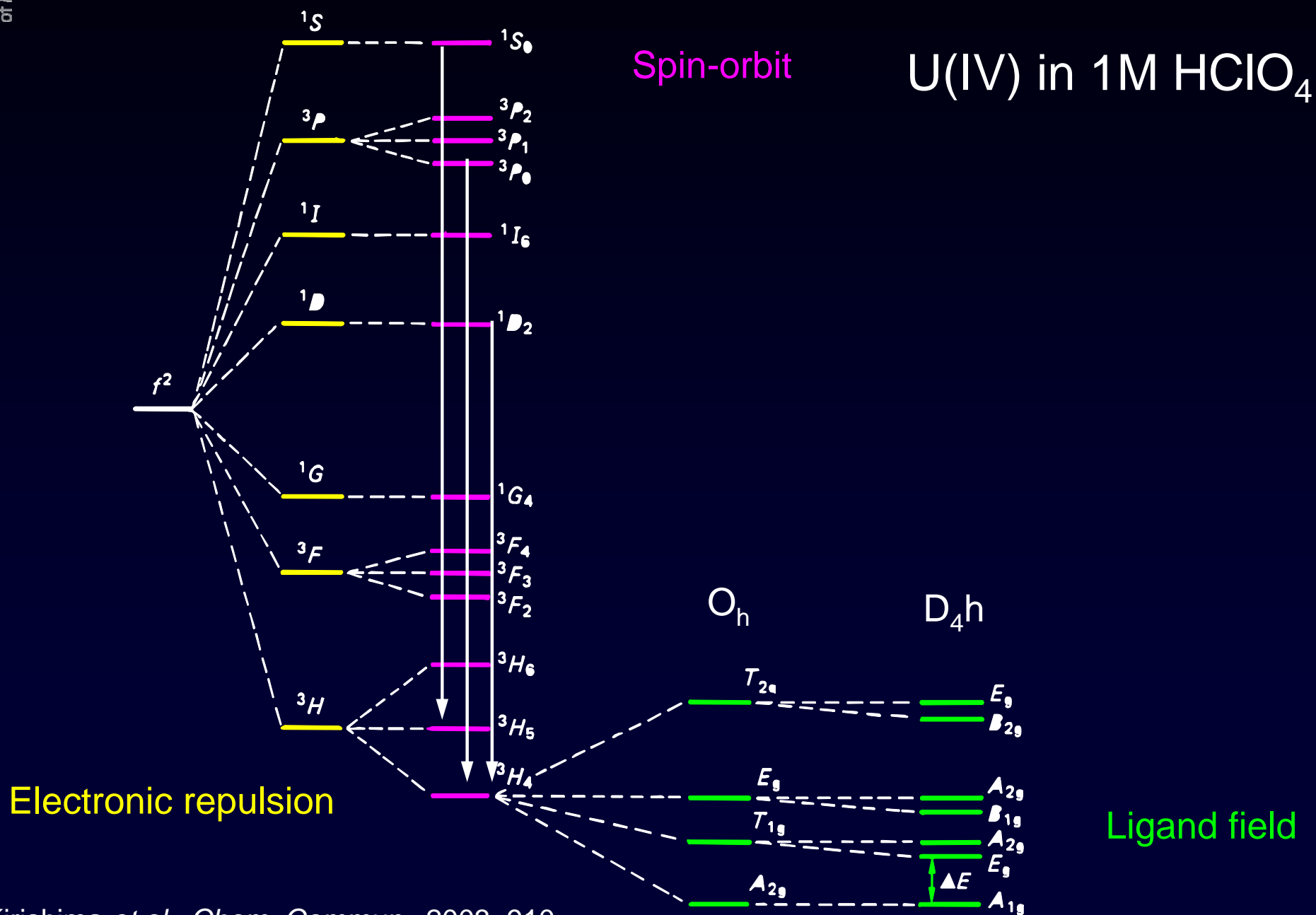
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- Solid state structures of complexes with  $L^{py}$  do not provide an ideal model for solution behaviour
- Unusual donor sets change the nature of the anisotropy
- In bimetallic systems, solution isomerism is more complicated and NMR spectra are more difficult to interpret
- Emission spectroscopy can be used to study dynamic solution behaviour
- Complementary technique with NMR spectroscopy

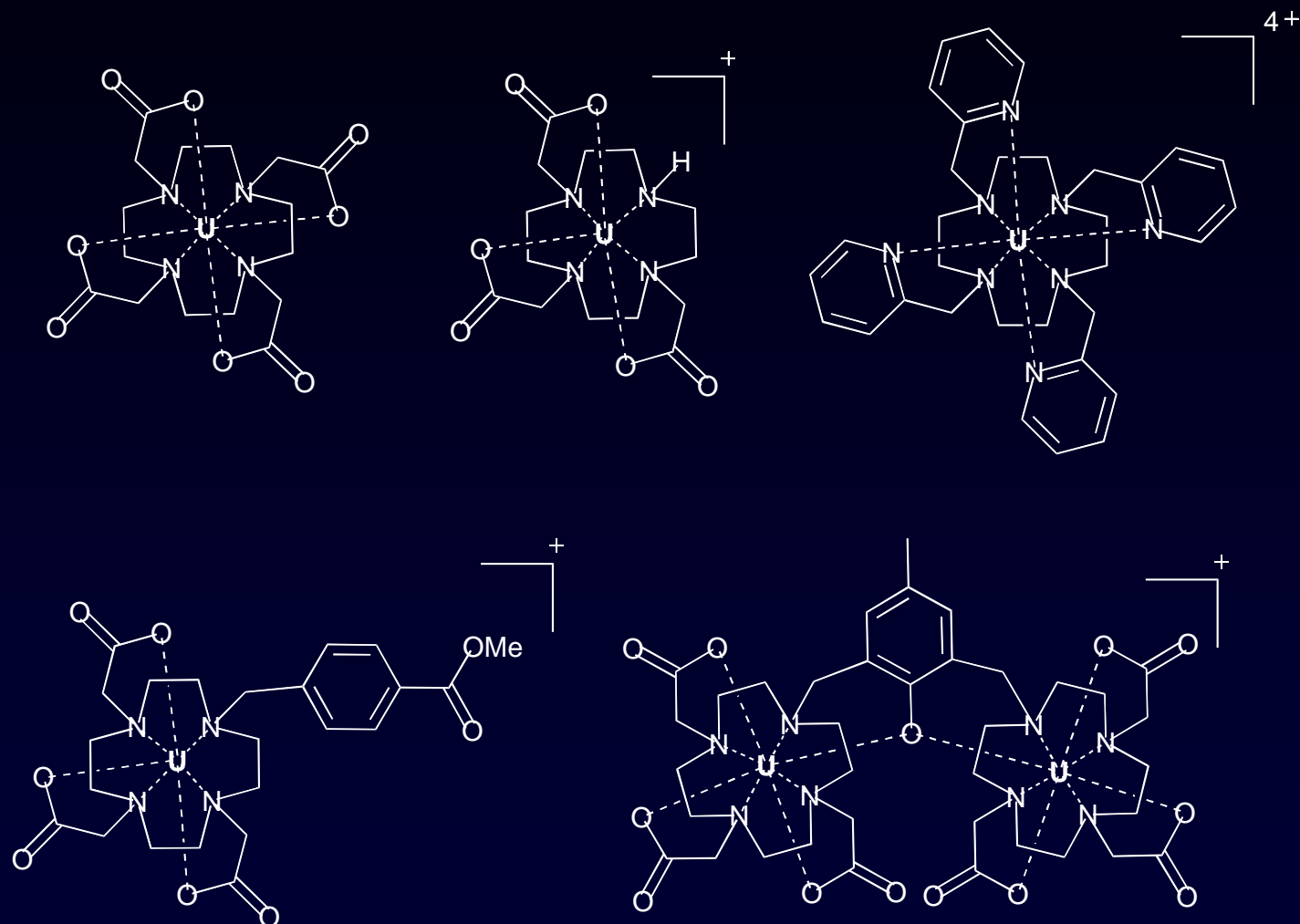
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# Luminescence Studies of Uranium(IV) Complexes

# Uranium(IV) (f<sup>2</sup>)



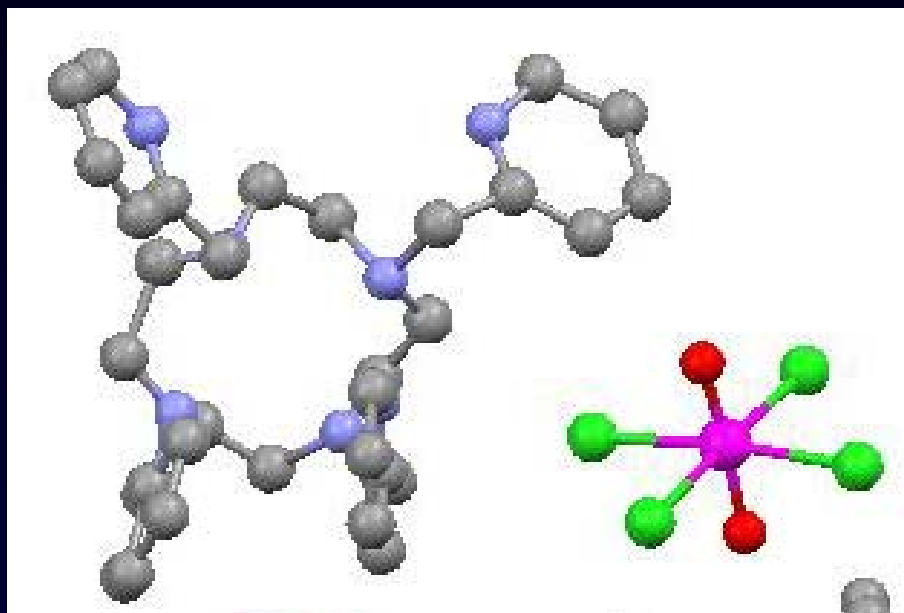
# Uranium(IV) Complexes



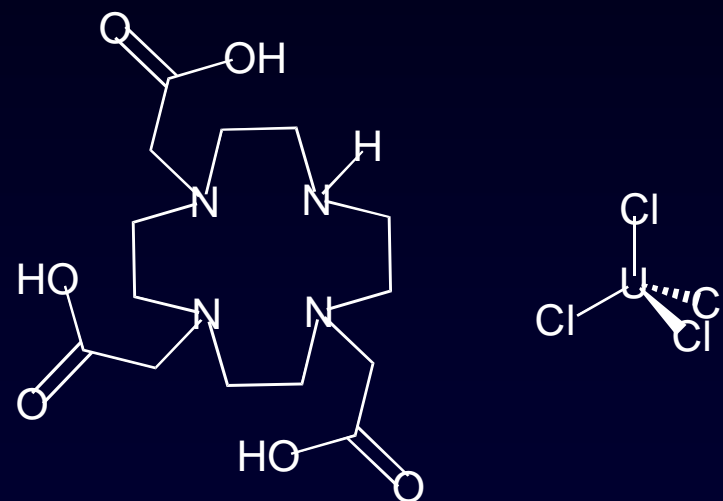
Complexes prepared by reaction of K salt of ligand with  $\text{UCl}_4$

# X-ray Crystal Structures

Hydrolysis of U(IV) to  $\text{UO}_2(\text{VI})$  occurs with  $\text{L}^{\text{py}}$

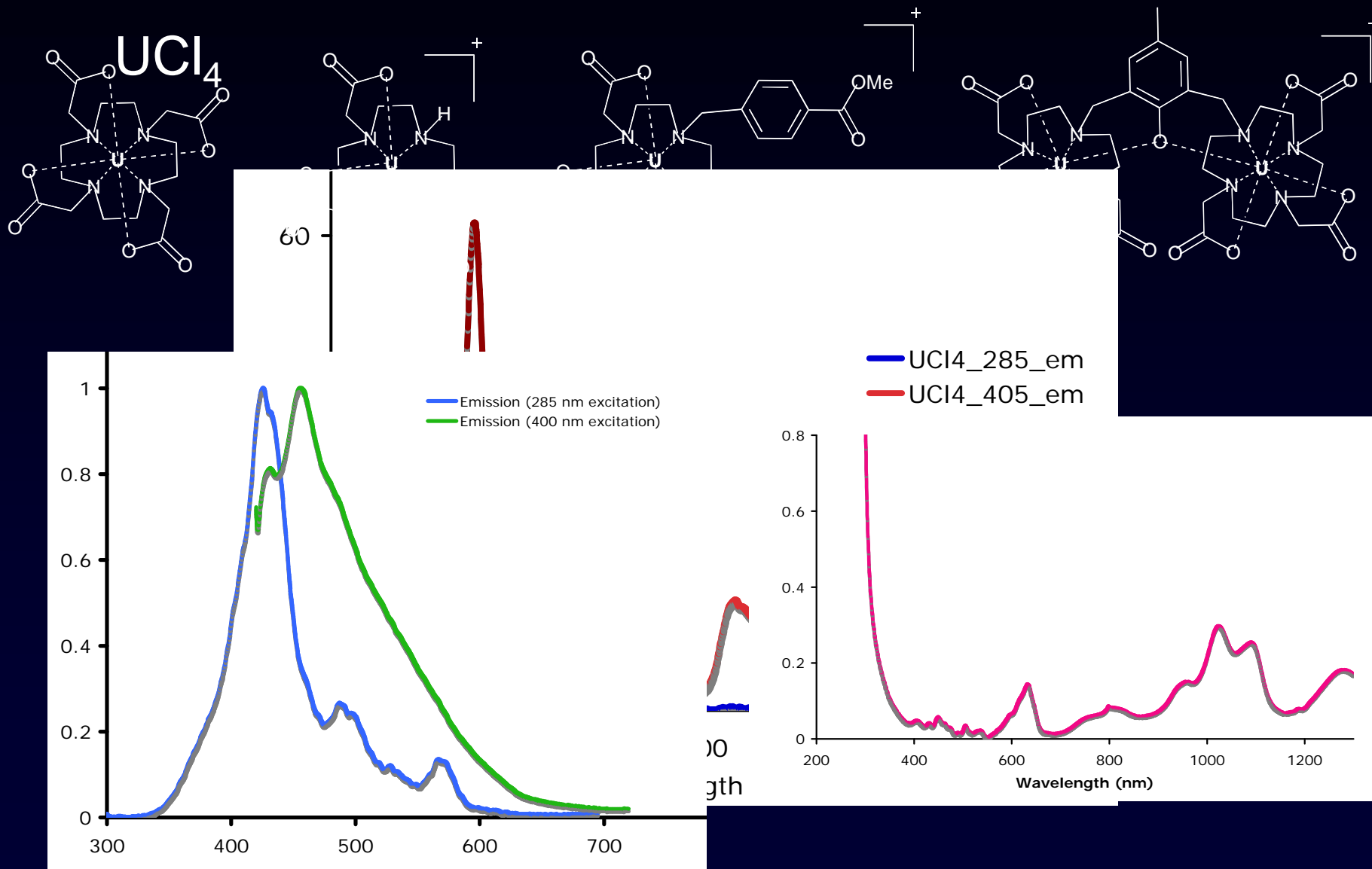


X-ray crystal structure  
of  $[\text{H}_2\text{L}^{\text{py}}][\text{UO}_2\text{Cl}_4]$



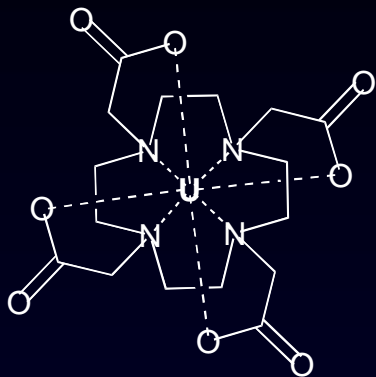
Co-crystallisation of  $\text{H}_3\text{DO}_3\text{A}$   
and  $\text{UCl}_4$  occurs;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR suggests  
equilibrium mixture with complex

# Emission Spectra (MeOH and DMF)

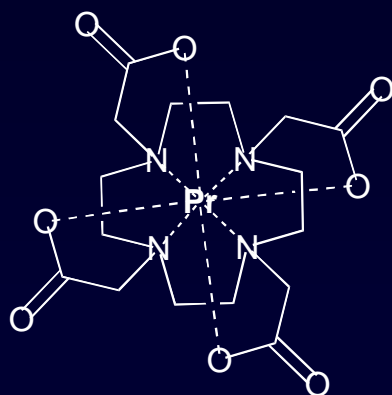
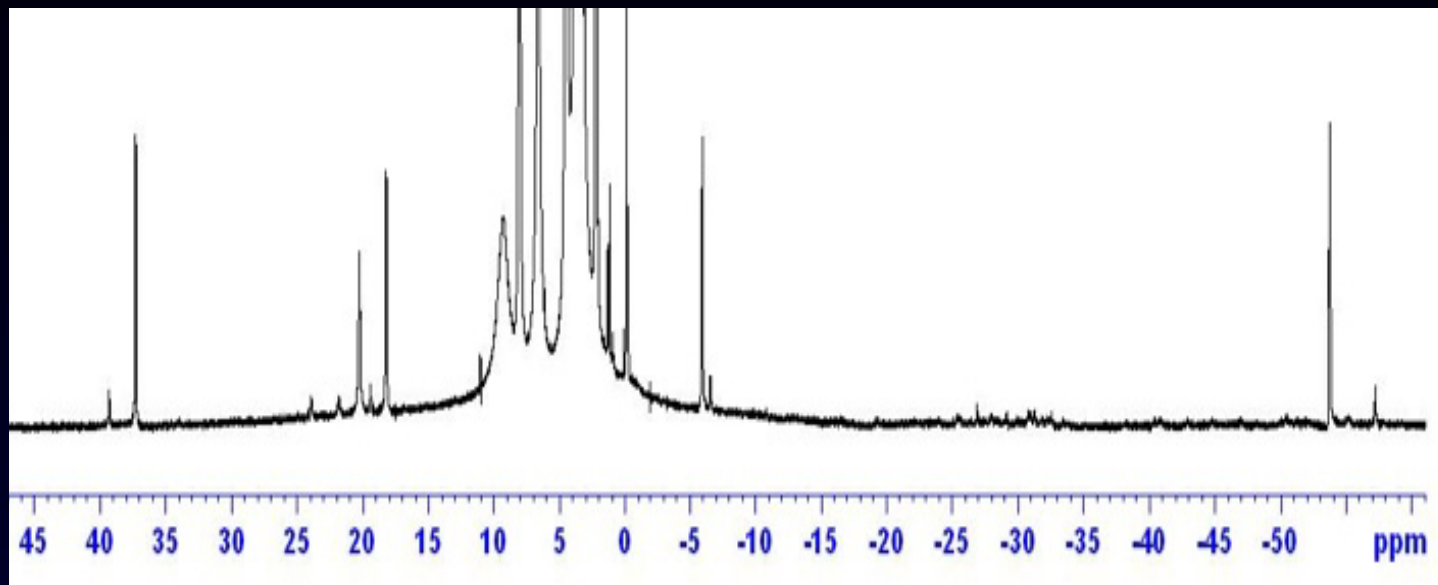


$\lambda_{exc} = 375$  and  $405$  nm; all lifetimes are  $\sim 2-10$  ns (400 - 900 nm)

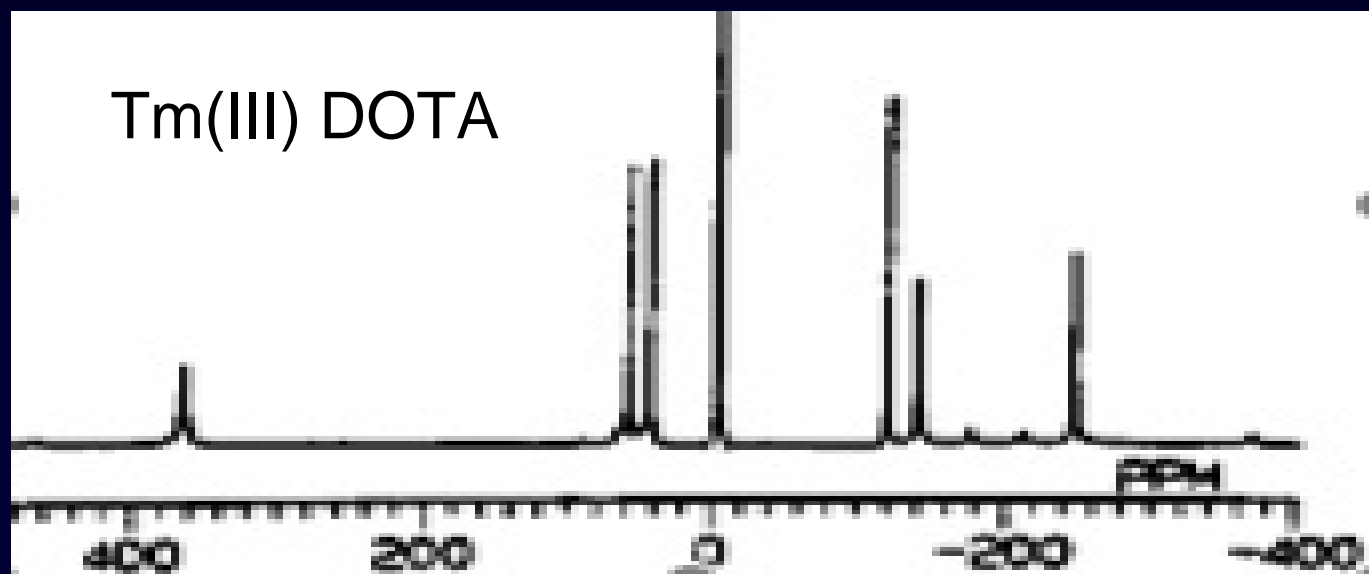
# NMR Spectra (MeOD)



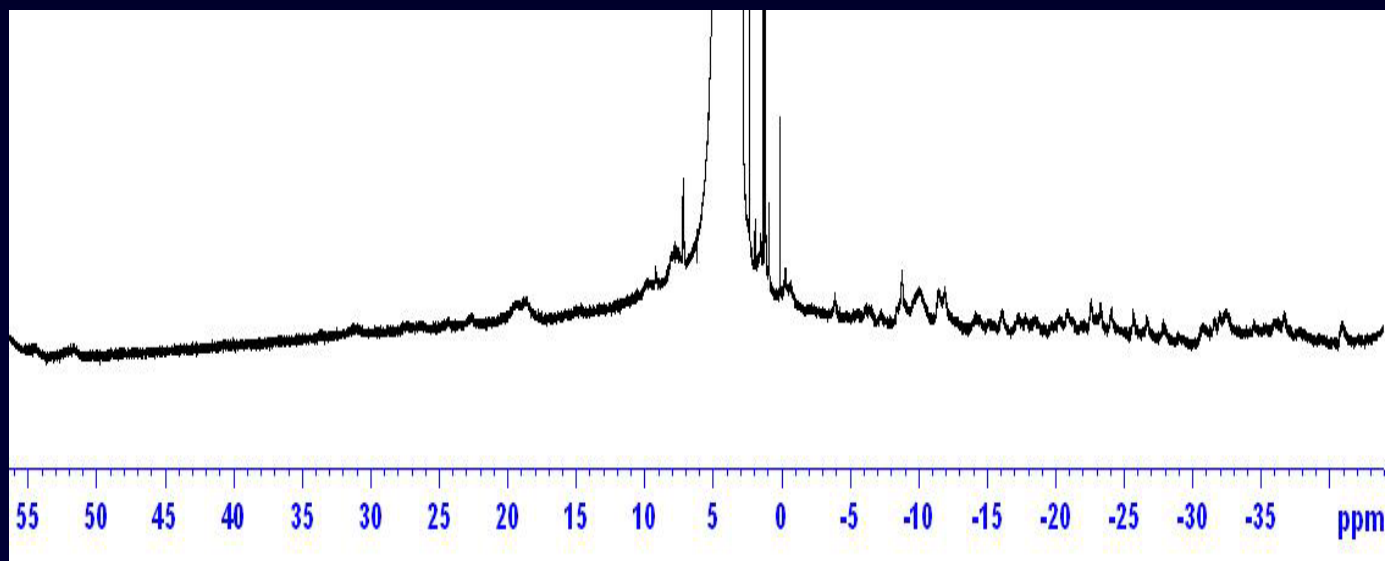
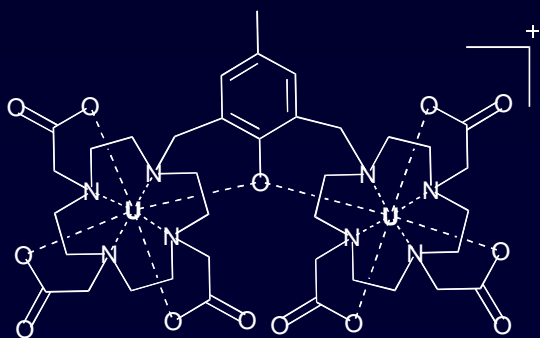
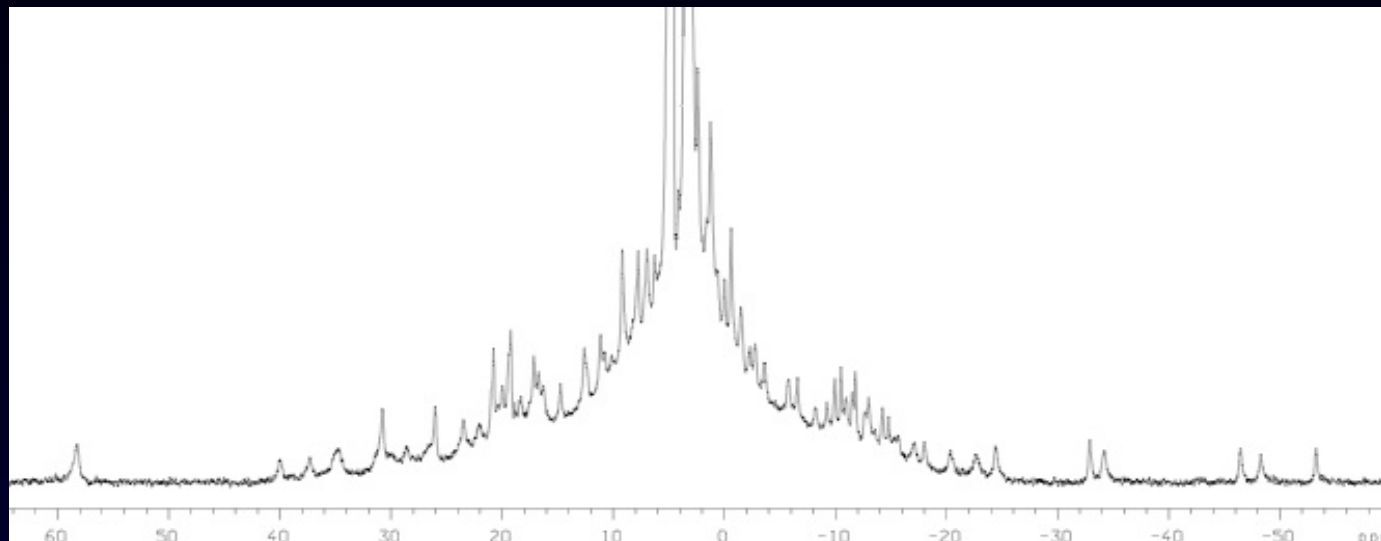
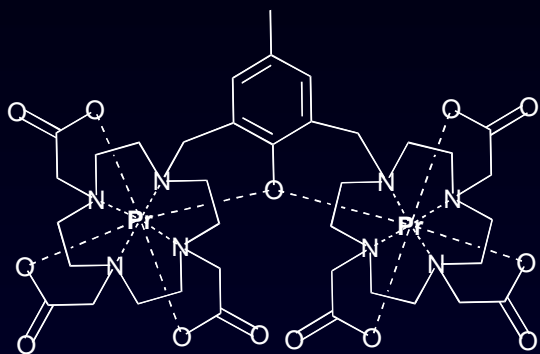
U(IV) DOTA



Pr(III) DOTA



# NMR Spectra





# Summary

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- Several macrocyclic uranium(IV) complexes have been synthesised
- These show long-lived visible emission (ILCT and f-f)
- Intra f-f transitions exhibit charge transfer character
- Emission spectroscopy can be used as a probe for actinide speciation
- $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of symmetric systems are structurally informative
- $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of DO3A systems appear similar to the  $\text{Ln}^{3+}$  series

# Acknowledgements

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Stephen Faulkner

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Ilya Kuprov

Robin Pritchard

David Collison

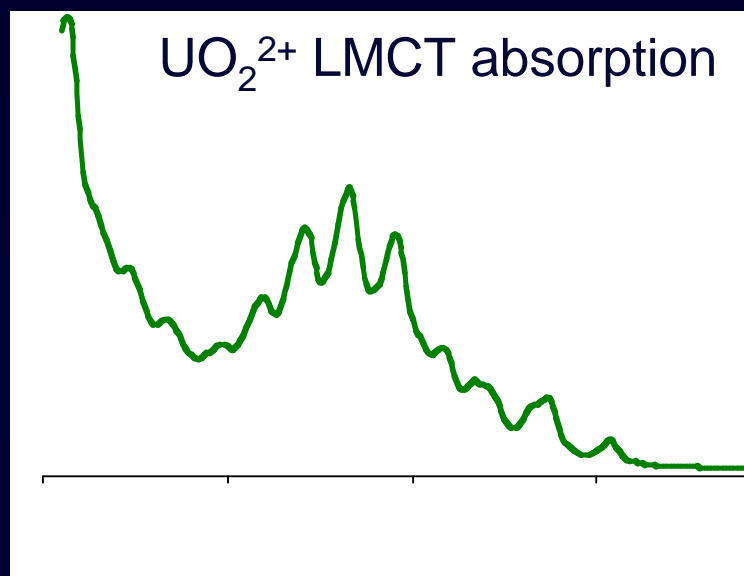
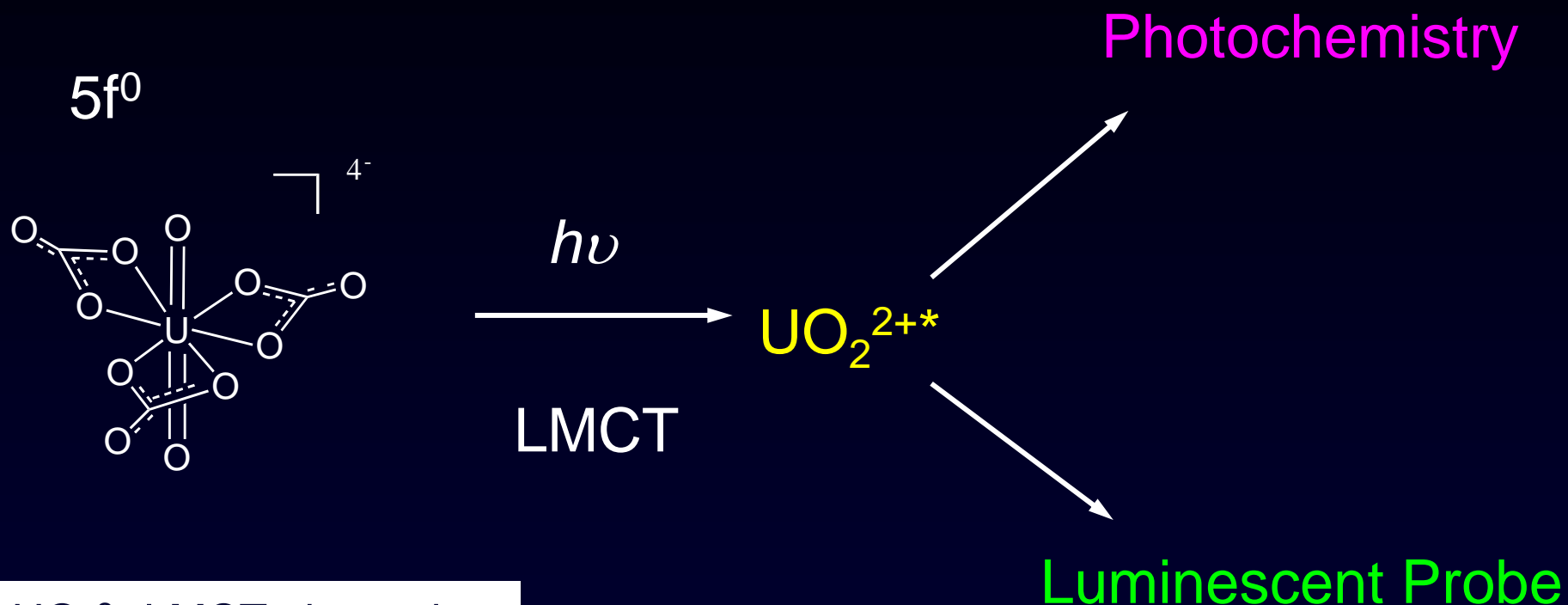
Ntai Martin Khoabane

Chris Muryn

Ben Dadds



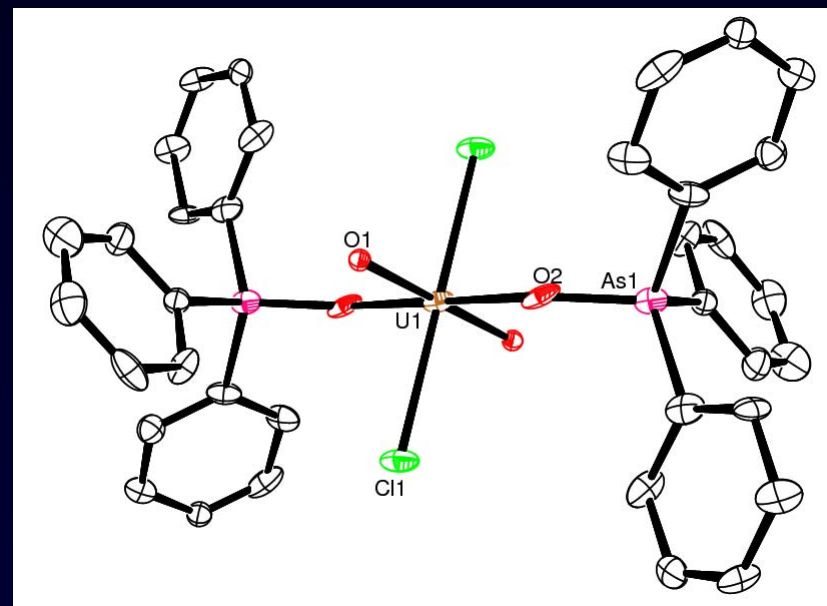
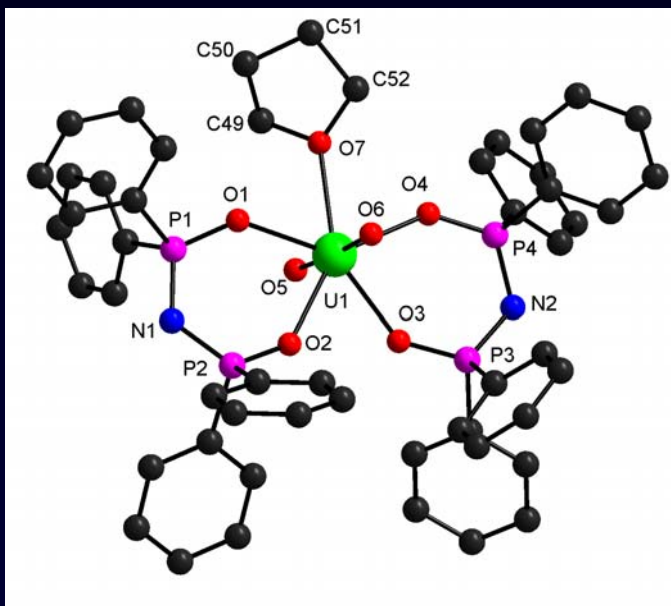
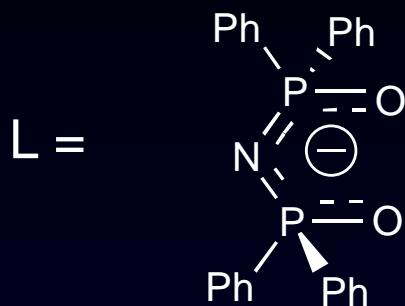
# Uranyl(VI) Luminescence



Characteristic green emission

Long lived triplet excited state ( $\mu\text{s}$  -  $\text{s}$ )

# Uranyl(VI) Complexes



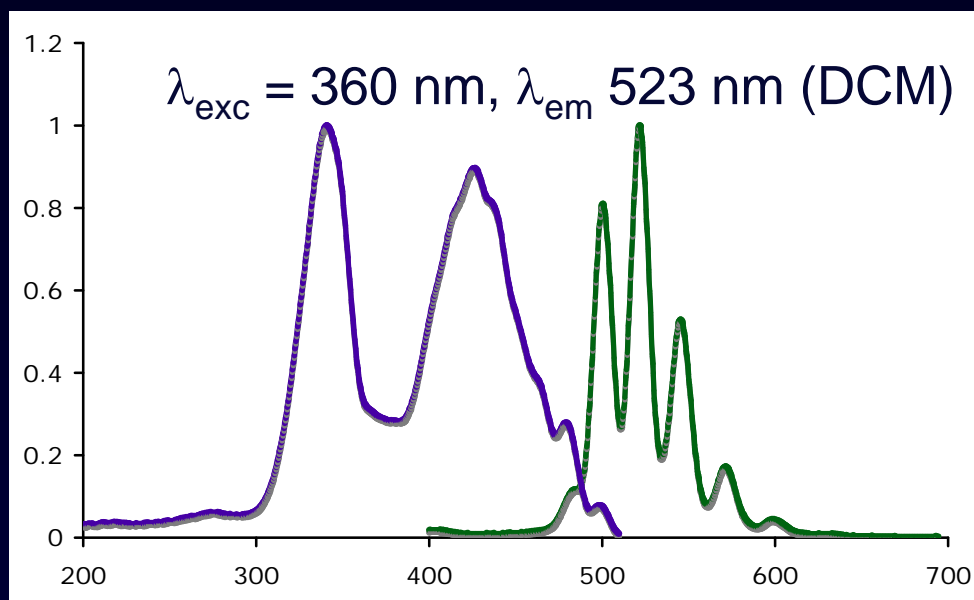
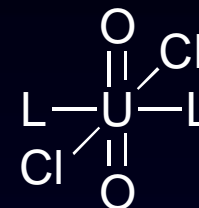
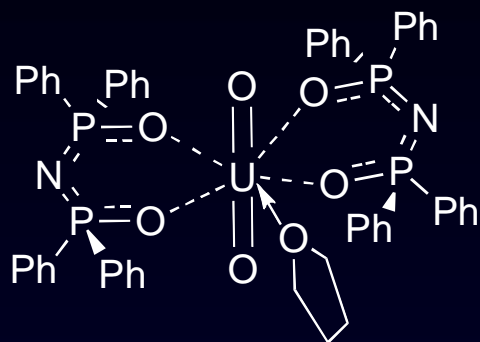
M. Redmond



S. Cornet

Ligands relevant to the PUREX process

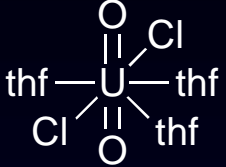
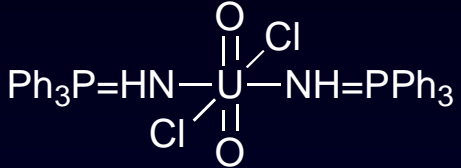
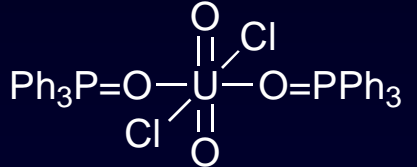
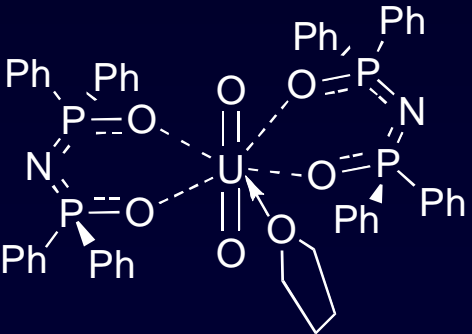
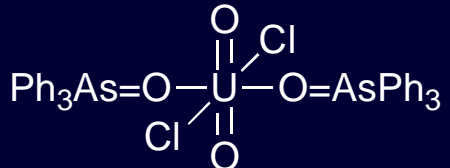
# Emission Spectra



L	$\lambda_{\text{em}}$
Cl	504 nm
$\text{Ph}_3\text{P}=\text{NH}$	517 nm
$\text{Ph}_3\text{PO}$	529 nm
$\text{Ph}_3\text{AsO}$	531 nm

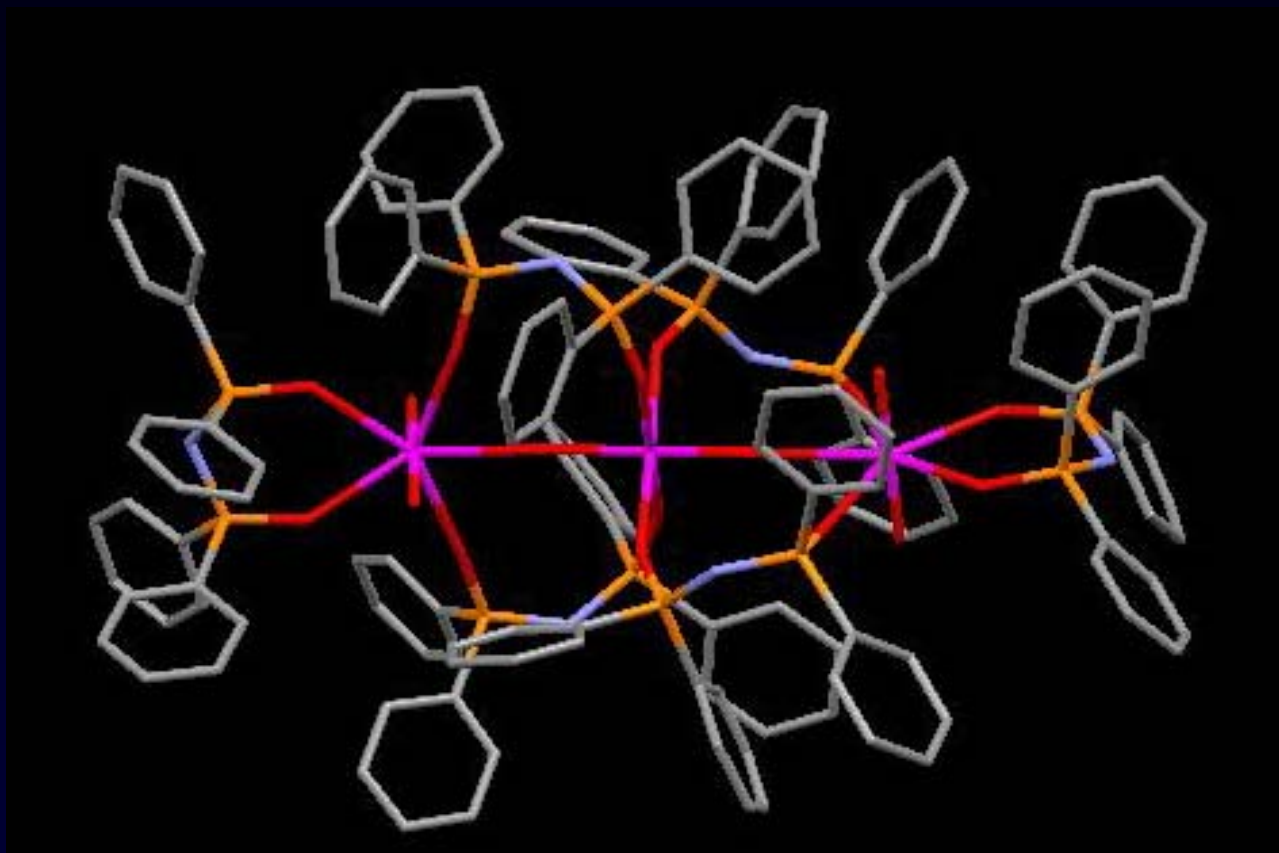
All complexes show well resolved uranyl LMCT emission

# Luminescence Lifetimes

	$\tau_1$ ( $\mu\text{s}$ )	$\tau_2$ ( $\mu\text{s}$ )	$\chi^2$
	0.15 (46 %)	0.04 (54 %)	1.520
	0.87 (93 %)	0.19 (7 %)	1.063
	1.42 (75 %)	0.13 (25 %)	1.001
	2.00	-	1.008
	3.46	-	1.097

$\lambda_{\text{exc}}$  405 nm,  $\lambda_{\text{em}}$  450 - 550 nm

# Future Outlook



Using luminescence as a probe of nuclearity and speciation