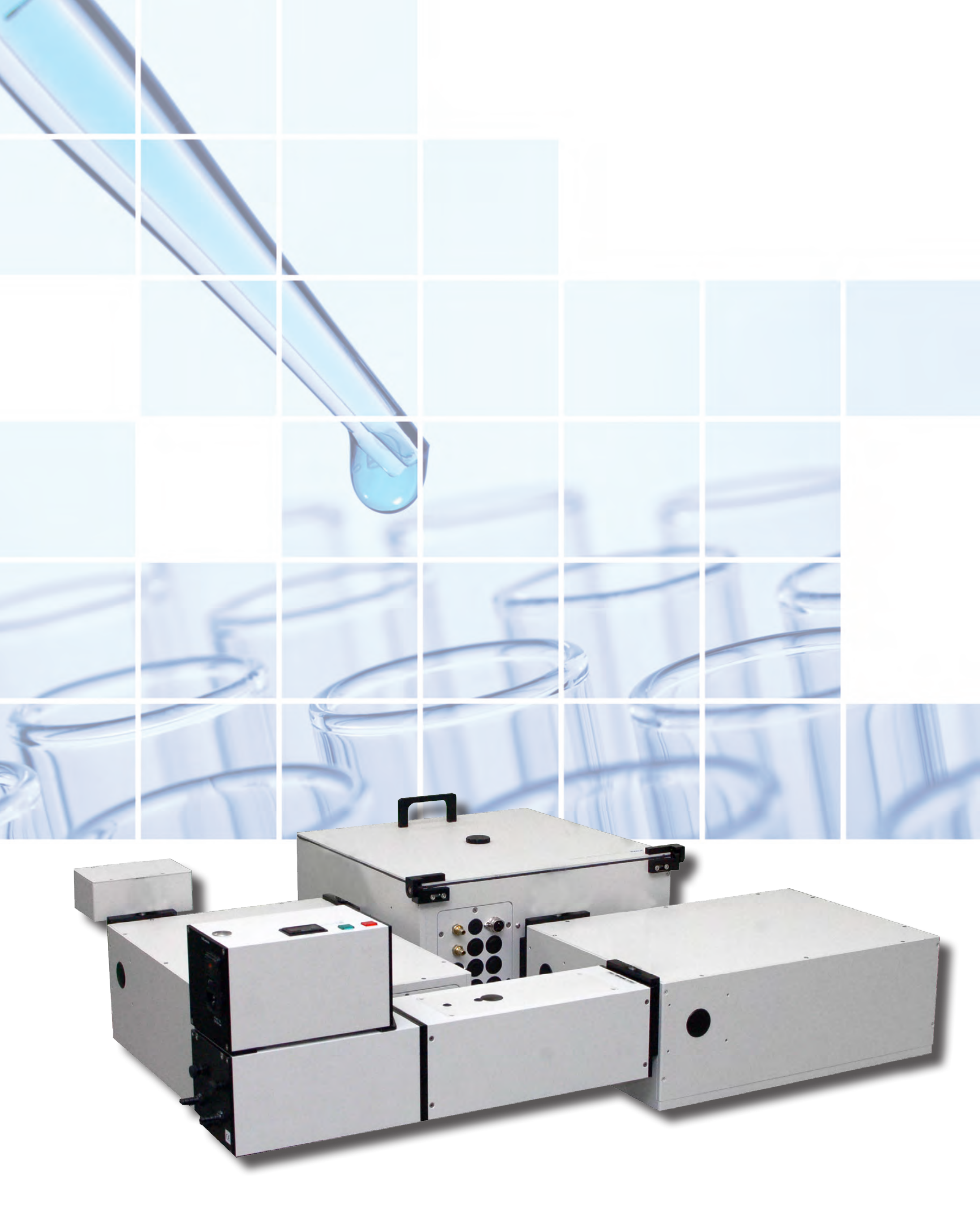
HORIBA
Scientific



"The PTI QuantaMaster series modular design offers reassurance that your system can be easily customized and adapted to your growing research capabilities."

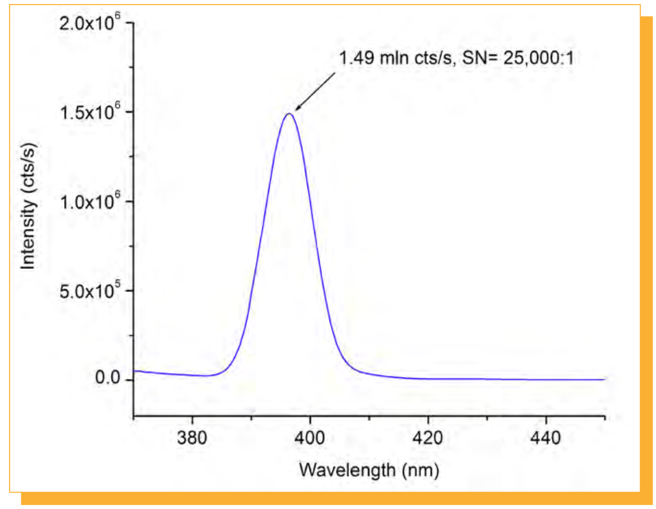
PTI QuantaMaster Series

The PTI QuantaMaster series of research grade spectrofluorometers are multidimensional systems for photoluminescence measurements. The foundation of a fluorescence spectroscopy laboratory is built on steady state intensity measurements such as wavelength scans, time-based experiments, synchronous scans and polarization. The PTI QuantaMaster series ensures you get the best possible results for all these measurements with high sensitivity, spectral resolution and stray light rejection. This level of sensitivity is achieved using the standard 75 W Xenon lamp, providing safety, cost, and energy consumption benefits not found amongst competitor companies. These conditions make the PTI QuantaMaster system more than capable of meeting the highest demands of research.

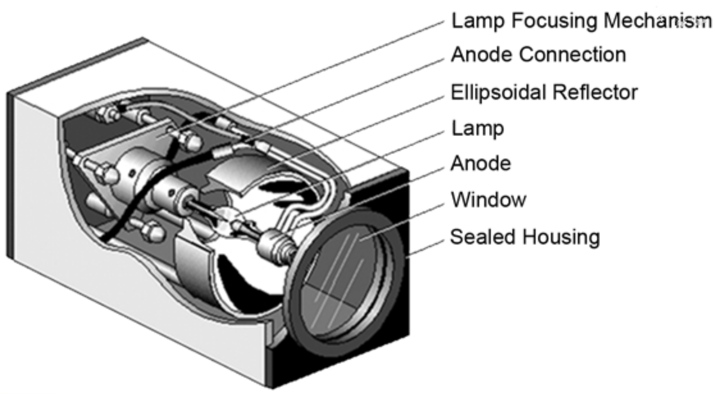
The PTI QuantaMaster system is adaptable to every research need, with additions such as the pulsed Xenon lamp or laser. Using the pulsed light source allows for not only spectral and kinetic fluorescence and phosphorescence measurements, but also the measurement of lifetimes in the microsecond to seconds range. This addition is especially beneficial when using fluorescent probes prone to photobleaching, and when characterizing inorganic material with longer lifetimes. The modular design of the PTI QuantaMaster ensures that your system can be easily adapted to your growing research needs.

Sensitivity

The industry standard for sensitivity is a signal to noise ratio calculated from a water Raman spectrum. Using this standardized test (see our technical note "SN Determination for PTI QuantaMaster Fluorometer,") our signal to noise ratio is >20,000:1. The high sensitivity of the PTI QuantaMaster fluorometer is no accident. It is achieved by intelligent engineering of the Xe arc lamp illuminator featuring an ellipsoidal reflector with the highest possible light gathering efficiency of 67%, and focusing the light in a tight spot at the monochromator slit. As a result, the standard 75W Xe delivers light to the sample more efficiently than higher power lamps featured by other instruments. This reduces energy waste and excessive heat generation by an overpowered light source, not to mention cost, while exceeding the sensitivity of competitors' designs. Another contribution to the high sensitivity of the PTI QuantaMaster comes from the asymmetrical, aberration-corrected monochromator optimized for the best light throughput and stray light rejection. As a result, the user gets a research-grade instrument with one of the highest sensitivities on the market.



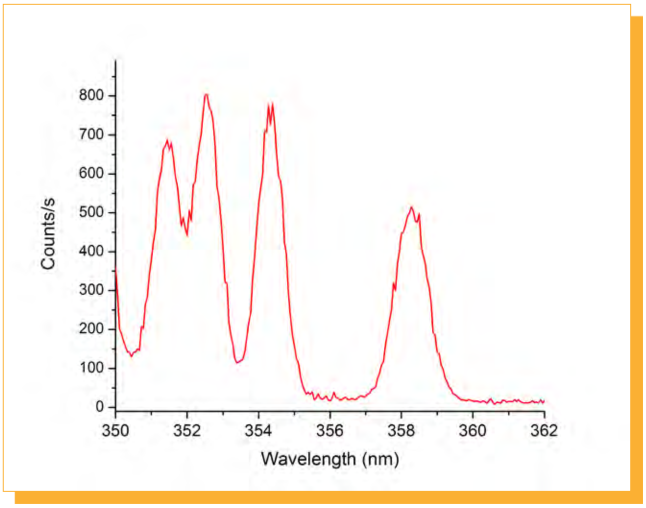
Water Raman spectrum of the PTI QuantaMaster 400, resulting in a signal to noise ratio of >25,000:1! Experimental conditions: λex = 350 nm, Δλex = Δλem = 5 nm, int = 1 s.



Superior optical design of the PTI QuantaMaster 75W Xe lamp illuminator is a key factor in PTI QuantaMaster 400 sensitivity

Stray Light

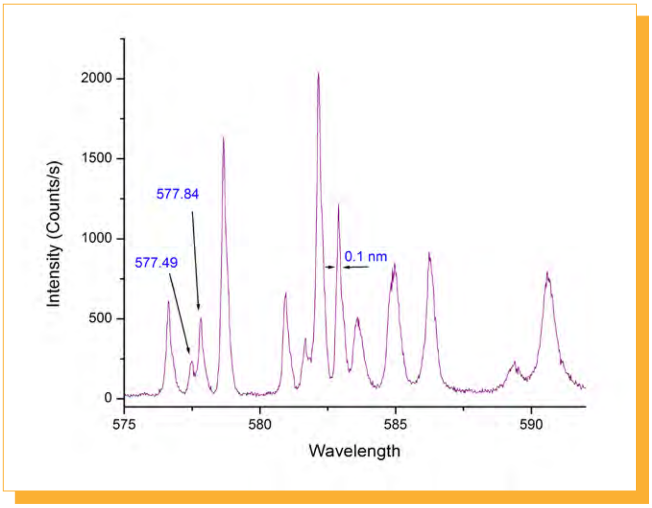
Suppression of stray light is one of the most critical factors when measuring highly scattering, or low quantum yield samples. Every PTI QuantaMaster series spectrofluorometer is custom made with the highest quality optics to insure the lowest amount of scatter. The asymmetrical monochromators are coma-corrected and individually optimized for purpose as either excitation or emission monos, ensuring the lowest amount of stray light contamination for the best detection of the true fluorescence signal. The PTI QuantaMaster series boasts an impressively high stray light rejection: $>1x10^{-6}$ in a single excitation monochromator configuration. This dramatic improvement in stray light performance was motivated by an increasing demand for photoluminescence spectrometers in materials science, where strongly scattering samples, such as powders, wafers and films, are routinely used. Very low stray light performance will also benefit researchers working in biological, biomedical and environmental areas where cell suspensions, protein and biomembrane solutions, or soil samples, generate high levels of scattered light.



Raman spectrum of CCl4 using PTI QuantaMaster 400 with single excitation/ emission monochromators. Well-resolved peaks and no contamination from the Rayleigh scattering demonstrates the excellent stray light suppression. Experimental conditions: λex = 349 nm, Δλex = 0.7 nm, Δλem = 0.7 nm, step size=0.05 nm, integration time = 1 s

Resolution

Resolution is of utmost importance to photoluminescence research. High quality resolution can reveal detailed spectral features which are indispensable for applications in materials science and analytical chemistry. Resolution is the key to detecting very narrow lines, which is necessary to study fine interactions in inorganic materials and crystals. The PTI QuantaMaster yields high quality resolution due to innovative optical design, and very minimal optical aberrations.



Emission scan of dysprosium-doped YAG crystal measured at 78K in software controlled LN cryostat illustrating excellent resolution of narrow spectral lines attained at low temperature.
Experimental conditions: λex = 353 nm, Δλex = 5 nm, Δλem = 0.1 nm, step size=0.022 nm, integration time = 1 s

The PTI QuantaMaster spectrofluorometers use a precision-driven asymmetrical, 300 mm focal length Czerny-Turner monochromator with a triple motorized grating turret and motorized flipping mirrors. More than 30 different gratings are available. Due to the combination of the computer-controlled motor with micro-stepping resolution and available grating selection, it is possible to achieve a minimum 0.022 nm step size. This means that within the UV and VIS spectral regions, you can resolve spectral features well below 0.1 nm.

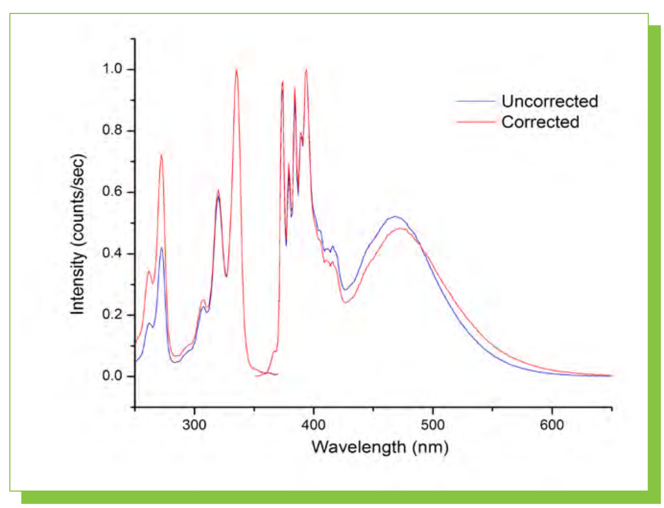
Spectral Range and Signal Detection

For most applications, the typical detector employed is a PhotoMultiplier Tube (PMT). Every PTI QuantaMaster features a highly sensitive PMT, with the option of an analog or digital output. The PTI QuantaMaster Series offers you the ability to customize the system to meet your applications needs. Digital detection, or photon counting, offers the highest sensitivity as it records single photon events. The analog detection measures the current that is generated on the PMT anode, and provides for additional detection gain control. This greatly enhances the dynamic range of the instrument, especially for higher intensity signals. For NIR and IR applications, we also offer specialized PMTs and solid state detectors, such as InGaAs, PbS and InSb diode detectors that are capable of detecting out to 5500 nm. Most of these detectors can be also used with pulsed light sources for time-resolved photoluminescence. Multiple detectors can be used with a single instrument: a single monochromator will accept two, and a double monochromator, up to three detectors. The selection is done by computer-controlled steering mirrors which direct the emitted light to a selected detector. A triple, motorized grating turret ensures good light efficiency for any detector range.

Excitation and Emission Correction

All light sources emit light that is not of equal intensity across the output spectrum, and this can lead to errors in the measurement of an excitation spectrum. The raw data must then be corrected for this discrepancy. PTI systems utilize a reference diode detector that has been calibrated and installed at the factory. Excitation correction is performed in real time. During an experiment, part of the excitation beam is diverted prior to reaching the sample. This fraction of photons is measured and then corrected. The reference detector then provides a corrected output that is independent of the excitation source characteristics, or any temporal fluctuation of the lamp intensity, thus ensuring excellent stability of the signal.

A similar phenomenon exists for emission data. Since the detection efficiency of the optics, gratings, mirrors and detector is not equivalent at all wavelengths, some type of correction must be performed to account for these variations. Typically, the emission channel is calibrated at the factory with a known light source, such as a NIST-traceable standard. This information is used to construct a correction file, which is then stored locally on your computer. Multiplication of the raw data by this correction file yields the true corrected emission spectrum. This correction can be performed in real-time, or can be recalled in later analysis of the raw data and applied in the easy-to-use PTI FelixGX software.



Raw and corrected pyrene excitation and emission spectra with excimer peak present around 475 nm. Corrected data shown in red.

UV-VIS Fluorescence Spectrofluorometers

PTI QuantaMaster 400

The QuantaMaster 400 steady state spectrofluorometer is one of the most sensitive bench-top fluorometers on the market today. Its signal to noise is >20,000:1, allowing the minutest traces of fluorescent materials to be detected and identified in samples. It features state-of-the-art high throughput monochromators with a triple motorized grating turret for easy extension of the spectral range, and motorized flipping mirrors to make it easy to work with additional light sources and detectors. Its high performance and open architecture makes it suitable for practically all possible applications, from biological to analytical, and environmental. Study the dynamics of protein folding; use FRET to measure distances within macromolecules; measure the concentrations of ions inside living cells; fingerprint and identify oil samples; use fluorescence probes to study the structure and function of membranes. The PTI QuantaMaster 400 will be the foundation of your fluorescence laboratory.

PTI QuantaMaster 300 Series

The PTI QuantaMaster 300 Phosphorescence/ Fluorescence spectrofluorometer uses a pulsed xenon light source for excitation. The continuously tunable repetition rate (up to 300 Hz) of the Xe lamp is of great benefit to users who use fluorescent probes prone to photobleaching, such as GFP, and other biological samples. With the pulsed Xe lamp, the sample is exposed to light for only 0.03% of the duration of the experiment. The pulsed Xe lamp, combined with a Single-Shot Transient Digitizer (SSTD), detection is also used for the determination of phosphorescence spectra and lifetimes, which is especially advantageous for all lanthanide-based probes. The long lifetimes of these probes make it possible to place the detection window far enough away from the excitation pulse, thus completely removing short-lived fluorescence and scattered light contamination from the signal.

Adding a PTI QuantaMaster 300+ option with a gated integrator results in improved signal collection and enhanced signal to noise ratio. Replace the pulsed Xe lamp with a pulsed nitrogen/dye laser combo (PTI QuantaMaster 310 option), and you get a configuration that is ideal for weakly emitting RT protein phosphorescence, the detection of environmental uranium ions, and other inorganic luminophores.

PTI QuantaMaster 800

The PTI QuantaMaster 800 UV VIS Rapid Excitation Spectrofluorometer is our latest high-speed multi-wavelength ratio fluorescence system. It incorporates our patented DeltaRAM X™ random access monochromator into our standard steady state spectrofluorometer to allow for rapid excitation ratiometric work.

In addition to all fundamental fluorescence spectroscopy laboratory applications for steady state intensity measurements such as wavelength scans, time-based experiments, and synchronous scans, the PTI QuantaMaster 800 is capable of rapid ratiometric measurements. The PTI QuantaMaster 800 allows researchers to illuminate the cuvette holder in the sample compartment for cell suspension work, and then easily move the liquid light guide from the sample compartment to illuminate a microscope for single cell work. With PTI's wide variety of accessories, such as photometers, a user can then use the same electronics and PTI FelixGX software to combine cell suspension and single cell work with a microscope.

THE DELTARAM X™…
is the next bold step in the evolution of light sources. The compact, proprietary, single monochromator permits the selection of any wavelength in two milliseconds or less. It is easily controlled via a single low voltage signal line. The DeltaRAM X includes a 2 meter liquid light guide for use with most microscopes and other sample handling devices. It delivers powerful excitation wavelengths from 250–650 nm under synch-lock computer control, which locks the DeltaRAM X monochromator to the camera exposure or frame readout. The DeltaRAM X saves you money by not requiring the purchase of additional excitation filters for each dye you wish to use. The synch-lock feature prevents synchronization problems by allowing accurate timing to be retained between camera and illuminator.

Flexibility

Enhanced measurements

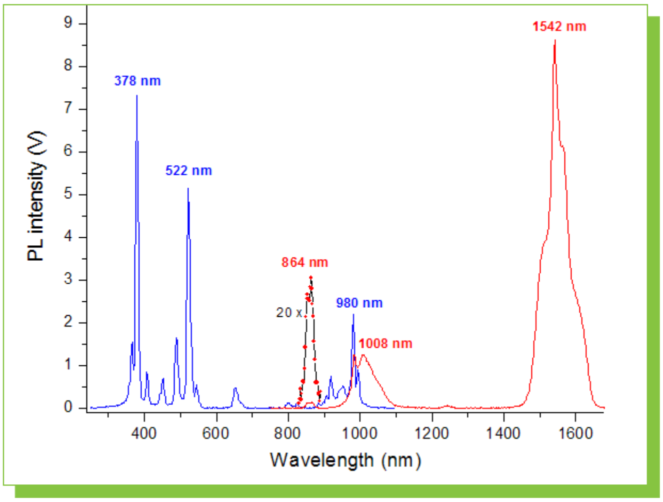
UV VIS Specifications

The following specifications are for standard PTI QuantaMaster systems. Options and upgrades may be available upon request.

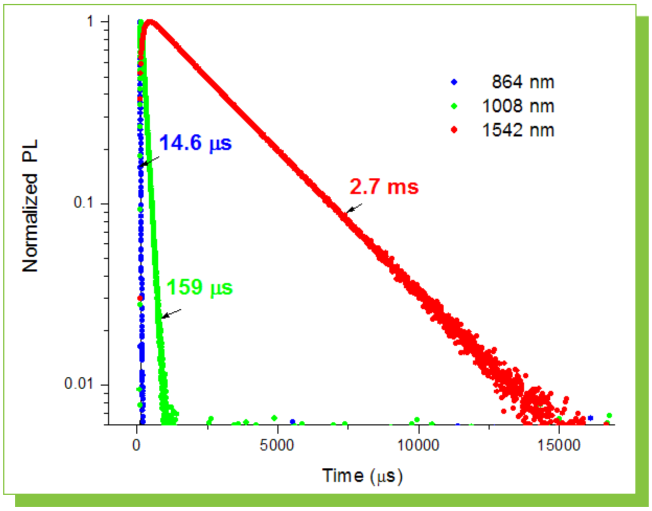
	PTI QuantaMaster 400	PTI QuantaMaster 300 Series	PTI QuantaMaster 800
Signal to Noise Ratio	20,000:1 or better	300: 1500:1 or better 300 Plus: 3000:1 or better	6000:1 or better
Data Acquisition Rate	1,000,000 points/sec. to 1 point/1000 sec	300/300 Plus: 1 point/sec to 300 points/sec 310: Up to 20 points/sec	1,000,000 points/sec. to 1 point/1000 sec
Inputs	4 photon counting (TTL); 4 analog (+/- 10 volts) ; 1 analog reference channel (+/- 10 volts); 2 TTL		
Outputs	2 analog (+/- 10 volts); 2 TTL		
Emission Range	185 nm to 680 nm (optional to 1,010 nm)	185 to 680 nm (optional to 1,010 nm)	185 to 680 nm (optional to 1,010 nm)
Light Source	High efficiency “ECO” friendly continuous Xenon arc lamp	300/300 plus: High power Xenon flash lamp 310: Nitrogen laser pumped dye laser	High efficiency “ECO” friendly continuous Xenon arc lamp
Monochromator	300 mm, coma-aberration corrected, asymmetrical, excitation or emission optimized, Czerny-Turner design		
Focal Length	300 mm	300 mm	150 mm excitation 300 mm emission
Excitation Grating	1200 line/mm 300 nm blaze	1200 line/mm 300 nm blaze	1200 line/mm 400 nm blaze
Emission Grating	1200 line/mm 400 nm blaze	1200 line/mm 400 nm blaze	1200 line/mm 400 nm blaze
Optional Grating		75 to 2400 line/mm and holographic models available	
Wavelength Accuracy	+/- 0.3 nm	+/- 0.3 nm	+/- 0.05 nm excitation +/- 0.3 nm emission
Minimum Step Size	0.022 nm	0.022 nm	0.05 nm excitation 0.022 nm emission
Detection	Multimode: Photon Counting, 3 analog (fast, medium, slow response), direct and Single-Shot Transient Digitizer (SSTD) mode		
System Control	Computer interface with spectroscopy software		
Lifetime Range	N/A	1 µs to seconds	N/A

Near-Infrared Spectrofluorometry

Near-infrared (NIR) spectrofluorometry has emerged as a valuable analytical technique, especially in the fields of material research, nanotechnology, chemistry, and photomedicine. Powerful and diverse NIR capabilities are available through PTI as either a stand-alone research grade fluorometer, or as an upgrade to PTI's UV-VIS steady state spectrofluorometers. There are different configurations to adapt to any research needs.



PL excitation and emission spectra of Er^{3+} doped glass measured with the PTI QuantaMaster 500 NIR system equipped with the TE-cooled InGaAs detector.



Er decays: PL decays of Er^{3+} doped glass at different emission peaks measured with the PTI QuantaMaster 500 NIR system equipped with the TE-cooled InGaAs detector and pulsed nitrogen/dye laser excitation.

NIR-PMT Based Steady State Systems

Comprised of a high intensity continuous xenon light source, scanning monochromators, and a cooled NIR PMT detector.

Available with four NIR PMTs for maximum spectral range coverage:

- 300 nm–1,400 nm, LN-cooled
- 950 nm–1,400 nm, TE-cooled
- 300 nm–1,700 nm, LN-cooled
- 950 nm–1,700 nm, TE-cooled

Solid-State Photodiode Based NIR Steady State Systems

Comprised of a high intensity continuous xenon light source, scanning monochromators, lock-in amplifier and chopper for noise suppression.

There are a variety of photo diodes available, TE-cooled or LN-cooled up to 2400 nm:

- InGaAs: 500 nm–1,700 nm (up to 2400 nm detector available upon request)
- PbS: 1,000 nm–3,200 nm
- InSb: 1,500 nm–5,500 nm

Additions for NIR Lifetime Measurements

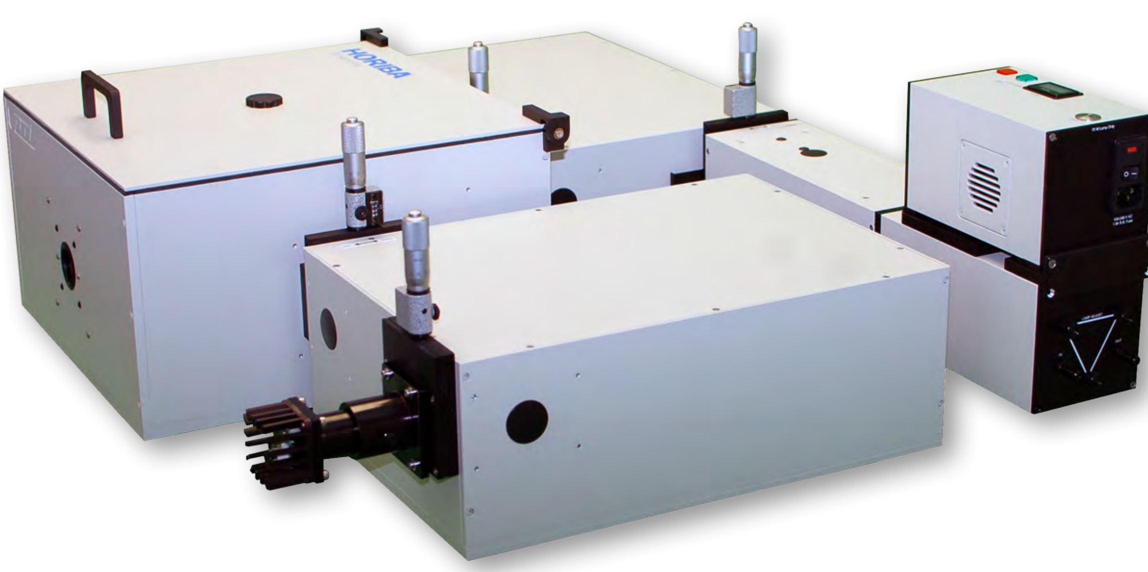
For luminescence lifetime measurement capability in NIR to measure lifetimes from 1 µs to hundreds of ms, add:

- Variable high rep rate pulsed xenon lamp option for phosphorescence lifetime (NIR-TR-10)
- Pulsed nitrogen and dye laser (NIR-TR-20)
- 3rd party pulsed Q-switched lasers
- TCSPC lifetime add-on with supercontinuum laser, laser diodes and LEDs (for NIR-PMT based systems)

NIR Specifications

The following specifications are for standard PTI QuantaMaster systems. Options and upgrades may be available upon request.

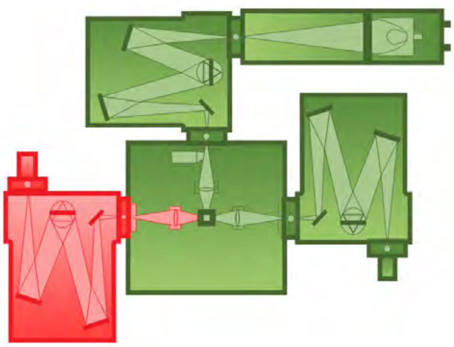
	PTI QuantaMaster 500/ QM-510-Option	QM-520-Option	QM-600-Options
Sensitivity	500: Singlet oxygen generated by 0.5 µM Rose Bengal in MeOH QM-510-Option: Singlet oxygen generated by 2 µM Rose Bengal in MeOH		Singlet oxygen generated by 0.1 µM Rose Bengal in MeOH
Light Source	High power continuous Xenon arc lamp		
Monochromator	300 mm, coma-aberration corrected, asymmetrical, excitation or emission optimized, Czerny-Turner design		
Focal Length	300 mm	300 mm	300 mm
Excitation Grating	1200 line/mm 300 nm blaze	1200 line/mm 400 nm blaze	1200 line/mm 300 nm blaze
Emission Grating	600 line/mm 1250 nm blaze	300 line/mm 2000 nm blaze	600 line/mm 1250 nm blaze
Optional Grating	75–2400 line/nm and holographic models available	75–1200 line/mm and holographic models available	75-2400 line/mm and holographic models available
Wavelength Accuracy	+/- 0.3 nm excitation +/- 0.6 nm emission	+/- 0.3 nm excitation +/- 1.2 nm emission	+/- 0.3 nm excitation +/- 0.6 nm emission
Minimum Step Size	0.022 nm excitation 0.044 nm emission	0.022 nm excitation 0.088 nm emission	0.022 nm excitation 0.044 nm emission
Detector	InGaAs 500 to 1700 nm (up to 2200 nm optional)	PbS 1000 to 3200 nm	NIR PMT 300–1400 nm, 950–1400 nm, 300–1700 nm or 950–1700 nm
System Control	Computer/ASOC-10 interface with PTI FelixGX spectroscopy software		



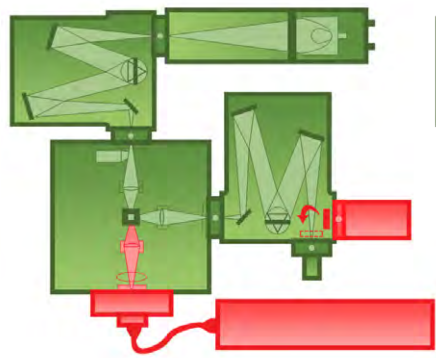
Modularity To Grow

The PTI QuantaMaster series features an open architecture design that provides the ultimate in versatility, allowing your instrument to adapt to your future fluorescence application needs. You can optimize the initial configuration by choosing the light source, gratings, and PMT tubes, as well as a wide array of available accessories. The number of available configurations is virtually limitless!

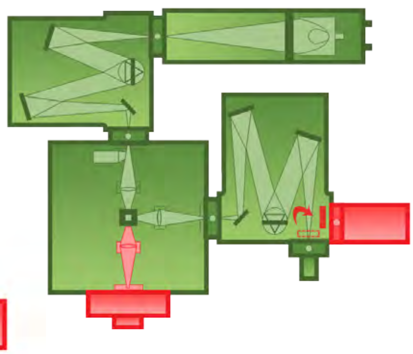
The PTI QuantaMaster universal QuadraCentric™ sample compartment has a spacious design that provides accessibility and can accommodate a wide selection of sample accessories. Choose from sample temperature controllers to various holders for solids, liquids and powders, and many other options. See the Accessories page for more details.



Add a second emission channel

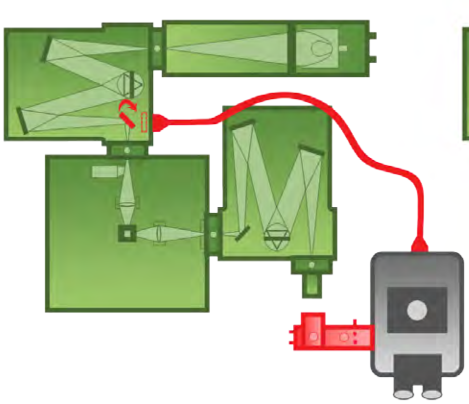


Add lifetime capability with a pulsed nitrogen/dye laser

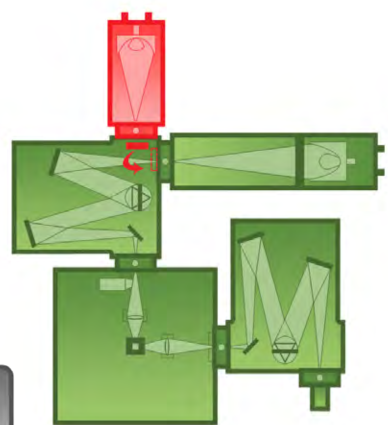


Add lifetime capability with pulsed nano-LEDs

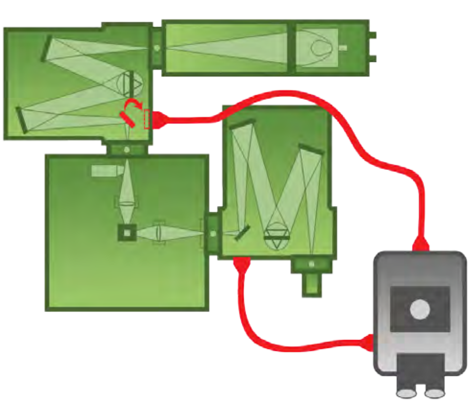
The open architecture design also allows for application and methodology changes. As your application needs grow, so can your PTI QuantaMaster. For example, if you develop a need to measure dynamic anisotropy, you can add a second emission channel and a set of polarizers. If you want to complement your steady state data with lifetime measurements, you can do so by adding a laser or LED-based excitation to your initial configuration. If you are interested in intracellular Ca^{2+} after completing initial Fura-2 studies, you may decide you would like to start imaging the events. The system can be easily coupled with any fluorescence microscope. Whether you choose to add NIR detection or a second excitation source, the possible configurations are endless.



Upgrade to fluorescence microscopy with an additional PMT detector equipped with an eyepiece aperture



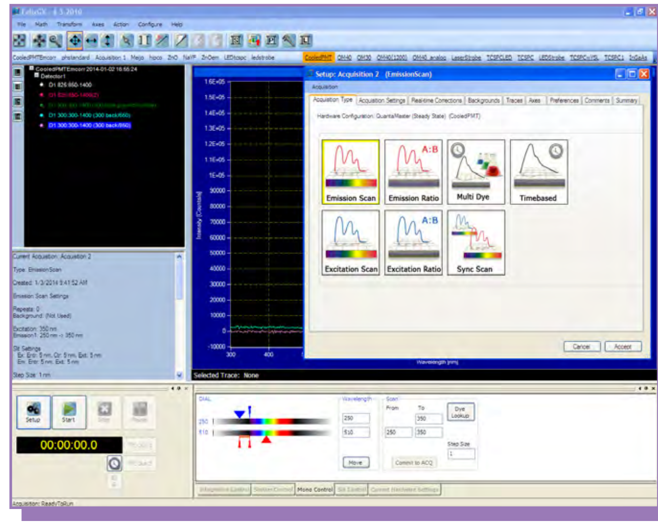
Add a pulsed light source and a gated detector for phosphorescence or lanthanide emission



Couple to a microscope and feed back into the existing emission monochromator

PTI FelixGX Software

PTI QuantaMaster fluorometers come with our own software for the control of the instrument and accessories, which includes analytical functions for trace manipulation, and spectral and kinetic analysis. Through the powerful ASOC-10 USB interface, PTI FelixGX provides a full set of data acquisition protocols, and controls the hardware for all system configurations and operating modes.



PTI FelixGX Controls

Hardware Controls

- Monochromators
- Triple grating turret
- Flipping mirrors switching between different light sources and detectors
- Motorized slits
- Motorized polarizers
- Motorized multiple sample holders
- Excitation correction detector (Xcorr)
- Temperature control Peltier devices
- Cryostat
- Gain control of PMT detector
- Switching from digital to analog mode
- External devices such as stopped flow and titrator
- Pulsed light sources
- Scanning of wavelength-tunable OPO lasers
- TCSPC electronics
- Electroluminescence and photovoltaic accessories

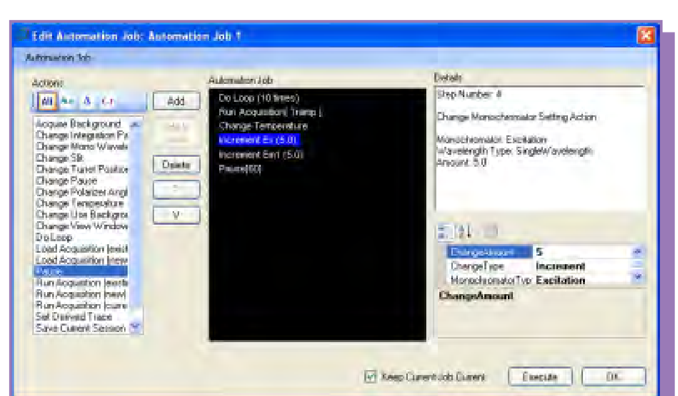
Acquisition Modes

PTI FelixGX provides several acquisition modes for spectral and kinetic measurements:

- Excitation and Emission spectral scans with user control of integration time, monochromator step, speed and wavelengths
- Time-based scan with user defined macro-time duration and integration time
- Spectral and time-based polarization scans with full control of motorized polarizers and automated measurement of G-factor, and sample background for all polarizer orientations
- Simultaneous multi dye measurements with pre-defined library of common fluorescence dyes or customer-defined dyes
- Synchronous excitation/emission scan
- Excitation and emission ratio fluorescence
- Phosphorescence decay and time-resolved excitation and emission spectra using Single-Shot Transient Digitizer (SSTD)
- Phosphorescence decay and time-resolved excitation and emission spectra using gated detection (VCI)

Macro Capabilities

PTI FelixGX comes equipped with Macro capabilities to allow for automated measurements. Choose from a list of actions to make a chain of commands, or set up a loop function to eliminate the need to constantly change the acquisition settings. Set up the automation job and simply walk away, letting PTI FelixGX execute your demands.

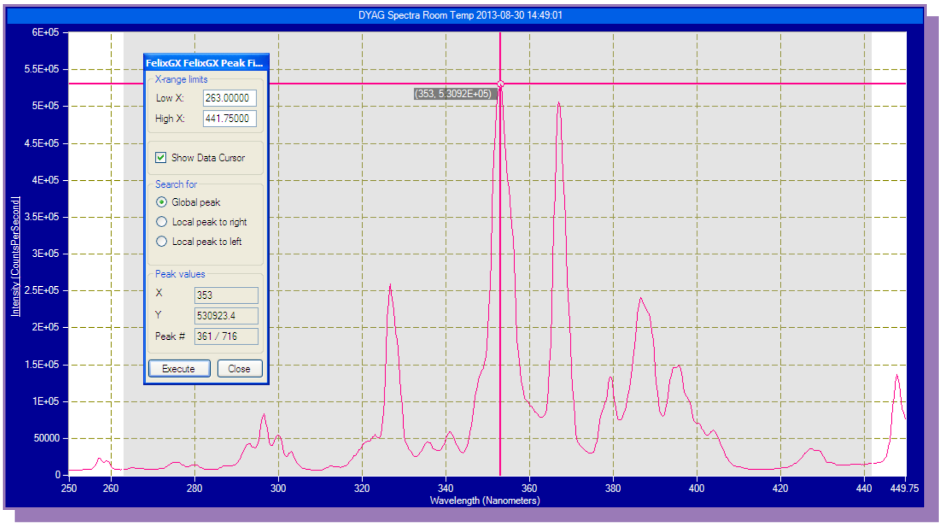


PTI FelixGX Analytical Capabilities

Trace Manipulation

PTI FelixGX also provides an extensive set of math functions that can be used for processing and manipulation of acquired data traces:

- Antilog
- Average
- Distribution average
- XY Combine
- Differentiate
- Integrate
- Linear Fit
- Linear Scale
- Logarithm
- Normalize
- Reciprocal
- Smooth
- Truncate
- Baseline
- Merge Traces
- Peak Finder

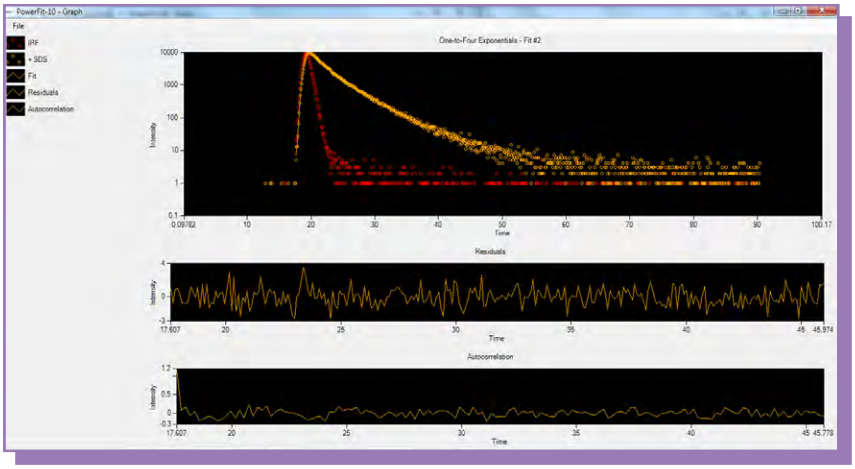


Demonstration of Peak Finder function with an emission spectrum

Kinetic Data

Fluorescence and phosphorescence decays can be analyzed with the PowerFit-10 lifetime analysis package which includes:

- One to four exponentials
- Multi one to four exponentials
- Global one to four exponentials
- Anisotropy decays
- Exponential Series Method (ESM) lifetime distribution
- Maximum Entropy Method (MEM) lifetime distribution
- Micelle kinetics
- Stretched exponential
- DAS/TRES



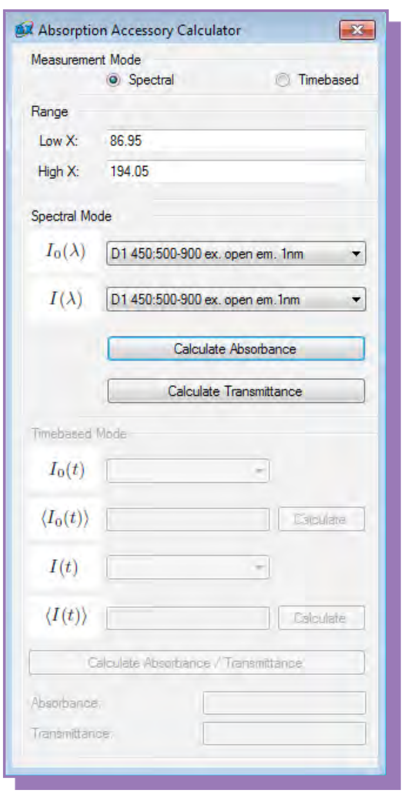
PowerFit-10 output graph with residuals and autocorrelation.

Advanced Calculators

PTI FelixGX also offers a special set of software functions, such as quantum yield, absorption, FRET and color coordinates calculators, as well as the software that calculates structural parameters for single-walled carbon nanotubes. These are very convenient additions to some accessories, such as the integrating sphere or absorption accessory, and are also indispensable for some fluorescence applications, such as intermolecular interactions (FRET) and materials characterization.

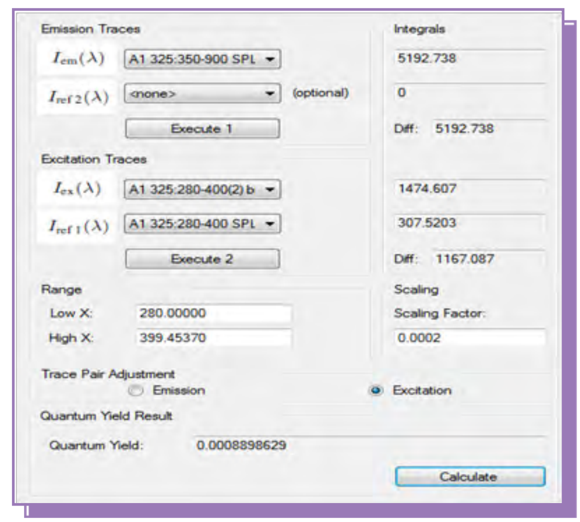
Absorption Calculator

Absorption measurements are complementary to fluorescence. They are necessary for fluorescence quantum yield determination and are an easy and convenient way to check the fluorophore concentration. You can compare the absorption and excitation spectra to draw conclusions about the purity of the sample. Using the built-in absorption calculator with an absorption accessory will greatly enhance the capabilities of your PTI QuantaMaster fluorometer.



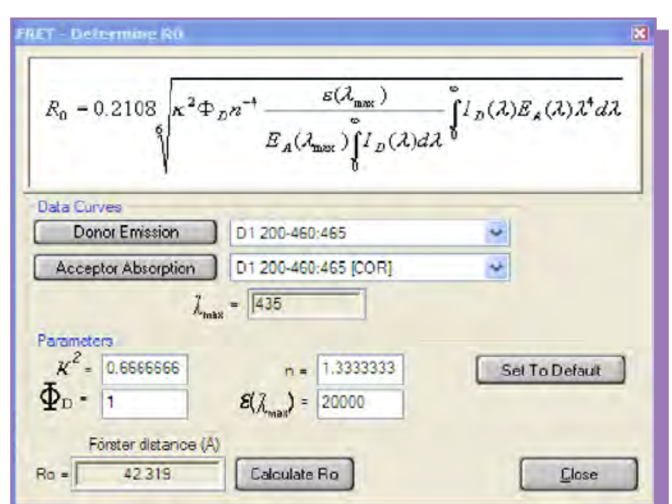
Quantum Yield

Quantum yield is one of the most important parameters that characterize photoluminescence of materials. PTI FelixGX incorporates a quantum yield calculator which, when coupled with an integrating sphere, allows you to calculate the quantum yield with ease.



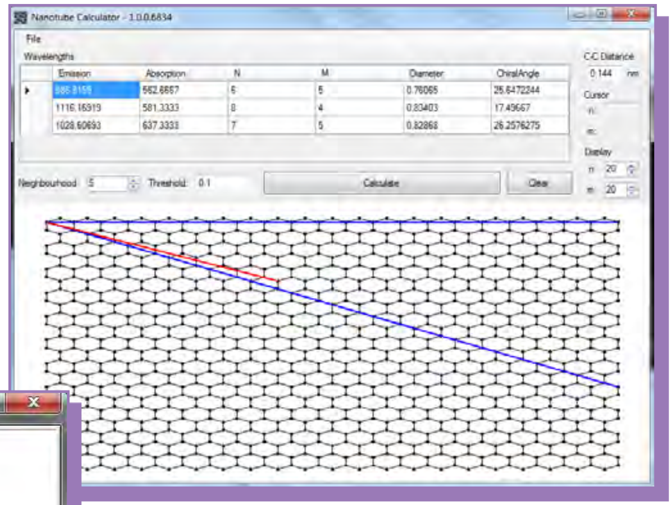
FRET

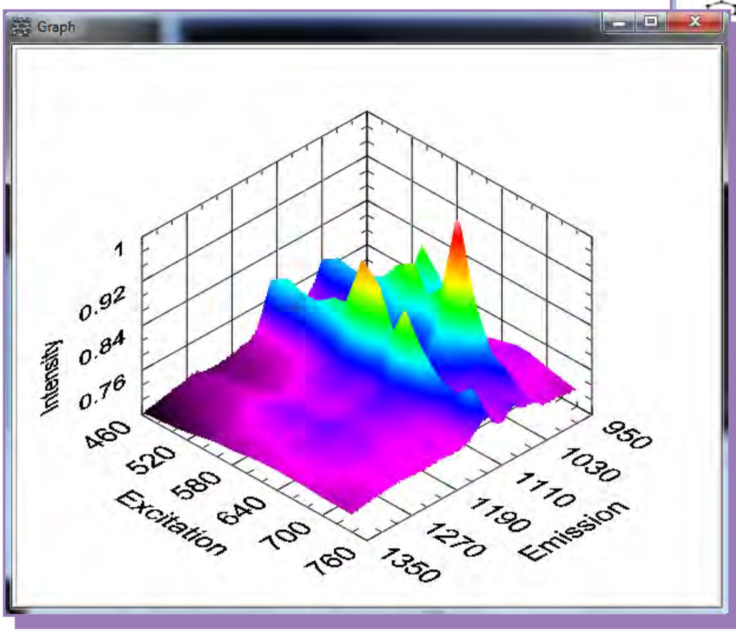
The FRET technique provides information about molecular distances, interactions in macromolecular systems, binding, diffusion, sensing, etc. FRET happens when an excited donor molecule transfers its energy to an acceptor in the ground state. FRET is essentially a molecular ruler, where distances are scaled with the Förster critical radius R_o, which is a unique parameter for a given donor-acceptor (D-A) pair, defined by spectroscopic parameters of the pair and their environment. Once the R_o is known and the FRET efficiency is determined experimentally, the D-A distance and the FRET rate constant can be calculated. PTI FelixGX provides an easy and convenient way of calculating all relevant FRET parameters, including R_o.



Single-Walled Carbon Nanotube Calculator

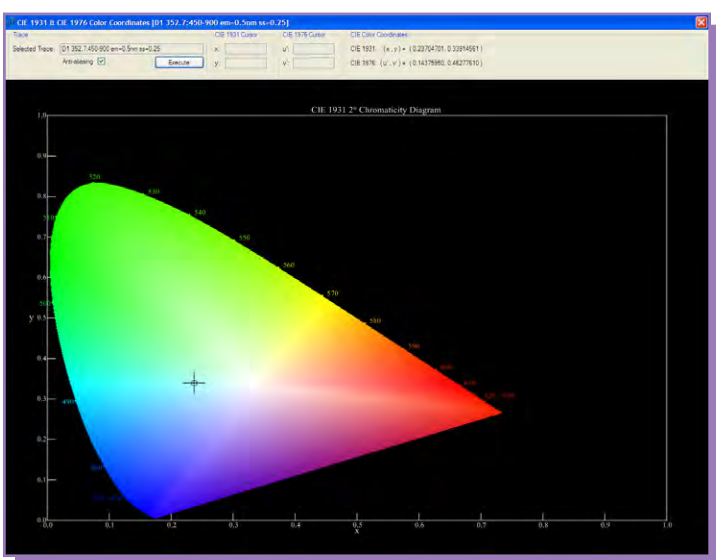
Carbon nanotubes can be characterized using the specially-designed NanoCal within PTI FelixGX. NanoCal analyzes 3-D ExEm spectral maps and returns structural parameters such as the nanotube radius and the chiral angle. Combining this easy-to-use software with PTI QuantaMaster NIR options allows for full characterization of SWCNTs.

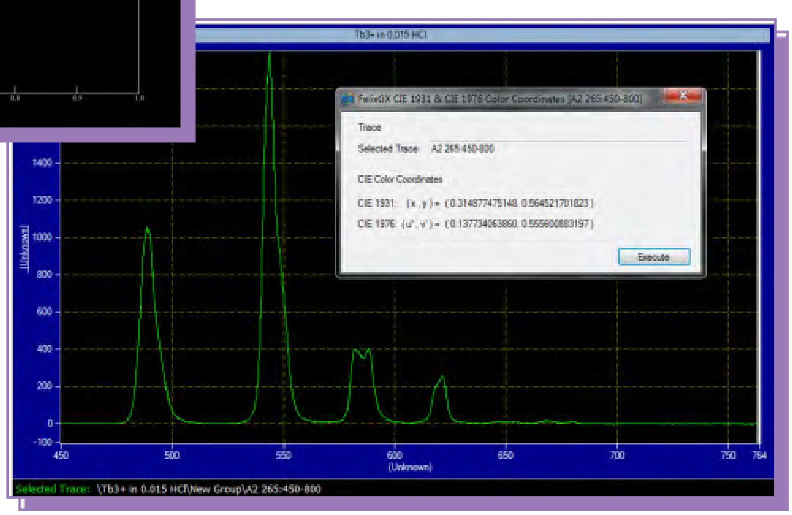




Color Coordinate Calculator

In many applications, such as phosphors for screen displays, multi-color LEDs, fluorescent additives to consumer products, etc., there is a need to quantify a visual perception of color. PTI FelixGX provides a Color Coordinate Calculator based on two widely accepted standards introduced by the International Commission on Illumination, CIE 1931 and CIE 1976. The CIE 1931 uses x,y chromaticity coordinates where each x, y pair corresponds to a unique color within the colored shape. The CIE 1976 uses a system with more uniform perceptual chromaticity to define the color space using u, v coordinates. Upon highlighting a spectral trace and clicking on CIE 1931 and CIE 1976 Color Coordinates, PTI FelixGX will display both CIE pairs.

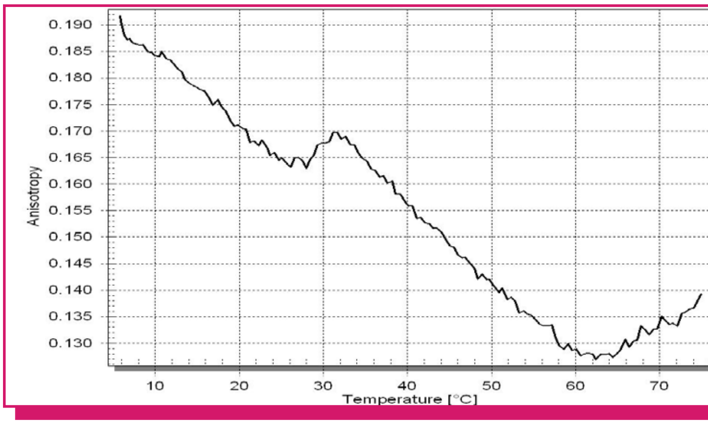




Applications and Examples: UV VIS Fluorescence Spectroscopy

Steady State Anisotropy

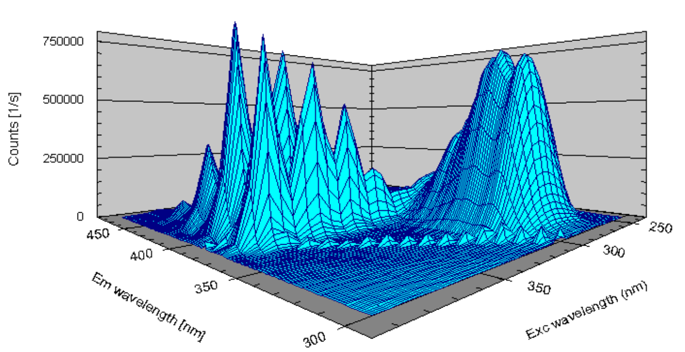
Both photon absorption and photon emission are correlated in space with the transition dipole moment vector of the molecule. Therefore, a measurement of the fluorescence polarization of the emitted light can yield information about the rotational mobility of the molecule under investigation. The rotational mobility of a macromolecule such as protein or DNA, depends on its size, conformation and viscosity of the medium. Fluorescence anisotropy measurements provide an easy and powerful tool to study conformational transitions, such as protein folding and unfolding induced by temperature, pH changes, and drug or ligand binding. For fast and convenient anisotropy measurements, dual emission configurations are available to allow simultaneous determinations of vertically and horizontally polarized fluorescence signals. A software controlled rapid temperature change Peltier unit is a valuable option for anisotropy measurements.



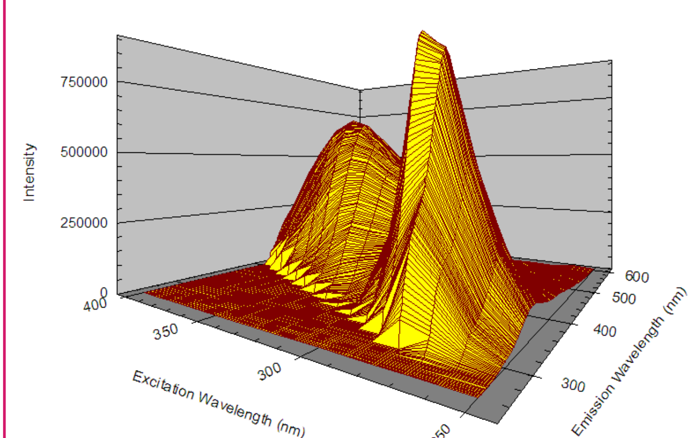
Temperature-induced unfolding of bovine serum albumin (BSA) in PBS (pH=7.4) monitored by fluorescence anisotropy with dual emission channels using a rapid temperature change Peltier option.

Total Luminescence Spectroscopy (TLS)

The powerful PTI FelixGX software, with its user-friendly macro programming capability, and the rapid scanning performance of the PTI QuantaMaster, make it easy to create automated acquisition protocols for measuring emission spectra at varying excitation wavelengths, and creating a 3-D EEM characterization of a fluorescing sample. Such measurements enable the user to fully characterize spectrally complex samples very rapidly with minimum personal involvement. This means you save valuable time. The TLS technique is used in various analytical applications of photoluminescence spectroscopy. It is especially useful for detecting and identifying Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in environmental samples, as well as in food science to test for contaminants or assess foodstuff deterioration. 3D mapping can then be used to demonstrate the naturally occurring fluorescent components.



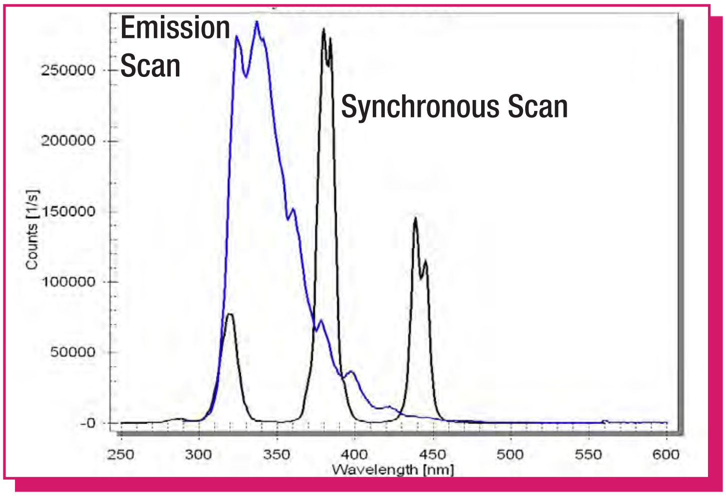
Rapid automated Ex/Em Matrix scan of p-terphenyl/anthracene mixture in a 3-D representation.



TLS is an efficient method to assess the quality of beer. Beers exhibit complex intrinsic fluorescence with contributions from tyrosine, tryptophan (300-400 nm) and flavins (400-500 nm). The diminished contribution from flavin fluorescence is indicative of deteriorating taste and quality of beer (e.g. 'skunked' beer).

Synchronous Fluorescence Spectroscopy (SFS)

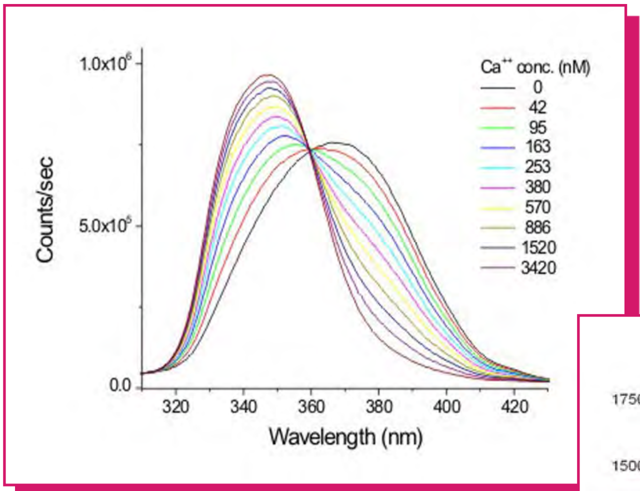
Synchronous Fluorescence Spectroscopy involves scanning the excitation and emission monochromators simultaneously at identical scan rates, with a fixed offset between the two wavelength ranges. It offers much higher spectral selectivity than the conventional emission and excitation scans, reduces light scattering and improves resolution. SFS is a powerful analytical technique that enables simultaneous determination of multiple components in the mixture. It has been used in detecting carcinogenic Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in food and environmental samples.



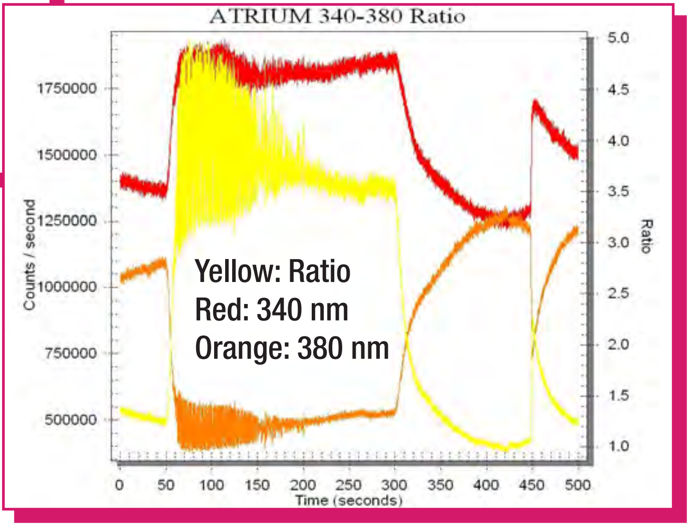
The data represents a mixture of three organic hydrocarbons: p-terphenyl, anthracene, and perylene. The ordinary emission scan does not reveal the complexity or identities of the mixture. On the other hand, the synchronous scan clearly shows 3 narrow emission peaks located at the emission maxima of the respective compounds, making it possible to identify the mixture components.

Ratiometric Measurements for Intracellular Ions

Excitation-shifted probes such as Fura-2 and BCECF are often used in determining intracellular calcium concentration and pH. These probes exhibit an excitation shift upon binding calcium (Fura-2) or protonation (BCECF). In these experiments, the excitation monochromator automatically alternates between two excitation wavelengths corresponding to the free and ion-bound probe. The ratio of the two signals is also measured. Pre-configured look-up tables transform the measured intensity ratio into ion concentrations or pH. Similar measurements can be done for emission shifted probes such as Indo and carboxy-SNARF.



Fura-2 titration with Ca^{++} ions monitored via excitation spectra.



Freshly isolated rabbit atrium was stimulated with 90 mM KCL. 2 µM nicardipine was added and returned to normal Tyrode medium, followed by the addition of 10 mM caffeine. The Fura-2 excitation ratio signal follows the kinetics of free Ca^{++} in the tissue.

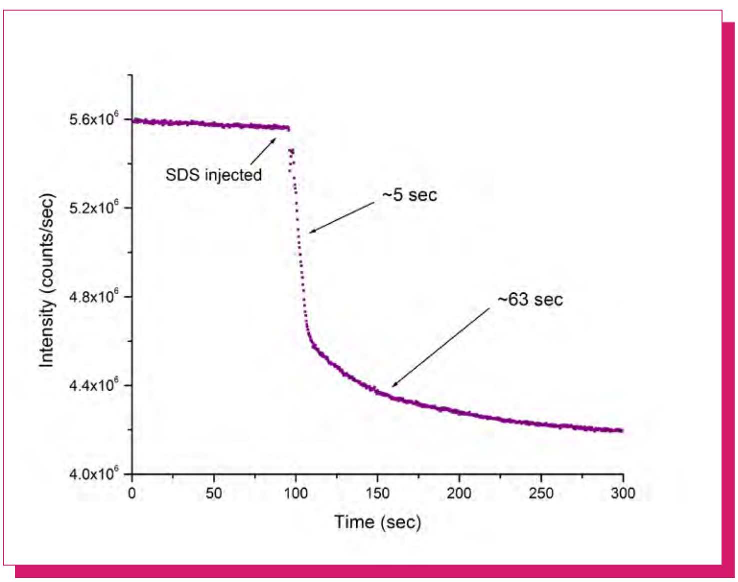
Applications

Applications and Examples: UV VIS Fluorescence Spectroscopy

Time Based Measurements

Probably one of the most common experiments, time based measurements, are useful for many applications such as enzymatic activity assays, ion activity in cells, titration studies, protein-protein and protein-drug interactions, anisotropy measurements, and chemical kinetics. The measurements involve monitoring the fluorescence intensity at fixed excitation, and emission wavelengths as a function of time. The PTI QuantaMaster series can do kinetic measurements on a time scale ranging from microseconds to hours or days. The use of the excitation correction unit (Xcorr) greatly improves the signal stability by eliminating any light source intensity fluctuations and drift over time.

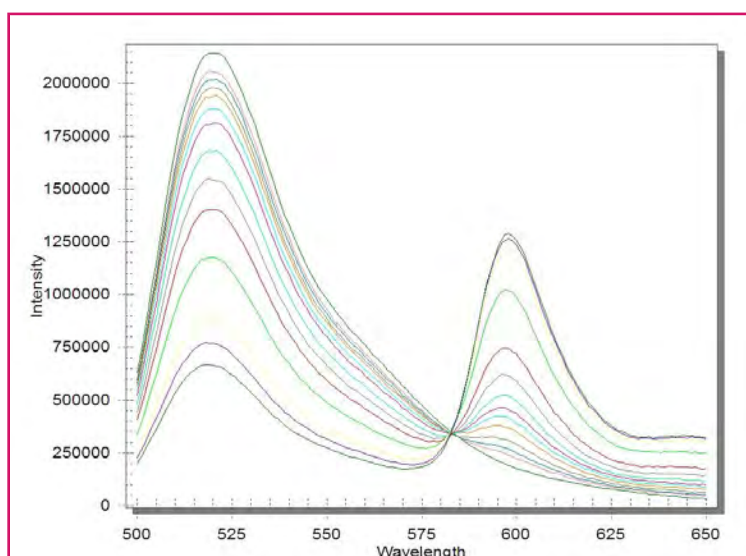
For best results, time-based kinetic experiments should be conducted at a controlled temperature. Therefore our Peltier-based rapid temperature controlled cuvette holders, K-155-C or K-157-C, are recommended. If very fast reaction kinetics are studied, a stopped-flow accessory, K-161-B, will be a useful addition.



BSA protein unfolding induced by detergent SDS monitored in time-based mode.

Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)

FRET is a popular technique used to study binding, conformational changes, dissociation and other types of molecular interactions. Applications of FRET are especially common in biomedical research involving protein-protein, protein-nucleic acid interactions, protein folding/unfolding, nucleic acid hybridization, membrane fusion and many others. There is also a variety of immunoassays based on FRET. The FRET phenomenon occurs between an excited donor (D) molecule and a ground-state acceptor (A) molecule over a range of distances, typically 10-100 Å. It is a nonradiative process, meaning no photon is emitted or absorbed during the energy exchange. The efficiency of FRET is strongly dependent on the D-A distance and is characterized by the Förster critical radius R_o, a unique parameter for each D-A pair. Once R_o is known, the D-A pair can be used as a molecular ruler to determine the distance, or monitor distance changes between sites labeled by D and A. Since FRET is mostly used to study biological systems, where concentrations are often low and samples can be highly scattering, the PTI QuantaMaster 400 is an ideal fluorometer for this application due to its high sensitivity and excellent stray light rejection. It is also easy to upgrade to a lifetime option, which can be very beneficial for verification of the FRET mechanism. The PTI QuantaMaster series will also help you take advantage of this technology with the built-in PTI FelixGX FRET Calculator.



Titration monitored by FRET between Alexa-BSA complex and a Bodipy-labeled fatty acid.

Automated Temperature Control

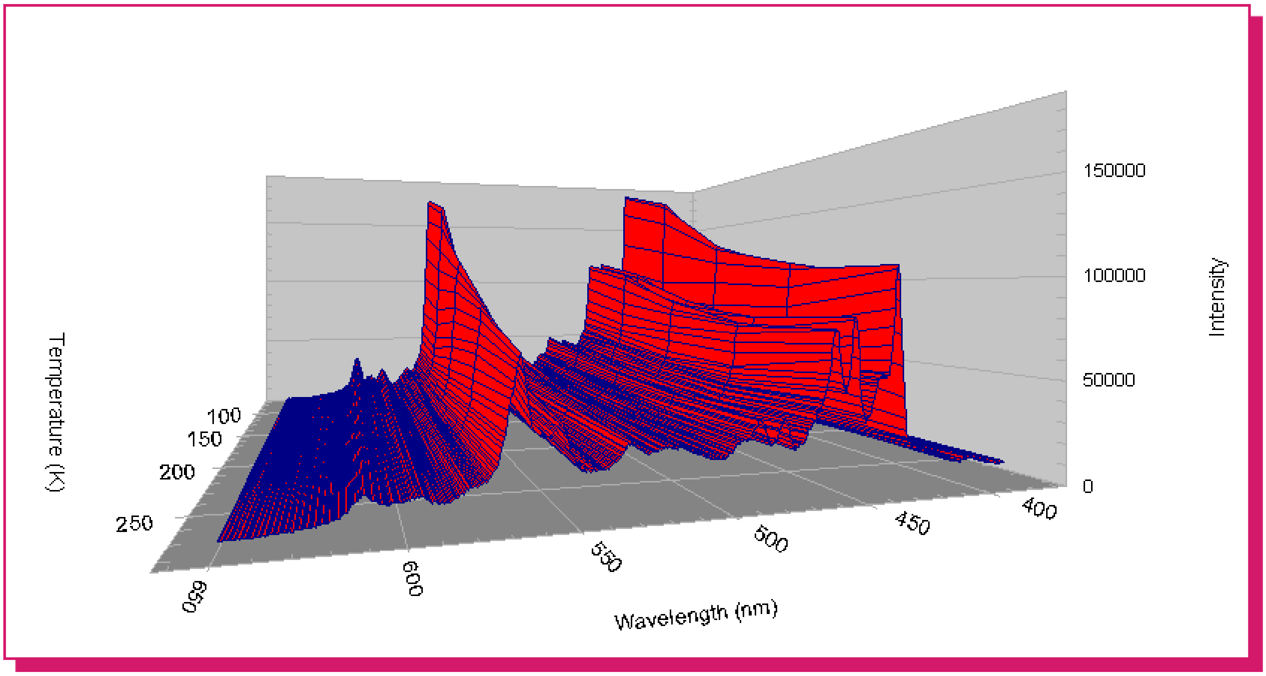
Sample temperature plays a critical role in all types of luminescence measurements. For example, when the emission anisotropy is measured, the viscosity will change as a function of the temperature affecting the rotational motion of the fluorophore. The temperature control can be critical for fluorescence quantum yield determination, or any quantitative intensity measurements since the nonradiative deactivation is strongly temperature dependent. Temperature control is essential in fluorescence studies of proteins as it affects thermal stability of proteins, and their folding and unfolding characteristics.

Solid samples, such as doped crystals, glasses, ceramics, and organic molecules deposited on surfaces will exhibit narrowing of spectral lines when cooled to low cryogenic temperatures, thus allowing study of fine interactions. Organic molecules will usually exhibit phosphorescence when cooled to sufficiently low temperatures.

The PTI QuantaMaster series comes standard with a thermostatable cuvette holder where the plumbing is already in place for temperature control utilizing a circulating water bath. If your research requires more precise or extreme temperature control, additional solutions are available, including software controlled Peltier-based variable temperature cuvette holders (single or 4 position) and a liquid nitrogen cryostat. Programmable spectral scans at automatically varying temperatures and temperature ramping experiments are available.

Temperature control is critical in applications, such as:

- Temperature dependent quantum yields
- Quantitative intensity measurements
- Activation energies of photophysical processes
- Protein folding and unfolding
- Nucleic acid melting profiles
- Thermodynamic parameters of binding reactions
- Membrane fluidity and permeability studies
- Fluorescence measurements of live cells
- Enzyme kinetics

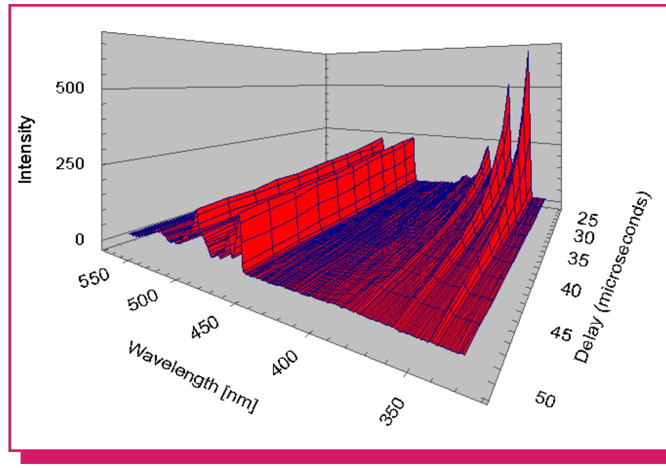


Fully automated temperature mapping emission scans of coronene deposited on silica measured in liquid nitrogen cryostat. As the temperature is lowered, the phosphorescence spectrum begins to appear and intensity increases.

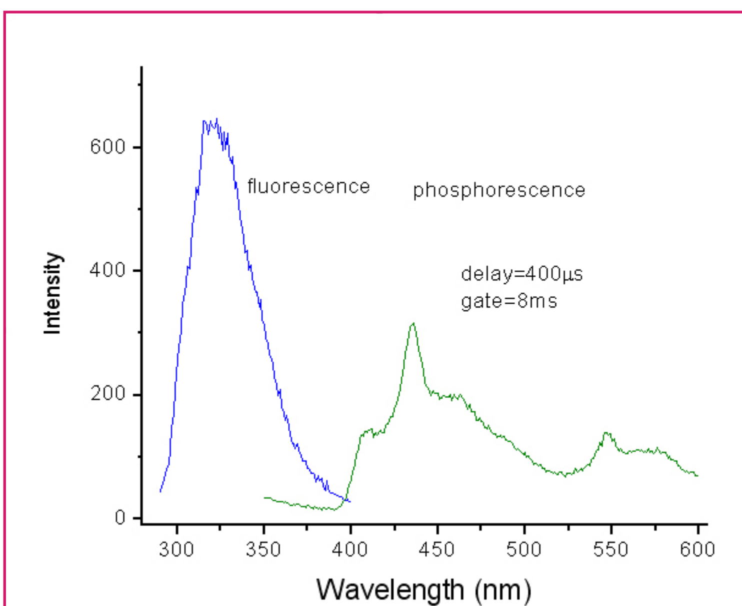
Applications and Examples: UV VIS Fluorescence Spectroscopy

Phosphorescence with a Pulsed Light Source

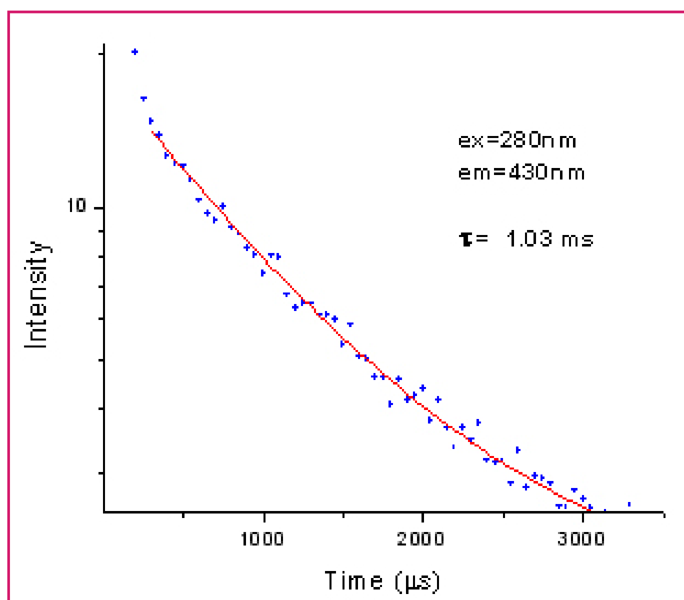
A pulsed light source and the ability to integrate the signal at user-selected time delay are dispensable tools in discriminating spectra based on the lifetime of the respective excited state. Fluorescence emission happens on the picosecond to nanosecond time scale, while phosphorescence occurs on the microsecond to second time scale. By varying the temporal position and the width of the signal detection gate one can selectively detect fluorescence and phosphorescence spectra as attested by phenanthrene spectra on the accompanying figure. Here, the emission of phenanthrene in a frozen glass was measured with gradually increased time delay of the detection gate to diminish contribution of fluorescence. However, the true potential of this technique can be seen in the case of Room Temperature Phosphorescence (RTP) of RNase T1 tryptophan, where the signal was extracted by gating out the overwhelming Trp fluorescence—a task impossible with a continuous excitation source. Conveniently, the same instrument can be used to measure phosphorescence decay of this extremely weak emission by using the Single-Shot Transient Digitizer (SSTD) function of the ASOC-10 interface.



Phenanthrene at 77 K utilizing a cold finger Nitrogen Dewar Accessory. Fluorescence and phosphorescence spectra measured while increasing the delay time (at 2 μs increments) for signal integration.

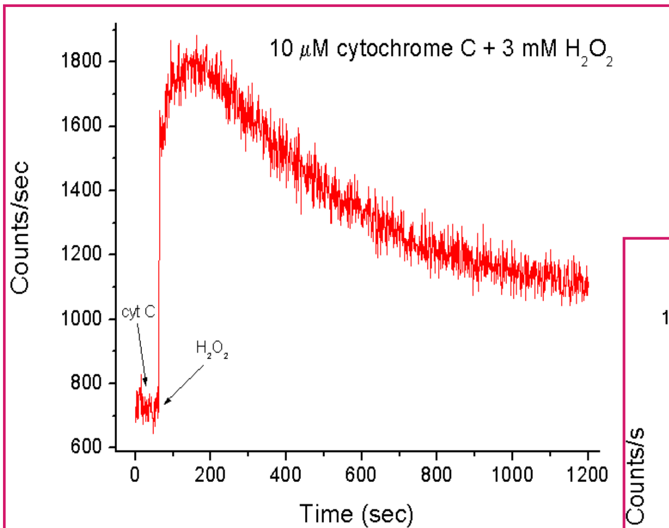


Discrimination between strong fluorescence and weak Room Temperature Phosphorescence (RTP) from RNase T1 tryptophan by varying the temporal position and widths of the signal detection gate on a PTI QuantaMaster equipped with a pulsed Xe lamp and gated detector for signal integration.



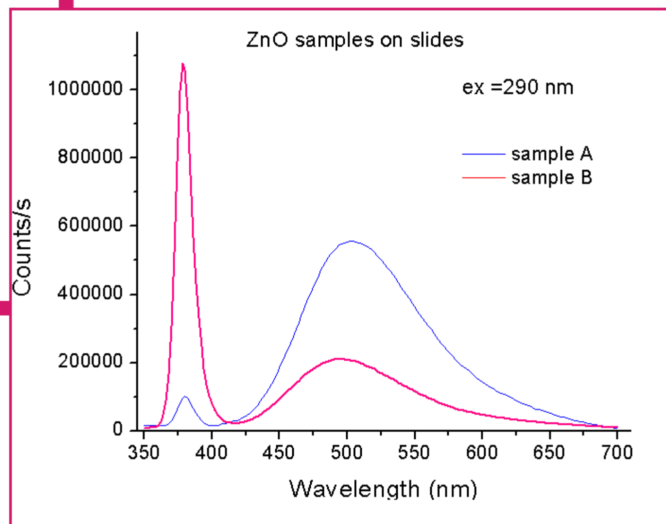
Phosphorescence decay of a weakly emitting RNase T1 tryptophan signal using the same instrument.

Bio and Chemiluminescence



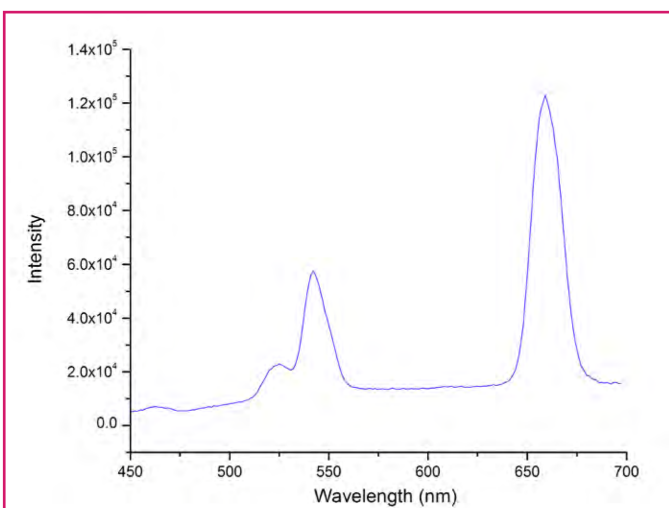
The unsurpassed sensitivity of the PTI QuantaMaster detection makes it a very capable instrument for measuring extremely weak chemiluminescence emission, as illustrated by the cytochrome C/ hydrogen peroxide experiment.

Semiconductors Research

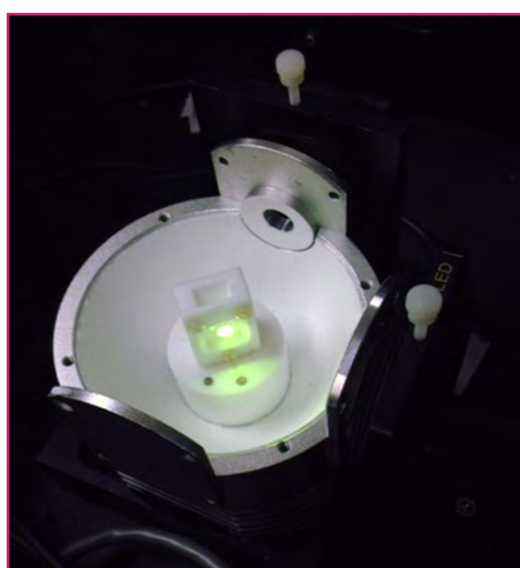


Due to its dedicated accessories, such as a well-designed solid sample holder and excellent stray light rejection characteristics, the PTI QuantaMaster is an excellent choice for semiconductors research. Here, clean spectra from strongly scattering ZnO samples were measured with the PTI QuantaMaster equipped with a double excitation monochromator.

Fluorescence Upconversion



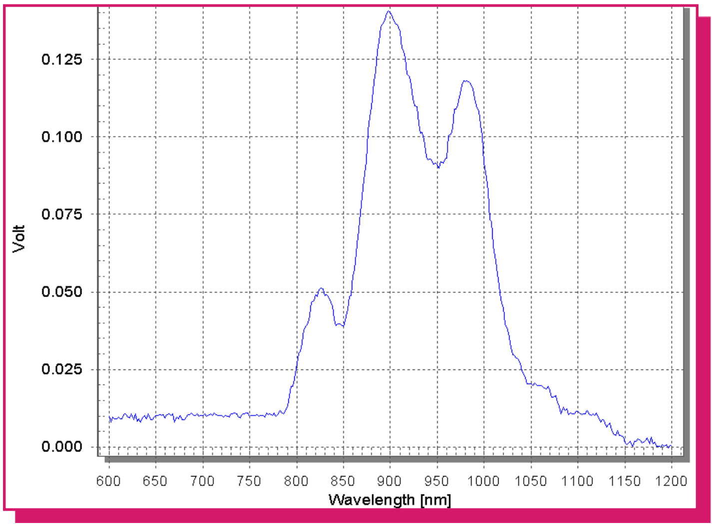
Upconversion phenomena in lanthanide-doped glasses and powders has been extensively studied in recent years. They are of interest due to a demand for compact and efficient lasers and amplifiers for optical communications, especially operating in blue-green and orange spectral ranges. The data here illustrates the PL spectra of upconverting nanoparticles NaYF4: Yb,Er in water solution, measured with the UPCONV-980 upconversion kit for the PTI QuantaMaster 400, consisting of a 980 nm cw diode laser and an integrating sphere.



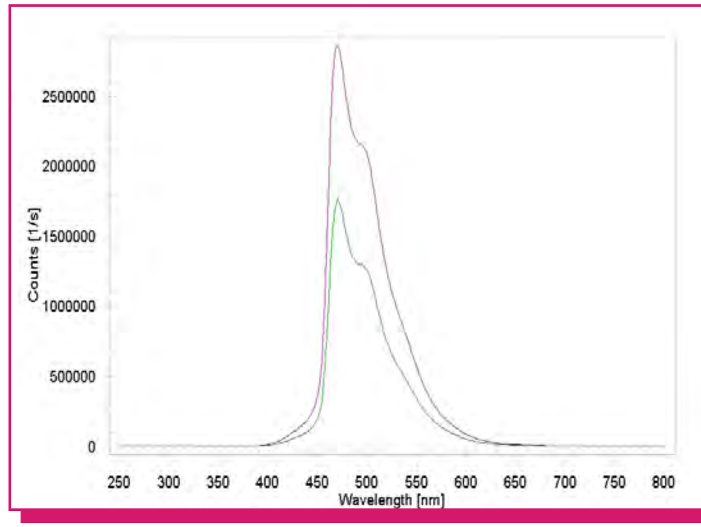
The upconversion setup allows for simple determination of the luminescence upconversion quantum yields due to an efficient and ergonomically-designed integrating sphere (shown with the top removed) with easy access to the sample area.

Applications and Examples: UV VIS Fluorescence Spectroscopy

Electroluminescence and Photovoltaic Measurements

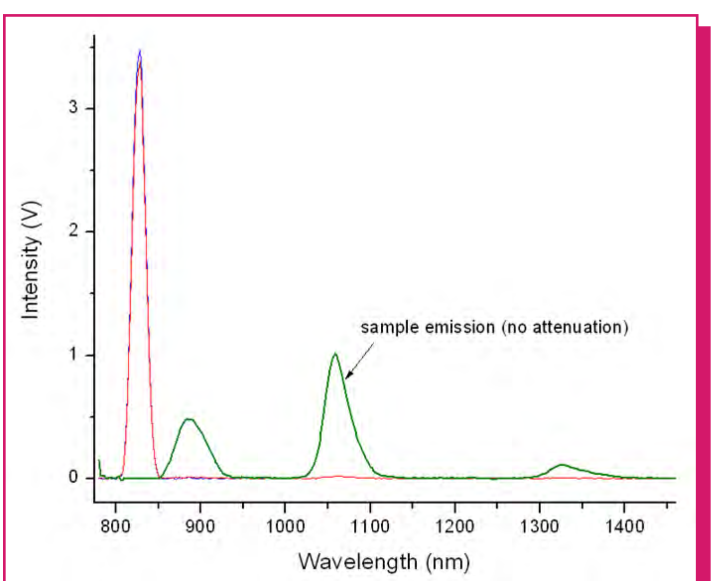


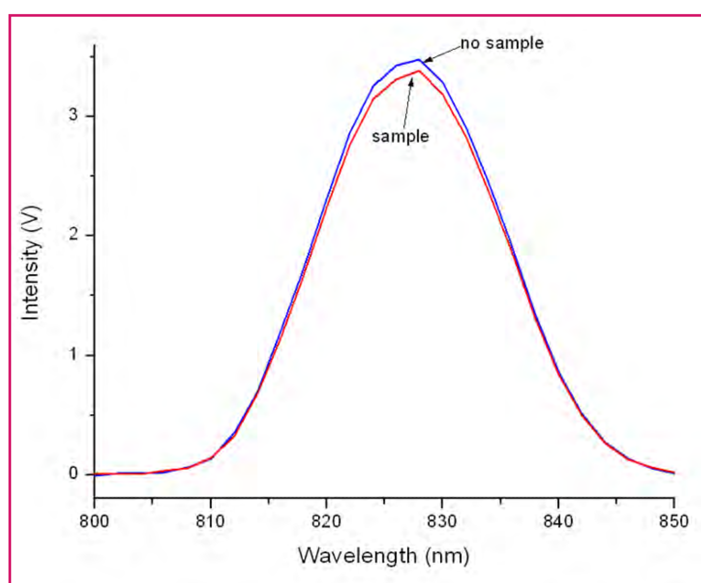
The flexibility of the modular design makes it easy to utilize the PTI QuantaMaster for more specialized applications, such as electroluminescence or photovoltaic measurement. Here, the figure shows an electrical response of a photovoltaic cell illuminated with the PTI QuantaMaster excitation monochromator equipped with an NIR grating. The electrical signal from the cell is fed directly to one of the analog inputs of our versatile ASOC-10 interface, and the powerful PTI FelixGX software takes care of rest!



Emission generated by applying different voltages (6V and 9V) to a thin film electroluminescent sample using the PTI QuantaMaster with the electroluminescence accessory.

Quantum Yield





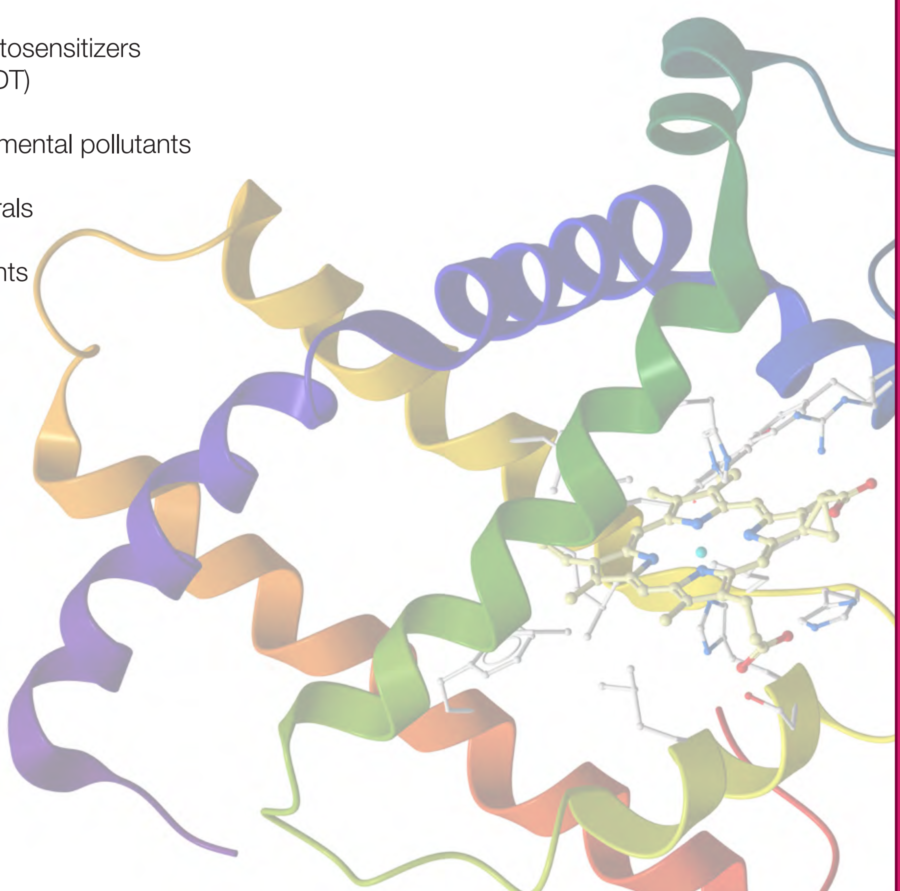
Quantum Yield determination of Nd^{3+} doped glass in NIR with the integrating sphere and InGaAs detector. The measurement requires high signal stability and precise emission corrections. The QY experiment involves emission scanning over the excitation peak, which is usually significantly higher than the emission spectrum. Since the absorbance of the sample is very low, an excellent signal stability, high dynamic range and a linear behavior of the detector are of utmost importance for accurate QY determination. The graph on the right shows the expanded excitation peak with, and without, the sample. Capturing the difference of the two signals is the key to accuracy. The triplicate experiment showed excellent reproducibility resulting in QY = 0.567 ± 0.017.

Applications and Examples: NIR Fluorescence Spectroscopy

The applications and interest in NIR photoluminescence have been growing rapidly in recent years. This trend is spearheaded mostly by extensive research in nanotechnology and materials science. NIR-emitting nanoparticles, lanthanide doped glasses and ceramics used in developing new laser media and photonic devices, single-walled carbon nanotubes, semiconductor and electroluminescent systems are only a few dominant applications. There is also a considerable research effort in the optical fiber communication industry to develop infrared molecular amplifiers for the transmittance window at 1550 nm. In biomedical areas, there is a trend of using NIR-emitting nanoparticles as luminescent markers due to the fact that the light scattering, a notorious problem in UV-VIS fluorescence measurements, is greatly reduced as the wavelength increases. Less interference means better signal to noise with strongly scattering biological samples. NIR light can penetrate tissue at a much greater depth than the UV and VIS— a definite advantage in tissue imaging and therapeutic applications. In photobiology, the detection of singlet oxygen and development of efficient photo sensitizers for PDT has been the dominant application for years. The continuing introduction of new NIR emitters, coupled with better detection and lower cost systems continues to fuel the growth of NIR luminescence applications. PTI offers an extensive line of PTI QuantaMaster NIR photoluminescence systems with a broad range of options and accessories. The detectors offered include both NIR PMTs and solid state photodiodes that span the range of up to 5,500 nm. Most of these detectors can also be used with pulsed light sources, thus providing the lifetime capabilities in NIR.

Applications of NIR Fluorescence

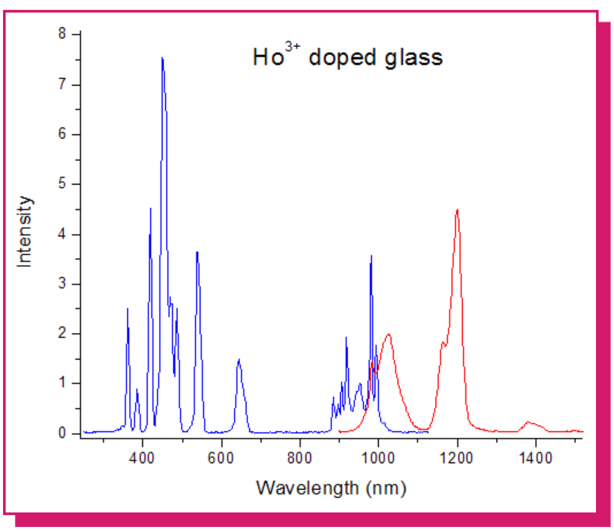
- Materials Science
  - Nanomaterials
  - Glasses and ceramics
  - LEDs and lasing media
  - Semiconductors
  - Upconverting nanoparticles for tissue imaging
- Optical fiber communication
  - Optical amplifiers (e.g. chelated Er^{3+}, 1540 nm)
- Photobiology and photomedicine
  - Singlet oxygen detection
  - R&D of singlet oxygen photosensitizers
  - Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)
- Environmental
  - Photo-oxidation of environmental pollutants
- Geology
  - NIR luminescence of minerals
- Forensic science
  - Identifying forged documents



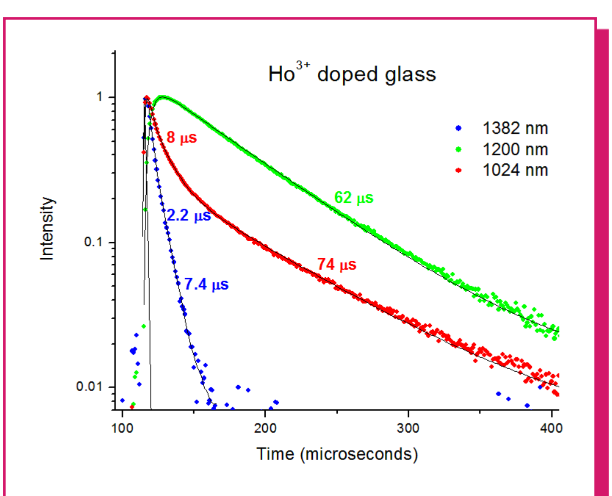
Applications and Examples: NIR Fluorescence Spectroscopy

Photoluminescene of Lanthanides

Many applications using photoluminescence measurements involve rare earth ions (lanthanides), such as Nd^{3+}, Er^{3+}, Tm^{3+}, Ho^{3+} and Pr^{3+}, which often emit in the NIR. Often these ions are used with ligand photosensitizers which improve their light absorption properties, as lanthanide ions themselves are very weak absorbers. They are used as dopants in lasing media and glasses, and are made into nanoparticles of varying sizes and shapes in order to control their optical properties. The photoluminescence lifetime (from microseconds to milliseconds) is the key parameter in assessing the optical efficiency of devices involving lanthanides, as well as in quality control during their manufacturing.



PL emission and excitation spectra of Ho^{3+} doped glass measured with the PTI QuantaMaster 500, using the TE-cooled InGaAs detector and lock-in amplifier.

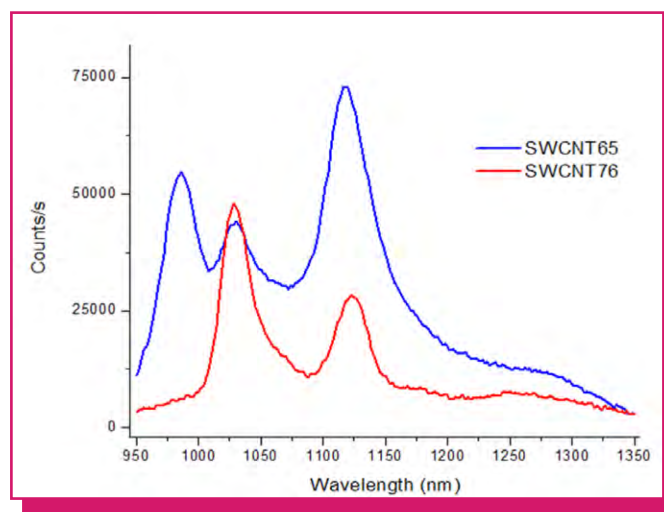


PL decays of Ho^{3+} doped glass measured with the PTI QuantaMaster 500 system operating in the lifetime mode. Note that the decays are very different for different transitions. The decay at 1200 nm also shows a rise time of 2.4 μs.

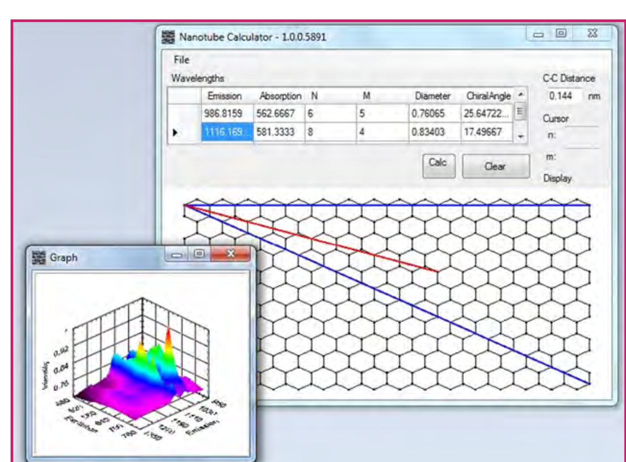
Single Walled Carbon Nanotubes

Single-walled carbon nanotubes have been one of hottest topics in photonics/materials science in the last few years. There are numerous existing and potential applications where SWCNTs are used, such as microdiodes and microtransistors, computing and switching devices, screen displays, gas sensors, biological sensors (NA hybridization), bio-imaging, drug delivery and many others. Mechanically, they are 3 to 10 times stronger than steel and exhibit high thermal and electrical conductivity.

SWCNTs are made of a sheet of graphene rolled along a certain angle (chiral angle) into a tube of diameter r. These structural parameters can be determined by photoluminescence measurements, usually in the NIR range. By collecting a 3D excitation-emission matrix and determining the excitation and emission wavelengths of the 3D PL peaks, the structural parameters, the chiral angle and r, can be calculated. Felix GX provides the Nanotube Calculator which makes this task easy.

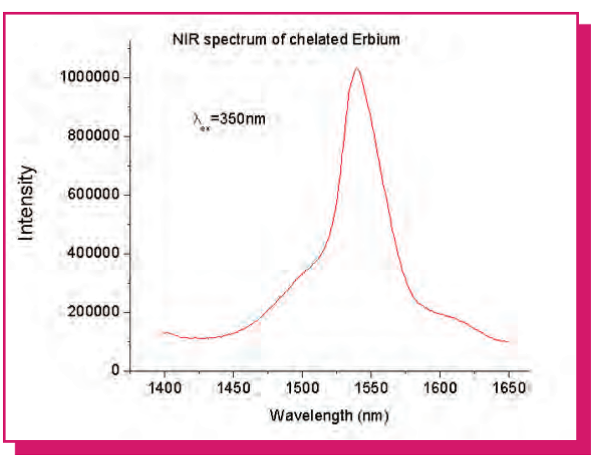


Photoluminescence spectra of two different SWCNTs measured with the PTI QuantaMaster 600 NIR photoluminescence spectrometer. In order to determine the chiral angle α and the nanotube radius r, a 3-D ExEm matrix needs to be acquired, and the result submitted to the Nanotube Calculator.



Optical Fiber Communications

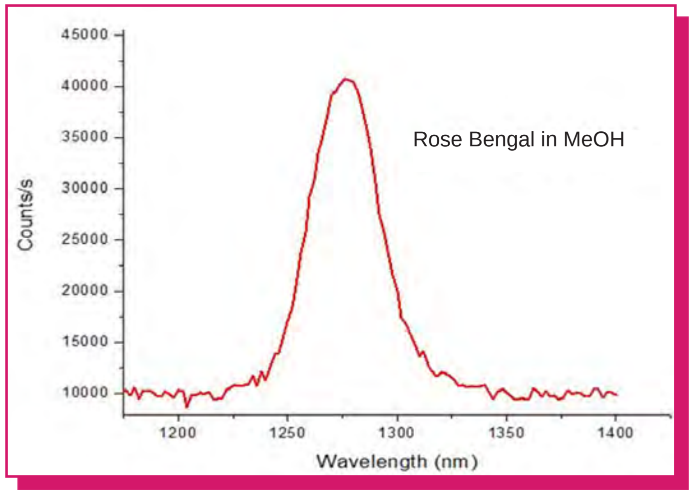
The use and demand for optical fiber communication has grown rapidly and applications are numerous, ranging from global networks to desktop computers. There have been three spectral 'windows' used for optical transmission: 850 nm, 1310 nm and 1550 nm, with the third window now becoming a globally accepted transmission band. There is a need to insert some light amplifiers along the fiber line. One idea of amplifying the signal is based on a chelated Erbium ion. Erbium belongs to the family of lanthanides and has an emission band in the NIR at about 1550 nm, so it matches perfectly the 3rd optical transmission window. The chelating molecules are excited in the UV or VIS by inexpensive LEDs and transfer the excitation energy by FRET to the Erbium center, thus promoting Erbium to its excited state. Since the energy difference between the excited and ground state of Erbium equals the energy of photons (1550 nm) that are propagated along the fiber, these incoming photons will stimulate the emission from Erbium, enhancing the overall signal.



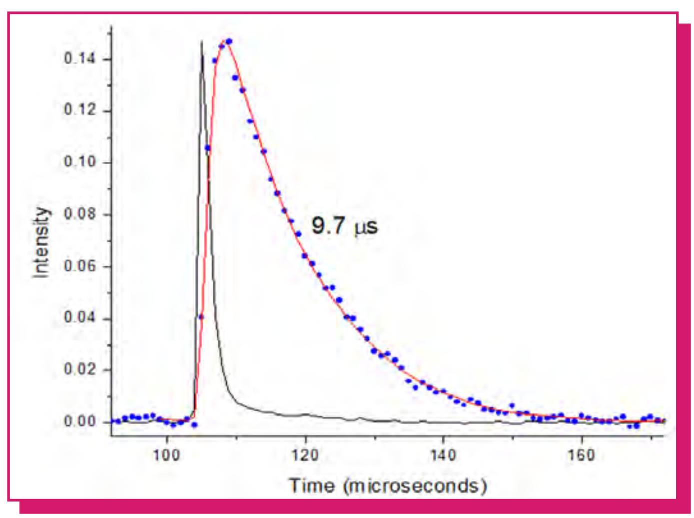
Emission spectrum of chelated Erbium (solid sample) measured with the NIR-PMT and solid sample holder accessory. The system features a thermoelectrically cooled, extended wavelength range NIR PMT operating in the photon counting mode.

Singlet Oxygen Detection

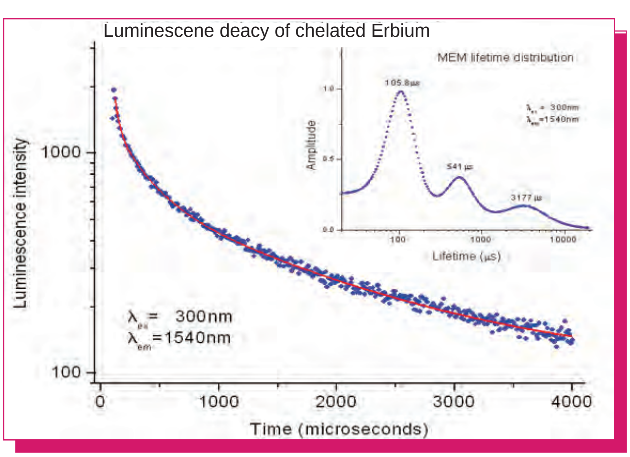
Singlet oxygen generation and detection are growing fields with applications in such areas as cancer treatment, photosensitized oxidations, and biomolecular degradation. The first excited state of an oxygen molecule is a singlet state, which can readily react with other singlet molecules. Radioactive decay to the triplet ground state is a spin forbidden transition resulting in a long lived excited state. Excited singlet oxygen emits phosphorescence in the NIR at 1270 nm.



Spectra of singlet oxygen generated by Rose Bengal in methanol



Lifetime of singlet oxygen using a NIR-PMT with the Xe flash lamp. This is a substantial undertaking, considering the singlet oxygen phosphorescence quantum yields are of the order of 10^{-6}



Luminescence decay of chelated Erbium (solid sample) measured with the NIR-PMT system operating in the time-resolved 'gated' mode. The decay can be described by a broad tri-modal lifetime distribution, as shown by the MEM distribution analysis—a powerful analysis package from PTI.

Accessories

Four Position Peltier K-157- C Temperature Control

Fully automated Peltier-based temperature control (-25°C to 105°C) for up to 4 samples measured at pre-set temperatures, or with temperature ramping and simultaneous measurement at all 4 sample positions. Magnetic stirring included.

K-Uni-HDLR Universal Holder for Solids, Powders and Cuvettes

Universal Sample Holder Base, capable of both linear and rotational travel, was designed for the measurements of solid compounds, microscope slides, or films. The solid sample holder head, also suitable for slides and films, mounts onto a base and can be removed easily to substitute a powder sample holder head or a cuvette holder which enables front face measurements.

Cold Finger Dewar K-158

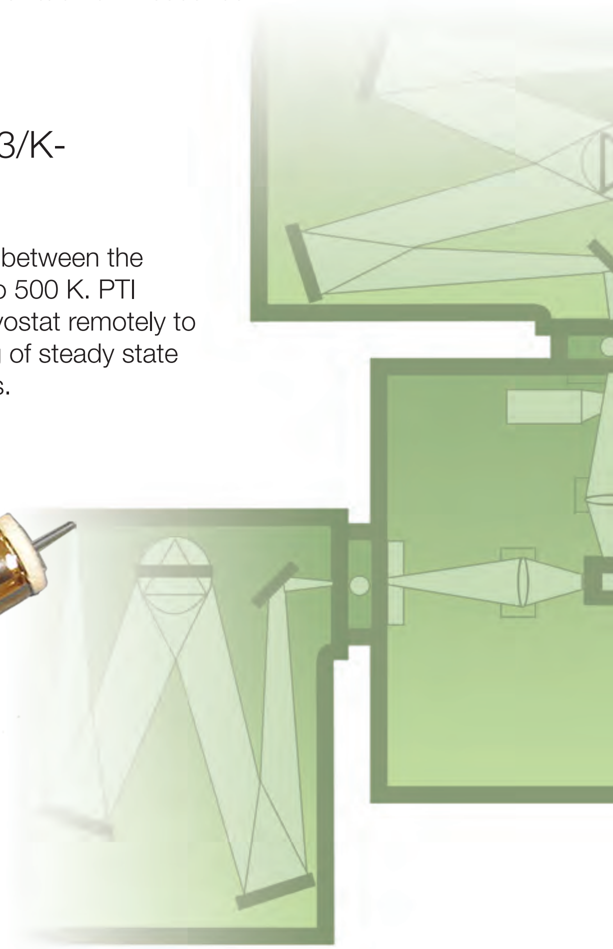
The cold finger dewar accessory is designed to be used with liquid nitrogen as coolant (77 K). Includes: quartz cold finger dewar that accepts 5 mm tubes, dewar holder for the sample turret or single cuvette holder, foam lid for the dewar and extension collar with altered sample chamber lid, and a sample compartment. The dewar features a suprasil quartz cold finger that passes light down to about 200 nm. Samples are placed in NMR and EPR tubes, and the liquid nitrogen placed in the dewar will typically last several hours.

Titrator K-165-B

Titrations are performed to measure a number of biochemical and physical parameters, including binding constants, stoichiometry and kinetics. PTI offers fully automated titration solutions that are integrated into the software. Parameters such as mixing, volume, speed, and calibration are dictated in the software and can be adapted to your needs.

Stopped Flow Accessory K-161-B

The stopped flow accessory is used to rapidly mix small volumes of two (or more) different chemicals in a cuvette, quickly stop the flow of chemicals to the cuvette, and monitor the resulting chemical reaction via optical means. In some instances, the chemical reaction will result in luminescence, and this optical signal can be monitored using a fluorometer. In other instances, the chemical reaction only produces a change in the optical absorption properties and must be monitored using an absorption technique. The primary experimental interest is in the speed of the chemical reaction following the mixing in the cuvette, in addition to the spectral properties of the resulting absorption and/or luminescence.



Cryostat K-CRYO-3/K-CRYO-2

The Cryostat can be used between the temperatures of 77 K up to 500 K. PTI FelixGX can control the cryostat remotely to allow computer monitoring of steady state and lifetime measurements.

Muscle Strip Accessory K-162-B

The muscle strip is inserted into a standard 1 cm cuvette, combining the lower muscle hook with unique perfusion tubes, a tension transducer with upper muscle hook, and an interface electronic control unit. The accessory can be used with any cuvette-based fluorescence system having a standard single cuvette holder complete with tension transducer and transducer mounting bracket with micrometer position adjustment.

Single Cuvette Peltier K-155-C Temperature Control

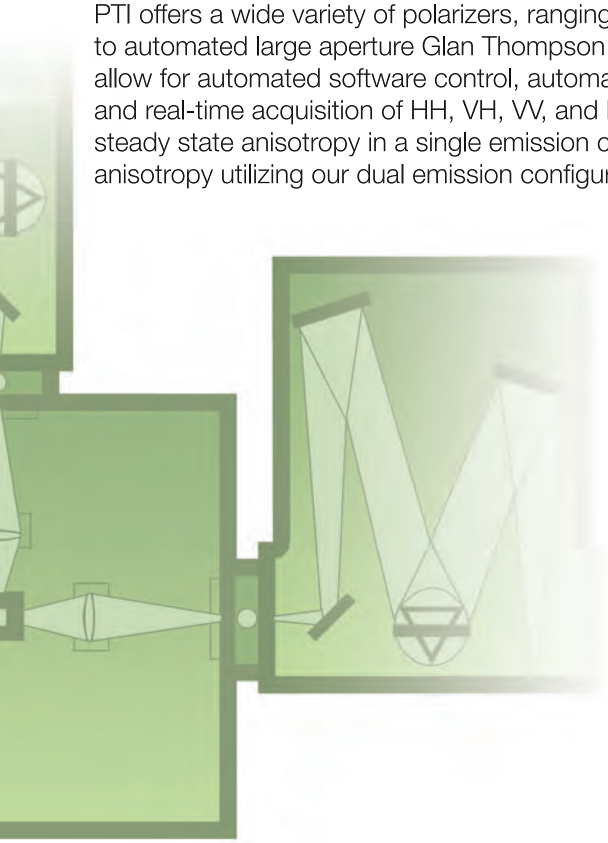
The Peltier-based temperature control with magnetic stirring provides unmatched temperature stability and full software control from -40°C to 105°C, including temperature ramping experiments.

Remote Sensing Accessory K-163

The remote sensing accessory allows in vitro or in vivo measurement by means of a quartz bifurcated fiber bundle or Liquid Light Guide. One fiber leg is attached to the second exit port of the excitation monochromator to provide excitation light to the sample. The second leg is attached to an open entrance port of the emission monochromator to detect the fluorescence signal emitted from the sample.

Polarizers

PTI offers a wide variety of polarizers, ranging from manual sheet polarizers to automated large aperture Glan Thompson polarizers. All configurations allow for automated software control, automatic G-factor determination, and real-time acquisition of HH, VH, VV, and HV analysis. Measure steady state anisotropy in a single emission configuration or dynamic anisotropy utilizing our dual emission configuration.



Total Internal Reflection Fluorescence (TIRF) Flow System Accessory K-TIRF

Incorporate TIRF flow cell into a PTI system by replacing the standard sample holder. Includes two reusable UV silica TIRF prisms, twenty reusable silica TIRF slides, two plastic fluidic blocks, a set of ten elastic gaskets, and a Teflon cassette holder for cleaning and chemical modification of ten TIRF slides.

Absorption Accessory ABS-ACC

The ABS-ACC absorption accessory fits directly into a cuvette sample holder and enables the user to measure the absorption spectrum or check the optical density of the sample without reconfiguring the PTI QuantaMaster fluorometer.

Integrating Sphere K SPHERE-B

High Performance Integrating Sphere: Designed for enhanced measurement of quantum yields of solids, films, and powders. We use a 6-inch diameter sphere and attach it directly to the sample chamber on the port opposite the excitation channel. This design minimizes the effect of the excitation, emission, and sampling ports on the accuracy of the measurement.

Integrating Sphere KSPHERE-Petite

Petite Integrating Sphere: Easy to use 3.2-inch Integrating Sphere that can be installed in seconds, replacing standard cuvette holder - no optics change or LLG coupling required. Easily removable top enables changing samples in seconds. It can accommodate regular cuvettes, slides and powders, with all 3 holders included.