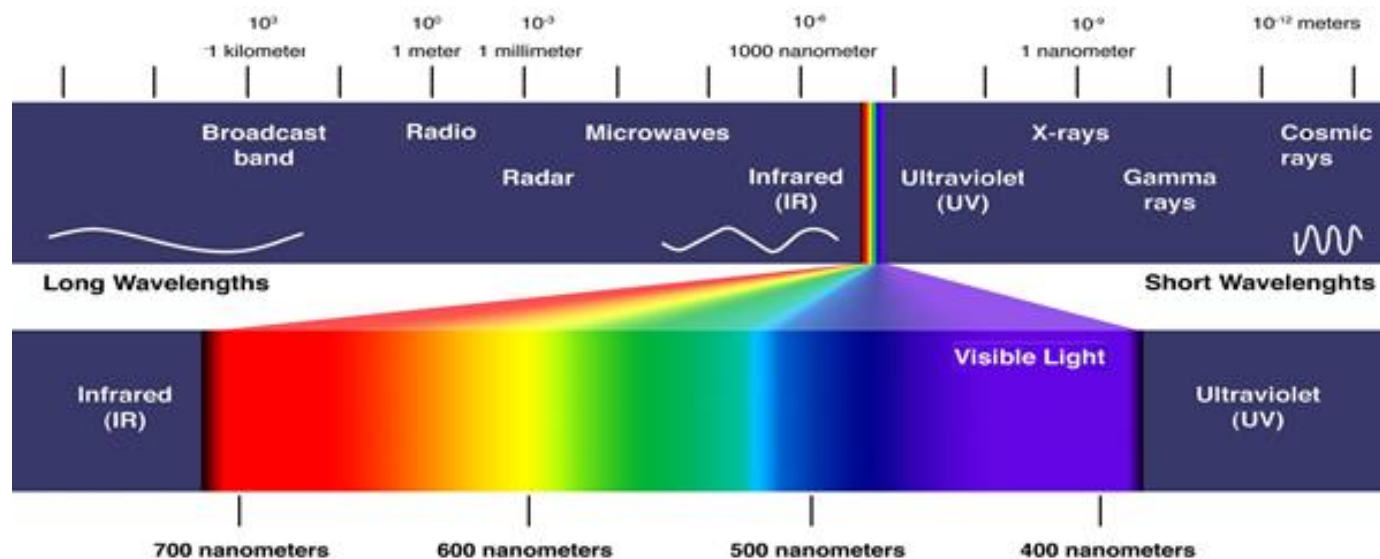


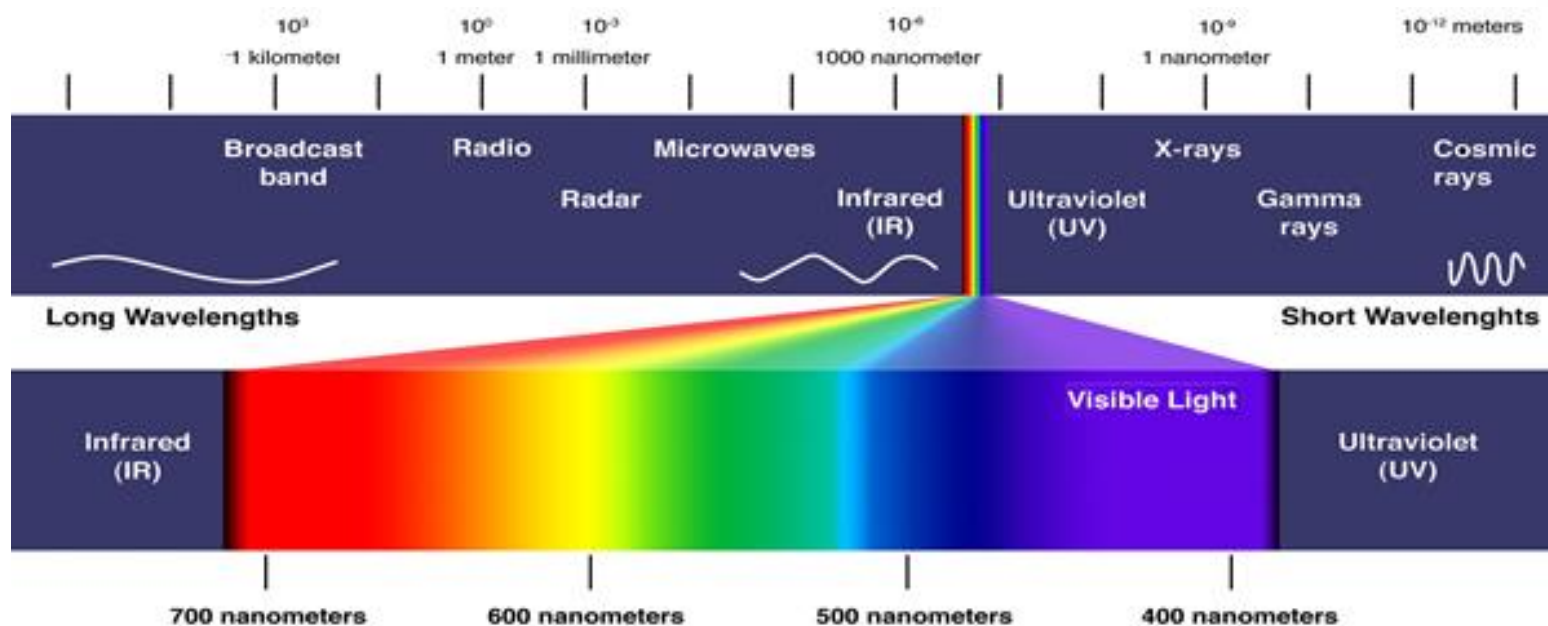
# SPECTROSCOPIC METHODS OF ORGANIC MOLECULES



**Professor Ioannis P. Gerothanassis**  
**Department of Chemistry, University of Ioannina**  
**FEBRUARY 2018**

# SPECTROSCOPIC METHODS OF ORGANIC MOLECULES

## UV SPECTROSCOPY

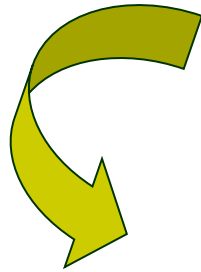


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# WHAT IS SPECTROSCOPY?

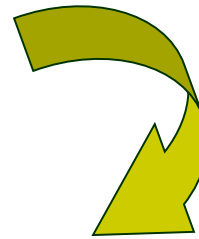
The study of the interaction between  
ELECTROMAGNETIC (EM) RADIATION and MATTER

# SPECTROSCOPIC ANALYSIS



ATOMIC  
SPECTROSCOPY

covers



MOLECULAR  
SPECTROSCOPY

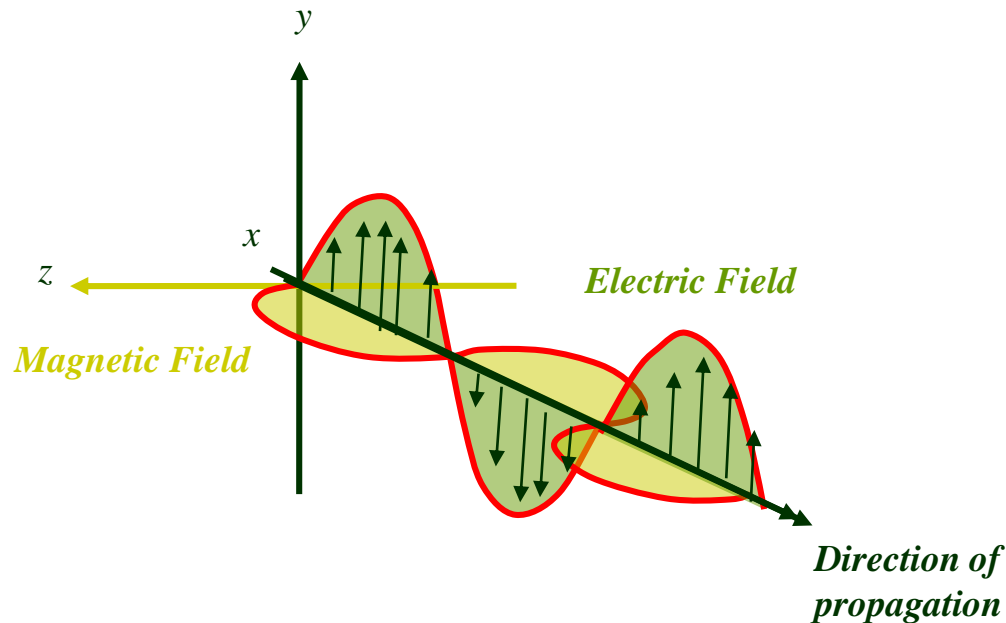
# To Understand Spectroscopy We Must Understand Electromagnetic Radiation

What is Electromagnetic Radiation?

- is a form of energy that has both Wave and Particle Properties.
- For example: Ultraviolet, visible, infrared, microwave, radio wave.

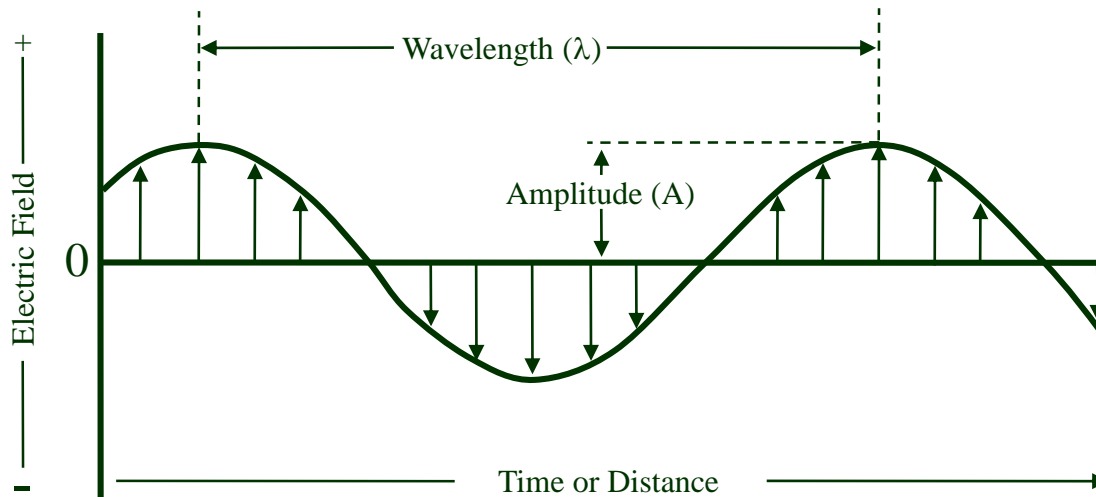
# WAVE PROPERTIES

- EM radiation is conveniently modeled as waves consisting of perpendicularly oscillating electric and magnetic fields, as shown below.



- At  $90^\circ$  to the direction of propagation is an oscillation in the **ELECTRIC FIELD**.
- At  $90^\circ$  to the direction of propagation and  $90^\circ$  from the electric field oscillation (orthogonal) is the **MAGNETIC FIELD** oscillation.

# Wave parameters



We Use Symbols to Designate the Various Properties of Waves

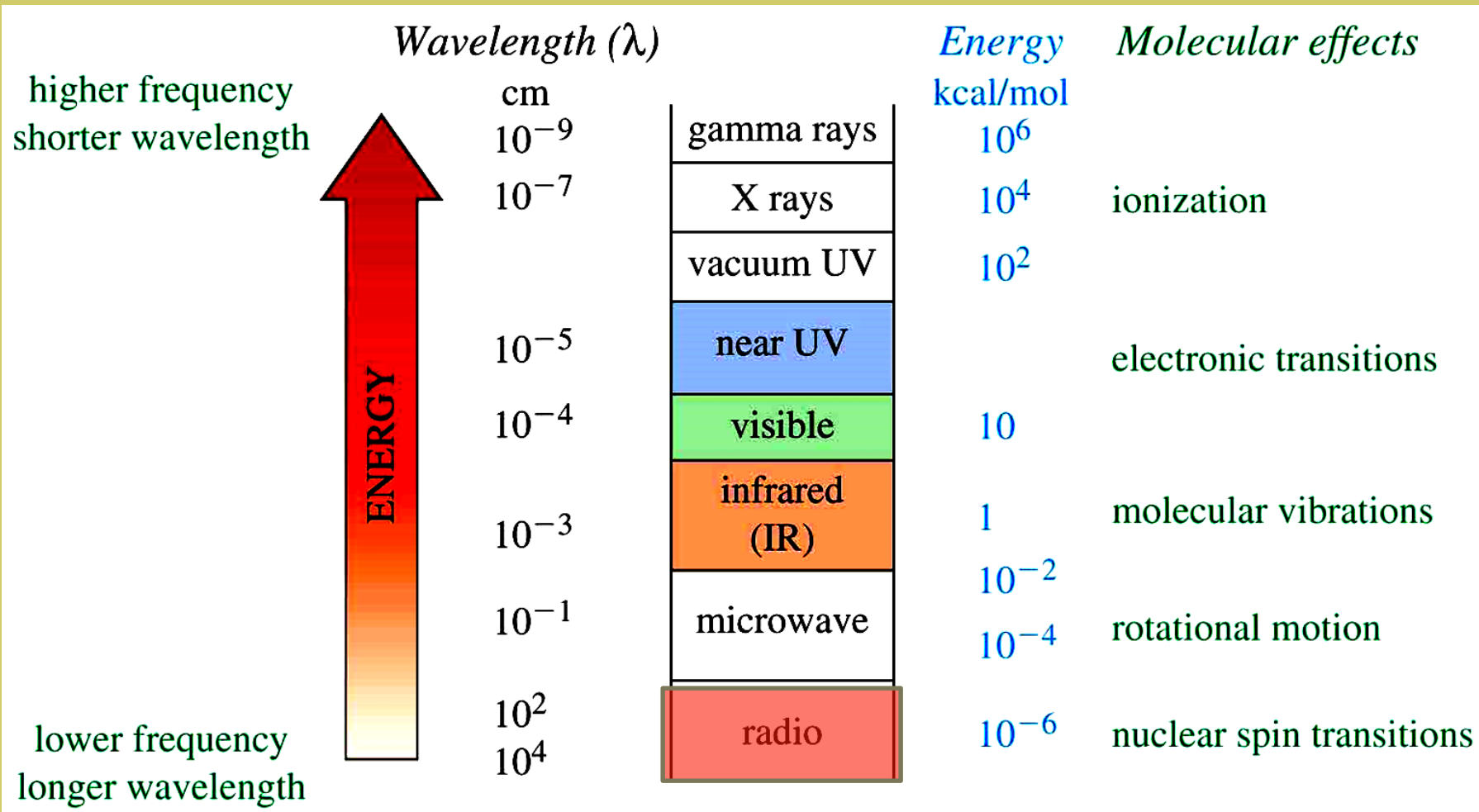
- $\lambda$  is the wavelength of the waves
- $\nu$  is the frequency of the waves
- $c$  is the speed of light



# Definitions:

- **Period (p)** – the time required for one cycle to pass a fixed point in space.
- **Frequency ( $\nu$ )** – the number of cycles which pass a fixed point in space per second.
- **Amplitude (A)** – The maximum length of the electric vector in the wave (Maximum height of a wave).
- **Wavelength ( $\lambda$ )** – The distance between two identical adjacent points in a wave (usually maxima or minima).
- **Wavenumber ( $\bar{\nu}$ )** - The number of waves per cm in units of  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

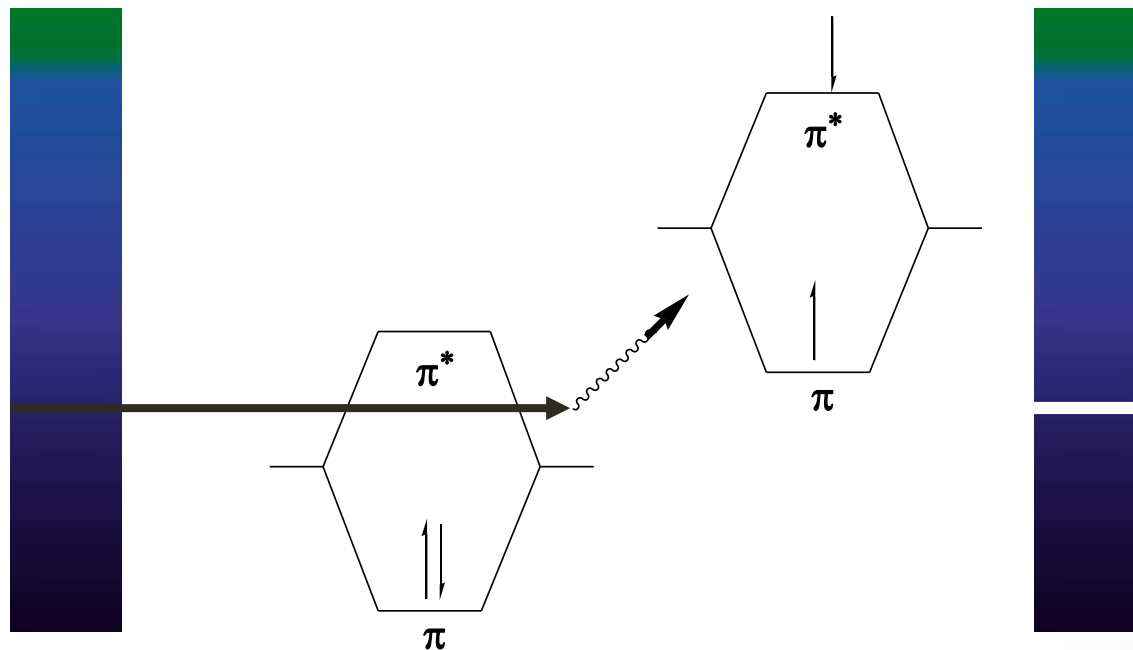
- Purpose of each Electromagnetic Radiation



# UV Spectroscopy

## The Spectroscopic Process

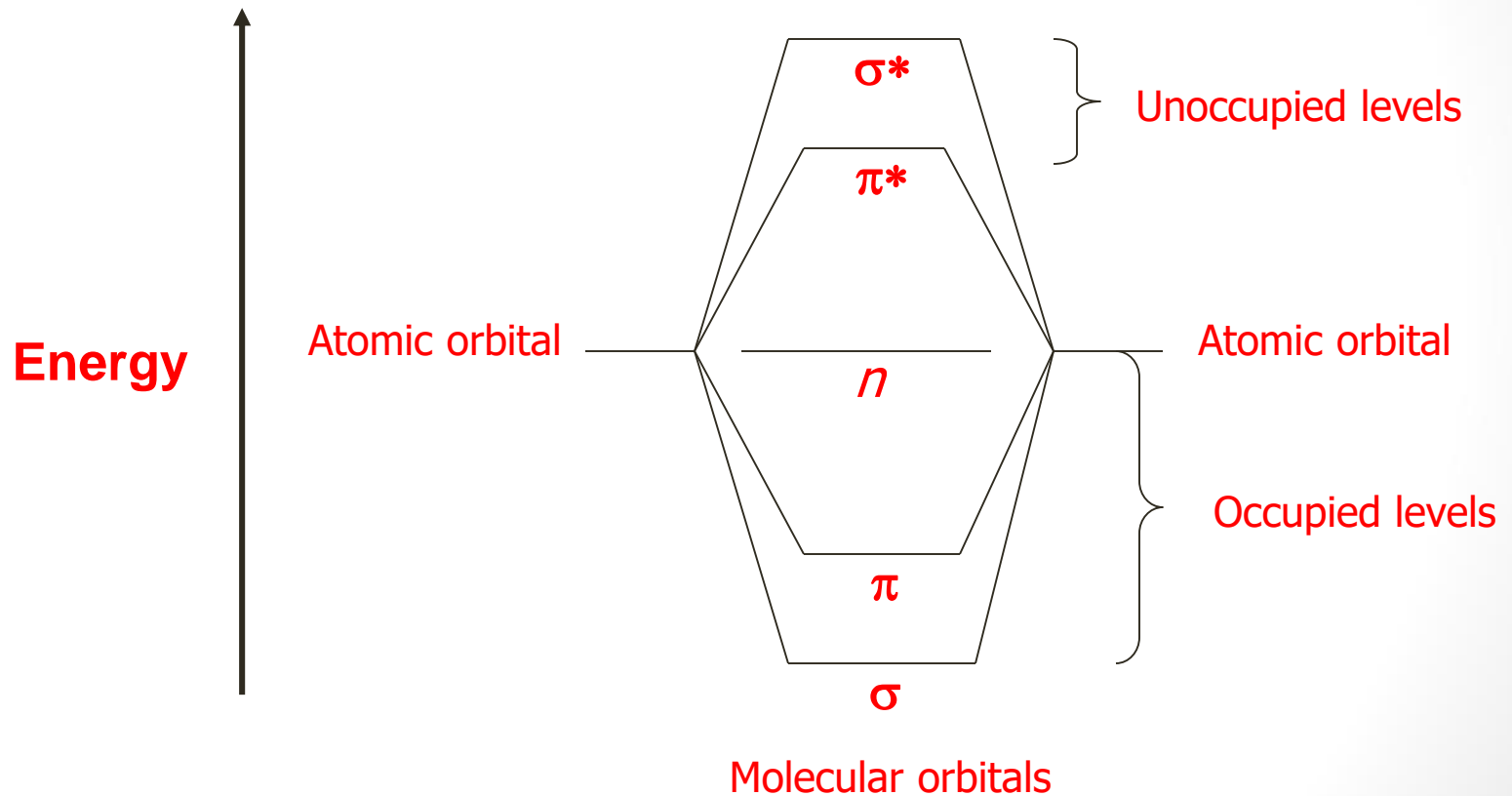
- In UV spectroscopy, the sample is irradiated with the broad spectrum of the UV radiation
- If a particular electronic transition matches the energy of a certain band of UV, it will be absorbed
- The remaining UV light passes through the sample and is observed
- From this residual radiation a spectrum is obtained with "gaps" at these discrete energies – this is called an *absorption spectrum*



# UV Spectroscopy

## Observed electronic transitions

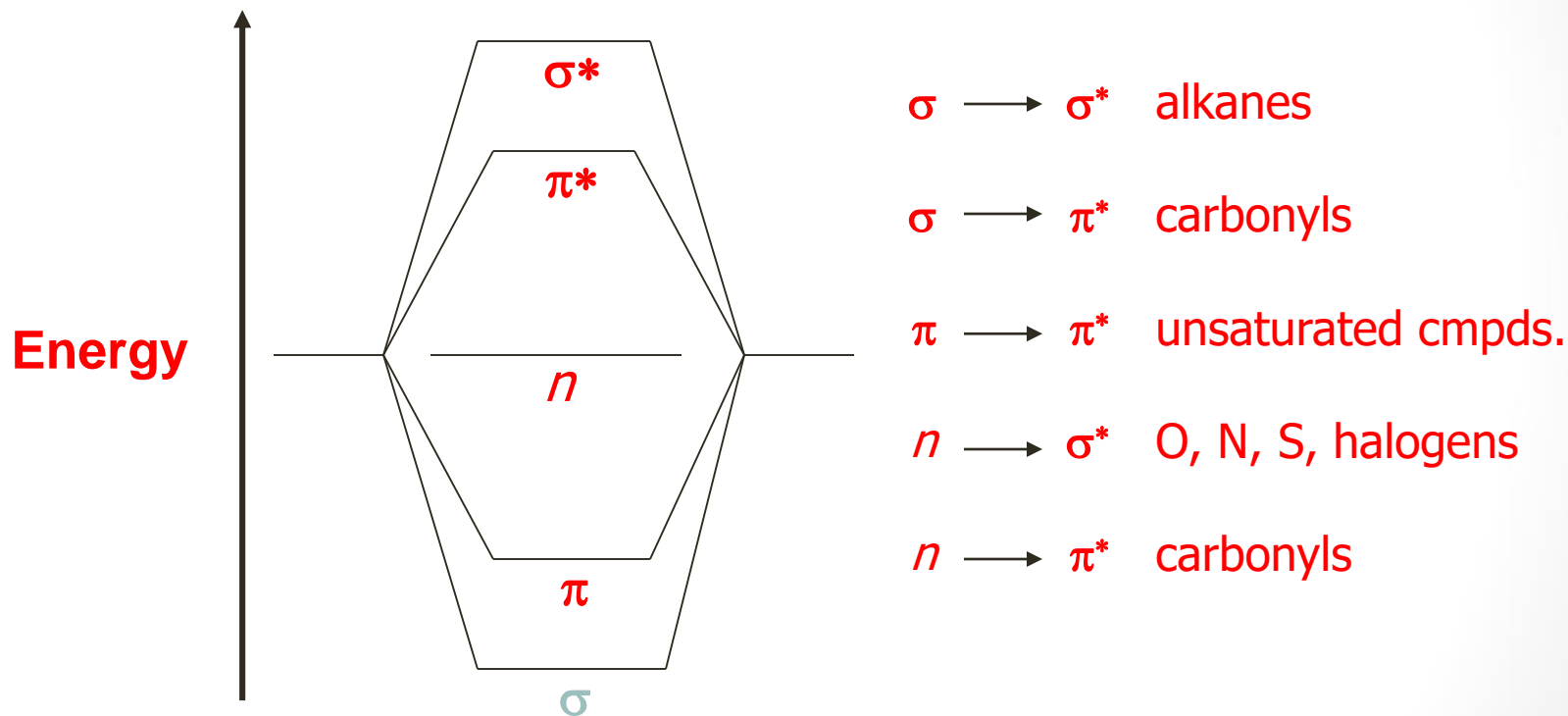
- Here is a graphical representation



# UV Spectroscopy

## Observed electronic transitions

- From the molecular orbital diagram, there are several possible electronic transitions that can occur, each of a different relative energy:



# UV Spectroscopy

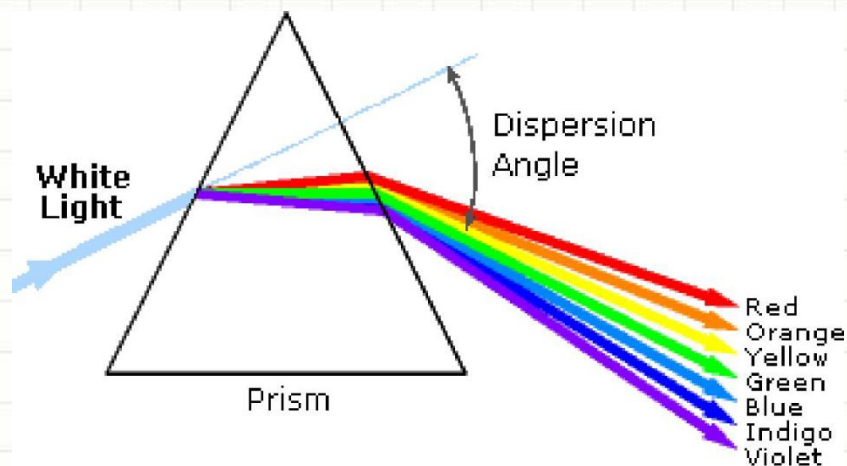
## Observed electronic transitions

- Although the UV spectrum extends below 100 nm (high energy), oxygen in the atmosphere is not transparent below 200 nm
- Special equipment to study *vacuum* or *far UV* is required
- Routine organic UV spectra are typically collected from 200-700 nm

- This limits the transitions that can be observed:

$\sigma \longrightarrow \sigma^*$	alkanes	150 nm	
$\sigma \longrightarrow \pi^*$	carbonyls	170 nm	
$\pi \longrightarrow \pi^*$	unsaturated cmpds.	180 nm	✓ - if conjugated!
$n \longrightarrow \sigma^*$	O, N, S, halogens	190 nm	
$n \longrightarrow \pi^*$	carbonyls	300 nm	✓

# Electromagnetic Radiation

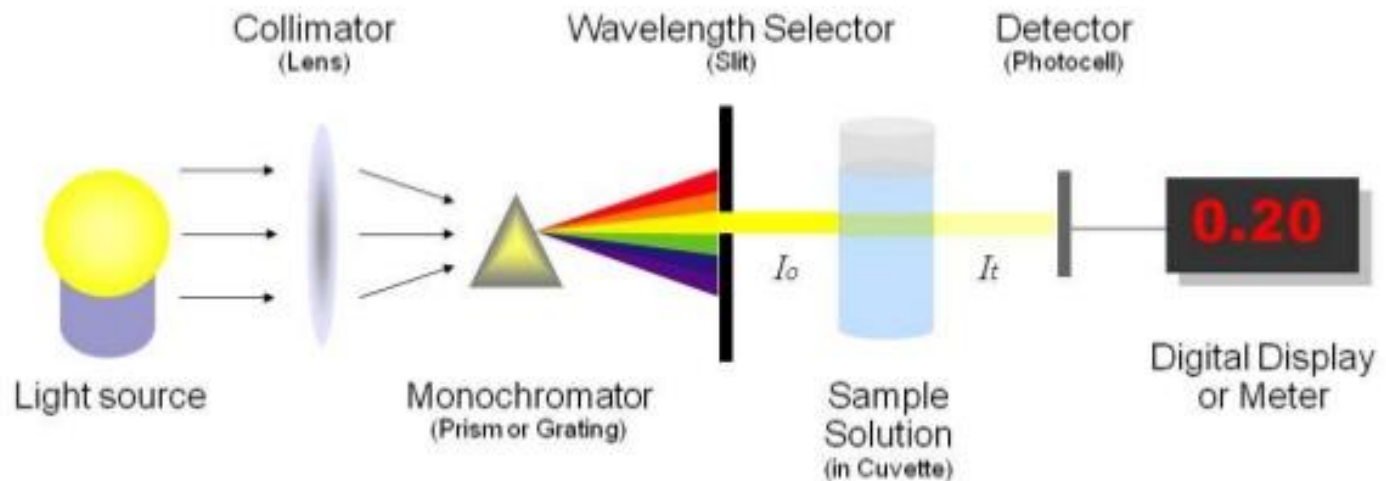


Violet	400 - 420 nm	Yellow	570 - 585 nm
Indigo	420 - 440 nm	Orange	585 - 620 nm
Blue	440 - 490 nm	Red	620 - 780 nm
Green	490 - 570 nm		

*S. Damkondwar, Pune, Maharashtra, India, January, 2013*

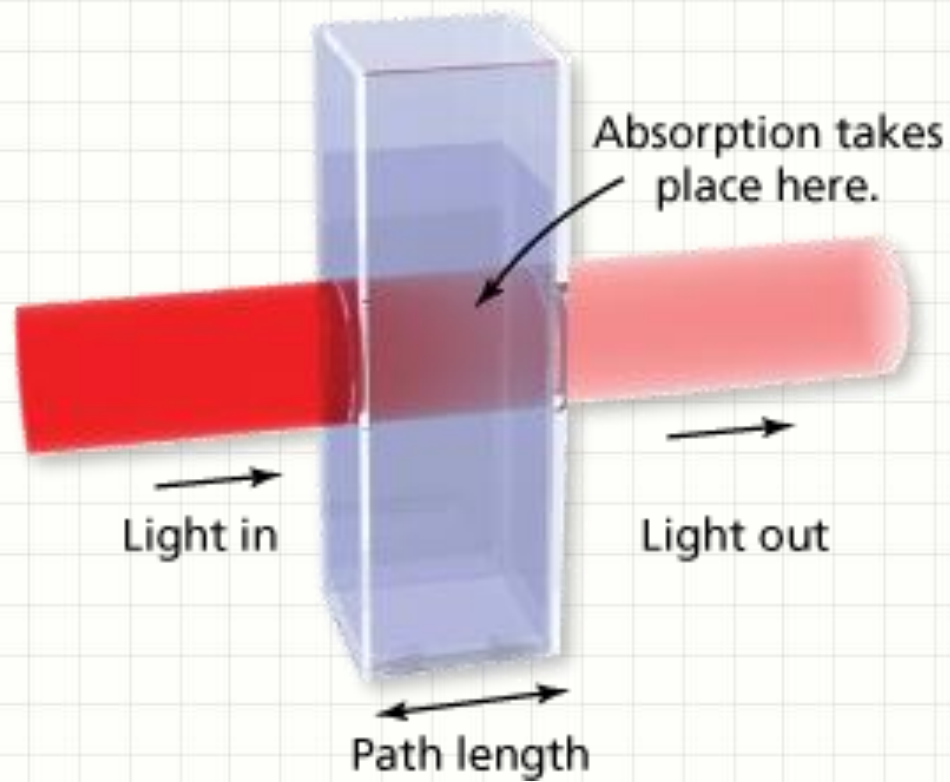
# Spectrophotometer

To measure the amount of light that a sample absorbs



• **Visible spectrophotometer: uses light over visible range (400 - 700 nm) of electromagnetic radiation spectrum.**





<http://www.math.andyou.com/310>

# Absorption: The Beer-Lambert Law

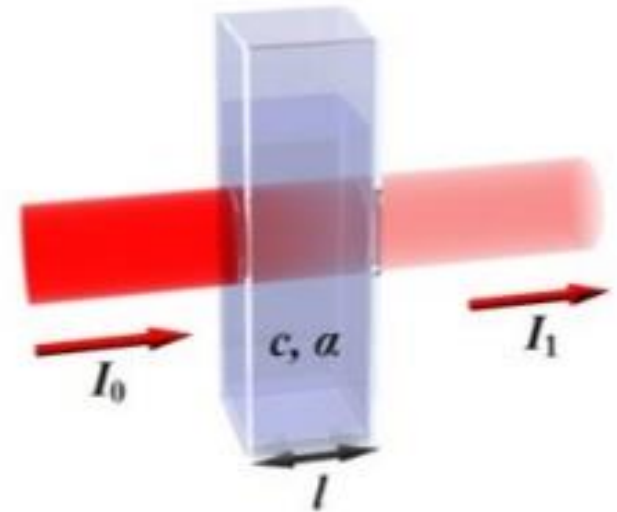
August Beer (1825-1863): Added absorption co-efficient and related to conc. in solution.

Pierre Bouguer

Astronomer: Light is diminished as it passes through the atmosphere.

Johan Lambert

Mathematician, first to prove that  $\pi$  is irrational.  
No absorption coefficient



$$A = -\log(I_1 / I_0) = \epsilon c l$$

$\epsilon$ : Extinction coefficient

c: Concentration

l: Path length

# UV Spectroscopy

From an experimental point of view, three other considerations must be made:

- a longer *path length,  $l$* , through the sample will cause more UV light to be absorbed – linear effect
- the greater the *concentration,  $c$* , of the sample, the more UV light will be absorbed – linear effect
- some electronic transitions are more effective at the absorption of photon than others – *molar absorptivity,  $\epsilon$* , *this may vary by orders of magnitude...*

# UV Spectroscopy

The Beer-Lambert Law:  $A = \epsilon c l$

- for most UV spectrometers,  $l$  would remain constant (standard cells are typically 1 cm in path length)
- Concentration  $c$  is typically varied depending on the strength of absorption observed or expected – typically dilute – sub .001 M
- molar absorptivities  $\epsilon$  vary by orders of magnitude:
  - values of  $10^4$ - $10^6$  are termed *high intensity absorptions*
  - values of  $10^3$ - $10^4$  are termed *low intensity absorptions*
  - values of 0 to  $10^3$  are the absorptions of *forbidden transitions*

$A$  is unitless, so the units for  $\epsilon$  are  $\text{cm}^{-1} \times \text{M}^{-1}$  and are rarely expressed

Since path length and concentration effects can be easily factored out, absorbance simply becomes proportional to  $\epsilon$ , and the y-axis is expressed as  $\epsilon$  directly or as the logarithm of  $\epsilon$

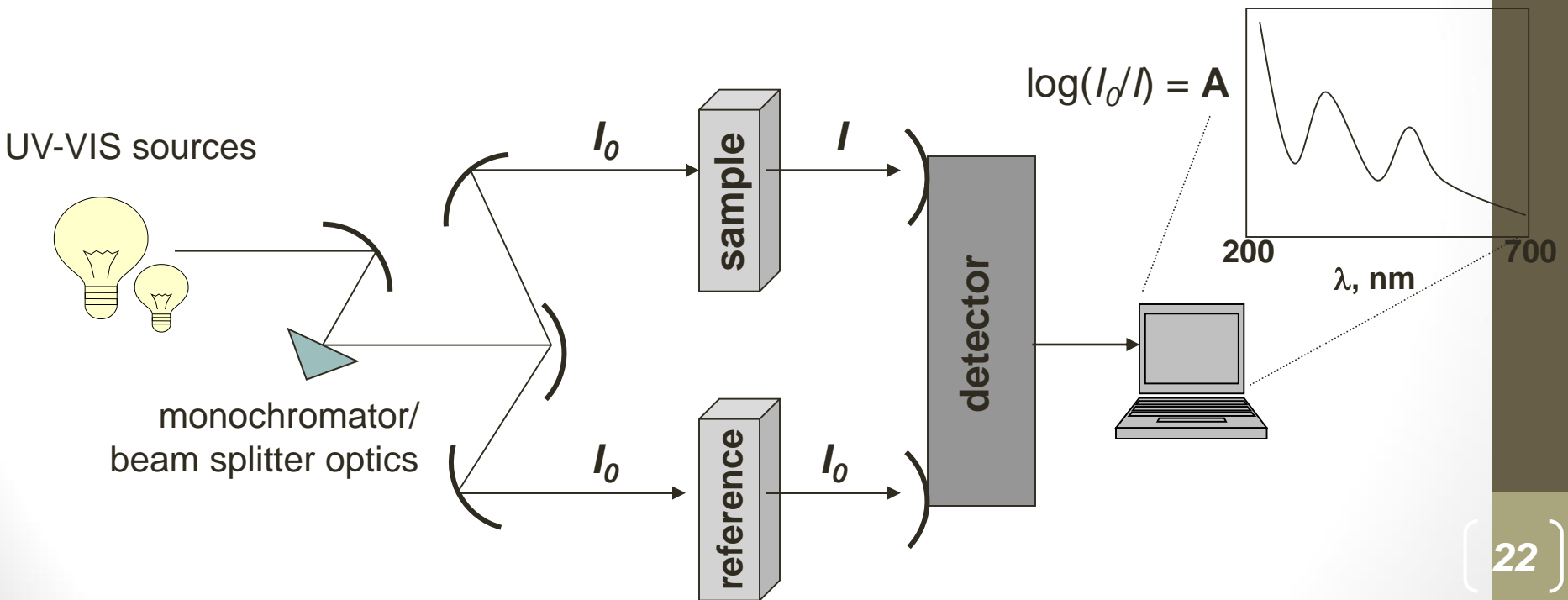
## Selection Rules

- Not all transitions that are possible are observed
- For an electron to transition, certain quantum mechanical constraints apply – these are called “**selection rules**”
- For example, an electron cannot change its spin quantum number during a transition – these are “**forbidden**”  
Other examples include:
  - the number of electrons that can be excited at one time
  - symmetry properties of the molecule
  - symmetry of the electronic states
- To further complicate matters, “forbidden” transitions are sometimes observed (albeit at low intensity) due to other factors

# UV Spectroscopy

## Instrumentation and Spectra

- Here is a simple schematic that covers most modern UV spectrometers:



## Instrumentation and Spectra,

- Two sources are required to scan the entire UV-VIS band:
  - Deuterium lamp – covers the UV – 200-330
  - Tungsten lamp – covers 330-700
  
- As with the dispersive IR, the lamps illuminate the entire band of UV or visible light; the monochromator (grating or prism) gradually changes the small bands of radiation sent to the beam splitter
  
- The beam splitter sends a separate band to a cell containing the sample solution and a reference solution
  
- The detector measures the difference between the transmitted light through the sample ( $I$ ) vs. the incident light ( $I_0$ ) and sends this information to the recorder

## Instrumentation – Sample Handling

- Solvents must be transparent in the region to be observed; the wavelength where a solvent is no longer transparent is referred to as the **cutoff**
- Since spectra are only obtained up to 200 nm, solvents typically only need to lack conjugated  $\pi$  systems or carbonyls

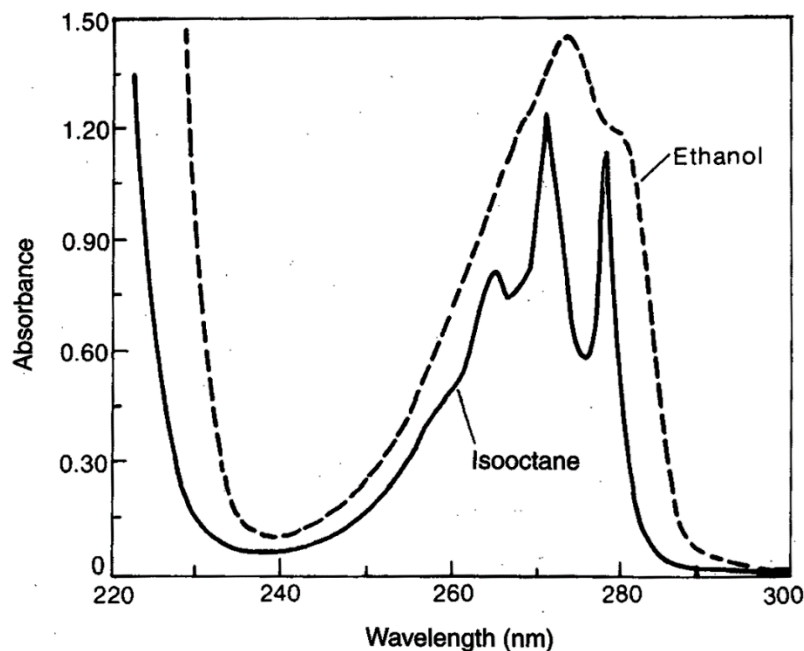
Common solvents and cutoffs:

acetonitrile	190
chloroform	240
cyclohexane	195
1,4-dioxane	215
95% ethanol	205
<i>n</i> -hexane	201
methanol	205
isooctane	195
water	190



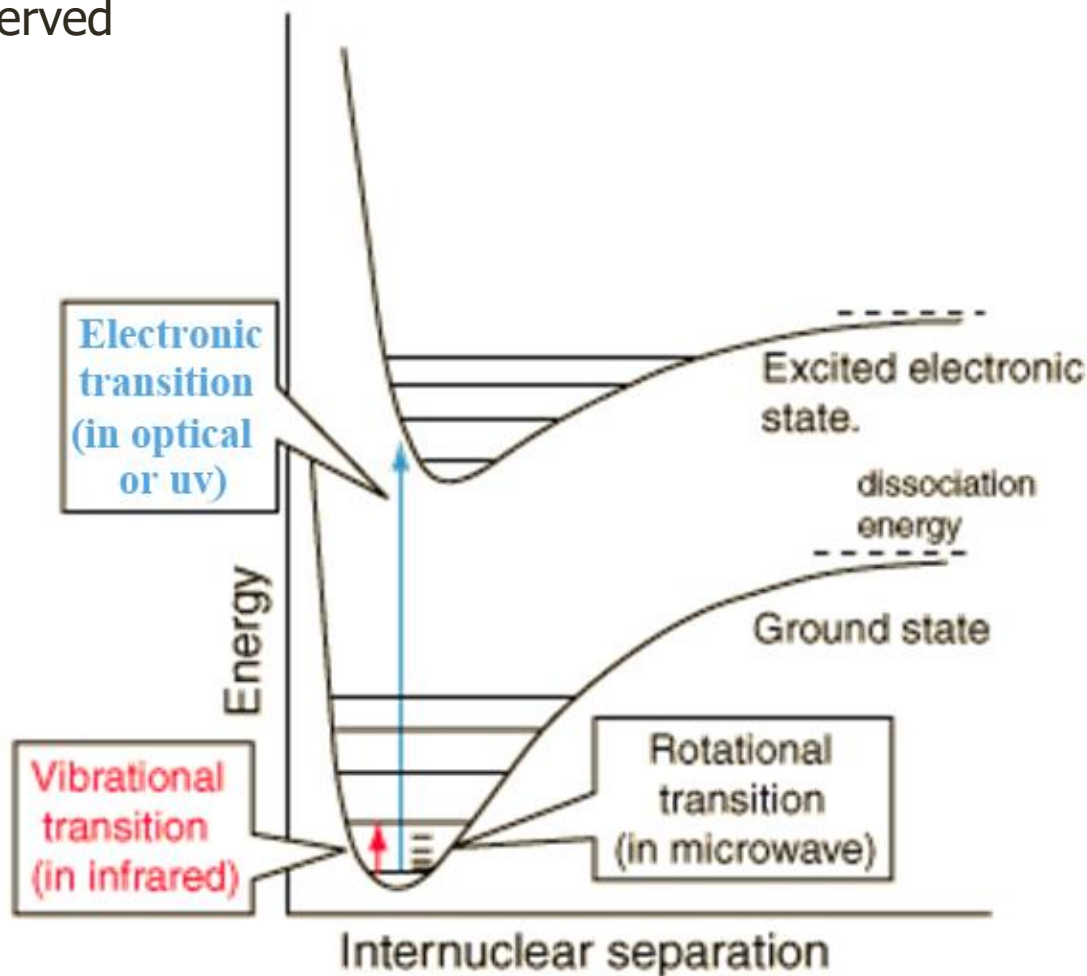
## Instrumentation – Sample Handling

- Additionally solvents must preserve the fine structure (where it is actually observed in UV!) where possible
- H-bonding further complicates the effect of vibrational and rotational energy levels on electronic transitions, dipole-dipole interacts less so
- The more non-polar the solvent, the better (this is not always possible)

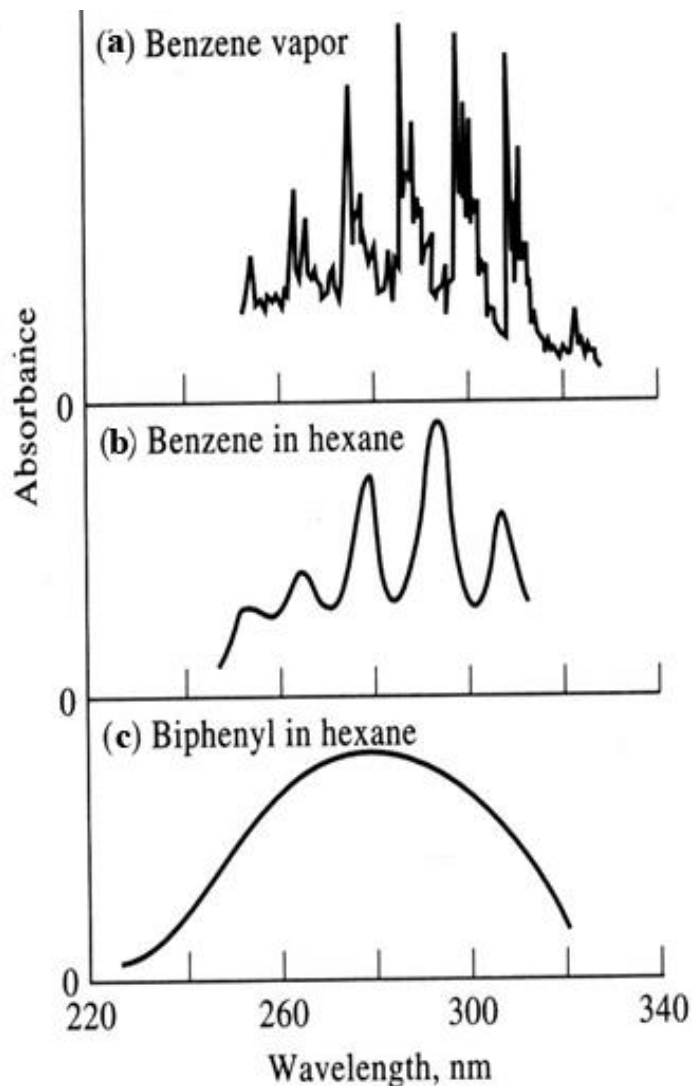


## Band Structure

- When these energy levels are superimposed, the effect can be readily explained – any transition has the possibility of being observed



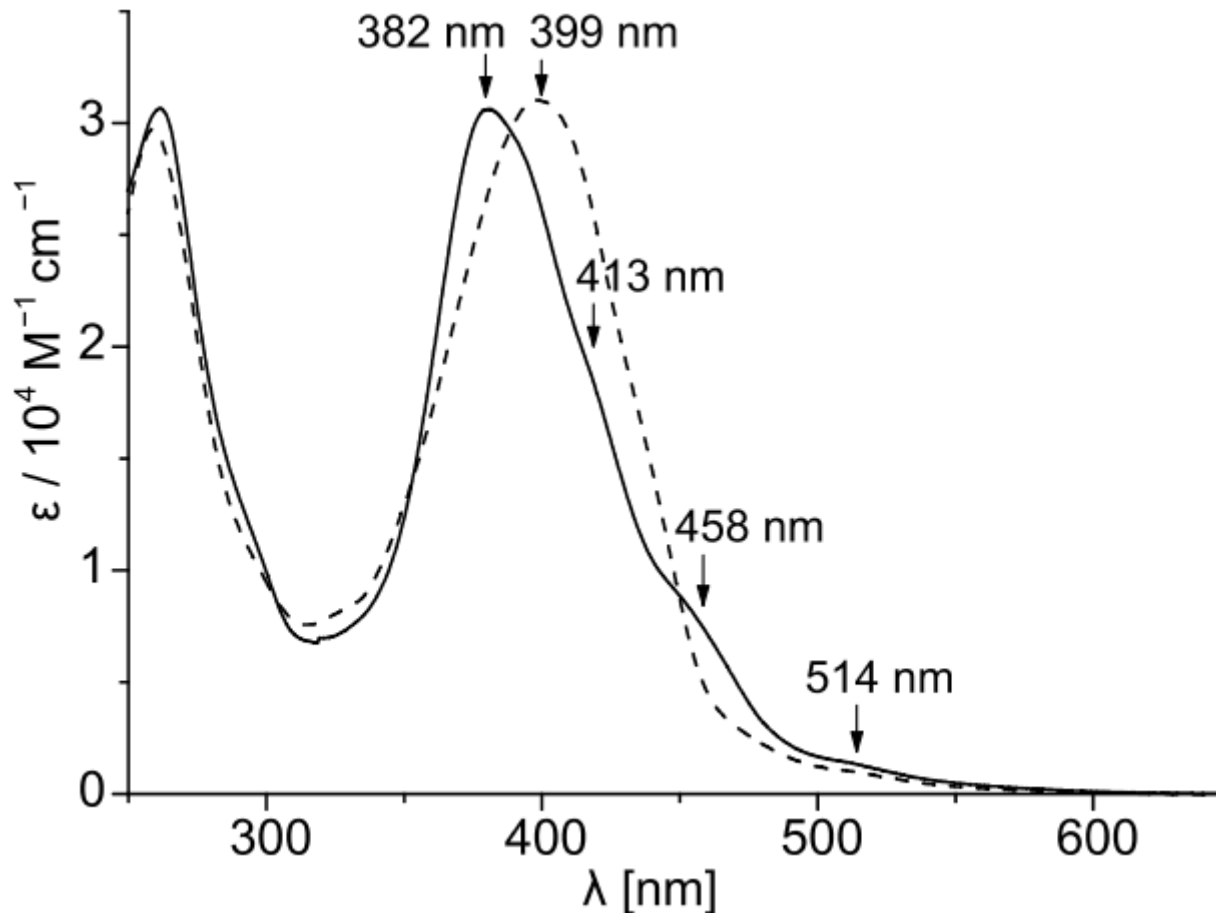
# MOLECULAR ABSORPTION SPECTRA



- The sharpness of molecular absorption spectra also depends on the state of the sample.
- Figure (a) shows an *absorption band* due to transitions between electronic-vibrational-rotational states
- Figure (c) shows a *continuous spectra* due to the sample is in the condensed state. In condensed states the spectra broaden due to molecular collisions.

# UV Spectroscopy

- Due to the lack of any fine structure, spectra are rarely shown in their raw form, rather, the peak maxima are simply reported as a numerical list of “lambda max” values or  $\lambda_{\max}$

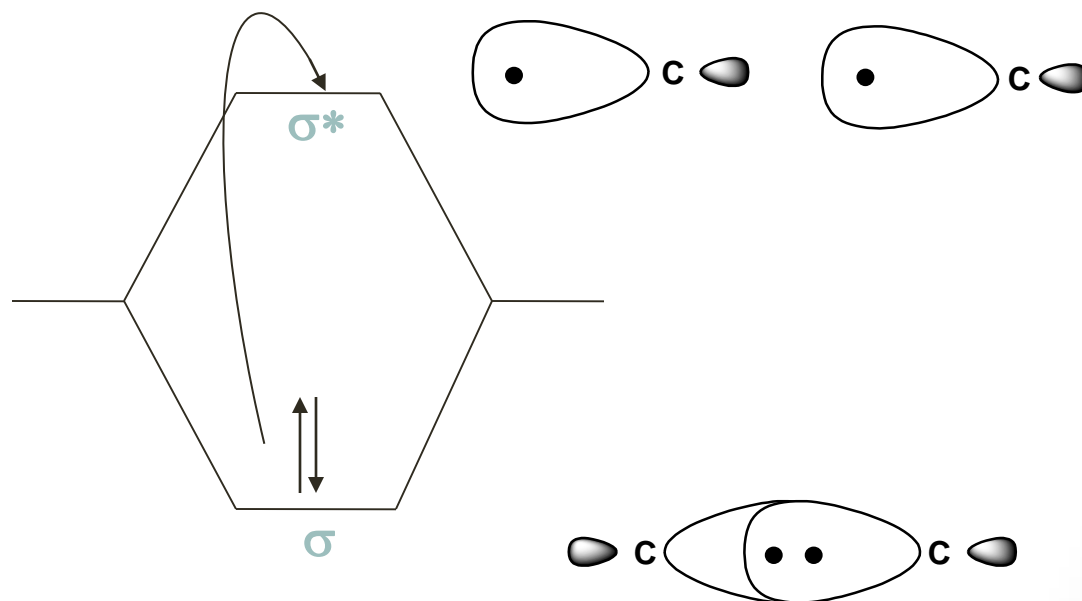


# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores

1. **Alkanes** – only possess  $\sigma$ -bonds and no lone pairs of electrons, so only the high energy  $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$  transition is observed in the far UV

This transition is destructive to the molecule, causing cleavage of the  $\sigma$ -bond

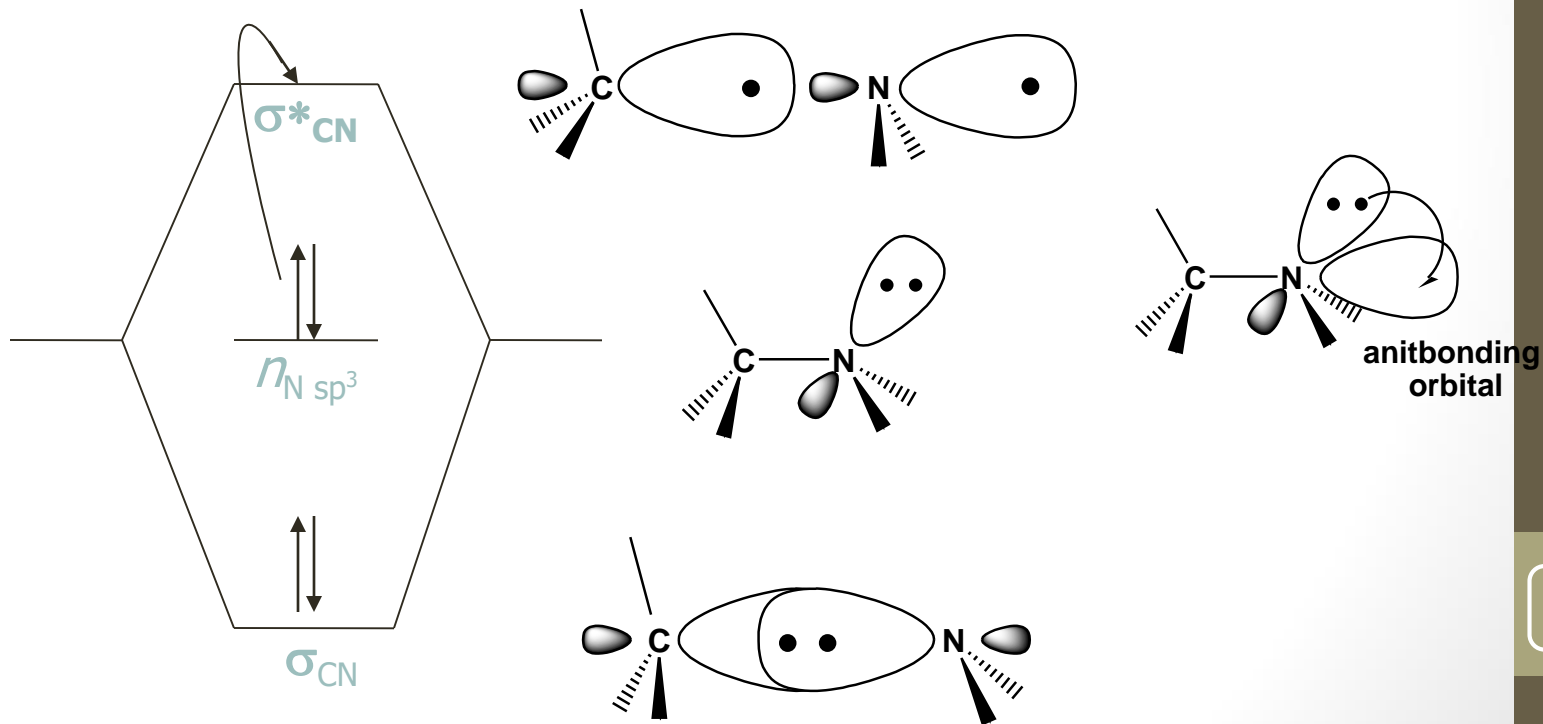


# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores

2. **Alcohols, ethers, amines and sulfur compounds** – in the cases of simple, aliphatic examples of these compounds the  $n \rightarrow \sigma^*$  is the most often observed transition; like the alkane  $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$  it is most often at shorter  $\lambda$  than 200 nm

Note how this transition occurs from the HOMO to the LUMO

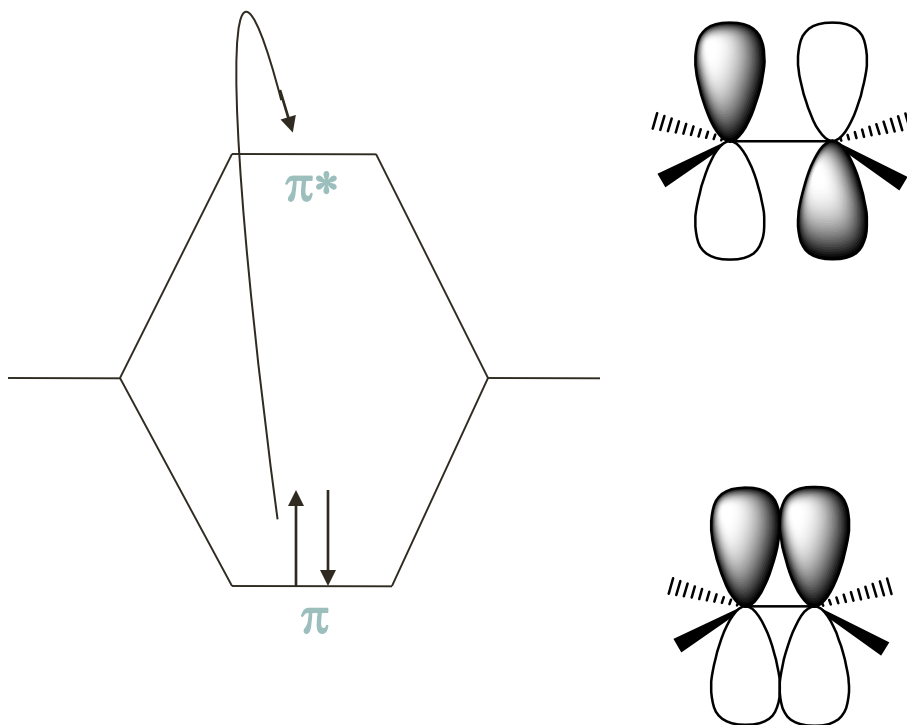


# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores

3. **Alkenes and Alkynes** – in the case of isolated examples of these compounds the  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  is observed at 175 and 170 nm, respectively

Even though this transition is of lower energy than  $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$ , it is still in the far UV – however, the transition energy is sensitive to substitution



## Chromophores

4. **Carbonyls** – unsaturated systems incorporating N or O can undergo  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions ( $\sim 285$  nm) in addition to  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$

Despite the fact this transition is forbidden by the selection rules ( $\epsilon = 15$ ), it is the most often observed and studied transition for carbonyls

This transition is also sensitive to substituents on the carbonyl

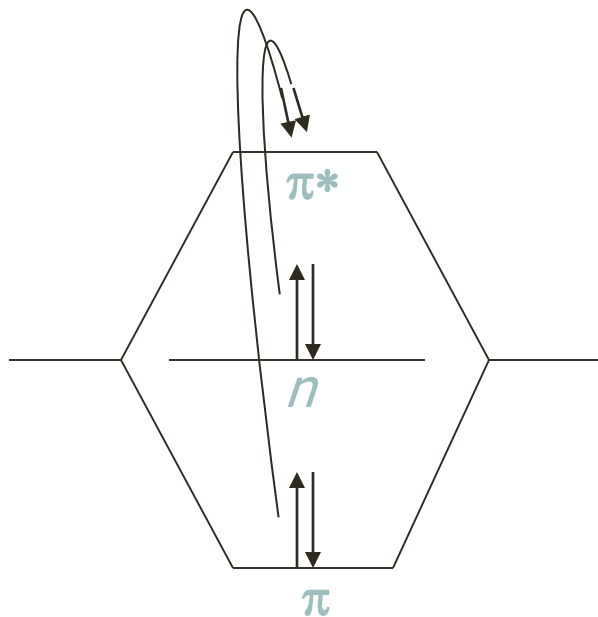
Similar to alkenes and alkynes, non-substituted carbonyls undergo the  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition in the vacuum UV (188 nm,  $\epsilon = 900$ ); sensitive to substitution effects



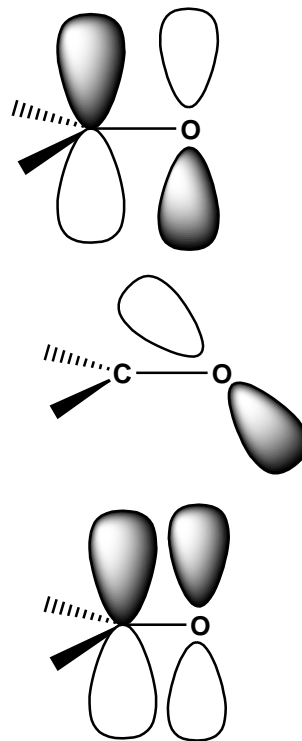
# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores

4. **Carbonyls** –  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions ( $\sim 285$  nm);  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  (188 nm)

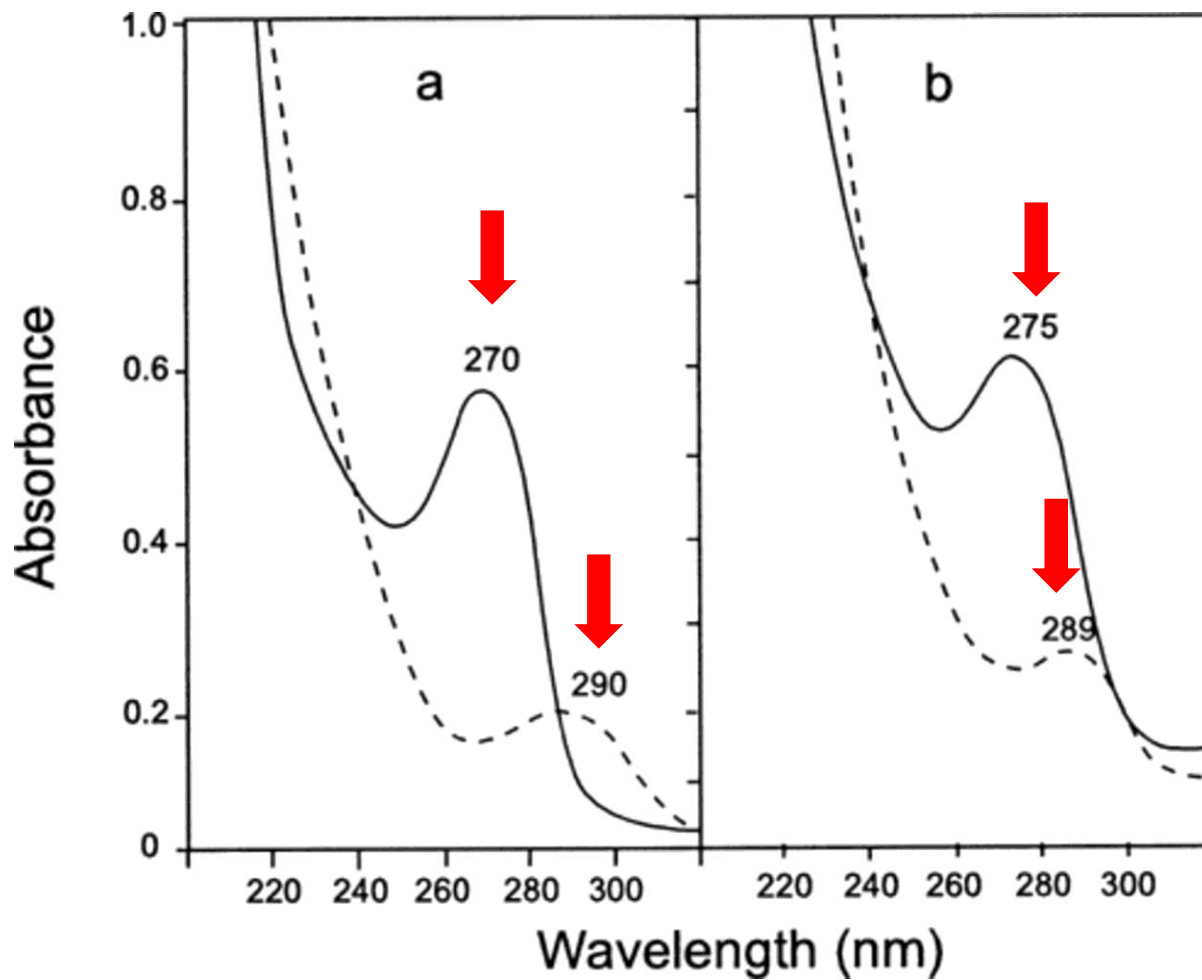


$\sigma_{CO}$  transitions omitted for clarity



It has been determined from spectral studies, that carbonyl oxygen more approximates  $sp$  rather than  $sp^2$  !

**Forbidden  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions** ↓

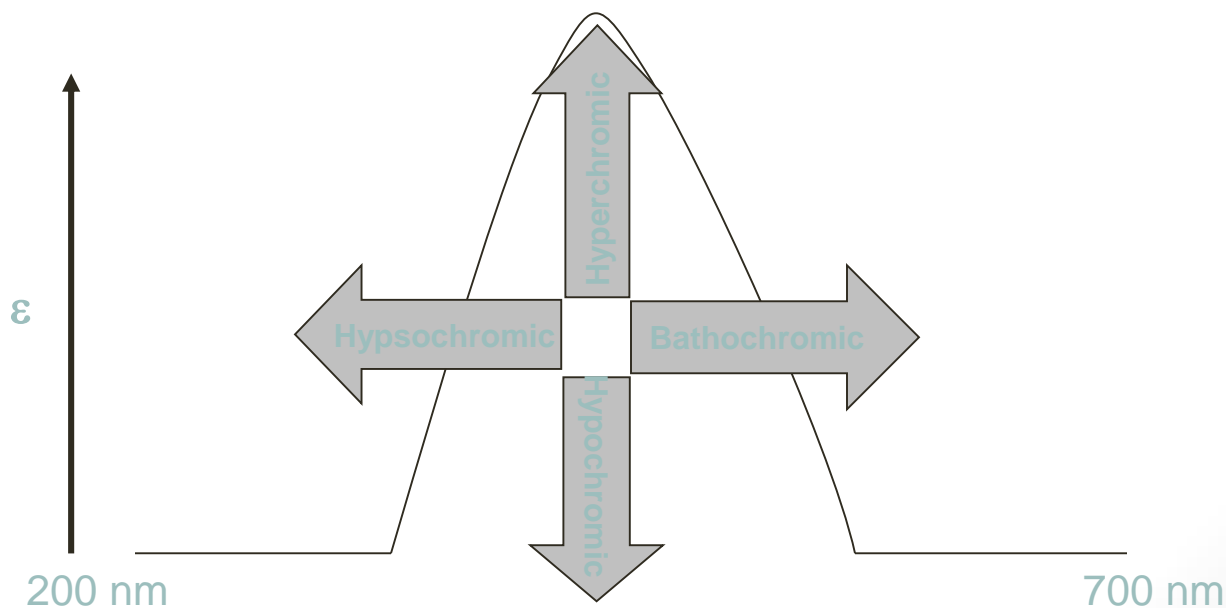


# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores - Substituent Effects

**General** – Substituents may have any of four effects on a chromophore

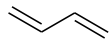
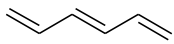
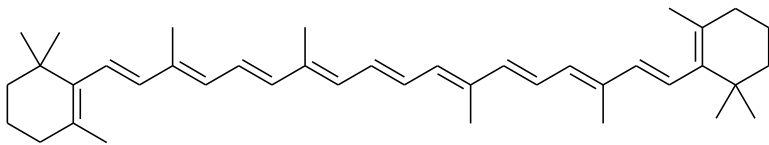

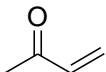
- i. **Bathochromic shift** (red shift) – a shift to longer  $\lambda$ ; lower energy
- ii. Hypsochromic shift (blue shift) – shift to shorter  $\lambda$ ; higher energy
- iii. Hyperchromic effect – an increase in intensity
- iv. Hypochromic effect – a decrease in intensity



# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores - Substituent Effects

1. **Conjugation** – most efficient means of bringing about a bathochromic and hyperchromic shift of an unsaturated chromophore:

	$\lambda_{\max}$ nm	$\epsilon$
$\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CH}_2$	175	15,000
	217	21,000
	258	35,000
 <b><math>\beta</math>-carotene</b>	465	125,000
	$n \rightarrow \pi^*$ 280 $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ 189	12 900
	$n \rightarrow \pi^*$ 280 $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ 213	27 7,100

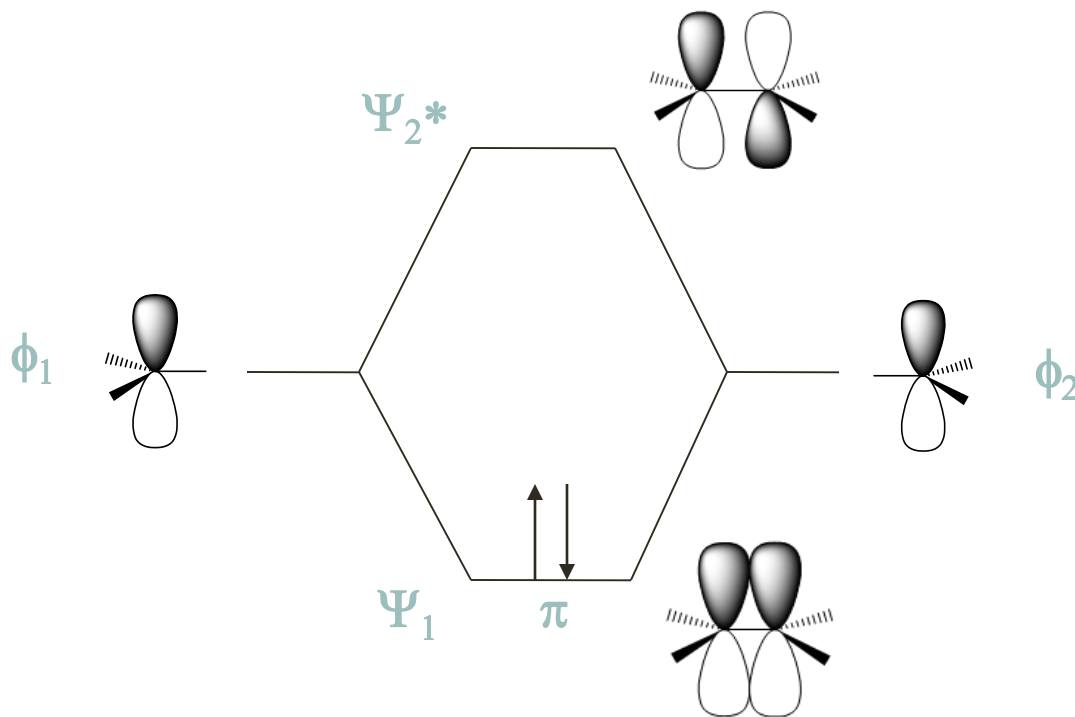
# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores - Substituent Effects

### 1. Conjugation – Alkenes

The observed shifts from conjugation imply that an increase in conjugation decreases the energy required for electronic excitation

From molecular orbital (MO) theory two atomic  $p$  orbitals,  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  from two  $sp^2$  hybrid carbons combine to form two MOs  $\Psi_1$  and  $\Psi_2^*$  in ethylene

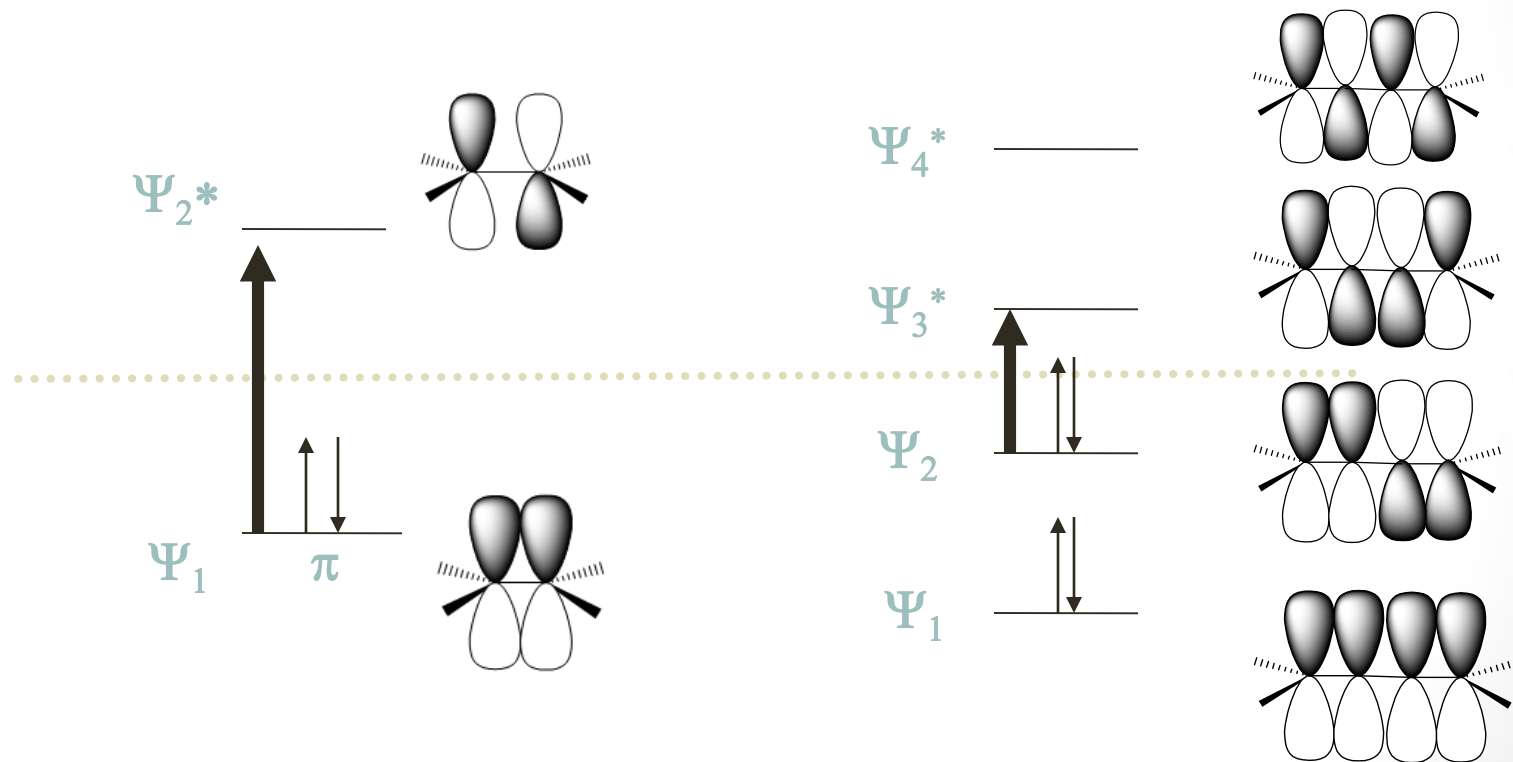


# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores - Substituent Effects

### 2. Conjugation – Alkenes

When we consider butadiene, we are now mixing 4 p orbitals giving 4 MOs of an energetically symmetrical distribution compared to ethylene



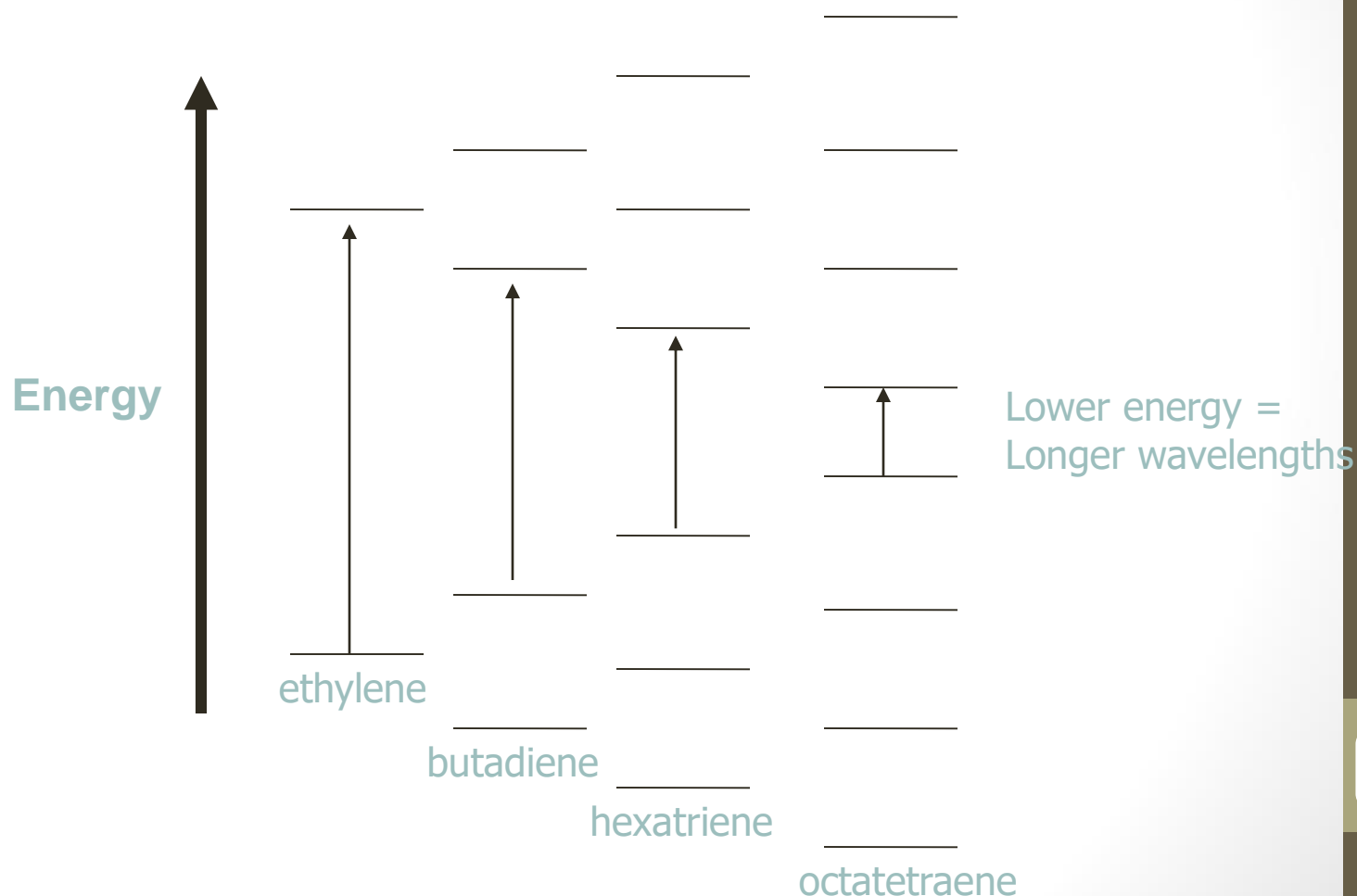
$\Delta E$  for the HOMO  $\rightarrow$  LUMO transition is **reduced**

# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores - Substituent Effects

### 2. Conjugation – Alkenes

Extending this effect out to longer conjugated systems the energy gap becomes progressively smaller:



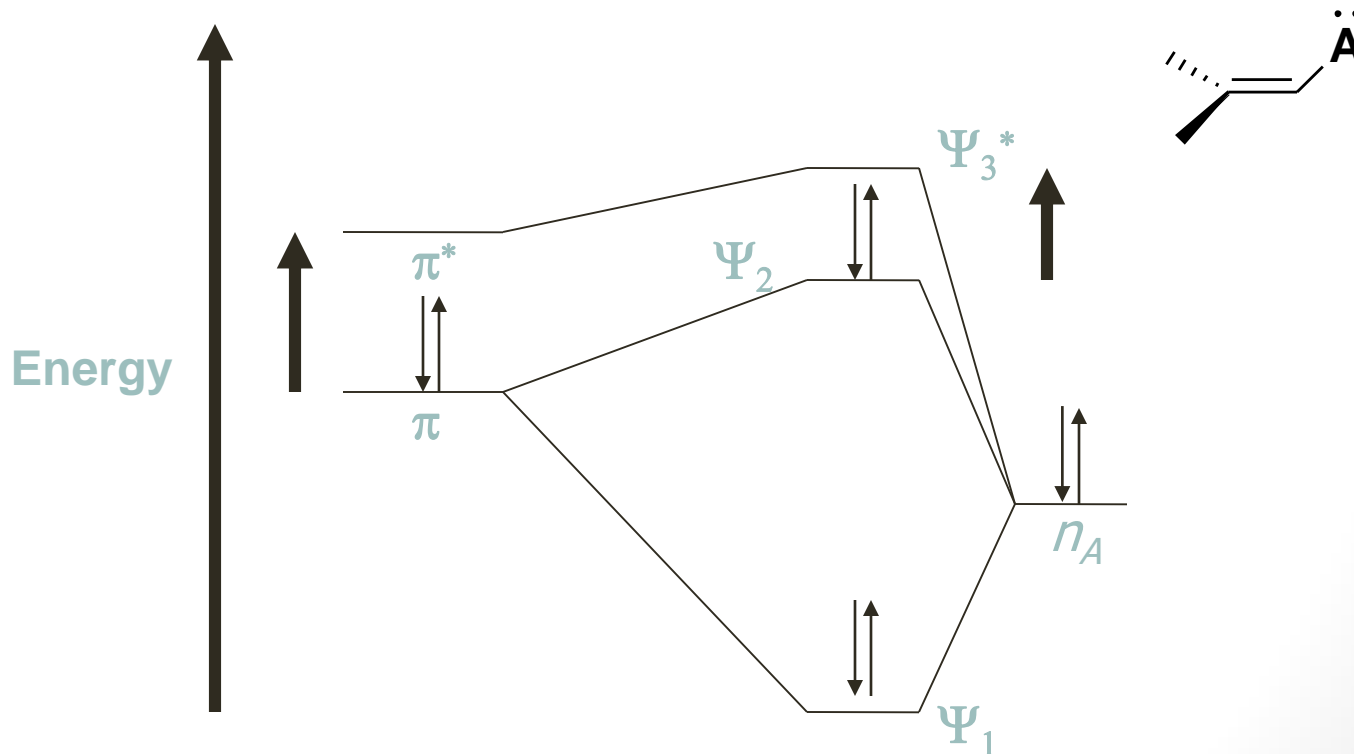
# UV Spectroscopy

## Chromophores - Substituent Effects

### 2. Conjugation – Alkenes

Similarly, the lone pairs of electrons on N, O, S, X can extend conjugated systems – auxochromes

Here we create 3 MOs – this interaction is not as strong as that of a conjugated  $\pi$ -system





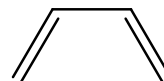
## Structure Determination Dienes

### 1. General Features

For acyclic butadiene, two conformers are possible – *s-cis* and *s-trans*



***s-trans***



***s-cis***

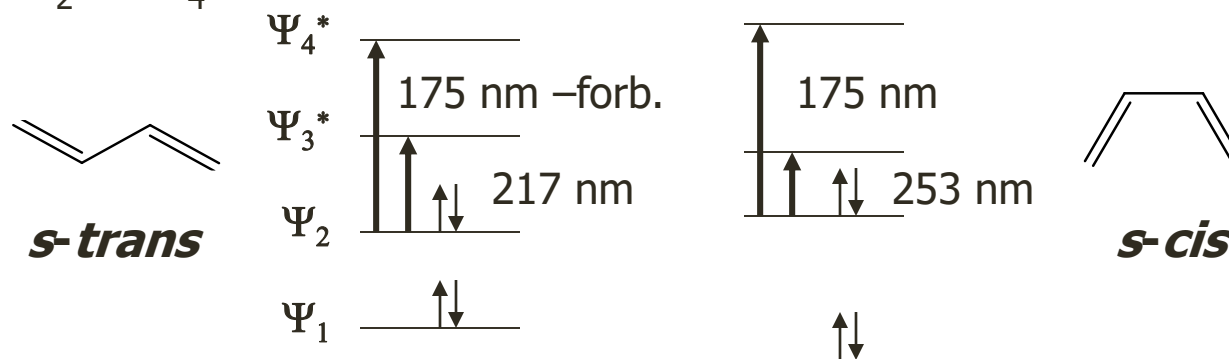
The *s-cis* conformer is at an overall higher potential energy than the *s-trans*; therefore the HOMO electrons of the conjugated system have less of a jump to the LUMO – lower energy, longer wavelength

# UV Spectroscopy

## Structure Determination Dienes

### 1. General Features

Two possible  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions can occur for butadiene  $\Psi_2 \rightarrow \Psi_3^*$  and  $\Psi_2 \rightarrow \Psi_4^*$



The  $\Psi_2 \rightarrow \Psi_4^*$  transition is not typically observed:

- The energy of this transition places it outside the region typically observed – 175 nm
- For the more favorable *s-trans* conformation, this transition is forbidden

The  $\Psi_2 \rightarrow \Psi_3^*$  transition is observed as an intense absorption

# UV Spectroscopy

## Structure Determination

### Dienes

#### 2. Woodward-Fieser Rules - Dienes

The rules begin with a base value for  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  of the chromophore being observed:



acyclic butadiene = 217 nm

The incremental contribution of substituents is added to this base value from the group tables:

Group	Increment
Extended conjugation	+30
Each exo-cyclic C=C	+5
Alkyl	+5
-OCOCH <sub>3</sub>	+0
-OR	+6
-SR	+30
-Cl, -Br	+5
-NR <sub>2</sub>	+60

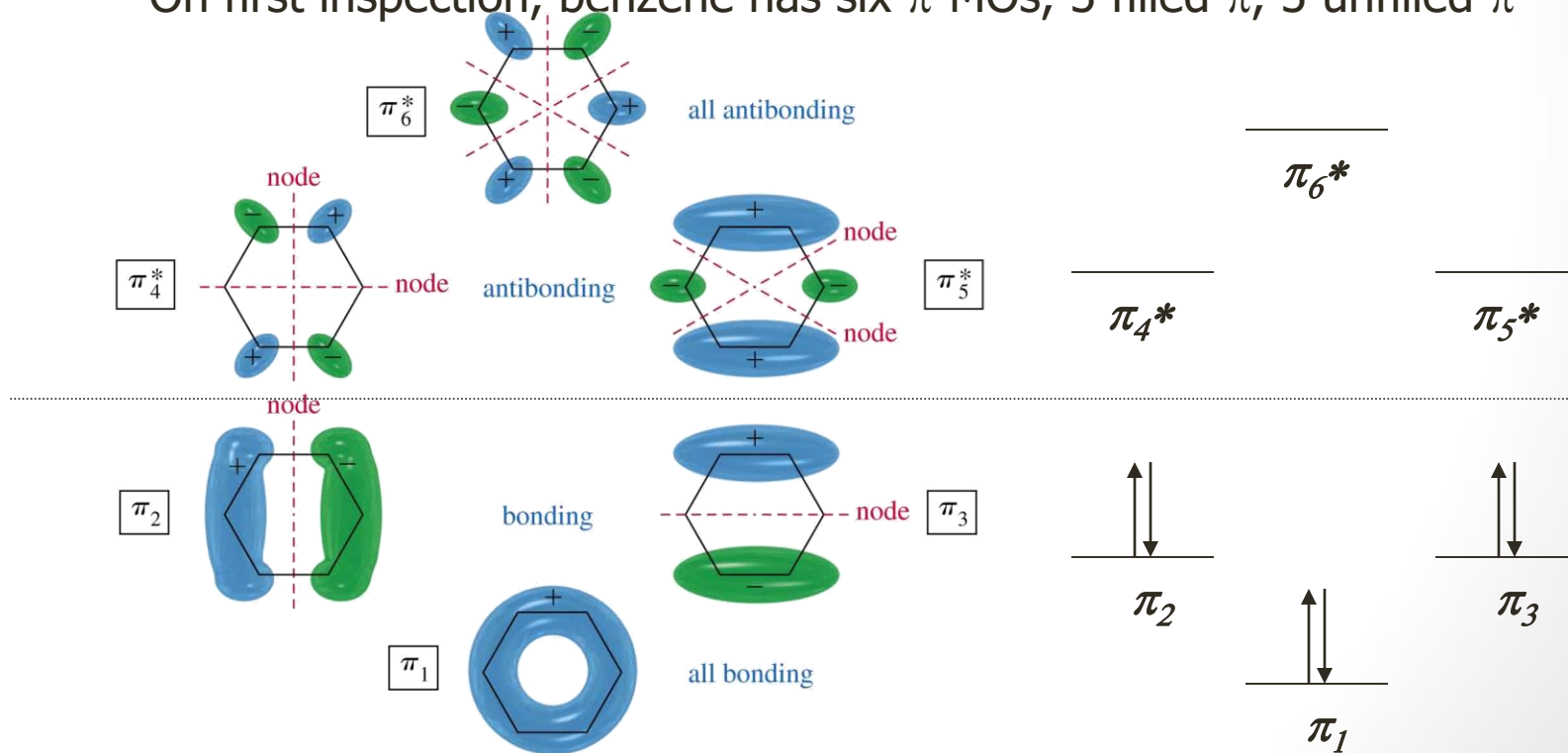
# UV Spectroscopy

## Structure Determination Aromatic Compounds

### 1. General Features

Although aromatic rings are among the most widely studied and observed chromophores, the absorptions that arise from the various electronic transitions are complex

On first inspection, benzene has six  $\pi$ -MOs, 3 filled  $\pi$ , 3 unfilled  $\pi^*$



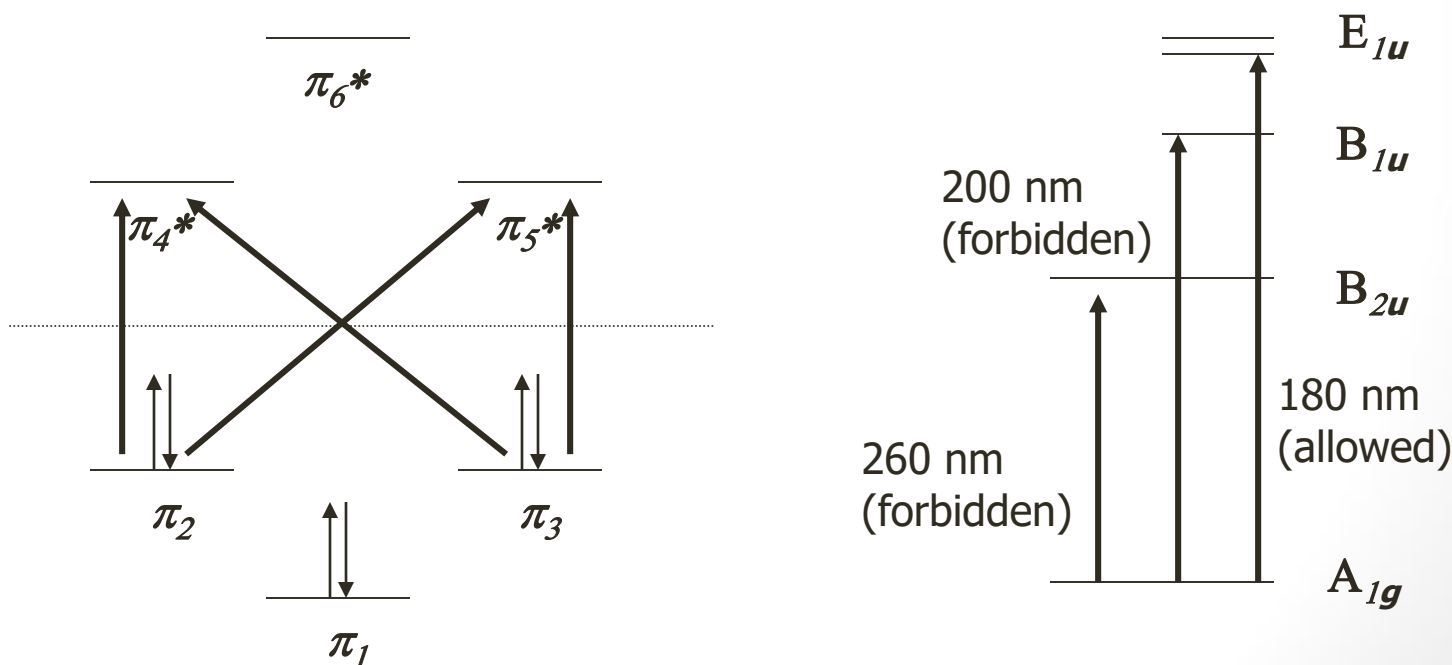
# UV Spectroscopy

## Structure Determination Aromatic Compounds

### 1. General Features

One would expect there to be four possible HOMO-LUMO  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions at observable wavelengths (conjugation)

Due to symmetry concerns and selection rules, the actual transition energy states of benzene are illustrated at the right:



# UV Spectroscopy

## Structure Determination Aromatic Compounds

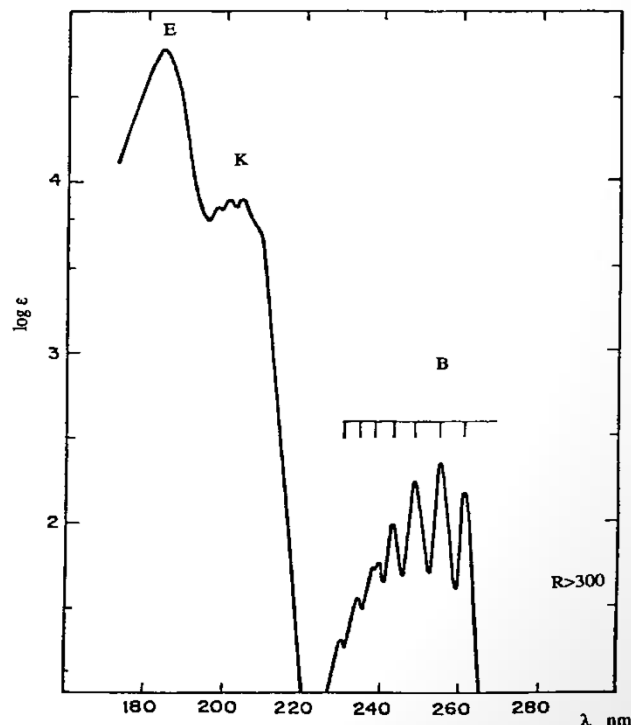
### 1. General Features

The allowed transition ( $\epsilon = 47,000$ ) is not in the routine range of UV obs. at 180 nm, and is referred to as the *primary band*

The forbidden transition ( $\epsilon = 7400$ ) is observed if substituent effects shift it into the obs. region; this is referred to as the *second primary band*

At 260 nm is another forbidden transition ( $\epsilon = 230$ ), referred to as the *secondary band*.

This transition is fleetingly allowed due to the disruption of symmetry by the vibrational energy states, the overlap of which is observed in what is called *fine structure*



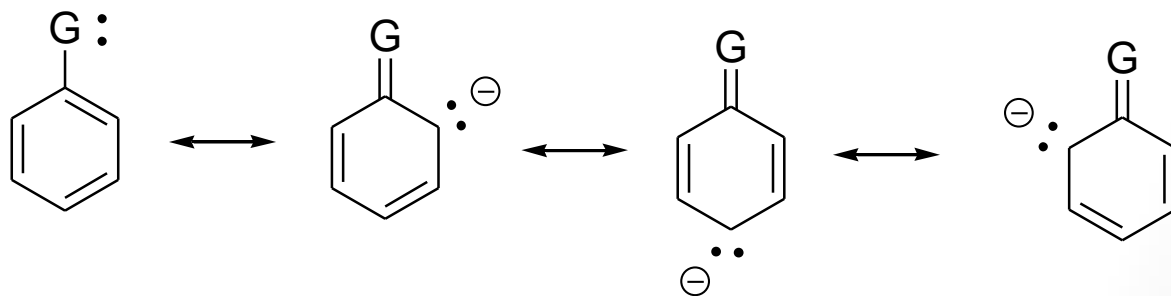
# UV Spectroscopy

## Structure Determination Aromatic Compounds

### 2. Substituent Effects

#### a. Substituents with Unshared Electrons

- If the group attached to the ring bears  $n$  electrons, they can induce a shift in the primary and secondary absorption bands
- Non-bonding electrons extend the  $\pi$ -system through resonance – lowering the energy of transition  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$
- More available  $n$ -pairs of electrons give greater shifts



# UV Spectroscopy

## Structure Determination Aromatic Compounds

### 2. Substituent Effects

#### a. Substituents with Unshared Electrons

- pH can change the nature of the substituent group
- deprotonation of oxygen gives more available  $n$ -pairs, *lowering* transition energy
- protonation of nitrogen eliminates the  $n$ -pair, *raising* transition energy

Substituent	Primary		Secondary	
	$\lambda_{\max}$	$\epsilon$	$\lambda_{\max}$	$\epsilon$
-H	203.5	7,400	254	204
-OH	211	6,200	270	1,450
-O <sup>-</sup>	235	9,400	287	2,600
-NH <sub>2</sub>	230	8,600	280	1,430
-NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup>	203	7,500	254	169
-C(O)OH	230	11,600	273	970
-C(O)O <sup>-</sup>	224	8,700	268	560

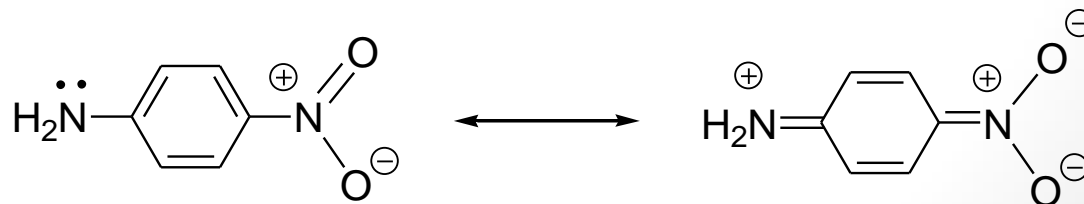


# UV Spectroscopy

## Structure Determination Aromatic Compounds

### 2. Substituent Effects

- d. Di-substituted and multiple group effects
- With di-substituted aromatics, it is necessary to consider both groups
  - If both groups are electron donating or withdrawing, the effect is similar to the effect of the stronger of the two groups as if it were a *mono* - substituted ring
  - If one group is electron withdrawing and one group electron donating and they are *para* - to one another, the magnitude of the shift is greater than the sum of both the group effects
  - Consider *p* - nitroaniline:

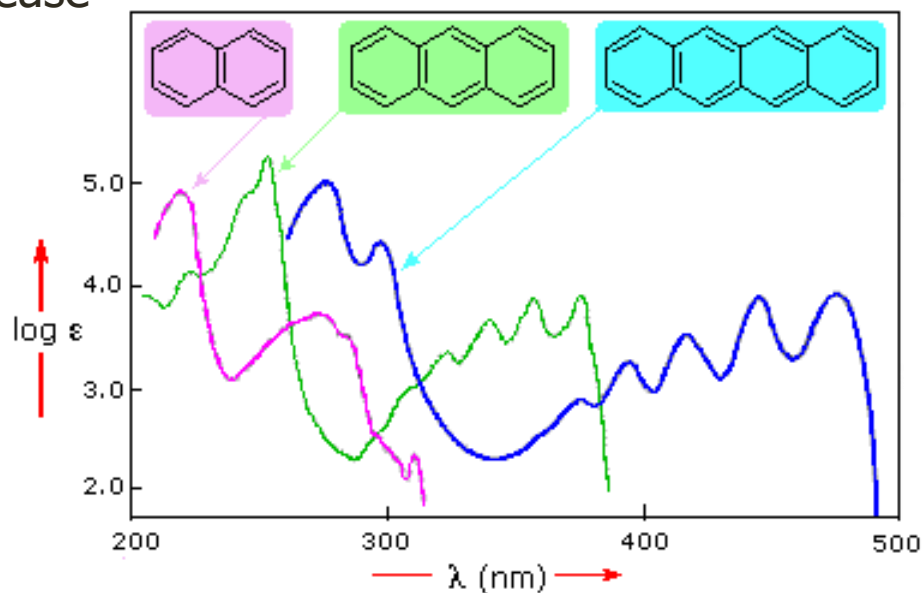


## Structure Determination Aromatic Compounds

### 2. Substituent Effects

#### d. Polynuclear aromatics

- When the number of fused aromatic rings increases, the  $\lambda$  for the primary and secondary bands also increase



- For heteroaromatic systems spectra become complex with the addition of the  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition and ring size effects and are unique to each case

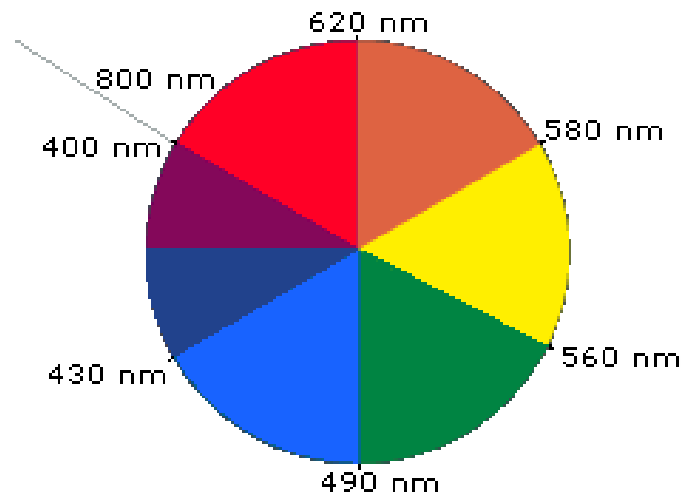
# UV Spectroscopy

## Visible Spectroscopy

### Color

#### 1. General

- When white (continuum of  $\lambda$ ) light passes through, or is reflected by a surface, those  $\lambda$ s that are absorbed are removed from the transmitted or reflected light respectively
- What is "seen" is the complimentary colors (those that are not absorbed)
- This is the origin of the "color wheel"

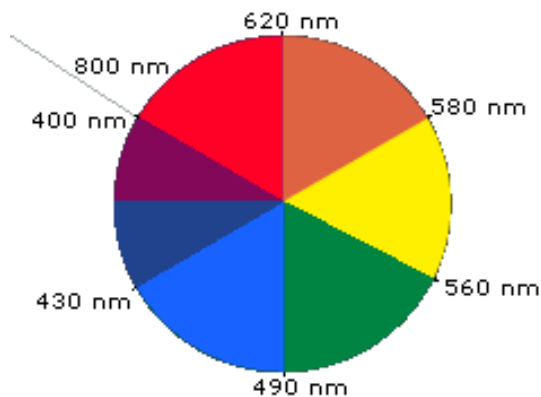
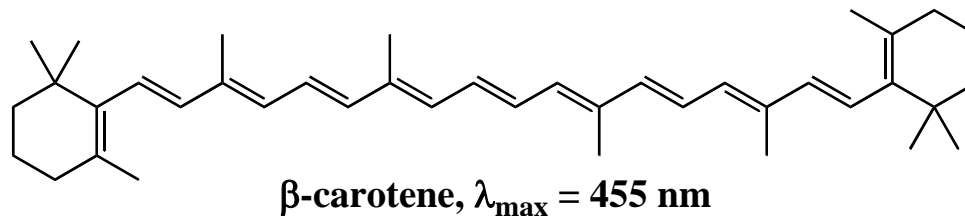


# UV Spectroscopy

## Visible Spectroscopy Color

### 1. General

- Organic compounds that are "colored" are typically those with extensively conjugated systems (typically more than five)
- Consider  $\beta$ -carotene



$\lambda_{\max}$  is at 455 – in the far blue region of the spectrum – this is absorbed

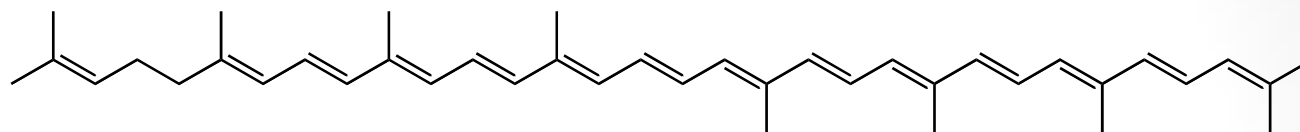
The remaining light has the complementary color of orange

# UV Spectroscopy

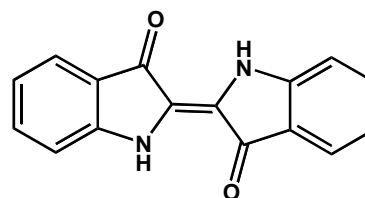
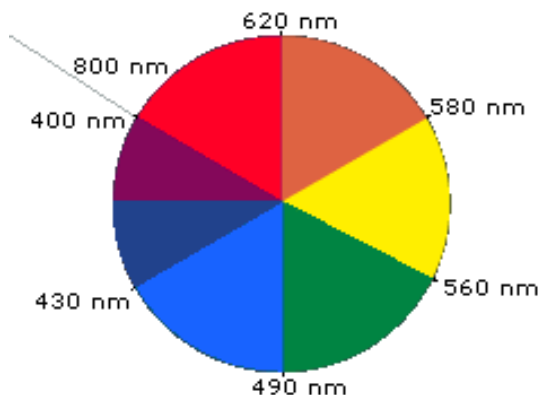
## Visible Spectroscopy Color

### 1. General

- Likewise:



lycopene,  $\lambda_{\max} = 474 \text{ nm}$



indigo

$\lambda_{\max}$  for lycopene is at 474 – in the near blue region of the spectrum – this is absorbed, the compliment is now red

$\lambda_{\max}$  for indigo is at 602 – in the orange region of the spectrum – this is absorbed, the compliment is now indigo!

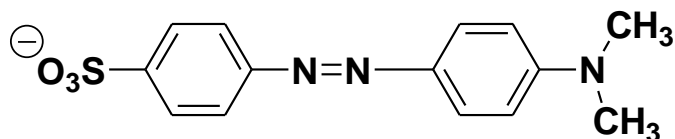
# UV Spectroscopy

## Visible Spectroscopy Color

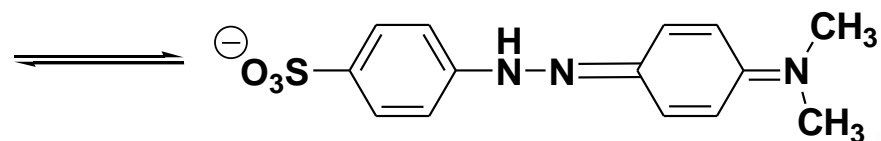
### 1. General

- In the chemical sciences these are the acid-base indicators used for the various pH ranges:
- Remember the effects of pH on aromatic substituents

### Methyl Orange



Yellow, pH > 4.4



Red, pH < 3.2

