



**UNESCO/IUPAC Postgraduate Course in  
Polymer Science**

Lecture:

**Vibrational Spectroscopy of Polymers:  
Contemporary Methods**

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## Vibrational spectroscopy

- **Infrared** spectroscopy
- **Raman** scattering

interaction of electromagnetic radiation with matter,  $10^{-14} - 10^{-11}$  s  
structure, dynamics

- **theoretical background**
- **experimental techniques**

## Vibrational spectroscopy of polymer systems

- ***poly(N-methylolactam), blend with poly(vinylphenol)***
  - crystallinity
  - conformational structure
  - hydrogen bonding
- ***aggregation of PC in solution***
  - time-dependent measurements
  - 2D correlation spectroscopy
- ***PE/PP blends***
  - near infrared spectroscopy
  - Raman microscopy, imaging

• ***aqueous solutions of thermoresponsive polymers***

## Vibrational spectroscopy

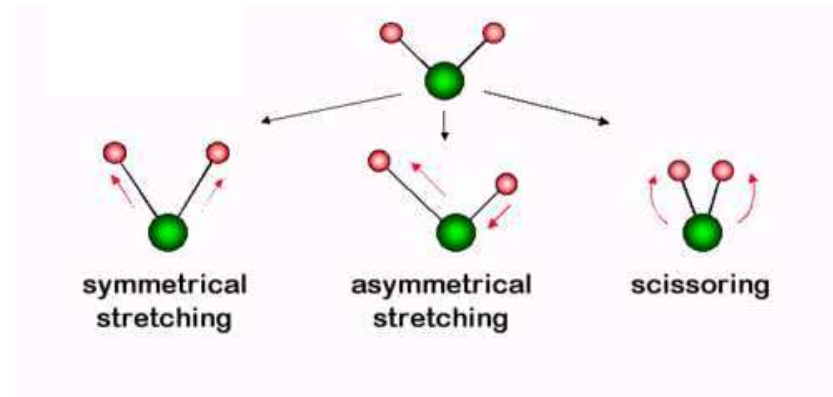
Vibrational degrees of freedom

normal vibrations ( $3N - 6$ ):

**normal frequency**  $\nu_i$

**normal coordinate**  $q_i$

**force constants**  $f_{ij}$



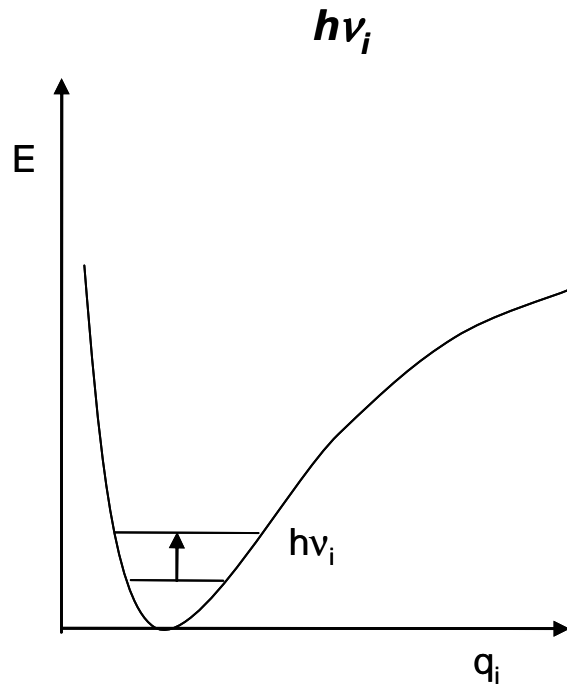
$$T = 1/2 \sum_i \dot{q}_i^2$$

$$V = 1/2 \sum_{i,j} f_{ij} q_i q_j ; \quad f_{ij} = \left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial q_i \partial q_j} \right)_0$$

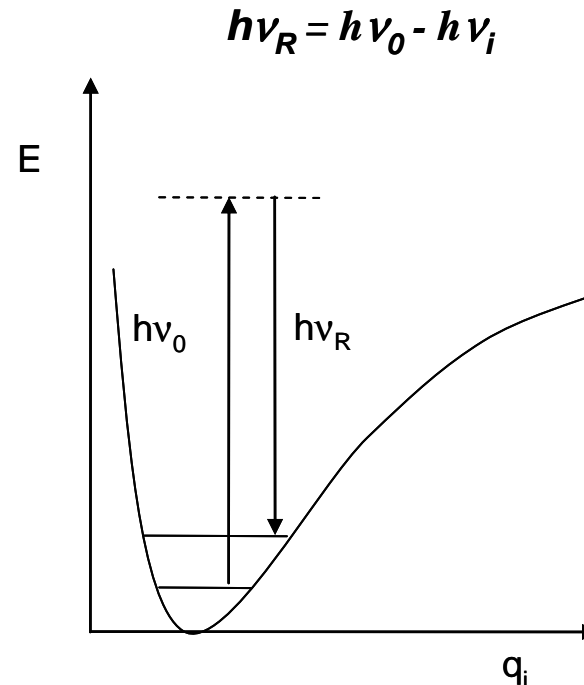
$$E = T + V$$

$$E_{n_i} = h \cdot \nu_i (n_i + 1/2), \quad n_i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

## Infrared absorption



## Raman scattering



**Infrared spectroscopy**  $\left(\frac{\partial\mu}{\partial q_i}\right)_0 \neq 0$ ,  $\mu$  *molecular dipole moment*

**Raman scattering**  $\left(\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial q_i}\right)_0 \neq 0$ ,  $\alpha$  *molecular polarizability*  $\mu' = \alpha \mathbf{E}$

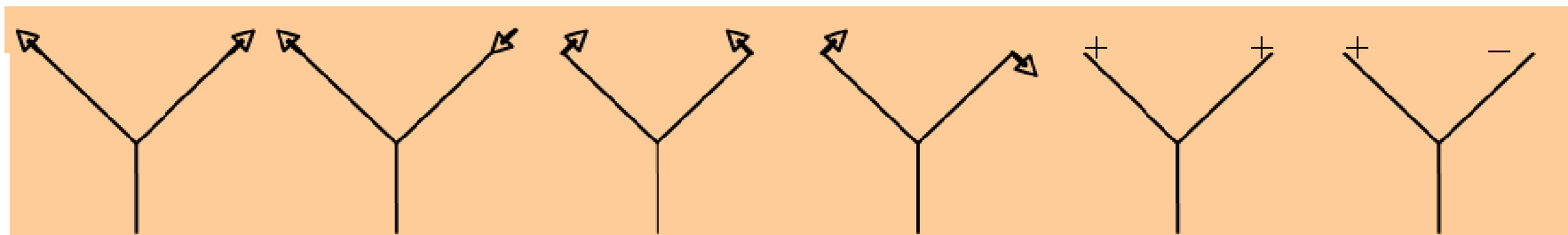
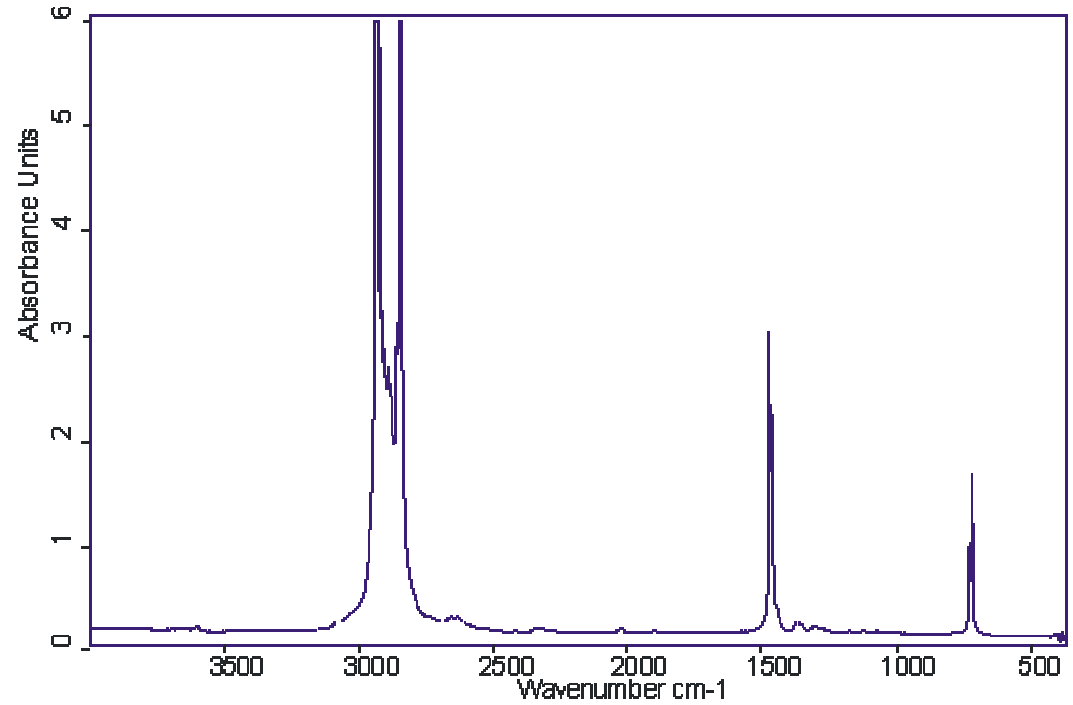
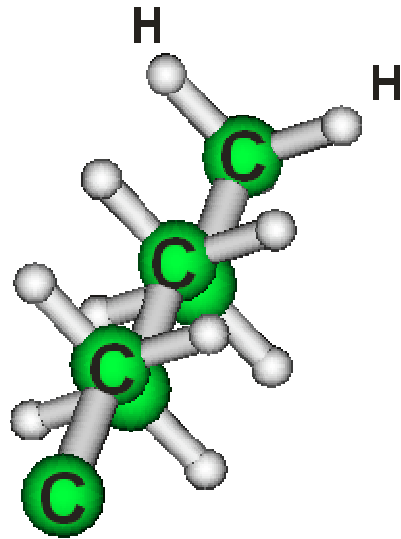
**symmetry:** selection rules (inversion center - complementary IR, Ra)

## Characteristic frequencies

Vibration	Region [cm <sup>-1</sup> ]	Intensity	
		Raman	IR
O-H str	3650-3000	weak	strong
N-H str	3500-3300	medium	medium
=C-H str	3100-3300	weak	strong
-C-H str	3000-2800	strong	medium
C=O str	1820-1680	strong-weak	very strong
C=C str	1900-1500	very strong	very weak
C=N str	1680-1610	strong	medium
CH <sub>2</sub> bend	1470-1410	medium	medium
CH <sub>3</sub> asym. bend	1470-1400	medium	medium
CH <sub>3</sub> sym. bend	1380	medium-weak	strong-medium
C-O-C asym. str	1150-1060	weak	strong
C-O-C sym. str	970-800	strong	weak

# Chain molecules

## CH<sub>2</sub> groups



**sym.**

**antisym.**

**stretching**

**deformation**

**rocking**

**wagging**

**twisting**

**2850 cm<sup>-1</sup>**

**2925**

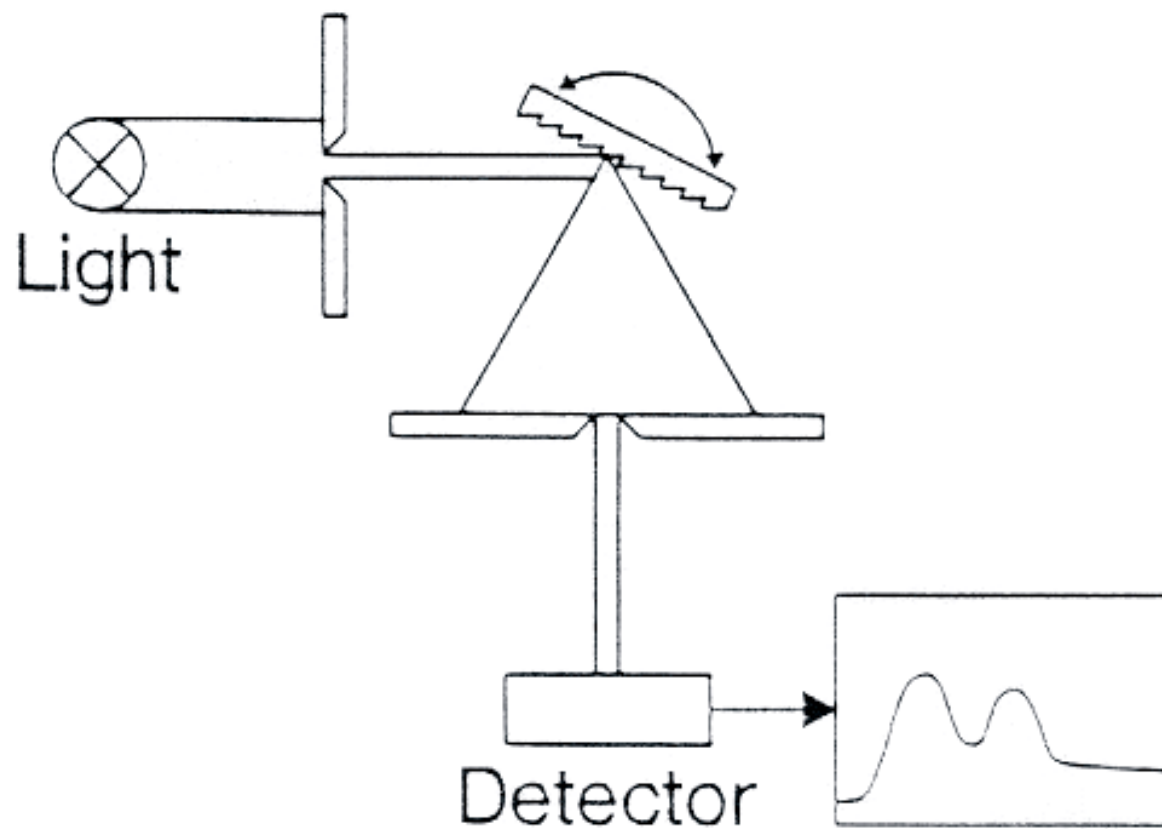
**1470**

**725**

**≈1300**

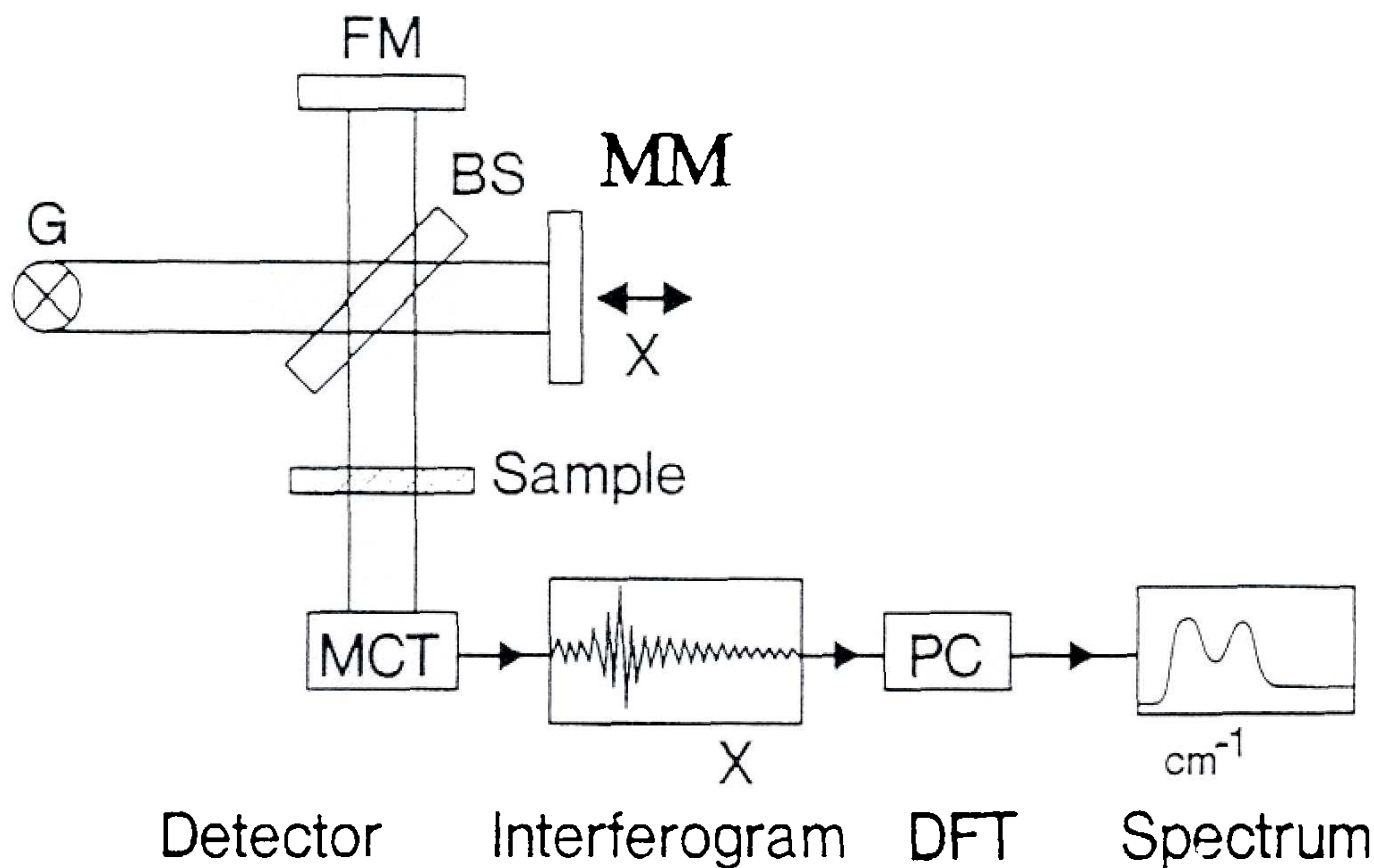
**≈1200**

## Diagram of an dispersive IR instrument

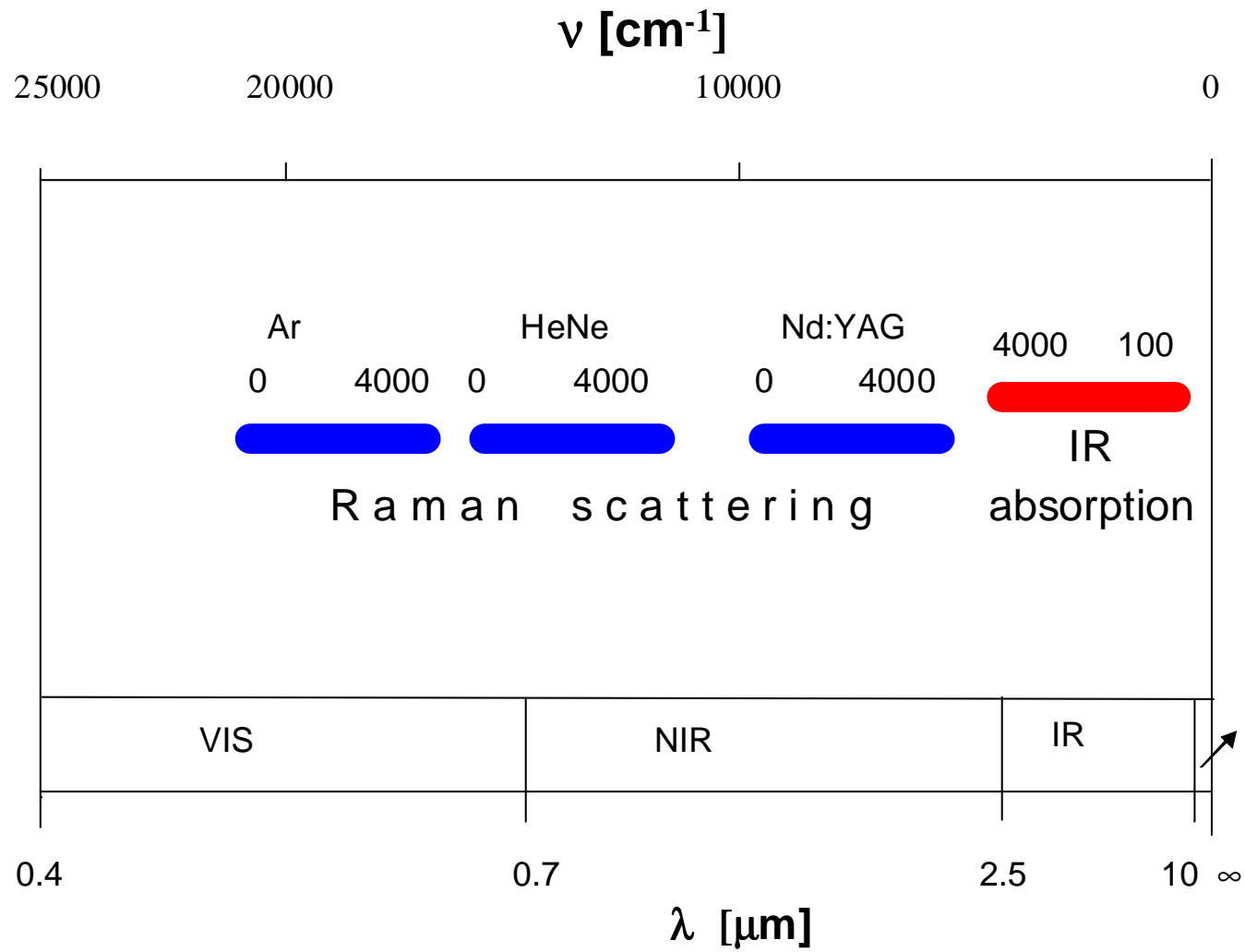


Raman: CCD detector

## Diagram of an FT-IR apparatus







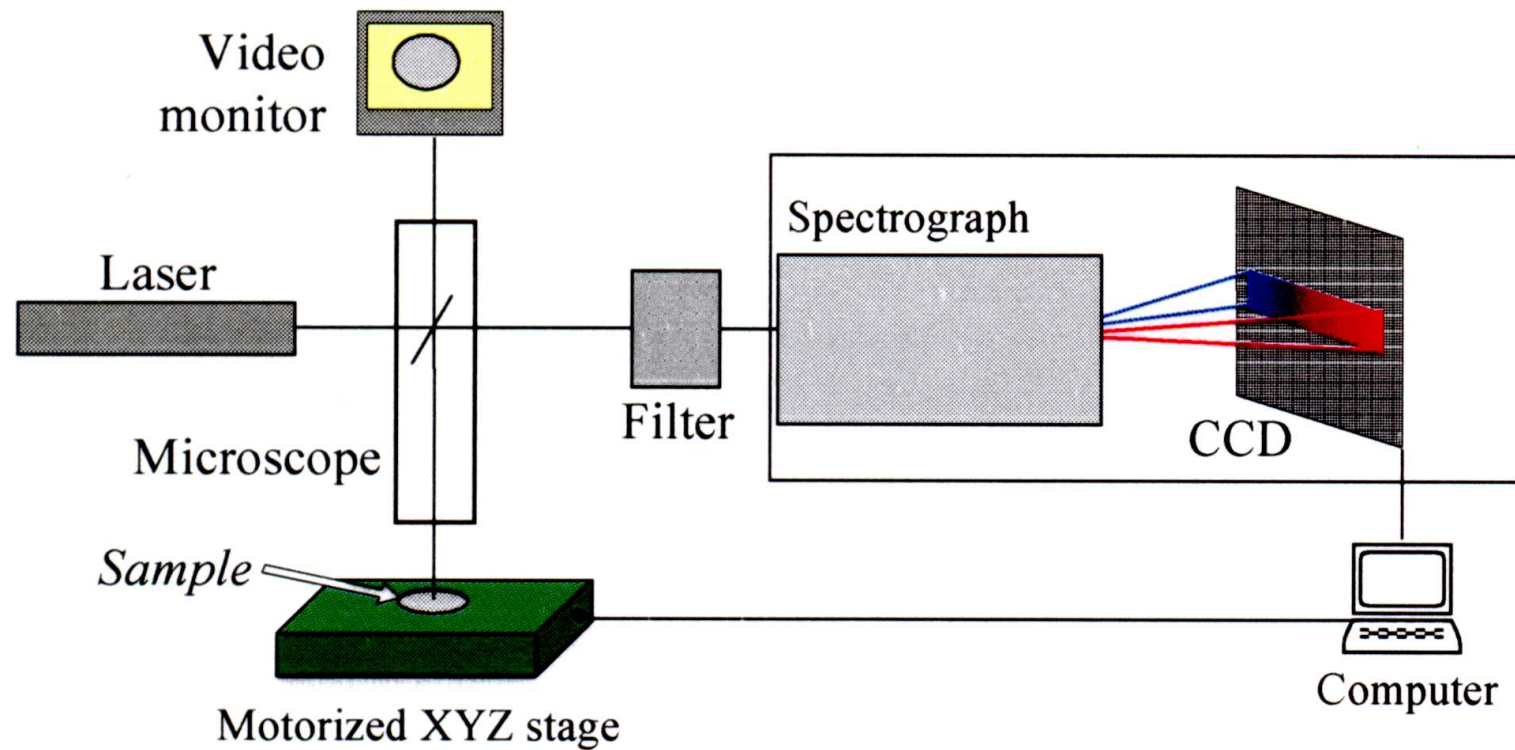
sources, detectors

# Renishaw inVia Reflex Raman microscope



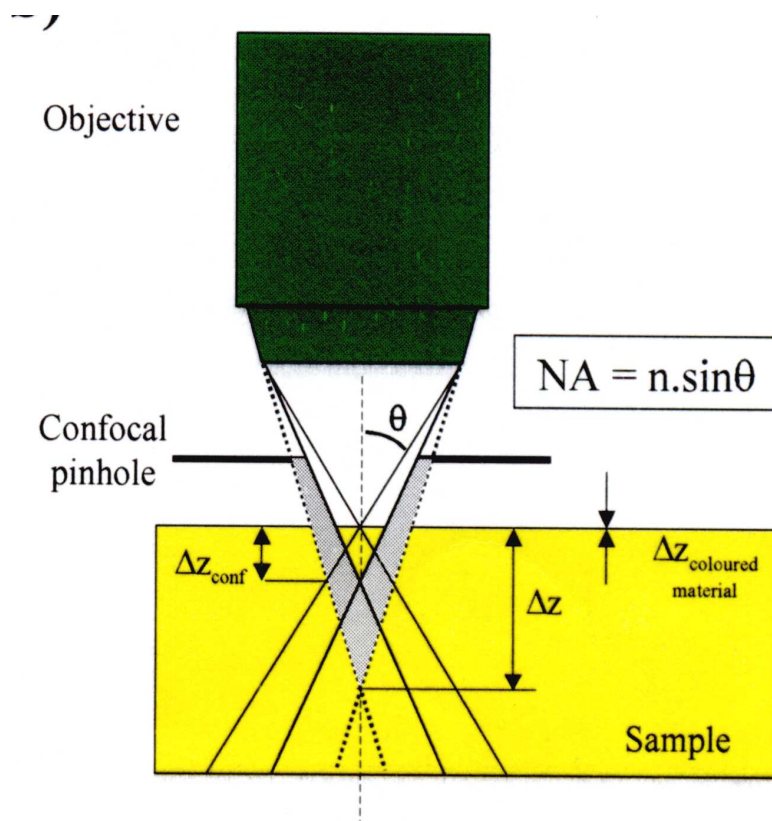
- high efficiency 250 mm focal length spectrograph equipped by 20x50x100 objectives, the resolution of 0.5  $\text{cm}^{-1}/\text{pixel}$  (grating 3000 lines/mm).
- the HeNe 633 nm and Argon-ion 514 nm lasers are available.
- XYZ mapping sample stage with joystick and software control allows scatter, line and area mapping.
- the NExT filter allows the measurement of the Raman spectrum to 5  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .
- Additional Macro Sampling Kit is available.

# Principle of a conventional micro-Raman spectrometer



# Principle of a confocal microscope

Observation of a sample through a microscope

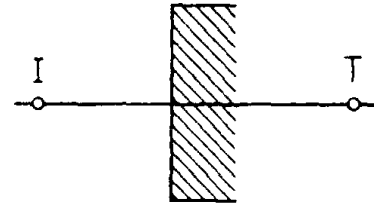


A confocal hole rejects the shadowed light and facilitates a more accurate in-depth analysis ( $\Delta z_{\text{conf}} < \Delta z$ ).

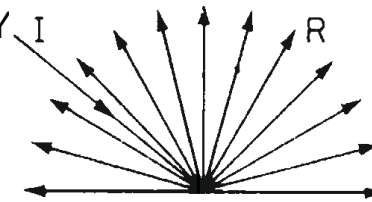
NA: Numerical Aperture  
n is the refractive index of the medium separating the objective from the sample.

# EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES (FT-IR)

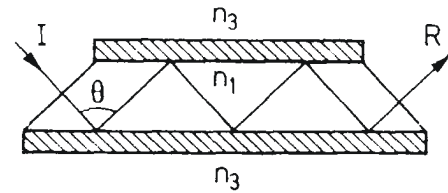
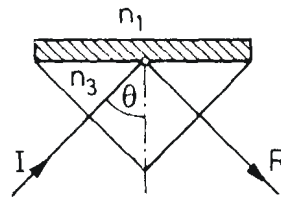
## TRANSMISSION MEASUREMENT



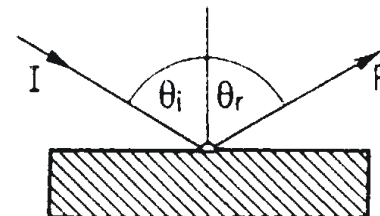
## DIFFUSE REFLECTANCE SPECTROSCOPY



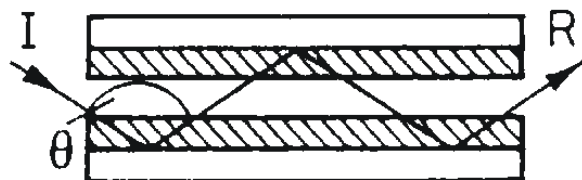
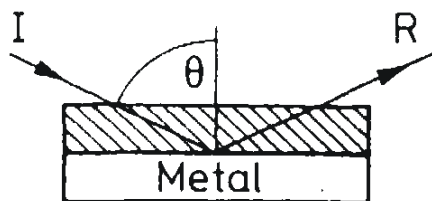
## INTERNAL REFLECTION SPECTROSCOPY (ATR, GOLDEN GATE)



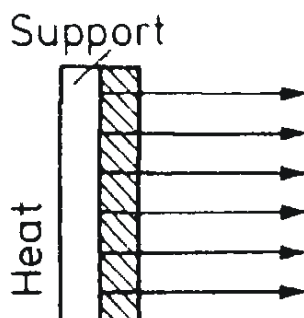
## EXTERNAL REFLECTION SPECTROSCOPY



## REFLECTION-ABSORPTION INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY

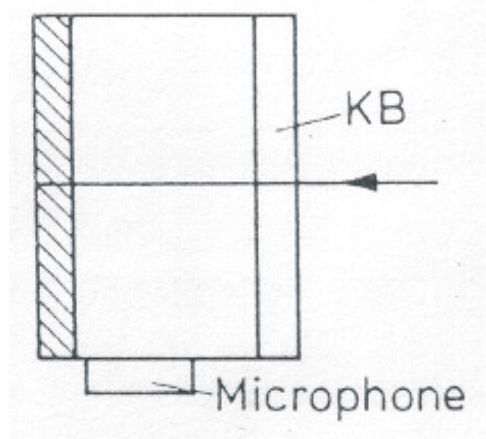


## EMISSION SPECTROSCOPY



## PHOTOACOUSTIC SPECTROSCOPY

(generation of an acoustic signal by a sample exposed to modulated light, enclosed chamber – helium)

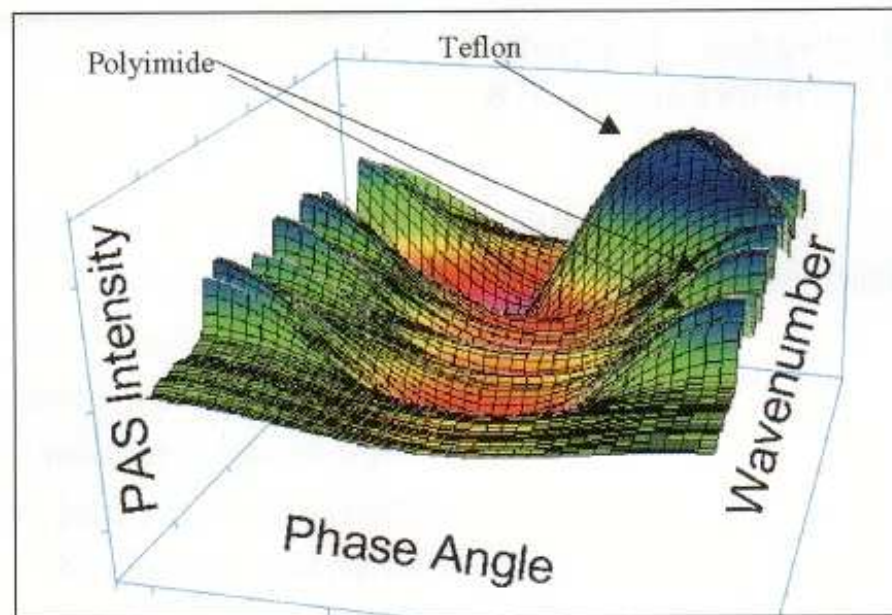
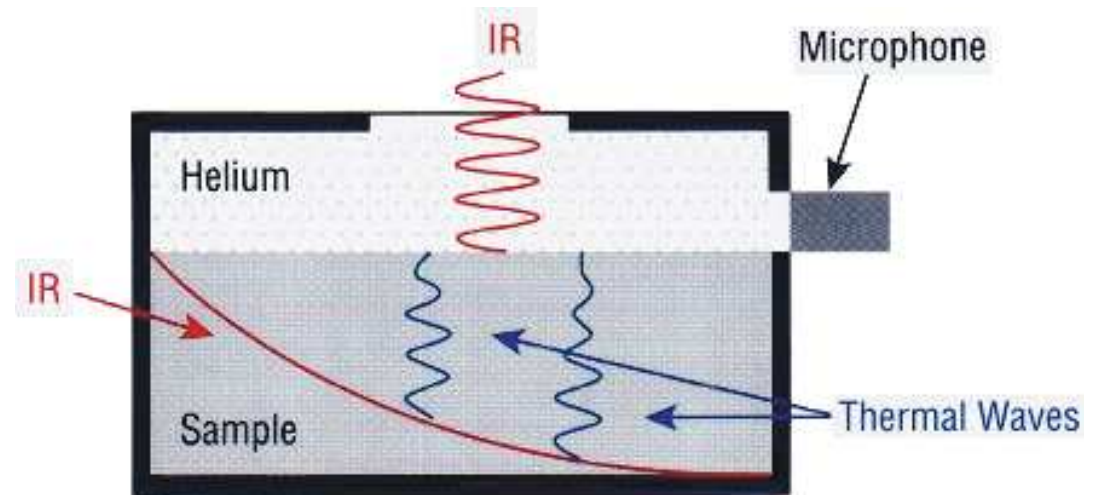


# Step-scan application

## Photoacoustic Spectral Depth Profiling

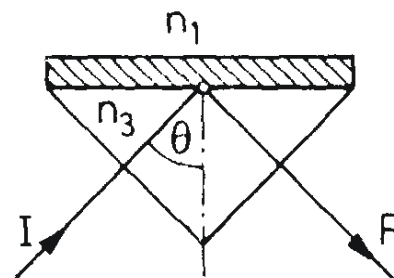
phase modulation

(6 - 80  $\mu\text{m}$ )



## Golden Gate

## Diamond ATR System



**Sensitivity** is achieved using high-pressure contact against a type IIa diamond

### Applications

- Solids, liquids, pastes, powders, pellets
- Microsamples, fibers, paint chips
- Pharmaceutical preparations
- Hard and soft polymer pellets
- Forensics
- Rocks and geochemicals
- Coated wires
- Air sensitive samples



## Polymer systems

- **Structure analysis** ( $10^{-11} - 10^{-13}$  s)

conformational structures (crystallinity)

complexes, aggregation

interactions (hydrogen bonding)

polymer blends

polymer surfaces and interfaces

deformation of polymers

orientation induced by drawing

longitudinal acoustic modes (LAM, Raman) – lamellar structure

# Polymer systems

- **Time-dependent phenomena** in polymers

crystallization

curing of polymers

heating effects

dynamic deformation (stress-strain behaviour)

*time-resolved* spectroscopy (step-scan instruments)

- **Polymer chemistry**

analytical technique (different sample types

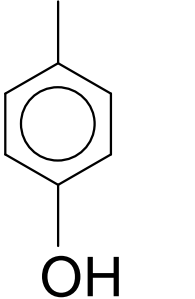
variety of environmental conditions)

oxidation

irradiation damage

## poly(N-methylaurolactam)/poly(4-vinylphenol) (PNMLL/PVPh)

PNMLL:  $\text{— NCH}_3\text{— CO— (CH}_2\text{)}_{11}\text{—}$  semicrystalline

PVPh:  $\text{— CH}_2\text{— CH—}$  amorphous (atactic)  


blends prepared by casting from solutions in THF

weight ratios:

88/12

64/36

31/69

mol. ratios of monomer units:

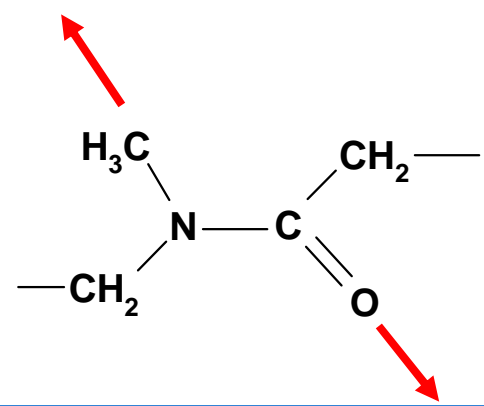
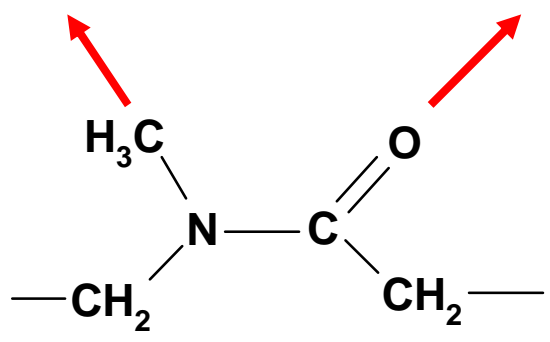
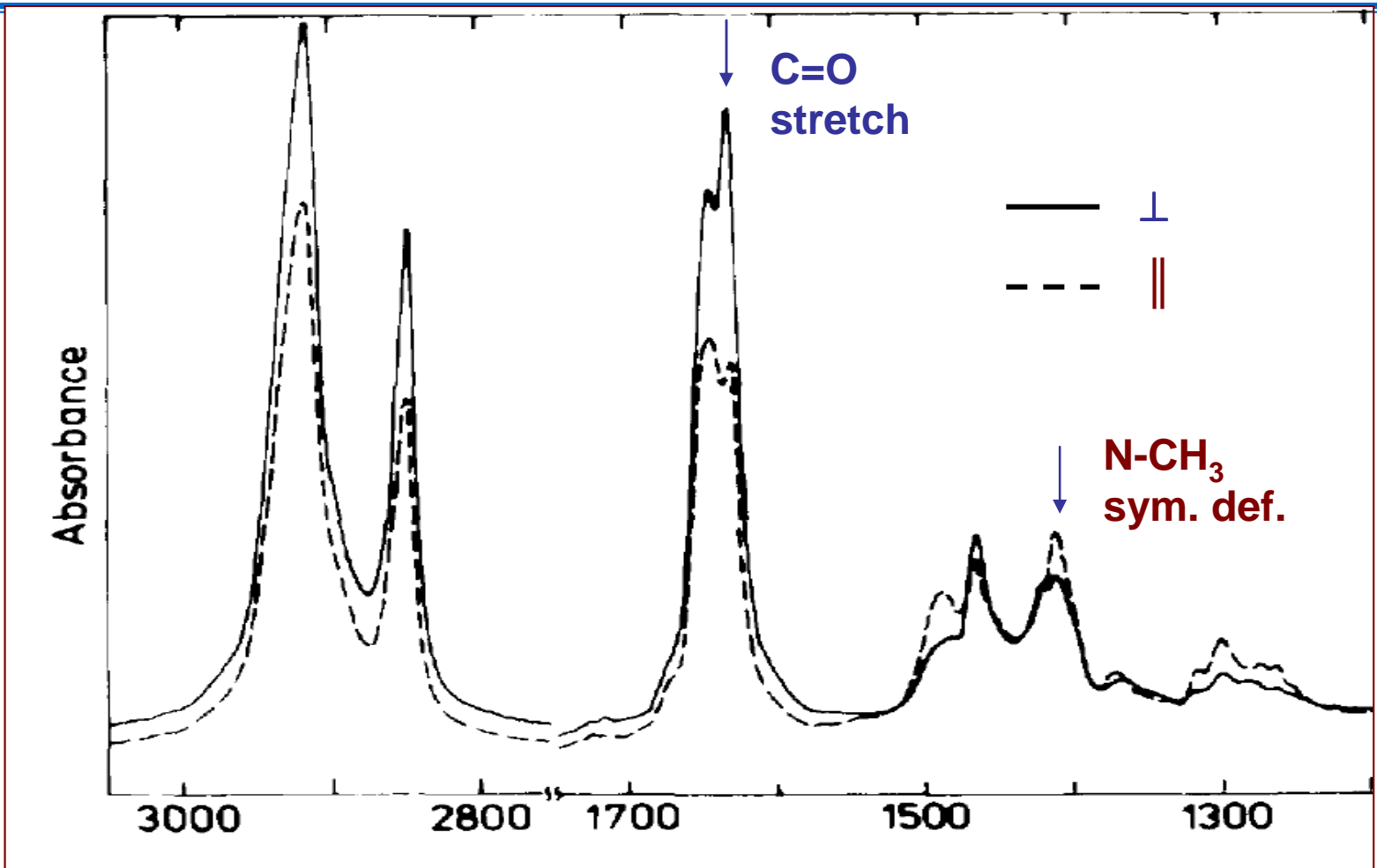
4:1

1:1

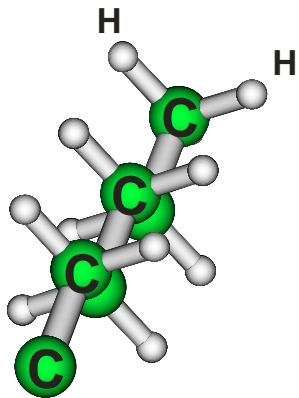
1:4

# FT-IR spectra

polarized



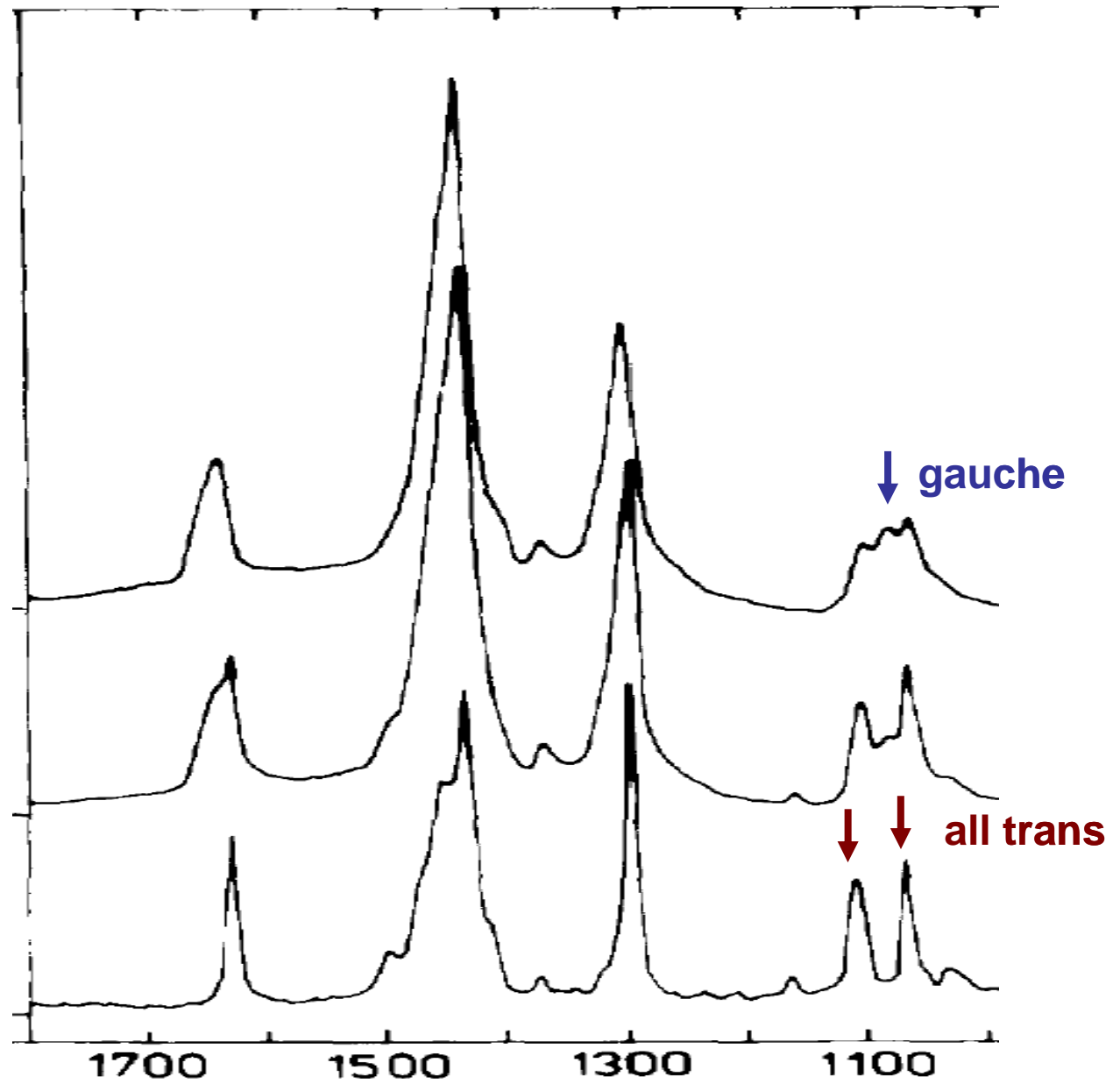
# Raman spectra



amorph.

semicryst.

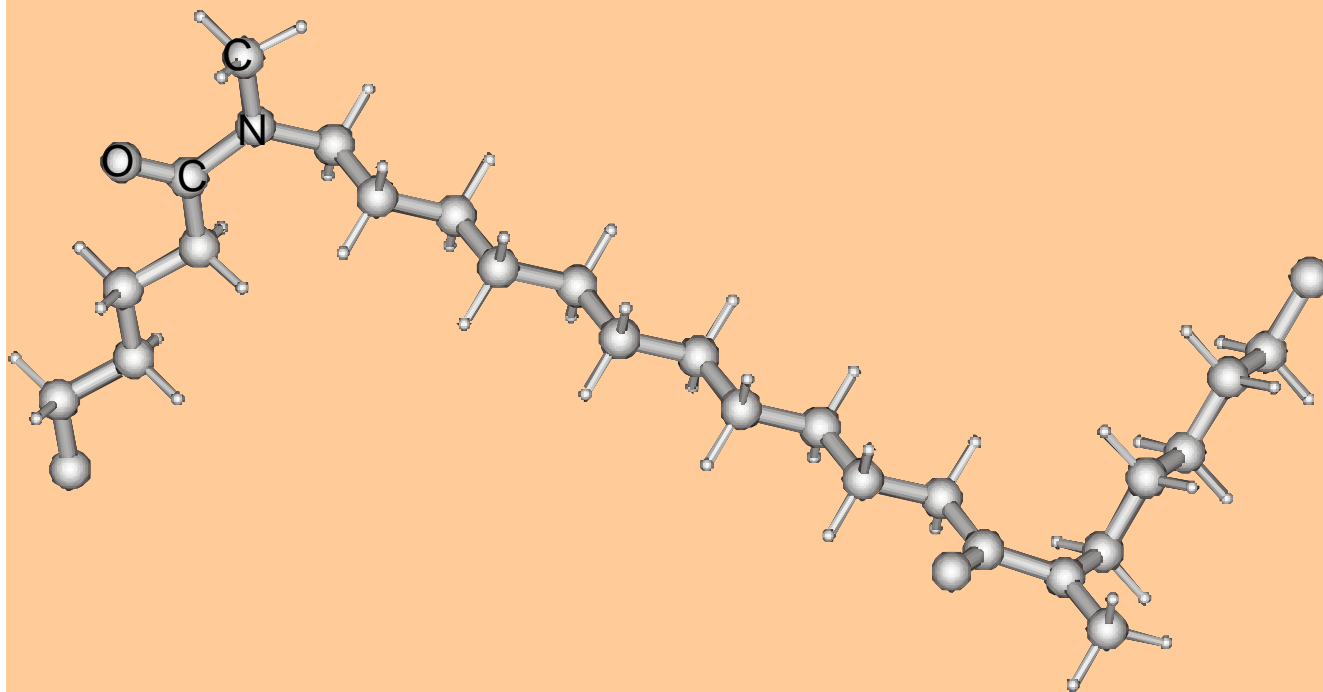
cryst.



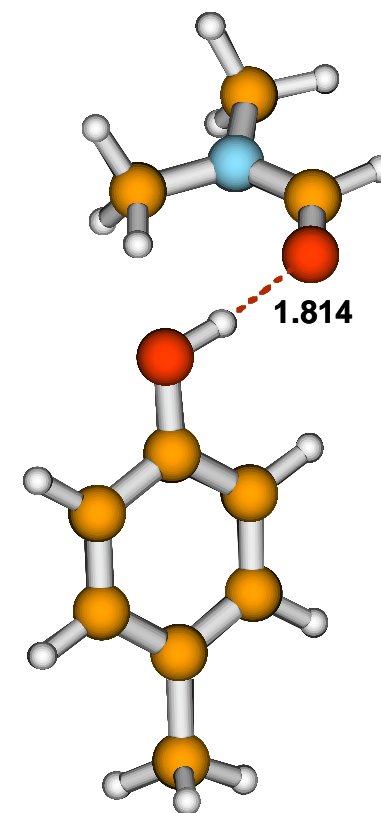
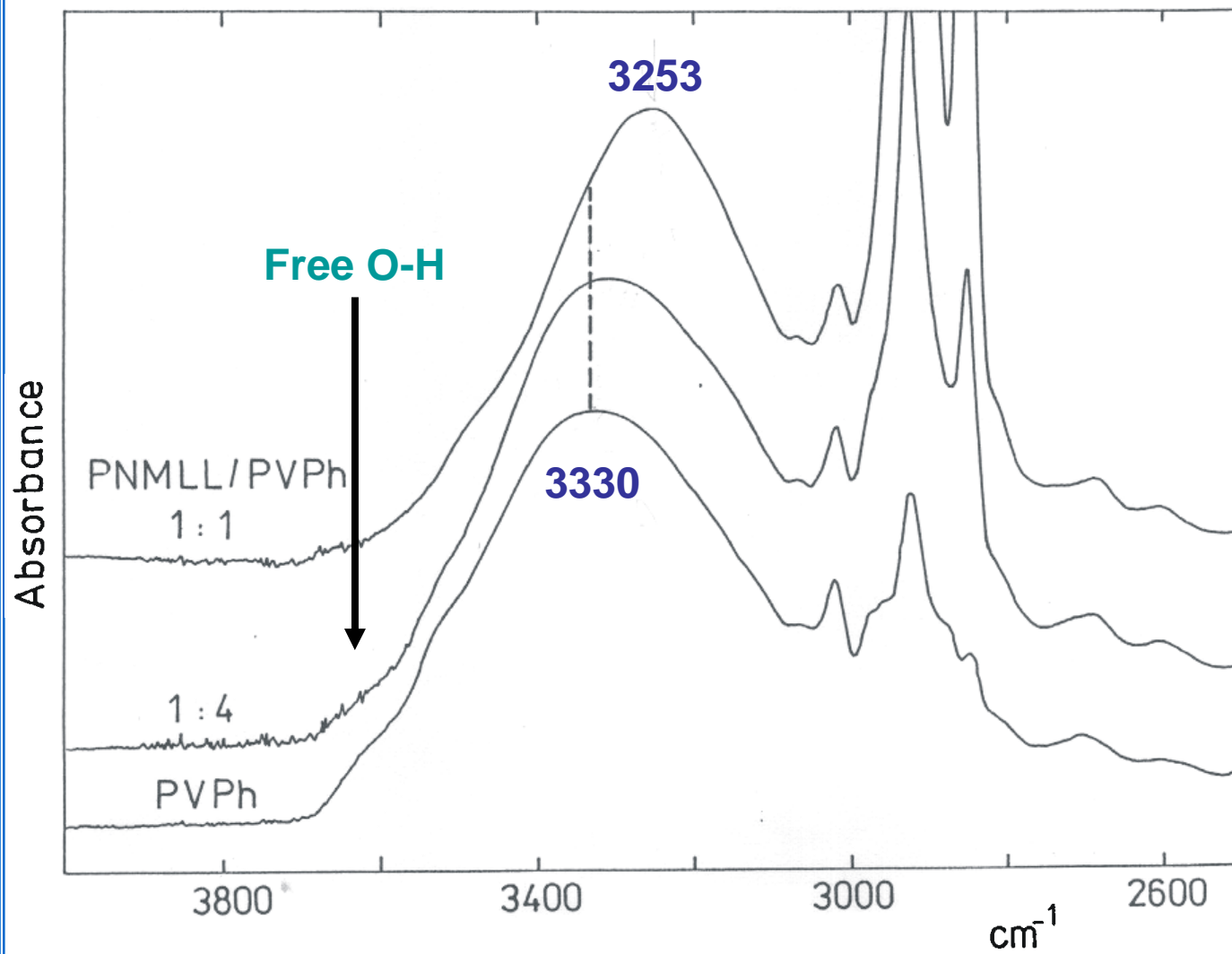
poly(N-methyl lauroctam)

$T_g \sim -35^\circ\text{C}$

$T_m \sim 55^\circ\text{C}, 65^\circ\text{C}$

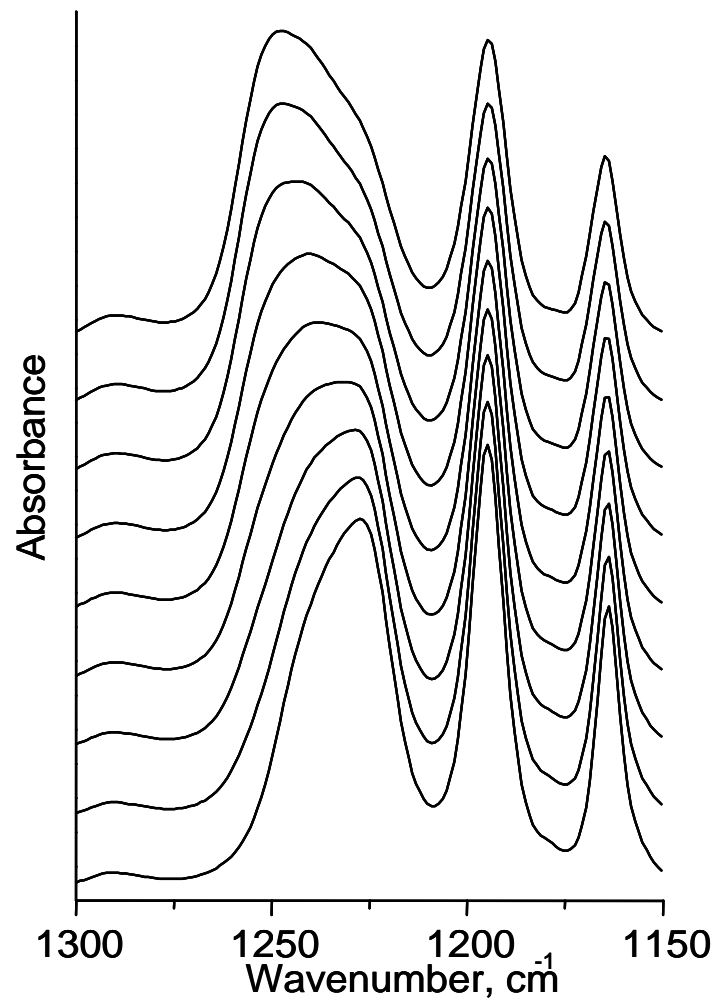
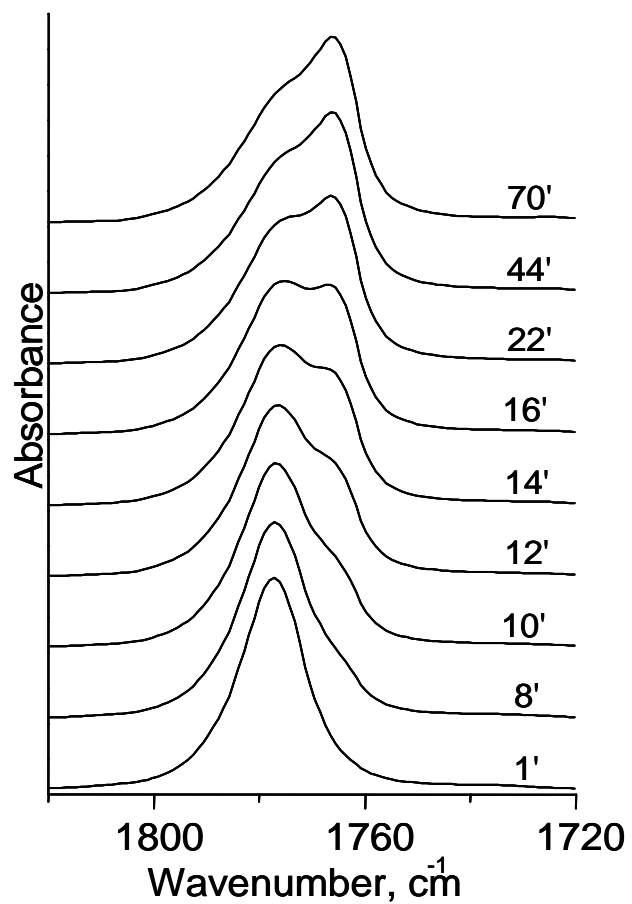
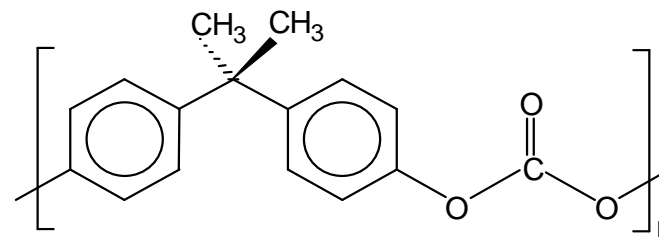


## O-H stretching



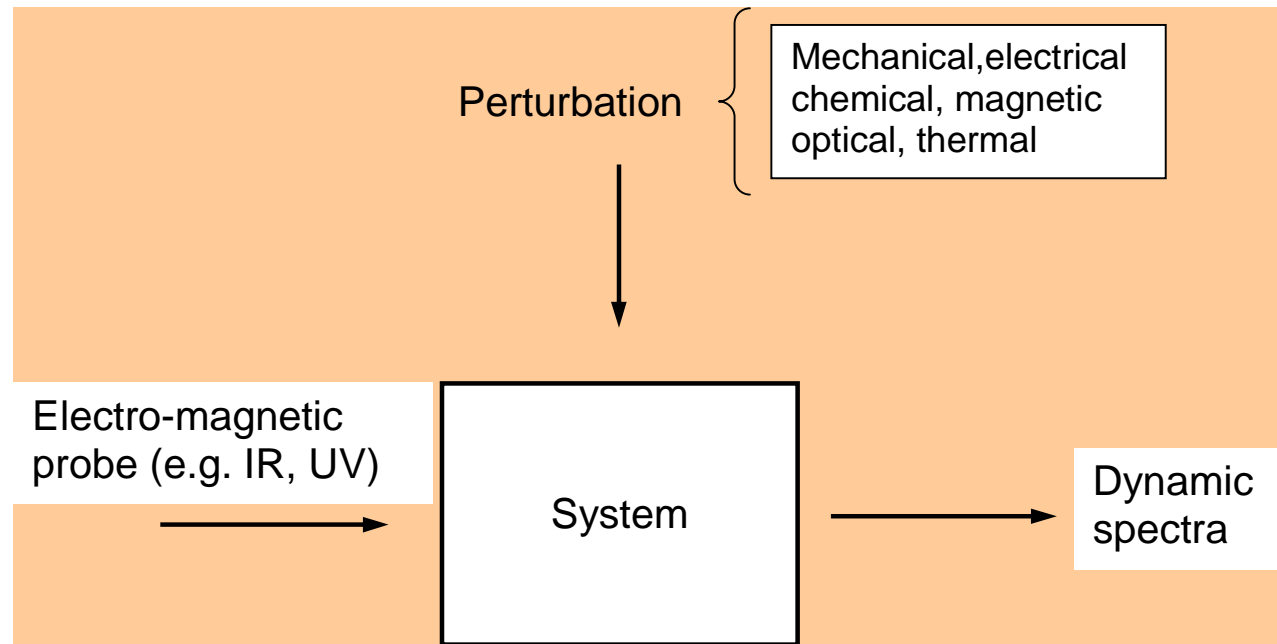
$$\Delta E = -10.9 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

**Aggregation of polycarbonate (PC)  
in toluene (2% w/w)  
FT-IR, room temperature**





## Two-dimensional spectroscopy



### Dynamic spectrum

$$y_s(\nu, t)$$

$$y(\nu, t) = y_s(\nu, t) - y_s(\nu) \quad \text{for } -T/2 \leq t \leq T/2$$

$$= 0 \quad \text{otherwise}$$

$$y_s(\nu) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} y_s(\nu, t) dt \quad \text{static spectrum}$$

### Complex 2D correlation spectrum

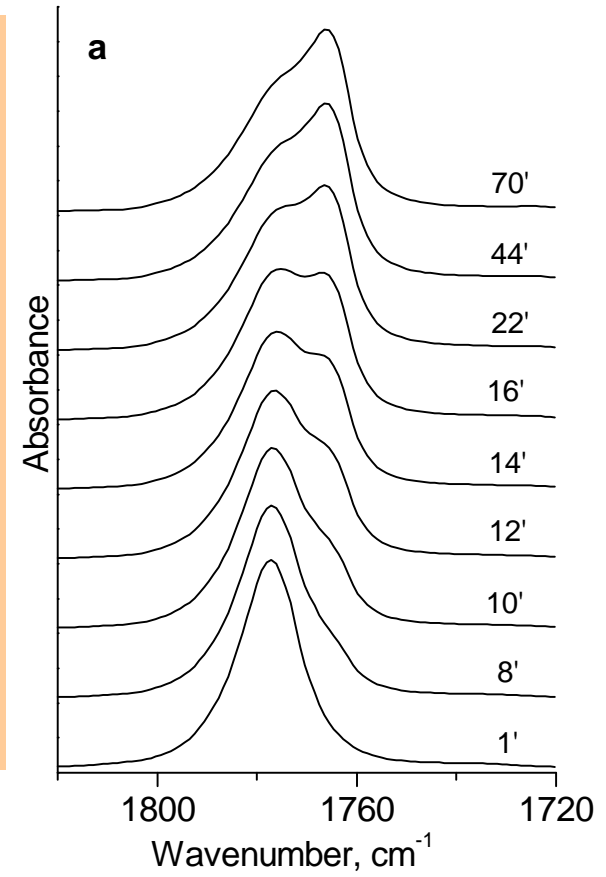
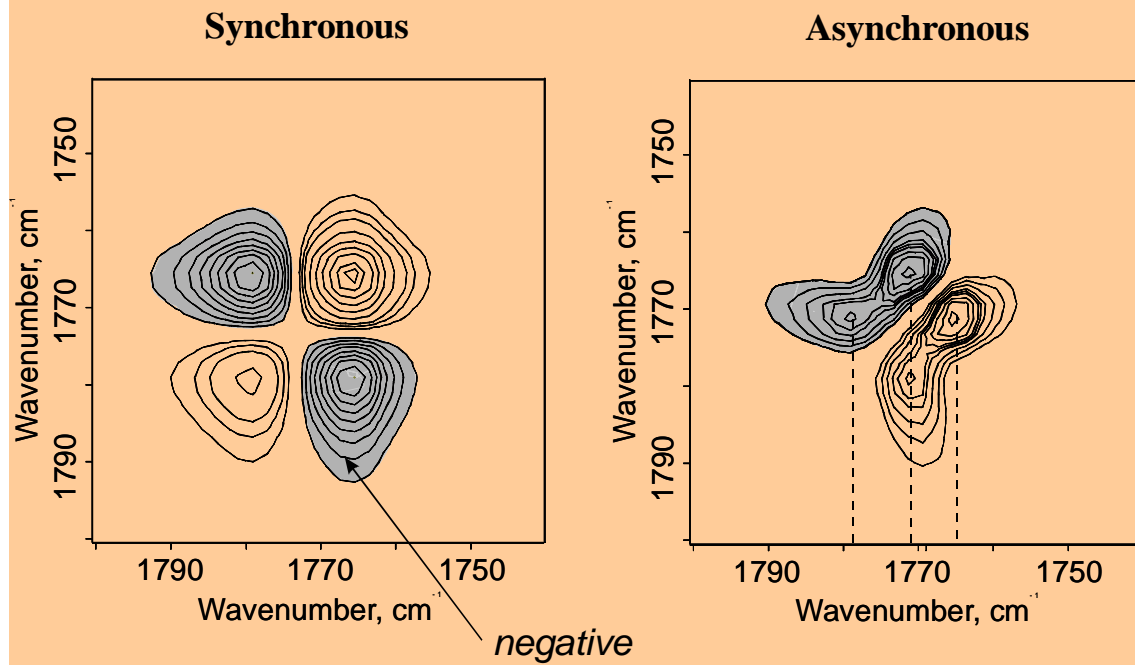
$$Y_1(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y(\nu_1, t) e^{-i\omega t} dt = Y_1^{\text{Re}}(\omega) + iY_1^{\text{Im}}(\omega)$$

$$Y_2^*(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y(\nu_2, t) e^{i\omega t} dt = Y_2^{\text{Re}}(\omega) - iY_2^{\text{Im}}(\omega)$$

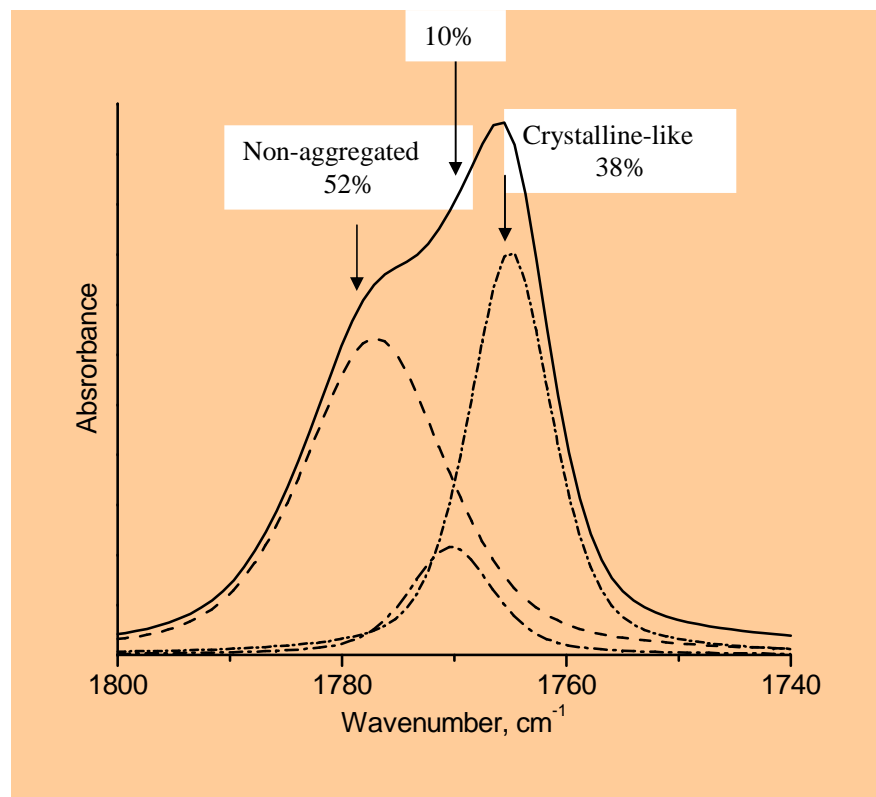
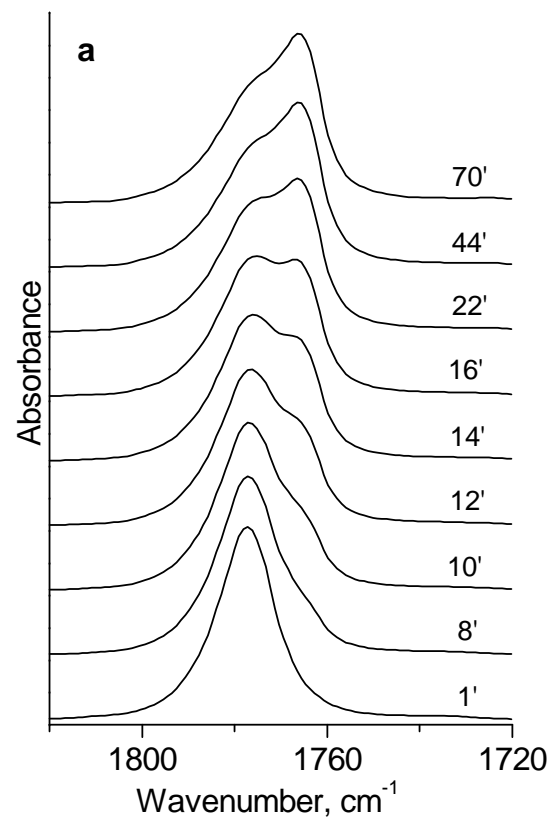
$$\Phi(\nu_1, \nu_2) + i\Psi(\nu_1, \nu_2) = \frac{1}{\pi T} \int_0^{\infty} Y_1(\omega) \cdot Y_2^*(\omega) d\omega$$

## Polycarbonate in toluene

### 2D correlation FT-IR spectra

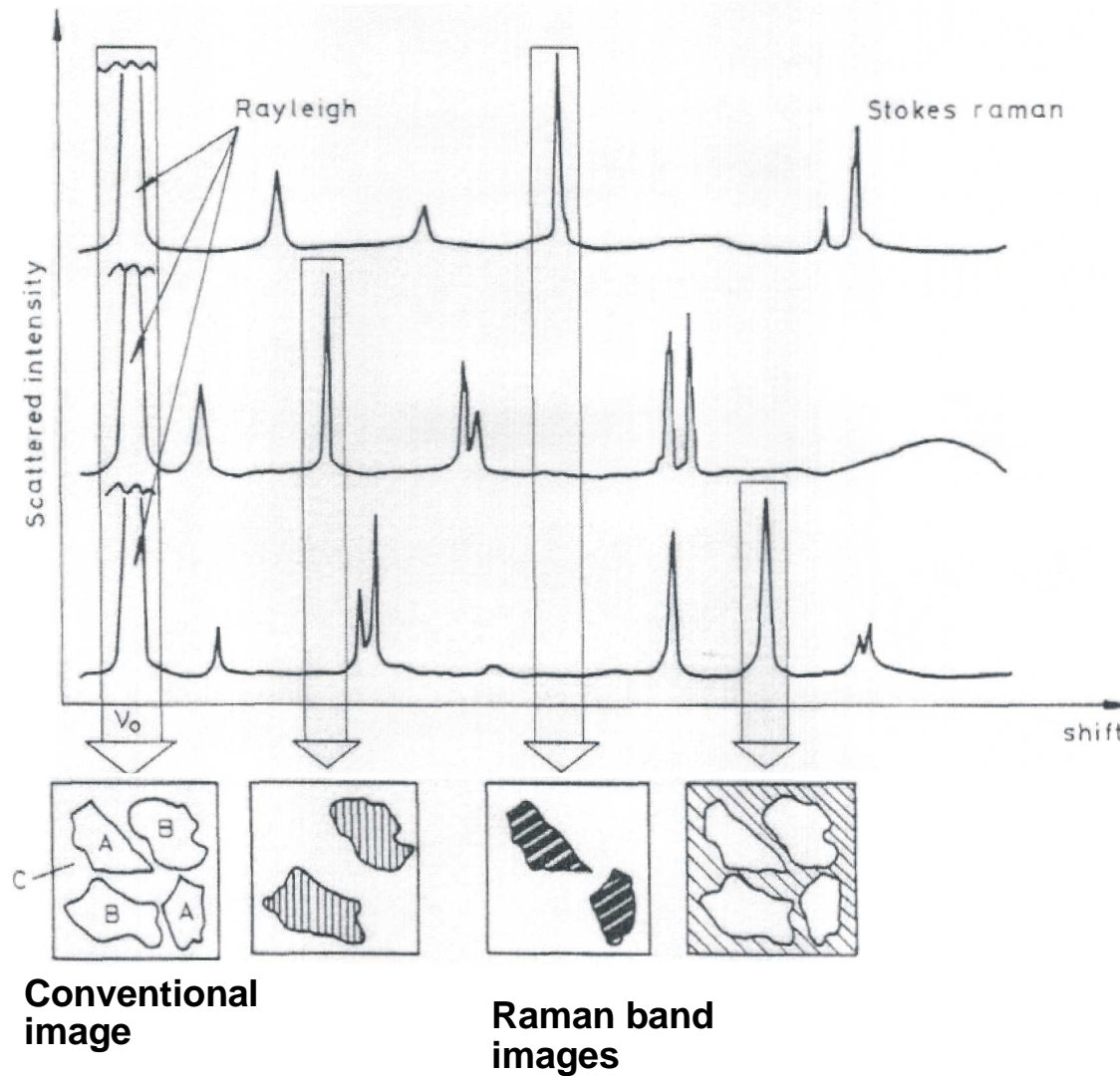


## Polycarbonate in toluene



# Raman imaging and mapping

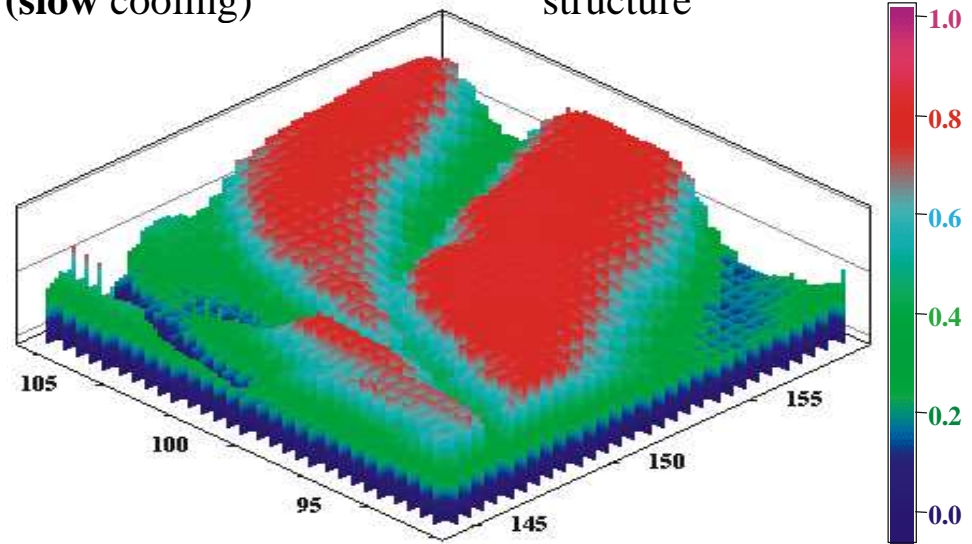
	<b>Raman</b>	<b>IR</b>
<b>lateral resolution</b>	<b>1 <math>\mu\text{m}</math></b>	<b>10 <math>\mu\text{m}</math></b>
<b>confocal</b>	<b>2.5 <math>\mu\text{m}</math></b>	<b>-</b>



# Compositional domain structure of PP/PE blend

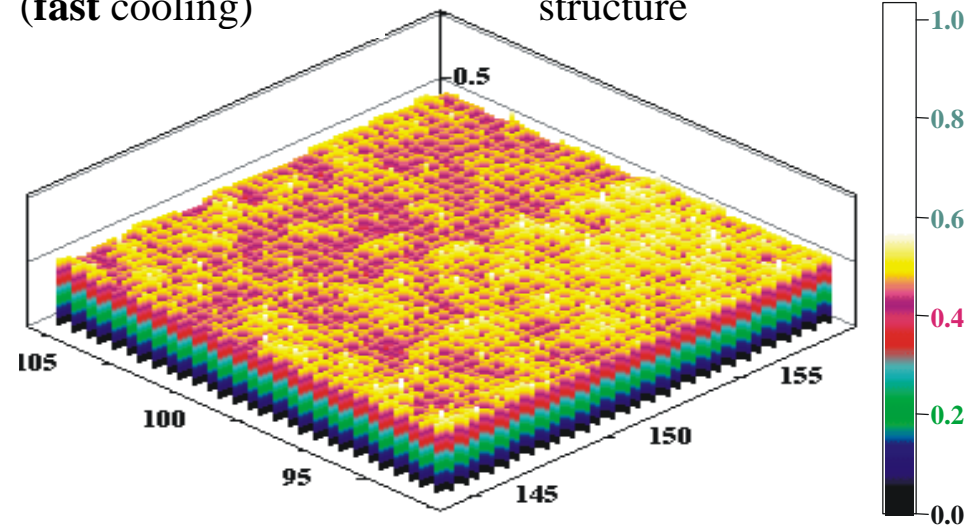
pressed, inner part  
(slow cooling)

**coarse** domain structure



injected, surface  
(fast cooling)

**fine** domain structure





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- [unesco.course@imc.cas.cz](mailto:unesco.course@imc.cas.cz)