

# Identifying and Localizing Pigments in Living Cells



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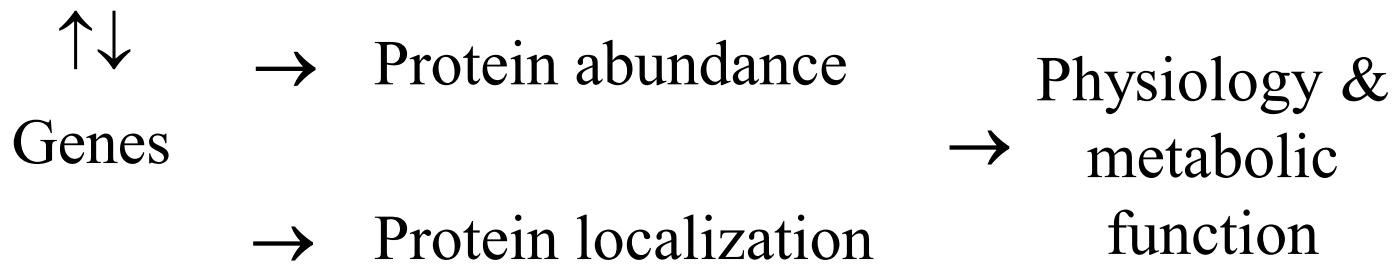
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St. Louis, MO  
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# Pigment Localization is Dynamic

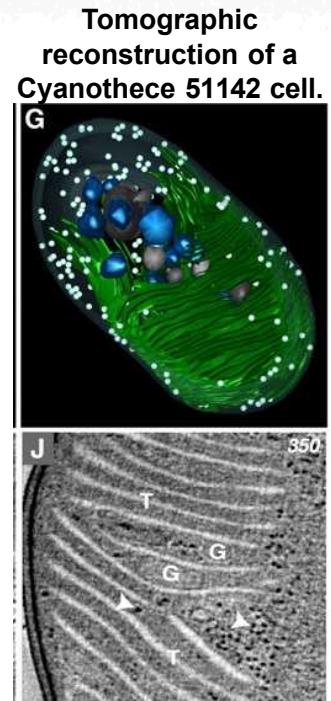
- Photosynthetic and metabolic activity is regulated in response to changing environmental parameters



- Traditional biochemical assays determine average parameters, but
  - Generally made on model species
  - No insight into stochastic response

# Single Cell Measurements

- Key information on populations
  - Screening for unique phenotypes
  - Population dynamics
- Subcellular resolution possible
- Exquisite spatial resolution offered by electron microscopy
  - Recent extensions to tomography



Liberton M et al. *Plantphysiol* 2011;155:1656-1666

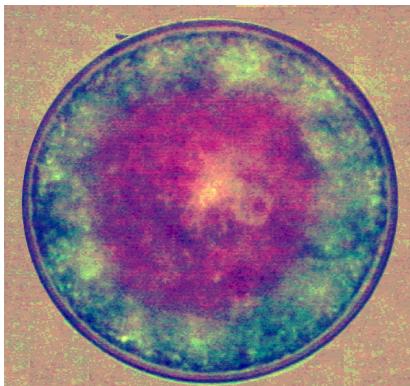
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But the need remains to probe pigment dynamics and the cellular level

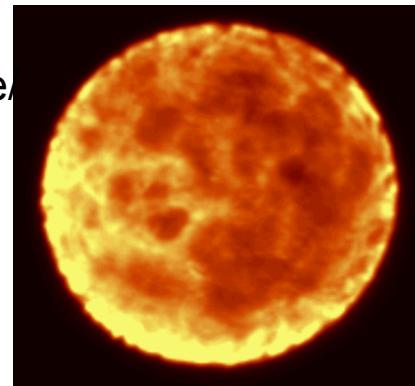
# Motivation

## Spatially and Temporally Resolved Biochemical Information at the Cellular Level

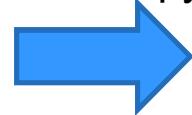
Light Micrograph



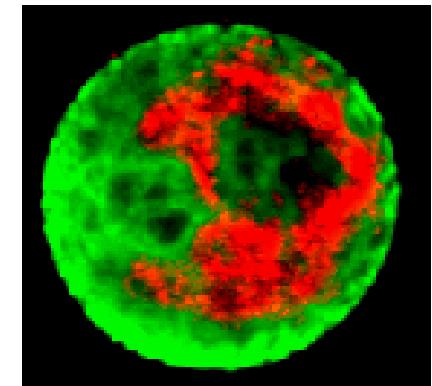
Integrated Flour/Raman Image



Confocal  
Fluorescence/  
Raman  
Microscopy



Chemical Image



Multivariate  
Curve  
Resolution



### Light Microscopy

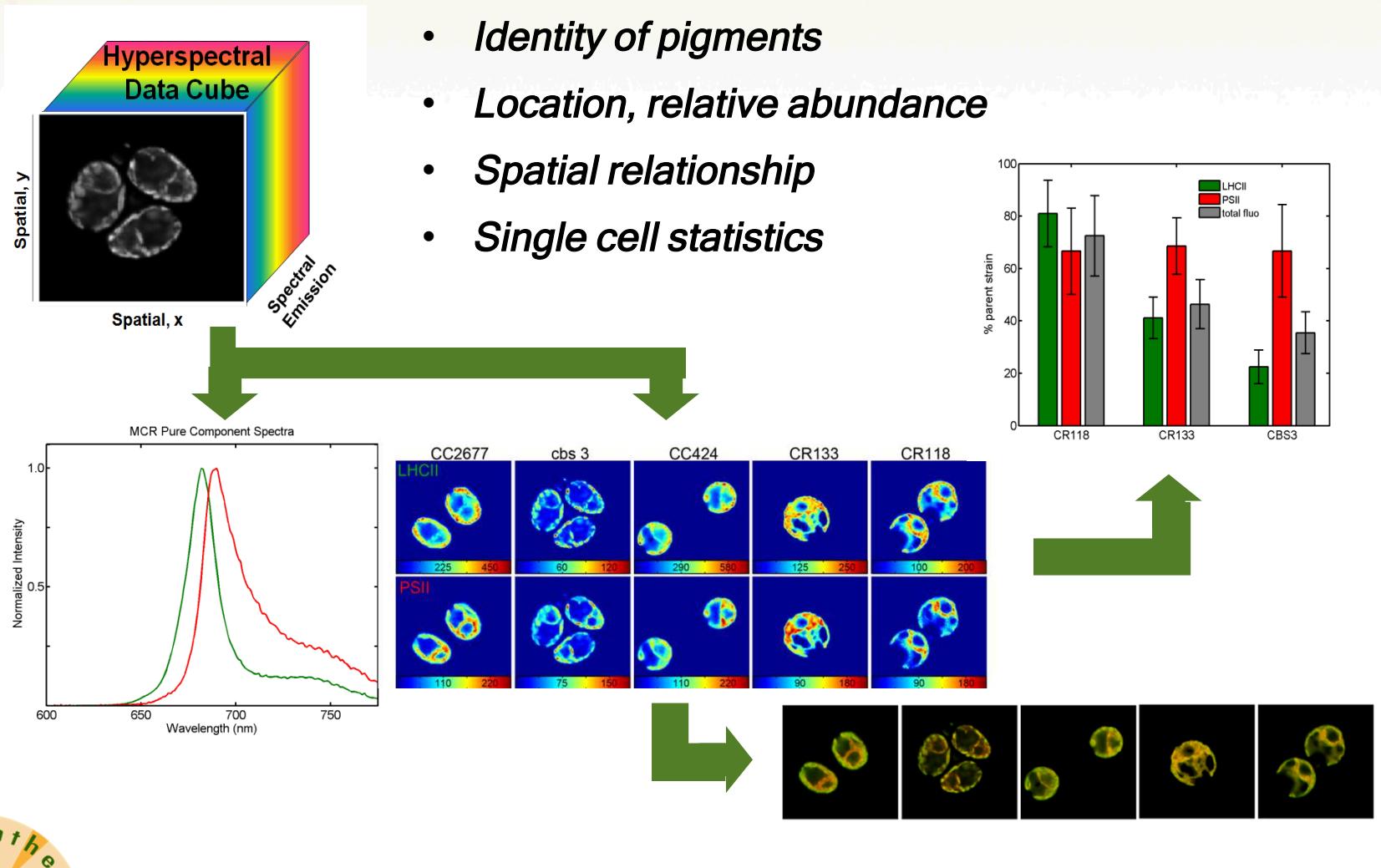
Each pixel in the image is a combination of 3 (RGB) colors  
(morphology, refractive properties)



### Spectral/Hyperspectral Imaging

Each pixel in the image is a spectrum relating to chemical  
and/or molecular structure within

# Hyperspectral Imaging of Single Cells



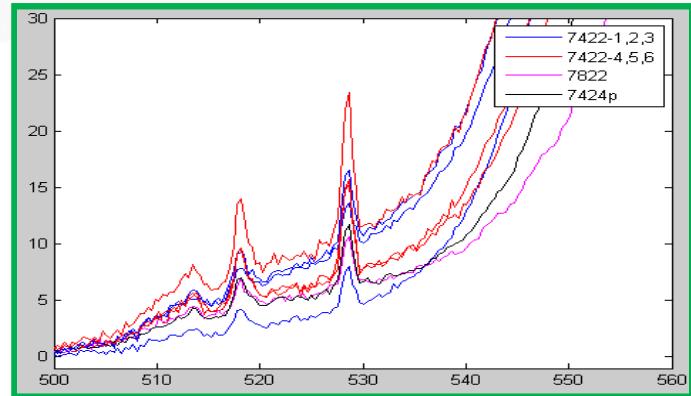
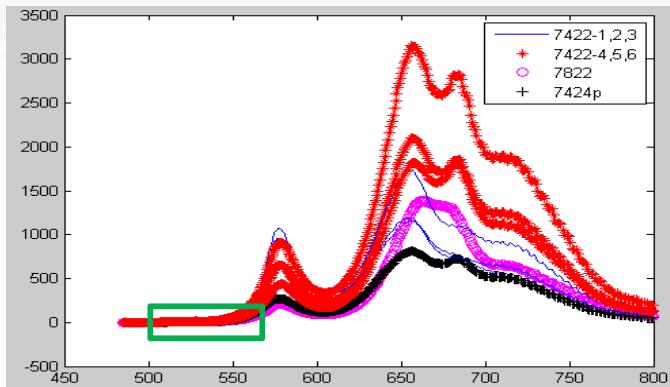


# Outline

- Introduction to fluorescence and Raman microscopy
  - Principles & technology
  - Advantages for photosynthetic organisms
- Spectral image analysis
  - Multivariate techniques
  - Advanced strategies
- Highlights of current PARC Research in Timlin lab
- Summary & Future Directions

# Fluorescence vs. Raman for Bioenergy Applications

Non-destructive, label-free, live-cell friendly, diffraction-limited resolution in 3D



## Fluorescence Emission

- Emission from an excited state
- Excitation  $\lambda$  dependent
- Many important molecules have endogenous fluorescence
- Broad spectral features
- *Energy transfer system  $\rightarrow$  high degree of spectral overlap, efficient excitation with a single laser*

## Raman Scattering

- Scattering due to molecular vibrations
- Excitation  $\lambda$  independent
- Narrow spectral features, signature can be very specific
- Resonant vs. non-resonant
- *Carotenoids and lipids*

# Technology Available

## SNL's Hyperspectral Confocal Microscope



- 488 nm excitation
- 60x (1.4 NA) dry objective
- Lateral resolution = 1  $\mu$ m
- Spectral range = 500-7900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$
- Spectral resolution = 35 - 100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$   
(1-3 nm)
- Acquisition rate =  $\leq 8300$  spectra/s

Sinclair, et. al., *Applied Optics*, 45, 6283-6291 (2006).

High Read-out Rate,  
Diffraction-Limited Spatial Resolution

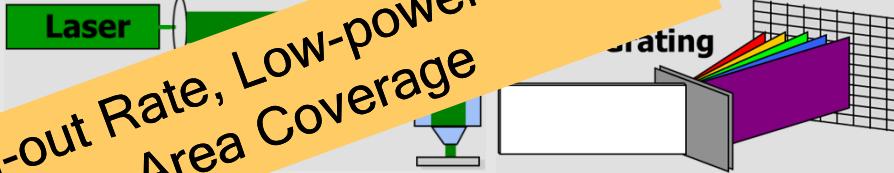
## WiTec alpha300R



Exquisite Spectral Resolution

<http://www.witec.de/products/raman/alpha300-r/>

## SNL's Hyperspectral Raman Micro-Scanner



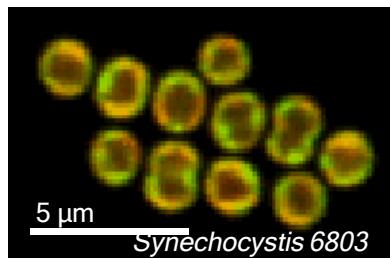
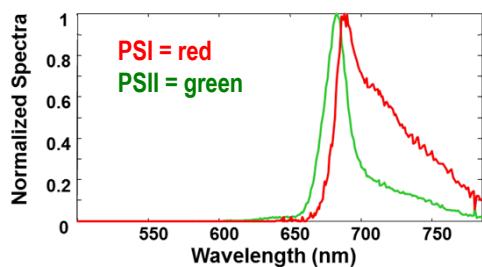
- 532 nm excitation
- 10x, 40x or 100x dry objective
- Lateral resolution = 1  $\mu$ m
- Axial resolution =  $\sim 2$ -6  $\mu$ m
- Spectral range = 500-1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$
- Spectral resolution = 10-100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$
- Acquisition rate = 100 spectra/s

High Read-out Rate, Low-power Density  
Large Area Coverage

Christensen & Morris, *Applied Spectroscopy*, 52, 1145-1147 (1998) & Sinclair, et. al., *Applied Optics*, 43, 2079-2089 (2004)

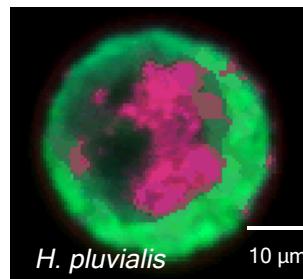
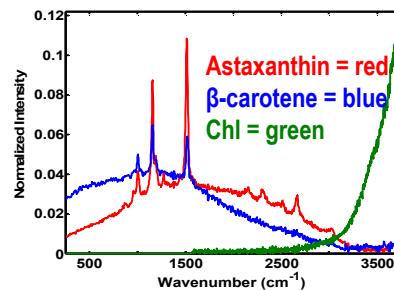
# Examples of Chemical Imaging in Photosynthesis Research

## Hyperspectral Confocal Fluorescence Microscopy



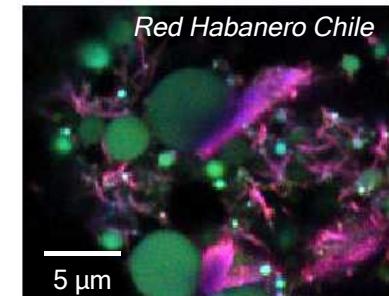
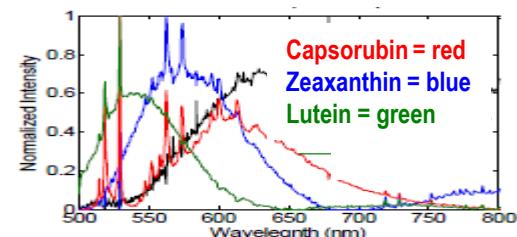
Subcellular localization, discrimination, and quantification of photosynthetic pigments

## Combined Hyperspectral Confocal Raman & Fluorescence Microscopy



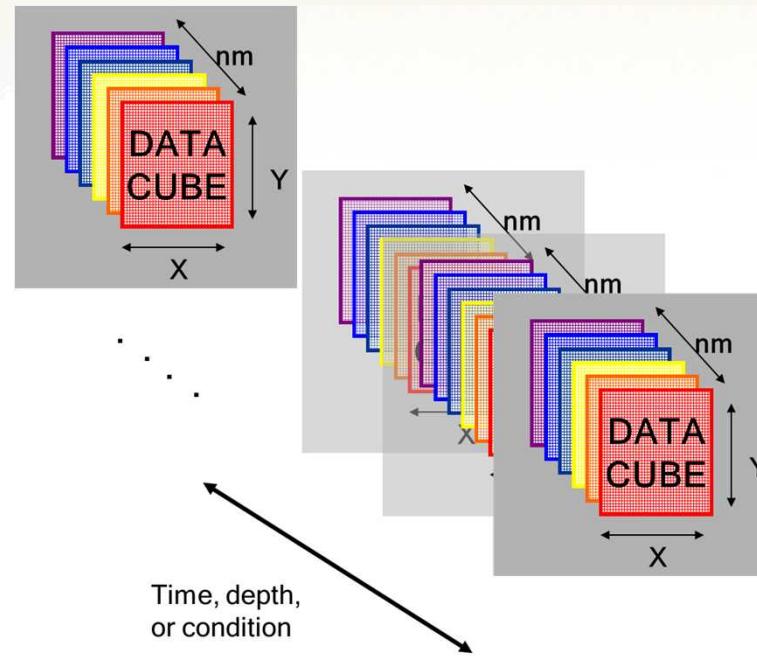
Subcellular localization, discrimination, and quantification of carotenoids and chlorophylls

## Hyperspectral Confocal Raman Microscopy



Subcellular localization, discrimination, and quantification of carotenoid, lipids, and precursors

# The Hyperspectral Data Cube



How do you get from hundreds of thousands of highly overlapped spectra to chemical information?

# Spectral Image Analysis Methods

Required knowledge

## Univariate methods

- Band integration, peak height, peak positions
- Isolated bands, no spectral interference

## Multivariate methods

- Unmixing methods
  - CLS
  - Least-squares prediction based
  - *A priori* knowledge required
- Factor analysis methods
  - PCA, SIMPLISMA, self modeling curve resolution/multivariate curve resolution
  - Data defines
  - No *a priori* knowledge of spectral shapes/pure pixels

Mathematical complexity, accuracy

# Multivariate Curve Resolution (MCR) Example

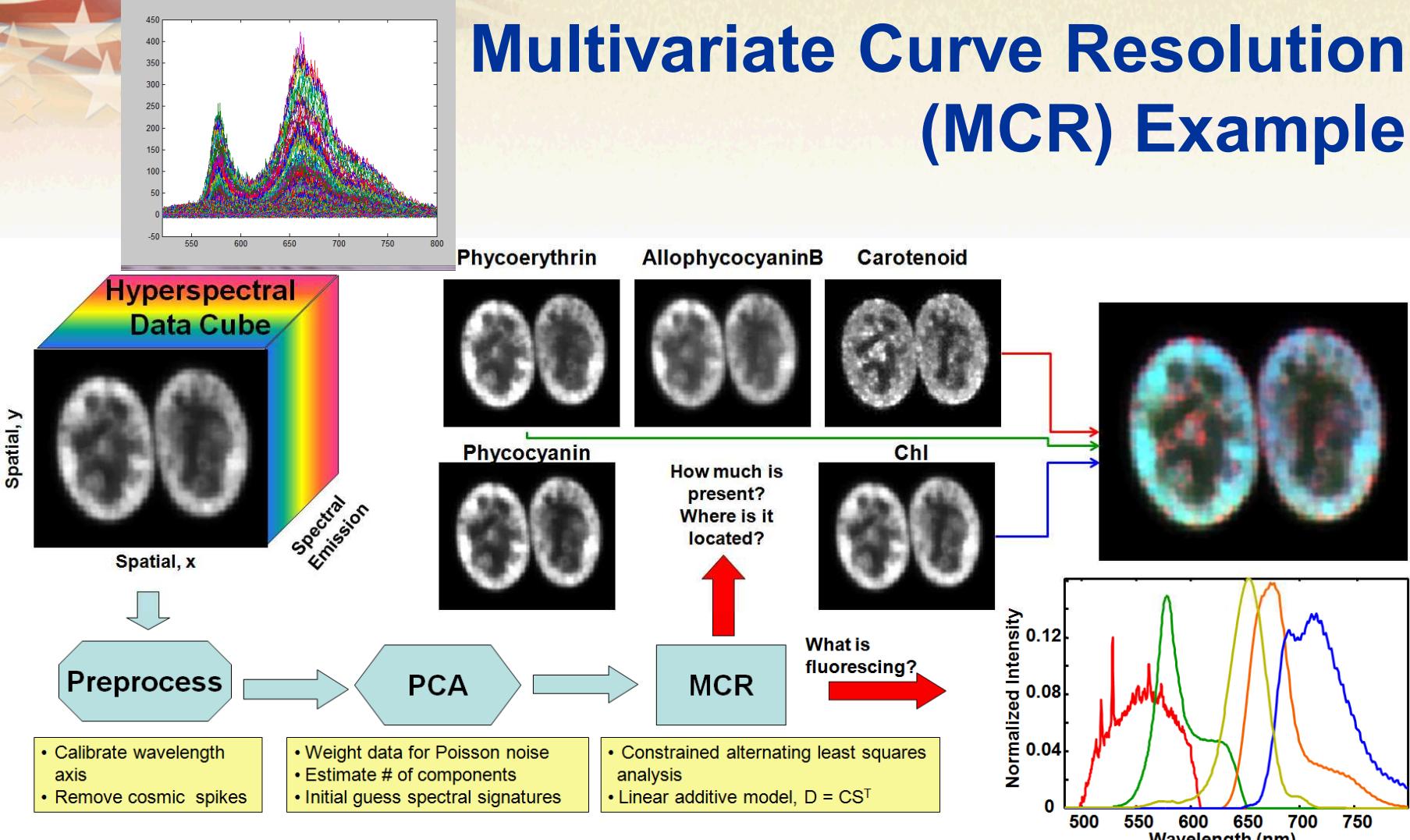


Figure 2. Mathematical isolation of independently varying chemical species is accomplished using a fast multivariate curve resolution algorithm with robust constraints. Example shown: hyperspectral imaging of endogenous pigments in the cyanobacterium *Cyanothece* sp. PCC 7822.



# Analysis: The Importance of Experimental Design

- Components that co-vary can not be isolated independent of one another
- Net analyte signal is more important than per pixel signal to noise
- Different models can highlight different aspects of a data set



# Analysis: Advanced Strategies

- Well characterized instrumentation
- Selective ROIs
- Composite data

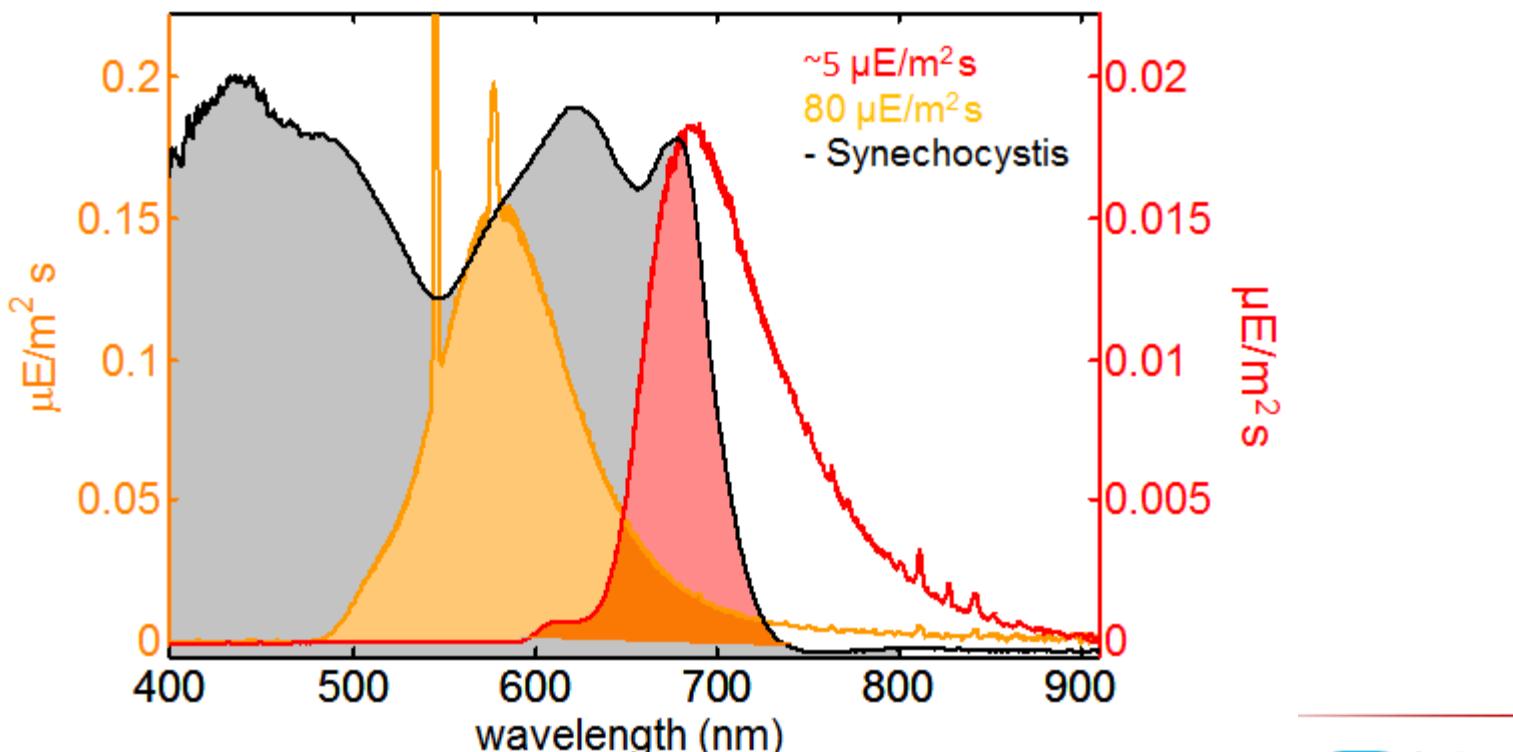


# Current PARC Research

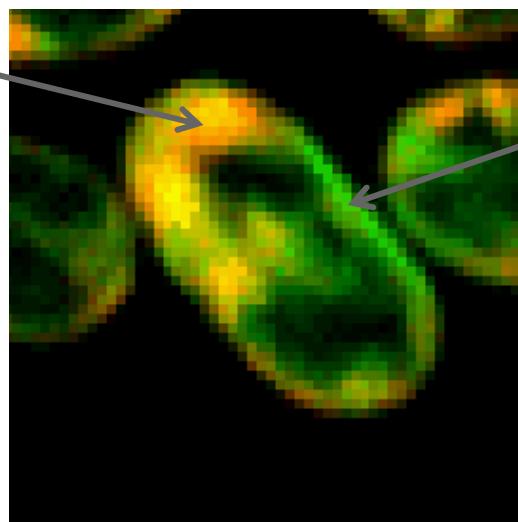
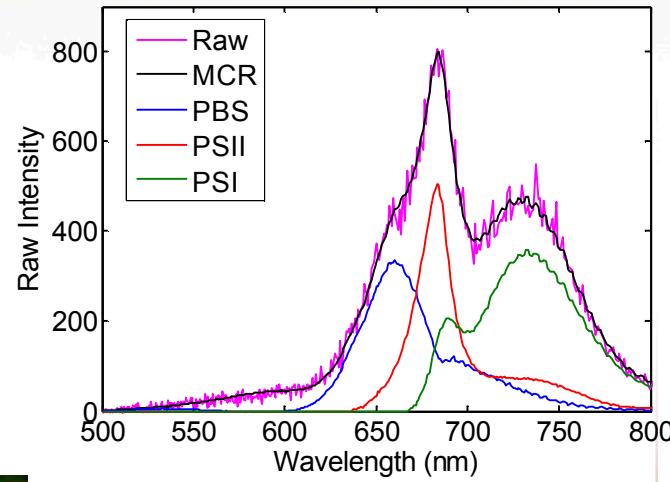
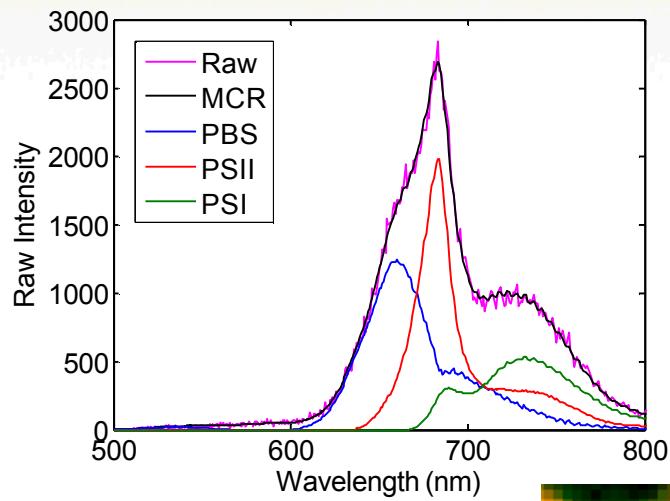
- Phycobilisome degradation under nitrogen starvation conditions
- Light/heat induced bleaching in *Symbiodinium*
  - Poster “Resolving highly overlapped pigment emissions in living *Symbiodinium* with hyperspectral Imaging and multivariate analysis”
- Pigment dynamics in response to light quality
- Carotenoid composition in avian retinas

# Global Pigment Dynamics in Response to Light Quality

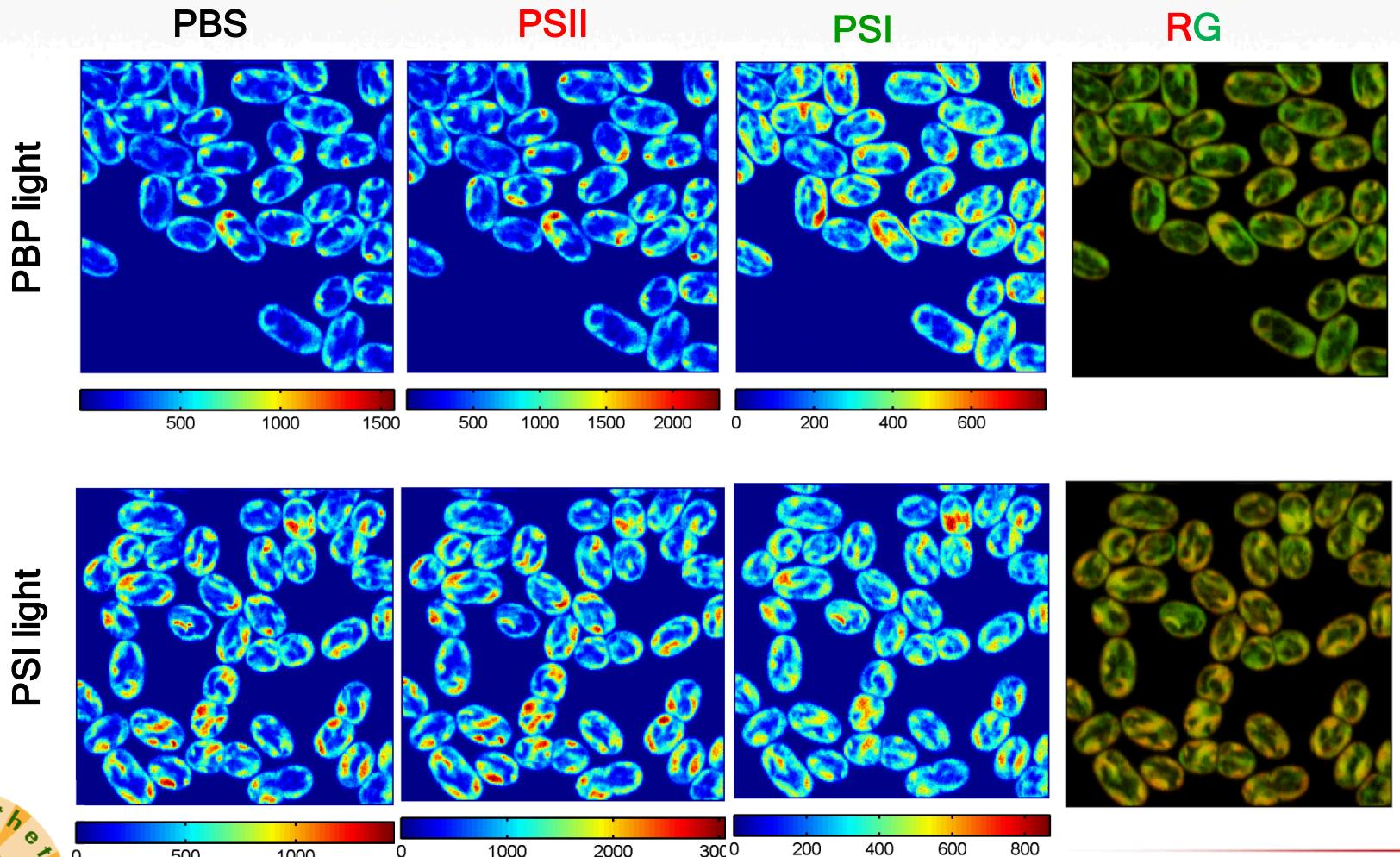
- Cyanobacteria: *Acarychlora marina*, *Cyanothece*, *Spirulina platensis*
- Grown under red or yellow light



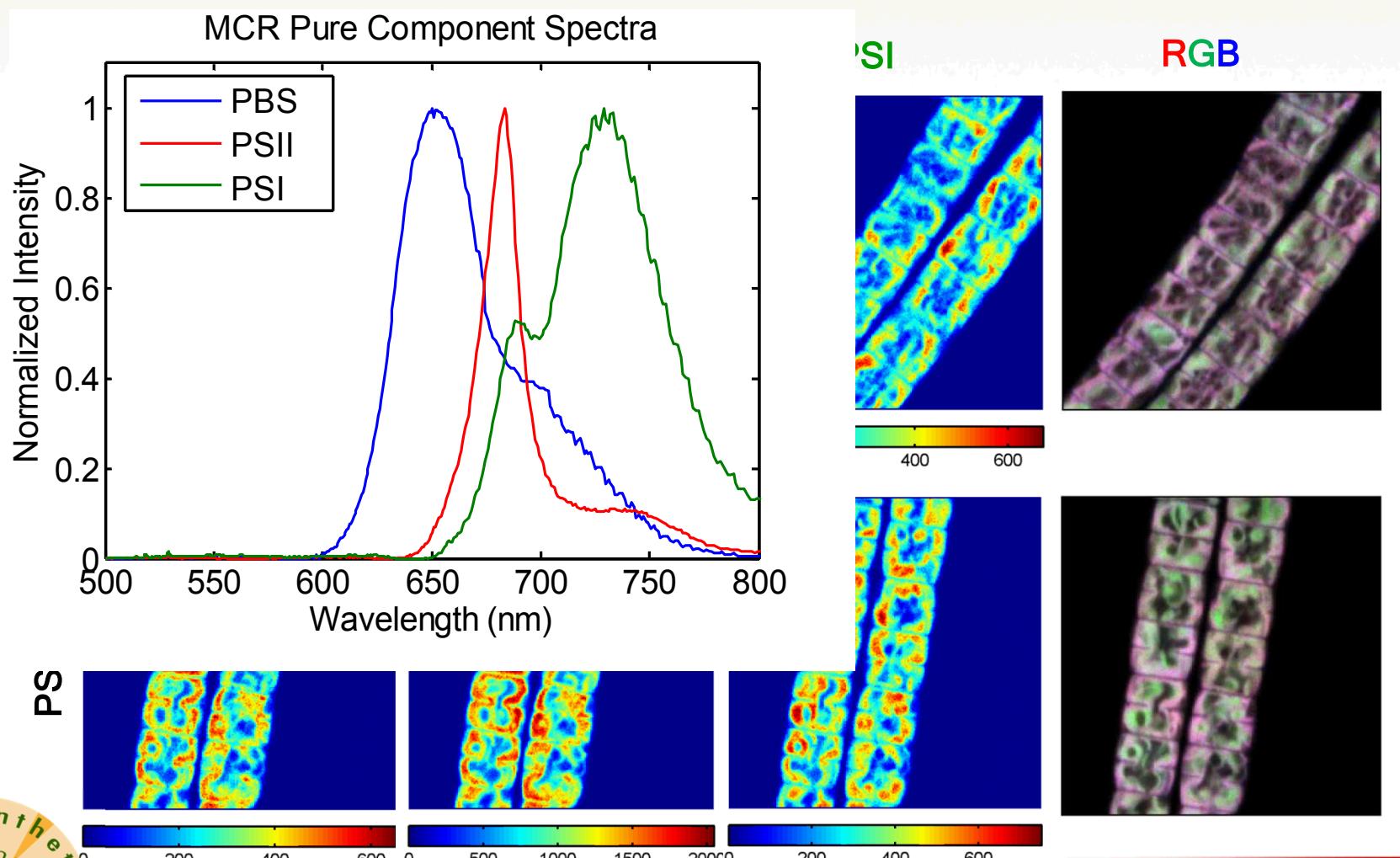
# Cyanothecce



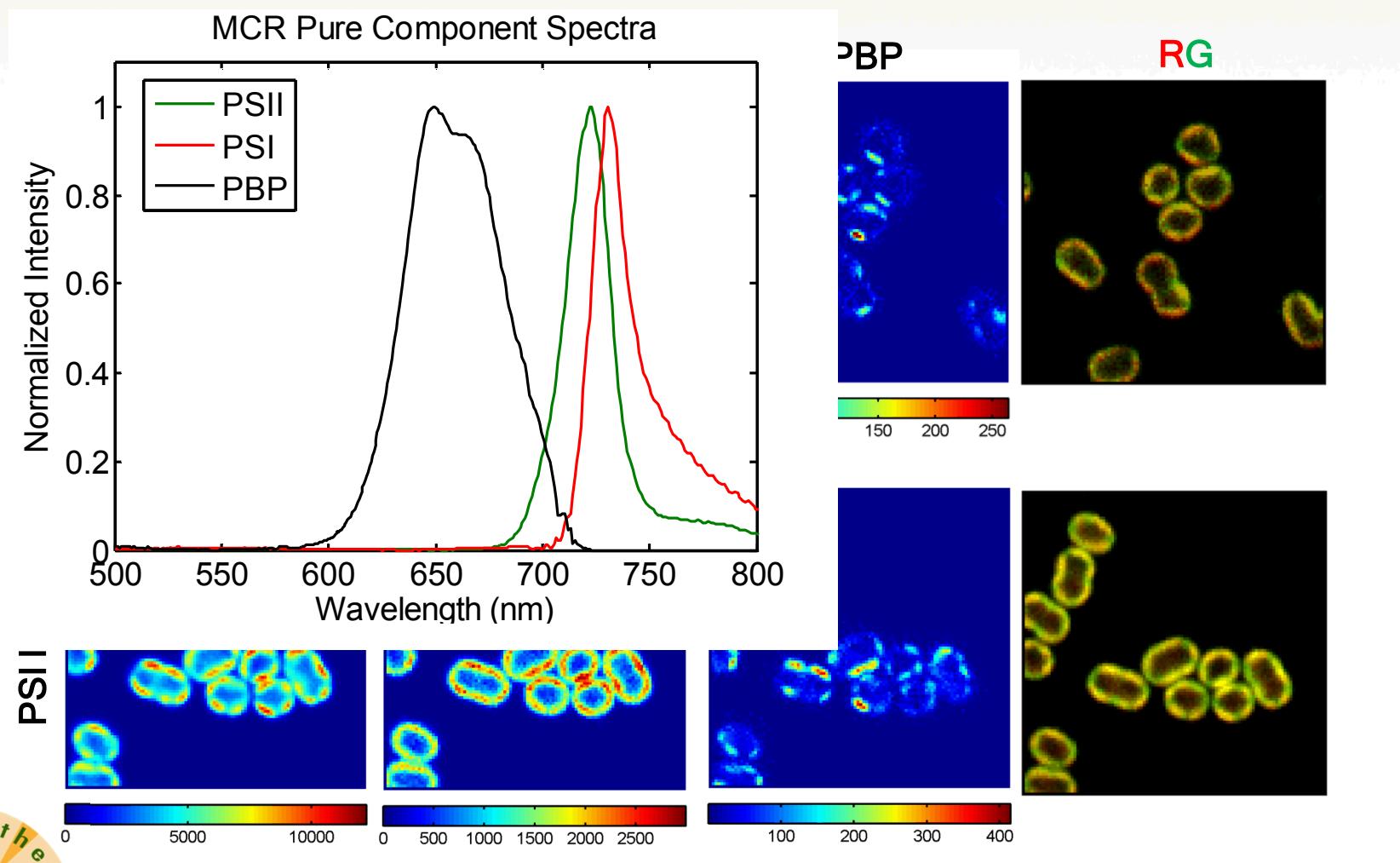
# Cyanothecce



# *S. platensis*



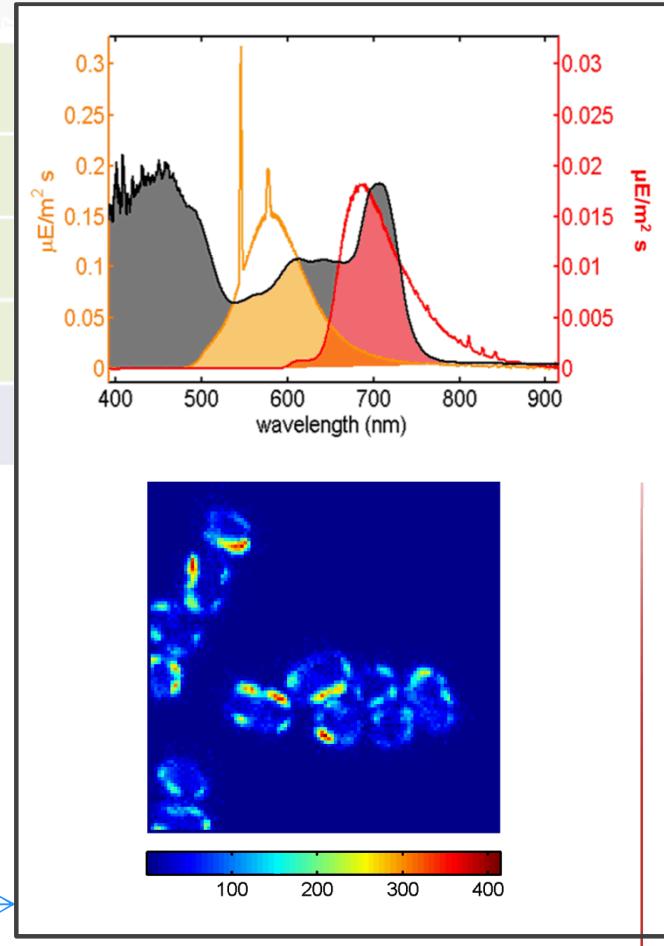
# *A. marina*

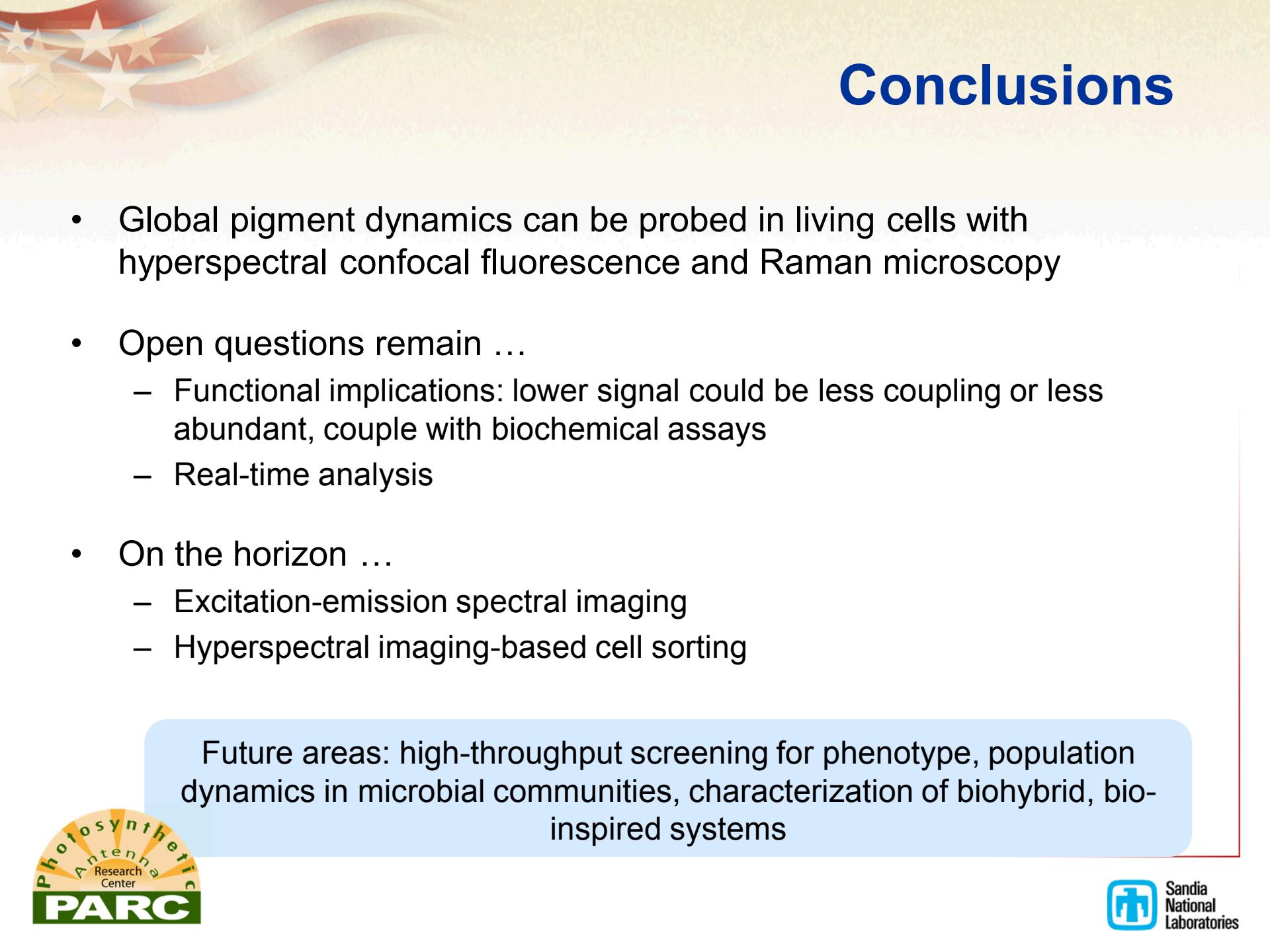


# Differential Response Across Species

	<i>A. marina</i>	<i>Cyanothecce</i>	<i>S. platensis</i>
$\Delta$ PBS	116%	18%	127%
$\Delta$ PSII	39%	52%	129%
$\Delta$ PSI	154%	-1%	31%
Change in abundance from PBS to PSI			

- Far red light: disruption in the linear electron flow from PSII to PSI; organisms compensates by synthesizing more PSII and PBS to attempt to restore balance
- *A. marina*: long wavelength chlorophyll responds as if high light and low light





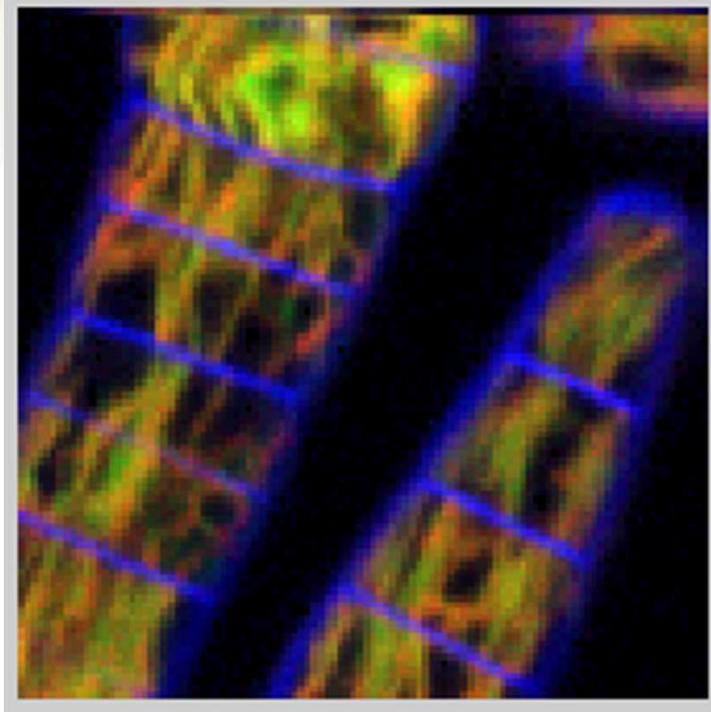
# Conclusions

- Global pigment dynamics can be probed in living cells with hyperspectral confocal fluorescence and Raman microscopy
- Open questions remain ...
  - Functional implications: lower signal could be less coupling or less abundant, couple with biochemical assays
  - Real-time analysis
- On the horizon ...
  - Excitation-emission spectral imaging
  - Hyperspectral imaging-based cell sorting

Future areas: high-throughput screening for phenotype, population dynamics in microbial communities, characterization of biohybrid, bio-inspired systems

# Acknowledgements

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- O'Connell Lab, NMSU



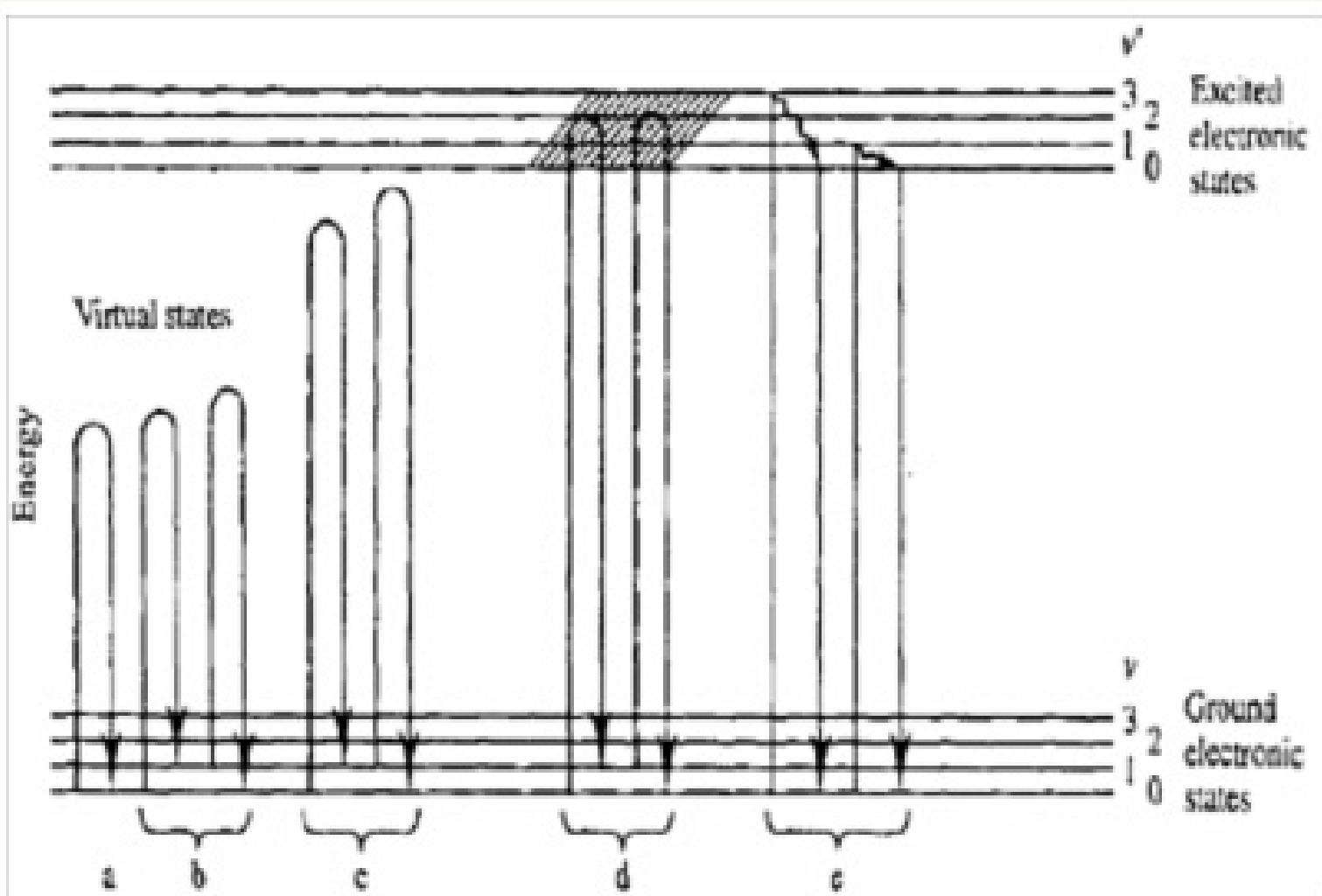
## IMAGING/ANALYSIS SUPPORT

- Michael Sinclair
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- Mark Van Benthem
- Omar Garcia
- Michelle Raymer



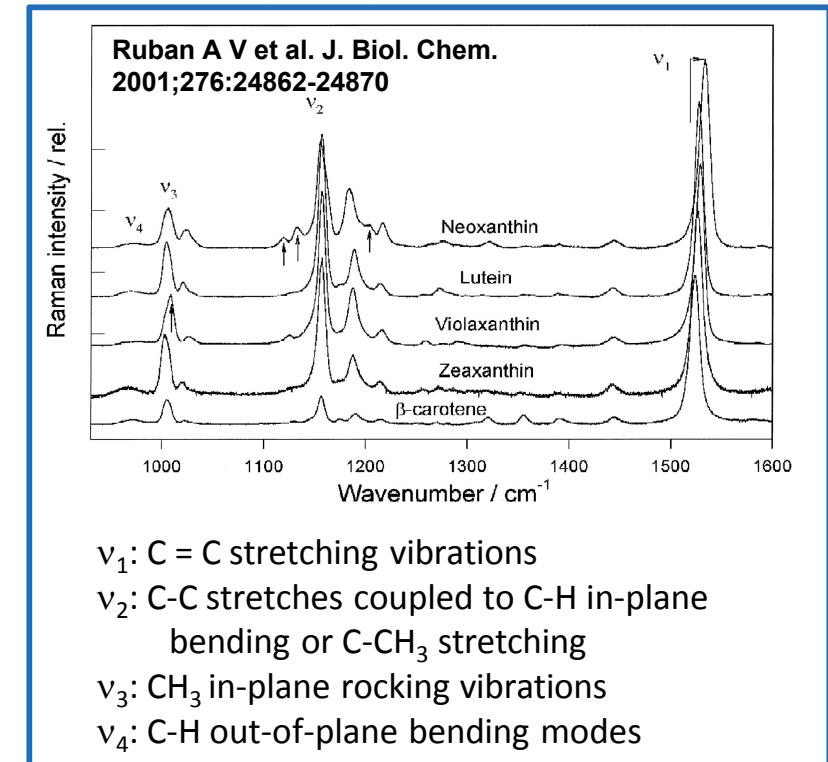
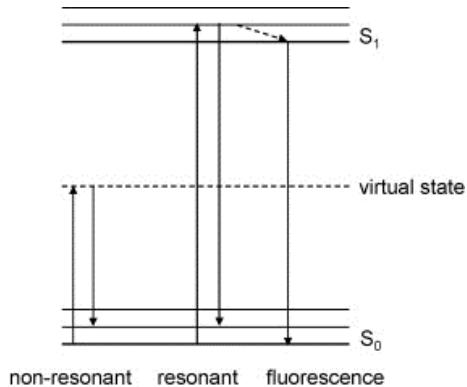
# Extras

# Interactions with Light



# Raman Spectroscopy and Spectral Imaging of Carotenoids

- Resonant Raman vs. non-resonant Raman



- Carotenoid biogenesis has varied applications
  - Bioenergy, environment, human health
- Non-destructive, live-cell friendly
- RR-based spectral imaging is particularly exciting because of the ability to discriminate, quantify, and localize carotenoids *in situ*.