

# Theoretical Study on Photophysical Properties of a Coumarin Derivative

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Faculty of Chemistry - Jagiellonian University in Kraków

Coumarins – characteristics

Properties and applications

Dual fluorescence and room-temperature phosphorescence phenomena

Examined system

Goals

Obtained results

Conclusions and future plans

# Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

Goals

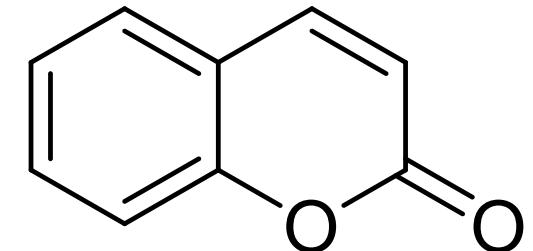
Results

Outlook

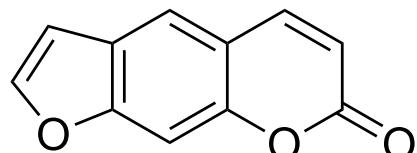
- class of heterocyclic, phenolic compounds with benzene and an alpha-pyrone ring

Natural coumarins can be divided into six groups:

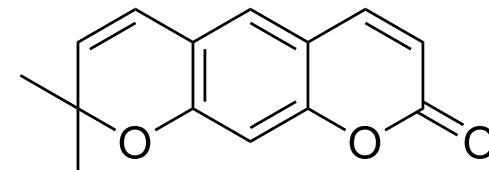
- simple coumarins
- furanocoumarins (linear type and angular type)
- pyranocoumarins (linear type and angular type)
- dihydrofuranocoumarins
- phenyl coumarins
- bicoumarins



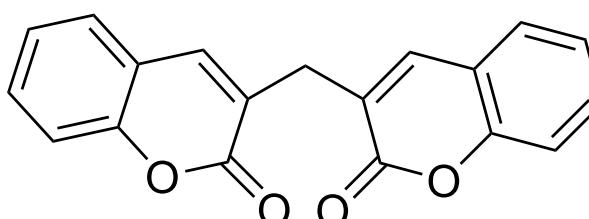
2H-chromen-2-one  
coumarin



psolarene  
furanocoumarin (linear)



xanthyletin  
pyranocoumarin (linear)

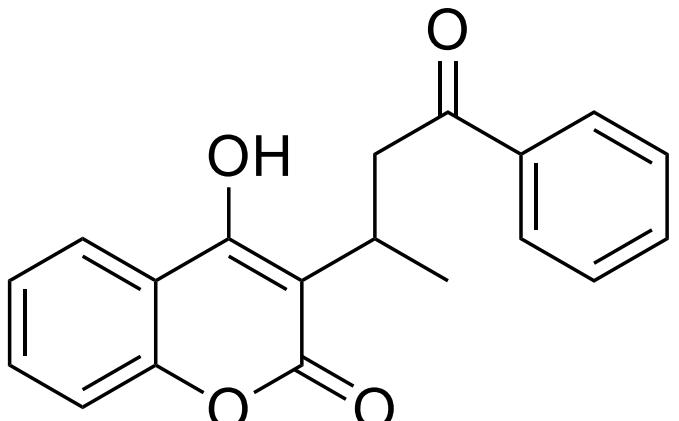
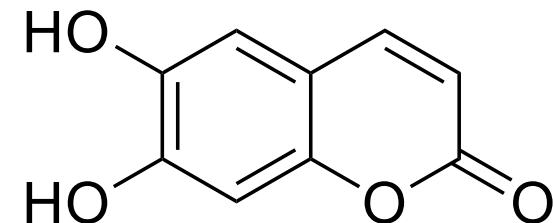
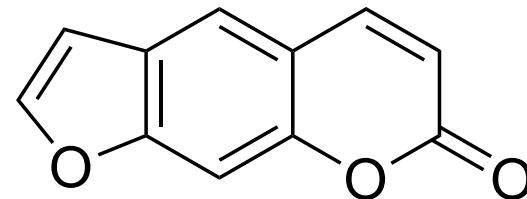
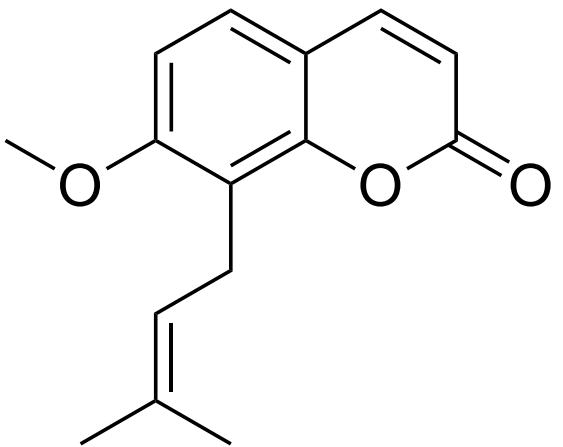


3,3'-methylenebis(2H-chromen-2-one)  
bicoumarin

## Coumarins

### Properties and applications

- photosensitizers
- enzyme inhibitors
- antiinflammatory agents
- anticoagulants
- antioxydants

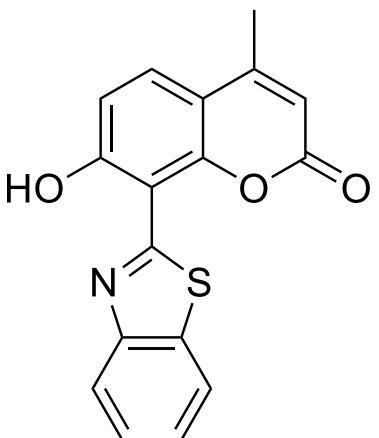
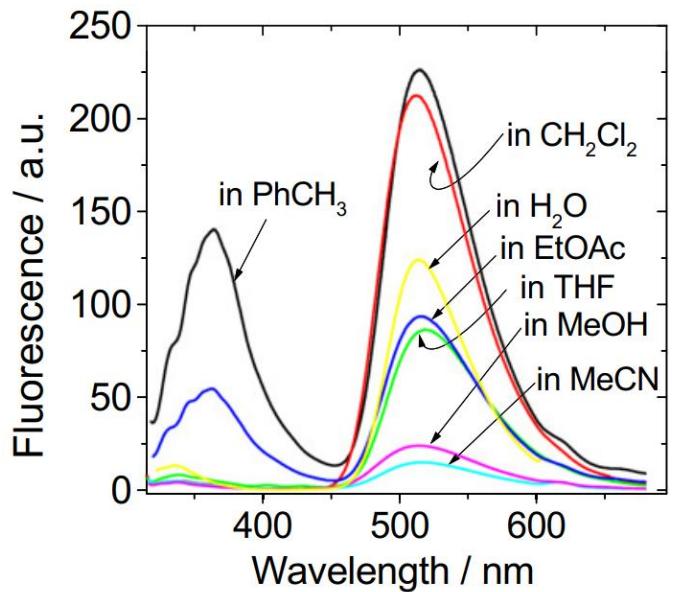


- photostability
- high quantum yield
- possibility of tuning properties through structural modifications

### Outlook

## Dual fluorescence

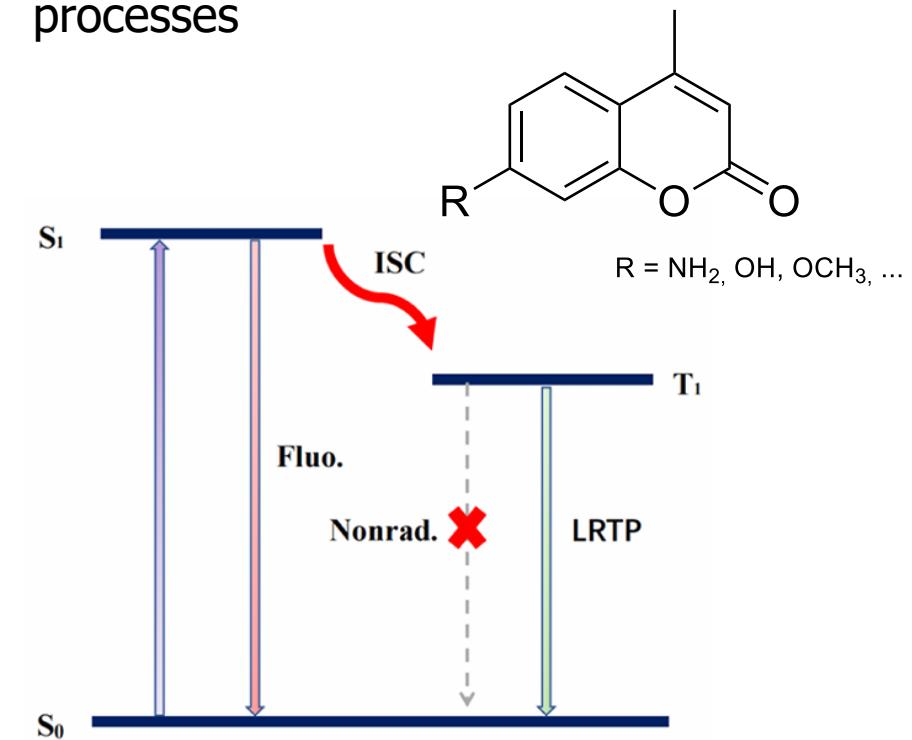
- co-existence of multiple emissive states in different electronic and/or molecular structures
- breaching the Kasha's rule
- aggregation effects



Lijuan Xie et al.  
*Dyes Pigm.* **2012**, *92* (3), 1361-1369

## Room-temperature phosphorescence

- promotion of intersystem crossing (ISC)
- reduction of non-radiative relaxation processes



Runcong Feng et al.  
*ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2023**, *15* (25),  
30717–30726

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

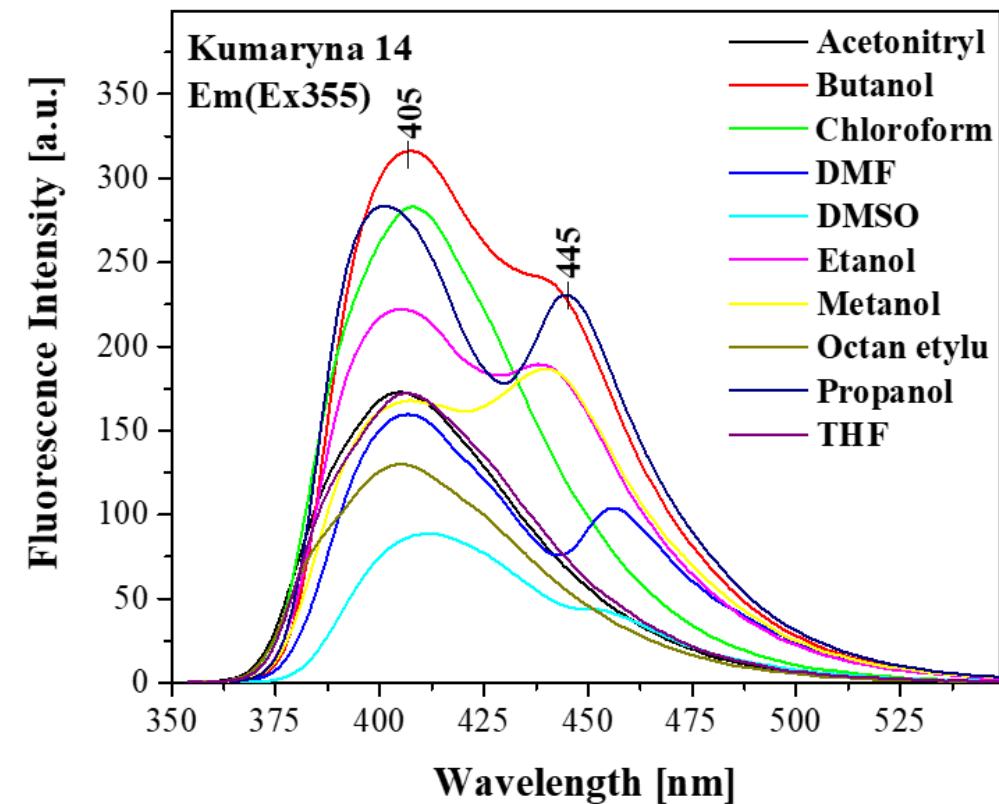
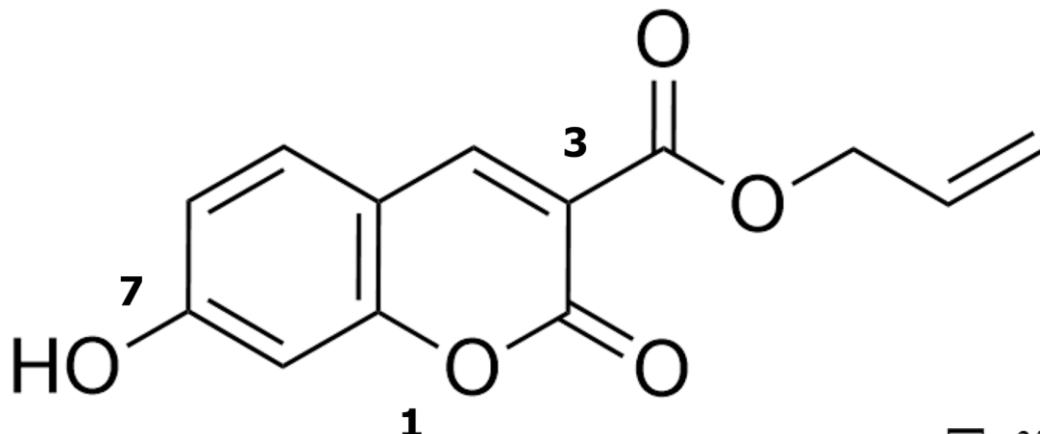
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined  
system

Goals

Results

Outlook



Prof. A. Matwijczuk, University of Life Sciences in Lublin

Coumarins

Properties  
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## **Development of a reliable theoretical model to explain observed emission properties of the system:**

1. Conformational analysis
2. Modelling of emission properties (through optimization of  $S_1$  and  $T_1$  excited states)
3. Investigation of ISC (through calculation of spin-orbit coupling (SOC) interactions between  $S_1$  and low-energy triplet excited states)

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

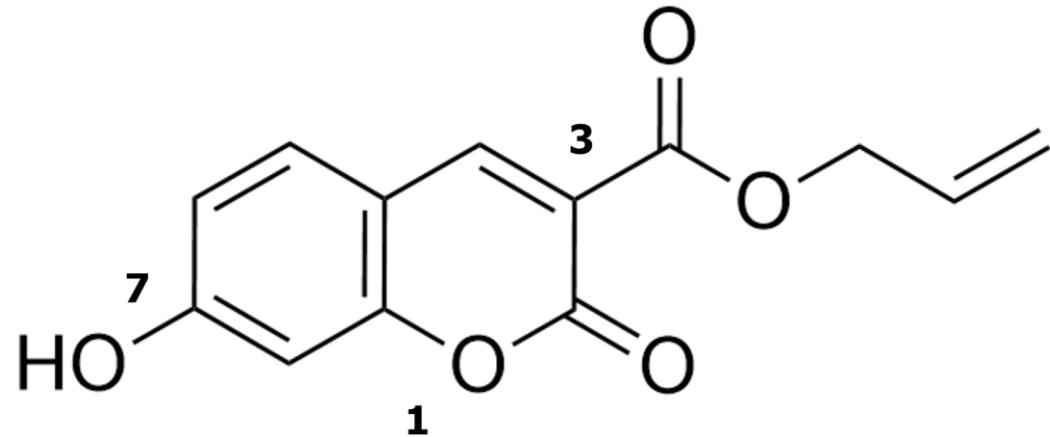
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

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Outlook



## Conformational analysis

Program: conformer-rotamer sampling tool CREST

Philip Pracht et al.  
*J. Chem. Phys.*, **2024**, 160, 114110

Program: Gaussian 16

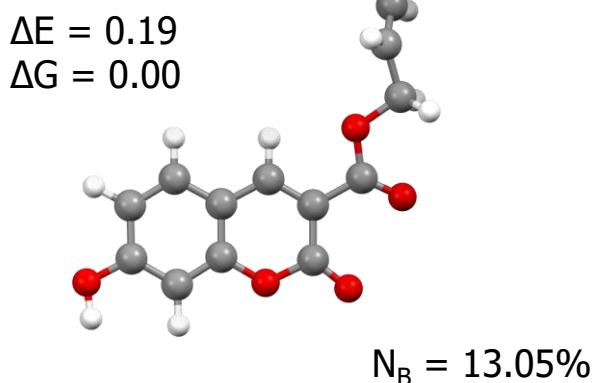
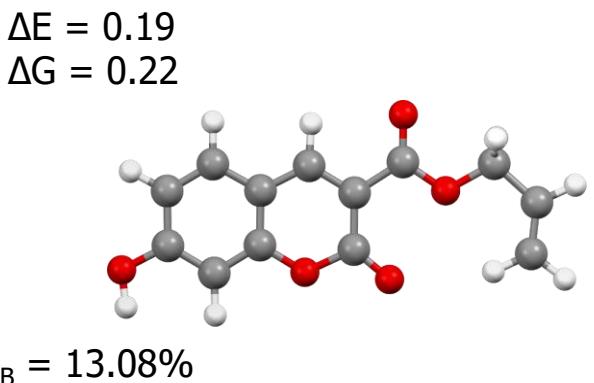
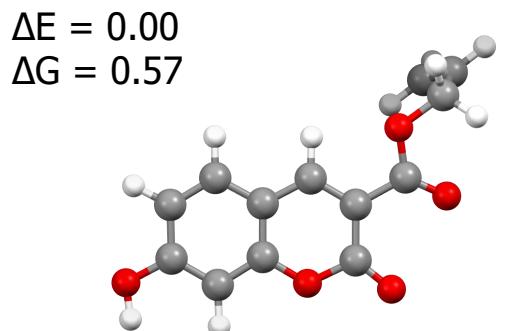
Method: DFT

Functional: B3LYP

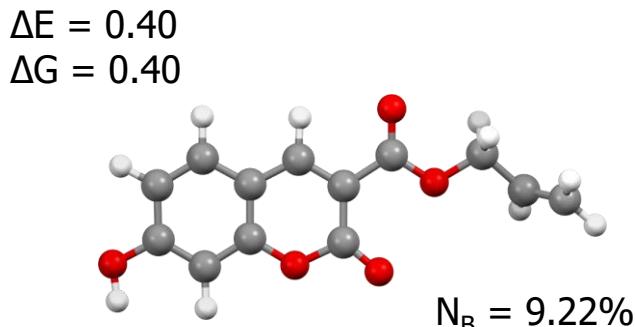
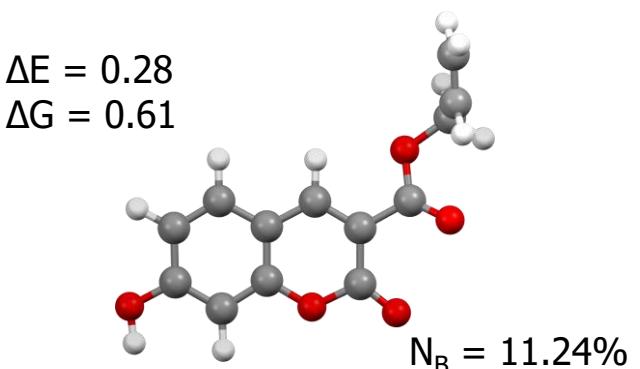
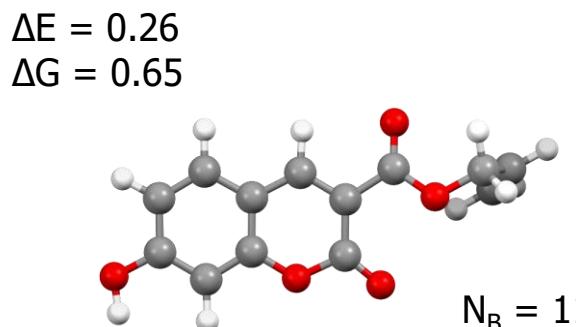
Basis set: 6-311++G(d,p)

Environment: PCM (methanol,  $\epsilon = 32.6$ )

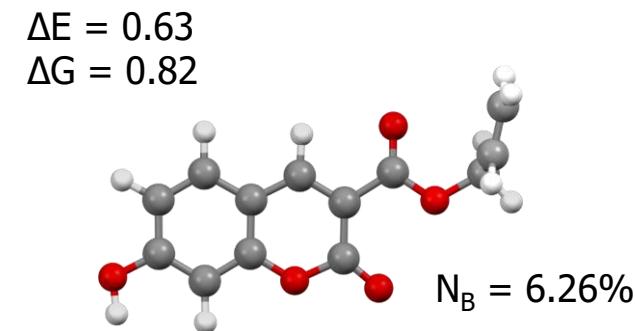
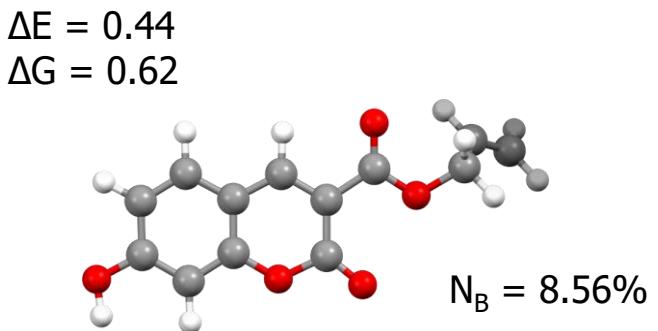
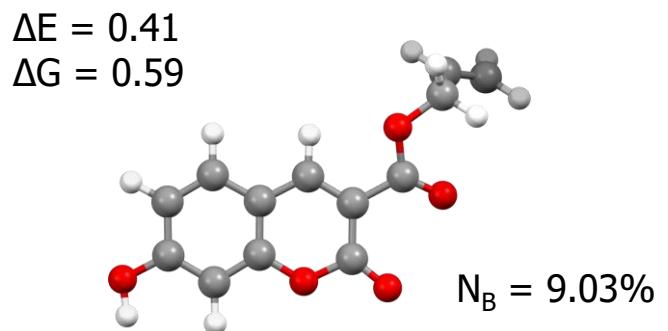
## Coumarins



## Dual fluorescence



## Room-temperature phosphorescence



## Results

$\Delta E / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$     $N_B$  – Boltzmann populations at 298 K based on E  
 $\Delta G / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$    dist. in Å

## Outlook

DFT B3LYP//6-311++G(d,p)

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

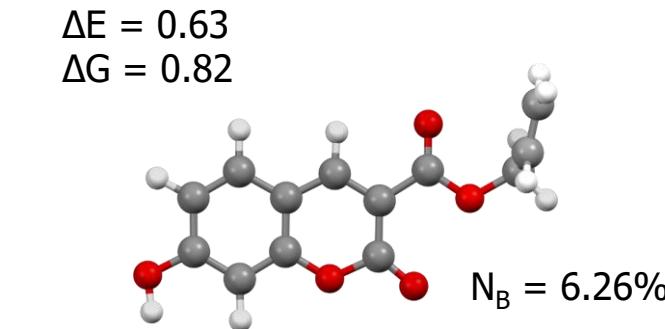
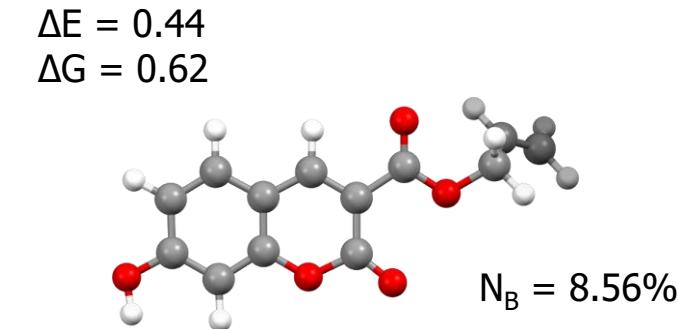
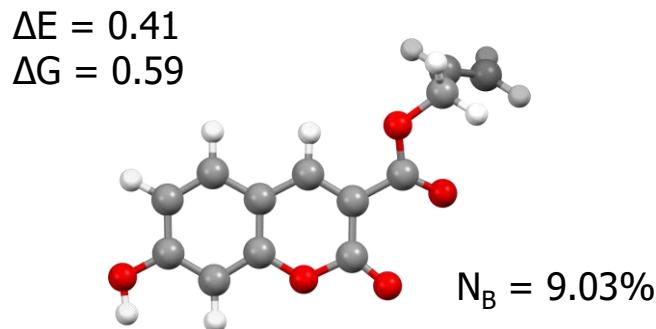
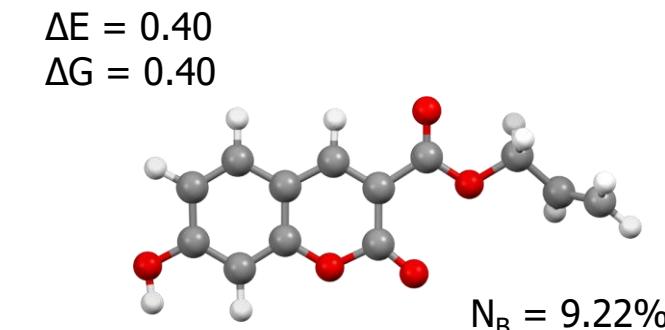
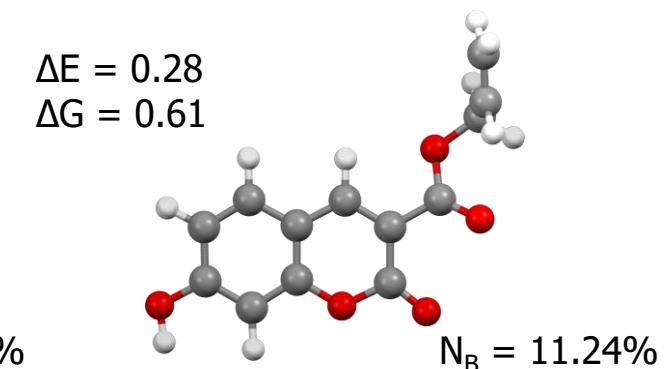
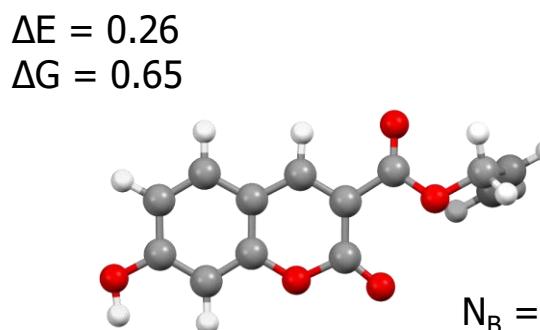
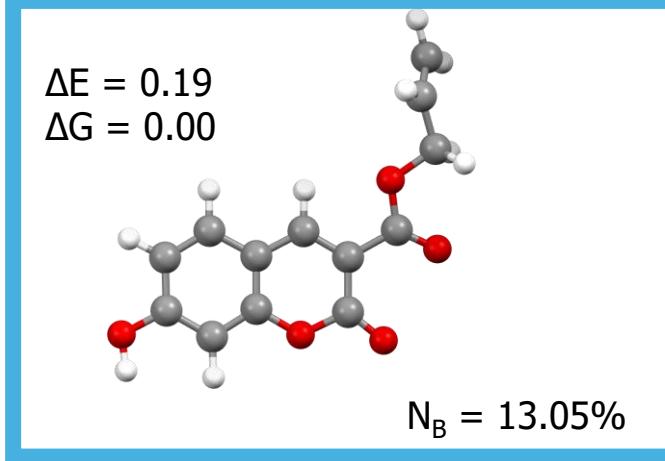
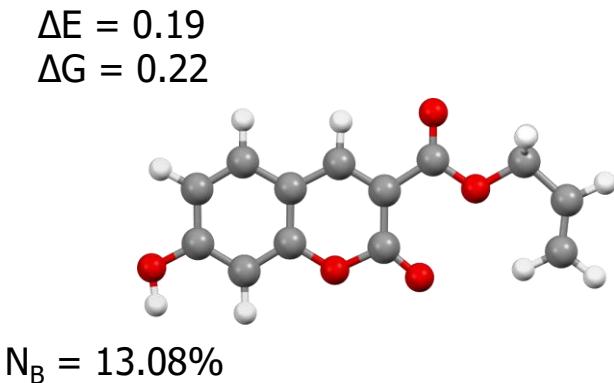
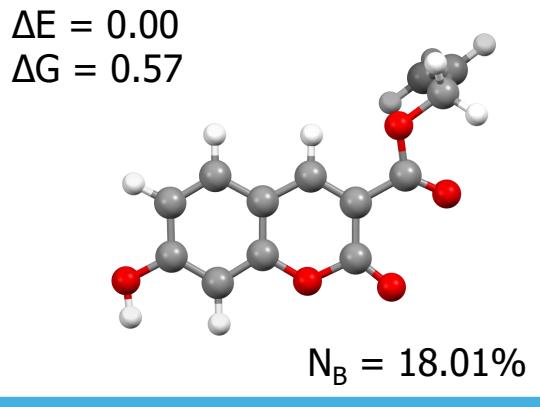
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

Goals

Results

Outlook



$\Delta E / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$   
 $\Delta G / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

$N_B$  – Boltzmann populations at 298 K based on E  
dist. in Å

DFT B3LYP//6-311++G(d,p)

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

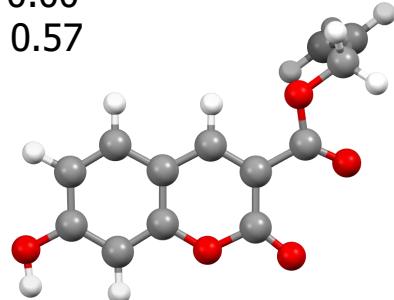
Examined system

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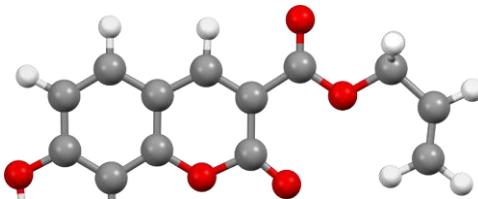
Outlook

$\Delta E = 0.00$   
 $\Delta G = 0.57$



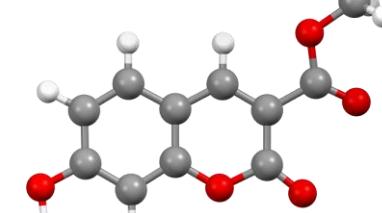
$N_B = 18.01\%$

$\Delta E = 0.19$   
 $\Delta G = 0.22$



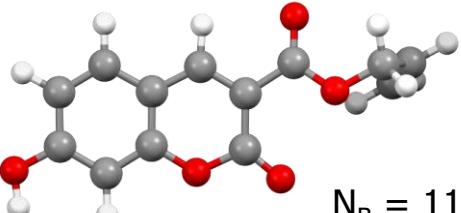
$N_B = 13.08\%$

$\Delta E = 0.19$   
 $\Delta G = 0.00$



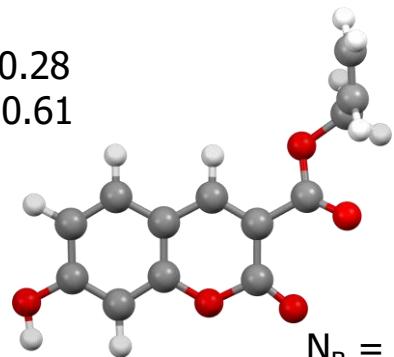
$N_B = 13.05\%$

$\Delta E = 0.26$   
 $\Delta G = 0.65$



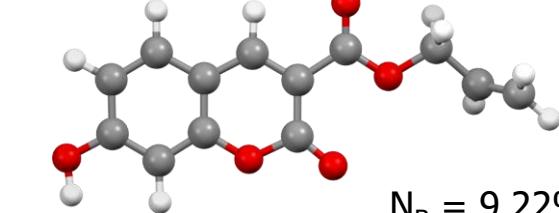
$N_B = 11.55\%$

$\Delta E = 0.28$   
 $\Delta G = 0.61$



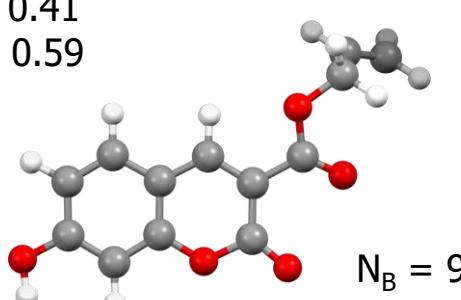
$N_B = 11.24\%$

$\Delta E = 0.40$   
 $\Delta G = 0.40$



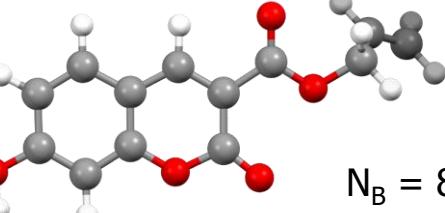
$N_B = 9.22\%$

$\Delta E = 0.41$   
 $\Delta G = 0.59$



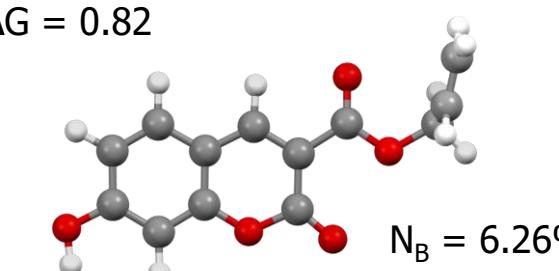
$N_B = 9.03\%$

$\Delta E = 0.44$   
 $\Delta G = 0.62$



$N_B = 8.56\%$

$\Delta E = 0.63$   
 $\Delta G = 0.82$



$N_B = 6.26\%$

$\Delta E / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$   
 $\Delta G / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

$N_B$  – Boltzmann populations at 298 K based on E  
dist. in Å

DFT B3LYP//6-311++G(d,p)

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

Goals

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Outlook

## Choice of functionals for TD-DFT calculations

Program: DELFI by D. Avagliano

Davide Avagliano et al.  
*Chem. Sci.*, **2024**, 15, 4489-4503

### S<sub>1</sub> optimization

Program: Gaussian 16/ORCA

Method: TD-DFT, CCSD

Functional: B3LYP, CAM-B3LYP, ωB97X-D, LC-ωPBEh, ωB97-XV,  
rCAM-B3LYP, TPSSh, M06, M062X, M11

Basis set: 6-311++G(d,p)

Environment: PCM (methanol,  $\epsilon = 32.6$ )

Coumarins

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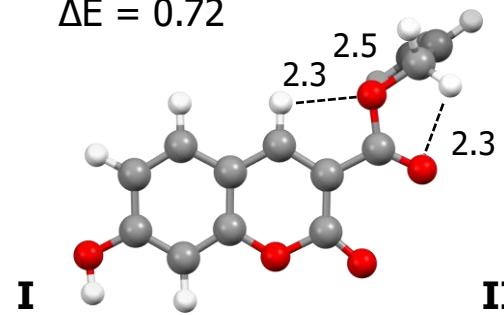
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Results

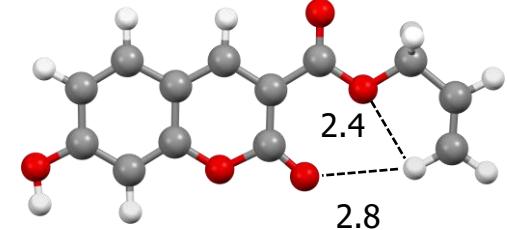
Outlook

$\Delta E / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$    dist. in Å

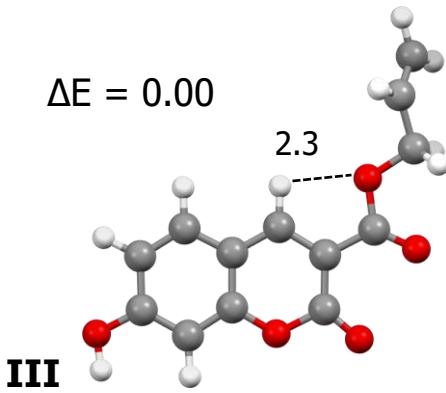
$\Delta E = 0.72$



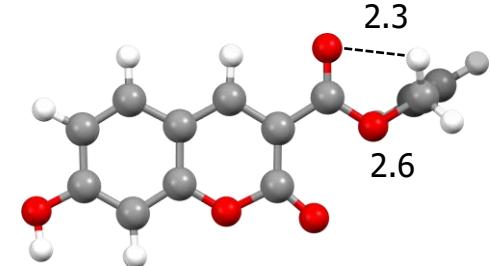
$\Delta E = 0.32$



$\Delta E = 0.00$



$\Delta E = 0.68$



**TD-DFT TPSSh / 6-311++G(d,p)**

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

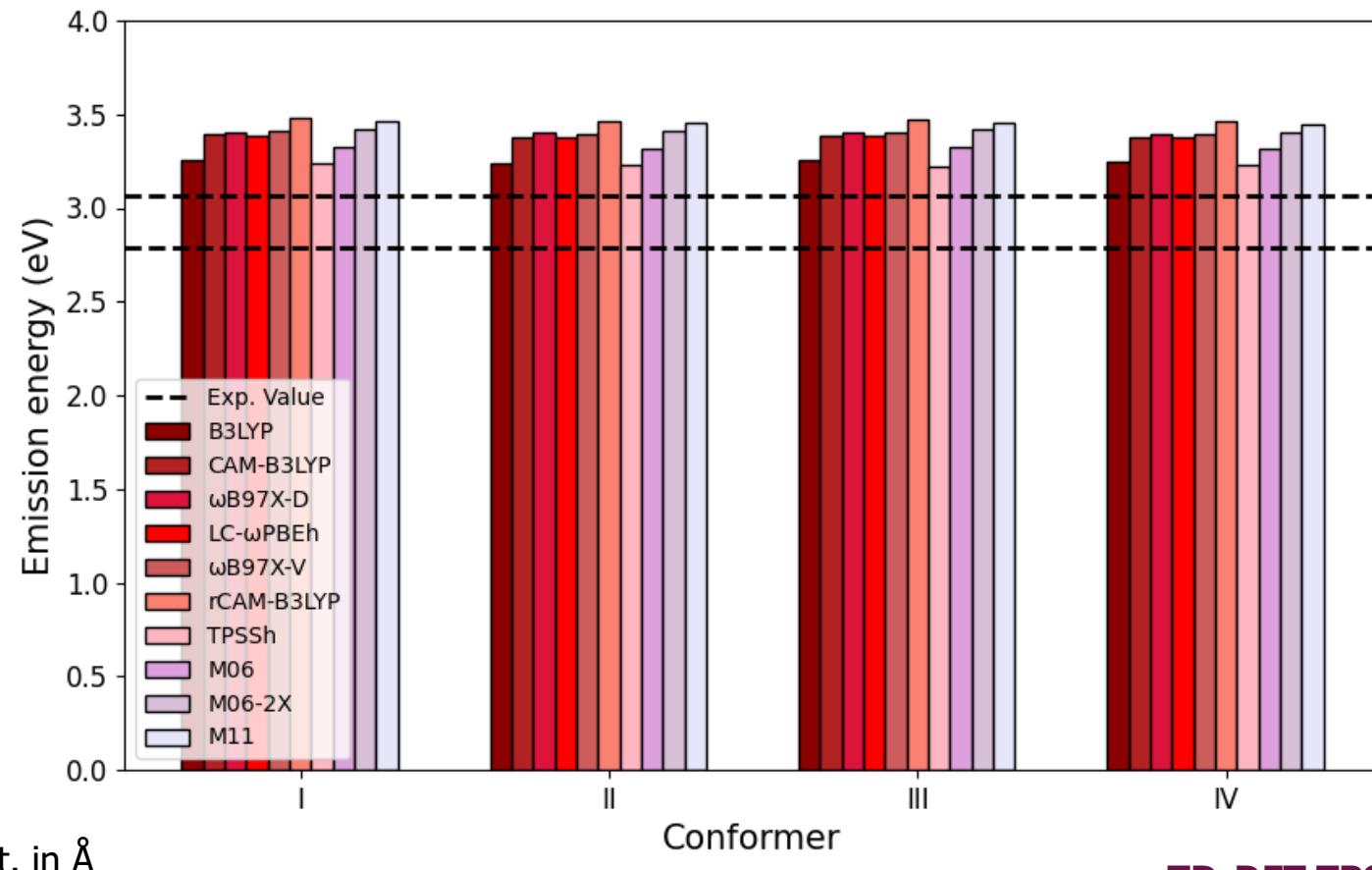
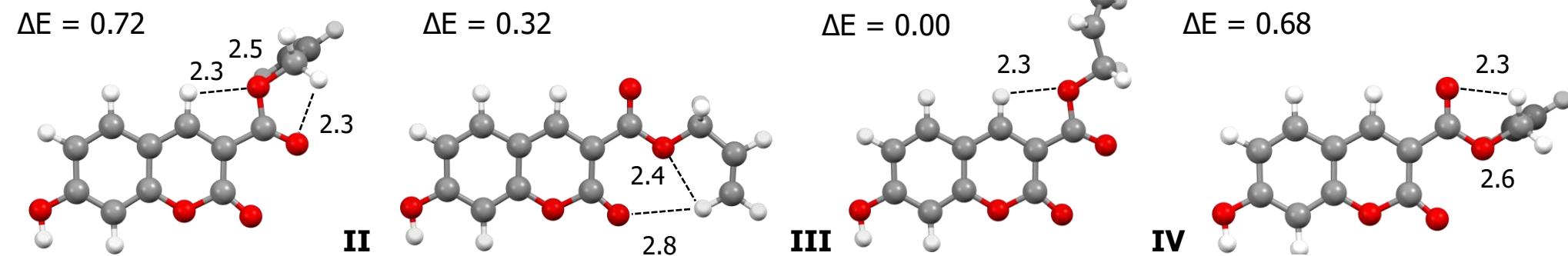
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

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high-energy  
signal  
 $E = 3.06 \text{ eV}$

low-energy  
signal  
 $E = 2.79 \text{ eV}$

Coumarins

Properties  
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Dual fluorescence

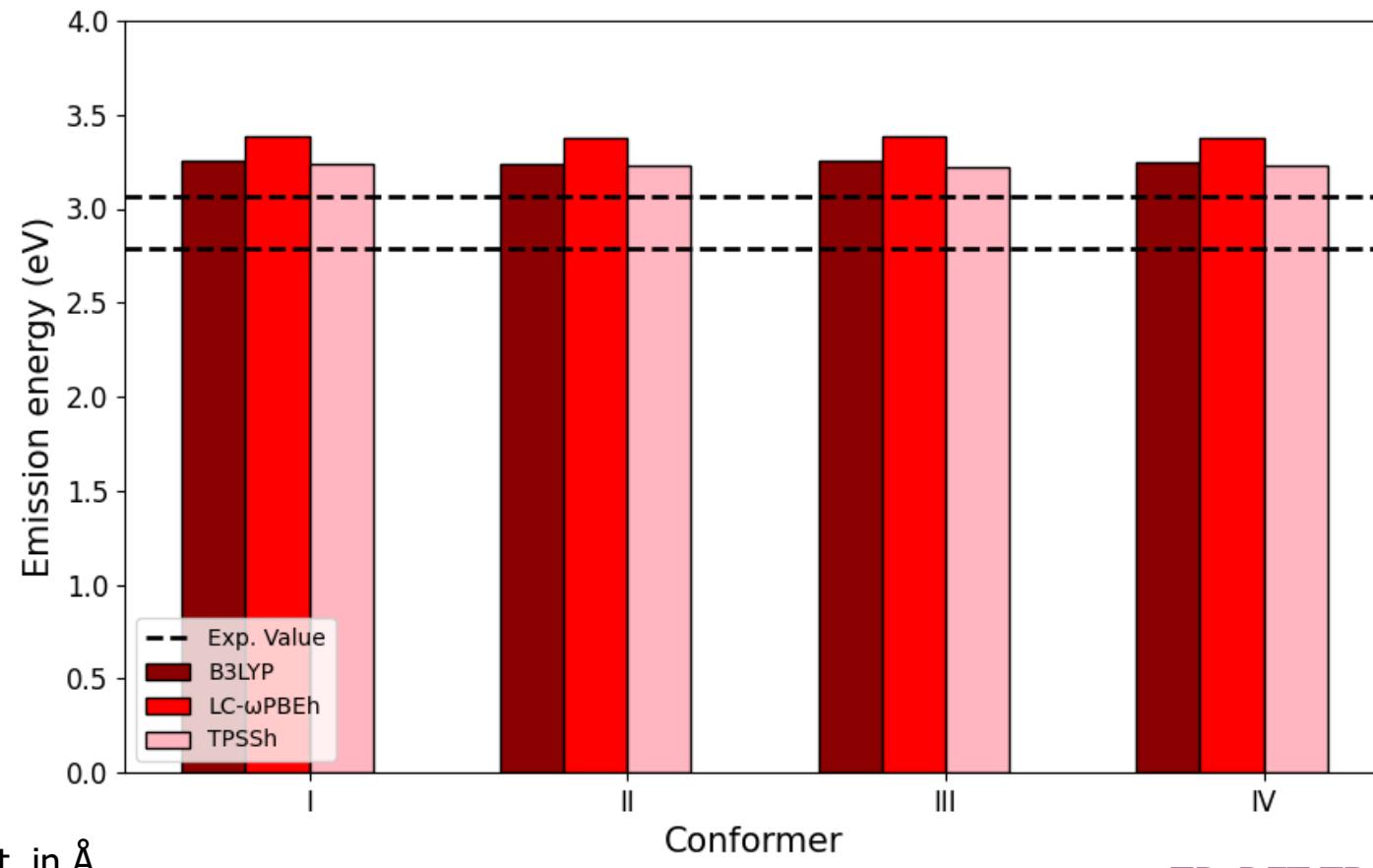
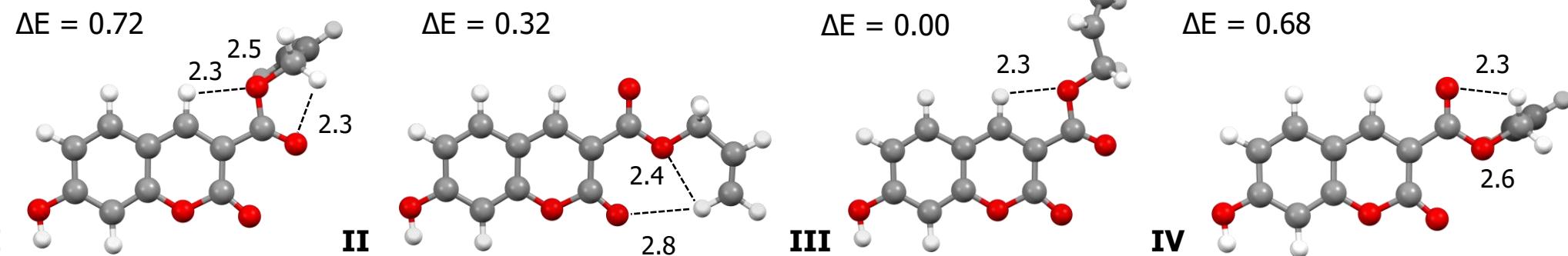
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

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high-energy  
signal  
 $E = 3.06 \text{ eV}$   
low-energy  
signal  
 $E = 2.79 \text{ eV}$

**TD-DFT TPSSh / 6-311++G(d,p)**

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

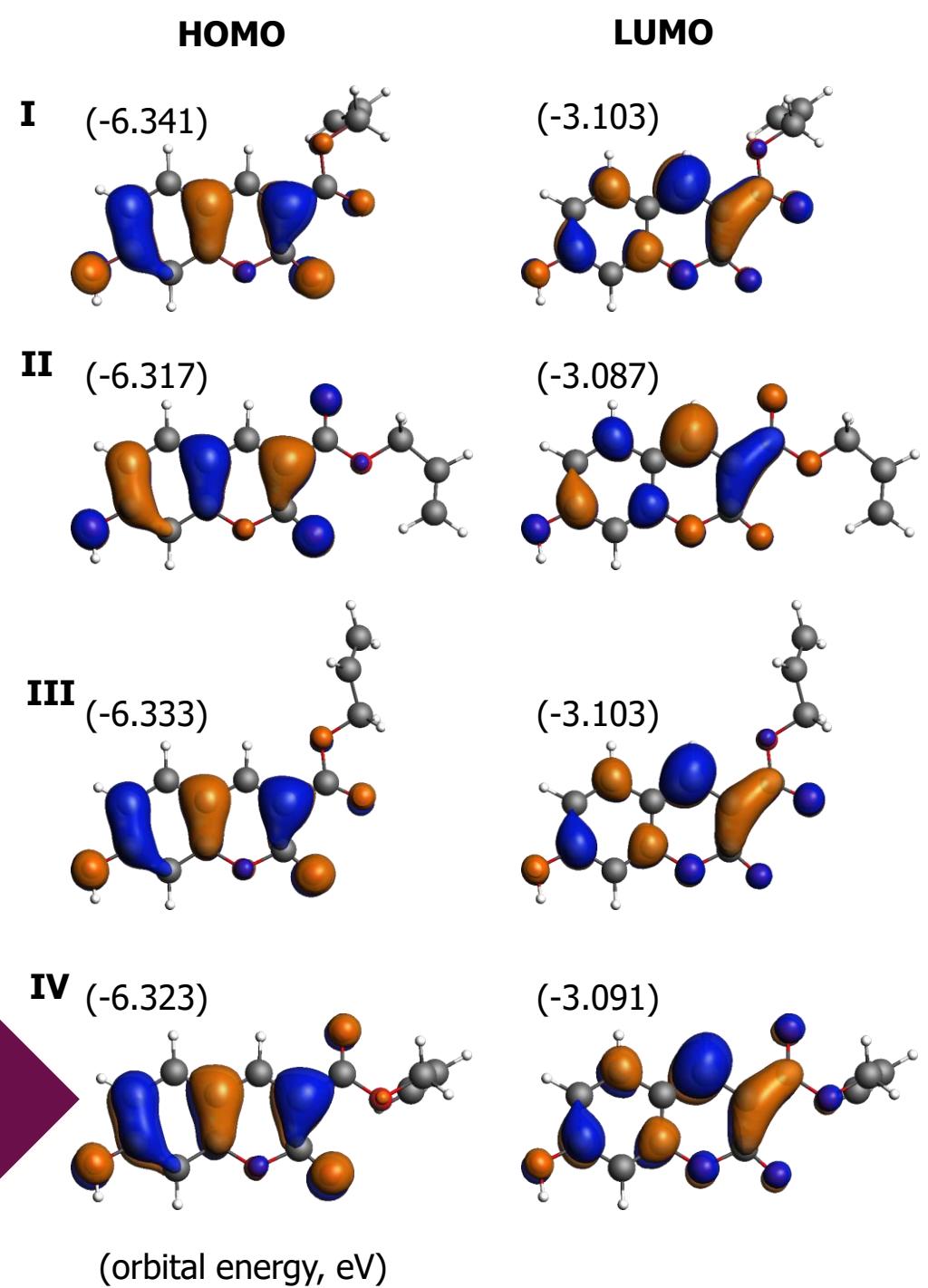
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

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	<b>E [eV] (<math>\lambda</math> [nm])</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>H <math>\leftarrow</math> L: %</b>
<b>exp.</b>	3.061 (405)	—	—
<b>exp.</b>	2.786 (445)	—	—
<b>TPSSh</b>	<b>I</b> 3.234 (383)	0.700	97.3
	<b>II</b> 3.226 (384)	0.715	97.7
	<b>III</b> 3.219 (385)	0.686	95.6
	<b>IV</b> 3.227 (384)	0.704	97.7

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

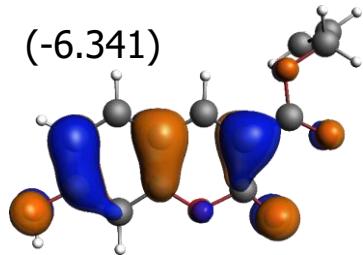
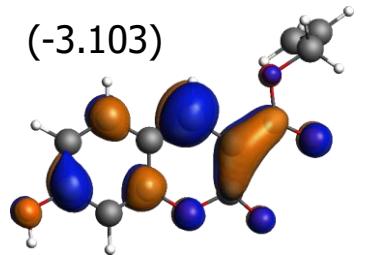
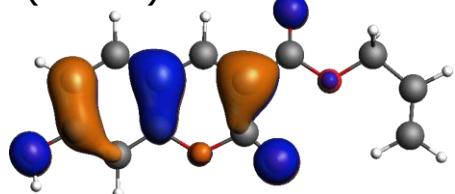
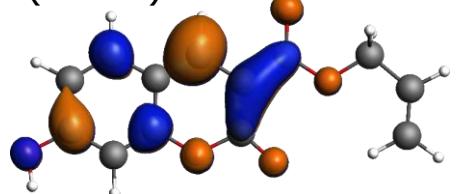
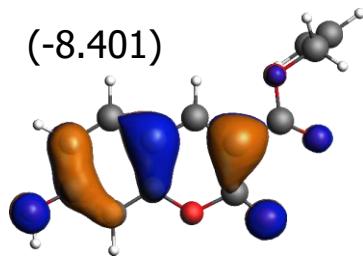
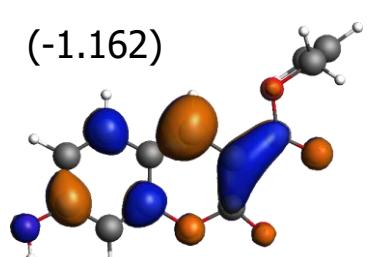
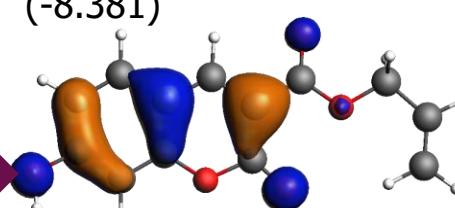
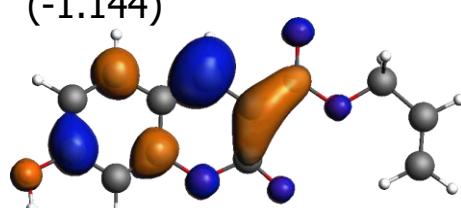
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

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**HOMO****TPSSh****I** (-6.341)**LUMO****I** (-3.103)**II** (-6.317)**II** (-3.087)**LC- $\omega$ PBEh****I** (-8.401)**I** (-1.162)**II** (-8.381)**II** (-1.144)

(orbital energy, eV)

	<b>E [eV] (<math>\lambda</math> [nm])</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>H <math>\leftarrow</math> L: %</b>
<b>exp.</b>	3.061 (405)	—	—
	2.786 (445)	—	—
<b>B3LYP</b>	<b>I</b> 3.257 (381)	0.786	98.1
	<b>II</b> 3.241 (383)	0.785	98.2
	<b>III</b> 3.253 (381)	0.791	98.1
	<b>IV</b> 3.243 (382)	0.779	98.2
<b>TPSSh</b>	<b>I</b> 3.234 (383)	0.700	97.3
	<b>II</b> 3.226 (384)	0.715	97.7
	<b>III</b> 3.219 (385)	0.686	95.6
	<b>IV</b> 3.227 (384)	0.704	97.7
<b>LC-<math>\omega</math>PBEh</b>	<b>I</b> 3.389 (366)	0.841	96.7
	<b>II</b> 3.379 (367)	0.833	96.8
	<b>III</b> 3.386 (366)	0.845	96.8
	<b>IV</b> 3.379 (367)	0.829	96.8

Coumarins

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Dual fluorescence

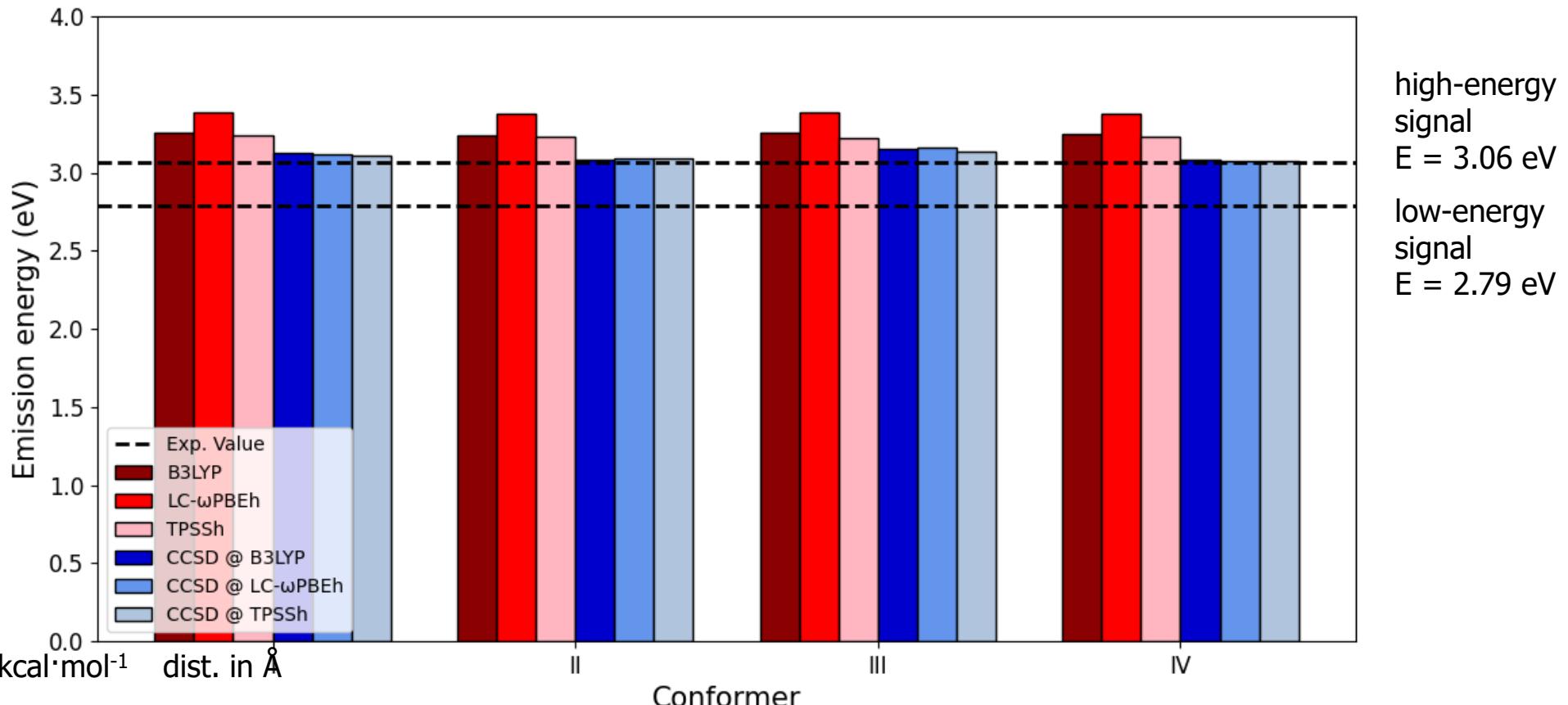
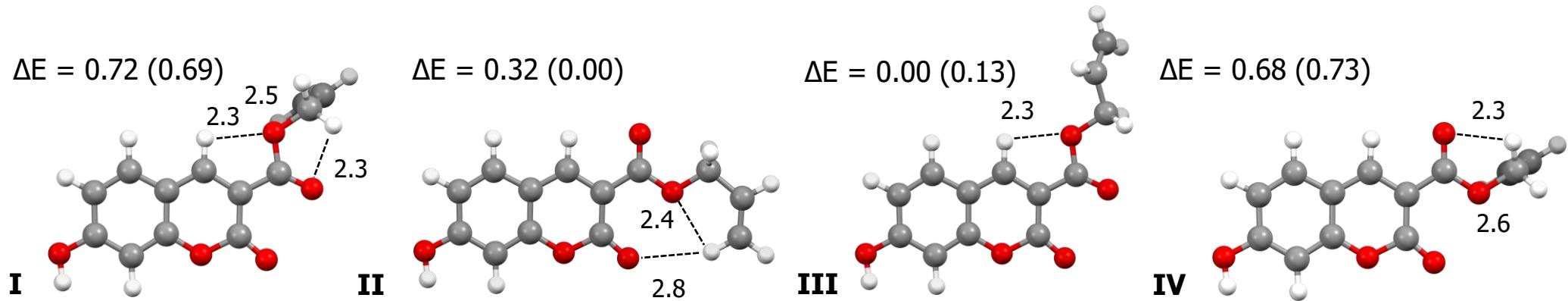
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

Goals

Results

Outlook



Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

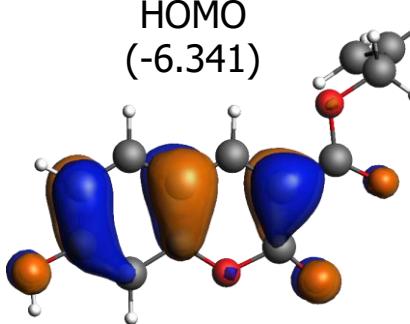
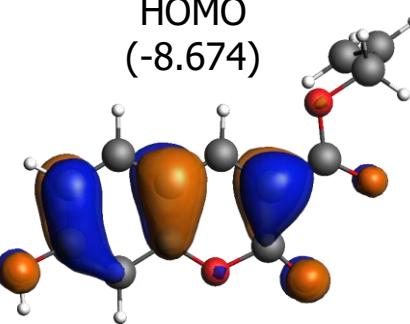
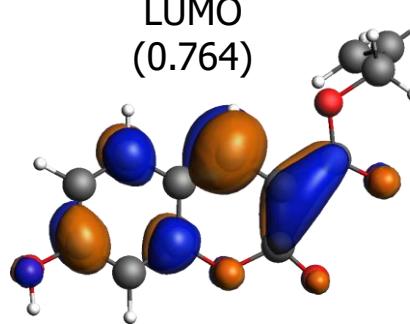
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

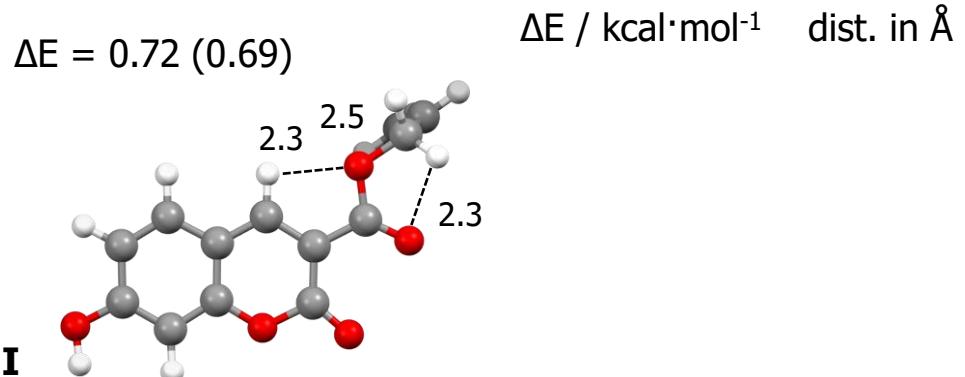
Goals

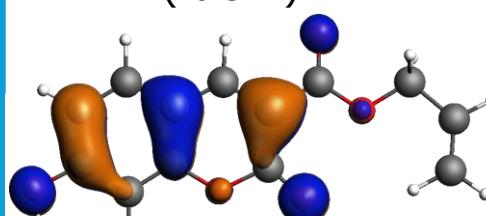
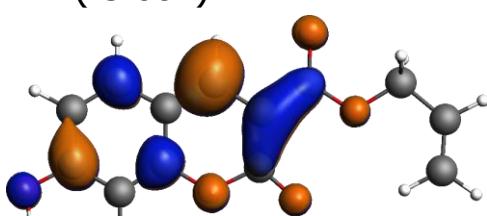
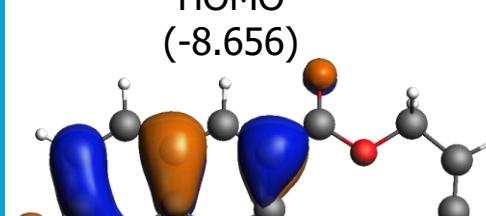
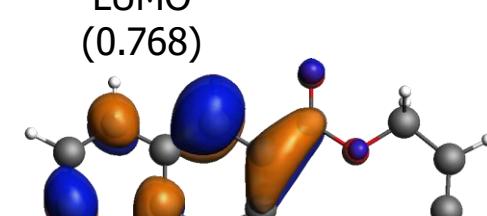
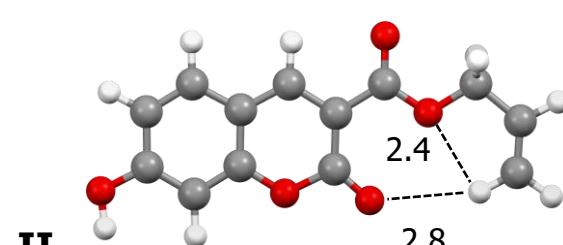
Results

Outlook

		<b>E [eV] (λ [nm])</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>H ← L: %</b>
<b>TPSSh</b>	HOMO (-6.341)		<b>exp.</b> <b>3.061 (405)</b>	—
	LUMO (-3.103)			
<b>CCSD @ TPSSh</b>	HOMO (-8.674)		<b>CCSD @ B3LYP</b> <b>3.125 (397)</b>	0.702
	LUMO (0.764)		<b>CCSD @ TPSSh</b> <b>3.110 (399)</b>	0.663
<b>CCSD @ LC-<math>\omega</math>PBEh</b>			<b>CCSD @ LC-<math>\omega</math>PBEh</b> <b>3.114 (398)</b>	0.726

(orbital energy, eV)



		<b>E [eV] (λ [nm])</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>H ← L:</b> <b>%</b>
Coumarins				
Properties and applications	<b>TPSSh</b>	<b>exp.</b> <b>3.061 (405)</b>	—	—
Dual fluorescence	HOMO (-6.317) 	<b>exp.</b> 2.786 (445)	—	—
Room-temperature phosphorescence	LUMO (-3.087) 	<b>B3LYP</b> 3.241 (383)	0.785	98.2
Examined system	<b>CCSD @ TPSSh</b>	<b>TPSSh</b> 3.226 (384)	0.715	97.7
	HOMO (-8.656) 	<b>LC-ωPBEh</b> 3.379 (367)	0.833	96.8
Goals	LUMO (0.768) 	<b>CCSD @ B3LYP</b> <b>3.081 (403)</b>	0.723	94.5
Results		<b>CCSD @ TPSSh</b> <b>3.087 (402)</b>	0.749	95.4
Outlook		<b>CCSD @ LC-ωPBEh</b> <b>3.090 (401)</b>	0.802	95.5
		ΔE = 0.32 (0.00)	ΔE / kcal·mol <sup>-1</sup>	dist. in Å
				
	(orbital energy, eV)			

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

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phosphorescence

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Goals

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Outlook

## SOC calculations

Program: ADF

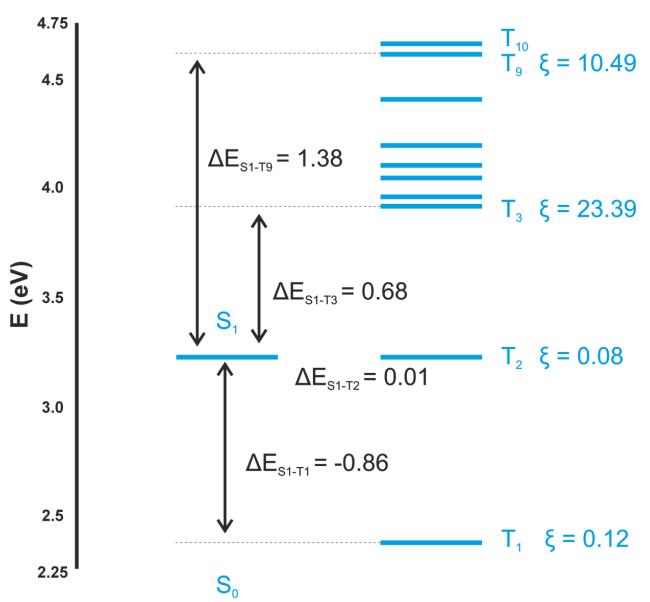
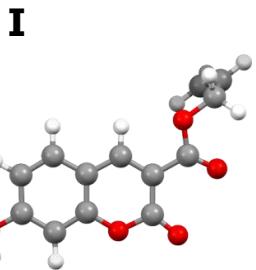
Method: TD-DFT

Functional: B3LYP

Basis set: TZ2P

Environment: COSMO (methanol,  $\epsilon = 32.6$ )

Coumarins



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and applications

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Coumarins

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Dual fluorescence

Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

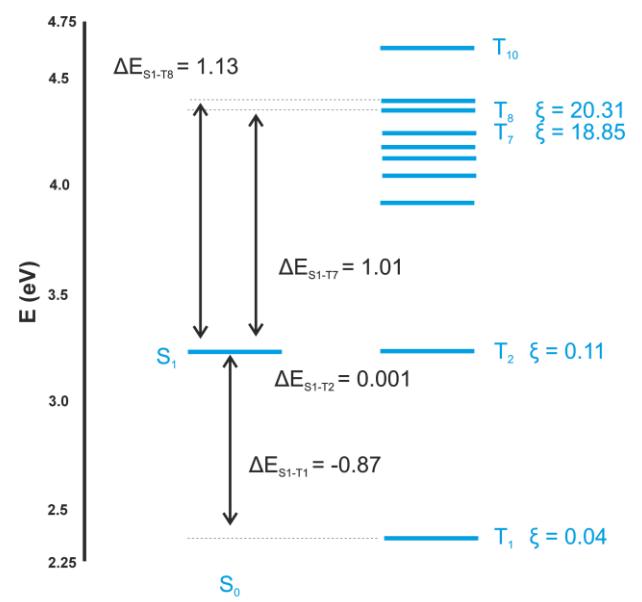
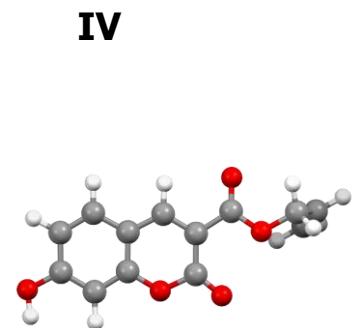
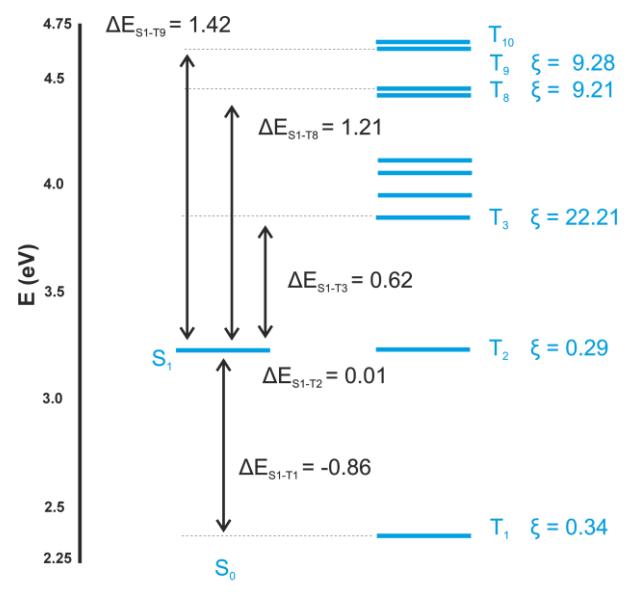
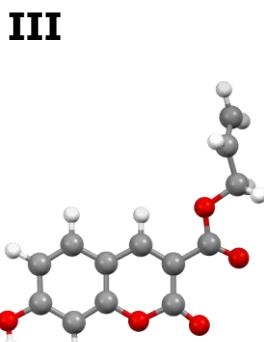
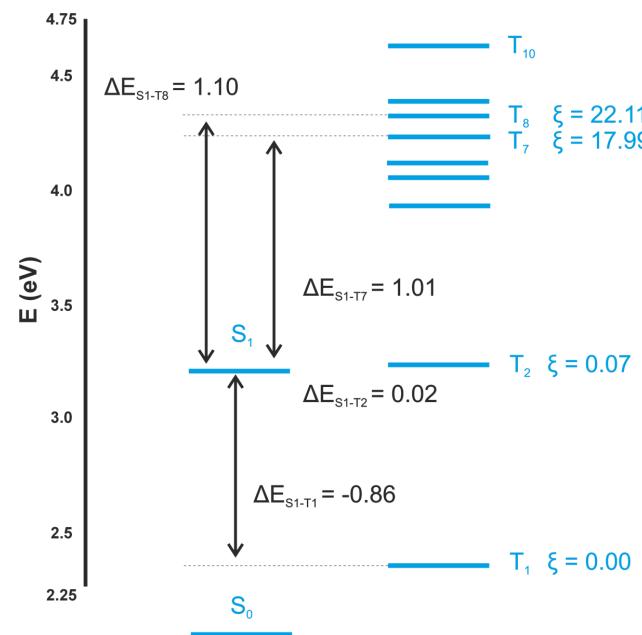
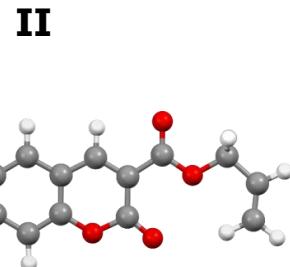
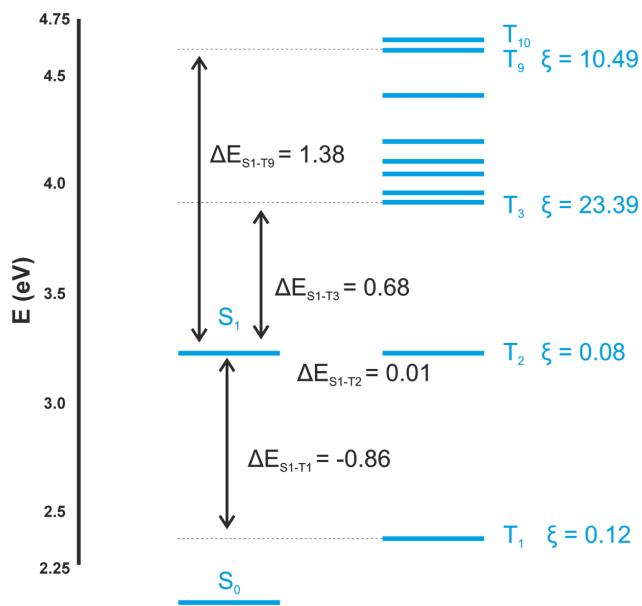
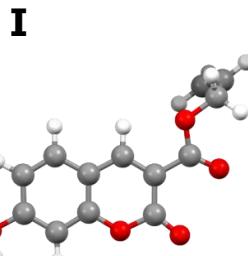
Examined system

Goals

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Outlook

$\xi / \text{cm}^{-1}$   
 $\Delta E / \text{eV}$



Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

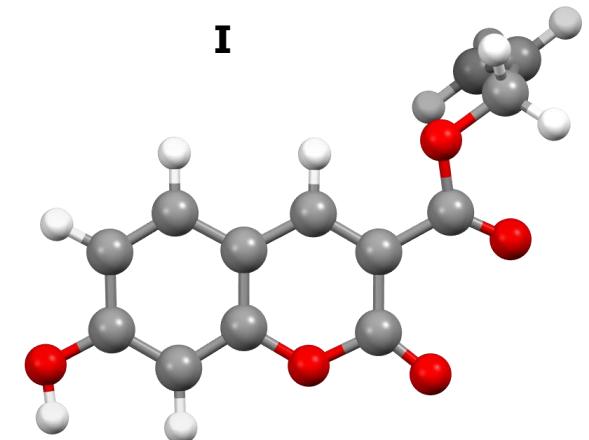
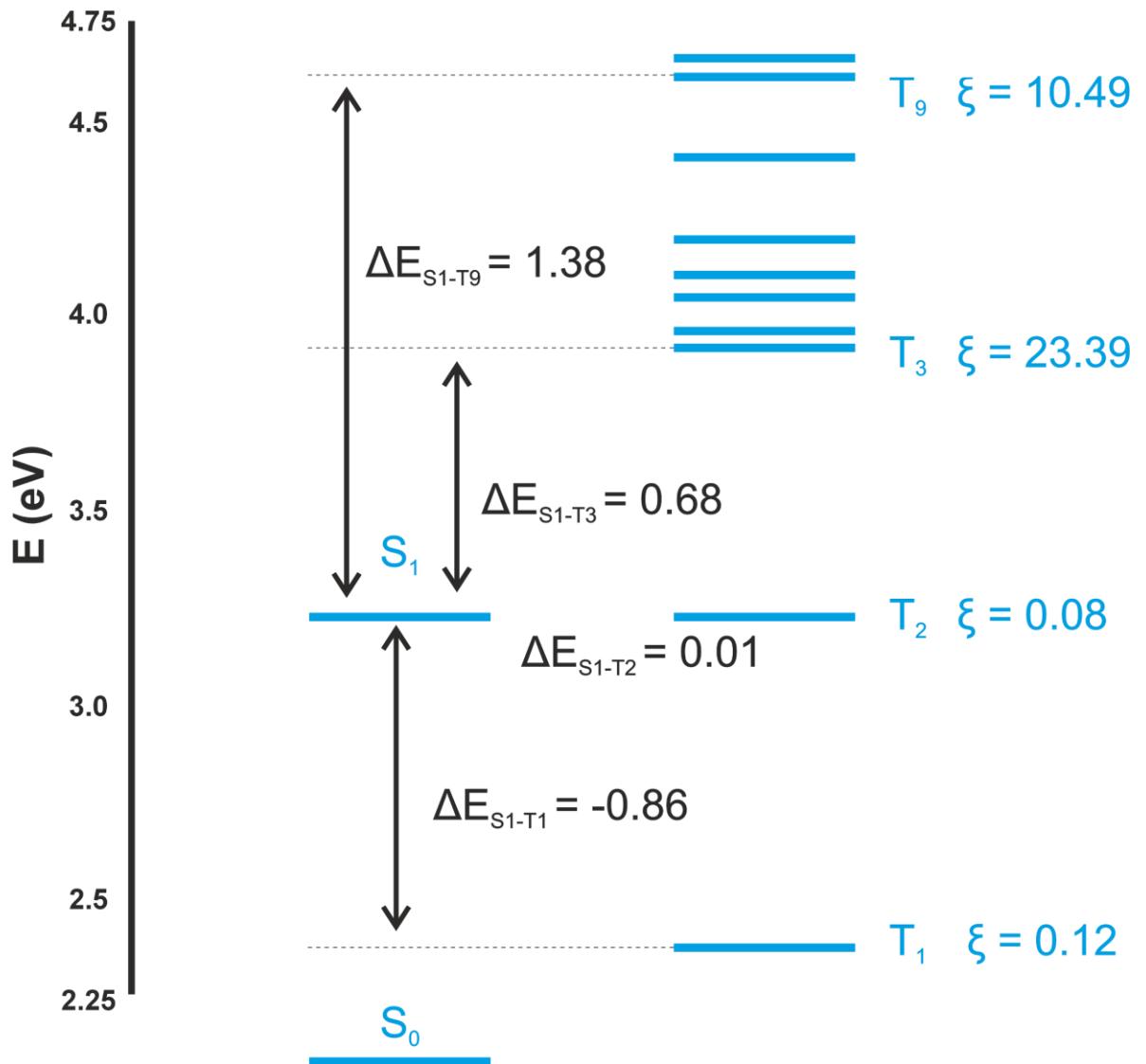
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

Goals

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Outlook



Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

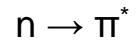
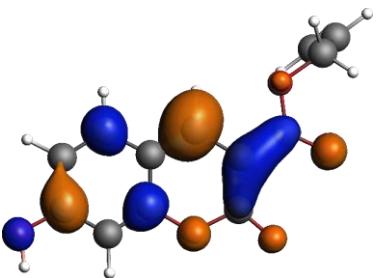
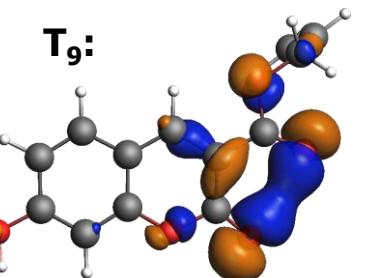
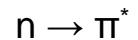
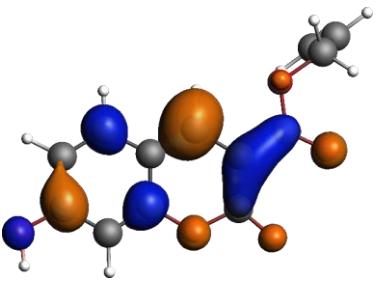
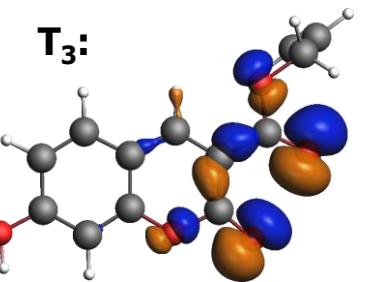
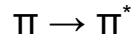
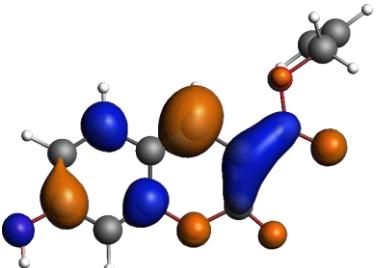
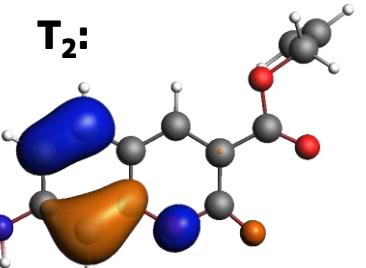
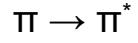
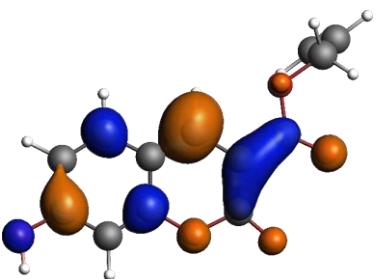
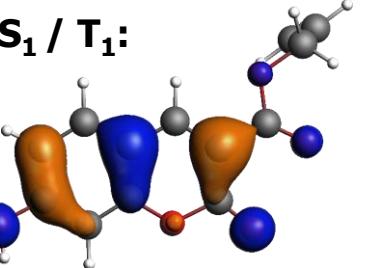
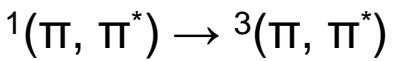
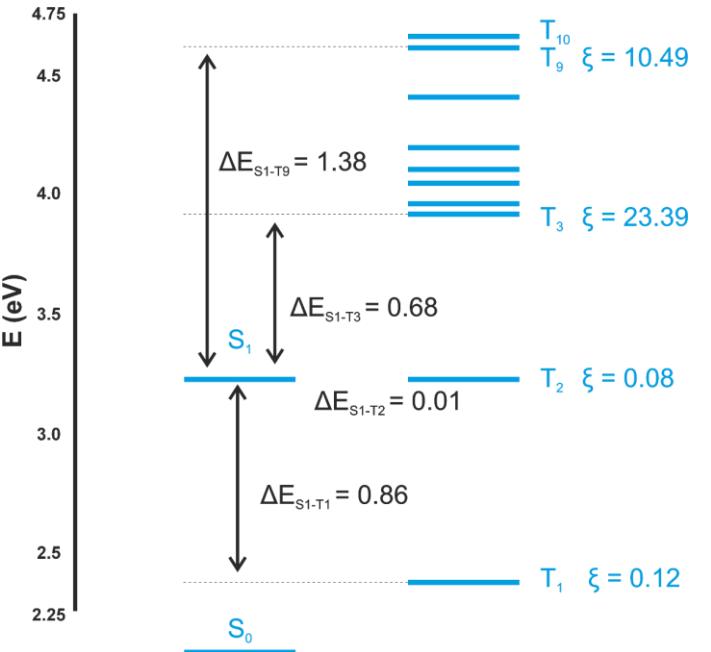
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

Goals

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$\xi / \text{cm}^{-1}$   
 $\Delta E / \text{eV}$

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

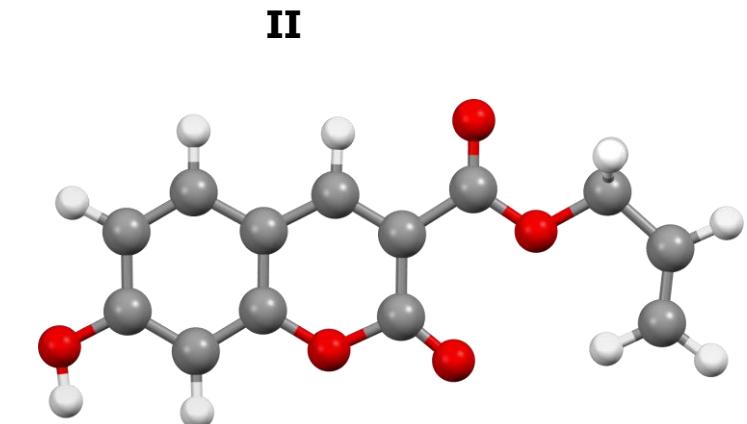
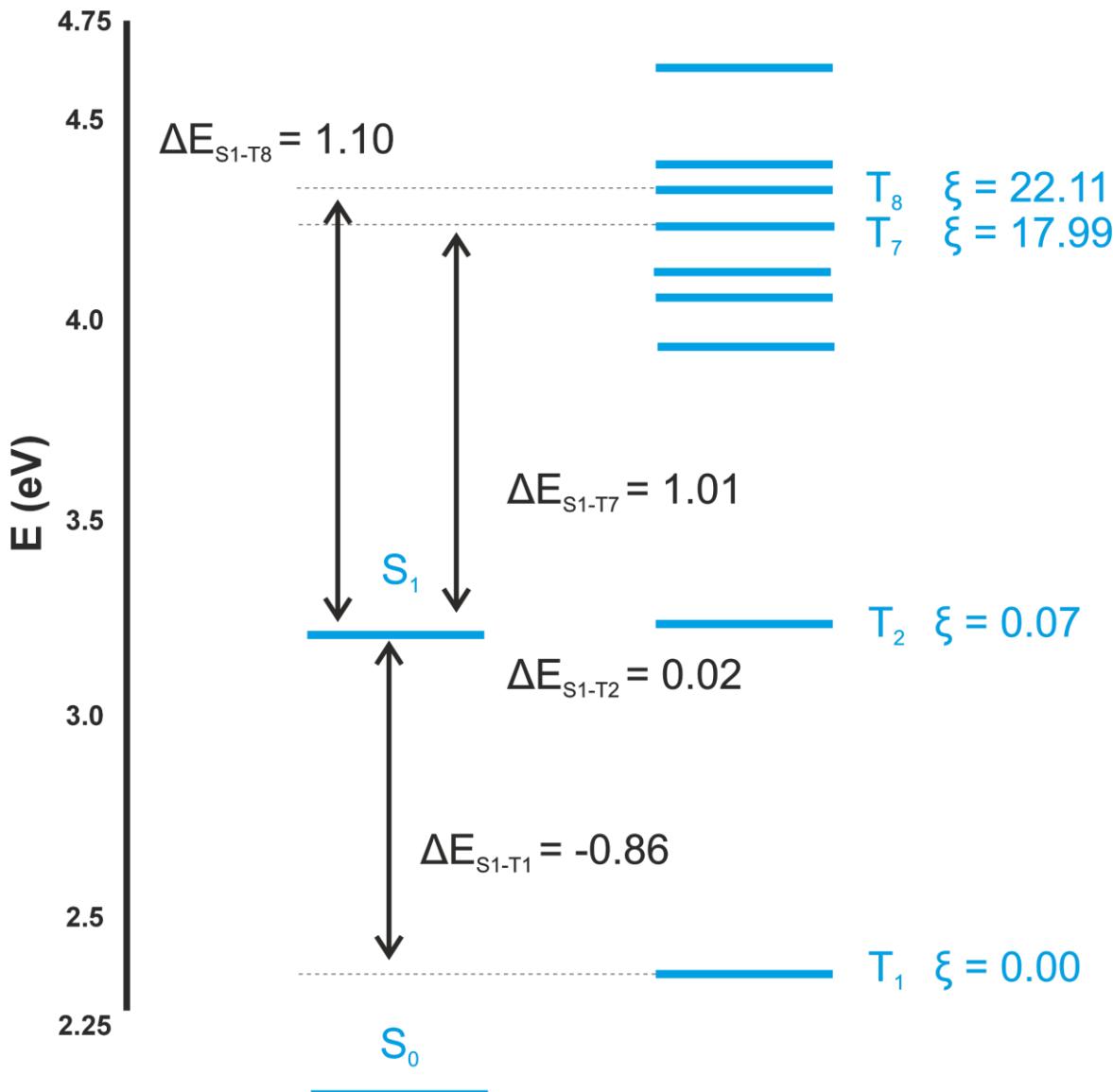
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

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Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

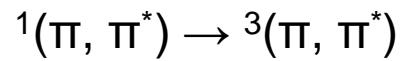
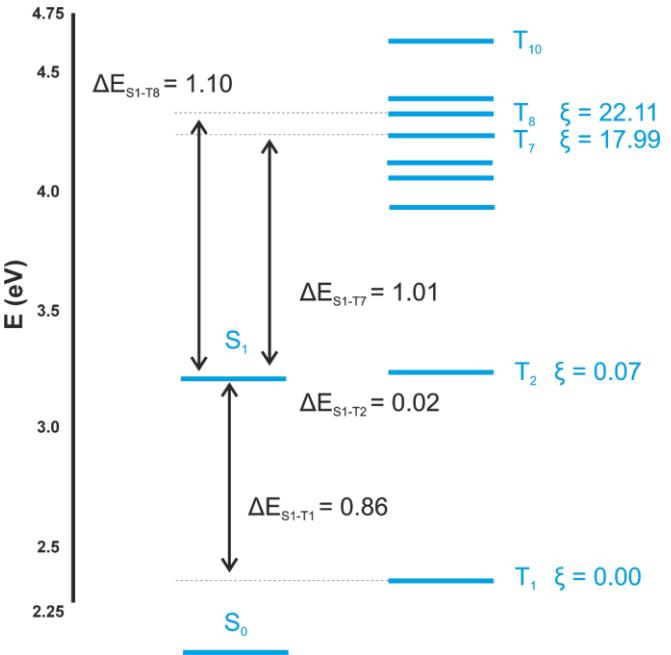
Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

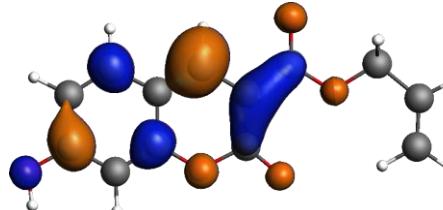
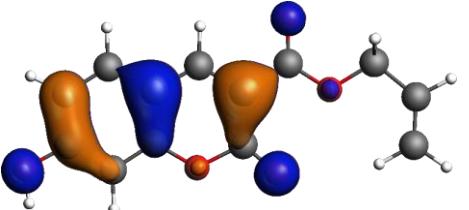
Goals

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Outlook

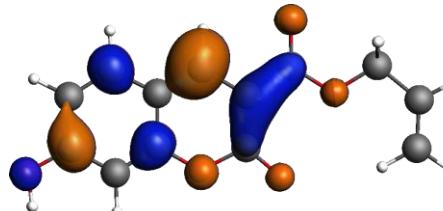
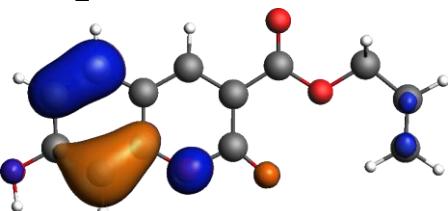


$S_1 / T_1:$



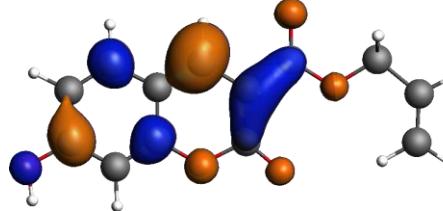
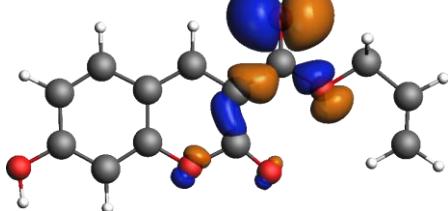
$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$

$T_2:$



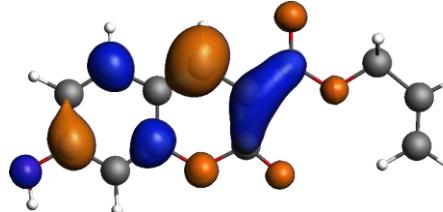
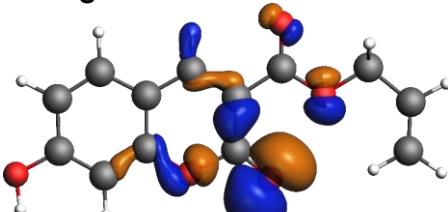
$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$

$T_7:$



$n \rightarrow \pi^*$

$T_8:$



$n \rightarrow \pi^*$

Coumarins

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Examined system

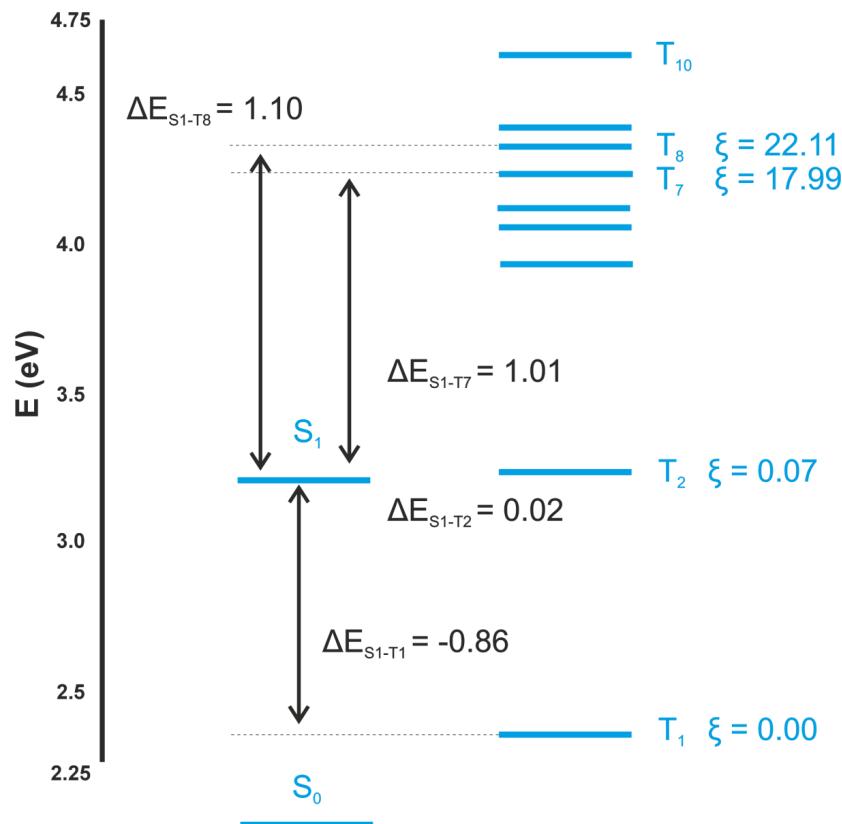
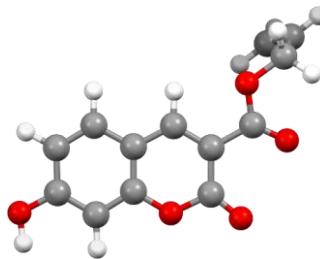
Goals

Results

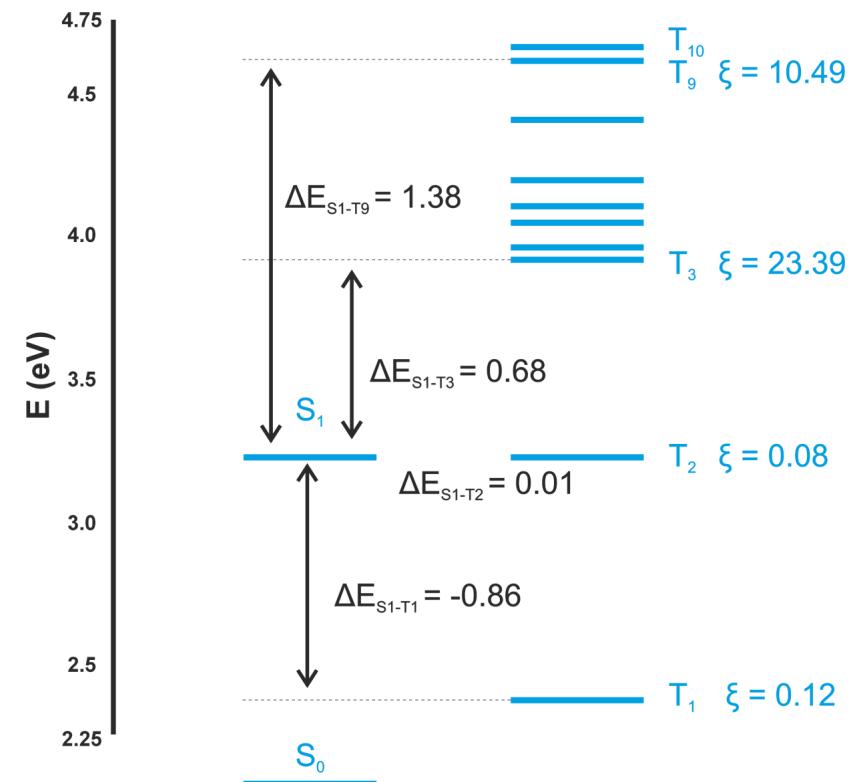
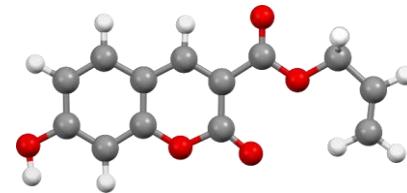
Outlook

$\xi / \text{cm}^{-1}$   
 $\Delta E / \text{eV}$

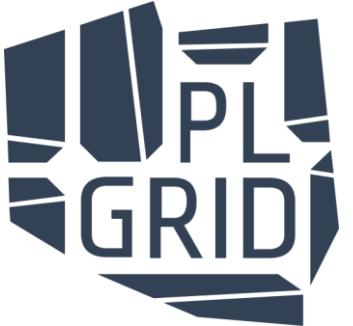
I



II



- conformational analysis of pristine molecule indicates that in solution various rotameric structures with similar populations may co-exist
- fluorescence emission energies computed for different conformers change rather negligibly with changes in ester substituent arrangement and seem to correspond well to higher-energy signal in the experimental fluorescence spectrum:
  - TD-DFT tends to overestimate it
  - CCSD provides quantitative agreement with the measured value
  - in each case  $S_1 \rightarrow S_0$  corresponds to  $\pi\pi^*$  transition within the coumarin ring
- DF effect cannot be explained based on co-existence of various rotameric structures → further research: aggregation, explicit solvent effects
- obtained SOC values indicate strong impact of the position of the carbonyl group in ester relative to the coumarin ring on ISC efficiency and thus occurrence of RTP → further research: CCSD validation, phosphorescence emission studies



We gratefully acknowledge Polish high-performance computing infrastructure PLGrid (HPC Center: ACK Cyfronet AGH) for providing computer facilities and support within computational grant no. PLG/2024/017662.

Coumarins

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Dual fluorescence

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## Finding best interaction for systems

Program: ORCA

Method: DOCKER (energy driven algorithm)

### **S<sub>0</sub>** optimization

Program: Gaussian 16

Method: DFT

Functional: B3LYP + D3BJ

Basis set: 6-311++G(d,p)

Environment: PCM (methanol,  $\epsilon = 32.6$ )

### **S<sub>1</sub>** optimization

Program: Gaussian 16/ORCA

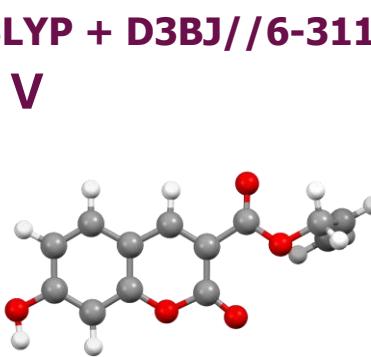
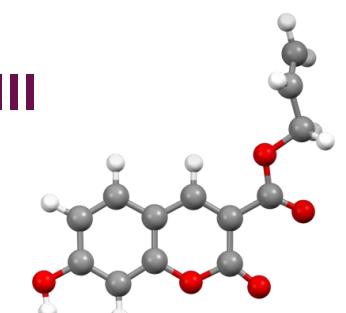
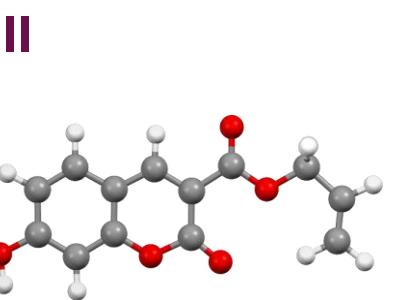
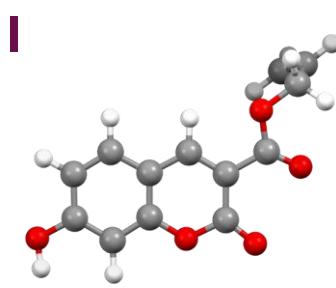
Method: (TD)-DFT

Functional: B3LYP (+ D3BJ),  $\omega$ B97X-D

Basis set: 6-311++G(d,p)

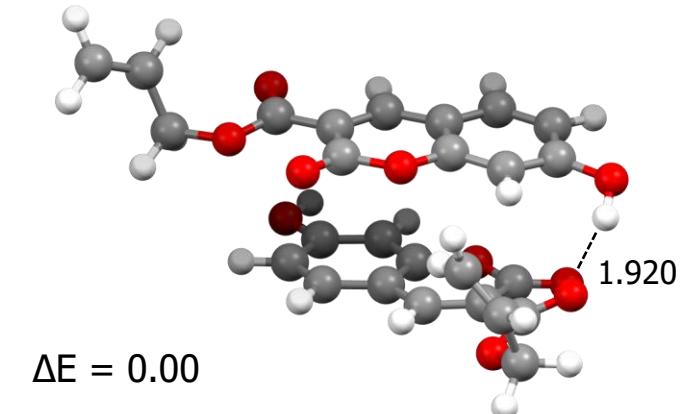
Environment: PCM (methanol,  $\epsilon = 32.6$ )

Coumarins

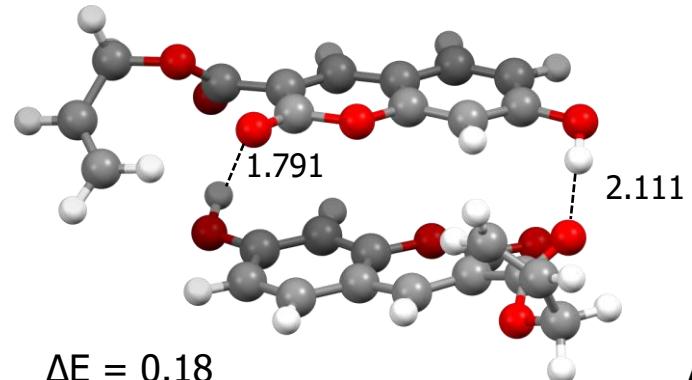
Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

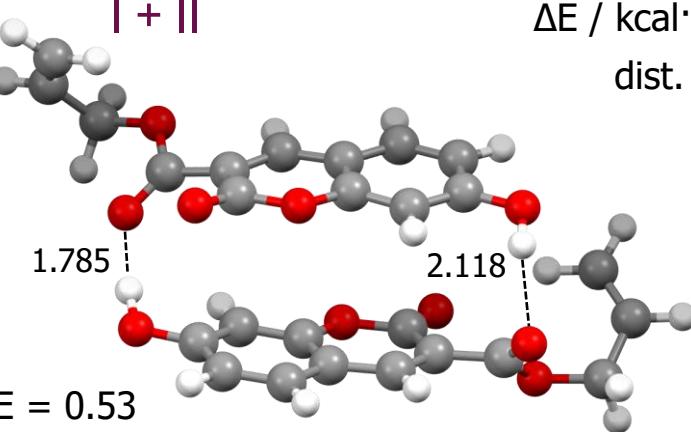
I + III



I + IV

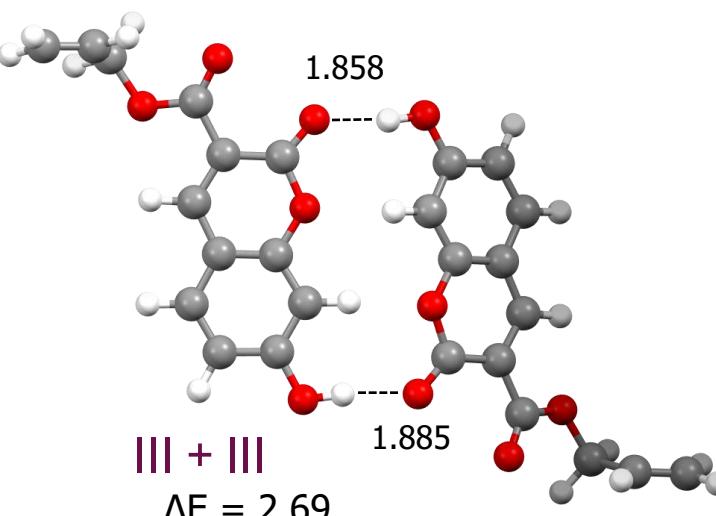
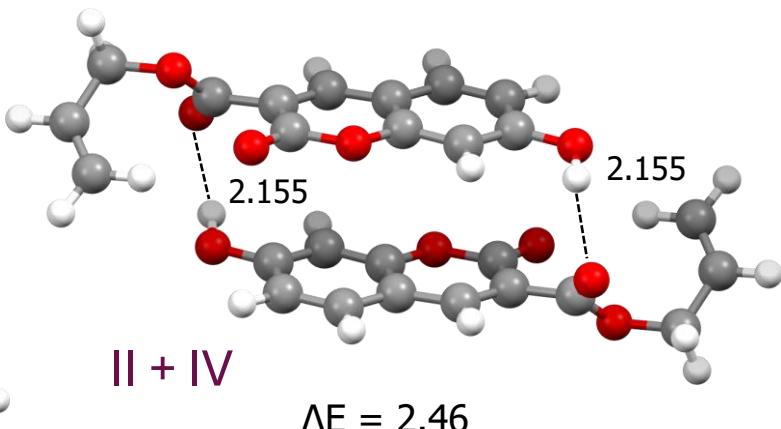
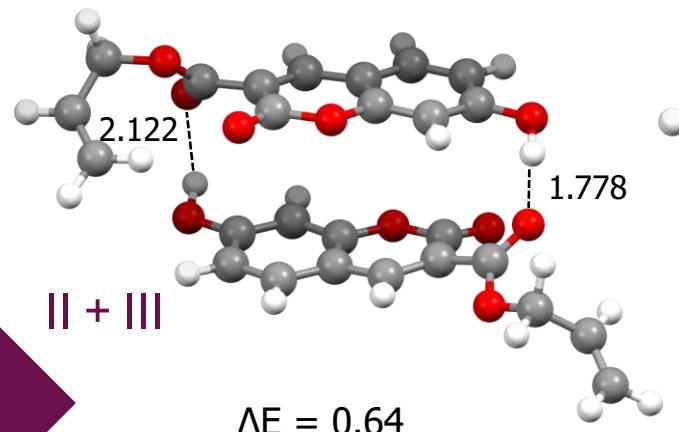


I + II

 $\Delta E / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$   
dist. in ÅRoom-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

Goals



Results

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Coumarins

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Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

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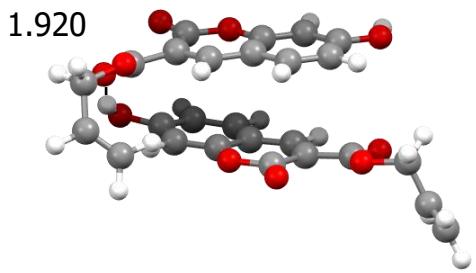
Outlook

S0

S1

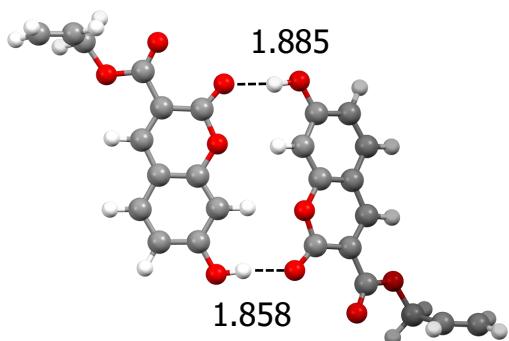
B3LYP

I



B3LYP

VI



$\Delta E = 0.00$

1.674

$\Delta E = 4.08$

$\Delta E / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

dist. in Å, λ in nm

Coumarins

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and applications

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S0

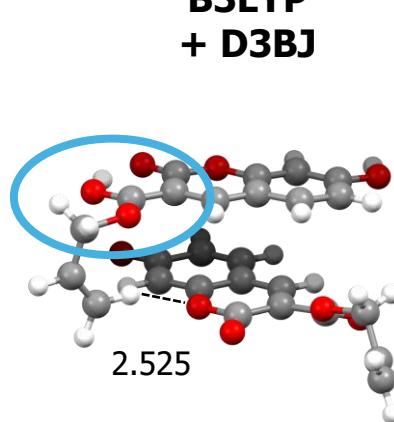
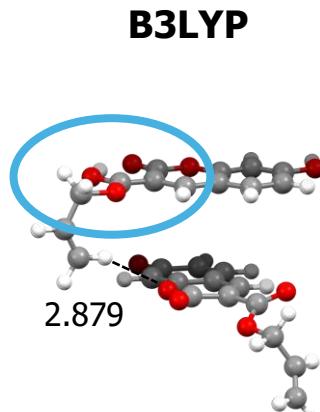
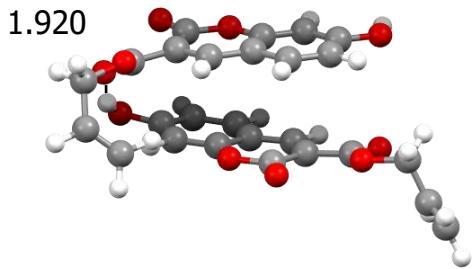
S1

B3LYP

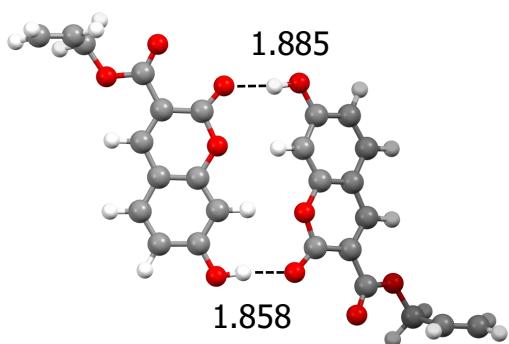
B3LYP

B3LYP  
+ D3BJ

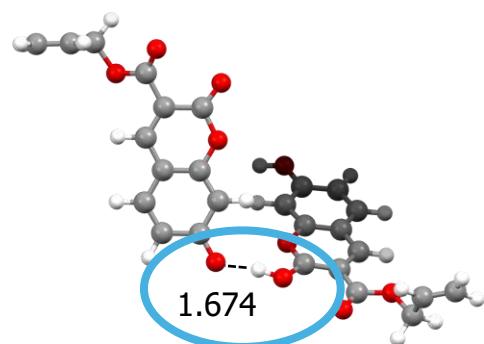
I



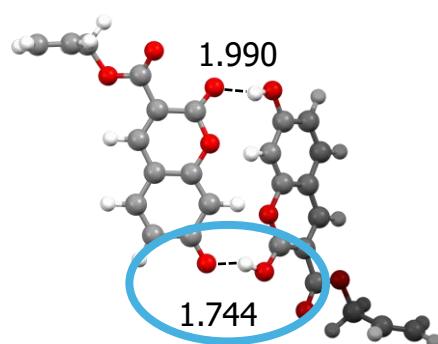
VI



$\Delta E = 0.00$



$\Delta E = 0.00$



$\Delta E = 4.08$

$\Delta E = 13.25$

$\Delta E / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

dist. in Å, λ in nm

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

Goals

Results

Outlook

S0

S1

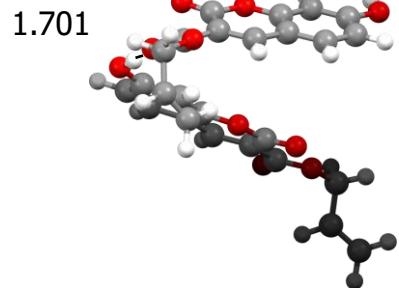
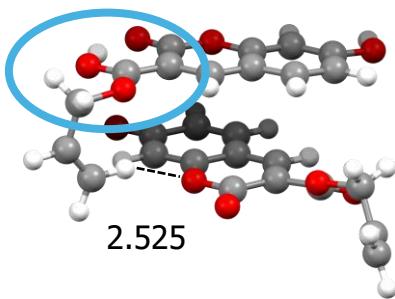
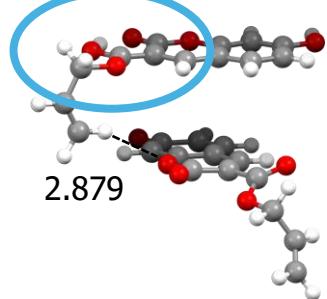
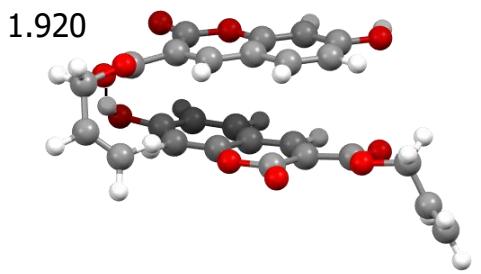
B3LYP

B3LYP

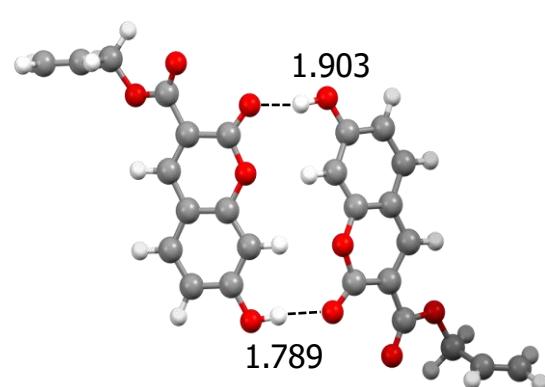
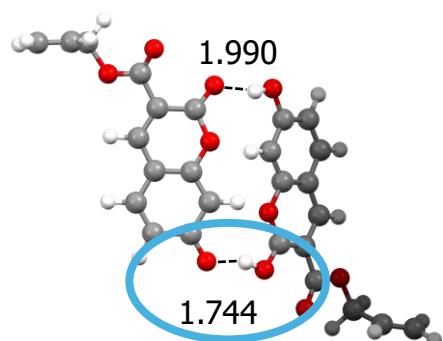
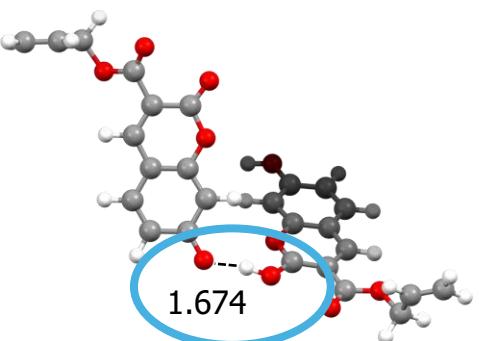
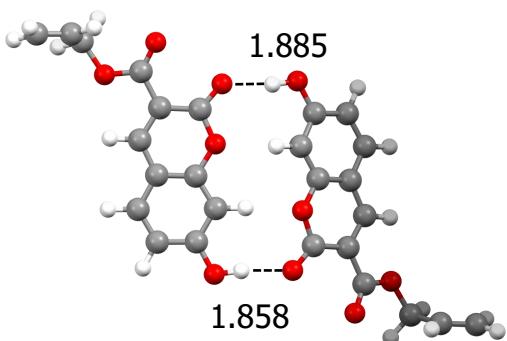
B3LYP  
+ D3BJ

$\omega$ B97X-D

I



VI



$\Delta E = 0.00$

$\Delta E = 0.00$

$\Delta E = 4.08$

$\Delta E = 13.25$

$\Delta E = 0.00$

$\Delta E / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

dist. in Å,  $\lambda$  in nm

Coumarins

Properties  
and applications

Dual fluorescence

Room-temperature  
phosphorescence

Examined system

Goals

Results

Outlook

S0

S1

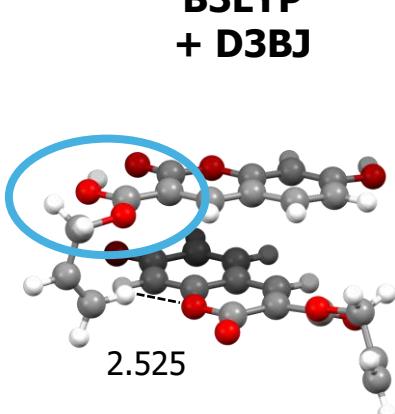
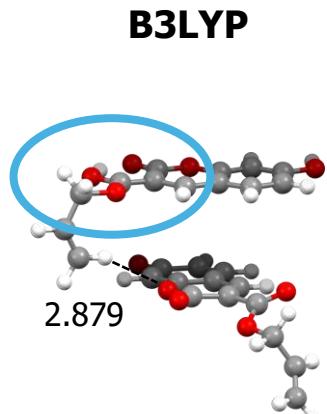
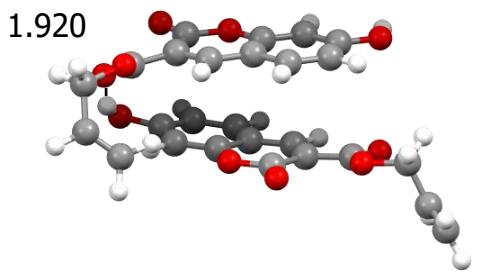
B3LYP

B3LYP

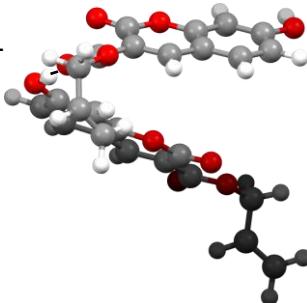
B3LYP  
+ D3BJ

$\omega$ B97X-D

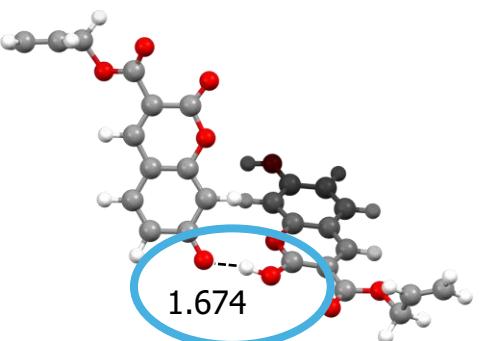
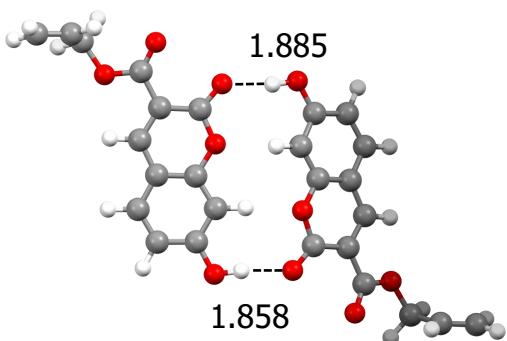
I



1.701



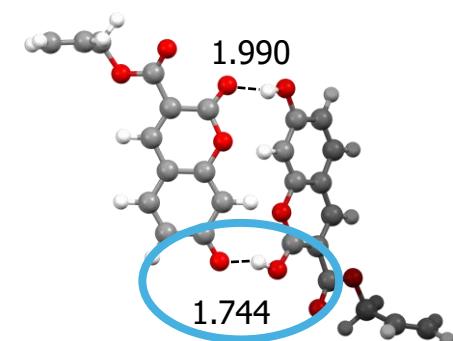
VI



$\Delta E = 0.00$     $\lambda = 1830$

$\Delta E = 0.00$     $\lambda = 1723$

$\Delta E = 0.51$     $\lambda = 369$



$\Delta E = 4.08$     $\lambda = 978$

$\Delta E = 13.25$     $\lambda = 909$

$\Delta E = 0.00$     $\lambda = 375$

$\Delta E / \text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

dist. in Å,  $\lambda$  in nm