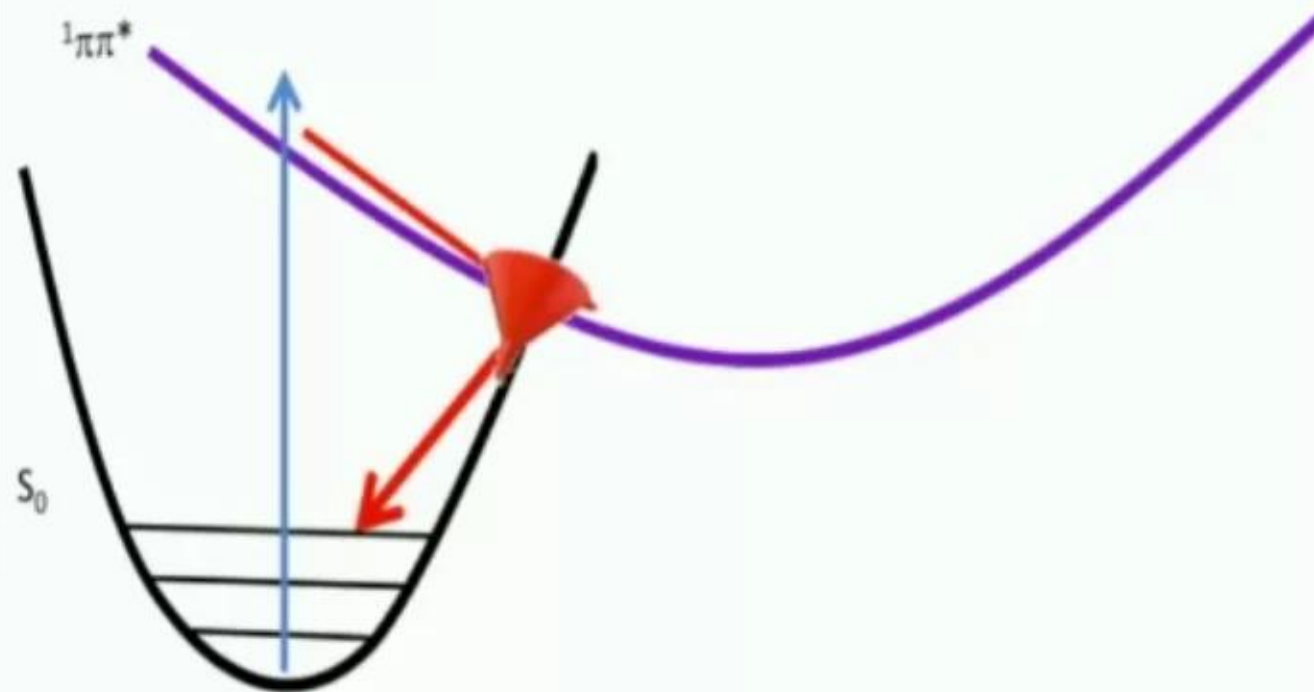


# Why Ultrafast Lifetimes?



Giussani, A.; Roca-sanjuán, D.; Segarra-martí, J.; Mehan, M.; Giussani, A.; Segarra-martí, J. *Top. Curr. Chem.* **2015**, *355*, 57–97.  
Mai, S.; Richter, M.; Marquetand, P.; González, L. *Top. Curr. Chem.* **2015**, *355*, 99–153.  
Improta, R.; Barone, V. *Top. Curr. Chem.* **2015**, *355*, 329–357.

1  
00:00:12,490 --> 00:00:10,430  
okay hi thanks again my name is Matthew

2  
00:00:15,560 --> 00:00:12,500  
bristan i'll be talking about ancestry

3  
00:00:17,359 --> 00:00:15,570  
nuclear bases so i'm going to completely

4  
00:00:20,769 --> 00:00:17,369  
change subjects and talk about physical

5  
00:00:23,200 --> 00:00:20,779  
chemistry so my group is interested in

6  
00:00:25,370 --> 00:00:23,210  
photochemistry so it's the monitoring of

7  
00:00:27,529 --> 00:00:25,380  
photochemical and photophysical events

8  
00:00:29,150 --> 00:00:27,539  
so when you think of a photo physical

9  
00:00:30,830 --> 00:00:29,160  
event it's the conservation of energy a

10  
00:00:32,810 --> 00:00:30,840  
photochemical event is the breaking of

11  
00:00:36,049 --> 00:00:32,820  
chemical bonds so to help illustrate

12  
00:00:37,790 --> 00:00:36,059  
that can I have just the Jablonski

13  
00:00:39,979 --> 00:00:37,800

diagram so we have our ground state

14

00:00:41,270 --> 00:00:39,989

energy a singlet manifold and triple

15

00:00:42,530 --> 00:00:41,280

manifold when we talk about manifold

16

00:00:44,569 --> 00:00:42,540

we're talking about multiple excited

17

00:00:47,270 --> 00:00:44,579

states so what we're interested in is

18

00:00:49,490 --> 00:00:47,280

what happens after photo excitation so

19

00:00:51,680 --> 00:00:49,500

if you have a photo excitation we

20

00:00:53,779 --> 00:00:51,690

populate the singlet manifold from there

21

00:00:56,119 --> 00:00:53,789

we can have internal conversion down to

22

00:00:58,670 --> 00:00:56,129

the lowest energy singlet state once

23

00:01:01,160 --> 00:00:58,680

there the population can either emit a

24

00:01:02,420 --> 00:01:01,170

photon through fluorescence not

25

00:01:04,520 --> 00:01:02,430

immediately decay back to the ground

26

00:01:06,859 --> 00:01:04,530

state or inner system cross to the

27

00:01:08,840 --> 00:01:06,869

triple manifold again once in the trip

28

00:01:11,230 --> 00:01:08,850

manifold we can see internal conversion

29

00:01:14,679 --> 00:01:11,240

to the lowest energy triplet state and

30

00:01:16,999 --> 00:01:14,689

then we can see emission of a photon

31

00:01:18,499 --> 00:01:17,009

phosphorescent or under a big lead okay

32

00:01:21,410 --> 00:01:18,509

so it's important to note that these are

33

00:01:22,910 --> 00:01:21,420

all photophysical events okay but we

34

00:01:24,649 --> 00:01:22,920

also are interested in photochemical

35

00:01:26,570 --> 00:01:24,659

events photochemical events can occur

36

00:01:28,719 --> 00:01:26,580

from either the single manifold or the

37

00:01:31,190 --> 00:01:28,729

triple manifold the longer and the

38

00:01:32,569 --> 00:01:31,200

population stays excited obviously the

39

00:01:36,649 --> 00:01:32,579

higher the probability for a photo

40

00:01:38,719 --> 00:01:36,659

chemistry to occur also a majority of

41

00:01:41,630 --> 00:01:38,729

organic compounds when exposed to UV

42

00:01:43,069 --> 00:01:41,640

light dudu photochemistry either they

43

00:01:47,499 --> 00:01:43,079

break down and form photo products or

44

00:01:49,490 --> 00:01:47,509

they just degrade so in order to monitor

45

00:01:51,469 --> 00:01:49,500

photophysical and photochemical vents we

46

00:01:53,870 --> 00:01:51,479

use what's called transient absorption

47

00:01:57,620 --> 00:01:53,880

spectroscopy so when we think of it

48

00:01:59,300 --> 00:01:57,630

think of a uv-vis uv-vis monitors ground

49

00:02:02,380 --> 00:01:59,310

state to electronic state transitions

50

00:02:04,459 --> 00:02:02,390

what we're monitoring our electronic

51  
00:02:06,200 --> 00:02:04,469  
transitions to hire excited state

52  
00:02:08,389 --> 00:02:06,210  
transitions so in order to do that we

53  
00:02:10,669 --> 00:02:08,399  
use a pump probe technique so we have a

54  
00:02:13,680 --> 00:02:10,679  
pump pulse excite a portion of the

55  
00:02:16,090 --> 00:02:13,690  
population and a probe pulse is going to

56  
00:02:18,250 --> 00:02:16,100  
monitor the transition from one excited

57  
00:02:20,580 --> 00:02:18,260  
state to the other so our experiment

58  
00:02:24,220 --> 00:02:20,590  
begins when the pump and probe both

59  
00:02:25,870 --> 00:02:24,230  
aligned in space and time so what we can

60  
00:02:27,970 --> 00:02:25,880  
do is we can monitor this transition

61  
00:02:29,470 --> 00:02:27,980  
here and we can get some spectral

62  
00:02:31,570 --> 00:02:29,480  
information just like with the uv-vis

63  
00:02:34,180 --> 00:02:31,580

but in this case we're monitoring let's

64

00:02:36,700 --> 00:02:34,190

say this transition we can also delay

65

00:02:38,470 --> 00:02:36,710

our probe pulse in time to get temporal

66

00:02:41,230 --> 00:02:38,480

information so we can monitor the

67

00:02:43,750 --> 00:02:41,240

population decaying over time and obtain

68

00:02:46,810 --> 00:02:43,760

lifetime so we can get both spatial and

69

00:02:50,860 --> 00:02:46,820

temporal information from our spectral

70

00:02:53,140 --> 00:02:50,870

data so what are they the fundamental

71

00:02:54,610 --> 00:02:53,150

questions we're trying to answer one or

72

00:02:57,250 --> 00:02:54,620

whatever may like the origins of life

73

00:03:00,550 --> 00:02:57,260

and why did nature select the nuclear

74

00:03:02,290 --> 00:03:00,560

bases of DNA and RNA so first off the

75

00:03:04,120 --> 00:03:02,300

current form of RNA is thought to come

76

00:03:07,930 --> 00:03:04,130

through a complex chemical and

77

00:03:09,850 --> 00:03:07,940

biological evolution event to understand

78

00:03:11,920 --> 00:03:09,860

the molecular origins of life you need

79

00:03:14,070 --> 00:03:11,930

to identify promising ancestor RNA

80

00:03:16,570 --> 00:03:14,080

candidates so we can no longer find

81

00:03:18,130 --> 00:03:16,580

ancestral RNA like sequestered somewhere

82

00:03:21,340 --> 00:03:18,140

on earth so essentially we have to

83

00:03:24,750 --> 00:03:21,350

actually just rediscover it or find

84

00:03:27,010 --> 00:03:24,760

plausible candidates to that effort

85

00:03:29,730 --> 00:03:27,020

california and hyde took essentially a

86

00:03:31,930 --> 00:03:29,740

bunch of molecules in this case 81 and

87

00:03:34,420 --> 00:03:31,940

pull them from the prebiotic soup and

88

00:03:36,580 --> 00:03:34,430

applied selection criteria to them one

89

00:03:38,830 --> 00:03:36,590

of them was the ability to hydrogen bond

90

00:03:41,770 --> 00:03:38,840

with the canonical nucleobases so that

91

00:03:45,070 --> 00:03:41,780

eliminated up to half the other would be

92

00:03:49,240 --> 00:03:45,080

able to show a synthetic pathway for

93

00:03:51,400 --> 00:03:49,250

sugar attachment to these ancestral

94

00:03:55,120 --> 00:03:51,410

candidates and finally being able to

95

00:03:56,650 --> 00:03:55,130

self-assemble in water so that left with

96

00:03:59,800 --> 00:03:56,660

Barbra tear-gassing we're going to

97

00:04:03,610 --> 00:03:59,810

abbreviate ba and 246 try me no

98

00:04:07,470 --> 00:04:03,620

pyrimidine abbreviated GA p so when we

99

00:04:09,699 --> 00:04:07,480

look at Barbra touareg acid and tiap

100

00:04:14,500 --> 00:04:09,709

against the canonical nucleases of

101  
00:04:16,420 --> 00:04:14,510  
uracil thymine guanine cytosine quantity

102  
00:04:18,370 --> 00:04:16,430  
and Adnan we can see some similarities

103  
00:04:20,620 --> 00:04:18,380  
between VA and uracil we see a

104  
00:04:23,380 --> 00:04:20,630  
substitution of the carboxylic at the

105  
00:04:25,660 --> 00:04:23,390  
sixth position where for ta p we see a

106  
00:04:27,760 --> 00:04:25,670  
substitution at the sixth position and

107  
00:04:32,380 --> 00:04:27,770  
the two position here with an amine

108  
00:04:35,380 --> 00:04:32,390  
group so one of the interesting

109  
00:04:37,540 --> 00:04:35,390  
phenomenon of the nicola basis is the

110  
00:04:39,850 --> 00:04:37,550  
ability to be what's called photo staple

111  
00:04:42,100 --> 00:04:39,860  
the idea is we can excite the

112  
00:04:44,590 --> 00:04:42,110  
nucleobases they can take this high

113  
00:04:47,110 --> 00:04:44,600

electronic energy internally convert

114

00:04:48,640 --> 00:04:47,120

them an ultra-fast time scale back to

115

00:04:51,250 --> 00:04:48,650

the ground state and essentially stay

116

00:04:55,870 --> 00:04:51,260

relatively stable and not photo degrade

117

00:04:57,790 --> 00:04:55,880

or do photo chemistry so one of the

118

00:05:00,190 --> 00:04:57,800

important criterion that we postulate

119

00:05:02,470 --> 00:05:00,200

that was overlooked in this study was

120

00:05:05,950 --> 00:05:02,480

obviously the ability to be photo stable

121

00:05:07,900 --> 00:05:05,960

so we can see here with and without the

122

00:05:10,300 --> 00:05:07,910

ozone layer against the normalized

123

00:05:11,800 --> 00:05:10,310

absorption of RNA and DNA you see that

124

00:05:13,840 --> 00:05:11,810

even though there's a small cross

125

00:05:15,400 --> 00:05:13,850

section here we all know that if you

126  
00:05:16,750 --> 00:05:15,410  
stay out in the Sun long enough you're

127  
00:05:18,910 --> 00:05:16,760  
going to get a sunburn and then

128  
00:05:21,610 --> 00:05:18,920  
eventually form skin cancer so even

129  
00:05:23,410 --> 00:05:21,620  
though you can there's a small cross

130  
00:05:25,810 --> 00:05:23,420  
section here and the ozone is filtering

131  
00:05:28,420 --> 00:05:25,820  
out a lot of the UV radiation we can

132  
00:05:30,490 --> 00:05:28,430  
still you take our DNA so this is even

133  
00:05:32,230 --> 00:05:30,500  
more important the idea for the

134  
00:05:33,490 --> 00:05:32,240  
stability when you think of the

135  
00:05:35,860 --> 00:05:33,500  
prebiotic earth because they wouldn't

136  
00:05:40,110 --> 00:05:35,870  
have the protection of the ozone layer

137  
00:05:42,550 --> 00:05:40,120  
at the time so as I said before the

138  
00:05:44,050 --> 00:05:42,560

niccola basis of the canonical

139

00:05:46,750 --> 00:05:44,060

nucleobases have been shown to have

140

00:05:51,040 --> 00:05:46,760

ultra-fast internal conversion lifetimes

141

00:05:53,800 --> 00:05:51,050

of about less than a picosecond okay so

142

00:05:54,850 --> 00:05:53,810

why is this ultra-fast so first off when

143

00:05:56,880 --> 00:05:54,860

I was talking with the debacle site

144

00:05:59,560 --> 00:05:56,890

Jablonski diagram it's a super

145

00:06:01,810 --> 00:05:59,570

simplification you have to think of it

146

00:06:03,310 --> 00:06:01,820

as a potential energy surfaces so when

147

00:06:05,350 --> 00:06:03,320

you excite from one potential energy

148

00:06:06,490 --> 00:06:05,360

surface to another you essentially

149

00:06:08,200 --> 00:06:06,500

saying according the Jablonski diagram

150

00:06:09,700 --> 00:06:08,210

you're going to follow the potential

151  
00:06:12,460 --> 00:06:09,710  
energy held down to a minimum then

152  
00:06:13,930 --> 00:06:12,470  
internally convert what X ends up

153  
00:06:17,200 --> 00:06:13,940  
happening for the canonical nucleobases

154  
00:06:19,690 --> 00:06:17,210  
is there is what's called a conical

155  
00:06:22,480 --> 00:06:19,700  
intersection a point where we can bypass

156  
00:06:25,570 --> 00:06:22,490  
this minimum and go directly to in this

157  
00:06:27,790 --> 00:06:25,580  
case to the ground state upon photo

158  
00:06:29,950 --> 00:06:27,800  
excitation in this case it gets to the

159  
00:06:31,450 --> 00:06:29,960  
what's called a hot ground state so it's

160  
00:06:34,300 --> 00:06:31,460  
essentially the ground state electronic

161  
00:06:37,670 --> 00:06:34,310  
state with extra vibrational energy ok

162  
00:06:41,900 --> 00:06:37,680  
and that eventually dissipates as heat

163  
00:06:44,330 --> 00:06:41,910

so what we've learned so far we got the

164

00:06:45,650 --> 00:06:44,340

longer molecule stay excited the higher

165

00:06:48,260 --> 00:06:45,660

the probability for photochemistry to

166

00:06:50,330 --> 00:06:48,270

occur we have Nicola basis exhibit

167

00:06:53,060 --> 00:06:50,340

ultra-fast lifetimes contain conical

168

00:06:55,129 --> 00:06:53,070

intersections and photo stability is a

169

00:06:57,590 --> 00:06:55,139

definite key requirement for any

170

00:07:00,499 --> 00:06:57,600

ancestral candidate so to that effort we

171

00:07:03,219 --> 00:07:00,509

took barbituric acid and BA and I do a

172

00:07:06,140 --> 00:07:03,229

show you the day that does look better

173

00:07:11,839 --> 00:07:06,150

it's just the conversion between mac and

174

00:07:13,790 --> 00:07:11,849

pc but so we who yeah we excited at 270

175

00:07:18,890 --> 00:07:13,800

in this case so you can see here with

176

00:07:21,200 --> 00:07:18,900

giap NBA in a PBS buffer solution so

177

00:07:23,060 --> 00:07:21,210

when we did our transient sorption when

178

00:07:24,920 --> 00:07:23,070

we first did it for BA we are

179

00:07:26,990 --> 00:07:24,930

essentially populating a what's called

180

00:07:29,420 --> 00:07:27,000

the pipe icing let's say upon photo

181

00:07:33,080 --> 00:07:29,430

excitation around 500 nanometers from

182

00:07:37,100 --> 00:07:33,090

there we can see this band decrease

183

00:07:39,080 --> 00:07:37,110

about 500 disband increase at 350 we've

184

00:07:41,240 --> 00:07:39,090

assigned that to the internal conversion

185

00:07:43,909 --> 00:07:41,250

from the pipe i single state down to a

186

00:07:45,890 --> 00:07:43,919

hot vibronic Gram stain from there we

187

00:07:47,750 --> 00:07:45,900

can see that vibrant ground state this

188

00:07:51,189 --> 00:07:47,760

long absorption tale start to decay to

189

00:07:57,230 --> 00:07:51,199

essentially have no change in absorption

190

00:08:01,399 --> 00:07:57,240

for ta p we have absorption at around

191

00:08:03,500 --> 00:08:01,409

600 fun photo excitation you see the 600

192

00:08:06,800 --> 00:08:03,510

nanometer band set to decrease 300

193

00:08:09,080 --> 00:08:06,810

nanometer band increased during a very

194

00:08:10,850 --> 00:08:09,090

short time scales and so you can see

195

00:08:13,550 --> 00:08:10,860

here in this case we assigned it from a

196

00:08:15,890 --> 00:08:13,560

pipe I transition to a Empire transition

197

00:08:18,499 --> 00:08:15,900

in the singlet manifold and from there

198

00:08:20,810 --> 00:08:18,509

it would just a non radiative decay back

199

00:08:24,350 --> 00:08:20,820

to the ground state so both of these

200

00:08:27,469 --> 00:08:24,360

processes happened in for BA on a sub

201  
00:08:28,879 --> 00:08:27,479  
picosecond time scale and this for tha

202  
00:08:32,300 --> 00:08:28,889  
it took about I think of three

203  
00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:32,310  
picoseconds so in somewhere we can see

204  
00:08:40,969 --> 00:08:38,010  
here we have the kinetic traces of both

205  
00:08:43,040 --> 00:08:40,979  
be a and T AP we can see here with our

206  
00:08:46,370 --> 00:08:43,050  
time scale that's happening again an

207  
00:08:49,490 --> 00:08:46,380  
ultra-fast lifetime in here we can see

208  
00:08:50,930 --> 00:08:49,500  
it takes about roughly 20 picoseconds

209  
00:08:54,710 --> 00:08:50,940  
but the lifetime of that event is

210  
00:08:56,330 --> 00:08:54,720  
actually five as I said before ba and ta

211  
00:08:59,540 --> 00:08:56,340  
PA look very similar to uracil and

212  
00:09:01,460 --> 00:08:59,550  
cytosine since no high-level

213  
00:09:04,760 --> 00:09:01,470

computational results have been done for

214

00:09:09,320 --> 00:09:04,770

be a pap we can theorize what is

215

00:09:11,420 --> 00:09:09,330

possible from the library of comical

216

00:09:13,700 --> 00:09:11,430

information from the eurozone this case

217

00:09:15,590 --> 00:09:13,710

and cytosine that have been done so they

218

00:09:18,650 --> 00:09:15,600

have shown conical intersections for

219

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:18,660

your soul to be at what this five six

220

00:09:22,580 --> 00:09:20,010

carbon so it's an essentially an

221

00:09:24,500 --> 00:09:22,590

ethylenic twist so when you photo excite

222

00:09:26,230 --> 00:09:24,510

your uracil in this case you get this

223

00:09:28,880 --> 00:09:26,240

ethylene a twist which twists that

224

00:09:31,130 --> 00:09:28,890

torsional angle enforces the comical

225

00:09:33,470 --> 00:09:31,140

intersection so we hypothesized since

226

00:09:35,900 --> 00:09:33,480

for BA we actually don't have a double

227

00:09:39,730 --> 00:09:35,910

bond making that twist even more likely

228

00:09:43,780 --> 00:09:39,740

so it would exhibit even a faster

229

00:09:46,280 --> 00:09:43,790

lifetime then uracil does and forward

230

00:09:49,160 --> 00:09:46,290

site is in actually has a couple of

231

00:09:51,200 --> 00:09:49,170

conical intersections one out of an

232

00:09:53,720 --> 00:09:51,210

out-of-plane puckering of the amino

233

00:09:55,130 --> 00:09:53,730

group at the 4-position and an

234

00:09:57,950 --> 00:09:55,140

out-of-plane puckering at the six

235

00:10:00,980 --> 00:09:57,960

position so if you know they're similar

236

00:10:04,390 --> 00:10:00,990

analogues we can theorize that again 40

237

00:10:06,740 --> 00:10:04,400

AP it could possibly do a c4

238

00:10:08,870 --> 00:10:06,750

out-of-plane puckering to access that

239

00:10:12,920 --> 00:10:08,880

conical intersection much like cytosine

240

00:10:14,540 --> 00:10:12,930

does and i'd like to thank everyone for

241

00:10:17,540 --> 00:10:14,550

listening the National Science

242

00:10:20,060 --> 00:10:17,550

Foundation dr. Carlos creso my advisor

243

00:10:27,060 --> 00:10:20,070

and my current group members and I'll be

244

00:10:42,059 --> 00:10:38,560

questions for Matthew just out of

245

00:10:45,519 --> 00:10:42,069

curiosity has anybody actually tried

246

00:10:48,850 --> 00:10:45,529

synthesizing DNA with these new nuclear

247

00:10:51,160 --> 00:10:48,860

bases in them and a method to my

248

00:10:54,540 --> 00:10:51,170

knowledge okay so yeah people are

249

00:10:57,999 --> 00:10:54,550

looking into the cytosines I know for

250

00:11:00,069 --> 00:10:58,009

they've been able to show like prebiotic

251  
00:11:02,079 --> 00:11:00,079  
synthesis so the idea is being an attack

252  
00:11:04,780 --> 00:11:02,089  
with the sugar group but I don't know if

253  
00:11:06,400 --> 00:11:04,790  
anyone's actually gone beyond like doing

254  
00:11:08,769 --> 00:11:06,410  
the oligomers and they trying to make

255  
00:11:22,689 --> 00:11:08,779  
hydrogen bonding occur like that okay

256  
00:11:24,579 --> 00:11:22,699  
that'd be cool yeah all right one

257  
00:11:27,730 --> 00:11:24,589  
comment on that last comment before I

258  
00:11:30,550 --> 00:11:27,740  
ask you a question we have to so this

259  
00:11:32,650 --> 00:11:30,560  
work is based upon work in my group the

260  
00:11:35,439 --> 00:11:32,660  
hut group at Georgia Tech we have done

261  
00:11:38,319 --> 00:11:35,449  
some substitutions into DNA and have

262  
00:11:40,509 --> 00:11:38,329  
shown that it still does base pair from

263  
00:11:42,250 --> 00:11:40,519

there I mean it reduces it but it still

264

00:11:45,430 --> 00:11:42,260

can effectively do it so it doesn't

265

00:11:48,280 --> 00:11:45,440

completely destroy it all right now for

266

00:11:49,960 --> 00:11:48,290

you have you considered them attaching

267

00:11:53,350 --> 00:11:49,970

sugars to it and checking for their

268

00:11:55,600 --> 00:11:53,360

photostability yeah so we're a physical

269

00:11:58,180 --> 00:11:55,610

chemist group so we actually don't do

270

00:12:01,629 --> 00:11:58,190

much synthesis at all we we actually

271

00:12:03,850 --> 00:12:01,639

purchased our molecules from Sigma so if

272

00:12:06,400 --> 00:12:03,860

somebody has them if you guys make them

273

00:12:08,860 --> 00:12:06,410

we'll take a look at them oh yeah we can

274

00:12:12,340 --> 00:12:08,870

talk about it's shockingly easy to

275

00:12:14,590 --> 00:12:12,350

attach ribose to yeah right it is a very

276

00:12:16,900 --> 00:12:14,600

simple synthesis but we like I said we

277

00:12:19,780 --> 00:12:16,910

don't do it most of our lab space is all

278

00:12:22,629 --> 00:12:19,790

instrumental it's just all laser tables

279

00:12:24,340 --> 00:12:22,639

and we have a small little cramped

280

00:12:26,259 --> 00:12:24,350

workspace for wet work is that an

281

00:12:28,090 --> 00:12:26,269

experiment you'd be interested in sir