

# From X-ray to radio wave: the multi-technique diagnostic of the European mobile laboratory MOLAB

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**Ten portable instruments**, XRF, FTIR, UV-VIS, Raman, etc. (7 UNIPG, 2 CNR, 1 OPD) for in-situ not invasive diagnostic on Cultural Heritage





**2019 - 2024 Integrated Platform for the European Research Infrastructure ON Heritage Science <http://www.iperionhs.eu/> coordinated by CNR**



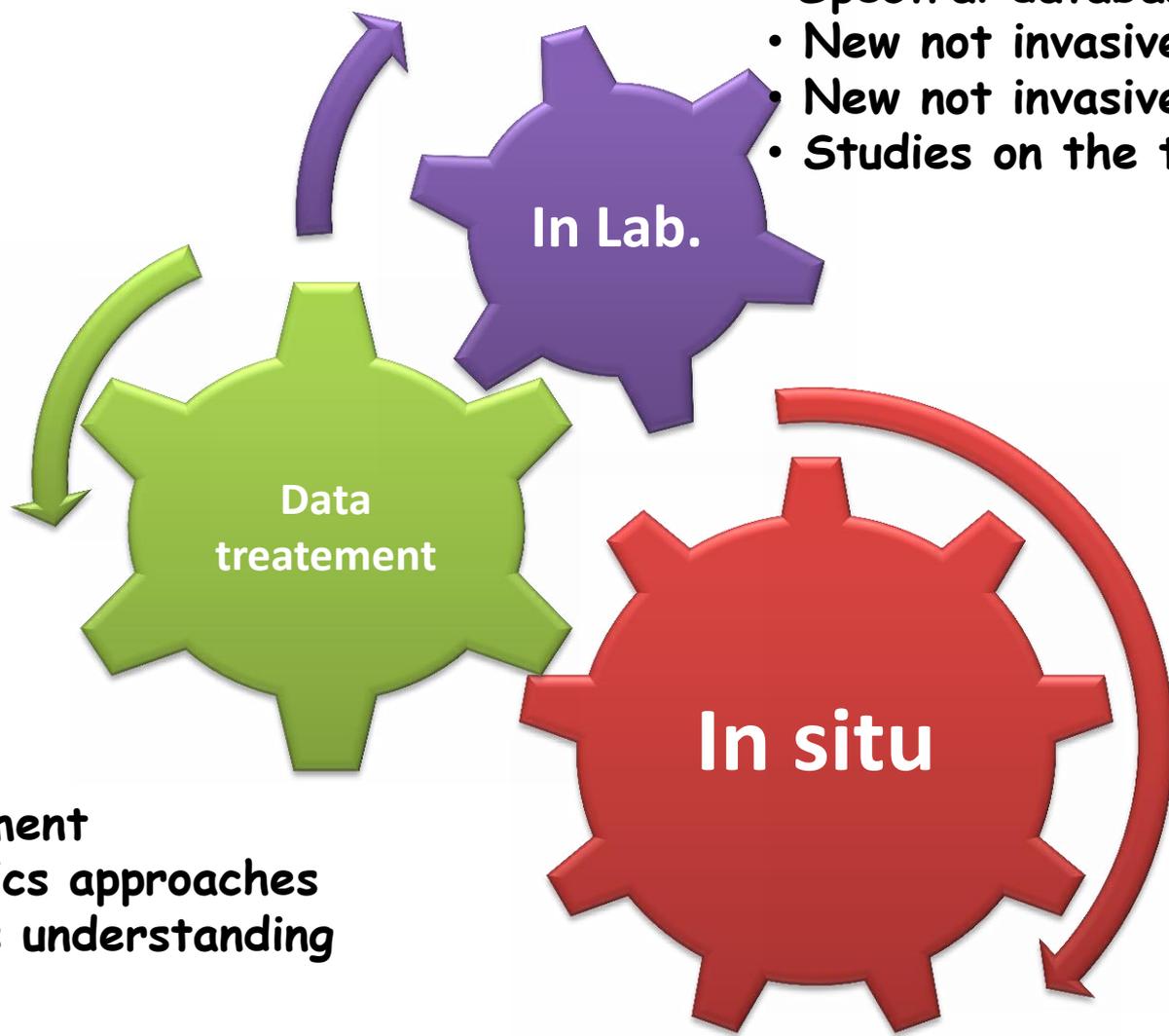
16 research units from da 10 European countries, providing **48 portable instruments**



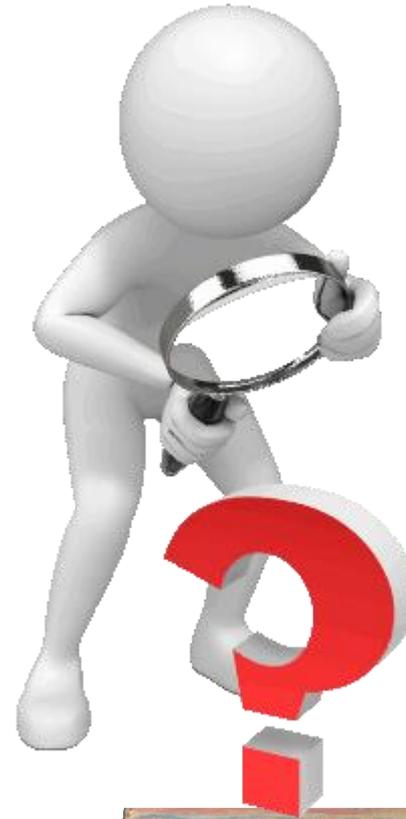
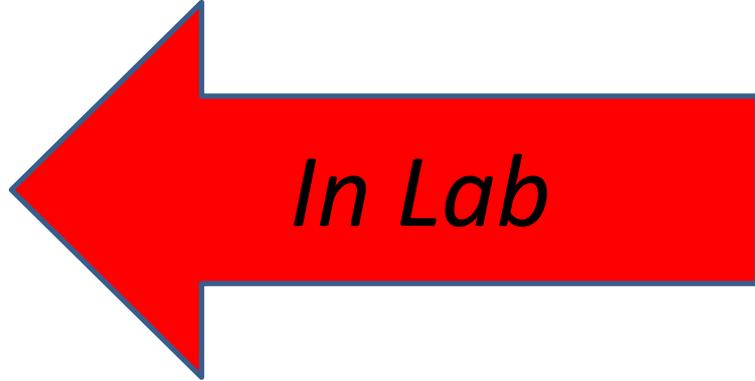
**12 Point analysis**  
**10 Multi/Hyper spectral imaging/mapping**  
**9 2D/3D analysis**  
**17 Remote sensing**

## **MOLAB *modus operandi***

- Spectral database
- New not invasive methods
- New not invasive techniques
- Studies on the transformations



- Data treatment
- Chemometrics approaches
- Mechanisms understanding





# Matthew



*Matthew\_58\_I\_2v*



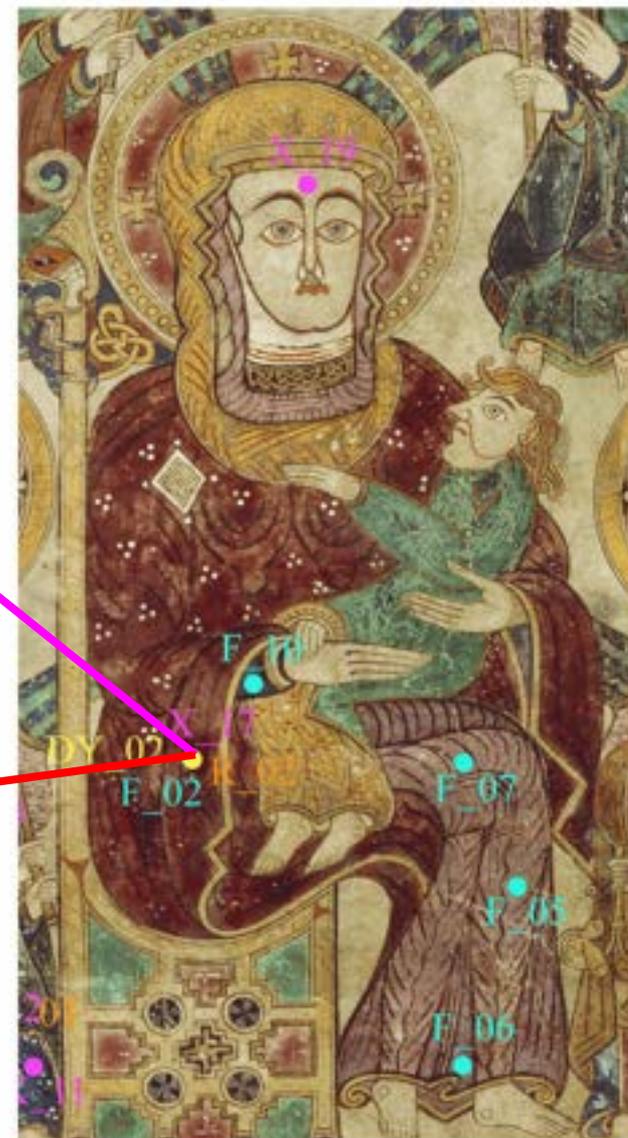
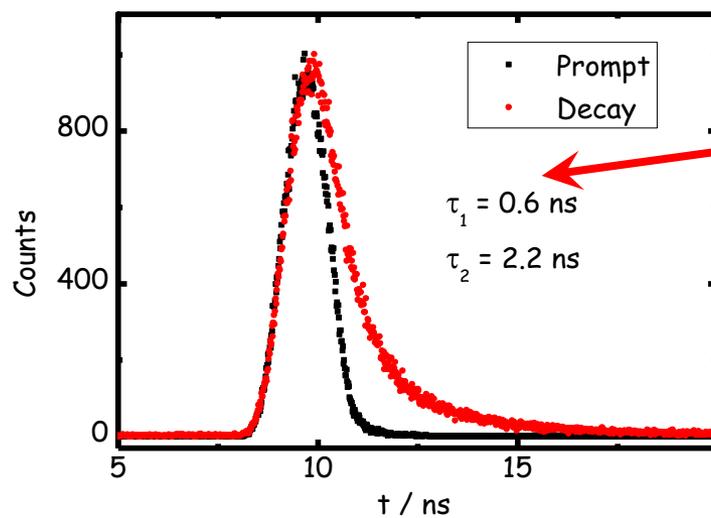
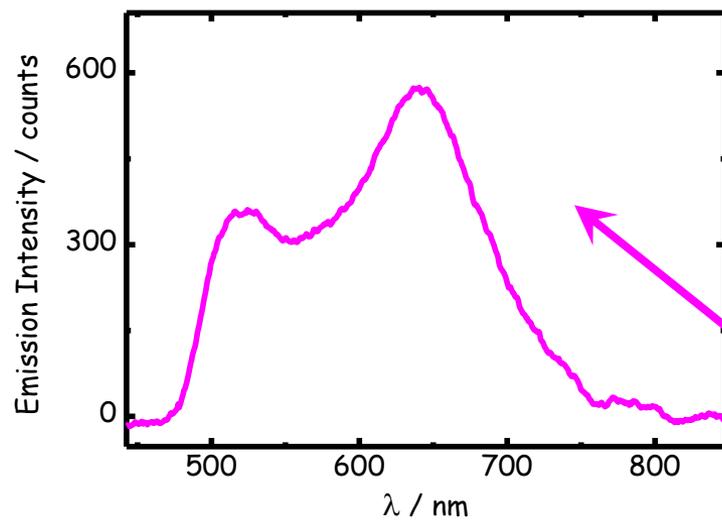
*Matthew\_58\_I\_7v*



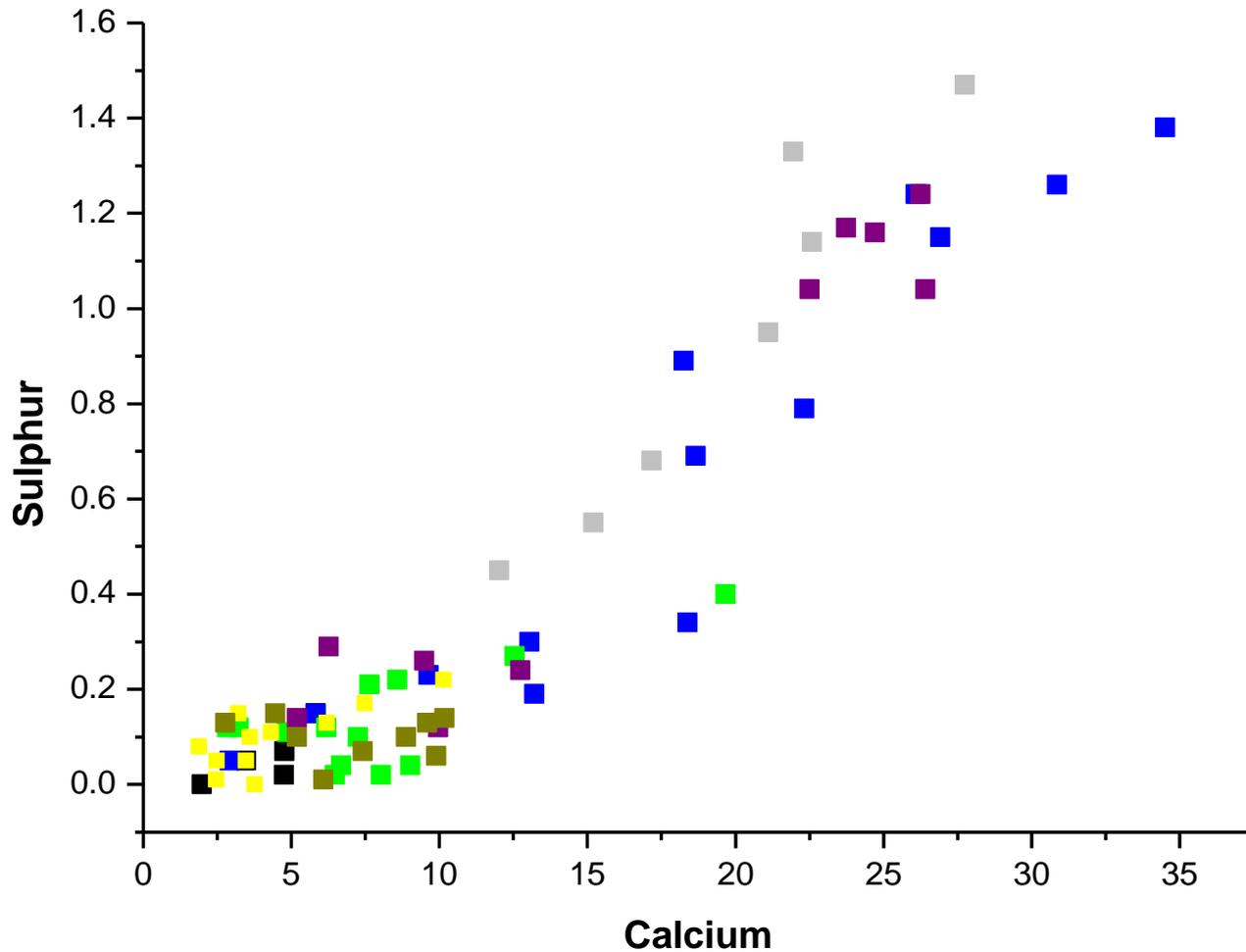
*Matthew\_58\_I\_114r*



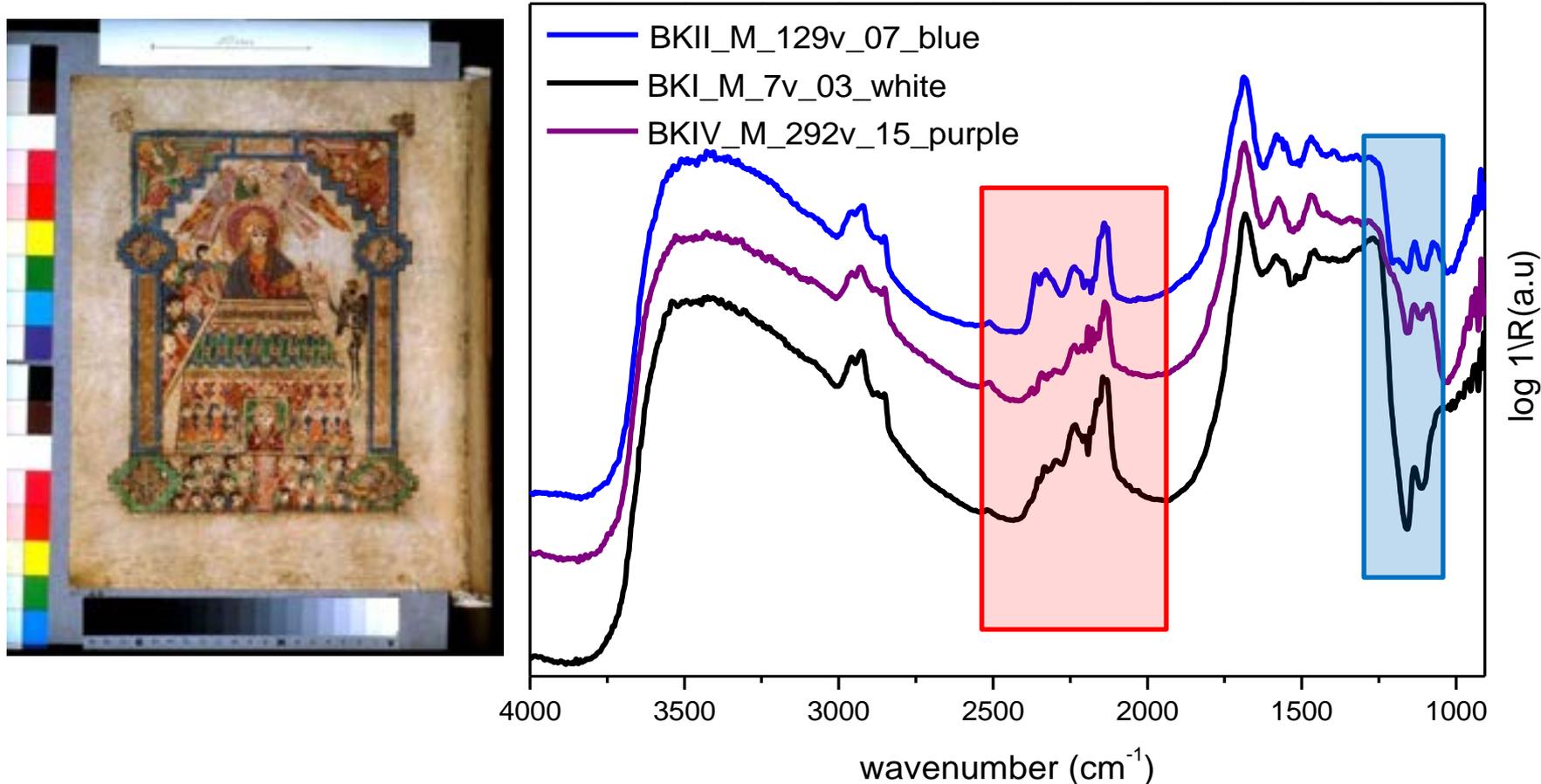
# Orcein



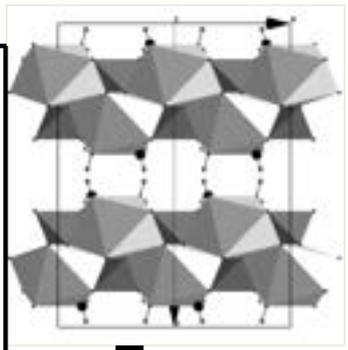
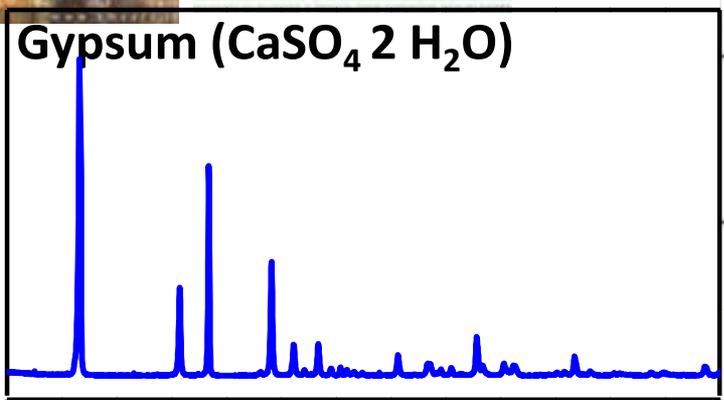
# XRF: Calcium vs. Sulphur



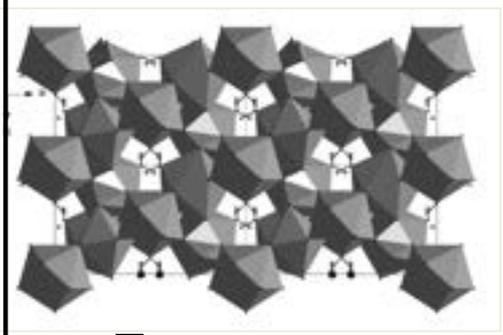
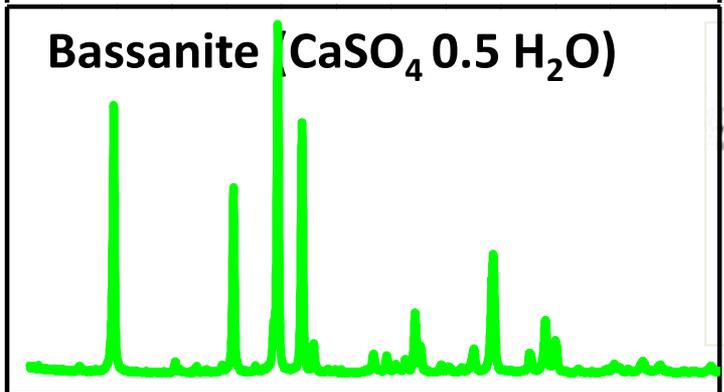
Infrared spectra highlight the presence of calcium sulphate ( $\nu_3 \text{SO}_4^-$  at  $1140 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) in blu, violet and white zones of all the four books



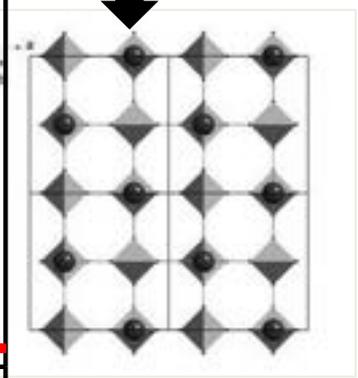
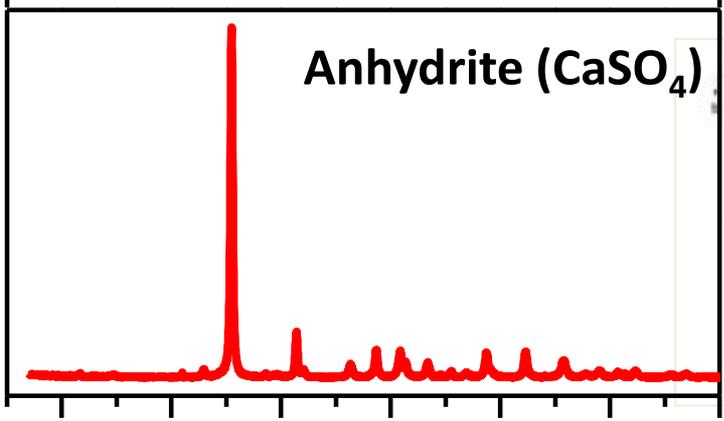
The spectral region between  $2000\text{-}2500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  shows characteristics of the specific crystalline phases of calcium sulphate



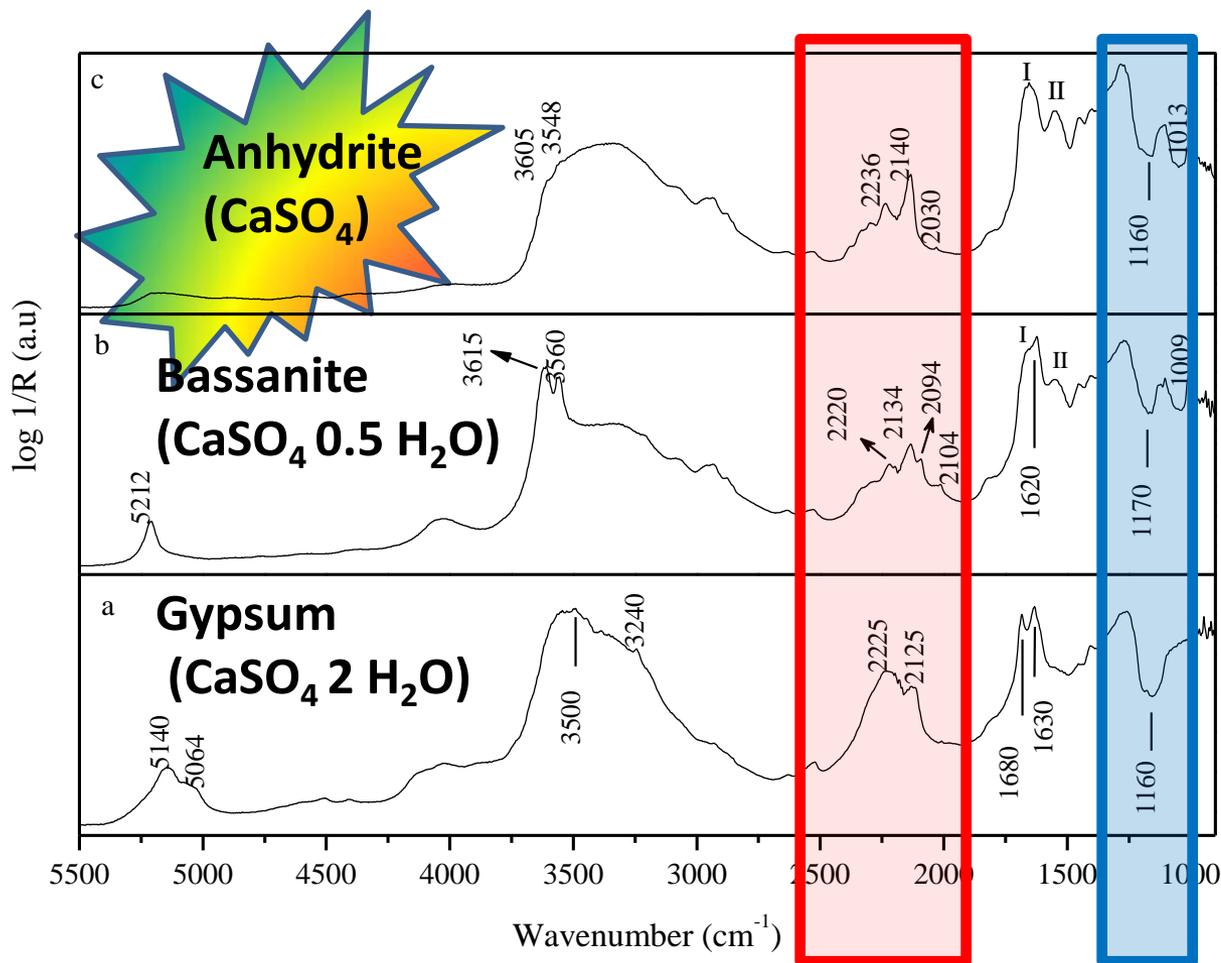
↓ 135°C



↓ 400°C



10 20 30 40 50 60 70  
2-theta (degree)



**MID-FT-IR spectra of pictorial replicas prepared with gypsum, bassanite and anhydrite**

A technical in situ examination of paintings by Vincent van Gogh: focus on the alteration of chrome yellow paints



Low photochemical stability and tendency to lose original brilliance.



*Sunflowers*, repetition of the 4th version (yellow background), Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, NL.

**What is the alteration mechanism?**

**What are the factors that induce the darkening?**

Est ce que de l'autre a la fois  
son tableau p'une femme  
accoudée sur une petite table de  
café?  
Si je réussis à apprendre à travailler  
sur une autre feuille les études faites  
sur nature nous y gagnerons pour  
ce qui est de la possibilité de la vente  
J'espère y arriver ici - et c'est pourquoi  
je fais son esquisse avec les deux tableaux  
qui s'en vont en Hollande p'un autre  
côté. Tu les auras aussi et de cette façon  
il n'y a pas d'imprudence

Tu as eu raison de dire à Tasset qu'il fallait  
ajouter la laque geranium <sup>qui d'ailleurs</sup>  
il l'a envoyée je viens de vérifier - toutes  
les couleurs que l'impressionisme a  
mises à la mode sont changeantes au  
point de les employer hardiment trop  
cristes le temps les adoucit que trop  
Aussi toute la commande que j'ai faite  
soit les 3 chromes (l'orange le jaune  
le citron) le bleu de Prusse l'émeraude  
les laques de garance le vert veronese  
tout cela ne se trouve guère sur la palette  
habituelle des Maës Maës et Israëls -

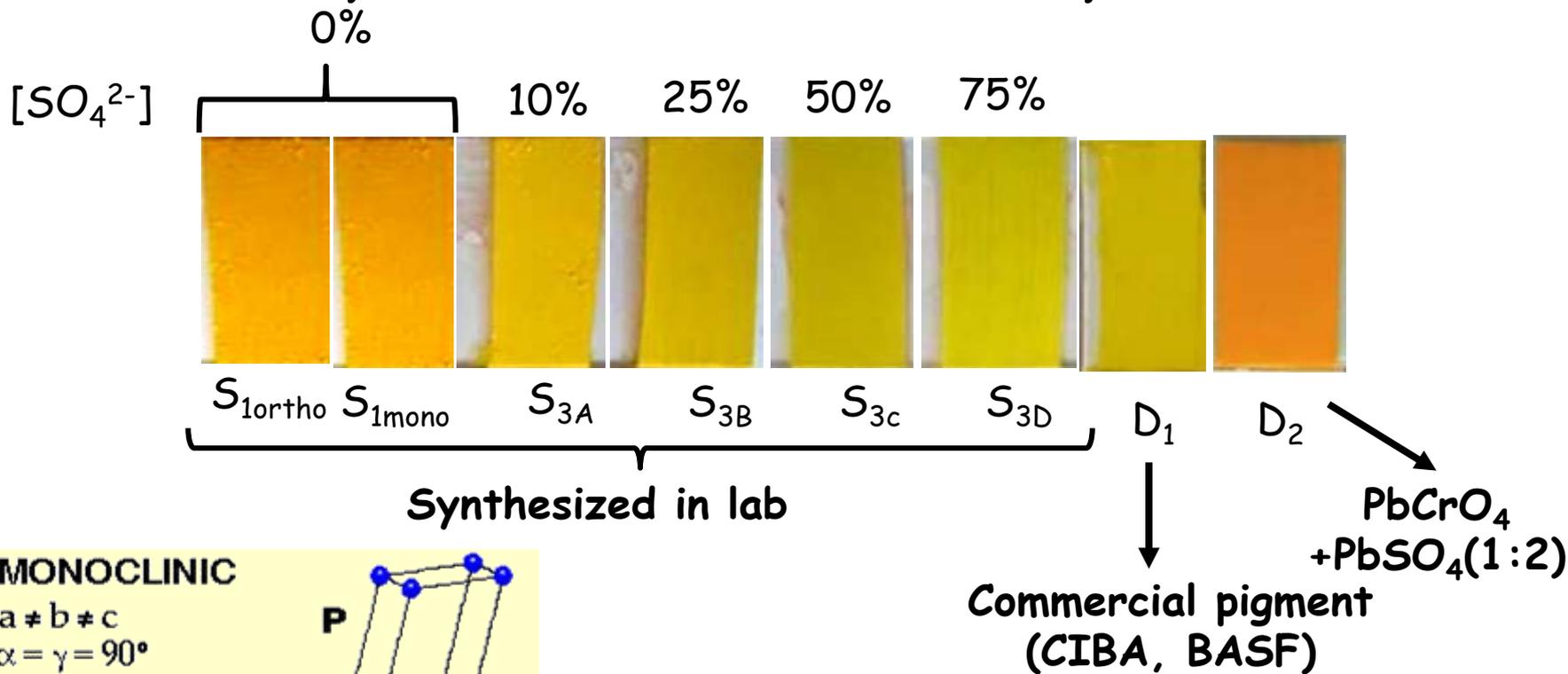
Seulement cela se trouve sur celle  
de Delacroix qui avait la rage des  
deux couleurs les plus condamnées et les  
pour les meilleures raisons le citron et  
le bleu de Prusse - Cependant il me semble  
qu'il en use fait de superbes avec cela des  
bleus et des jaunes citrons. Pour ne  
de main à Tac à Hanouy et encore une  
fois bien merci des couleurs la L. V. M. H. T.

Van Gogh was already aware of the instability of the chrome yellow pigments.

"[...] You were right to tell Tasset that the geranium lake should be included after all, he sent it, I've just checked — **all the colors that Impressionism has made fashionable are unstable**, all the more reason boldly to use them too raw, time will only soften them too much. So the whole order I made up, in other words the **3 chromes (the orange, the yellow, the lemon)** the Prussian blue, the emerald, the madder lakes, the Veronese green, the orange lead, all of that is hardly found in the Dutch palette, Maës, Mauve and Israëls. [...]"

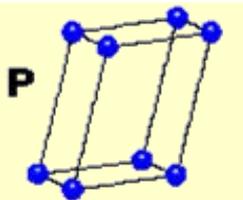
(letter n. 595, to Theo van Gogh. Arles, 11 April 1888)

# Pictorial linseed oil reproductions containing chrome yellows with different composition



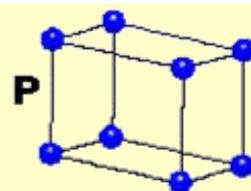
## MONOCLINIC

$a \neq b \neq c$   
 $\alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ$   
 $\beta \neq 120^\circ$



## ORTHORHOMBIC

$a \neq b \neq c$   
 $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$



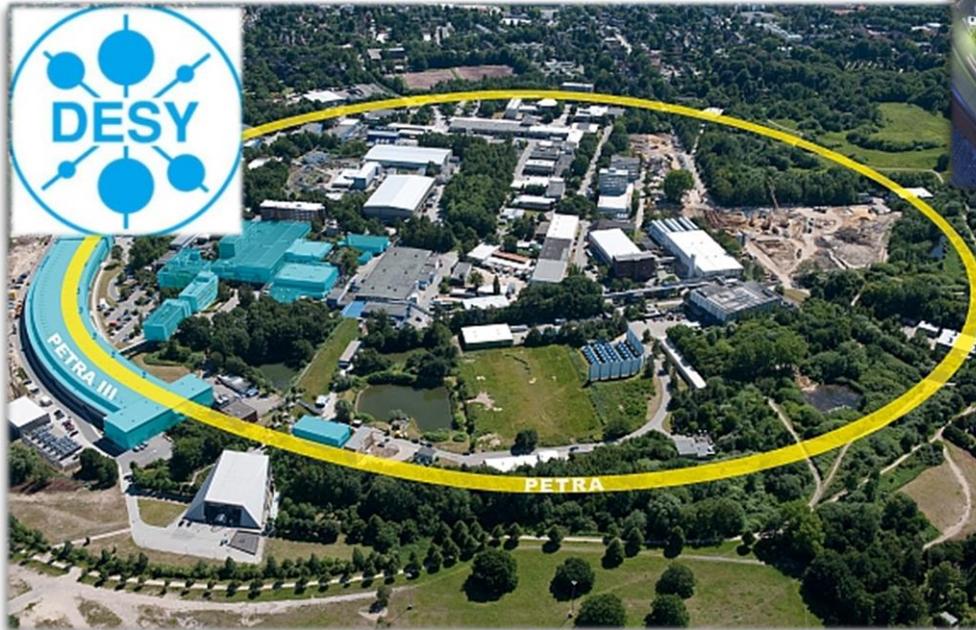
*Photochemical ageing:*  
**SOLARBOX 1500e**  
800 hours,  $T = 50-60^\circ C$





European Synchrotron Radiation Facility

Grenoble (F)



Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron

Hamburg (D)

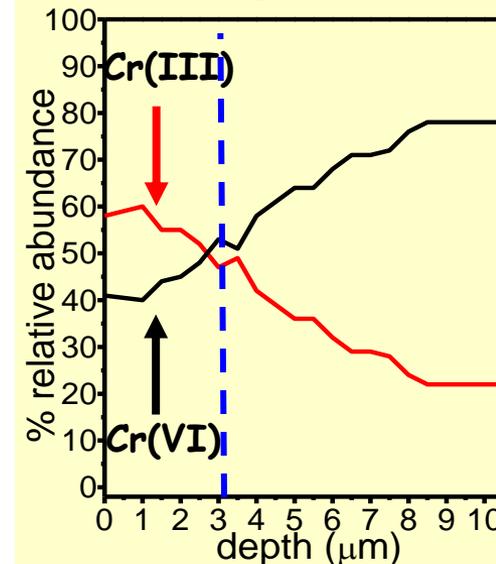
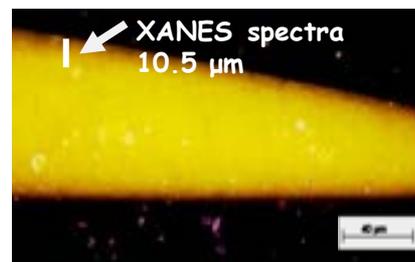
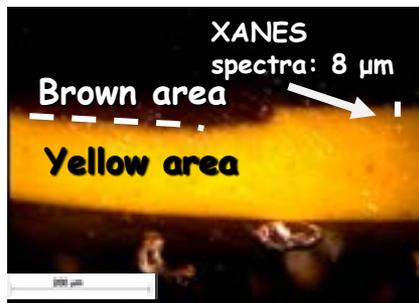
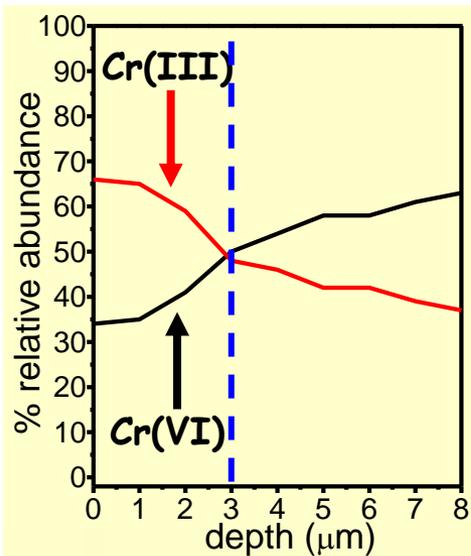
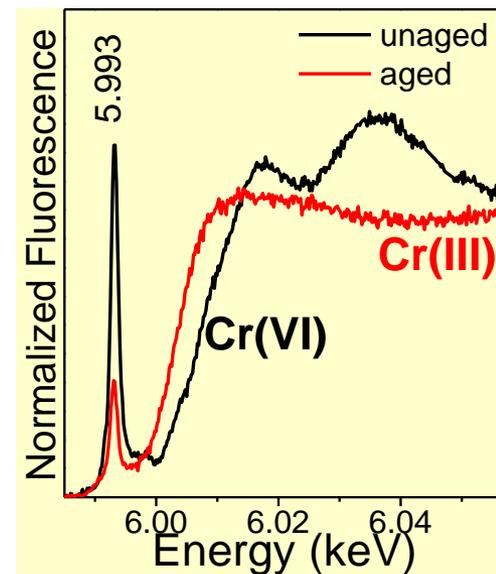
micro-mapping with XANES, XRF, XRD,...

# Alteration: chrome VI to chrome III reduction

Sample A  $S_{3D}$  (75%  $SO_4^{2-}$ )



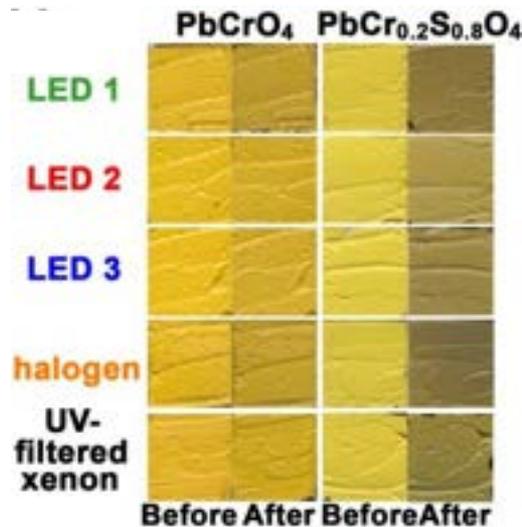
**UVA-visible light , 800 h,  
 $T \sim 55^\circ C$**



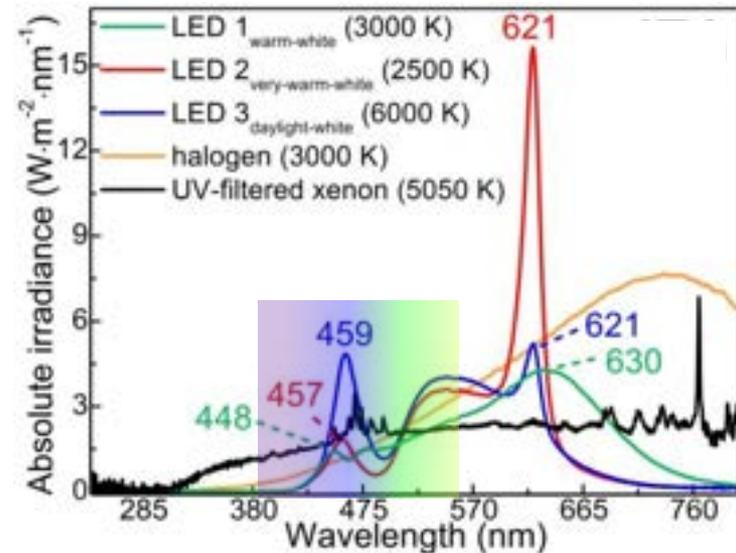
**FT- IR analysis** : degradation products identification → **Organo-metallic compounds**  
→ **Amorphous Cr(III) oxide**

## *Aging experiments with commercial white sources*

Aging of a series of oil paints containing the lightfast monoclinic  $\text{PbCrO}_4$  and the light-sensitive  $\text{PbCr}_{0.2}\text{S}_{0.8}\text{O}_4$



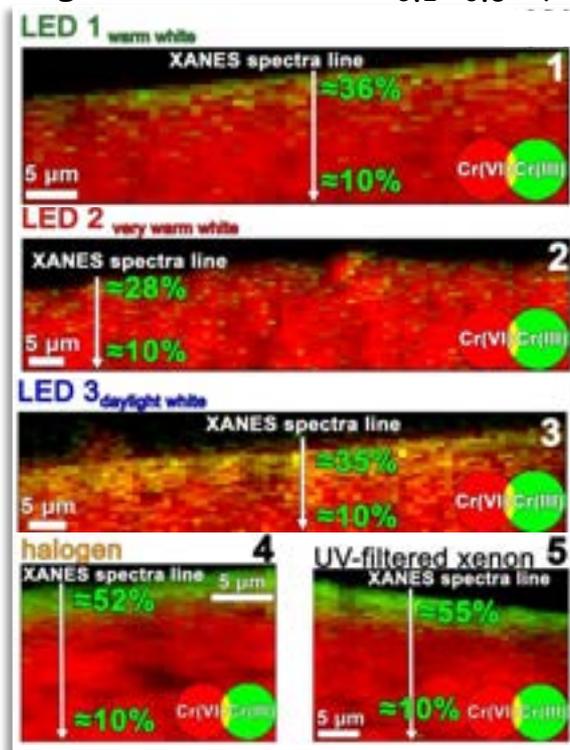
The darkening of the paint surface depends on the employed illumination device



Different emission of the lamps in the region around the maximum absorption of the pigment

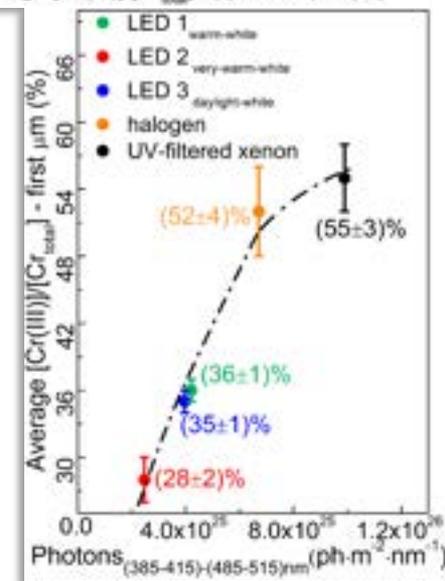
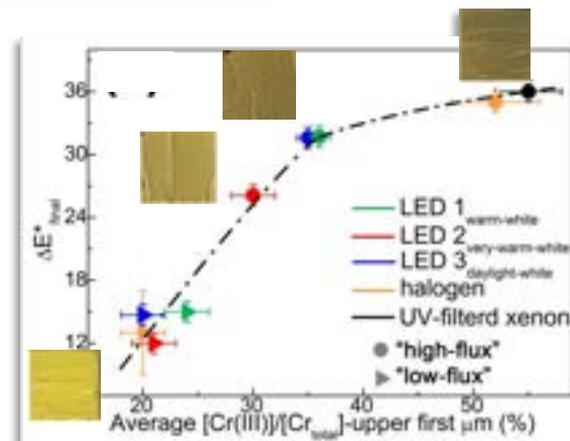
# SR $\mu$ -XANES/XRF & colorimetric analysis

light-sensitive  $\text{PbCr}_{0.2}\text{S}_{0.8}\text{O}_4$

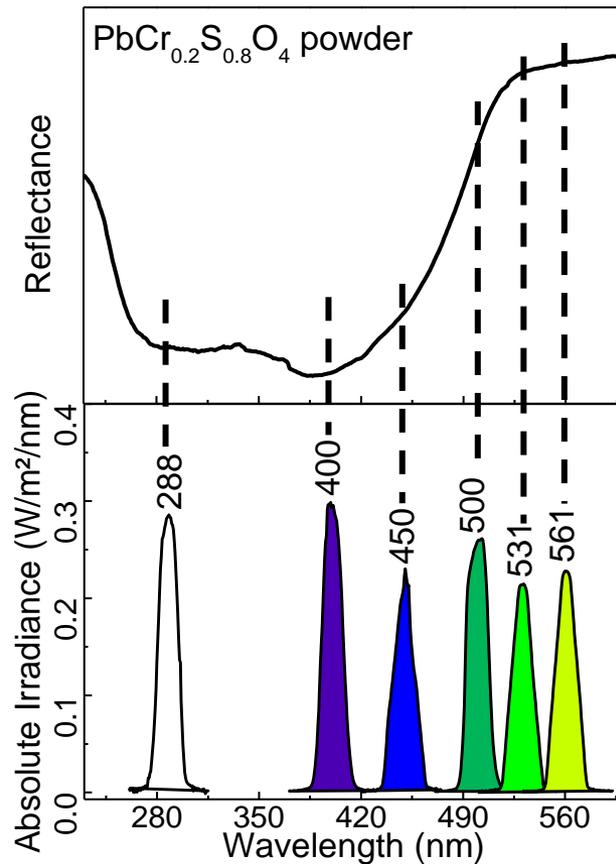


*lightfast*  $\text{PbCrO}_4$ : ~10-15% of Cr(III), irrespective of the used lamp.

*light-sensitive*  $\text{PbCr}_{0.2}\text{S}_{0.8}\text{O}_4$ : positive correlation between the Cr(III) and the  $\Delta E^*$ /amount of violet-blue-green radiation (400-530 nm) emitted by the source.



# Exposure of $PbCr_{0.2}S_{0.8}O_4$ to monochromatic lights



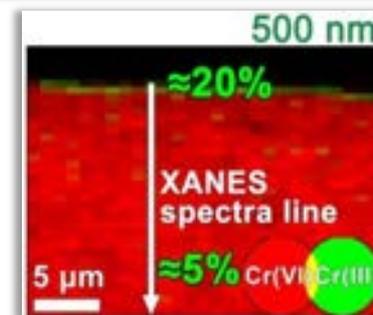
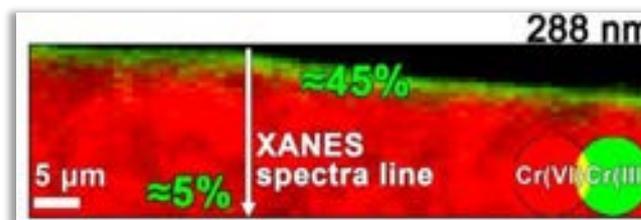
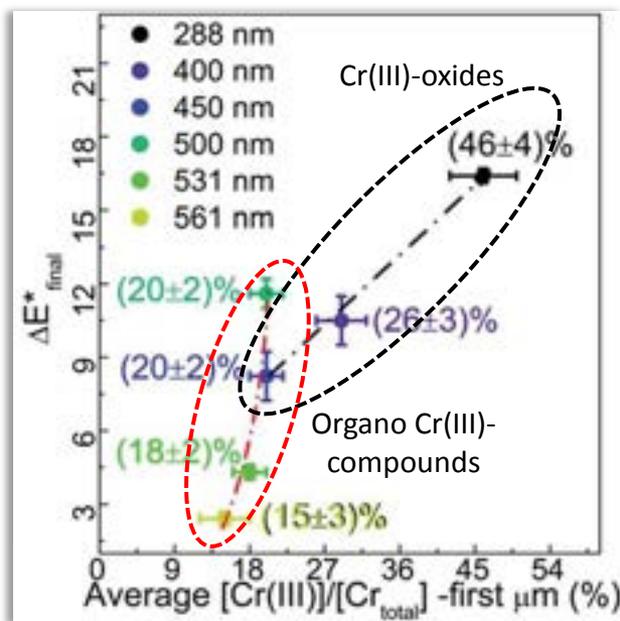
Study of the darkening response of the light-sensitive chrome yellow pigment toward exposure to selected wavelengths.

The wavelengths employed for the aging experiments were selected on the basis of the UV-Vis spectrum of the  $PbCr_{0.2}S_{0.8}O_4$  powder.

# SR $\mu$ -XANES/XRF & colorimetric analysis



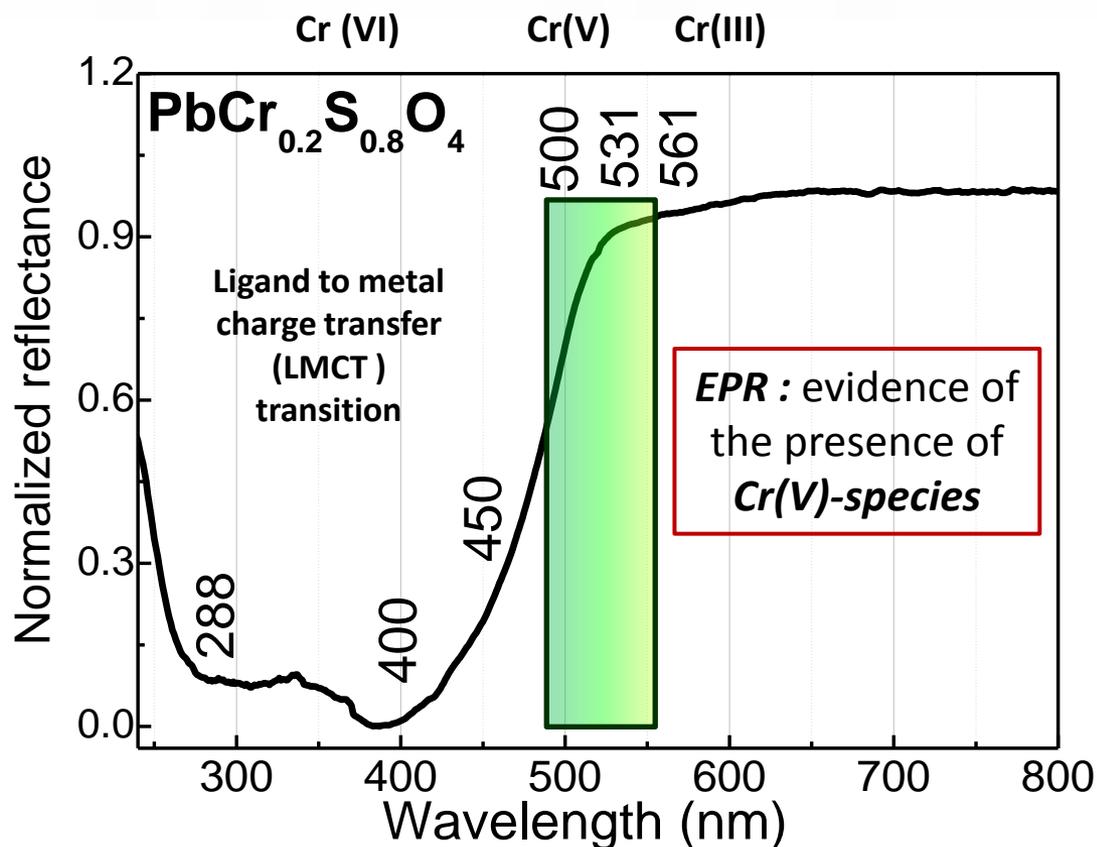
Confirmation of the effects of the violet-blue-green light



The Cr(III)-amount depends on the wavelength.

Two different positive correlations: indication of the formation of various Cr(III)-compounds.

## Why is S-rich CY vulnerable to green radiation?



Cr(VI) is thermally reduced to Cr(V) by radicals produced during oil drying.  
Cr(V) is stabilized by the ligands of the oil medium.

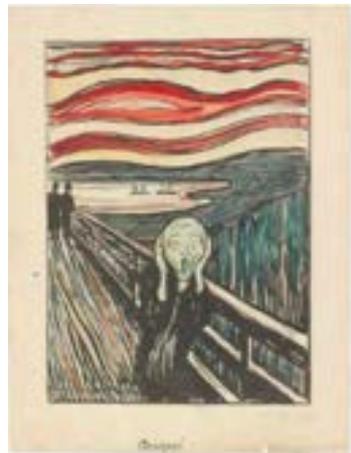
## Multi/Hyper spectral imaging

VIS hyper spectral imaging  
NIR hyper spectral imaging  
SWIR hyper spectral imaging  
X-ray fluorescence mapping

*painting technique*

*underdrawing*

*underpaints*



## Point chemical analysis

X-ray fluorescence  
Mid-FTIR  
Near-FTIR  
Raman  
X-ray diffraction  
UV-Vis absorption  
UV-Vis fluorescence

*pigments and dyes*

*organic components*

*alteration products*

*conservation treatments*

# Fluorescence Hyperspectral Imaging

## X-ray fluorescence mapping



## XRF Cd-L mapping

**Cd-L**

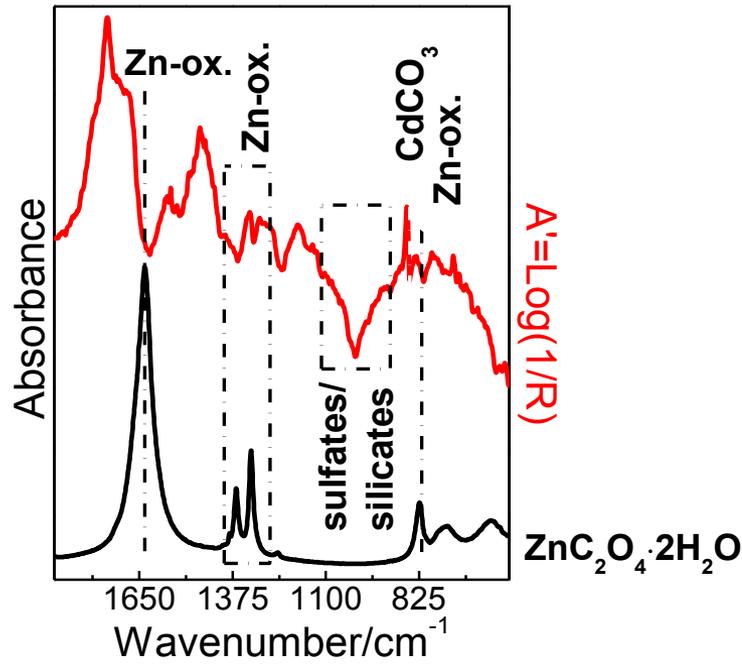
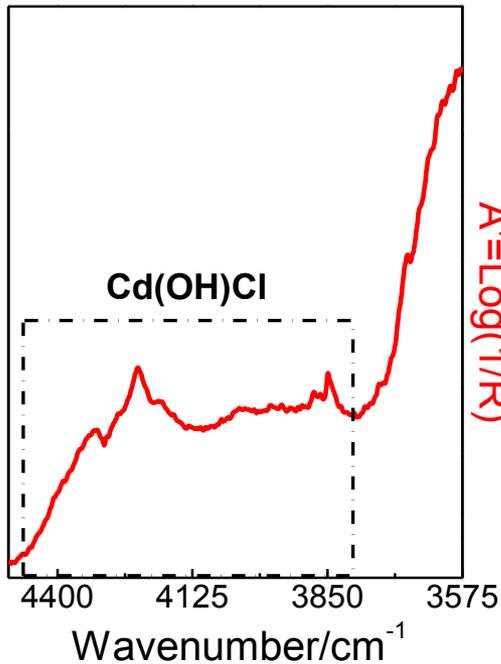
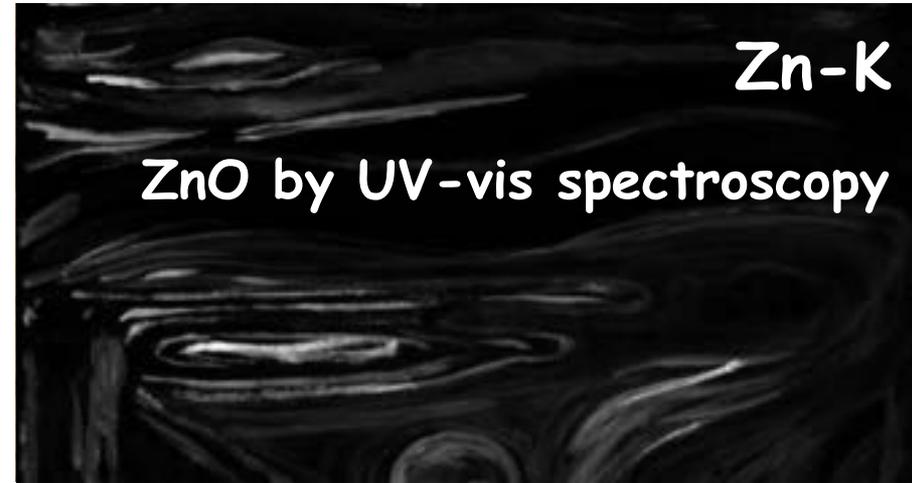
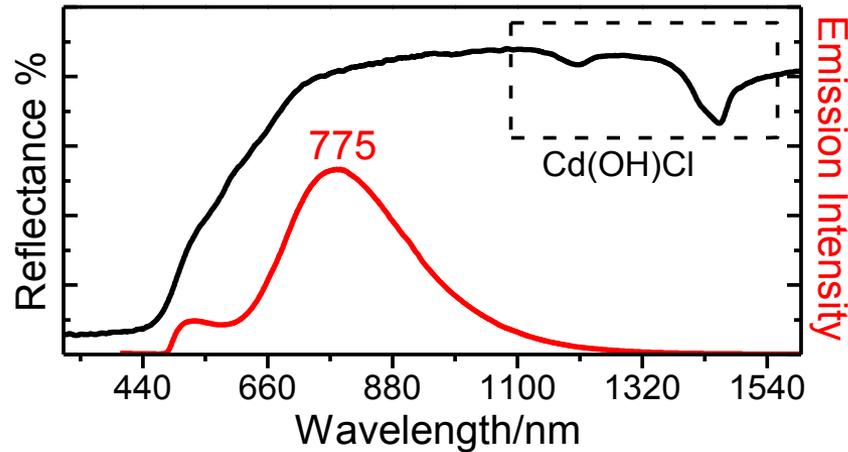


## fluorescence hyper spectral imaging @ 775nm

**CdS emission**



# Yellow shades of the sky and lake



-Hexagonal **CdS**-based yellow pigment characterized by a fluorescence band at 775nm

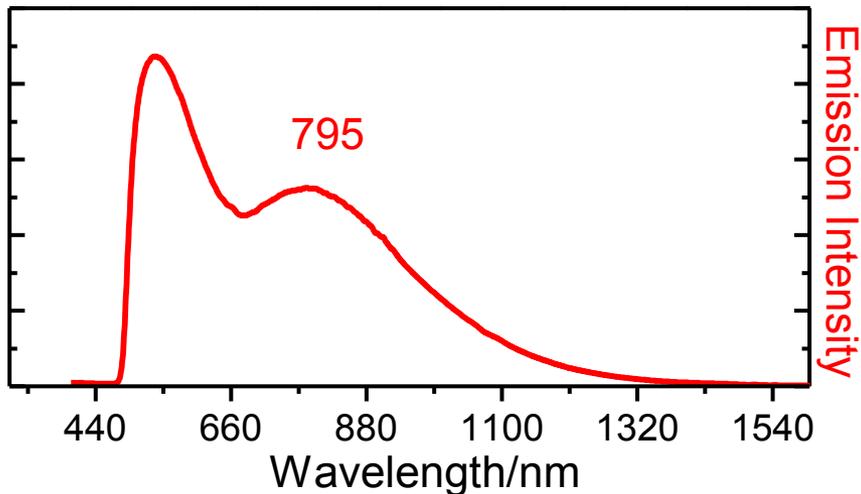
- identification of cadmium carbonate and zinc oxalates and Cd(OH)Cl by MIR

# yellow areas: sky and neck of the man

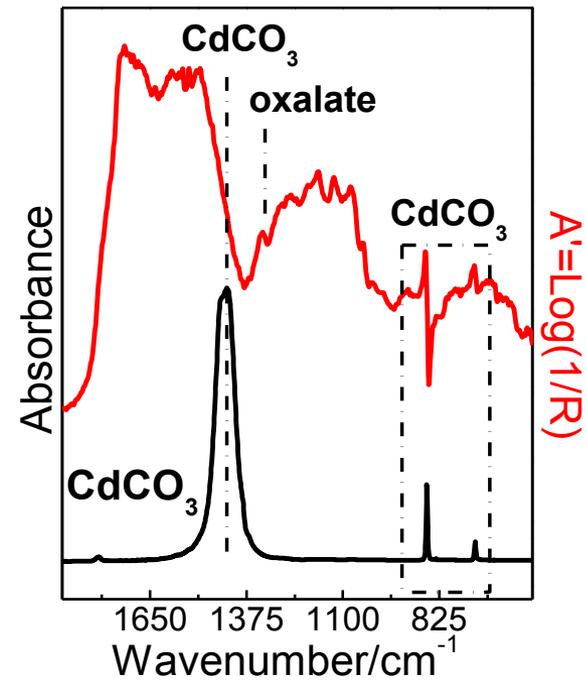


- Hexagonal CdS-based yellow pigment characterized by a weak fluorescence band at 795 nm
- identification of cadmium carbonate and oxalates by MIR spectroscopy

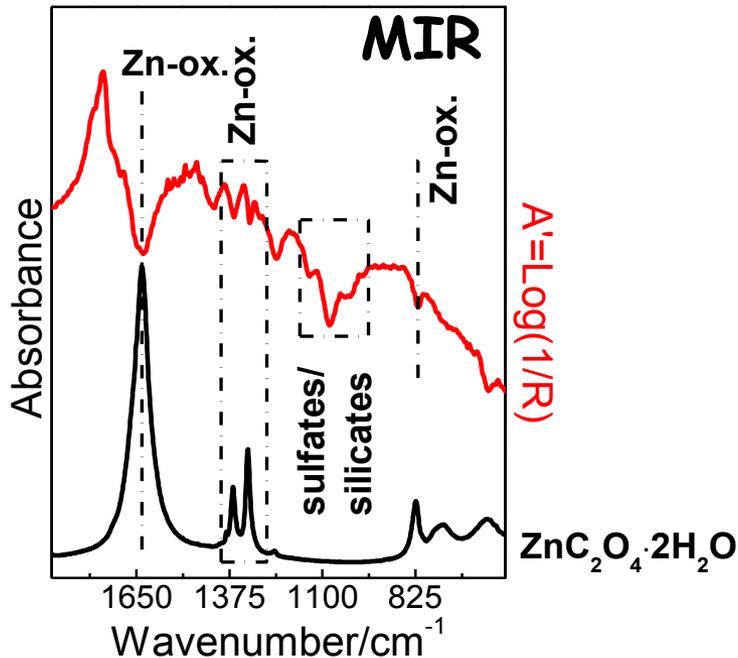
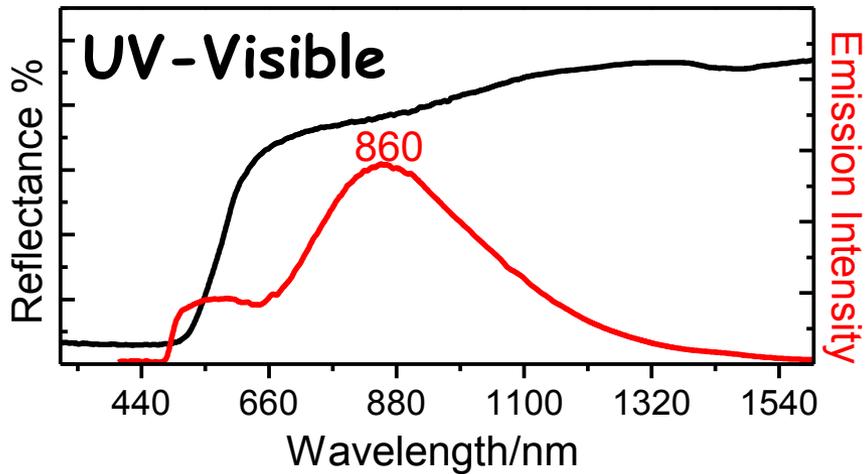
### UV-vis Fluorescence



### MIR



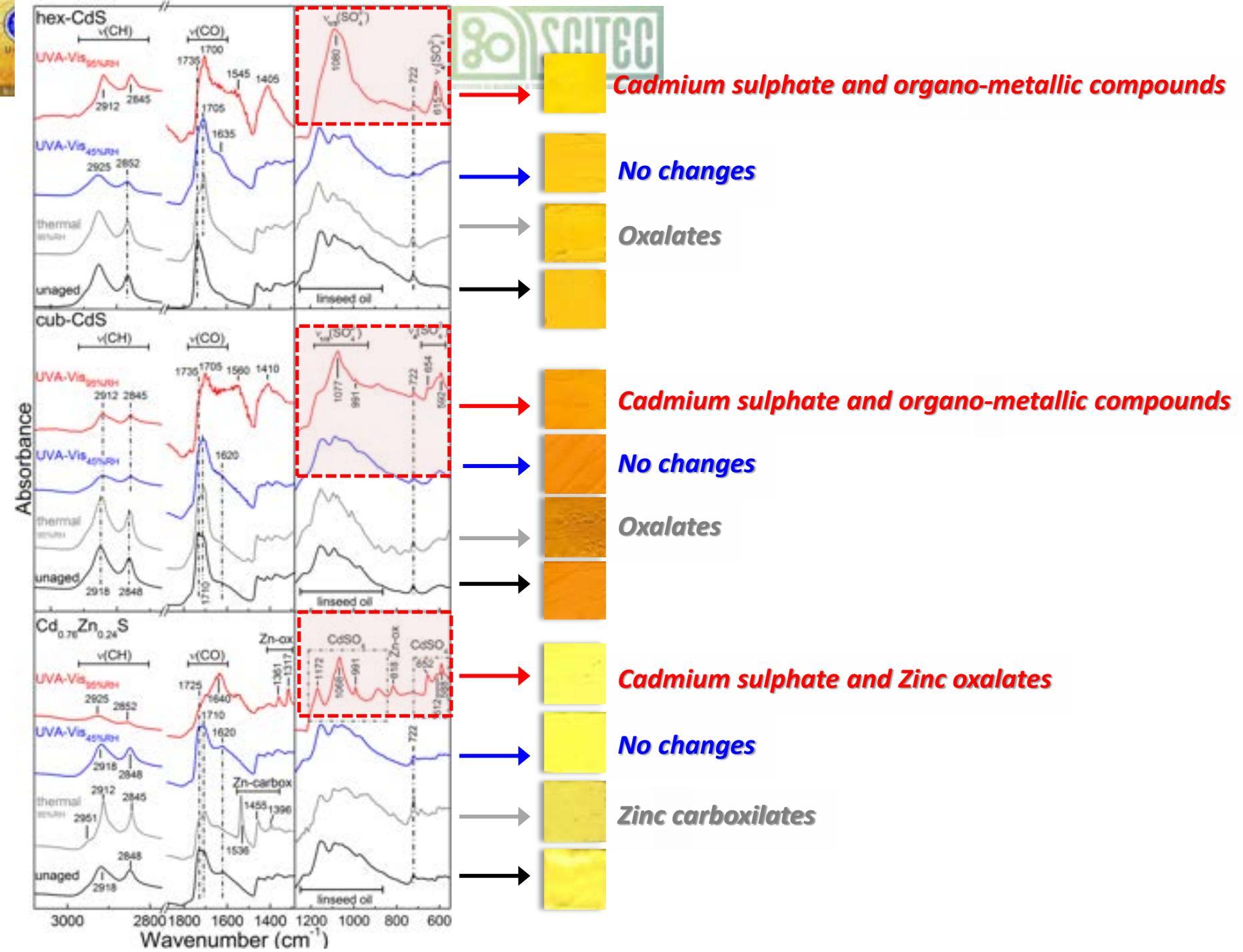
# Orange hues of the sky



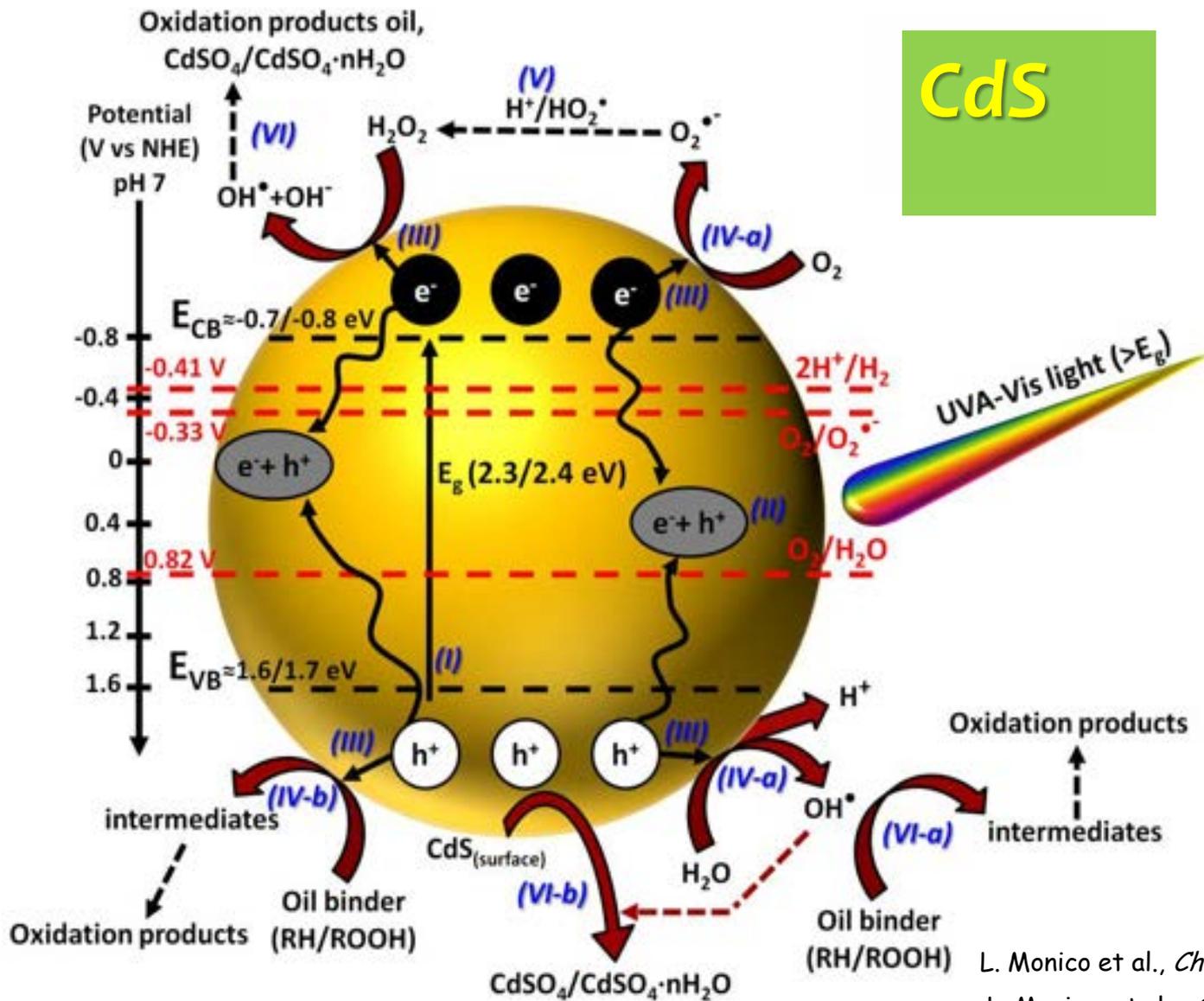
-Cubic+Hexagonal CdS-based pigment characterized by a fluorescence band at 860 nm and reflectance band with inflection point at about **530** nm.

-Second inflection point at **590** nm indicating a red pigment (HgS)

- identification of zinc oxalates (signals more intense than in the yellow tones) and sulfates and/or silicates by MIR spectroscopy. No presence of cadmium carbonate and Cd(OH)Cl in this area.



**CdS**



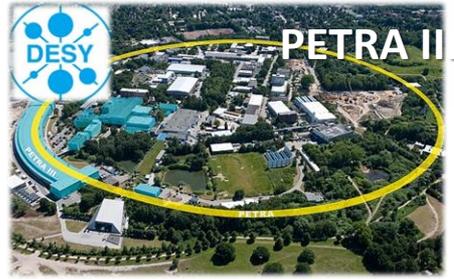
L. Monico et al., *Chem. Eur. J.* 2018, **24**, 11584 - 11593

L. Monico, et al., *Sci. Adv.*, 2020, **6**

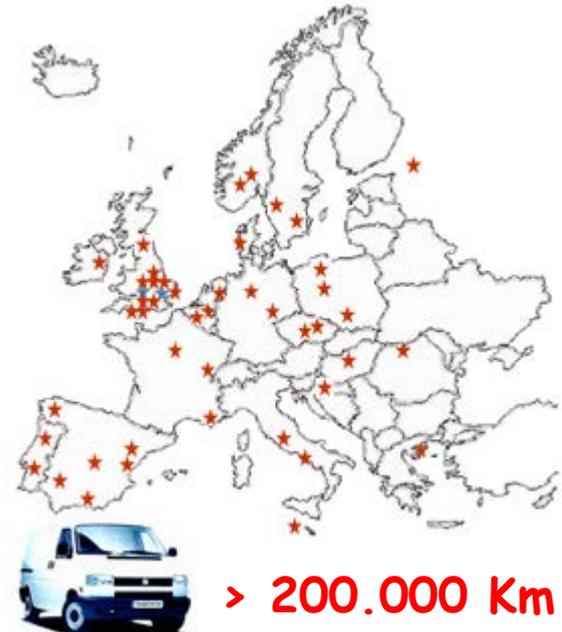
S. Mayda et al., *Chem. Mater.* 2023, in press



*"... a roving crew of conservation scientists that travel around Europe ...."*



**IPERION HS**



**> 200.000 Km**

Thank You!

