

Primary Photochemistry of Photosynthesis

A perspective in honor of
Vlad Shuvalov

by

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Владимир А. Шувалов мужчина на ходу ...

Мы чтим его сегодня, а не потому, что он 70, а потому, что он знает, что такое жизнь.

И, как растения, водоросли и фотосинтезирующие бактерии преобразовать все обильные солнечную энергию в энергию, что полномочия его танцевать.

Щ

Что еще мы хотим!

Продолжайте, Владимир, и научить нас о жизни.

И, как вы сделали все это возможным.

(Говинджи, 2014)

GCP



Vladimir A. Shuvalov is a man on the go...

**We honor him today not because he is 70, but because he knows what life is all about
And how Plants , Algae and Photosynthetic Bacteria do their basic thing,
i.e., convert the all-abundant solar energy into energy that powers him to dance..**

What more do we want..

Keep going, Vlad and teach us your tricks of life and how you made it all happen

Well, well.. From being a 6-year old handsome happy eager boy (1949) to a charming young man of 20, still quite happy (1963) at Moscow State University

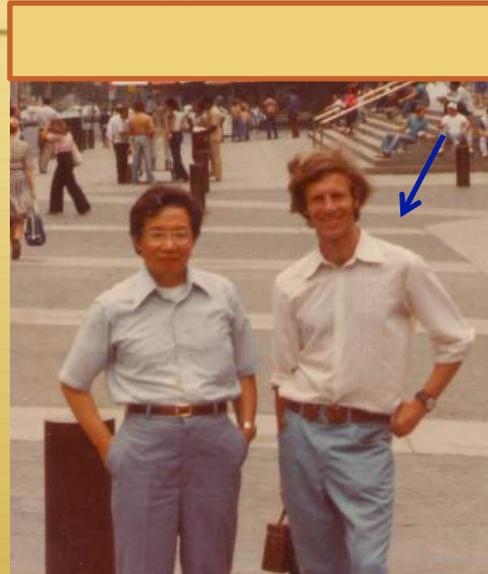


Faculty of Biology and Soil
Science, MSU

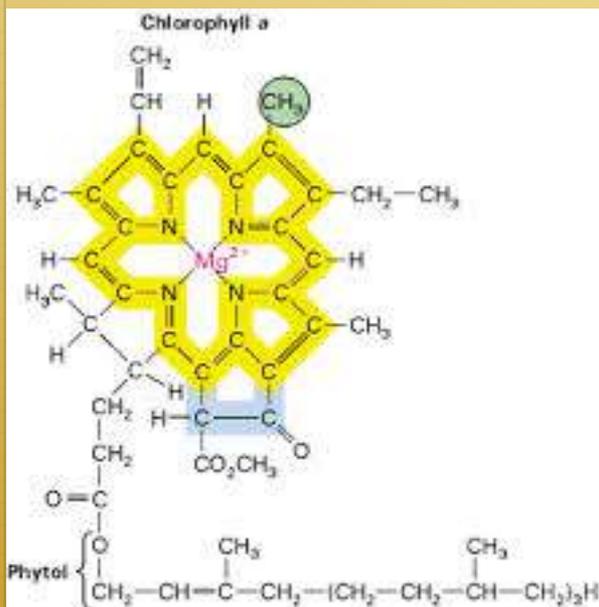


From Russia to USA: Now in his 30s.. really grinning

After his PhD in 1969 on "Studying persistence of chlorophyll in photosynthetic electron transfer"; and while he was a researcher at the Academy of Science of the USSR (1969—1979), he went to the Charles F. Kettering Lab in Yellow Springs, Ohio, to work with Bacon Ke (1978-1979) and then with Bill Parson (1980-1981), at the University of Washington, Seattle



Well, Vlad, your PhD was on **Chlorophyll**, which is the Green King that reigns our field



1. **Richard Wilstätter** 1872-1942; Prize in 1915; studied at Univ. of Munich)
2. **Hans Fischer** (1881-1945; Prize in 1930; studied at Univ. of Marburg)
3. **Richard Burns Woodward** (1917-1979; Prize in 1965; studied at MIT)



A Glimpse of Some of the Discoveries of Vladimir Anatoly Shuvalov

- In bRC, BPheo is an electron acceptor that precedes Q_A (Shuvalov & Klimov, 1976; cf. Dutton; and Parson, 1975)
- In BRC, BChl is an electron acceptor before BPheo (Shuvalov, Klevanik et al., 1978)
- In PSII RC, a Chl is an alternate e-acceptor to Pheo : $P^+ Chl_{D1}^-$ (Shelaev et al., 2008, 2011)
- In PSI RC, a Chl (Ao) is actually reduced within 100fs (Shelaev et al., 2010; cf. Fenton et al., 1978; Wasielewski et al., 1987))
- In bRC, $P_A^+ P_B^-$ is formed in fs (120-180 fs) within P870*



D-P-A of PSII and of PSI: Vlad really focused on all the A's; P's were done; did not want to touch D's: Chls and Pheos
Background on Chl a: Why Chl a does different things? Short answer: Redox potential; amino acid environment

Photosynth Res (2009) 99:85–98
 DOI 10.1007/s11120-008-9395-x

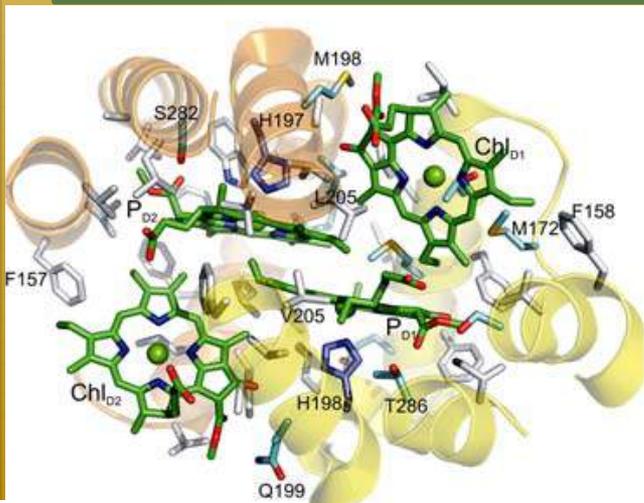
REVIEW

A viewpoint: Why chlorophyll *a*?

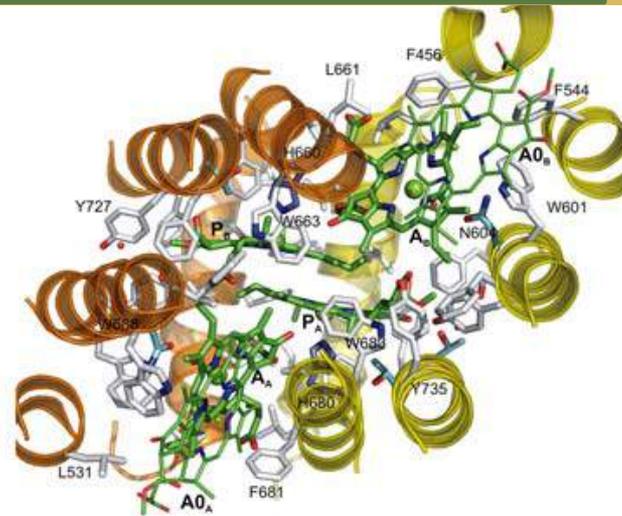
Lars Olof Björn · George C. Papageorgiou · Robert E. Blankenship · Govindjee

**PSII: P_{D1}; P_{D2}:
 His 198, His 197**

**PSI: A₀:
 Met 688; Tyr
 696**



PS II RC



PS I RC



Giacomo Luigi Ciamician (1912)
“The Photochemistry of the Future”,
Science 36 (926) 385-394.

“For our purposes the fundamental problem from the technical point of view is how to fix the solar energy through suitable photochemical reactions. To do this it would be sufficient to be able to imitate the assimilating processes of plants.”

To imitate it, we must understand it, and Vlad Shuvalov has provided much understanding to us ..



**A bit of history before
Vlad Shuvalov began his exciting
experiments with top-of-the line
instruments built and assembled by him
and his brilliant analysis of the new
data on the
“Primary Photochemistry of
Photosynthesis”... He will talk about
them himself right after my talk**

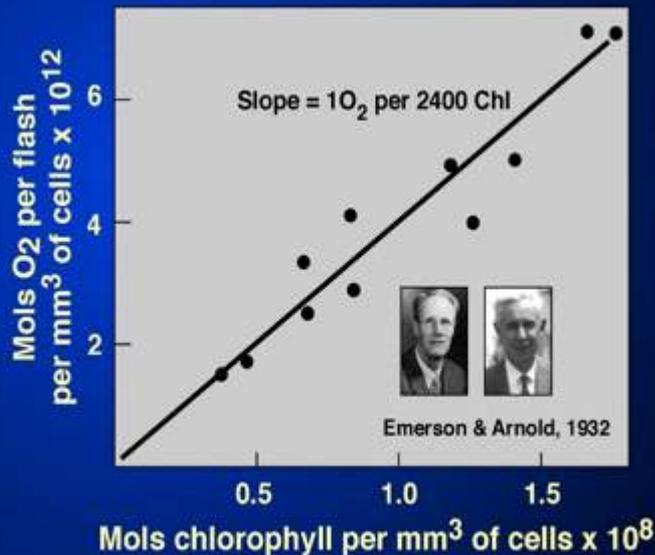


1932



The discovery of “Photosynthetic Unit” (2400 Chlorophylls per Oxygen)

- ✦ We need only suppose that for every 2480 molecules of chlorophyll there is present in the cell one unit capable of reducing one molecule of carbon dioxide each time it is suitably activated by light”



1936

Hans Gaffron (1902-1979)
The “Concept of Excitation Energy Transfer” and a
“photoenzyme”

Hans Gaffron



Provided by Late Bob Clegg

Photo by Govindjee



Rabinowitch and Weiss (1936, 1937)



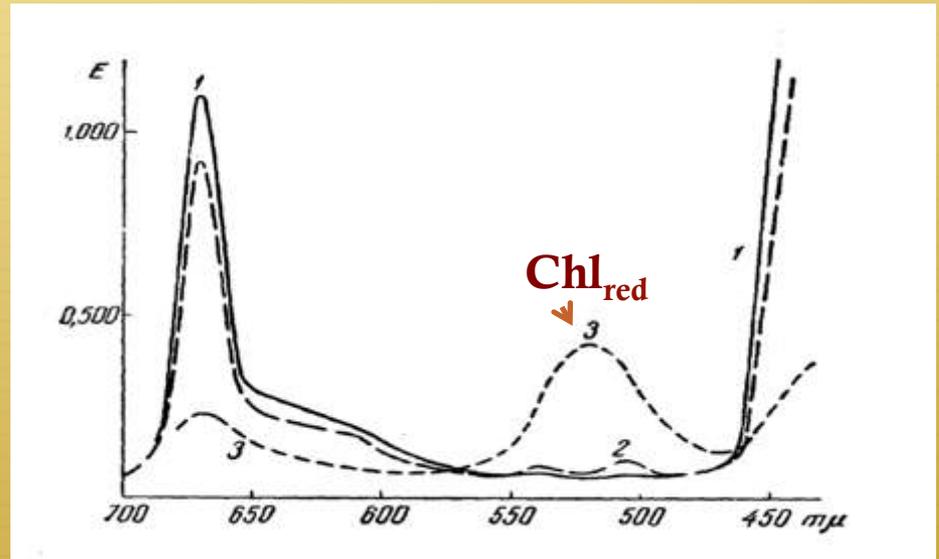
- ✦ “Reversible Oxidation and Reduction of Chlorophyll” by E. Rabinowitch and J. Weiss, *Nature* 138: 1098-1099 (1936)
- ✦ They observed reversible oxidation (and reduction) of ethyl chlorophyllide by ferric and ferrous chloride, where the oxidation was stimulated by light.



1948



Krasnovsky



**Reversible photochemical reduction of chlorophyll
(Krasnovsky reaction) [from: A.A. Krasnovsky
(1948) SSSR 60: 421-424]**



1947-1948

Theodor Förster (of the Förster theory of Energy Transfer) with Robert (Bob) Knox



Theory: Energy transfer depends upon 3 major parameters:

- ✦ 1) $1/r^6$, where r is the distance between donor and acceptor molecules
- ✦ 2) Kappa squared, where Kappa is orientation factor
- ✦ 3) Overlap integral of emission spectrum of donor and absorption spectrum of acceptor molecule



1952

Energy transfer, the trap (P) and oxidation of Chl:

PhD thesis of L.N.M. Duysens



In Duysens' 1952 thesis
“On excitation energy
transfer” the important
reaction center concept of
P870 (in vivo) for
oxidation of just a few
molecules of BChl (Chl)
was born---and so was the

Concept of two types of
Chl a's –precursor to the
PSII and PSI Chl a's



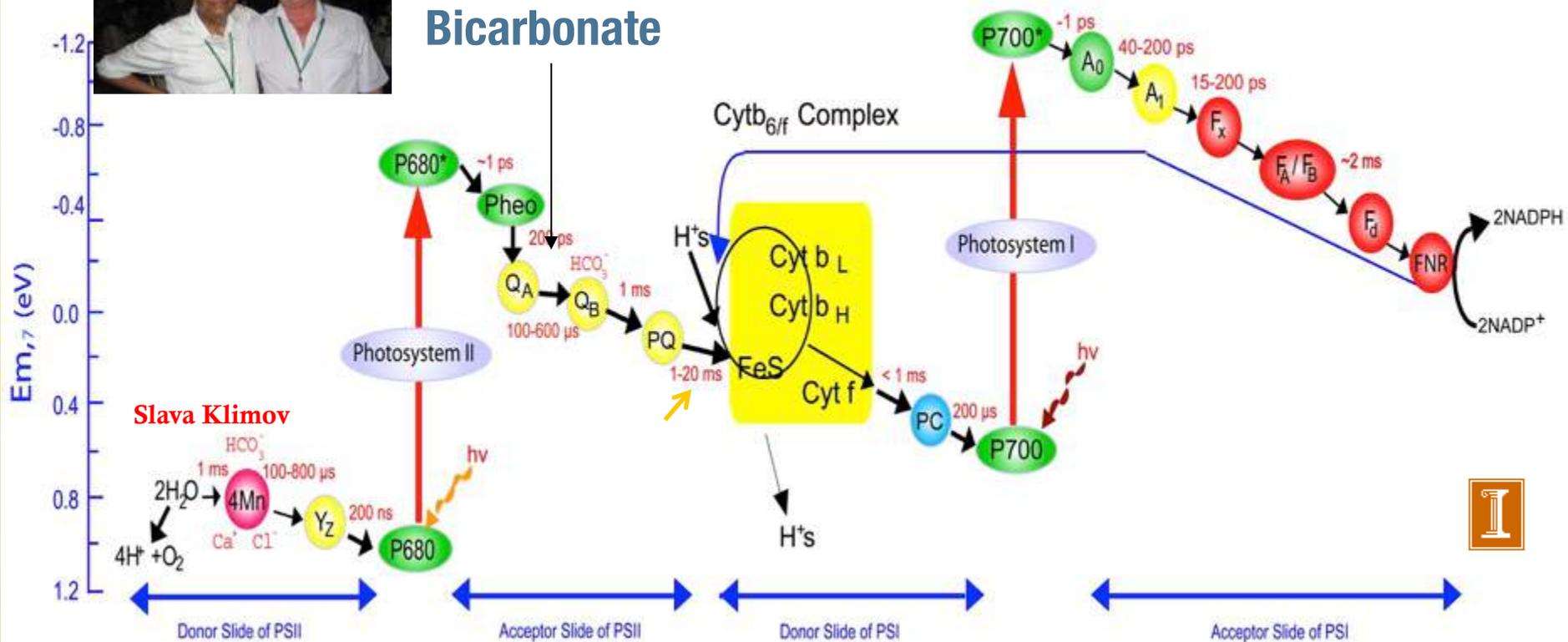


The Z-Scheme

Govindjee et al. (2005)



Bicarbonate



**Bessel Kok discovered P700 in 1956-1957; in 1959, he showed the two-light effect on it– and much more..
Later, the Kok-Joliot Oxygen Clock**

Jack Myers (1987) Bessel Kok (1918-1979) Biograph Mem of the Natl Acad of Sci, Washington, DC, pp. 125-147

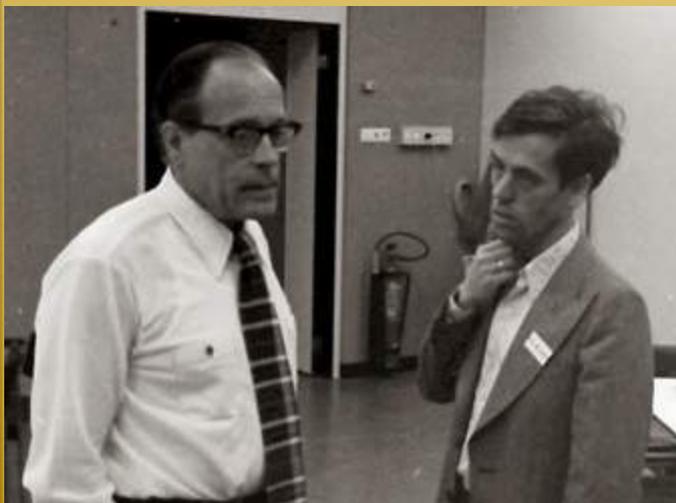


Photo by Tiny Pulles

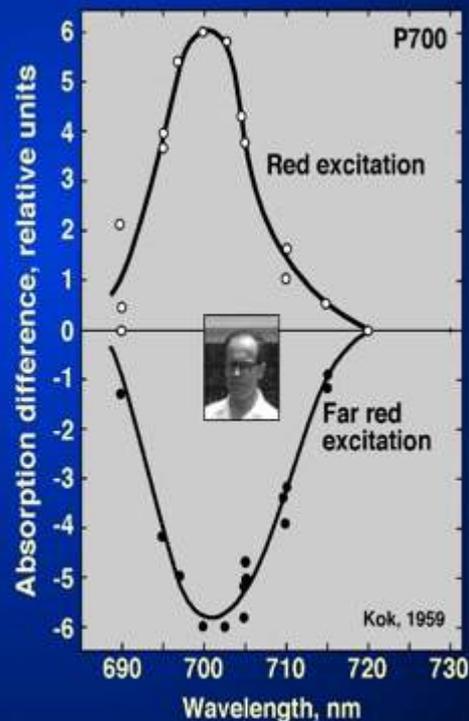




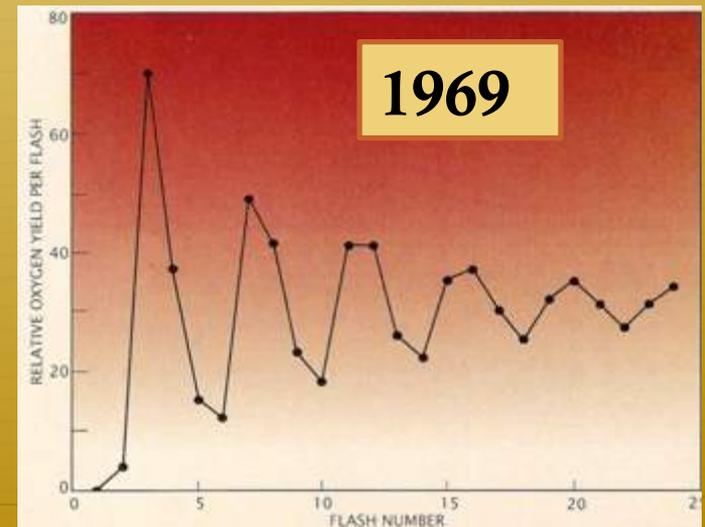
Photo:
Courtesy
of Tiny
Pulles

Pierre Joliot

- Discoverer of the Oxygen Clock in Photosynthesis

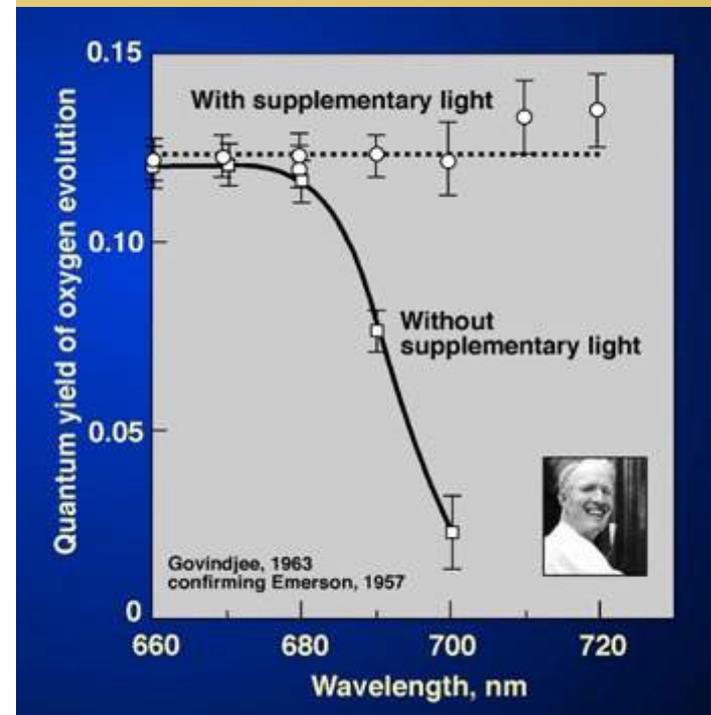
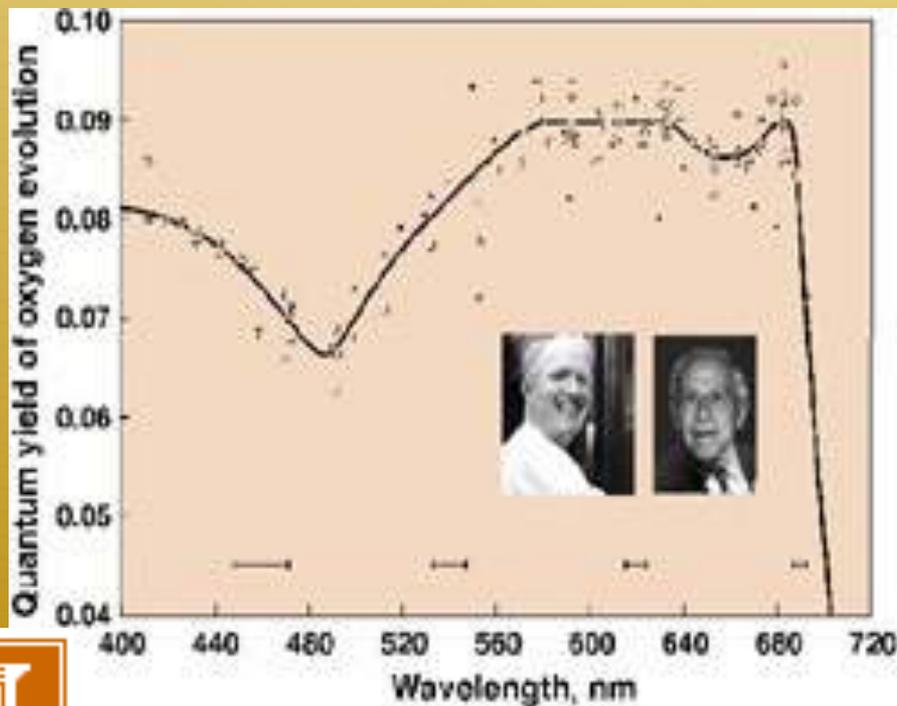
P. Joliot (2003) Period-four oscillations of the flash-induced oxygen formation in Photosynthesis. *Photosynthesis Research* 76: 65–72

Source of figure:
Govindjee and W.J. Coleman
(1990)
How Plants Make Oxygen.
Scientific American 262: 50-58



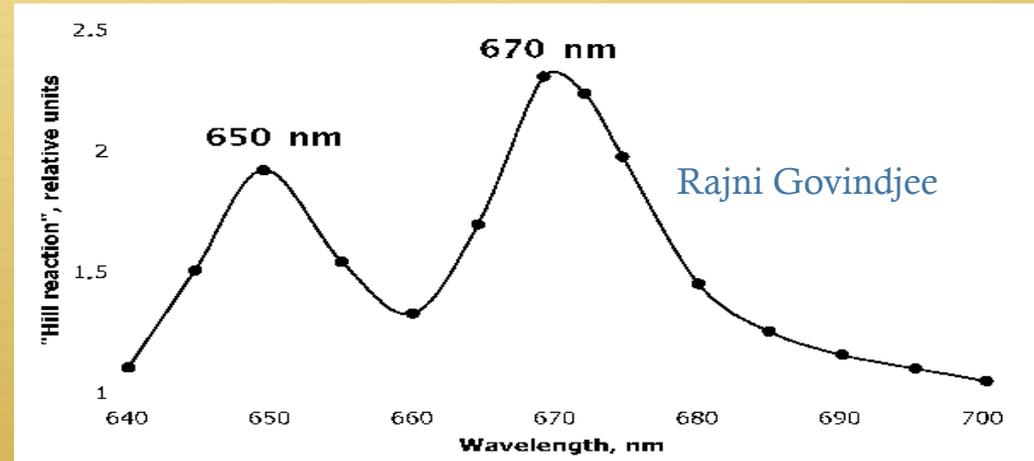
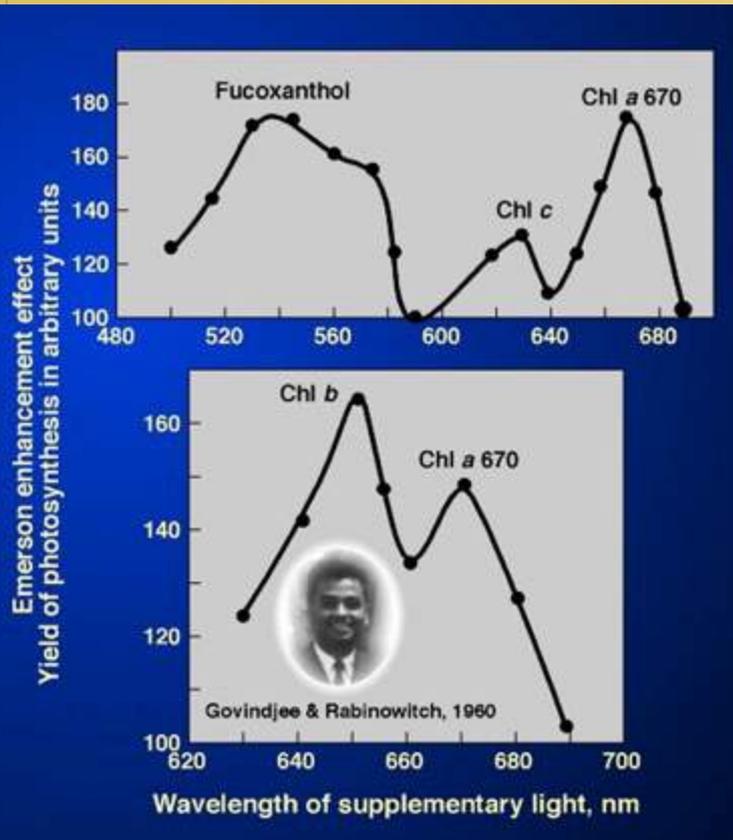
1943; 1957

The Red Drop; and the Emerson Enhancement Effect: Two Light Reaction and Two Pigment System Concept



1960

Govindjee and Rajni look back at their experiments done 54 years ago..



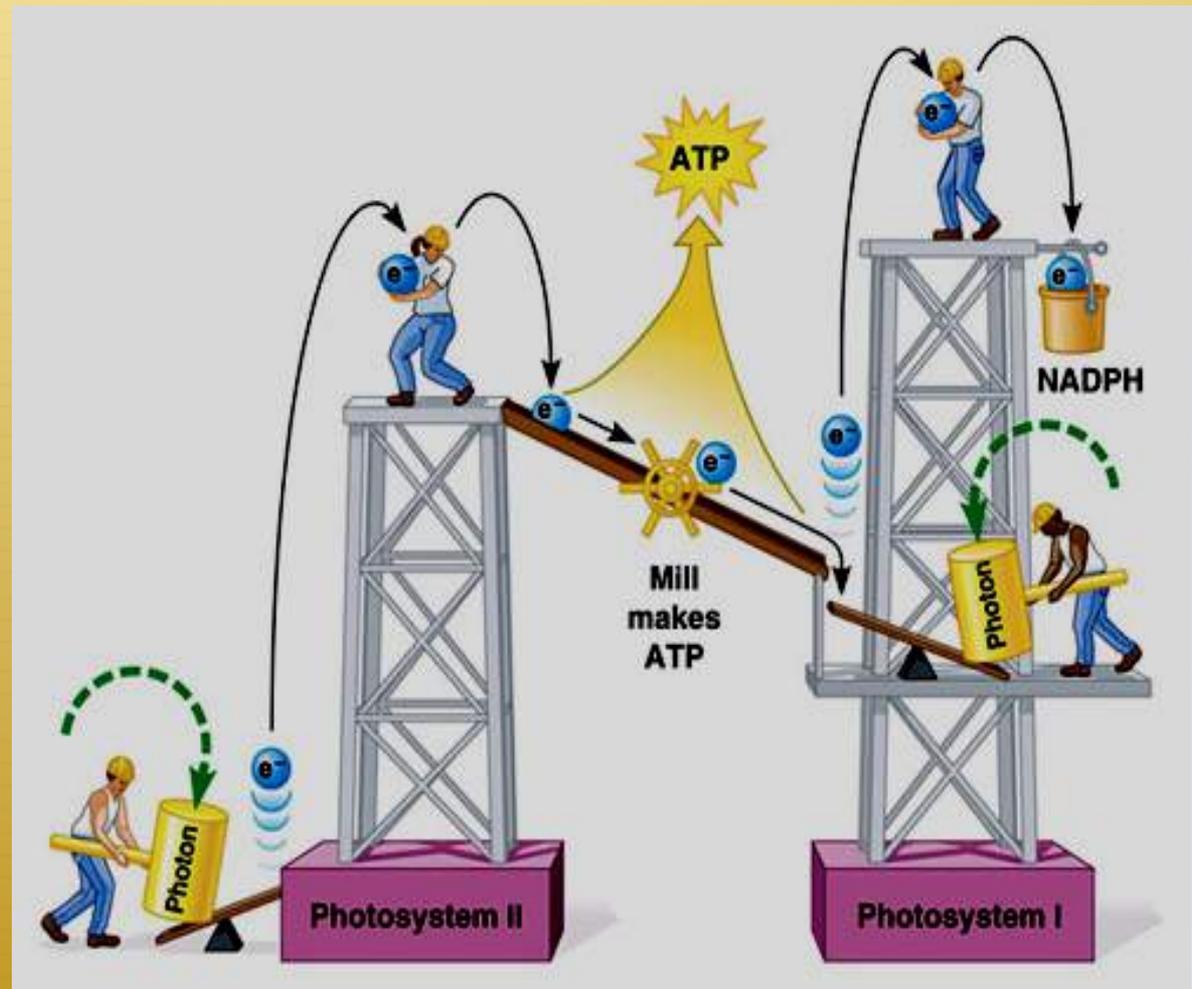
A short wavelength absorbing form of chlorophyll a (Chl a 670) is present in the system that has chlorophyll b.

And the effect is not on respiration as Larry Blinks had said!

In 1960-- “the Z” Scheme was invented by Robin Hill and Fay Bendall



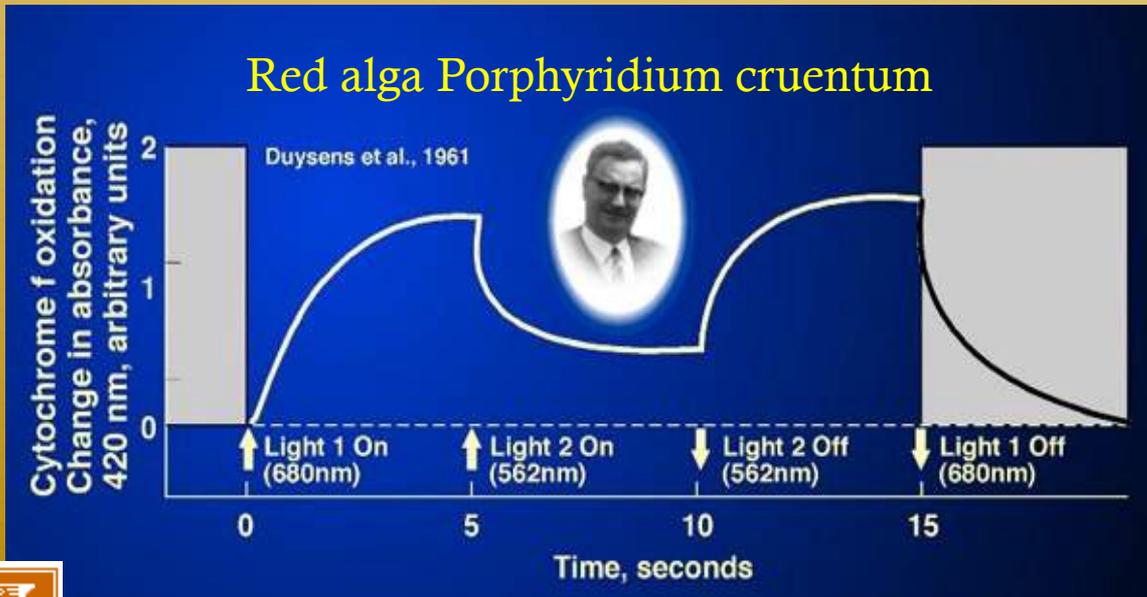
R.C. Prince (1992)
“Robert Hill, FRS;
his published work”.
Photosynth Res 34:
329-332



Louis N. M. Duysens et al. (1961) and Duysens and Ames (1962) were responsible for the names of the photosystems we use today

Light 1 (red light) oxidizes cytochrome f (called Light Reaction 1 and its Photosystem, PS 1) ; whereas, Light 2 (green light) reduces it (called Light Reaction 2, and its photosystem, PS 2).

This push-pull antagonistic effect on a redox intermediate is the crux of the Z-Scheme.



1977: Discovery of pheophytin as PSII acceptor

V.V. Klimov, A.V. Klevanik, **V.A. Shuvalov** and A.A. Krasnovsky (1977) Reduction of pheophytin in the primary light reaction of Photosystem II. FEBS Lett 82: 183-186 ; they discovered that membrane fragments enriched in PSII showed photoreduction of pheophytin coupled to photooxidation of Chl.

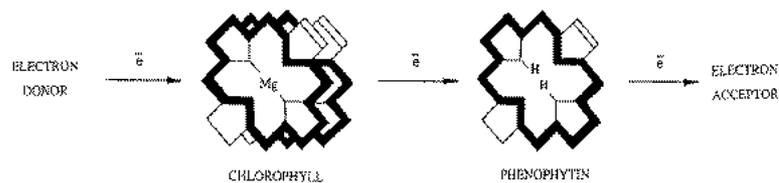
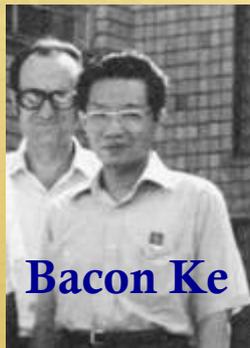


Fig. 4. Photoinduced electron transfer between chlorophyll and pheophytin.



1979: Kinetic and Spectral Properties of A₁ in Photosystem I



Bacon Ke

Volume 100, number 1

FEBS LETTERS

April 1979

KINETIC AND SPECTRAL PROPERTIES OF THE INTERMEDIARY ELECTRON ACCEPTOR A₁ IN PHOTOSYSTEM I

Subnanosecond spectroscopy

V. A. SHUVALOV⁺, Bacon KE* and Ed DOLAN
Charles F. Kettering Research Laboratory, Yellow Springs, OH 45388

Received 26 January 1979

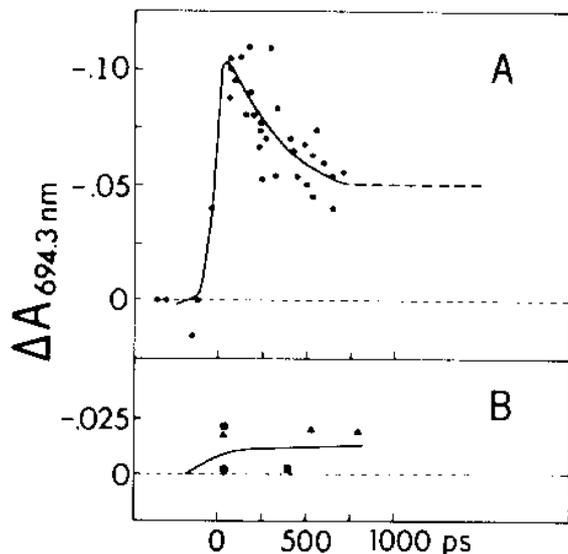


Fig. 2. Kinetics of $\Delta A_{694.3}$ in TSF1
694.3 nm pulses (50–60 ps duration
of 1 mJ/cm²) at 20°C. Each point is
average of 10–20 measurements.

PSI prep (Chl/P700=26), TSF1(Triton)
prep. Wavelength, 694 nm; 1mJ;
50-60 ps pulse

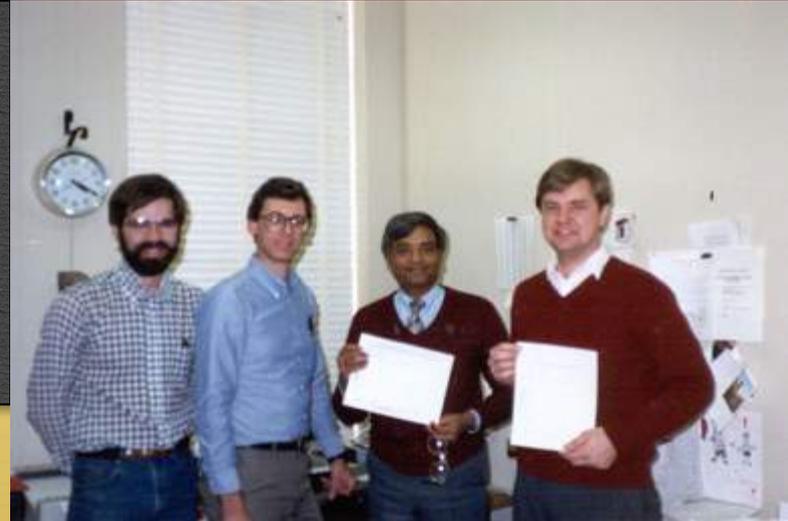
**Result: Decrease in absorption at ~700
nm :A1 was reduced in <60ps; next step
200ps**



1989

Primary Photochemistry: Conversion of light energy into chemical energy occurs in picoseconds: Our very first measurements(Proc Natl Acad Sci, 86: 524-528)

P680⁺ (oxidized form of reaction center chlorophyll) is formed within 3 picoseconds and excited state of chlorophyll disappears simultaneously with a half-time of 3 picoseconds (Wasielewski et al., 1989)



82 / Govindjee and Wasielewski

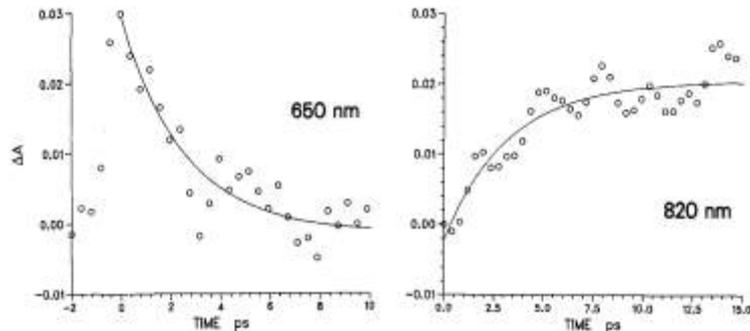


Figure 5. Transient absorption changes at 820nm (due to formation of P680⁺) and at 650nm (due to decay of ¹Chla*) for photosystem II reaction centers following a 100 μJ, 500 fs laser flash at 610nm. Left: 650nm change; right: 820nm change. (After Wasielewski et al., 1989.)



Mike Wasielewski's 60th birthday



Primary light-energy conversion in tetrameric chlorophyll structure of photosystem II and bacterial reaction centers: II. Femto- and picosecond charge separation in PSII D1/D2/Cyt b559 complex

I. V. Shelaev · F. E. Gostev · V. A. Nadtochenko ·
A. Ya. Shkuropatov · A. A. Zabelin · M. D. Mamedov ·
A. Yu. Semenov · O. M. Sarkisov · V. A. Shuvalov

Biochimica et Biophysica Acta 1797 (2010) 1410–1420

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Biochimica et Biophysica Acta

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/bbabio



Femtosecond primary charge separation in *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803 photosystem I

Ivan V. Shelaev^{a,c}, Fedor E. Gostev^a, Mahir D. Mamedov^b, Oleg M. Sarkisov^a, Victor A. Nadtochenko^{a,c,*}, Vladimir A. Shuvalov^{b,*}, Alexey Yu. Semenov^{b,*}

^a N.N. Semenov Institute of Chemical Physics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia



**Shelaev et al.
(2008,2010)**

PSII (2008)

20 fs flashes

In 0.9 ps

P680⁺ Chl⁻_{D1}

is formed, and in 14 ps,

P680⁺ Pheo⁻_{D1}

is formed

PSI (2010)

20 fs flashes

< 100fs

P700⁺ Ao⁻

is formed; in 5 ps, Chl^{*}

transfers its energy to

P700, and in 25 ps,

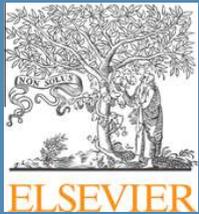
P700⁺ Ao A₁⁻ is formed

2011

77K : 0.9 ps for charge separation in PSII [Shelaev et al.: The title tells the story]

Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology B: Biology 104 (2011) 44–50

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect



Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology B: Biology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jphotobiol



P_{680} ($P_{D1}P_{D2}$) and Chl_{D1} as alternative electron donors in photosystem II core complexes and isolated reaction centers

I.V. Shelaev^a, F.E. Gostev^a, M.I. Vishnev^b, A.Ya. Shkuropatov^b, V.V. Ptushenko^c, M.D. Mamedov^c, O.M. Sarkisov^a, V.A. Nadtochenko^a, A.Yu. Semenov^c, V.A. Shuvalov^{b,*}

^aM.N. Semenov Institute of Chemical Physics, Russian Academy of Sciences, 119901, Moscow, Russia



A Global Scale Challenge for Science

“...if our black and nervous civilization, based on coal and oil, shall be followed by a quieter civilization based on the utilization of solar energy, that will not be harmful to progress and to human happiness.”

“...to fix the solar energy through suitable photochemical reactions with new compounds that master the photochemical processes that hitherto have been the guarded secret of the plants”

1912
Ciamician, *Science*

100 years later: Najafpour, M. M.;
Shen, J-R.; Barber, J.; Moore, G. F.;
Govindjee Running on Sun. *Chemistry
World* **2012**, November, 43.



The Sun, the tree, the flower and the birds by my granddaughter Sunita Christiansen; she is now an undergraduate student at Cornell University



The End
Thank you Vlad for all
your discoveries and
contributions
And for teaching us how
to live and dance!



Thank you Suleyman for being
a wonderful friend and for
inviting me here even though I
am retired and do really
nothing except e-mail

הַלְלוּיָהּ
halləlûyāh
ἀλληλοῦῖα

