



THE HENRYK NIEWODNICZAŃSKI  
INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS  
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

# LIQUID CRYSTALS AS SURFACE TEMPERATURE INDICATORS

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FCB PhD Studies



European  
Funds

Knowledge Education Development

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# Outline

- Liquid-crystalline state
- LC applications
- (E)-4-((4-alkyloxyphenyl)diazenyl)phenyl alkanoates ( $n\text{OABOOC}_m$ )
  - Synthesis
  - Phase situation
  - Basic research
- Mixtures ( $n\text{OABOOC}_m$  + chiral LC)



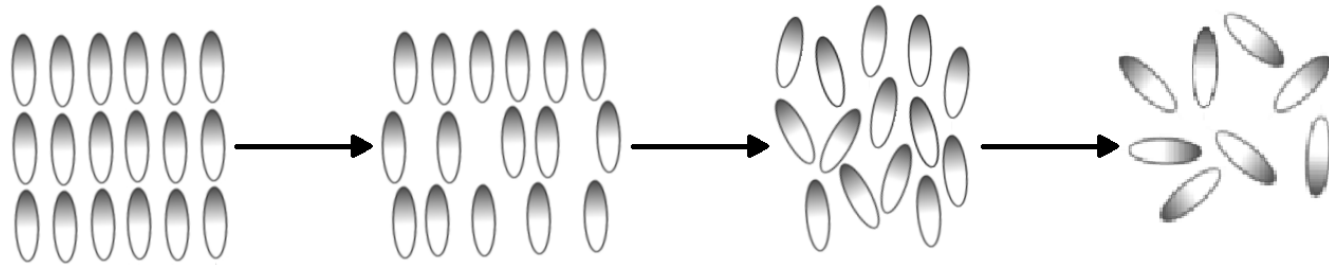
## PART I: LIQUID-CRYSTALLINE STATE

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# Liquid crystals

- The intermediate state between crystal and isotropic liquid phases (i.e. mesophase);
- The ability to flow like liquids (only in a nematic phase);
- Arrangement of molecules (but only partial) and anisotropy of physical properties as in crystals;
- Shape of molecules: rod-like, disk-like, banana-like, etc.

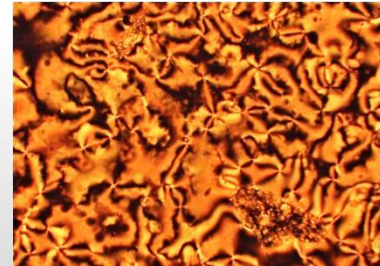
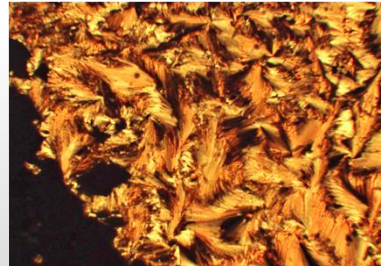
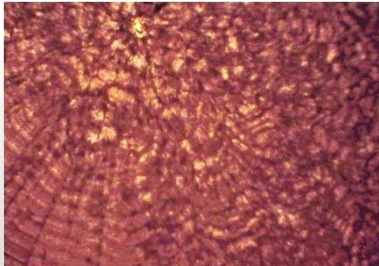


Crystal

Smectic A (SmA)

Nematic (N)

Isotropic Liquid (Iso)



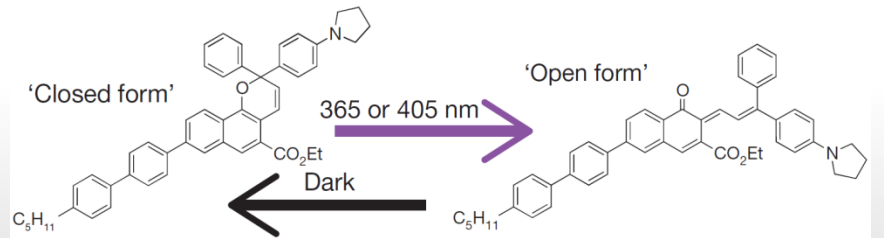
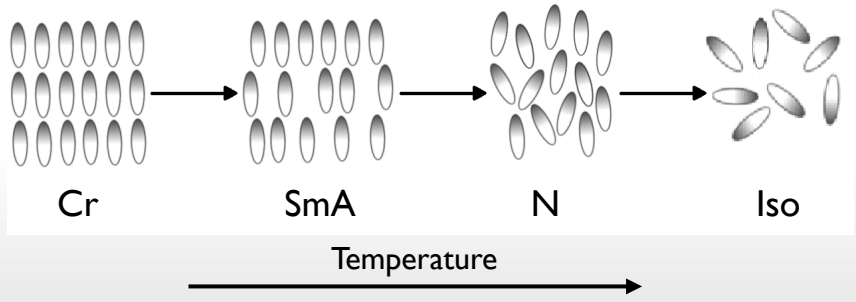
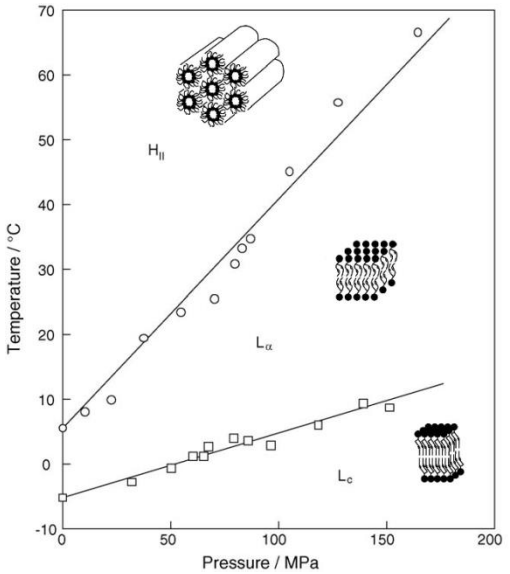
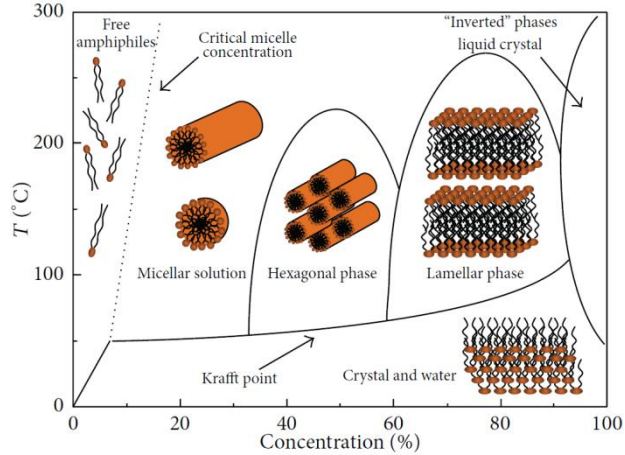
*Example of possible phase sequence of liquid crystal compound.*



# Liquid crystals

Factors inducing occurrence of LC phases:

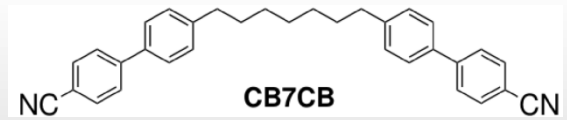
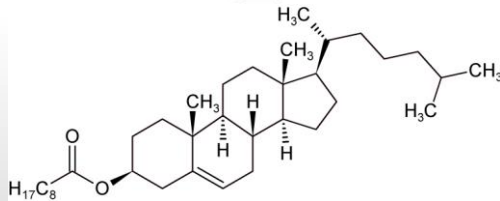
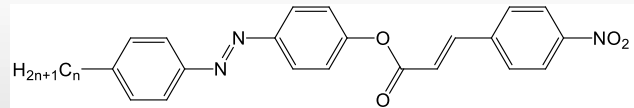
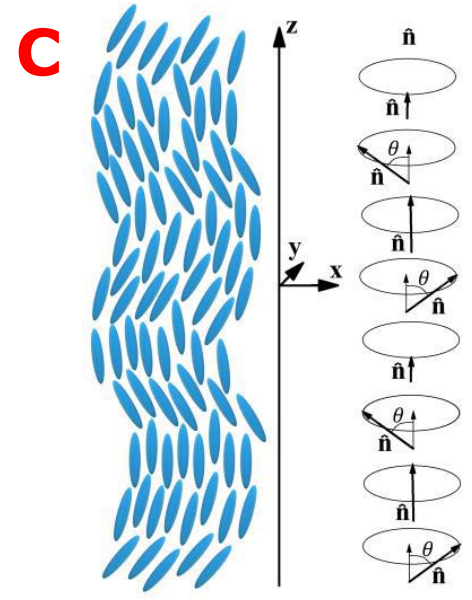
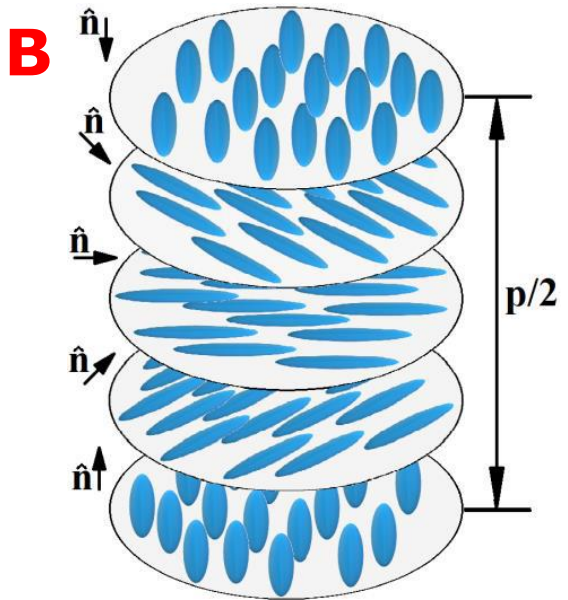
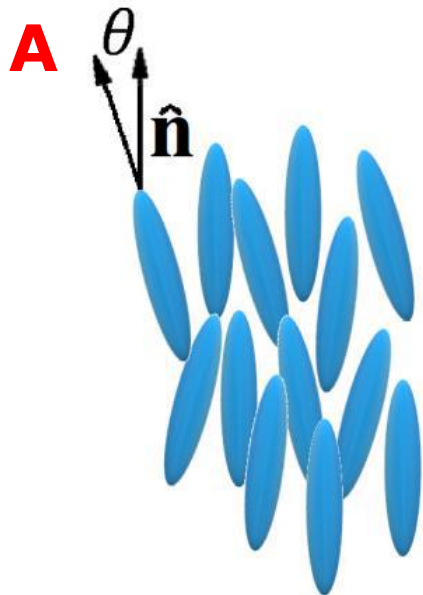
- Temperature (thermotropic);
- Solvent (lyotropic);
- Pressure (barotropic);
- UV light (phototropic).



Examples of various mesophase inducing factors.



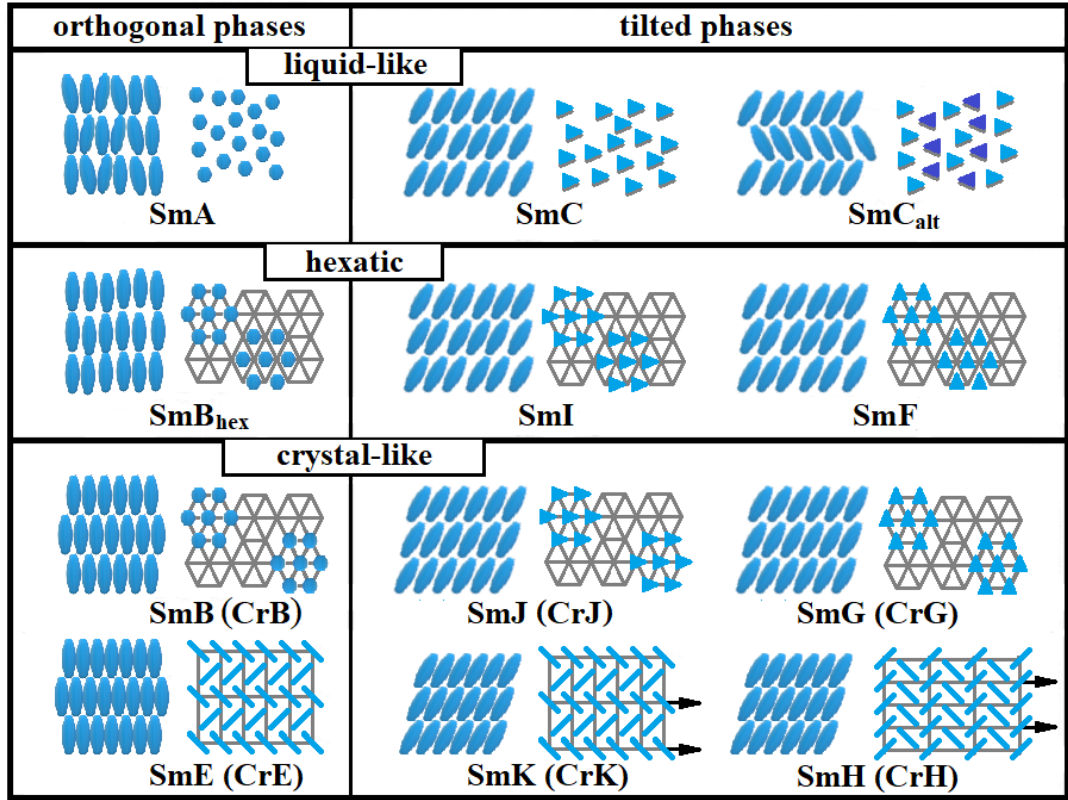
# Nematic phases



Nematic phase: **(A)** uniaxial, **(B)** chiral, **(C)** „twist-bend”.  $\theta$  is angle between the long axis of the molecule and the director  $\hat{n}$ ,  $p$  – helix pitch.



# Smectic phases



Ordering within single layer:

orientational order

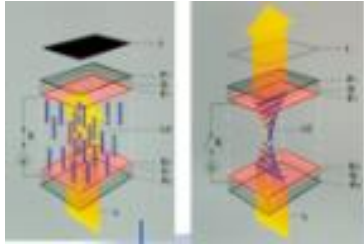
orientational order  
a short-range positional order

orientational order  
a long-range positional order

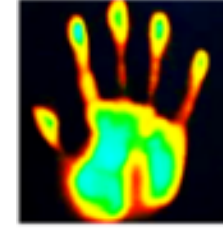
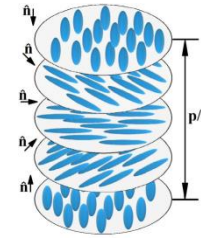
Structures of smectic phases.



## LC Displays



## LC Thermography

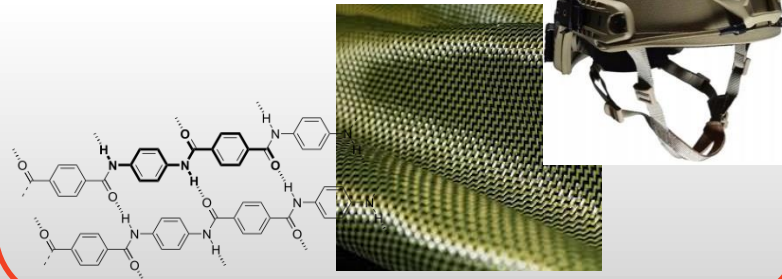


## PART II: LIQUID CRYSTAL APPLICATIONS

### LC Opto-electronic



### LC Polymer fibers



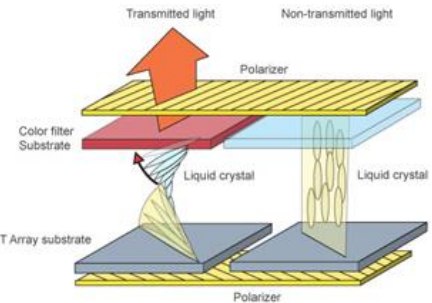


# LC Displays

1968



1973



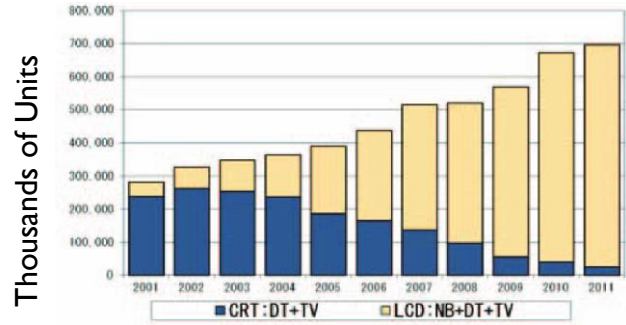
1988



2020s



2000s – 2010s

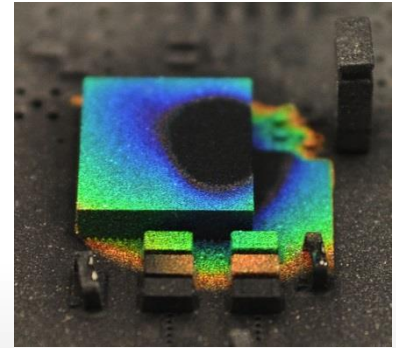
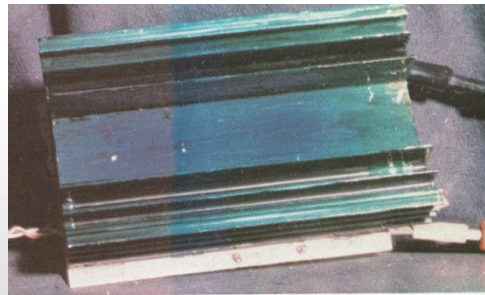
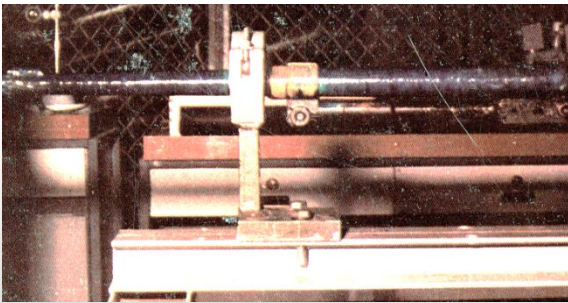
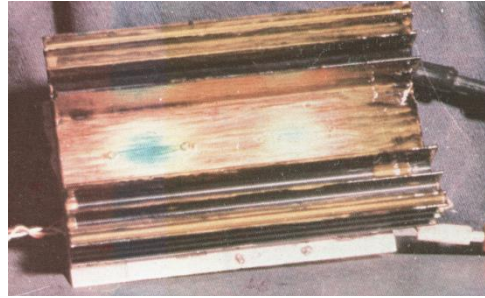
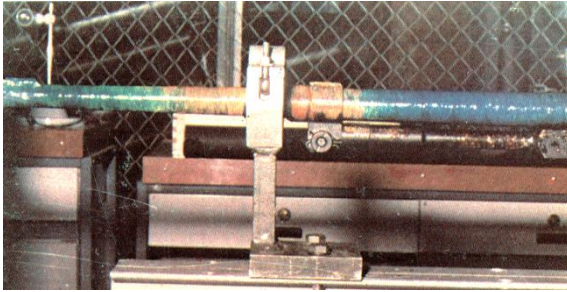


G. H. Heilmeier, et. al, Proceedings of the IEEE, 56, 1162 – 1171 (1968); [https://tftcentral.co.uk/articles/panel\\_technologies](https://tftcentral.co.uk/articles/panel_technologies); H. Kawamoto, The history of liquid crystal display and its industry, IEEE (2012).

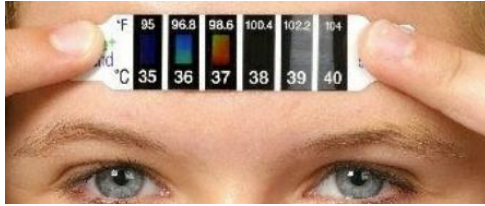


# LC Thermography

Thermography is a method of imaging temperature. It allows measurement of physical objects temperature and record it in the form of coloured images.



# LC Thermography

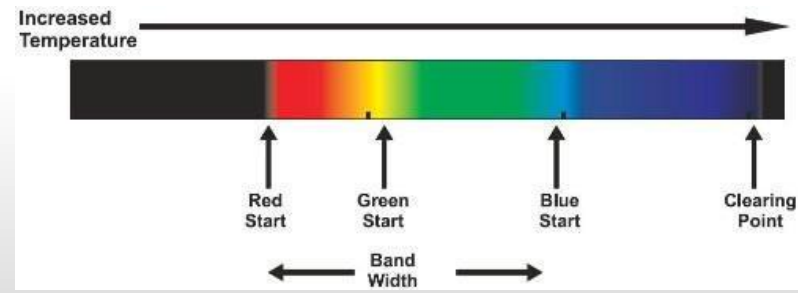
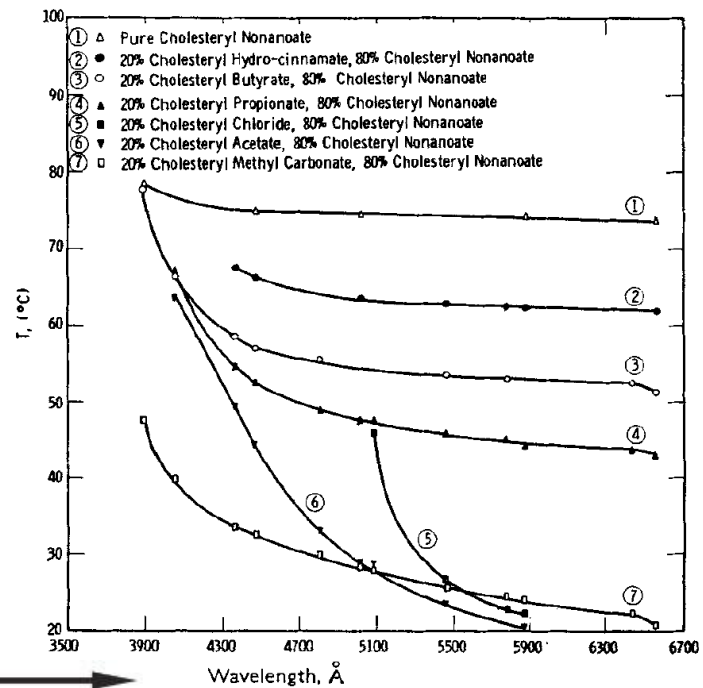
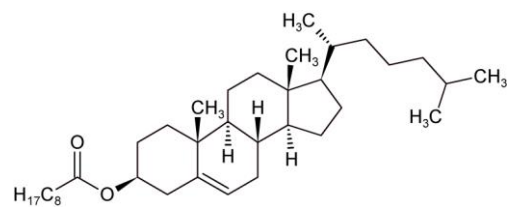
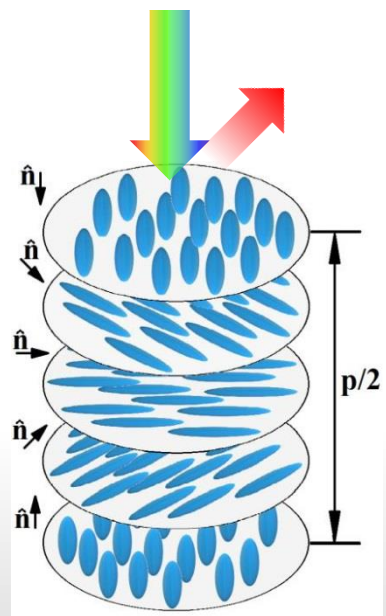


- Detection of any type of cancer is reliable, safe, and does not require ionizing radiation (as in mammography and Breast CT Scanning) or additional contrast agents (as in Magnetic Resonance Imaging).
- This method can be used on patients of all ages.
- Can be used in an early stages of cancer growth, in so-called neoangiogenesis process (the pathologically changing area has to become vascularized). In the area of the lesion, increased tissue temperature is observed. One can prevent of forming a much bigger cancer!
- It can be used as “safe” (without any fluids, etc.), cheap, small and light thermometers.



# Thermochromic response

Chiral LCs are able to selectively reflect certain wavelengths (as function of temperature) when illuminated by white light. It is connected with change of the pitch.



Thermochromic response phenomenon.



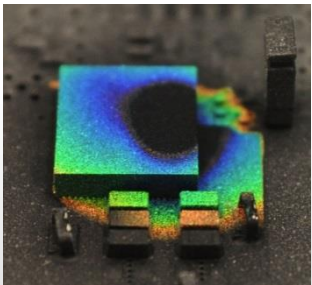
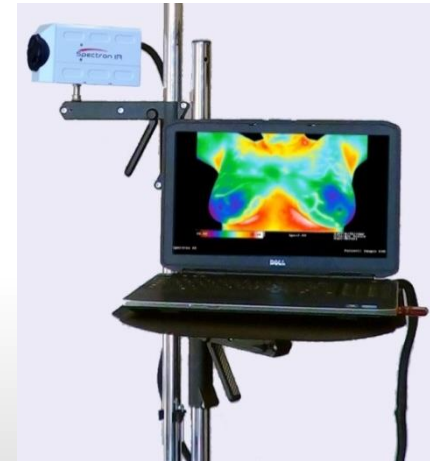
# Contact Thermography (LC) vs. Non-Contact Thermography (IR camera)

## Advantages of LC Thermography:

- Several times cheaper;
- Temperature resolution down to  $0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;
- High spatial resolution down to 1 micron;
- Uses visible light;
- Fast response time- around 100ms;
- Can be used to exam/check temperature of:
  - Small objects, such as microchips, processors;
  - Surfaces with various shapes;
  - Objects standing close to heater.

## Disadvantages of LC Thermography:

- Has to be spread over the whole surface;
- Layer of black primer is needed;
- Cannot be used to large surfaces, such as houses, windows, etc;
- Requires a stable uniform white light source with no IR or UV components;
- Can be intrusive due to changes in the heat conduction properties
- Works in limited ranges of object's temperature.

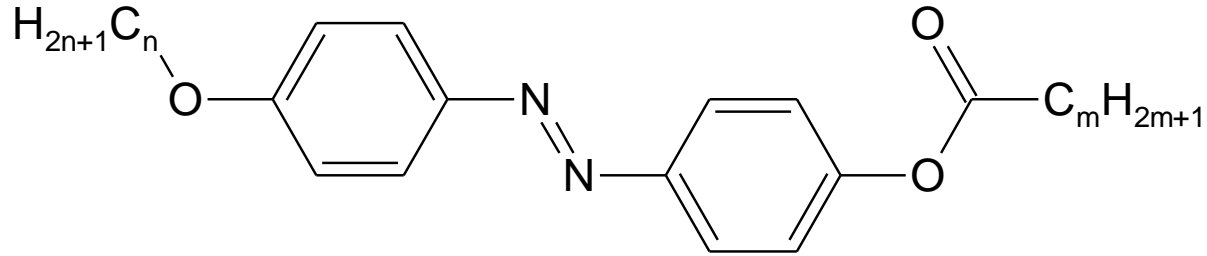


## PART III: $n\text{OABOOC}_m$ COMPOUNDS

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# $n$ OABOOC $m$ compounds



(for  $n = 3, 5, 7, 8, 10$ )

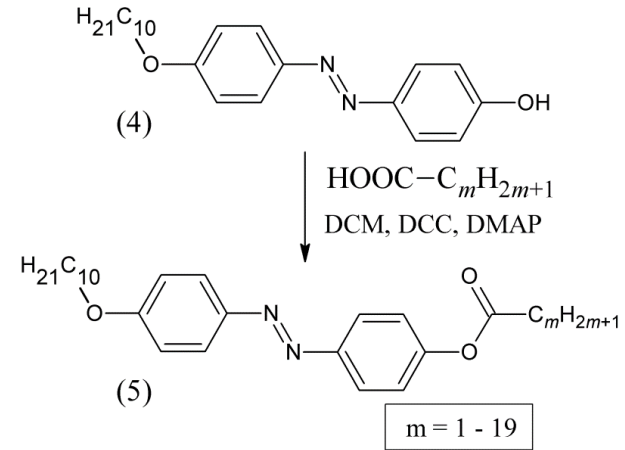
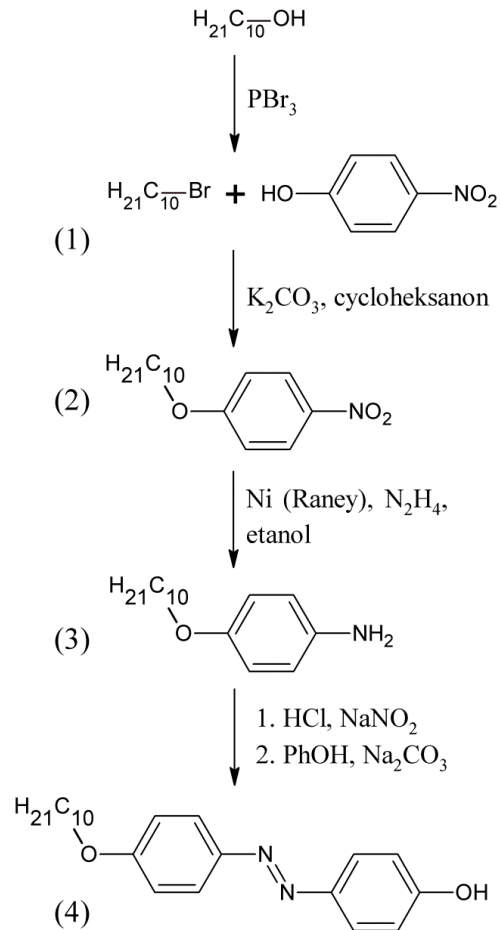
(for  $m = 1 - 19$ )

*General structure of  $n$ OABOOC $m$  compounds.*

Total number of synthesized compounds: 94 (74 never described in literature!)

- Liquid-crystalline;
- Azo-dye compounds (yellow – red);
- Photosensitive (UV light).

# Synthesis



Scheme of the synthesis of **nOABOOCm** compounds on the example of **10OABOOCm**.





# Basic Research



Polarized Optical Microscopy (POM)



Thermo-optical Analysis (TOA)



Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)

**IFJ PAN (NZ35):**  
POM, DSC, BDS, FTIR, XRD

**University of Warsaw:**  
XRD

**University of Wrocław:**  
TOA, UV-Vis



X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)



Broadband Dielectric Spectroscopy (BDS)



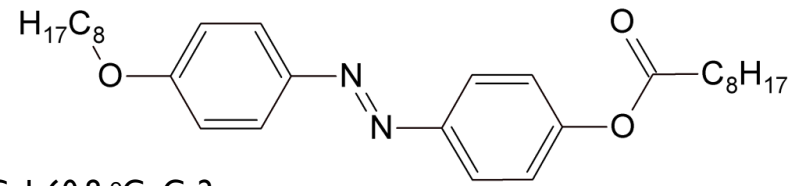
Fourier-Transform Infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)



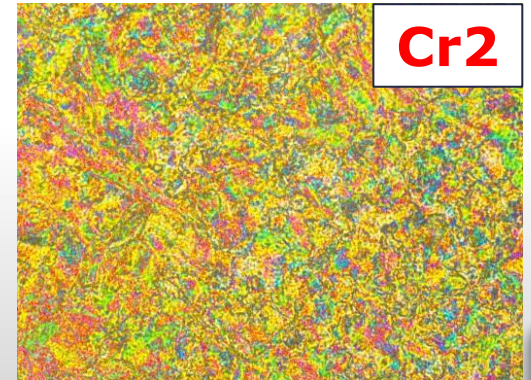
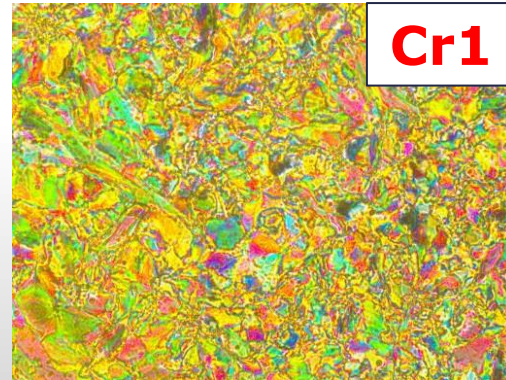
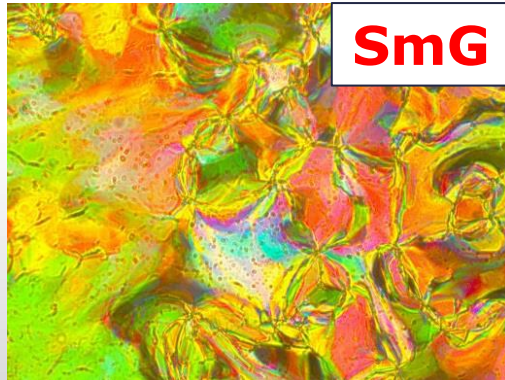
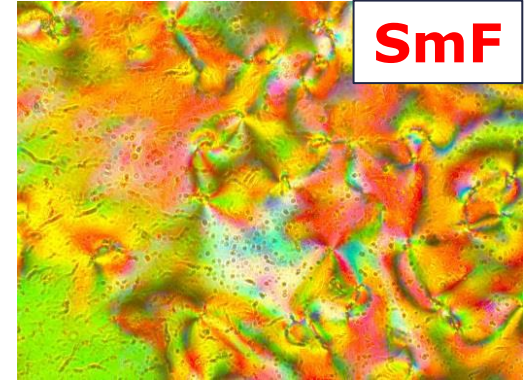
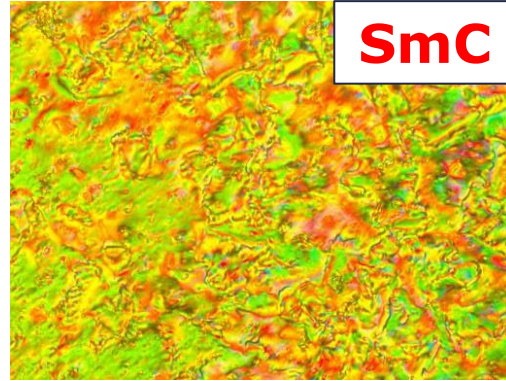
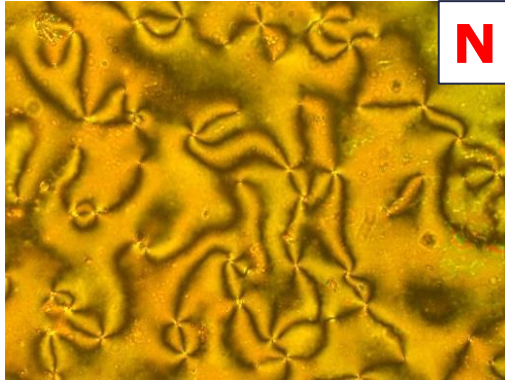
Visible light and Ultraviolet spectroscopy (UV-Vis)



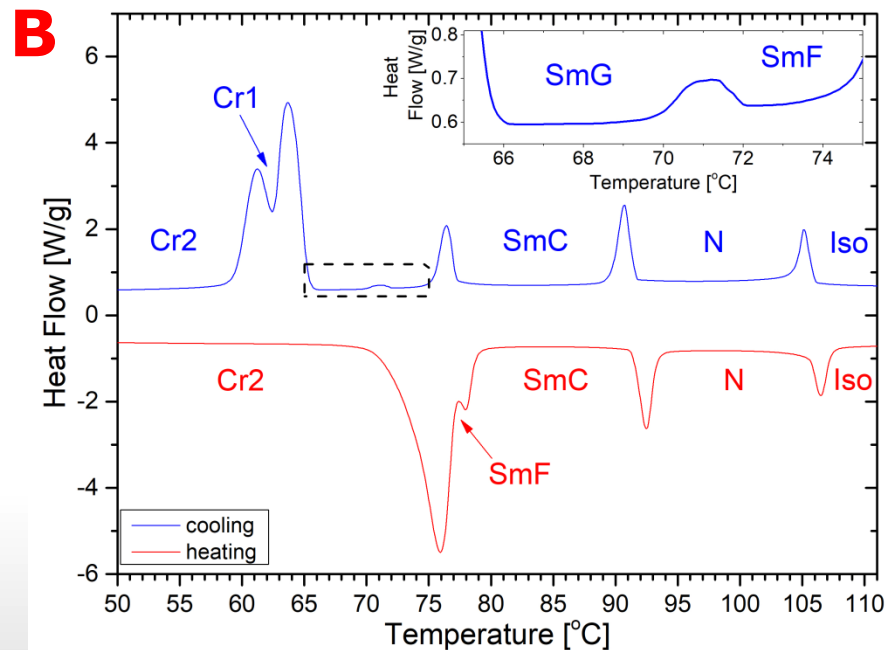
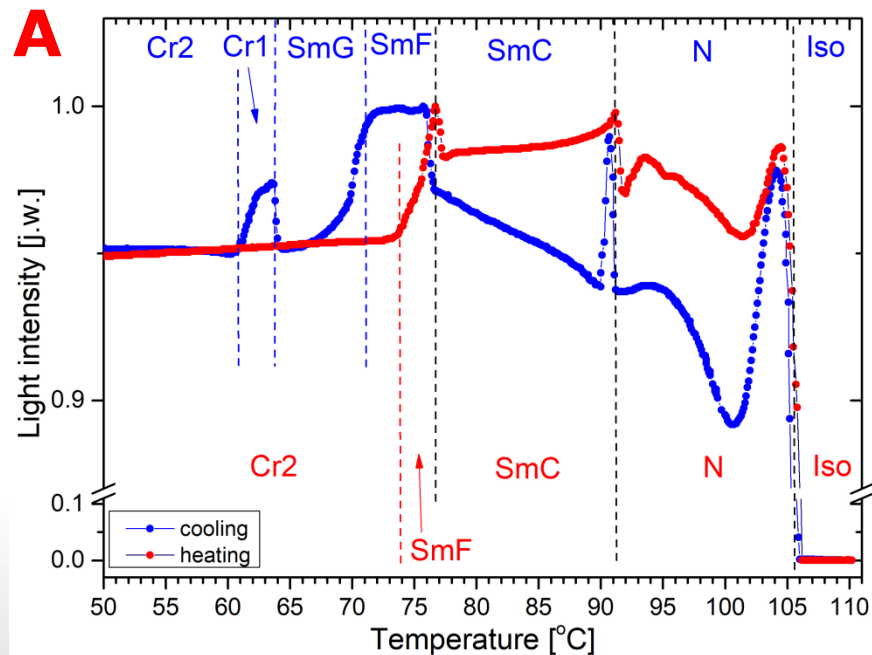
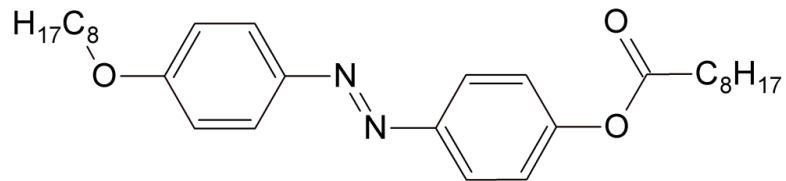
# Textures



Iso 105.7 °C N 91.2 °C SmC 76.7 °C SmF 71.1 °C SmG 64.0 °C Cr1 60.8 °C Cr2



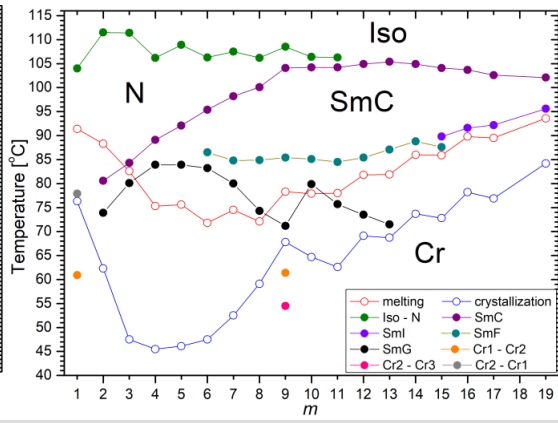
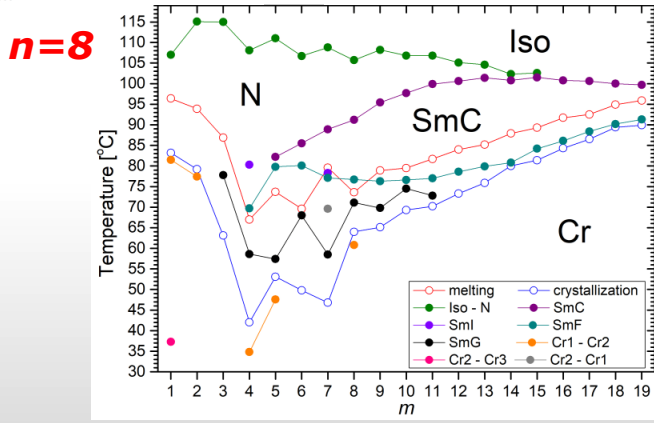
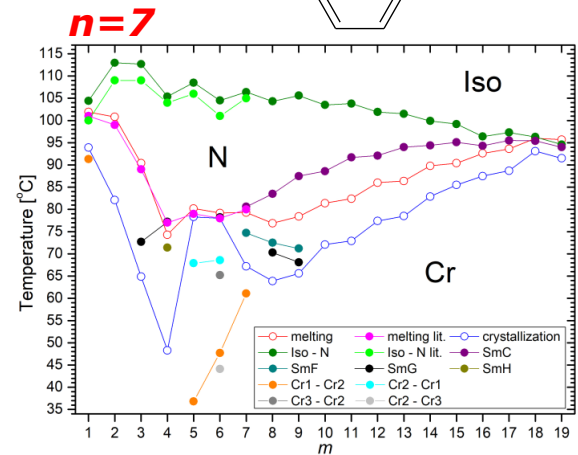
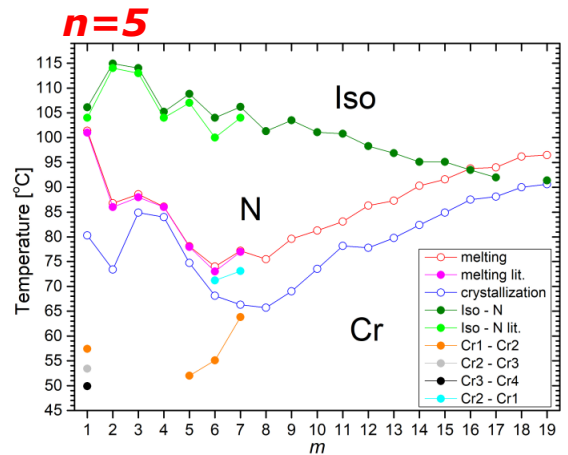
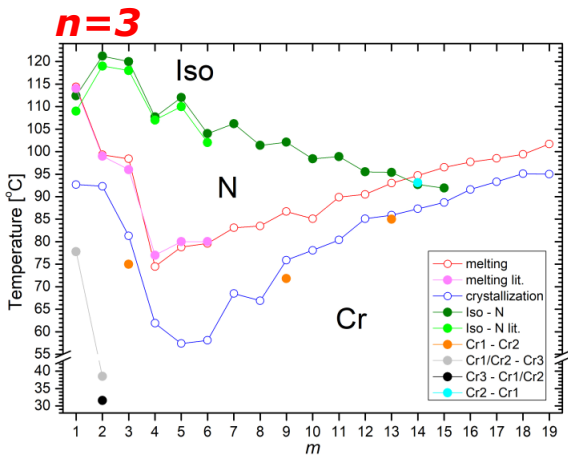
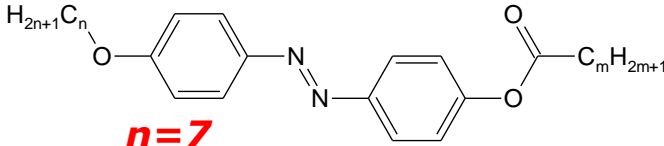
# Phase Transitions



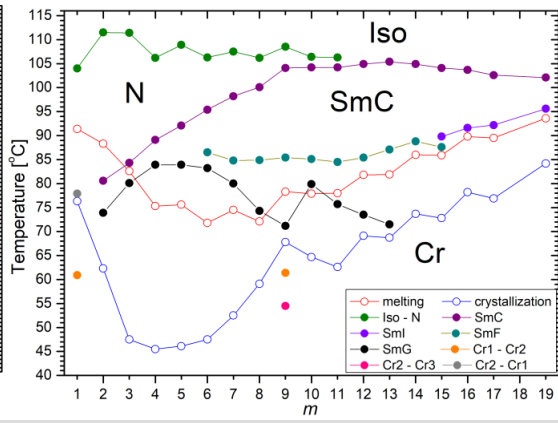
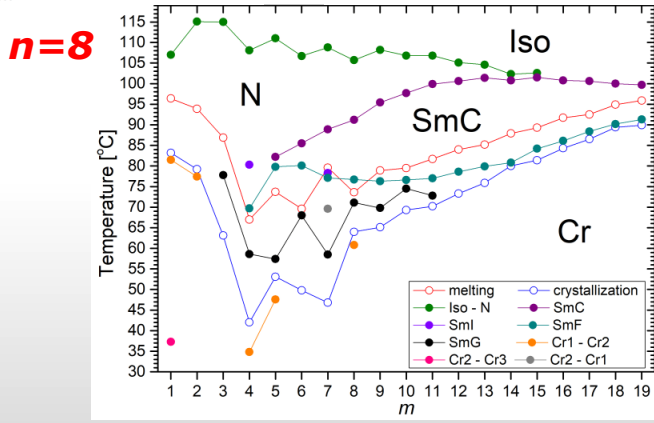
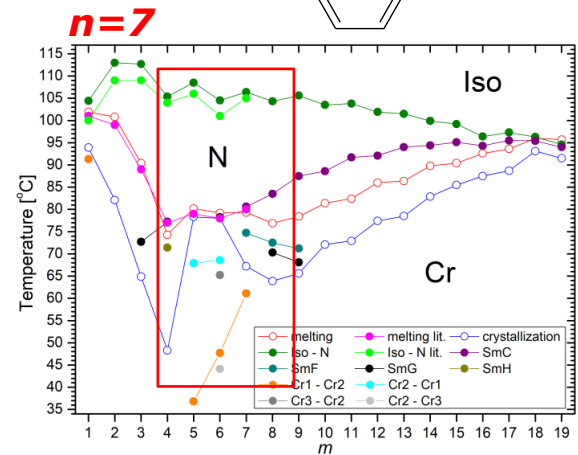
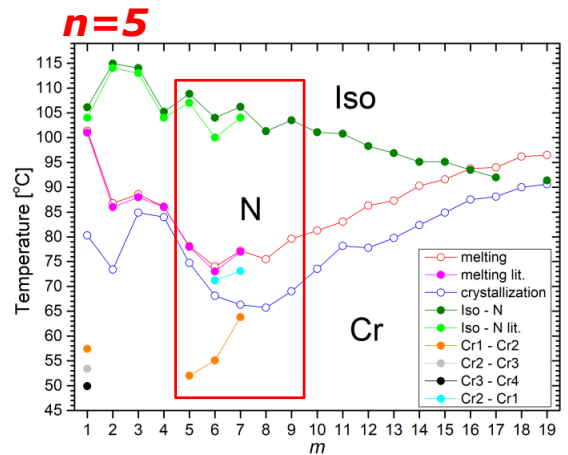
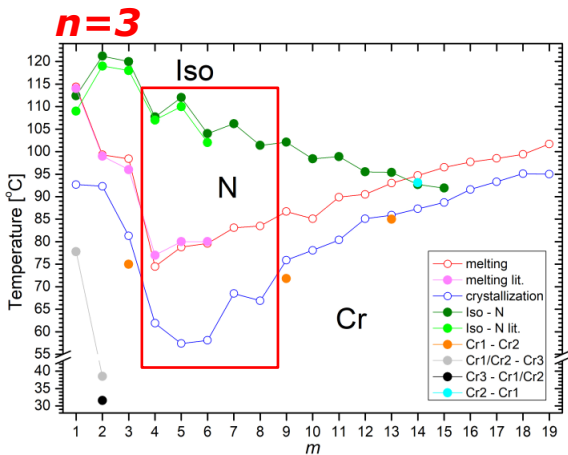
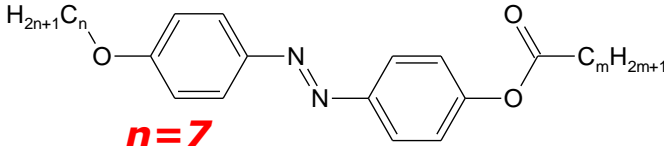
TOA (A) and DSC (B) diagram during cooling (blue) and heating (red) (rate of temperature changes 10 °C/min) of **8OABOOC8**.



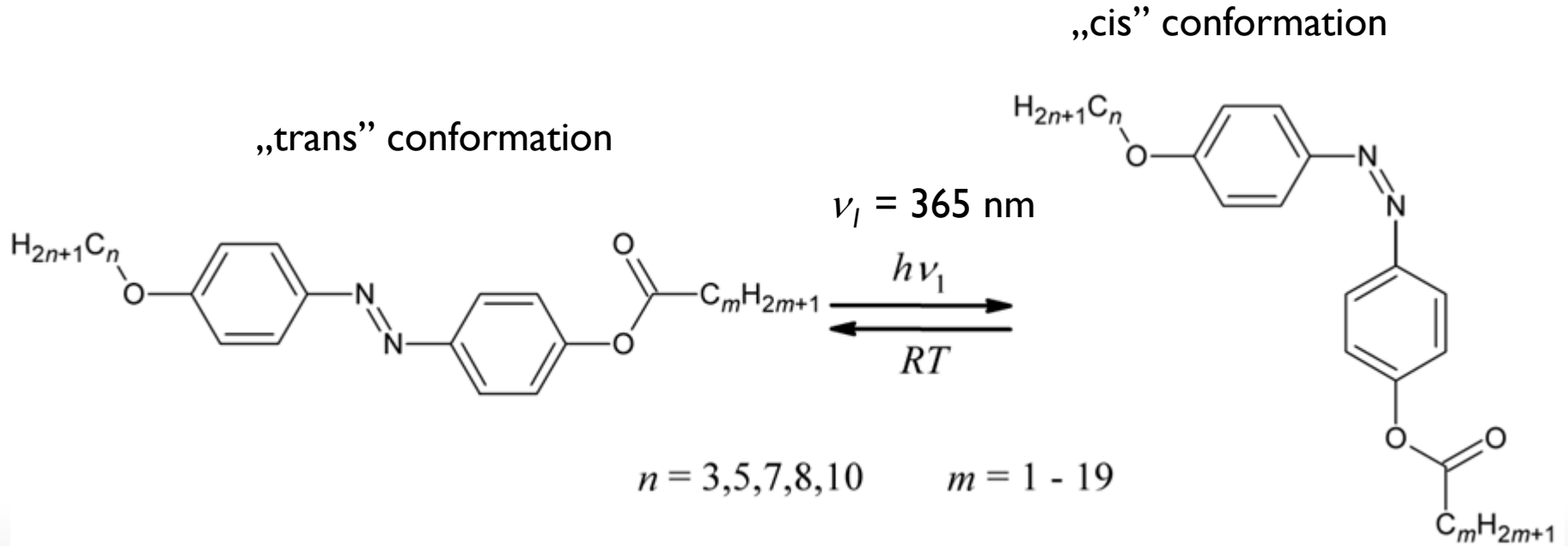
# Phase Situation



# Phase Situation

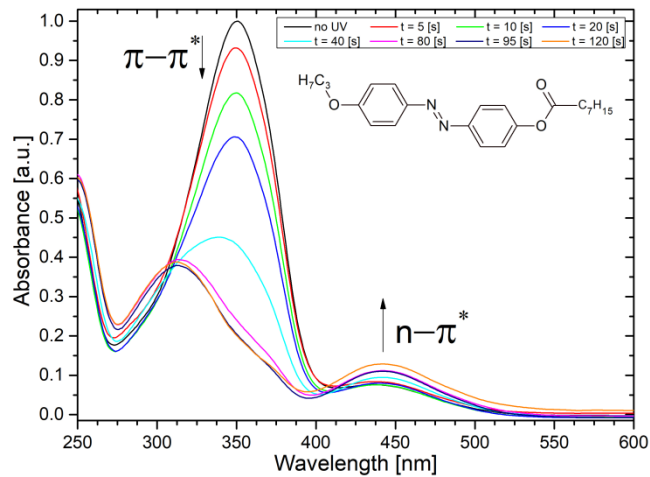


# Influence of UV light

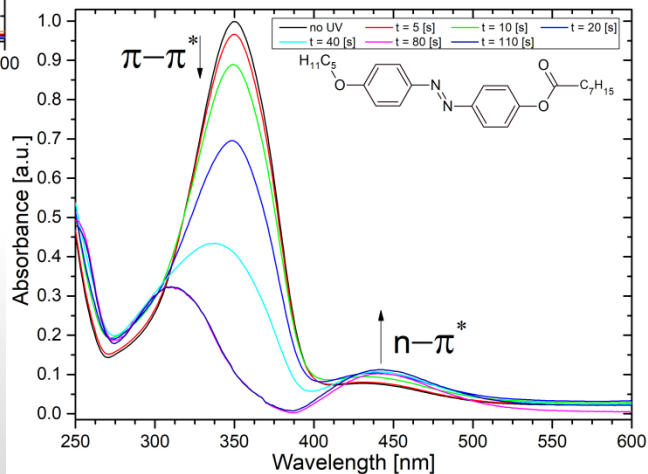


Process of trans-cis photoisomerization of **nOABOOCm**.

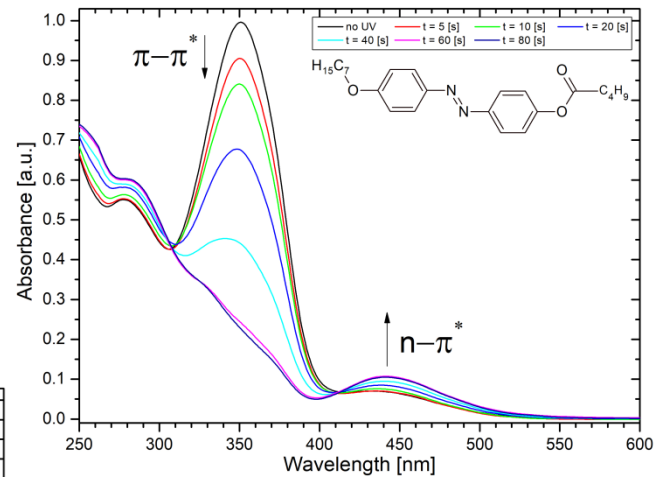
# Influence of UV light



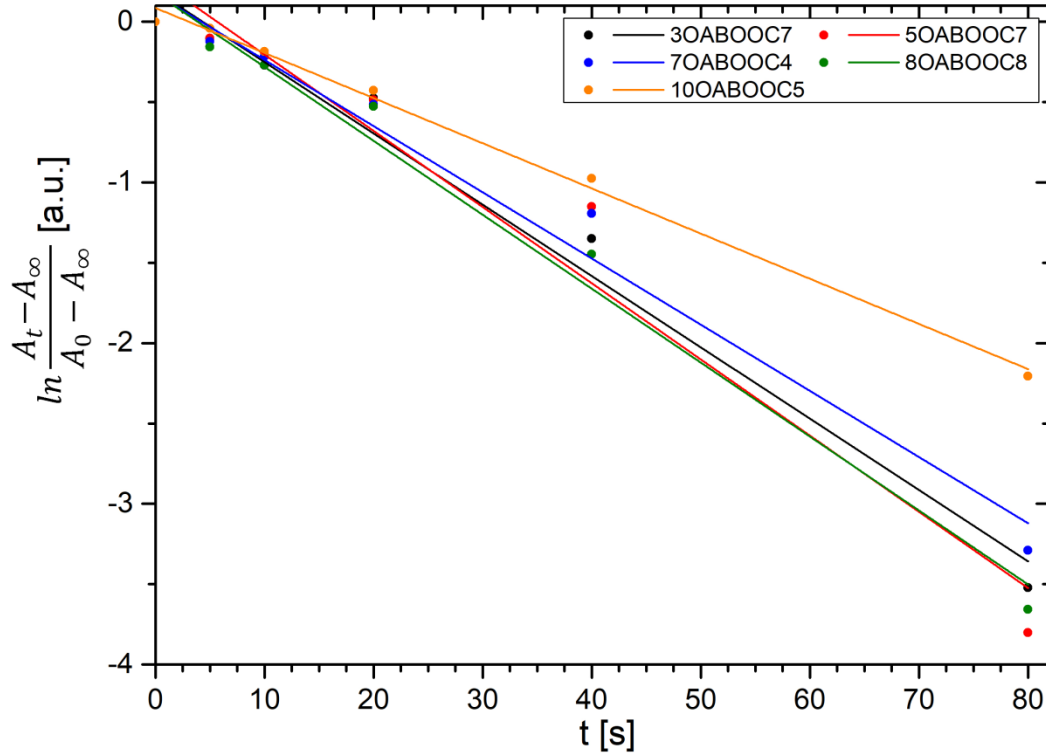
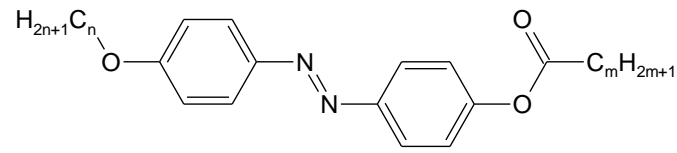
**B**



**C**



# Process Kinetics



$$\ln \frac{A_t - A_\infty}{A_0 - A_\infty} = -kt$$

	$\lambda$ [nm]	$k$ [ $10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ]	$k^{-1}$ [s]	$\ln 2/k$ [s]
<b>3OABOOC7</b>	351	4.44	22.52	15.61
<b>5OABOOC7</b>		4.74	21.10	14.62
<b>7OABOOC4</b>		4.12	24.27	16.82
<b>8OABOOC8</b>		4.60	21.74	15.07
<b>10OABOOC5</b>		2.81	35.59	24.67

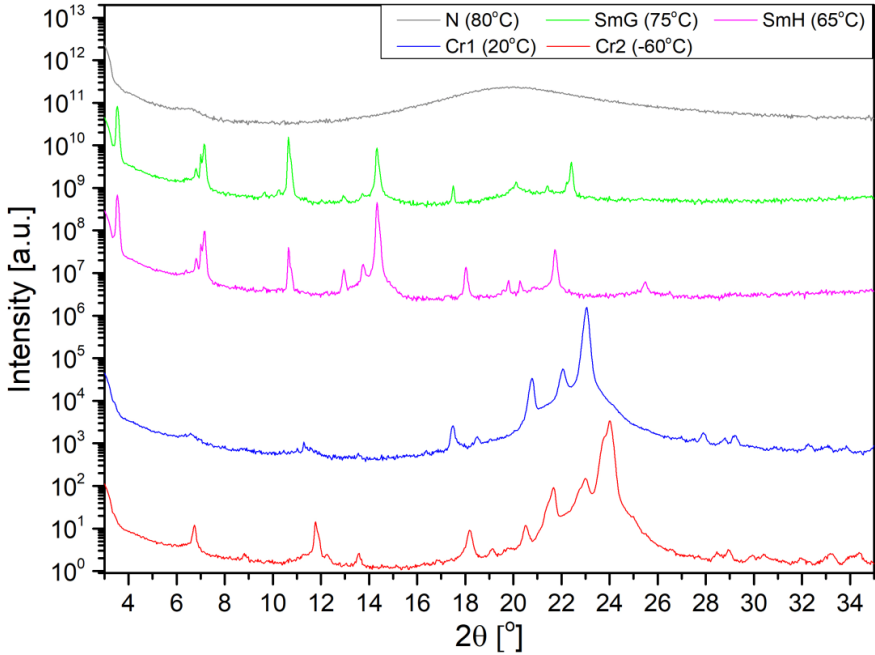
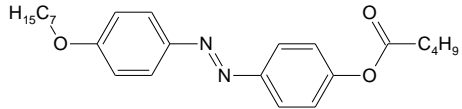
Kinetics of trans – cis photoisomerization process of selected **nOABOOCm**.



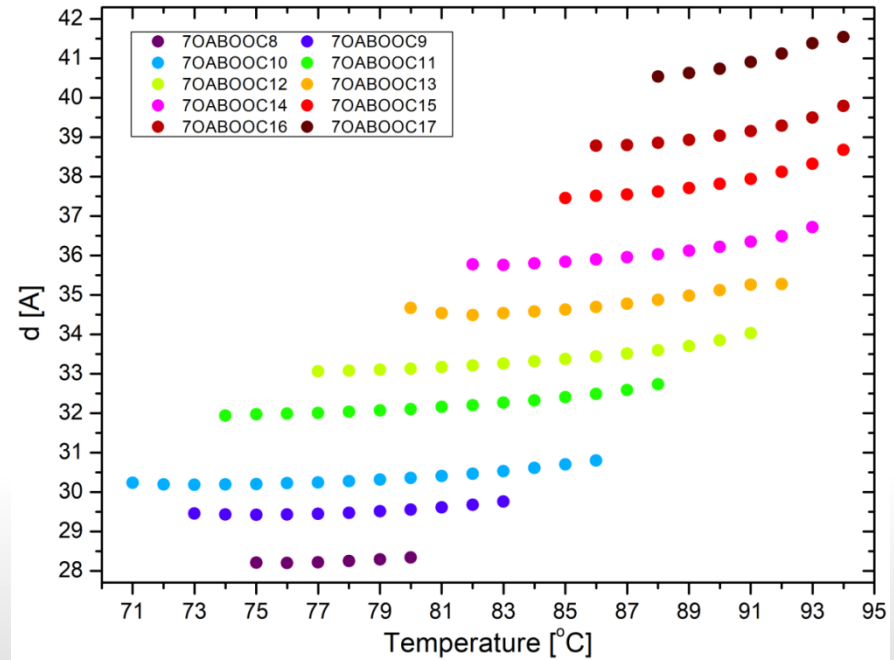
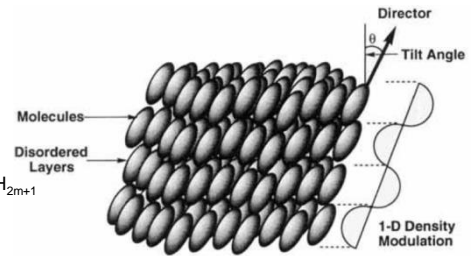
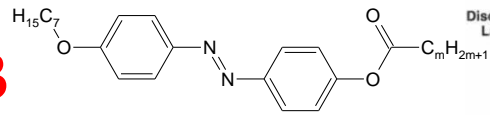


# Structural Studies

**A**



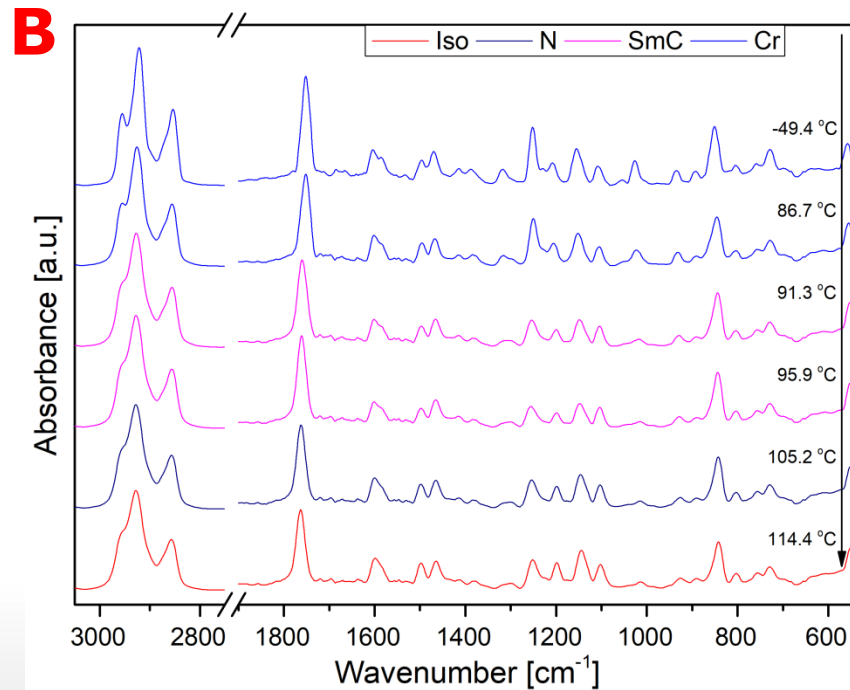
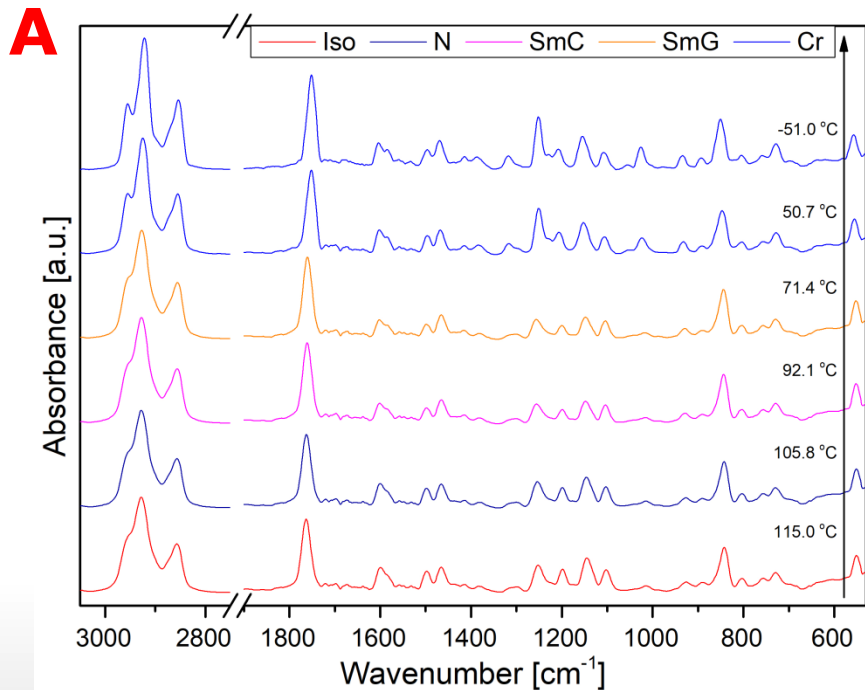
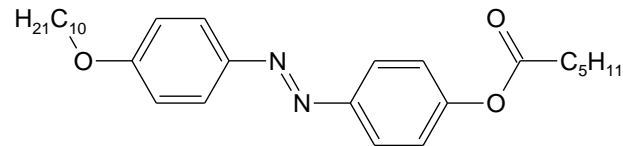
**B**



XRD results: (A) patterns collected during cooling of **7OABOOC4** for selected temperatures; (B) temperature dependence of SmC layer thickness of **7OABOOCm**.



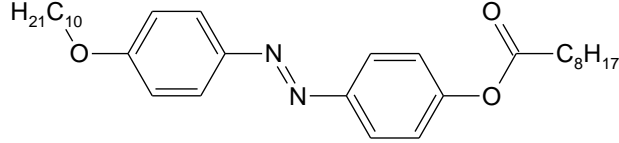
# Vibrational dynamics



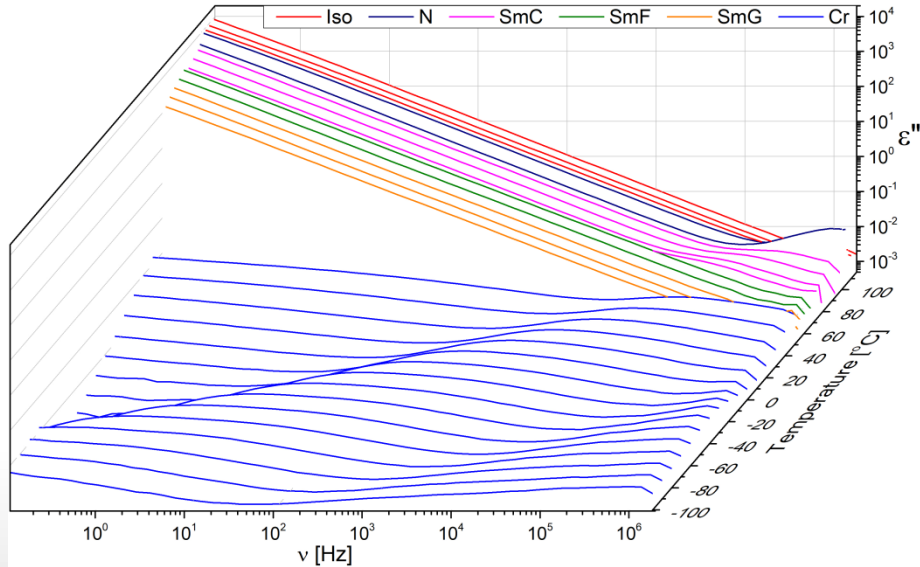
FTIR spectra for selected temperature acquired during cooling (A) or heating (B) (rate of temperature changes 2°C/min) of 10OABOOC5.



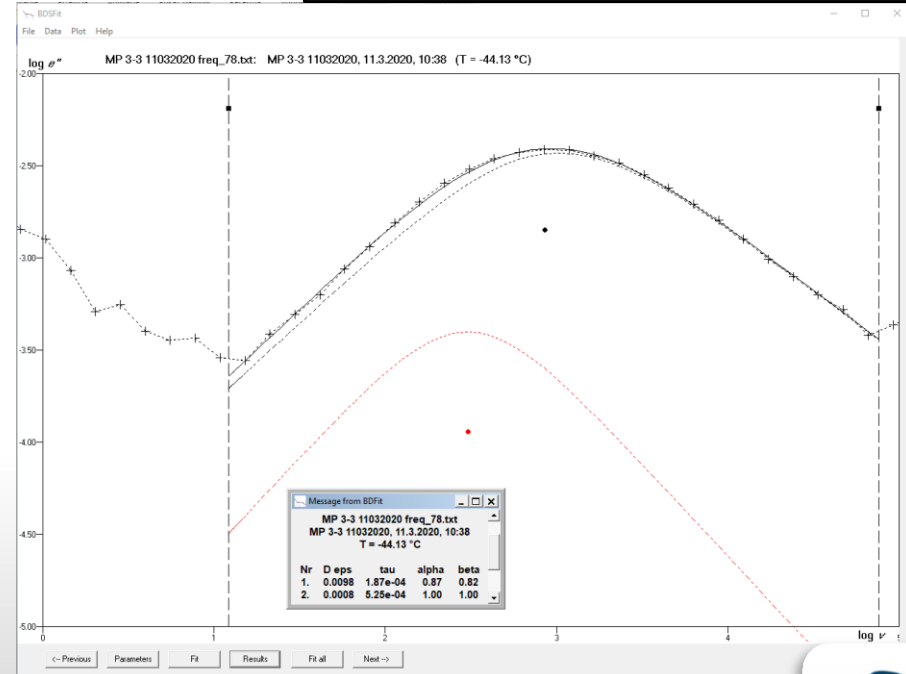
# Dielectric Spectroscopy



$$\epsilon(\omega) = \epsilon_{\infty} + \frac{\Delta\epsilon}{(1 + (i\omega\tau)^{\alpha})^{\beta}}$$



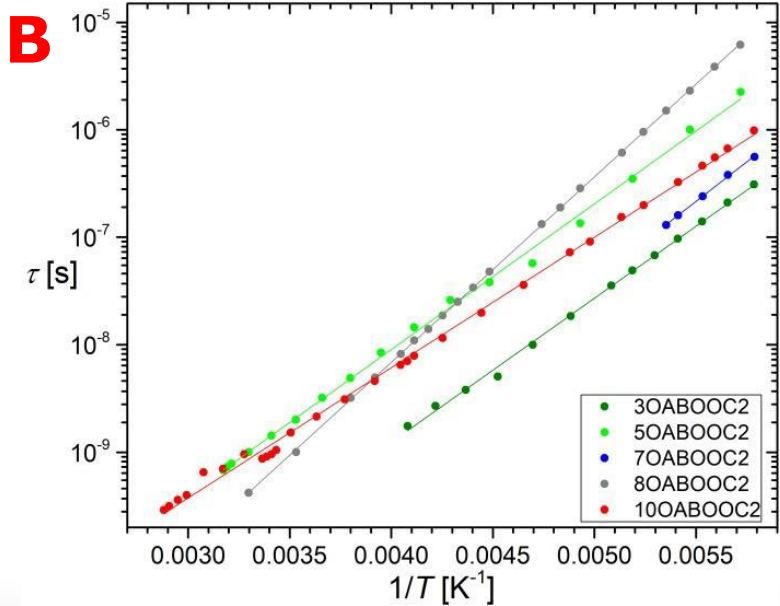
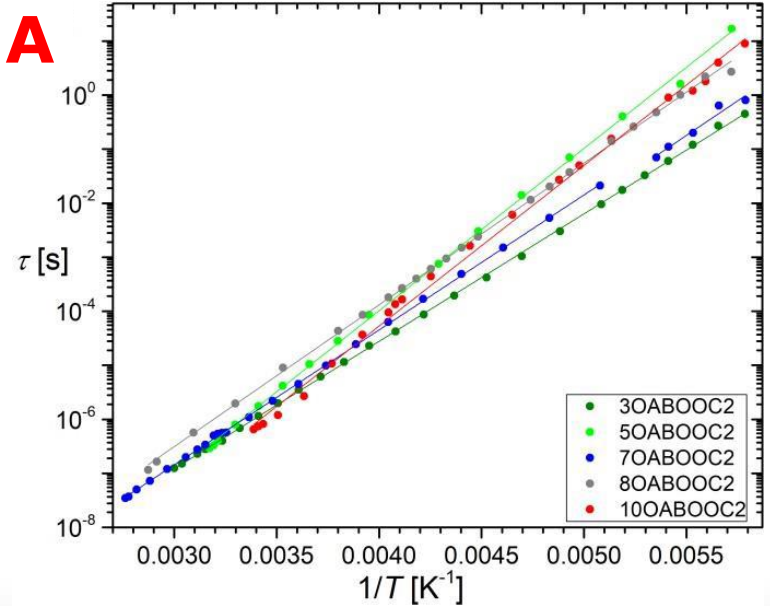
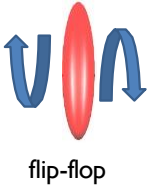
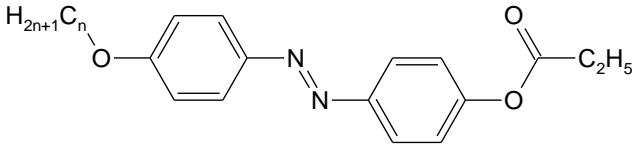
Temperature dependence of  $\epsilon''$  value acquired during cooling of 100ABOOC8 derivative.



Example of fitting Havriliak-Negami model to experimental data of  $\epsilon''(\nu)$ .



# BDS



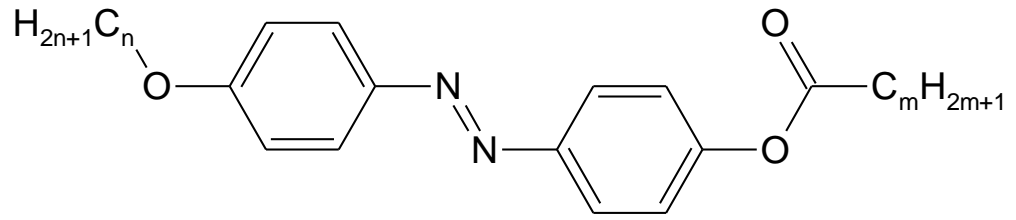
Relaxation times of „flip – flop” (A) and „fast” (B) processes of  $n$ OABOOC2.

$$\tau = \tau_0 * e^{\Delta E/RT}$$

Activation Energy for:  
 „flip-flop” process 45 – 57 [kJ/mol]  
 „fast” process 25 – 34 [kJ/mol]



# Summary



## ***n*OABOOC<sub>m</sub>** compounds:

- 89 of 94 synthesized ***n*OABOOC<sub>m</sub>** compound exhibit the occurrence of at least one mesophase, including: N, SmC, SmI, SmF, SmG and SmH
- Some of the derivatives exhibit the presence of more than one crystal phases (up to four for **5OABOOC1**).
- UV-Vis spectroscopy showed the presence of trans-cis photoisomerization under the influence of irradiation with UV radiation.
- Dielectric Spectroscopy studies showed the presence of two relaxation processes in the crystalline phase.

**From derivatives with the widest temperature range of nematic phase, two were chosen to prepare mixtures: 7OABOOC5 and 7OABOOC8.**

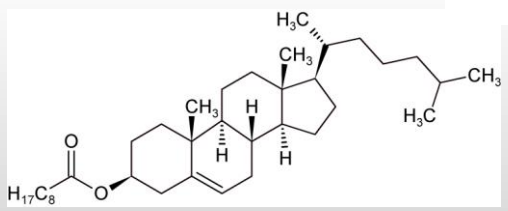
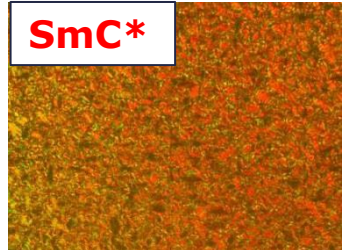
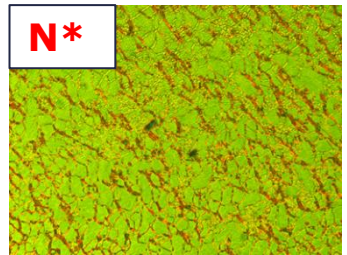
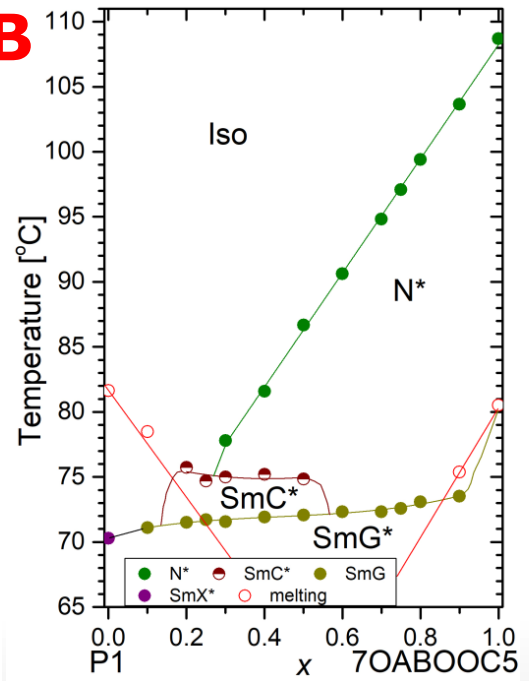
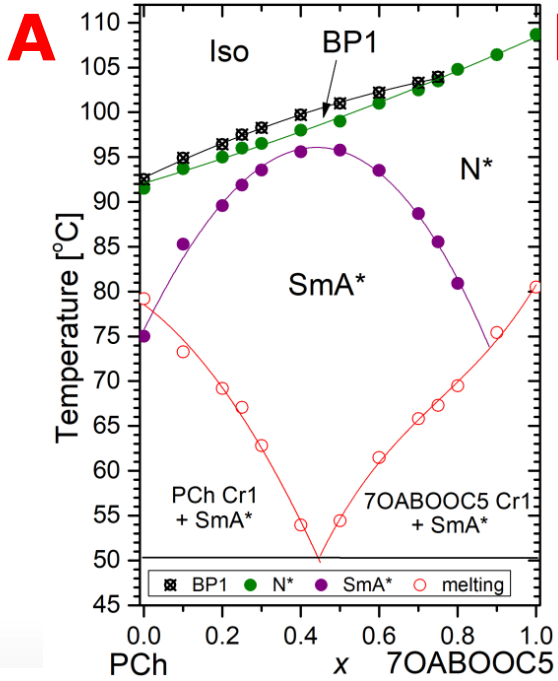
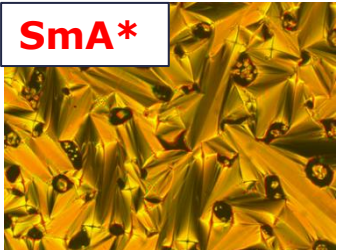
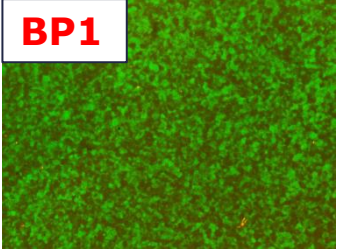
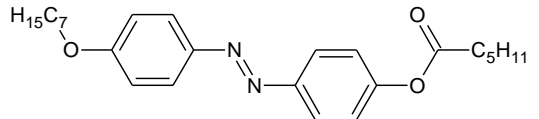


## PART IV: MIXTURES

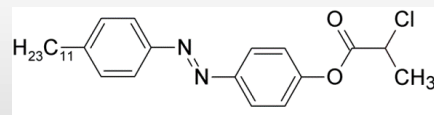
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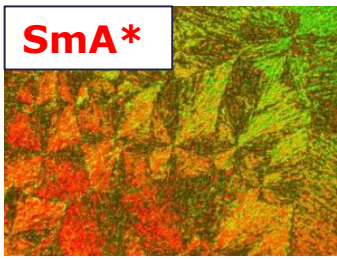
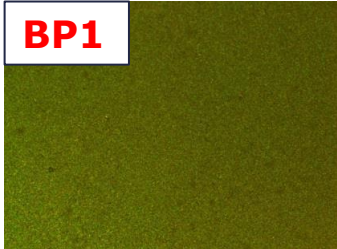
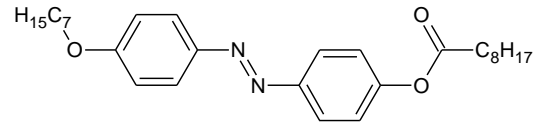
# Mixtures



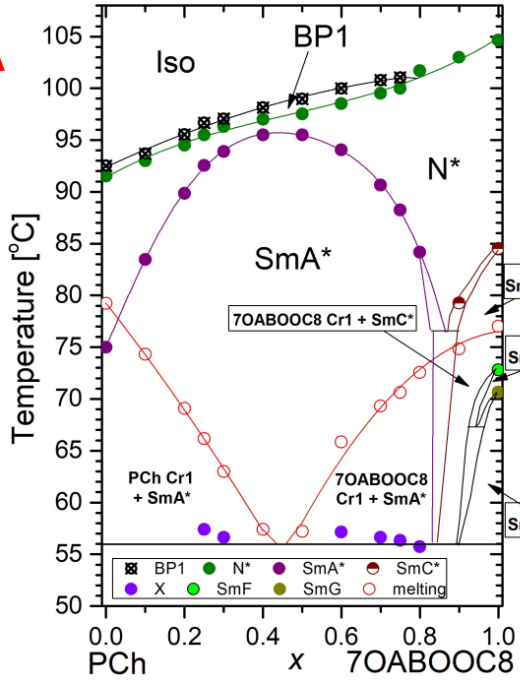
Phase diagrams of **7OABOOC5** and cholesteryl pelargonate (**A, PCh**) or (**E**)-4-((4-undecylphenyl)diazenyl)phenyl 2-chloropropanoate (**B, P1**) mixtures. Temperature change rate 10 °C/min.



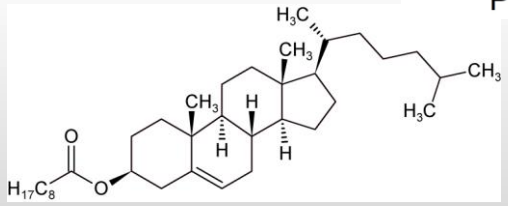
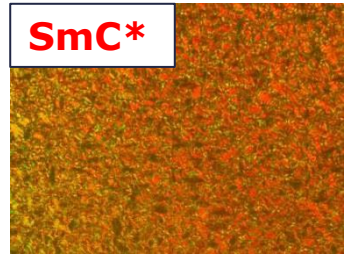
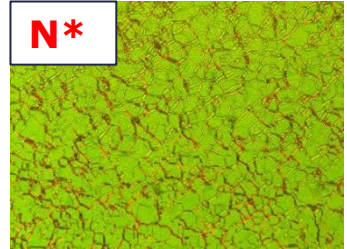
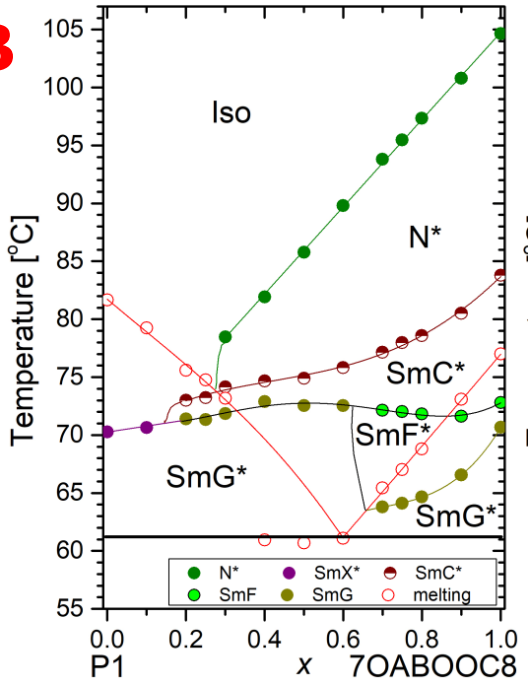
# Mixtures



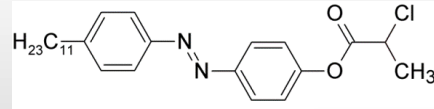
**A**



**B**



Phase diagrams of **TOABOOC8** and cholesteryl pelargonate (**A, PCh**) or (**E**)-4-((4-undecylphenyl)diazenyl)phenyl 2-chloropropanoate (**B, P1**) mixtures. Temperature change rate 10 °C/min.





# Summary

## Mixtures:

- 38 of 44 prepared mixtures exhibit presence of N\* phase.
- Induction of the N\* phase was observed for the mixtures containing PI compound.
- There was a decrease in melting and crystallization temperatures in relation to pure compounds.

**The widest temperature range (for heating) of the N\* phase was observed for the mixture 7OABOOC5 - PCh (for  $x = 0.9$ ) - from 75°C to 105°C.**

**Best candidate for further investigation!**



# Acknowledgement



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**Thank You for your attention!**