

SECOND REPORT: *From humin wastes to*  
*Carbon Quantum Dots (CQDs) based*  
*Photocatalytic nanocomposites*

*MSc. Student:*

Guzo Nicolae-Cristian

*Coordinator:*

Prof. Dr. Simona M. Coman

*Master:*

*Chemistry of Advanced Materials*

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# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Huge amounts of wastes generated by industrial processes.
- Concept of sustainability.
- Need for new, more ecological, cheaper materials for all fields.
- Valorizing industrial wastes – making the process more efficient.



# HUMINS SYNTHESIS



# CARBON QUANTUM DOTS – PREPARATION *(HYDROTHERMAL METHOD)*

Reaction  
time range:  
4 up to 12 h.



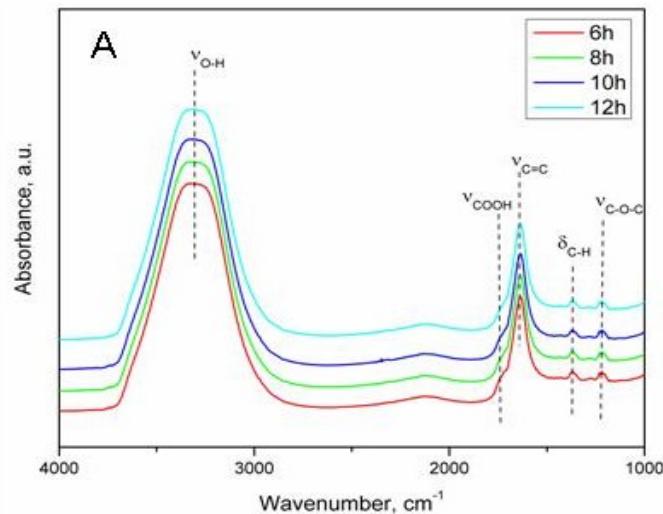
Three different  
Temperatures:  
160, 180 and 200 °C.

*NOTE...*

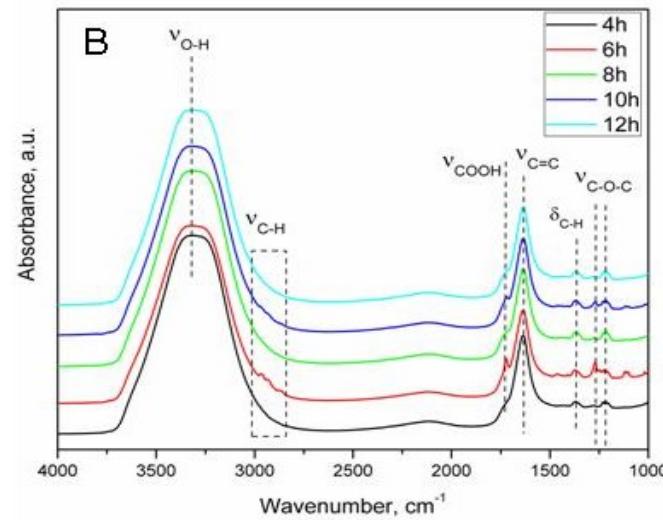
*One sample with special treatment – washed with  $CH_2Cl_2$ .*

# ATR-IR SPECTROSCOPY

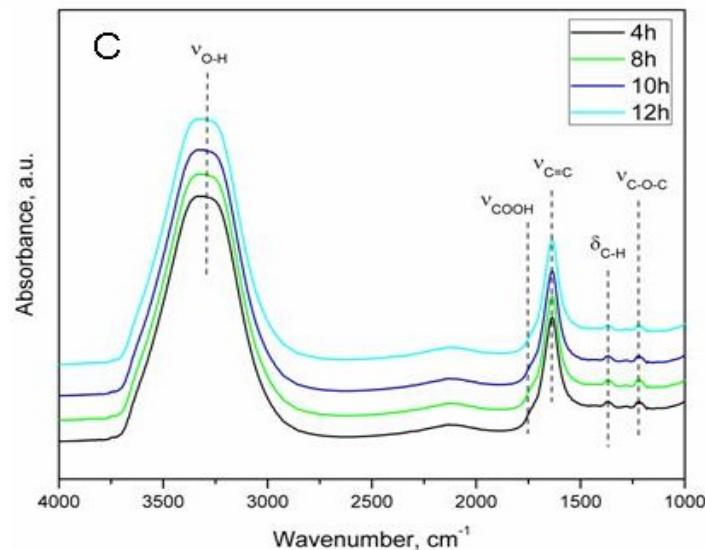
160 °C



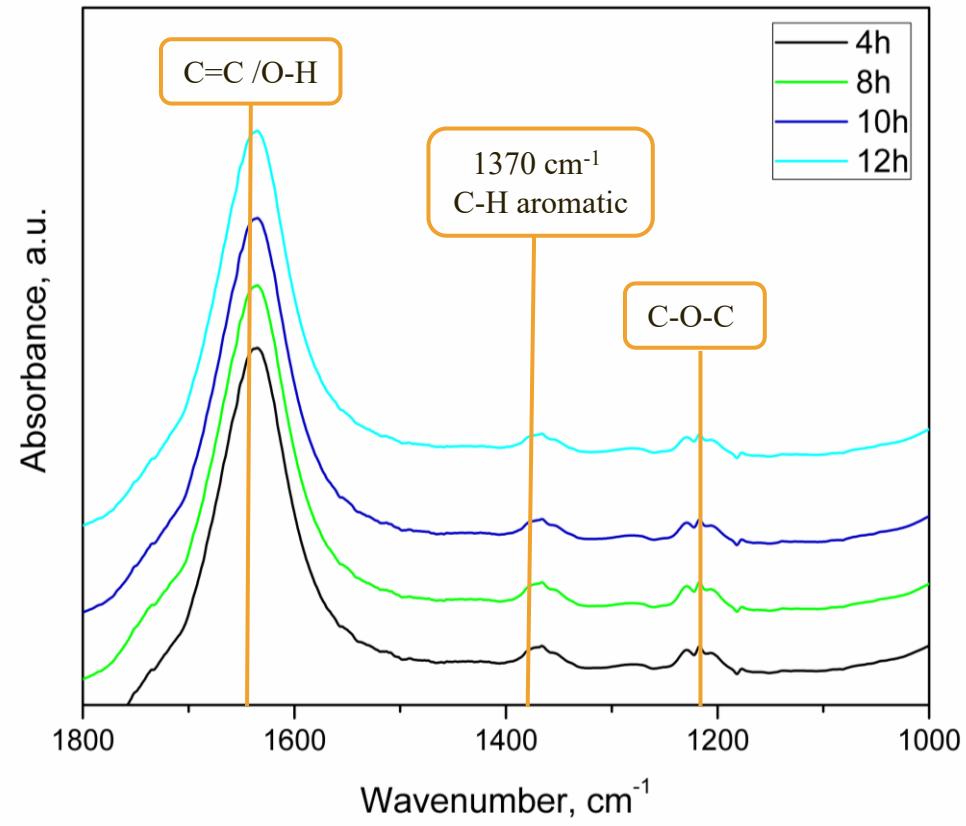
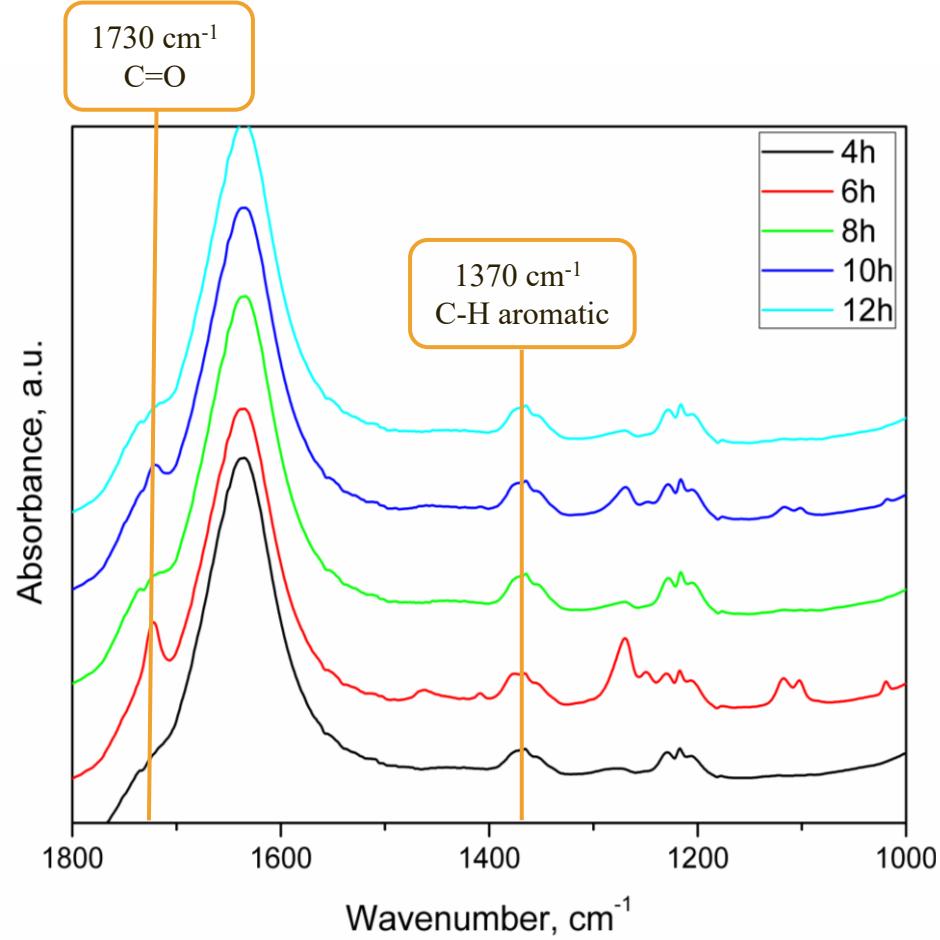
180 °C



200 °C



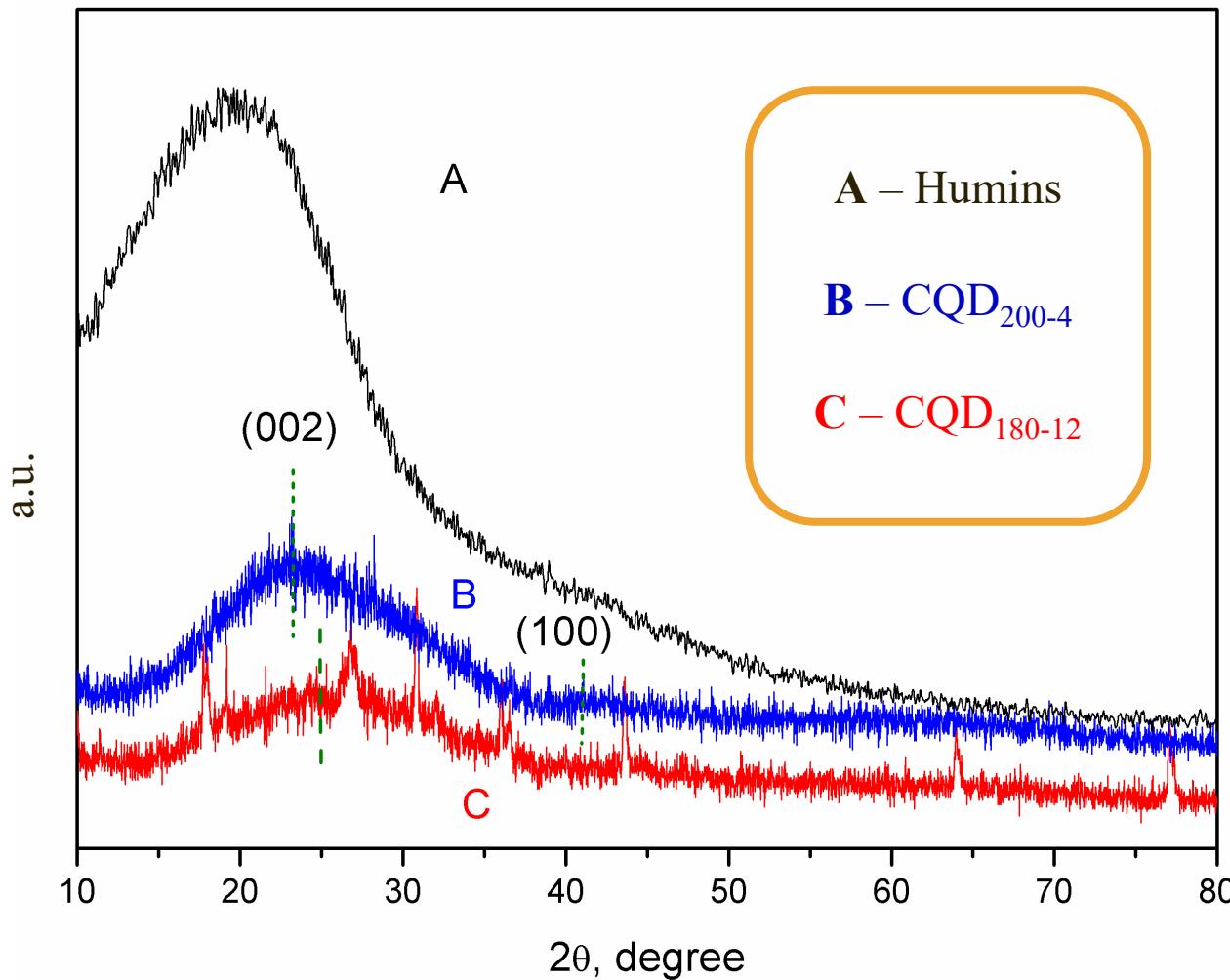
# ATR-IR SPECTROSCOPY



180  $^{\circ}\text{C}$

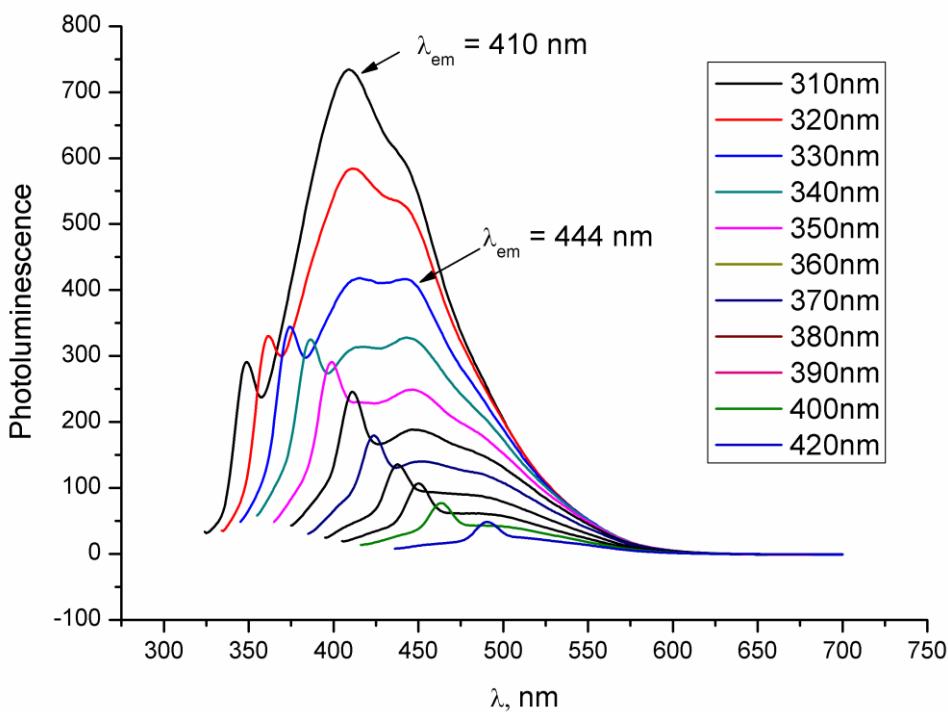
200  $^{\circ}\text{C}$

# X-RAY DIFFRACTION

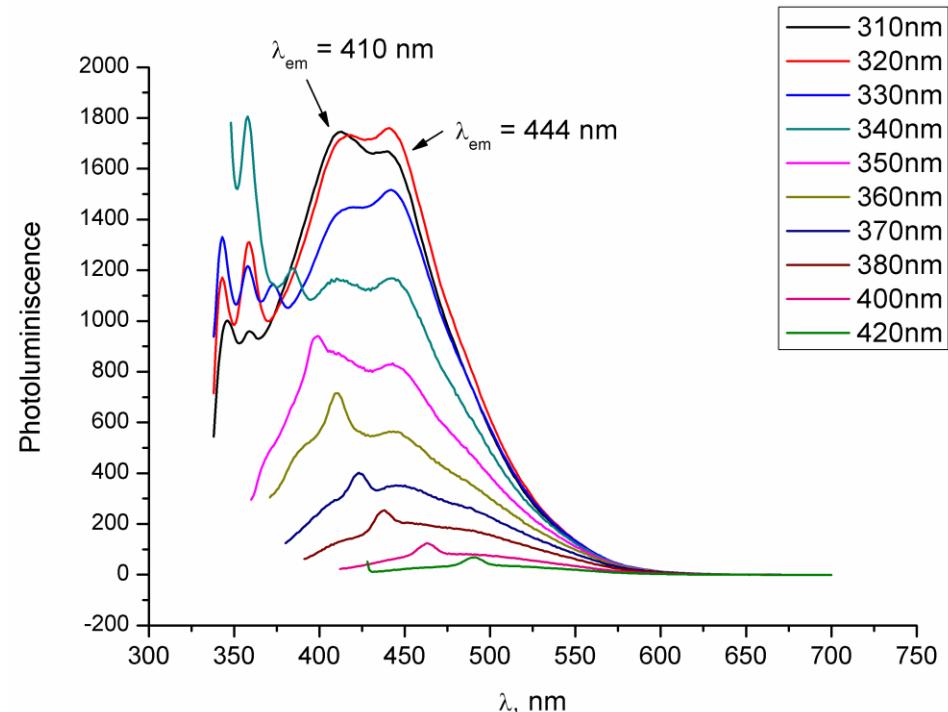


# PHOTOLUMINESCENCE

CQDs 180 °C

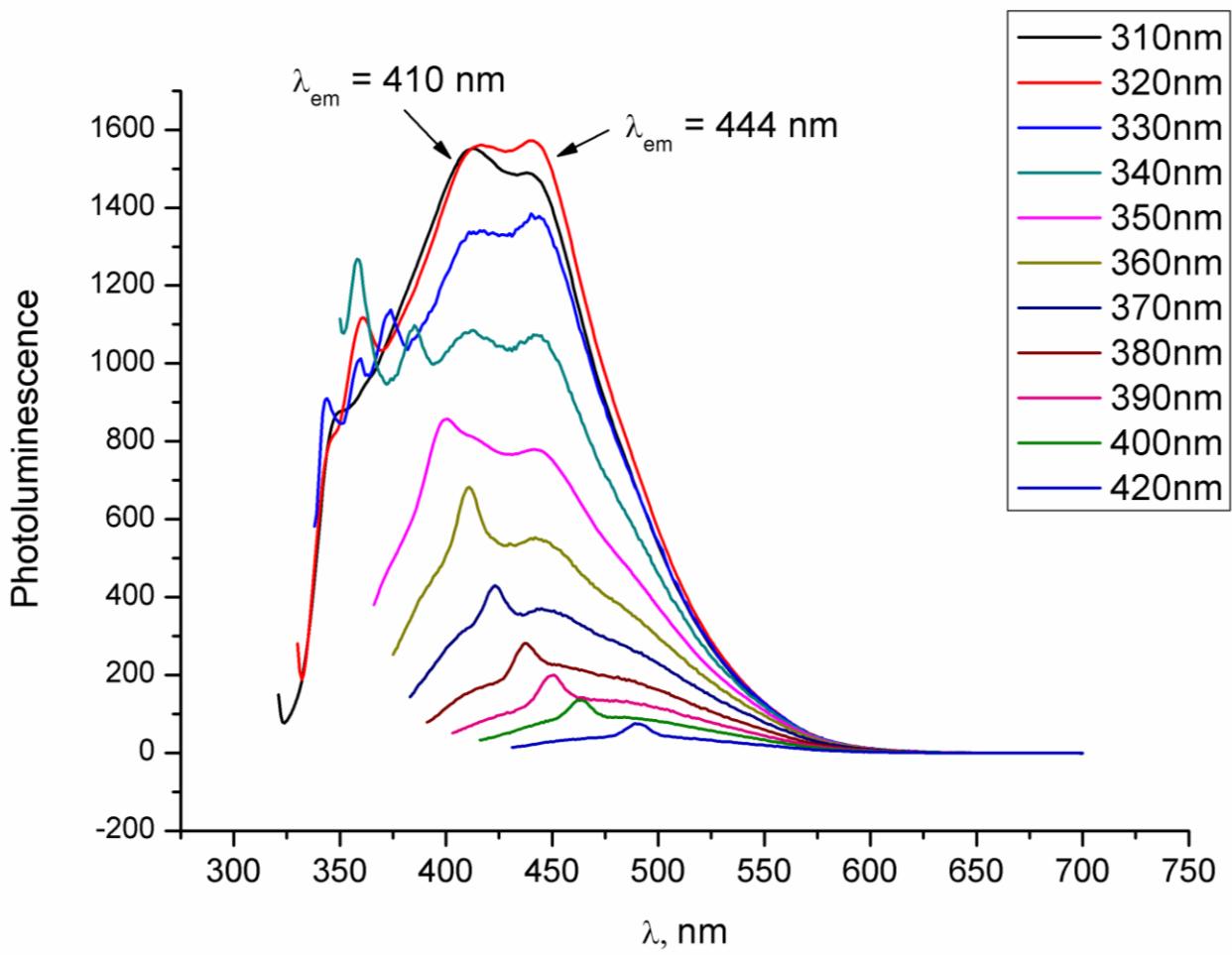


4 h



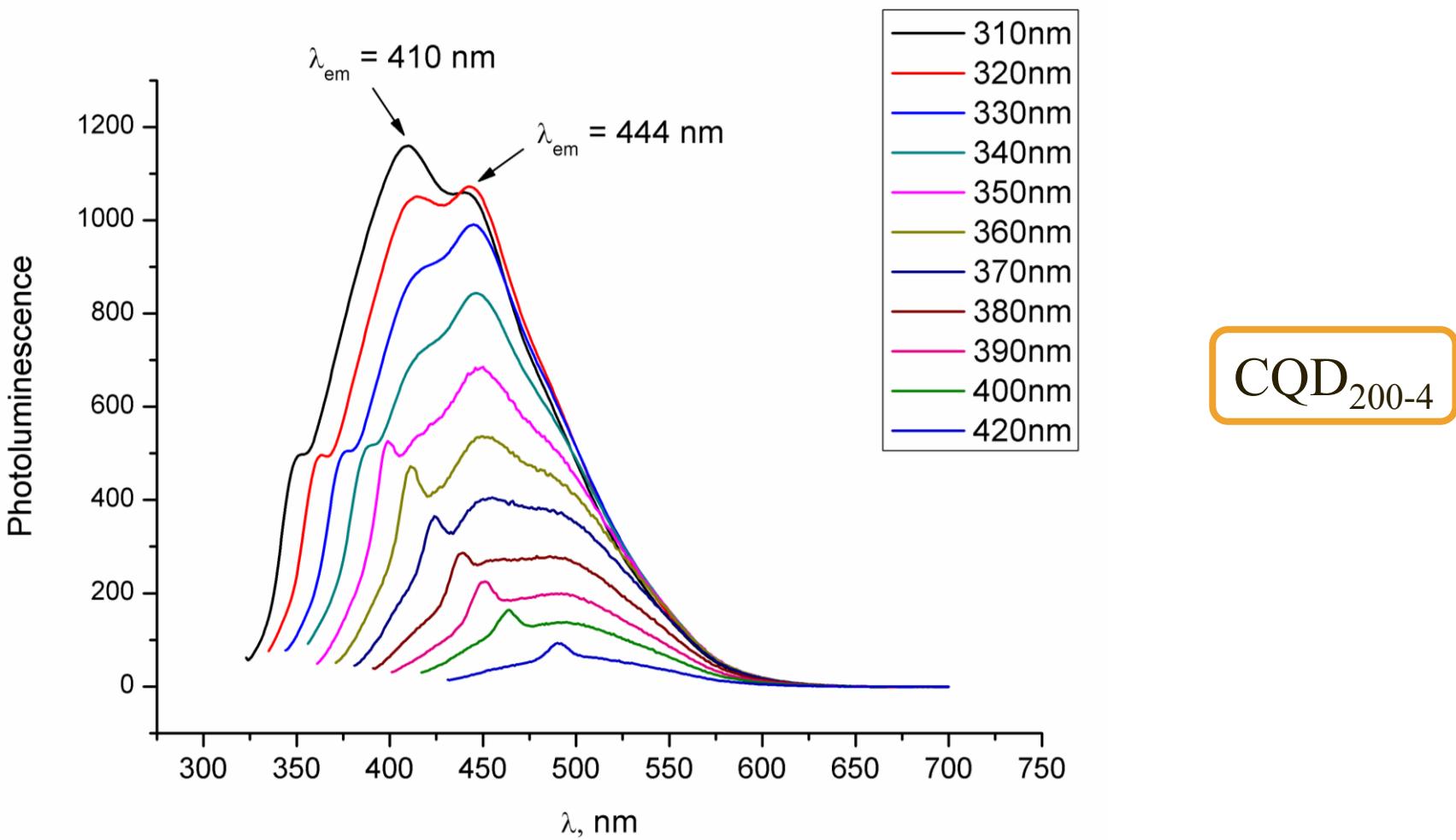
12 h

# PHOTOLUMINESCENCE

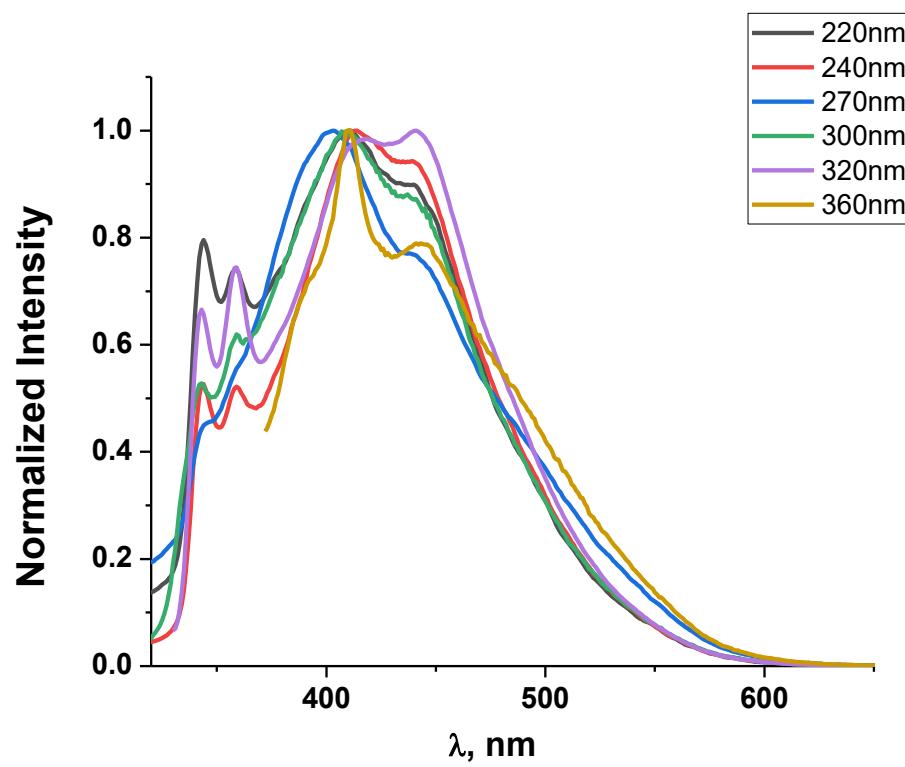


CQD<sub>180-S</sub>

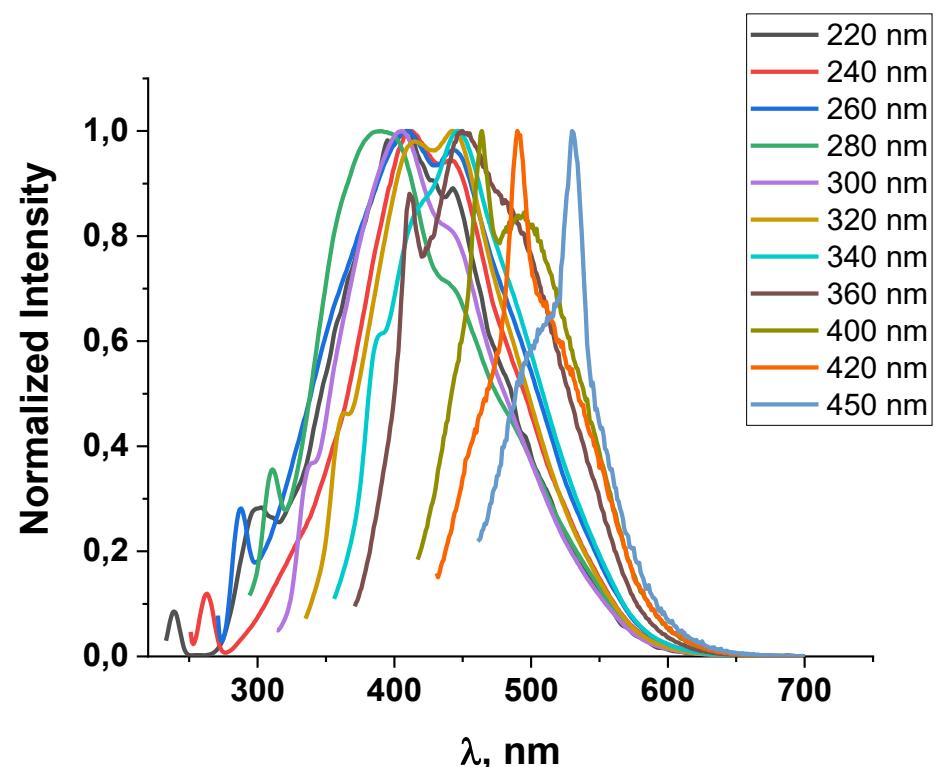
# PHOTOLUMINESCENCE



# PHOTOLUMINESCENCE - NORMALIZED

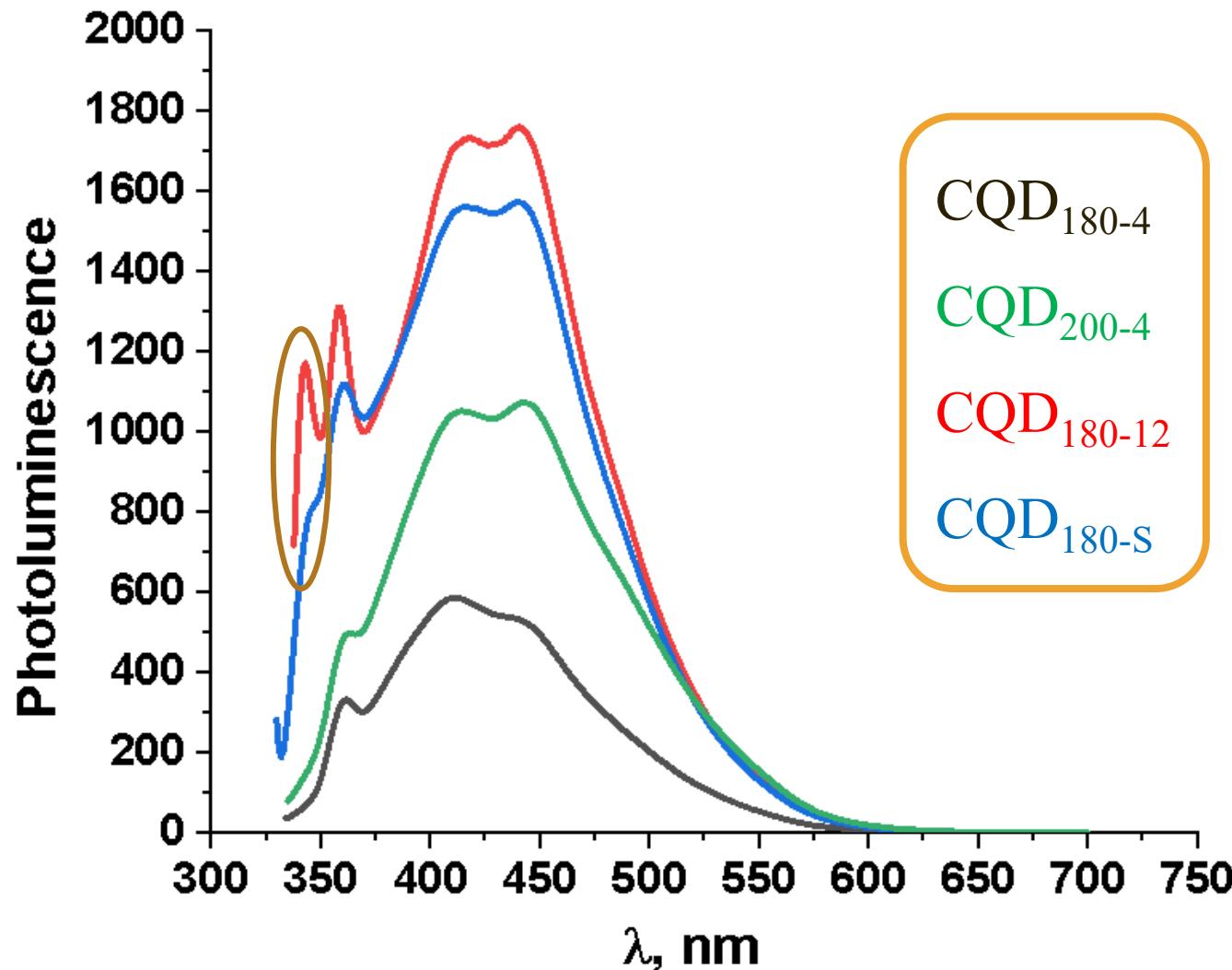


CQD<sub>180-12</sub>

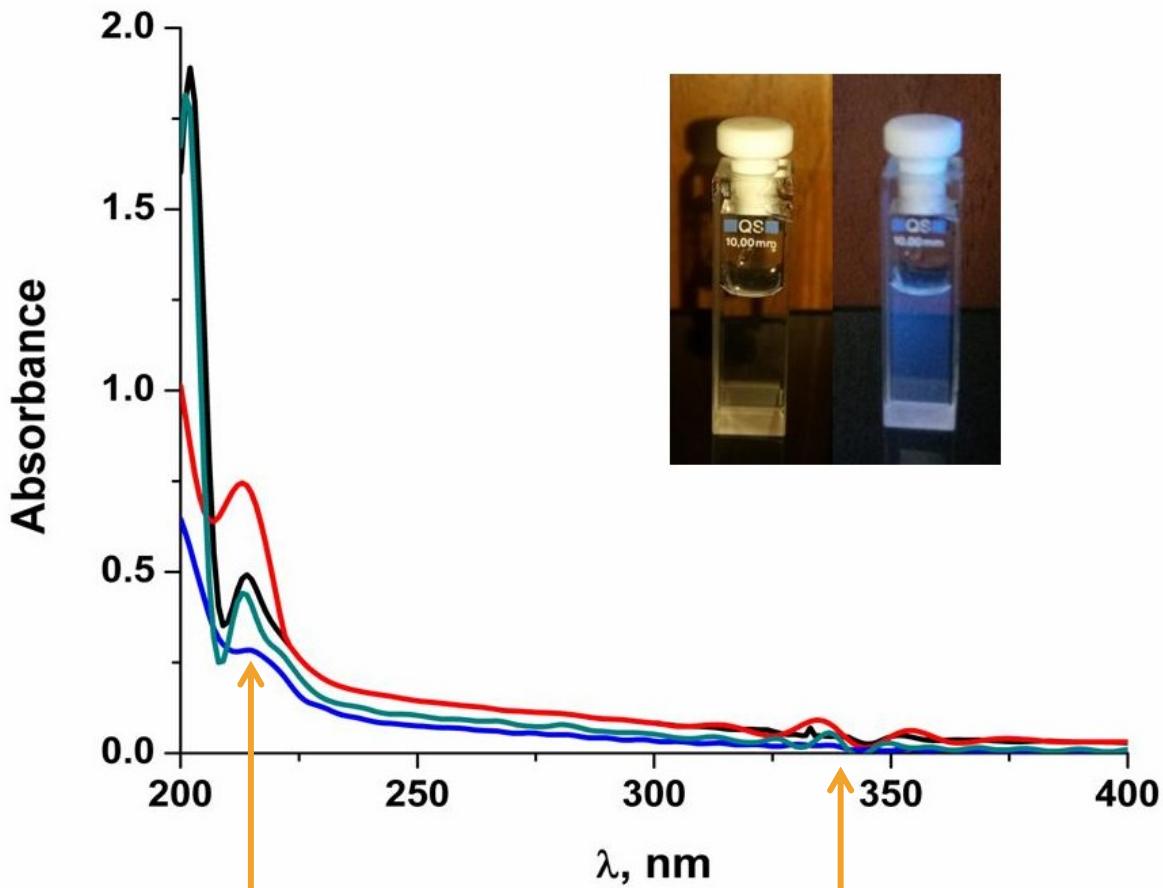


CQD<sub>200-4</sub>

# PHOTOLUMINESCENCE



# UV-VIS SPECTROSCOPY



## Quantum yield

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| $\text{CQD}_{180-4}$   | 8%   |
| $\text{CQD}_{180-12}$  | 21%  |
| $\text{CQD}_{180-12S}$ | 20%  |
| $\text{CQD}_{200-4}$   | 15 % |

$\pi-\pi^*$  transitions of C=C bonds

n –  $\pi^*$  transitions of functional groups

# CONCLUSIONS

- XRD patterns showed a lower temperature favors the formation of small amorphous nanoparticles ( $\text{CQD}_{180-12}$ ) while increased temperatures lead to larger carbon cores with graphite-like structure ( $\text{CQD}_{200-4}$ ).
- IR results confirmed the presence of more carboxyl groups along the hydroxyl groups at the  $\text{CQD}_{180-12}$  surface compared with the  $\text{CQD}_{200-4}$ .
- The fluorescence emission study found that CQDs with bright luminescence can be achieved after a reaction time of 4 h at 200 °C ( $\text{CQD}_{200-4}$ ) or after a reaction time of 12h, at 180°C ( $\text{CQD}_{180-12}$ )
- The effective excitation wavelength is between 310-360 nm and the humin-based CQDs display a blue fluorescence color (444 nm) under the excitation wavelength of 330 nm.
- The better fluorescence properties and higher QYs of  $\text{CQD}_{180-12}$  was aroused by oxygen group decorated on its surface.

# Thank You!