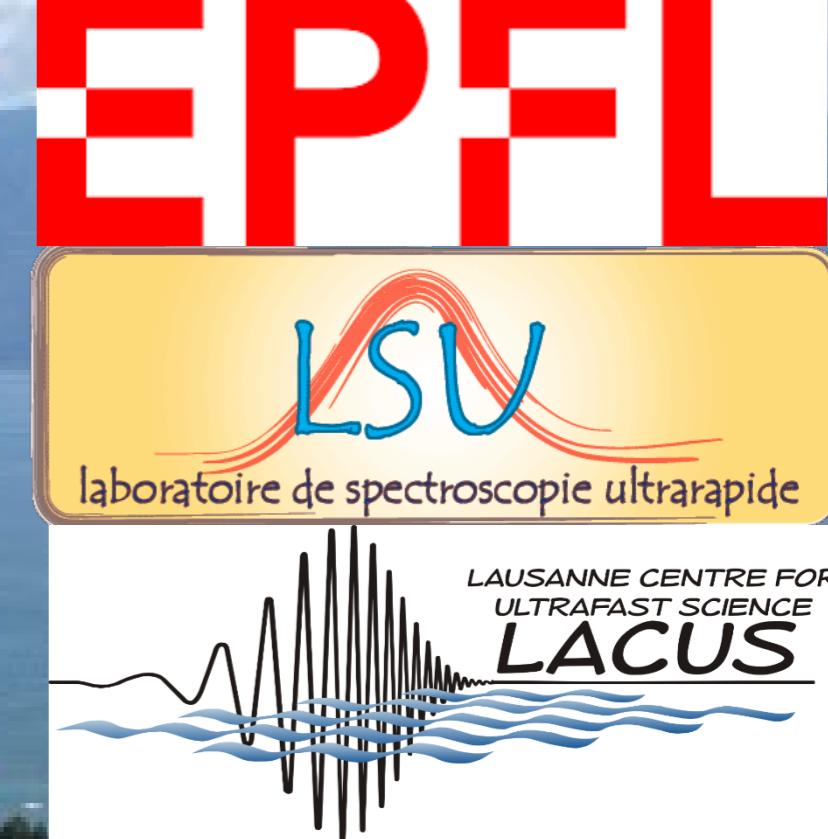


Ultrafast dynamics of molecular systems with ultrashort optical and X-ray pulses

M. Chergui



EuPRAXIA@SPARC_LAB User Workshop 2021
(October 2021)

Dynamics of molecular systems

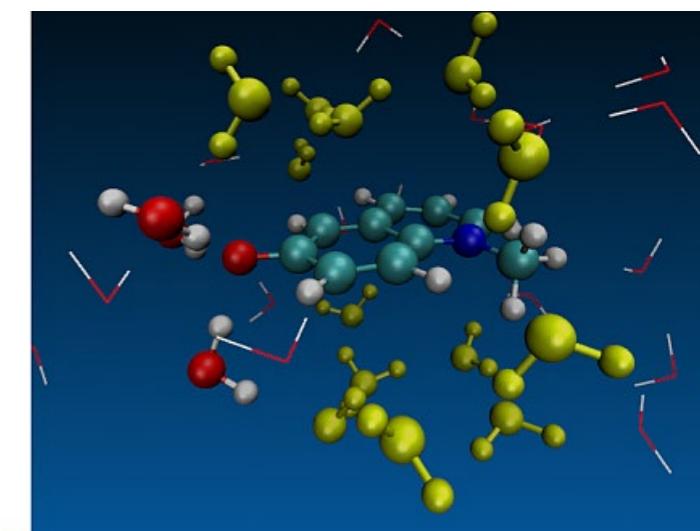
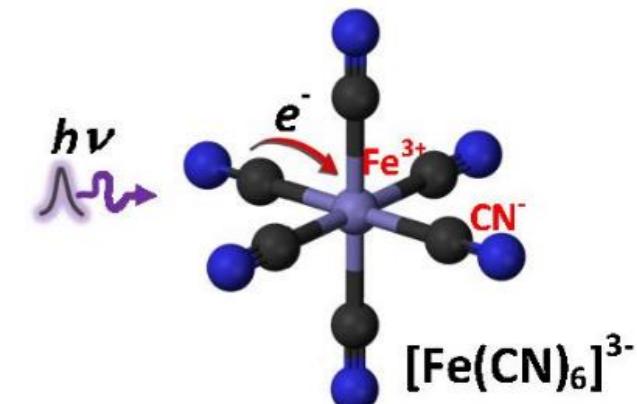
Intramolecular charge transfer dynamics

Spin dynamics

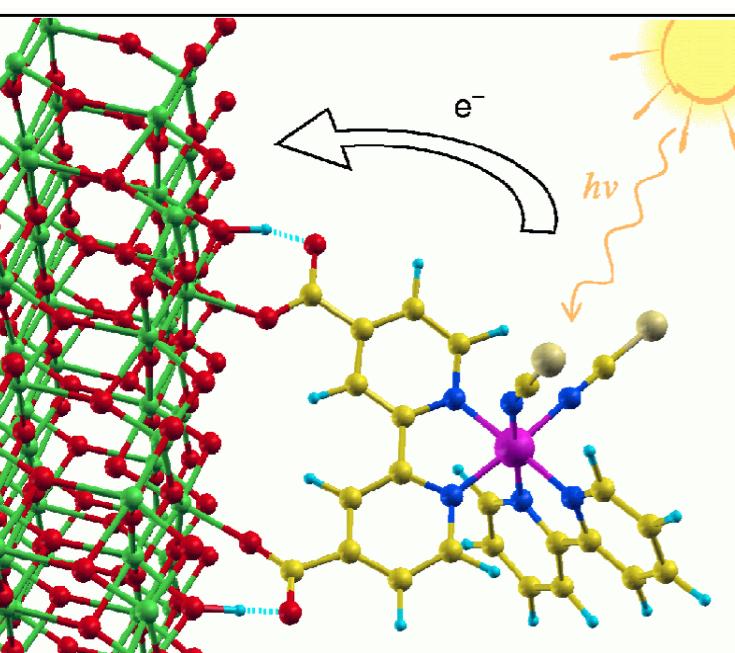
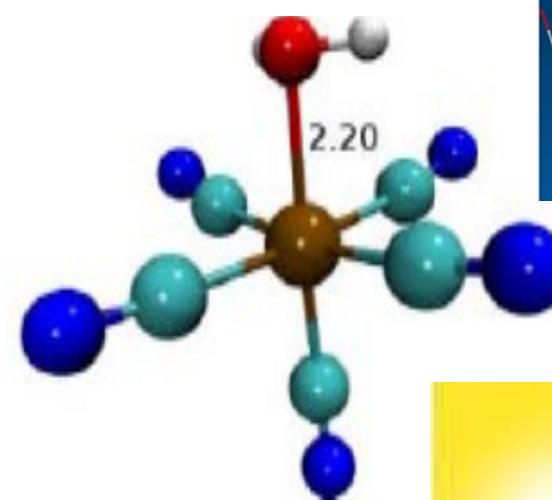
Intramolecular vibrational relaxation

Solvation dynamics

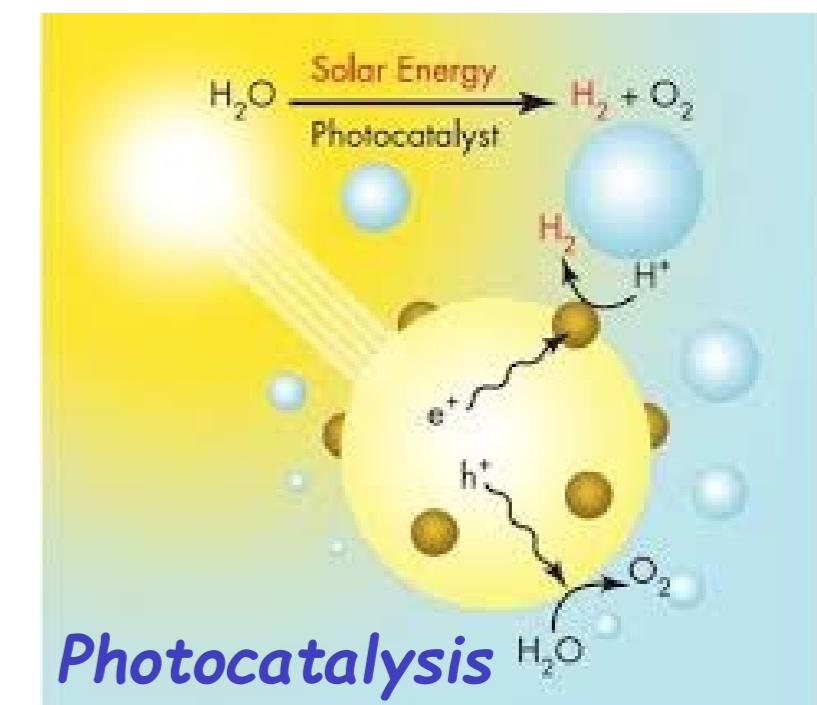
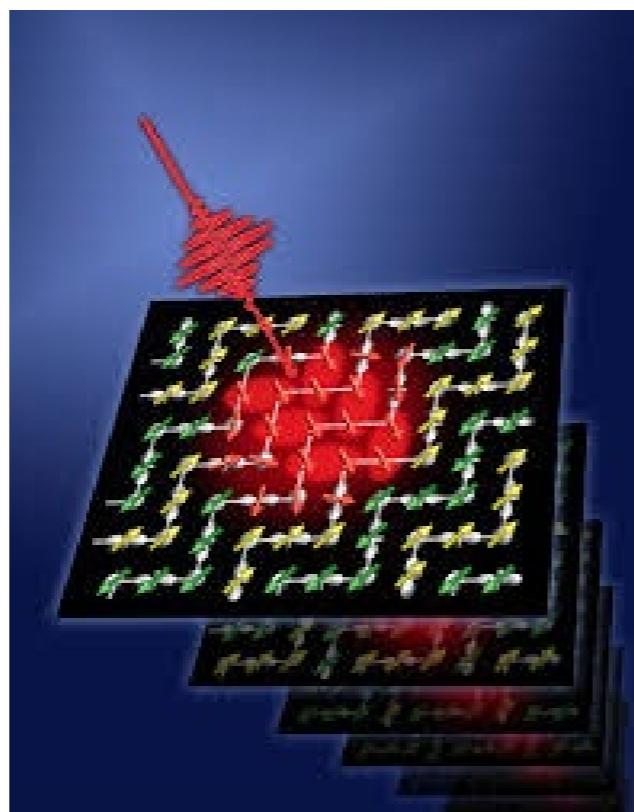
Solute-solvent photochemical reactions



Magnetic Data storage



Photovoltaics



Photocatalysis

Ultrafast Intramolecular Relaxation

- Intramolecular energy redistribution and internal conversion at extremely short times.
- High frequency FC modes dump impulsively their energy to lower frequency ones (often optically silent)

Cannizzo et al., *Angew. Chem. Int. Edit.* (2006); Gawelda et al, *JACS* (2007); Cannizzo et al, *JACS* (2008); Bram et al, *Chem . Phys.* (2012); Chergui, *Acc. Chem. Res.* (2015); Messina et al, *JPCL* (2015)

- Valid for organic dyes

PPO, pTP: Cannizzo et al, *Opt. Lett.* 2007; Braem et al, *PCCP* 2012; Retinal in solution: Zgrablic et al, *Biophys. J.* 2005, *JPC B* 2009, *Chem. Phys.* 2011; Tryptophan: *JPC A* 2010

- Ultrafast Intersystem crossing: No «heavy-atom rule». DOS, SOC and structural dynamics play crucial role at ultrashort times

Dalton Trans. 2012; Acc. Chem. Res. 2015; Cannizzo et al., *Angew. Chem. Int. Edit.* (2006) and *JACS* (2008); Gawelda et al, *JACS* (2007); Bressler et al, *Science* (2009); van der Veen et al, *JACS* (2011); Auböck and Chergui, *Nat. Chem.* (2015), Monni et al, *PNAS* (2018)

Kasha-Vavilov Rule (*Disc. Faraday Soc.* 1950) very robust!

Contents

- I. Ultrafast photoelectron spectroscopy of charge transfer reactions: beating the Kasha-Vavilov rule
- II. X-ray studies of Conical Intersections

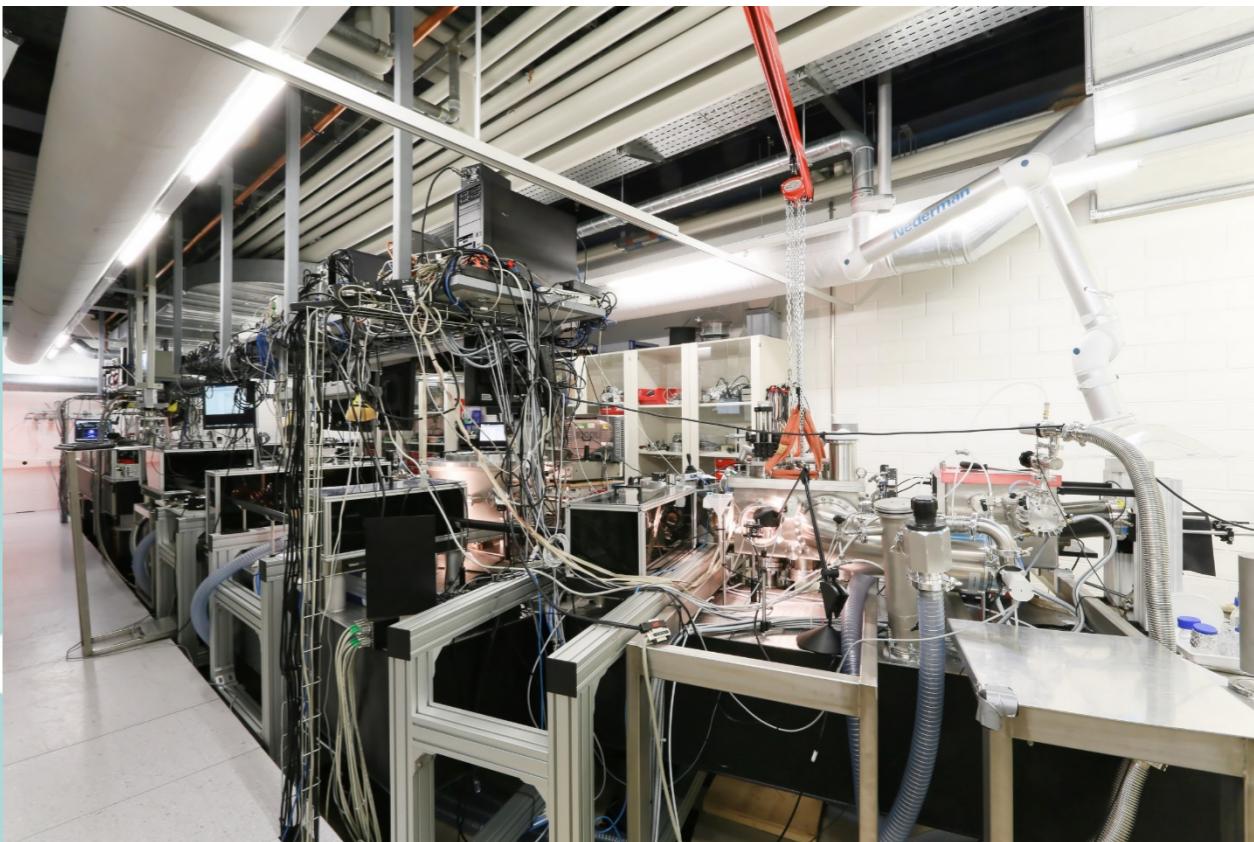
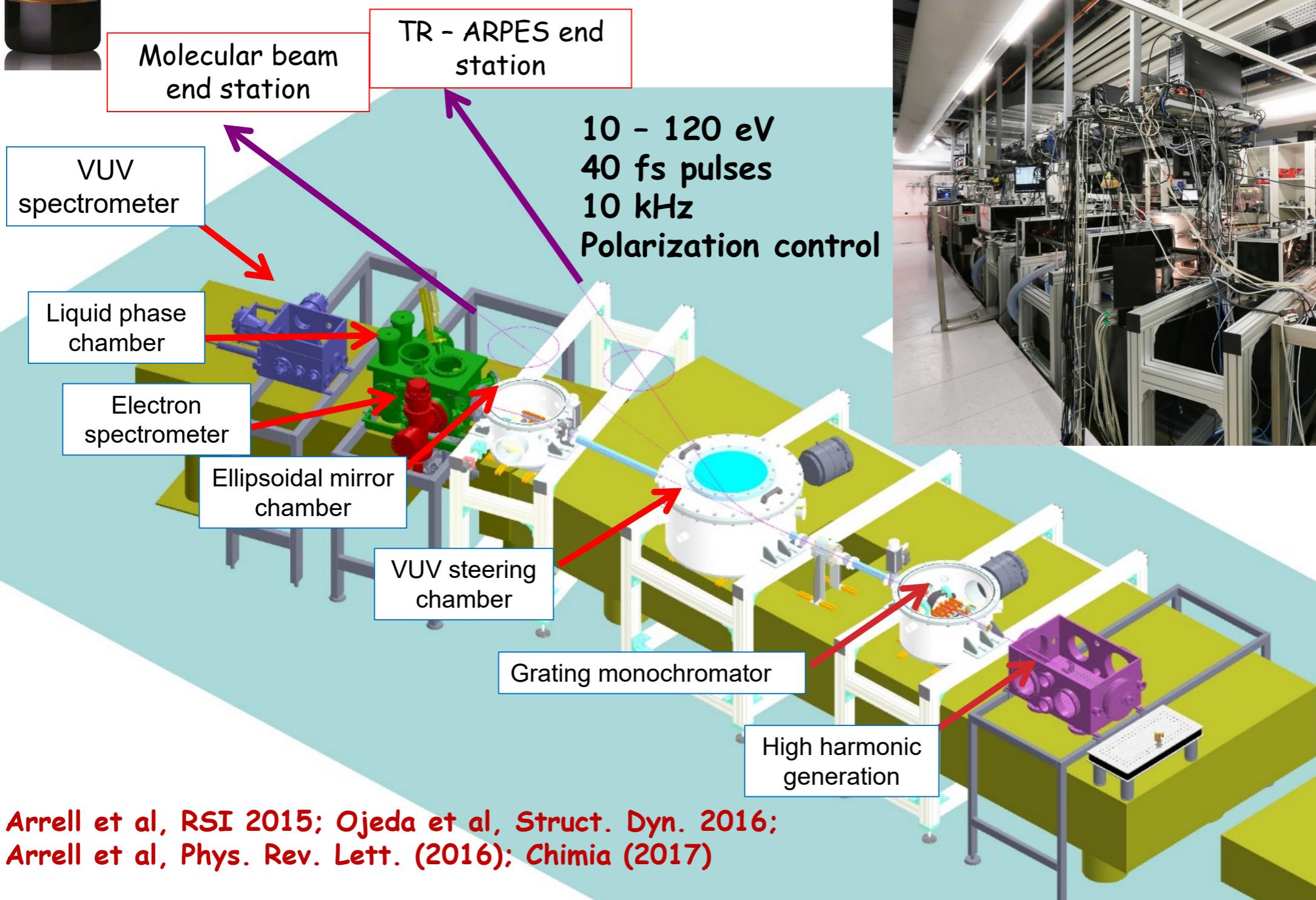


Harmonium @



EPFL

Extreme-UV femtosecond source:
Facility for photoelectron spectroscopy (ESCA) of liquid, gas and solid phases.
Complementary to X-ray studies at the SLS and XFELs

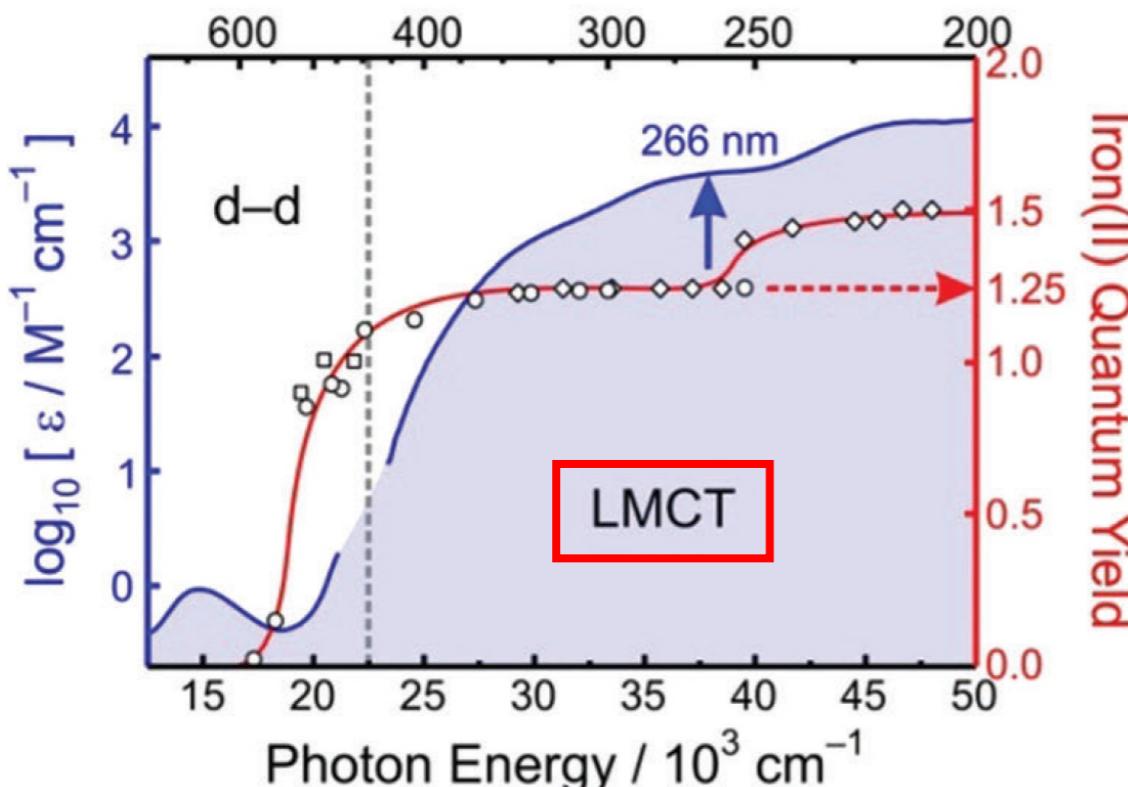
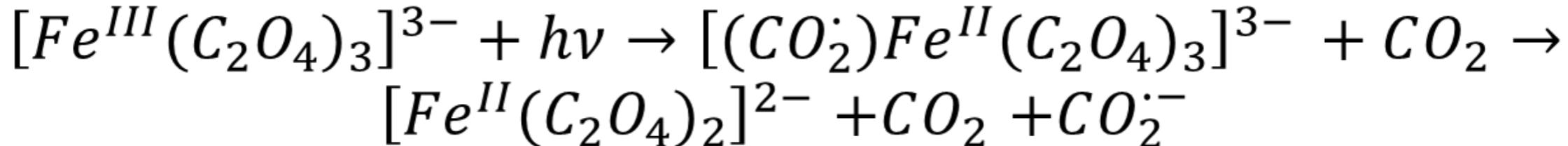
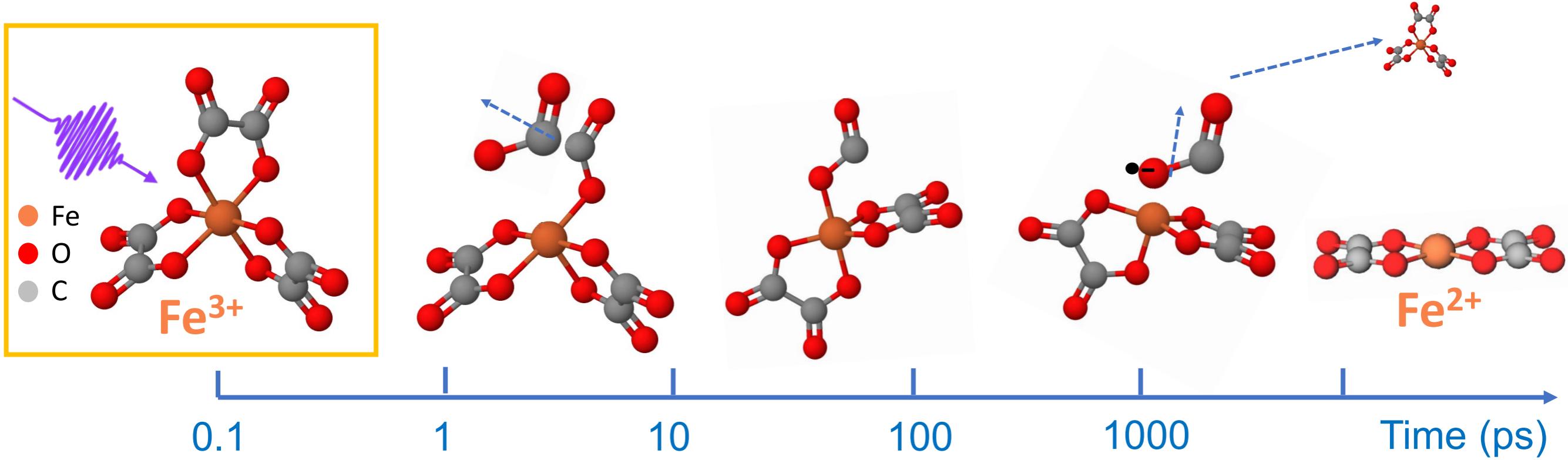


Funding:



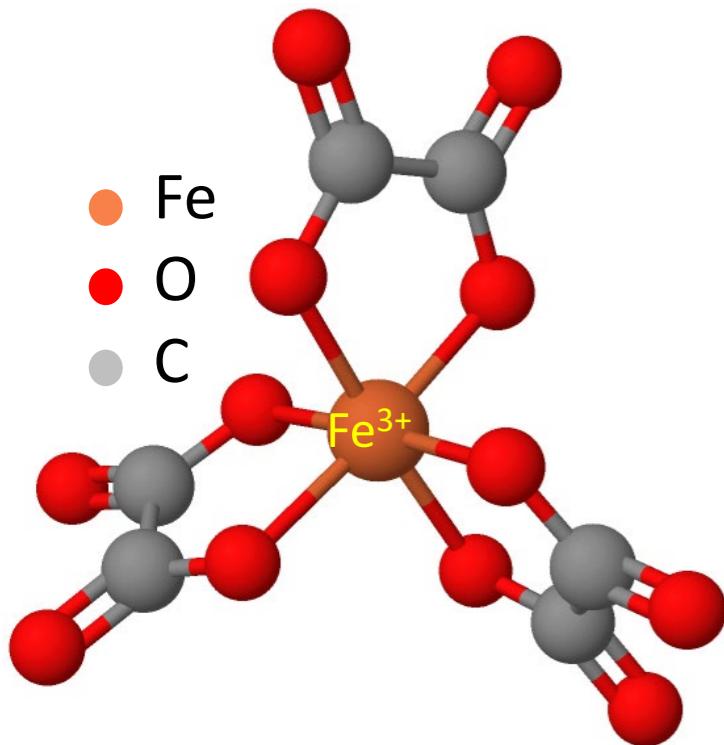
Arrell et al, RSI 2015; Ojeda et al, Struct. Dyn. 2016;
Arrell et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2016); Chimia (2017)

Aqueous Ferrioxalate



Parker & Hatchard , J. Phys. Chem. 1959
Straub et al. PCCP 2018

Aqueous Ferrioxalate



- Initial events:
 - How fast is the photoreduction?
 - How fast is the first CO_2 dissociation?
 - Does reduction trigger dissociation or vice-versa?
 - What is the role of the solvent?

Previous ultrafast visible, IR and X-ray absorption TA studies:

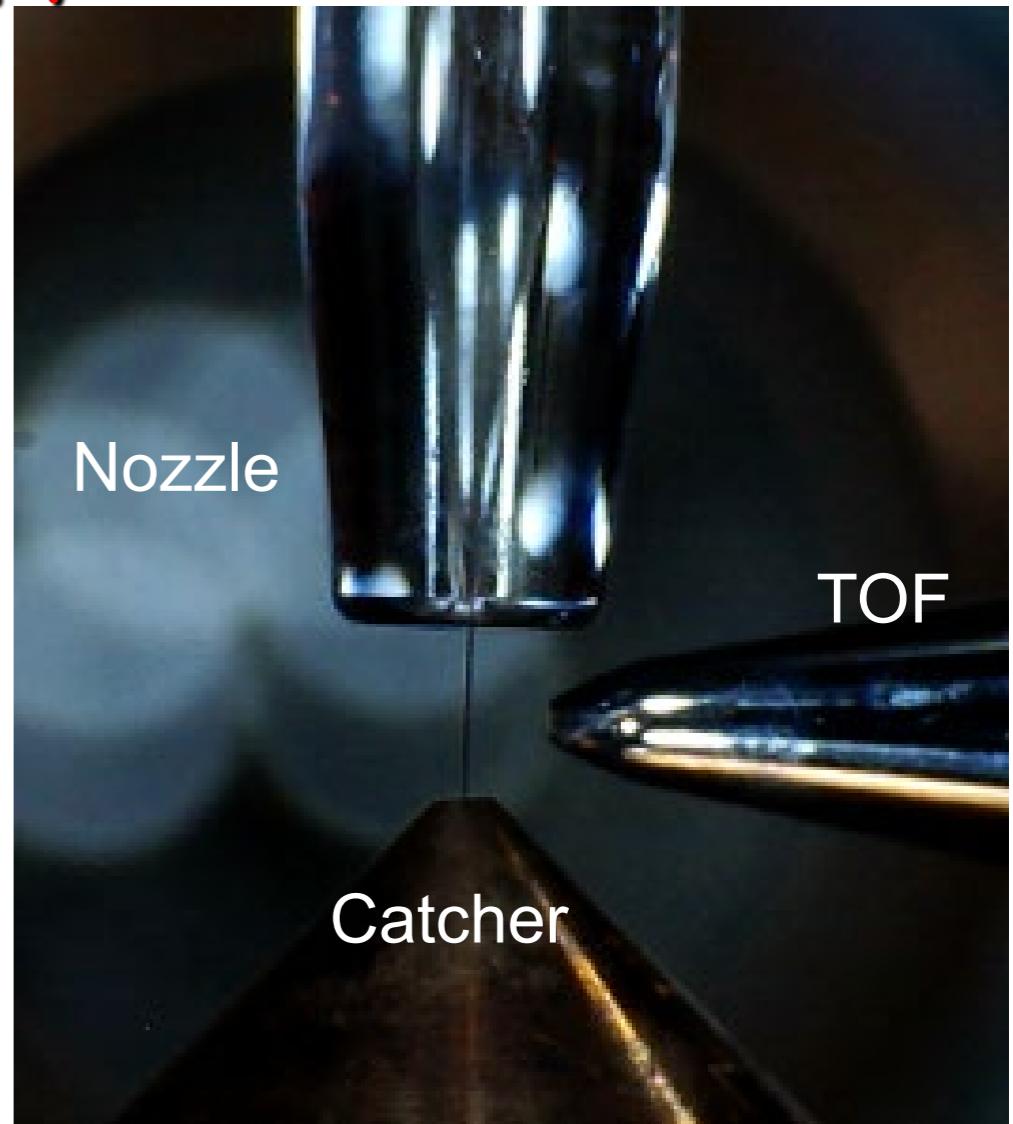
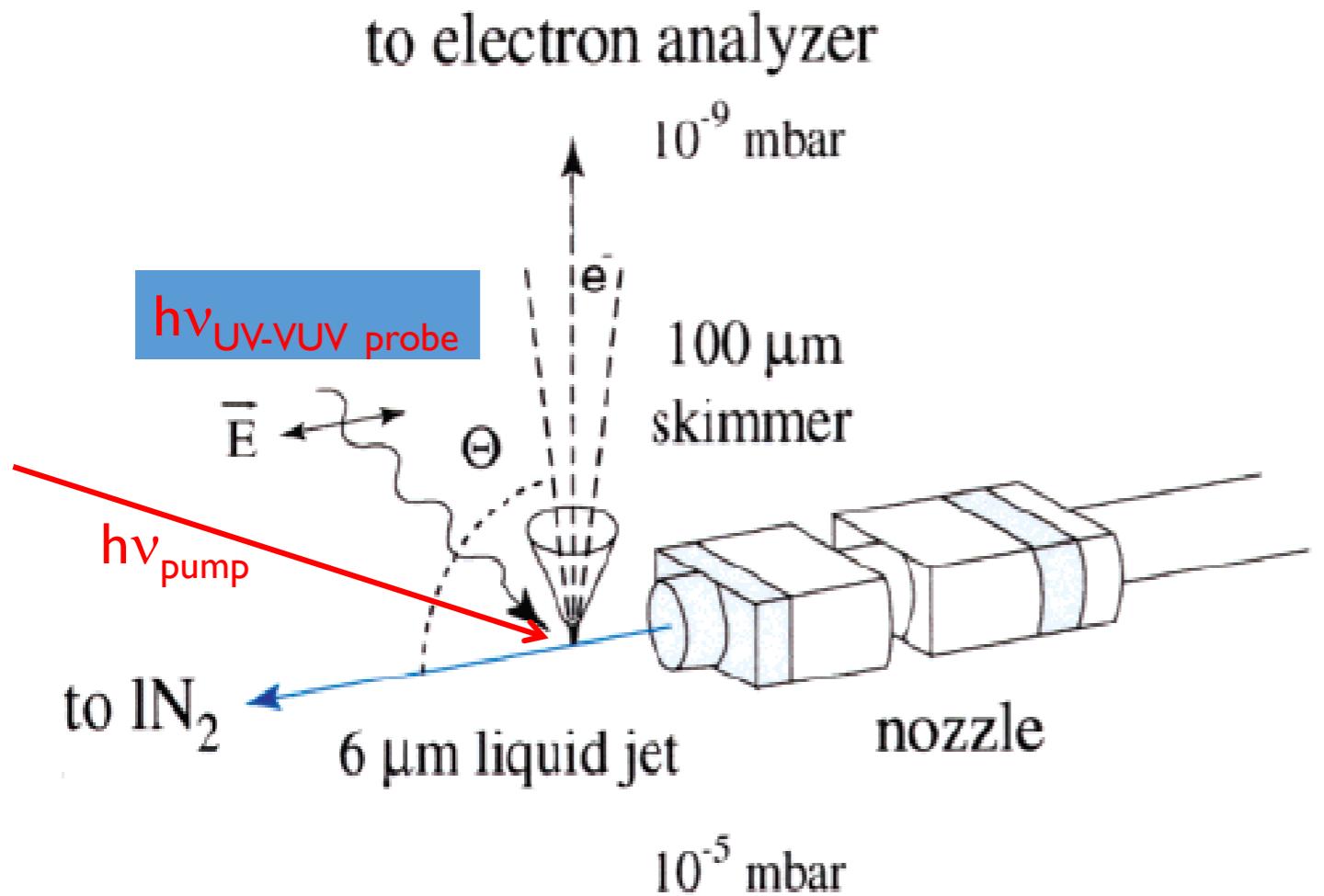
- No consensus on the reduction process (<140 fs to > 150 ps)
- No consensus on the initial CO_2 dissociation (<140 fs to 2 ps)
- No consensus on second CO_2 dissociation (2 ps to 1 ns)
- IR TA studies point to ~25-35% recovery of parent molecule in ~ 2 ps. Attributed to intramolecular relaxation.

Rentzepis and co-workers, Inorg. Chem. 2008

Suzuki and co-workers, Struct. Dyn. 2015

Vöhringer and co-workers, PCCP 2018

Ultrafast Vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) photoelectron spectroscopy of solutions



Winter and Faubel, Chem. Rev. 2006

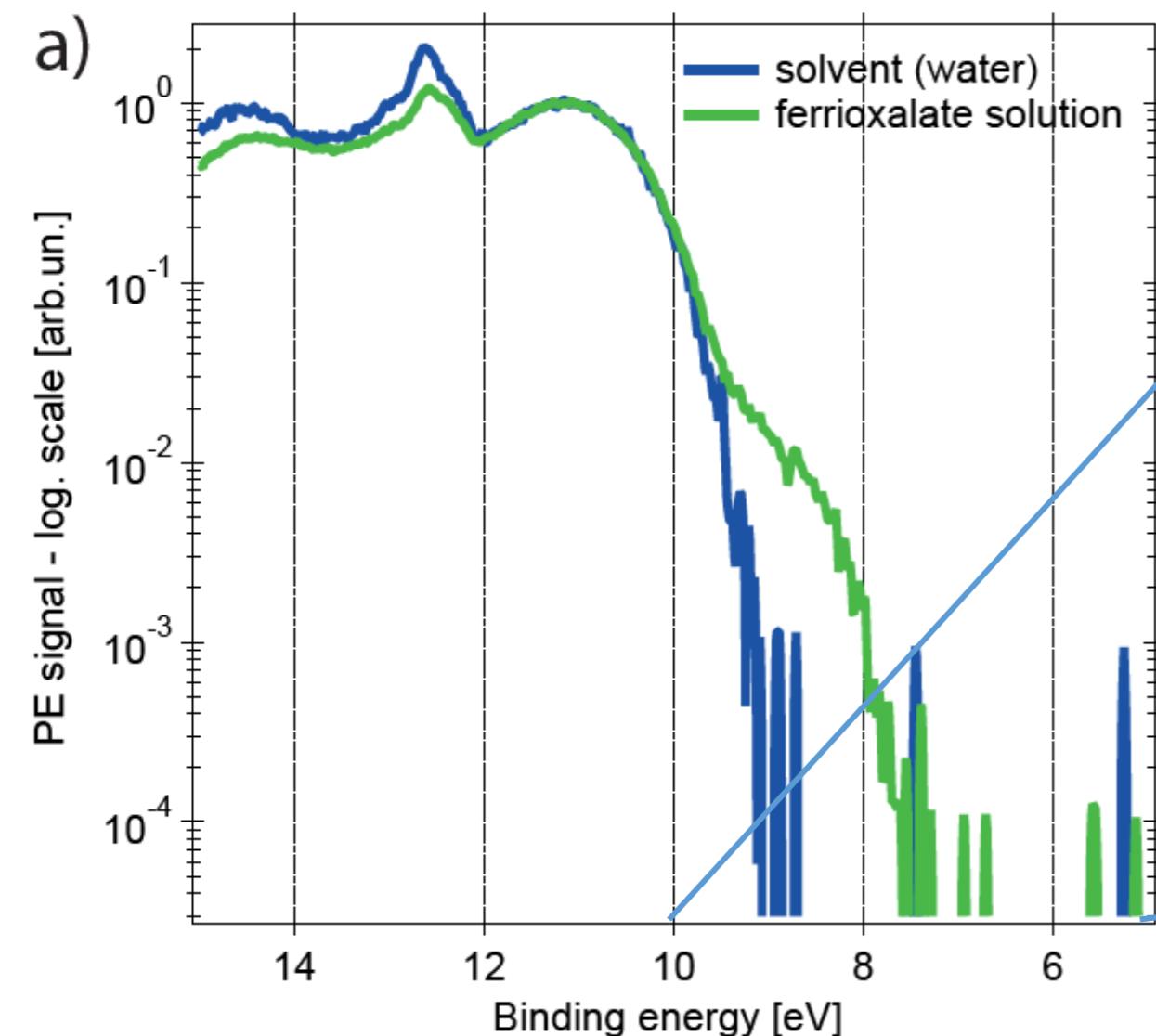
Abel, Faubel et al: First ps studies: Appl Phys A 2009;
Nature Chem. 2010; Acc. Chem. Res. 2012

Arrell et al, RSI 2015; Ojeda et al, Struct. Dyn. 2016

Arrell et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 2016

Ojeda et al, PCCP 2017

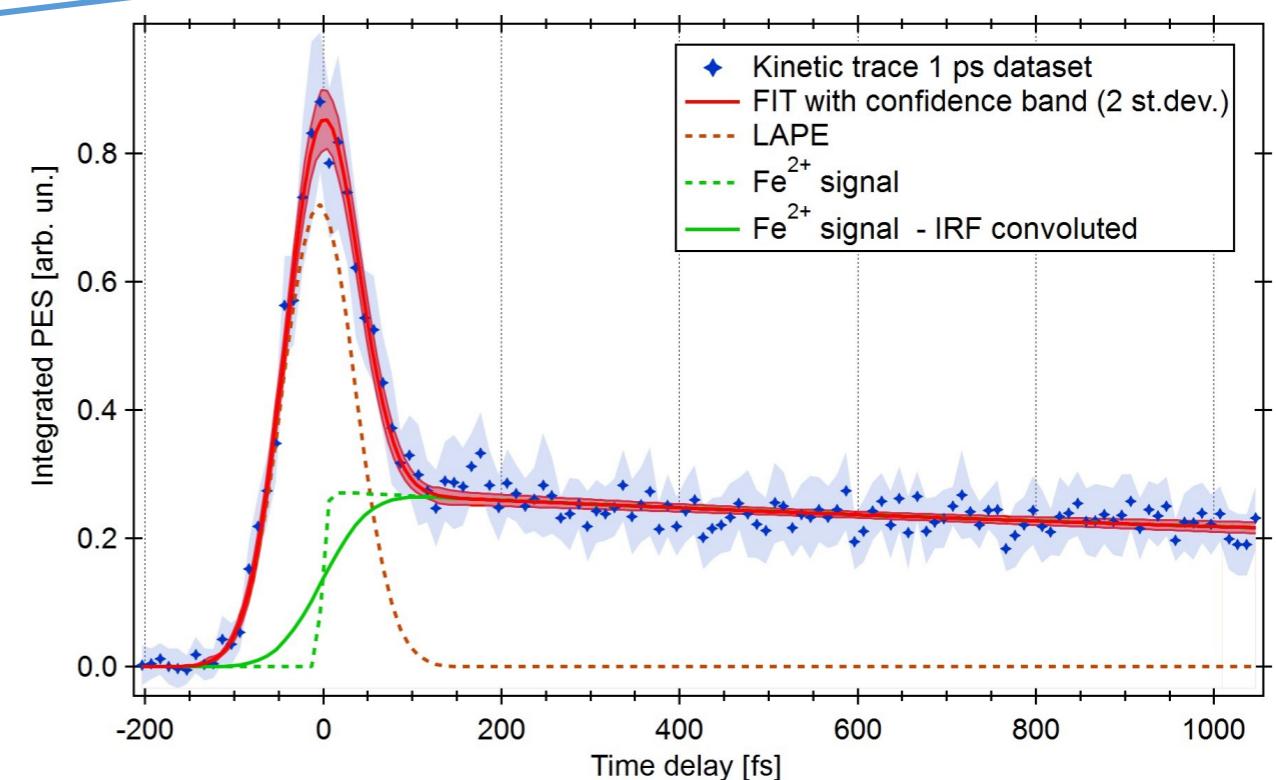
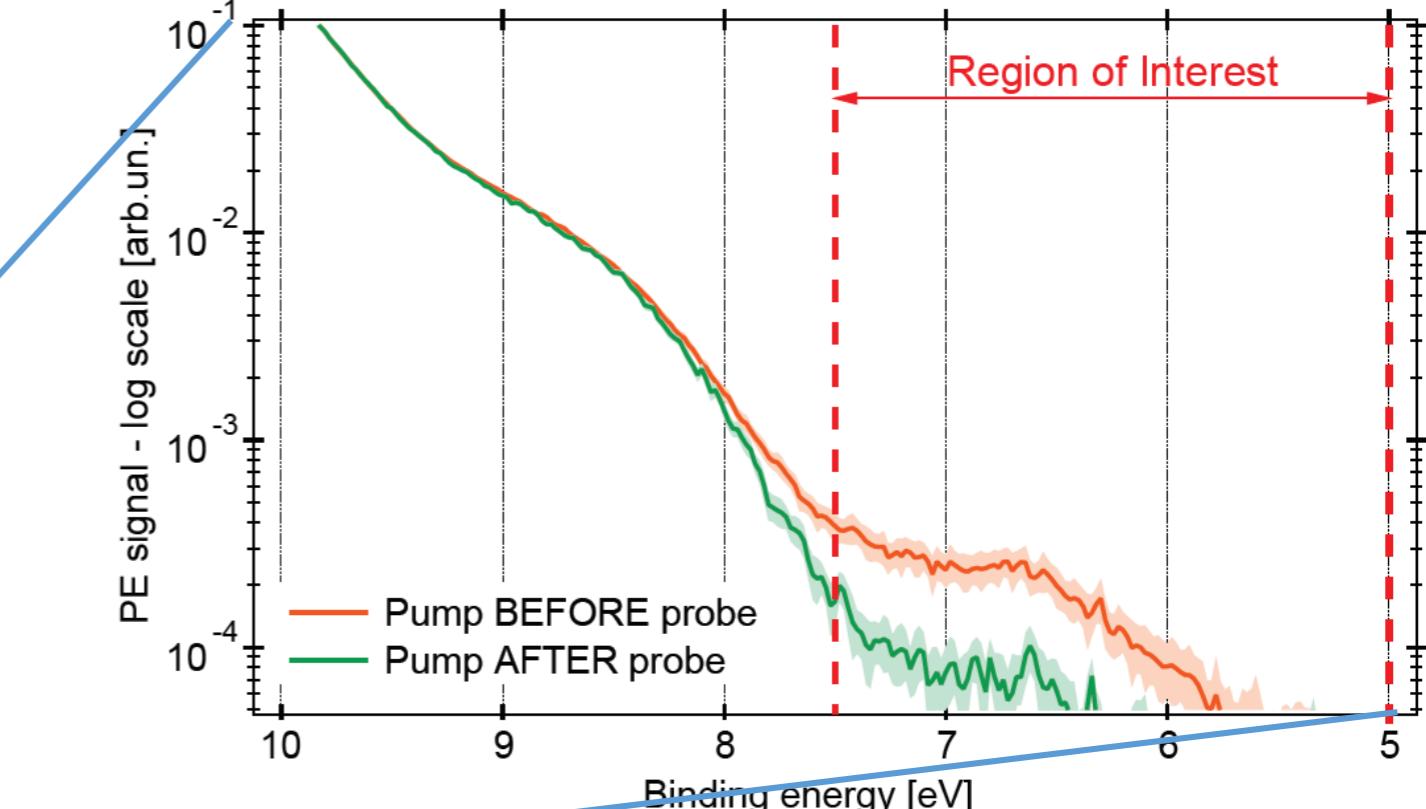
Aqueous Ferrioxalate



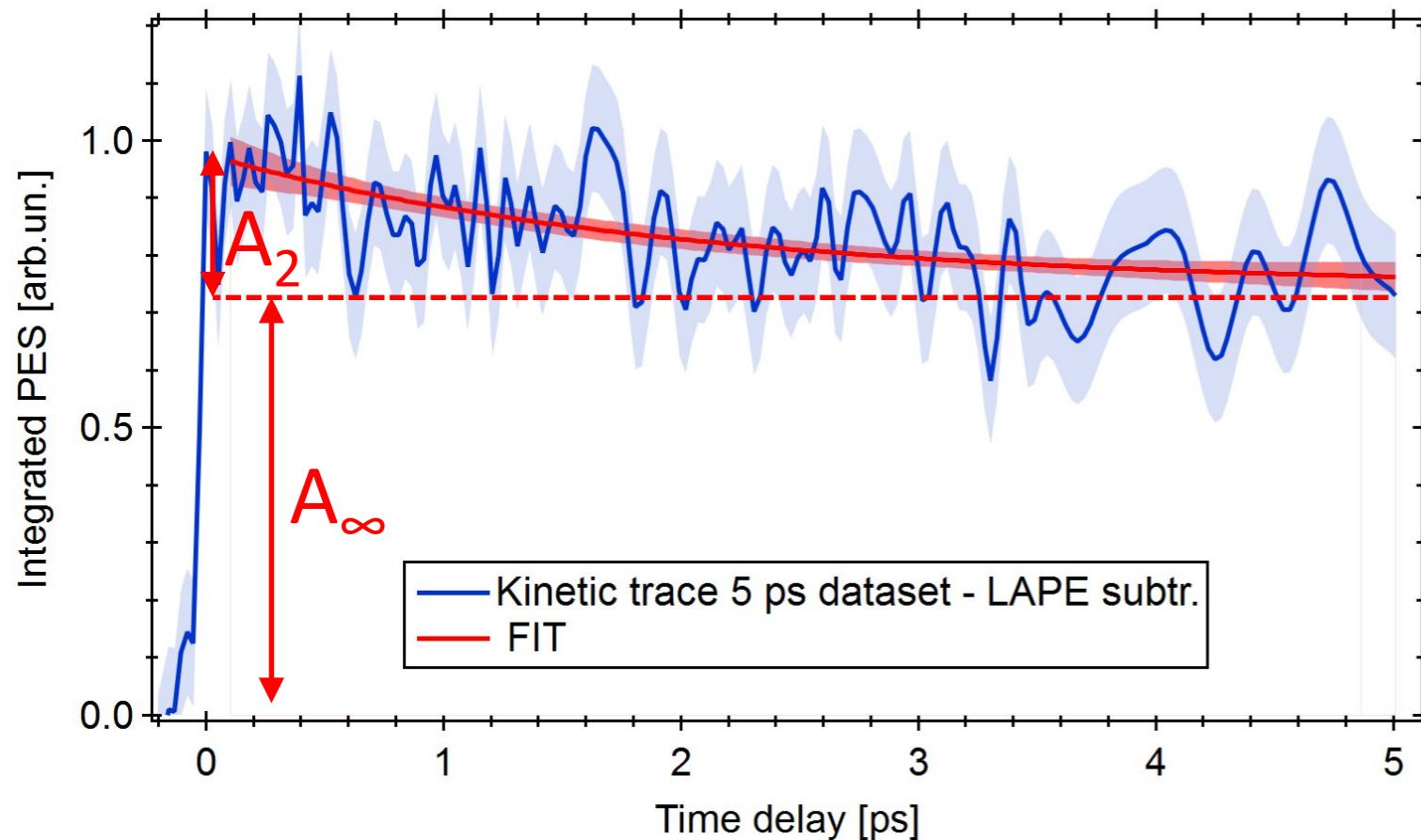
Pump at 4.66 eV
Probe at 34 eV

$\tau_R < 30$ fs
(upper limit)

LAPE: Arrell *et al.*, PRL 2016



Transient signal decrease



- Long-lasting signal
- Fast decay

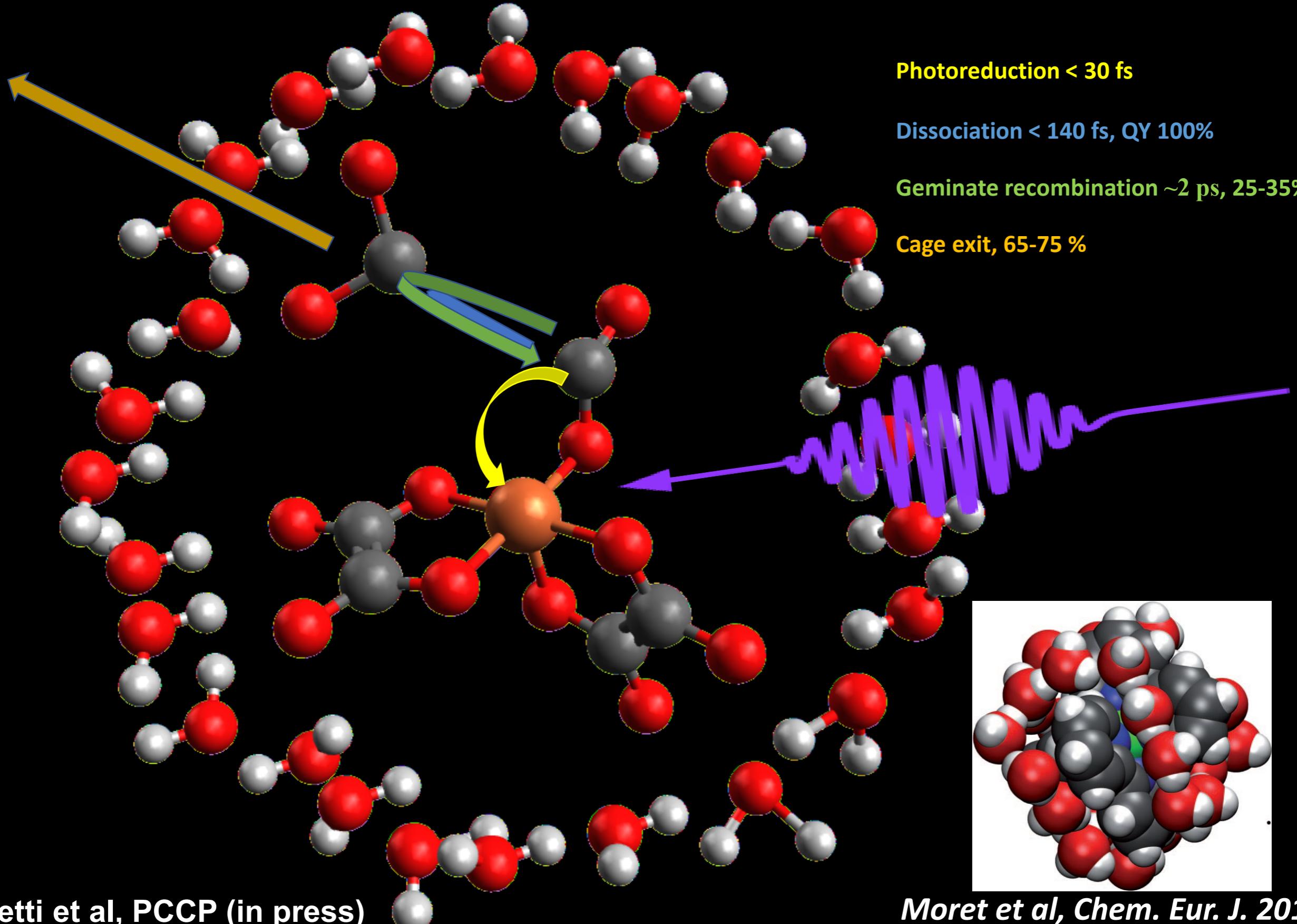
Exponential + plateau

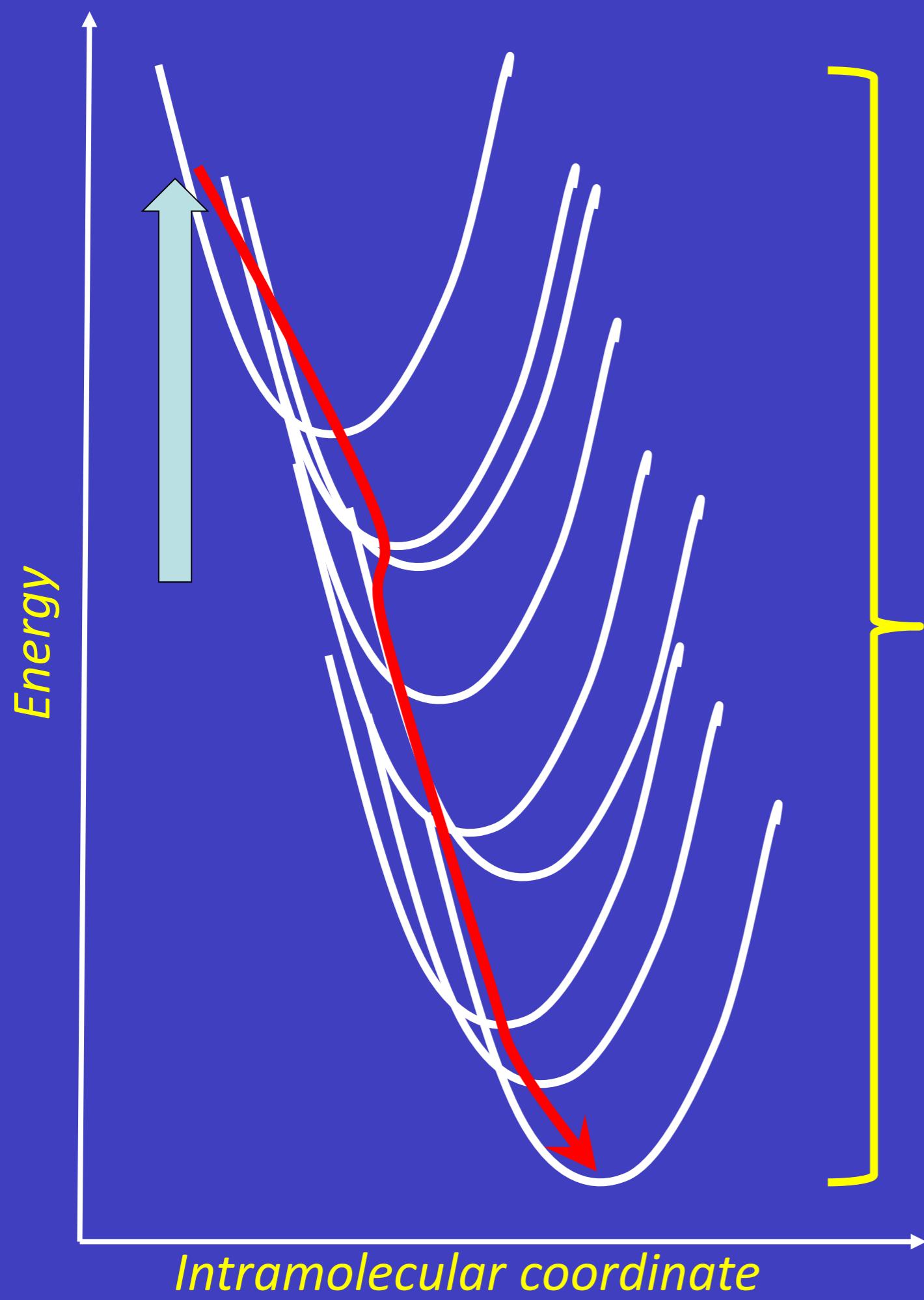
$$\tau_2 = 2 \text{ ps}$$

$$A_2 = 24 \% \text{ of } A(t=0)$$

- 25% of ferrous species are lost in 2 ps
- IR TA: partial (25-35 %) recovery of depleted parent molecule population in ca. 2 ps. Attributed to intramolecular relaxation.
- X-ray TA: <140 fs CO_2 dissociation and 2-3 ps relaxation time, attributed to dissociation of the second fragment (the CO_2^- anion)

Aqueous Ferrioxalate



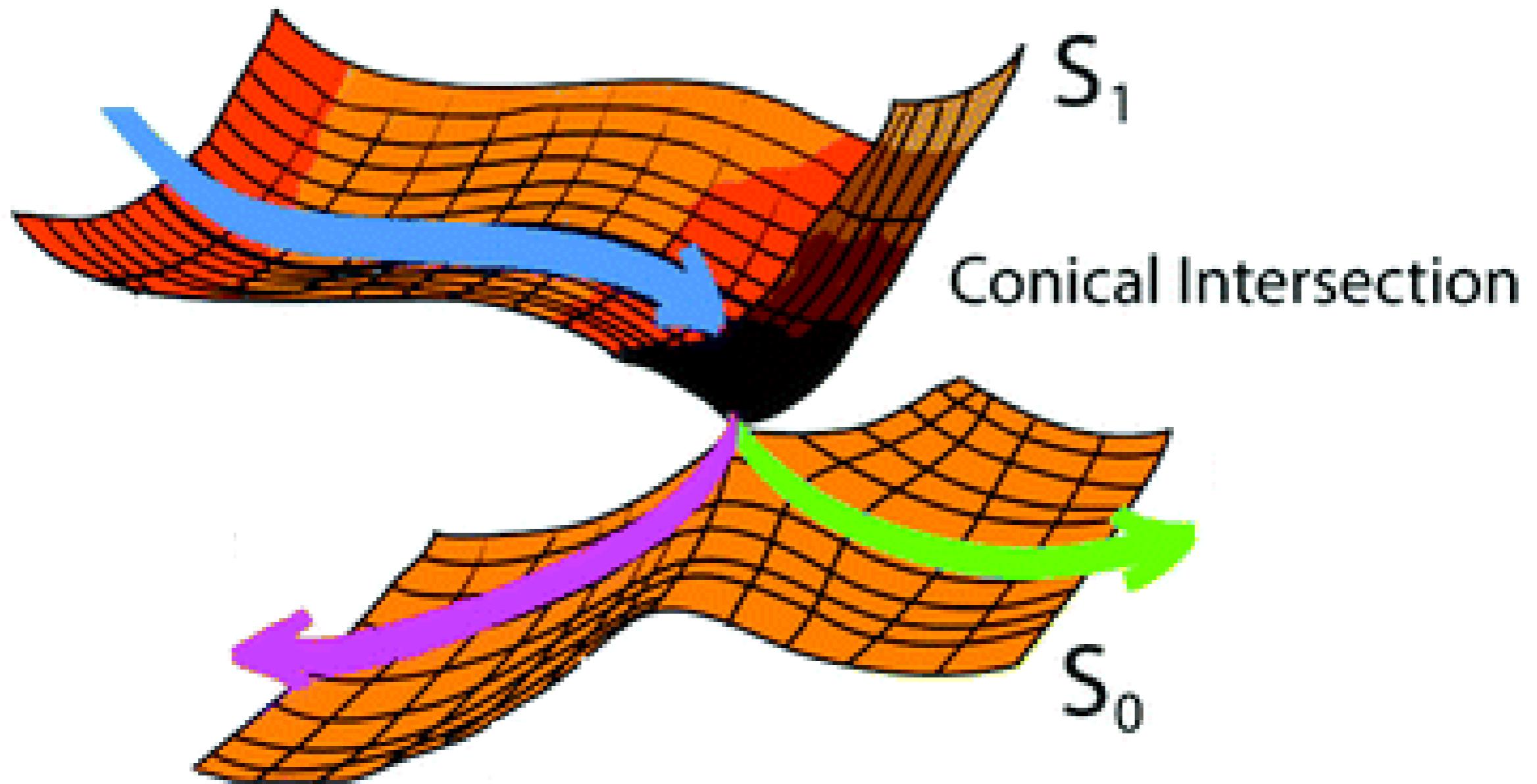


Electronic
cooling
in <20 fs

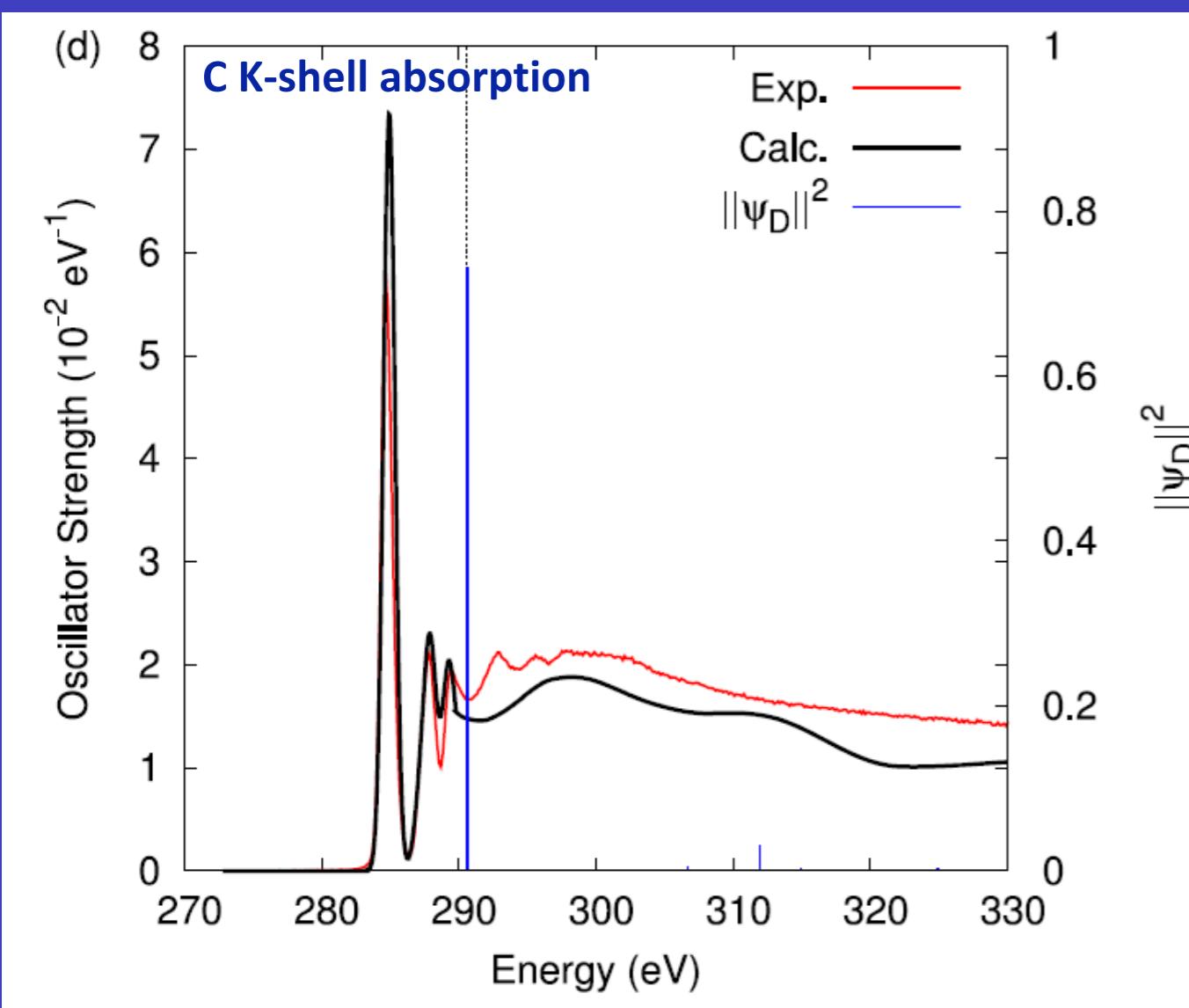
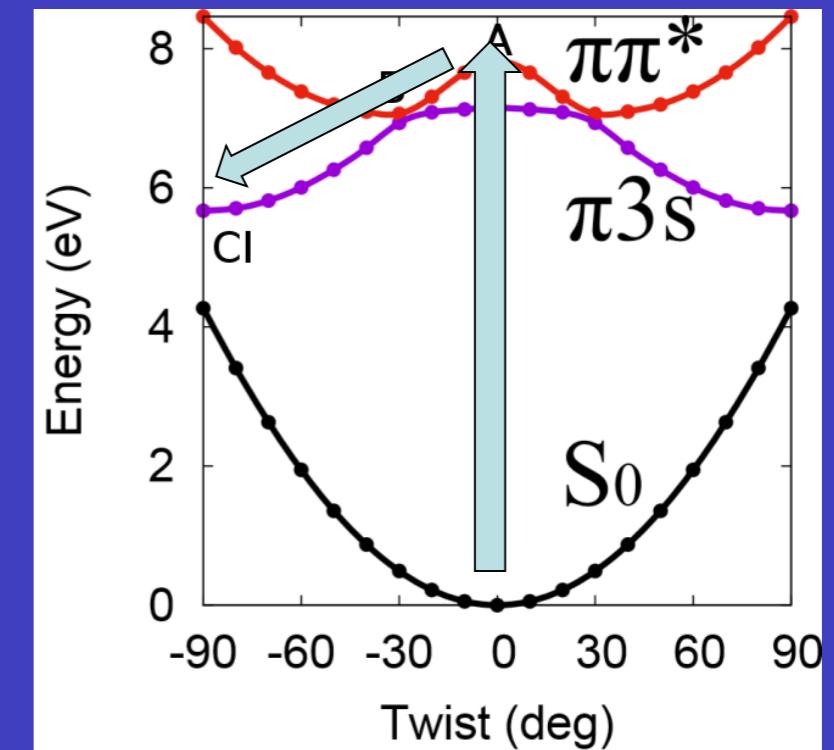
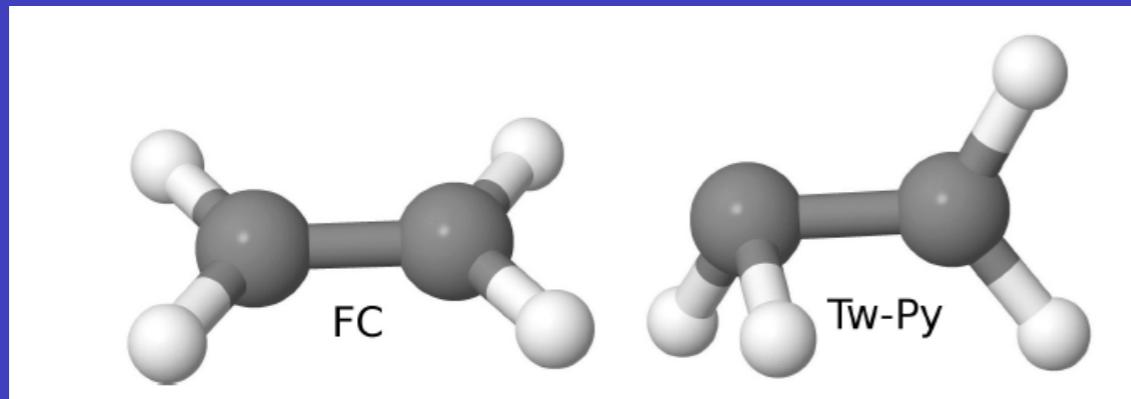


Low freq.
non-
symmetric
modes

Conical intersections



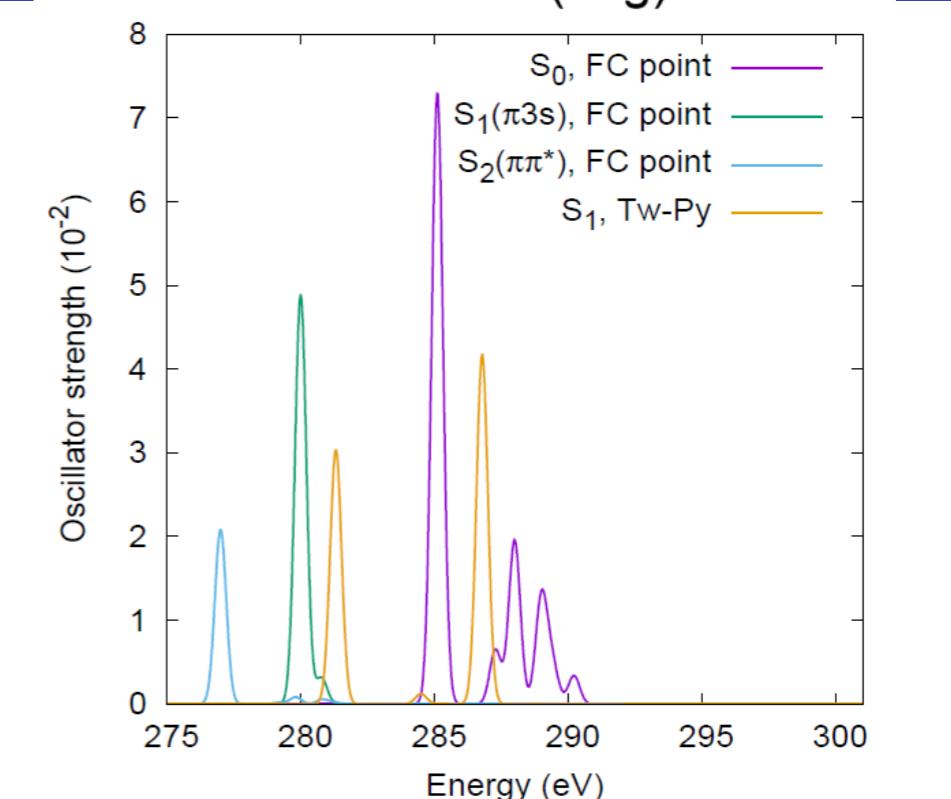
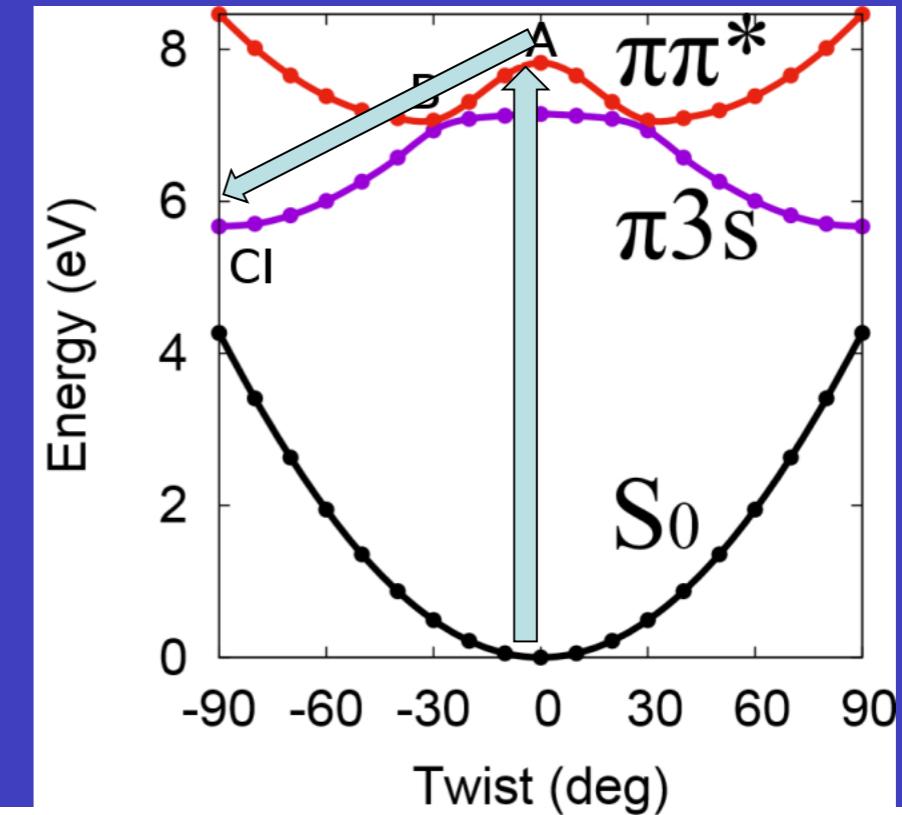
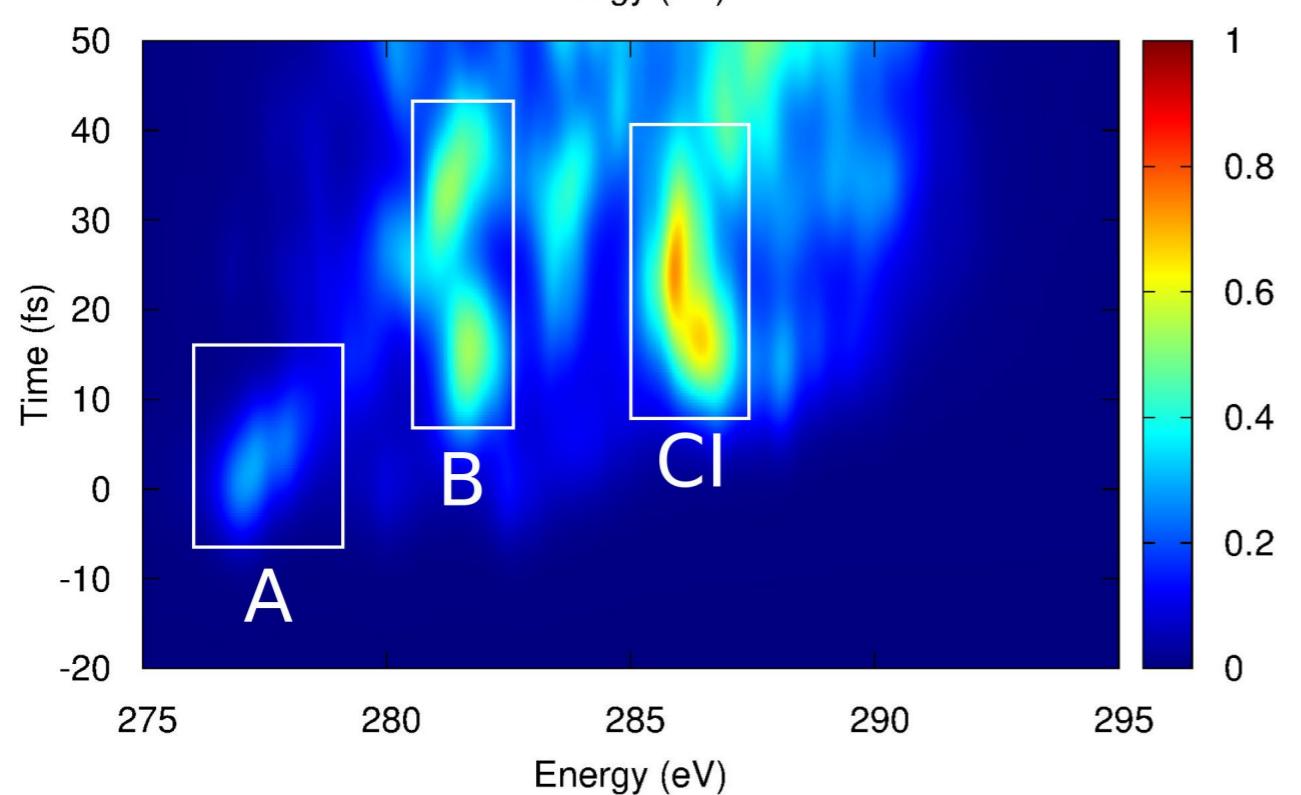
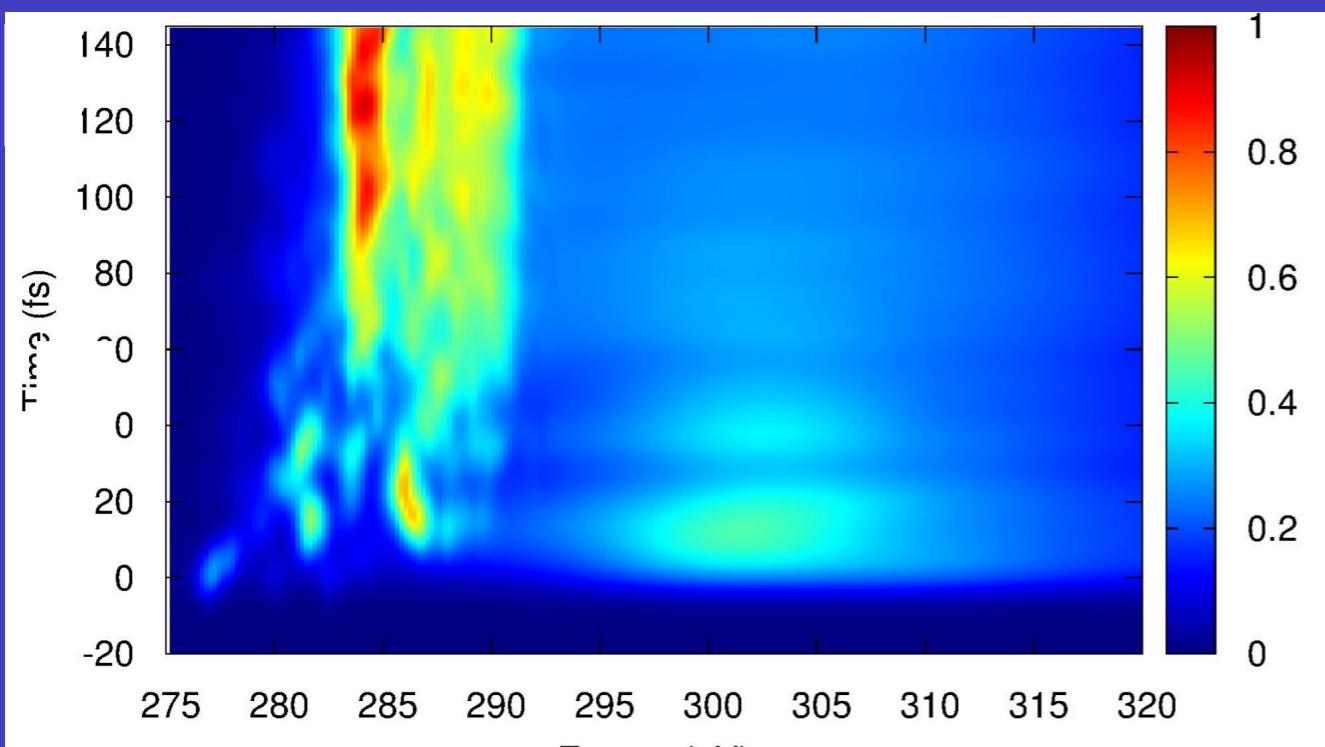
«Observing» the passage through Conical Intersections (Coll. A. Stolow, M. Schuurman-Ottawa)



Ab-initio multiple spawning (AIMS)
Method:
S. P. Neville, et al, Faraday Discuss. 194,
117 (2016); J. Chem. Phys. 145, 144307
(2016);

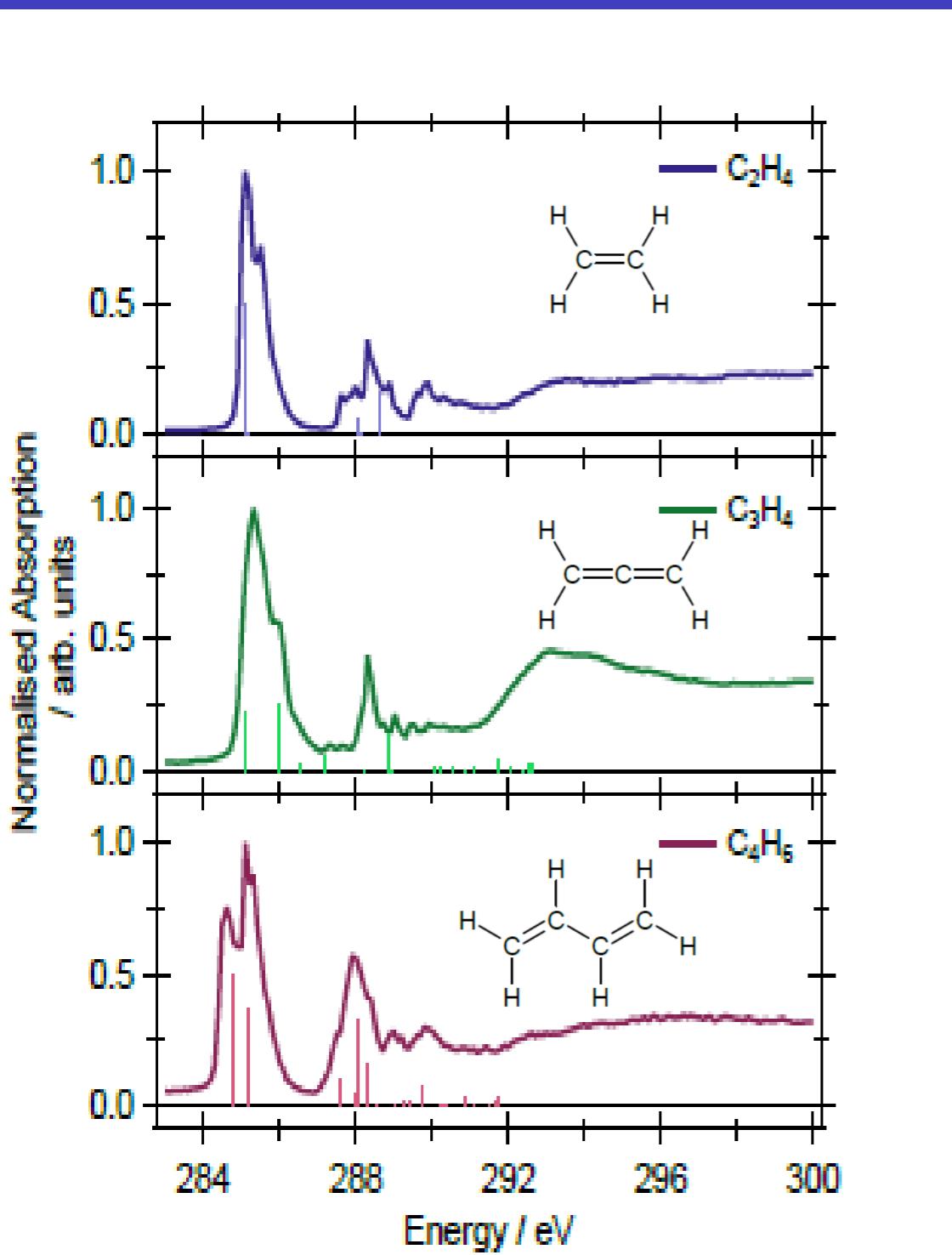
Conical Intersections

Exploiting the sudden polarization at the CI: Neville et al, Phys. Rev. Letters (2018)



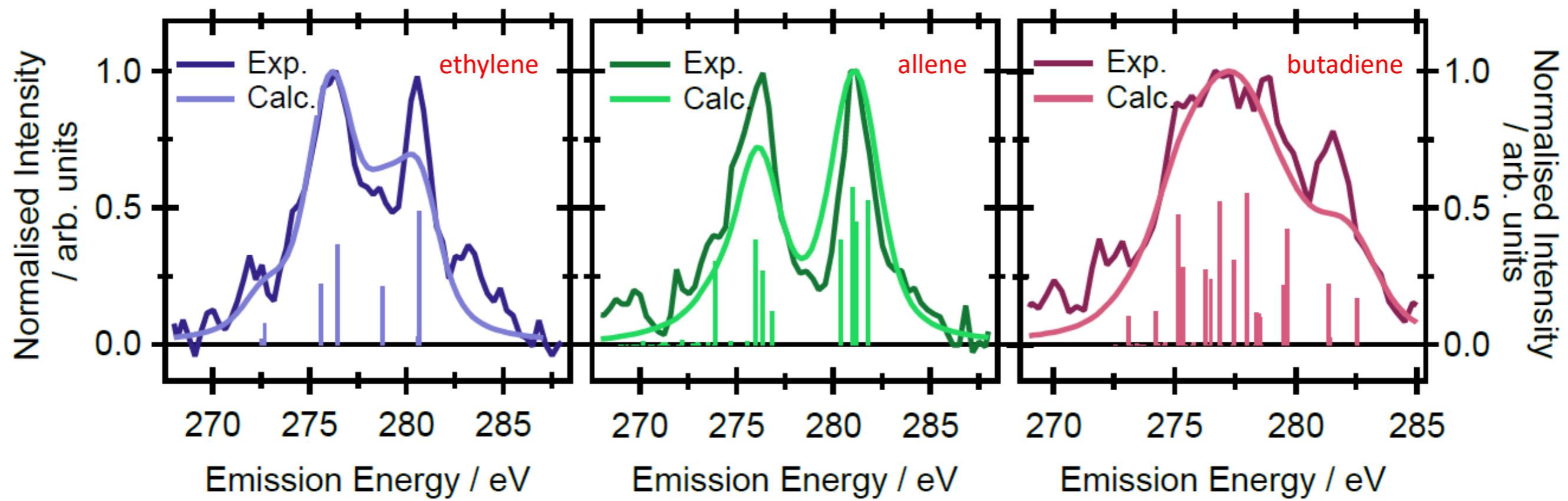
Conical Intersections

Use X-ray emission spectra (XES) rather than X-ray absorption
No photoinduced XES spectra available

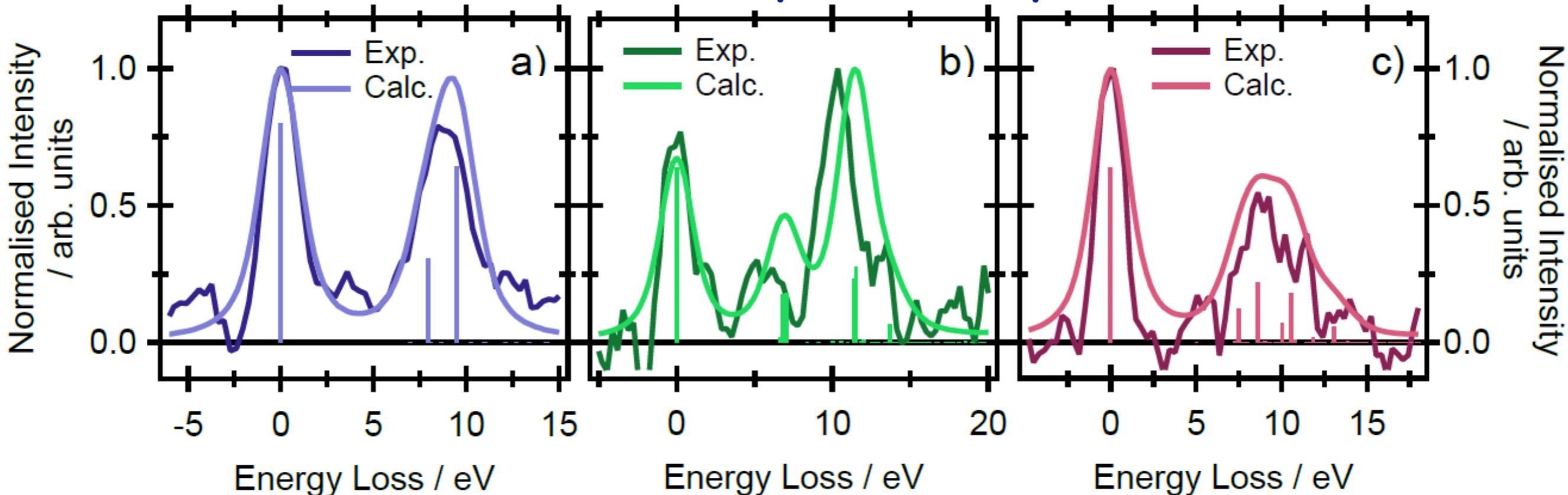


- Only electron-impact XES available (Brammer et al, CPL 1984)
- Photoinduced XES recorded at ELETTRA.
Resonant XES excited at ~285 eV
Non-resonant XES excited at ~310 eV
- Simulations using the DFT-ROCIS protocol and the RIXS modeule in ORCA (Coll. M. Odelius, Stockholm)

Non-resonant X-ray emission spectra



Resonant X-ray emission spectra



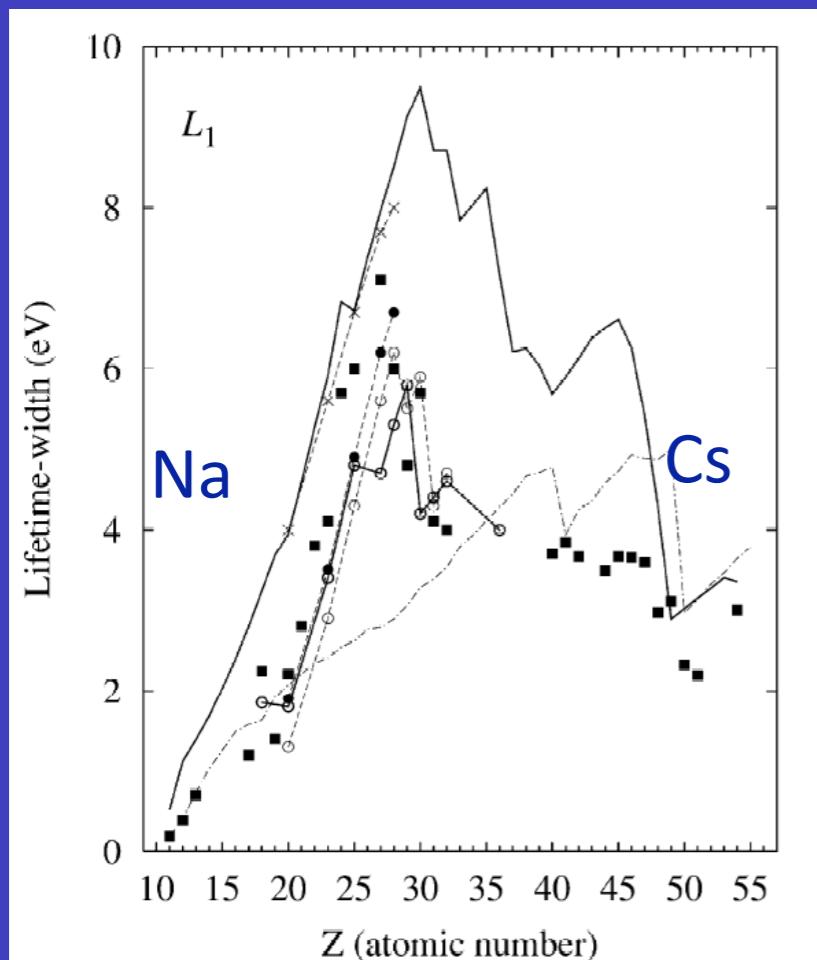
Very good agreement theory-experiment

Allows identifying which atoms contribute to the XES

Competition between dynamics through CI and core-hole lifetime of Carbon.

Dynamics vs core-hole lifetime

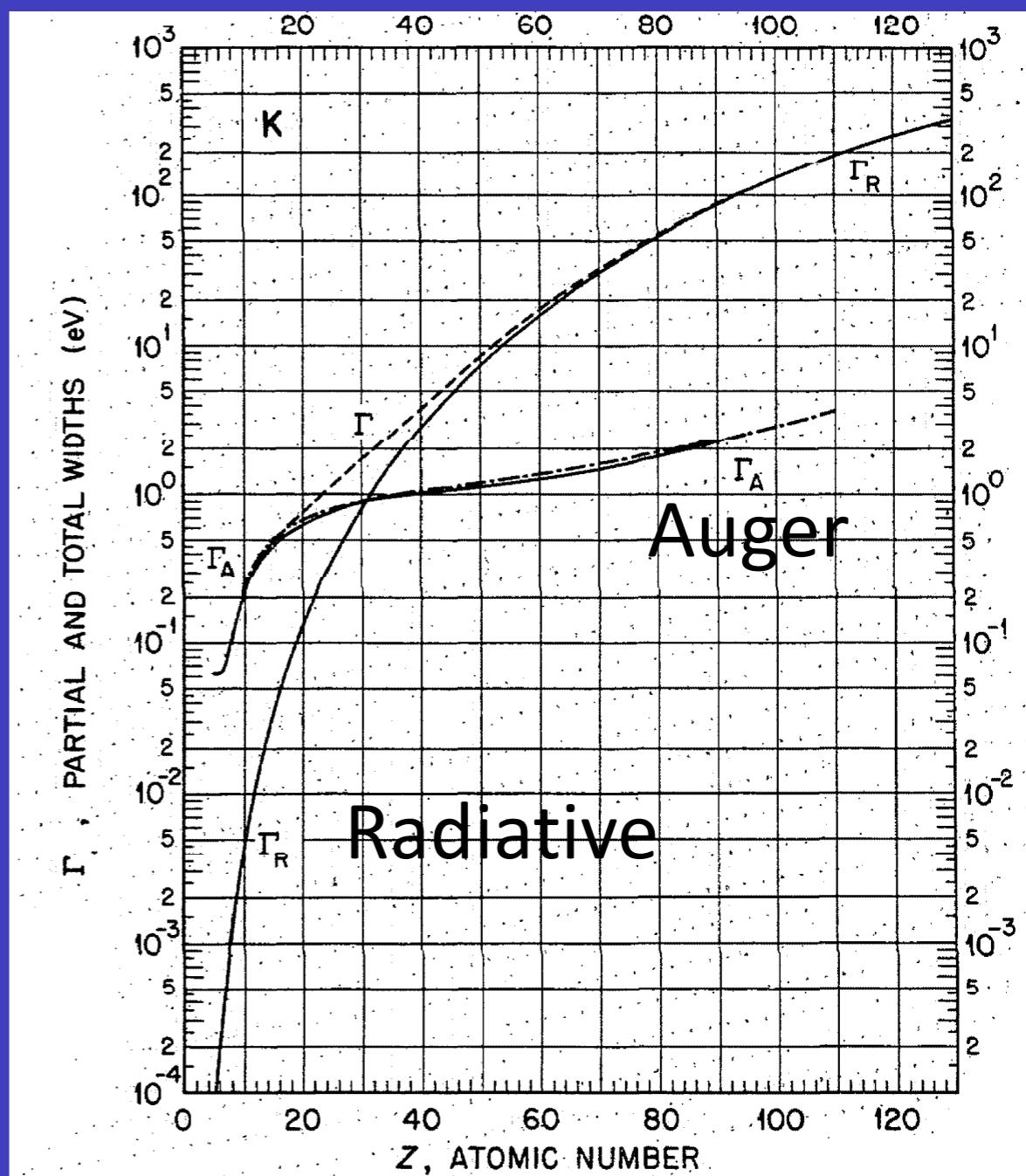
First, it should be mentioned that in XAS, the processes of ejection, backscattering, and interference are extremely fast. For inner shell electrons with ionization energies above 1 keV, these processes are mostly completed well within ~ 1 fs, as can be seen from the measured homogeneous line widths of the absorption edges.¹⁰³ This means that XANES and EXAFS take a truly instantaneous snapshot of immobile atoms, even during a violent chemical reaction. Therefore, implementing ultrafast time-resolved XAS via the pump–probe scheme (Figure 1) is straightforward.



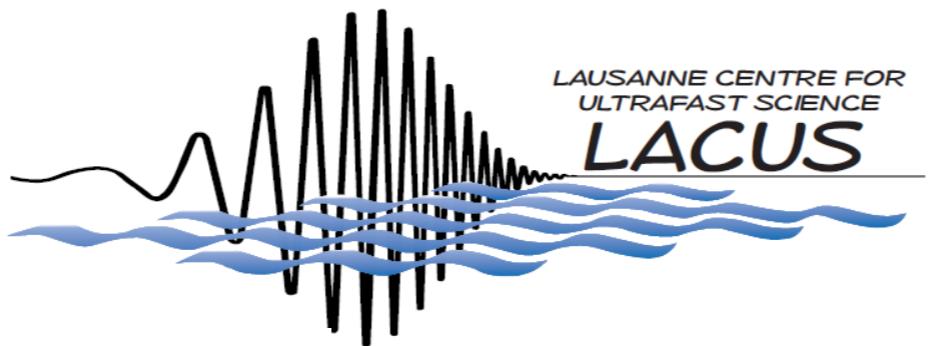
Ohno & van Riessen, JESRP (2003)

Bressler & Chergui, Chem. Rev. (2004)

1 eV = 1.52 fs



Krause, JPCRD (1978)



C. Bacellar, Th. Barillot, O. Cannelli, R. Ingle,
 D. Kinschel, L. Longetti, G. Mancini, H.
Marroux, M. Oppermann, S. Polishchuk, M.
 Puppin, J. Rouxel, L. Wang.

PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT



C. Arrell, C. Cirelli, P.
 Johnson, G. Knopp, S.
 Menzi, C. J. Milne, G.
 Pamfilidis



T. Katayama
 M. Yabashi



N. Kurahashi



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 Simone, F. Zuccaro,
 L. Poletto, P. Miotti



S. Neville
 M. Schuurman

uOttawa
 A. Röder
 A. Stolow



J. Nishitani
 C. Higashimura
 S. Kudo, T. Suzuki



Y. Obara, H. Ito,
 T. Ito, K. Misawa



M. Odelius
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 R. Mincigrucci, F. Capotondi,
 F. Bencivenga, E. Principi



DYNAMOX

Experimental strategies at the



Method	Type of information
Deep-UV to visible probe (270-700 nm) Transient absorption	Electronic
Polychromatic Fluorescence up-conversion IR to UV (300 nm to 2 μm)	Electronic
Ps and fs X-ray (2 to 20 keV) absorption spectroscopy (XANES and EXAFS)	Electronic and geometric
Ps and fs X-ray emission and inelastic scattering spectroscopy (coll. XFEL)	Electronic, spin, momentum
Multidimensional TA Ultraviolet and coherent visible spectroscopies	Geometric, electronic and correlations
Deep-UV circular dichroism	Geometric and correlations
Ultrafast energy and angle resolved photoelectron spectroscopies	Momentum, electronic