

# Light-matter interactions using ultrashort ultra-bright X-ray pulses

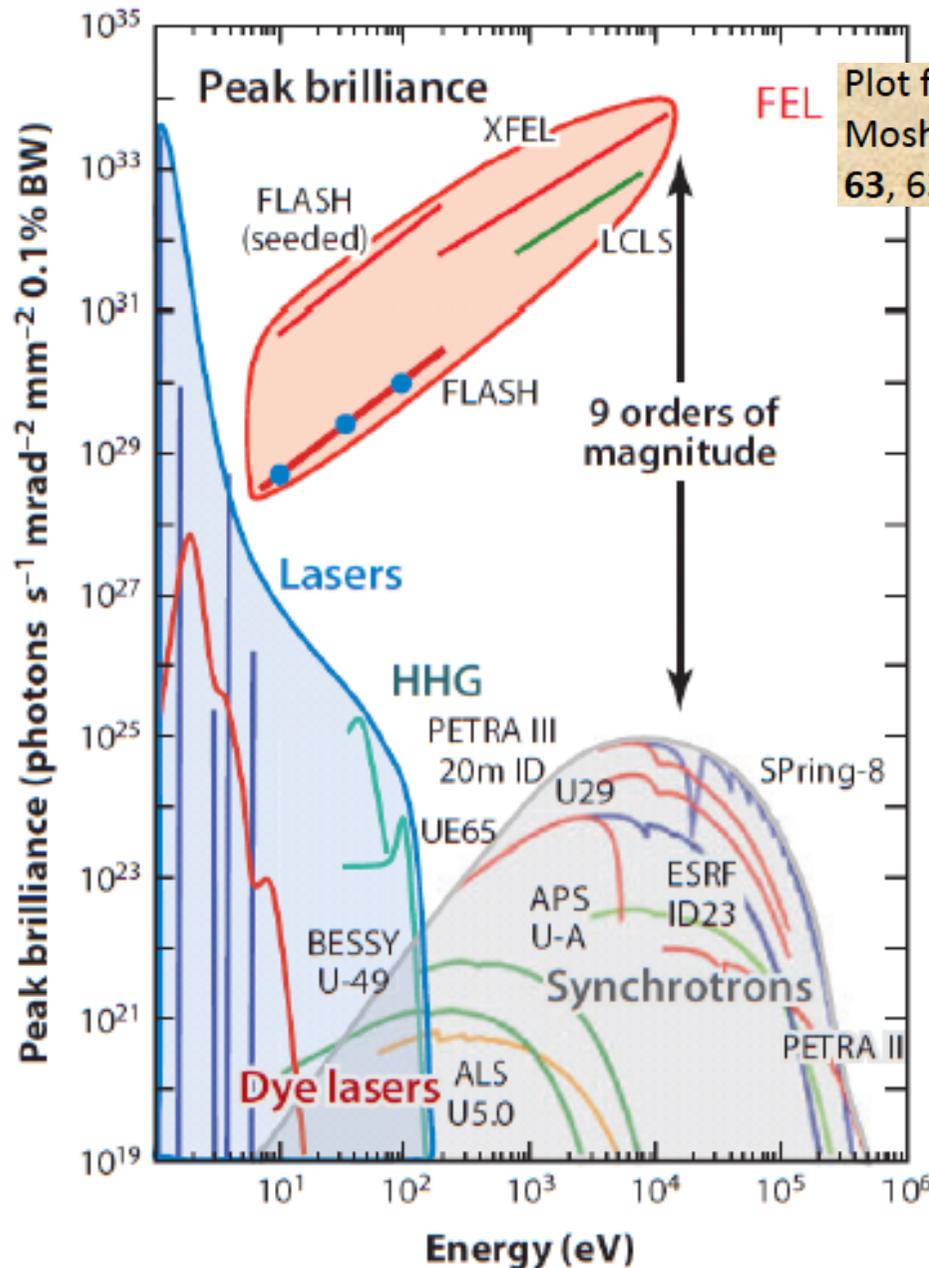
Massimo Altarelli

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Hamburg, Germany*

# Overview

- Introduction to the worldwide X-ray Free-Electron-Laser facilities
- Examples of scientific applications of ultrabright, ultrashort ( $<100$  fs) pulses
- Towards non-linear X-ray physics
- Conclusions

# The promise of Free-Electron Lasers



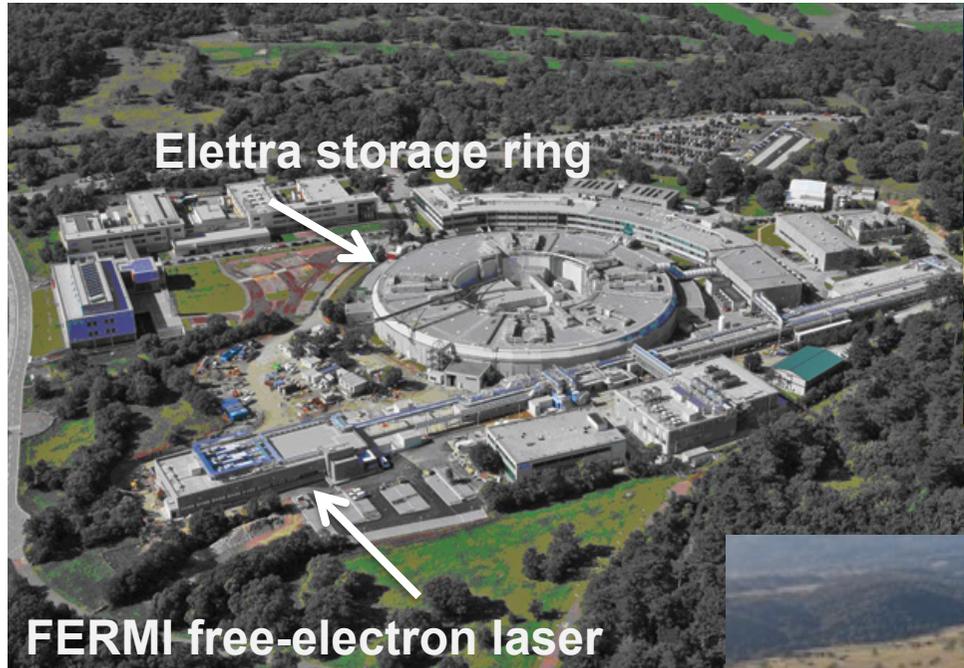
Plot from J. Ullrich, A. Rudenko, R. Moshhammer, *Ann. Rev. Phys. Chem.* **63**, 635 (2012)

Unprecedented peak  
brilliance

Delivered in pulses with  
~10 to ~100 fs duration,  
with 10<sup>10</sup> to 10<sup>14</sup>  
photons / pulse

Revolution in time-  
dependent x-ray  
experiments

# The promise of Free-Electron Lasers



# The European XFEL, Hamburg region



# X-ray FEL's worldwide I



Facility	FLASH, GERMANY	LCLS I, US	SACLA, JP	FERMI, ITALY	PAL-XFEL, KR	DCLS, DALIAN, China
Max. electron energy (GeV)	1.25	14.3	8.5	1.5	10	0.3
Wavelength range (nm)	3-55	0.1-4.4	0.06-0.3	4 - 100	0.06-10	50 - 150
Photons/pulse	$\sim 3 \times 10^{13}$	$\sim 10^{12}$	$2 \times 10^{11}$	$10^{13} - 10^{14}$	$10^{11}-10^{13}$	$1.4 \times 10^{14}$
Peak brilliance	$1 \times 10^{31}$	$2 \times 10^{33}$	$1 \times 10^{33}$	$10^{31}$	$1.3 \times 10^{33}$	
Pulses/second	5000 - (8000)	120	60	10 (50)	60	1 - 50
Date of first beam	2000	2009	2011	2011	2016	2016/2017

# X-ray FEL's worldwide, II



Facility	European XFEL	SWISS-FEL, CH	Shanghai FEL I, China	Shanghai FEL II, China	LCLS II, US	Shanghai SCRF
Max. electron energy (GeV)	17.5	5.8	0.8 GeV (1.6)	1.6	4 (=>8?)	8 ?
Wavelength range (nm)	0.05–4.7	0.1 – 7	3 – 10 (2 – 40)	1.2 – 10	0.25 – 4.7	
Photons/pulse	$\sim 10^{12}$	$\sim 3.6 \times 10^{10}$			$2 \times 10^{11}$ – $2 \times 10^{10}$	
Peak brilliance	$5 \times 10^{33}$	$7 \times 10^{32}$				
Pulses/second	27 000	100	10 - 50	10 - 50	$10^5$ - $10^6$	$10^6$
Date of first beam	2017	2017/18	2019	2019	2021	?

# Free-electron laser “zoology”

- Besides the obvious difference in wavelength range, there are other important criteria differentiating the existing or projected FEL facilities
- Normal conducting vs. superconducting linac RF technology (low vs. high repetition rate)

# Normal conducting vs superconducting RF Linacs



- Linacs with normal conducting RF have typically a repetition rate of order of 100 pulses / s
- Linacs with superconducting RF can have repetition rates from  $10^3$  up to  $10^6$  pulses/s

- Typical average brilliance:

Pulses/s



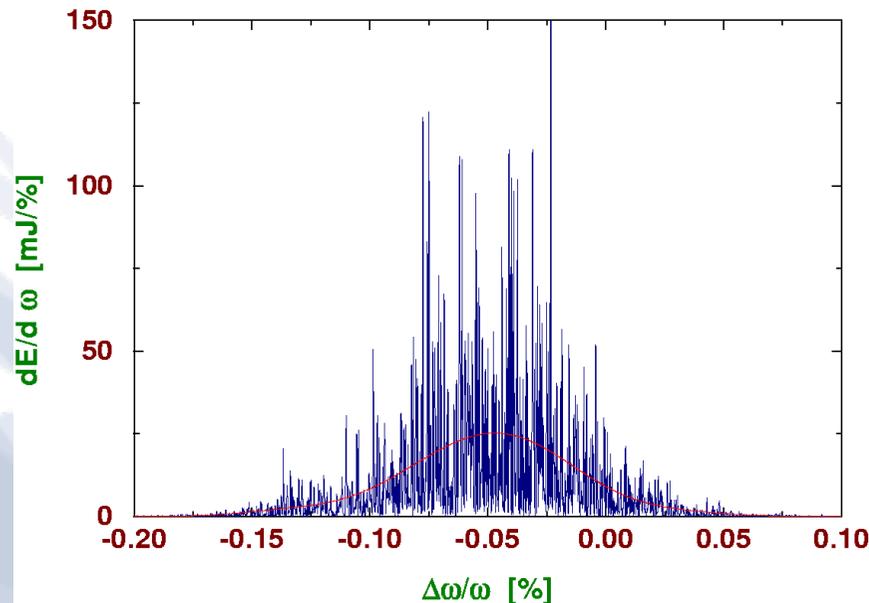
~ Peak Brilliance X Pulse duration X N/s

~  $10^{32}$  X  $10^{-13}$  X N/s photons/mm<sup>2</sup>/mrad<sup>2</sup>/0.1%BW

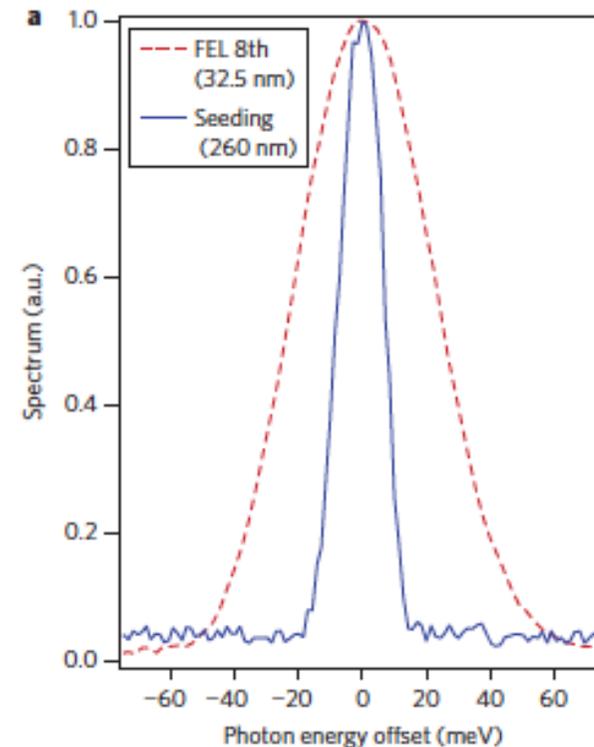
# Free-electron laser “zoology”, cont.

- SASE (Self-Amplified Spontaneous Emission) vs. “Seeding”: longitudinal coherence, shot to shot reproducibility.

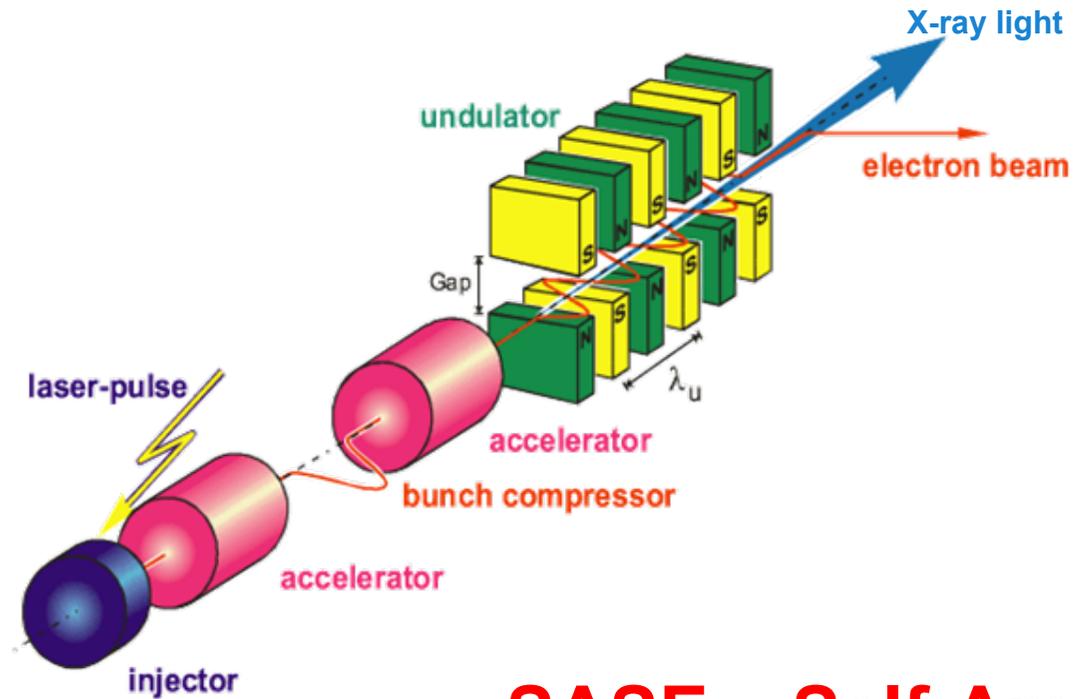
## SASE



## Seeded



# Free Electron Lasers



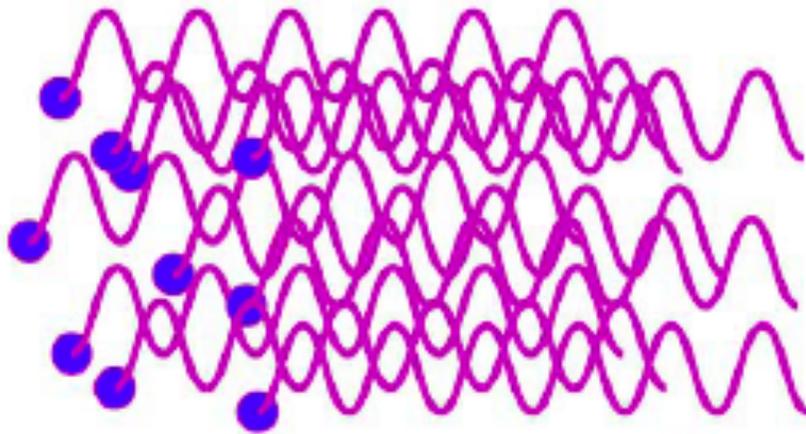
## **SASE – Self-Amplified Spontaneous Emission**

Kondratenko, Saldin (1979)

Bonifacio, Pellegrini, Narducci (1984)

# Spontaneous (synchrotron) vs coherent (FEL) radiation

## Spontaneous Radiation

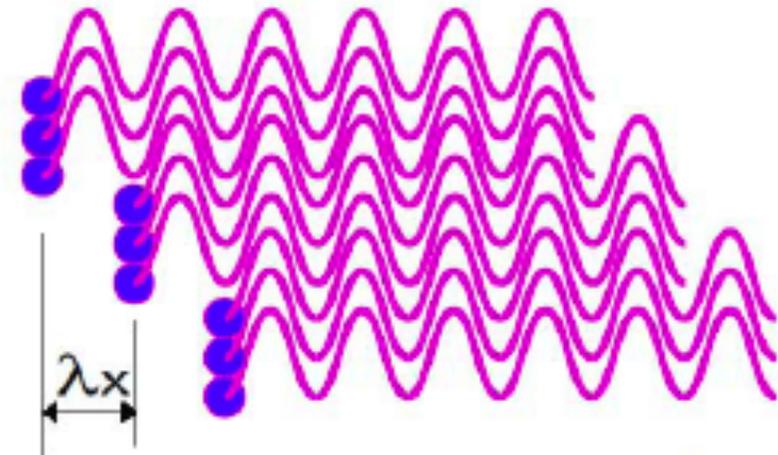


$N$ -electrons  
random distribution

$$E_{spt} \sim \sqrt{N} E_1$$

$$P_{spt} \sim N P_1$$

## Coherent Radiation

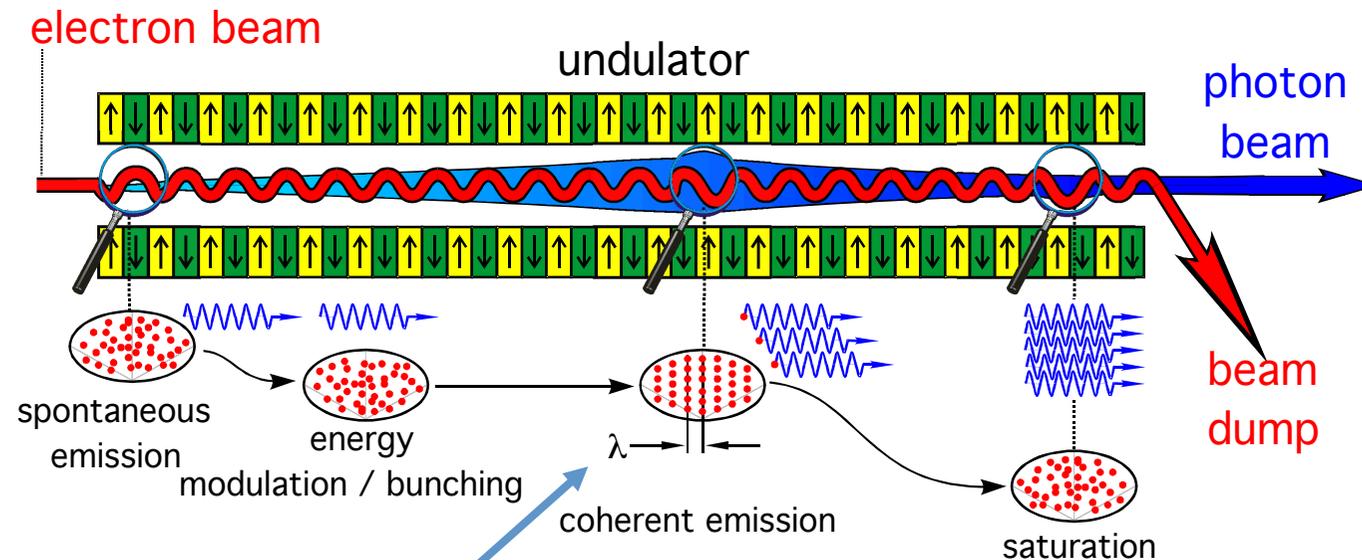


$N$ -electrons  
micro-bunched

$$E_{coherent} \sim N E_1$$

$$P_{coherent} \sim N^2 P_1$$

# Self-Amplified Spontaneous Emission (SASE)

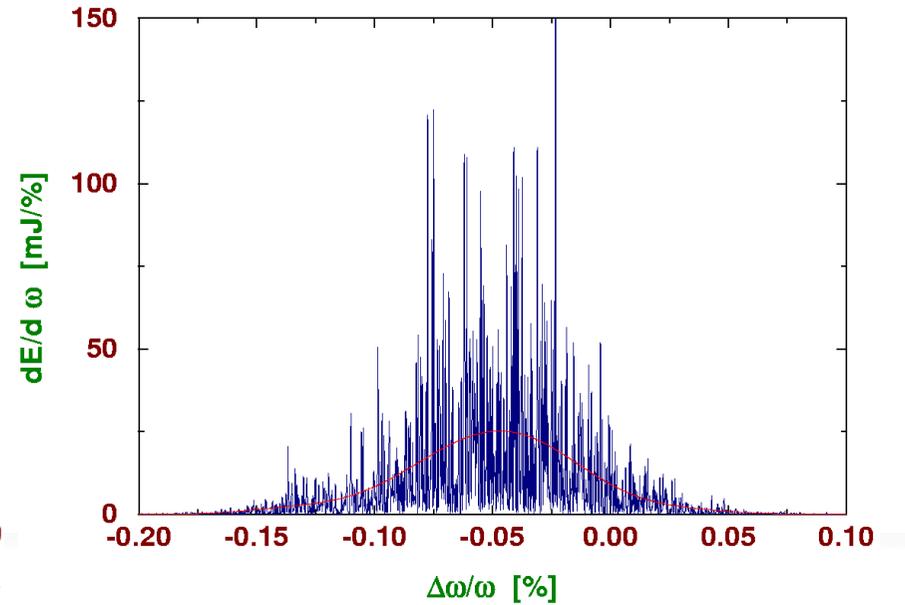
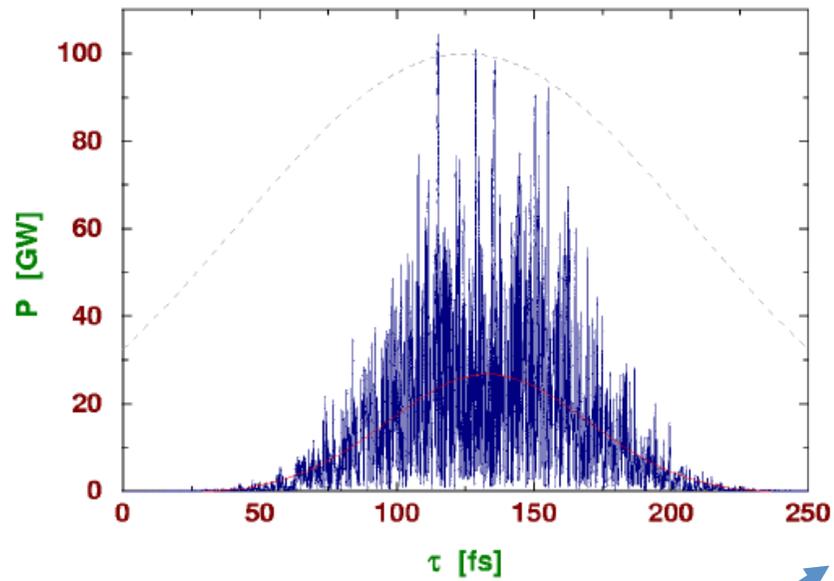


**This cartoon is too optimistic!** Cannot have a single coherent domain.  
Reason: light from the back of the bunch travelling throughout undulator can only influence electrons ahead over a „cooperation length“  $N_{\text{und}} \lambda$ , where  $N_{\text{und}}$  is the number of periods in undulator (typically several thousands) and  $N_{\text{und}} \lambda \ll$  bunch length.

European XFEL:  $N_{\text{und}} \sim 4\,000$ , bunch length up to  $45\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $\lambda \sim 0.1\ \text{nm}$

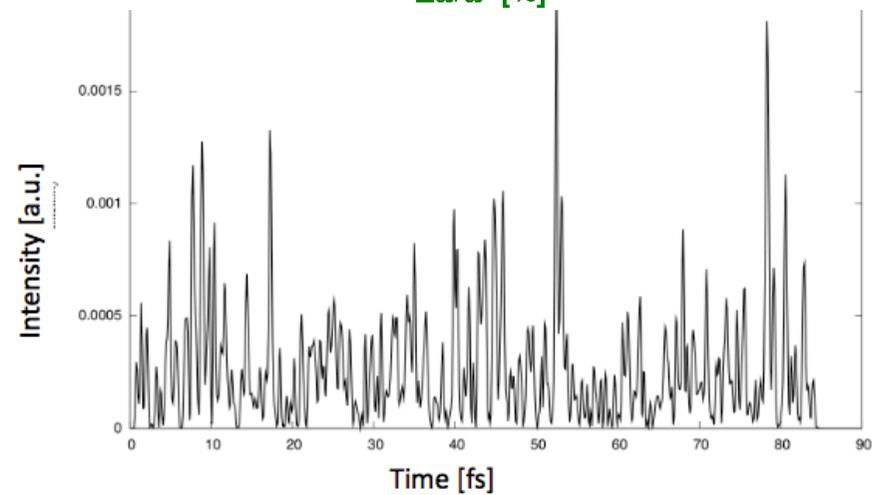
So, number of incoherent domains  $\sim 45\ \mu\text{m} / (4\,000 \cdot 0.1\ \text{nm}) \sim 100$  domains

# Simulations of SASE FEL's



European XFEL at  $\lambda \sim 0.1$  nm (M. Yurkov)

LCLS at  $\lambda \sim 1$  nm



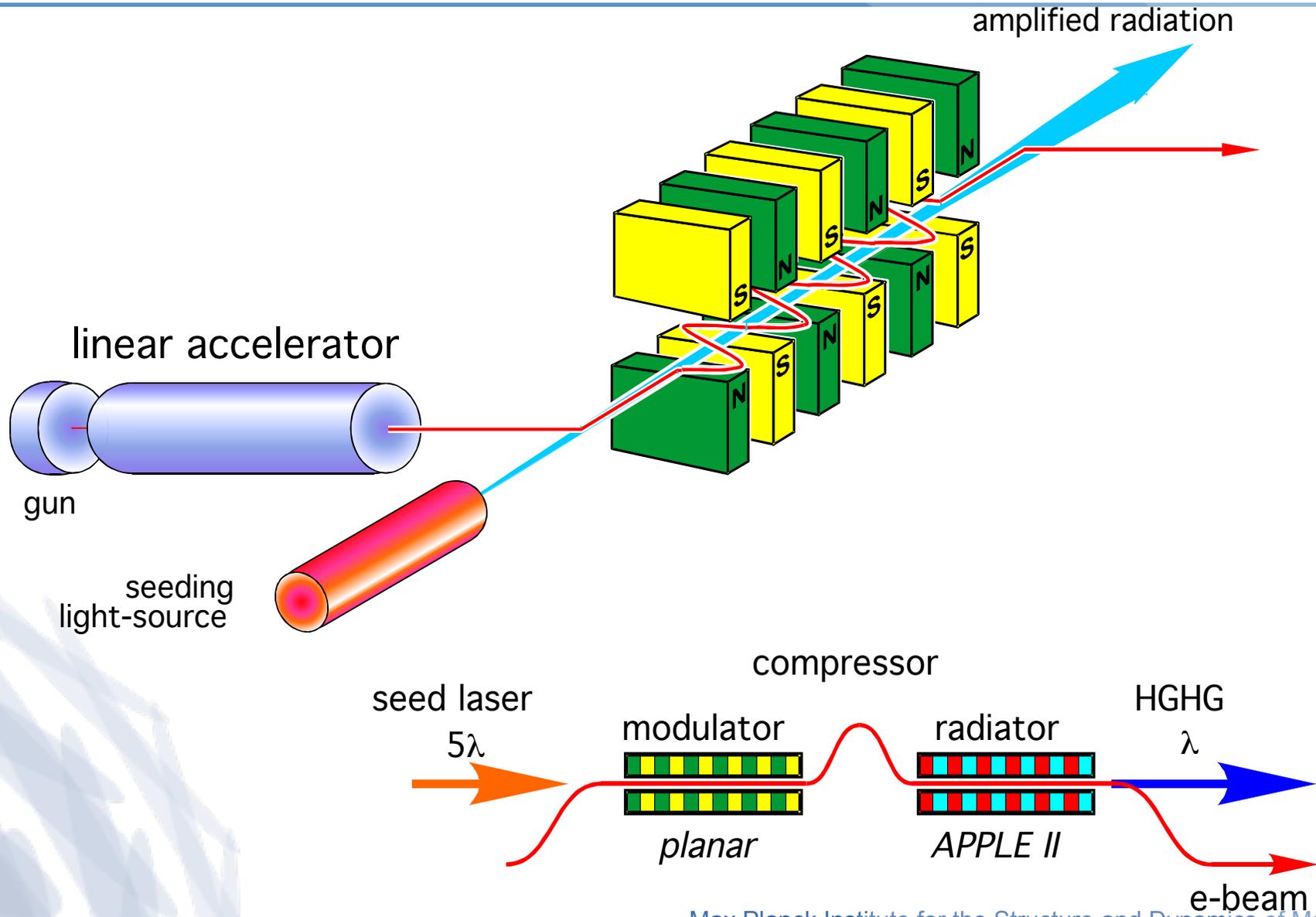
LCLS bandwidth at 1keV photon energy:  $\Delta\omega = 6-9$  eV  
Coherence time: 0.3 - 0.5 fs

# Properties of SASE and of seeded FEL

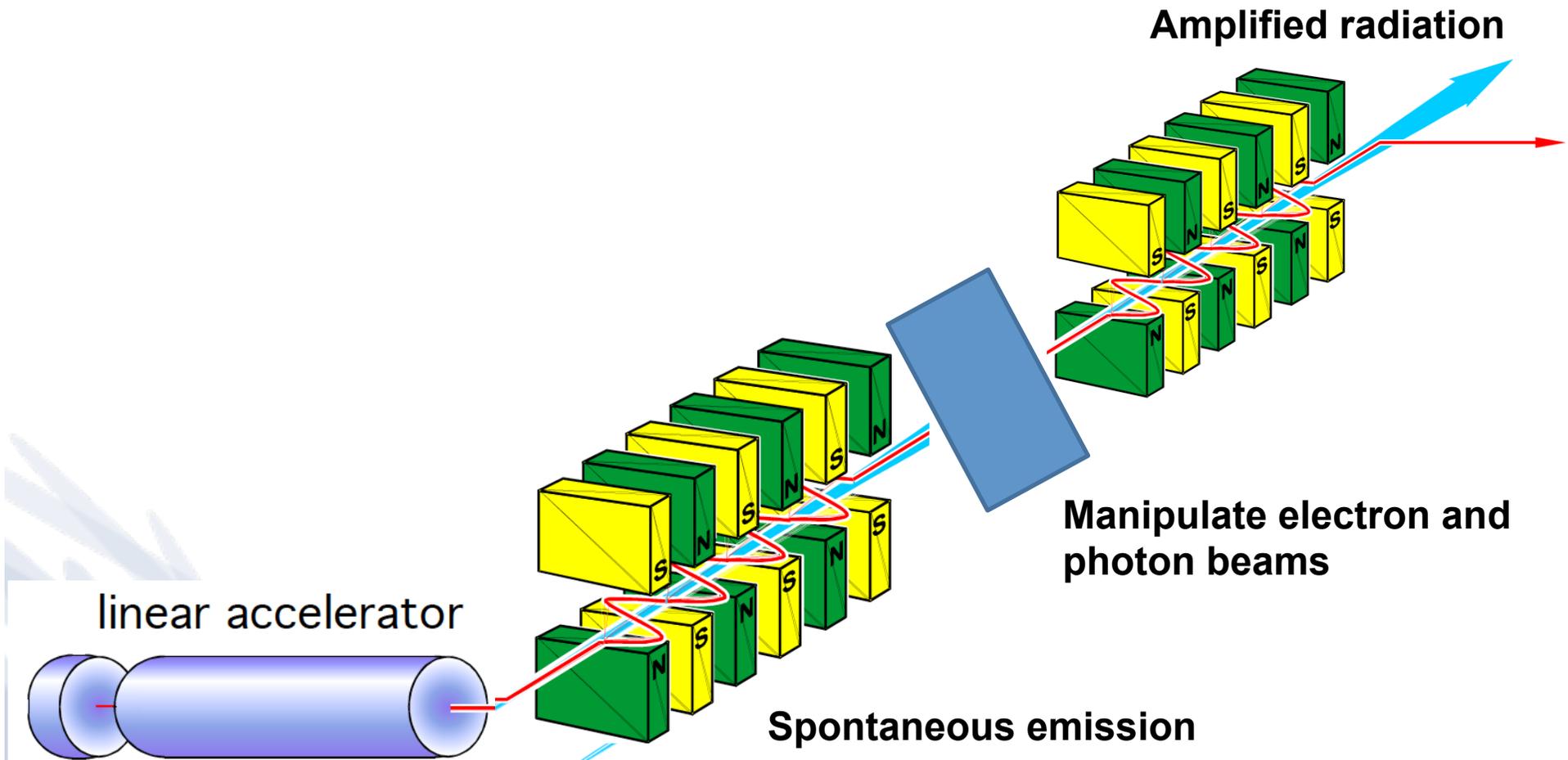


- SASE FEL radiation has excellent **transverse** coherence properties but very poor **longitudinal** coherence properties  
(longitudinal coherence = monochromaticity)
- **Poor reproducibility** shot to shot (intensity, spectral distribution, spike structure, pointing direction)
- Cure for longitudinal coherence = **“Seeding”** by external laser source (VUV to very soft x-rays) or by **“Self seeding”** (harder x-rays). Produces high spectral stability, intensity fluctuations still present

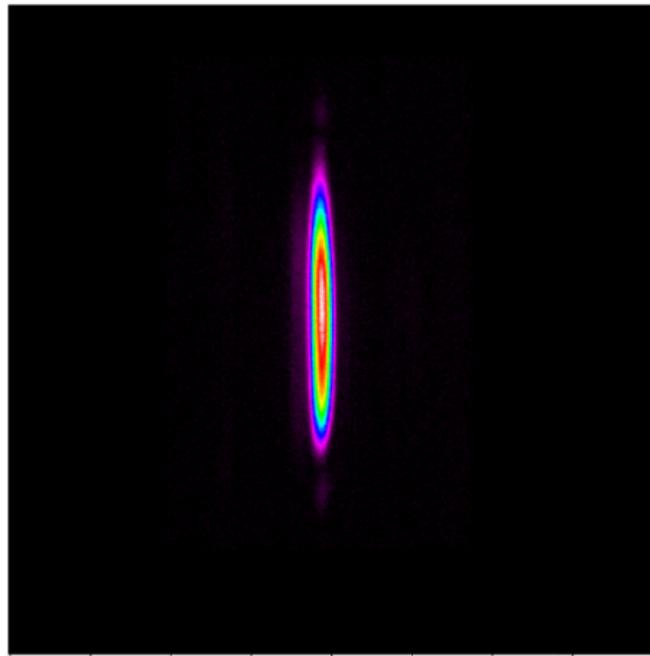
# „Seeding“ by High Gain Harmonic Generation



# „Self-seeding“ for shorter wavelengths x-rays



# Seeding with 260 nm laser



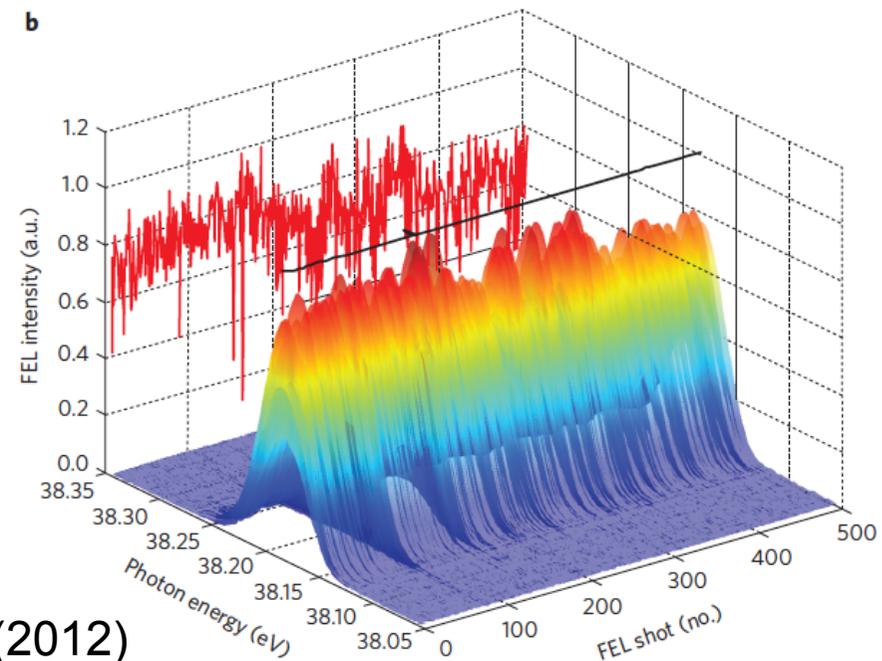
21.21 21.05 20.88 20.72 20.55

Wavelength (nm)

Figure 1: Spectral Line of FERMI FEL-1 at Harmonic 12.

## FERMI@ Elettra, Trieste

L. Giannessi *et al.*,  
Proceedings of FEL2017  
Paper MOD04



E. Allaria *et al.*, Nature Photonics **6**, 699 (2012)

# X-ray FEL's, present and future

	SASE, possibly self-seeded	Seeded
Normal Cond.	LCLS I, SACLA, PAL-XFEL, Swiss-FEL	FERMI@Elettra, Dalian CLS, Shanghai FEL I Shanghai FEL II?
Supercond.	FLASH, European XFEL, LCLS II, LCLS II (HE), Shanghai SCRF-FEL	FLASH upgrade?

# Scientific interest of ultrabright, ultrashort ( $<100$ fs) pulses

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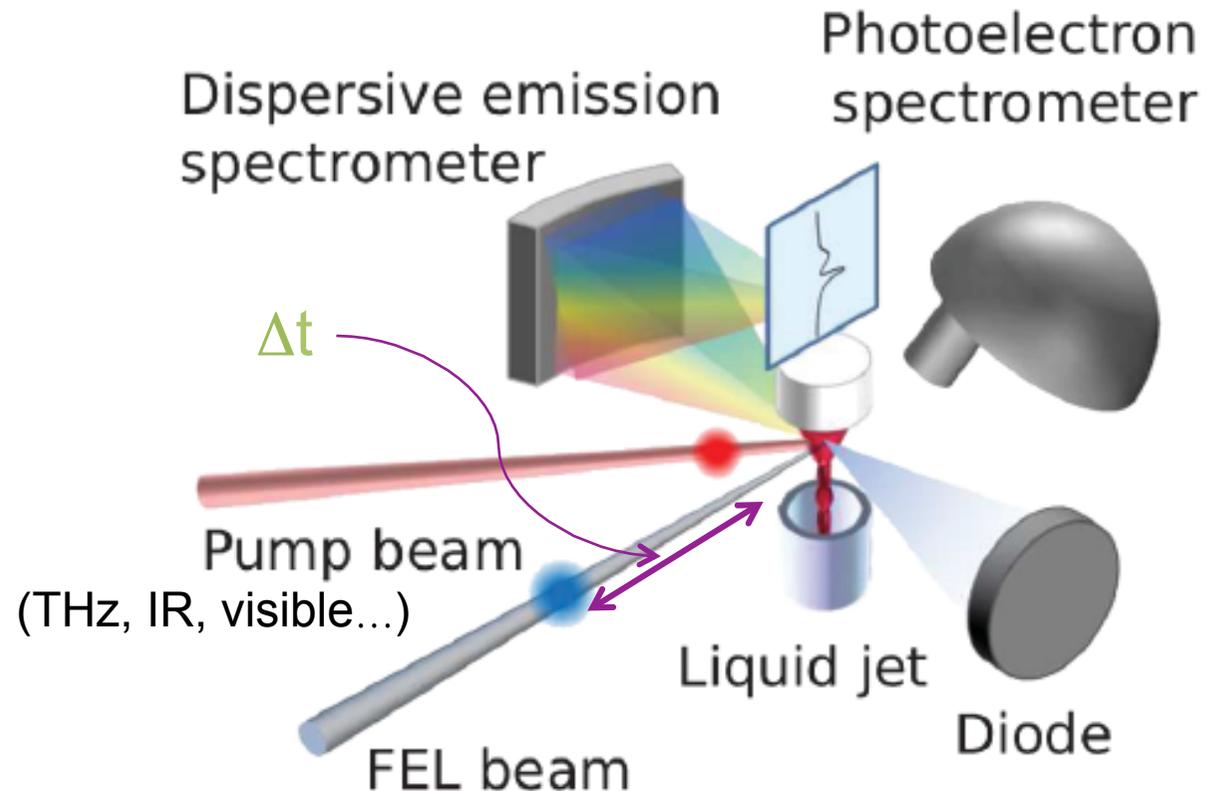
■ “Molecular movies”

■ Beating radiation damage: “Diffraction before Destruction”

■ “Snapshot” view of the liquid state

# “Pump – probe” experiments

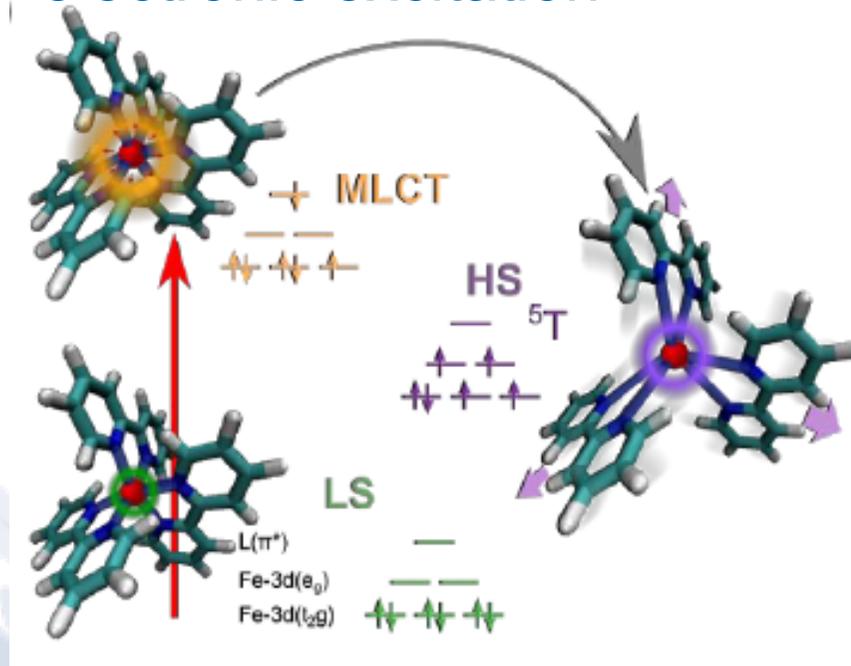
- Interrogate system by the XFEL beam, at time  $\Delta t$  after triggering a process by the pump optical laser beam.
- By varying pump-probe delay  $\Delta t$  record a “molecular movie”



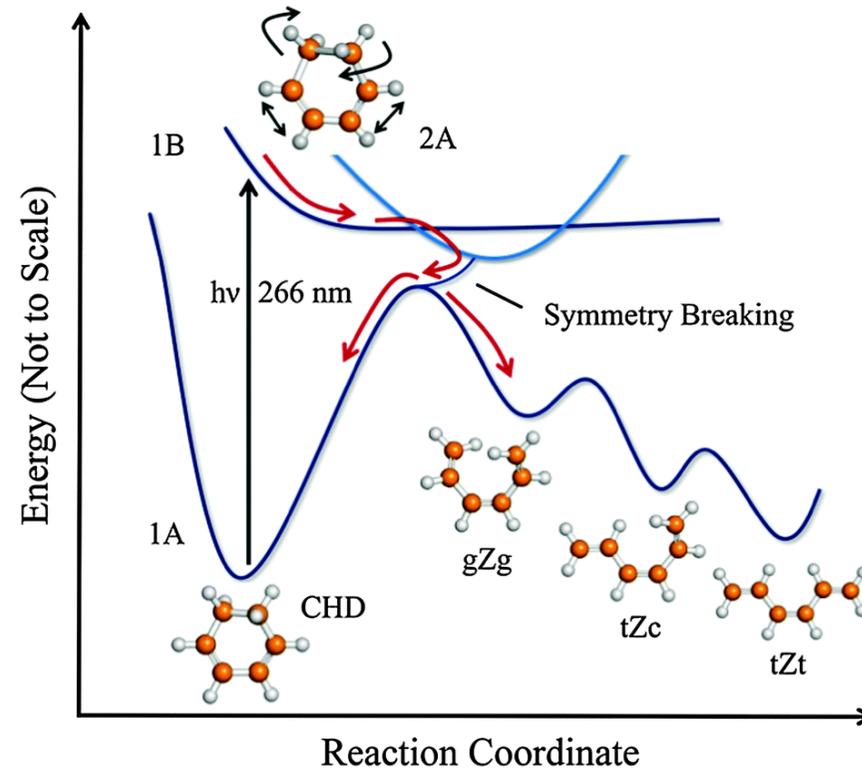
(After C. Bostedt et al., *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **88**, 015007 (2016))

# Molecular Movies

Low-spin – High-spin transition  
in TM bypyridines via  
electronic excitation

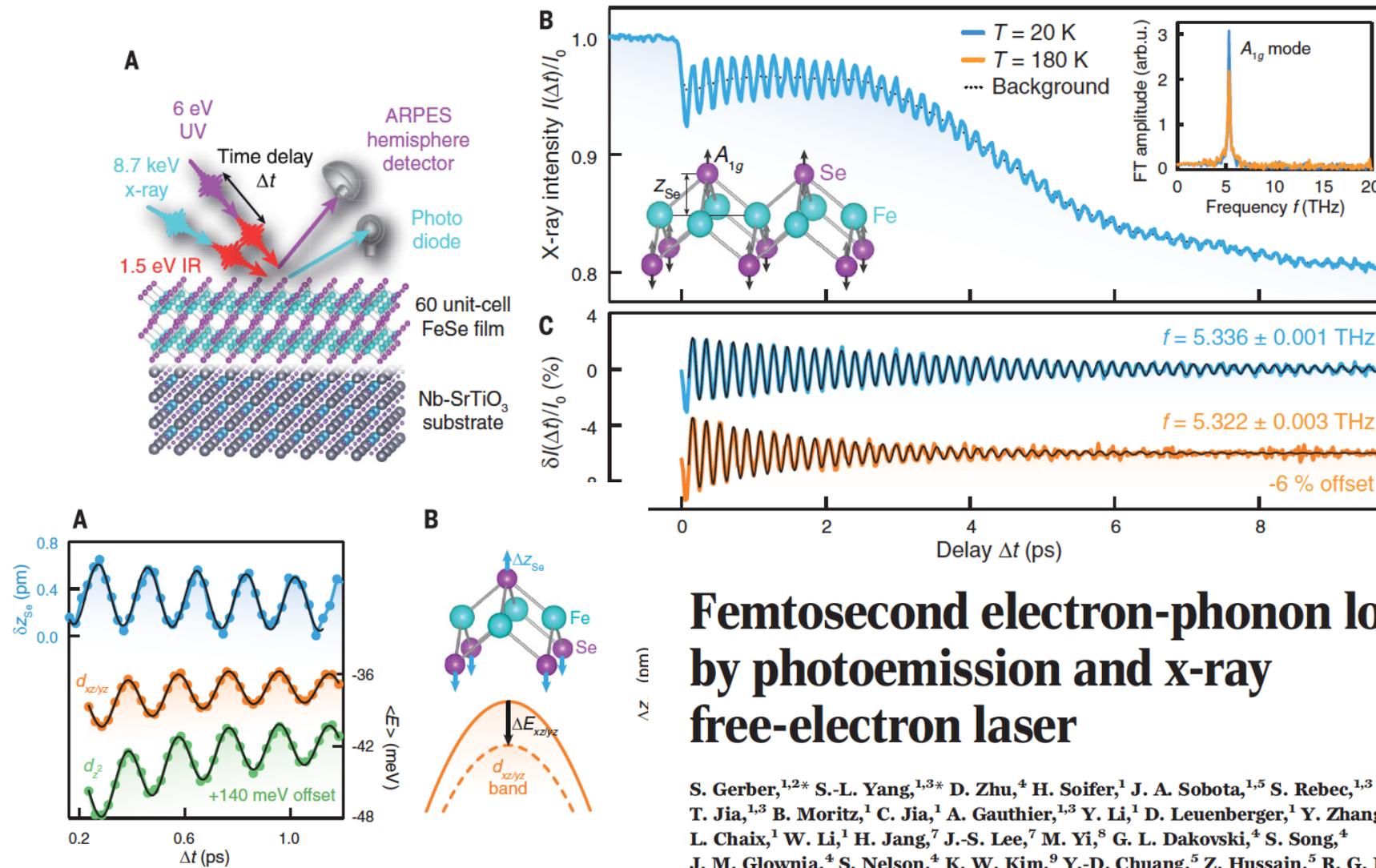


Laser induced isomerization  
of cyclohexadiene (CHD)



Time resolution affected by a) pulse duration  
b) synchronization & jitter

Realistic limit  $\sim 50$  fs



## Femtosecond electron-phonon lock-in by photoemission and x-ray free-electron laser

S. Gerber,<sup>1,2\*</sup> S.-L. Yang,<sup>1,3\*</sup> D. Zhu,<sup>4</sup> H. Soifer,<sup>1</sup> J. A. Sobota,<sup>1,5</sup> S. Rebec,<sup>1,3</sup> J. J. Lee,<sup>1,3</sup> T. Jia,<sup>1,3</sup> B. Moritz,<sup>1</sup> C. Jia,<sup>1</sup> A. Gauthier,<sup>1,3</sup> Y. Li,<sup>1</sup> D. Leuenberger,<sup>1</sup> Y. Zhang,<sup>6</sup> L. Chaix,<sup>1</sup> W. Li,<sup>1</sup> H. Jang,<sup>7</sup> J.-S. Lee,<sup>7</sup> M. Yi,<sup>8</sup> G. L. Dakovski,<sup>4</sup> S. Song,<sup>4</sup> J. M. Glowia,<sup>4</sup> S. Nelson,<sup>4</sup> K. W. Kim,<sup>9</sup> Y.-D. Chuang,<sup>5</sup> Z. Hussain,<sup>5</sup> R. G. Moore,<sup>1</sup> T. P. Devereaux,<sup>1</sup> W.-S. Lee,<sup>1†</sup> P. S. Kirchmann,<sup>1†</sup> Z.-X. Shen<sup>1,3†</sup>

Max Planck Institute for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter

**Fig. 3. Coherent lock-in at the A<sub>1g</sub> frequency.** (A) Oscillations of the selenium displacement  $\delta z_{\text{Se}}$  (blue) and the momentum-averaged energy shift

# Ultrafast demagnetization by fs laser pulses: a puzzle since more than 20 years



VOLUME 76, NUMBER 22

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

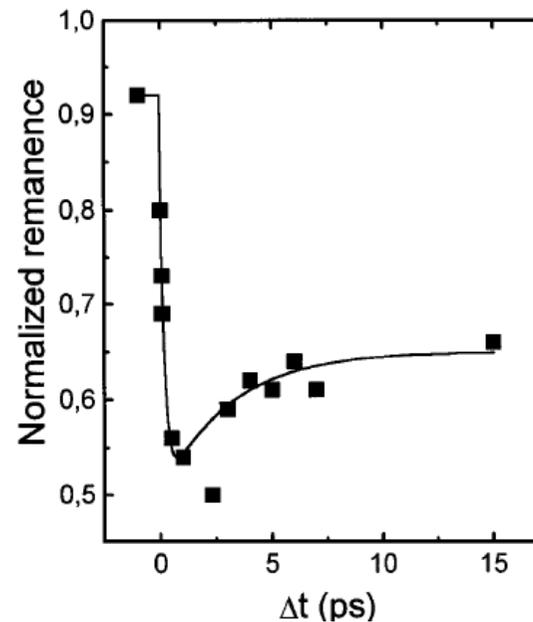
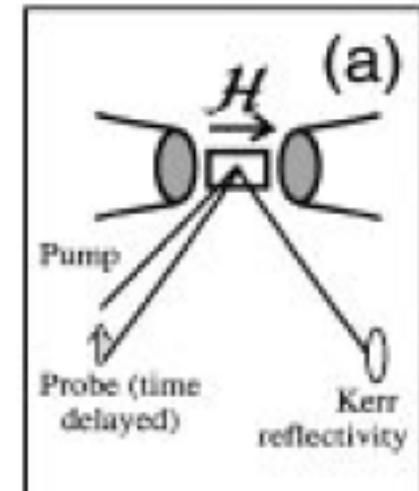
27 MAY 1996

## Ultrafast Spin Dynamics in Ferromagnetic Nickel

E. Beaurepaire, J.-C. Merle, A. Daunois, and J.-Y. Bigot

*Institut de Physique et Chimie des Matériaux de Strasbourg, Unité Mixte 380046 CNRS-ULP-EHICS,  
23, rue du Loess, 67037 Strasbourg Cedex, France*

(Received 17 October 1995)



Pump: 60 fs laser

**Two time scales:**

One is  $\ll 1$  ps

One is  $\sim 10$  ps

# Ferrimagnetic Iron-Gadolinium

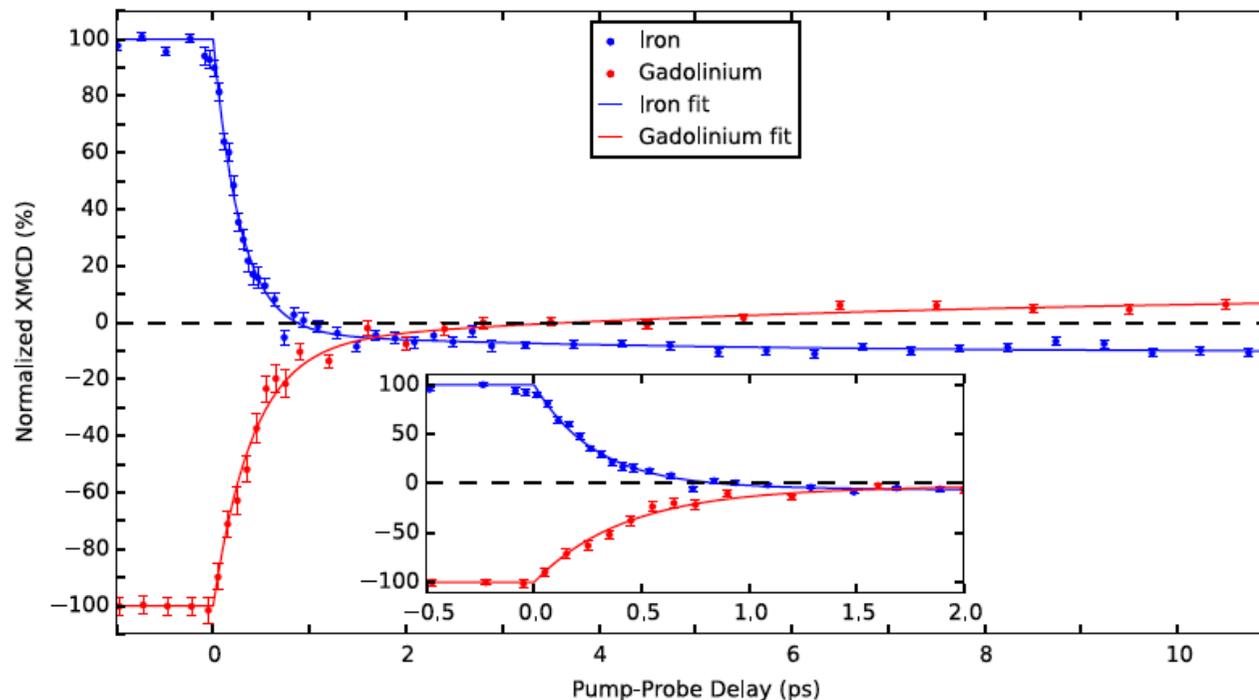


**LCLS, SLAC  
Stanford**

REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS 87, 033110 (2016)

## Femtosecond X-ray magnetic circular dichroism absorption spectroscopy at an X-ray free electron laser

Daniel J. Higley,<sup>1,2,a)</sup> Konstantin Hirsch,<sup>1</sup> Georgi L. Dakovski,<sup>1</sup> Emmanuelle Jal,<sup>1</sup> Edwin Yuan,<sup>1,2</sup> Tianmin Liu,<sup>1,3</sup> Alberto A. Lutman,<sup>1</sup> James P. MacArthur,<sup>1,3</sup> Elke Arenholz,<sup>4</sup> Zhao Chen,<sup>1,3</sup> Giacomo Coslovich,<sup>1</sup> Peter Denes,<sup>4</sup> Patrick W. Granitzka,<sup>1,5</sup> Philip Hart,<sup>1</sup> Matthias C. Hoffmann,<sup>1</sup> John Joseph,<sup>4</sup> Loïc Le Guyader,<sup>1,6,7</sup> Ankush Mitra,<sup>1</sup> Stefan Moeller,<sup>1</sup> Hendrik Ohldag,<sup>1</sup> Matthew Seaberg,<sup>1</sup> Padraic Shafer,<sup>4</sup> Joachim Stöhr,<sup>1</sup> Arata Tsukamoto,<sup>8</sup> Heinz-Dieter Nuhn,<sup>1</sup> Alex H. Reid,<sup>1</sup> Hermann A. Dürr,<sup>1</sup> and William F. Schlotter<sup>1</sup>



410 fs, 6.5 ps

280 fs, 4.1 ps

# Beating radiation damage: Diffraction before Destruction



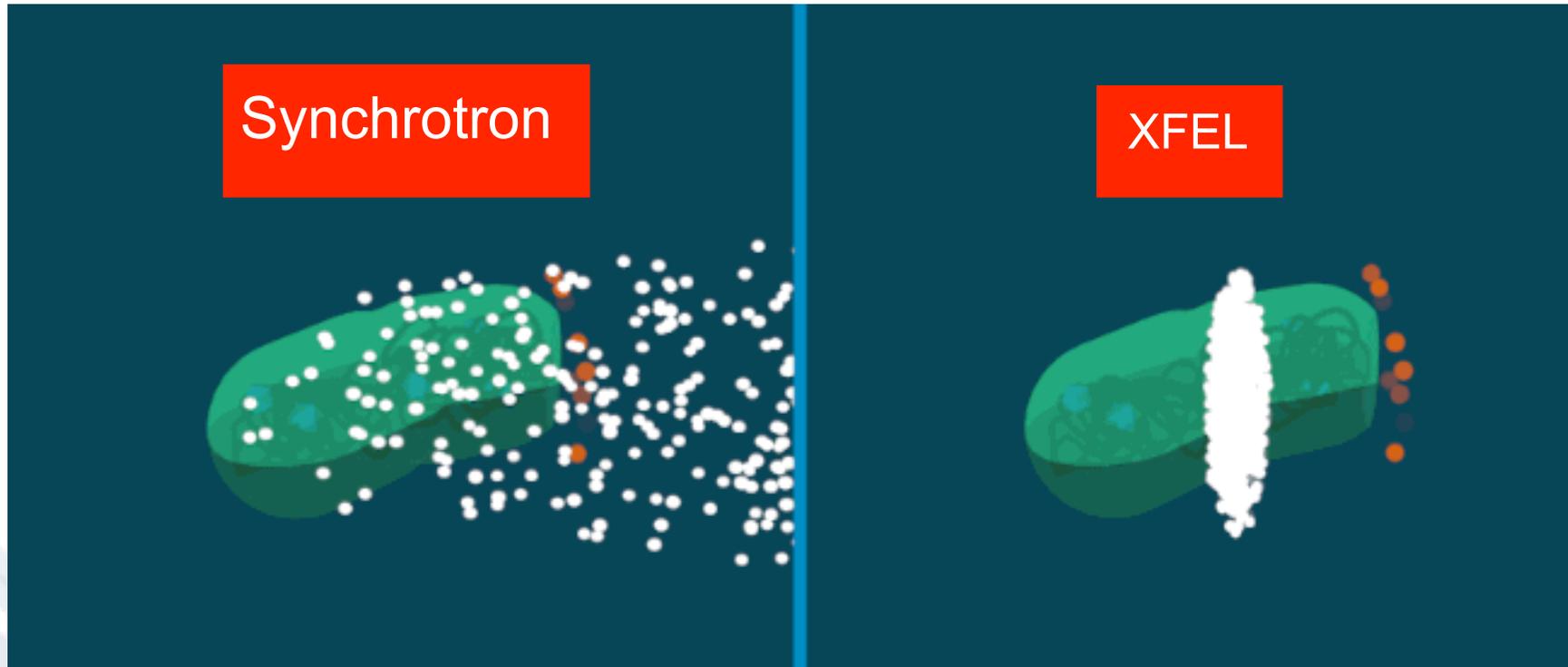
 Credits: [www.slac.stanford.edu](http://www.slac.stanford.edu)

# Beating radiation damage: Diffraction before Destruction



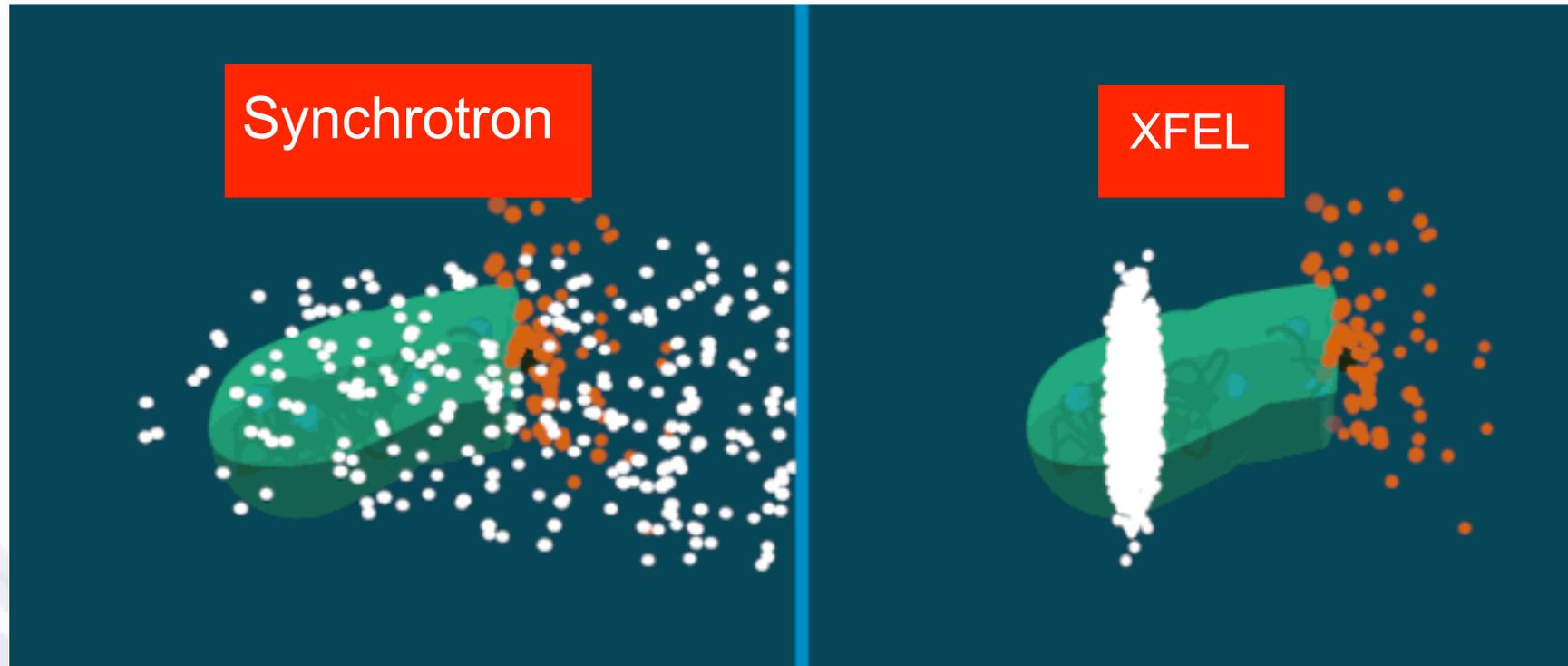
Credits: [www.slac.stanford.edu](http://www.slac.stanford.edu)

# Beating radiation damage: Diffraction before Destruction



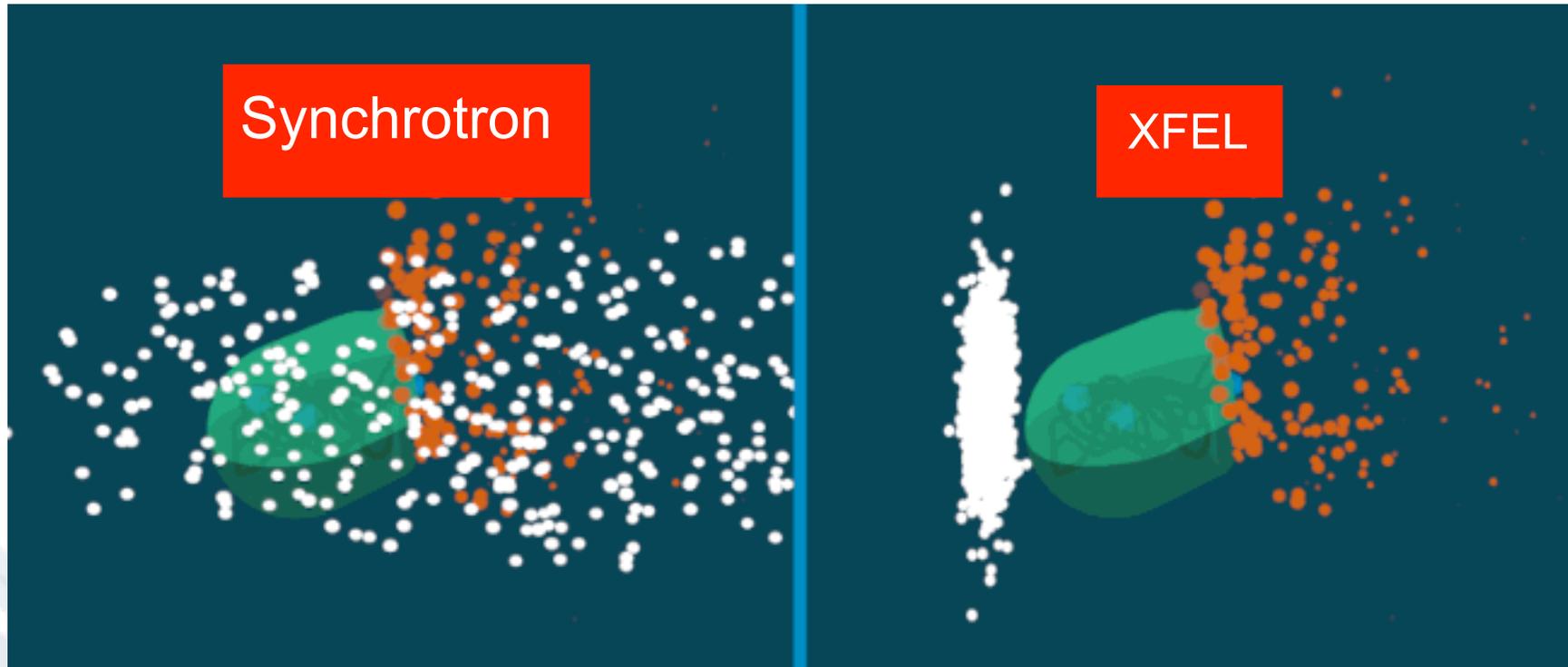
Credits: [www.slac.stanford.edu](http://www.slac.stanford.edu)

# Beating radiation damage: Diffraction before Destruction

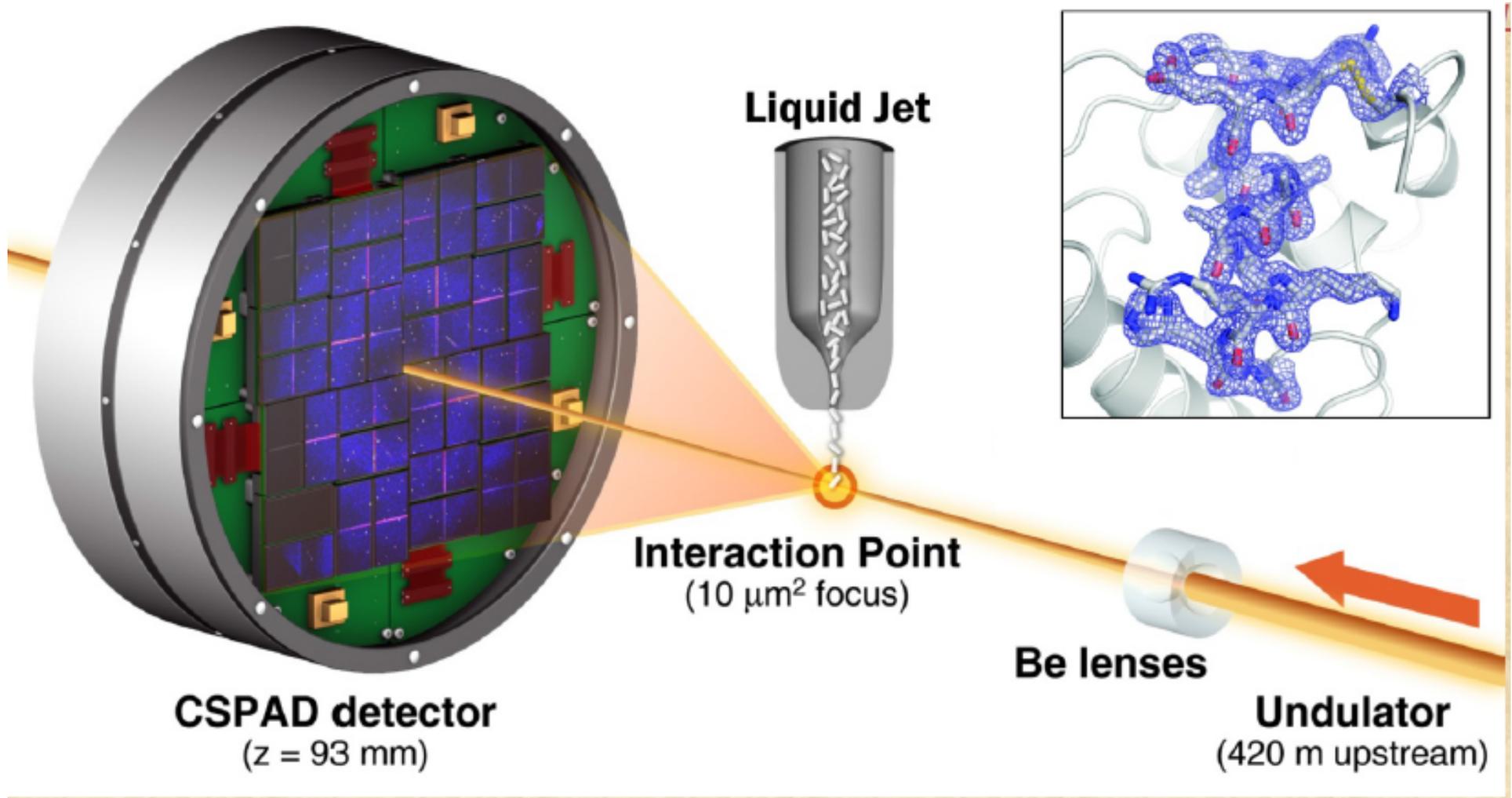


 Credits: [www.slac.stanford.edu](http://www.slac.stanford.edu)

# Beating radiation damage: Diffraction before Destruction

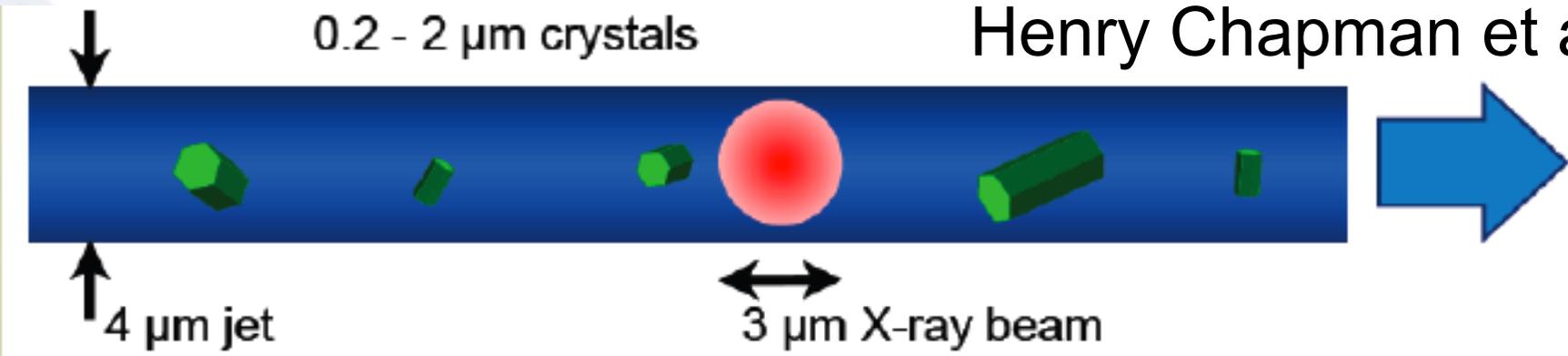
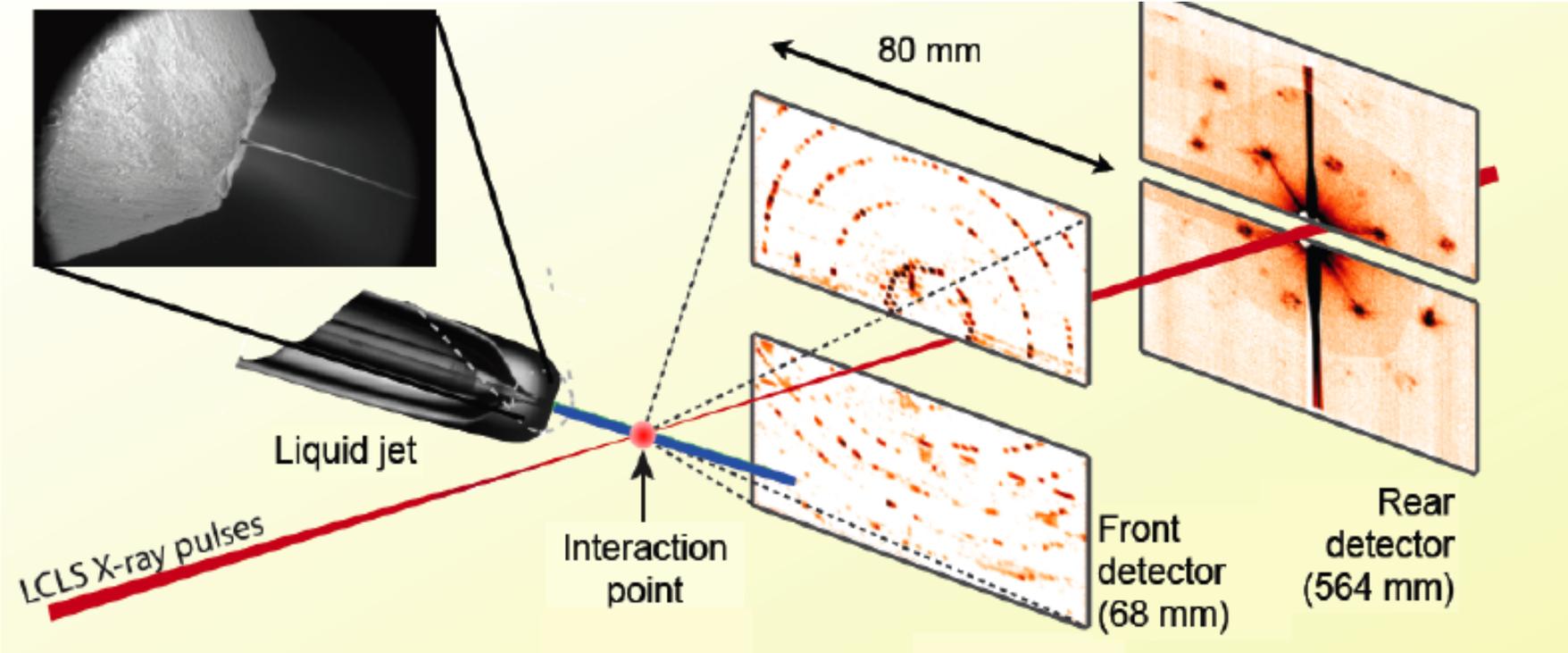


 Credits: [www.slac.stanford.edu](http://www.slac.stanford.edu)

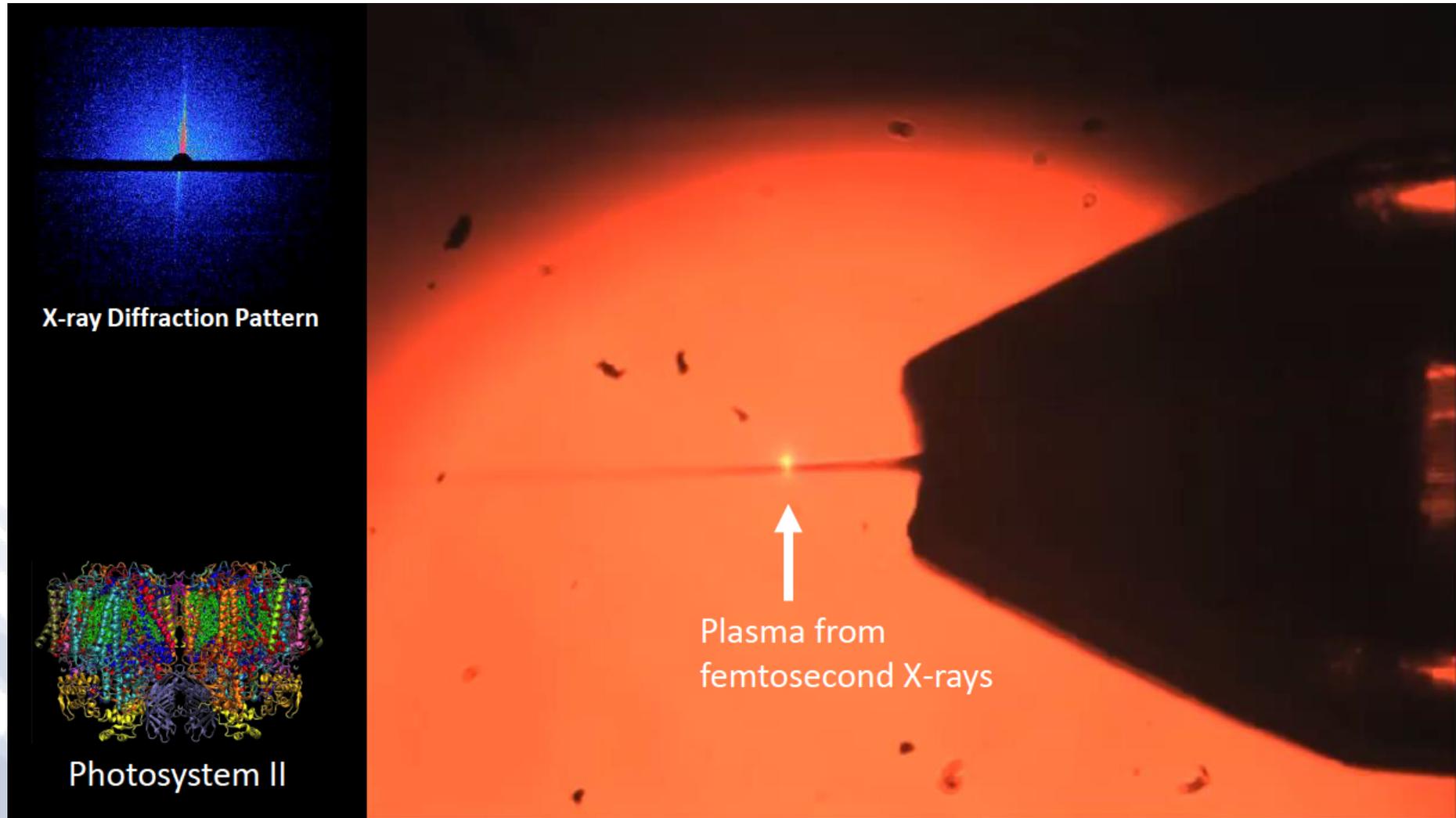


Boutet et al., *Science*, 337, 362 (2012)

# Serial Femtosecond crystallography

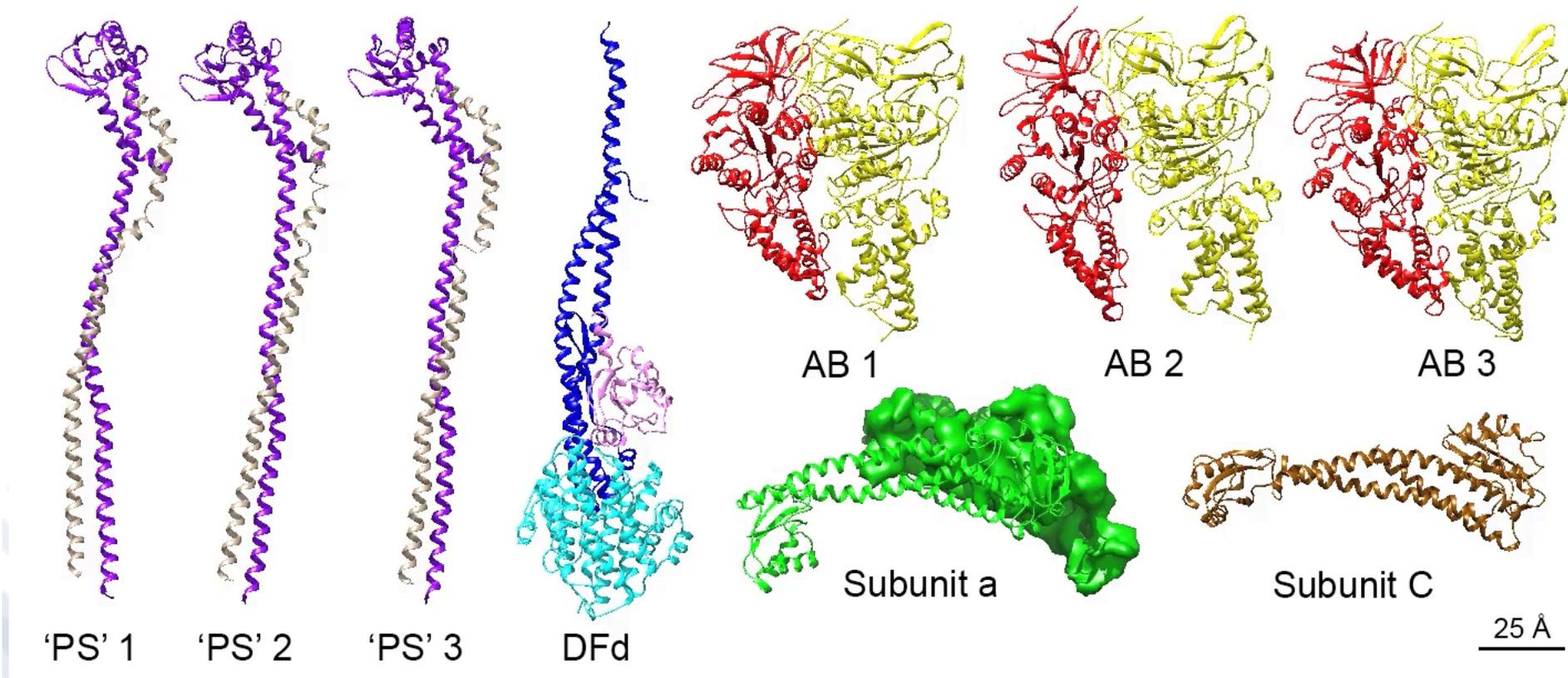


# Actual LCLS beamtime photo



Credit: Josè M. Martin Garcia, ASU

# “Movie” of V-ATPase



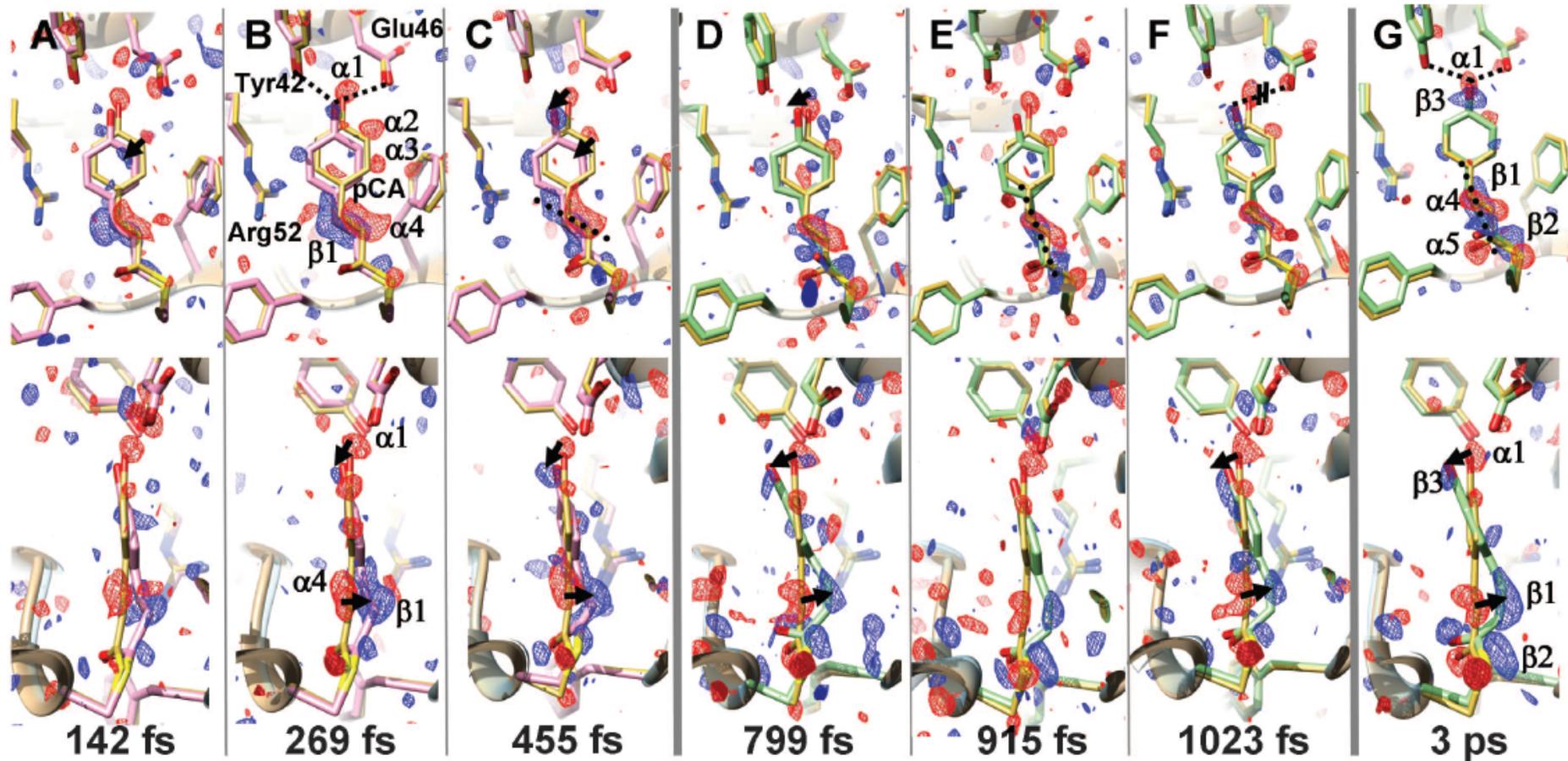
Zhao, J., Benlekbir, S. & Rubinstein, J. L. *Nature* **521**, 241–245 (2015)

## PROTEIN STRUCTURE

# Femtosecond structural dynamics drives the trans/cis isomerization in photoactive yellow protein

Kanupriya Pande,<sup>1,2</sup> Christopher D. M. Hutchison,<sup>3</sup> Gerrit Groenhof,<sup>4</sup> Andy Aquila,<sup>5</sup> Josef S. Robinson,<sup>5</sup> Jason Tenboer,<sup>1</sup> Shibom Basu,<sup>6</sup> Sébastien Boutet,<sup>5</sup> Daniel P. DePonte,<sup>5</sup> Mengning Liang,<sup>5</sup> Thomas A. White,<sup>2</sup> Nadia A. Zatsepin,<sup>7</sup> Oleksandr Yefanov,<sup>2</sup> Dmitry Morozov,<sup>4</sup> Dominik Oberthuer,<sup>2</sup> Cornelius Gati,<sup>2</sup> Ganesh Subramanian,<sup>7</sup> Daniel James,<sup>7</sup> Yun Zhao,<sup>7</sup> Jake Koralek,<sup>5</sup> Jennifer Brayshaw,<sup>1</sup> Christopher Kupitz,<sup>1</sup> Chelsie Conrad,<sup>6</sup> Shatabdi Roy-Chowdhury,<sup>6</sup> Jesse D. Coe,<sup>6</sup> Markus Metz,<sup>2</sup> Paulraj Lourdu Xavier,<sup>2,8</sup> Thomas D. Grant,<sup>9</sup> Jason E. Koglin,<sup>5</sup> Gihan Ketawala,<sup>6</sup> Raimund Fromme,<sup>6</sup> Vukica Šrajer,<sup>10</sup> Robert Henning,<sup>10</sup> John C. H. Spence,<sup>7</sup> Abbas Ourmazd,<sup>1</sup> Peter Schwander,<sup>1</sup> Uwe Weierstall,<sup>7</sup> Matthias Frank,<sup>11</sup> Petra Fromme,<sup>6</sup> Anton Barty,<sup>2</sup> Henry N. Chapman,<sup>2,12</sup> Keith Moffat,<sup>10,13</sup> Jasper J. van Thor,<sup>3</sup> Marius Schmidt<sup>1\*</sup>

# PYP molecular movie



Top: front view; bottom: sideview

# Photosynthesis, from solar photons to hydrocarbons



Photosystem II is a 700 kDa protein complex, through which the following reaction takes place in plants, algae, bacteria...:

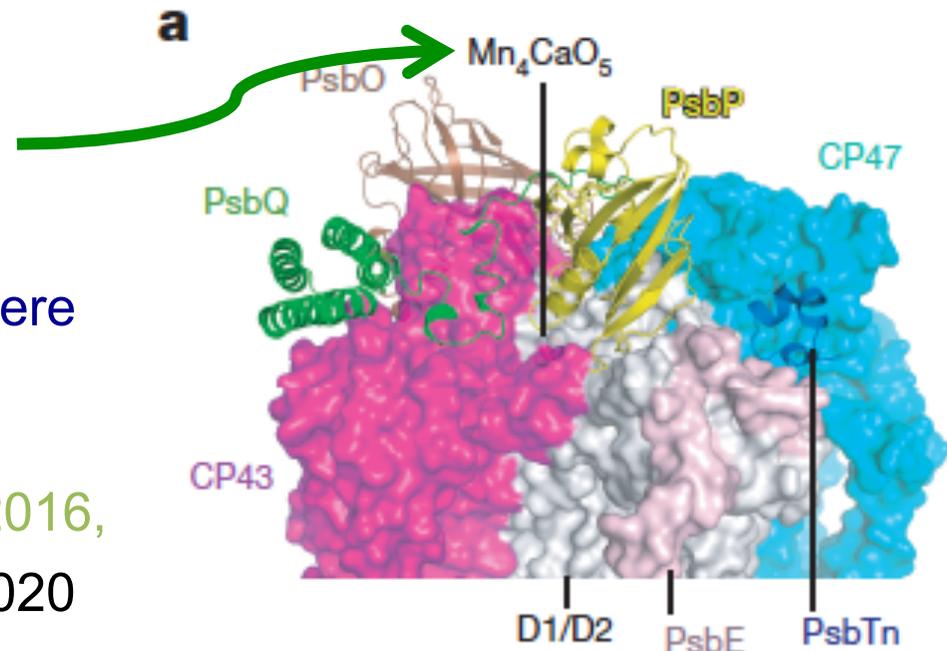


Travel separately to recombine elsewhere and power chemical reactions

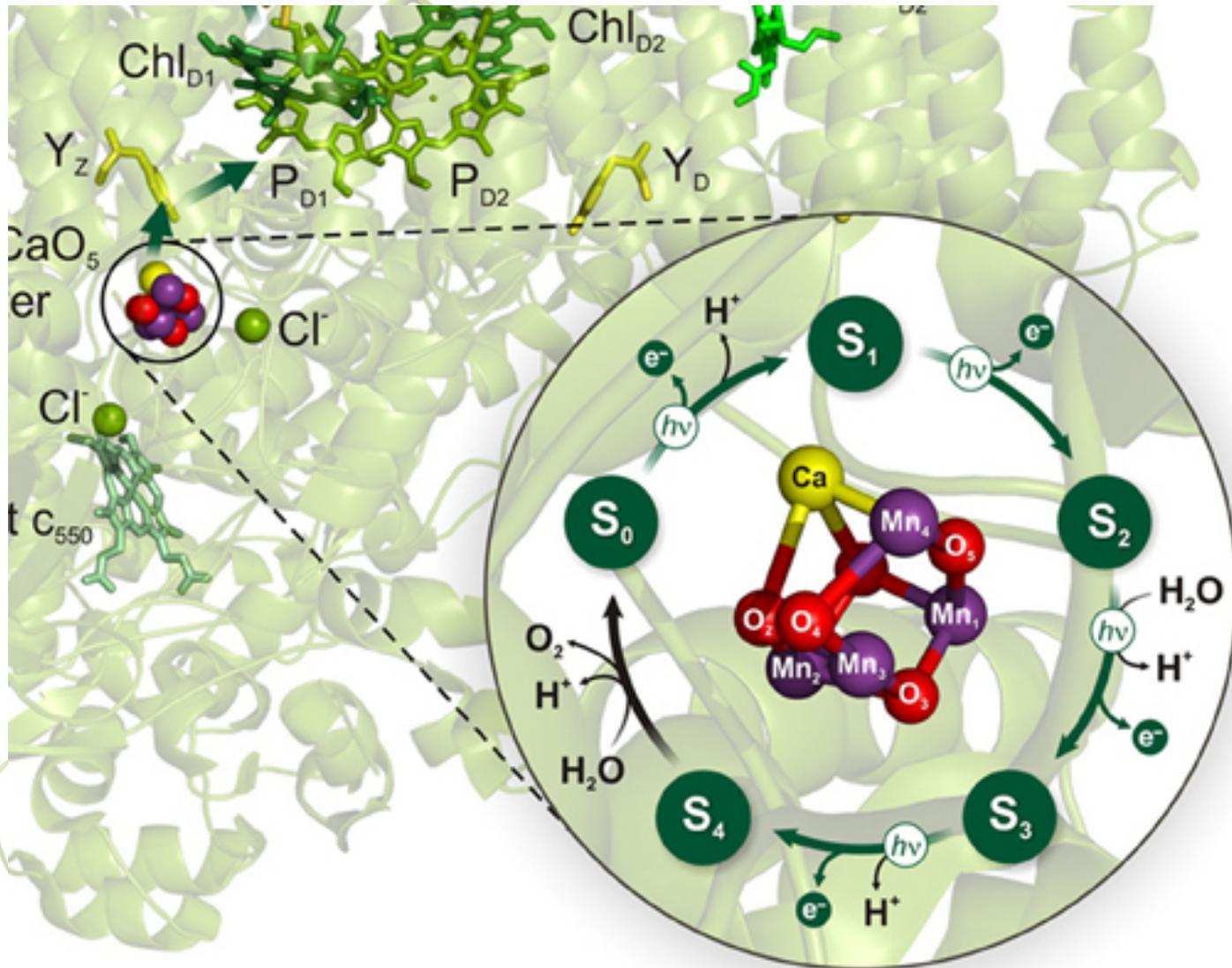
Evolves into the atmosphere

The energy of the four photons is delivered to the OEC “oxygen evolving complex”,  $\text{Mn}_4\text{CaO}_5$ , where most of the action seems to take place

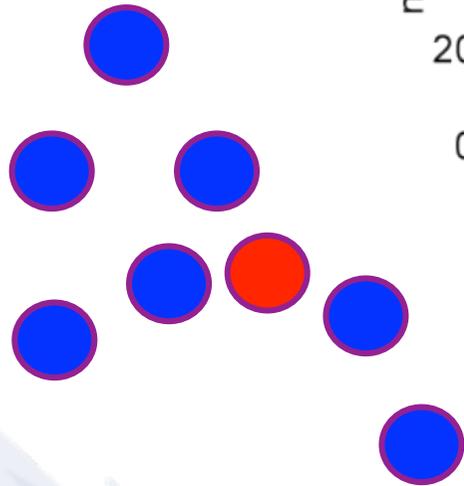
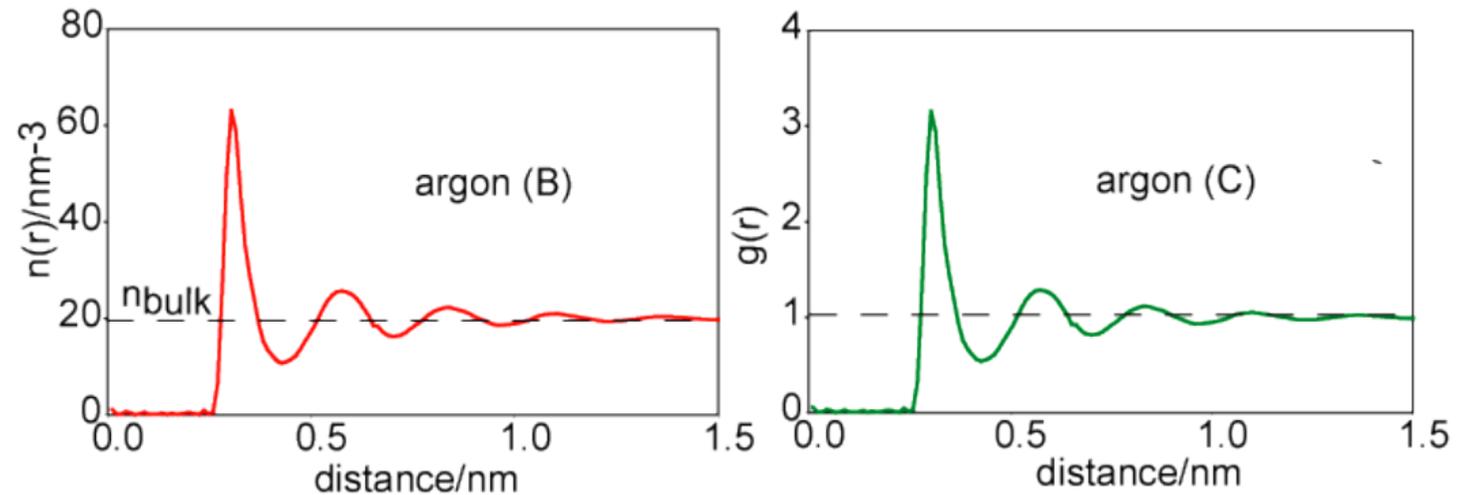
X. Wei et al., *Nature* 2016, doi:10.1038/nature18020



# The Kok Cycle: how does it work?



# X-ray Diffraction from liquids

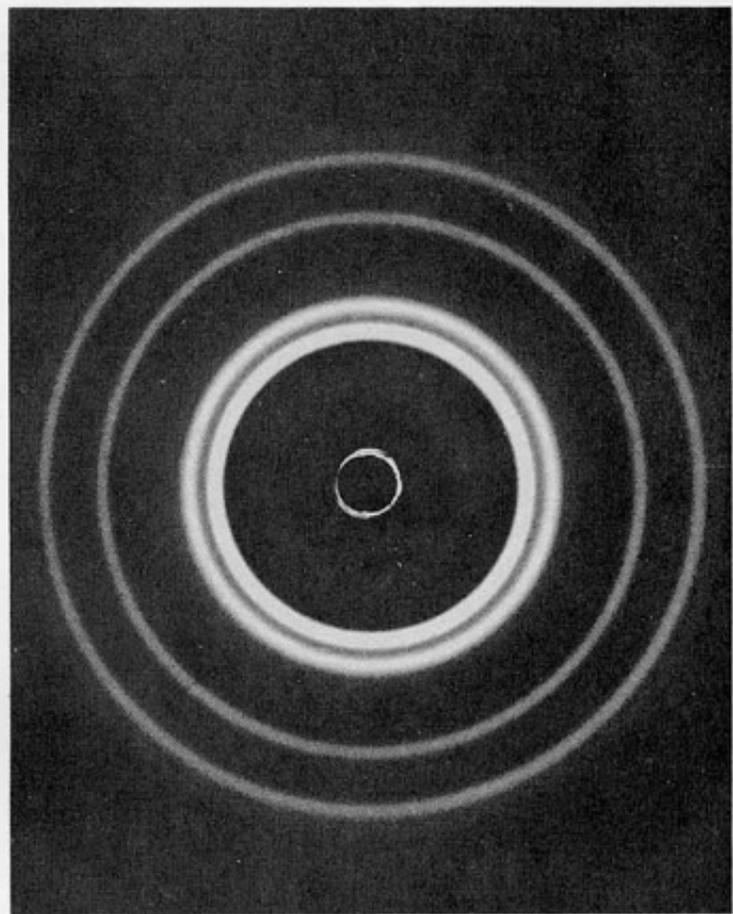


Liquid

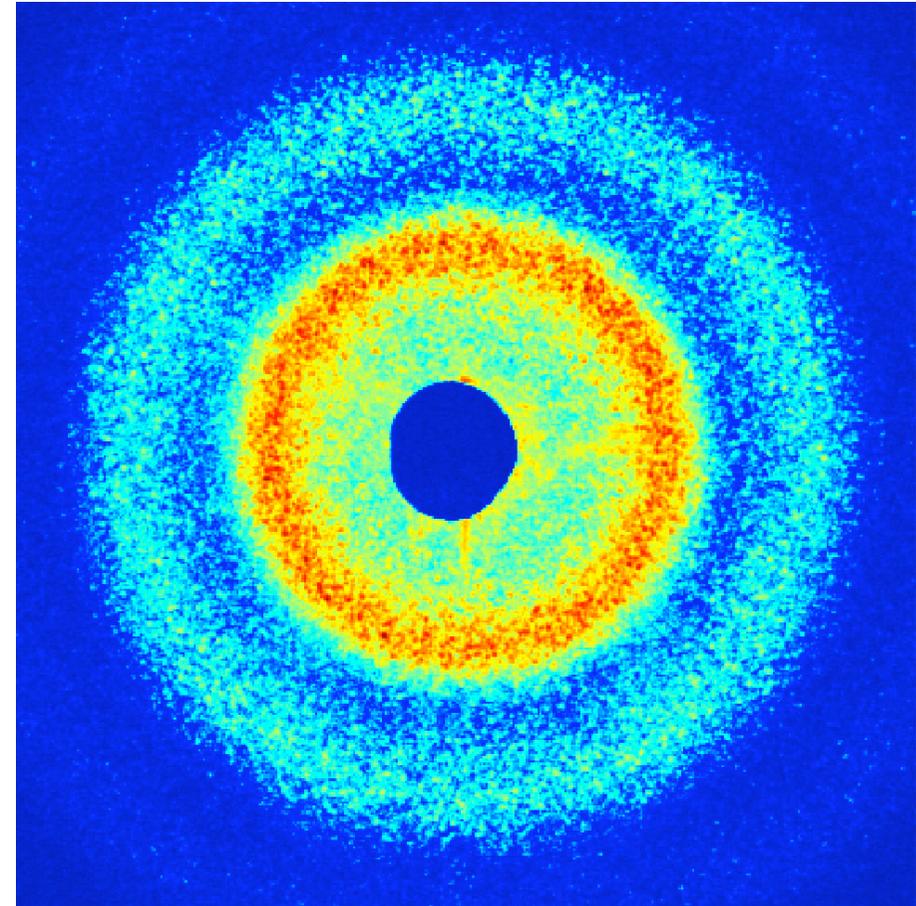
$$S(q) - 1 = \rho_o \int [g(r) - 1] e^{iq \cdot r} dr$$

$$g(r) - 1 = \frac{1}{\rho_o (2\pi)^3} \int [S(q) - 1] e^{-iq \cdot r} dq$$

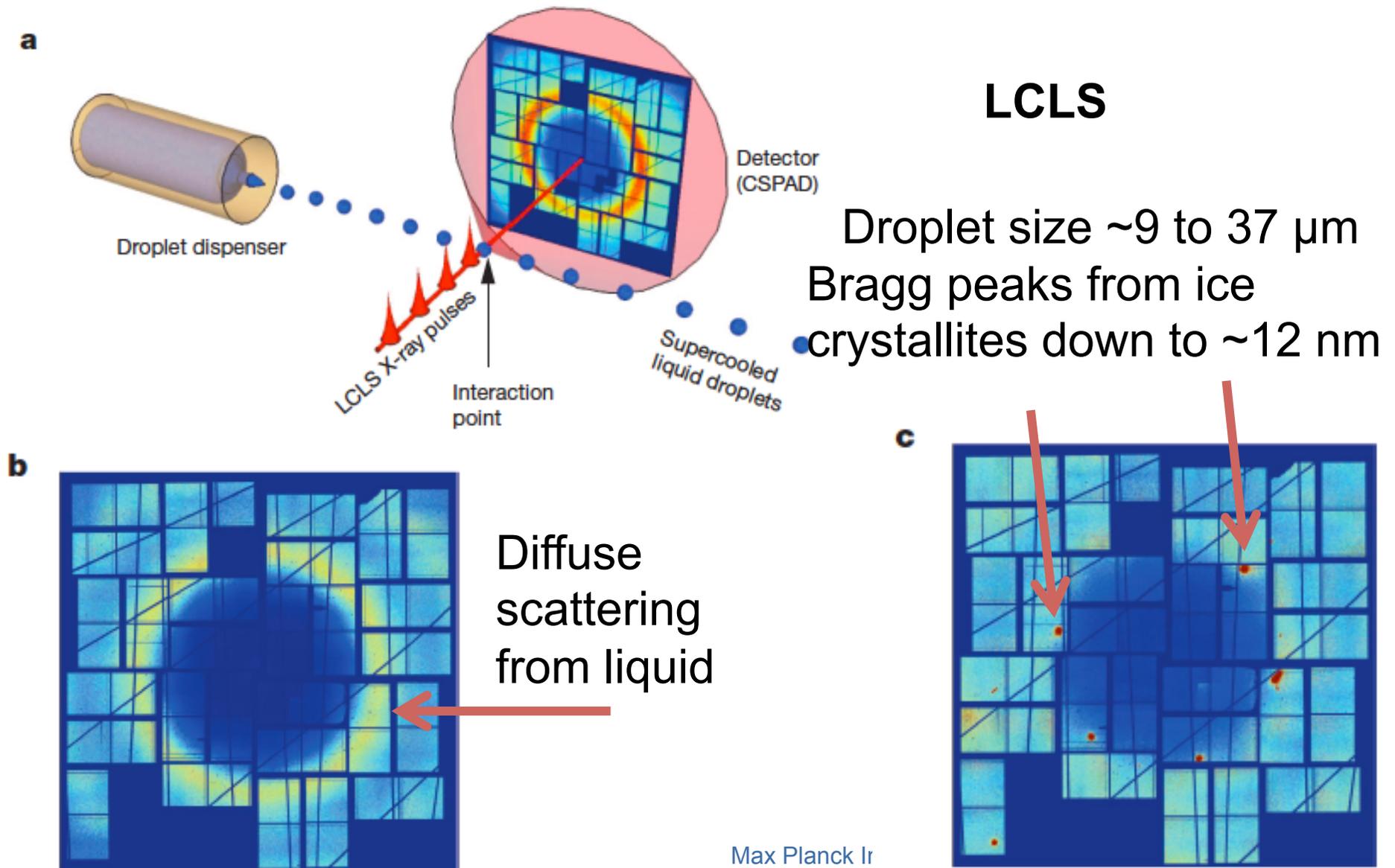
# X-ray diffraction from liquids...



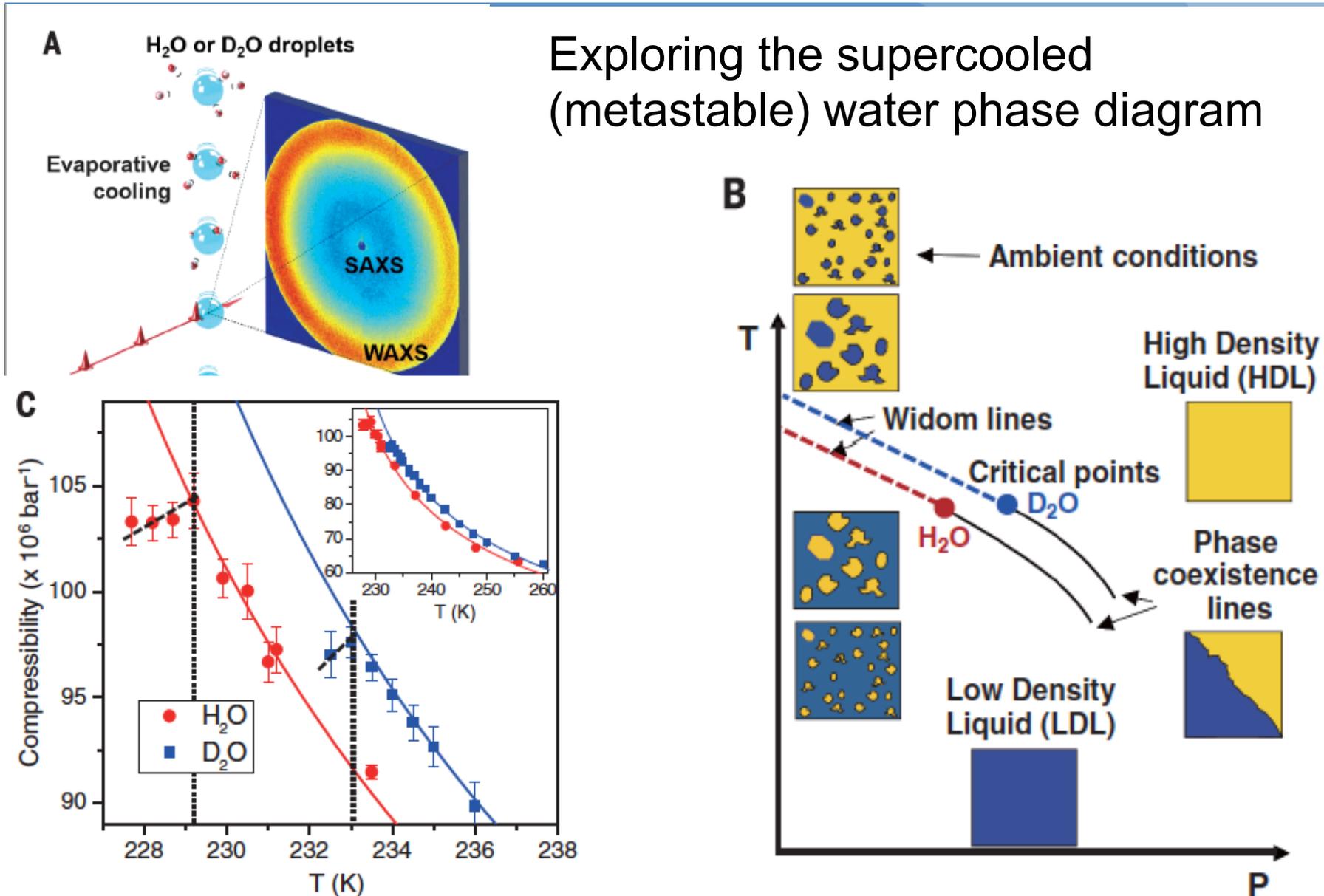
Slow, incoherent...



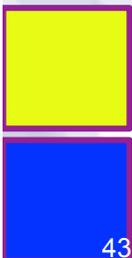
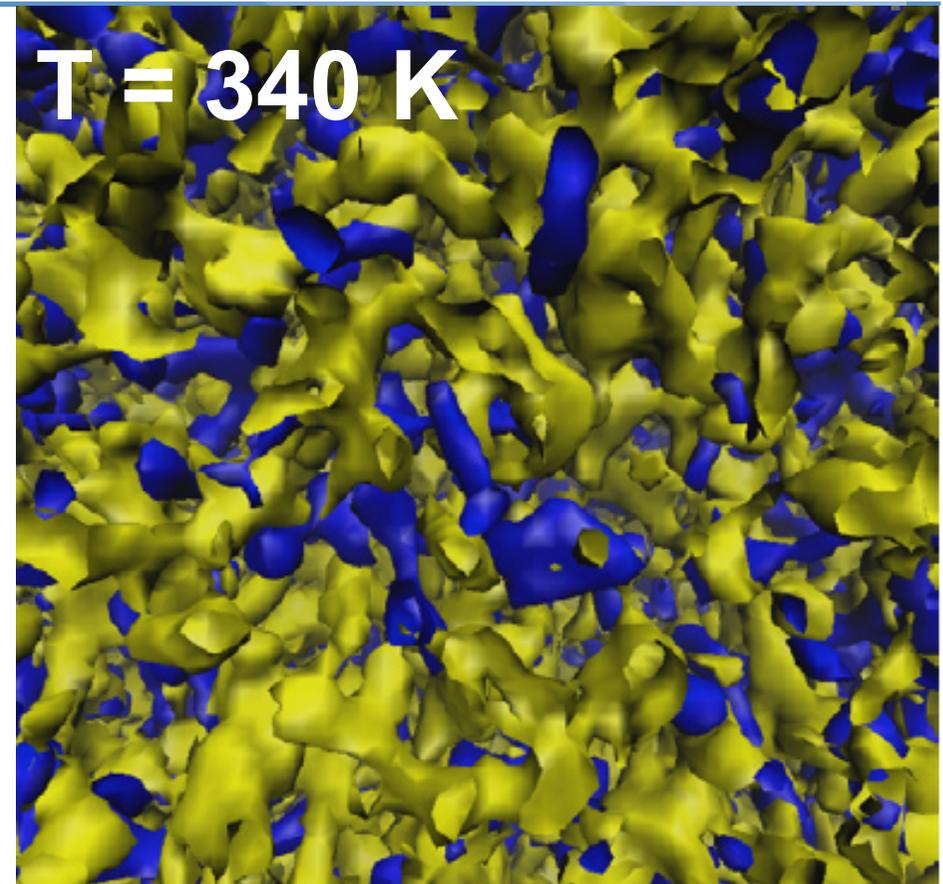
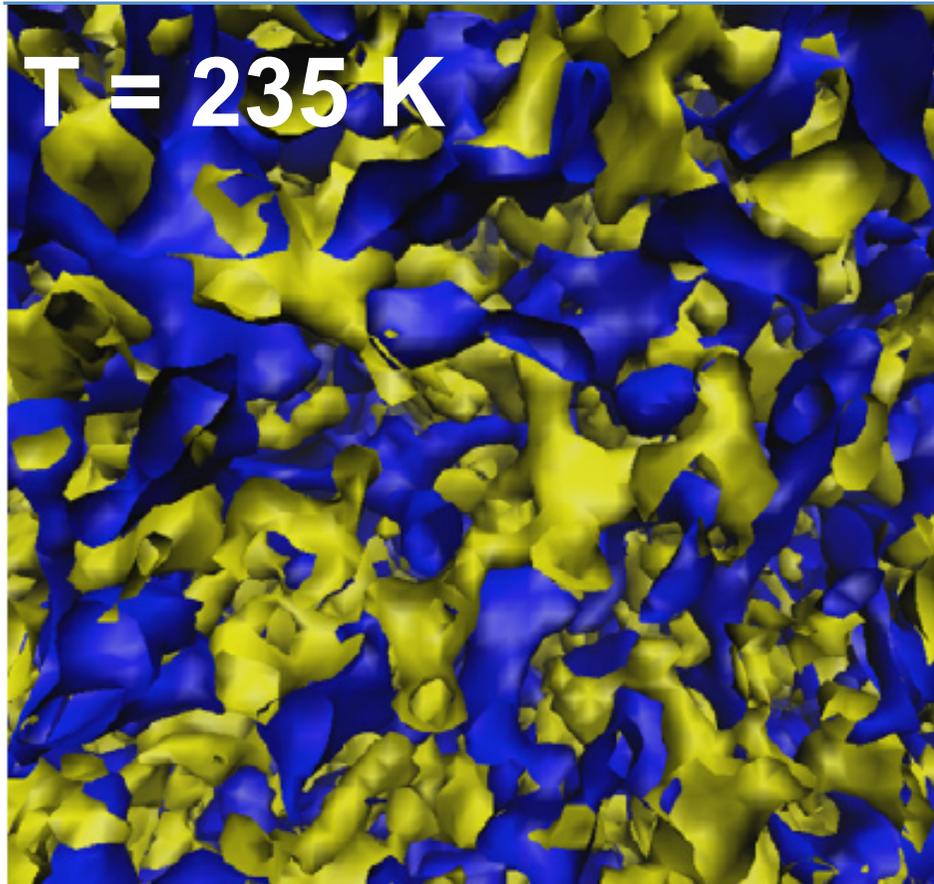
Fast, coherent => Speckles!  
“Hologram”



## Exploring the supercooled (metastable) water phase diagram



# Simulations of Water Structure



**High-density structure**  
**Low-density structure**

43

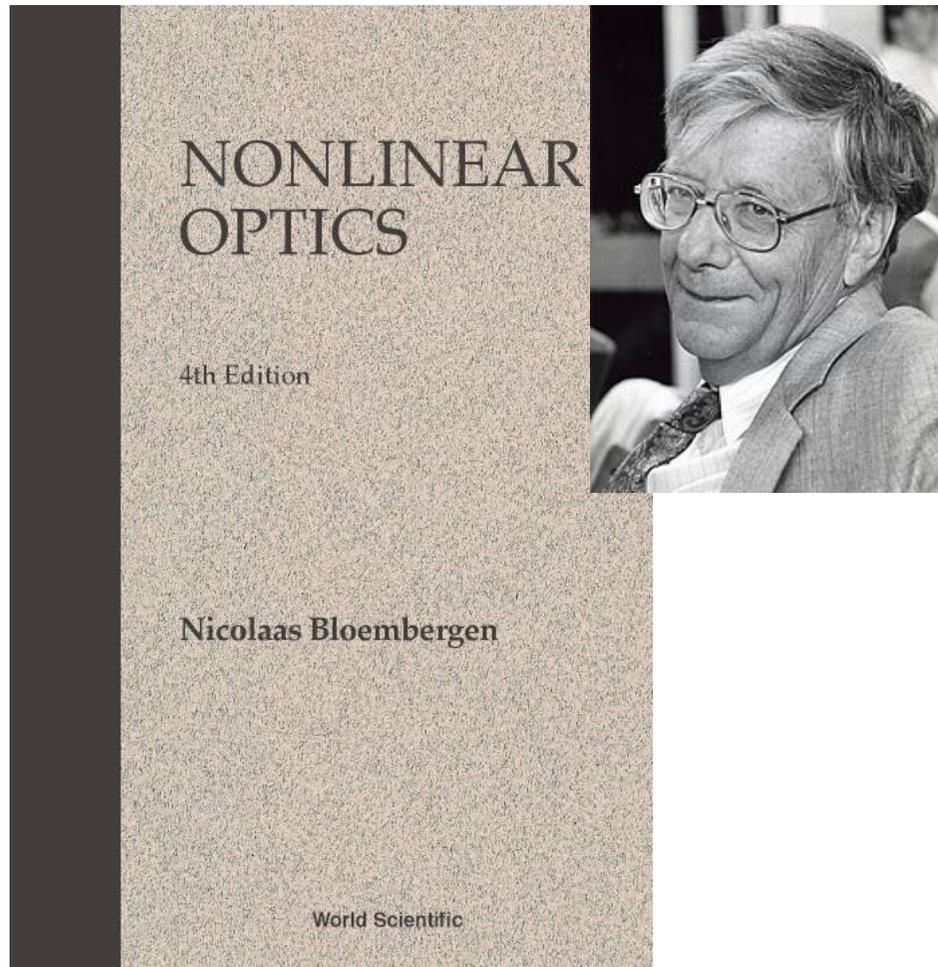


10.6 nm

Wikfeldt J. et al., Chem.  
Phys. 134 (2011) 214506

# Towards Non-linear X-ray Physics

Nicolaas Bloembergen, Physics  
Nobel Laureate in 1981



Non-linear effects in IR and  
visible detected after invention of  
lasers

It is clear that the familiar notion of a linear optical response with a constant index of refraction, that is, an induced polarization proportional to the amplitude of the light field, should be dropped at much less extreme intensities. There is a nonlinearity in the constitutive relationship which may be expanded in terms of a power series in the electric field components

$$P_i = \chi_{ij}^{(1)} E_j + \chi_{ijk}^{(2)} E_j E_k + \chi_{ijkl}^{(3)} E_j E_k E_l + \dots \quad (1)$$

Such nonlinearities have been familiar at lower frequencies for over a century.

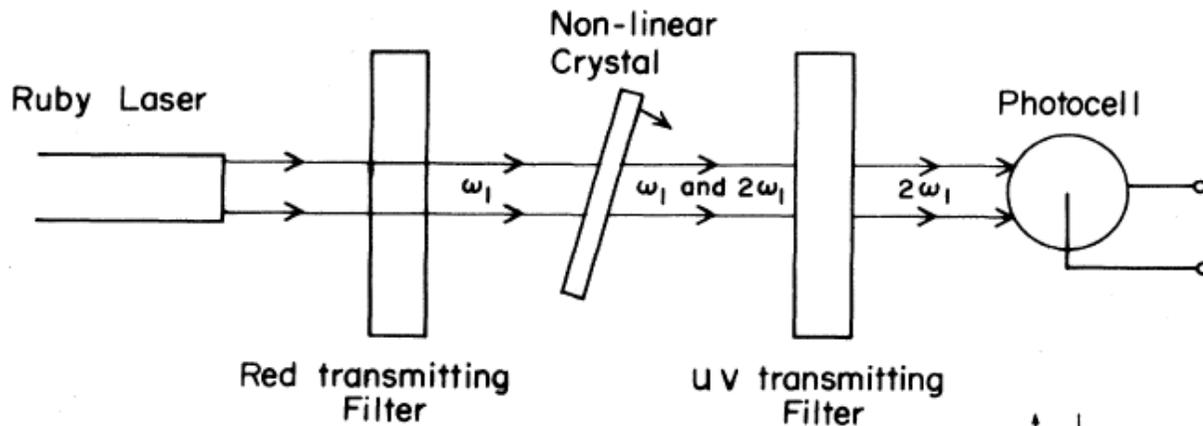


FIG. 3. Second harmonic generation of light.

Examples of non-linear processes

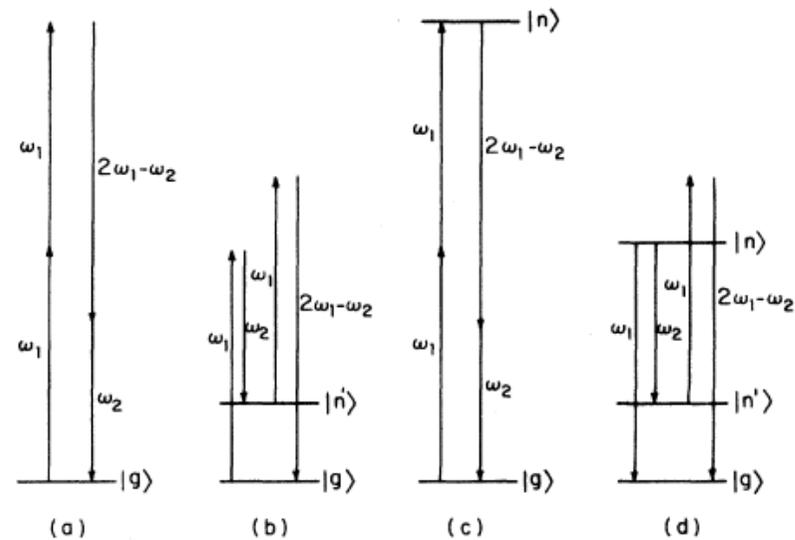
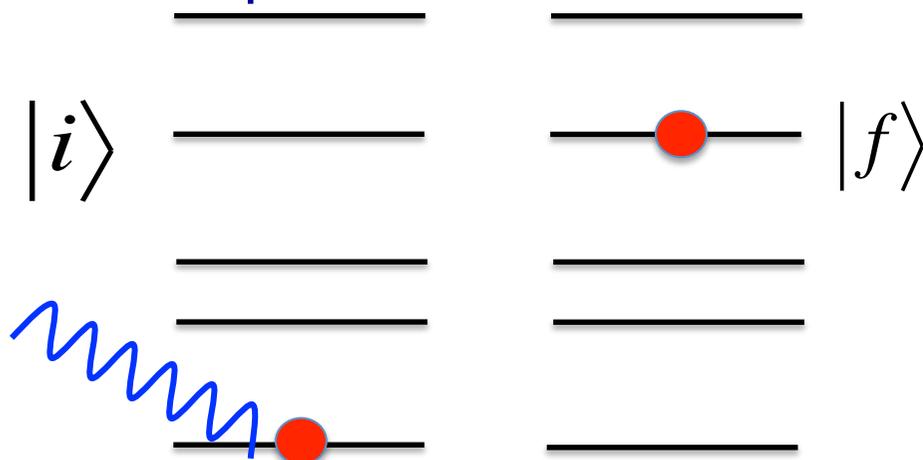


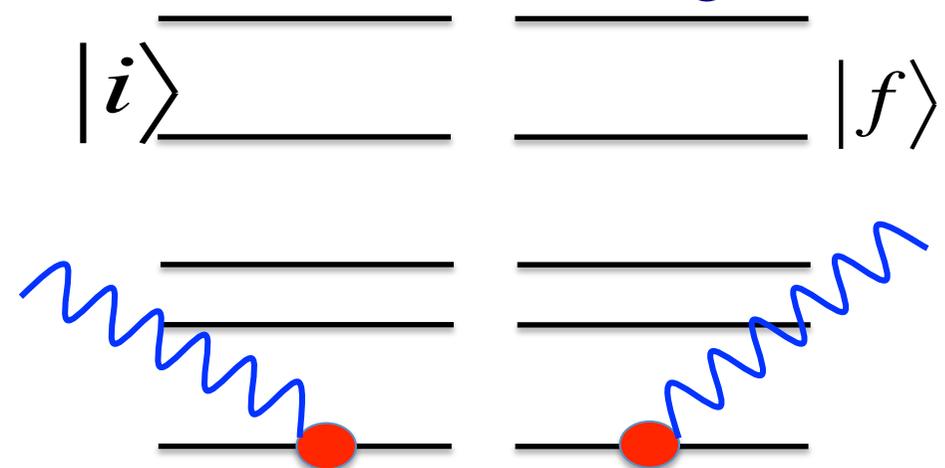
FIG. 8. The creation of a new beam at  $2\omega_1 - \omega_2$  by two incident beams at  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$ , respectively, according to the geometry of Fig. 7(b). (a) Nonresonant mixing. (b) Intermediate Raman resonance (coherent anti-Stokes Raman scattering, or CARS). (c) Intermediate two-photon absorption resonance. (d) One-photon resonantly enhanced CARS.

# Basic scattering processes

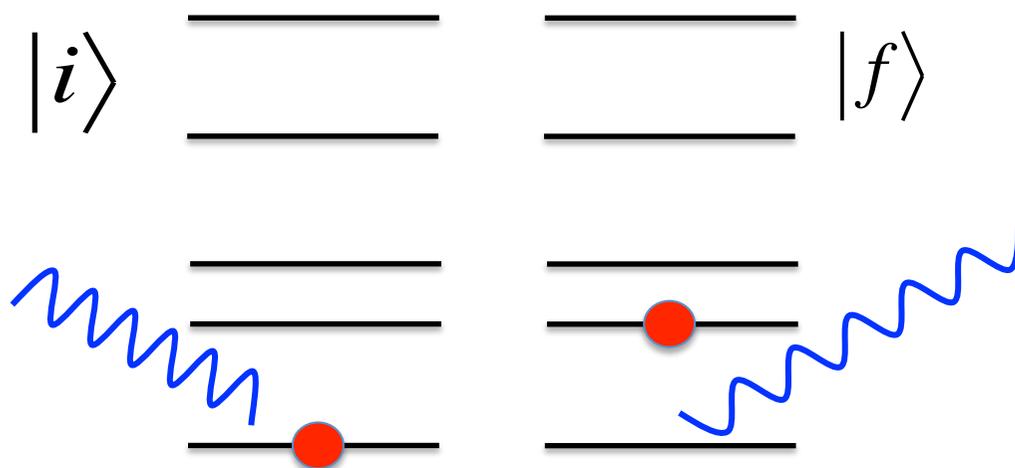
## Absorption



## Elastic scattering



## Inelastic Scattering



# Calculating transition probabilities

- **The way forward:**

Assume we have, *in principle*, a description of the **energy levels and the eigenstates of electronic matter**:  $H_{el}$

Assume we have, *in principle*, a description of the **energy levels and the eigenstates of the free E.M. field**:  $H_{rad}$

We can try to calculate the probability of **transitions between different states of these two systems induced by their interaction**:  $H_{int}$

# A practical implementation

$$H = H_{el} + H_{rad} + H_{int} ,$$
$$H_{el} = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{\mathbf{p}_i^2}{2m} + V(\mathbf{r}_i) + (e\hbar/2m^2c^2)\mathbf{s}_i \cdot (\nabla V(\mathbf{r}_i) \times \mathbf{p}_i) \right]$$

$$H_{rad} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \lambda} \hbar\omega_{\mathbf{k}} (a^\dagger(\mathbf{k}, \lambda)a(\mathbf{k}, \lambda) + 1/2) ,$$

$$H_{int} = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \overset{H'_1}{(e^2/2mc^2)\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbf{r}_i)} - \overset{H'_2}{(e/mc)\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}_i) \cdot \mathbf{p}_i} \right. \\ \left. - \overset{H'_3}{(e\hbar/mc)\mathbf{s}_i \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}_i))} \right. \\ \left. + \overset{H'_4}{(e\hbar/2m^2c^3)\mathbf{s}_i \cdot [(\partial\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}_i)/\partial t) \times (\mathbf{p}_i - (e/c)\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}_i))]} \right]$$

# Perturbative calculation of transition rates

- Fermi's "golden rule":

$$w = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \left| \langle f | H_{\text{int}} | i \rangle + \sum_n \frac{\langle f | H_{\text{int}} | n \rangle \langle n | H_{\text{int}} | i \rangle}{E_i - E_n} + \dots \right|^2 \delta(E_f - E_i)$$

1<sup>st</sup> order

2<sup>nd</sup> order

Higher orders

The idea behind is that  $H_{\text{int}}$  is "small", that 1<sup>st</sup> order is (either zero or) bigger than 2<sup>nd</sup>, that is bigger than 3<sup>rd</sup> ....

Linear physics: stop at the first (non-vanishing) order

	Elastic, non-res	Inelastic, Non-res.	Elastic Resonant	Inelastic, Resonant	
H'_1	Thomson/ Bragg scattering	Compton, Raman, $S(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$			
H'_2	Orbital magnetic scattering		Resonant Elastic (REXS: charge, spin, orbital order...)	Absorption, XMCD, Emission, Res. Inelastic (RIXS)	
H'_3	Spin Magnetic				
H'_4	Spin Magnetic				

- Examine how the implementation of this program is affected by the unconventional features of X-ray free-electron laser pulses:
  - High intensity
  - Time duration in the  $\Delta t \ll 1 \text{ ps}$  regime
  - Spatial coherence

# Perturbative calculation of transition rates

- Fermi's "golden rule":

$$w = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \left| \langle f | H_{\text{int}} | i \rangle + \sum_n \frac{\langle f | H_{\text{int}} | n \rangle \langle n | H_{\text{int}} | i \rangle}{E_i - E_n} + \dots \right|^2 \delta(E_f - E_i)$$

1<sup>st</sup> order

2<sup>nd</sup> order

Higher orders

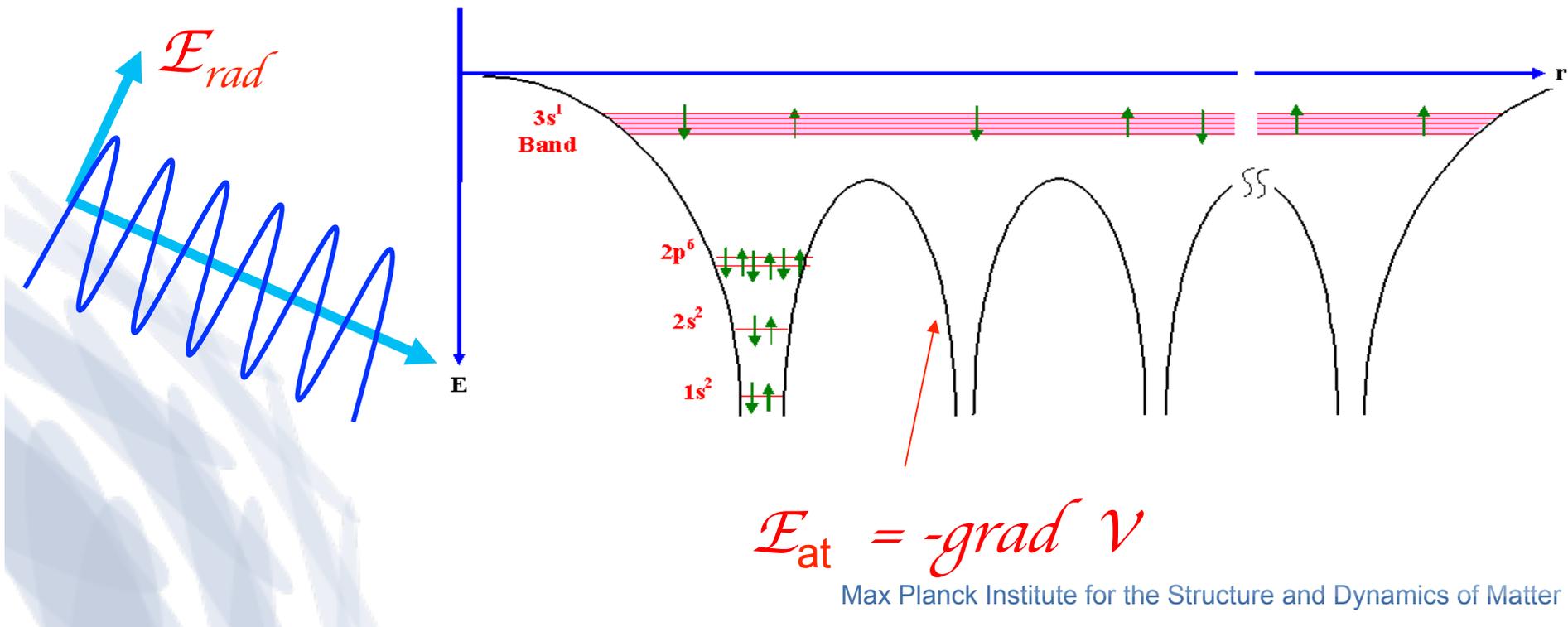
The idea behind is that  $H_{\text{int}}$  is "small", that 1<sup>st</sup> order is (either zero or) bigger than 2<sup>nd</sup>, that is bigger than 3<sup>rd</sup> ....

Linear physics: stop at the first (non-vanishing) order

# What does it mean “the perturbation is small”?



- Physically, verify that the **physical action of the radiation on the electronic system is small**, and cannot affect the structure of the energy levels drastically.
- Compare the **electric field of the radiation** to the **atomic electric field**.



# Estimate of the atomic electric field

Field inside an atom:

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{at}} \sim e/a_B^2 = 27.2 \text{ V}/a_B \sim 5.2 \times 10^9 \text{ V/cm}$$

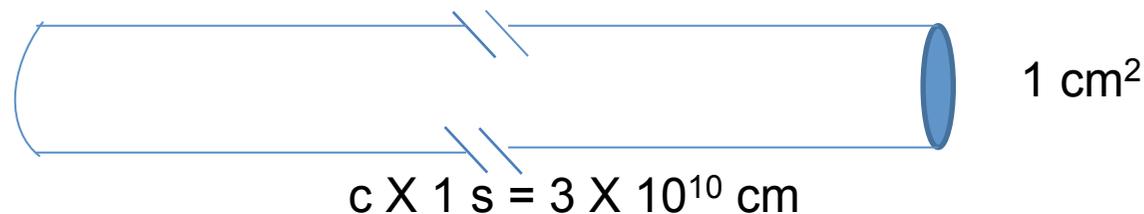
(Remember:  $a_B \sim 5 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}$

$e^2 / a_B \sim 2 \text{ Ryd} = 1 \text{ Hartree} \sim 27.2 \text{ eV}$ )

Let's compare this with the radiation field in relevant cases

# Radiation electric field: synchrotron case

- Suppose your synchrotron beamline delivers  $10^{11}$   $\sim 1$  keV photons/s on a  $\mu\text{m}^2$  spot, typically in  $\sim 10^6$  pulses, each  $\sim 10$  ps long:
- $I = \text{energy/unit area \& unit time} = 10^5 \times 10^3 \text{ eV} / 10^{-19} \text{ cm}^2\text{s} = 10^{27} \text{ eV /cm}^2 \text{ s}.$



- Energy/unit volume:  $= I / c = (10^{27} \text{ eV /cm}^2 \text{ s}) / 3 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm/s}$   
 $= 3.3 \times 10^{16} \text{ eV/cm}^3 \longrightarrow (1/4\pi) \langle \mathcal{E}^2 \rangle$  (gaussian units)  
 $= 3.3 \times 10^{16} (e/a_B) (\text{V/cm}^3) a_B$

$$\langle \mathcal{E}_{\text{rms}} \rangle \sim 10^5 \text{ V/cm} \ll \text{Atomic field} \sim 5 \times 10^9 \text{ V/cm}$$

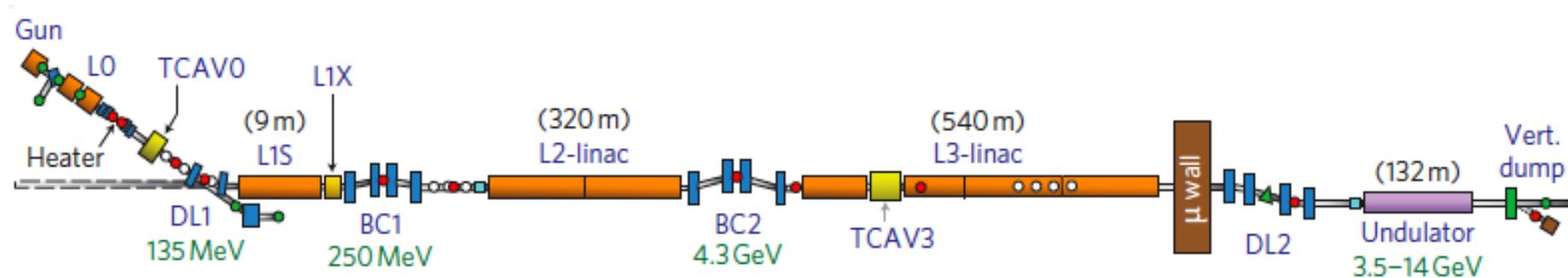
27.2 V

# LCLS Stanford, experimental results (2010)



**Table 1 | Design and typical measured parameters for both hard (8.3 keV) and soft (0.8–2.0 keV) X-rays. The ‘design’ and ‘hard’ values are shown only at 8.3 keV. Stability levels are measured over a few minutes.**

Parameter	Design	Hard	Soft	Unit
FEL gain length	4.4	3.5	~1.5	m
Radiation wavelength	1.5	1.5	6-22	Å
Photons per pulse	2.0	1.0-2.3	10-20	$10^{12}$
Energy in X-ray pulse	1.5	1.5-3.0	1-2.5	mJ
Peak X-ray power	10	15-40	3-35	GW
Pulse length (FWHM)	200	70-100	70-500	fs
Bandwidth (FWHM)	0.1	0.2-0.5	0.2-1.0	%
Peak brightness (estimated)	8	20	0.3	$10^{32}$ *
Wavelength stability (r.m.s.)	0.2	0.1	0.2	%
Power stability (r.m.s.)	20	5-12	3-10	%



# Radiation electric field: X-ray FEL case



- Synchrotron  $10^5 \sim 1$  keV photons/  $10^{-11}$ s on a  $\mu\text{m}^2$  spot
- X-ray FEL  $10^{13} \sim 1$  keV photons /  $7 \cdot 10^{-14}$  s on a  $\mu\text{m}^2$  spot

Synchrotron:

$$\langle E_{\text{rms}} \rangle \sim 10^6 \text{ V/cm}$$

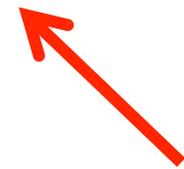
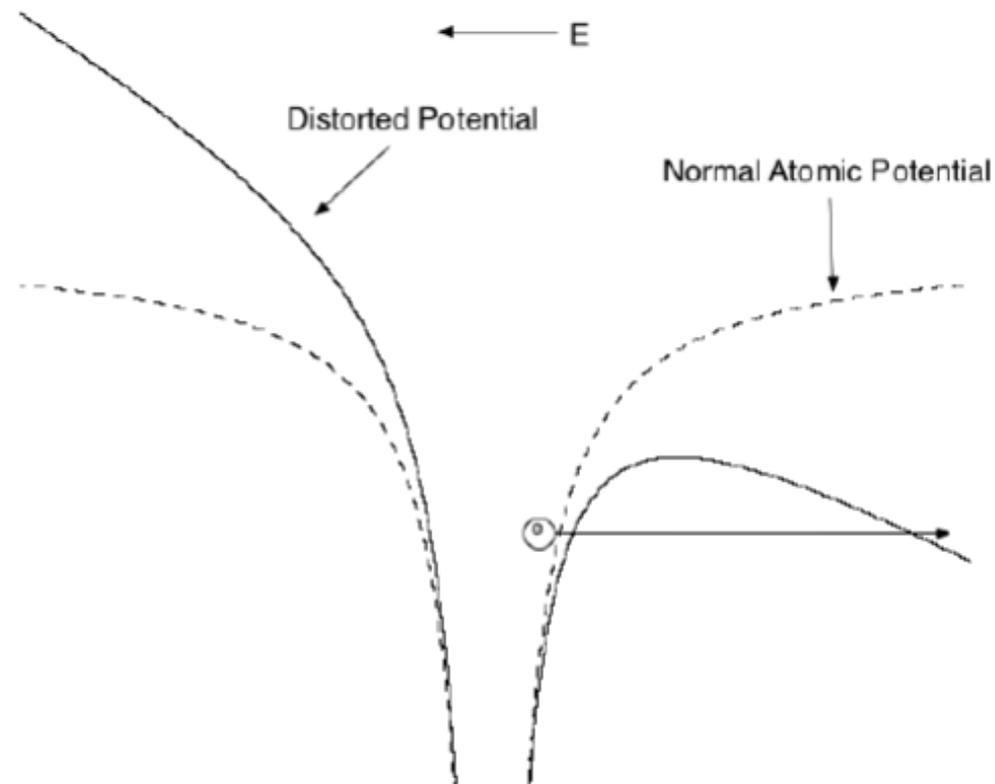
X-ray laser:

$$\langle E_{\text{rms}} \rangle \sim 10^{10} \text{ V/cm}$$

$$\langle \mathcal{E}_{\text{at}} \rangle \sim 5 \times 10^9 \text{ V/cm}$$

# High-field ionization regime

- Atomic Potential is severely distorted  $\Rightarrow$  field ionization ?



Well known  
from ultra-high  
power lasers!

# Strong-field ionization theory of Keldysh, 1964



SOVIET PHYSICS JETP

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1965

## *IONIZATION IN THE FIELD OF A STRONG ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE*

L. V. KELDYSH

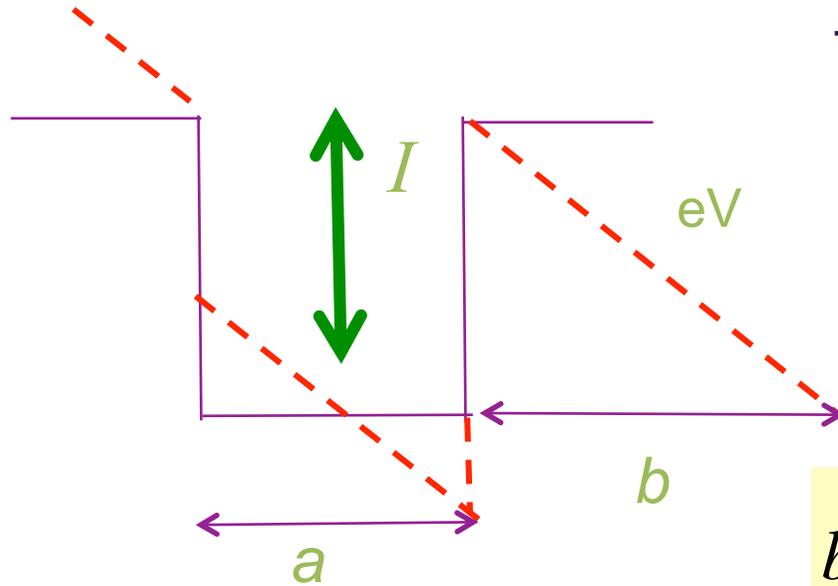
P. N. Lebedev Physics Institute, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.

Submitted to JETP editor May 23, 1964

J. Exptl. Theoret. Phys. (U.S.S.R.) 47, 1945-1957 (November, 1964)

Expressions are obtained for the probability of ionization of atoms and solid bodies in the field of a strong electromagnetic wave whose frequency is lower than the ionization potential. In the limiting case of low frequencies these expressions change into the well known formulas for the probability of tunnel auto-ionization; at high frequencies they describe processes in which several photons are absorbed simultaneously. The ionization probability has a number of resonance maxima due to intermediate transition of the atom to an excited state. In the vicinity of such a maximum the ionization cross section increases by several orders of magnitude. The positions and widths of the resonances depend on the field strength in the wave. It is shown that for optical frequencies the mechanism under consideration, of direct ionization by the wave field, may be significant in the case of electric breakdown in gases, and especially in condensed media.

# No tunnel ionization at x-ray frequencies!



To tunnel, the electron takes a time  $\sim \tau$ , because it must go through a distance  $b$  and its velocity is of order:

$$v \sim \frac{\hbar}{ma} \sim \sqrt{\frac{I}{m}}$$

$$b \sim \frac{I}{eE_{rms}}$$

$$\tau \sim b/v \sim \frac{\sqrt{mI}}{eE_{rms}} \equiv \frac{2\pi}{\omega_{tunn}}$$

For  $I \sim 10 \text{ eV}$ ,  $eE_{rms} \sim 10^{11} \text{ V/cm} \rightarrow \tau_{tunn} \sim 10^{-18} \text{ s}$

X-ray  $\frac{1}{2}$  period at 1 keV:  $\tau_x \sim 10^{-18} \text{ s!}$

...no time to tunnel. **Keldysh parameter:**

$$\gamma \approx \frac{\omega_X}{\omega_{tunn}} \begin{cases} > \sim 1 \text{ multi-photon} \\ \ll 1 \text{ tunneling} \end{cases}$$

# Multi-photon Multiple Ionization

## Multi-electron system: Xe

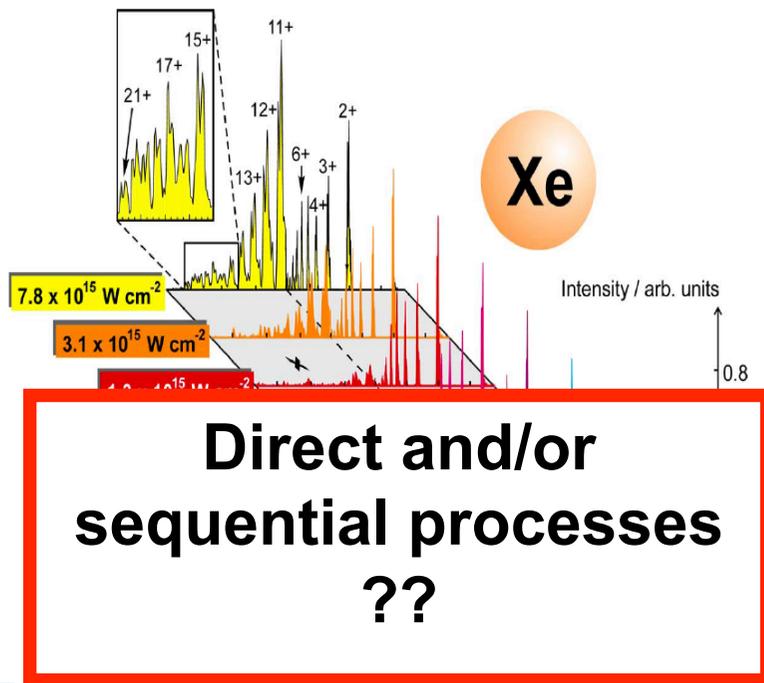
(Courtesy Michael Meyer)

$\lambda$  (FLASH) = 13.3 nm Sorokin et al., PRL 99, 213002 (2007)

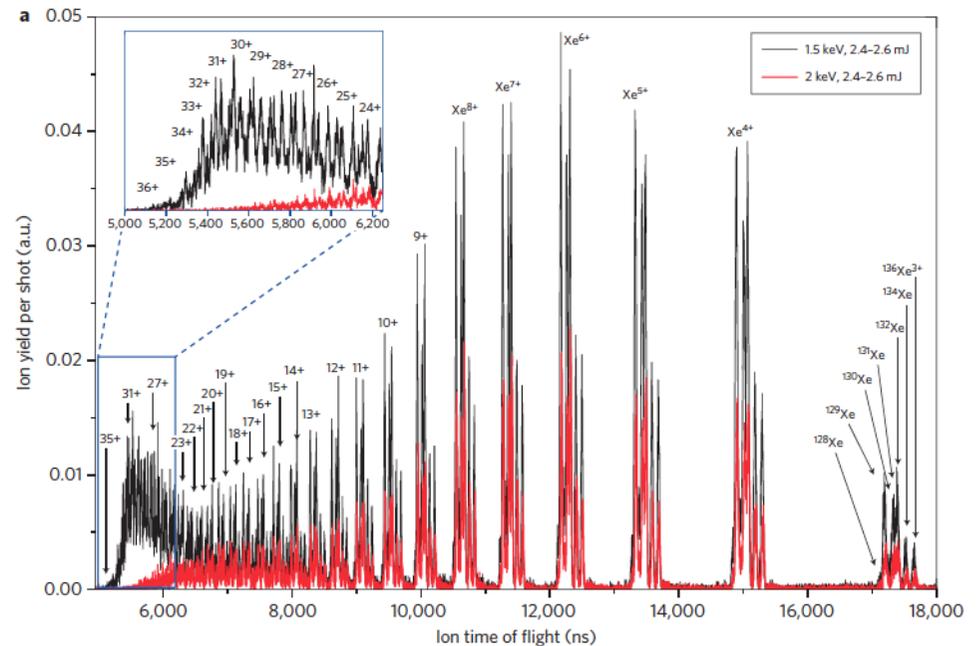
$\lambda$  (LCLS) = 0.8 nm Rudek et al., Nat.Phot. 6, 858 (2012)

$h\nu = 93$  eV

$h\nu = 1.5$  keV



$IP(Xe\ 21+) \approx 5$  keV



**Xe 35+**

# Saturable absorption in Al at higher intensity



nature  
physics

ARTICLES

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 26 JULY 2009 | DOI: 10.1038/NPHYS1341

## Turning solid aluminium transparent by intense soft X-ray photoionization

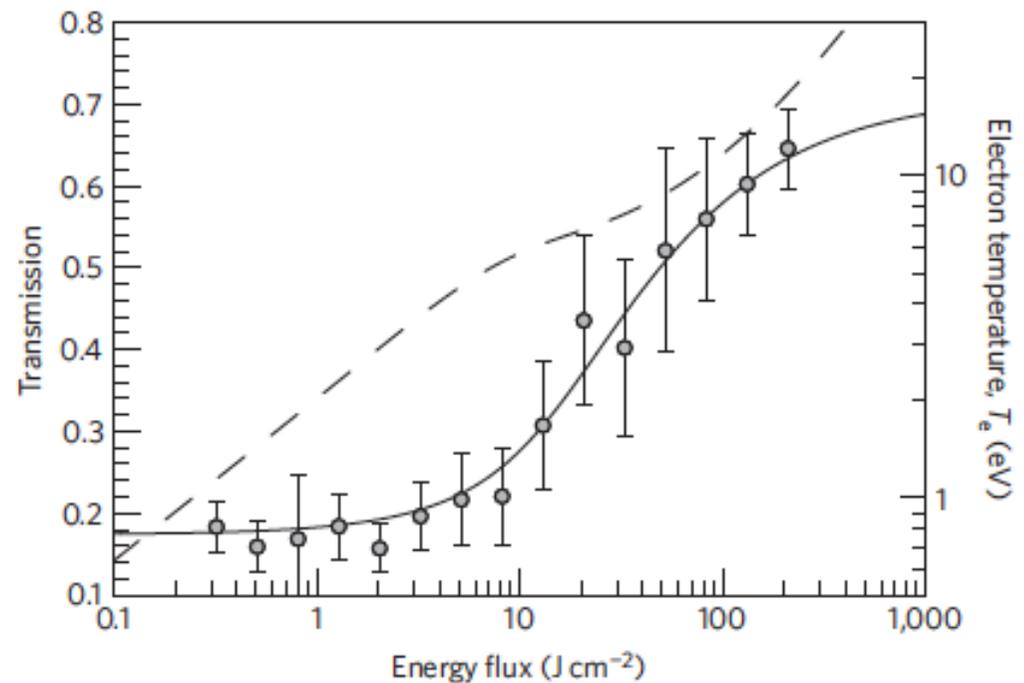
Bob Nagler *et al.*\*

FLASH

92.5 eV photons, 15 fs pulses

Minimum spot  $\sim 1.5 \mu\text{m}$

Al  $L_2$ ,  $L_3$  edges: 72.7, 73.1



# Saturable absorption in Al at higher intensity

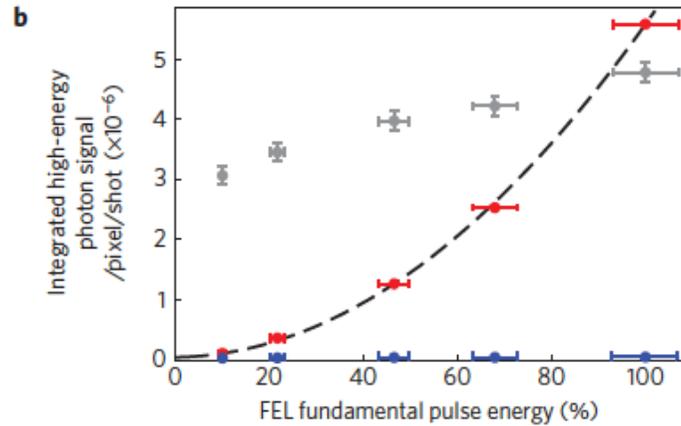
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- Depletion of  $L_2$ ,  $L_3$  electrons during pulse depending on intensity and Auger lifetime ( $\sim 40$  fs)
- Edge shift to  $>93$  eV for second L-edge ionization

$$\mathcal{E} \sim 5 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ V/cm}, \sim 10^{20} \text{ W/cm}^2$$

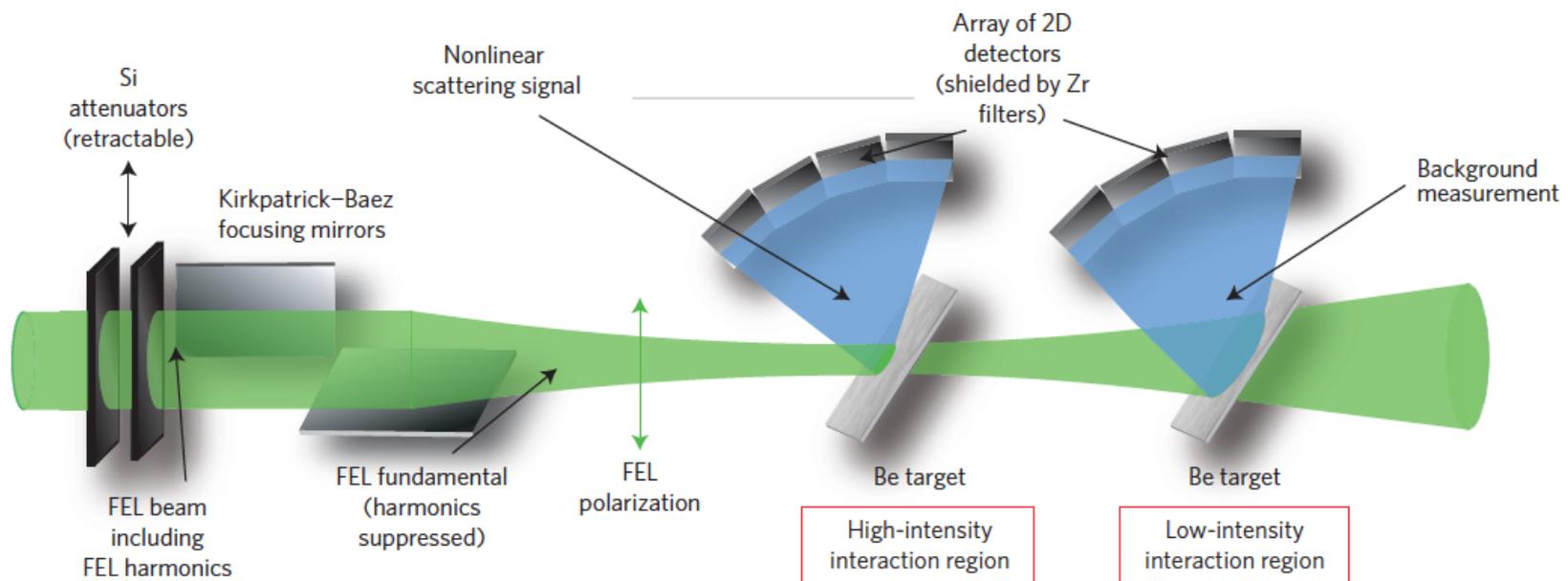
ARTICLES

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 31 AUGUST 2015 | DOI: 10.1038/NPHYS3452



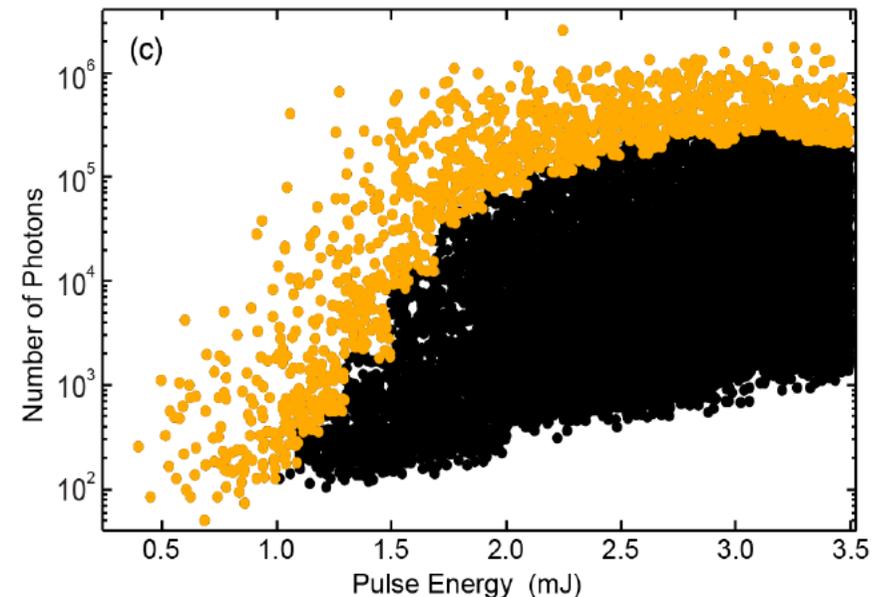
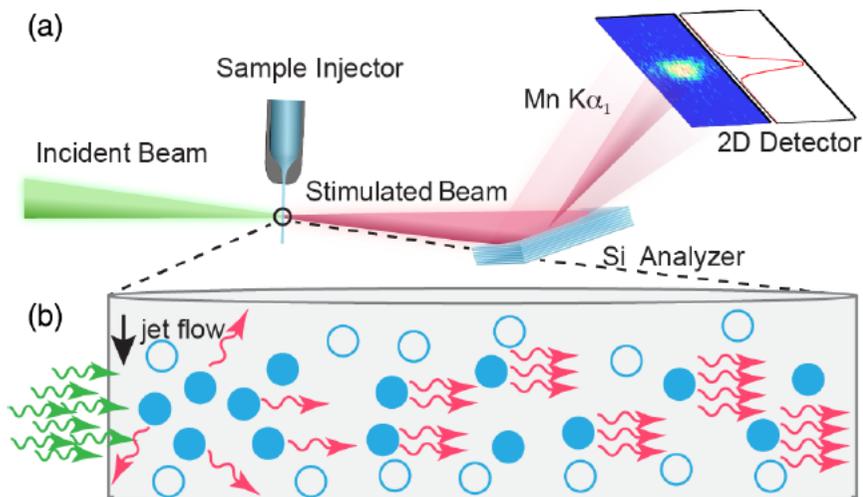
## Anomalous nonlinear X-ray Compton scattering

Matthias Fuchs<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Mariano Trigo<sup>2,3</sup>, Jian Chen<sup>2,3</sup>, Shambhu Ghimire<sup>2</sup>, Sharon Shwartz<sup>4</sup>, Michael Kozina<sup>2,3</sup>, Mason Jiang<sup>2,3</sup>, Thomas Henighan<sup>2,3</sup>, Crystal Bray<sup>2,3</sup>, Georges Ndabashimiye<sup>2</sup>, Philip H. Bucksbaum<sup>2</sup>, Yiping Feng<sup>5</sup>, Sven Herrmann<sup>6</sup>, Gabriella A. Carini<sup>6</sup>, Jack Pines<sup>6</sup>, Philip Hart<sup>6</sup>, Christopher Kenney<sup>6</sup>, Serge Guillet<sup>5</sup>, Sébastien Boutet<sup>5</sup>, Garth J. Williams<sup>5</sup>, Marc Messerschmidt<sup>5,7</sup>, M. Marvin Seibert<sup>5</sup>, Stefan Moeller<sup>5</sup>, Jerome B. Hastings<sup>5</sup> and David A. Reis<sup>2,3</sup>



## Stimulated X-Ray Emission Spectroscopy in Transition Metal Complexes

Thomas Kroll,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Clemens Weninger,<sup>3,1,†</sup> Roberto Alonso-Mori,<sup>1</sup> Dimosthenis Sokaras,<sup>2</sup> Diling Zhu,<sup>1</sup> Laurent Mercadier,<sup>3</sup> Vinay P. Majety,<sup>3</sup> Agostino Marinelli,<sup>4</sup> Alberto Lutman,<sup>4</sup> Marc W. Guetg,<sup>4</sup> Franz-Josef Decker,<sup>4</sup> Sébastien Boutet,<sup>1</sup> Andy Aquila,<sup>1</sup> Jason Koglin,<sup>1</sup> Jake Koralek,<sup>1</sup> Daniel P. DePonte,<sup>1</sup> Jan Kern,<sup>1,5</sup> Franklin D. Fuller,<sup>5</sup> Ernest Pastor,<sup>5</sup> Thomas Fransson,<sup>6</sup> Yu Zhang,<sup>6</sup> Junko Yano,<sup>5</sup> Vittal K. Yachandra,<sup>5</sup> Nina Rohringer,<sup>3,7,8,‡</sup> and Uwe Bergmann<sup>1,6,8</sup>



Detected number of photons in the Mn  $K\alpha_1$  region (5 eV integration window) as a function of the nominal incoming XFEL pulse energy for the 5M MnCl<sub>2</sub> solution. The actual pulse energy on target is  $\sim 20\%$  of the nominal pulse energy shown in the figure. The 50 strongest shots in each 0.1 mJ interval are shown in orange, all other shots in black.

# More examples of non-linearities...

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- ...see lecture by C. Masciovecchio on Friday.



- ...can be a nuisance in many cases!

78 | NATURE | VOL 520 | 2 APRIL 2015

## Orbital-specific mapping of the ligand exchange dynamics of Fe(CO)<sub>5</sub> in solution

Ph. Wernet<sup>1</sup>, K. Kunnus<sup>1,2</sup>, I. Josefsson<sup>3</sup>, I. Rajkovic<sup>4†</sup>, W. Quevedo<sup>4†</sup>, M. Beye<sup>1</sup>, S. Schreck<sup>1,2</sup>, S. Grübel<sup>4†</sup>, M. Scholz<sup>4</sup>, D. Nordlund<sup>5</sup>, W. Zhang<sup>6†</sup>, R. W. Hartsock<sup>6</sup>, W. F. Schlotter<sup>7</sup>, J. J. Turner<sup>7</sup>, B. Kennedy<sup>8†</sup>, F. Hennies<sup>8</sup>, F. M. F. de Groot<sup>9</sup>, K. J. Gaffney<sup>6</sup>, S. Techert<sup>4,10,11</sup>, M. Odelius<sup>3</sup> & A. Föhlisch<sup>1,2</sup>

- “The employed average fluence of the incident monochromatized x-ray pulses on the sample was 30 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> per pulse ( $1.6 \cdot 10^{10}$  photons per pulse). In order to achieve this, the LCLS beam was **attenuated by a factor of 10** with a gas attenuator installed upstream of the SXR beamline monochromator... In this way, **spectral distortions** observed in the Fe(CO)<sub>5</sub> RIXS spectra at high peak fluences could be avoided ”

# Nonlinearities, sample damage,...



PHYSICAL REVIEW B 95, 121105(R) (2017)

## Nonequilibrium lattice-driven dynamics of stripes in nickelates using time-resolved x-ray scattering

W. S. Lee,<sup>1,\*</sup> Y. F. Kung,<sup>1,2</sup> B. Moritz,<sup>1,3,4</sup> G. Coslovich,<sup>5,6</sup> R. A. Kaindl,<sup>5</sup> Y. D. Chuang,<sup>7</sup> R. G. Moore,<sup>1</sup> D. H. Lu,<sup>8</sup>  
P. S. Kirchmann,<sup>1</sup> J. S. Robinson,<sup>5,6</sup> M. P. Minitti,<sup>6</sup> G. Dakovski,<sup>6</sup> W. F. Schlotter,<sup>6</sup> J. J. Turner,<sup>6</sup> S. Gerber,<sup>1</sup> T. Sasagawa,<sup>9</sup>  
Z. Hussain,<sup>7</sup> Z. X. Shen,<sup>1,†</sup> and T. P. Devereaux<sup>1,‡</sup>

“... the front-end nitrogen gas attenuator (set at approximately 20% transmission) was used to avoid radiation damage from the LCLS beam...”

→ High repetition rate (high average brilliance) can be very important in such cases!

# Conclusion

- X-ray Free-Electron Lasers open new avenues for research in physics, chemistry and structural biology
- The promise of a revolution in the investigation of time-dependent phenomena, of non-linear x-ray effects, etc. raises great expectations and explains the worldwide interest in these facilities
- There is however a steep „learning curve“ to climb, for experiments and also for theory, in order to exploit these potentialities in full