

FRONTIERS OF ULTRAFAST X-RAY SPECTROSCOPY

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF ITALY



Short Wavelength Sources and
Attosecond/High Field Physics
Technical Group

CNR-IFN IN A NUTSHELL



IFN MILANO



ULTRAFAST DYNAMICS IN MATTER – ATTOSECOND SCIENCE

IFN PADUA

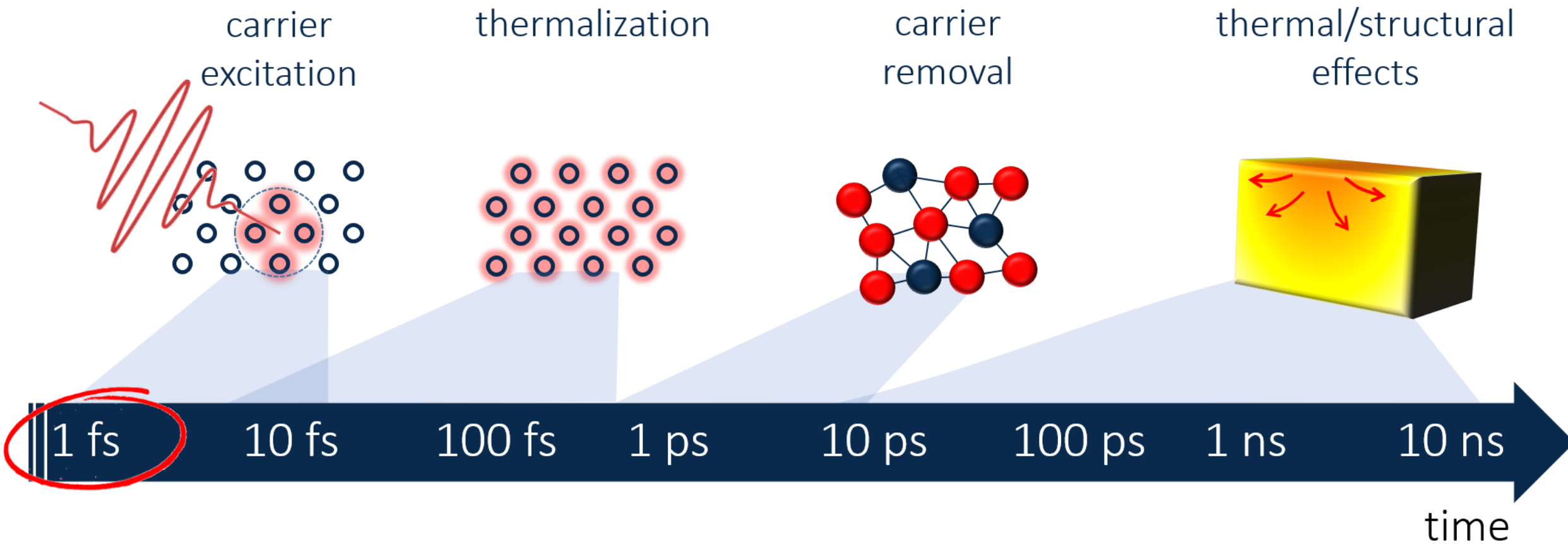


PHOTON INSTRUMENTATION IN THE EUV

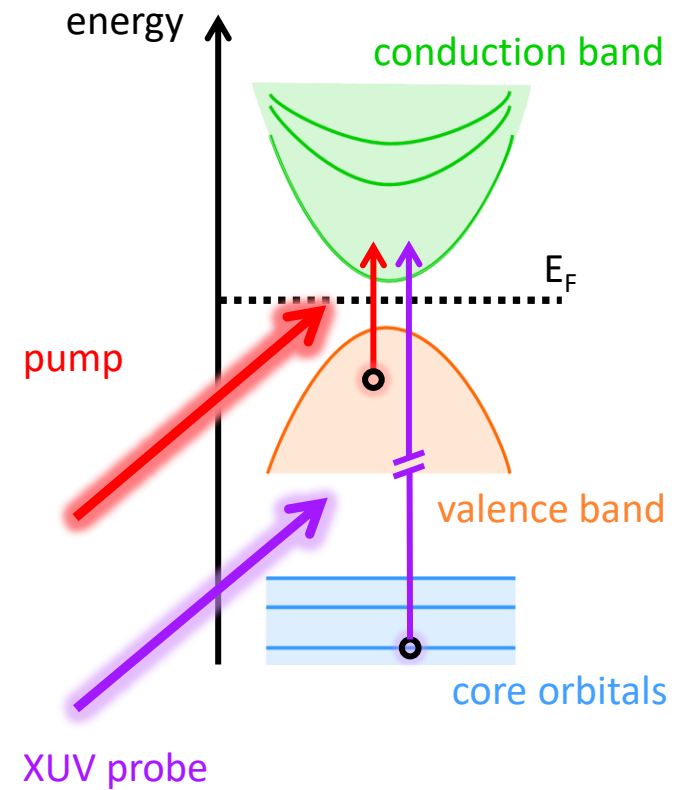
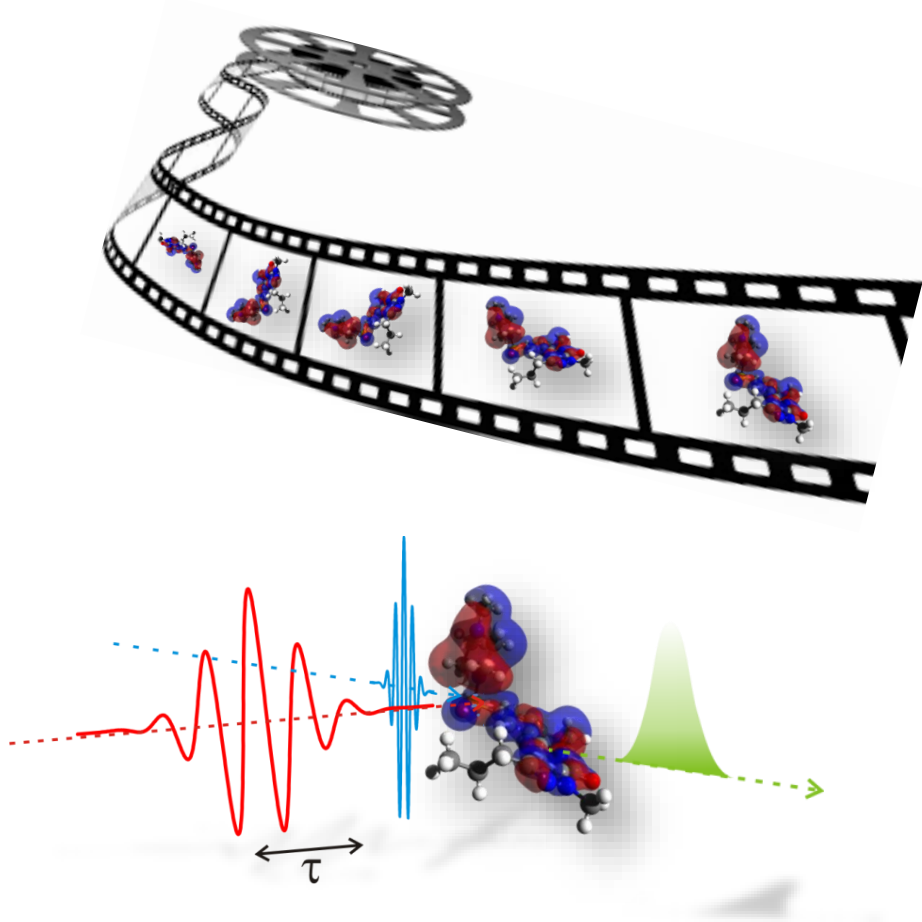


ULTRAFAST SPECTROSCOPY

STUDY AND POSSIBLY CONTROL OF ULTRAFAST DYNAMICS FROM ATOMS TO SOLIDS



ULTRAFAST SPECTROSCOPY: METHODOLOGY



ULTRAFAST SPECTROSCOPY: "PUMP-PROBE" APPROACH



WHY ULTRAFAST SPECTROSCOPY IN THE SOFT X-RAYS?



EUV AND SOFT-X ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

EXTREME ULTRAVIOLET (EUV OR XUV):

from 124 nm to 10 nm (10 eV up to 124 eV)

SOFT X-RAYS:

from 10 nm to 0,2 nm (124 eV to 5 keV)

HARD X-RAYS:

above 5–10 keV, below 0.2–0.1 nm wavelength

WATER WINDOW:

region of the electromagnetic spectrum in which water is transparent to soft x-rays
From the K-absorption edge of carbon at 282 eV (4.40 nm) to the K-edge of oxygen at 533 eV (2.33 nm wavelength)



SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA



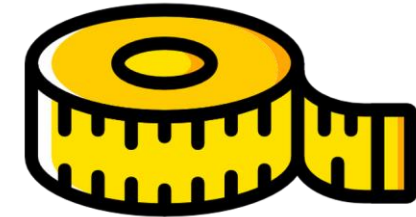
PROPERTIES OF SOFT-X

✓ HIGH SPATIAL RESOLUTION

WAVELENGTH SCALE:

CARBON K-EDGE 280 EV (44 ANGSTROMS)

BOND LENGTH IN METHANE 1 ANGSTROMS



✓ HIGH TEMPORAL RESOLUTION

TIME SCALE:

BOHR ORBITAL PERIOD IN HYDROGEN ATOM 150 AS

HYDROGEN MOLECULES VIBRATIONAL PERIOD 8 FS



✓ CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY

FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL ATOMS WITHIN MOLECULES TO STUDY ELECTRONIC AND NUCLEAR DYNAMICS ON THEIR INTRINSIC SCALES (ATTOSECOND AND ANGSTROMS)

THE IDEAL SOURCE

- ✓ BROADBAND X-RAY CONTINUUM FOR CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY
- ✓ FULL POLARIZATION CONTROL
- ✓ EXTREME TEMPORAL RESOLUTION
- ✓ HIGH BRIGHTNESS

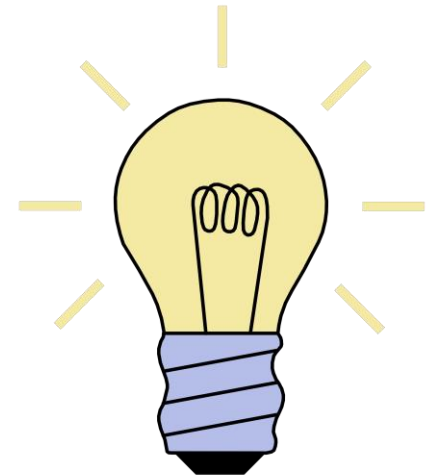


TABLE-TOP SOURCES vs FREE ELECTRON LASERS

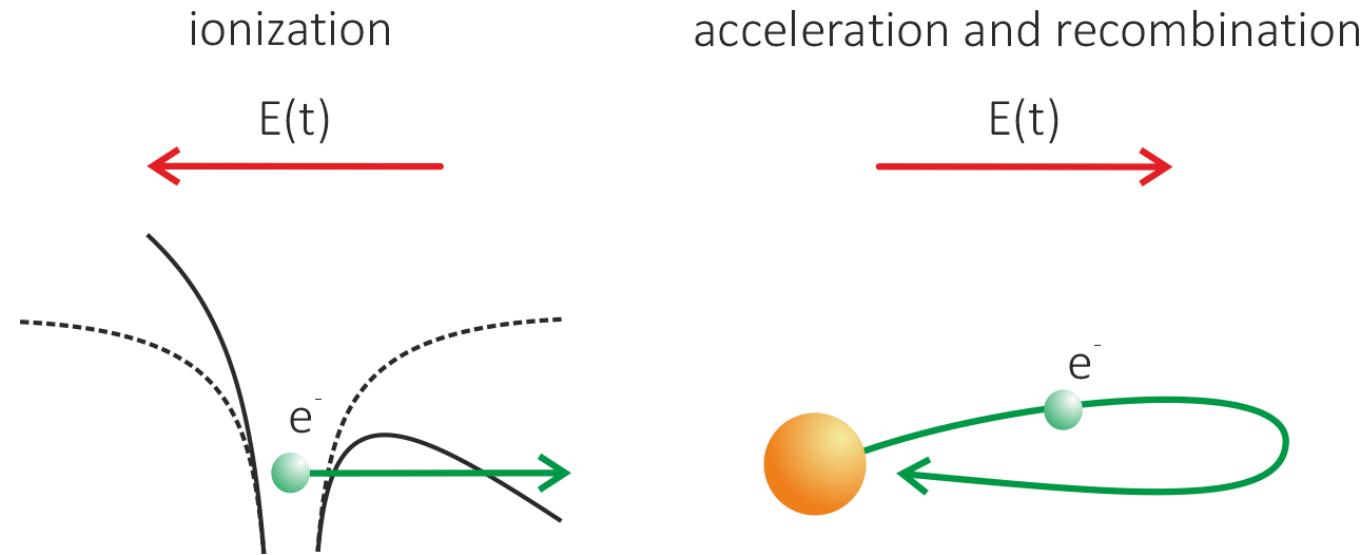


- PRICE
- FLEXIBILITY
- TEMPORAL RESOLUTION (50 AS)
- ACCESSIBILITY
- STRUCTURED LIGHT

- INTENSITY (10^{20} W/CM²)
- INSTRUMENTATION
- SPECTRAL PURITY
- POLARIZATION CONTROL

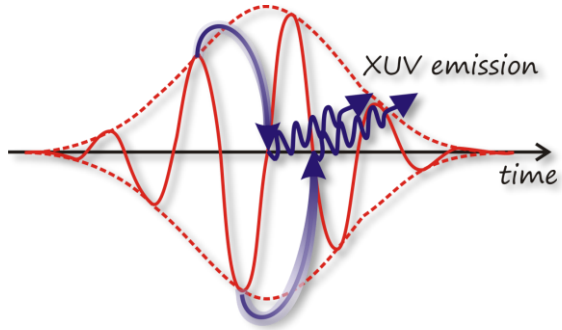


HIGH ORDER HARMONIC GENERATION



- I. THE LASER FIELD DETACHES AN ELECTRON FROM THE VALENCE SHELL BY TUNNEL IONIZATION
- II. THE FREE ELECTRON IS ACCELERATED BY THE LASER FIELD
- III. THE ENERGY GAINED BY THE ELECTRON IS RELEASED THROUGH THE EMISSION OF A XUV PHOTON

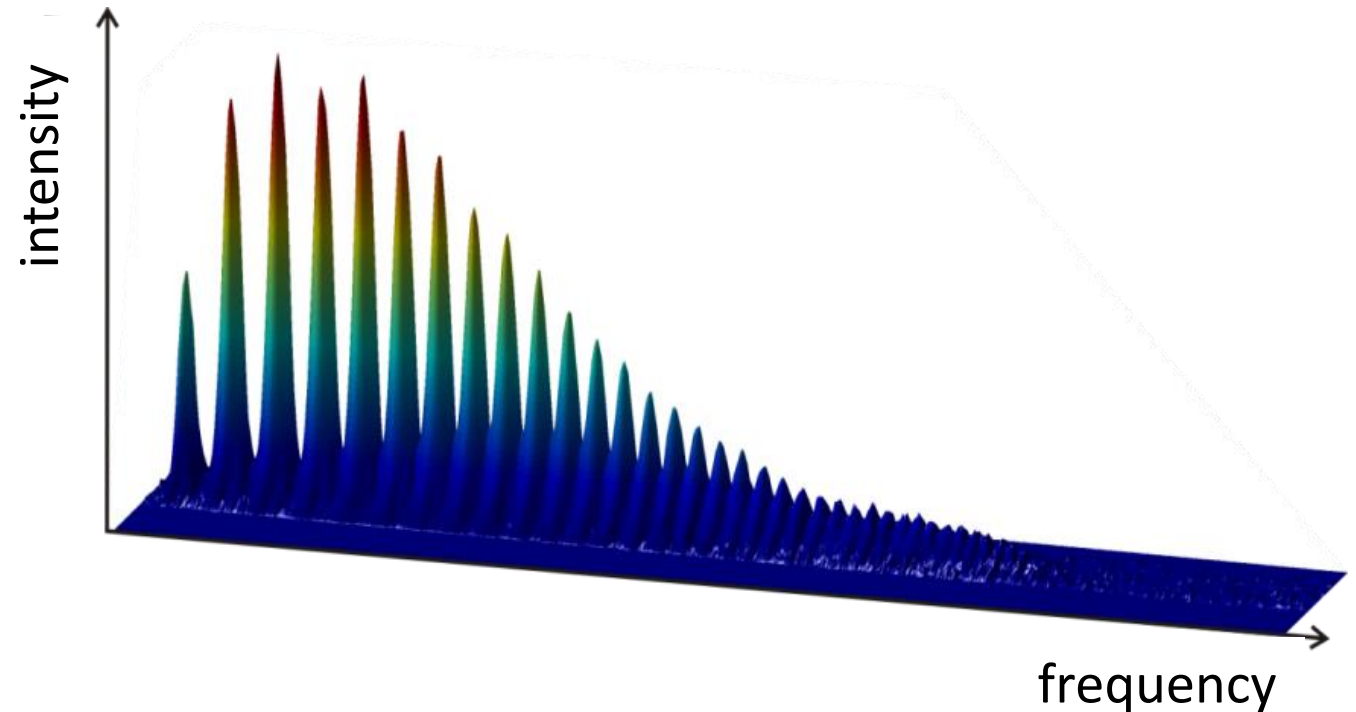
HIGH ORDER HARMONIC GENERATION



ODD HARMONICS OF THE
FUNDAMENTAL FREQUENCY
TRAIN OF ATTOSECOND PULSES

$$H\omega_{\text{CUTOFF}} = I_p + 3.17 U_p$$

$$U_p \sim E^2 \lambda^2$$

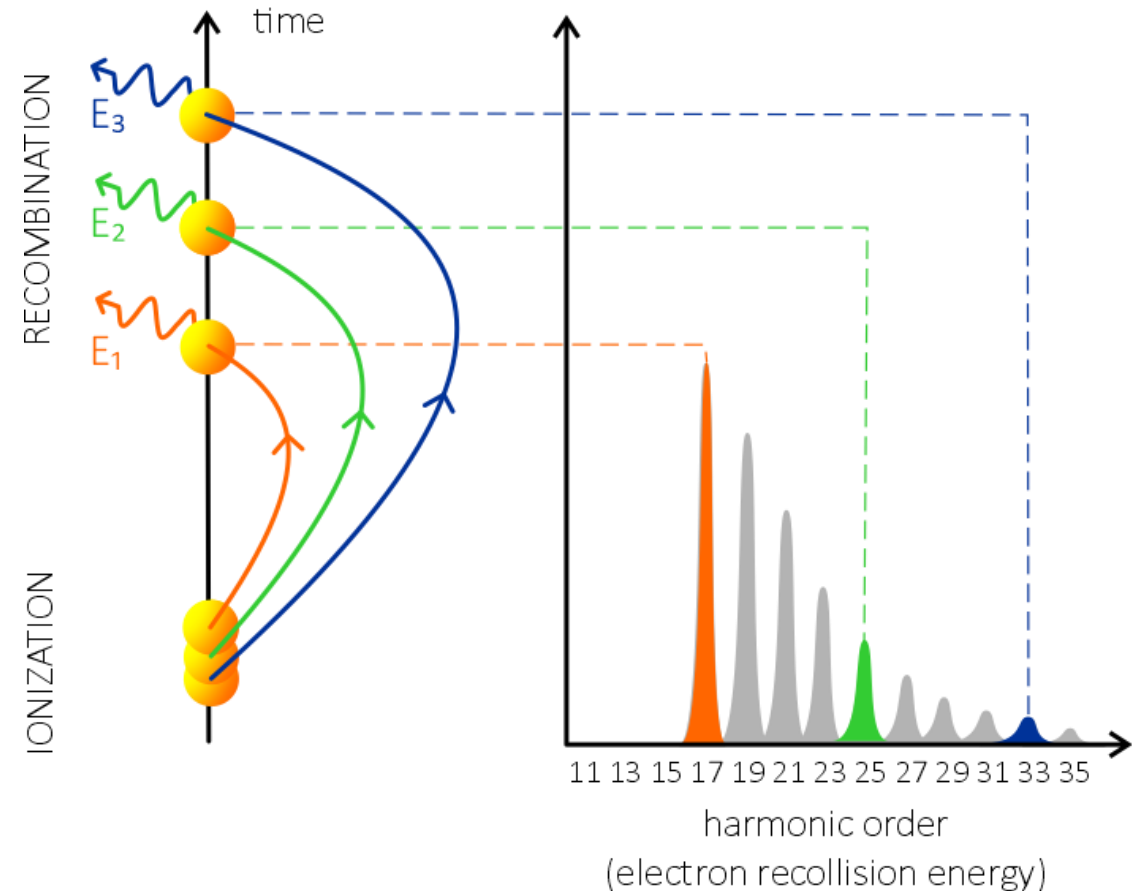


HOW TO INCREASE THE HHG CUTOFF

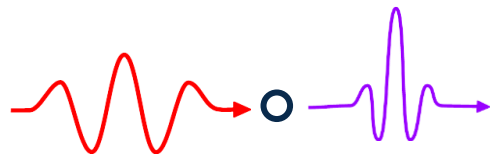
- INCREASE I_p
- INCREASE THE DRIVING INTENSITY
- INCREASE THE DRIVING WAVELENGTH

LARGER WAVEPACKET DIFFUSION

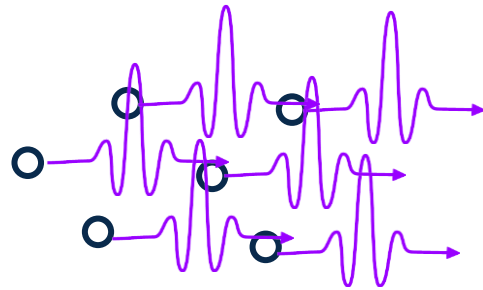
→ LOWER RECOMBINATION PROBABILITY



PHASE MATCHING IN HHG



SINGLE ATOM



PHASE MATCHING

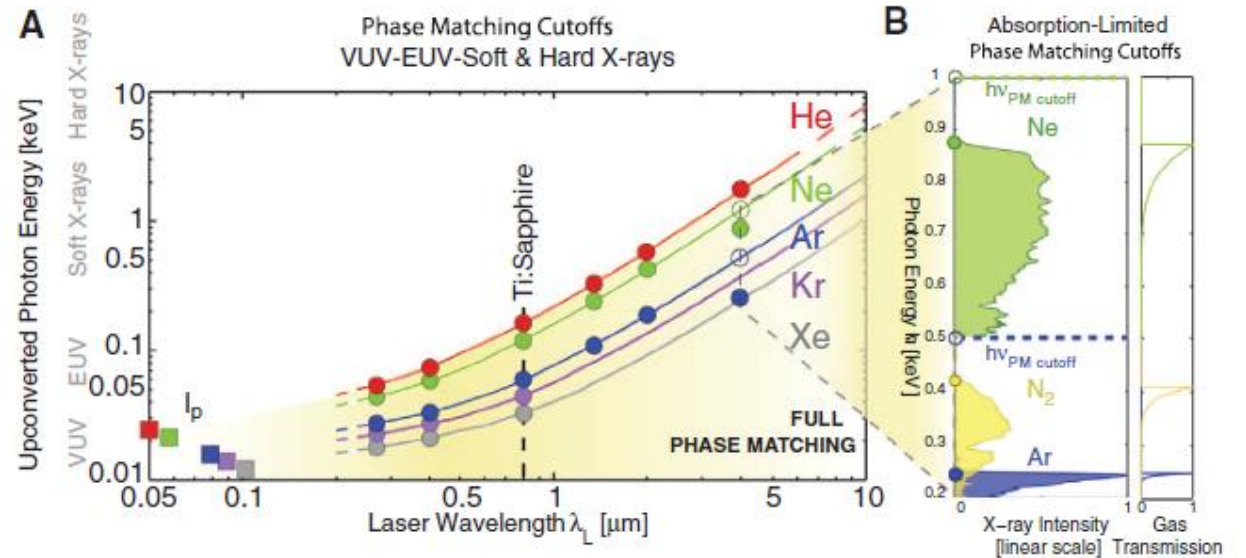
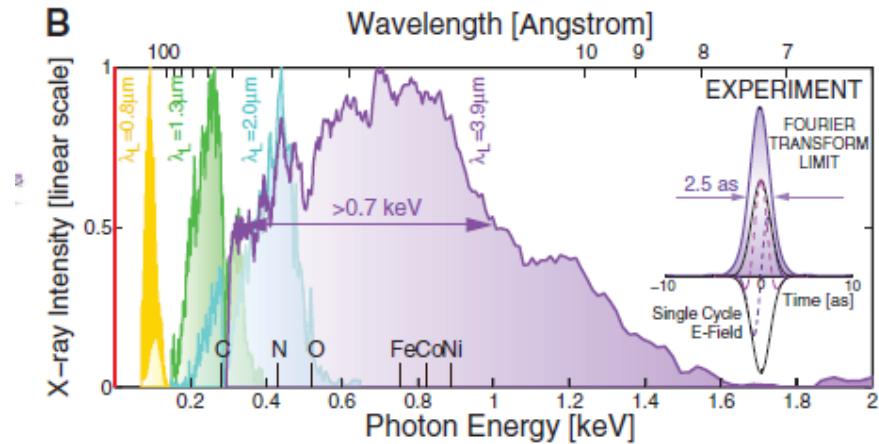
- PHASE-MATCHING DEPENDS ON:
- GAS MEDIUM
- DRIVING WAVELENGTH/INTENSITY
- GEOMETRY OF THE INTERACTION



PHASE MATCHING IN HHG DRIVEN BY LONG WAVELENGTH

Bright Coherent Ultrahigh Harmonics in the keV X-ray Regime from Mid-Infrared Femtosecond Lasers

Tenio Popmintchev,^{1*} Ming-Chang Chen,¹ Dimitar Popmintchev,¹ Paul Arpin,¹ Susannah Brown,¹ Skirmantas Ališauskas,² Giedrius Andriukaitis,² Tadas Balčiunas,² Oliver D. Mücke,² Audrius Pugzlys,² Andrius Baltuška,² Bonggu Shim,³ Samuel E. Schrauth,³ Alexander Gaeta,³ Carlos Hernández-García,⁴ Luis Plaja,⁴ Andreas Becker,¹ Agnieszka Jaron-Becker,¹ Margaret M. Murnane,¹ Henry C. Kapteyn¹



T. POPMINTCHEV ET AL., SCIENCE 336, 1287 (2012)



TABLE-TOP SOFT X-RAYS SOURCES STATE OF THE ART



WATER WINDOW HHG SOURCES



BIEGERT: S.M. TEICHMANN ET AL., NATURE COMM. 7, 11493 (2016)

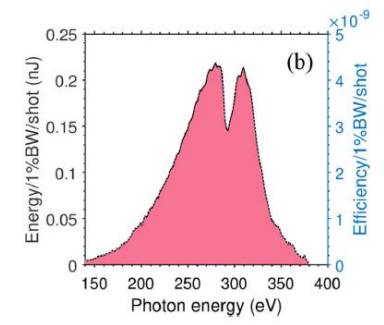
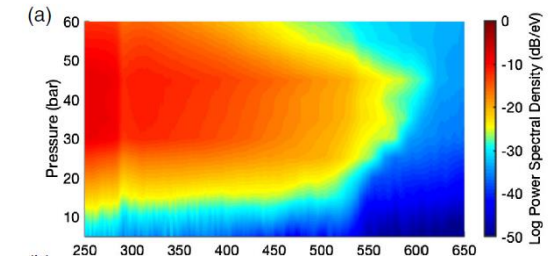
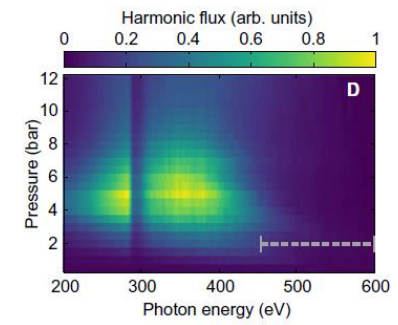
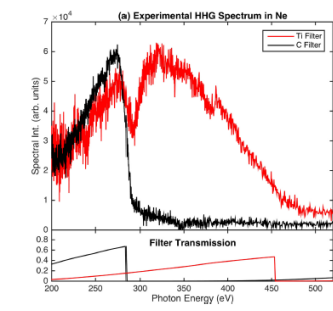
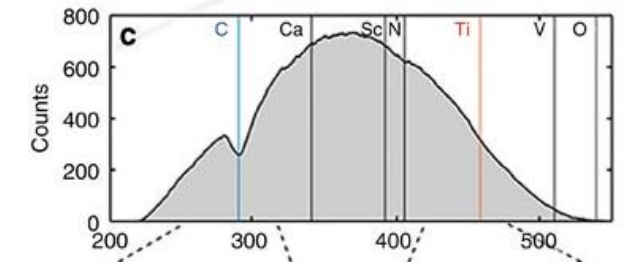
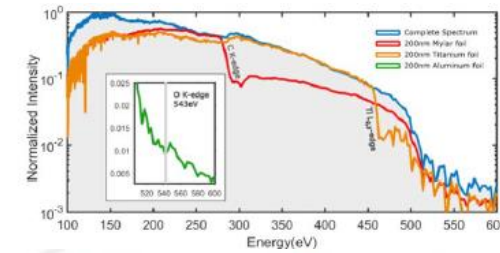
LEGARE: V. CARDIN ET AL., J. PHYS. B: 51 174004 (2018)

KAERTNER: G. STEIN ET AL., J. PHYS. B: 49 155601 (2016)

MARANGOS: JOHNSON ET AL., SCI. ADV. 4, EAAR3761 (2018)

KELLER: J. PUPEIKIS ET AL., OPTICA 7, 168 (2020)

TAKAHASHI: Y. FU ET AL., COMMUNICATION PHYSICS (2020)

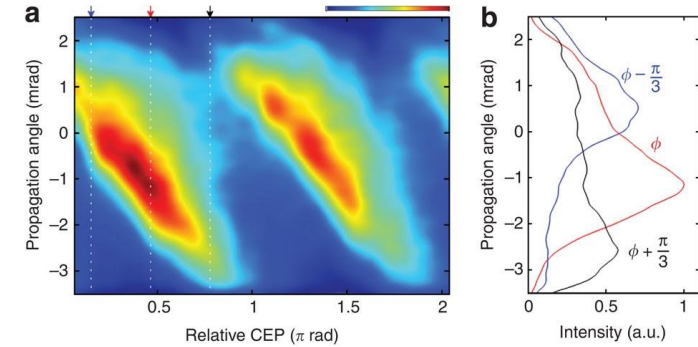


SOFT-X ATTOSECOND SOURCES

GROUP OF JENS BIEGERT

ISOLATION OF INDIVIDUAL ATTOSECOND PULSES AT THE CARBON K-EDGE BY WAVEFRONT ROTATION PULSE DURATION BELOW 400 AS AND WITH A BANDWIDTH SUPPORTING A 30-AS PULSE DURATION

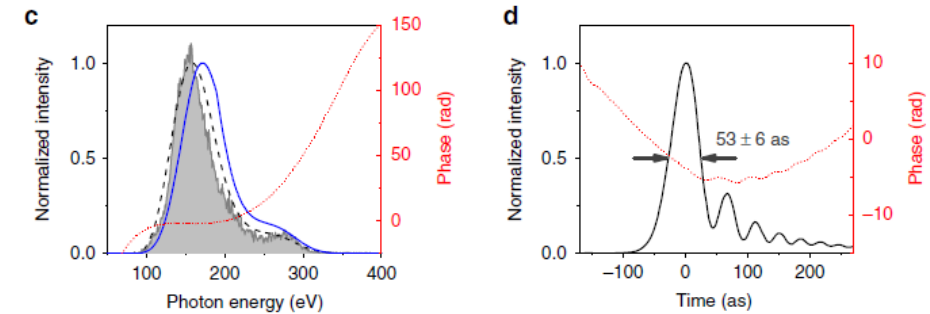
FRANCISCO SILVA ET AL., NATURE COMM. 6, 6611 (2015)



GROUP OF ZENGHU CHANG

2-CYCLE OPA AT 1800 NM, POLARIZATION GATING
53 AS, 200 EV BANDWIDTH UP TO THE CARBON K-EDGE
PROOF METHOD FOR THE TEMPORAL CHARACTERIZATION

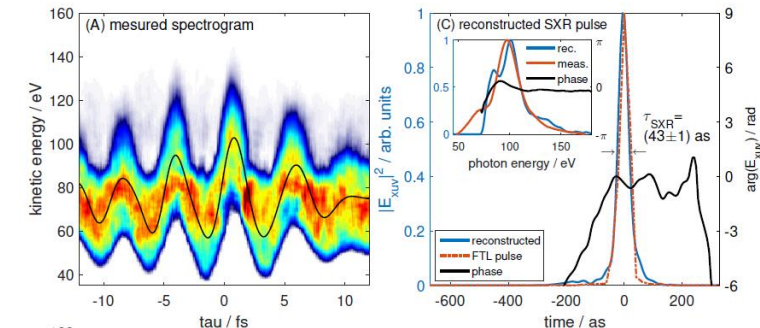
J. LI ET AL., NATURE COMMUNICATION DOI: 10.1038/S41467-017-00321-0 (2017)



GROUP OF HANS JAKOB WOERNER

2-CYCLE OPA @ 1800 NM, AMPLITUDE GATING
43-ATTOSECOND
100 EV BANDWIDTH REACHING PHOTON ENERGIES UP TO 180 EV

T. GAUMNITZ ET AL., OPTICS EXPRESS 25, 27516 (2017)



TRANSIENT ABSORPTION IN THE WATER WINDOW

BIEGERT:

B. BUADES ET AL., APPL. PHYS. REV. 8, 011408 (2021)

LEONE:

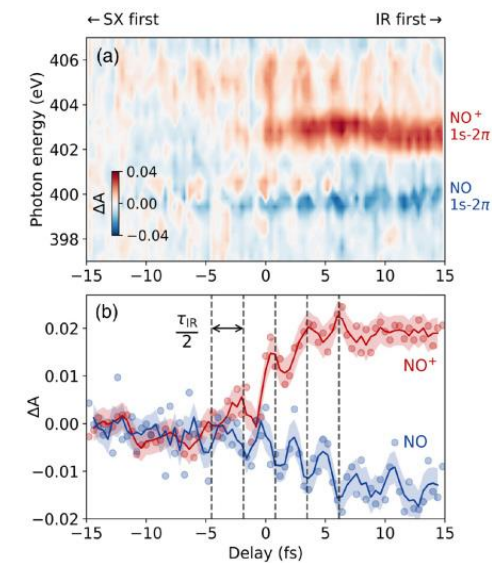
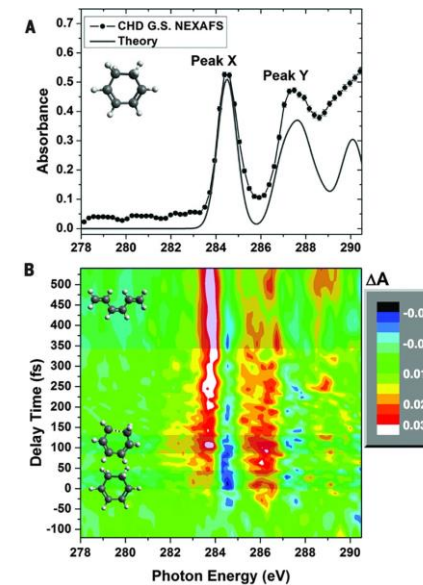
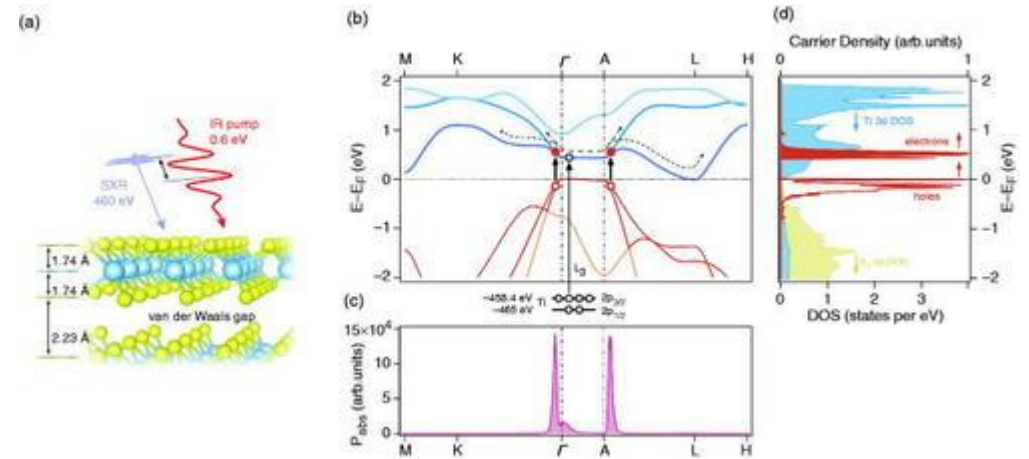
A. R. ATTAR ET AL., SCIENCE 356, 54 (2017)

ITATANI:

N. SAITO ET AL., OPTICA 6, 1542-1546 (2019)

WOERNER:

Y. PERTOT ET AL. SCIENCE 355, 264 (2017)



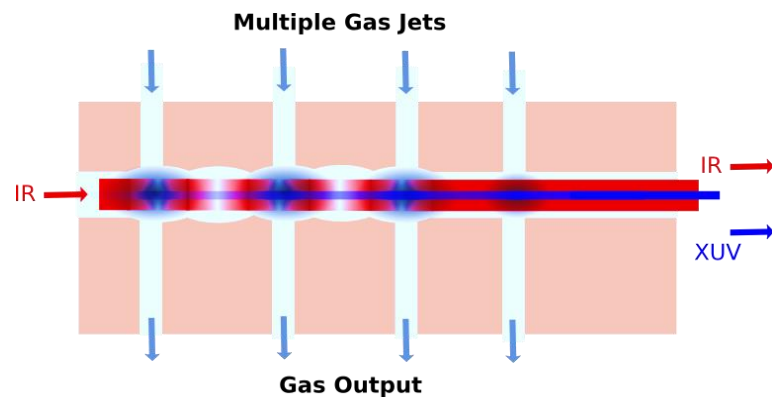
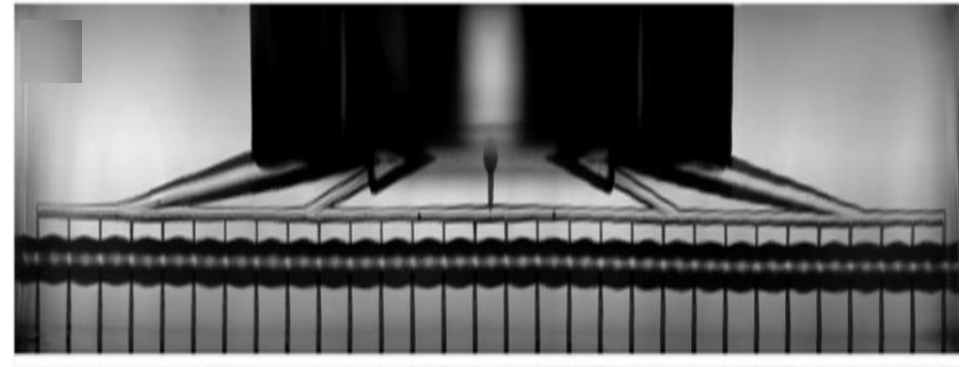
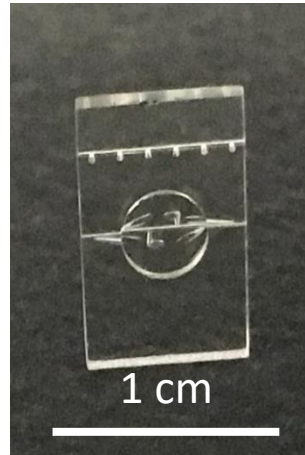
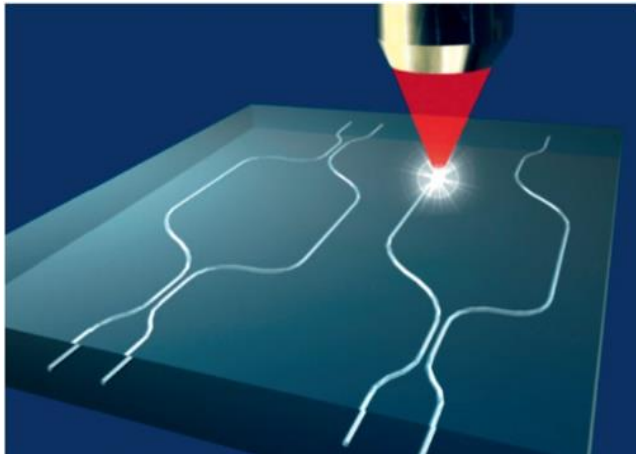
NOVEL STRATEGY FOR THE GENERATION
OF BRIGHT ATTOSECOND PULSES IN THE SOFT-X:
HHG IN A CHIP



THE IDEA: HHG + MICROFLUIDIC

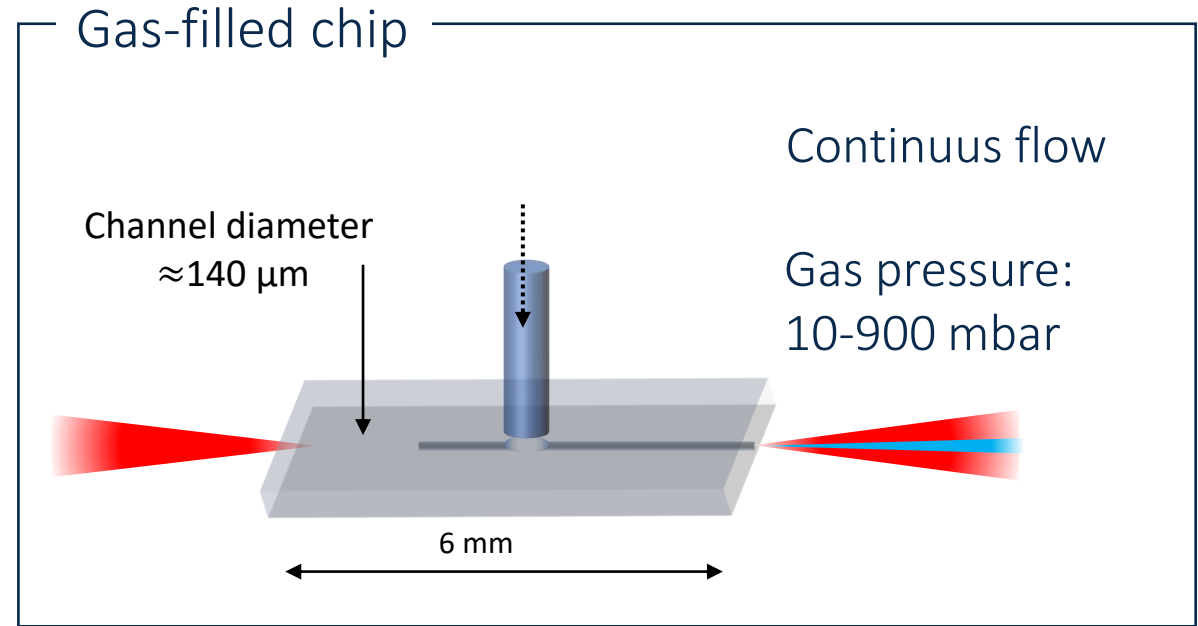
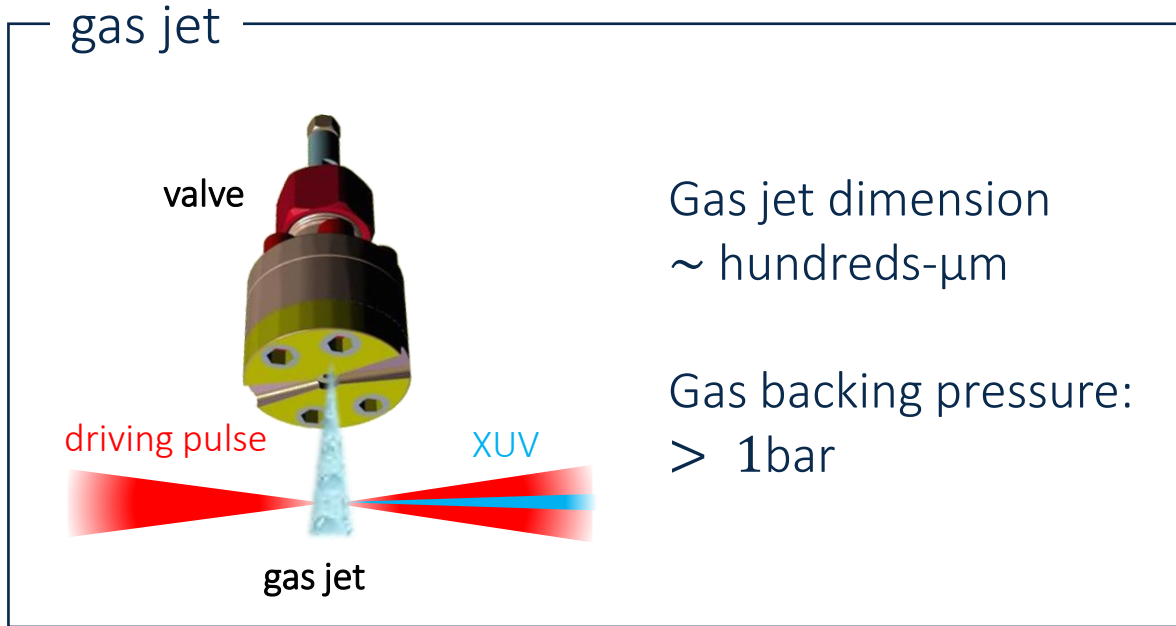
FEMTOSECOND LASER IRRADIATION FOLLOWED BY CHEMICAL ETCHING

BY R. MARTINEZ VAZQUEZ + R. OSELLAME

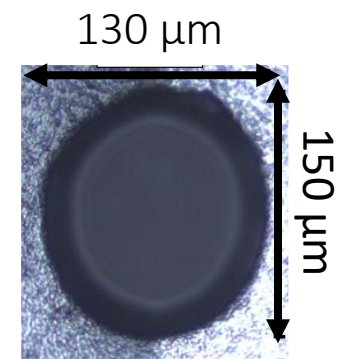
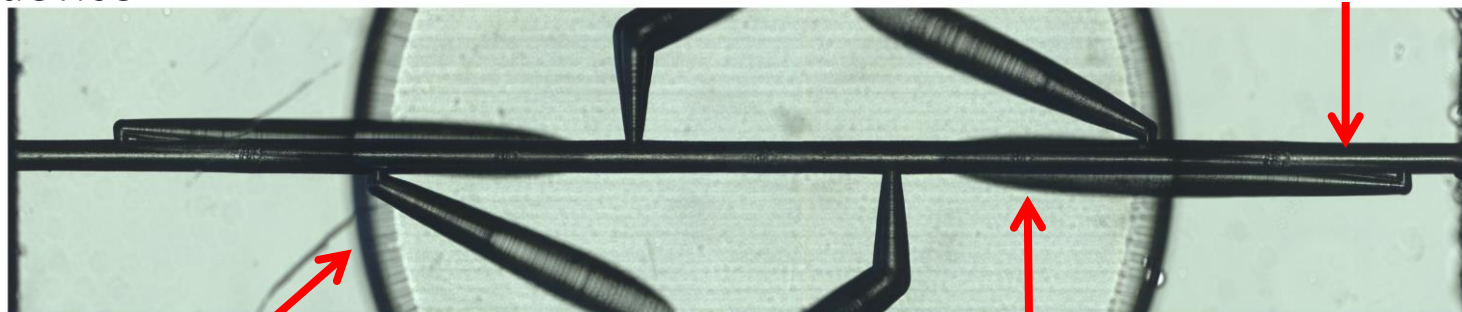


- ✓ FLEXIBLE PLATFORM
- ✓ INCREASED EFFICIENCY
- ✓ EXTENDED BANDWIDTH
- ✓ POLARIZATION MANIPULATION (?)

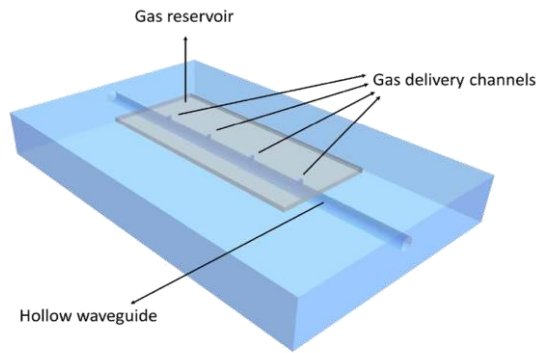
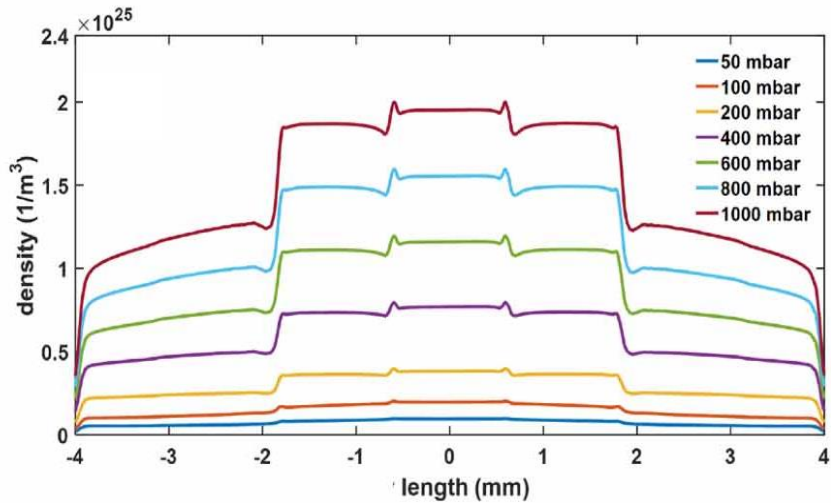
THE IDEA: HHG + MICROFLUIDIC



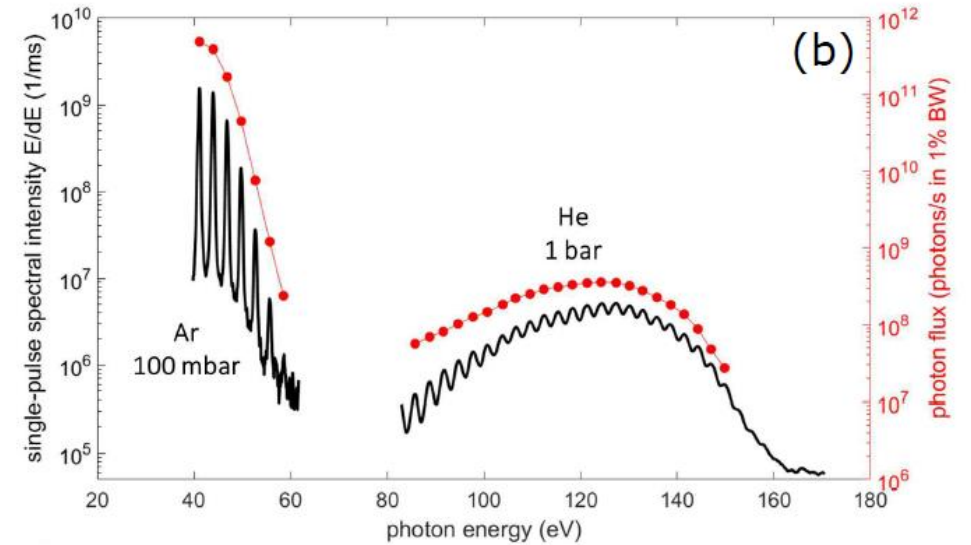
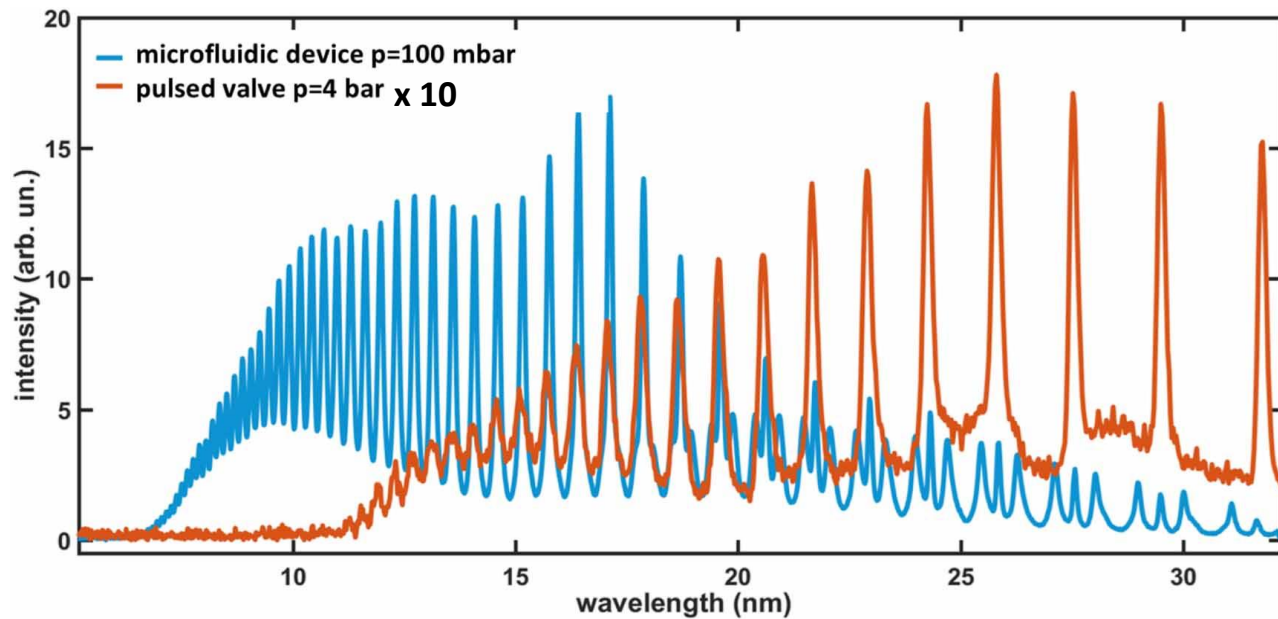
Top view of the device



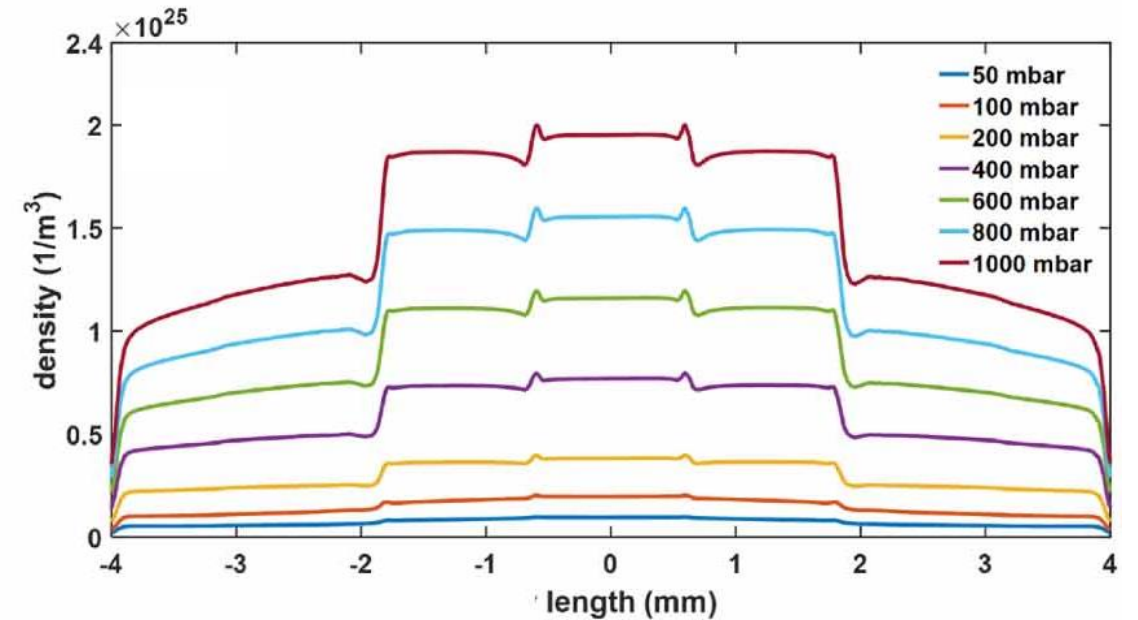
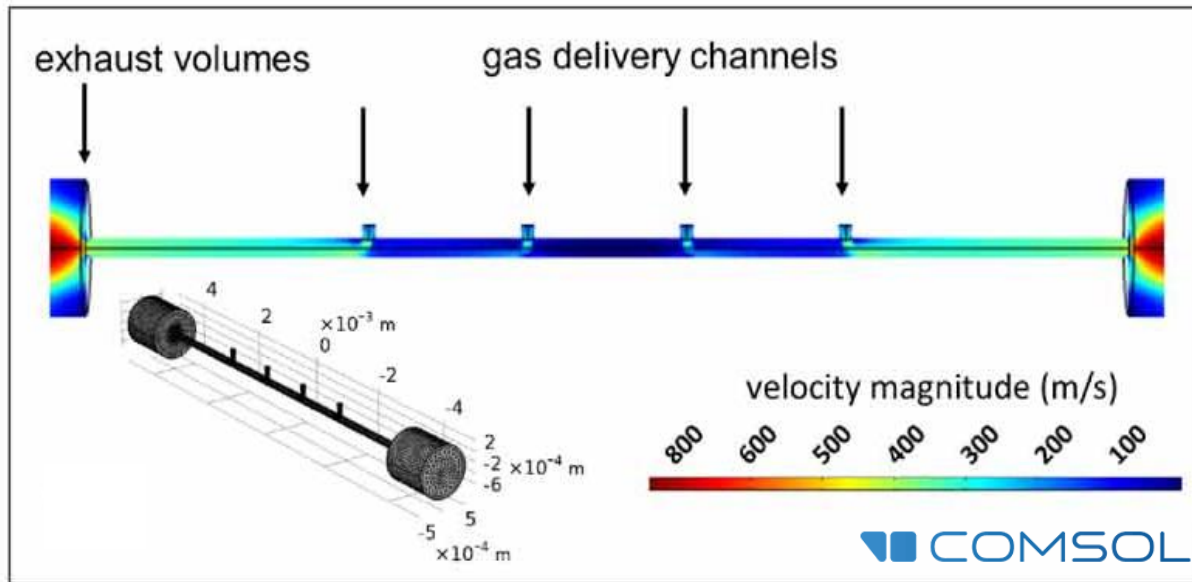
CHIP VS PULSED VALVE



HE, 800 NM, 20 FS, SAME PULSE ENERGY, SINGLE SHOT

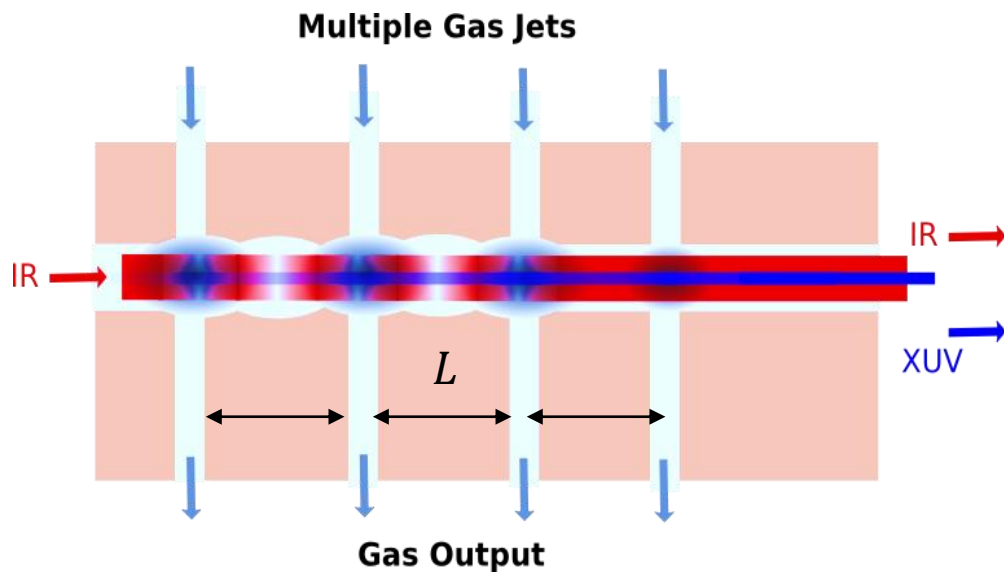


HHG IN CHIP: GAS DENSITY PROFILE



CHIP ENGINEERING

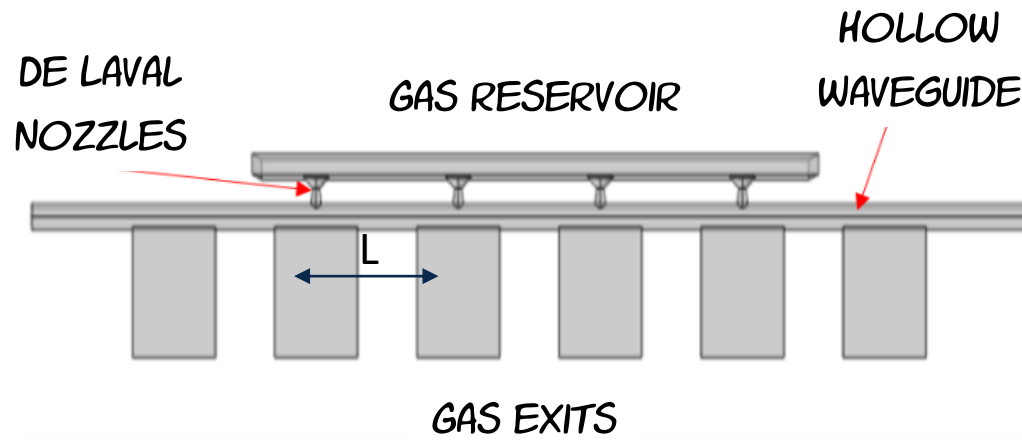
PHASE MATCHING OPTIMIZATION



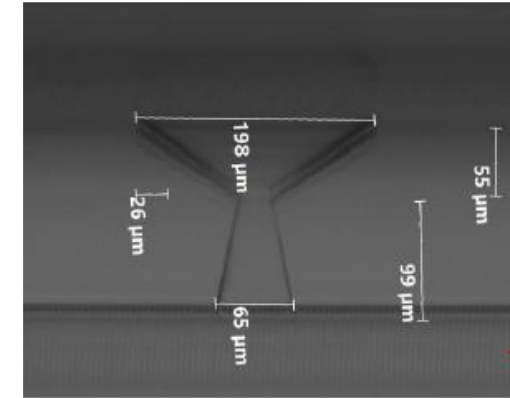
- ✓ PERIODICITY OF NOZZLES
- ✓ DIAMETER MODULATION
- ✓ NOZZLE SHAPE AND DIMENSION



MODULATION OF GAS DENSITY

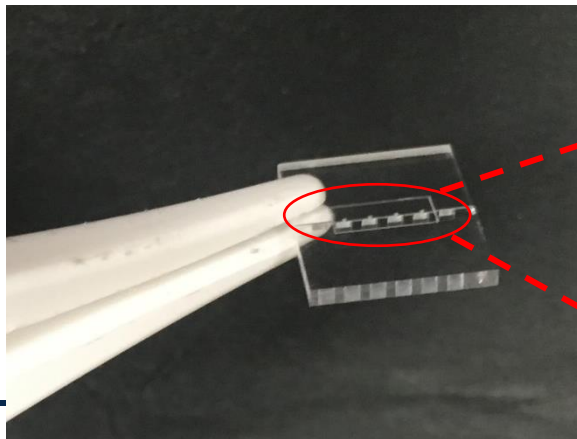


MICROSCOPE VIEW



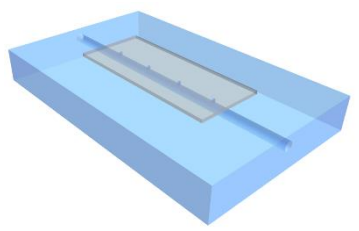
DE LAVAL MICRO-NOZZLES

MICROSCOPE VIEW



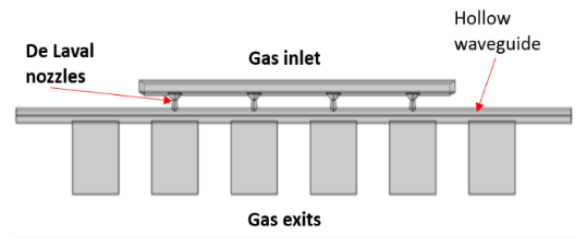
HHG IN NEW CHIP

First generation

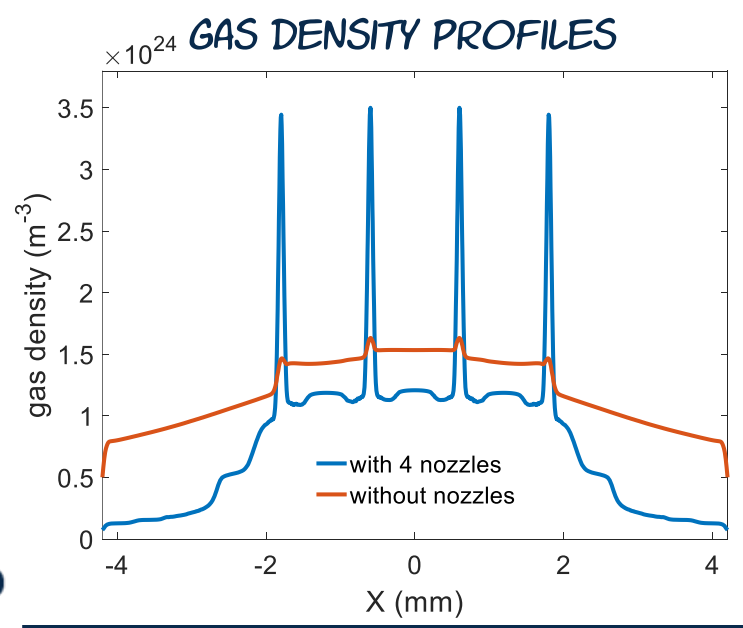


— straight channels

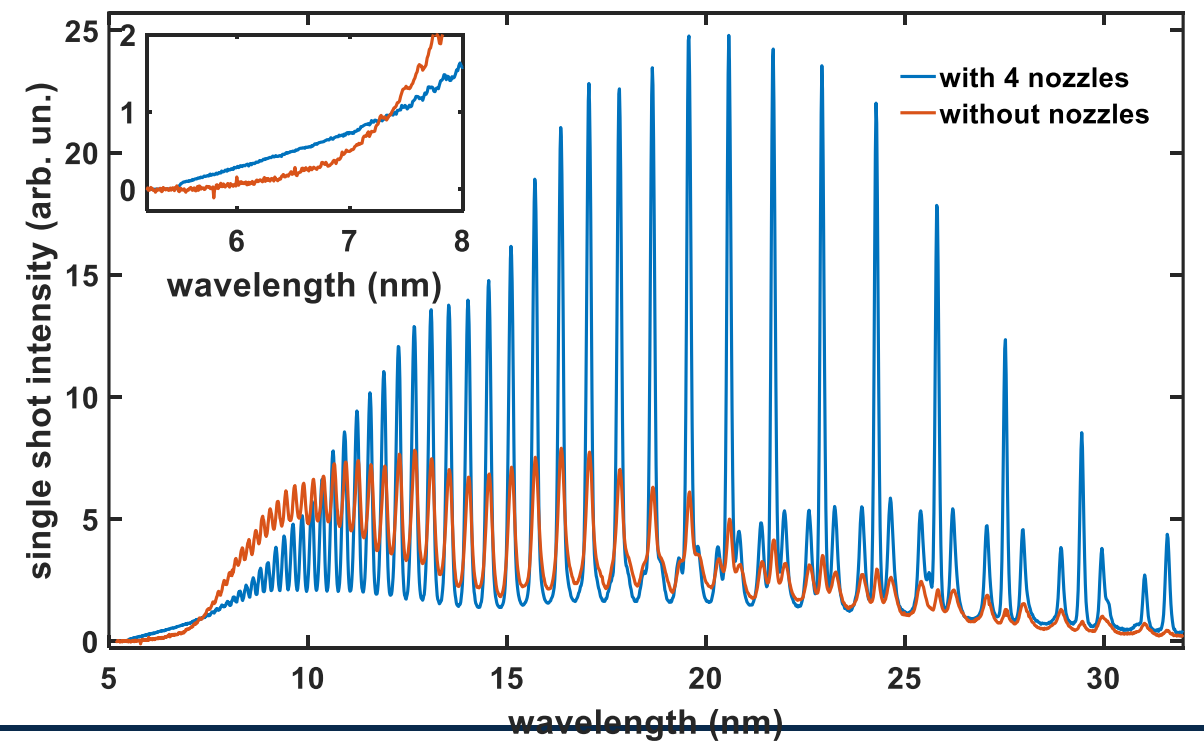
Second generation 1.0



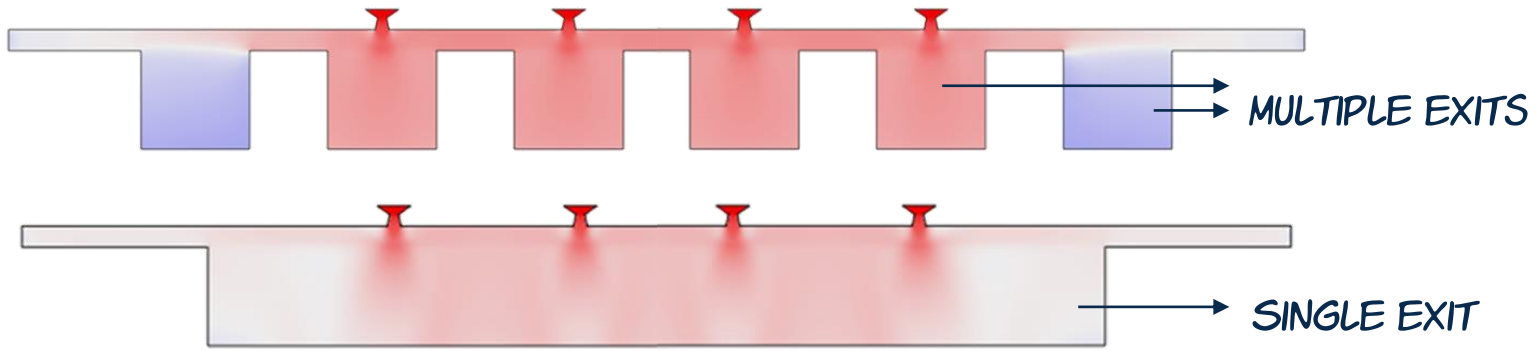
— with 4 nozzles



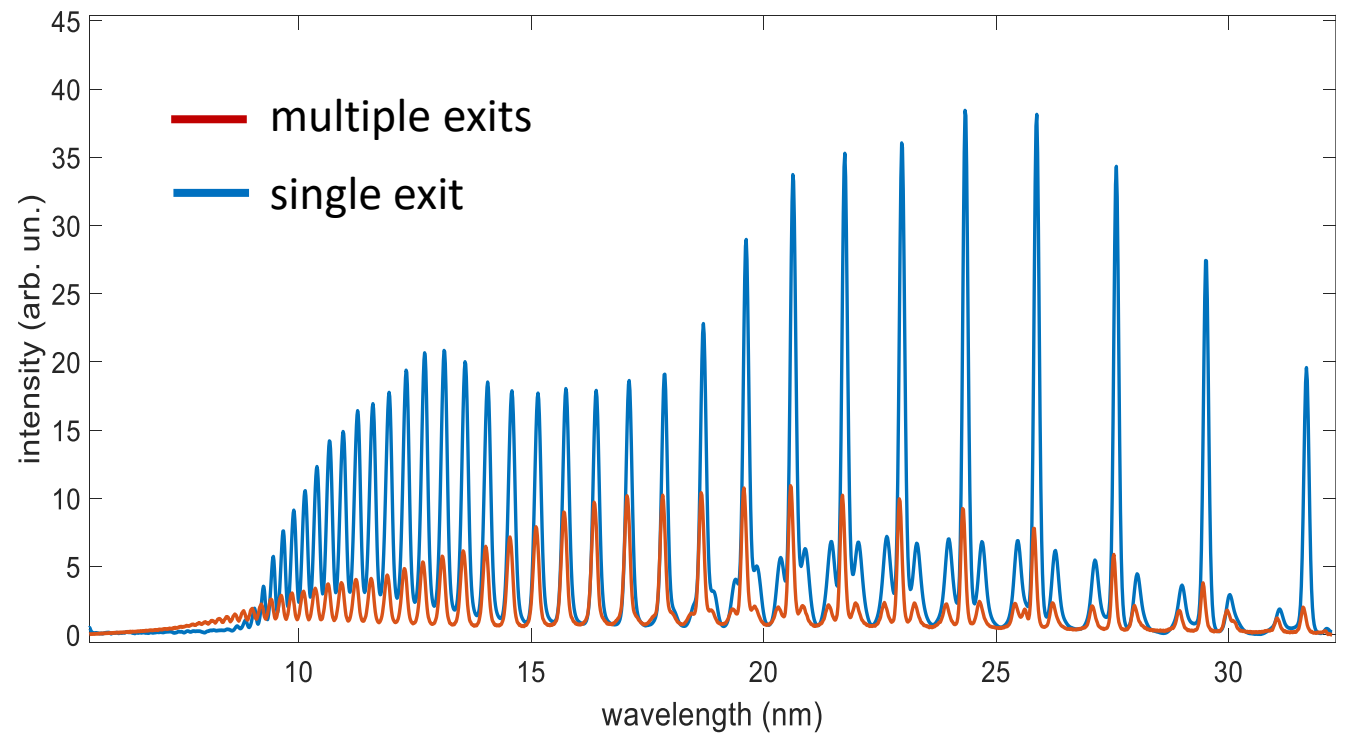
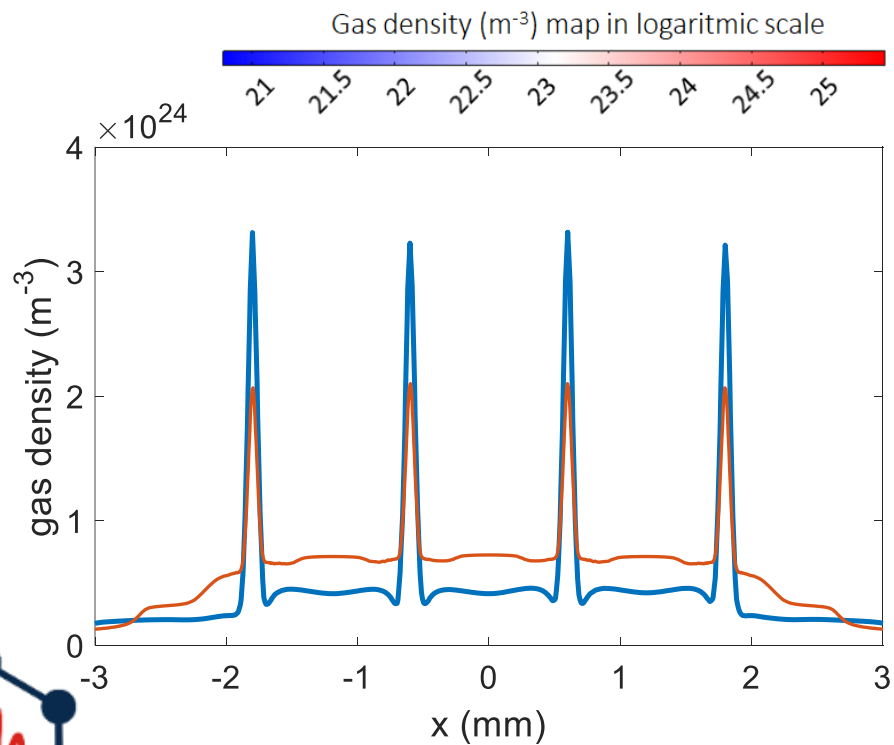
HE, 800 NM, 20 FS, SINGLE SHOT



HOW TO IMPROVE THE GAS DENSITY MODULATION

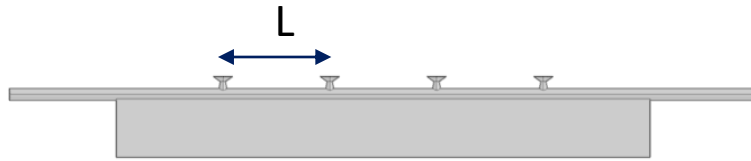


HE GAS, SINGLE SHOT

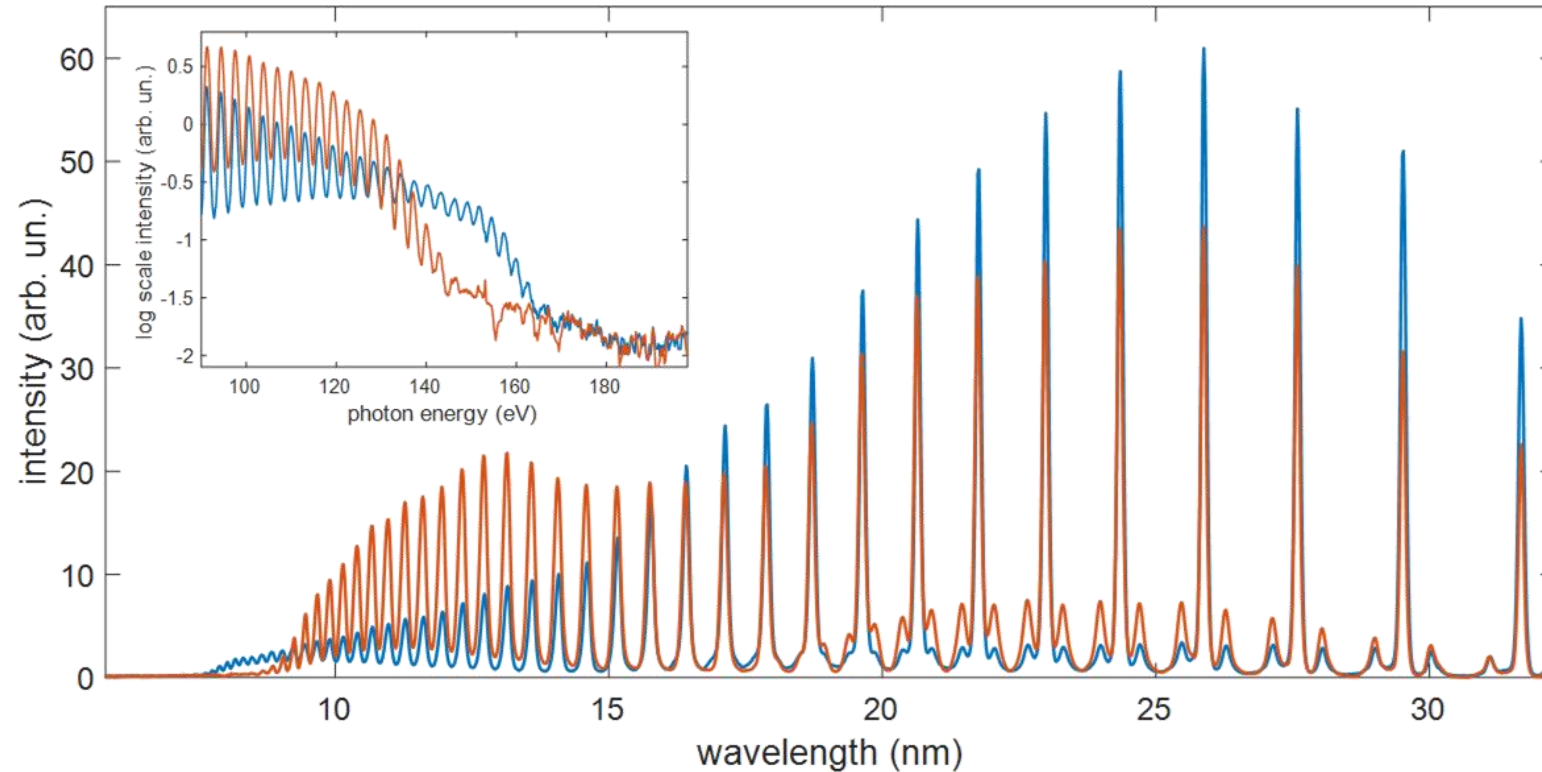
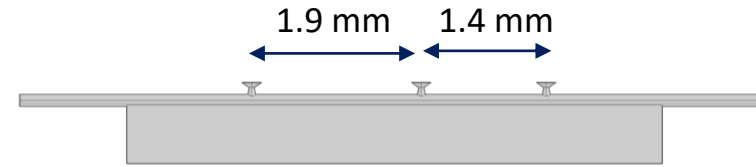


HOW TO SHAPE THE HHG

4 NOZZLES ARRANGED IN A PERIODIC STRUCTURE (L=1.2 MM)

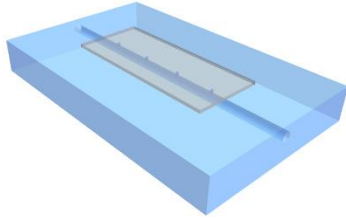


3 NOZZLES ARRANGED IN A NON-PERIODIC STRUCTURE

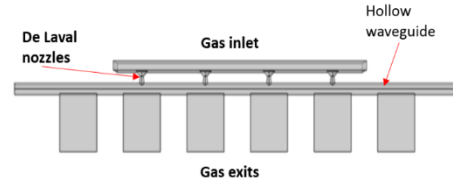


HHG IN CHIP: SUMMARY

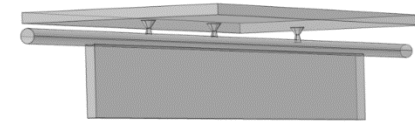
FIRST GENERATION



SECOND GENERATION 1.0

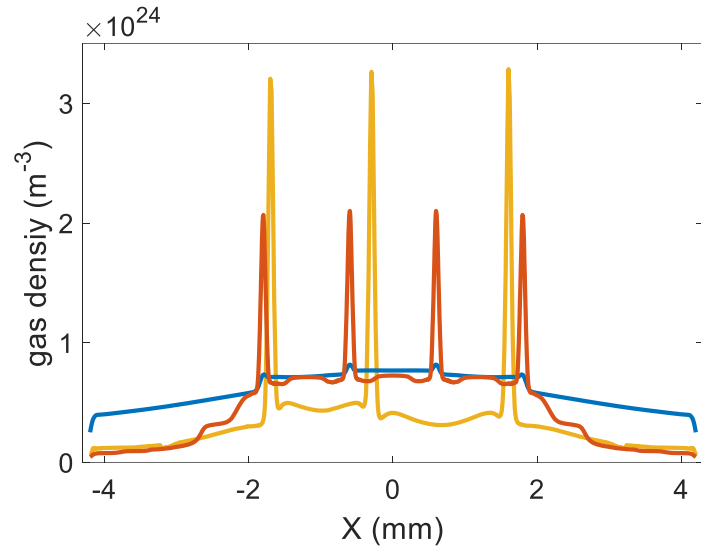


SECOND GENERATION 2.0

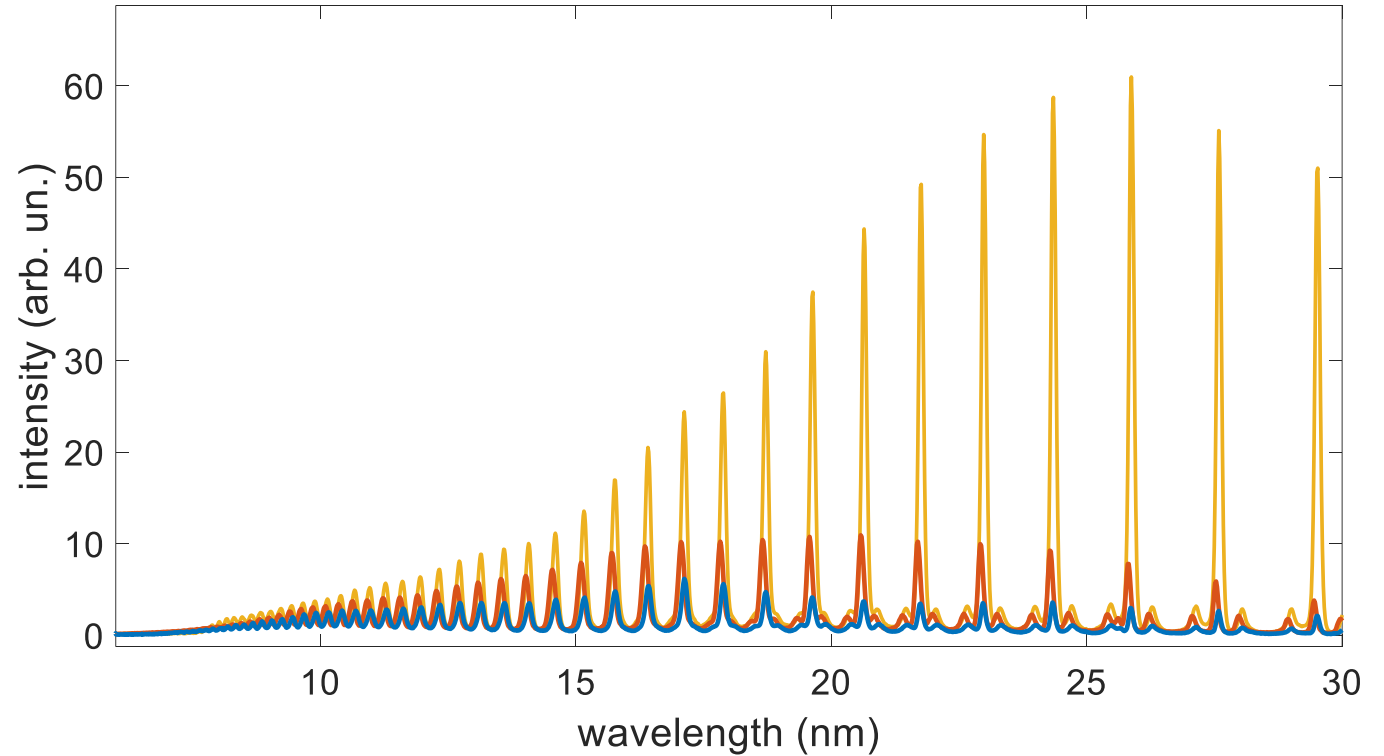


HE GAS, SINGLE SHOT

GAS DENSITY PROFILES



(SAME BACKGROUND PRESSURE)



THE ULTRAFAST DYNAMIC IN MATTER GROUP



SALVATORE
STAGIRA



EUGENIO
CINQUANTA



MICHELE
DEVETTA



EGLE
MOLOTOKAITE



DAVIDE FACCIALA'



ANNA G
CIRIOLO



ANDREA
ANNUNZIATA



MATTEO
BONANOMI



GABRIELE
CRIPPA



LORENZO GATTO



BOGDAN ISPAS



STAVROULA
VOVLA

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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H2020-INFRAIA-2019-1 GA 871124



Cost Action CA18222

SMART-X

H2020-MSCA-ITN-2019 GA 860553



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC-2018-PoC GA 813103



CNR laboratorio congiunto



MIUR International Project ELI



MIUR PRIN 2017RKWTMY





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WWW.UDYNI.EU

OPEN POSITIONS IN UDYNI LABS:

1 PHD POSITION (FEBRUARY 2022) ON SOFT X-RAY INTEGRATED PHOTONICS

1 POST DOC (2022) ULTRAFAST DYNAMICS IN BIOMOLECULES

Frontiers of Ultrafast X-ray Spectroscopy and Imaging

OSA Virtual Seminar

Giulia Fulvia Mancini

Department of Physics, University of Pavia (IT)

Zoom webinar

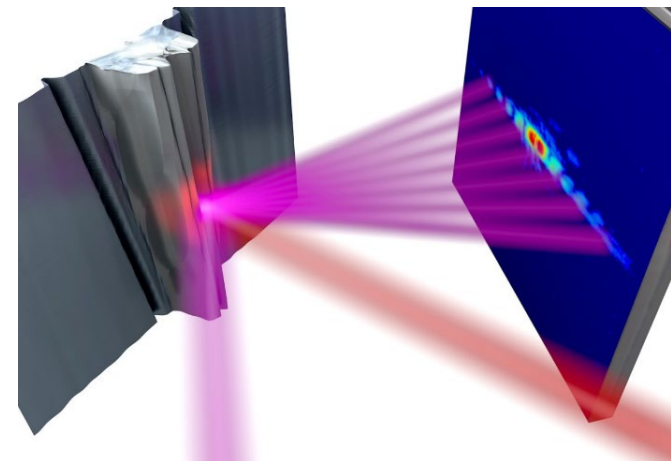
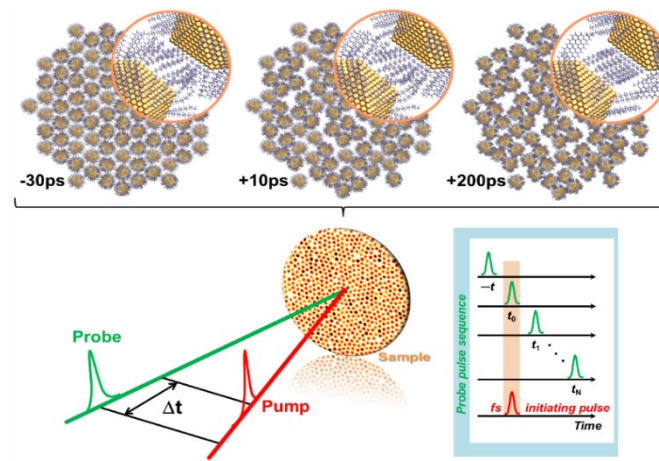
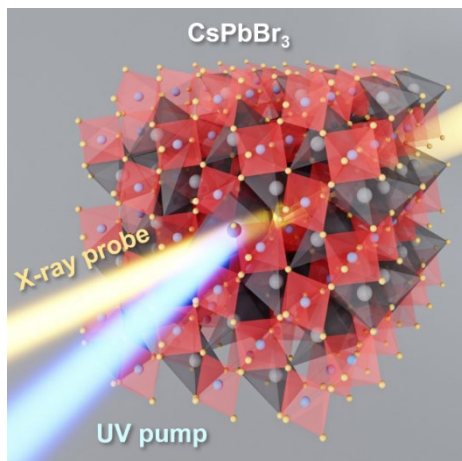
May 20th 2021



Deliverables of this webinar

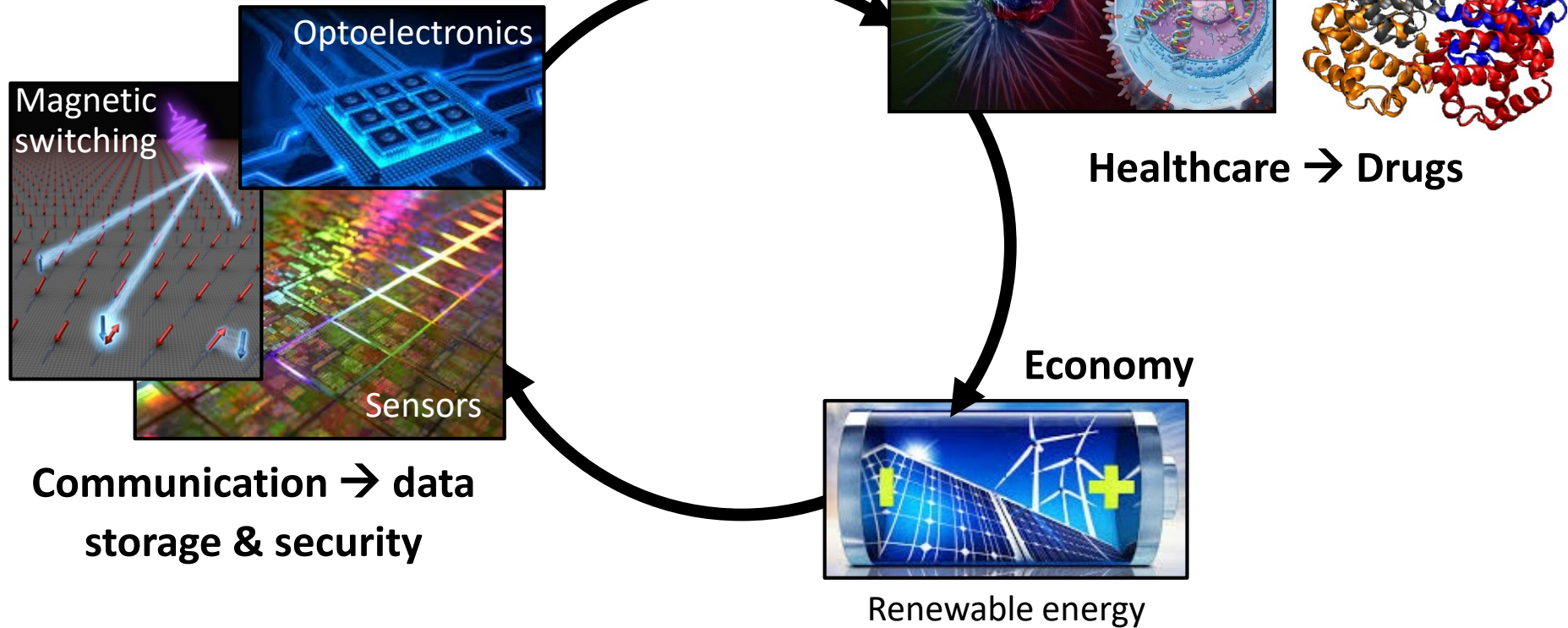
Outline:

- Relevance of new functional nanomaterials
- Challenges in technology miniaturization
- Collectives from building-blocks with tailored properties
- Ultrafast techniques: general concept
- Probing heterogeneity & dimensionality:
 - Spectroscopy: Polaronic non-thermal photo-activation in CsPbBr₃
 - Diffraction Imaging: mechanical stiffness in Au-NPs
 - Coherent EUV Imaging: Thermal and acoustic dynamics in waveguides



"Everything changes at the nano-level"

Technology miniaturization:
Functional materials engineered
in the deep nanoscale regime

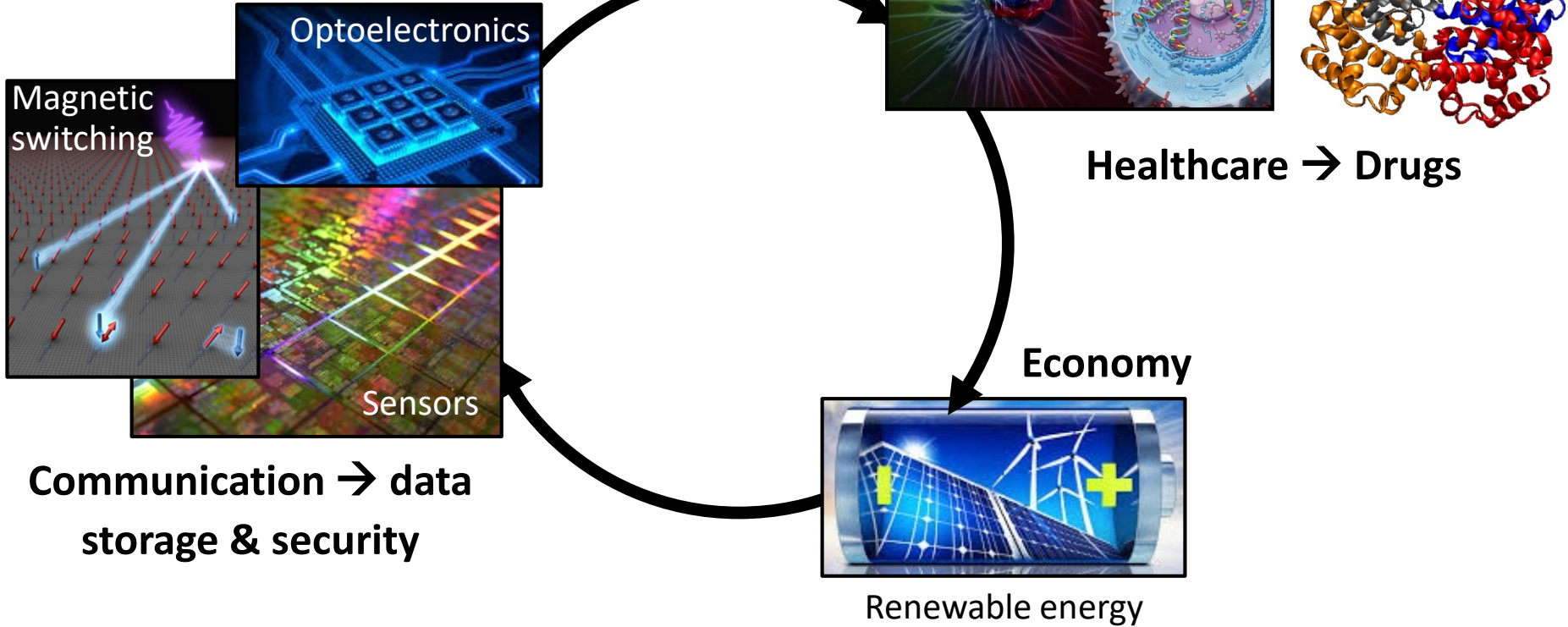


Bulk macroscopic models cannot predict heat, charge or spin transport

"Everything changes at the nano-level"

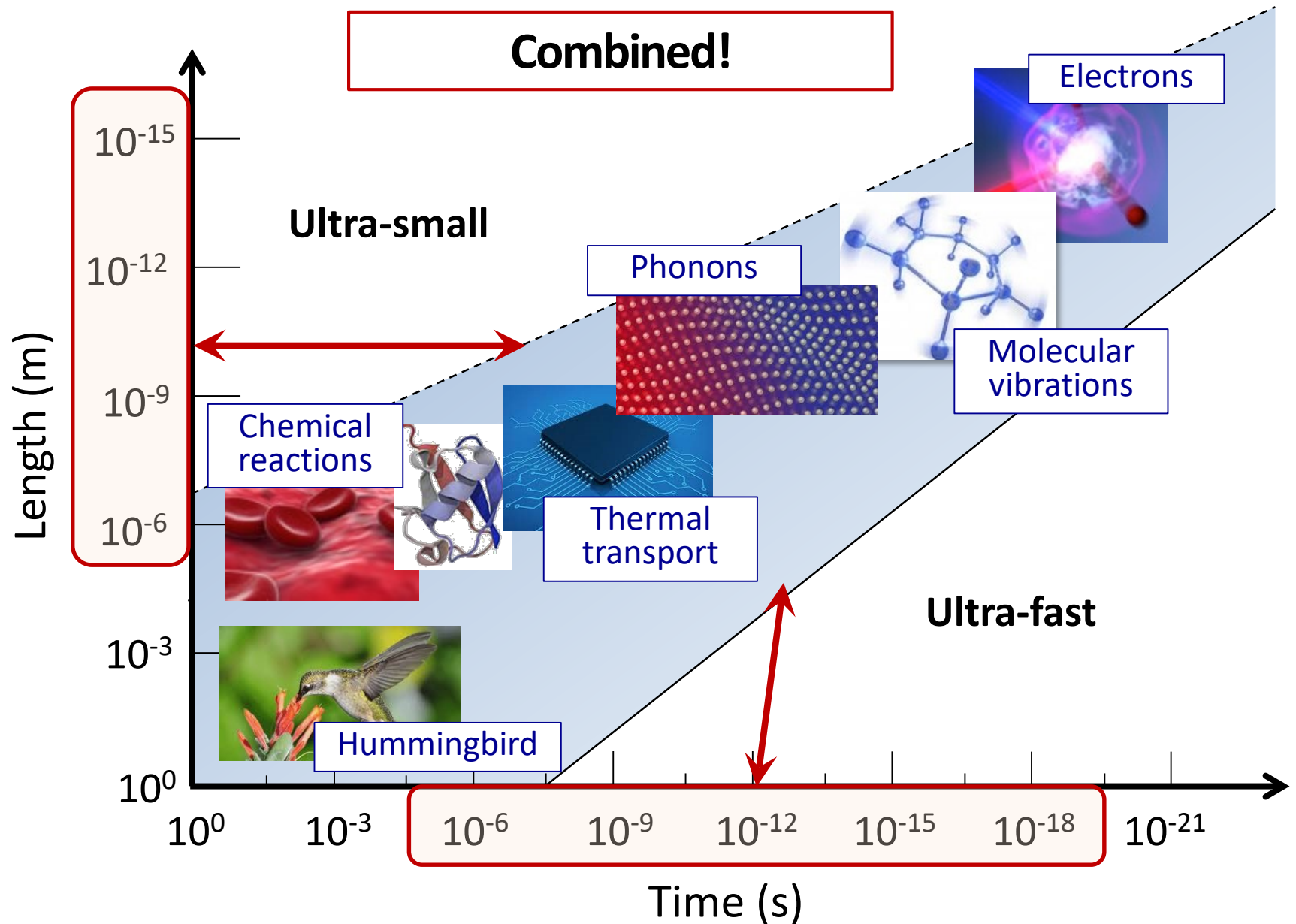
Current grand challenge:

Correlate macro- & microscopic properties
while functionality occurs

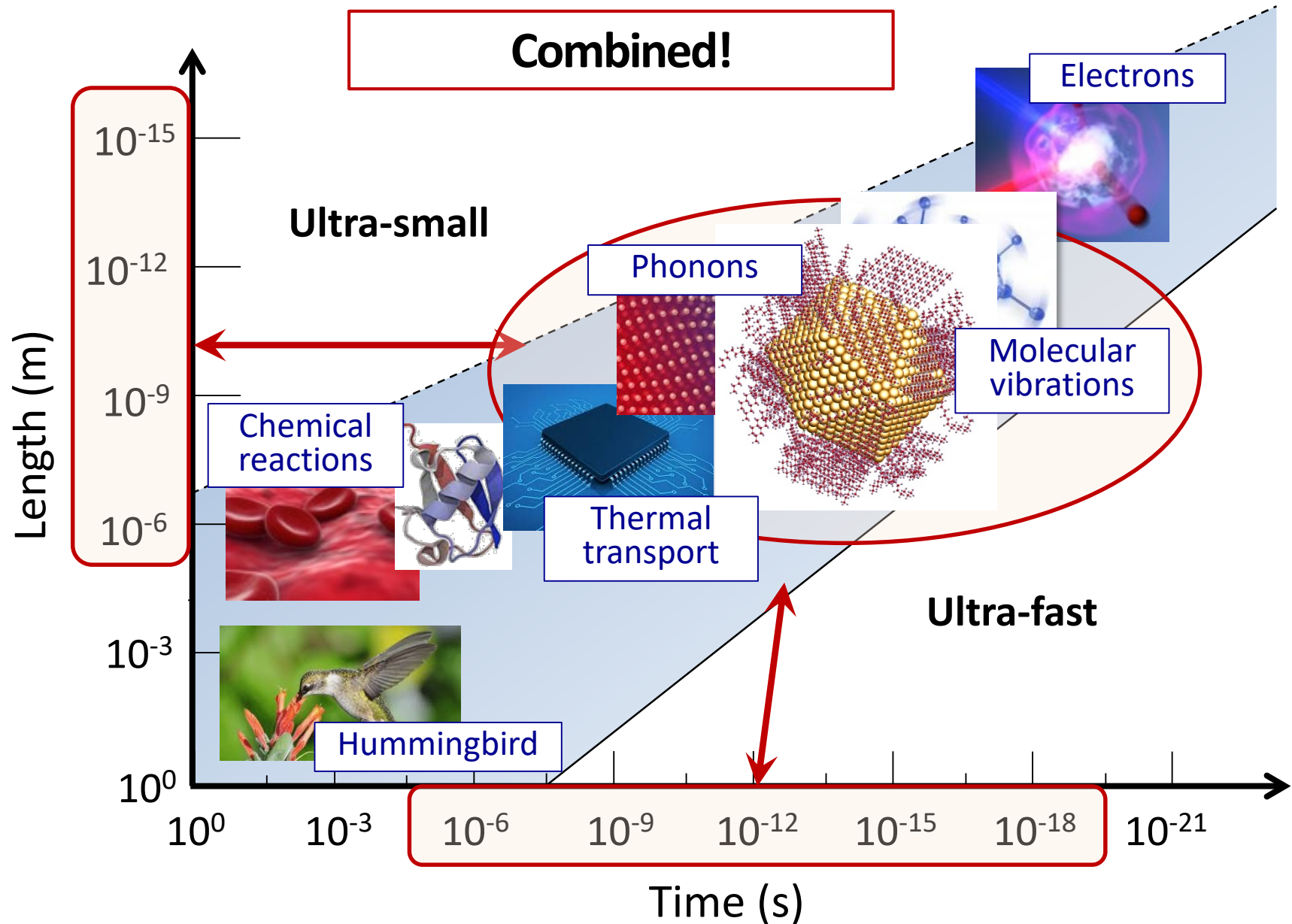


We need **new** characterization tools!

Measuring functional response



Measuring functional response



Building blocks...

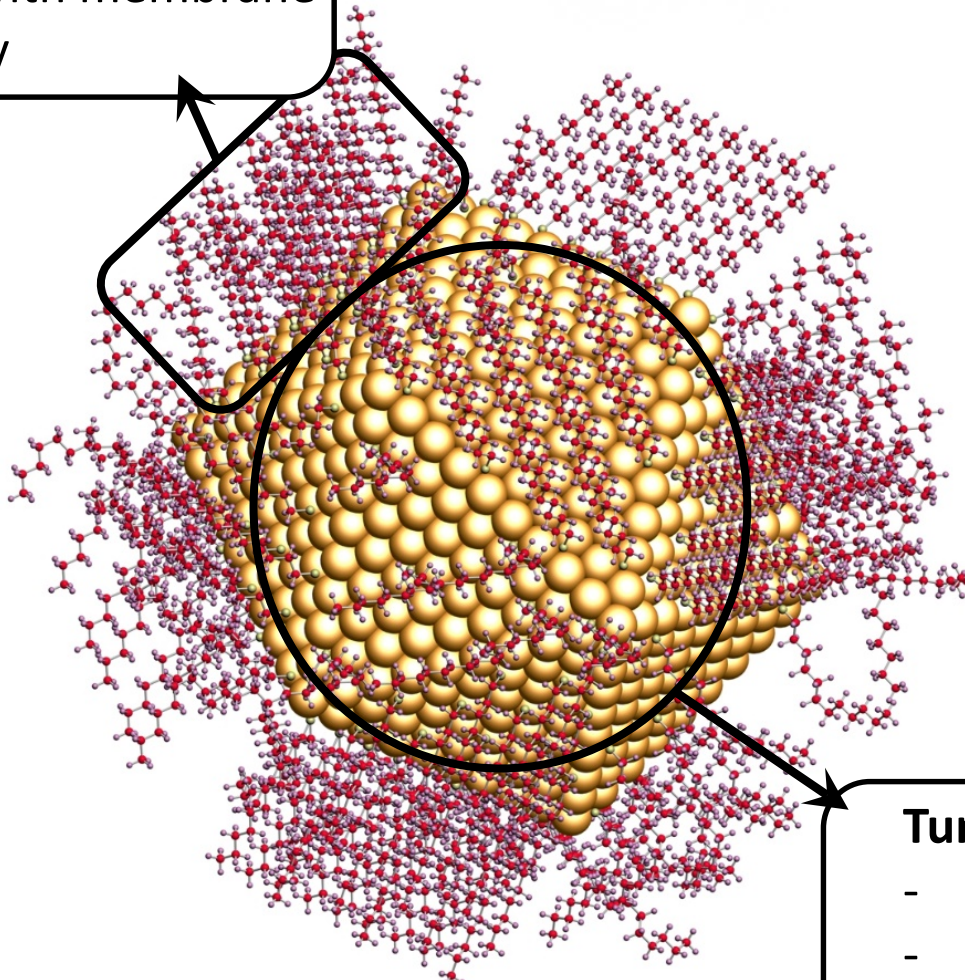
Tunable:

- Chemistry
- Interaction with membrane
- Drug delivery

10^{-15} s



Functional response
triggered by light



2-100 nm

Tunable:

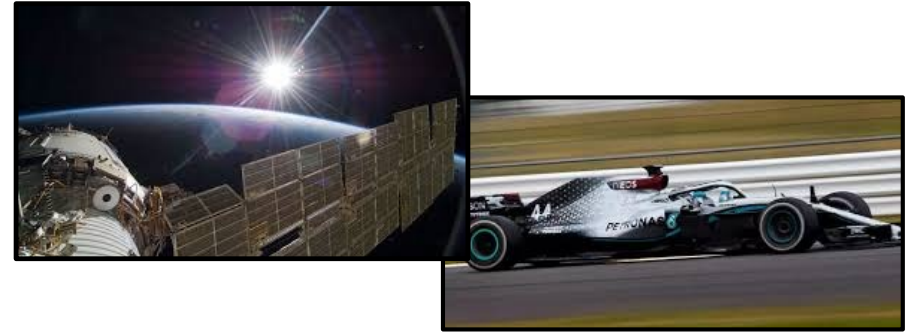
- Shape
- Size
- Composition

...in new functional nanomaterials



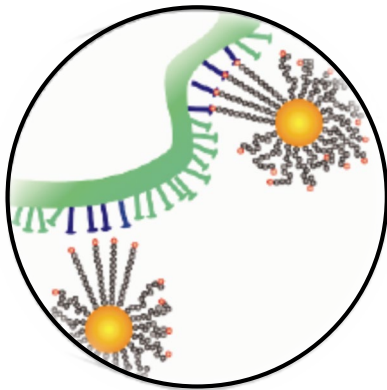
LEDs and photovoltaics

Suppression of trap-assisted non radiative-recombination

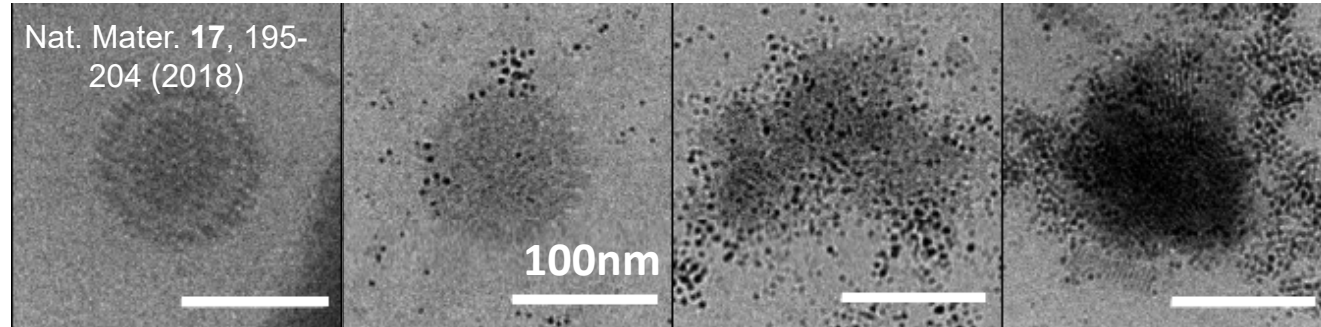


3Dynamics tech

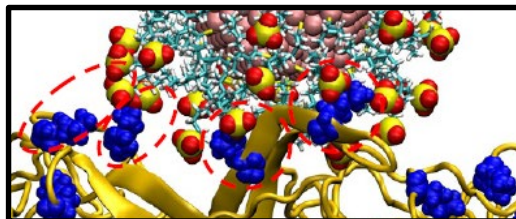
Higher thermal load coating—
automotive, aerospace



Nat. Mater. 17, 195-204 (2018)



Cryo TEM



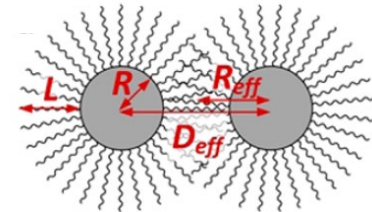
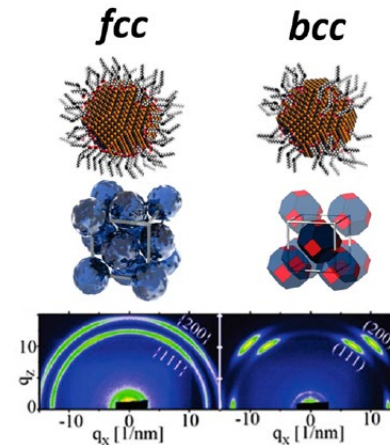
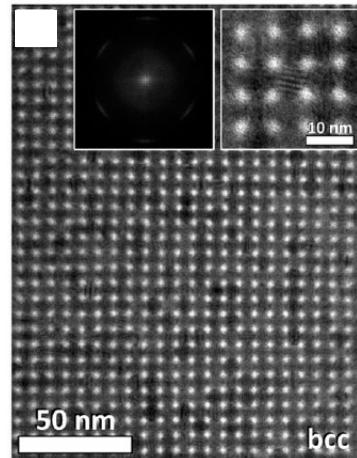
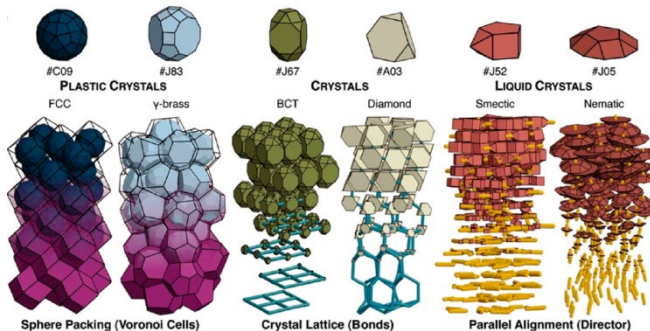
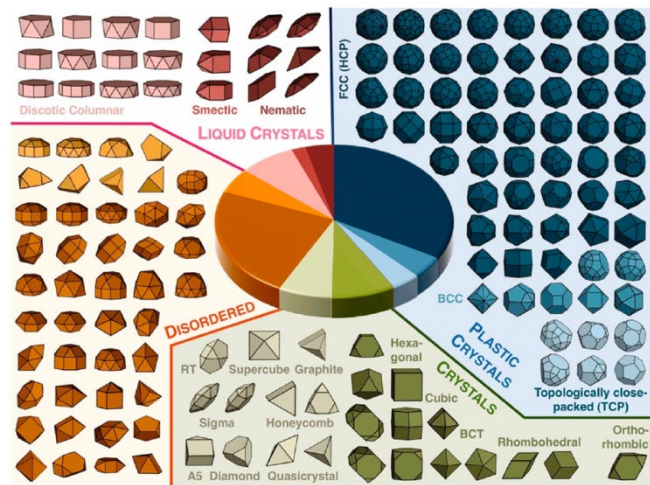
Extracellular inhibition, photostimulation

Theranostics, diagnostics

Structure-property relations

- **Electronic and optoelectronic applications:**

- **Active element:** macroscopic arrays of **nanoparticles**
- **Tailor size, shape, composition** for fine-tuning of material **physical properties**
Charge-carrier dynamics, thermal transport, stiffness, long-term stability [...]
- **Functionalized nanoparticles:** ligand length and order




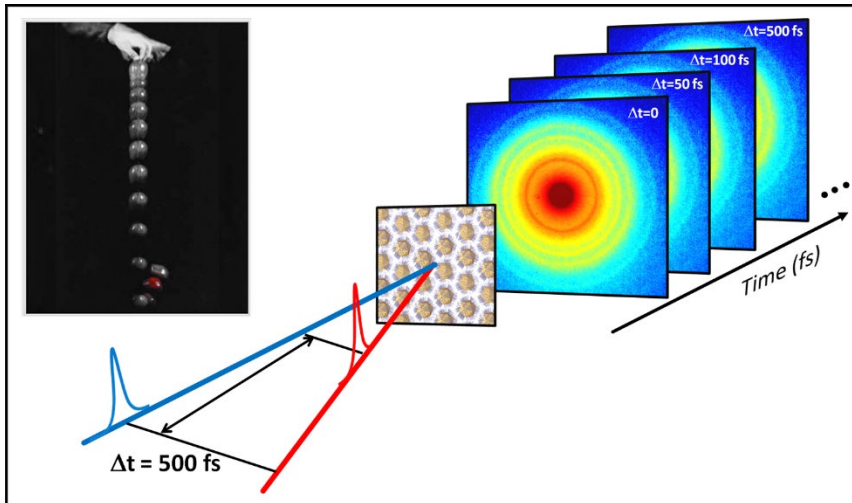
P. F. Damasceno, M. Engel, S. C. Glotzer, *Science* **337**, 453–457 (2012)
 J. J. Choi, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **133**, 3131–3138 (2011)
 M. A. Boles, D. V. Talapin, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **137**, 4494–4502 (2015)

Ultrafast methods



Ultrafast lasers

- Pulse trains 
- 10^{-15} s pulse duration
- μm to nm wavelength

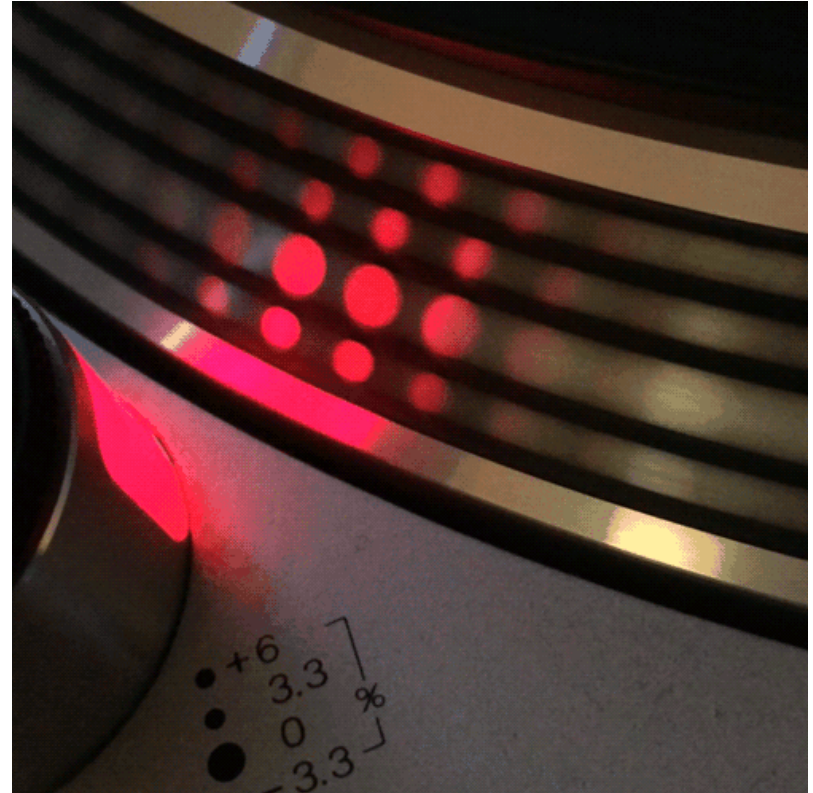


Pump pulse

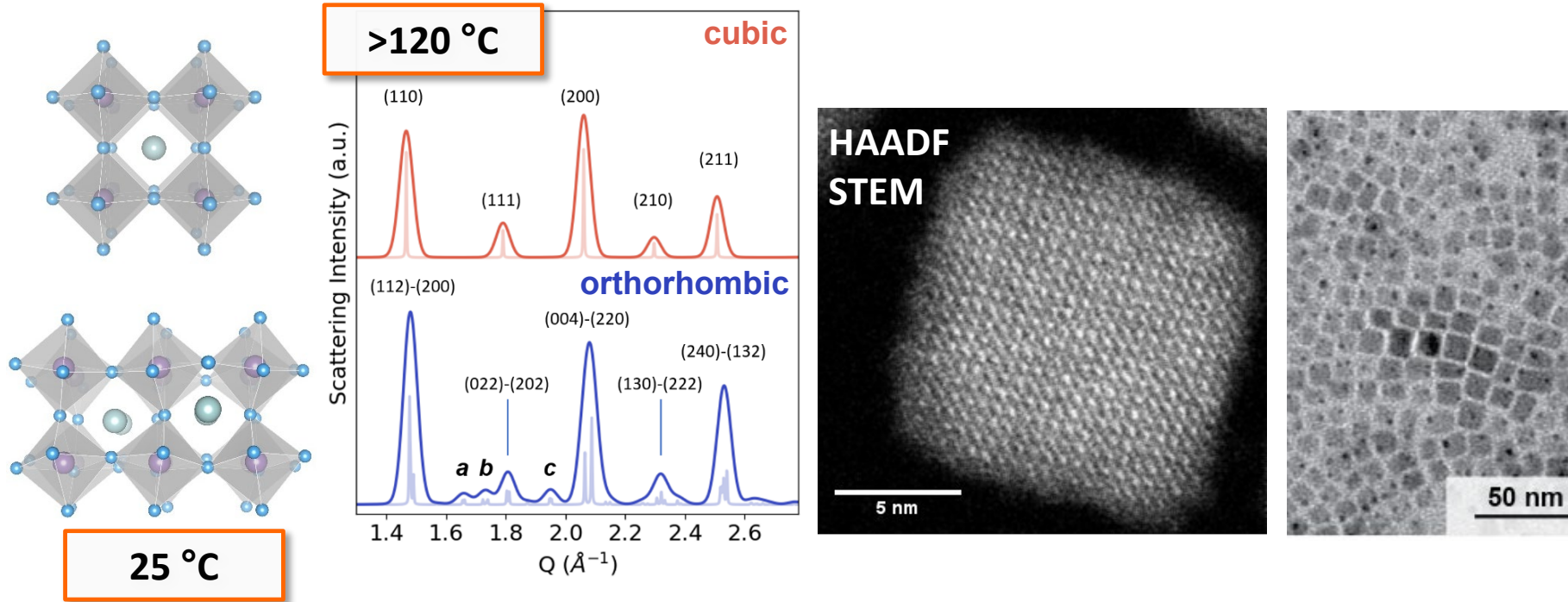
- Initiates dynamics
- Reference point in time

Probe pulse

- Images and spectra show electronic/structural changes



Light-induced response in CsPbBr_3



Perovskites:

- Long carrier lifetime & diffusion lengths
- Pb-Br framework flexibility

Wishlist for realistic applications:

- Understanding of the interaction between charge carriers and the polar lattice in out-of-equilibrium conditions
- Comprehensive atomistic picture of light & thermal activations

TR-XAS: Br K and Pb L₃ edges

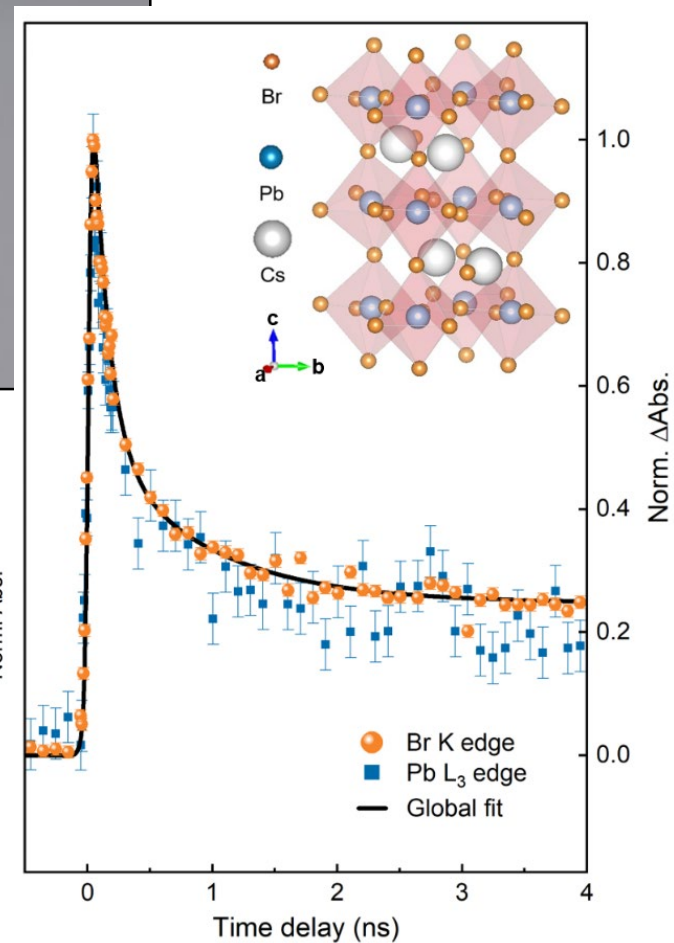
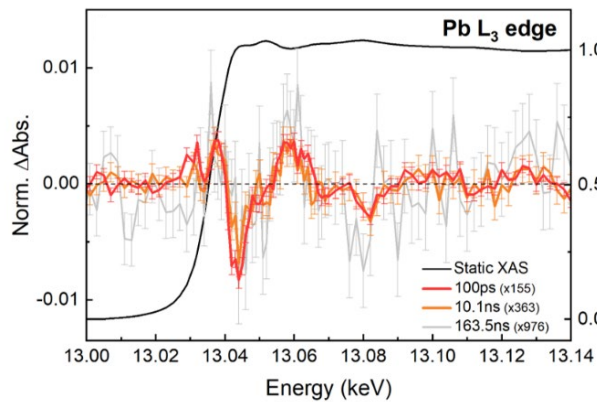
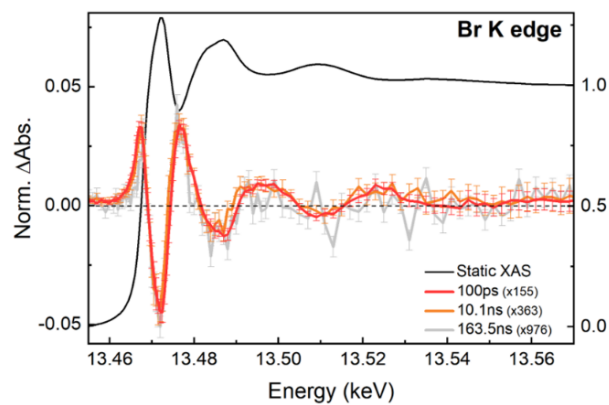
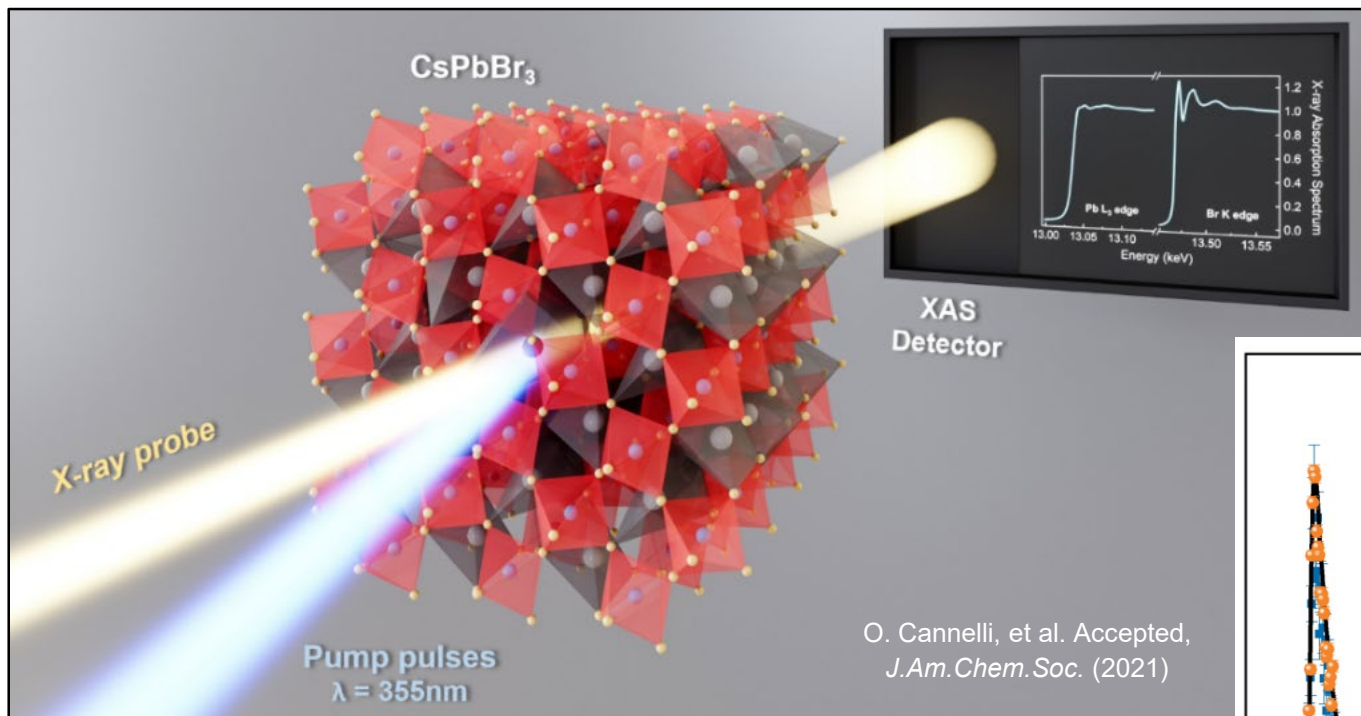
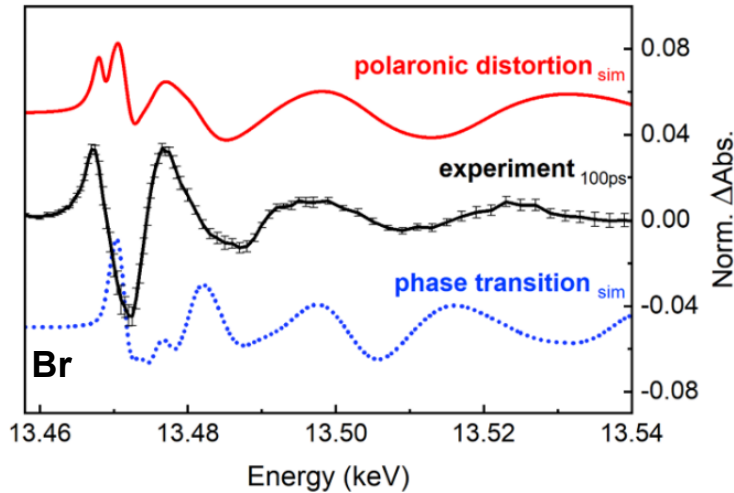


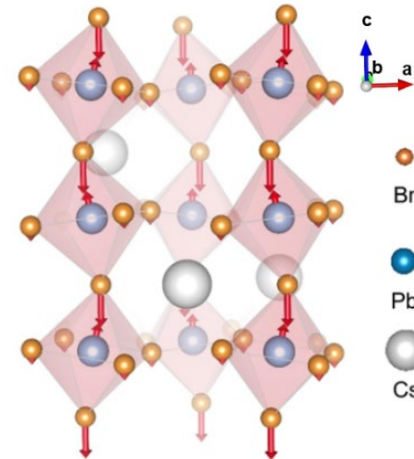
Photo-induced polaronic distortions

XANES spectrum:
local reticular distortions



ab-initio, Core-hole final state effects

LO phonon
18meV

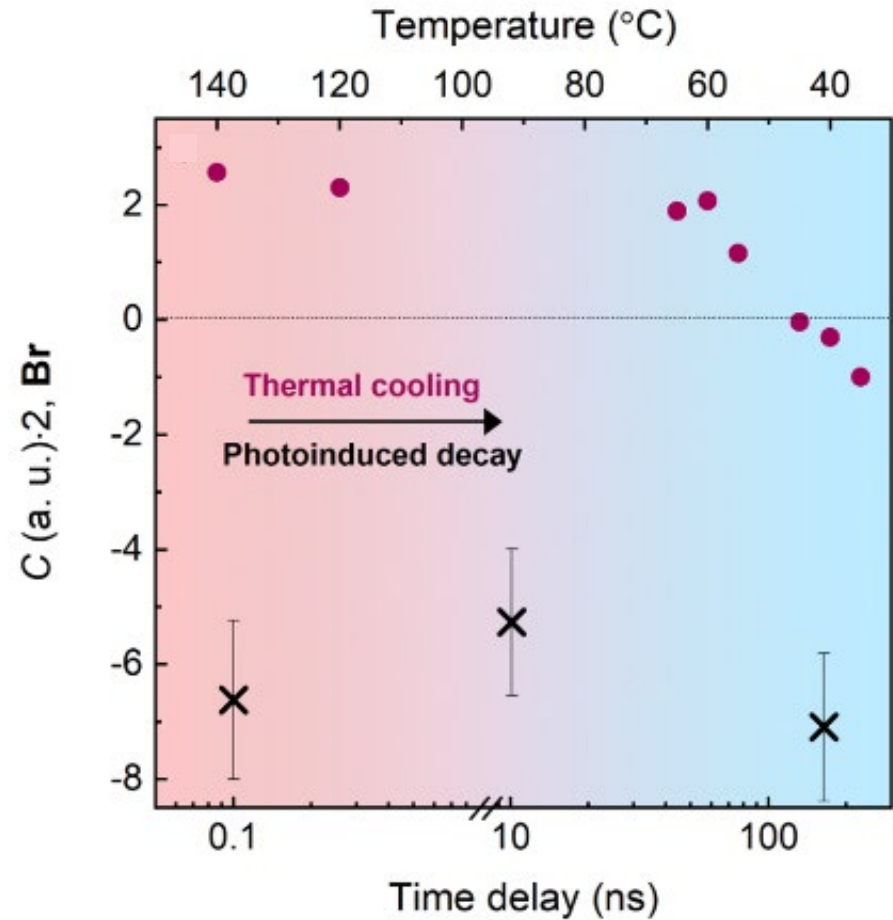
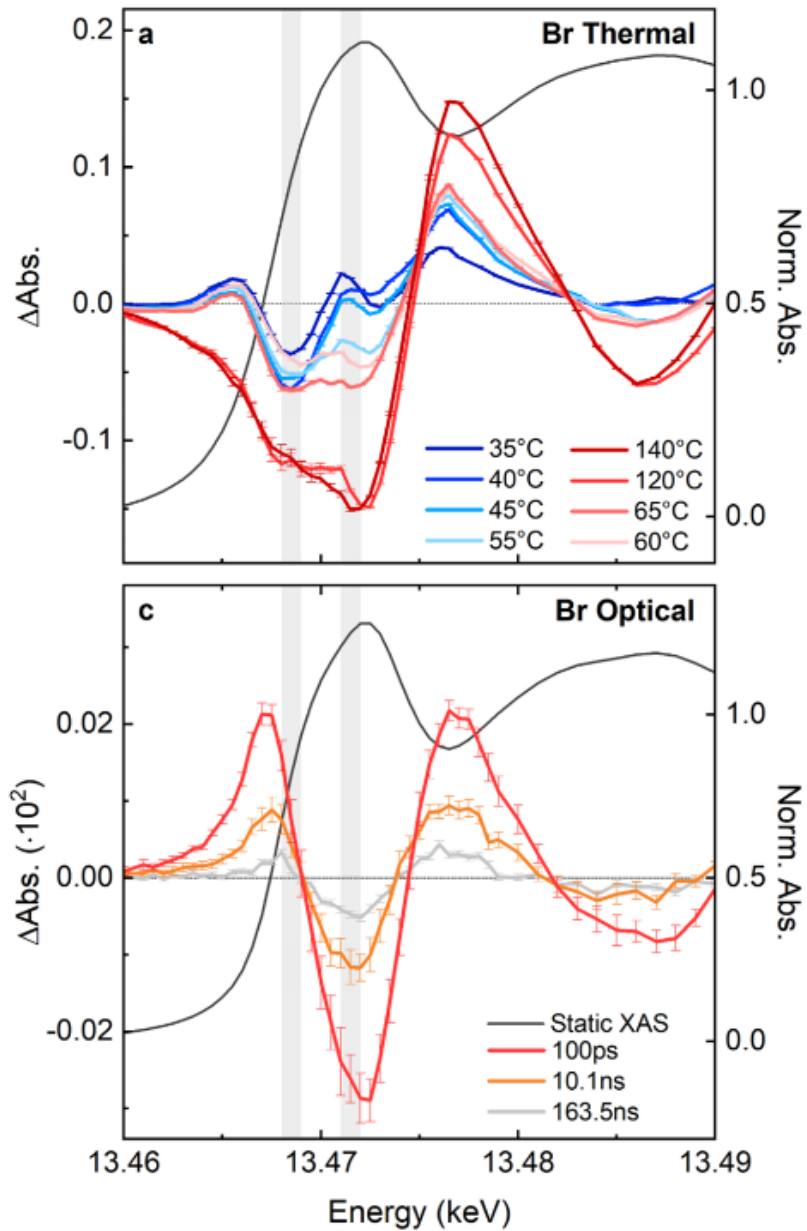


M. Puppin *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **124**,
206402 (2020)

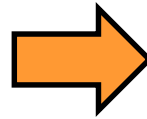
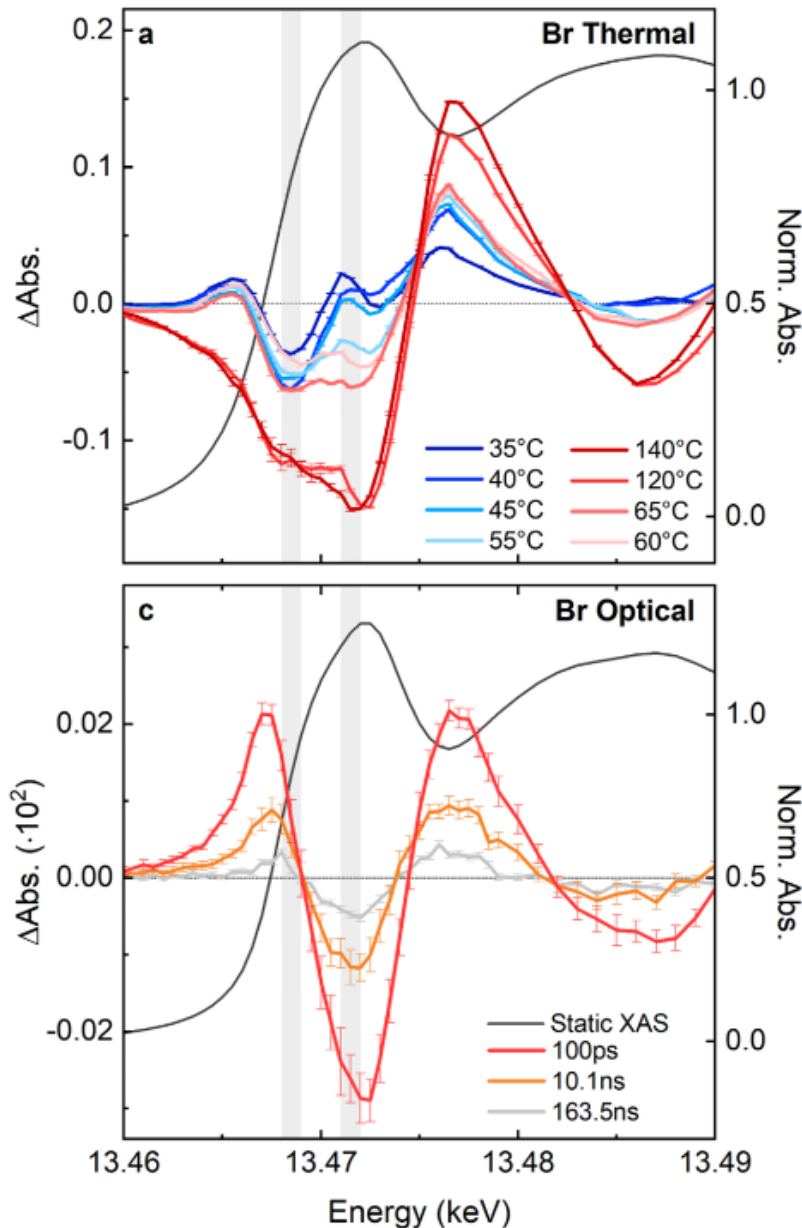
Main results:

- Charge-carrier recombination unlocks polaronic structural distortions
- Specific activation of a longitudinal optical phonon mode at 18 meV *via* electron-phonon coupling (**RED**)
- No interplay of light-induced orthorhombic-cubic phase transitions (**BLUE**)
- Auger recombination $\tau_1 = 120 \pm 20$ ps, Radiative recombination $\tau_2 = 900 \pm 300$ ps

Ruling-out thermal effects in photo-induced activation



Ruling-out thermal effects in photo-induced activation



Thermal fluctuations & phonon anharmonicity

- Co-existing orthorhombic and cubic phases of CsPbBr_3 in single particles at room T and high T

Systems too complex to be modelled from first principles *with core-hole*:

- Direct visualization of heterogeneity
- Straightforward visualization of the sample

Ultrafast/high-resolution imaging

- Direct-space imaging



Microscope objective lens

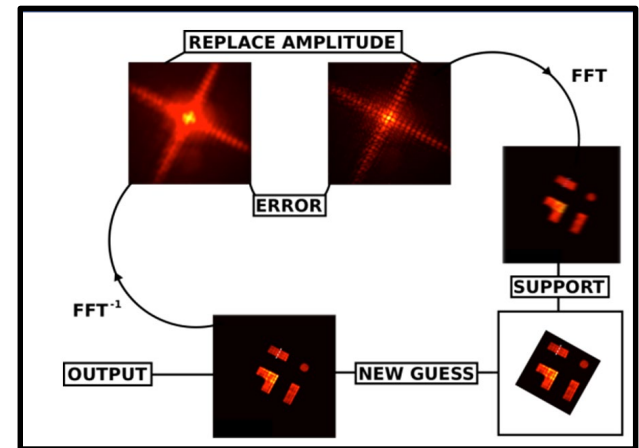


Computer

- Imaging with phase retrieval

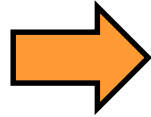


Image formation

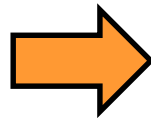


Phase Retrieval algorithm

Ultrafast/high-resolution imaging



Electrons: Diffractive imaging?
Holography? Limited by coherence
and flux – maximum likelihood

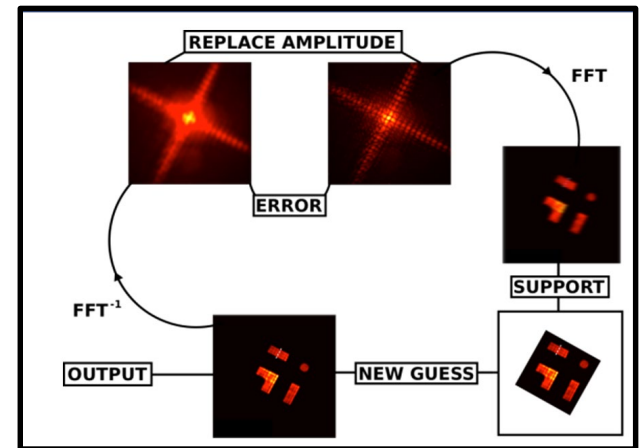


X-rays: Coherent diffractive imaging,
holography – full-field

- Imaging with phase retrieval



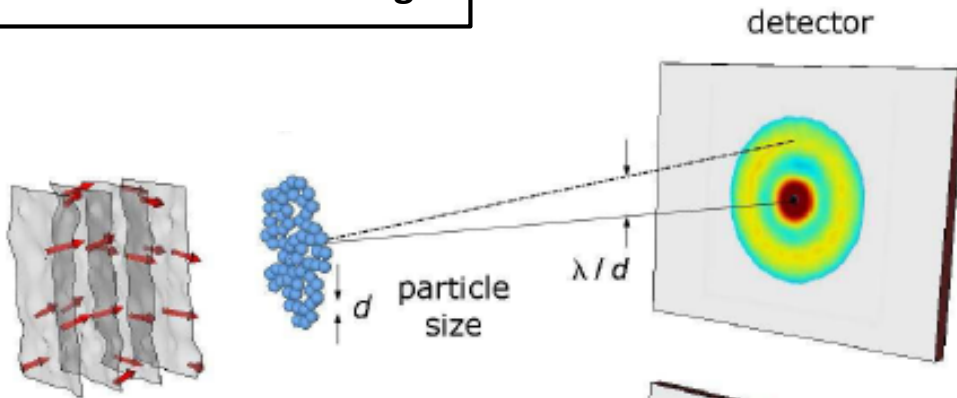
Computer



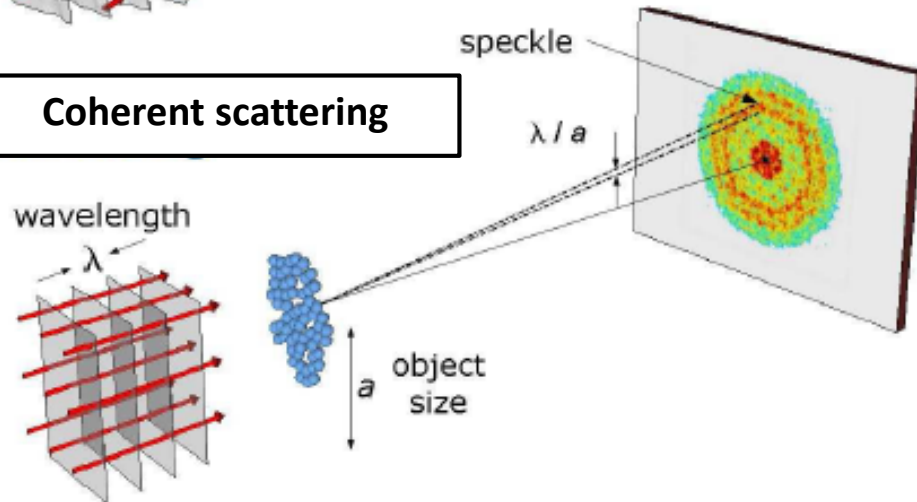
Phase Retrieval algorithm

Probing speckles with electrons

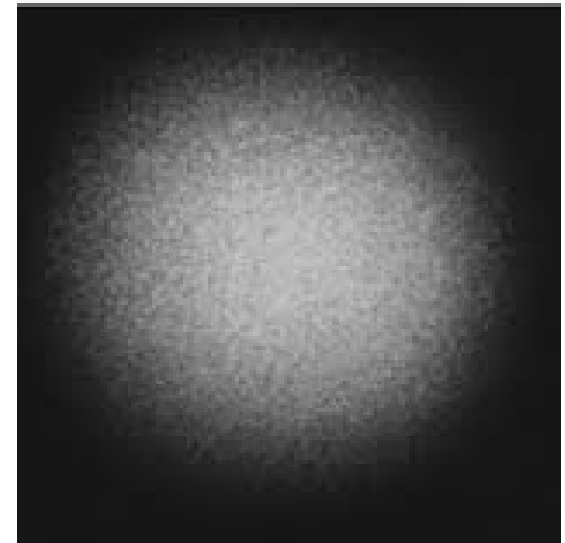
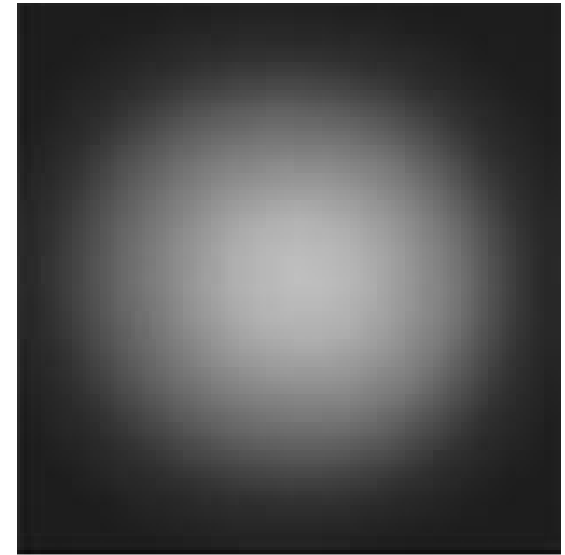
Incoherent scattering



Coherent scattering



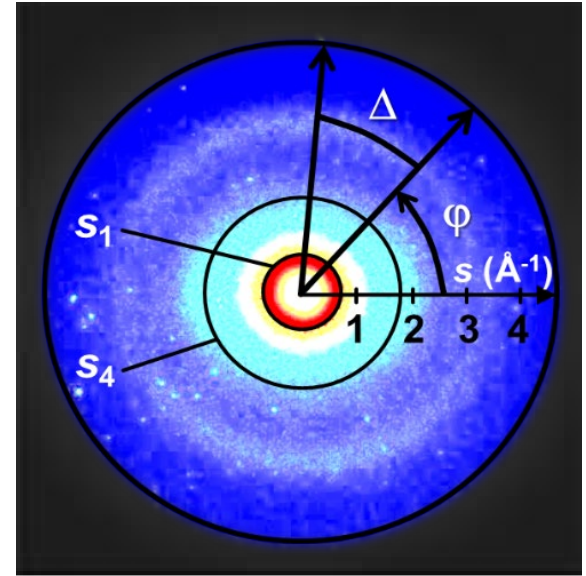
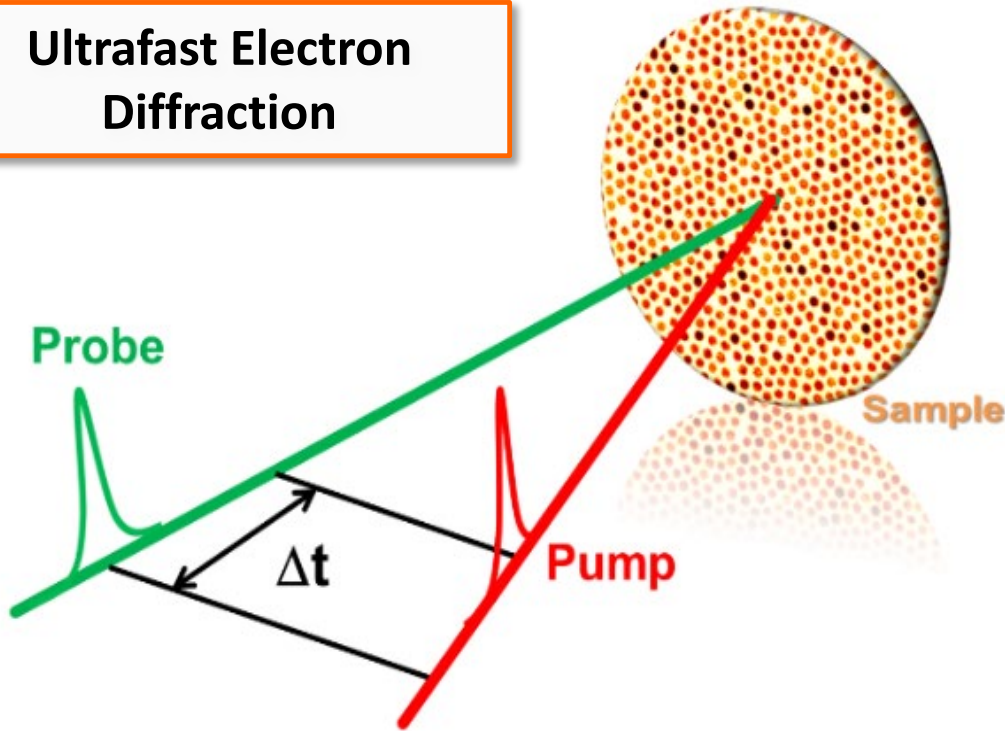
Symmetry retrieval from speckle analysis



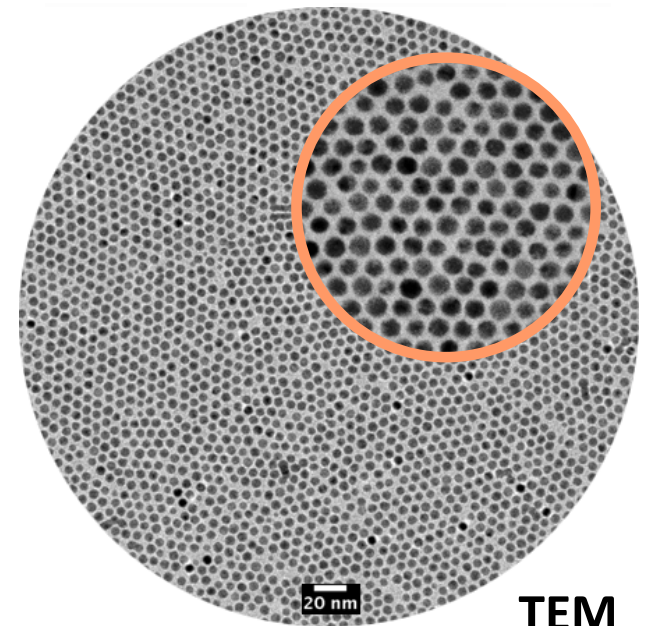
Kam, Z. *Macromolecules* 10, 927–934 (1977)
Altarelli, M., Kurta, R. P. & Vartanyants, I. A..
Phys. Rev. B 82, 104207 (2010).

Probing speckles with electrons

Ultrafast Electron Diffraction

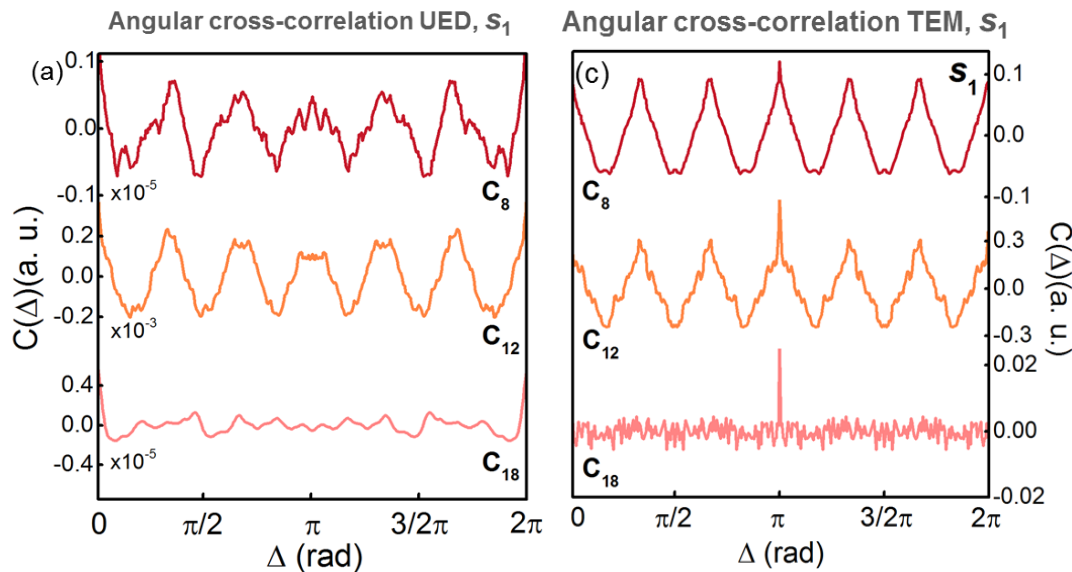
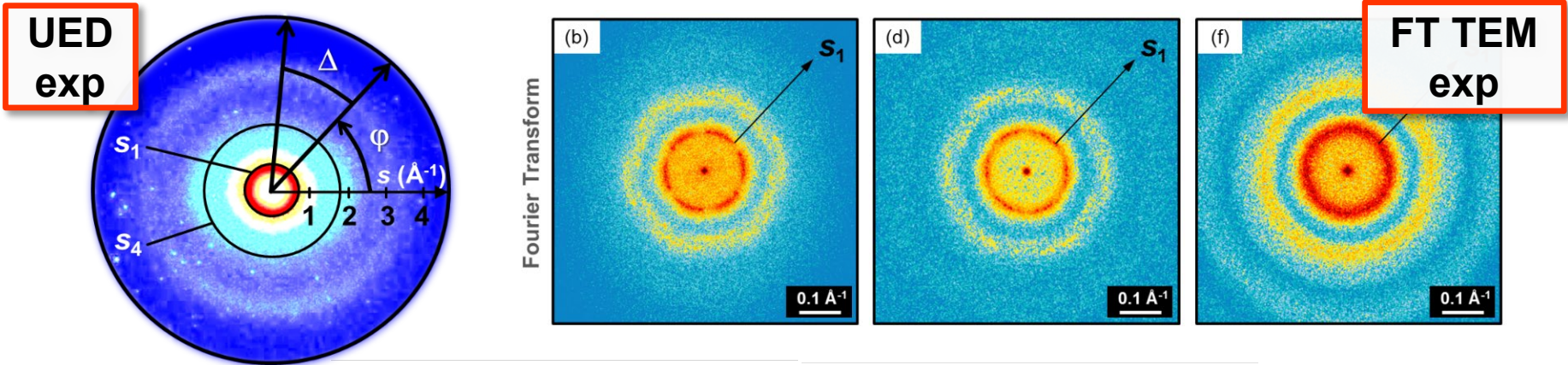


$$C_s(\Delta) = \frac{\langle I(s, \phi) I(s, \phi + \Delta) \rangle_\phi - \langle I(s, \phi) \rangle_\phi^2}{\langle I(s, \phi) \rangle_\phi^2}$$



TEM

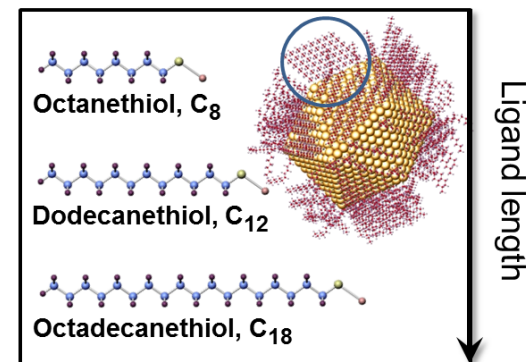
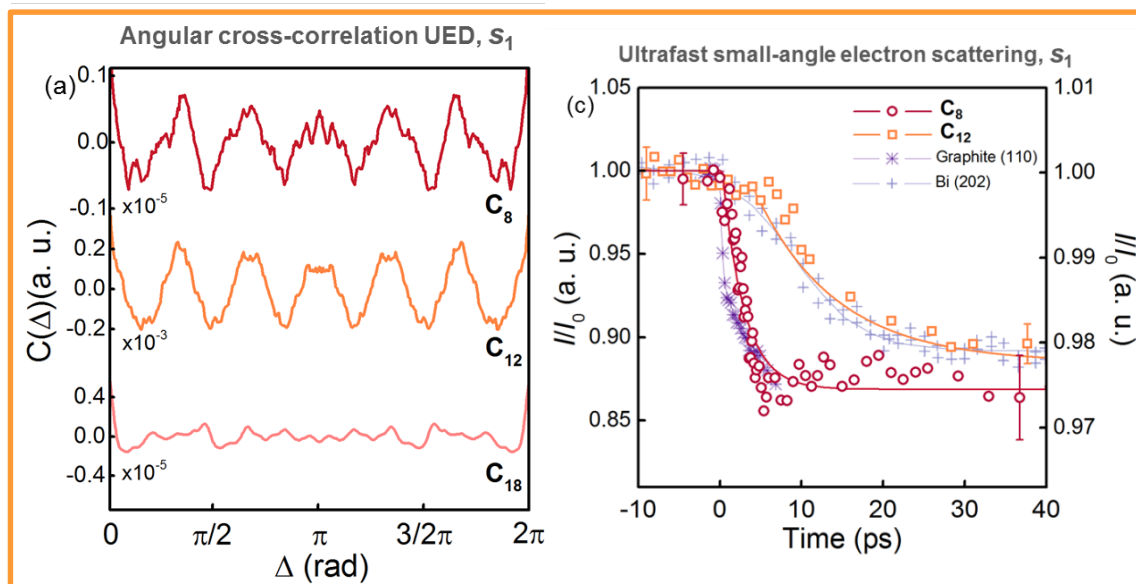
Diffraction Imaging: mechanical stiffness in Au-NPs



Beyond established powder diffraction data analysis:

- Local **order/disorder** correlations, spatial organization & photodynamics
- Ligands (S,C,H) ordering & Au core dynamics in supracrystal - in the same experiment

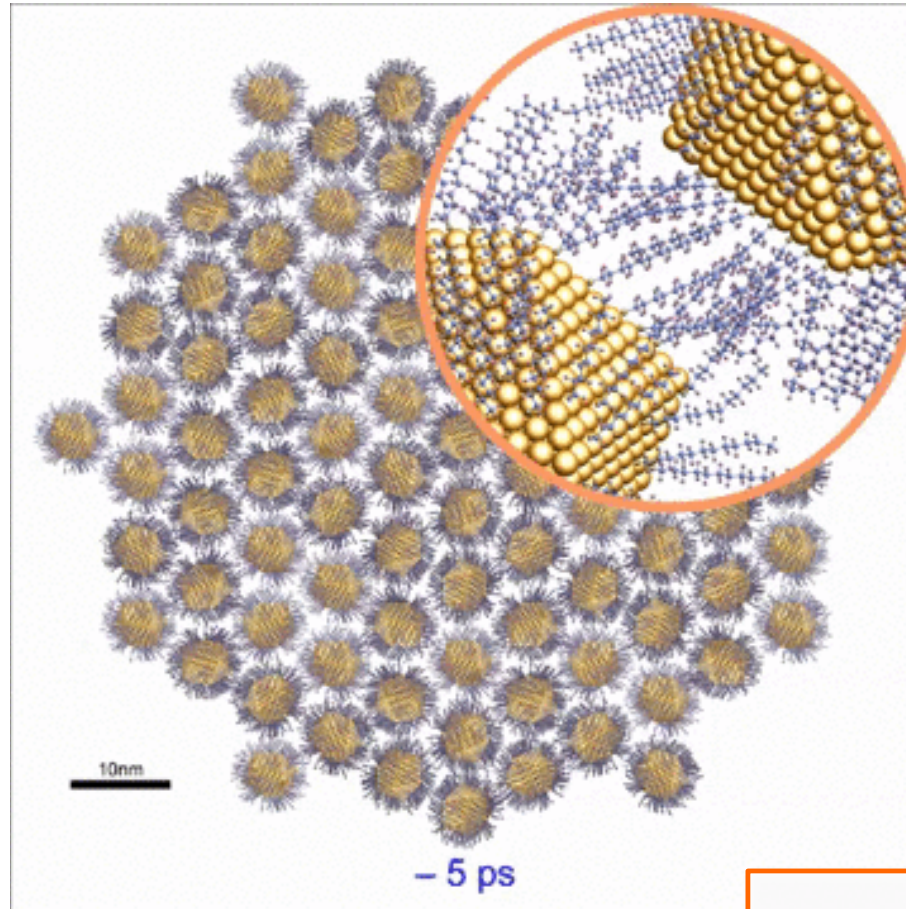
Ligand length dependent e-ph coupling



G. F. Mancini et al., Struct. Dyn. 6, 024304 (2019)

- C_8 : $\tau = 2.6 \pm 0.3$ ps. C_{12} : $\tau = 12.1 \pm 0.9$ ps
- **Intensity suppression**: energy transfer between the electronic excitation and the structural degrees of freedom of each supracrystal.
- C_8 supracrystal. **Interdigitation: efficient channel for transferring energy** between the initial electronic excitation to structural motions of the NPs.
- **Local stiffness** in a dense **supramolecular assembly** can be created by **Van der Waals** interactions up to a level **comparable to systems** characterized by **covalent bonding**.

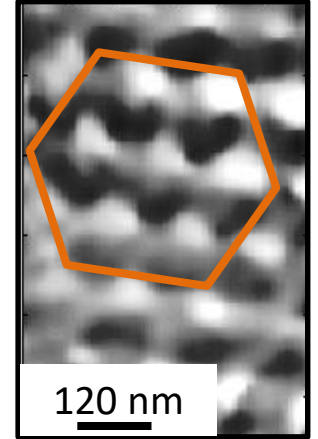
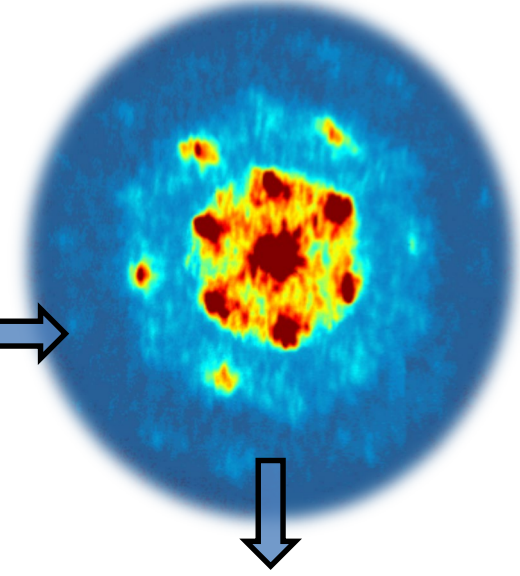
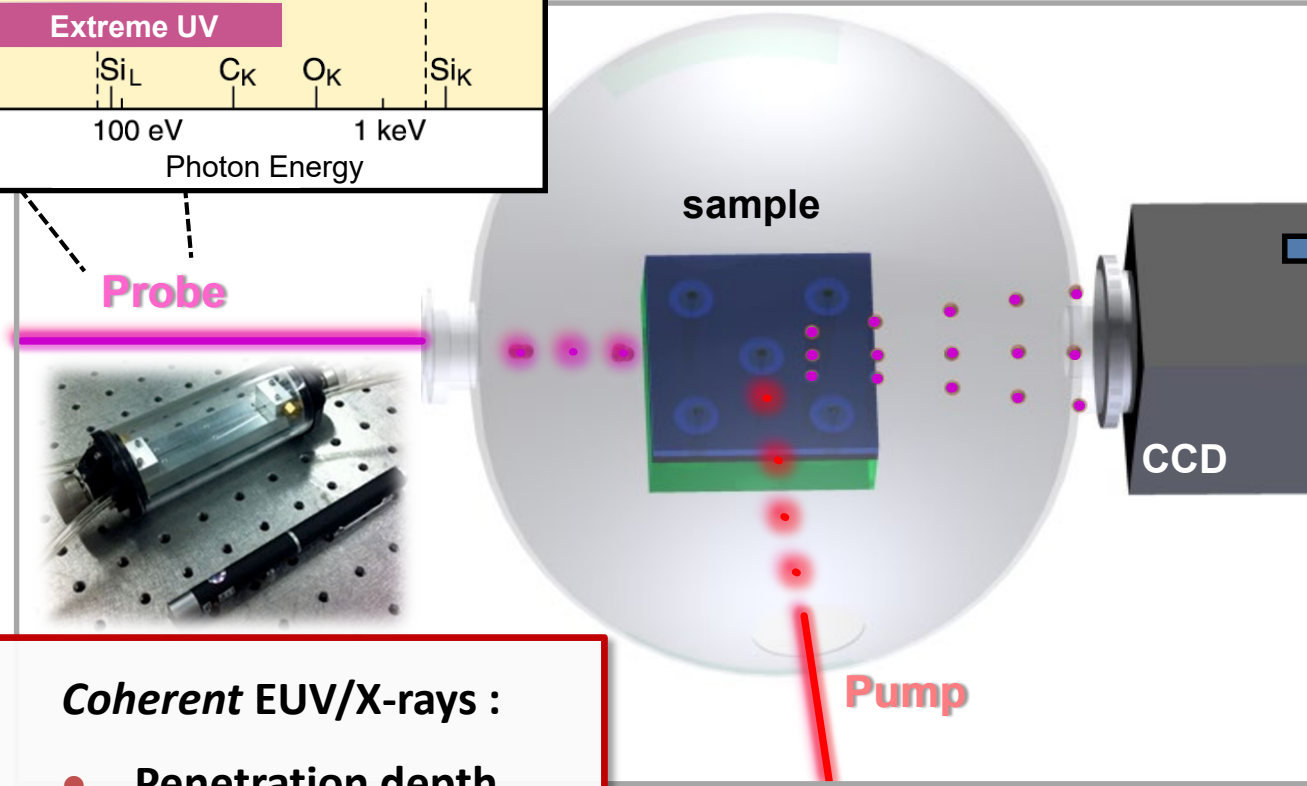
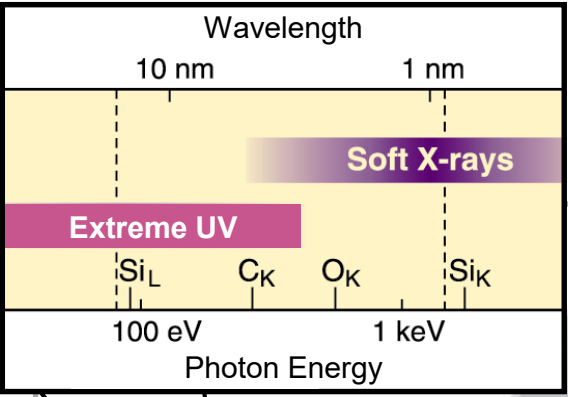
The nanoscale *quasi*-movie



**Optically-induced ligand
annealing & grain separation**

Tabletop microscopy from High-Harmonic Generation

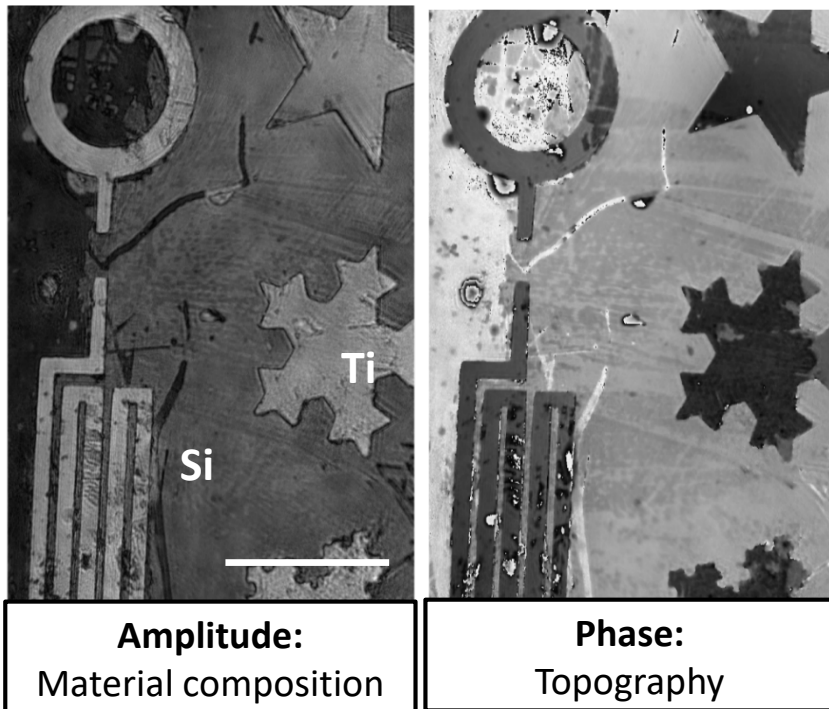
Quantitative : number of layers, oxidation and diffusion processes



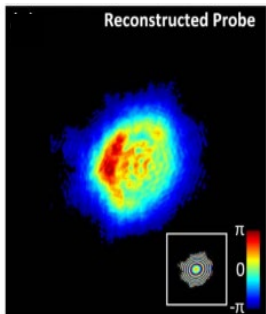
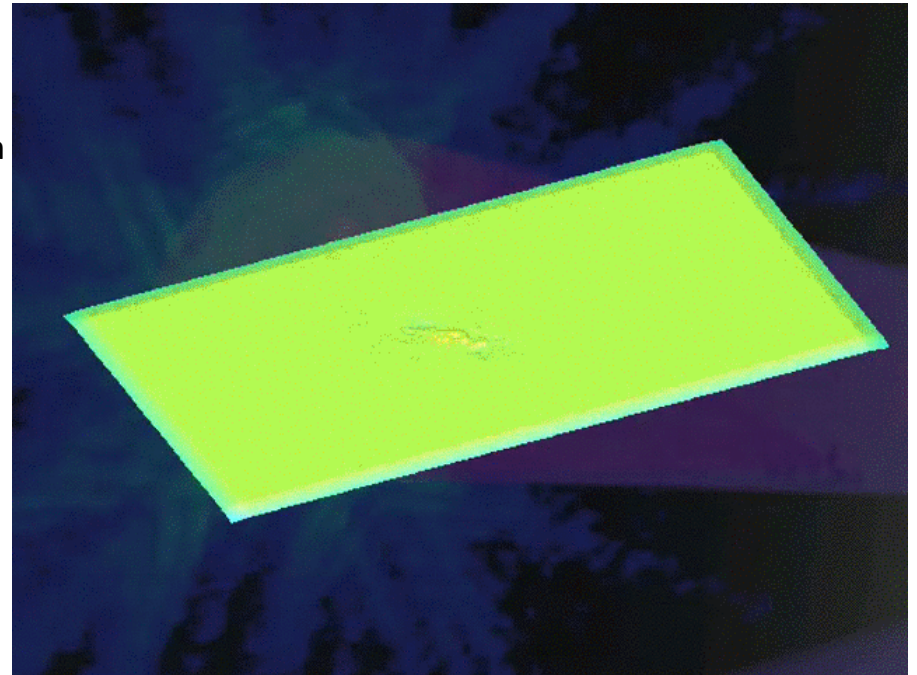
- Coherent EUV/X-rays :**
- Penetration depth
 - Capture dynamics relevant to function
 - High coherence

G. F. Mancini, *et al.*, *Opt. Express* **26**, 11393–11406 (2018),
Nature Photonics **11**, 259-263 (2017)
E. Shanblatt *et al.*, *Nano Lett.* **16**, 5444–5450 (2016)

Ptychography with tabletop EUV light...



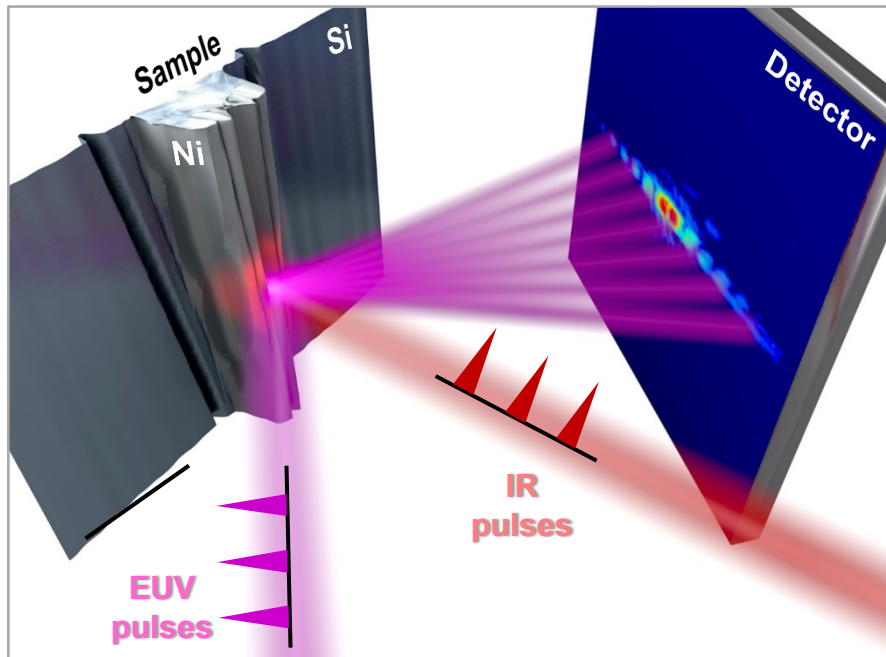
5Å
30nm
30nm



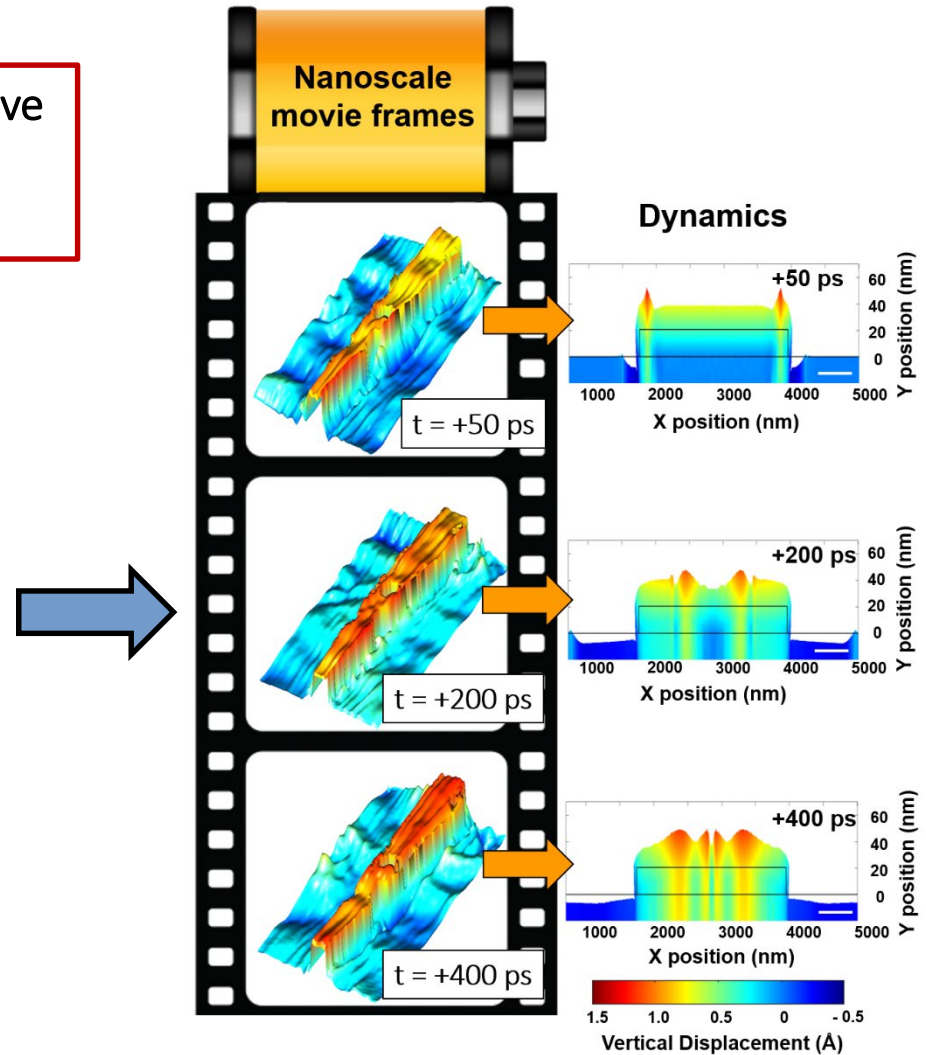
Separates **object** and
illumination

In time...

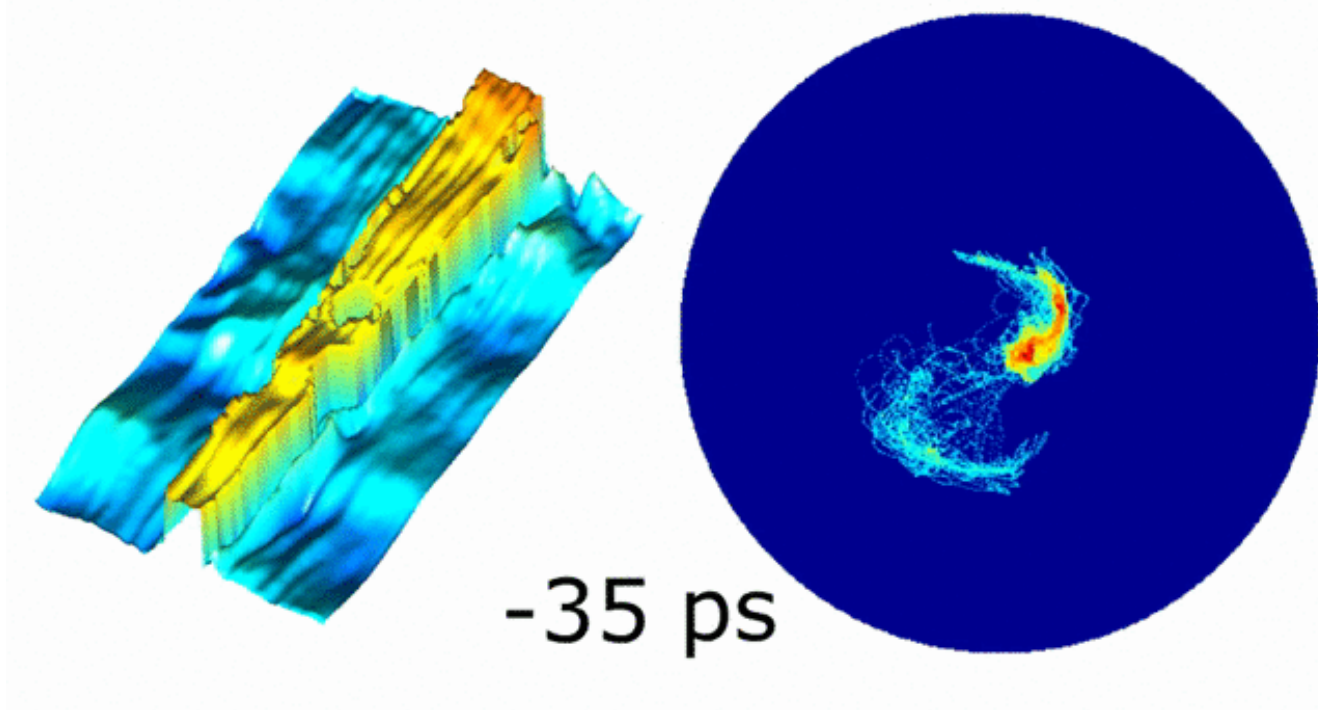
Snapshots of the 3D topology map upon impulsive excitation unravels waveguide dynamics & acoustic waves dispersion



Karl, Mancini, *et al.*, *Sci. Adv.* **4**, eaau4295 (2018)



The nanoscale movie



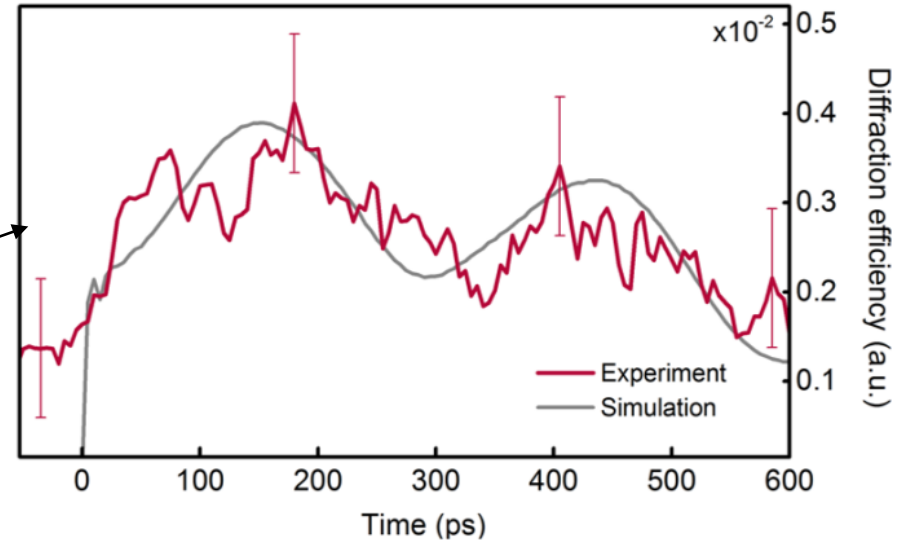
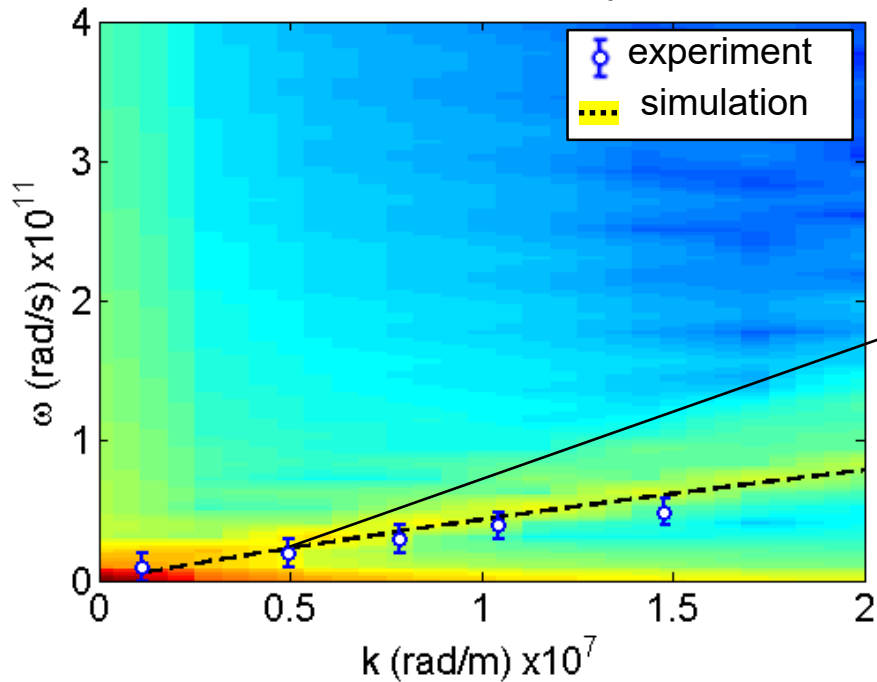
50ps

- **Impulsive expansion** at the edges of the nanostructure
- **Depression in the substrate** immediately adjacent to the nanostructure

400ps

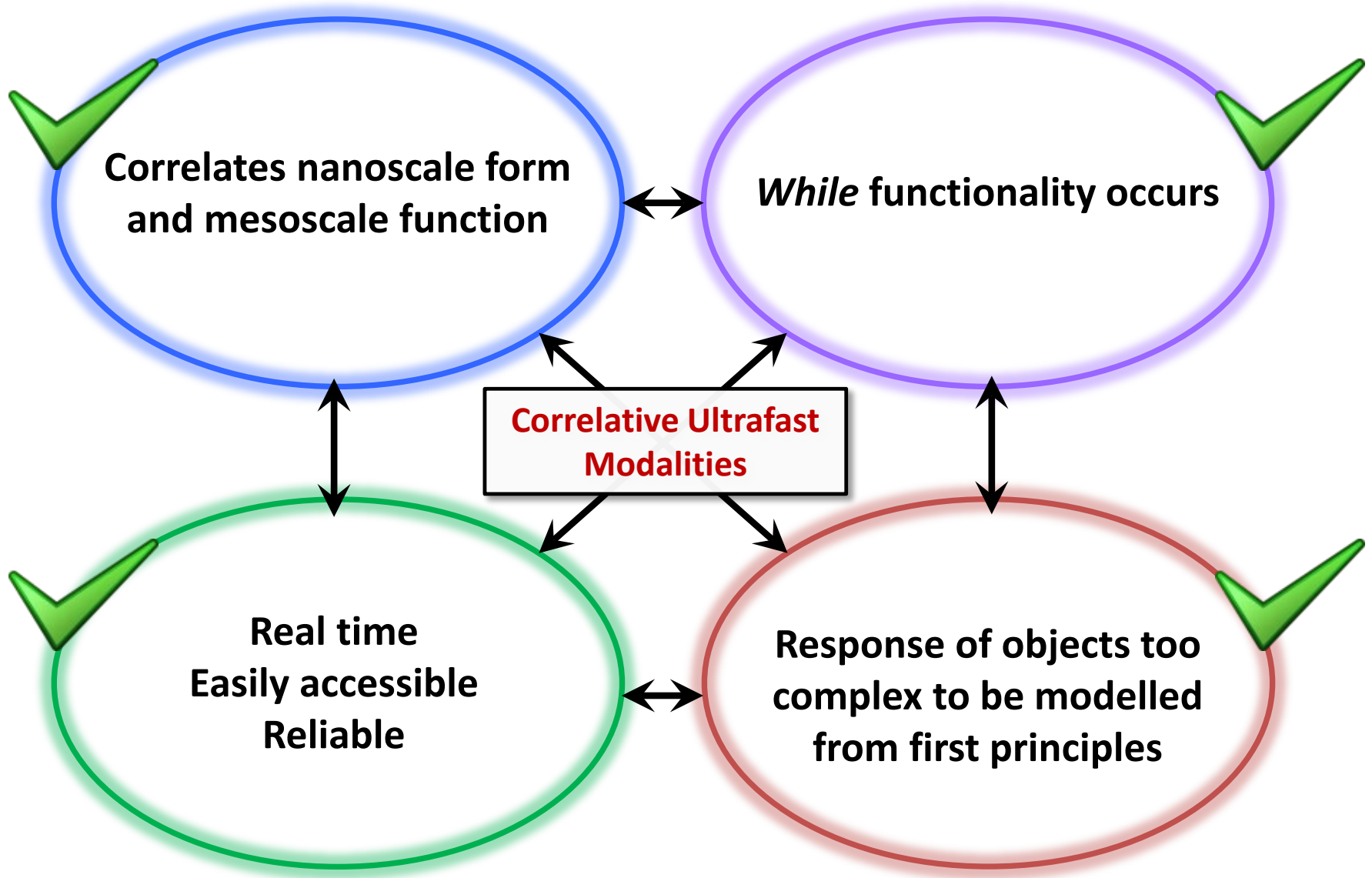
- **Surface expansion** of the nanostructure progressively **propagates** from the edges towards the **center**

Visualizing thermal and acoustic dynamics



- Average height changes by $\approx 3\text{\AA}$ in agreement with experiment
- Dispersion of generalized **Lamb waves**
- **Surface acoustic waves** propagating across the nanoantenna **coupled into dispersive wave guide modes**

Next frontier: probing heterogeneity



Frontiers of Ultrafast X-ray Spectroscopy and Imaging

OSA Virtual Seminar

Questions?

giuliafulvia.mancini@unipv.it

**Open PhD & PostDoc
positions!**



LU X EM

