

Strong Field Interactions with Molecules at High Pressure: Quantum Wakes and Flying Proteins

High Pressure Chemistry at 10^{13} W cm $^{-2}$:

- Laser Filamentation Control of Vibrational and Rotational Coherence in Air
- fs Laser Vaporization of Intact Proteins from Solids, Liquids and Surfaces



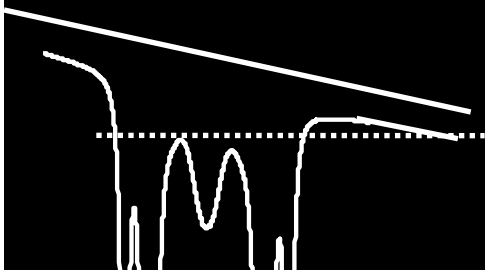
Laser Control of Chemical Reactions 4 August 2012

Robert J. Levis

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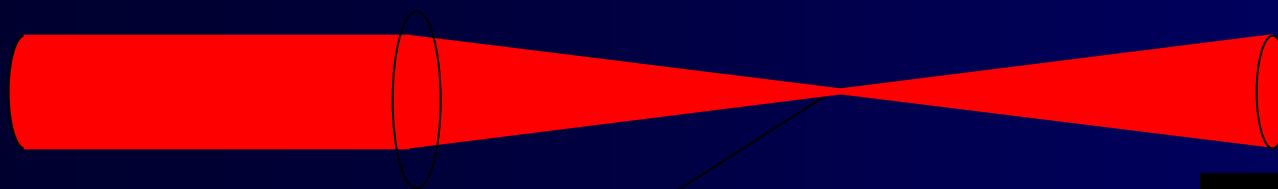


Cast

Johanan Odhner, Dmitri Romanov, Erin McCole, John Brady
Elizabeth Judge, Paul Flanigan, Johnny Perez

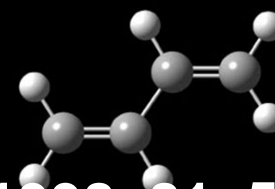


Intense Laser Pulse-Molecule Interactions

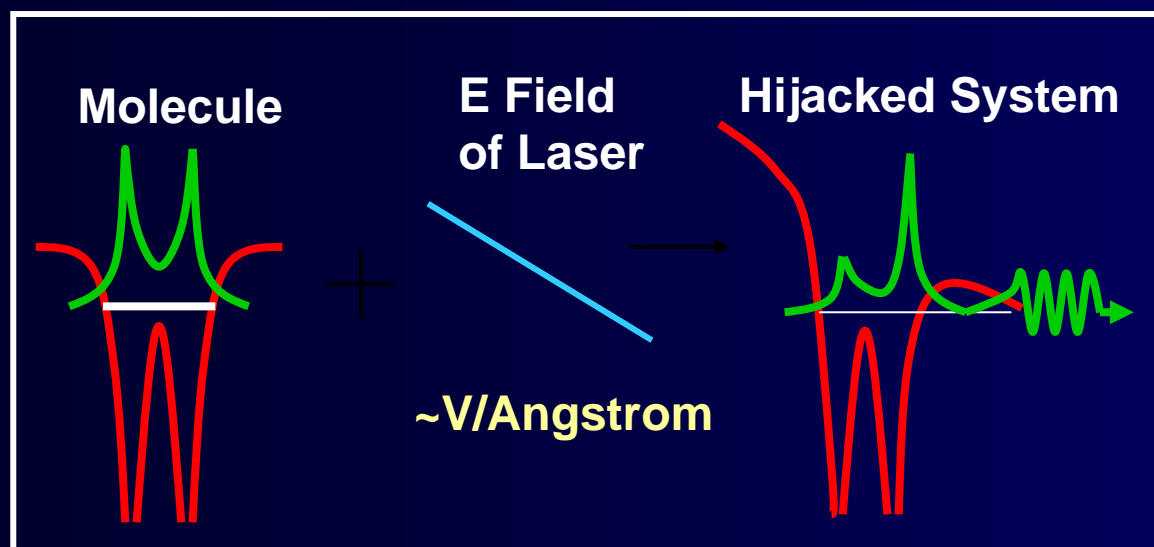


Given 1mJ, 60fs focused to 100 micron diameter:
photon density $\sim 10^9$ photons/cubic wavelength
electric field strength ~ 6 Volts per Angstrom.

Butadiene in a
Strong Laser Field



The Laser Molecule



PRL, 1998, 81, 5101

Science, 2001, 292, 709

PRL, 2004, 92, 063001

PRL, 2006, 96, 163002

PRL, 2009, 102, 155004

PRL, 2009, 103, 075005

PRL, 2009, 103, 205001

PRL, 2010, 105, 125001

PNAS, 2011, 108, 12217

PRL, 2012, 109, 065003

Laser Filaments Form Near Single Cycle Pulses

Pre-Filament

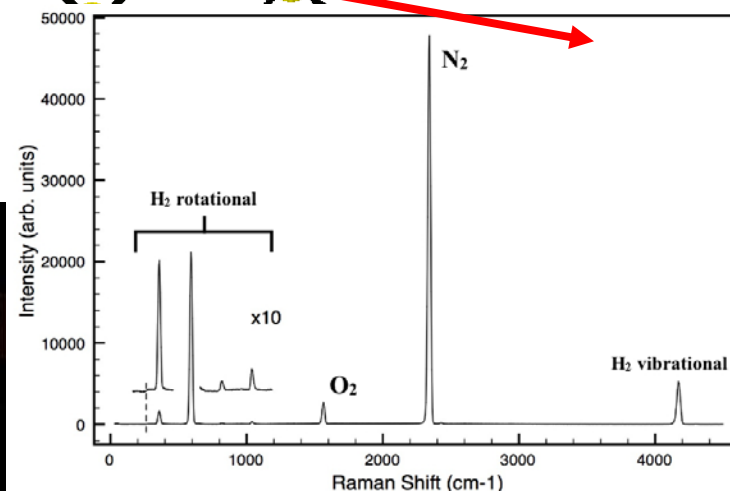
- Kerr lensing \rightarrow high intensity
- High intensity \rightarrow self phase modulation

Filament

- High intensity \rightarrow ionization ($10^{16} \text{ e}^- \text{ cm}^{-3}$)
- Ionization \rightarrow intensity clamping $10^{13} \text{ W cm}^{-2}$
- Spatial temporal focusing \rightarrow self shortening
- Self shortening $\rightarrow < 10 \text{ fs}$ pulses

2 mJ 45 fs laser pulse

Short intense pulse provides impulsive rotational and vibrational excitation



The Spatio-Temporal Dynamics Forming the Filament

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{electric field envelope} \quad \text{diffraction} \quad \text{group velocity dispersion} \\
 &\frac{\partial E_{fil}}{\partial z} - \alpha k_0 \frac{\partial E_{fil}}{\partial t} = \frac{i}{2k_0} \Delta_{\perp} E_{fil} - \frac{i}{2} \beta k_0 \frac{\partial^2 E_{fil}}{\partial t^2} + \\
 &\quad \text{group velocity} \quad \text{Kerr lensing} \quad \text{Self-steepening} \\
 &\quad \frac{6\pi i \omega_0^2}{k_0 c^2} \chi^{(3)} |E_{fil}|^2 E_{fil} - \frac{12\pi \omega_0}{k_0 c^2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{i}{2\omega_0} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \right) \chi^{(3)} |E_{fil}|^2 E_{fil},
 \end{aligned}$$

Spatial and Temporal Kerr Nonlinear Effects

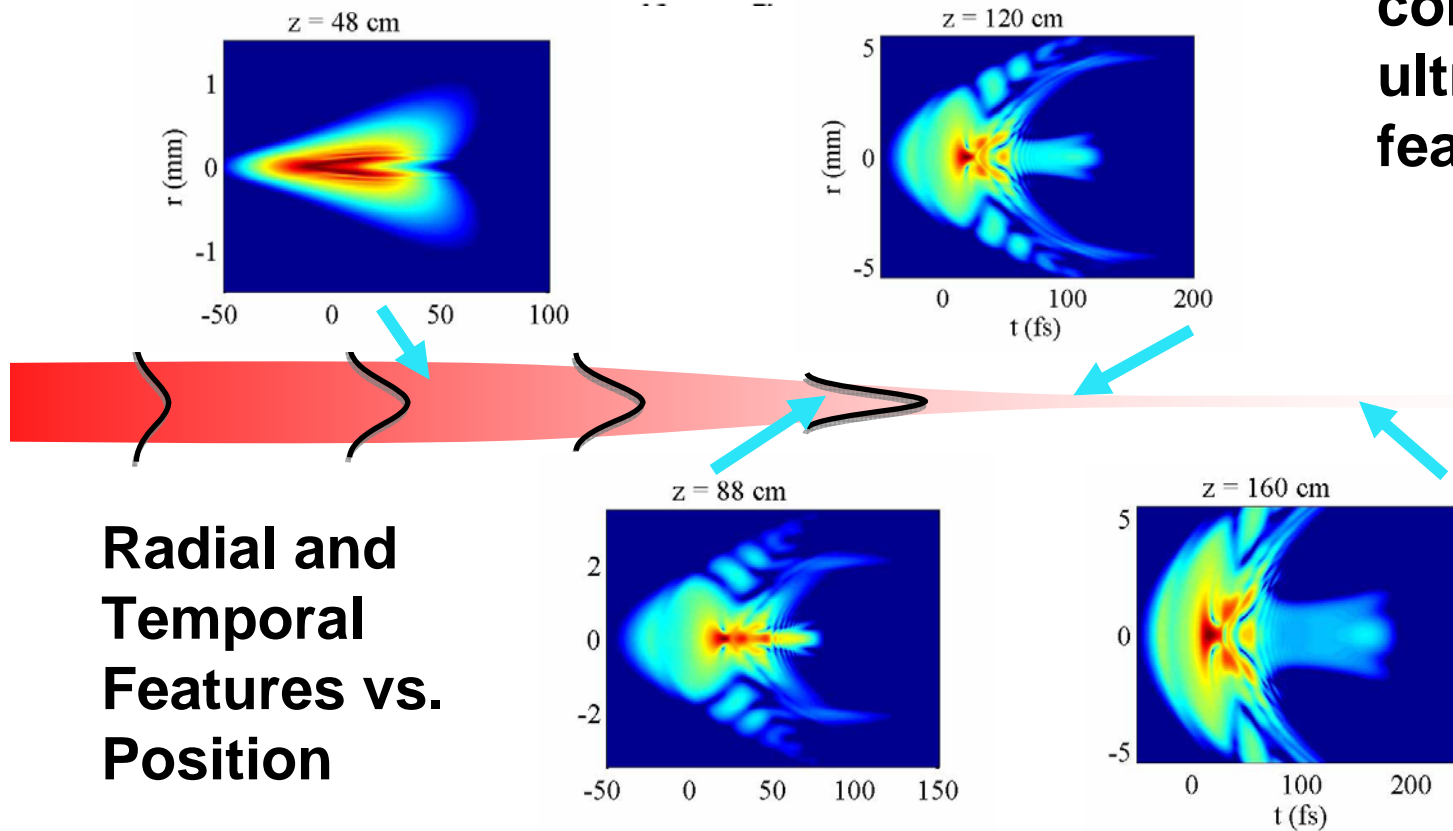
From 100 oscillations of the electro-magnetic field to two!

Self Compression In Pulse

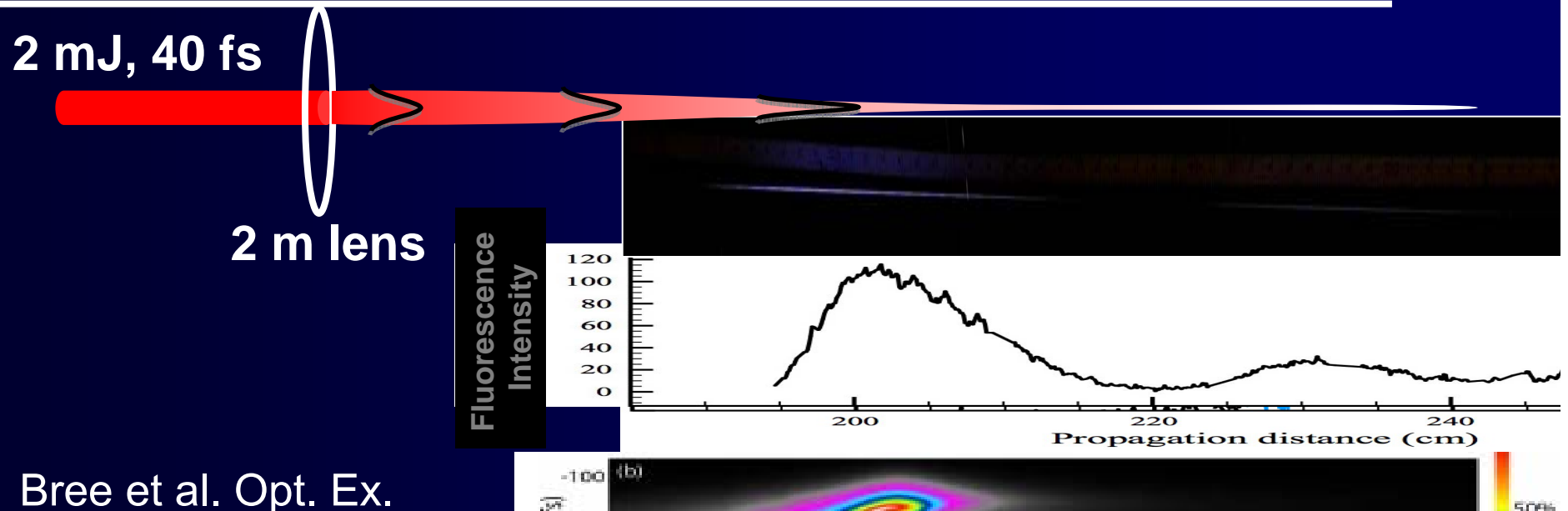
Spatio-temporal characterization of few-cycle pulses obtained by filamentation

A. Zaïr^{1*}, A. Guandalini¹, F. Schapper¹, M. Holler¹, J. Biegert^{1,1}, L. Gallmann¹,
A. Couairon², M. Franco³, A. Mysyrowicz³, and U. Keller¹

As the broad band pulse propagates, the system self-compresses to ultrashort (~ 5 fs) features



Measuring Filament Propagation in Air



Bree et al. Opt. Ex.

Probing filamentation dynamics is problematic due to high intensity $10^{13} \text{ W cm}^{-2}$

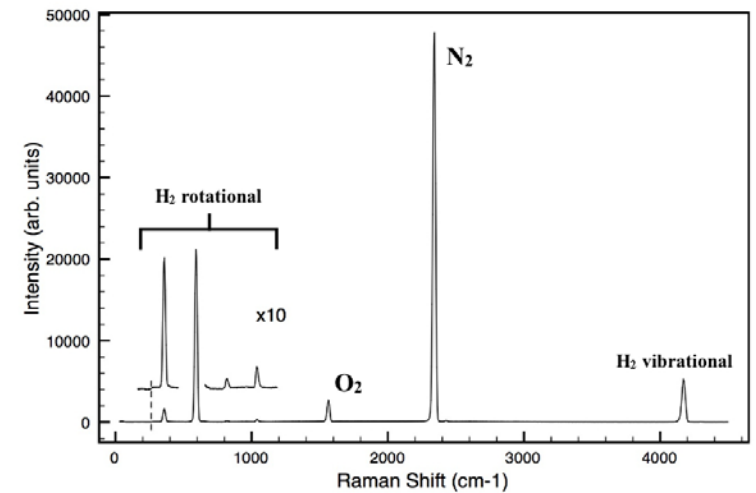
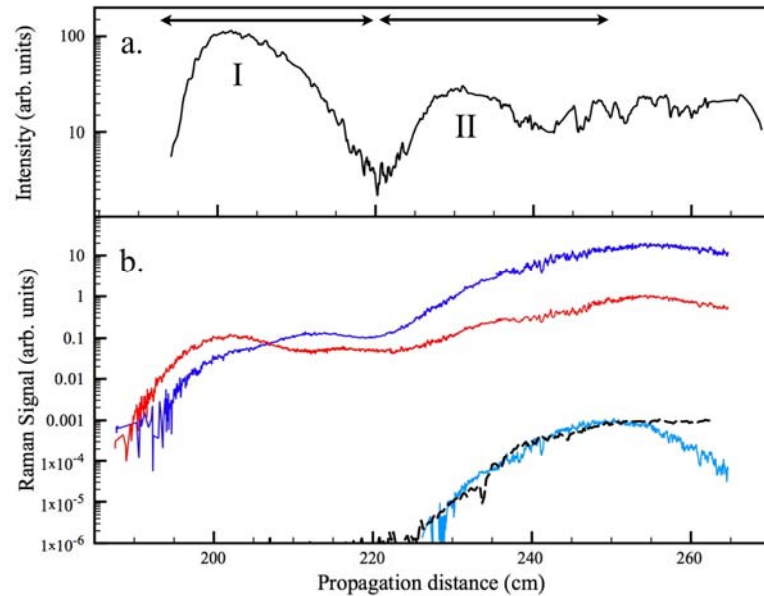
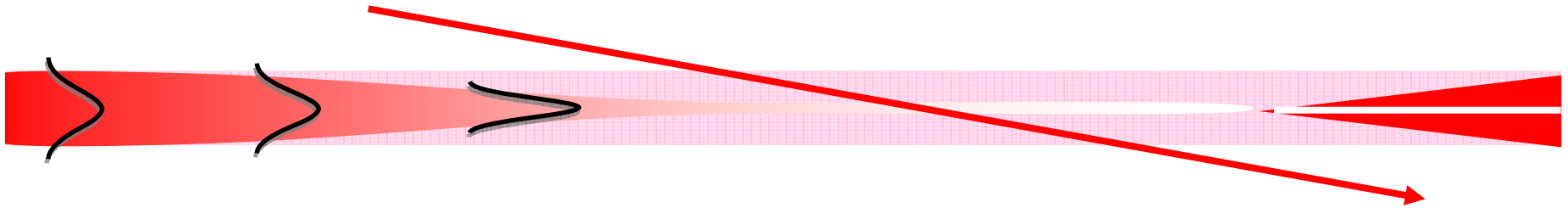
Fluorescence: Talebpour, Optics Communications **171**, 285 (1999).

Acoustic: Yu, Applied Optics **42**, 7117 (2003).

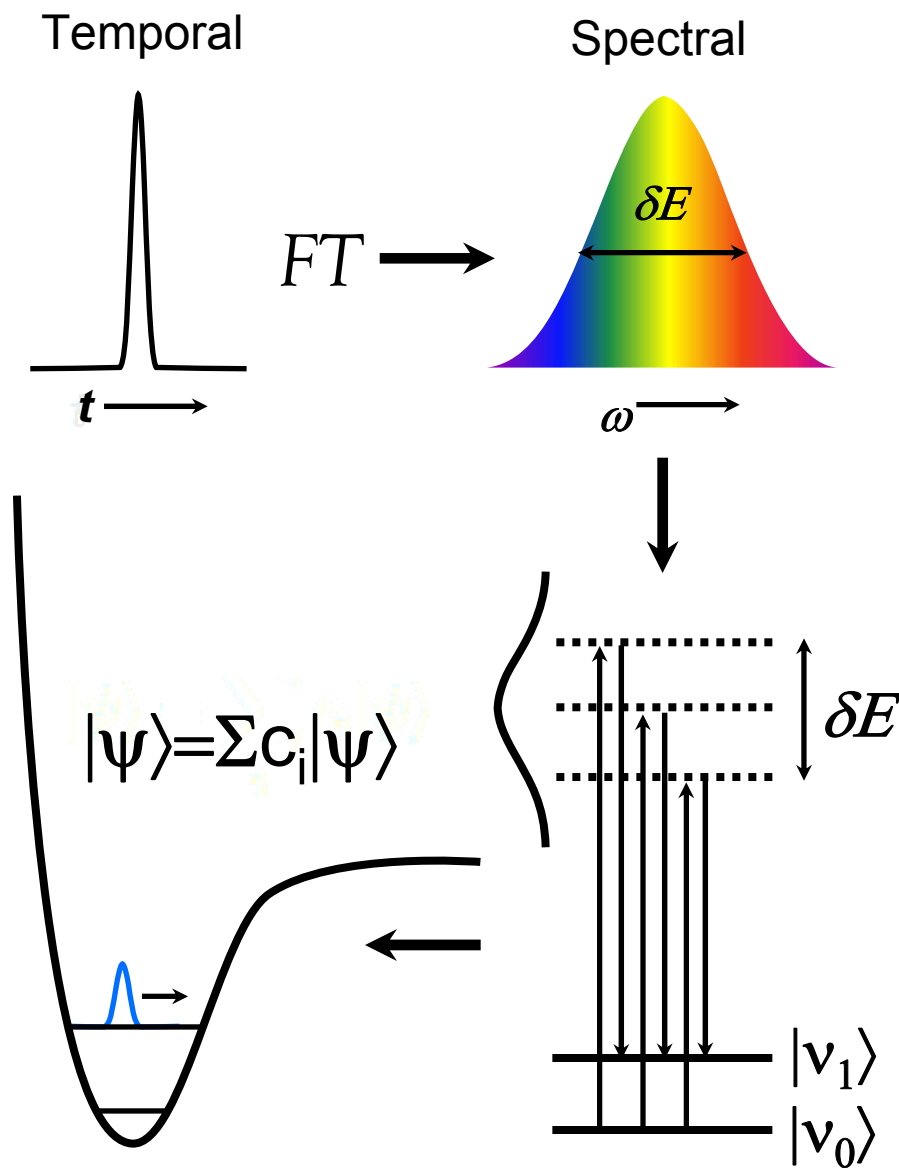
Conductivity: Eisenmann, Physical Review Letters **98**, (2007).

Post Filament SPIDER: Stibenz, Optics Letters **31**, 274 (2006).

Probing Filament Dynamics via Impulsive Raman Spectroscopy



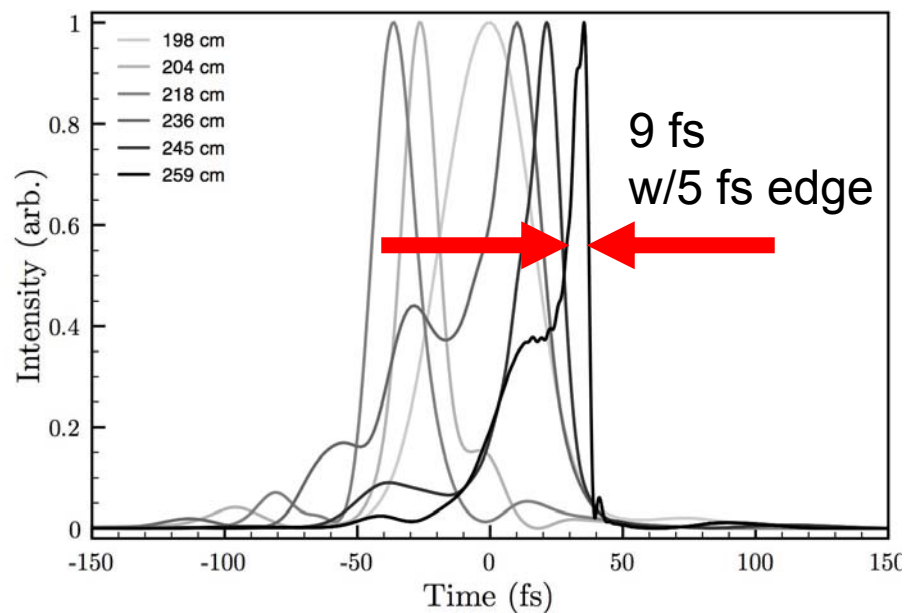
Criteria for Impulsive Vibrational Excitation



Irradiating a molecule with a sufficiently short pulse results in:

- i, a superposition of vibrational states
- ii, a time-dependent wavepacket
- iii, a time-dependent polarizability

XFROG Characterization of Filament



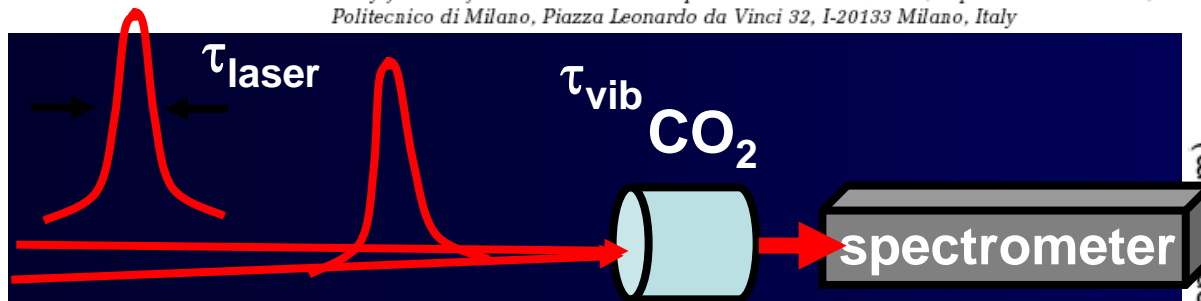
Impulsive Raman “Time-Domain” Detection

2922 OPTICS LETTERS / Vol. 33, No. 24 / December 15, 2008

Molecular rotovibrational dynamics excited in optical filamentation

F. Calegari,* C. Vozzi, S. De Silvestri, and S. Stagira

National Laboratory for Ultrafast and Ultraintense Optical Science–CNR-INFM, Dipartimento di Fisica, Politecnico di Milano, Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, I-20133 Milano, Italy

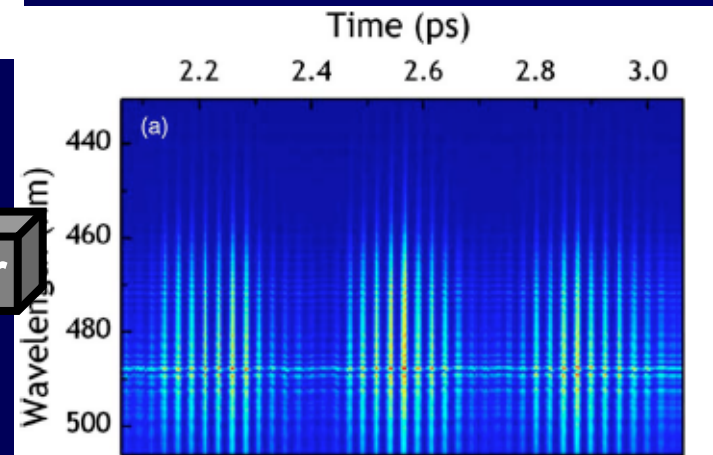


$$\tau_{laser, 1} = \tau_{laser, 2} < \tau_{vib}$$

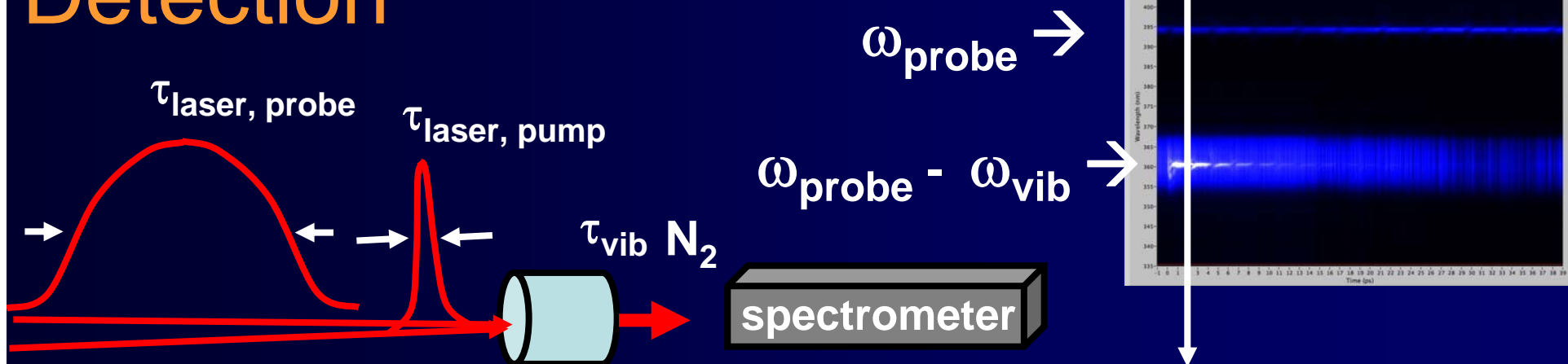
Fourier Transform

$$\Delta\omega(t) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\Delta\phi(t)$$

$$\Delta\phi(t) \propto n(t)$$



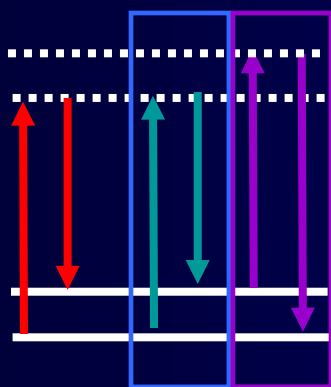
Impulsive Raman "Frequency-Domain" Detection



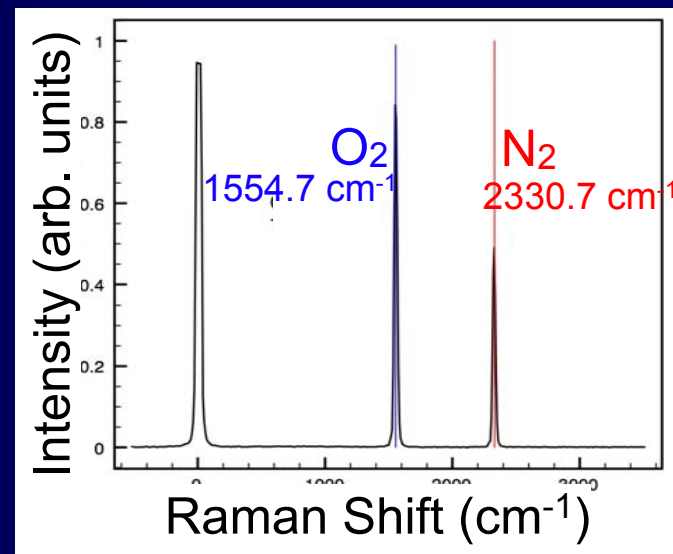
$$\tau_{\text{laser, pump}} < \tau_{\text{vib}} \ll \tau_{\text{laser, probe}}$$

$$\omega_{\text{probe}} \rightarrow \omega_{\text{probe}} \pm \omega_{\text{vib}}$$

**pump
prepares
coherence**



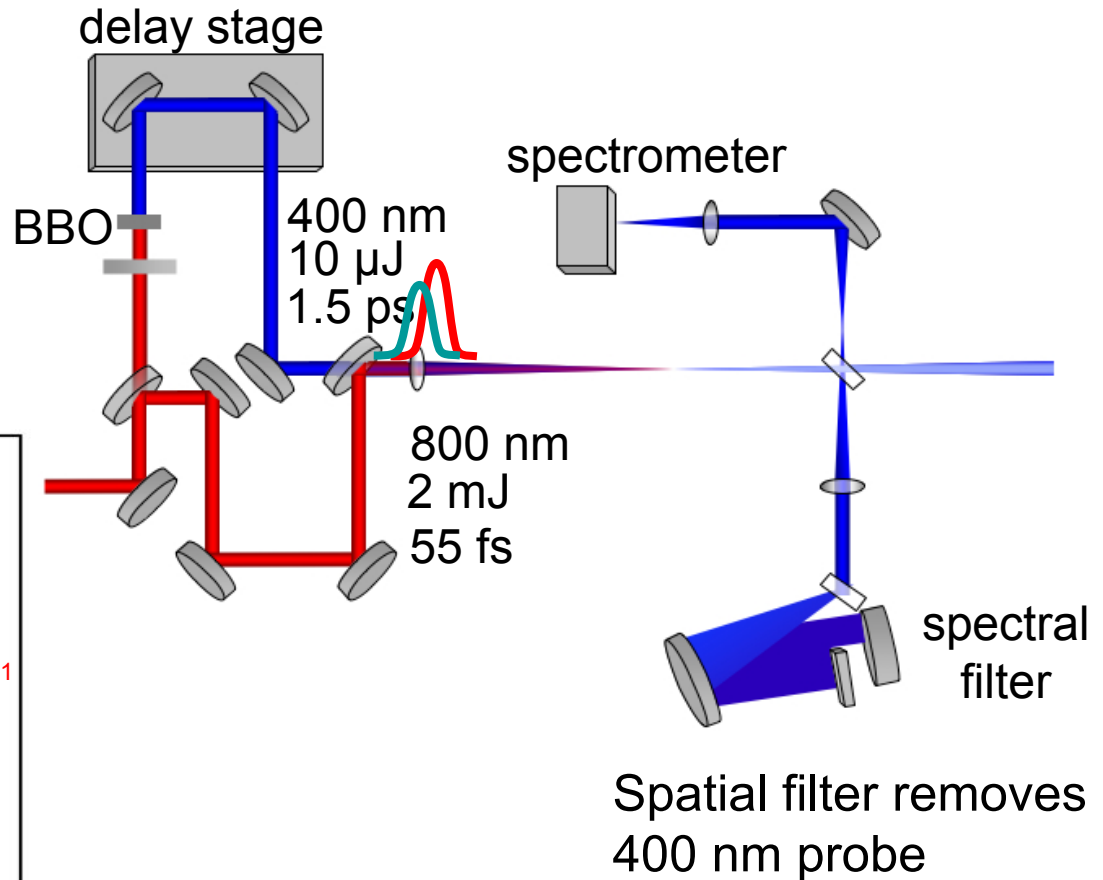
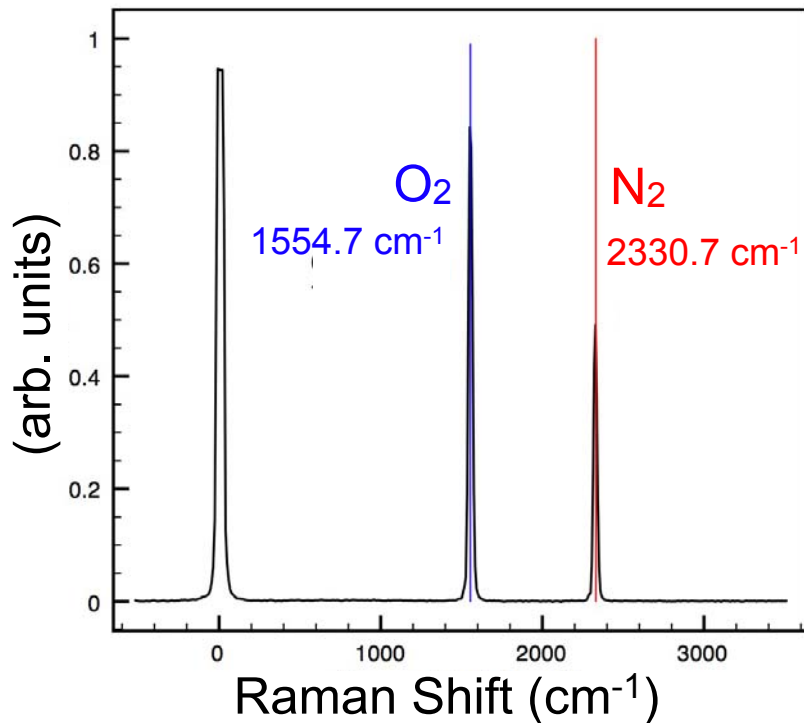
**Stokes
and
anti-Stokes**



Impulsive Stimulated Raman Spectrum in Air

An 800 nm drives both the impulsive filament pulse (2 mJ) and the weak (1.65 μ J) 400 nm probe pulse

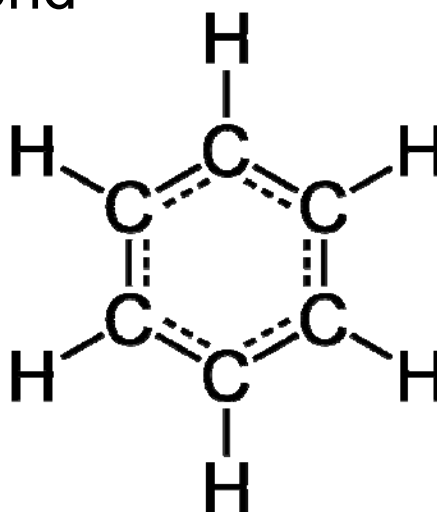
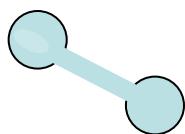
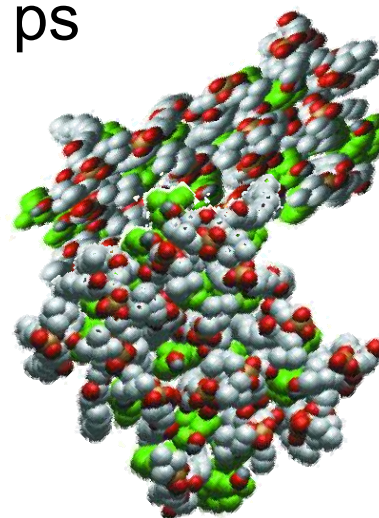
Impulsive Raman
Spectrum ~ 1.5 ps delay



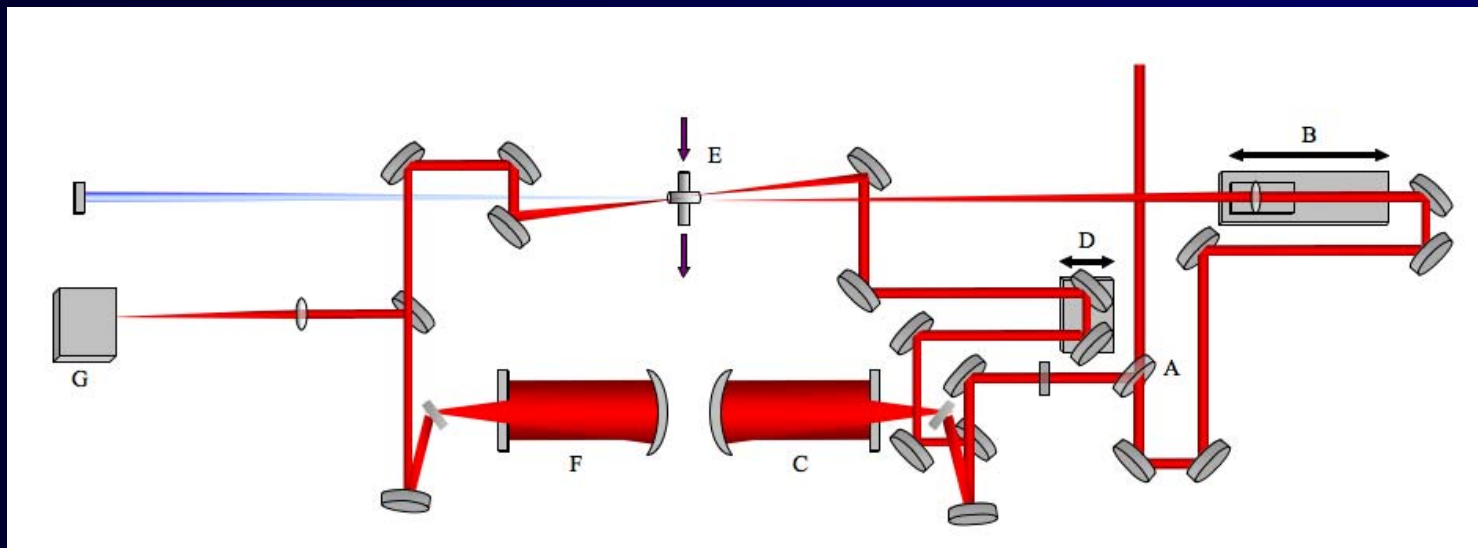
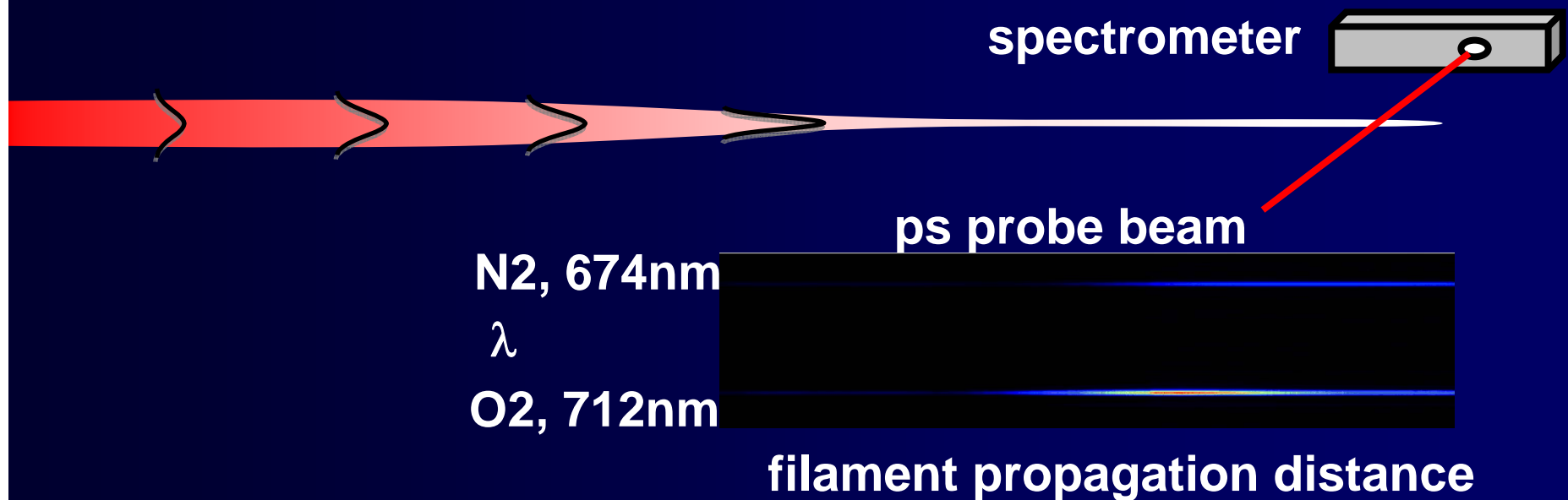
Impulsive Raman provides high sensitivity, rapid acquisition time (10 ms), few laser shots (10).

Time Scales for Molecular Motion Determine Pulse Duration for Impulsive Excitation

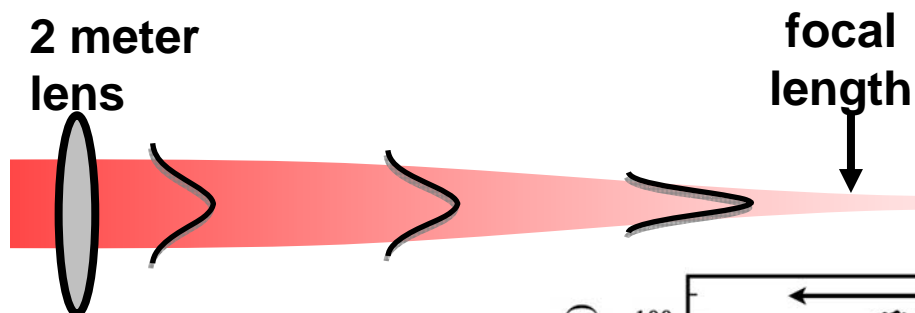
- Protein Backbone 500 femtosecond to ps
- CO₂ vibration 30 femtosecond
- O₂ vibration 21 femtosecond
- N₂ vibration 14 femtosecond
- C-H, O-H Stretch 10 fs
- H₂ vibration 8 femtosecond



Measuring the Pulse Duration as a Function of Distance in Filament Using ISRS

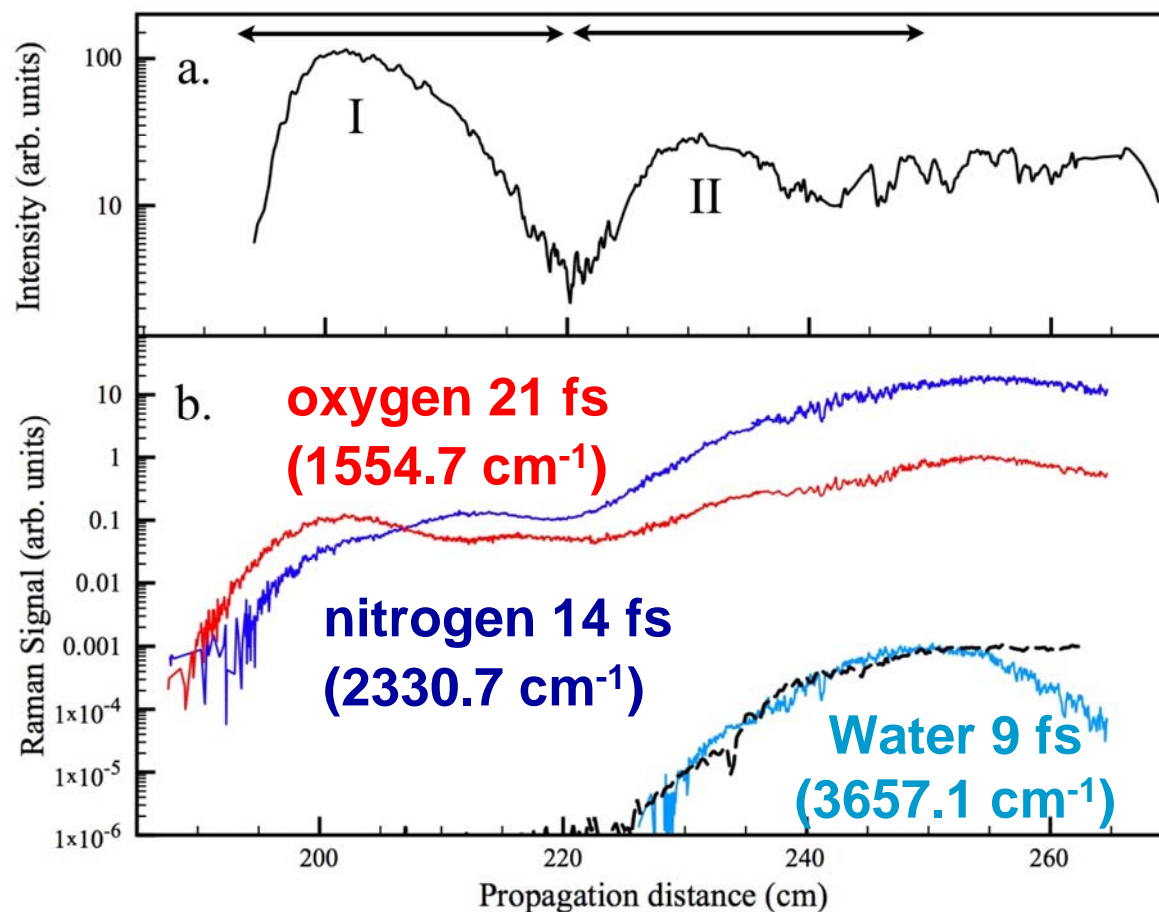


Filament Profile: Fluorescence and ISRS



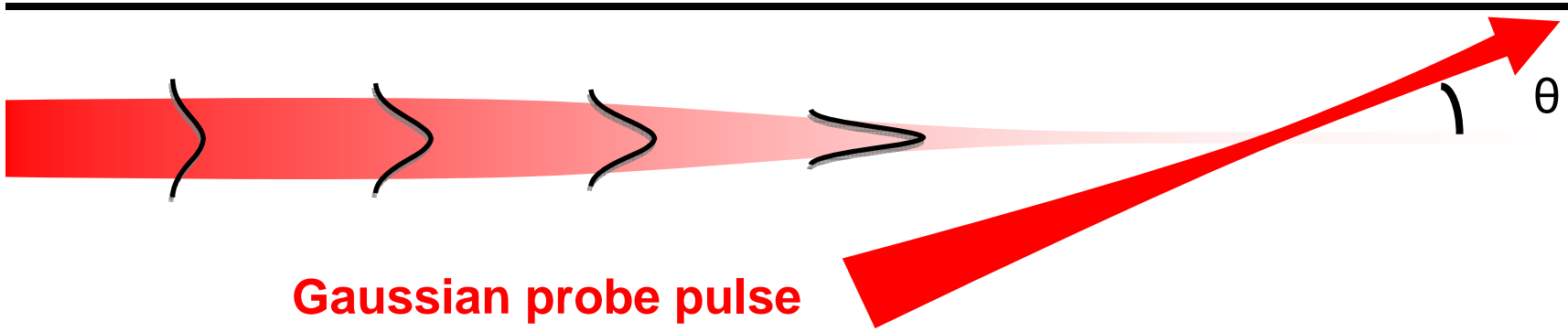
**Filament
Fluorescence**

**Impulsive
Raman
Scattering
Intensity**



PRL 105, 125001 (2010)

Filament Profiling: Underpinnings



$$E_{probe}(t, \rho') = E_{probe} e^{-\frac{(t-t_0)^2}{2\sigma}} e^{-\frac{(\rho')^2}{2R^2}} \approx E_{probe} e^{-\frac{(t-t_0)^2}{2\sigma}} e^{-\frac{z^2 \sin^2 \theta}{2R^2}}$$

The resulting polarization

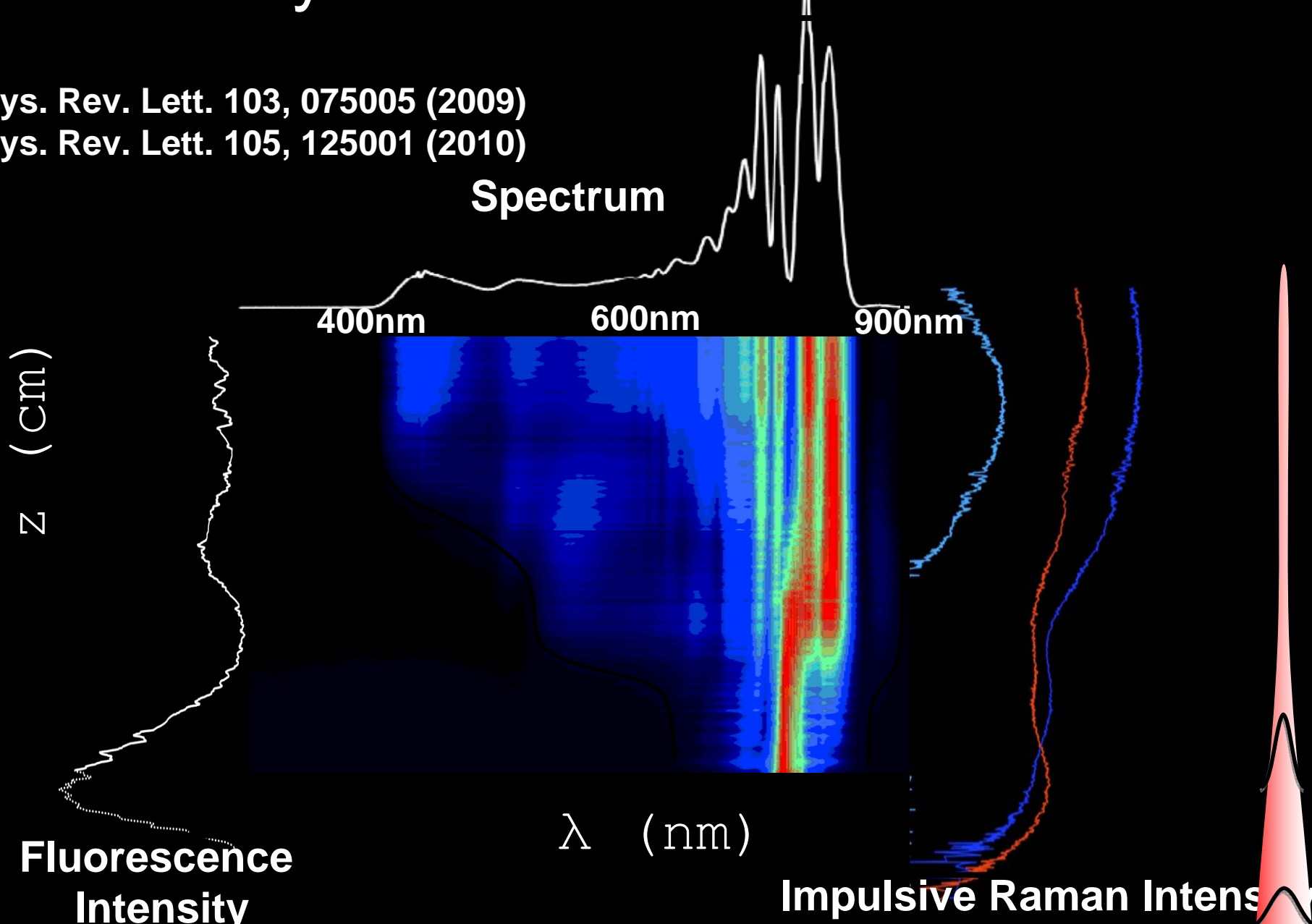
$$P(\omega_{obs}, \mathbf{k}, z) \approx \frac{N\tilde{E}_{probe}}{15(2\pi)^3 \hbar^3} \frac{R\sqrt{2\pi}}{\sin \theta} \sum_{n,m,l} \frac{1}{\omega_{lg}} \frac{\mu_{mn}\mu_{ng} \mu_{ml} \mu_{lg}}{(\omega_{ng} - \omega_{obs})(\omega_{mg} + \omega_{probe} - \omega_{obs})} \times$$

$$e^{-\frac{R^2(k_z - k_{probe} \cos \theta)^2}{2\sin^2 \theta}} \int d^2 r_{\perp} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega' \tilde{E}_{fil}(\omega', z, \mathbf{r}_{\perp}) \tilde{E}_{fil}(\omega_{obs} - \omega_{probe} - \omega', z, \mathbf{r}_{\perp})$$

Filament Dynamics Via ISRS

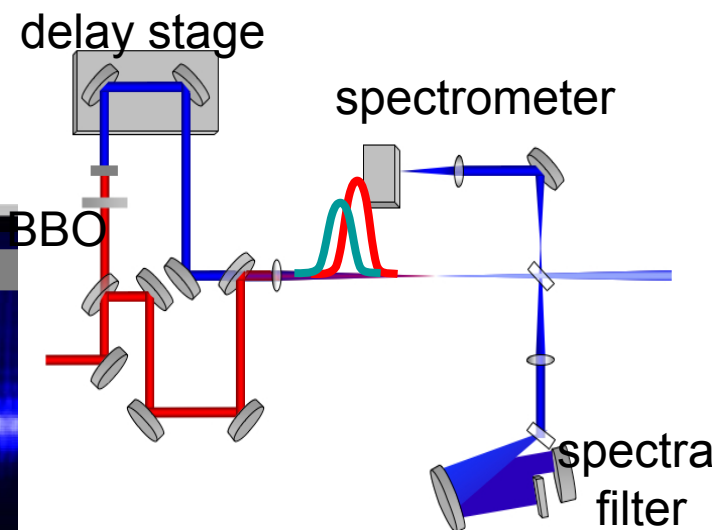
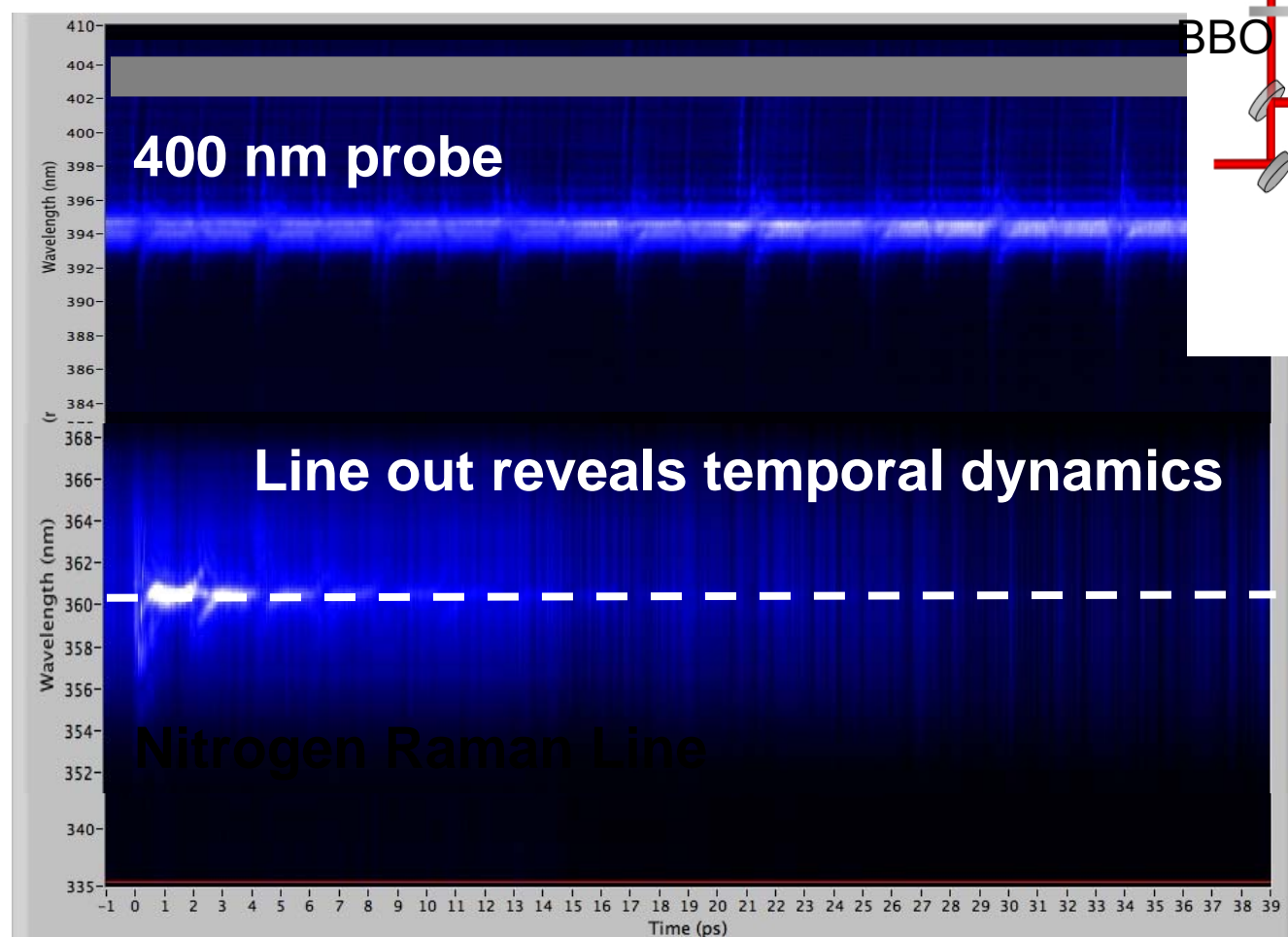
Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 075005 (2009)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 105, 125001 (2010)

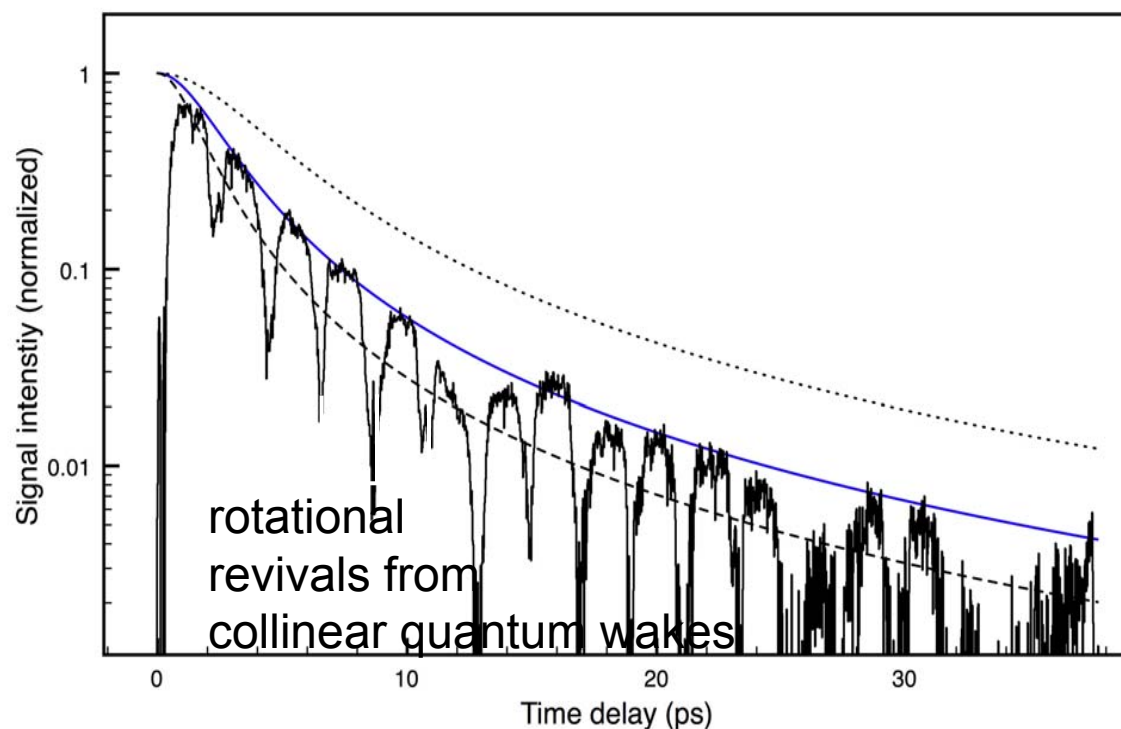
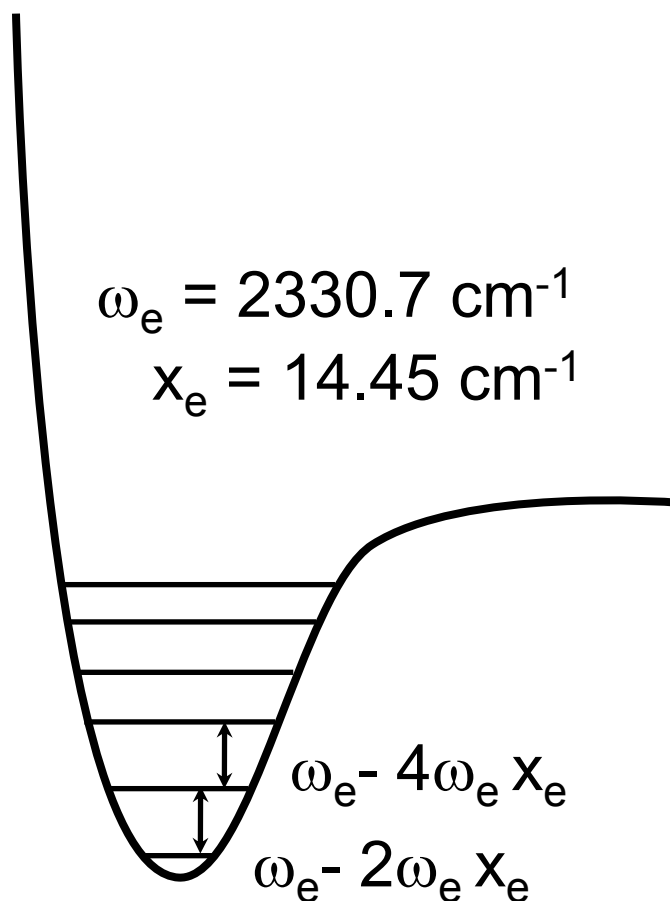


Temporal Dynamics of N2 Raman Reveals Temp

Optical Response as a function of time-
delay between pump and probe



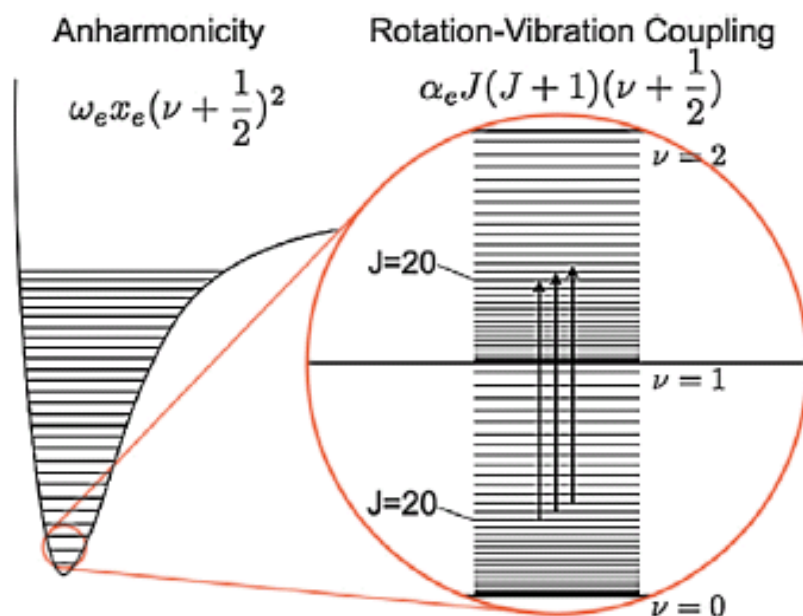
Temporal dynamics of N₂



Time-dependent polarization:

$$P(t) = \sum_{v=0}^{v_{max}} A_v(T) \cos[(\omega_e - 2\omega_e x_e(v + 1))t]$$

Dispersion of the Rotational-Vibrational Wavepacket



Excite multiple ro-vibrational states that are initially in phase.

With increasing time the coherent wave packet disperses via:

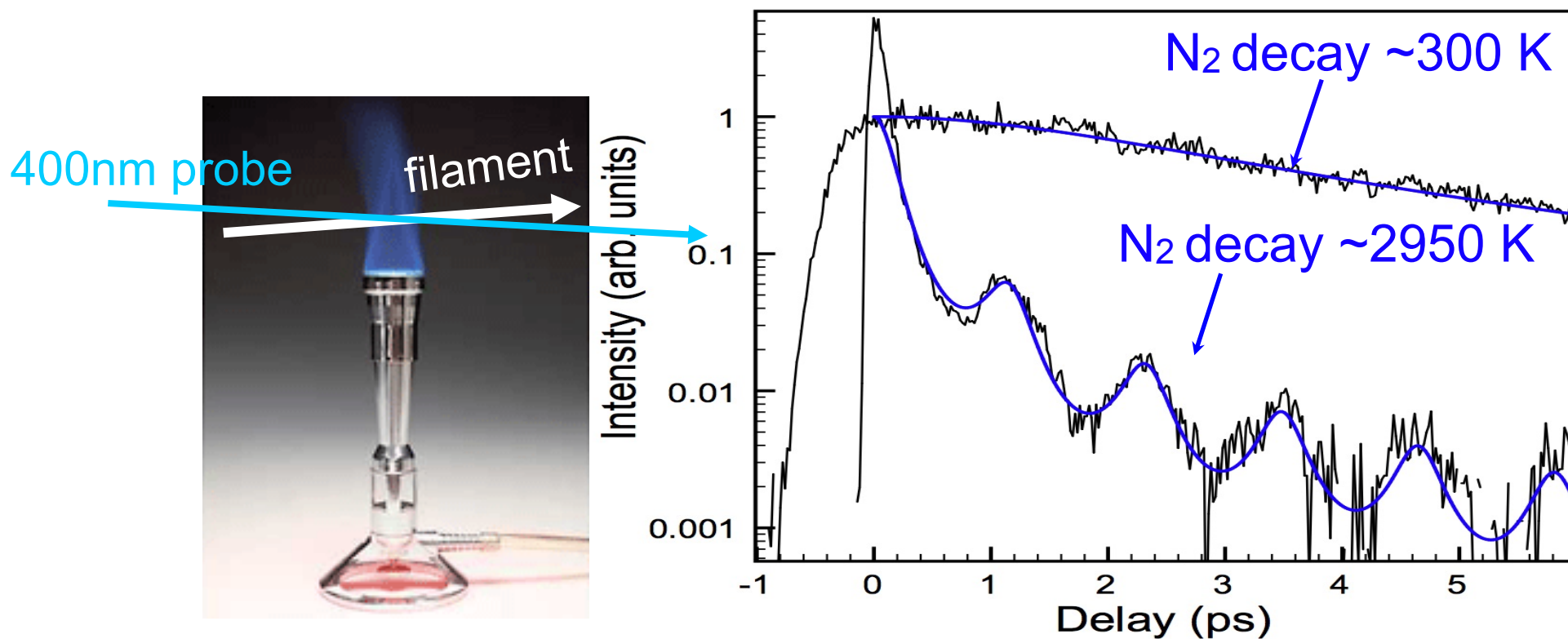
rotational constant rotation-vibration coupling

$$I_S(t_d) \sim \frac{\left(\exp\left(\frac{2B_e}{kT}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \right)^2 - \sin^2\left(\frac{\alpha_e}{\hbar} t_d\right)}{\left(1 + \left(\frac{\alpha_e T}{B_e \hbar} t_d\right)^2 \right) \left(\sinh^2\left(\frac{\hbar \omega_e}{2kT}\right) + \sin^2(\omega_e x_e t_d) \right)}$$

vibrational frequency anharmonicity

Temporal Dynamics at High Temperature

Temporal Dispersion of Diatomic Vibrational Wavepackets



Bunsen Burner

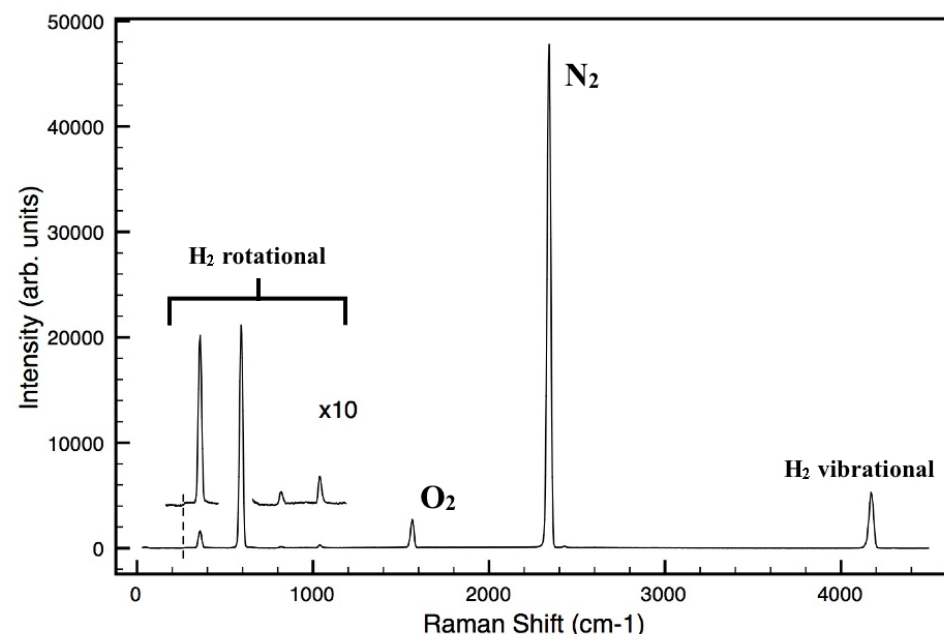
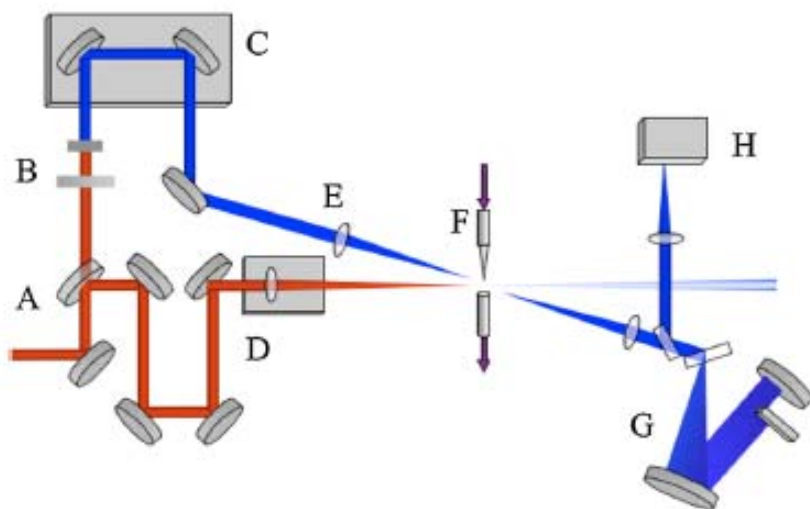
Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 075005 (2009)

$1/e^2$ dispersion times are on the order of ~ 10 ps.

Near Single Cycle Features in Filaments Enables Detection of *All* Raman Active Molecules

Single Shot Measurement
from 300cm^{-1} to 4155cm^{-1}

Filament With H_2 Source



H_2 vibration at 4155cm^{-1} requires
A < 8 femtoseconds feature for impulsive excitation

PRL 103, 075005 (2009)

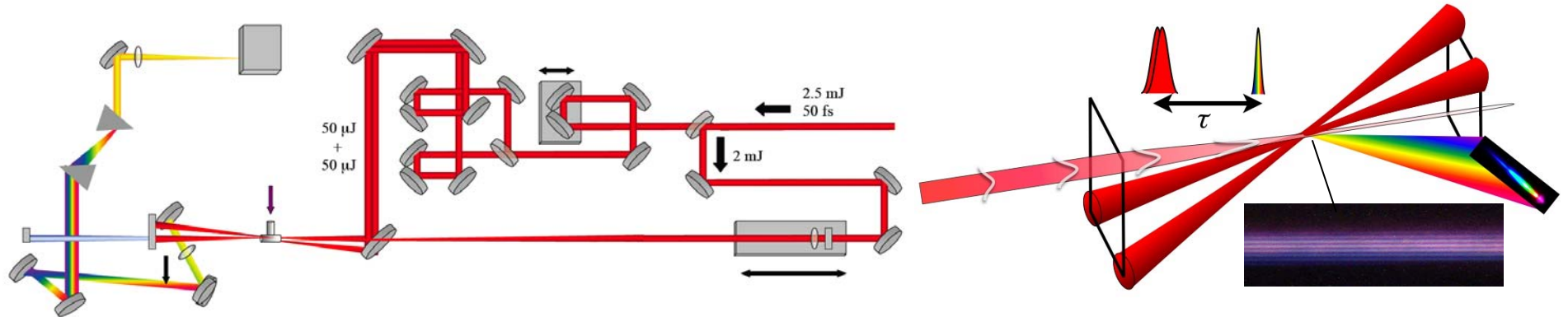
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
14 AUGUST 2009

CENTER FOR ADVANCED PHOTONICS RESEARCH

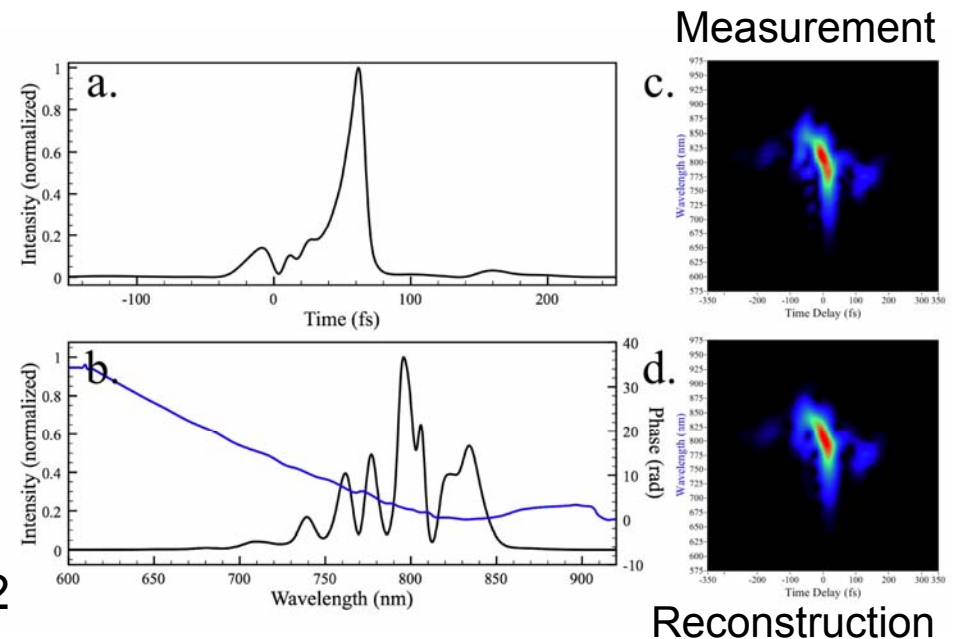


Characterizing Spectral Phase and Amplitude in a Filament via Transient Grating X-FROG

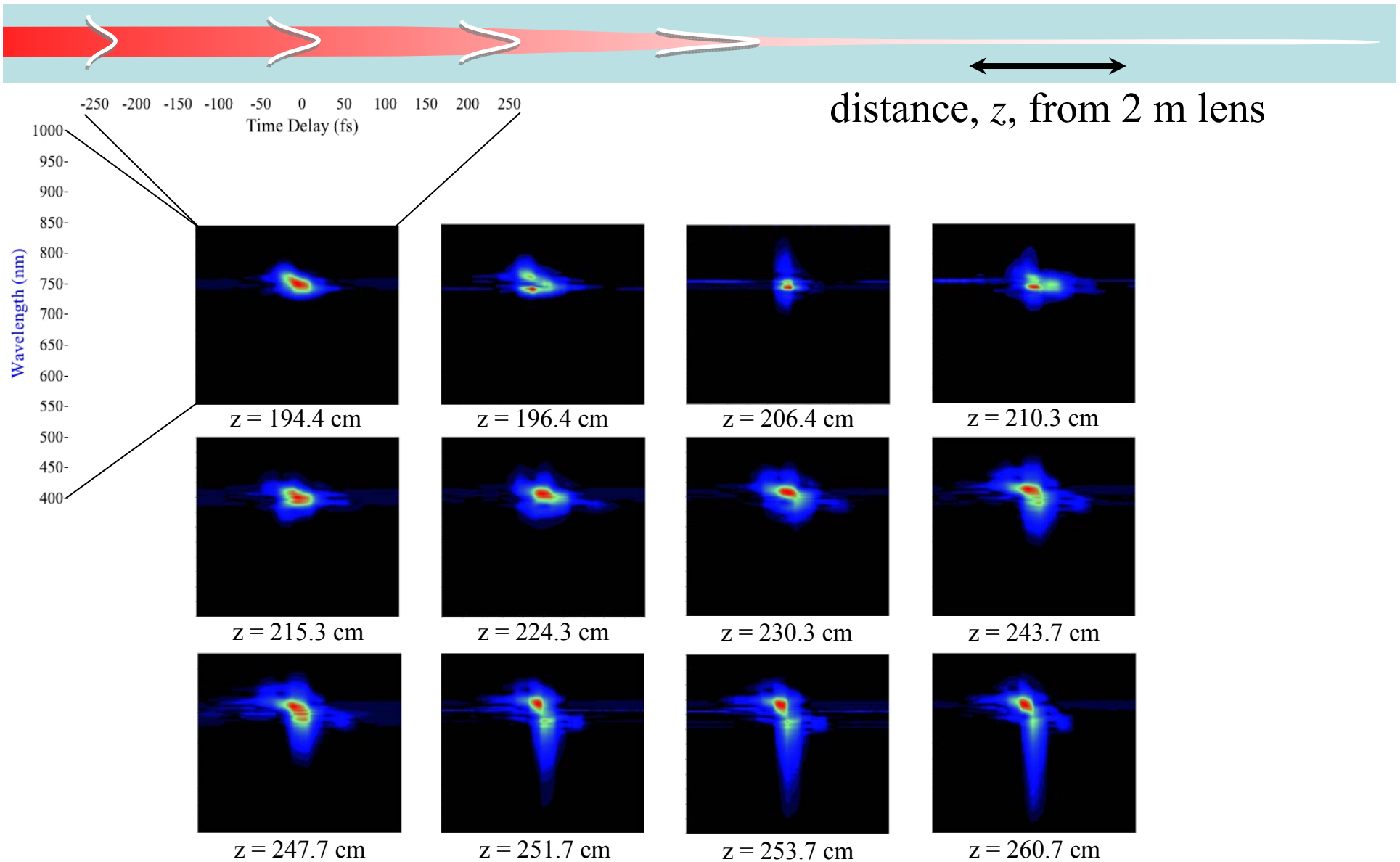


- The filament formed using a 2-m lens is diffracted off of an optical grating formed by two reference beams. The spectrally-resolved autocorrelation is then inverted to recover the pulse electric field and spectrum.
- Measurements as a function of distance from the lens and input power reveal filament formation and propagation dynamics.

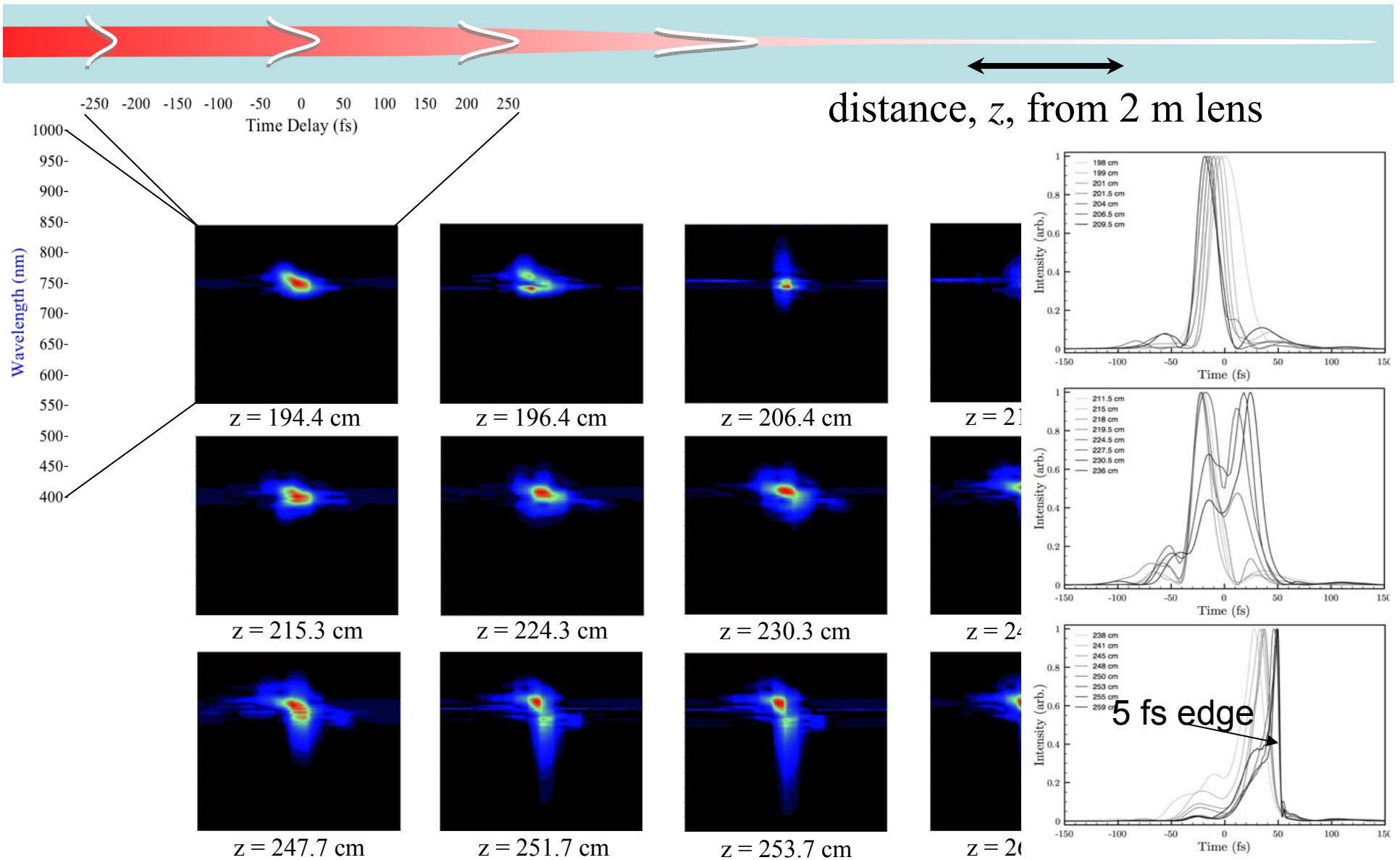
Optics Letters 37, 1775, 2012



Filament XFROG vs. z Distance



Filament XFROG vs. z Distance



TG-XFROG in Excellent Agreement with Theory

ISSN 1054-660X, *Laser Physics*, 2010, Vol. 20, No. 5, pp. 1107–1113.
© Pleiades Publishing, Ltd., 2010.
Original Russian Text © Astro, Ltd., 2010.

NONLINEAR OPTICS
AND SPECTROSCOPY

Plasma Induced Pulse Breaking in Filamentary Self-Compression¹

C. Brée^{a, b, *}, A. Demircan^a, S. Skupin^{c, d}, L. Bergée, and G. Steinmeyer^{b, f, **,}

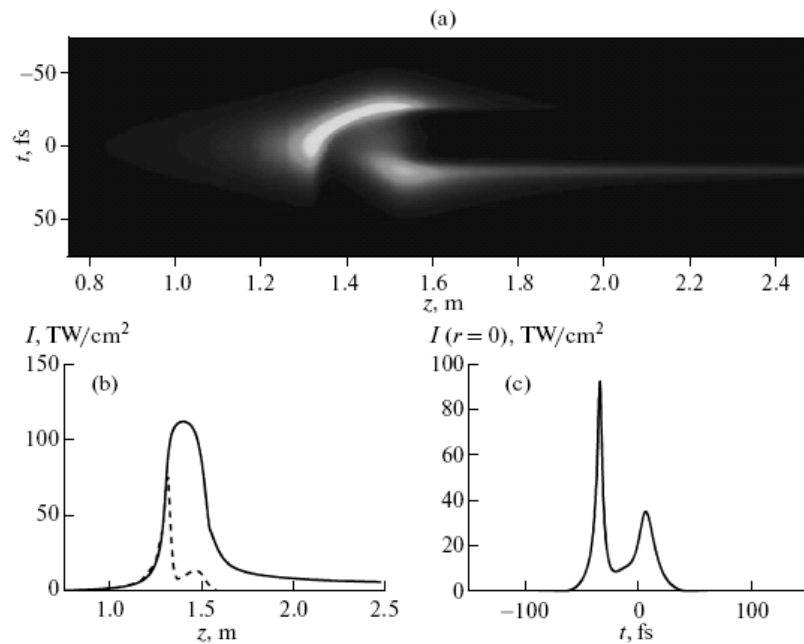
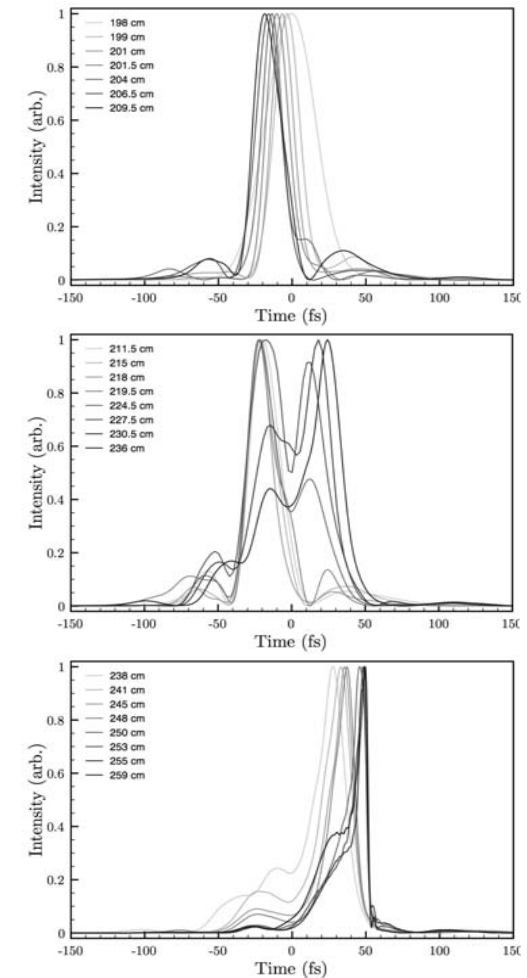
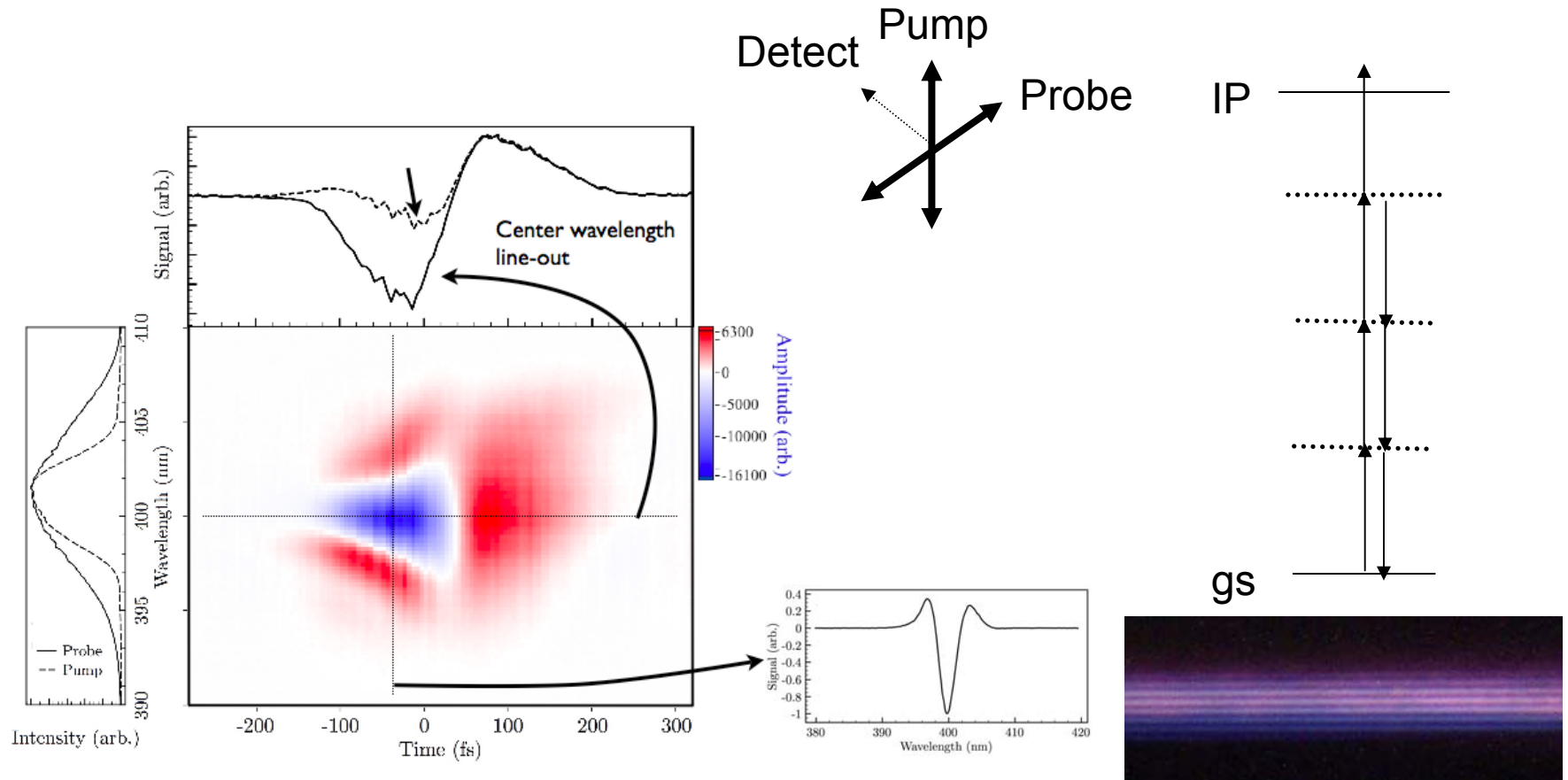


Fig. 1. (a) Evolution of the on-axis temporal profile along z . As soon as plasma defocusing has saturated the optical collapse, a characteristic temporal break-up occurs. (b) Evolution of the peak intensity (solid line) and the on-axis intensity at zero delay (dashed line). (c) On-axis temporal distribution at $z = 1.55$ m exhibiting a typical double hump structure.

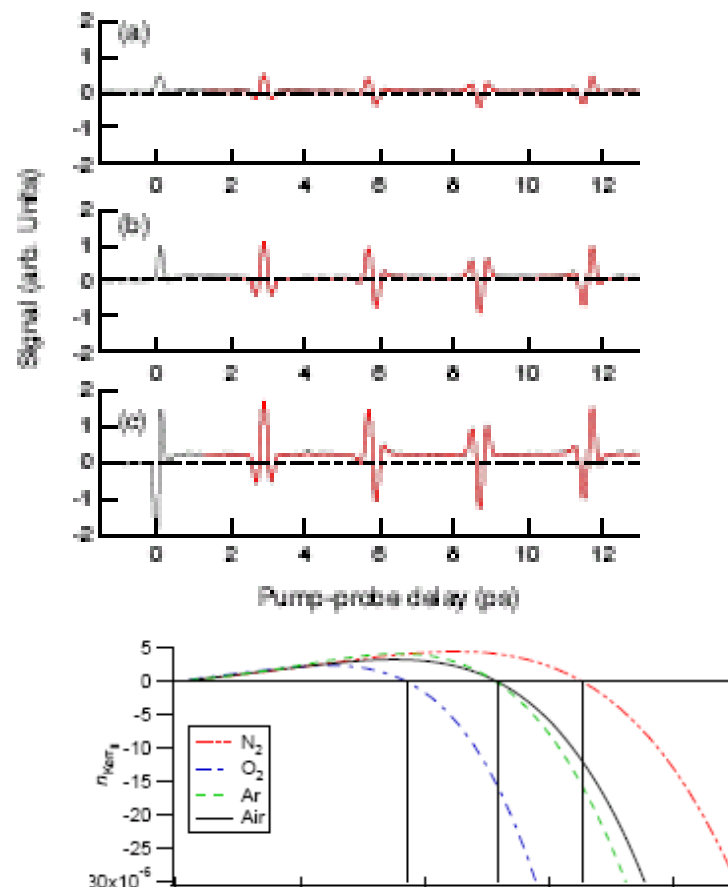
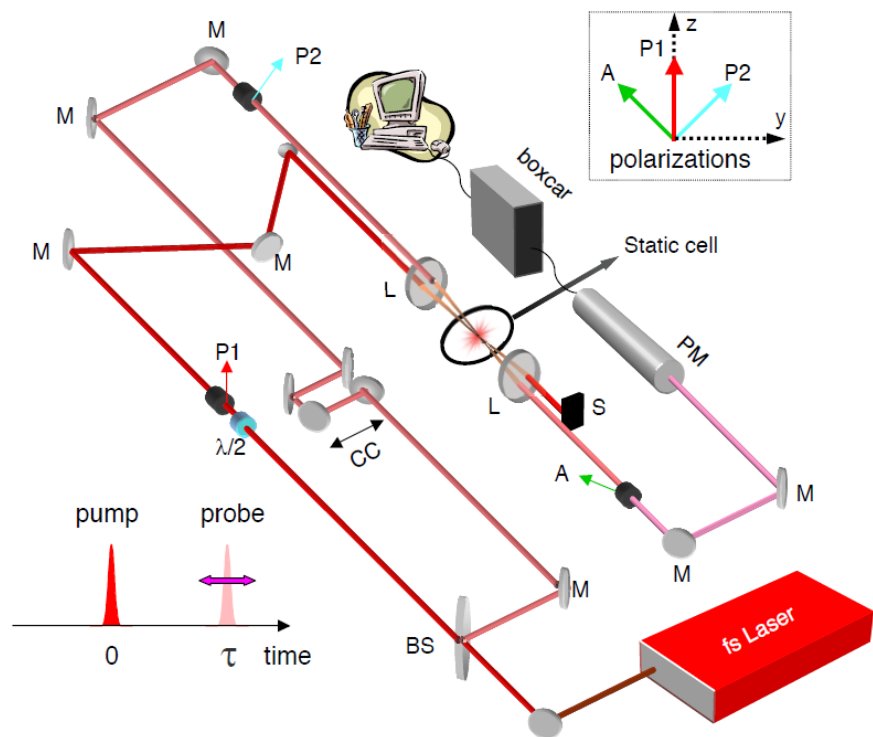


Spectrally-Resolved Transient Birefringence to Determine Mechanism



Odhner, et al. PRL 2012, 109, 065003

The Higher Order Kerr Measurement



$$S_{\text{hetero}}(t) \propto I_{\text{pr}}(t) \otimes \left(\underbrace{\frac{3p\Delta\alpha}{4n_0\epsilon_0} \left(\langle \cos^2 \theta \rangle - \frac{1}{3} \right)}_{\Delta n_{\text{rot}}(t)} + \underbrace{\frac{2}{3}n_2I + \frac{4}{5}n_4I^2 + \frac{6}{7}n_6I^3 + \frac{8}{9}n_8I^4 + \frac{10}{11}n_{10}I^5}_{\Delta n_{\text{kerr}}(t)} \right)$$

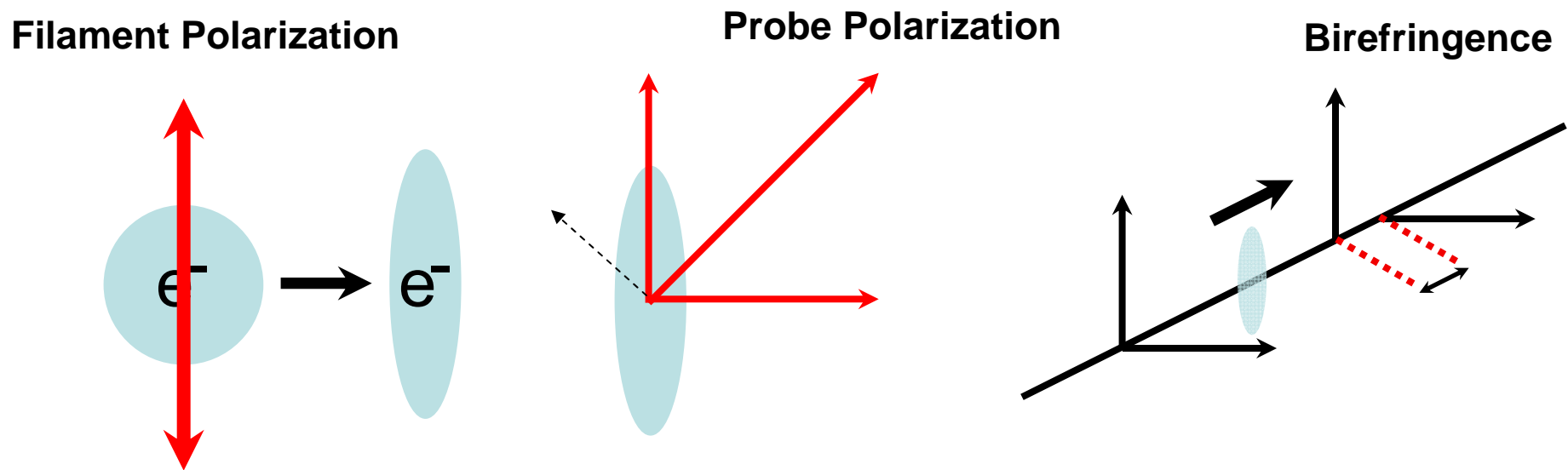
Loriot, V. *et al. Laser Physics*,
2011, 21, 1319-1328.

3 August 2009 / Vol. 17, No. 16 / OPTICS EXPRESS 13429

Transient Birefringence in Optical Kerr Effect

An optical transient birefringence experiment measures the anisotropic response of a medium due to the presence of a large optical electric field.

The electric field distorts the potential experienced by electrons bound to atoms and molecules, which changes the degree to which a weak probe field interacts with the medium depending on its polarization.



Ionization-Induced Birefringence

Optical Interference

$$I(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{n_0 c}{8\pi} \left[|E_e(\mathbf{r}, t)|^2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (E_e^*(\mathbf{r}, t) E_p(\mathbf{r}, t - t_d) e^{i(\mathbf{k}_p - \mathbf{k}_e) \cdot \mathbf{r}} + \text{c.c.}) \right].$$

Wahlstrand and Milchberg proposed that the polarization component of the probe pulse parallel to the pump polarization will selectively participate in ionization, leading to an effective birefringence.

Plus Ionization

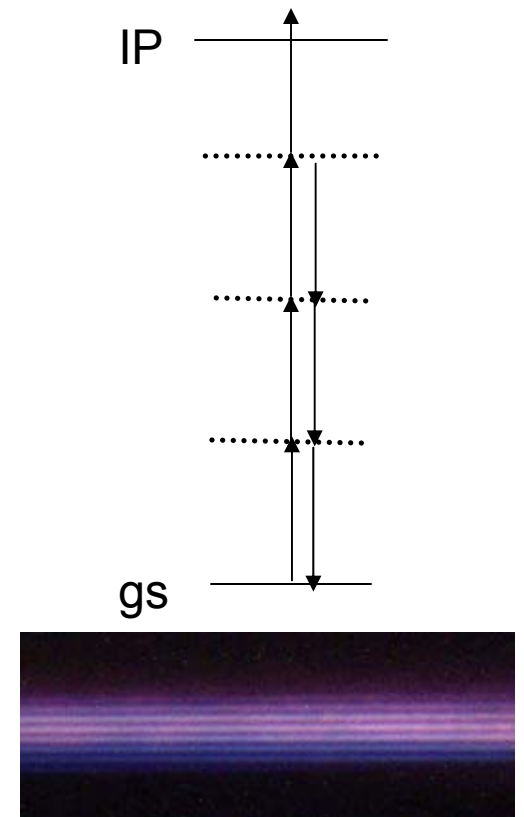
$$W(t) = \sigma_m I^m(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

Provides Ionization Grating-Induced Phase Accumulation

$$\Delta n_{pl}^g(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{n_0 c N_0}{2 \sqrt{2} \pi N_c} \times \int_{-\infty}^t \sigma_m I_e^{m-1}(\mathbf{r}, t') E_e^*(\mathbf{r}, t') E_p(\mathbf{r}, t' - t_d) dt'.$$

The Model for Plasma Grating-Induced Birefringence at 400nm Pump Probe

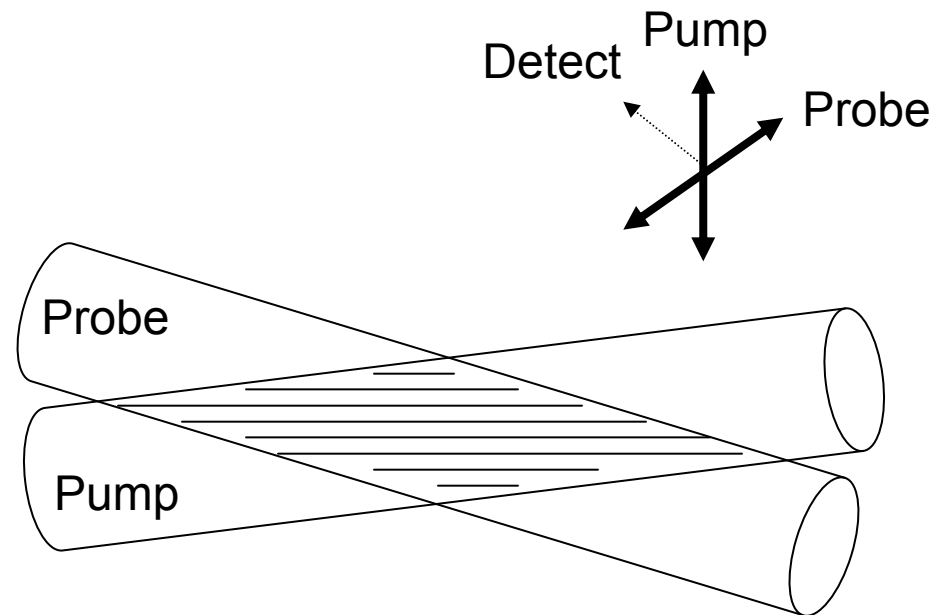
- At 400 nm, four photons are required to ionize O_2
- At low probe intensity, one photon from probe can add to photons to provide an excitation path. In this case interference occurs.
- Interference between pump and probe sets up an intensity grating.
- Interaction or exchange of probe photons in ladder climbing leads to phase accumulation.



Two-beam phase coupling

OPTICS LETTERS / Vol. 36, No. 19 / October 1, 2011

- Pump (and probe) can diffract into probe (and pump) direction.
- If frequencies of pump and probe are not degenerate, the grating moves appreciably on the time scale of pulse duration and diffraction washes out.

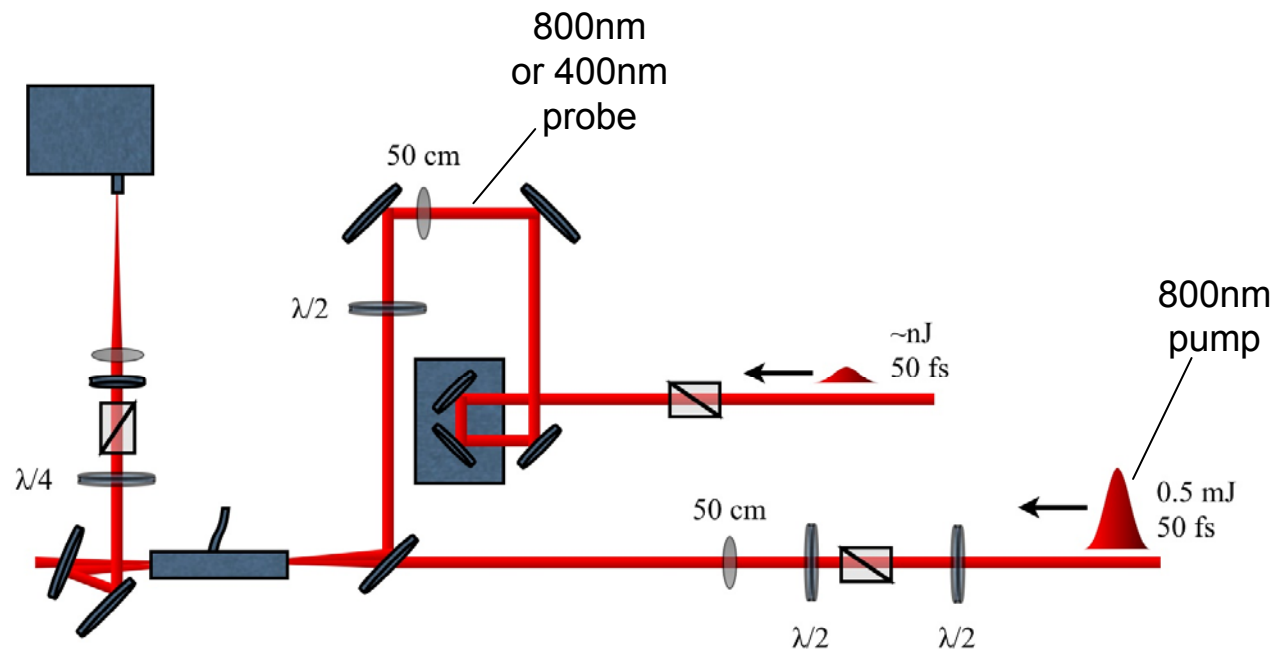


$$\frac{N_e(\mathbf{r}, t)}{N_0} = \int_{-\infty}^t dt' W(E_e(t')) + \frac{1}{2} \left(e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}} \int_{-\infty}^t dt' E_p(t') W'(E_e(t')) e^{-i\Delta\omega t'} + c.c. \right)$$

PRL 2012, 109, 065003

ω , 2ω Kerr Birefringence Measurements

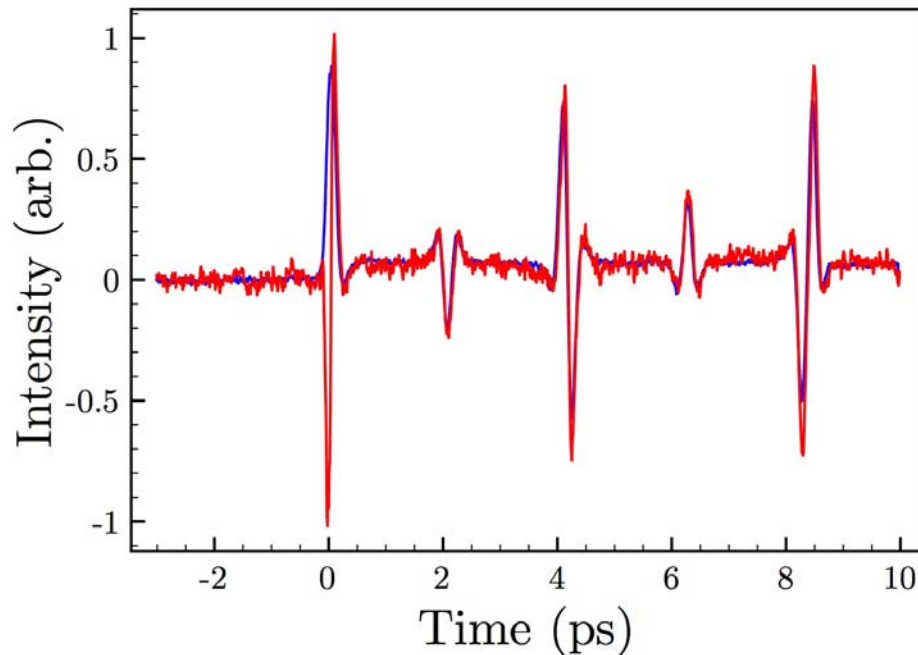
- Lorient, et al. showed apparent inversion at high intensity for transient birefringence using 800nm pump and probe.
- We repeated measurements using both 800nm and 400nm probes to test Milchberg hypothesis.



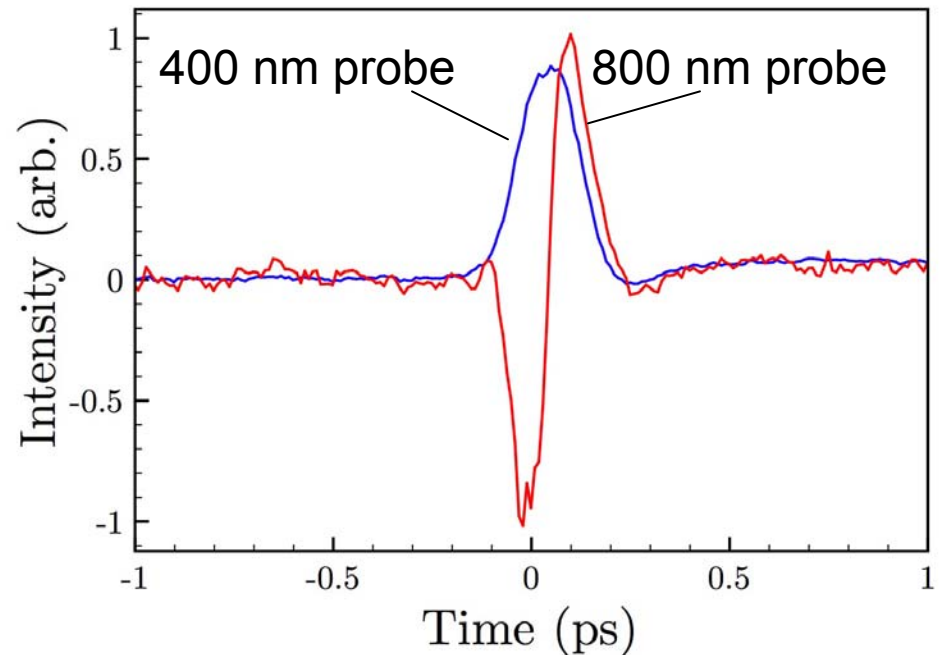
800nm Filament, 400nm Probe Measurement

Initial results of experiments performed at $\sim 40 \text{ TW/cm}^2$ show that no inversion of the birefringence is observed at zero delay in nitrogen using a 400 nm probe pulse, though inversion is observed at 800 nm.

Time-Resolved Birefringence for Degenerate and Nondegenerate Beams

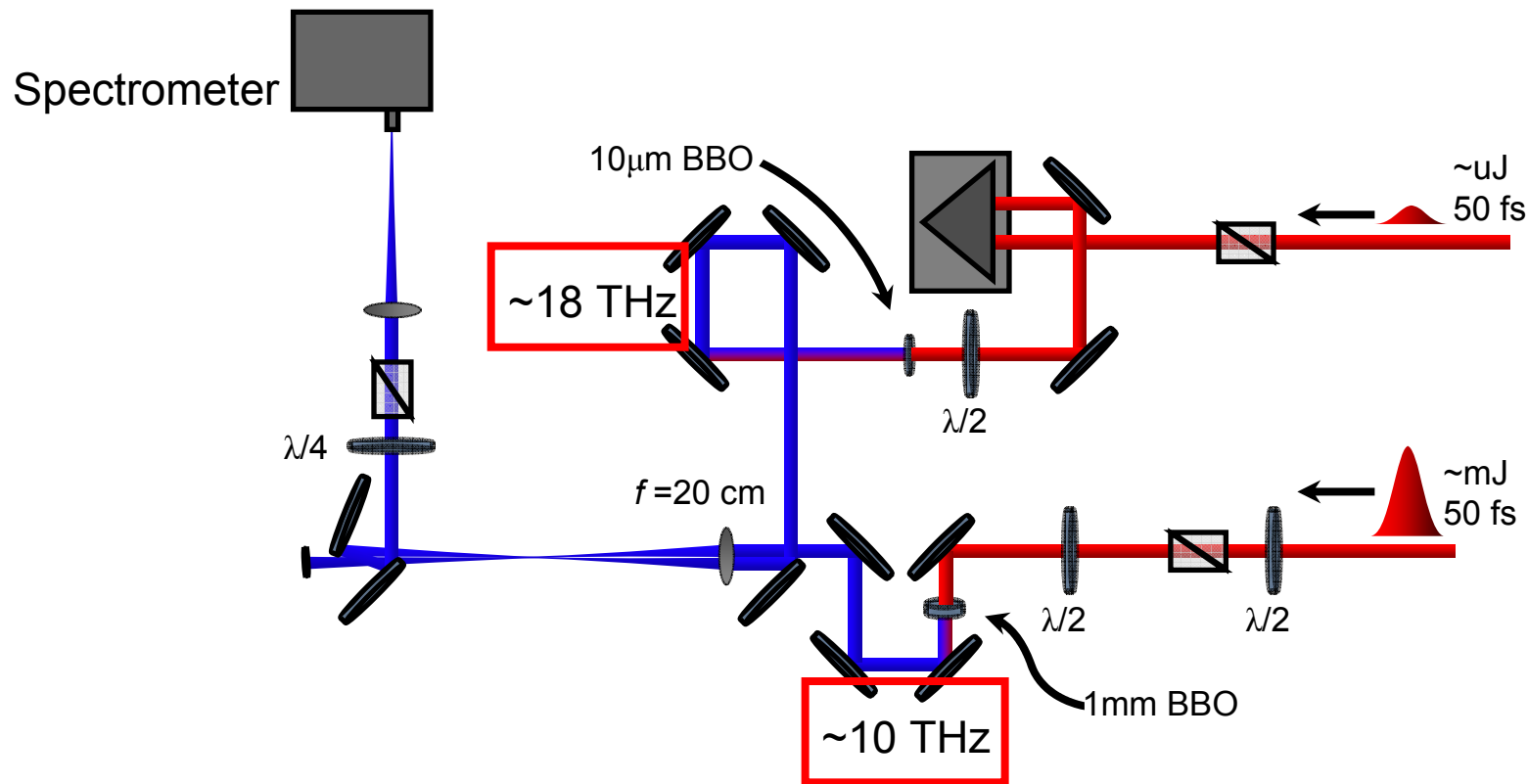


Birefringence Response at t=0 for 800nm, 800nm and 800nm, 400nm



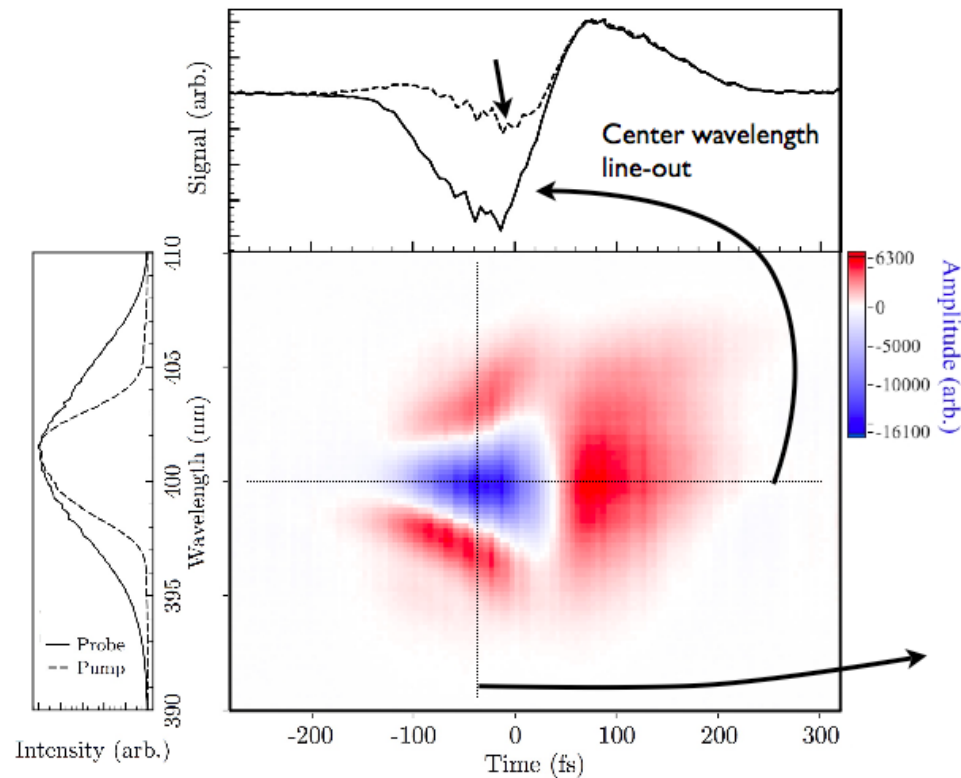
Difference in nonlinearities between 800nm and 400nm could account for the observation.

Testing the “Ionization Grating” Theory using Nearly Degenerate Beams



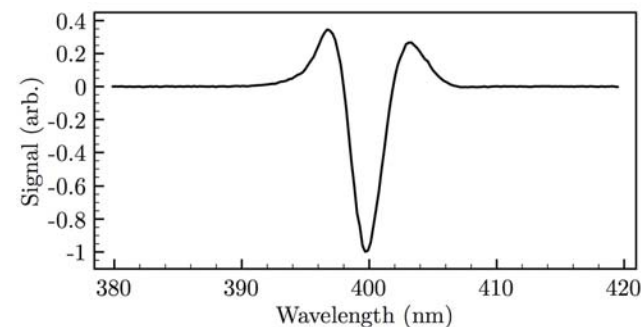
To test the new theory, the spectrally-resolved transient birefringence of air was measured at 400 nm.

Spectrally-Resolved Measurements at 400 nm



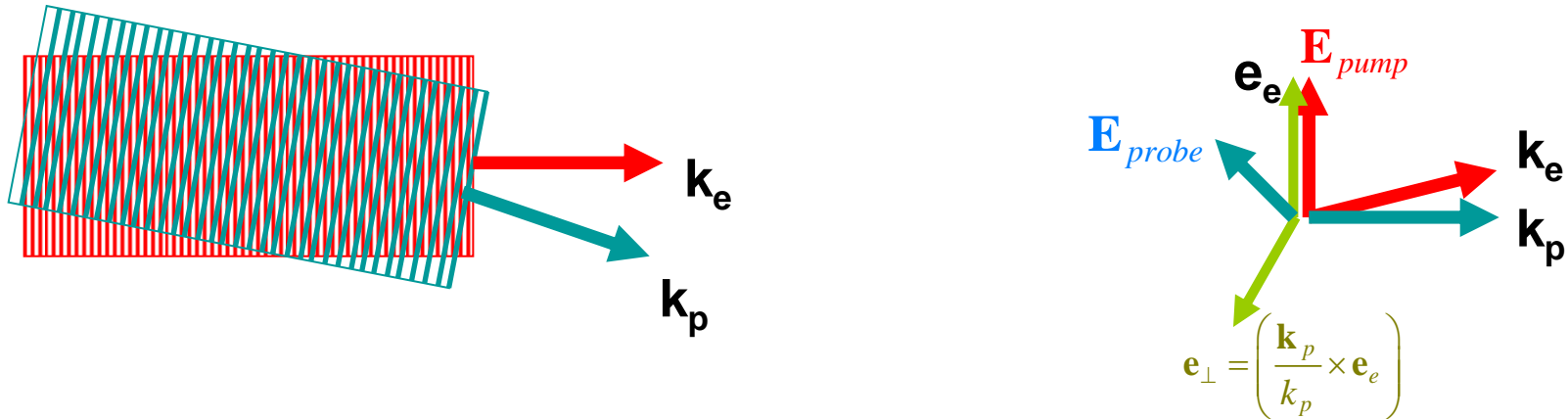
PRL, submitted

- Double light in two different length BBOs provides different bandwidths
- Spectrally-resolving adds new dimension to data, revealing positive sidebands on the leading edge of the pump not otherwise observable.



- Where the frequencies of pump and probe are degenerate there is negative contribution Otherwise there is no inversion as would be expected by HOKE

Simulating the Two Beam Coupling Geometry



$$\mathbf{E}_{pump} = \mathbf{e}_e (I)^{1/2} A_e \left(t - \frac{n_0}{ck_e} (\mathbf{k}_e \mathbf{r}) \right) e^{i\mathbf{k}_e \mathbf{r} - i\omega_e t} + c.c.$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{probe} = (I_p)^{1/2} \left(\mathbf{e}_e A_\square(t, \mathbf{r}) + \mathbf{e}_\perp A_\perp(t, \mathbf{r}) \right) e^{i\mathbf{k}_p \mathbf{r} - i\omega_p t} + c.c.$$

$$I_p \lll I$$

Basic assumption: A_e is not changed by the interaction, and it does not undergo noticeable (self)focusing over the interaction length.

Plasma Nonlinearity I:

Conventional Nonlinear Refraction

The plasma is produced by the ionization of the medium at the rate depending on the local field intensity

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = R\left(|E(t, z)|\right) N_{neut}$$

Which leads to the corresponding nonlinear variation in the refraction index

$$\Delta n_{pl}(t, z) = -n_0 \frac{N_{neut}}{2N_c} \int_{-\infty}^t dt' R(|E(t', z)|)$$

where $N_c = \frac{m_e \omega_e^2}{4\pi e^2}$

is the critical plasma density

In the two-beam coupling setup, this will instigate an equal negative phase shift in both polarization components of the probe pulse.

Plasma Nonlinearity II: Incorporating Multi Photon Ionization

As the ionization rate depends on the total intensity, in the two-beam situation, the generated plasma density will undergo periodic spatial variations due to the small but significant interference term. In the case of multiphoton (m -photon) ionization,

$$R(|E(t, z)|) = \sigma_m (I_{total})^m \approx \sigma_m I^m \left(|A_e|^2 + 2m \sqrt{\frac{I_p}{I}} |A_e|^{2m-2} \left(A_e^* A_p e^{i(k_p - k_e)z - i(\omega_p - \omega_{ep})t} + c.c \right) \right)$$

OPTICS LETTERS / Vol. 36, No. 19 / October 1, 2011

Accordingly, the plasma-related correction to the refraction index will form a grating capable of initiating scattering between the pump and the probe beams:

$$\Delta n_{pl}(t, z) = -n_0 \sigma_m I^m \frac{N_{neut}}{2N_c} \left(f(t, z) + 2m \sqrt{\frac{I_p}{I}} \left(e^{i(k_p - k_e)z} \int_{-\infty}^t d\tau \frac{\partial f(\tau, z)}{\partial \tau} \frac{A_p}{A_e} e^{-i(\omega_p - \omega_{ep})\tau} + c.c \right) \right)$$

where $f(t, z) = \int_{-\infty}^t d\tau |A_e(\tau, z)|^{2m}$

**Plasma grating
terms**

The Combined Transient Birefringence Signal from Kerr, Transient Plasma Grating and Rotation

Keeping only the first term in the sum for the plasma heterodyne signal and adding the Kerr-related terms, we obtain the following expression to be compared with the experimental results on the spectrally resolved birefringence measurements:

$$I_s(\omega) \propto \text{Re} \left[e^{i\omega t_d} E_p(\omega) \times \right. \\ \left. iz \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} \left(-\frac{k_p n_2}{2n_0} E_p^*(t - t_d) \left(\frac{2}{3} |E_e(t)|^2 + \frac{5}{6} \int_{-\infty}^t dt' R(t - t') |E_e(t')|^2 \right) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + 4\beta e^{iz\beta f(t)} E_e^*(t) \int_{-\infty}^t dt' |E_e(t')|^{2m-2} E_e(t') E_p^*(t' - t_d) \right) \right]$$

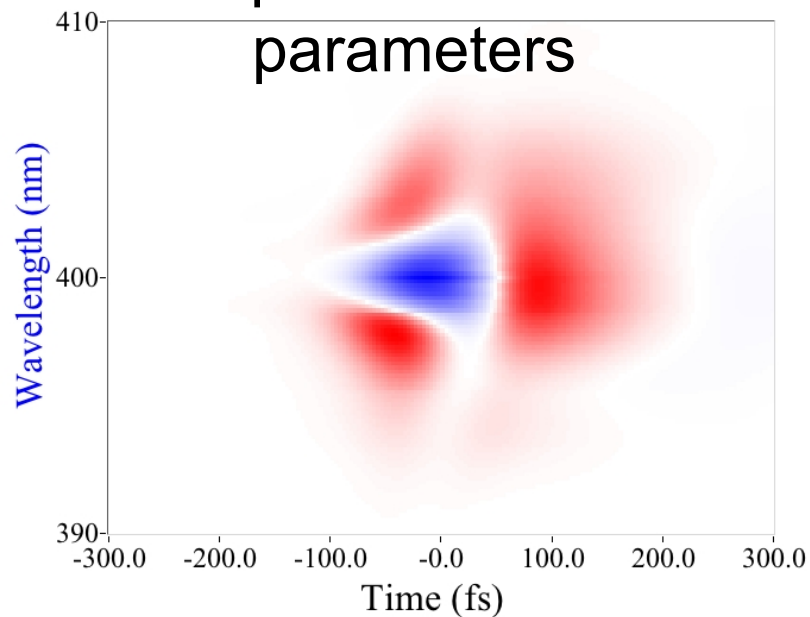
where:

$$\beta = \frac{2\pi k_p}{m n_0^2} \frac{N_0 \sigma_m}{N_c}; \quad f(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t dt' |E_e(t')|^{2m}$$

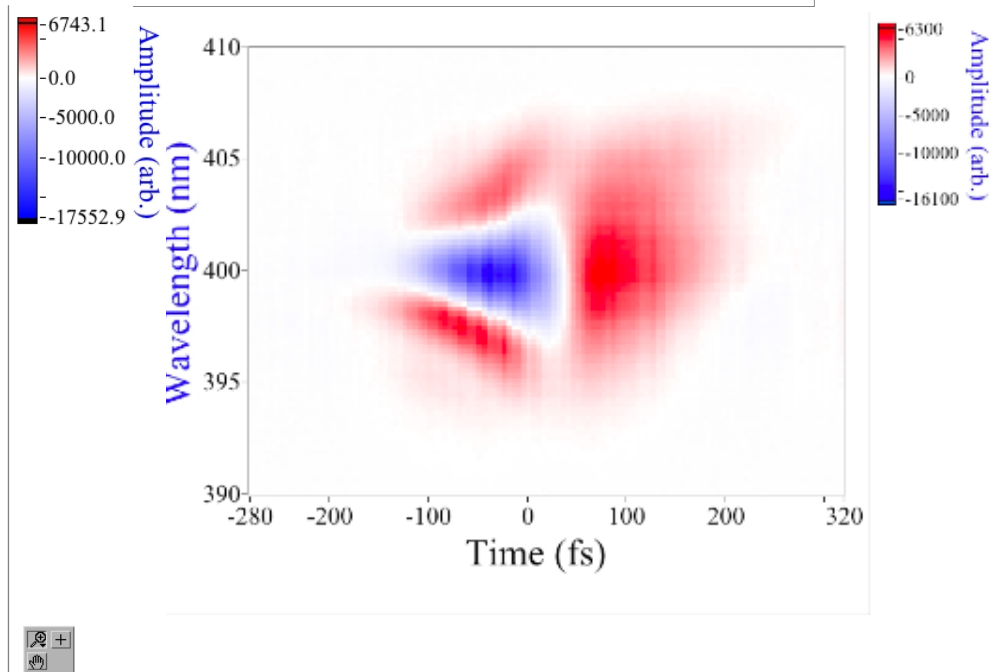
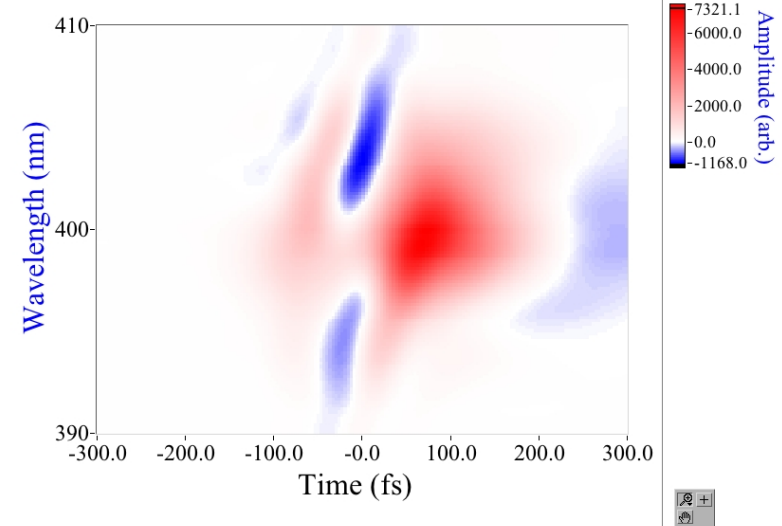
Simulation Results

Using a Gaussian input pulse
with $\tau_{\text{FWHM}}=54$ fs, no chirp, and
 $I_e=71$ TWcm $^{-2}$ we obtain:

w/ experimental beam
parameters

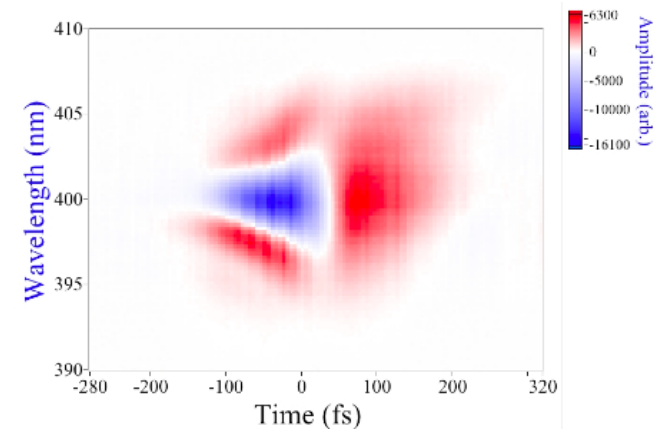
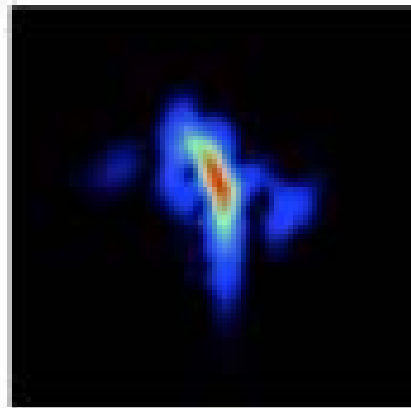
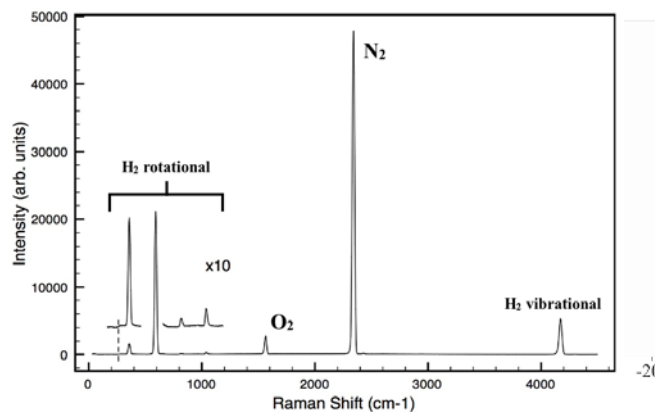


HOKE Simulation



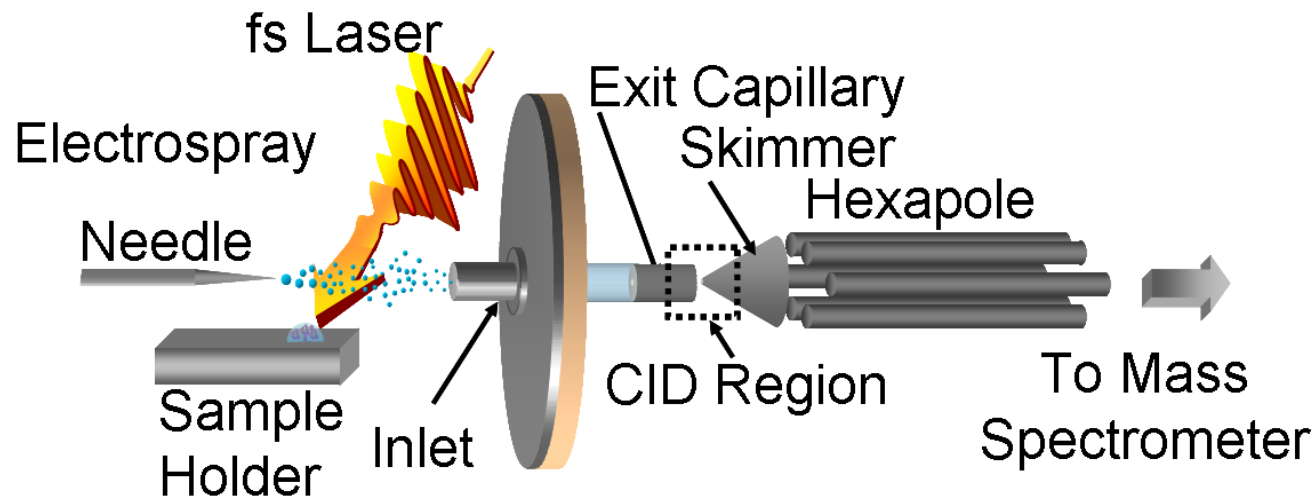
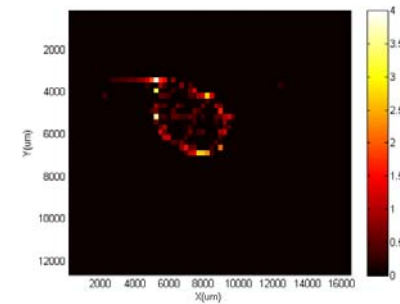
Conclusions for Nonlinear Probing of Filamentation

- Impulsive Raman measurements reveal evidence for ~ 5 fs bandwidth
- TG-XFROG reveals spectral phase and amplitude as a function of propagation length in a filament. Agreement with theory.
- No evidence for HOKE in filamentation at 400nm



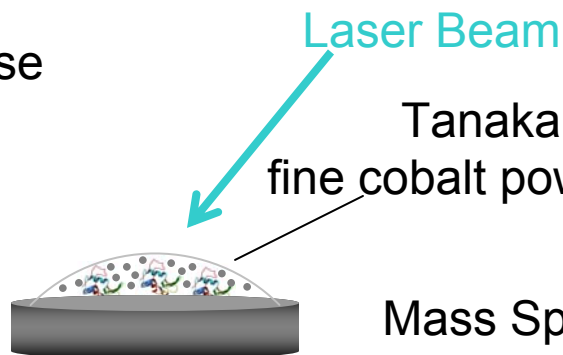
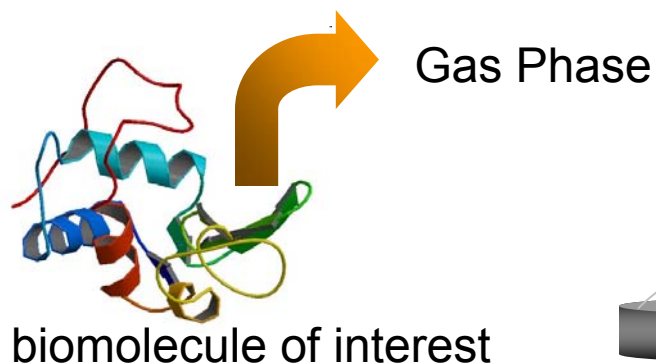
Femtosecond Laser Electrospray Mass Spectrometry (LEMS)

- Biomolecule Mass Spectrometry
- Universal Laser Vaporization
- LEMS Analysis, Laser Electrospray Mass Spectroscopy of Biomolecules



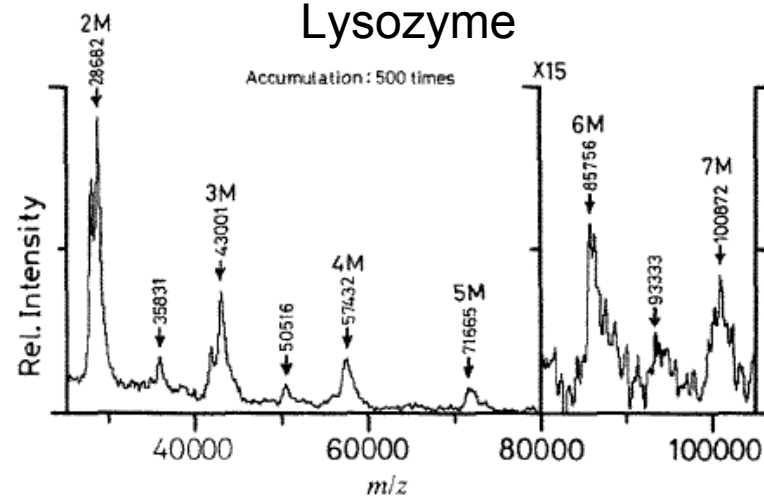
Vaporization of Biomolecules I: MALDI

Early 80's → How to volatilize nonvolatile, fragile molecules?

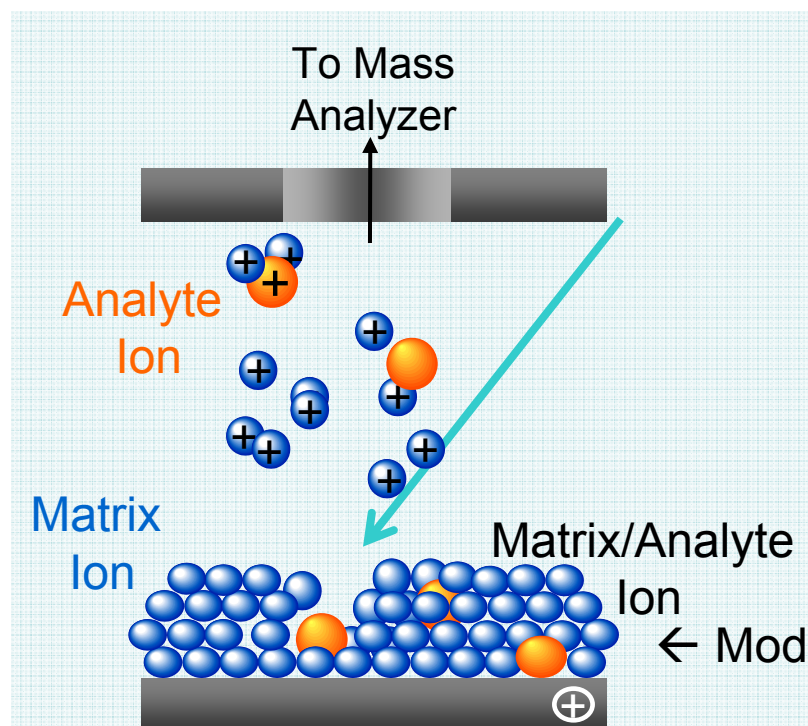


Tanaka's 1993 discovery,
fine cobalt powder + glycerol + lysozyme

Mass Spec Detection of Nonvolatile Lysozyme



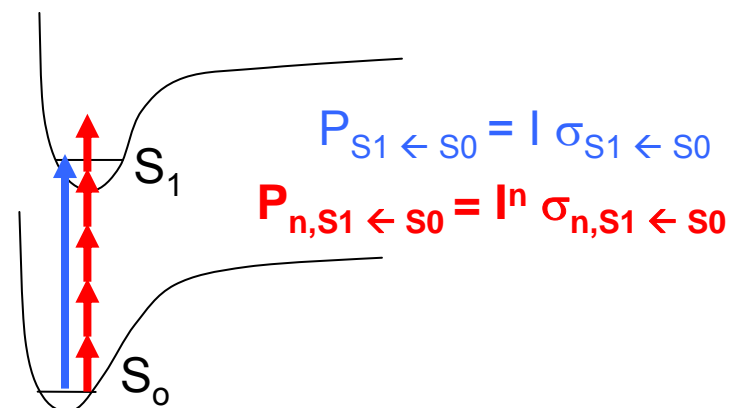
Tanaka, K. RCMS, 2, 8, 1993, 151-153



← Modern MALDI Employs Organic Acid Matrix

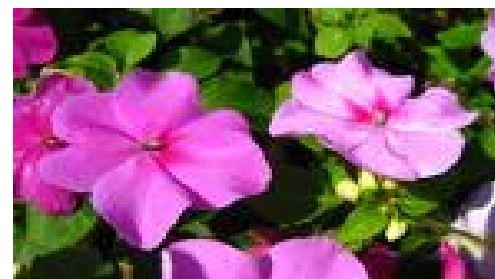
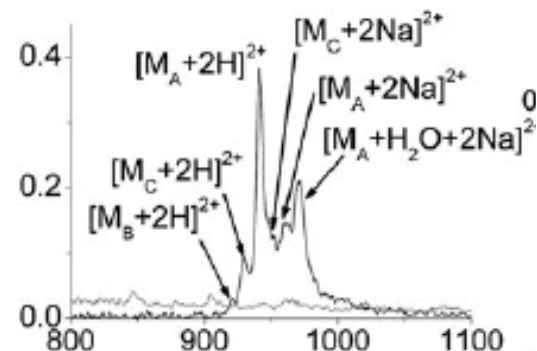
fs Nonresonant Laser Vaporization

- Couples into all molecules via multiphoton excitation
- No functional group limitation so far
- Eliminates sampling induced decomposition concern
- Noncovalent interactions preserved



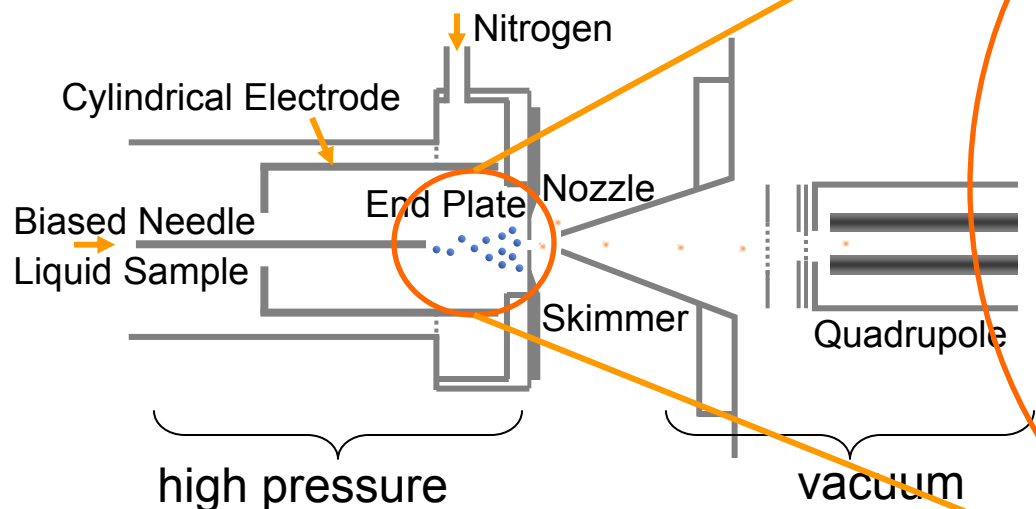
Vaporization of Gramicidin

J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom. (2011) 22:762–772



Vaporization of Biomolecules Part II: ESI

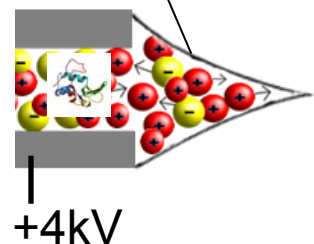
Schematic of Electrospray Ion Source



solvent + biomolecule + Na⁺

charged droplets

charged biomolecule

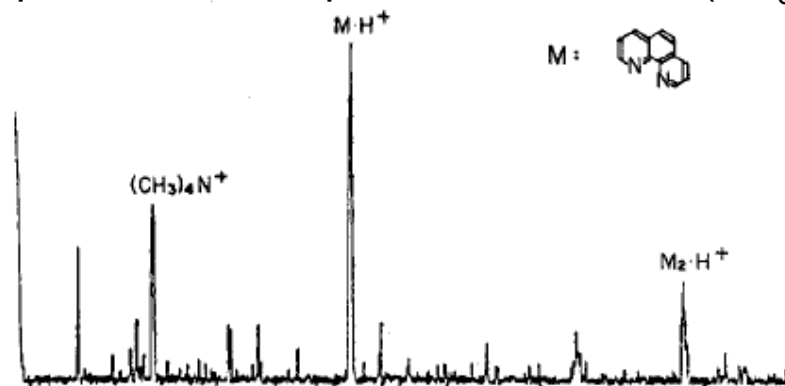


Rayleigh Limit for Charged Droplet Fission

$$r_d = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{\gamma \epsilon_0} \left(\frac{Q}{8\pi} \right)^2}$$

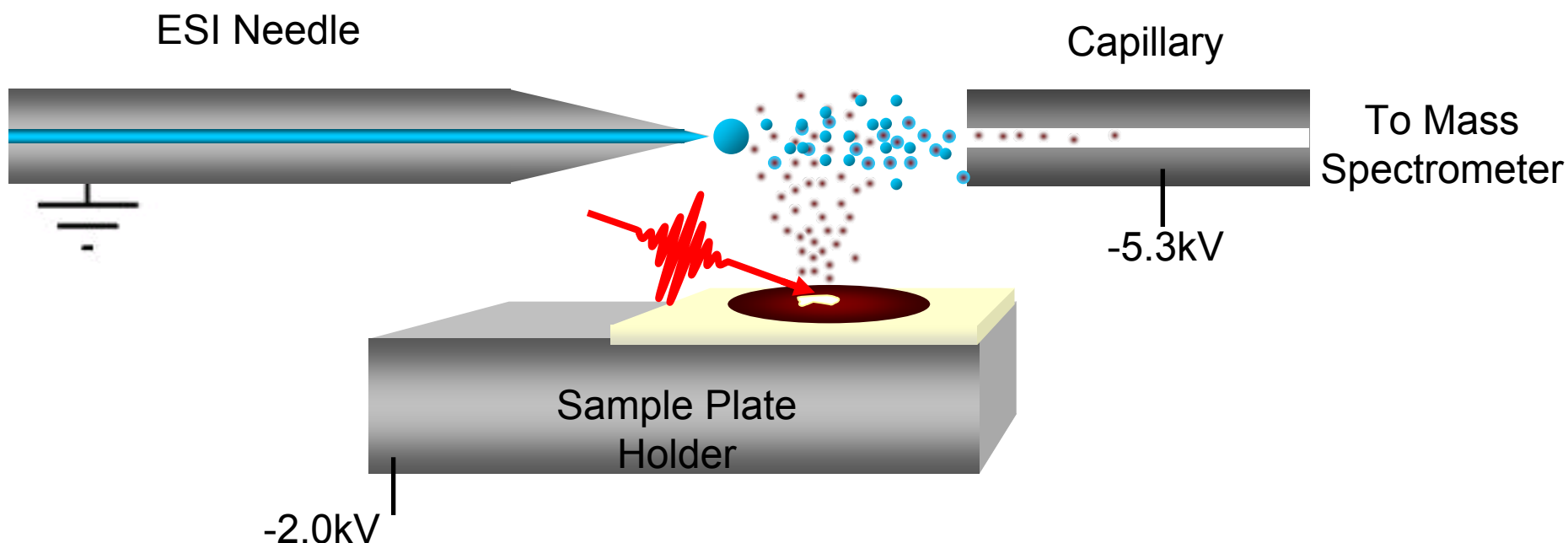
r_d : radius of droplet; γ : surface tension; ϵ_0 : permittivity constant

ESI Spectrum of 1,10 phenanthroline and (CH₃)₄Ni



Fenn, J.B., *J. Phys. Chem.*
1984, 88, 4451-4459

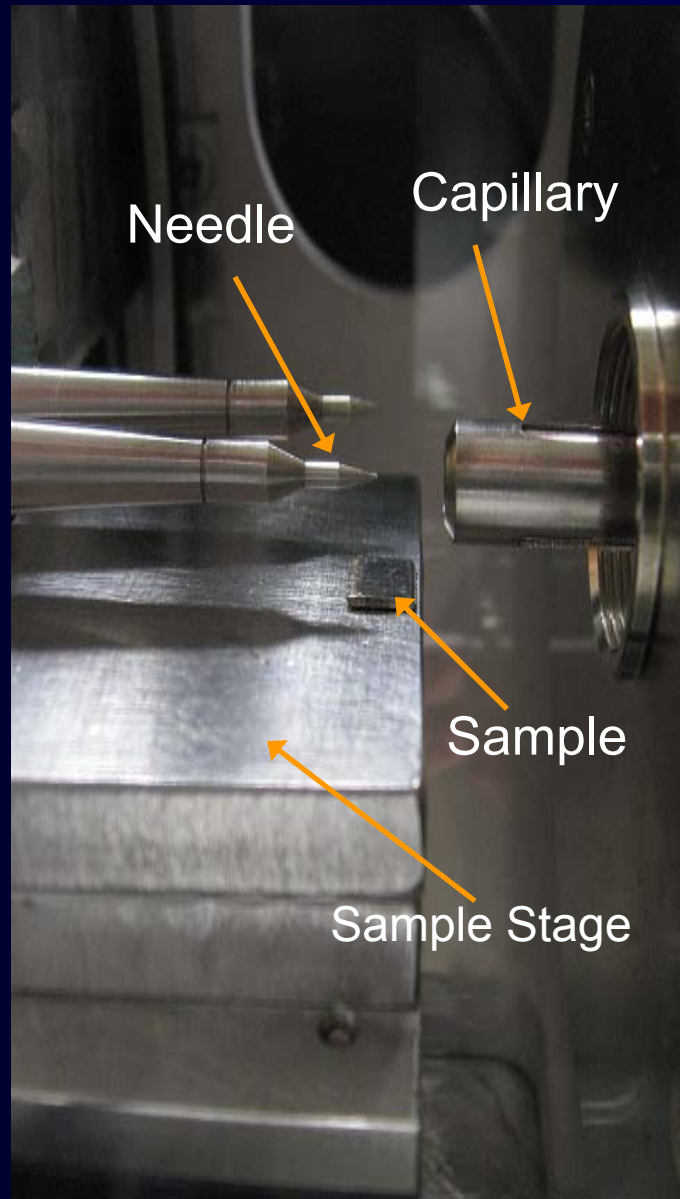
Laser Electrospray Mass Spectrometry (LEMS)



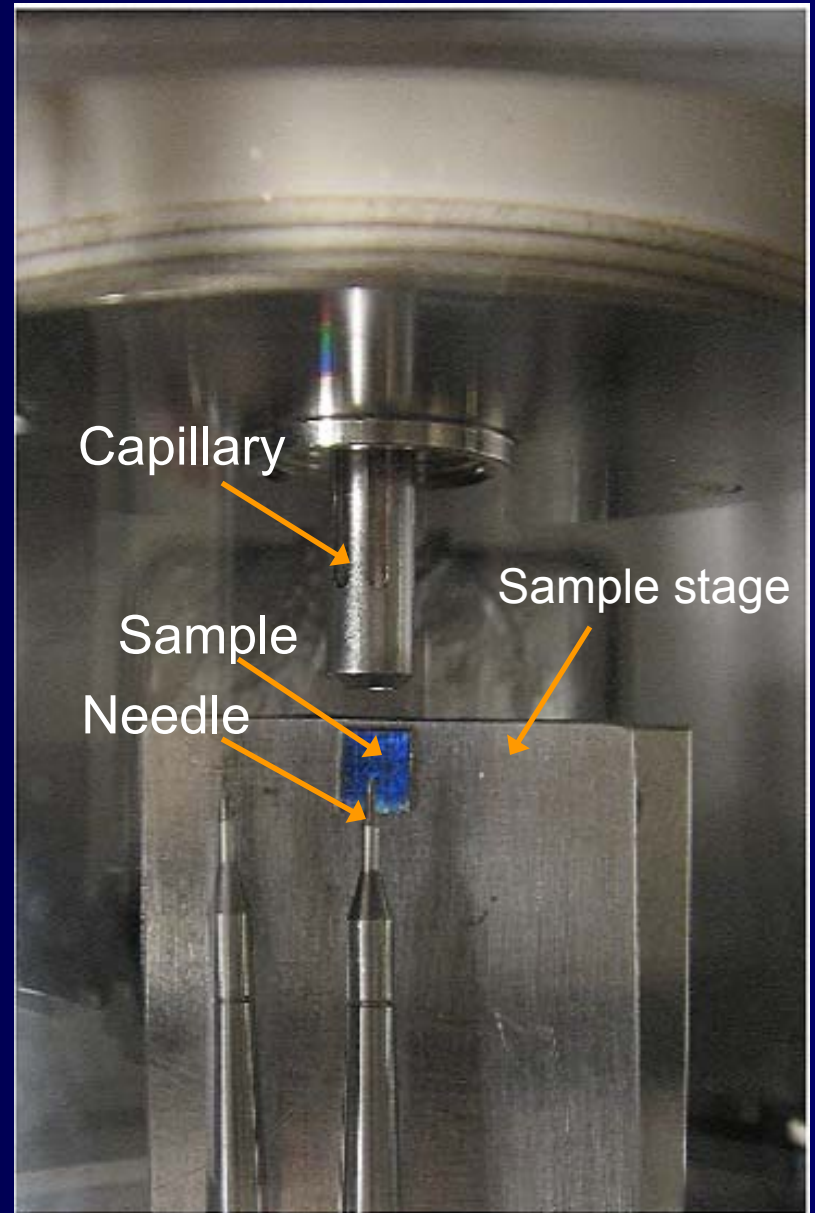
- Neutrals are vaporized from a sample surface using a fs laser.
- The neutrals interact with the electrospray where they undergo ionization.
- The ions then travel to the inlet of the mass spectrometer.

The LEMS System

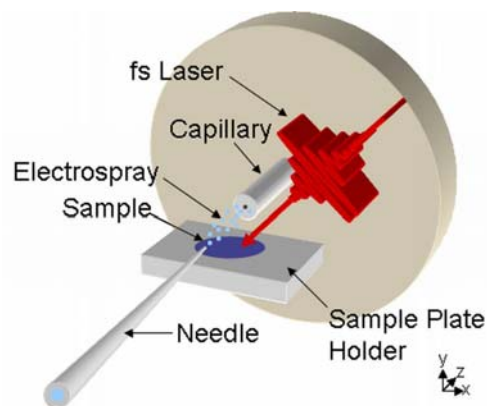
Side View



Top View



Laser Electrospray Mass Spectrometry System

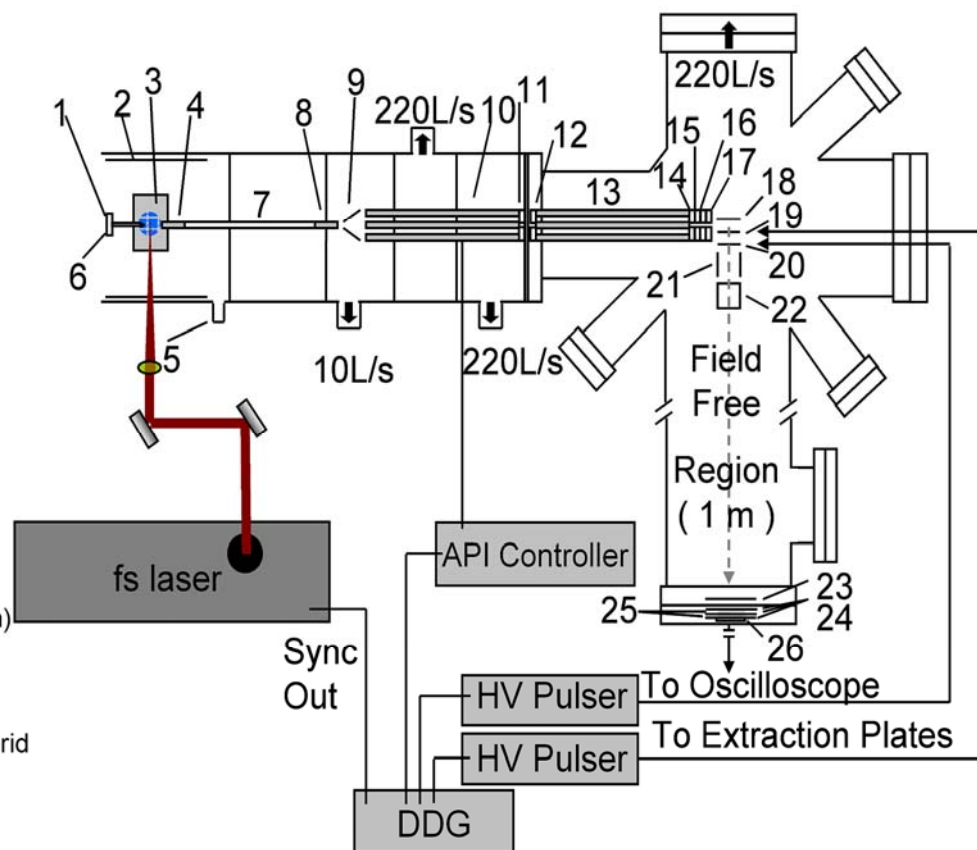


focus 1 mJ, 50fs
pulse to 150 micron
diameter spot
 $10^{13} \text{ W cm}^{-2}$

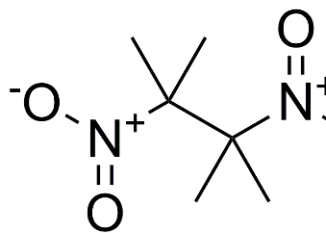
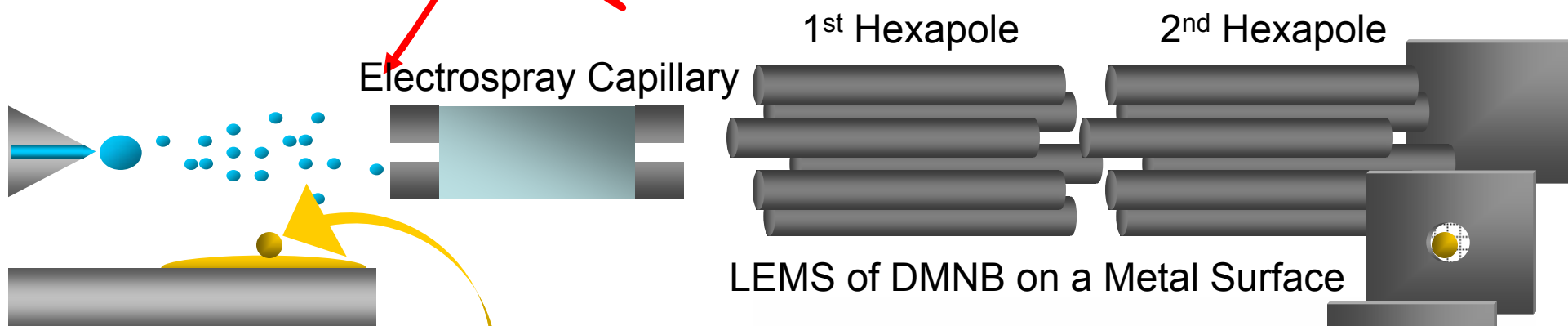
1. API Needle
2. Source Chamber Electrode
3. Sample Plate
4. Capillary Electrode
5. Dry Nitrogen
6. Nebulizing Nitrogen
7. Glass Capillary
8. Capillary Electrode
9. Skimmer
10. Hexapole Ion Guide
11. DC Lens
12. DC Lens
13. RF Hexapole Ion Guide
14. DC Lens
15. DC Lens
16. X Steering Plates
17. Ground Plate
18. Extraction Plate (mesh)
19. Acceleration Plate (mesh)
20. Ground Plate (mesh)
21. X Steering Plates
22. Y Steering Plates
23. MCP Entrance Screen Grid
24. MCP Bias Plates
25. Microchannel Plates
26. Anode

Laser-ESI Source

Pulsed Extraction TOF-MS

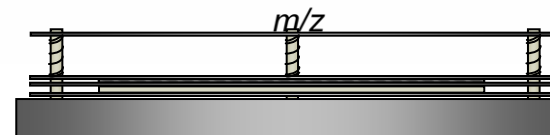
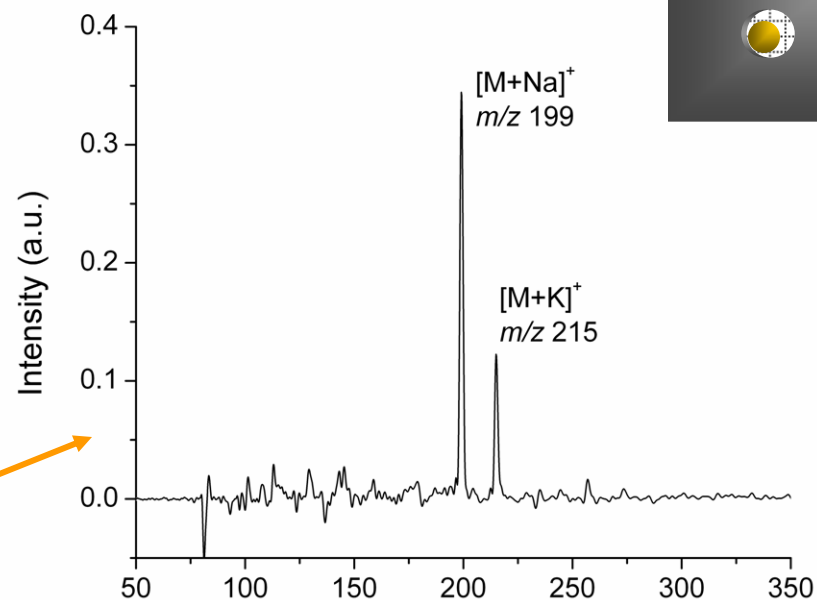


Non-Resonant Laser Vaporization of Explosive Taggants on Steel



2,3 Dimethyl 2,3 Dinitrobutane
(DMNB)

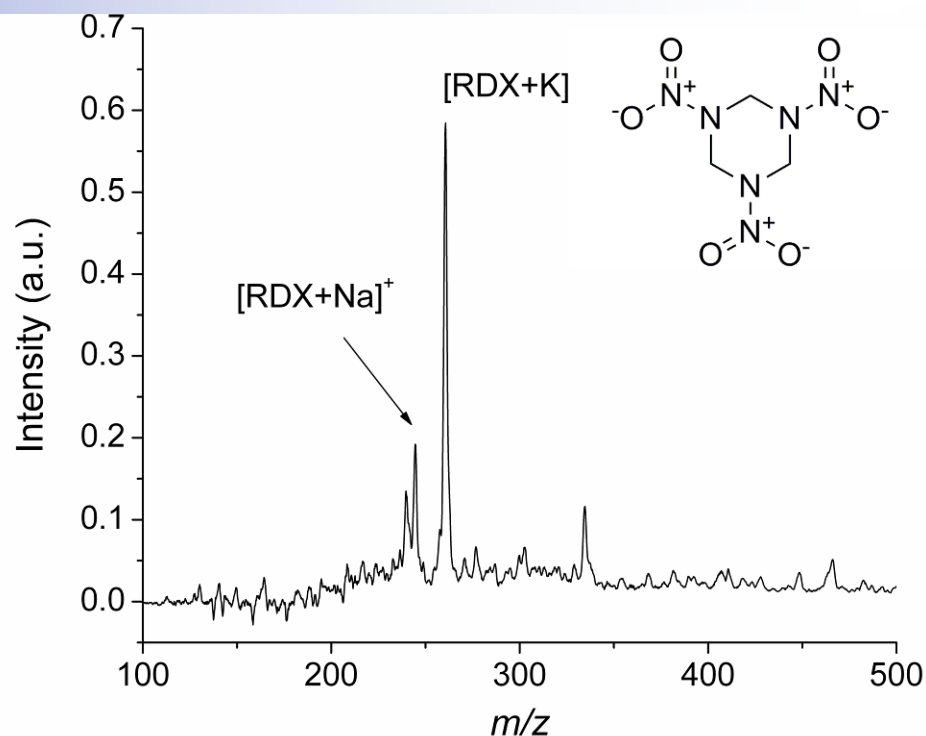
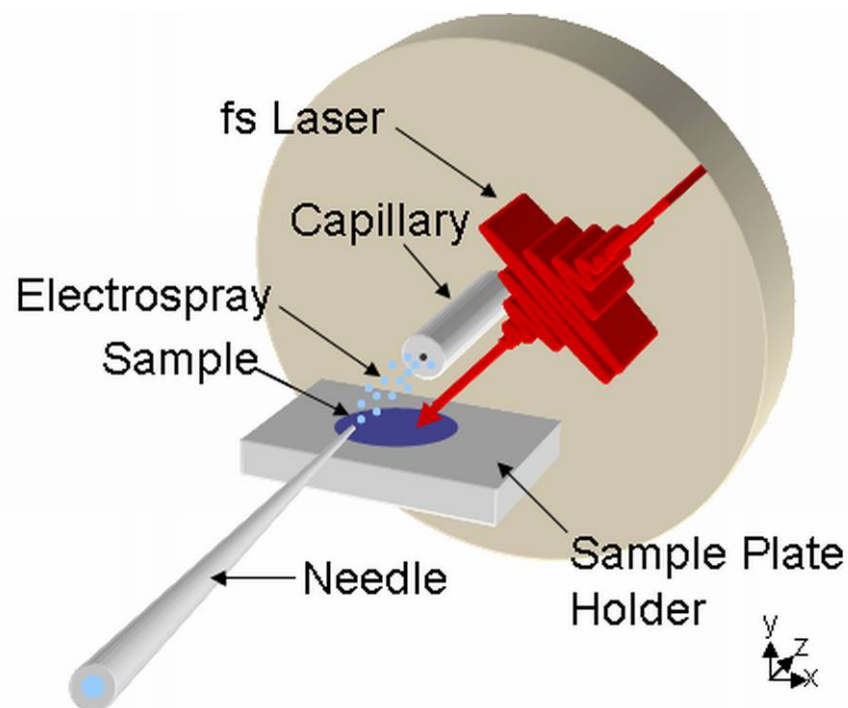
Sample Deposited	5 nmol/cm ²	880 ng/cm ²
Sample Analyzed	1.67 nmol	293 ng



Detector

Brady, J.J., Judge, E.J., Levis, R.J., Rapid Commun. Mass Spectrom., **24**,1-6, 2010

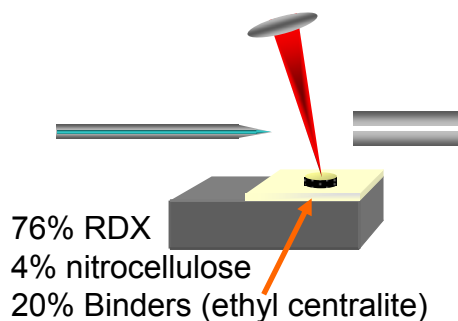
LEMS of Trace RDX Explosive Deposited on a Steel Surface



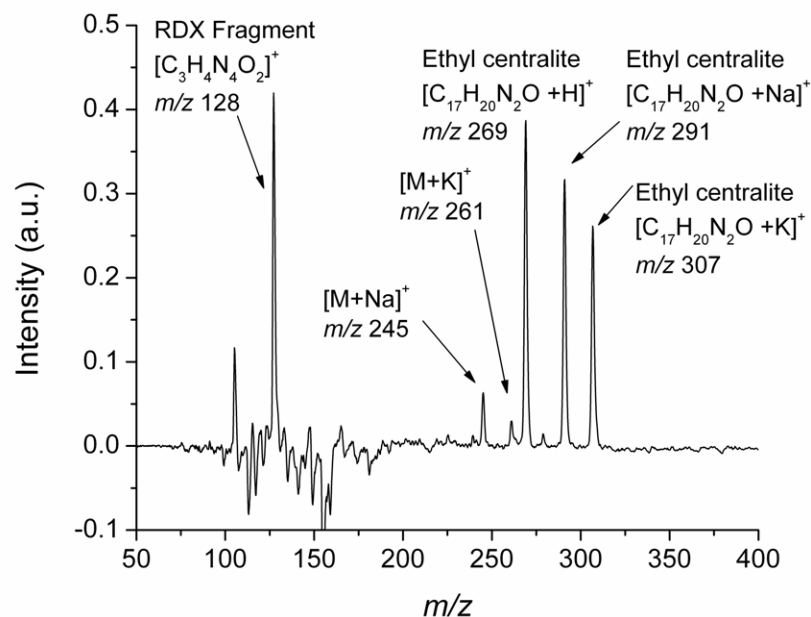
Sample Deposited	25 nmol/cm ²	5.55 µg/cm ²
Sample Analyzed	8.33 nmol	1.85 µg

- RDX, cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine, can be detected from a steel surface using non-resonant femtosecond vaporization and ESI ionization
- Does LEMS have the capability to detect complex mixtures of explosives?

LEMS of Intact Propellant Formulations



LEMS analysis of a Propellant



- Ethyl centralite binder is a signature for explosive detection.
- Sodium and potassium adducts of RDX are also detected.

Vaporization of Monoolein

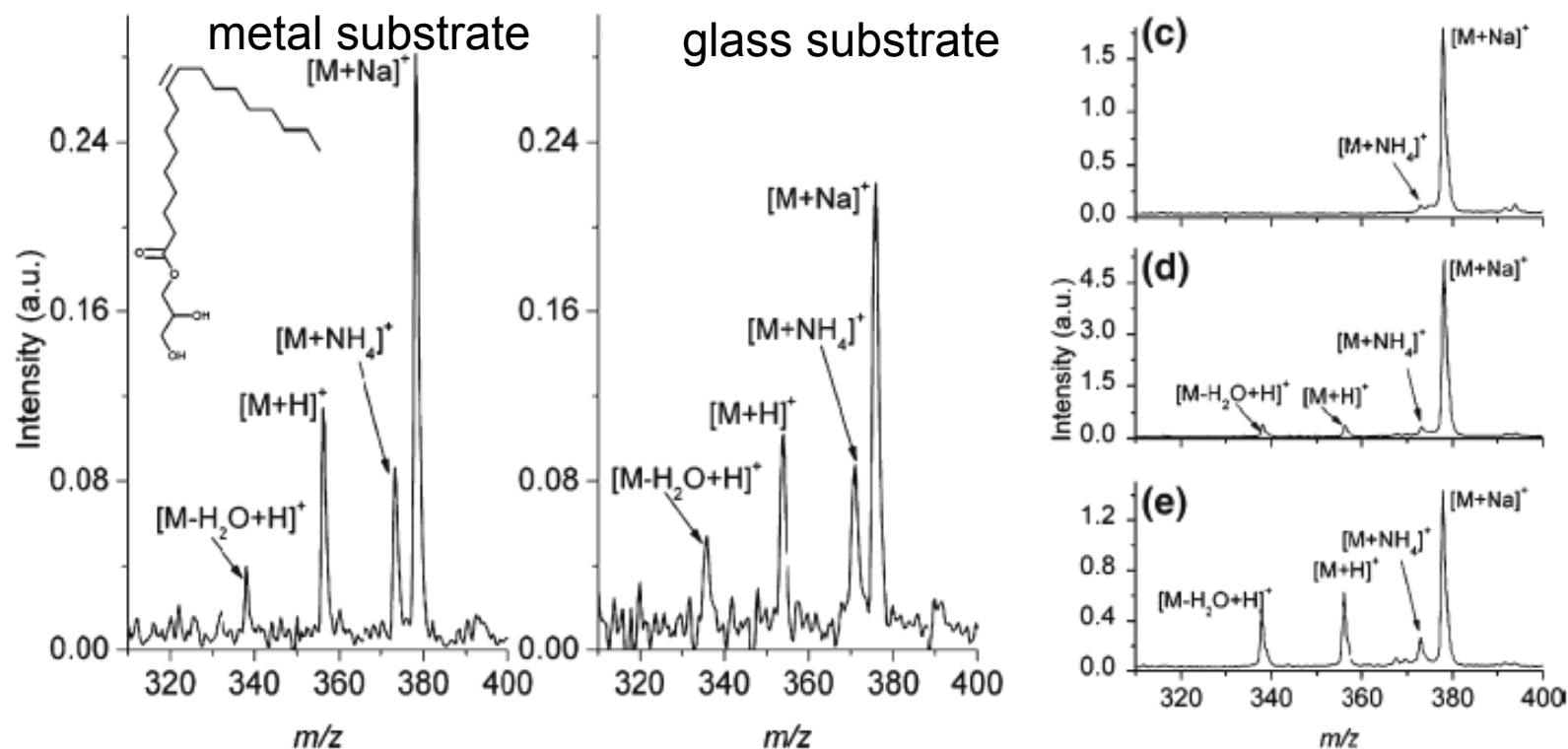


Figure 1. The background subtracted mass spectra of 1-monooleoyl-rac-glycerol (monoolein) vaporized from (a) metal and (b) glass and post-ionized in the electrospray plume. The inset in (a) shows the molecular structure of monoolein. The conventional ESI-MS of a 1×10^{-5} M solution of monoolein dissolved in 1:1 (vol:vol) water:methanol containing (c) 0%, (d) 0.1%, and (e) 1.0% acetic acid

Vaporization of DHPC and DMPC

1,2-dihexanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine 1,2-dimyristoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine

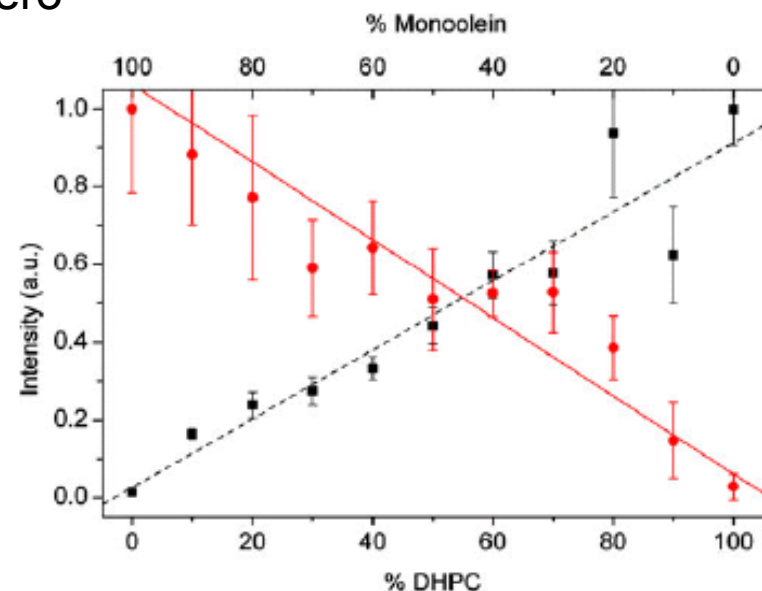
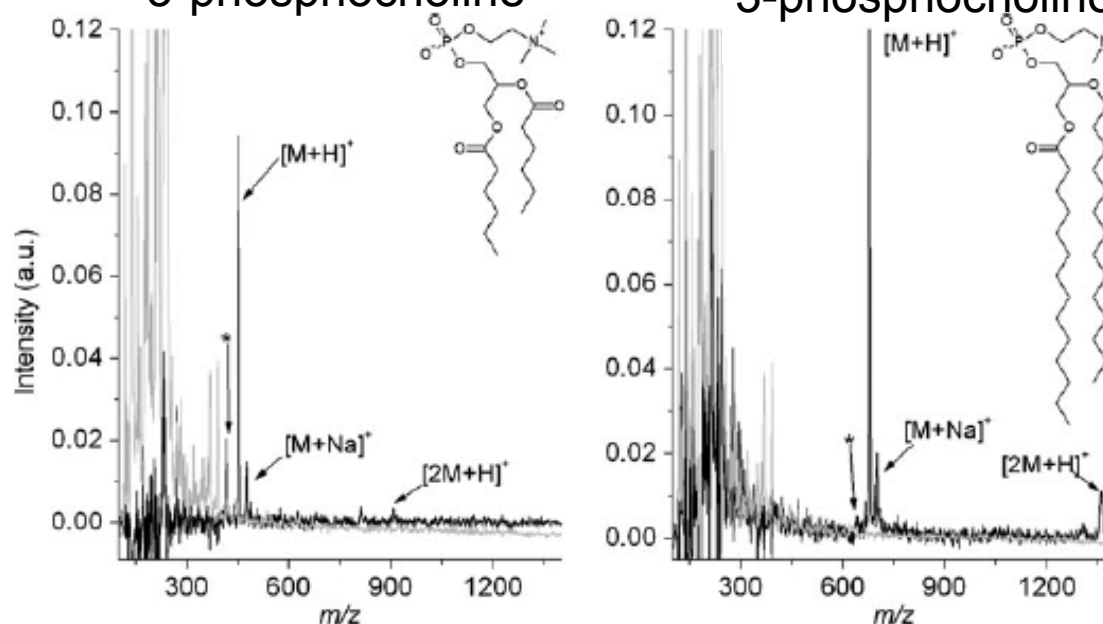
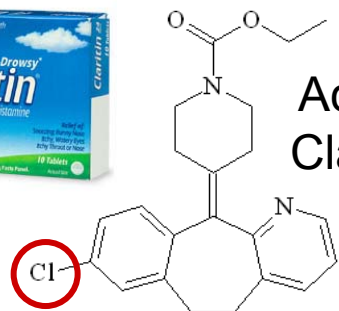
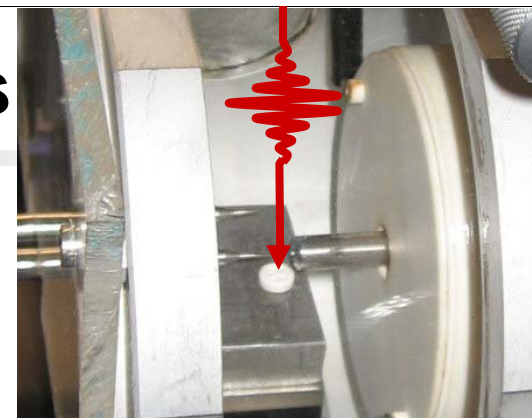
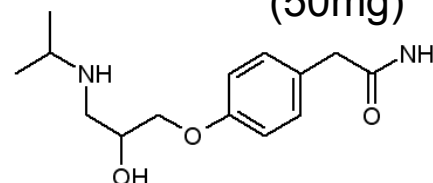


Figure 3. Plot of the average total integrated ion signal from the $[M-H_2O+H]^+$, $[M+H]^+$ and $[M+Na]^+$ ions of monoolein (filled circle ●, solid red line) and $[M+H]^+$ and $[M+Na]^+$ ions of DHPC (filled square ■, dashed black line) as a function of mixture composition

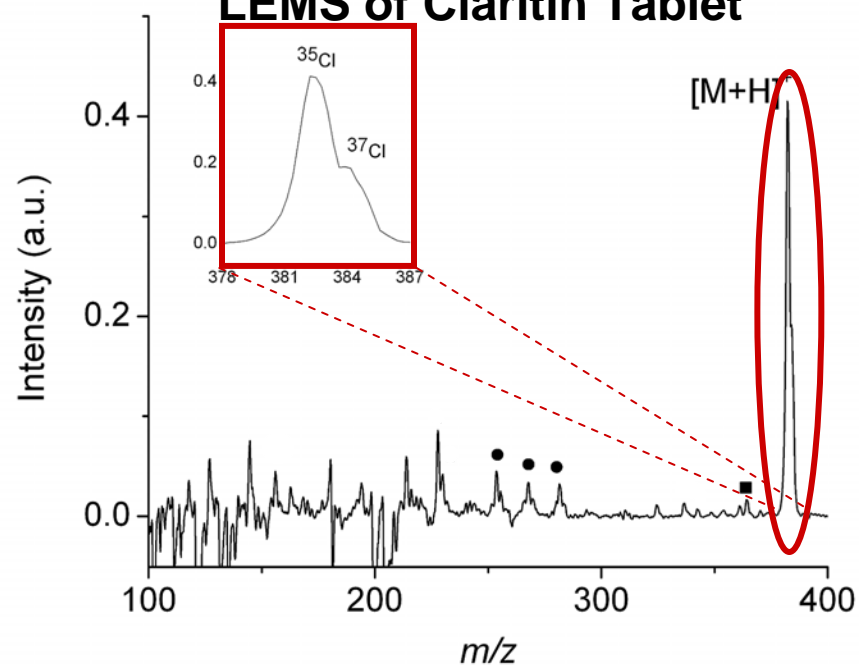
Bulk Analysis: Pharmaceutical Tablets



Active ingredient in Claritin is loratadine (10 mg)

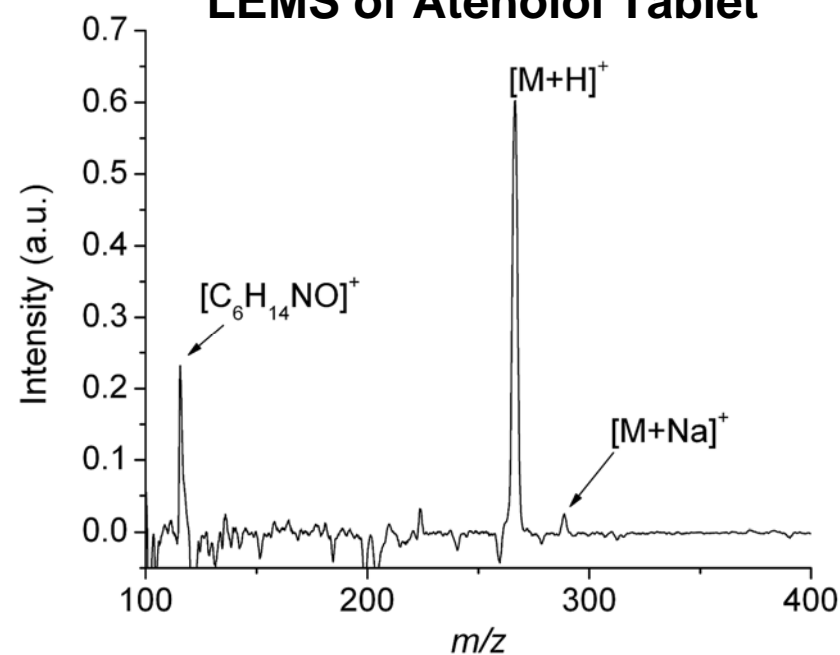


LEMS of Claritin Tablet



- lactose monohydrate $m/z = 361$
- magnesium stearate related peaks

LEMS of Atenolol Tablet



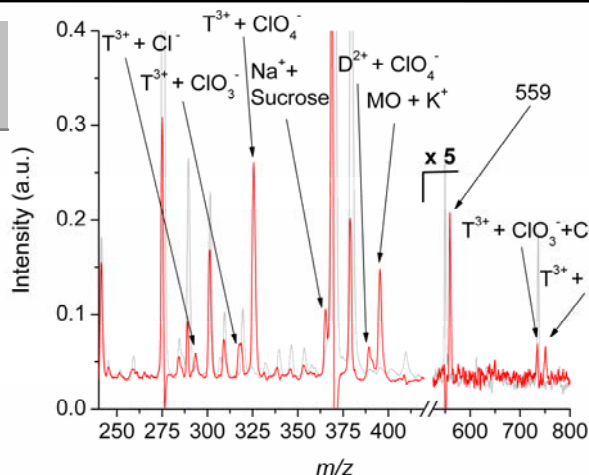
Analysis time < 1 second
Amount vaporized < 1 μg

LEMS Signatures for Simulated Inorganic IED

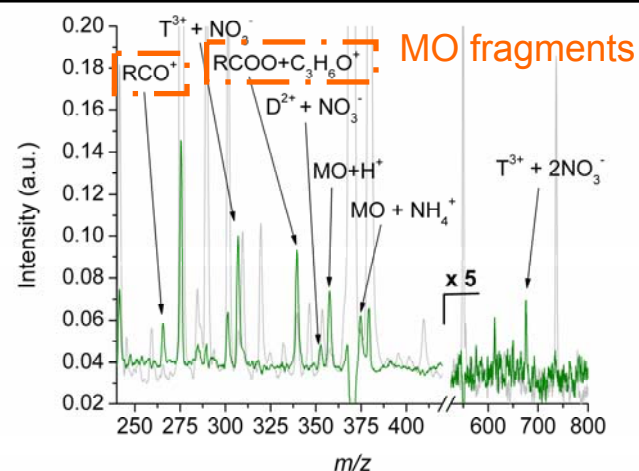
Inorganic Ion IED	Composition
Chlorate, perchlorate, sugar	KClO_4 , NaClO_3 , NaCl , Sucrose
Ammonium nitrate	NH_4NO_3
Pre-blast black powder	Black powder pellet (KNO_3 , S, C)
Post-blast black powder	NH_4NO_3 , MgSO_4 , KSCN , $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, Na_2S , NaHCO_3 , KOCN

Characteristic anions, cations, and neutrals were detected for each respective IED

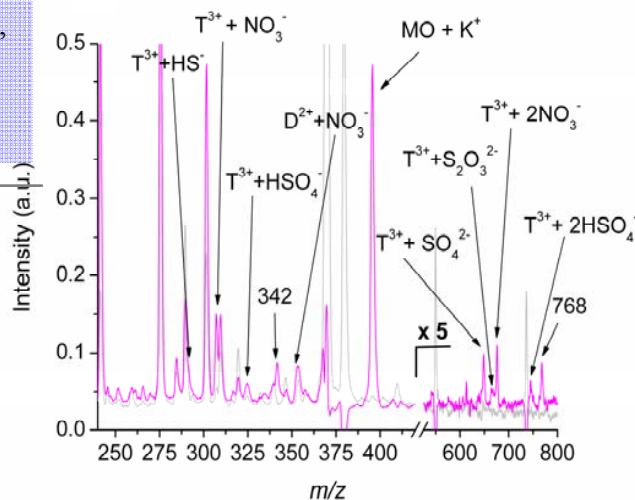
Could these 4 IEDs be classified?



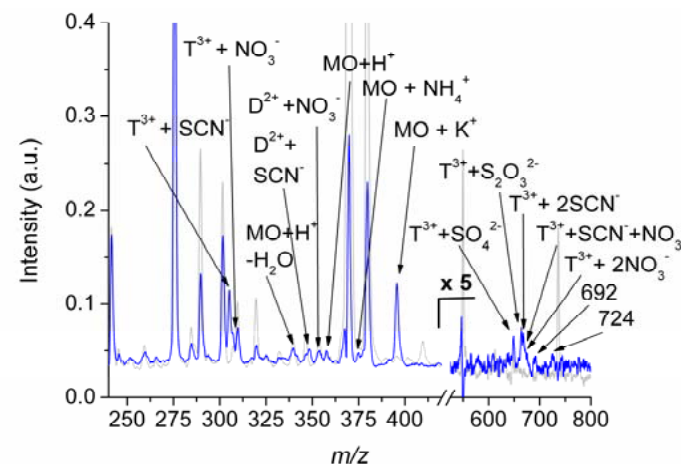
Chlorate, perchlorate, sugar



Ammonium nitrate

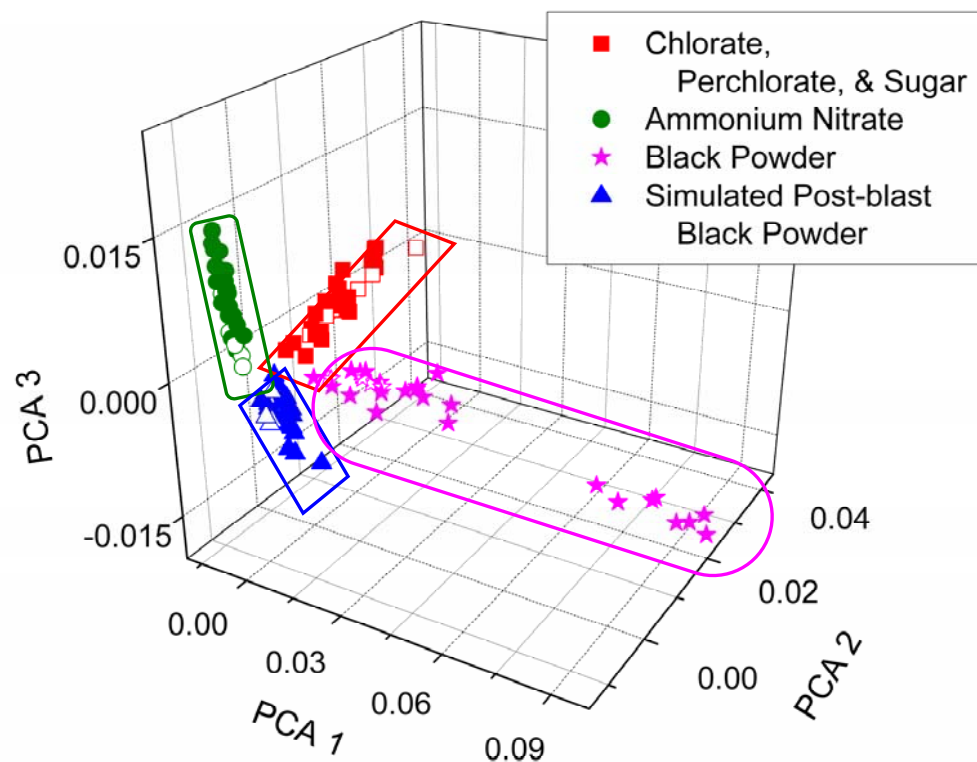


Pre-blast black powder



Post-blast black powder

Classification of Inorganic IEDs

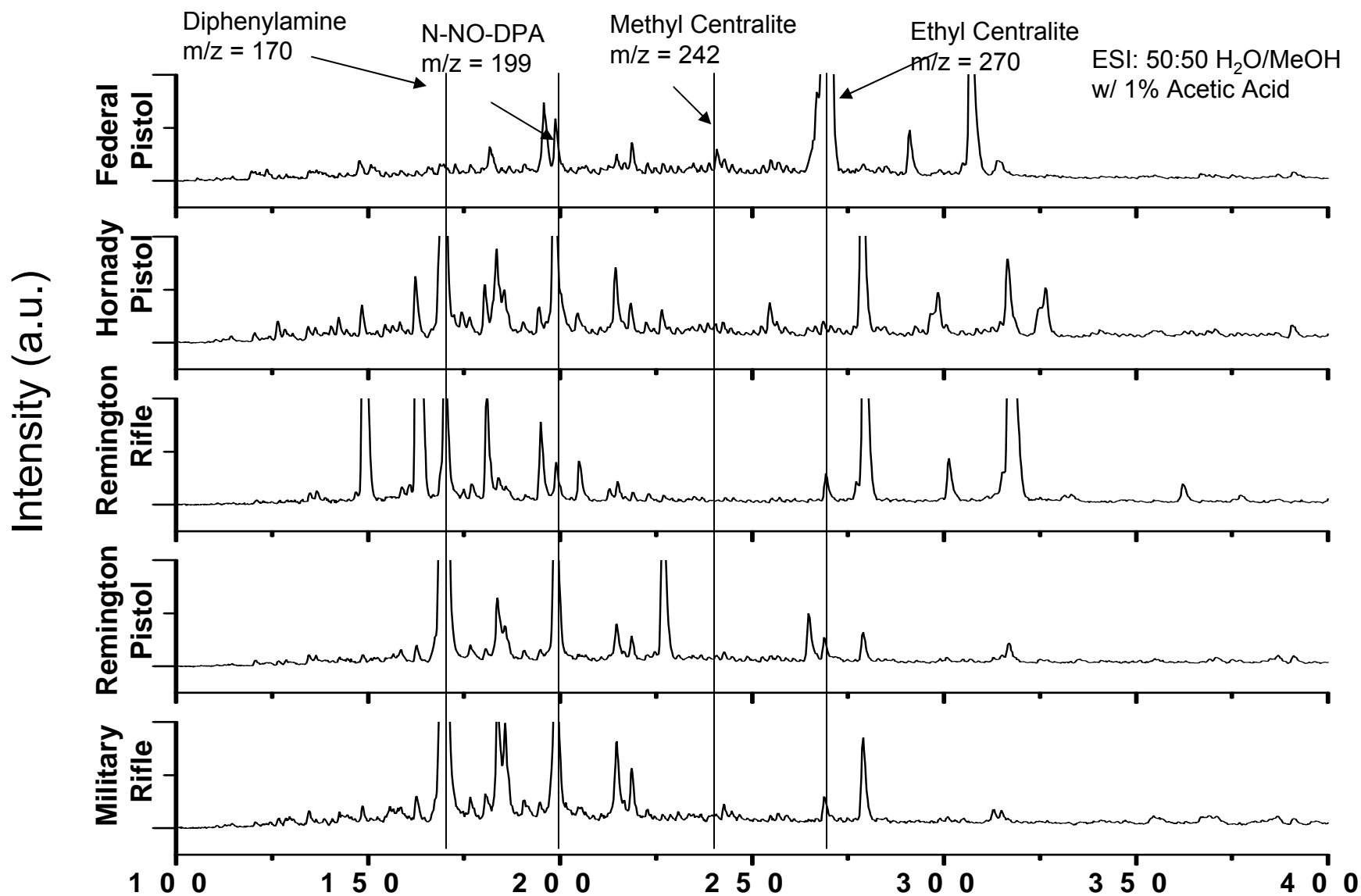


Training set: 6 spectra from each IED
(Unfilled symbols $\square \circ \star \triangle$)
Testing set: 24 spectra from each IED
(Filled Symbols $\blacksquare \bullet \blackstar \blacktriangle$)

High fidelity classification;
99% Accuracy overall

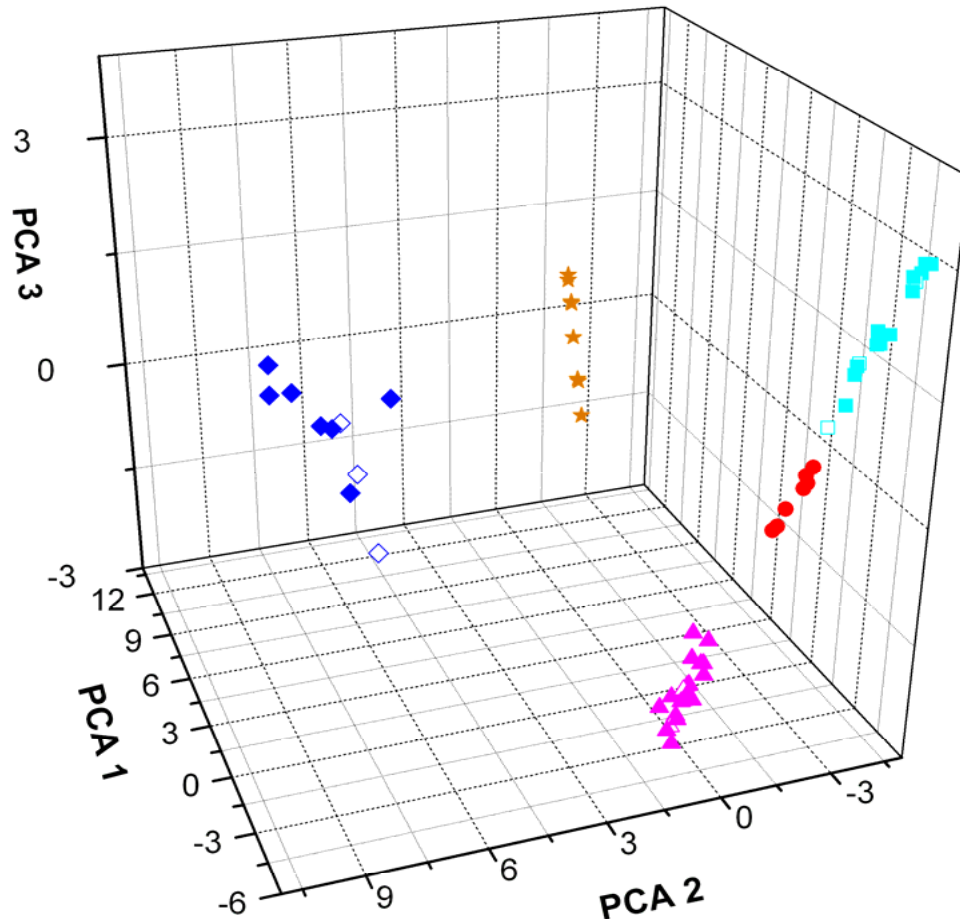
Inorganic Ion IED	Training Set Size	Samples Correctly Characterized	
Chlorate, perchlorate, sugar	6	23/24	96 %
Ammonium nitrate	6	24/24	100 %
Pre-blast black powder	6	24/24	100 %
Post-blast black powder	6	24/24	100 %
Total	24	95/96	99 %

LEMS Characterization of Smokeless Powders from Various Ordinance



Classification of Black Powder Manufacturer

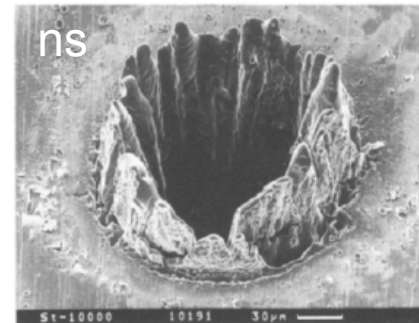
Projection of the Mass Spectra into the First Three Principal Components



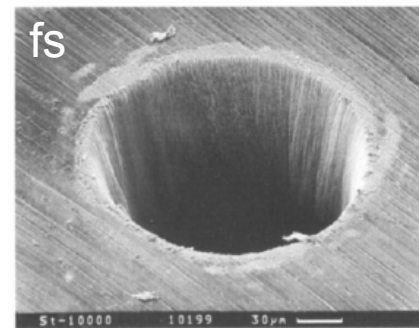
PCA analysis of five different commercially available gun powders projected into three dimensions for Military Rifle (red), Remington Rifle (blue), Remington Pistol (cyan), Hornady Pistol (magenta) and Federal Pistol (orange) which shows separation between manufactures' gunpowder. The open symbols and the filled, colored symbols represent the training and testing sets for each IED, respectively.

Femtosecond Laser Excitation Leads to Universal Vaporization through Nonresonant Excitation

- Ultrashort pulse durations cause less thermal damage to sample and less fragmentation.
- Femtosecond laser couples into any system through resonant and non-resonant mechanisms.

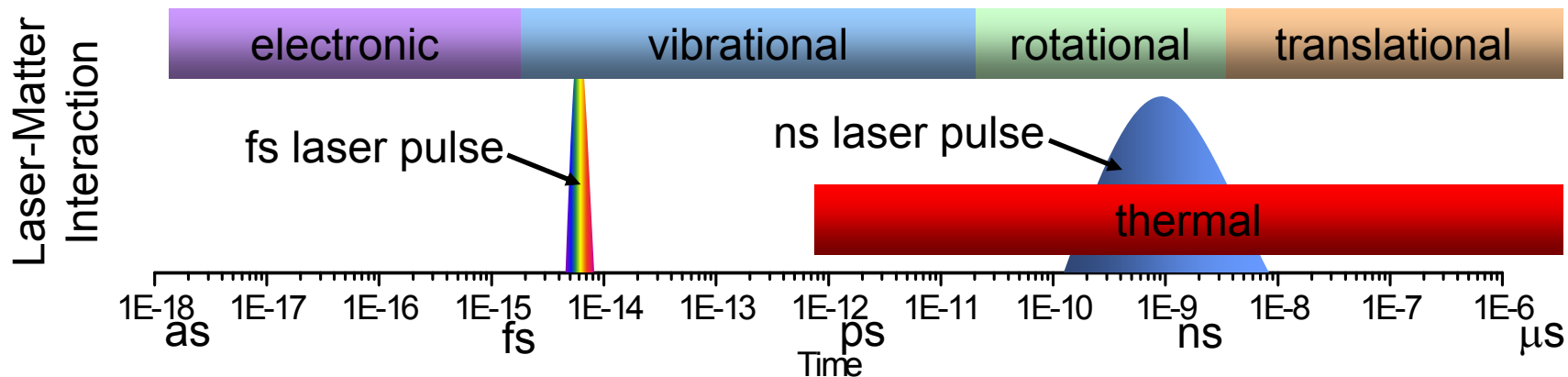


SEM of 100 μm thick steel foil after exposure to 3.3 ns, 1 mJ, $F = 4.2 \text{ J/cm}^2$ laser pulses at 780 nm

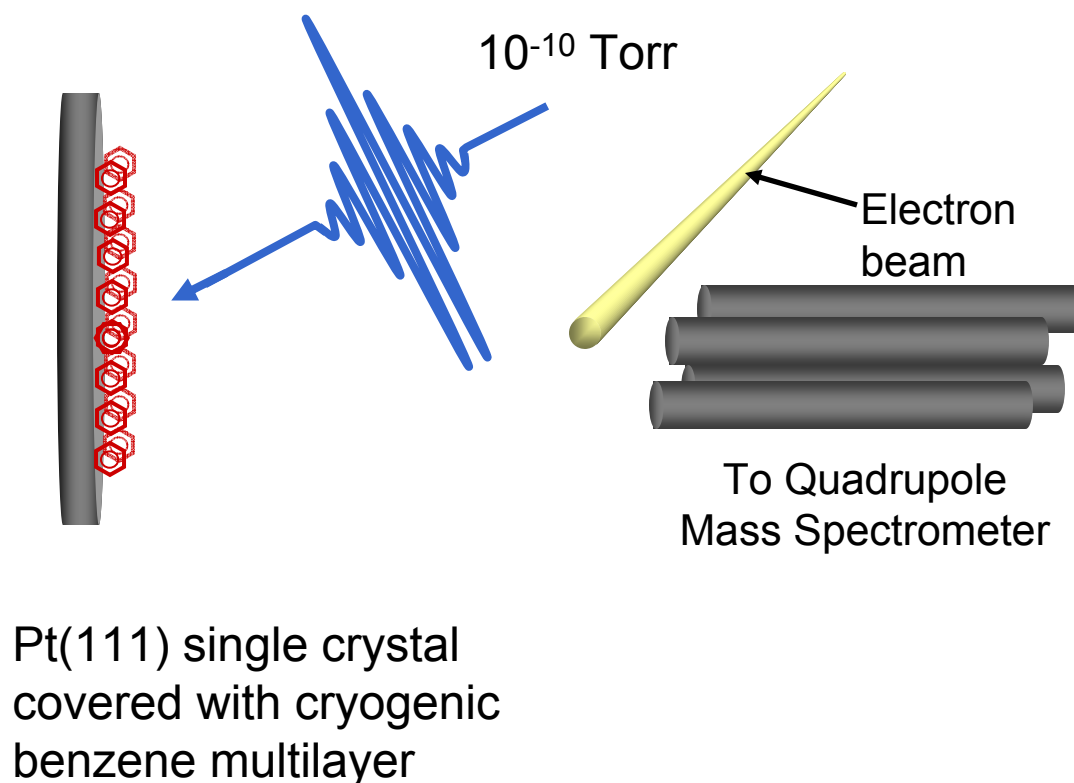


SEM of 100 μm thick steel foil after exposure to 200 fs, 120 μJ, $F = 0.5 \text{ J/cm}^2$ laser pulses at 780 nm

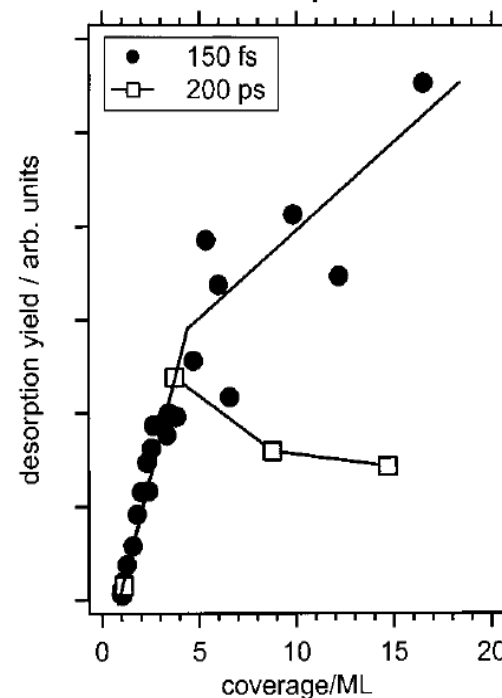
B.N. Chichkov, et al., *Appl. Phys. A.* (1996) 63, 109-115



Non-resonant Femtosecond Desorption



Desorption as a function of pulse duration and sample thickness



- Desorption has been demonstrated without fragmentation.
- Suggests that fs desorption can be extended to atmospheric pressure.

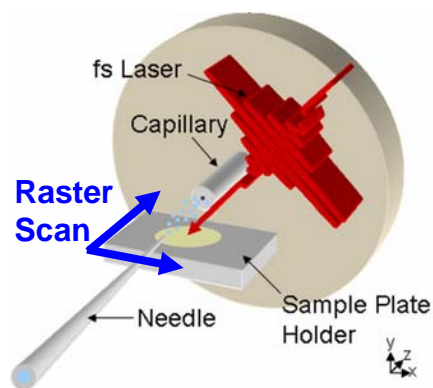
Arnolds, H.; Levis, R. J.; King, D. A. Chemical Physics Letters 2003, 380, 444-450.

Arnolds, H.; Rehbein, C.; Roberts, G.; Levis, R. J.; King, D. A., JCP B 2000, 104, 3375-3382.

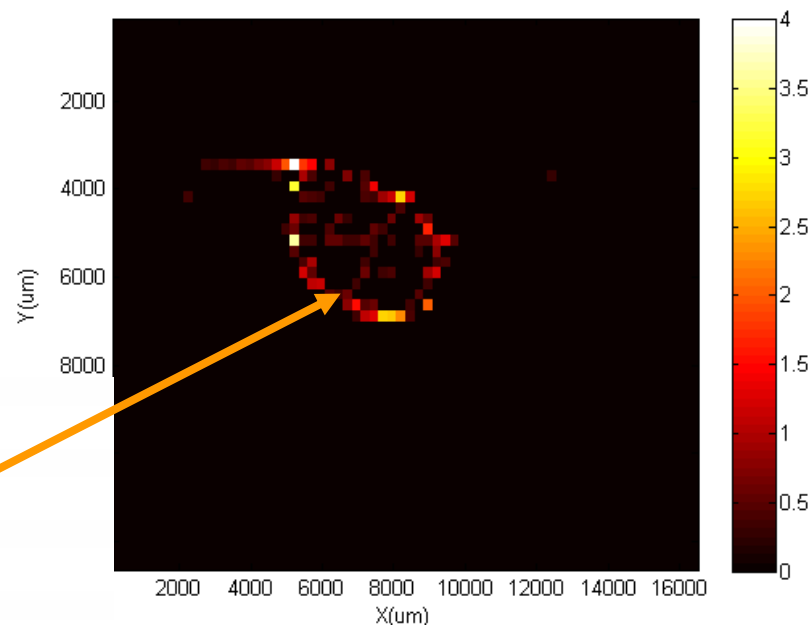
Arnolds, H.; Rehbein, C. E. M.; Roberts, G.; Levis, R. J.; King, D. A. Chemical Physics Letters 1999, 314, 389-395.

LEMS Spatially-Resolved Molecular Imaging Microscopy Modality for Pharmaceuticals in Tablets and Narcotics

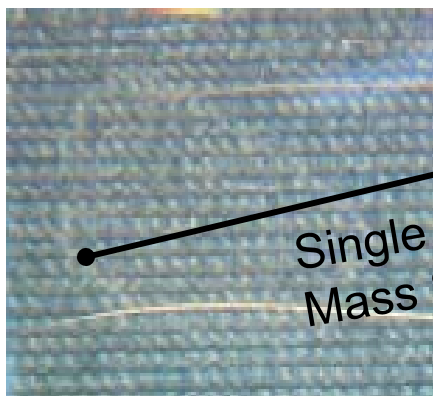
Optical Photograph of Dried Droplet
500 pmol oxycodone



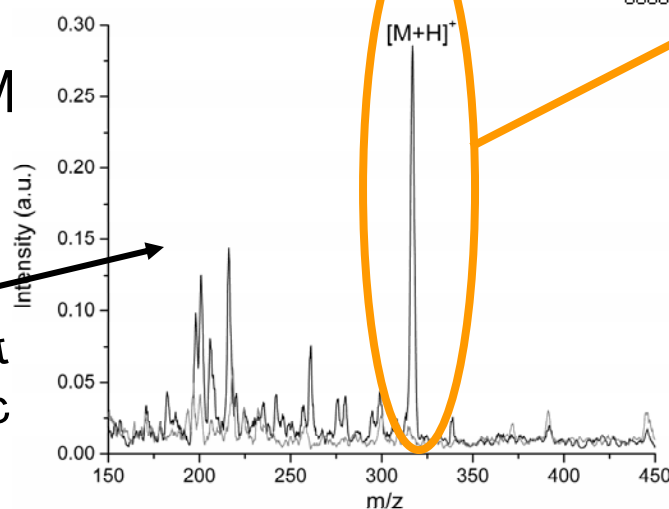
Ion signal for parent molecular ion
 $m/z = 316$ vs position



Optical Photograph
After Scanning LEM



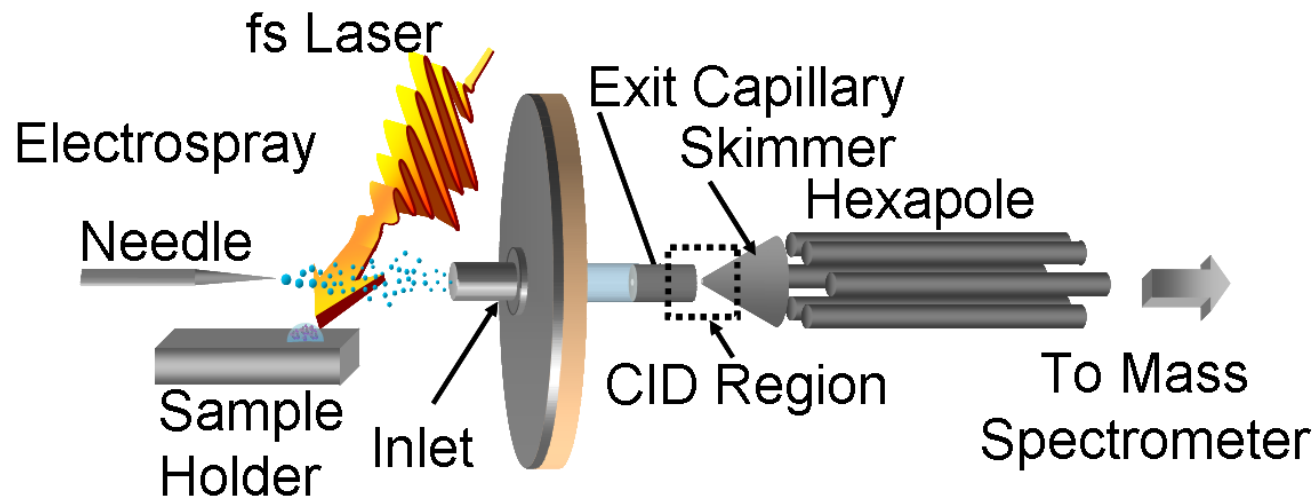
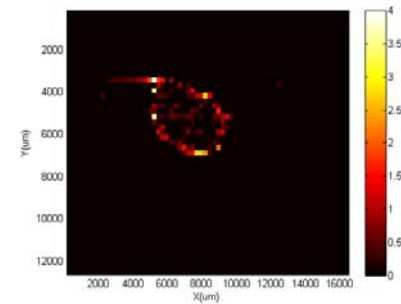
Single Spot
Mass Spec



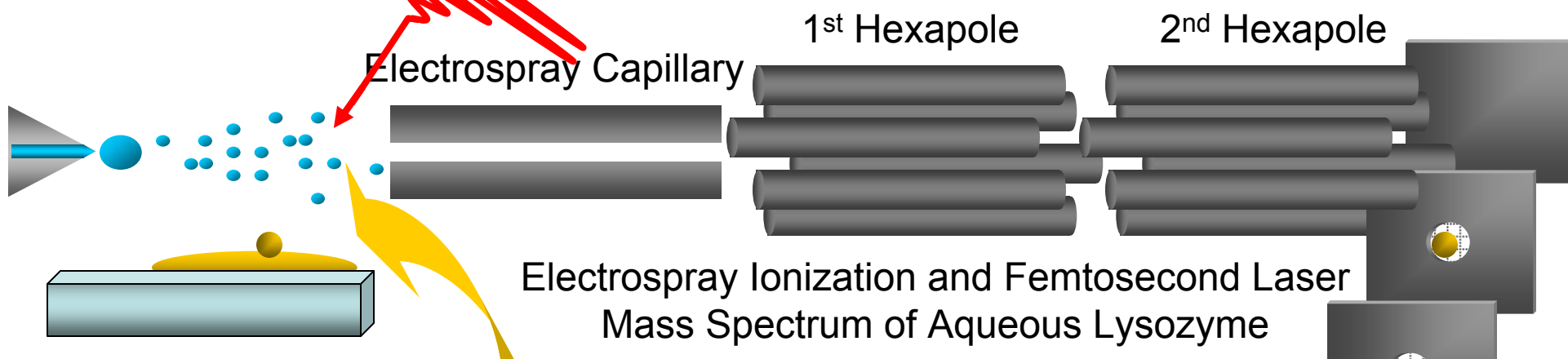
1 mJ/pulse
focused to a 100 μm spot
with 250 nm steps.

Femtosecond Laser Electrospray Mass Spectrometry (LEMS)

- Ultrafast, Strong Field Laser Molecule Interactions
- Biomolecule Mass Spectrometry
- Universal Laser Vaporization
- **LEMS Analysis, Laser Electrospray Mass Spectroscopy of Biomolecules**

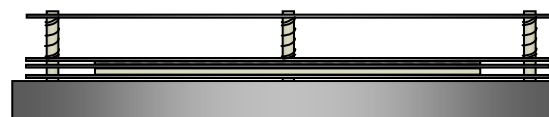
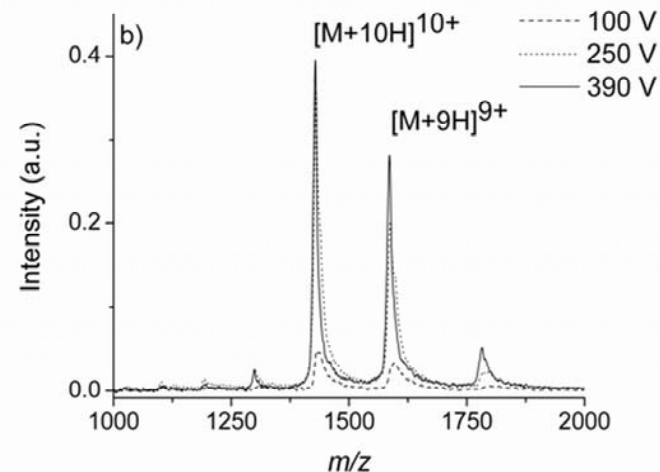
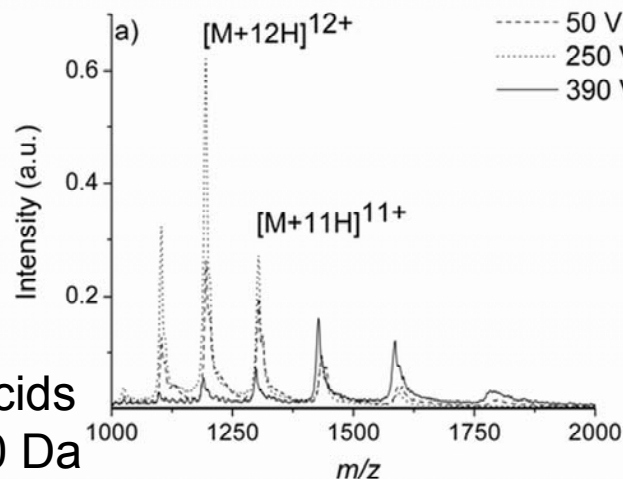


Femtosecond Non-Resonant Laser Vaporization of Protein Films Provides Universal Analysis



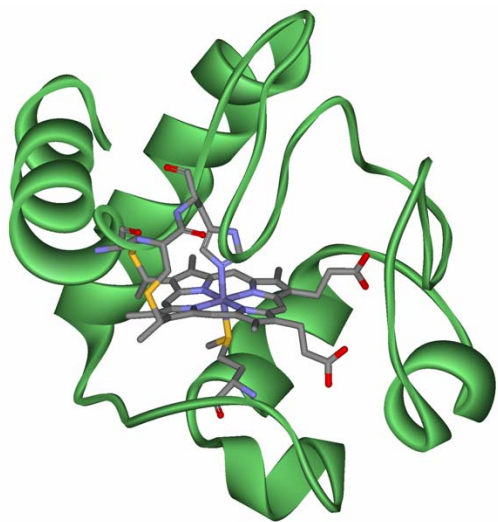
Lysozyme 129 Amino Acids
molecular weight 14,300 Da
20 basic AA, 20 acidic AA

No Matrix, Nonresonant Desorption



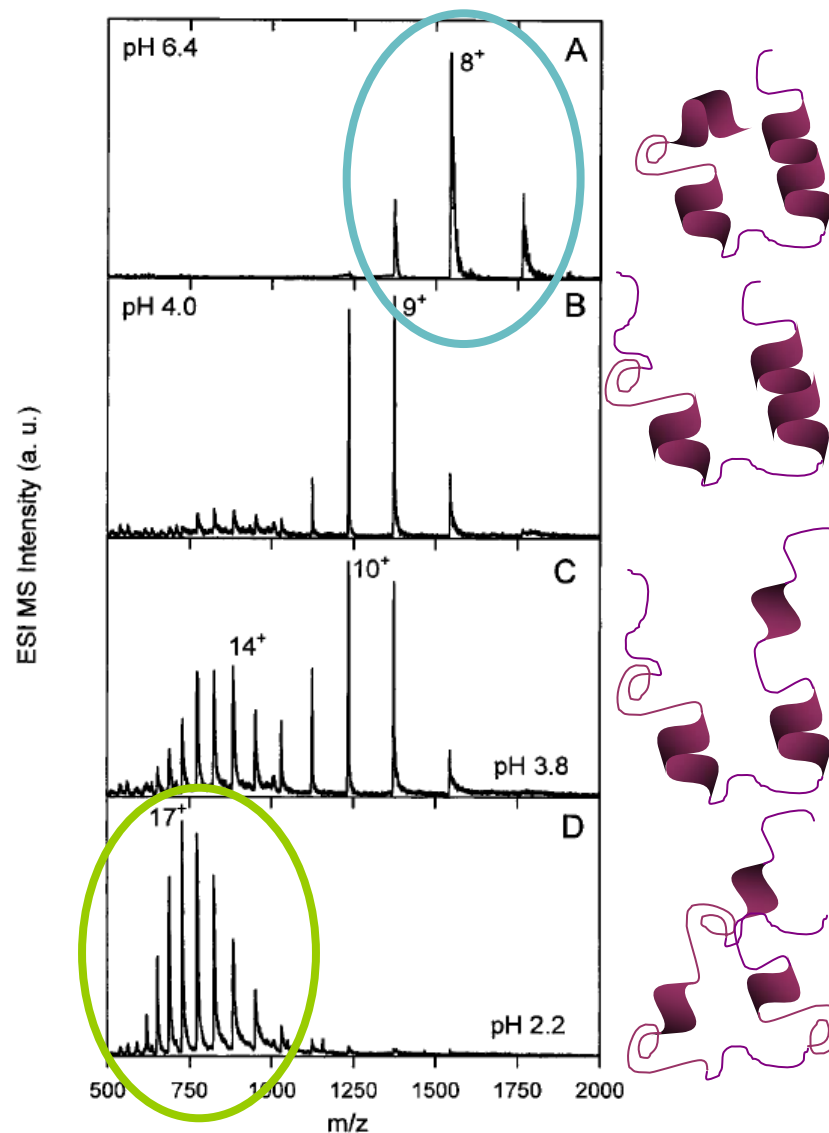
Detector

ESI Measurements of Cytochrome C Conformation as a function of Solvent pH



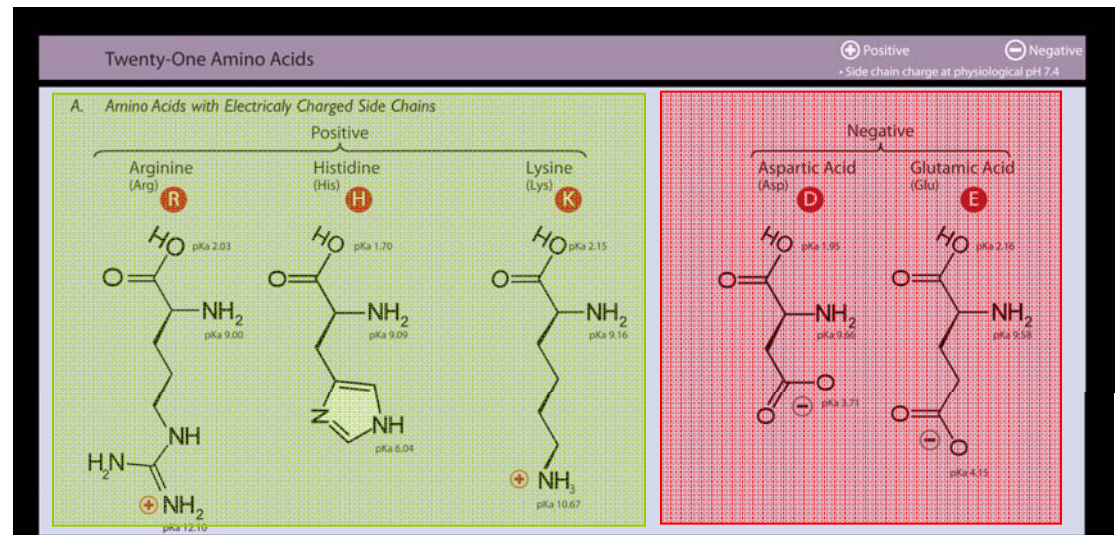
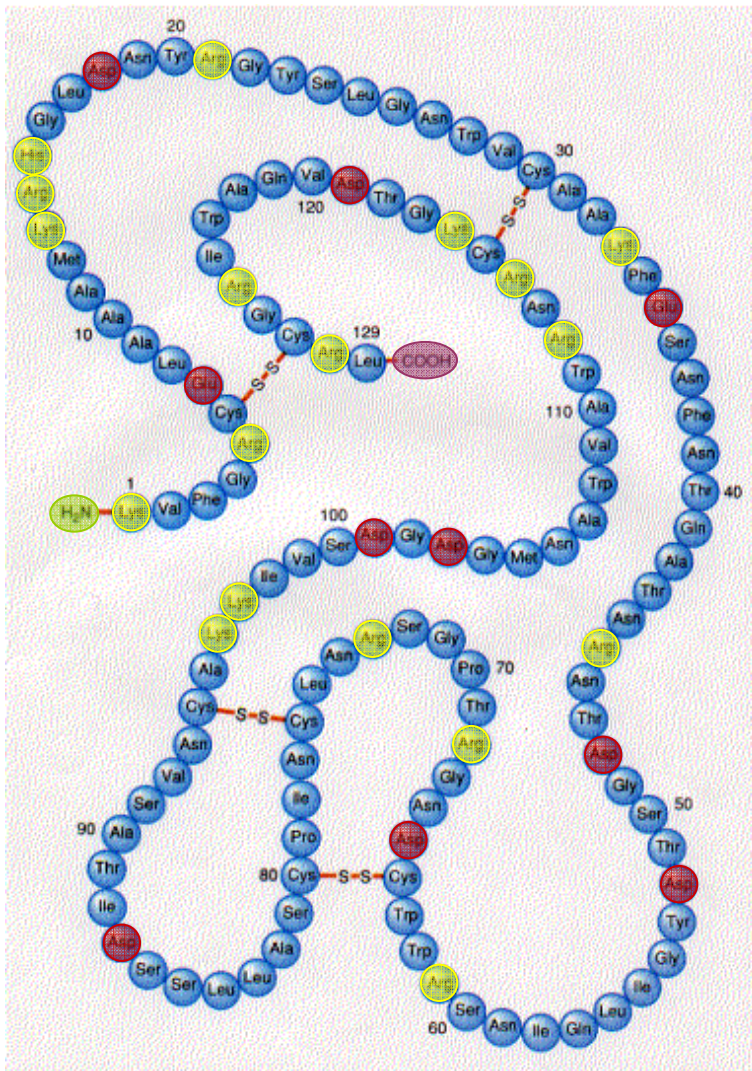
Cytochrome c is a heme protein found within mitochondria with molecular weight 12,384 Da.

The ESI-MS assignments for cytochrome c are in accord with absorbance, fluorescence and circular dichromism techniques.



Lysozyme: Basic and Acidic Site Pairing Controls ESI Charge State

Molecular weight: 14.3 kDa
129 amino acids



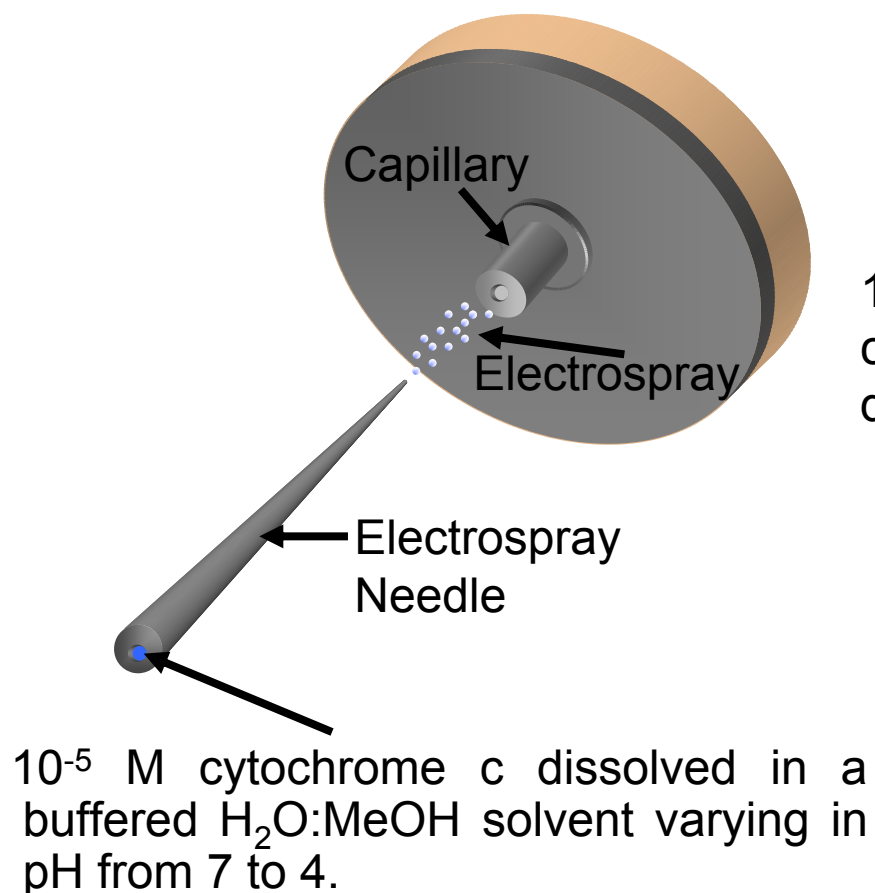
Folded Lysozyme Expected Charge State 9+

Grandori, R. *J. Mass Spectrom.* **2003**, 38, 11-15

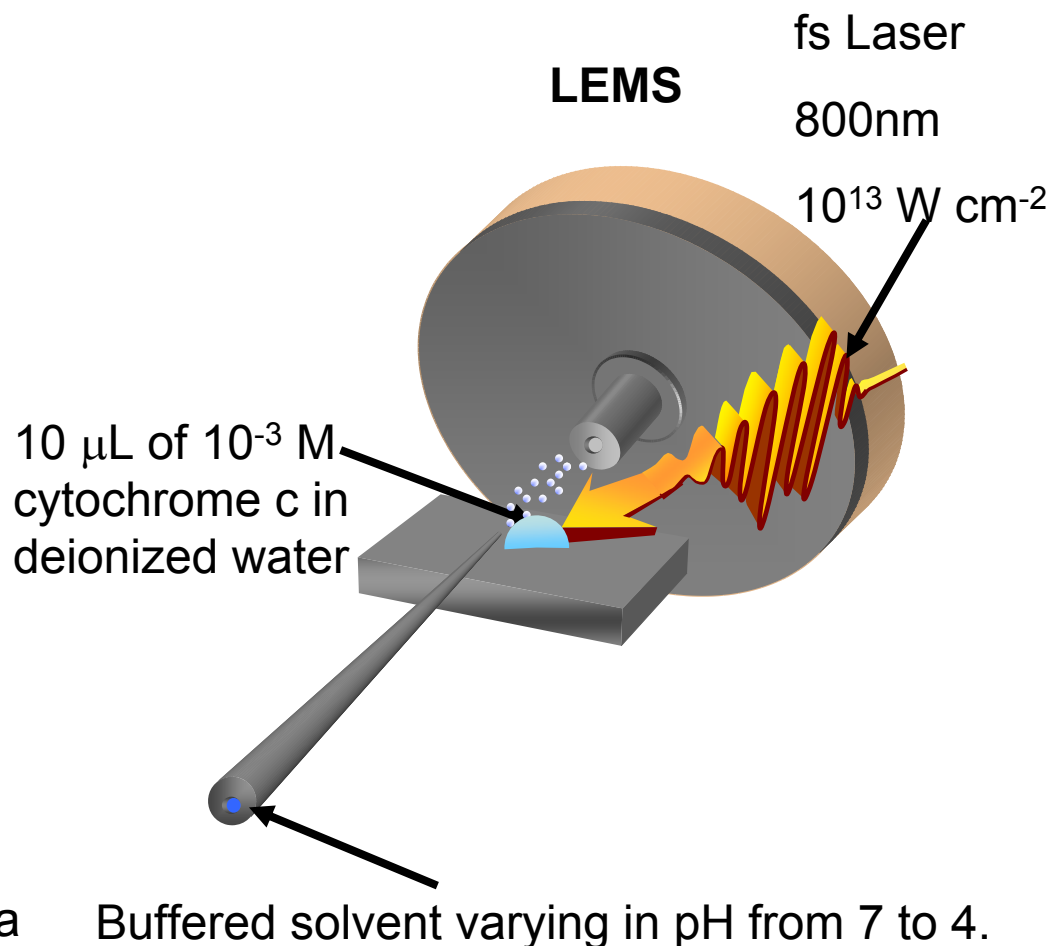
Nelson, D.L., Cox, M.M. *Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry*, W.H. Freeman and Company, New York, 2005

ESI and LEMS Analysis of Cytochrome C

Conventional ESI-MS

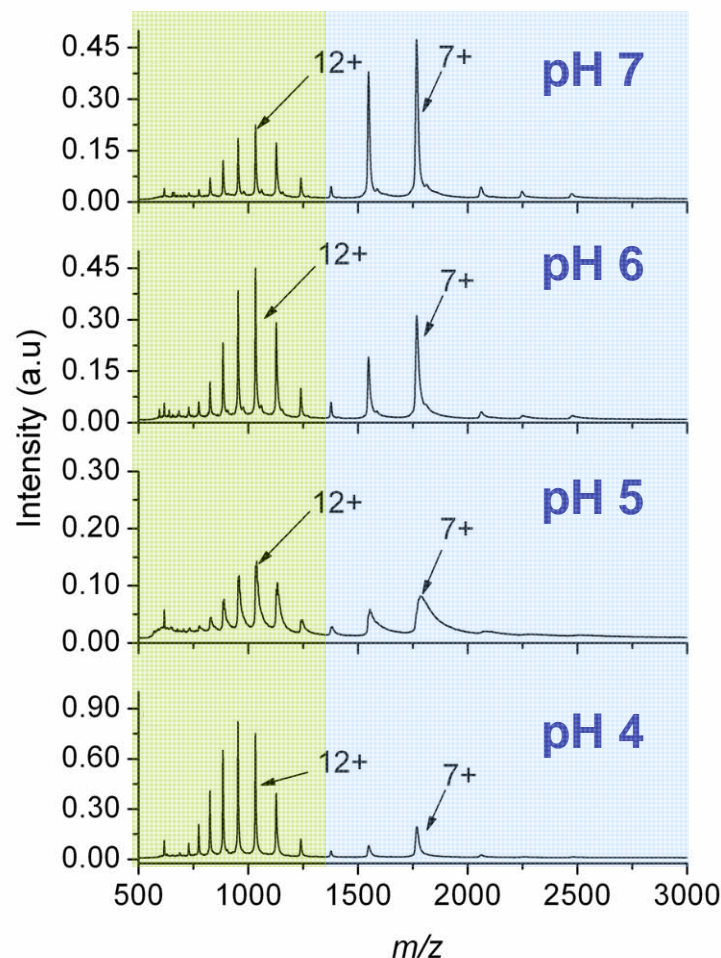


LEMS



Effect of pH on Cytochrome C Conformation

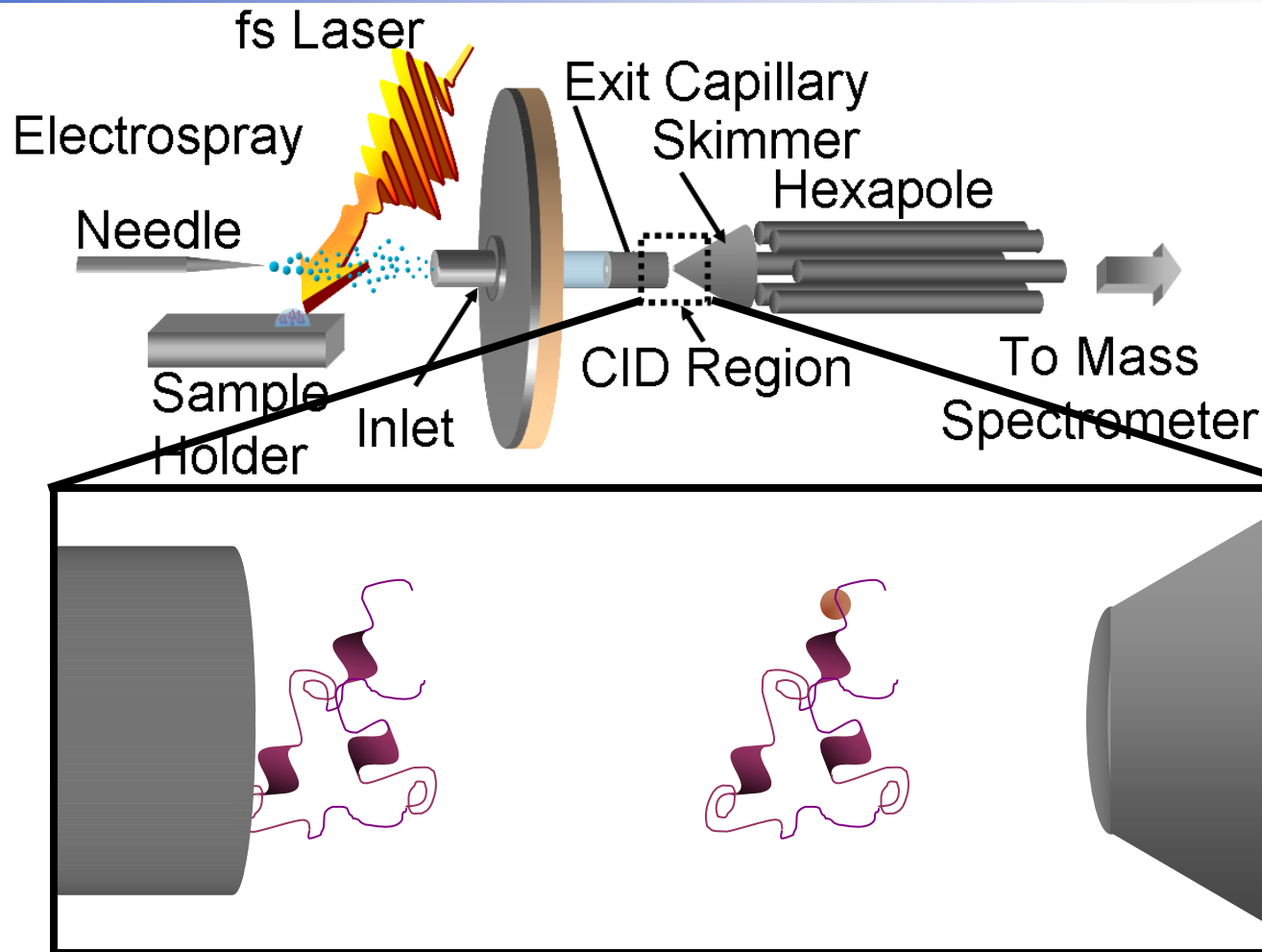
Conventional ESI-MS of Cytochrome C



Femtosecond laser vaporization yields more protein in the folded state than conventional ESI-MS



Probing Protein Conformation: Collision-Induced Dissociation (CID)

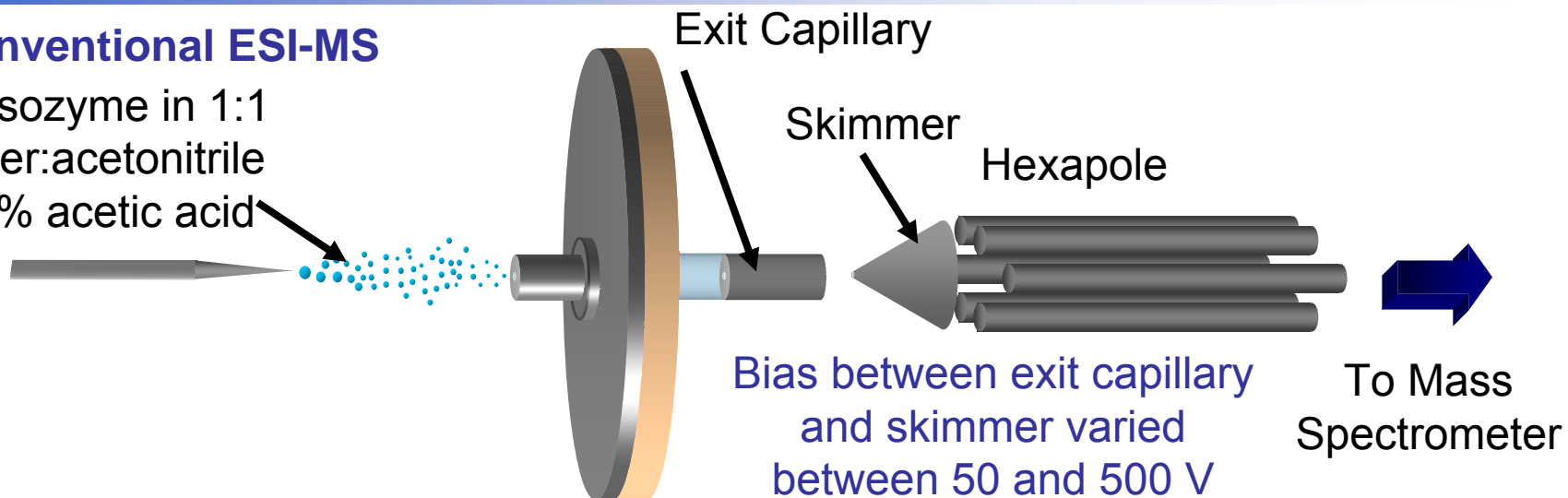


When the analyte ion collides with a background gas molecule, energy can be transferred into the analyte ion leading to dissociation.

Comparing CID for ESI and LEMS

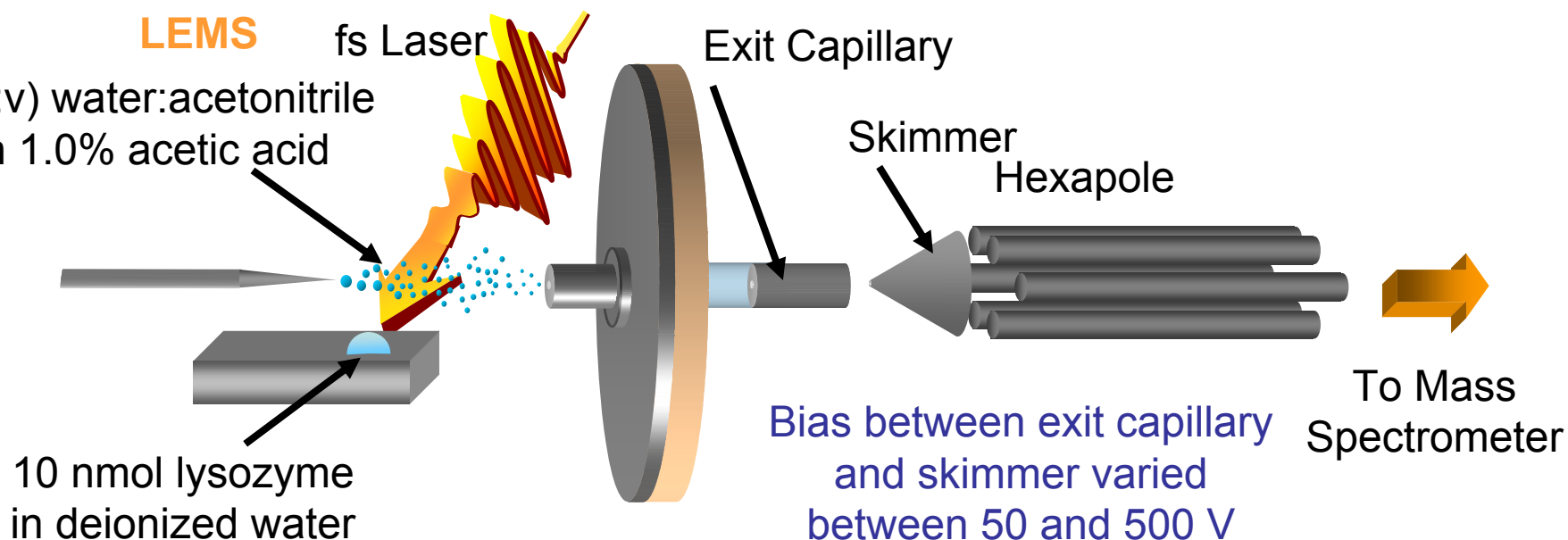
Conventional ESI-MS

10^{-5} M lysozyme in 1:1
(v:v) water:acetonitrile
with 1.0% acetic acid



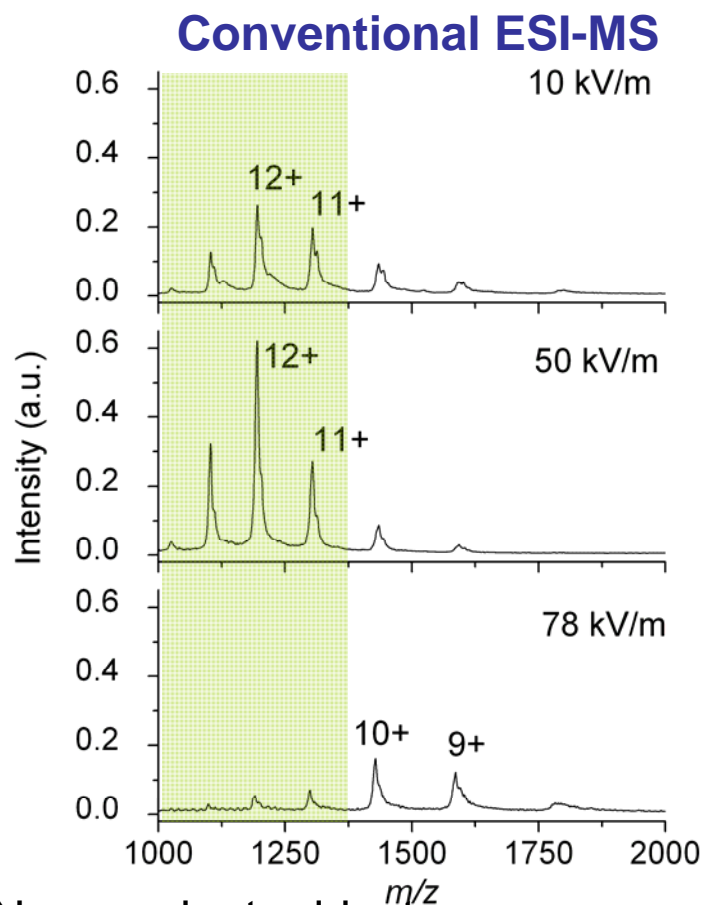
LEMS

1:1 (v:v) water:acetonitrile
with 1.0% acetic acid

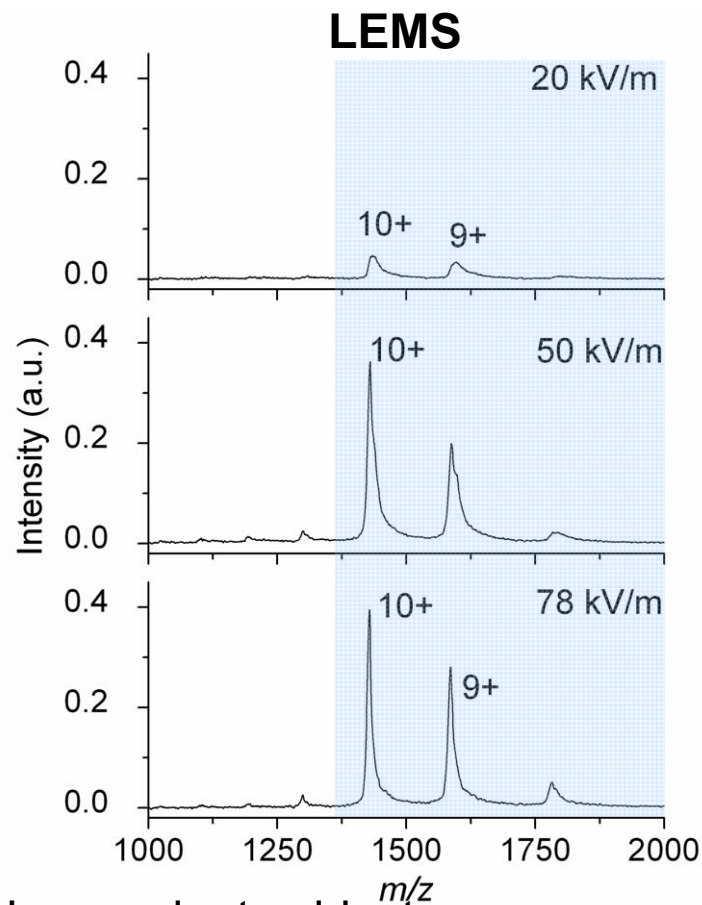


10 nmol lysozyme
in deionized water

CID of Lysozyme in ESI-MS vs. Femtosecond Laser Vaporization



- Noncovalent adducts are removed.
- Charge reduction occurs.
- Large fragmentation cross section.



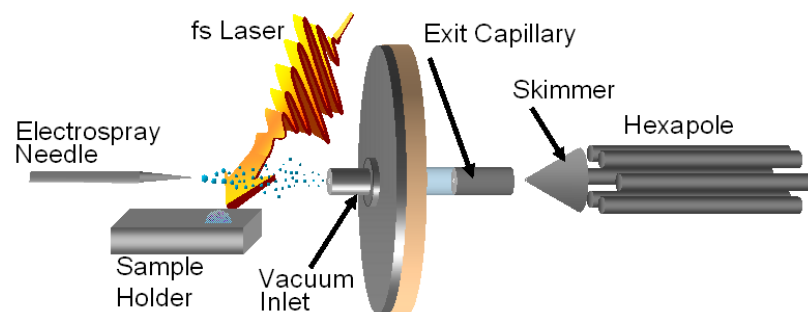
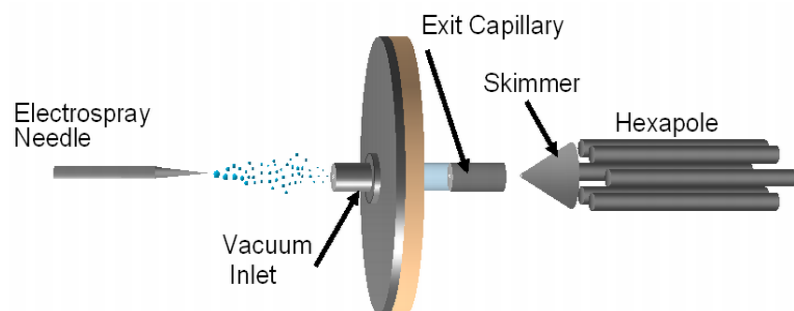
- Noncovalent adducts are removed and signal intensity increases.
- No observed charge reduction.

Suggests that tertiary structure controls CID probability

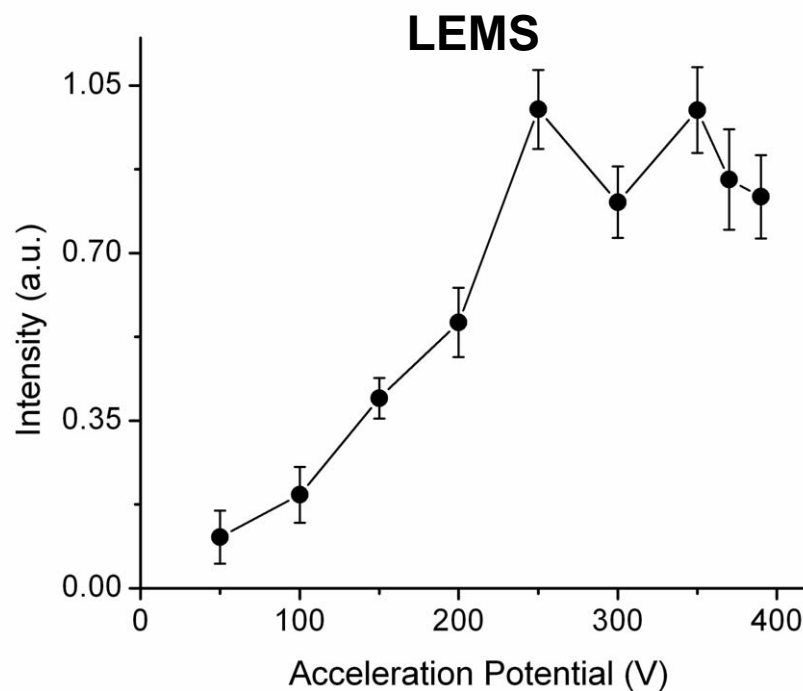
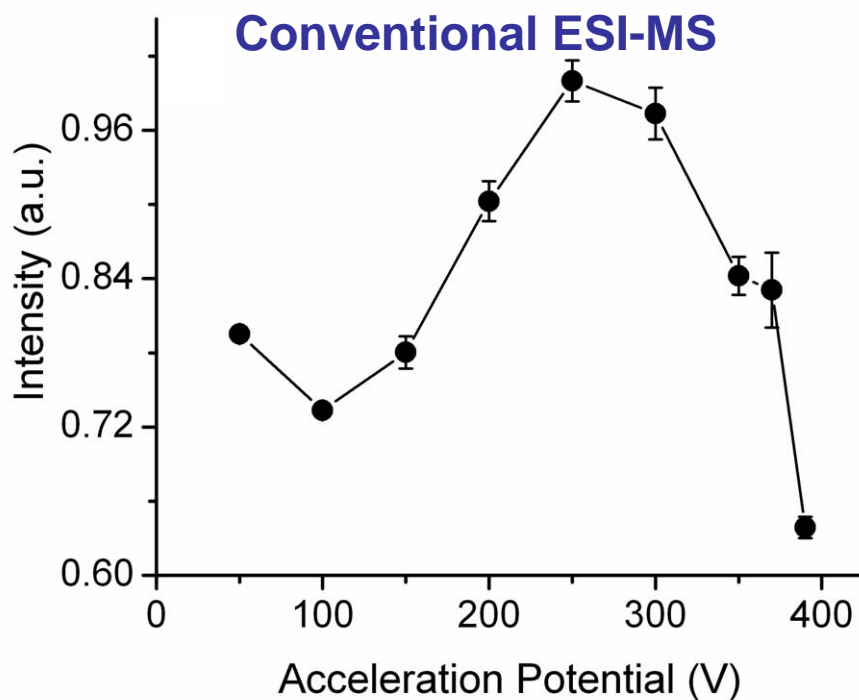


Brady, J. J.; Judge, E. J.; Levis, R. J. *PNAS* **2011**, *108*, 12217

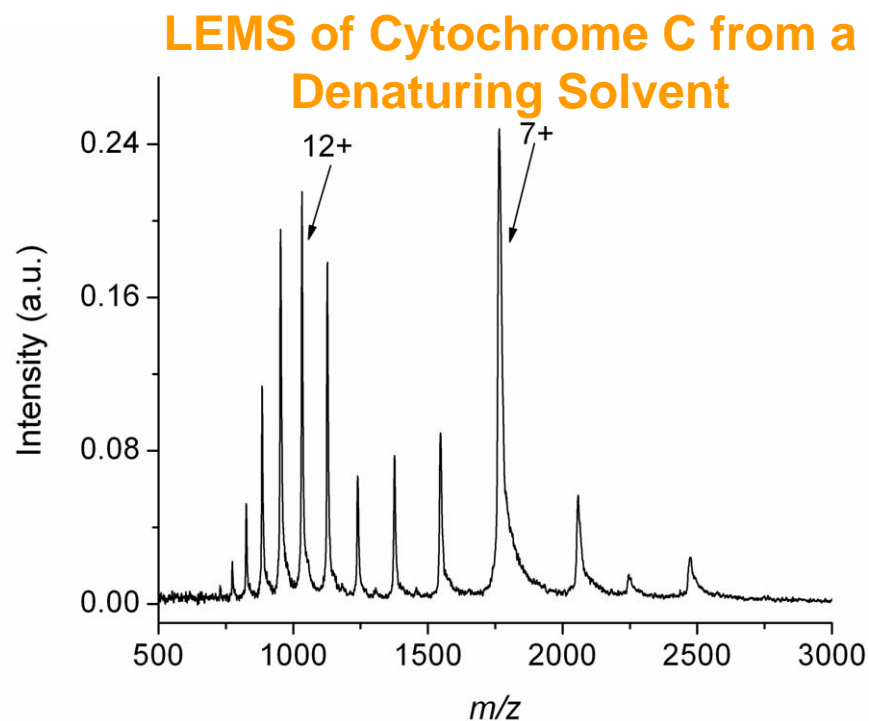
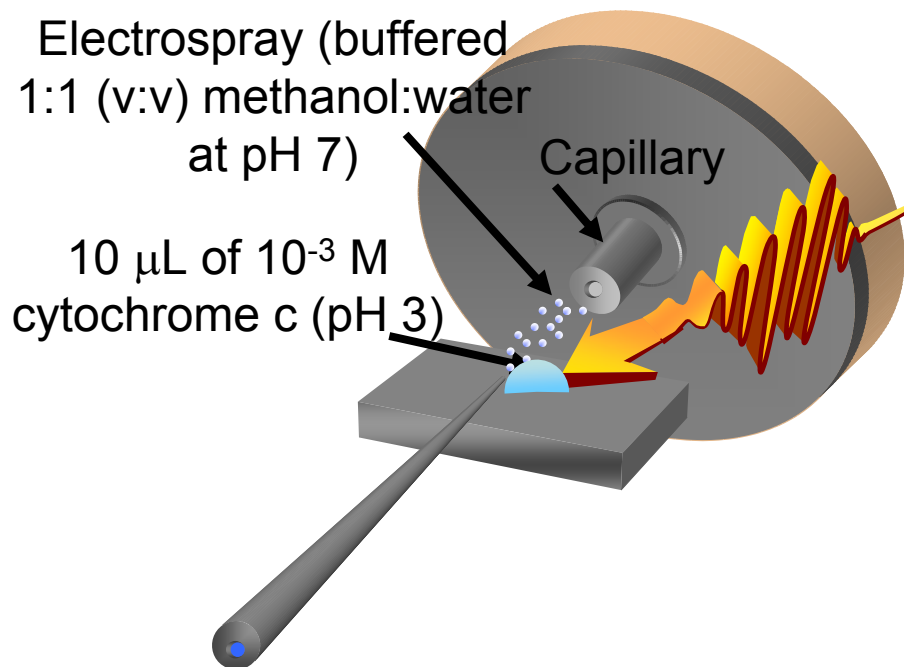
Noncovalent Interactions During CID



Integrated Ion Intensity vs. CID Energy

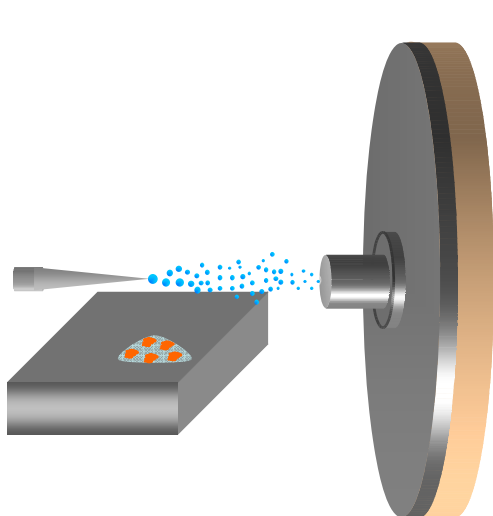


Cytochrome C Vaporization from pH 3 Solution

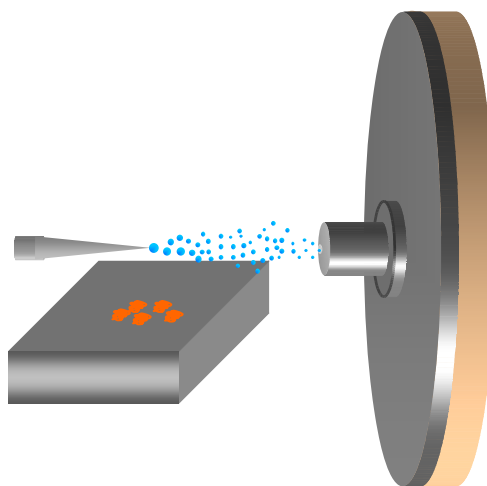
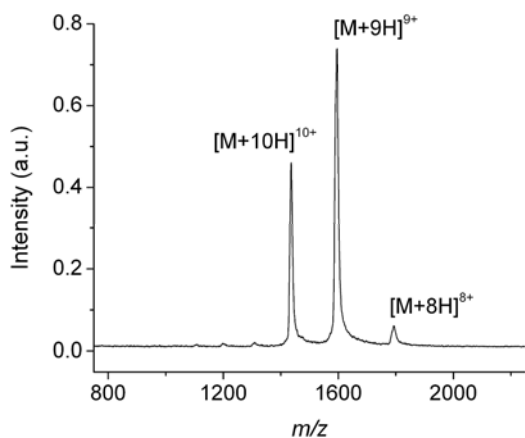


Suggests that nonresonant fs laser vaporization **preserves** condensed phase conformation.

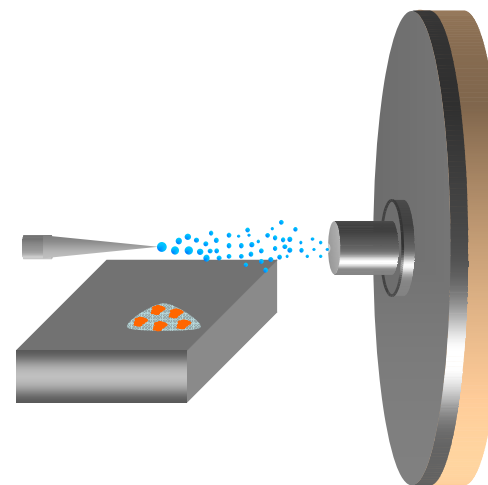
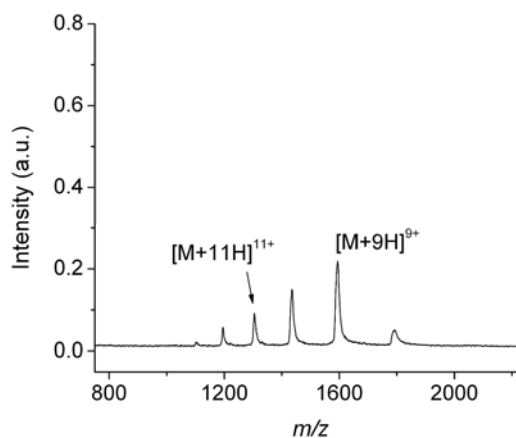
Vaporization of (De)Hydrated Lysozyme



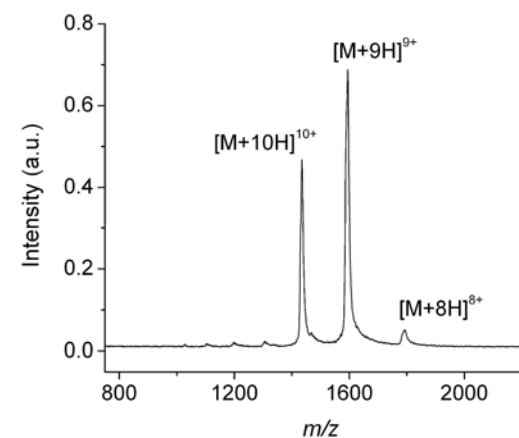
Hydrated Lysozyme



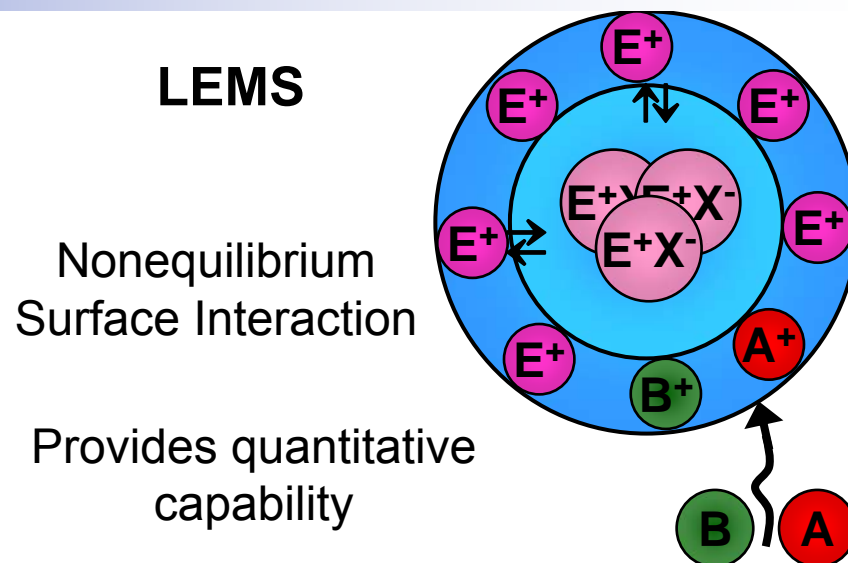
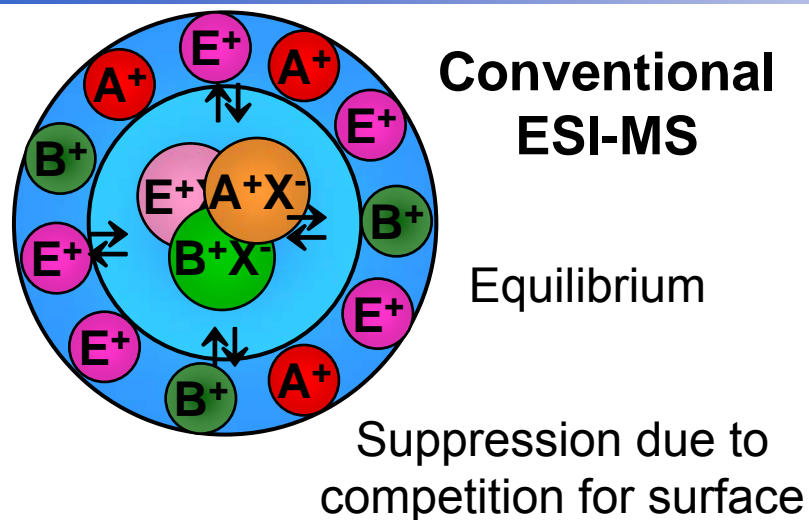
Dehydrated Lysozyme



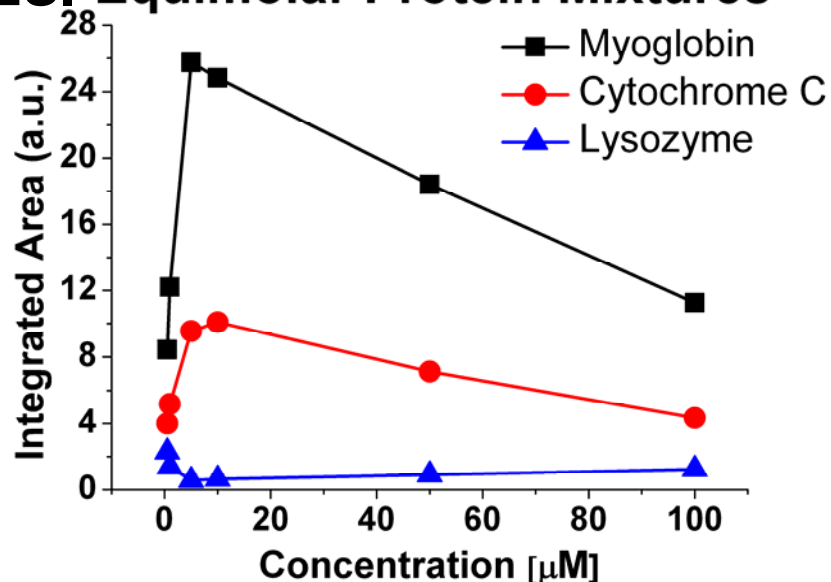
Rehydrated Lysozyme



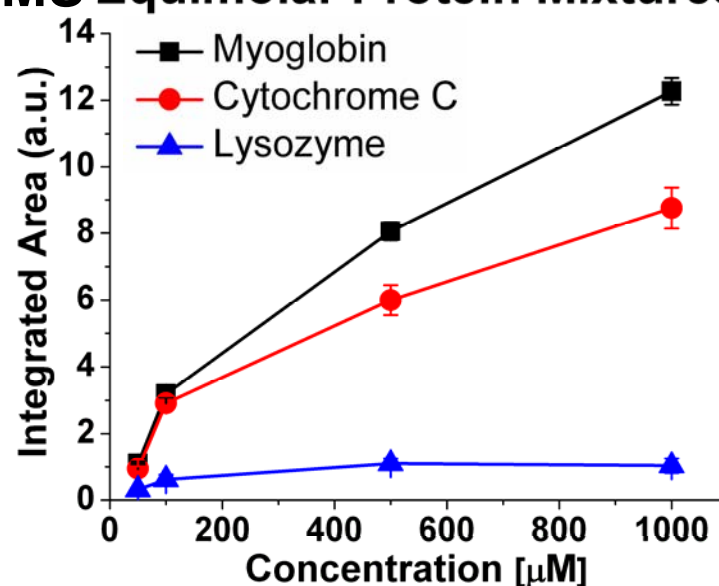
Mechanism of LEMS Pickup Avoids Equilibria Enabling Quantitative Protein Measurements



ESI Equimolar Protein Mixtures



LEMS Equimolar Protein Mixtures



Femtosecond Vaporization of Tissue

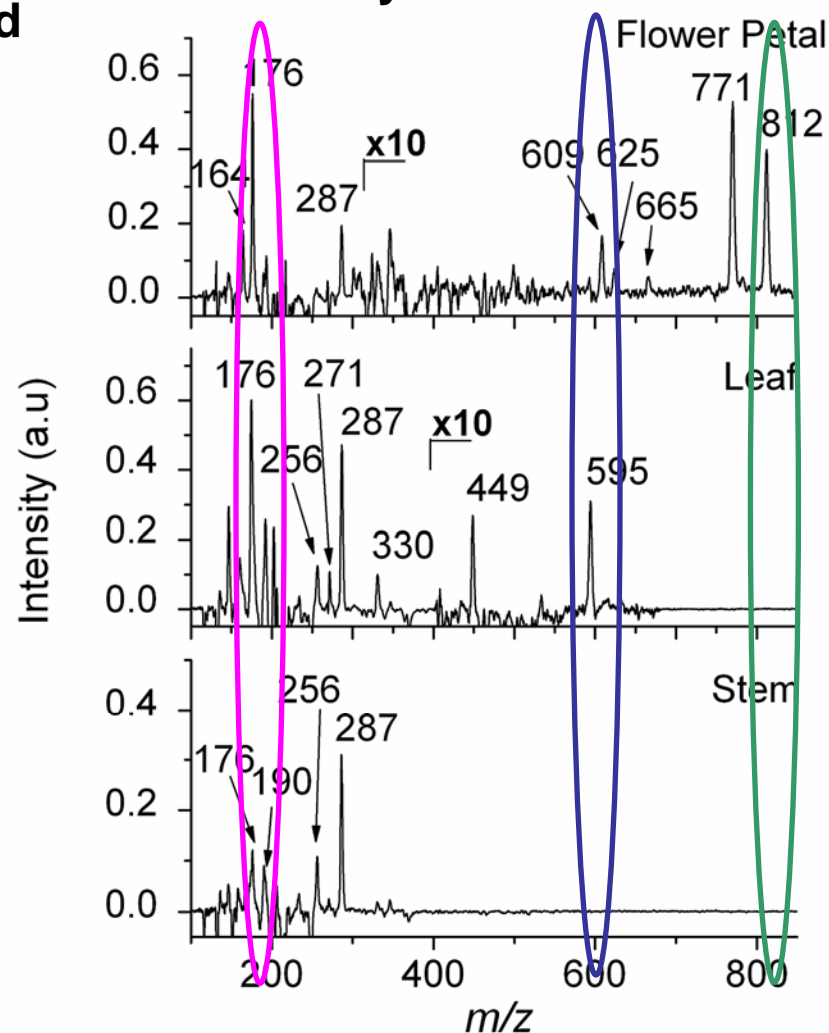
Plant Tissue Discrimination Test Bed



- Femtosecond LEMS analysis of an *impatien*'s stem, flower and leaf.
- Three clear peaks may be used to differentiate the tissue type at $m/z = 190$, 609, and 812.

Analytical Chemistry, 2011, 83, 2145

LEMS Analysis of Plant Tissues

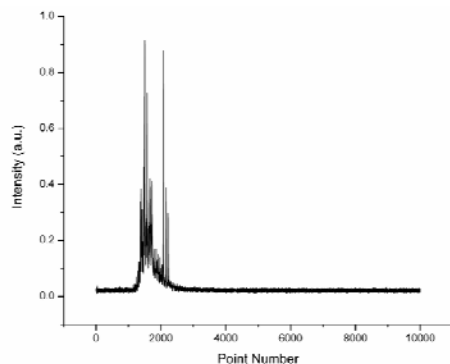


Suggests Diagnostic Applications

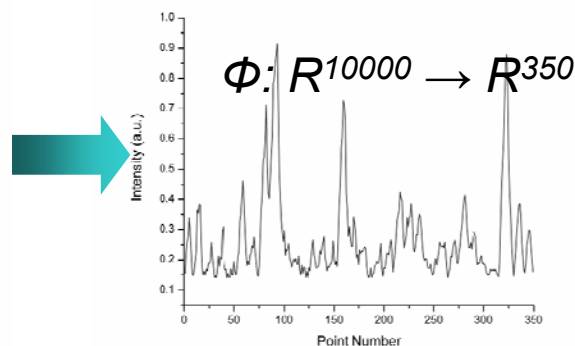
Discriminating Tissue for Diagnosis

Statistical demonstration of tissue discrimination

Raw Data



Distill Significant Data

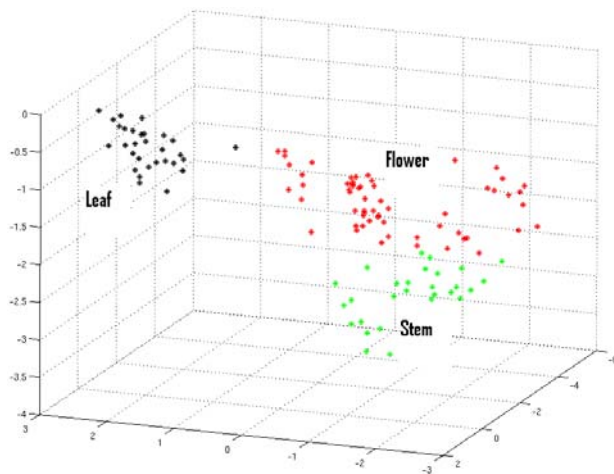


$$\Phi: R^{10000} \rightarrow R^{350}$$

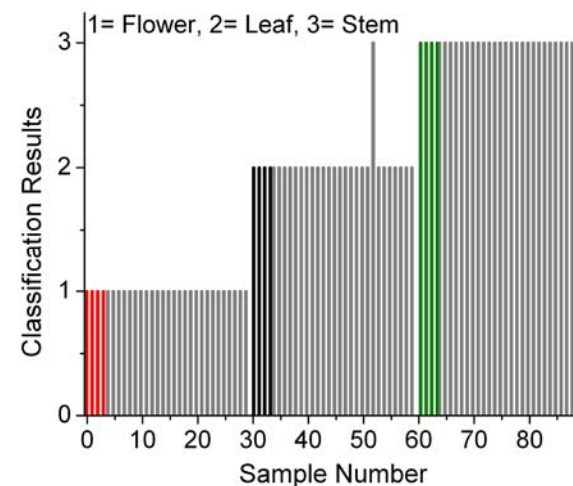
Compress to Smallest Possible Discrimination Space

Manipulate and further compress with optimized T Matrix to generate maximal separation

Example of Data Projected to 3 Dimension



Near Perfect Classification of Plant Tissue



LEMS Analysis of Plant Tissue: Variety of Petal Colors

Anthocyanins: Water soluble plant pigments

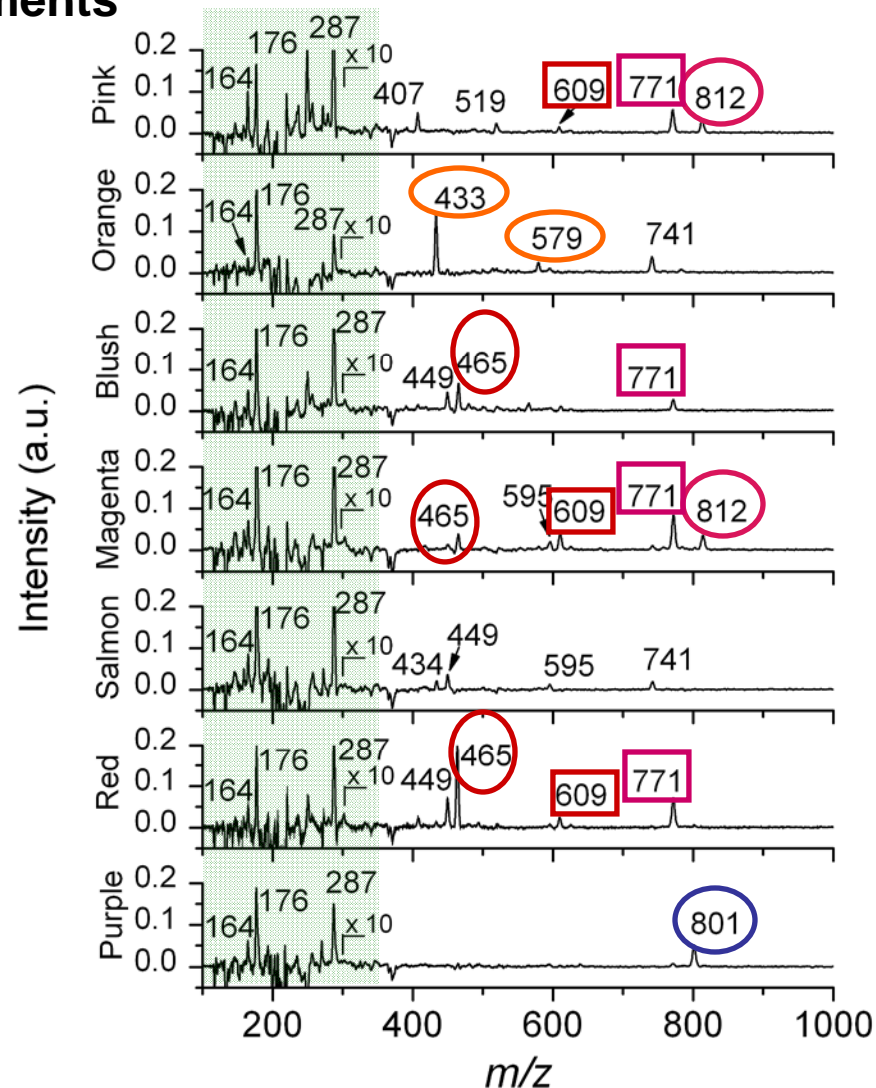
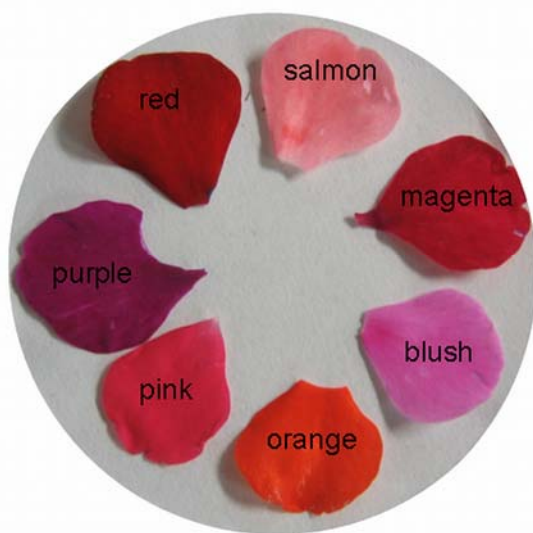
164 rhamnose

176 Ferulic acid – H₂O

287 Luteolin/kaempferol/cyanidin

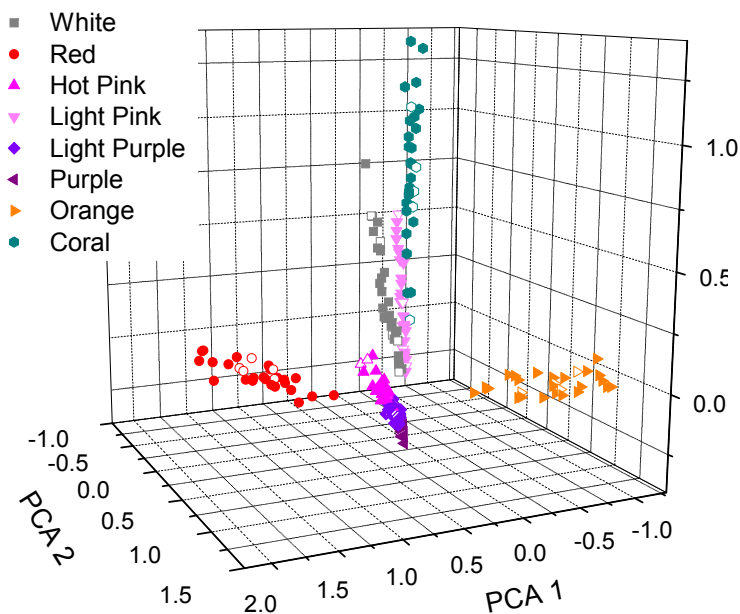
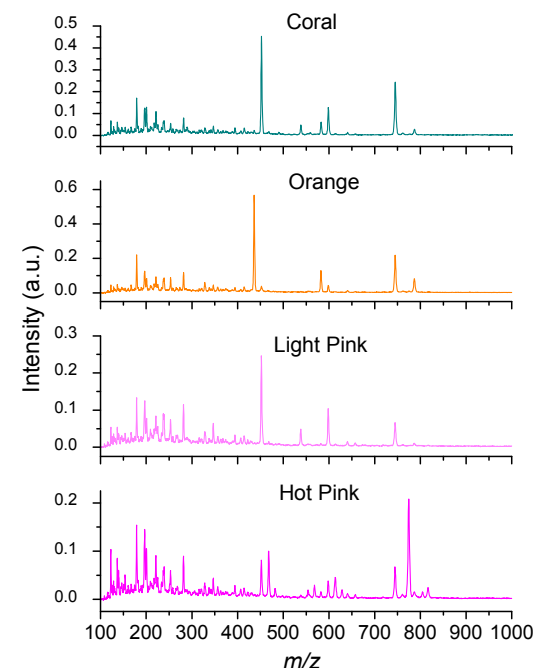
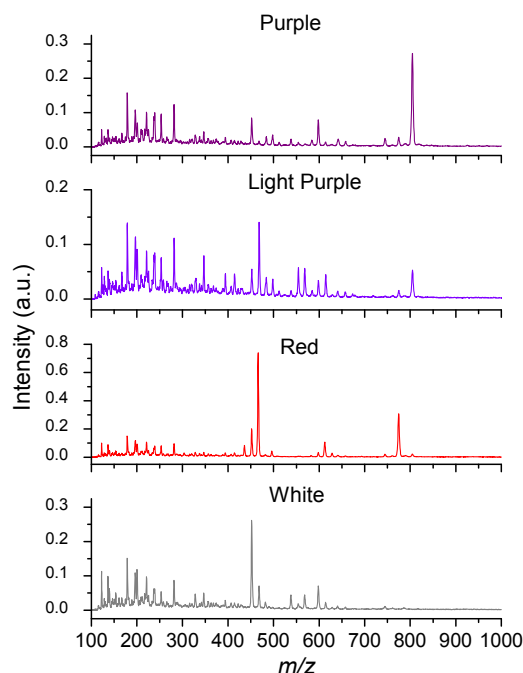
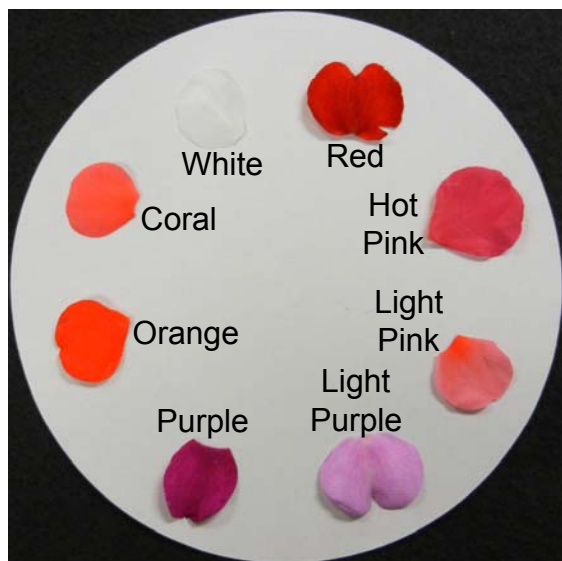
812 Peonidin 3-O-(6-O-*p*-coumaryl)-5-O-diglucoside

801 Malvidin 3-glucoside-coumarate-5-glucoside



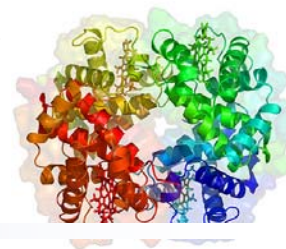
PCA Classification of Eight Phenotypes of a Single Flower Tissue Type

Analytical Chemistry 2012, 84, 6225

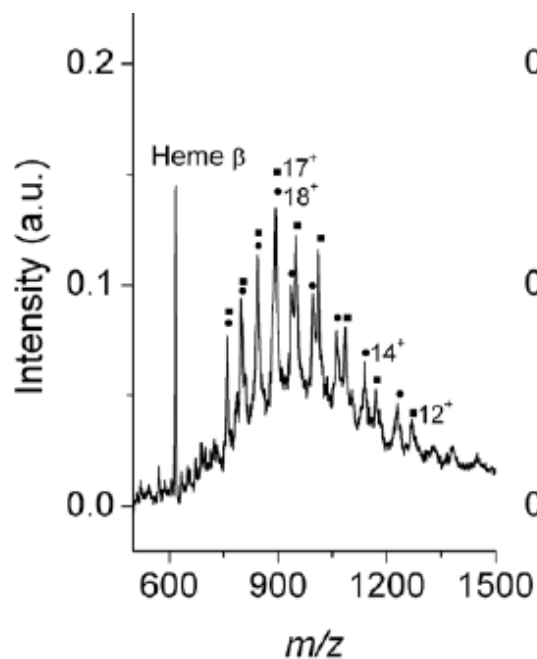


Color	Nearest Neighbor			LDA		
	Correct	Total	Percentage	Correct	Total	Percentage
White	25	25	100.0%	22	25	88.0%
Red	25	25	100.0%	25	25	100.0%
Hot Pink	25	25	100.0%	25	25	100.0%
Light Pink	25	25	100.0%	25	25	100.0%
Light Purple	25	25	100.0%	25	25	100.0%
Purple	25	25	100.0%	25	25	100.0%
Orange	25	25	100.0%	24	25	96.0%
Coral	23	25	92.0%	22	25	88.0%
Total	198	200	99.0%	193	200	96.5%

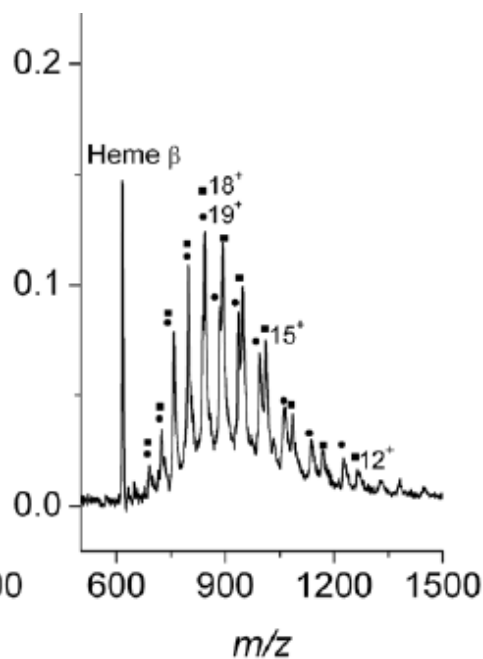
Laser Vaporization Mass Spec Analysis of Human Blood



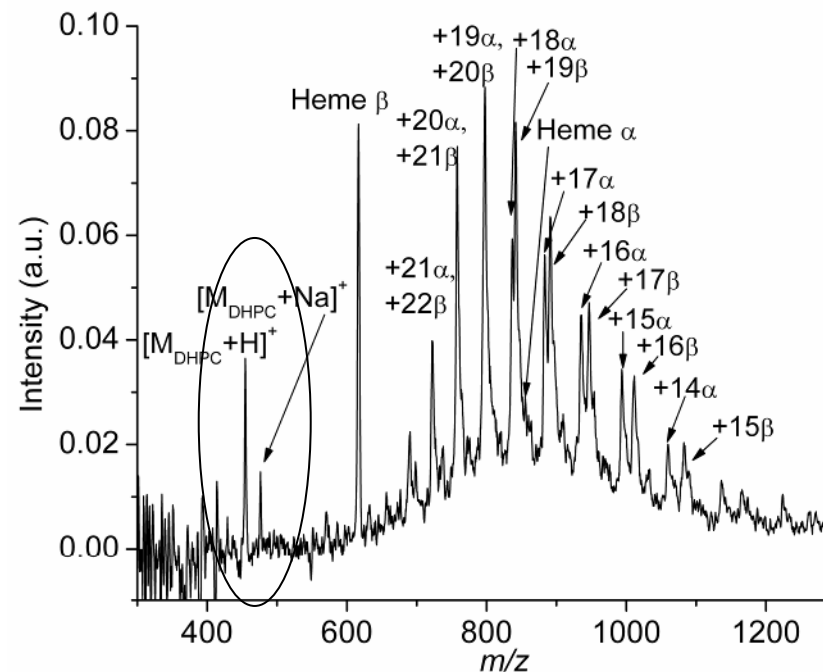
**Liquid State
Whole Blood**



**Solid State
Dried Blood**



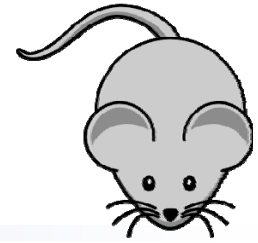
**Whole Blood Spiked with
One Nanomole of Lipid**



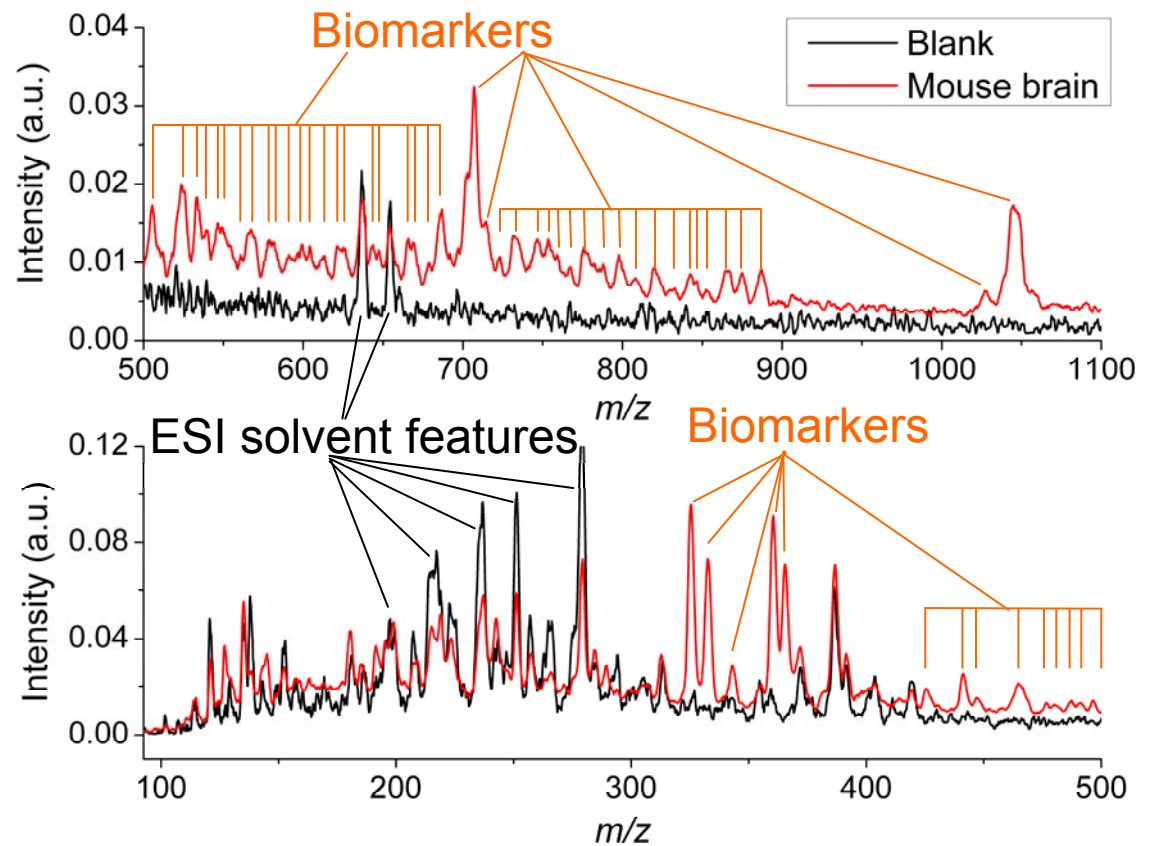
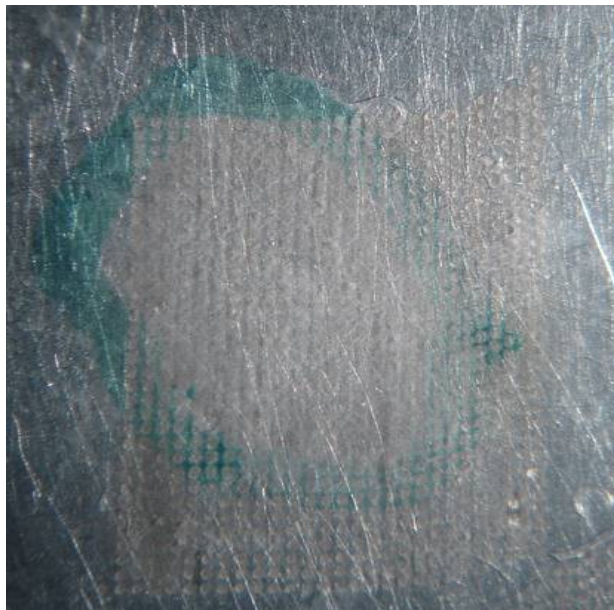
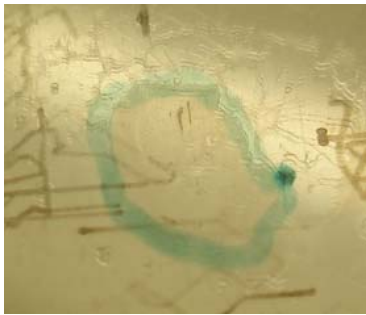
Analytical Chemistry, 2010, 82, 10203

Journal of the American Mass
Spectrometry Society, 2011, 22,
762

LEMS Analysis of Mouse Brain Section

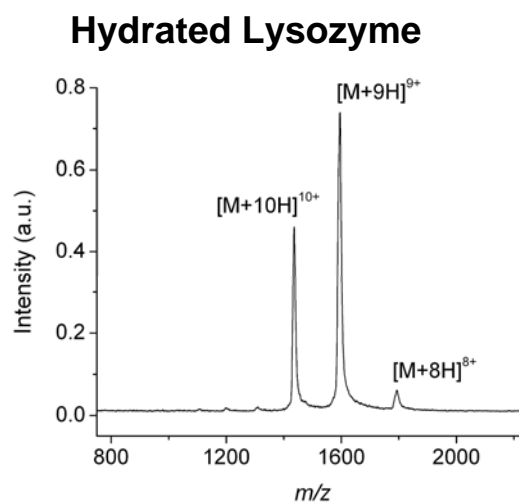
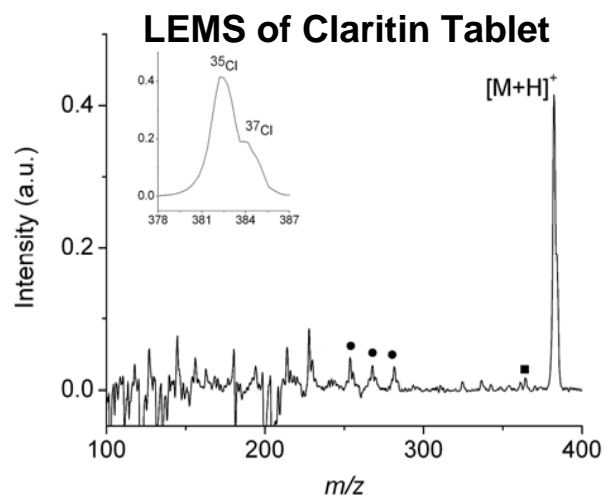


- 10 micron thick section of mouse brain deposited on stainless steel slide
- Laser is raster scanned over the section
- Mass spectra is sum of 50 laser shots



Conclusions

- Femtosecond laser vaporization at atmospheric pressure is a soft vaporization method producing intact neutrals.
- When combined with ESI, a universal vaporization and quantitative detection method can be used to analyze explosives, pharmaceuticals, macromolecules directly from surfaces including metal, glass, wood, cloth, semiconductor and sand.
- LEMS preserves condensed phase protein conformation via nonequilibrium ESI solvent conditio



Acknowledgements and Funding



**Air Force Office of
Scientific Research**
The Basic Research Manager of the Air Force Research Laboratory



CAPR

Center for Advanced Photonics Research

