

# Absorption response of resonant atomic electron transitions to intense XUV electric fields



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

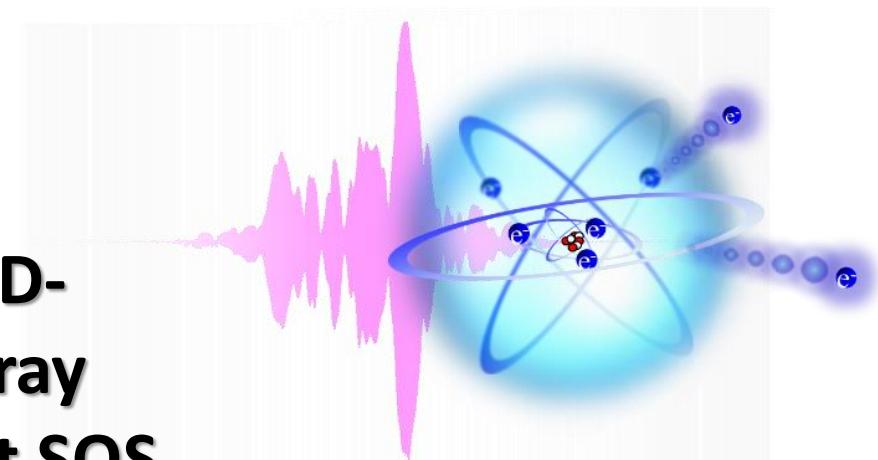
**Christian Ott**

**Workshop on 1D-  
imaging soft X-ray  
Spectroscopy at SQS**

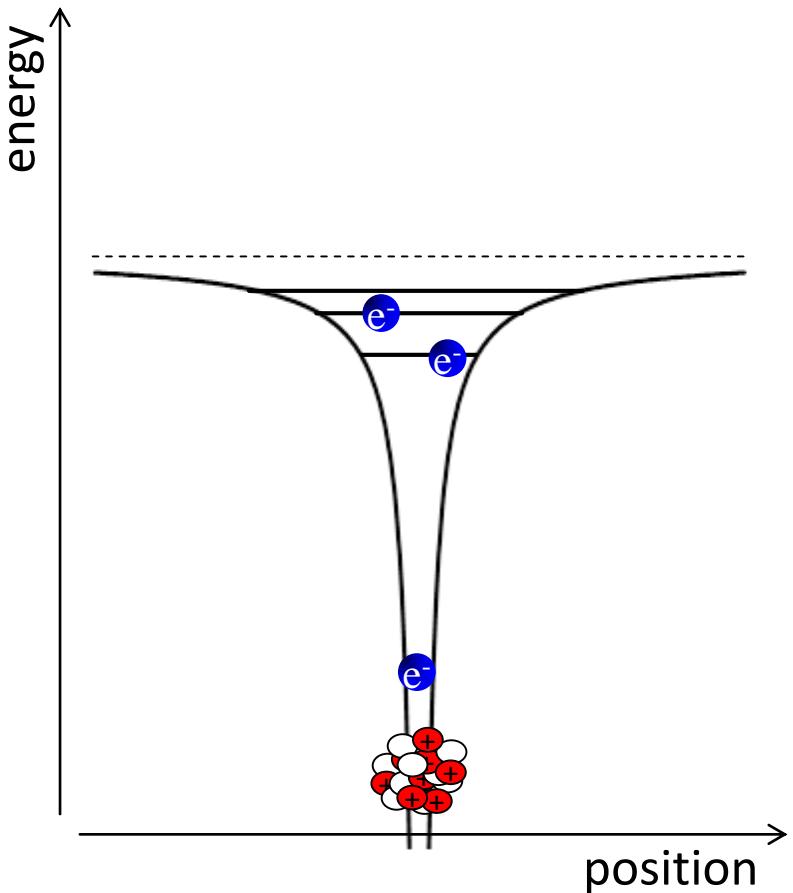
**21./22.10.2021**

[https://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/mpi/en/research/scientific-divisions-and-groups/  
quantum-dynamicscontrol/research/excited-atomsmolecules-in-strong-fields-ag-ott](https://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/mpi/en/research/scientific-divisions-and-groups/quantum-dynamicscontrol/research/excited-atomsmolecules-in-strong-fields-ag-ott)

christian.ott@mpi-hd.mpg.de

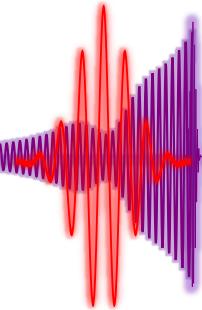


# XUV and x-ray wavelengths: „living in the continuum“



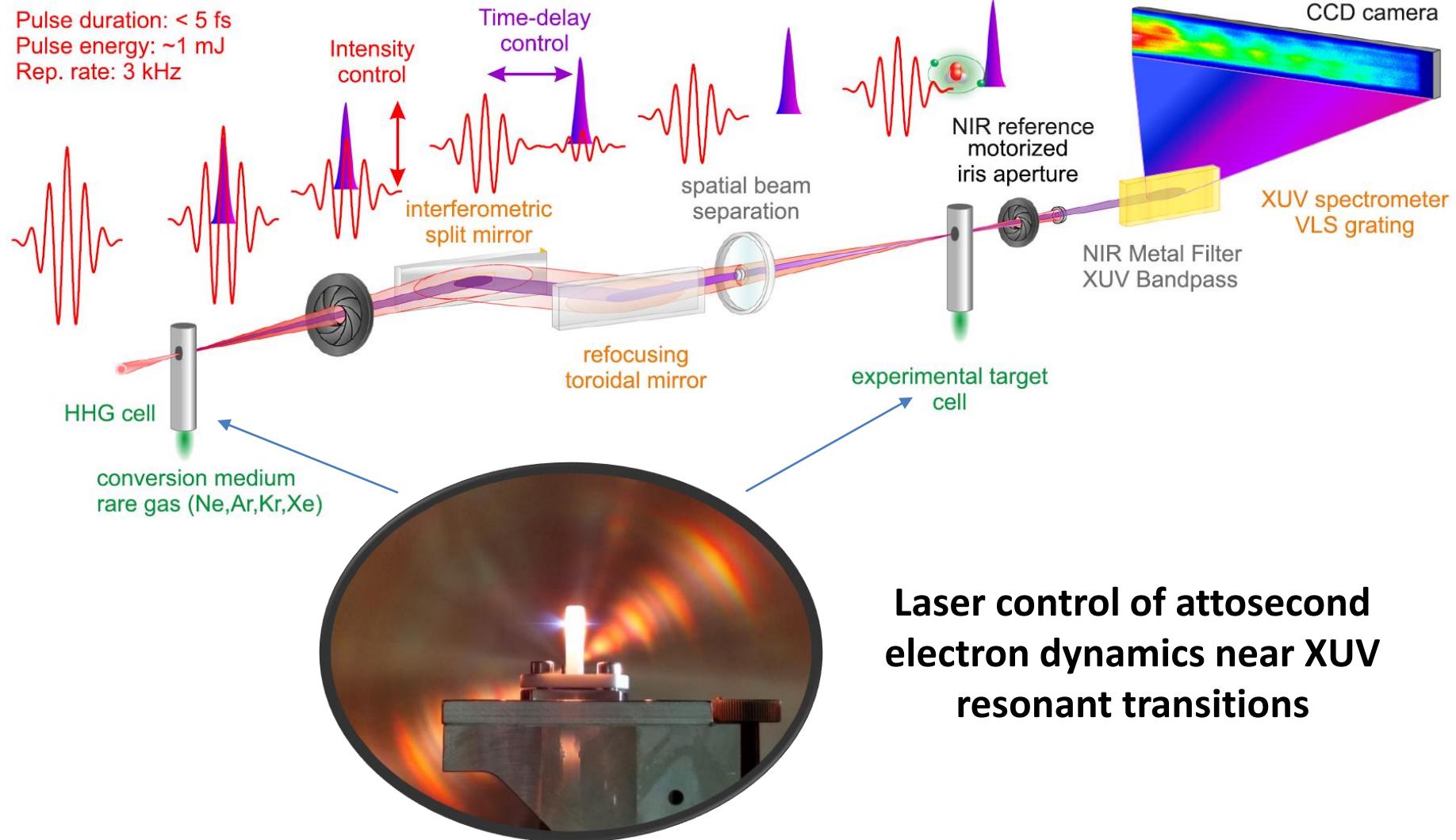
- Inner-shell excitation / ionization
- Auger-Meitner / autoionization (also inter-atomic in molecule)
  - “carries away” the coherence
- Typically ultrashort coherence times on few-femtosecond (even attosecond) timescale

**Resonant nonlinear XUV / x-ray light-matter interaction:  
probing and controlling the coherent ultrafast electronic  
dynamics in atoms and molecules**



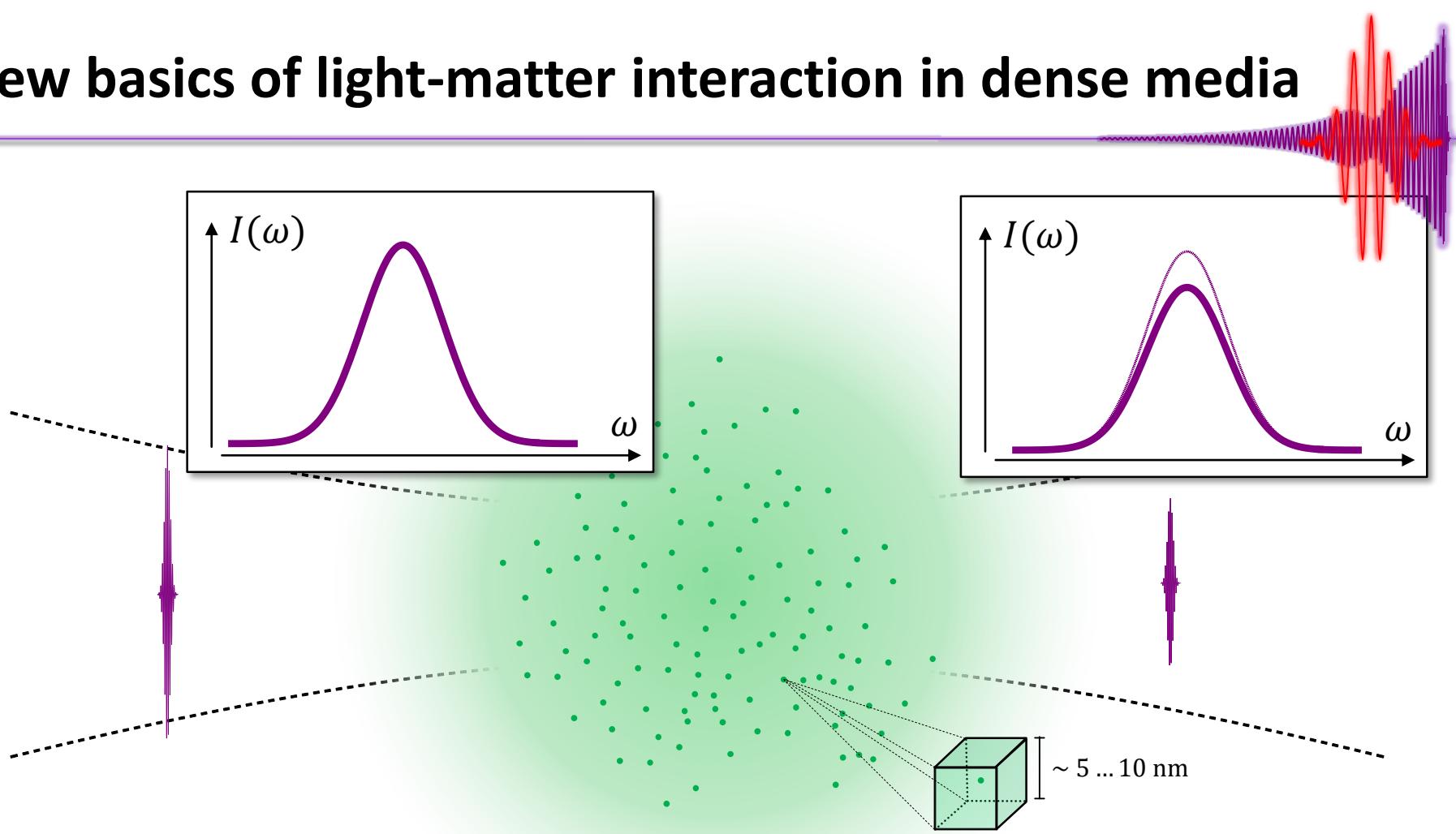
# (NIR)-Laser-Control of XUV resonances

Experimental Setup: V. Stooß et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum., (2019), 90, 053108



Laser control of attosecond  
electron dynamics near XUV  
resonant transitions

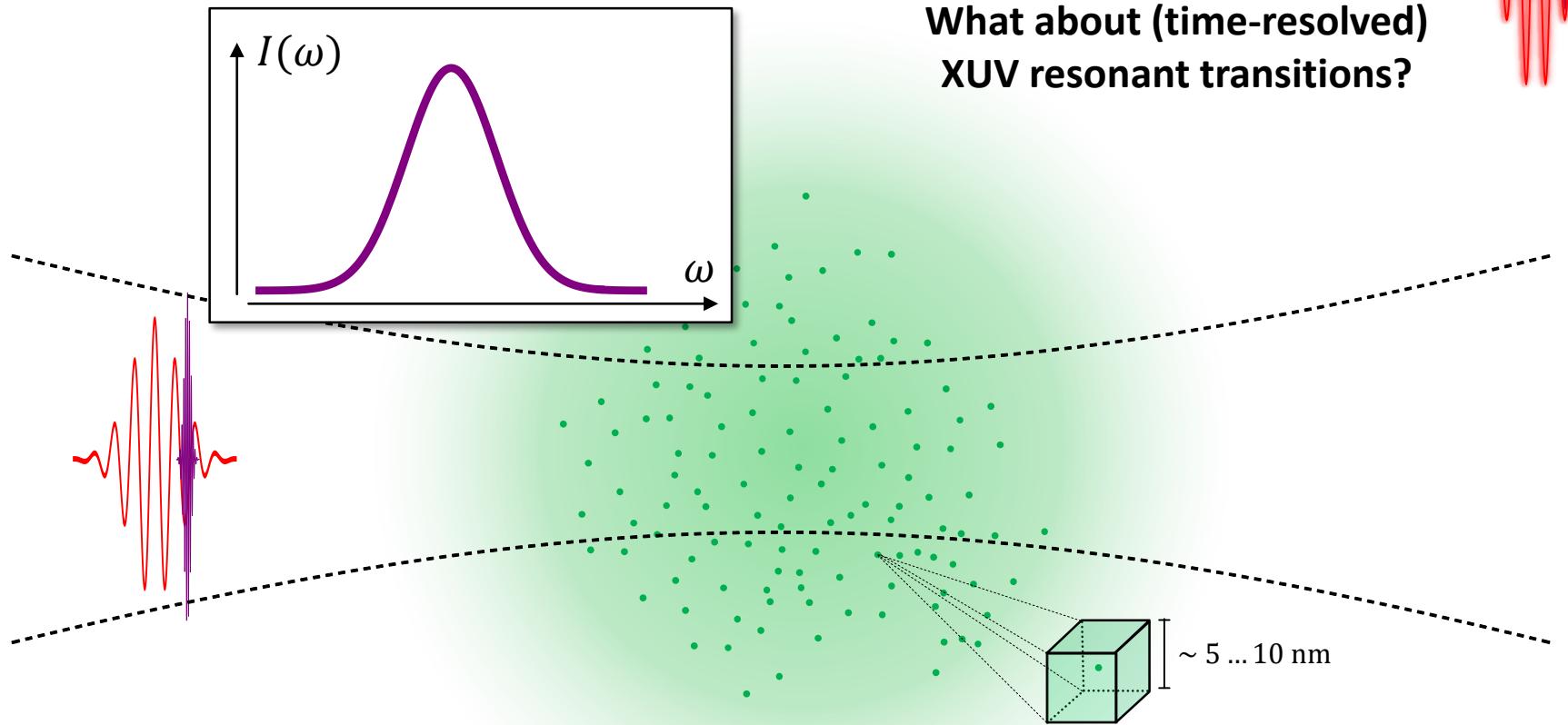
# Few basics of light-matter interaction in dense media



Beer-Lambert law of attenuation:

$$I(\omega) = I_0(\omega)e^{-\rho L \sigma(\omega)}$$

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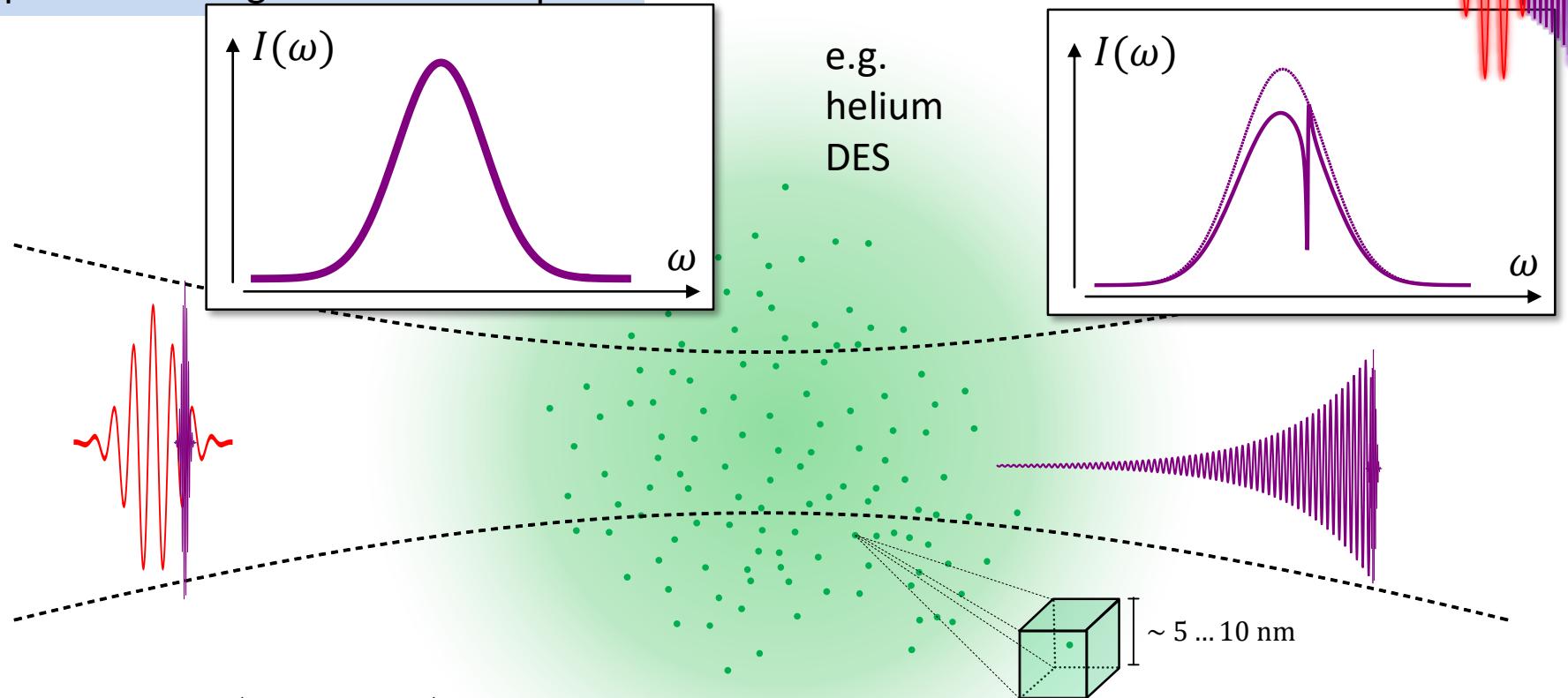


Beer-Lambert law of attenuation:

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# Controlling the dipole response function

Example: Controlling resonant absorption



$$\vec{d}(t) = \langle \Psi(t) | \hat{\mu} | \Psi(t) \rangle$$

$$\text{Optical Density} \propto \Im[n(\omega)] \propto \Im[\chi(\omega)] \propto \Im[\tilde{d}(\omega)]$$

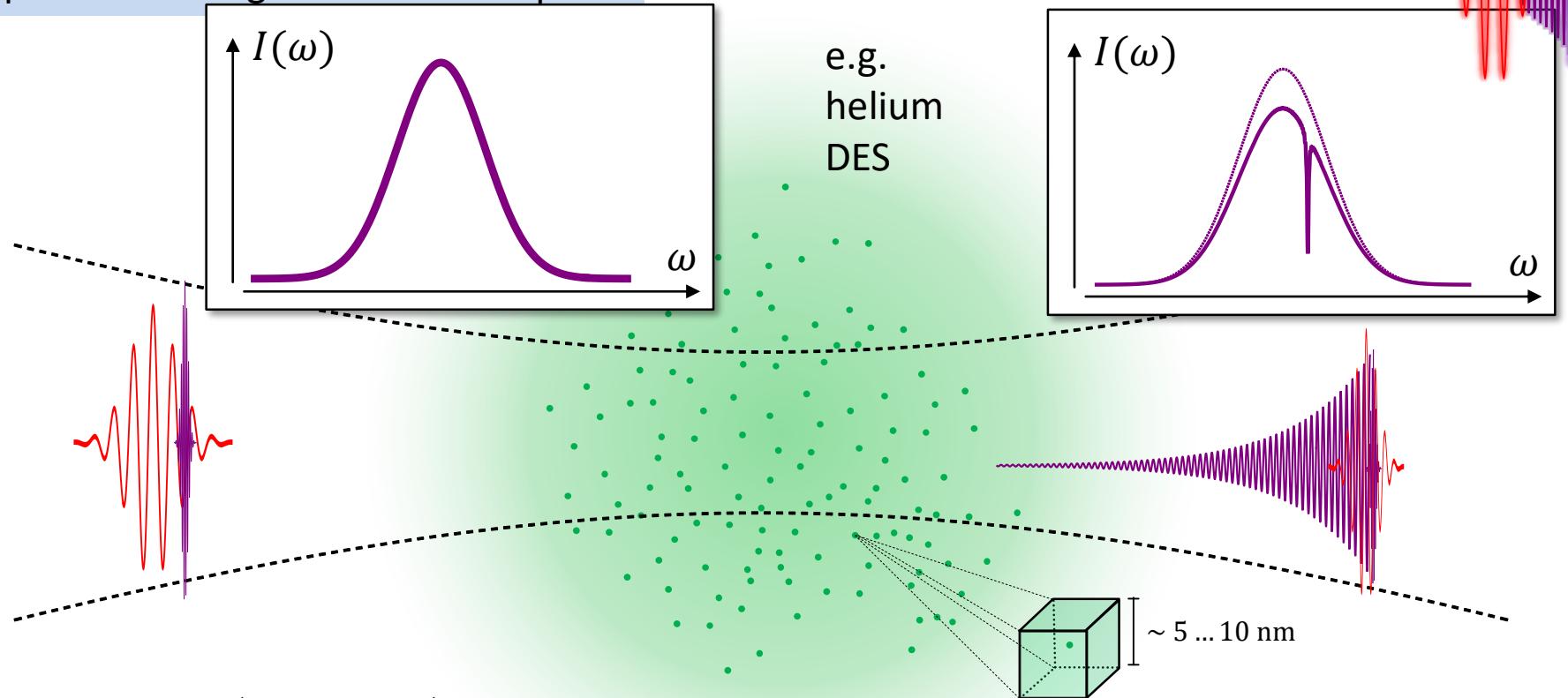
$$\text{OD}(\omega) = \log \left[ \frac{I_0(\omega)}{I(\omega)} \right] = \frac{\rho L}{\ln(10) \varepsilon_0 c} \frac{\omega}{\Im[\tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\omega)]} \Im[\tilde{d}(\omega)]$$

(for dilute media, i.e. not too dense)

**Maxwell's propagation of radiation fields; refractive index; phase matching and phase sensitivity; interference!**

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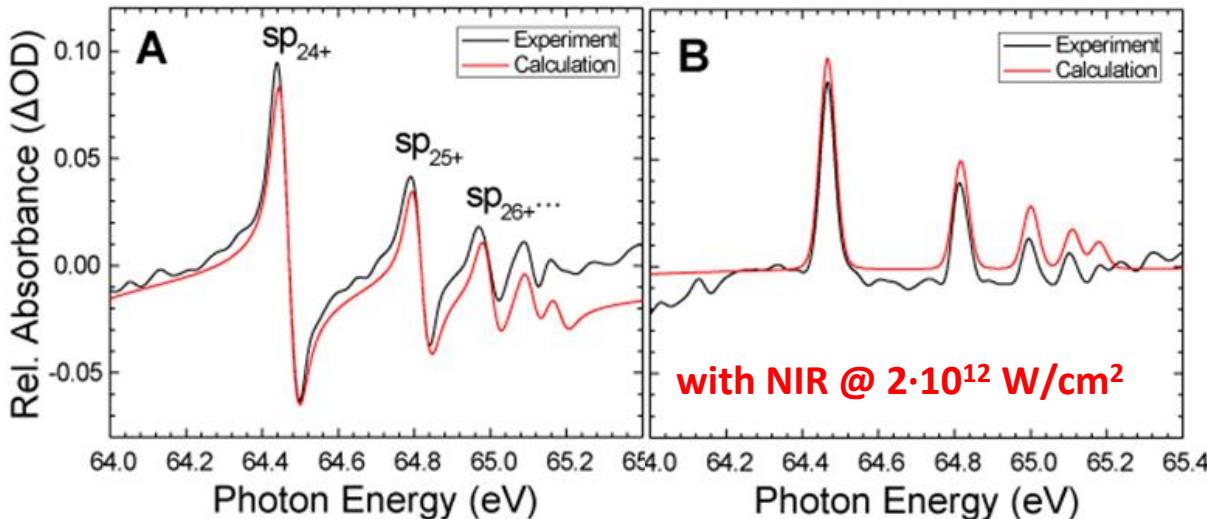
(for dilute media, i.e. not too dense)

**Maxwell's propagation of radiation fields; refractive index; phase matching and phase sensitivity; interference!**

# Controlling spectral lineshapes (Fano <> Lorentz)

in the helium atom

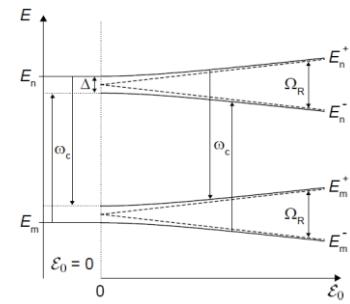
Control the phase of autoionizing two-electron (Fano) dipole response



$$\sigma \propto \frac{(q + \varepsilon)^2}{1 + \varepsilon^2}$$

$$\varphi(\mathbf{q}) = 2\arg(\mathbf{q} - i)$$

$$\mathbf{q}(\varphi) = -\cot\left(\frac{\varphi}{2}\right)$$



- selectively modify the two-electron excited state before autoionization happens

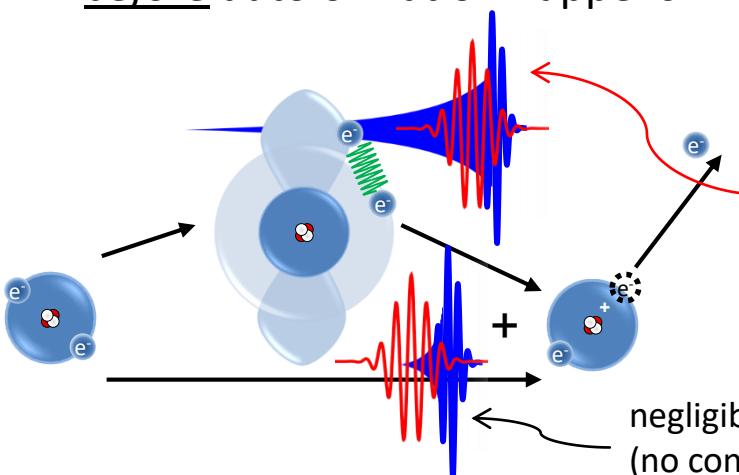
coherent sum:  
bound & continuum XUV dipole response

NIR-induced energy shift  $\Delta E(t)$  [e.g., AC Stark, Rabi, strong-field effects] of excited-state (dipole response):

$$\Delta\varphi \sim \int dt \frac{\Delta E(t)}{T_{\text{NIR}}}$$

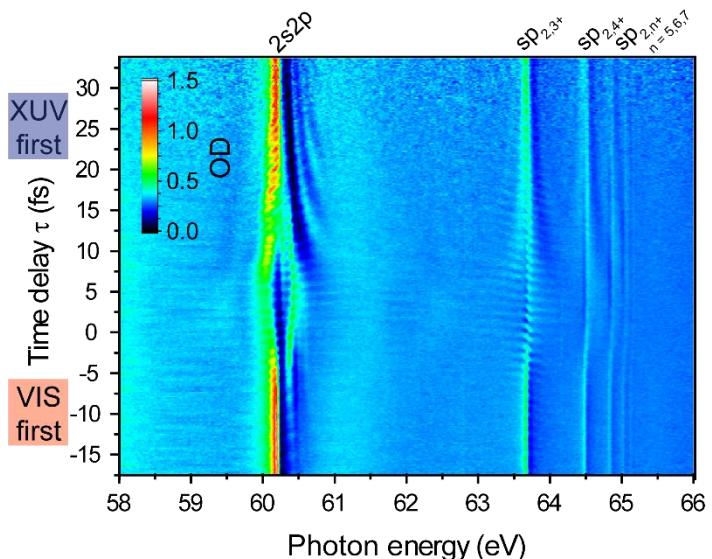
negligible  
(no continuum dipole during NIR)

C.Ott et al., Science **340**, 716 (2013)



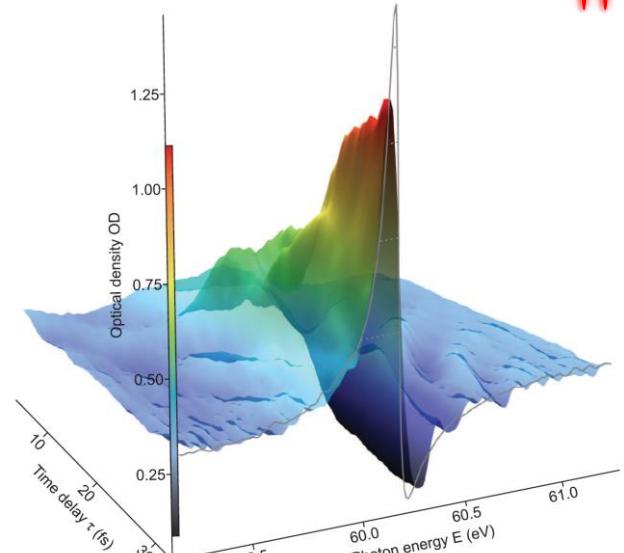
# A real-time view into two-electron dynamics

Observing and  
controlling a two-  
electron wavepacket



C. Ott et al., Nature **516**, 374 (2014)

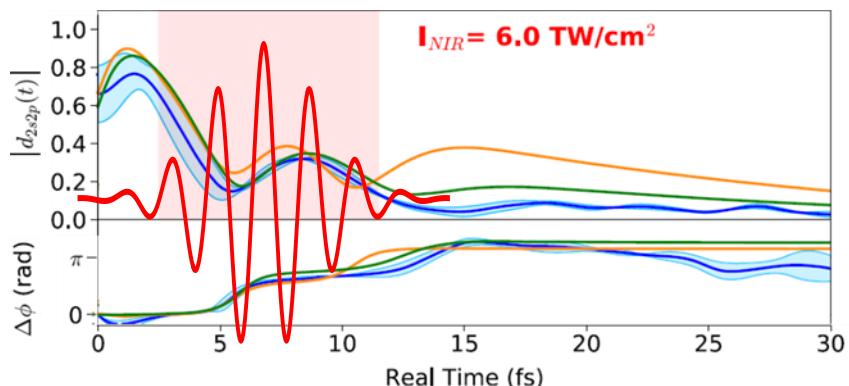
Buildup of a Fano  
spectral lineshape

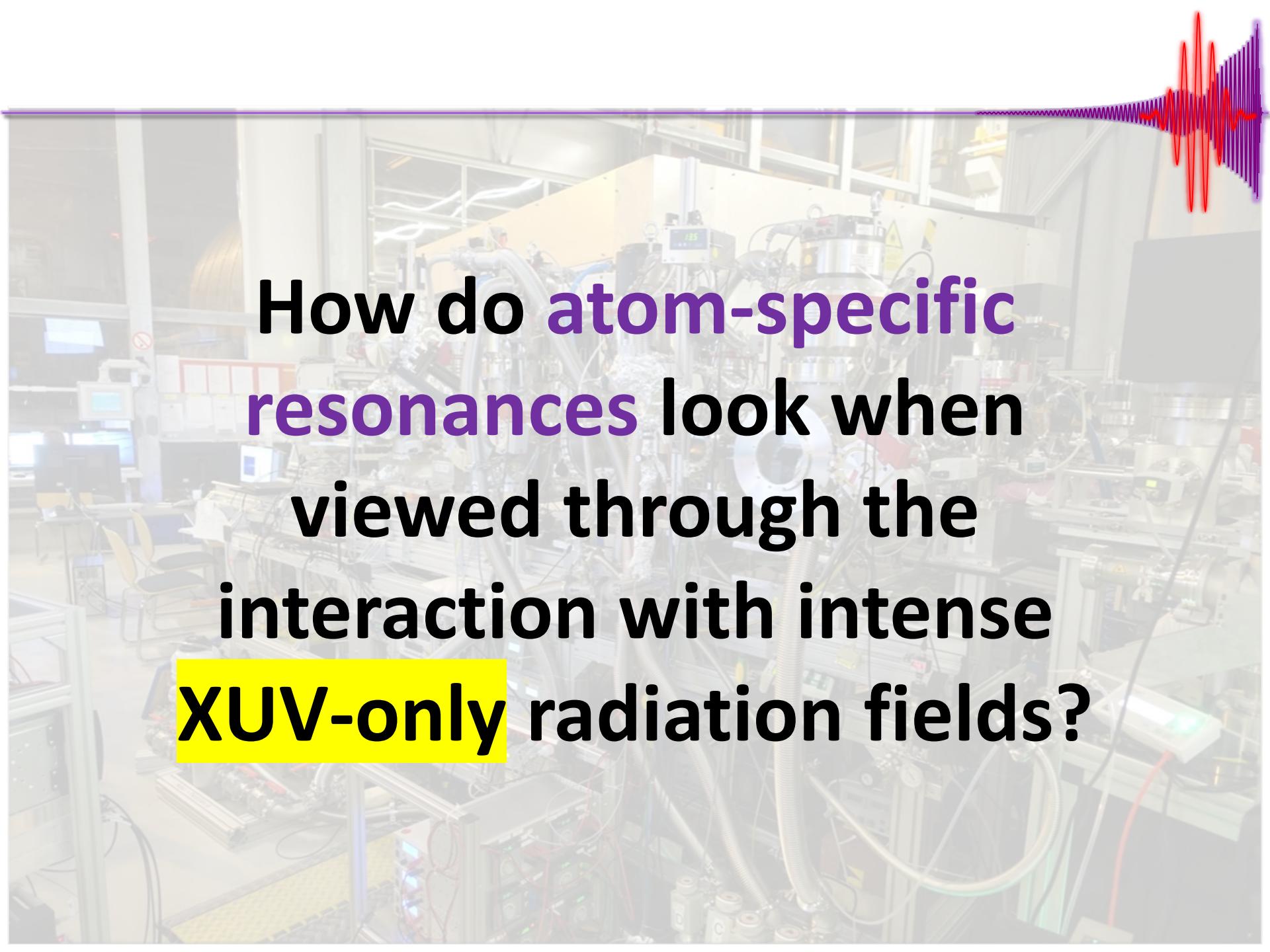


A. Kaldun, A. Blättermann et al.,  
Science **354**, 738 (2016)

A view into laser-  
driven (Rabi cycling)  
two-electron  
dynamics

V. Stooß et al., PRL **121**, 173005 (2018)

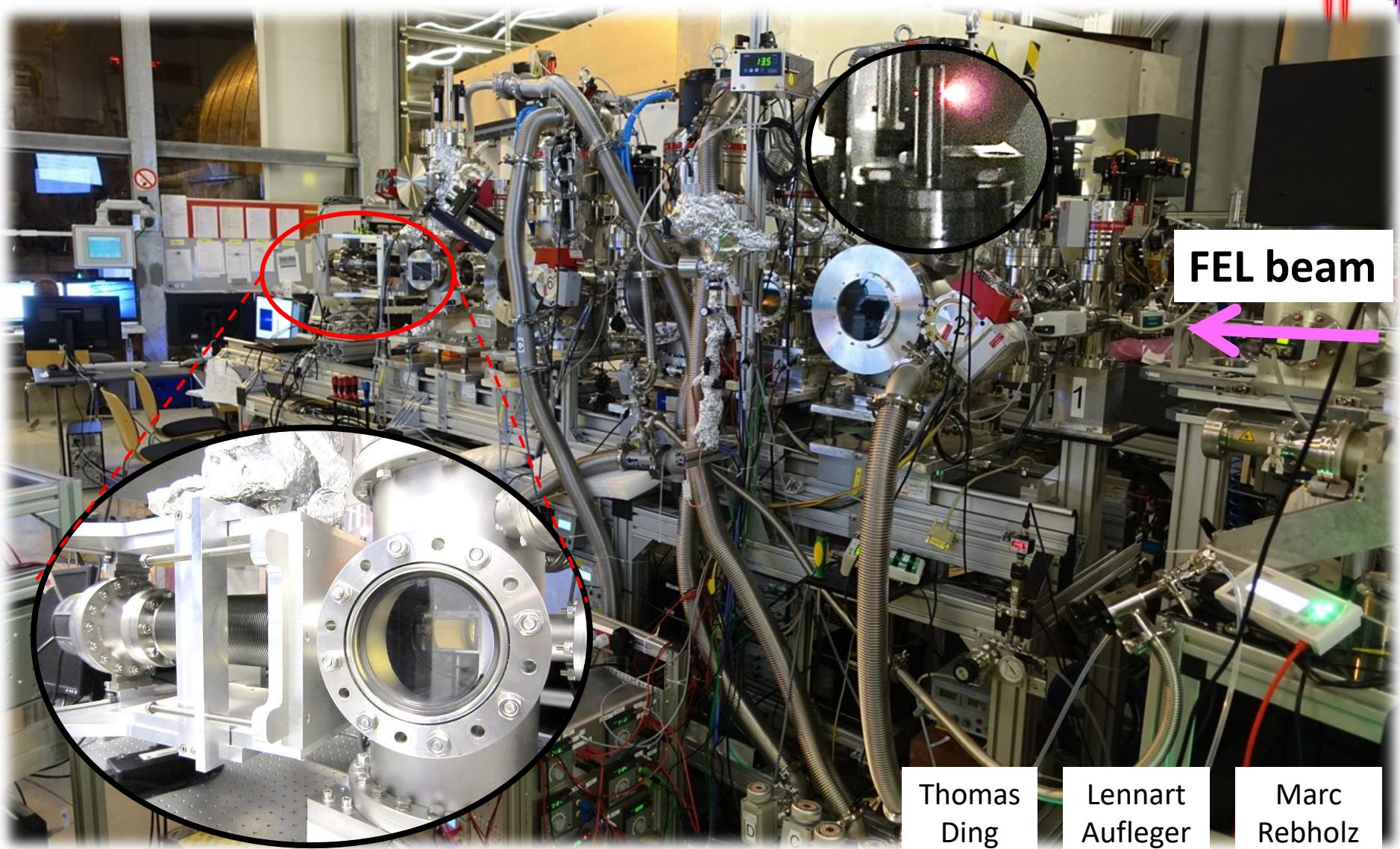




How do atom-specific  
resonances look when  
viewed through the  
interaction with intense  
**XUV-only** radiation fields?

# The experimental apparatus @ FLASH, BL2

Free-Electron-Laser @DESY in Hamburg, Germany



Thomas  
Ding

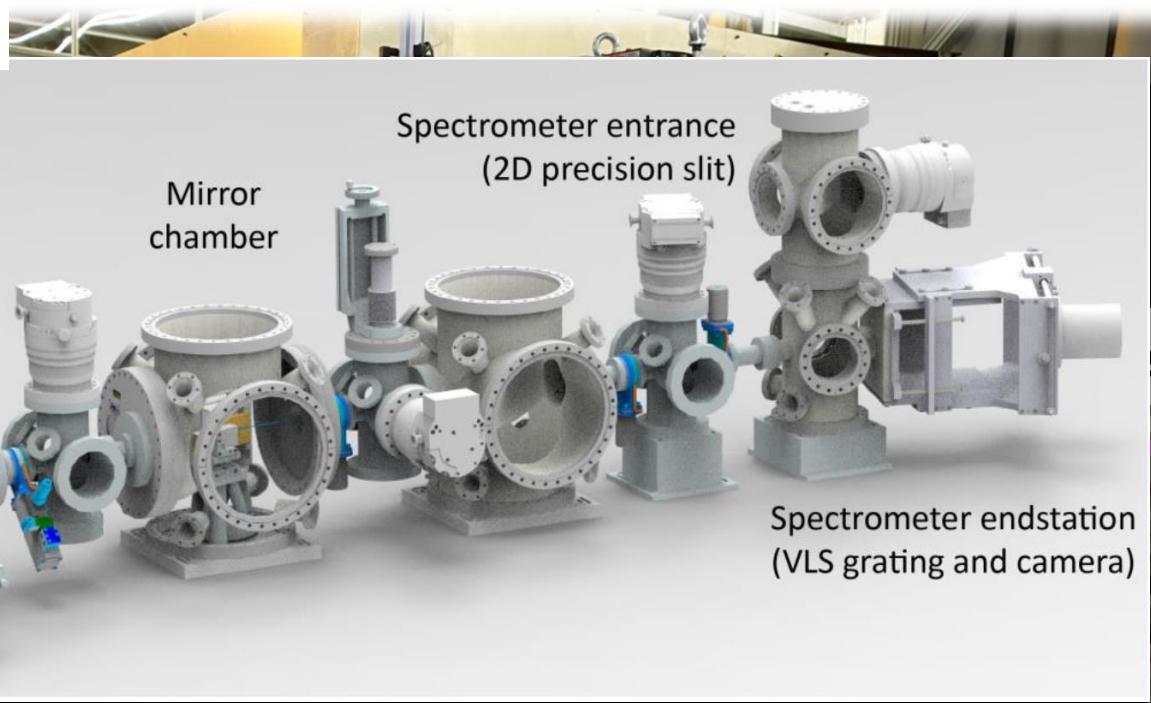
Lennart  
Aufleger

Marc  
Rebholz

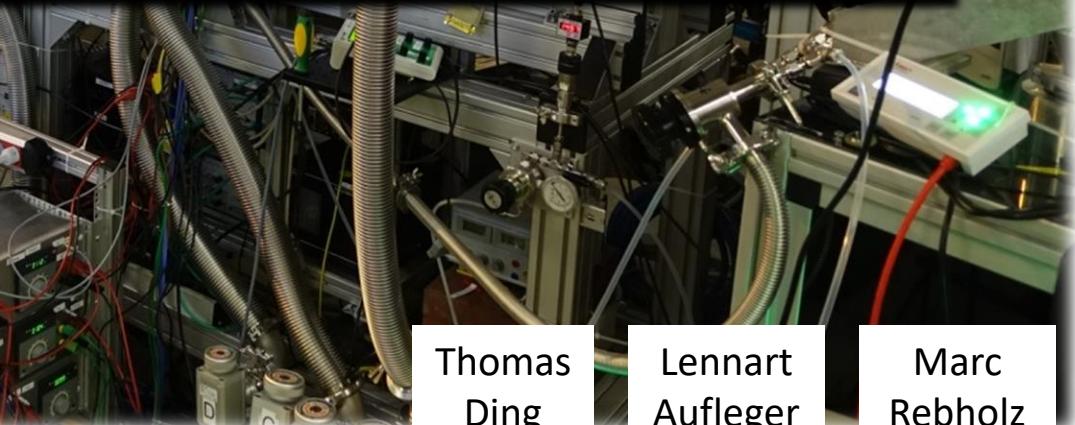
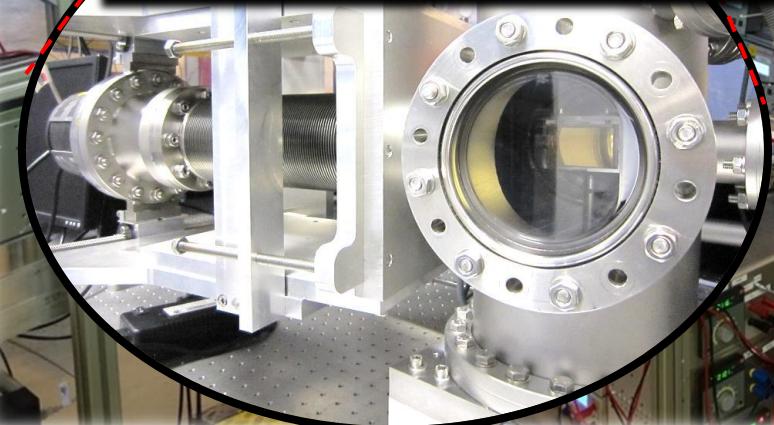
# The experimental apparatus @ FLASH, BL2

T. Ding, M. Rebholz, L. Aufleger, et al.,  
Faraday Discuss., 2021, **228**, 519-536  
<https://doi.org/10.1039/D0FD00107D>

Free-Electron-Laser @DESY in Hamburg, Germany



am

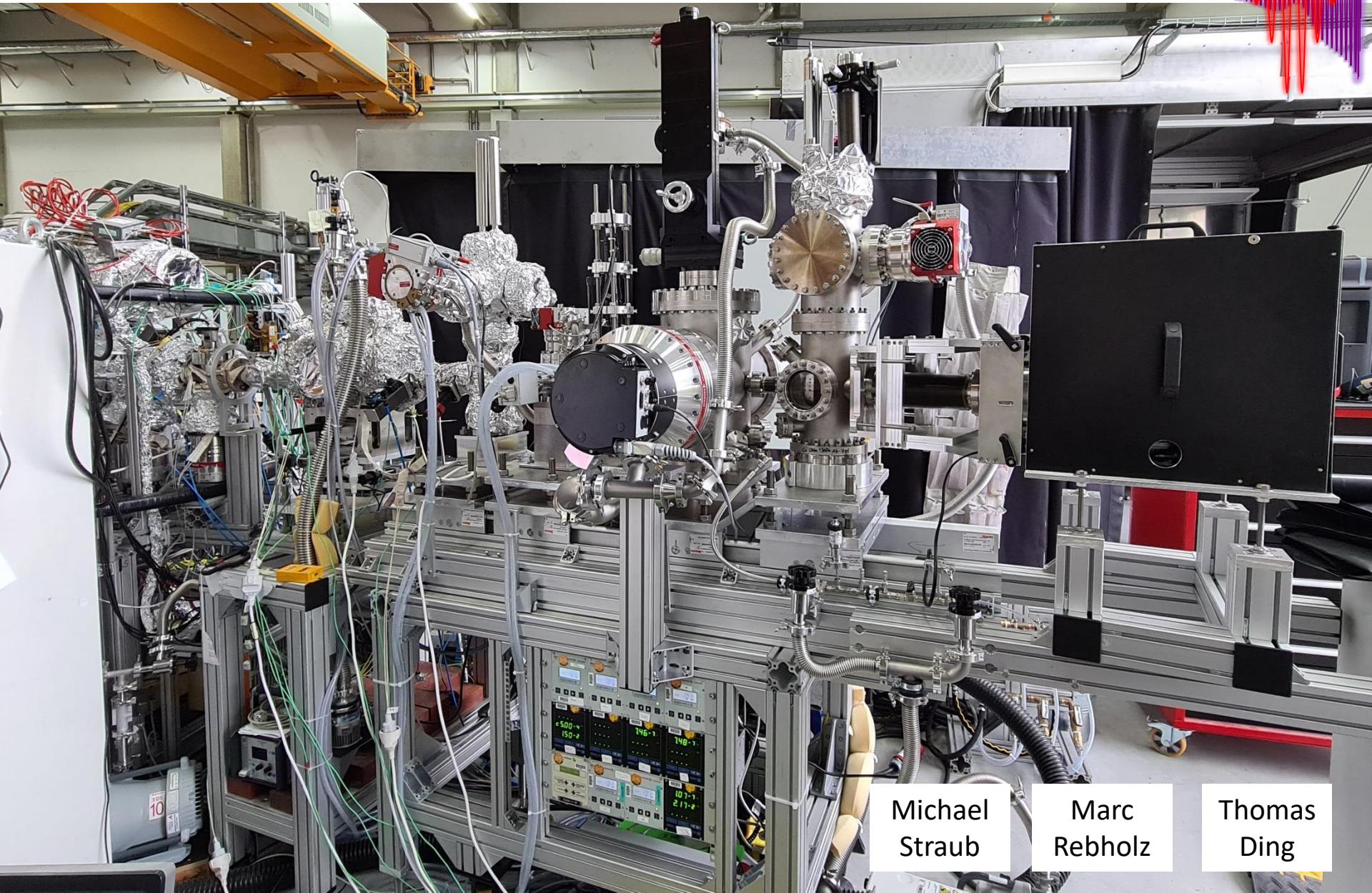


Thomas  
Ding

Lennart  
Aufleger

Marc  
Rebholz

... now installed at FL26 behind REMI at FLASH2

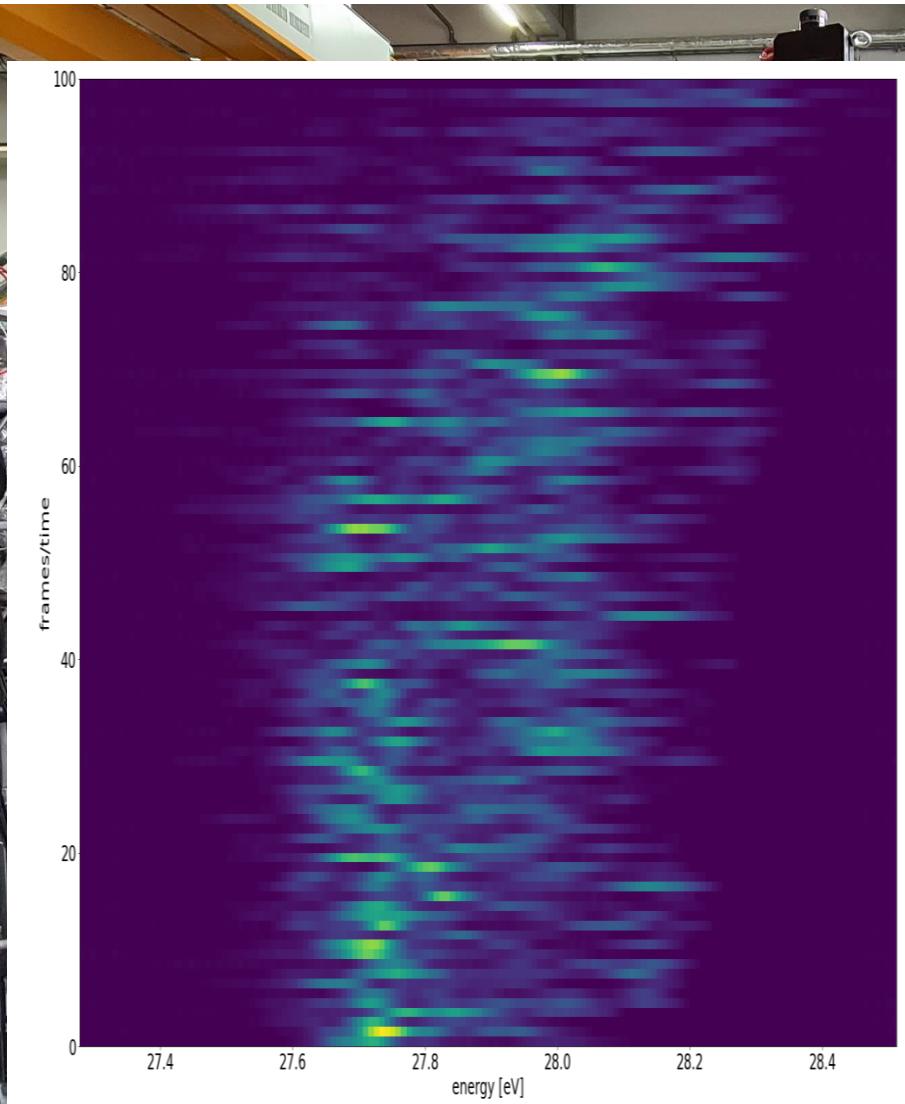


Michael  
Straub

Marc  
Rebholz

Thomas  
Ding

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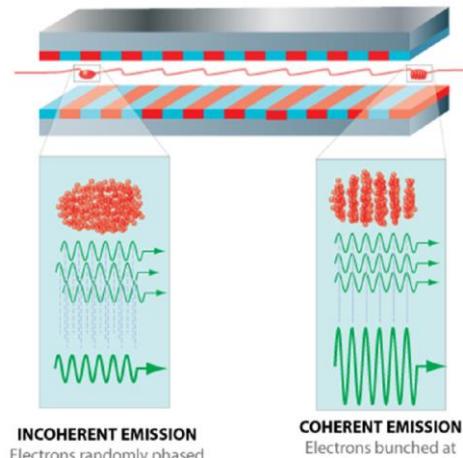


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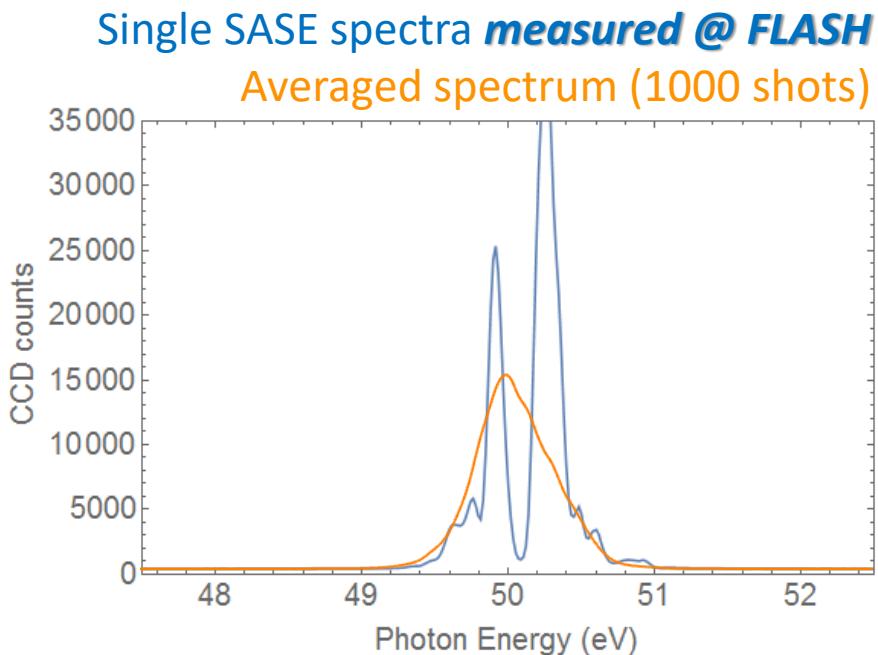
Thomas  
Ding

# Partially coherent SASE FEL Pulses

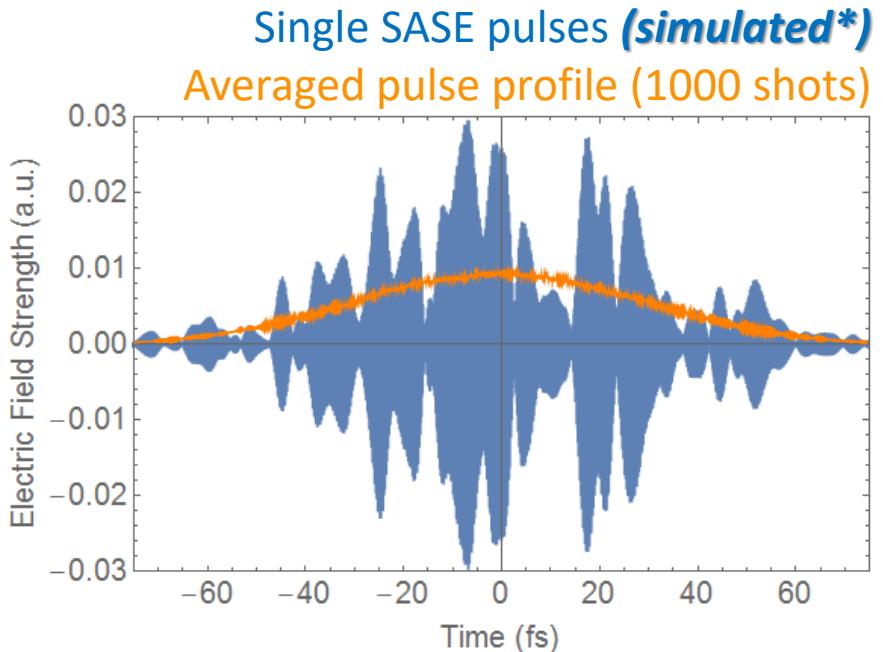


**Self-amplified spontaneous emission:  
XUV-FEL pulses amplified from noise,  
temporally constrained to electron bunch  
duration (-> partial coherence)**

Seddon *et al* 2017 *Rep. Prog. Phys.* **80** 115901

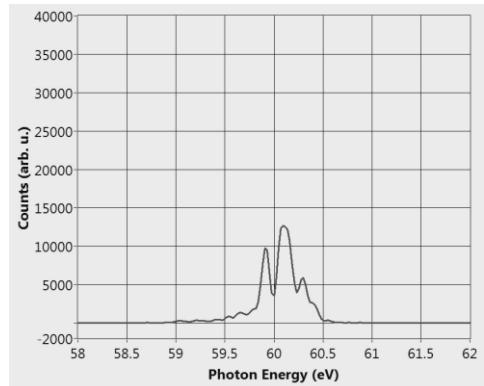
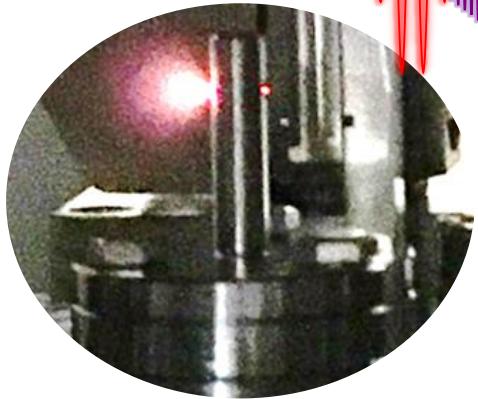


\*Partial-coherence model:  
T. Pfeifer *et al.*, Opt. Lett. **35**, 3441-3443 (2010)

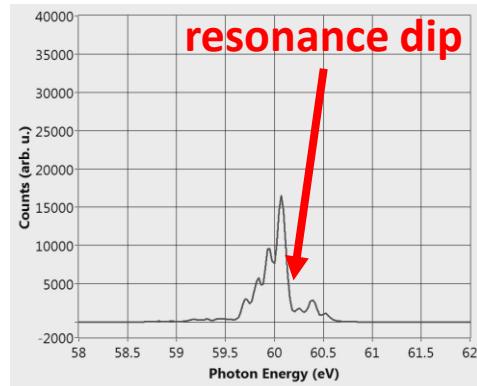
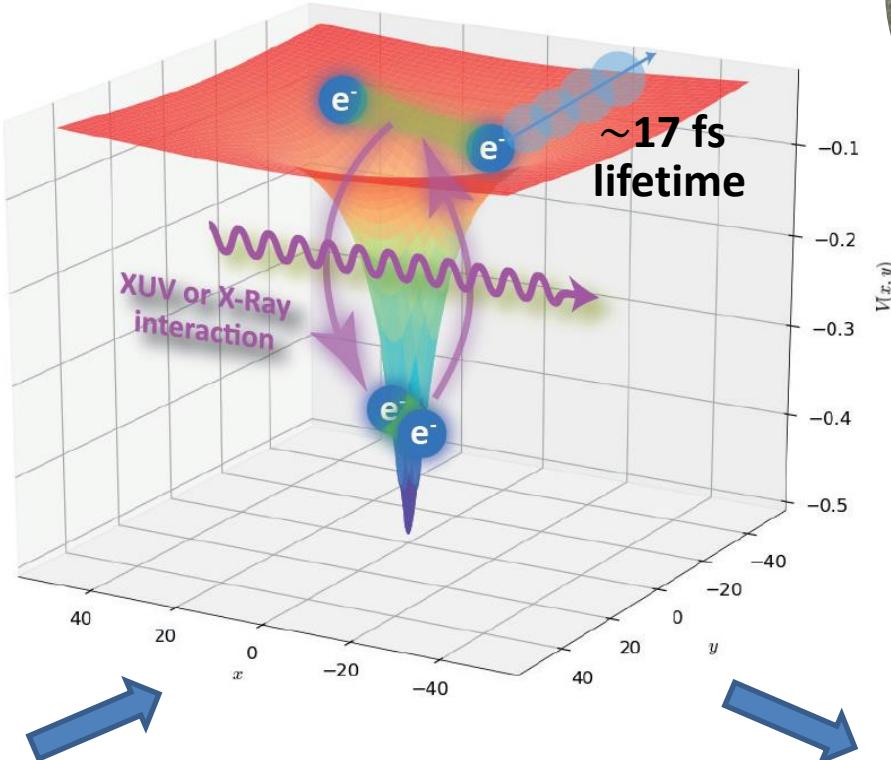


# Intense XUV at Free-Electron Laser in Hamburg (FLASH)

A one-photon two-electron transition in helium viewed in intense XUV light



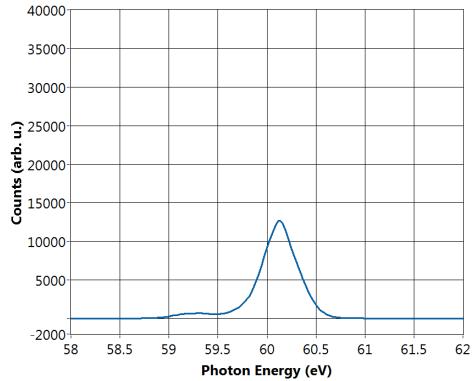
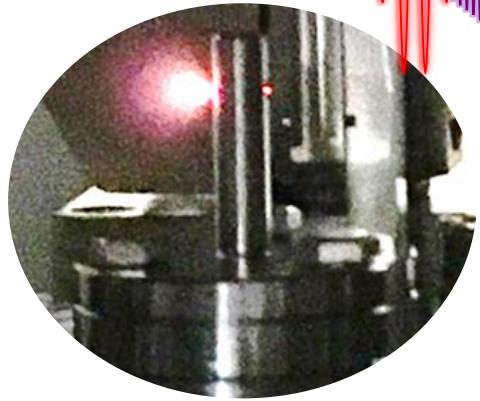
incident



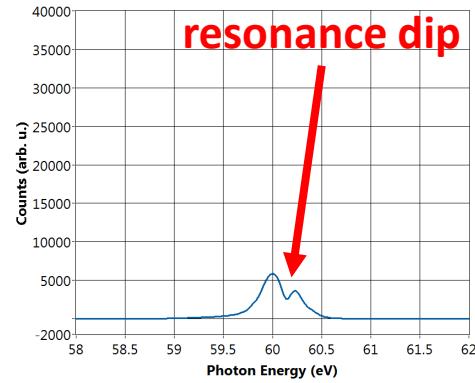
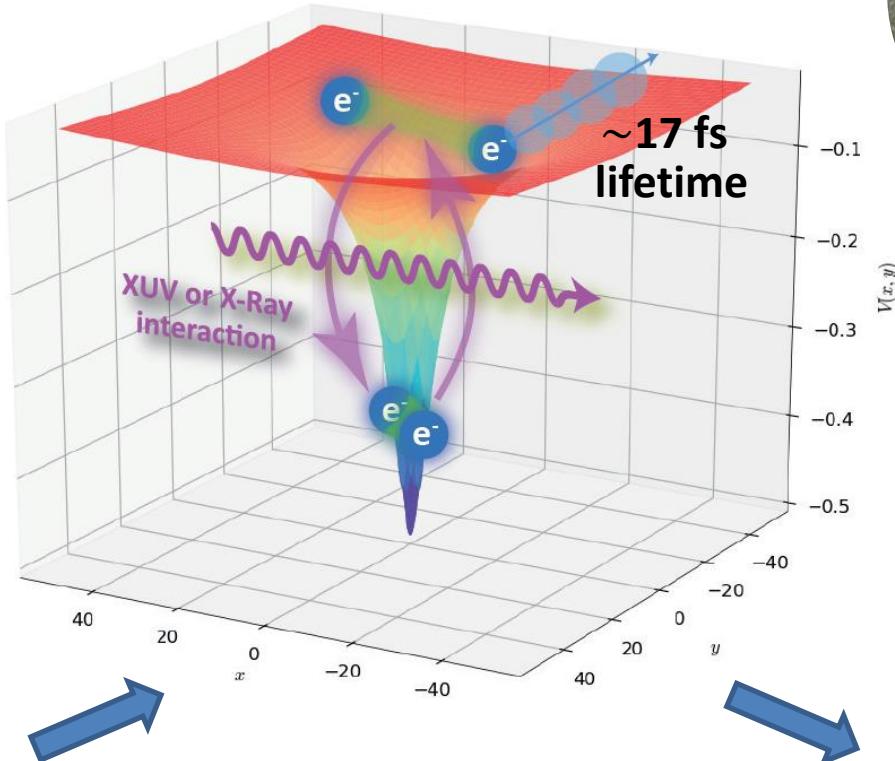
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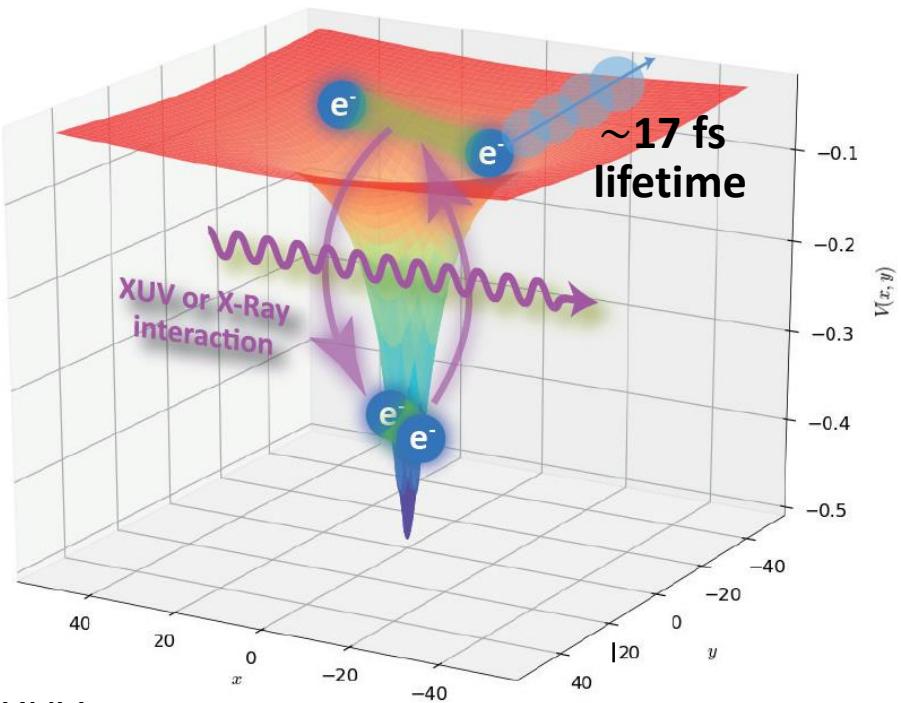


incident



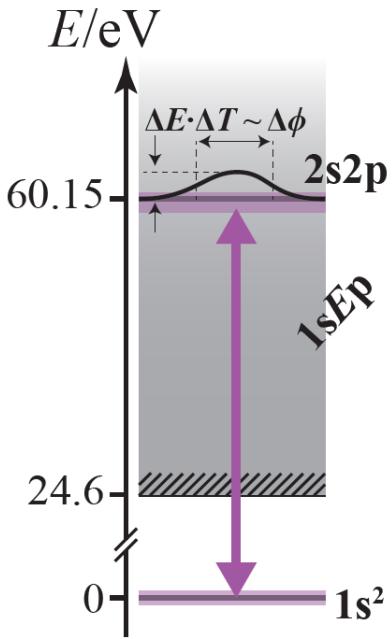
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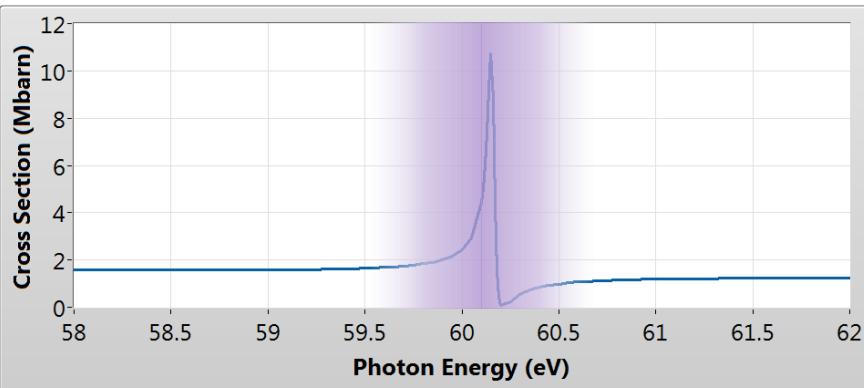


## XUV parameters:

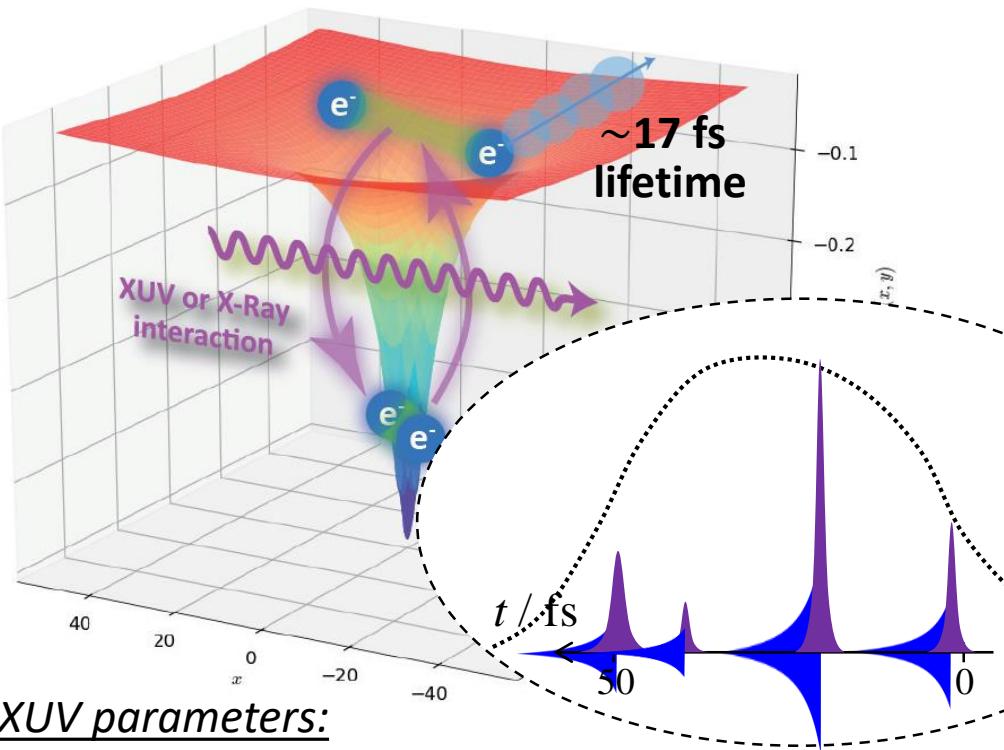
- rep. rate: single bunch (10 Hz)  
pulse energy: up to  $\sim 50 \mu\text{J}$  on target  
focused beam size:  $\sim 25 \mu\text{m}$   
photon fluence:  $\rightarrow$  up to  $\sim 8 \text{ J/cm}^2$   
photon energy: 60.1 eV  
SASE bandwidth:  $\sim 0.4 \text{ eV}$   
avg. duration:  $\sim 50 \dots 100 \text{ fs}$



## $1s^2 - 2s2p$ double excitation in helium

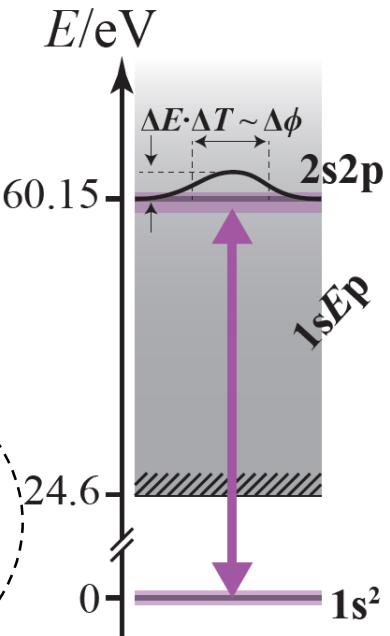


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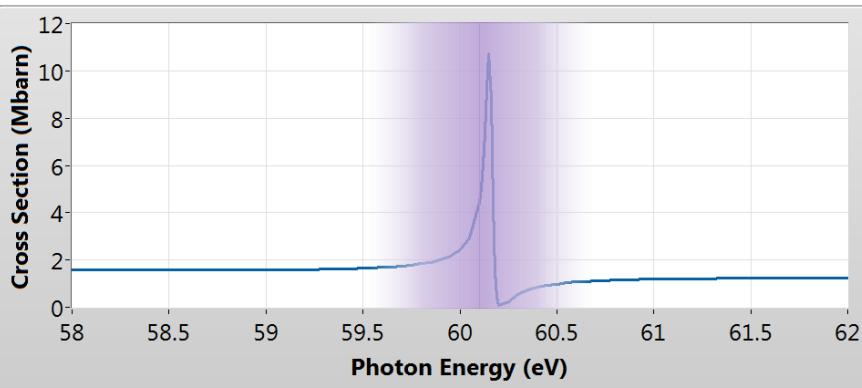


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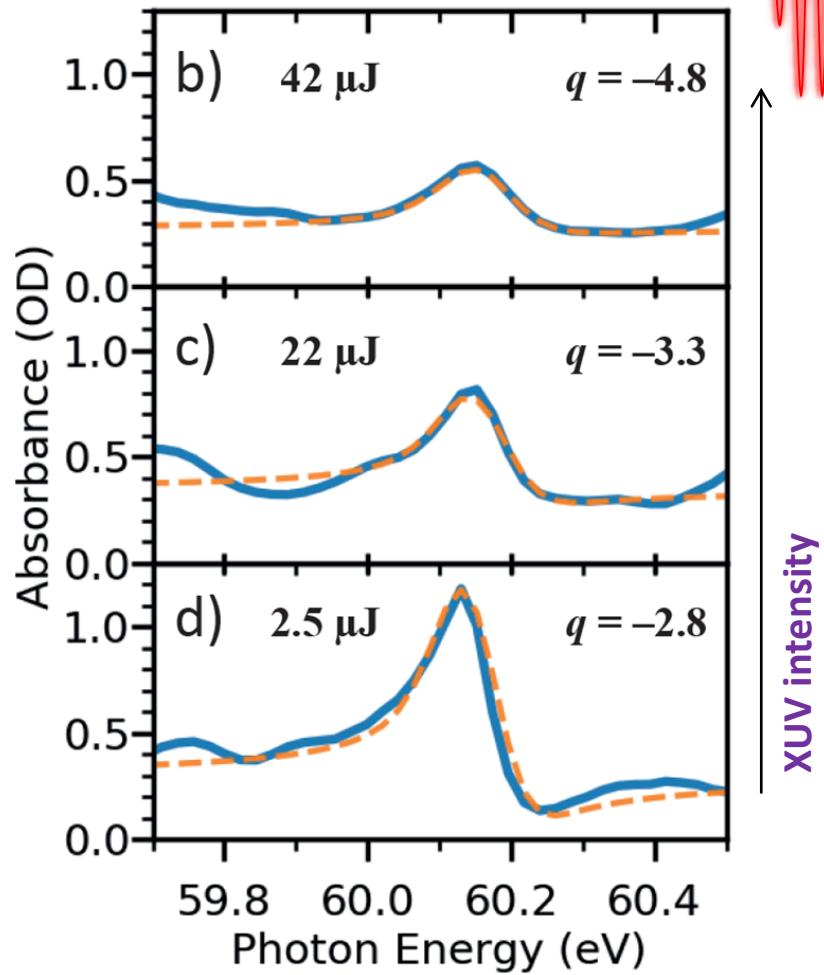
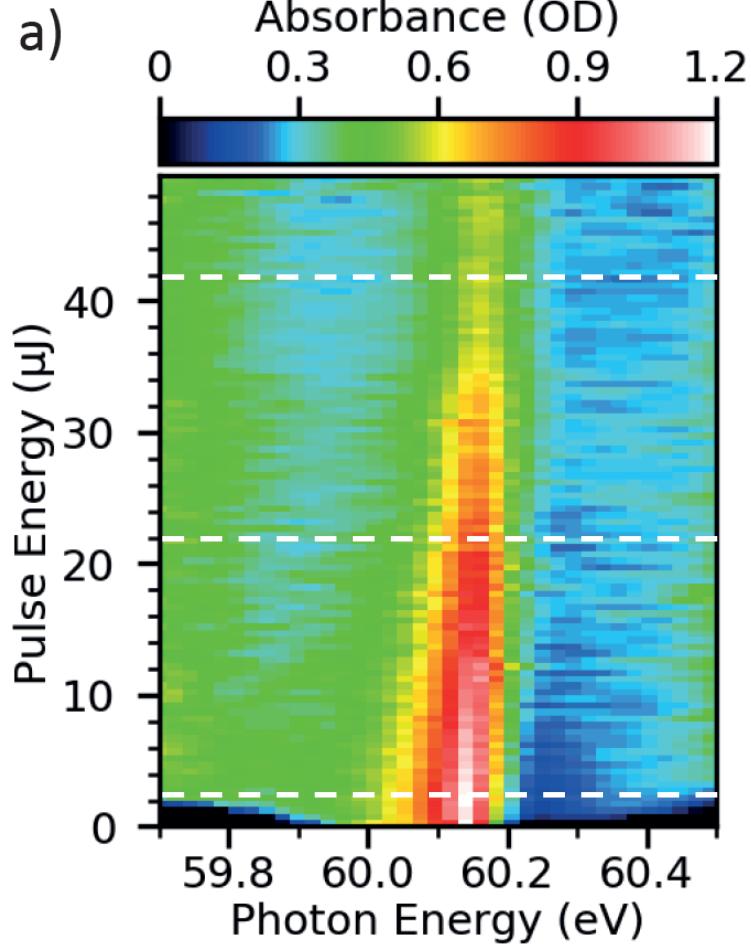
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$1s^2 - 2s2p$  double excitation in helium



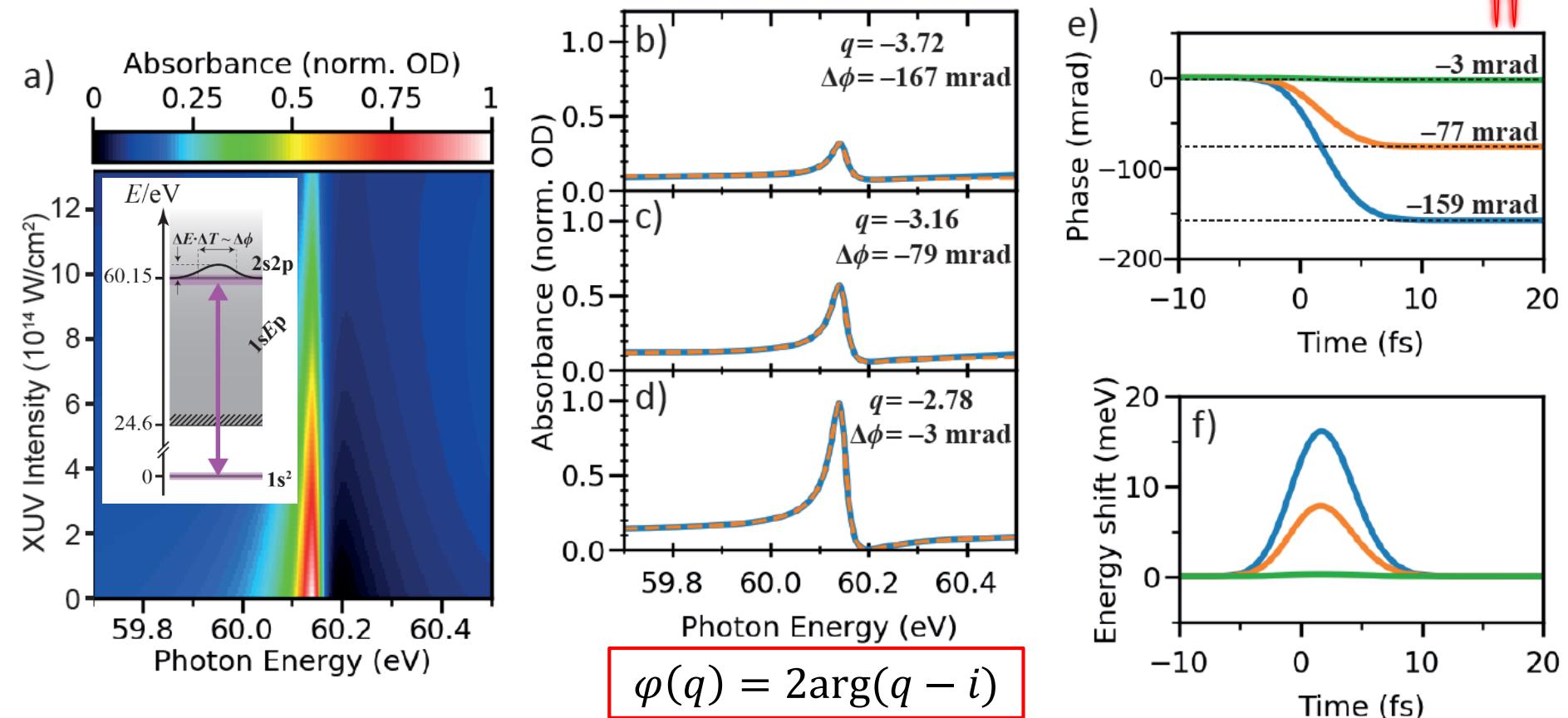
# Transient Absorption at high XUV intensity



- observe systematic trend to more symmetric lineshape

# XUV-Strong-Coupling of $1s^2$ – $2s2p$

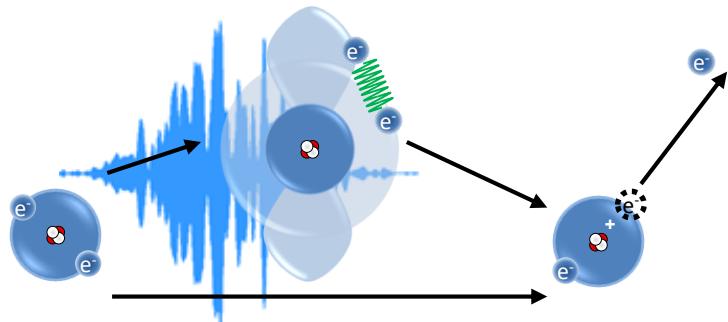
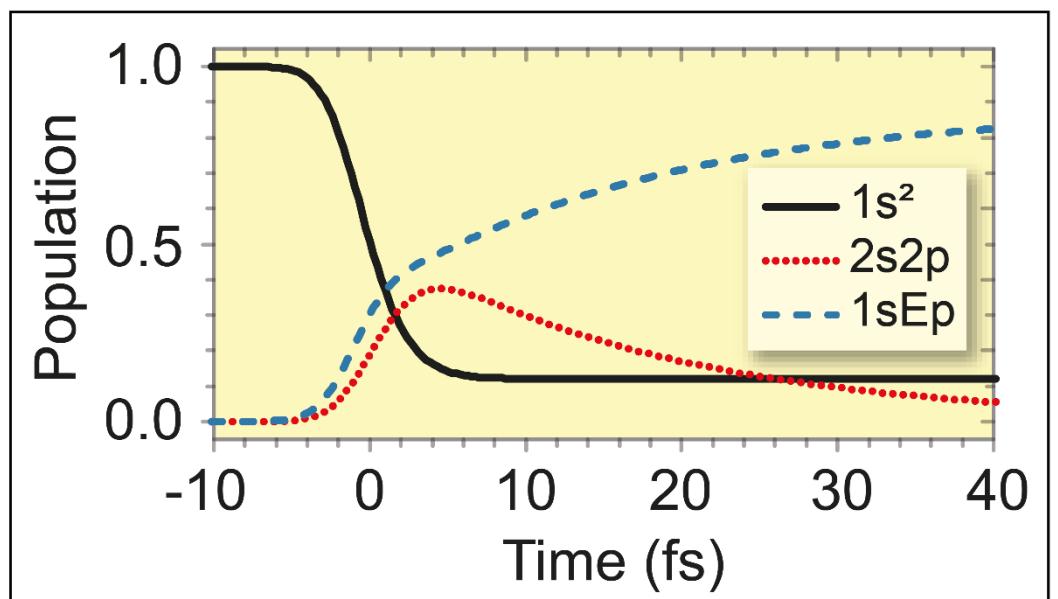
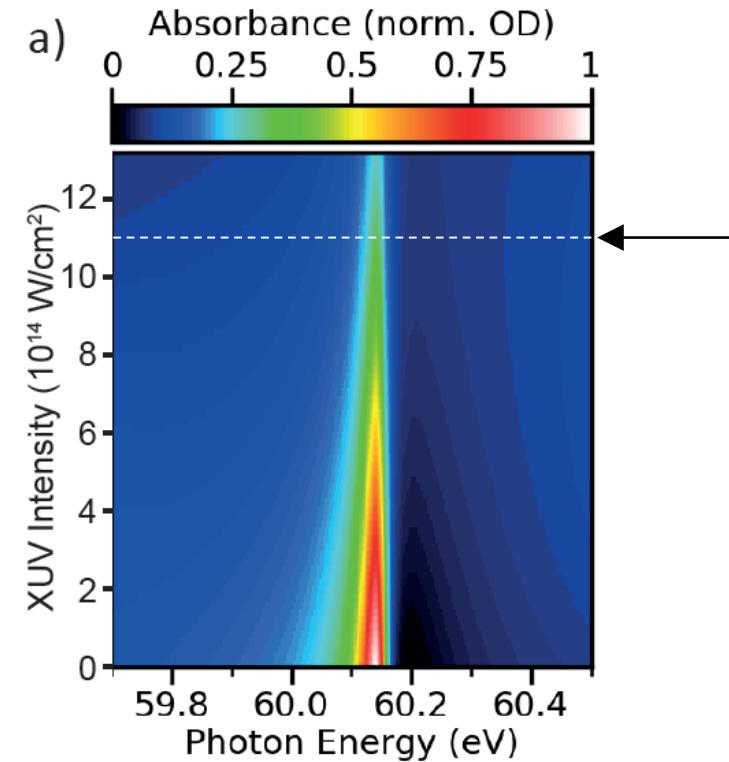
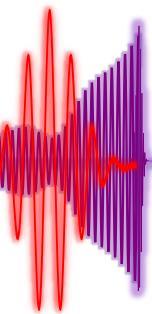
- Model with 5-fs (FWHM) Gaussian-shaped pulse centered at 60.10 eV



- XUV-induced dressing leads to transient energy shifts during short pulse
- accumulates into phase shift of the  $1s^2$  –  $2s2p$  dipole response, which can be measured through the line-shape asymmetry in transient absorption

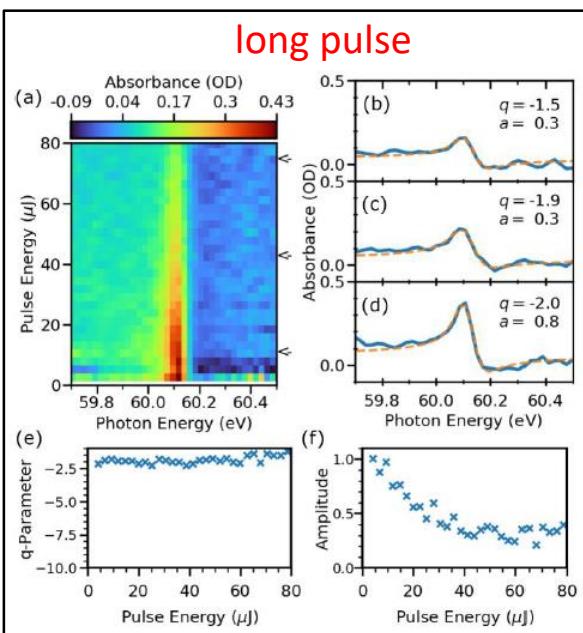
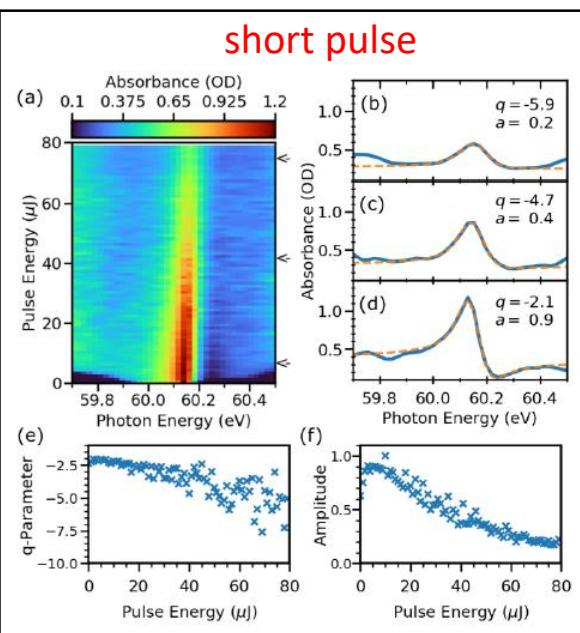
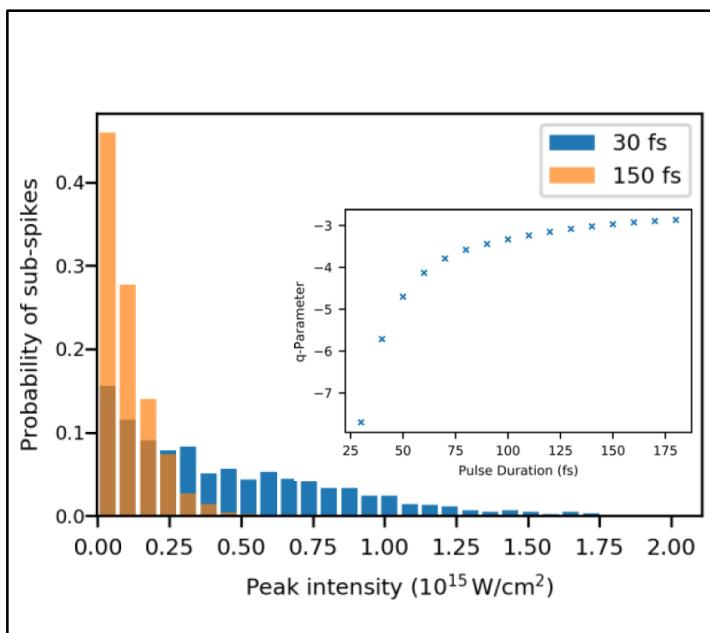
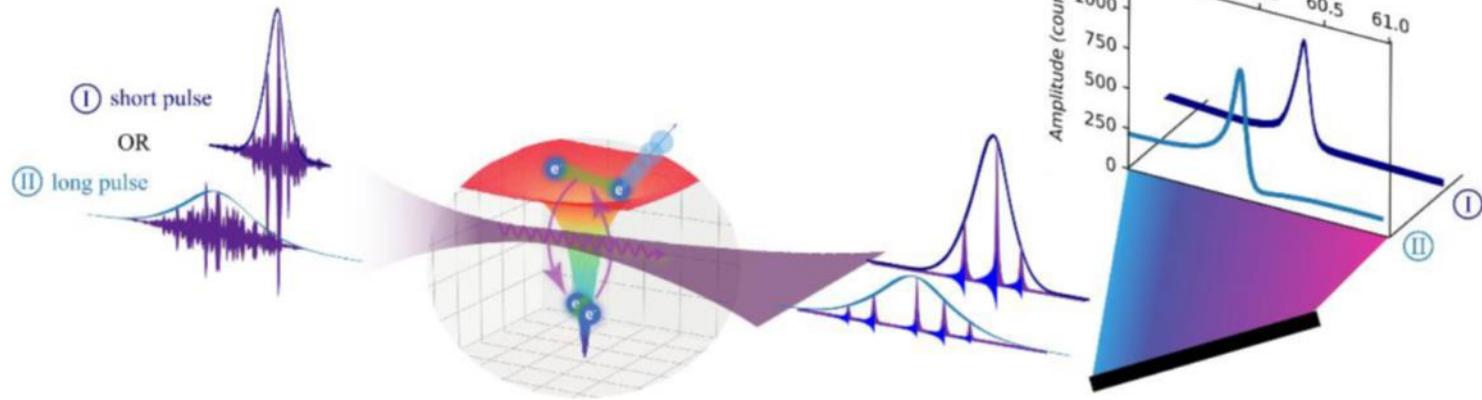
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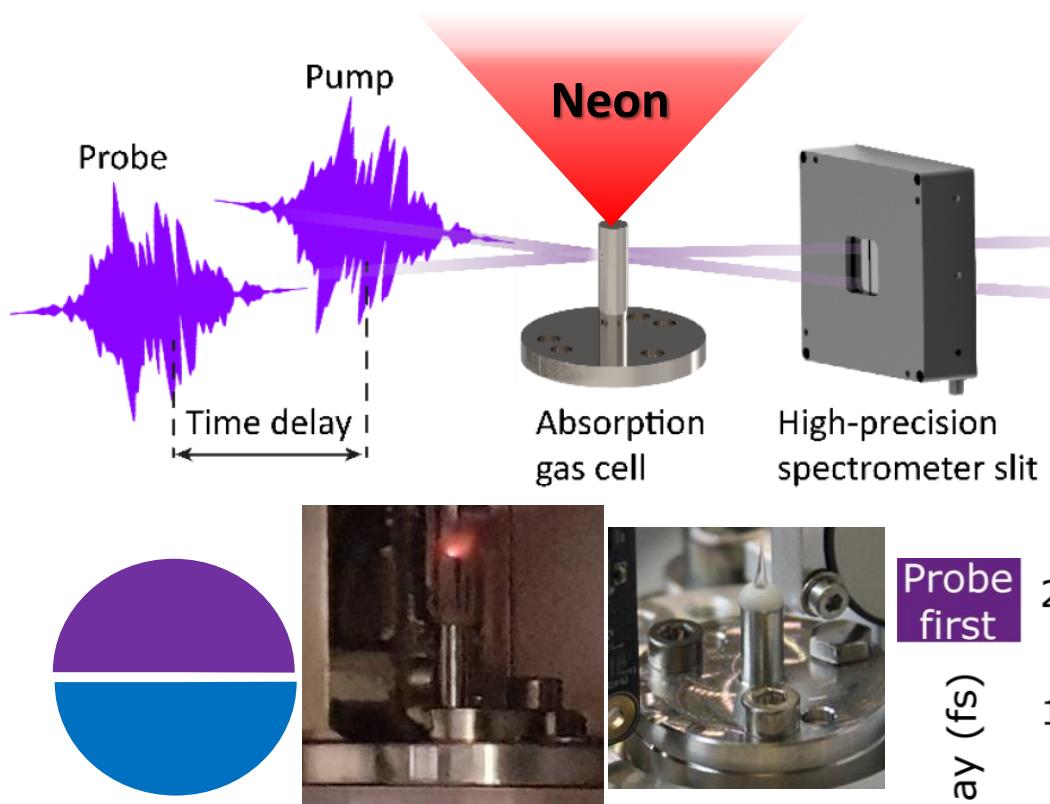


Quantum state population control of  
an autoionizing two-electron system

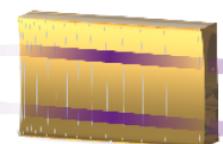
# The impact of the (SASE) FEL pulse duration



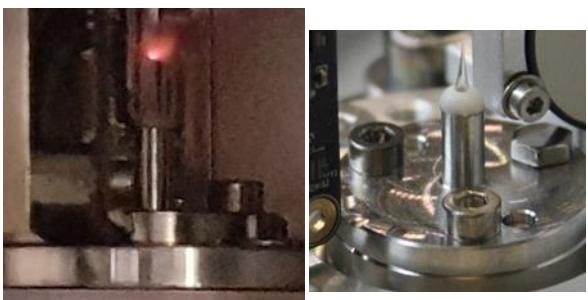
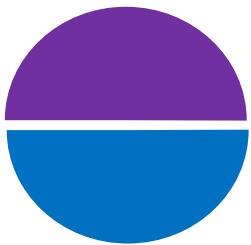
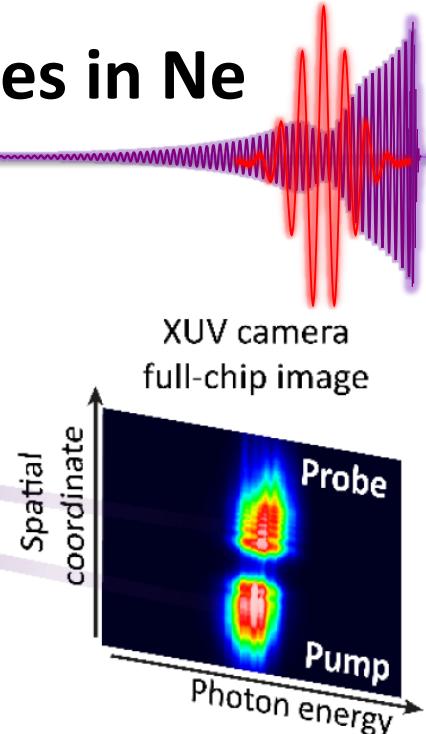
# Time-resolving resonant XUV atomic resonances in Ne



@ 50 eV

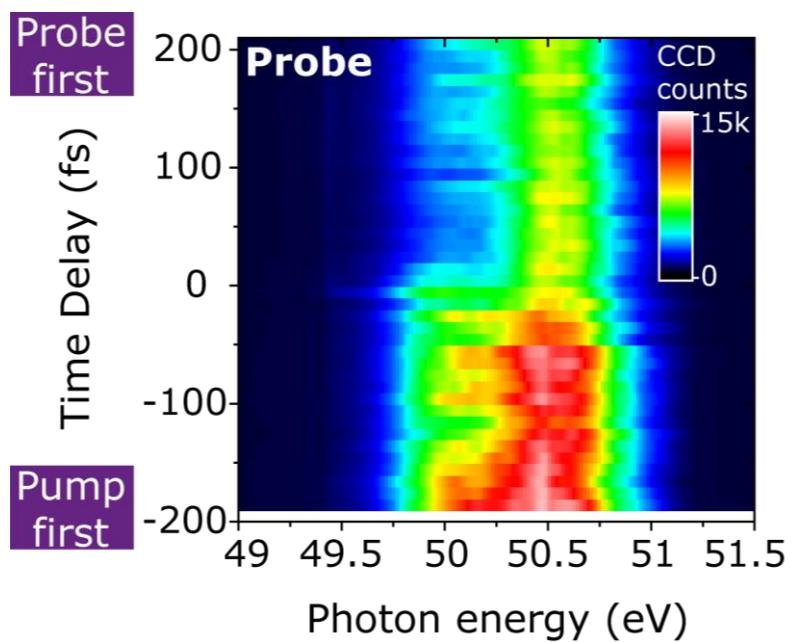


Variable-line space (VLS) grating

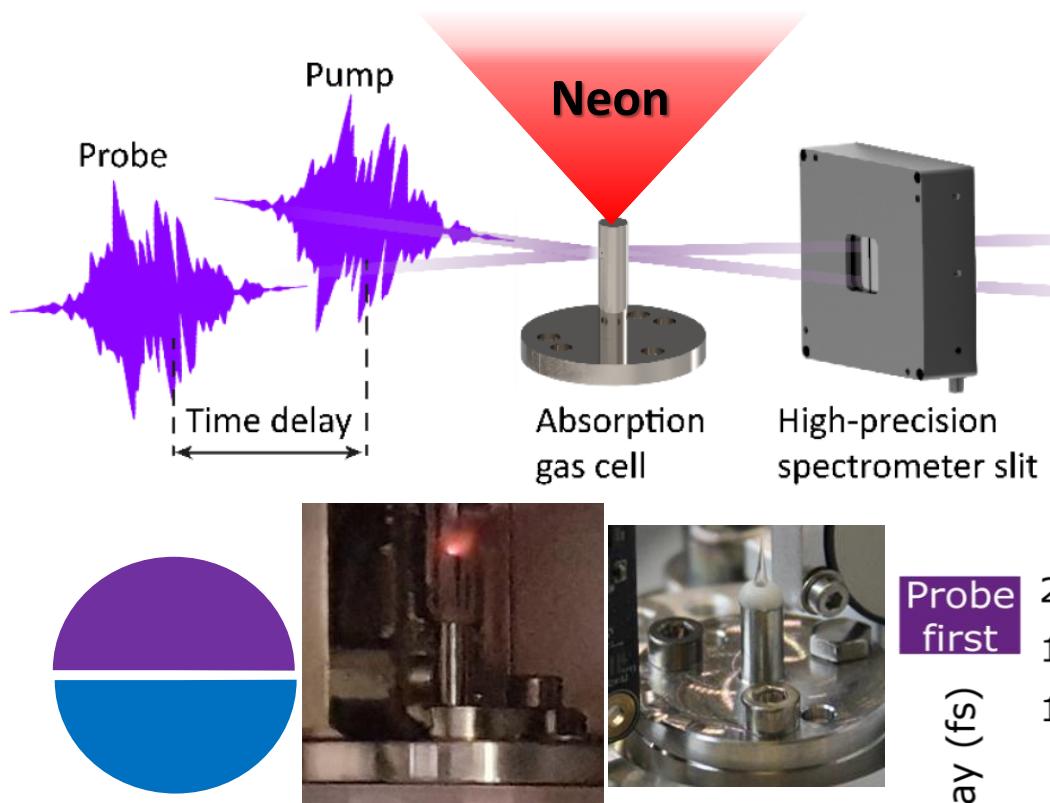


**XUV Split & Delay Unit @BL2,  
H. Zacharias, S. Roling *et al.*  
(University of Münster)**

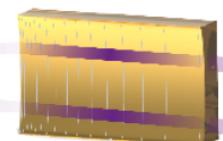
[M Wöstmann *et al.*,  
J Phys B 46, 164005 (2013)]



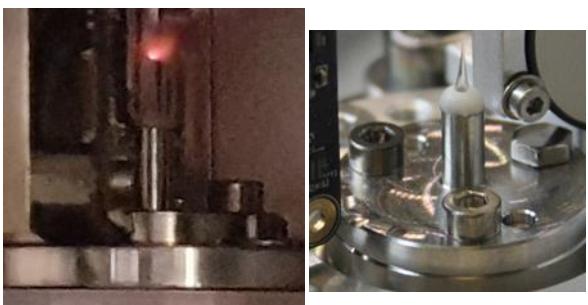
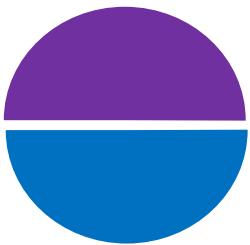
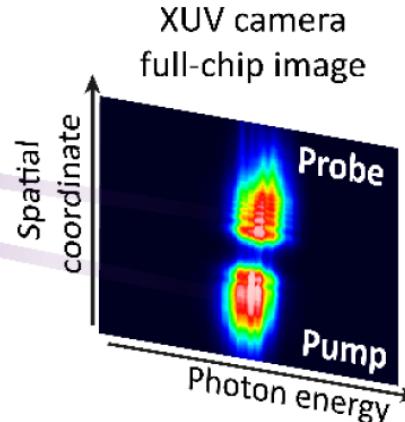
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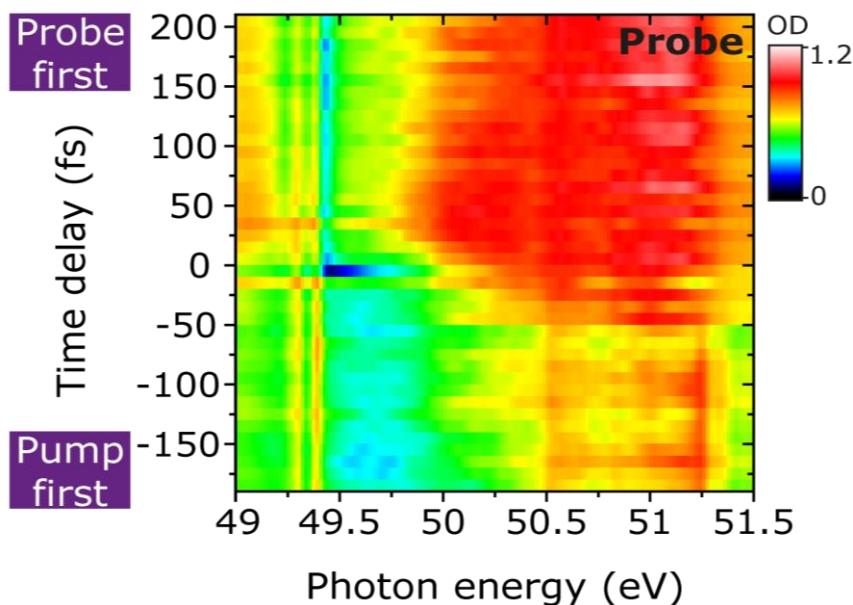


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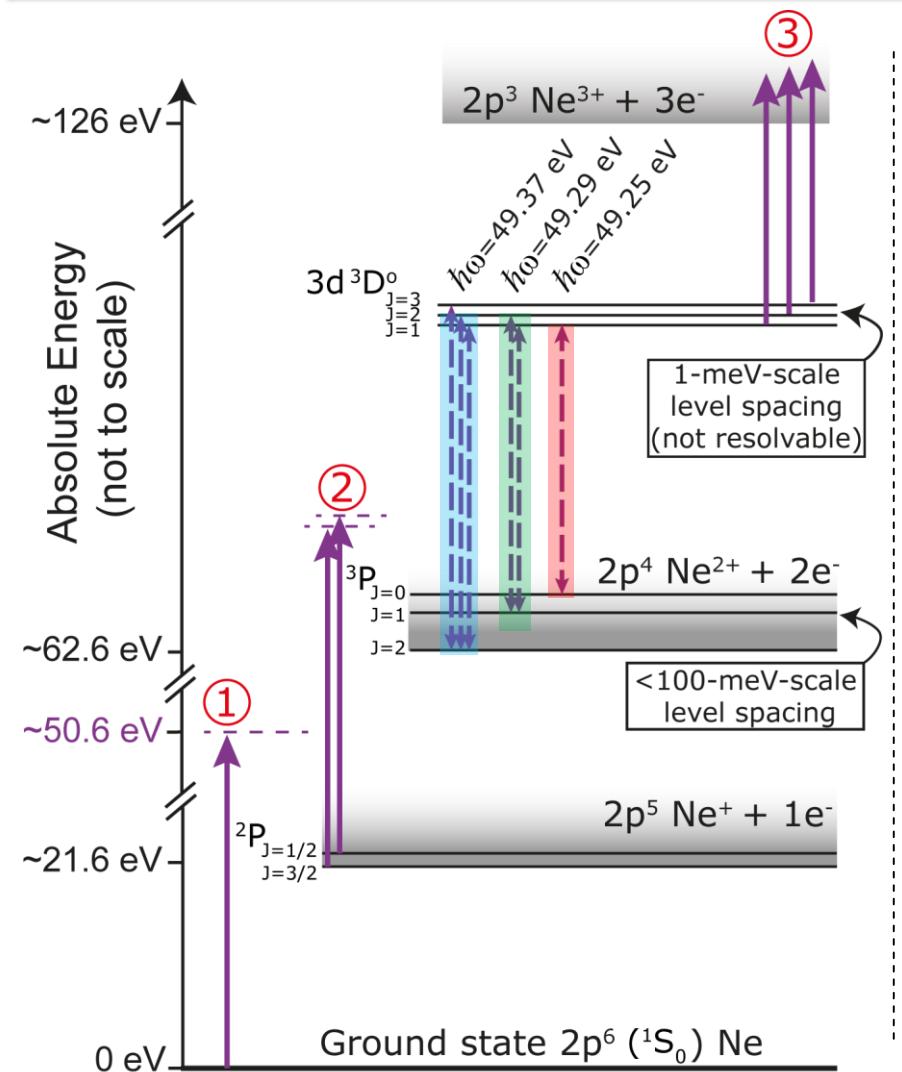


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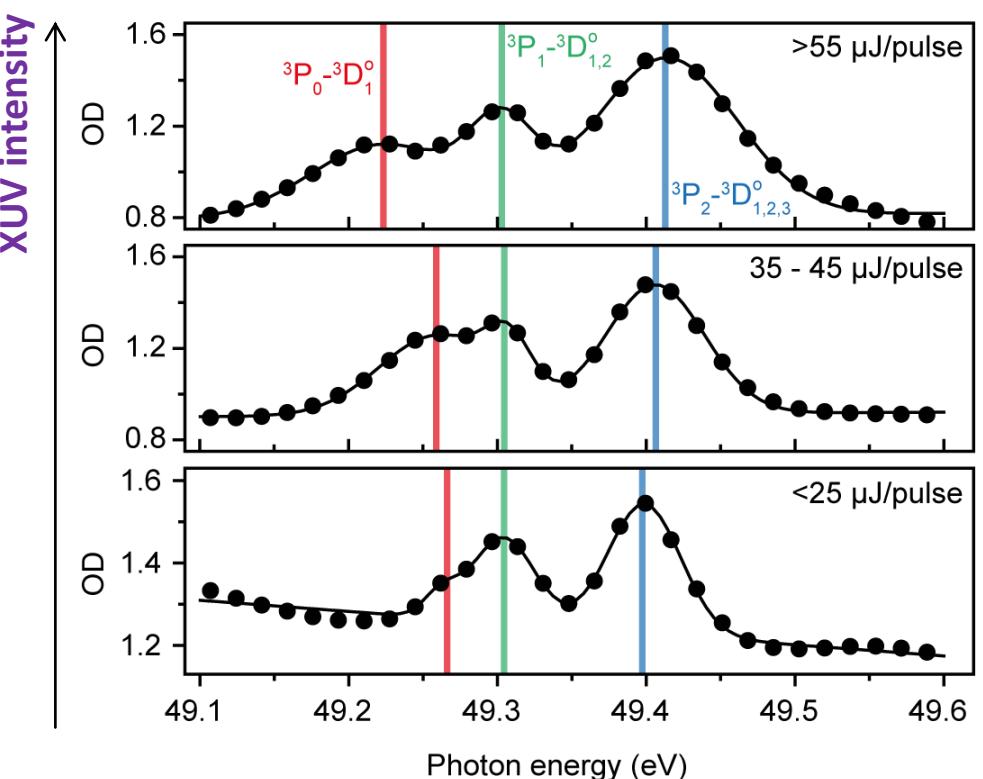


# Neon $\text{Ne}^{2+}$ ions: strongly coupled resonances @ 50 eV



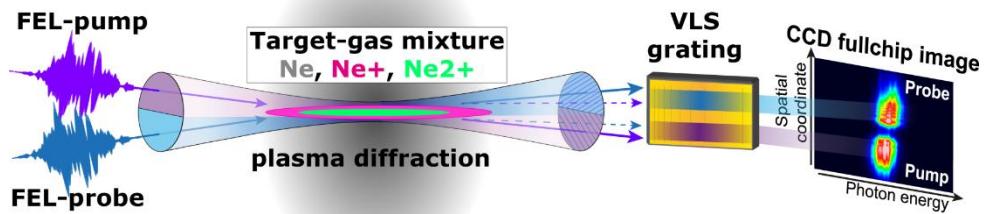
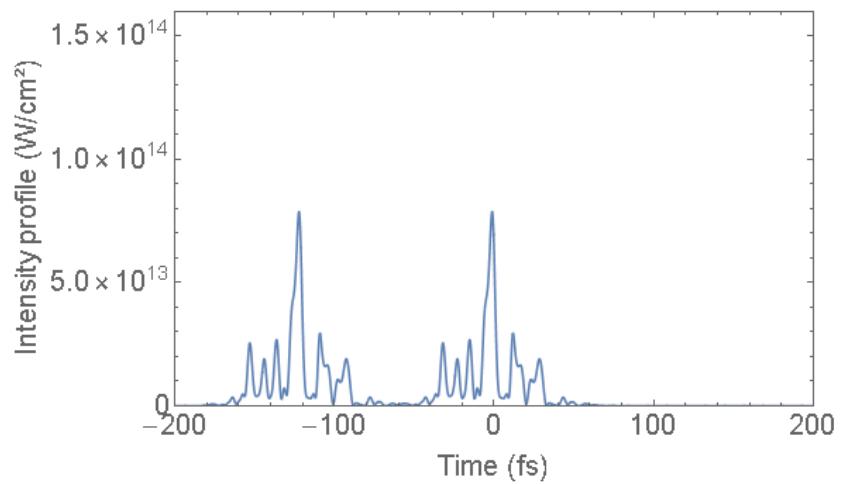
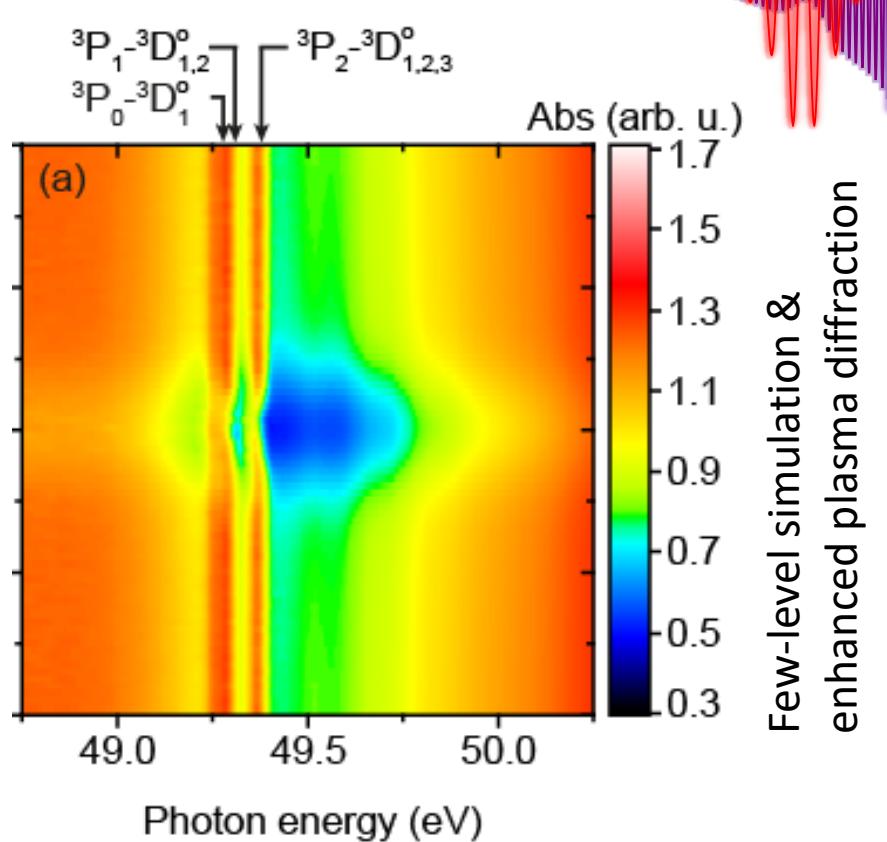
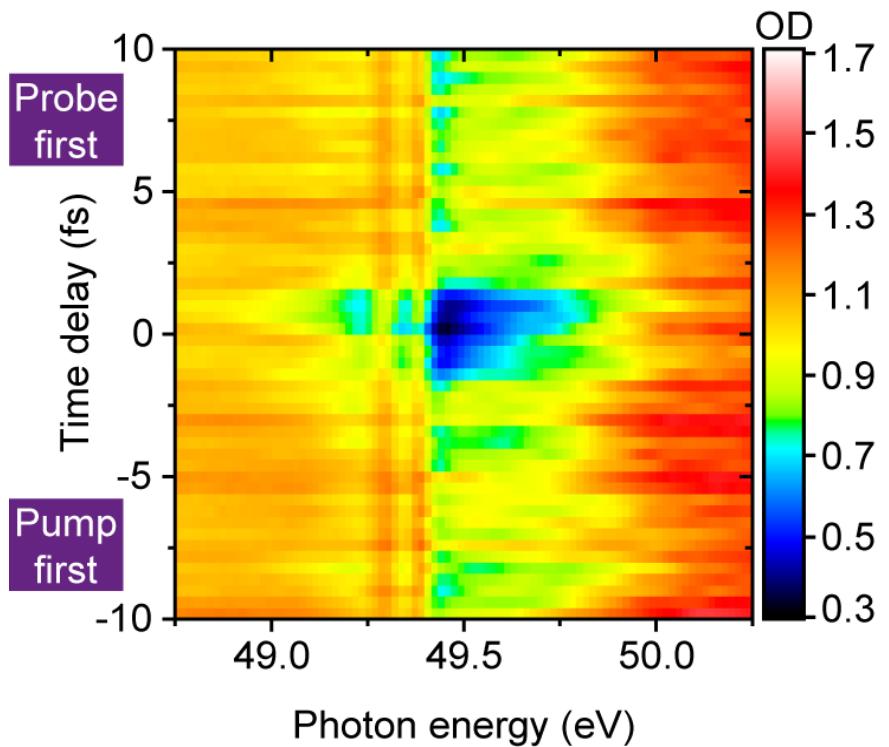
Directly identify resonances in transient ionic species, and their Stark shift

- Observation of intensity dependent resonance shifts (AC Stark effect)

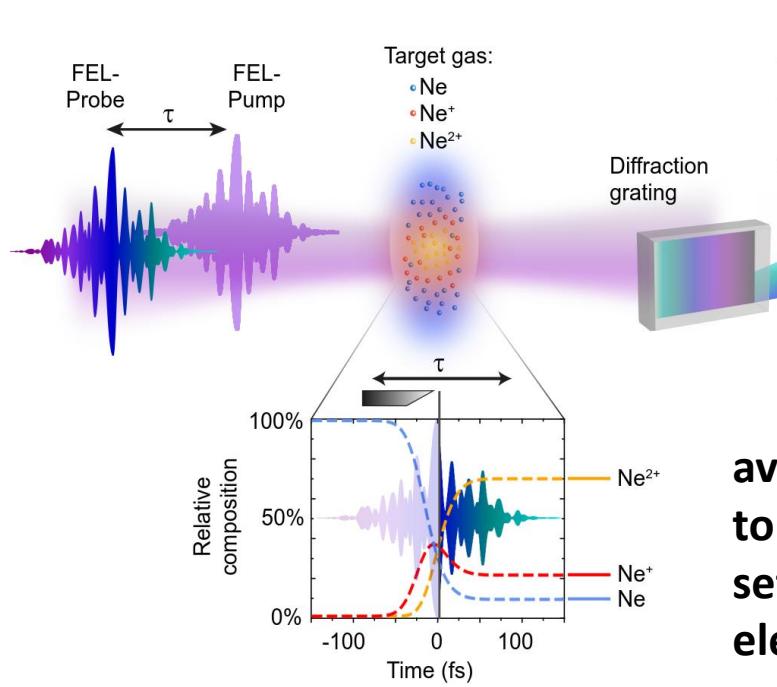


- XUV-induced strong coupling of  $^3\text{P} - ^3\text{D}$  spin-orbit multiplet in  $\text{Ne}^{2+}$

# Coherence enhancement in temporal overlap region

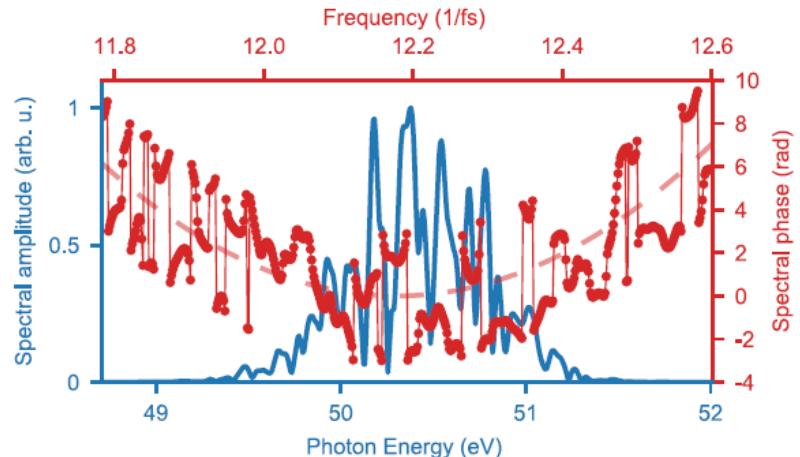


# Spectro-temporal sensitivity to chirp of SASE FEL pulses

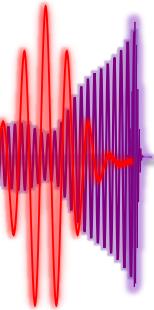
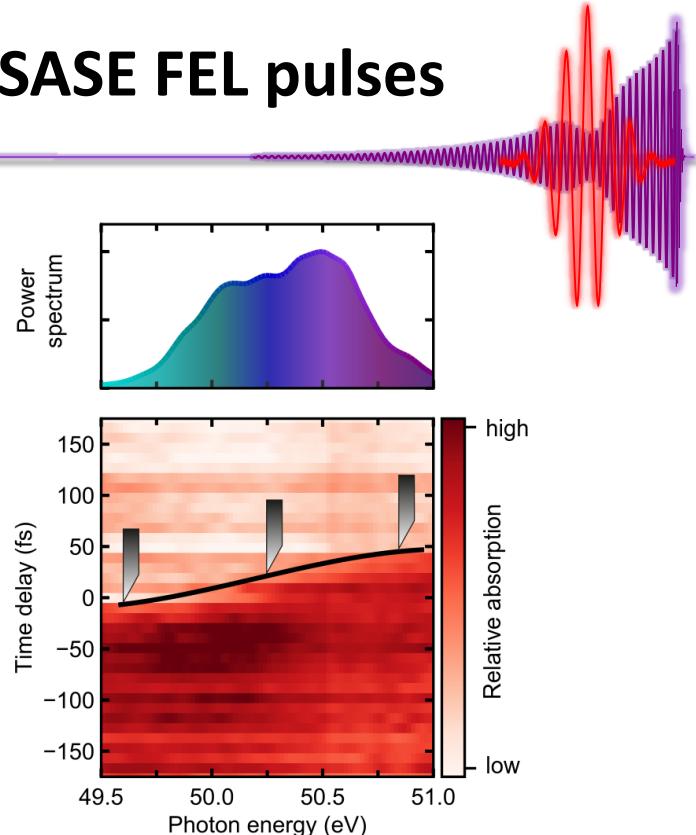


**average chirp, due  
to RF compression  
settings of FEL lasing  
electron bunch**

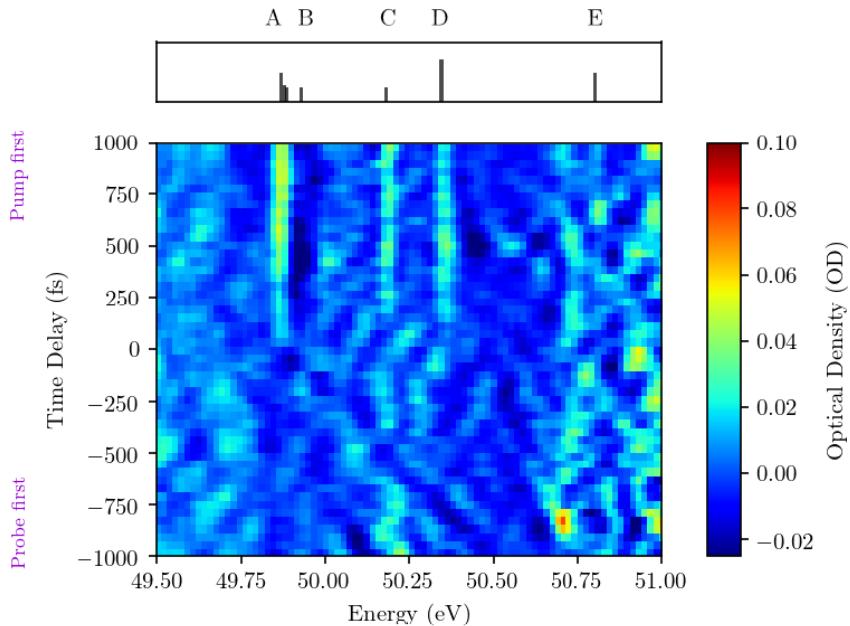
→  $(32 \pm 1) \text{ fs}^2$  &  $(-8 \pm 2) \text{ fs}^3$  obtained from data



Simulated SASE pulse (single shot) contains stochastic phase (partial coherence model) with superimposed systematic phase due to chirp

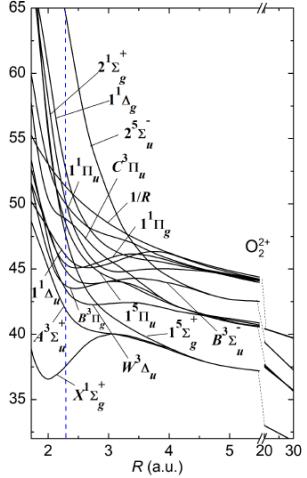
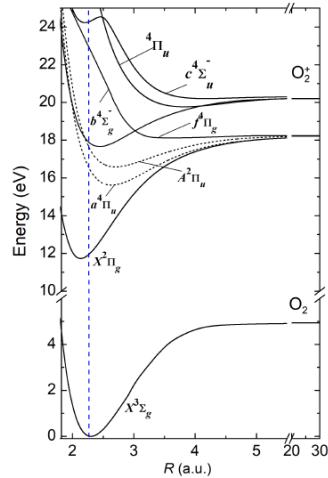


# XUV-initiated O<sub>2</sub> dissociation dynamics



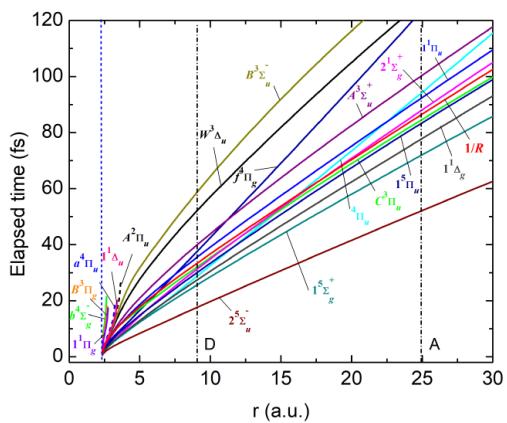
[Magrakvelidze et al., PRA (2012), 86, 1 – 11] (ion KER XUV-pump-XUV-probe, related experiment)

collaboration with U. Thumm (KSU),  
M. Magrakvelidze (Cabrini U)



## Spectroscopic identification: atomic O<sup>2+</sup> resonant transitions after dissociation

Transition	Term Scheme	Energy (eV)
A: 2p <sup>2</sup> – 2p5d	(g <sup>3</sup> P <sub>2</sub> ) – (3D <sub>3</sub> <sup>o</sup> )	49.87
A: 2p <sup>2</sup> – 2p5d	(g <sup>3</sup> P <sub>1</sub> ) – (3D <sub>2</sub> <sup>o</sup> )	49.88
A: 2p <sup>2</sup> – 2p5d	(g <sup>3</sup> P <sub>0</sub> ) – (3D <sub>1</sub> <sup>o</sup> )	49.89
B: 2p <sup>2</sup> – 2p7d	(1D <sub>2</sub> ) – (1F <sub>3</sub> <sup>o</sup> )	49.93
C: 2s <sup>2</sup> 2p <sup>2</sup> – 2s2p <sup>2</sup> 3p	(1D <sub>2</sub> ) – (1F <sub>3</sub> <sup>o</sup> )	50.18
D: 2s <sup>2</sup> 2p <sup>2</sup> – 2s2p <sup>2</sup> 3p	(1D <sub>2</sub> ) – (1D <sub>2</sub> <sup>o</sup> )	50.35
E: 2s <sup>2</sup> 2p <sup>2</sup> – 2s2p <sup>2</sup> 3p	(1D <sub>2</sub> ) – (1P <sub>1</sub> <sup>o</sup> )	50.80



Ding et al. Faraday Discuss.,  
2021, **228**, 519-536

Rebholz et al., submitted manuscript (2021)

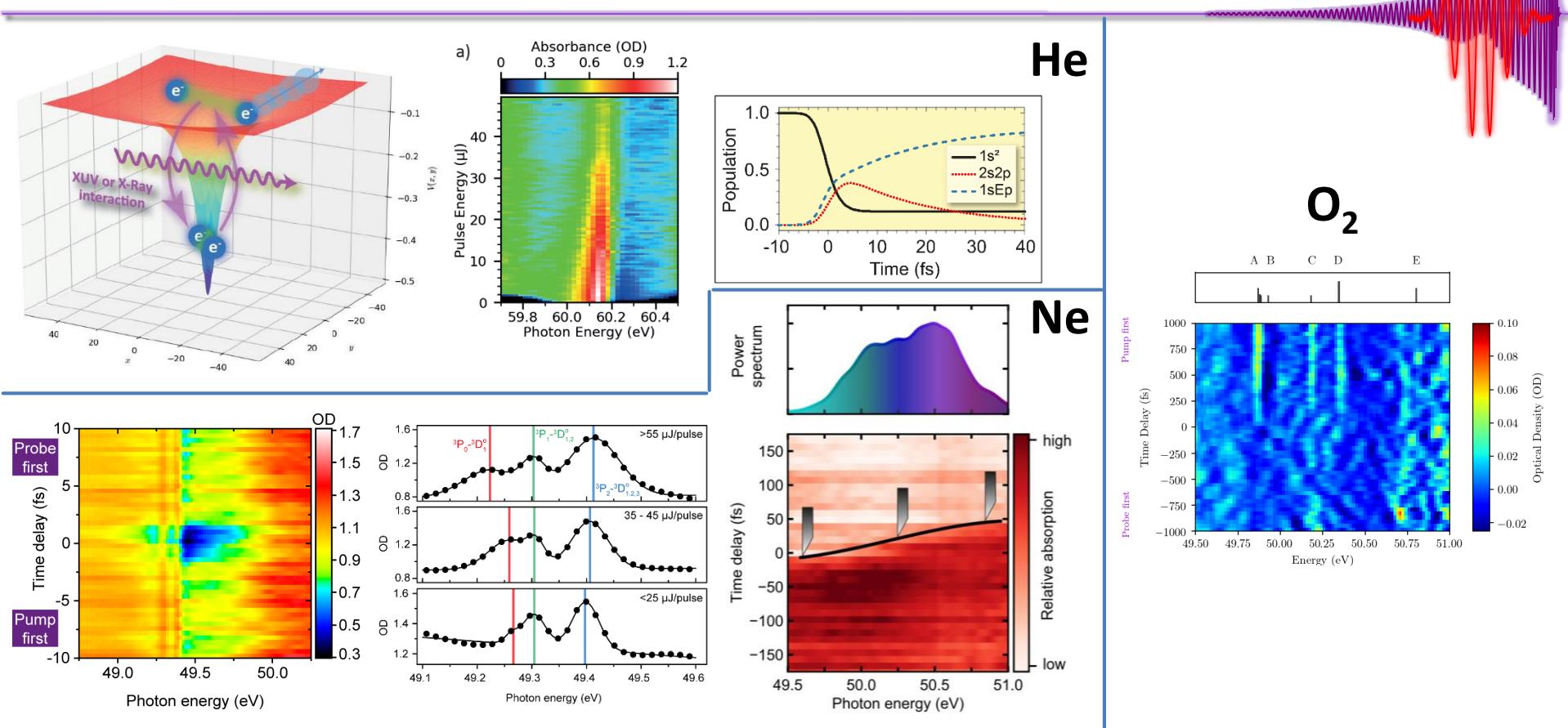
## Classical propagation along O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> and O<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> PECs

Predicted dissociation times shorter than observed

Calls for delayed mechanism, possibly involving predissociating states

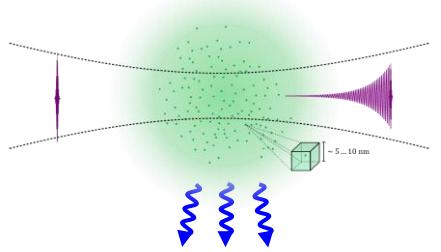


# Summary & Conclusion

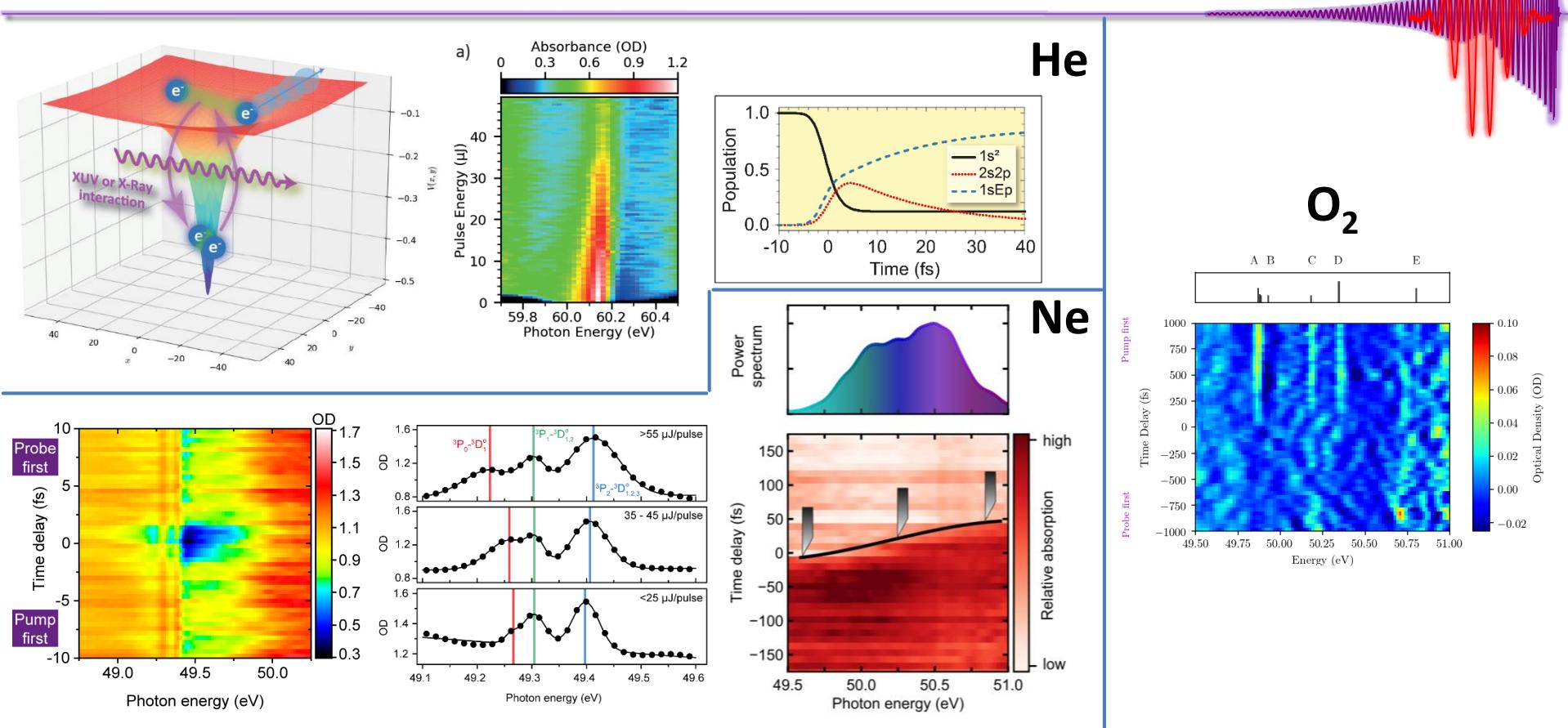


Site-specific nonlinear light-matter interaction with intense XUV/x-ray light (light in – light out)

- **Forward direction:** absorption & stimulated emission  
(coherent interactions; direct sensitivity to amplitudes and coherences)
- **Perpendicular direction:** incoherent fluorescence decay  
(direct sensitivity to site-specific population dynamics)

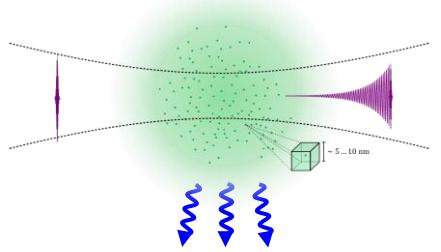


# Summary & Conclusion



**Site-specific nonlinear light-matter interaction with intense XUV/x-ray light (light in – light out)**

- Forward direction: absorption & stimulated emission  
everything dressed in intense XUV/x-ray electric fields  
(direct sensitivity to amplitude)
- Perpendicular direction: incoherent scattering  
(direct sensitivity to site-specific population dynamics)





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FÜR KERNPHYSIK

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