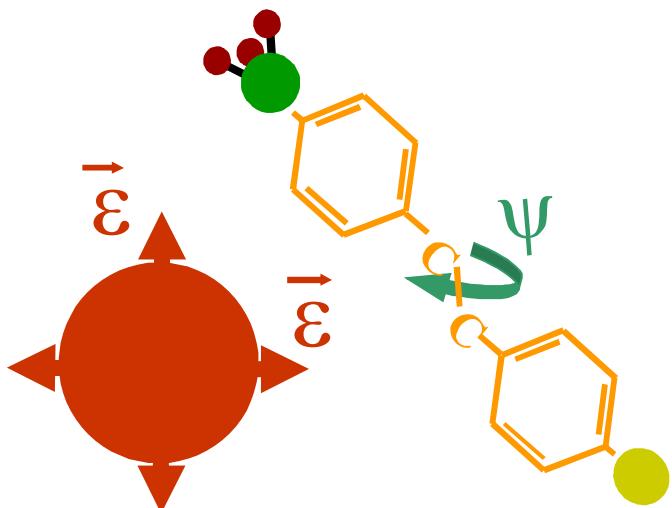
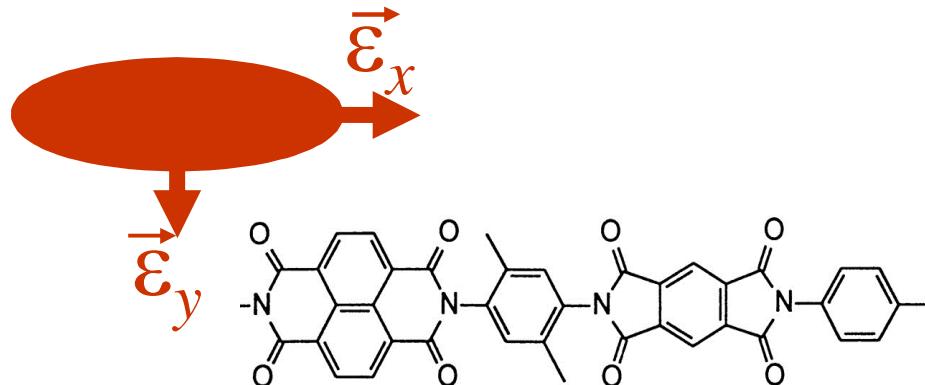


# Coherent Alignment. New Directions and Potential Opportunities in Complex Systems



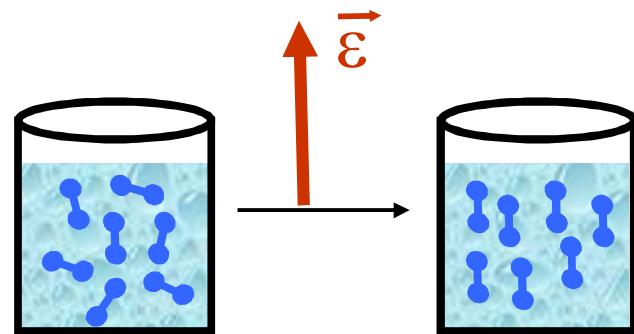
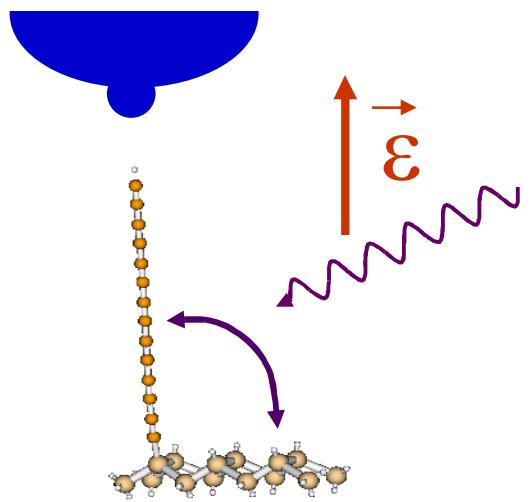


*Thanks!*

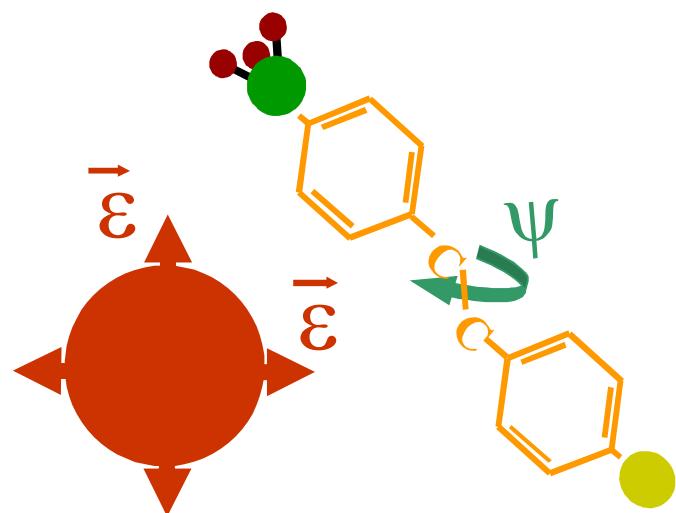
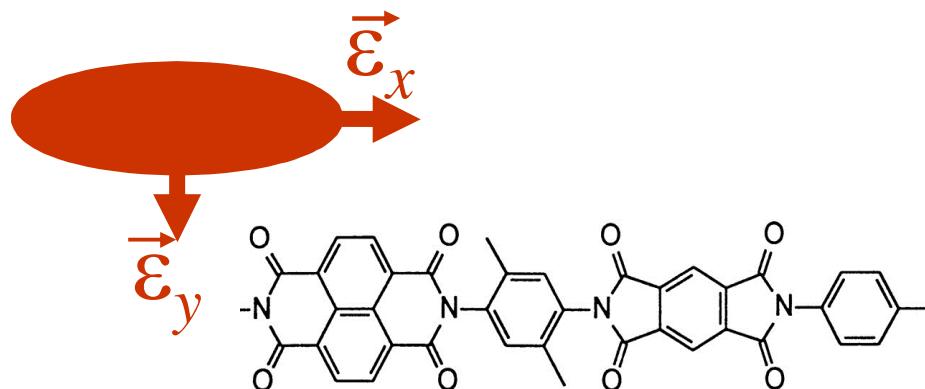
\$ NSF CHE  
\$ NSF MRSEC  
\$ NSF NCN  
\$ NSF NCLT  
\$ NSF IGERT  
\$ AFOSR  
\$ BSF  
\$ DOE AMOS  
\$ DOE SISGR  
\$ Keck Foundation



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY



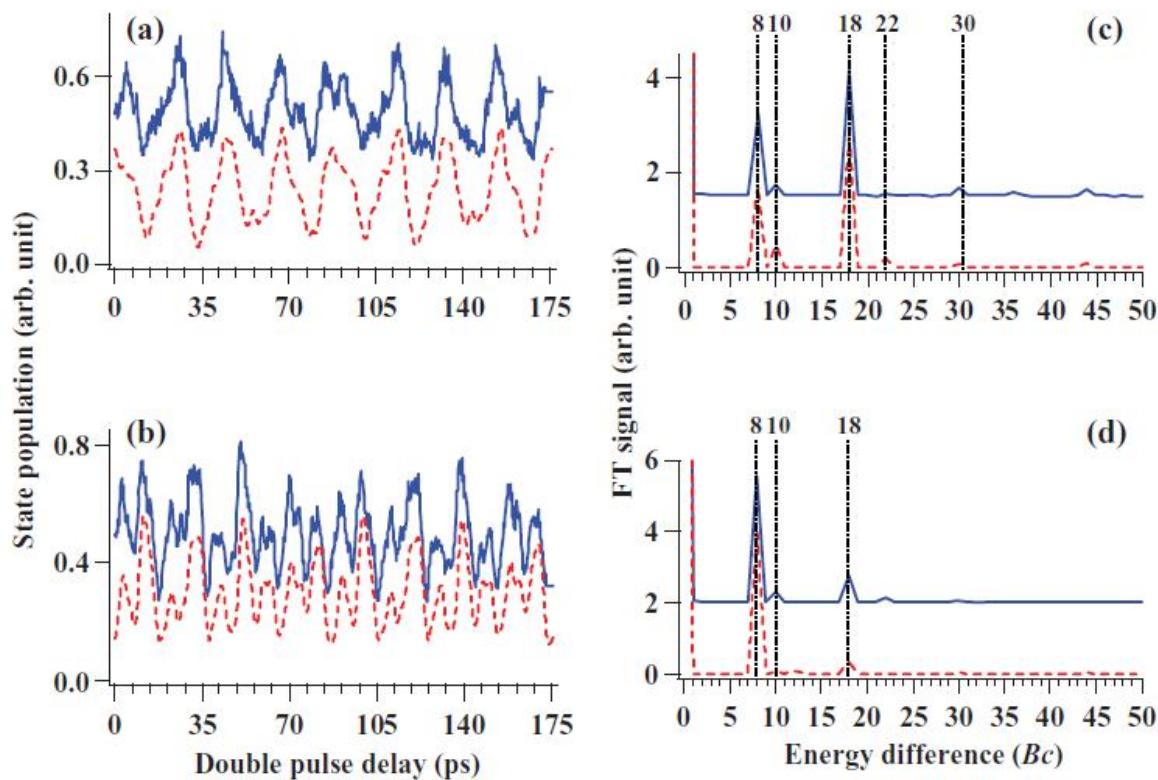
# Coherent Alignment. New Directions and Potential Opportunities in Complex Systems



## Unveiling the nonadiabatic rotational excitation process in a symmetric-top molecule induced by two intense laser pulses

Daeyul Baek,<sup>a)</sup> Hirokazu Hasegawa,<sup>b)</sup> and Yasuhiro Ohshima<sup>c)</sup>

*Institute for Molecular Science, National Institutes of Natural Sciences, Myodaiji, Okazaki 444-8585, Japan  
and SOKENDAI, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Okazaki 444-8585, Japan*

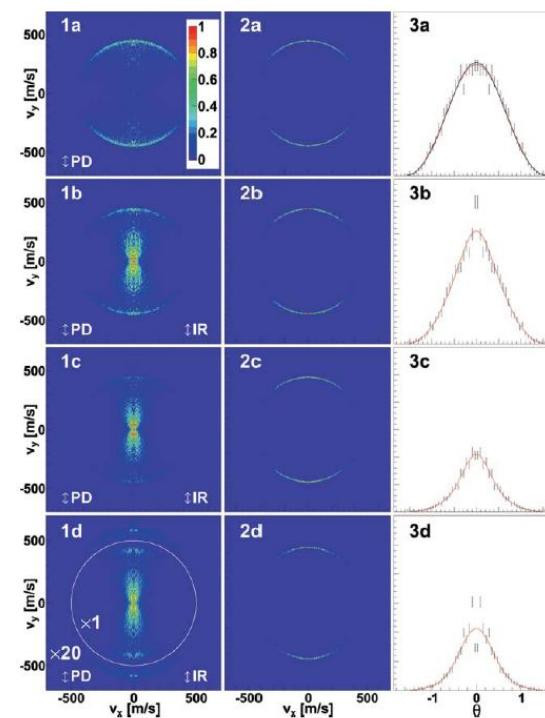
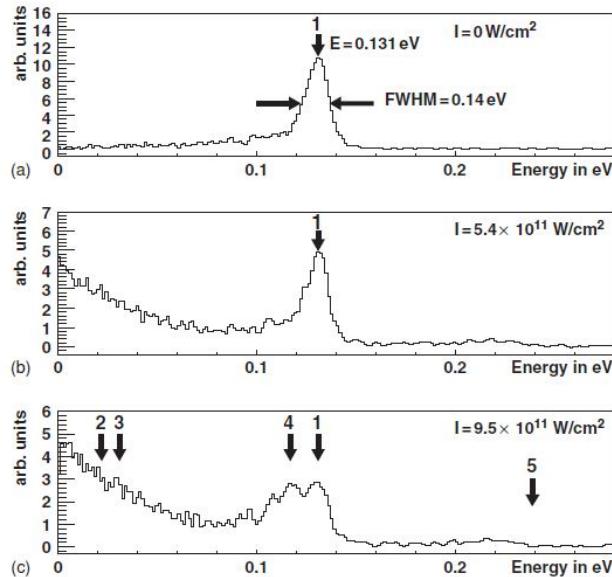


# Nanosecond photofragment imaging of adiabatic molecular alignment

S. Trippel, M. Stei,<sup>a)</sup> C. Eichhorn, R. Otto, P. Hlavenka, M. Weidemüller,<sup>b)</sup> and R. Wester<sup>a,c)</sup>

Physikalisches Institut, Universität Freiburg, Hermann-Herder-Straße 3, 79104 Freiburg, Germany

(Received 12 November 2010; accepted 1 February 2011; published online 11 March 2011)

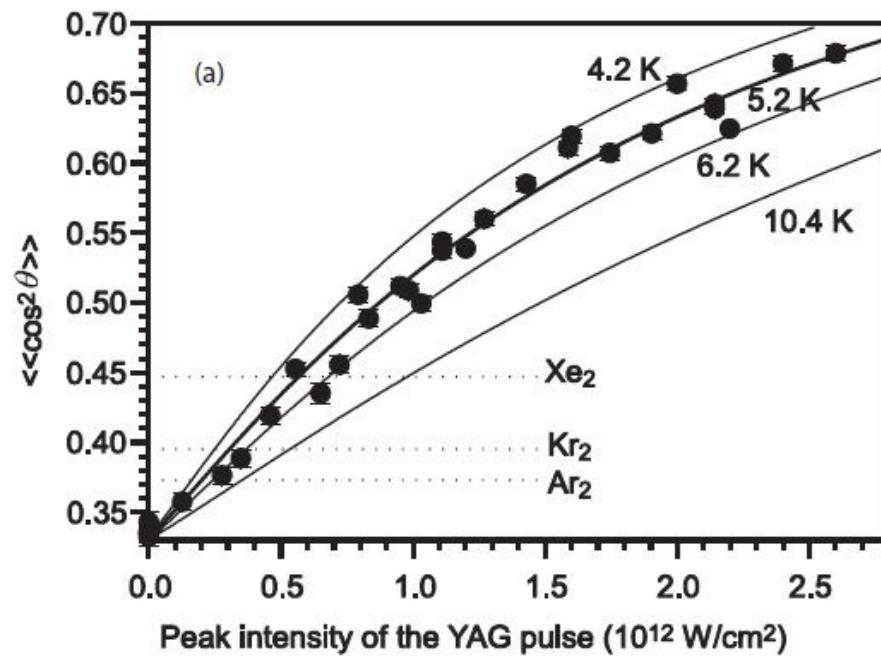
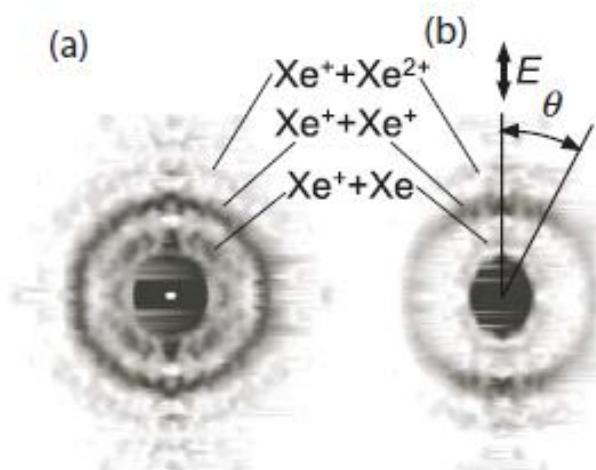


## Measuring polarizability anisotropies of rare gas diatomic molecules by laser-induced molecular alignment technique

Shinichirou Minemoto<sup>a)</sup> and Hirofumi Sakai<sup>b)</sup>

Department of Physics, Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan

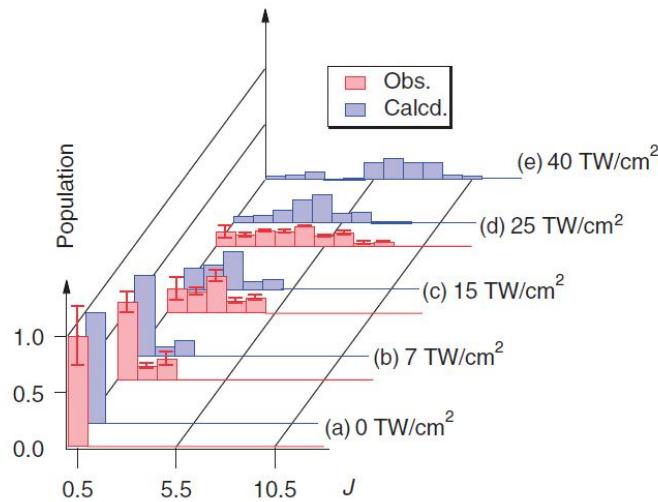
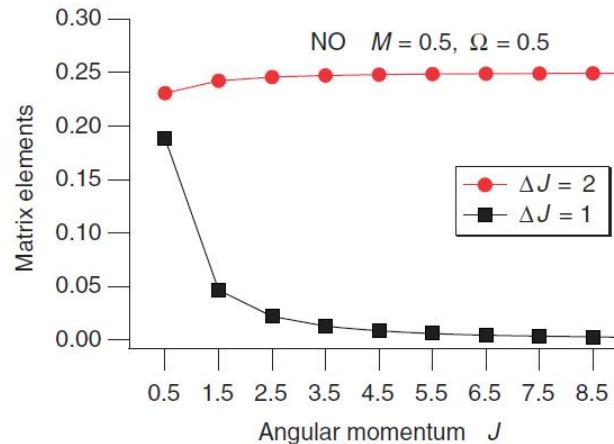
(Received 10 March 2011; accepted 6 May 2011; published online 6 June 2011)



## Coherent rotational excitation by intense nonresonant laser fields

Yasuhiro Ohshima\* and Hirokazu Hasegawa

*Institute for Molecular Science, National Institutes of Natural Sciences, Myodaiji, Okazaki 444-8585, Japan; The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Myodaiji, Okazaki 444-8585, Japan*



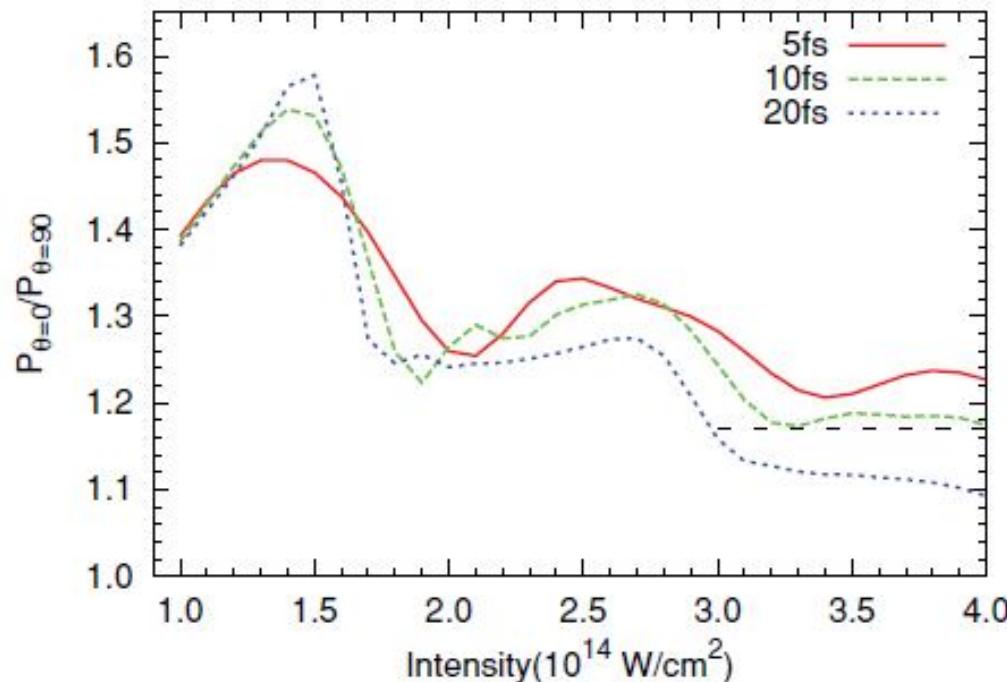
# Alignment-dependent ionization of hydrogen molecules in intense laser fields

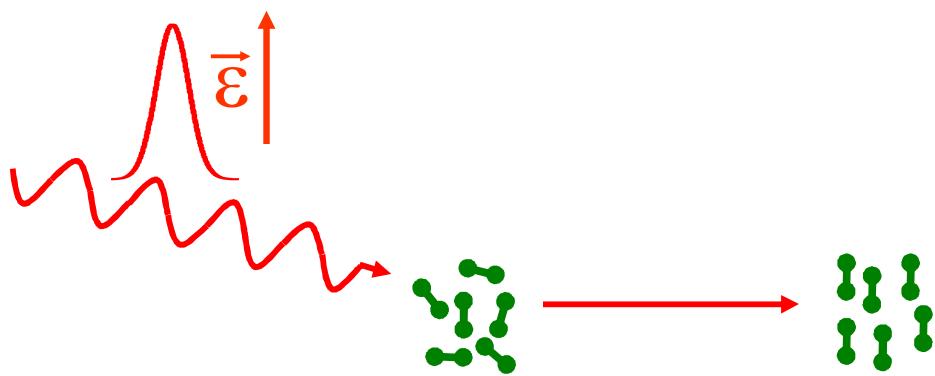
Ying-Jun Jin,<sup>1,\*</sup> Xiao-Min Tong,<sup>1,2,†</sup> and Nobuyuki Toshima<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Materials Science, Graduate School of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8573, Japan*

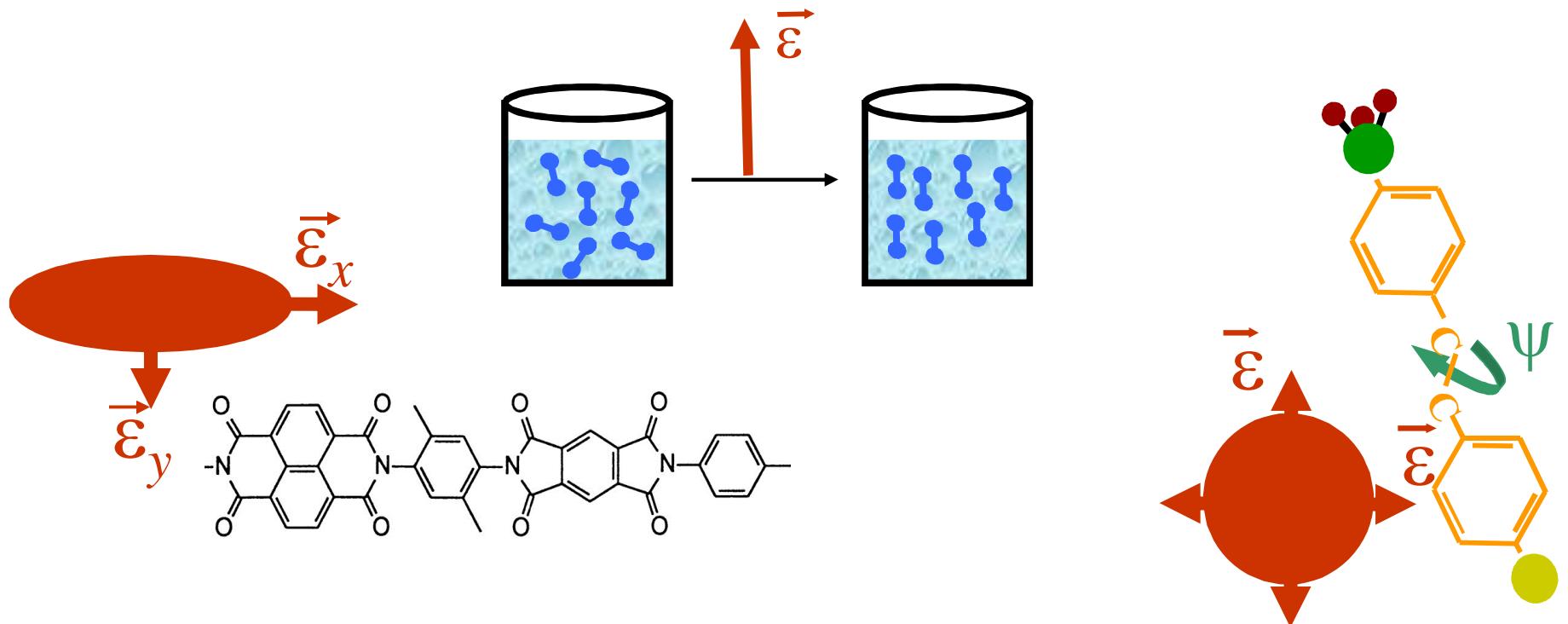
<sup>2</sup>*Center for Computational Sciences, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8577, Japan*

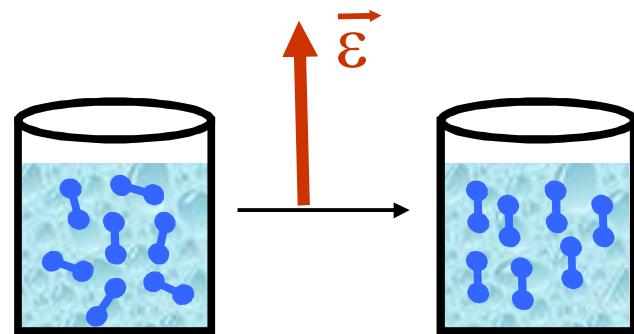
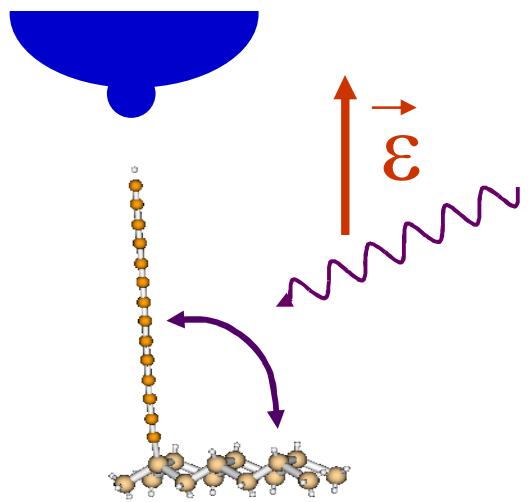
(Received 12 April 2011; published 14 June 2011)



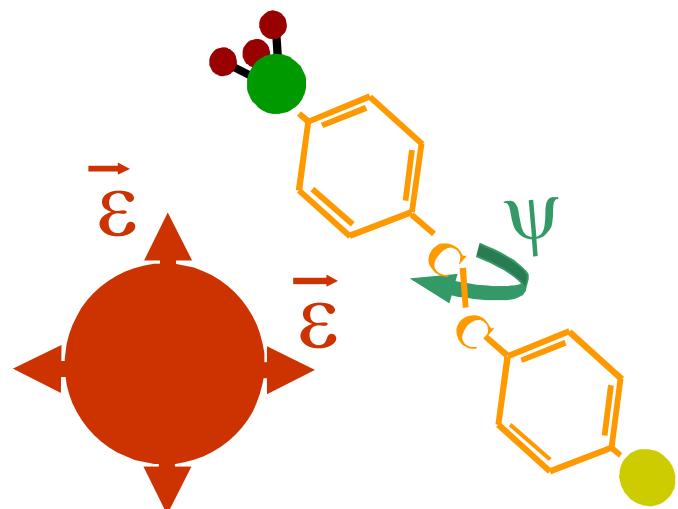
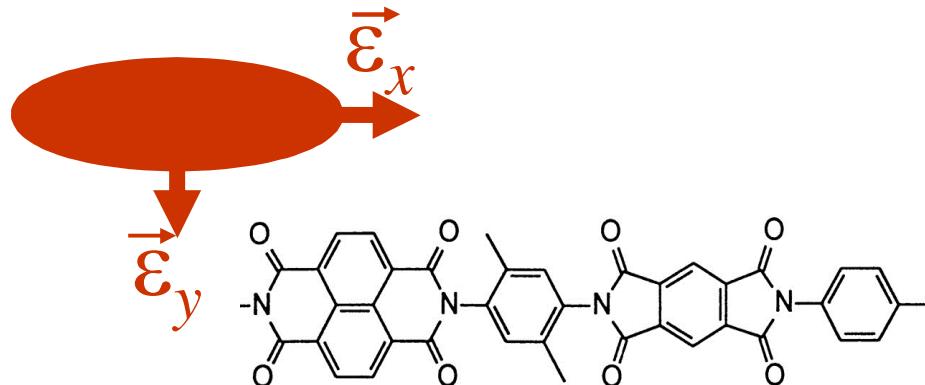


But molecules are more interesting than that:





# Coherent Alignment. New Directions and Potential Opportunities in Complex Systems

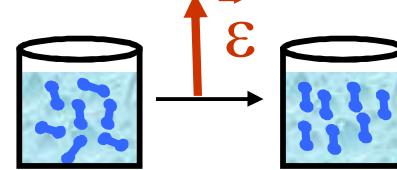


# Outline

- **Coherent nonadiabatic alignment. A brief review of the qualitative physics**

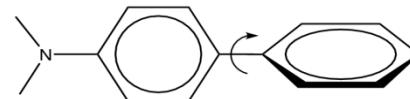
- **Toward complex systems:**

- **Beating the transition to unstable dynamics**

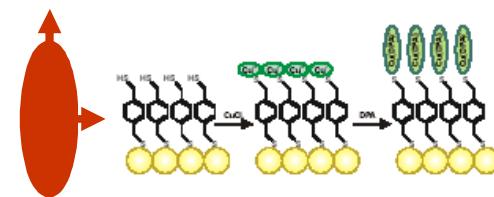


- **Alignment in solutions**

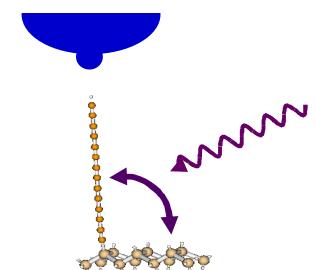
- **Torsional control**



- **Guided molecular assembly**



- **Coherent control of transport via junctions**

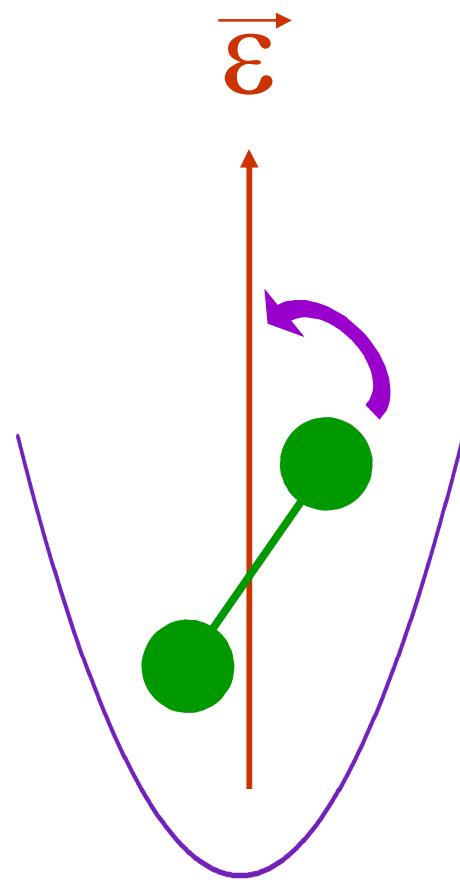


- **Alignment and focusing in the nanoscale**



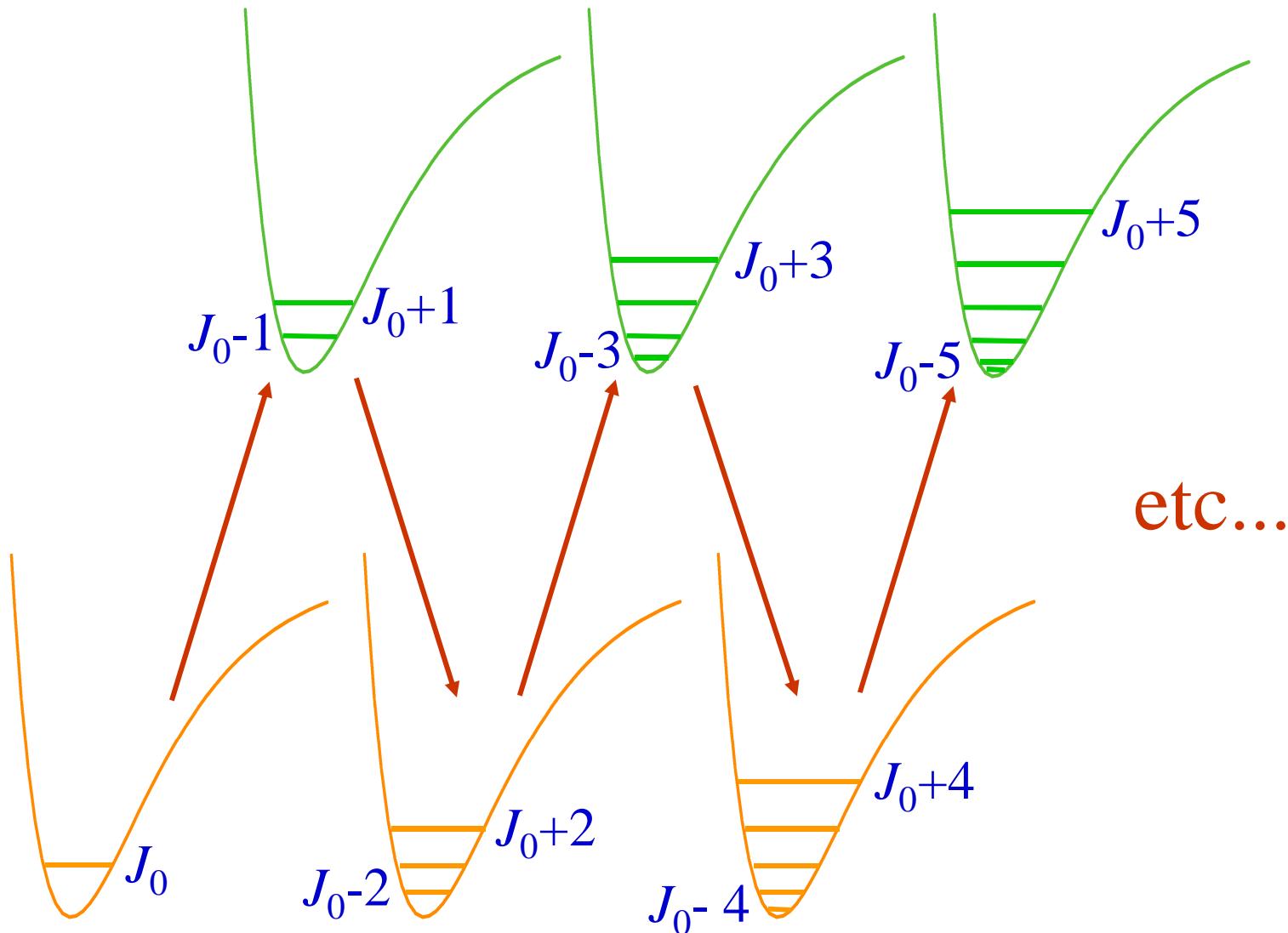
- **Few of my favorite dreams**

$$m R_e^2 \ddot{\theta} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} V[\theta; \vec{\varepsilon}]$$



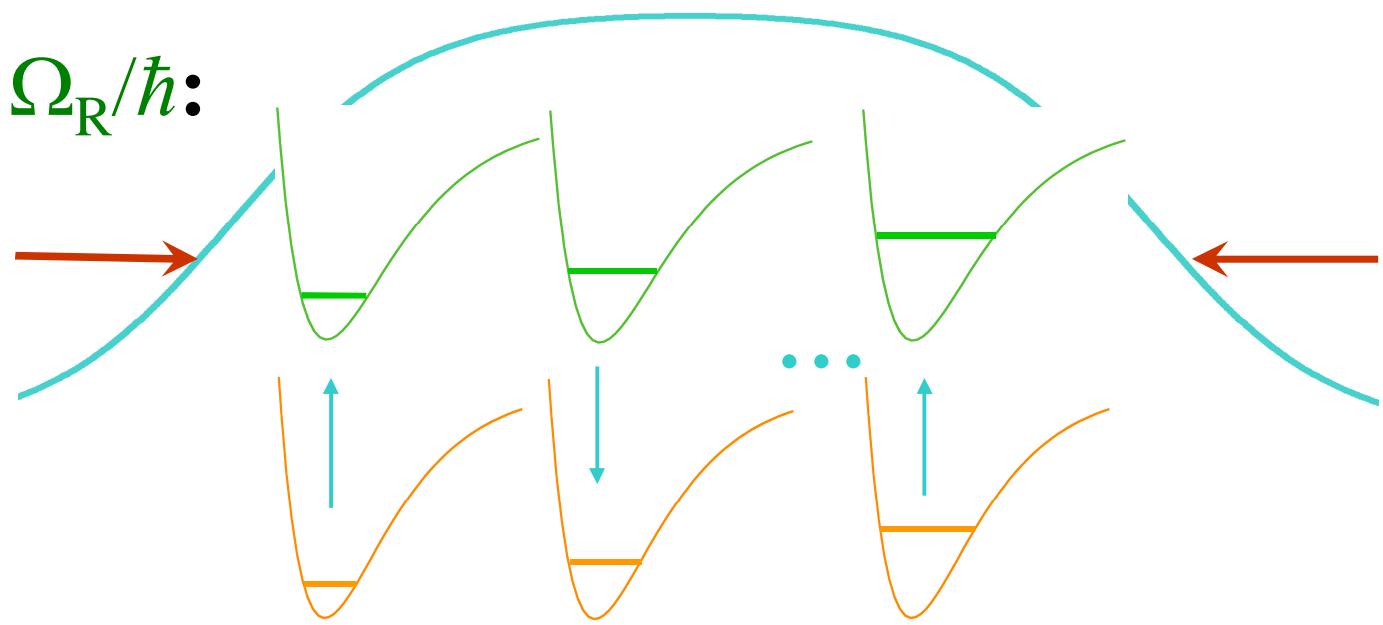
# Alignment by short, moderately intense, laser pulses

At near electronic resonance frequencies:



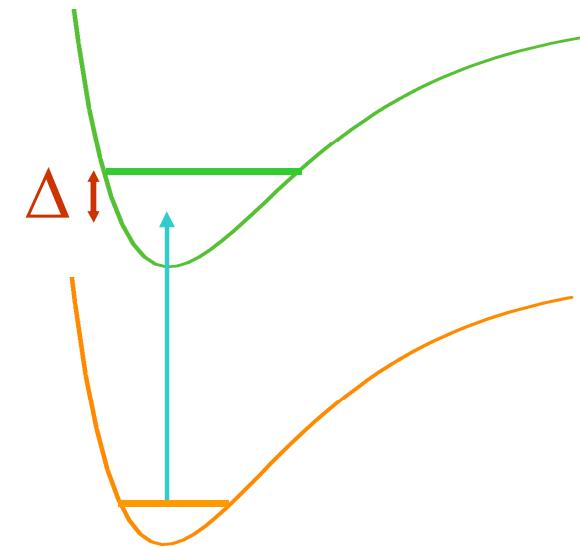
# What terminates the **rotational excitation**?

Either  $J_{\max} \sim \tau \Omega_R / \hbar$ :

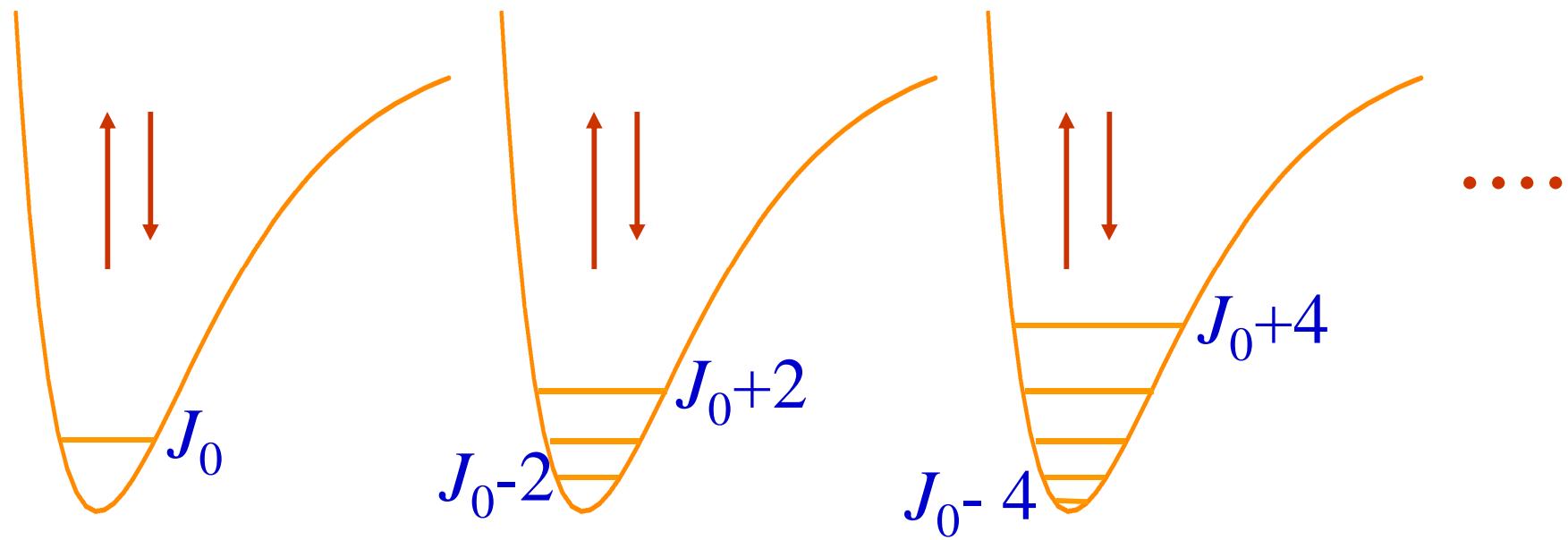


Or  $\Omega_R \sim \Delta(J_{\max})$ :

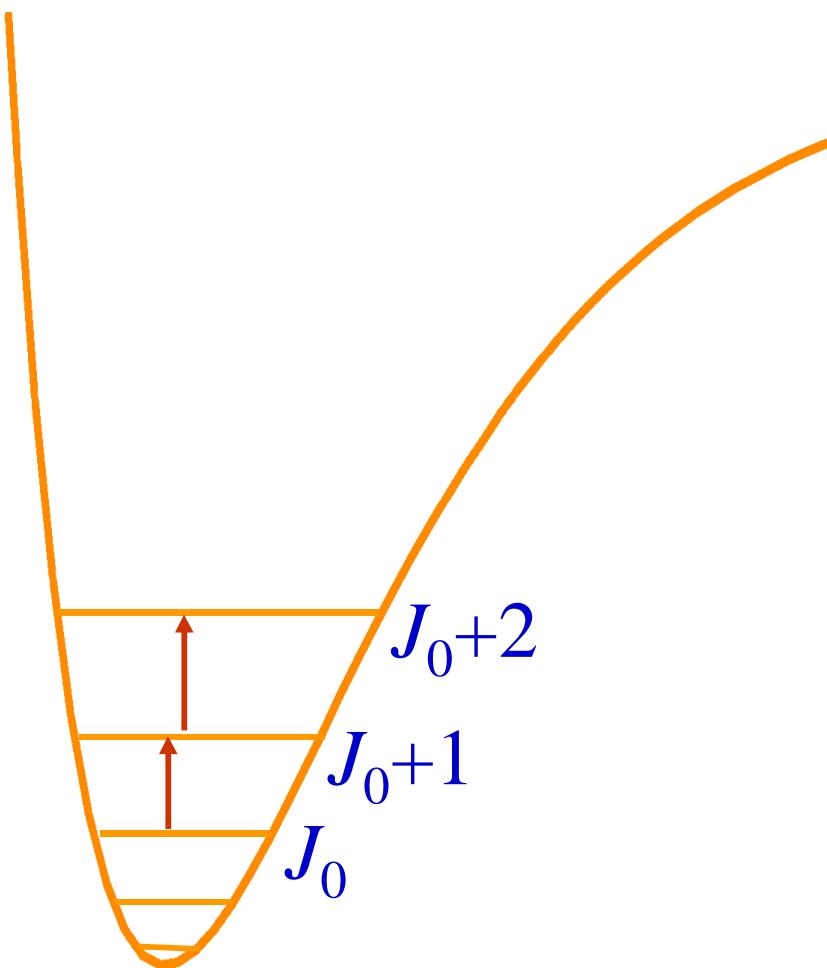
$$[ \Delta(J) \sim B_e J(J+1) ]$$

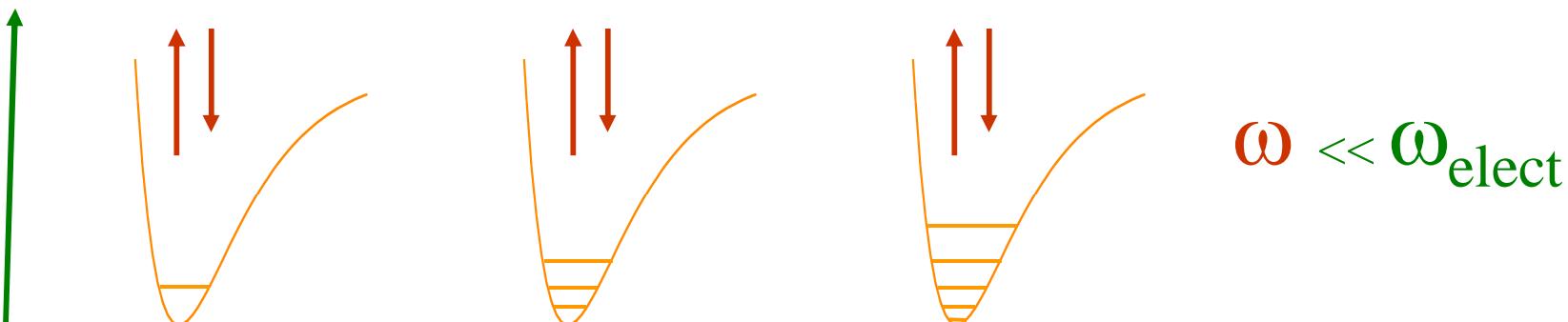
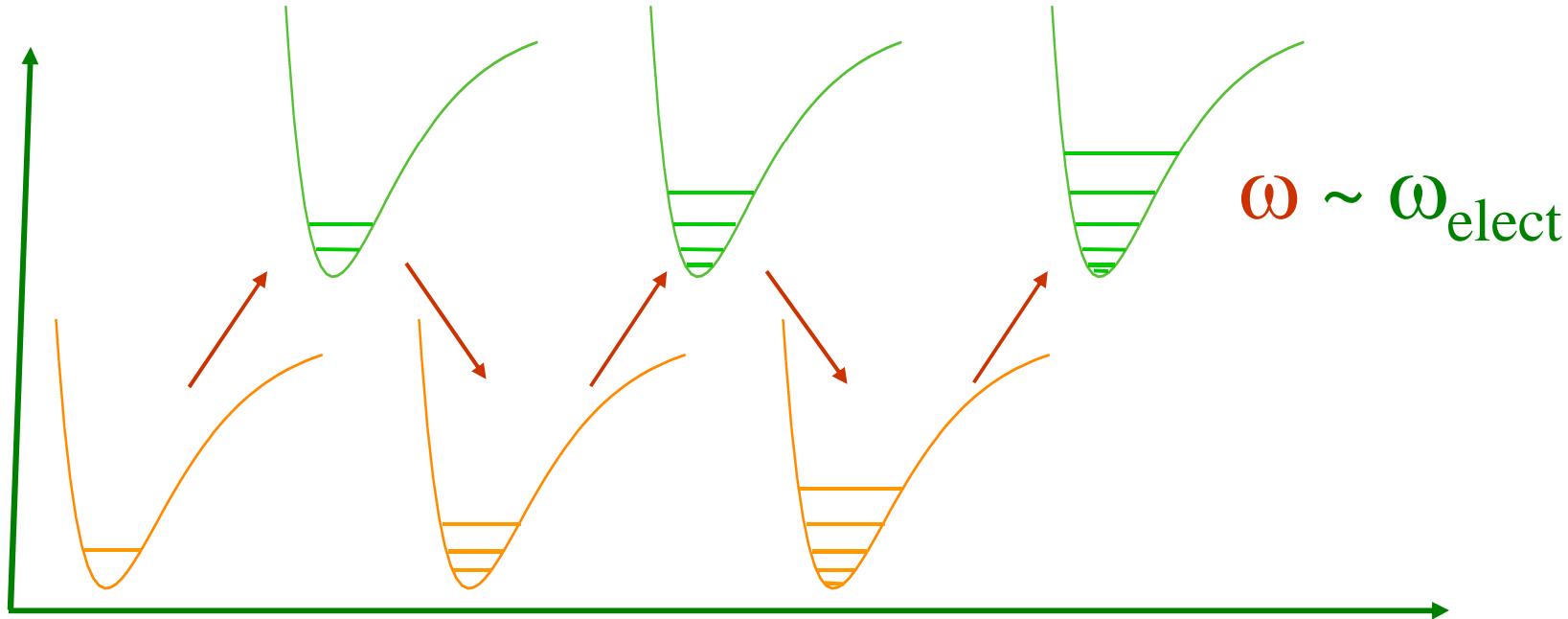


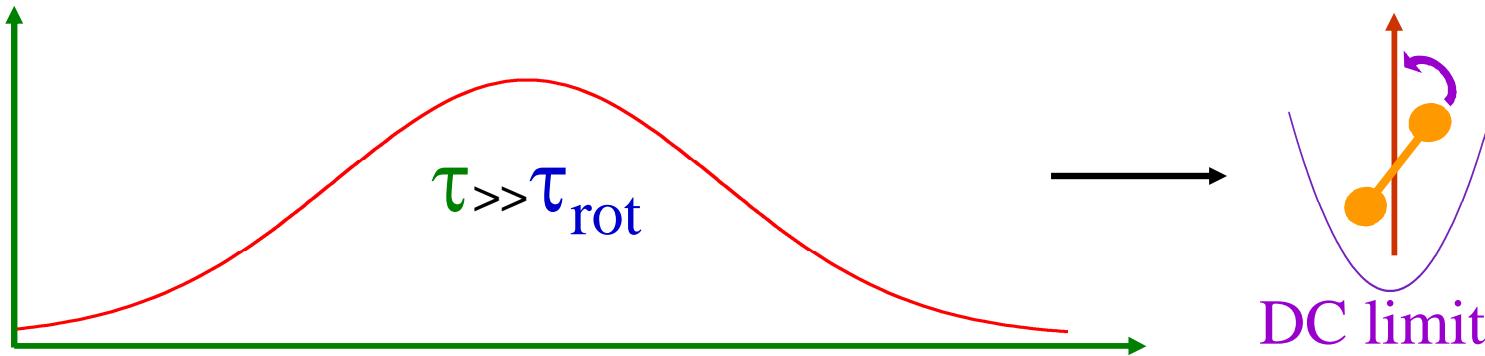
At IR frequencies ( $\omega \ll \omega_{\text{elect}}$ ), rotational excitation takes place via two-photon ( $|\Delta J| = 2$ ) cycles:



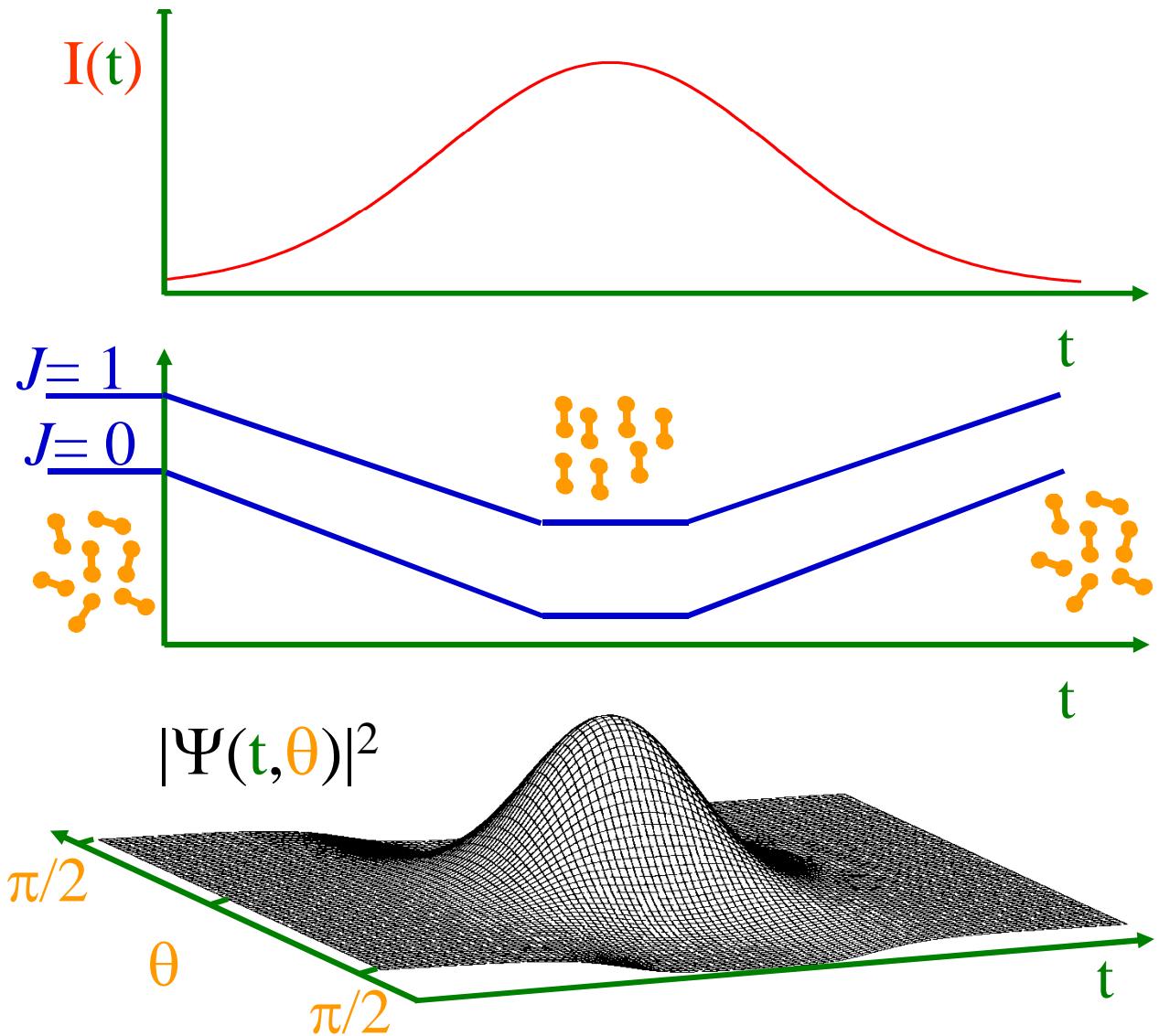
At very low frequencies ( $\omega \sim 2J_0 B_e / \hbar$ ), rotational excitation takes place via sequential pure rotational transitions:



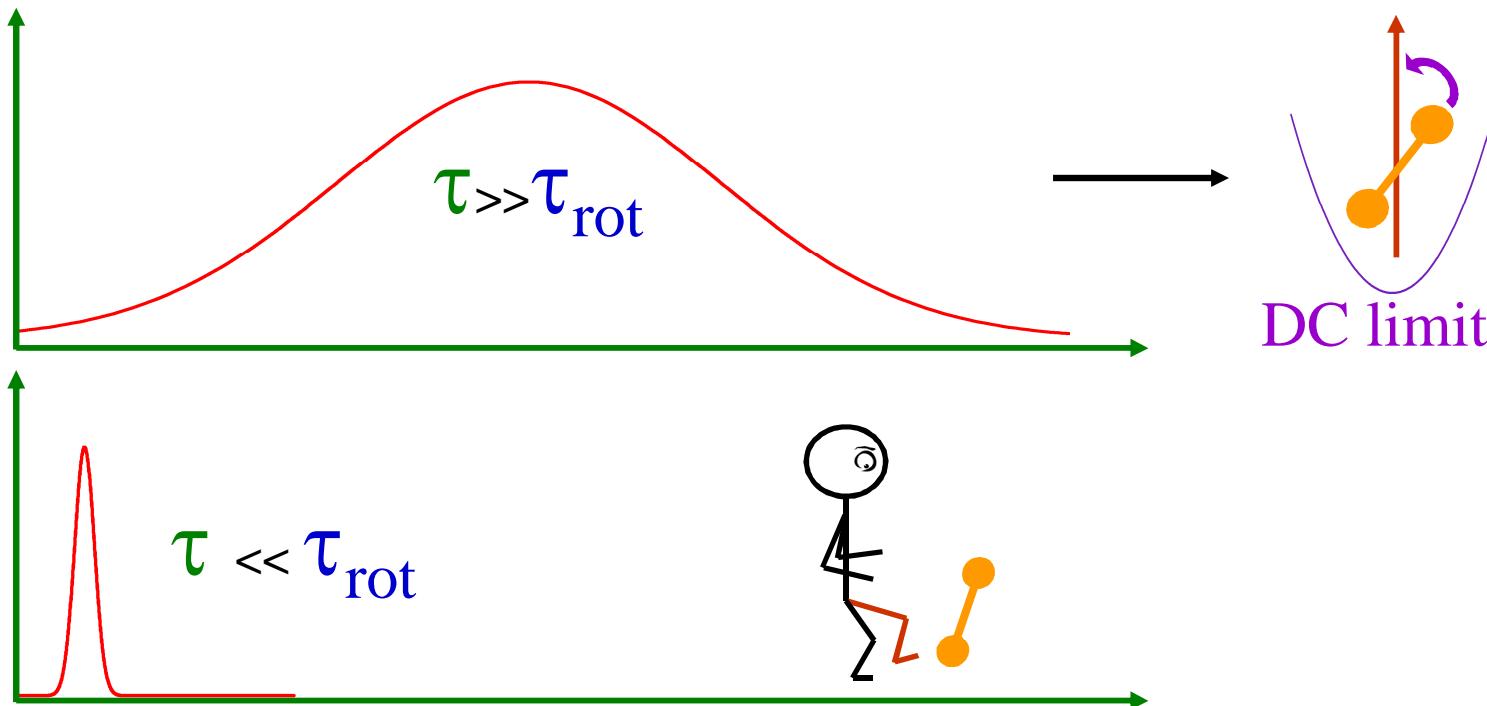




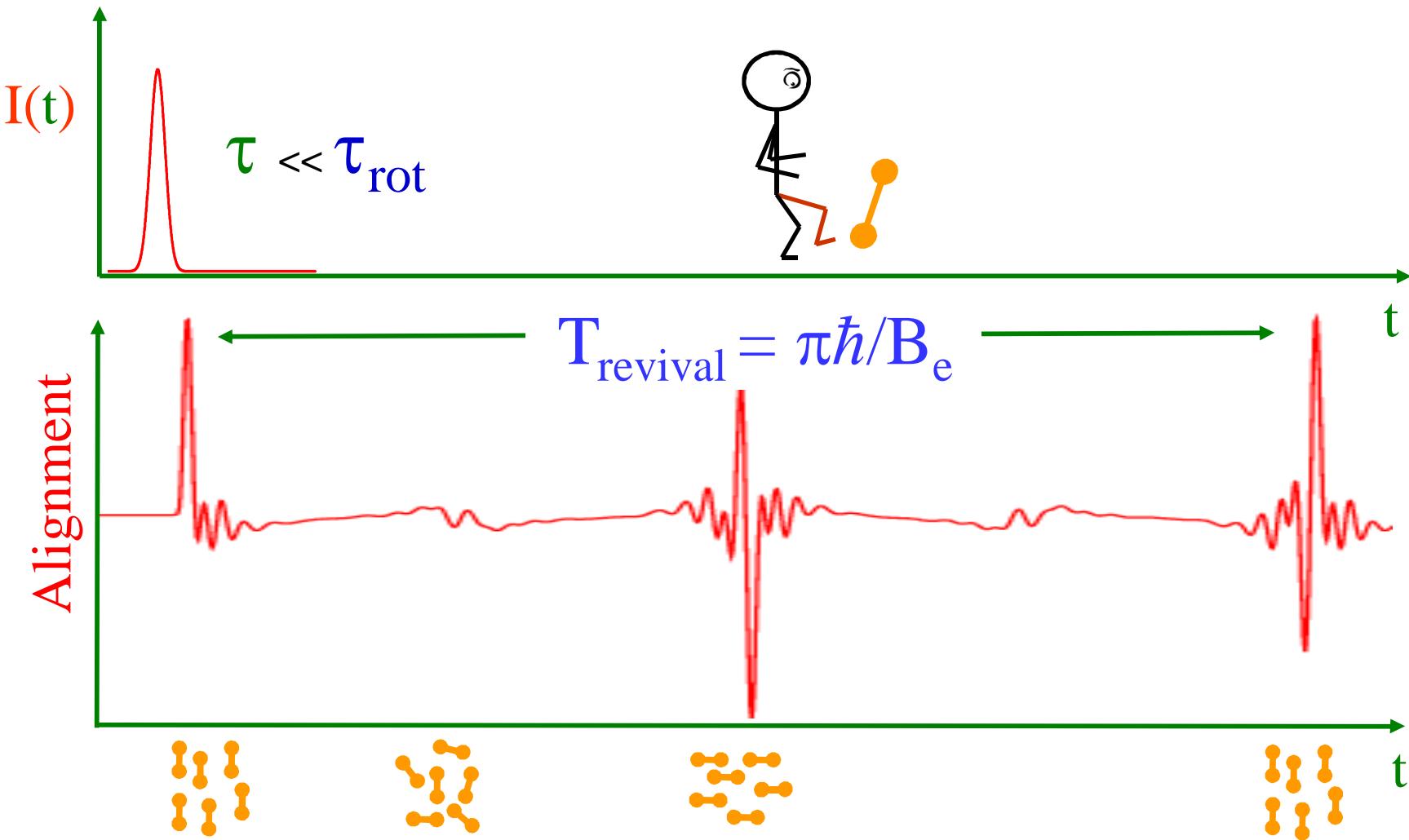
Static (adiabatic)  
alignment,  $\tau \gg \tau_{\text{rot}}$



Friedrich & Herschbach, Phys.Rev.Lett. 74, 4623 (1995)  
Kim & Felker, J.Chem.Phys. 104, 1147 (1996)  
Larsen *et al*, J.Chem.Phys. 109, 8857 (1998)



Nonadiabatic alignment: Alignment takes place after the pulse peak, & subsequently exhibits a coherent revival pattern



T.S., Phys.Rev.Lett. 83, 4971 (1999)

# The first experimental realization

VOLUME 87, NUMBER 15

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

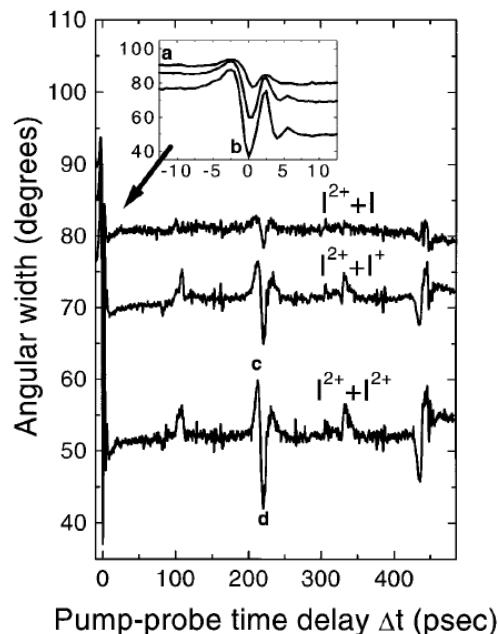
8 OCTOBER 2001

## Experimental Observation of Revival Structures in Picosecond Laser-Induced Alignment of I<sub>2</sub>

F. Rosca-Pruna and M. J. J. Vrakking\*

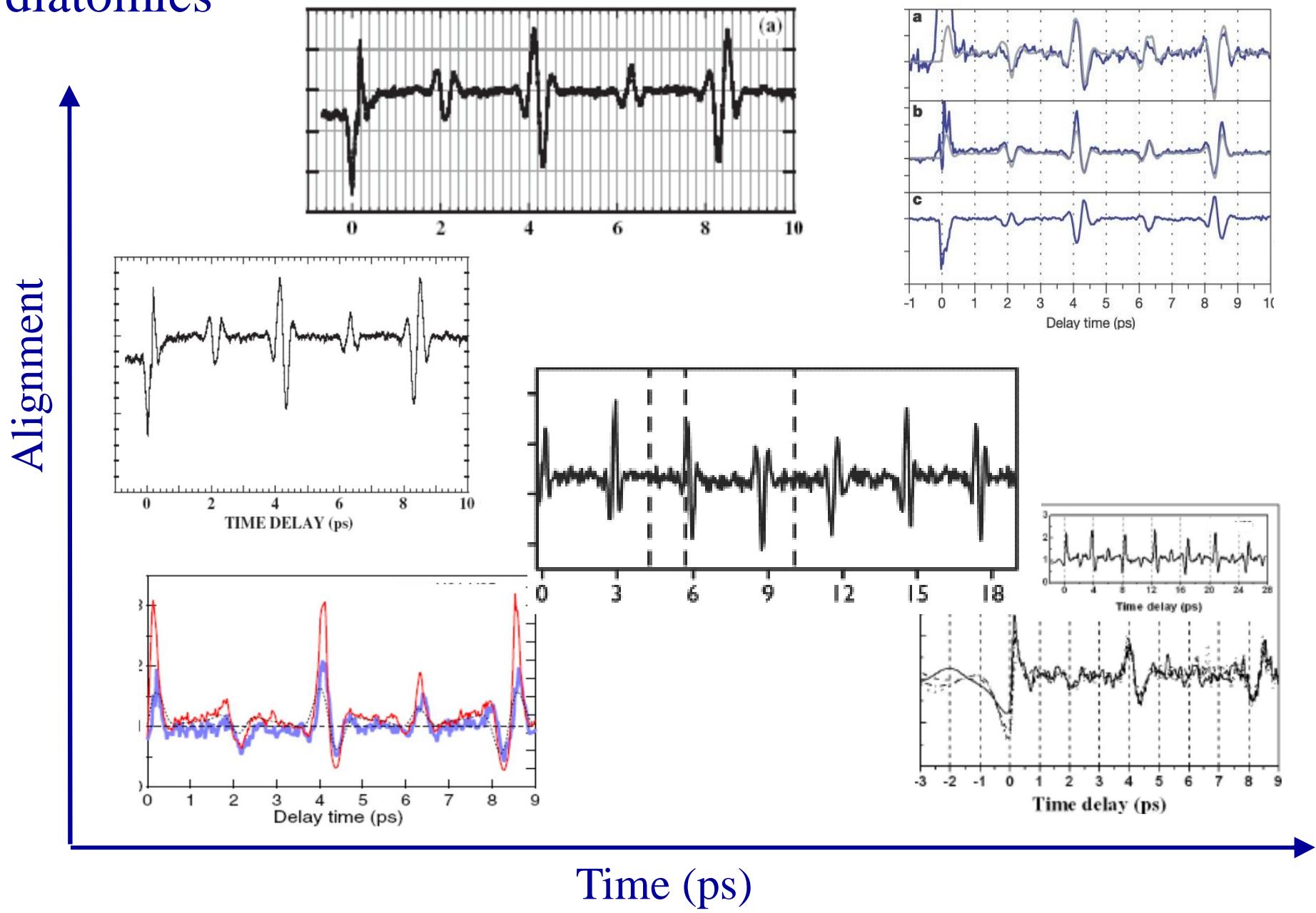
FOM Institute for Atomic and Molecular Physics (AMOLF), Kruislaan 407, 1098 SJ Amsterdam, The Netherlands

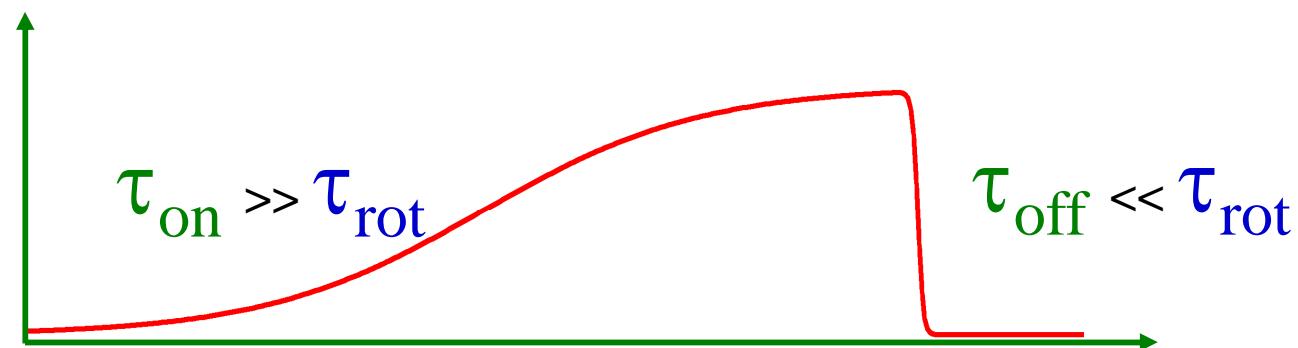
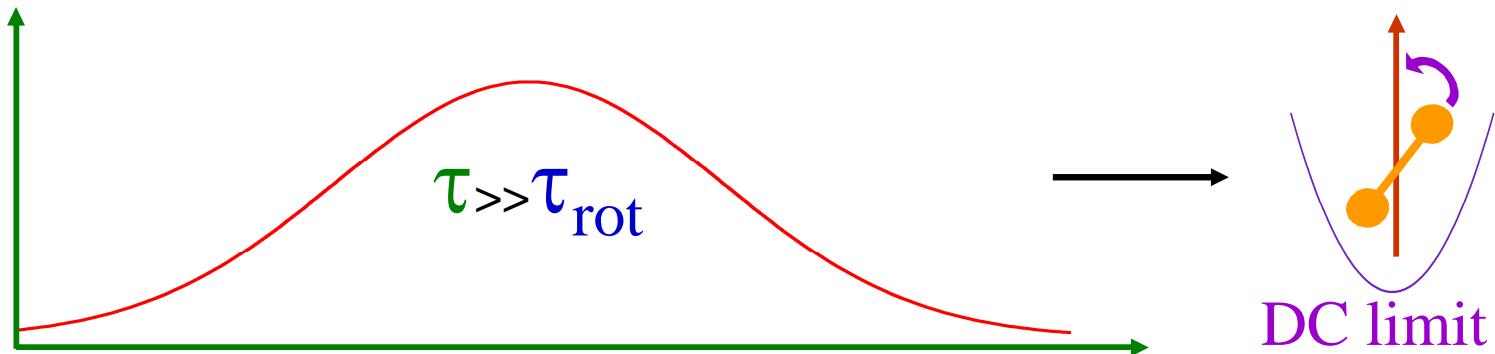
(Received 1 May 2001; published 20 September 2001)



*The molecules align during the pulse turn-off and subsequently exhibit a revival pattern - as predicted*

# Recent experiments on nonadiabatic alignment in isolated diatomics



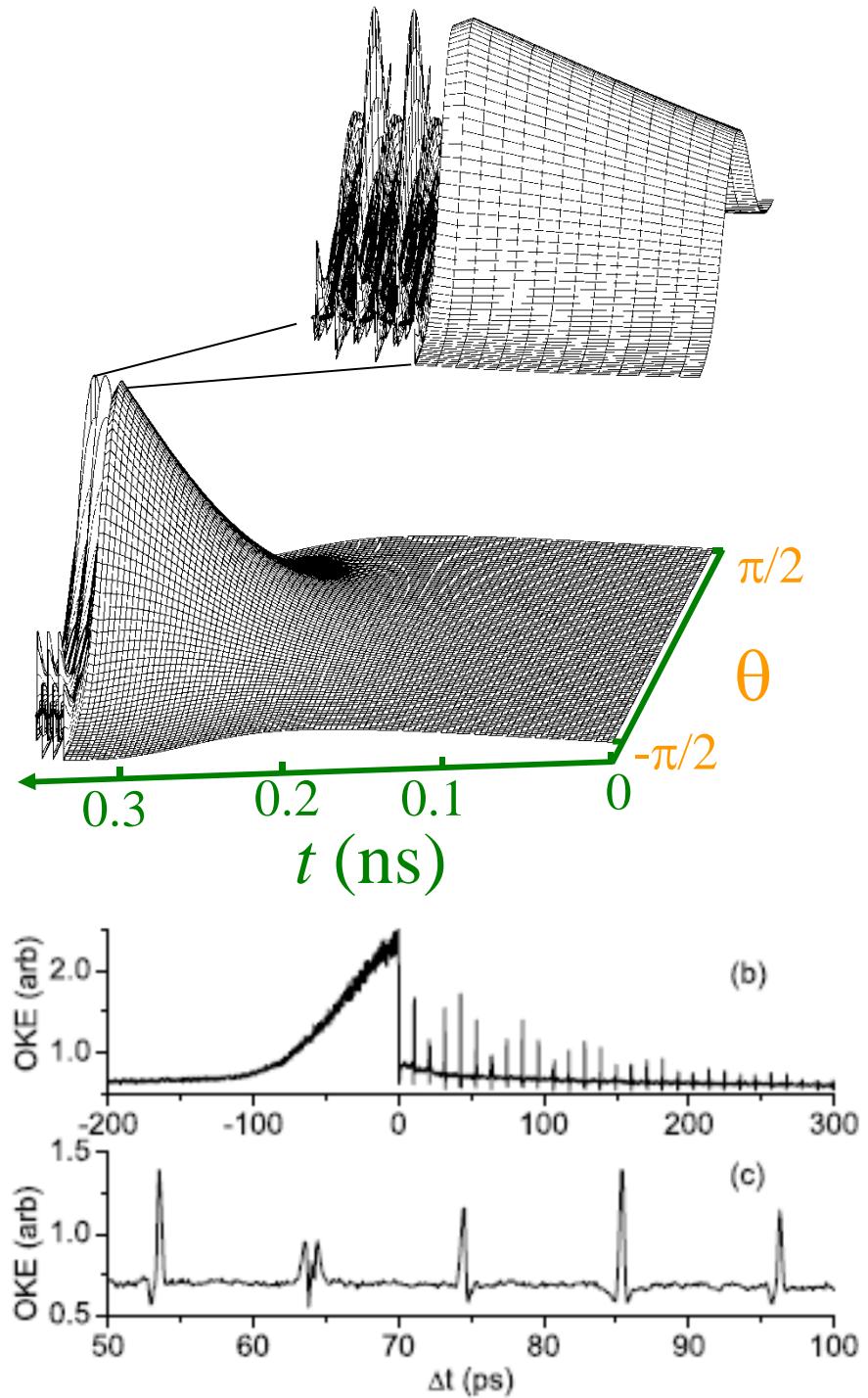


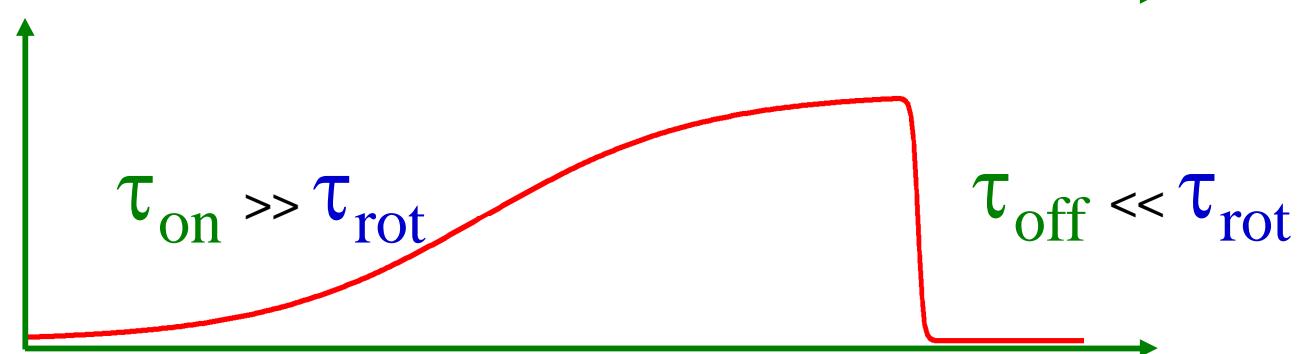
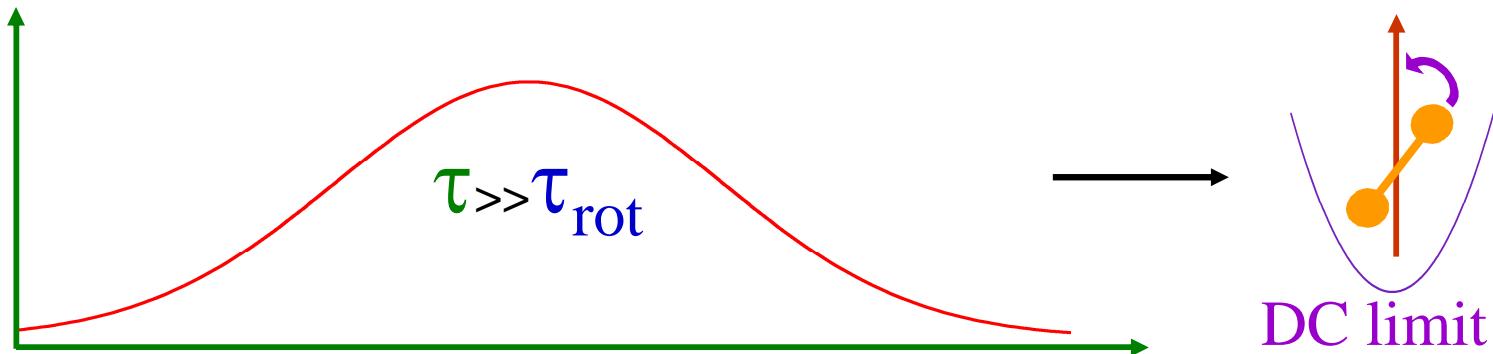
e.g.,  $\text{Cl}_2$ , 3K,  $6 \times 10^{12} \text{ Wcm}^{-2}$ ,  
 $\tau_{\text{on}} = 700 \text{ ps}$ ,  $\tau_{\text{off}} = 100 \text{ fs}$

Z.C. Yan & T.S. J.Chem.Phys.  
111, 4113 (1999)

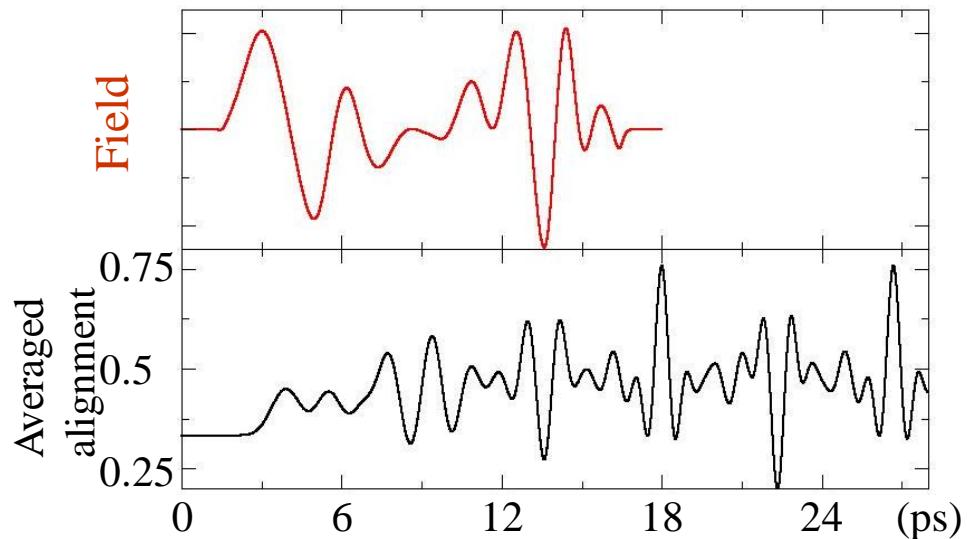
A first experimental  
demonstration:

J.G. Underwood *et al*,  
Phys.Rev.Lett. 90, 223001 (2003)

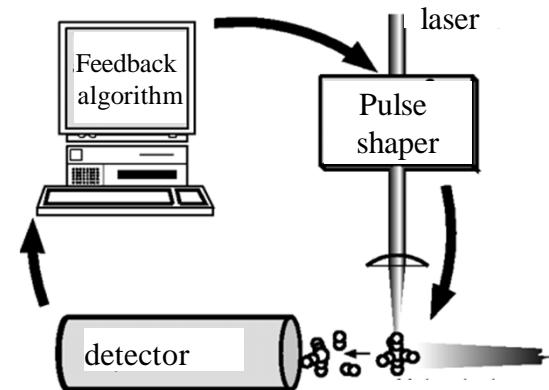




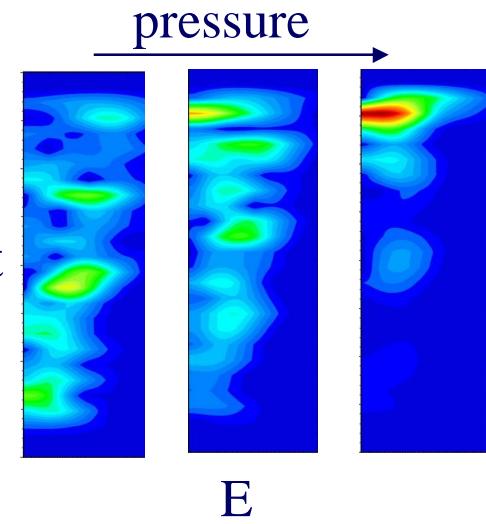
More generally, optimal control theories build in that phase relation among the light waves that will translate into a desired phase relation among the matter waves:



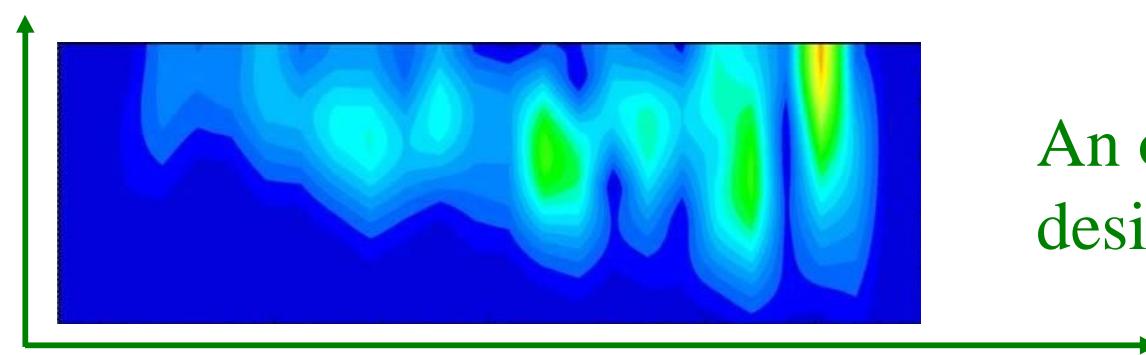
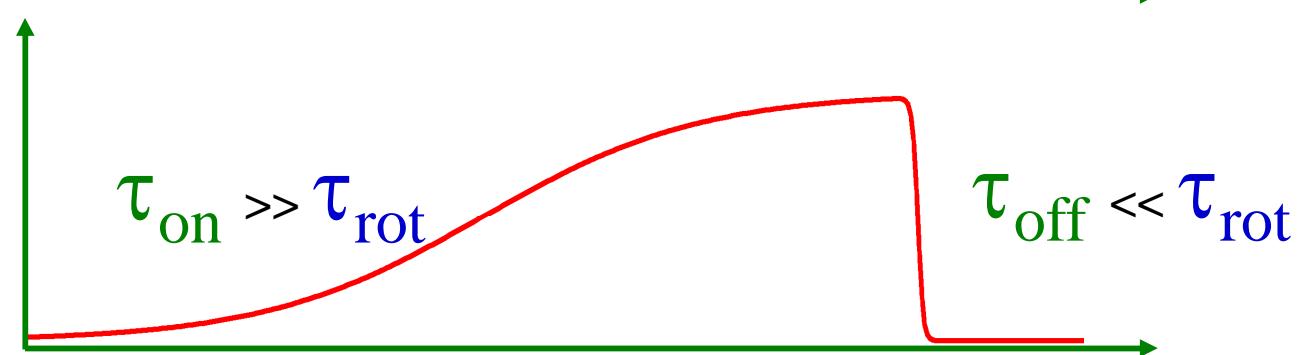
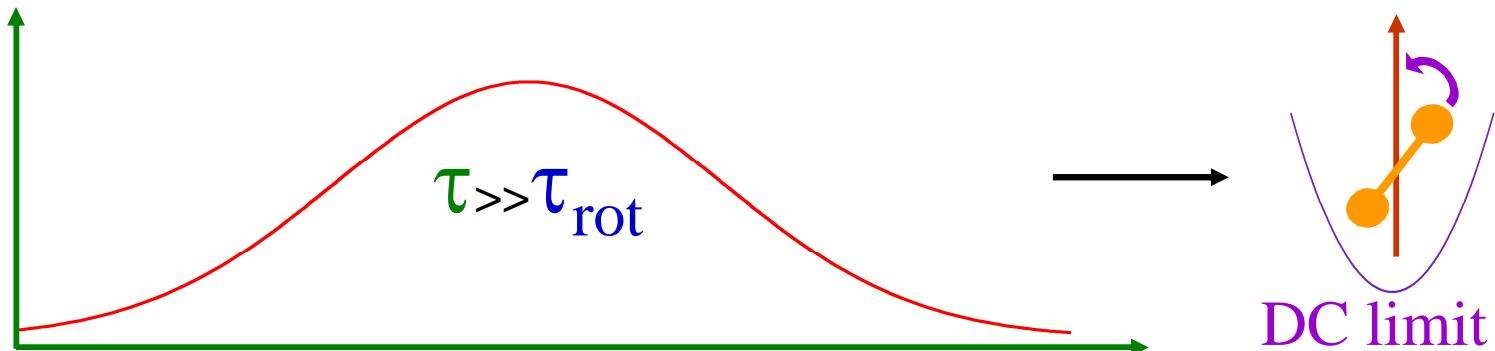
Short-time Fourier transforms  $t$  are particularly telling:



*See talk by Hersch Rabitz*

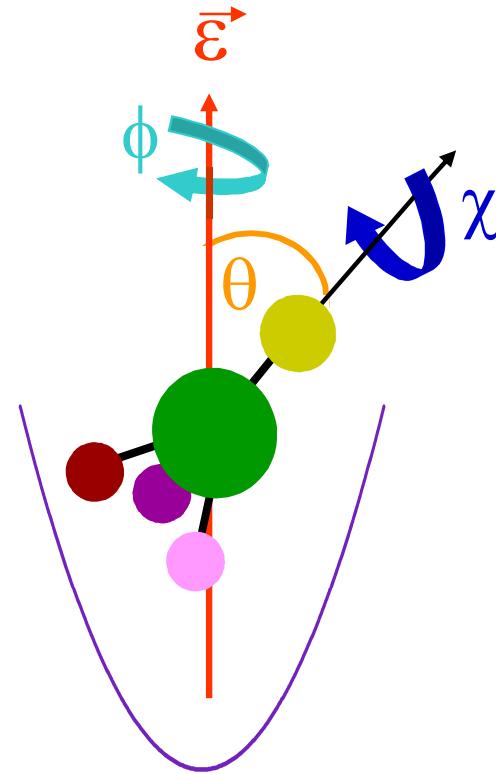


A. Pelzer, S. Ramakrishna & T.S., J.Chem.Phys., 126, 034503 (2007).

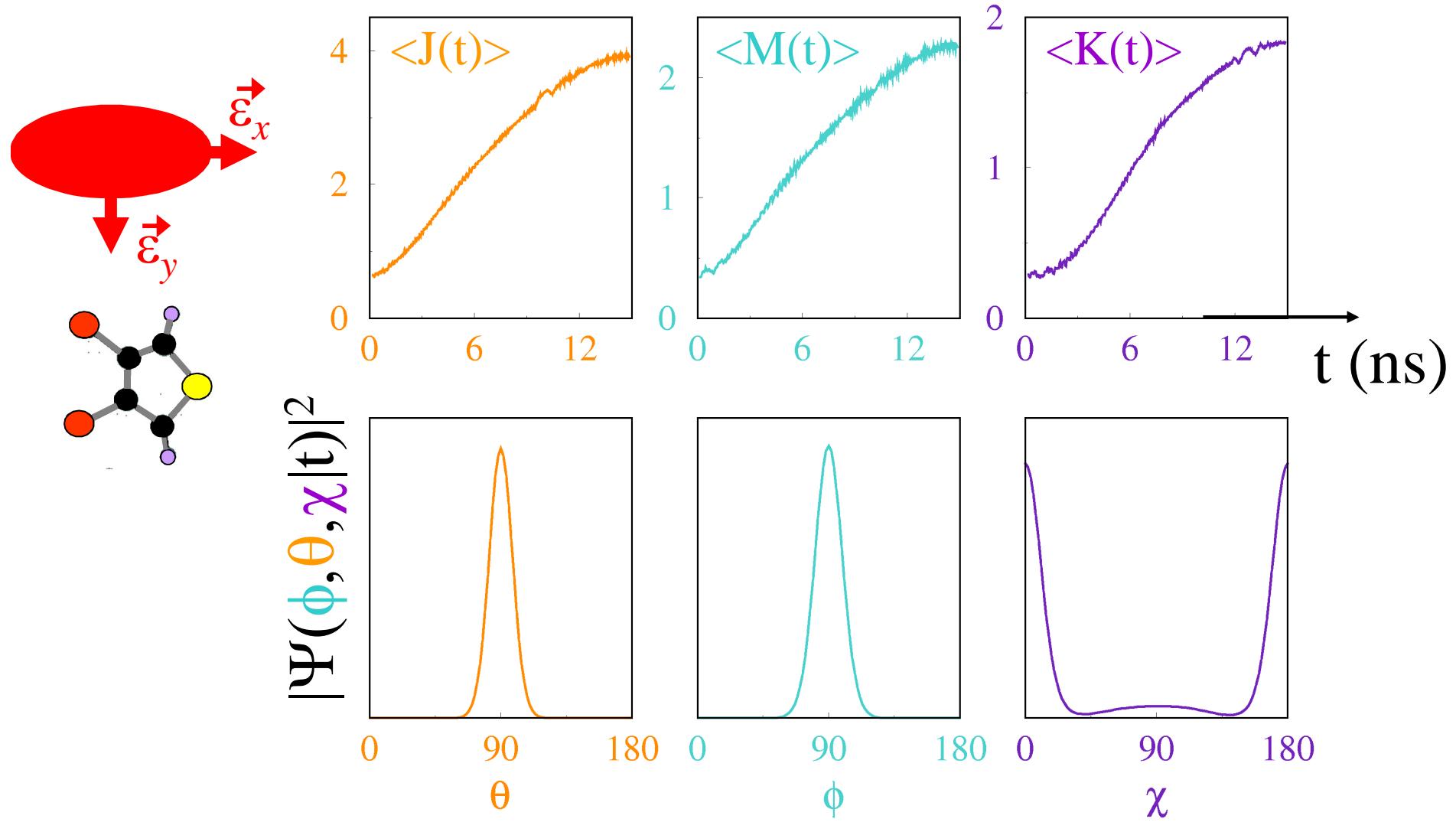


Alignment (as discussed so far)  
is a one-dimensional concept:

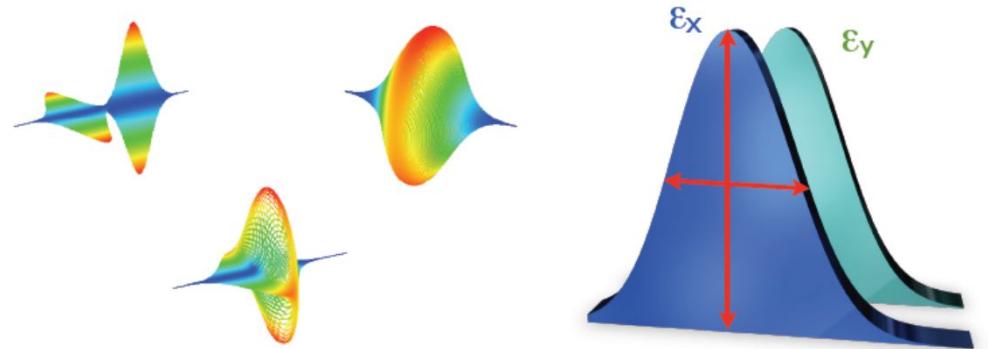
$\theta$  confined  
 $\chi$  free  
 $\phi$  free



The elliptically polarized field populates a coherent wavepacket of  $J$ ,  $M$  and  $K$  states, and establishes a probability density that is correspondingly well defined in the 3 Euler angles



# On the optimal approach to (field-free) 3D alignment



Phys.Rev.Lett. 94, 143002 (2005): Two pulses with the second fired at the revival of the first

Phys.Rev.Lett. 97, 173001 (2006): Two pulses with the second immediately following the first

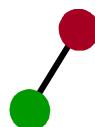
Phys.Rev.Lett. 99, 143602 (2007): A long and a short overlapping pulses

Phys.Rev.A 77, 043412 (2008): One elliptically polarized pulse

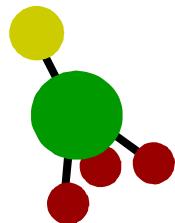
Optimal control theory shows that the long+short route very generally wins (but a single elliptically polarized pulse is nearly equivalent):  
M. Artamonov & T.S., Phys.Rev.A 82, 023413 (2010)

## Spectrum

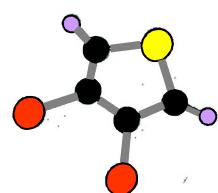
$$E_J = B_e J(J+1)$$



$$E_{JK} = C_e J(J+1) + (A_e - C_e) K^2$$



$$2E_{J\tau} = (A_e + C_e) J(J+1) + (A_e - C_e) E_{J\tau}(\kappa)$$



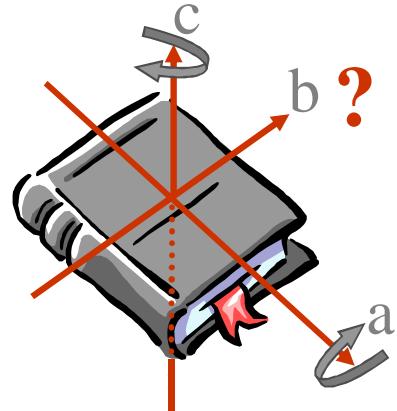
## Classical motion

$$\dot{\theta} = 0, \quad \dot{\phi} = J/I$$

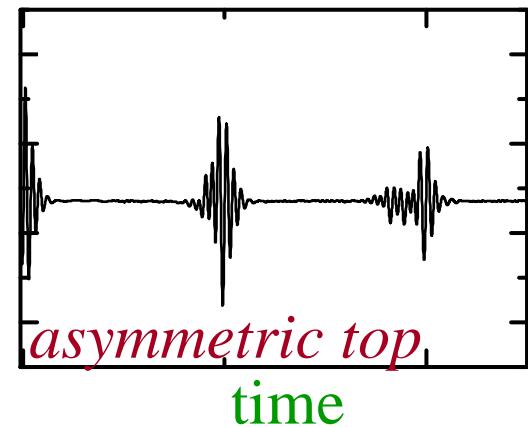
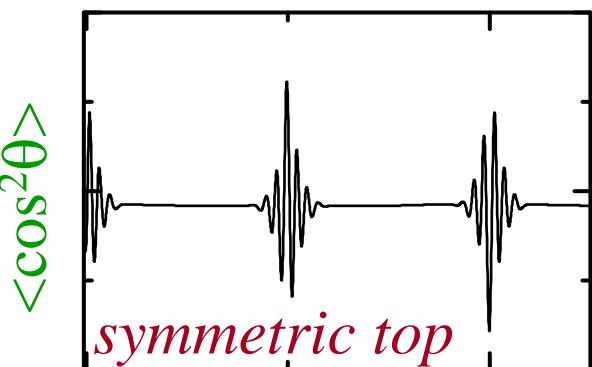
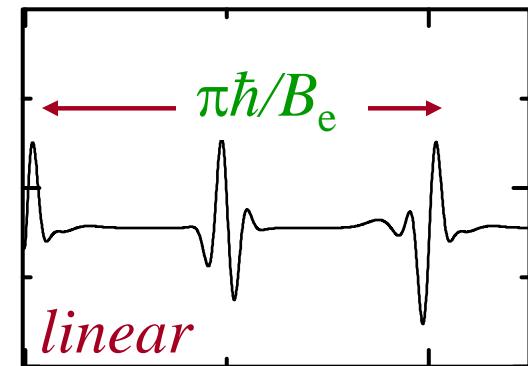


$$\dot{\theta} = 0, \quad \dot{\phi} = J/I_a$$

$$\dot{\chi} = J \cos \theta \left( \frac{1}{I_c} - \frac{1}{I_a} \right)$$

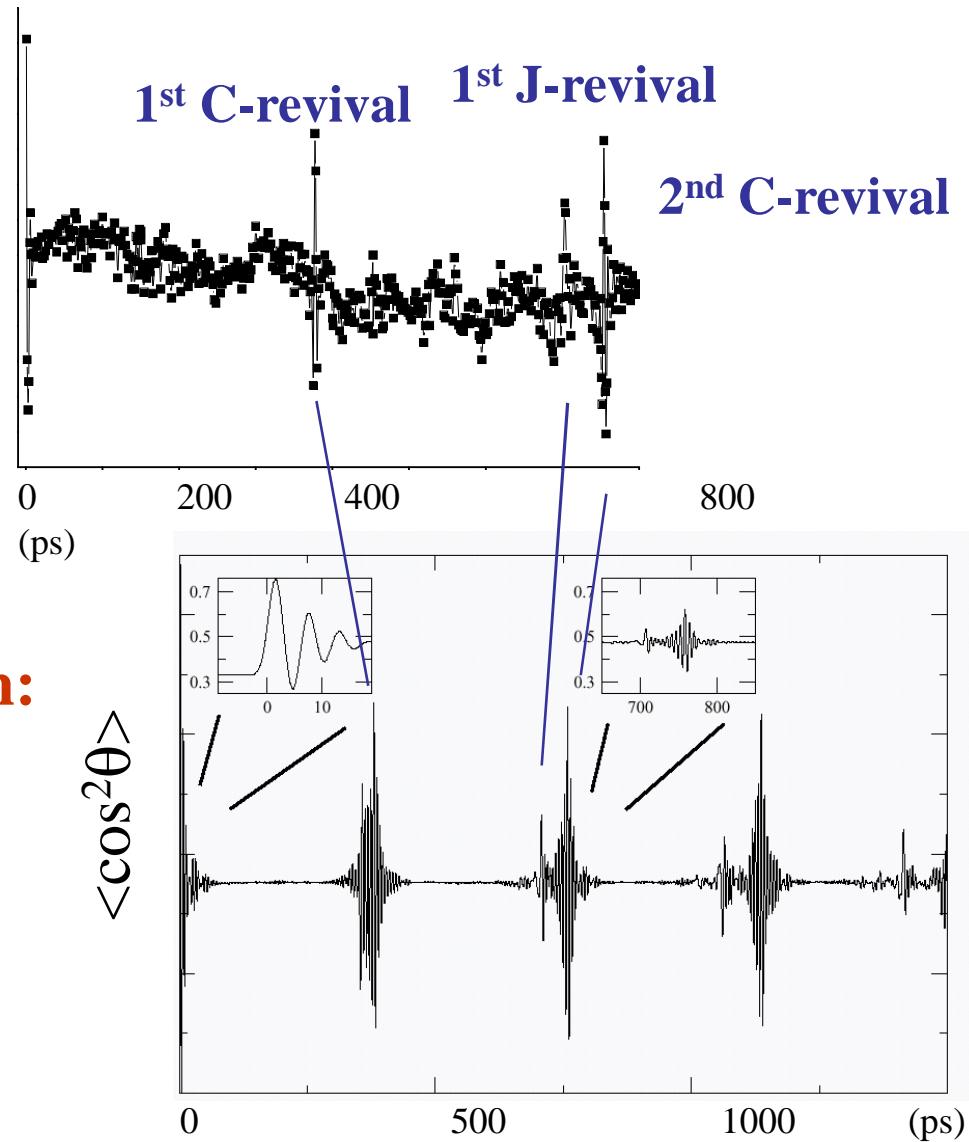


## Quantum revivals



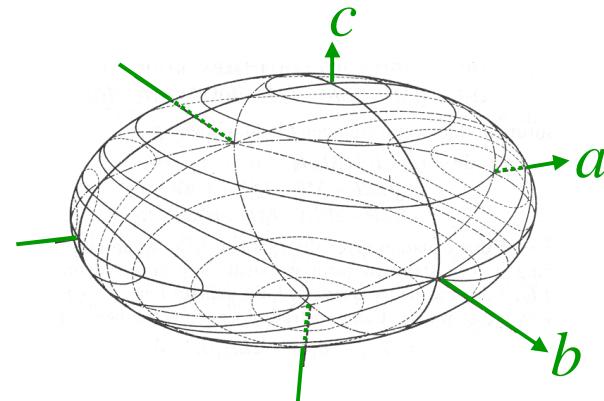
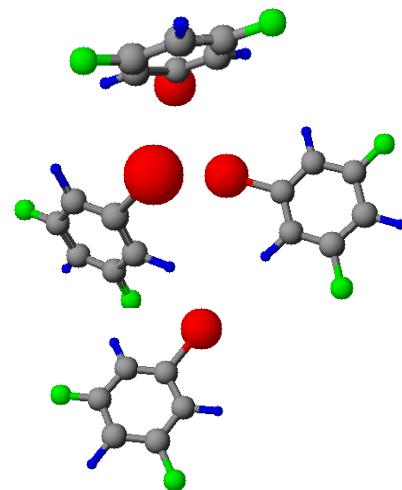
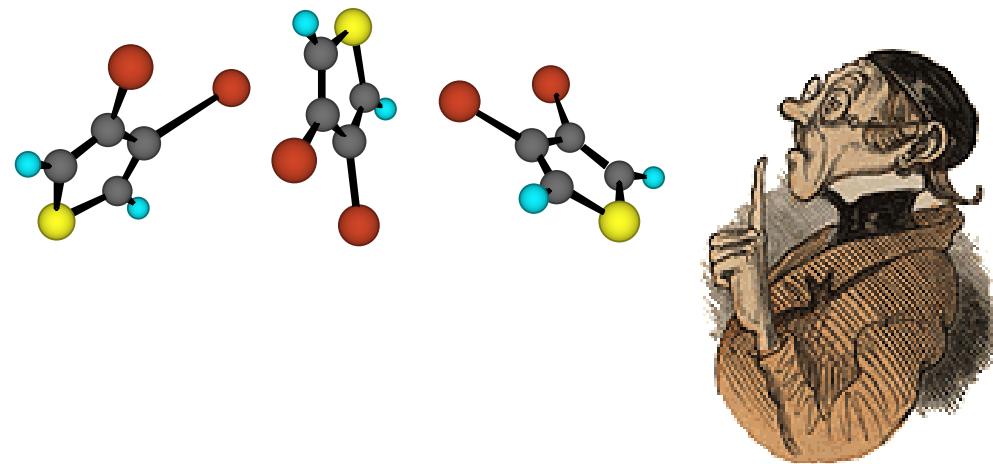
**Experiment:**  
(H. Stapelfeldt  
& coworkers)

**Calculation:**

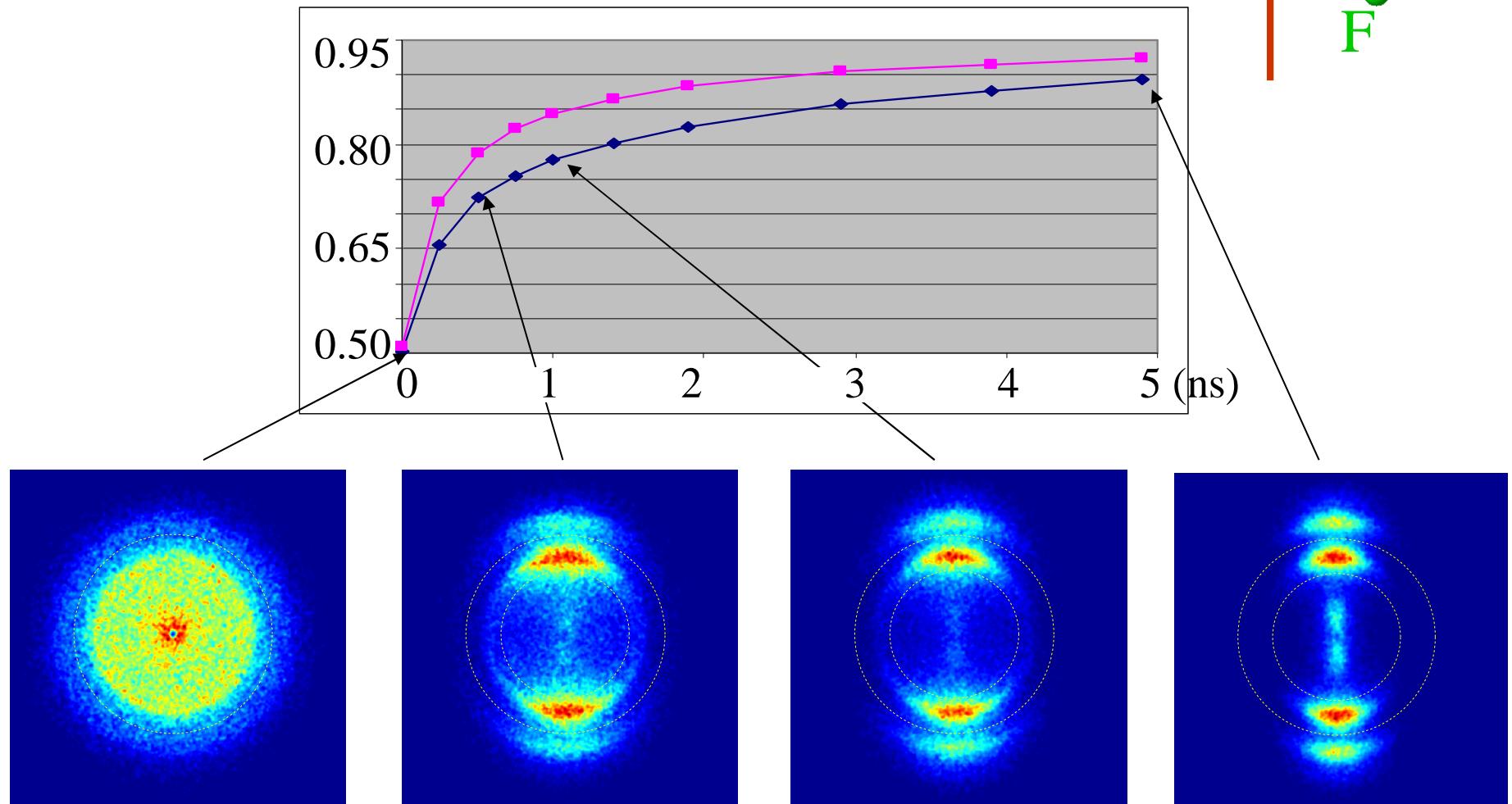


E. Peronne, M.D. Poulsen,  
H. Stapelfeldt & T.S., Phys. Rev. Lett. **91**, 043003 (2003).

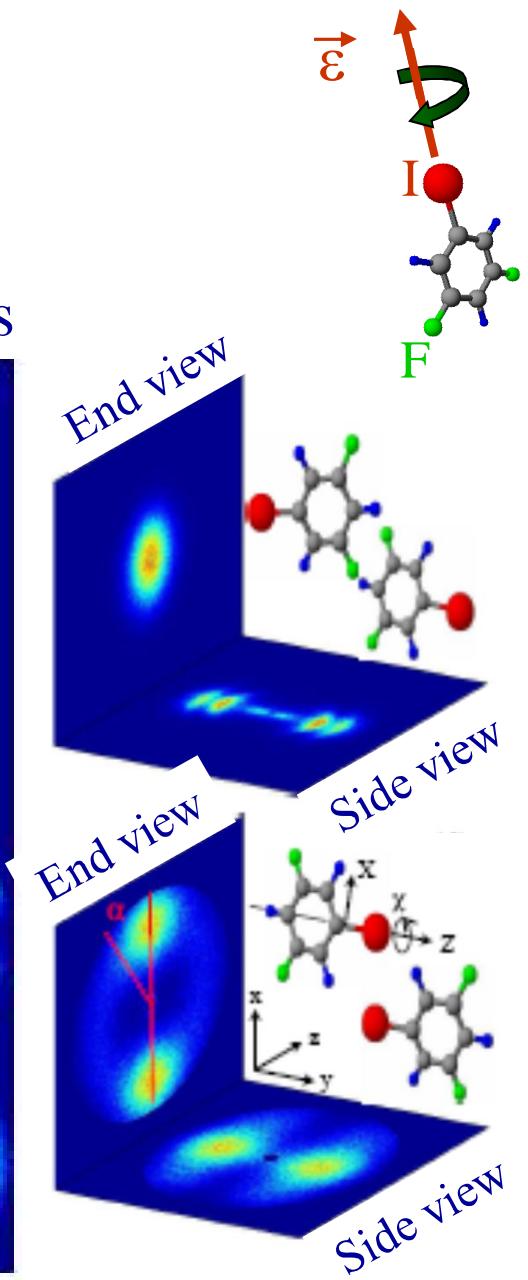
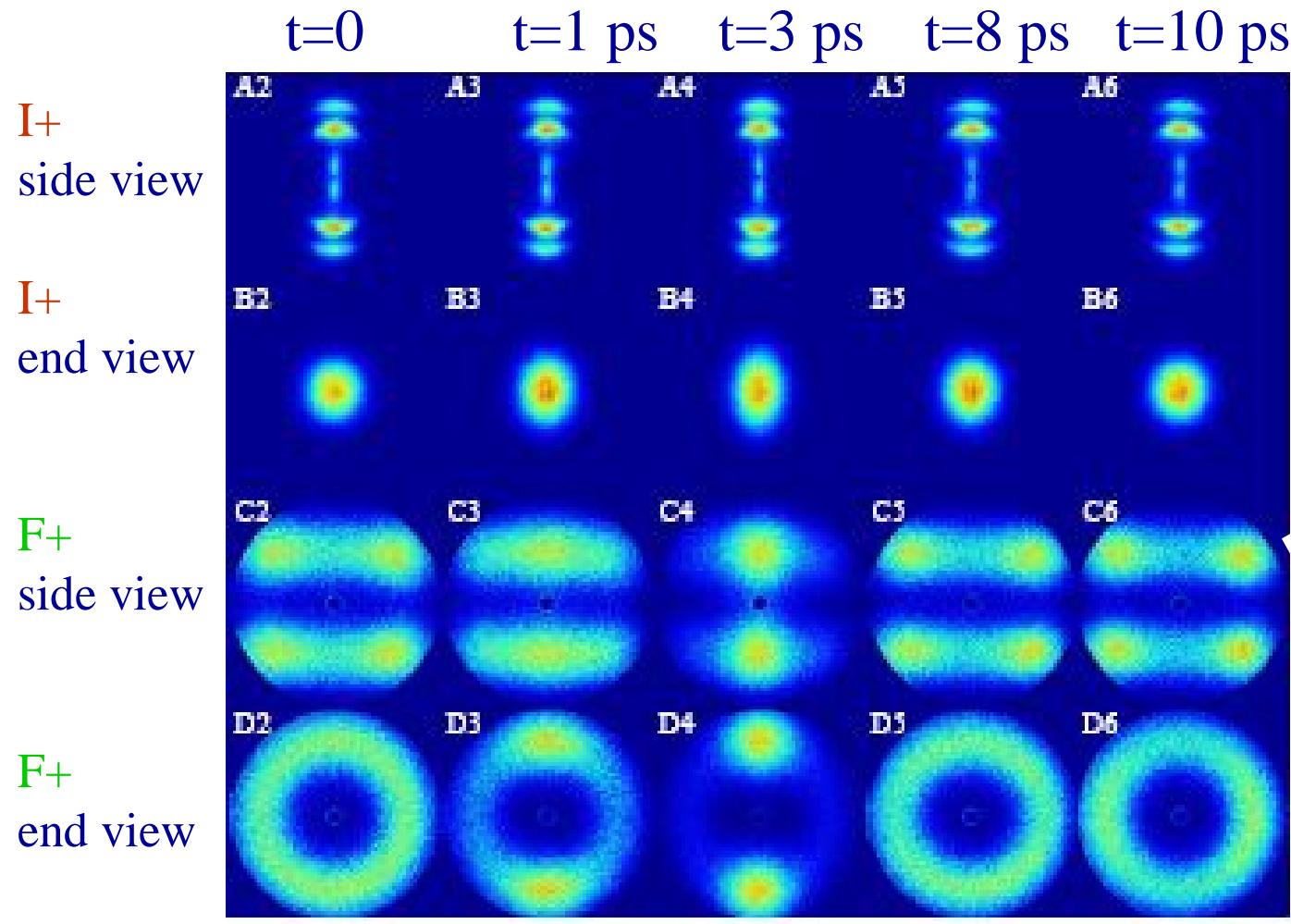
# Toward taming the rotations of asymmetric tops with strong fields



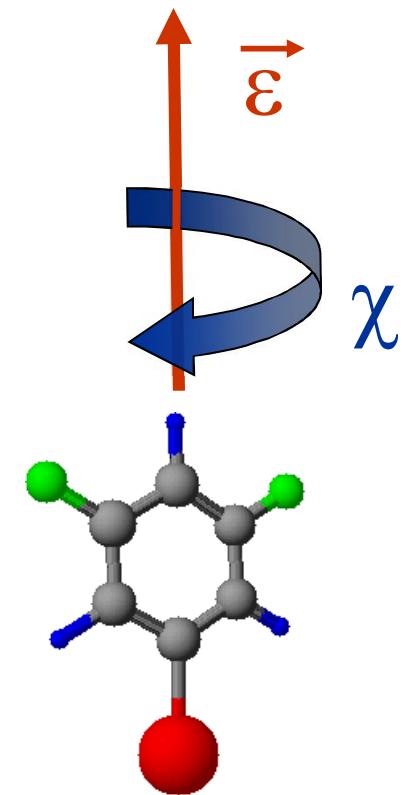
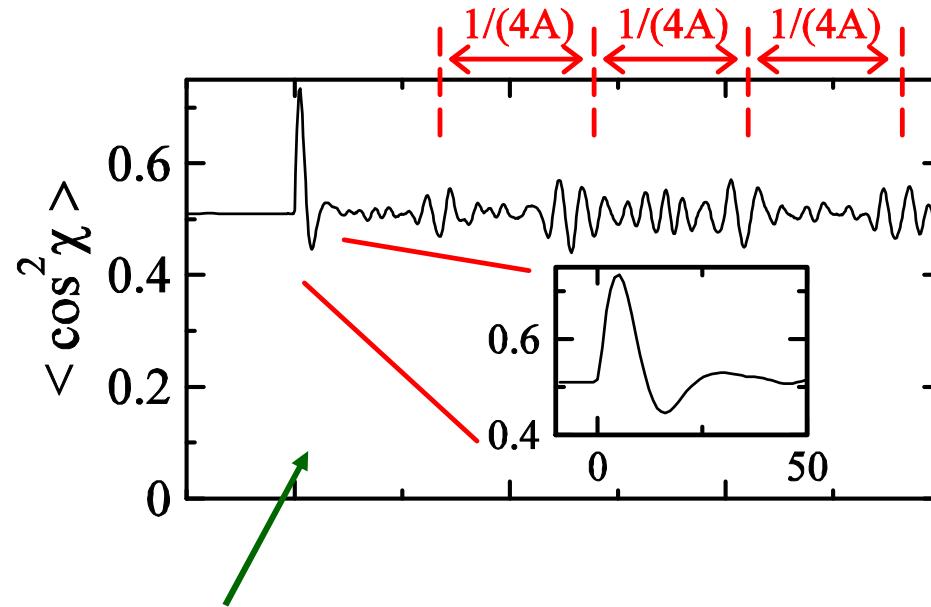
A first, long pulse tightly aligns the most polarizable axis to the polarization vector:



A second, short, orthogonally polarized pulse spins the molecule about the arrested axis:



S. S. Viftrup, V. Kumarappan,  
H. Stapelfeldt, E. Hamilton & T.S. Phys. Rev. Lett., 99, 143602 (2007)

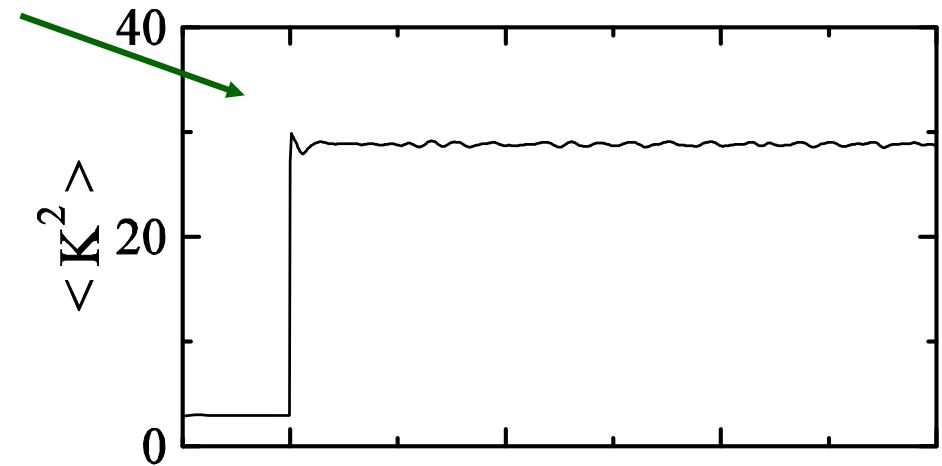


Computed revivals of the azimuthal angle alignment & corresponding helicity excitation

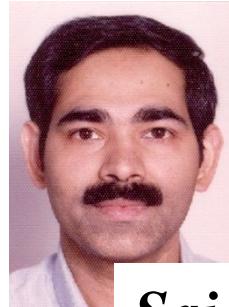
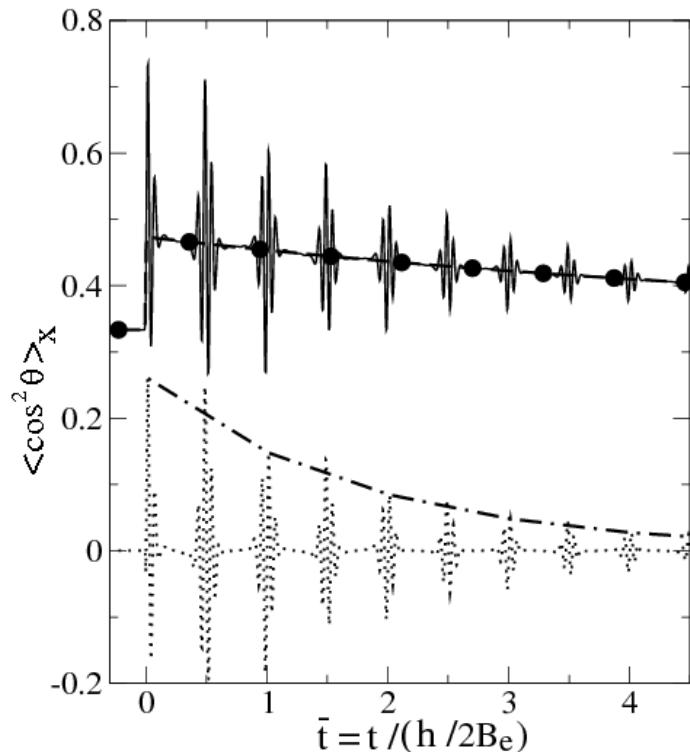


*Max Artamonov*

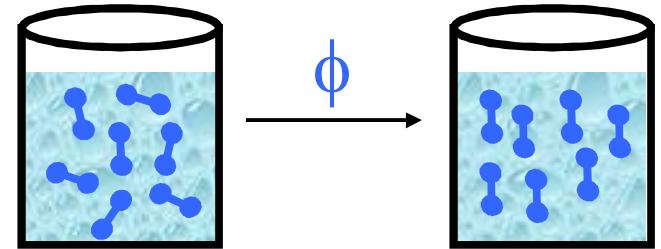
S. S. Viftrup, V. Kumarappan,  
H. Stapelfeldt, E. Hamilton & T.S. Phys. Rev. Lett., 99, 143602 (2007)



# Rotational coherences as a probe of the dissipative properties of media:



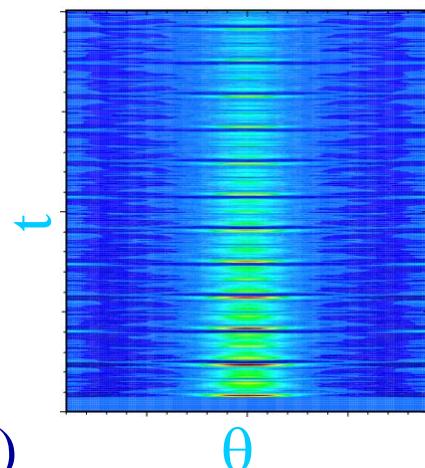
*Sai Ramakrishna*



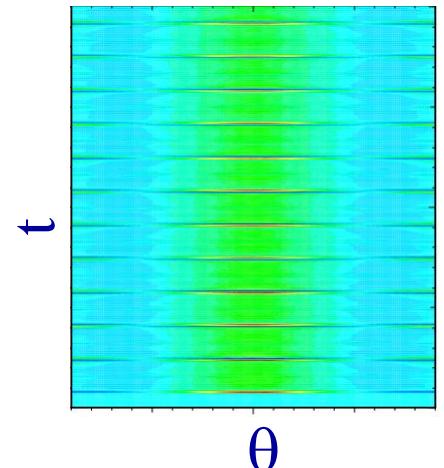
→ Elastic and inelastic collision rates

S. Ramakrishna & T.S.  
Phys.Rev.Lett. 95, 113001 (2005)

CO/Ar, 10 K



CO/Ar, 100 K



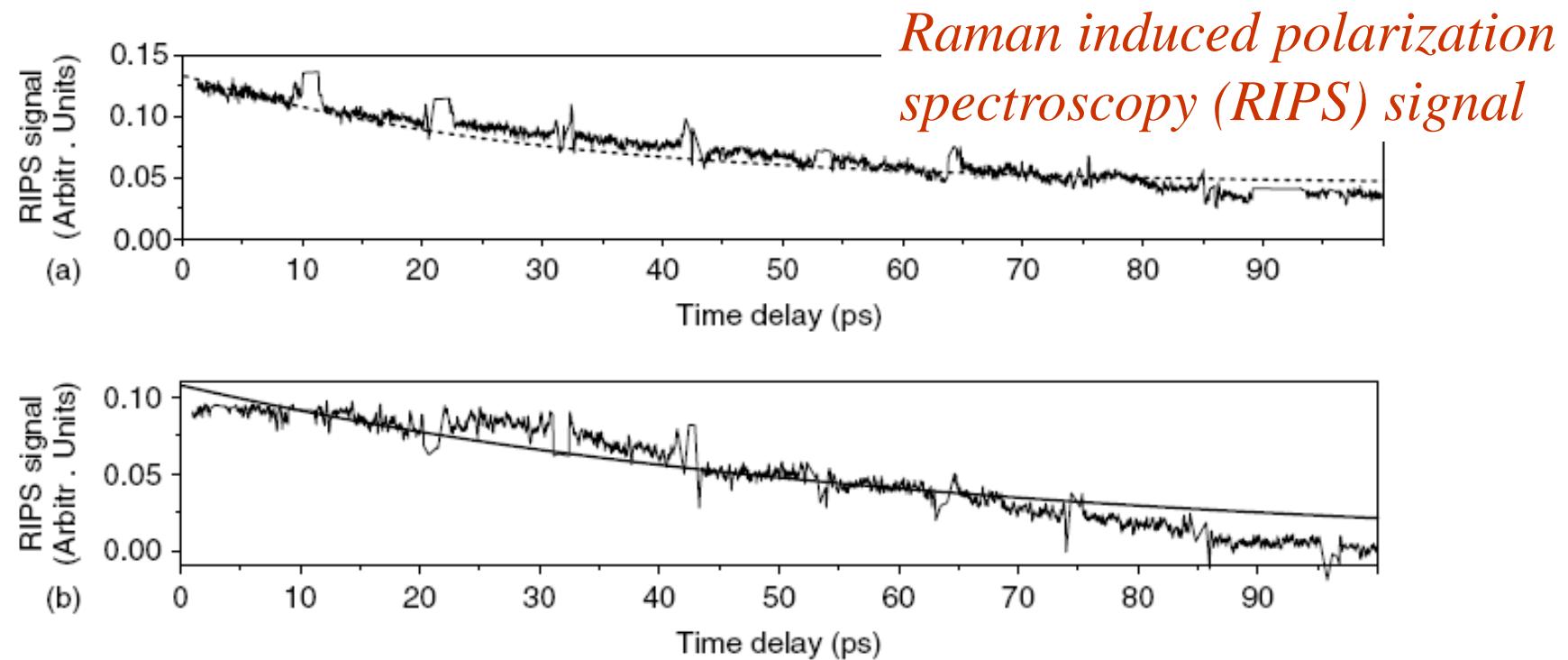
# *A first experimental realization*

JOURNAL OF RAMAN SPECTROSCOPY  
*J. Raman Spectrosc.* 2008; **39**: 694–699  
Published online 4 April 2008 in Wiley InterScience  
(www.interscience.wiley.com) DOI: 10.1002/jrs.1976

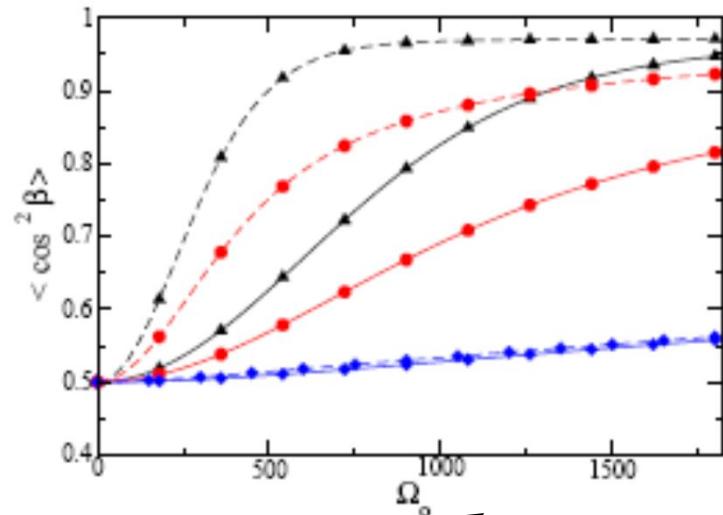
**JRS**

## **Field-free molecular alignment of CO<sub>2</sub> mixtures in presence of collisional relaxation**

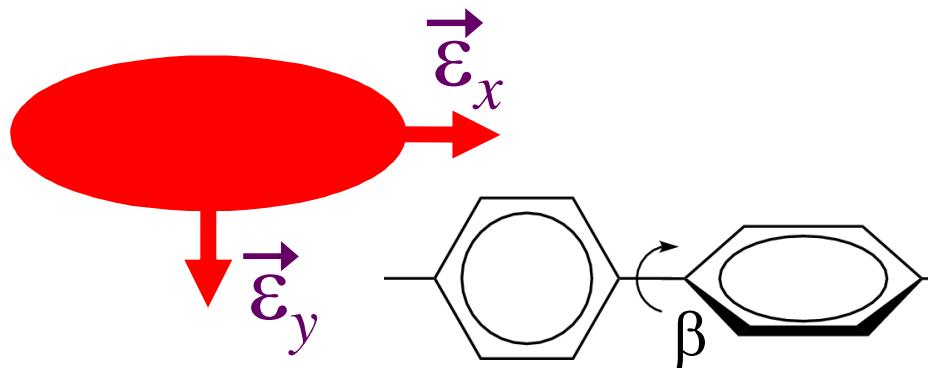
T. Vieillard, F. Chaussard,\* D. Sugny, B. Lavorel and O. Faucher



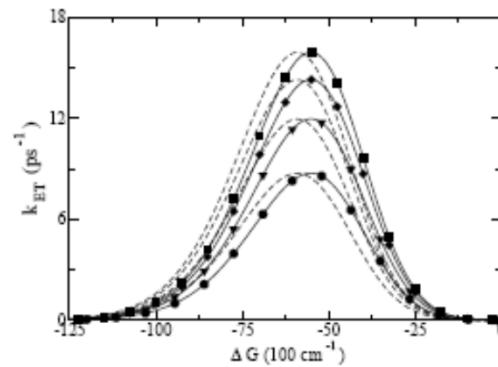
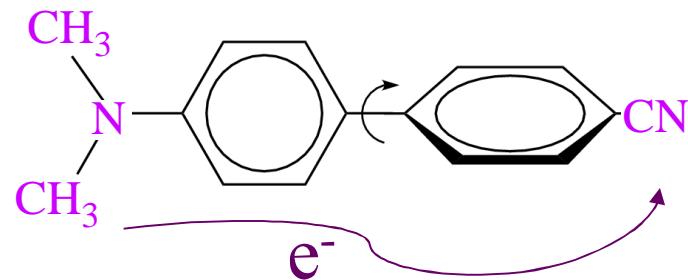
# Torsional alignment



$$\Omega_0 = 0.16(|\Delta\alpha|/B_e)I_0$$



E.g., control of charge transfer events :



S. Ramakrishna & T.S., Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 103001 (2007)

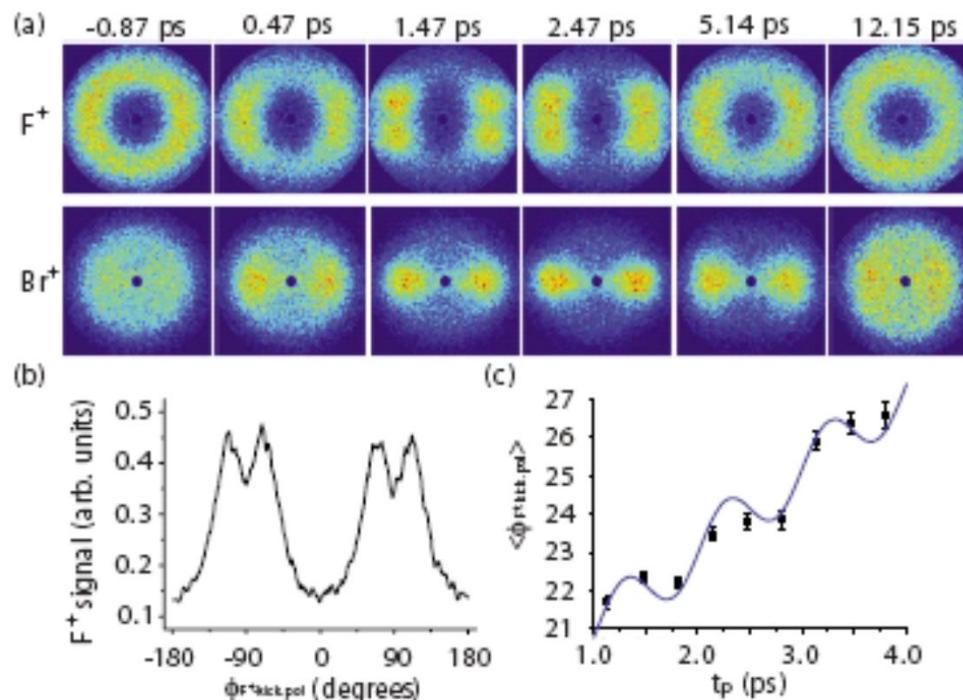
# A combined experimental and theoretical study on realizing and using laser controlled torsion of molecules

C. B. Madsen,<sup>1</sup> L. B. Madsen,<sup>1,a)</sup> S. S. Viftrup,<sup>2</sup> M. P. Johansson,<sup>2</sup> T. B. Poulsen,<sup>2</sup> L. Holmegaard,<sup>2</sup> V. Kumarappan,<sup>2</sup> K. A. Jørgensen,<sup>2</sup> and H. Stapelfeldt<sup>3,a)</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy, Lundbeck Foundation Theoretical Center for Quantum System Research, Aarhus University, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Chemistry, Aarhus University, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark*

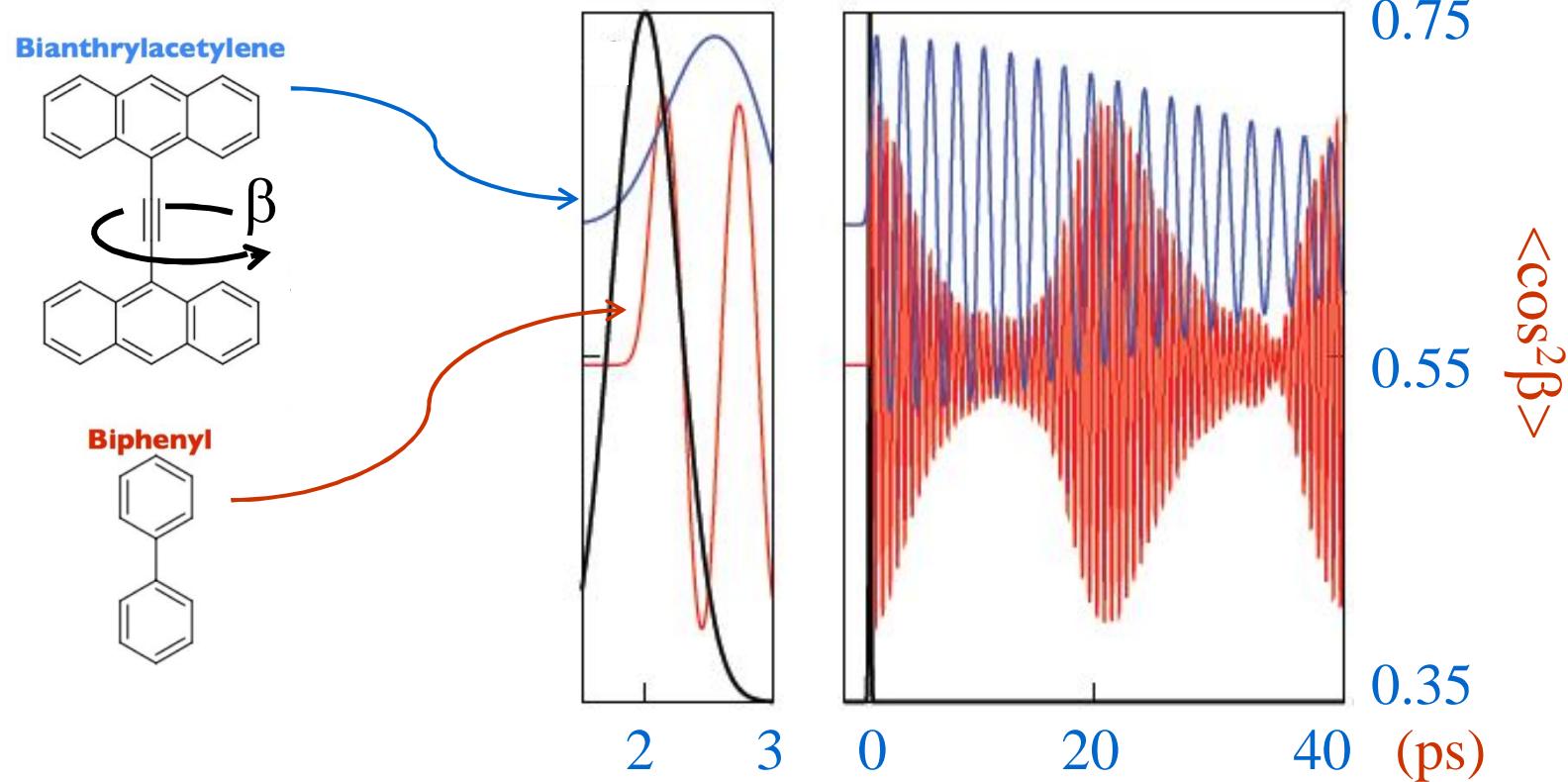
<sup>3</sup>*Department of Chemistry and Interdisciplinary Nanoscience Center (iNANO), Aarhus University, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark*



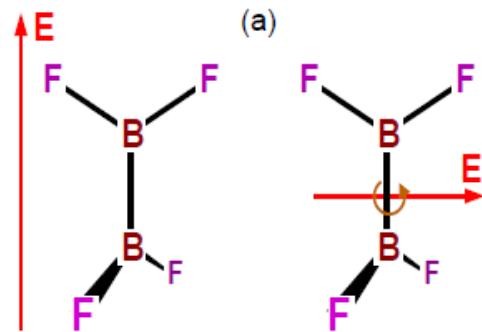
# About the controllability of torsional coherences subject to dissipative media



*Benjamin Ashwell*

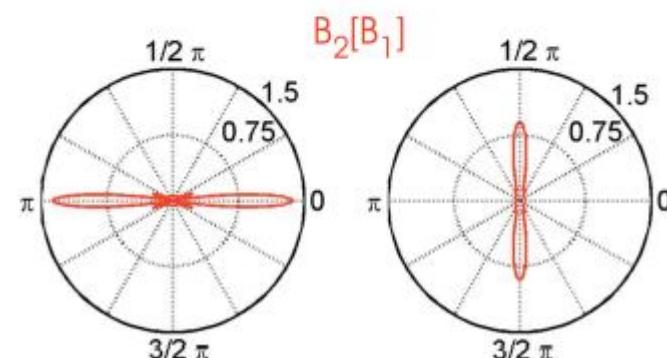
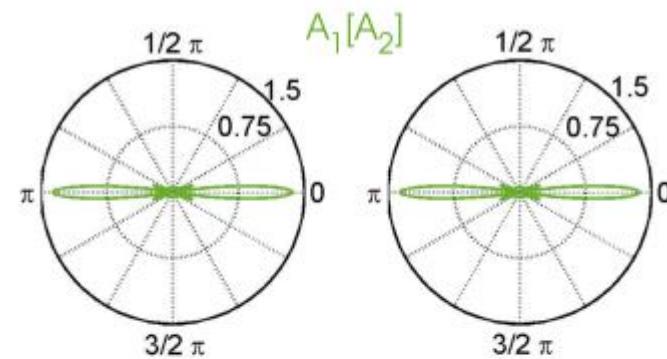


# Nuclear Spin Selective Torsional Control

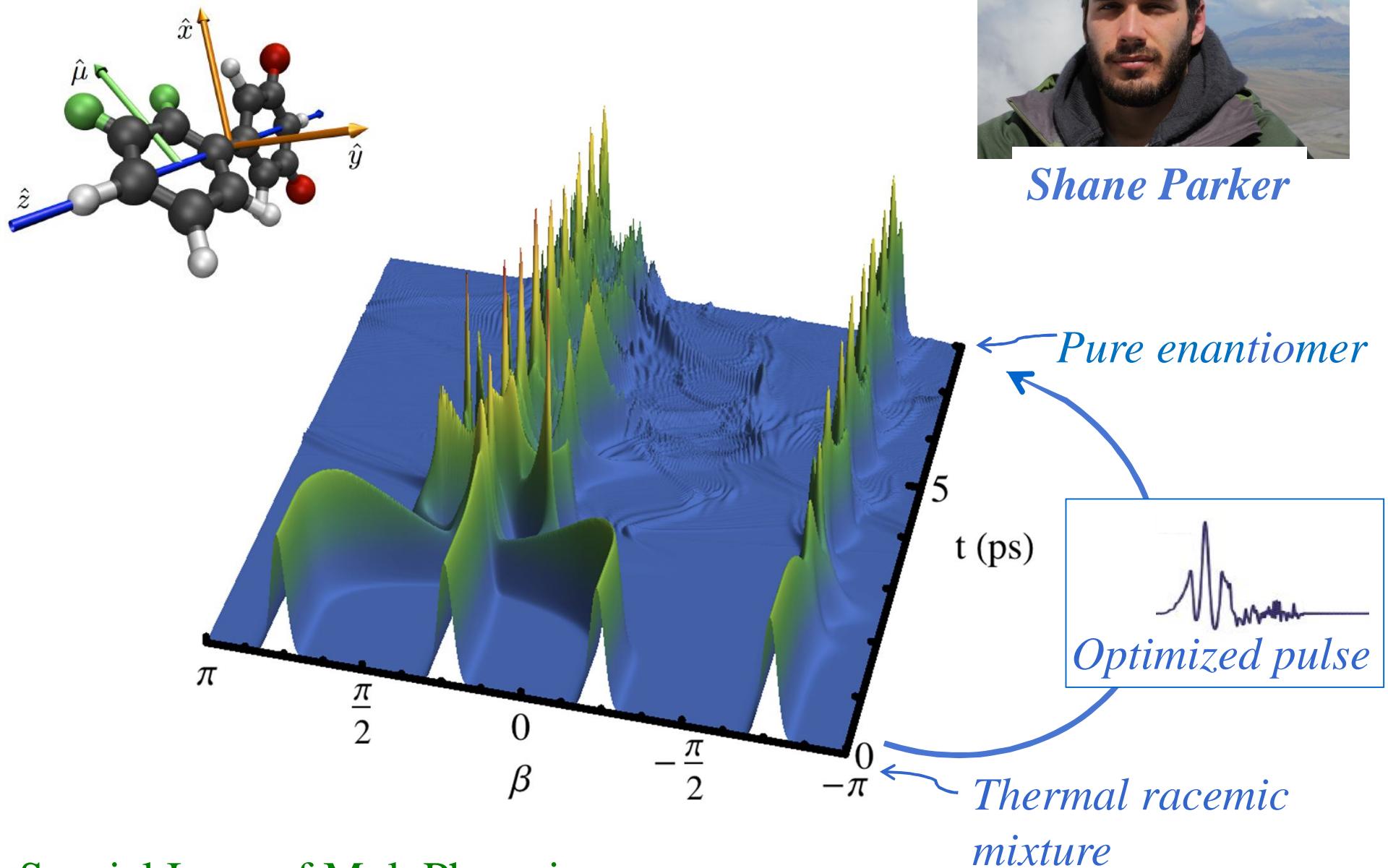


*Monika Leibscher*

Probability densities of the two  $\text{BF}_2$  groups after the pulse: The two isomers are torsionally-aligned along perpendicular directions



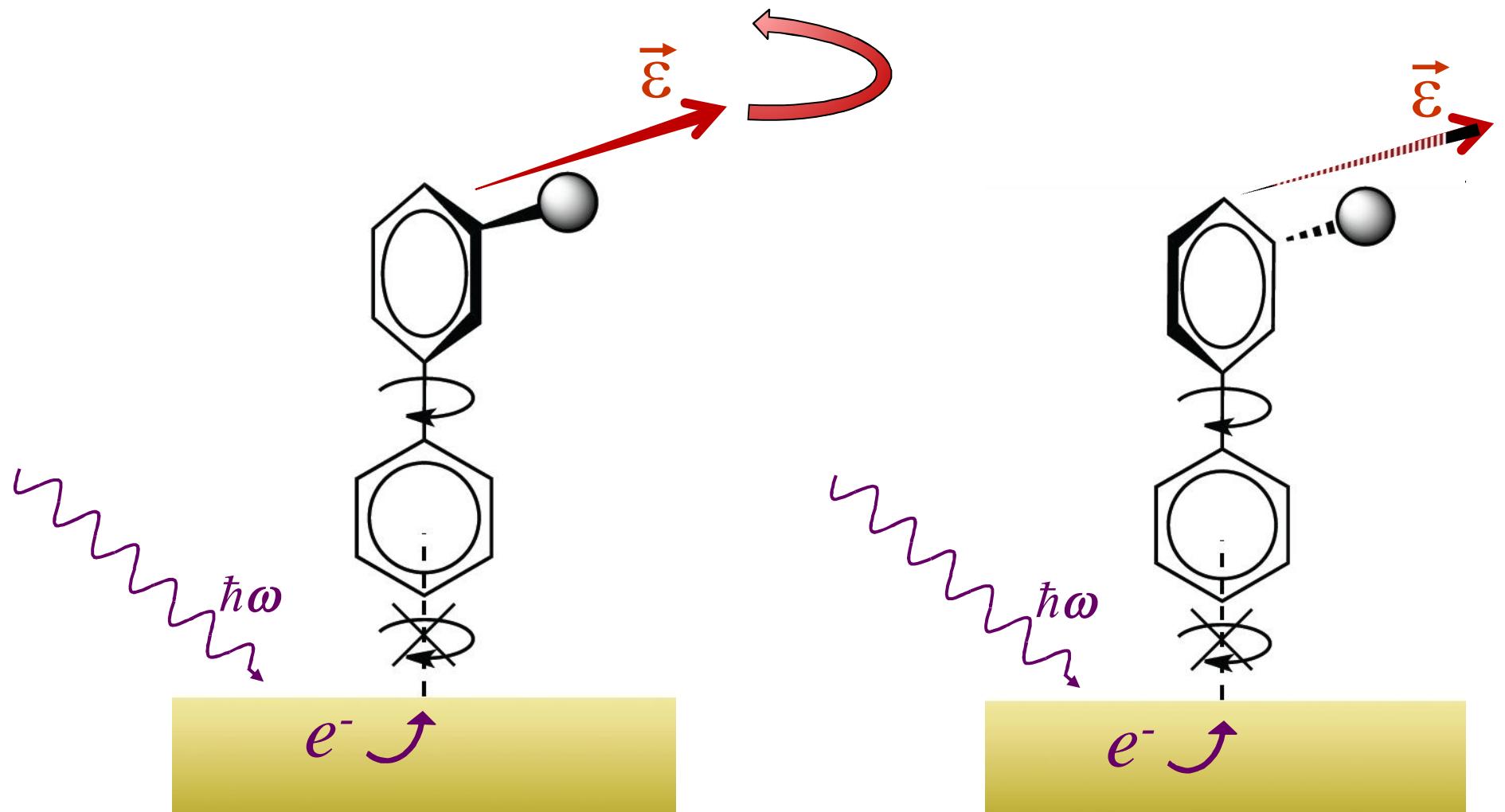
# Torsional control of chirality



*Shane Parker*

Special Issue of Mol. Phys., in press

# Toward a Spin Switch



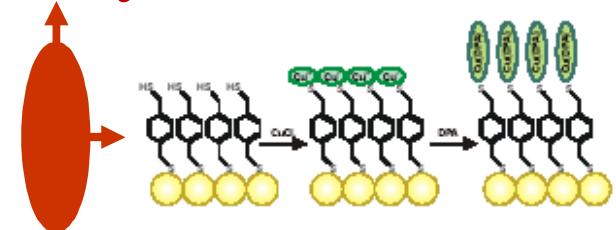
## Other potential opportunities that could be envisioned (but are yet to be explored)

- Perhaps control of energy transfer
- Probably control of charge transport
- Hopefully control of chemical reactions



# Toward laser-guided molecular assembly

A route to molecular constructs with long-range orientational order

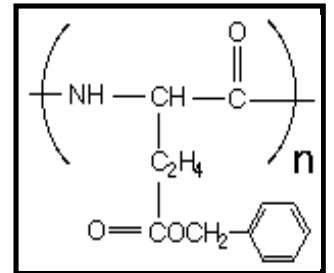


Alignment has a major role in applications of molecular assembly:

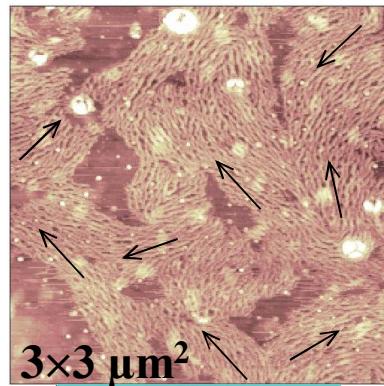
- **Molecular electronics:** alignment determines the electric & magnetic properties
- **Crystallography:** alignment circumvents “2D powder formation”
- **Material research:** preferred mechanical & optical properties
- **Biology:** structural determination of molecules that cannot be crystalized

but in self-assembly alignment is very difficult to control

E.g., laser-guided molecular assembly of poly- $\gamma$ -benzyl-L-glutamate on a water surface

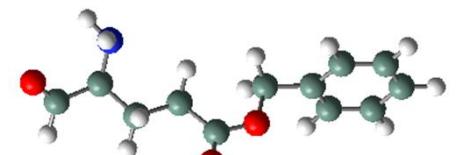
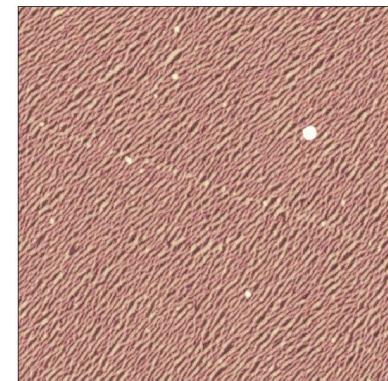


*Under field-free conditions the molecules are randomly oriented*



$\rightarrow \varepsilon$

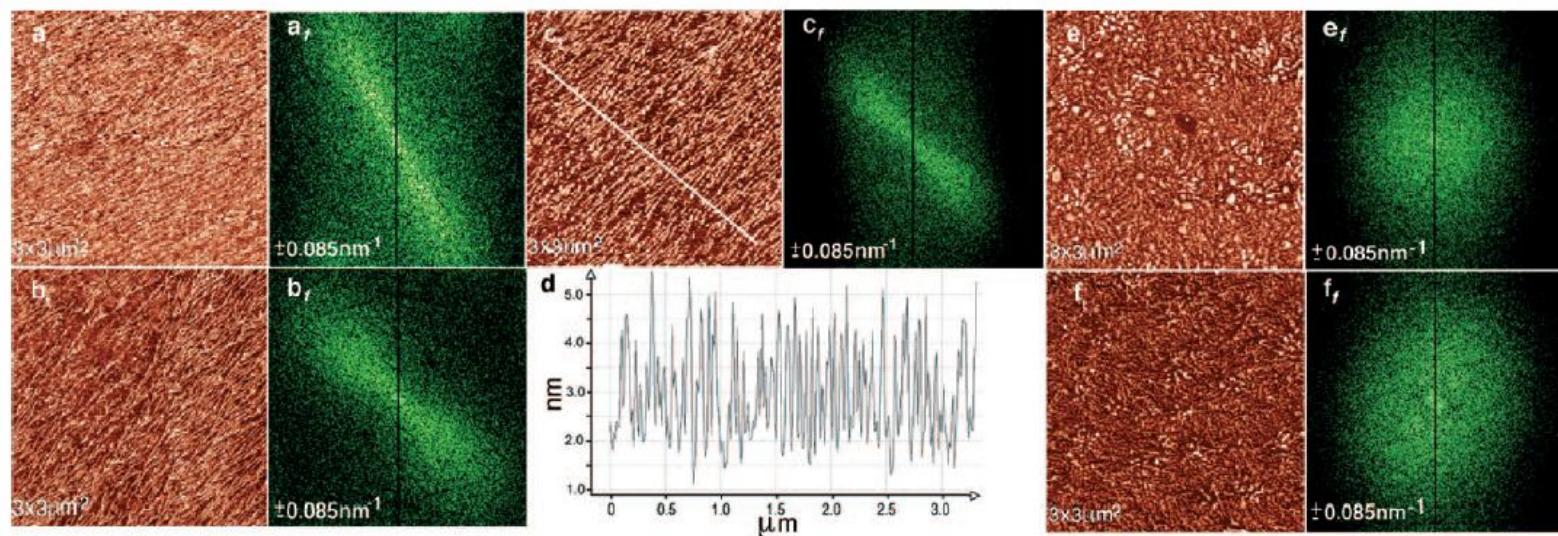
*The laser establishes mm-range order that lasts indefinitely*



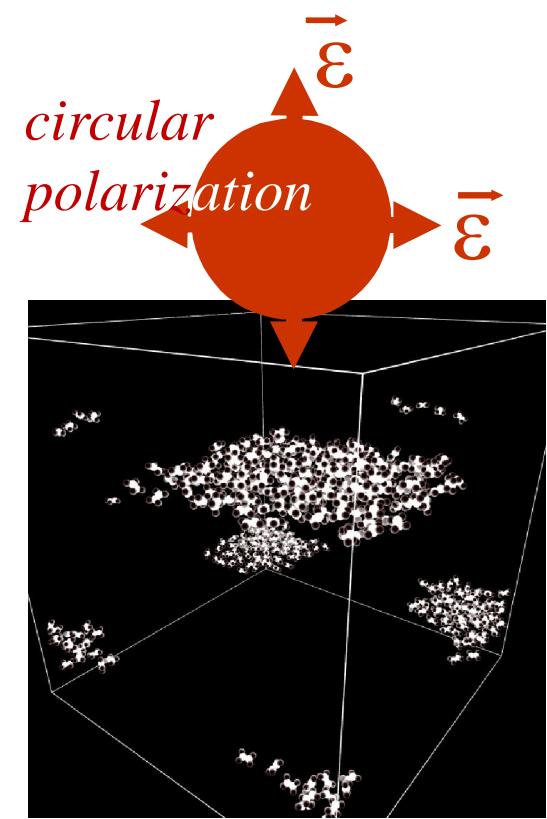
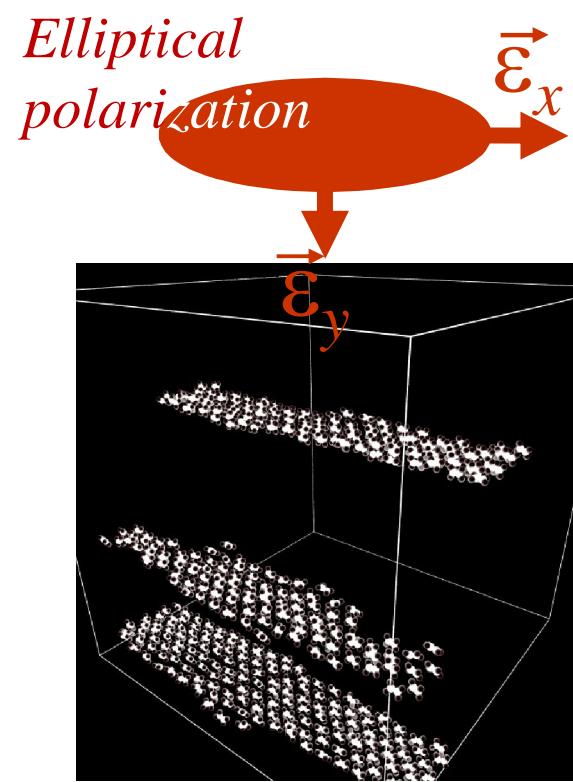
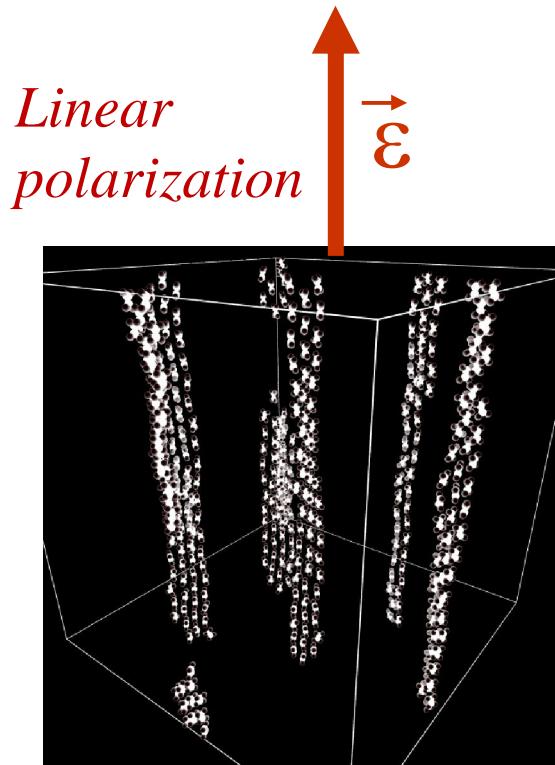
I. Nevo, S. Kapishnikov, A. Birman, M. Dong, F. Besenbacher, H. S., T.S., & L. Leiserowitz, J.Chem.Phys. 140, 144704 ; Science highlight “Molecular Choreography in Next Generation Nanofilms”, D. Powell.

## Laser-Induced Alignment of Self-Assembled Films of an Oligopeptide $\beta$ Sheet on the Water Surface\*\*

Atalia Birman, Kristian Kjaer, Yehiam Prior, Iftach Nevo,\* and Leslie Leiserowitz\*

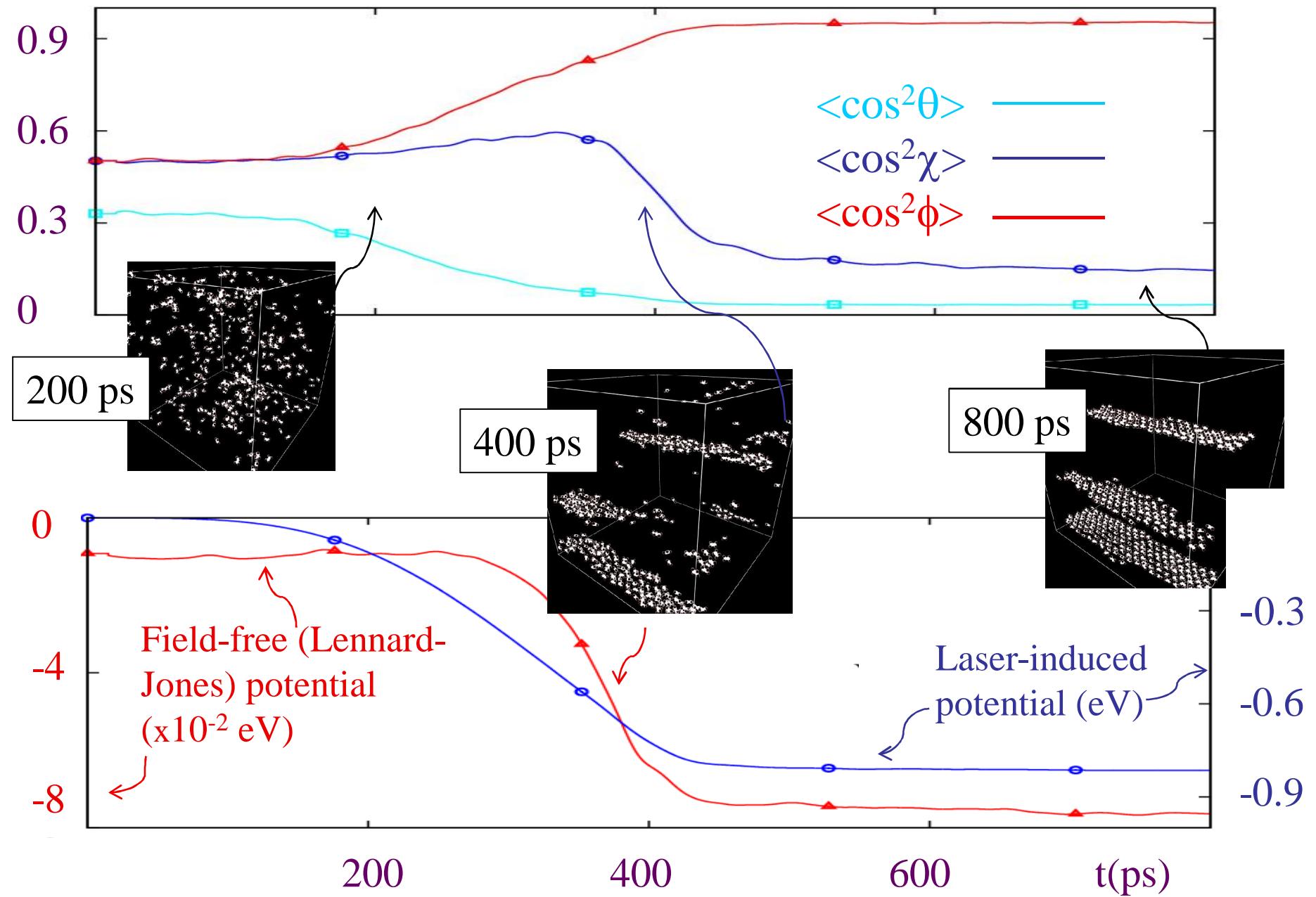


Purely laser-induced assembly (due to induced dipole-induced dipole interactions) is very general, and potentially offers control over the structure of the assembly\*



\*Disclaimer: these are very preliminary results

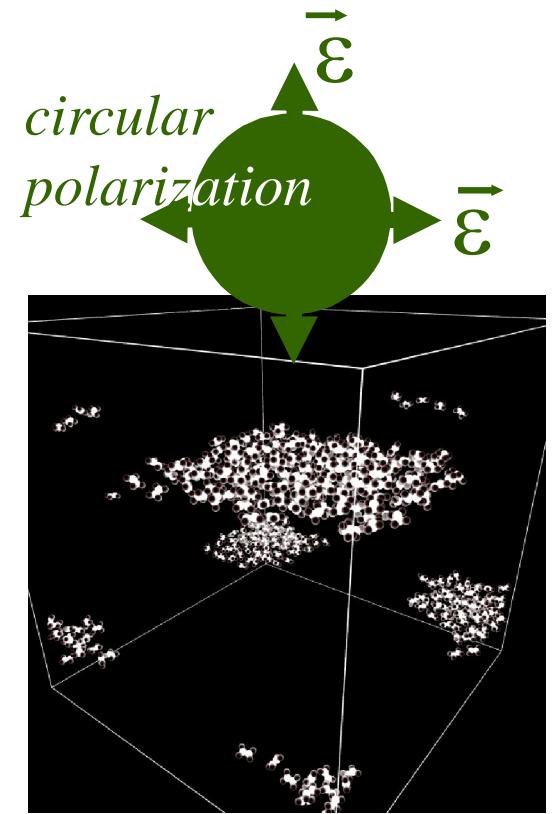
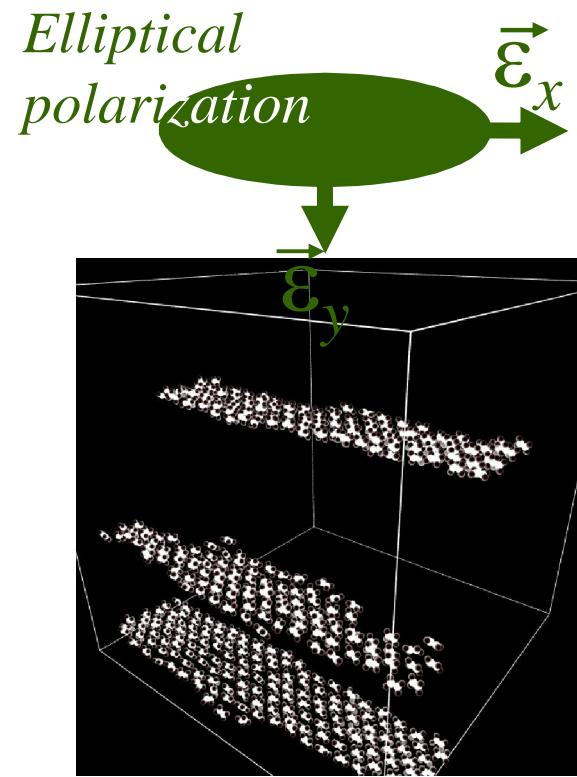
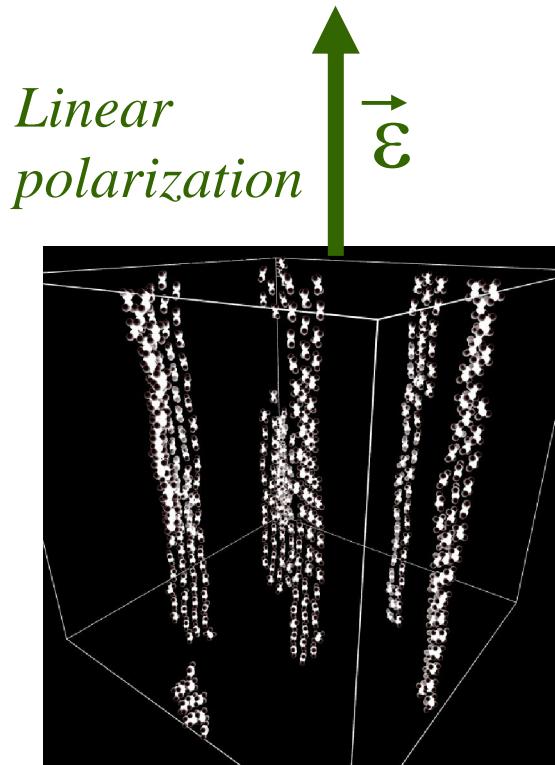
# Classical simulations of collective alignment in a molecular ensemble



The **polarization** determines both the short range order of the molecules within an assembly and the long range order of the assembly with respect to one another

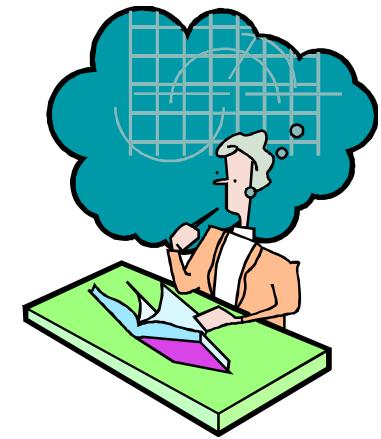
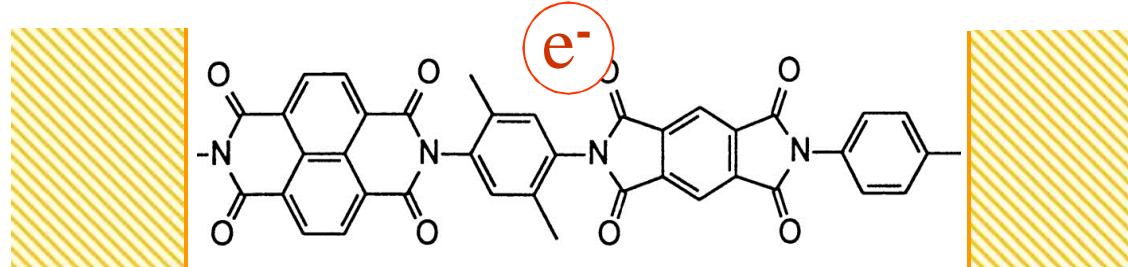


*Max Artamonov*



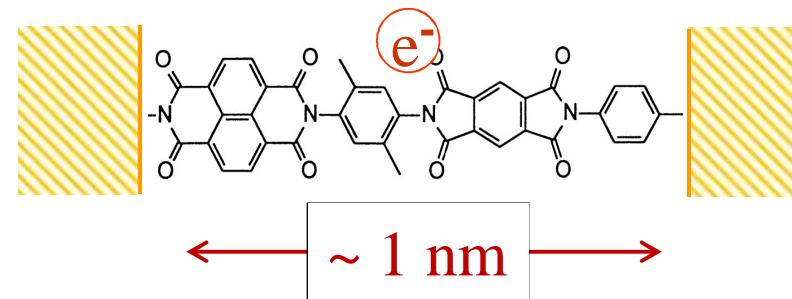
\*Disclaimer: these are very preliminary results

# Transport through molecular-scale junctions:

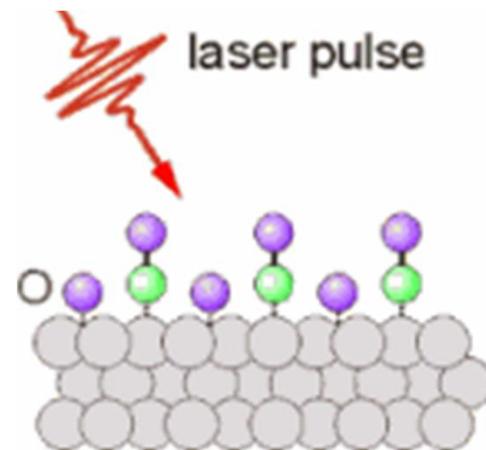


Coherently controlling the electron dynamics  
(in the lab) has long been a challenge....

First, laser beams are macroscopic (diffraction limited to approximately the wavelength)



Second, photon-driven processes on metallic surfaces are dominated by substrate-mediated excitation in the vast majority of cases



Cartoon courtesy  
of Martin Wolf

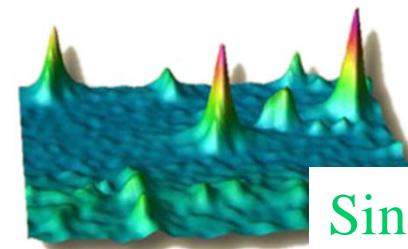
Plasmonics as a route to combining spatial with temporal resolution: Sharp metal tips (like nanoparticles and corrugated metal surfaces) enhance and spatially localize an incident electromagnetic field via plasmon resonance effects



The Lycurgus cup: 4th century A. D.



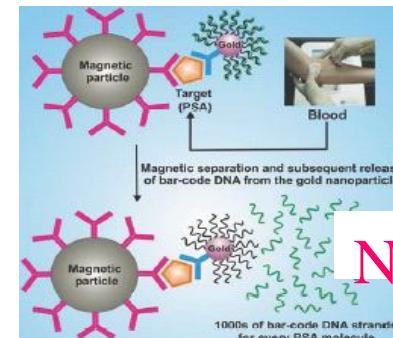
The Cathedral of Cologne: 1300 A.D.



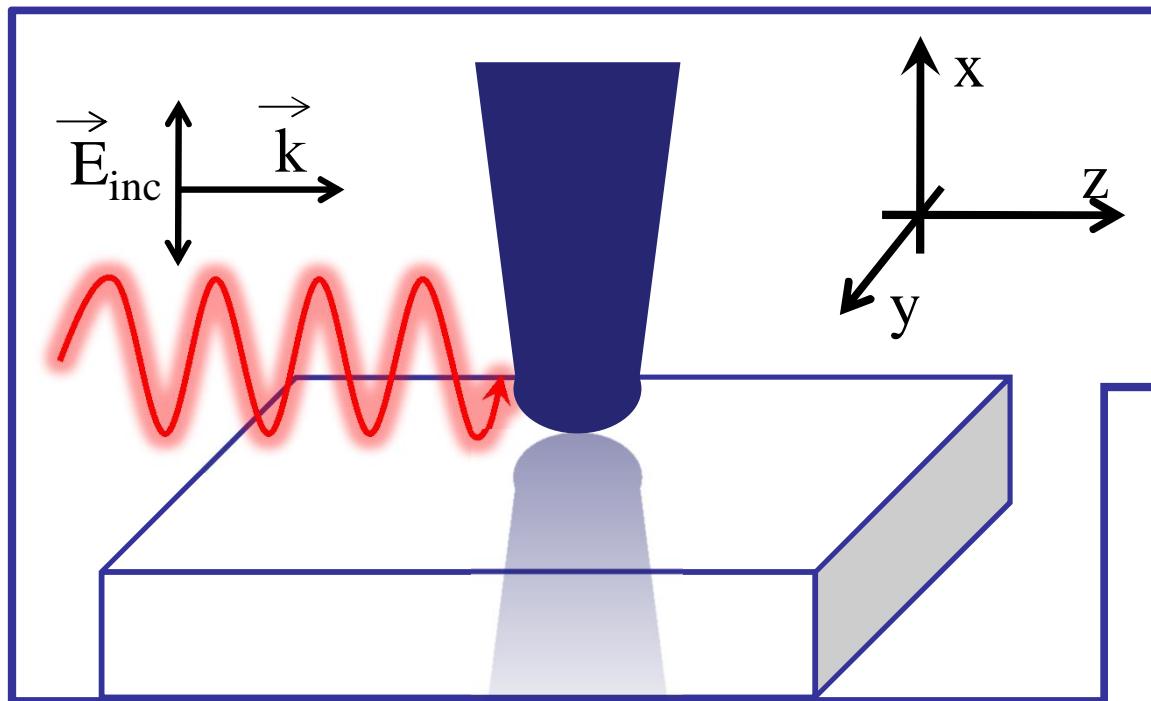
Single molecule spectroscopies



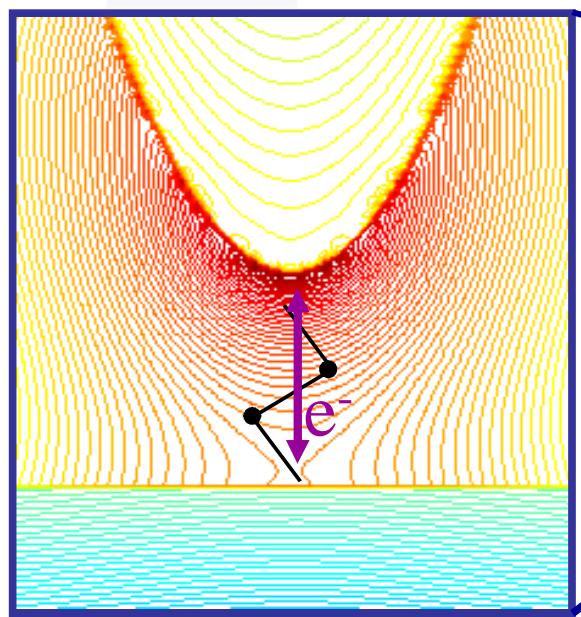
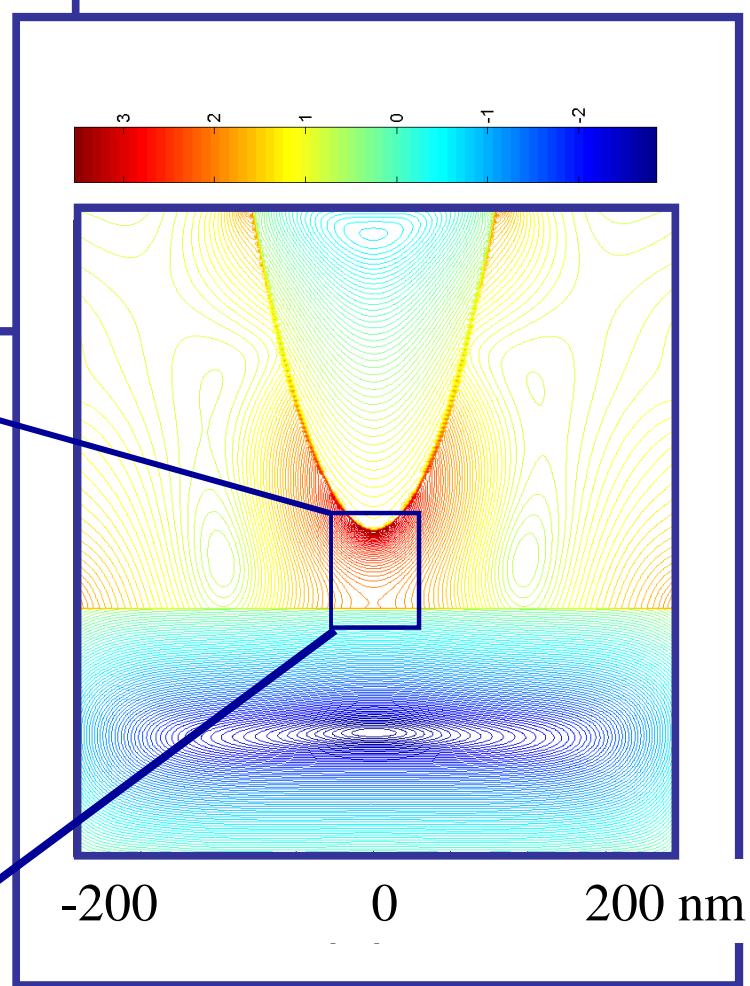
Energy transport in the nanoscale



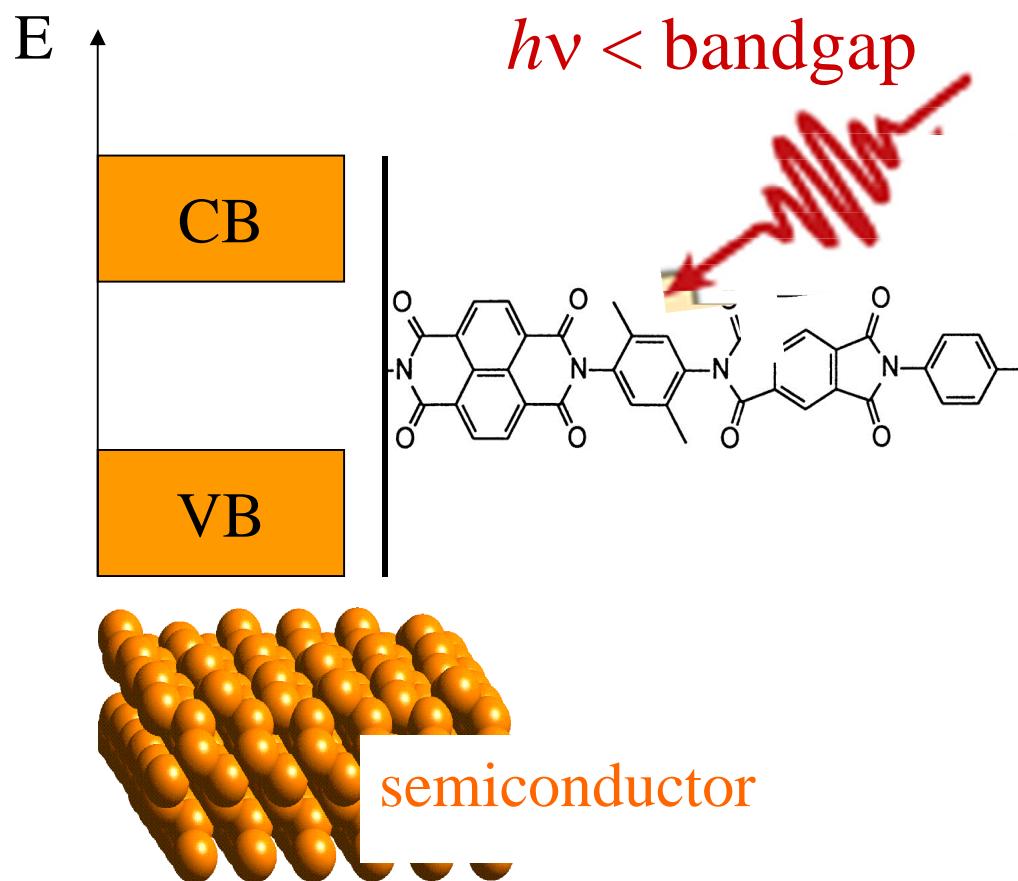
Nanosensing



Computed intensity enhancement by a gold tip

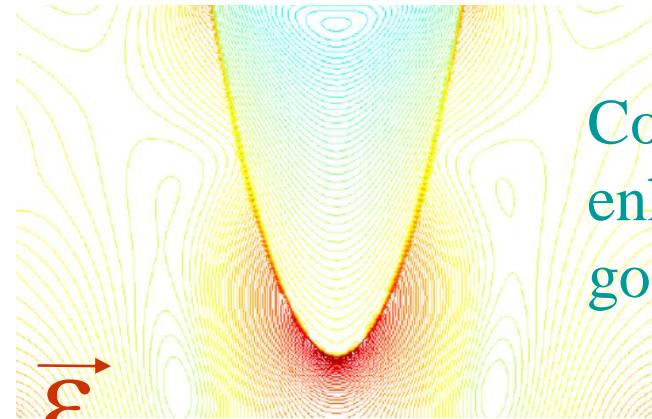
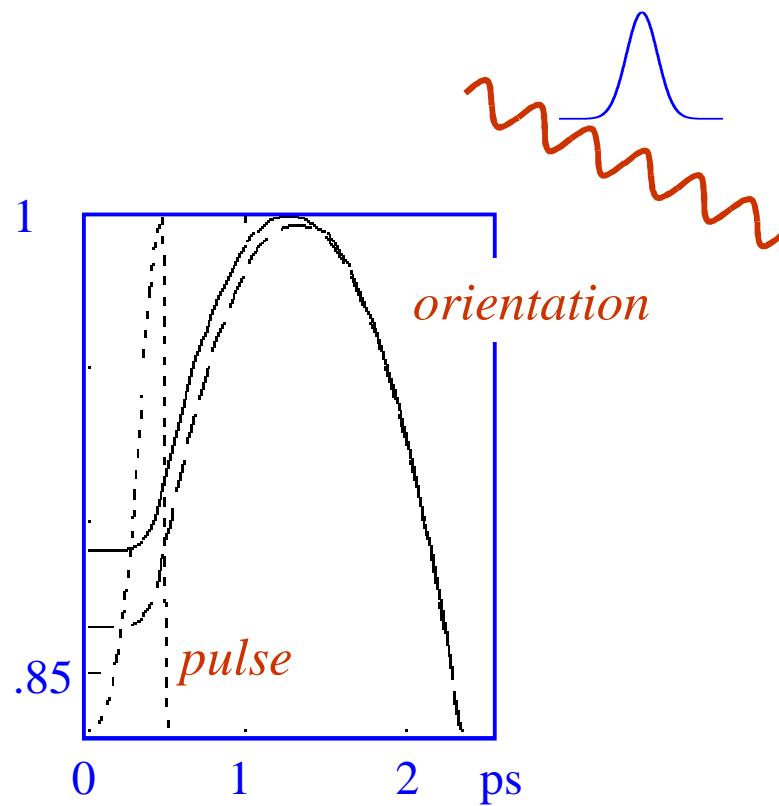


Semiconductors offer an advantage if one can make use of **sub-bandgap** photons



# Toward control of junctions with light

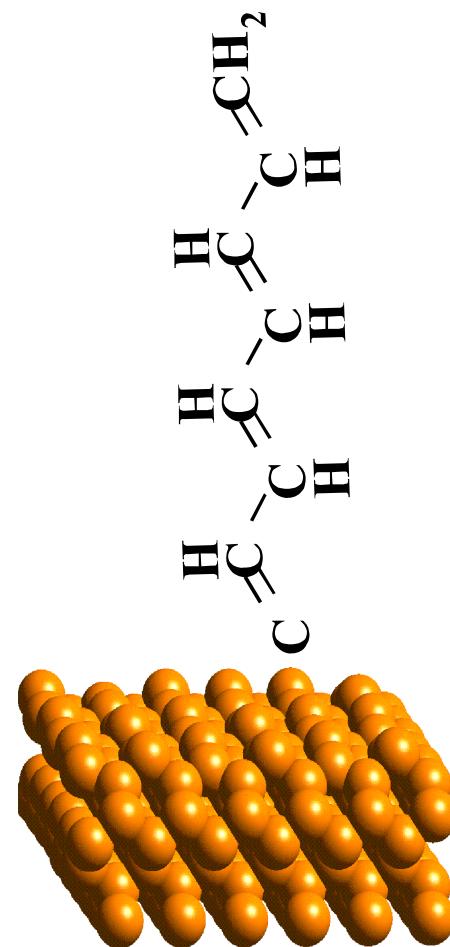
M. Reuter, M. Sukharev &  
T.S., Phys.Rev.Lett, 101,  
208303; highlight in  
Nature Photonics 3, 4-5.



Computed intensity  
enhancement by a  
gold tip

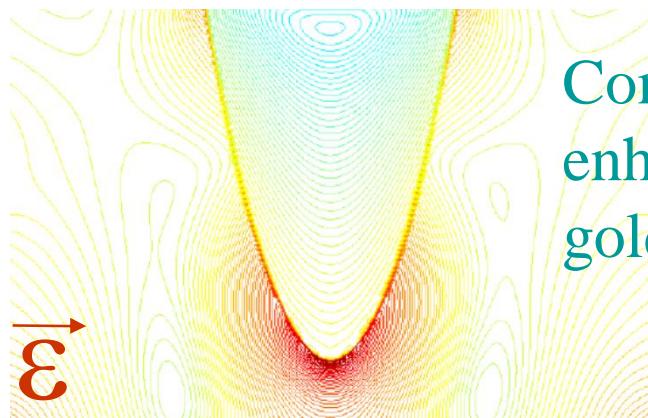
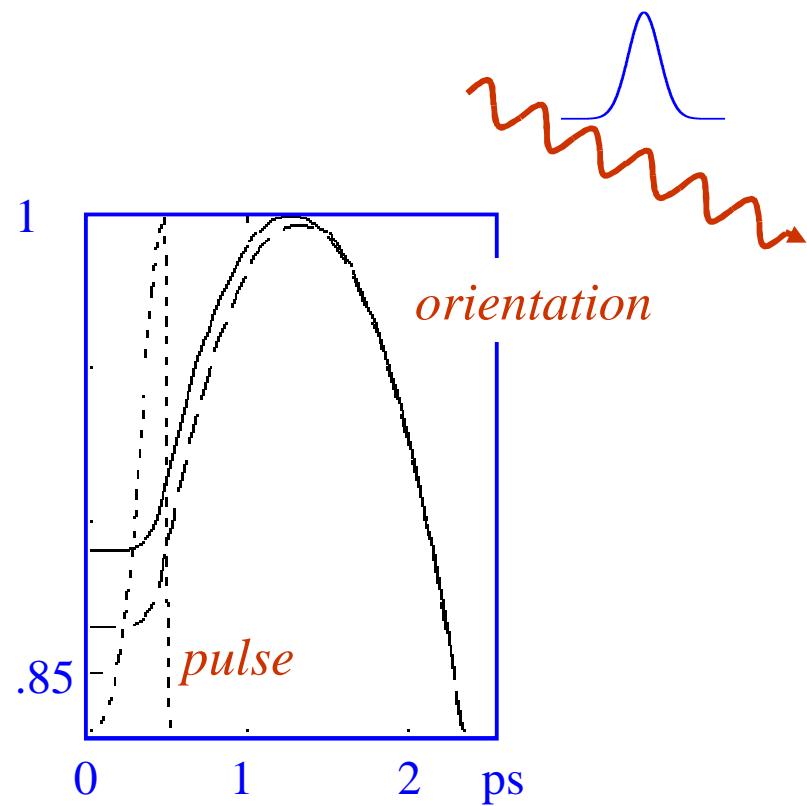


*Matt Reuter*

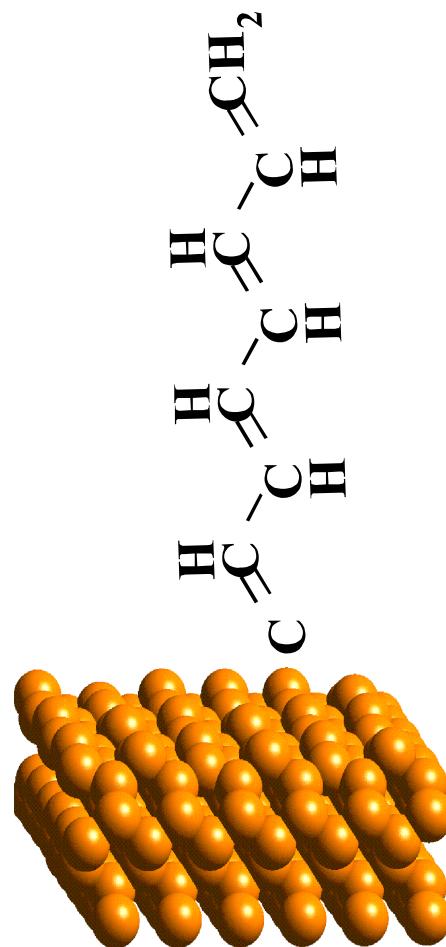


# Toward control of junctions with light

M. Reuter, M. Sukharev &  
T.S., Phys.Rev.Lett, 101,  
208303; highlight in  
Nature Photonics 3, 4-5.

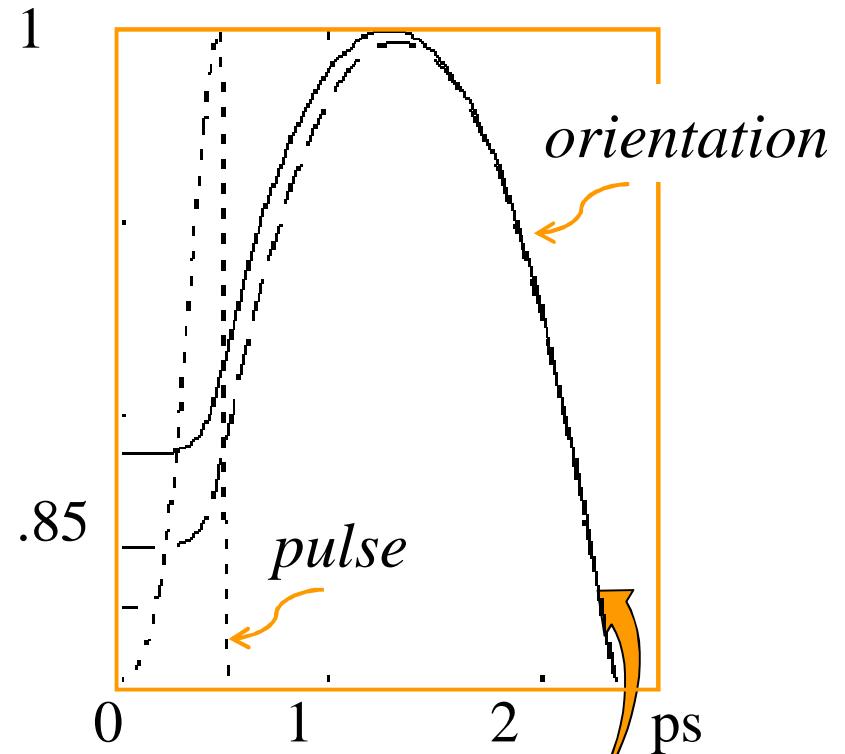
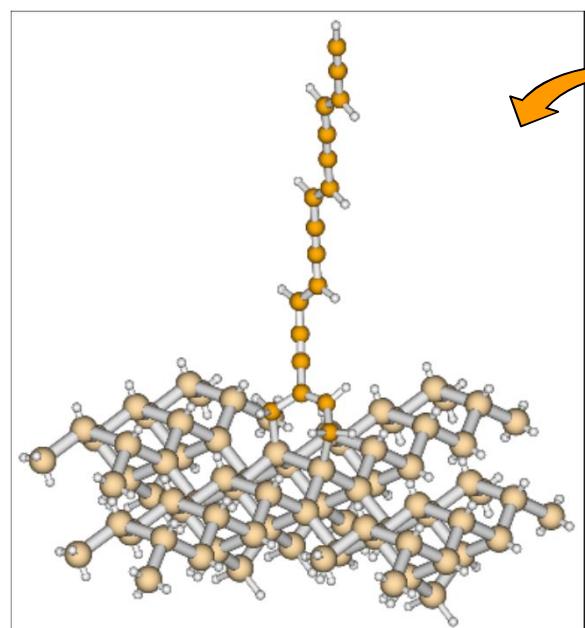


Computed intensity  
enhancement by a  
gold tip





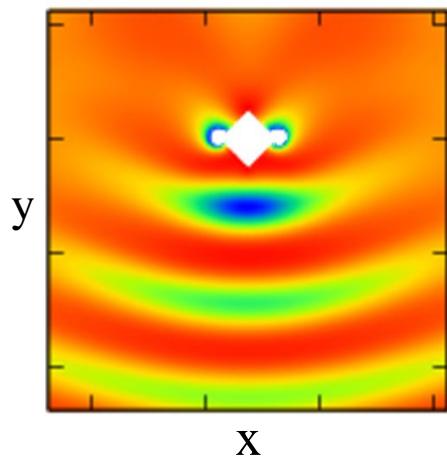
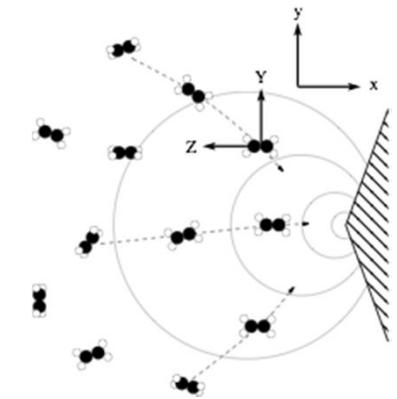
# An Ultrafast, Nanoscale Switch



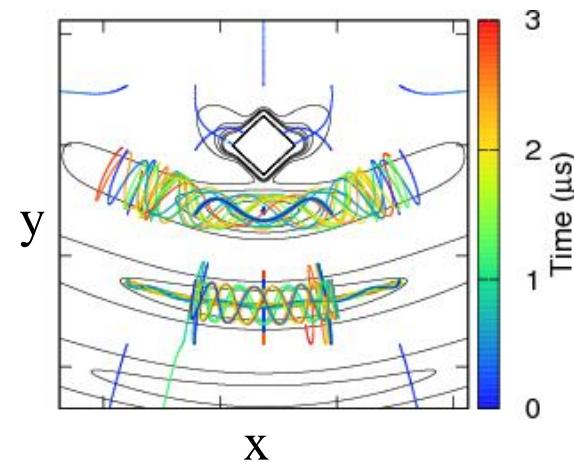
*Numerical results for an oligo-diacetylene, attached to a Si(100) surface, translate into a conductance on-off ratio of just above 2 orders of magnitude and on-off time-scale of 0.6 ps*

# Focusing and Alignment in Plasmon-Enhanced Fields

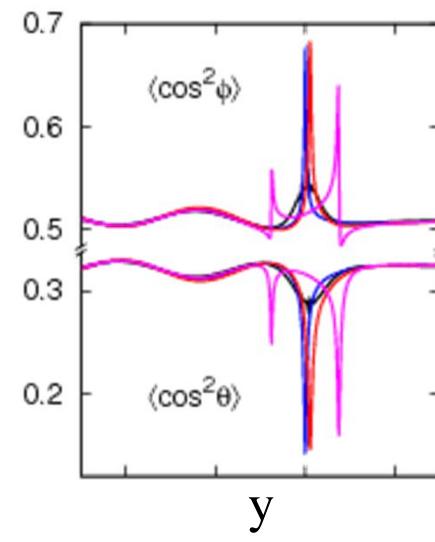
The interaction of light with molecules in the vicinity of metal nanoparticles is common to a wide range of experiments in nanoplasmonics. Focusing and alignment will play an important role in many of these experiments.



Rotationally averaged potential energy surfaces subject to which the center-of-mass evolves



Evolution of the center-of-mass trajectories toward the high intensity regions



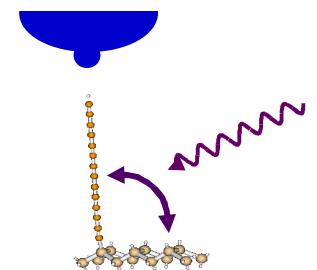
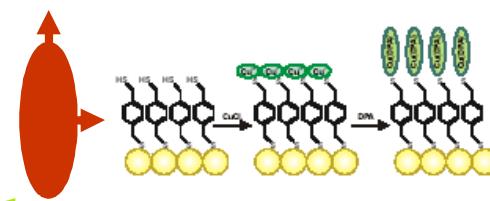
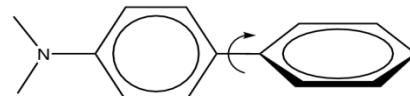
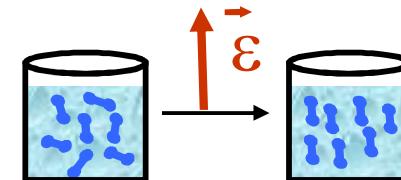
Molecular alignment for different particle shapes

# Epilogue

Our goal has been to extend alignment from a tool in physics and optics to make a tool in chemistry and material science.

Specifically, we talked about:

- Asymmetric top molecules
- Alignment in solutions
- Torsional control
- Guided molecular assembly
- Coherent control of transport via junctions
- Alignment and focusing in the nanoscale





*Thanks!*

\$ NSF CHE  
\$ NSF MRSEC  
\$ NSF NCN  
\$ NSF NCLT  
\$ NSF IGERT  
\$ AFOSR  
\$ BSF  
\$ DOE AMOS  
\$ DOE SISGR  
\$ Keck Foundation



### Experiments:

- Henrik Stapelfeldt & coworkers
- Emily Weiss & coworkers



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY