

## XFELs as molecular movie cameras

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### Contents



- Length and timescales for functional materials
- Ultrafast science at XFELs
- Optical pump X-ray probe techniques
- Difference signals
- Structural information without crystals
- Ru=CO Donor-Acceptor systems
- Mapping coherent structural changes
- New materials









## Timescales of functions in functional materials



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## XFELs: short and intense x-ray pulses





- XFELs pack the same x-ray power in 100 fs as most synchrotrons do in 1 second
- High peak brilliance (many photons per time on the sample, up to 10<sup>20</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup>)
- Ultra short pulses (femtosecond time resolution, 'diffract before destroy', 1 100 fs)
- Coherence (imaging, correlation spectroscopy, Fully transverse, Partially temporal)



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Tracking processes while they occur

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(Muybridge, Stanford 1878, the first film)





## Short x-ray pulses: Capturing fast processes with pump-probe



Sample delivery – replenish sample between shots:

Fast-flowing 50-300  $\mu$ m liquid jet, [c] = 1-100 mM



Tracking processes while they occur

(Muybridge, Stanford 1878, the first film)



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## Scattering form a molecule - without crystals

Randomly oriented molecules, the Debye formula:





Total scattering length of the molecule is:

 $F^{mol}(\mathbf{Q}) = \sum_{\mathbf{r}_{j}} f_{j}(\mathbf{Q}) e^{i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{r}_{j}}$ Total scattered intensity:  $I(\mathbf{Q}) = \left|F^{mol}(\mathbf{Q})\right|^{2}$ 

2a

-2a

## X-ray scattering from liquids



$$S_{\rm v}(q) = \sum_{l}^{\nu} N_l f_l(q)^2 + \sum_{l,m}^{\nu} f_l(q) f_m(q) \frac{N_l(N_m - \delta_{l,m})}{V} 4\pi \times \int_0^{R_{\rm box}} r^2 \Big[ g_{l,m}(r) - 1 \Big] \frac{\sin(qr)}{qr} dr$$

e.g. Dohn, et al. *J. Phys. B At. Mol. Opt. Phys.* **2015**, *48* (24), 244010. https://doi.org/10.1088/0953-4075/48/24/244010.

#### Pair correlation function of a liquid (a) Crystalline Solid (b) Amorphous Solid c



Als-Nielsen, J.; McMorrow, D. Elements of Modern X-ray Physics; Wiley, 2011.

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# Full Ru=Co dynamics following photo-excitation

 $[(bpy)_2Ru^{II}(tpphz)^1Co^{III}(bpy)_2](PF_6)_5$ 

Prototypical molecule for intramolecular (pre-)catalysts

Challenge: Co centre is "optically dark", rendering full characterization difficult







Experiment done at SACLA 2011, results Published 2015

Collaboration with V. Sundström group, Lund University

#### Experimental Analysis, Ru=Co – XES



Canton, Kjær et al Nature Comm. 2015

Slides: K.S. Kjær



#### Experimental Analysis, Ru=Co – XDS (WAXS)





## Zoom in on structural dynamics of Co(terpy) at LCLS



Elisa Biasin

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d



<ul> <li>Equatorial</li> <li>Axial</li> </ul>

- AAIdi
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	LS	$\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{r}}$
d <sub>Co-Naxial</sub> (Å)	1.902	2.0
Co-Nequatorial (Å)	2.08	2.1
$\eta$	0.91	0.9

4000

(W) 3500

te 2500

Extinction Coefficie

350

400

Co(terpy), Cl, in water

450

500

Wavelength (nm)



## **Disentangling detector data**



As-acquired detector data need Corrections:

- ➤ Geometry & polarization
- SVD-based linearization of detector response as function of  $E_{X-ray}$  and  $I_{X-ray}$



-> 150 differences images averaged per 10 fs time bin





### Results

Solvent cage effects calculated by MD and included in the structural model of the solute

$$\Delta S_{model}(Q,t) = \alpha(t) \Delta S_{Structure}(Q,d_{Co-N}(t)) + \Delta T(t) \frac{\partial S(Q)}{\partial T}\Big|_{\rho}$$



Slide: E. Biasin



#### $[Co(terpy)_2]^{+2}$ :: structural dynamics

Comparison with DFT-calculated vibrational modes of the HS state









#### Ruthenium vs. Iron photosensitizers





Long-lived Metal-to-Ligand Charge Transfer (MLCT) state allows efficient extration of electrons in Ru-based compounds for solar-energy harvesting (Graetzel et al.)

-Unfortunately, Ru is scarce and expensive...



... but Fe has a much shorter excited state life time than Ru – too short for efficient charge extraction





## **Combined XES and scattering on Fe(bpy)**<sub>3</sub>



Kjær et al, Chem Sci 2019



## **Combined XES and scattering on FeCAB**



FeCAB systems made at Lund Univ.

Kunnus et al, Nature Commun, 2020



### Summary

Novel iron-based compounds for use as photosensitizers appear promising, and share some of the properties of "conventional" ruthenium-based sensitizers

(A)

0.8

Fraction (a.u.) 9.0

0.2

-2

Quantitative information on the excited-state potential landscape(s) is necessary for rational design of even-better compounds

Combined studies, where the complementarity of XES and XDS is utilized, yields access to:

- Time-dependent electronic configuration
- Time-dependent structure
- Energy release to solvent
- Details of the solvent-solute interactions





## Thank you for your attention











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With collaborations from the groups in Lund/Sundström SLAC/Gaffney Budapest/Vanko -and the beamline staff at SACLA/XPP/CXI/FXE/11ID/ID09B

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