

Stimulated X-Ray Emission and Nonlinear Spectroscopy at XFELs



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Workshop on Frontiers of Physical Sciences with X-ray FELs

Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London

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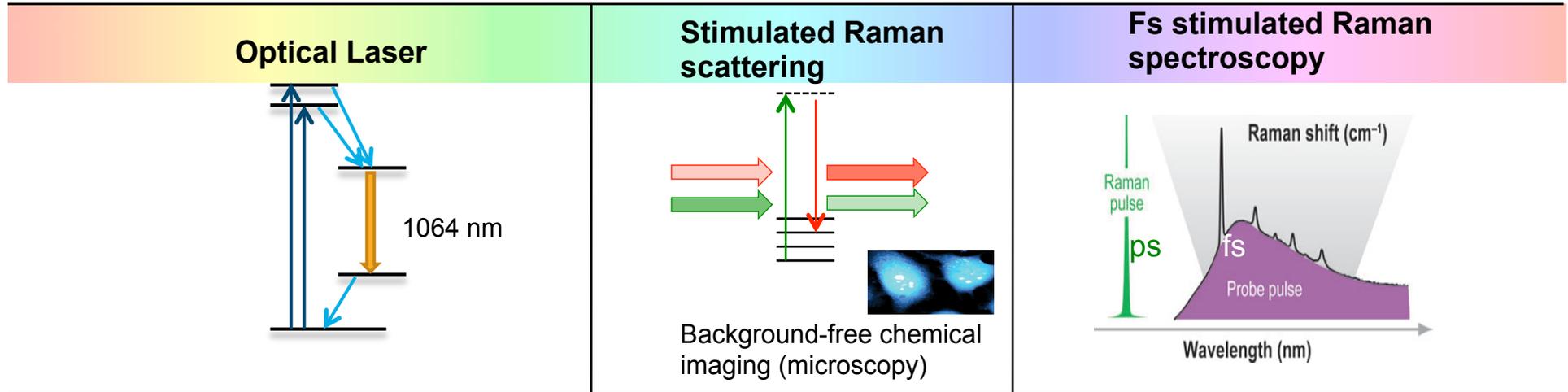


Universität Hamburg

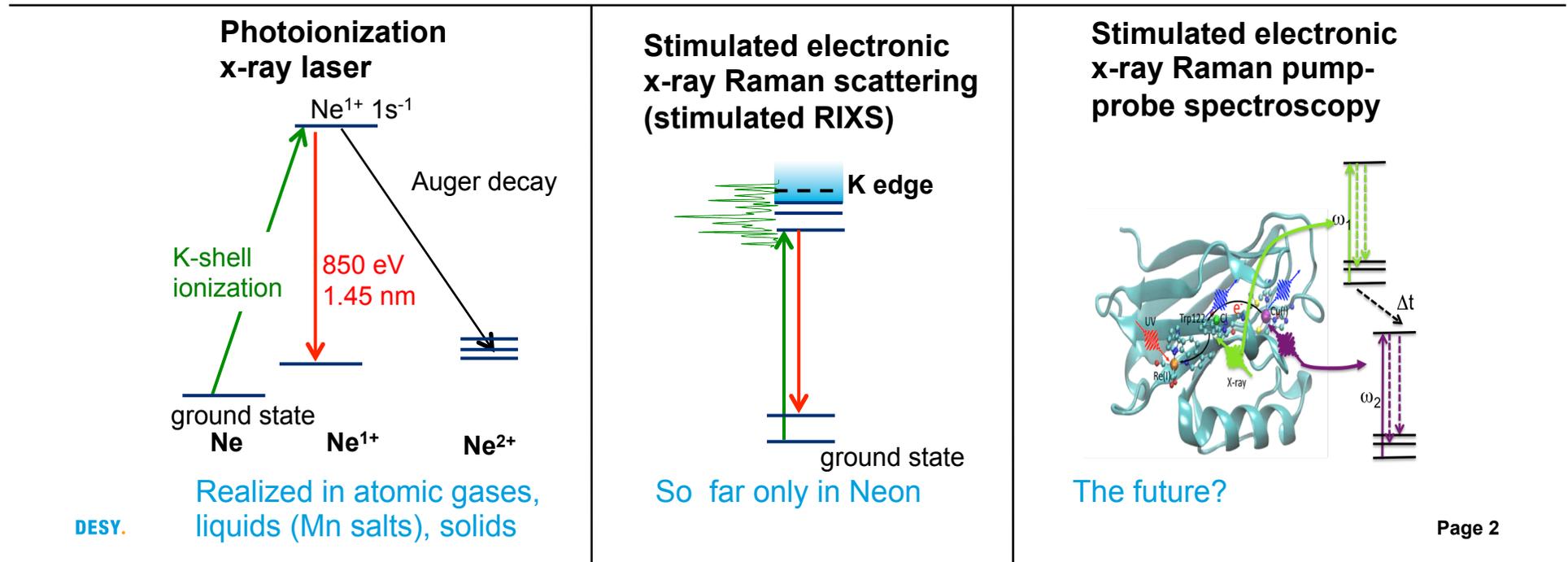
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

Building blocks of nonlinear X-ray spectroscopy

Transfer of nonlinear optical spectroscopies to the x-ray spectral domain

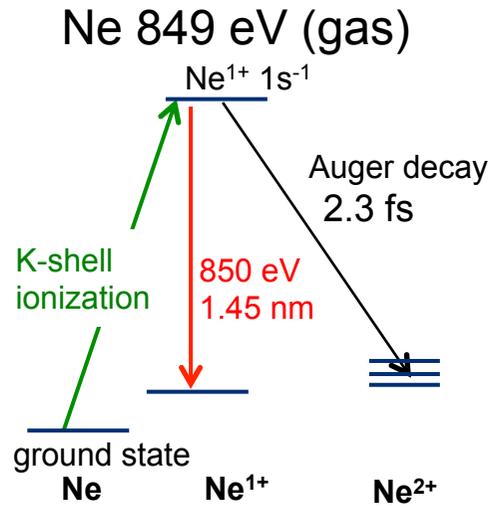


Grand challenge to transfer processes to the x-ray domain



Amplified spontaneous x-ray emission

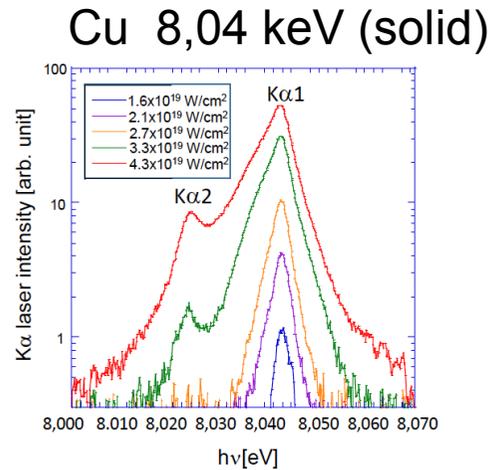
Photoionization K- α laser – from 1st demonstration to chemical analysis



Rohringer et al.,
Nature **481**, 488 (2012).

Scheme first proposed by
Duguay and Rentzepis,
Appl. Phys. Lett. 10, 350 (1967).

Emission in forward direction,
up to e²¹ amplification of
spontaneous K- α emission

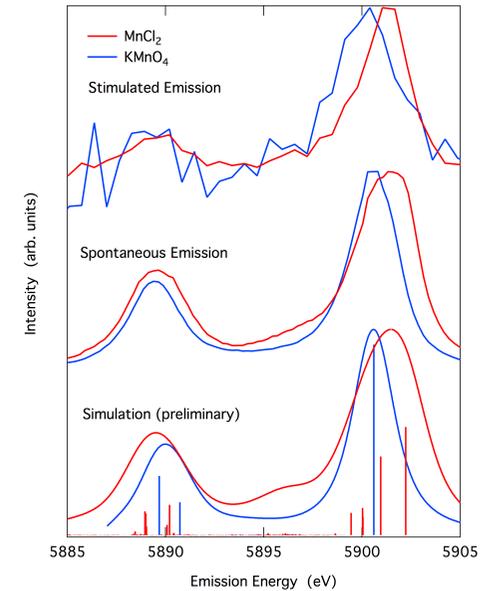


Yoneda et al.,
Nature **524**, 446 (2015).

Hard x-ray laser,
seeded by 2-color FEL
operation

Si L lines 70-100 eV (solid)
M. Beye et al.,
Nature **501**, 191 (2013)

Mn 5,9 keV (liquid)

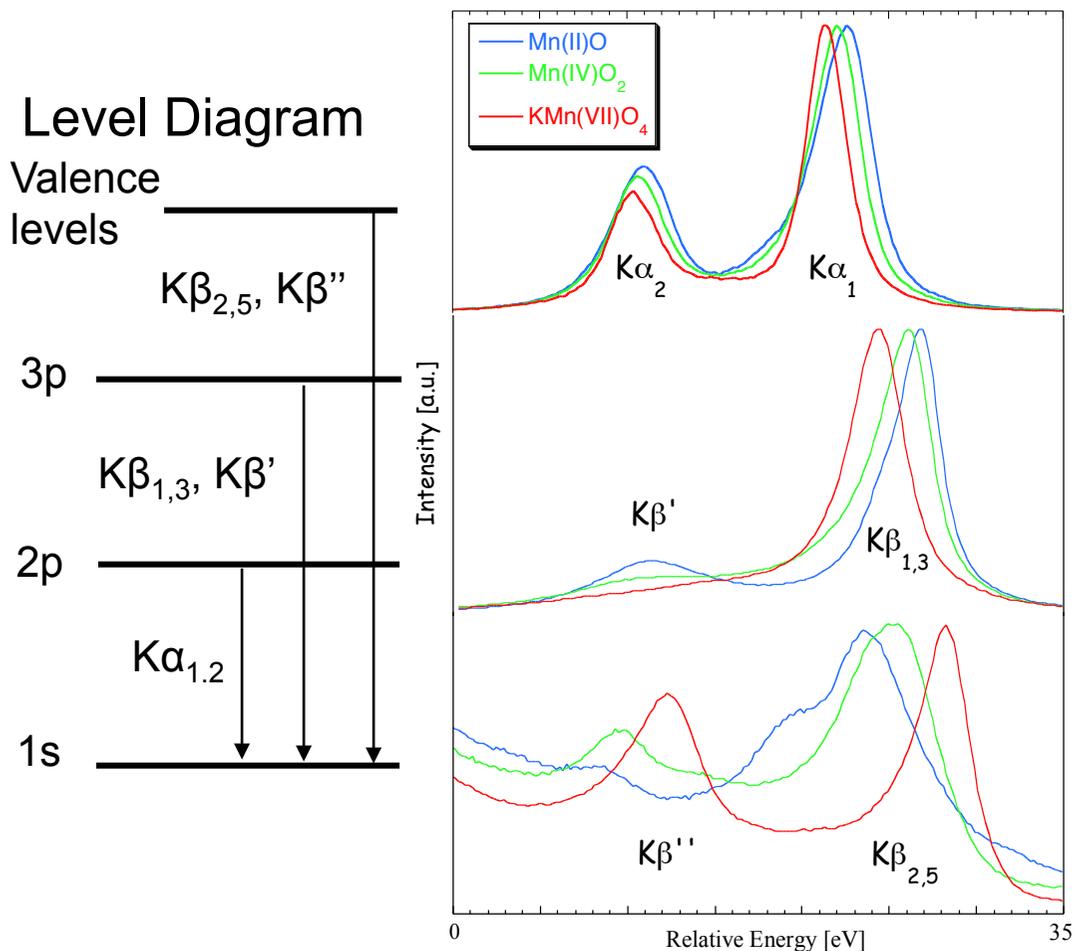


Kroll, et int., Rohringer,
Bergmann,
Phys. Rev. Lett. **120**,
133203 (2018).

*Stimulated X-Ray
Emission Spectroscopy
in Transition Metal
Complexes*

X-Ray Spectroscopy of transition metals

X-ray emission reveals chemically relevant information



Spin/oxidation state of transition metals

Valence orbitals: ligand type, structure, covalency, ligand protonation, etc.

Bergmann et al.,
J. Synchr. Rad. 8, 199 (2001)

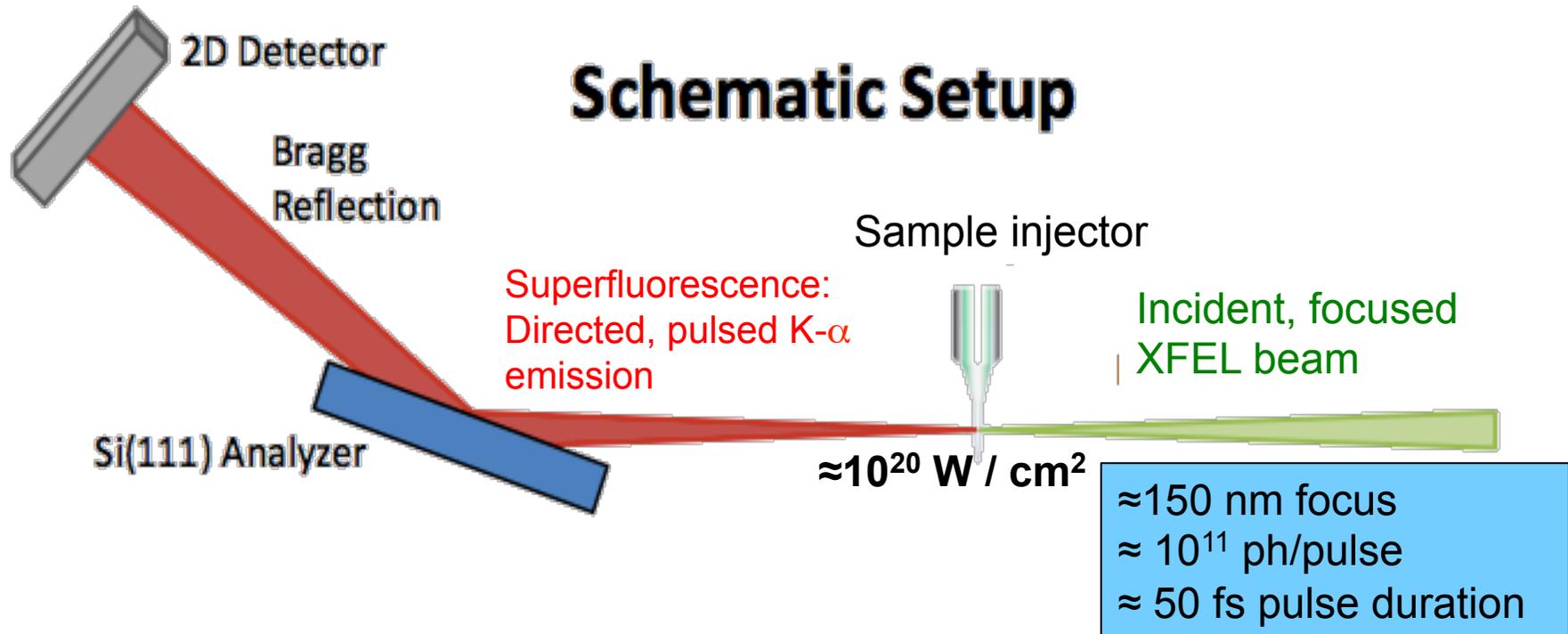
For reviews see: Glatzel & UB, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, **249**, 65-95, (2005)

Pollock & DeBeer, *Accounts of Chemical Research* (2015)

4

K- α lasing of Mn-salt aqueous solutions

10^{20} W/cm² on target creates population inversion on K- α transition



Samples: MnCl₂ solution (5 and 1 molar), KMnO₄ (0.4 molar)

Collect 100% of emission in forward direction

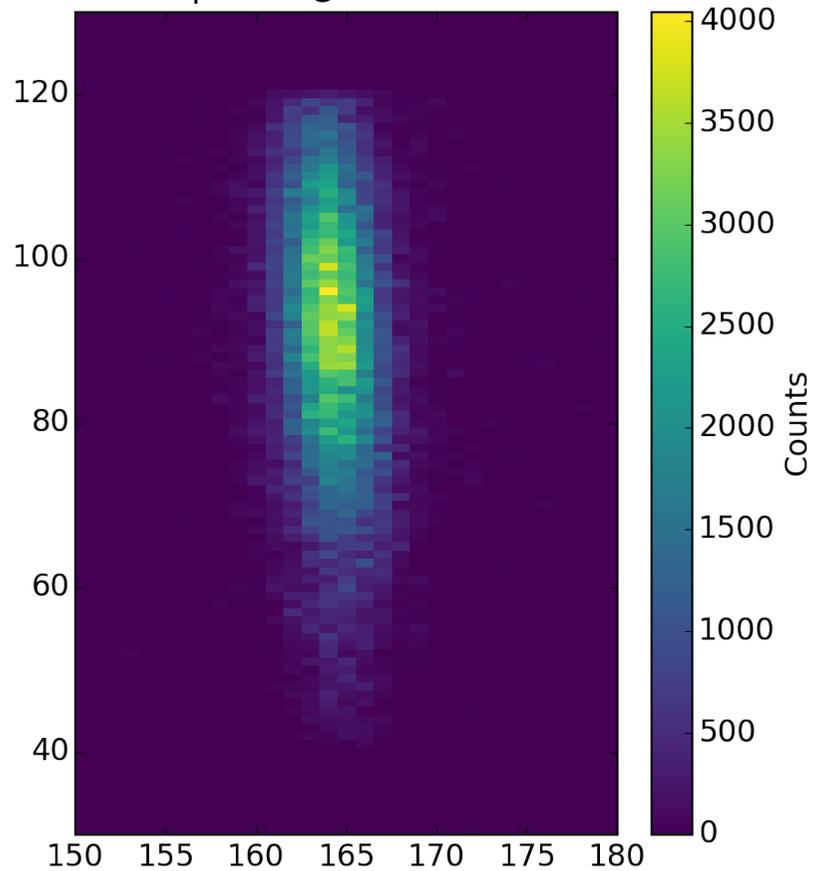
Use flat analyzer crystal – high efficiency

Experiment performed at CXI instrument, thanks to CXI team

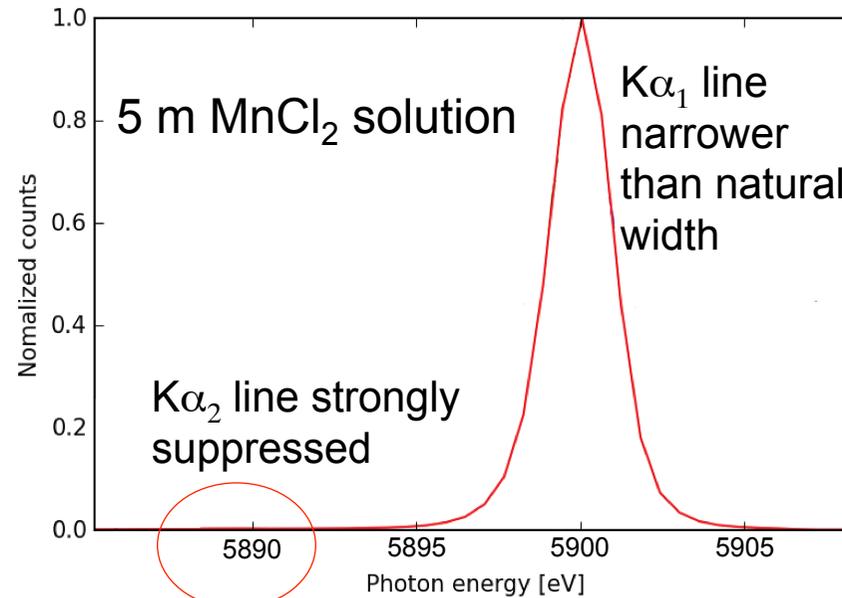
Observation of strong lasing at 5.9 keV $K\alpha_1$

Strong gain up to 10^6 detected Mn $K\alpha$ photons

Raw CCD image of the $K\alpha_1$ lasing line



Single shot spectrum

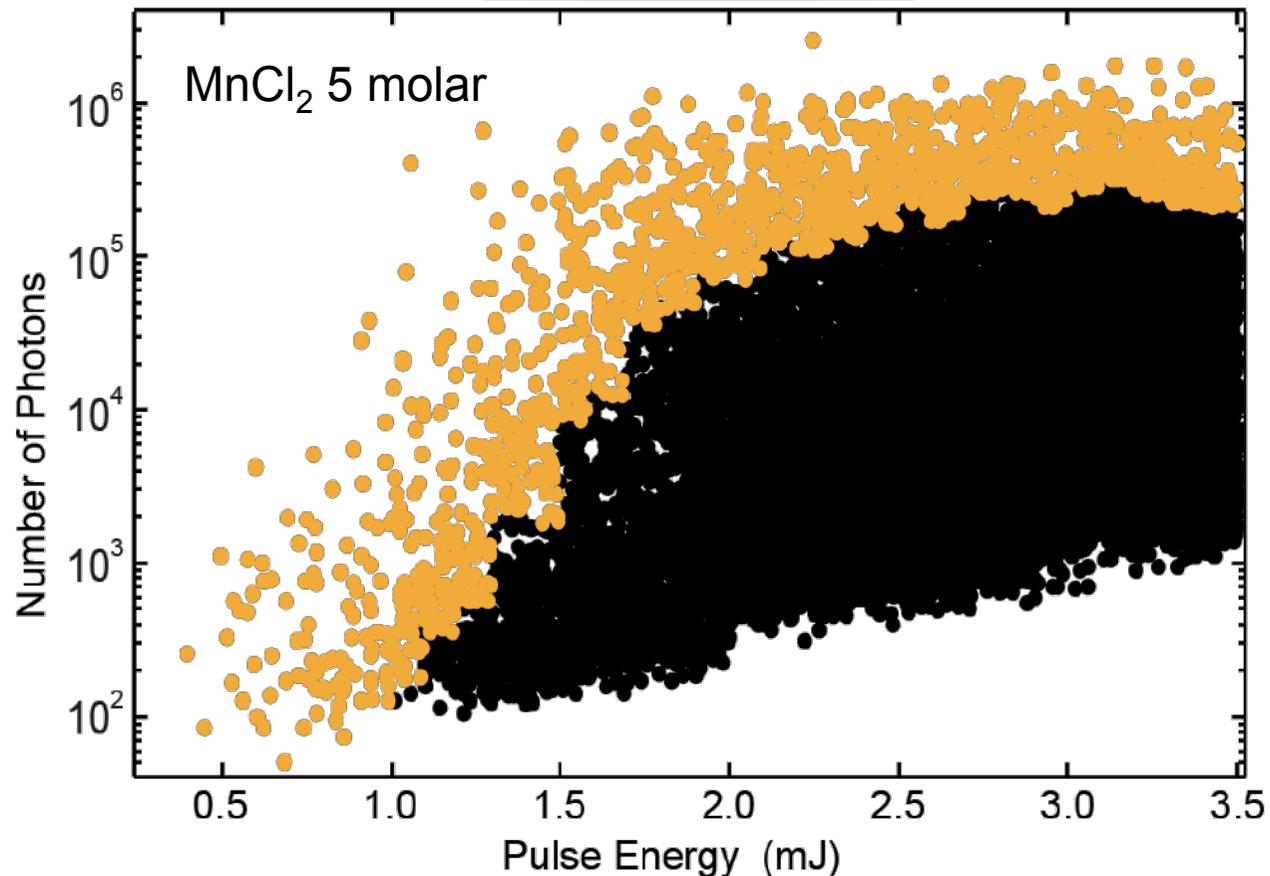


Kroll et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **120**, 133203 (2018).

Gain curve of Mn K- α_1 emission

Exponential gain over 4 orders of magnitude reaching saturation

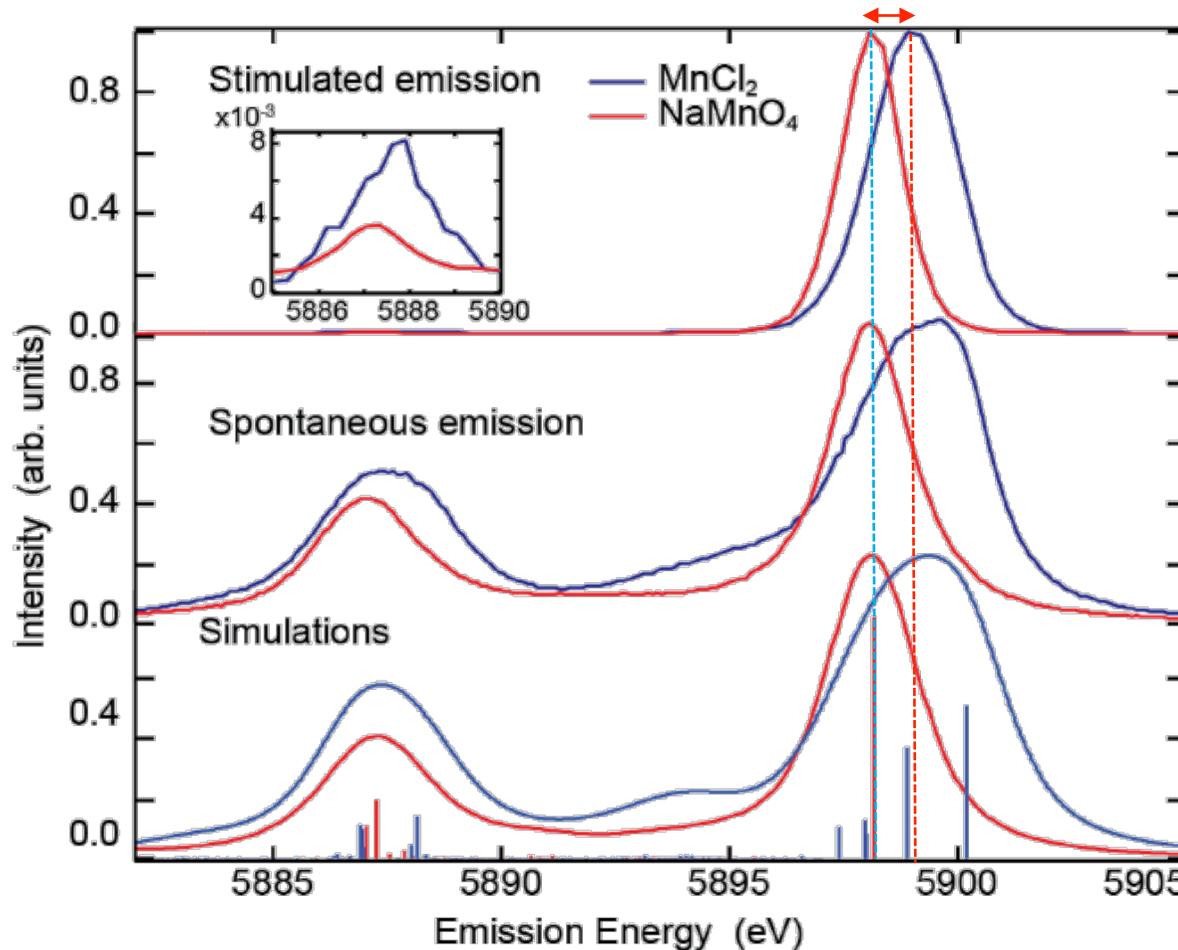
Single-shot emission yield as a function of incoming FEL-pulse energy



Extremely large shot-to-shot variation in the gain, (spatial jitter and temporal structure of FEL)

Spontaneous versus stimulated emission spectrum

Approaching chemically and biologically relevant samples



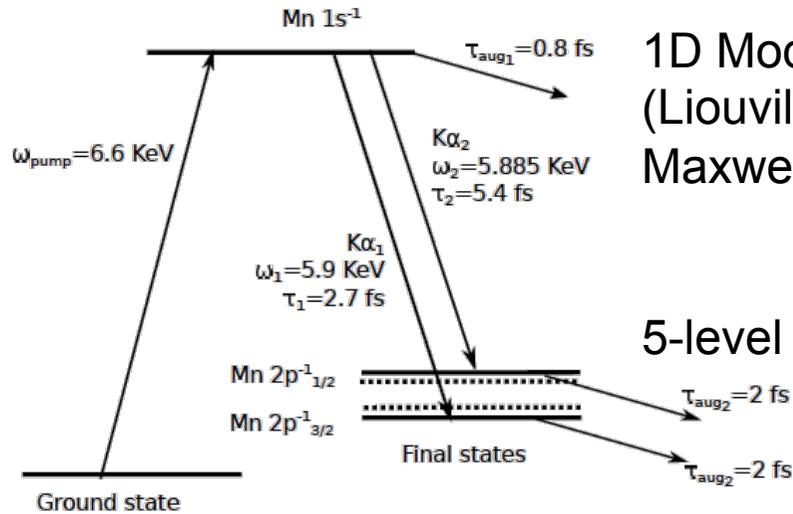
“Chemical shifts” differ in spontaneous and stimulated spectra

Sample spectra of Mn test compounds:

Mn(II)Cl₂ aqueous solution (5 and 1 molar), NaMn(VII)₄ (0.4 molar)

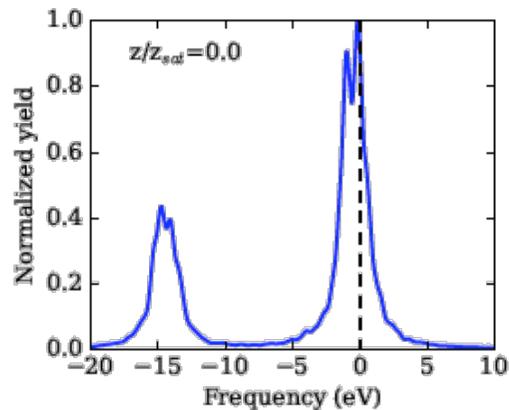
Strong-field effects in the x-ray spectral domain

Emission energies shift – coupled + driven oscillators

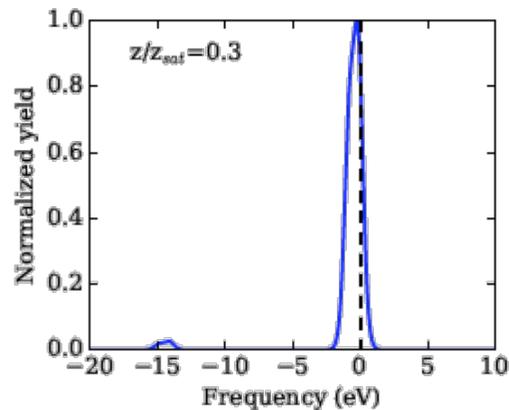


1D Model calculations
(Liouville – von Neumann equ.
Maxwell equ. in paraxial approx.)

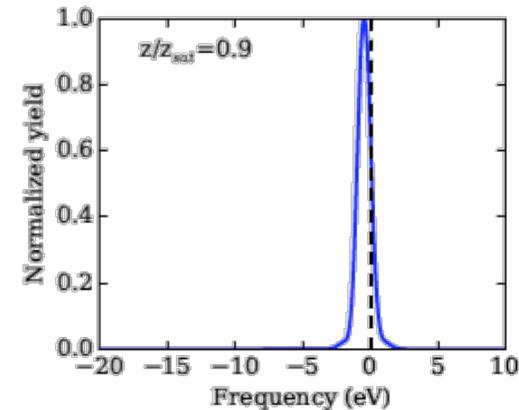
5-level scheme



Single-atom,
“spontaneous” spectrum



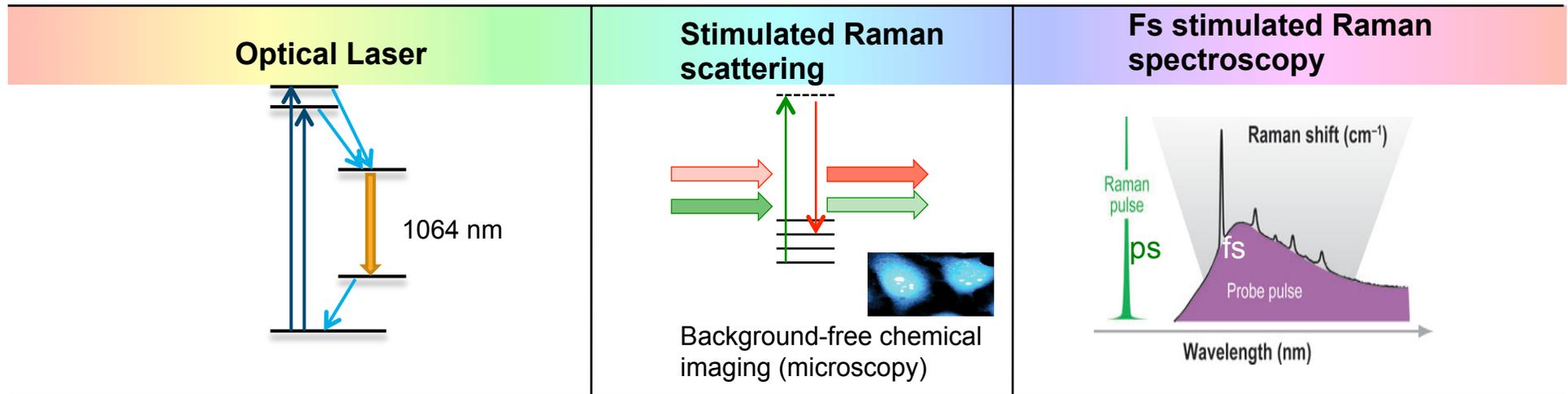
Spectrum in “linear” gain
region



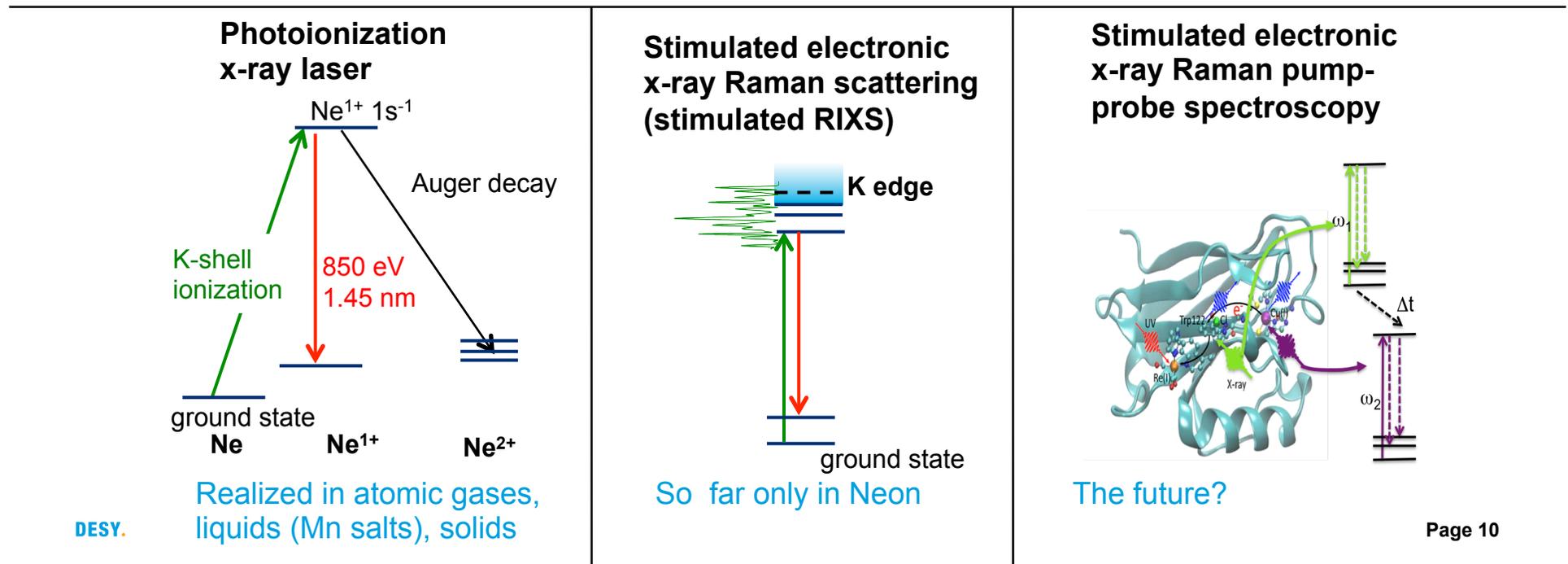
Gain-saturated spectrum

Building blocks of nonlinear X-ray spectroscopy

Transfer of nonlinear optical spectroscopies to the x-ray spectral domain

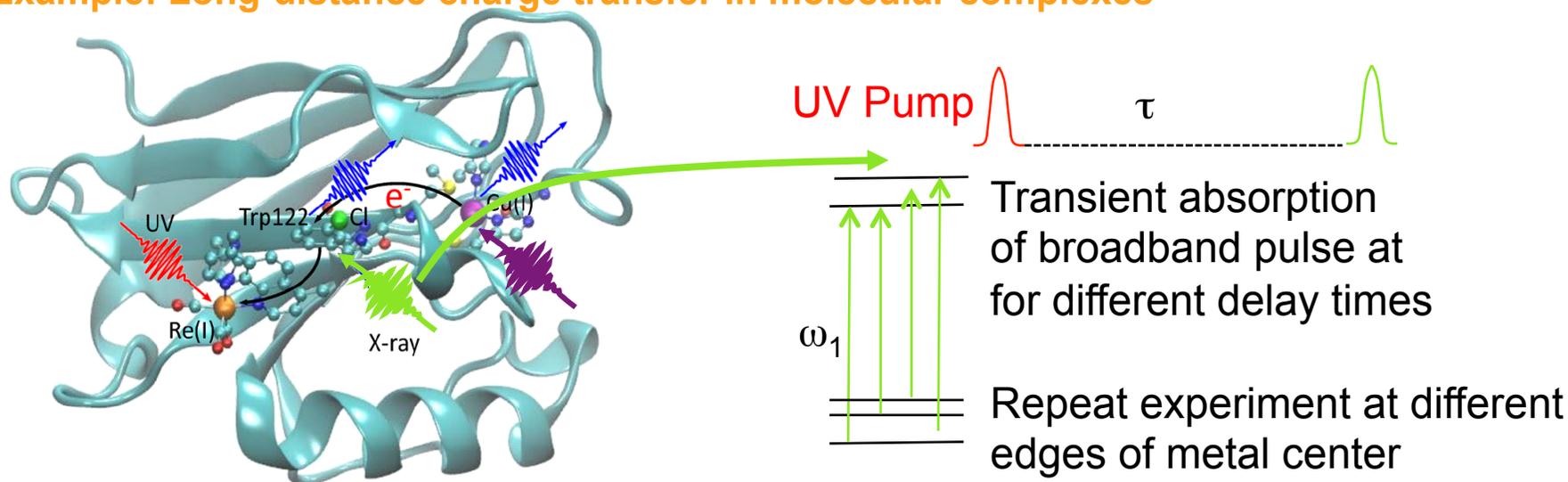


Grand challenge to transfer processes to the x-ray domain

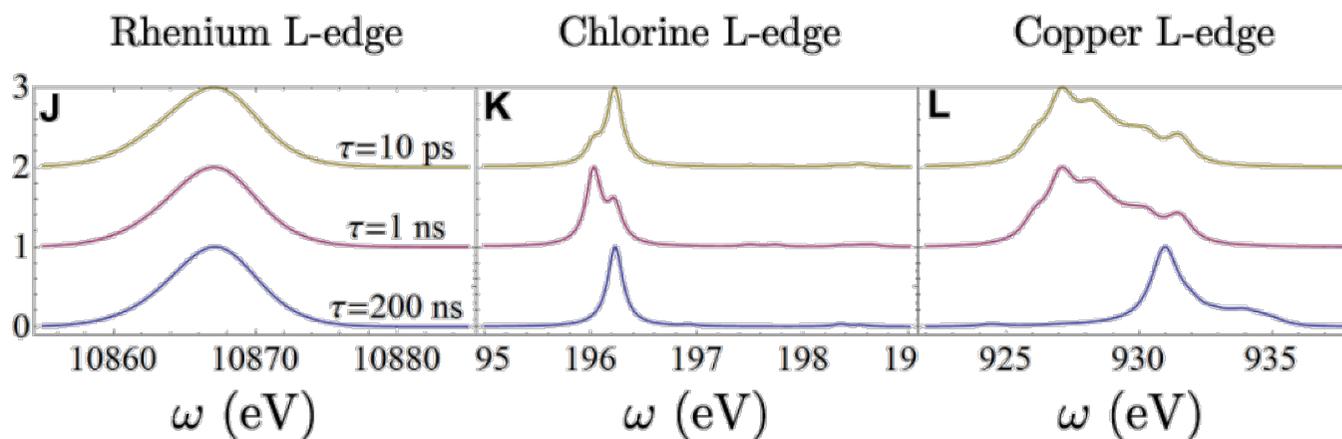


Linear x-ray spectroscopy - transient fs absorption

Example: Long-distance charge transfer in molecular complexes

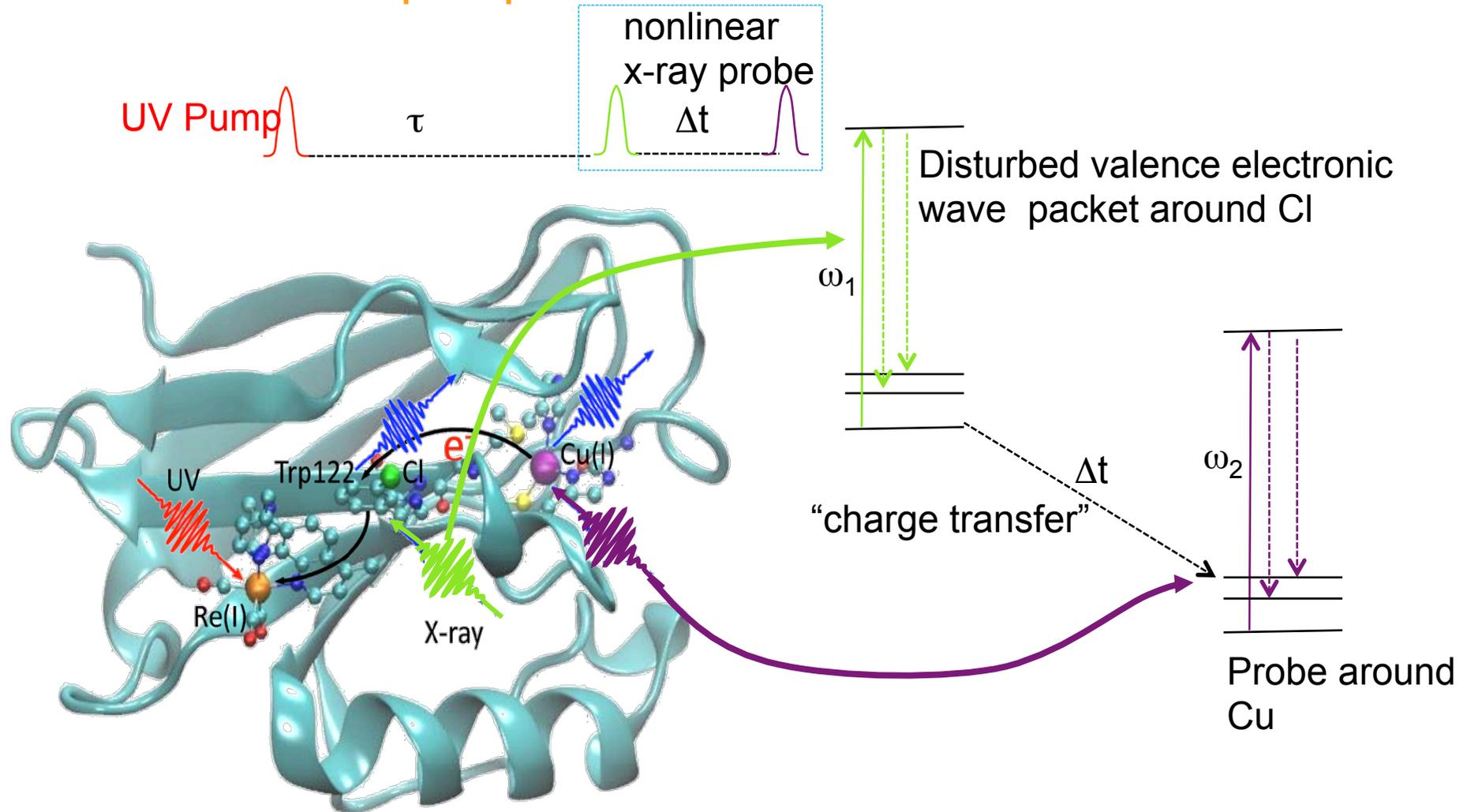


Simulated transient absorption spectra:



Stimulated electronic X-ray Raman spectroscopy

A coherent nonlinear probe process



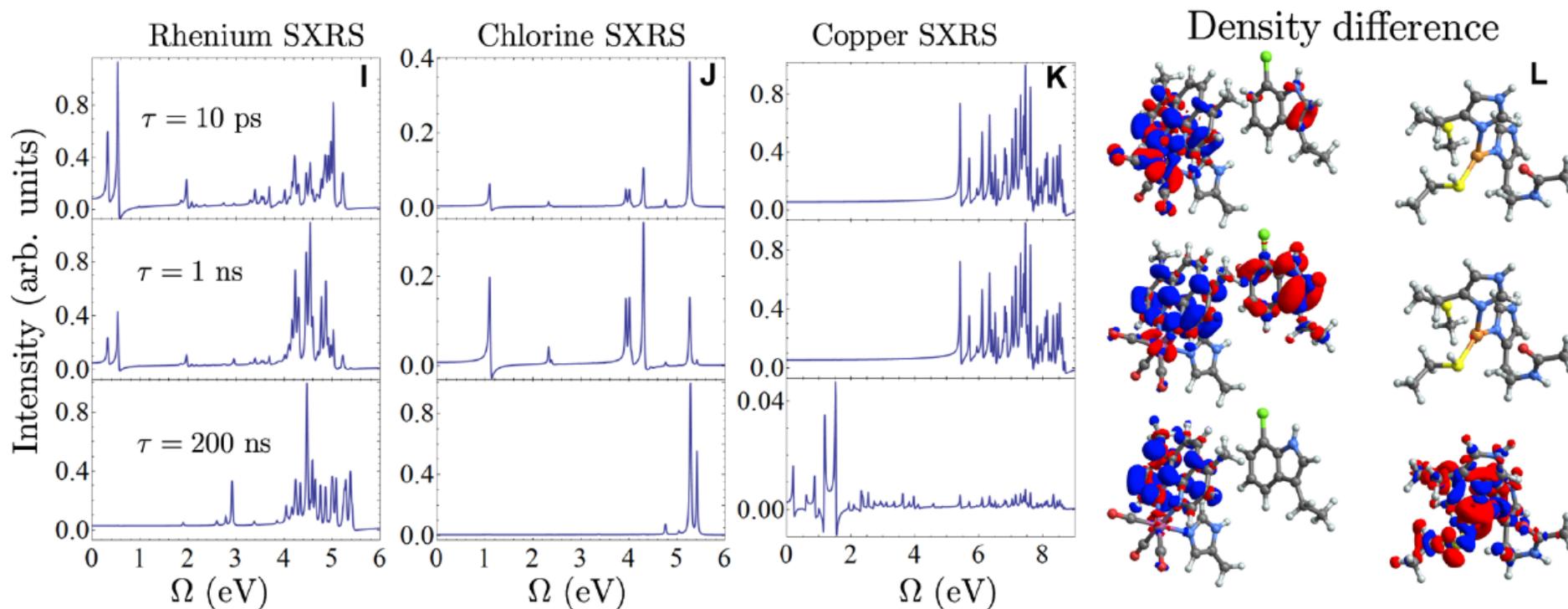
Shaul Mukamel et al. (PRL 89, 043001 (2002), PRB 72, 235110 (2005); PRA 76, 012504 (2007); PRB 79, 085108 (2009)

Simulated 1D Stimulated x-ray Raman spectra

τ Change pump-probe delay: on the 10 ps to 100 ns time scale

Δt Sampling time-delay: Δt varied up to 100 fs, in steps of 0.2 fs

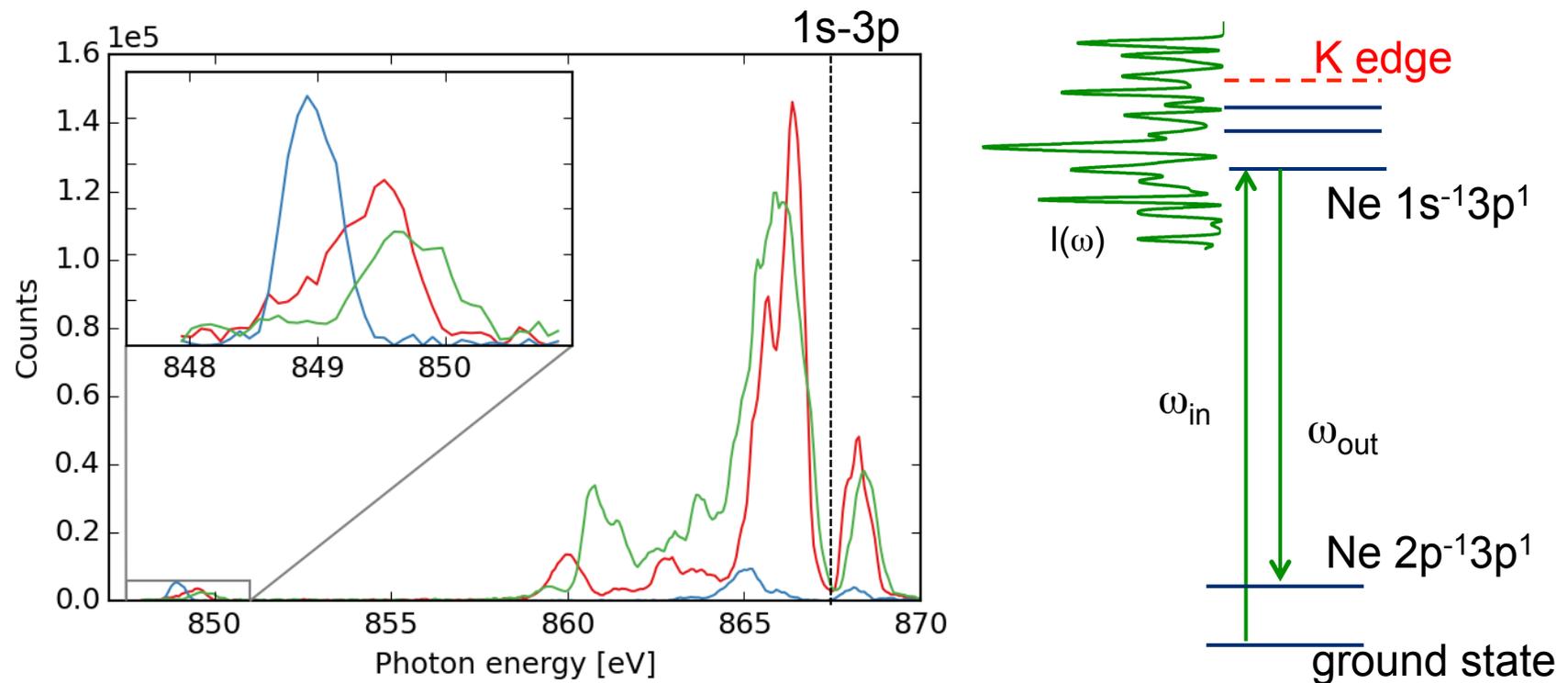
- Measure absorption of probe pulse (2nd x-ray pulse) does not need to be frequency resolved
- Take Fourier Transform with respect to Δt of total absorption
- Repeat for second x-ray pulse tuned to different edges (local metal centers)



Y. Zhang et al., Phys. Chem. Lett. 5, 3656 (2014).

Stimulated resonant electronic x-ray Raman scattering in Neon

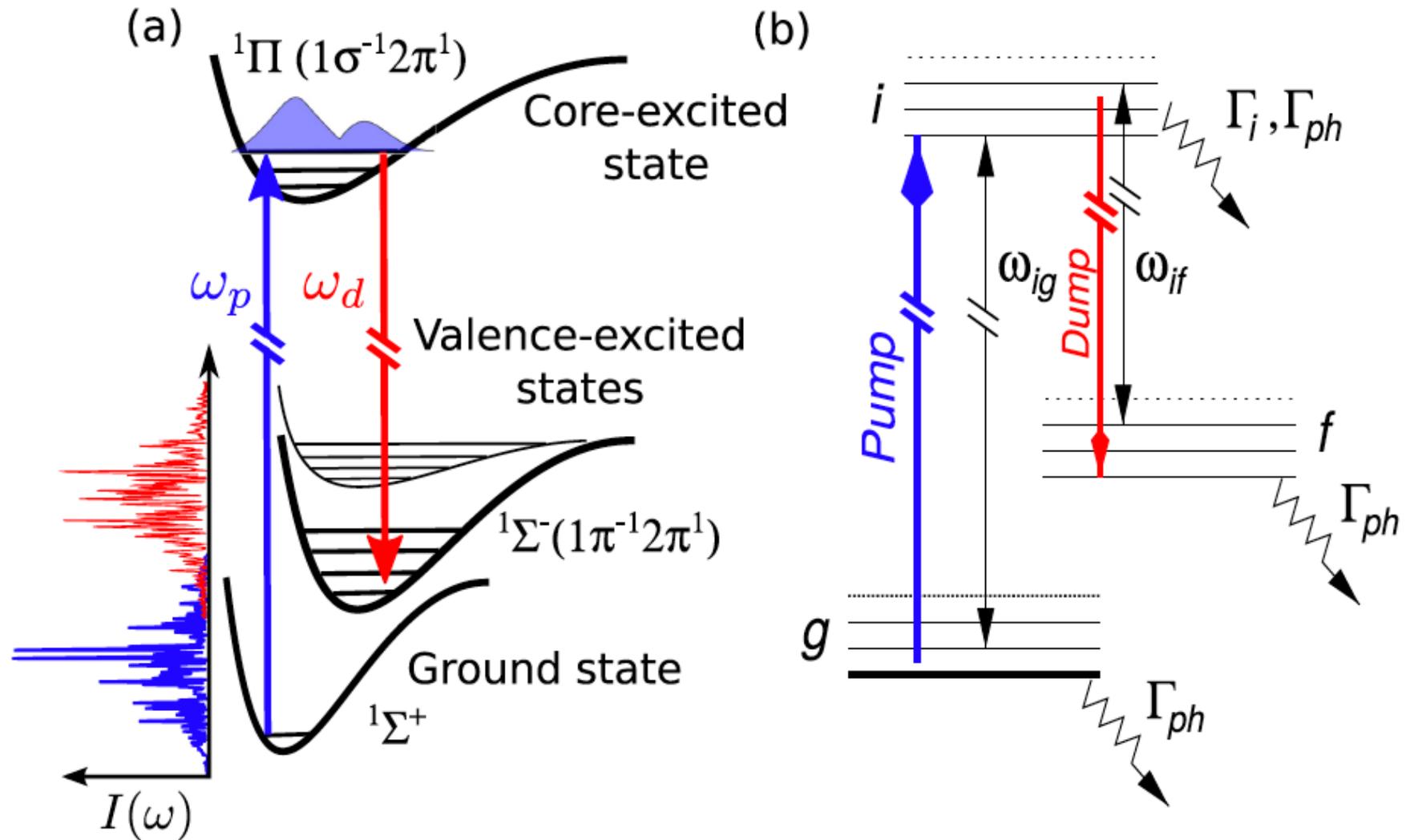
2 experimental demonstrations in Aug. 2012 and Feb. 2014



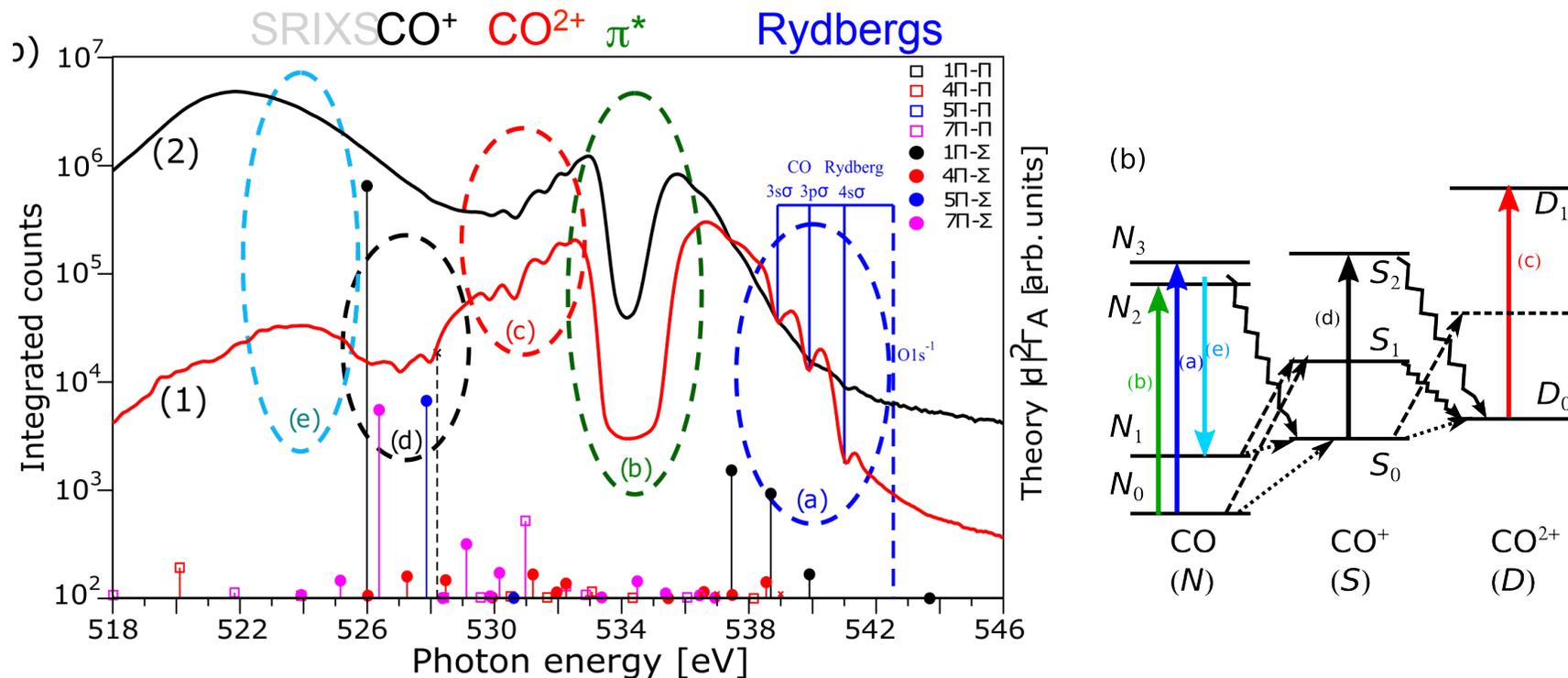
Spectral tail of SASE provides seeds photons
6 orders of magnitude of amplification (Raman gain)

Stimulated electronic x-ray Raman scattering in CO

Experiment with 2-colour SASE pulses



High-fluence pulses result in the creation of large absorption features of higher charged ions



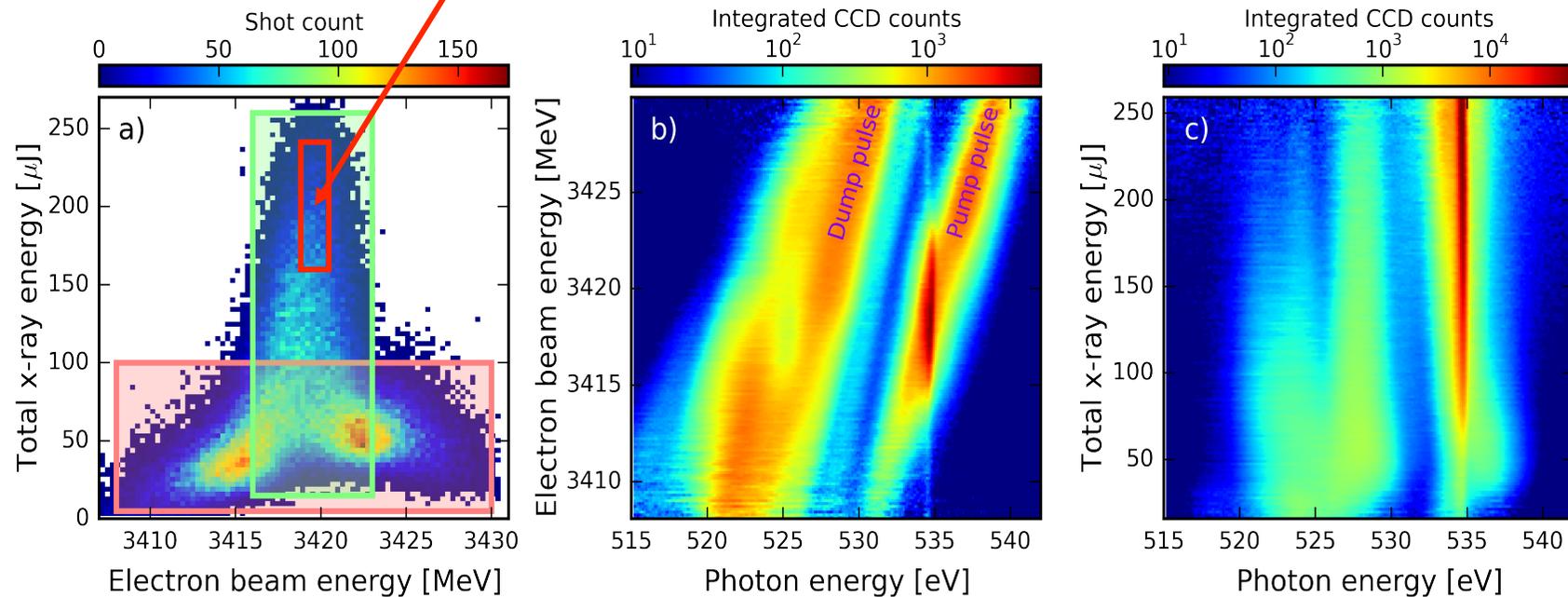
-> replace pump pulse by low-fluence, high brilliance self-seeded XFEL pulse

Similar changes of absorption spectrum due to sequential ionisation observed in water droplets (S. Schreck et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 2014, **113**, 153002.)

Soft x-ray self-seeding mode to pump on the $O \pi^*$ resonance

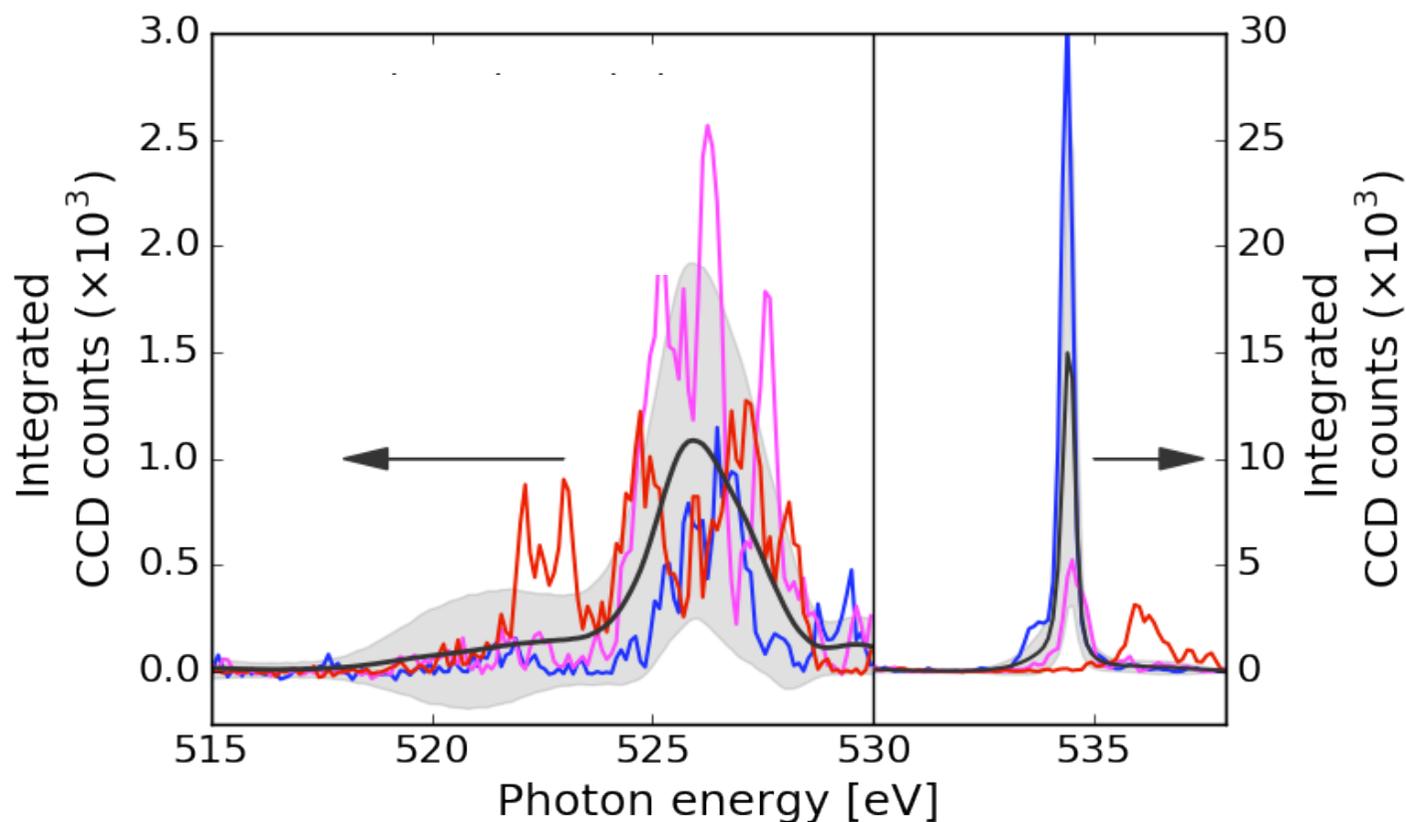
X-ray energy / Electron-beam energy distribution to sort spectra

“Best region”, but low number of spectra.....



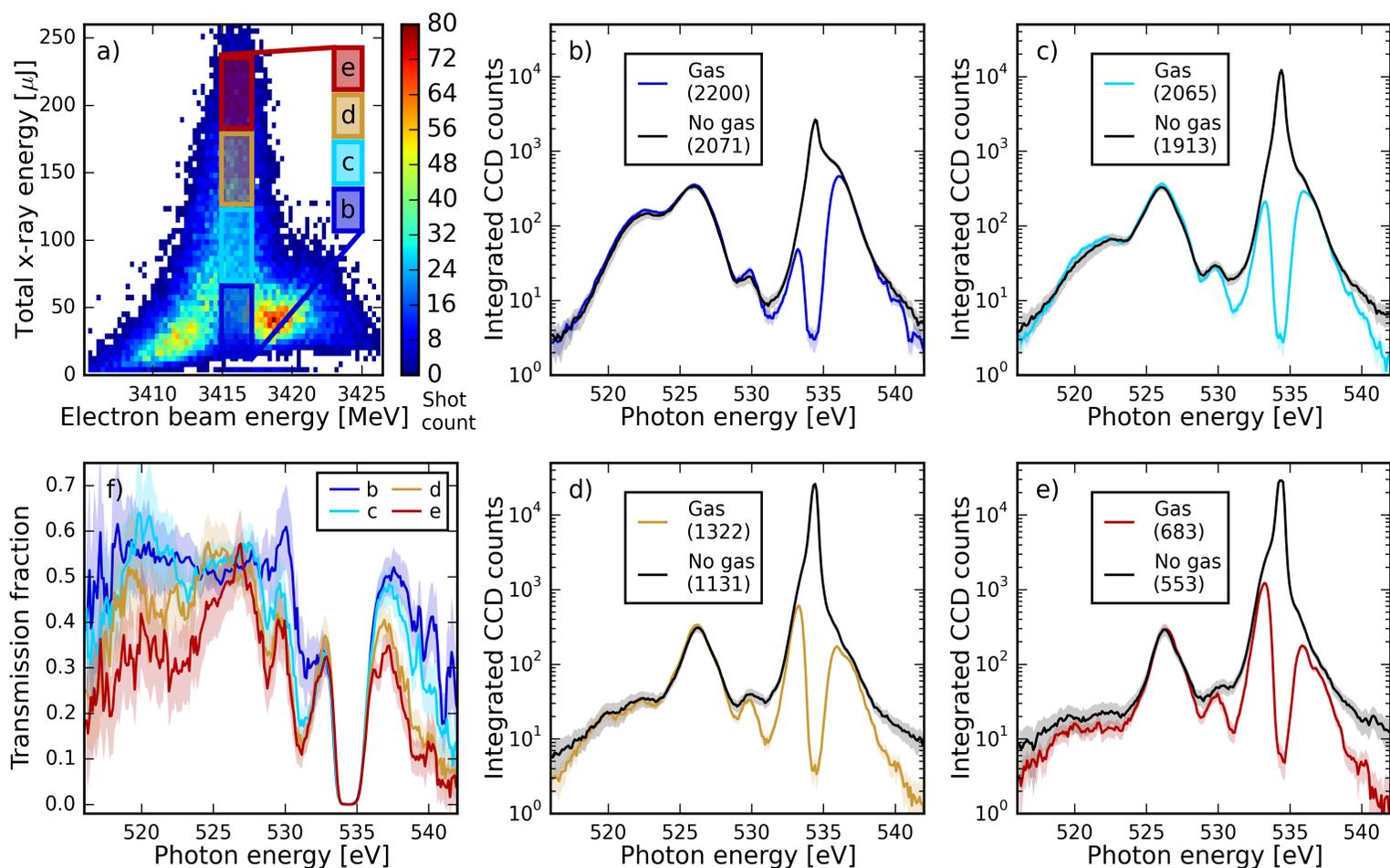
Soft x-ray self-seeding mode to pump on the O π^* resonance

Self-seeded pulses are far from transform limit and shot-to-shot stability



Are small Raman Gains and transient absorption signals measurable with this highly fluctuating source?

Averaged spectra in the “pump” and “dump” region

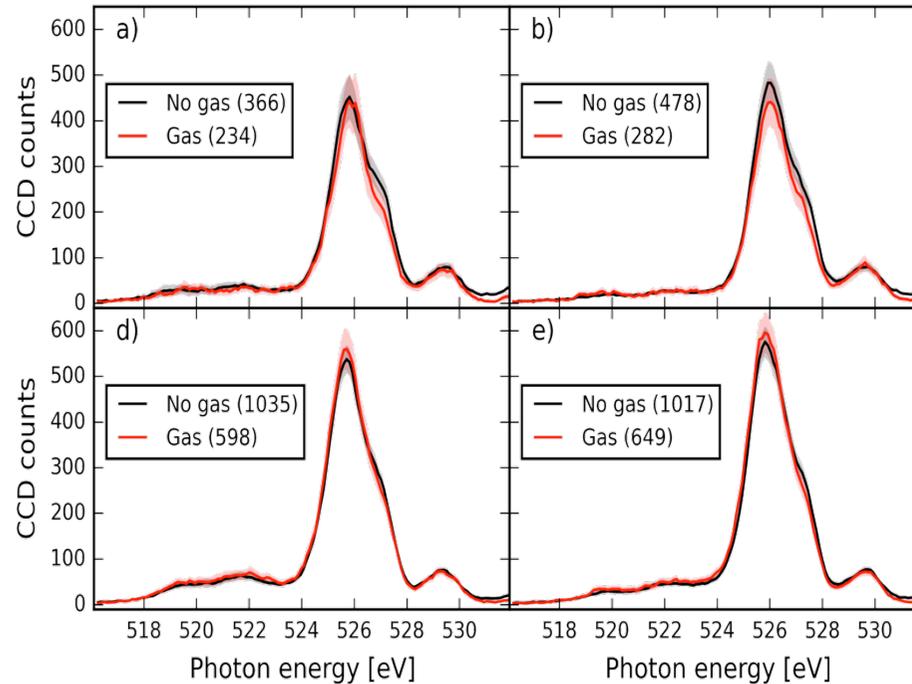
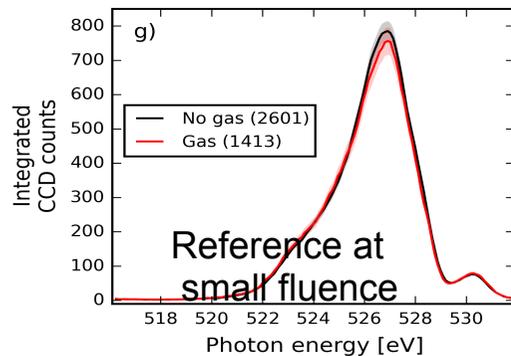
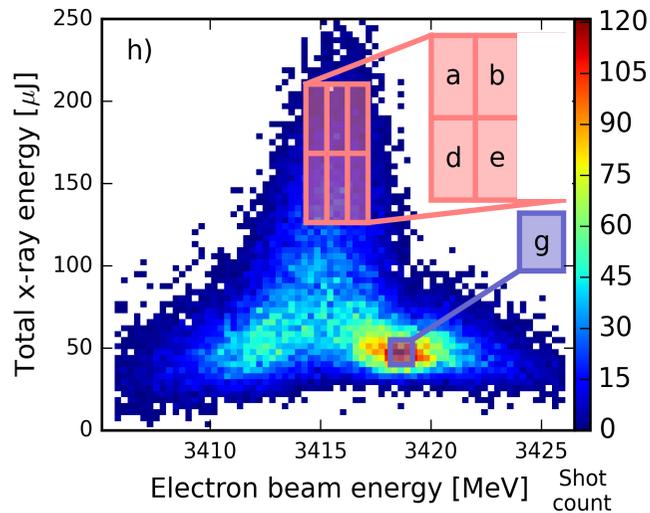


Absorption of transiently created ions visible in spectra!

No evidence for Stimulated Raman scattering

Gas pressure at 100 mbar

Analysis of stability of XFEL self-seeded two-color source (peak of seeded pulses at 534.43 eV, 100mbar CO)



Despite fluctuations, averaged spectra are well reproducible

Relative differences > 0.05 OD observable !!!

Theory: **10^{11} photons in 35 fs, 6 μm** : Raman gain of 0.5

Conditions at experiment: $2 \cdot 10^8$ photons/ $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{fs}/\text{eV}$ (for 0.5 eV self-seeded pulses of 35 fs)

Conclusion and outlook

Stimulated x-ray emission (superfluorescence) for targets relevant for chemistry

- K- α superfluorescence in Mn solutions demonstrated
- Chemical shifts are observable
- Strong-field effects: broadening and shifting of emission spectrum
- State-resolved spectroscopy difficult
- High cross-sections for Stimulated Raman involving spectator 2p-1s transitions
- Stimulated Raman experiments should be feasible with high-brilliance sources

Lessons learned from Stimulated Raman Experiments in gas-phase CO

- Broad-band SASE pulses lead to large background
- (Self)-seeded two-colour schemes reduce background for pulses with > 10 fs duration
- Statistical analysis is possible, but tedious
- In the soft x-ray region: 3×10^9 photons/fs would give Raman gain of 0,5 OD
- LCLS XLEAP: promising for demonstrating Raman gain in soft- and hard x-ray region

What do we need to realize beyond proof-of-principle:

- Highly stable (seeded) sub-fs pulses of at least 2 different colors
- Pulse delays up to 100 fs, with 0.1 fs steps
- Experimental setup with 100 nm focus in the hard x-ray regime
- Well designed experimental stations with spectrometers of sub eV resolution