

Time-resolved Studies of Surface Reactions

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structure

dynamics



kinetics

E. Muybrigde 1887

Goal: Microscopic understanding of coupling between electronic excitations and nuclear degrees of freedom



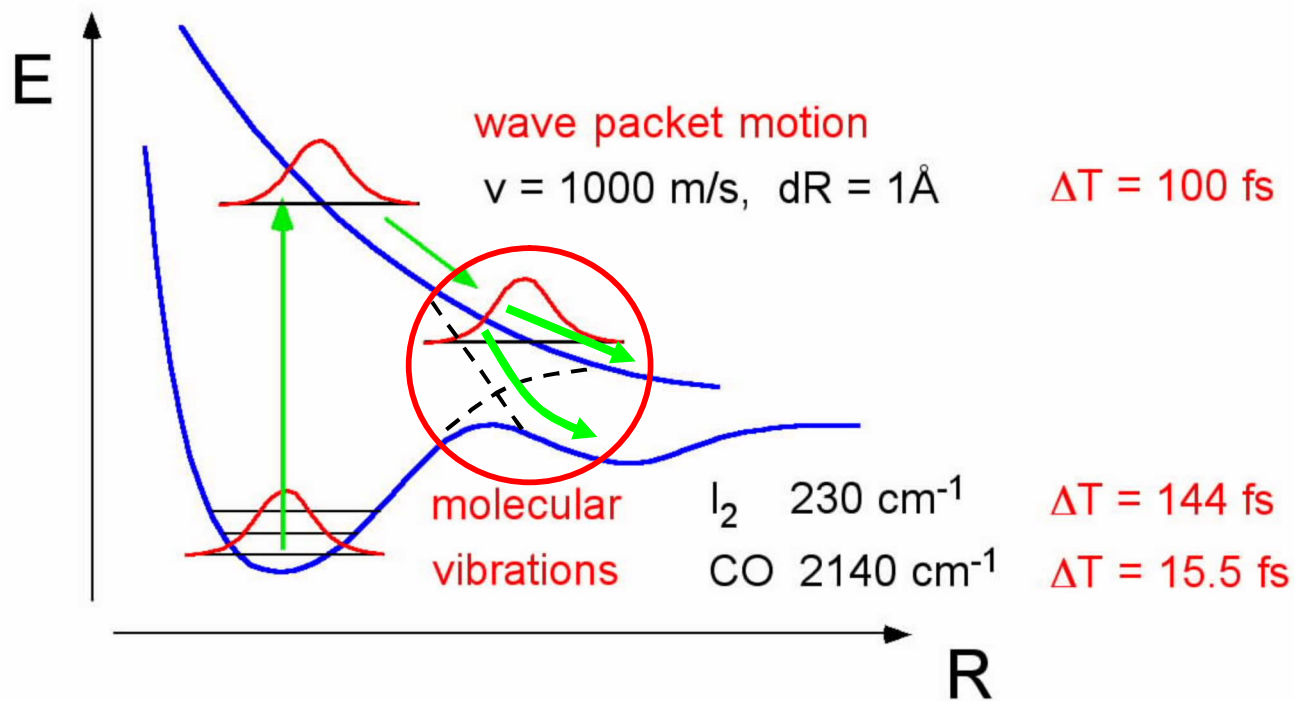
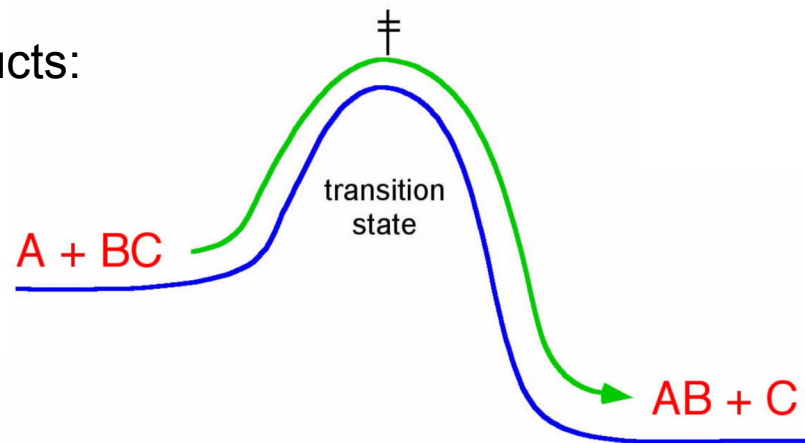
Application of femtosecond laser spectroscopy

Timescales of chemical reactions

Temporal evolution from reactants to products:

→ Dynamics of the transition state

Typical timescale: 10-100 fs

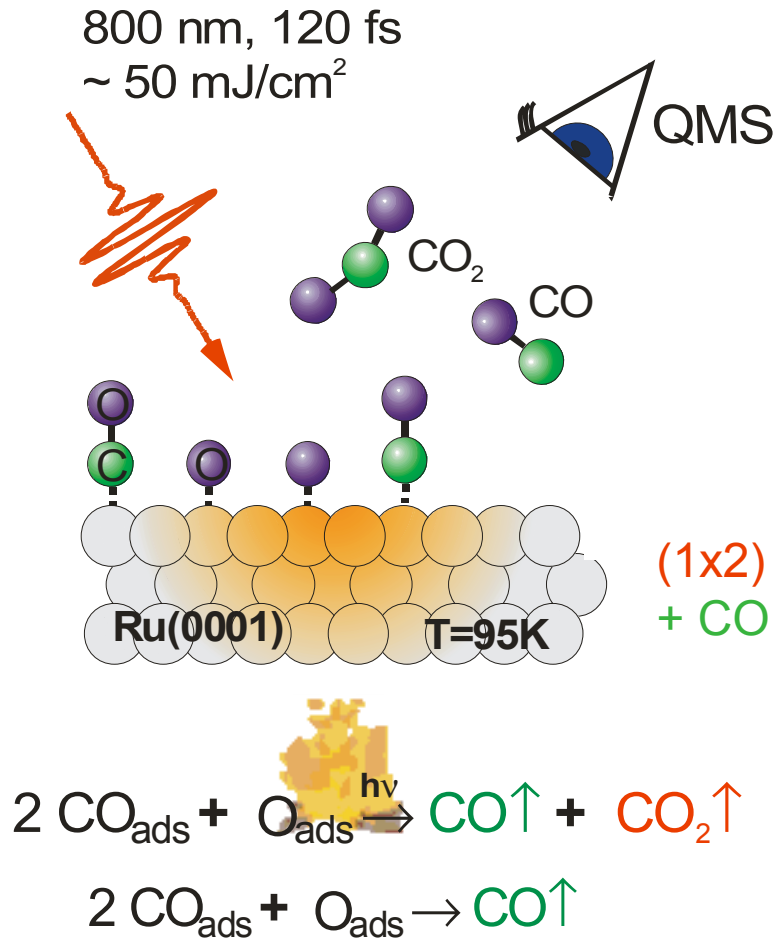


→ Key concept: Dynamics on Born-Oppenheimer potential energy surface

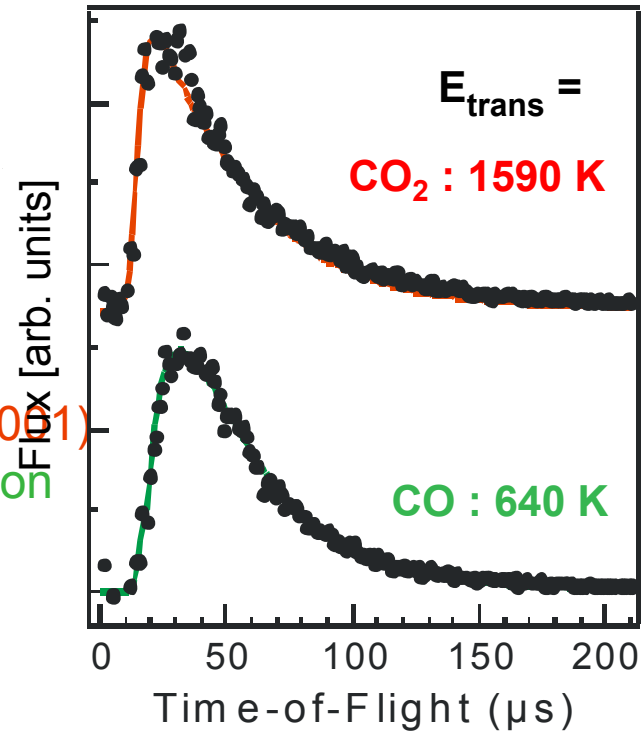
→ Non-adiabatic coupling between electronic states near (avoided) crossings

Motivation: fs-laser-induced chemistry

Example: CO Oxidation on Ru(001) competes with CO desorption (UHV conditions)



fs-induced reaction pathways



→ New reaction pathway is „switched on“ upon fs excitation

Introduction

- Non-adiabatic processes at surfaces

Electron thermalization in metals

- Test of the two-temperature model

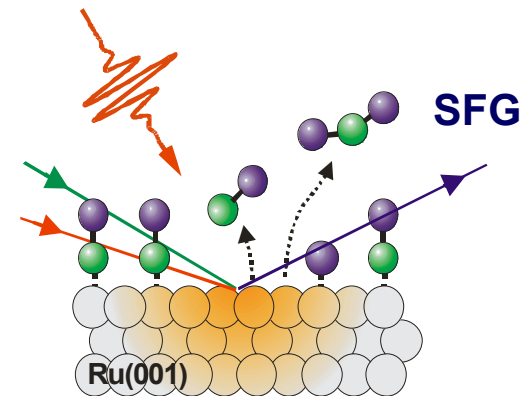
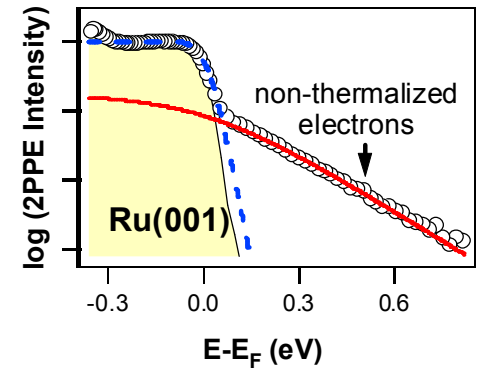
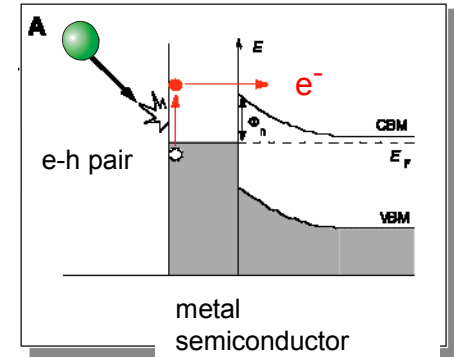
Surface femtochemistry

- Electron and phonon mediated pathways
- Isotope effects and electronic friction model

Non-linear optics as a probe of surface dynamics

- Vibrational sum-frequency generation spectroscopy

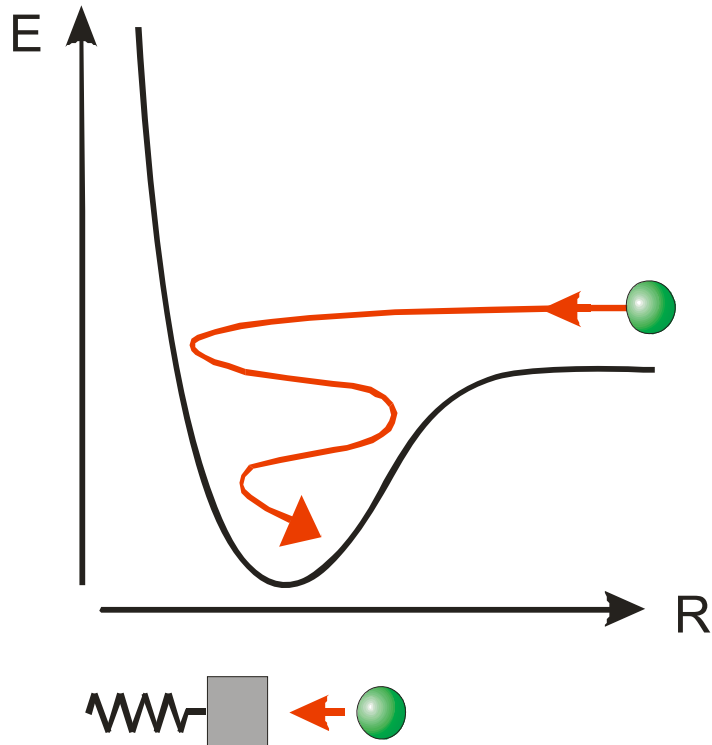
Electron dynamics thin ice layers on metals



Gas surface interaction

Role of non-adiabatic processes in surface reactions ?

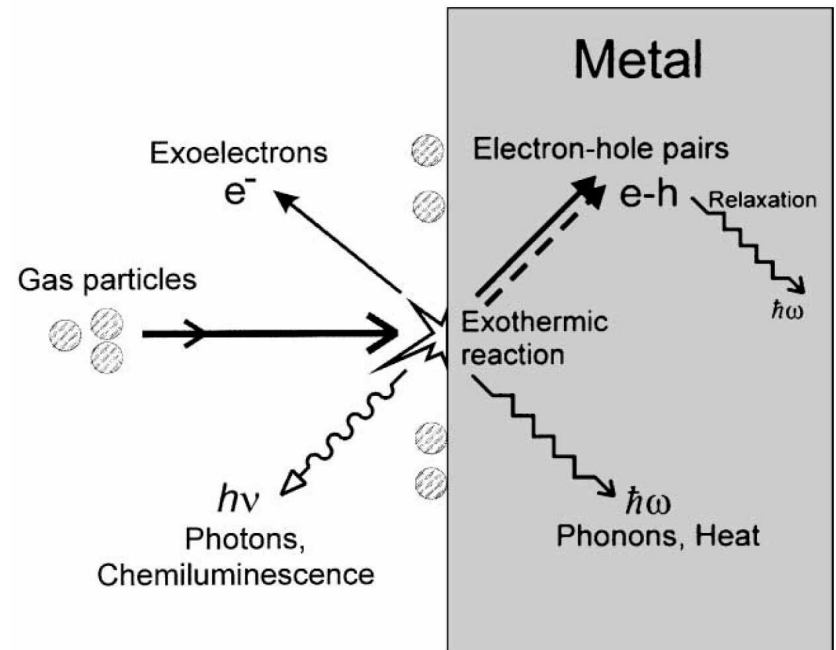
Example: Adsorption at a metal surface



„forced-oscillator model“

→ Energy dissipation via phonon excitation

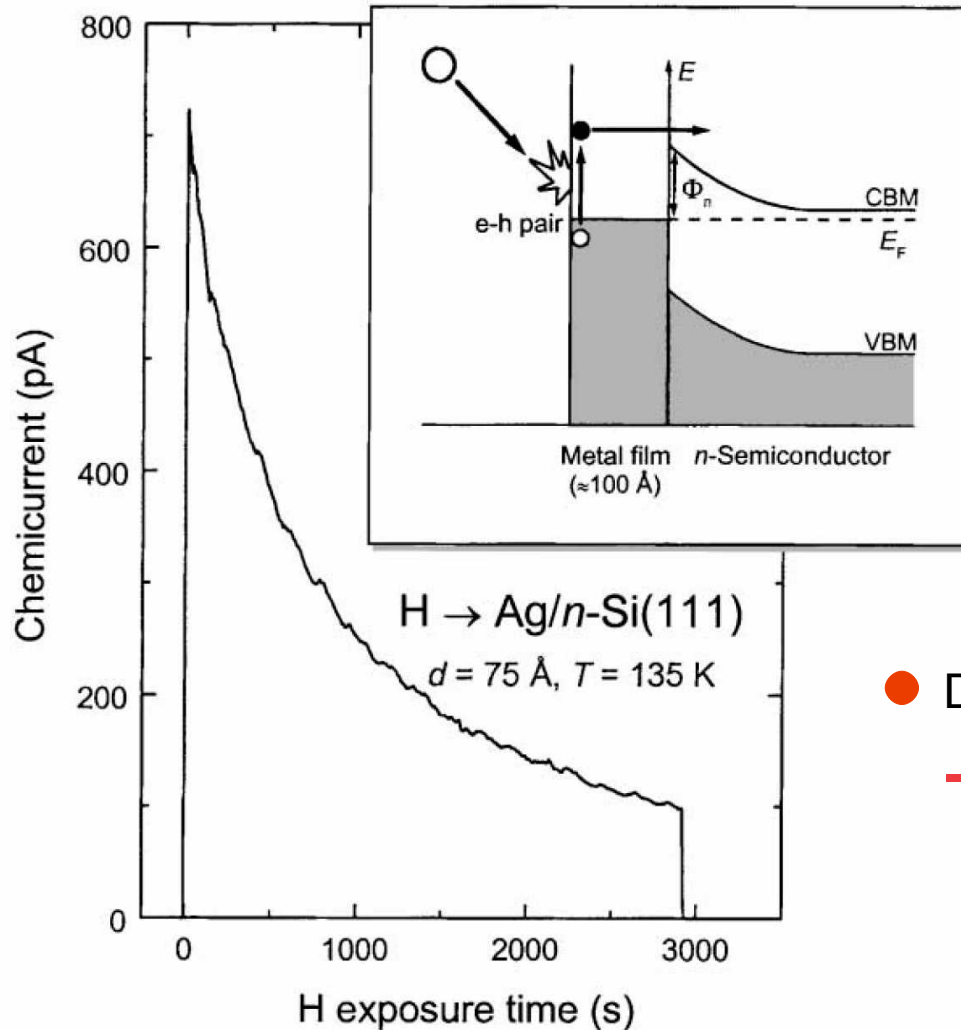
Question: Coupling between nuclear (vibrational) motion of adsorbate and **electronic excitations** ?



● Exothermic reactions at metal surfaces

→ Coupling to electron-hole pair excitations in the substrate

Chemicurrents



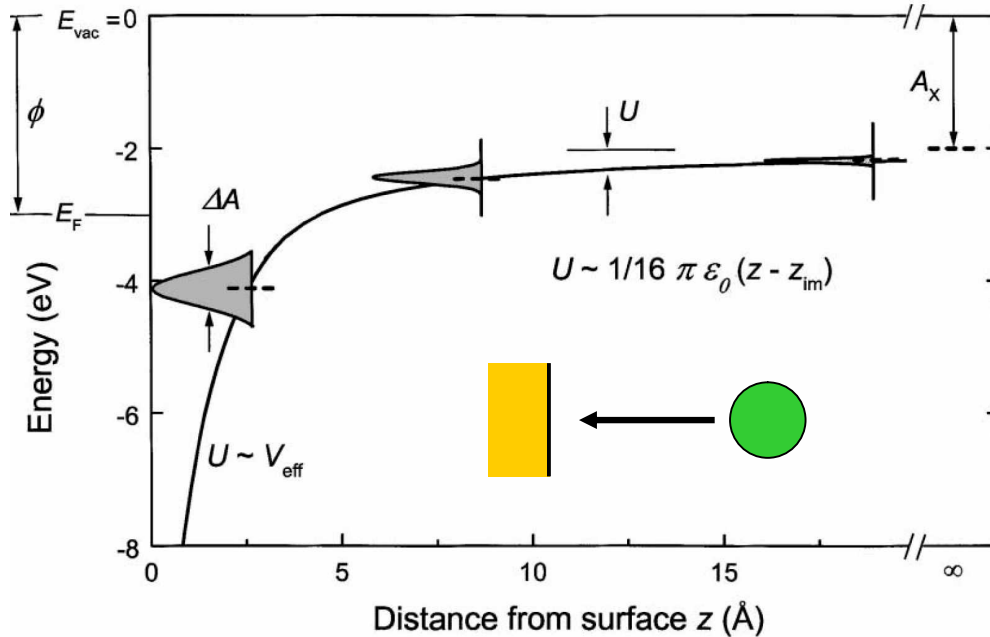
- Adsorption on thin metal film
- Charge separation across small Schottky barrier
→ Chemicurrent
- Current provides lower limit of excitation probability

- Direct observation of e-h pair excitation
→ Evidence for non-adiabatic coupling between adsorbate motion electronic excitations

See review article by H. Nienhaus, Surf. Sci. Rep. **45**, 3 (2002)

Chemicurrents: Mechanism

Newns-Anderson model

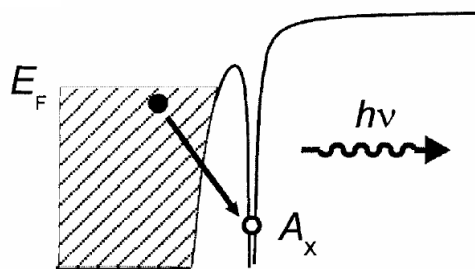


- Unoccupied affinity level is pulled down by adsorbate surface interaction

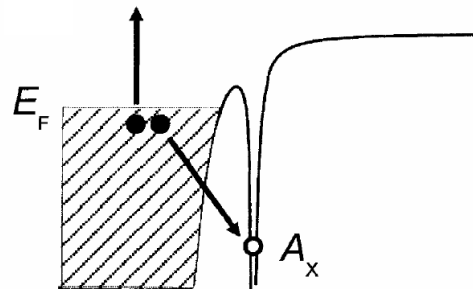
→ broadening of resonance linewidth

→ adsorbate substrate charge transfer

Chemiluminescence



Exoelectron emission



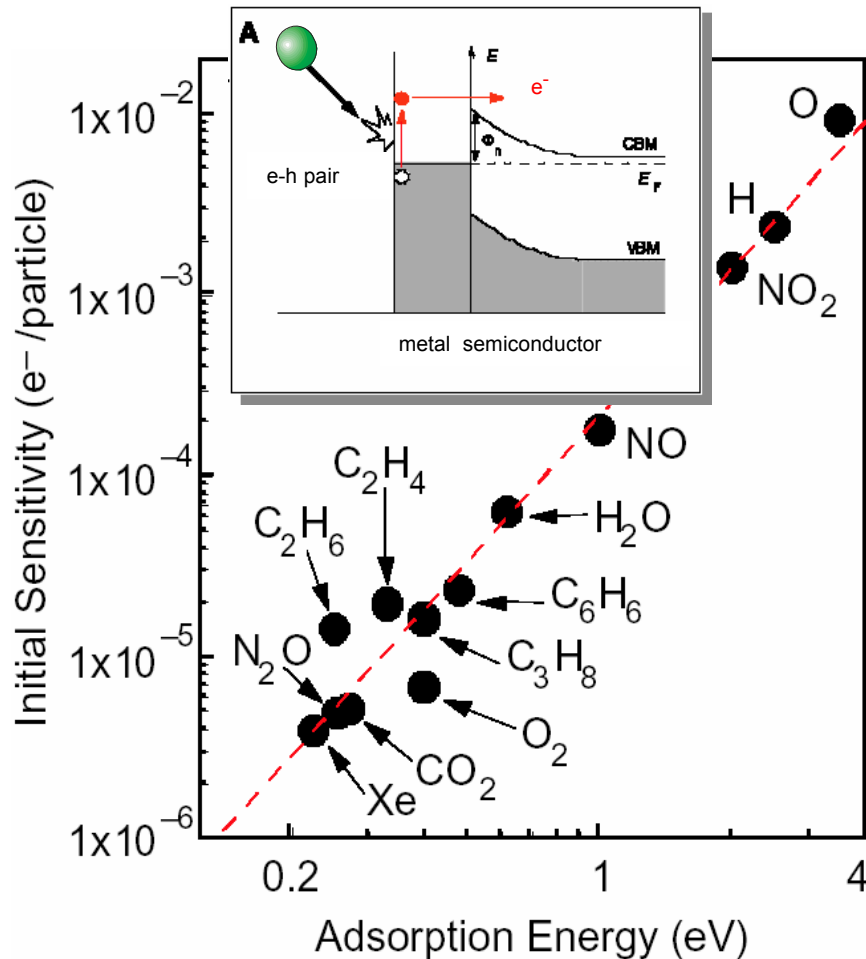
- Filling of hole below E_{Fermi} by substrate electrons

→ **e-h excitation:**
- chemicurrent
- exoemission

→ luminescence

Electronic excitations at surfaces

Gergen *et al.*, Science **294**, 2521 (2001)



- Chemicurrent observed for various adsorbates

→ electronic excitations play major role in gas surface interaction

- Energy dissipation via e-h pair excitation („electronic friction“)

- Feasibility of reverse process?

→ chemical reactions driven by electronic excitations

Laser induced surface dynamics

Question: How does laser excitation induce surface reactions ?

Thermal activation

→ Phonon driven process (in electronic ground state)

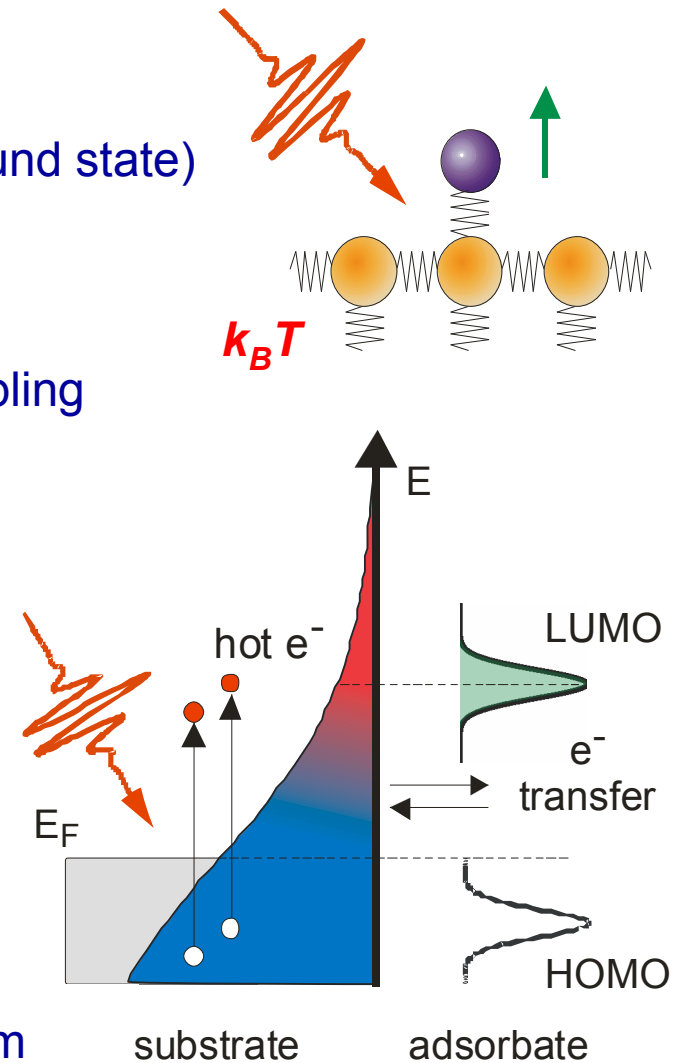
Electronic excitations and charge transfer

→ Chemical bonding implies electronic coupling between „adsorbate“ and substrate

→ Electron stimulated desorption and surface photochemistry

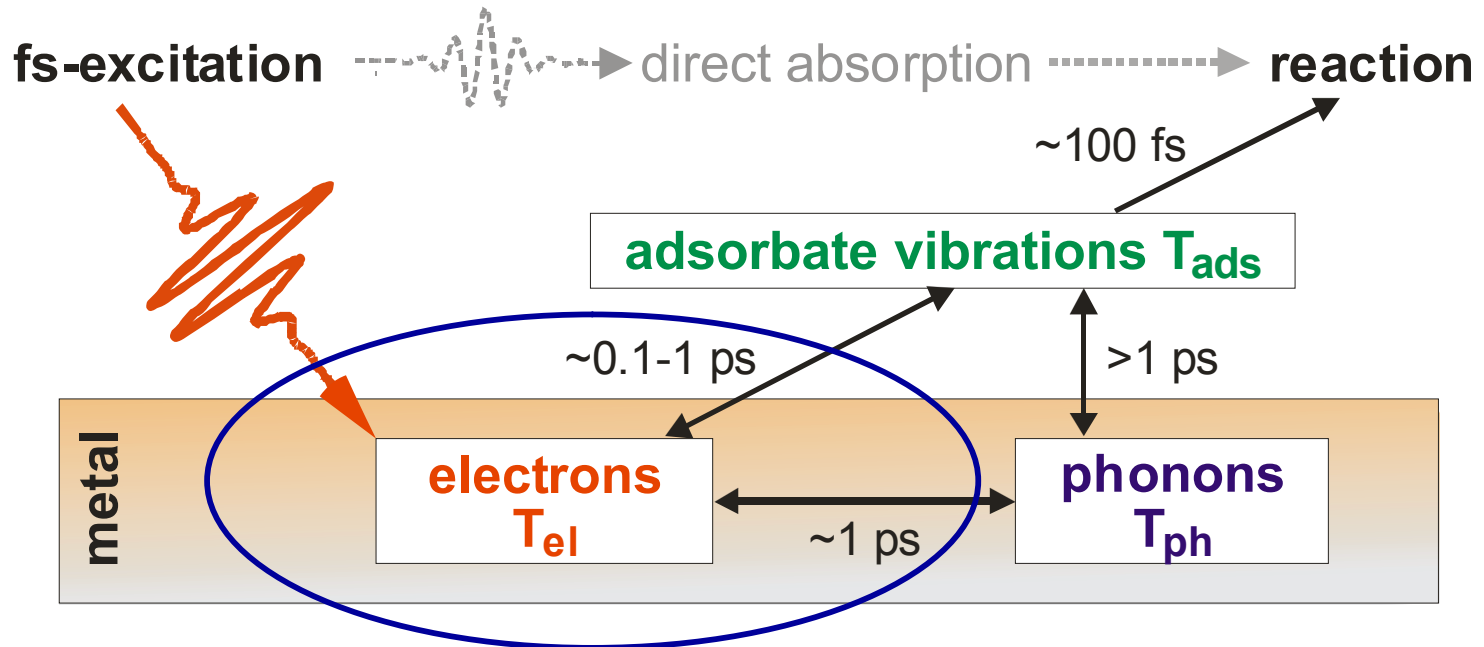
→ Vibrational relaxation at metals by electron-hole pair excitation

→ Energy transfer by coupling between electronic and nuclear degrees of freedom



Optical excitation of metal surfaces

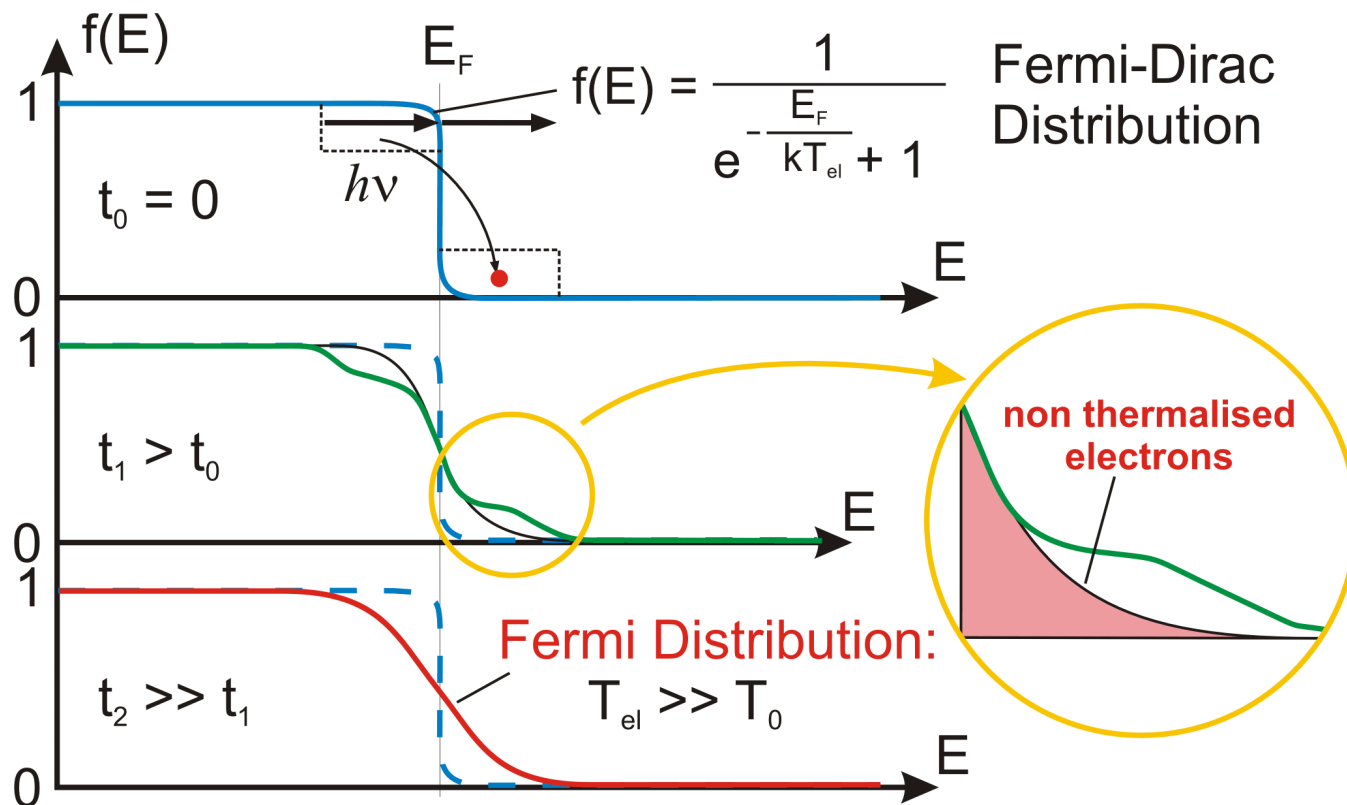
Mechanism and timescales of energy transfer after optical excitation



- Photoabsorption in a metal substrate creates a transient non-equilibrium electron distribution
- Relaxation to phonon and adsorbate vibrational excitation
- Primary step: **Electron thermalization and cooling**

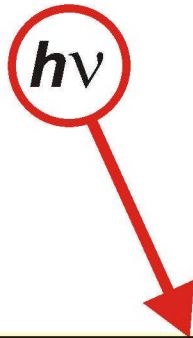
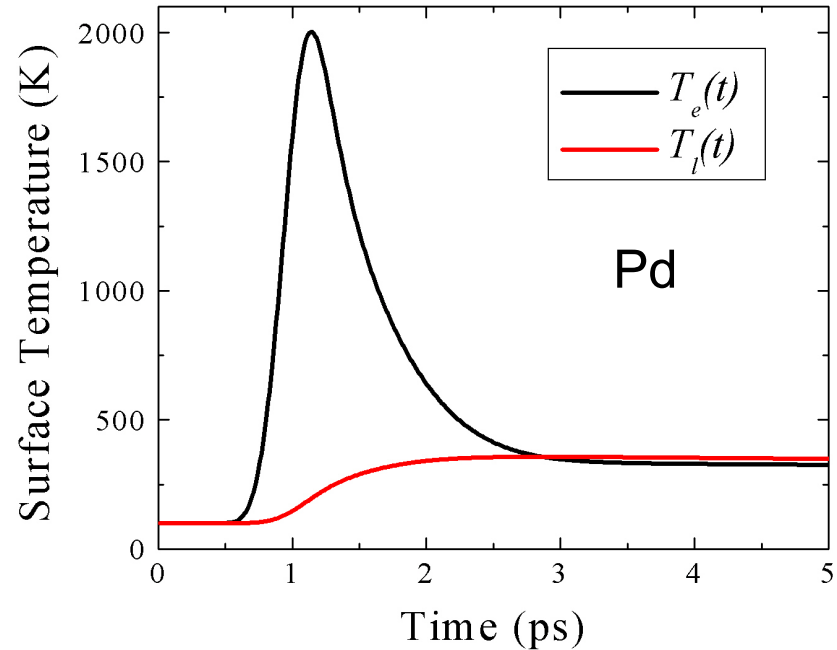
Electron thermalization dynamics in metals: Test of the two-temperature model using 2PPE

Electron dynamics in metals following optical excitation



The two-temperature model

- Model assumes two heat baths for electrons and phonons: $C_{\text{el}} \gg C_{\text{ph}}$
- Nearly thermal (Fermi-Dirac) distribution for electrons
- Coupled diffusion equation for T_{el} and T_{ph}

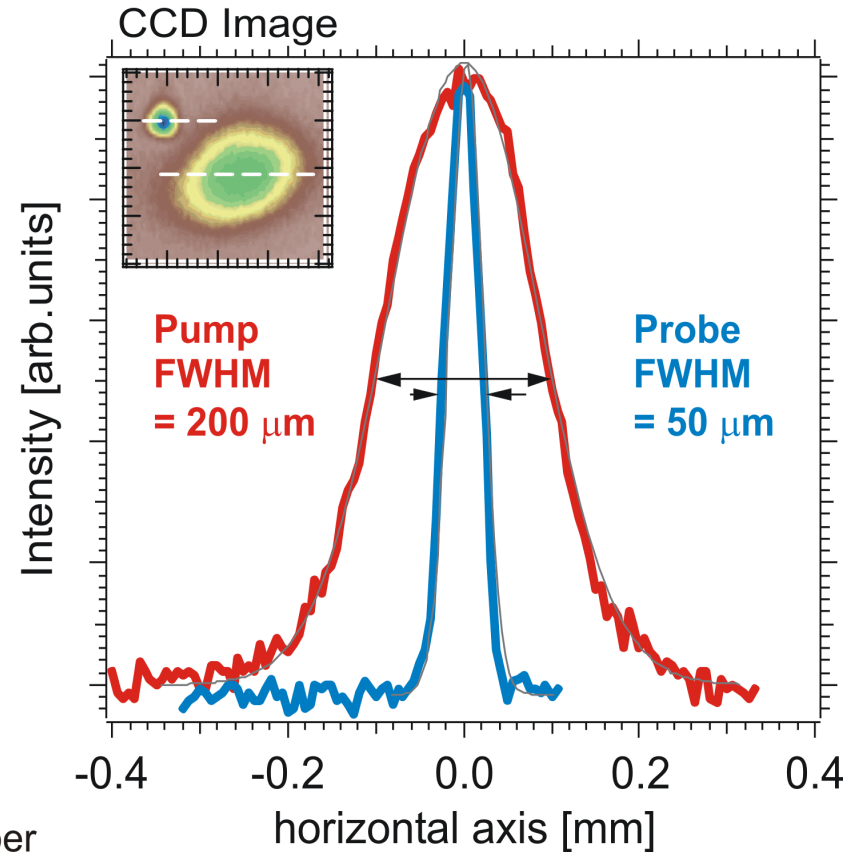
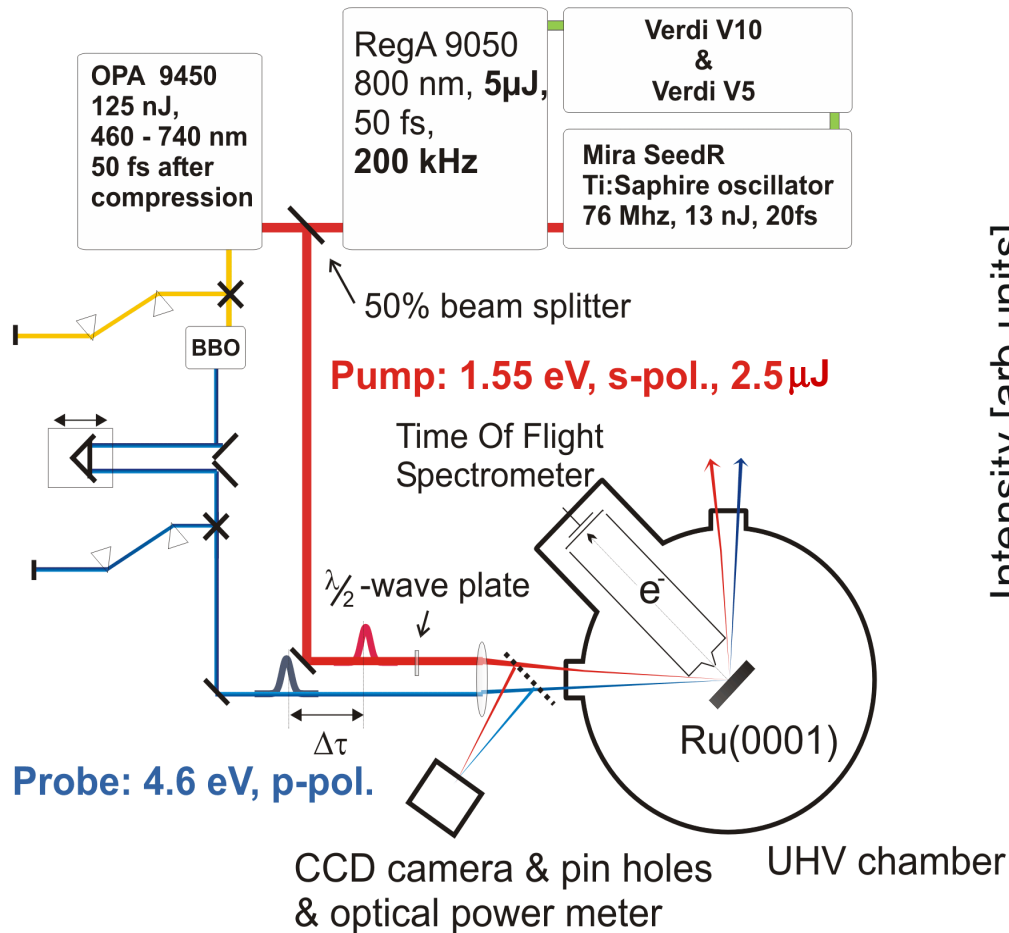


$$C_{\text{el}}(T_{\text{el}}) \frac{\partial T_{\text{el}}}{\partial t} = \nabla(\kappa \nabla T_{\text{el}}) - g(T_{\text{el}} - T_{\text{ph}}) + S(z, t)$$
$$C_{\text{ph}}(T_{\text{ph}}) \frac{\partial T_{\text{ph}}}{\partial t} = g(T_{\text{el}} - T_{\text{ph}})$$

z ↓

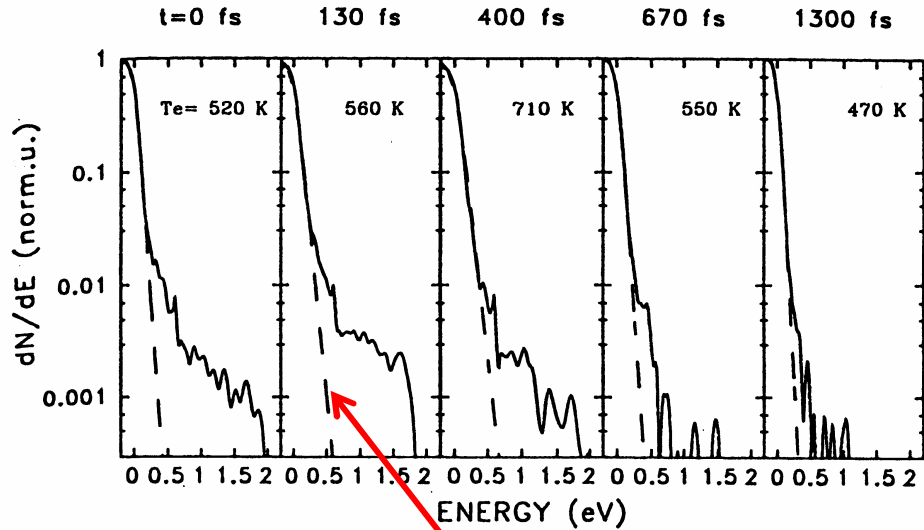
Experimental setup

Femtosecond time-resolved two-photon photoemission spectroscopy



Electron thermalization in gold

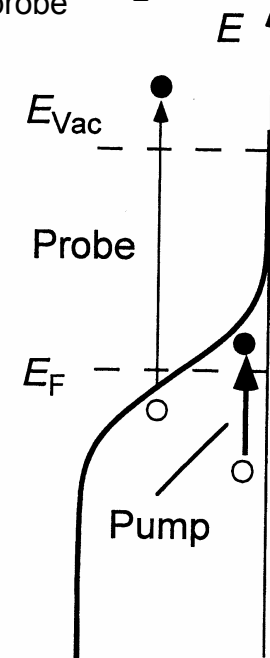
Pump fluence: $120 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$



Fermi-Dirac distribution

● Method:

time-resolved photoemission
with $h\nu_{\text{probe}} > \Phi$

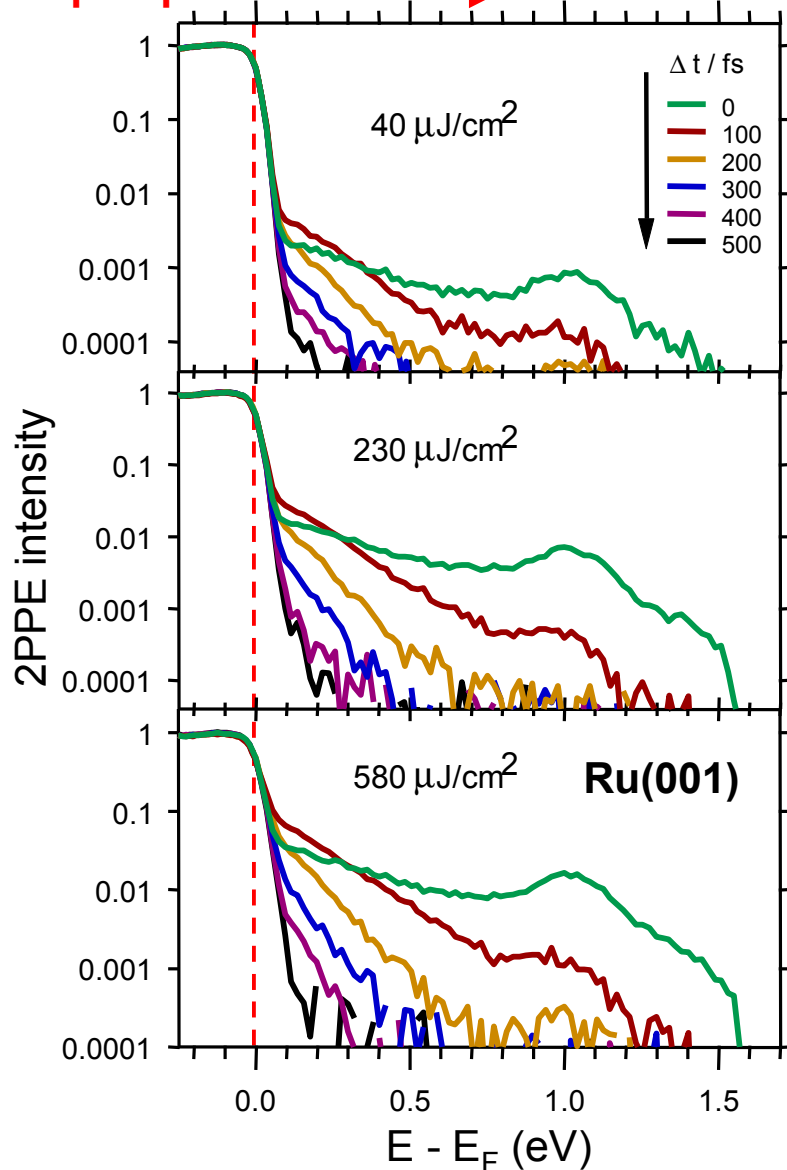


W. S. Fann, R. Storz, H.W.K. Tom, J. Bokor,
Electron thermalization in gold,
Phys. Rev. **B 46**, 13592 (1992)

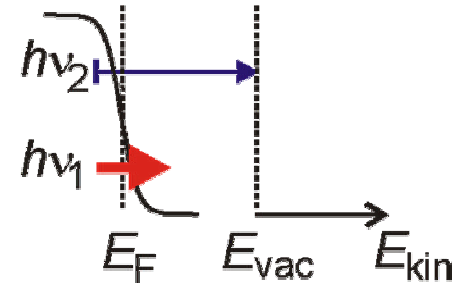
● Electron thermalization occurs faster
with increasing excitation density

Time-resolved 2PPE from Ru(001)

UV probe \rightarrow e^-
 800 nm pump \rightarrow

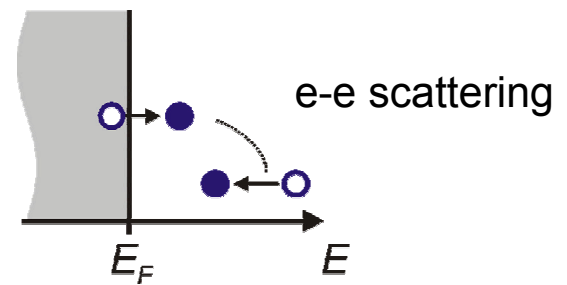


Pump-probe scheme:



probing electron dynamics around E_{Fv}

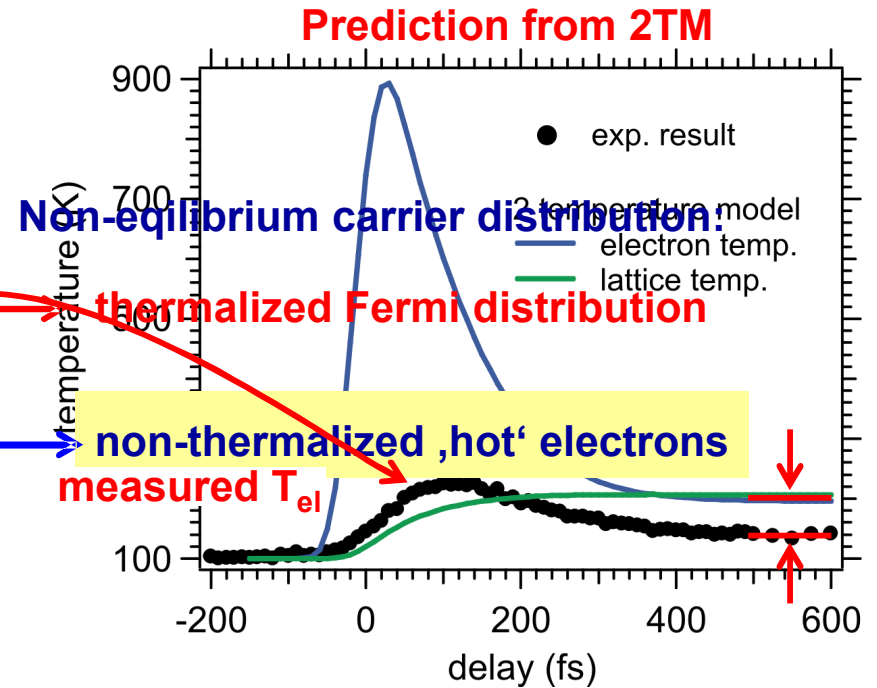
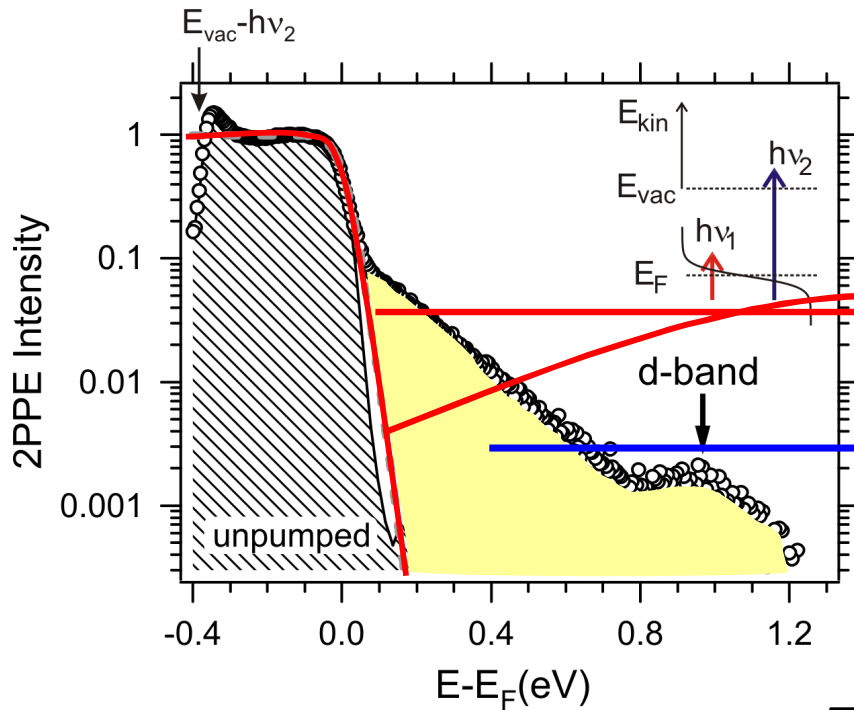
1) Electron thermalization:



2) Relaxation by e-ph scattering

3) Energy transport in the bulk

Analysis of electron distribution



Comparison with 2TM:

- Assume thermalized distribution for electrons and phonons
- Thermalized electrons carry only minor fraction of excess energy
- 2TM over-estimates final T_{el}

Two Temperature Model (TTM):

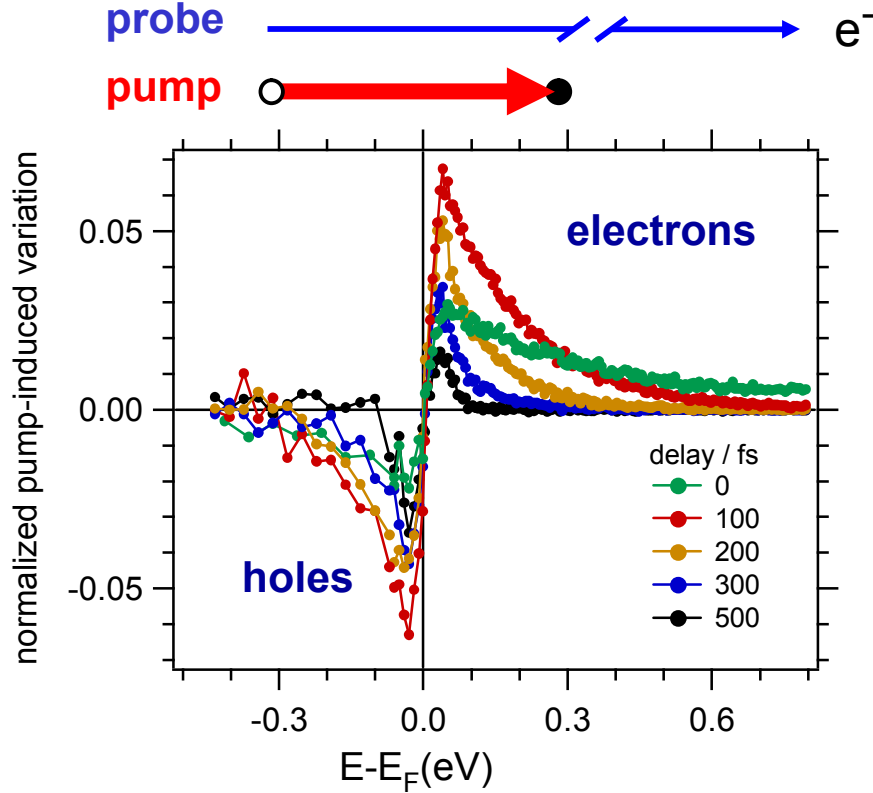
$$C_{el}(T_{el}) \frac{\partial T_{el}}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\nabla(\kappa \nabla T_{el})}_{\text{transport}} - \underbrace{H(T_{el}, T_{ph})}_{\text{e-ph coupl.}} + \underbrace{S(z, t)}_{\text{opt. exc.}}$$

$$C_{ph}(T_{ph}) \frac{\partial T_{ph}}{\partial t} = H(T_{el}, T_{ph})$$

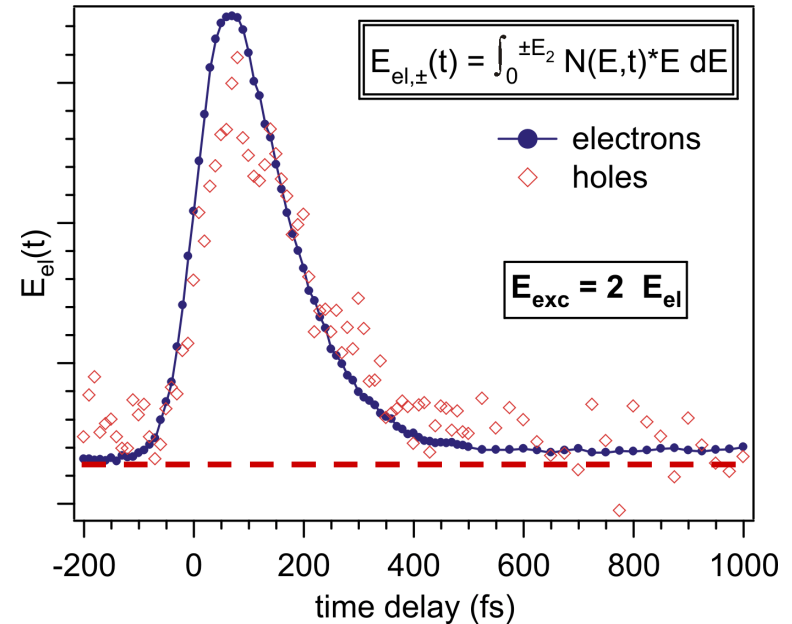
$H(T_{el}, T_{ph})$: thermal electron distributions
Debye model for phonons

Anisimov et.al., Sov. Phys. JETP 39, 375 (1974)

Dynamics of electrons and holes



Excess energy of electrons + holes



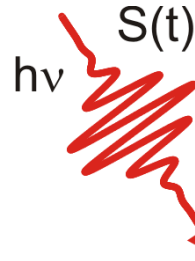
Pump induced changes of electron distribution:

- Highly symmetric electron and hole distributions for *all* delays due to nearly constant DOS around E_F
- Dynamics of electrons and holes can be treated equivalently
- Ultrafast relaxation (much faster compared to noble metals, e.g Au: 1-2 ps)

Extended heat bath model

Goal:

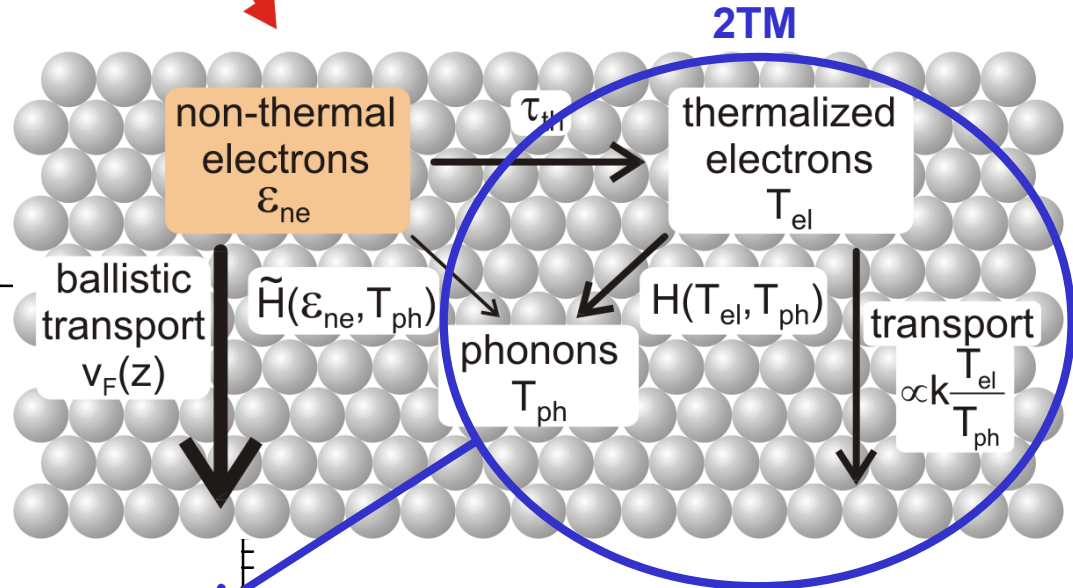
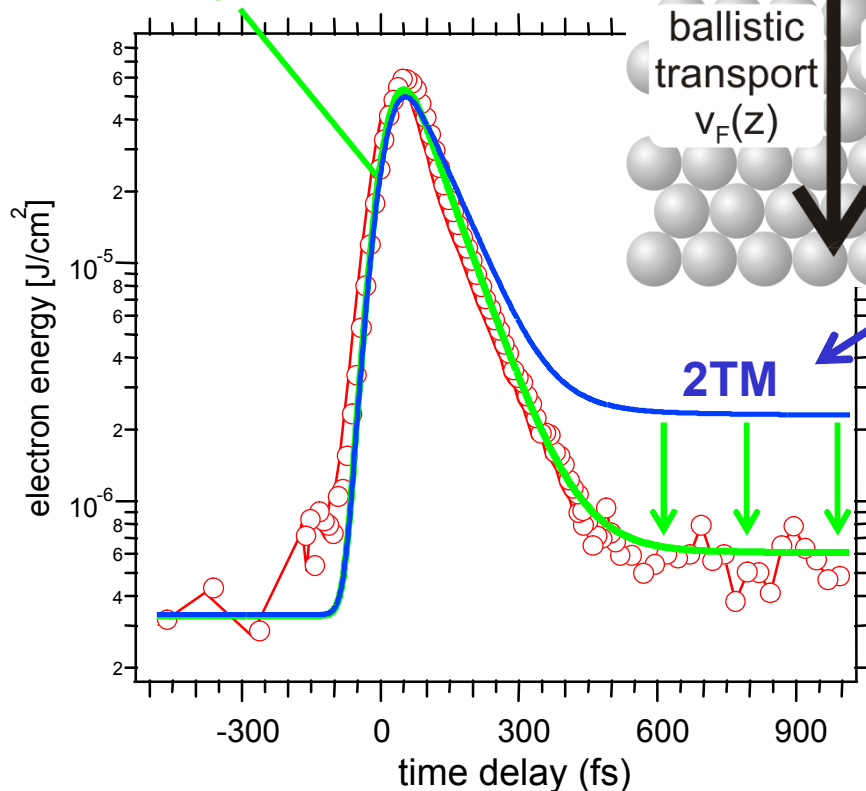
Understanding the role of non-thermalized electrons



Extension of two temperature model

Appl. Phys. A **78**, 165 (2004)

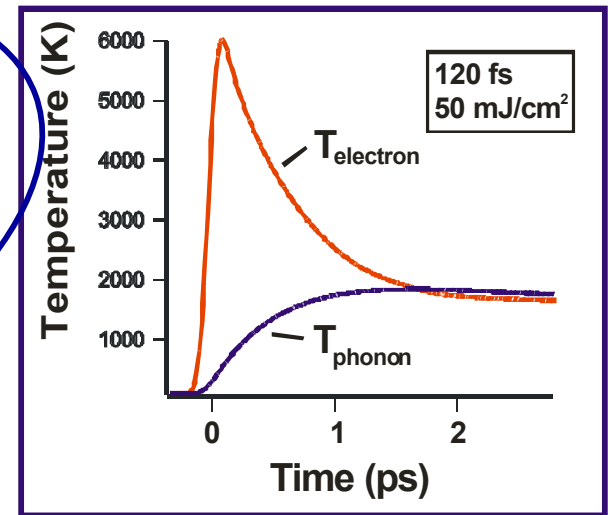
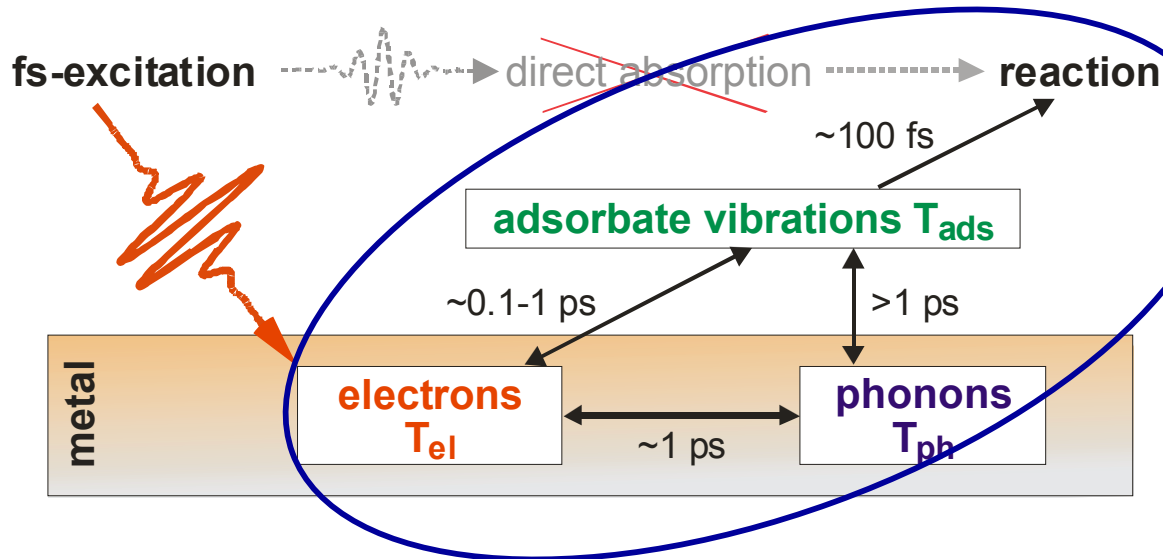
Extended model including ballistic transport



- 2TM underestimates rate of energy flow into the bulk
- efficient ballistic transport of non-thermal electrons
- however, peak energy is described reasonable well by both models

Femtochemistry at metal surfaces

Mechanism and timescales of energy transfer after optical excitation



Anisimov, et al. Sov. Phys. JETP **39**, 375 (1974)

- substrate-mediated excitation mechanism dominates
- transient non-equilibrium between electrons and phonons: $T_{el} \gg T_{ph}$
- new reaction mechanism?
 - by non-thermal activation
 - by separation of time scales of energy flow

Systems

- **NO and O₂/Pd**
- **CO/Cu**
- **CO/Pt**
- **O₂/Pt**
- **CO/NiO**
- **CO + O₂/Pt**
- **CO + O/Ru, H+H/Ru**

Misewich, Loy, Heinz

Tom, Prybyla

Ho

Mazur

Stephenson, Richter, Cavanagh

Bonn, Wolf, Ertl

Zacharias, Al-Shamery

Domen

Experimental Investigations

Yield

Fluence dependence

Translational energy

Vibrational energy

Rotational energy

Ultrafast dynamics

Influence of laser pulse duration

Influence of photon energy

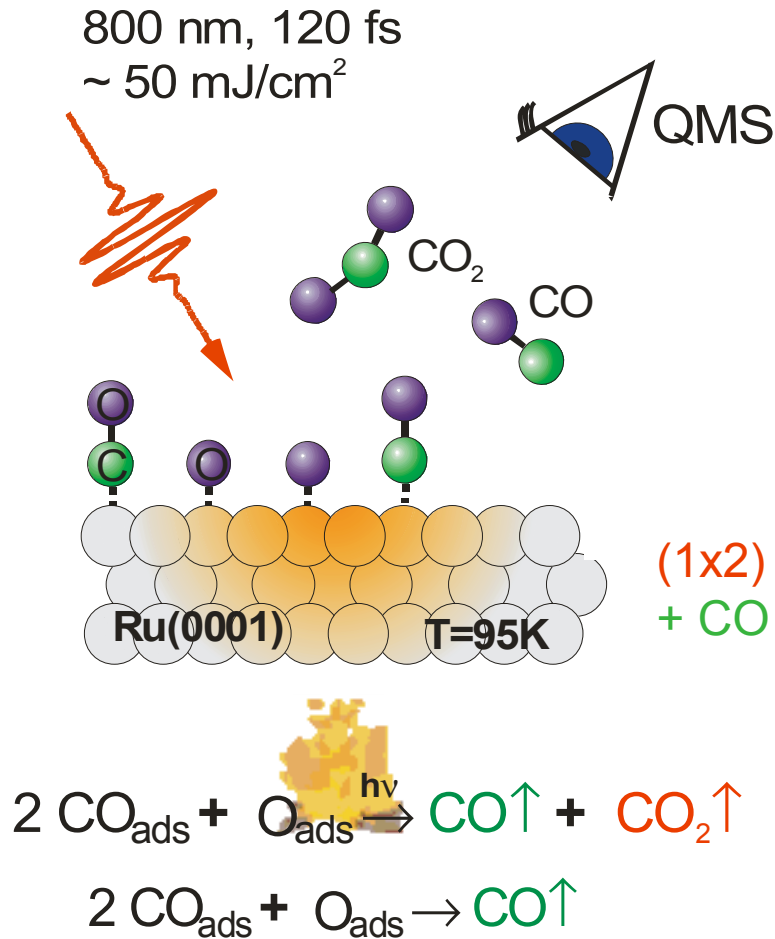
Dependence on adsorption site

Dependence on coverage

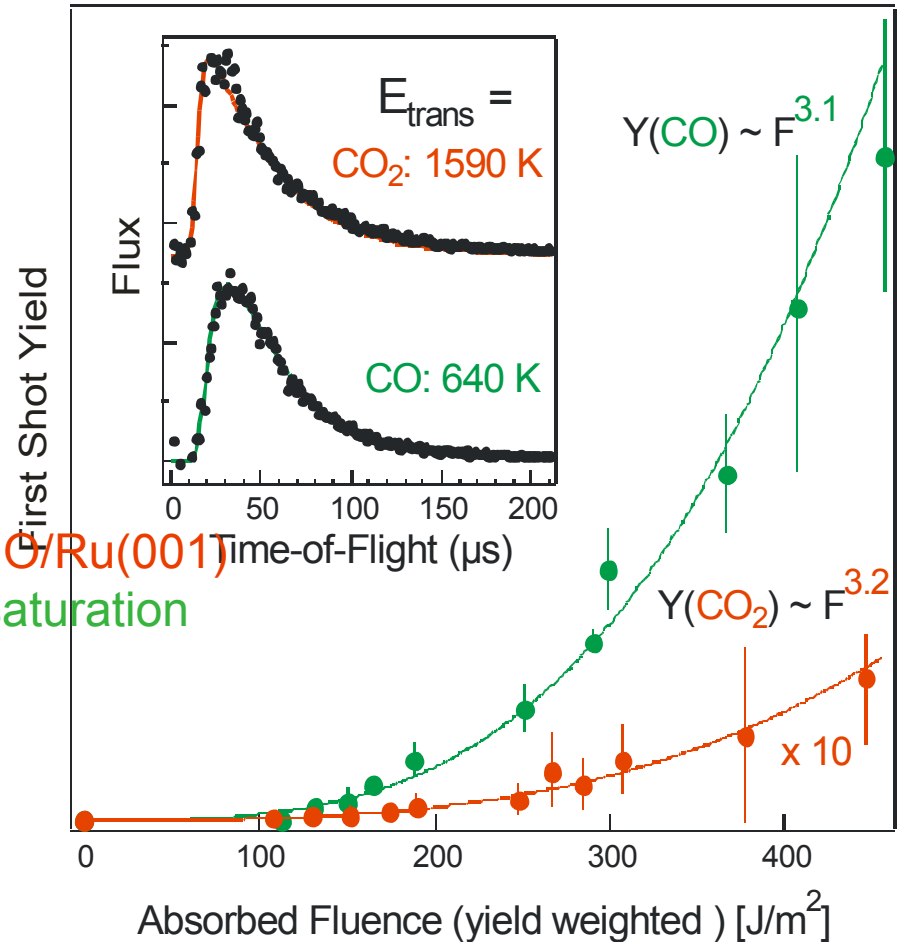
Competitive reaction pathways

Example I: Desorption and oxidation of CO on Ru(001)

Oxidation of CO impossible under equilibrium conditions



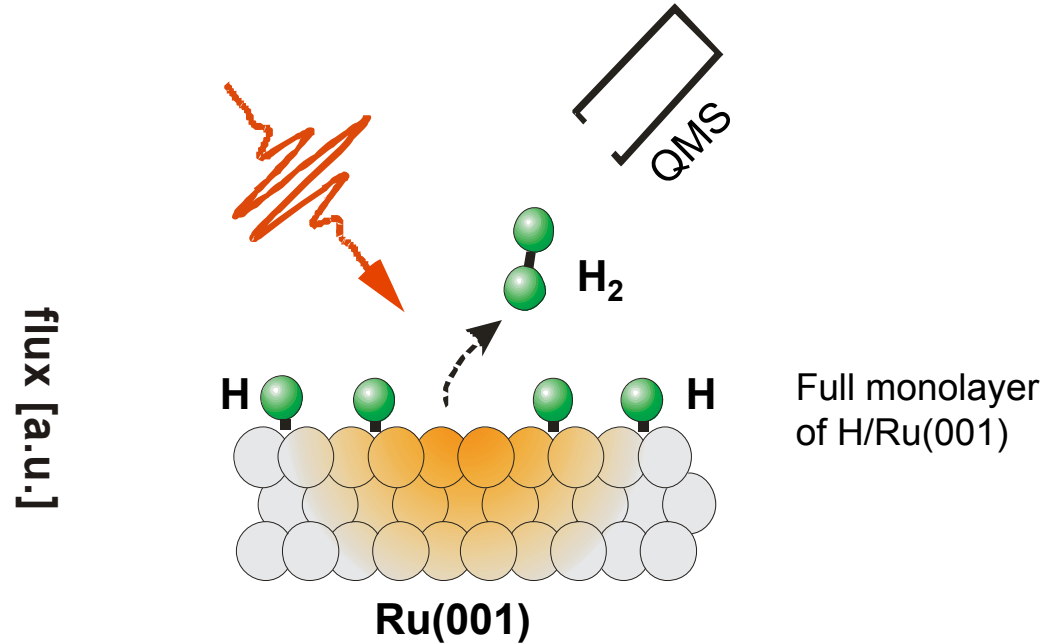
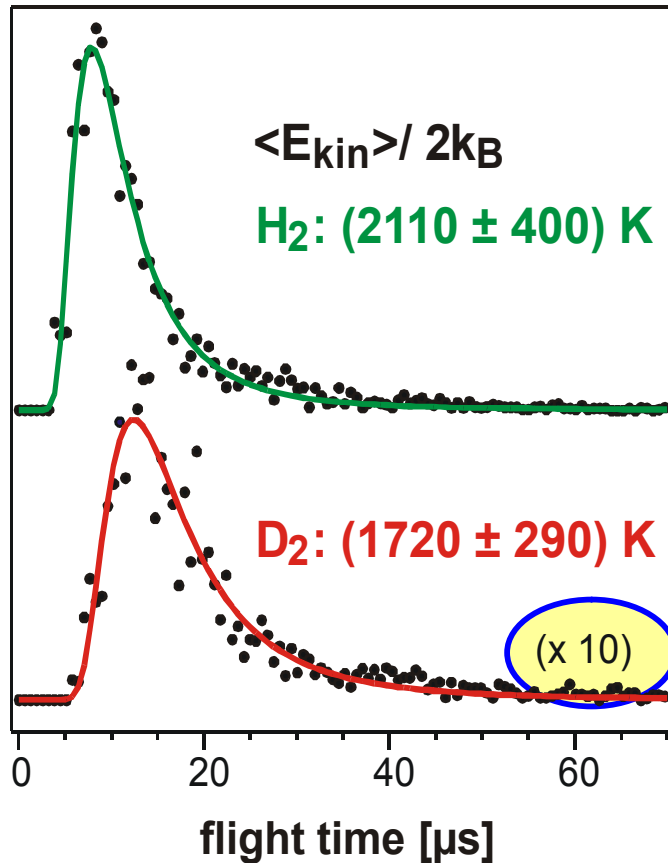
(1x2) - $\text{O}/\text{Ru}(001)$
 + CO saturation



→ New reaction pathway upon fs excitation

Example II: Recombinative desorption of H₂ on Ru(001)

H₂ formation induced by fs laser excitation of H/Ru(001)

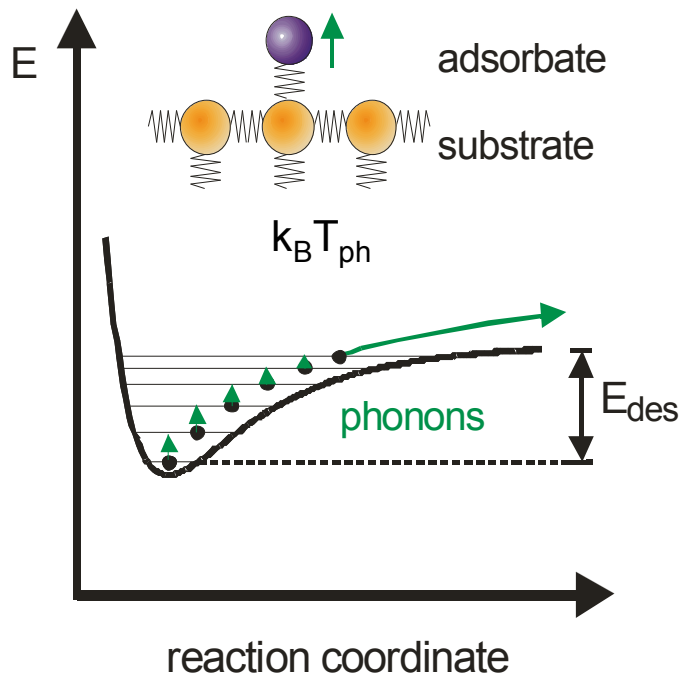


$$\frac{\text{Yield (H}_2\text{)}}{\text{Yield (D}_2\text{)}} = 10 \pm 2.4$$

- High translational temperature of desorbing species
- Pronounced **isotope effects** in H₂/D₂ yield

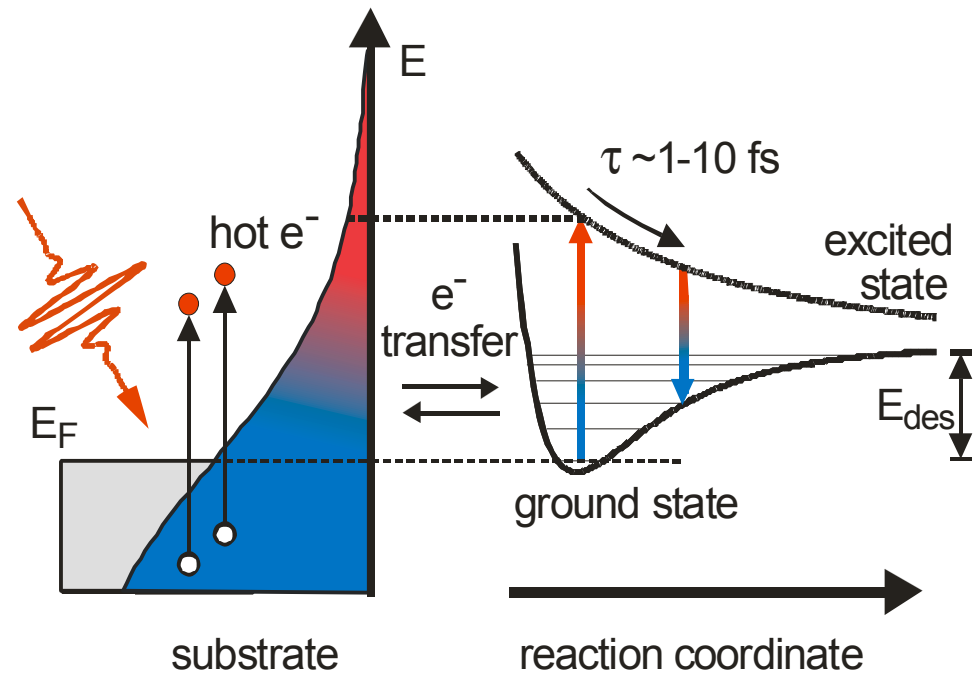
Reaction mechanisms

Phonon-mediated



Electron-mediated

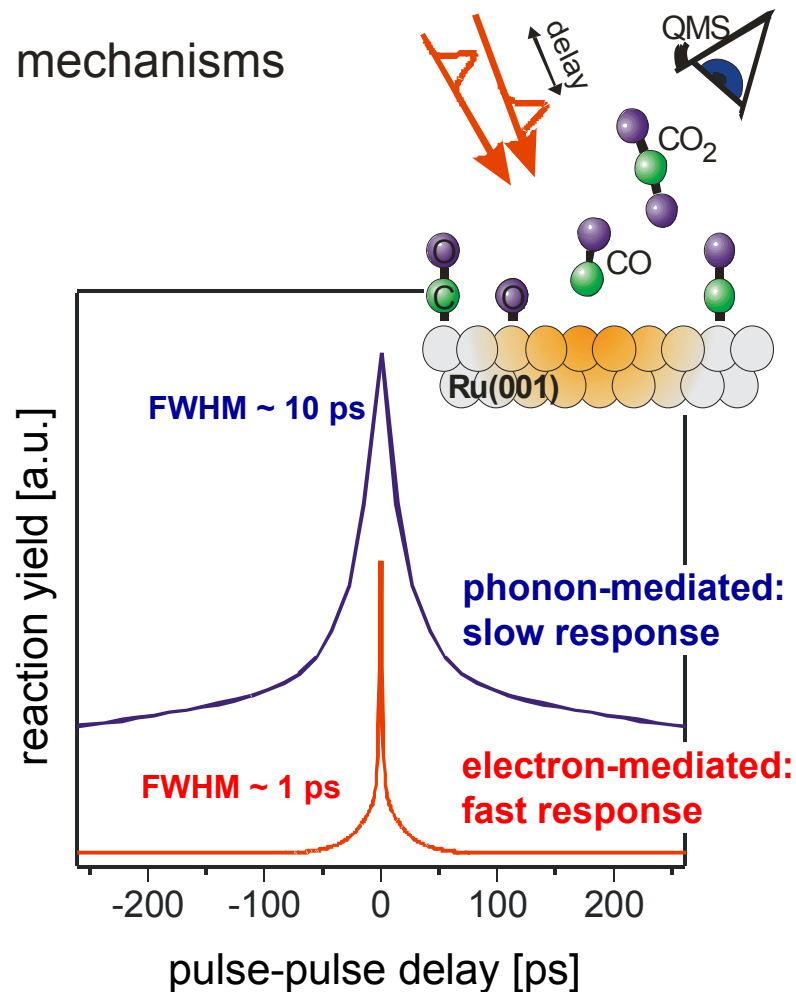
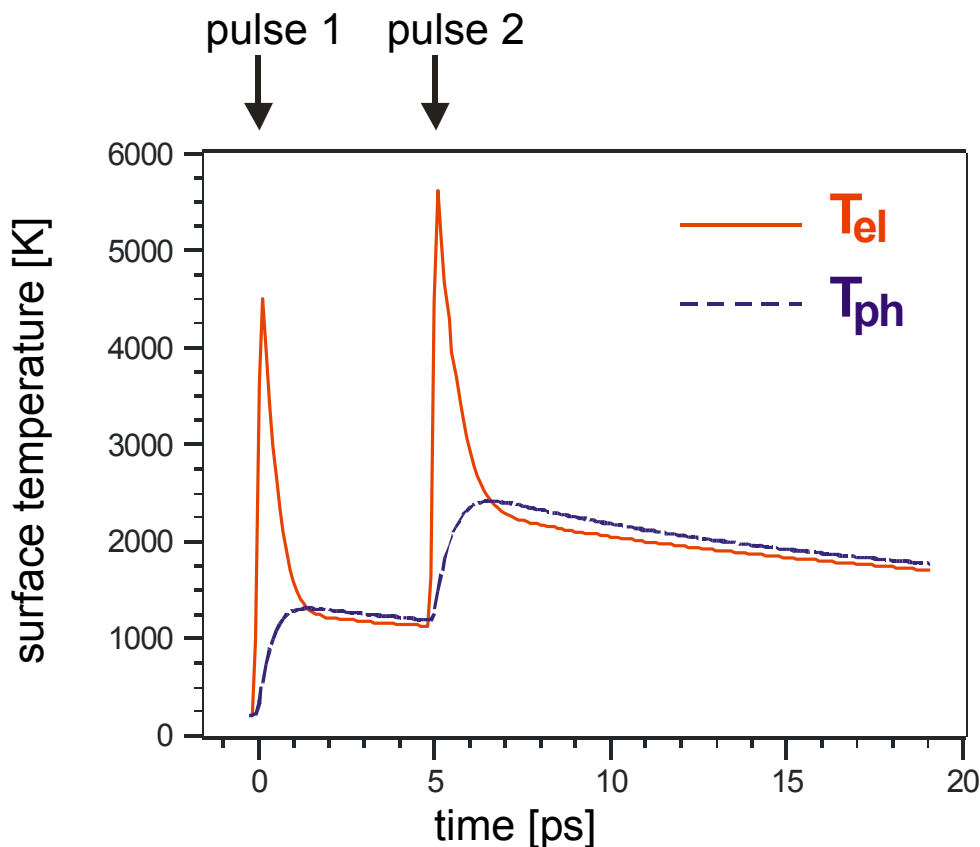
DIMET - Desorption Induced by Multiple Electronic Transitions



→ How to distinguish?

Temperature profiles and 2-pulse correlation

Goal: Discerning **electron** and **phonon** driven mechanisms

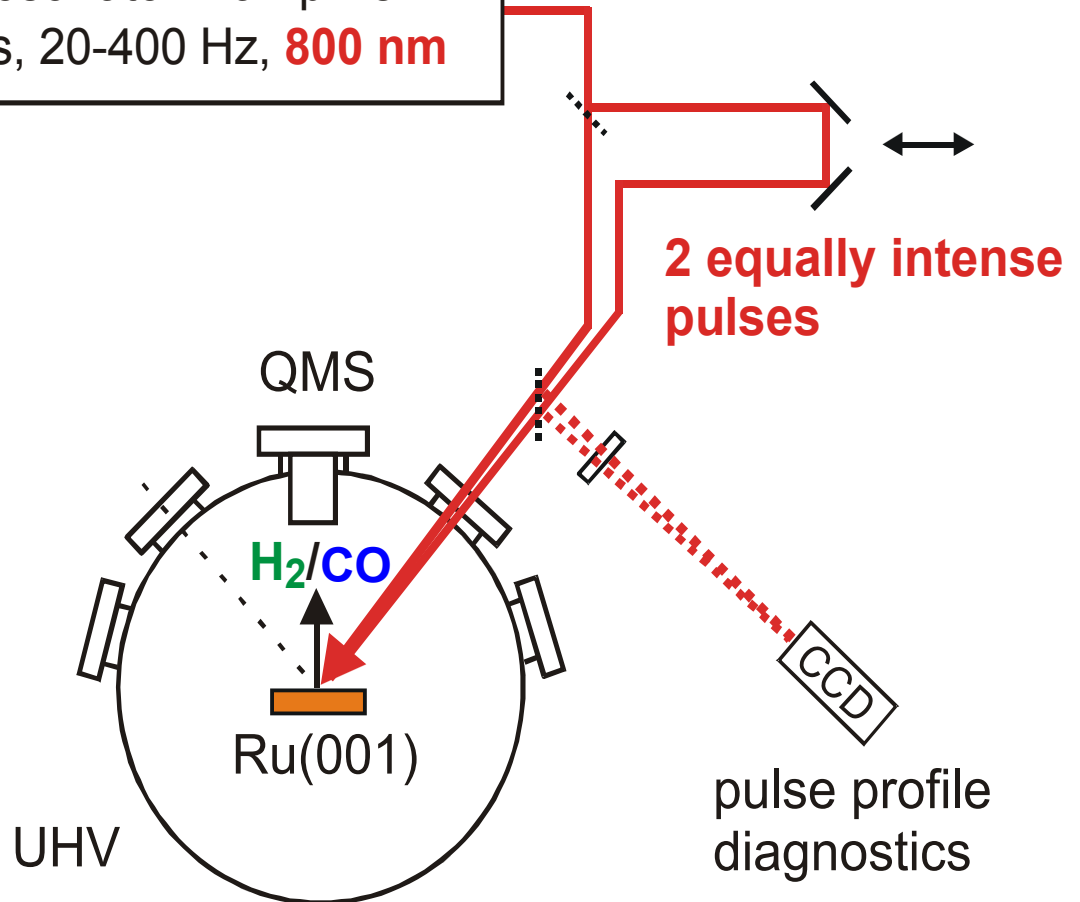
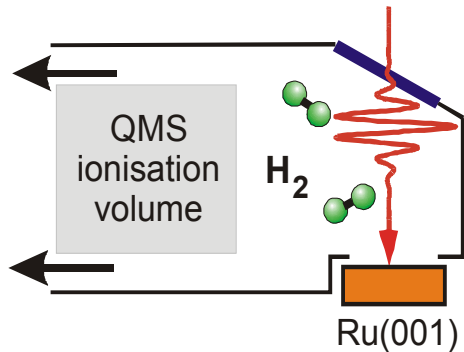
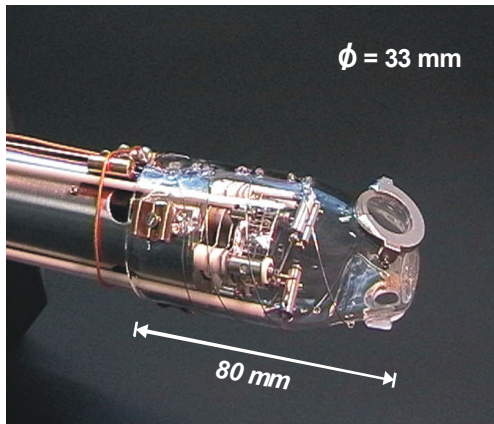


→ Two-pulse correlation measurement of the reaction yield allows to distinguish between the two reaction mechanisms!

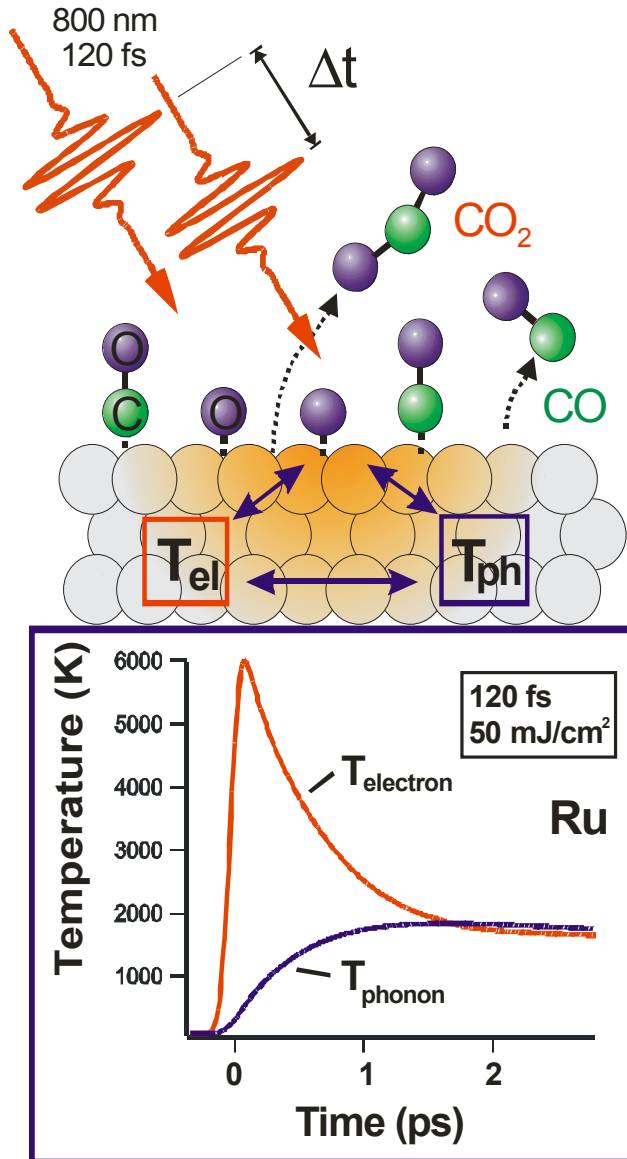
Experimental setup

Ti:sapphire oscillator + amplifier
4 mJ, 110 fs, 20-400 Hz, **800 nm**

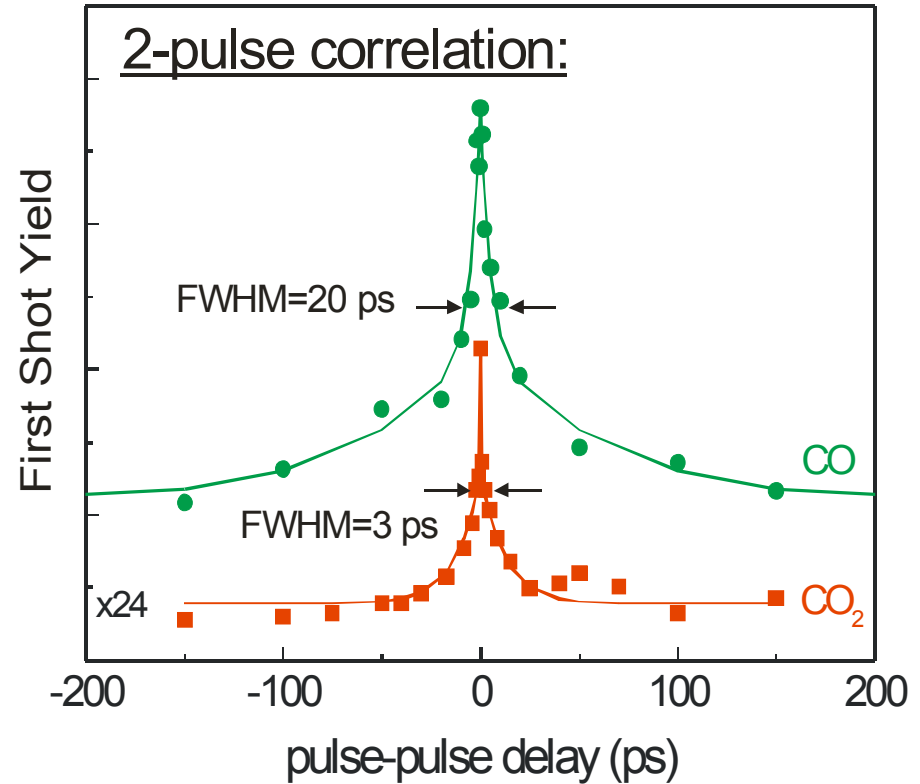
“Feulner cup” detector



2-pulse correlation measurements



Goal: discriminate between **electron** and **phonon** mediated mechanism

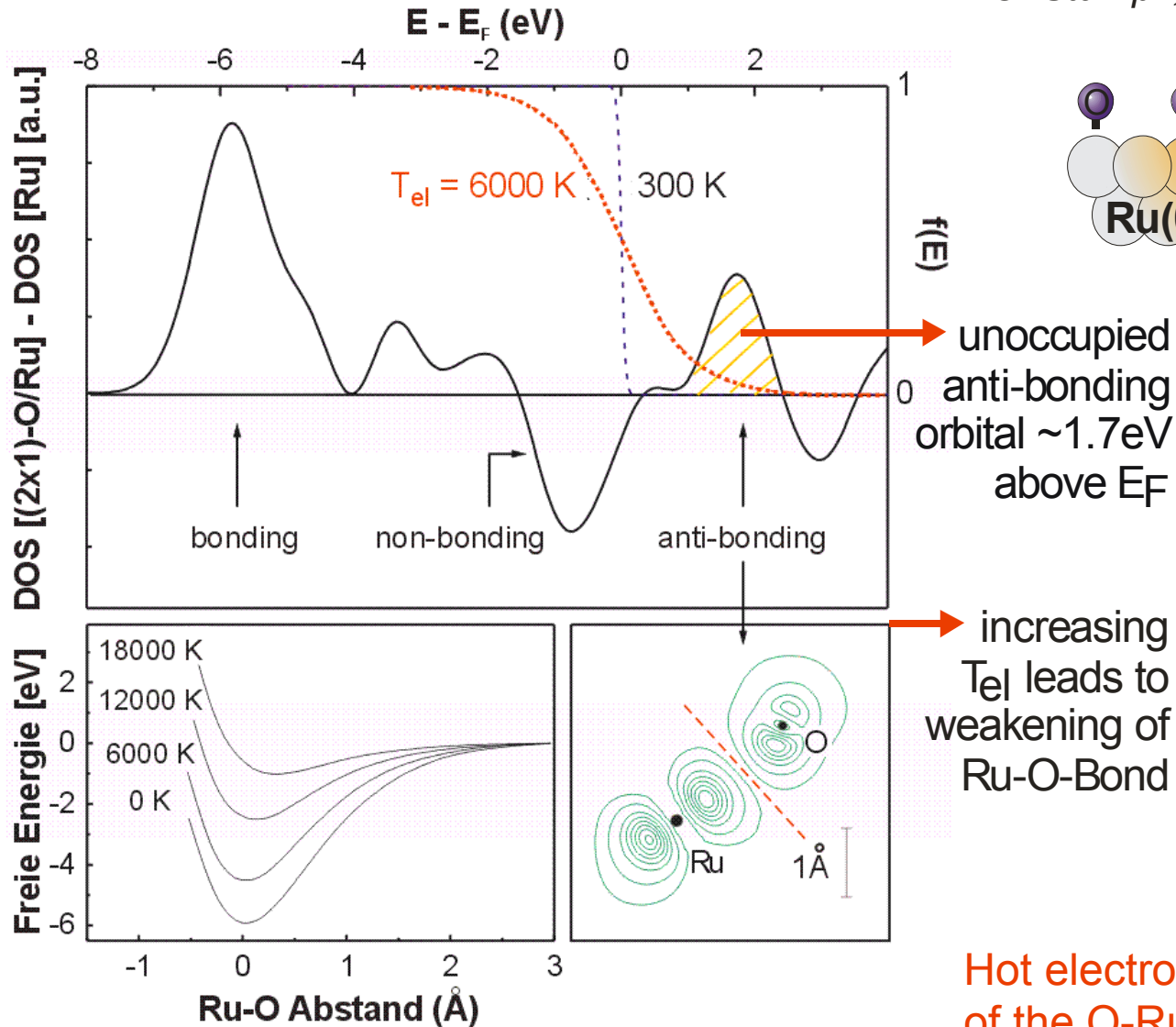
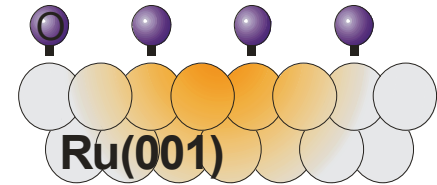


➔ Desorption: **phonon-mediated**

➔ Oxidation: **hot electron-mediated**

DFT calculations

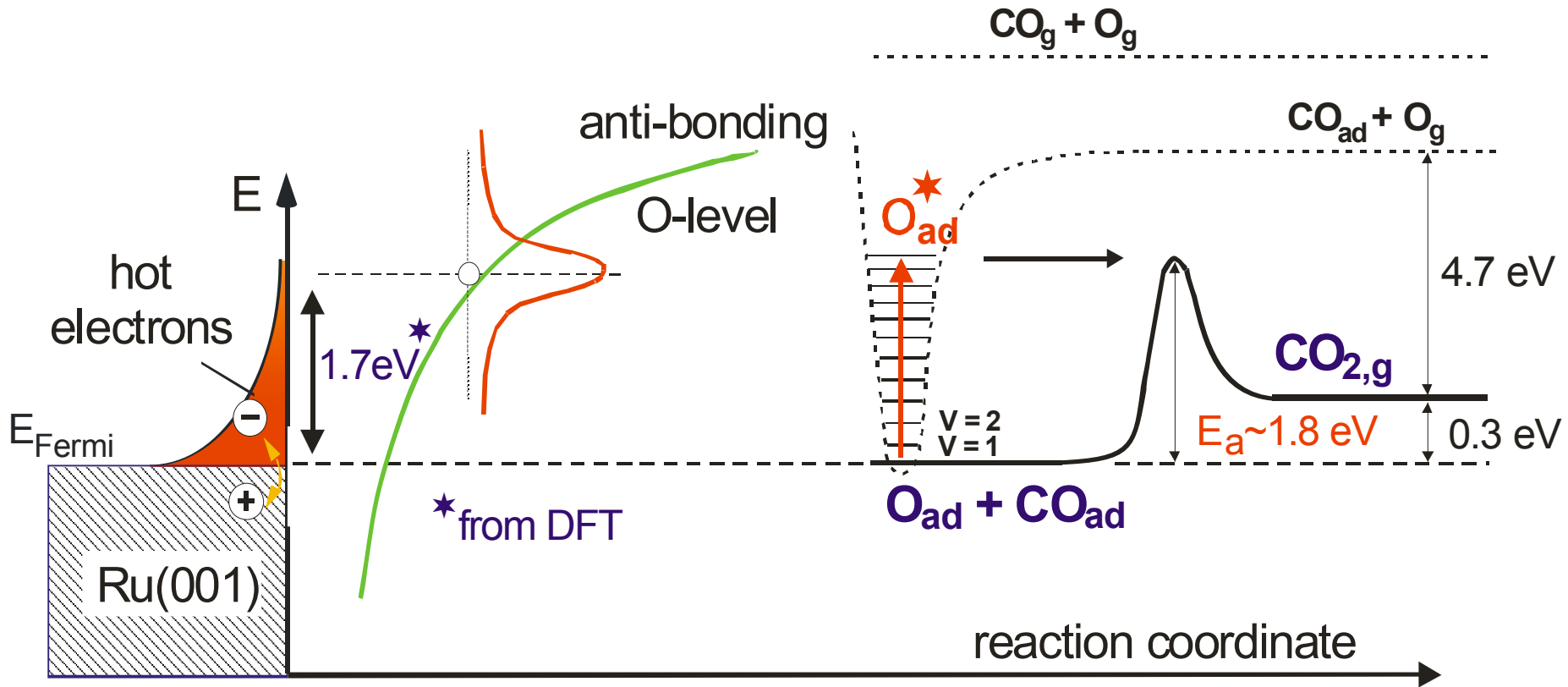
C. Stampfl, M. Scheffler, FHI Berlin



Hot electron-induced activation of the O-Ru bond

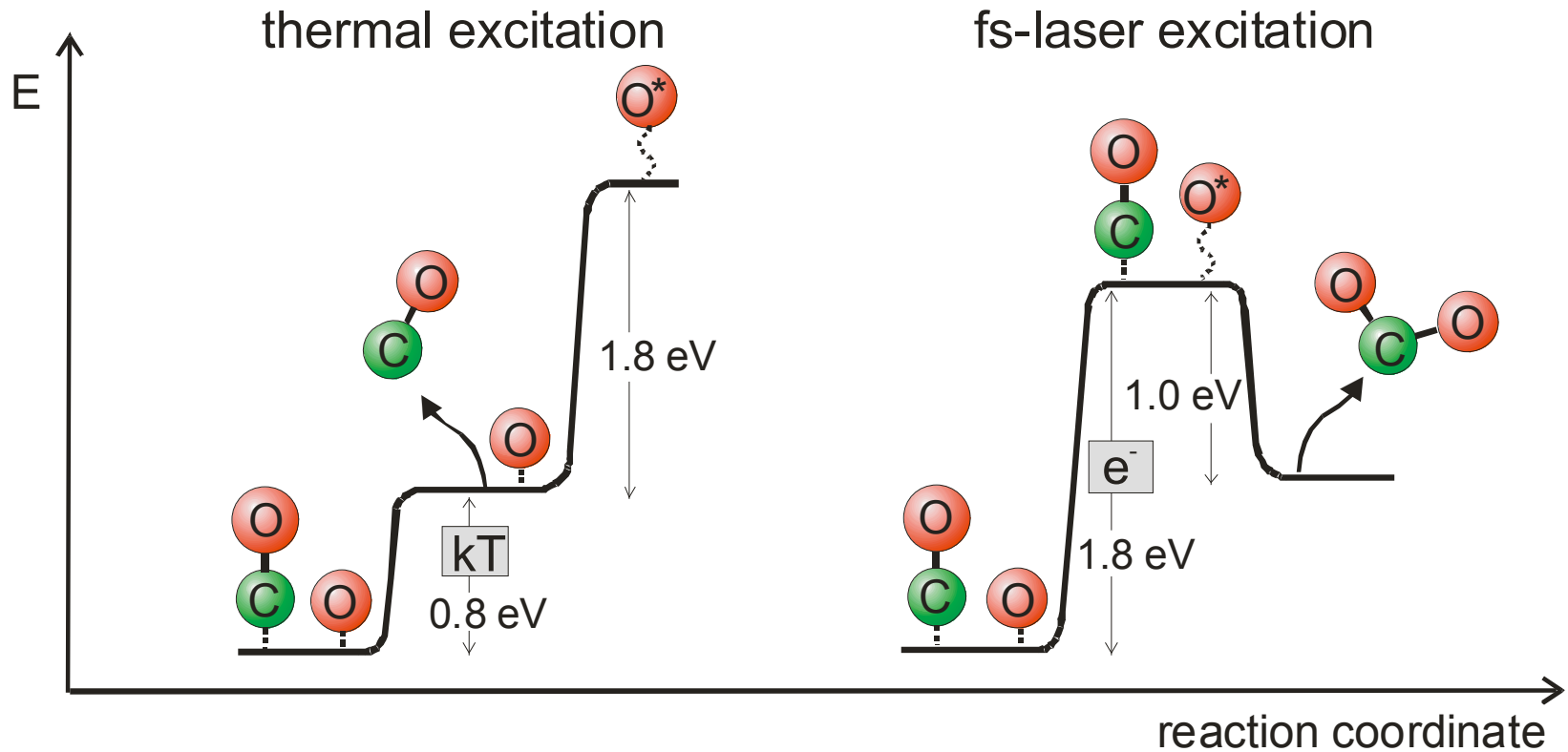
Mechanism for CO oxidation

Hot electron mediated vibrational excitation of the O-Ru bond



Non-adiabatic energy transfer from electronic excitations to adsorbate coordinate

Reaction pathways for thermal versus femtosecond excitation

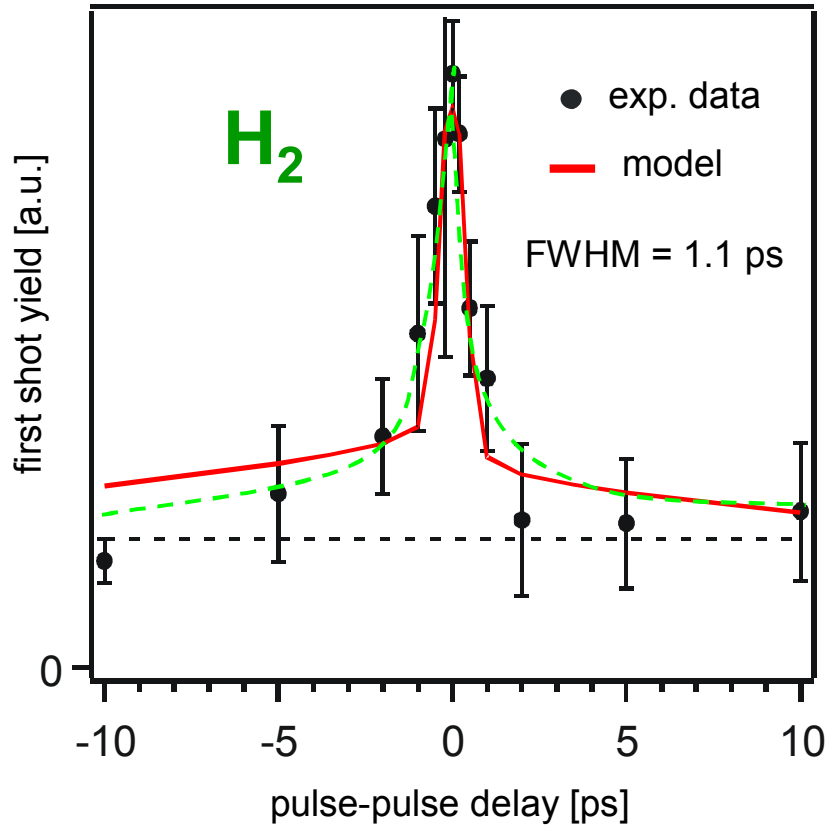


Under thermal excitation the CO has desorbed before oxygen is activated

→ Separation of time scales opens new reaction pathway

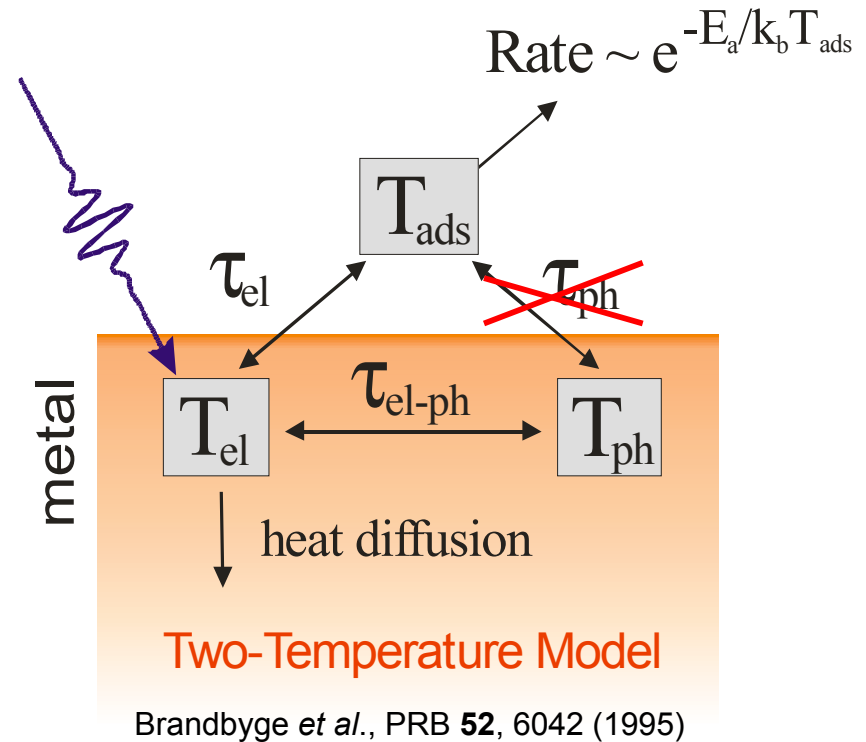
2PC of laser-induced H₂ formation

- Ultrafast response indicates coupling to hot electron transient



- Coupled heat baths: T_{el} , T_{ph} , T_{ads}

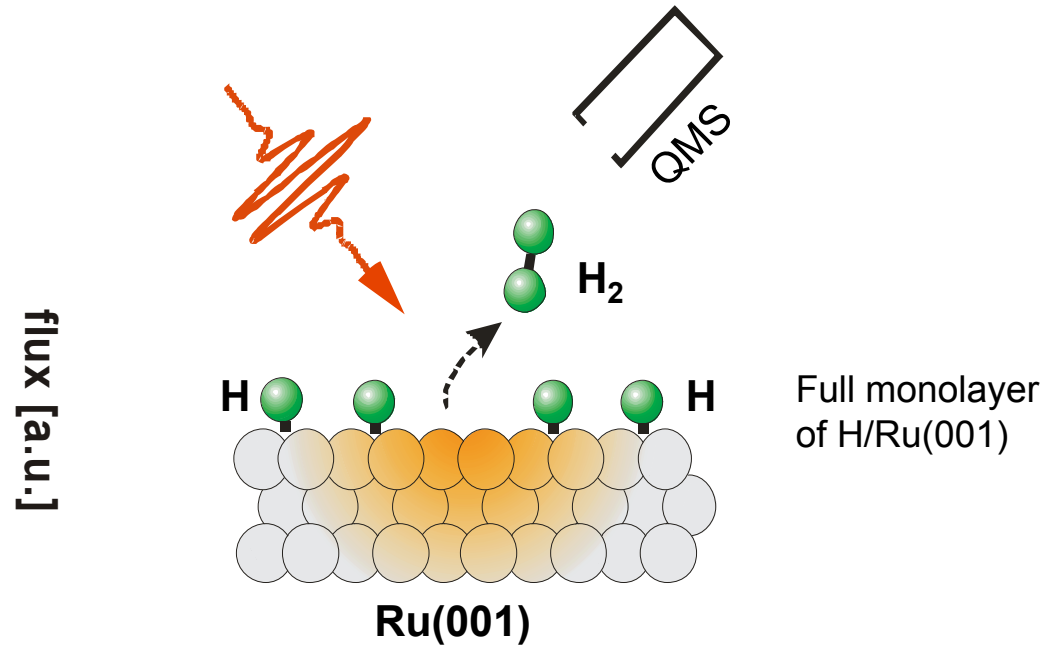
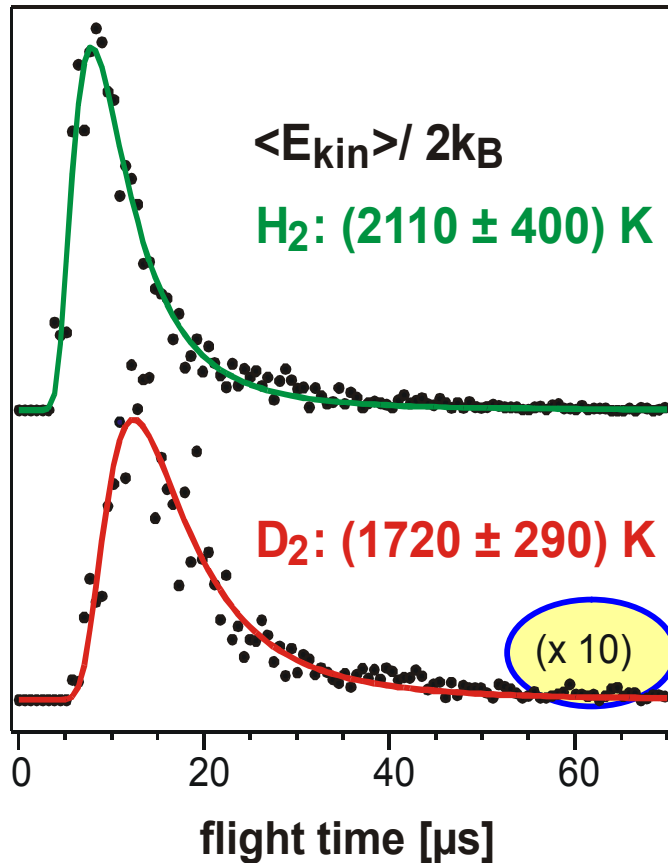
Coupling rates: τ_{el}^{-1} , τ_{ph}^{-1} , τ_{el-ph}^{-1} .



➔ **Electronic friction model** yields: $E_a = 1.35$ eV and $\tau_{el} = 180$ fs for H₂
($\tau_{el} = 360$ fs for D₂)

Isotope effect in recombinative desorption

H₂ formation induced by fs laser excitation of H/Ru(001)



Isotope effect

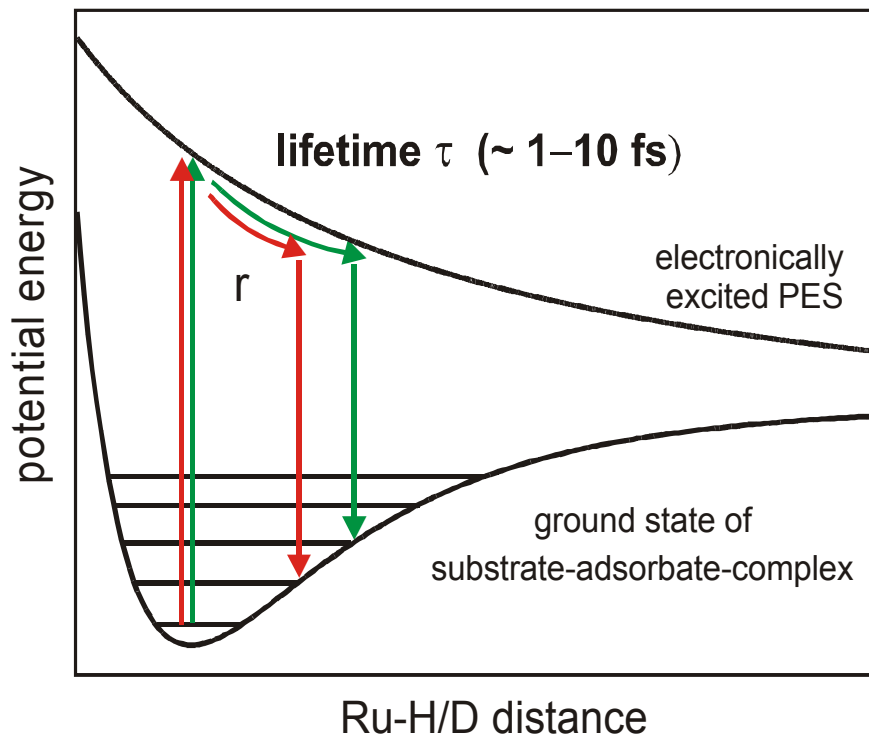
$$\frac{\text{Yield (H}_2\text{)}}{\text{Yield (D}_2\text{)}} = 10 \pm 2.4$$

- Pronounced **isotope effects** in H₂/D₂ yield

Isotope effect and electronic friction model

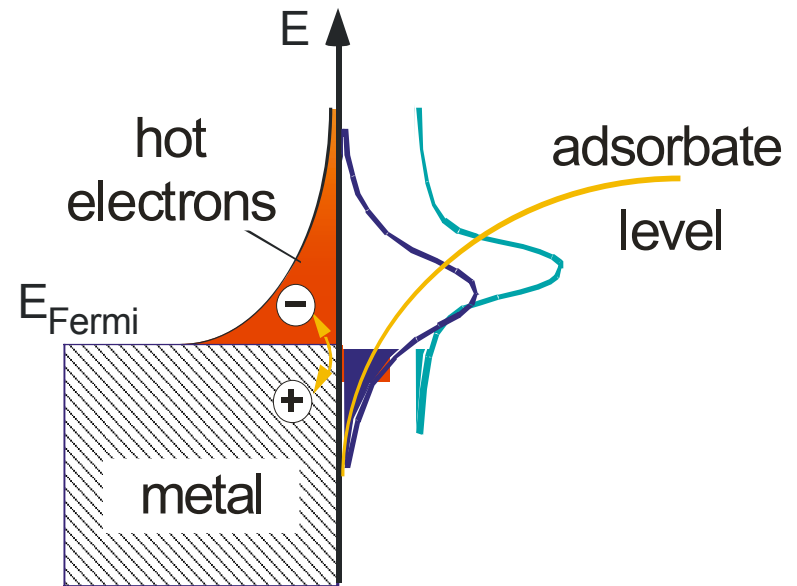
- **Origin:**

- mass-dependent distance traversed on excited PES
- lighter adsorbate starts moving more rapidly



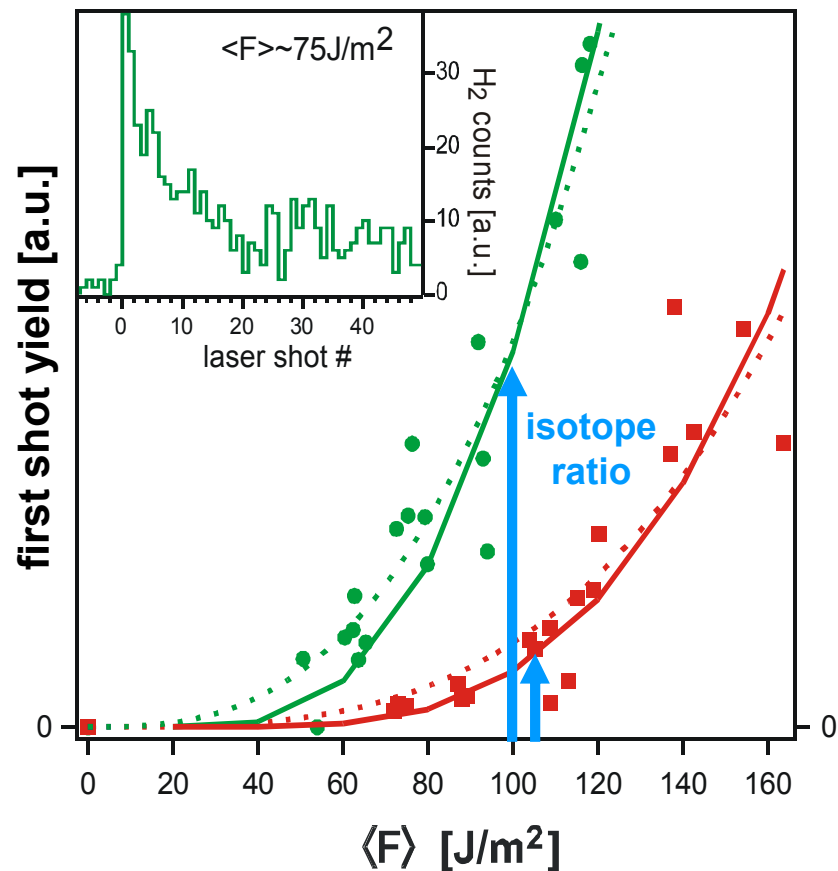
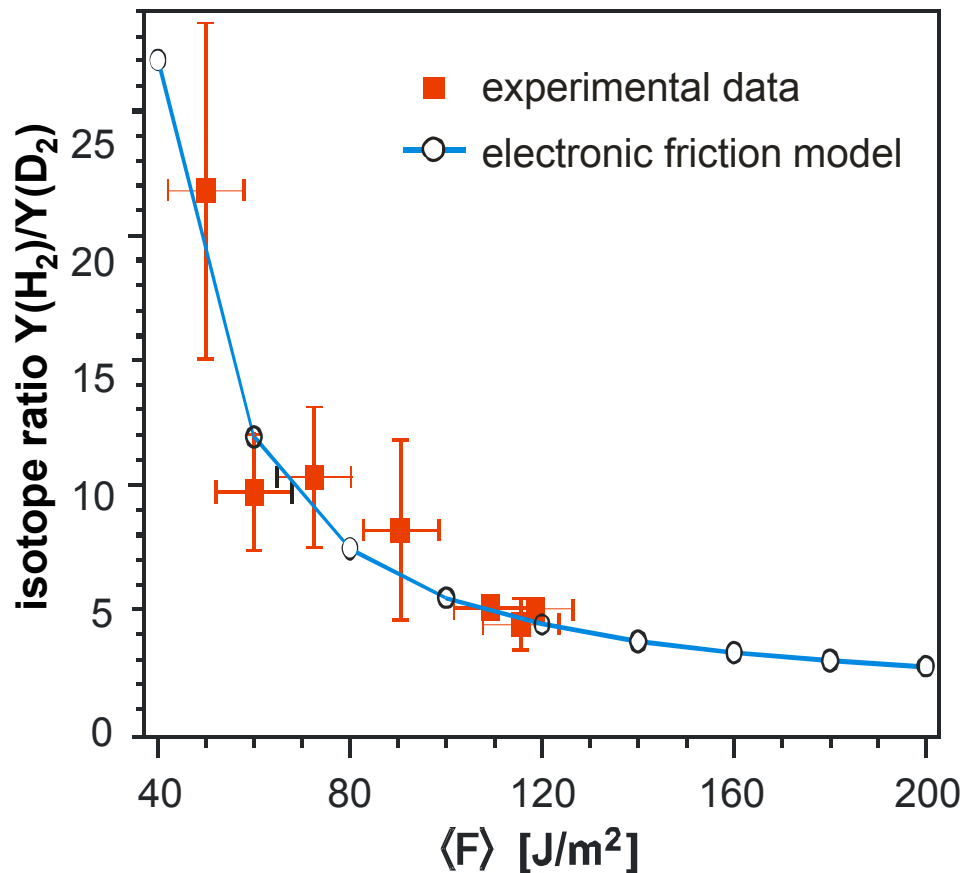
- **Electronic friction:**

Energy transfer by coupling between adsorbate vibration and metal electrons



$$\text{Coupling rate } \eta = \frac{1}{\tau_{el}} \sim \frac{1}{M}$$

Fluence dependence: isotope ratio and first shot yield



Electronic friction model* simultaneously describes:

- 2-pulse correlation
- fluence dependence of yield and isotope ratio

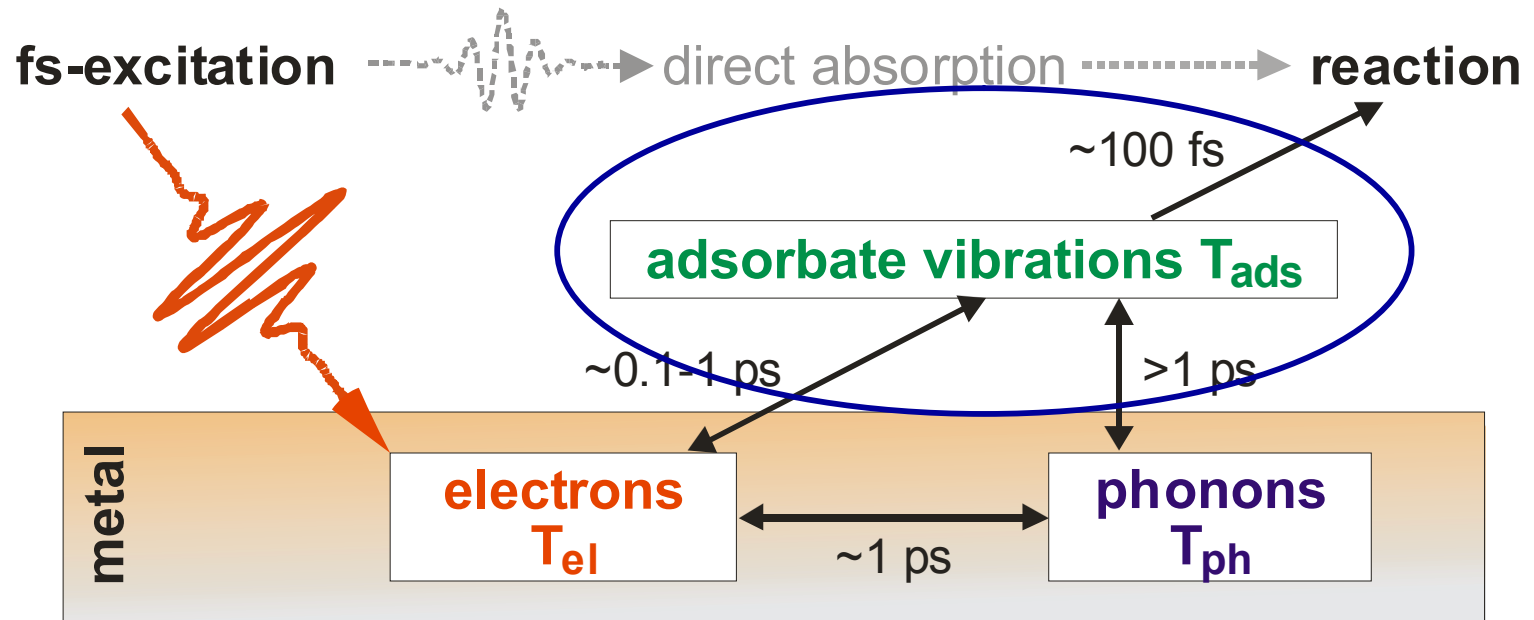
* Brandbyge *et al.*, PRB **52**, 6042 (1995)

● exp. data — model ⋯ power law fit
■ exp. data — model ⋯ power law fit

→ $Y(\text{H}_2) \sim \langle F \rangle^{2.8}$ and $Y(\text{D}_2) \sim \langle F \rangle^{3.2}$

Real-time probing of vibrational dynamics

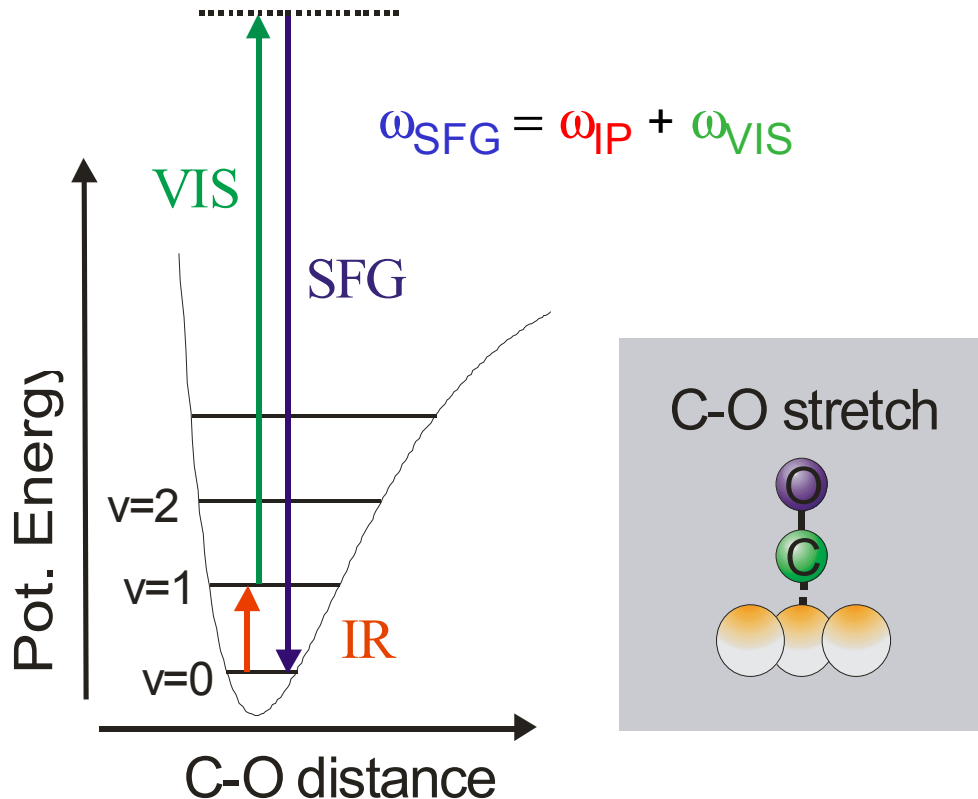
Goal: Probe surface reactions directly in the time domain



- So far probed only the (desorbing) reaction products
- Use surface sensitive non-linear optics (SHG, SFG) to obtain a direct look inside the excited adlayer

Vibrational spectroscopy: Sum-frequency-generation

Principle of sum-frequency generation (SFG):



- Second order non-linear optical process

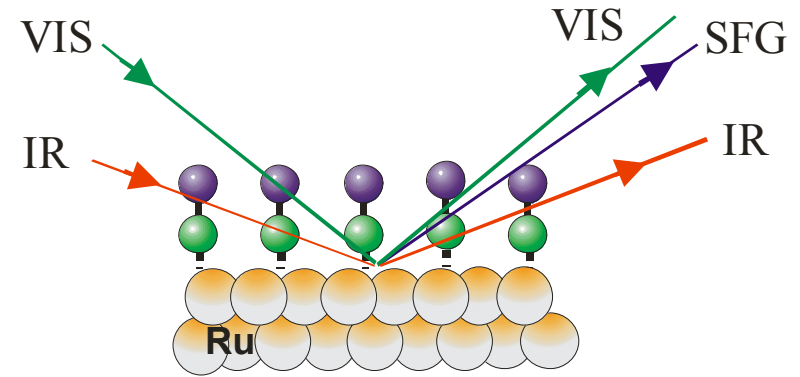
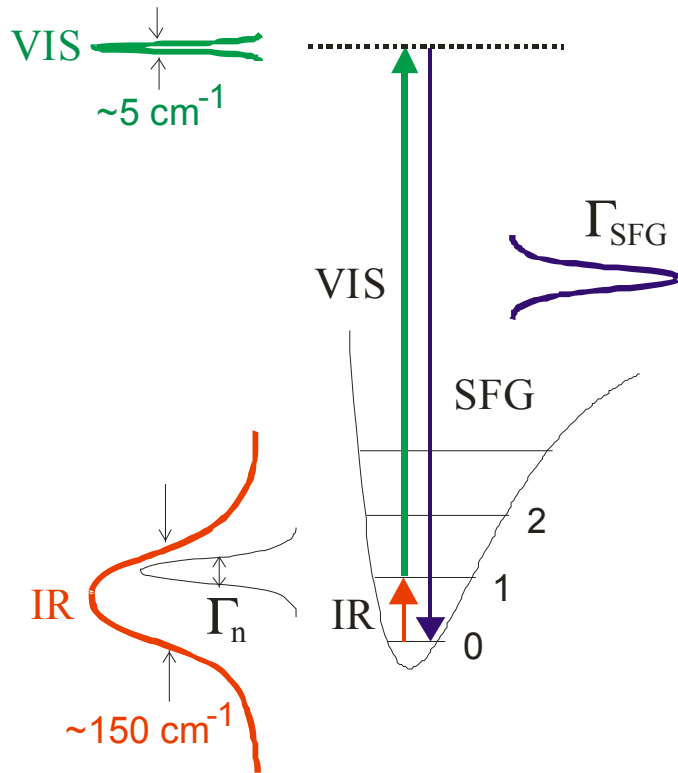
$$\mathbf{P}_{\omega_{\text{SFG}}}^{(2)} = \chi_{\omega_{\text{SFG}}}^{(2)} \mathbf{E}_{\omega_{\text{IR}}} \mathbf{E}_{\omega_{\text{VIS}}}$$

- Surface sensitive method: SFG is symmetry forbidden in isotropic (bulk) media (in dipole approximation)

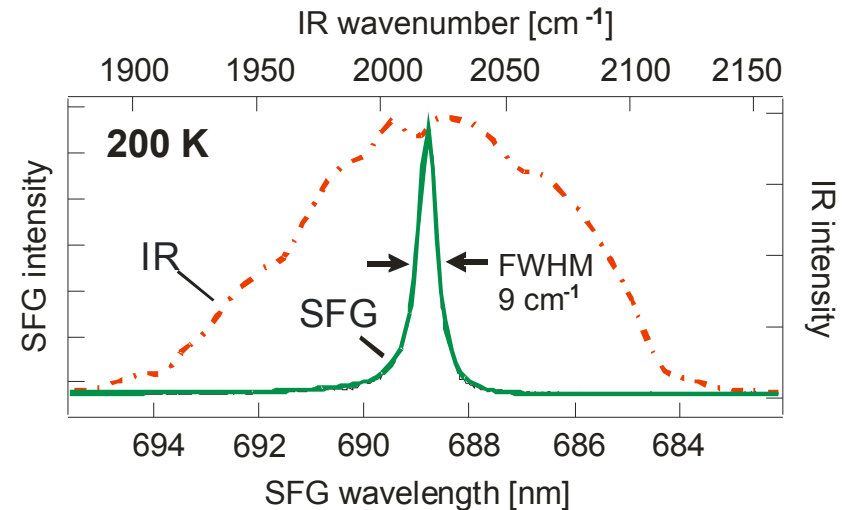
➔ Time-resolved SFG as molecule specific probe of surface reactions

Broadband IR vibrational SFG spectroscopy

Vibrational spectroscopy without tuning the IR frequency



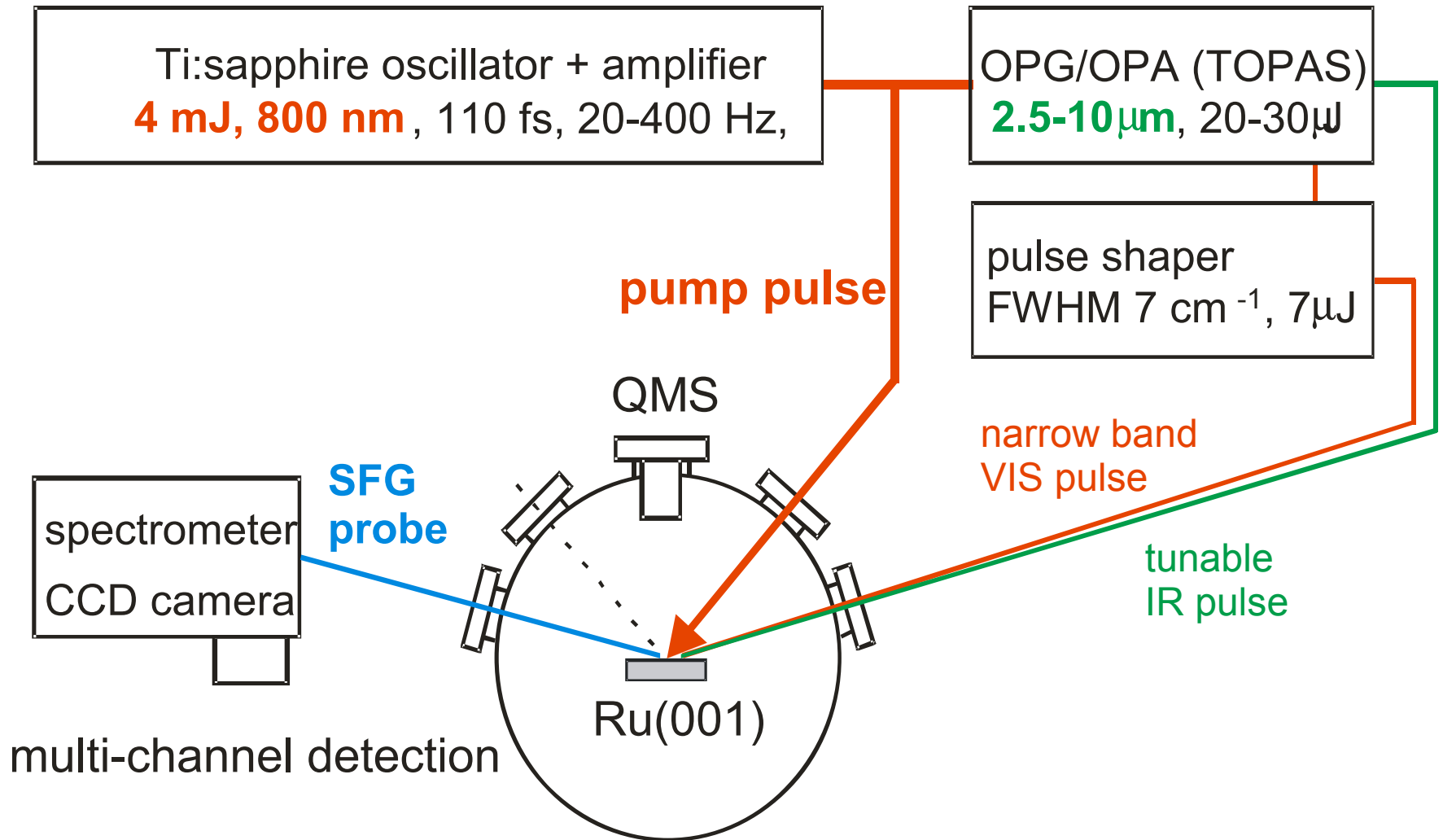
SFG spectrum ($\sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3}$)-CO/Ru(001)



→ Use spectrally broad **fs-IR** pulse with spectrally narrow **VIS** upconversion pulse

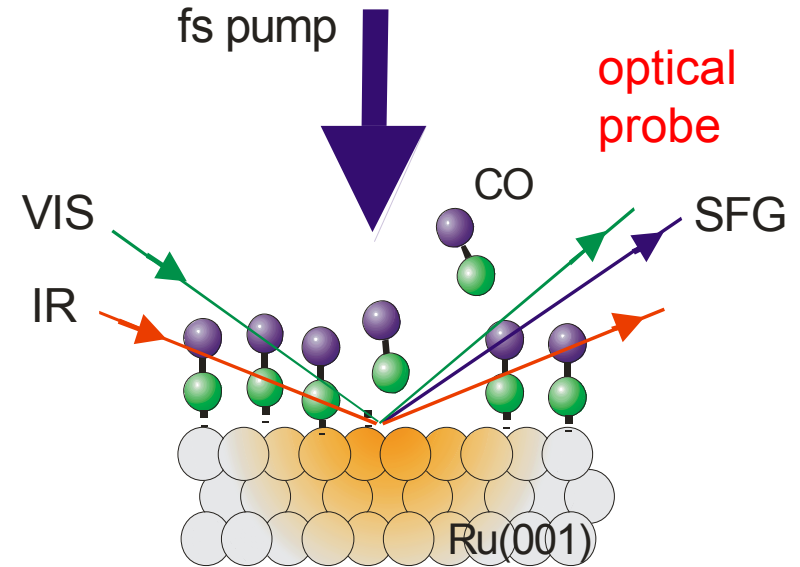
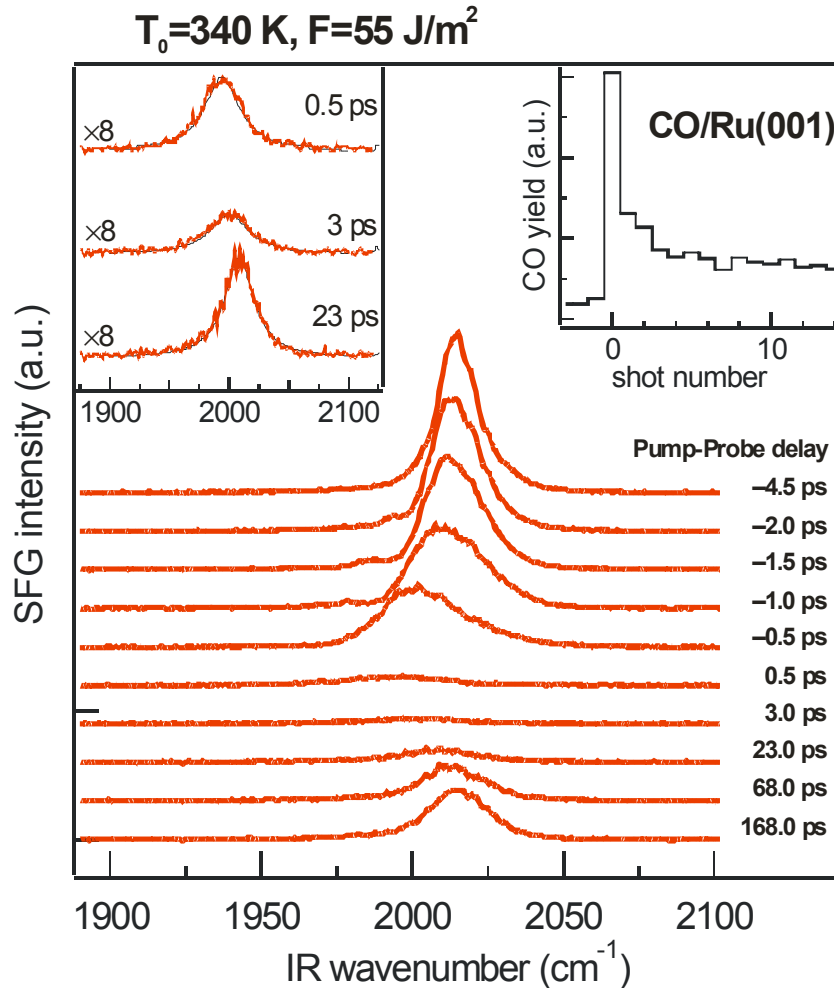
L.J. Richter *et al.*, Opt. Lett. **23**, 1594 (1998).

SFG experimental setup



Time-resolved SFG of CO/Ru during desorption

Spectroscopic snapshots of the CO stretch mode

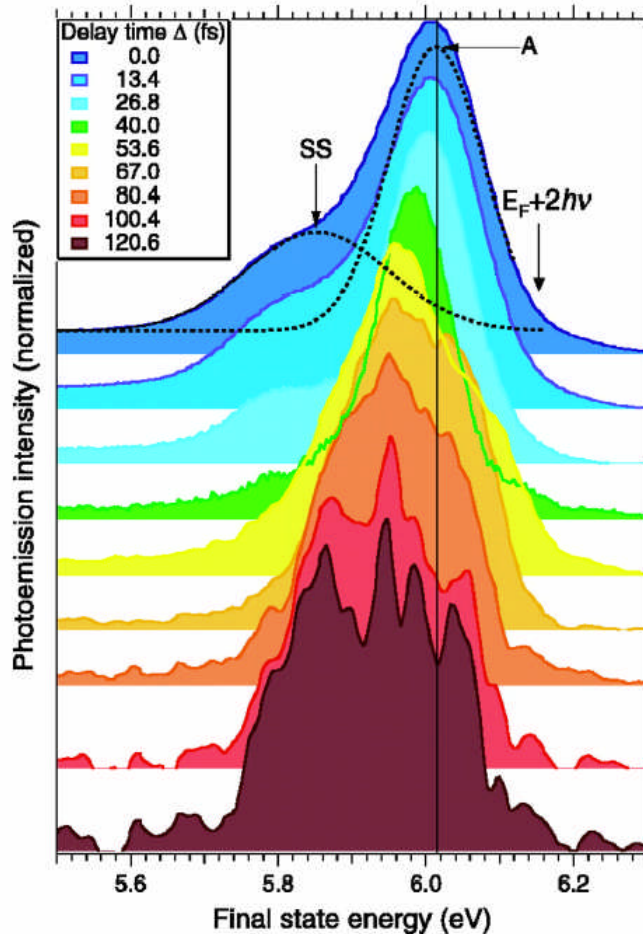


- Pronounced **transient** red shift, linewidth broadening and decrease of intensity
- Problems:
Dipole-dipole coupling in the adlayer and small concentration of „products“

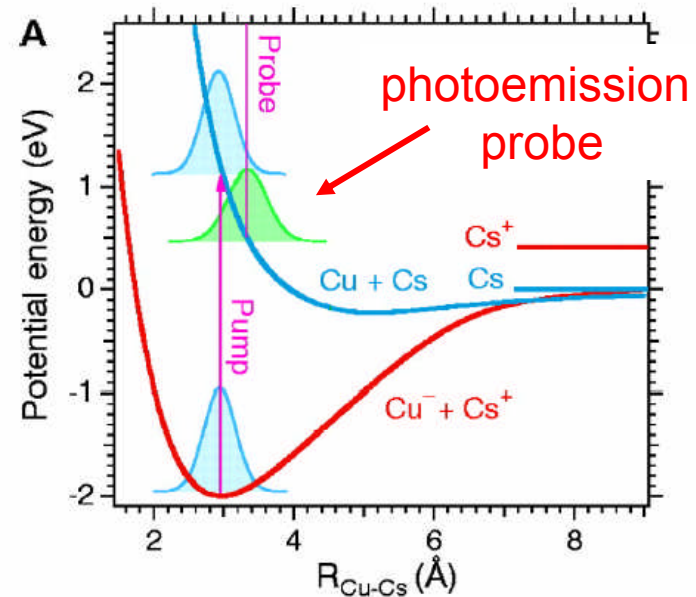
Real-time probing of surface reactions: 2PPE

Snapshots of excited electronic states during evolution of wavepacket

Time-resolved 2PPE spectra



'Desorption' of Cs/Cu(111)

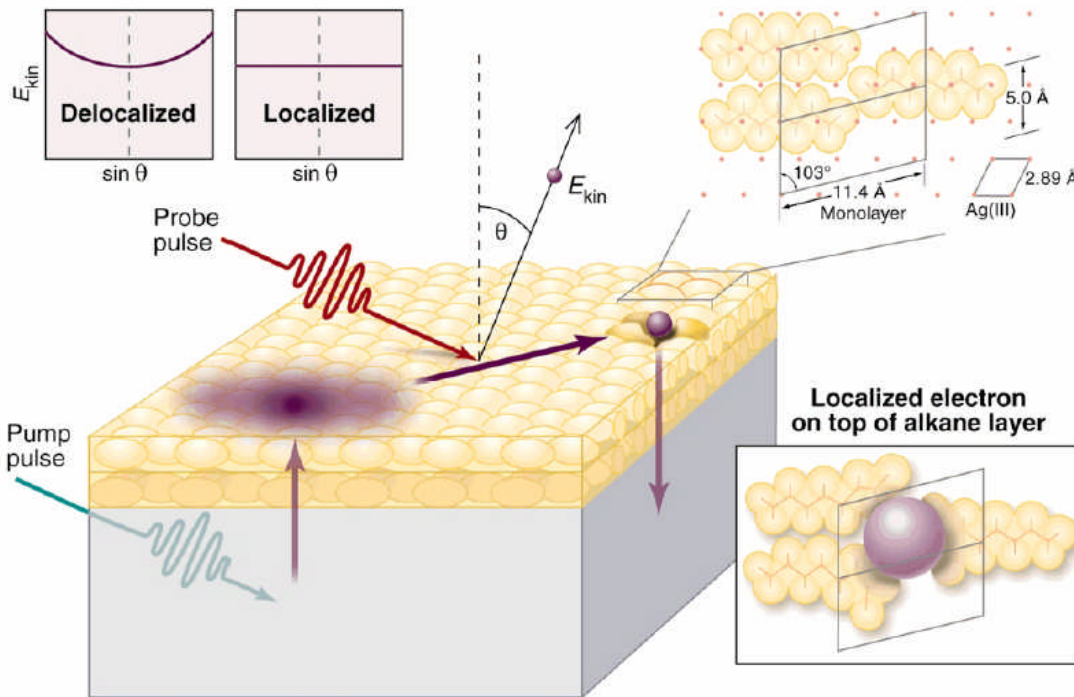


Time-resolved 2PPE of Cs 6s-6p_z state:

- (Long) lifetime $\tau_r = 50$ fs
 - Shift in 150 fs: $\Delta E = -0.2$ eV
- \Rightarrow Cs-Desorption: $\Delta R_{\text{Cu-Cs}} = 0.3$ \AA

Electron localization in adsorbate layers

[Ge, Harris *et al.*, SCIENCE 279, 202 (1998)]



[U. Höfer, SCIENCE 279, 190 (1998)]

Dynamics of “small polaron”

- Classical theory problem
 - Landau (1933)
 - Pekar (1954)
 - Holstein (1955)
 - Marcus (1956)
- Related phenomena:
 - Solvated Electron
 - Conducting polymers
 - High- T_c superconductors
 - Photosynthesis

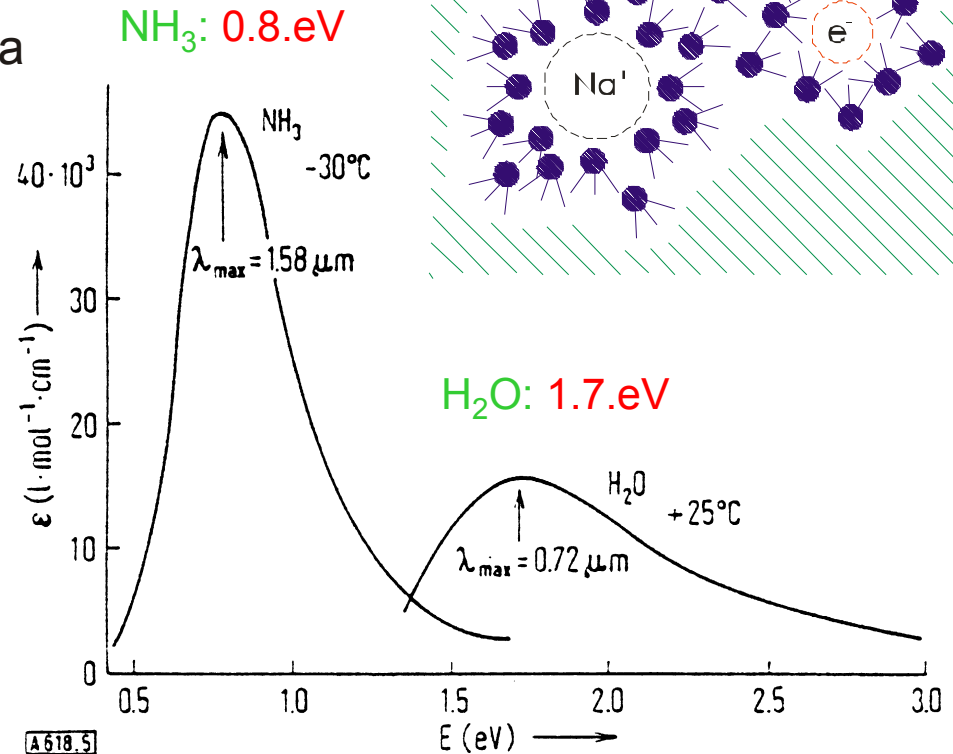
➔ Electron localization and solvation in polar adsorbate overlayers



Solvated electrons in polar liquids

Brief history:

- Davy (1808) reports blue ammonia containing compounds
- Weyl (1863) discovers a blue solution of Na in liquid ammonia
- Kraus (1908) attributes the blue color to trapped electrons surrounded by NH_3 molecules
- Ogg (1940) develops first model for solvated electrons
- Hart & Boag (1962) discover the hydrated electron in water

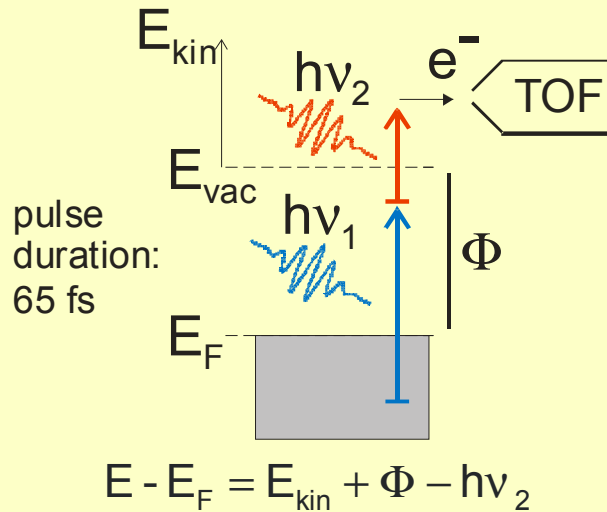


Optical absorption spectrum

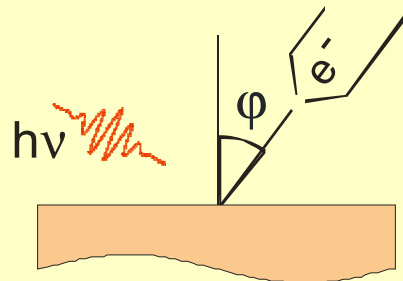
Schindewolf, *Angew. Chemie* **80**, (1968) 165

Time-resolved two-photon photoemission

energy- and time-resolution:

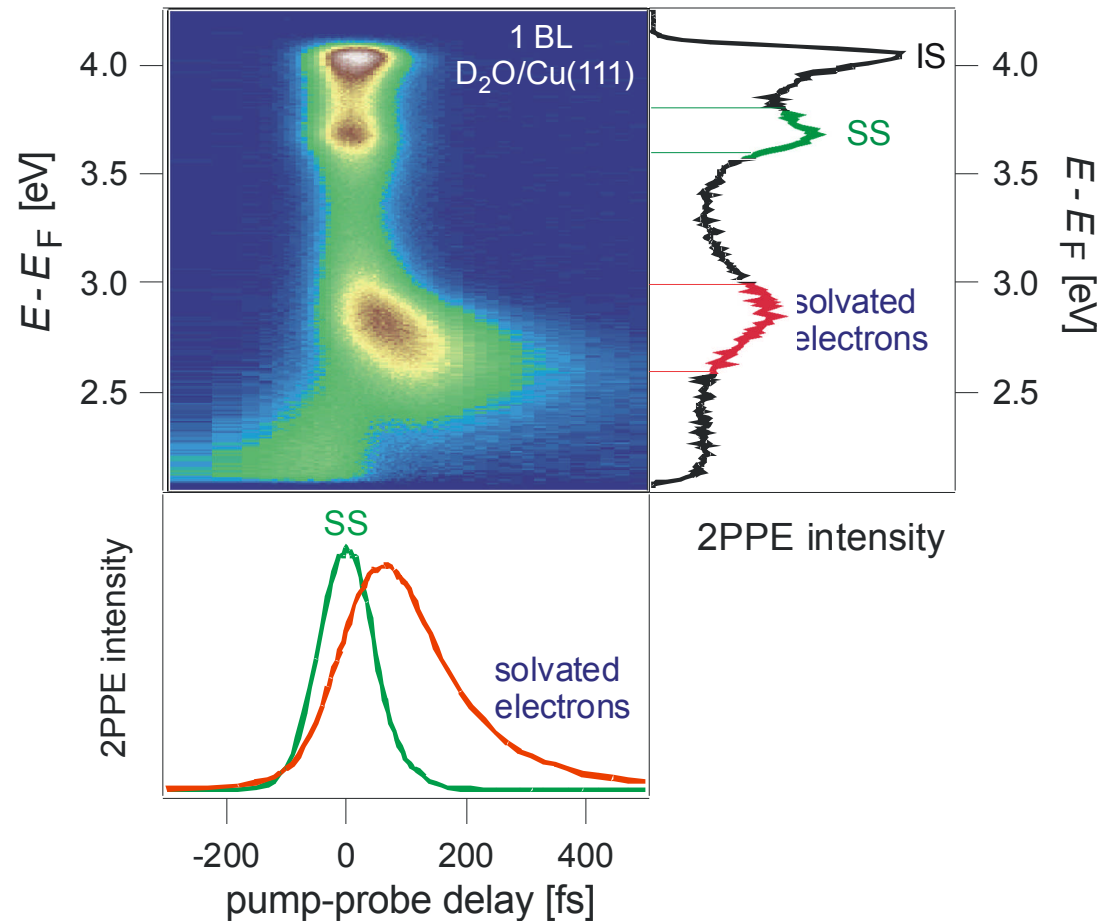


momentum resolution:



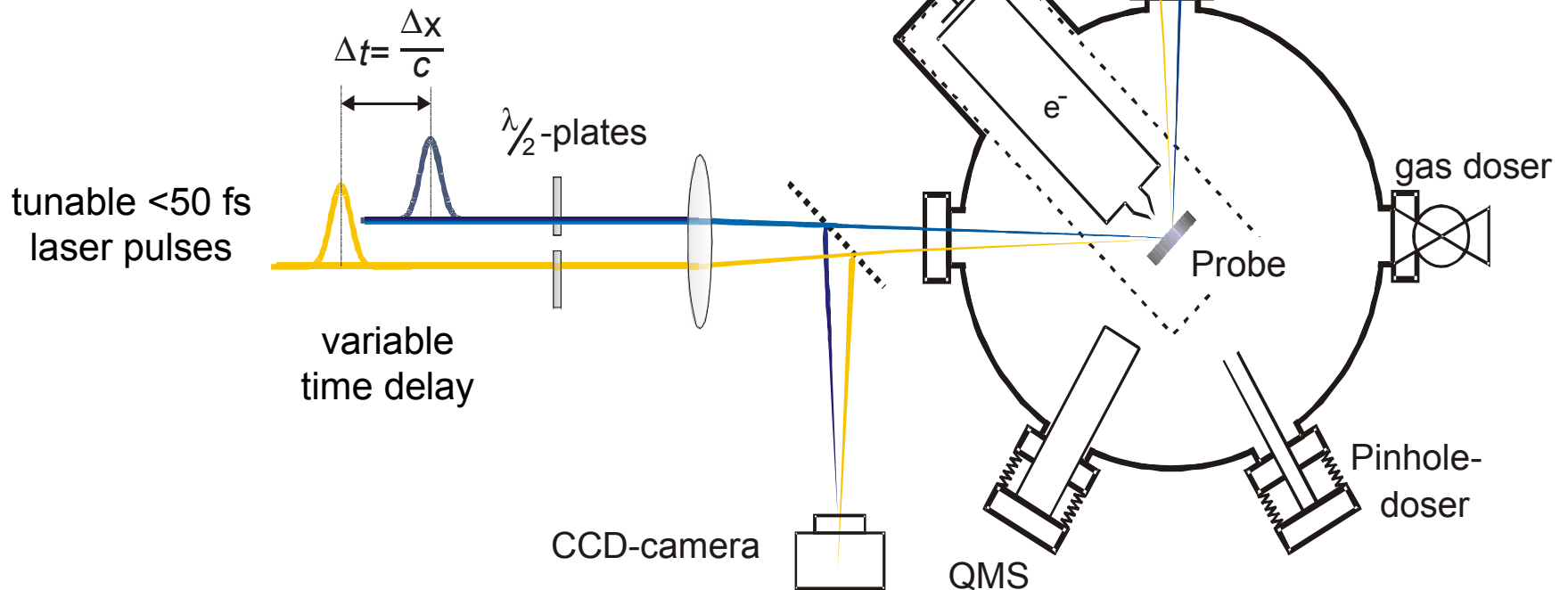
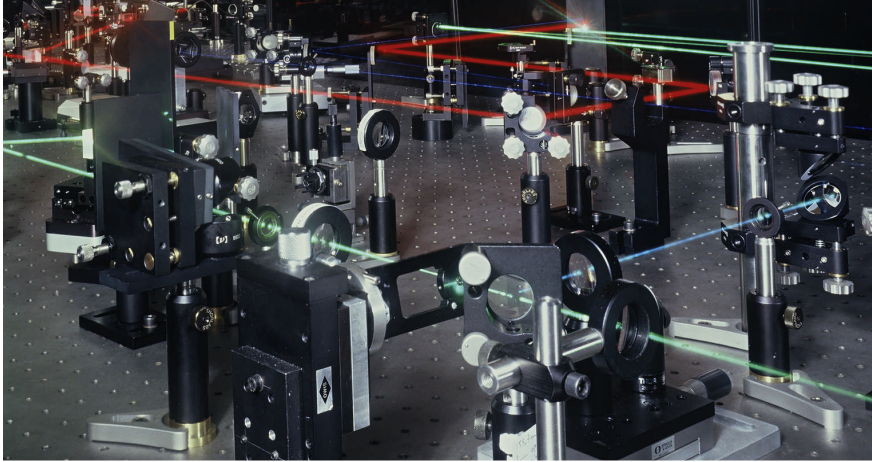
$$k_{||} = \sin \varphi \sqrt{2mE_{kin}} / \hbar$$

2PPE spectra as a function of time delay



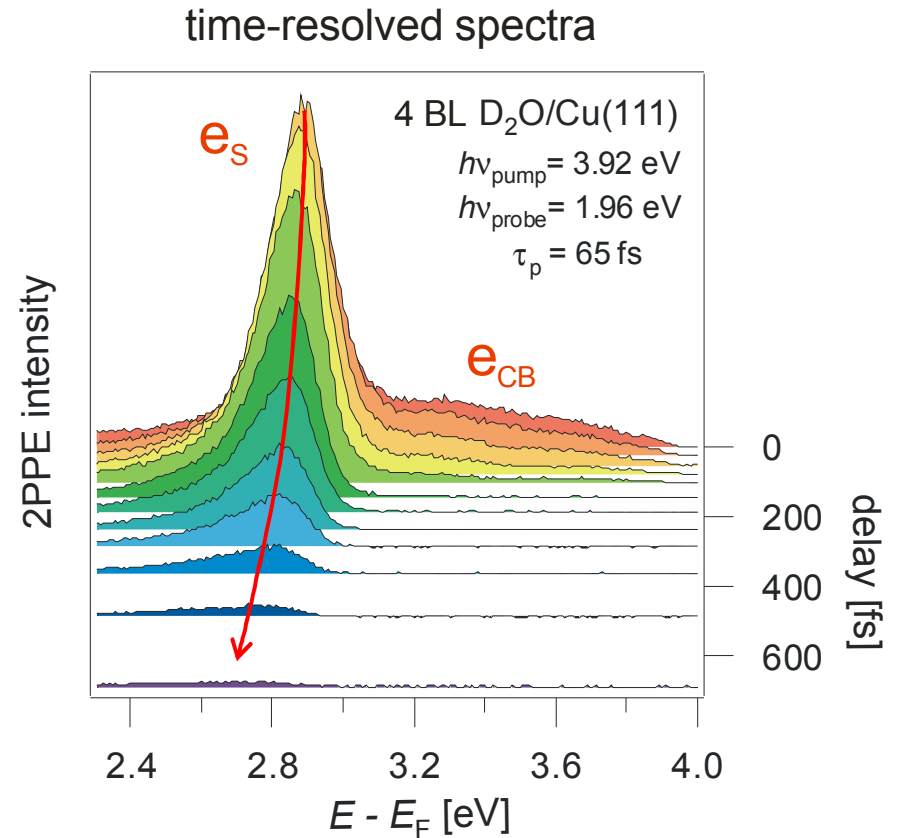
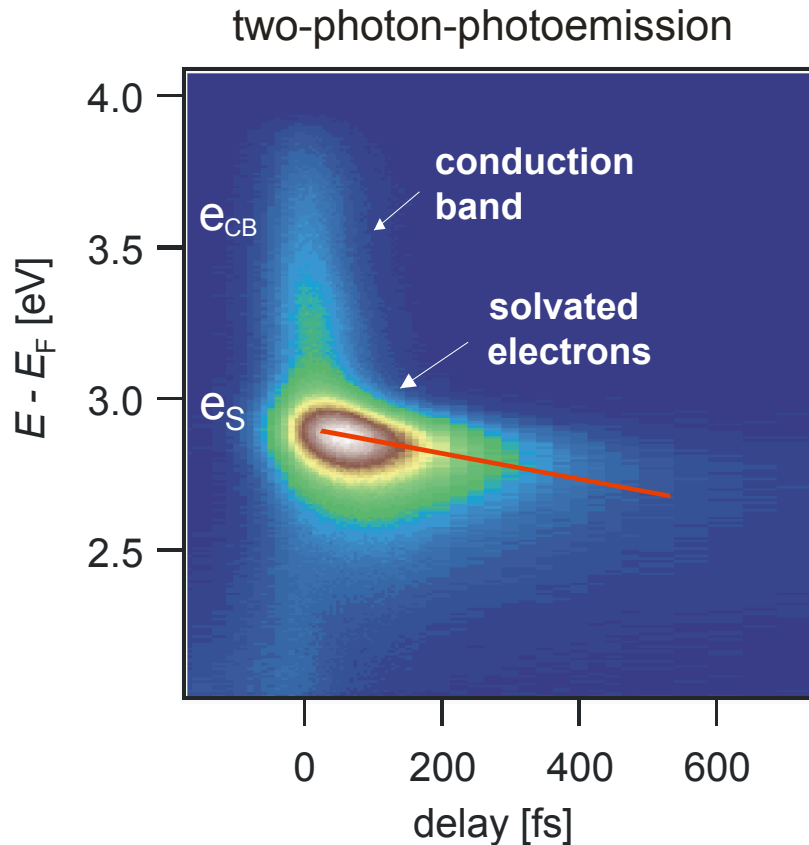
→ analysis of solvation and localization dynamics using time- and angle-resolved 2PPE

2PPE experiment



Part I: Electron transfer dynamics in D₂O/Cu(111)

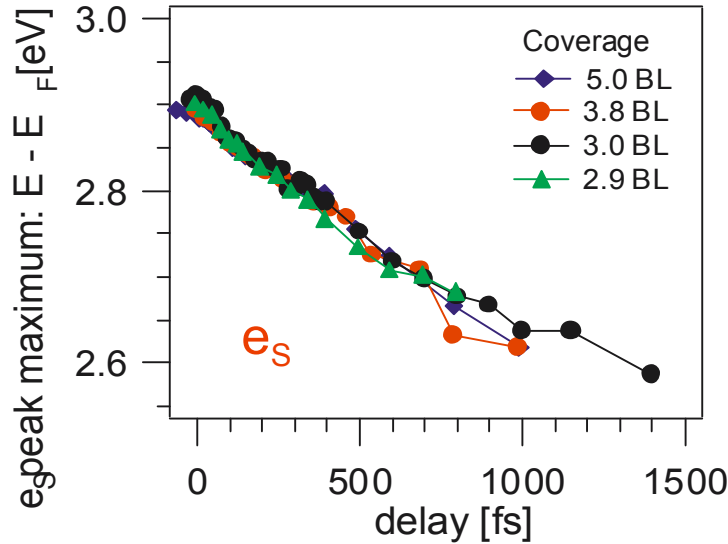
Dynamics of photoinjected electrons in multilayers of amorphous ice



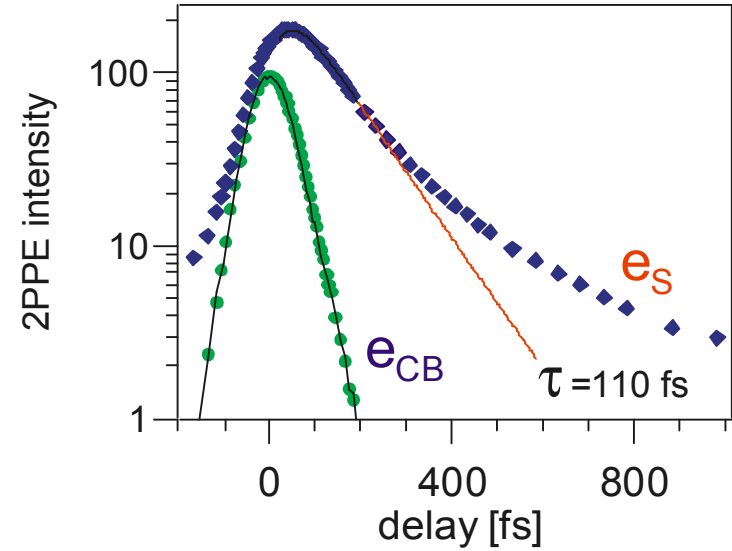
- Ultrafast relaxation within experimental time resolution ($e_{CB} \rightarrow e_S$)
- Stabilisation of localized electronic state (e_S) on time scale of 0.1-1 ps

Energetic stabilization and population decay

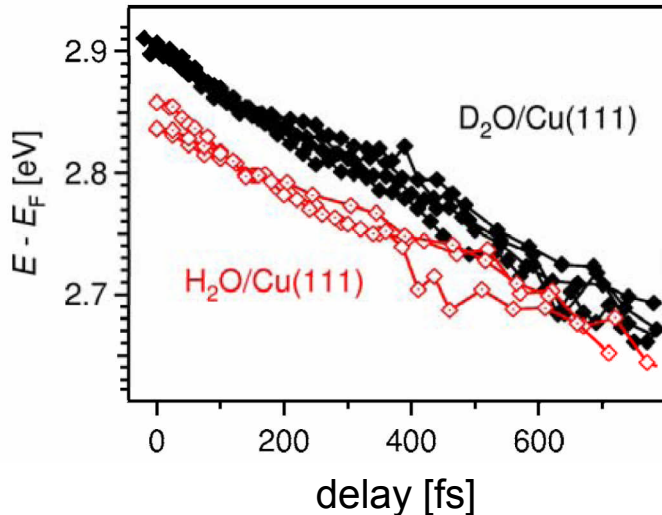
peak shift



population



isotope effect



e_{CB}: population decay within pulse width

e_S: energetic stabilization 300 meV/ps, non-exponential decay t > 100fs

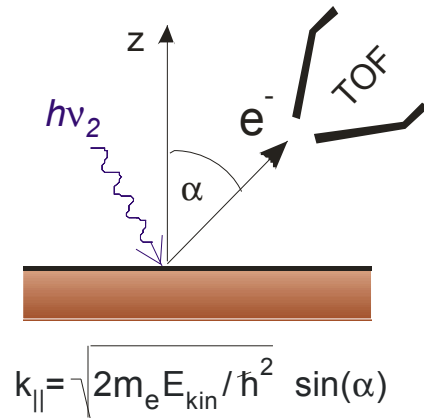
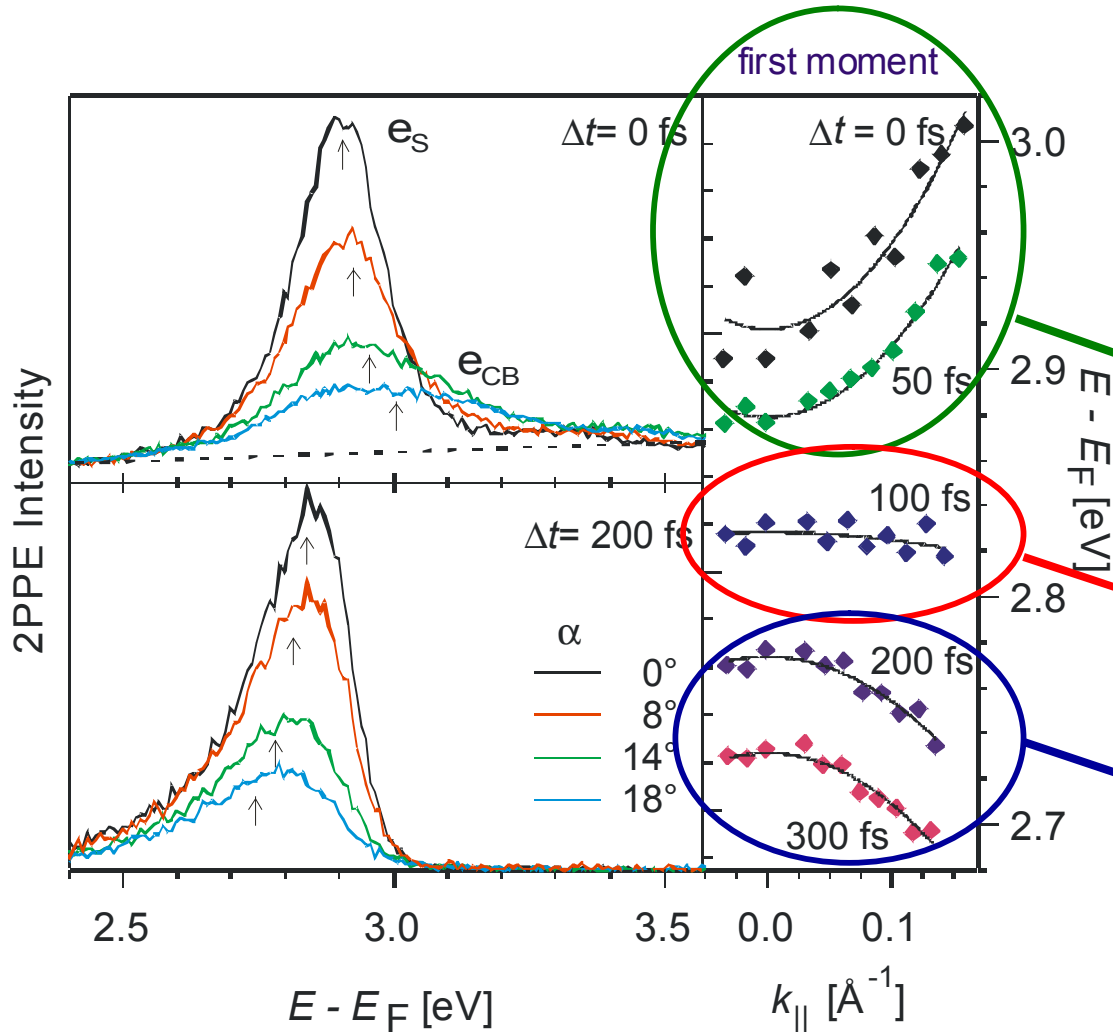
Isotope effects:

very similar stabilization rate for H₂O and D₂O

~50 meV shift due to different band gap/ orientational disorder

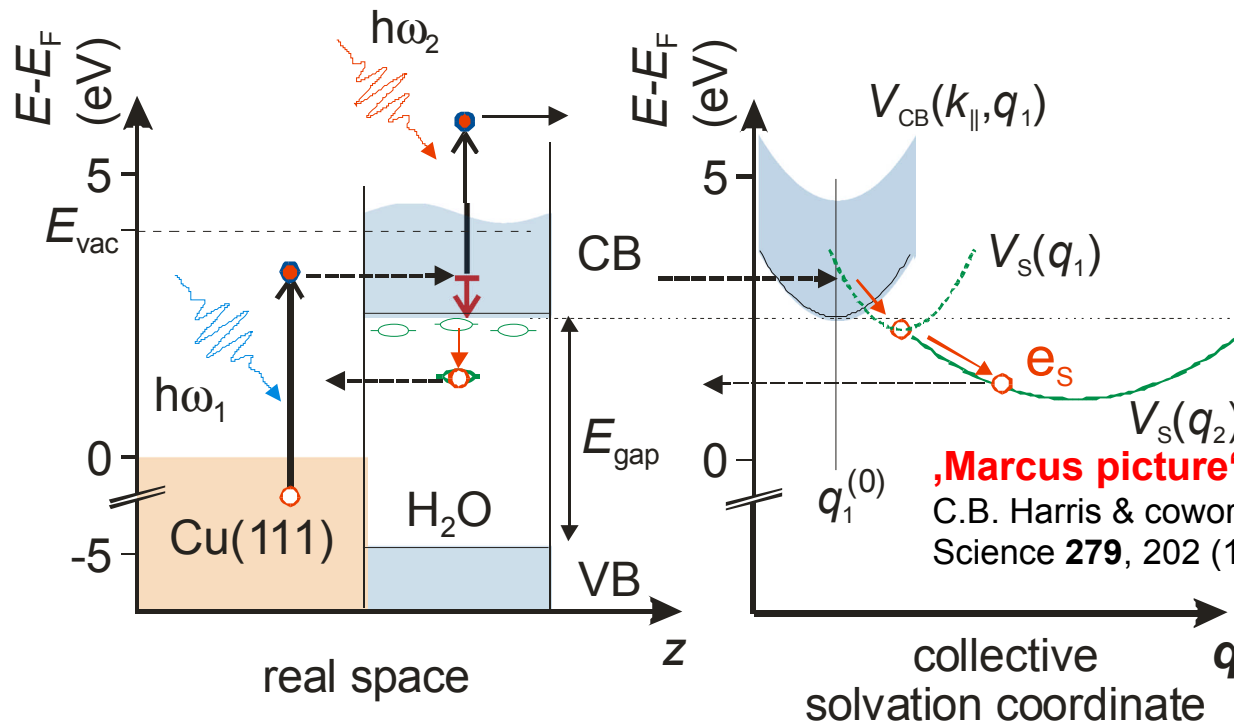
Dispersion and localization dynamics

Angle-resolved 2PPE spectra



- 1) Electron injection into **delocalized** state within experimental time resolution
- 2) **Localization** within <100 fs
- 3) **Solvation** dynamics: increasing degree of localization

Electron transfer, localization and solvation dynamics in H₂O/Cu(111)



Open Questions

Influence of structure and coverage on solvation dynamics ?

Nature of the solvation site: internal versus surface states ?

- Electron transfer into the conduction band (CB) of the ice layer
- Relaxation to the bottom of CB ($\tau < 50$ fs)
- Localization into precursor states of the ice
- Solvation: Stabilization and energy transfer into collective solvent modes; + increasing localization
- Competing process: Electron transfer back to the metal substrate

Introduction

→ Non-adiabatic processes at surfaces: Chemicurrents

Electron thermalization in metals

→ Test of the two-temperature model

Surface femtochemistry

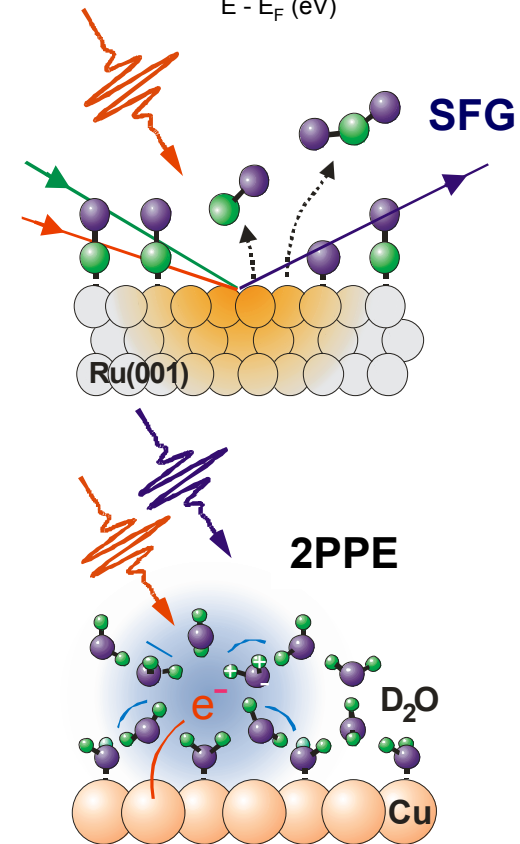
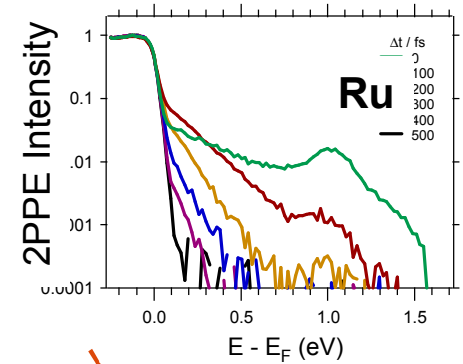
→ Electron and phonon mediated pathways

→ Isotope effects and electronic friction model

→ Vibrational sum-frequency generation spectroscopy

Electron dynamics thin ice layers on metals

→ Electron injection, localization and solvation



thanks to



C. Gahl, U. Bovensiepen, J. Stähler, M. Lisowski, P. Loukakos,

S. Wagner, and C. Frischkorn, Freie Universität Berlin

D. Denzler, S. Funk, C. Hess, and G. Ertl, Fritz-Haber-Institut Berlin

M. Bonn, AMOLF, The Netherlands

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World Scientific (1995).

H. Petek and S. Ogawa,
*Femtosecond time-resolved two-photon photoemission studies
of electron dynamics in metals*
Progress in Surface Science **56**, 239-311 (1998).

H. Nienhaus
Electronic excitations by chemical reactions at metal surfaces
Surface Science Reports **45**, 1-78 (2002).

P.M. Echenique, R. Berndt, E.V. Chulkov, Th. Fauster and U. Höfer,
Decay of electronic excitations at metal surfaces
Surface Science Reports **52**, 219-318 (2004).