

IMPRS Block Course 2012

**"Experimental and Theoretical Methods  
in Surface Science"**

# **Surface Reactions on Transition Metal Cluster Models**

André Fielicke

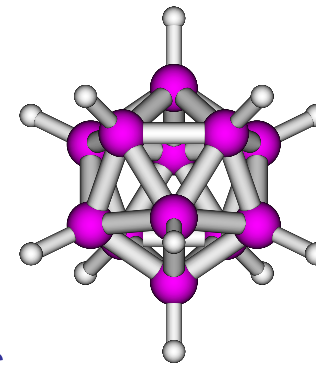
FHI Berlin, Molecular Physics

<http://www.fhi-berlin.mpg.de/mp/fielicke/>

How can free clusters help the understanding of heterogeneous catalysts?

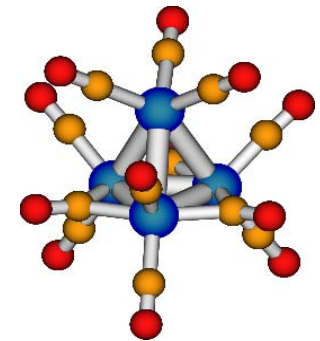
## Cluster molecules

- Thermodynamically and kinetically stable
- Chemical synthesis in large quantities
- Characterizations with “classical” spectroscopic techniques (IR, NMR, XRD etc)



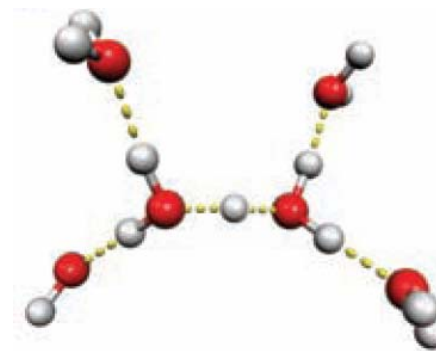
$\text{Co}_4(\text{CO})_{12}$

$\text{B}_{12}\text{H}_{12}^{2-}$



## Isolated clusters

- Most clusters are not stable towards aggregation  
→ formation of the bulk condensed phase
- Experimental investigations are usually performed in the gas-phase (or in low temperature matrices)  
→ Molecular (ion) beam techniques



$\text{H}_5\text{O}_9^+$   
("Zundel" cation)

$\text{Pt}_5^+$

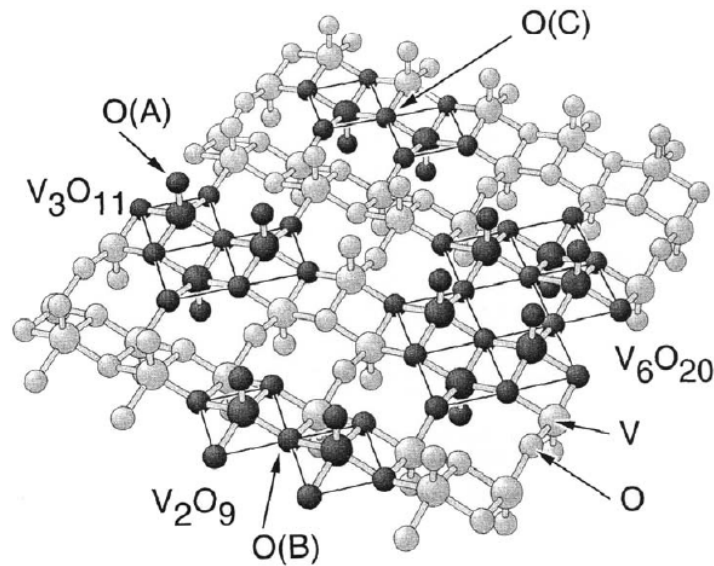


# Literature

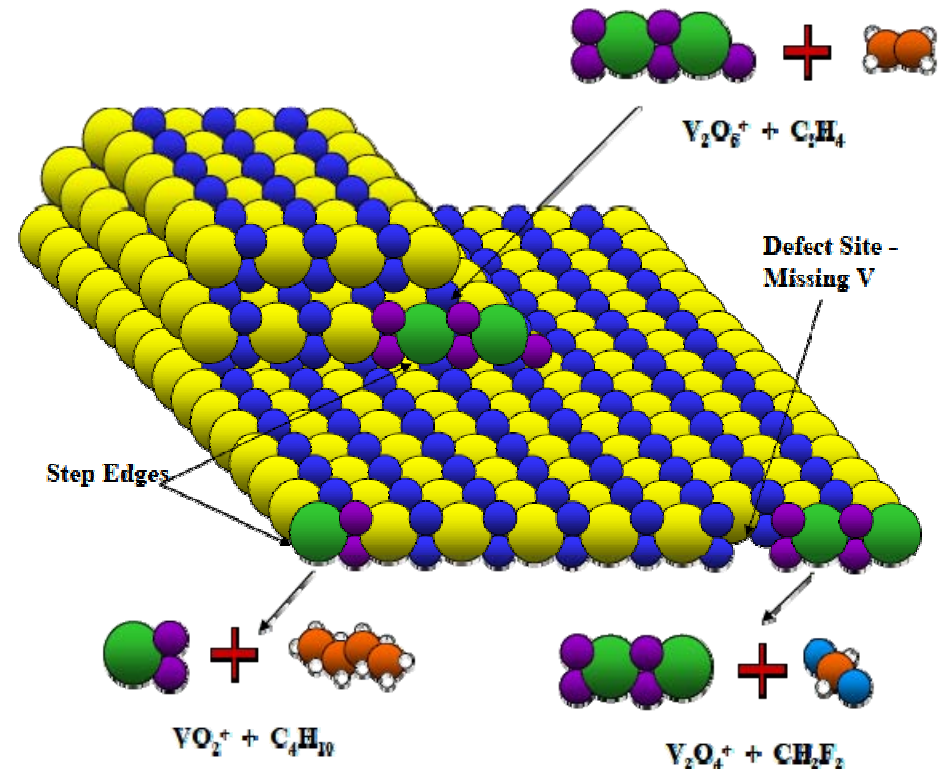
- R. L. Johnston: **Atomic and Molecular Clusters**, 2002,  
(Taylor & Francis)
- U. Heiz, U. Landman (eds.), **Nanocatalysis**, 2007 (Springer).  
Chapter 1: Chemical and catalytic properties of size-selected  
free and supported clusters
- M. B. Knickelbein, **Reactions of Transition Metal Clusters with  
Small Molecules**, Ann. Rev. Phys. Chem. 50 (1999) 79.



# Clusters as subunits of surfaces?



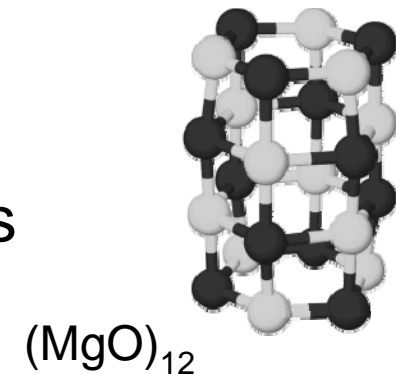
M. Witko, M.; Hermann, K.; Tokarz, R., *J. Electron. Spec. Rel. Phenom.*, **69** (1994) 89.



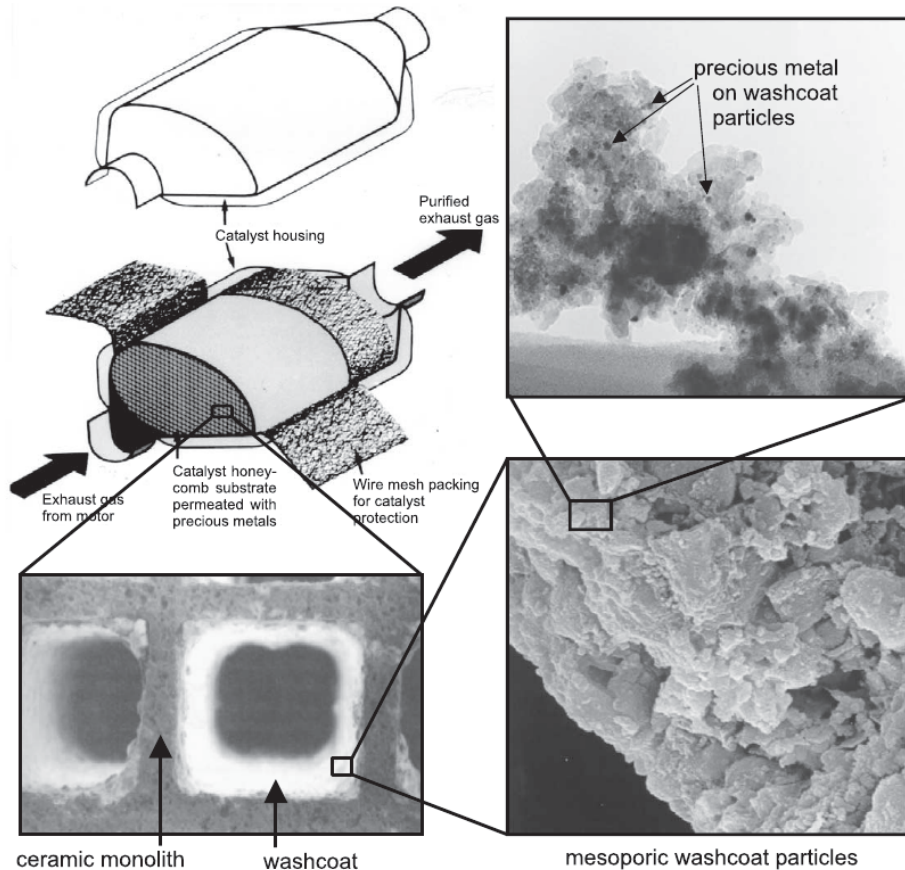
Justes, D.R., *Phd Thesis*, Pennstate U (2004).

Neglects binding within the surface

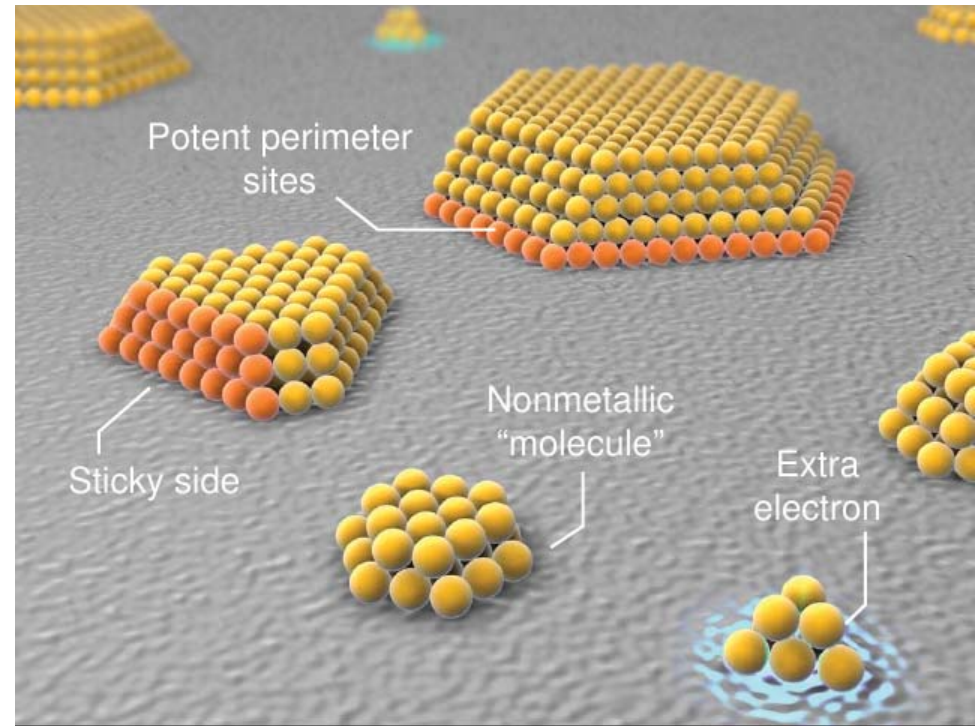
Free clusters often may rearrange and can have very different electronic and geometric structures



# Supported metal particles



Freund, *Surf. Sci.* **500** (2002) 271



Cho: *Science* **299** (2003) 1684

Interaction of the metal particles with the substrate may significantly affect reactivity

# Motivations for the study of free metal clusters

- *Fundamental aspect*  
How are properties emerging when going from the atom to the bulk?
- *Model systems*
  - i) (Defect-) Sites of a bulk surface
  - ii) Deposited nano-particles on a substrate
- *Reference systems*  
Test and further development of theoretical methods

## Limited size = limited complexity

- Properties can be in detailed characterized experimentally
- Different levels of theory can be employed



# Clusters of atoms and molecules

- multiples of a simple subunit, e.g.  $C_n$ ,  $Ar_n$ , or  $(H_2O)_n$
- The cluster size  $n$  can vary and determines the properties

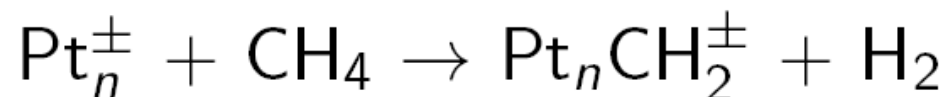
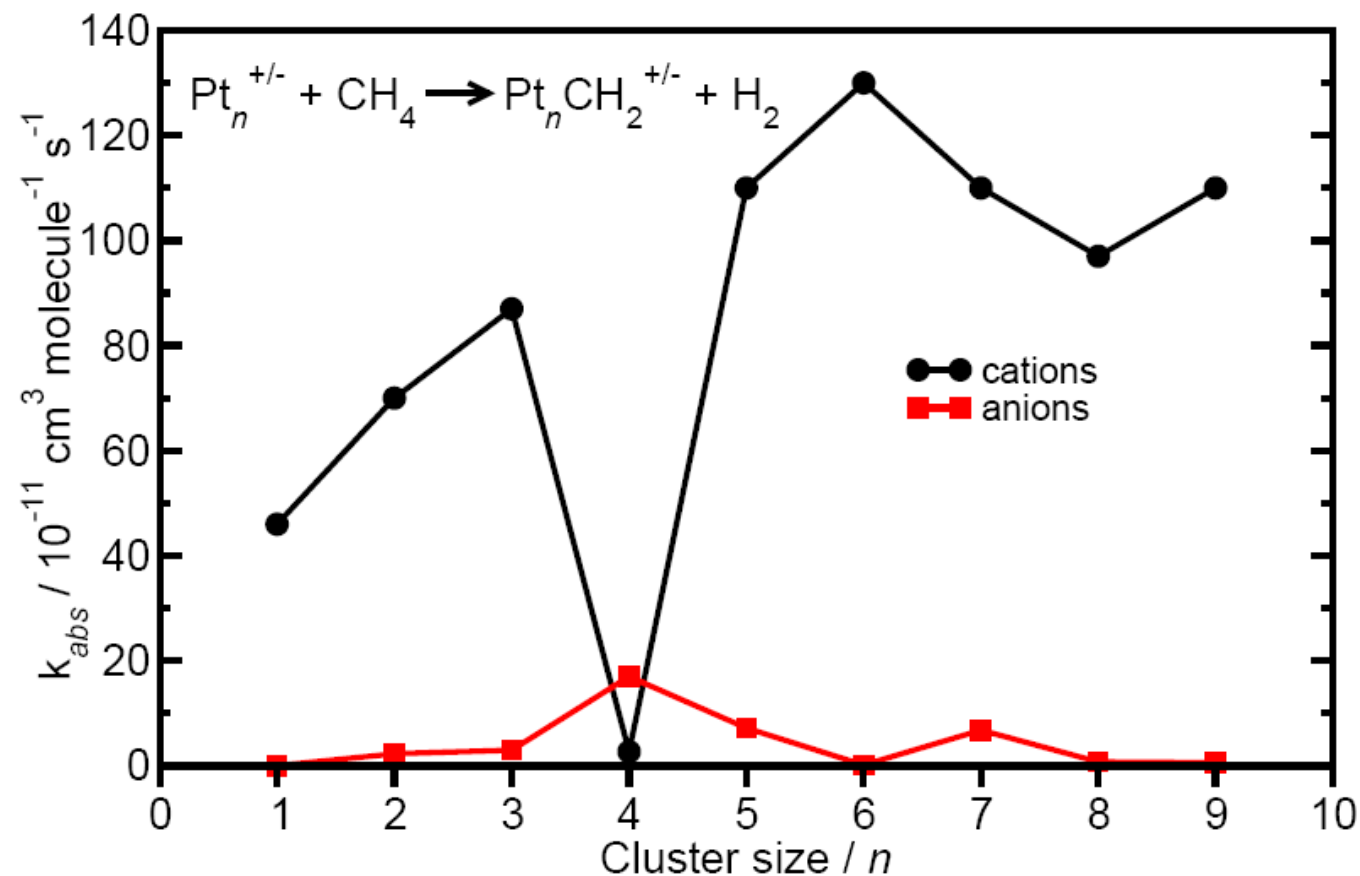
	<i>Cluster</i>								
		<i>„micro“</i>	<i>„small“</i>	<i>„large“</i>	<i>nano/micro crystals</i>				
Number of atoms	1	10	$10^2$	$10^3$	$10^4$	$10^5$	$10^6$	$10^7$	$10^8$
Surface atoms		10	$10^2$	$10^3$	$10^4$	$10^5$			
radius [nm]			1			10			$10^2$

- Small clusters have (nearly) all atoms on the surface

# Experiments on free clusters

- Clusters in different charge states can be prepared and characterized, (including neutrals)
- Characterization is often performed in molecular beams or on trapped cluster ions (gas-phase)
- Most experiments use mass spectrometric detection
- Neutrals can be detected spectroscopically or after ionization via MS
- Effect of charge, size and composition can be studied.

# Size matters (or: every atom counts)



U. Achatz et al. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **320** (2000) 53.

K. Koszinowski, D. Schröder, H. Schwarz, *J. Phys. Chem. A* **107** (2003) 4999.

G. Kummerlöwe et al., *Int. J. Mass Spectr.* **254** (2006) 183.

# Chemistry of gas-phase clusters

- **Structure of reactants and products**  
(electronic + geometric)
- **Thermodynamics**  
(binding energies, equilibrium constants)
- **Reaction kinetics**  
(mechanisms, catalysis)

## Today:

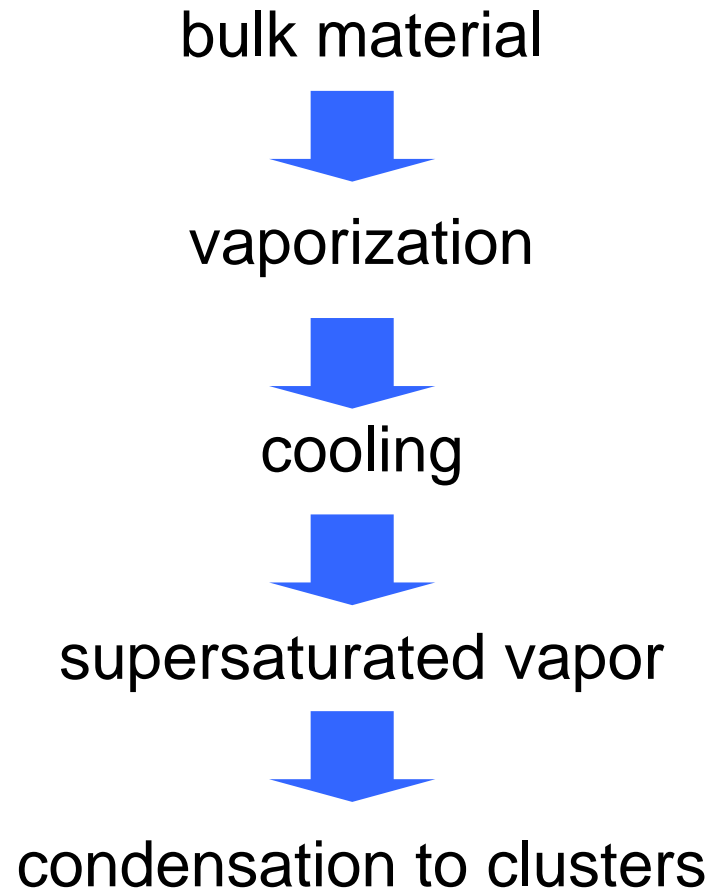
1. CO oxidation on Pt
2. CH<sub>4</sub> activation on Pt

1. Making and characterizing free metal clusters

# Experimental techniques for Cluster studies

*Cluster production*

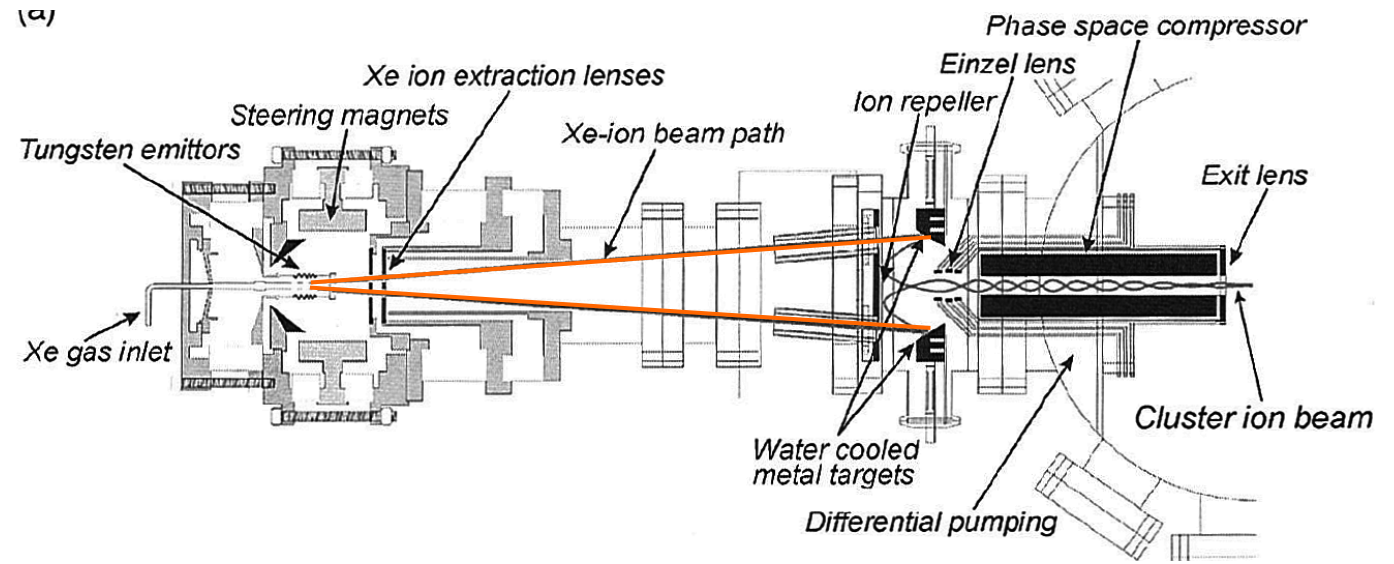
Aggregation of the constituents



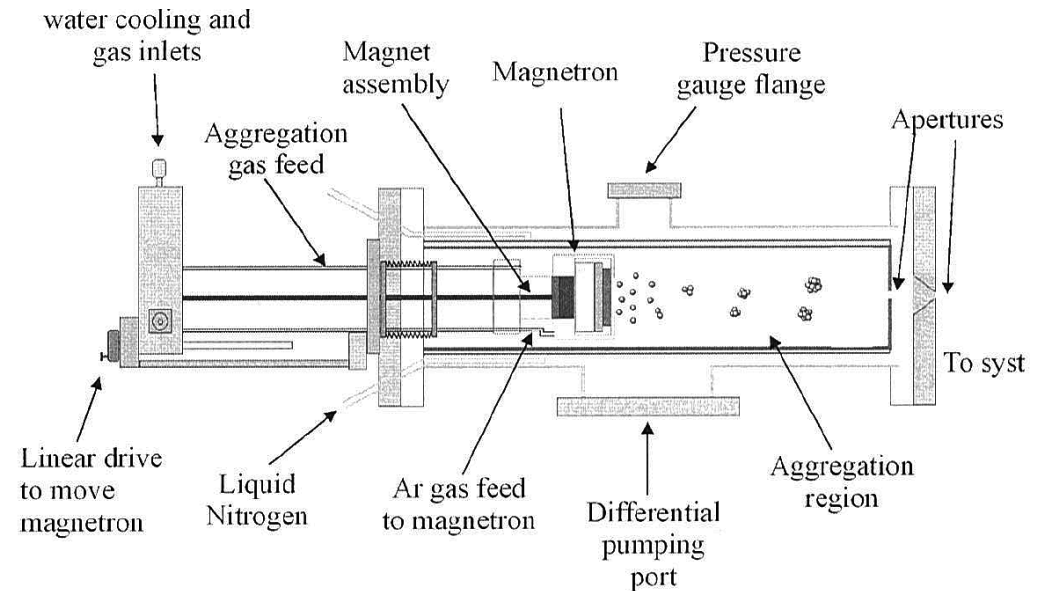
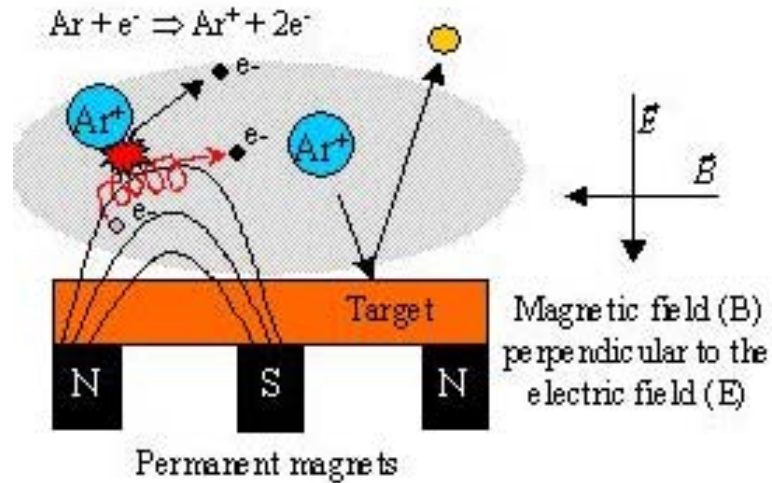
# Cluster Production

## Ion sputtering

CORDIS (cold ion reflection discharge ion source)



## Magnetron sputter source



# Cluster Production

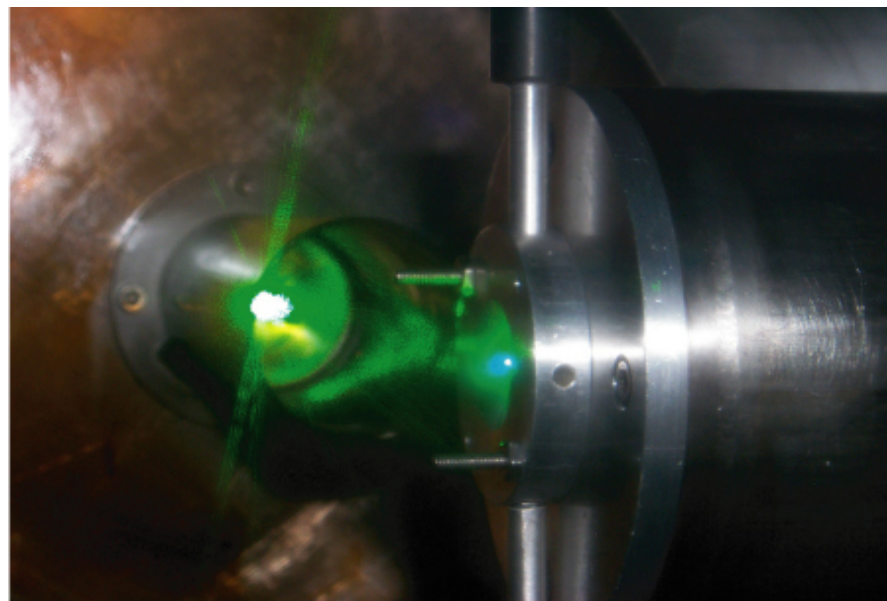
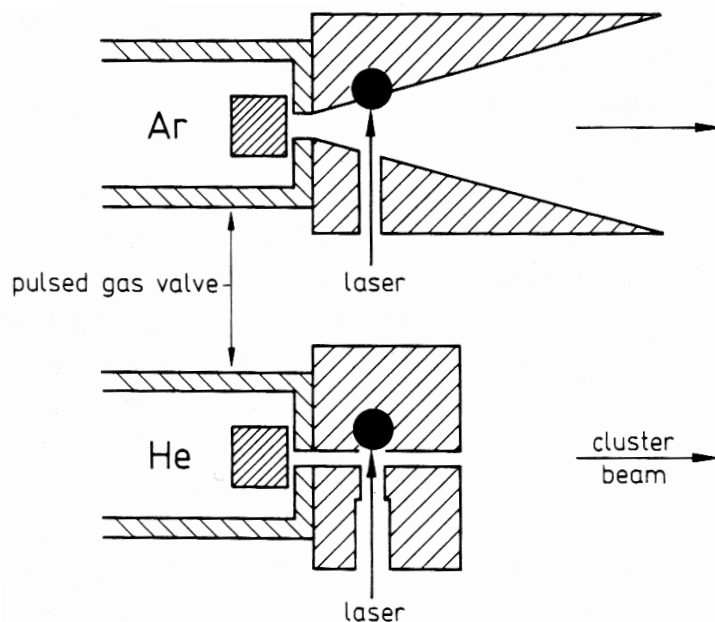
## Laser ablation

heating of a small surface part of a solid target by a focused, intense short-pulse laser (typically Nd-YAG, 532 nm)

formation of a plasma that contains ions and electrons

cooling with rare gas induces aggregation

→ formation of neutral and charged (anionic and cationic) clusters



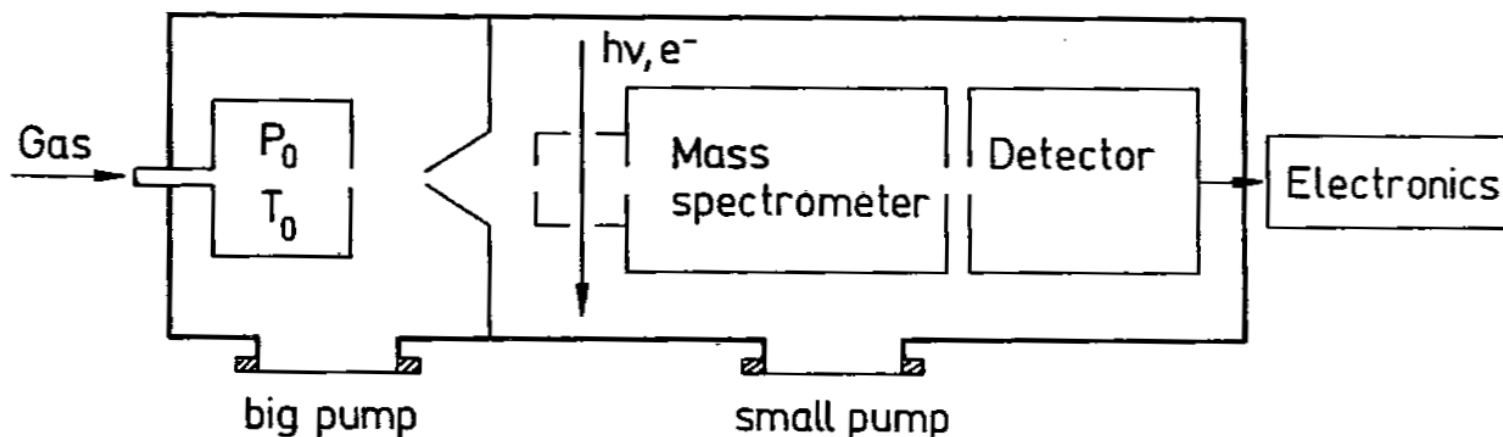
Converts practically any solid into clusters, very frequently used!

Can be easily combined with reaction or thermalization channels, etc.



# A molecular beam cluster experiment

## Experiments under collision-free conditions



$$\ell = \frac{k_B T}{\sqrt{2} \pi d^2 p}$$

Mean free path length  
(identical particles)

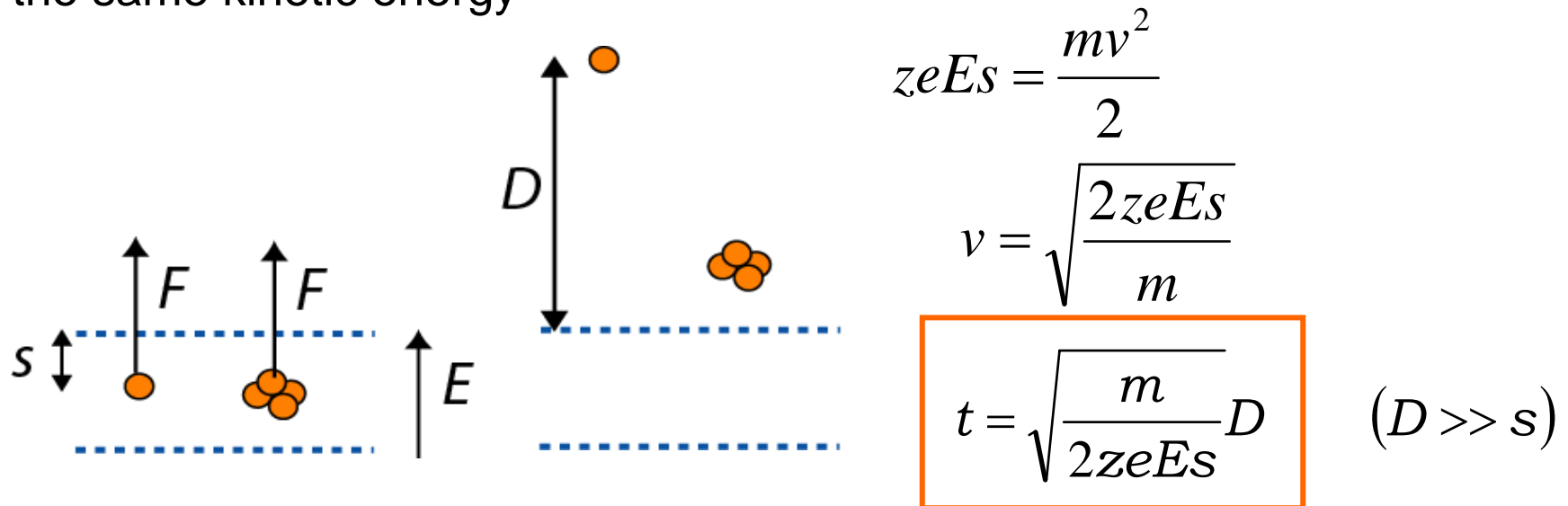
Vacuum range	Pressure in mbar	Molecules / cm <sup>3</sup>	mean free path
Ambient pressure	10 <sup>13</sup>	2.7*10 <sup>19</sup>	68 nm
Medium vacuum	1-10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>16</sup> -10 <sup>13</sup>	0.1-100 mm
High vacuum	10 <sup>-3</sup> -10 <sup>-7</sup>	10 <sup>13</sup> -10 <sup>9</sup>	10 cm - 1 km
Ultra high vacuum	10 <sup>-7</sup> -10 <sup>-12</sup>	10 <sup>9</sup> -10 <sup>4</sup>	1 km-10 <sup>5</sup> km

# Mass spectrometric characterization

## Time-of-flight mass spectrometry

acceleration of charged particles (ions) in an electric field

particles having the same charge but different mass are accelerated to the same kinetic energy


$$zeEs = \frac{mv^2}{2}$$
$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2zeEs}{m}}$$
$$t = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2zeEs}} D \quad (D \gg s)$$

Measurement of the arrival time on the detector gives mass information

typical experimental conditions:  $s=1$  cm,  $D=10-300$  cm,  
 $E=100-10000$  kV/cm

**A single mass spectrum can be measured within 5-100  $\mu$ s.**

**Mass resolution up to 10 000 amu can be achieved**

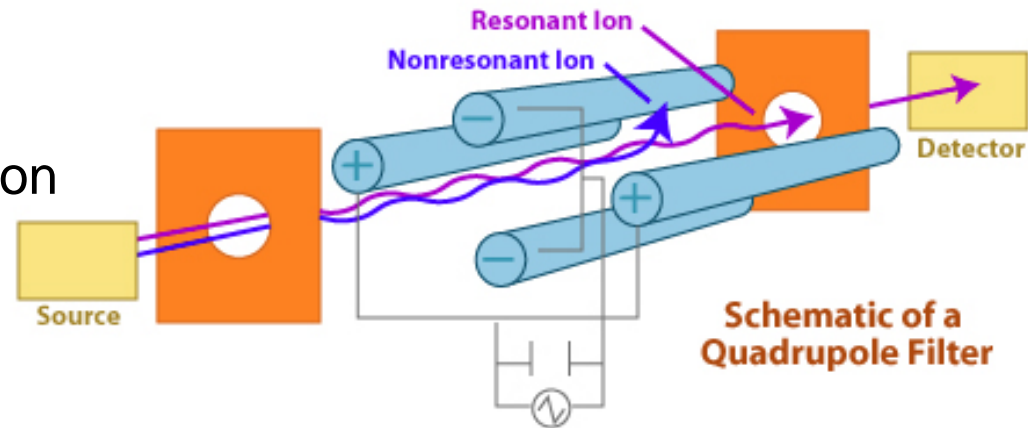
# Mass spectrometric characterization

## Other types of mass spectrometers

I Magnetic sector field

II Quadrupole

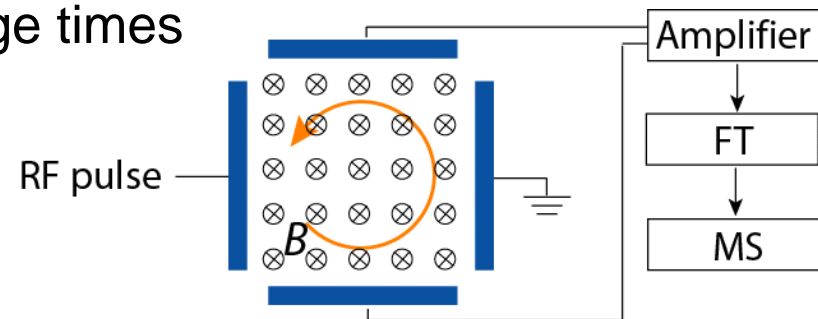
moderate to high ( $10^4$ ) resolution  
experiments on beams of  
mass selected ions (MS/MS)



III Ion traps, FT-ICR (ion cyclotron resonance)

very high resolution ( $10^6$ ), long storage times  
simultaneous detection of all ions  
expensive

$$\omega = \frac{zeB}{m}$$



I-II are often used as mass filters, measurement of a full mass spectrum requires scanning (of voltages) and is relatively time consuming.

Experiments are often performed on pulsed molecular beams, usage of a ToF-MS allows rapid and full mass analysis of a single ion pulse.

## 2. Investigating the chemistry of clusters

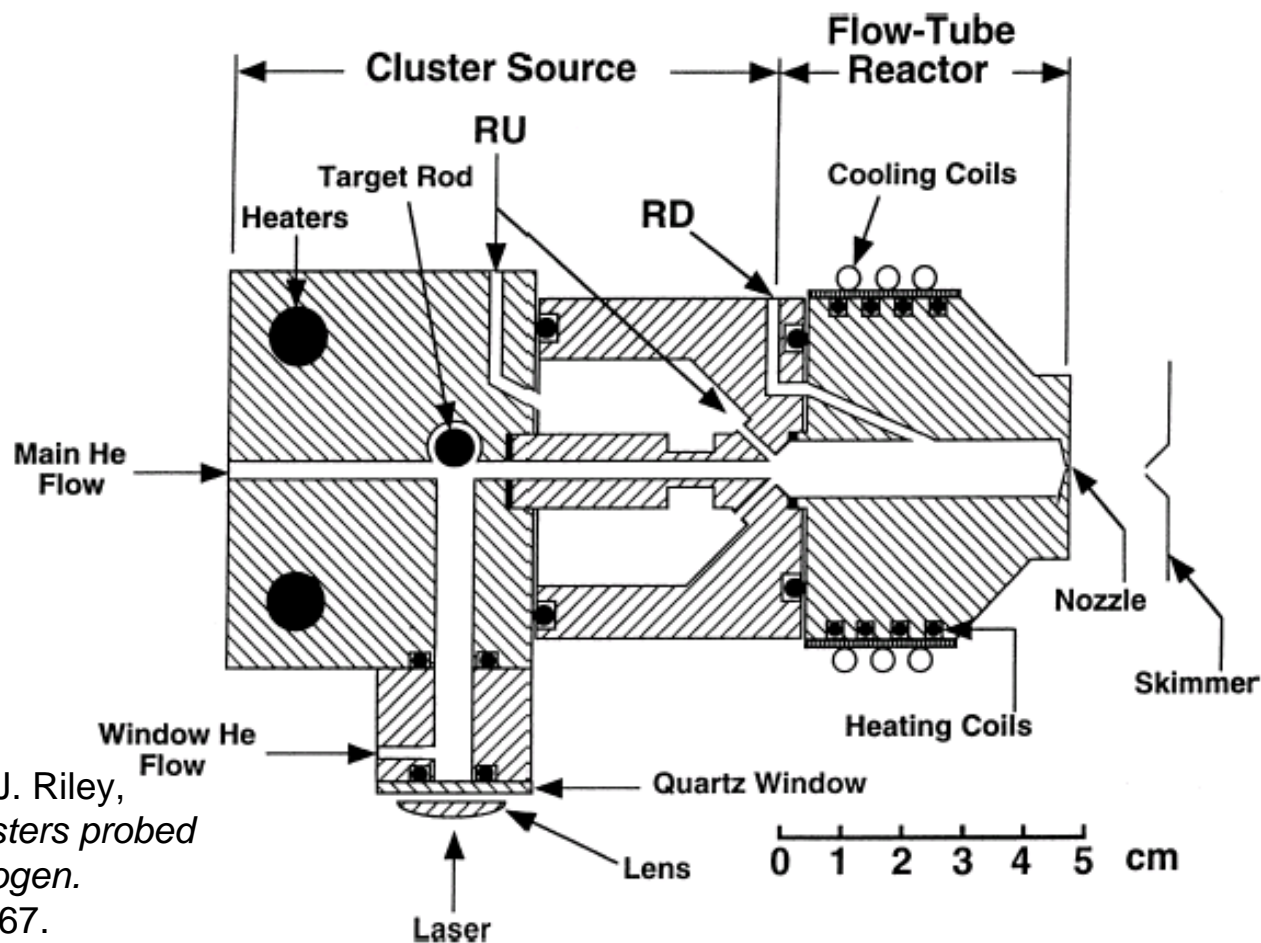
# Experimental studies of cluster reactivity

## Flow tube instruments

Reaction channel is often an extension of the cluster source

For reactions of neutrals and ions

Reactions under “high-pressure” (few 10 mbar) conditions at defined temperatures



E.K. Parks, K.P. Kerns, and S.J. Riley,  
*The structure of nickel-iron clusters probed  
by adsorption of molecular nitrogen.*  
Chem. Phys. 262 (2000) 151-167.

# Cluster size specific reactivity ( $\text{Fe}_n + \text{D}_2$ ), qualitatively

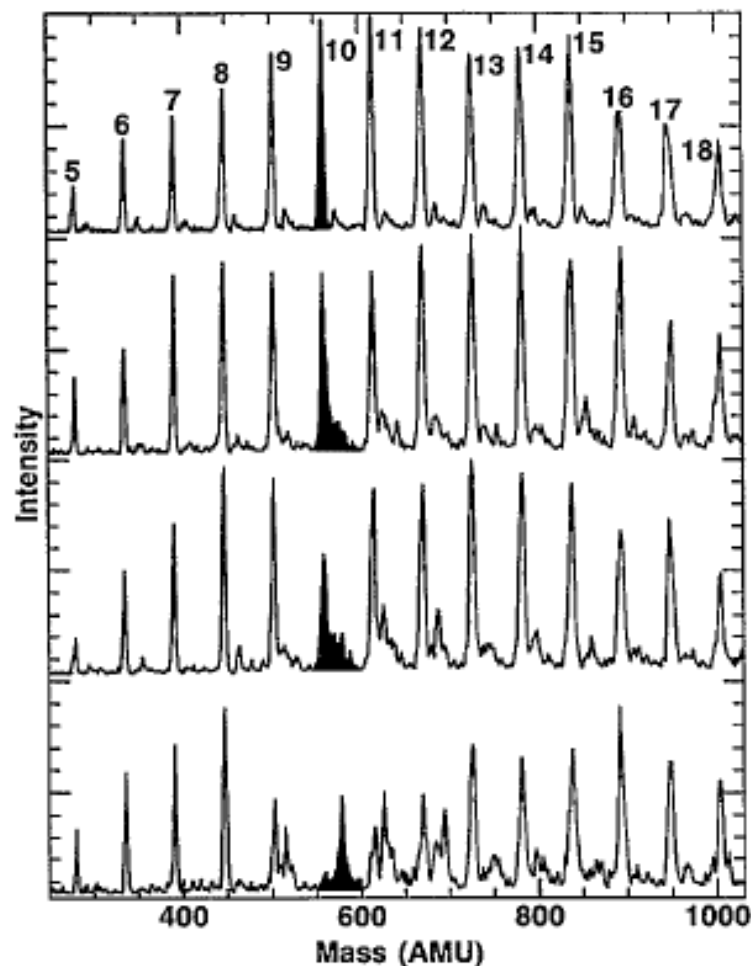
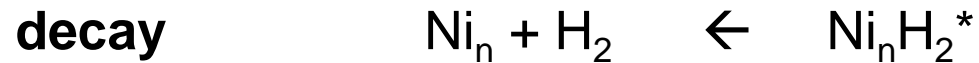
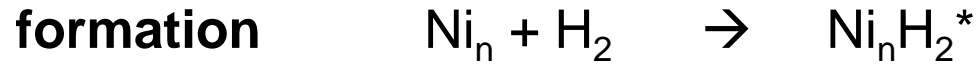


FIG. 1. Chemisorption of  $\text{D}_2$  on certain small Fe clusters is seen from these photoionization time-of-flight mass spectra in the preferential depletion of bare clusters  $\text{Fe}_x$ , accompanied by appearance of products of masses corresponding to  $\text{Fe}_x(\text{D}_2)_y$ . The three lower frames correspond to different time lengths (nominally 100, 250, and 600  $\mu\text{sec}$ ) of the secondary gas pulse, which is a 25% mixture of  $\text{D}_2$  in He.

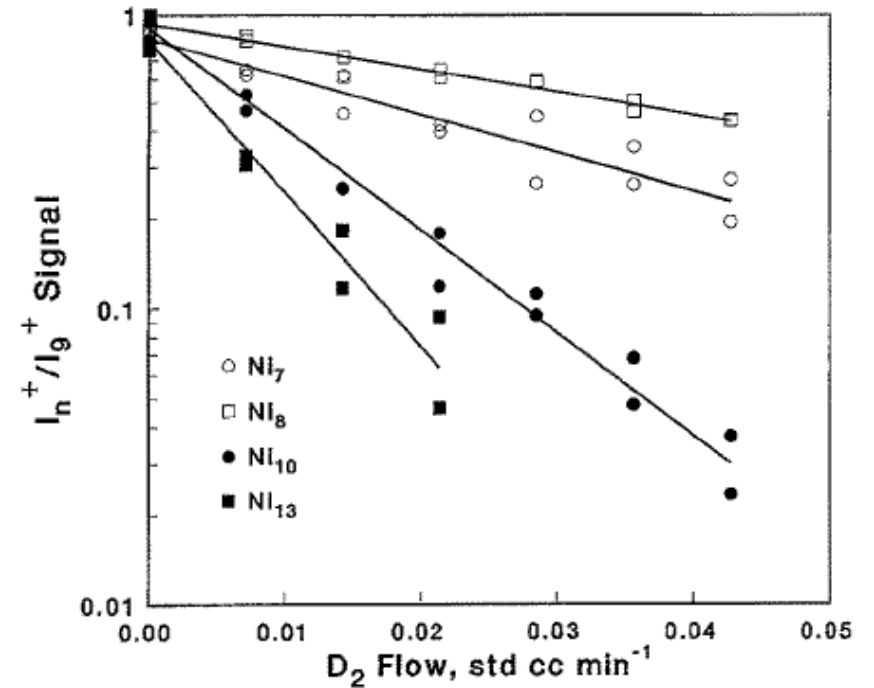
# H<sub>2</sub> addition follows pseudo-first order kinetics



~~$$-d[\text{Ni}_n]/dt = k[\text{H}_2][\text{Ni}_n] - k_r[\text{Ni}_n\text{H}_2^*],$$~~

$$-d[\text{Ni}_n]/dt = k[\text{H}_2][\text{Ni}_n] \quad [\text{H}_2] = \text{const}$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{[\text{Ni}_n]}{[\text{Ni}_n]_0}\right) = k[\text{H}_2]t$$



# Cluster size specific reactivity ( $\text{Ni}_n + \text{H}_2$ ), quantitatively

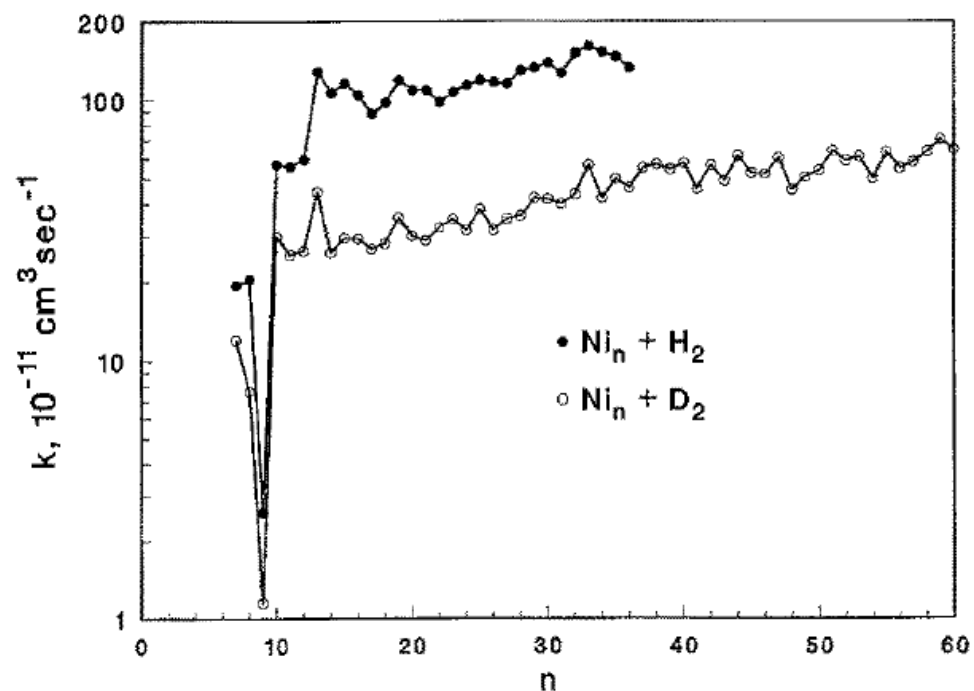
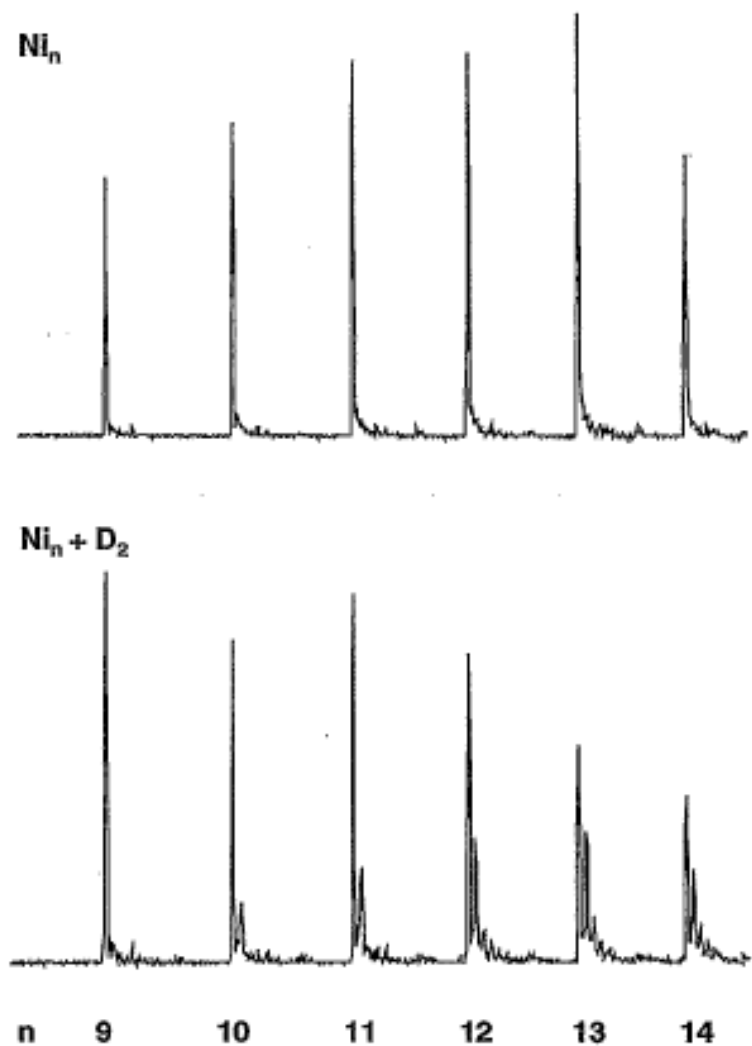


Fig. 3. Absolute rate constants for reactions of nickel clusters with  $\text{H}_2$  (filled symbols) and  $\text{D}_2$  (open symbols)

L. Zhu, J. Ho, E. K. Parks, and S. J. Riley, J. Chem. Phys. 98 (1993) 2798.

W. F. Hoffman III, E. K. Parks, G. C. Nieman, L. G. Pobo, and S. J. Riley  
Z. Phys. D 7 (1987) 83.



# Experimental studies of cluster reactivity

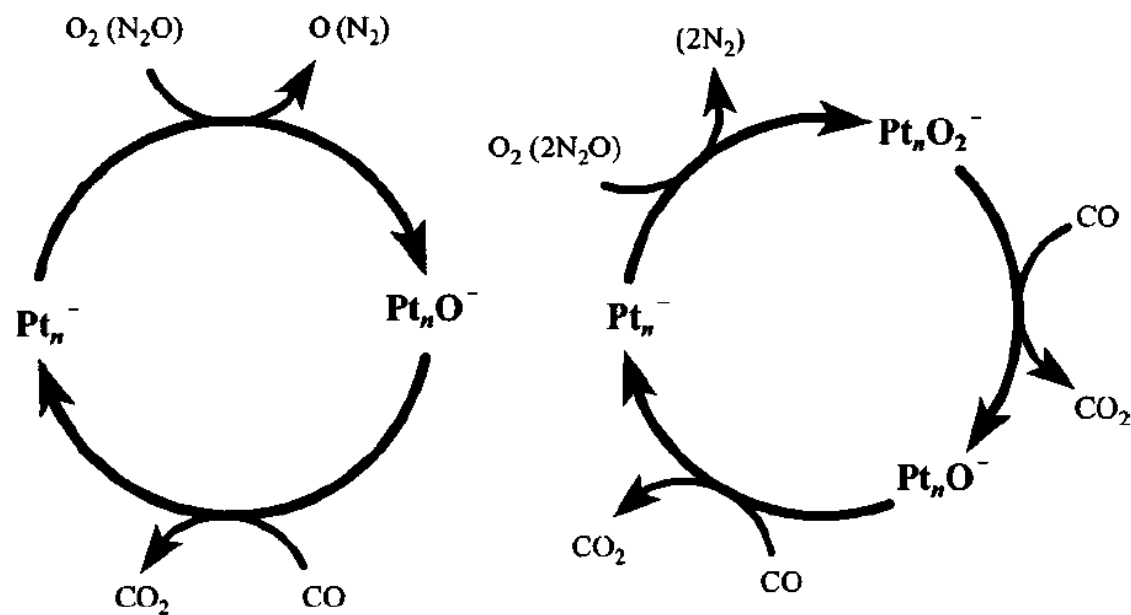
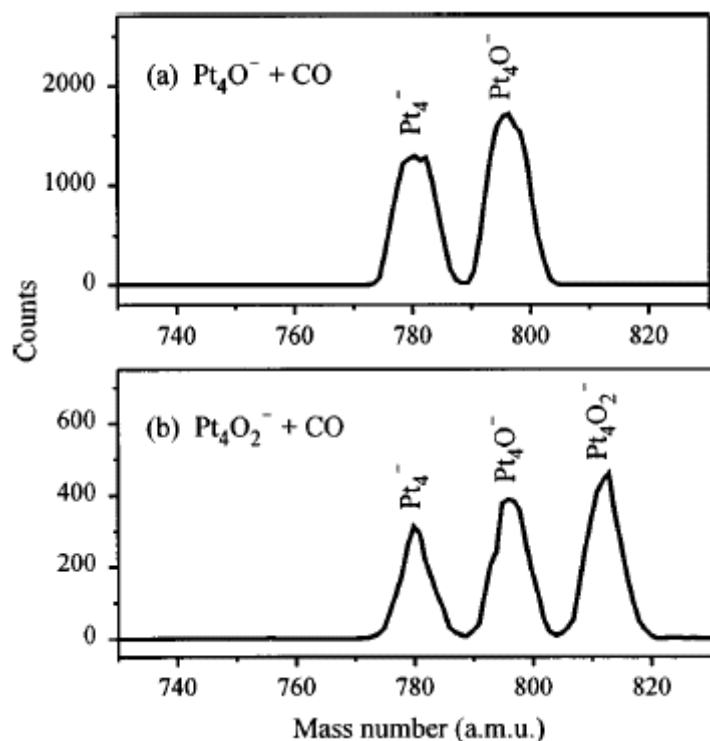
## Ion trap experiments

Study of mass selected ionic species

Reactions under single-collision conditions

Reaction sequences

Catalytic cycles for the oxidation of CO on platinum cluster anions



**Cycle 1**

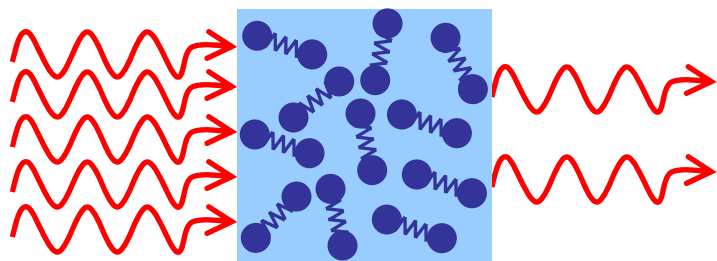
**Cycle 2**

Y. Shi and K.M. Ervin, *Catalytic oxidation of carbon monoxide by platinum cluster anions*. J. Chem. Phys. 108 (1998) 1757.

**Can we probe the identity of the intermediates?**

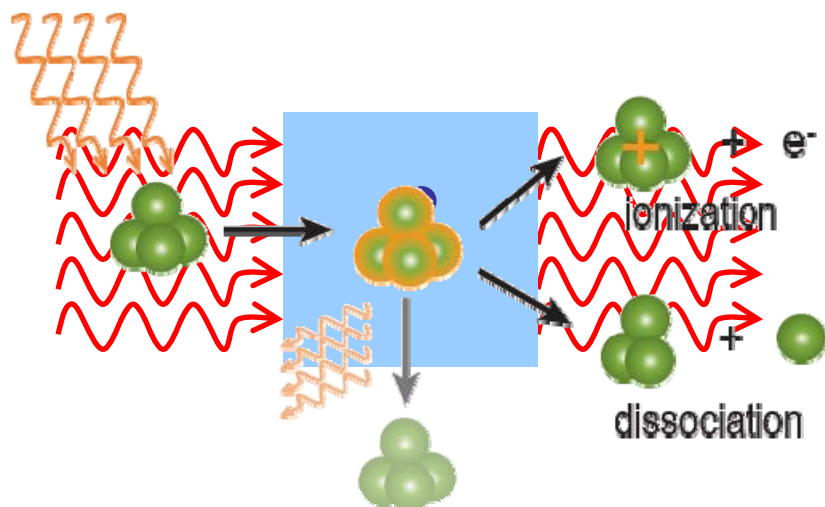
**Vibrational spectroscopy as structure probe for  
gas-phase cluster complexes**

# IR spectroscopy of clusters in molecular beams



## Direct measurement of absorption

- Not sensitive enough (low particle density)
- Not species specific (cluster distribution)

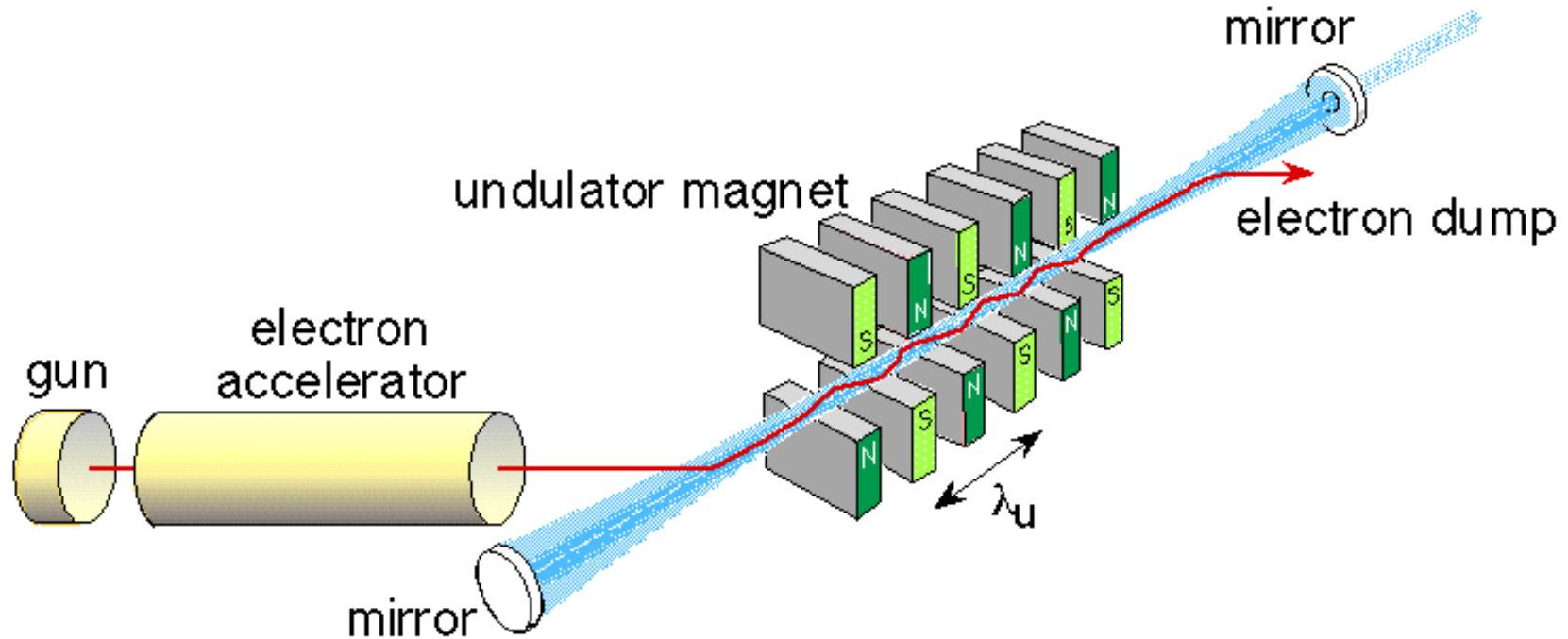


## More sensitive and selective: Mass spectrometric detection of absorption via “Action Spectroscopy”

- Changes of the charge state (ionization)
- Changes of particle mass (dissociation)

➡ An intense and tunable IR source is needed for the excitation

# Principle of Free Electron Lasers



Wavelength depends on:

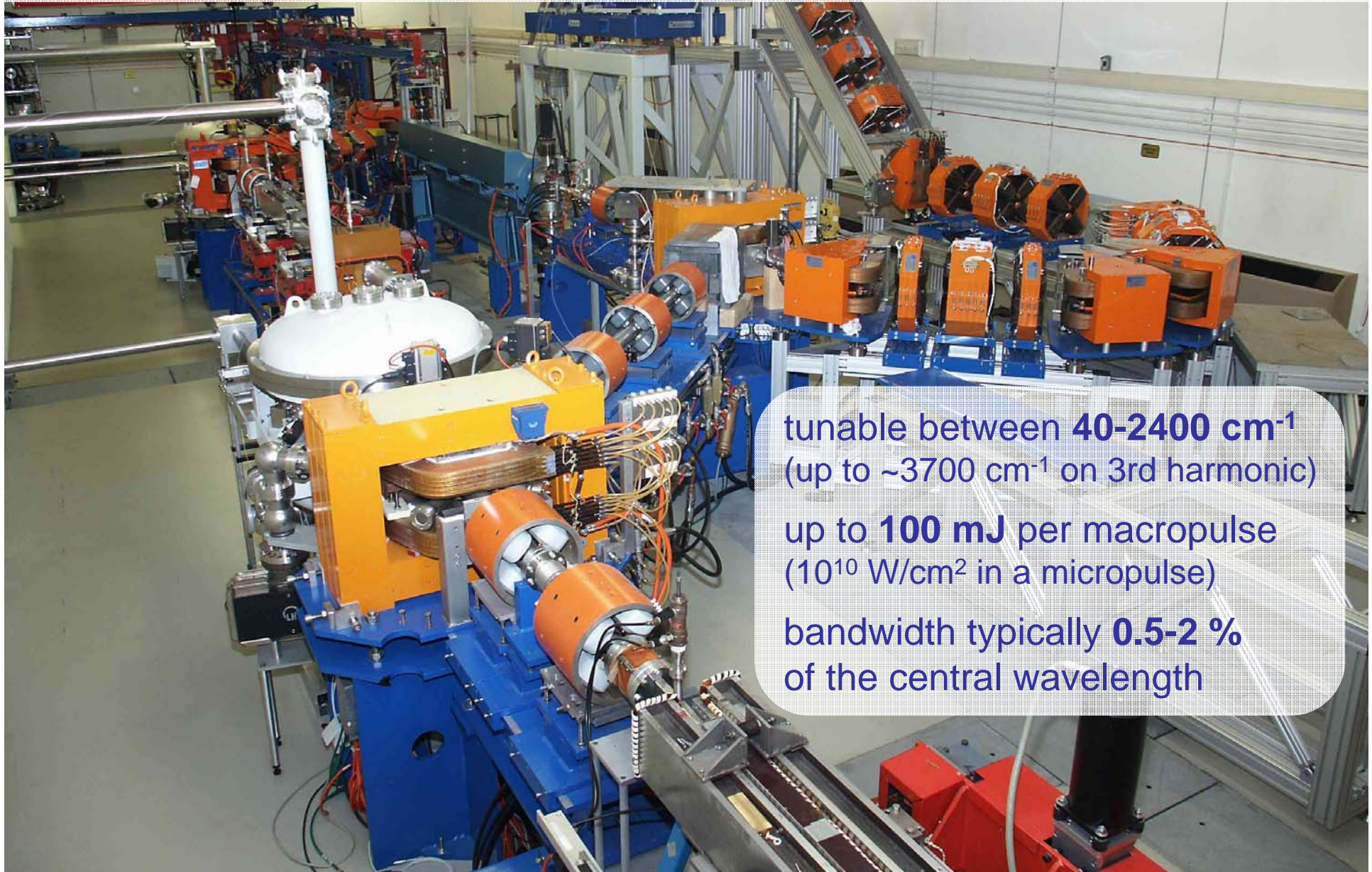
- kinetic energy of the electrons
- Undulator period  $\lambda_u$
- magnetic field

$$\lambda = \frac{\lambda_U}{2\gamma^2} (1 + K^2)$$

$$\gamma = 1 + \frac{E}{m_e c^2}$$

# The Free Electron Laser for Infrared eXperiments (FELIX)

FOM Institute for Plasma Physics "Rijnhuizen", Nieuwegein, The Netherlands

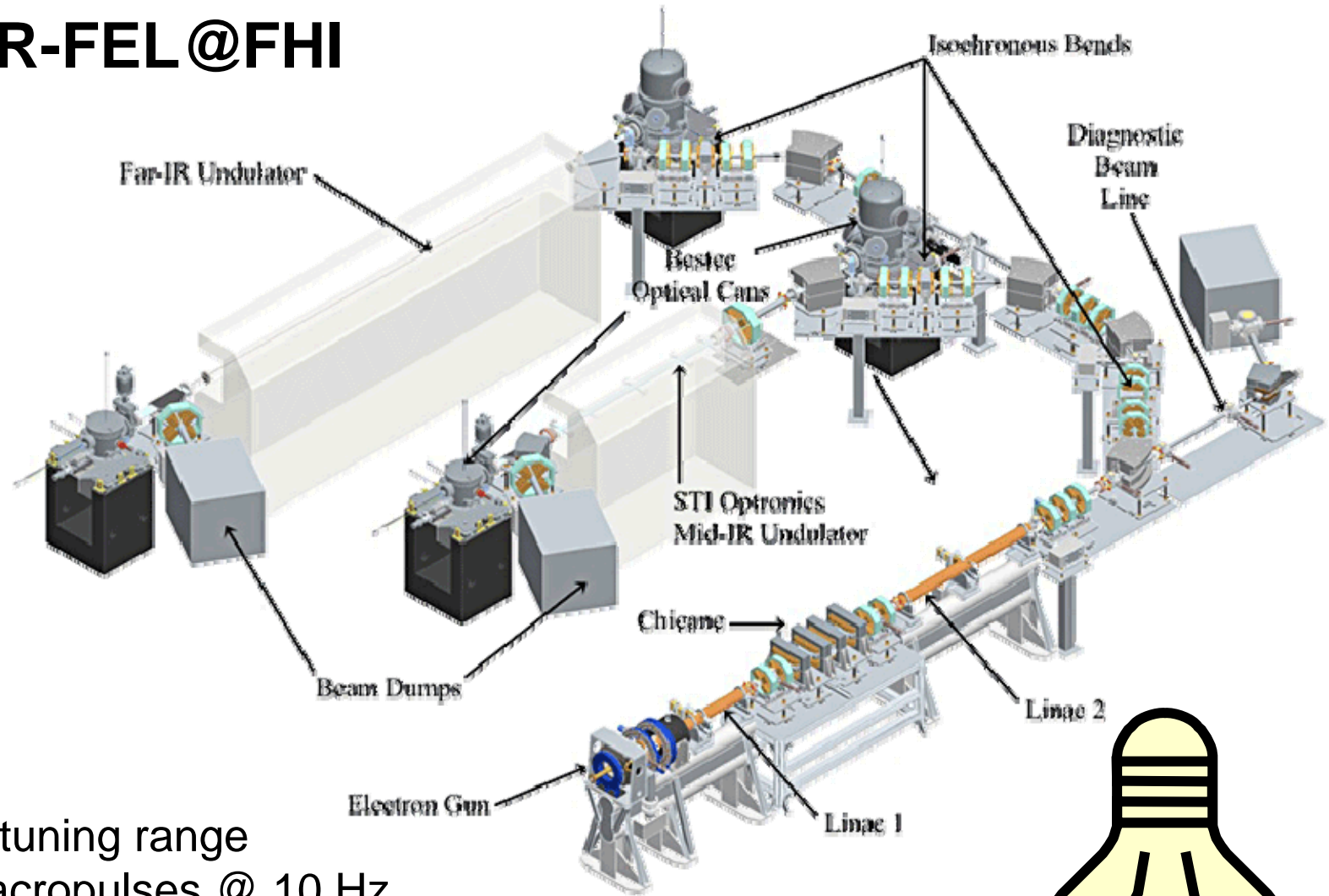


tunable between **40-2400 cm<sup>-1</sup>**  
(up to  $\sim 3700$  cm<sup>-1</sup> on 3rd harmonic)

up to **100 mJ** per macropulse  
( $10^{10}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> in a micropulse)

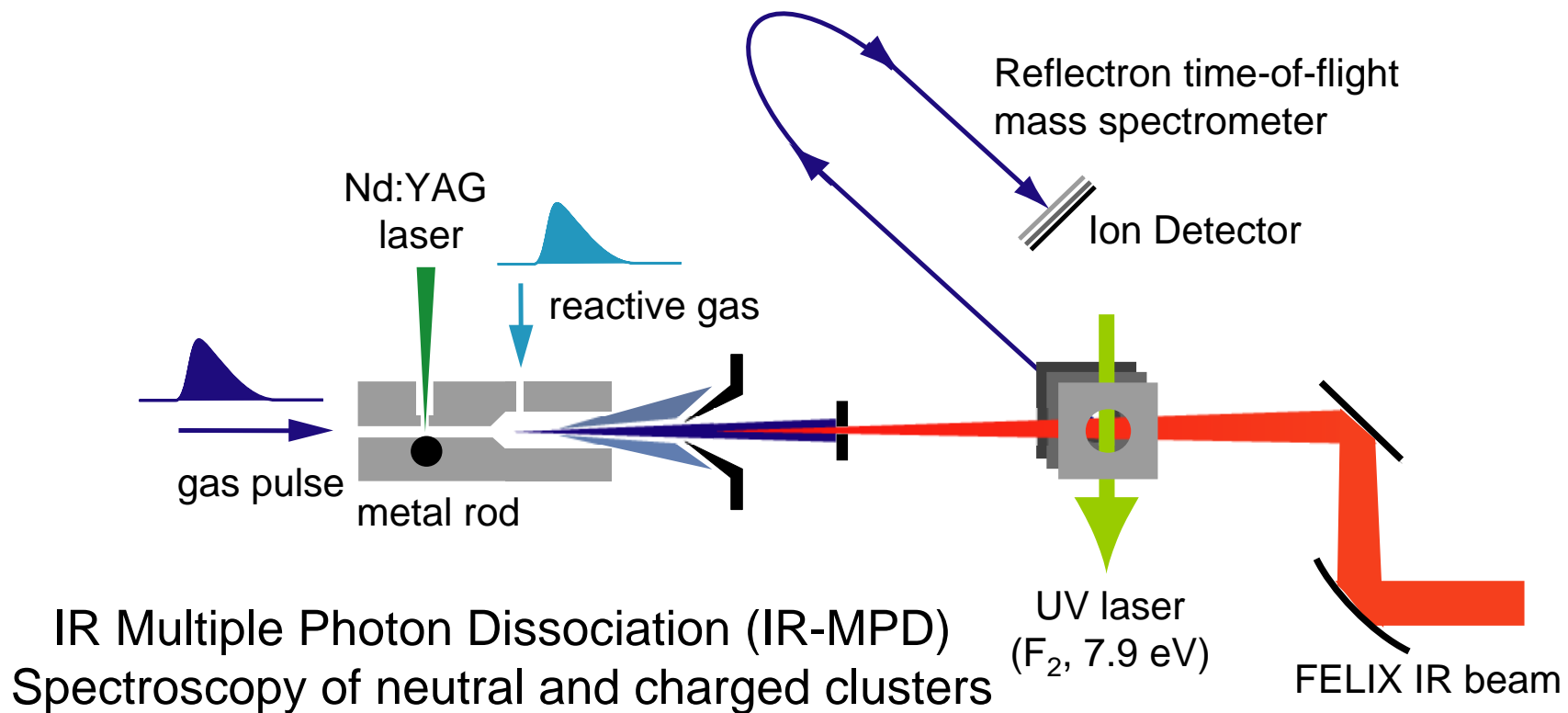
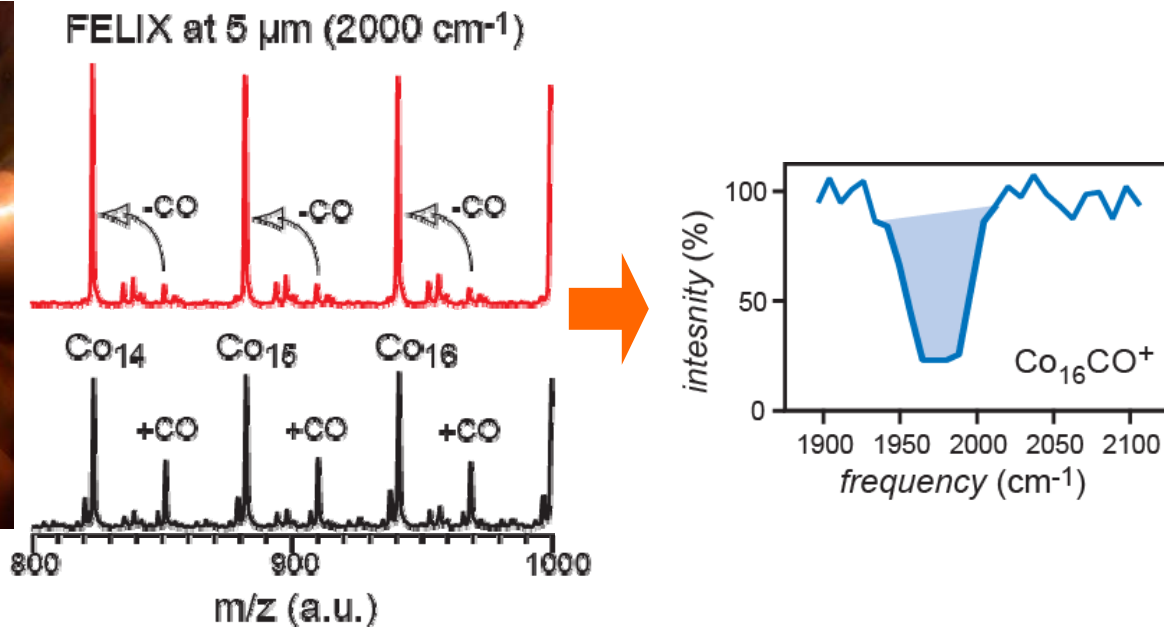
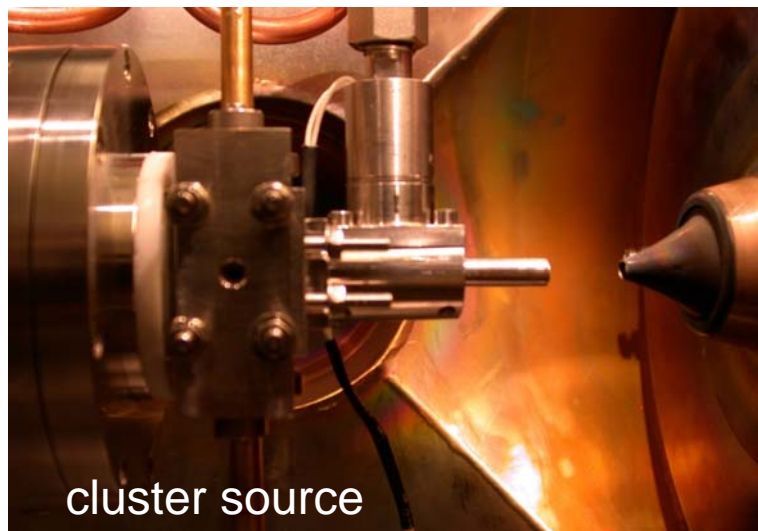
bandwidth typically **0.5-2 %**  
of the central wavelength

# The IR-FEL@FHI

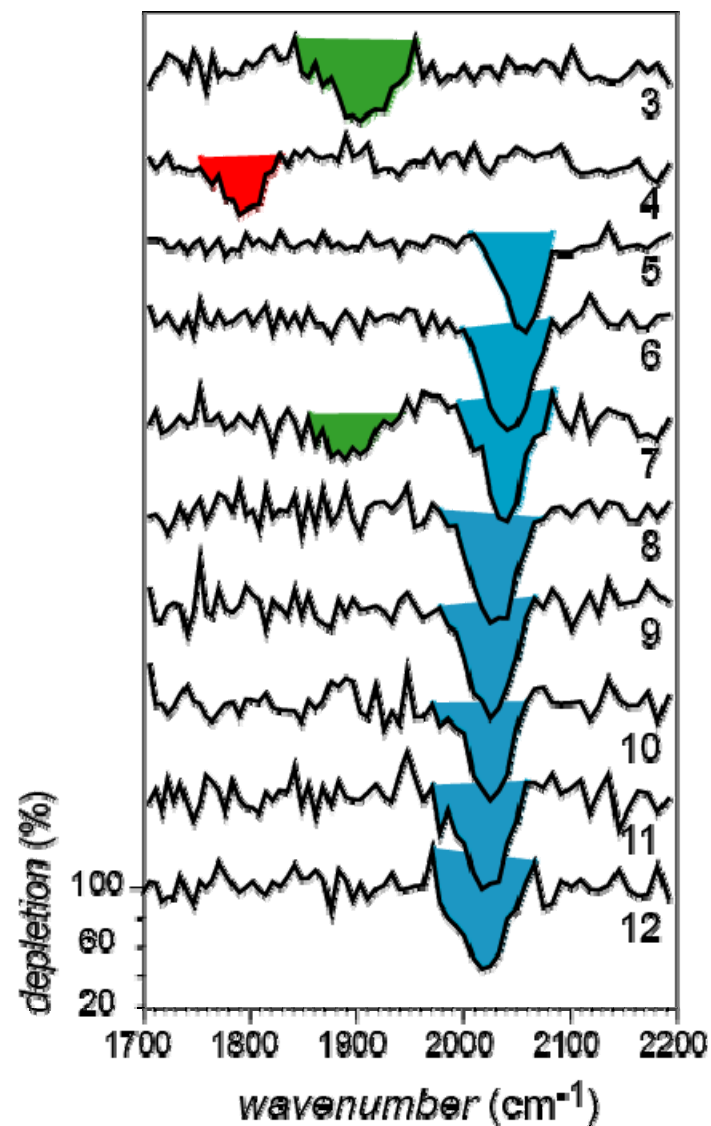
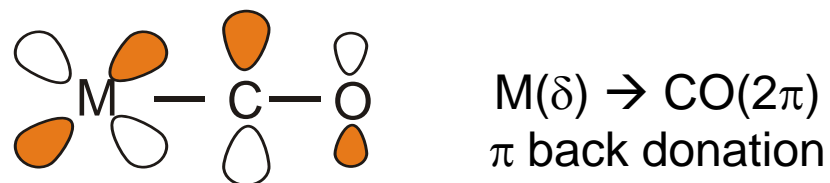
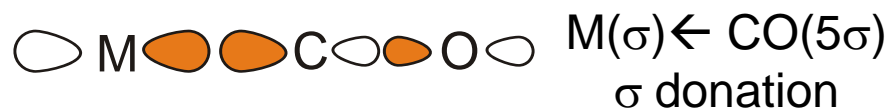
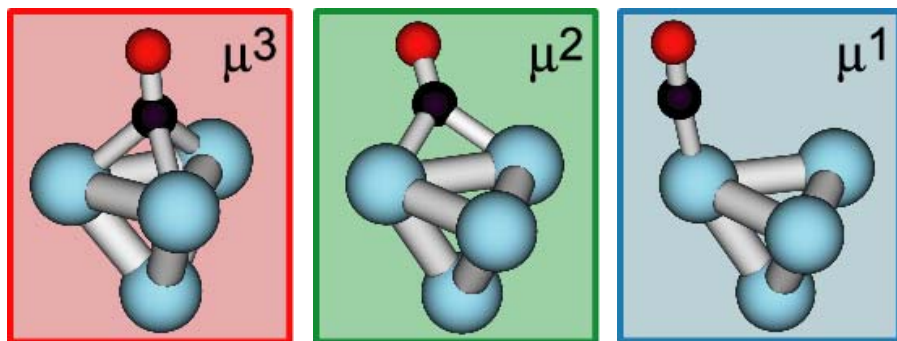


- 4 – 500  $\mu\text{m}$  tuning range
- 5 – 10  $\mu\text{s}$  macropulses @ 10 Hz
- $\approx 100$  mJ/macropulse
- 0.3 – 5 ps micropulses
- FT-limited bandwidth
- 0.3 – 5% of the central frequency





# CO at $\text{Rh}_n^+$ : Size dependence of the binding site

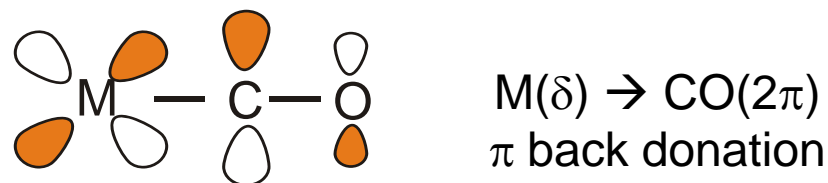
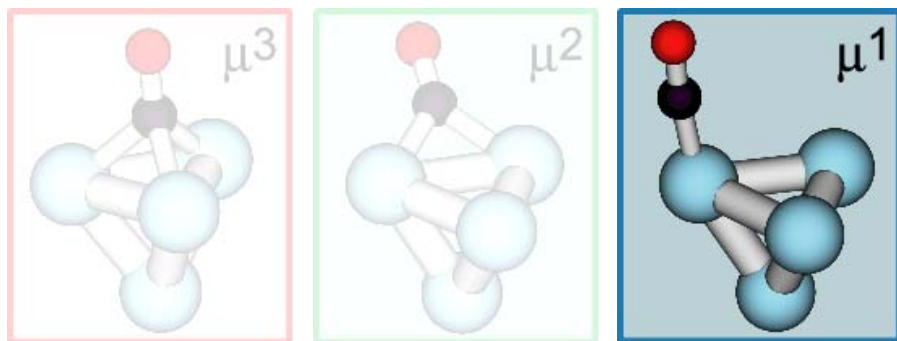


*JACS* **125** (2003) 15716.  
*J. Phys. Chem. B* **108** (2004) 14591.

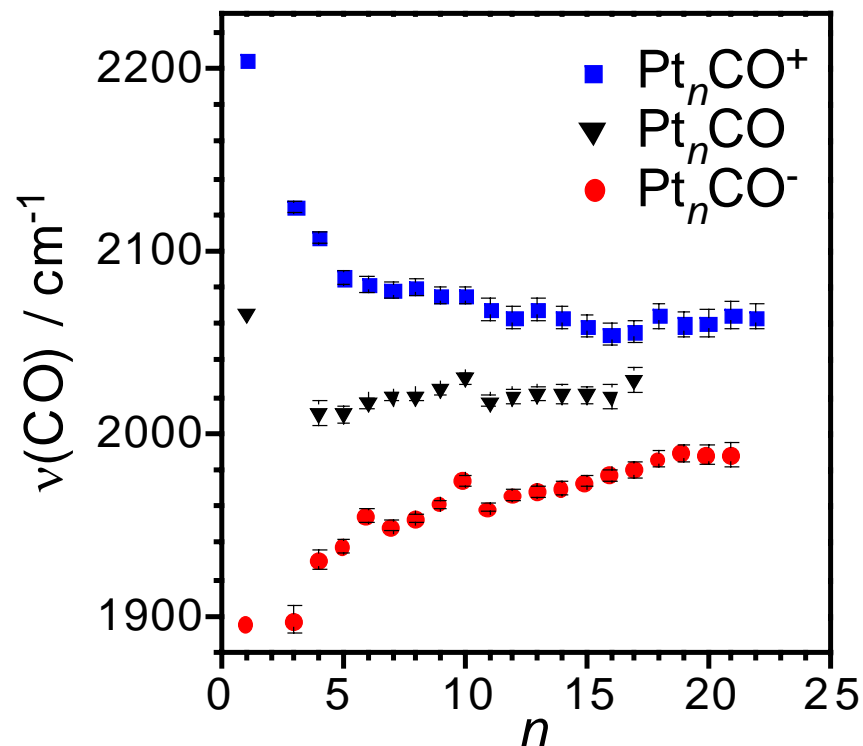


# Simplifying the CO/Pt(111) puzzle: the cluster case

P.J. Feibelman et al. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **105** (2001) 4018

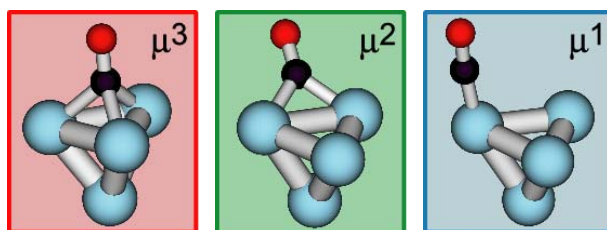


$$\nu(\text{CO}) = \nu_{\infty} + \Delta\nu_{\text{ES}} + \gamma' \left( \frac{z}{n_s} \right)$$



Dependence of  $\nu(\text{CO})$  for the ionic complexes is mainly due to charge delocalization

# Trends in the binding geometry of CO on transition metal clusters



atop ( $\mu_1$ )  
only

21 Sc	22 Ti	23 <b>V</b> C	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 <b>Fe</b> N	27 <b>Co</b> A NC	28 <b>Ni</b> NC	29 Cu	30 Zn
39 Y	40 Zr	41 <b>Nb</b> N	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 <b>Ru</b> A C	45 <b>Rh</b> A NC	46 <b>Pd</b> A C	47 <b>Ag</b> NC	48 Cd
57 La	72 Hf	73 <b>Ta</b> N	74 <b>W</b> N	75 <b>Re</b> C	76 Os	77 <b>Ir</b> N	78 <b>Pt</b> A NC	79 <b>Au</b> A NC	80 Hg

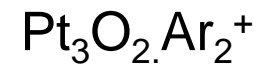
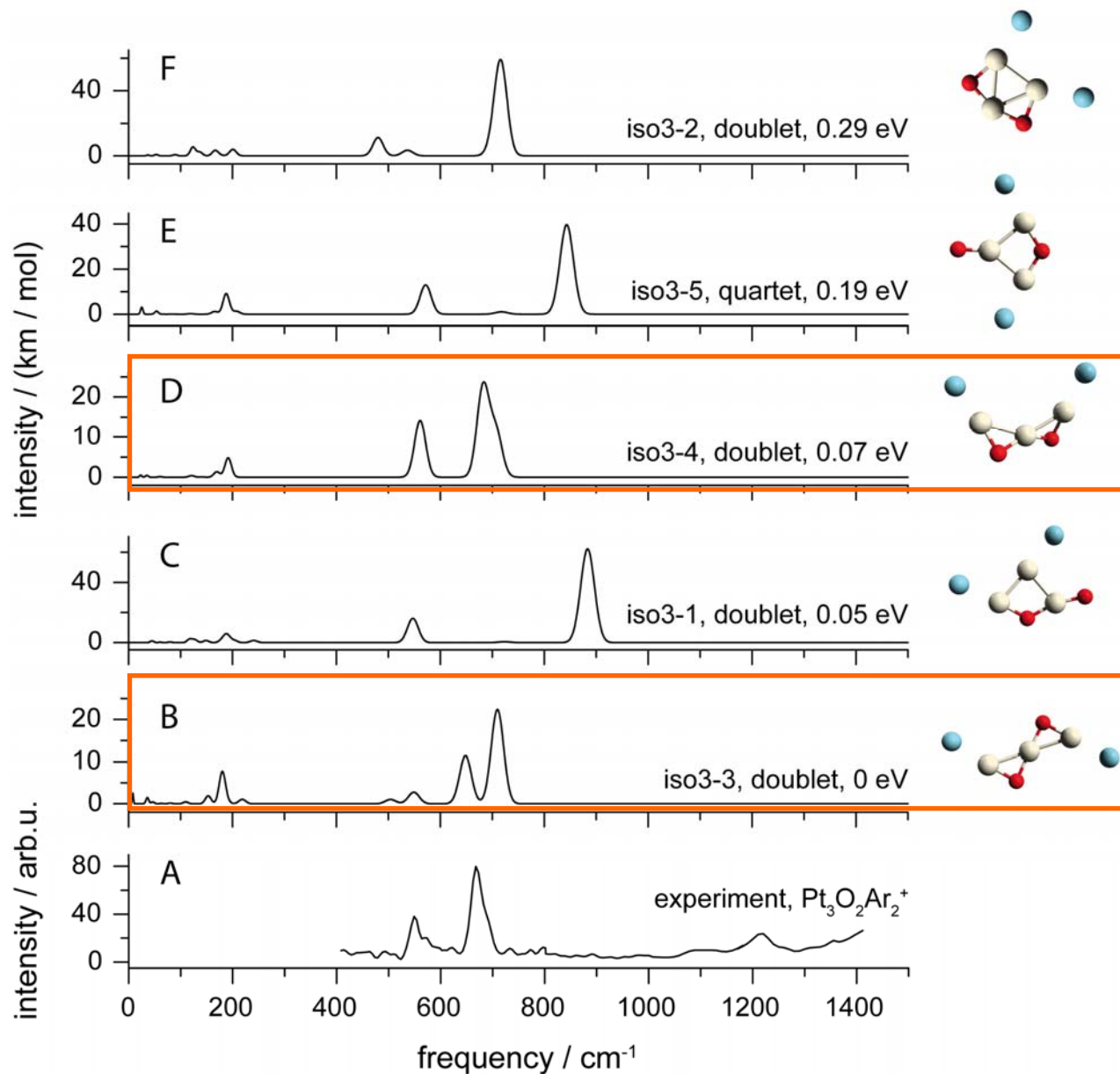
atop ( $\mu_1$ ) and/or  
bridging ( $\mu_2, \mu_3$ )

Stabilization of atop bound CO for late 5d metals (Ir, Pt) due to relativistic effects

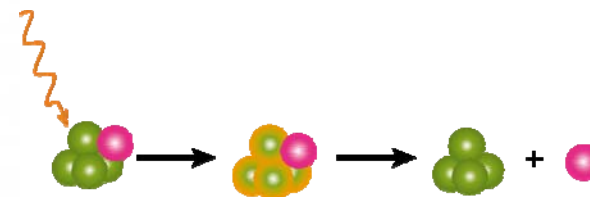
G. Pacchioni, S.-C. Chung, S. Krüger, and N. Rösch,  
*Surf. Sci.* **392** (1997) 173.

*Surf. Sci.* **603** (2009) 1427.

# Platinum oxide clusters

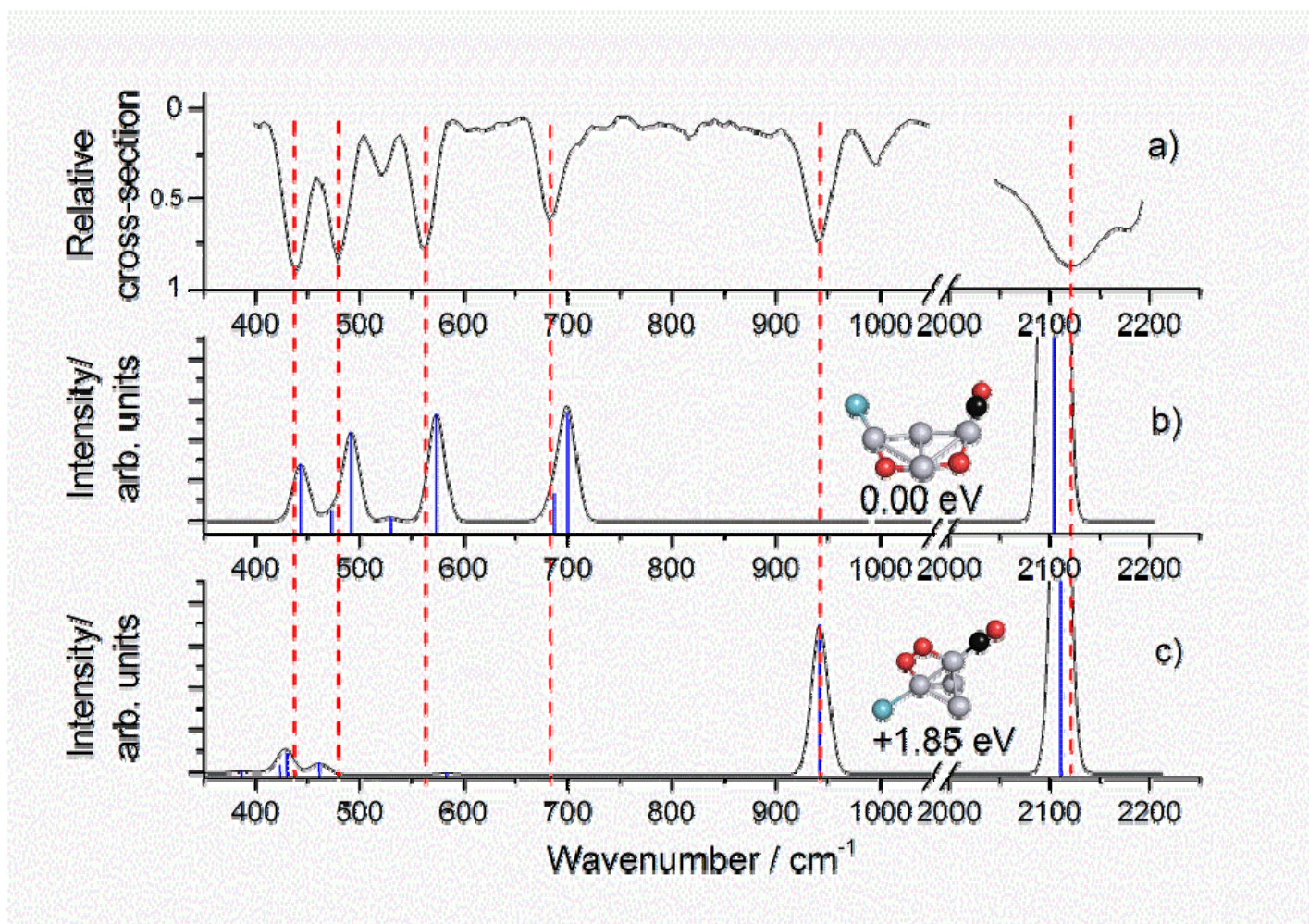


Ar atoms as 'inert' messenger of IR absorption



Structural assignments by comparison with predicted IR spectra using density functional theory

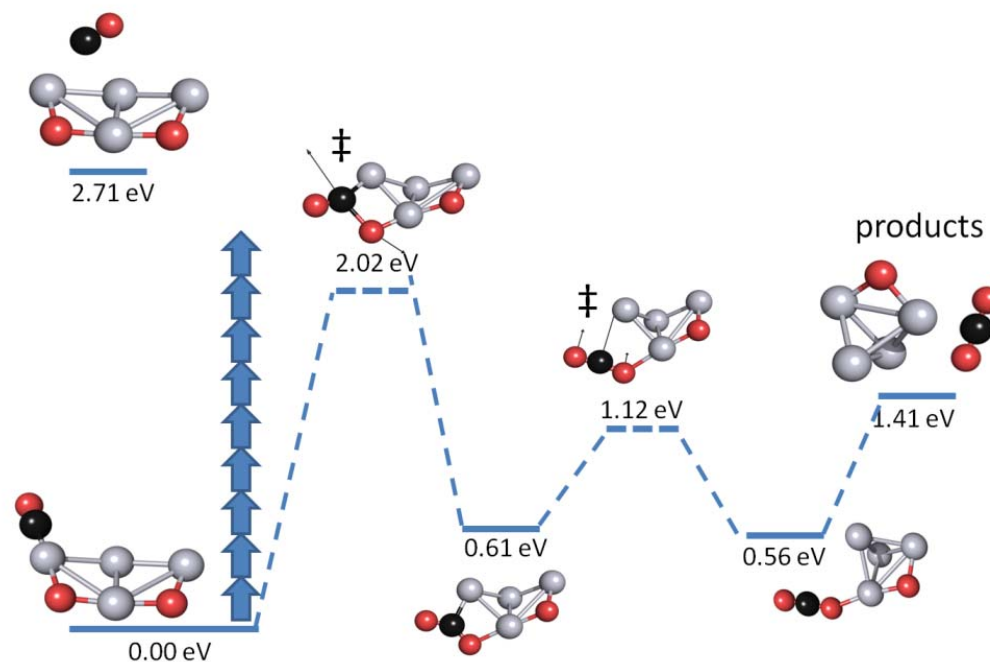
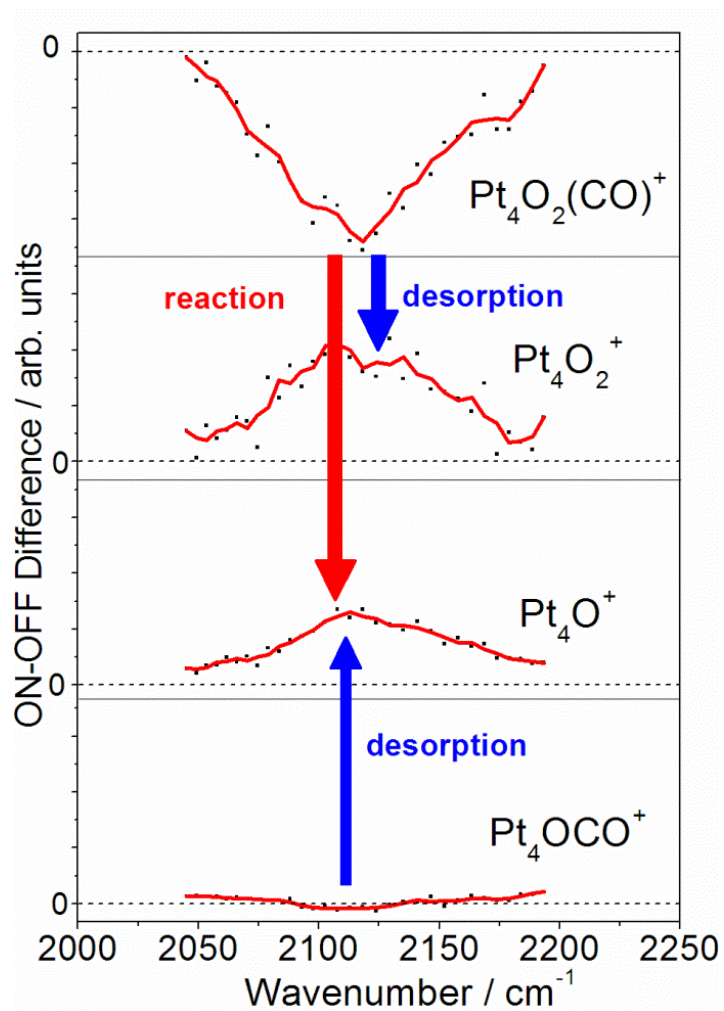
# Now, including CO: $\text{Pt}_4\text{O}_2(\text{CO})\text{Ar}^+$



Linearly bound CO molecule

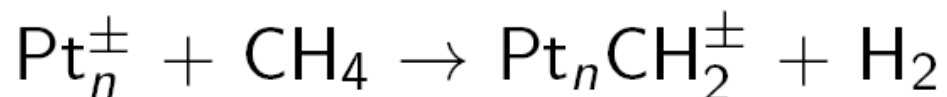
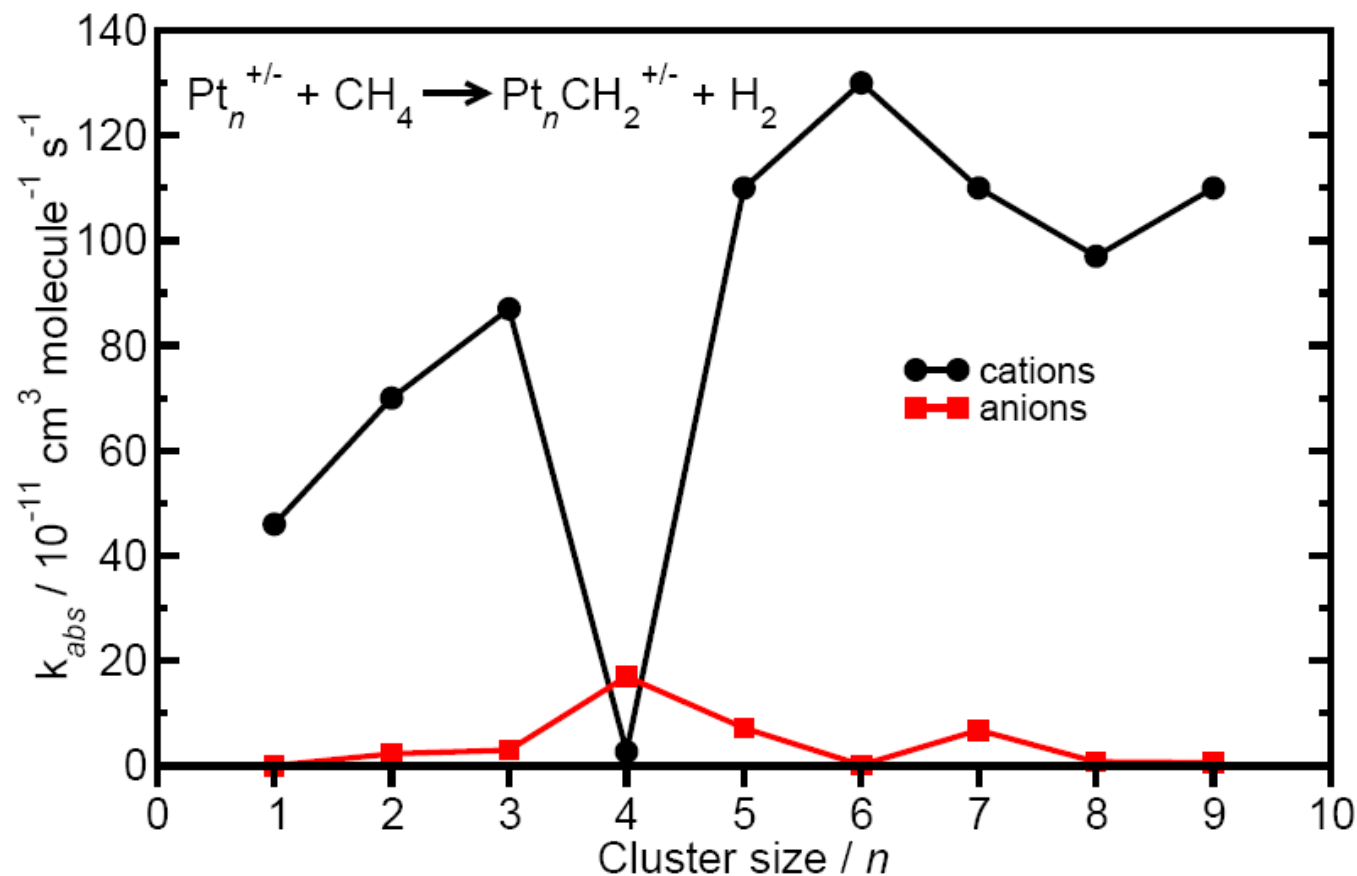
2 isomers: a) with bridging O  
b) with an  $\text{O}_2^{2-}$  (peroxo) unit

# IR heating of the CO complex induces the reaction



possible pathway for formation of  $\text{CO}_2$

# Methane activation on platinum clusters

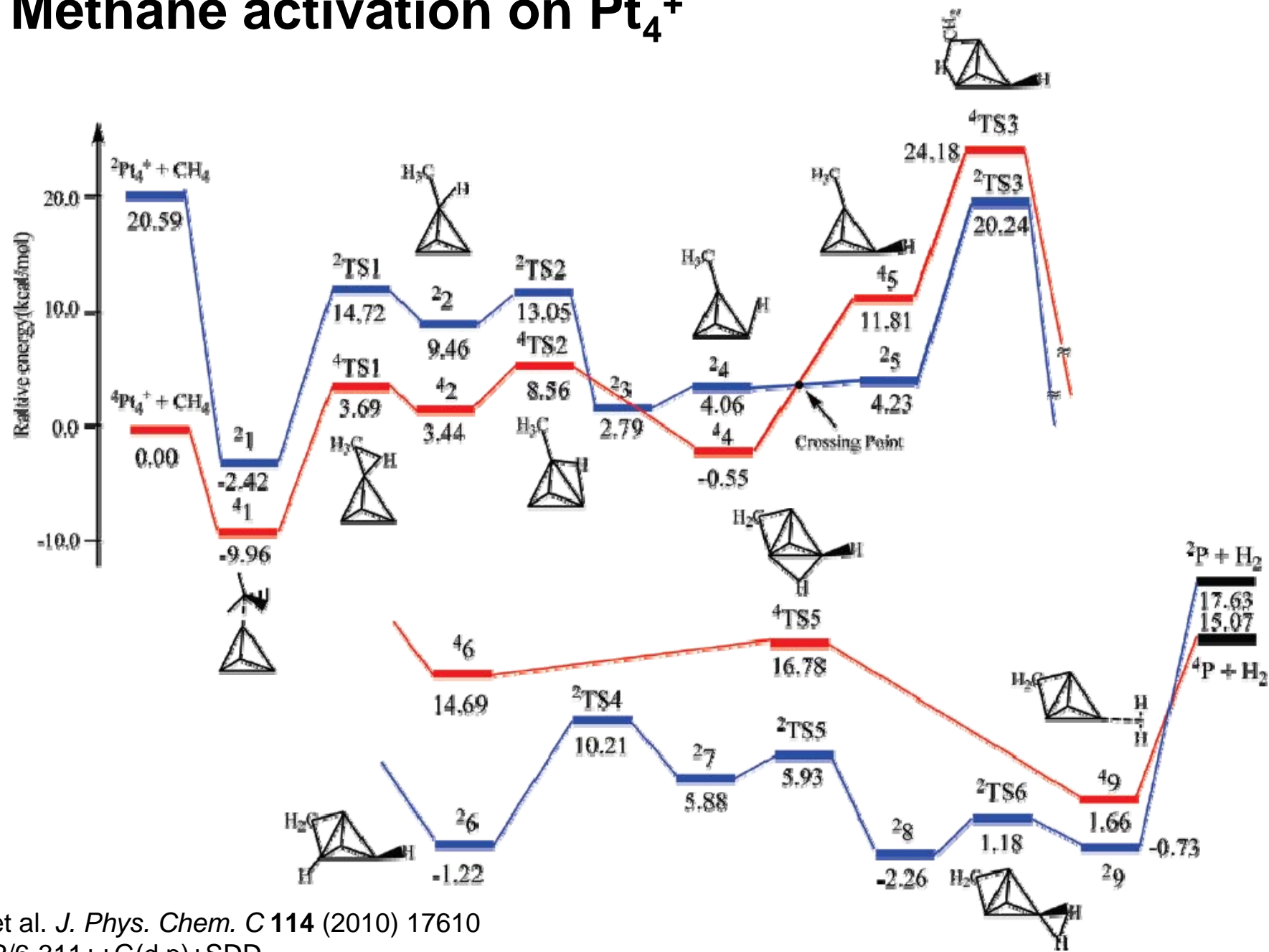


U. Achatz et al. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **320** (2000) 53.

K. Koszinowski, D. Schröder, H. Schwarz, *J. Phys. Chem. A* **107** (2003) 4999.

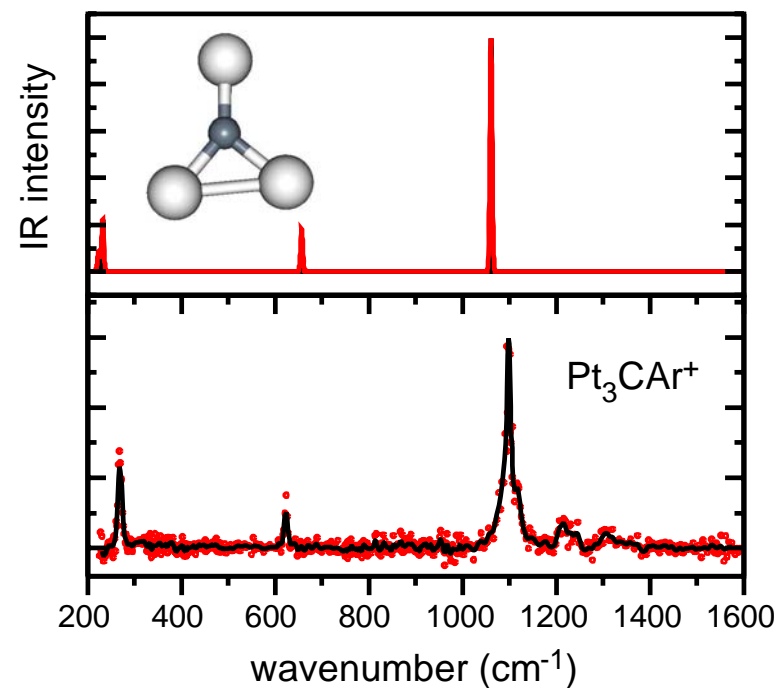
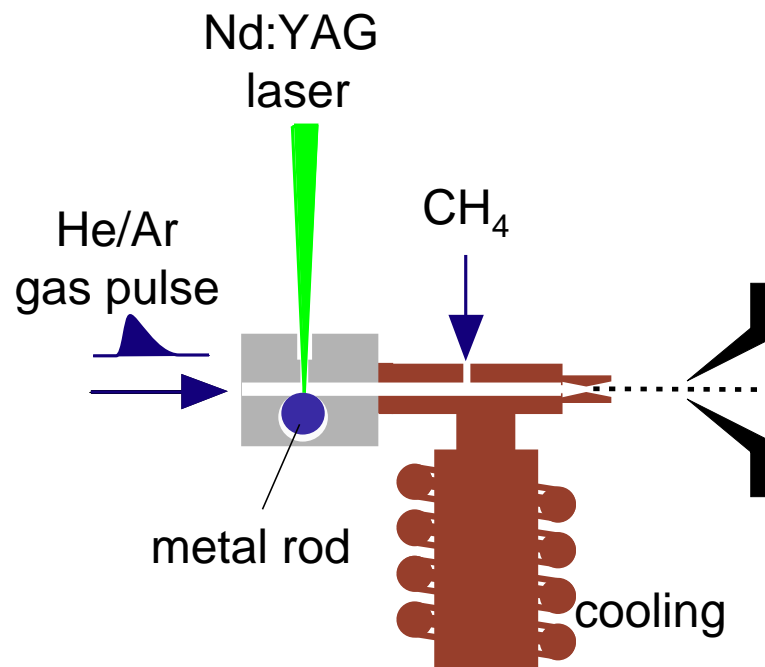
G. Kummerlöwe et al., *Int. J. Mass Spectr.* **254** (2006) 183.

# Methane activation on Pt<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>

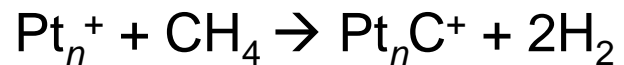


L. Lv et al. *J. Phys. Chem. C* **114** (2010) 17610  
 B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)+SDD

# Experiment I: introducing CH<sub>4</sub> in the reactor

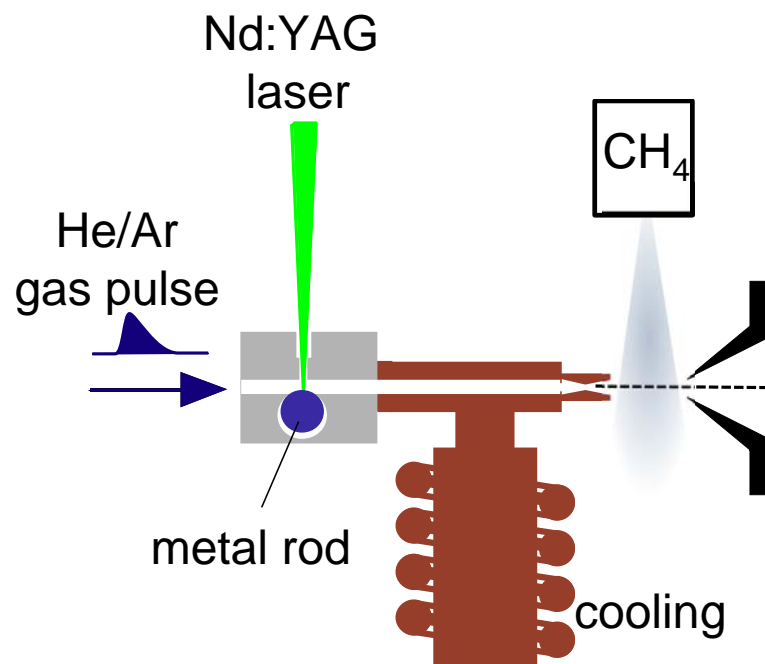


Complete dehydrogenation:





# Experiment II: CH<sub>4</sub> in a crossed beam

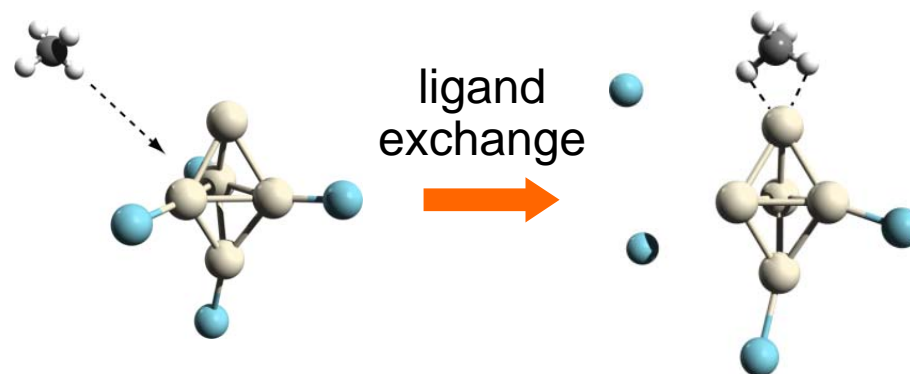
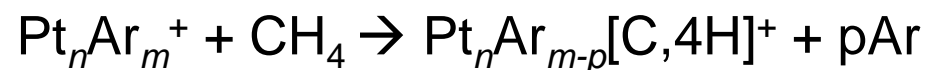


Single collision conditions,  
similar to FT-ICR-MS

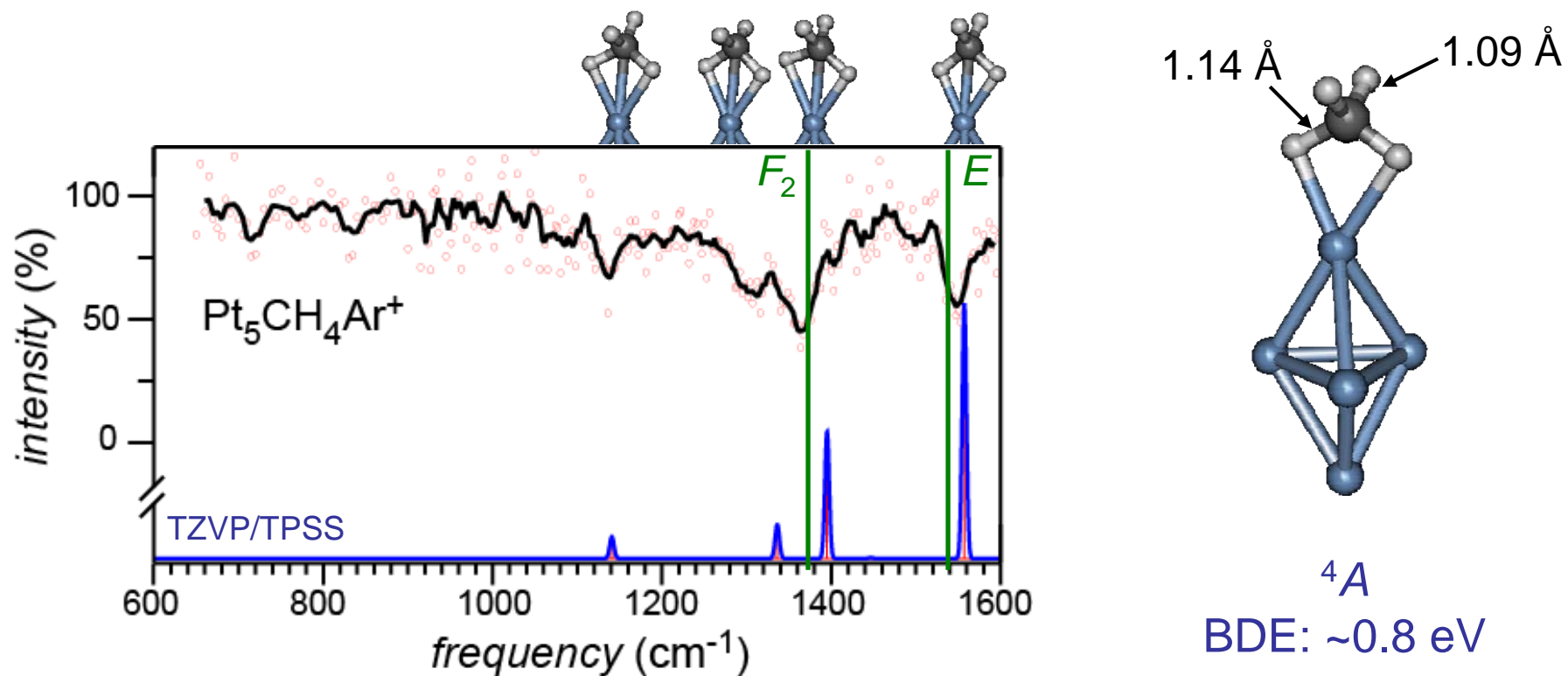
**Pure Pt clusters:**



**Ar complexes:**

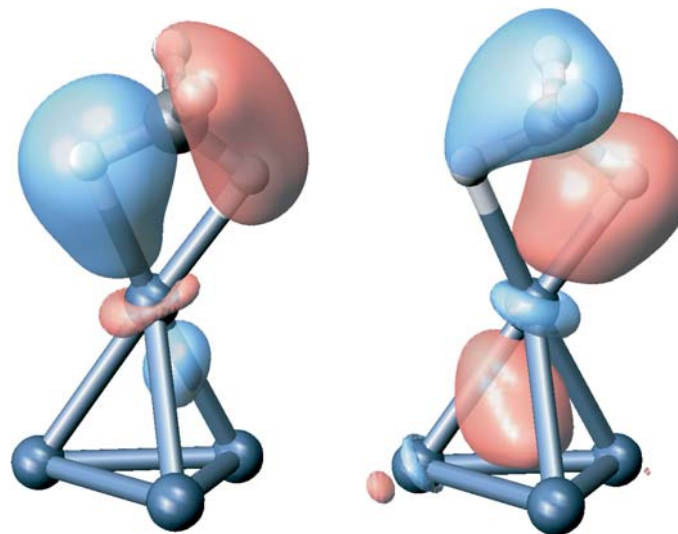
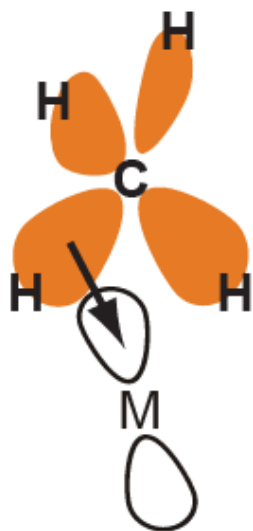


# Complexes of $Pt_n^+$ with methane



Strongly bound molecular complex with activated C-H bonds for  $Pt_{3,4,5}^+$

## C-H $\rightarrow$ Pt binding

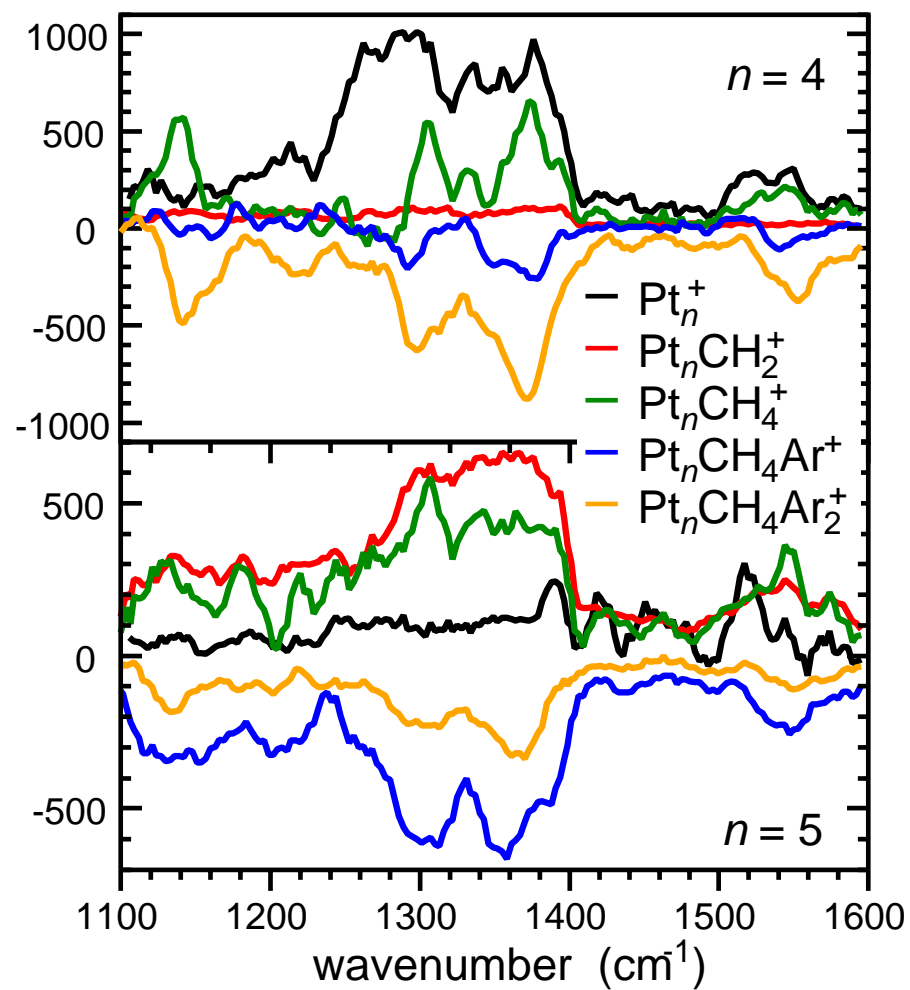
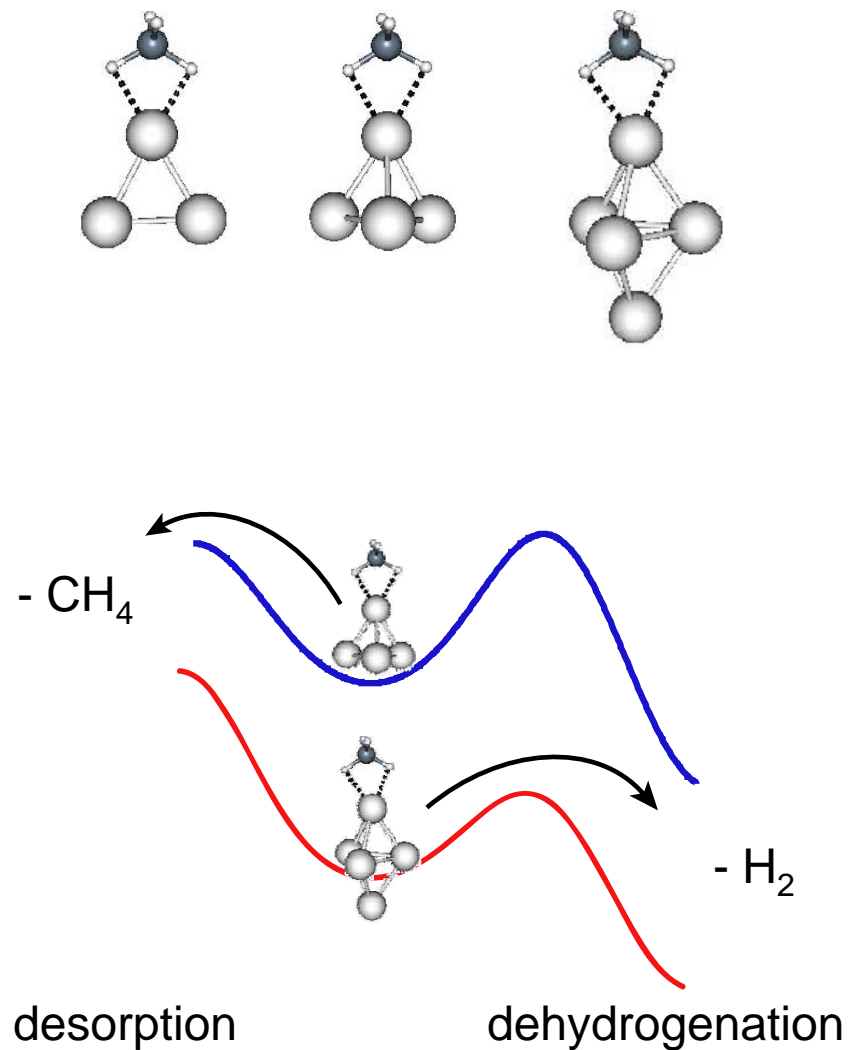


“Agostic” bond: 3-center 2-electron binding

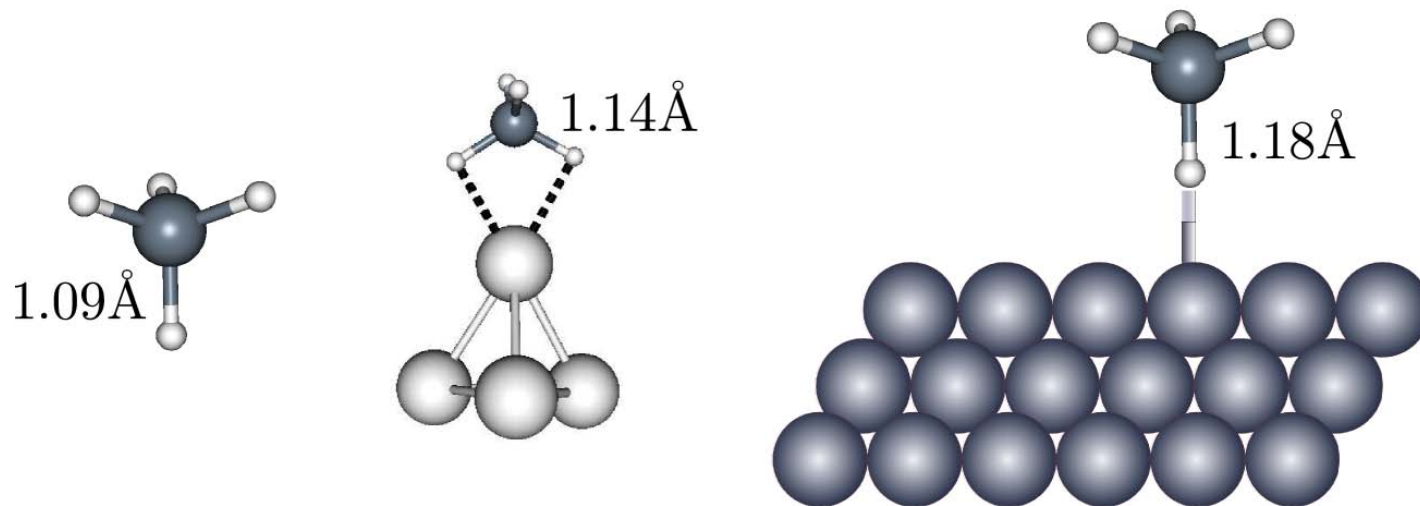
$\angle$ C-H-Pt is nearly  $90^\circ$

Strength is typically 40-60 kJ/mol

# Nothing special for $\text{Pt}_4^+$ ?



# Comparison to Pt surfaces



- Different binding motif on extended surface
- C–H bond more activated on surface than cluster

# Summary

Physical and chemical properties of small metal clusters (<100 atoms) are often strongly *size-dependent*.

Clusters are suitable *model systems* to develop and test concepts that can be transferred to deposited particles.

Compositions of cluster complexes in the gas phase can be unambiguously determined; reacting species are therefore clearly defined.

Size and composition specific characterization (kinetics, thermochemistry, spectroscopy etc.) is possible.



# The Team

## **FHI Berlin**

Gerard Meijer

Marko Haertelt

Dan J. Harding

Christian Kerpal

John Bowlan

Alex Woodham

Philipp Gruene

Jonathan T. Lyon

## **NRC, Ottawa**

David Rayner

## **FELIX/FELICE**

Britta Redlich

Lex van der Meer

*FOM Institute*

*Rijnhuizen, NL*