

WEEKLY | NEWS IDEAS INNOVATION

| THE BEST JOBS IN SCIENCE

NewScientist

6 November 2004

WELCOME TO **ATTOWORLD**

Where a second lasts the
age of the universe



ARE YOU A

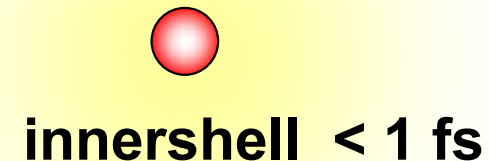
“...the attoworld is as far from our experience
as the age and size of the universe...”

Attosecond processes in atoms

Rydberg states $n > 1$ fs ... μs

Heisenberg:
time $\leftrightarrow$ energy : $\Delta t \sim h/\Delta E$

Valence $n = 1 \sim 1$ fs


innershell < 1 fs

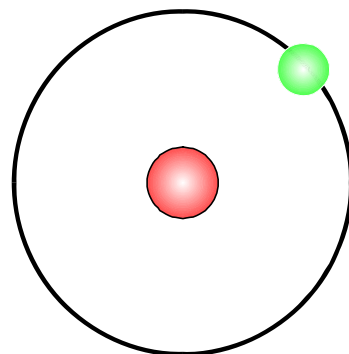
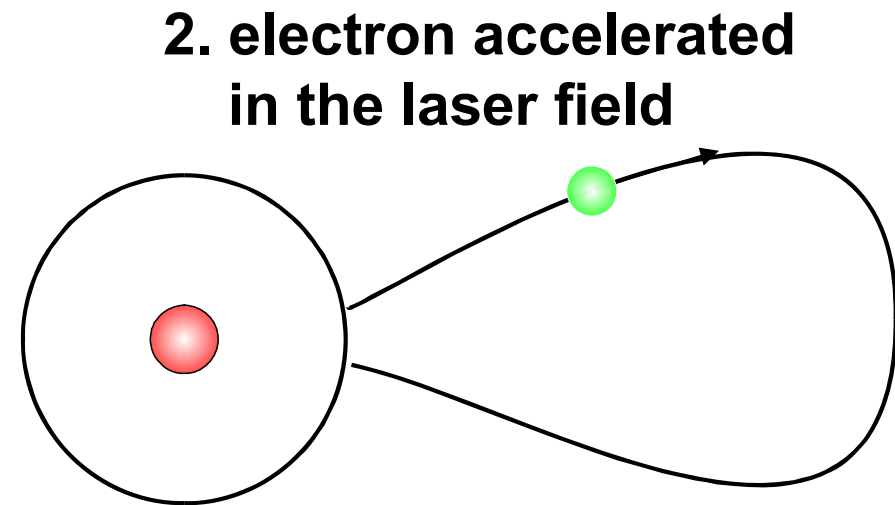
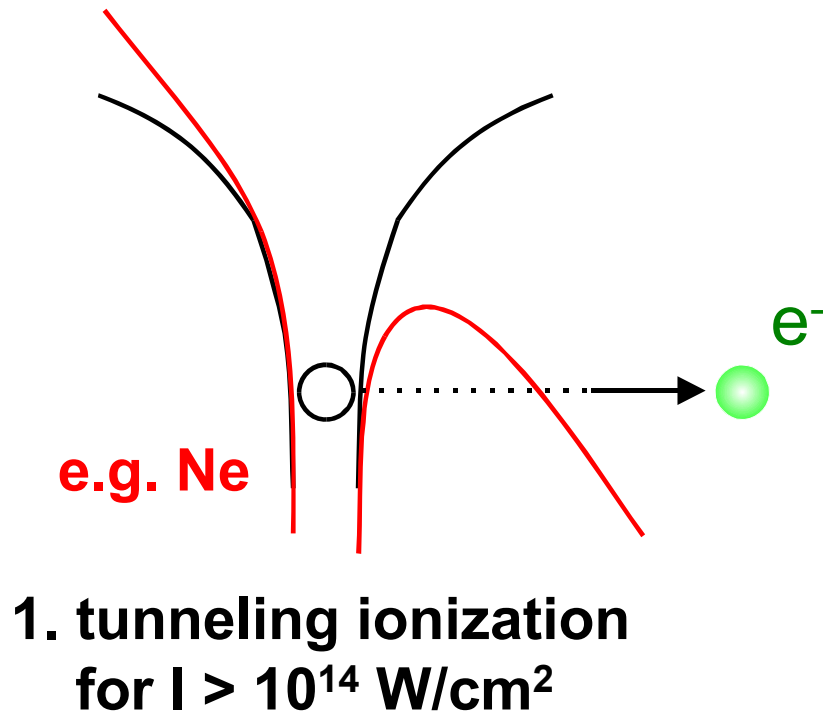
attosecond dynamics:
innershell processes

however **visible** light: $T \sim 2$ fs



need: attosecond **x-ray** pulses

High harmonic generation (HHG)



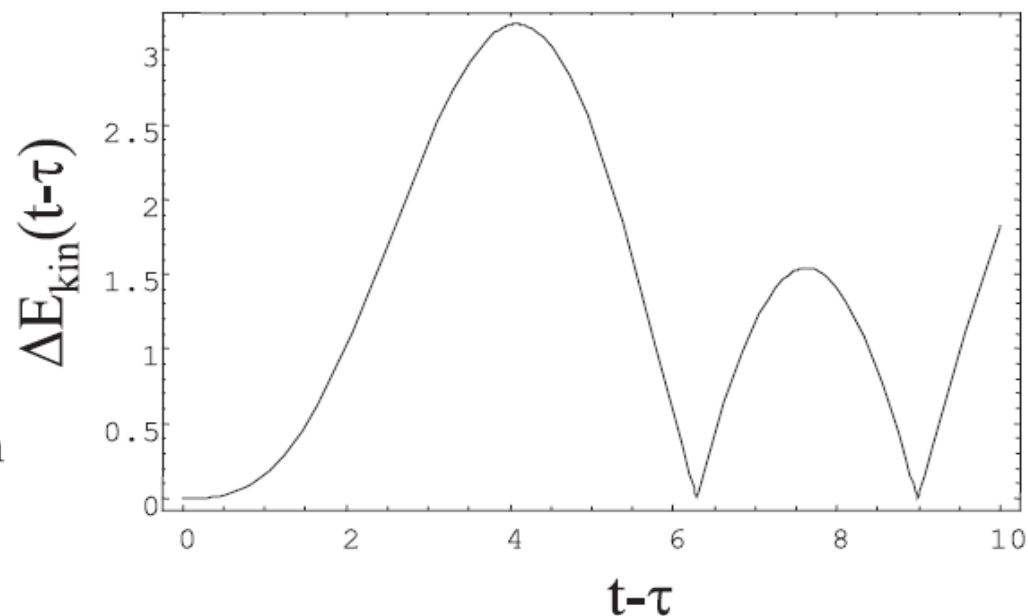
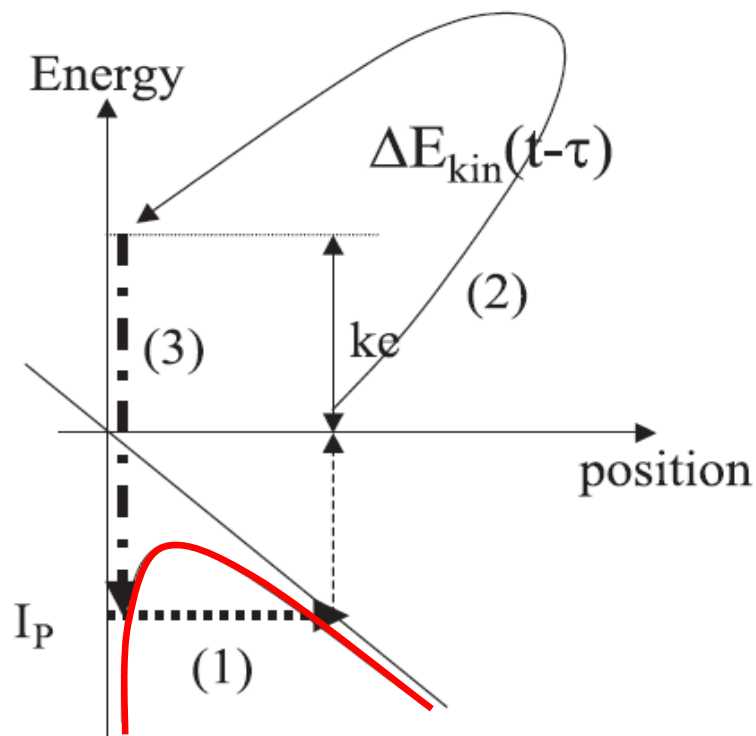
3. recombination with ion core and
emission of high energy photon



$$h\nu_x = n * h\nu_{\text{Laser}} \quad (n \text{ odd})$$

3 step model for HHG

Agostini, DiMauro, Rep. Prog. Phys. **67** (2004) 813

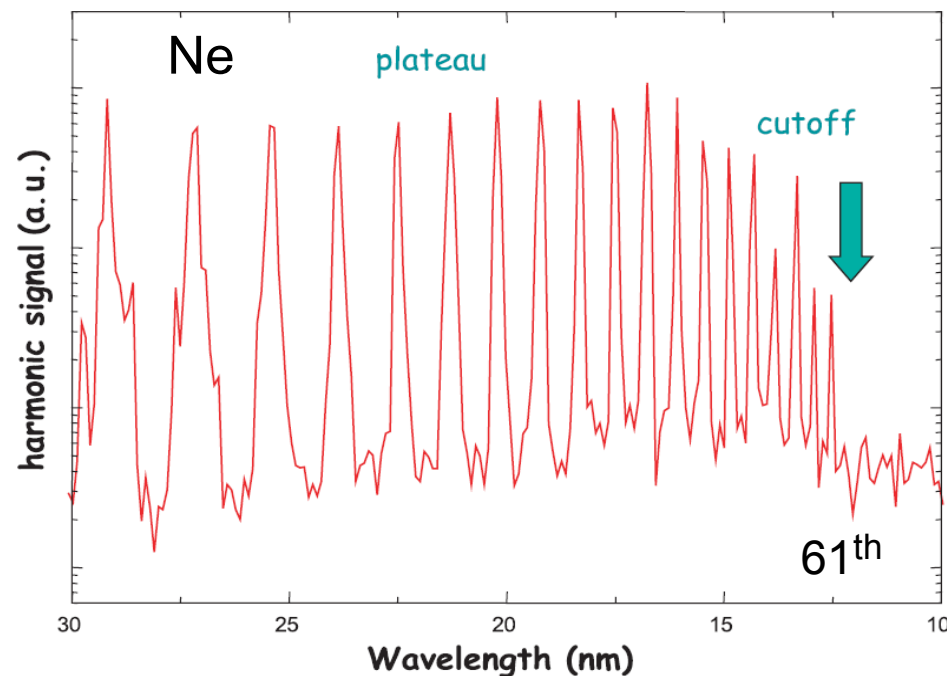


HHG cutoff determined by maximum available energy

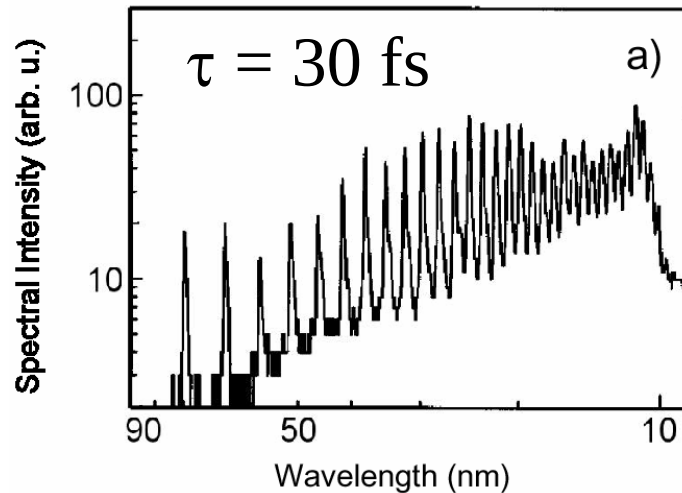
$$E_{\max} = 3.2 U_p + I_p$$

with ponderomotive potential

$$U_p = e^2 E(t)^2 / 4m\omega_L^2$$



„long“ fs laser pulses : periodic process

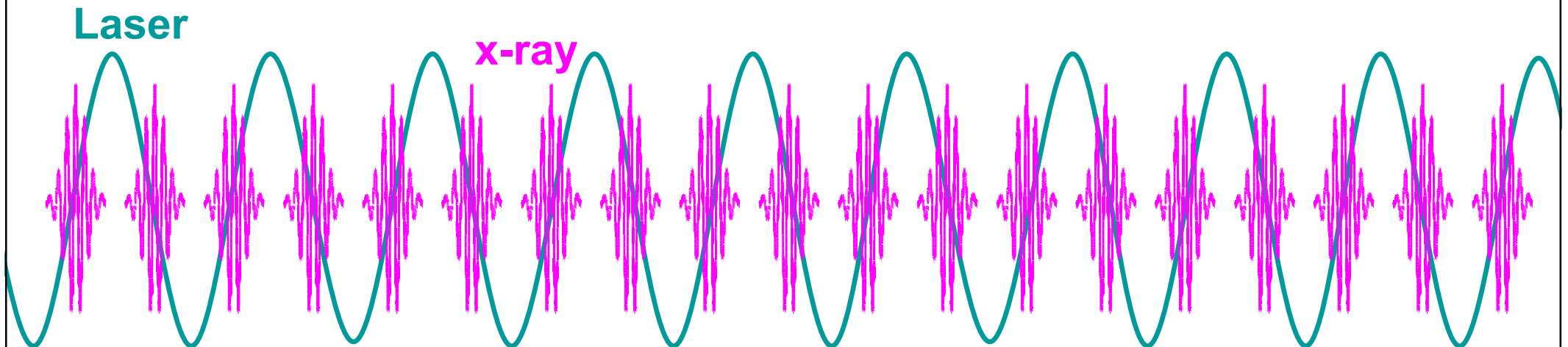


**periodic
spectrum**

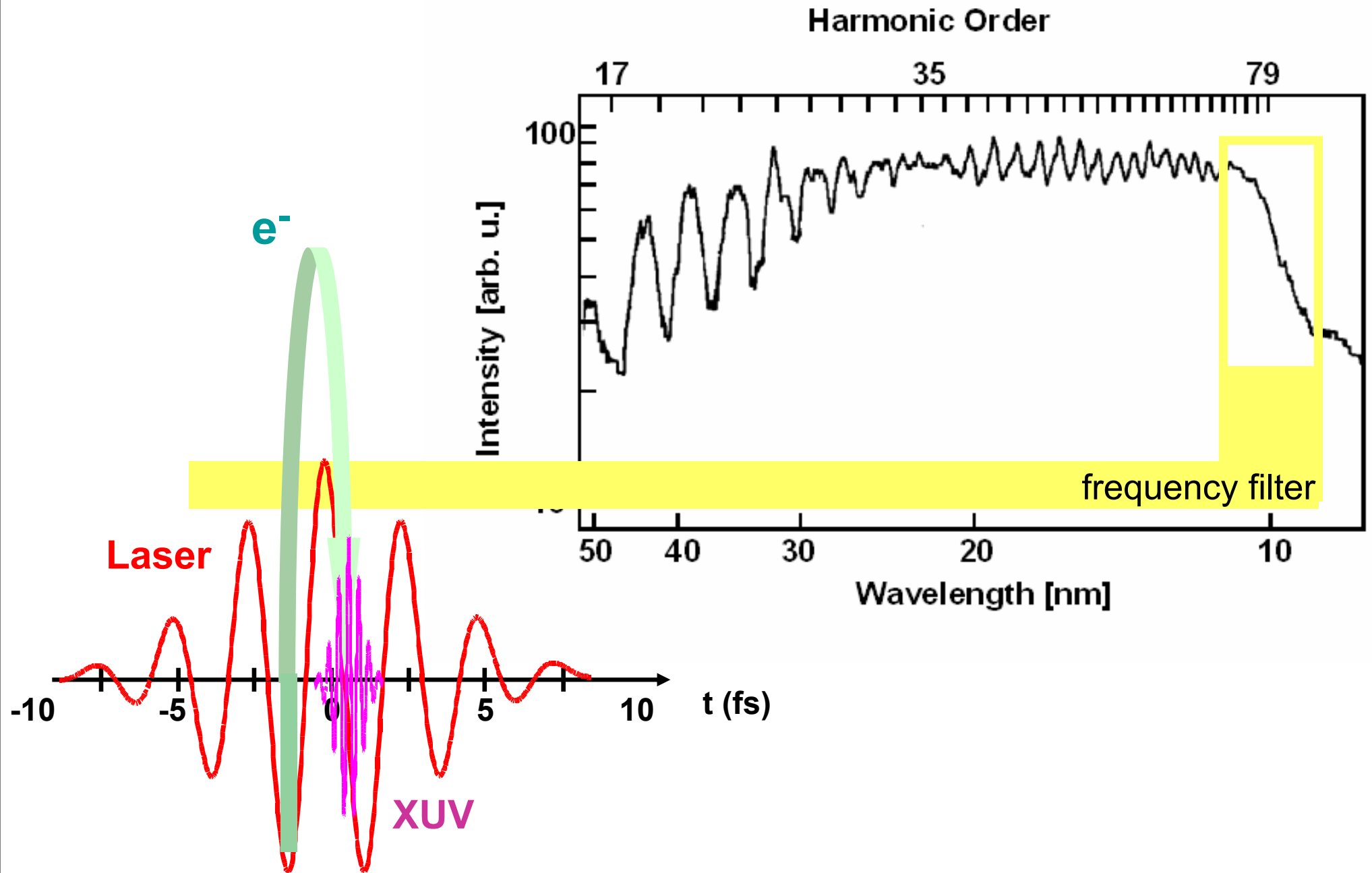
$$h\nu_{\text{XUV}} = n * h\nu_{\text{Laser}}$$

$$n \ 3... > 500$$

train of x-ray pulses

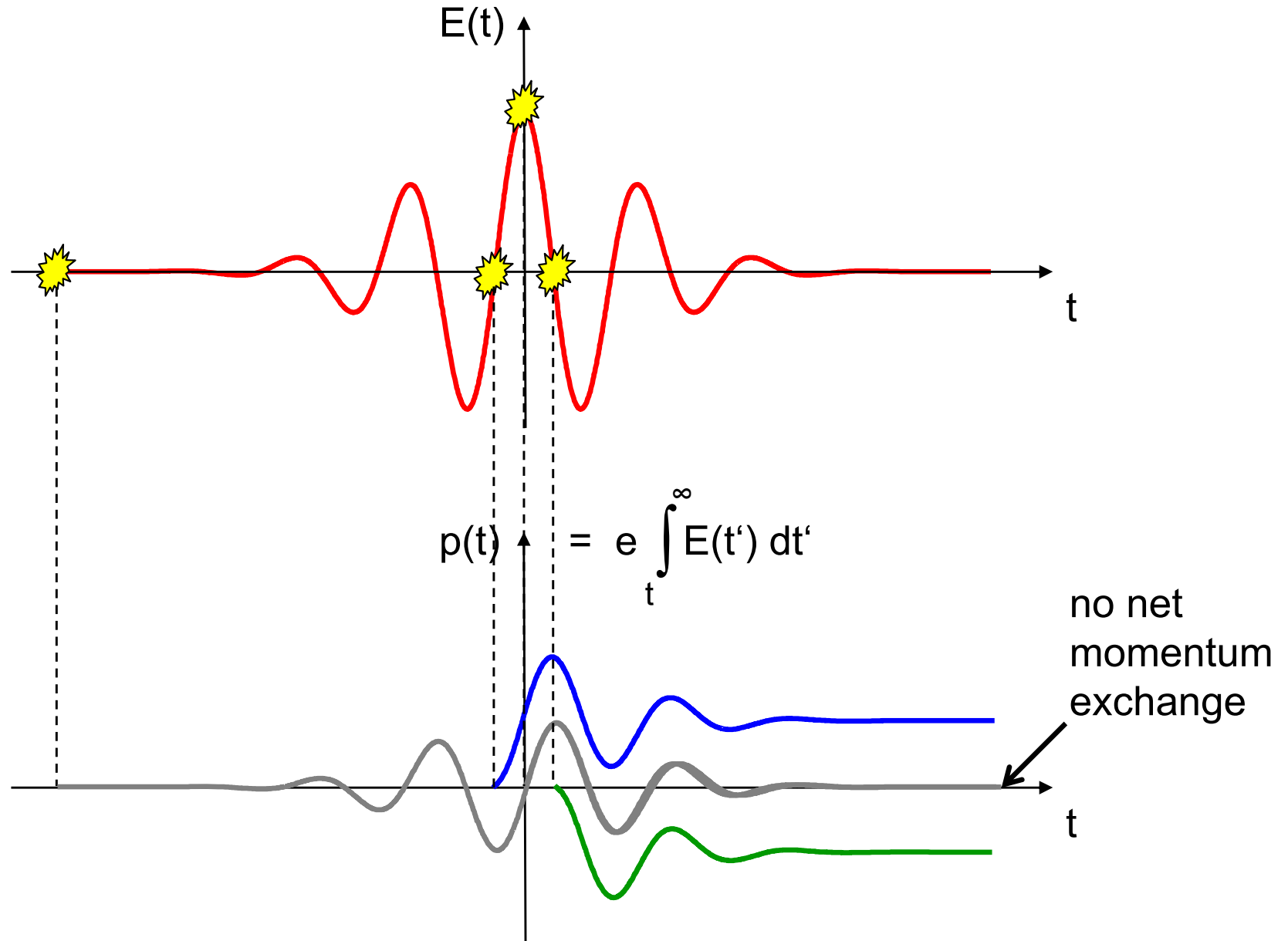


„few-cycle“ laser pulses: single attosecond flash

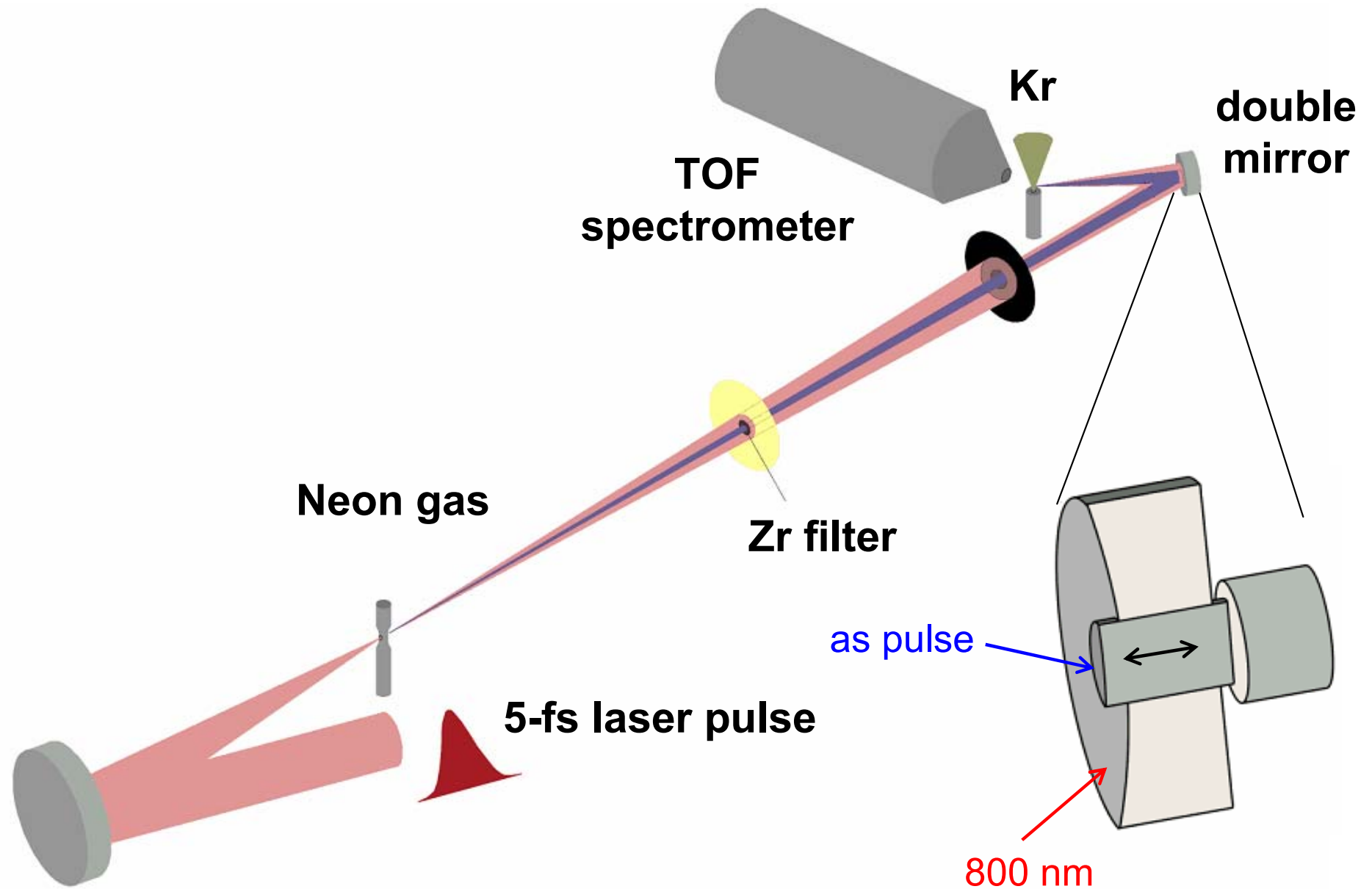


Electron injection in a laser field:

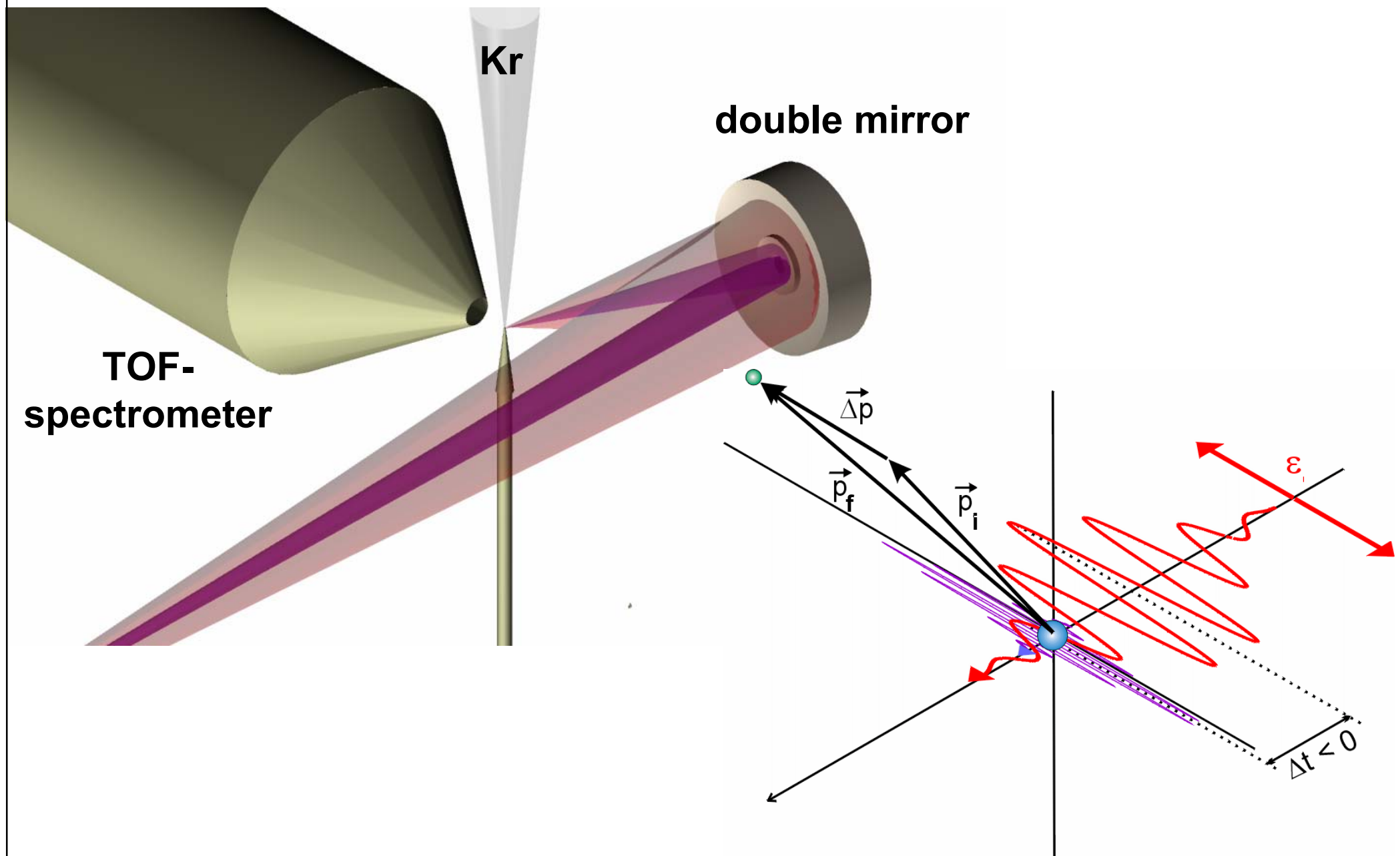
→ momentum exchange between light and electron



Setup for time-resolved electron spectroscopy



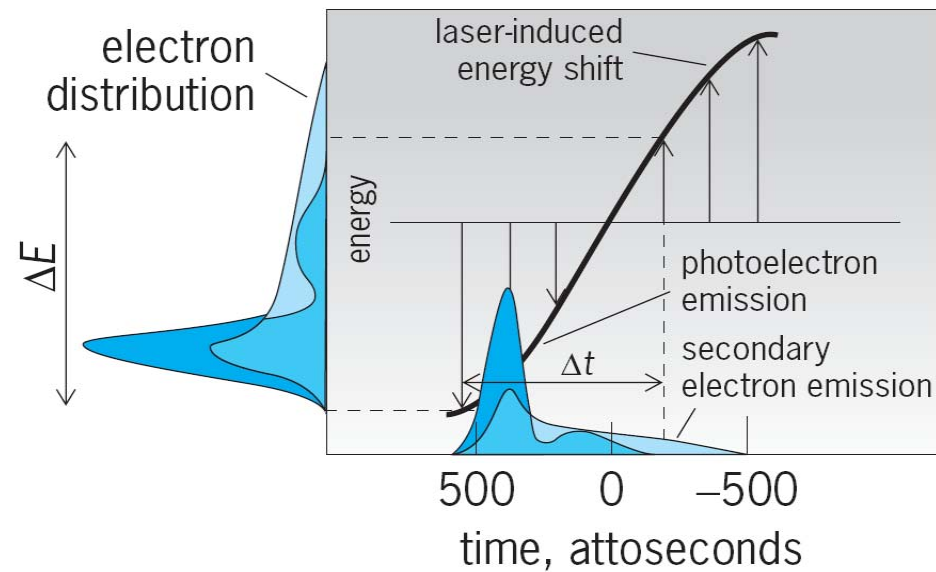
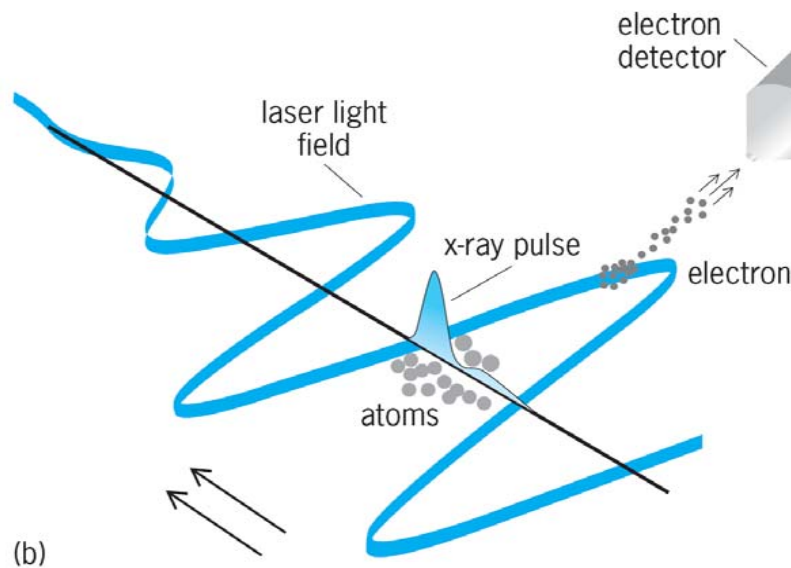
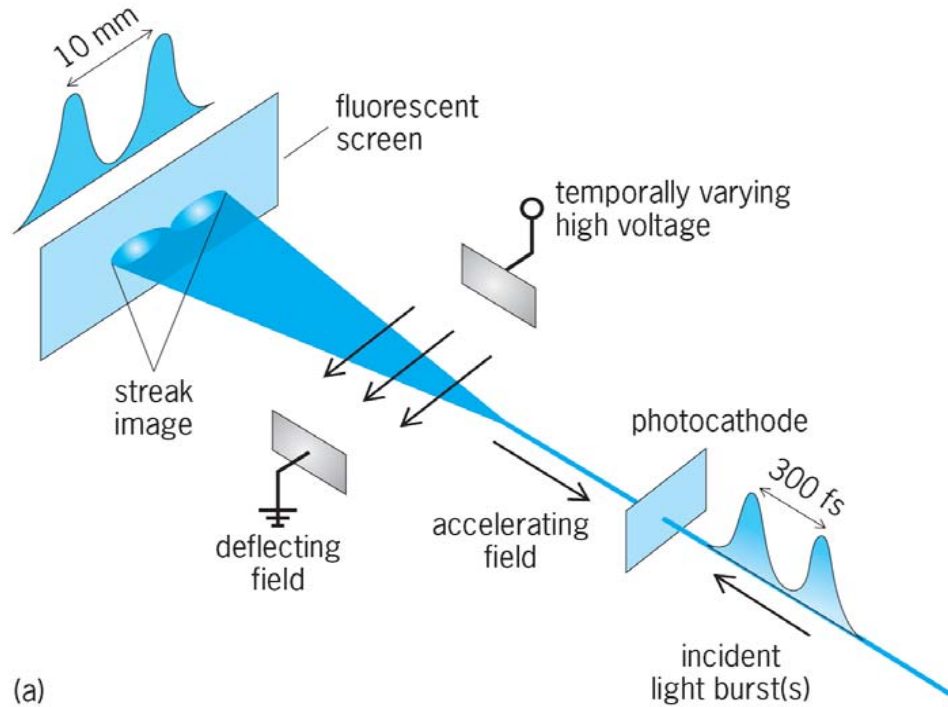
momentum transfer $\rightarrow$ kinetic energy shift



The Attosecond Streak Camera

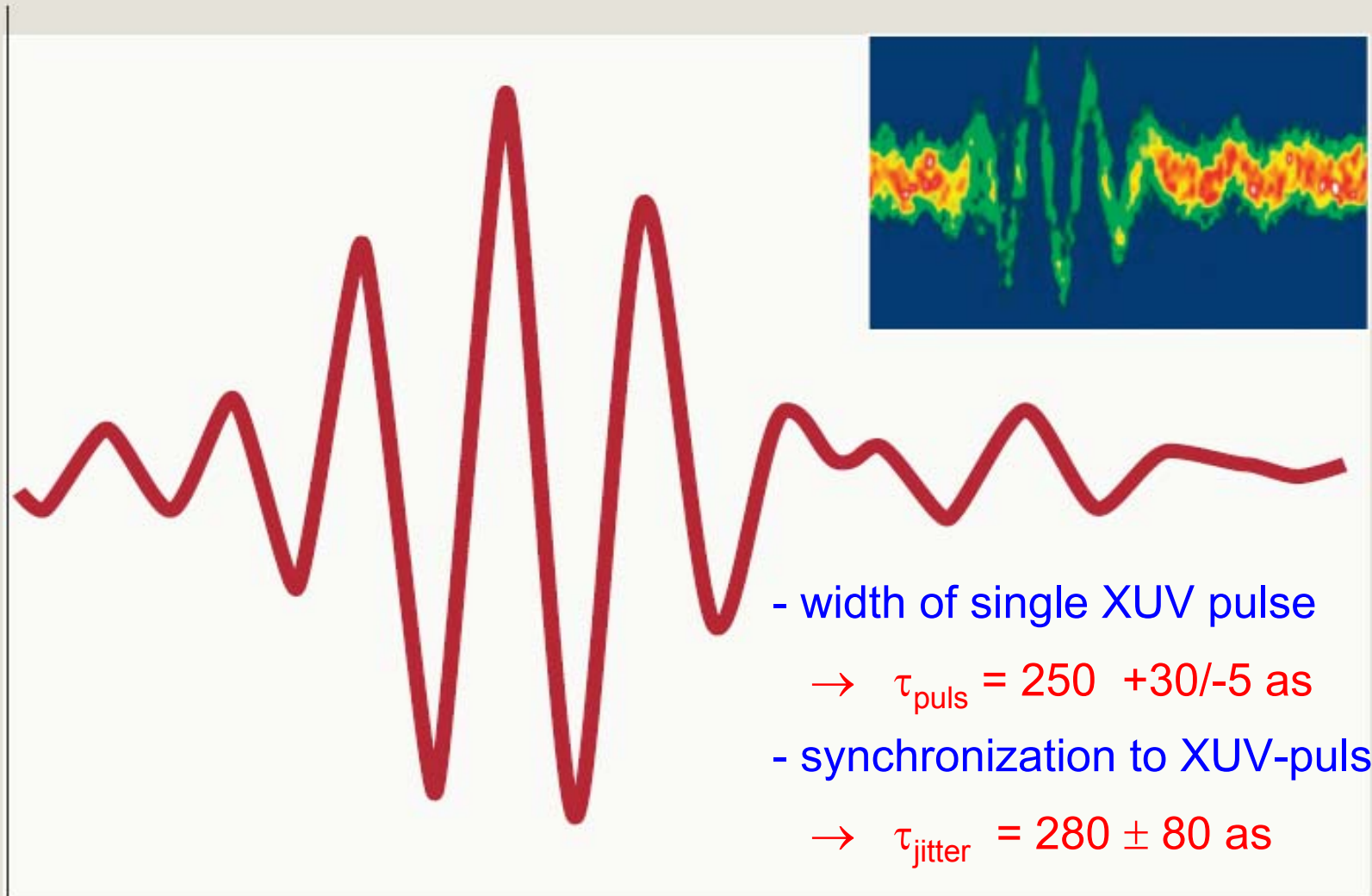
Principle

R. Kienberger, F. Krausz
McGraw-Hill Yearbook 2006



Light metrology: direct snapshot of the light field

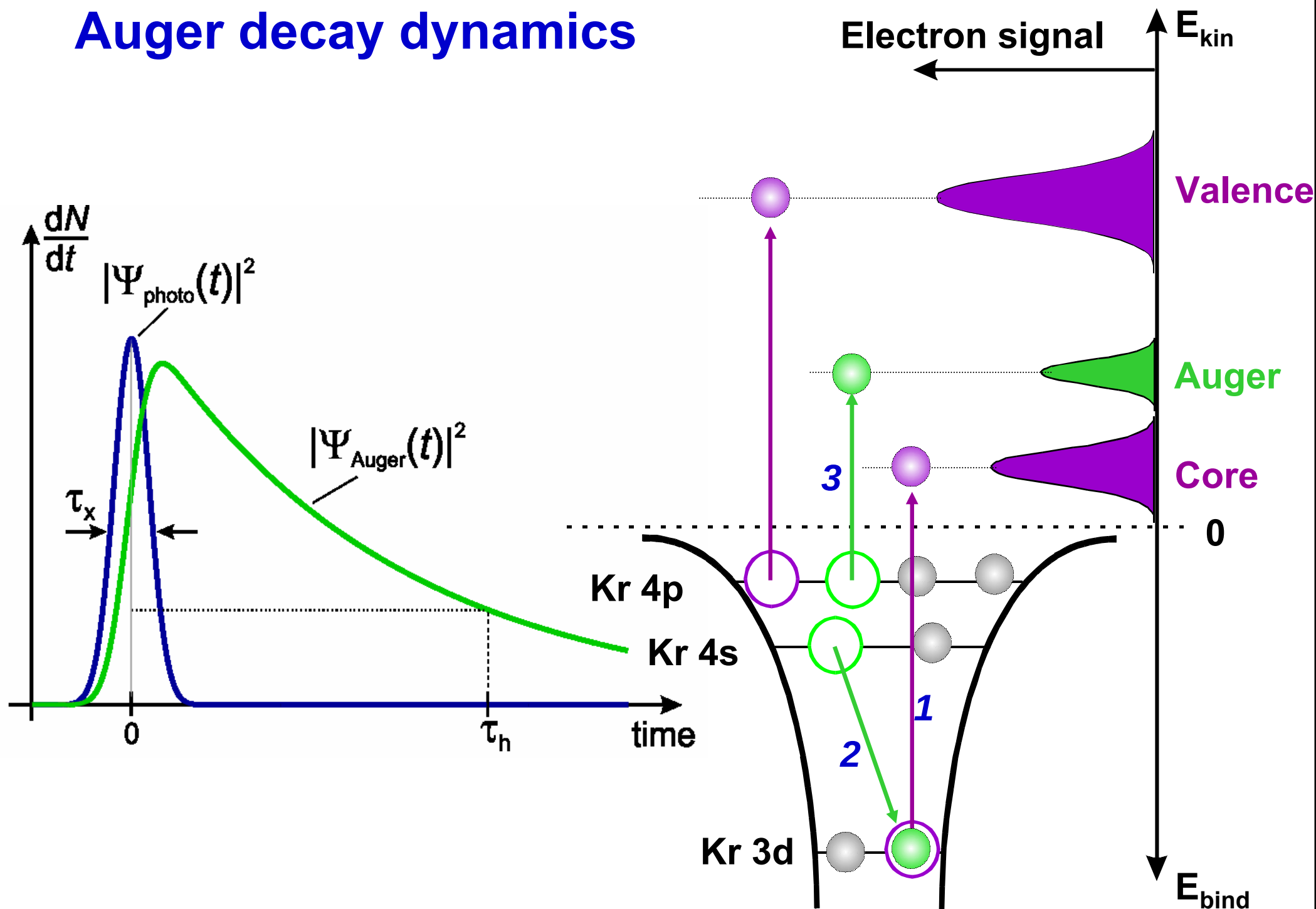
Electric field of light



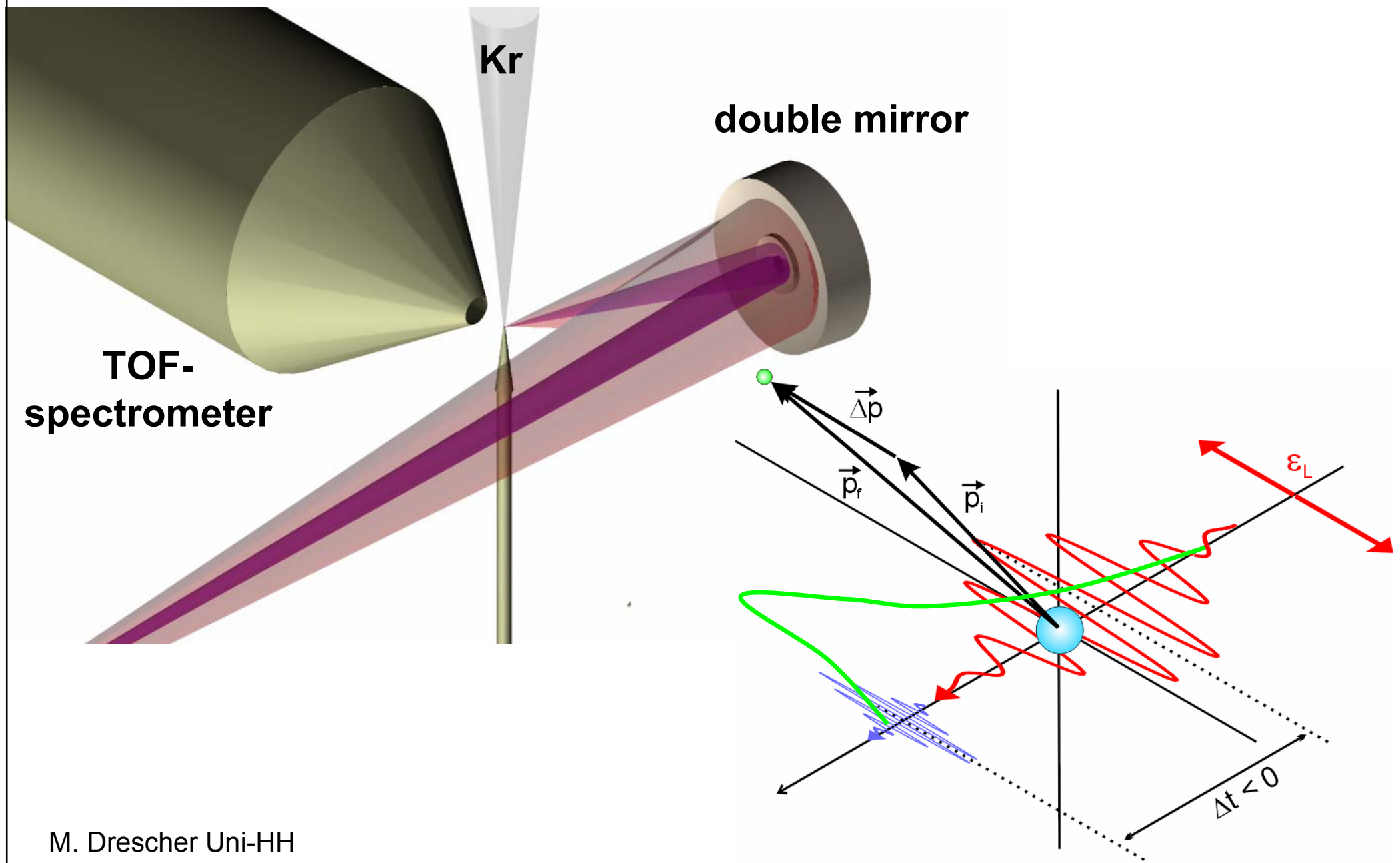
Time t

SOURCE: SCIENCE

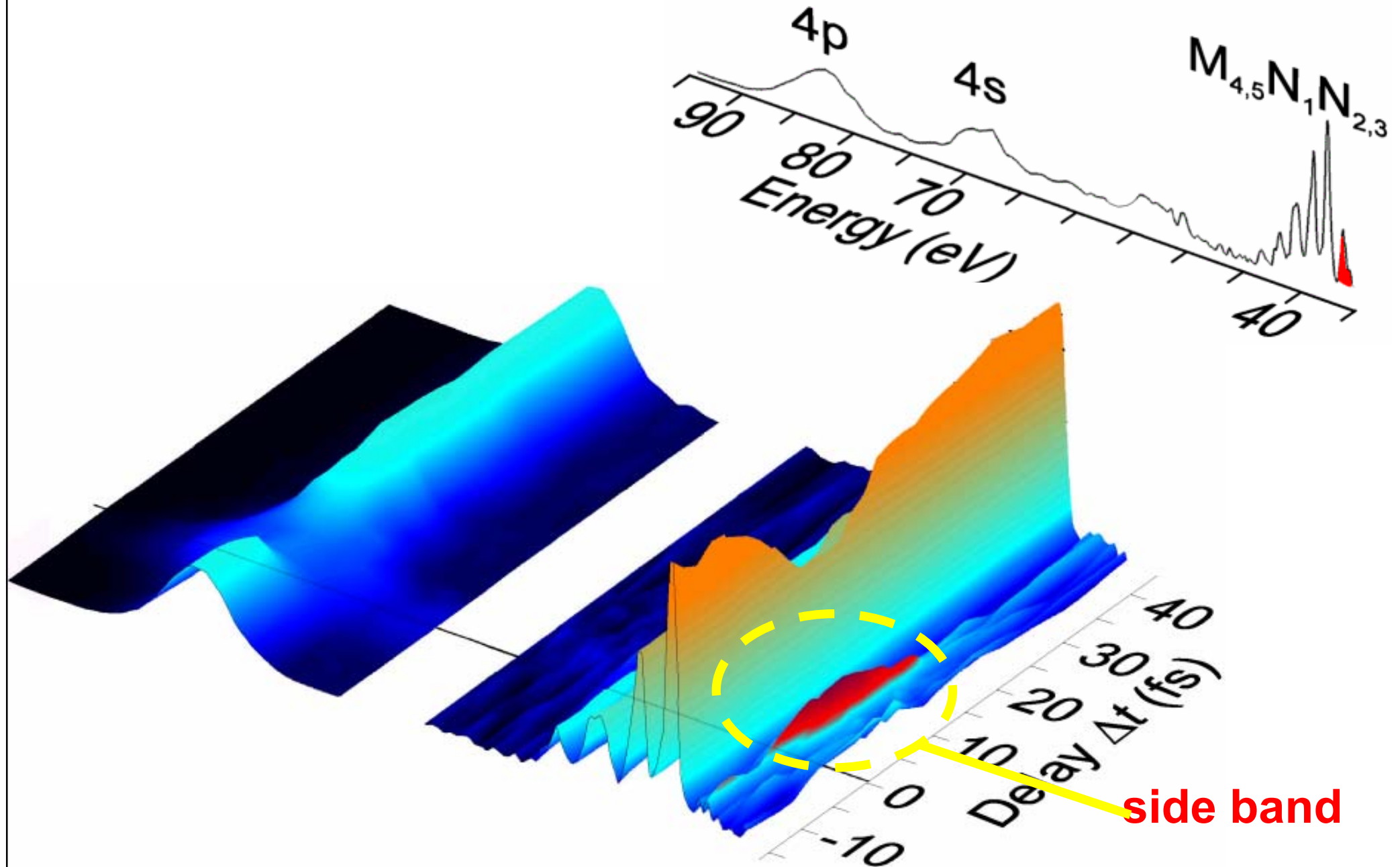
Auger decay dynamics



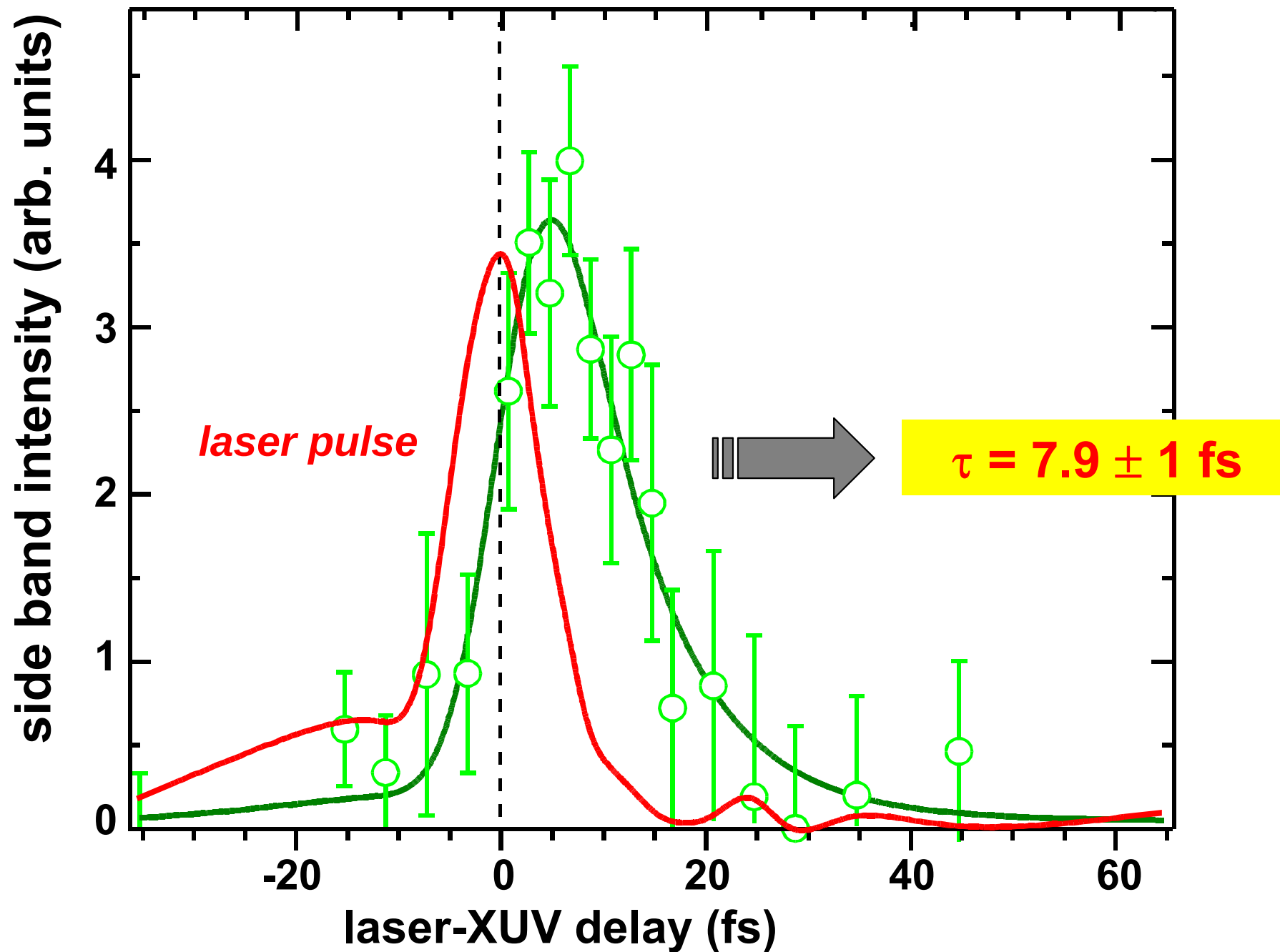
Probing the Auger electron wave packet



time-resolved Auger/photoelectron spectra of Kr



time evolution of Kr side band



Introduction

- Non-adiabatic processes at surfaces: Chemicurrents

Surface femtochemistry

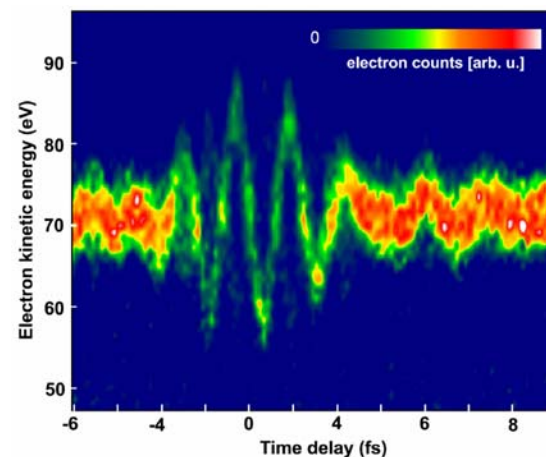
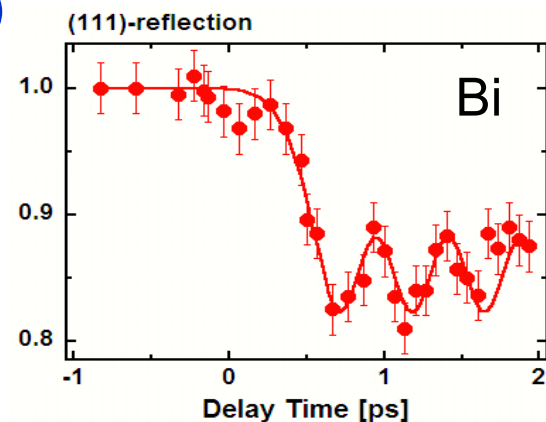
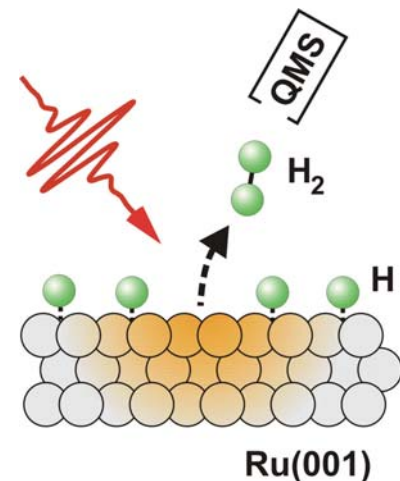
- Surface dynamics with electronic friction
- Example: Associative desorption of H_2 from Ru(0001)

Time-resolved probe of structural dynamics

- Femtosecond laser spectroscopy
- Time-resolved x-ray diffraction
- Non-thermal melting and coherent phonon excitation
- Time-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy

Attosecond laser spectroscopy

- High harmonic and attosecond pulse generation
- Electron streak camera and Auger decay



Acknowledgements

Time-resolved x-ray diffraction: **Klaus Sokolowsky-Tinten** (*Univ. Duisburg-Essen*)

Atto-second spectroscopy: **Markus Drescher** (*Univ. Hamburg*)

H₂/Ru femtochemistry

Coworkers

S. Wagner, Ch. Frischkorn

Gd + TaS₂

Coworkers

**L. Perfetti, M. Lisowski,
P. Loukakos, U. Bovensiepen**

Collaborations

M. Rutkovski, H. Zacharias

Univ. Münster

A. Luntz, M. Persson

Univ. Odense/Liverpool

H. Berger

EPFL Lausanne

S. Biermann, A. Georges

Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau



Funding through DFG (Sfb 450, SPP 1093, SPP 1133), AvH, EU