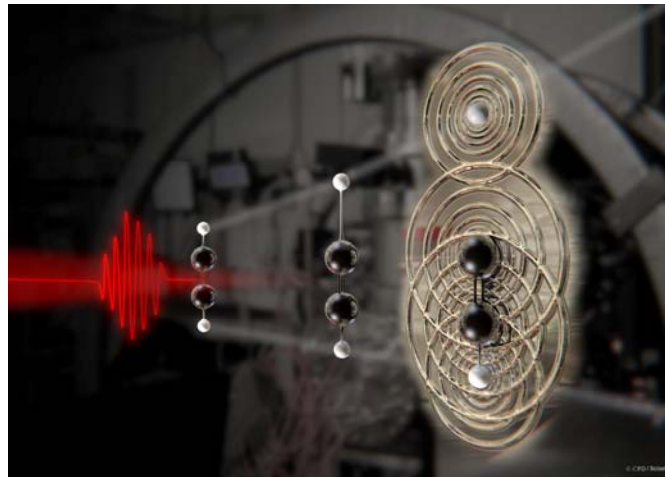


## Imaging molecular bond breaking with one electron



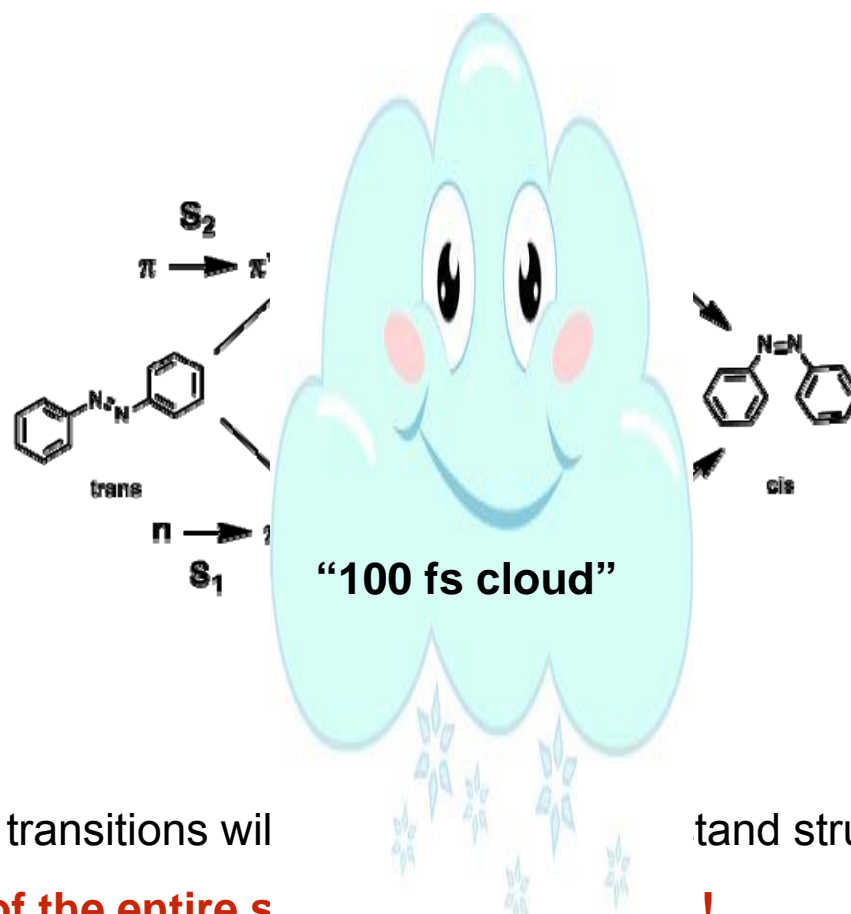
**B. Wolter, M. G. Pullen, A.-T. Le, M. Baudisch, K. Doblhoff-Dier, A. Senftleben, M. Hemmer, C. D. Schröter, J. Ullrich, T. Pfeifer, R. Moshhammer, S. Gräfe, O. Vendrell, C. D. Lin, J. Biegert**



ICFO - The Institute of Photonic Sciences  
The Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology  
08860 Castelldefels (Barcelona), Spain  
[atto.icfo.eu](http://atto.icfo.eu)



# Motivation for our research



How does this work?

Probing some electronic transitions will

and structural change

**Image transformation of the entire s..... !**

A.A. Beharry, G.A. Woolley Chem. Soc. Rev. 40, 4422 (2011)

# Atomic-scale imaging with photons

**Tools are needed to scrutinize electronic dynamics on its native length and timescale.**

## • Ultrafast X-Ray Diffraction (UXD)

C.W. Siders et al. Science 86, 1340(1999)

- X-Ray Synchrotron / FEL: 100 fs - 10 fs, 1.9Å

**M-B€**  
**synchronization / random pulses**  
radiation doses

- keV High Harmonic Generation: as - fs

Ch. Spielmann et al. Science 278, 661 (1997)

T. Popmintchev et al. Science 336, 1287 (2012)

**low yield**    wavelengths long  
**broadband imaging problem**

# Atomic-scale imaging with electrons

## Ultrafast Electron Diffraction/Microscopy (UED/UEM)

M. Dantus et al. J. Phys. Chem. 98, 2782 (1994) B.J. Siwick et al. Science 302, 1382 (2003)

W.E. King et al. J. Appl. Phys. 97, 111101 (2005) V.A. Lobastov et al. PNAS 102, 7069 (2005) and many others...

**Challenges:** Coulomb repulsion (temporal resolution)  
Incoherent scattering (S/N - single molecule)

### Solids

C. Gerbig et al. New J. Phys. 17, 043050 (2015)

M. Müller et al. ACS Photonics, 3, 611 (2016)

A. Ryabov et al. Science 353, 374 (2016)

B. Schröder et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. 107, 231105 (2016)

**~10 fs, pm**

### Molecules (ensemble avg'ed)

C.J. Hensley et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 133202

(2012)  
J. Yang et al. Nature Commun. 7, 11232 (2016)

J. Yang et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 153002 (2016)

Y. Ito et al. Struct. Dyn. 3, 034303 (2016)

**~100 fs, pm**

### Single molecules

M. Pullen et al., Nature Commun. 6, 7262 (2015)

M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 7, 11922

(2016)  
B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

**<1 fs, pm**

### Diatomics

M. Meckel et al., Science 320, 1478–1482 (2008)

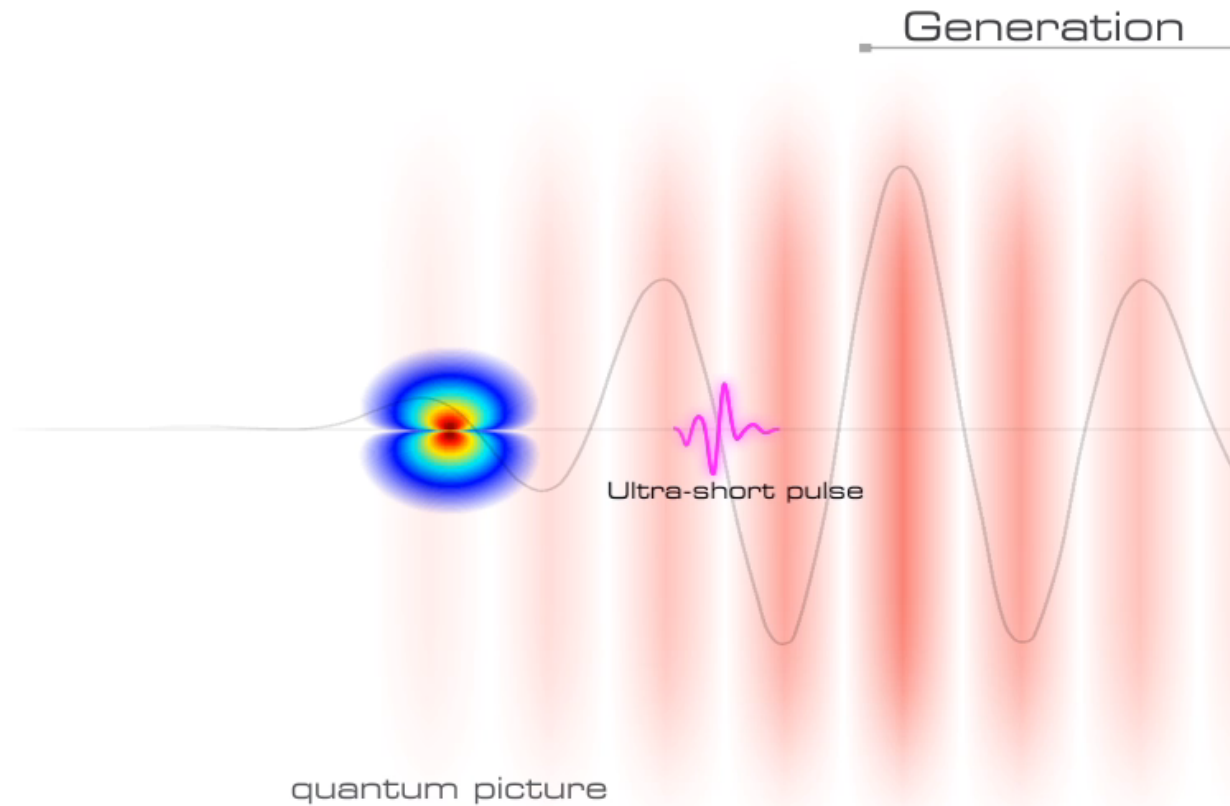
C. Blaga et al. Nature 483, 7388 (2012)

**<10 fs, pm**

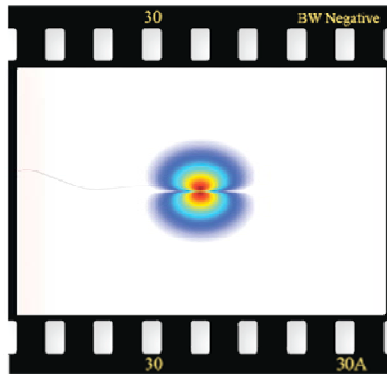
R.J.D. Miller Faraday Discuss. 194, 777 (2016)

# Laser-driven recollision

ICFO<sup>R</sup>



# Field Driven Recollision



“Field free”

... calculated with Qprop - thanks to D. Bauer, Rostock

Ponderomotive energy:  $U_p \propto I \cdot \lambda^2$

Photons:  $3.2U_p$

Electrons:  $10U_p$

**Why it is interesting:**

- **Sub-cycle electron / photon pulses**

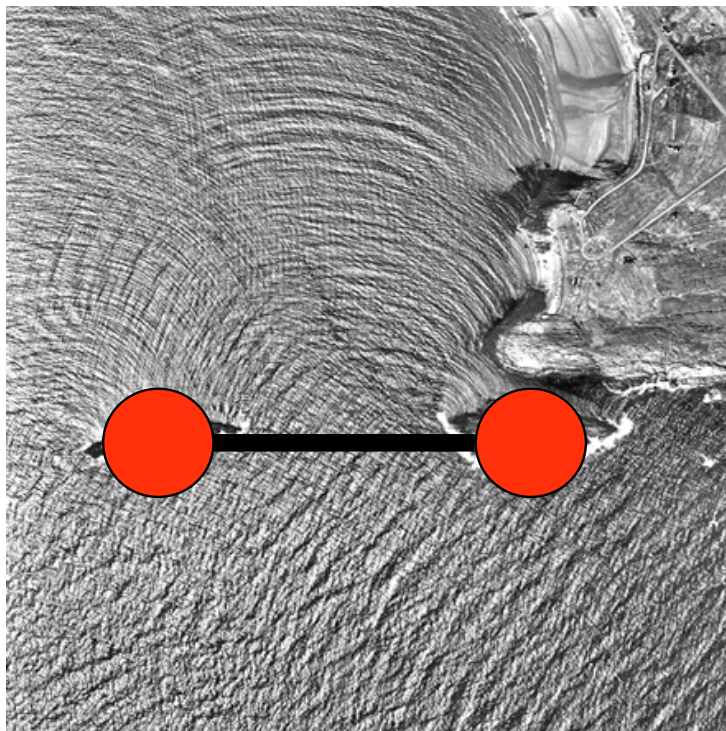
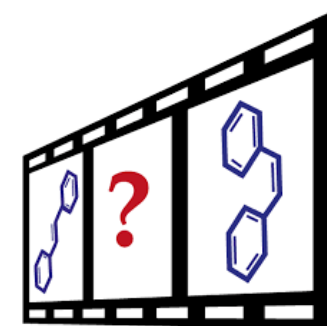
**Why it is challenging:**

- **Full control over the electric field of a laser pulse**  
(stability, CEP, few-cycle)
- **Low cross sections require high avg. power sources**  
(rep. rate)

# Space-time imaging of molecules

*How does a chemical bond break or form?*

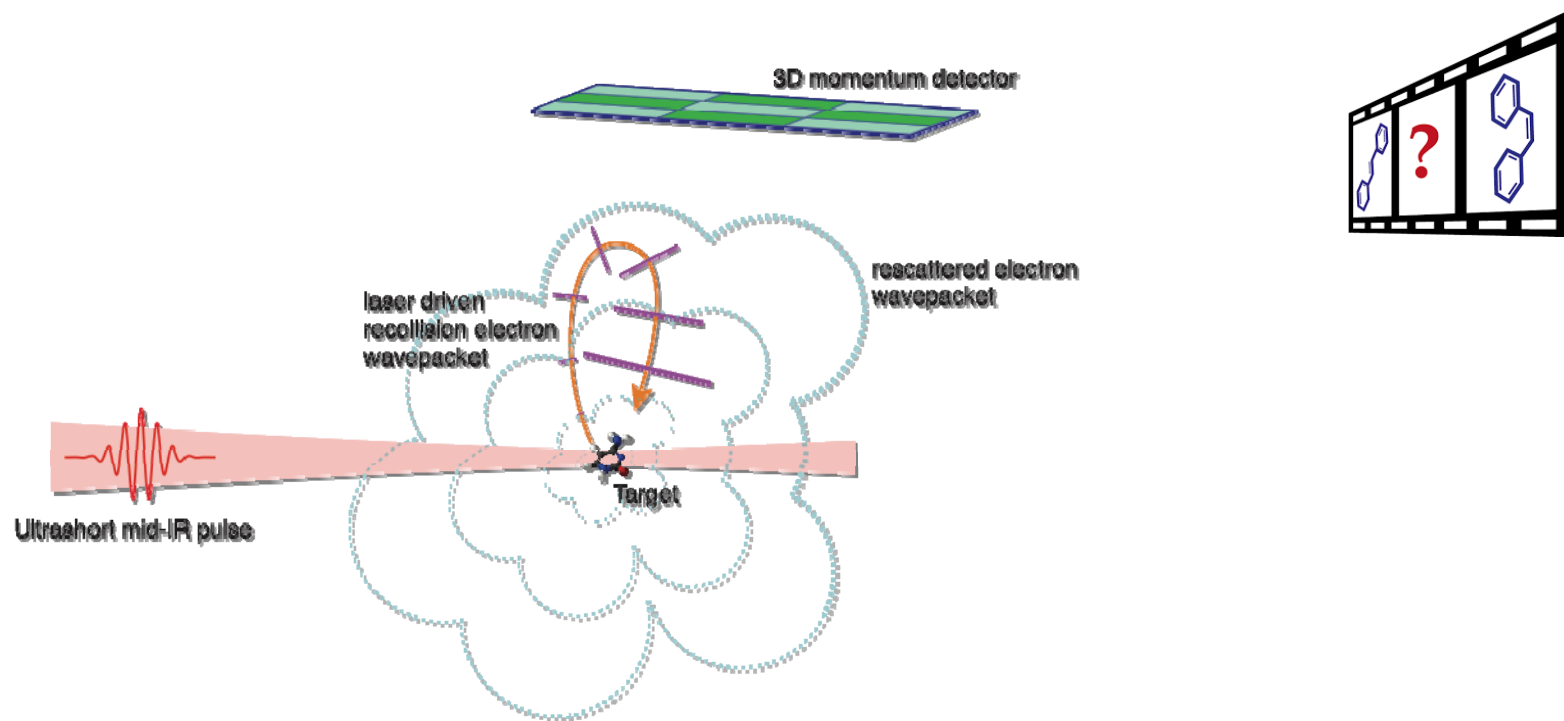
*When and why does a molecule change its shape (function)?*



1. spatial resolution: ~ pm
2. temporal resolution: “a few” fs

- ❖ Interference to image
- ❖ Electron waves
- ❖ Attosecond wave packets

# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



- No space charge issue -  $\sim 1$  electron imaging
- Sub-cycle timing - attosecond resolution

- $\sigma \sim 5$  orders higher than x-rays

- Coherent electron scattering

- UED:  $J \sim 10^7$  A/cm<sup>2</sup> versus LIED:  $J \sim 10^{11}$  A/cm<sup>2</sup>

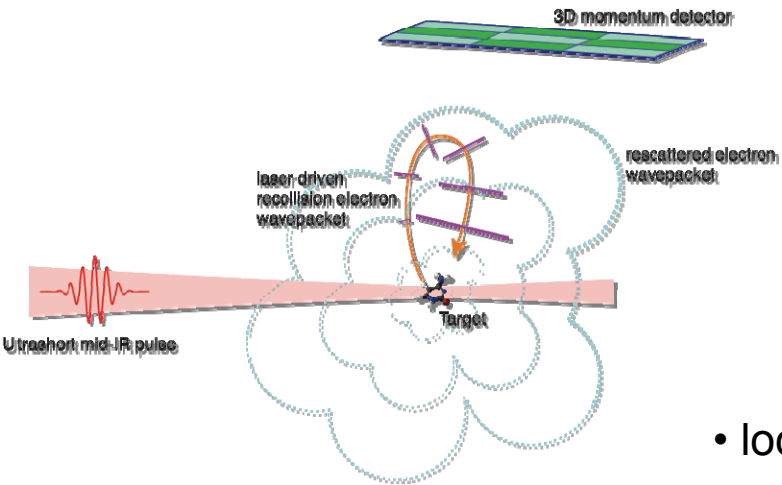
T. Zuo et al. Chem. Phys. Lett. 259, 313 (1996)

M. Lein et al. Phys. Rev. A 66, 051404 (2002)

M. Spanner et al. J. Phys. B 37, L243 (2004)



# Space-time imaging of molecules



was  
Why ~~is~~ this difficult to do?

- locating cores with high impact energy (Cb shielding)

**recollision (10  $U_p$ )**

- discriminate from direct ionisation

**measure in 3D**

- plane wave scattering

**mid-IR recollision**

- correct for laser field for field free DCS

**mid-IR recollision**

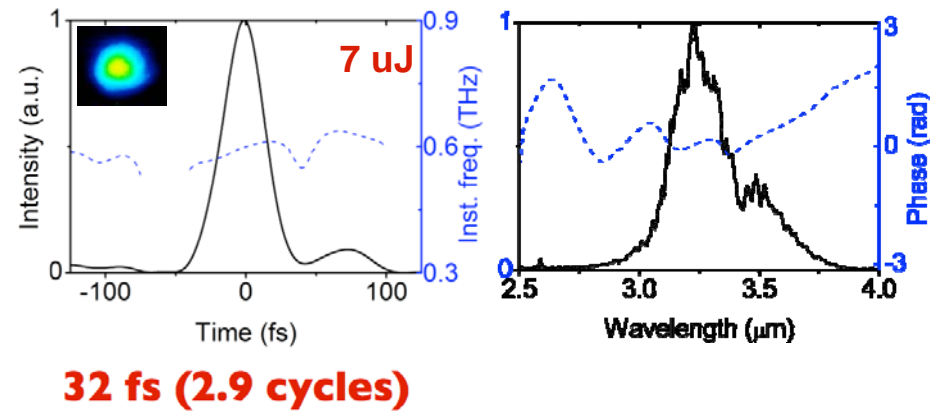
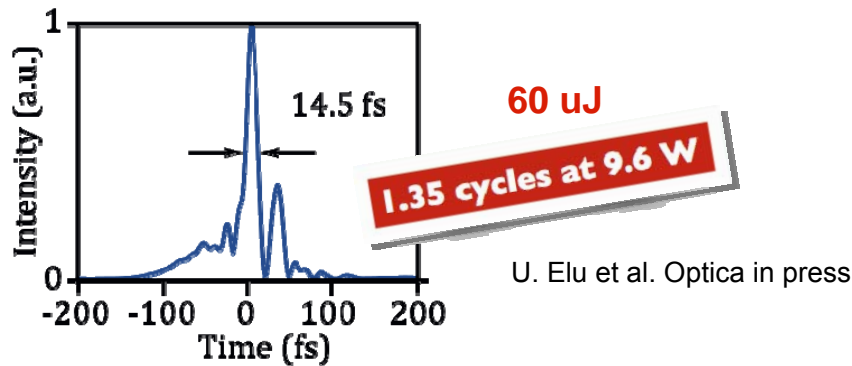
M. Pullen et al., Nature Commun. 6, 7262 (2015)

M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 7, 11922 (2016)

# Mid-IR recollision driver



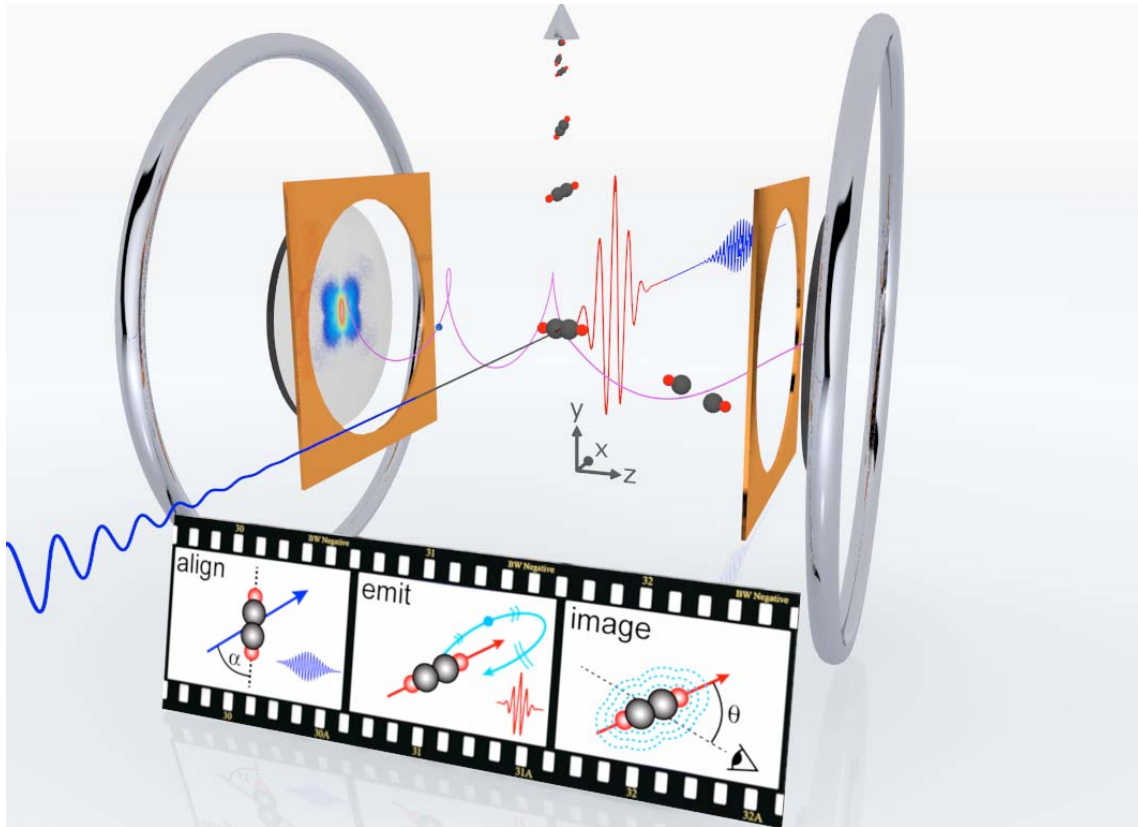
160 kHz  
 2.9 - 9 cycles (32 - 98 fs) - up to 21 W  
 3200 nm  
 CEP stable  
 power 0.9% rms, 2% PP, 44 (293d @ 1 kHz)  
 3300 nm, 1600 nm, 800 nm, 400-180 nm



O. Chalus et al. Opt. Exp.16, 21297 (2008)  
 F. Silva et al. Nature Commun. 3, 807 (2012)

M. Hemmer et al. Opt. Exp. 22, 028095 (2013)  
 M. Baudisch et al. J. Optics 17, 094002 (2015)

# 3D coincidence detection



$$\Delta P_{\text{parallel}} = 0.012 \text{ a.u. (2 meV)}$$

$$\Delta P_{\text{trans}} = 0.025 \text{ a.u. (8.5 meV)}$$

$$10^{-11} \text{ mbar}$$

R. Moshhammer, T. Pfeifer,  
J. Ullrich, A. Senftleben

J. Ullrich et al. Nucl. Instrum. Meth. 108, 425 (1996)

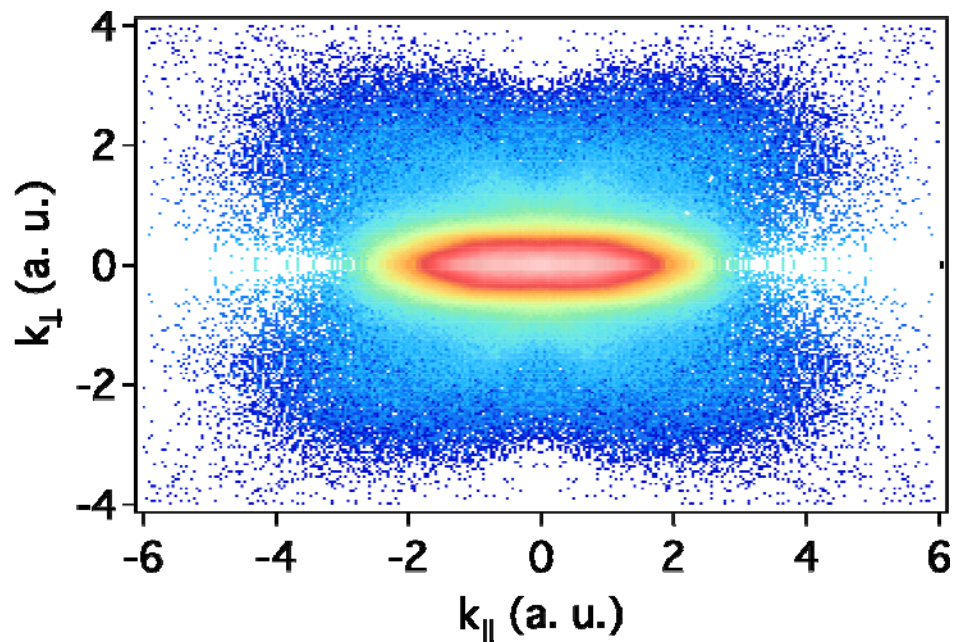
B. Wolter et al. Phys. Rev. X 5, 021034 (2015)

# Space-time imaging of acetylene

A.-T. Le, X. Wang, C.D. Lin

K. Doblhoff-Dier, S. Gräfe

O. Vendrell

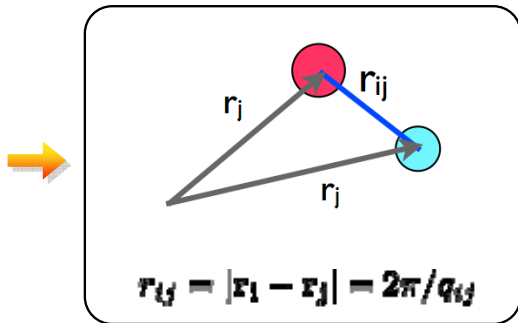
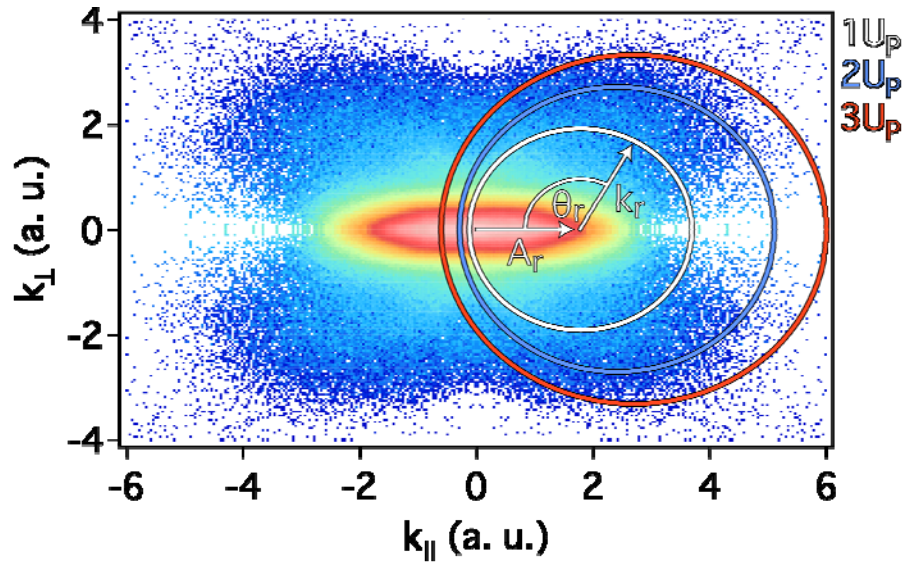


M. Pullen et al., Nature Commun. 6, 7262 (2015)

B. Wolter et al. Phys. Rev. X 5, 021034 (2015)

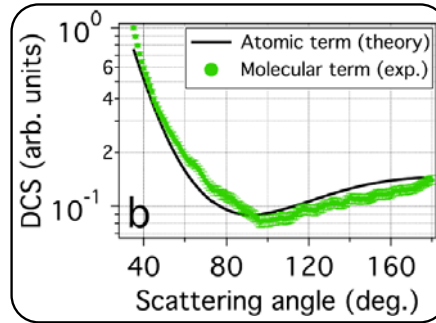
# Data Extraction - Bond Length

A.-T. Le, X. Wang, C.D. Lin  
 K. Doblhoff-Dier, S. Gräfe  
 O. Vendrell

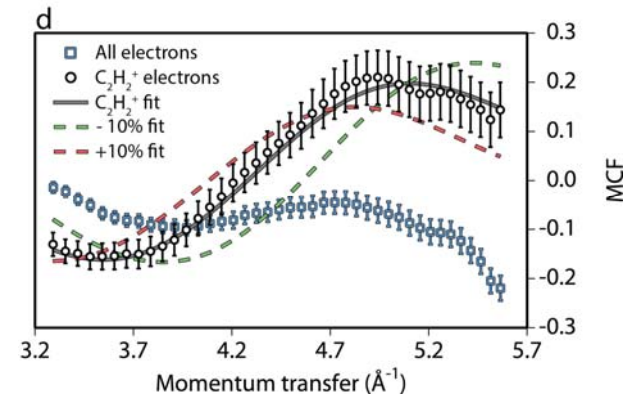


$$r_{ij} = |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j| = 2\pi/q_{ij}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\mathbf{p}_r, \theta) \propto \left| \int \rho(\mathbf{r}) e^{-i\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{p}_r, \theta) \cdot \mathbf{r}} d\mathbf{r} \right|^2$$



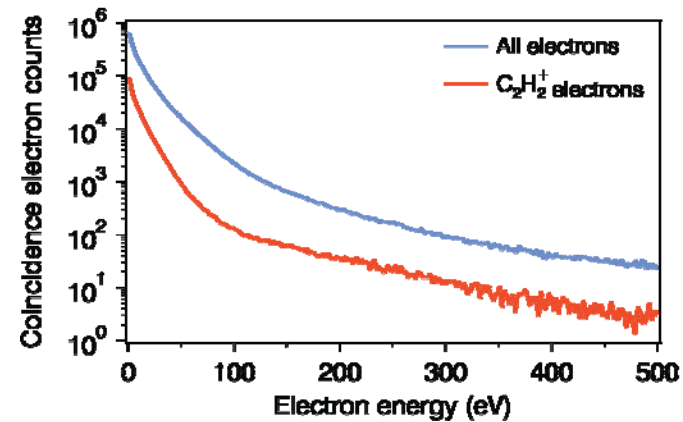
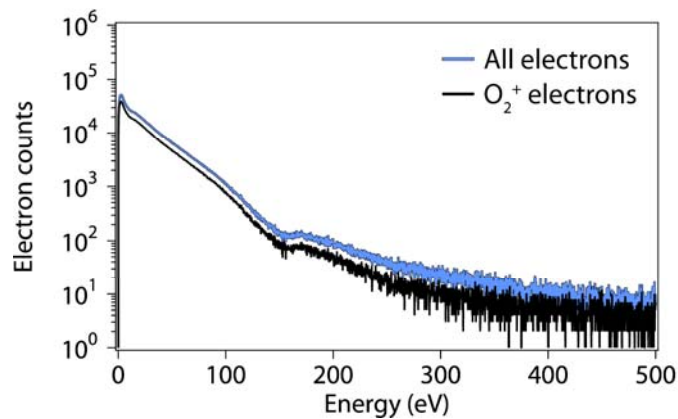
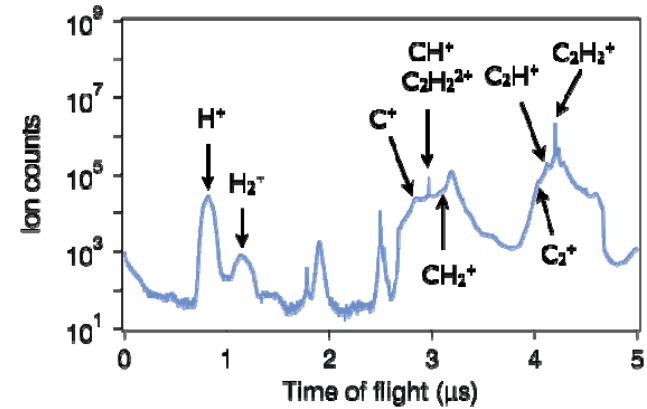
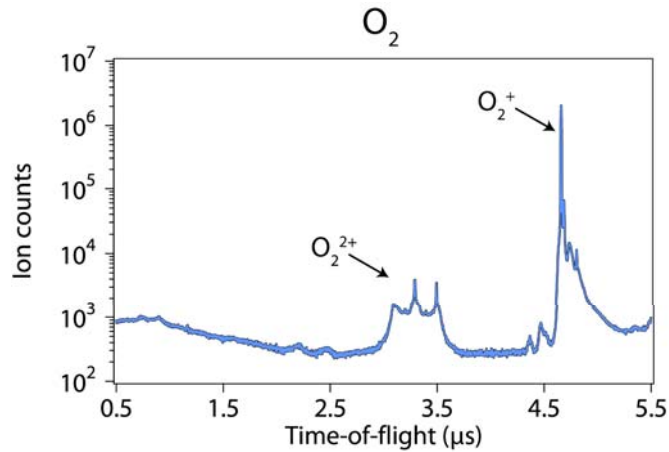
$$D_{\text{CHH}}(\mathbf{p}_{\text{det}}) = \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\mathbf{p}_r) W(\mathbf{p}_r)$$



C. Blaga et al. Nature 483, 7388 (2012) M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 6, 7262 (2015) B. Wolter et al. Phys. Rev. X 5, 021034 (2015)

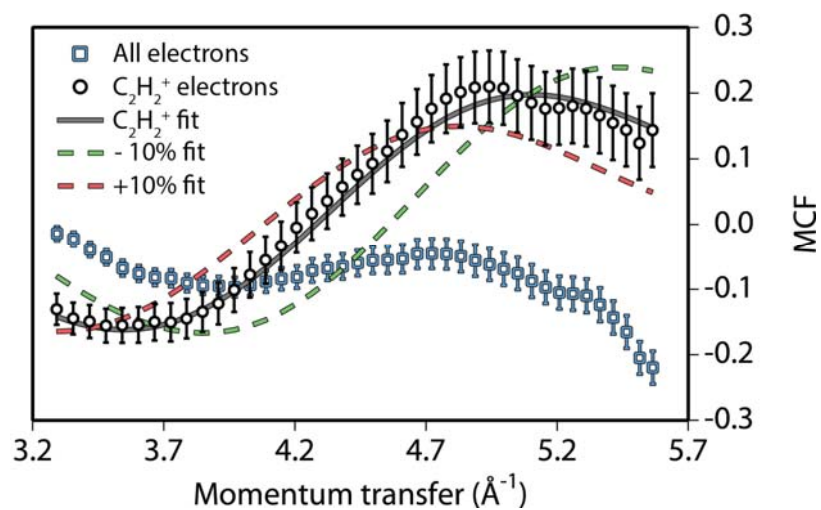
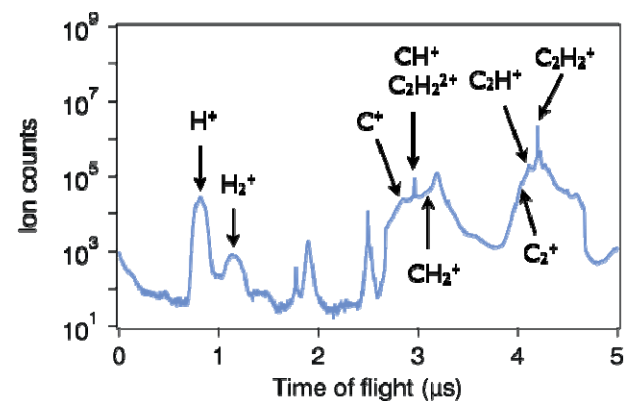
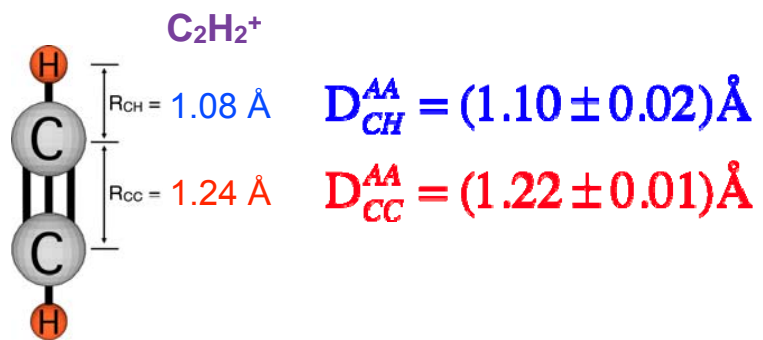
# An additional challenge

C. I. Blaga et al. Nature. 483, 194 (2012)



M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 6, 7262 (2015) M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 7, 11922 (2016)

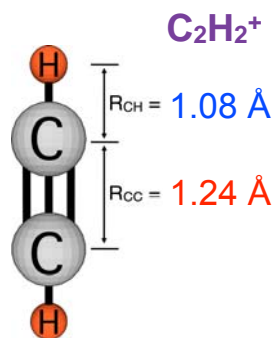
# An additional challenge



**Data tagging permits isolating different pathways**

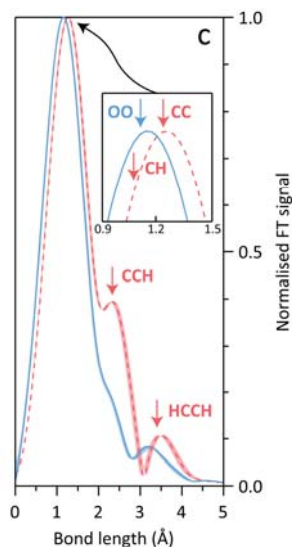
M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 6, 7262 (2015) M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 7, 11922 (2016)

# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



$$D_{CH}^{AA} = (1.10 \pm 0.02) \text{ \AA}$$

$$D_{CC}^{AA} = (1.22 \pm 0.01) \text{ \AA}$$



- ❖ First MIR-LIED imaging of a polyatomic molecule
- ❖ Retrieval of the entire molecular structure
- ❖ Bond length errors ~5% (LCLS 15% but photons)

## ❖ FT-LIED/FABLES imaging of $C_2H_2$ and $O_2$

J. Xu et al. Nature Commun. 5, 4635 (2014). M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 7, 11922 (2016)

## ❖ Dynamic imaging of $C_{60}$

collab. C. Blaga, L. DiMauro, M. Kling

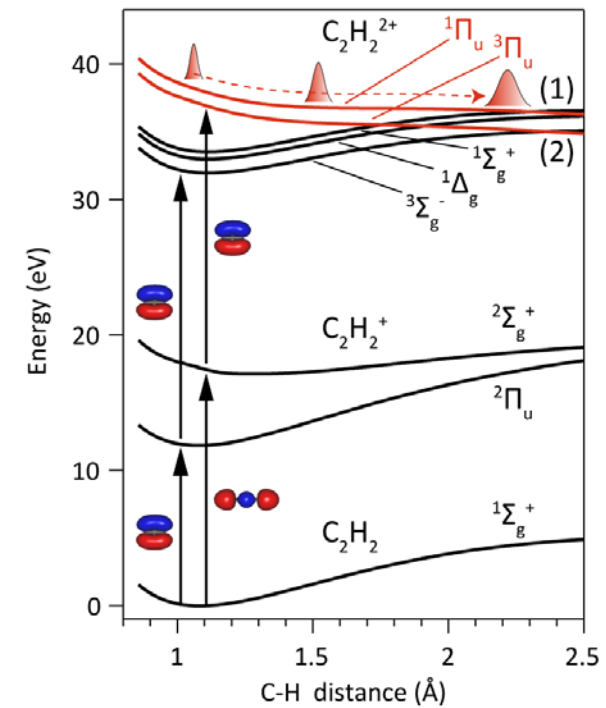
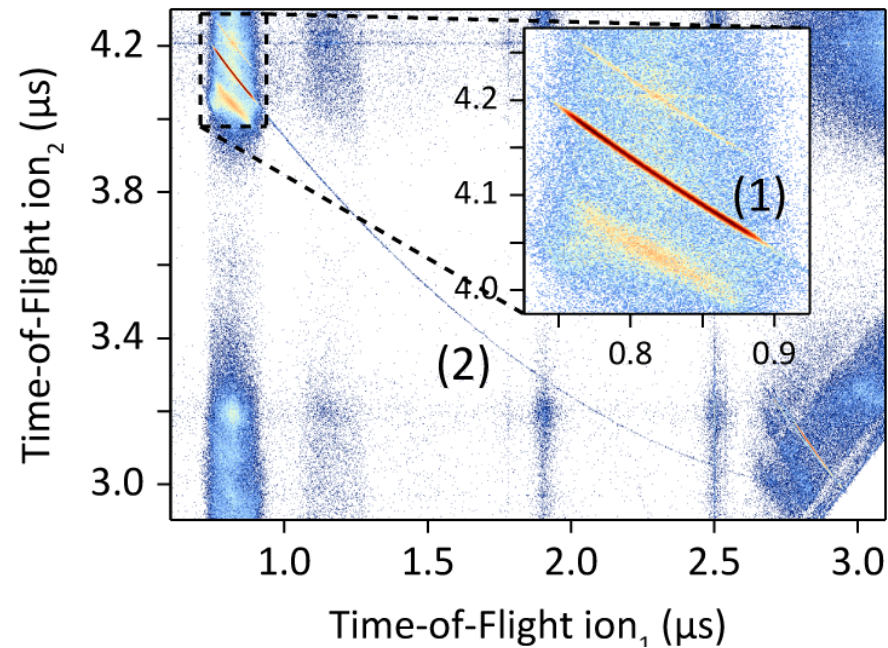
B. Wolter et al. Phys. Rev. X 5, 021034 (2015)

M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 6, 7262 (2015)



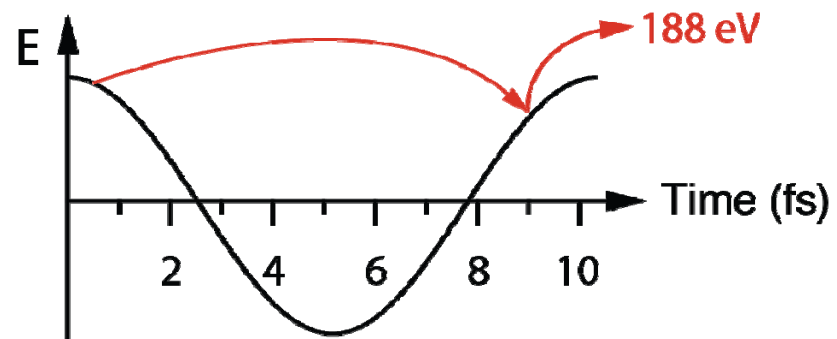
# Space-time imaging of molecular structure

## Photoion photoion coincidence (PiPiCo)



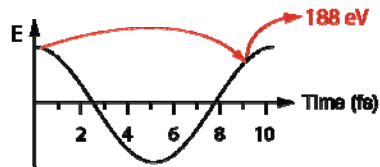
B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



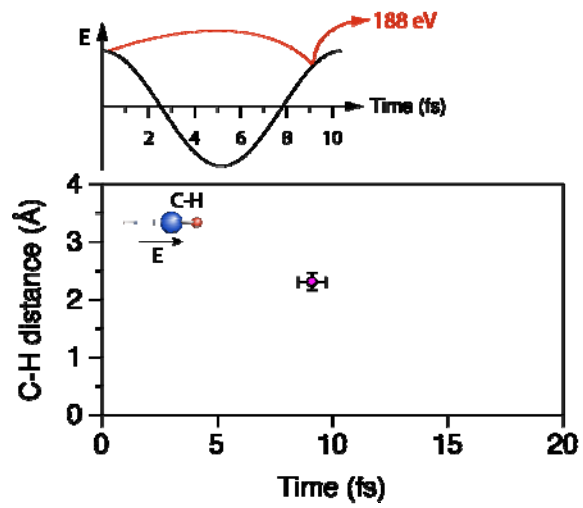
B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



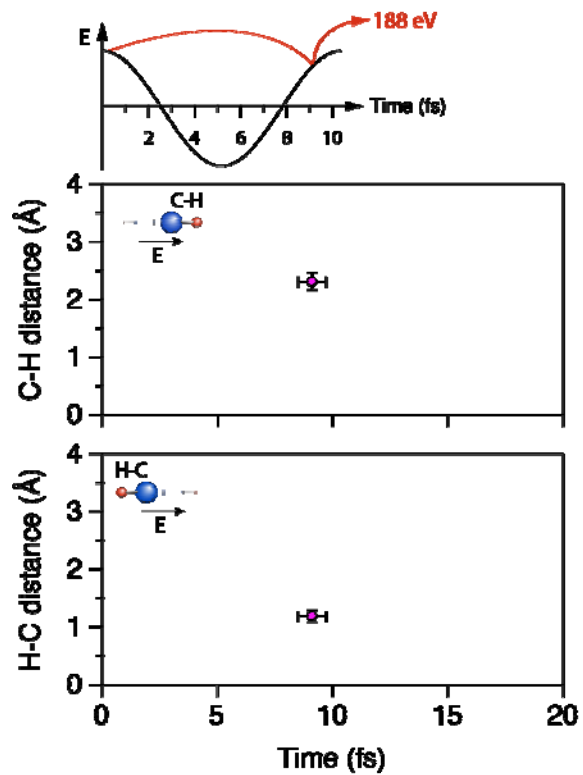
B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



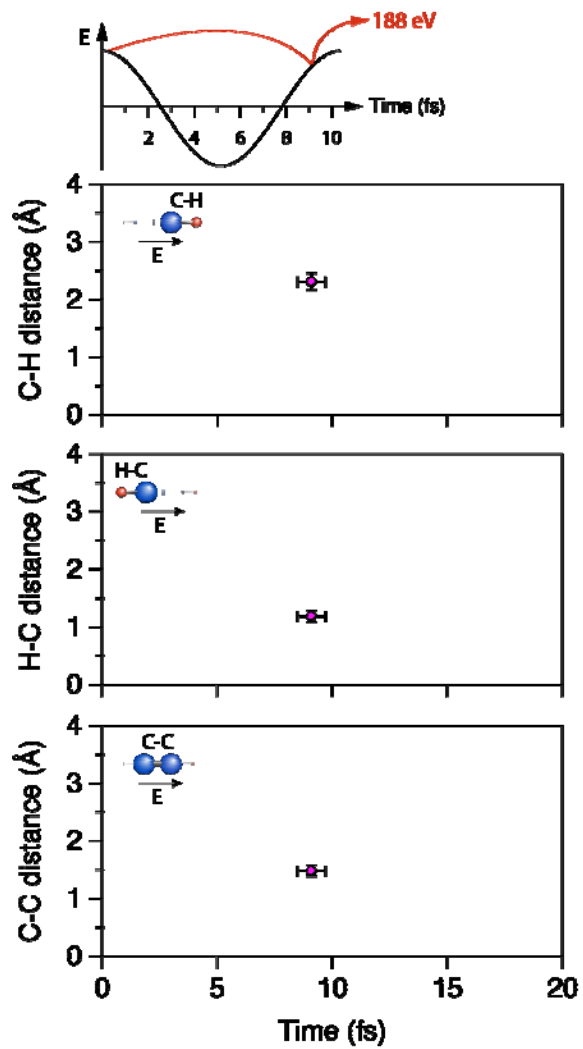
B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



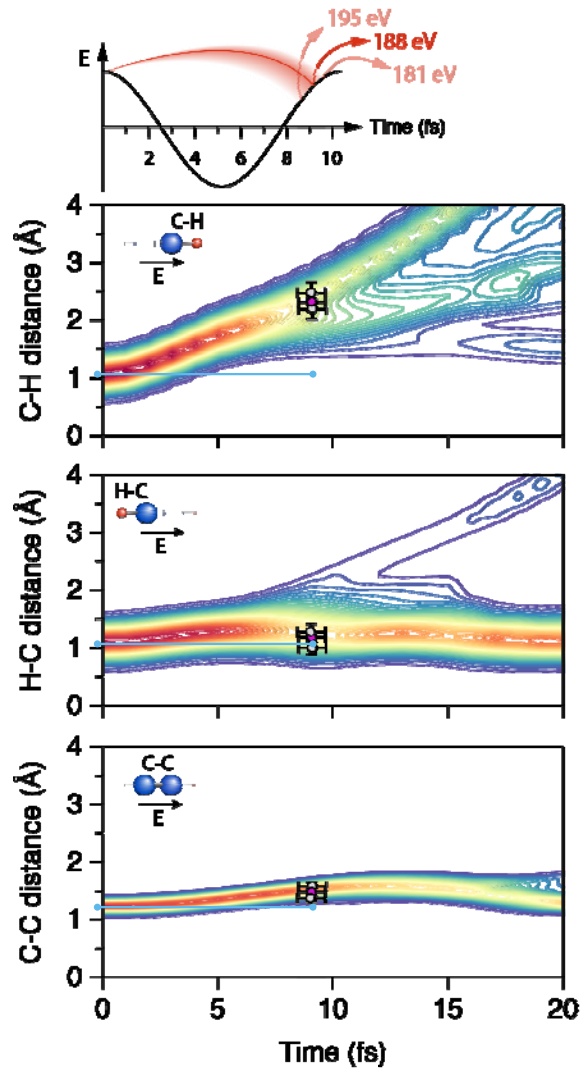
B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



time of imaging:  $(9.15 \pm 0.6)$  fs

1.06 Å  $\rightarrow$   $(2.31 \pm 0.15)$  Å

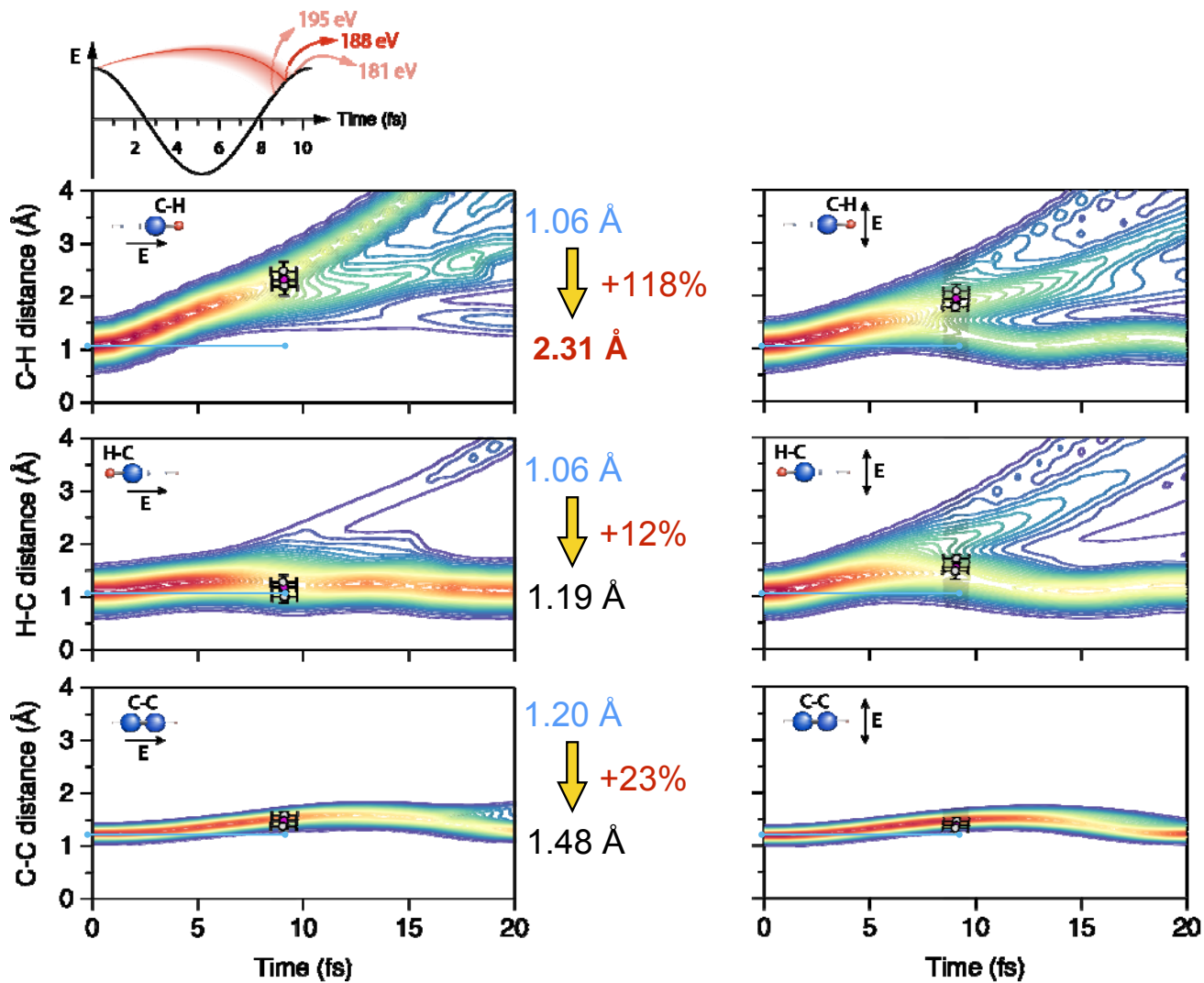
**Bond is "broken", proton departs**

1.06 Å  $\rightarrow$   $(1.19 \pm 0.10)$  Å

1.20 Å  $\rightarrow$   $(1.48 \pm 0.11)$  Å

B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

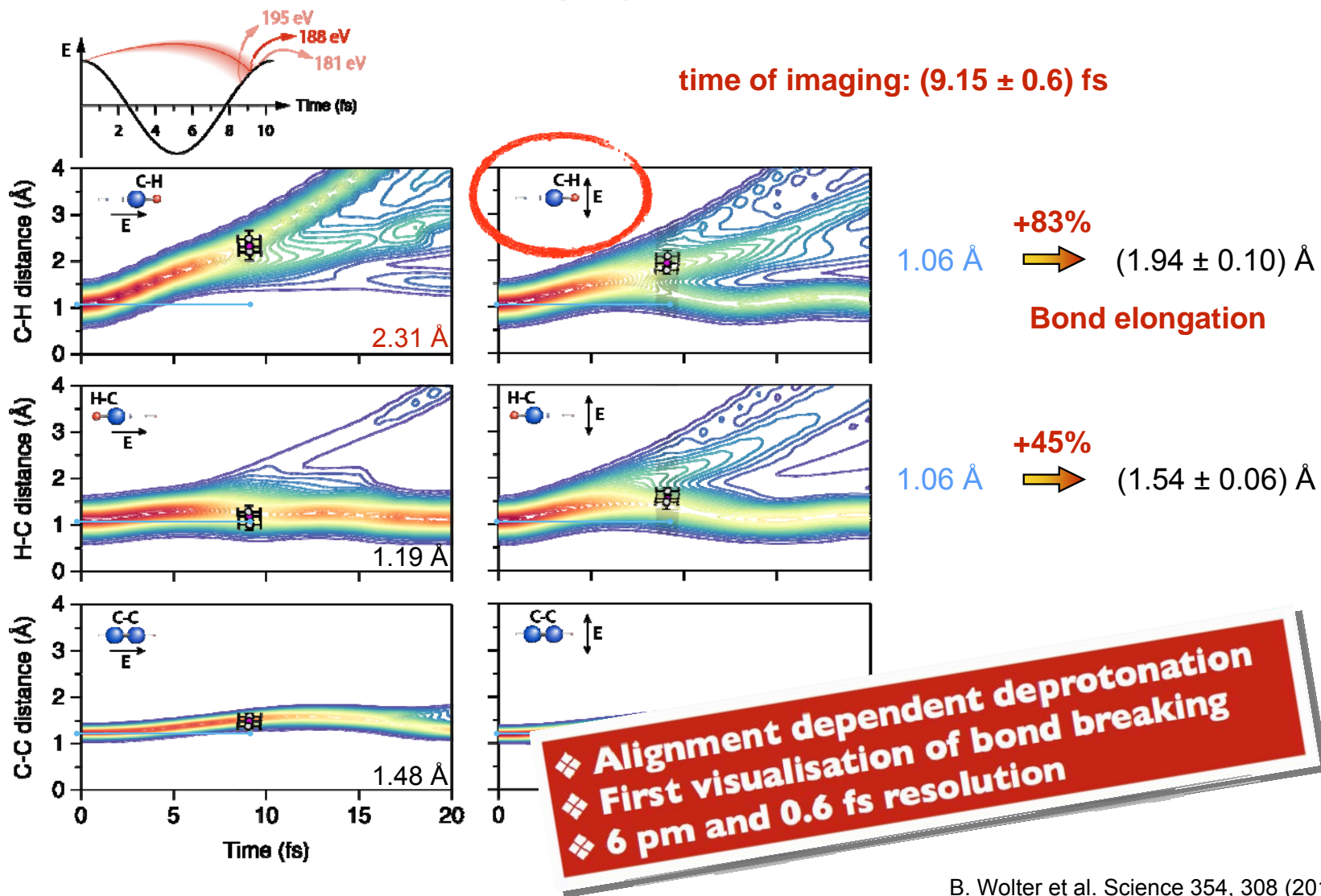
# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

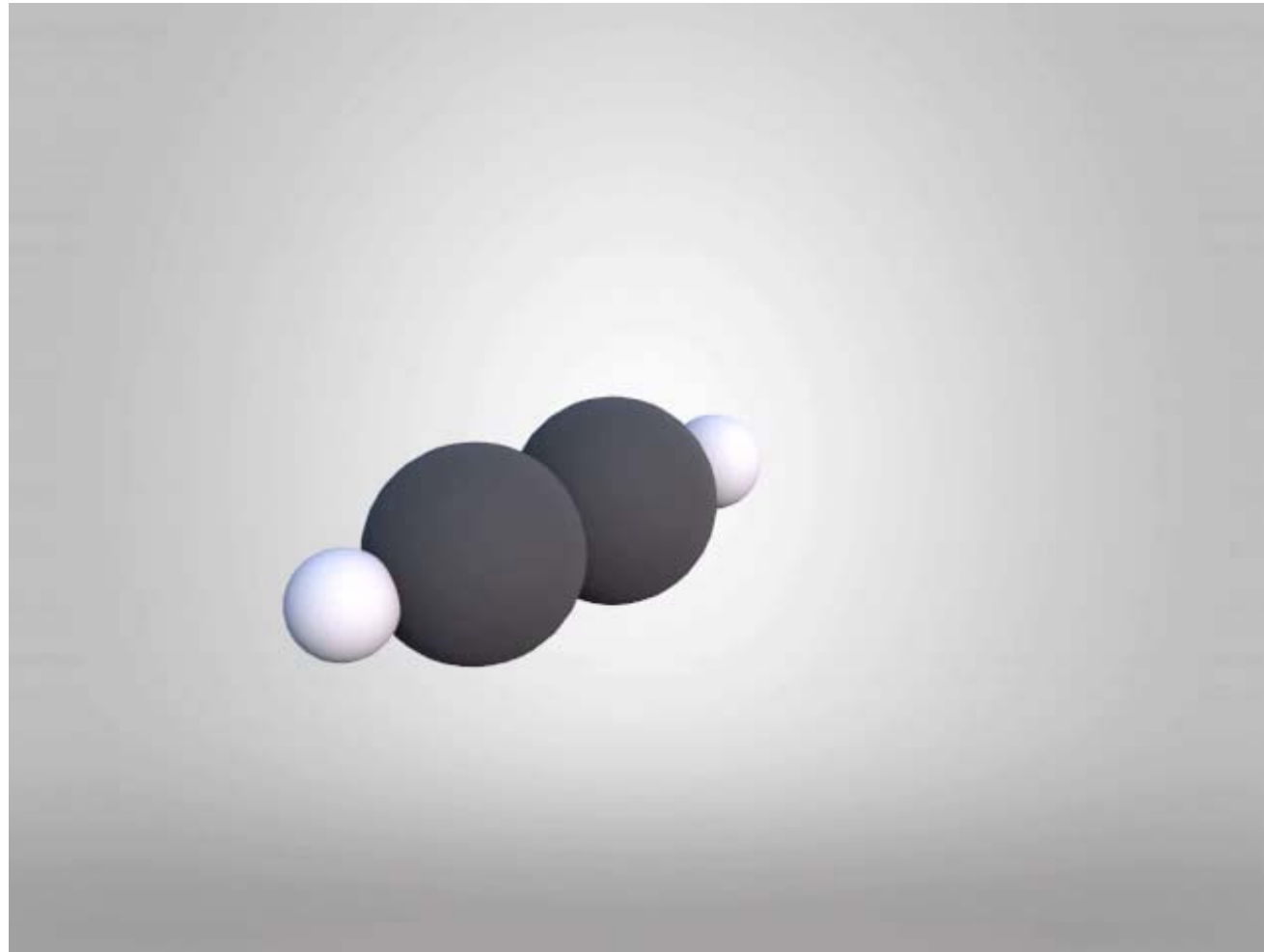


# Space-time imaging of molecular structure



B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

## Movie from measurement



B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)

## Summary and future

### *Mid-IR driven electron recollision & coherence/interference*

#### ❖ picometer and attosecond resolution imaging

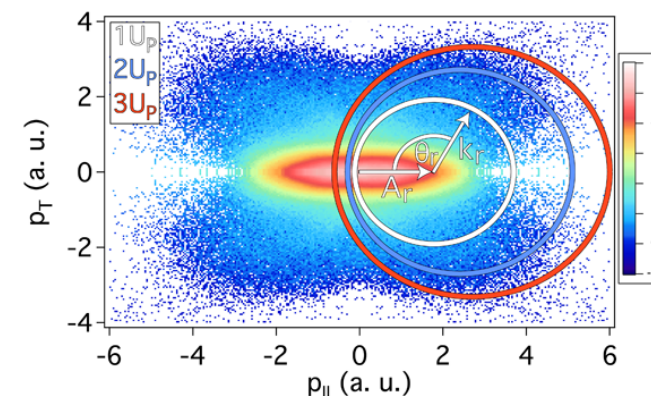
- Atomic-scale imaging with one electron

M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 6, 7262 (2015)

- Imaging the onset of bond breaking and proton motion in 9 fs

M. Pullen et al. Nature Commun. 7, 11922 (2016)

B. Wolter et al. Science 354, 308 (2016)



*Future directions: Trigger dynamics (200 nm 10 fs)*

*Asymmetric and larger molecules*

*Understand the effects of the strong field better*

# Attoscience and Ultrafast Optics



A. Picon T. Steinle B. Wolter L. Vamos T. Kanai D. Rivas  
T. Sidiropoulos N. Di Palo J. Huijts  
B. Nandy U. Elu B. Buades A. Sanchez

**SPECIAL  
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M. Moshammer, A. Senfleben, T. Pfeifer, J. Ullrich A.-T. Le, X. Wang, C.D. Lin  
K. Doblhoff-Dier, S. Gräfe  
O. Vendrell



*That's all Folks!*