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Technology  
Facilities Council

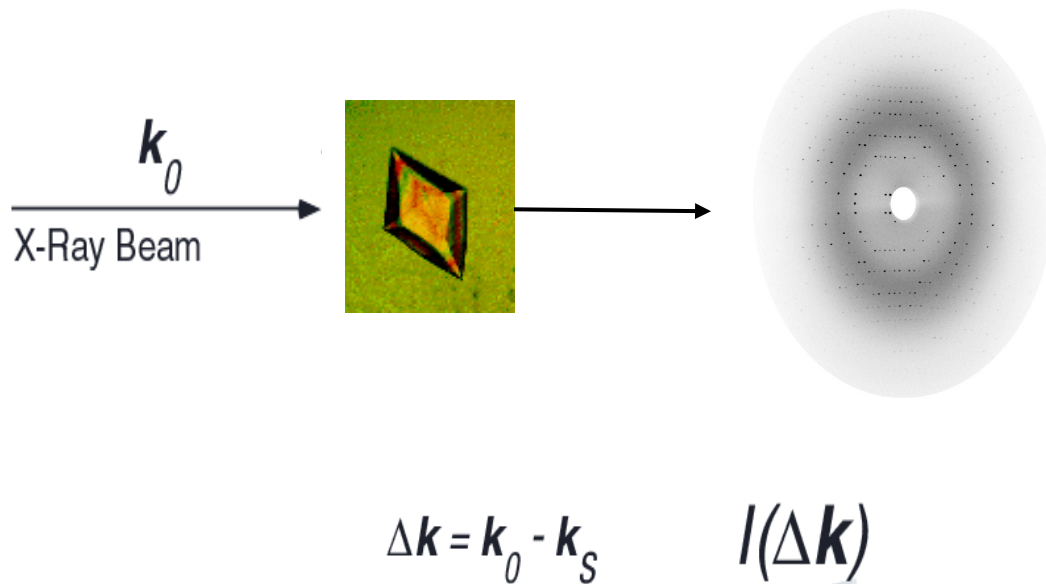
# UK XFEL

Science and Technology Impact of XFELs and  
Opportunities with a Next Generation Facility

# X-ray probing of the nanoscale structure of matter

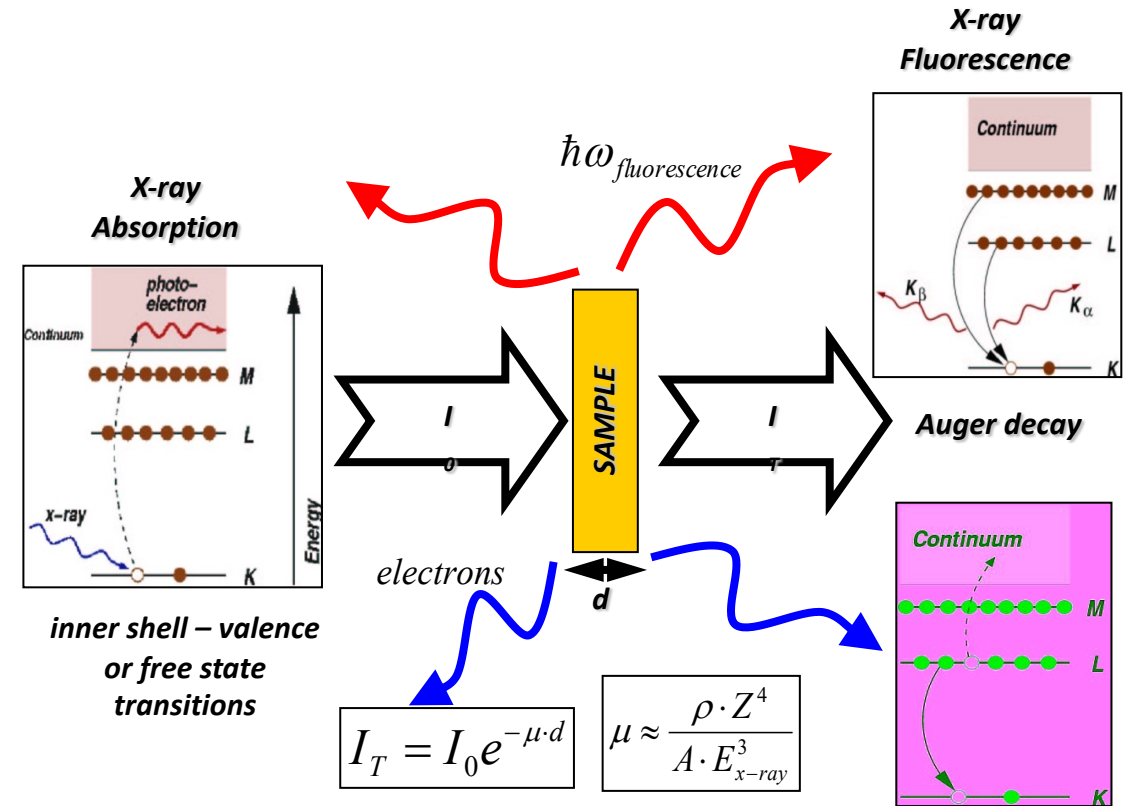
## X-ray scattering

provides atomic structure

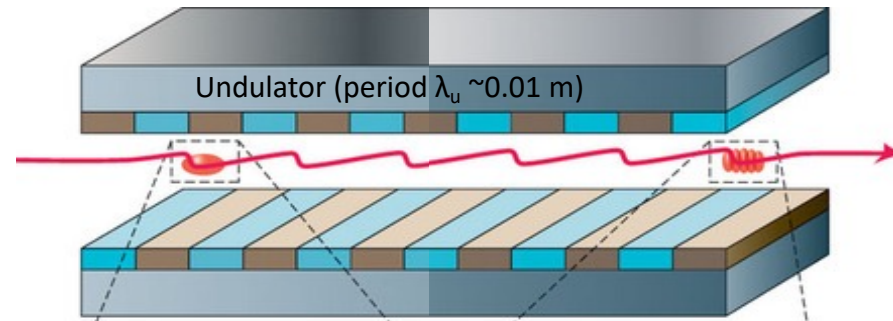


## X-ray spectroscopy

provides electronic states with atomic specificity



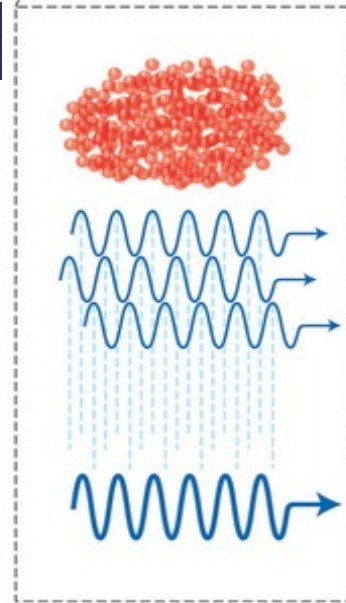
# XFEL Self-Amplified Spontaneous Emission (SASE)



## Input

Incoherent emission  
electrons randomly phased

Low emittance, narrow energy spread  
relativistic electron bunch  
4 – 15 GeV accelerated in 100 m -> 1 km  
electron linear accelerators (LINACS)  
(relativistic electrons are the gain medium  
with a Lorentz factor  $\gamma > 2000$ )



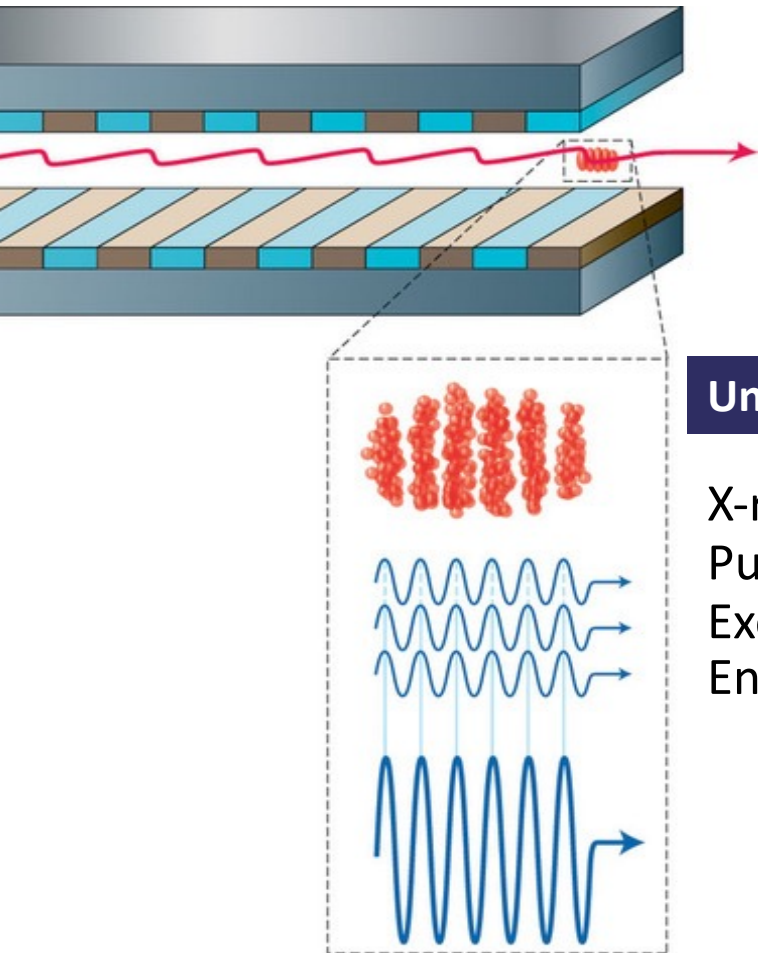
## Output

Coherent emission  
electrons bunched at radiation wavelength

Self-Amplified Spontaneous Emission (SASE)  
high brightness,  
Short Pulses  
soft to hard X-rays

XFEL radiation wavelength  $\lambda_r \sim \lambda_u \gamma^{-2}$

# XFEL Self-Amplified Spontaneous Emission (SASE)



## Unique Features

X-rays from 10 eV to > 10 keV photon energies (100 nm to < 0.1 nm wavelength)

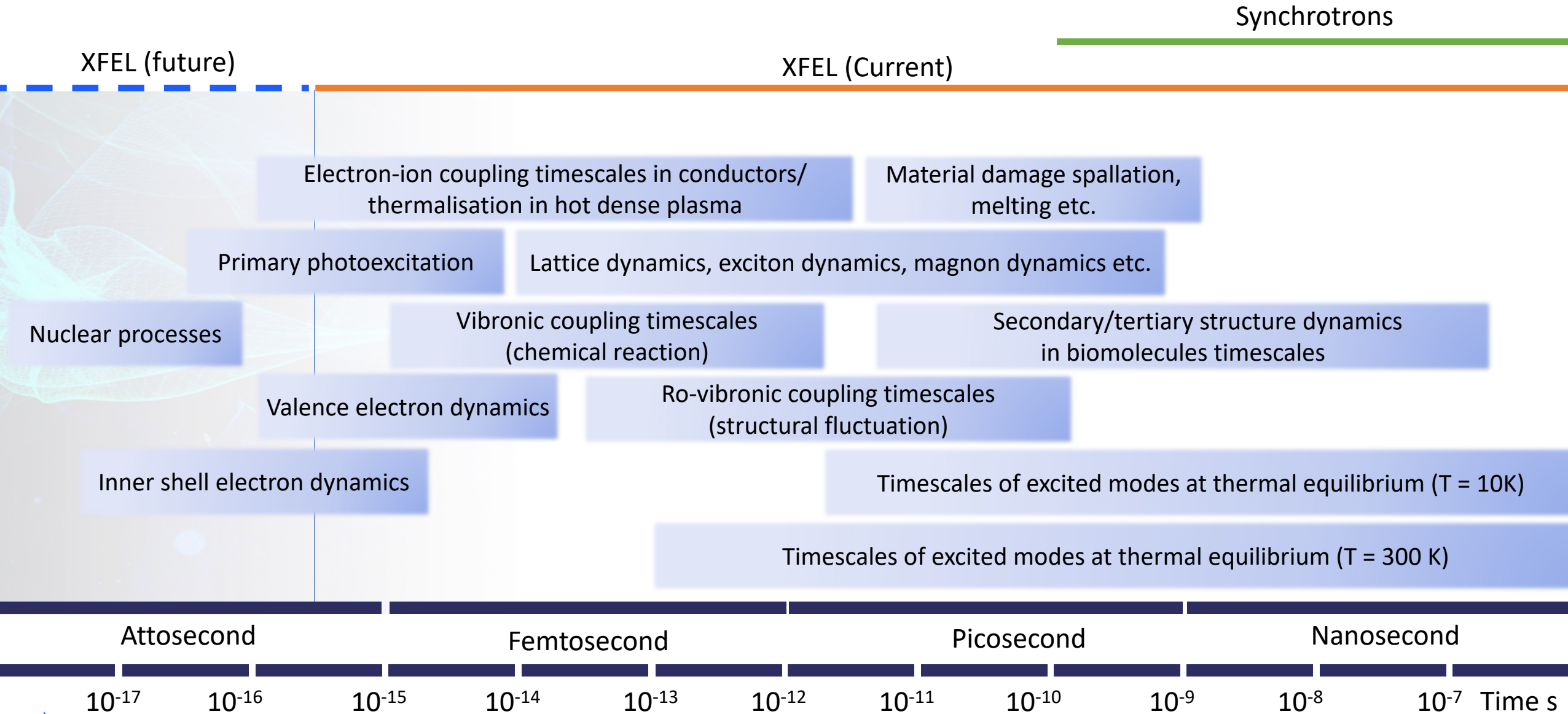
Pulses 0.3 fs – 100 fs duration

Exceptional brightness

Enable time resolved x-ray scattering and x-ray spectroscopy measurements

# Real-time access to the characteristic processes and fluctuations in matter down to the quantum scale

# Real-time access to structural and electronic dynamics



# XFELs Enable: Time-resolved X-ray measurements by the pump-probe methodology



## Pump (X-ray to THz) – activates the sample:

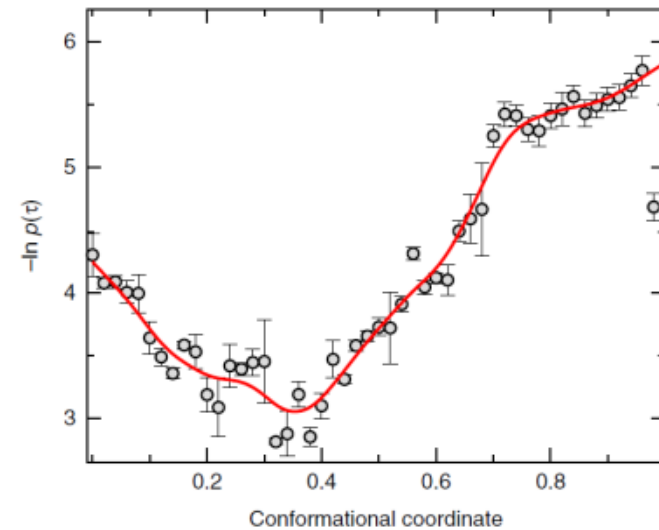
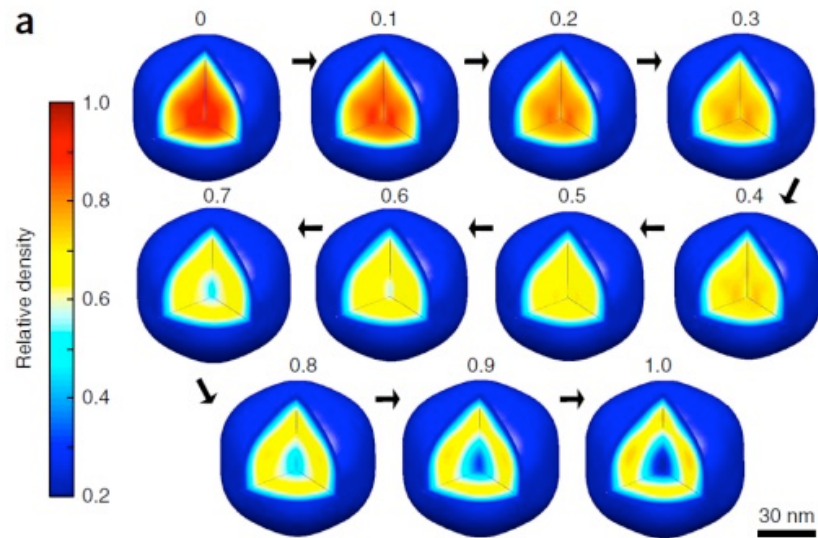
Sudden heating, injection of hot electrons, electronic state photoexcitation/photoionisation, excitation of vibrational/phonon or rotational modes etc.

## Probe (X-ray) – interrogates the sample after delay time $\tau$ by generating a suitable observable:

X-ray scattering/diffraction, resonant inelastic X-ray scattering (RIXS), X-ray spectroscopy (absorption (XAS) and emission (XES), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) etc.)

# Data Volume Approach

Scattering from “identical” single systems with a large number of shots, coupled to advanced analysis methods, is enabling mapping of conformational dynamics, i.e. brief rare events (such as barrier crossings etc.)



Therefore, far more opportunities at high ( $> 100$  kHz – MHz) rep-rate

A. Hosseinizadeh, *Nature Methods* 14 877 (2017)



# High brightness scattering can outrun destruction

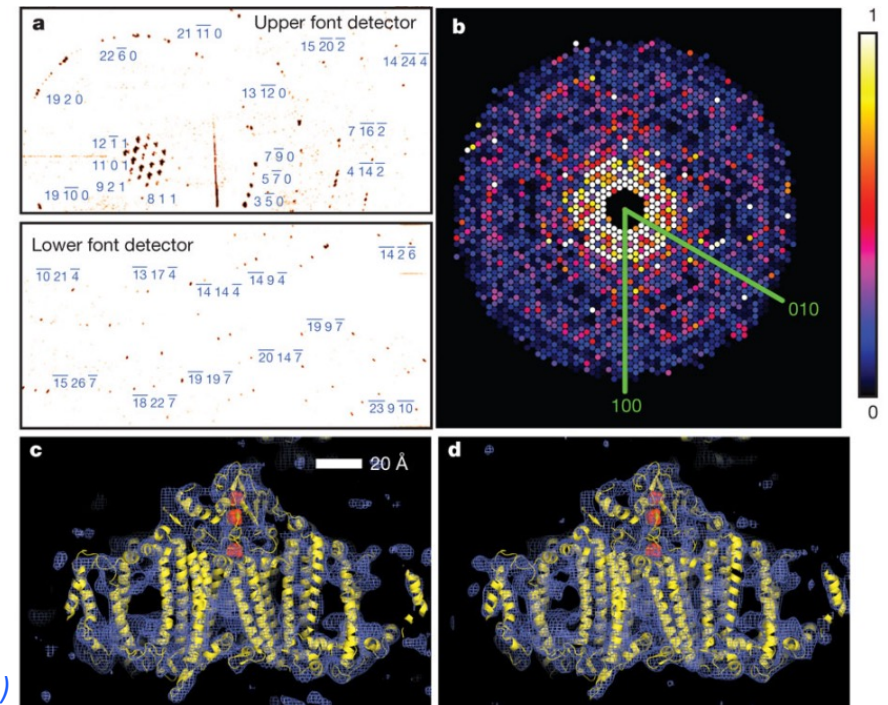
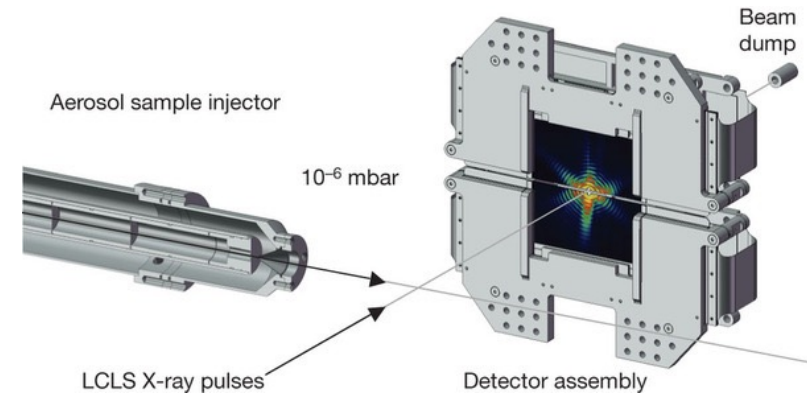
## Destroy before Diffract

Conventional X-ray sources non-crystal samples destroyed before signal enough to determine structure.

## Diffract before Destroy

Possible with the very short and very bright pulses from an XFEL!

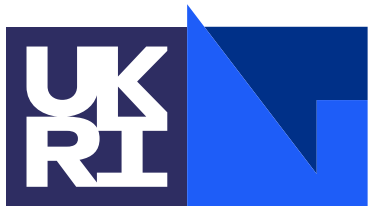
Non-crystal sample can be imaged before destroyed.



Chapman et al, *Nature* 470, 73 (2011)

# UK XFEL Next Generation Definition

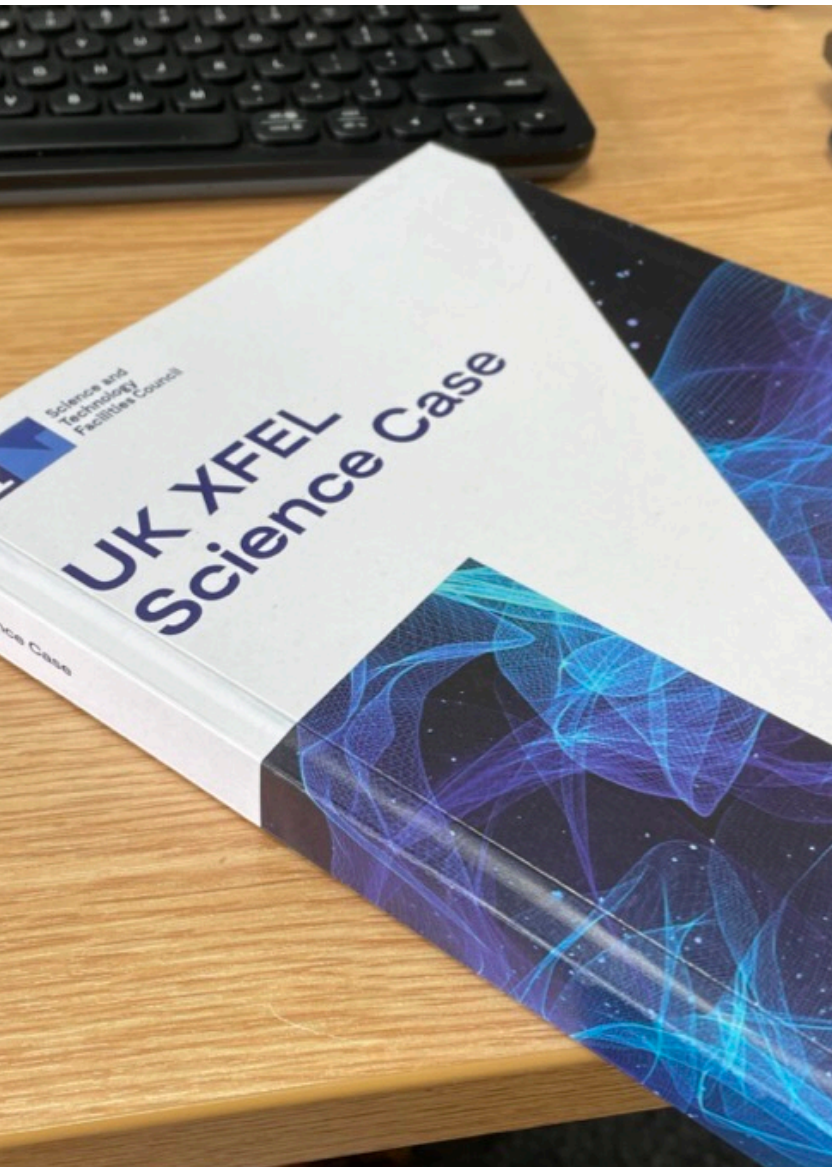
- **Near transform-limited operation across the x-ray range**
  - Photon energies from 0.05-20 keV
  - Pulse durations from 100 as to 100 fs
  - Non-transform-limited operation at 20-50 keV
- **High efficiency facility, with a step-change in the simultaneous operation of multiple end stations**
  - Minimum of six FELs, with upwards of ten end stations to be simultaneously operated
- **Evenly spaced, high repetition rate pulses to match samples, lasers, and detectors**
  - 100 kHz per FEL, with flexibility of repetition rate
- **Improved synchronization/timing data with external lasers to <1 fs**
- **Widely separated, multiple colour x-rays to at least one end station**
- **Full array of synchronized sources**
  - XUV-THz, e-beams, ion beams, high power & high energy lasers at high repetition rate
- **Minimal carbon footprint with minimal energy consumption for both operation and build**



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## The Science Case

# Expert Science Team



## Matter in extreme conditions

*Andy Higginbotham (York), Andy Comley (AWE), Emma McBride (QUB), Sam Vinko (Oxford), Marco Borghesi (QUB), Malcolm McMahon (Edinburgh), Justin Wark (Oxford)*

## Nano/Quantum materials

*Anna Regoutz (UCL), Marcus Newton (Soton), Ian Robinson (UCL/Brookhaven), Mark Dean (Brookhaven), Awan Shakil (Plymouth), Paolo Raedelli (Oxford), Simon Wall (Aarhus), Sarnjeet Dhesi (Diamond),*

## Engineering/Materials/Applications

*David Rugg (RR), Sven Schroeder (Leeds), David Dye (IC) Dan Eakins (Oxford), Mike Fitzpatrick (Coventry)*

## Life sciences:

*Allen Orville (Diamond), Jasper van Thor (IC), Xiaodong Zhang (IC), Shakil Awan (Plymouth), Adrian Mancuso (Diamond), Tian Geng (Heptares)*

## Chemical sciences:

*Julia Weinstein (Sheffield), Russell Minns (Soton), Sofia Diaz-Moreno (Diamond), Alex Baidak (Manchester), Andrew Burnett (Leeds), Tom Penfold (Newcastle), Rebecca Ingle (UCL), Mark Brouard, Claire Vallance (Oxford)*

## Physical sciences:

*Amelle Zair (KCL), Adam Kirrander (Edinburgh), Jason Greenwood (QUB), Jon Marangos (IC), Elaine Seddon (Cockcroft)*

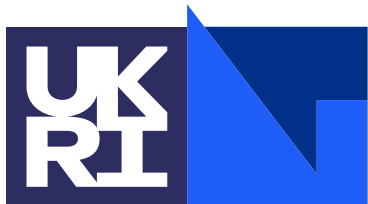
*+ around 100 additional experts from around the world contributing to Science Case*



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## The Science Case

1. Physics and X-ray Photonics
2. Chemical Sciences
3. Life Sciences
4. Condensed Matter, Quantum and Nanomaterials
5. Matter at Extreme Conditions
6. Industrial Applications
7. Future Directions

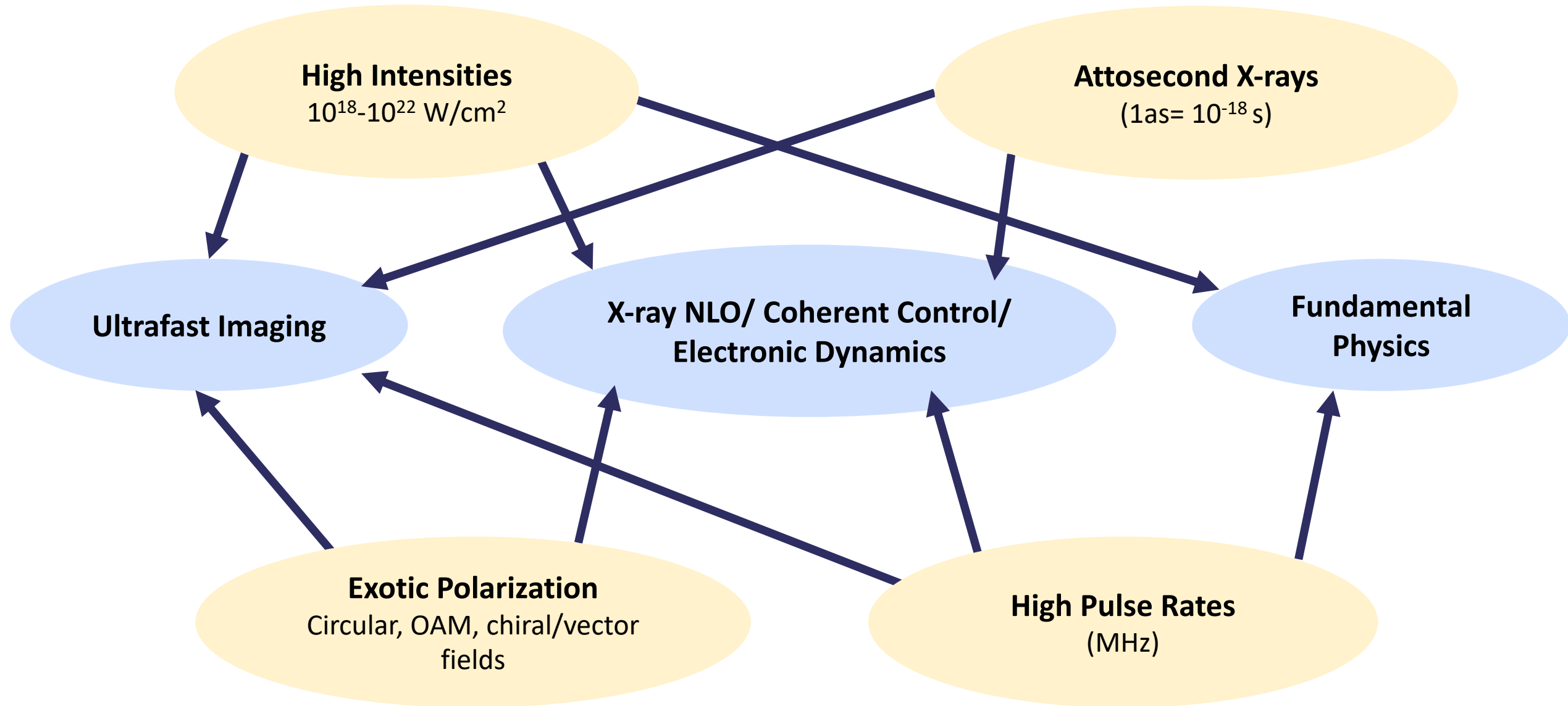


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## Physical Sciences

Amelle Zair (KCL), Adam Kirrander, (Oxford), Jason Greenwood (QUB),  
Jon Marangos (IC), Elaine Seddon (Manchester)

# New Physics and X-ray Photonics

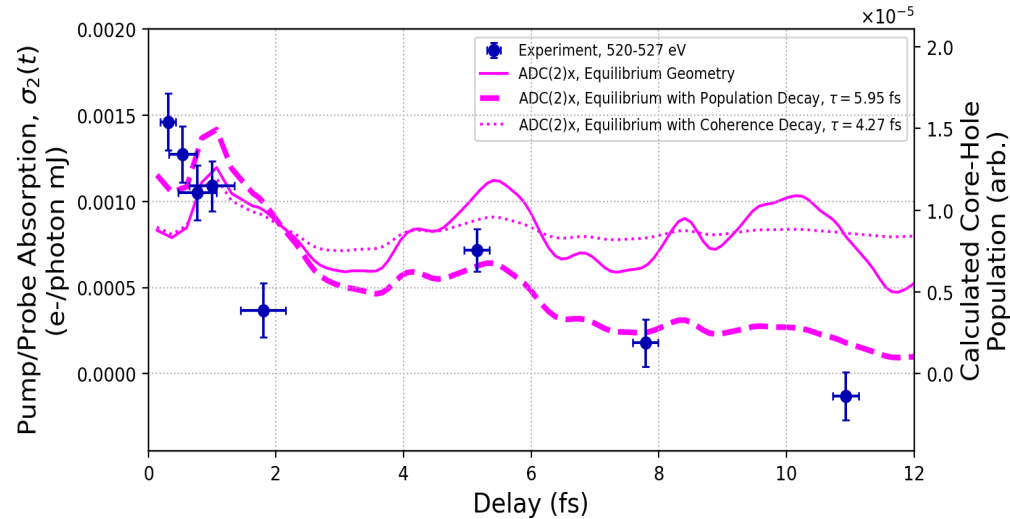


# New Physics and X-ray Photonics

## Attosecond electron dynamics

New tools to reveal electron dynamics, electron-phonon and photon-electron coupling in molecules, metals, semiconductors, dielectrics, 2D materials, liquids and amorphous systems

### Charge migration in aminophenol

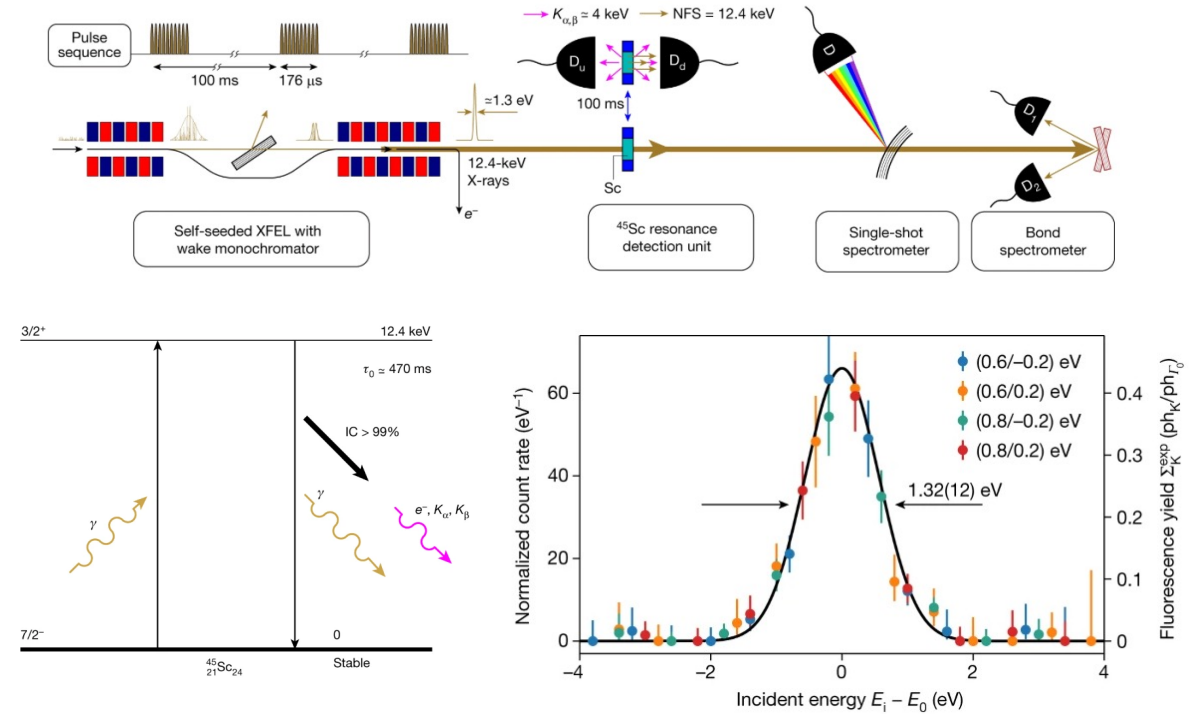


- Charge migration and electron-nuclear coupling in glycine [Science Advances 8 \(2022\)](#)
- Isolated attosecond pulses [Nature Photonics 14 30 \(2020\)](#)
- Impulsive stimulated x-ray Raman scattering [PRL 99 073203 \(2020\)](#)
- Core electronic wave packet dynamics [Science 375 285 \(2022\)](#)
- Ionisation physics of water [Science eadn6059 \(2024\)](#)
- Attosecond pump-probe [Nature Photonics \(2024\)](#)

## Explore fundamental physics

Future opportunities to explore fundamental physics eg: strong field QED, CP violations, axions, dark matter

### Resonant x-ray excitation of nuclear clock isomer $^{45}\text{Sc}$

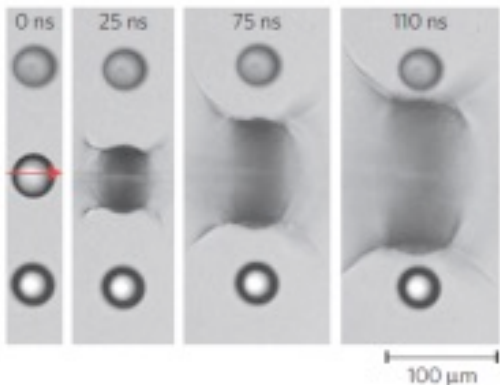


Resonant X-ray excitation of the nuclear clock isomer  $^{45}\text{Sc}$  [Nature 622 471 \(2023\)](#)

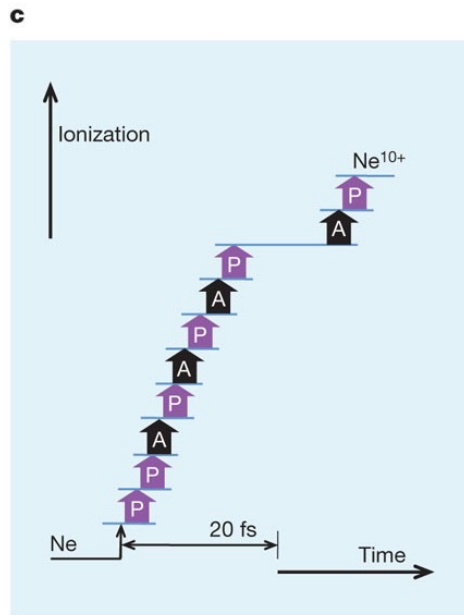
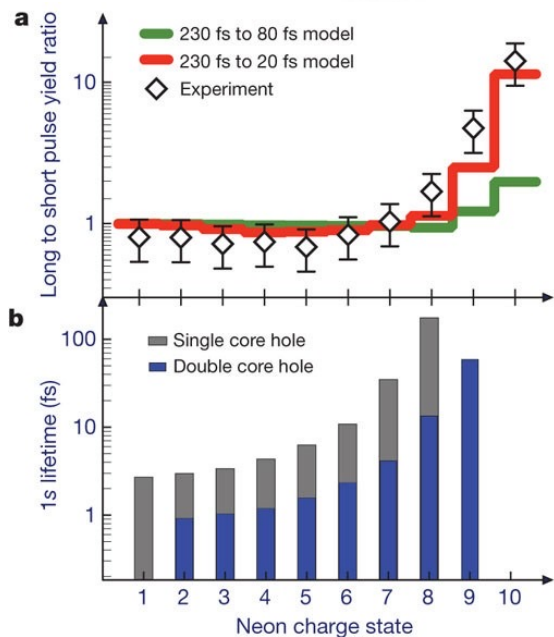


# New Physics and X-ray Photonics

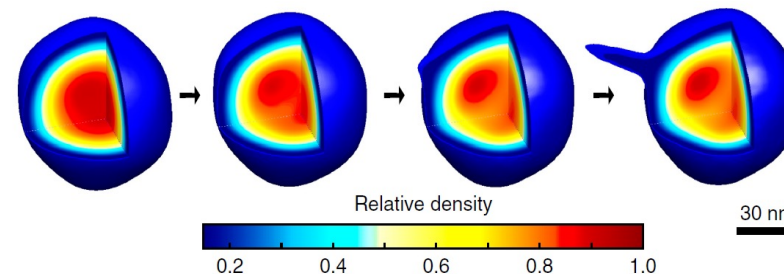
## X-ray - matter interaction



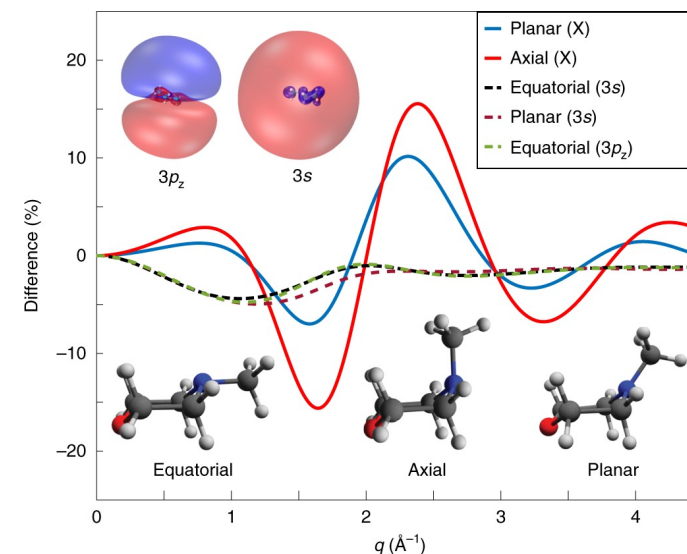
Response to ultra-intense X-rays [Nature 466 56 \(2010\)](#)  
 Interaction with liquids [Nature Physics 12 966 \(2016\)](#)  
 Nonlinear x-ray optics [Science 369, 1630–1633 \(2020\)](#)  
 Ultrafast radiolysis [Science 367 179 \(2020\)](#)



## New directions in x-ray scattering



Conformational dynamics from data driven approaches [Nature Methods 14 877 \(2017\)](#)  
 Ultrafast coherent dynamics in isolated molecules [Nature Chemistry 11 716 \(2019\)](#)



# Future Opportunities for Physical Sciences

## New linear and non-linear x-ray spectroscopies

Probe dynamics, charge, and energy transfer in matter (intense, high rep-rate, attosecond pulses, soft to hard x-rays, multi-colour x-rays)

## Sensing chirality and tracking chiral dynamics

ultrafast pulses, polarisation control, high rep-rate, soft x-rays

## Biomolecular and nanosystems

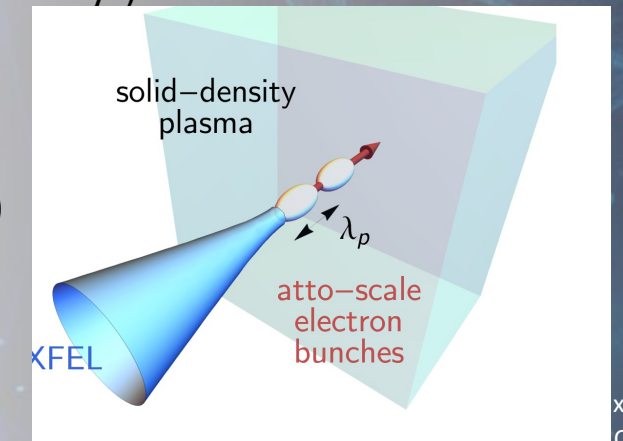
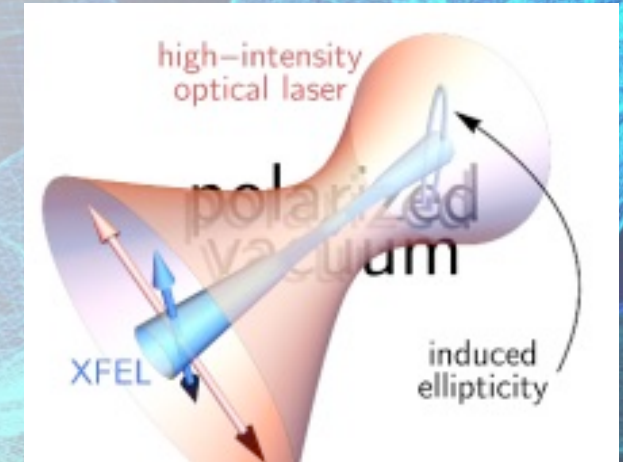
Conformational dynamics across wide spatial and temporal scales (high rep rate, hard x-rays)

## Extreme x-ray interaction with matter and vacuum

x-ray nanoscale high fields, formation virtual electron-positron pairs (high rep-rate/high intensity/hard x-rays)

## Material processing

New opportunities with atomic scale resolution/specificity (nanofocusing, high rep-rate, short pulses)





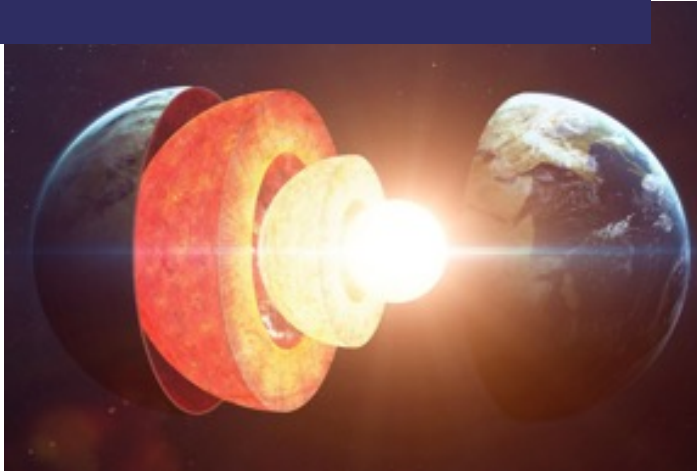
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# Matter at extreme conditions

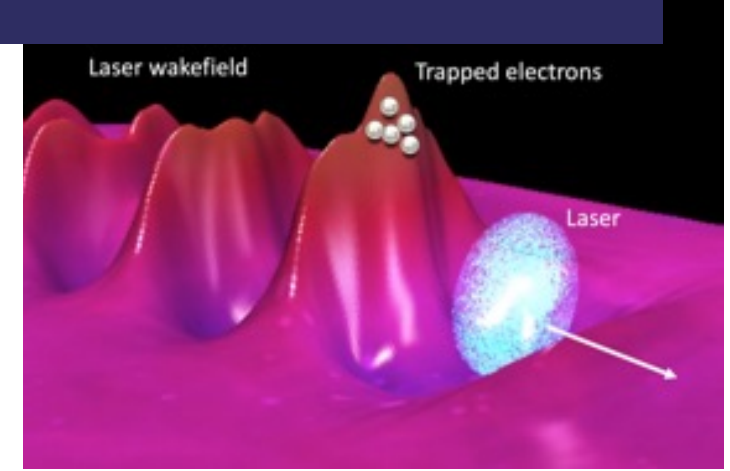
*Andy Higginbotham (York), Andy Comley (AWE), Emma McBride (QUB), Sam Vinko (Ox),  
Marco Borghesi (QUB), Malcolm McMahon (Edinburgh), Justin Wark (Ox)*

# Matter at Extreme Conditions

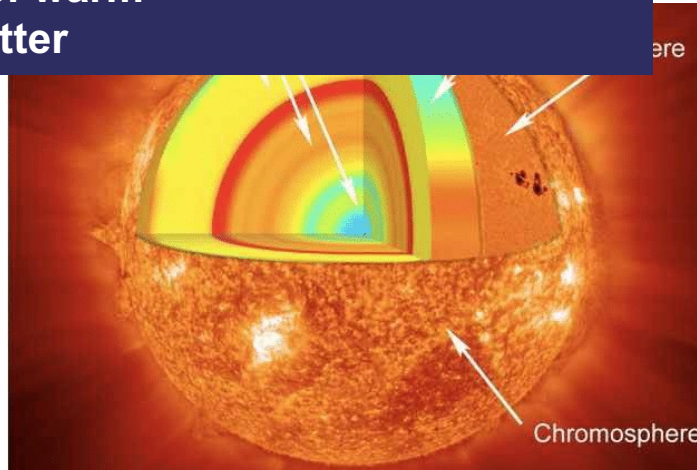
## Shocked materials and matter at extremes



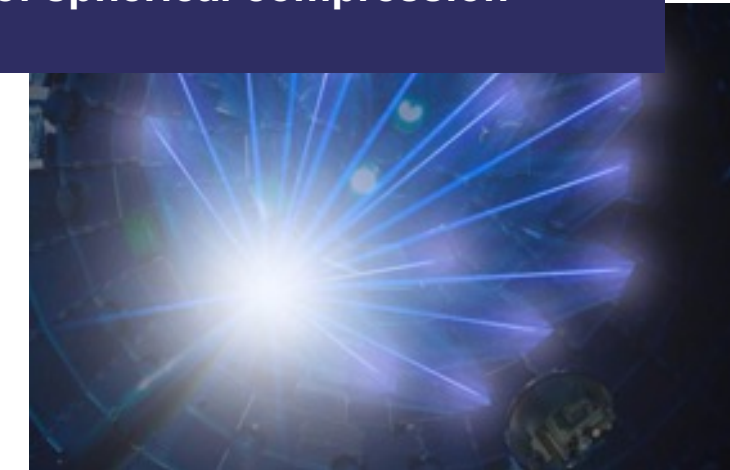
## Interactions with energetic electron and ion beams



## Quantum plasmas: warm and hot dense matter



## Probing physics of spherical compression

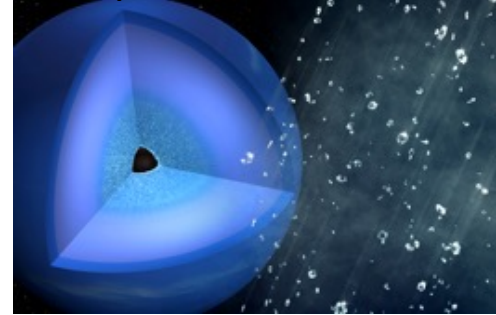


# Shocked materials and matter at extremes

At extreme pressures matter undergoes complex low-symmetry phase transformations including melting. Understanding this behaviour is important for many different scientific fields

## Understanding planetary interiors

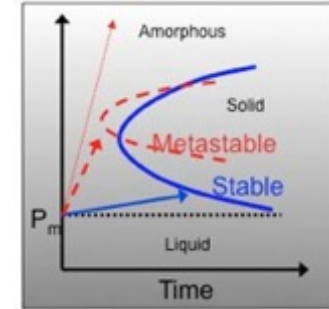
Partial dissociation of C-H and formation of diamond on Neptune



Kraus et al. *Nat. Ast.* 1, 606 (2017)  
M.Frost et al. *Nat. Ast.* 8, 174 (2024)

## Novel material synthesis

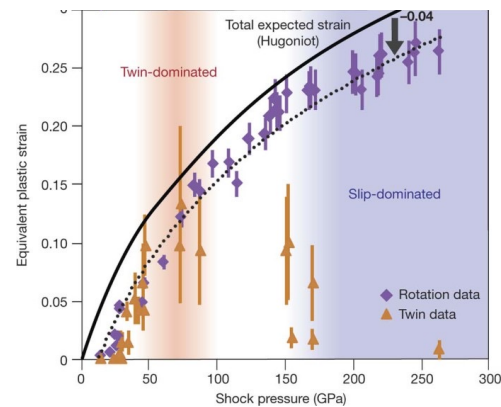
Observation of metastable phase in bismuth



Gorman et al. *APL* 114 120601 (2019),  
*J.App.Phys* 135, 165902 (2024)

## Dynamic strength of materials

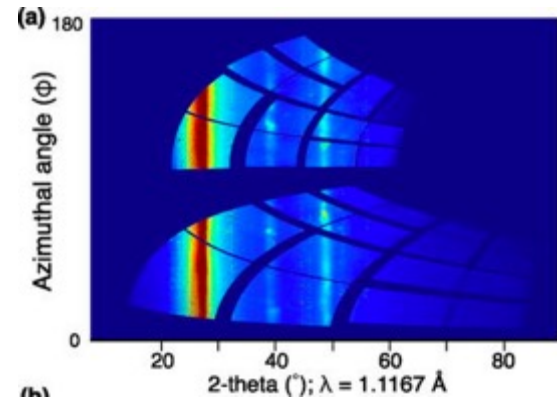
Twinning in dynamically compressed tantalum



Wehenberg, et al. *Nature*, 550, 496 (2017)

## Melting at extreme pressures

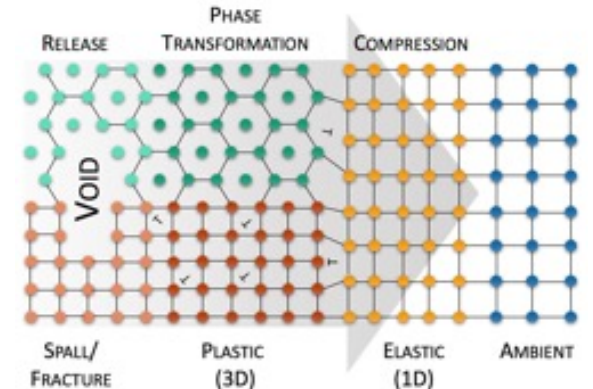
Shock-induced melting in tin



Briggs et al. *APL*, 115, 264101 (2019)

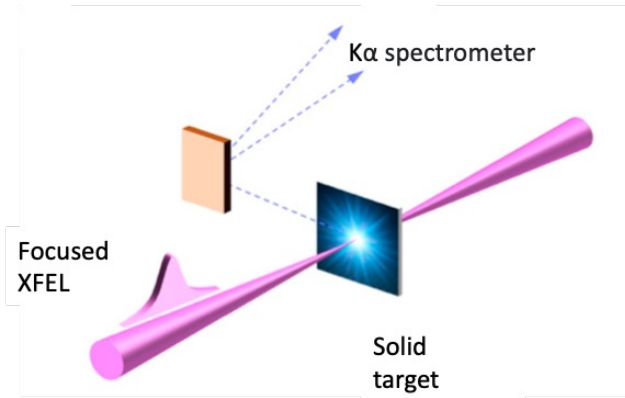
## High strain rate phenomena

Response of silicon to uniaxial compression

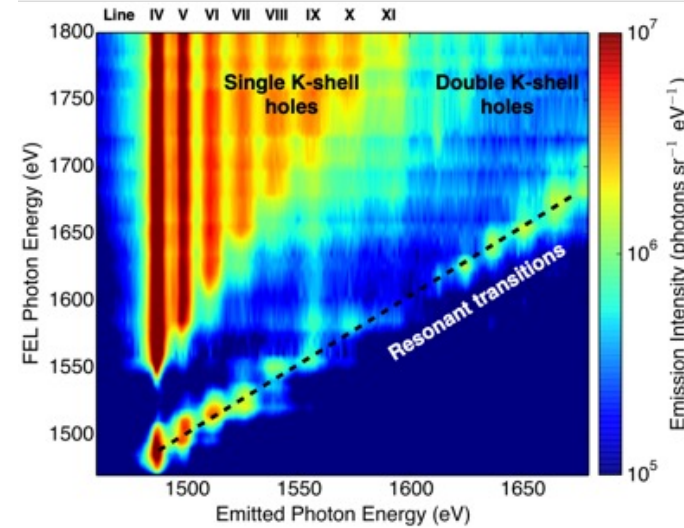


McBride et al. *Nat. Phys* 15, 89 (2019)

# Quantum plasmas: warm and hot dense matter

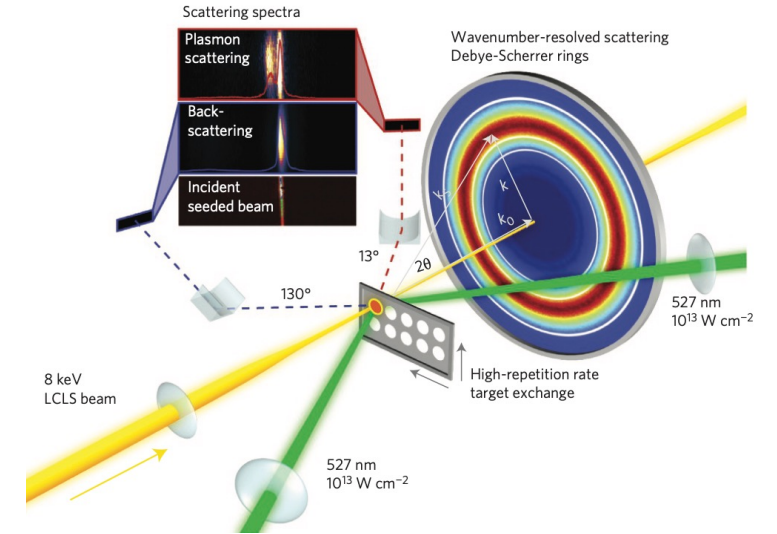


## Al solid density plasma at 150eV



Vinko et al. *Nature* 482, 59 (2012)

## Inelastic X-ray scattering in warm dense matter



Fletcher et al. *Nature Phot.* 9, 274 (2015)

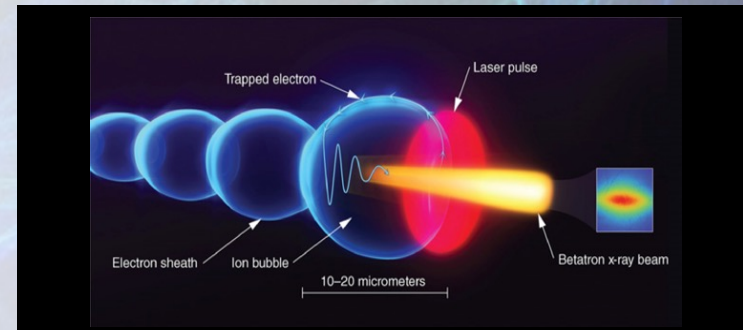
Higher X-ray pulse energies and nanofocusing will achieve even more extreme states

X-ray pump probe schemes will allow the exploring of volumetrically heated matter

# Future Opportunities

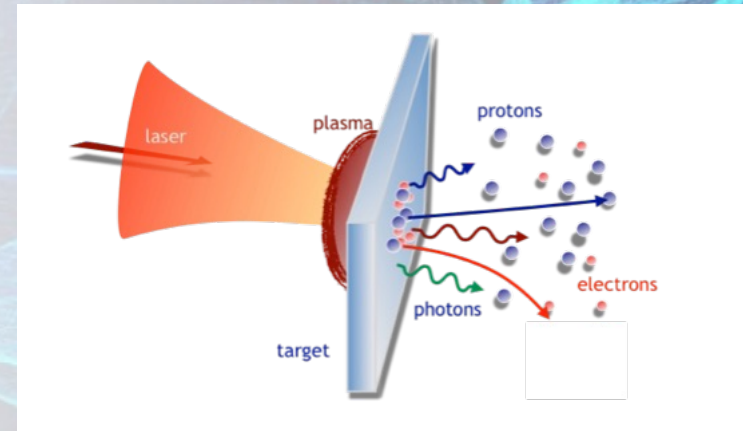
## Interaction with laser accelerated electrons

High intensity lasers can be used to produce beams of energetic electrons



## Even more extremes conditions

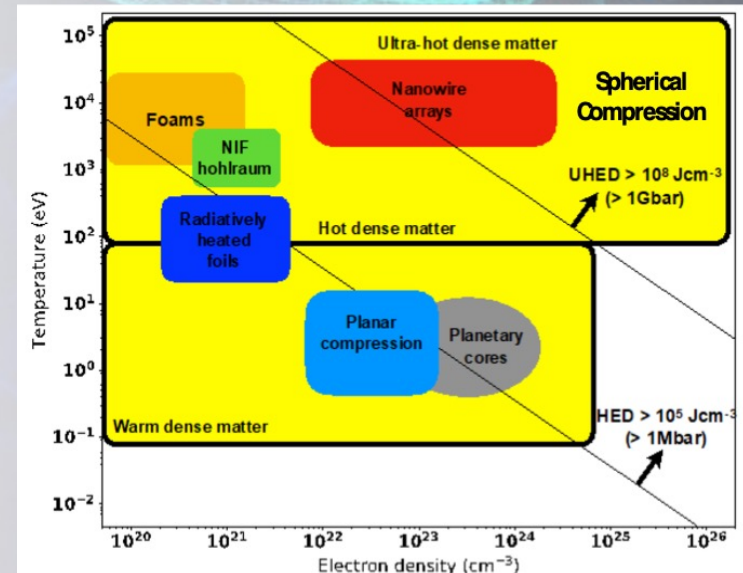
Laser generated proton and ion beams can be used for in-situ damage studies, as well as isochoric heating

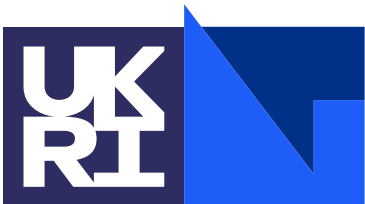


## Advances in Fusion energy

Creating and studying matter at stellar core and burning plasma conditions will lead to advances in fusion energy and our understanding of the universe.

The UK has a wealth of expertise in creating diode pumped high rep. rate high intensity lasers and combining these drivers with hard X-rays to investigate matter at extremes





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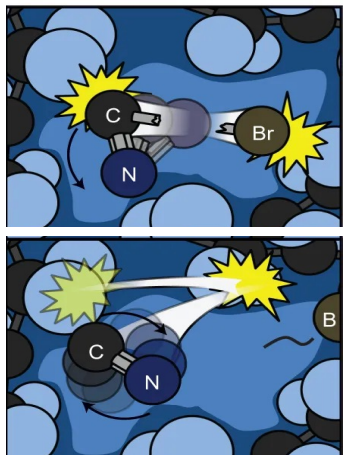
# Chemical Sciences, Catalysis, Energy

*Julia Weinstein (Sheffield), Russell Minns (Soton), Sofia Diaz-Moreno\* (Diamond), Andrew Burnett (Leeds), Tom Penfold (Newcastle), Rebecca Ingle (UCL), Mark Brouard, Claire Vallance (Oxford), Alex Baidak (Manchester)*



# Chemical Sciences, Catalysis, Energy

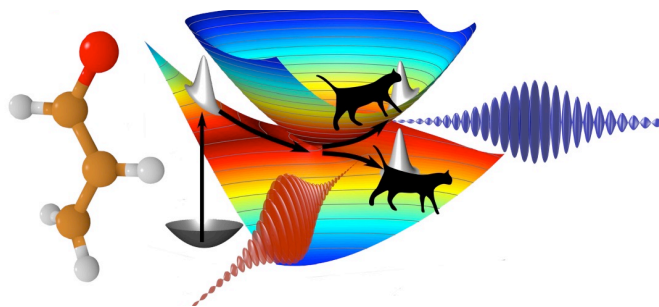
## Solvation



*Nature Chem*, 242, (2016)

## Transient electronic coherence

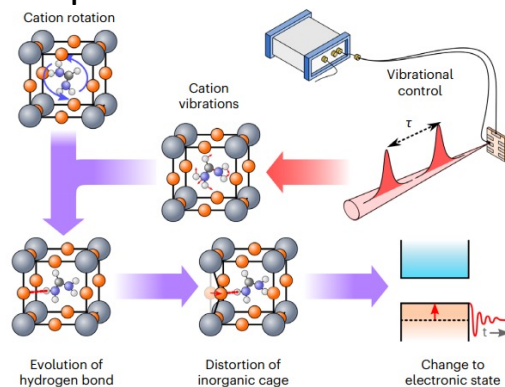
(attosecond X-Ray Raman)



*Phys Rev Lett*, 115, 19003 (2015)

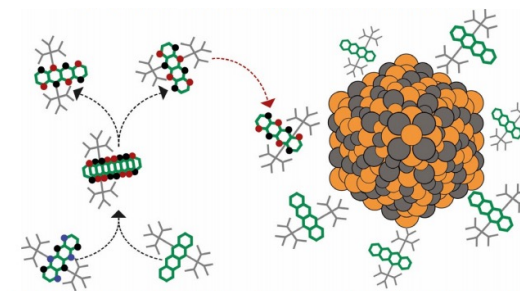
## Energy Materials

Organohalide perovskite optoelectronic devices



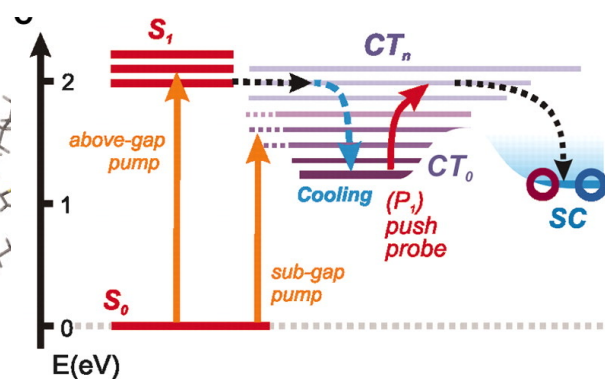
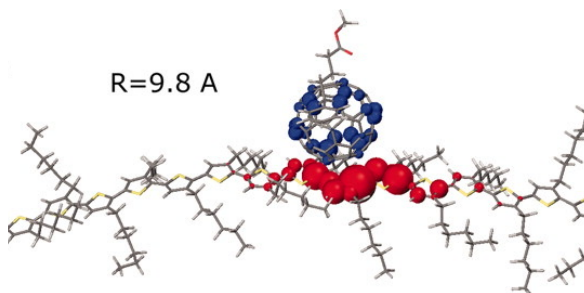
*Nature Mat*, 23 88–94 (2024)

Singlet fission



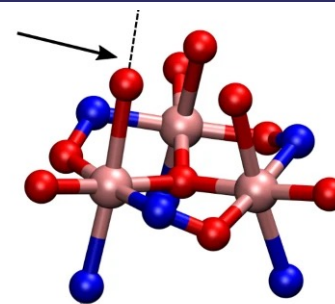
*JACS* 12907 (2019)

## Exciton Dynamics



*Science* 2012, 335, 1340

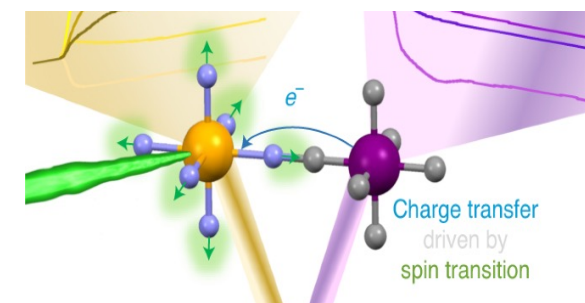
## Spin dynamics



Vibrational coherence in single-molecule magnet

F. Liedy, *Nature Chem*, 12, 452 (2020)

## Charge transfer dynamics



a CoFe Prussian blue analogue

*Nature Chem* 10 (2021)

# Fundamentals of reaction dynamics

## The Science Question

Fundamentals of reaction dynamics, the interplay of spin, charge, structure.

## The Movie

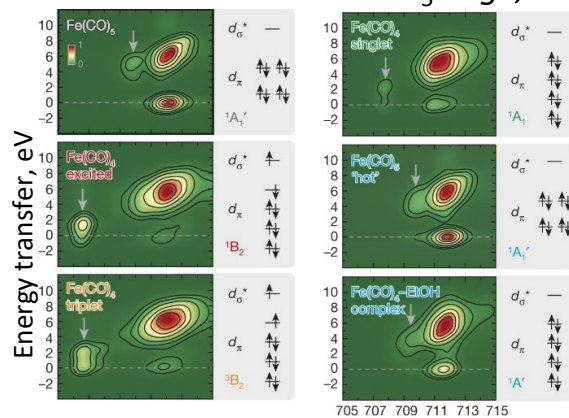
Ligand dissociation  
Primary step in catalysis

## The Applications

Magnetic materials, Information storage  
Fundamentals of chemical reactivity

### Element- and site-specific probing:

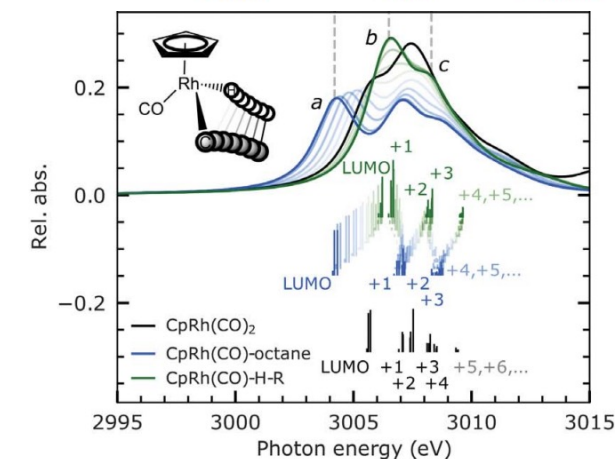
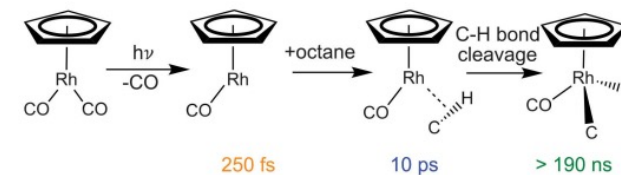
Time-resolved RIXS at the Fe L<sub>3</sub> edge, Fe(CO)<sub>5</sub>



Incident energy, eV

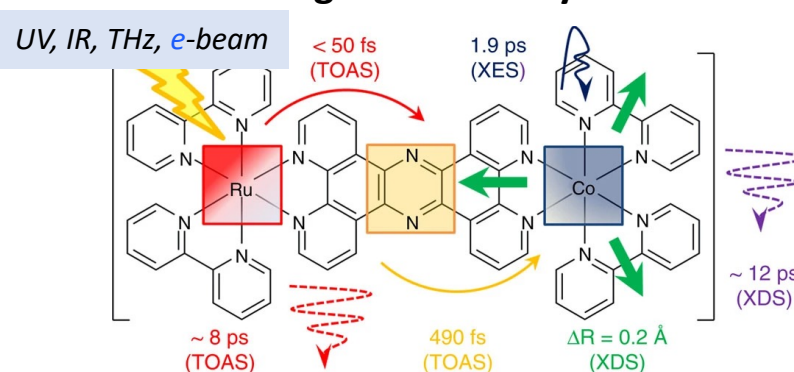
Orbital-specific mapping of the ligand exchange dynamics of Fe(CO)<sub>5</sub> in solution *Nature* 520, 78 (2015)

### Photocatalysis, Enzyme catalysis

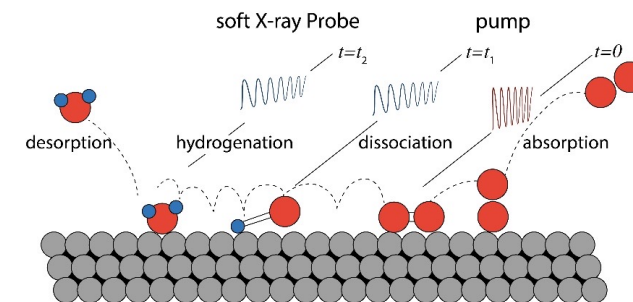


Tracking C-H activation with orbital resolution provides opportunities for manipulating C-H reactivity in transition metals *Science* 380, 955 (2023)

### Homogeneous catalysis



### Controlling catalytic reactions with THz excitation



*Chem Phys Lett* 675, 145 (2017)

# Towards molecular movie in chemistry and biochemistry

## The Science Question

Fundamentals of reaction dynamics, the interplay of spin, charge, structure.

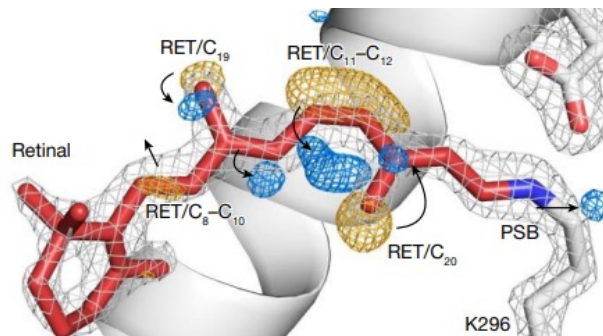
## The Movie

Ligand dissociation  
Primary steps in protein dynamics

## The Applications

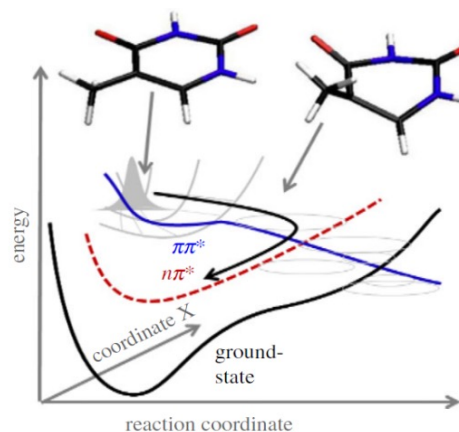
Enzyme catalysis  
Photoprotection  
Drug-target interaction

Ultrafast structural changes direct the first molecular events of vision



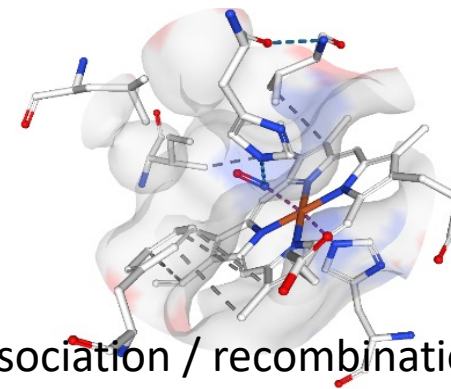
*Nature*, 615, 939 (2023)

Photochemistry of DNA



*Nat. Comm.* 8, 29, (2017)

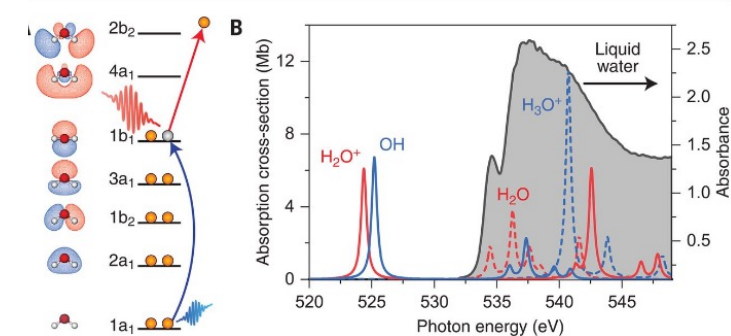
Correlated spin & structural dynamics



dissociation / recombination of NO to Fe-centre in Myoglobin

*Nat. Comm.* 11, 4145 (2020)

Observation of the fastest chemical processes in the radiolysis of water



*Science*, 367, 179 (2020)

# Future Opportunities in Chemical Sciences and Energy

Chemistry: all states of matter, decades of time-scale and energies, and dimensions from atomic to protein to whole organisms.

## New linear and non-linear x-ray spectroscopies

Probe dynamics, charge, and energy transfer in matter

- High repetition rate
- High photon flux
- Broad X-ray energy range – soft/hard; light and heavy elements
- *Whole system in one snap-shot*

## Understanding and development

- Fundamentals of reaction dynamics: nuclei, electrons and spin
- Energy materials and devices
- (Photo)(electro)catalysis *in operando*
- Environment: aerosols, space, combustion, corrosion
- Photodynamics in biomolecules, therapies, diagnostics

## Control (photo)reactivity of molecules, devices and materials

## Game Changer

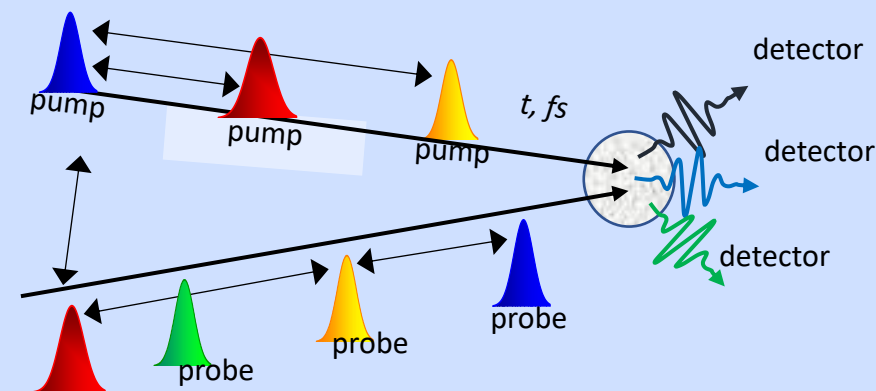
Combine X-rays with:

*e*-beam,

VUV, UV, Vis, IR, THz excitation and detections:

mix-and-match, multicolour, multi-parameter space,

multidimensional methods





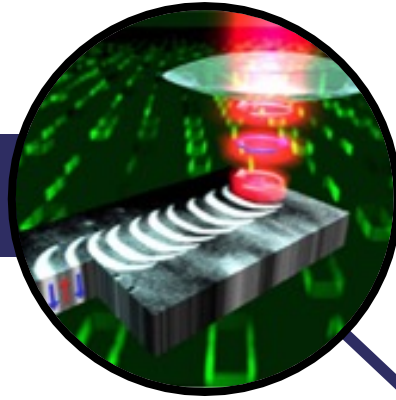
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# Condensed Phase, Quantum Materials and Nanotechnology

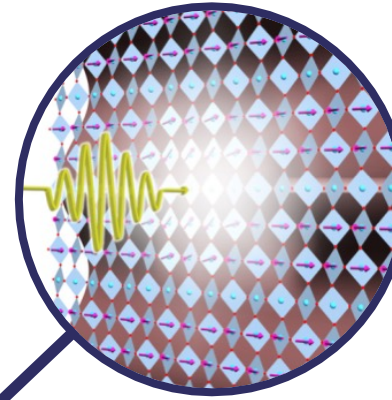
*Anna Regoutz (UCL), Marcus Newton (Soton), Ian Robinson (UCL/Brookhaven), Mark Dean (Brookhaven),  
Awan Shakil\* (Plymouth), Paolo Raedelli (Oxford), Simon Wall (Aarhus), Sarnjeet Dhesi (Diamond),*

# Condensed Phase, Quantum Materials and Nanotechnology

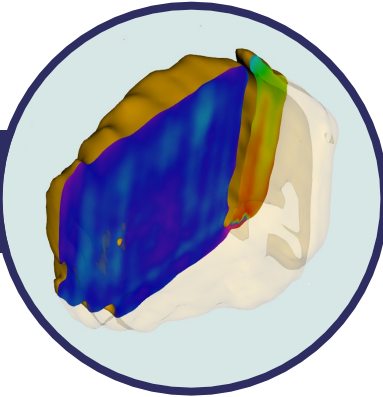
Dynamics in  
2D Materials



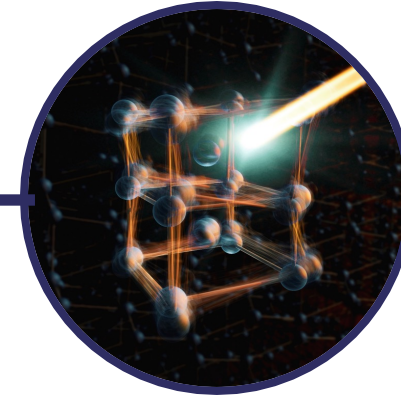
Ultra-fast  
Magnetism



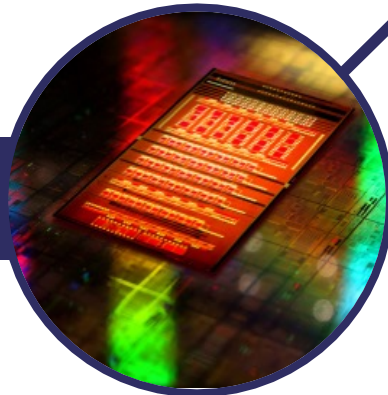
Dynamics in  
Nanomaterials



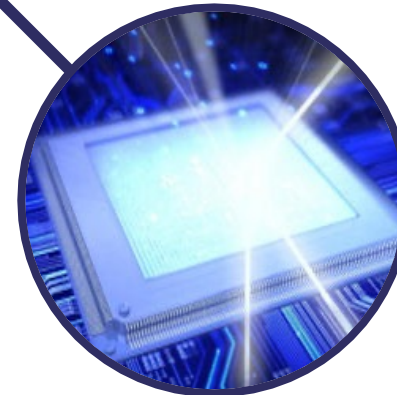
Light-induced  
Phases



Ultra-low  
Power Storage

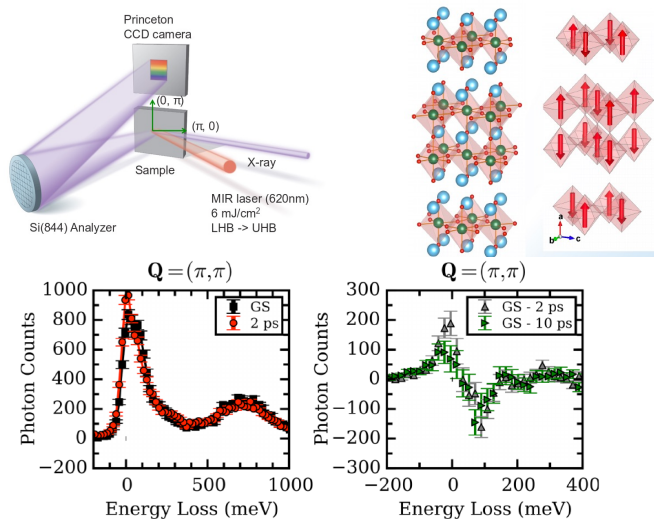


All Optical  
Computing



# Recent work

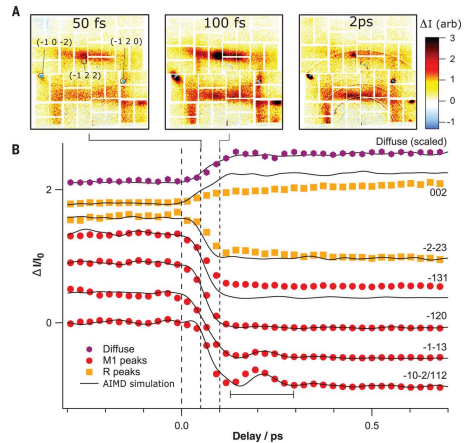
## Time-resolved Resonant Inelastic X-ray Scattering (Tr-RIXS)



Tr-RIXS resolves spin, orbit charge contributions in magnetic materials out of equilibrium.

M. P. M. Dean et al., *Nature Materials* 15, 601–605 (2016)

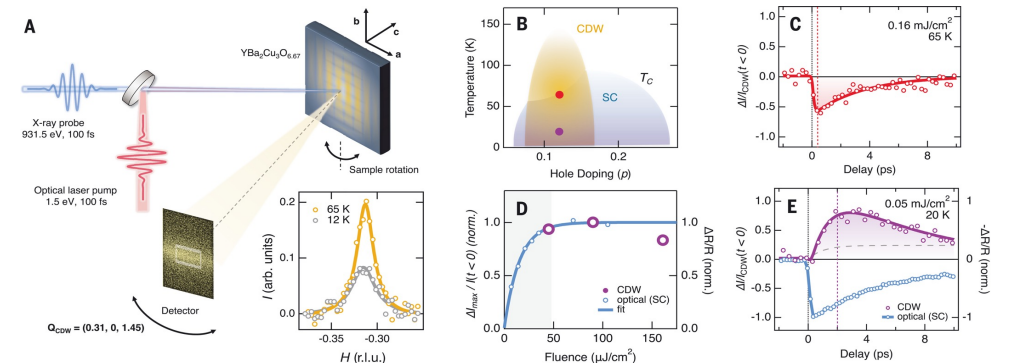
## Time-Resolved thermal diffuse scattering



Measuring disorder in solids and manipulating it for energy-efficient control of phase transitions

Wall et al., *Science* 362, 572–576 (2018)  
de la Peña Muñoz et al., *Nature Physics* 19, 1489 (2023)  
Johnson et al., *Nature Physics – in press* (2024)

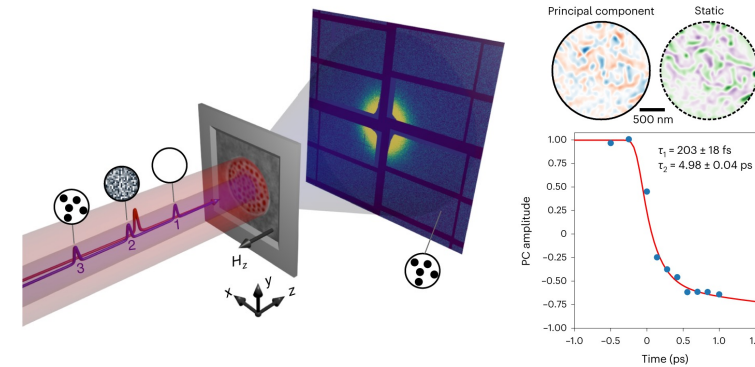
## Laser pump, X-ray probe of Superconductivity and CDW Interactions



Superconductivity stabilises CDW topological defects that are removed by suppressing superconductivity.

R. Mankowsky et al. *Nature* 516, 71-73 (2014), S. Wandel et al., *Science* 376, 860 (2022)

## Imaging magnetic and quantum materials

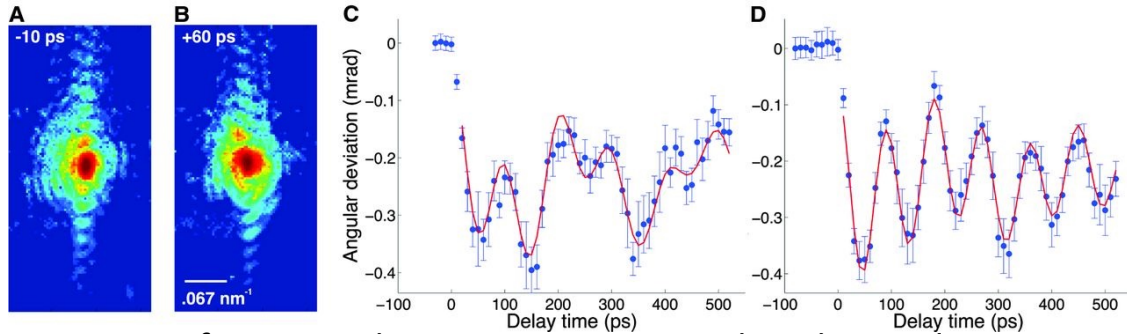


Coherent diffractive imaging of nanoscale dynamics on femtosecond timescale

Klose et al. *Nature* 614, 256 (2023)  
Büttner et al. *Nature Materials* 20, 30 (2021)  
Johnson et al. *Nature Physics* 19, 215 (2023)

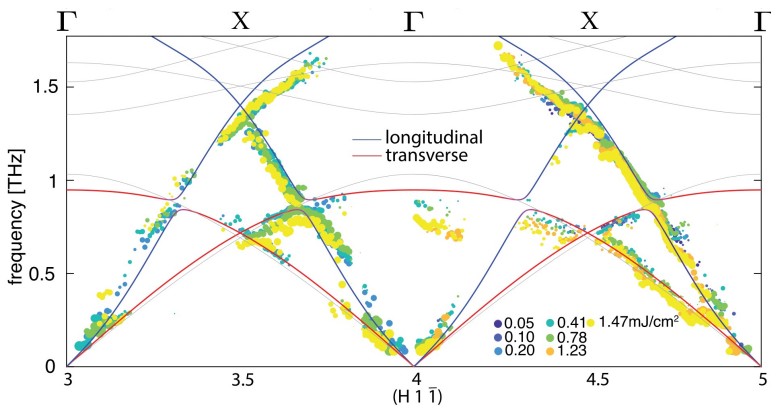
# Recent work

## Time-resolved Bragg Coherent Diffraction Imaging



3D images of acoustic phonons in a nanocrystal. Orthogonal cut planes through the nanocrystal showing the projected displacement as a function of delay time. J.N. Clark et al. *Science* 341, 56–59 (2013)

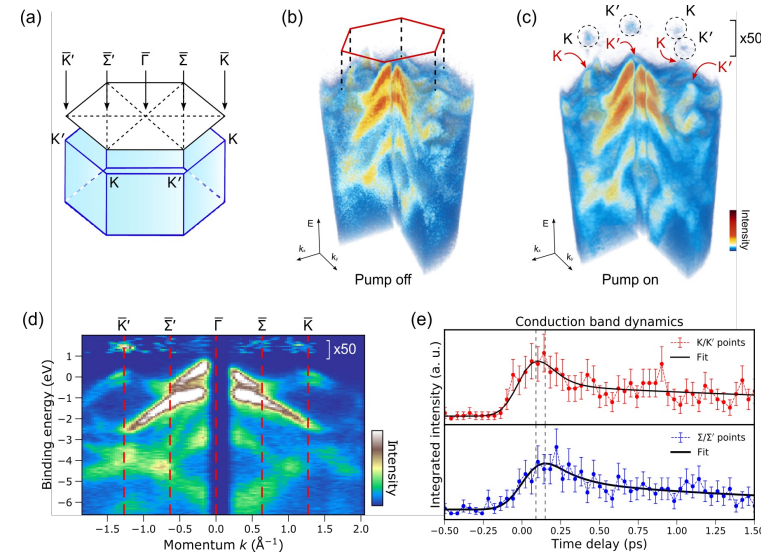
## Phonon Dispersion softening of SnSe with pump fluence



Nonthermal Bonding Origin of a Novel Photoexcited Lattice Instability in SnSe [LCLS work by Trigo and Lindenberg]

Huang, Teitelbaum et al., *PRL* 131, 156902 (2023)

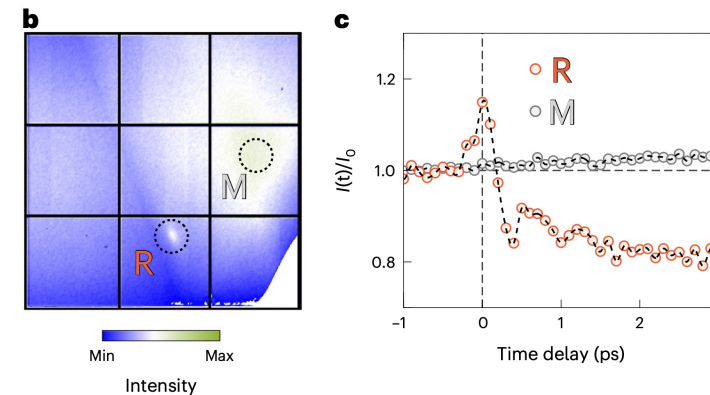
## Photoelectron Momentum Microscopy of 2D Material



Combining valence-band and core-level spectroscopy with photoelectron diffraction for electronic, chemical, and structural analysis.

D. Kutnyakhov, et al. *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* 91 (1): 013109 (2020)

## Short-time response of ferroelectric response in SrTiO<sub>3</sub> coupled to the antiferrodistortive instability



Quenched lattice fluctuations in optically driven SrTiO<sub>3</sub> [SwissFEL work by Trigo and Cavalleri]

Fechner et al. *Nature Materials* 23 363–368 (2024)  
Orenstein et al. *arXiv:2403.17203v1* (2024)



# Future Opportunities

## Ultrafast Magnetism

*Femto/atto second pump-probe scheme in THz/mid-IR to couple to phonon modes*

## Imaging Dynamics in Nanomaterials

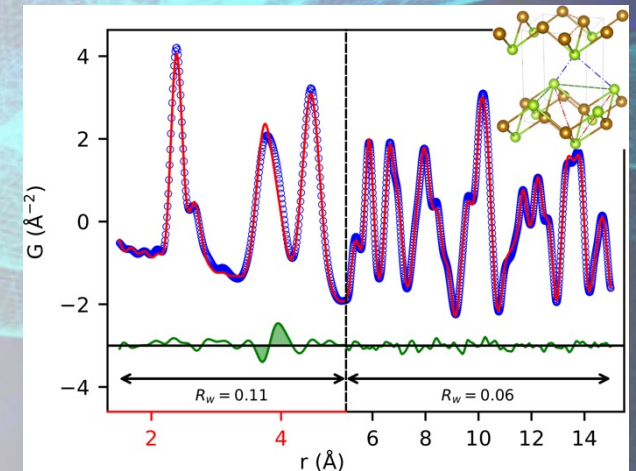
*Femto/atto second time-resolution to unambiguously probe each stage during a structural phase transition in three-dimensions*

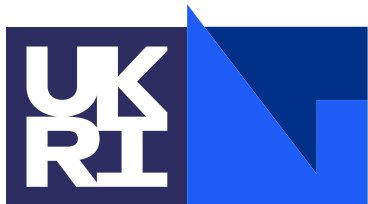
## Electronic Dynamics in Quantum Materials

*Access to electronic dynamics in the time-domain with atto second time resolution*

## Disorder in Quantum Materials

*Probing disorder in broad range of materials with femto/atto second time resolution  
Utility of high energy x-rays, for time-resolved pair distribution function (tr-PDF) measurements upto 50 keV.*





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## Life Sciences

*Allen Orville (Diamond), Jasper van Thor (IC), Xiaodong Zhang (IC), Shakil Awan (Plymouth),  
Adrian Mancuso (Diamond), Tian Geng (Heptares)*

# Opportunities for Life Science

1. Atomic resolution structures of biomolecules w/o X-ray dependent artefacts via serial femtosecond crystallography (SFX) methods using nano- to microcrystal slurries.
2. Obtaining deep functional insights through time-resolved crystallography, scattering, and/or imaging of biomolecules in crystalline and/or solution states that can also be correlated with spectroscopy derived from the same sample and X-ray pulse.

## The Era of *Dynamic* Structural Biology (at XFELs & synchrotrons)

### NEW SCIENCE

- Time-Resolved SFX / SSX
- General and Widespread
- High Temporal (fs) and Spatial ( $\sim 1 \text{ \AA}$ ) Resolutions
- Correlated with one/more Spectroscopies (tr-XES ...)

### NEW CAPABILITY

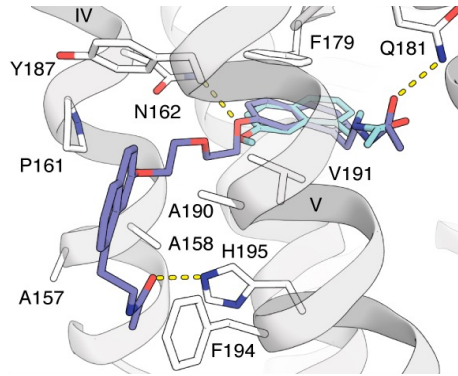
- High rep. rate detectors  $\rightarrow$  more time points / Rxn
- Spatially Resolved Anomalous Dispersion  $\rightarrow$  status of intermediates
- SASE -vs- Seeded  $\rightarrow$  tr-SFX  $\pm$  tr-XES  $\pm$   $\Delta E$  across metal(s) absorption edge(s)

### IMPACT

- **Stop-motion movies of functional systems**
- **Detailed mechanistic insights, less ambiguity**
- **New drugs, therapies**
- **New catalysts for global energy challenges**

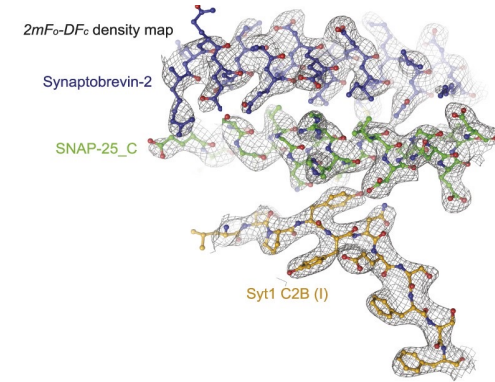
# Atomic resolution structures without artefacts

## Structural basis of ligand recognition at the human MT1 melatonin receptor



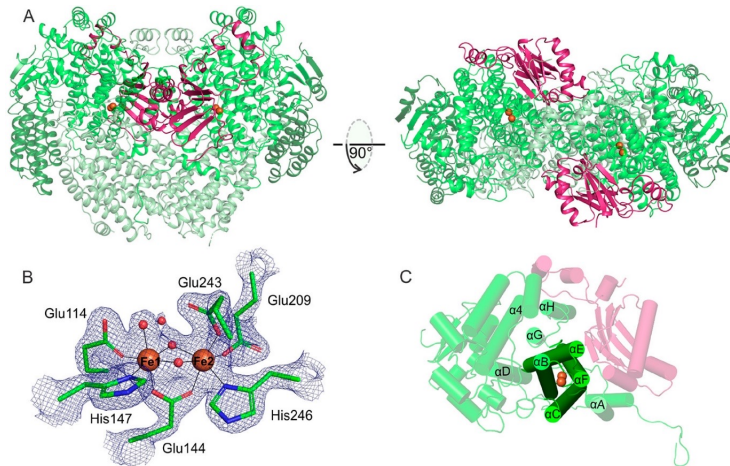
Stauch et al *Nature* 569, 284-288 (2019)

## Architecture of the synaptotagmin- SNARE machinery for neuronal exocytosis



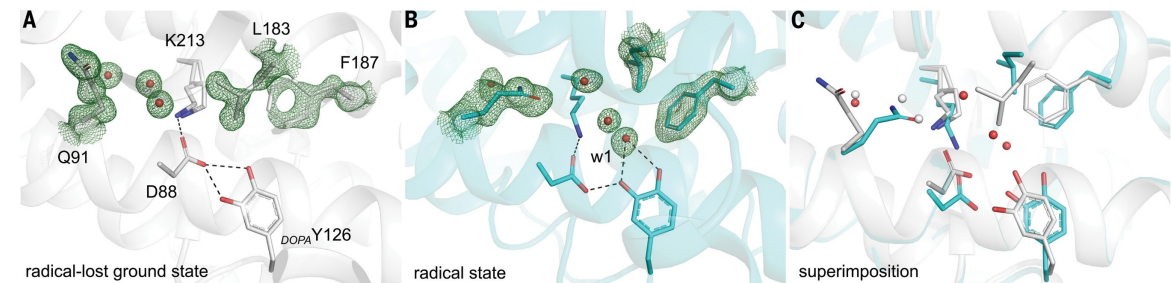
Zhou et al *Nature* 525, 62-67 (2015)

## Structure of methane monooxygenase



Srinivas et al *J Am Chem Soc* 142, 14249-14266 (2020)

## Structure of a ribonucleotide reductase R2 protein radical



Lebrette et al. *Science* 382, 109-113 (2023)



# Future Opportunities for Life Sciences

## High throughput SFX enabling new structures for life-sciences and pharma

*(high rep-rate x-rays, matched rep-rate of detectors and sample delivery)*

## High data volume CDI and tomographic XRD

*(average x-ray flux orders of magnitude higher than DLS II, nanofocusing)*

## Conformational dynamics in viruses and sub-cellular assemblies

*(high rep rate, hard x-rays)*

## Mapping drug activity in real time

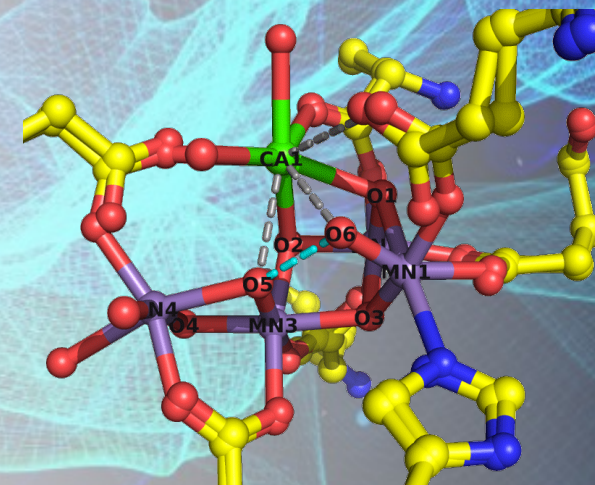
*(high rep-rate/high intensity/hard x-rays)*

## Dynamic structural biology capturing dynamics across many timescales

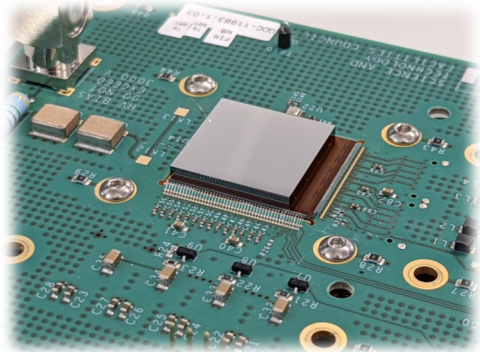
*(high rep-rate x-rays, samples and detectors, synchronised laser and activation sources)*

## Radiation biology and medicine

*(hard x-rays synchronised to soft x-rays, electron, proton and ion pulses)*



# MHz continuous frame rate, Megapixel x-ray detector technology exists

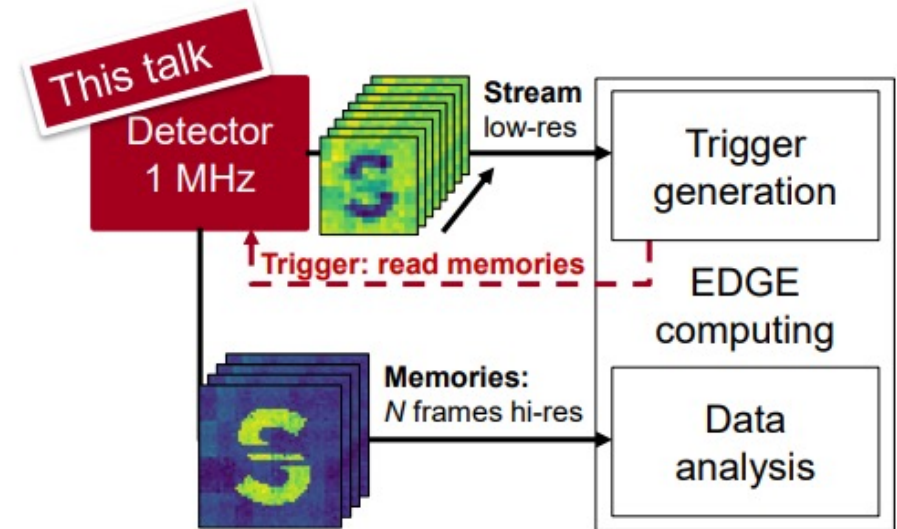


HEXITEC MHz

- Built by STFC to test in pixel digitiser and high speed serialisers
- 80x80 pixels on 0.25mm pitch for CZT
- Works but made to measure X-ray energy not big signals
- But shows you can get to MHz frame rates



SparkPix → LCLS-II readout sparse area to decide to keep and readout



Data rate is the bottleneck: 1 Megapixel at 1 MHz is 2 TB per second

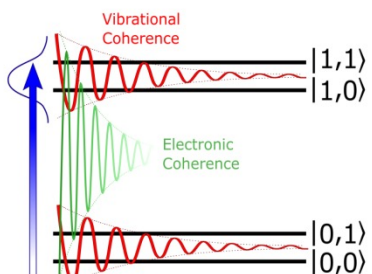
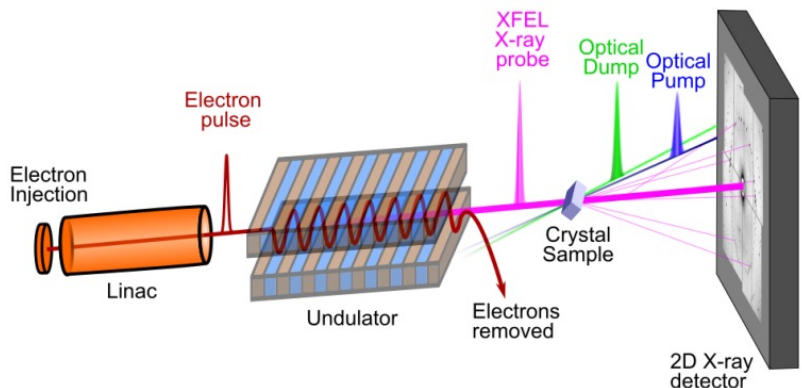
Data reduction strategies:

-SparkPix, ADC and save only rare events in high resolution

-FPGA pre-processing, either record only rare events, or full crystallographic integration and indexing

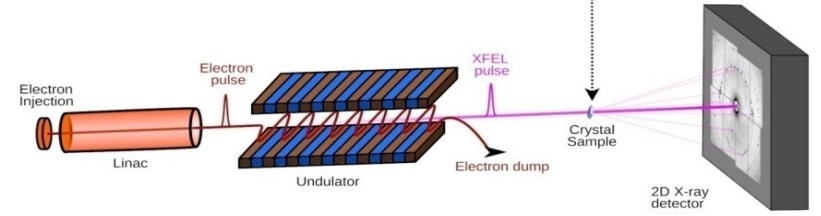
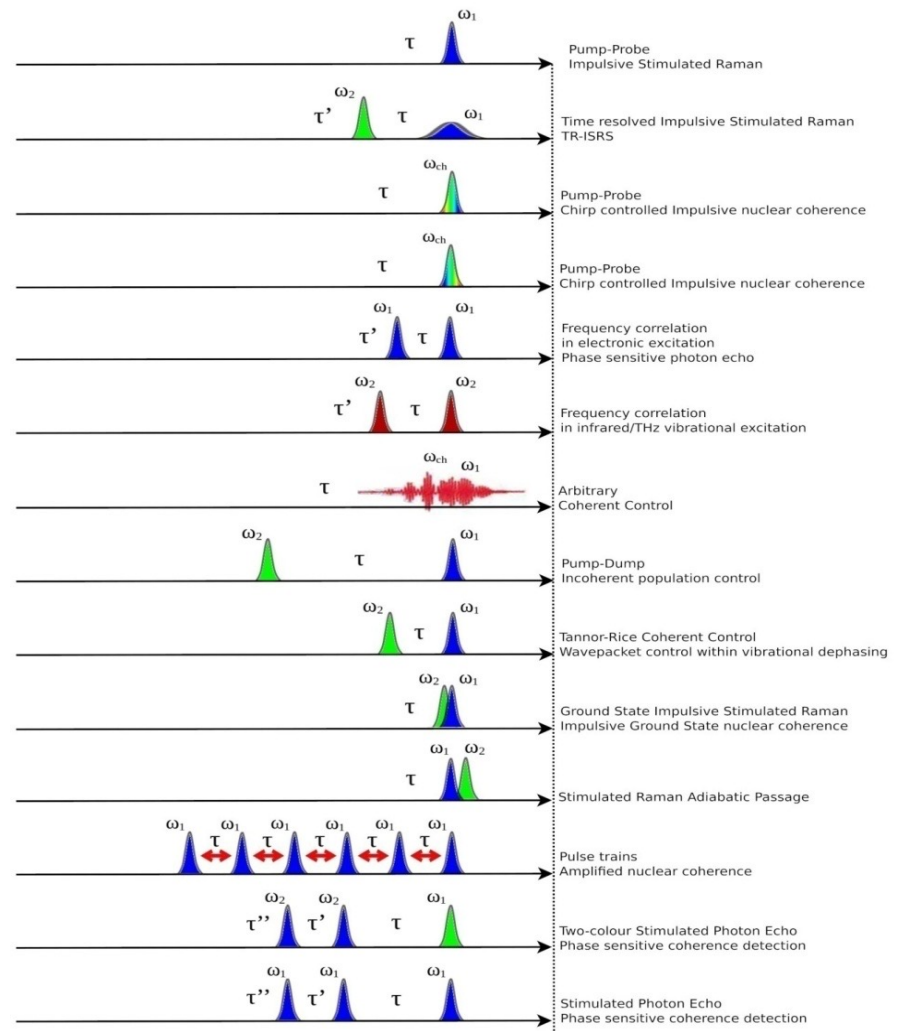
STFC detector team, Matt Wilson, Chris Armstrong, Sion Richards, Matthew Hart, Marcus French & Matthew Veale

# High repetition rate enables new ultrafast science



$ 0,0\rangle$	$\langle 0,0 0,0\rangle$	$\langle 0,1 0,0\rangle$	$\langle 1,0 0,0\rangle$	$\langle 1,1 0,0\rangle$
$ 0,1\rangle$	$\langle 0,0 0,1\rangle$	$\langle 0,1 0,1\rangle$	$\langle 1,0 0,1\rangle$	$\langle 1,1 0,1\rangle$
$ 1,0\rangle$	$\langle 0,0 1,0\rangle$	$\langle 0,1 1,0\rangle$	$\langle 1,0 1,0\rangle$	$\langle 1,1 1,0\rangle$
$ 1,1\rangle$	$\langle 0,0 1,1\rangle$	$\langle 0,1 1,1\rangle$	$\langle 1,0 1,1\rangle$	$\langle 1,1 1,1\rangle$

Vibrational Coherence  
 Electronic Coherence  
 Population



*Multi-pulse excitation is necessary to separate the coherences and populations, intrinsically present in ultrafast experimental conditions*

Hutchison, Perrett and van Thor. *J Phys Chem B*. (2024)  
 XFEL Beamline Optical Instrumentation for Ultrafast Science  
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpcc.4c01492>

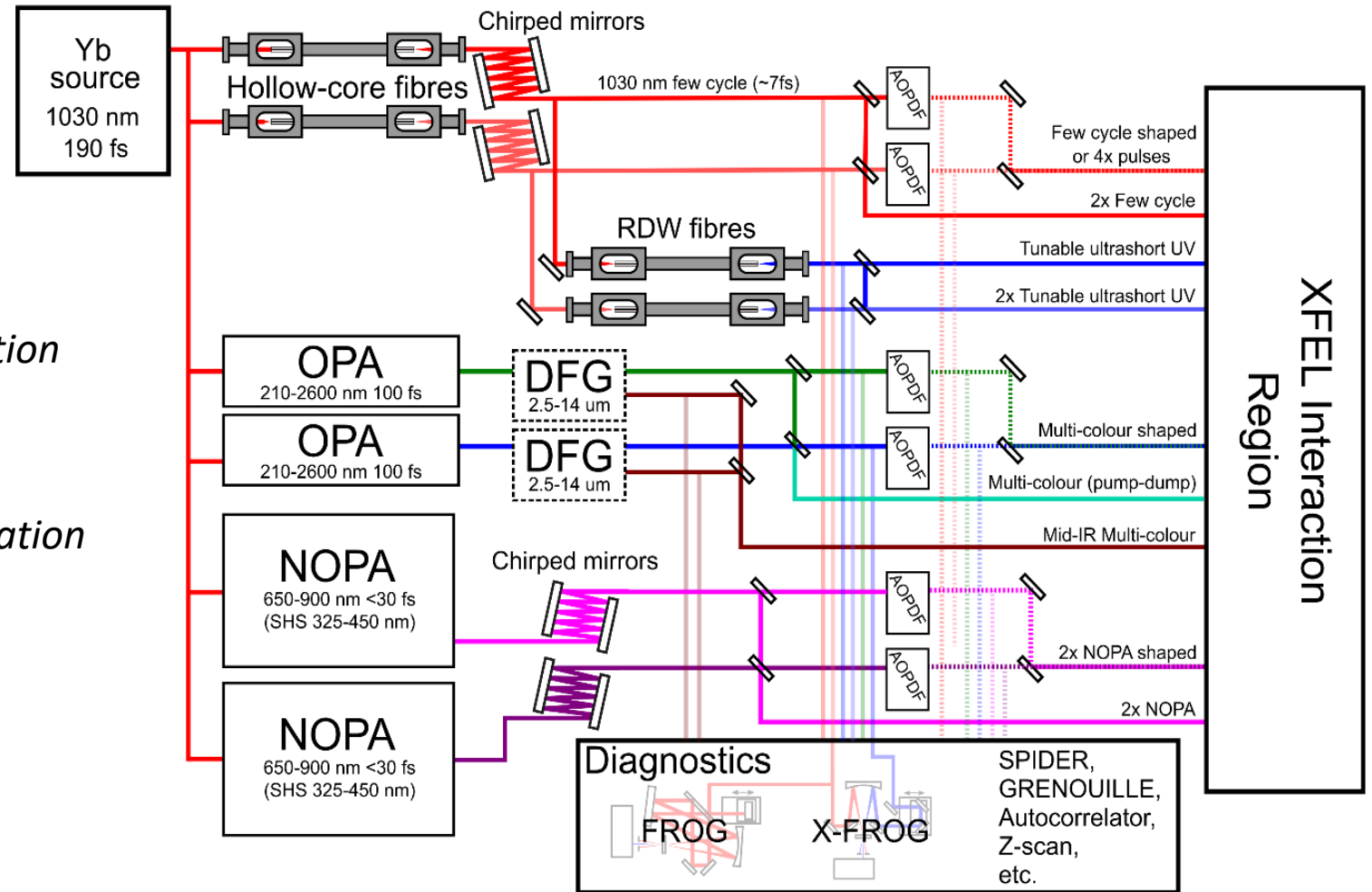


# > KW Laser technology and frequency conversion a challenge for MHz work

Possible routes to MHz optical instrumentation

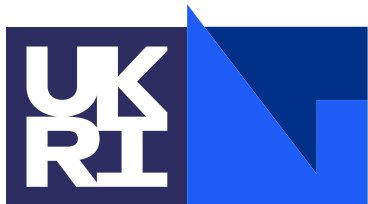
- Non-linear compression of Yb laser

- Optical Parametric Chirped-Pulse Amplification (OPCPA) technology



Hutchison, Perrett and van Thor. *J Phys Chem B*. (2024)  
 XFEL Beamline Optical Instrumentation for Ultrafast Science  
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpcc.4c01492>

*Proposed optical instrumentation for multi-pulse non-linear science at XFELs*



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# Applied and Industrial Research

# Initial Science Drivers for Applied and Industrial Research

Additive Manufacturing



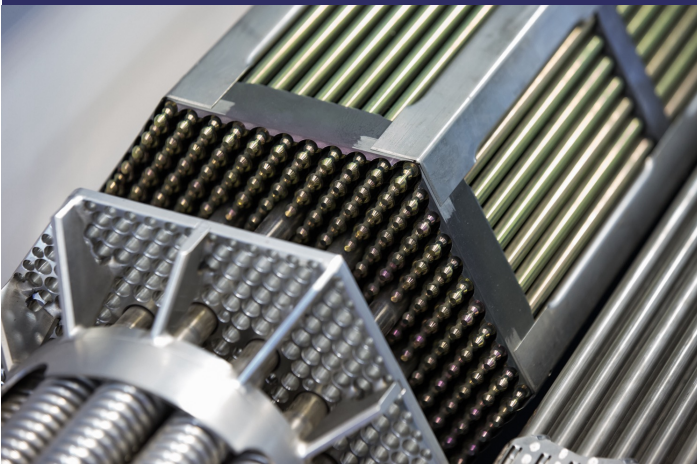
Drug Interactions & Formulation



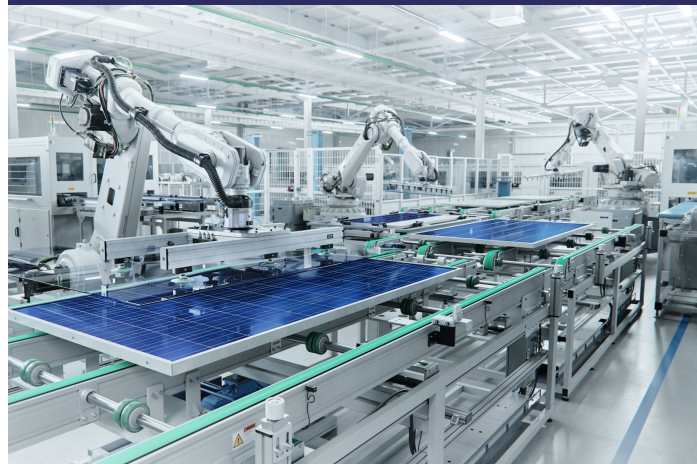
Shocked Materials



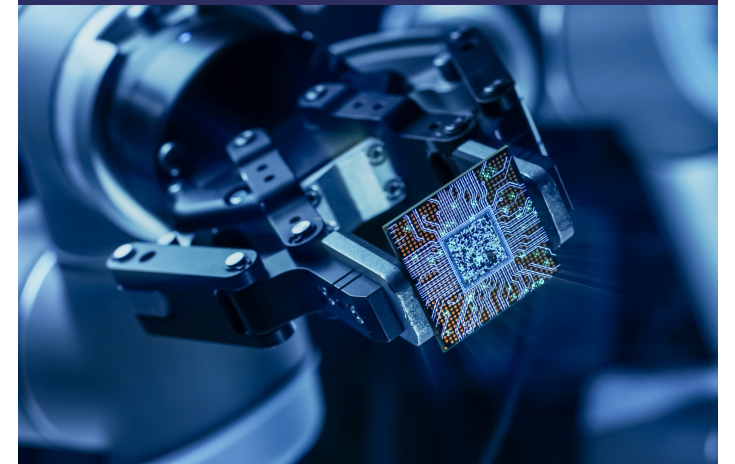
Nucleation



Catalysis

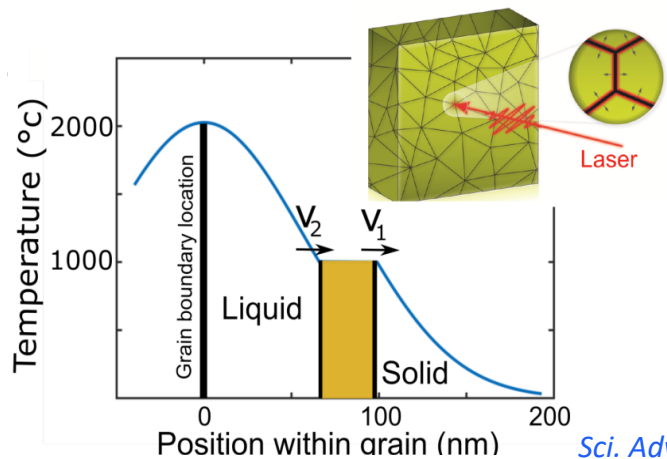


Quantum Tech & Data

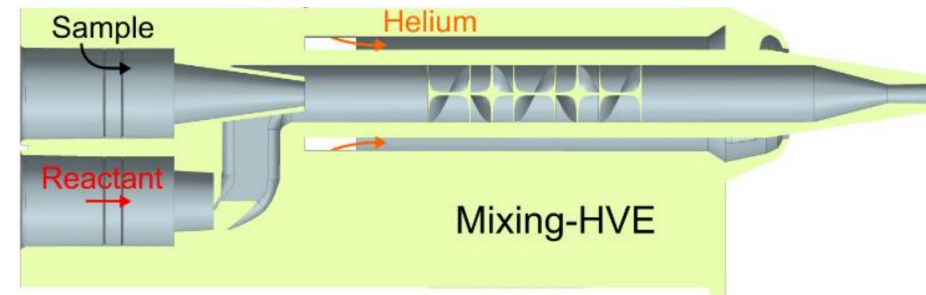


# Applications to Laser Processing, Energy Materials, Manufacturing

## In-Situ x-ray imaging of additive manufacturing

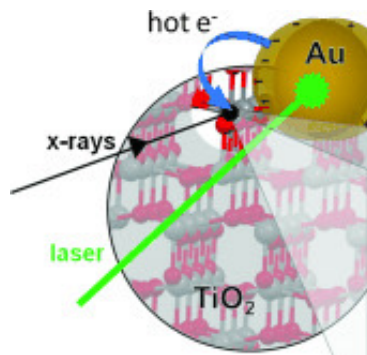


*Sci. Advances 6, eaax2445 (2020)*  
*Nat. Comm. 9, 1533 (2018)*



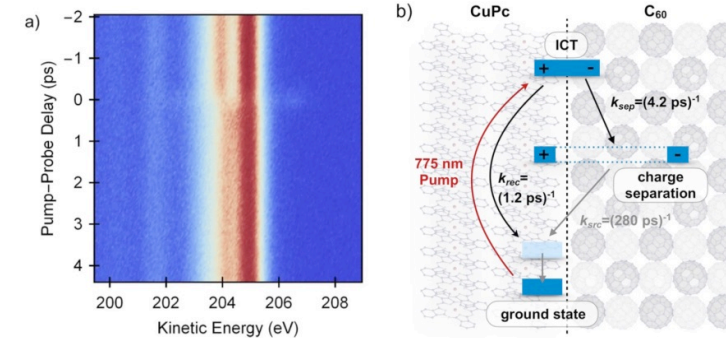
Mix-and-extrude crystallisation dynamics with 3D printed nozzles  
*J. Appl Cryst 56, 1038 (2023)*

## Plasmonic Photocatalysis



Plasmonic photocatalysis *Angew. Chem. 54, 5413 (2015)*

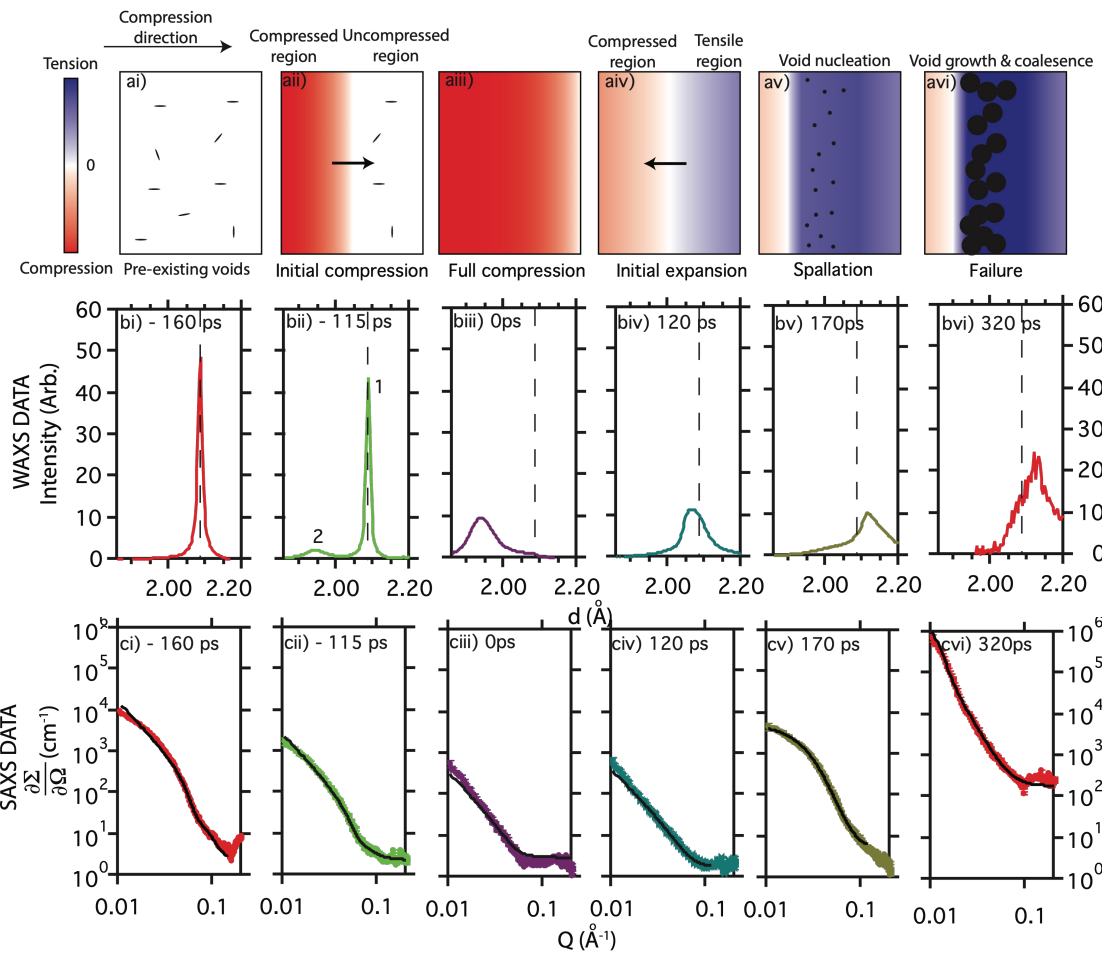
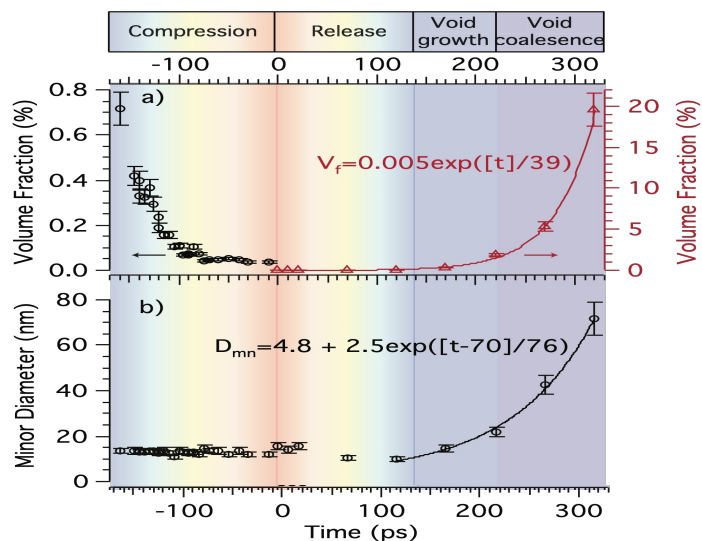
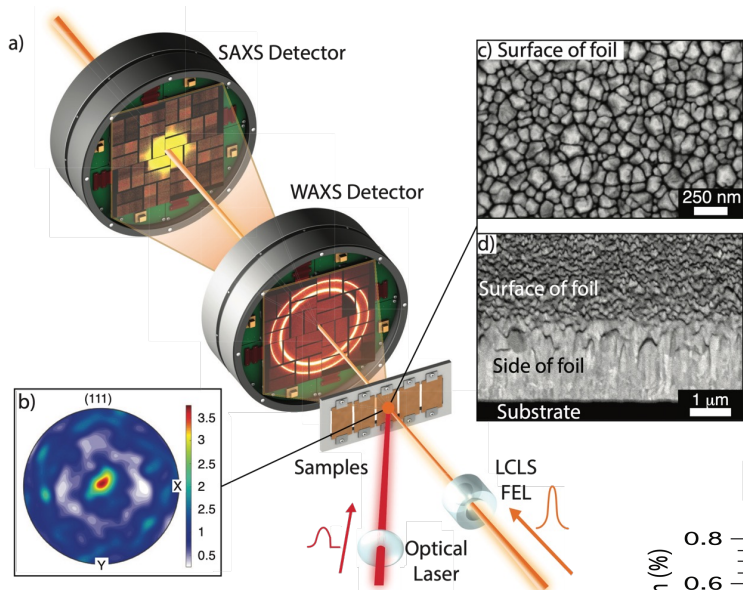
## Organic Photovoltaics



Organic photovoltaics *Nat. Comm. 12, 1196 (2021)*, *Nat. Comm. 13, 3414, (2022)*

# Application to Understanding Shocked Materials

## Laser Shocked Cu foil, performed on SAXS at CXI, LCLS



Coakley et al, *Sci. Adv.*, 6(51):eabb4434, 2020.

# Future Opportunities

## New biomedical technology

Spatiotemporal structure dynamics in biologically relevant and complex systems; for example, peptide and protein (mis)folding (*hard x-rays, high rep-rate, solution scattering and spectroscopy*)

## Advances in industrial processing

Developing detailed understanding of advanced processes to optimise manufacturing outcomes with the minimum number of empirical trials (*from XUV for gas phase processing & photolithography to hard X-rays, at high rep-rate, and coupled to compact process replicators*)

## Advancing understanding of nucleation, solidification and crystallization in soft-matter

Spatiotemporal dynamics of phase behaviour and reactions: molecular - mesoscale – macroscopic, capturing rare events, non-crystalline phases, nucleation, liquids (*0.2 keV to > 40 keV high rep-rate, compact process replication*)

## Radiation damage mitigation in space and nuclear industry

Powerful insights into the multi-timescale mechanisms crucial for understanding and mitigation (*High rep-rate x-rays, synchronised to ultrafast lasers, electron, proton and ion beams*)

# Potential for crucial contributions to five critical technologies

## Artificial Intelligence

*Informing nanoscale engineering of new materials and concepts for energy efficient data processing*

## Engineering biology

*Advancing dynamical structural biology and accompanying insight into the crucial nanoscopic mechanisms*

## Future Telecommunications

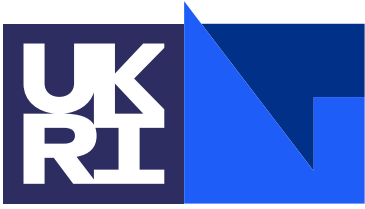
*Proving new materials at the ultrafast and nano-scale for future concepts and classes of device*

## Semiconductors

*Through probing ultrafast mechanisms in operation and fabrication for optimisation and sustainability*

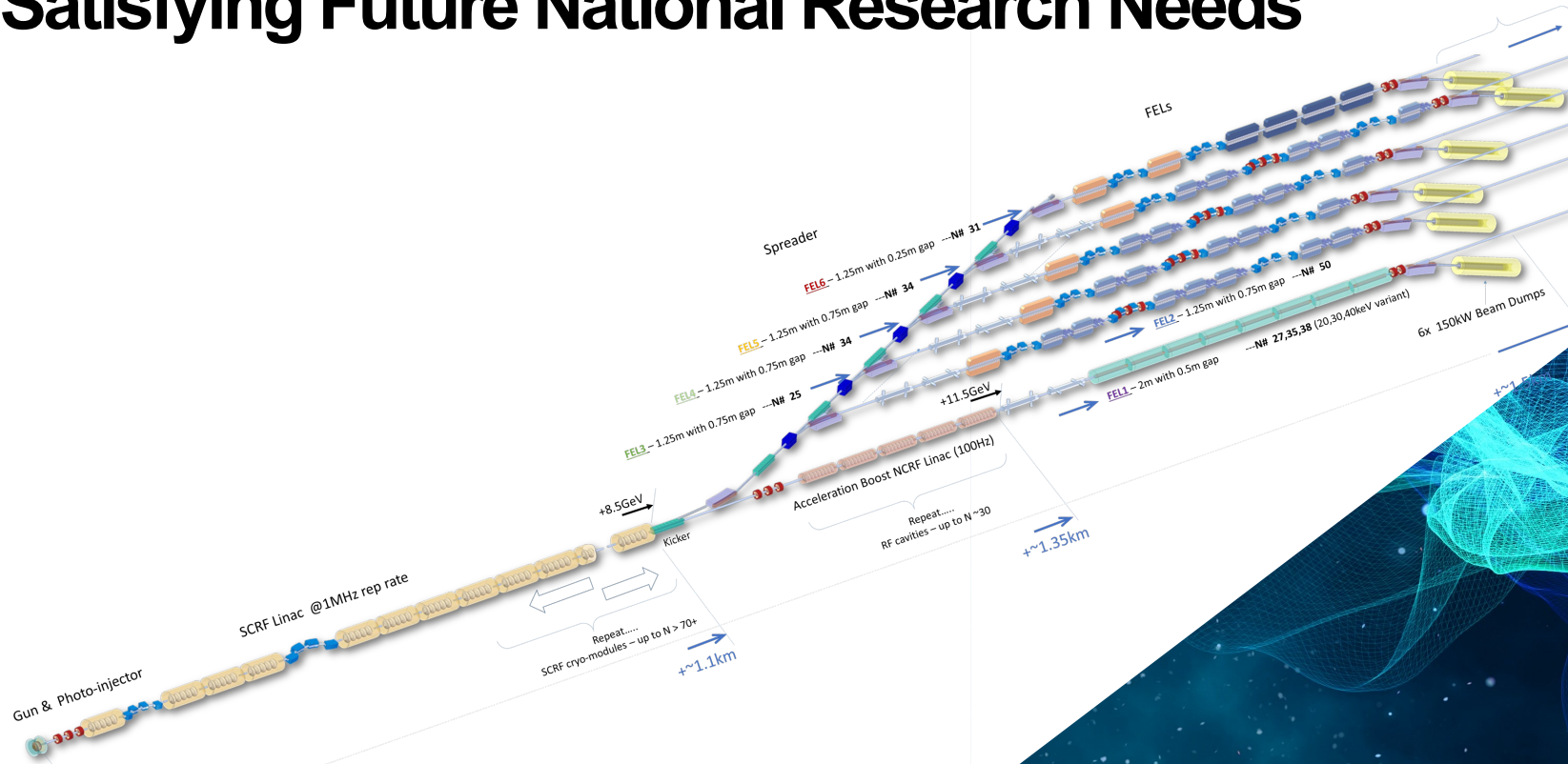
## Quantum Technology

*Quantum scale understanding of mechanisms and dynamics in materials and operando-devices*



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# Satisfying Future National Research Needs





# UK is Establishing Advanced Capabilities for Ultrafast Dynamics

Capability	RUEDI	UK XFEL
Time Resolution	~20 fs	~0.2 fs
Rep-rate	~1 kHz	100 kHz (x 10 end stations in parallel)
Sub-nm imaging	Dedicated End Station (10 ps res)	NA
CDI (including spectral resolved)	NA	Partial image retrieval (20fs res/sub nm)
Gas phase diffraction	Excellent (sensitive to protons)	Excellent
Thin film diffraction	Excellent	Excellent (including nanocrystals)
Liquid phase scattering	Excellent	Excellent
Bulk materials/buried structures	Limited	Excellent
Field dressed states	Limited	Excellent
Crystallographic structure solution	Limited	Excellent
Resonant elastic & inelastic scattering	NA	Excellent
Electronic state spectroscopy	NA	Excellent
Photoelectron momentum	NA	Excellent
Core level spectroscopy	NA	Excellent
Multi-dimensional spectroscopy	NA	Developing/Excellent prospects

# Future Opportunities Unlocked With:

**Transform limited operation across entire X-ray range**

*Fully resolving dynamics at the combined limits of temporal and energy resolution*

**High efficiency facility with a step-change in the simultaneous operation of multiple end stations**

*Expanding access by providing scope for many hundreds of unique experiments every year*

**Evenly spaced, high-rep rate pulses to match samples & detectors**

*Enabling the most advanced measurement methodologies whilst supporting high throughput measurements with standard capabilities*

**Improved synchronisation/timing data with external lasers to  $< 1$  fs**

*Realising the full temporal resolution to see dynamics unfold across multiple timescales from sub-femtosecond electronic dynamics to nanosecond thermal relaxation and larger scale structural changes*

**Multiple colour X-rays at one end-station and full array of synchronised sources:**

*To interrogate specific electronic, vibronic, excitonic etc. modes to completely uncover the complex dynamical pathways and couplings in matter*

# Contributes to generic national strategic themes

## Advancing Technology

Through understanding quantum scale structural dynamics

## Healthcare

Through advancing dynamical structural biology

## Frontiers of Knowledge

Through access to brightest ultrafast X-ray pulses

## Net Zero Growth

Through unravelling photo-chemical/catalytic cycles

## Economic Strengths

Through skills and research outcomes maintaining competitiveness with China, USA and Europe



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# Thank You

Slides and References available at

**[xfel.ac.uk](https://xfel.ac.uk)**

