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## Ultrafast Structural Changes in Chiral Molecules Measured with Free-Electron Lasers

P Schmidt<sup>1,2</sup>, V Music<sup>1,2</sup>, G Hartmann<sup>1</sup>, R Boll<sup>2</sup>, B Erk<sup>3</sup>, S Bari<sup>3</sup>, F Allum<sup>4</sup>, T M Baumann<sup>2</sup>, G Brenner<sup>3</sup>, M Brouard<sup>4</sup>, M Burt<sup>4</sup>, R Coffee<sup>5</sup>, S Dörner<sup>3</sup>, A Galler<sup>2</sup>, P Grychtol<sup>2</sup>, D Heathcote<sup>4</sup>, L Inhester<sup>6</sup>, M Kazemi<sup>3</sup>, M Larsson<sup>7</sup>, J Lee<sup>4</sup>, Z Li<sup>6</sup>, A Lutmann<sup>5</sup>, B Manschwetus<sup>3</sup>, L Marder<sup>1</sup>, R Mason<sup>4</sup>, S Moeller<sup>5</sup>, T Osipov<sup>5</sup>, H Otto<sup>1</sup>, C Passow<sup>3</sup>, D Rolles<sup>8</sup>, P Rupprecht<sup>9</sup>, K Schubert<sup>3</sup>, L Schwob<sup>3</sup>, R Thomas<sup>7</sup>, C Vallance<sup>4</sup>, C von Korff Schmising<sup>10</sup>, R Wagner<sup>2</sup>, P Walter<sup>5</sup>, T J A Wolf<sup>11</sup>, V Zhaunerchyk<sup>12</sup>, M Meyer<sup>2</sup>, A Ehresmann<sup>1</sup>, A Knie<sup>1</sup>, Ph V Demekhin<sup>1</sup> and M Ilchen<sup>1,2\* \*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Kassel, Institut für Physik, Heinrich-Plett-Straße 40, 34132 Kassel, Germany

<sup>2</sup> European XFEL GmbH, Holzkoppel 4, 22869 Schenefeld, Germany

<sup>3</sup> Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY), Notkestraße 85, 22607 Hamburg, Germany

<sup>4</sup> University of Oxford, The Department of Chemistry, Oxford OX1 2JD, UK

<sup>5</sup> SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, 2575 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, California 94025, USA

<sup>6</sup> Center for Free-Electron Laser Science (CFEL), Notkestraße 85, 22607 Hamburg, Germany

<sup>7</sup> University of Stockholm, Alba Nova Institute, Roslagstullsbacken 21, 114 21 Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>8</sup> Kansas State University, 1228 N 17th St, KS 66506, United States

<sup>9</sup> Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik Heidelberg, Saupfercheckweg 1, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany

<sup>10</sup> Max Born Institute, Max-Born-Straße 2A, 12489 Berlin, Germany

<sup>11</sup> PULSE at Stanford, 2575 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, California 94025, USA

<sup>12</sup> University of Gothenburg, 405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden

**Synopsis** (X-ray) free-electron lasers are employed to site specifically interrogate atomic fragments during ultrafast photolysis of chiral molecules via time-resolved photoelectron circular dichroism.

The method of photoelectron circular dichroism (PECD) has been shown to be a powerful tool for chiral recognition over the last two decades[1, 2]. It provides up to orders of magnitude stronger effects than normal CD. The observable forward-backward asymmetry in the angular distribution of photoelectrons emitted from a chiral system is very sensitive to the electron energy and also to (ultrafast) changes of the underlying charge distribution. This has been demonstrated for vibrational excitations[3], multiphoton interactions[4] and ultrafast structural changes[5]. Such exceptional sensitivity of PECD opens unique perspectives for addressing nonlinear and ultrafast phenomena with VUV and X-ray free-electron lasers that can uniquely enable site selective interrogation of an observing (e.g. dissociating) atomic site. However, such pump-probe experiments on chiral systems are challenging in terms of their technical, physical and (stereo-)chemical complexity.

In the presented work, we show first approaches from the free-electron lasers LCLS (USA) and FLASH (Germany) to measure the

\*E-mail: [ilchen@physik.uni-kassel.de](mailto:ilchen@physik.uni-kassel.de)

time-resolved (TR-)PECD in chiral model systems, i.e. trifluoromethyloxirane ( $C_3H_3F_3O$ )[6] and iodomethylbutane( $C_5H_{11}I$ ), respectively.

To measure the TR-PECD of these prototypical chiral molecules during (UV) laser or X-ray triggered fragmentation (pump), highly intense, circularly polarized XUV free-electron laser pulses were used as probe. The presentation will primarily focus on a recent experiment at FLASH (10/2018), where we employed a two-sided velocity map imaging spectrometer in order to obtain electron-ion correlations from a dissociating chiral system. In this case, atomic iodine is ejected from enantiomeric iodomethylbutane, serving as dynamic observer site for monitoring the evolving chirality of the residual molecule on a femtosecond timescale.

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