

# Optimal control of molecular and electron dynamics by tailored femtosecond laser pulses

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

Gustav Gerber

Physikalisches Institut, Universität Würzburg, Germany

gerber@physik.uni-wuerzburg.de

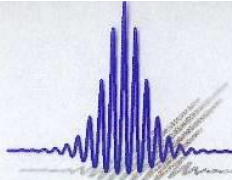
- **adaptive femtosecond pulse shaping**
- **optimal control of molecular dynamics**
  - gas phase
  - liquid phase
- **optimal control of electron dynamics**
  - high harmonics generation
  - electron wavepacket interference

A. Assion, T. Baumert, M. Bergt, T. Brixner, N. Damrauer, C. Dietl, B. Kiefer, G. Krampert, P. Niklaus,  
E. Papastathopoulos, R. Selle, V. Seyfried, M. Strehle, T. Pfeifer, G. Vogt, D. Walter

DFG: SFB 347 and SPP "Femtosecond Spectroscopy"

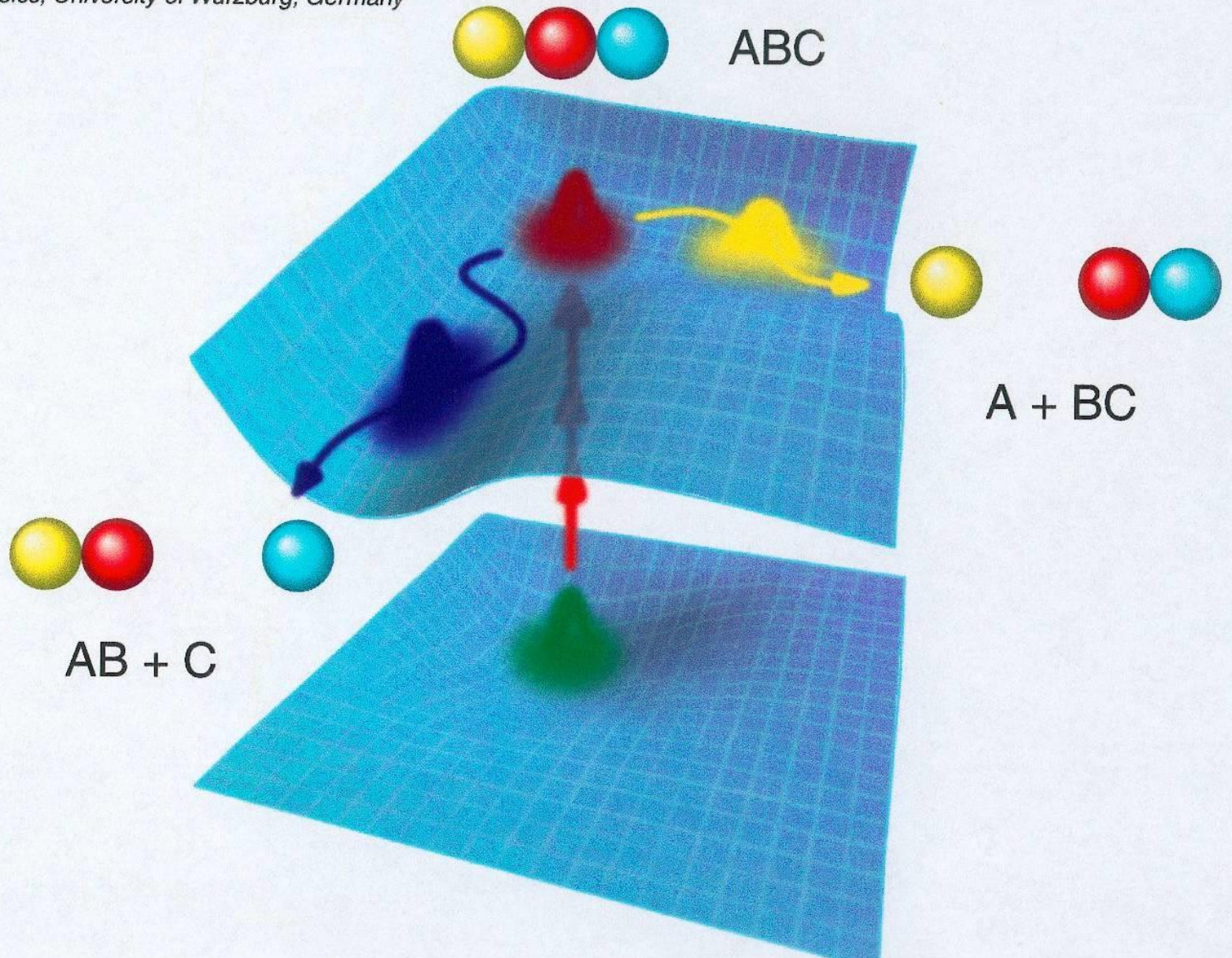
EU-Network on Coherence and Control (COCOMO)

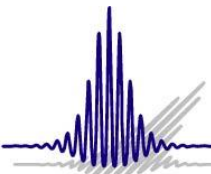
Fonds der Chemischen Industrie



# chemical reaction

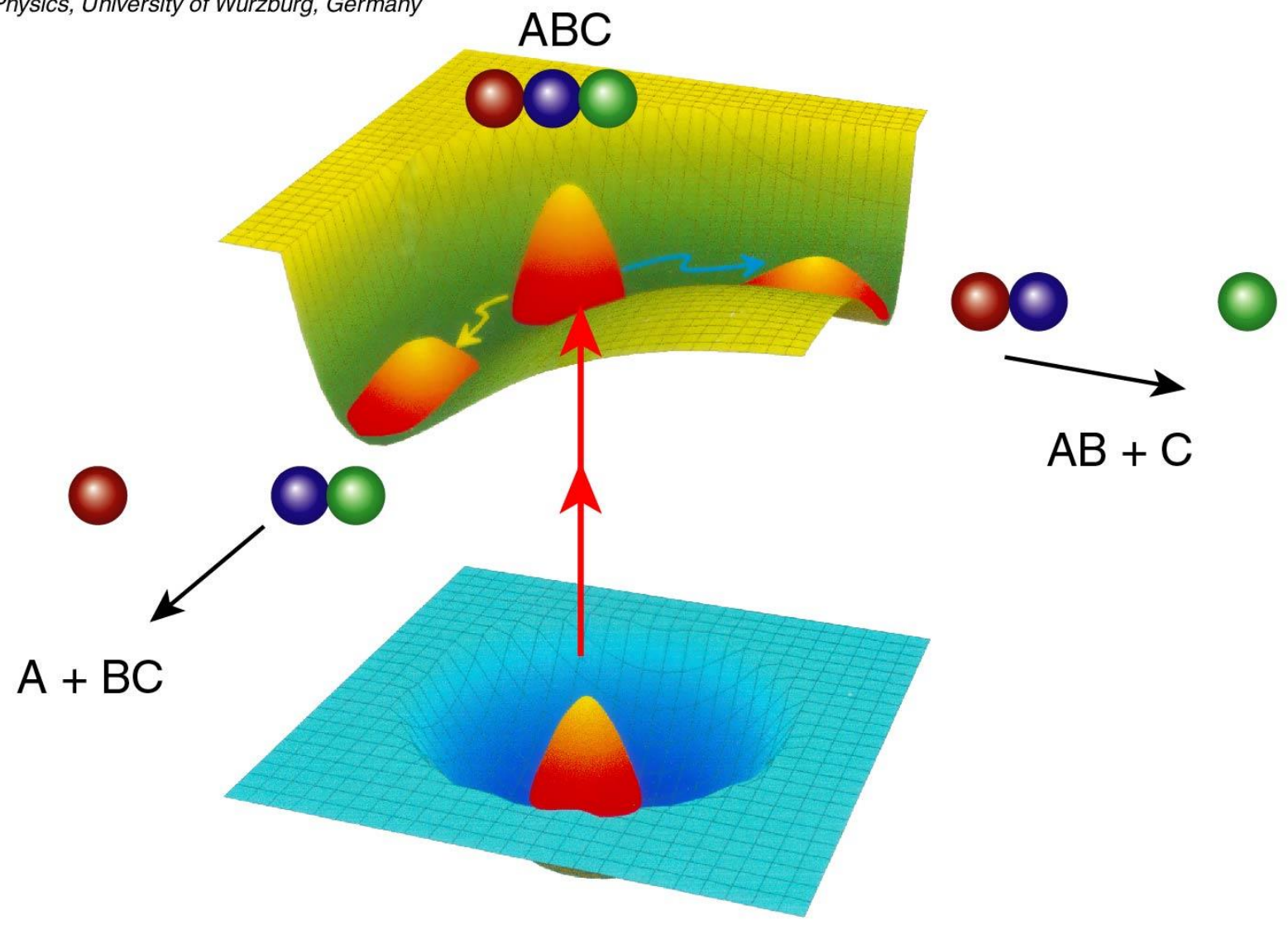
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

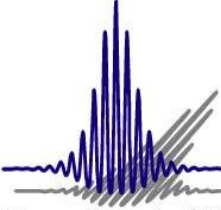




# chemical reaction

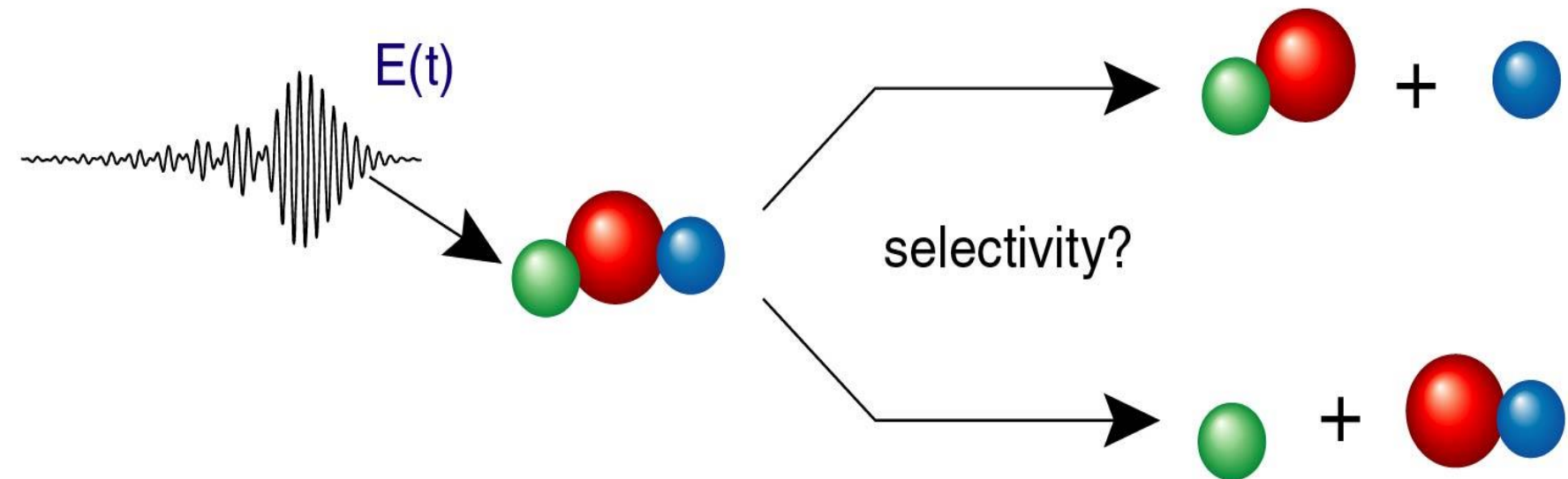
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany





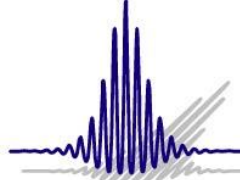
# control of chemical reactions

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



laser electric field  $E(t)$ :

- calculation for real molecules extremely complicated (if not impossible)
- exact laboratory realization of predicted fields difficult



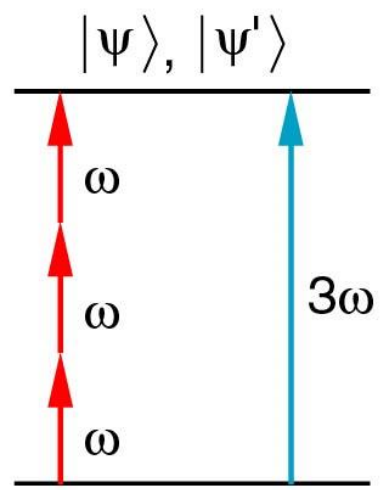
# Single-parameter coherent control

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

Brumer-Shapiro

"phase control"

$$\Delta\Phi = \Phi_{\omega} - \Phi_{3\omega}$$

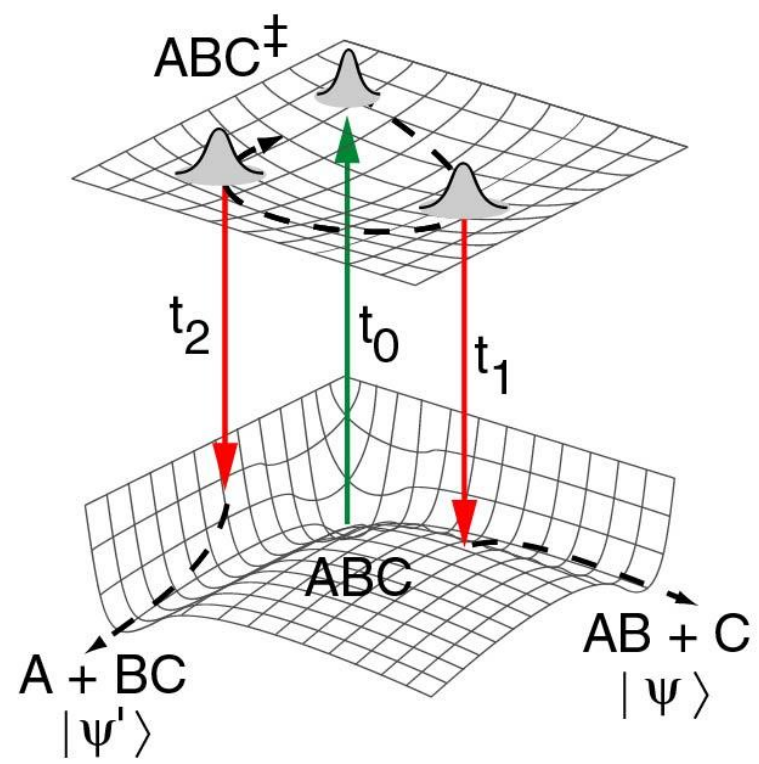


CPL 126, 541 (1986)

Tannor-Kosloff-Rice

"pump-dump control"

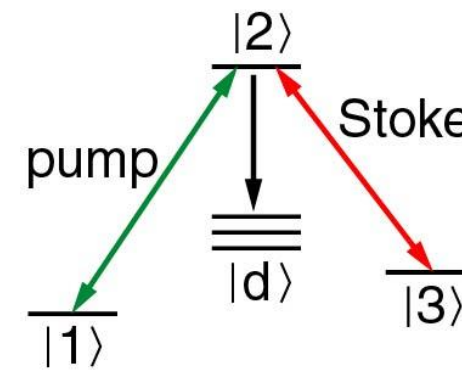
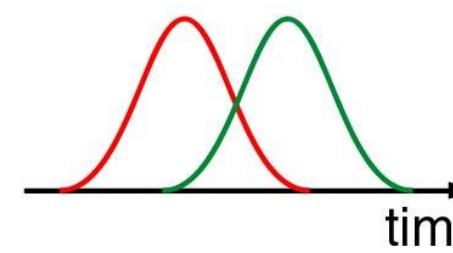
$$\Delta t = t_{1,2} - t_0$$



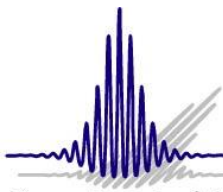
JCP 85, 5805 (1986)

Bergmann et al.

"STIRAP control"



CPL 149, 463 (1988)



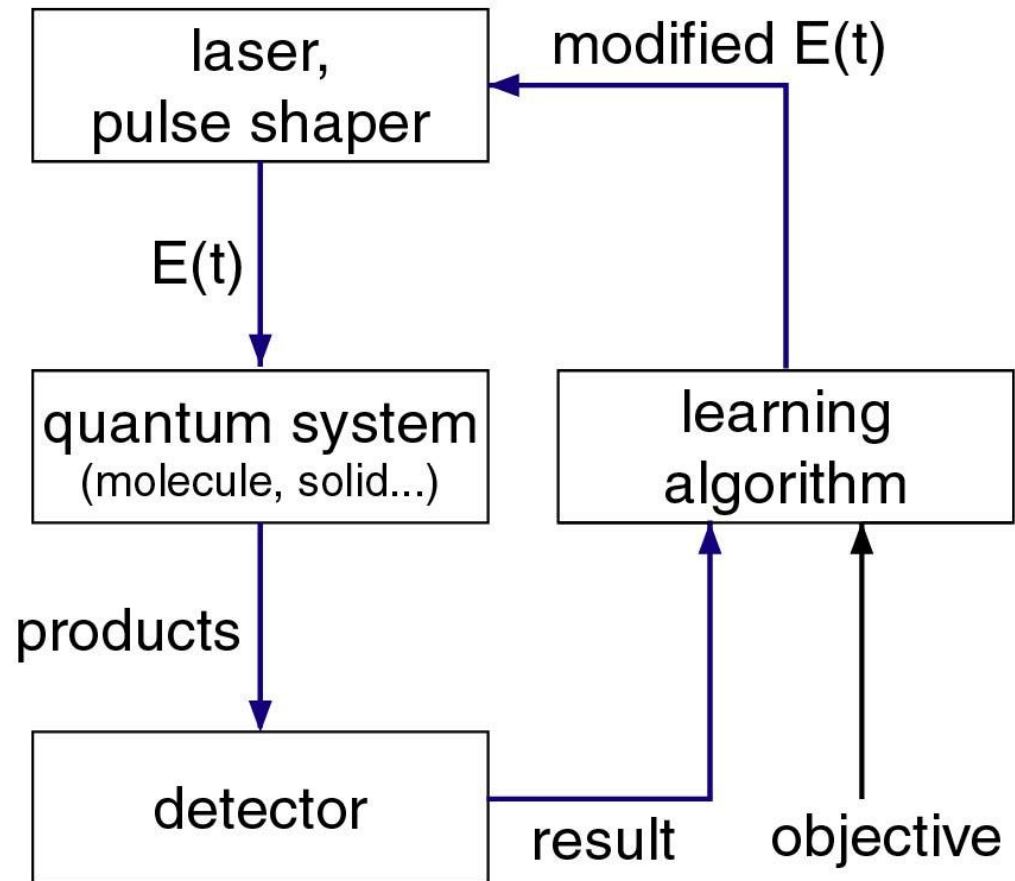
# Rabitz

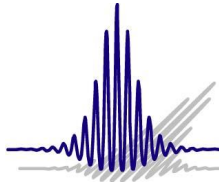
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

*R.S. Judson, H. Rabitz, PRL 68, 1500 (1992)*

"optimal control theory"  
used to design electric  
fields such that the yield  
of a specified reaction  
product is maximized by  
directly including the  
experimental output

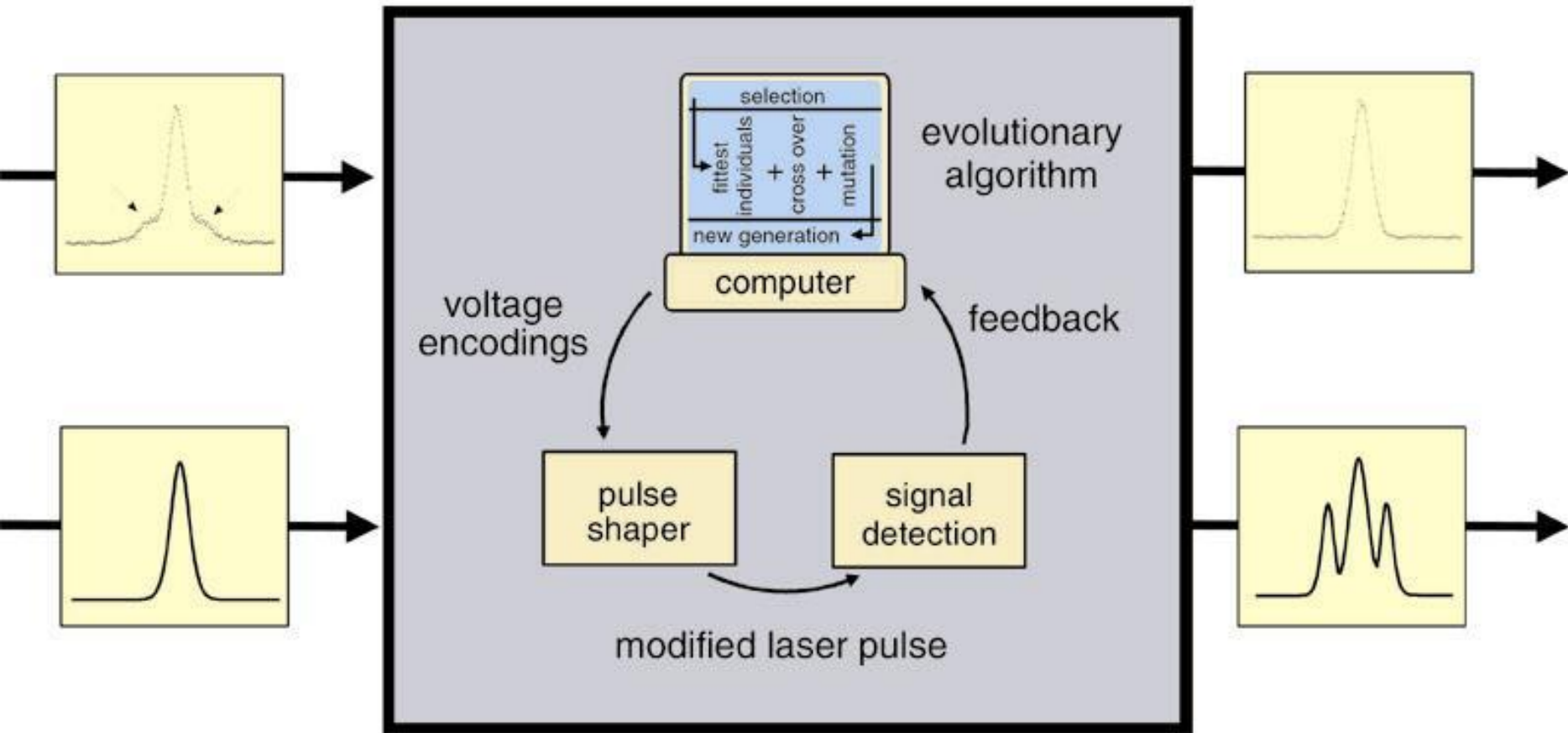
"teaching lasers  
to control molecules"





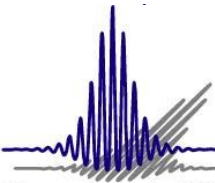
# Adaptive pulse shaping

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



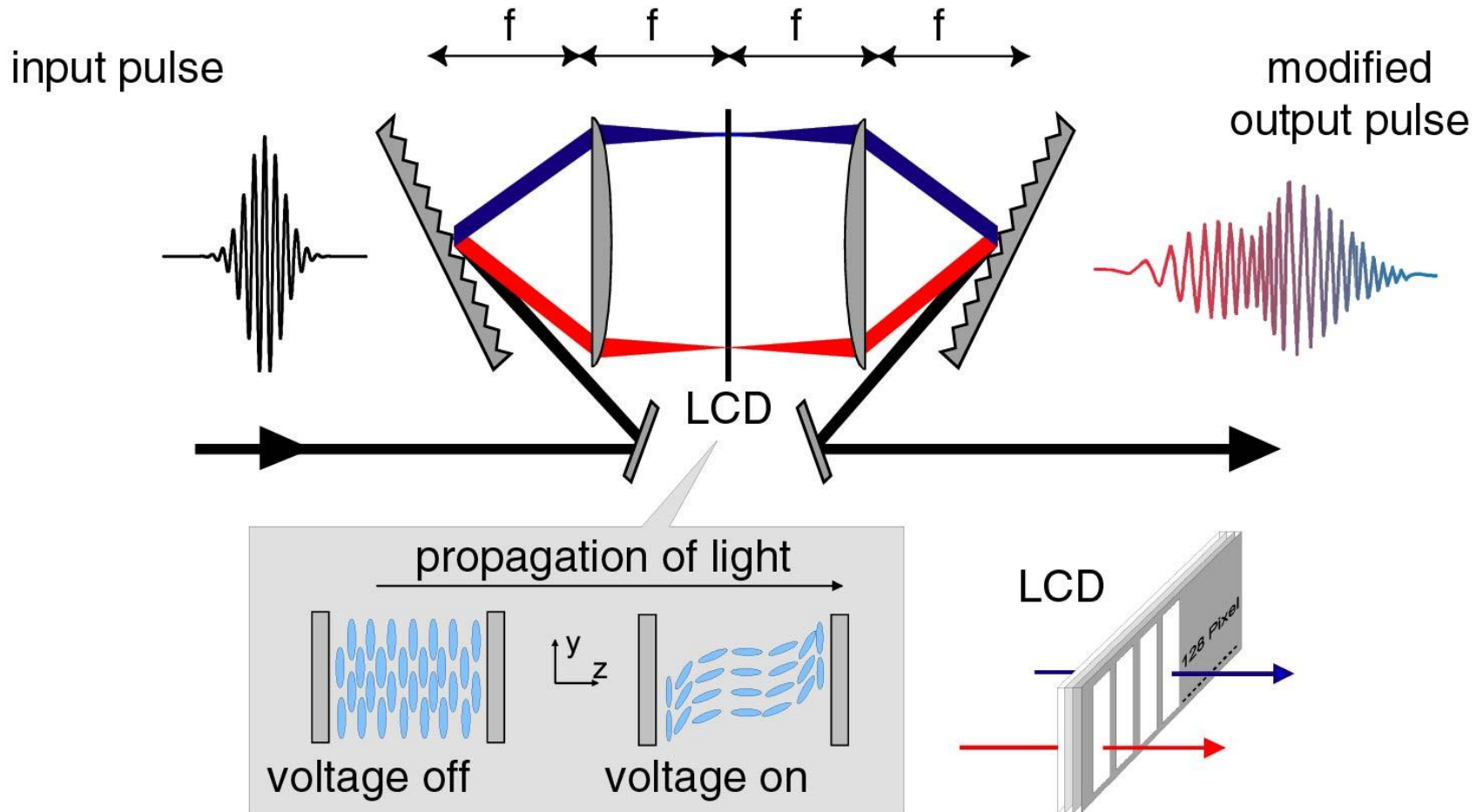
T. Baumert, T. Brixner, V. Seyfried, M. Strehle and G. Gerber: *Appl. Phys. B* **65**, 779 (1997)  
idea of feedback: R.S. Judson and H. Rabitz: *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **68**, 1500 (1992)

D. Yelin et al.: *Opt. Lett.* **22**, 1793 (1997)  
C.J Bardeen et al.: *CPL* **280**, 151 (1997)



# Pulse shaper

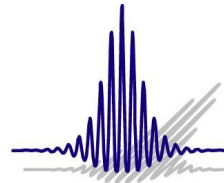
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



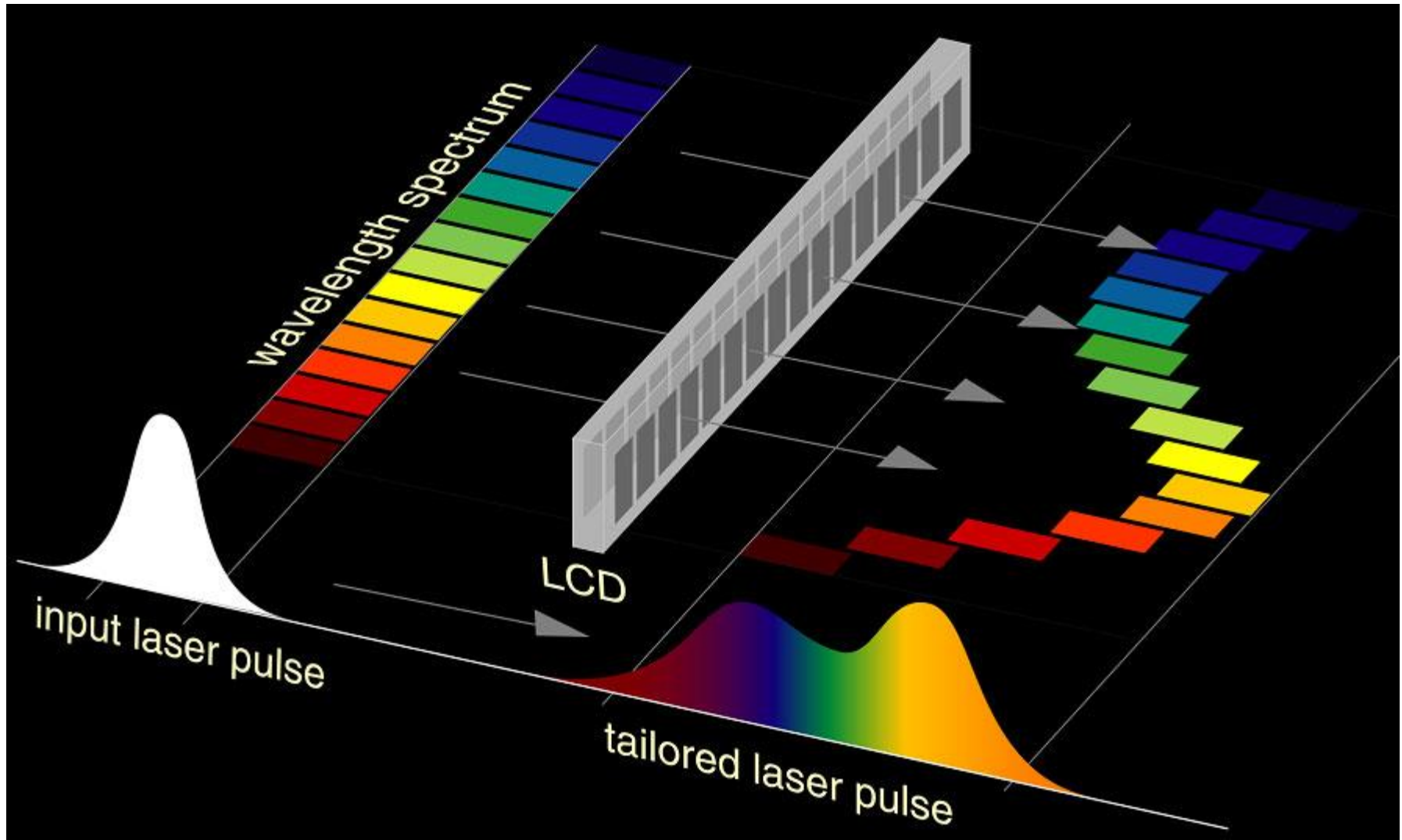
A. M. Weiner et al., IEEE J. Quantum Electron. **28**, 908 (1992)

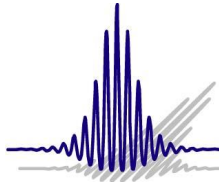
A. M. Weiner et al., Opt. Lett. **15**, 326 (1990)

# Femtosecond pulse shaping



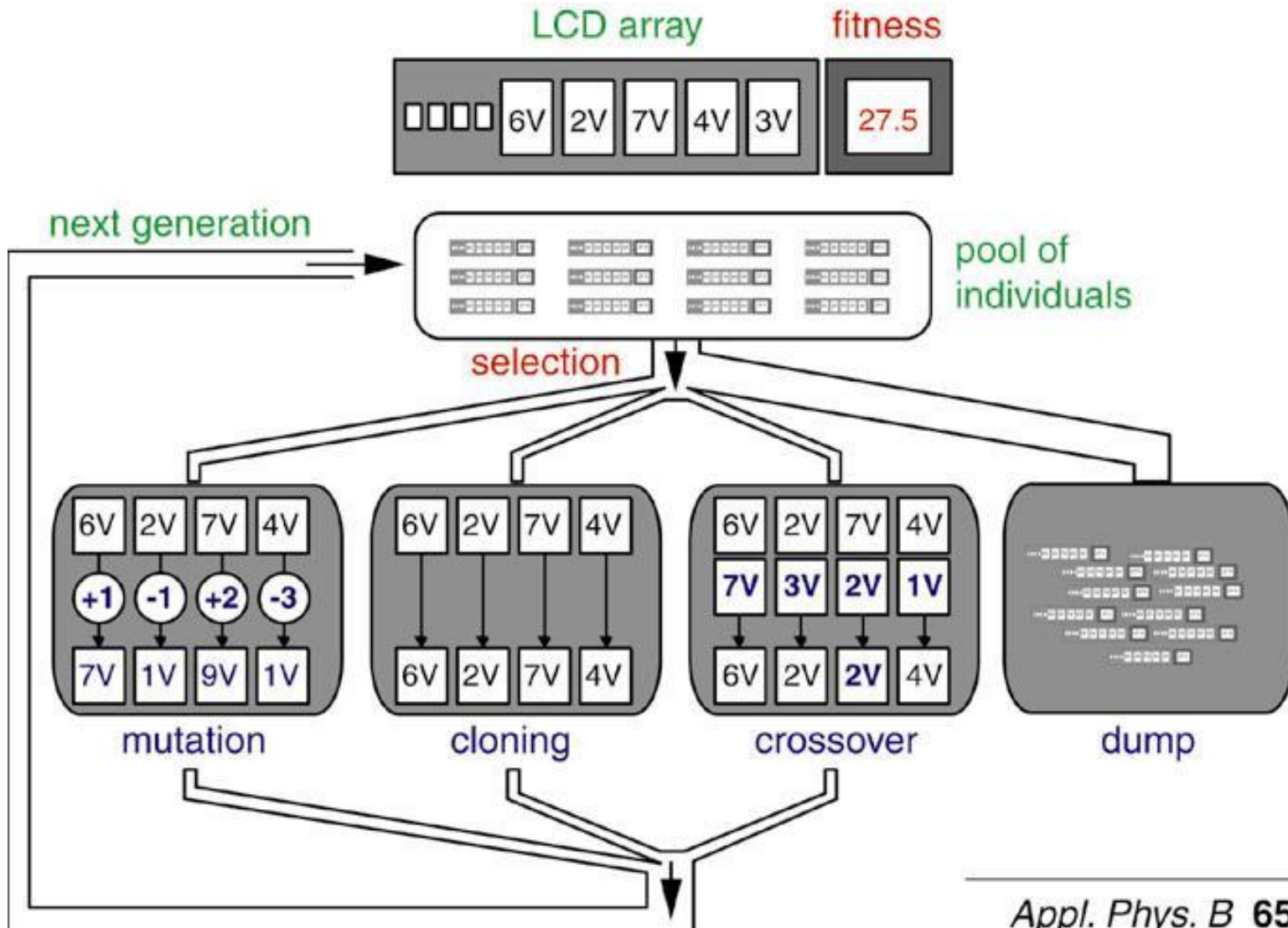
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany





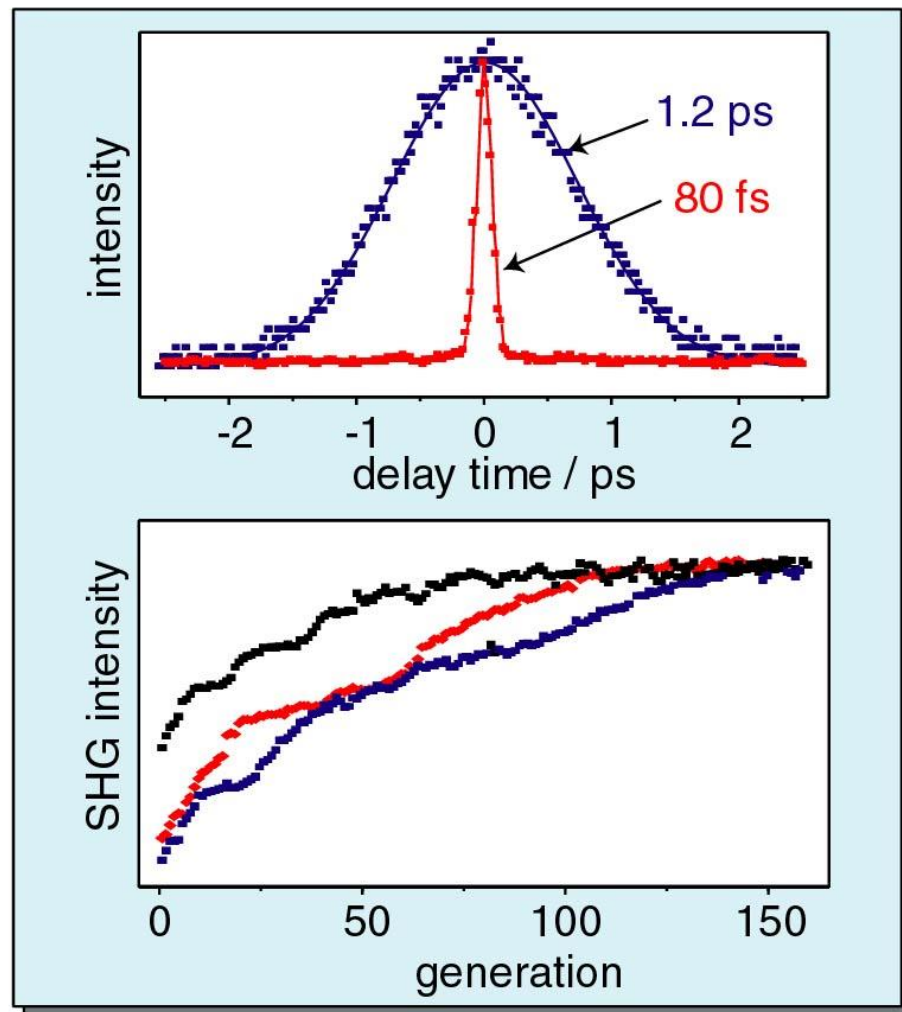
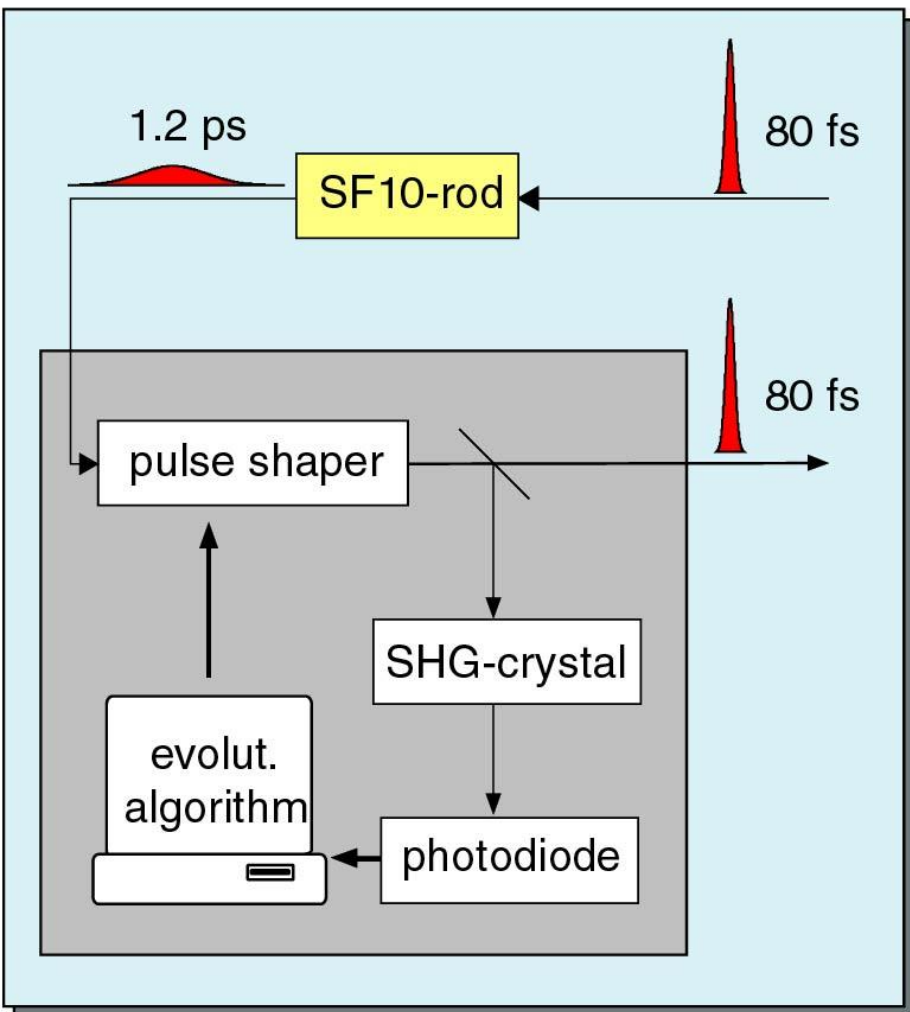
# Evolutionary algorithm

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



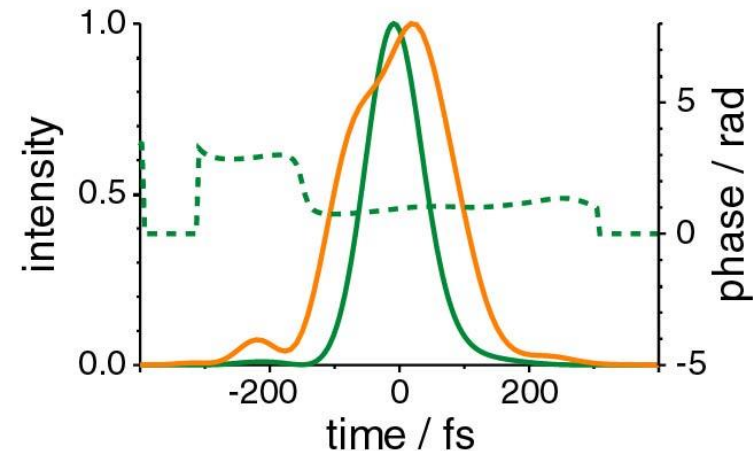
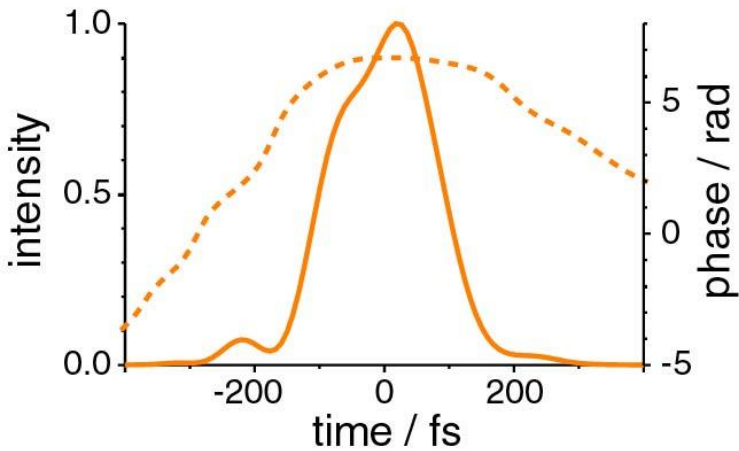
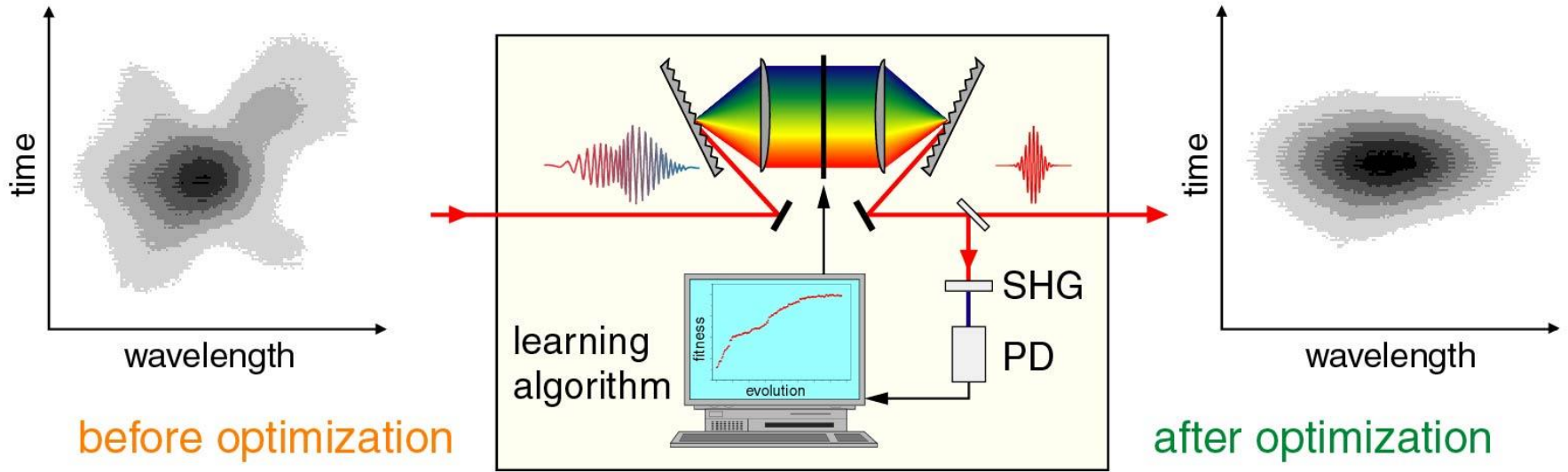
# Recompression of fs laser pulses: Compensation of material dispersion

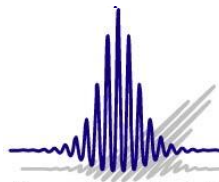
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



# Automated pulse compression

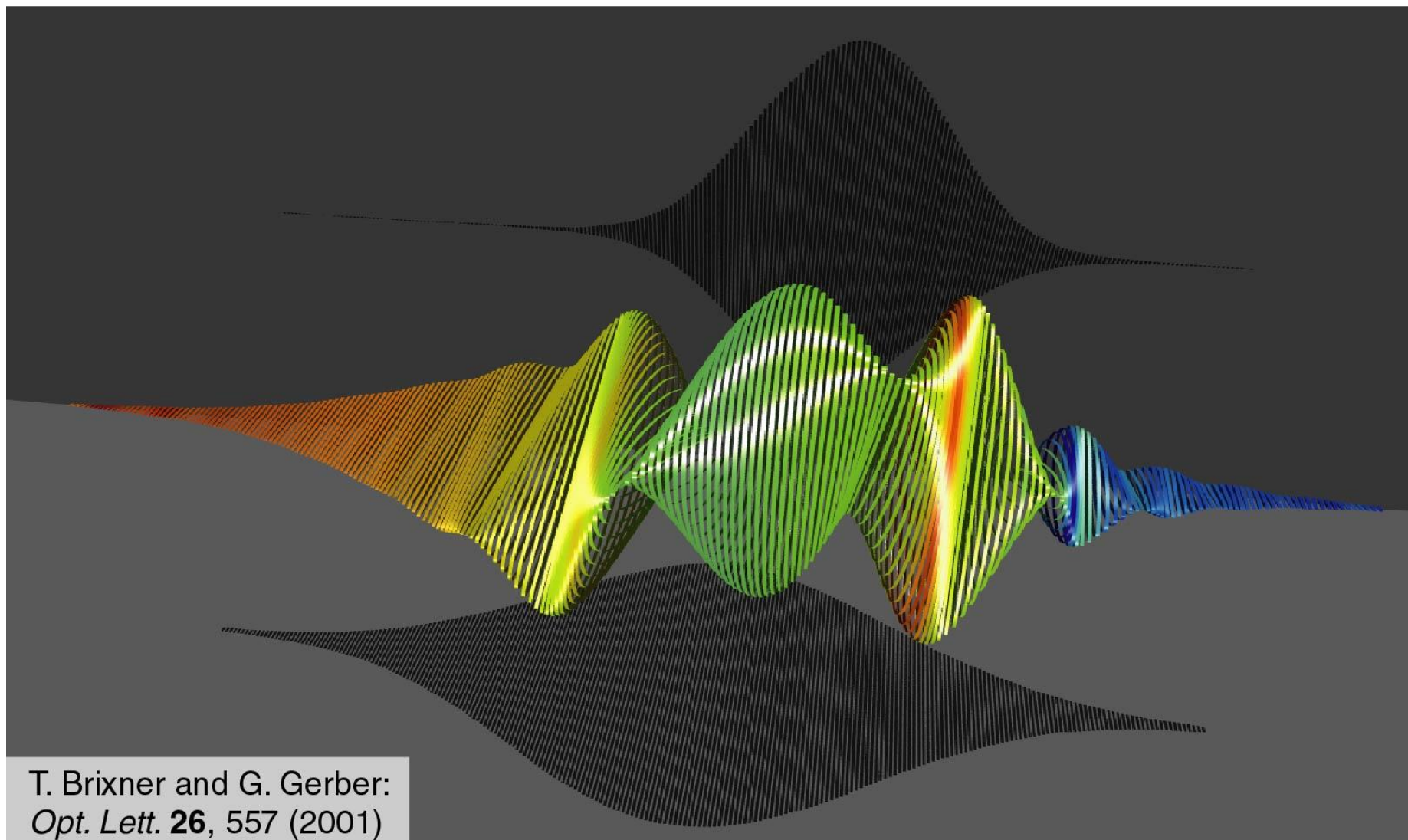
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany





# Polarization-shaped laser pulse

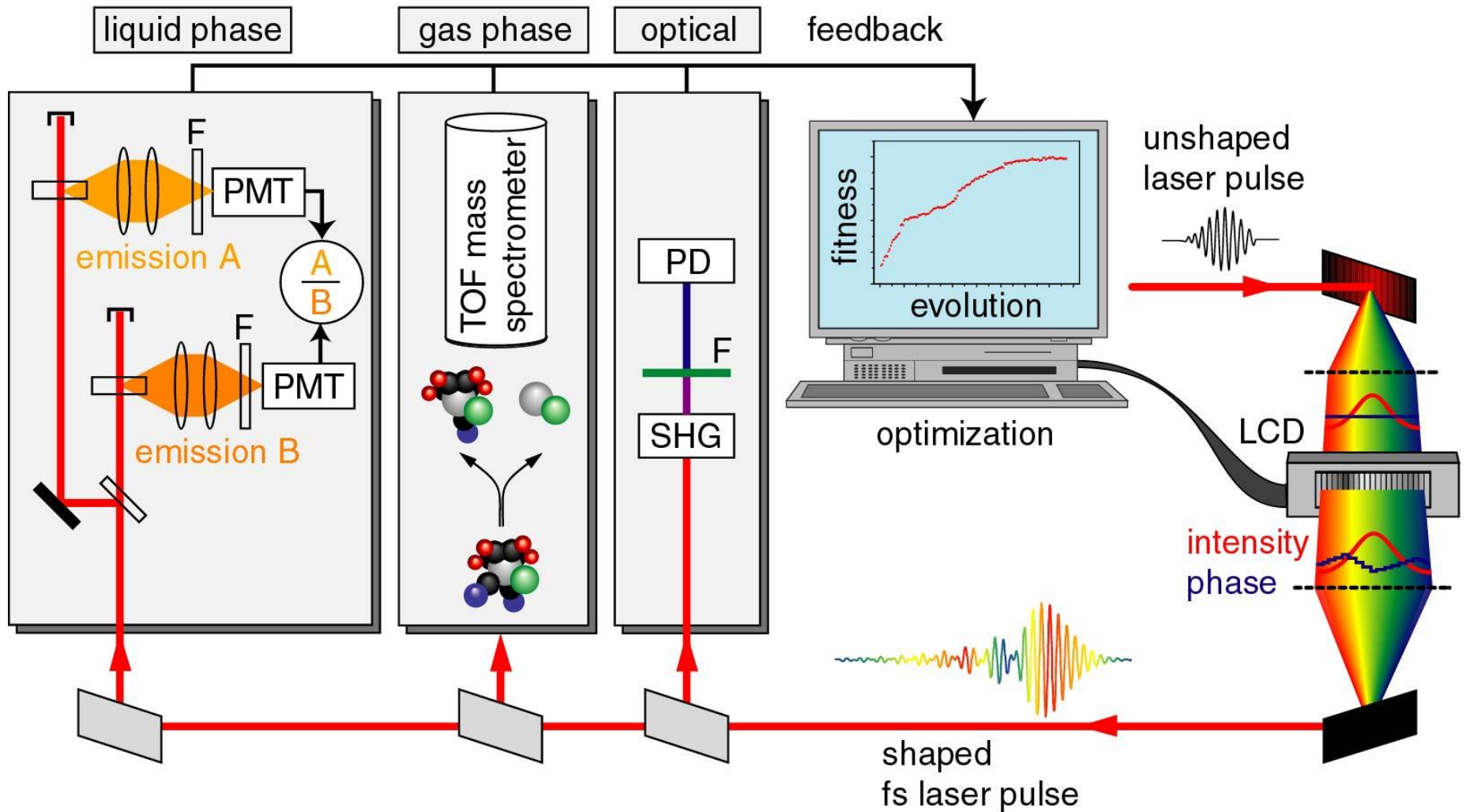
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

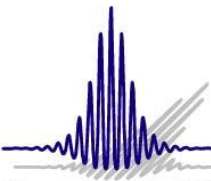


T. Brixner and G. Gerber:  
*Opt. Lett.* **26**, 557 (2001)

# Adaptive femtosecond quantum control

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

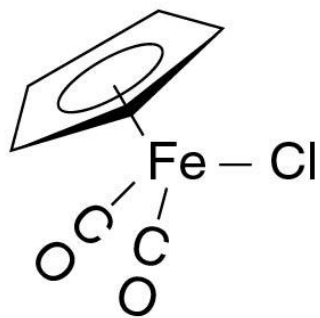




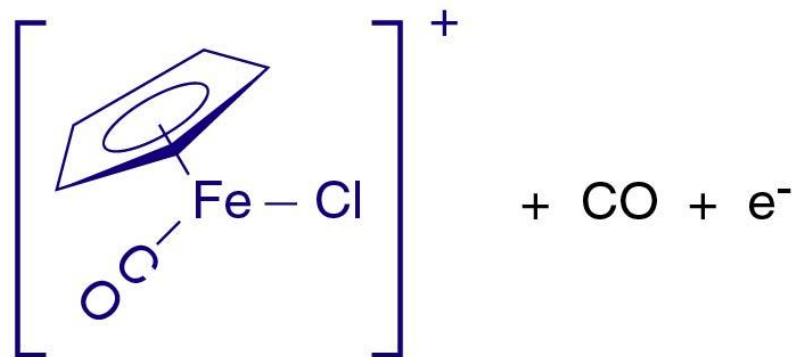
# CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>Cl optimization

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

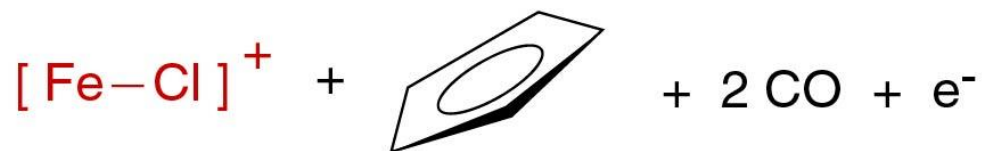
cyclopentadienyl-  
iron-dicarbonyl-chloride

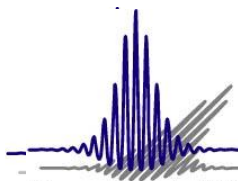


①



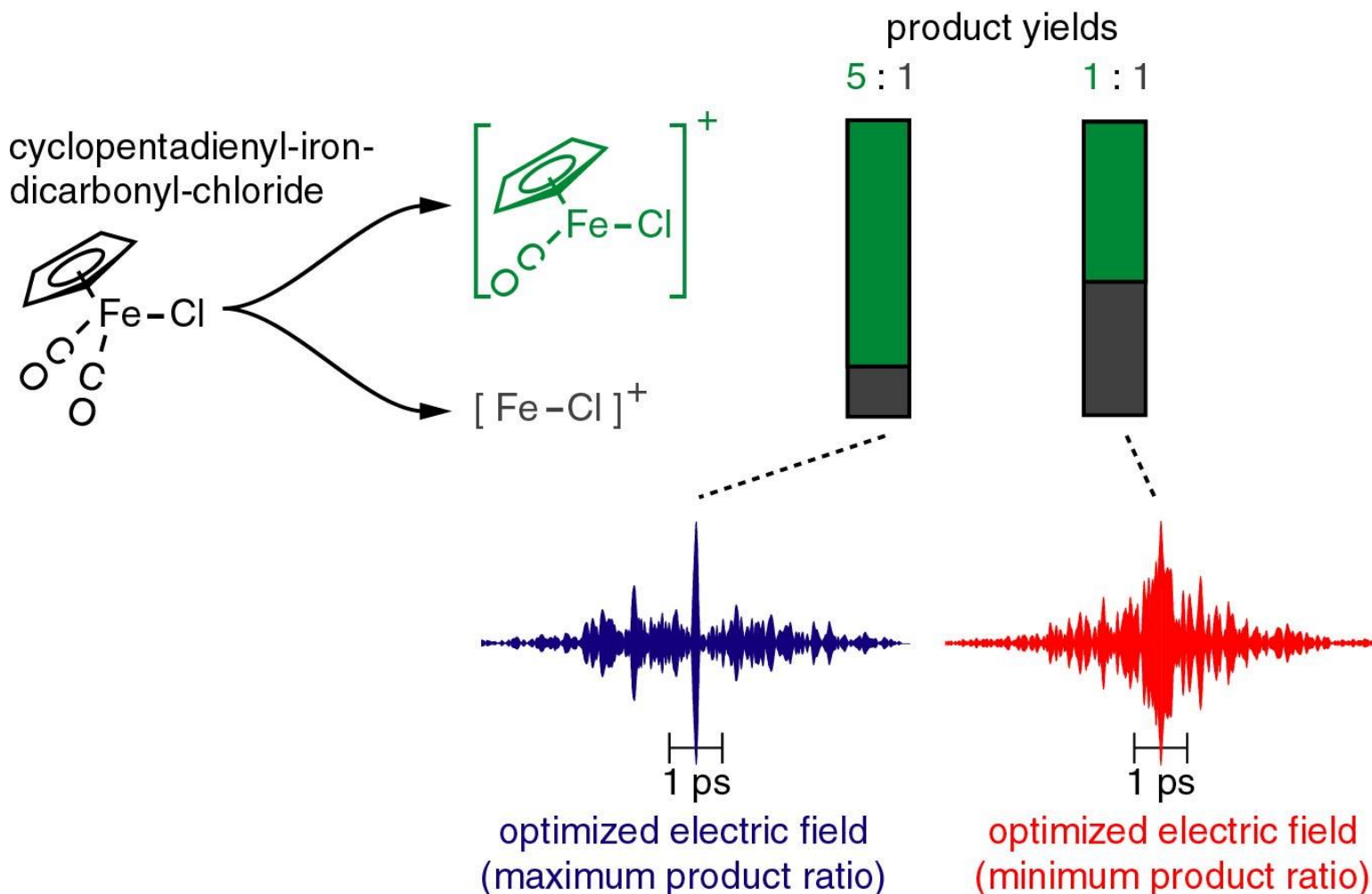
②





# CpFe(CO)Cl<sup>+</sup>/FeCl<sup>+</sup> optimization

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



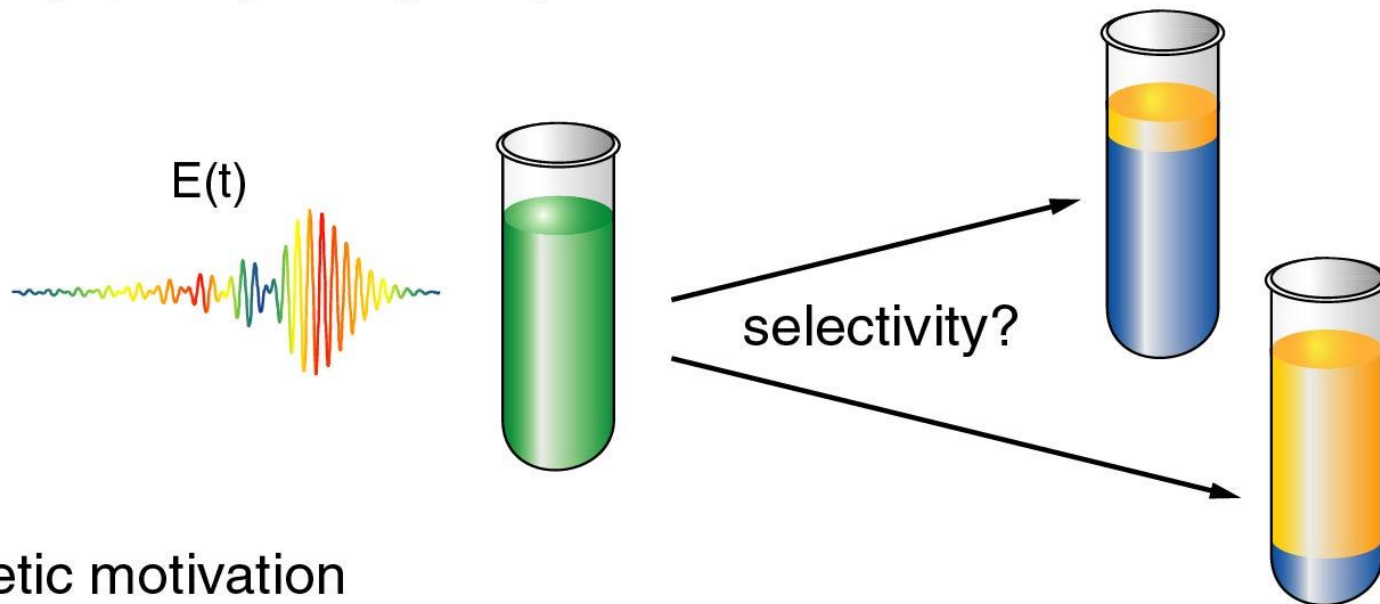
*Science* **282**, 919 (1998)





# Quantum control in the liquid phase

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



## Synthetic motivation

- If control of photochemistry is to become useful to chemists, it must be viable in solution

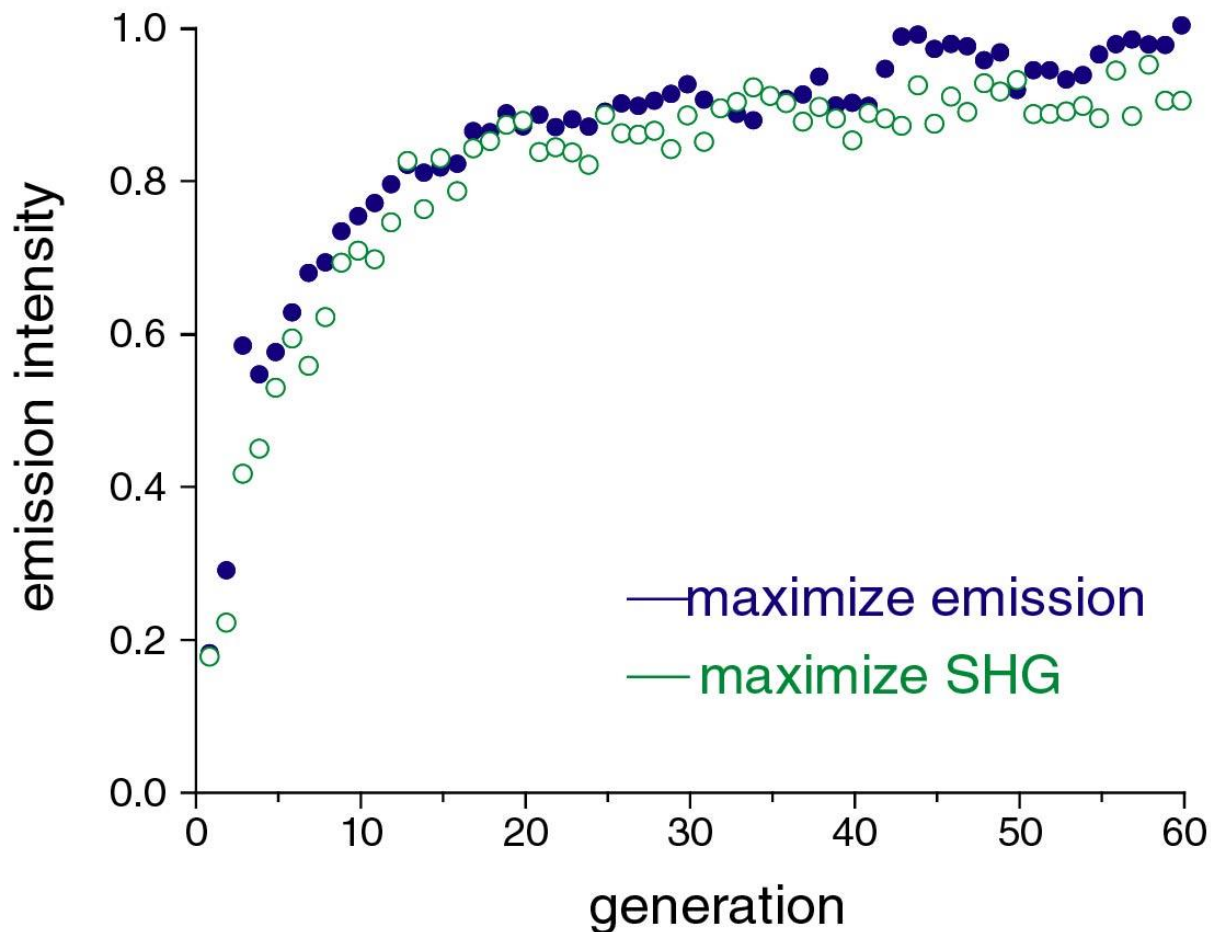
## Physical motivation

- Can photochemical control be achieved in the presence of solvent/solute interactions?
- Can control results provide insight into solution-phase dynamics?

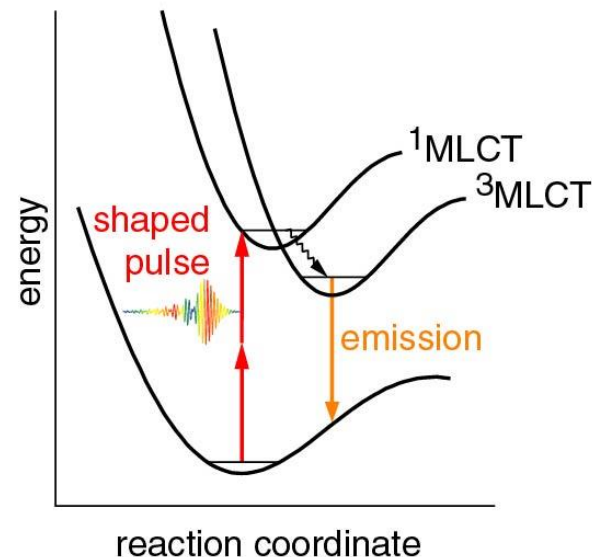


# Intensity dependence of $[\text{Ru}(\text{dpb})_3]^{2+}$ emission

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

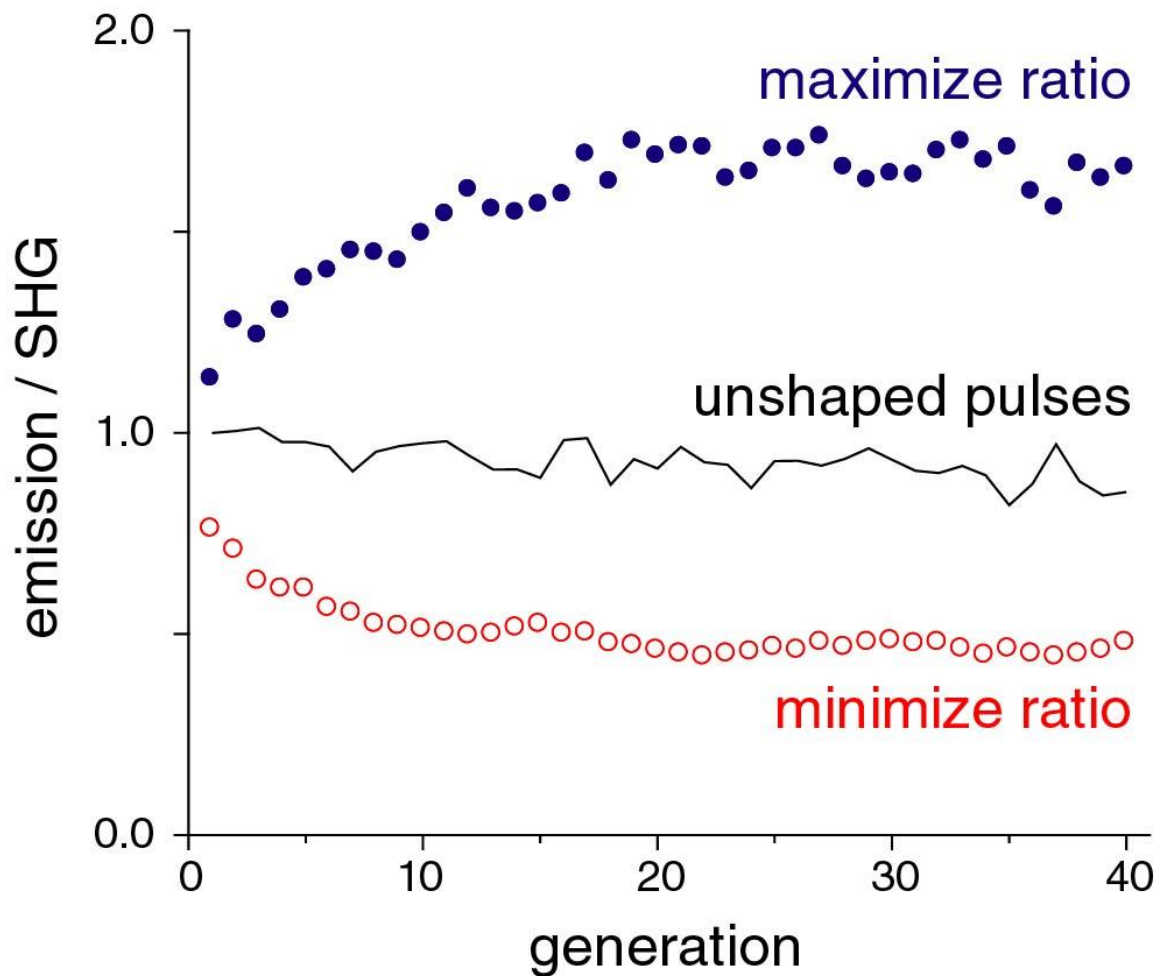


Absolute emission intensity is strongly governed by excited state population created in multi-photon excitation



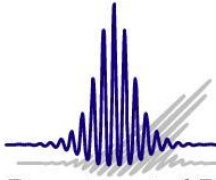
# Optimization of emission/SHG ratio

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



ratio as feedback  
removes dominant  
intensity dependence

provides sensitivity to  
molecular properties



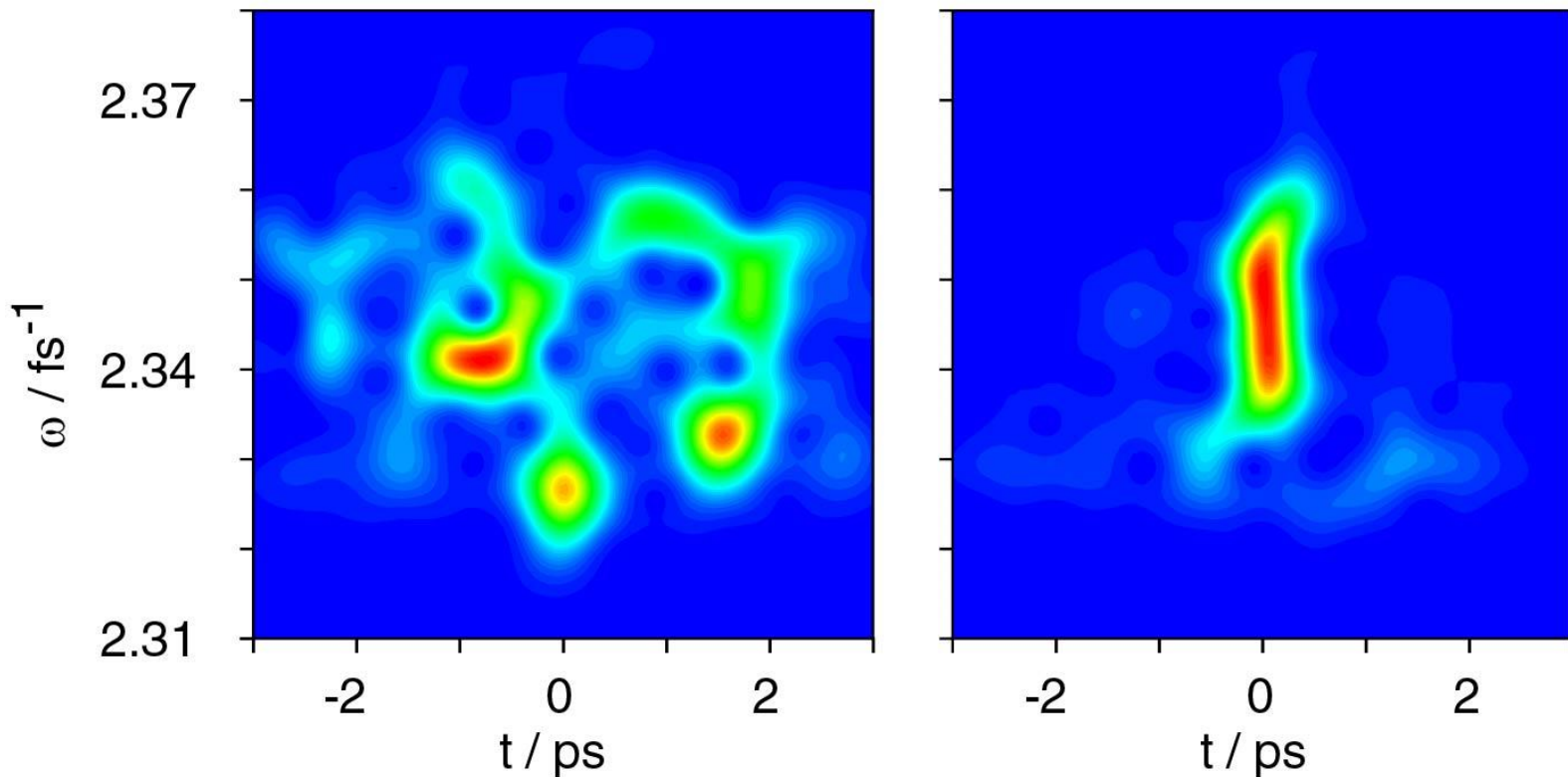
# Optimized Electric Fields for Maximization and Minimization of Emission/SHG for $[\text{Ru}(\text{dpb})_3]^{2+}$

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

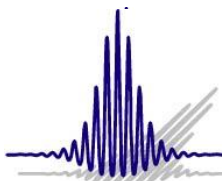
Optimized electric fields in husimi representation:

maximization

minimization

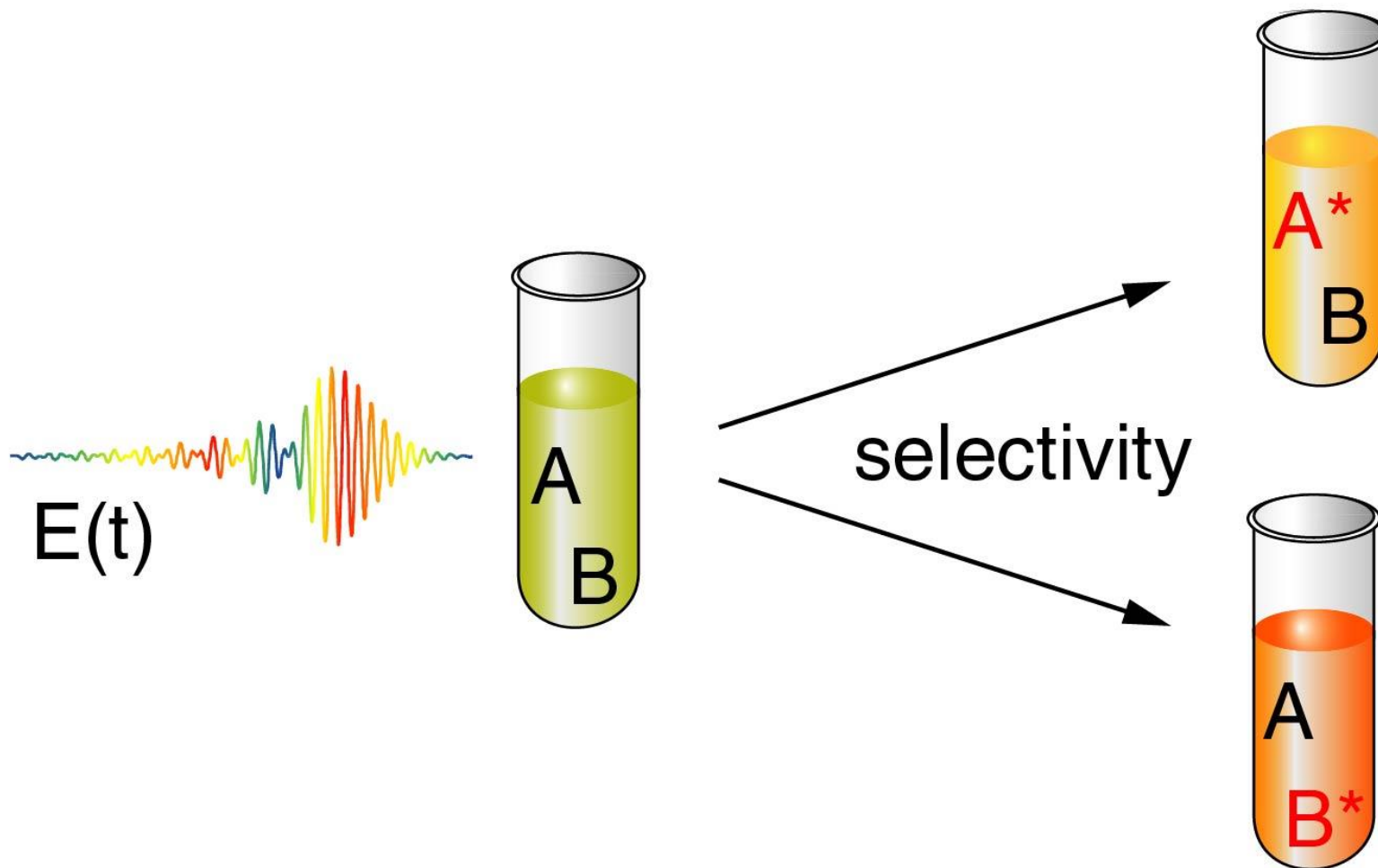


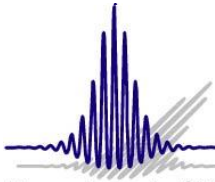
- Result shows selectivity between excitation pathways has been achieved



# Selective excitation in liquids

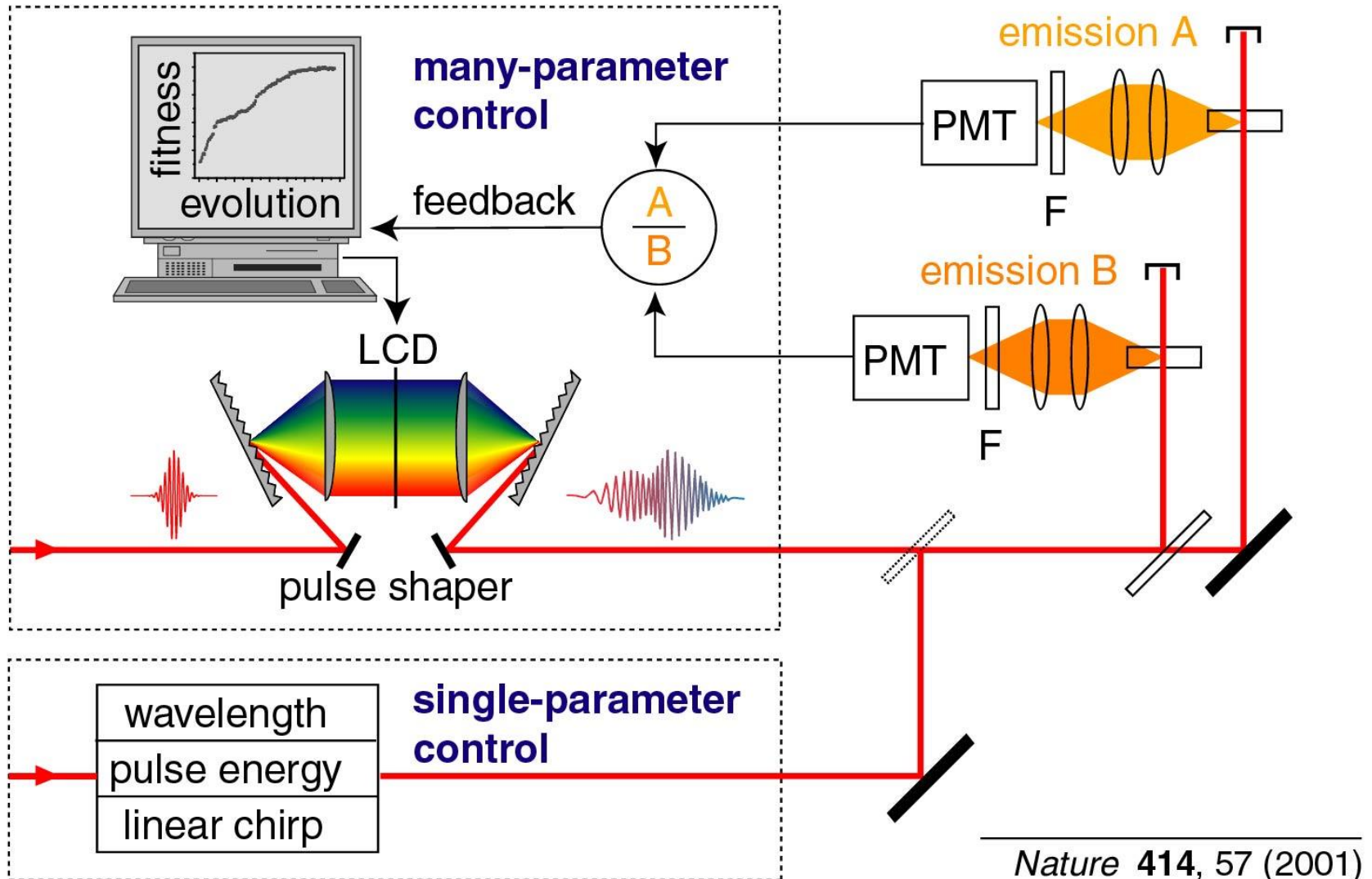
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

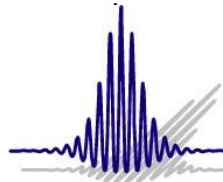




# Quantum control in the liquid phase

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



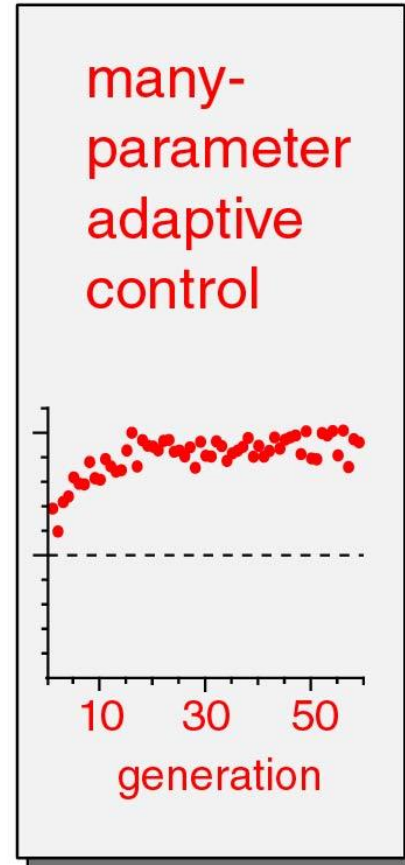
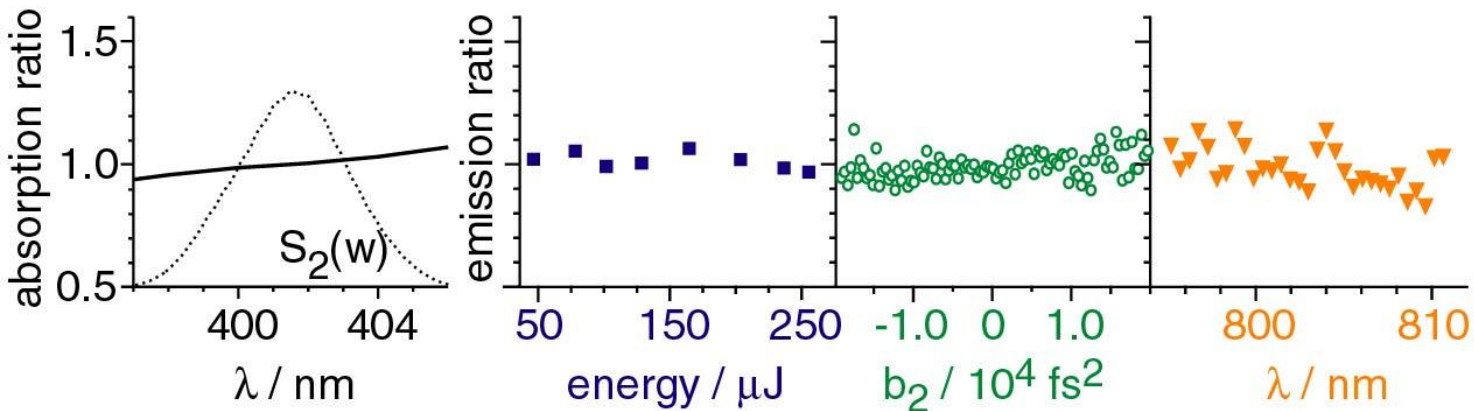


# Photochemically selective excitation

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

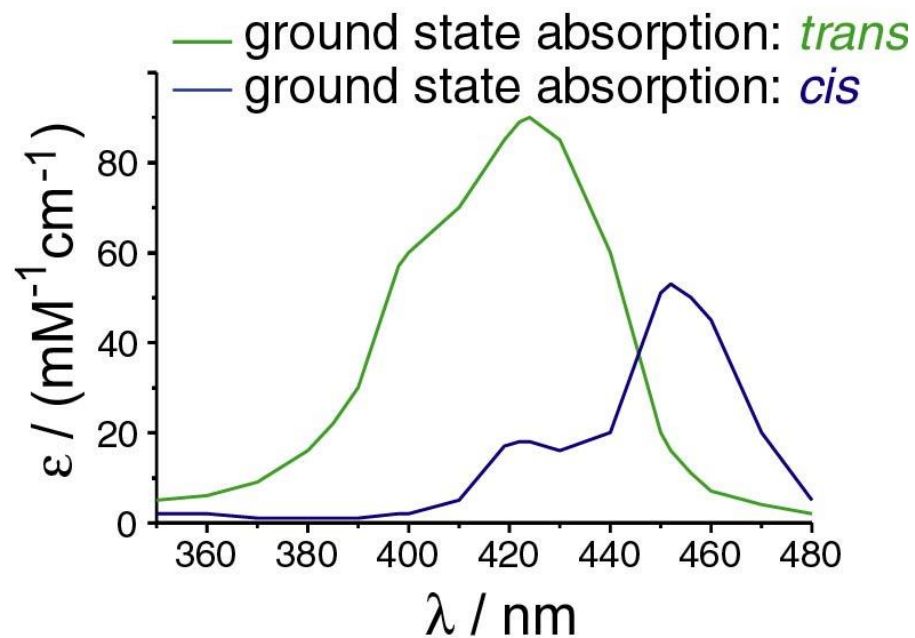
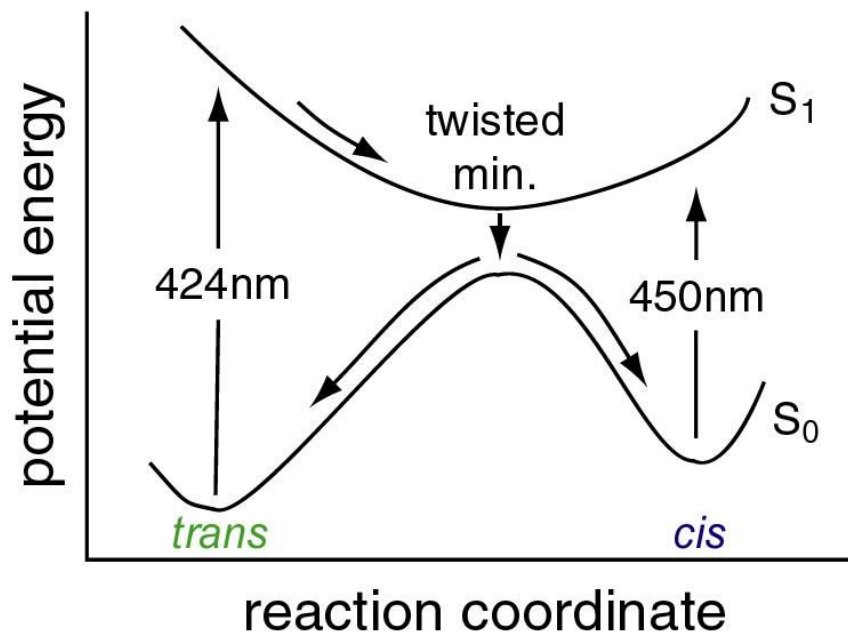
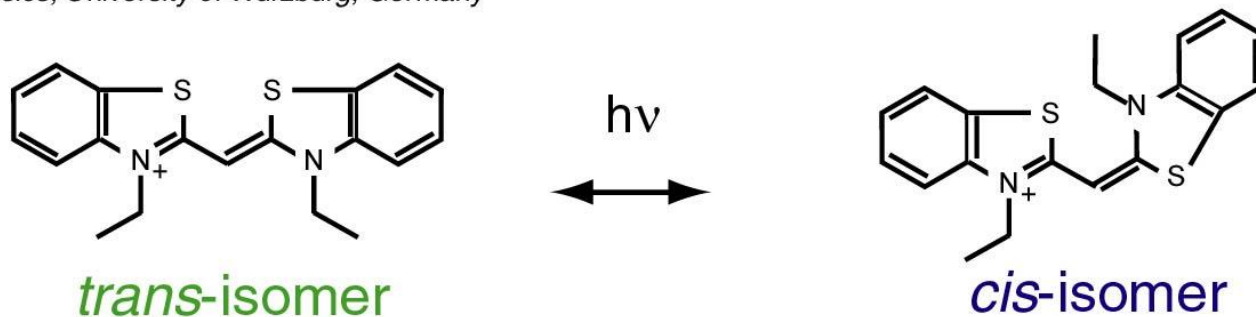
single-parameter control by

(1-photon) wavelength?    intensity?    chirp?    (2-photon) wavelength?



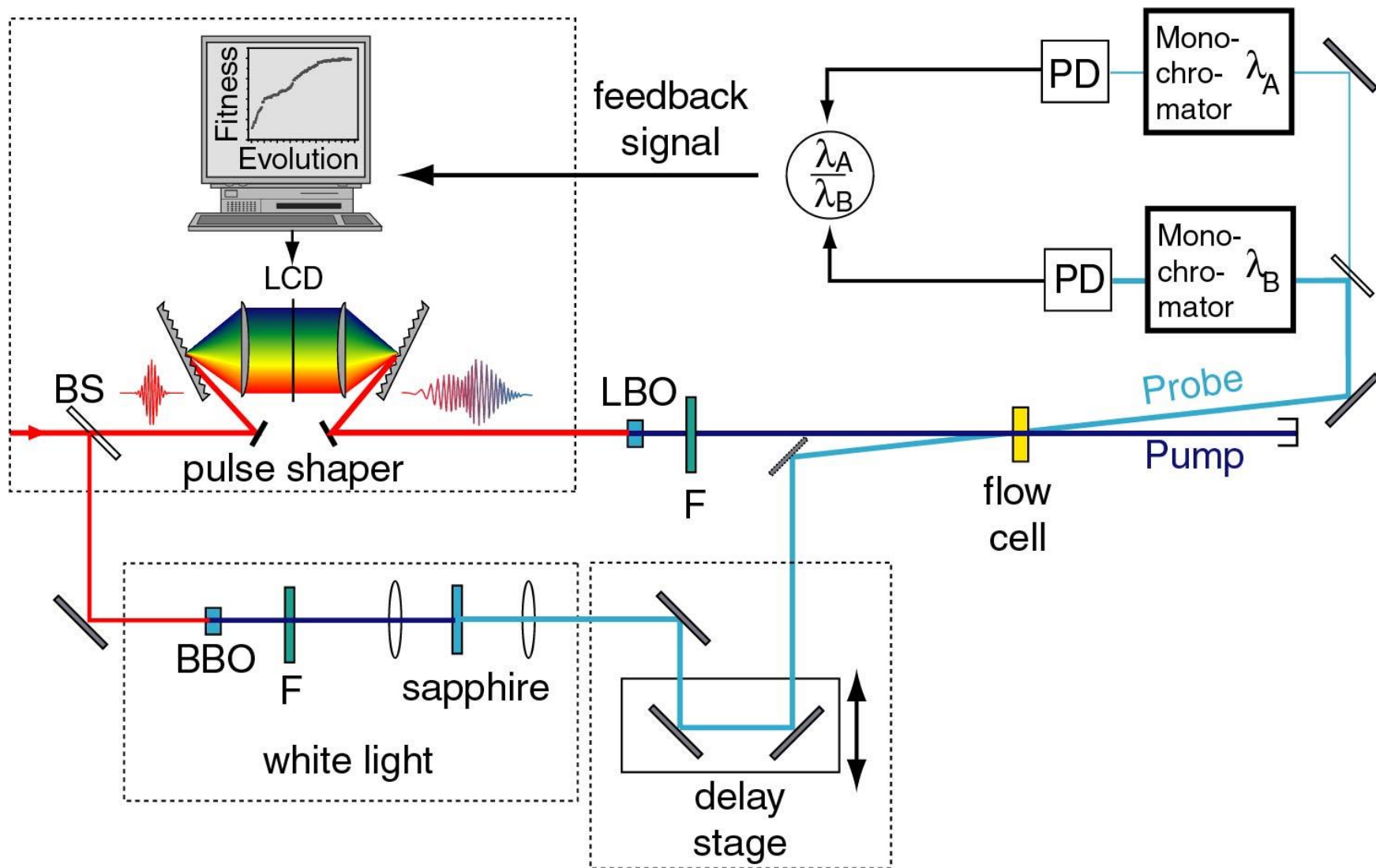
# 3,3 diethyl-2,2 thiacyanine iodide - NK88

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



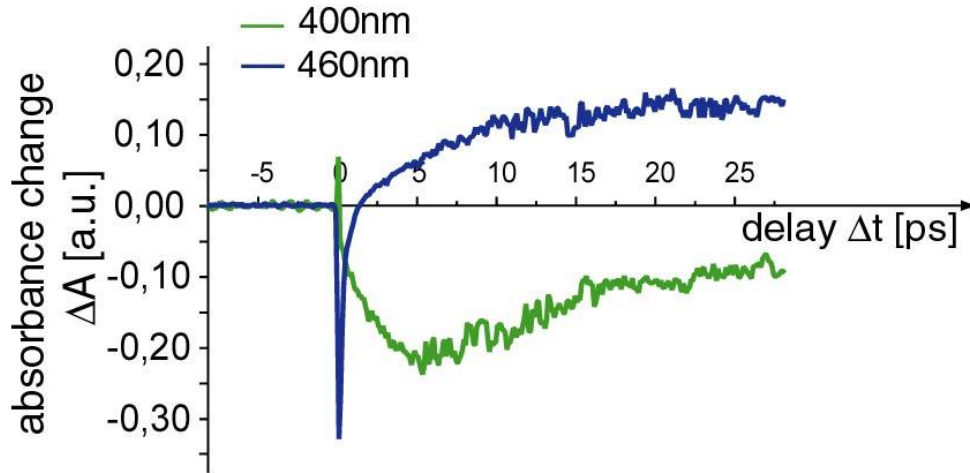
# Experimental setup

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

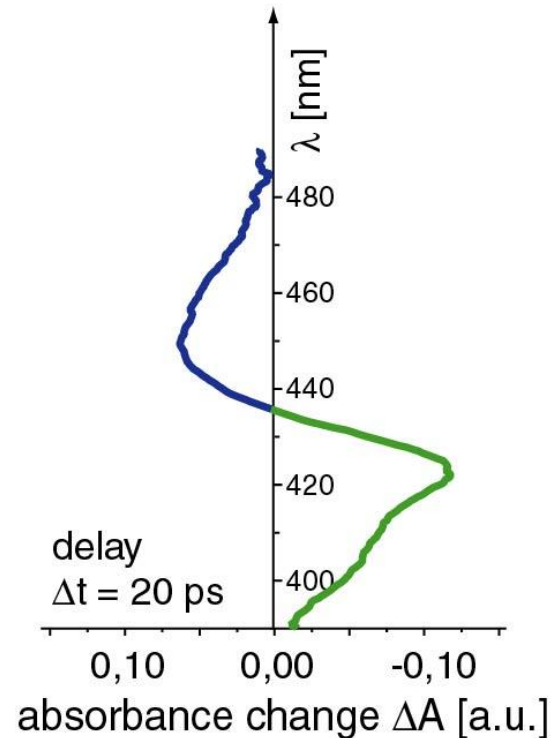
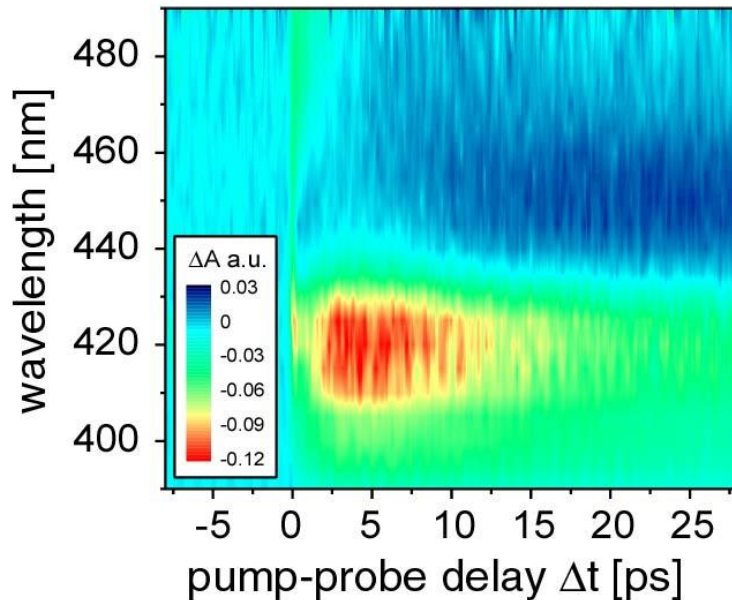


# Transient Absorption - 3.3'-DiEthyl-2.2'-thiacyanine iodide - NK88

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



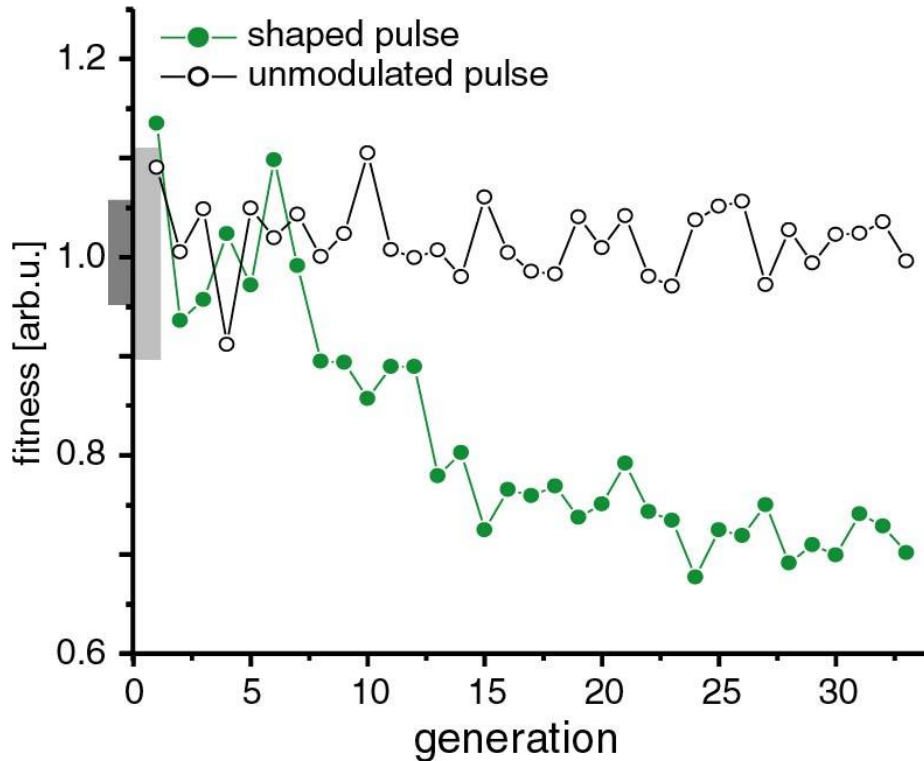
- 460nm: absorption *cis*
- 400nm: pump-depletion excited *trans*



# NK88 - control of photoisomerization

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

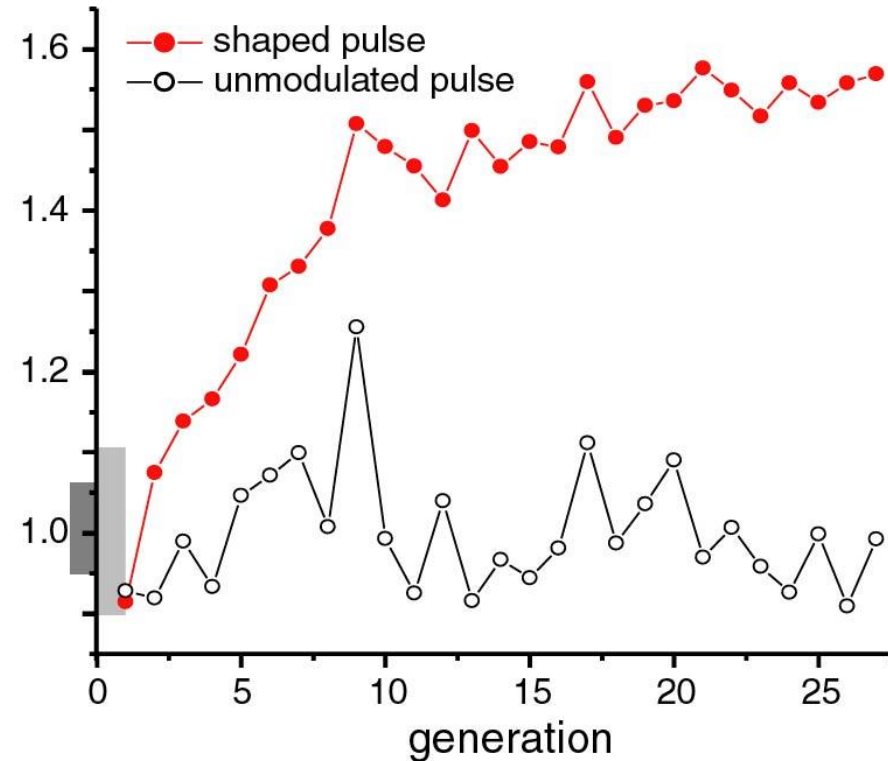
## suppression of isomerization



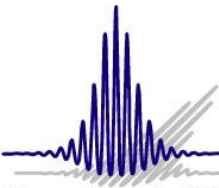
Min.  $\frac{\text{cis-isomer}}{\text{trans-isomer}}$

■ intensity  
■ chirp

## enhancement of isomerization



Max.  $\frac{\text{cis-isomer}}{\text{trans-isomer}}$

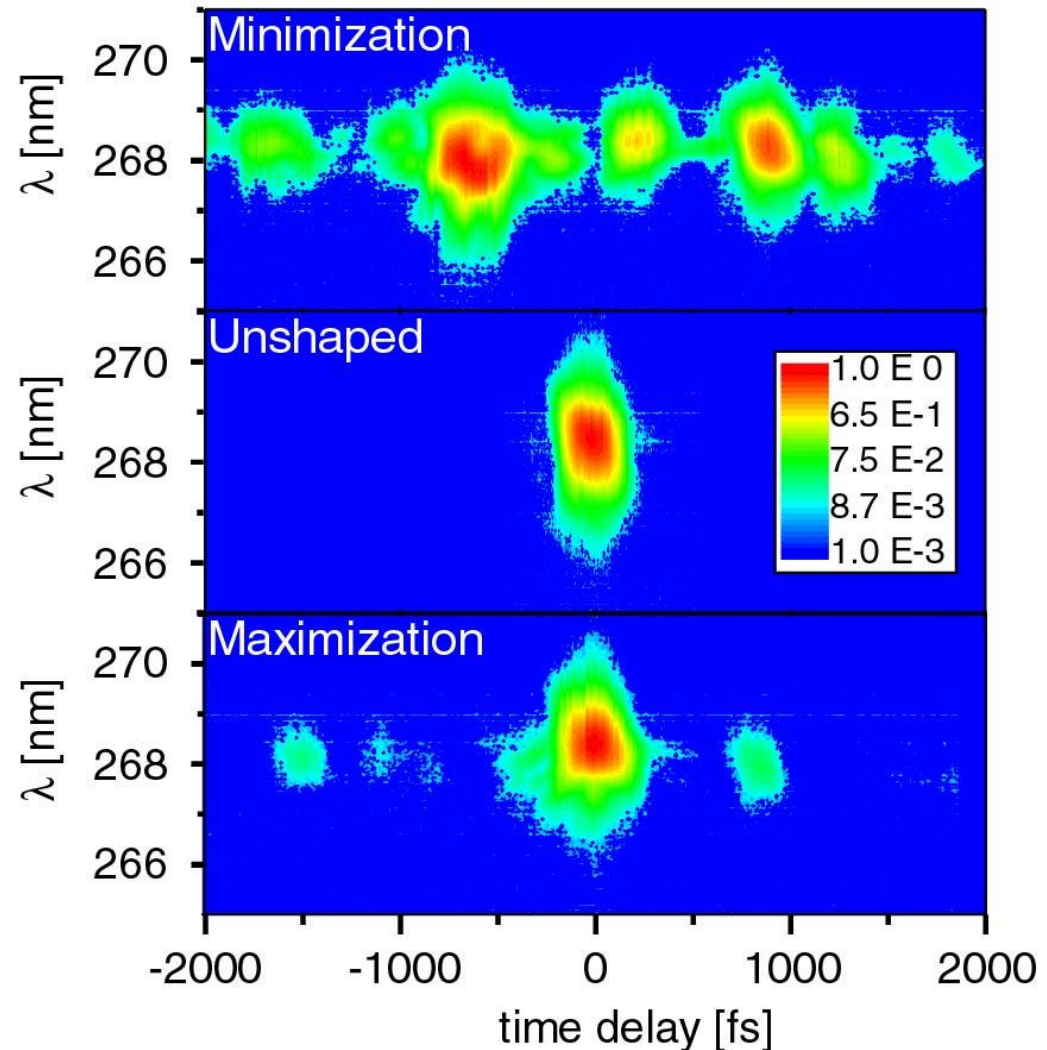


# NK88 - optimal pulse shapes

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

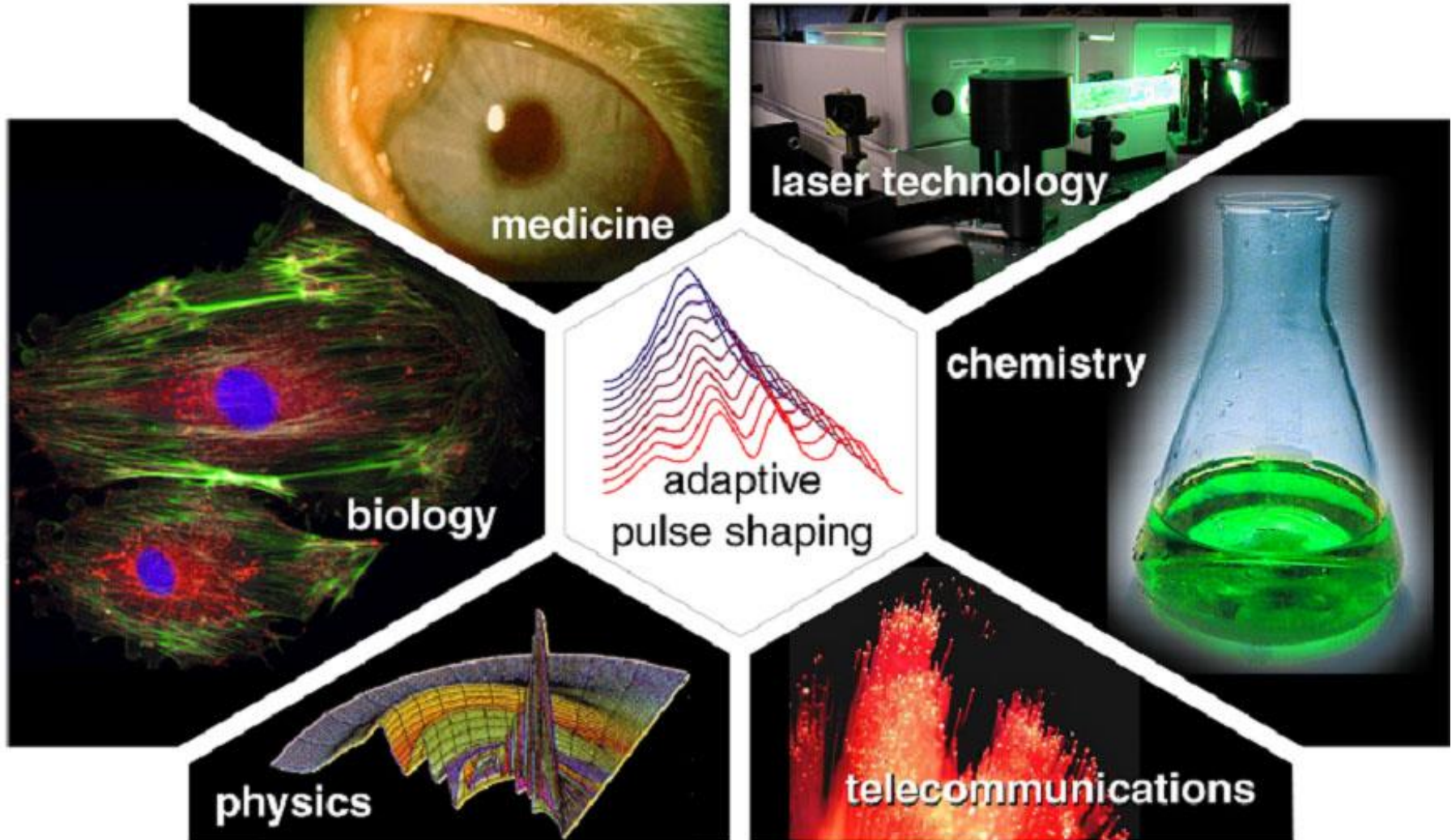
## XFROG Traces:

- 800nm reference pulse: characterised by FROG
- 400nm pulse is cross-correlated with the known 800nm pulse



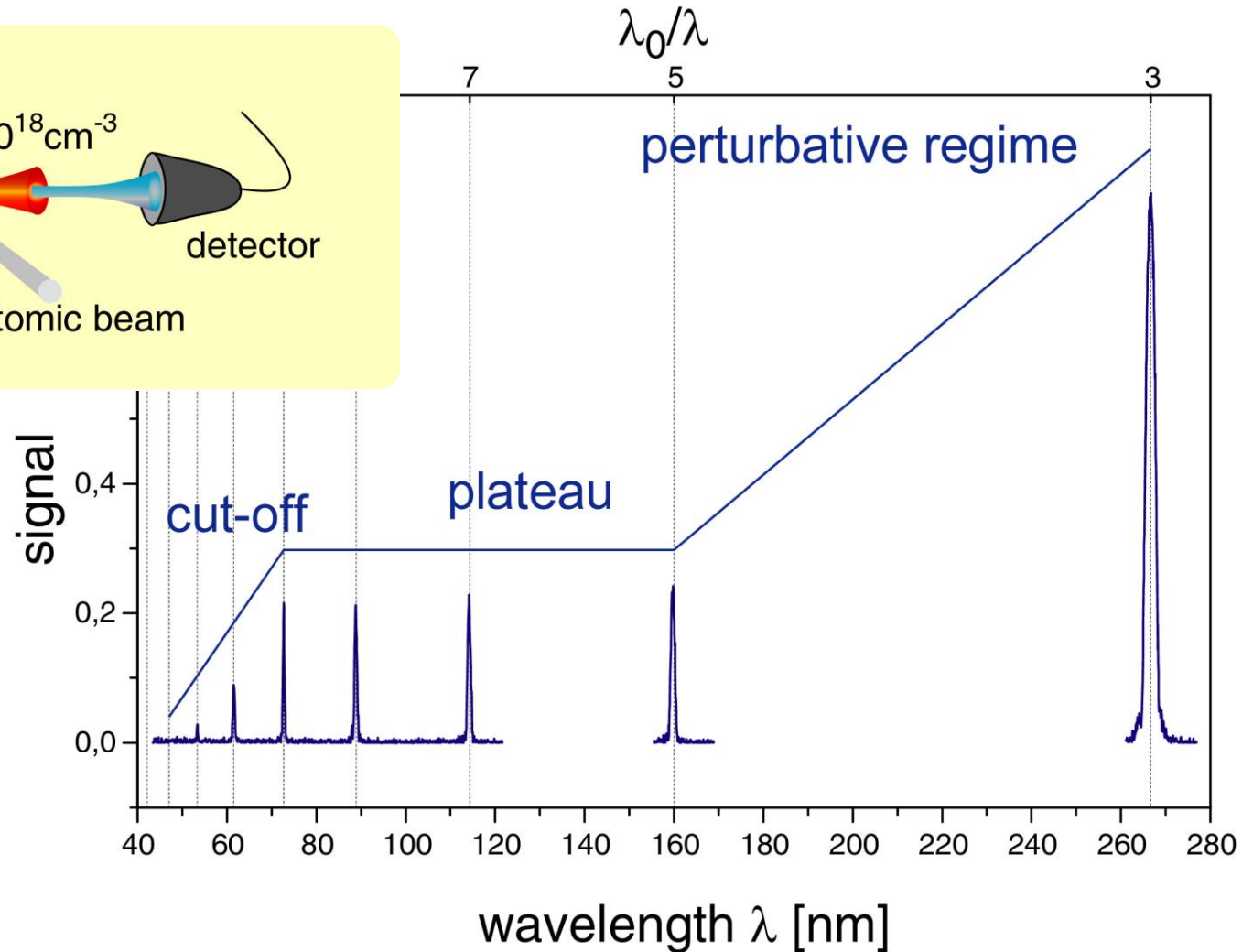
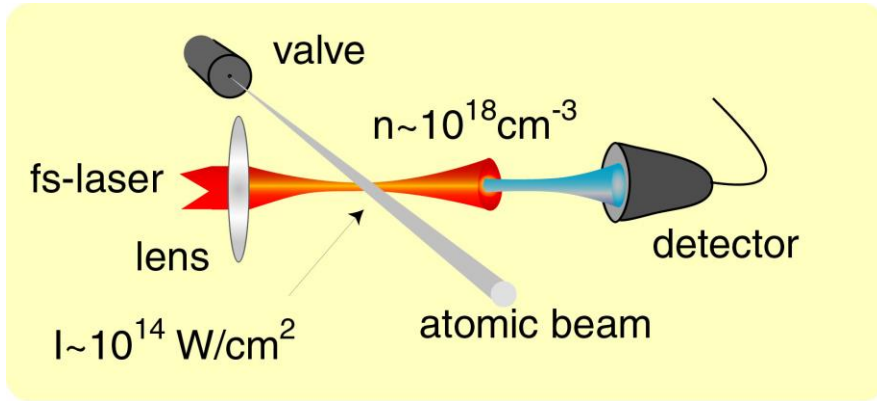
# Applications of adaptive pulse shaping

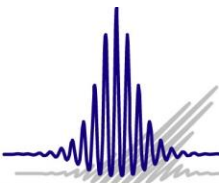
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



# high harmonic generation

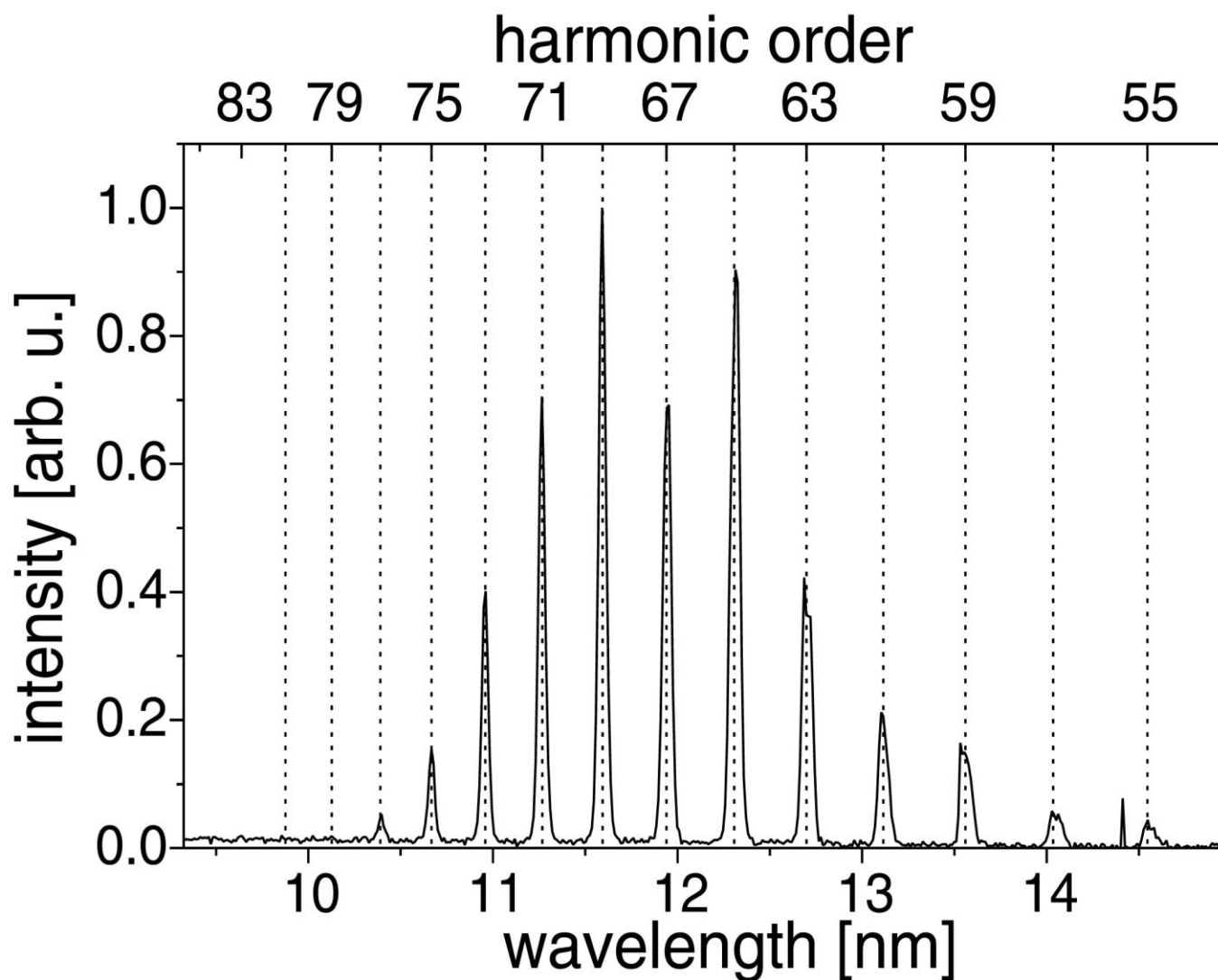
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany





# High-harmonics in Ne

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

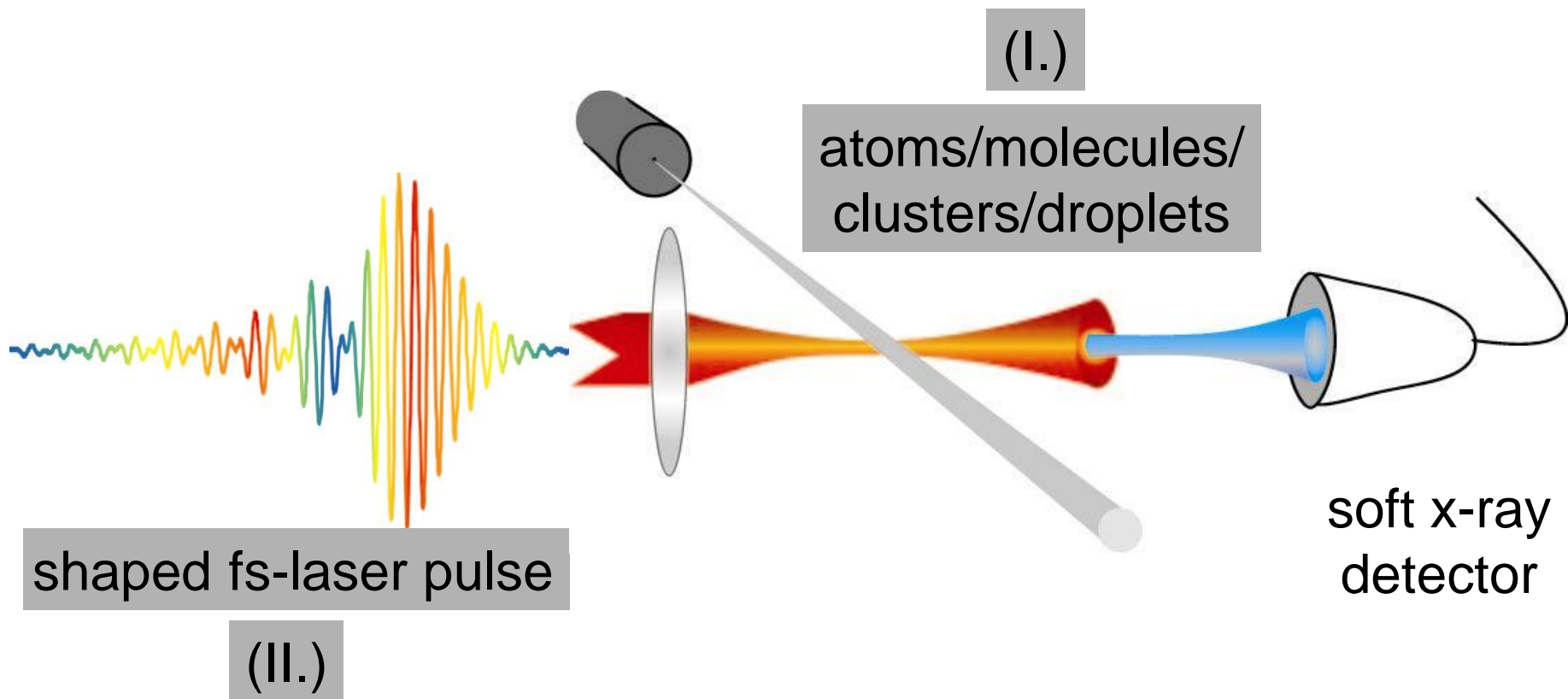


80 fs  
800 nm  
 $5 \cdot 10^{14}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>  
1 kHz

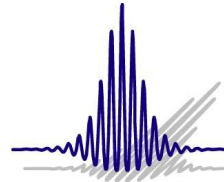
Zr + Parylene-N filter

# Objective: Control HHG

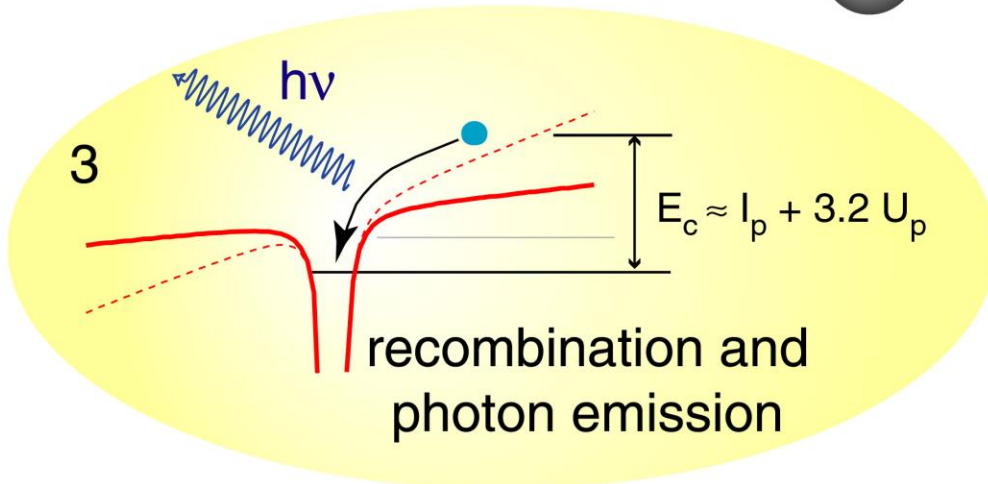
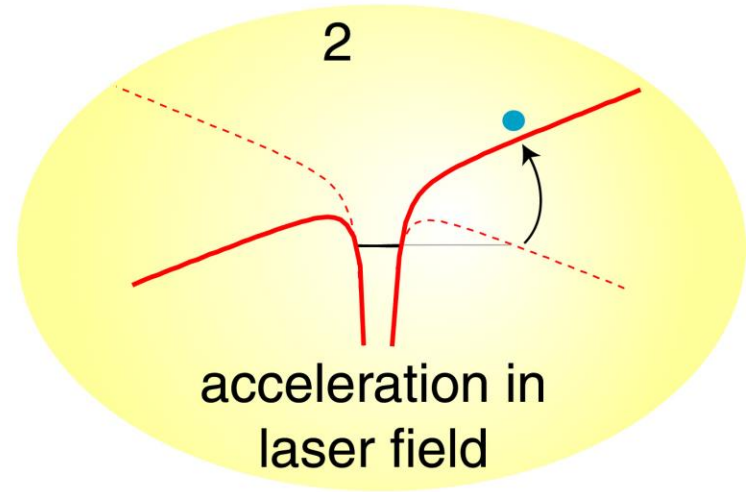
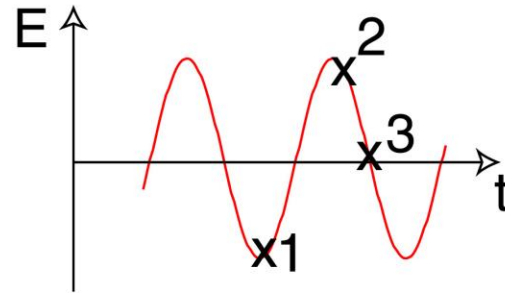
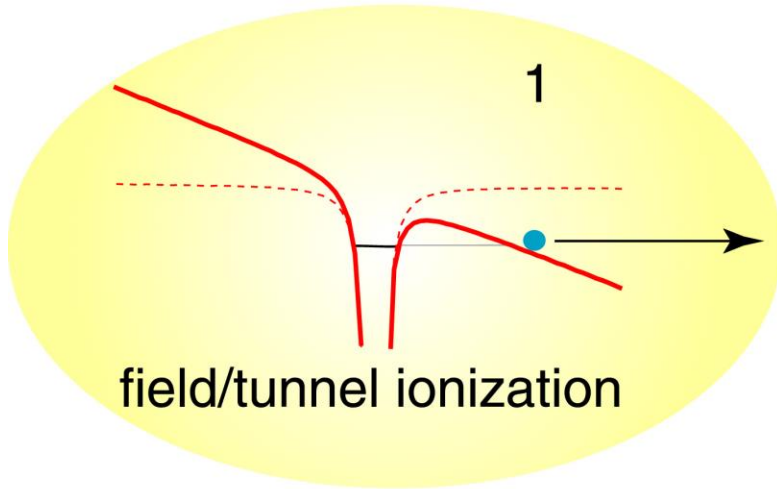
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany  
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



# Three-step model

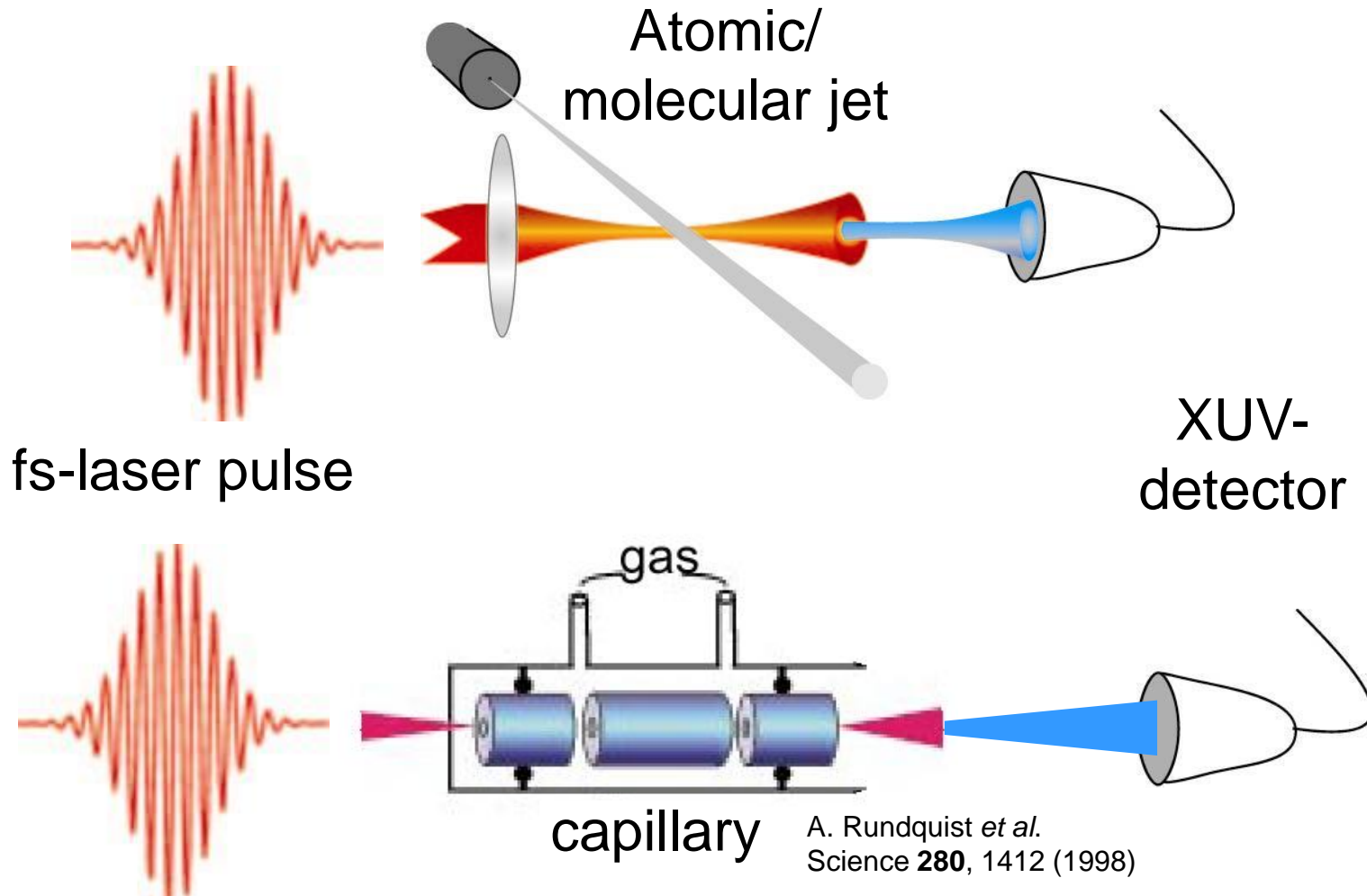


Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



# Harmonic generation geometry

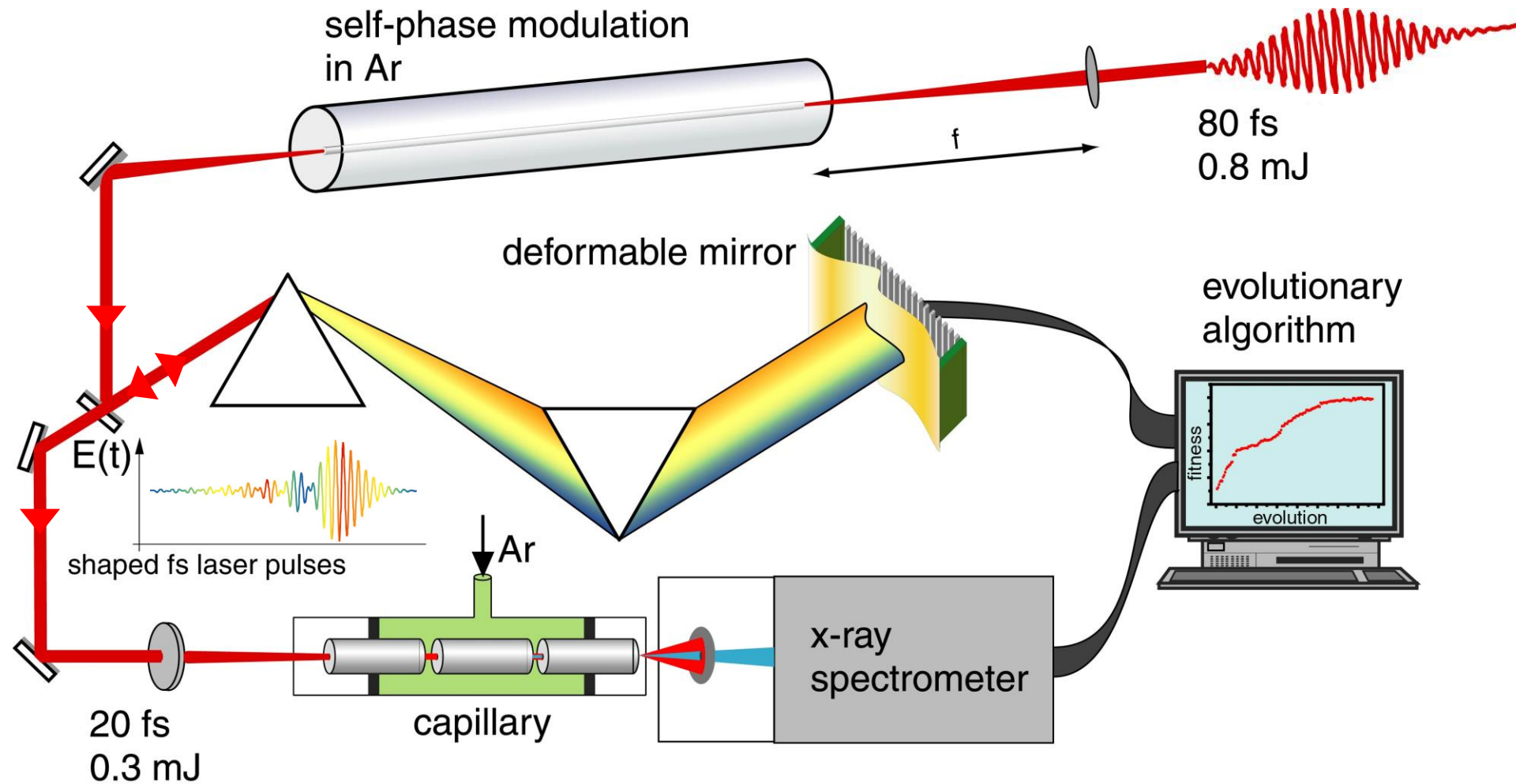
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



A. Rundquist *et al.*  
Science **280**, 1412 (1998)

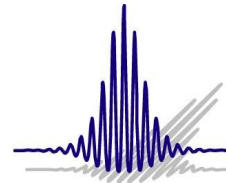
# Experimental setup

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

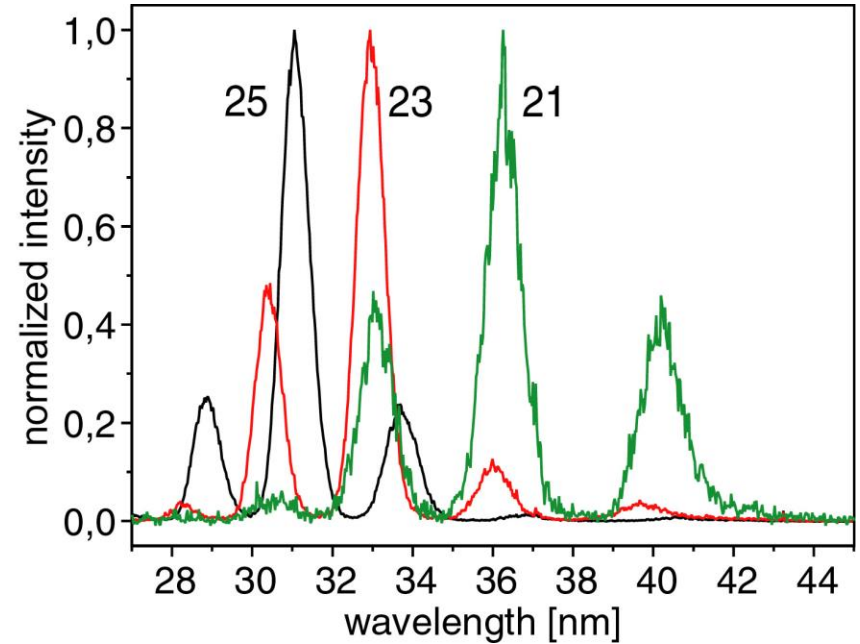
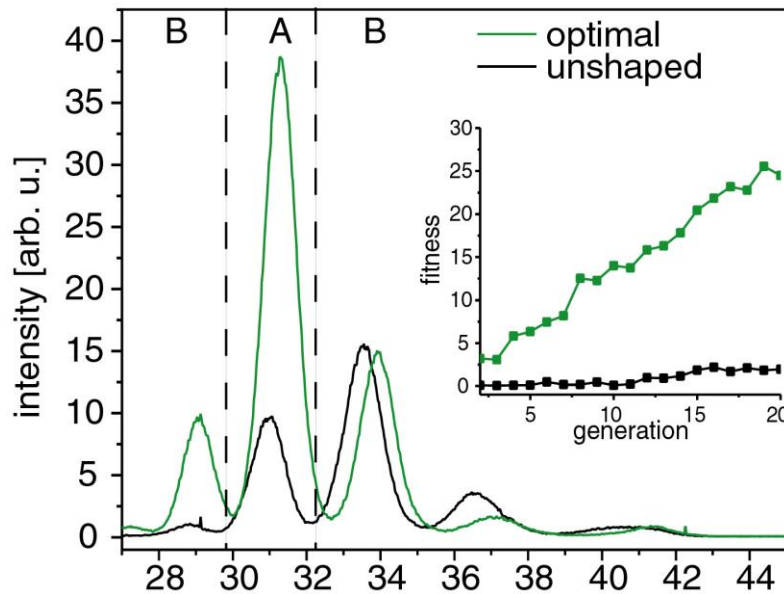




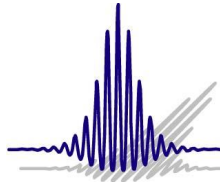
# selective enhancement of HHG



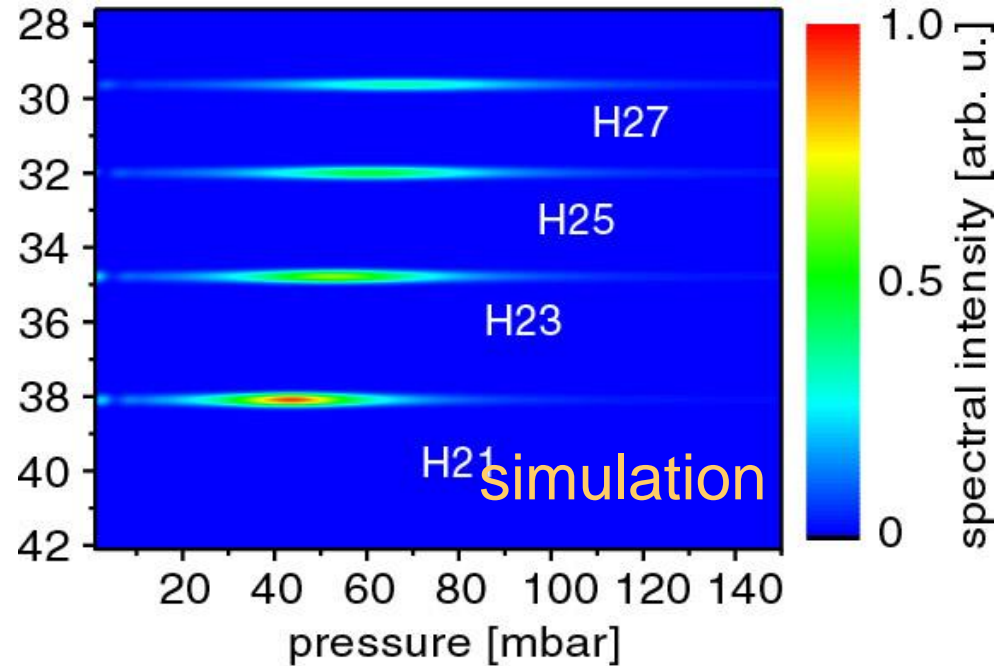
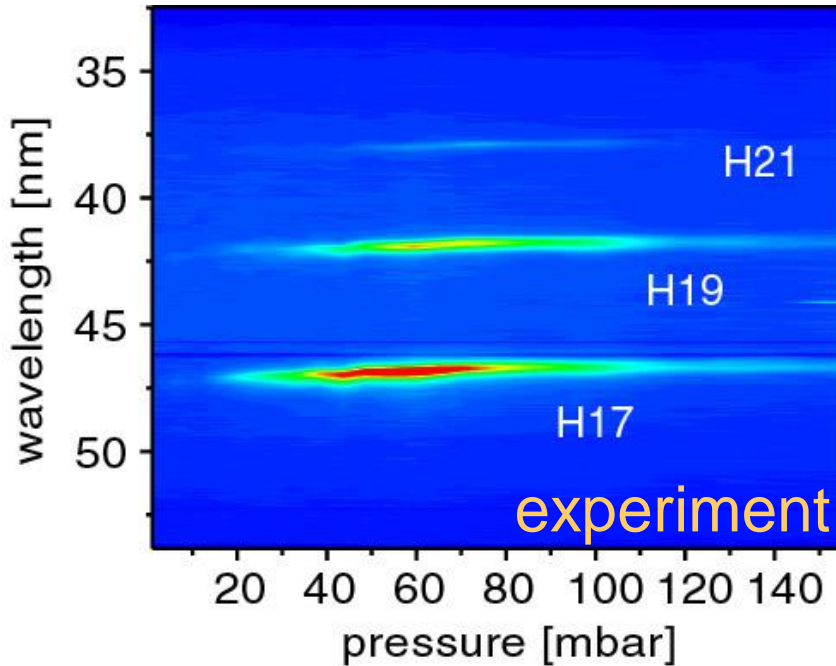
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



# Phase-matching



Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

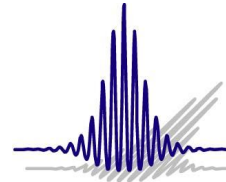


$$\Delta k = qk_{\text{laser}} - k_{\text{x-ray}} = 0$$

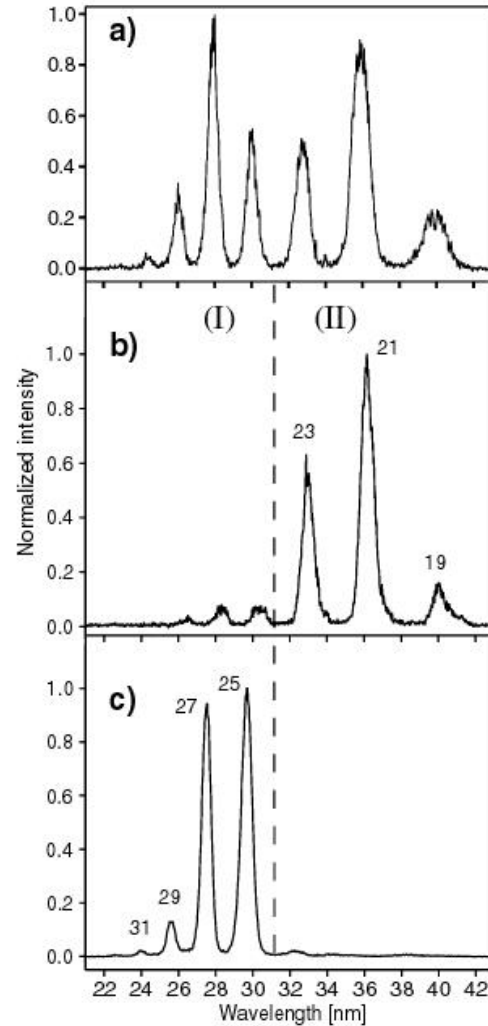
$$k \approx \underbrace{\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}}_{\text{vacuum propagation}} + \underbrace{\frac{2\pi N_a \delta(\lambda)}{\lambda}}_{\text{material dispersion}} - \underbrace{N_e r_e \lambda}_{\text{plasma dispersion}} - \underbrace{\frac{u_{nm}^2 \lambda}{4\pi a^2}}_{\text{waveguide dispersion}}$$

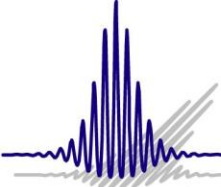
vacuum propagation      material dispersion      plasma dispersion      waveguide dispersion

# Selective Control of HHG



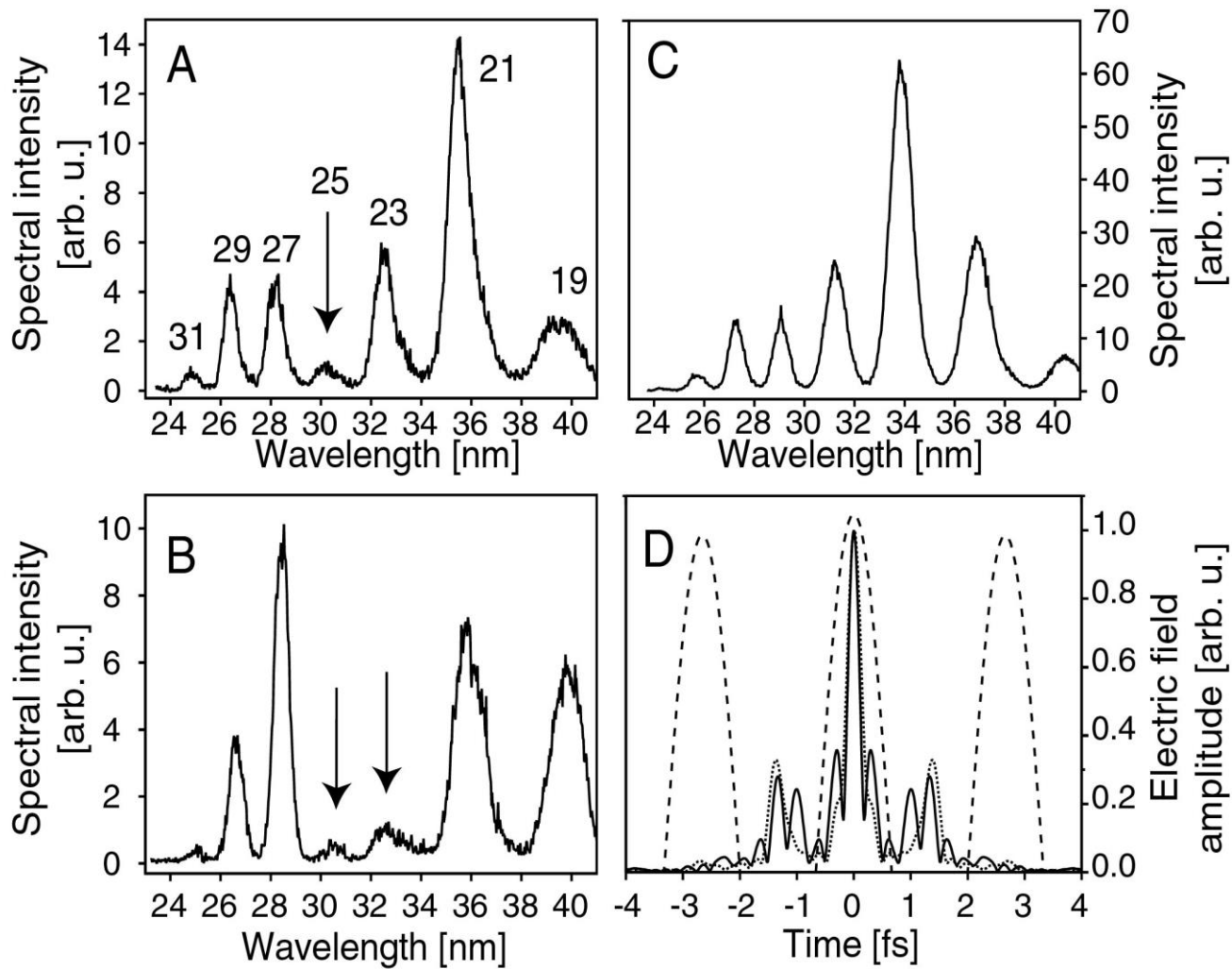
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany





# Suppression of Harmonics

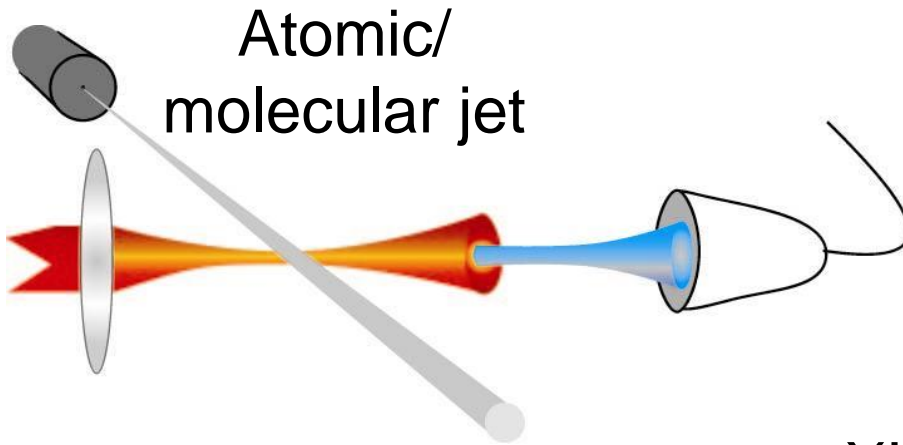
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany



# High-harmonic generation

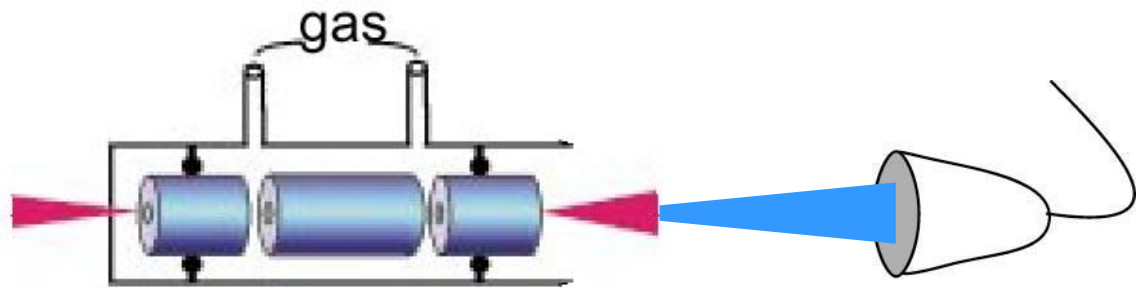
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

shaped fs-laser pulse



Atomic/  
molecular jet

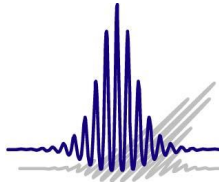
XUV-  
detector



capillary

A. Rundquist *et al.*  
*Science* **280**, 1412 (1998)





# generation geometry

Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

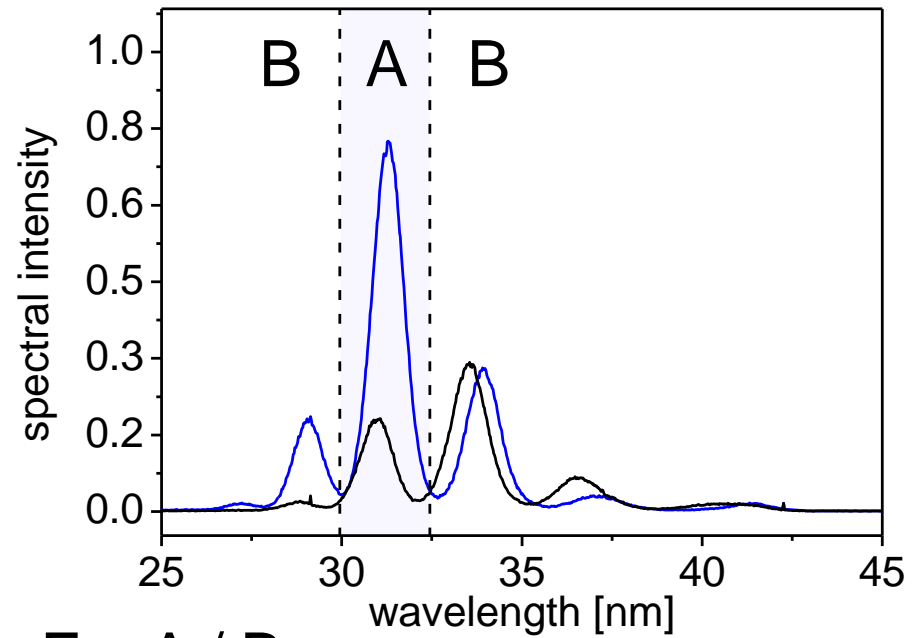
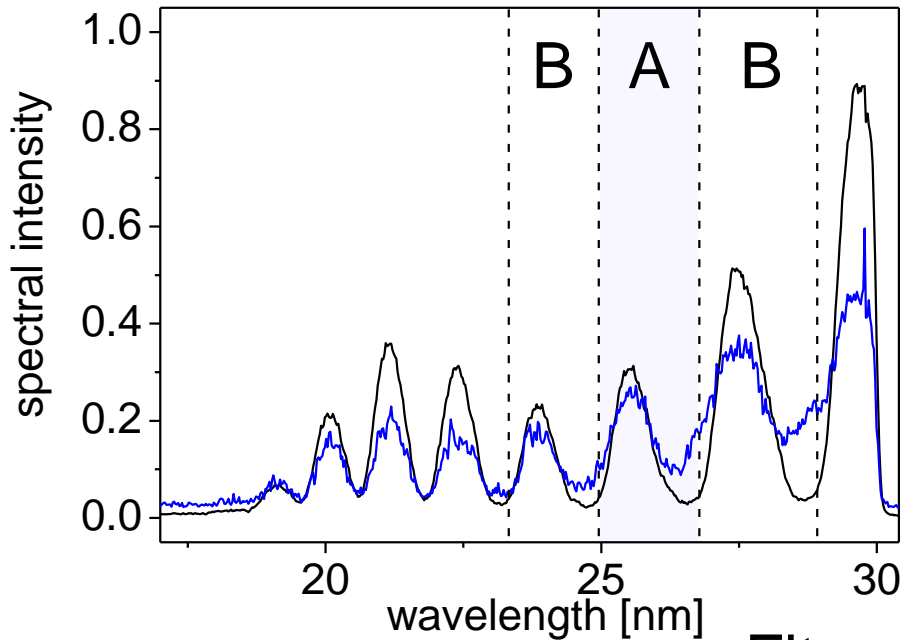
## jet

## vs.

## capillary

— before optimization  
— optimized × 10

— before optimization  
— optimized, same scale



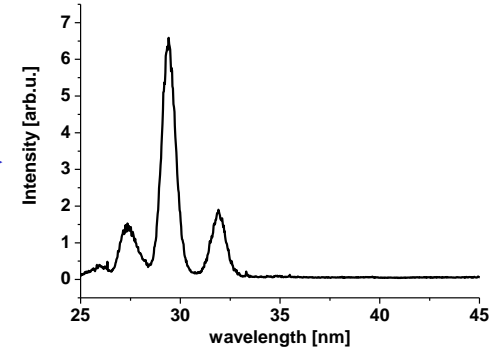
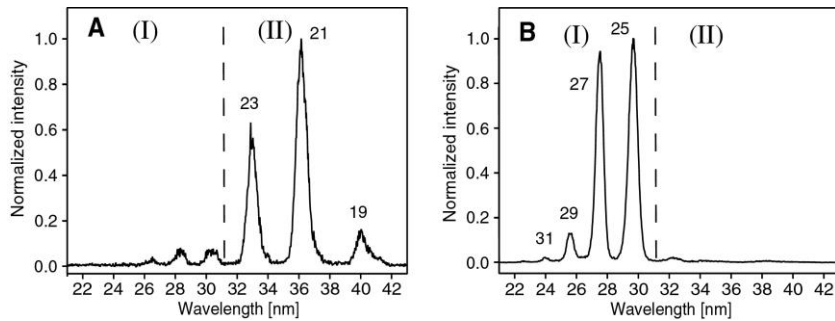
$$\text{Fitness: } F = A / B$$

control not only governed by the single atom response

# Summary

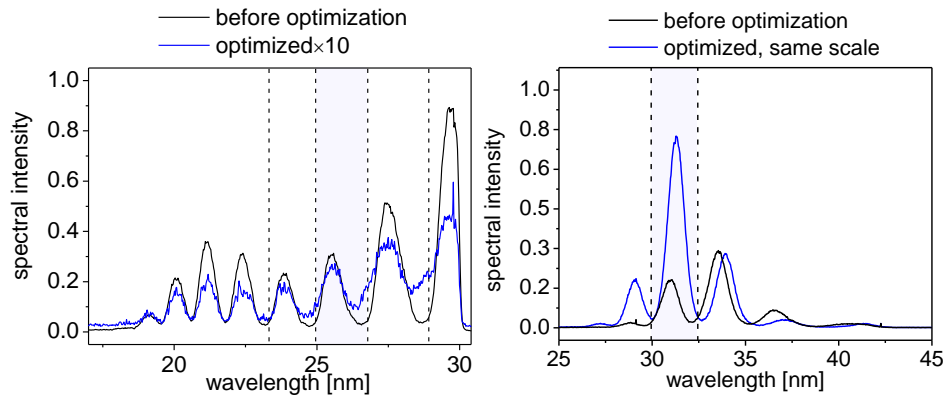
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany  
Department of Physics, University of Würzburg, Germany

Selective Enhancement →



← Comprehensive Control

Control beyond the atomic dipole phase →



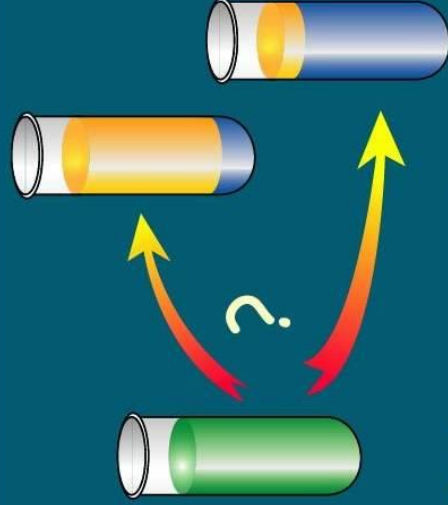
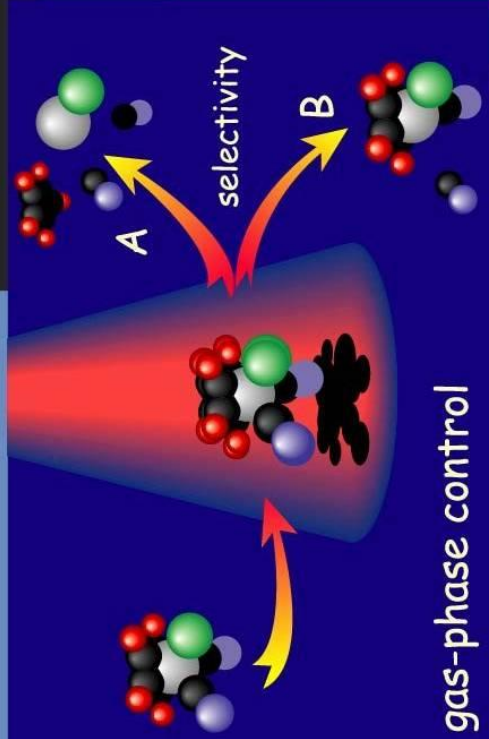
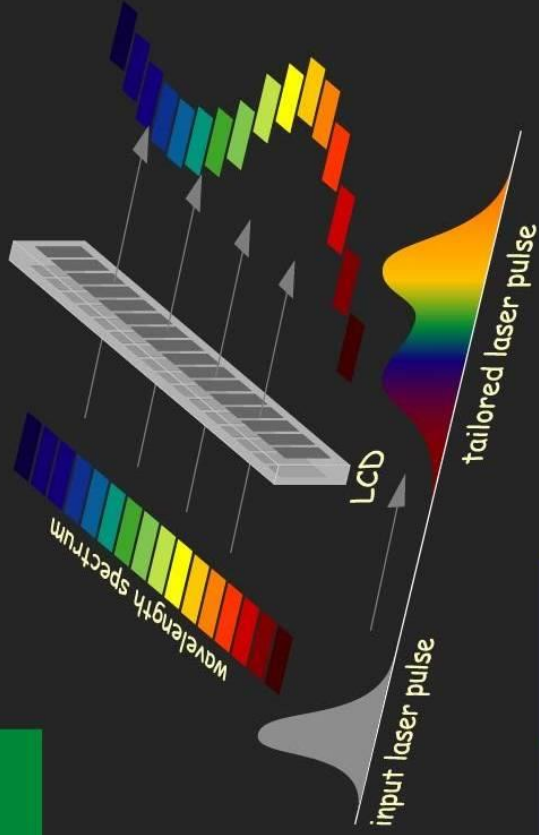
Attosecond Quantum Control

# Adaptive Quantum Control

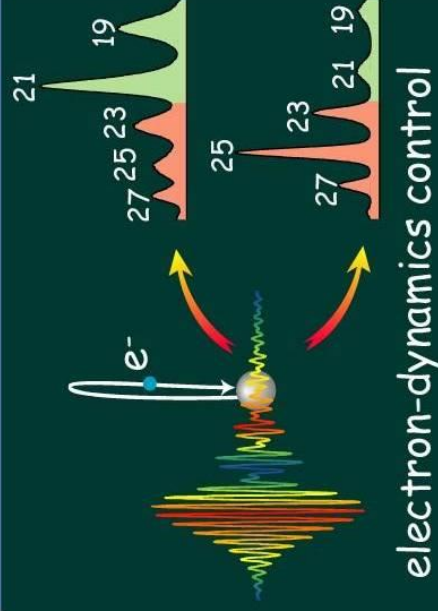
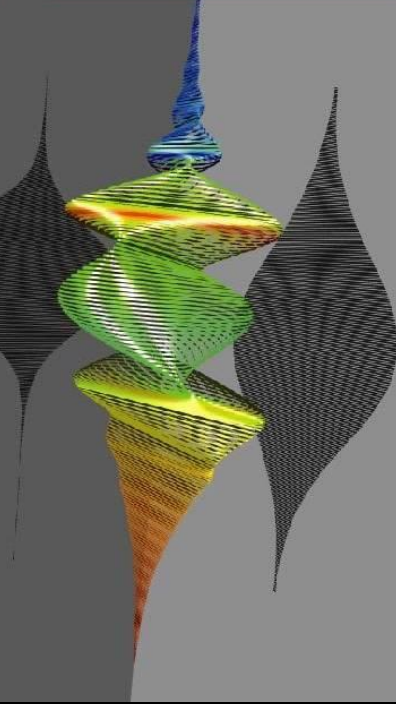


evolutionary optimization

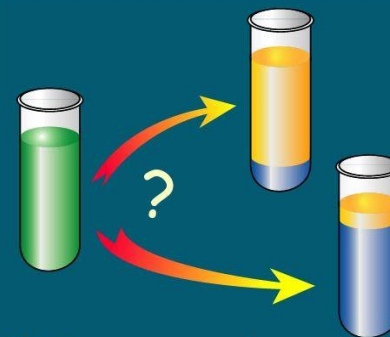
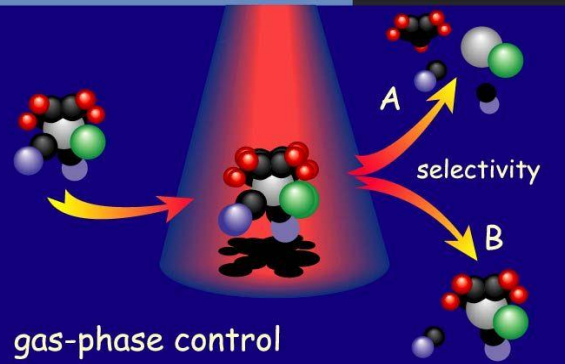
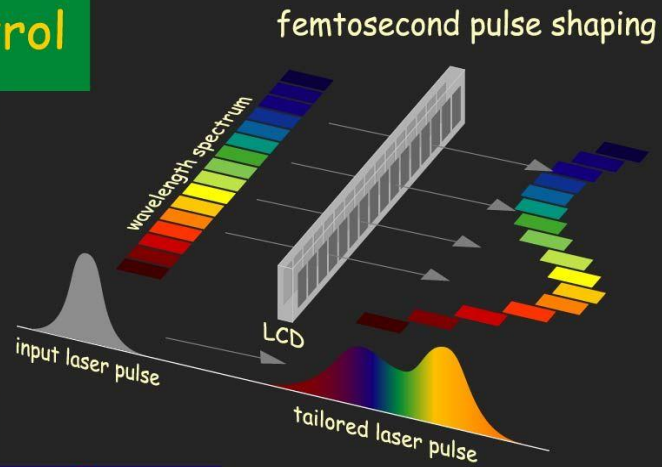
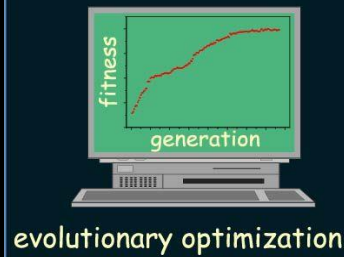
femtosecond pulse shaping



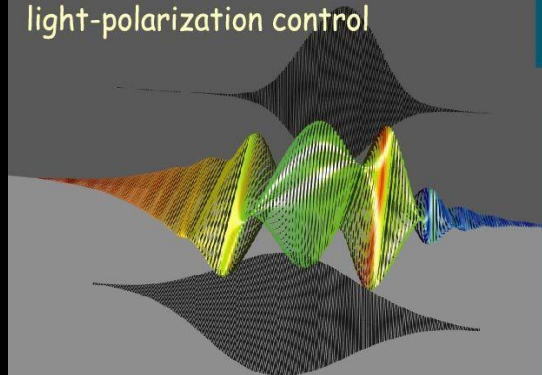
light-polarization control



# Adaptive Quantum Control



light-polarization control



liquid-phase control

