

# Advances in Mass Spectrometry:

## Laser activation & Spectroscopy

### Background literature:

- Polfer and Dugourd, Lecture Notes in Chemistry 83, Springer (2013)
- Rijs and Oomens, Top. Curr. Chem. 364, 1-42 (2015)

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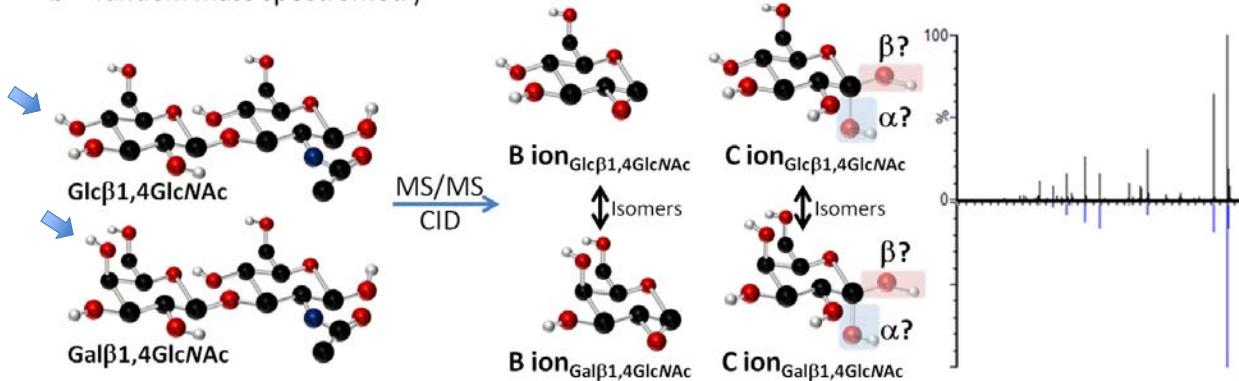
Master course Advances in MS - lecture 6

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### When tandem-MS is not enough....

**b – Tandem mass spectrometry**



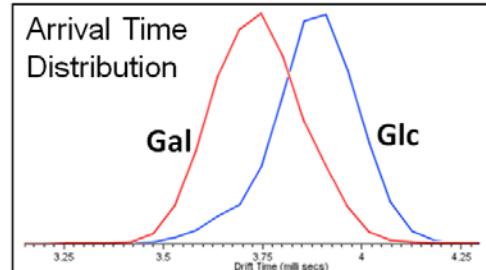
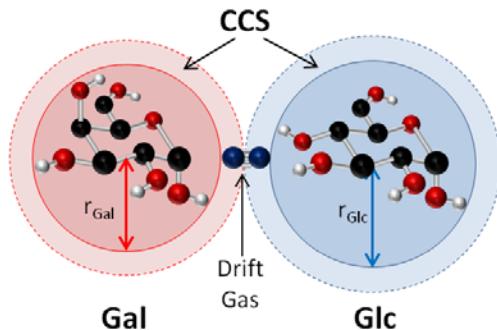
C. J. Gray, B. Schindler, L. G. Migas, M. Pičmanová, A. R. Allouche, A. P. Green, S. Mandal, M. S. Motawie, R. Sánchez-Pérez, N. Bjarnholt, B. L. Møller, A. M. Rijs, P. E. Barran, I. Compagnon, C. E. Evers, and S. L. Flitsch, *Anal. Chem.* **89**, 4540–4549 (2017).

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## When tandem-MS is not enough....: ion mobility!

c – Ion mobility spectrometry



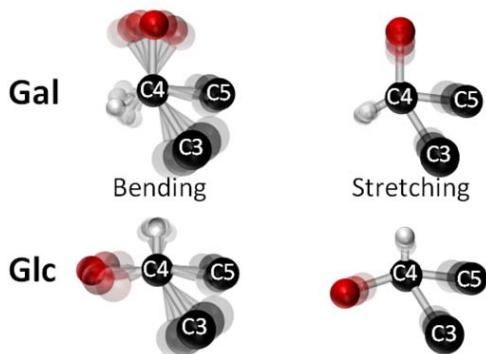
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## What about Spectroscopy?

d – Infrared spectroscopy



C. J. Gray, B. Schindler, L. G. Migas, M. Pičmanová, A. R. Allouche, A. P. Green, S. Mandal, M. S. Motawie, R. Sánchez-Pérez, N. Bjarnholt, B. L. Møller, A. M. Rijs, P. E. Barran, I. Compagnon, C. E. Eyers, and S. L. Flitsch, *Anal. Chem.* **89**, 4540–4549 (2017).

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## Course Layout – Spectroscopy & Mass Spectrometry

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- i. fundamental principles
- ii. direct vs action spectroscopy
- iii. instrumentation

### 2) IR spectroscopy

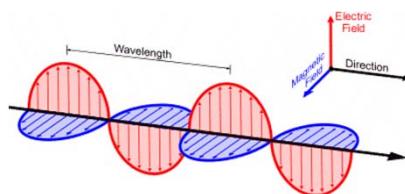
- i. IRMPD (single wavelength) and IR ion spectroscopy
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- iii. Scientific example

### 3) UV spectroscopy

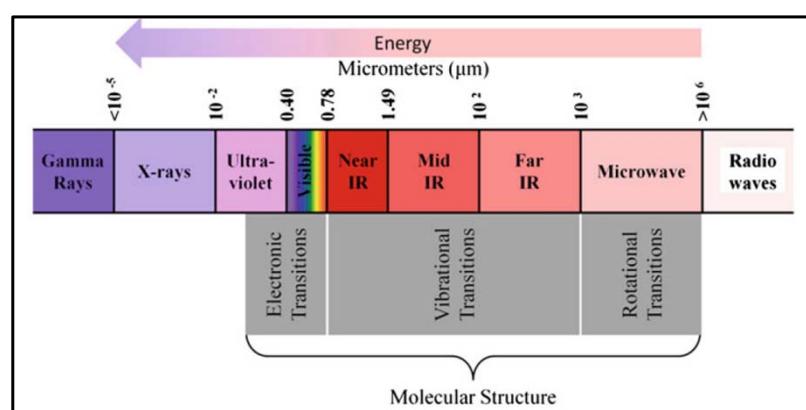
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## Spectroscopy – the electromagnetic spectrum

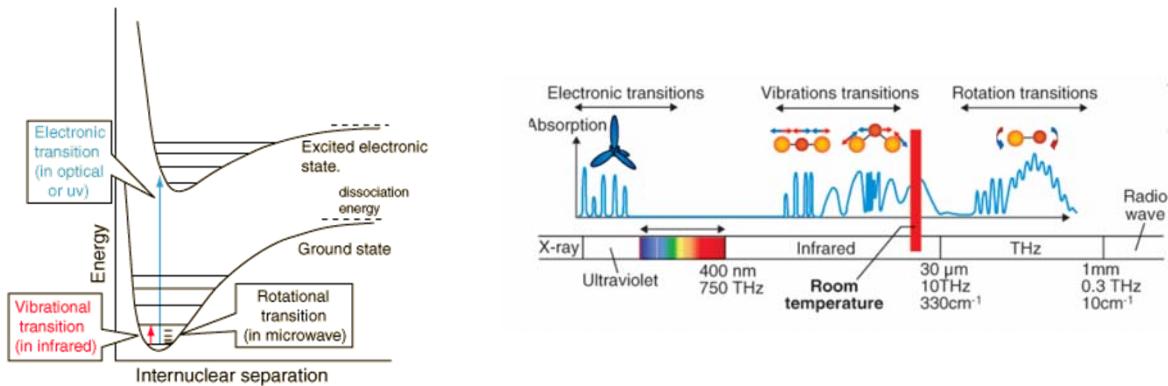


- E-field and M-field component (perpendicular)
- EM wave: traveling wave with constant velocity (speed of light)
- **Wavelength** = distance between 2 maxima
- **Frequency** = number of maxima per second
- $E = h\nu = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = hc\nu$



## Spectroscopy and MS spectrometry: molecular structure

Q: Can every type of spectroscopy be combined with MS spectrometry?

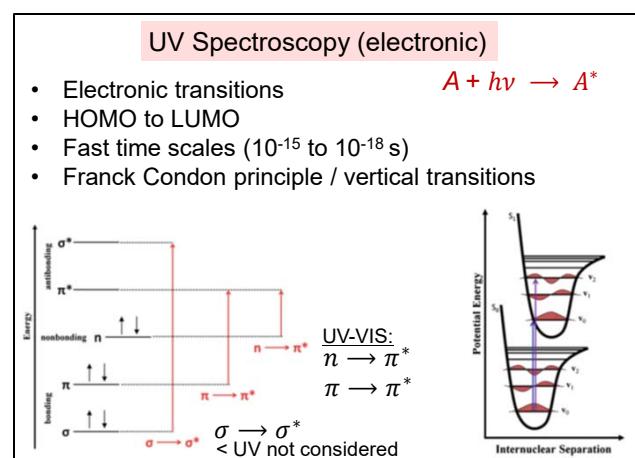
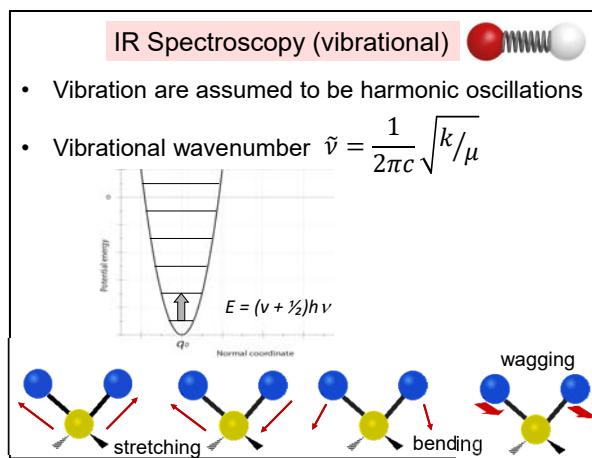


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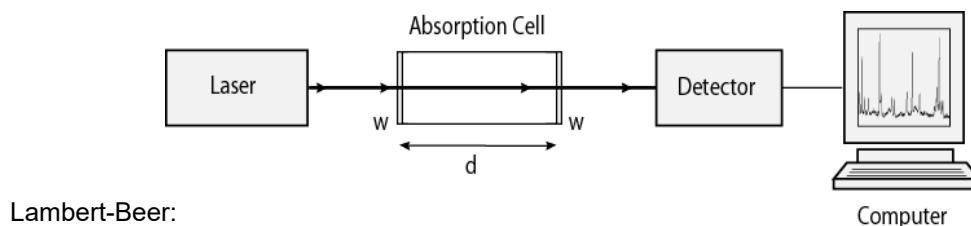
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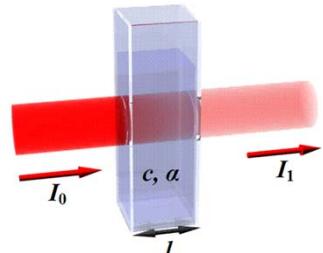
## Direct Absorption Spectroscopy

- Provides absolute concentrations or absolute cross-sections
- Measures **attenuation of light** traveling through a sample
- Transmitted intensity follows the Beer-Lambert law



$$-\log \frac{I}{I_0} = \epsilon L c$$

$I_0$  Intensity of the incident light  
 $L$  length of the sample  
 $\epsilon$  Molar absorption coefficient



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## Direct Absorption Spectroscopy

### UV spectroscopy

$$-\log \frac{I}{I_0} = \epsilon L c$$

#### Typical numbers for Tryptophan:

- $\epsilon = 5690 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$
- $\lambda = 280 \text{ nm}$
- $L = 1 \text{ cm}$
- Detection efficiency  $I/I_0 = 0.1\%$
- required concentration:  $c = 75 \text{ nM}$
- $\sim 4.6 \times 10^{13} \text{ ion Trp per ml}$

How many ions are there typically in an ion trap??

$10^6$ - $10^7$  ions

### UV spectroscopy in a trap

$$I = I_0 e^{-\alpha L}$$

$$\alpha(\nu) = \Delta N \sigma(\nu)$$

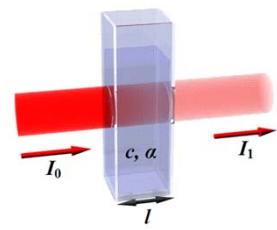
#### Typical numbers:

- $\sigma = 10^{-16}$ - $10^{-17} \text{ cm}^2/\text{molecule (UV)}$
- $L = 0.1 \text{ cm}$
- $\Delta N = 10^8 \text{ molecules/cm}^3$
- ratio #absorbed photons  $10^{-9}$ - $10^{-10}$
- Irradiation time 1 s
- 1 out of  $10^9$ - $10^{10}$  photons are absorbed

What does this mean for our light source to have detectable quantities?

$10^{16}$ - $10^{17} \text{ photons cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$

light bulb ☺



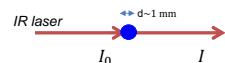
$I_0$	Intensity of the incident light
$L$	length of the sample
$\alpha$	absorption coefficient sample
$\Delta N$	population difference
$\sigma(v)$	cross section
$v$	frequency of the light

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## Molecules in the gas phase - IR absorption

Absorbance:  $A(\nu) = \log_{10} \left( \frac{I_0}{I} \right)$  → Molar absorption coefficient:  
 $\epsilon(\nu) = \frac{A(\nu)}{cd} = \frac{1}{cd} \log_{10} \left( \frac{I_0}{I} \right) [\text{L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}]$



Assuming Lorentz shape of the IR absorption band, the molar absorption coefficient at resonance frequency is:

$$\epsilon(\nu_0) = 27.7 \frac{I_{IR}}{w}$$

where  $I_{IR}$  is the IR intensity of the band in km/mol, and  $w$  is FWHM of the absorption band in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

If for example IR intensity of the band is 100 km/mol, and  $w=10 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , this gives:

$$\epsilon(\nu_0) = 27.7 \frac{100}{10} = 277 [\text{L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}]$$

$$C \sim 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-3} = 10^{10} \text{ L}^{-1} \text{ (number of ions)}$$

$$d \sim 1 \text{ mm} = 0.1 \text{ cm}$$

$$N_A = 6.022 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$$

↓  

$$A(\nu) = \epsilon(\nu_0) \cdot Cd = 277 \cdot 10^{10} \cdot 0.1 \left[ \frac{\text{L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}}{\text{L}} \right] = \frac{2.77 \cdot 10^{11}}{6.022 \cdot 10^{23}} = 4.6 \cdot 10^{-13}$$
 → Changes in the transmission:

$$\Delta T = \frac{I_0 - I}{I_0} = 1 - 10^{-A(\nu)} = \sim 10^{-12} \Rightarrow 10^{-10} \%$$

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## Action Spectroscopy

Direct absorption: *Effect of molecules on light*

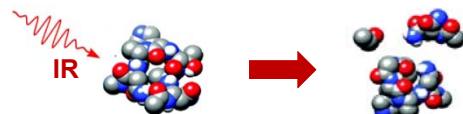
- Too low density
- Not size (mass) selective

"Action" or "Consequence" spectroscopy: *Effect of light on molecules*

Look at the **result** of absorption:

- |                        |                                   |                              |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • charge state change  | = ionization, electron detachment | detection of charged species |
| • quantum state change | = fluorescence                    | detection of light           |
| • mass/charge change   | = fragmentation                   | detection of fragments       |

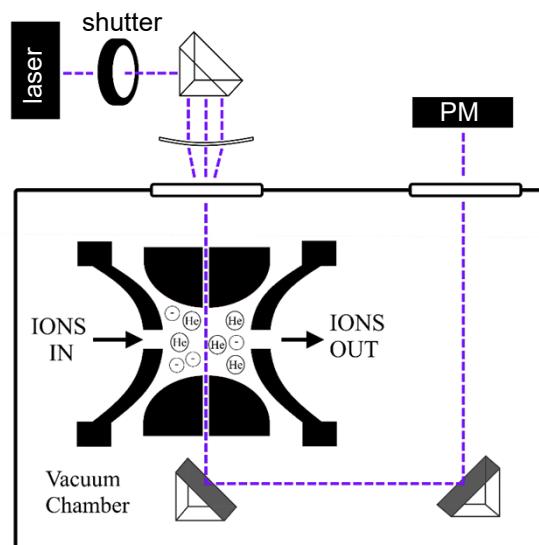
What matches best with MS and why?



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## Typical set-up

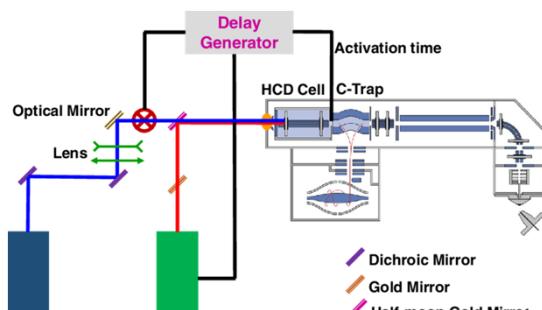


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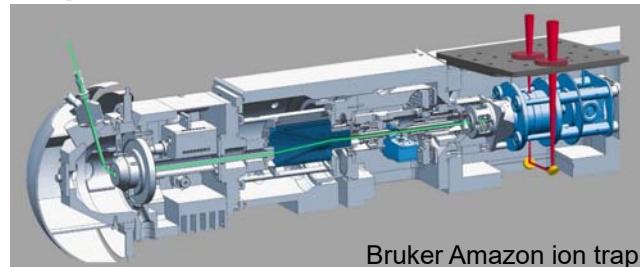
E. Matthews et al., *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2016, **18**, 15143.

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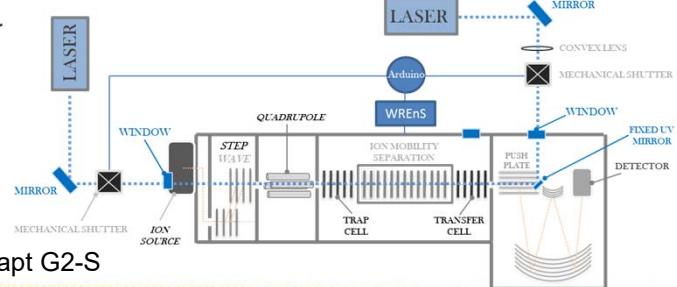
## Combined with commercial mass spectrometers



Thermo-Fisher orbitrap (fusion lumos)



Bruker Amazon ion trap



Waters Synapt G2-S

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## Course Layout – Spectroscopy & Mass Spectrometry

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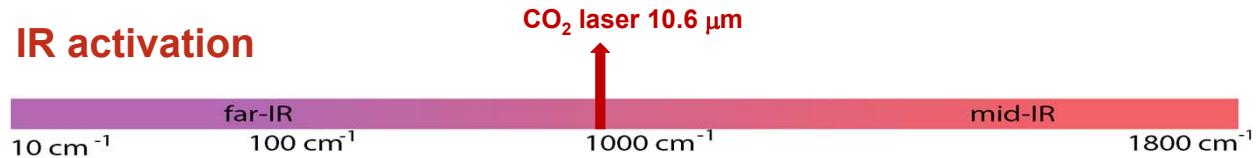
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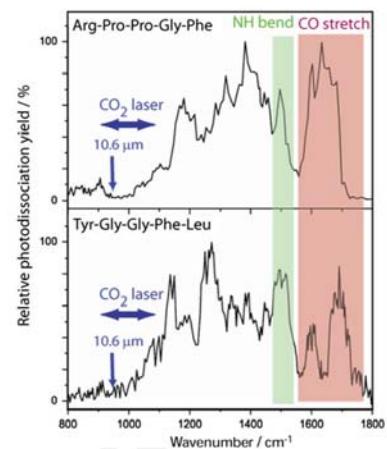
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### IR activation



Why  $10.6 \mu\text{m}$  ( $=940 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )?

- High power laser (typically 50 W)
- CW
- Fluence 100x FEL
- Slightly tunable (900-1100nm)
- in tail of absorption of peptides, still enough due to high fluence
- phosphate groups and glycans do absorb: post-translational modifications
- CID-like process

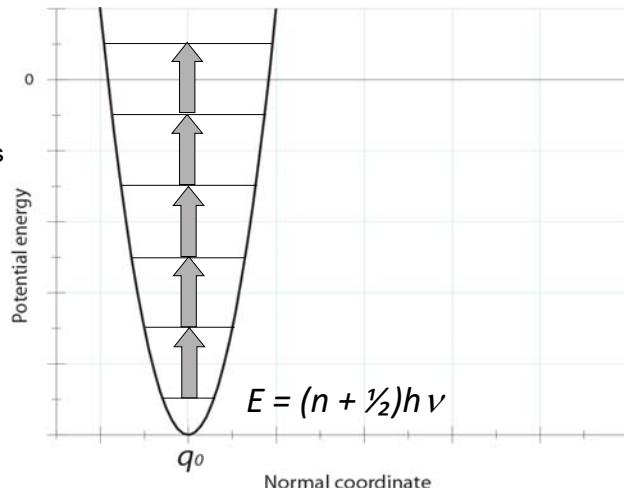


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## Infrared Multiple Photon Dissociation

- IR photon energy << bond dissociation energy
- Several / many IR photons are required  
= multiple absorption
- Vibration are assumed to be harmonic oscillations
- No multiphoton but multiple photons ?
- Harmonic potential = vibrational levels equidistant



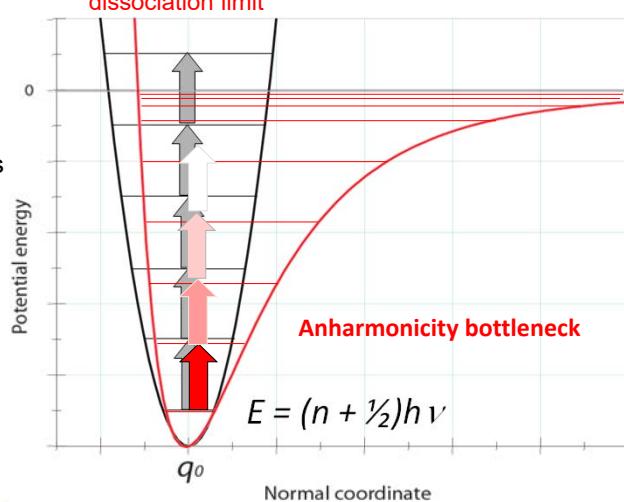
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## Infrared Multiple Photon Dissociation

- IR photon energy << bond dissociation energy
- Several / many IR photons are required  
= multiple absorption
- Vibration are assumed to be harmonic oscillations

- Harmonic potential = vibrational levels equidistant
- Anharmonic potential = vibrational levels converge to dissociation limit

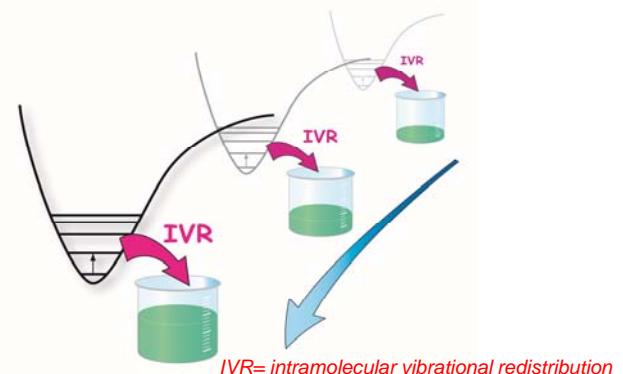


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## What is IRMPD ? How does it work?

- InfraRed Multiple Photon Dissociation
  - Anharmonicity forbids coherent multiphoton absorption
  - Resonant absorption – IVR\* – increase internal energy -> resonant Absorption – IVR – etc
  - IVR: energy distributed over different vibrational modes
  - Dissociation at the **weakest bond in molecular system** (independent of excited vibrational mode)
  - Monitoring fragmentation yields IR spectrum

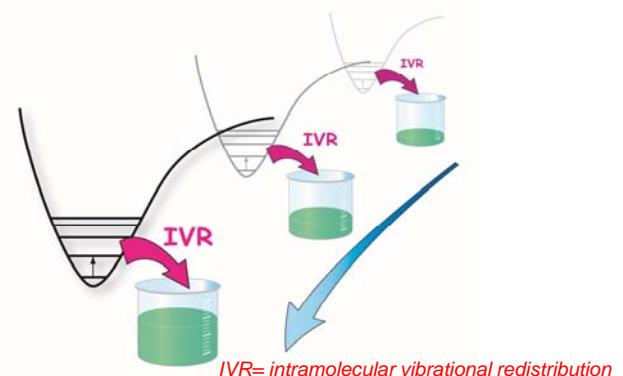
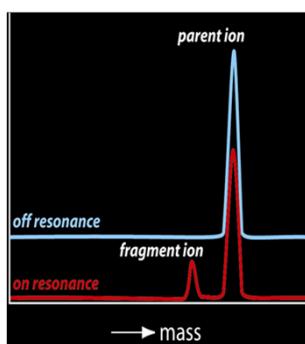


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## IR activation vs CID

$\text{CO}_2$  laser  $10.6 \mu\text{m}$

Tune wavelength: spectroscopy!

far-IR  
10  $\text{cm}^{-1}$       100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

1000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

mid-IR  
1800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

### CID-like behavior:

- multiple IR photons = gradual heating as collisions with CID

### IRMPD:

- broader m/z trapping range possible than for CID
- allows to reduce the radio frequency (rf) trapping voltage during ion activation (with CID this would result in decrease in energy deposition associated with lower rf trapping voltages)
- promotes secondary dissociation of primary product ions due to continuous irradiation = formation of a more diverse array of diagnostic ions compared with CID

### Challenges:

- balance between activation and cooling
- performance is hindered by the failure to provide adequate fragmentation at the standard pressure
- No wavelength depended information, only fragmentation

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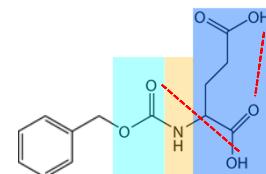
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## IR ion spectroscopy (vibrational spectroscopy)

### What does on IR spectrum tell you?

IR spectroscopy direct view on:

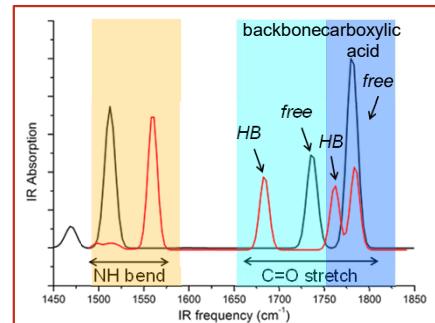
- Conformational changes
- Hydrogen bond interactions
- Van der Waals interactions



Amide A - NH stretch, OH stretch: 3300-3600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

Amide I - C=O stretch: 1700-1800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

Amide II – NH bend: 1500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

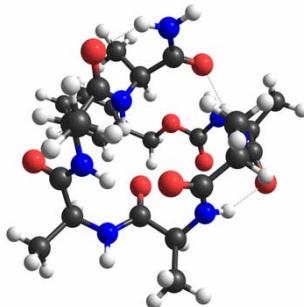
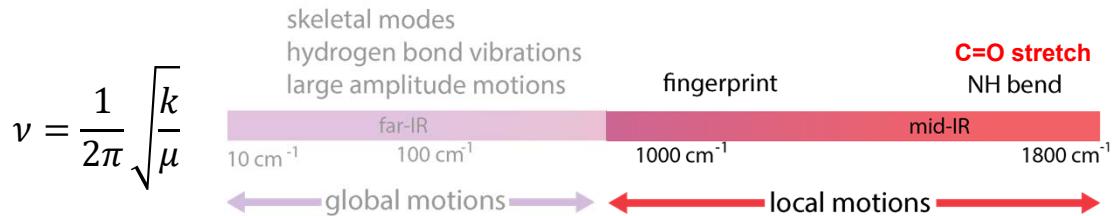


Experiment + quantum chemical calculations = structure

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## Interactions probed by infrared action spectroscopy



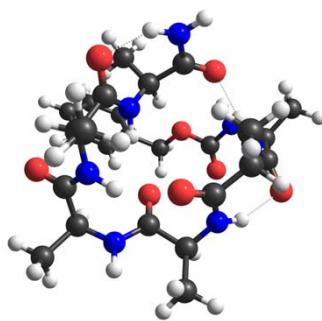
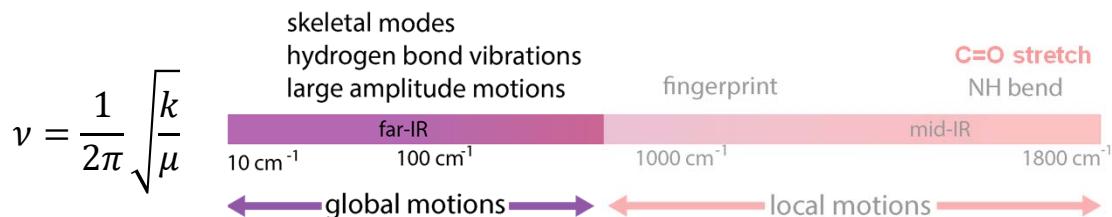
### mid-IR spectral region

- local vibrations
- local structural details
- Interaction through shifts of specific groups

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## Interactions probed by infrared action spectroscopy



### far-IR & THz

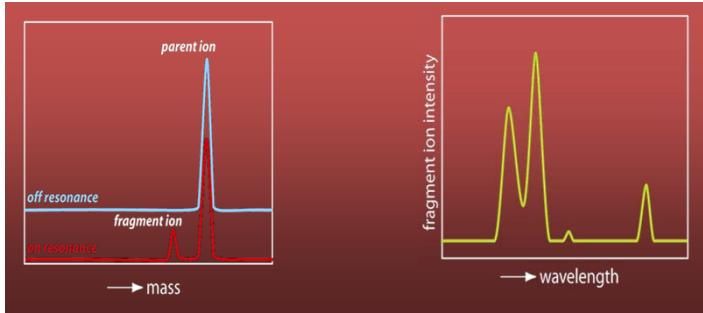
- delocalized vibrations
- Structural motifs
- Hydrogen bond interactions directly

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## IR ion spectroscopy

- Infrared absorption  
= dissociation at the **weakest bond in molecular system** (independent of excited vibrational mode)
- Monitoring fragmentation as function of the wavelength yields IR spectrum



$$Yield = \frac{\sum I_{fragments}}{I_{parent} + \sum I_{fragments}}$$

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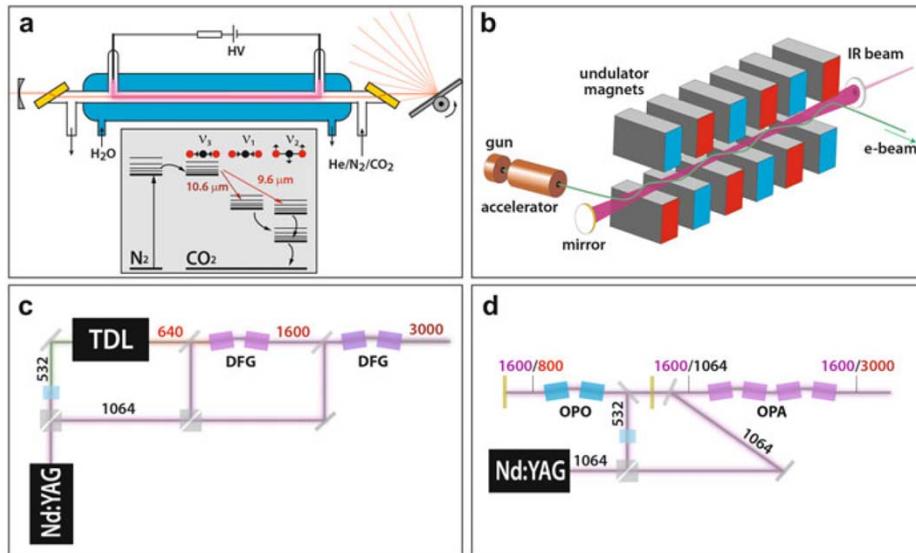
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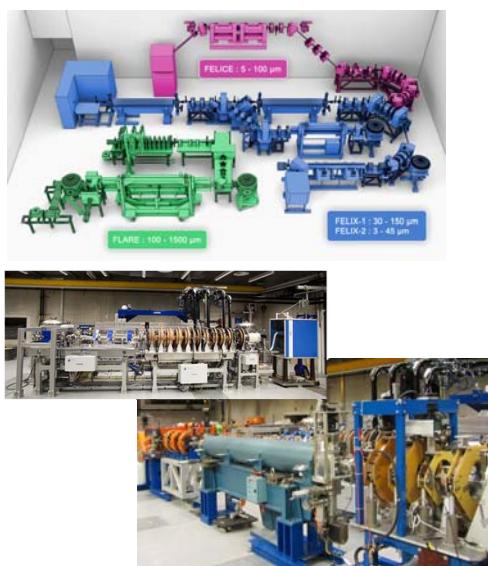
## IR sources



Rijks and Oomens, Top. Curr. Chem. 364, 1-42 (2015)



## The free electron lasers at the FELIX laboratory



### SELECTED SPECIFICATIONS OF THE FELIX LASERS

	FELIX	FLARE	FELICE
spectral range	2.7 – 150 $\mu\text{m}$ 3600 – 66 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ 120 – 2 THz 450 – 8 meV	100 – 1500 $\mu\text{m}$ 100 – 6 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3 – 0.25 THz 12 – 0.75 meV	5 – 100 $\mu\text{m}$ 2000 – 100 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ 60 – 3 THz 250 – 12 meV
micropulse energy	1 – 20 $\mu\text{J}$	5 $\mu\text{J}$	1 mJ
macropulse energy	100 mJ @ 1 GHz	100 mJ @ 3 GHz	5 J @ 1 GHz
peak power	100 MW	10 MW	5 GW
polarisation	linear	linear	linear
spectral bandwidth	0.2 – 5 % (FWHM)*	$\approx$ 1 %	0.4 – 3 %
corresponding pulse length*	250 fs - 6 ps @ 10 $\mu\text{m}$	70 ps @ 500 $\mu\text{m}$	400 fs - 3 ps @ 10 $\mu\text{m}$

\* The free-electron lasers produce Fourier Transform limited pulses.



Interested in beam time: [www.ru.nl/felix](http://www.ru.nl/felix)

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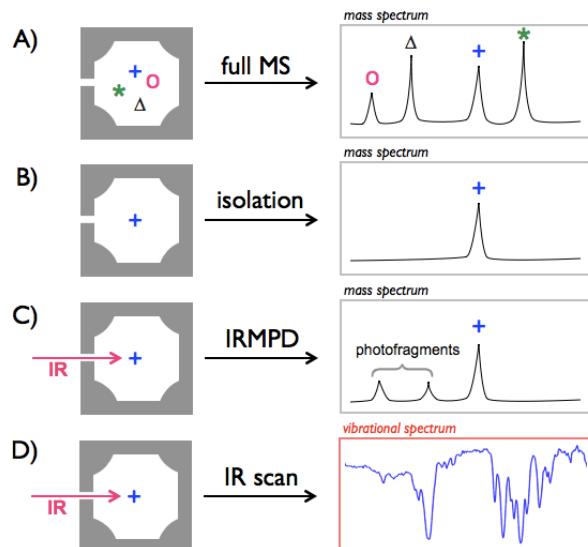
## The FELIX Laboratory



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## Type of experiments



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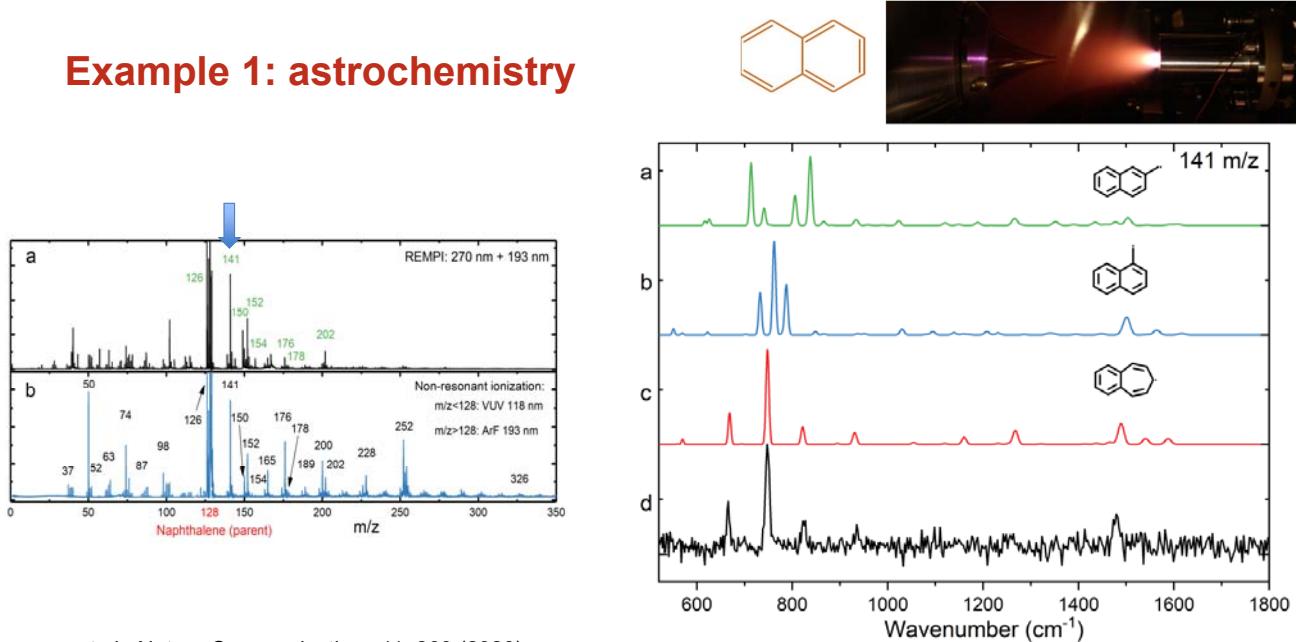
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### Example 1: astrochemistry



Lemmens et al., Nature Communications 11, 269 (2020)

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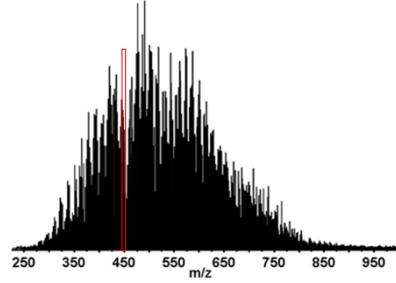
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## Example 2: identification in complex mixtures

**Metabolomics** - profiling of small-molecule metabolites: **identification** and **quantitation**

### Possible identification methods

- **NMR** has seen wide spread application  
= gives structure, no selectivity, low sensitivity
- **(LC)-Mass spectrometry**  
= mass selective and sensitive, no structures
- **IR spectroscopy**  
= Structurally diagnostic, not selective
- **Combine MS and IR:** IR spectra with selectivity and sensitivity of MS



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## Application of IR-MS to biomarker discovery in metabolomics

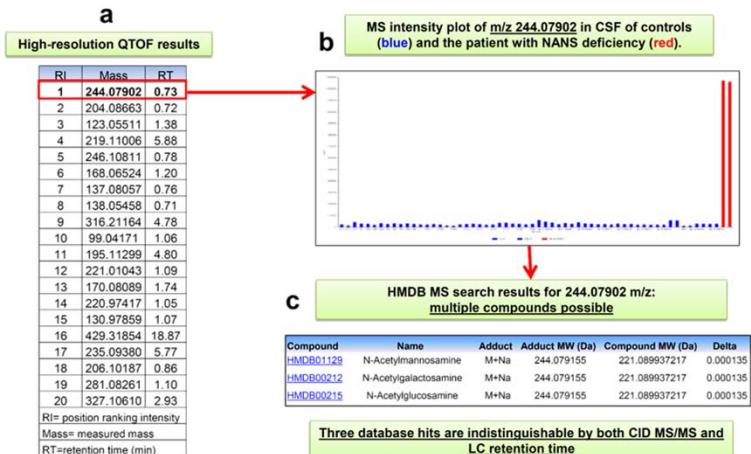
nature genetics

### Next Generation Metabolic Screening Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)

NANS-mediated synthesis of sialic acid is required for brain and skeletal development

Clara D M van Karnebeek<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Lucia Bonaldi<sup>1,28</sup>, Xian Yan Wei<sup>4,5,28</sup>, Maite Tarallo-Grau<sup>2,6</sup>, Sara Balzano<sup>7</sup>, Bertil Royer-Bertrand<sup>7,8</sup>, Angel Asikore<sup>9</sup>, Livia Garavelli<sup>9</sup>, Isabella Manni<sup>10</sup>, Lucia Tordi<sup>11</sup>, Catherine Breen<sup>12</sup>, Dian Domani<sup>13</sup>, Valerie Cormier<sup>14</sup>, Delphine Hornez<sup>15</sup>, Gen Nakamura<sup>16</sup>, Shunichi Uchikawa<sup>17</sup>, Belinda Campos-Xavier<sup>18</sup>, Ammar Al-Shabani<sup>19</sup>, Daniel J. Hock<sup>20</sup>, Michael J. Kotilinek<sup>20</sup>, Kelli L. Smith<sup>21</sup>, Brian J. Stevenson<sup>22</sup>, Ericson Girard<sup>23</sup>, Gladys Superti-Furga<sup>2,23</sup>, Tamara Dewan<sup>24</sup>, Alfonso Collinge<sup>25</sup>, Jessie Halpin<sup>26</sup>, Cedric Biron<sup>1,2,6</sup>, Margot I Van Allen<sup>26</sup>, Andrea Rossi<sup>27</sup>, Udo F Engels<sup>27</sup>, Leo A J Kluhmann<sup>27</sup>, Els van der Heijden<sup>28</sup>, Henrica de Klerk<sup>24</sup>, Arjan de Bruinew<sup>24</sup>, Karin Hoijer<sup>27</sup>, Folke Zelius<sup>27</sup>, Thorben Heuse<sup>27</sup>, Thomas Janssen<sup>27</sup>, Wyeth W Wasserman<sup>28</sup>, Catharina Röroth<sup>2</sup>, Sheila Unger<sup>27</sup>, Dark L Leibet<sup>27</sup>, Ben A Wevers<sup>1,28</sup> & Andrea Superti-Furga<sup>1,2,23</sup>

### Patient and Controls

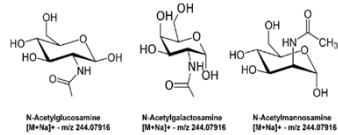
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university medical center

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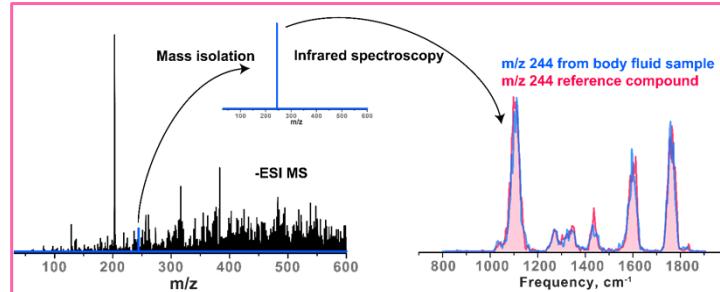
## Identification of inborn errors of metabolism

Possible database matches identified by metabolic screening



MS, MS/MS, LC, NMR...

**NMR undesirable:**  
Large sample volumes  
Low sensitivity - only viable for few cases

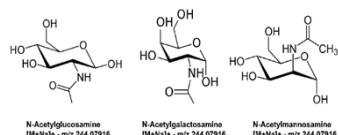


Martens, et al., Sci. Rep. 2017, 7, 3363



## Identification of inborn errors of metabolism

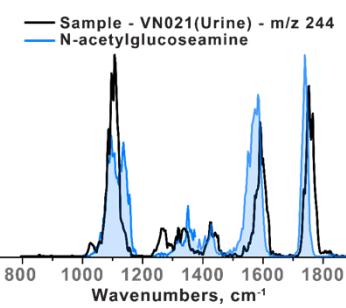
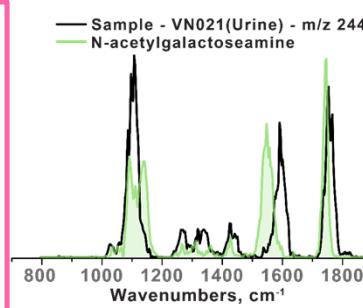
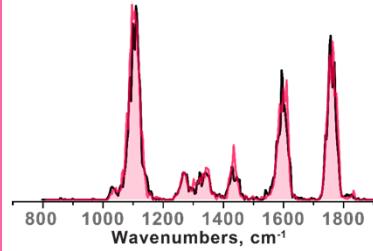
Possible database matches identified by metabolic screening



Sample VN021(Urine) - m/z 244  
N-acetylmannosamine

Sample - VN021(Urine) - m/z 244  
N-acetylgalactoseamine

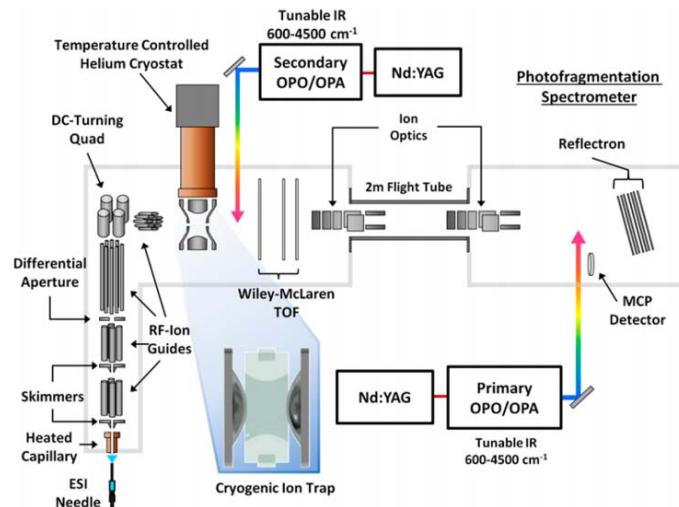
Sample - VN021(Urine) - m/z 244  
N-acetylglucosamine



Martens, et al., Sci. Rep. 2017, 7, 3363



### Example 3: cryogenic cooled MS



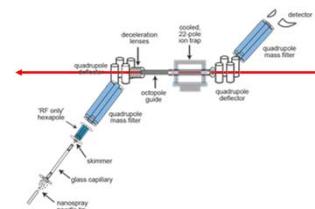
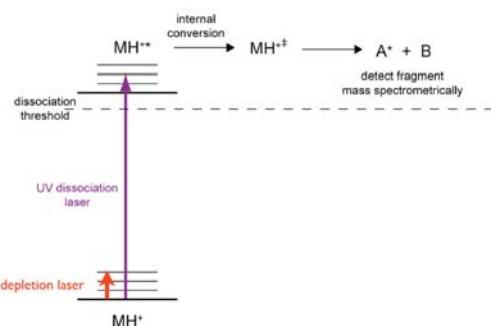
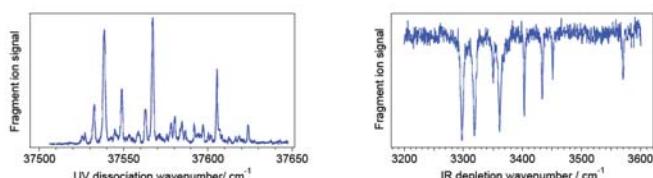
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M.A. Johnson et al. Acc. Chem. Res. 2014, 47, 202–210

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### IR-UV photodissociation spectroscopy



- Cryogenic : UV selectivity
- Single IR photon
- Conformer selective
- UV chromophore required

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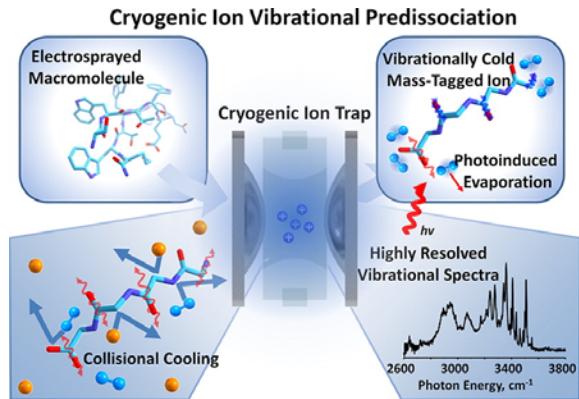
Tom Rizzo (EPFL)

Radboud University



## Messenger Spectroscopy – predissociation spectroscopy

- Tag is attached to analyte ions via weak vdWaals interactions at cryogenic temperatures
- the tag is detached upon resonant absorption of a photon by the analyte ion
- Tag: He, Ne, Ar, H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>
- temperatures depends on tag  
*slightly stronger binding tags, less low temperatures*
- tag can cause a distortion in the ions IR spectrum



methodology is applicable to any molecule, as IR modes of the molecule are probed

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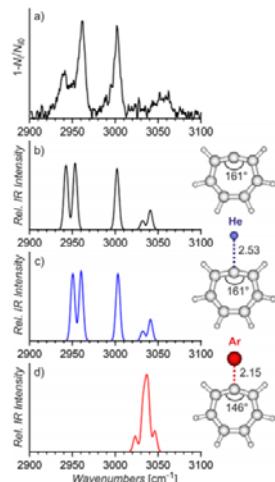
M.A. Johnson et al. Acc. Chem. Res. 2014, 47, 202–210

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## Messenger Spectroscopy – predissociation spectroscopy

- **The ideal tag:**
  - causes no to minimal distortion to IR response of ion
    - least polarizable and therefore the lowest binding energy
    - helium = ideal choice but challenging (ask Jana!), He tags at extremely low temperatures (<<10K)
  - **Large enough mass difference**
    - To be able to isolated m/z
    - the tagged ions are extremely fragile, any collisional activation will lead to loss of the tag
    - N<sub>2</sub> (28 Da) – easy mass ejection of the untagged ions and minimized activation of tagged ions.



methodology is applicable to any molecule, as IR modes of the molecule are probed

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Roithová et al. Acc. Chem. Res. 2016, 49, 223–230

M.A. Johnson et al. Acc. Chem. Res. 2014, 47, 202–210

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## Course Layout – Spectroscopy & Mass Spectrometry

- 1) Background into Spectroscopy
  - i. fundamental principles
  - ii. direct vs action spectroscopy
  - iii. instrumentation
- 2) IR spectroscopy
  - i. IRMPD (single wavelength) and IR ion spectroscopy
  - ii. Sources
  - iii. Scientific examples
- 3) UV spectroscopy
  - i. **UVPD (single wavelength)**
  - ii. **Photoabsorption and fragmentation spectroscopy**
  - iii. Scientific example

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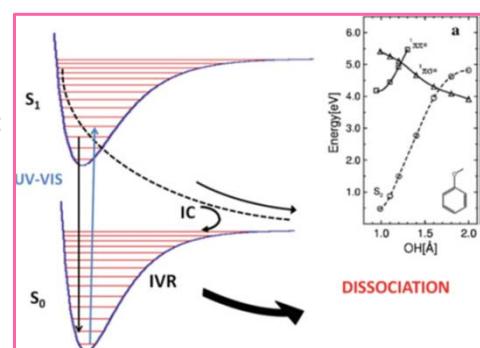
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## Electronic Excitation – UV-VIS activation

UV-VIS : Electronic excitation of valence electrons

**Linear excitation (absorption of single photon):**

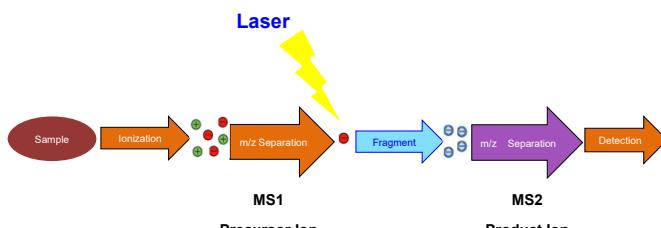
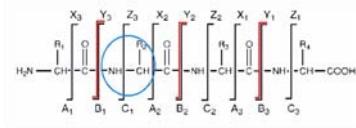
- Energy is well-defined in your system
- After population excited state, various de-excitation pathways:
  - Emission of a photon (fluorescence)
  - Internal Conversion (IC) from electronic energy to vibrational energy followed by IVR
  - Fragmentation in electronic excited state
  - Electron emission (depending on photon energy)



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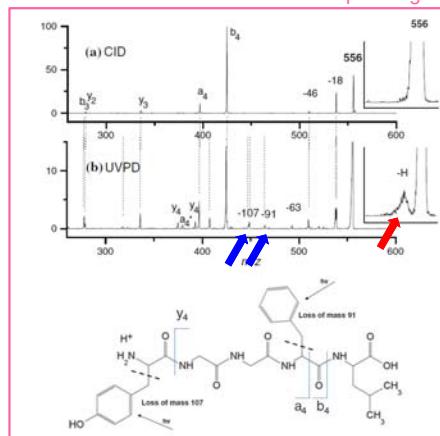
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## UVPD: fragmentation



- cleavage close to chromophore = fast dissociation prior to IVR (excitation to dissociative electronic state)
- H-loss:  $\pi\pi^*$  transition in chromophore resulting in direct dissociation  $\pi^*\sigma^*$  coupling
- Rest is similar to CID: peptide backbone

Tandem Mass Spectrometry:  
structure identification - Protein sequencing



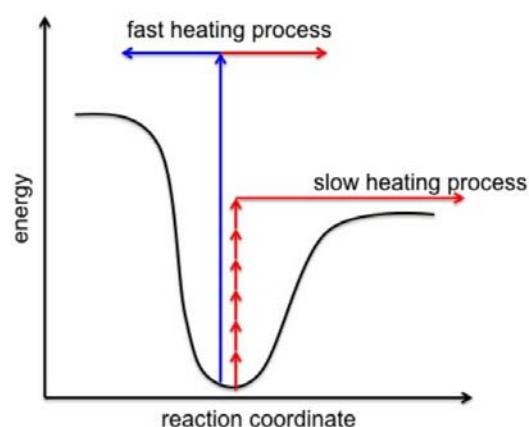
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## UVPD: spectroscopy

- Gas phase UV absorption spectroscopy
- UV photofragmentation spectroscopy
  - Fragment dependence!

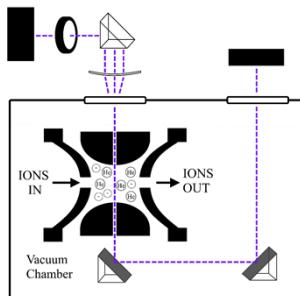
Why?



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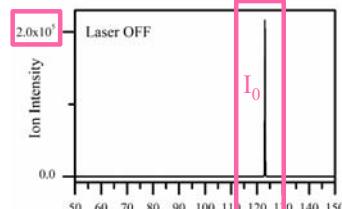
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## Laser-interfaced Mass Spectrometry



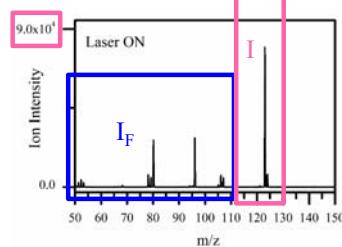
### Typical UV sources

- Fixed wavelength:  
ArF (193 nm) F<sub>2</sub> (157 nm), solidstate (213 nm)
- Tunable:  
Nd:YAG pumped OPO  
(variable between 193 – 2700 nm)



Photodepletion (Absorption) ( $PD$ )

$$PD = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{I_0}{I}\right)}{\lambda P}$$



Photofragment Production ( $PF$ )

$$PF = \frac{\left(\frac{I_F}{I_0}\right)}{\lambda P}$$

$\lambda$  is the wavelength  
 $P$  is the average laser power



Set-up: Caroline Dessent (University of York-UK)

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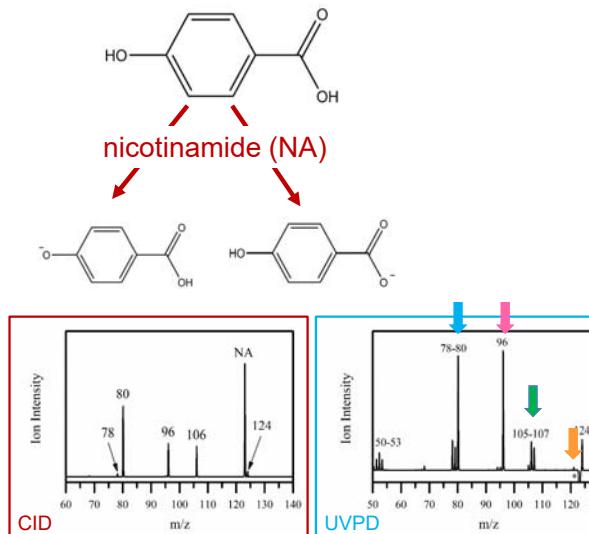
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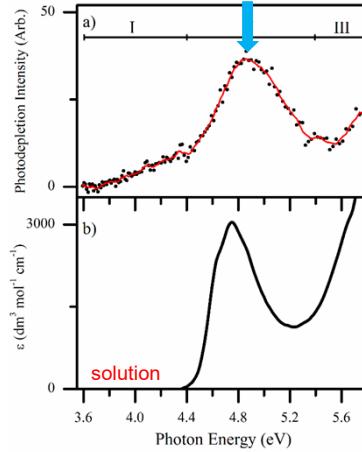


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## UVPD for identifying protomers



Gas-Phase Absorption Spectrum of Protonated NA



- Broad UV absorption with an onset of ~3.6 eV
- Three main photodepletion bands
- Maximum at 4.84 eV
- Broad UV absorption with an onset at ~4.2 eV
- Red shift of ~0.1 eV wrt gas phase maximum



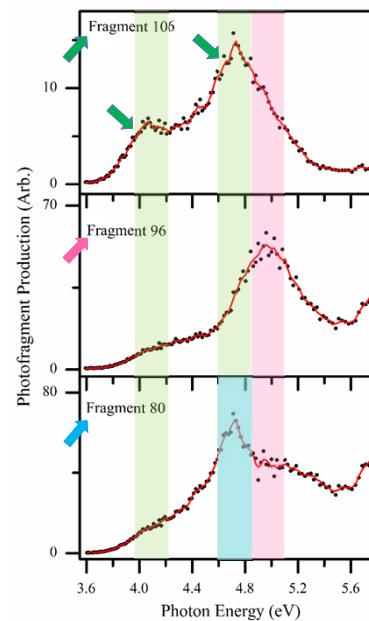
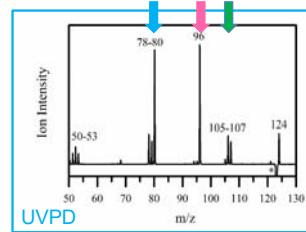
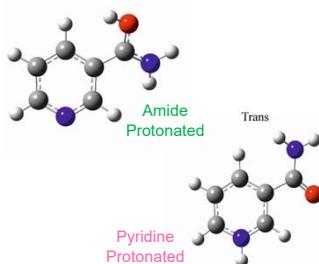
Z. X. Tian et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2008, **130**, 10842. J. Féraud et al., PCCP, 2015, **17**, 25755.  
S. Warmke et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2015, **137**, 4236.

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## UV photofragment spectra

### Photoproduction spectra: m/z = 80, 96, 106 fragments of protonated NA

- Two distinct chromophores at gaseous absorption maximum (4.84 eV)
- Peaking around ~ 4.73 and 4.96 eV
- Chromophore at 4.1 eV is more pronounced for fragment 106
- Multiple Structures ?
- Computational structures



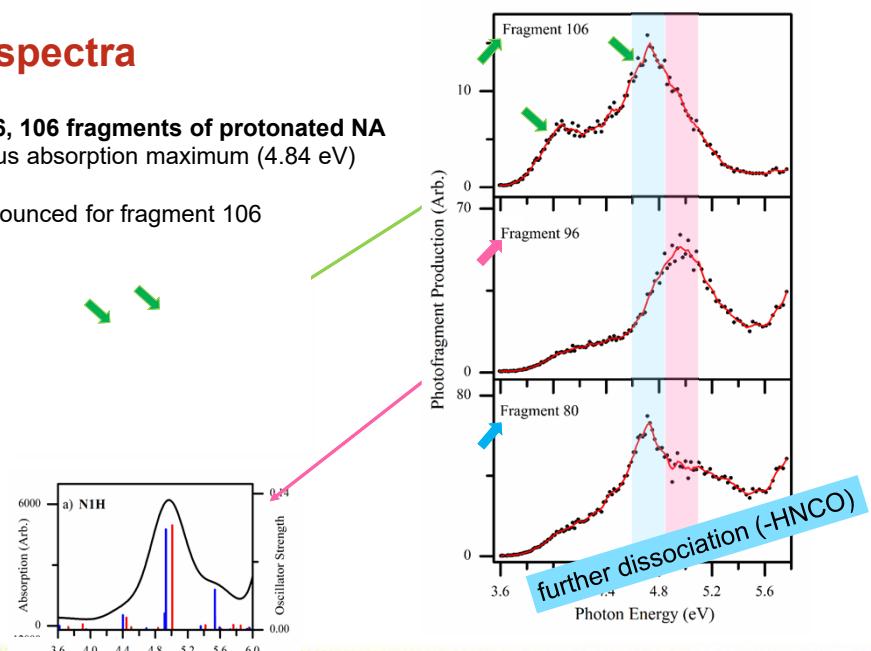
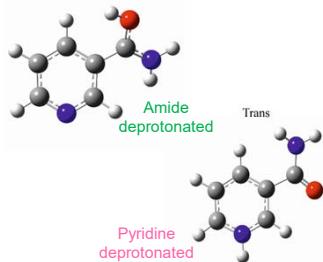
Matthews and Dessent, J. Phys. Chem. A 2016, **120**, 46, 9209-9216

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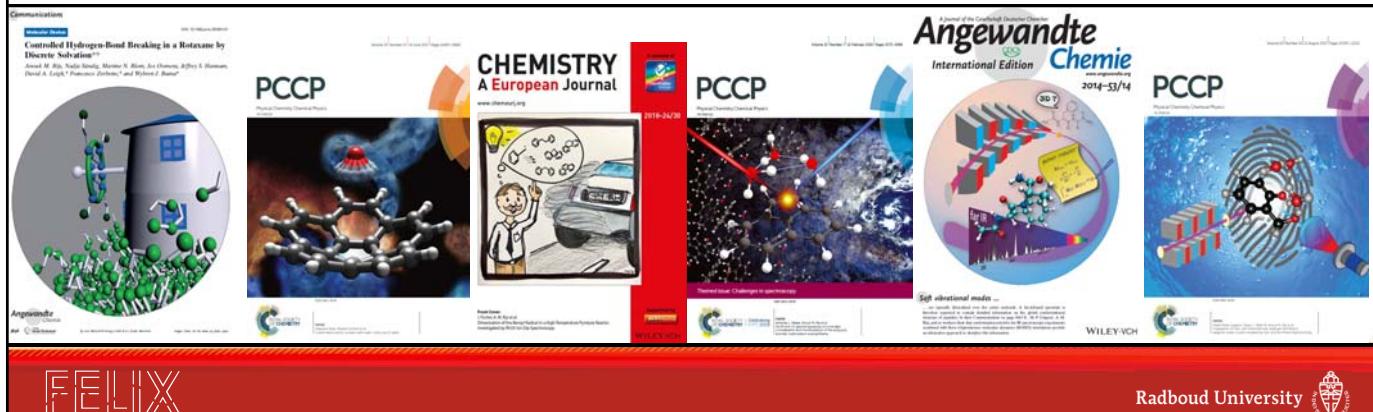
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## Summary

- Spectroscopy another orthogonal addition to mass spectrometry
- Spectroscopy provides both structural information as photochemical/photophysical insights
- Various types of IR and UV experiments



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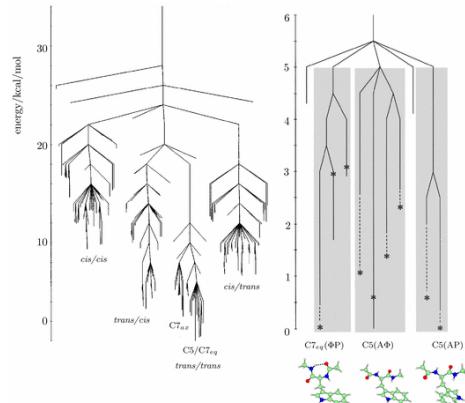
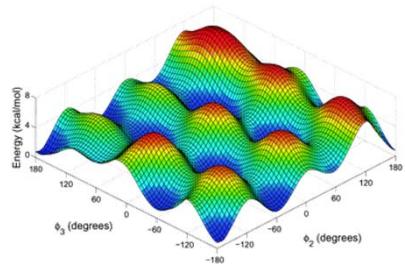
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## Structural assignment

### Procedure:

- Extensive exploration of potential energy surface
- Set of possible low energy conformations



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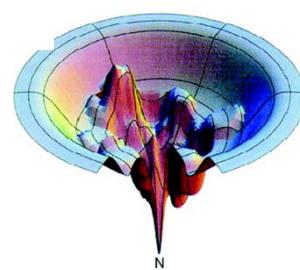
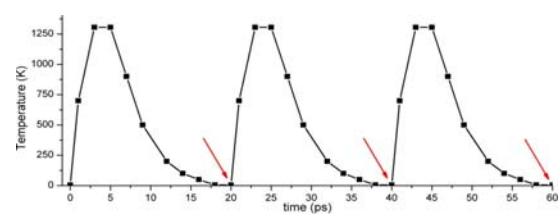
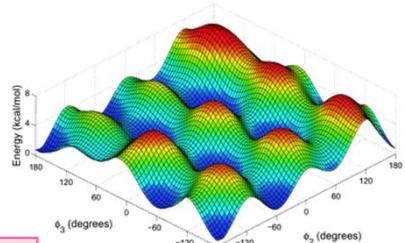
## Structural assignment

### Procedure:

- Extensive exploration of potential energy surface
- Set of possible low energy conformations

- Simulated annealing
  - Max T: 1300 K
  - Simulation time: 10 – 20 ns
  - # structures: 500 – 1000

**Resulting structures:**  
Global and many local minima  
on potential energy surface



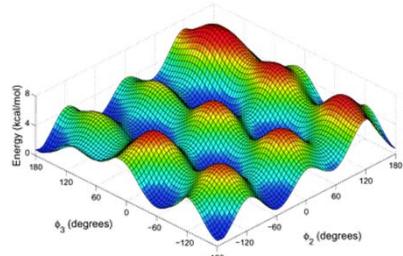
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# Structural assignment

## **Procedure:**

- Extensive exploration of potential energy surface
  - Set of possible low energy conformations
  - Calculate energy and vibrational frequencies
  - Solve the Schrödinger Equation
  - Energy Eigen values determine the vibrational frequencies
    - Born-Oppenheimer approximation
      - *Electronic terms to be considered for a fixed set of nuclear positions*
      - *Nuclear-nuclear potential calculated separately as a constant*



$$\left( -\sum_j \frac{\hbar^2}{2M_j} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}_j}^2 - \sum_k \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}_k}^2 - \sum_j \sum_k \frac{Z_j e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_k|^2} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} \sum_k \sum_{k' \neq k} \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r}_{k'} - \mathbf{r}_k|^2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_j \sum_{j' \neq j} \frac{Z_j Z_{j'} e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r}_{j'} - \mathbf{r}_j|^2} \right) \psi = E \psi$$

*= negligible*

*= constant*

$$H(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) = H_e(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) + H_n(\mathbf{R})$$

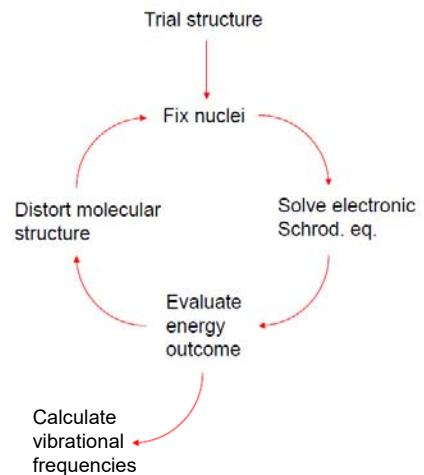
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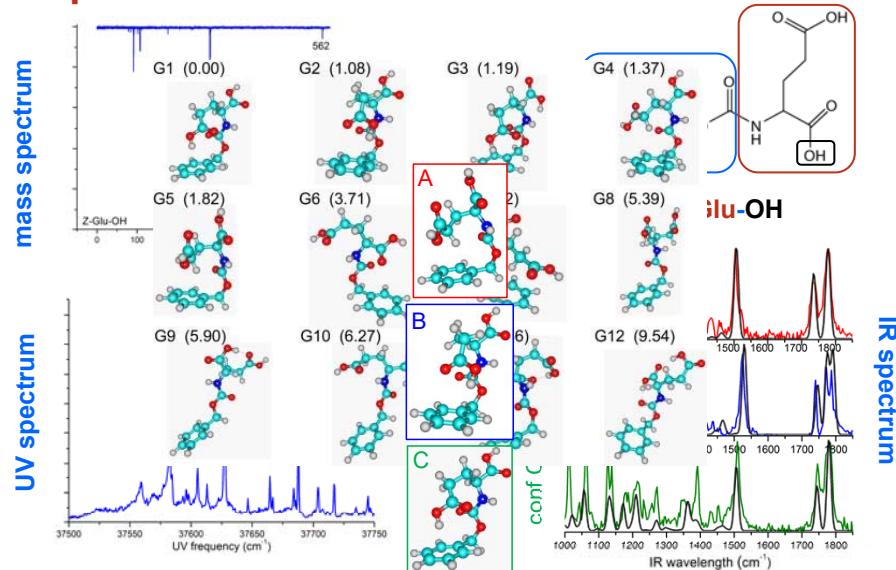
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  - Calculate energy and vibrational frequencies
  - Solve the Schrödinger Equation
  - Energy Eigen values determine the vibrational frequencies
    - Born-Oppenheimer approximation
      - *Electronic terms to be considered for a fixed set of nuclear positions*
      - *Nuclear-nuclear potential calculated separately as a constant*
  - Construct trial wavefunction of molecular orbitals, solve SE via variational principle
  - Approximation of electron-electron correlation
    - *Hartree-Fock based: MP2*
    - *Wavefunction based: DFT*
  - Commercial packages
    - *Gaussian, Turbomole, ADF*



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## A typical experiment

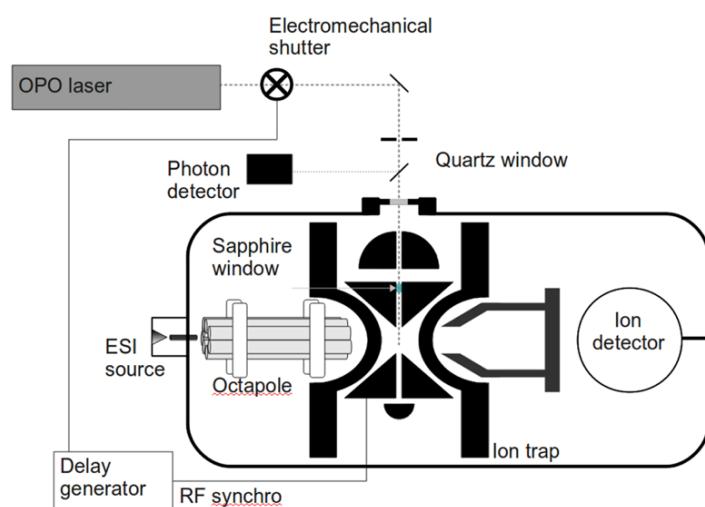


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S. Jaeqx, -- AMR, J Phys Chem A 117, 1216 (2013)

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## Typical set-up adapted for spectroscopy



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