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Mission: Nuclear, Charge and Spin Dynamics during an ongoing reaction "Elementary Steps in Photochemistry"



Intramolecular Charge Transfer

Ligand Detachment/Association







Solvation Dynamics



Elementary Steps in Charge Transport







What are the fundamental timescales?





XFEL X-ray Spectroscopy









Ultrafast spin conversion: within electron back-transfer time from bpy to metal? No intermediate states detected...

No MLCT signature detected...

→ Need now a ultrafast Spin-Sensitive Tool!!

European XFEI Spin dynamics in Fe(II) complexes Ionization Liquid jet X-ray fluorescence potential spectrometer Valence level Absorption 3p **K**β_{1,3} 2p laser Fluorescence 1s LCLS X-ray pulses Singlet Doublet $K\beta_1$ Triplet Quartet normalized intensity 0.1 Quintet PAD 0.05 0 7045 7040 7055 7060 7065 7070 7050 W. Zhang, et al., Nature 509, 345 (2014) emission energy (eV)

Tracking chemical reactions with ultrafast X-ray spectroscopies and scattering



European

The spectral signature of the intermediate ${}^{3}T_{1,2}$ state(s) should be clearly distinguishable from MLCT and ${}^{5}T_{2}$ spectra

W. Zhang, et al., Nature 509, 345 (2014)





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Courtesy: K. Haldrup



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C. Bressler et al, Faraday Discussions (2014)

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European Starting to look into solute-solvent interactions... 13 HS fraction, γ_{HS} MLCT 0.4 **SH** 0.2 150 fs W. Zhang et al., Nature 509, 345 (2014) 0 11 HS fraction, γ_{XDS} SO 0.4 -0.5 1.5 0 0.5 time delay (ps) 600 fs 0 XAS XDS XES < 400 fs Δρ < 10 fs kg/m3 2 150 fs 150 fs 800 fs 1100 fs Fe 3 ΔT $0 \ / K$ 2 70 fs < 400 fs 120 fs 150 fs 1100 fs

 $< 10 \, \text{fs}$

2Fe^{III}

¹Fe^{II}

2

1

70 fs

5Fe^{II}

³Fe^{II}

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 $\Delta R_{Fe-N} = 0.2 \text{ Å} \quad \Delta n(H_2O) = -2 \quad \Delta T = 2.3 \text{ K}$

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-1

0

 $\Delta t / ps$

0

-2



Towards more complex systems



 $PS \rightarrow photosensitizer$

- SD \rightarrow sacrificial donor (electron source)
 - $R \rightarrow Relay$ (electron transporter)
 - $C \rightarrow Catalytic center$

- Light absorption \rightarrow PS
- Electron transfer via PS* from SD
- First redox on R (reduction)
- Further redox from R to C
- C transfers 2 electron to react further with H⁺
- Hydrogen is formed!
- Solvent can be used as an electron donor
- The goal is to use first-row TMs as PS
- Decrease degradation, increase turnover rate
- Use rigid linkers instead of diffusion processes
- Act as an electron relay and reservoir

Detailed understanding of the structure-function relationship is required for optimized molecular photocatalysts in water splitting schemes

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XFEL XAS studies in the ps-ns time domain





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XFEL X-ray Emission Spectroscopy

K α XES for 3d metals \rightarrow direct probe of the number of unpaired electrons \rightarrow oxidation and the total spin moment of the metal



Difference Ka spectra snapshot the time-dependent broadening of the emission

2p3d exchange interaction is weak and yields only the line broadening!

The measured value between the ground and excited state = 0.6 eV (Δ S=3/2, HS state)

S. Canton, et al., accepted Nat. Commun. 2015

XFEL X-ray Diffuse Scattering

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$$\Delta S_{Calc} = \alpha \Delta S_{Solute} + \Delta T \frac{\partial \Delta S}{\partial T}$$

∆ S (a.u.)

Time (ps)



The negative difference scattering signal at Q=0.5 Å⁻¹ sets in instantaneously

т=2±0.5 ps

The positive and negative difference scattering signals larger Qs, i.e. Q=1.2 and 2.0 Å⁻¹ grow slowly on 15-20 ps timescale

т=12±3 ps

S. Canton, et al., accepted Nat. Commun. 2015





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Summary: Towards A High-Speed Molecular Camera for tracking chemical reaction dynamics





A Suite of Simultaneous X-Ray Tools available: 20

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- XAS (w/DAFS)
- Non resonant XES
- Resonant XES (RIXS)
- X-Ray Raman Scattering
- XDS

Please check our posters on Friday: Poster # 90 and #219 FXE instrument Workshop: Tomorrow, 13:30-18:00 CFEL SemRoom III (Bldg. 99)



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Thank you for your attention!