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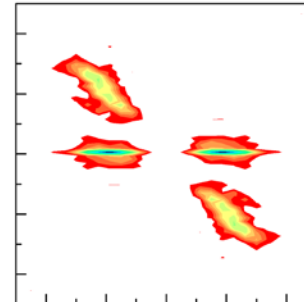
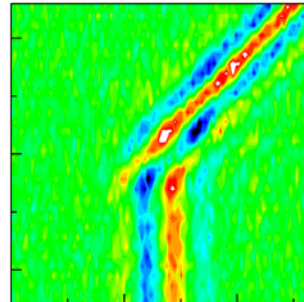
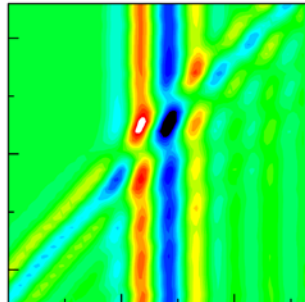
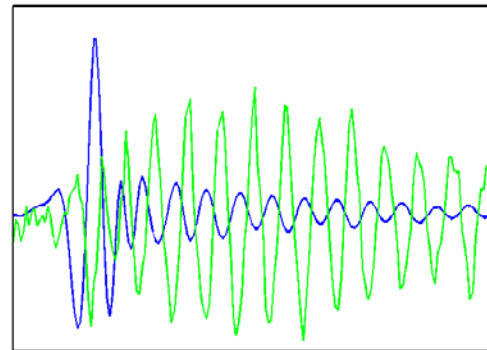
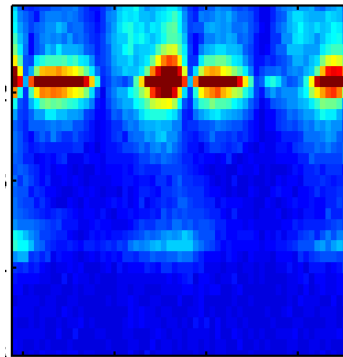
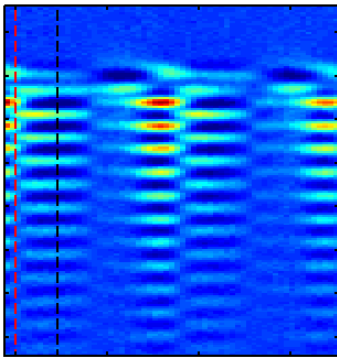
# Ultrafast control and monitoring of material properties using terahertz pulses

Pamela Bowlan

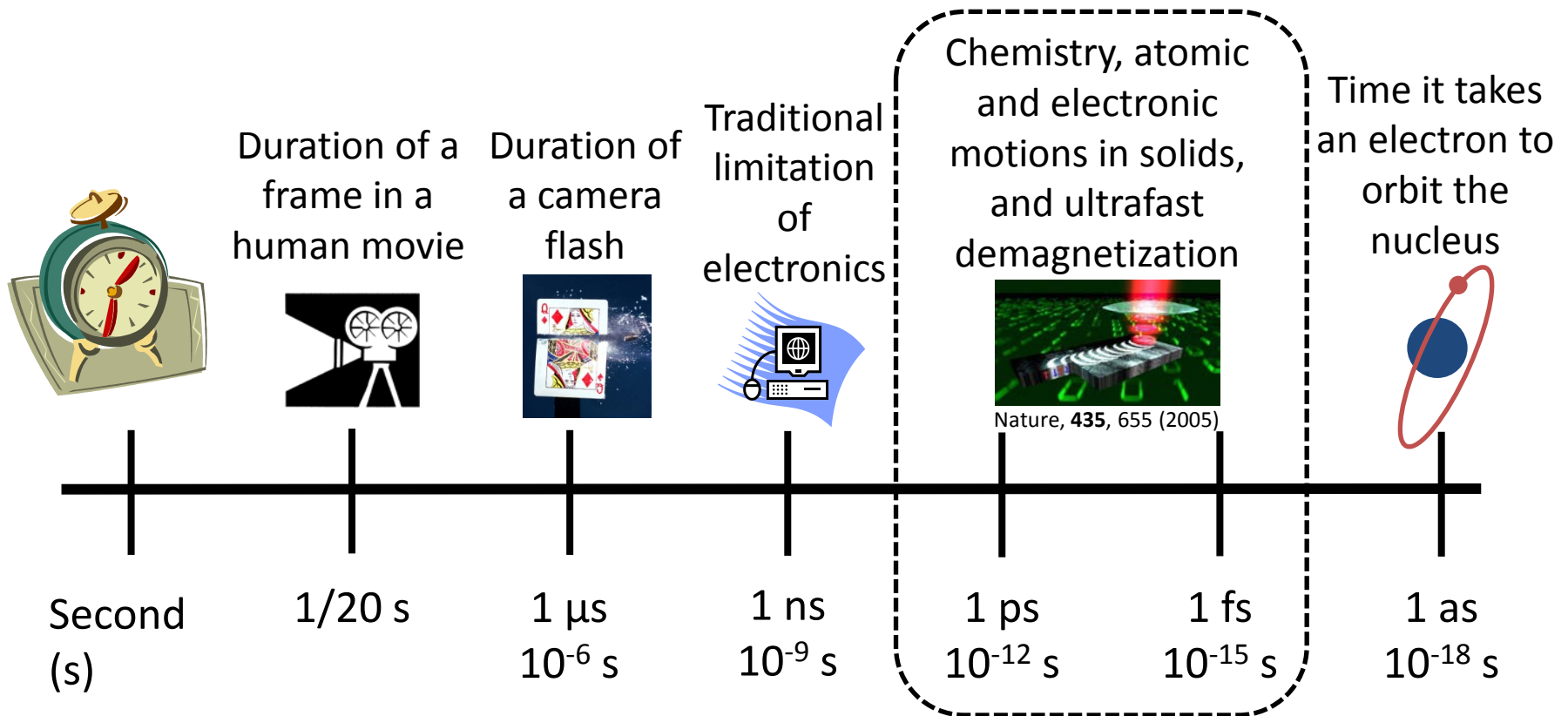
[pambowlan@lanl.gov](mailto:pambowlan@lanl.gov)

Director's Postdoctoral Fellow, MPA CINT

Laboratory for Ultrafast Materials Optical Science (LUMOS)

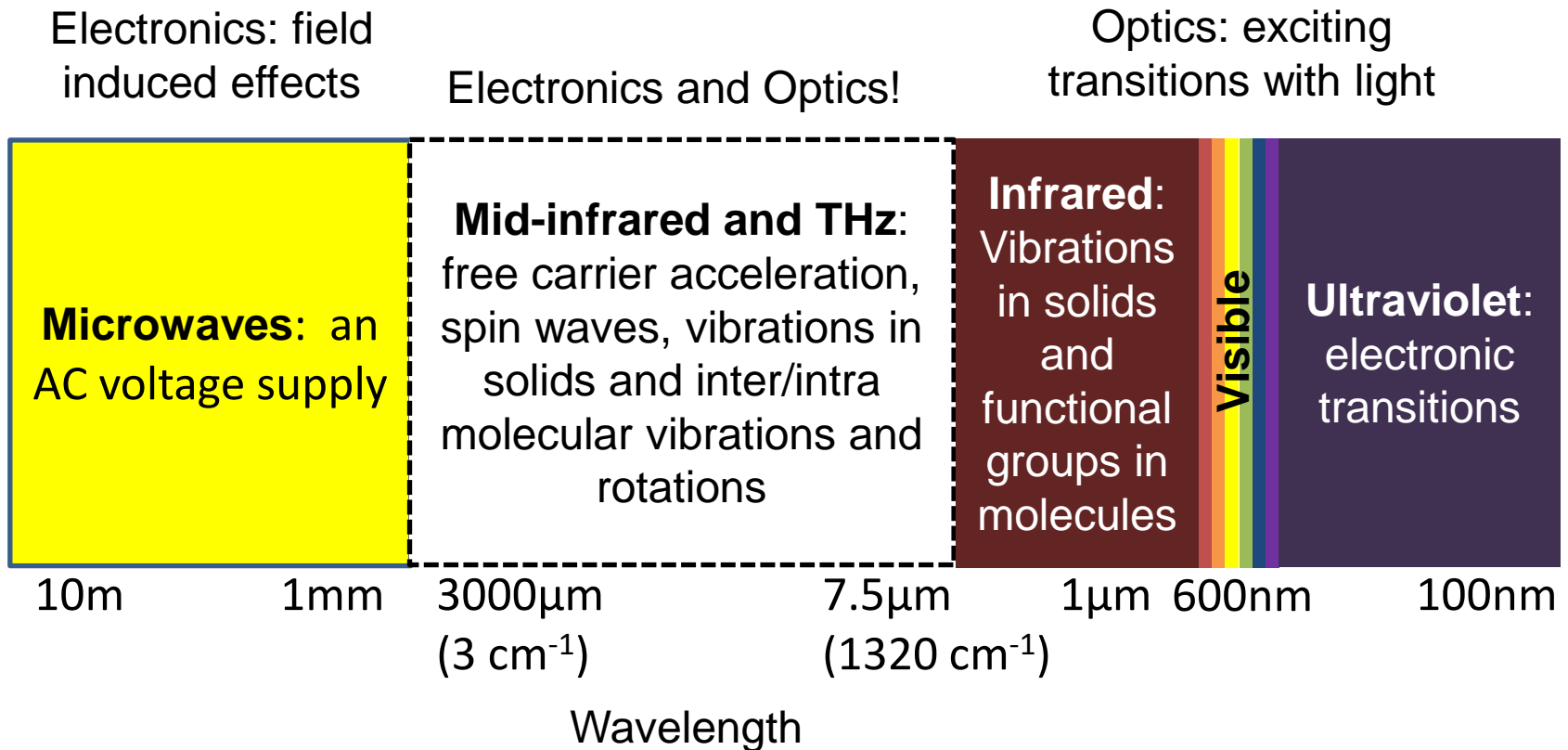


# How fast is a femtosecond (fs)?



$$\frac{1 \text{ second}}{\text{The age of the universe}} = \frac{1 \text{ fs}}{1 \text{ second}}$$

# Different frequencies probe different properties of molecules or solids

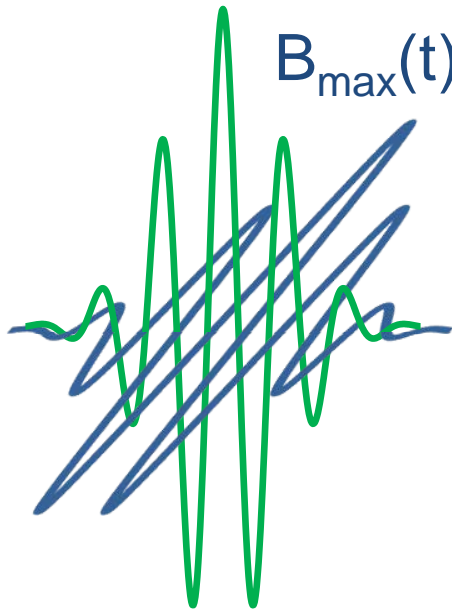


Field induced effects or optical transitions can be excited and probed with THz frequencies (0.1 – 40 THz).

# What can a THz pulse do to a material?

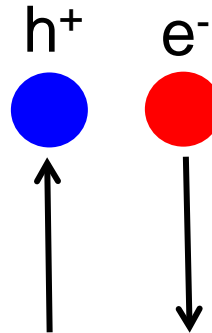
$$E_{\max}(t) \approx 200 \text{ kV/cm}$$

$$B_{\max}(t) \approx 66 \text{ mT}$$

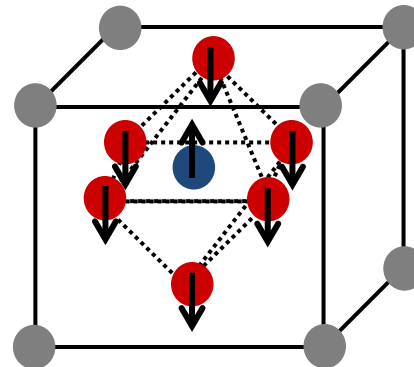
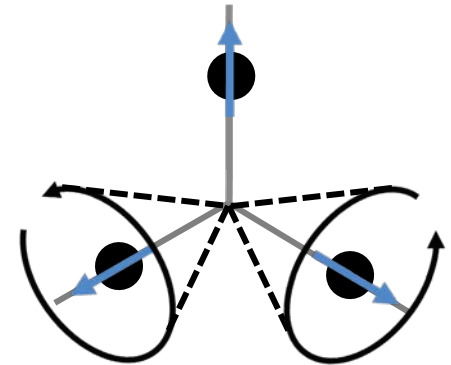


Excite  
vibrations  
(ferroelectric  
soft mode)

Accelerate  
charges



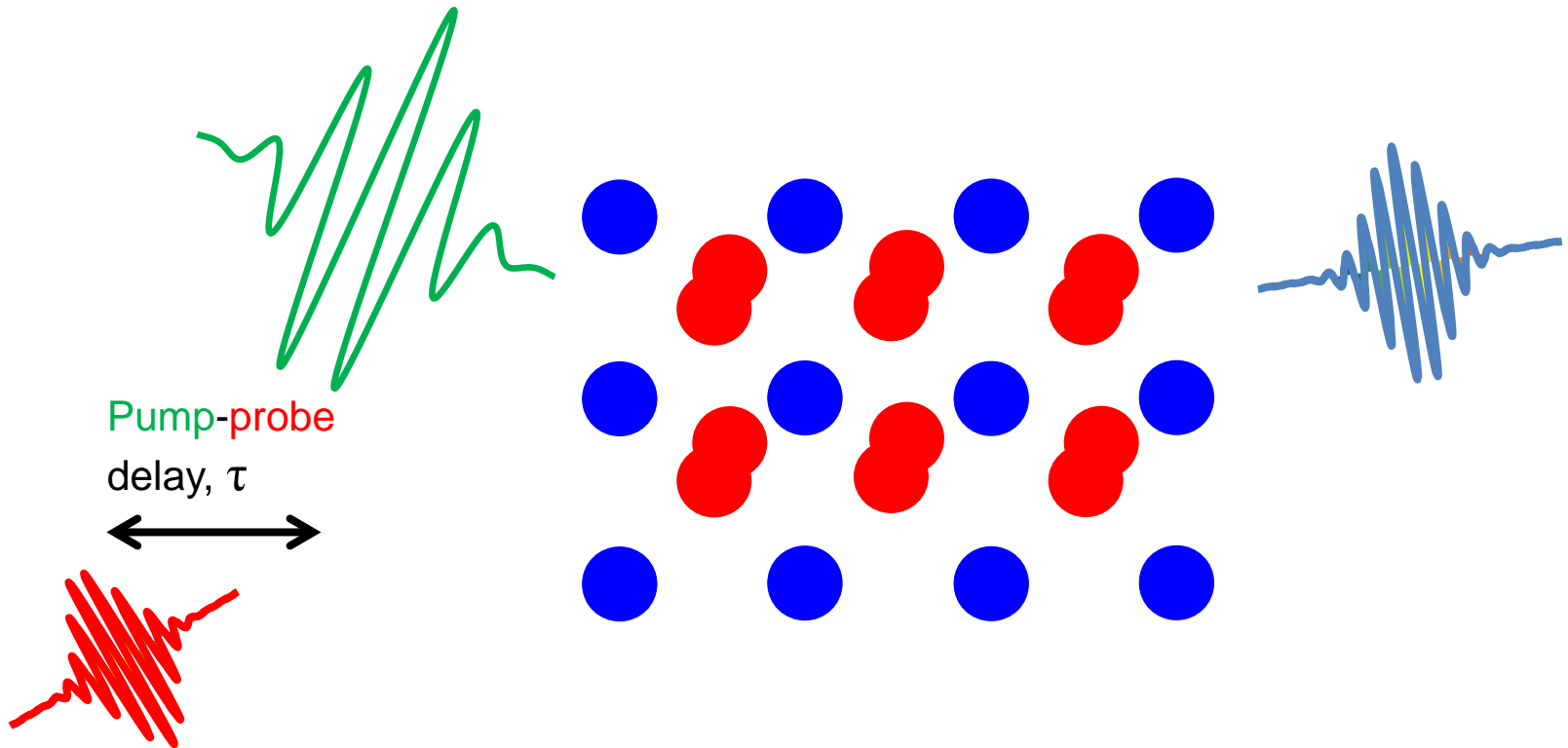
Change  
magnetic order



● Ba, Sr  
● O  
● Ti

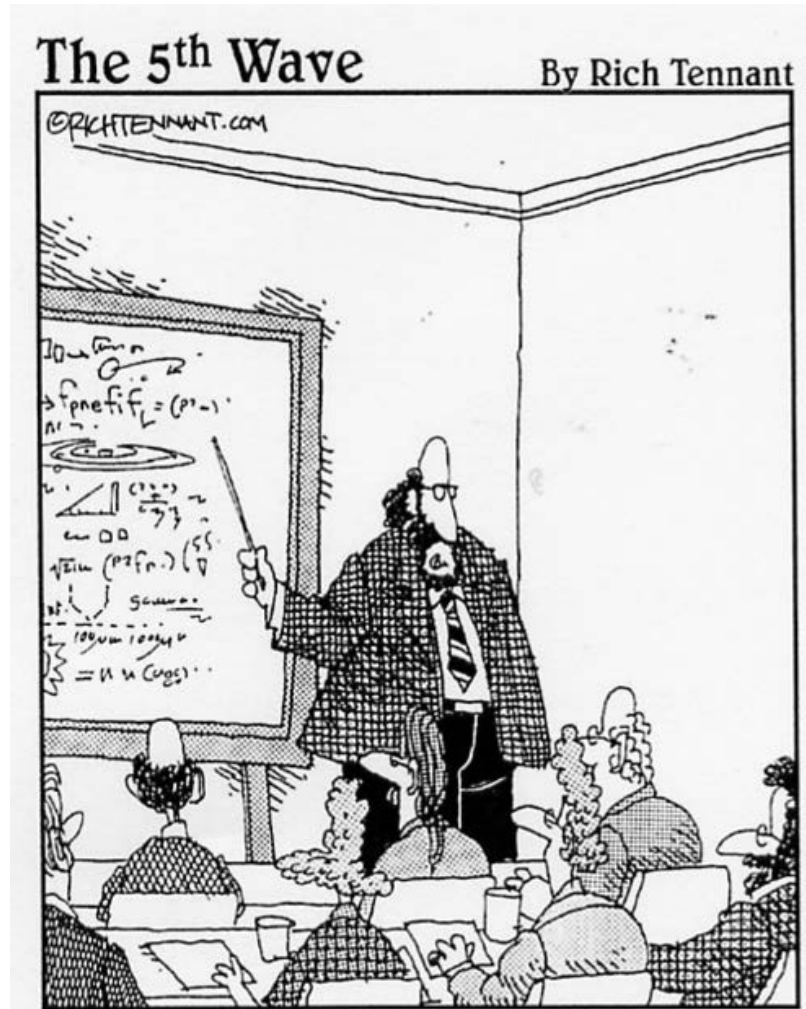
$$1 \text{ THz} \leftrightarrow \lambda = 300 \text{ } \mu\text{m} \leftrightarrow 1/\lambda = 33 \text{ cm}^{-1} \leftrightarrow 4 \text{ meV} \leftrightarrow T = 45 \text{ K}$$

# Ultrafast spectroscopy



A **pump** pulse changes the material, and the **probe** pulse monitors these ultrafast changes.

# Real world applications?



"After the discovery of 'antimatter' and 'dark matter', we have just confirmed the existence of 'doesn't matter', which does not have any influence on the Universe whatsoever."

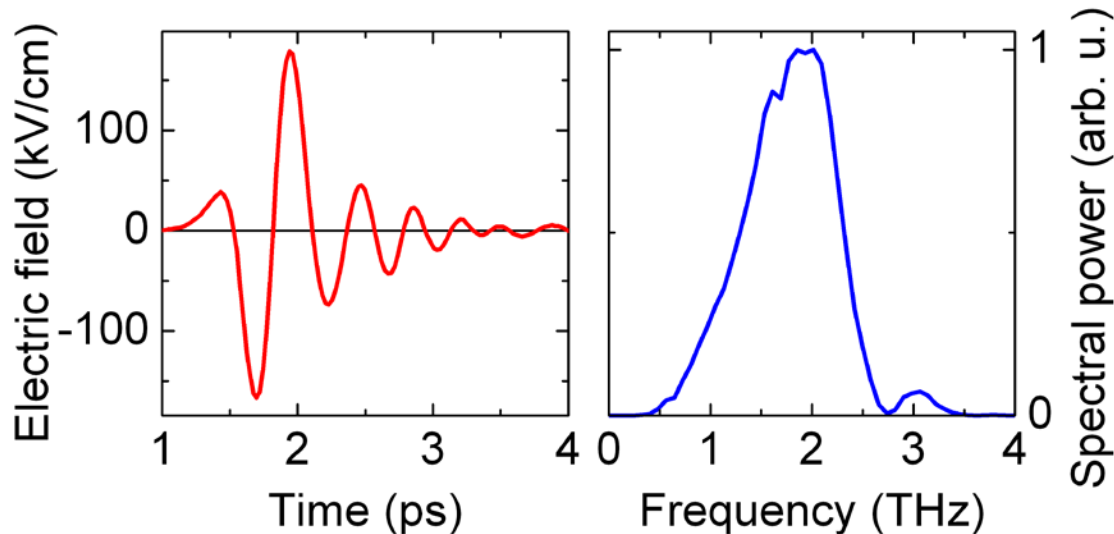


# I will talk about...

1. Generating and measuring ultrashort THz pulses
2. Tracking ultrafast spin dynamics in antiferromagnets through spin wave resonances
3. Coherent two-dimensional THz spectroscopy
4. Probing vibrational dynamics at a surface

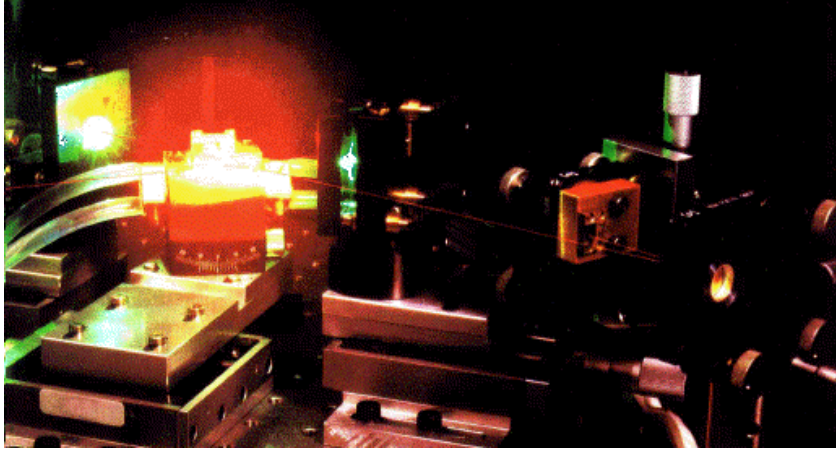
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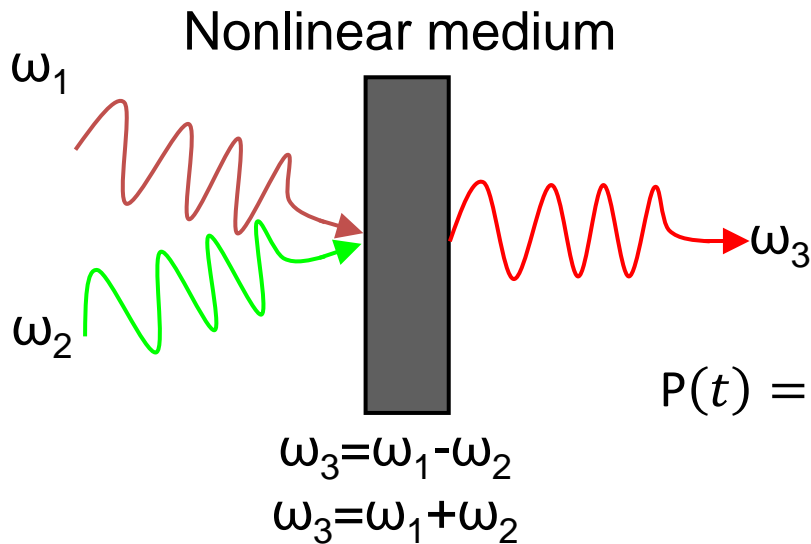
# With Ti:Sa lasers and nonlinear optics, we can generate any frequency.

Ti:Sa femtosecond laser



Ti:Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Ti:Sa) lasers/amplifiers are the most common source of intense pulses down to 4.5 fs.

The center wavelength is 700-1000 nm.

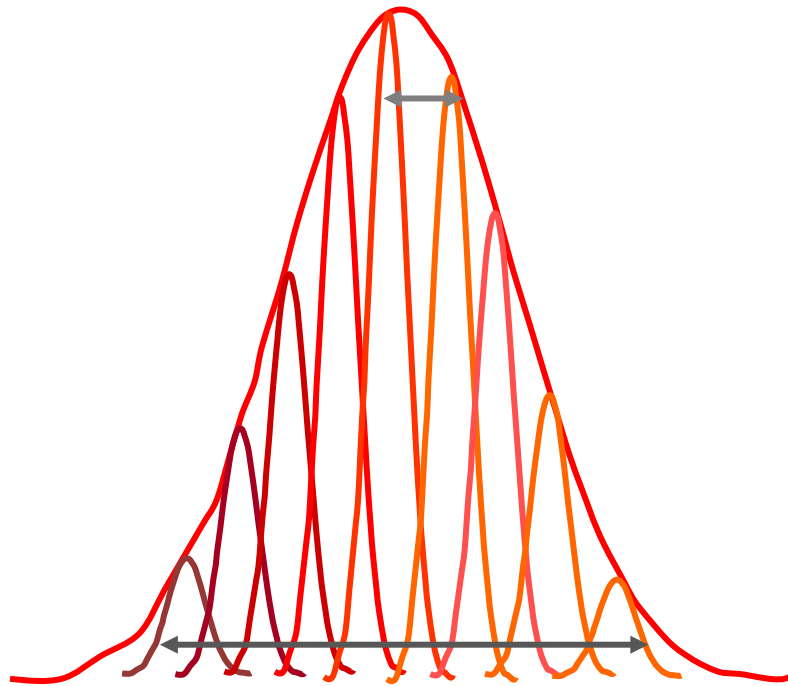


With nonlinear optics nearly any other frequency can be generated.

$$P(t) = \epsilon_0 (\chi^{(1)} E(t) + \chi^{(2)} E^2(t) + \chi^{(3)} E^3(t) + \dots)$$

# Generating THz pulses by optical rectification

$$(\omega_1 - \omega_2)/\pi = (c/800 - c/805) \approx 2 \text{ THz}$$



$$(\omega_1 - \omega_2)/\pi = (c/780 - c/820) \approx 16 \text{ THz}$$

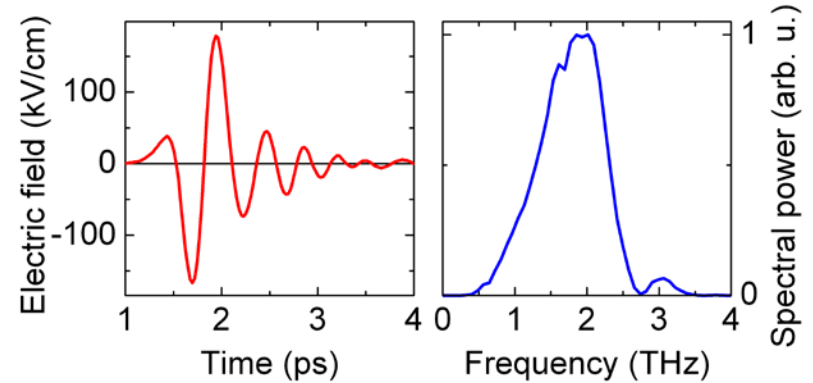
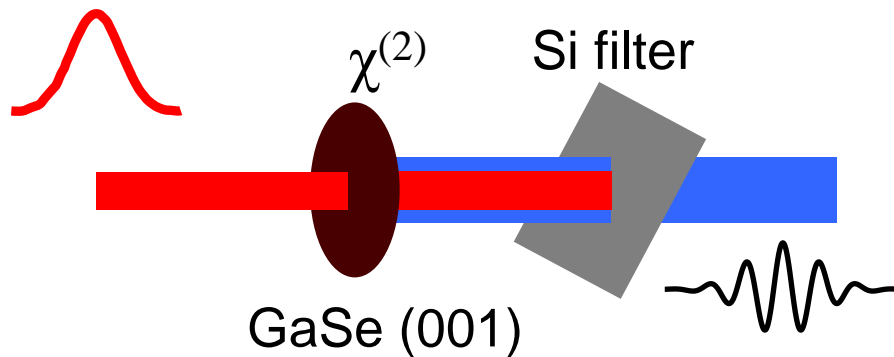
Choose a nonlinear crystal:

- ✓  $\chi^{(2)}$  must have the correct symmetry.
- ✓ It must transmit 800 nm and THz light.
- ✓ **Phase matching:**  
 $v_{\text{phase}}(2\text{THz}) = v_g(800\text{nm})$

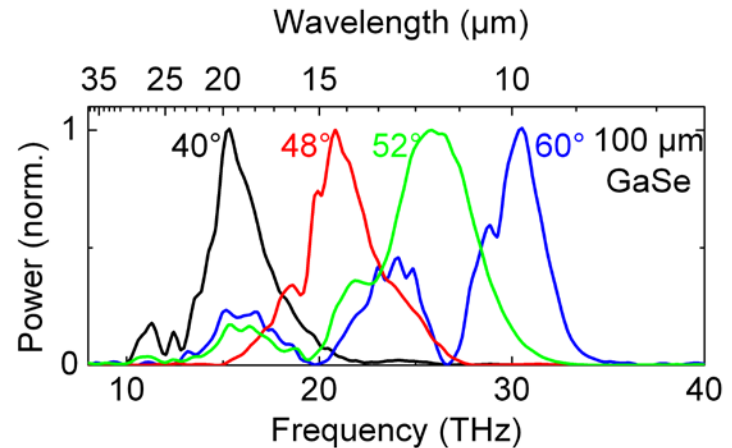
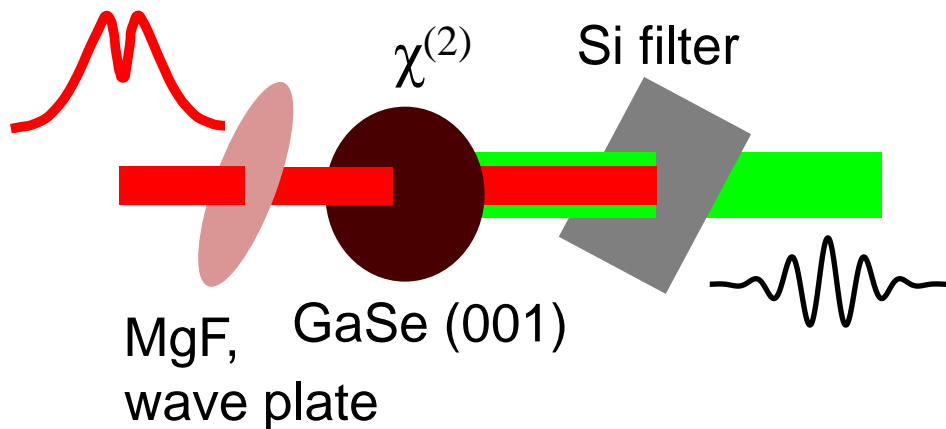
$$P_{\text{Opt Rect}}^{(2)} = \chi^{(2)}(\omega_{\text{THz}} = \omega_1 - \omega_2; \omega_1, -\omega_2) \tilde{E}(\omega_1) \tilde{E}^*(\omega_2)$$

# THz to mid-IR generation is GaSe

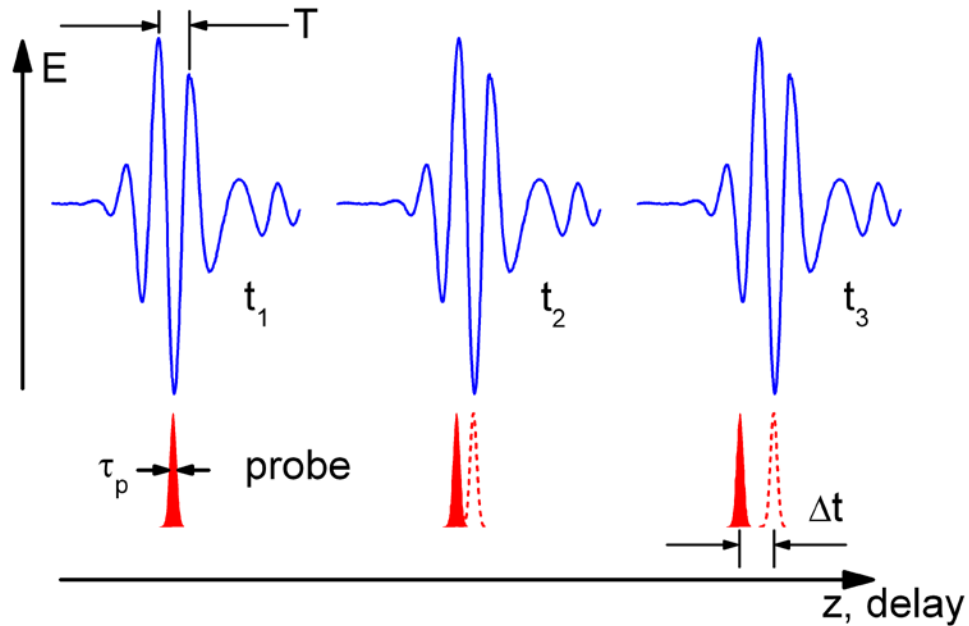
Normal incidence for  
Generation of 0.1-3 THz



Angle tuning the crystal phase matches  
higher frequencies from 10 - 40 THz.



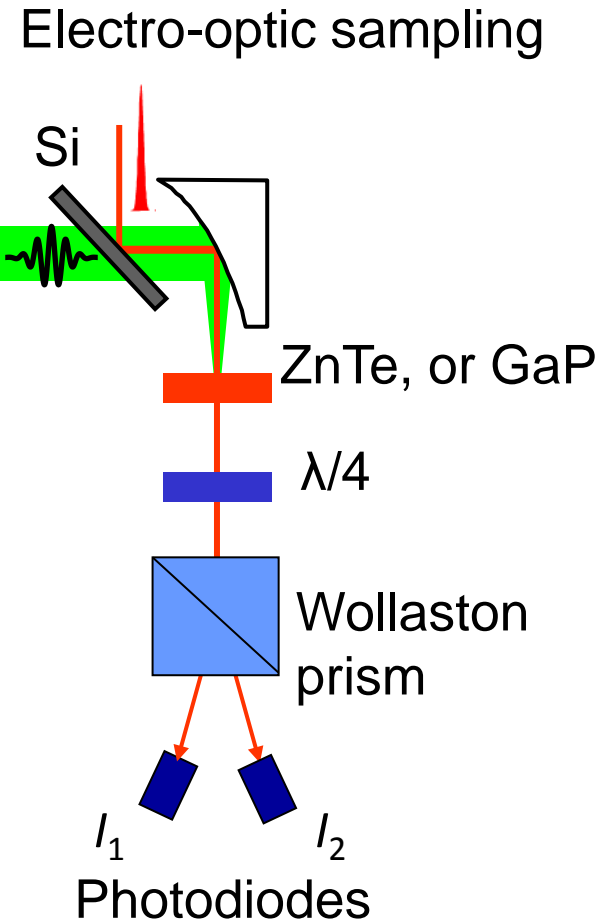
# Measuring THz E-fields with the linear electro-optic effect.



$$\Gamma = \frac{2\pi d}{\lambda} n^3(\lambda) r_{41} E_{THz}$$

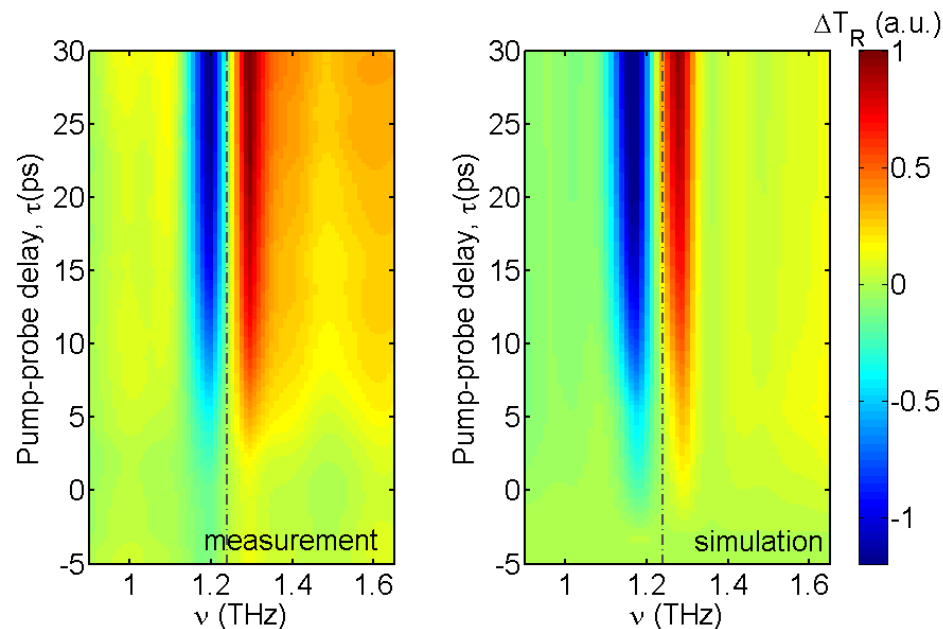
$$\frac{I_1 - I_2}{I_1 + I_2} = \sin(\Gamma) \approx \Gamma$$

The Induced birefringence, and polarization rotation are proportional to the THz electric field.



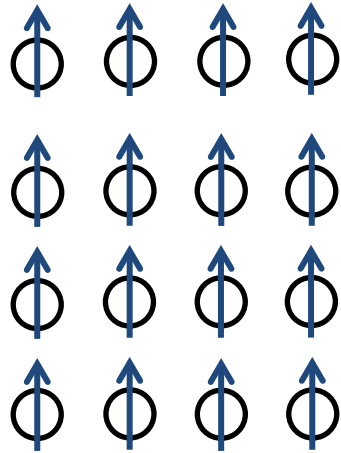
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4. Probing vibrational dynamics at a surface



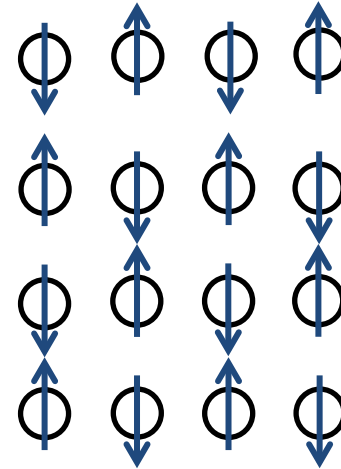
# Optical control and monitoring of spins

## Ferromagnet



Net magnetic moment,  
 $M = m \times \text{number of atoms}$

## Antiferromagnet



Net magnetic  
moment  $M = 0$

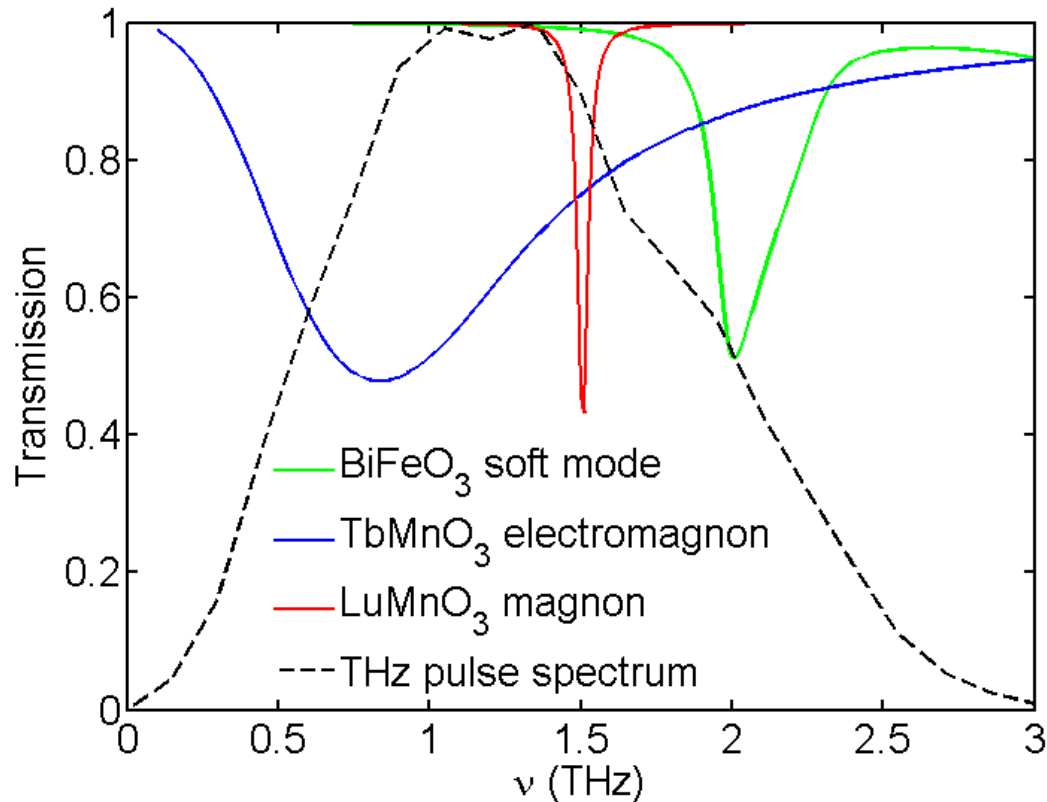


Magnetic atoms in a lattice,  
with magnetic moment  $m$

$M = 0$  makes spin dynamics in antiferromagnets (AFMs)  
potentially faster, but how do you detect this?



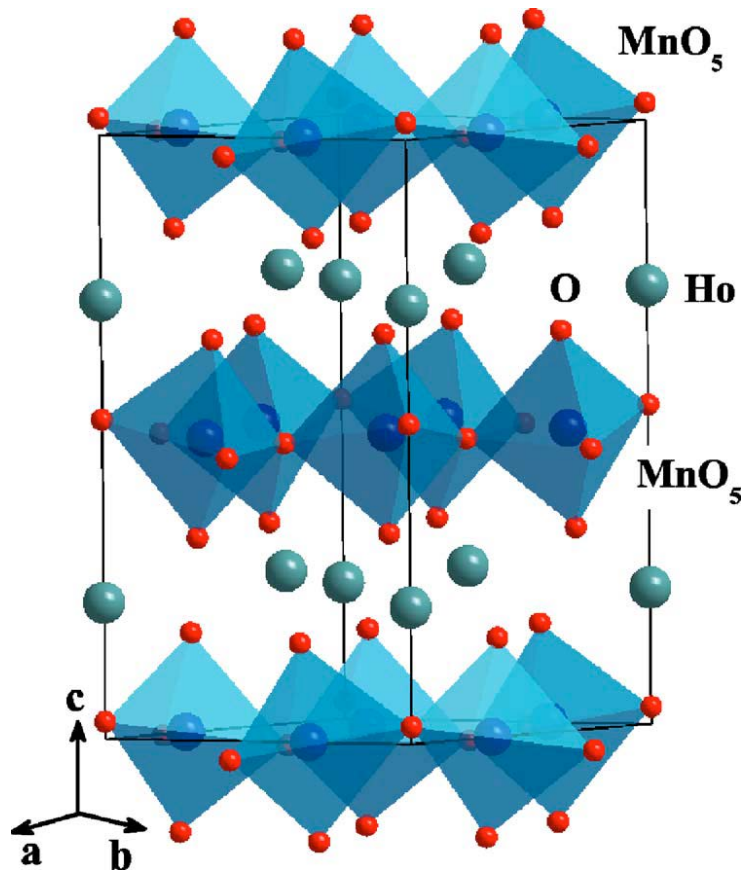
# Ultrafast probing of material properties through low energy modes



Antiferromagnetic order can be probed through spin waves.

# Probing antiferromagnetic spin dynamics in $\text{HoMnO}_3$ ?

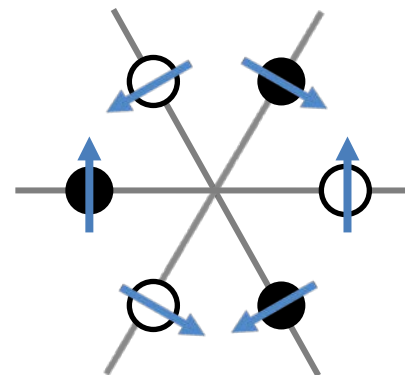
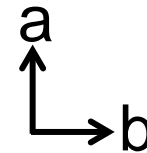
Hexagonal Lattice  
 $T \leq T_c \text{ (FE)} = 875 \text{ K}$



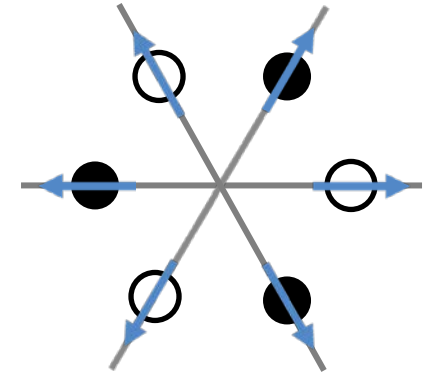
Rai, et. al, PRB, **75** (2007).

Frustrated antiferromagnet  
 below 78 K

$z = 0, c/2$   
 $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  ● ○



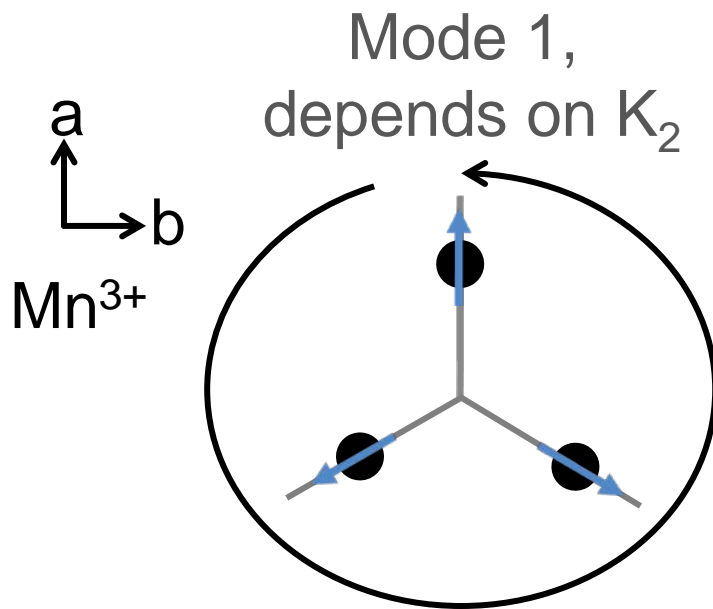
$P\bar{6}_3cm$   
 $T < T_{\text{SR}} = 42 \text{ K}$



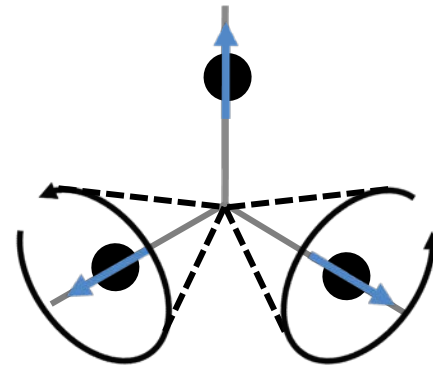
$P\bar{6}_3cm$   
 $T < T_{\text{Néel}}$

Fiebig, et. al, JAP, **91** (2002).

# Magnons in HoMnO<sub>3</sub>



Modes 2 and 3  
(degenerate).  
Depends on  $K_1$  and  $\lambda$



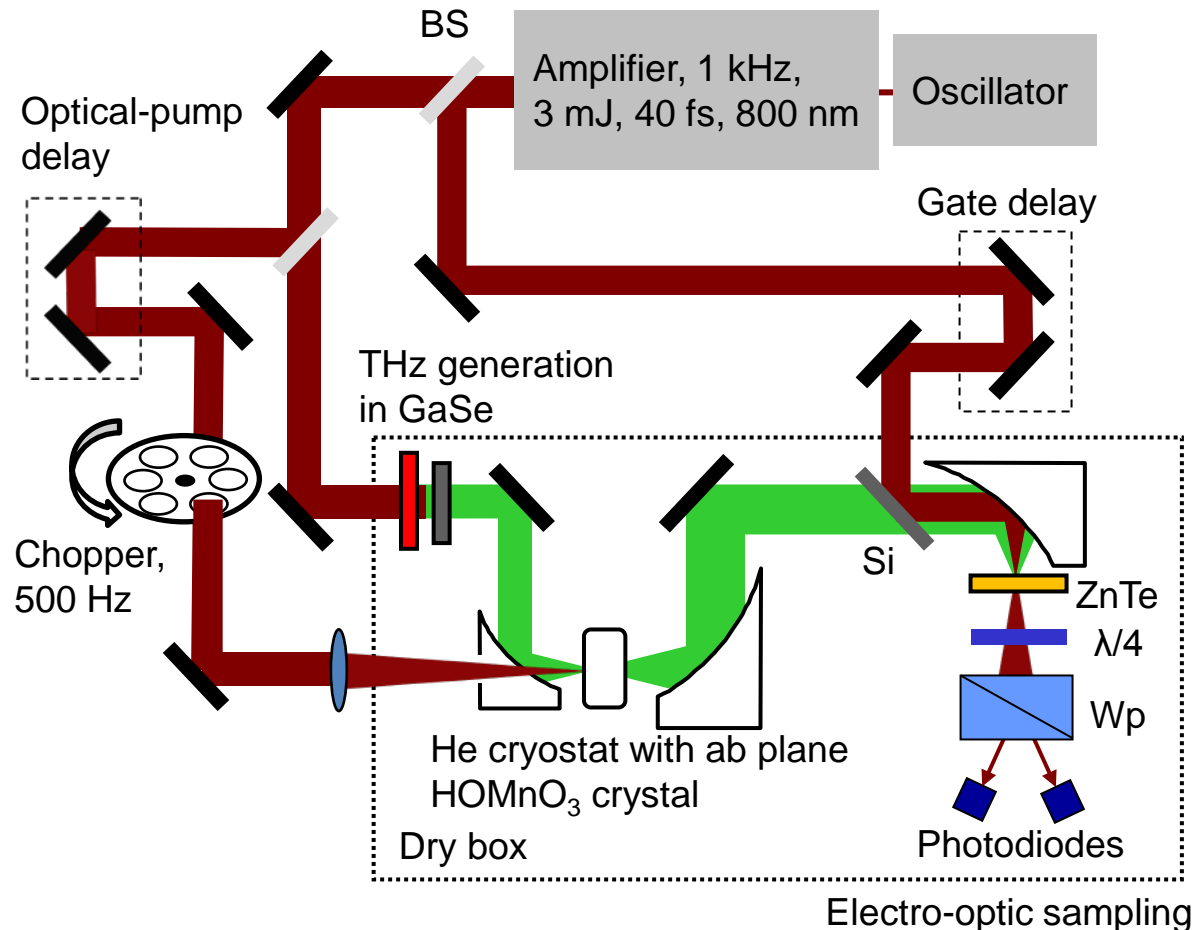
Uniaxial  
anisotropy

In-plane  
anisotropy

Exchange

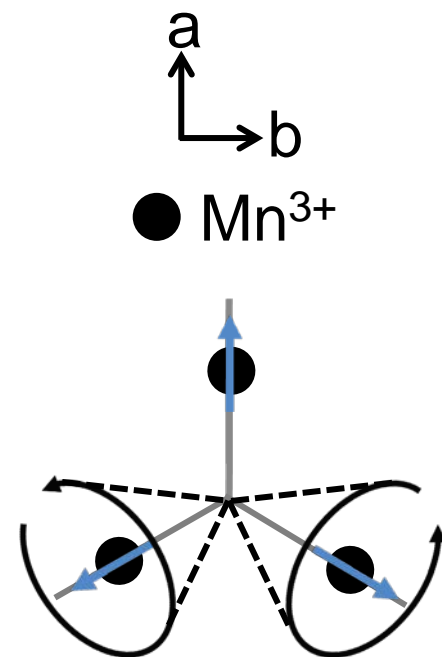
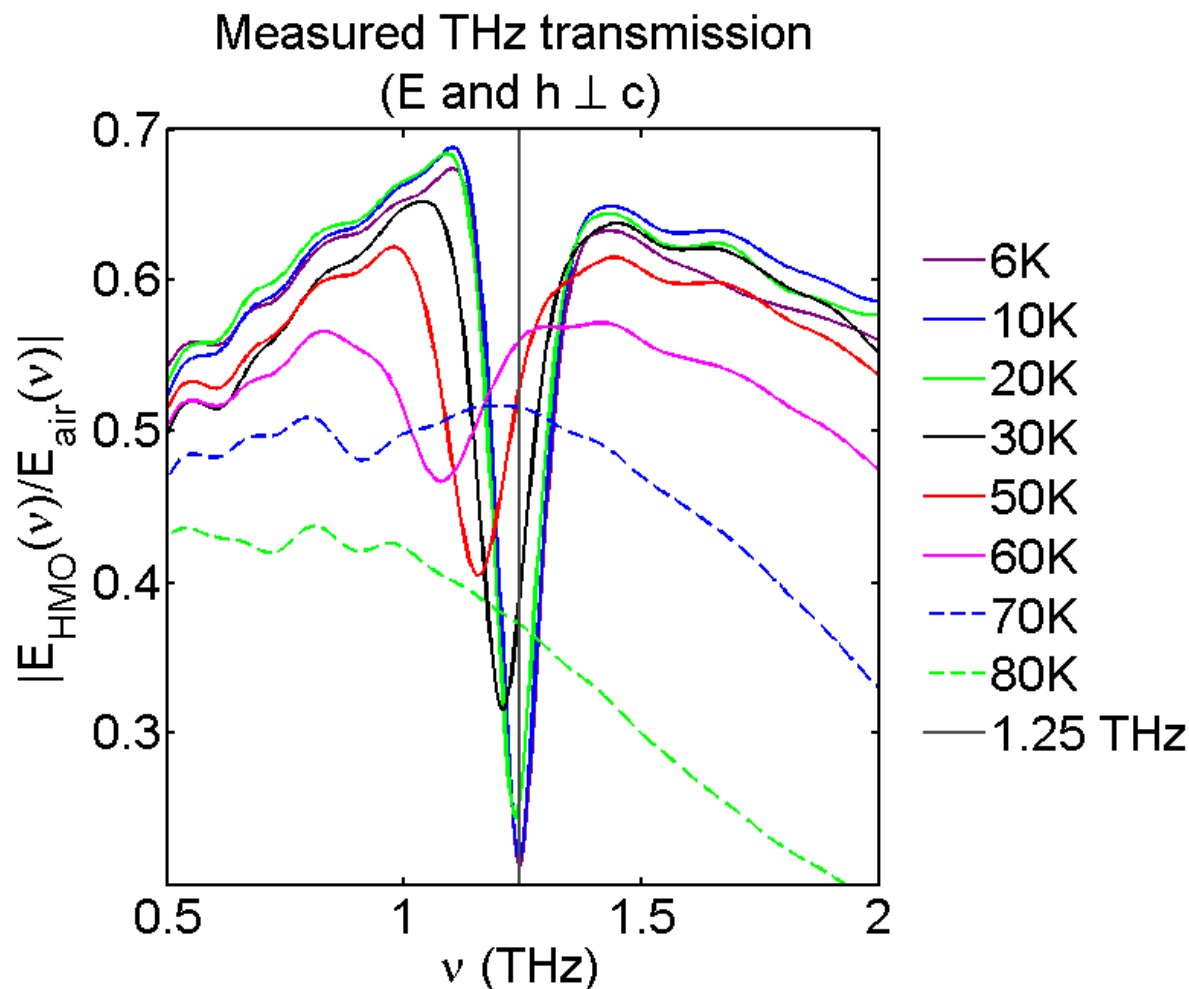
$$E = -K_1 \sum_i \cos^2 \theta_i - K_2 \sum_i \cos^2 3\varphi_i + \lambda \sum_{i < j} M_i \cdot M_j$$

# Optical-pump, THz-probe experimental setup



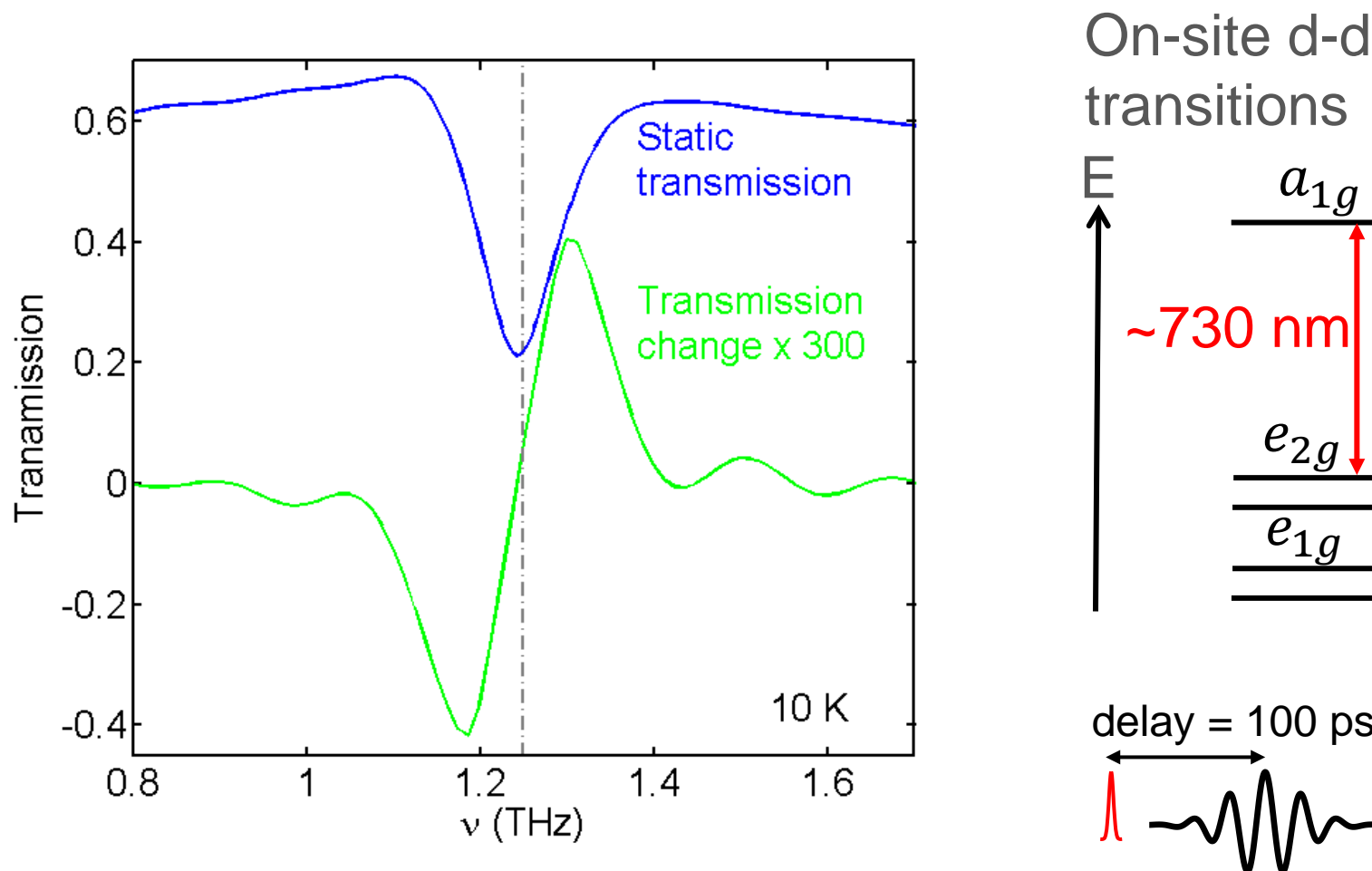
This time the optical pump excites electrons, and we use the THz pulse to probe how this couples to magnetic order.

# Steady state THz transmission in $\text{HoMnO}_3$



As the temperature increases, the restoring forces are weaker, so the mode broadens and lowers in frequency.

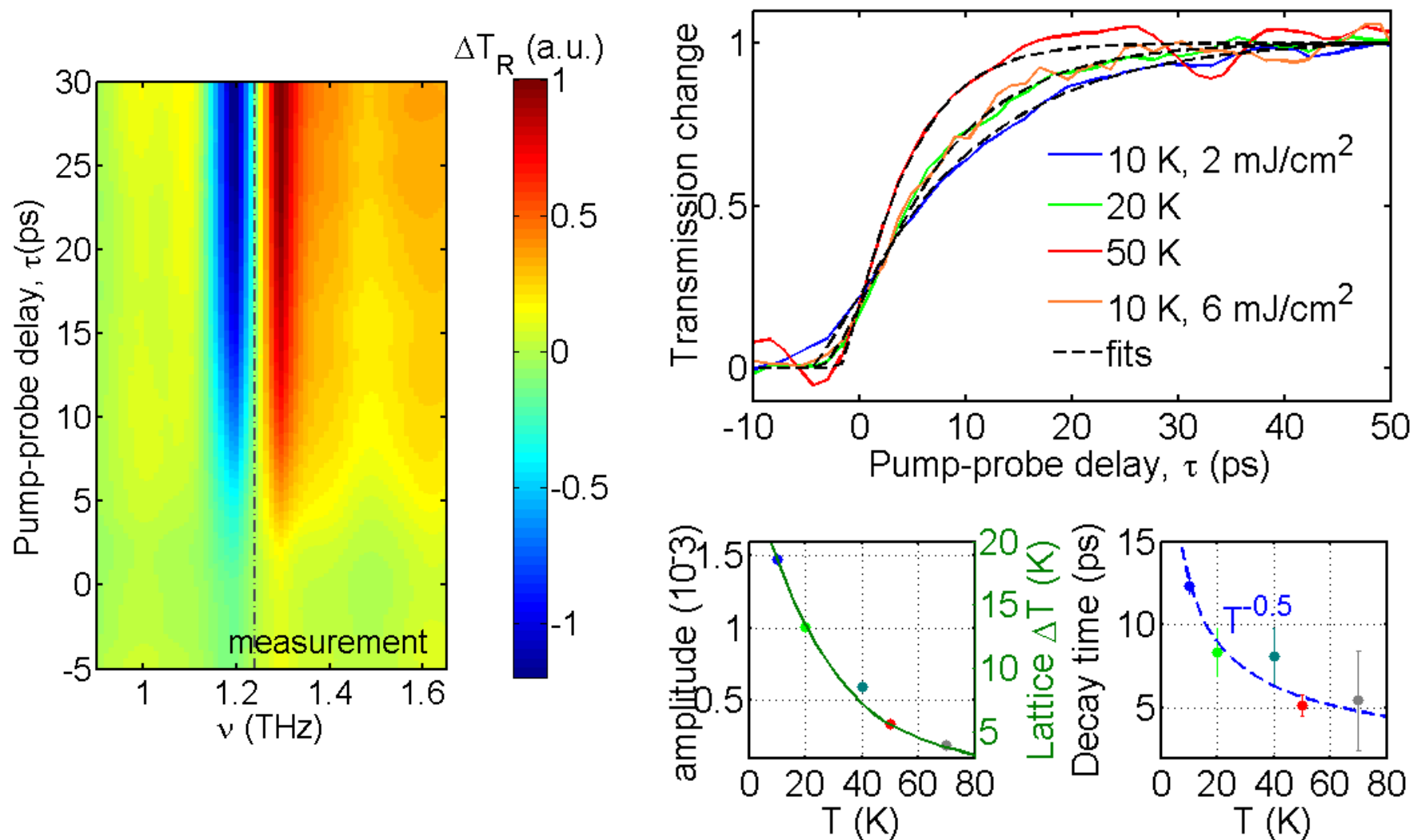
# Photoexcitation changes the magnon line shape



The THz pulse is sensitive to antiferromagnetic order!

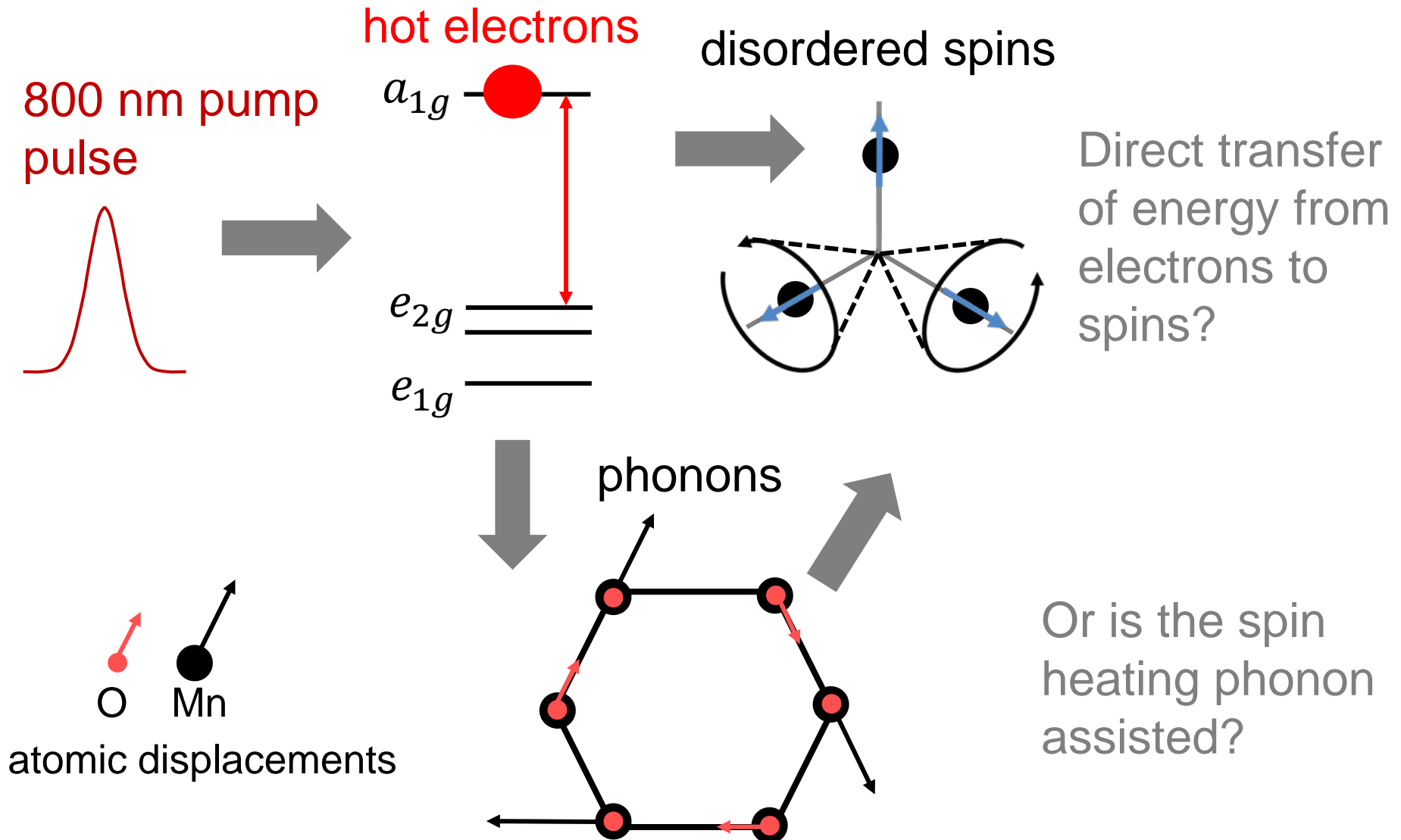
Optical absorption in HMO: Souchkov et. al. PRL **91** 2003 and Rai, et. al, PRB, **75** (2007).

# Ultrafast magnon line shape changes



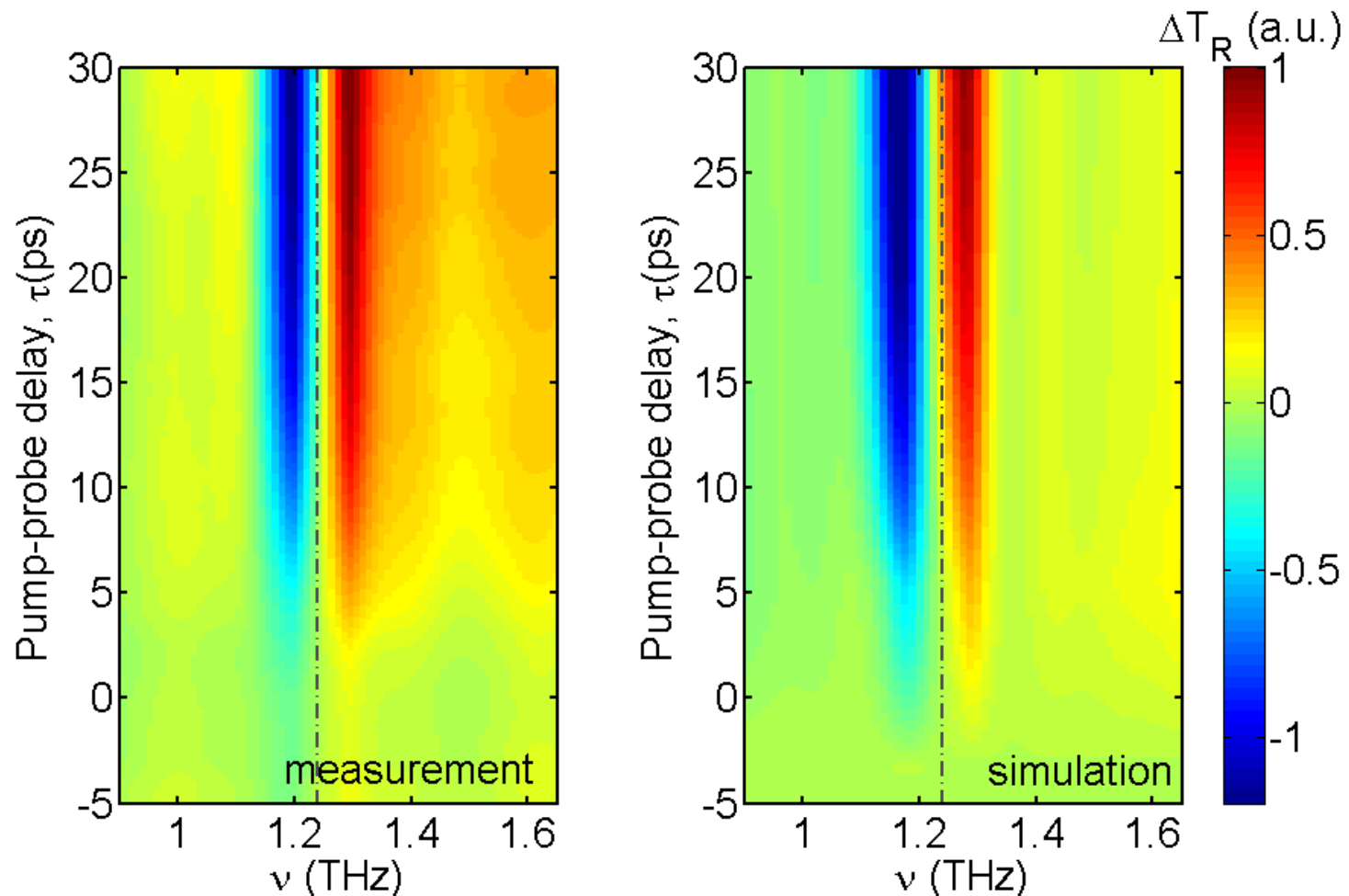
Lattice vibrations can directly heat spins in AFMs spins, but not in FMs.

# How does the pump pulse's energy get from electrons to spins?





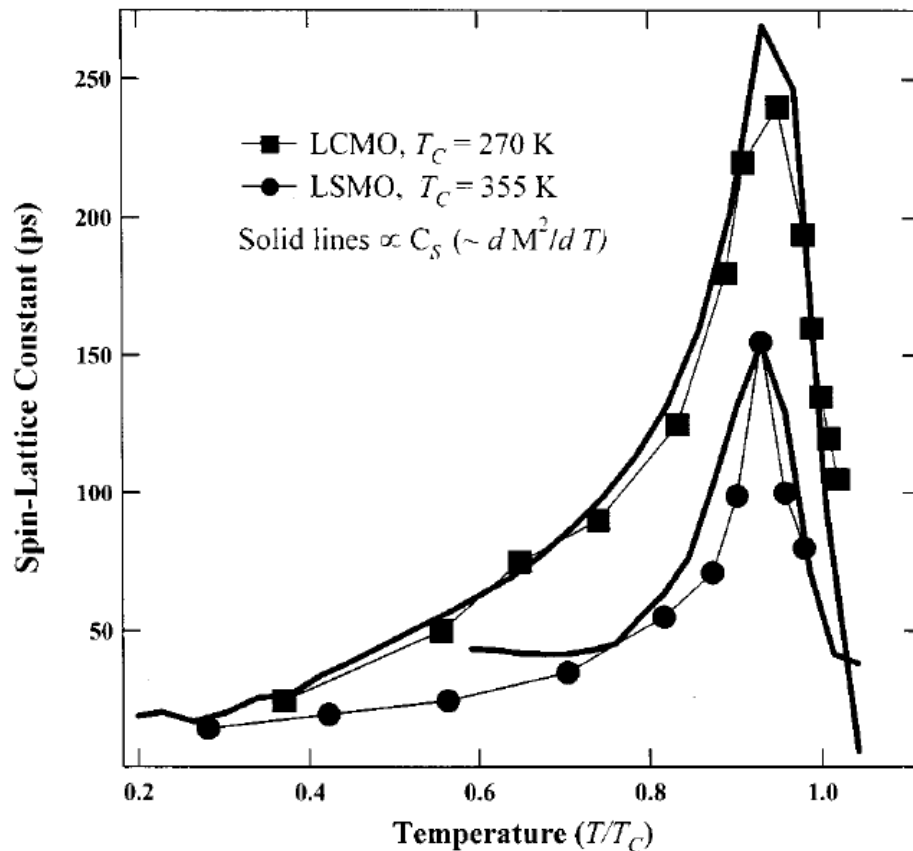
# Phonon assisted heating of spins



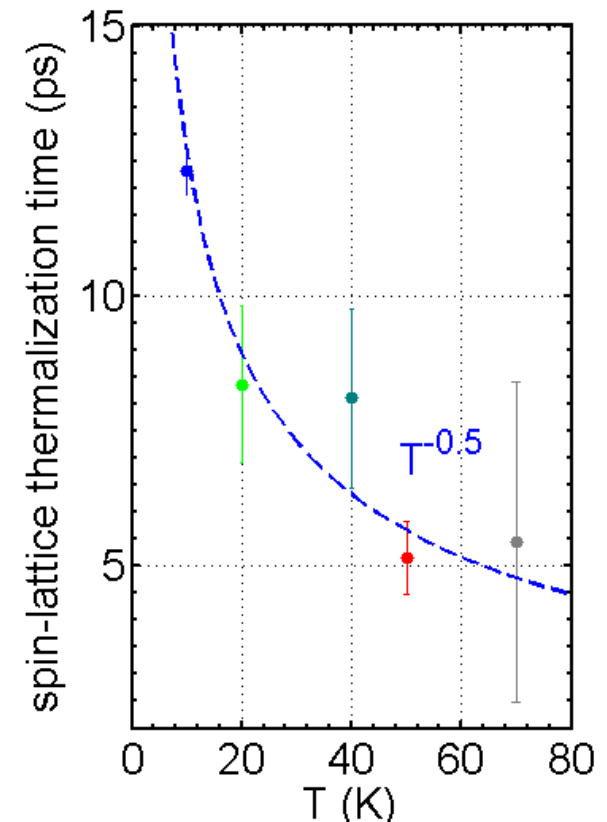
The 12 picosecond change on the magnon line shape is the time that it takes the lattice and the spins to come to thermal equilibrium.

# Spin lattice heating in antiferromagnets versus ferromagnets

Ferromagnet  $M > 0$



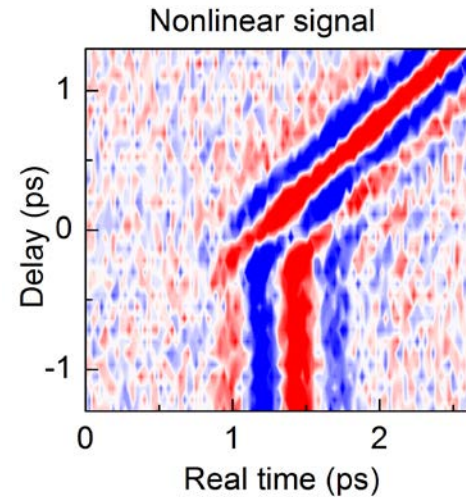
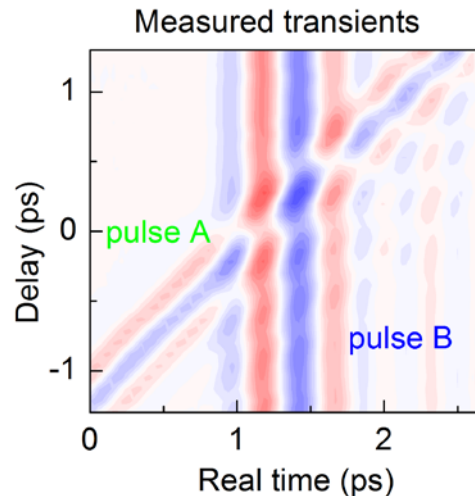
Antiferromagnet  $M = 0$



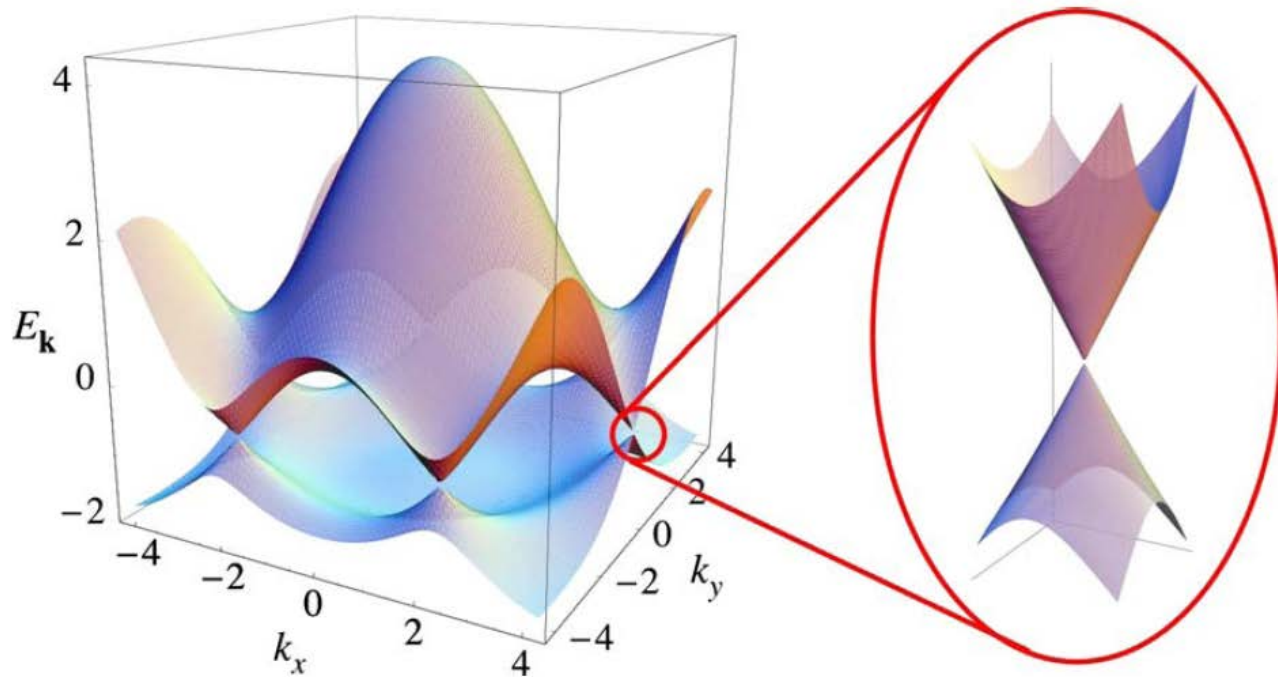
Lattice vibrations can directly heat spins in AFMs spins, but not in FMs.

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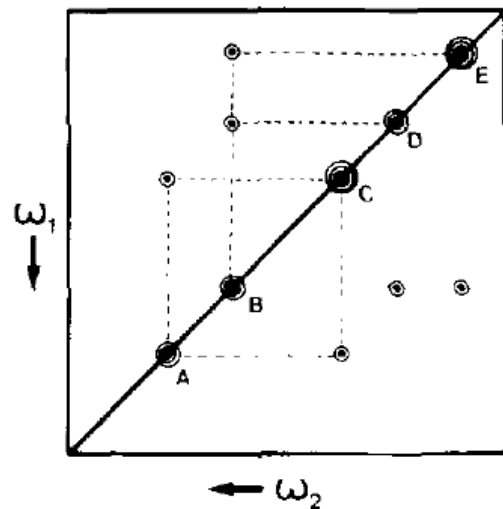
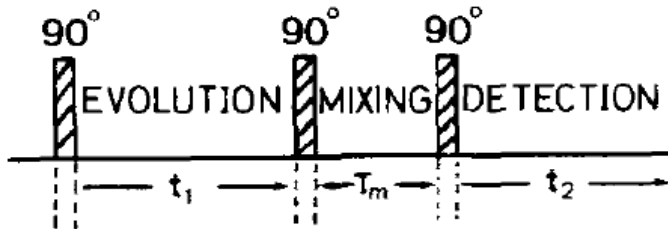
# Graphene: Massless charge carriers



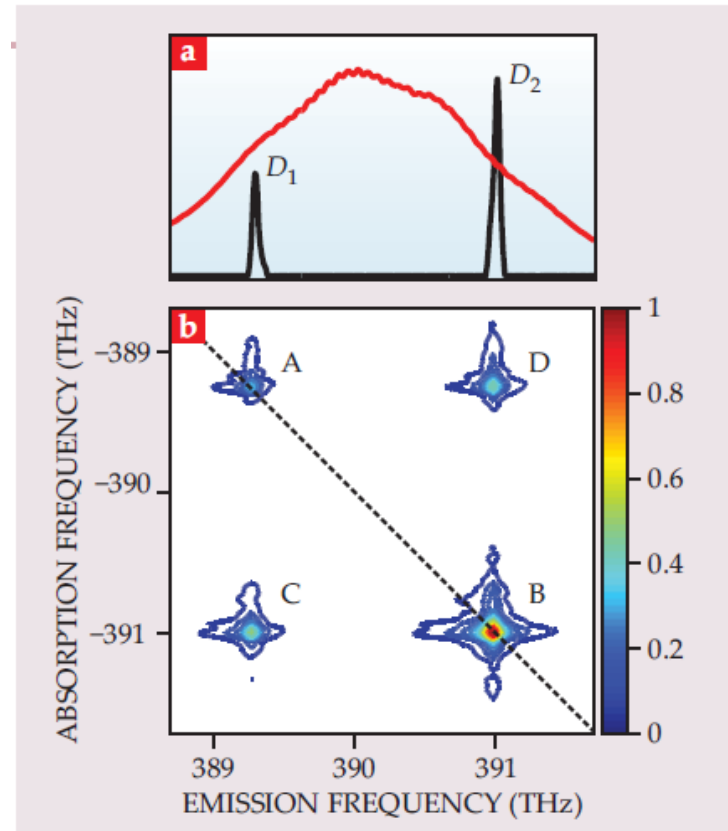
$$\text{Quantum Absorption} = \pi\alpha$$

What are the femtosecond carrier transport properties at low energies?

# Coherent two-dimensional spectroscopy



**With radio frequencies for NMR:** Biological macromolecule from R. R. Ernst et. al., Biochem and Biophys. Research Comm. **95** (1975)

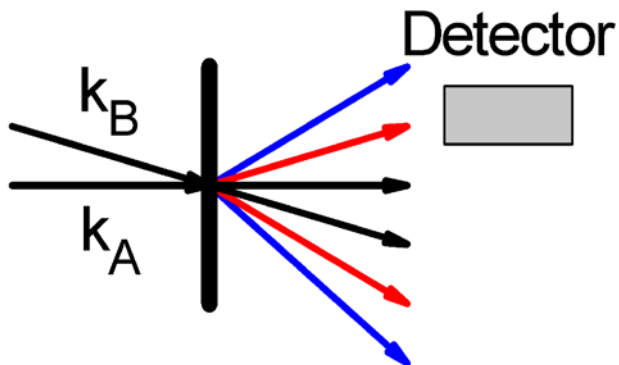


**In the visible:** Potassium vapor in the review by, S. Cundiff and S. Mukamel, Physics Today, **66** (2013)

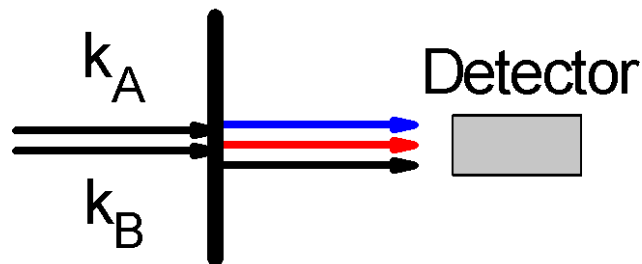
This gives information about coherence, and coupling between modes.

# Extending Coherent two-dimensional spectroscopy to the THz

Noncollinear, in the visible:



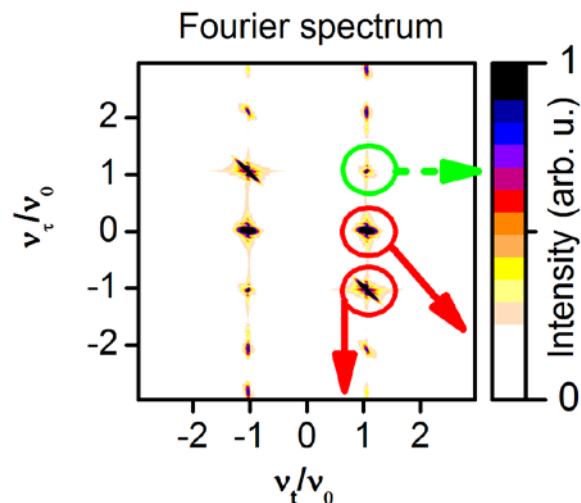
Collinear, in the THz:



Perturbative theory:

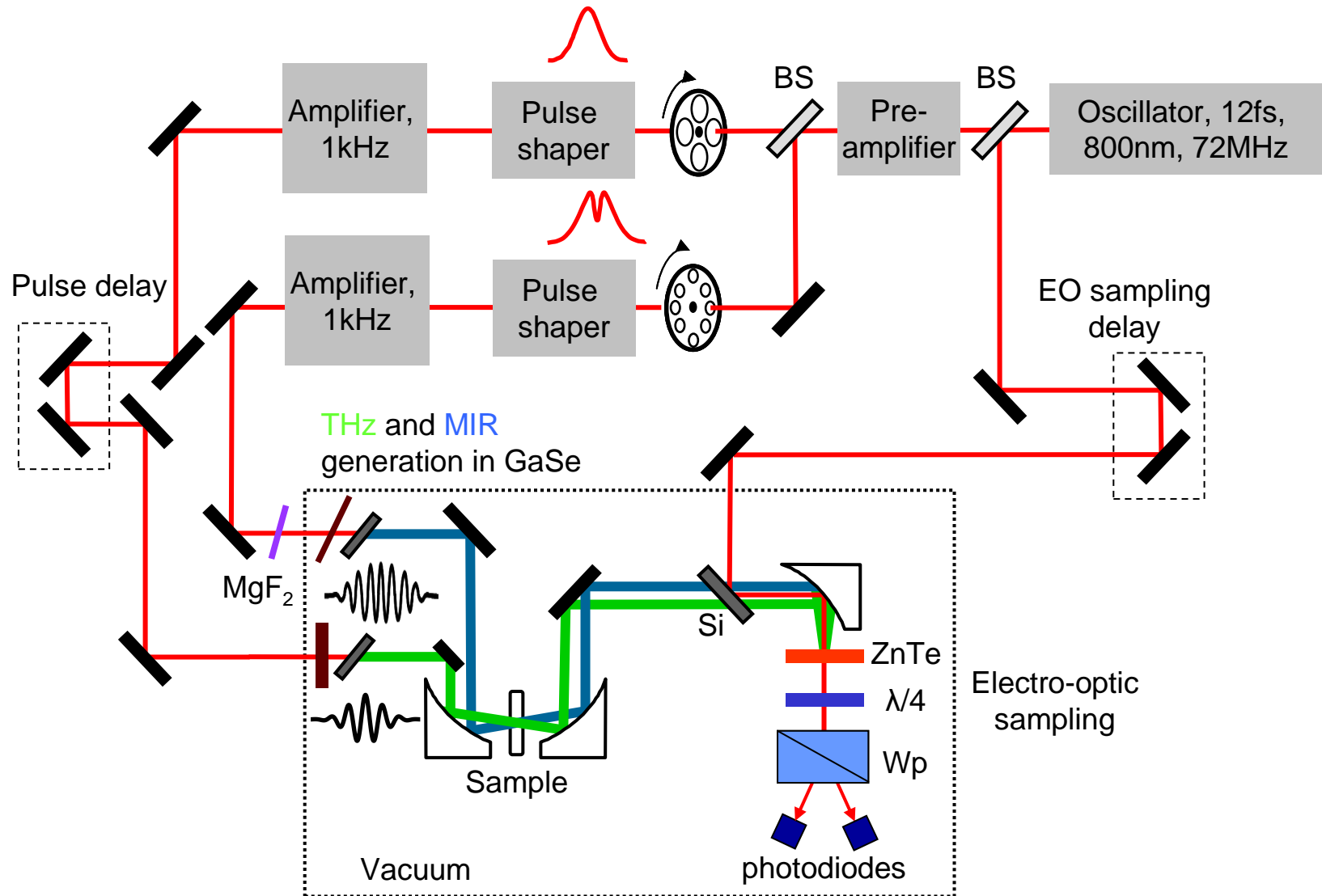
$$P = \epsilon_0(\chi E + \chi^{(3)} E^3 + \chi^{(5)} E^5 \dots)$$

W. Kuehn, et. al., J. Chem. Phys. 130, 164503 (2009).



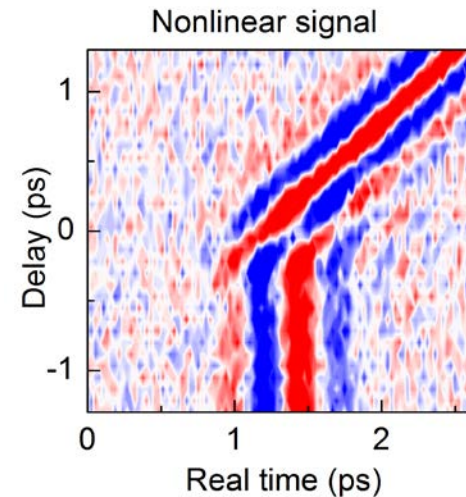
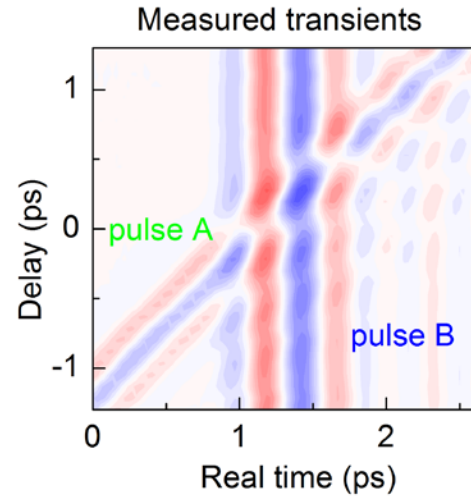
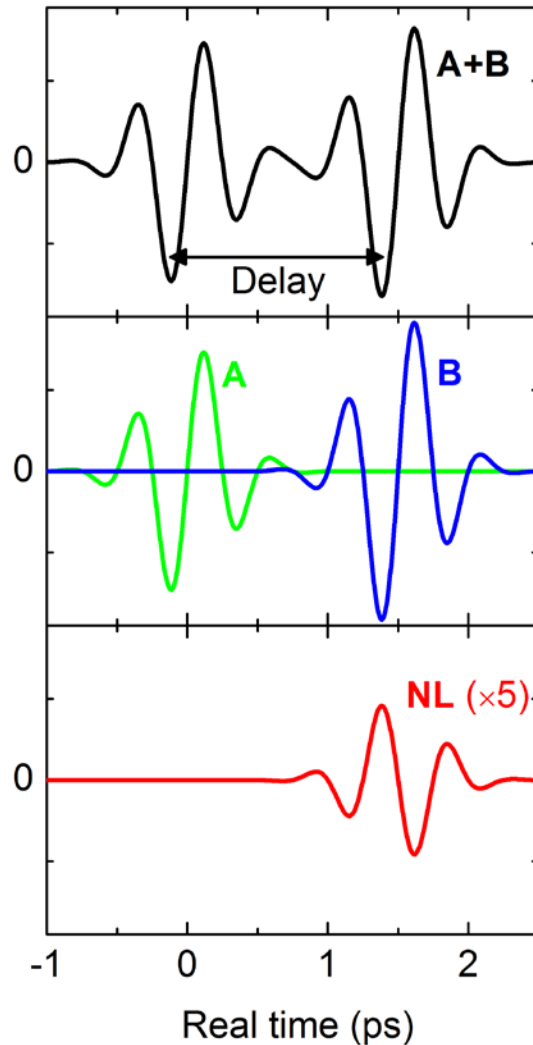
In the collinear case, we measure the entire nonlinear response and separate the signals in frequency.

# Coherent two-dimensional THz spectroscopy



This approach works in the 0.1 - 40 THz (3000-7.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ) spectral range.

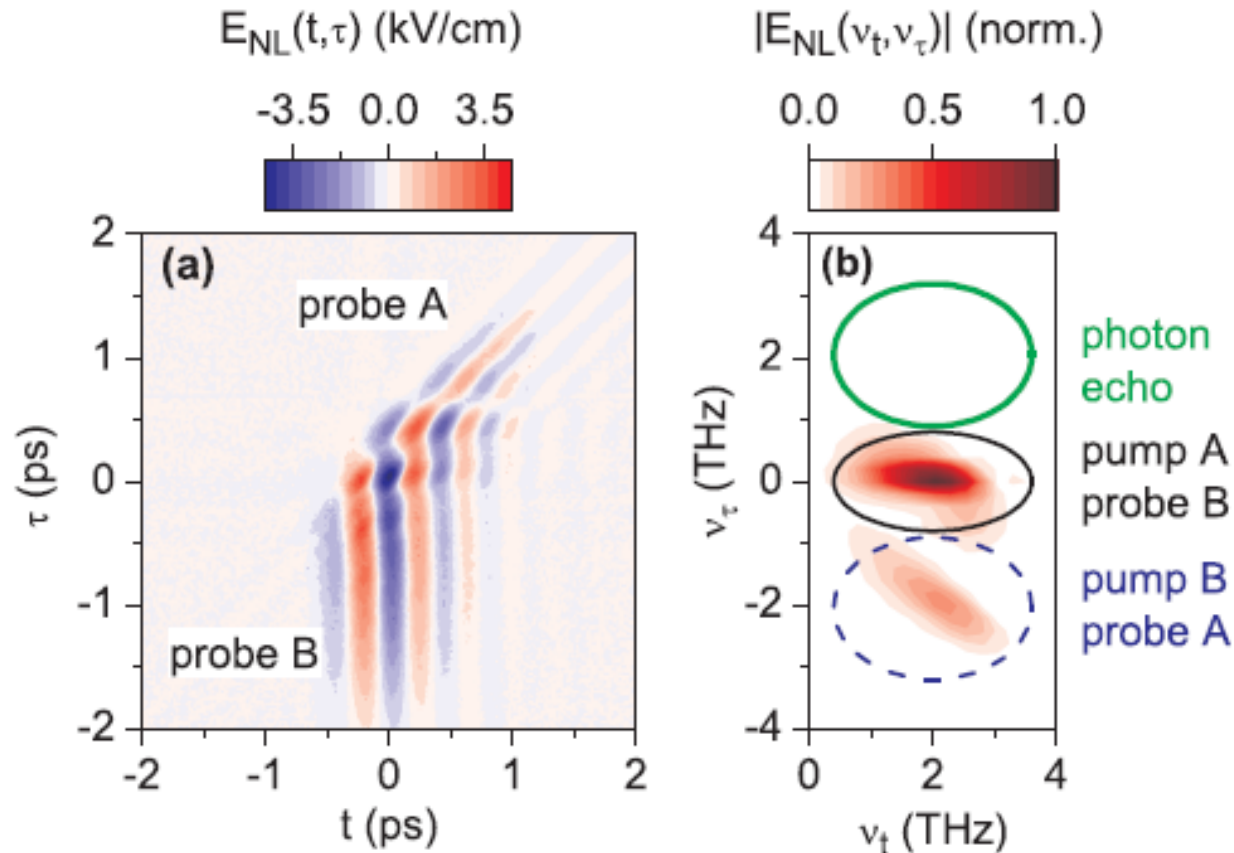
# Two-dimensional THz spectroscopy: experimental concept



Our graphene sample is 40 layers thick, epitaxially grown on SiC?

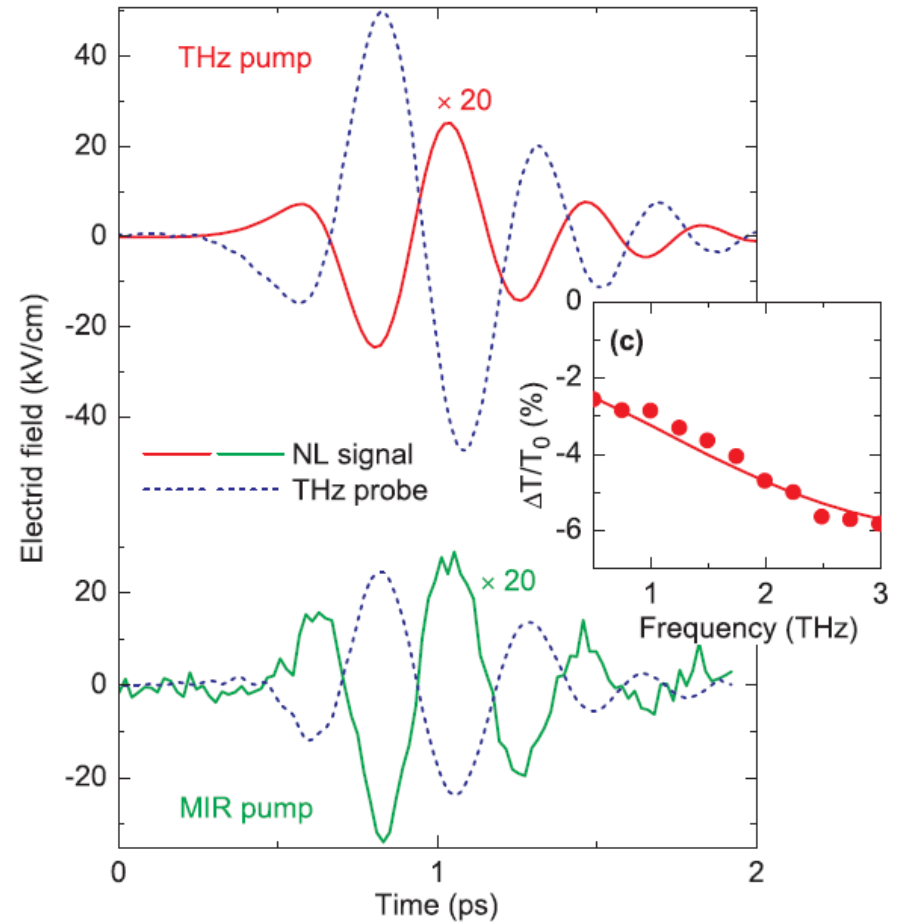
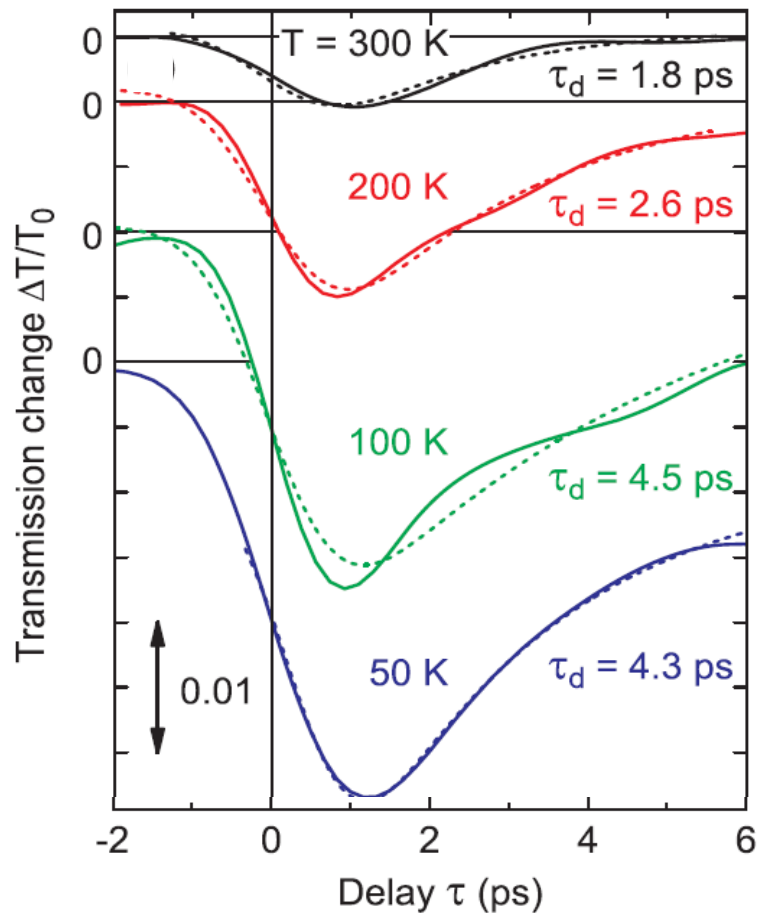


# Two-dimensional THz spectroscopy: separating the nonlinear signals



Fourier transforming separates the nonlinear signals. For graphene photon echo is not present, indicating a very short coherence time.

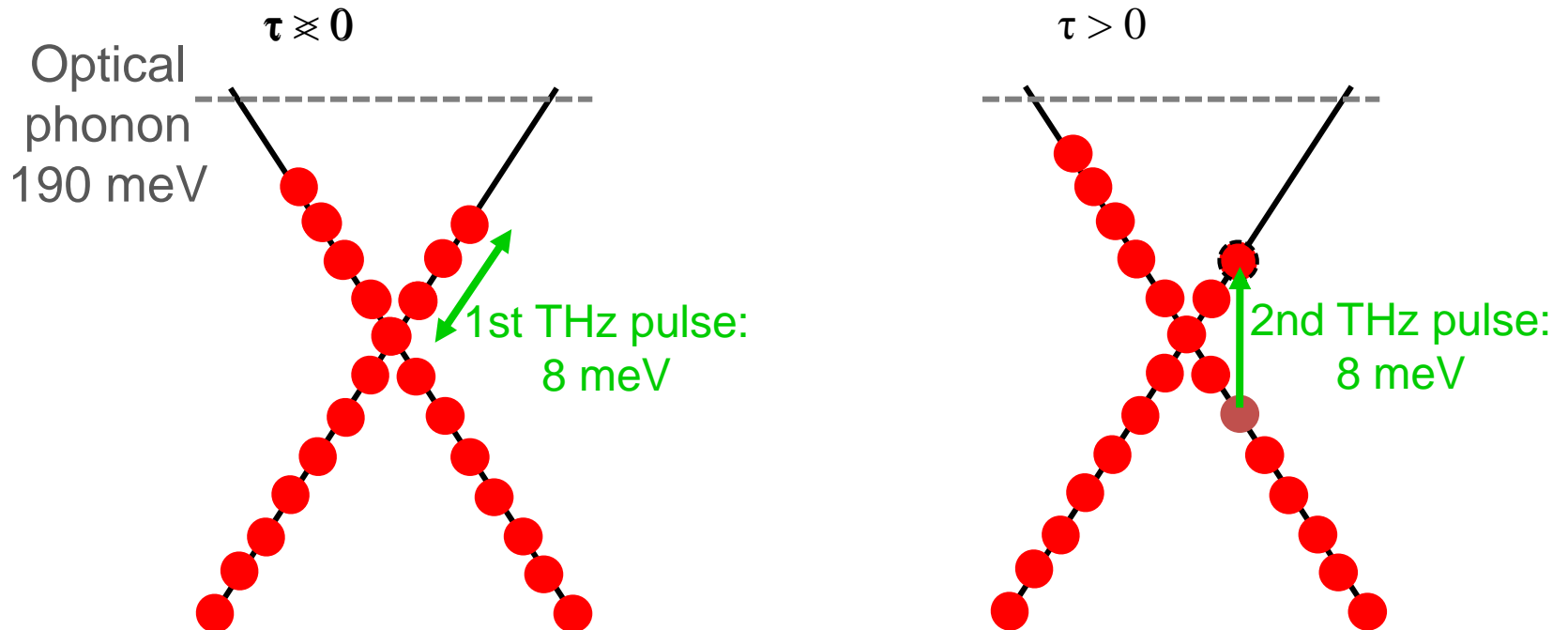
# Analyzing the pump-probe signal



An induced absorption lasting 2-4 picosecond was observed.

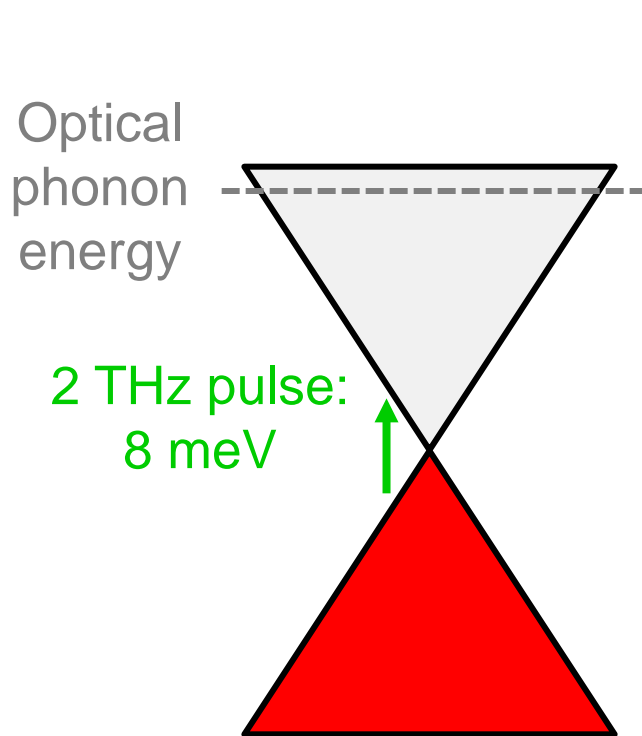
# What causes the induced absorption with a short life time?

**Usual semiconductor picture:** Heating and cooling.

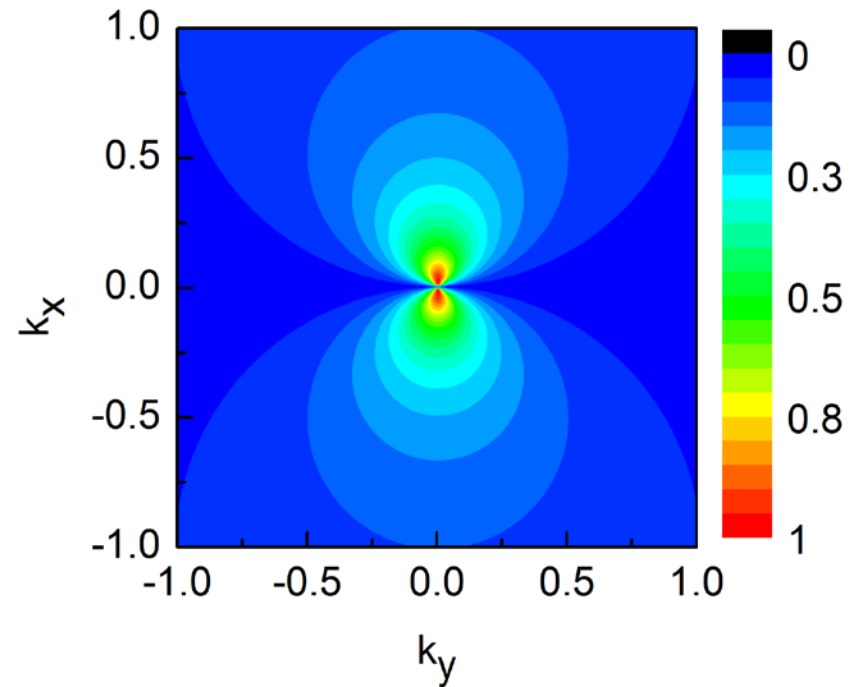


But cooling by acoustic phonons requires 100's of picoseconds.  
This picture works for higher energy excitations.

# The light matter interaction is very strong

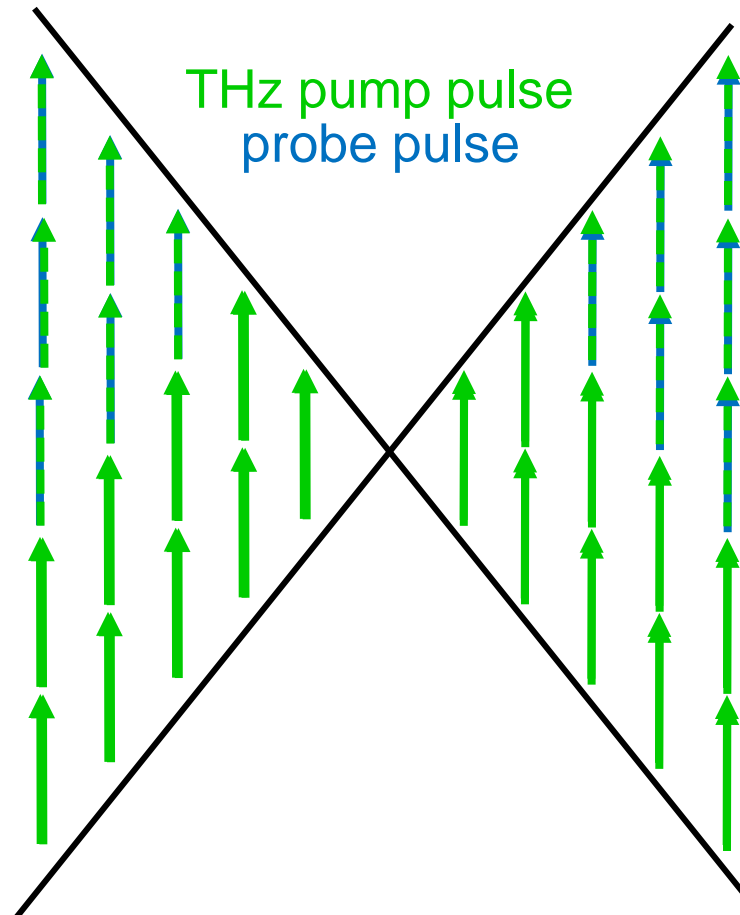


$$d_X = \frac{e_0 v_F}{\omega_{THz}} \cdot \frac{k_Y}{\sqrt{k_X^2 + k_Y^2}}$$



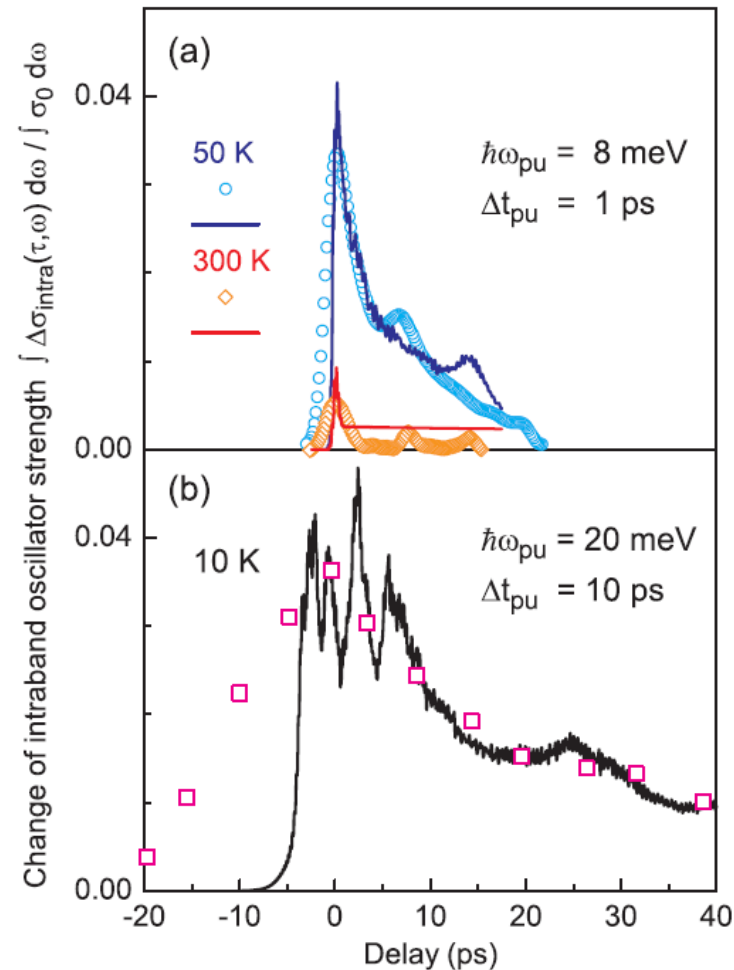
The transition dipole moment at 2 THz with 10 kV/cm is very large.  
This is the **non-perturbative** regime.

# Radiative coupling and recombination in graphene



Graphene coherently stores energy from the pump pulse. This increases the absorption of the probe pulse until the stored energy is radiated away.

# Model: radiative recombination and coupling

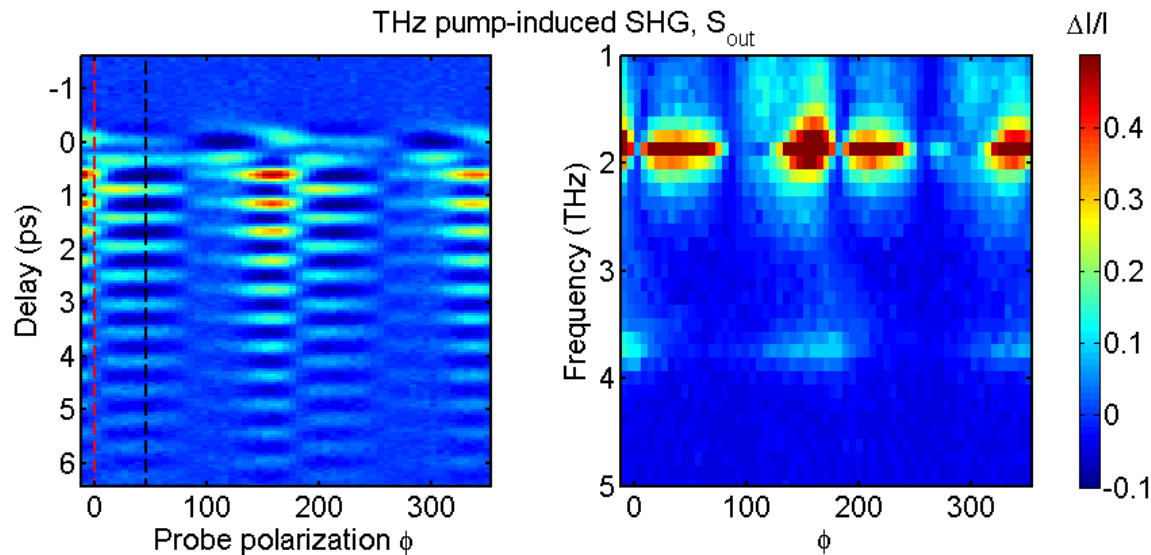


We solve the Schroedinger equation using the bandstructure, intra and inter-band transitions, radiative coupling, and **no scattering processes**.

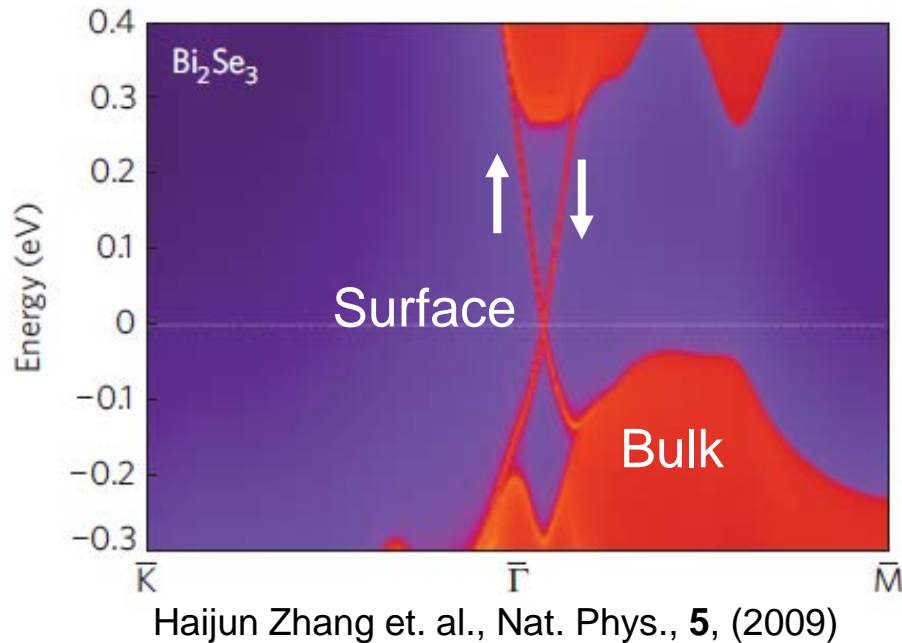
Bowlan et. al, PRB, **89**, 041408(R), 2014. and NJP, **16**,014017, 2014.

# I will talk about...

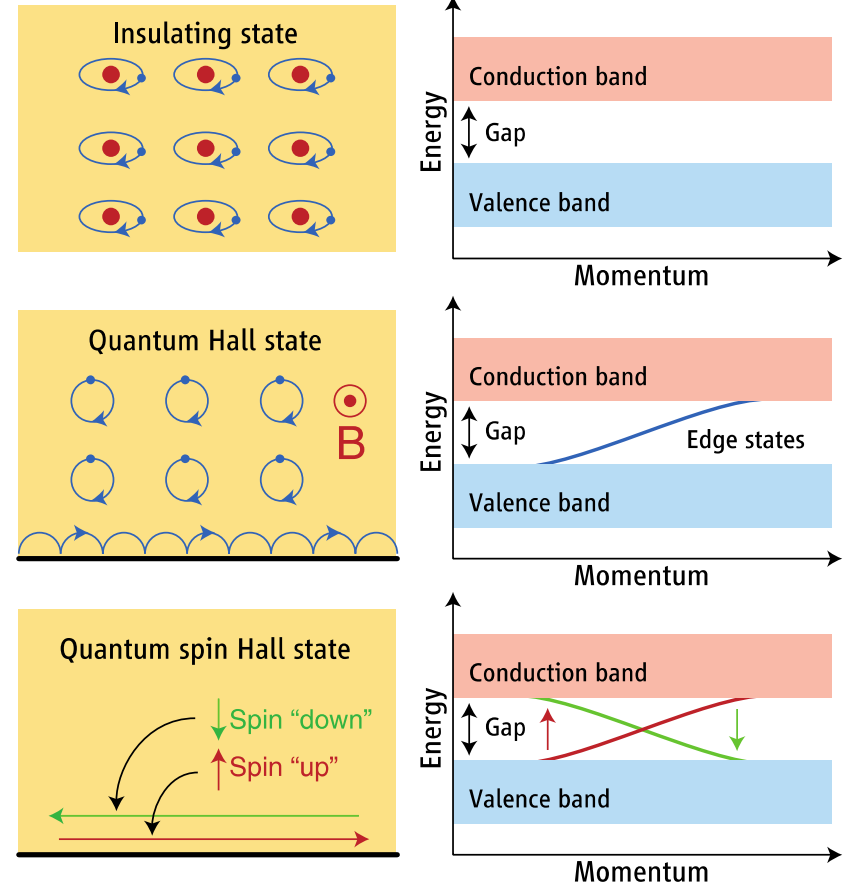
1. Generating and measuring ultrashort THz pulses
2. Tracking ultrafast spin dynamics in antiferromagnets through spin wave resonances
3. Coherent two-dimensional THz spectroscopy
4. Probing vibrational dynamics at a surface



# 3D Topological Insulators are like graphene on the surface.



Symmetry, requires the presence a “topologically protected” conducting surface state.

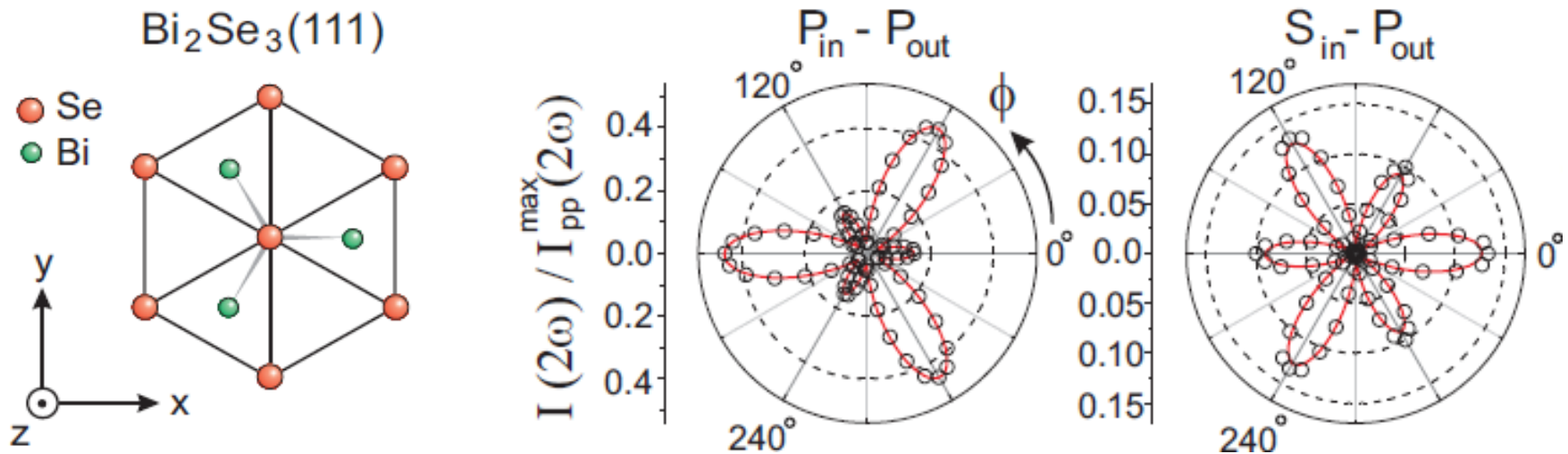


C. Kane et. al., Science., 15, (2006)

It is like a quantum Hall state without an applied B-field.



# Probing material properties with optical second harmonic generation (SHG).

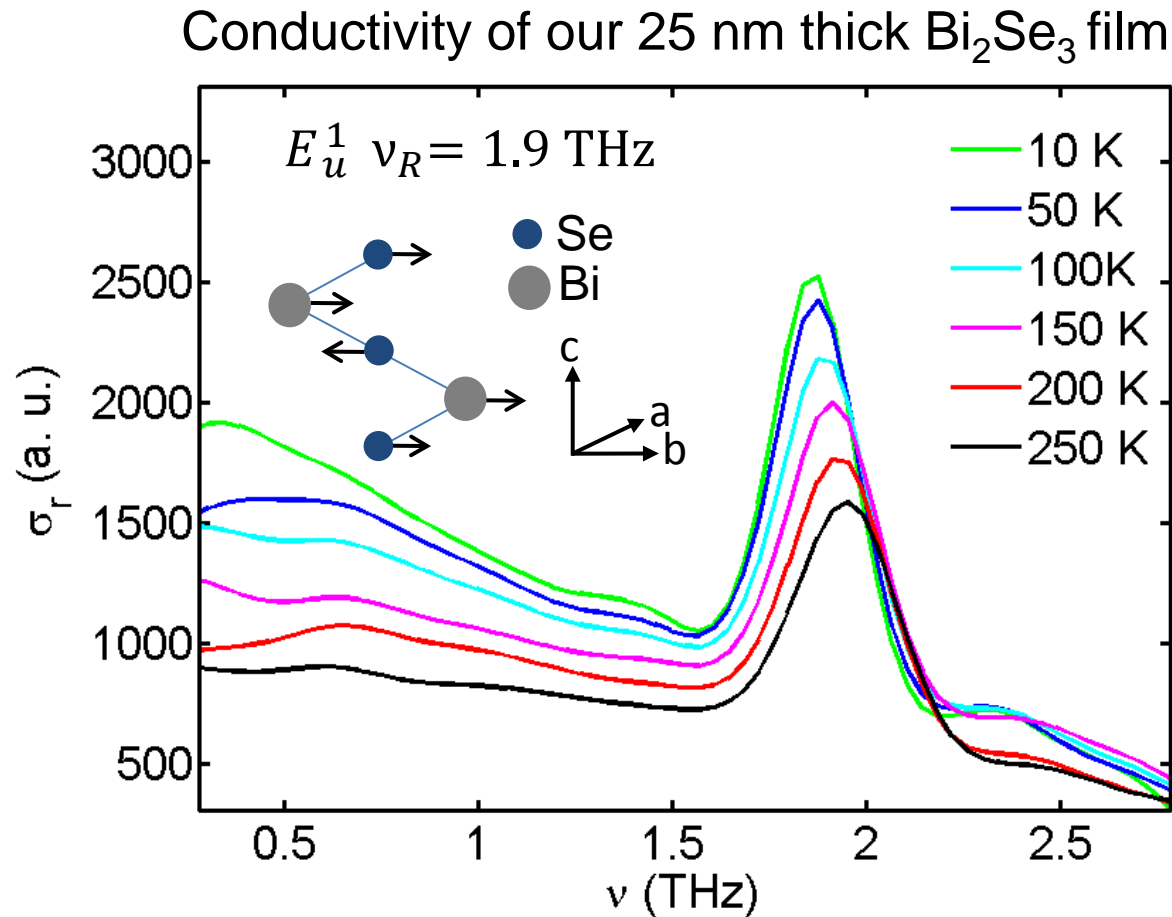


Hsieh et. al, PRL **106**, (2011)

$$E(2\omega) \propto P^{(2)}(2\omega) = \chi^{(2)} E^2(\omega)$$

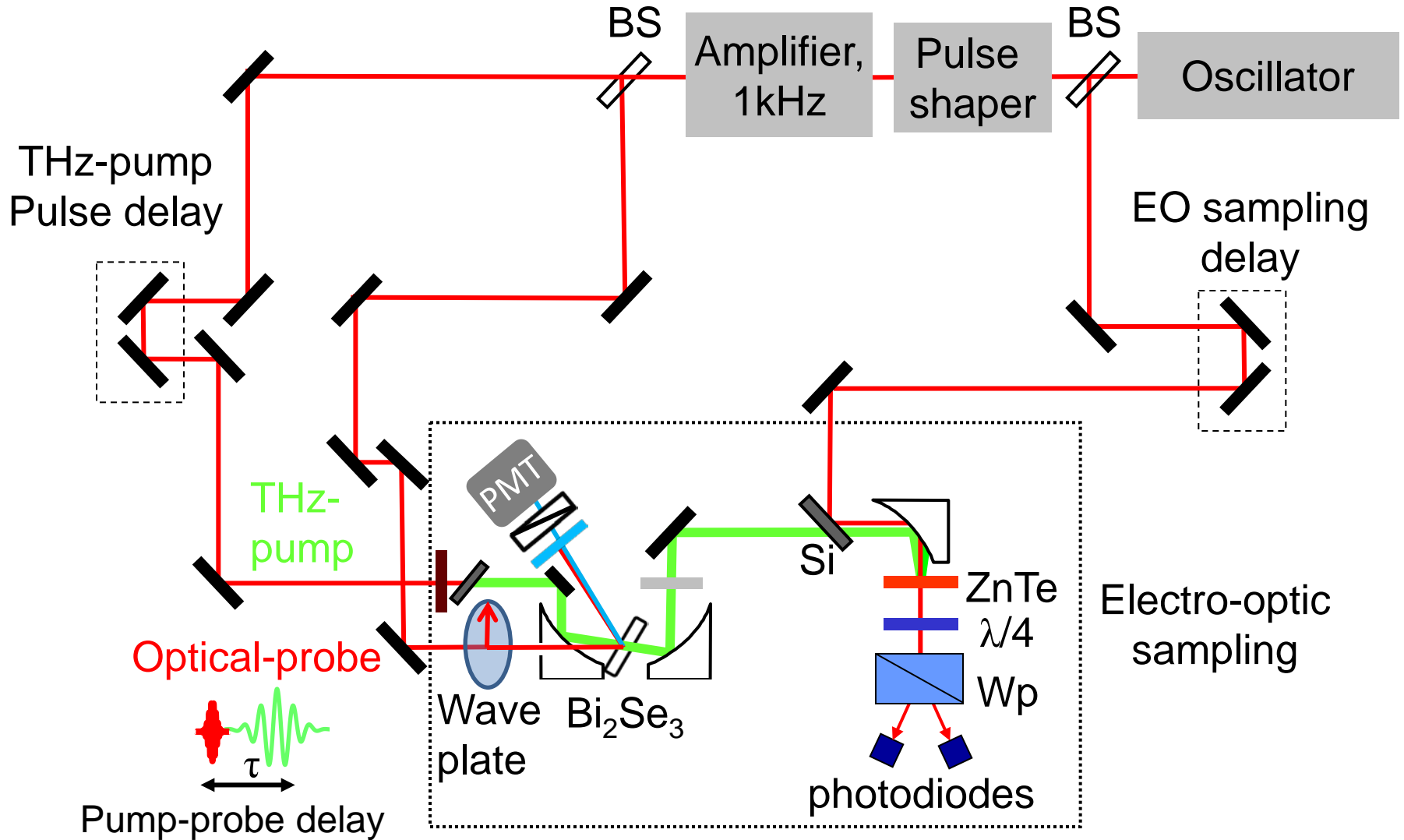
SHG gives lattice symmetry information, and comes only from the surface when the bulk is inversion symmetric.

# Studying topological insulators requires a surface sensitive probe.



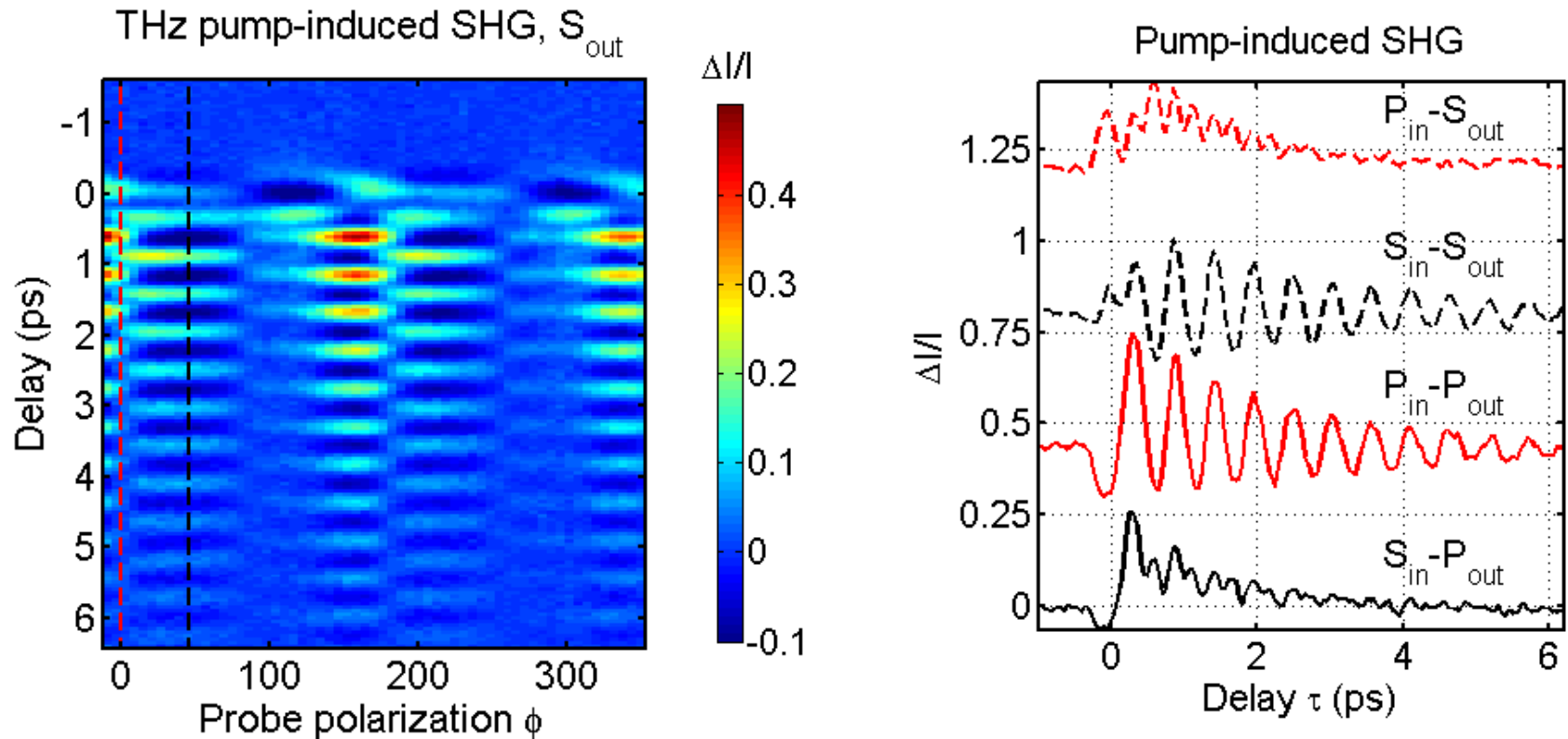
Besides the Drude response, there is also an IR active phonon at  $\sim 2$  THz.

# Measuring THz-induced symmetry changes



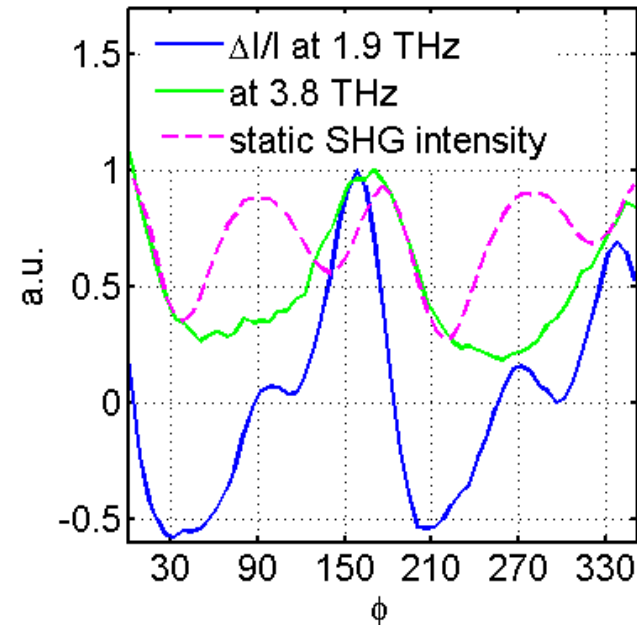
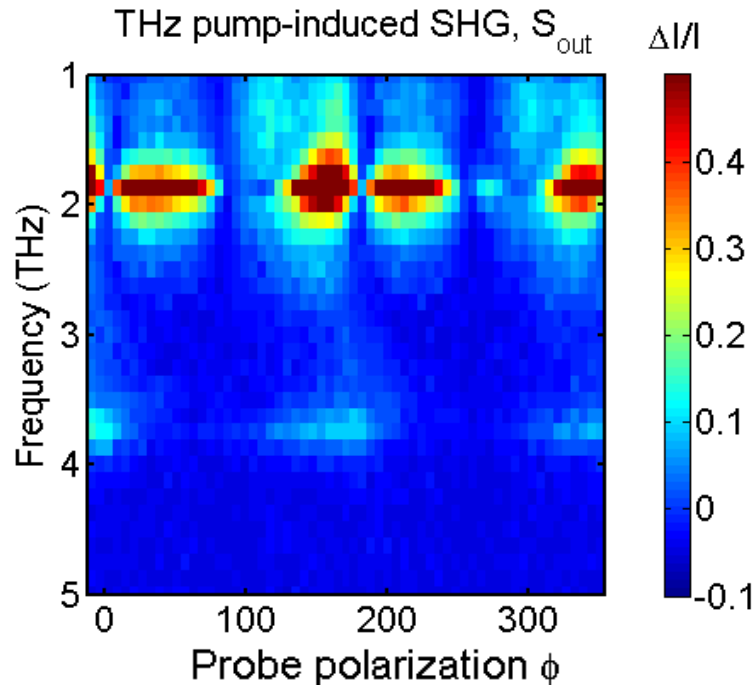
We study  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  25 nm thick films at a sample temperature of 10 K.

# Nonlinear phonon dynamics in $\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3$



THz excitation results in oscillations of the SHG which follow the phonon frequency and also its second harmonic.

The nonlinear and linear responses have different symmetries and field dependences.



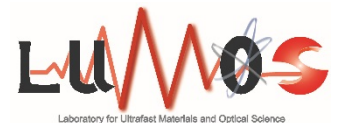
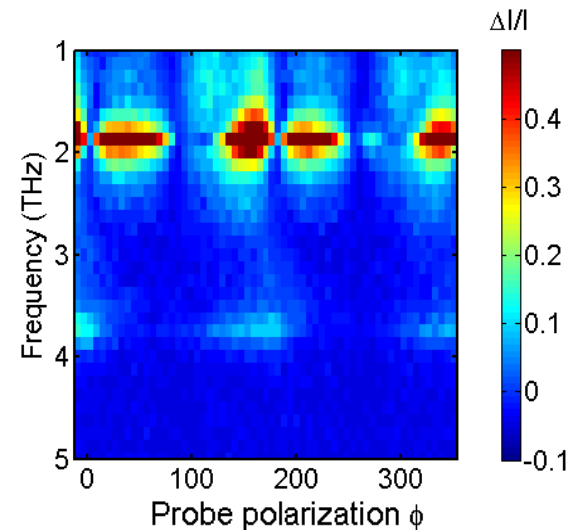
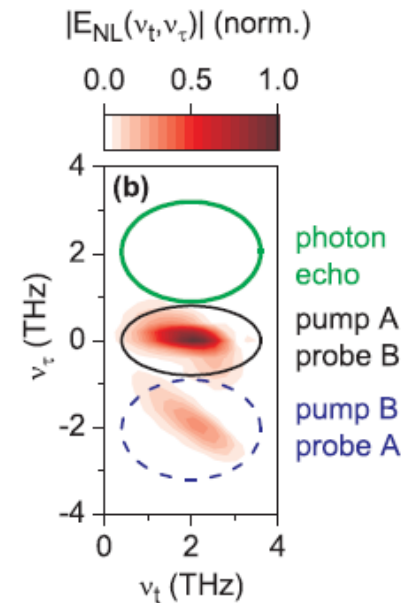
$$P_i^{2\omega}(\tau) \approx E_j^\omega E_k^\omega \chi^{(2)}(x(\tau))$$

THz excitation of the phonon along the direction  $x$  modulates the nonlinear susceptibility so that  $x(\tau) \propto A(\tau)\cos(\omega_R\tau)$ .

# Conclusions

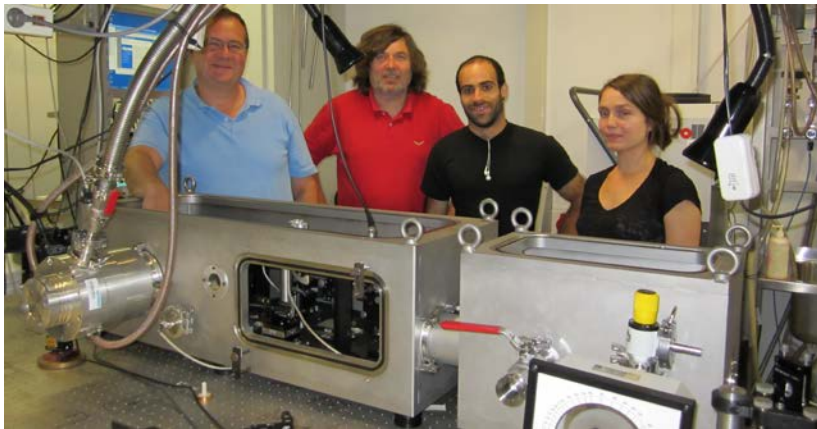
**Coherent two-dimensional THz spectroscopy:** a powerful approach for studying coherence and dynamics of low energy resonances. Applying this to graphene we investigated the very strong THz light matter interaction which dominates over scattering. Useful for studying coupled excitations in multiferroics and monitoring chemical reactions.

**THz-pump, SHG-probe spectroscopy:** an ultrafast, surface sensitive probe of atomic-scale symmetry changes and nonlinear phonon dynamics. We are using this in  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3$  to investigate the nonlinear surface phonon dynamics. This is potentially very useful for studying catalysis.



# Acknowledgments

**Max-Born institute for  
nonlinear optics and  
ultrafast spectroscopy,  
Berlin, Germany:**



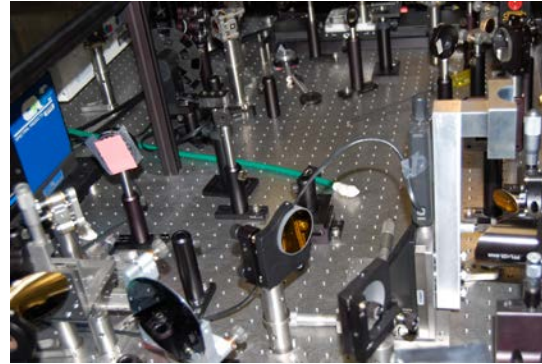
W. Kuehn, E. Martinez-Moreno, K. Reimann, M. Woerner, T. Elsaesser

## **Collaborators:**

R. Hey, Paul-Drude-Institut, Berlin  
(GaAs samples)

C. Flytzanis, Laboratoire Pierre  
Aigrain, Paris

**Laboratory for Ultrafast  
Materials and Optical  
Science:**



Laboratory for Ultrafast Materials and Optical Science



R. Prasankumar and D. Yarotski (mentors),  
J. Bowlan, Y. Dai, B. McFarland, T. Taylor.

## **Collaborators:**

S. Trugman, CINT (theory)

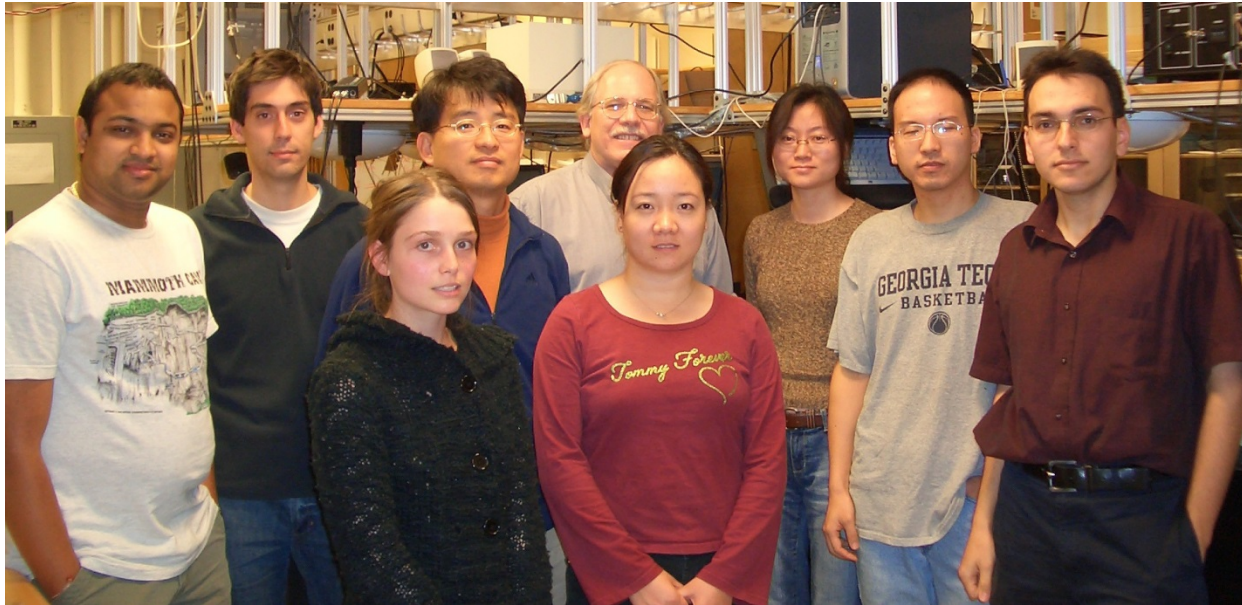
J. Furdyna and X. Liu at Notre Dame ( $\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3$   
thin films)

R. Valdes Aguilar, The Ohio State University

N. J. Hur, Inha University, Icheon, Korea and  
S-W. Cheong Rutgers University ( $\text{RMnO}_3$ )  
crystals



# My thesis work: Rick Trebino's ultrashort pulse characterization group at Georgia Tech



## **Collaborators:**

Peeter Saari, university of Tartu in Estonia.

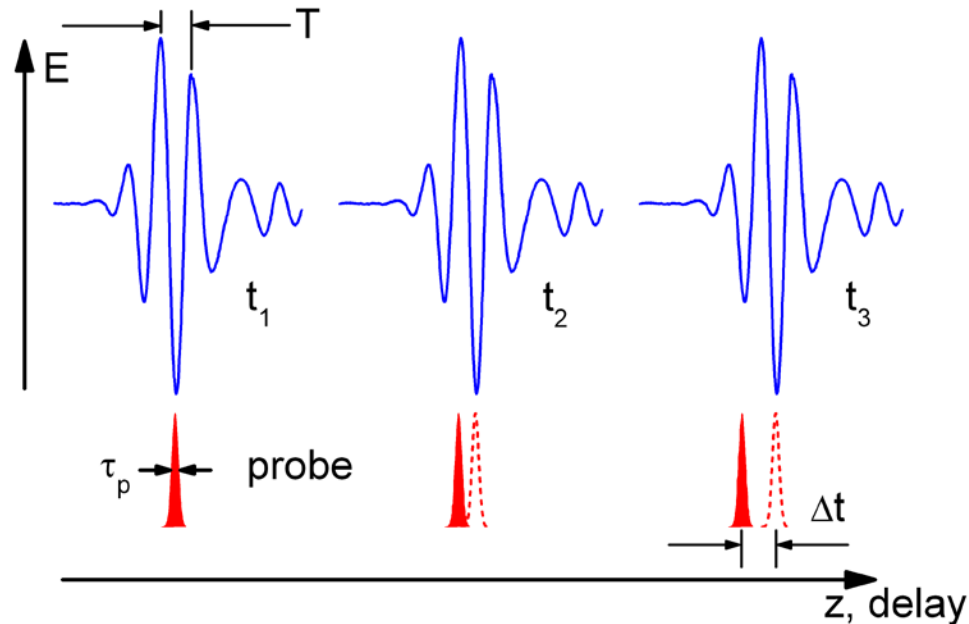
Ulrike Fuchs, Fraunhofer Institute in Jena, Germany

Robert Levis, from Temple University

This work was partially funded by NSF fellowship IGERT-0221600.



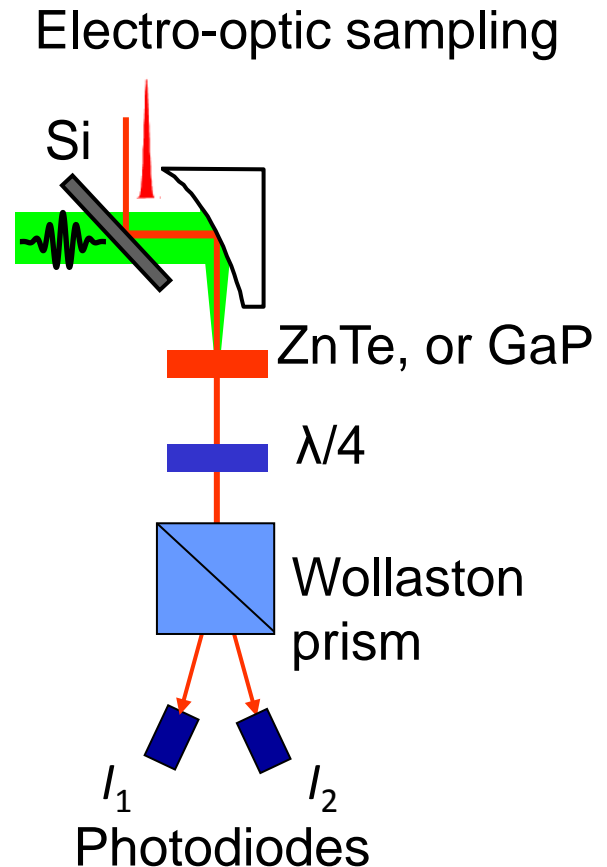
# Measuring THz E-fields with the linear electro-optic effect.



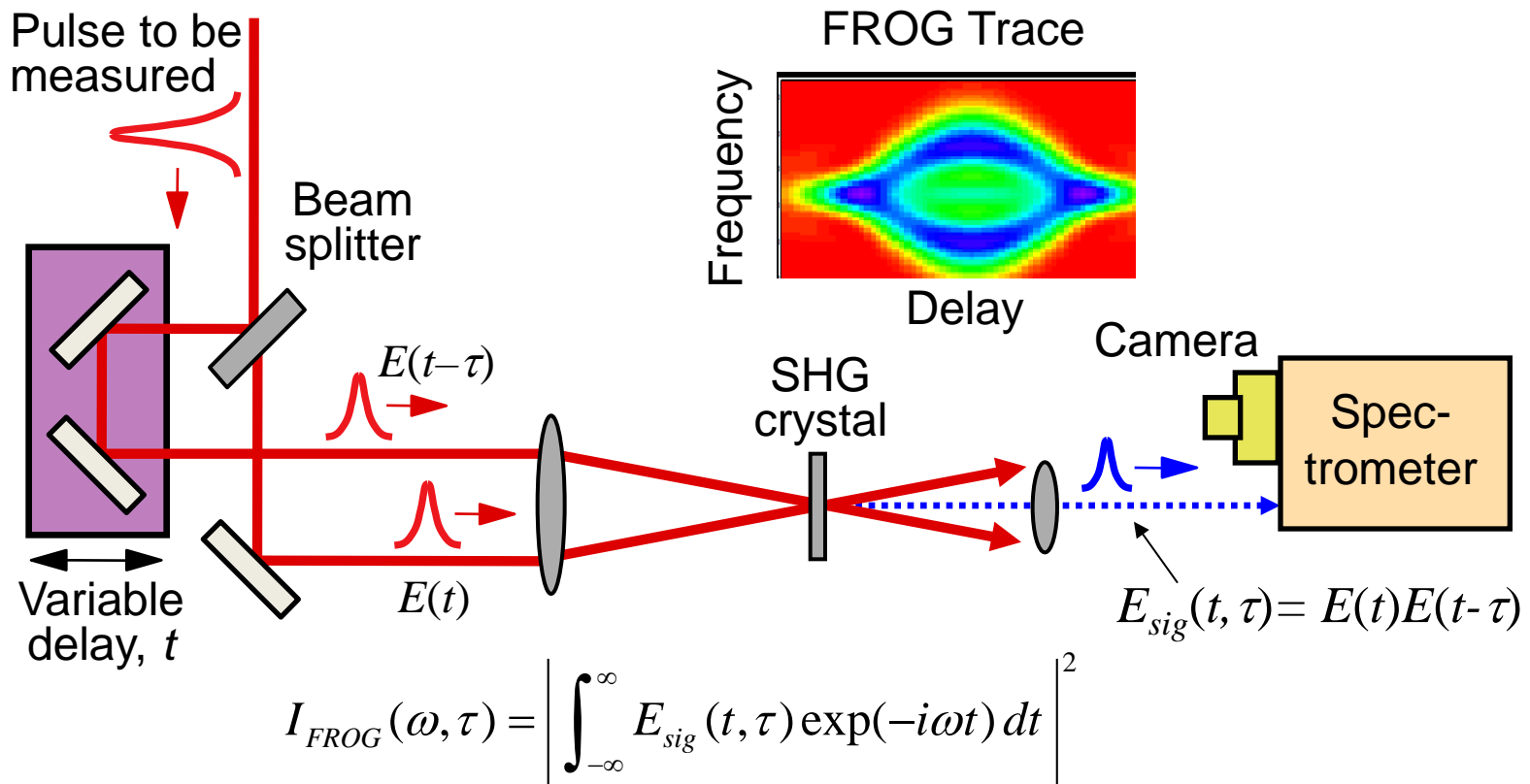
$$\Gamma = \frac{2\pi d}{\lambda} n^3(\lambda) r_{41} E_{THz}$$

$$\frac{I_1 - I_2}{I_1 + I_2} = \sin(\Gamma) \approx \Gamma$$

The Induced birefringence, and polarization rotation are proportional to the THz electric field.

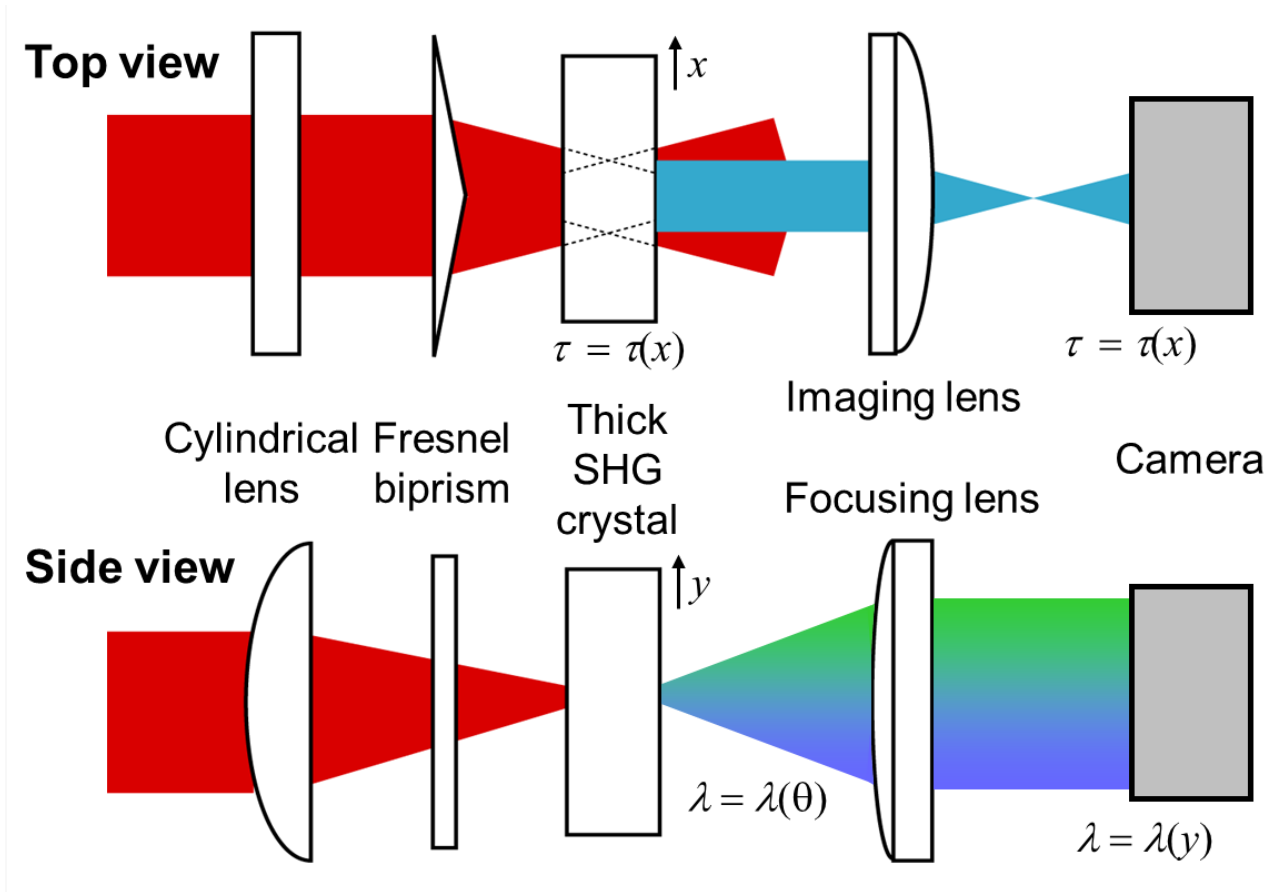


# Measuring ultrashort pulses with Frequency resolved Optical Gating (FROG).



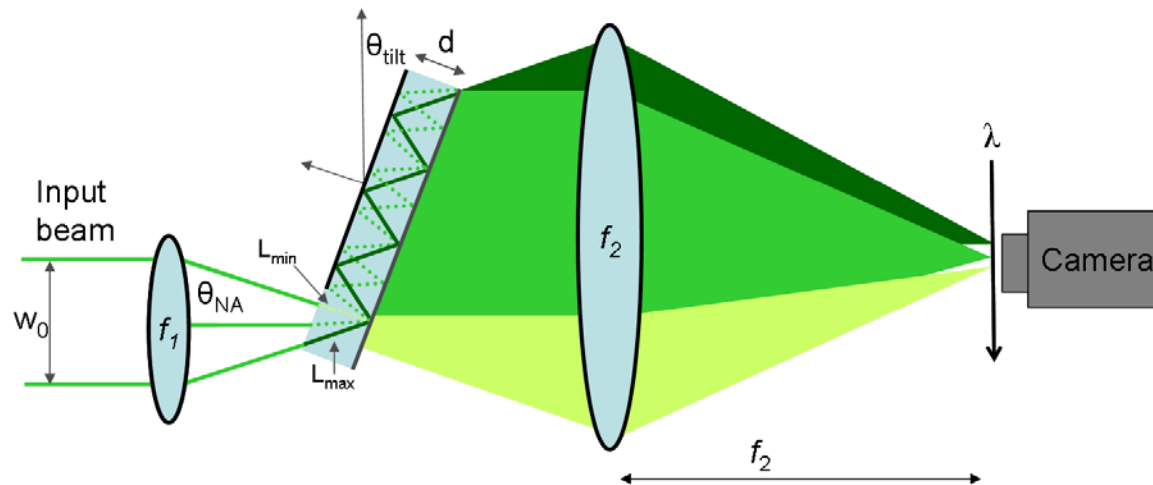
Measuring the spectrum of the autocorrelation allows one to determine amplitude and phase of the optical pulse.

# Single-shot FROG: GRENOUILLE

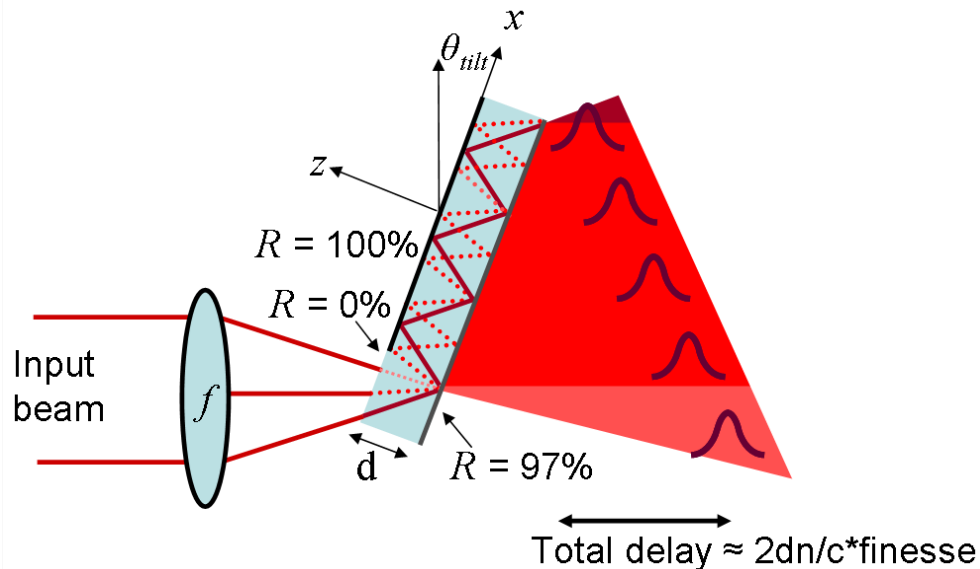


GRENOUILLE is a complete single-shot FROG, but is more sensitive. It uses the standard SHG FROG algorithm.

# A single-shot nanosecond FROG

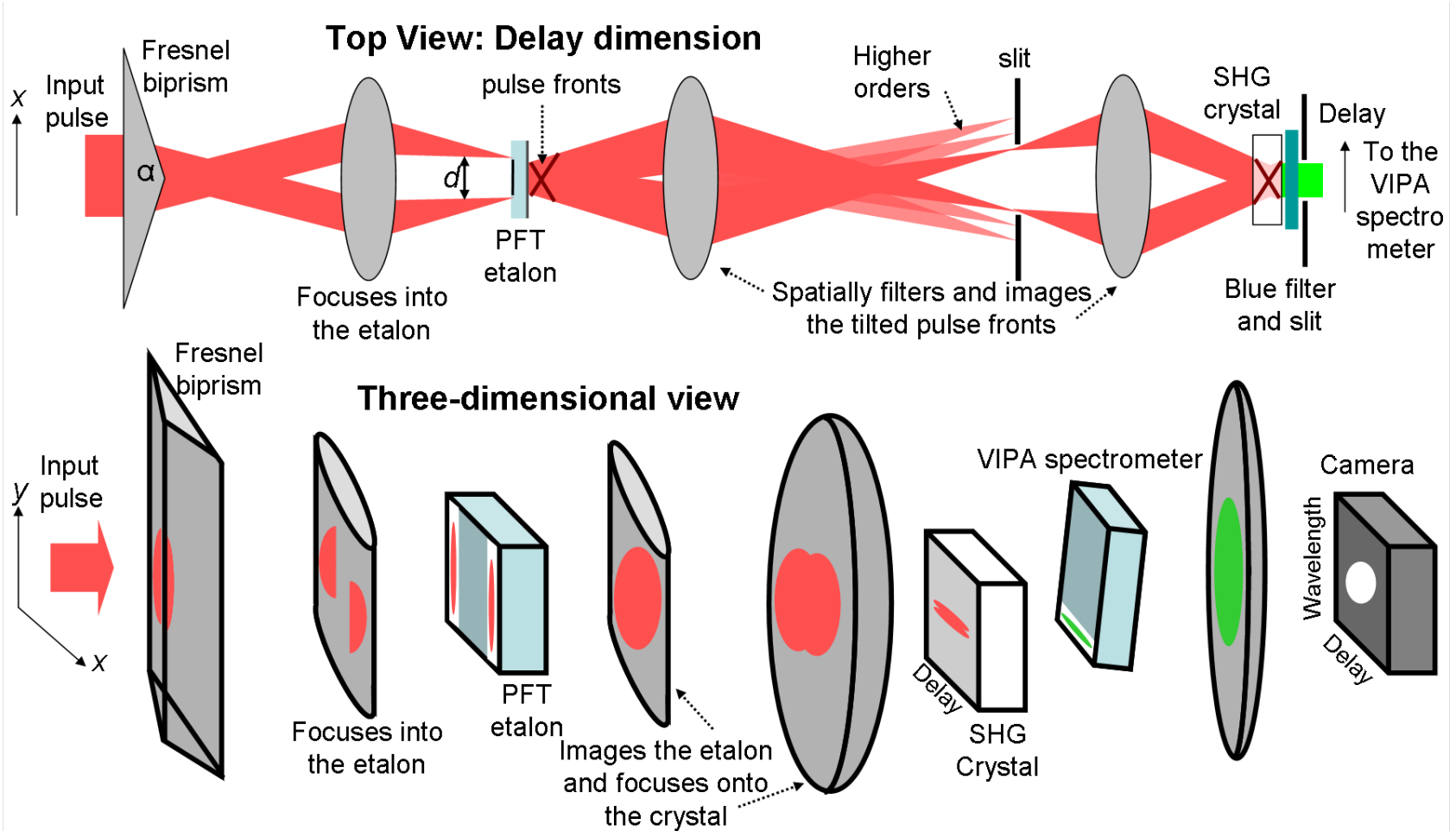


An Etalon spectrometer gives us 0.1 picometer spectral resolution.



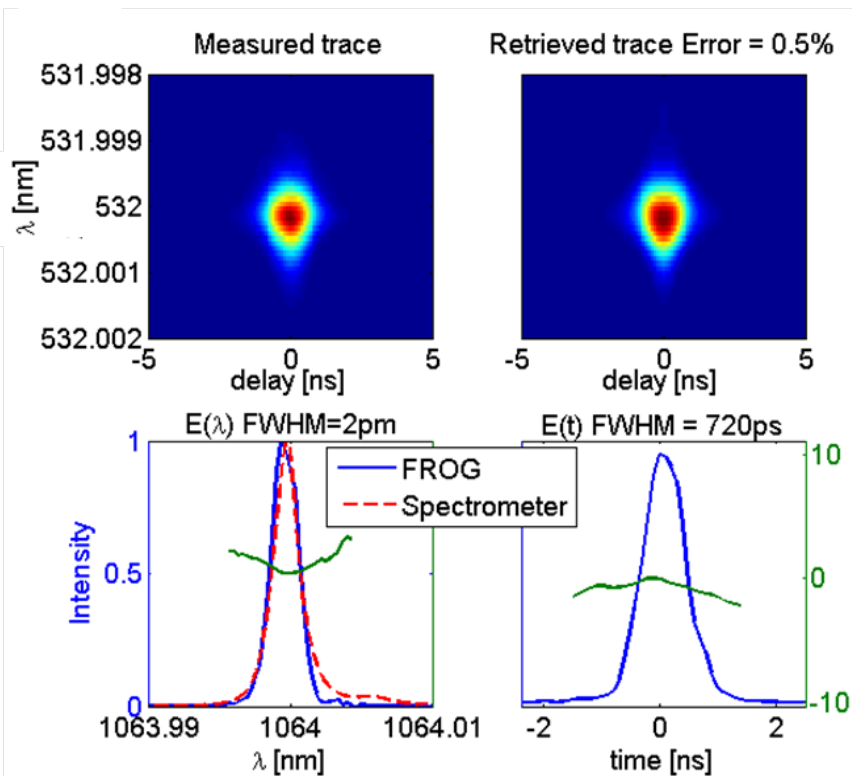
Using the  $\sim 98^\circ$  pulse front tilt from the etalon gives a 10 ns delay range.

# Single-shot nanosecond FROG

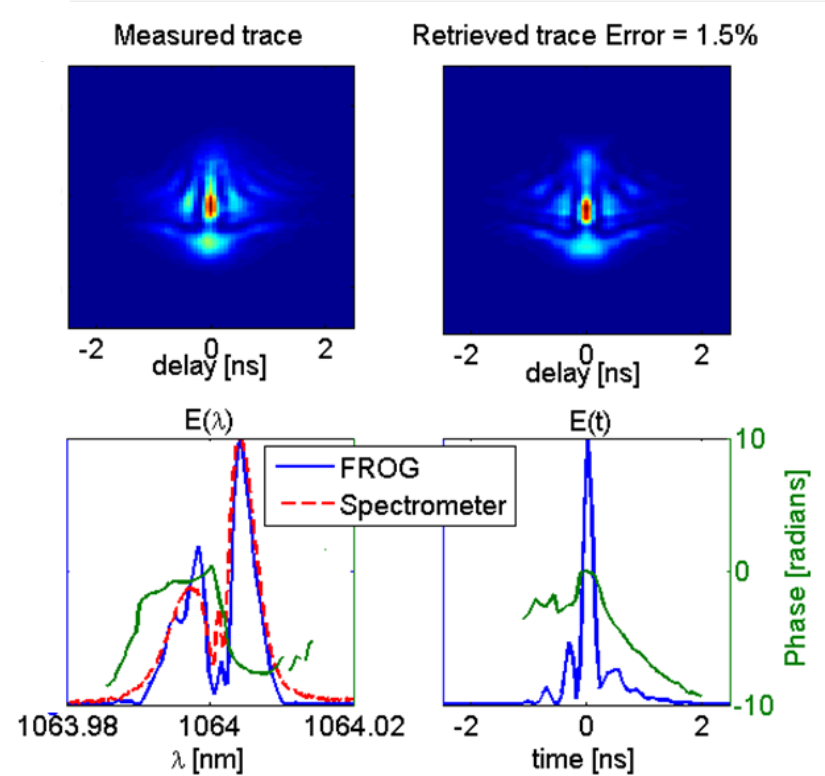


This results in a single-shot spectrally resolved autocorrelation at the camera with ns temporal and pm spectral resolutions.

# Single-shot nanosecond pulse measurements



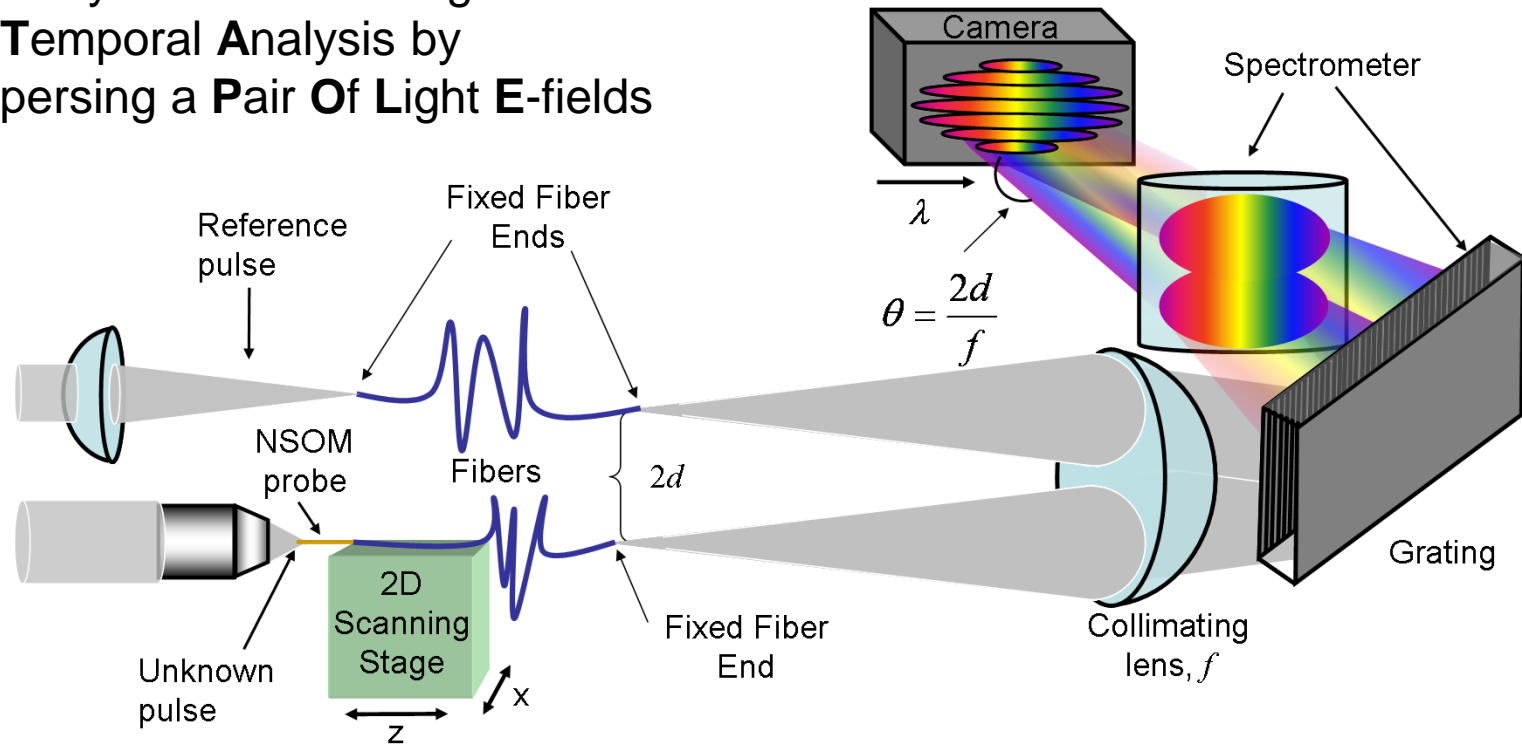
Pulse from a thin-disk laser



After amplification in a Yb-doped fiber

# Adding dimensions to optical laser pulse diagnostics: spatiotemporal characterization

**Spatially Encoded Arrangement  
for Temporal Analysis by  
Dispersing a Pair Of Light E-fields**



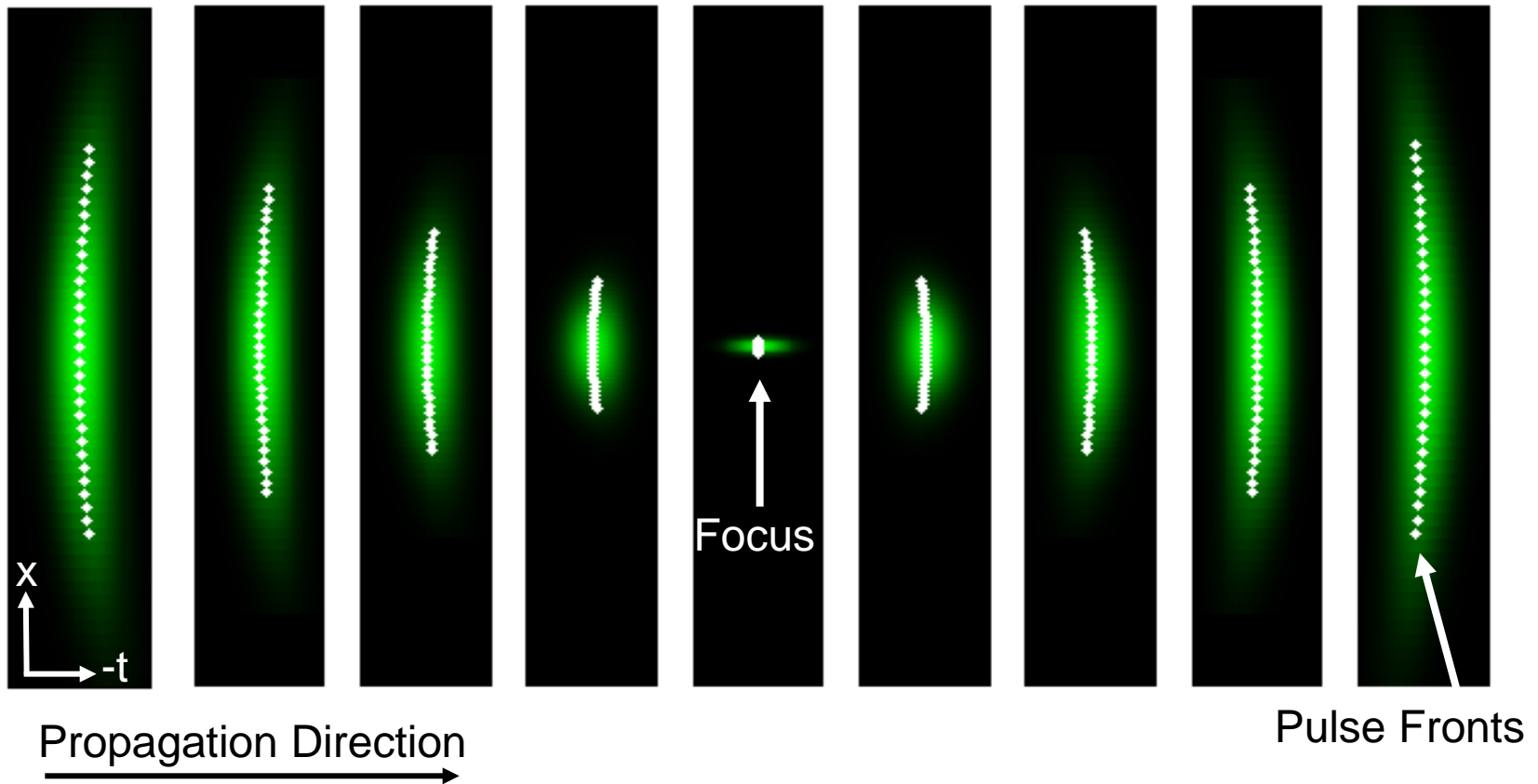
Combining spectral interferometry with Near Field Scanning Microscopy, achieves nanometer and femtosecond spatiotemporal resolutions.

P. Bowlan et. al., Opt. Express, **16**, 13663 (2008).

For a single-shot technique see: P. Gabolde et. al., Opt. Express, **14**, 11460 (2006).

# An Ideal focused ultrashort pulse

Spatiotemporal snap shots in flight of a focusing pulse ( $E(x,t)$ )



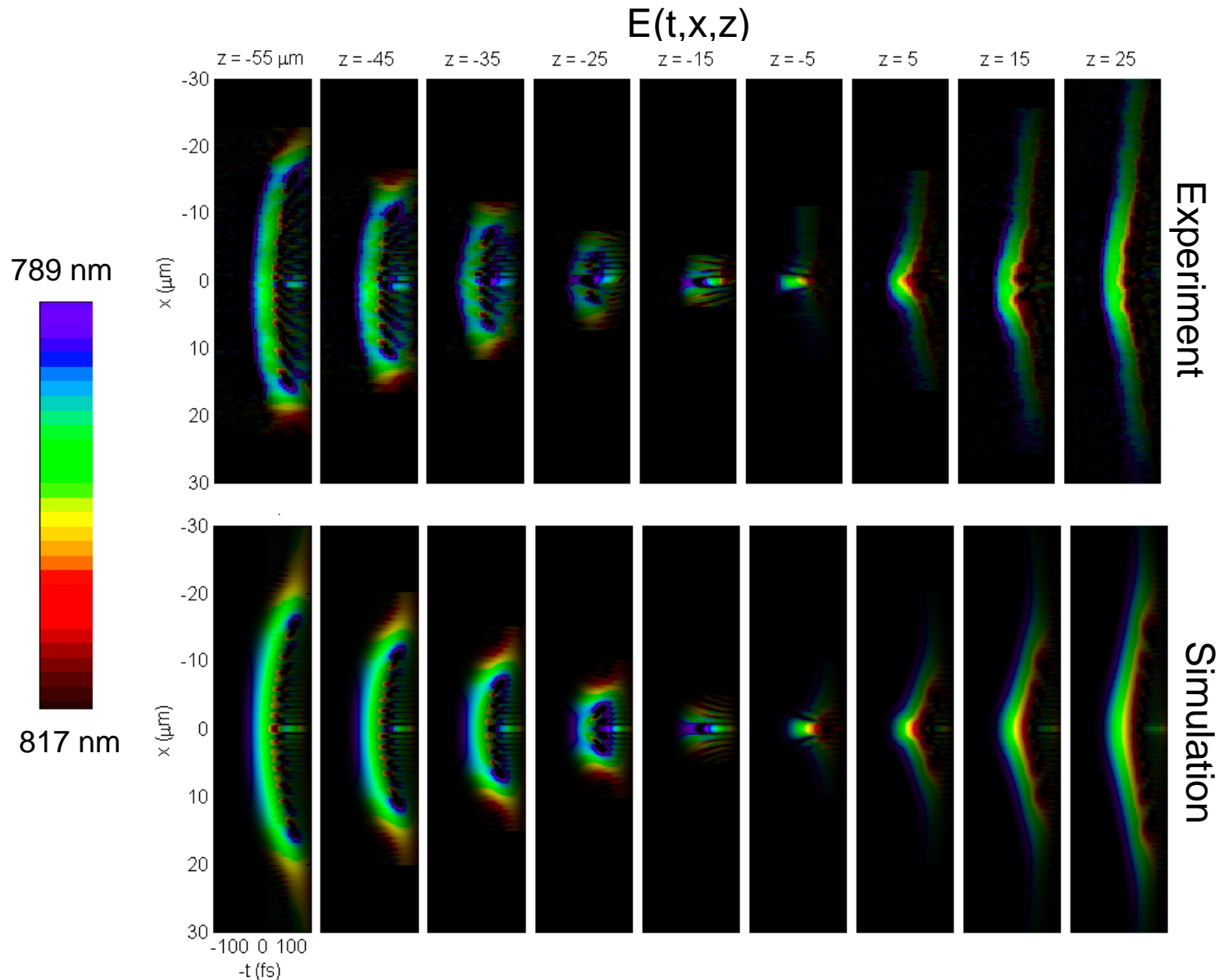
When no distortions are present the pulse's color is the same everywhere in space and time, so that the Intensity at the focus is maximal

For simulations: M. Kempe, et. al. , Phys. Rev. A **48**, 4721-4729 (1993).

Ulrike Fuchs, et. al., Opt. Express **13**, 3852-3861 (2005).

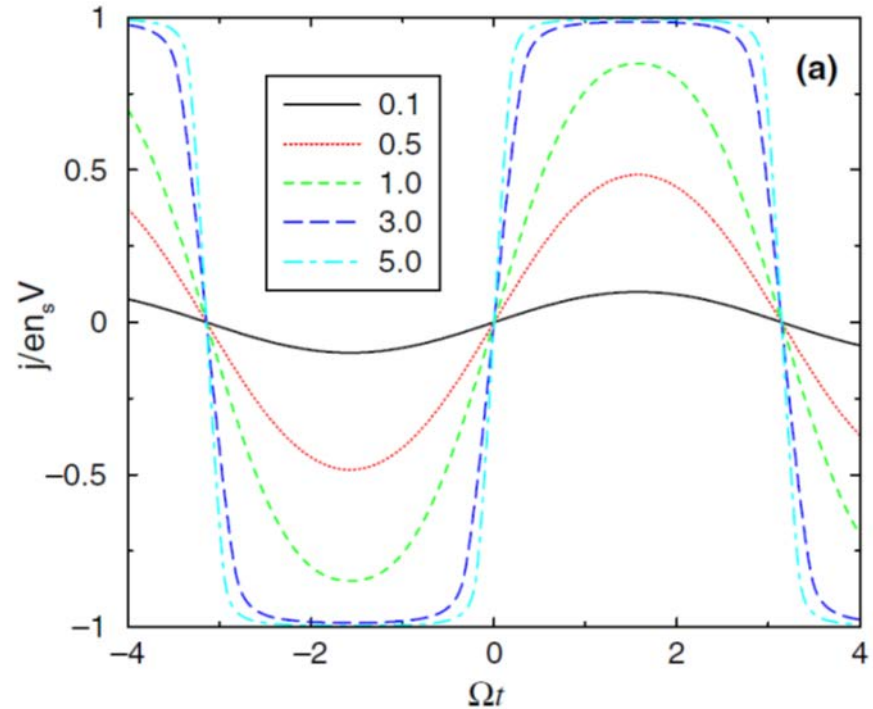
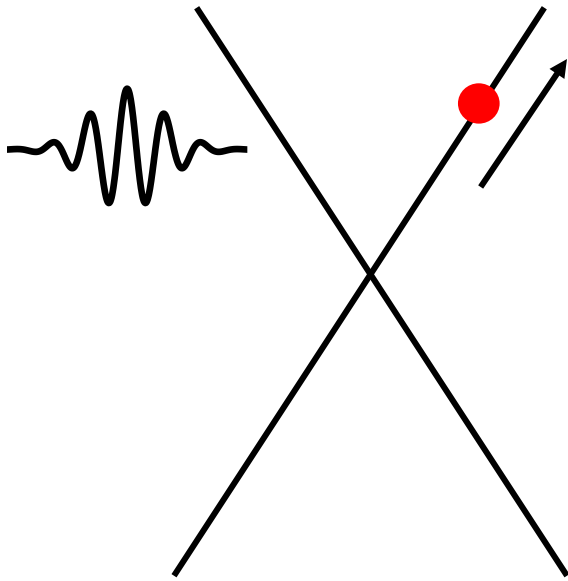


# Measured Pulse focused with an aspheric lens (NA = .4)



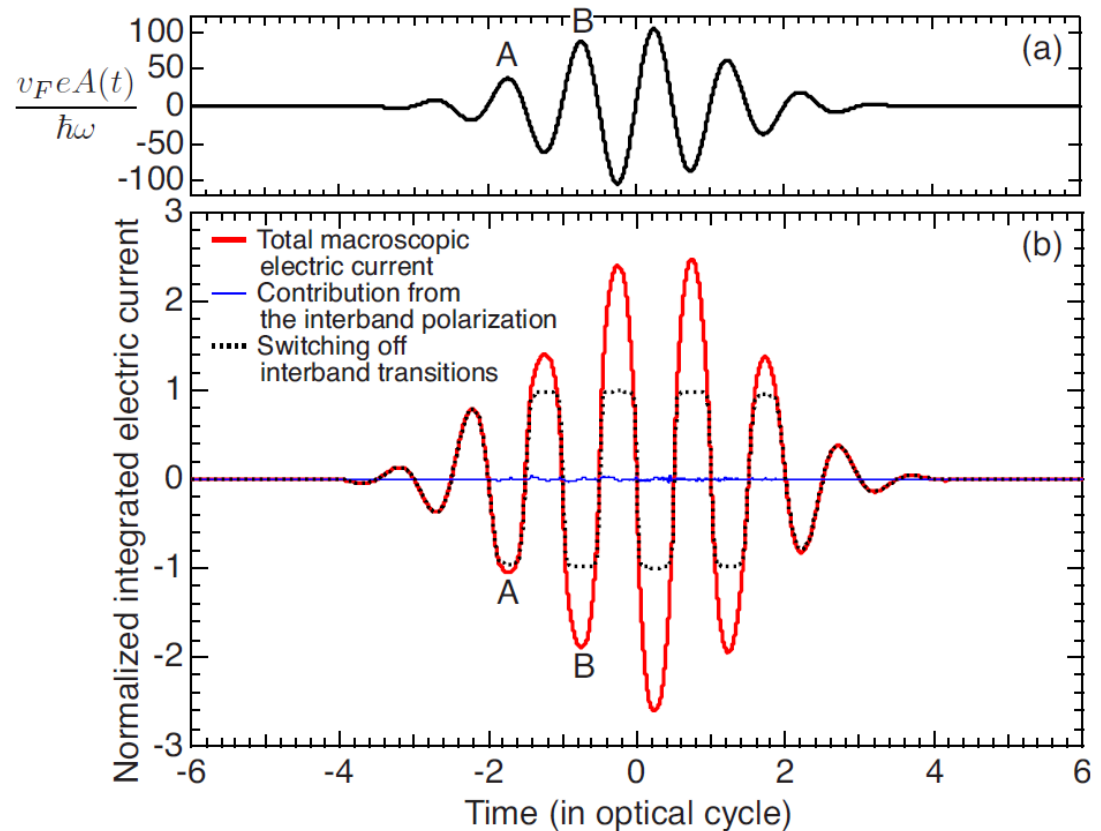
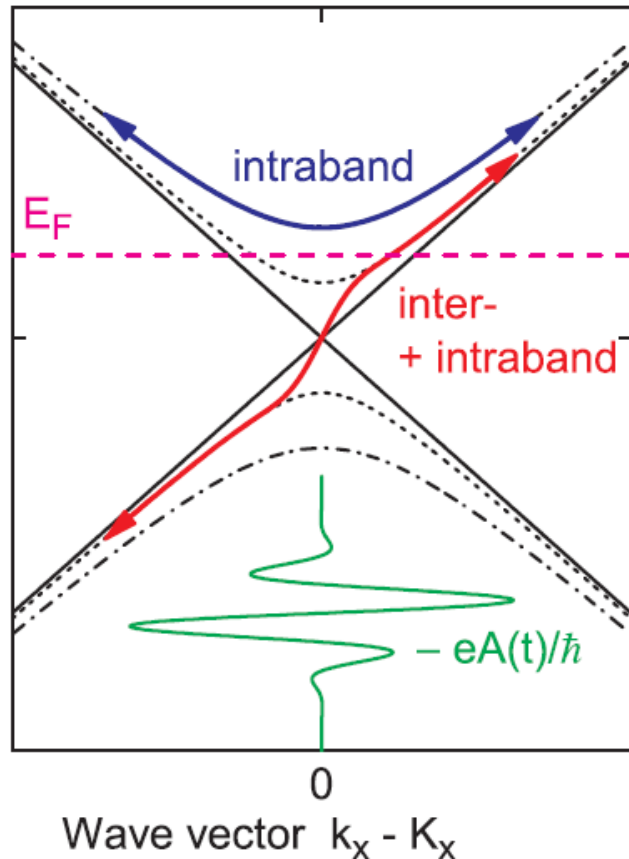
The combination of overfilling the lens, and chromatic aberrations result in an additional pulse that is ahead of the main pulse

# THz transport in graphene



Very efficient THz harmonic generation was predicted in graphene if only intra-band current is considered.

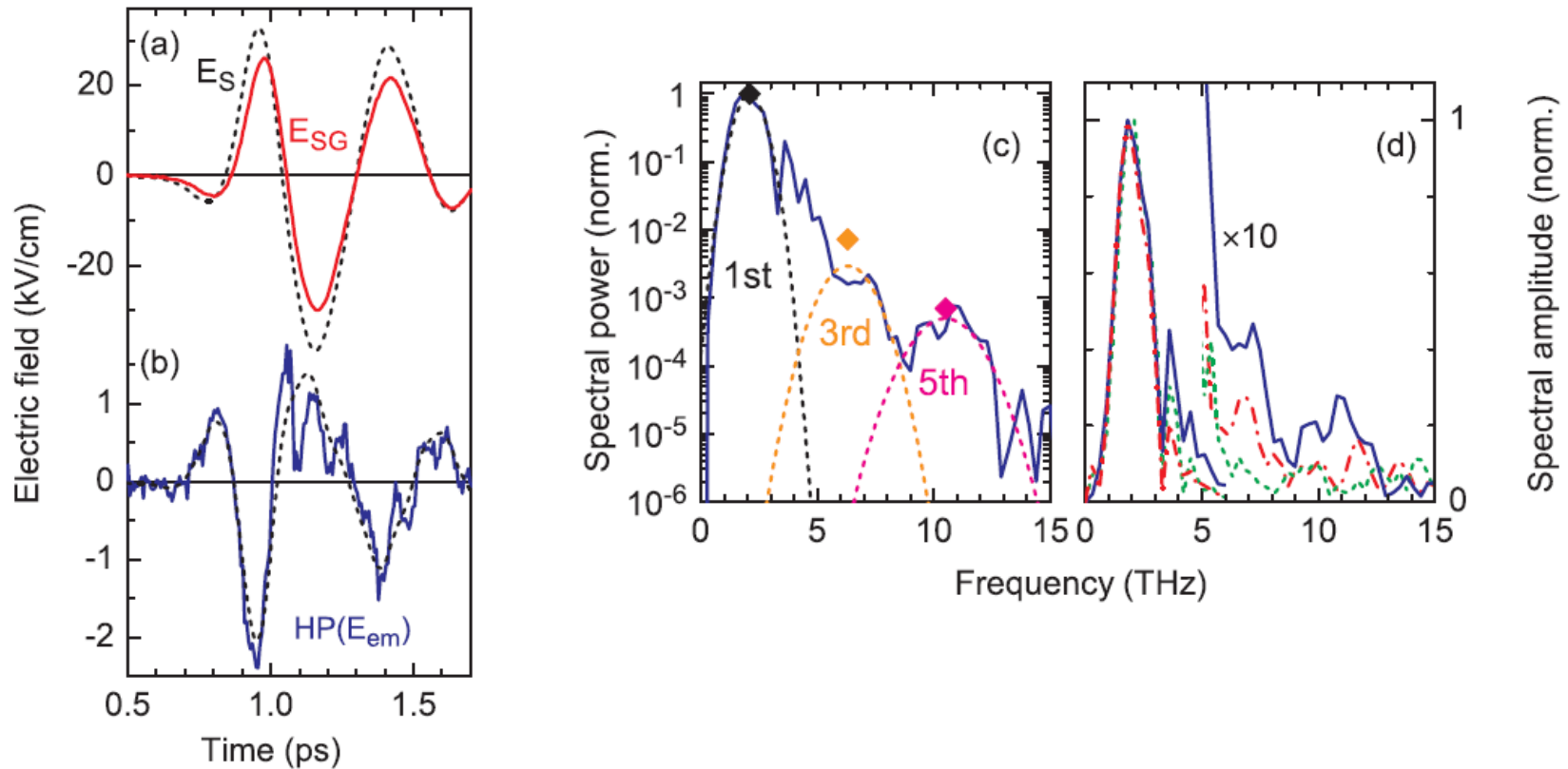
# Strong THz pulses result in simultaneous electron-hole pair generation and transport.



K. L. Ishikawa, PRB **82**, 201402(R) (2010)

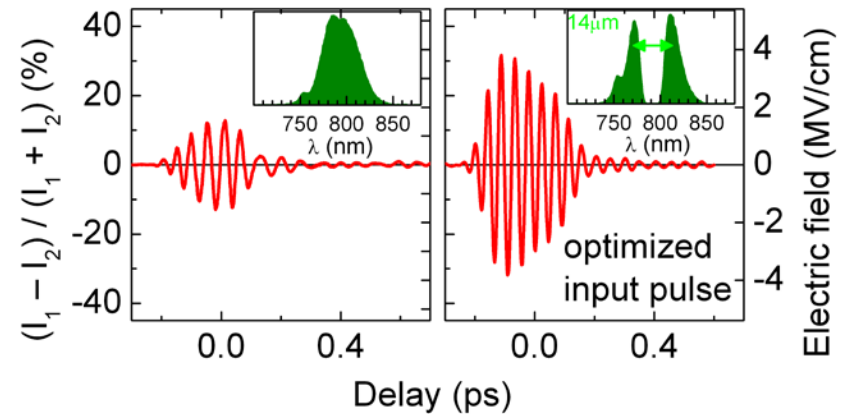
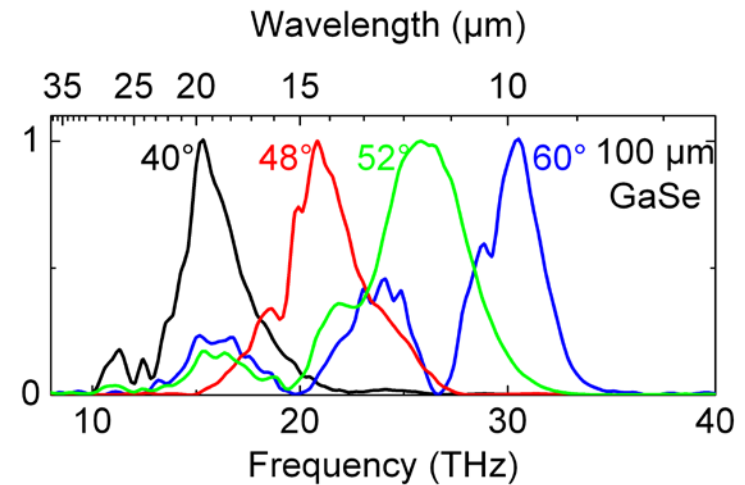
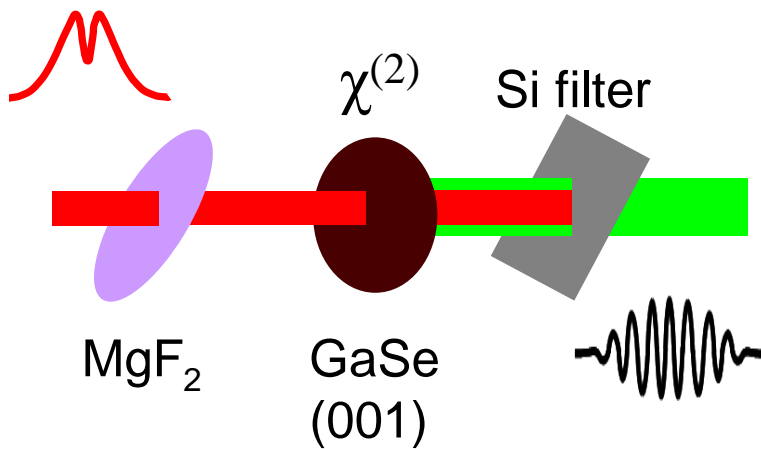
Including the interband current partially cancels out the harmonics.

# In transmission we see weak harmonics



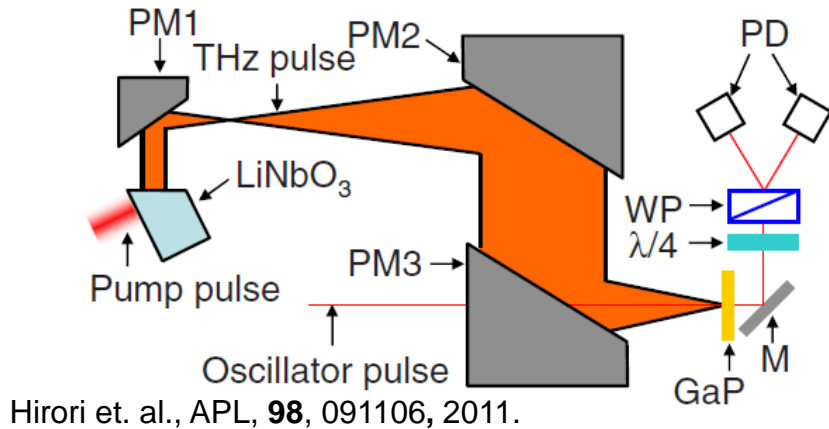
This is consistent with our radiative recombination picture. Without intraband absorption, the model does not reproduce our results.

# Mid-infrared frequencies can be generated in GaSe too.

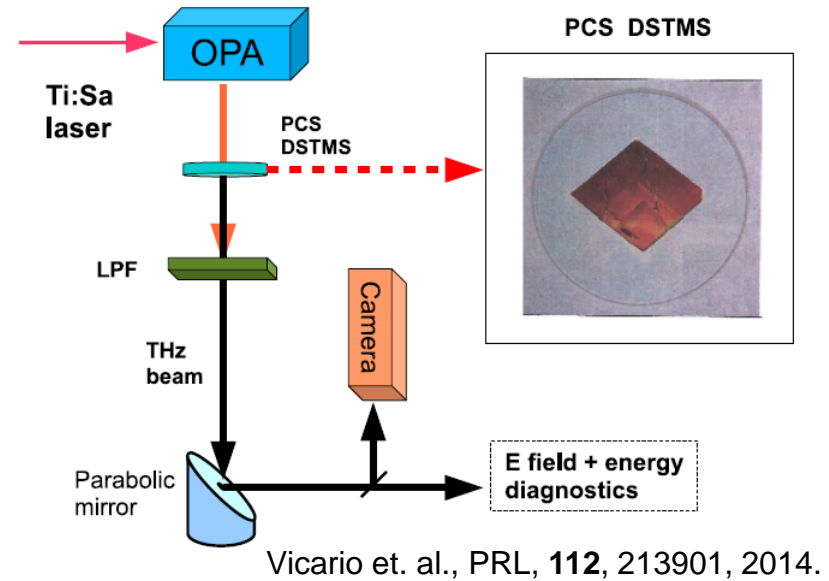


# Methods of intense THz pulse generation

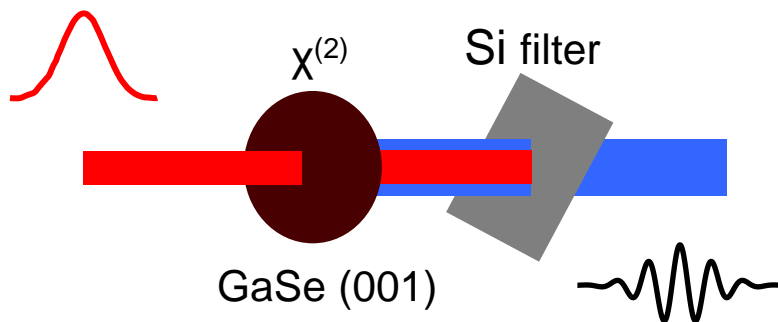
## Tilted Pulse front method in $\text{LiNbO}_3$



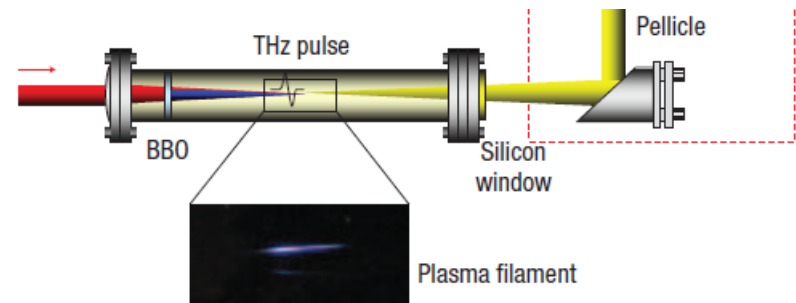
## Organic crystals



## Semi-conductor crystals

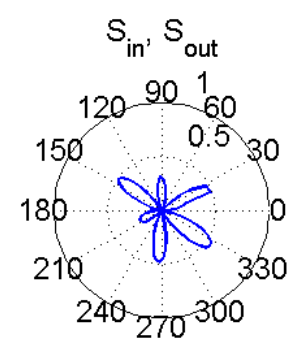
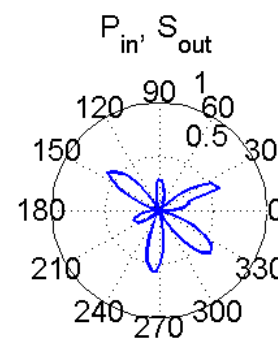
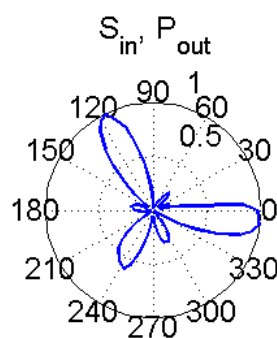
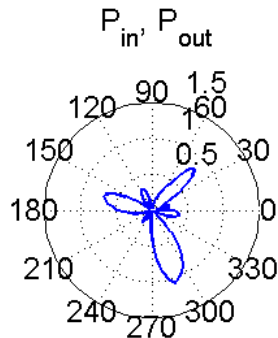
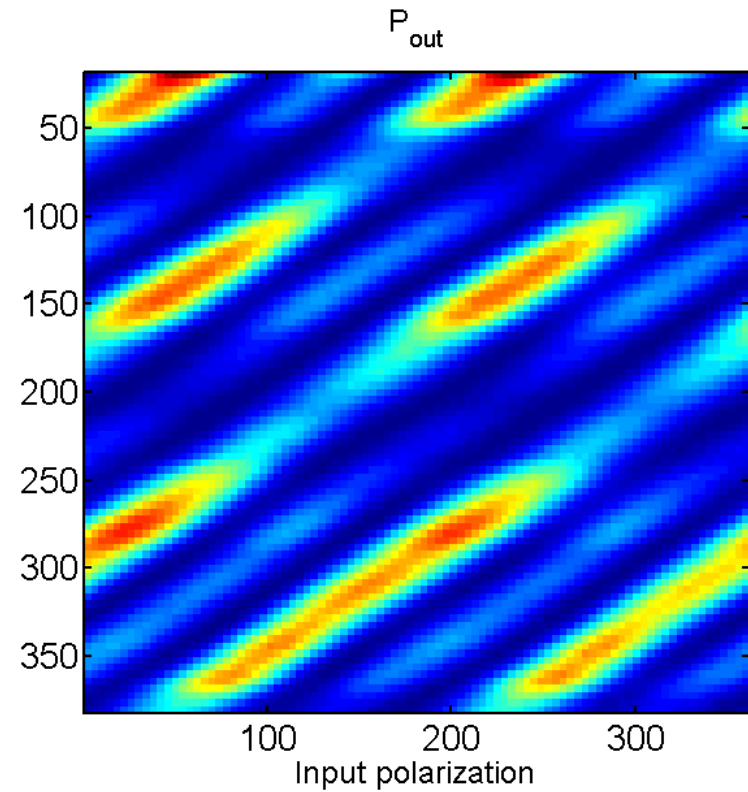
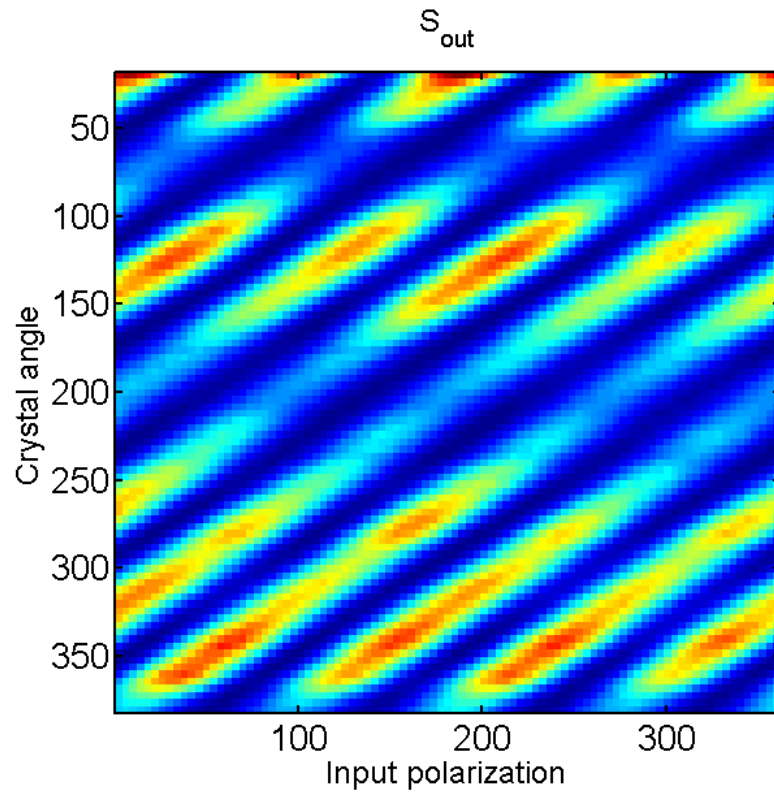


## In a Plasma



Kim et. al., Nature Photonics, **2**, 605, 2008.

# 10 nm thick Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> film



$P_{out}$  is 3.6 times larger and  $S_{out}$  is 2.2 times larger, compared to the thicker film.

## 25 nm thick Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> film

