Fundamental dynamics of bond-selective chemistry initiated by low-energy electrons

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Fundamental physical and chemical processes in EUV photoionization





### **1-D example of dissociative electron attachment**





from Krauss et al. (1973) Phys. Rev. A, 7 69

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#### Why are low energy electrons so important?

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After energy is deposited by ionizing radiation, low energy electrons damage molecules by through transient anion resonances



Huels *et al.* (2003) J. Am. Chem. Soc. **125**, 4467 Alizadeh and Sanche (2013) Chem. Rev. **112**, 5578

Efficient conversion of electronic energy into energetic reactive ionic and radical species

What are the molecular dynamics of these processes?



Haxton et al. (2007) Phys. Rev. A 57, 012710

electronic motion  $\iff$  nuclear motion

#### Specific electron energy leads to bond-specific dissociation



Dissociative electron attachment is a resonant electron-molecule interaction.

Incident electron energy determines the product species.

Excess energy goes into specific vibrational modes or fragment kinetic energy.



# Site-selectivity in a model photo-acid generator





# Interrogating reactions in momentum space



Measure each fragment ion momentum over a large volume of momentum space

All fragment ions are detected in parallel

Molecule can later be oriented in the lab frame if the axial recoil approximation holds

Van Brunt and Kieffer (1970) Phys. Rev. A 2, 1899





Electron scattering calculations to accurately predict electron attachment probability in the molecular frame

axial recoil ion angular distribution

We can clearly see when the axial recoil approximation fails

### **DEA reaction microscope**





Helmholtz coils

Negative-ion momentumimaging spectrometer

Extensive shielding to reject scattered e<sup>-</sup>

50kHz pulsed electron gun and ion extraction



# **Complex molecules in a molecular beam**

#### Heat in vacuum: 20°C to 300°C to create a dense gas sample



Part of DNA Structure



Tom Rescigno, Bill McCurdy, Dan Haxton, Ann Orel (UC Davis), Nicolas Douguet (now U. Central Florida), Cynthia Trevisan (Cal. Maritime)

Ner sc

# - e.g. Haxton *et al* PRA 84 030701 (2011)

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the University of





# Theory and computation

# Low-energy site-selectivity in DNA nucleobases





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# **Higher electron energies > 2 eV**

#### NCO<sup>-</sup> production was found to be a sequential process

Site selectivity is retained through the sequence

Momentum imaging experiments determined that most of the excess energy excites vibrational modes of the neutral product.





F. Ferreira da Silva *et al. J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom*. (2013) 24:1787 S. Denifl *et al. Chem Phys Chem* (2008), 9, 1387;



#### Uracil and thymine: H<sup>-</sup> fragment





6 eV e-attachment, narrow-high kinetic energy release

Excited anion is repulsive along the 2-body dissociation coordinate

Thymine H<sup>-</sup> momentum image is almost identical



Y. Kawarai, Th. Weber, Y. Azuma, C. Winstead, V. McKoy, A. Belkacem, D. S. Slaughter, *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* (2014) 5 3854

#### Uracil: C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>-</sup> fragment



### **Potential energy surfaces for uracil**



S. Matsika (Temple U.) found conical intersections between the resonance anion potential energy surface.

CO elimination from the ring, followed by H elimination.



#### Site selectivity in formic acid: relative ion yields



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![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Laboratory-frame angular distributions

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_6.jpeg)

Anion fragment momentum imaging reveals chemical dynamics initiated by low energy electrons.

This has direct relevance to chemical reactions occurring as ionizing radiation deposits energy in matter.

The nucleobases uracil and thymine dissociate by H- or CO+H elimination with high kinetic energy release, in addition to the well-known unimolecular decay processes.

Site-specific dissociation occurs via two resonances in formic acid, and each resonance has a different momentum distribution.

Two product channels from the lower resonance implies a conical intersection between the anion potential energy surfaces. Investigation of the nonadiabatic dynamics and dissociation mechanisms is ongoing.

![](_page_21_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_12.jpeg)

# Acknowledgements

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_4.jpeg)

Hidehito Adaniya Cynthia Trevisan Ali Belkacem Tom Rescigno Bill McCurdy

Dan Haxton

Thorsten Weber

Timur Osipov

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![](_page_22_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_11.jpeg)

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![](_page_23_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Extra slides

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#### Uracil

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Other breakup channels open from ~5 eV (Feshbach resonances)

![](_page_24_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_4.jpeg)

Y. Kawarai, Th. Weber, Y. Azuma, C. Winstead, V. McKoy, A. Belkacem, D. S. Slaughter, *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* (2014) 5 3854

#### **Model photo-acid generators**

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_2.jpeg)

### **Phenyl triflate**

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_3.jpeg)

## **Tolyl triflate**

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### **Resonance shift**

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_2.jpeg)