

# Chemical dynamics of organic disulfides probed via ultrafast X-ray spectroscopy

**Nils Huse**

**Condensed Phase Dynamics Group**

**Institute for Nanostructure & Solid State Physics**

**Physics Department, University of Hamburg**

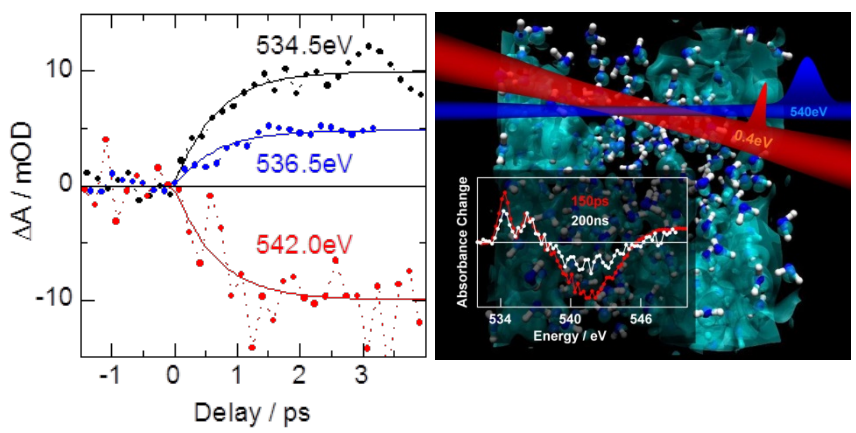


*UK XFEL workshop, Newcastle 2019*

*11. December 2019*

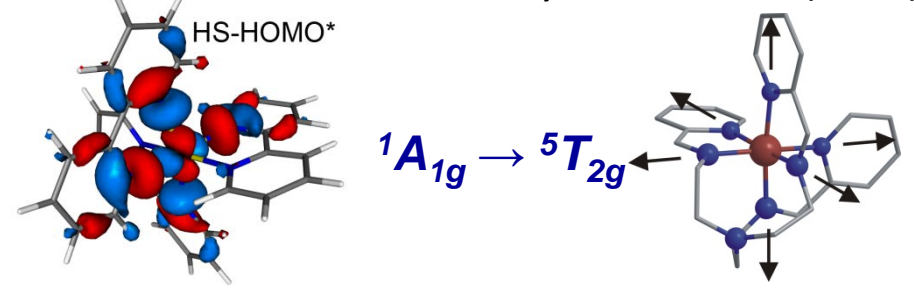


# Transient X-ray Spectroscopy of Molecules

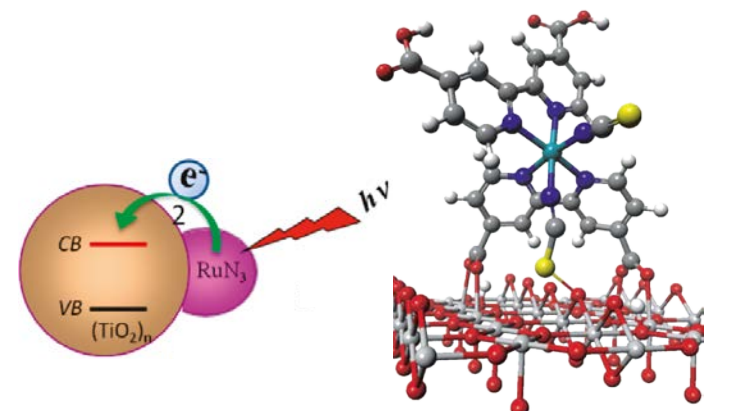
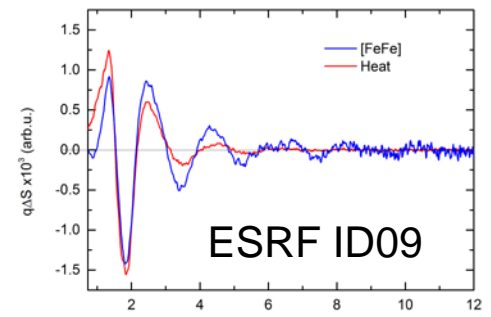
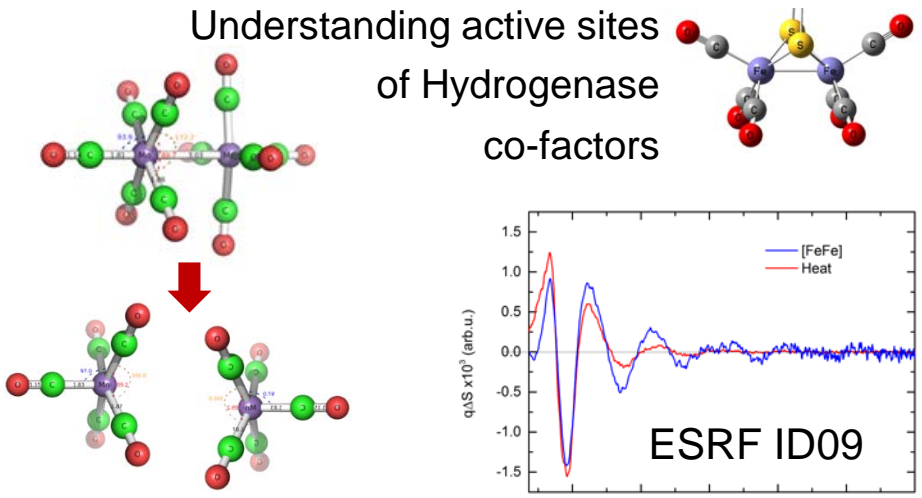


Huse et al. *PCCP* **11**, 3951 ('09)  
 Wen et al. *JCP* **131**, 234505 ('09)

Huse et al. *JACS* **132**, 6809 (2010)  
 Huse et al. *JPCL* **2**, 880 (2011)  
 Cho et al. *Faraday Discuss* **157** (2012)  
 Hong et al. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **48**, 2957 (2015)  
 Van Kuiken et al *JPCL* **7**, 465 (2016)  
 Fondell et al. *Struct. Dyn.* **4**, 054902 (2017)



Understanding active sites  
 of Hydrogenase  
 co-factors



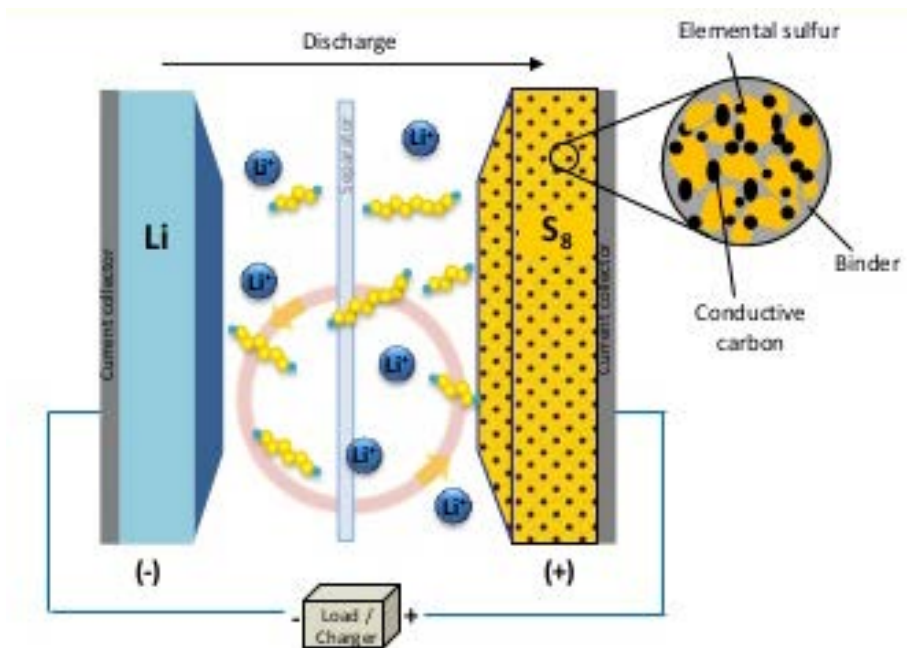
Van Kuiken et al *JPCL* **3**, 1695 (2012)  
 Van Kuiken et al *JPCA* **117**, 4444 (2013)  
 Gilbert et al. *PCCP* **15** (2013)  
 Siefert et al *JPCL* **5**, 2735 (2014)

Cho et al. *IC* **55**, 5895 (2016) & Ma et al. In preparation  
 Cordones et al. *Nat. Comm.* **9**, 1989 (2018)

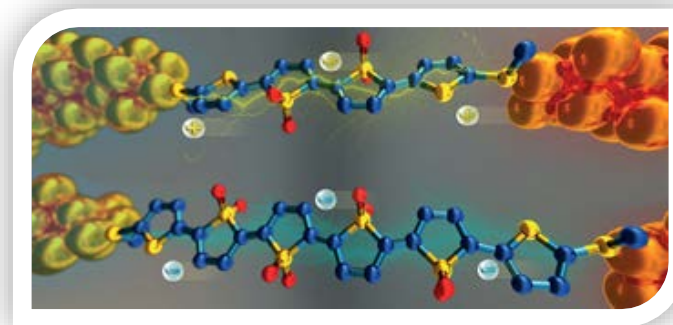
# Motivation

Sulfur has high significance in materials & chemical sciences

Polymers, nanoparticles, battery material, molecular electronic devices



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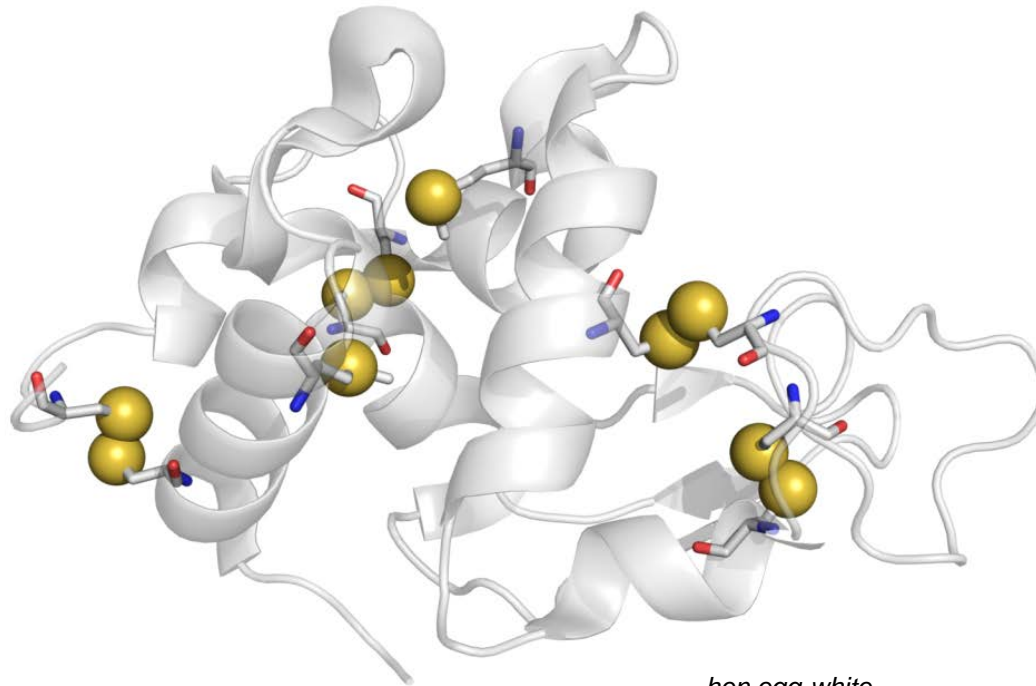
Dell et al., *Nature Chemistry* **2015**, 7, 209–214



David et al., *Scientific Reports* **2015**, 5, 9792

High biological relevance

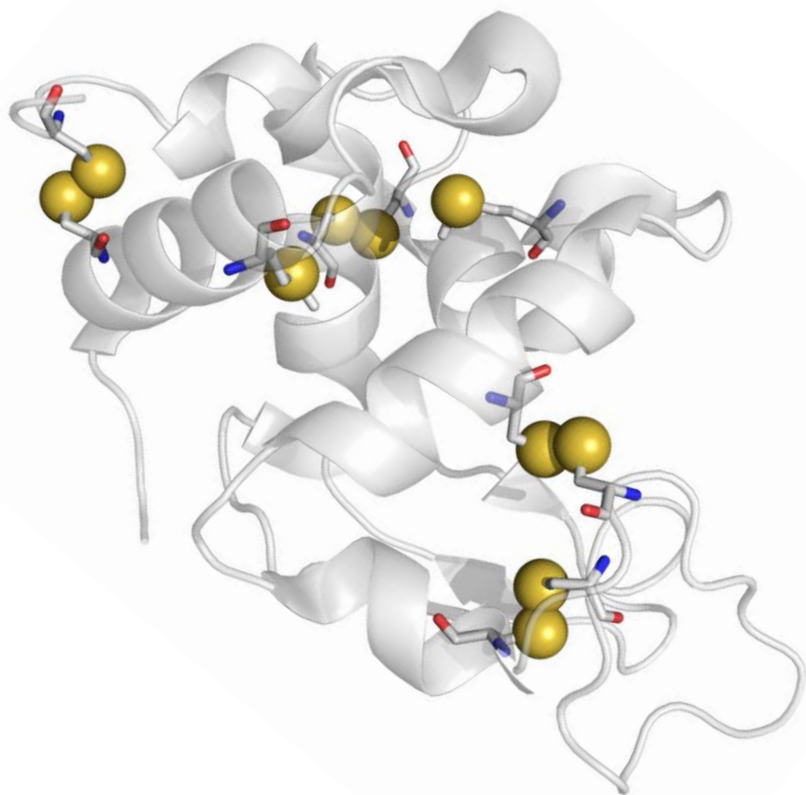
Thiol groups, thiolates and disulfide bridges in proteins



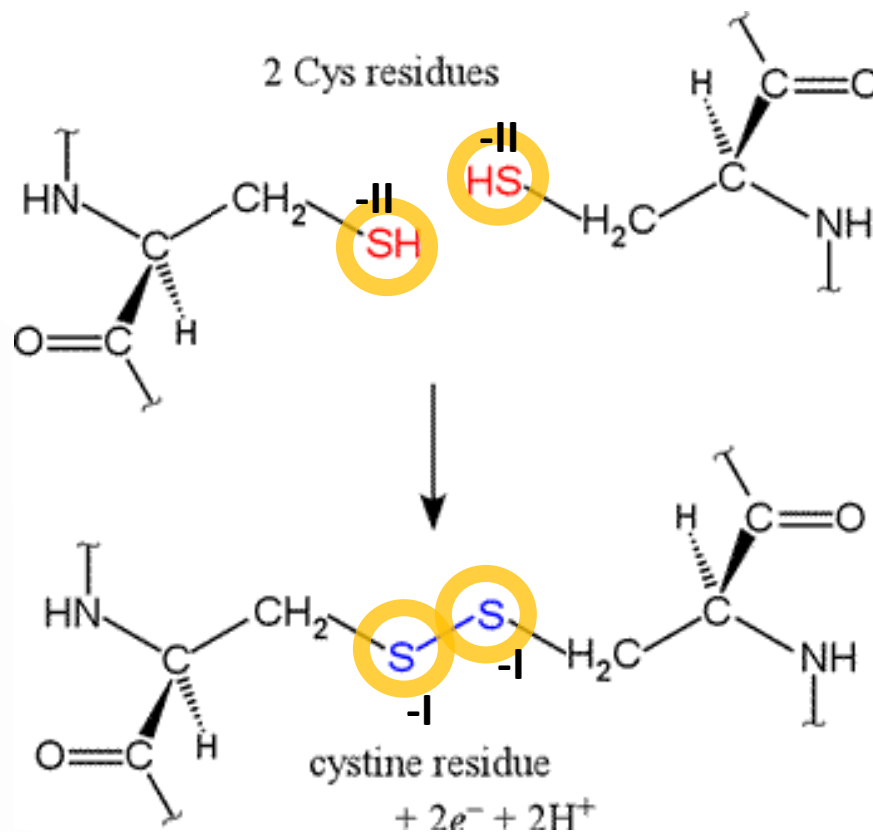
*hen egg-white  
lysozyme*

# The Thiol-Group

**Tertiary structure element:**



**Disulfide formation:**

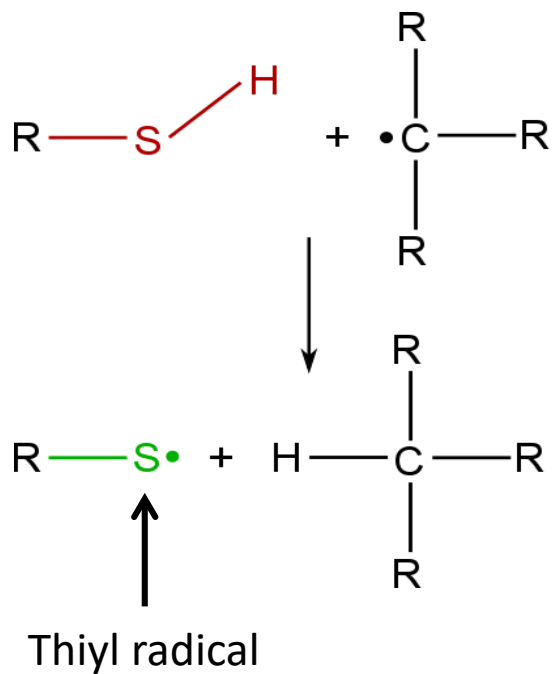


Schöneich. *Methods Enzymol.*, **1995**, 251, 45.

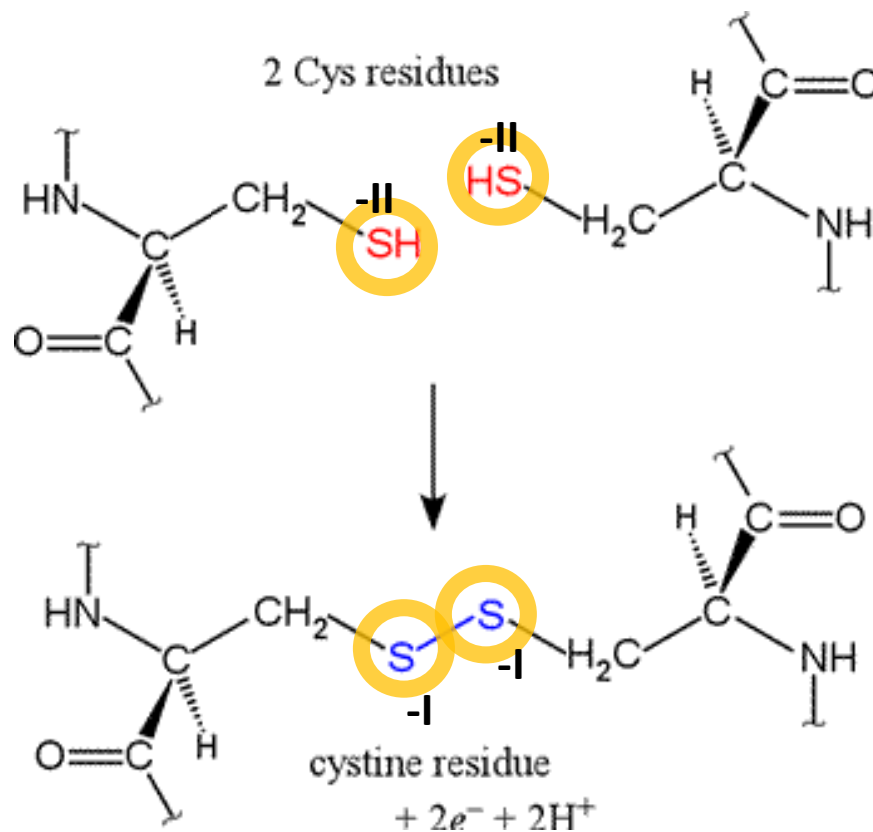
[http://biology-forums.com/definitions/index.php/Disulfide\\_bond](http://biology-forums.com/definitions/index.php/Disulfide_bond)

# The Thiol-Group

## Radical repair reaction:



## Disulfide formation:



## Aromatic thiols:

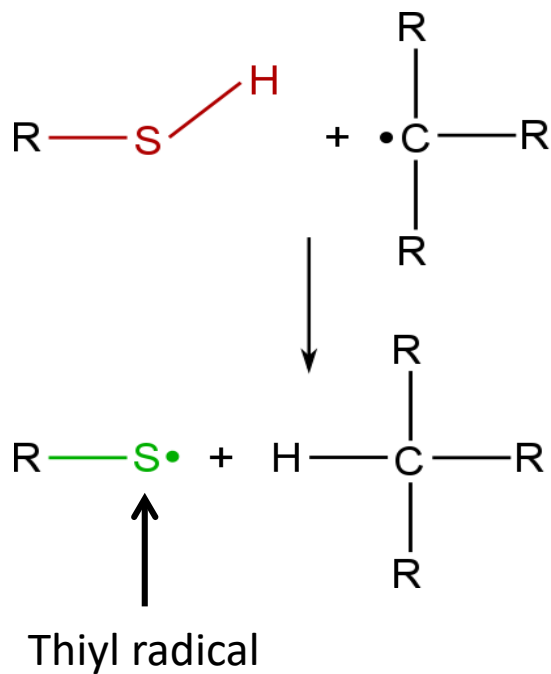
- Higher nucleophilicity
- Higher reactivity towards disulfides
- Thiophenol increases protein folding/unfolding rates

Schöneich. *Methods Enzymol.*, **1995**, 251, 45.

[http://biology-forums.com/definitions/index.php/Disulfide\\_bond](http://biology-forums.com/definitions/index.php/Disulfide_bond)

# The Thiol-Group

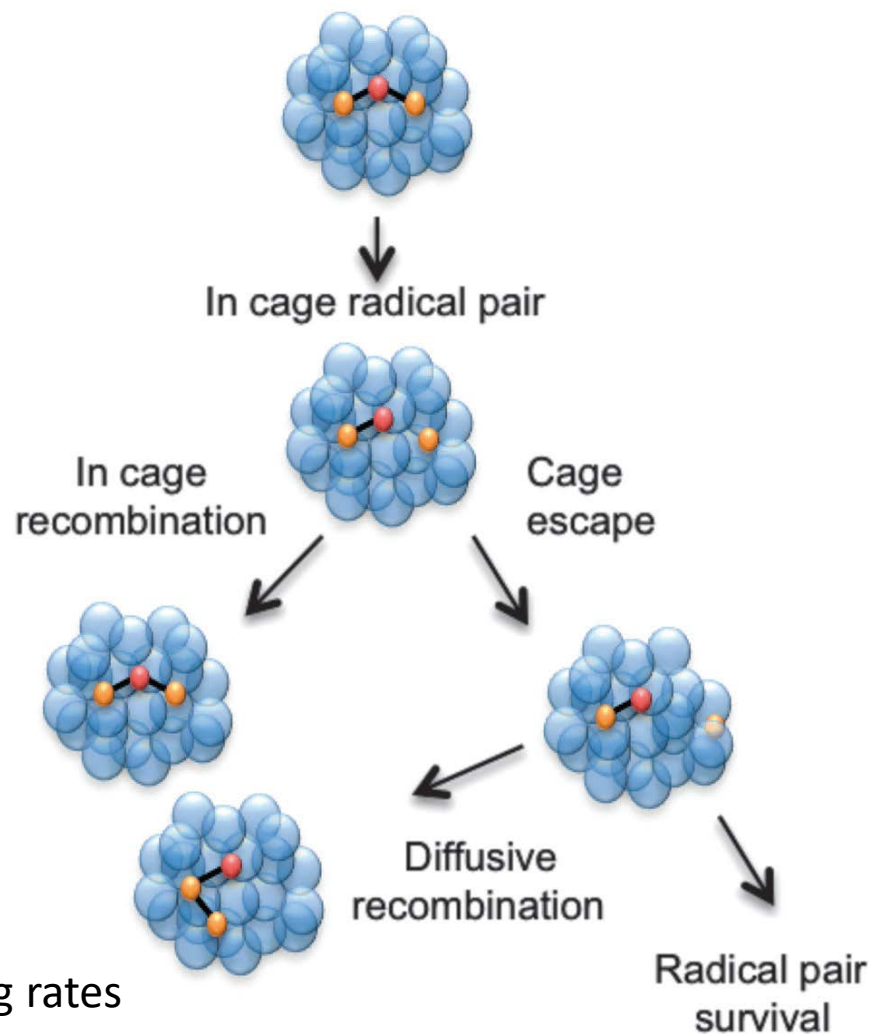
## Radical repair reaction:



## Aromatic thiols:

- Higher nucleophilicity
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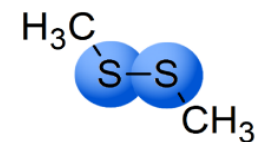
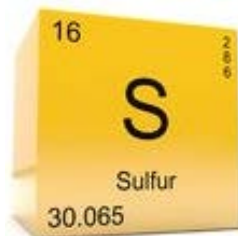
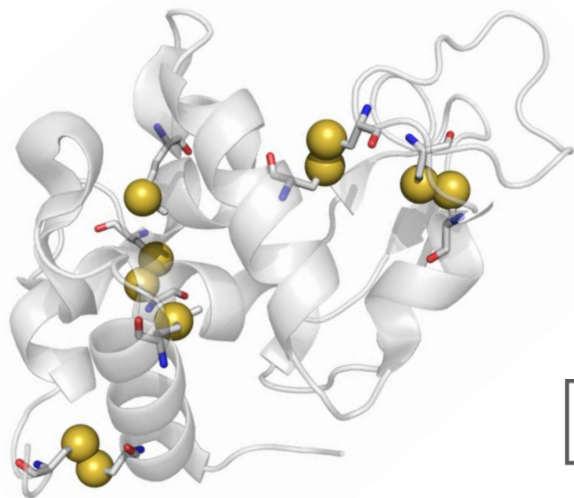
## The role of solvent cages:



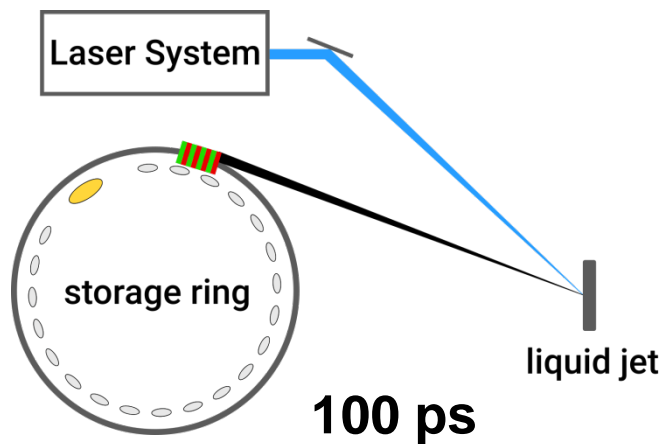
## Disulfide Chemistry in Solution:

*how does a sulfur-sulfur bond in solvated organic molecules break?*

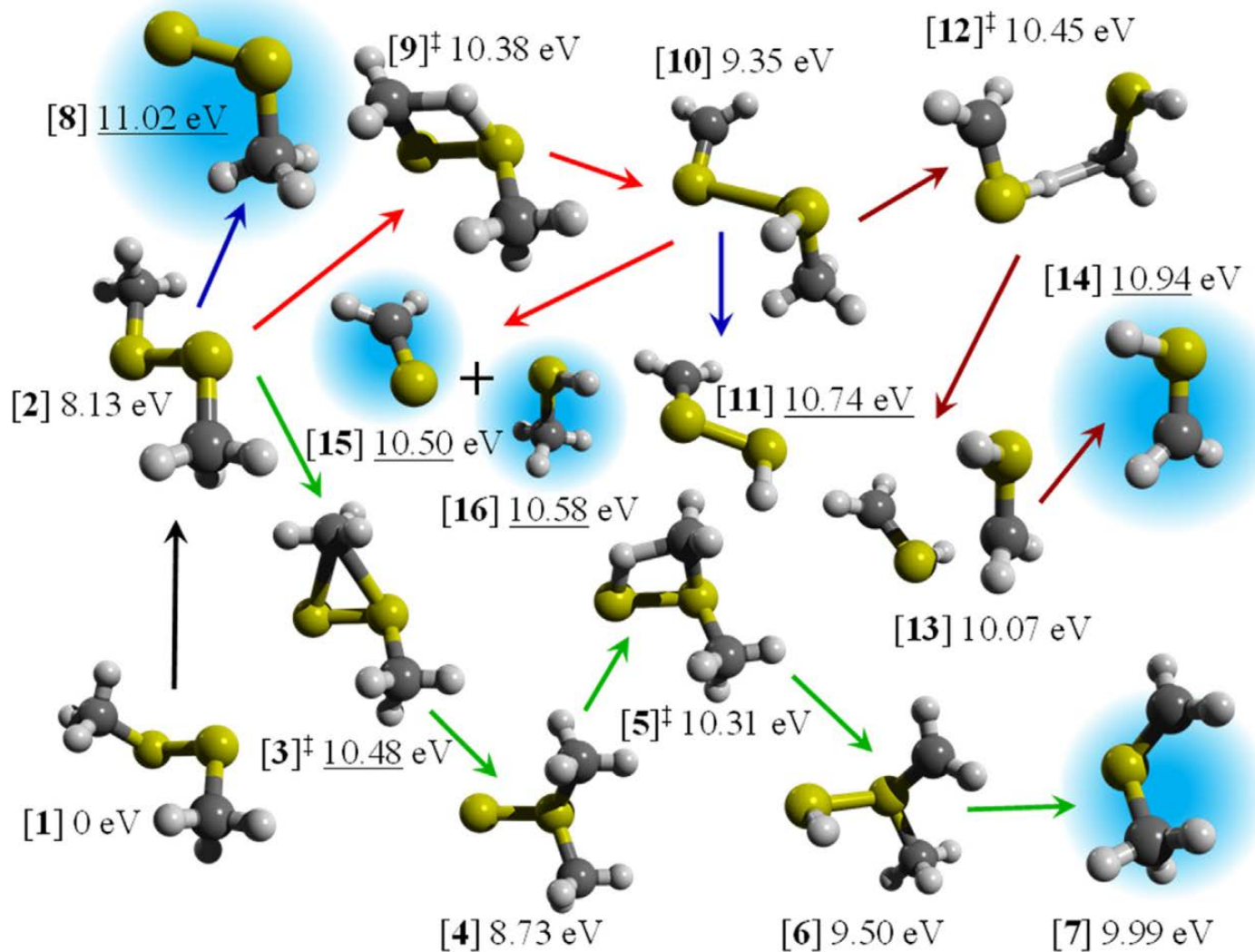




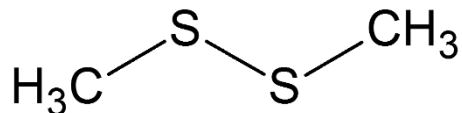
'DMDS'



# Energetics of DMDS variants

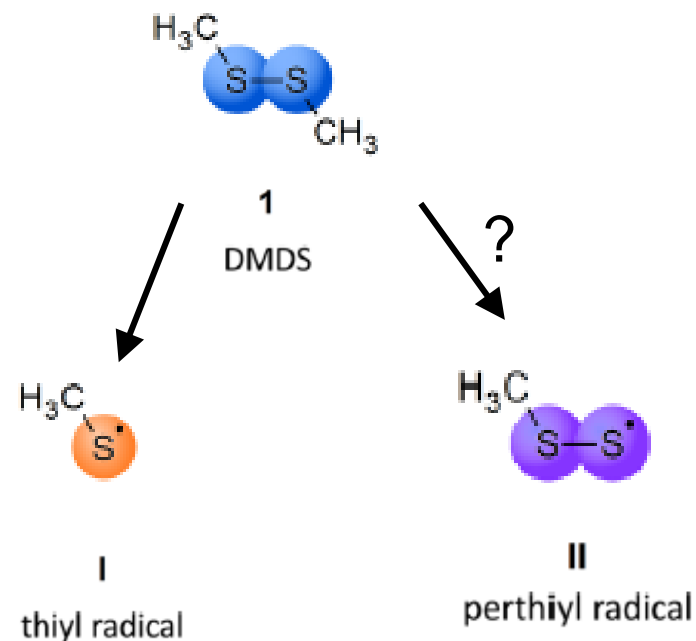
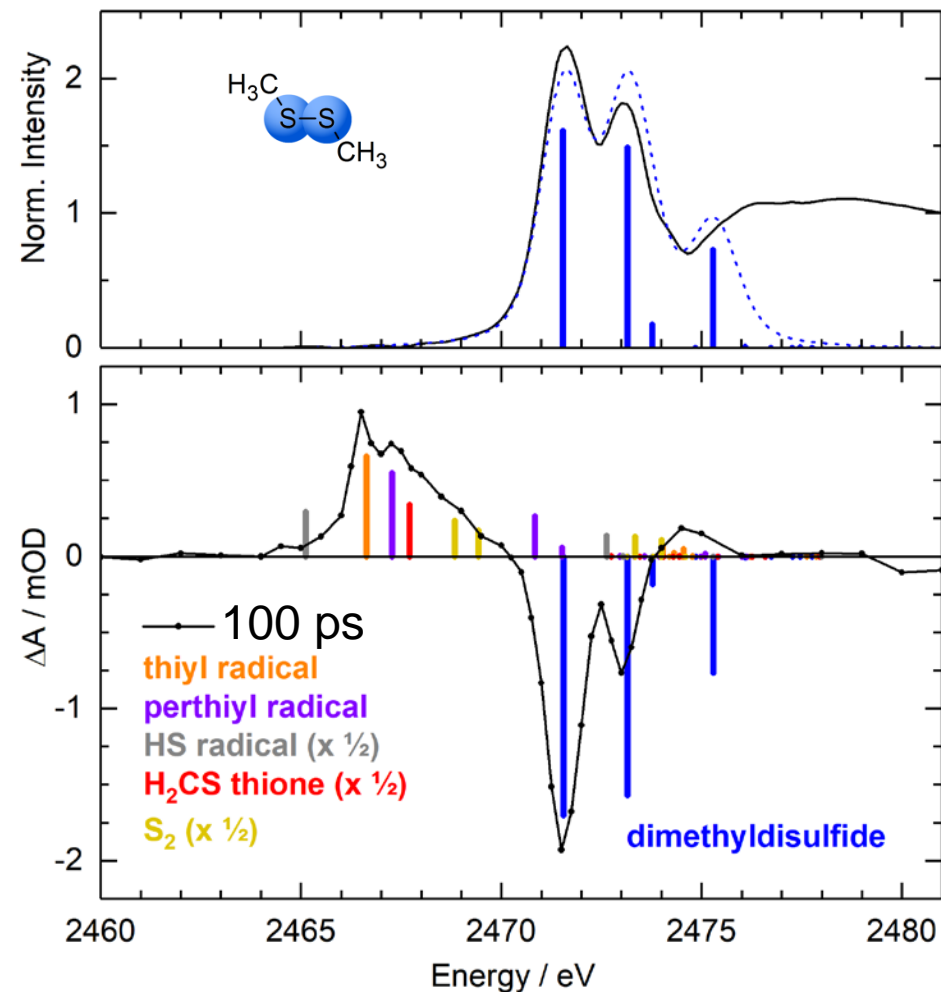


# Sulfur-1s Spectroscopy of Dimethyldisulfide

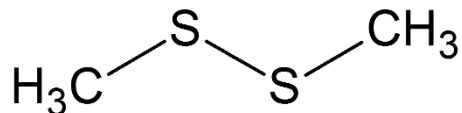


*Smallest stable Disulfide molecule*

- *Found in atmospheric and interstellar chemistry*
- *Contains basic photochemistry of disulfides*
- *Complex reaction pathways reported in many time-resolved studies*

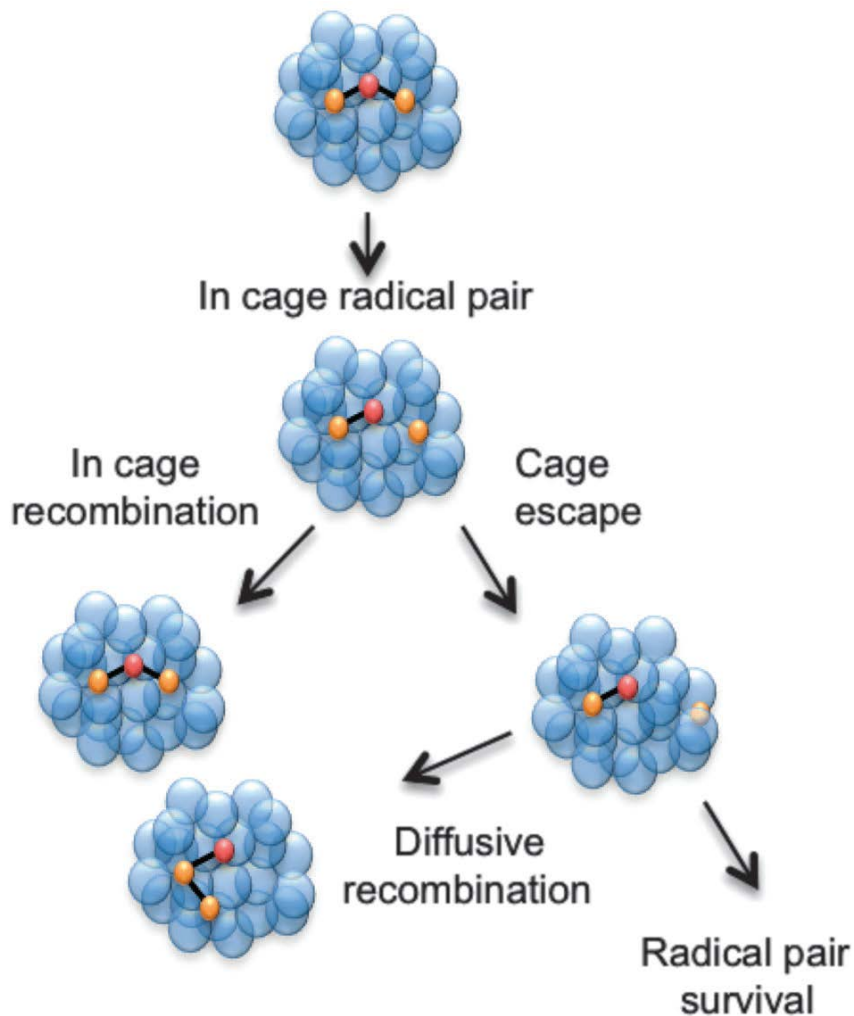
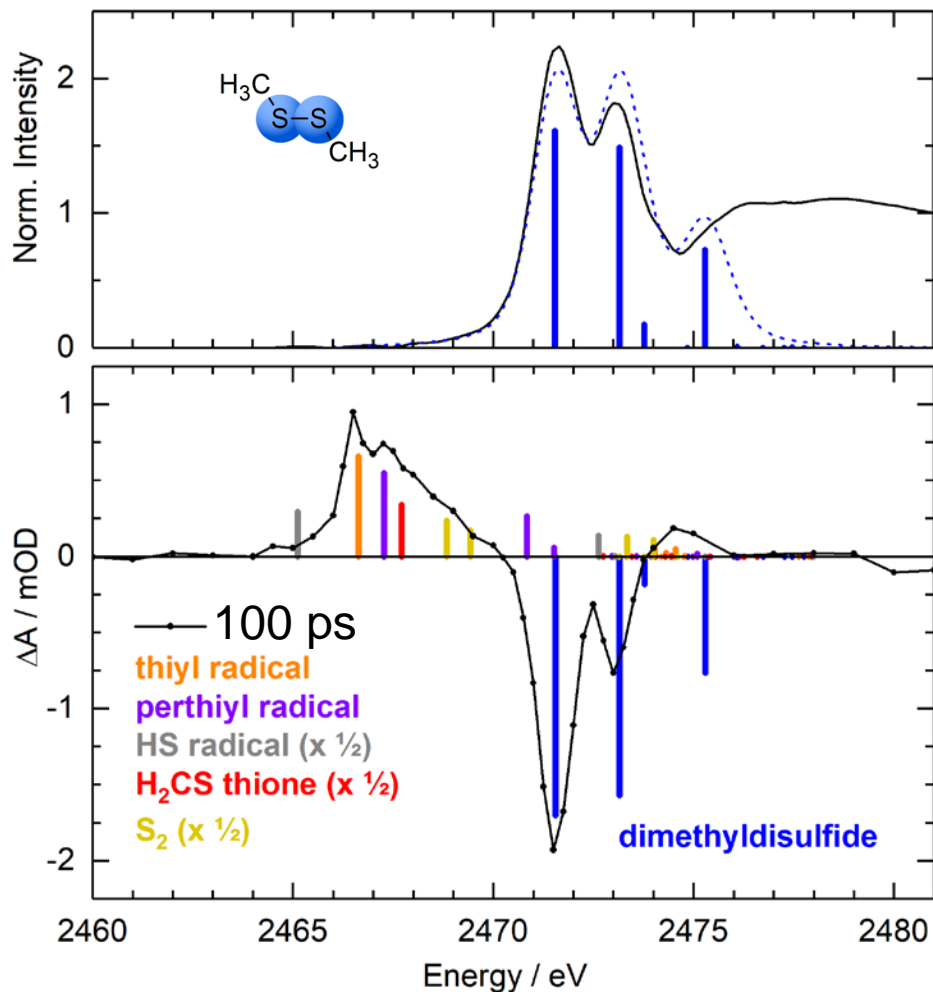


# Sulfur-1s Spectroscopy of Dimethyldisulfide

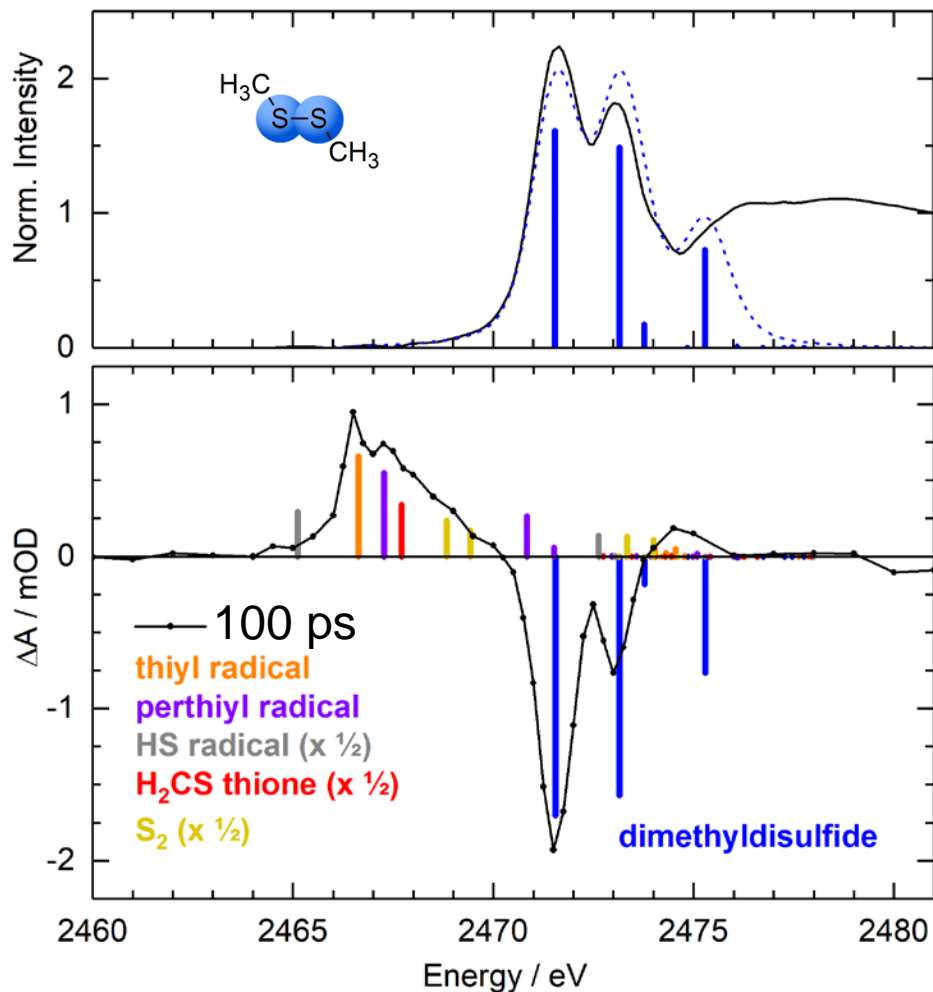
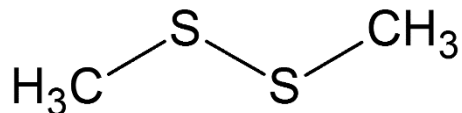


*Smallest stable Disulfide molecule*

- Solvent cage effects clearly play a role in product formation & relaxation*



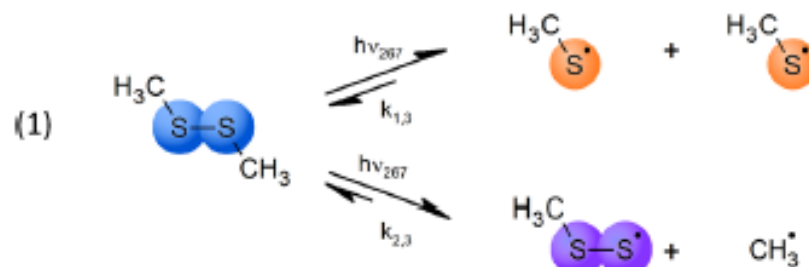
# Sulfur-1s Spectroscopy of Dimethyldisulfide



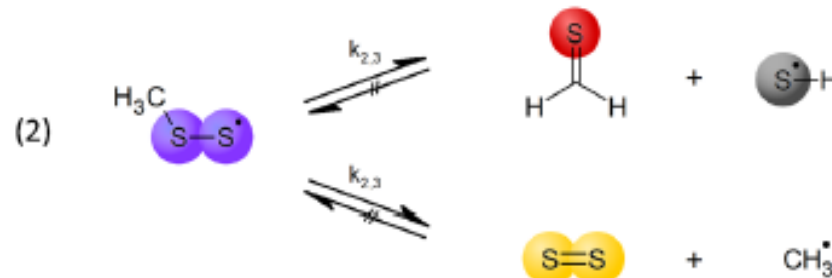
*Smallest stable Disulfide molecule*

- *Solvent cage effects clearly play a role in product formation & relaxation*
- *Transient S<sub>2</sub> and/or thione formation?*
- *Formation of polysulfides?*

Initial photoreaction and geminate recombination:

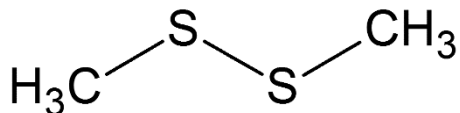


Unimolecular decay pathways of perthiyl radical:



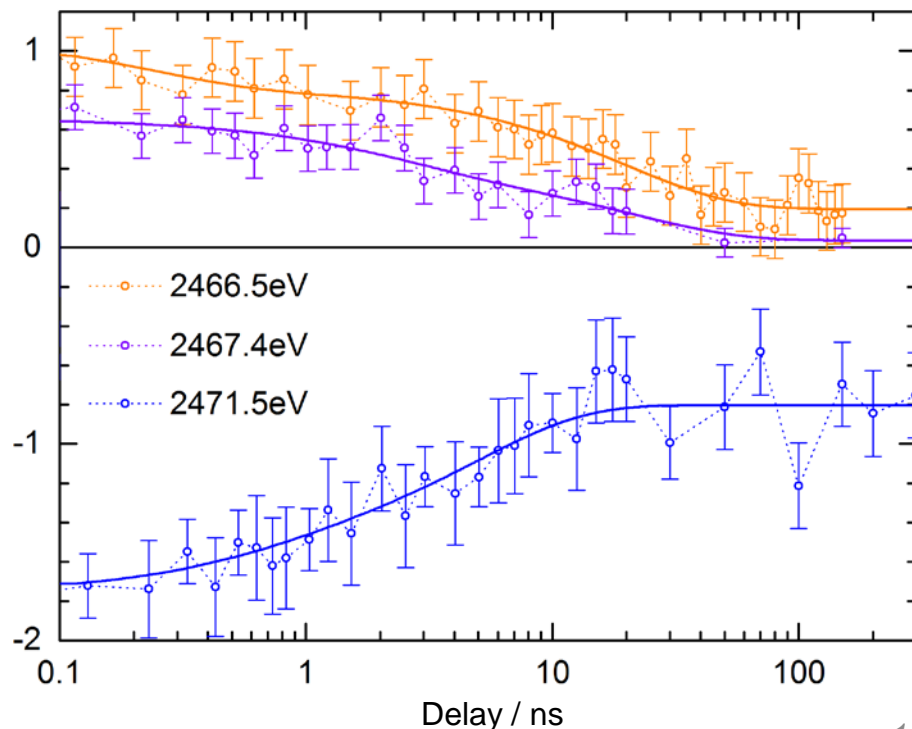
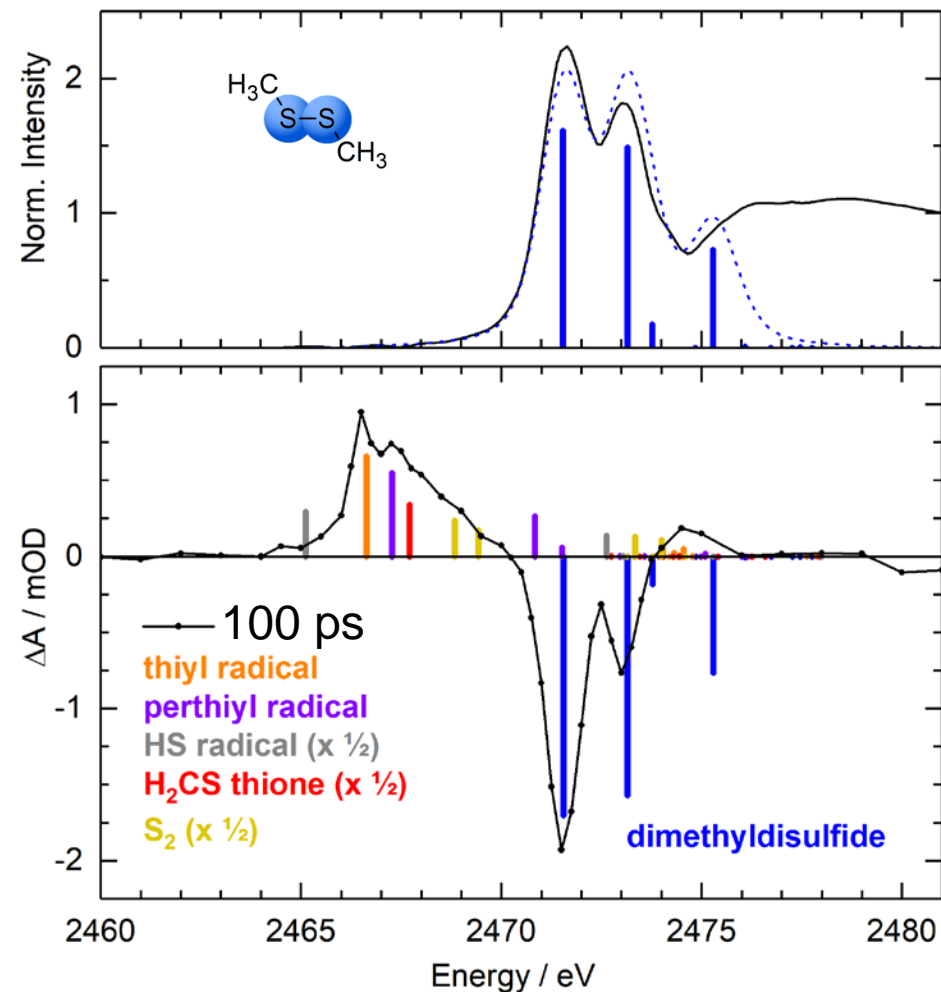
Delay / ns

# Sulfur-1s Spectroscopy of Dimethyldisulfide



*Smallest stable Disulfide molecule*

- *Found in atmospheric and interstellar chemistry*
- *Contains basic photochemistry of disulfides*
- *Complex reaction pathways reported in many time-resolved publications*



## Tracing the 267 nm-Induced Radical Formation in Dimethyl Disulfide Using Time-Resolved X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

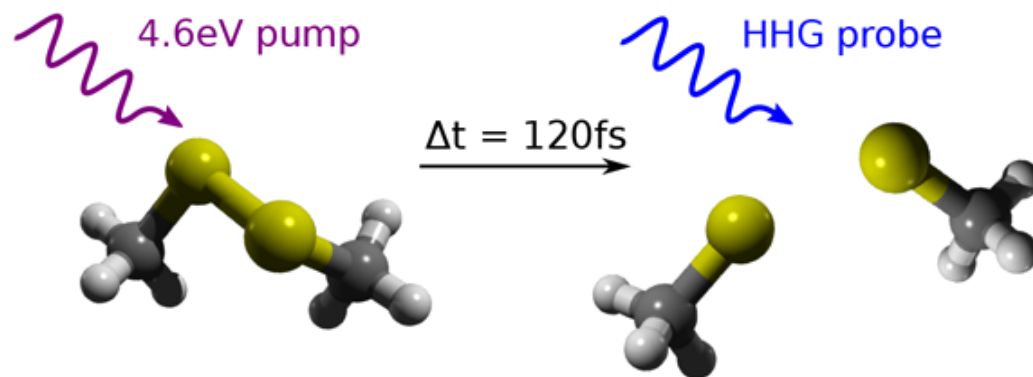
Kirsten Schnorr,<sup>\*,†,‡,ID</sup> Aditi Bhattacharjee,<sup>†,‡</sup> Katherine J. Oosterbaan,<sup>†,‡,ID</sup> Mickaël G. Delcey,<sup>†,‡</sup>  
Zheyue Yang,<sup>†,‡,ID</sup> Tian Xue,<sup>†,‡</sup> Andrew R. Attar,<sup>†,‡</sup> Adam S. Chatterley,<sup>†,‡,ID</sup> Martin Head-Gordon,<sup>†,‡,ID</sup>  
Stephen R. Leone,<sup>†,‡,¶,ID</sup> and Oliver Gessner<sup>\*,‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, United States

<sup>‡</sup>Chemical Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720, United States

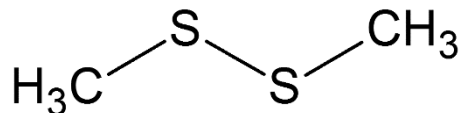
<sup>¶</sup>Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, United States

The fs-TRXAS ... show that gas-phase DMDS ... undergoes fast direct dissociation into two CH<sub>3</sub>S radicals within 120 fs



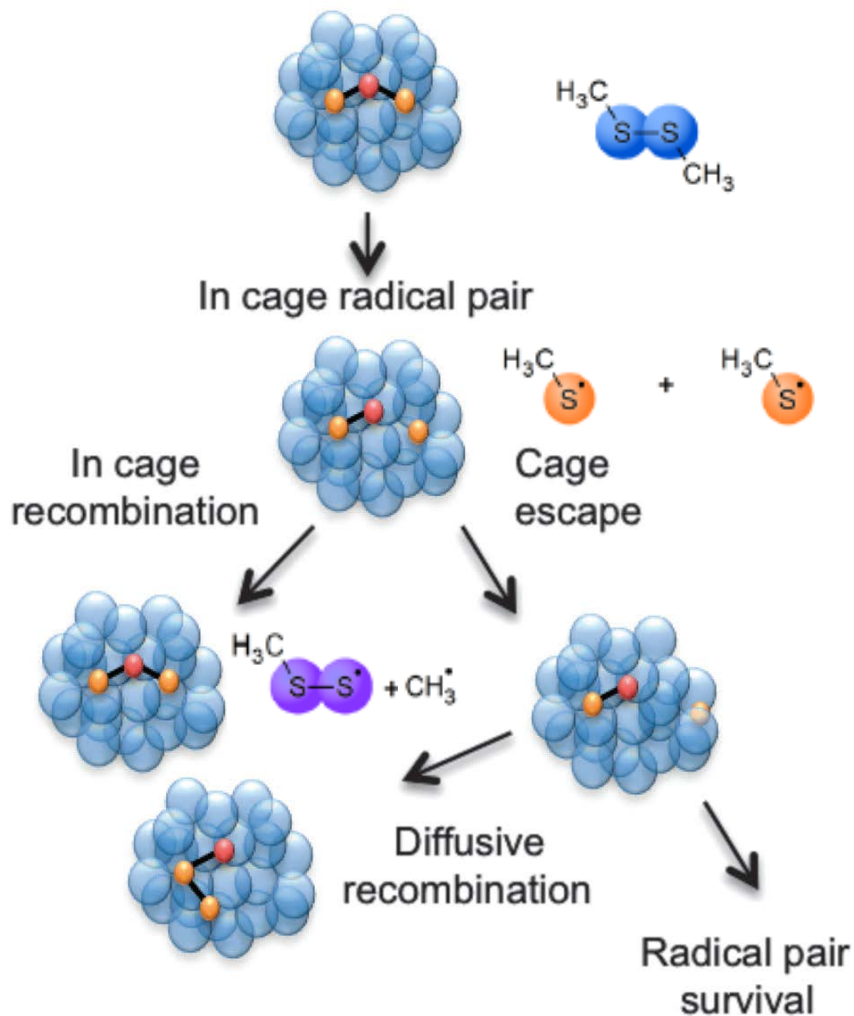
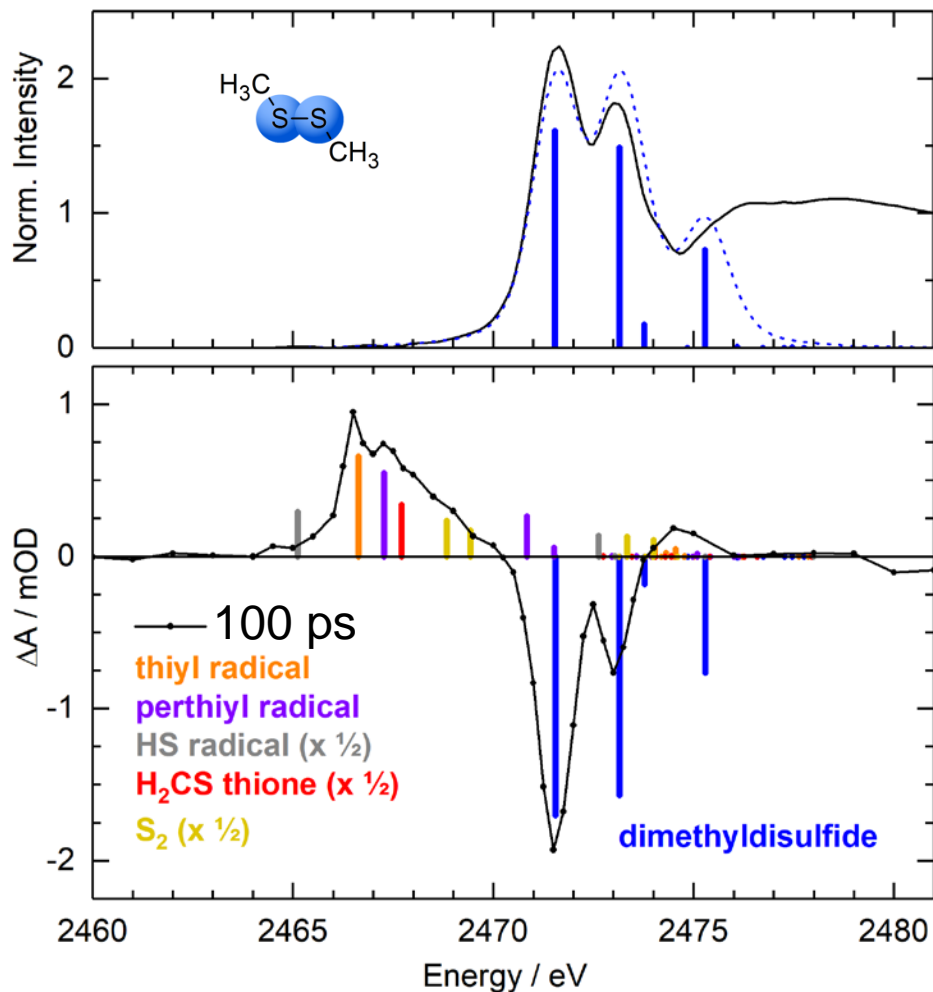
*J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **10**, 1382 (2019)

# Sulfur-1s Spectroscopy of Dimethyldisulfide

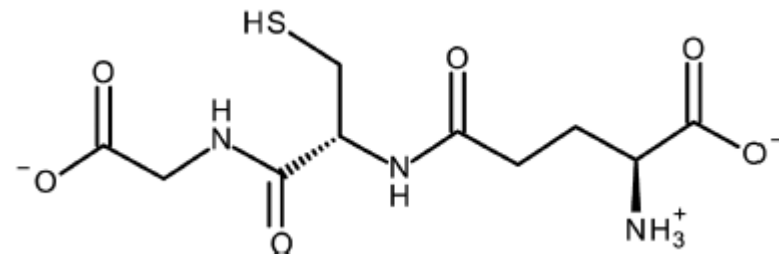
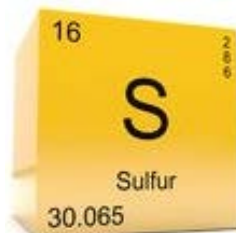
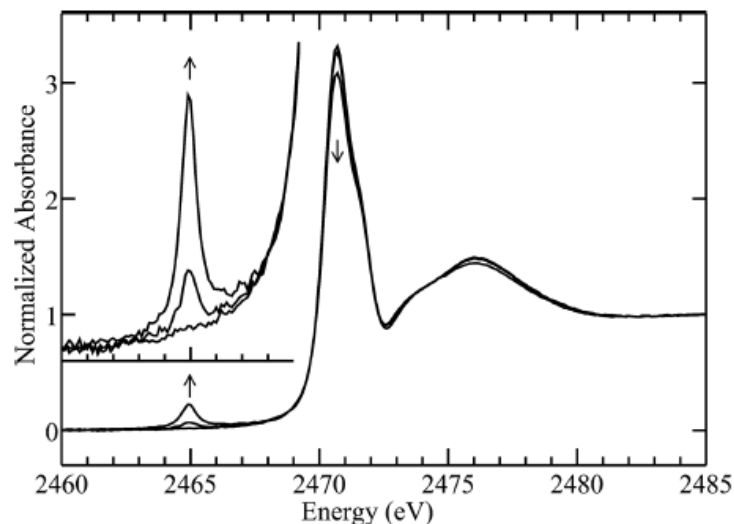


*Smallest stable Disulfide molecule*

- Solvent cage effects clearly play a role in product formation & relaxation*







## Photochemically Generated Thiyl Free Radicals Observed by X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

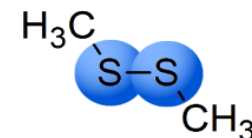
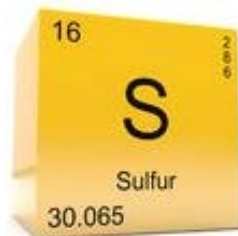
Eileen Y. Sneed<sup>†</sup>, Mark J. Hackett<sup>‡,§,Ⓜ</sup>, Julien J. H. Cotelesage<sup>‡</sup>, Roger C. Prince<sup>Ⓜ</sup>, Monica Barney<sup>Ⓧ</sup>, Kei Goto<sup>||</sup>, Eric Block<sup>∇,Ⓜ</sup>, Ingrid J. Pickering<sup>‡,||,Ⓜ</sup> and Graham N. George<sup>\*,‡,||,Ⓜ</sup>

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2017, 139, 11519

# Time-Resolved Sulfur-1s Spectroscopy in Solution



POHANG ACCELERATOR LABORATORY

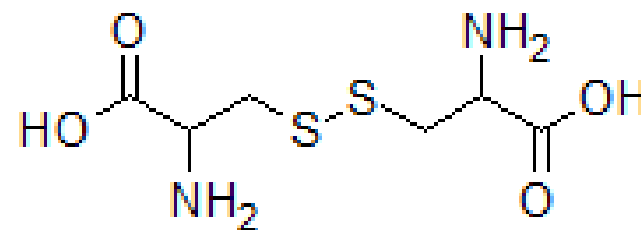
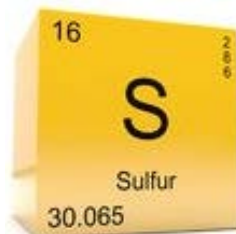


'DMDS'



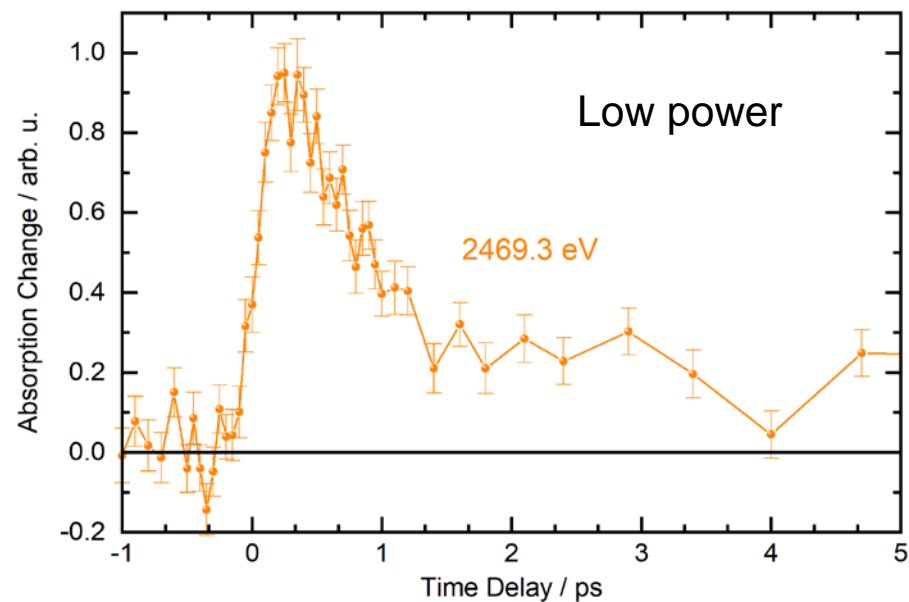
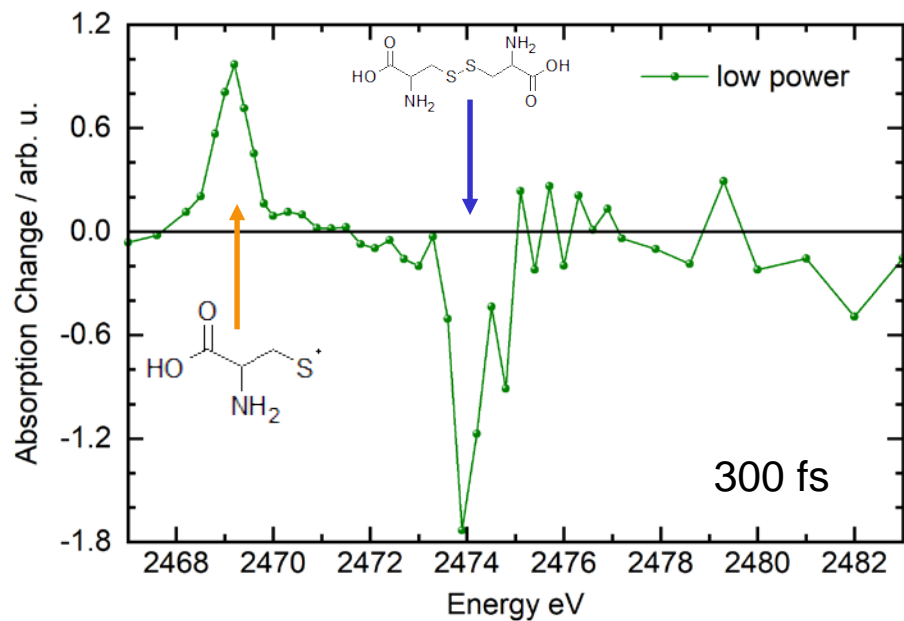
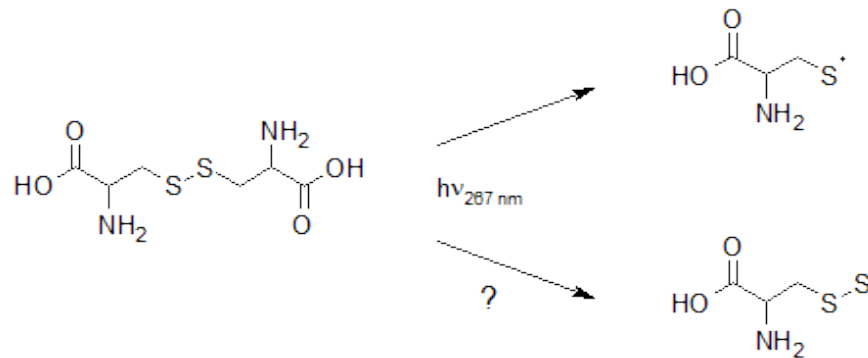
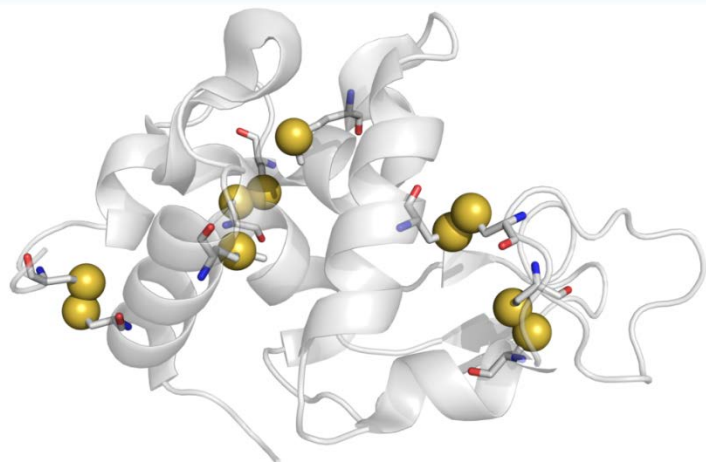


POHANG ACCELERATOR LABORATORY

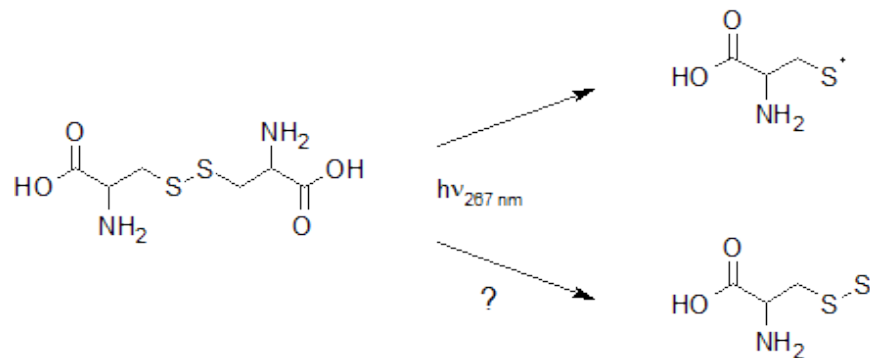
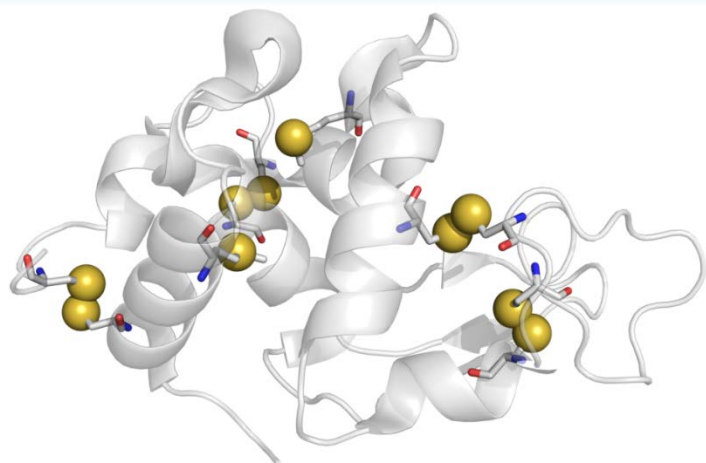


L-Cystine  
the L-cysteine dimer

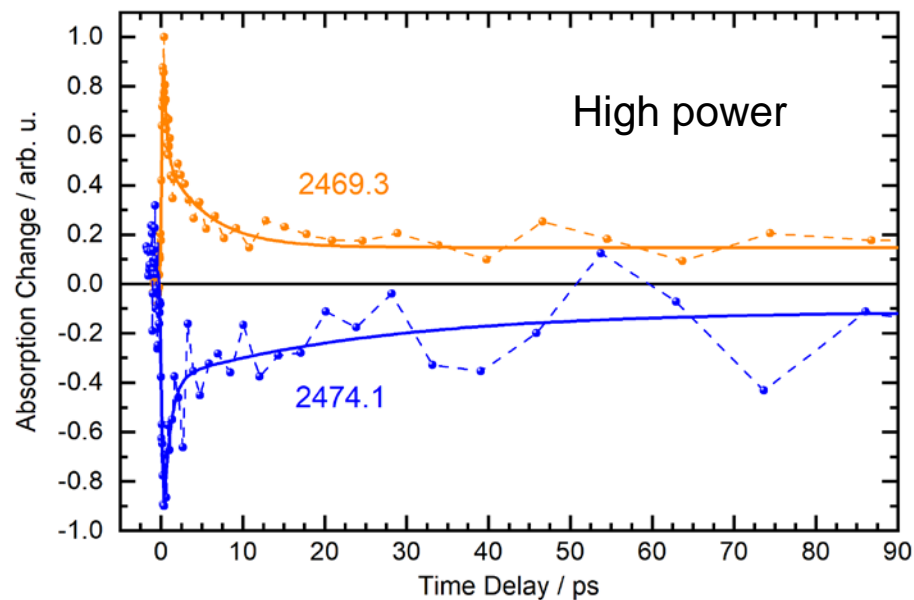
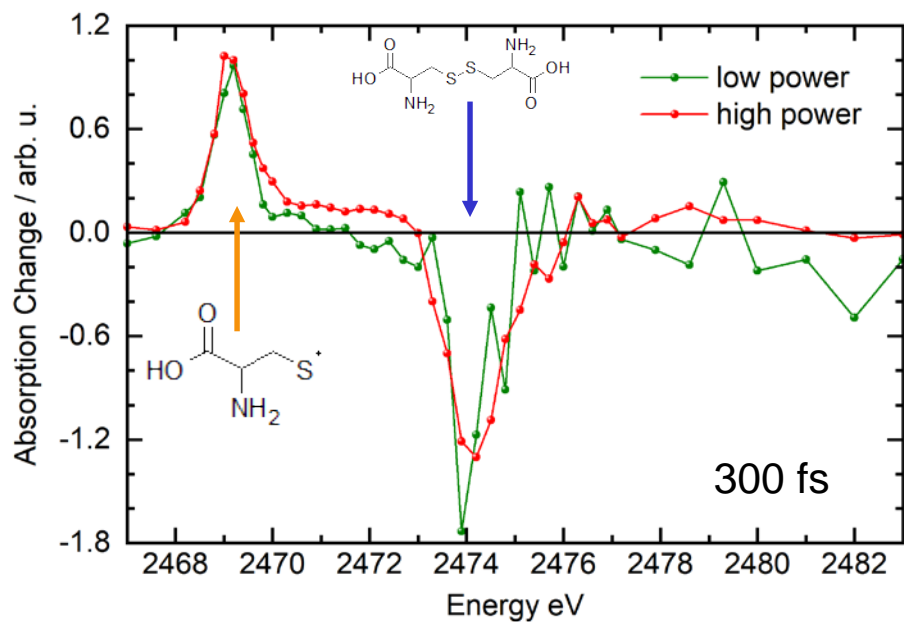
# From DMDS to L-Cystine



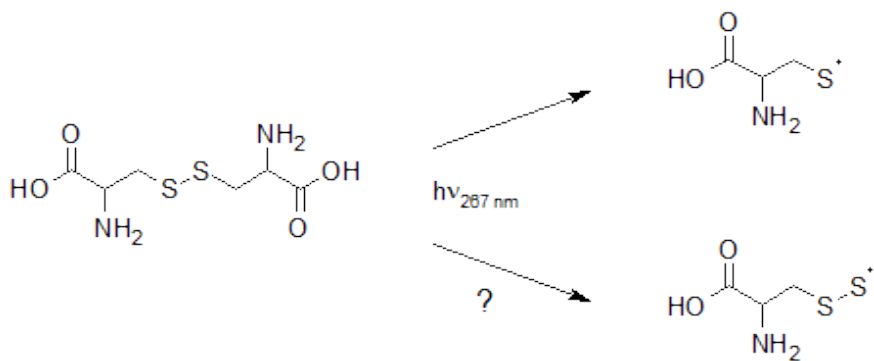
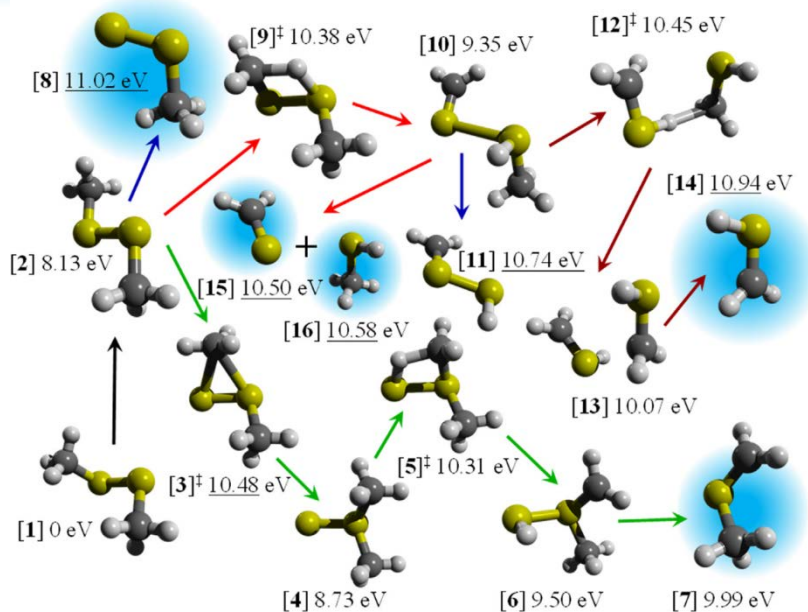
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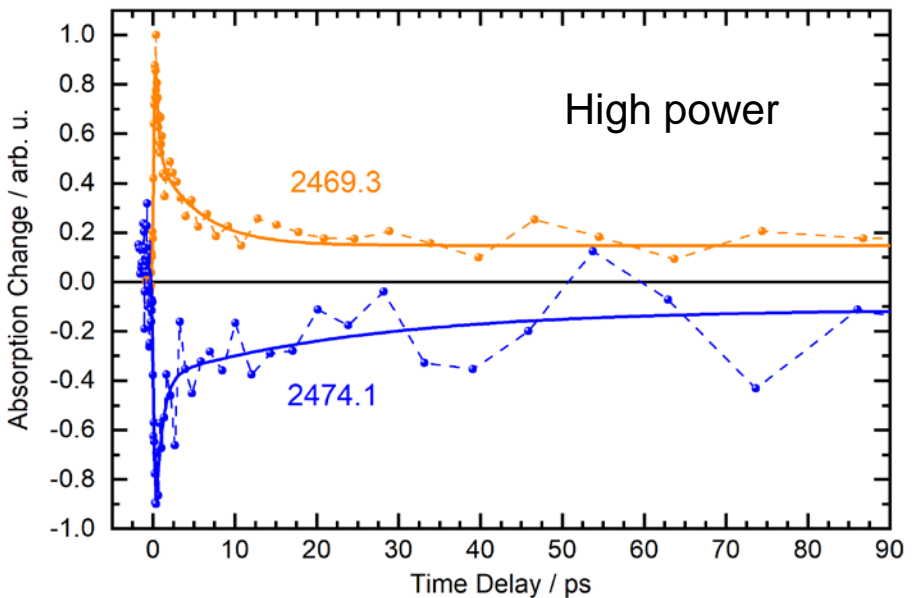
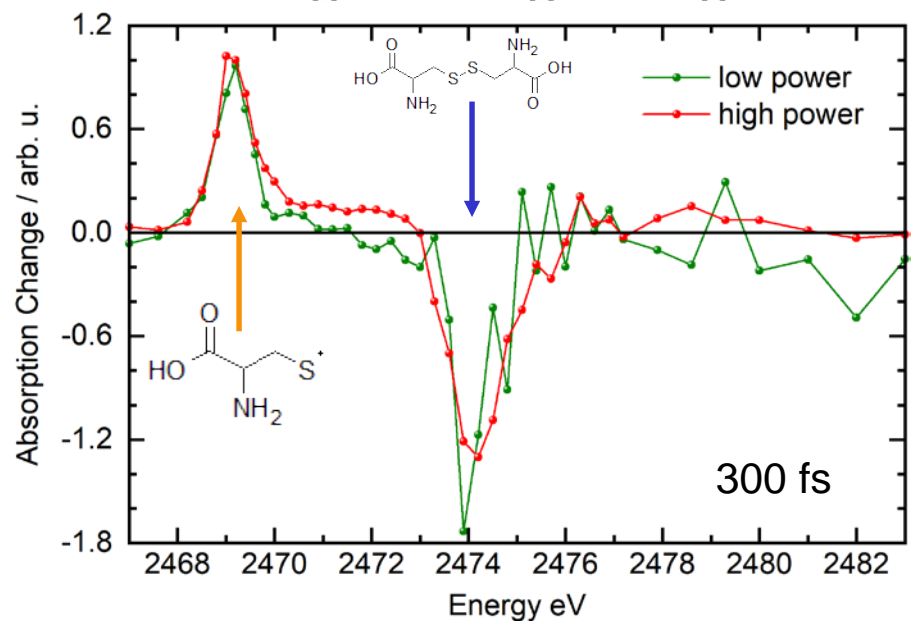
- *Ultrafast geminate recombination (little electronic relaxation)*
- *2-photon excitation leads to new sulfur species*



# From DMDS to L-Cystine

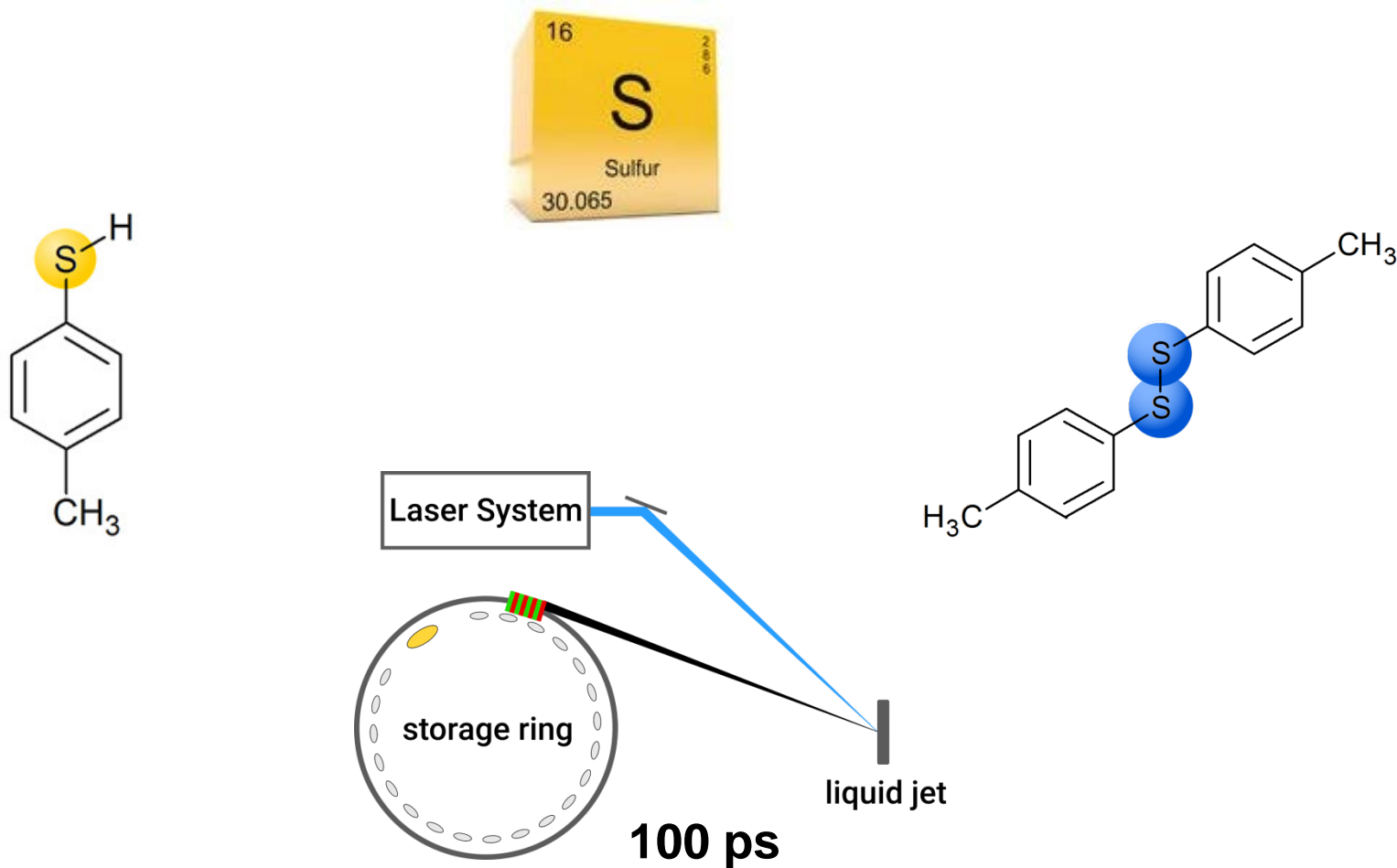


*homolysis recombination (little electronic relaxation)  
excitation leads to new sulfur species*



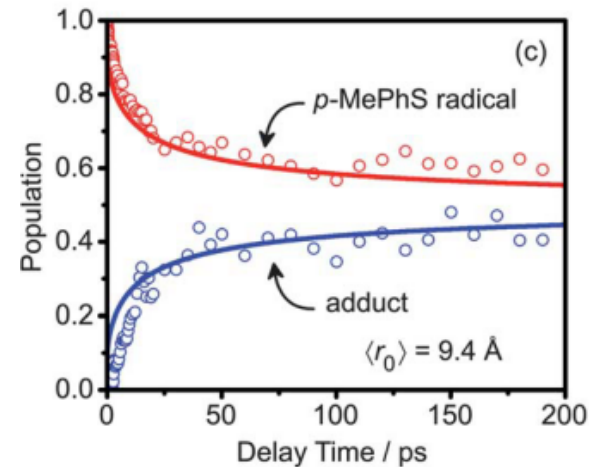
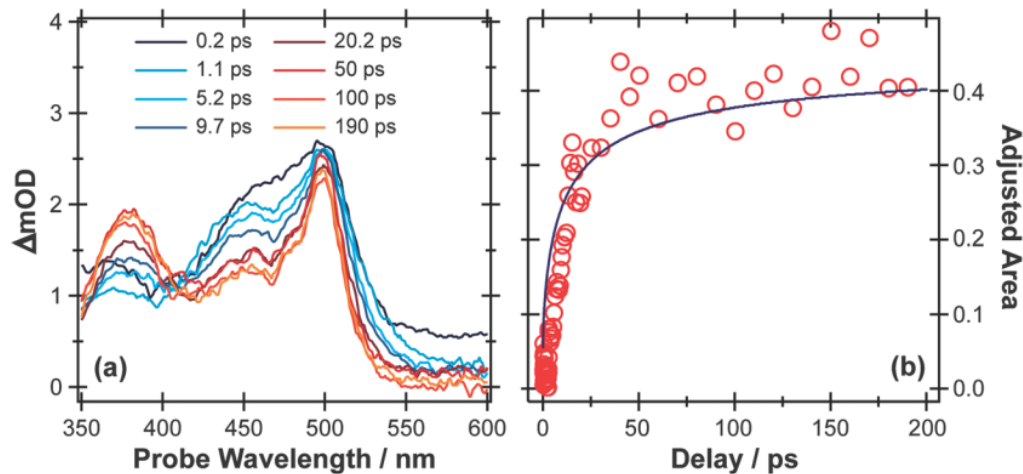
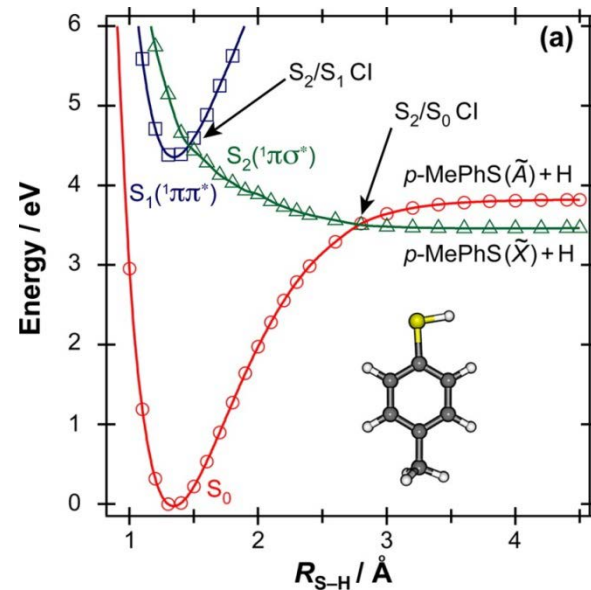
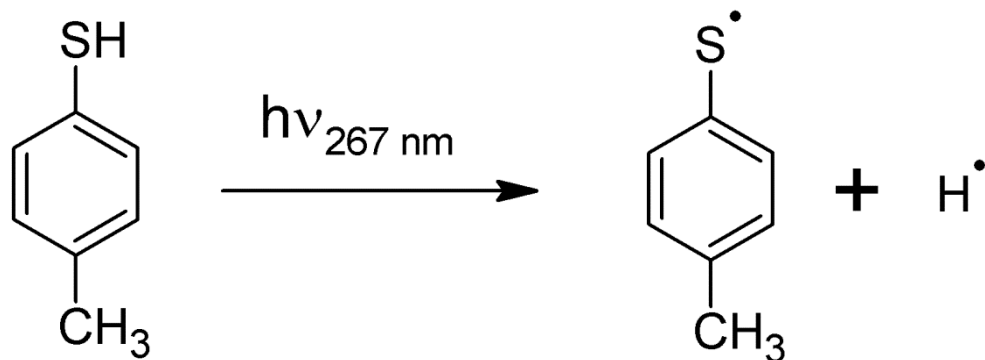
## **Sulfur-Containing Aromatic Systems:**

*how do sulfur atoms coupled to aromatic electron systems behave?*

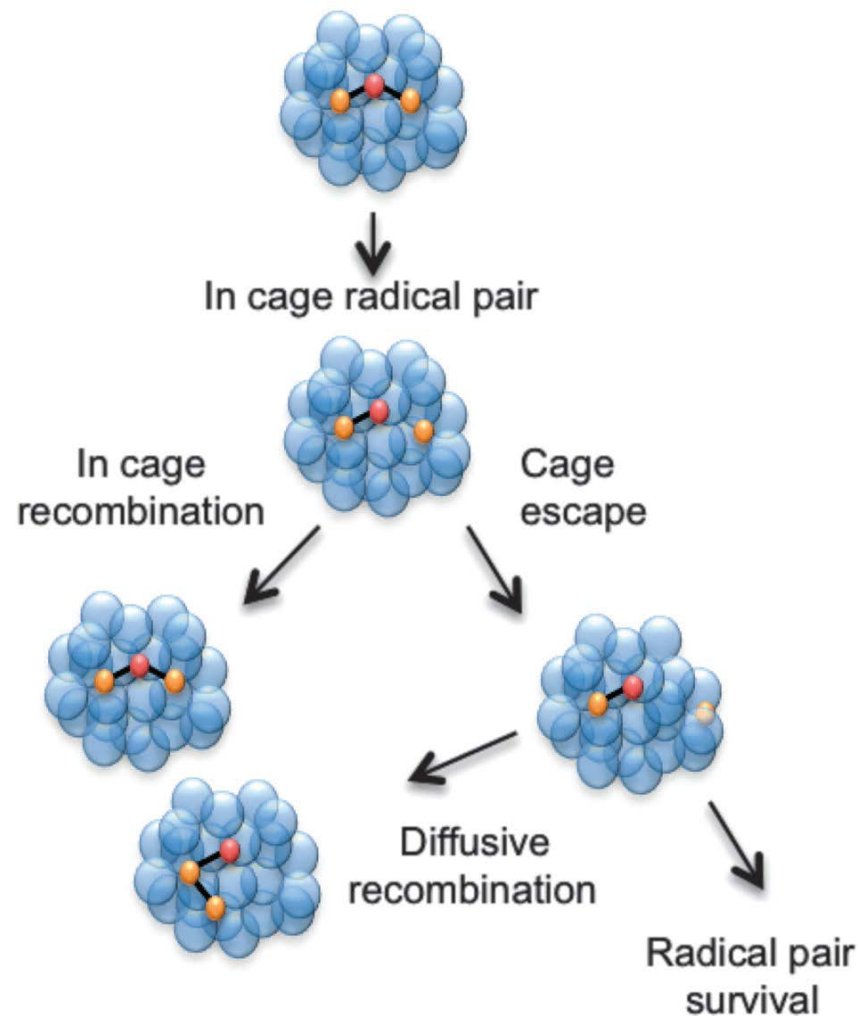
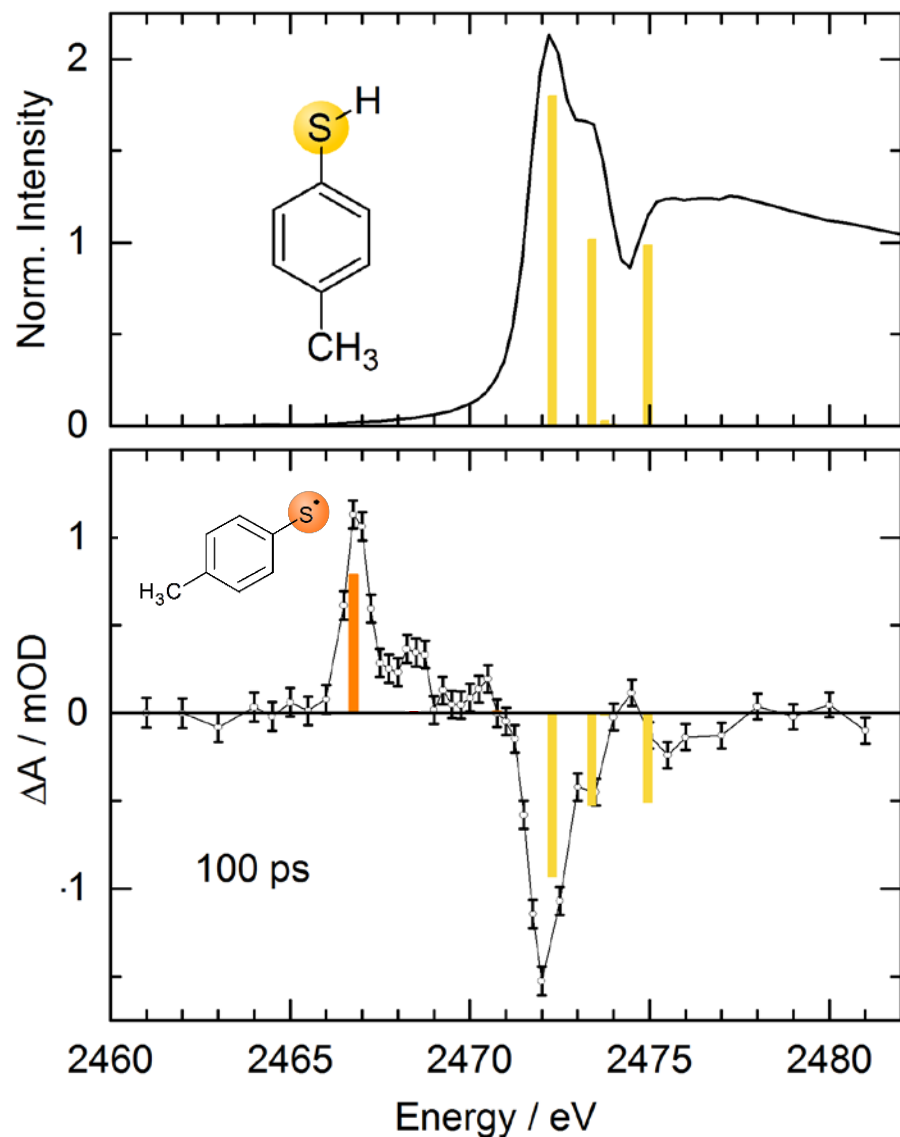




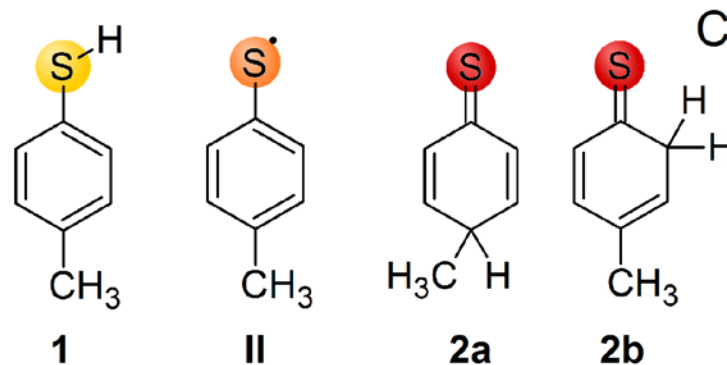
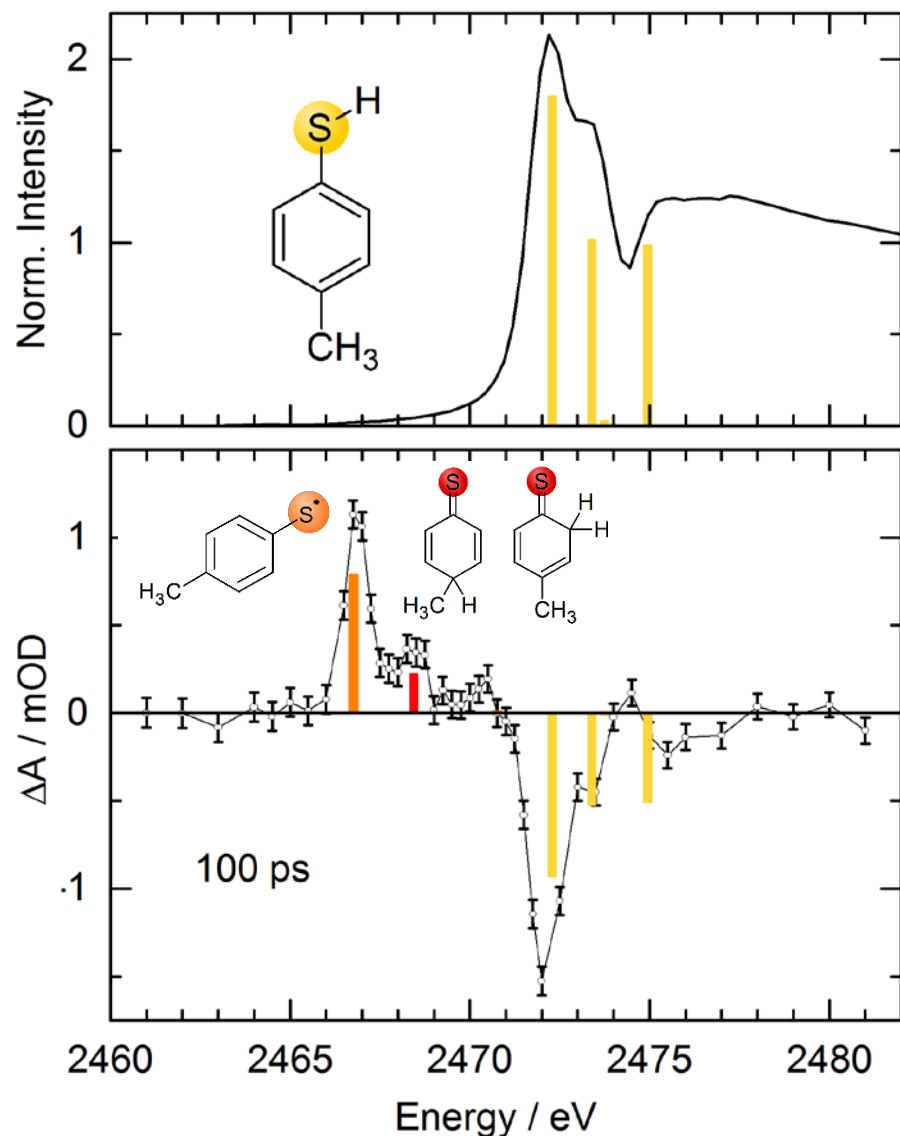
# 4-Methylthiophenol



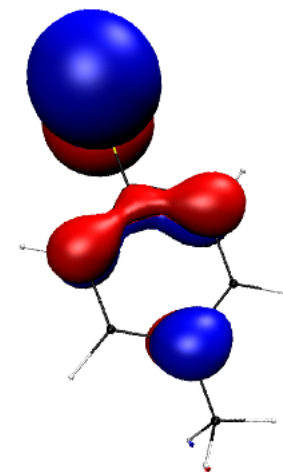
# Sulfur-1s Spectroscopy of 4-MTP

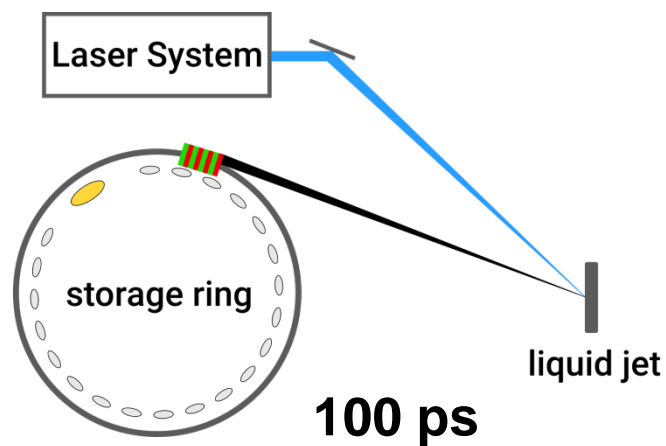
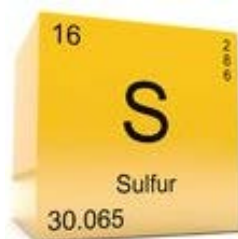
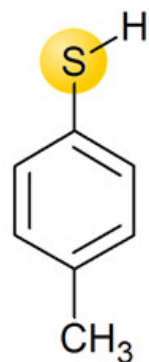


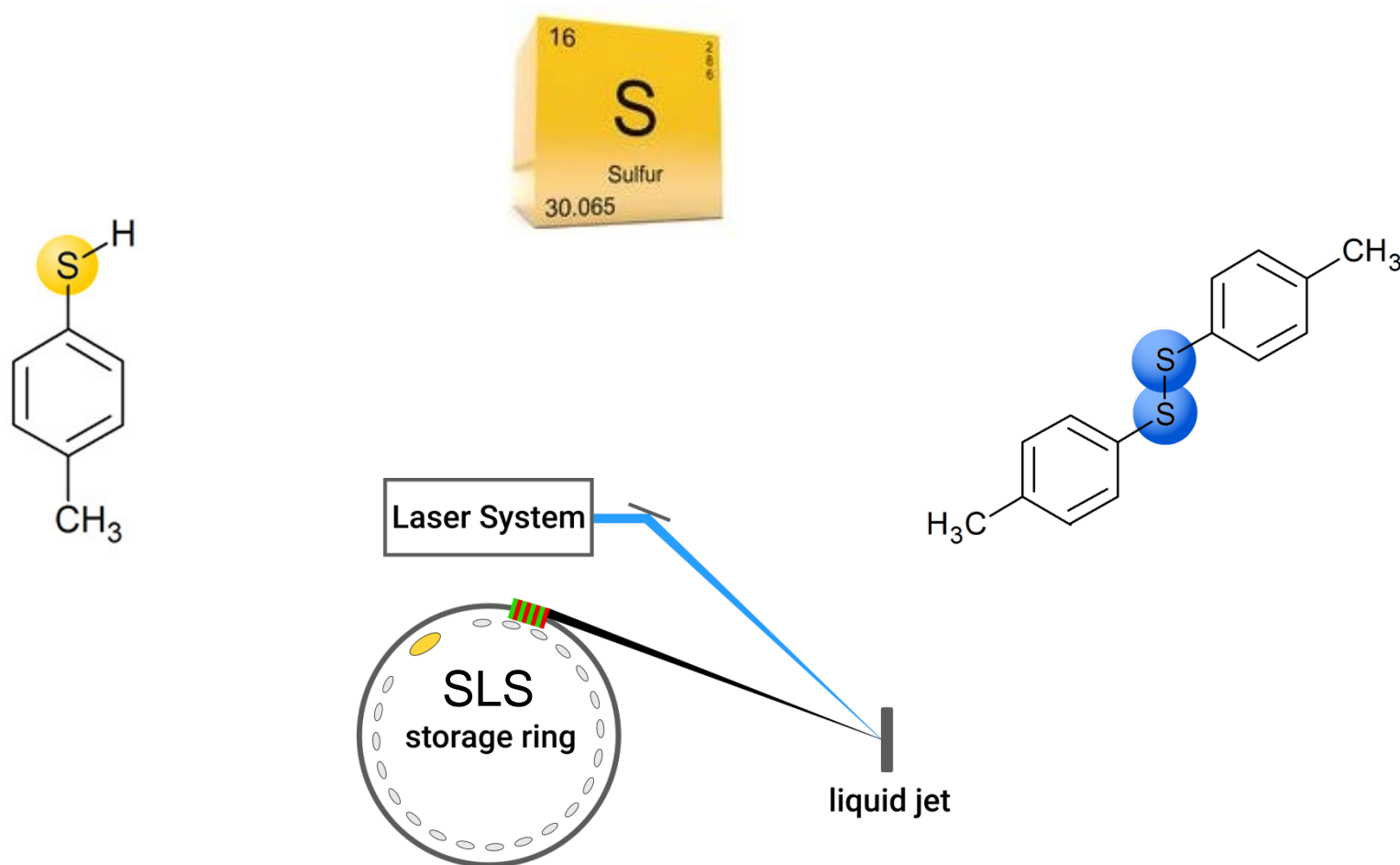
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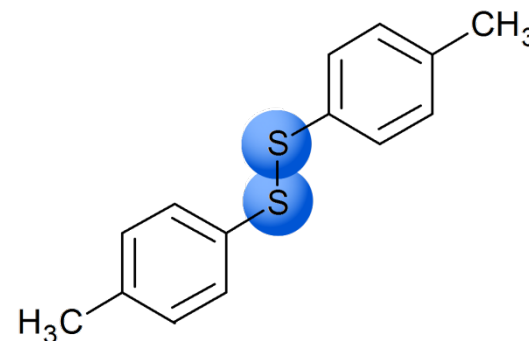
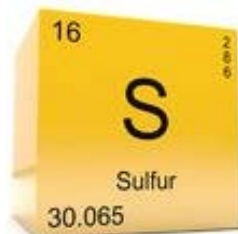
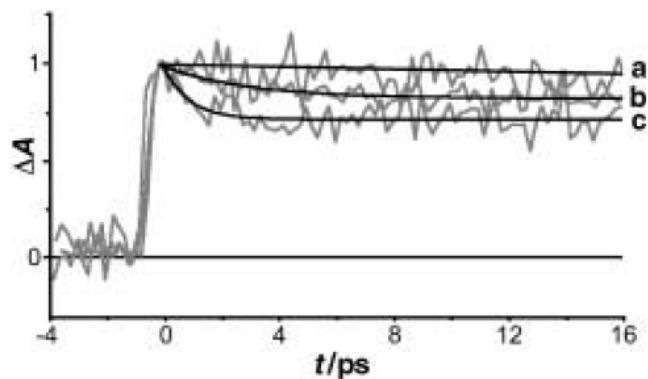
*Regioselectivity of hydrogen attachment results from valence orbital symmetry*







Phoenix@SLS: with Chris Milne, Thomas Huthwelker & Majed Chergui



## Synthesis and Photochemistry of a New Class of Photocleavable Protein Cross-linking Reagents

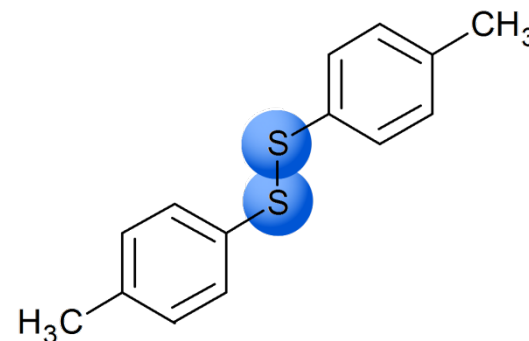
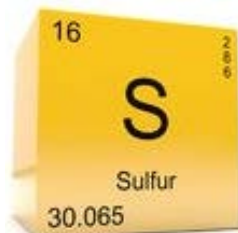
Lilia Milanesi,<sup>[a]</sup> Gavin D. Reid,<sup>[b]</sup> Godfrey S. Beddard,<sup>[b]</sup> Christopher A. Hunter,<sup>\*[a]</sup> and Jonathan P. Waltho<sup>[c]</sup>

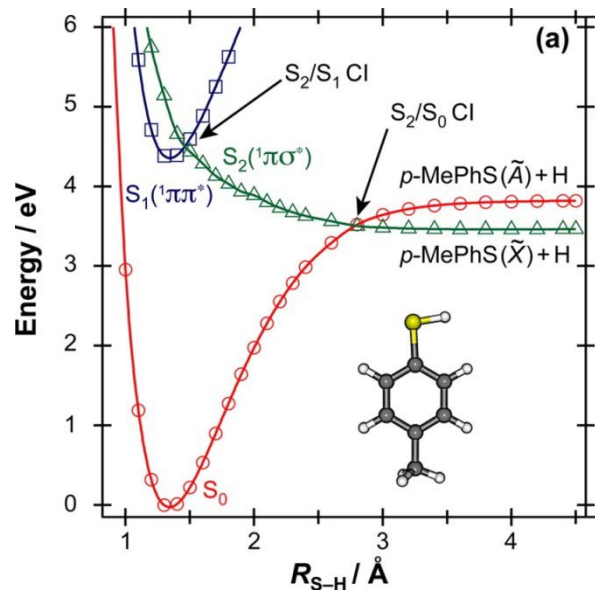
*Chem. Eur. J.* 2004, 10, 1705

# Time-Resolved Sulfur-1s Spectroscopy in Solution

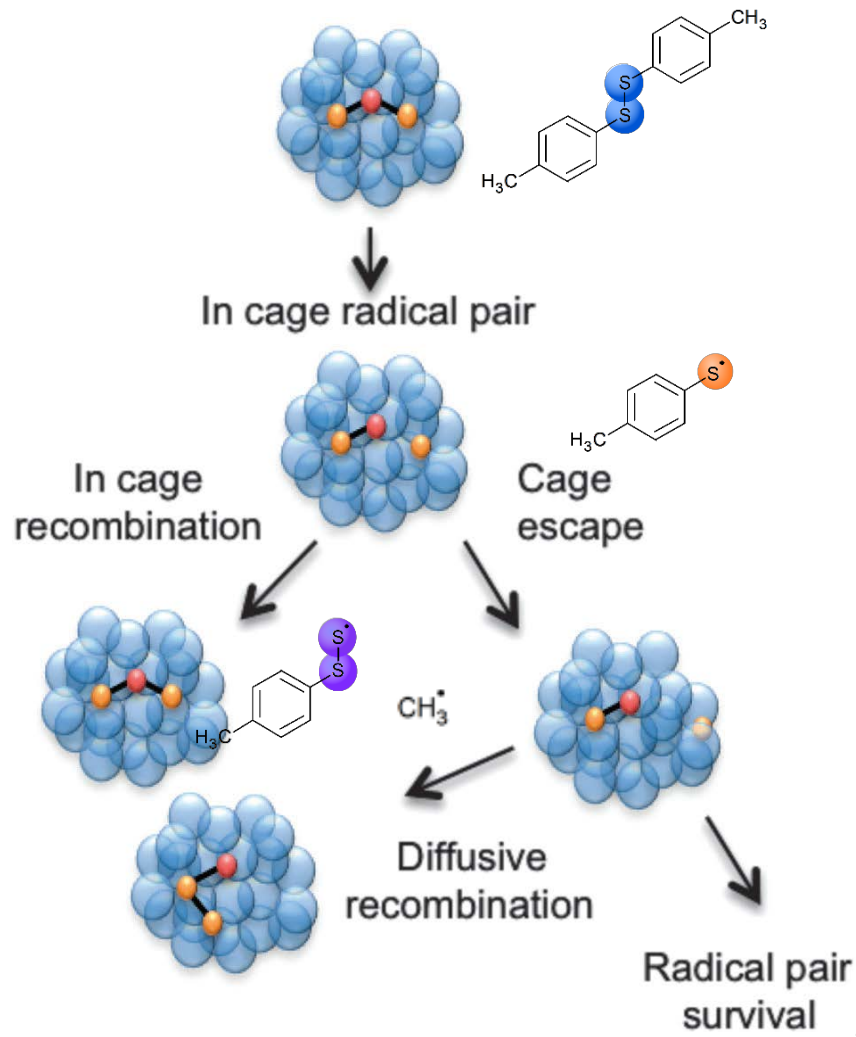


POHANG ACCELERATOR LABORATORY





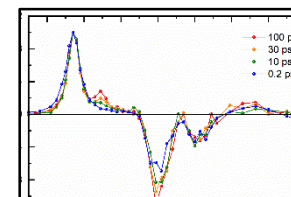
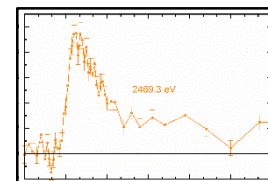
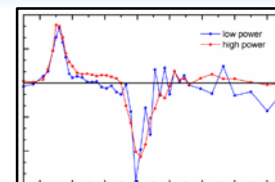
- Unaltered spectra up to TW/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Biphasic rise of primary radical
- Slow geminate recombination
- Secondary product manifests





# Conclusions and Thanks

- Aliphatic disulfides exhibit high degree of ultrafast geminate recombination
- New reaction pathways exist for excitation into higher electronic states
- Geminate recombination in aromatic disulfides is strongly suppressed, possibly due to efficient relaxation of the radical charge density
- Aromatic electron systems appear to channel higher excitations into the energetically lowest reaction pathway



## Many Thanks

**Miguel Ochmann, Abid Hussain, Oriol Vendrell, Nils Huse,**  
Niko Höppel, Anke Puchert, Kateryna Kusyak

**Tae Kyu Kim, Bob Schoenlein, Amy Cordones-Hahn, Kiryong Hong,**  
Hana Cho, Jae Hyuk Lee, Rory Ma

**Chris Milne, Majed Chergui, Thomas Huthwelker, Dominik Kinschel,**  
James Budarz, Jochen Rittmann, Gediminas Galinas, Jon Marangos

**The PAL-XFEL team** for a great support and exciting results



DOE



MPG



FHH