

#### Ultrafast X-ray Spectroscopy of Solvated Transition-metal Complexes and Oxide Materials



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X-ray Science in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics

LBNL – Ultrafast X-ray Science Laboratory



#### UXSL How do the properties of matter emerge from the: correlated motion of electrons, and coupled atomic/electronic structure?



#### Understand the Interplay between Atomic and Electronic Structure

- Valence electronic structure energy levels, charge distribution, bonding, spin
- Atomic structure coordination, atomic arrangements, bond distances

#### Ultrafast Measurements:

- separate correlated phenomena in the time domain
- direct observations of the underlying correlations as they develop



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#### Ultrafast X-rays: Quantitative Information on Electronic and Atomic Structure

#### time-resolved x-ray spectroscopy

EXAFS – local atomic structure and coordination (extended x-ray absorption fine structure)

XANES – local electronic structure, bonding geometry (x-ray absorption near-edge structure)

XMCD, XMLD – spin, magnetization – dichroism

(x-ray magnetic/linear dichroism)

#### element specific

symmetry/spin selective molecular systems and reactions interfaces, complex/disordered materials liquids, solvated molecules



#### Outline

#### **Structural Dynamics in Solvated Transition-Metal Complexes**

- spin-crossover transition Fe(II) complex EXAFS, Fe K-edge (atomic structure)
- spin-crossover Fe(II) XANES, Fe L-edge (electronic structure)

Structural dynamics in liquid water - direct vibrational excitation

time-resolved XANES of hydrogen bond dynamics

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#### Structural Dynamics in Colossal Magnetoresistive (CMR) Manganites

- ultrafast photo- and vibrationally-induced insulator-metal transition in Pr<sub>1-x</sub>Ca<sub>x</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub>
- electronic structure time-resolved XANES (O K-edge, Mn L-edge)

#### Ultrafast X-ray Science Facility at the Advanced Light Source









#### Motivation:

- ligand field strength (10Dq) ~ electron pairing energy
- relationship between structure, electronic, and magnetic properties

#### Do the dynamic structural distortions facilitate the spin-crossover reaction?

- understanding fundamentals of electron transfer
- molecular electronics, opto-magnetic storage material
- TM complexes: light harvesting, metallo-proteins, complex oxides (CMR, high-T<sub>c</sub> materials)







# UXSL Electronic Structure - Fe<sup>#</sup> Spin-Crossover Molecules Soft X-ray XANES - transmission Charge Transfer ⇒ Ligand Bonding ⇒ Spin State



#### Electronic Structure - Fe<sup>II</sup> Spin-Crossover Molecules

Soft X-ray XANES - transmission

Interferrogram sample thickness

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500 µm









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#### **Differential Spectra at the Fe L-Edges**



- reduction in ligand field parameter 10Dq
- shift of spectral weight from  $L_{II}$  to  $L_{III}$   $\Rightarrow$  high spin state
- electronic structure evolution within 70 ps resolution

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High- and Low-Spin Spectra of the Fe L-Edges



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Multiplet Calculations of the Fe L-Edges





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errere e BERKELEY LA Multiplet Calculations of the Fe L-Edges UXSL NO  $\pi$ -back-bonding 80 Low Spin  $- [Fe(tacn)_2]^{2+}$  (shifted) NIIII Absorbance / mOD Fe(tacn)<sub>2</sub> 40 Shift Blue 2 *π*-back-bonding 0 708 724 712 704 720 716 Fe[tren(py)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> Energy / eV Wasinger et al. JACS 125, 12894 (2003) Hocking et al. JACS 129, 113 (2007)  $\pi$ -back-bonding in heme, delocalization of Fe-3*d* into ligand  $\pi^*$ Μ 0 С



Multiplet Calculations of the Fe L-Edges



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 $\pi$ -back-bonding in heme, delocalization of Fe-3*d* into ligand  $\pi^*$ 

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Femtosecond Dynamics of the Fe L-Edges



- Femtosecond data reveals ultrafast nature of spin cross-over
- Evolution of electronic structure, associated with atomic structural changes
- At temporal resolution of the source (~200 fs)

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undulator based beamlines for femtosecond x-rays







#### **Ultrafast Dynamics in Complex Materials – Beyond Bloch**

## How do the properties of matter emerge from the: correlated motion of electrons, and coupled atomic/electronic structure?



Understand the Interplay between Atomic and Electronic Structure

#### **Ultrafast Measurements**

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#### **Photoinduced Phase Transitions in Manganites**



No current is observed when pumping at 8.5  $\mu\text{m}$ 

M. Rini, et al., Nature, 2007

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#### Vibrationally Driven I-M Transition in a Manganite via coherent THz excitation



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#### **Phase Transition**

- vibrational excitation
  - long-lived changes in reflectivity
- well-defined fluence threshold and saturation

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#### **Ultrafast X-rays - New Insight on Complex Materials**



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● Mn ● O ● Pr/Ca

#### Vibrationally Driven I-M Transition in a Manganite

- THz vibrational control of correlated-electron phases targeting specific vibrational modes - Mn-O stretch
- Ultrafast I-M phase transition electronic ground state x10<sup>4</sup> resistivity change



#### Future Scientific Questions and Challenges:

**Crystallographic distortion associated with electronic phase transitions?** *ultrafast x-ray diffraction, EXAFS* 



**Magnetic nature of the metallic phase – ferromagnetic?** *ultrafast x-ray dichroism* 

#### **Dynamics of electronic structure - charge/orbital ordering?** *ultrafast resonant x-ray diffraction time-resolved soft x-ray microscopy, XPCS (phase separation)*

**Dynamics of electronic structure – charge localization/delocalization?** *ultrafast XAS – 3d-2p hybridization ARPES – dynamic band structure, valence charge distribution* 

Ultrafast x-ray techniques relevant for a broad range of complex materials (organics, multiferroics, novel superconductors....)

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- Mn-3*d*/O-2*p* hybridization
- Modification of 10Dq crystal field splitting

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#### **Photoinduced XAS Changes - Evidence of IM Transition**

Photo-induced vs. Thermally-induced Phase Transition:

The DOS change in the conduction band appears in the O 1s XAS spectrum and spectral weight is transferred to the absorption threshold.



**Thermally-induced:** 

XANES experiments on the thermally-induced IM phase transition From: J.-H. Park et al., Phys. Rev. B 58, R13330 (1998)

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#### **Photoinduced XAS Changes - Evidence of IM Transition**

Photo-induced vs. Magnetically-induced Phase Transition:

The DOS change in the conduction band appears in the O 1*s* XAS spectrum and spectral weight is transferred to the absorption threshold.



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#### Charge/Orbital Ordering in Manganites

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Time-resolved resonant x-ray diffraction



#### Summary

Structural Dynamics in Solvated Transition-Metal Complexes

Ligand field coupling between molecular structure and electronic properties

• spin-crossover – Fe(II) – XANES, Fe L-edge (electronic structure)





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Ultrafast Phase Transitions in Colossal Magnetoresistive (CMR) Manganites THz vibrational control of correlated-electron phases

- electronic structure time-resolved XANES (O K-edge, Mn L-edge)
- charge/orbital ordering (time-resolved) resonant x-ray diffraction

### KITP: The purpose of the conference talks is to inspire and focus the theory discussions during the weeks following the conference

#### - THEORY -

Molecules – excited-state dynamics, non-adiabatic potential energy surfaces
 Correlated materials – coupling between atomic/electronic structures (electronic ground state)
 Ultrafast X-rays – connection between x-ray probes and electronic structure

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