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# Tracing the active atomic sites in photochemistry with soft X-ray resonant inelastic X-ray scattering

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***Session: “Time-Domain Spectroscopy”***

***IXS2019***

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## Why time resolved RIXS?

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### Governing Principles of Matter and Functionality:

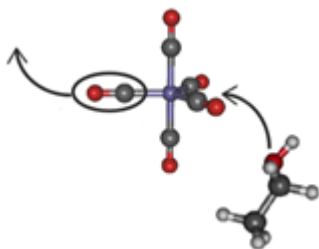
- Driven states of matter, emergence, control, efficient switching
- Limiting steps that control rate and selectivity in chemistry
- Convert and store energy

# Time scales in chemistry span from the ultrafast to every day life

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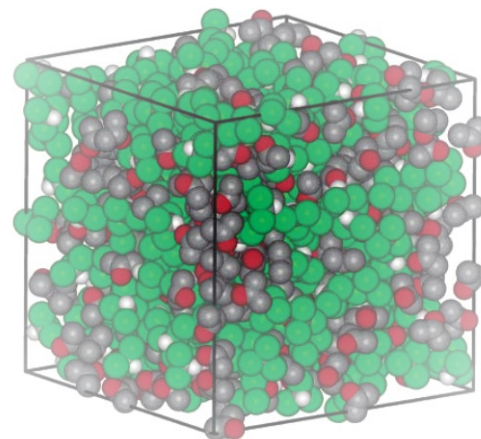
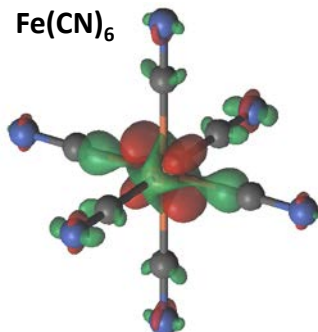
## catalysis

$\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_5$



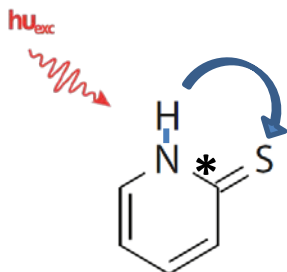
## electro chemistry

$\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6$



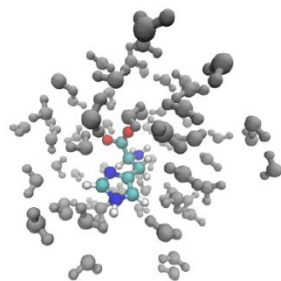
## photoprotection

tautomerization 2MP



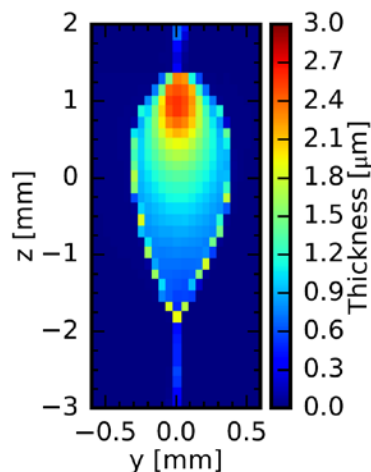
## large amplitude

bio-relevant: Histidin



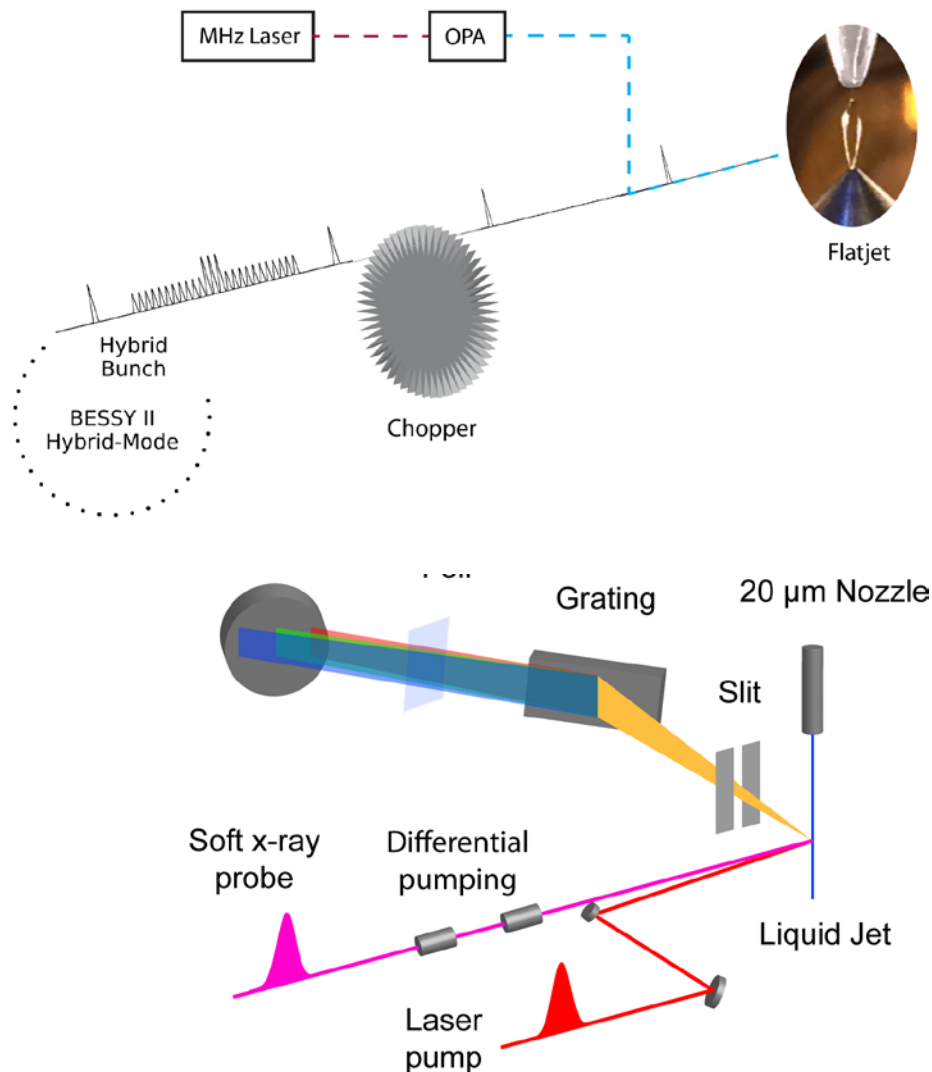
# Time scales in chemistry span from the ultrafast to every day life

- ✓ In vacuum liquid jet technology



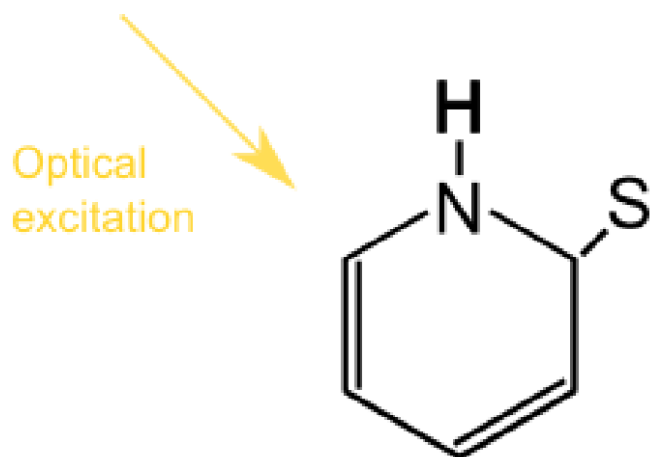
- ✓ RAS-SCF theory Odelius (Stockholm)

- ✓ ps at BESSY II and fs at FELs

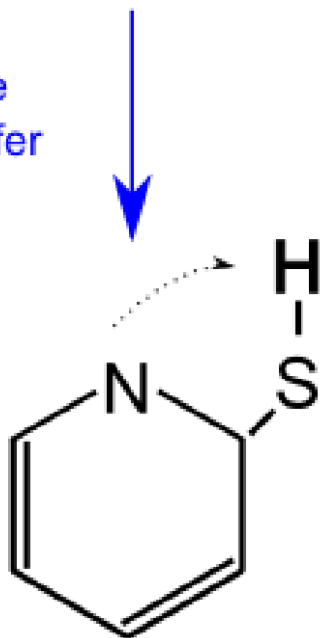


# Excited State Proton Transfer (ESPT) is important process in Photoprotection

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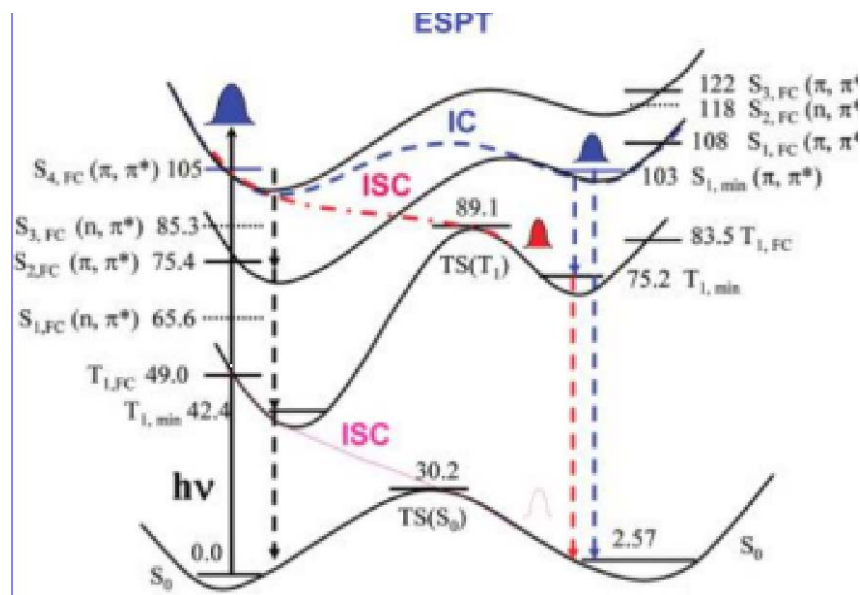
Excited state  
proton transfer



With soft X-ray spectroscopy  
address involved atomic sites

# ESPT in the thione – thiol system

## 2-Thiopyridone (2-TP)/2-Mercaptopyridine (2-MP)

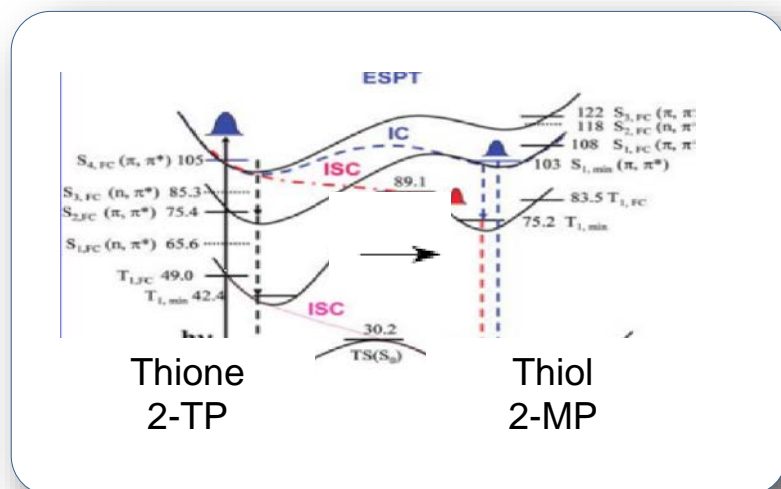


- Proposed pathway

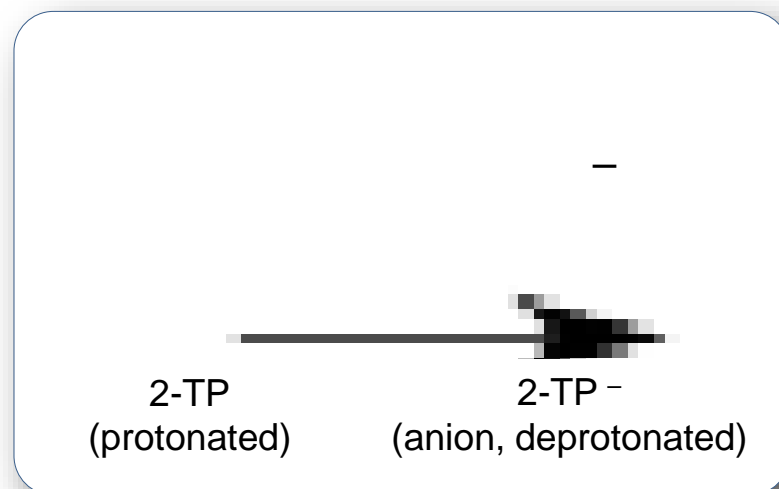
*Du et al., J. Phys. Chem. B, 2011*  
115 (25), 8266-8277

*M. Ross, et al. Ultrafast Phenomena*  
XIX. Springer  
International Publishing, 2015.  
403-406.

- Start with N-site deprotonation



OR  
?



# Acknowledgments

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## **Ultrafast Independent N– H and N– C Bond Deformation Investigated with Resonant Inelastic X-Ray Scattering,**

S. Eckert, J. Norell, P. S. Miedema, M. Beye, M. Fondell, W. Quevedo, B. Kennedy, M. Hantschmann, A. Pietzsch, B. E. Van Kuiken, Matthew Ross, M.P. Minitti, S. P. Moeller, W. F. Schlotter, M. Khalil, M. Odelius, and A. Föhlisch  
*Angewandte Chemie International Edition* 56 (22), 6088-6092 (2017)

## **Molecular structures and protonation state of 2-Mercaptopyridine in aqueous solution**

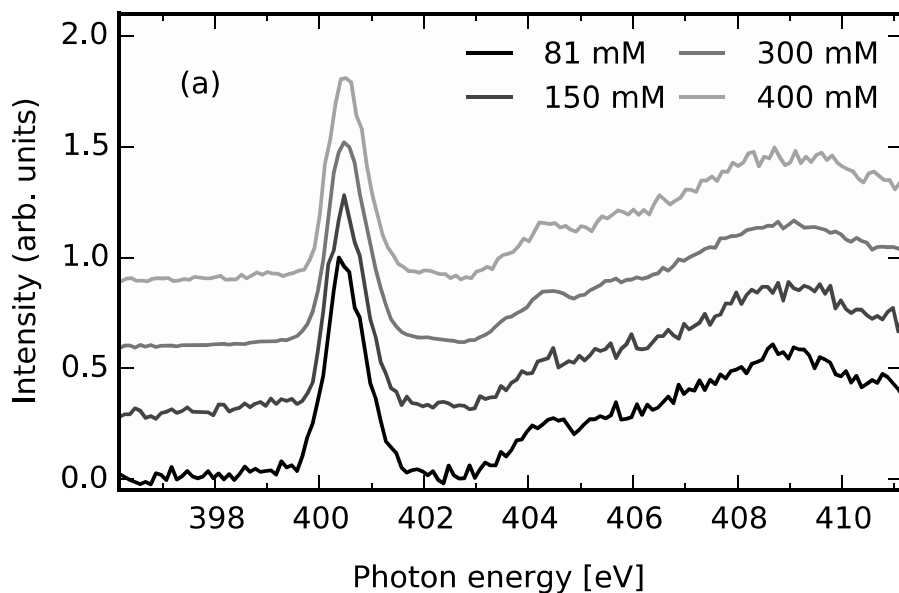
S. Eckert, P. S. Miedema, W. Quevedo, B. O’Cinneide, M. Fondell, M. Beye, A. Pietzsch, M. Ross, M. Khalil, and A. Föhlisch  
*Chemical Physics Letters* 647, 103–106 (2016)

## **T1 Population as the Driver of Excited-State Proton-Transfer in 2-Thiopyridone,**

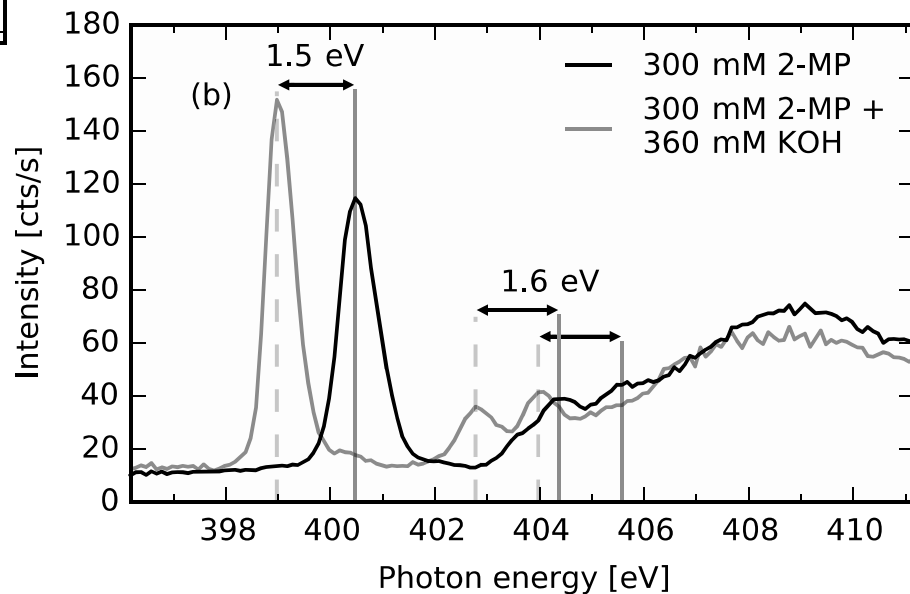
S. Eckert, J. Norell, R. M. Jay, M. Fondell, R. Mitzner, M. Odelius, A. Föhlisch.  
*Chemistry – A European Journal*  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/chem.201804166> (2018)

# Protonation and Deprotonation as a function of $k = [2\text{-TP}]/[\text{KOH}]$

2-TP in pure water as a function of concentration

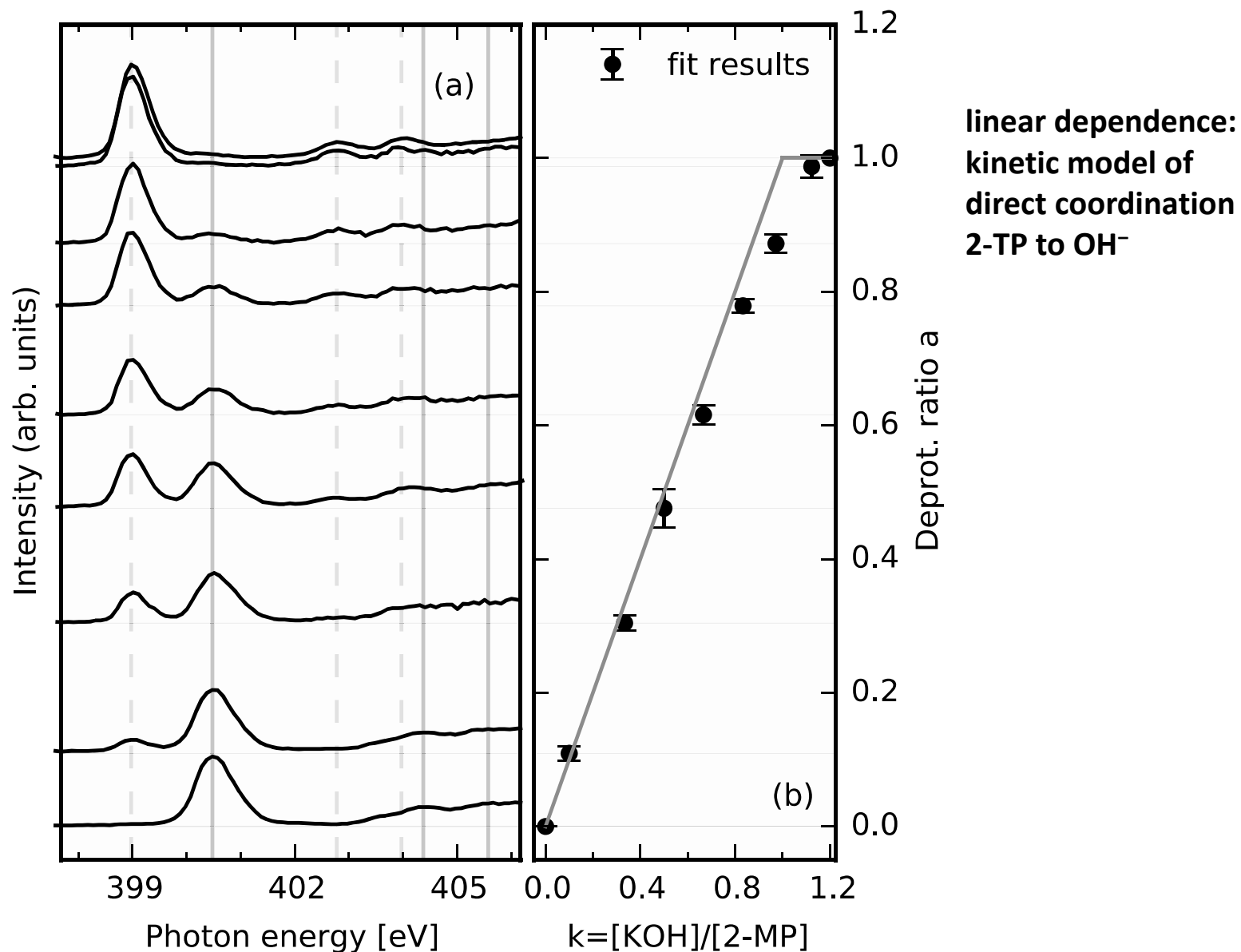


2-TP in pure water  $[2\text{-TP}] = 300 \text{ mM}$   
vs.  
alkaline aqueous solution  
 $[2\text{-TP}] = 300 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[\text{KOH}] = 360 \text{ mM}$ .

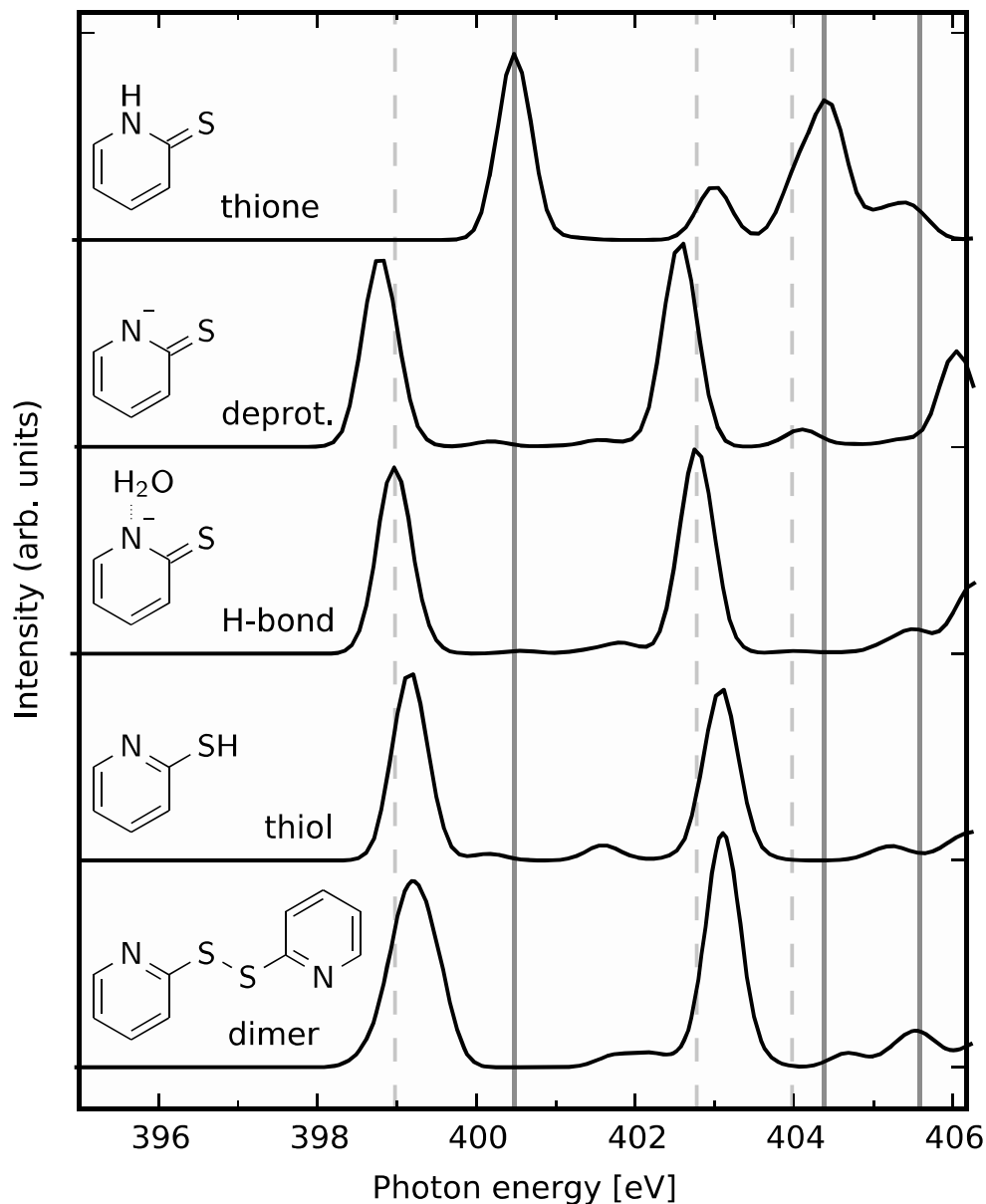




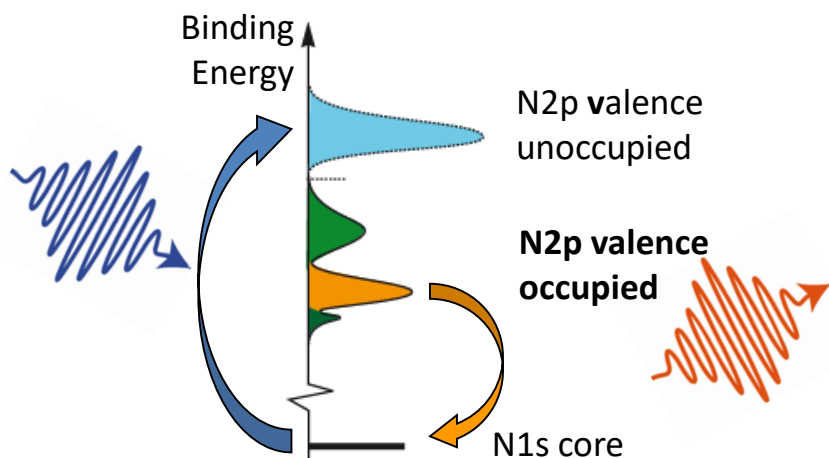
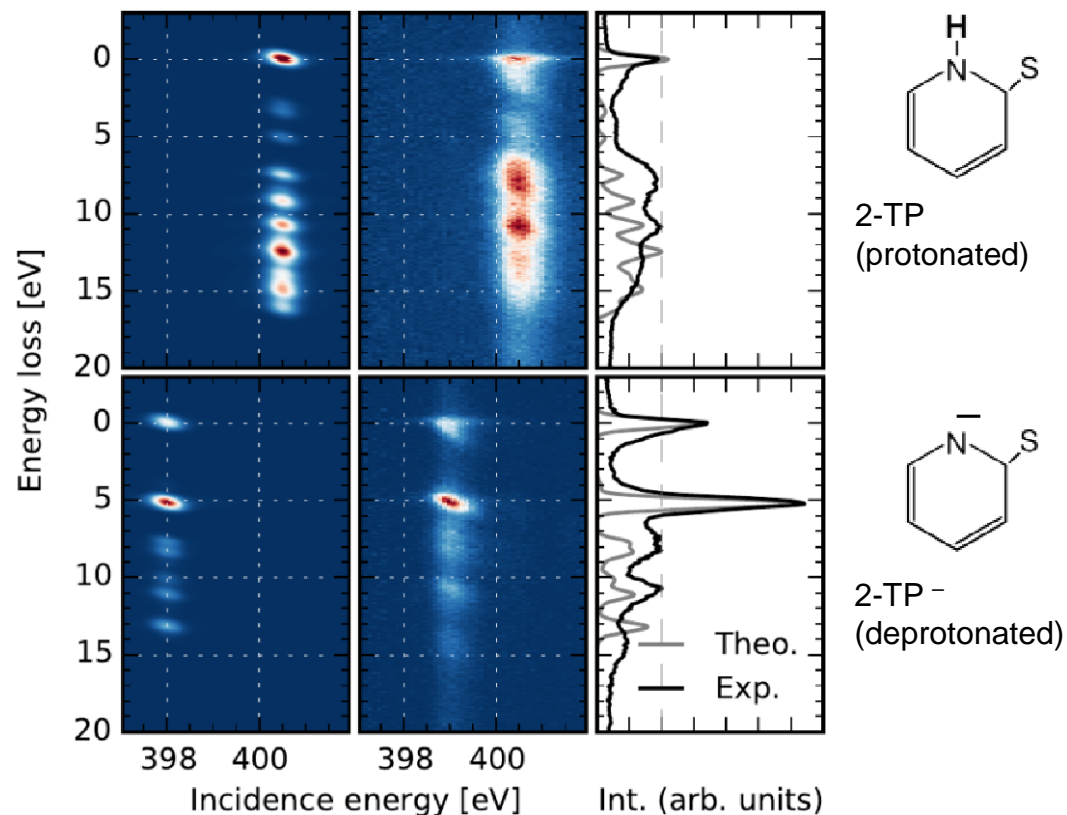
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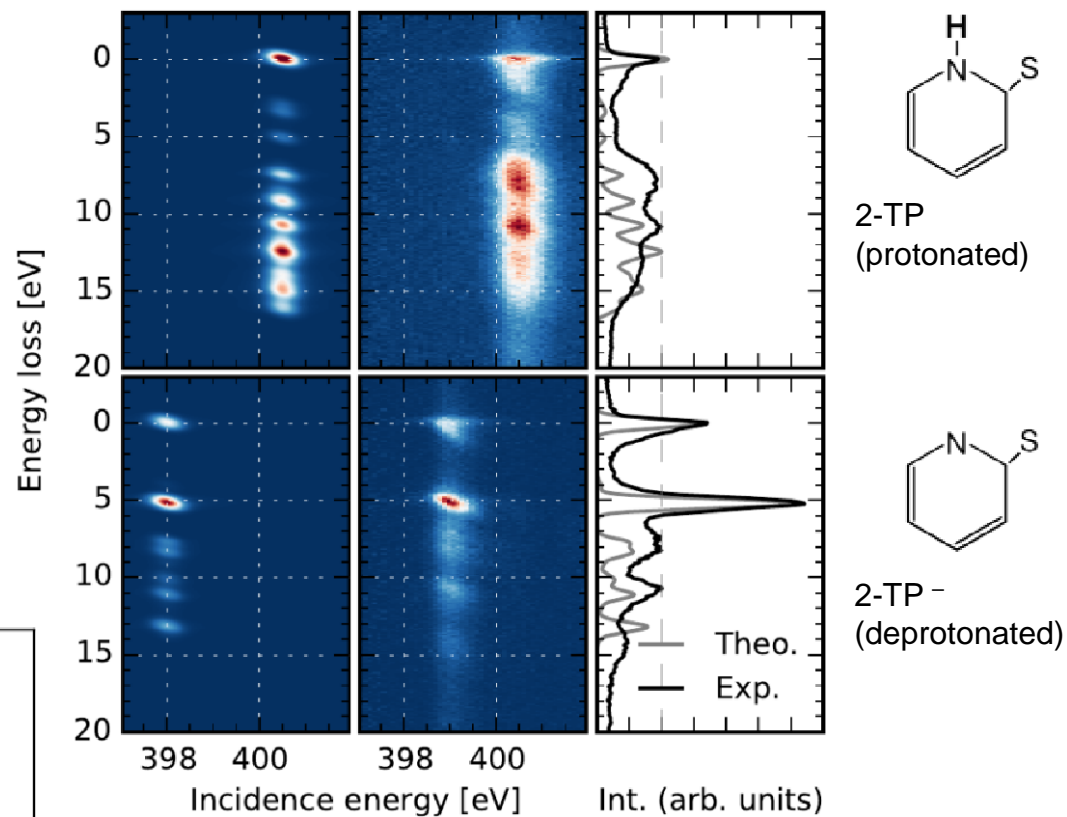
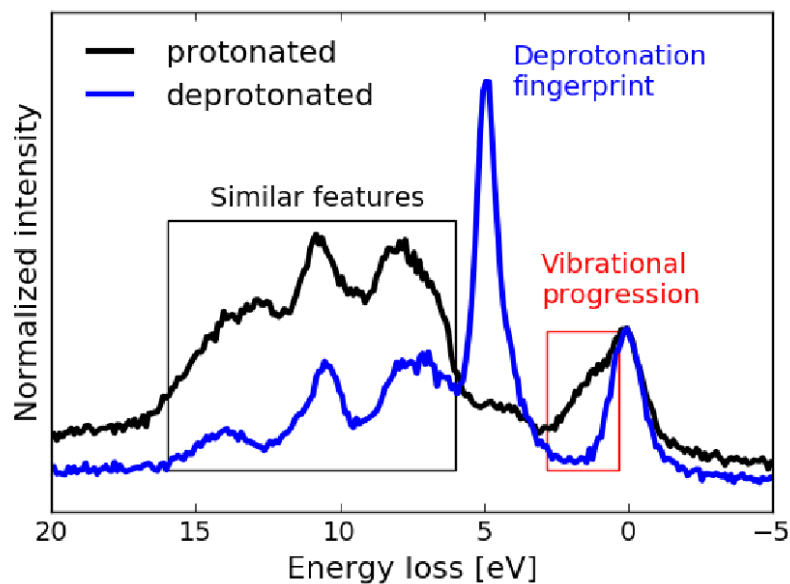
# TD-DFT computation of Near Edge X-ray Absorption Fine Structure of the N K-edge of 2-TP/2-MP in different (de)-protonation states



# N 1s Resonant Inelastic X-ray Scattering Signatures of Protonated and Deprotonation States



# What do we see?

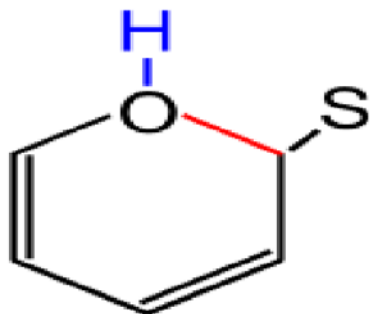
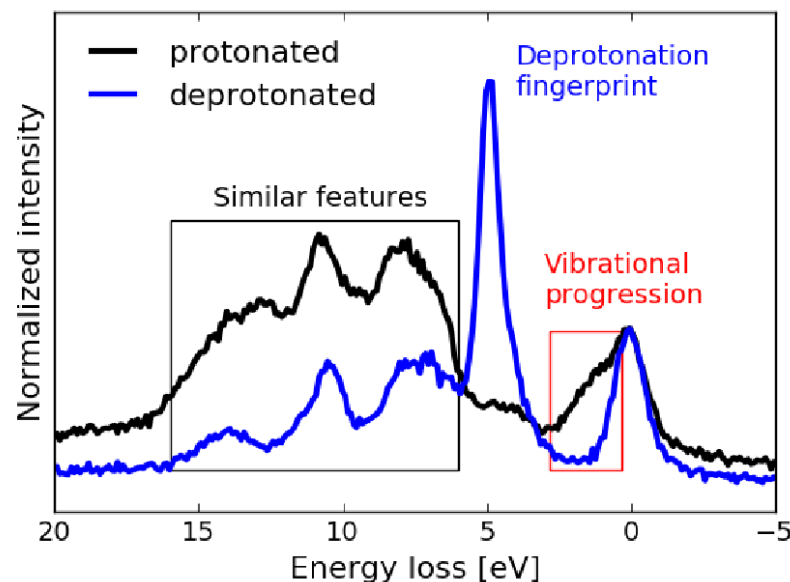


# What do we see?

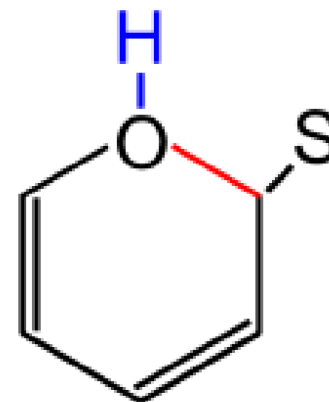
Equivalent core approximation of X-ray spectroscopy:

Core excited N is chemically equivalent to Oxygen

BUT: Which Bond is excited? N-H or N-C ?

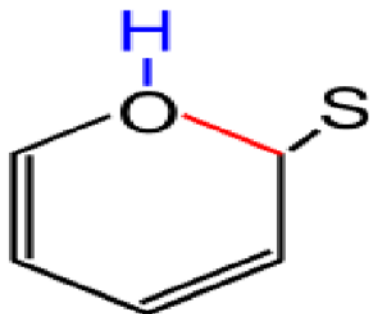
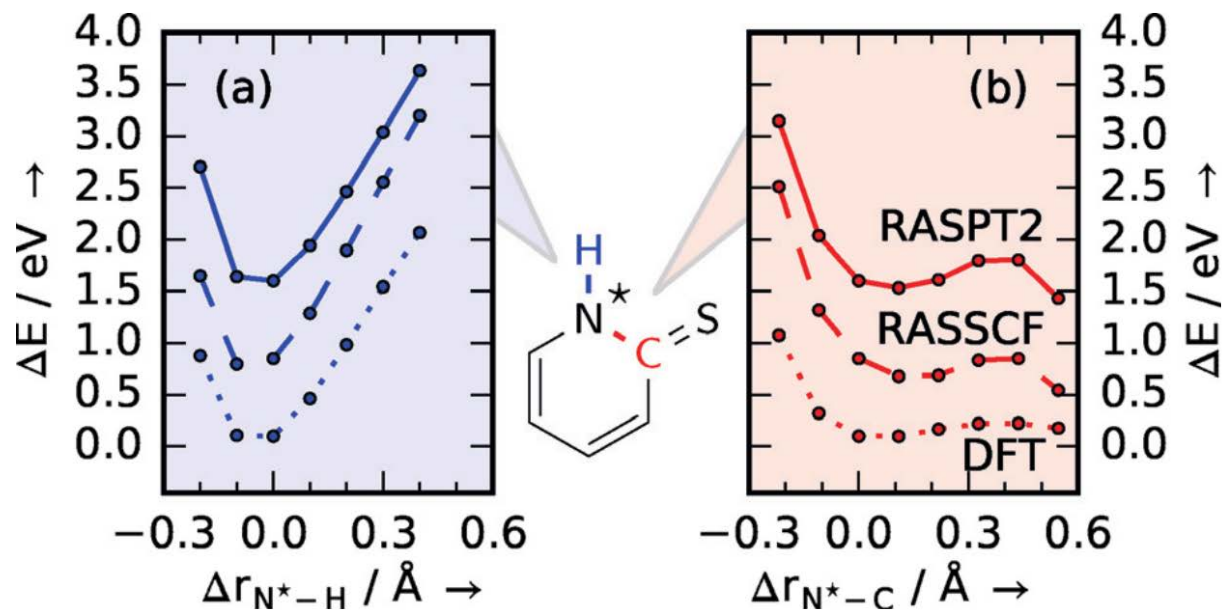


2-TP (deprotonated)

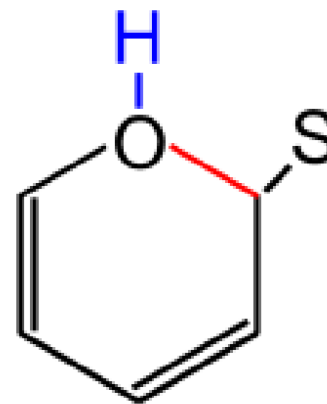


2-TP

# N1s core excited state dynamics in different models

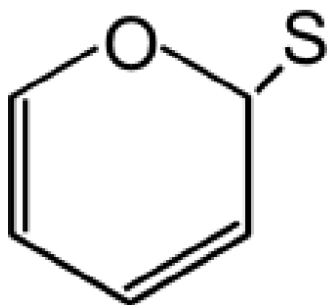
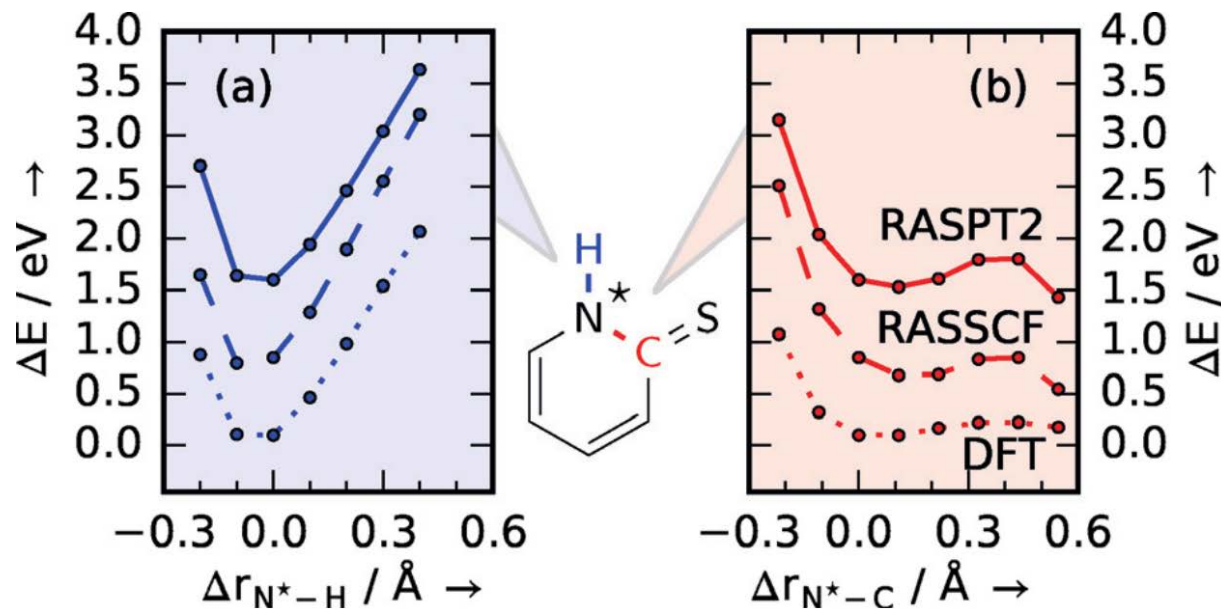


2-TP (deprotonated)

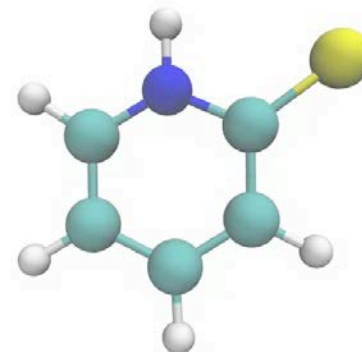


2-TP

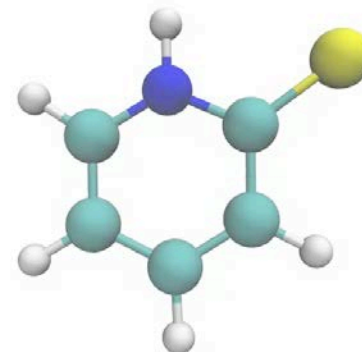
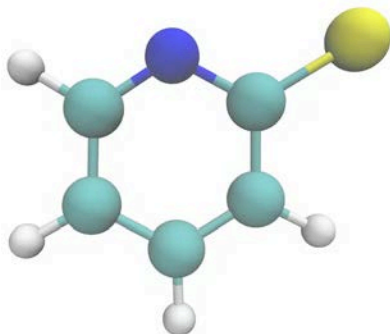
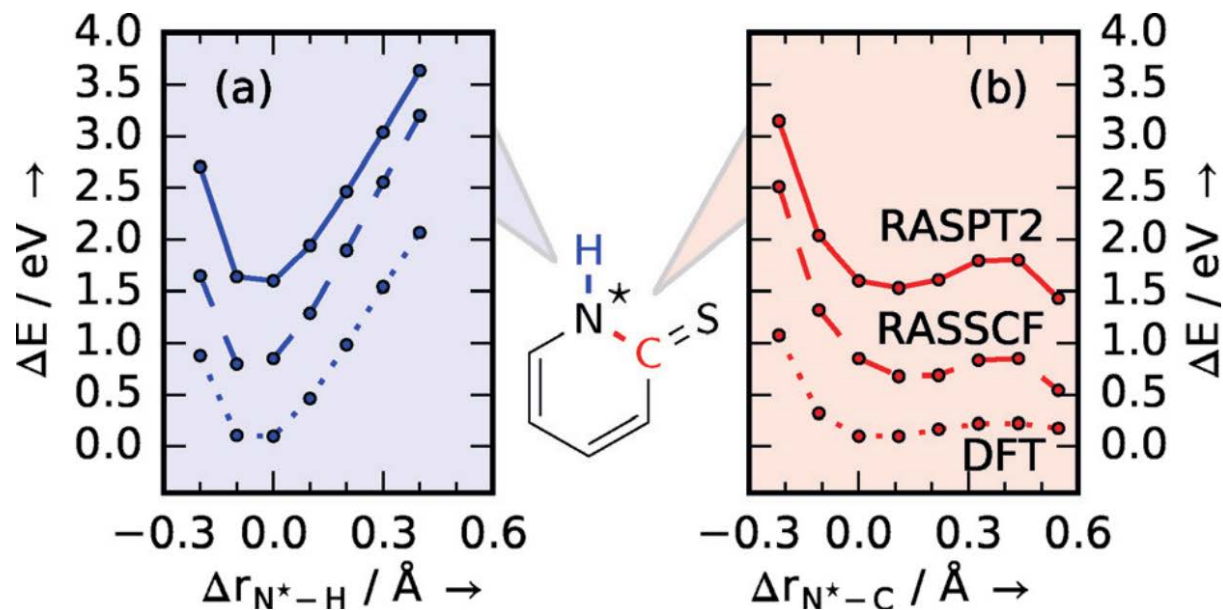
# Dynamics during 4 fs N1s core hole life (scattering duration) time!



2-TP (deprotonated)

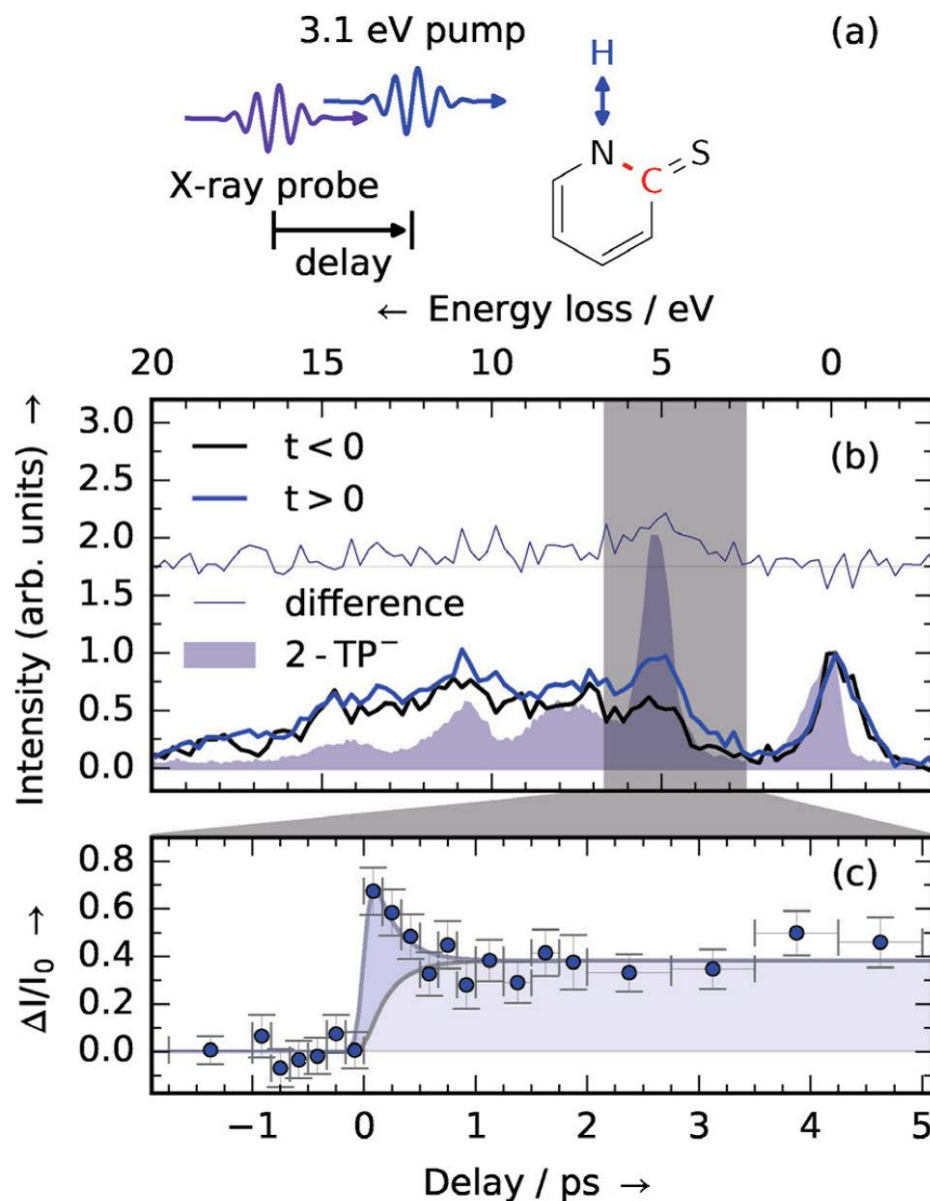


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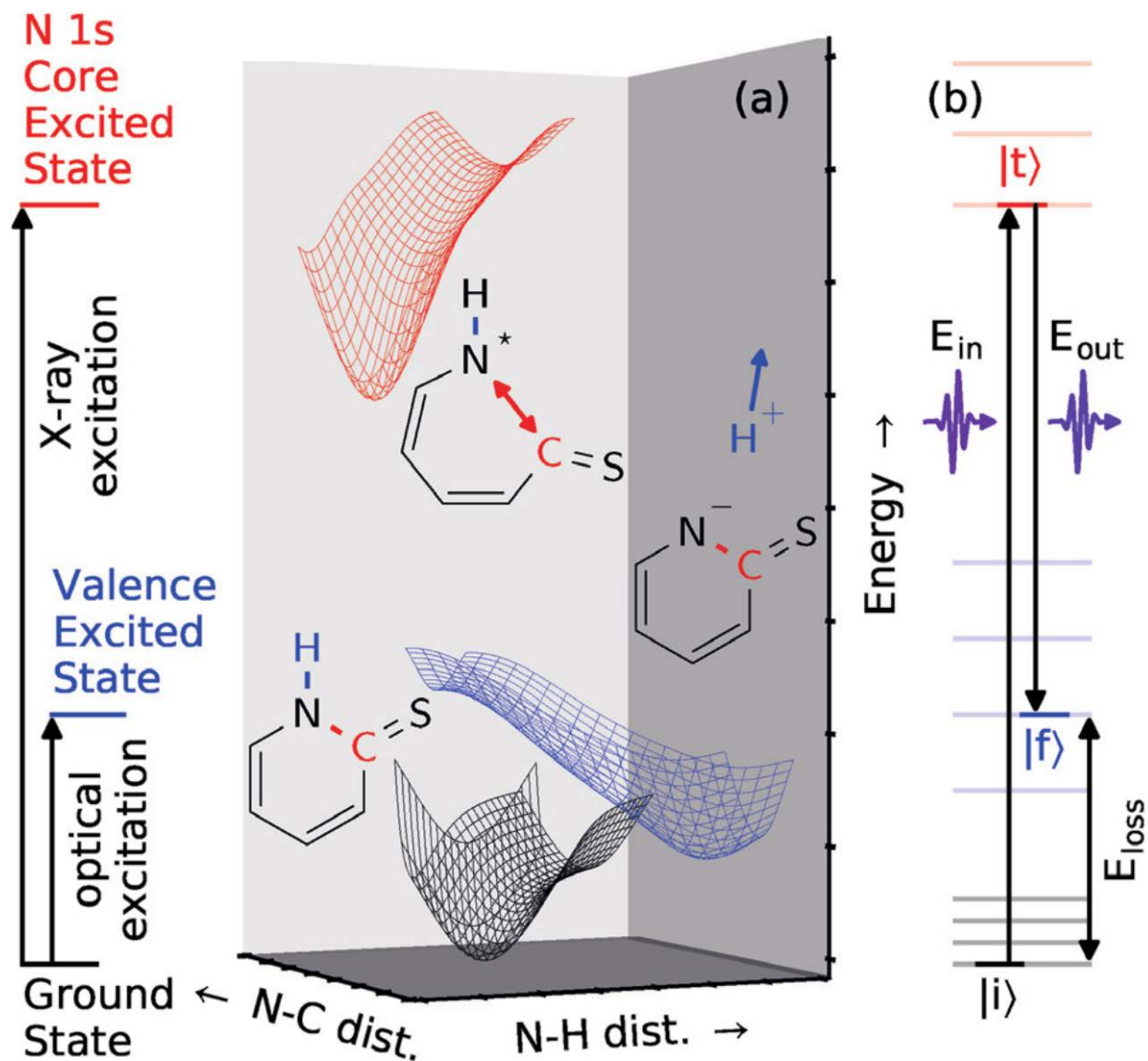




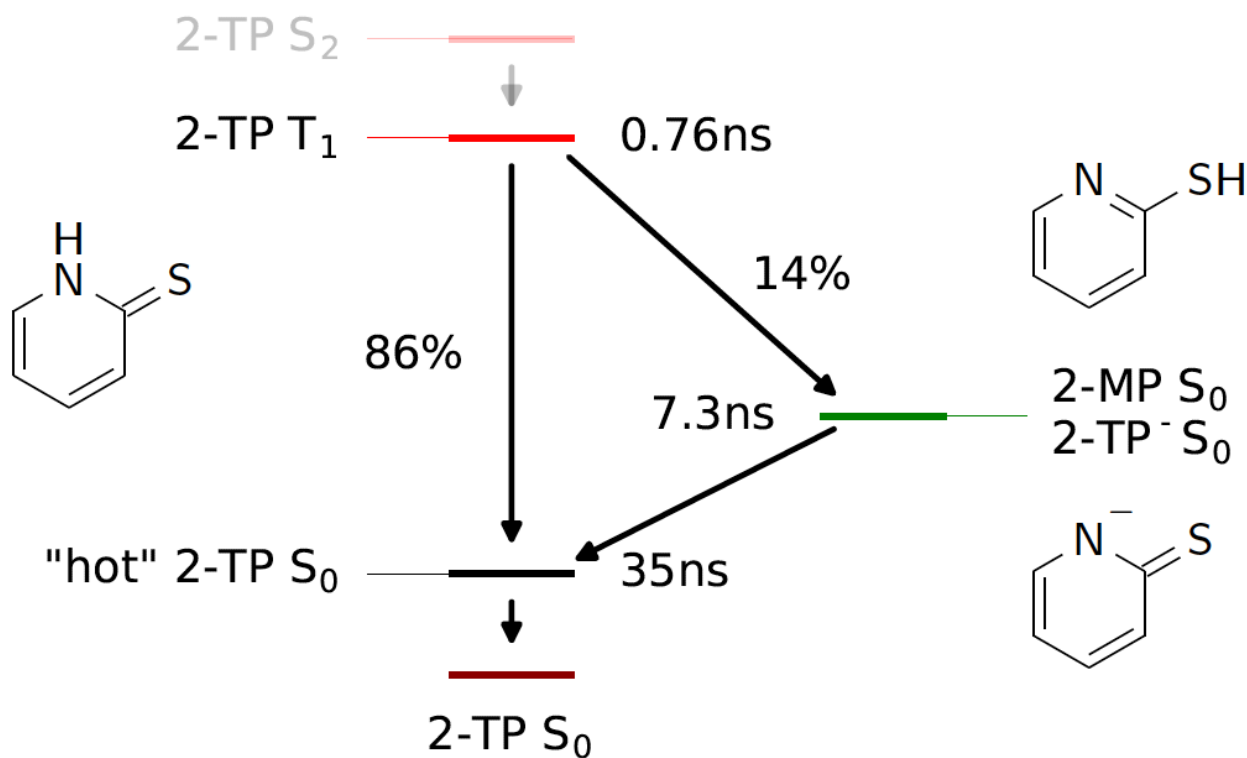
# Now photoinduced deprotonation probed with femtosecond time resolved RIXS at the Nitrogen atoms of 2- MP (aq)



# Optical excitation drives N-H coordinate, X-ray excitation the N-C coordinate



# T1 Population as the Driver of Excited-State Proton-Transfer in 2-Thiopyridone



## T1 Population as the Driver of Excited-State Proton-Transfer in 2-Thiopyridone,

S. Eckert et al. *Chemistry – A European Journal* <https://doi.org/10.1002/chem.201804166> (2018)

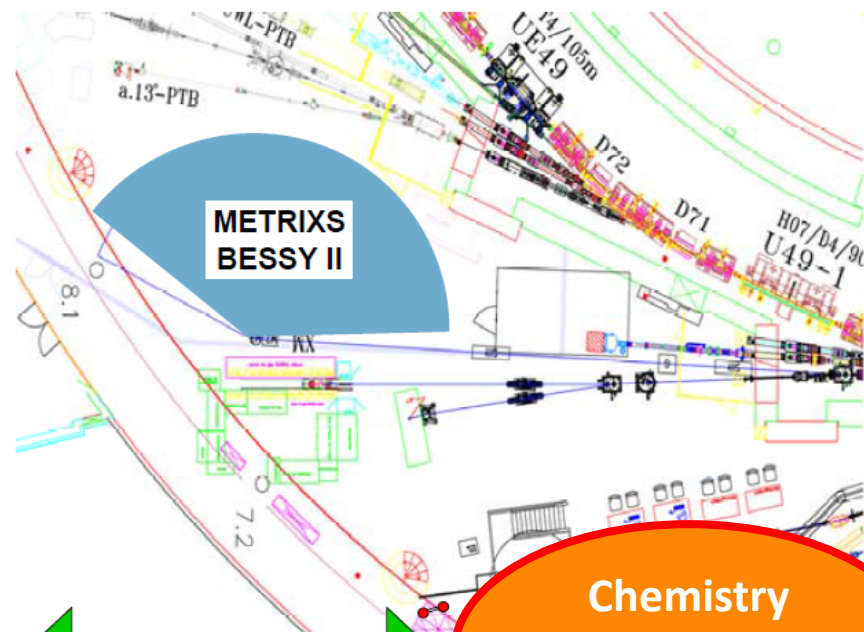
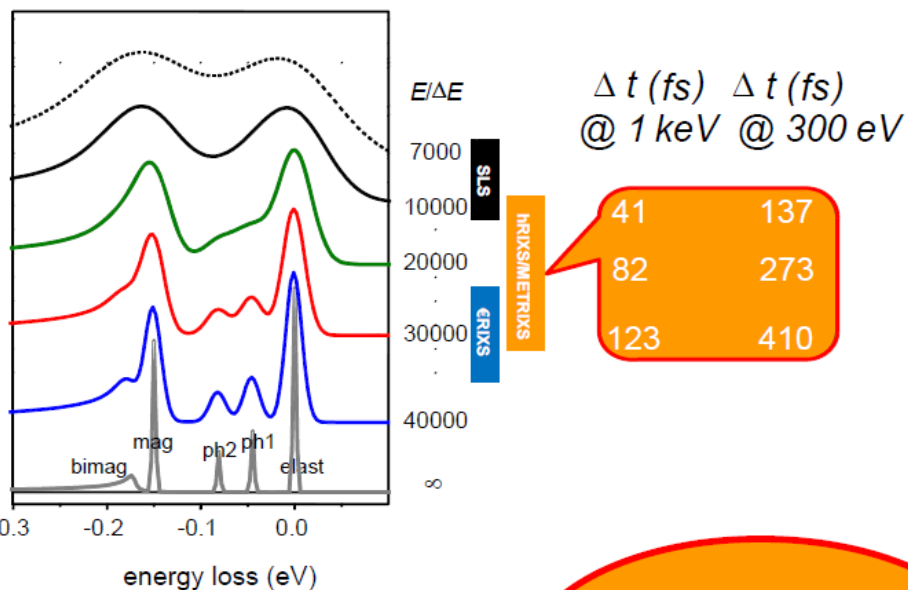
## Ultrafast Independent N–H and N–C Bond Deformation Investigated with Resonant Inelastic X-Ray Scattering,

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## Molecular structures and protonation state of 2-Mercaptopyridine in aqueous solution

S. Eckert et al. *Chemical Physics Letters* 647, 103–106 (2016)

# Static and Dynamics at the transform limit



femtosecond  
timescale:  
hRIXS @ XFEL

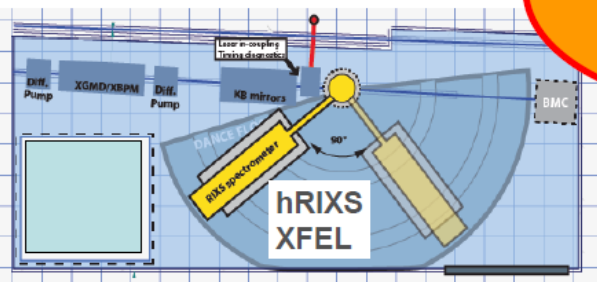
Chemistry  
METRIXS at  
BESSY II



A. Pietzsch, F. Senf, K. Bauer, A.F.

Solid State  
PEAXIS at  
BESSY II

K. Fritsch, K. Lieutenant,  
K. Habicht



Helmholtz international users consortia at XFEL

S. Neppl, F. Senf, A. F. (Potsdam, ERC),

T. Laarmann, S. Techert (DESY), G. Ghiringhelli, Y. Peng (Milano),

A. Scherz, J. Schlappa, (B. van Kuiken), S. Molodtsov (XFEL)

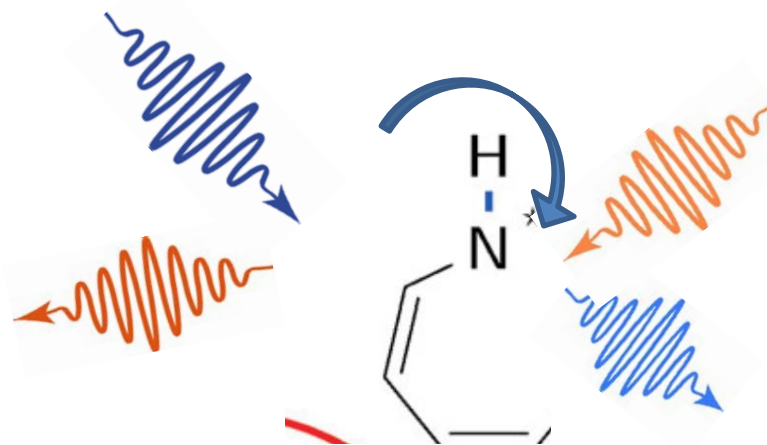
S. Huotari, E. Kukk (FIRI Det II)

# Multi centre dynamics between atomic moieties

## Non-linear soft X-ray spectroscopy: 4 wave mixing

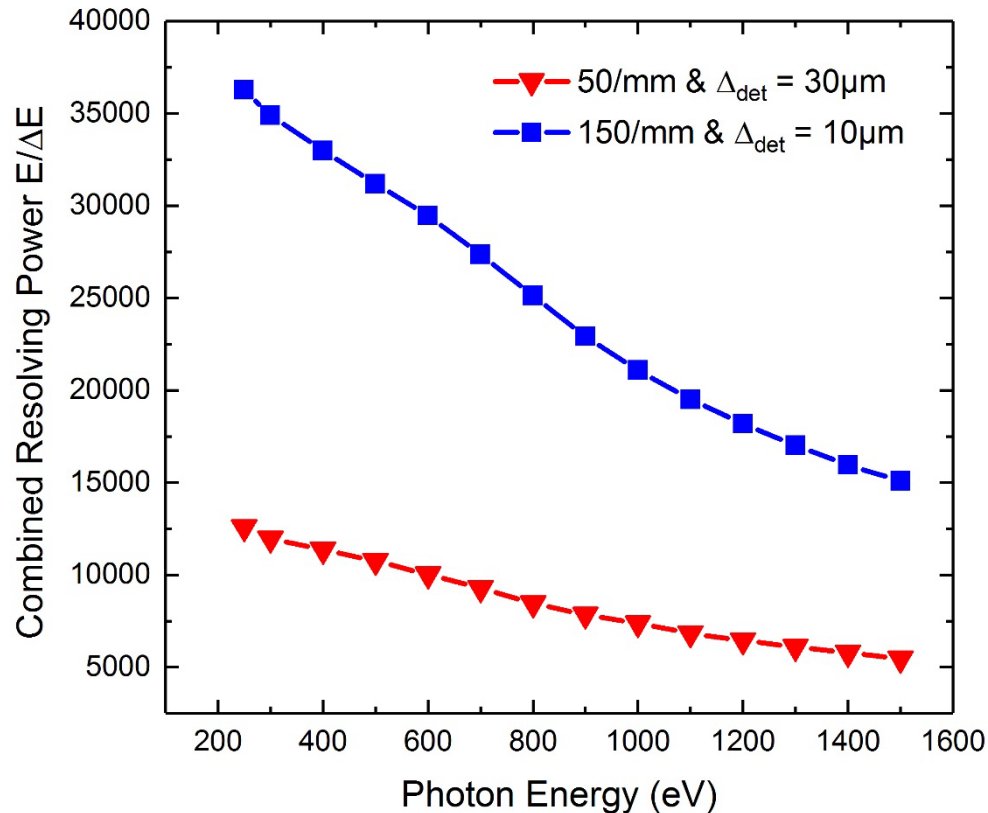
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Create at one site  
excitation through a  
„Stokes“ RIXS process



Detect at another site  
excitation through a  
„Anti-Stokes“ RIXS process

## Projected Day-1 Operation



$\Delta_{\text{source}} = 5\mu\text{m}$   
 $\Delta_{\text{slope-error}} = 0.1\mu\text{rad}$

- Baseline mono operation: 50 l/mm grating
- MCP/DLD spatial resolution: 30  $\mu\text{m}$
- Single pulse discrimination (MCP/DLD)  
for pump-probe experiments

## Conclusion

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- Optical excitation drives N-H bond breaking in 2-Mercaptopyridine
- Nitrogen K-edge excitation stretches N-C bond (which came to us as a surprise!)
- T1 Population as the Driver of Excited-State Proton-Transfer in 2-Thiopyridone (Rate Model derived)
- Upcoming ideal photochemistry and driven states of matter capabilities through hRIXS Infrastructure at European XFEL, matched by METRIXS and PEAXIS at BESSY II

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**Thank You**