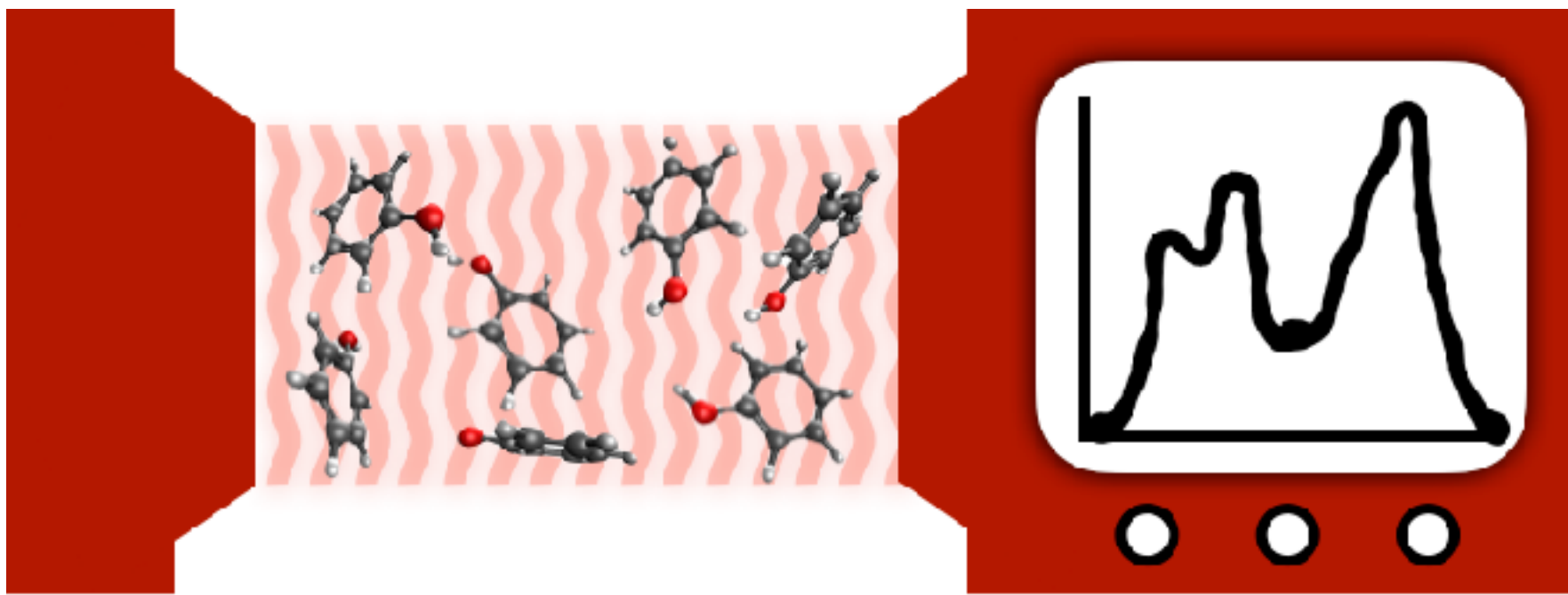


From energies and wave-functions to spectroscopic observables: Challenges and solutions



$$\begin{aligned}\overline{\Psi} &= \text{Re}^T \Phi_0 \\ \overline{H} &= \exp(-T) H \exp(T) \\ \overline{H} R \Phi_0 &= E R \Phi_0\end{aligned}$$



Q-CHEM™
A QUANTUM LEAP INTO THE FUTURE OF CHEMISTRY

Anna I. Krylov

University of Southern California, Los Angeles

**MITP
SCIENTIFIC
PROGRAM**

Many-Body Theory: Nuclear Physics Meets Quantum Chemistry

Aug 24 – Sep 4, 2026

<https://indico.mitp.uni-mainz.de/event/454>

Mainz Institute for
Theoretical Physics

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Software: Q-Chem



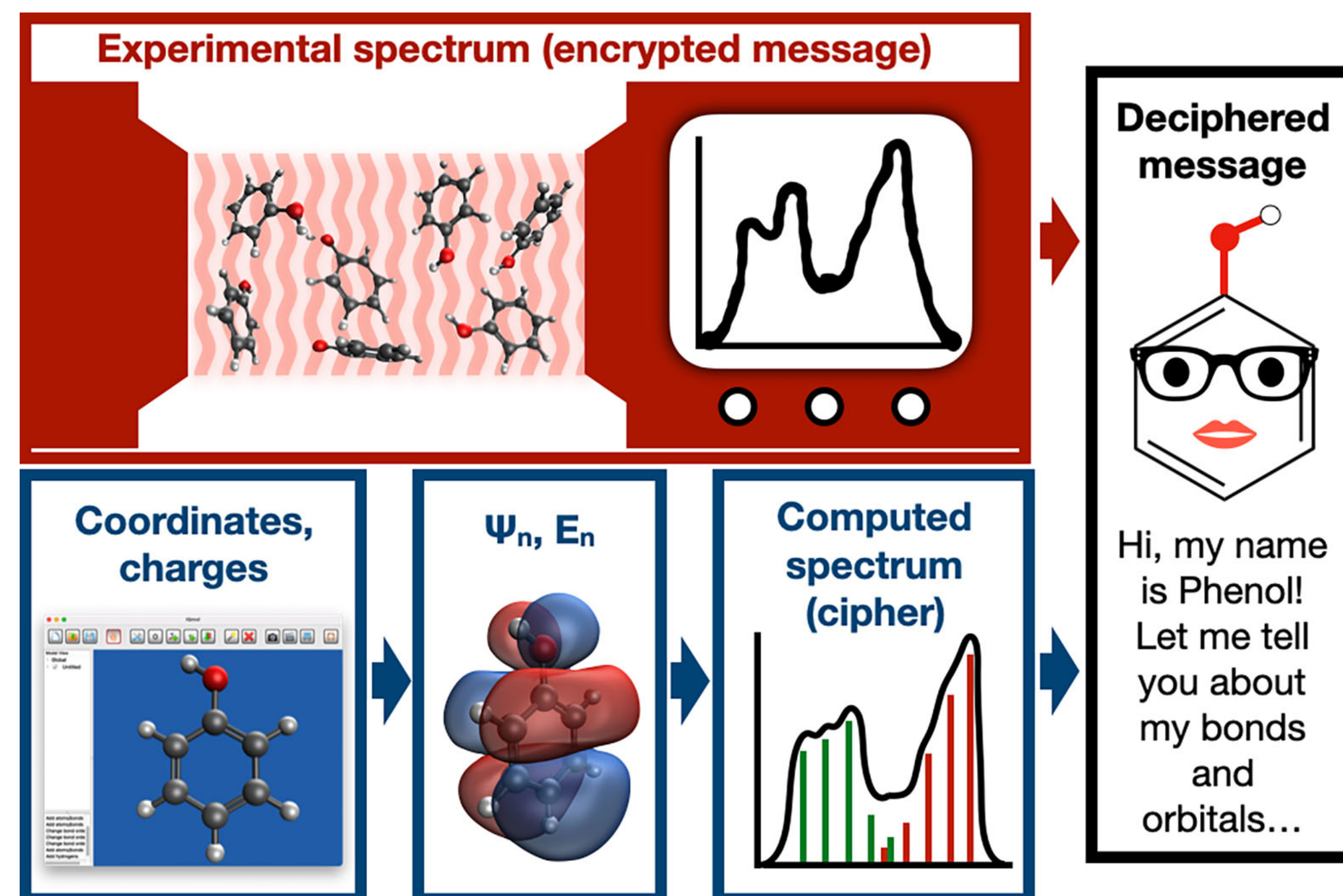
Prof. Juergen Gauss
(Mainz, Germany)

Spectroscopy: Light + matter

Light + molecule = spectrum

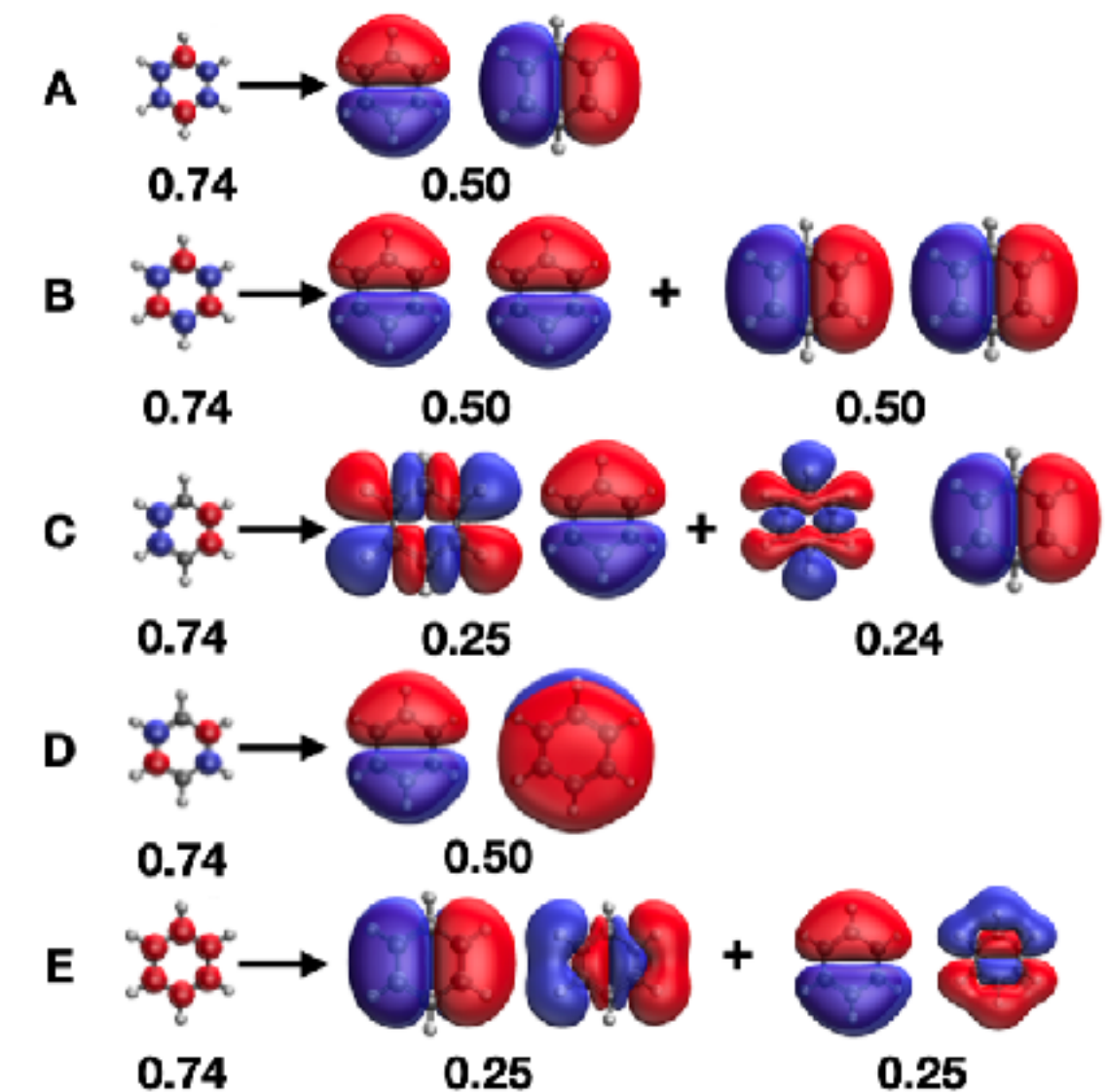
The spectrum is the message from the molecule

The theory is a key for deciphering the message



Outline

1. Spectroscopy in chemistry
2. Electronic spectroscopy
3. Challenges
4. Equation-of-motion coupled-cluster methods: Theory and examples
5. From wave functions to properties
 - linear and non-linear response
 - from bound states to the continuum
6. Conclusion



Spectroscopy in chemistry

1. Rotational spectroscopy
2. Spin and magnetic fields: Electronic paramagnetic resonance (EPR), nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), magnetizability
3. Vibrational spectroscopies: Infra-red (IR), Raman, vibrational circular dichroism (VCD)
4. **Electronic spectroscopies in UV-Vis:**
 - Absorption, emission, electronic circular dichroism
 - Nonlinear regimes: two-photon absorption, etc
 - Photoelectron spectroscopies
4. **Electronic spectroscopies in X-ray domain:**
XAS, XPS, XES, RIXS, XCD, Auger, ICD, etc...

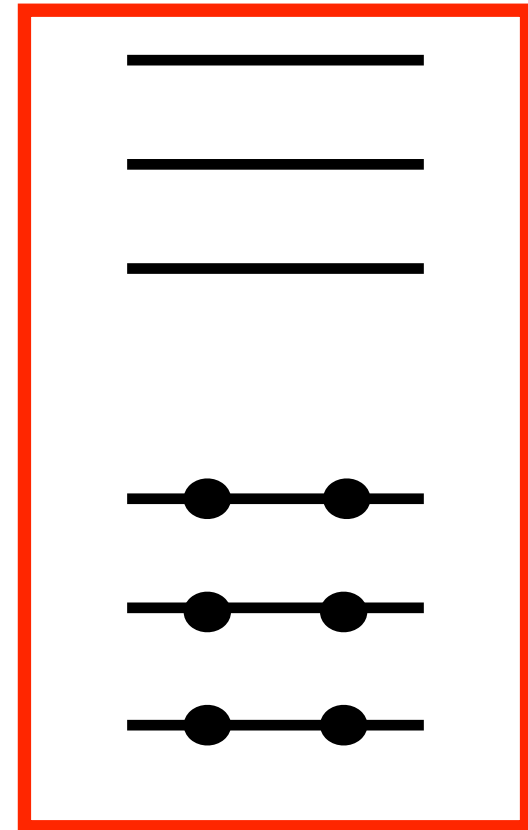
0.1-10 cm^{-1}

Energy of radiation

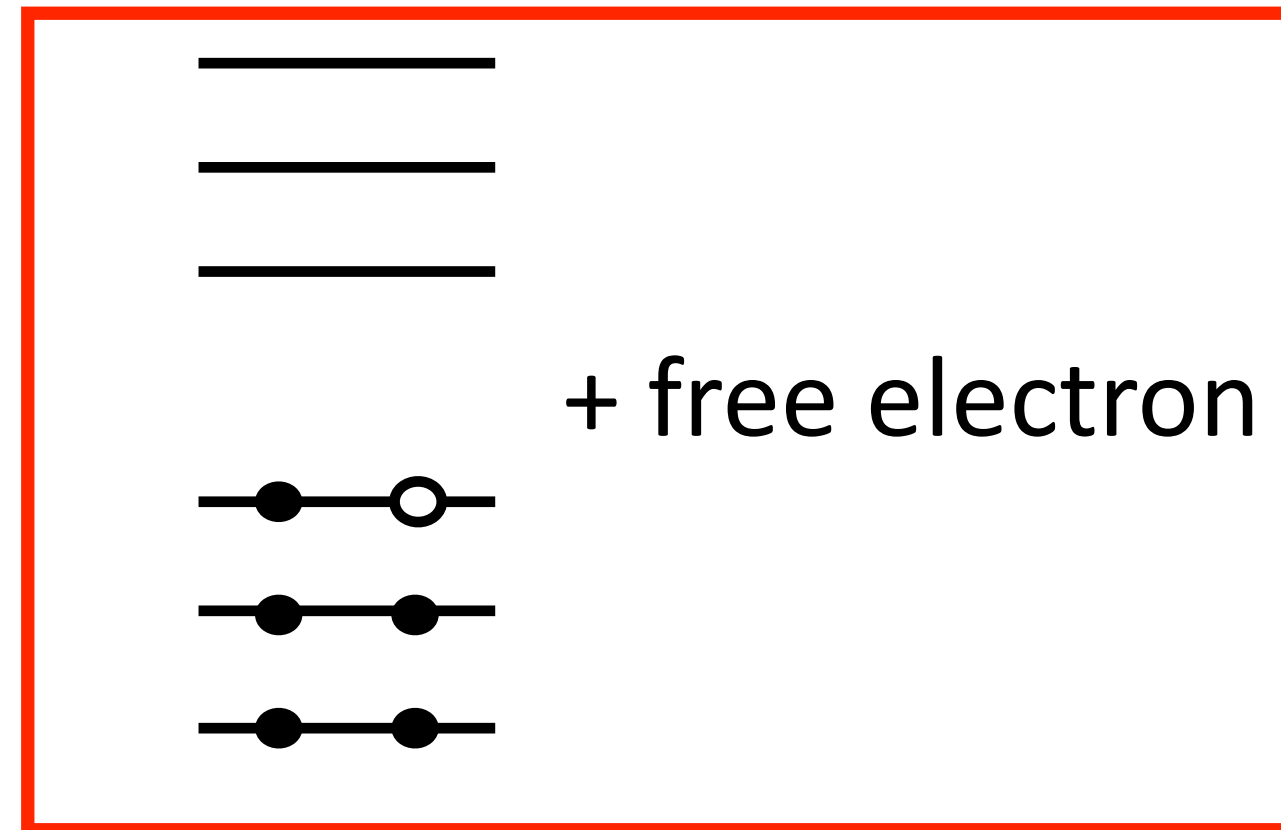
100-1,000 eV

Electronic spectroscopies in the valence domain

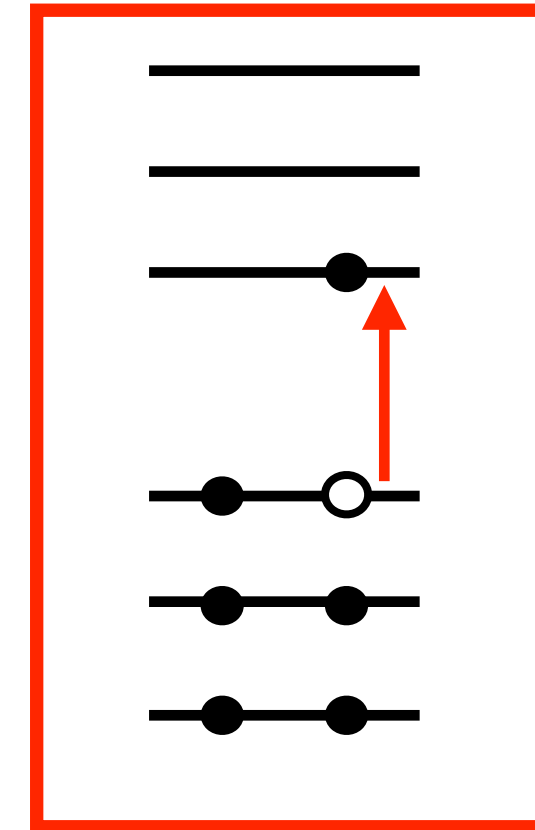
Initial state



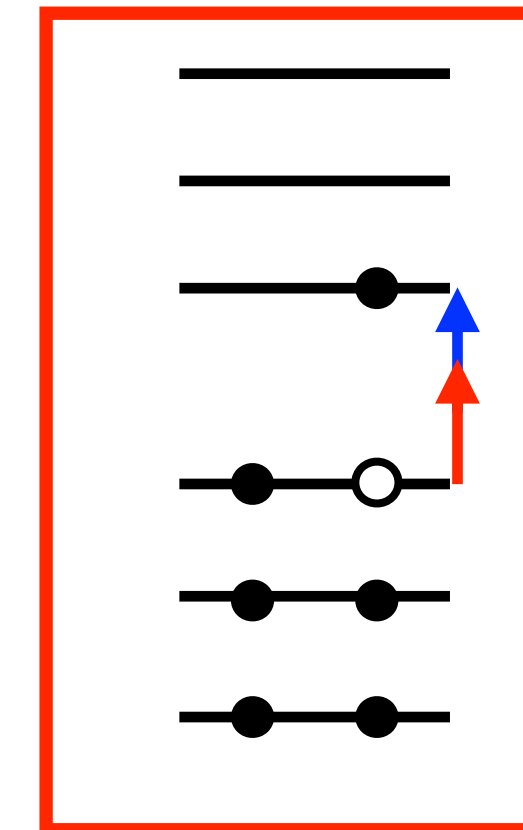
Final states



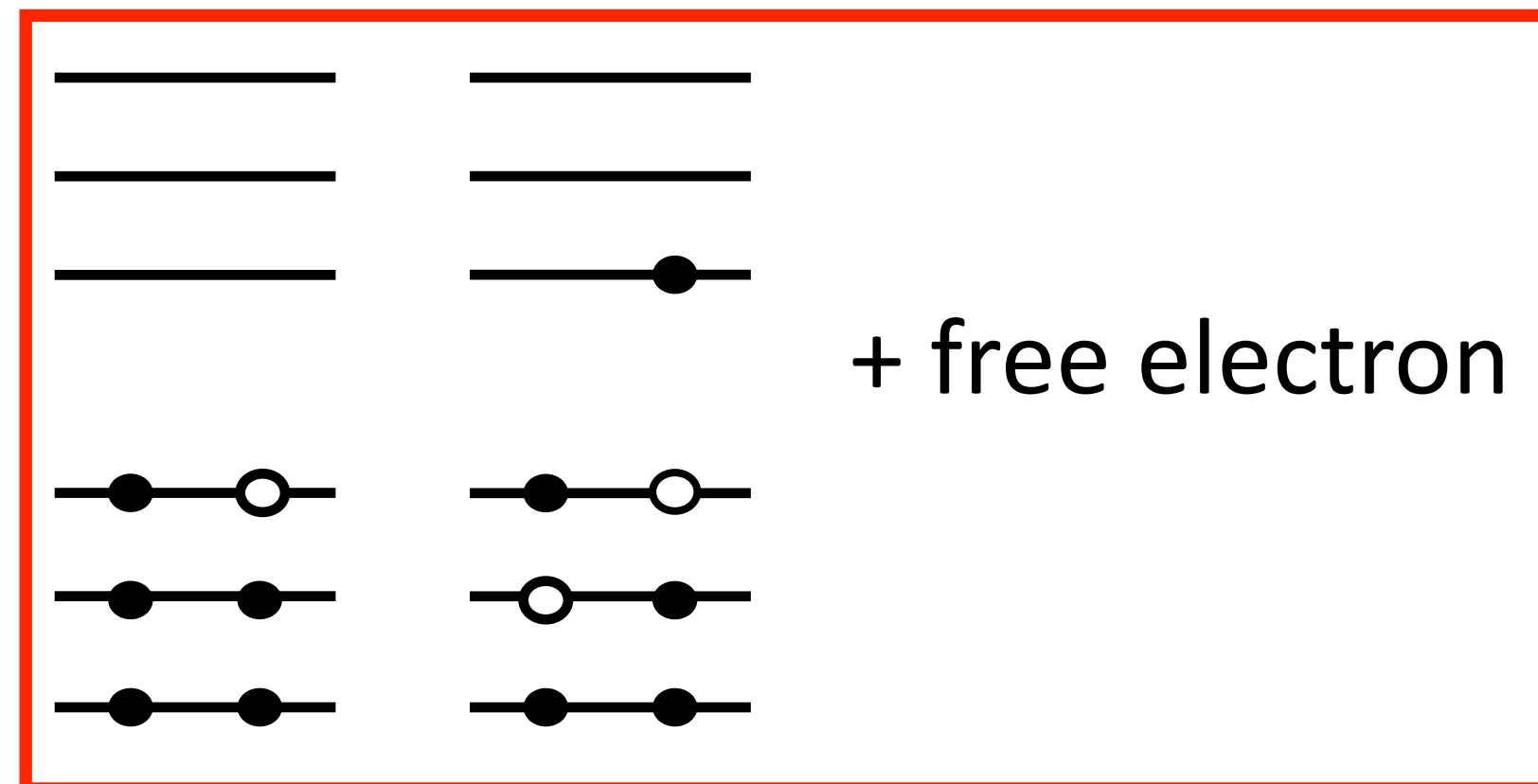
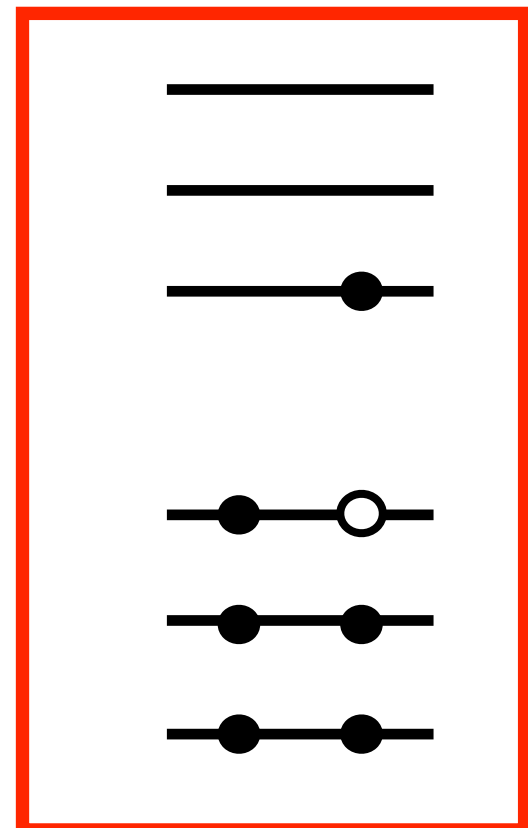
UV ionization (UPS)



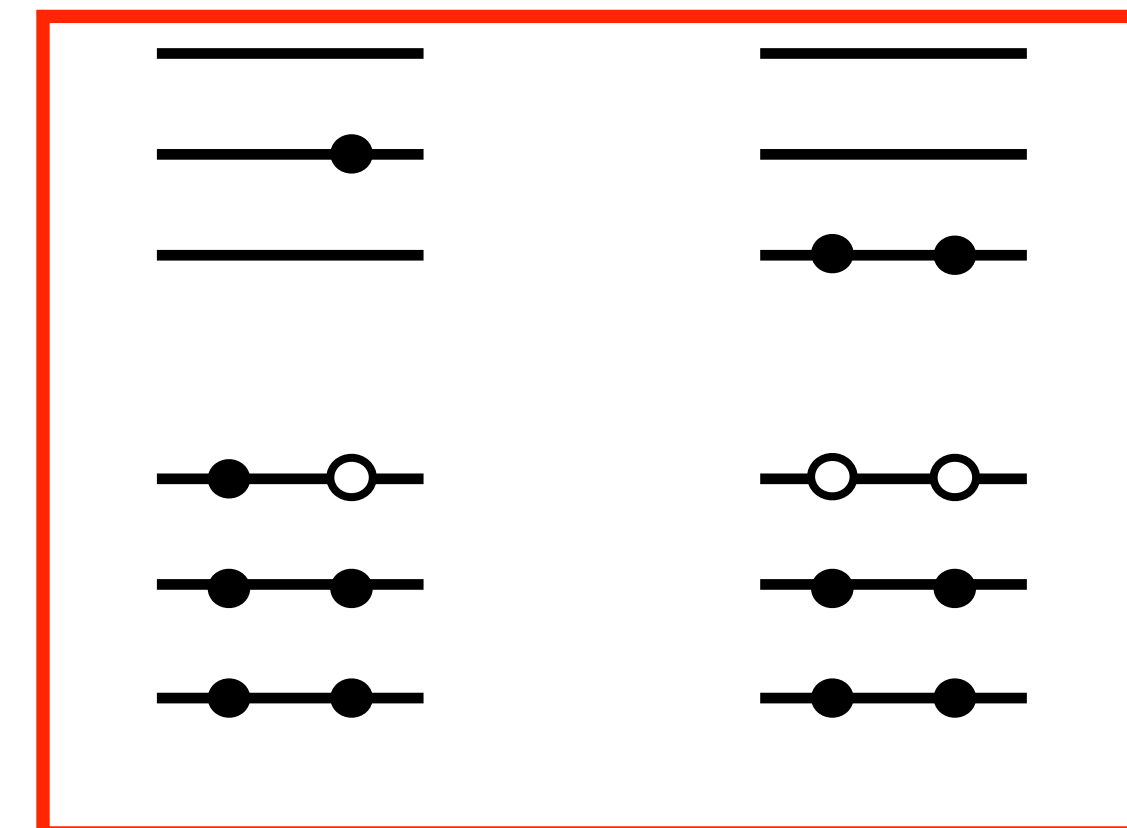
UV/Vis absorption



Two-photon absorption
(2PA)

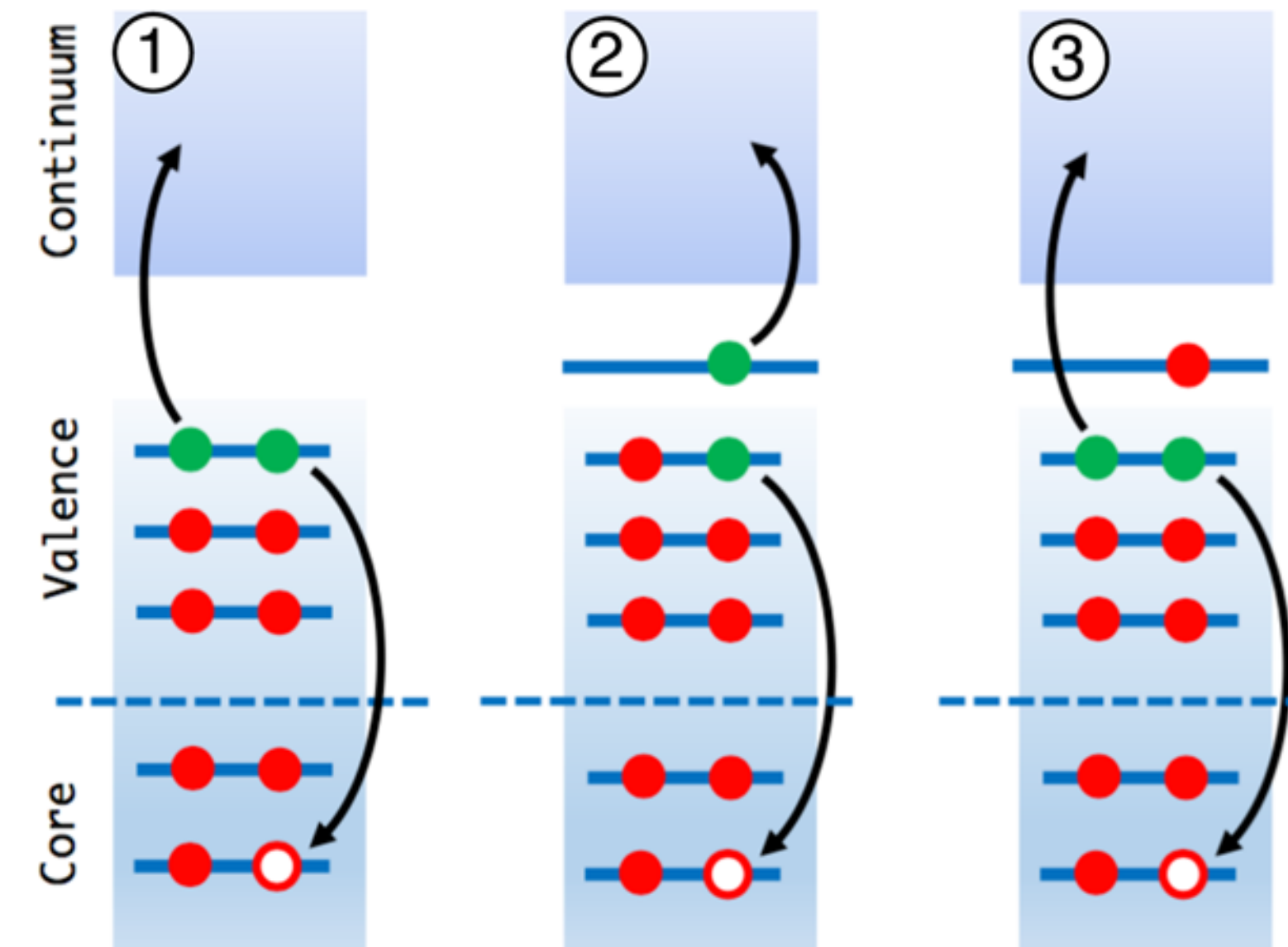
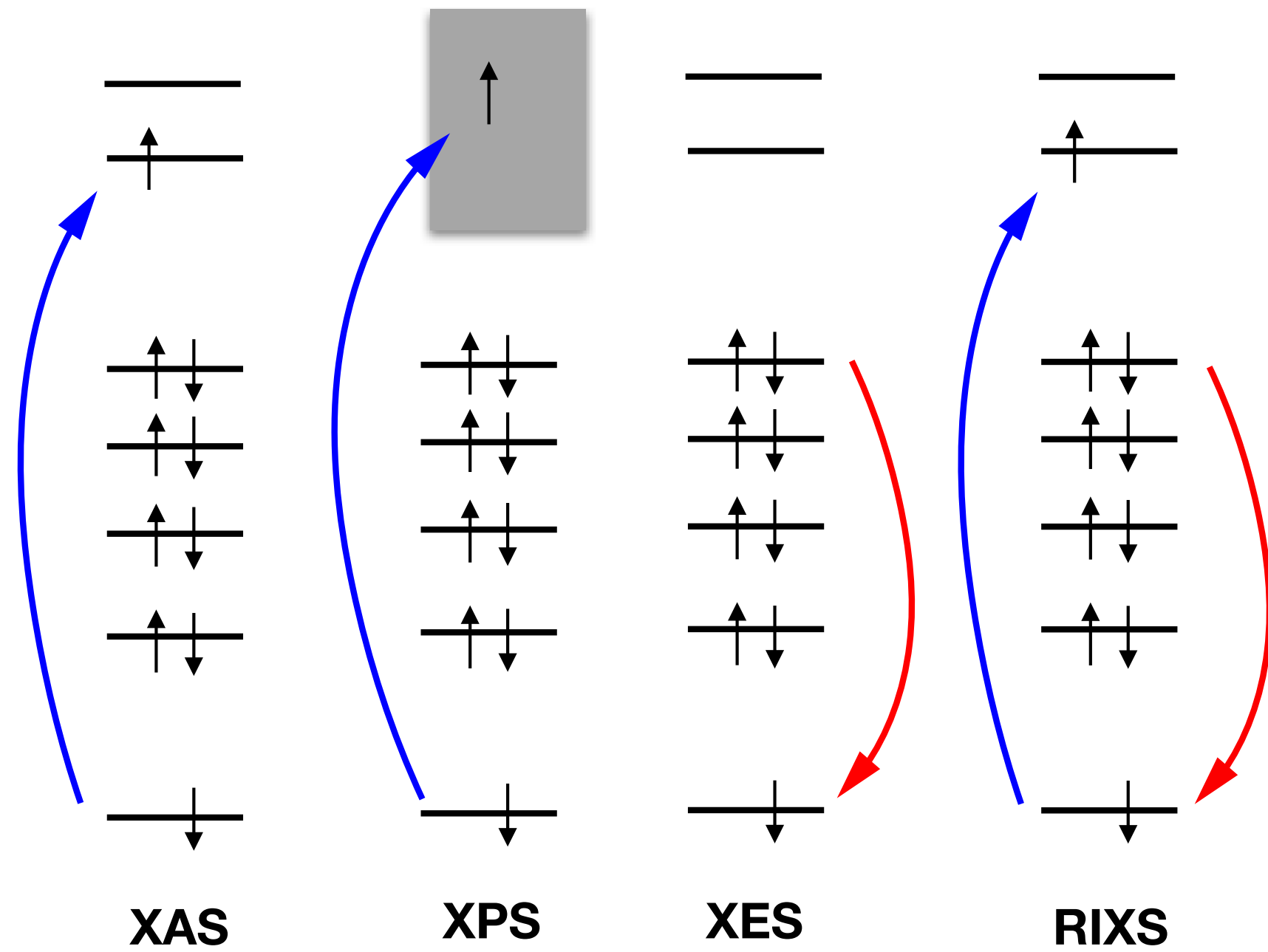


Time-resolved PES



Transient absorption

Electronic spectroscopies in the X-ray domains



Auger and Interatomic Coulomb Decay

X-ray spectroscopies exploit transitions involving core electrons

Electronic spectroscopies in the X-ray domains

1. Need to compute different electronic states (initial and final)
2. In some cases, need to describe states in the continuum (free-electron states, decaying states)
3. Need to compute transition probability (transition moment, intensity, cross-section)
4. Need to compute optimized geometries of initial and final states
5. Often need to compute vibrational structure (FCFs, Franck-Condon Factors, vibronic effects)

Which method to use?

- Multistate methods versus state-specific (Delta-SCF) approaches
- DFT, TDDFT, ...
- CCSD, EOM-CCSD, ADC
- RASCI, CASSCF, ...

My choice: Equation-of-motion coupled-cluster framework

EOM-CC for bound states and resonances

$$\text{EOM-CC ansatz: } \Psi = R e^T \Phi_0$$
$$\overline{H} R \Phi_0 = E R \Phi_0 \quad \overline{H} = \exp(-T) H \exp(T)$$

Foundational papers:

Rowe, Equations-of-motion method and the extended shell model, Rev. Mod. Phys. **40** 153 (1968)

Nakatsuji, Hirao, Cluster expansion of the wavefunction. Symmetry-adapted-cluster expansion, its variational determination, and extension to open-shell orbital theory, J. Chem. Phys. **68** 2053 (1978)

Sekino, Bartlett, A linear response, coupled-cluster theory for excitation energy. Int. J. Quant. Chem. Symp. **18** 255 (1984)

Koch, Jensen, Jørgensen, Helgaker, Excitation energies from the coupled clusters singles and doubles linear response functions (CCSDLR): applications to Be, CH⁺, CO, and H₂O. J. Chem. Phys. **93** 3345 (1990)

Stanton, Bartlett, The equation of motion coupled-cluster method: a systematic biorthogonal approach to molecular excitation energies, transition probabilities, and excited state properties. J. Chem. Phys. **98** 7029 (1993)

Stanton and Gauss, Analytic Energy Gradients for the Equation-of-Motion Coupled-Cluster Method: Implementation and Application to the HCN/HNC System, J. Chem. Phys. **100** 4695 (1994)

Reviews:

Krylov, Equation-of-motion coupled-cluster methods for open-shell and electronically excited species: The hitchhiker's guide to Fock space, Krylov, Ann. Rev. Phys. Chem. **59** 433 (2008); Krylov, The quantum chemistry of open-shell species, Reviews in Comp. Chem. **30** 151 (2017); Jagau, Bravaya, Krylov, Extending quantum chemistry of bound states to electronic resonances, Ann. Rev. Phys. Chem. **68** 525 (2017).

Equation of motion coupled-cluster methods

EOM-CC ansatz: $\Psi = \text{Re}^T \Phi_0$

EOM-CC bi-variational principle: $\delta \left[\frac{\langle \Phi_0 L | \bar{H} | R \Phi_0 \rangle}{\langle \Phi_0 L | R \Phi_0 \rangle} \right] = 0$

EOM-CC eigenproblem: $\bar{H} R \Phi_0 = E R \Phi_0$
 $\bar{H} = \exp(-T) H \exp(T)$

Choice of reference and operator R opens access to different target states:

$R^{IP} = \sum_i r_i i + \dots$

$R^{DIP} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} r_{ij} ij + \dots$

$R^{EA} = \sum_a r^a a^\dagger + \dots$

$R^{DEA} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ab} r^{ab} a^\dagger b^\dagger + \dots$

$R^{EE} = r_0 + \sum_{ia} r_i^a a^\dagger i + \dots$

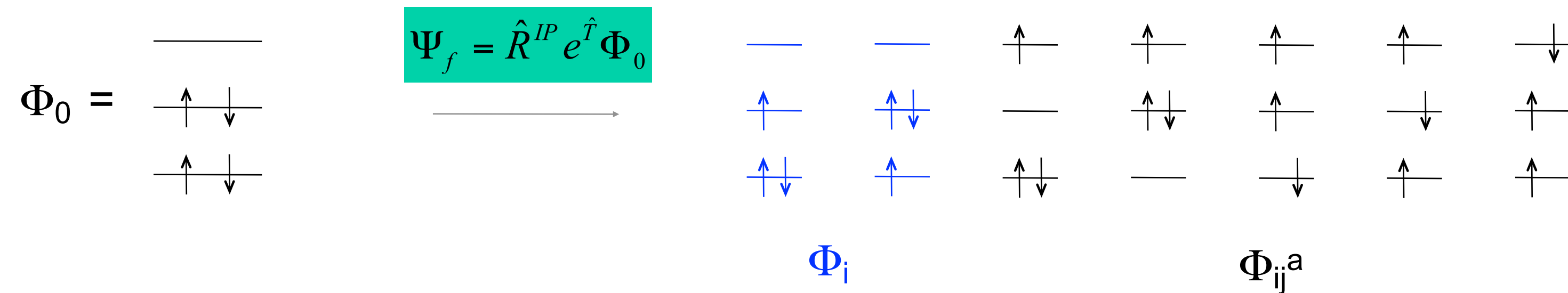
$\bar{H} =$

	Φ_0	Φ_1	Φ_2
Φ_0	E_0	X	X
Φ_1	0	X	X
Φ_2	0	X	X

EOM-CC methods:

- Size-intensive
- Bi-variational
- Systematically improvable
- Include dynamic and non-dynamic correlation in the same framework
- Treat open-shell states without spin-contamination
- Describe multi-configurational wfns in a single-reference formalism
- Multi-state
- Correctly treat many types of electronic degeneracies
- Treat different states on the same footing (balance, transition properties)
- Elegant formalism facilitates calculation of properties
 - Scaling: N^6 for EOM-CCSD, N^8 for EOM-CCSDT...
 - Medium-sized molecules (~ 1000 b.f.) are doable
 - Cost-saving techniques are being actively developed

EOM-IP-CC (EOM-CC for ionization potentials)

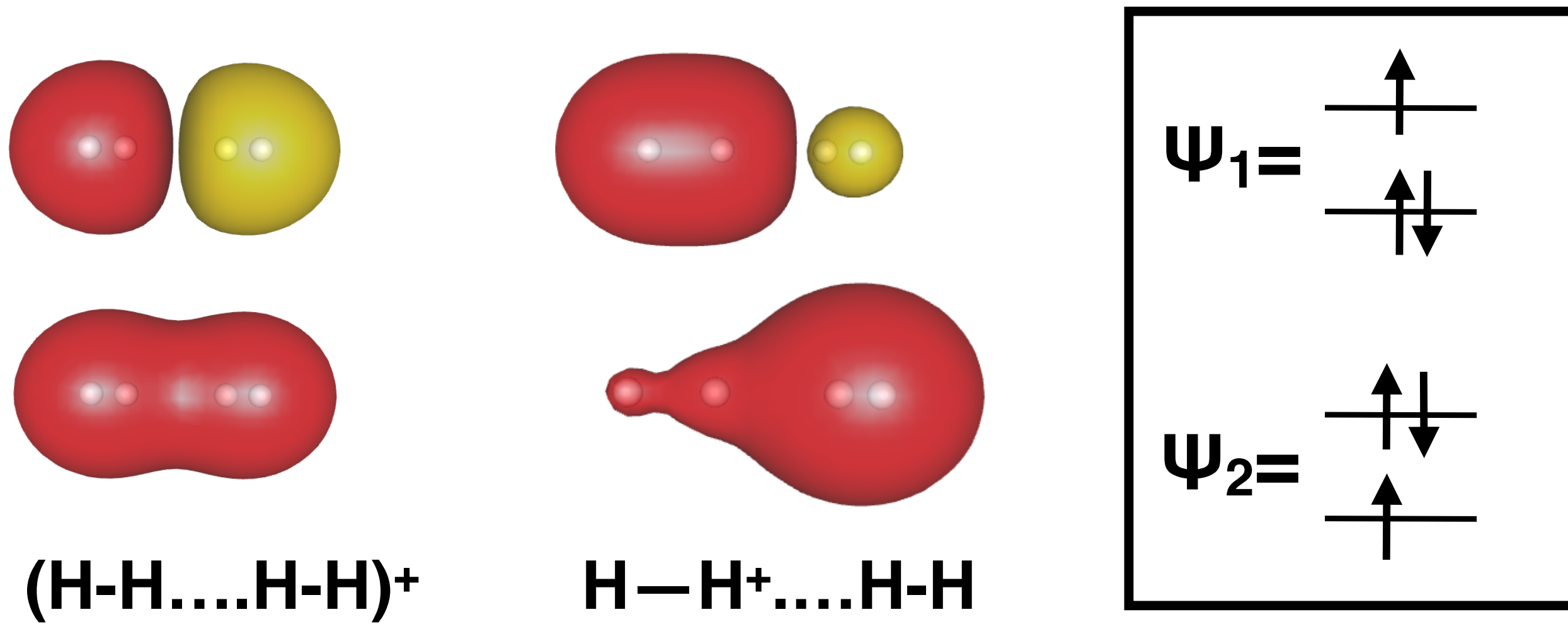


N-electron reference

N-1 electron target states

- Naturally spin-adapted
- Does not suffer from artificial symmetry breaking
- Correctly describes charge localization patterns in ionized systems
- Describes both the ground and excited states
- Correctly describes degenerate states (e.g., Jahn-Teller problem)

Charge-localization and symmetry breaking in molecular aggregates



EOM-IP treats both configurations on equal footing:

$$R^{IP} = \sum_i r_i \dot{i} + \dots$$

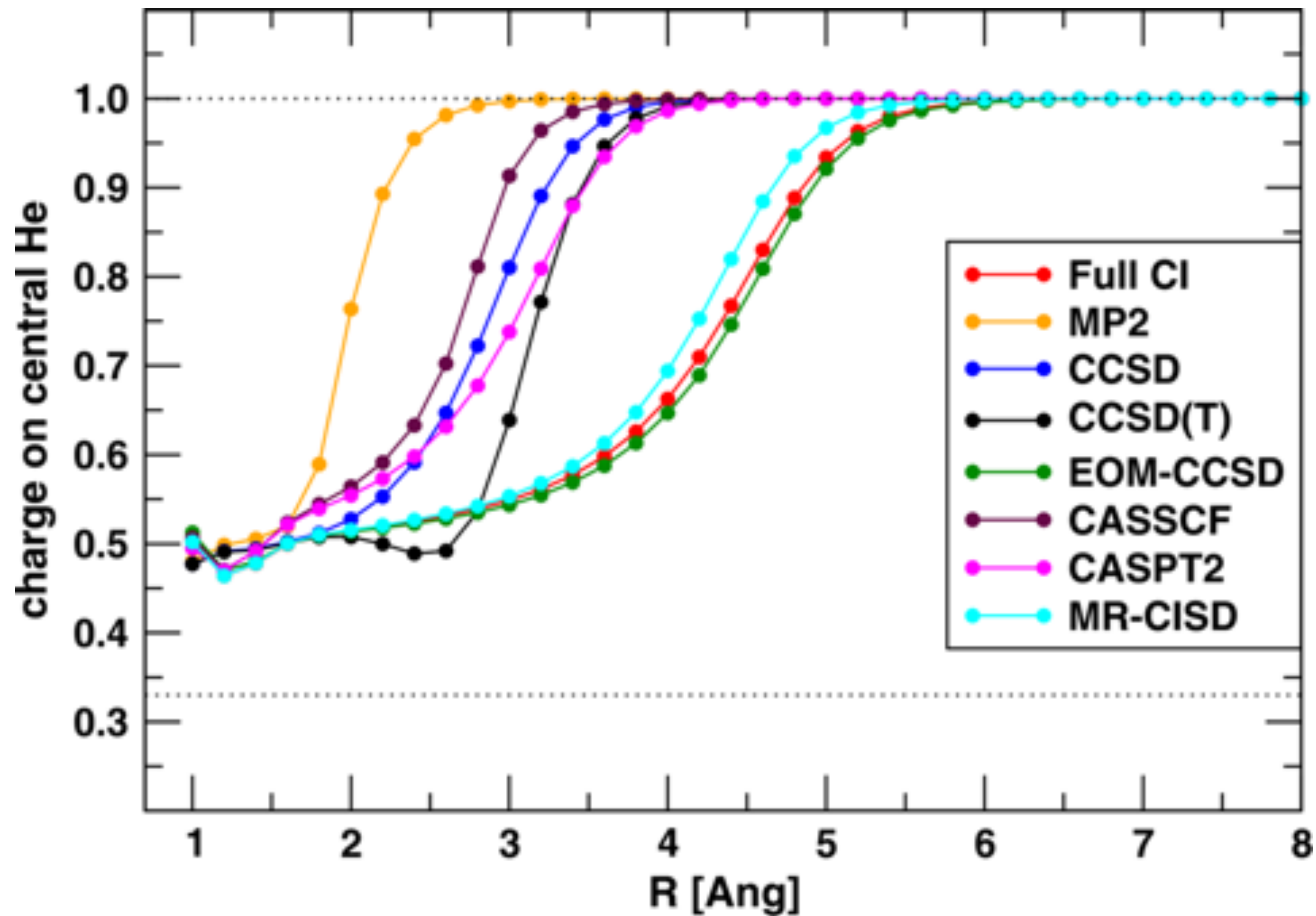
$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \downarrow \\ \hline \uparrow \downarrow \end{array}$

$\xrightarrow{\text{IP}}$

$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \hline \uparrow \downarrow \end{array}$

$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \downarrow \\ \hline \uparrow \end{array}$

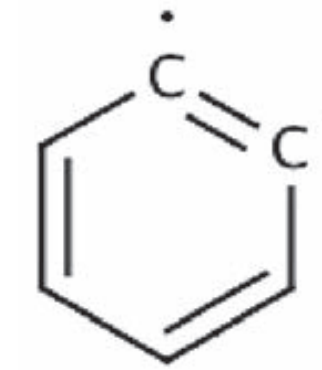
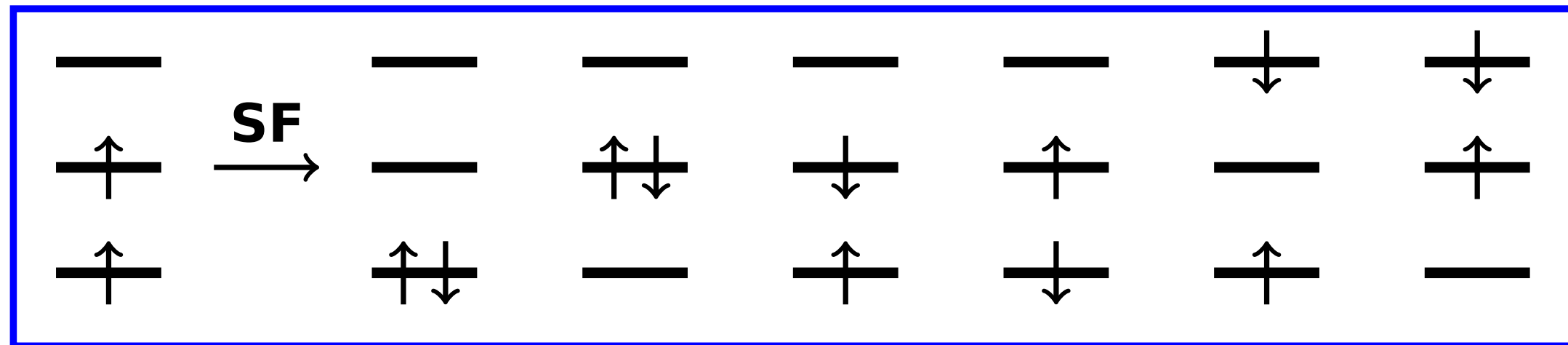
Charge localization: $(\text{He}_3)^+$ example



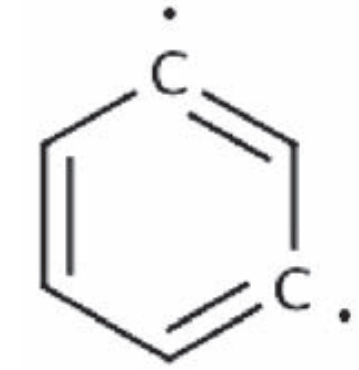
Courtesy of Thomas Koerzdoerfer, Potsdam University

EOM-CC for multi-configurational wave-functions: Examples from chemistry

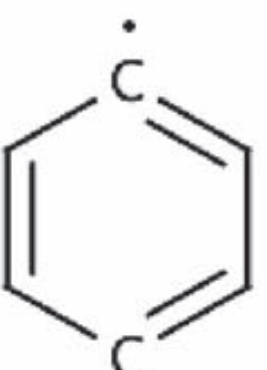
EOM with spin-flip



o-benzyne



m-benzyne

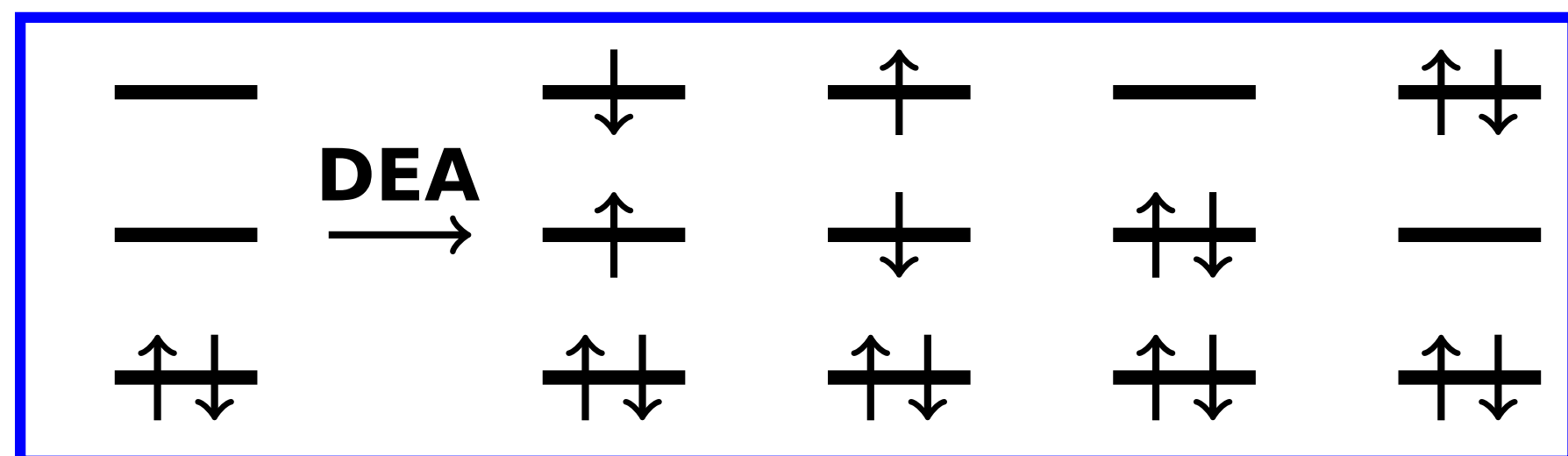


p-benzyne

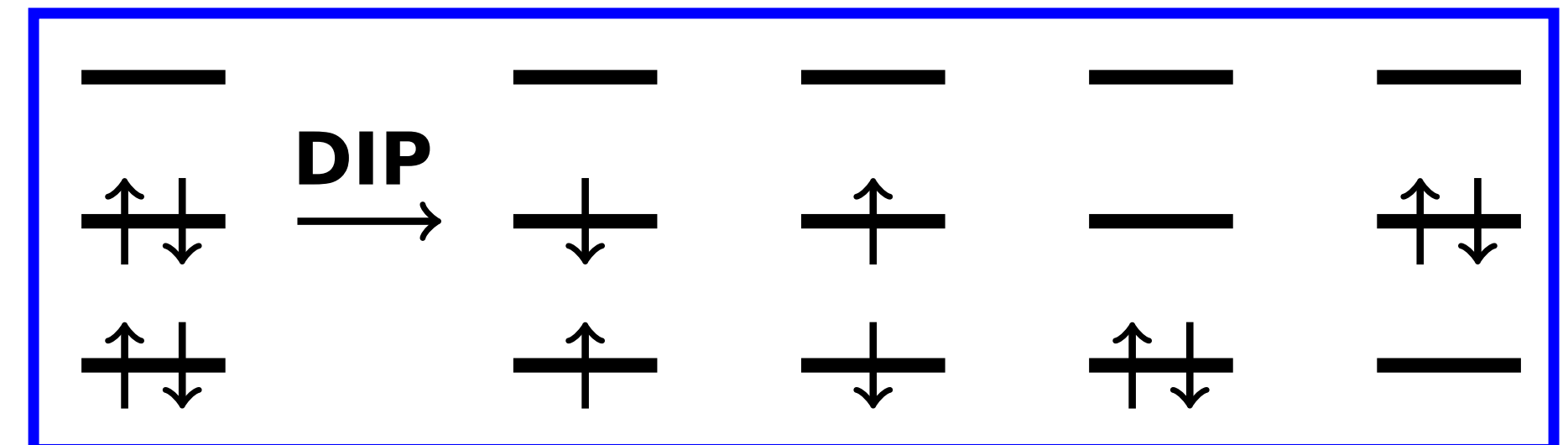
Singlet-triplet gaps, eV; Basis: cc-pVTZ

Method	o-C ₆ H ₄	m-C ₆ H ₄	p-C ₆ H ₄
SF-CCSD	1.58	0.78	0.164
SF-CCSD(dT)	1.62	0.89	0.17
Exp-t.	1.66	0.87	0.14

EOM with double attachment (2 particle)



EOM with double ionization (2 hole)

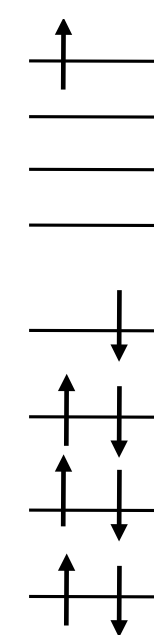


EOM-CC for bound states and resonances

EOM-CC ansatz: $\Psi = R e^T \Phi_0$

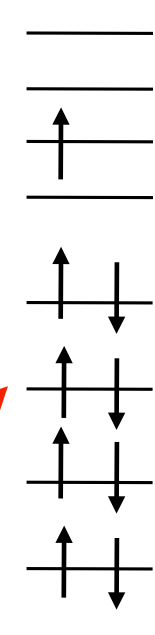
$$\overline{H} R \Phi_0 = E R \Phi_0 \quad \overline{H} = \exp(-T) H \exp(T)$$

Excited and highly
excited states



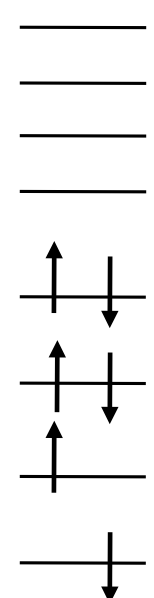
EOM-EE

EOM-EA



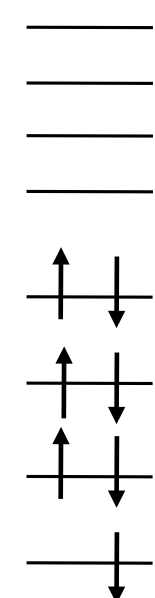
Electron-attached
states, transient anions

Doubly ionized states



EOM-DIP

EOM-IP



Ionized and core-ionized
states

Φ_0

Extension of EOM-CC for
resonances via non-Hermitian
quantum mechanics

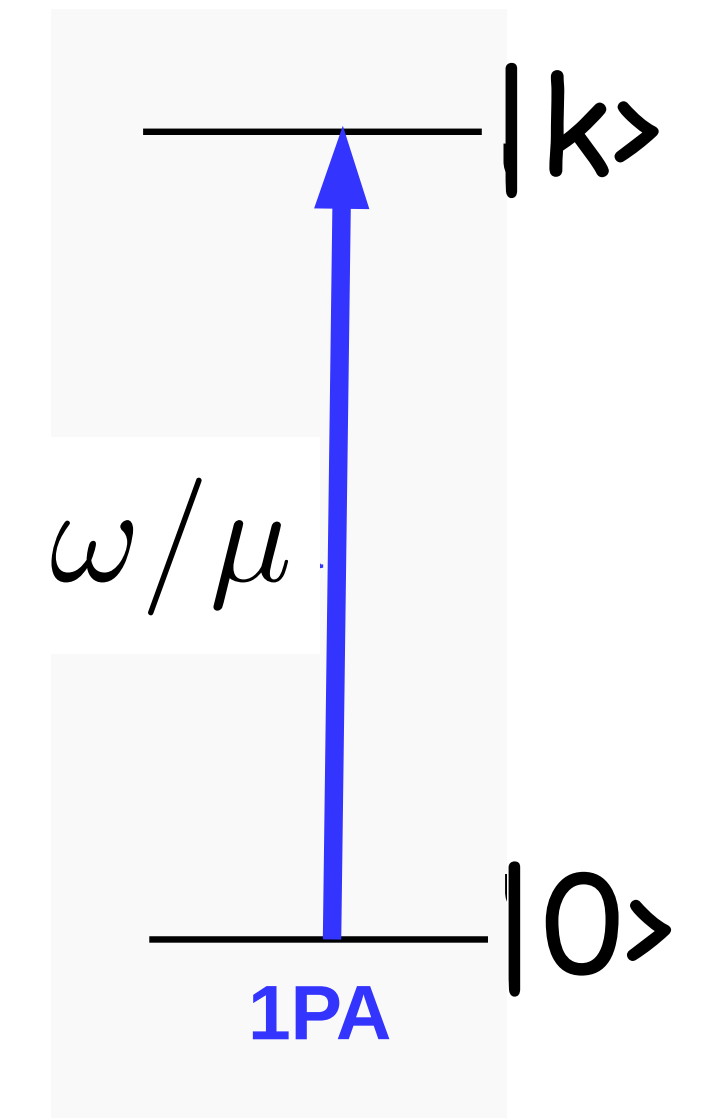
- Complex absorbing potential;
- Complex basis functions;
- Feshbach-Fano formalism.

Calculation of properties within EOM-CC

Key equations can be derived by time-dependent PT using EM field as perturbation

First order: Linear response (e.g., UV-vis absorption)

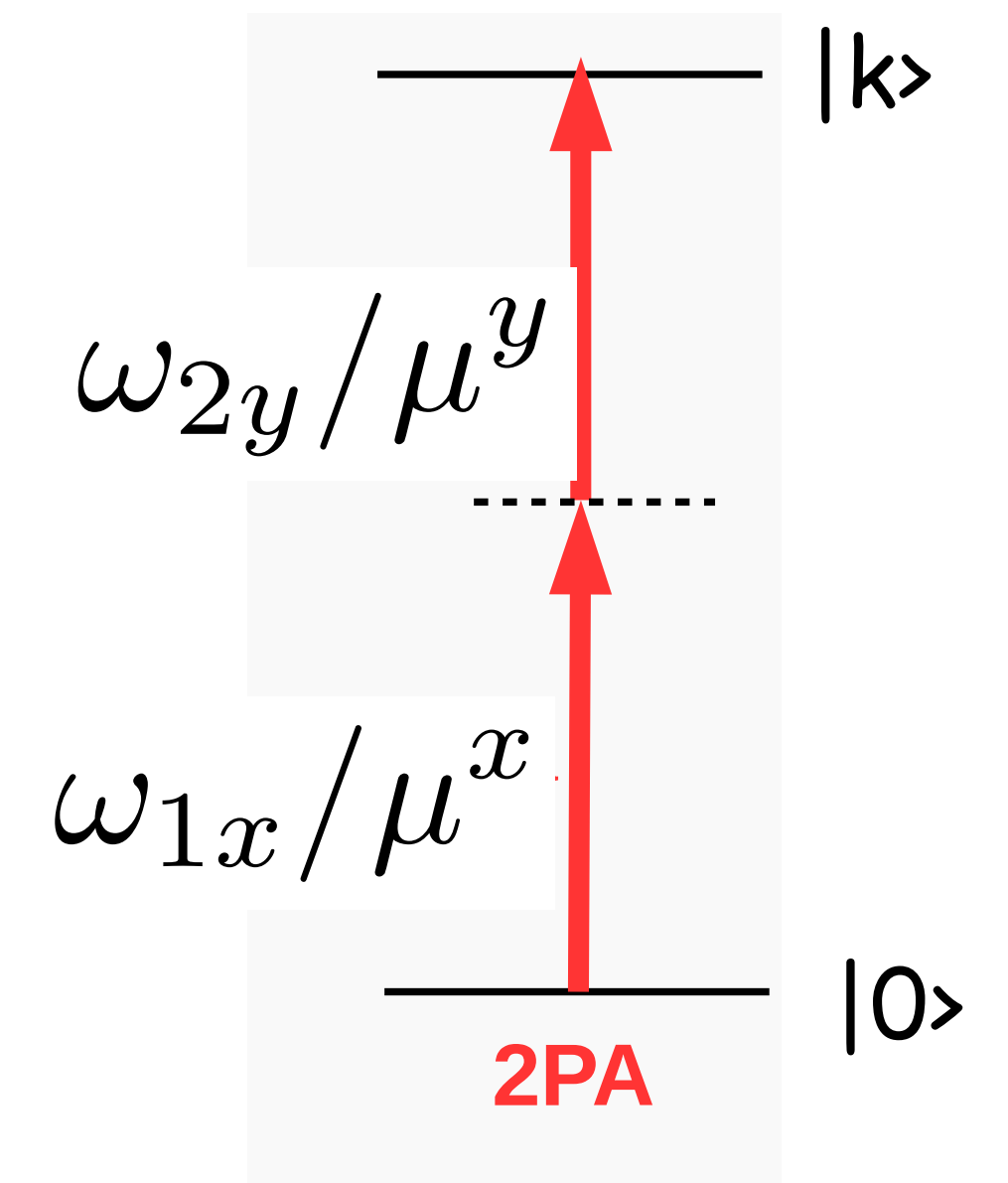
Transitions occur when $\omega = E_k - E_0$ (resonance) and $\sigma \sim |\langle 0 | \mu | k \rangle|^2$



Higher orders: Non-linear optical properties (e.g., two-photon absorption or RIXS)

Resonance condition: $\omega_{1x} + \omega_{2y} = E_k - E_0 = \Omega_{k0}$

2PA moments: $M_{xy}^{k \leftarrow 0}(\omega_{1x}, \omega_{2y}) = - \sum_n \left(\frac{\langle k | \mu^y | n \rangle \langle n | \mu^x | 0 \rangle}{\Omega_{n0} - \omega_{1x}} + \frac{\langle k | \mu^x | n \rangle \langle n | \mu^y | 0 \rangle}{\Omega_{n0} - \omega_{2y}} \right)$



2PA cross section: $S_{ab,cd} = M_{ab}^{0 \leftarrow k} M_{cd}^{k \leftarrow 0}$.

How to compute these effectively?

Linear properties: Easy

Need to compute transition density matrices

For one-electron properties such as dipole moment only one-particle TDM is needed

$$\langle k | \mu | 0 \rangle = \text{Tr}[\gamma^{k0} \mu]$$

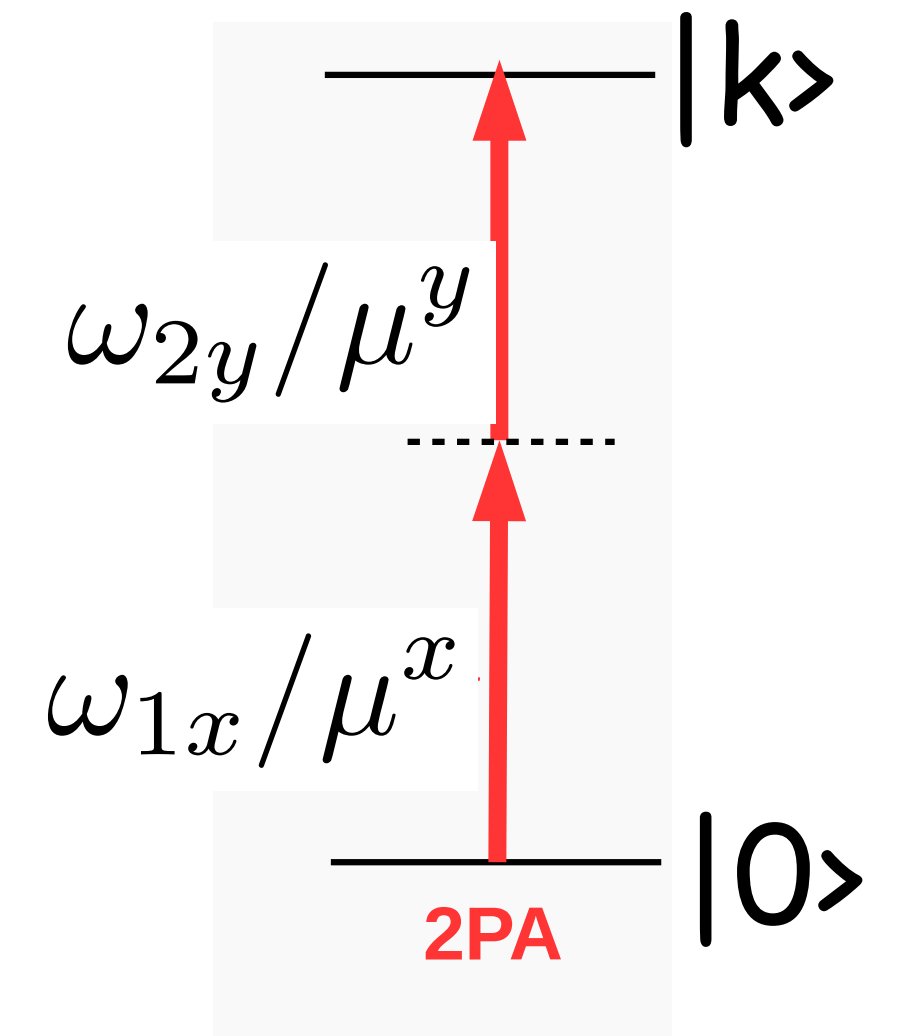
$$\gamma_{pq}^{k0} = \langle k | p^\dagger q | 0 \rangle$$

For two-electron properties such as SOC, two-particle TDM is needed (but in some cases its separable part may suffice (mean-field approximation or normal-ordering))

Beyond linear response

$$M_{xy}^{k \leftarrow 0}(\omega_{1x}, \omega_{2y}) = - \sum_n \left(\frac{\langle k | \mu^y | n \rangle \langle n | \mu^x | 0 \rangle}{\Omega_{n0} - \omega_{1x}} + \frac{\langle k | \mu^x | n \rangle \langle n | \mu^y | 0 \rangle}{\Omega_{n0} - \omega_{2y}} \right)$$

Because of **sum-over-states**, one cannot compute 2PA moments as simple matrix element between the initial and final state



Strategy: Convert SOS into a tractable form by using resolvent

$$\sum_n \frac{|n\rangle \langle n|}{E_n - E_0 - \omega} = [H - \omega]^{-1}$$

$$M_{xy} = \langle k | \mu^y [H - \omega_{1x}]^{-1} \mu^x | 0 \rangle + \dots = \langle k | \mu^y | Z^x \rangle + \dots$$

$$|Z^x\rangle = [H - \omega_{1x}]^{-1} \mu^x | 0 \rangle$$

Response vectors Z can be computed with the same effort as the states $|k\rangle$ and $|0\rangle$

$$[H - \omega_{1x}] |Z^x\rangle = \mu^x | 0 \rangle$$

One- and two-electron transition involving continuum (free electrons)

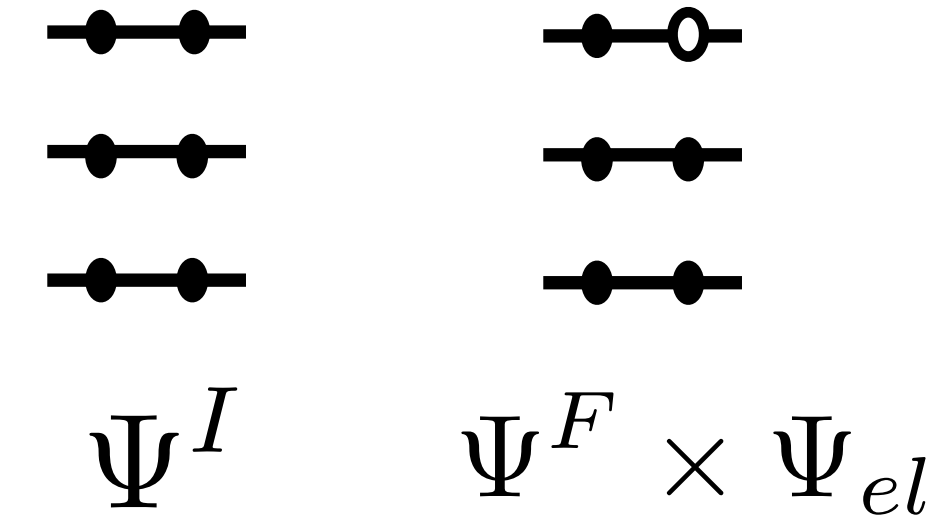
Photoionization:

Probability of photoionization

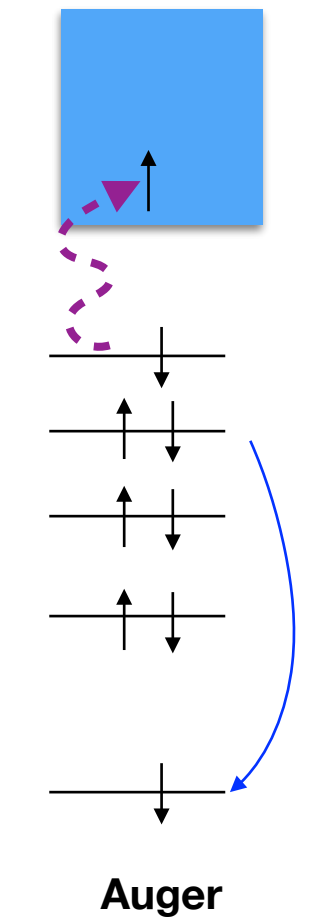
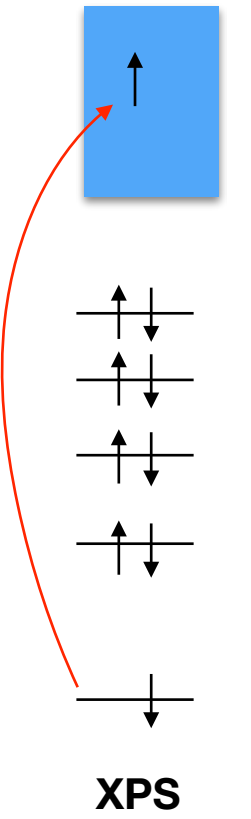
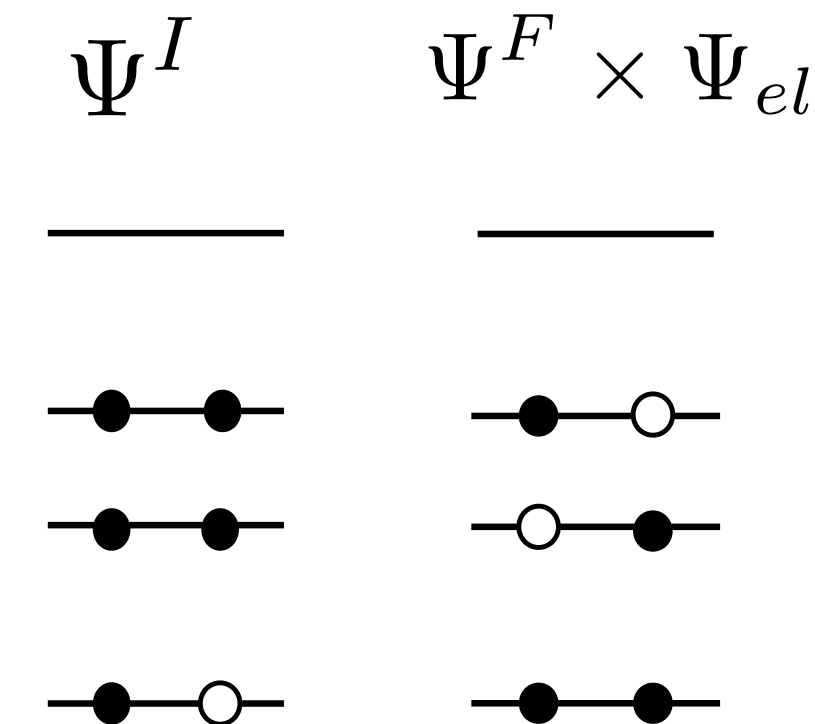
$$D_k^{IF} = \mathbf{u} \langle \Psi_I^N | \mathbf{r} | \Psi_F^{N-1} \cdot \Psi_k^{el} \rangle = \mathbf{u} \langle \phi^d | \mathbf{r} | \Psi_k^{el} \rangle$$

Dyson orbital:

$$\gamma_p = \langle \Psi_F^{N-1} | p | \Psi_I^N \rangle$$



$$\Psi_{el} = \sqrt{\frac{k}{(2\pi)^3}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$$



Auger decay:

Decay width:

$$\tilde{\Gamma} = 2\pi \langle \Psi^I | H | \Psi^F \times \Psi_{el} \rangle \langle \Psi^F \times \Psi_{el} | H | \Psi^I \rangle$$

$$\tilde{\Gamma} = \frac{\pi}{2} \int d\Omega_{\mathbf{k}} \left(\sum_{pqr} \langle pq || \mathbf{k} r \rangle \Gamma_r^{pq} \right) \left(\sum_{pqr} \langle \mathbf{k} r || pq \rangle \Gamma_{pq}^r \right)$$

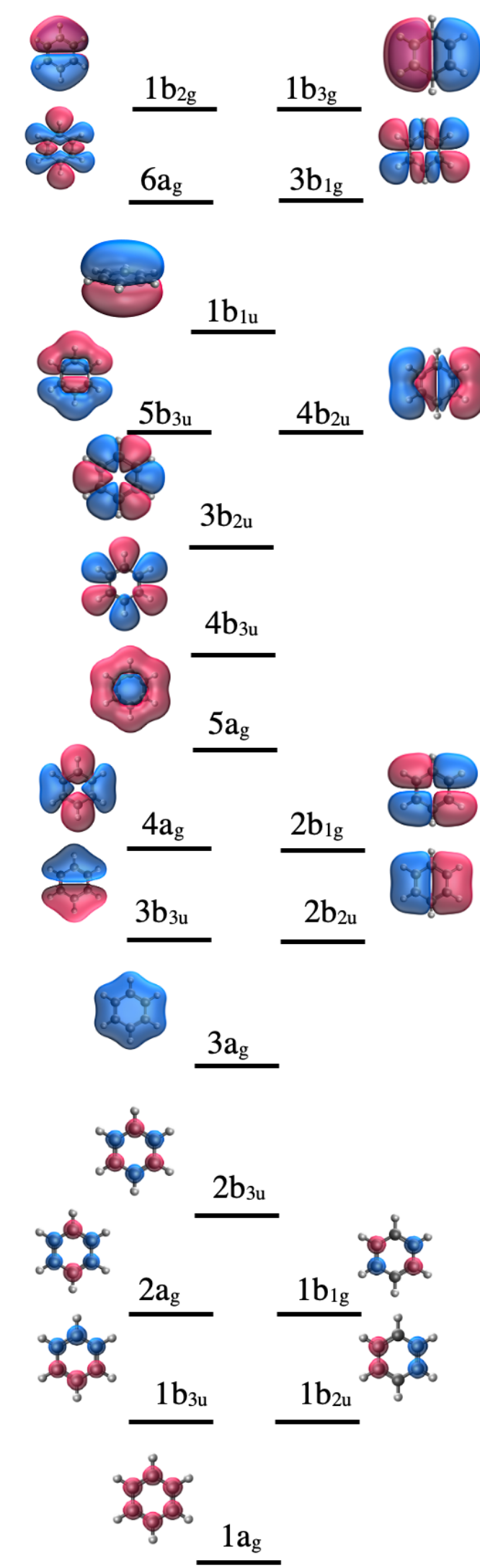
Two-body Dyson orbital:

$$\Gamma_r^{pq} = \langle \Psi^I | p^\dagger q^\dagger r | \Psi^F \rangle$$

Krylov, From orbitals to observables and back, JCP **153** 080901 (2020); Skomorowski, Krylov, JCP **154** 084124 (2021);

Jayadev, Skomorowski, Krylov, JPCL **14** 8612 (2023)

Example: Auger decay in benzene



Energy of Auger electrons: $E^{DIP} - E_{core}$

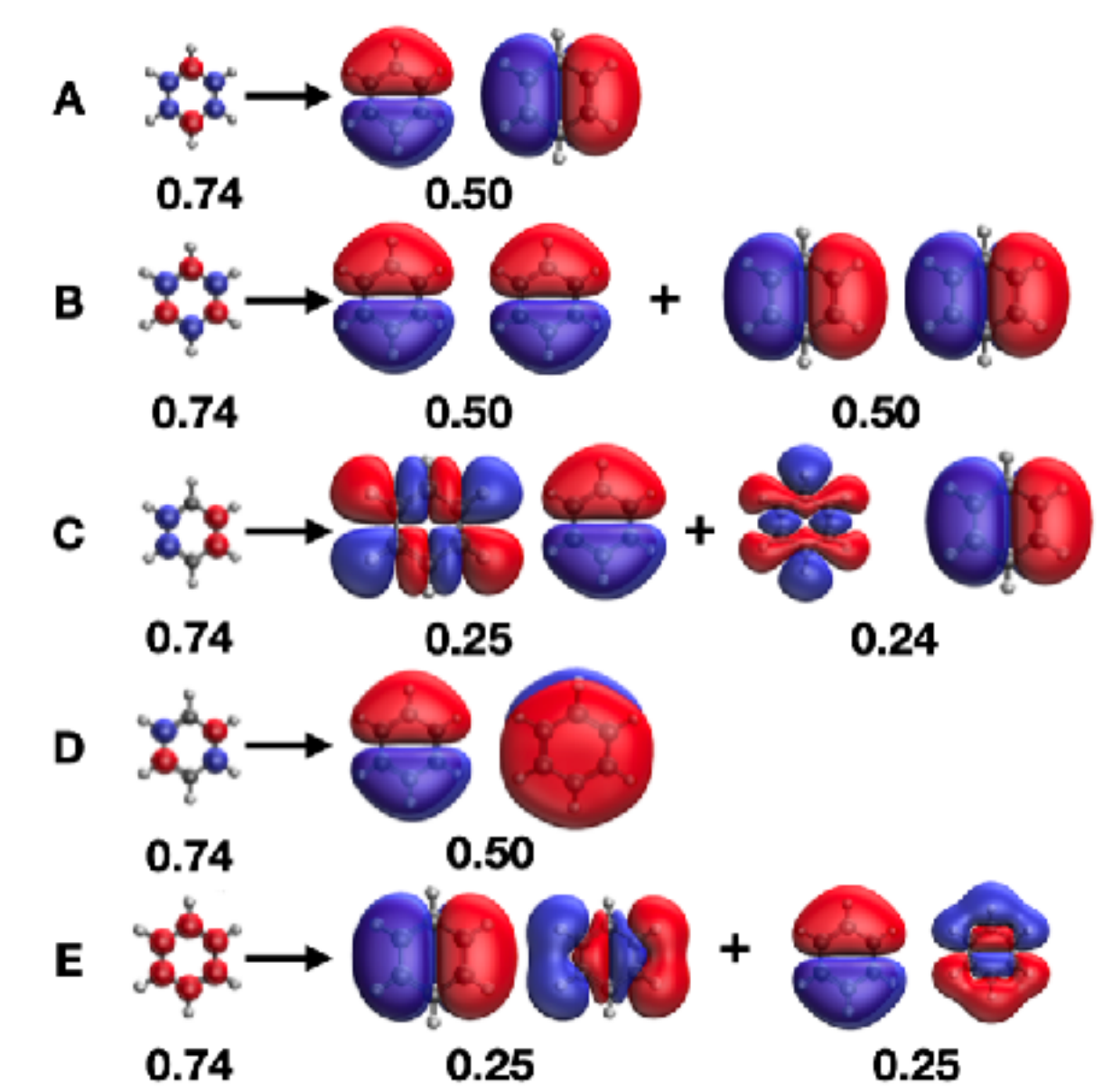
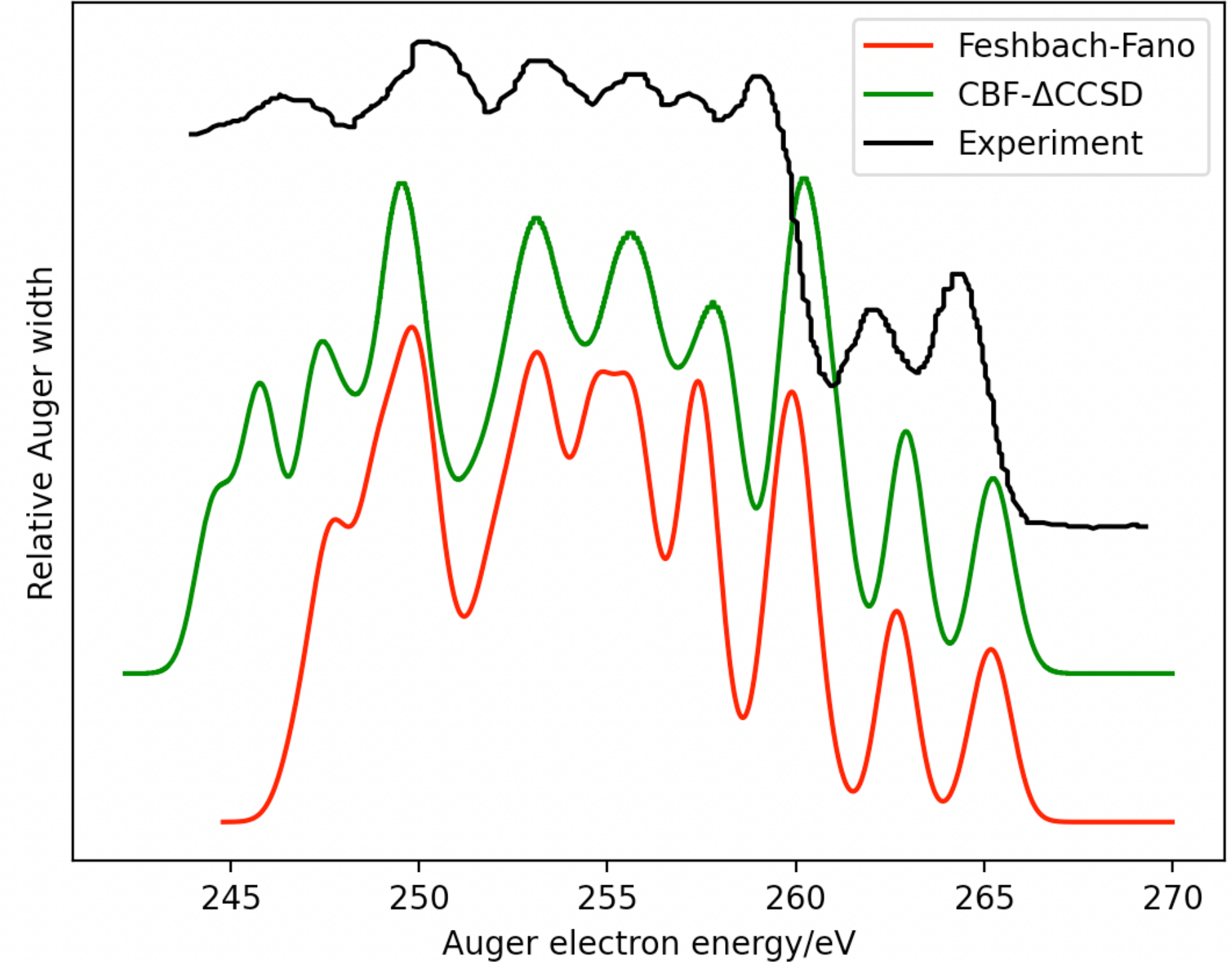
Peak intensity: $\tilde{\Gamma}$

Number of decay channels $\sim 6 \times 15 \times 15 = 1,350$

143 DIP states between 24-43 eV

Feshbach-Fano and complex basis functions approaches agree with each other and with exp-t

Natural Auger orbitals help assign the peaks



Conclusions

1. EOM-CC is an excellent framework for many-body calculations in the bound and unbound domains, especially in the context of spectroscopy modeling
2. Outstanding problems
 - Better treatment for free-electron states
 - Reduced cost/scaling for higher-order variants
 - Some multi-configurational cases are beyond reach of current methods
 - Some issues with conical intersections

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{\Psi} &= R e^T \Phi_0 \\ \overline{H} &= \exp(-T) H \exp(T) \\ \overline{H} R \Phi_0 &= E R \Phi_0\end{aligned}$$