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**Atomic photofragment polarization  
as a probe of  
molecular photodissociation dynamics**

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**Mark Brouard**

**The Department of Chemistry  
Oxford University**

*Stereodynamics, November 2006*

# Acknowledgements

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## *The Group*

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# Acknowledgements

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## *Collaborations*

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Theory

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Sophie Horrocks

Ozone

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# Introduction

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# Angular momentum polarization

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*Photodissociation*



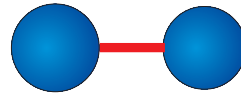
*Angular momentum can be polarized*

Measure angular distribution of  $\mathbf{j}$  or  $\mathbf{j}'$

# Electronic angular momentum polarization

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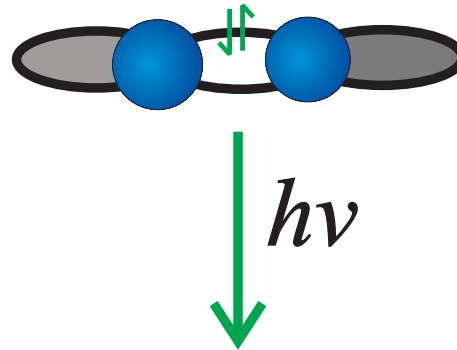
*Molecular photodissociation*



# Electronic angular momentum polarization

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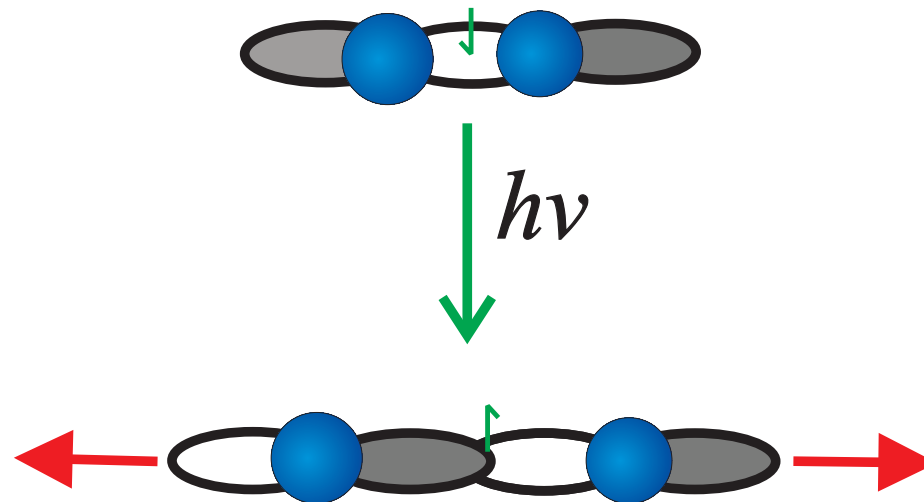
*Molecular photodissociation*



# Electronic angular momentum polarization

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*Molecular photodissociation*

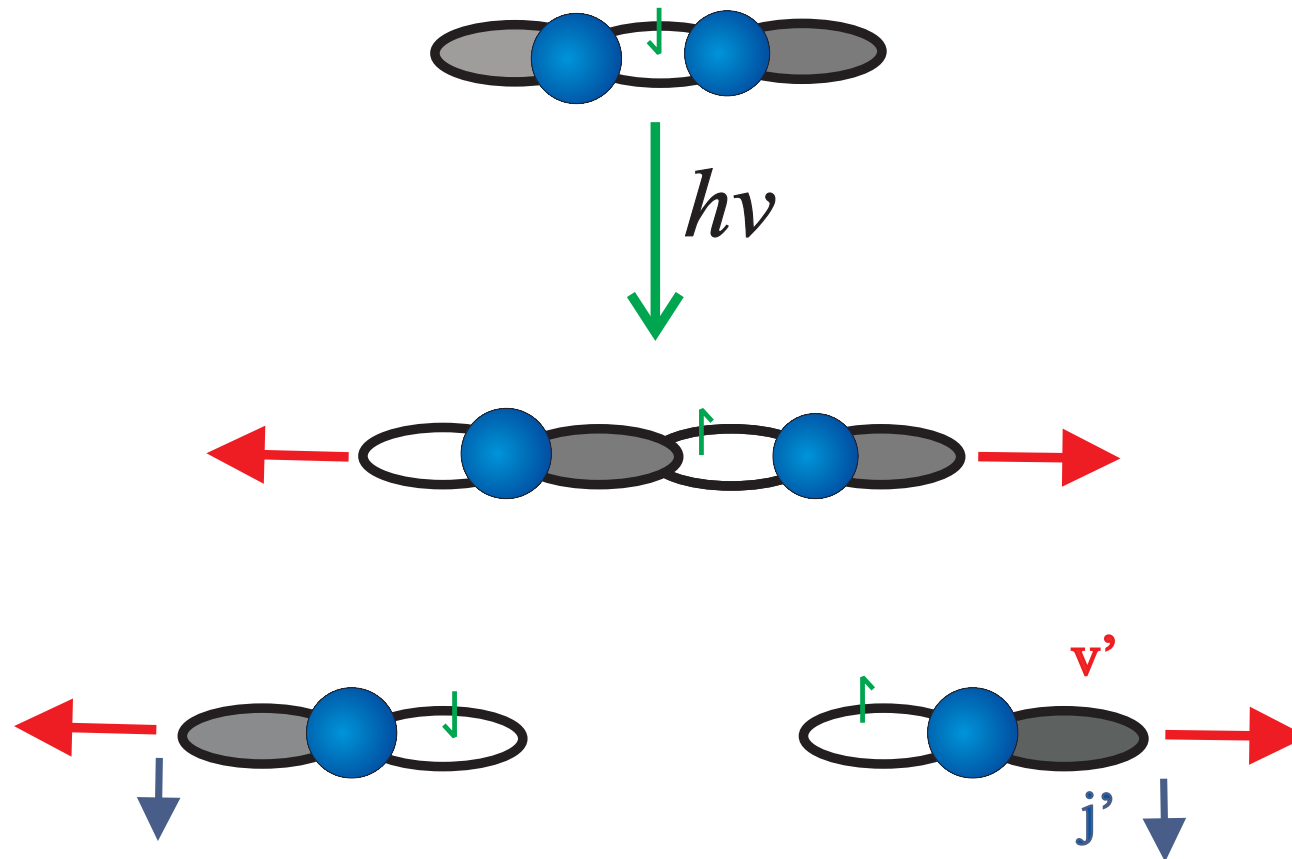




# Electronic angular momentum polarization

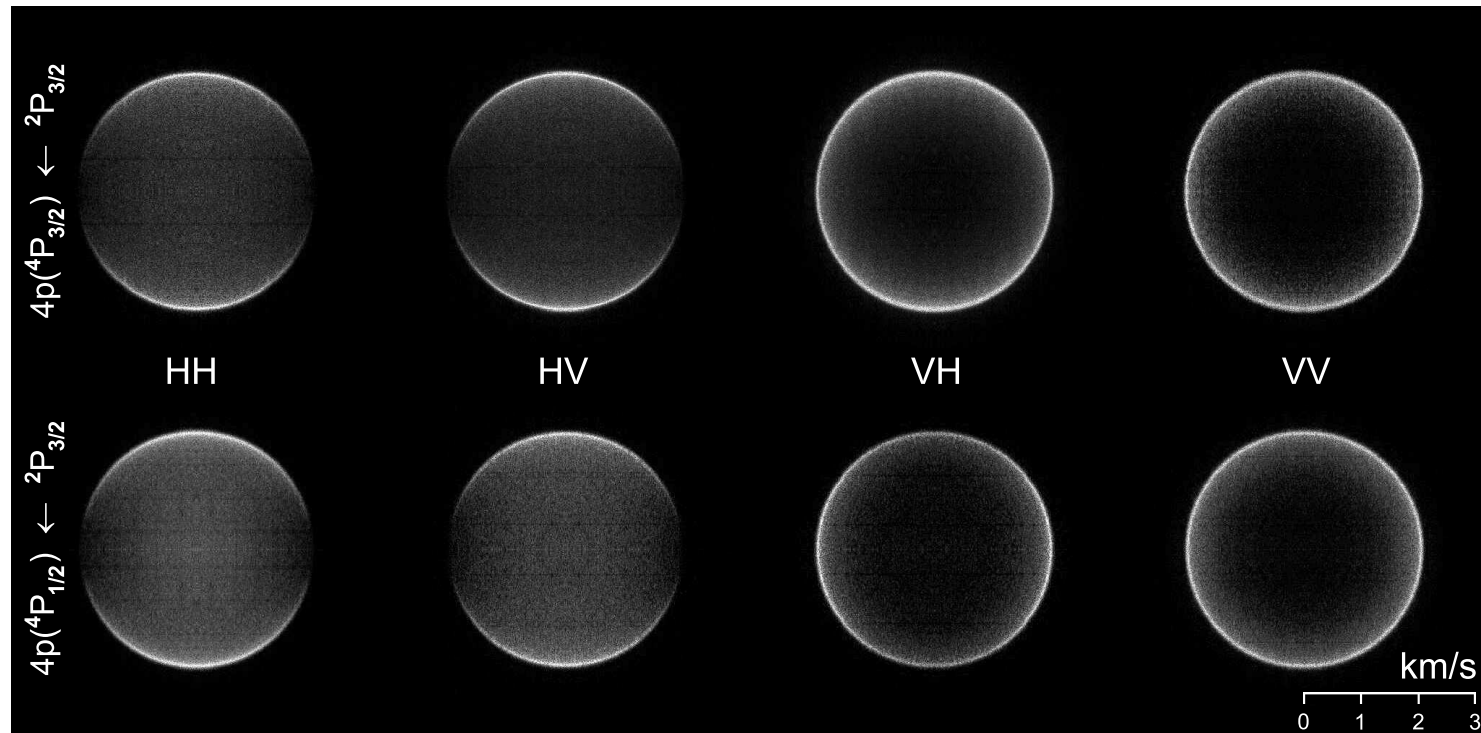
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*Molecular photodissociation*



# How?

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*Dependence on laser polarization and probe transition*

# Motivation

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## *Electronic polarization*

- Insight into electronic motion
- Helps assignment of dissociation mechanism
- Complementary information to translational anisotropy
- Atmospherically important processes



$$\lambda = 193 \text{ nm}$$

Andrew Clark

Fabio Quadrini

Raluca Cireasa

Gerrit C. Groenenboom

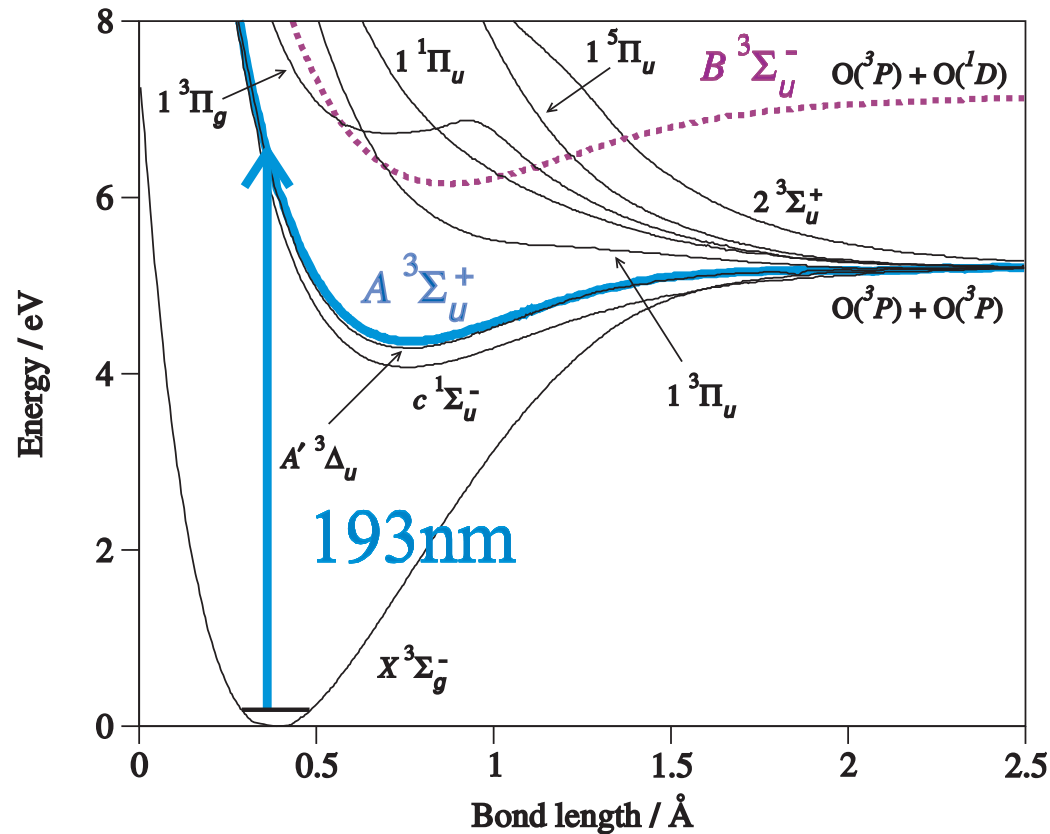
## Issues to consider

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- Measure polarization of **J**
- Polarization of both **L** and **S** in exit channel is possible
- Theoretically tractable system
- $O_2$  is a well-characterized system
- Extend data to 193 nm

# Potential energy curves

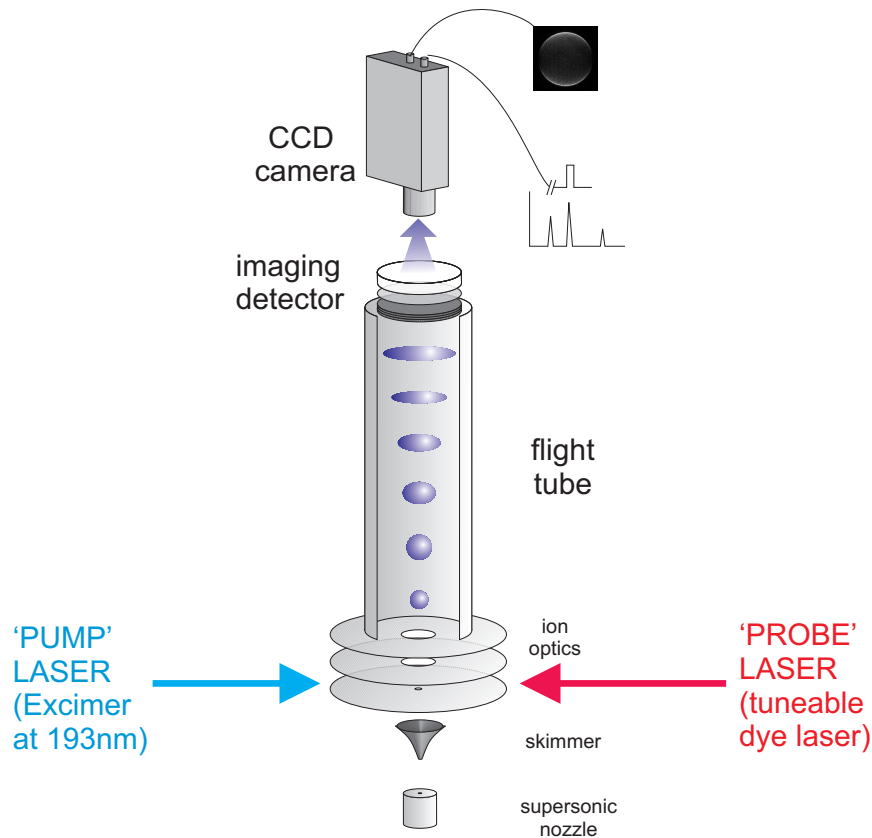
Continuum contribution - 95% Herzberg I



B. Buijsse *et al.* *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

# Experiment

Photodissociation (20% O<sub>2</sub> seeded in He...)

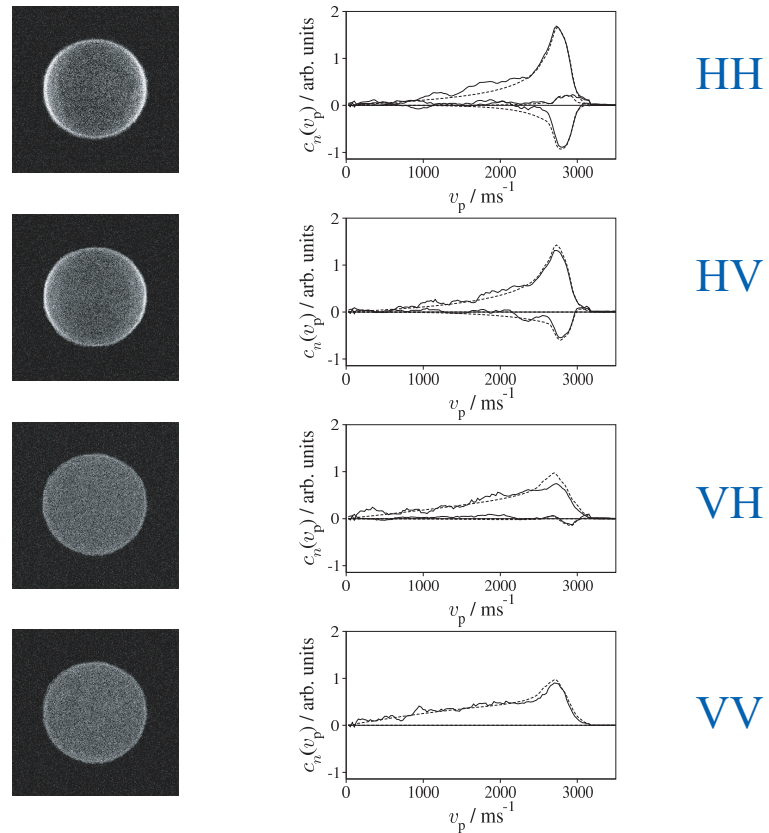


Chandler and Houston, Eppink and Parker

...followed by (2+1) REMPI of O(<sup>3</sup>P<sub>J</sub>) around 225 nm

# O( $^3P_2$ ) ion images and moments

*Dependence on pump-probe laser geometry*



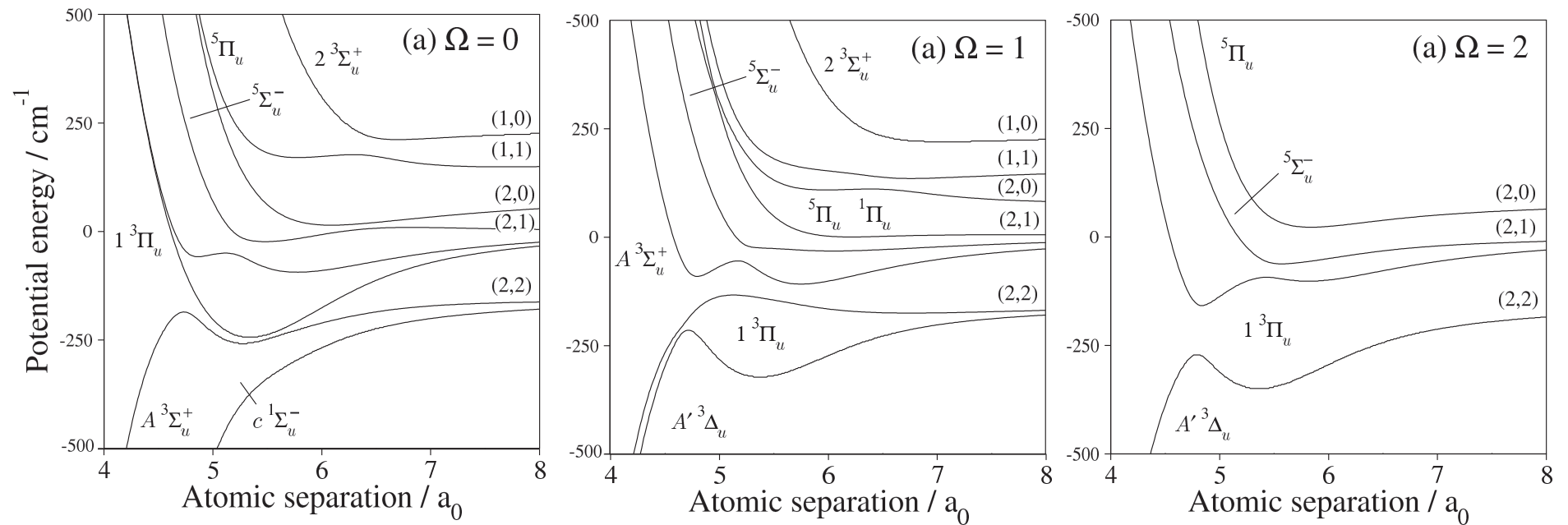
Fit to moments using basis function method

Linestrengths from Vroonhoven and Groenenboom *J. Chem. Phys.* (2002)



# Potential curves †

Including spin-orbit coupling

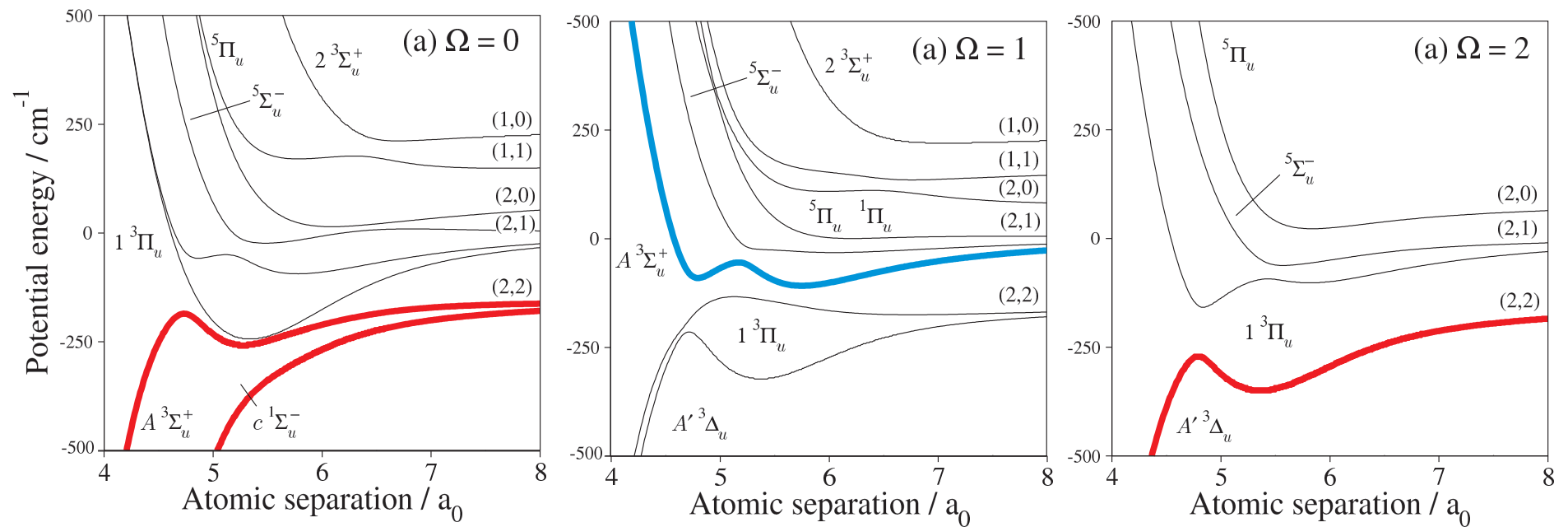


† M.C.G.N. van Vroonhoven and G.C. Groenenboom *J. Chem. Phys.* (2002)

# Previous semi-classical theory †

Includes various couplings between potential curves

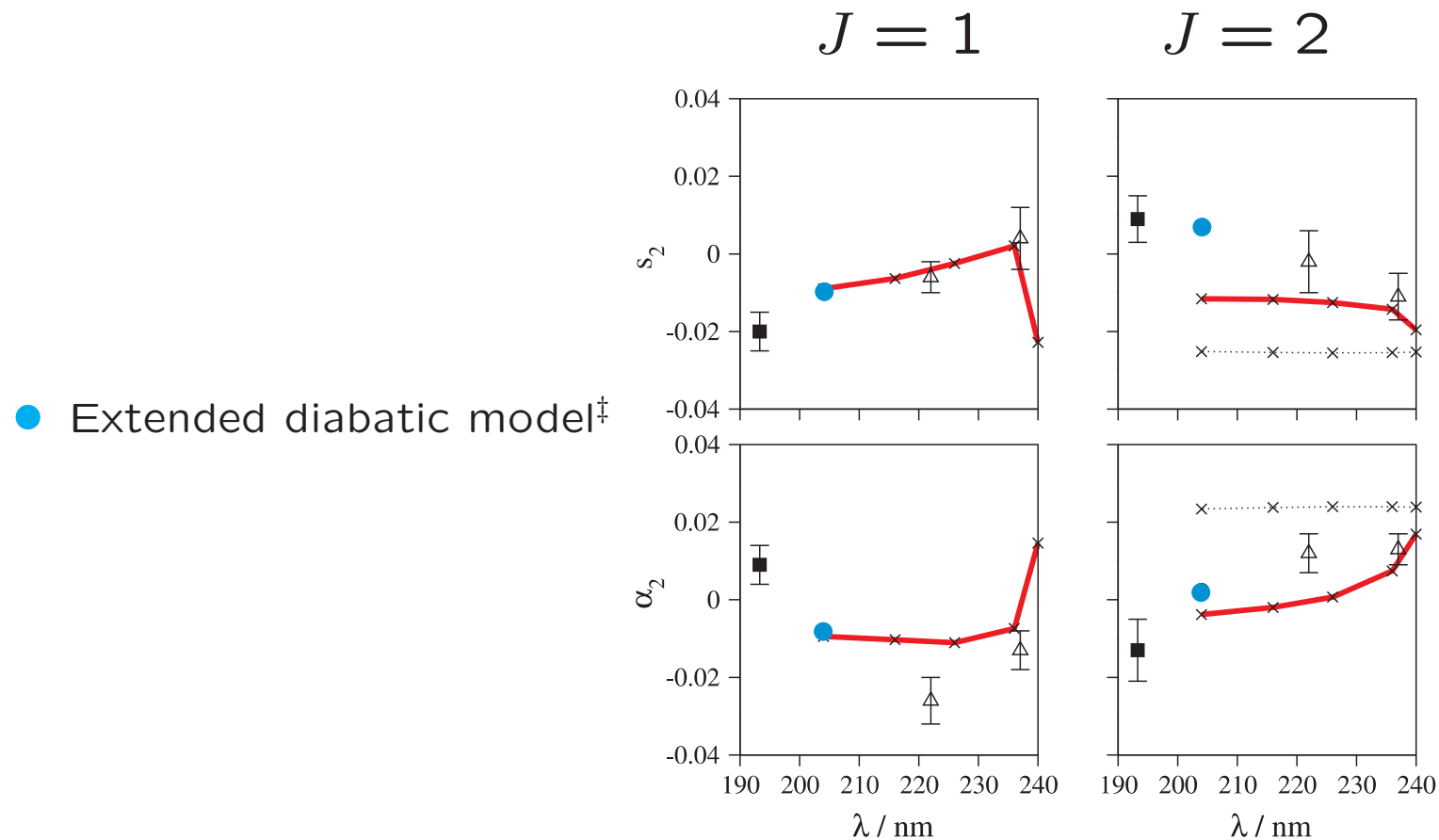
Neglects coherence effects during excitation and dissociation



† M.C.G.N. van Vroonhoven and G.C. Groenenboom *J. Chem. Phys.* (2002)

# Incoherent alignment

*Semi-classical theory<sup>‡</sup> reproduces trends.*



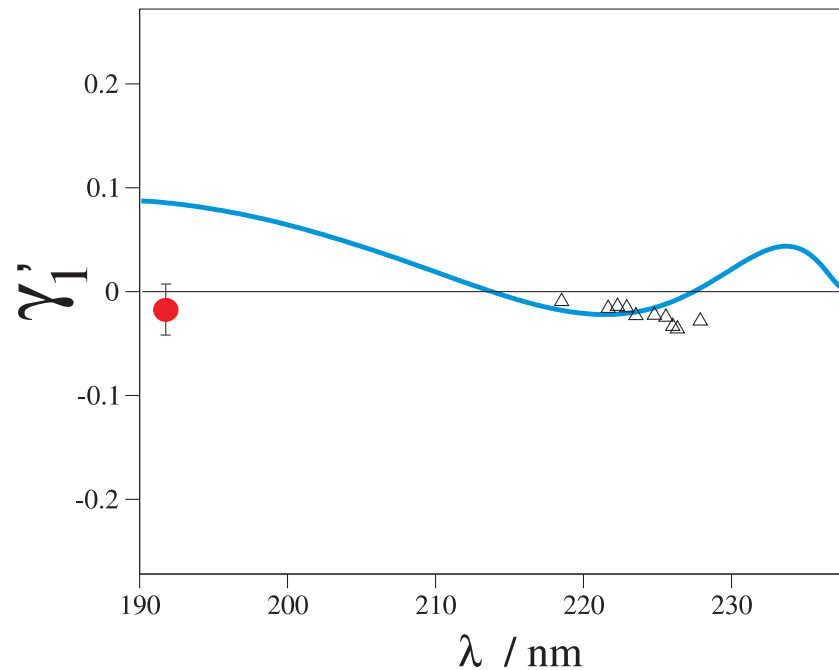
$\triangle$  A.J. Alexander, Z.H. Kim, and R.N. Zare, *J. Chem. Phys.* (2003)

$\ddagger$  M.C.G.N. van Vroonhoven and G.C. Groenenboom *J. Chem. Phys.* (2002)

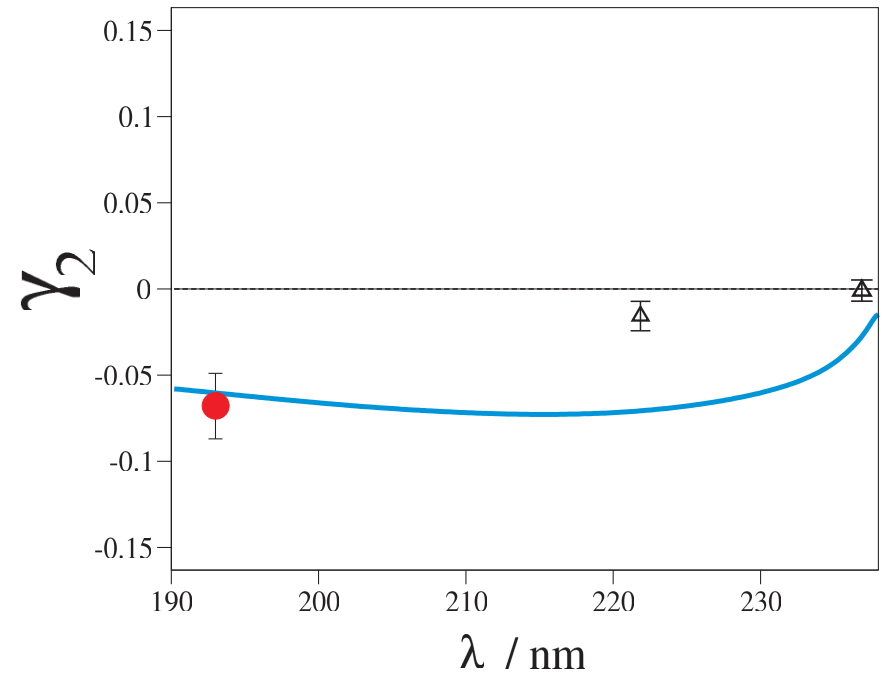
# Coherent excitation: a crude estimate

Determine phase difference between  $\parallel$  and  $\perp$  channels

Orientation



Alignment



$\triangle$  A.J. Alexander, Z.H. Kim, and R.N. Zare, *J. Chem. Phys.* (2003)

Potentials of van Vroonhoven and Groenenboom *J. Chem. Phys.* (2002)

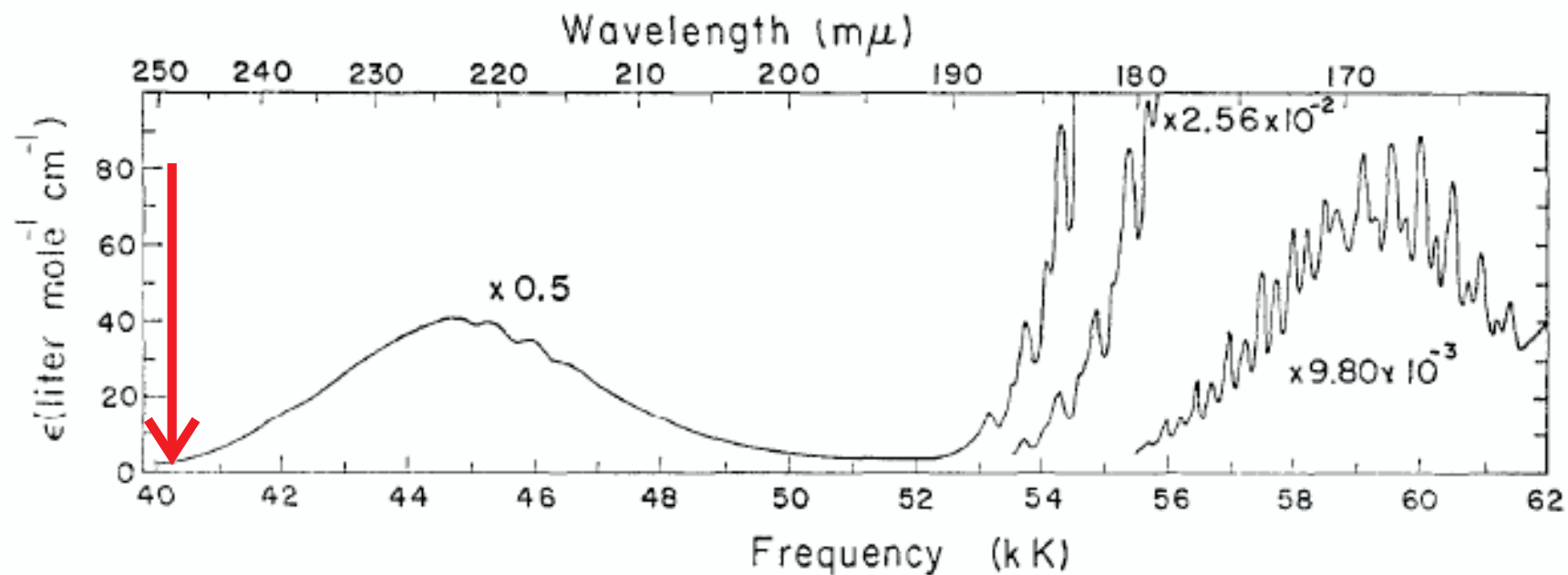


$$\lambda = 248 \text{ nm}$$

Fabio Quadrini (see Poster)

Raluca Cireasa

# Absorption Spectrum



Red tail of the first absorption band

Adapted from J.W. Rabalais *Chem. Rev.* (1971)

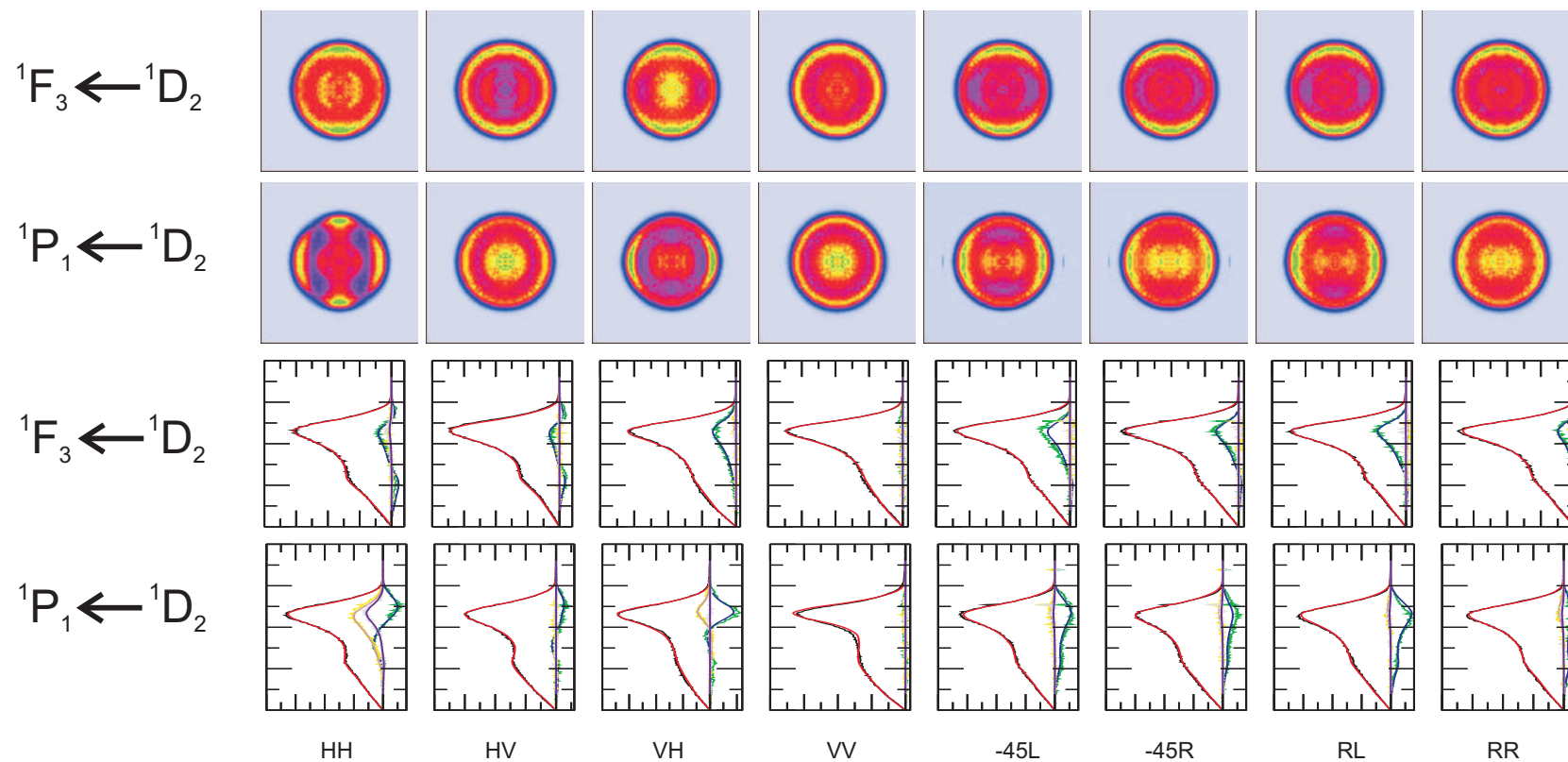
## Issues to consider

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- Atomic angular momentum only arises from  $\mathbf{L}$
- Coproduct (CO) is closed-shell
- Can polarization of  $\mathbf{L}$  help in assigning mechanism(s)?
- How does polarization vary with dissociation pathway?

# S( $^1D_2$ ) Ion images

Photodissociation ( $\lesssim 1\%$  OCS seeded in He)....



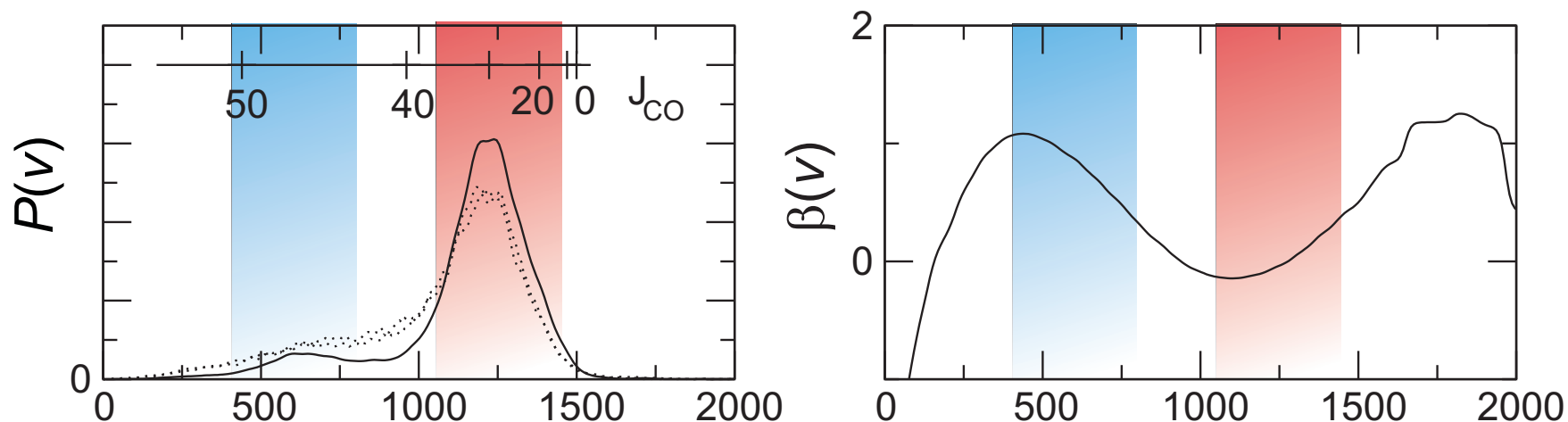
...followed by (2+1) REMPI probing of S( $^1D_2$ ) around 290 nm



# $S(^1D_2)$ speed and anisotropy distributions

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## Bimodal speed distribution

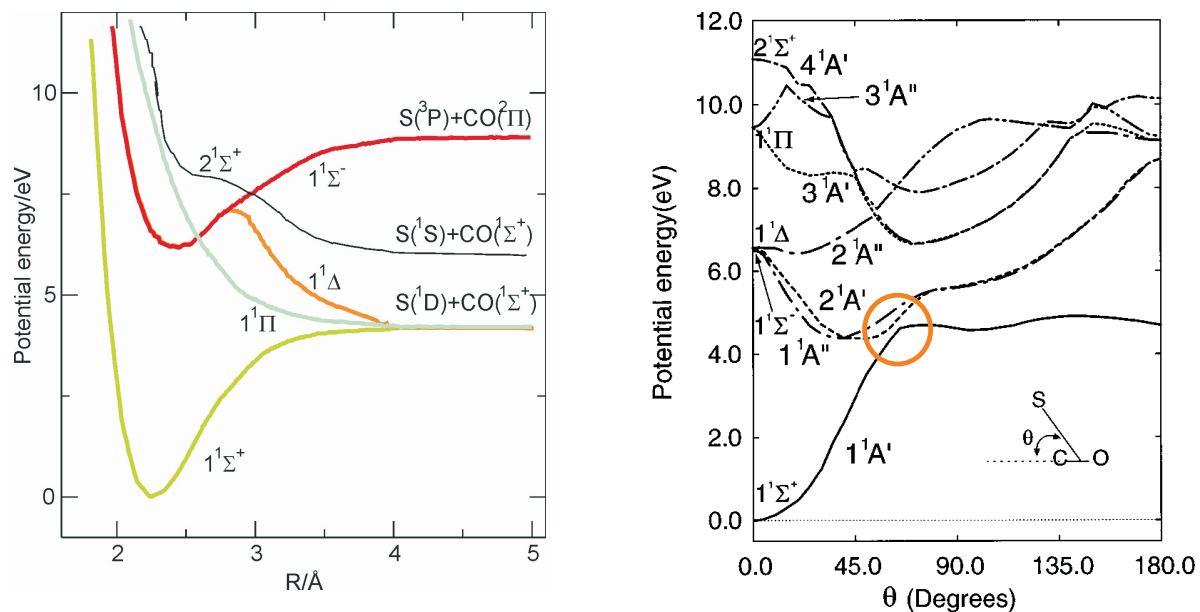


Excellent agreement with Suzuki and coworkers *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

CO is rotationally excited: Houston and coworkers *J. Chem. Phys.* (1988)

# Source of bimodality

**Major fast channel:** Dissociation on the  $2^1A'(^1\Pi)$  and  $1^1A''(^1\Pi)$  states.

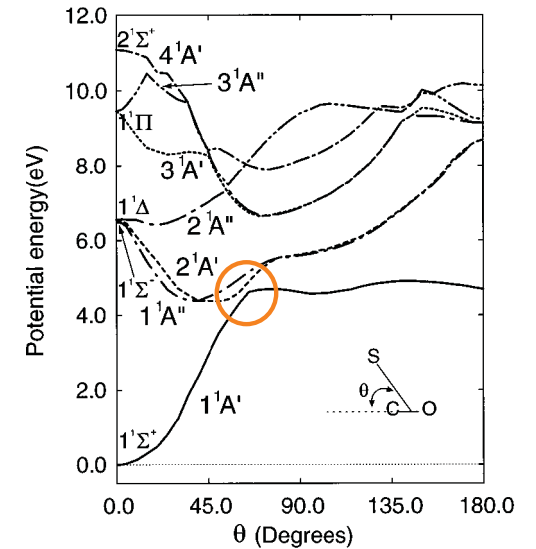
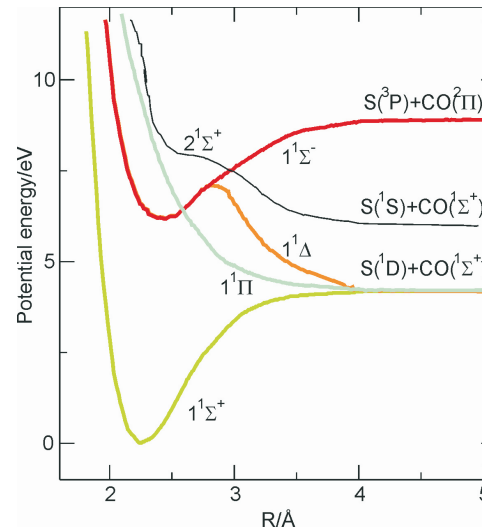
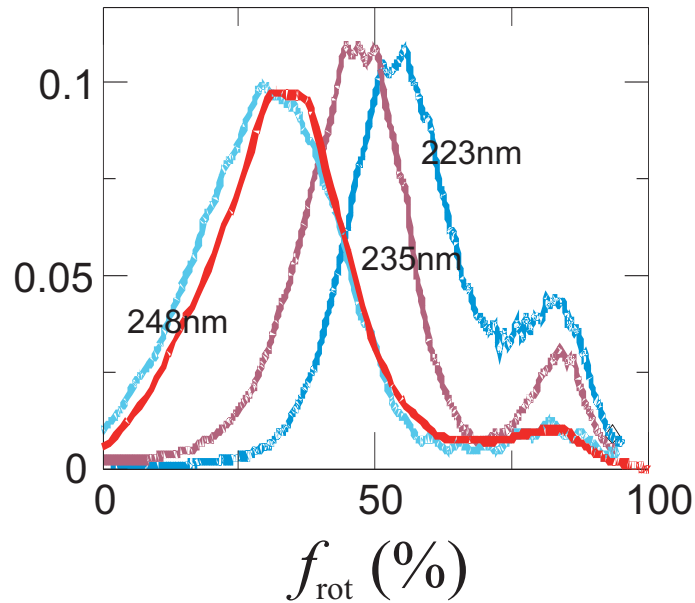


**Minor slow channel:** Nonadiabatic transition to ground  $1^1A'$  state.

Adapted from Suzuki and coworkers *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

# Comparison with Suzuki and coworkers

**Major channel:**  $f_{\text{rot}}$  changes with dissociation wavelength



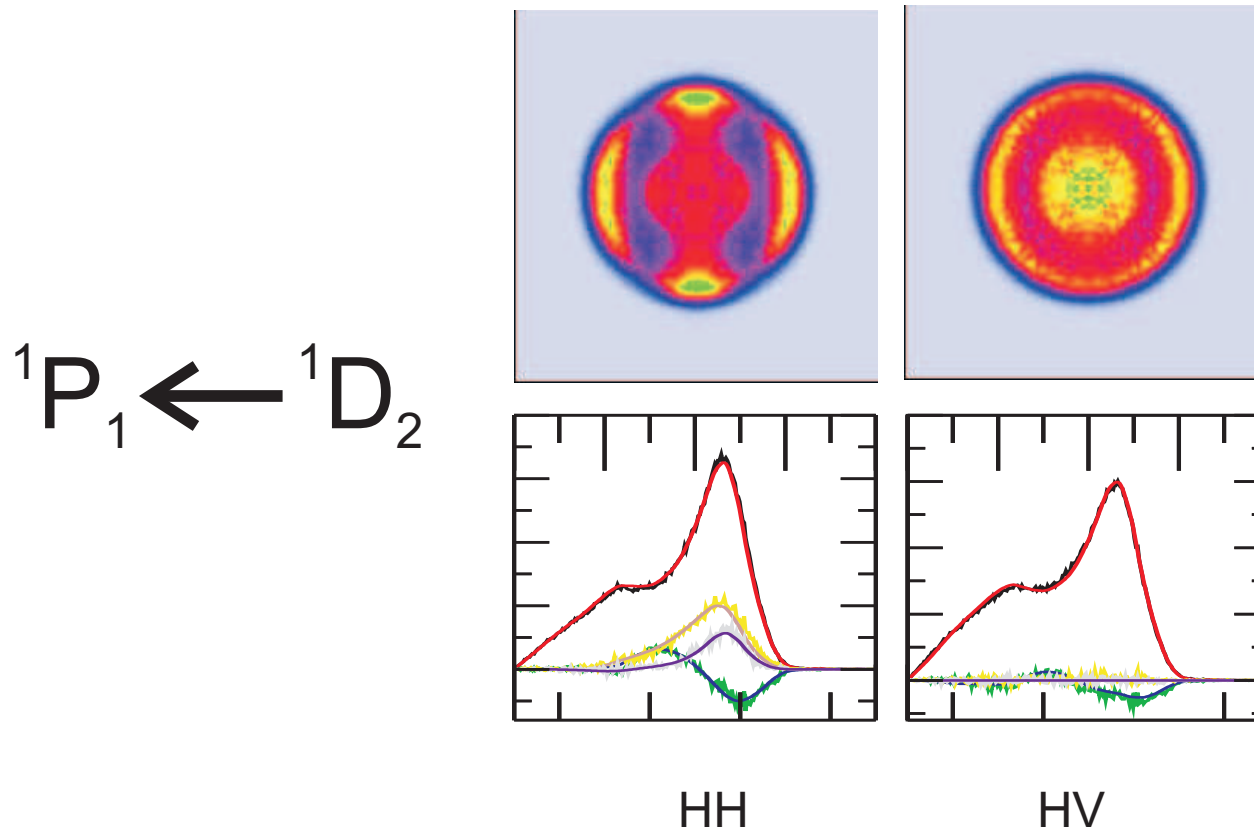
**Minor channel:**  $f_{\text{rot}}$  constant with dissociation wavelength

Potential curves from Suzuki and coworkers *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

# Channel dependent polarization

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**Major channel:** strongly polarized ( $K = 4$  component very important).



**Minor channel:** less strongly and differently polarized.

# Speed averaged polarization parameters at 248 nm

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Moments with  $K = 1$  through to  $K = 4$

Polarization parameter	average	Slow (18%)	Fast (82%)
$\beta(v)$	0.078	0.734	-0.019
$\alpha_1(v)$	0.004	-0.003	0.006
$\gamma_1(v)$	0.085	0.085	0.085
$\gamma'_1(v)$	0.024	0.012	0.025
$s_2(v)$	-0.049	<b>0.007</b>	<b>-0.057</b>
$\alpha_2(v)$	-0.003	<b>0.022</b>	<b>-0.007</b>
$\gamma_2(v)$	-0.021	-0.040	-0.018
$\eta_2(v)$	0.024	0.025	0.023
$\alpha_3(v)$	0.019	-0.010	0.024
$\gamma_3(v)$	0.090	0.071	0.092
$\gamma'_3(v)$	0.011	0.141	-0.006
$s_4(v)$	-0.029	-0.004	-0.033
$\alpha_4(v)$	-0.008	0.011	-0.011
$\gamma_4(v)$	0.022	0.000	0.026
$\eta_4(v)$	-0.019	0.003	-0.022

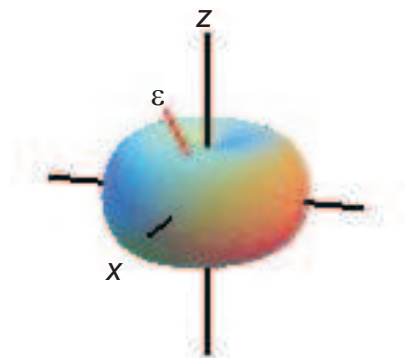
Fast and slow components differently polarized

# *J-* and electron-hole distributions

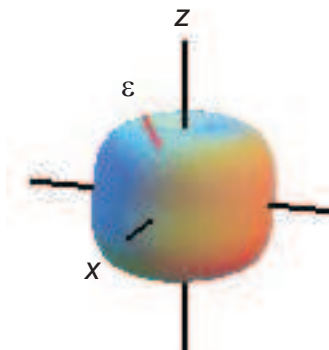
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*Fast component*

*J*-dist



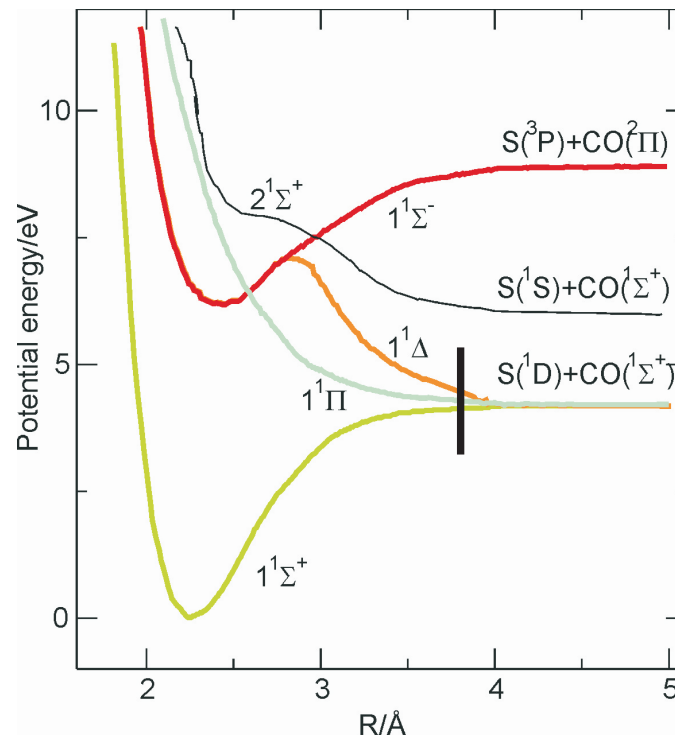
e-dist



Note:  $z \parallel v$  and  $zx$  plane contains  $\epsilon$

# Potential energy curves

## Fast component



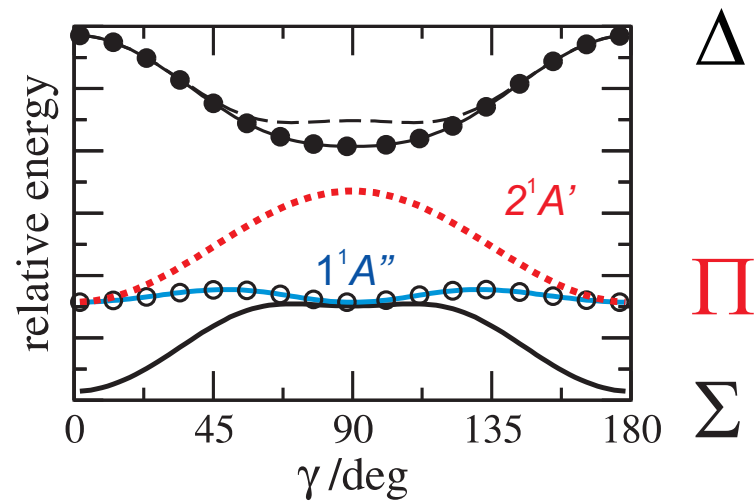
Dissociation on state of  $\Pi$  symmetry at linearity.

Potential curves from Suzuki and coworkers, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

# Long range potentials

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## Angular dependence of electrostatic potentials



## Quadrupole-quadrupole interaction

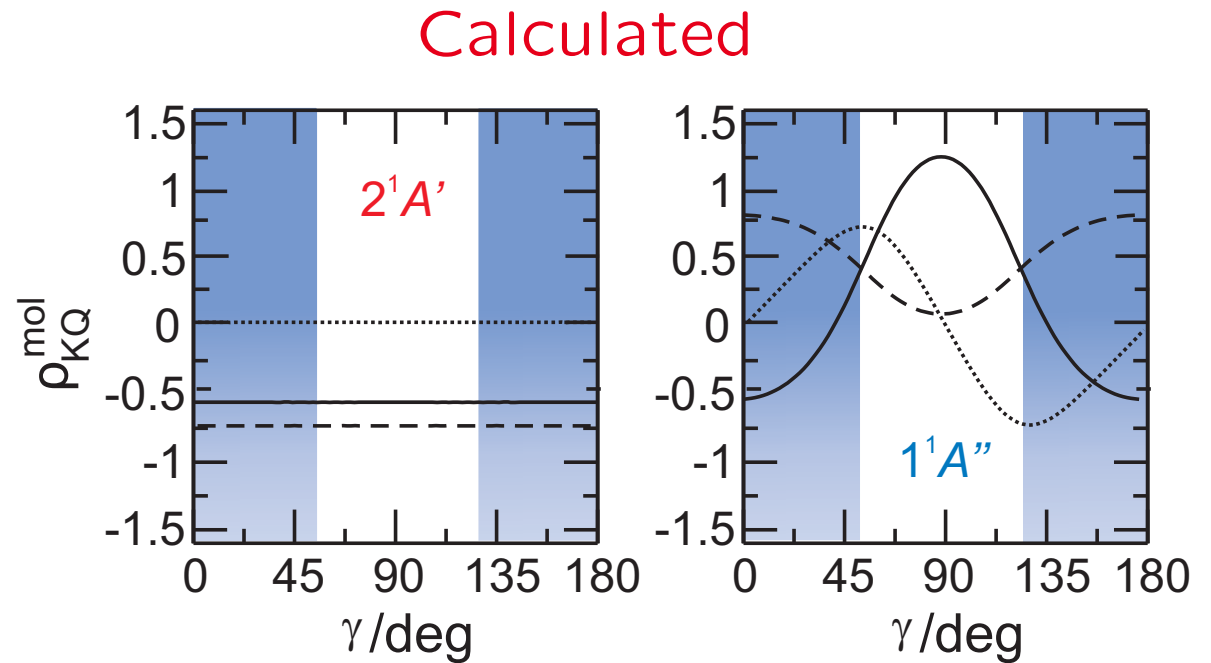
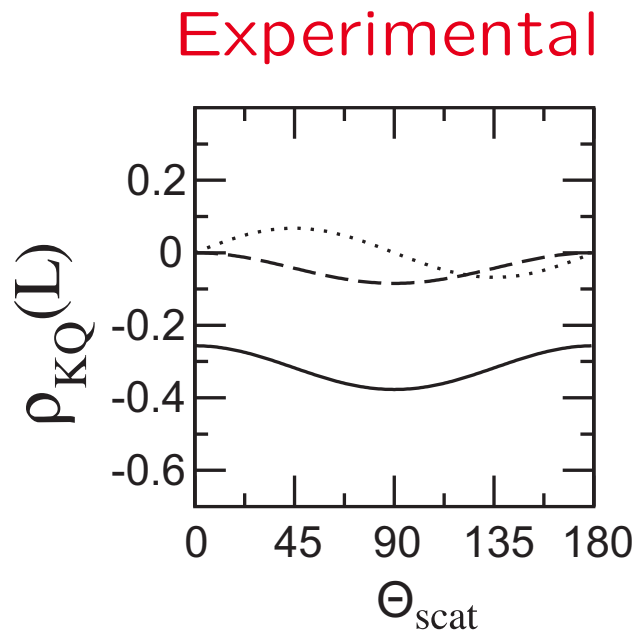
G.C. Groenenboom and coworkers, *J. Phys. Chem. A* (2004)



# Predicted polarization parameters: fast component

*Supports dissociation mainly on  $2^1A'$  state.*

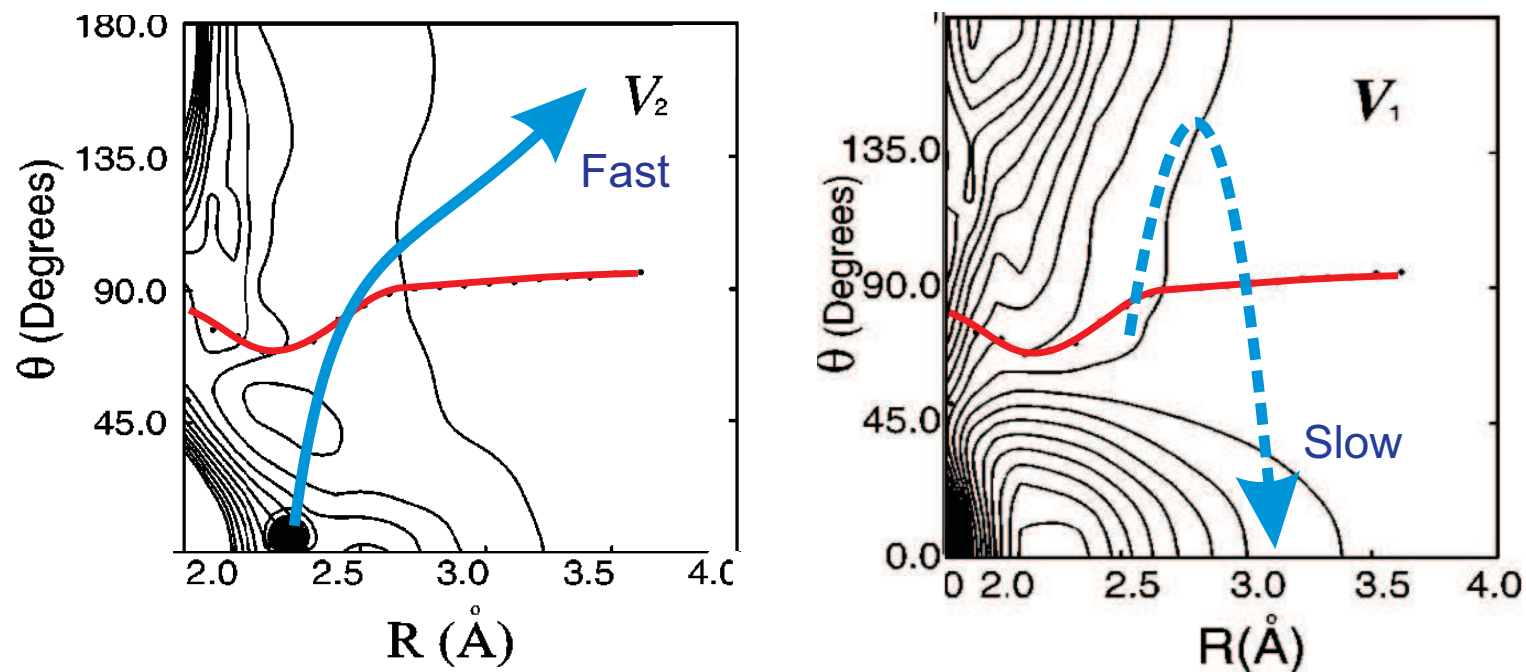
—  $\rho_{20}$     ·····  $\rho_{21}$     - - - -  $\rho_{22}$



Calculations neglect coherence effects and averaging over Jacobi angle  $\gamma$ .

# Predicted polarization parameters: slow component

*Dissociation via seam of intersection*



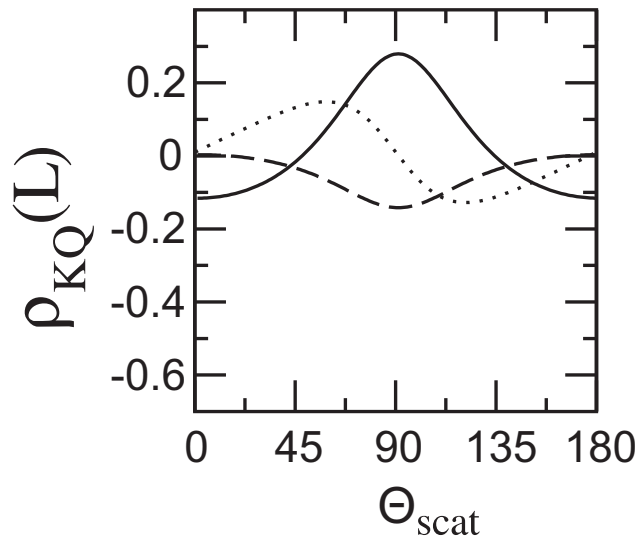
Diabatic potentials from Suzuki and coworkers, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

# Predicted polarization parameters: slow component

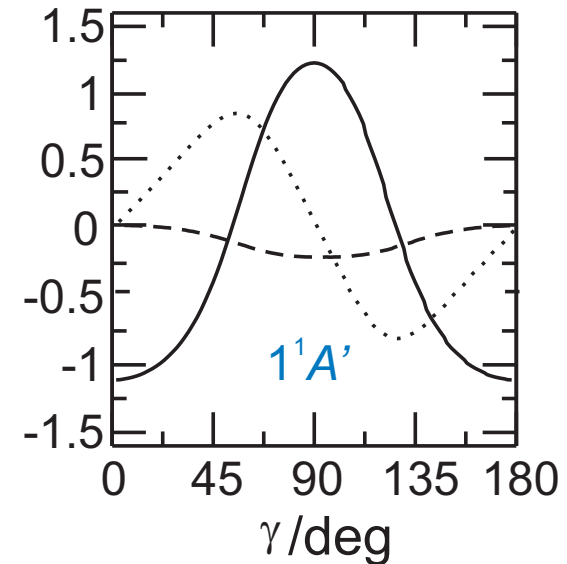
*Supports dissociation via ground  $1^1A'$  state.*

——  $\rho_{20}$       ·····  $\rho_{21}$       - - -  $\rho_{22}$

Experimental



Calculated



*CO rotation smears out polarization.*

Calculations neglect coherence effects and averaging over Jacobi angle  $\gamma$ .

# Summary

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- Large orbital polarization observed at 248 nm.
- All polarization moments determined, including up to  $K = 4$ .
- Contributions from  $K = 4$  moments are significant.
- Polarization is different for fast and slow  $S(^1D_2)$ .
- Polarization reflects different dissociative pathway.
- Further theoretical work is needed interpret polarization.



$$\lambda = 248 \text{ nm}$$

Fabio Quadrini (see Poster)

Raluca Cireasa

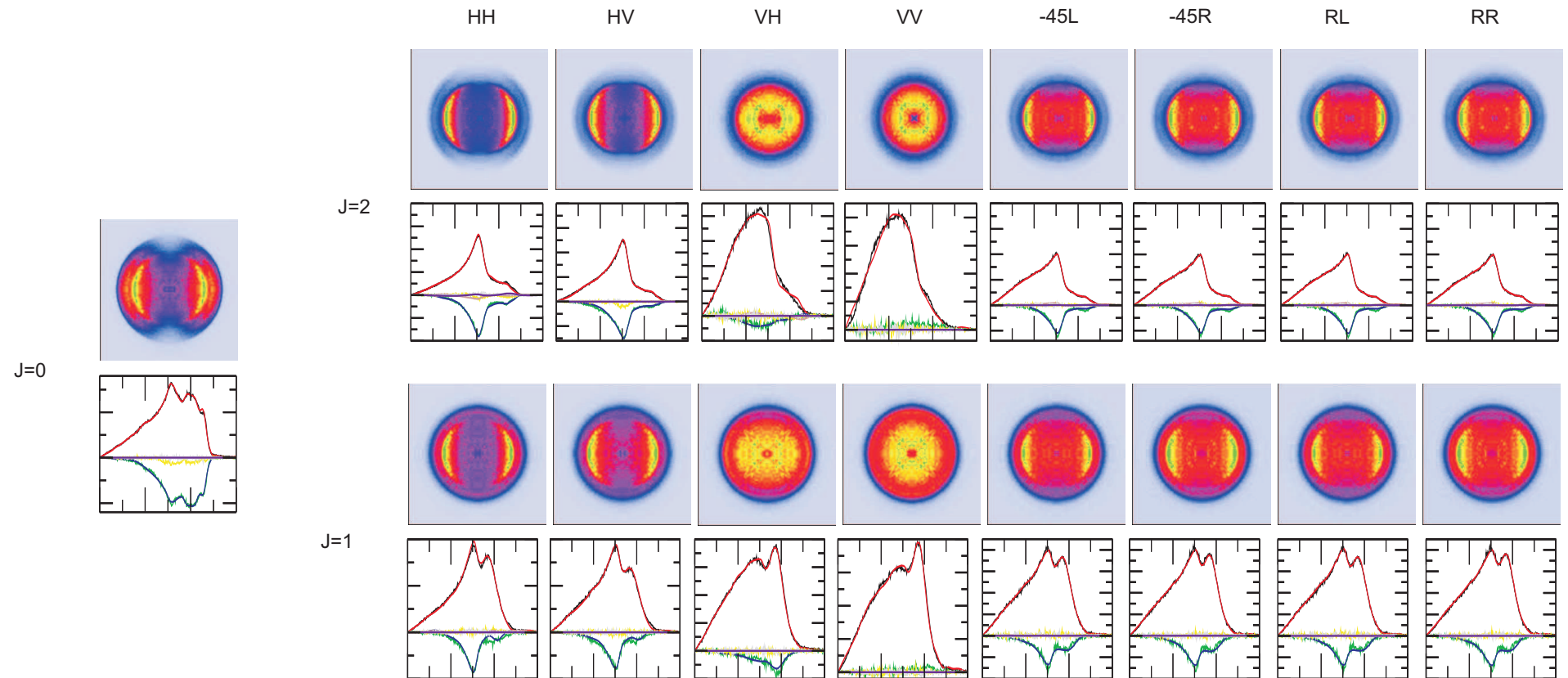
## Issues to consider

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- Minor 5% channel  
(Houston and coworkers, *Chem. Phys. Lett.* (1993))
- Both **L** and **S** involved.
- Can polarization of **J** still provide helpful information?
- Test out using OCS at 248 nm.
- Help assign dissociation mechanism for  $S(^3P_J)$  formation.

# $S(^3P_J)$ images and moments

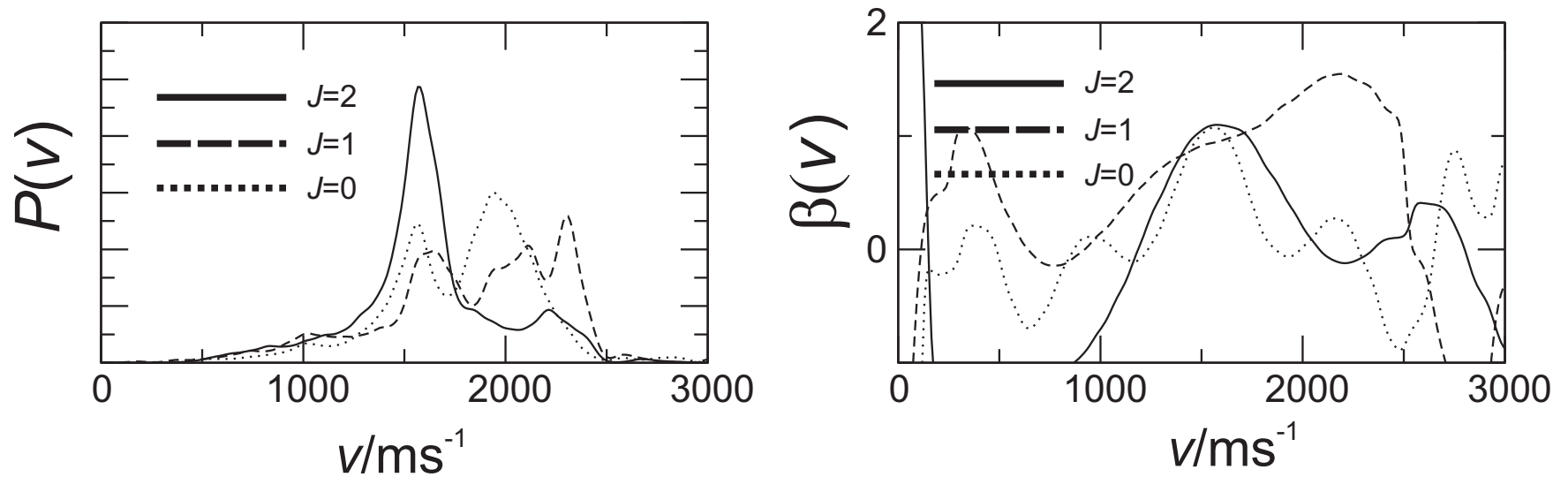
## Moment analysis



Fit using basis function method

# $S(^3P_J)$ speed and anisotropy distributions

$J$ -dependent speed and anisotropy distributions



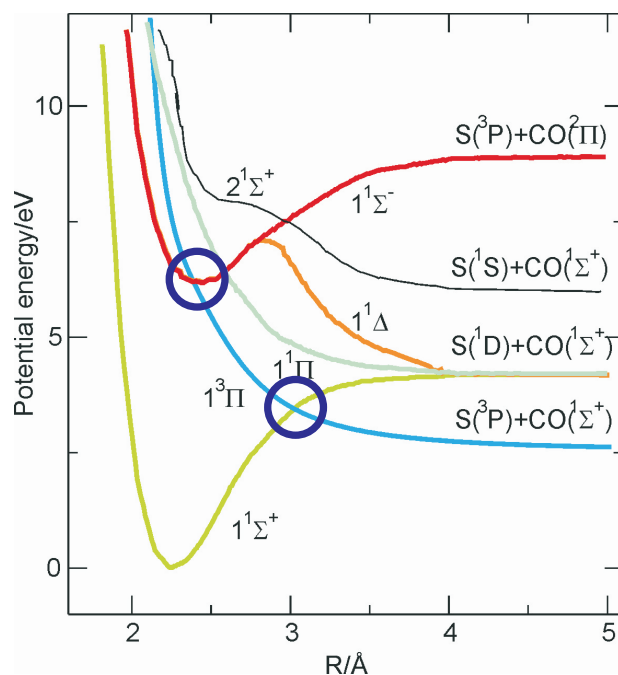
Spin-orbit populations  $P(J = 2 : 1 : 0) = 8 : 3 : 1$

At  $1500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$   $\beta(v)$  for each  $J$  close to that for slow  $S(^1D_2)$  channel.



# Potential energy curves

## Intersystem crossing pathways



ISC from ground state involves  $1^3A'(^3\Pi)$  state (c.f. collisional quenching)

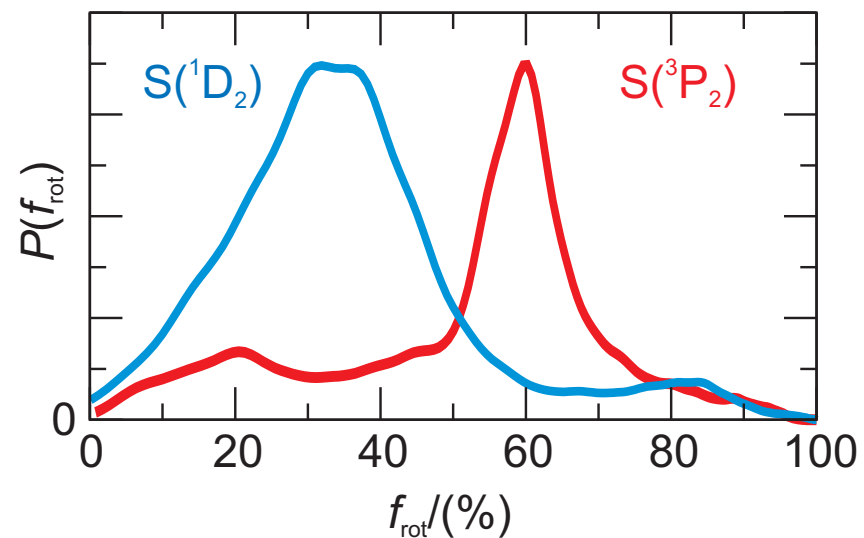
Singlet curves from Suzuki and coworkers, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

Triplet curve from Y. Inagaki *et al.*, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1995)

# $S(^3P_2)$ speed and anisotropy distributions

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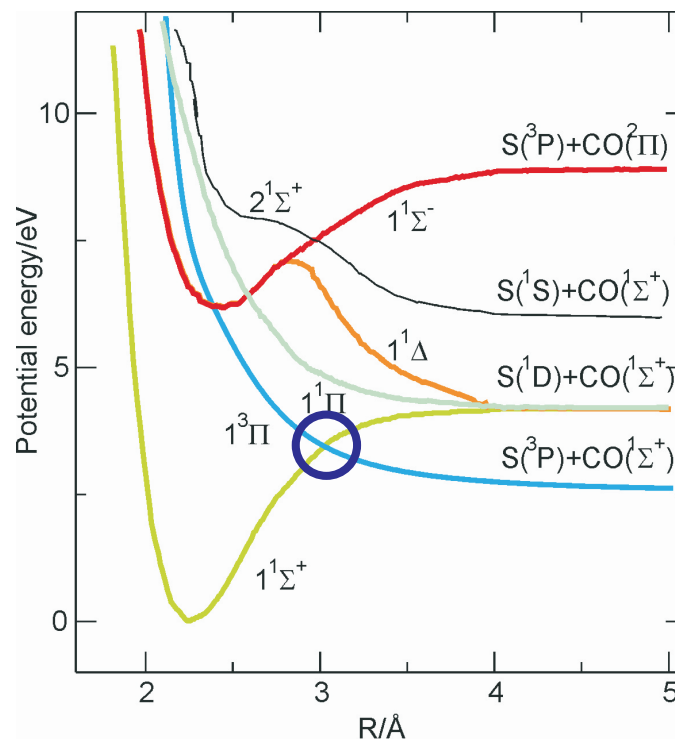
Comparison with the singlet channel



$S(^3P_2)$  may arise from ISC from the ground state (consistent with  $\beta(v)$ )

# Potential energy curves

Implies intersystem crossing from the ground  $1^1A'(^1\Sigma)$  state



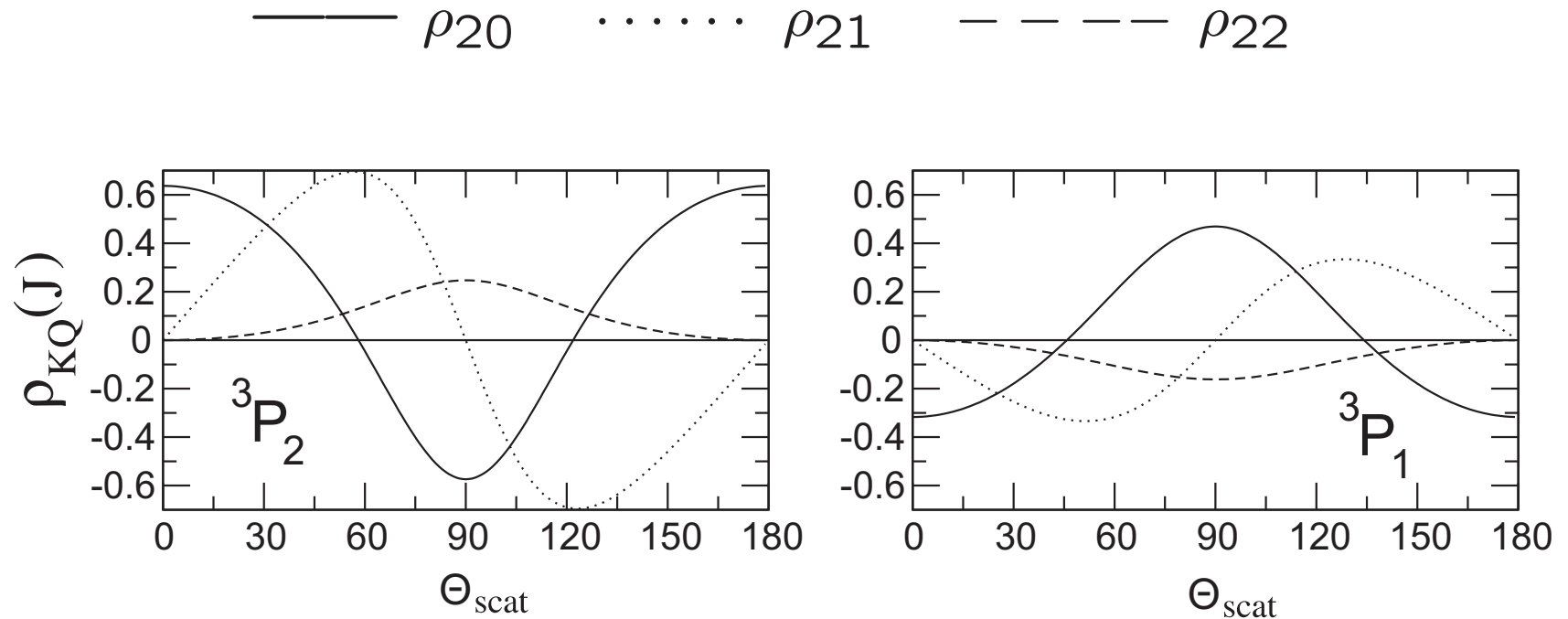
Higher kinetic energy release (c.f. dissociation on ground singlet state)

Singlet curves from Suzuki and coworkers, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

Triplet curve from Y. Inagaki *et al.*, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1995)

# Molecular frame $J$ -polarization

$J = 2$  and  $J = 1$  are differently polarized



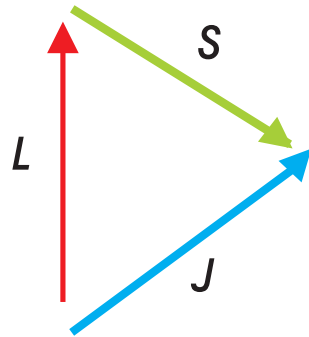
Need to consider coupling of  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{S}$  during dissociation.

# Adiabatic versus diabatic models

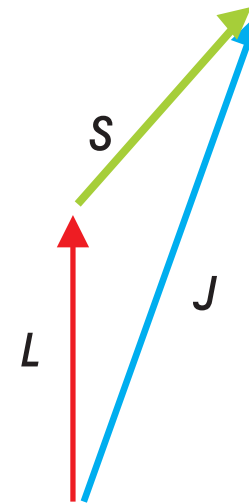
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*Two sources of angular momentum,  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{S}$*

Only know polarization of  $\mathbf{J}$



$$J = 1$$

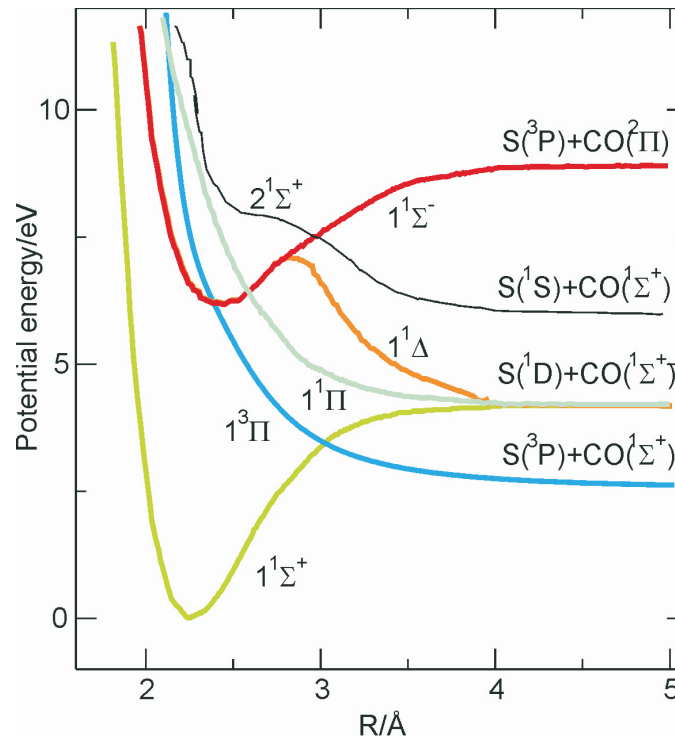


$$J = 2$$

Sudden recoupling of  $\mathbf{S}$  and  $\mathbf{L}$  is inappropriate in this case.

# Potential energy curves

$S(^3P_J)$  motion is relatively slow through the recoupling zone



Spin-orbit populations and speed distributions are non-statistical

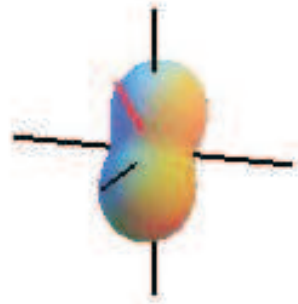
Singlet curves from Suzuki and coworkers, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

Triplet curve from Y. Inagaki *et al.*, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1995)

# $S(^3P_2)$ $J$ -distribution

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*Preferential population of  $M_J = \pm 1, \pm 2$*

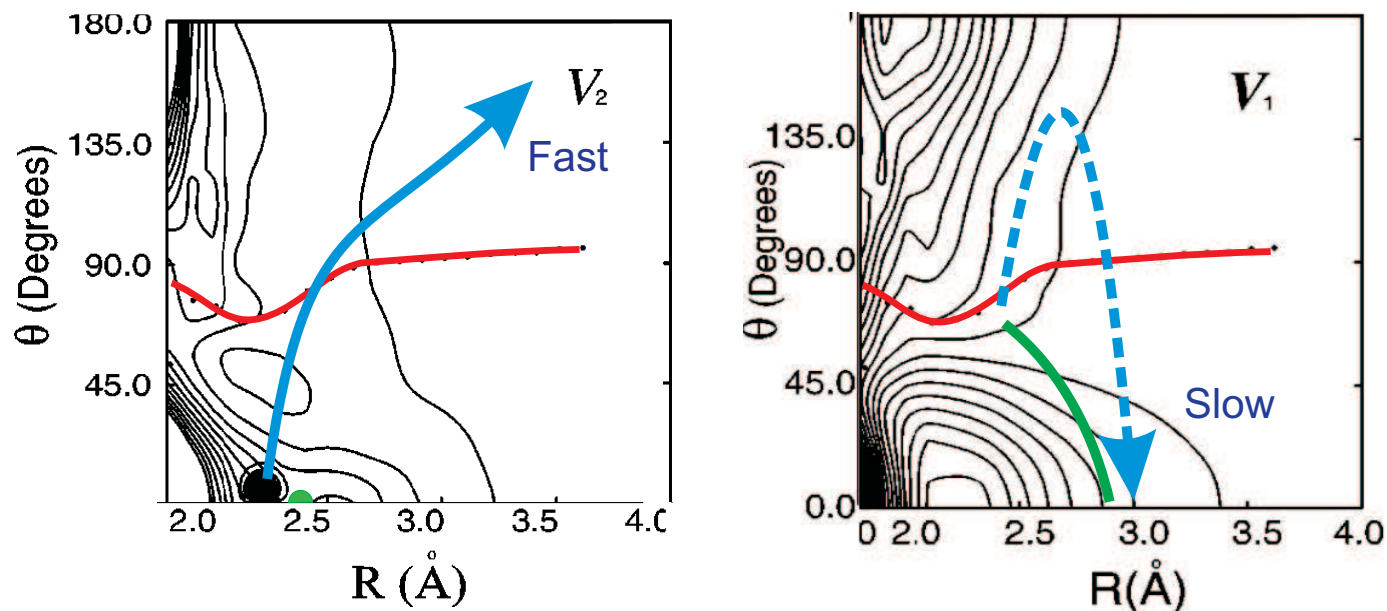


Consistent with adiabatic dissociation *via* lowest  $^3A'$  state.

Note:  $z||v$  and  $zx$  plane contains  $\epsilon$

# Potential surfaces and ISC

*Dissociation via ISC between ground singlet and triplet states*



Probability of ISC on ground state must be quite high

Diabatic potentials from Suzuki and coworkers, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1998)

Triplet surface from Y. Inagaki *et al.*, *J. Chem. Phys.* (1995)



# Summary

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- $S^3P_J$  channel extremely complex.
- Speed and anisotropy data are  $J$ -dependent.
- $S^3P_2$  data suggests an ISC pathway *via* ground state.
- Polarization data seems to support this interpretation.
- Further theoretical work required particularly for triatomics.

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**The end**

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