

## Ultrafast X-ray scattering in correlated materials

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# **Correlated materials and ferroic order**



Spaldin, Fiebig, Science 309, 391 (2005)

Zhou et al. Energy Harvesting and Systems, 3 (2015)



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# Accelerator based x-ray sources

### "Third" generation

### "Fourth" generation

### "Fifth" generation





~10<sup>10</sup> more photons in one pulse!

# **X-ray diffraction**

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Intensity as function of photon momentum transfer directly related to Fourier Transform of electron density



## Case Study # 1: Sn<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>S<sub>6</sub> a soft mode ferroelectric



Sn-atoms position determine the ferroelectric properties.

We want to resonantly excite the soft phonon mode to induce reversal in the ferroelectric polarisation



### Sn<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>S<sub>6</sub>: THz pump - x-ray probe

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# $Sn_2P_2S_6$ THz pumping at LCLS, XPP



Savoini et al. in preparation

We can excite large variations in the diffracted intensity (>20%)

We quantify the corresponding change in FE polarisation to > 5% of the full reversal

We can track the phase transition by measuring the induced effect at different temperatures



## Case Study # 2: ultrafast demagnetisation

- Unexpectedly fast drop in a Ni sample magnetization upon laser pulse illumination Beaurepaire, PRL (1996)
- Not well understood how angular momentum is conserved
- In 2016 we designed a possible test experiment.





macroscopically rotating rod on long timescales





### 

Transverse displacement wave

### 



# **Experiment & results**

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Dornes et al., Nature (in publication)

1

0

3

4

2

t [ps]

## What we droom about the next generation?



n

Sufficiently short

le reasc

В

Xray photons

ETH

entum, a pws momentum coverage

# Δt<sub>23</sub> **Double pump** experiments

 $\Delta R(t)/R$ 





# **Limits and Opportunities**

- Pulse duration < 10 fs gives enough bandwidth to study < 60 meV excitations via FT methods</li>
  - going to sub-fs is not a strong requirement
- Transform limited pulses desirable
- Ability to smoothly tune pulse duration and bandwidth within FT limit beneficial
- Extra lasers synchronised for double pump experiments
- High rep rate not critical, unless coupled with THz pulses directly from the machine
- Accurately timed and phased double pulses might be useful for double pump schemes (needs further study)
- Stability essential
- Complete polarization control essential (for E < 1 keV)</li>



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Questions??



