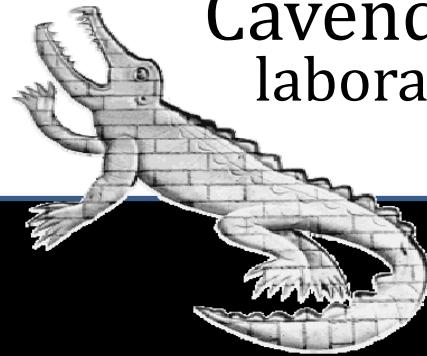




UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



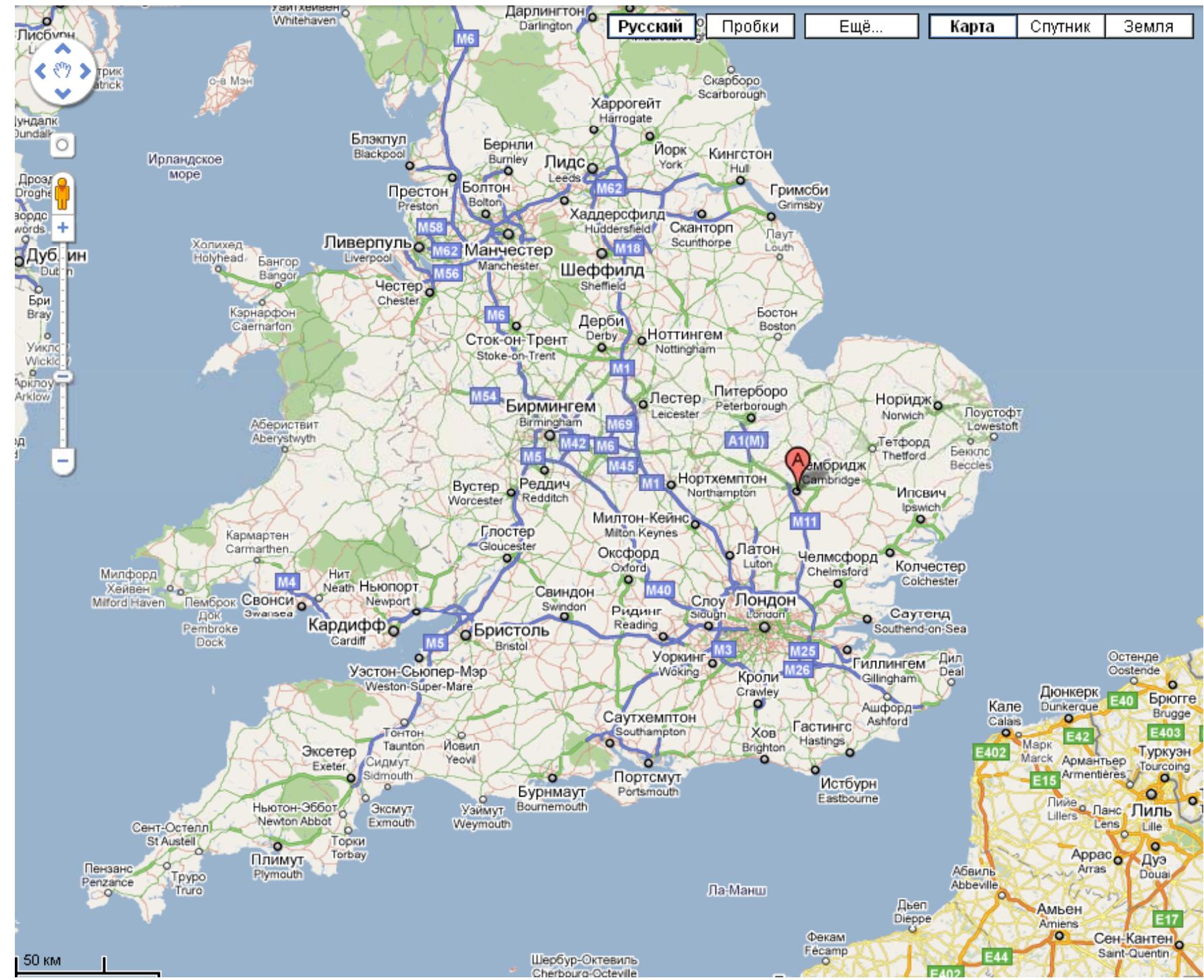
Cavendish  
laboratory



# Studying Photophysics of Solar Cells at “Working Conditions”

Artem Bakulin





Русский

Пробки

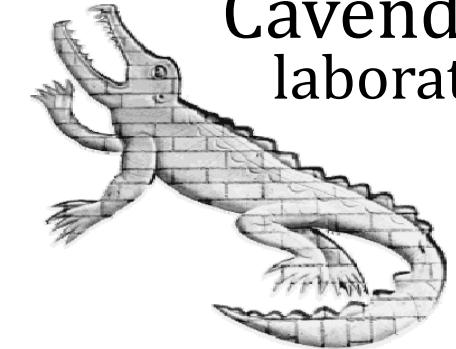
Ещё...

Карта

Спутник

Земля

50 км



Cavendish  
laboratory



**FASTLAB**

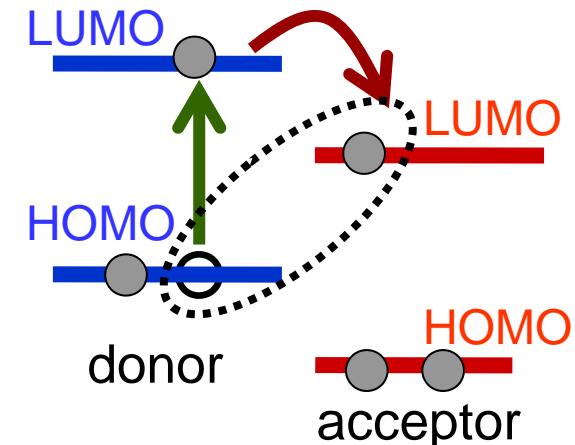
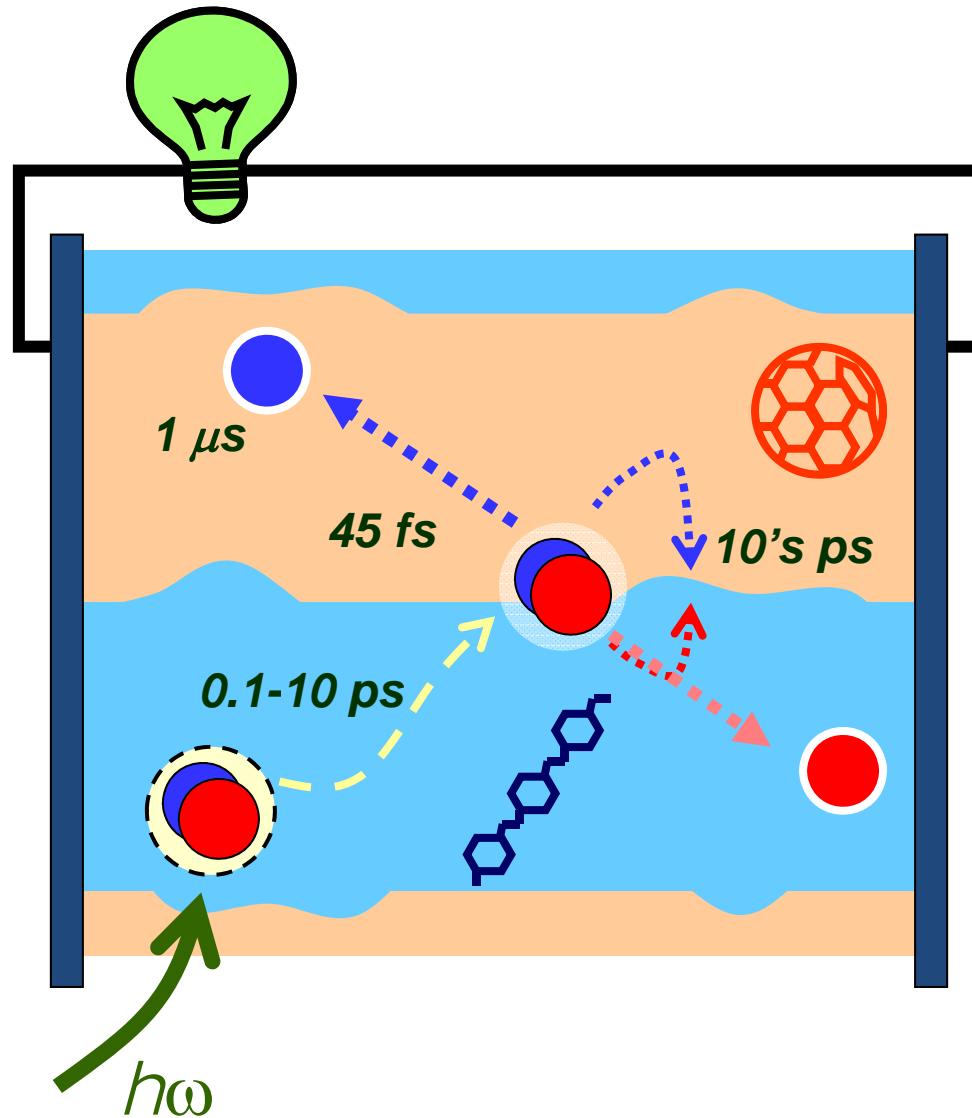


Why Do we need  
a new Laser Spectroscopy Instrument  
to study solar cells?

How does it work?

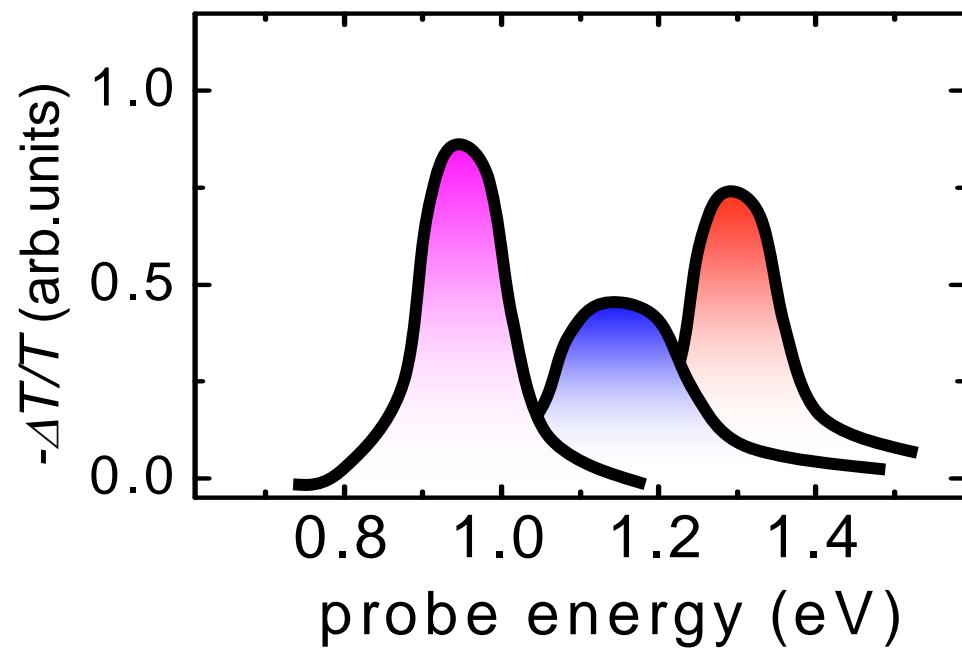
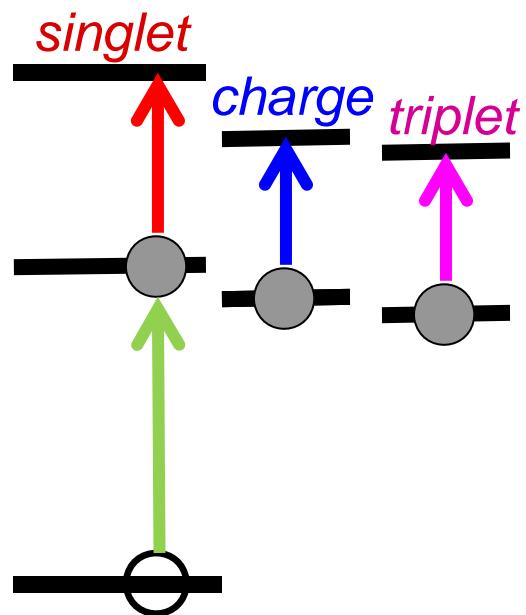
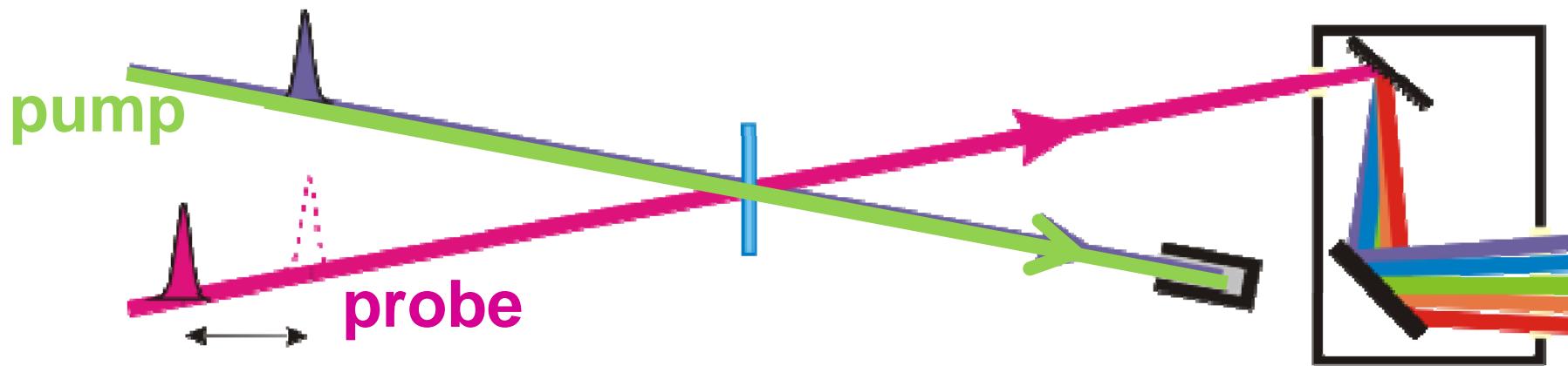
What are the research plans....

# The bulk-heterojunction concept:

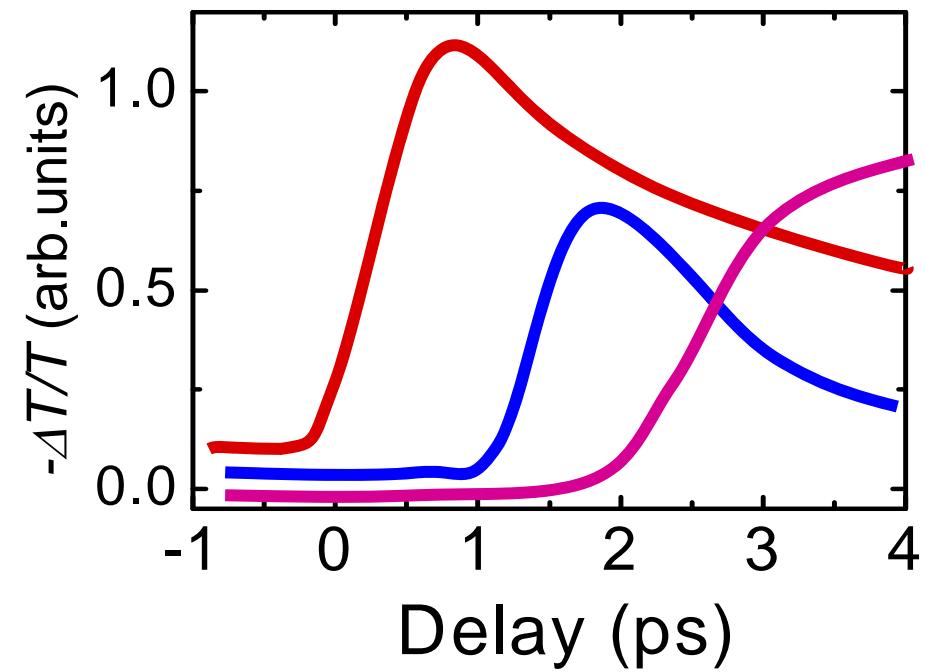
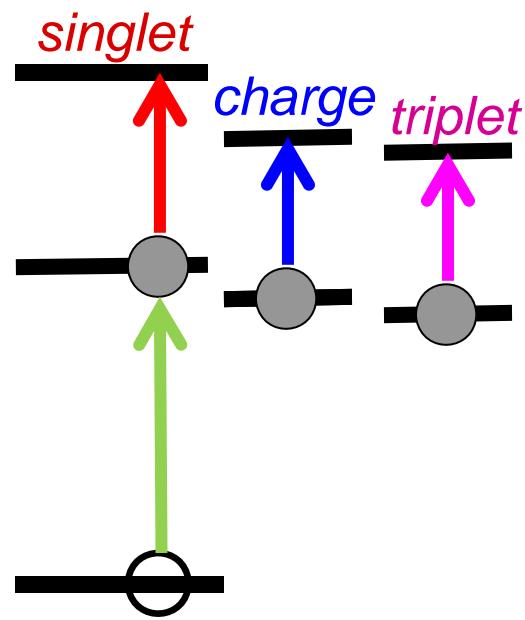
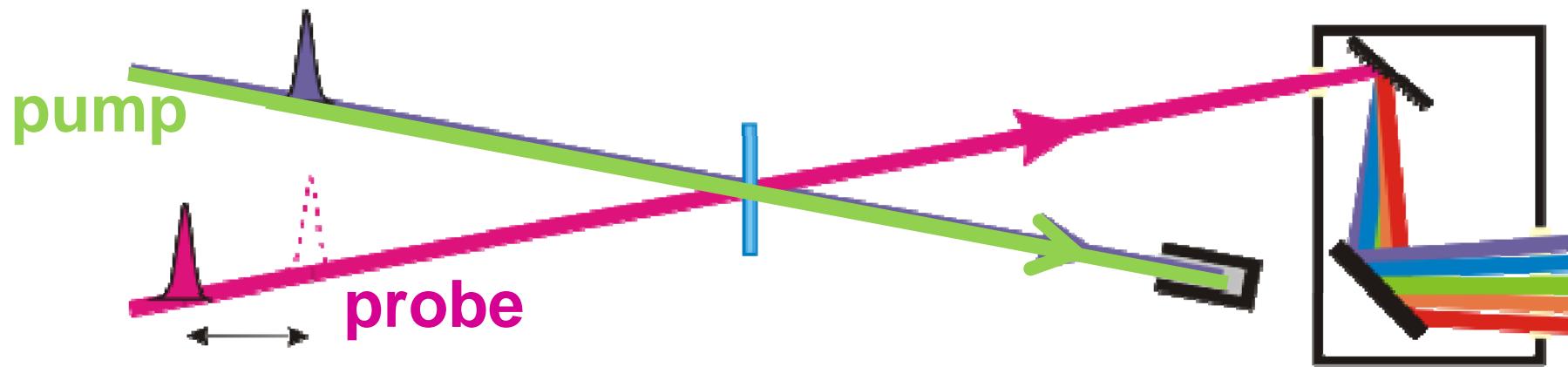


1. Optical excitation
2. Charge separation
3. Charge-transfer state
4. Recombination...
5. ...Or Free charges

# Transient Absorption Spectroscopy

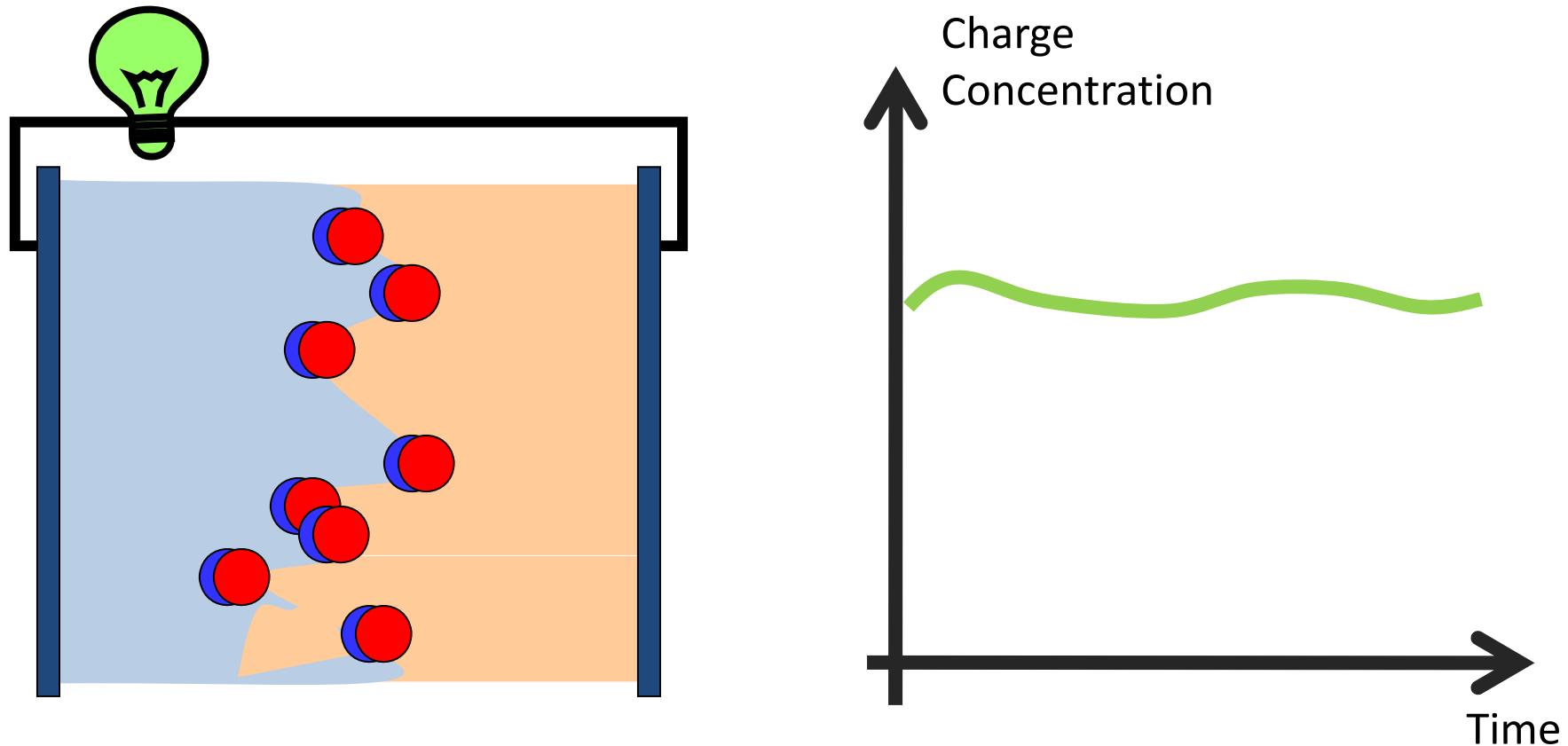


# Transient Absorption Spectroscopy



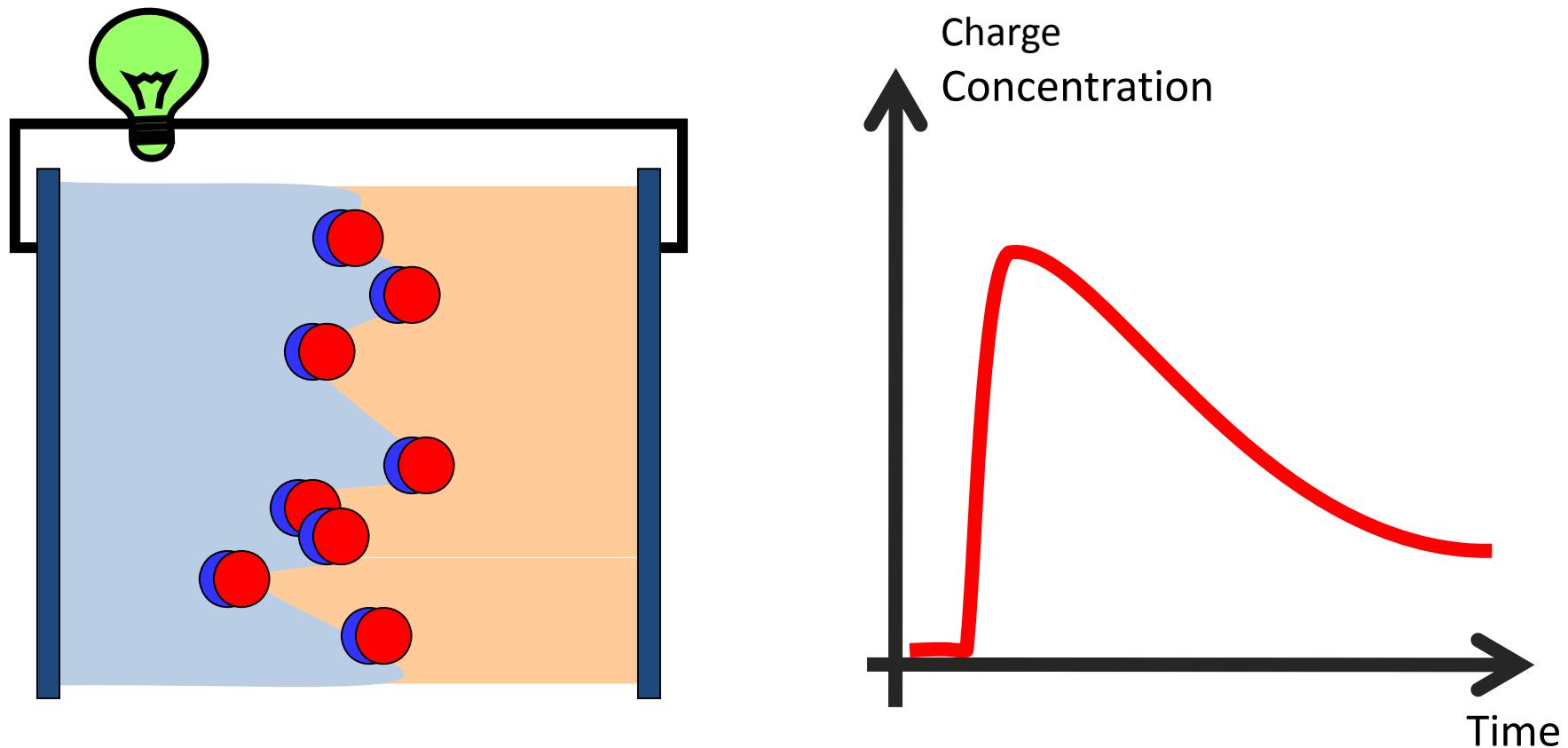
Can we measure dynamics of excitations at “working conditions” ?

### Excitation by the Sun

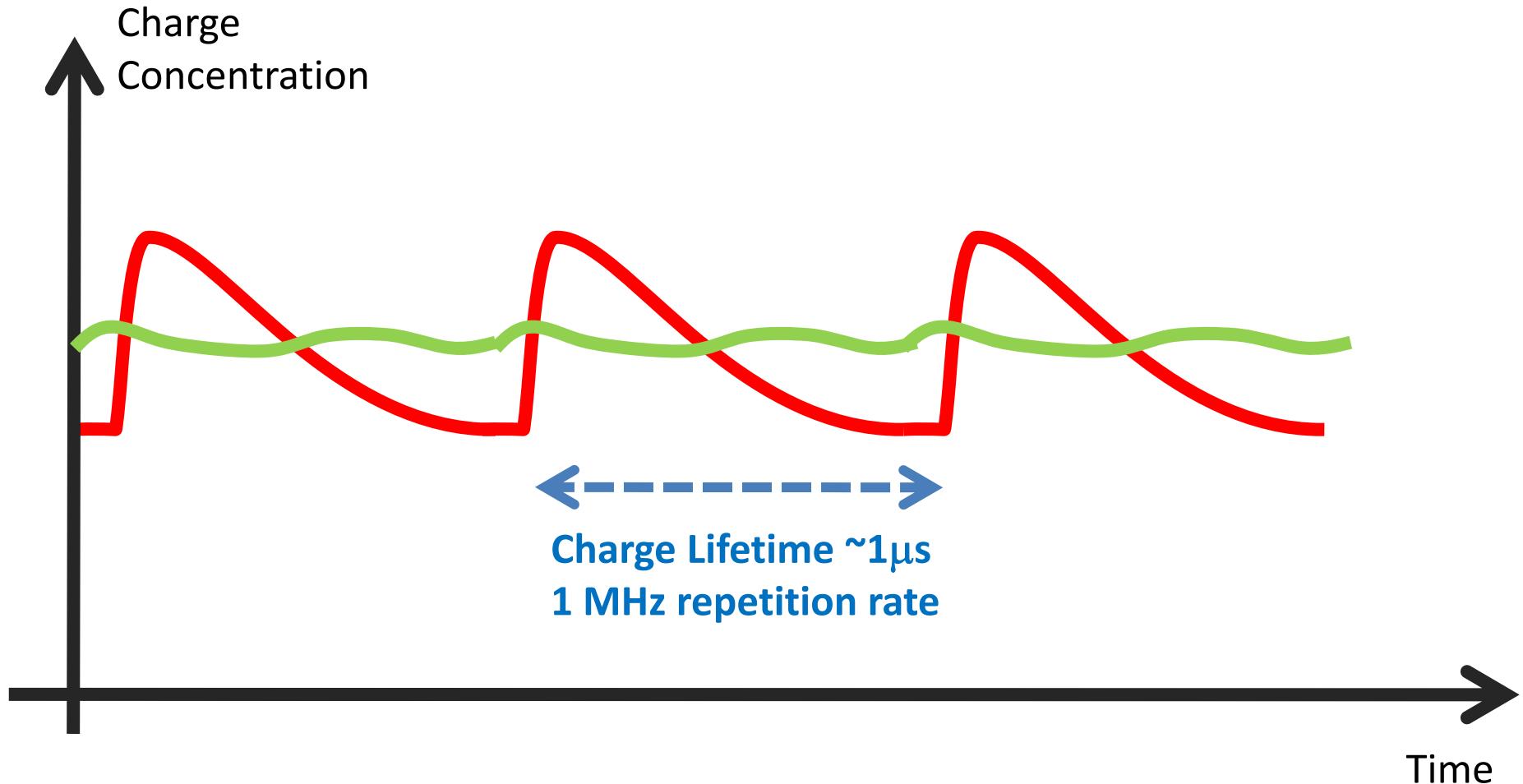


Can we measure dynamics of excitations at “working conditions” ?

### Excitation by the Ultrafast Laser

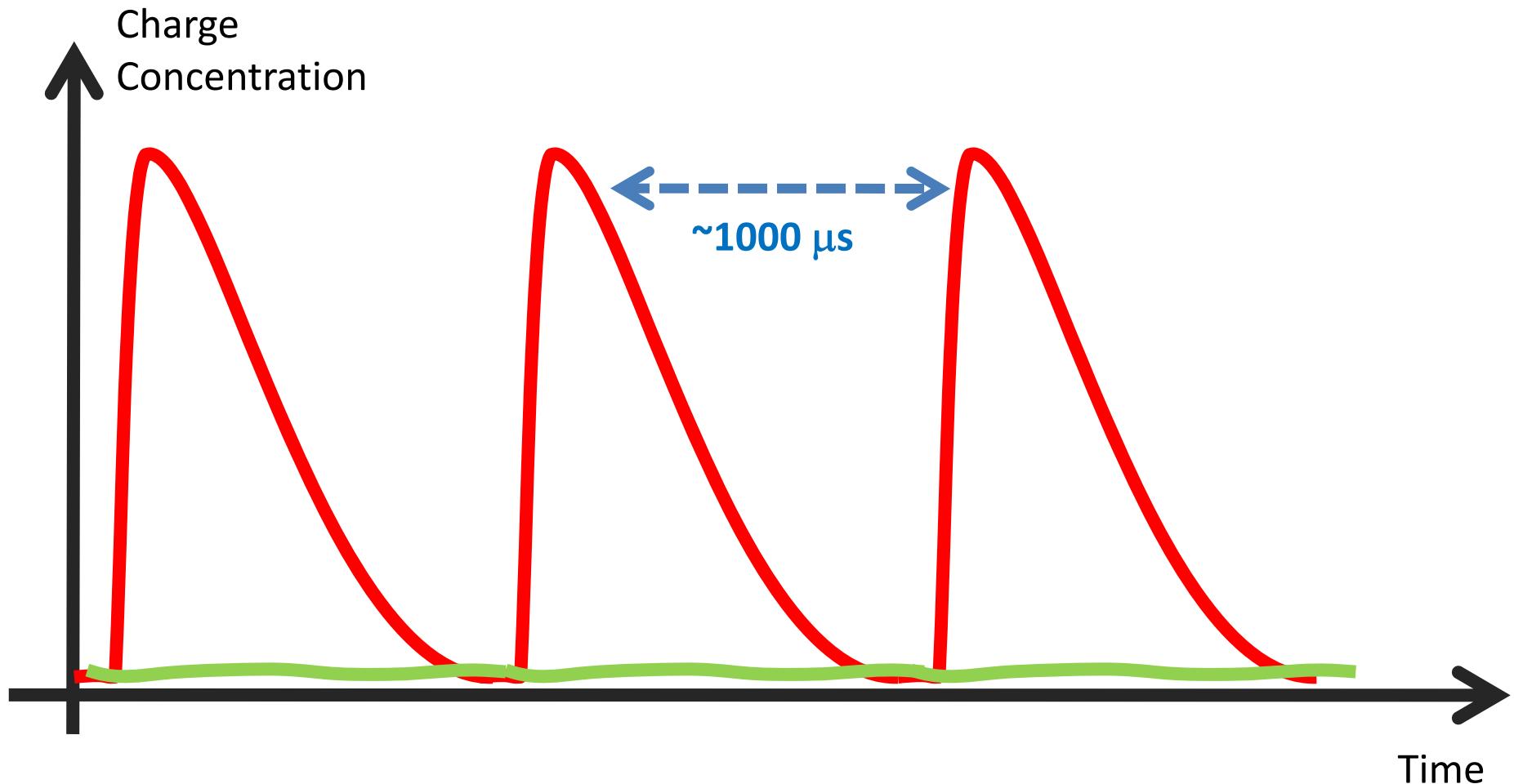


# Measurements at quasi-“working conditions” ?

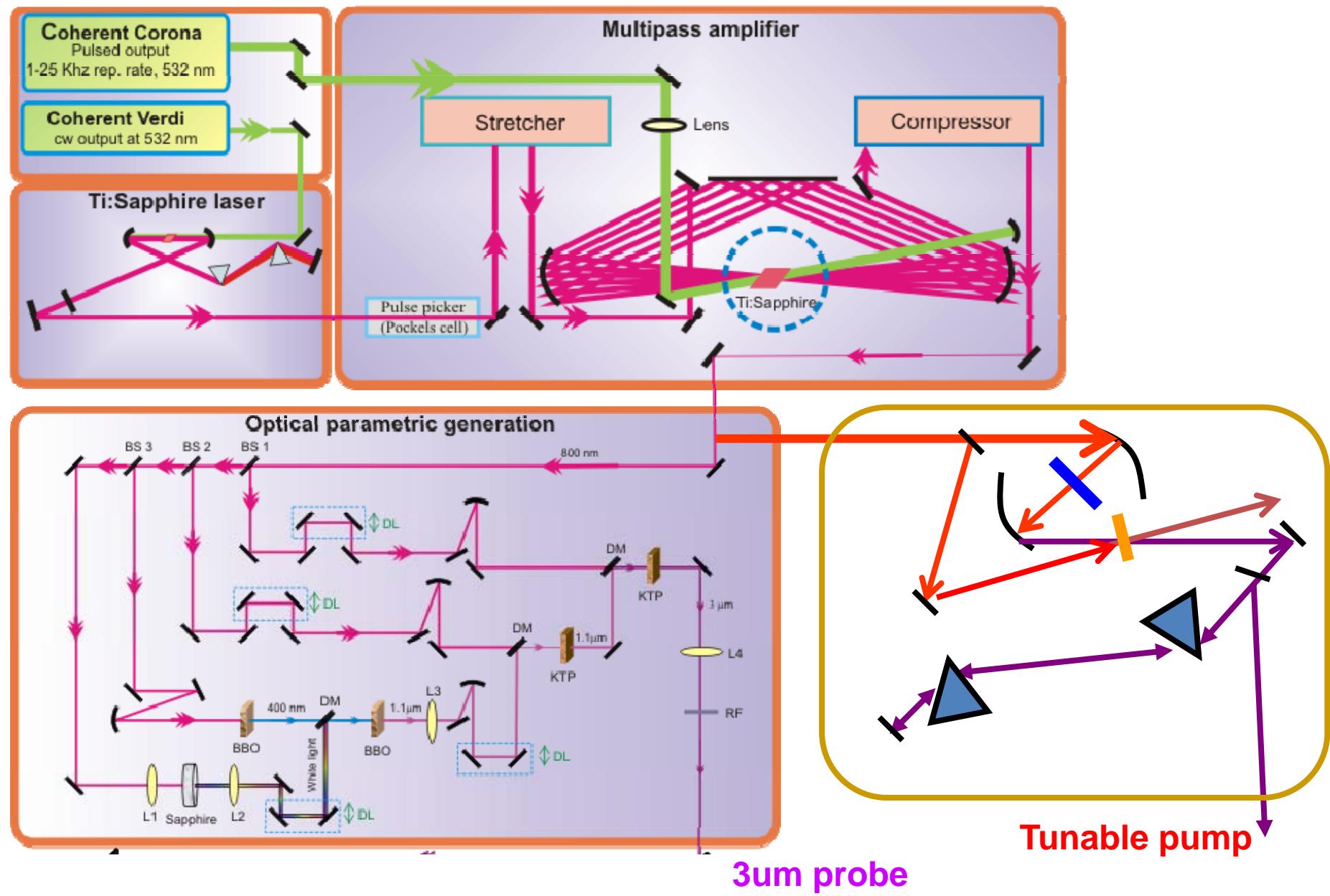


# Current “lowest-flux” measurements

- Repetition rate 1kHz
- Concentration of charges fit **~100-20 Suns**

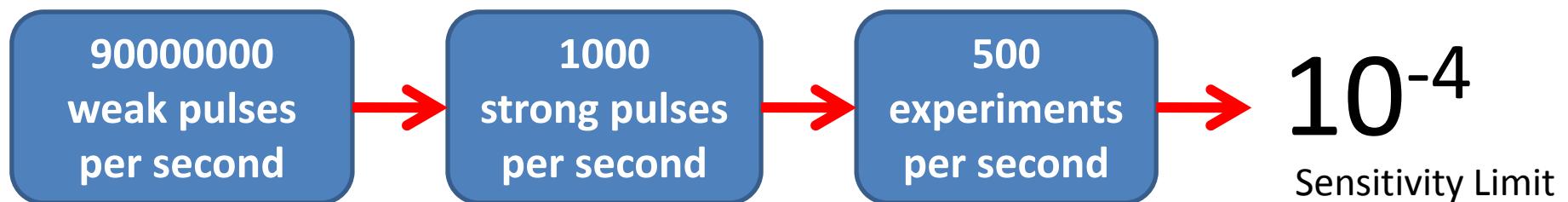


# Vis (35 fs) – IR (70 fs) spectroscopy set-up

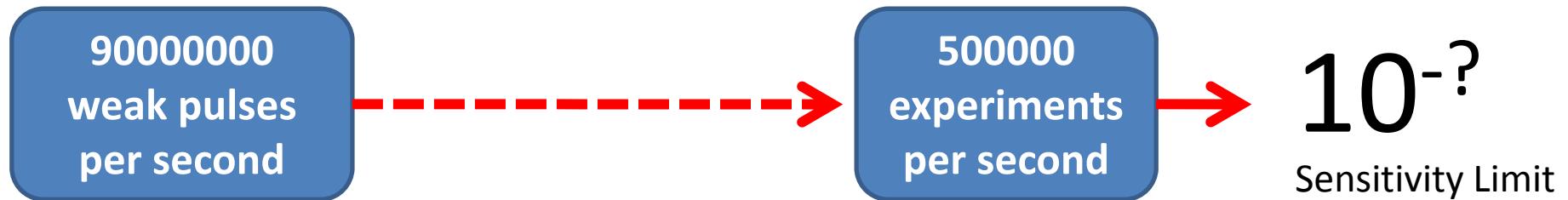


To measure at one sun intensity signal to noise  
should be improved by **100 times**...

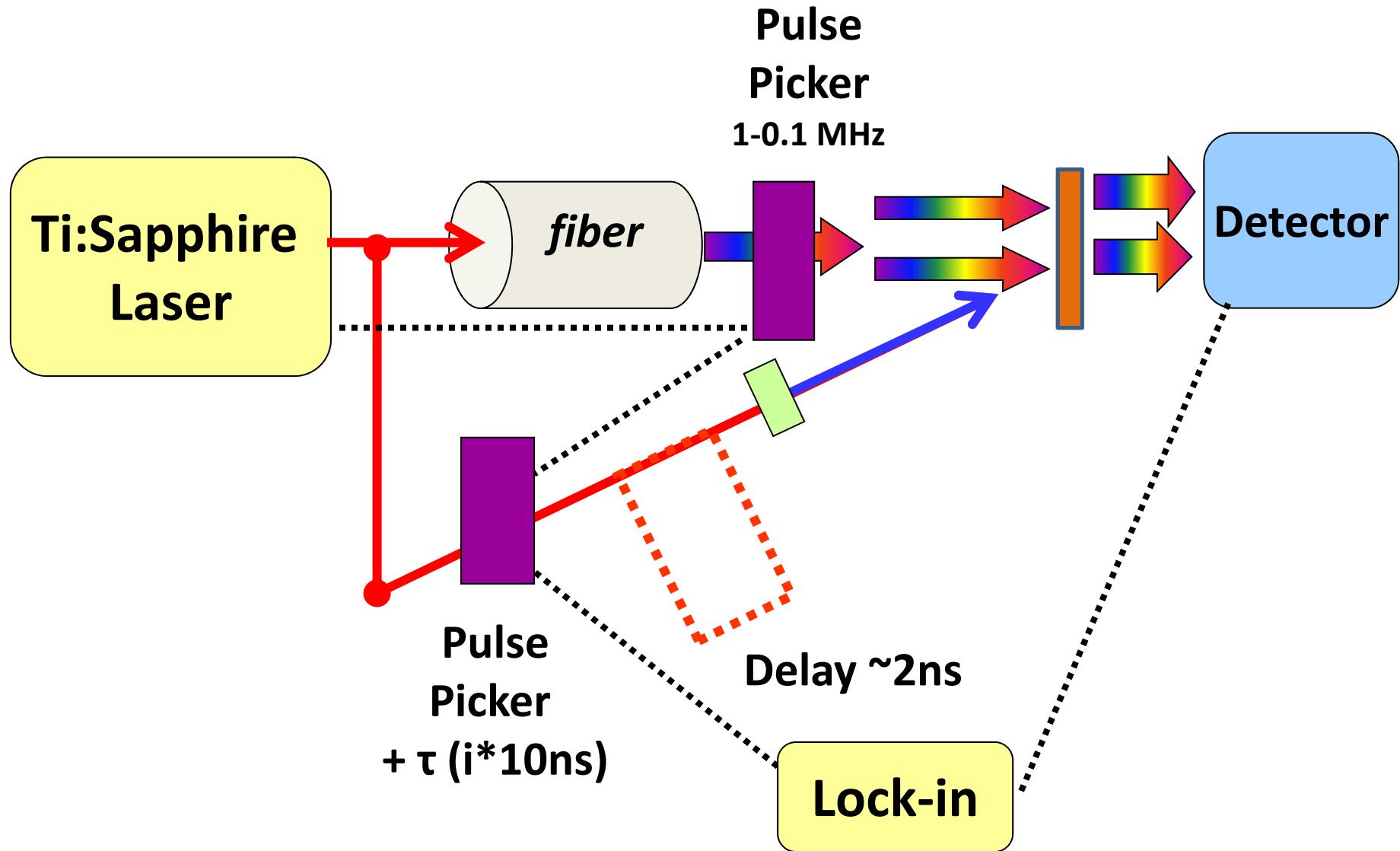
*Typical 1-kHz spectrometer*



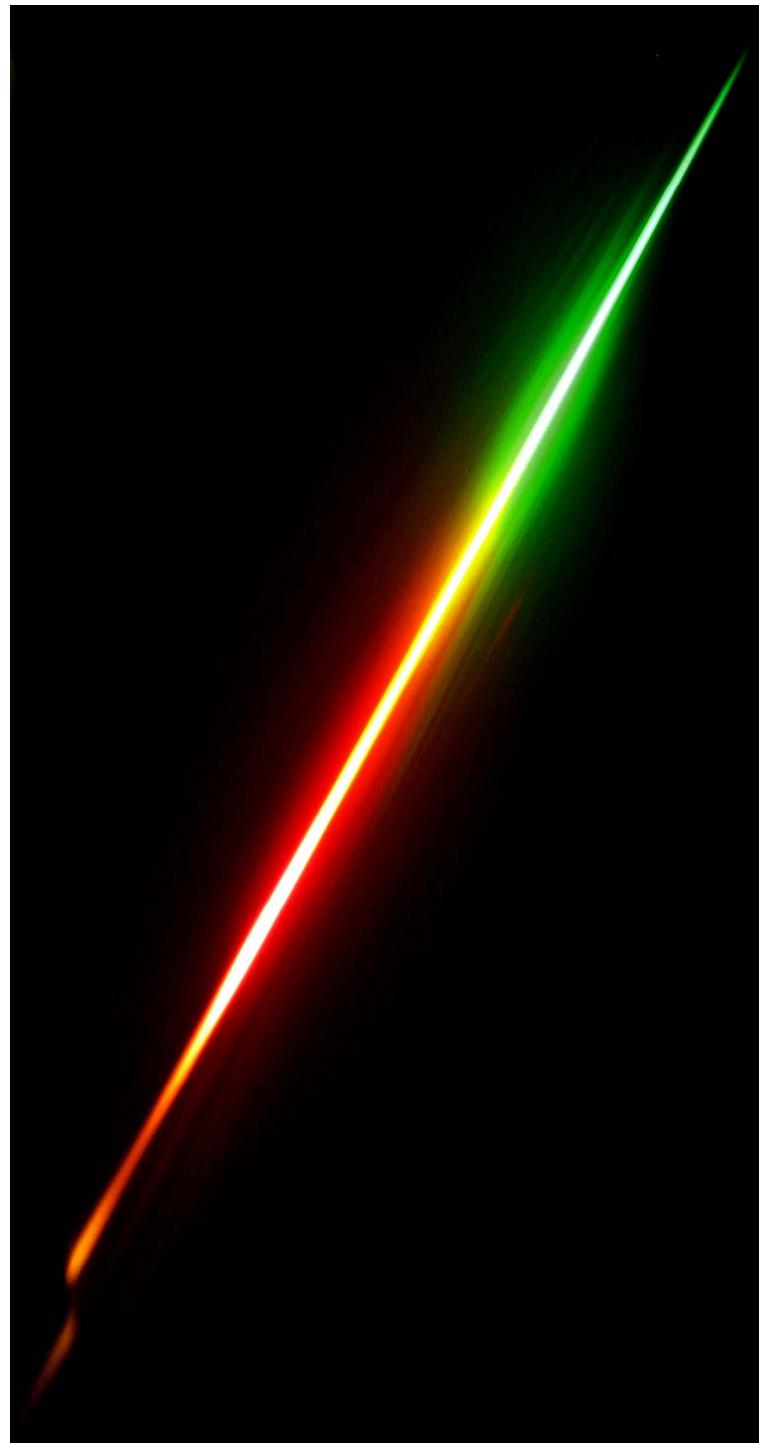
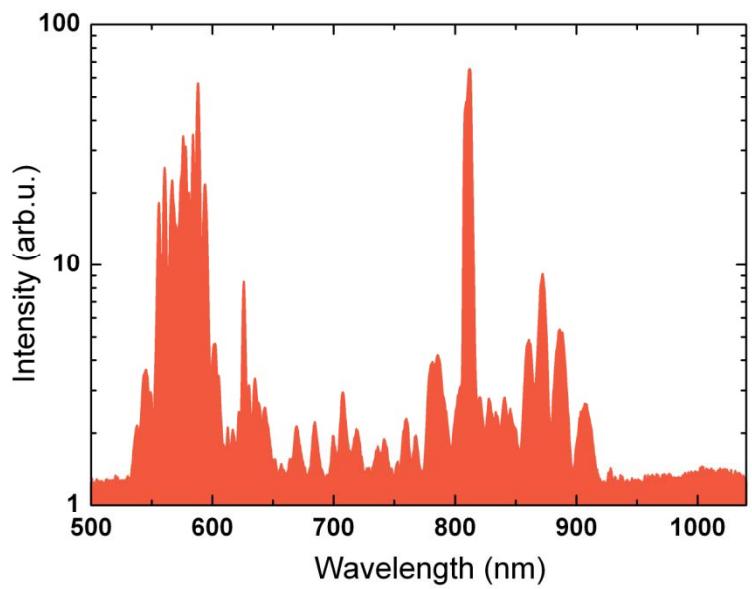
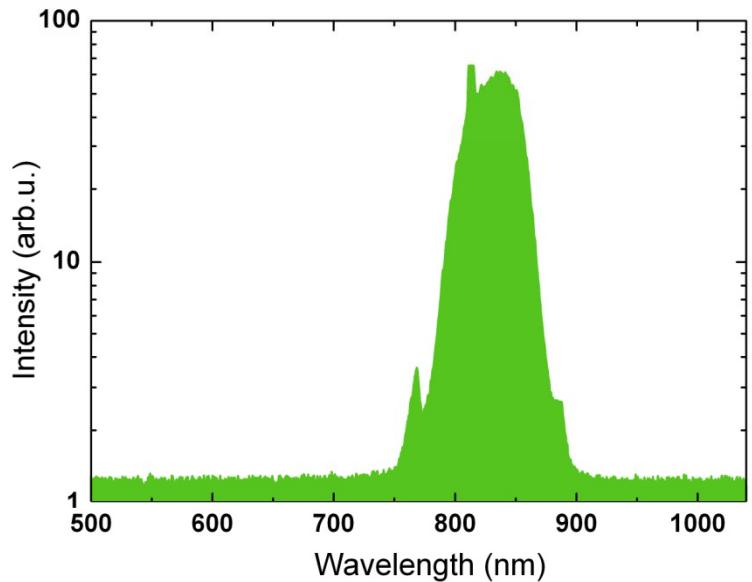
*New High-repetition spectrometer*



# New spectrometer layout (plan)



# Fibre White-Light Source



# New spectrometer progress...

*Good news*



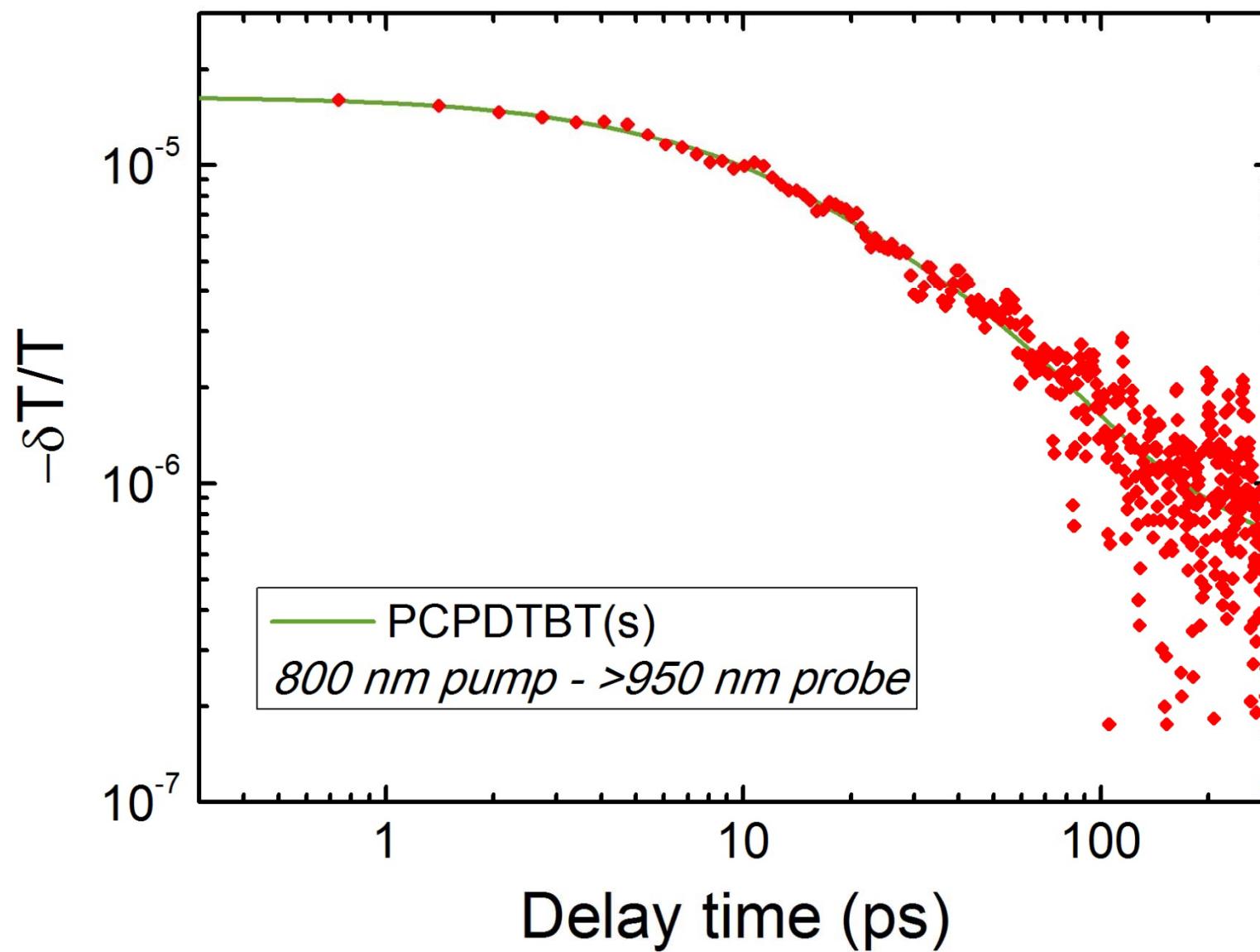
Signal  $\sim 3 \times 10^{-6}$   
detected  
at 0.5 Sun  
excitation density

*Bad news*

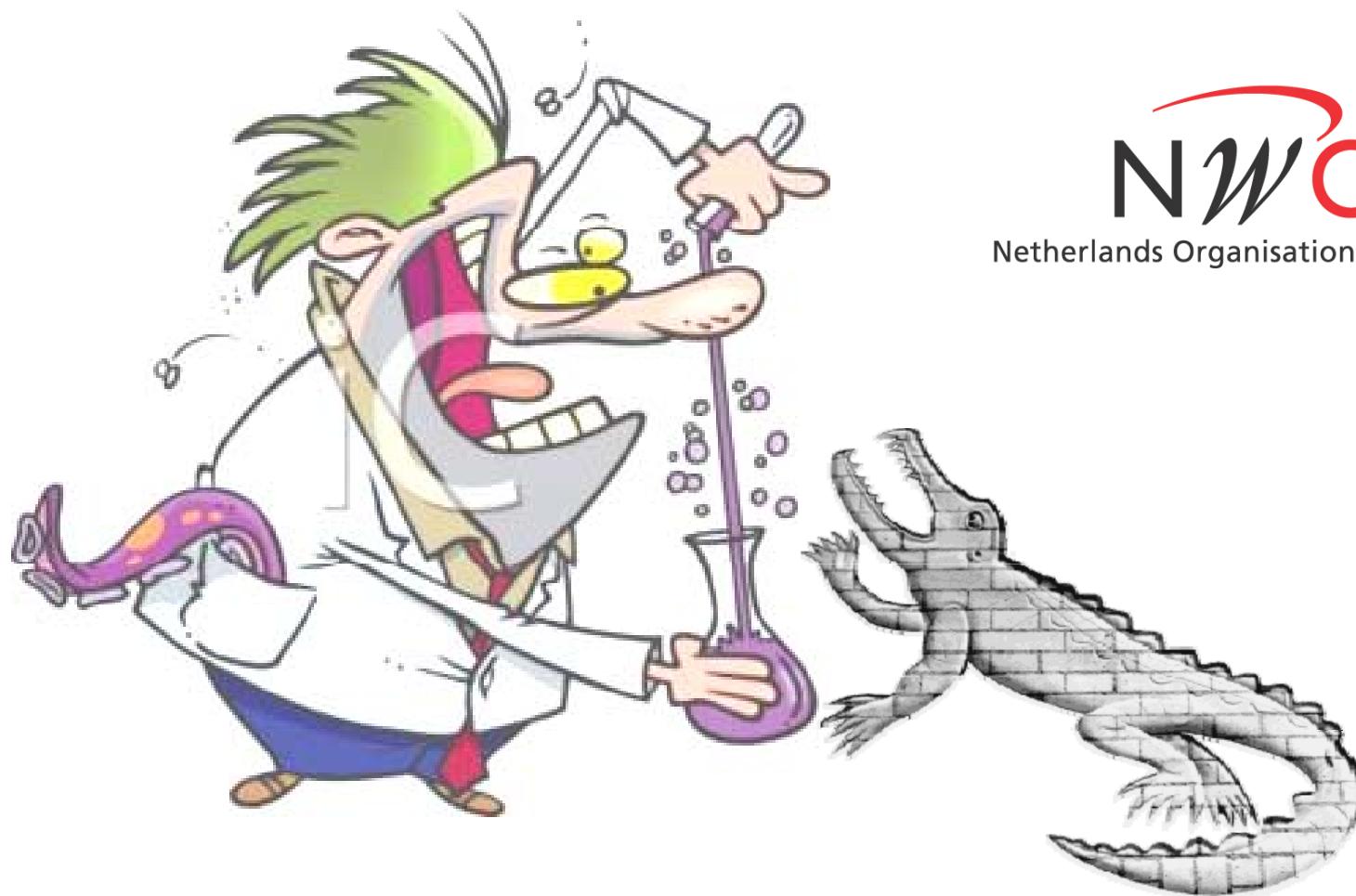


No Music  
in the Fastlab

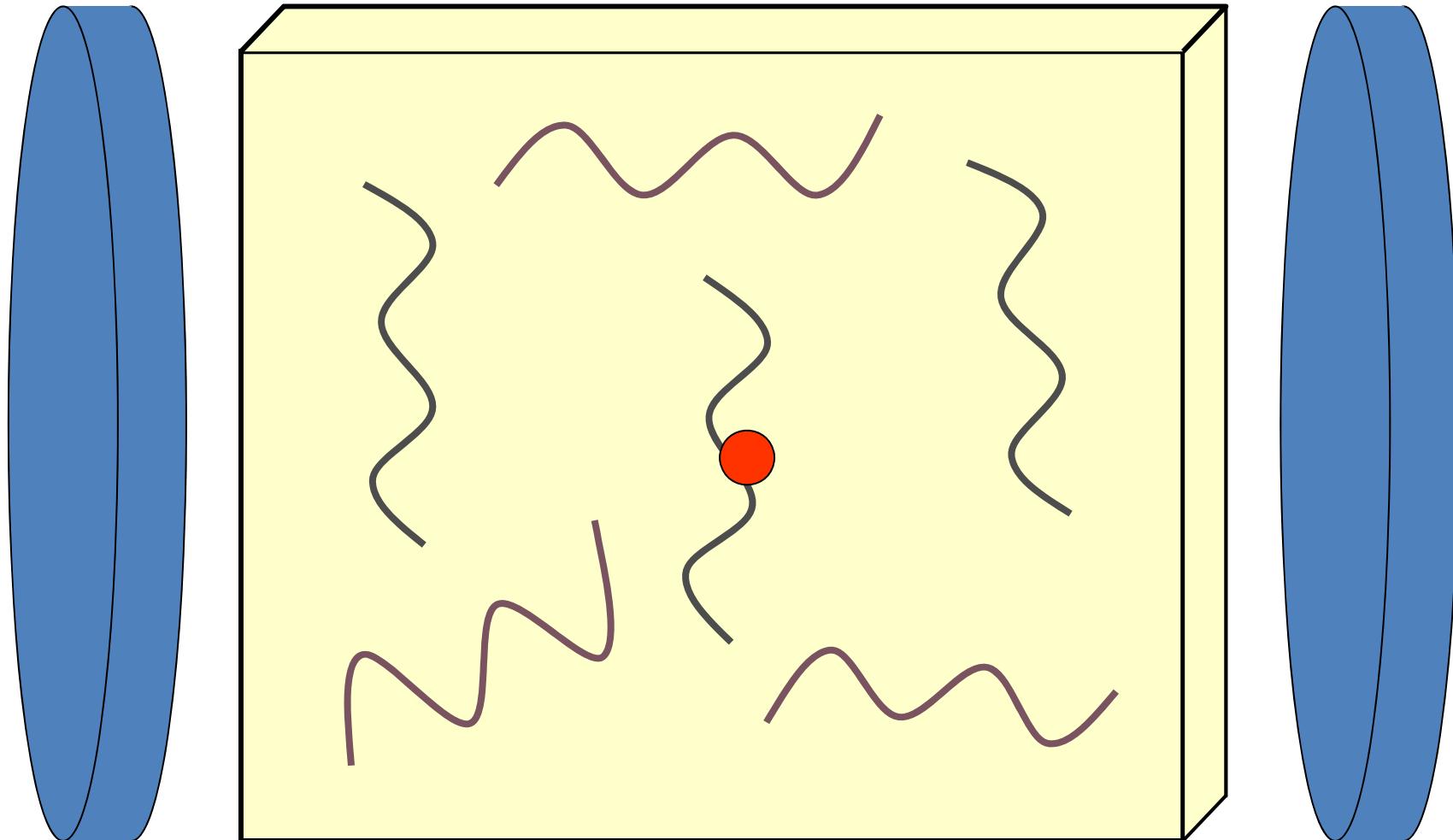




# “Mad Scientist” Idea – watching charge transport in real time

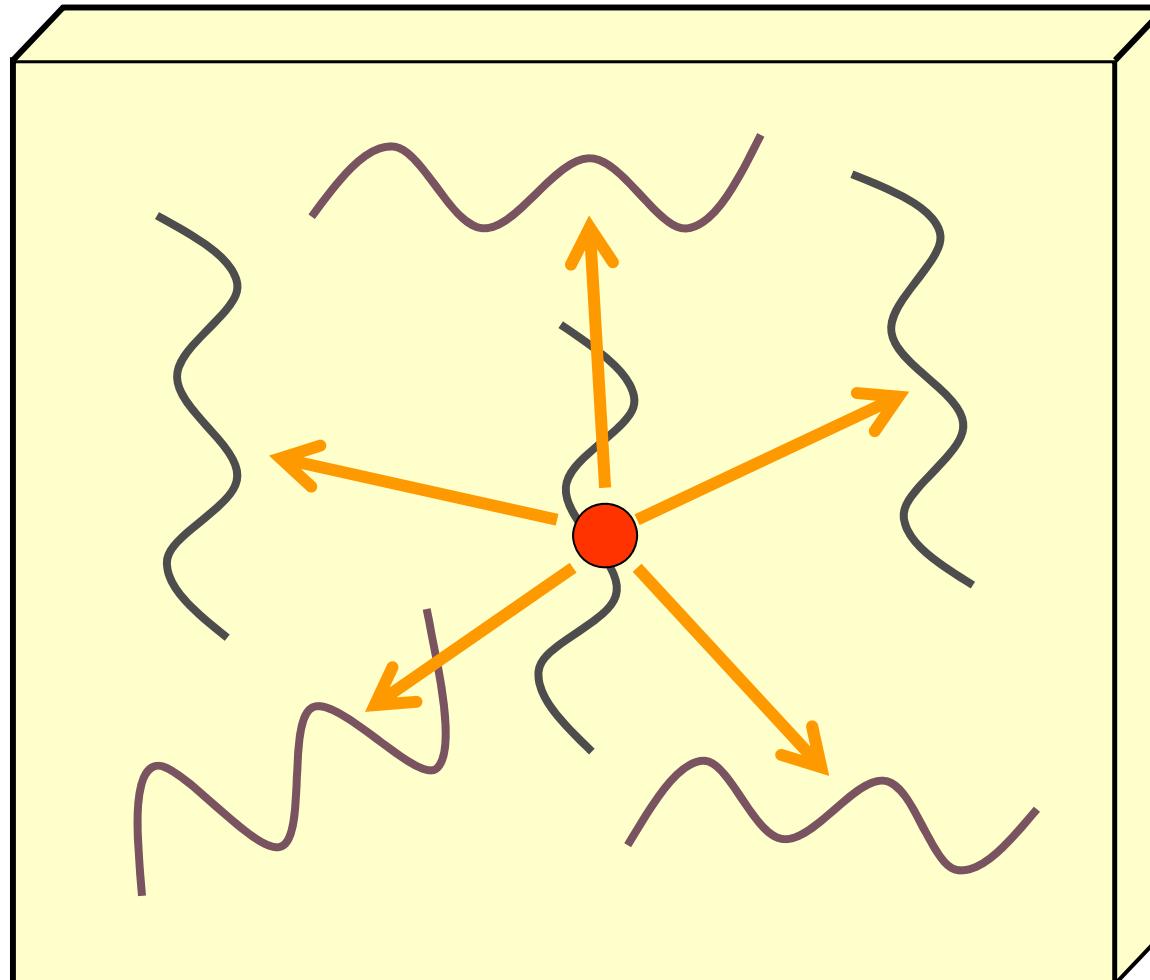


# What do we know about charge transport?



Conductivity **within chain** and through the **complete device**.

# One can build a microscopic model



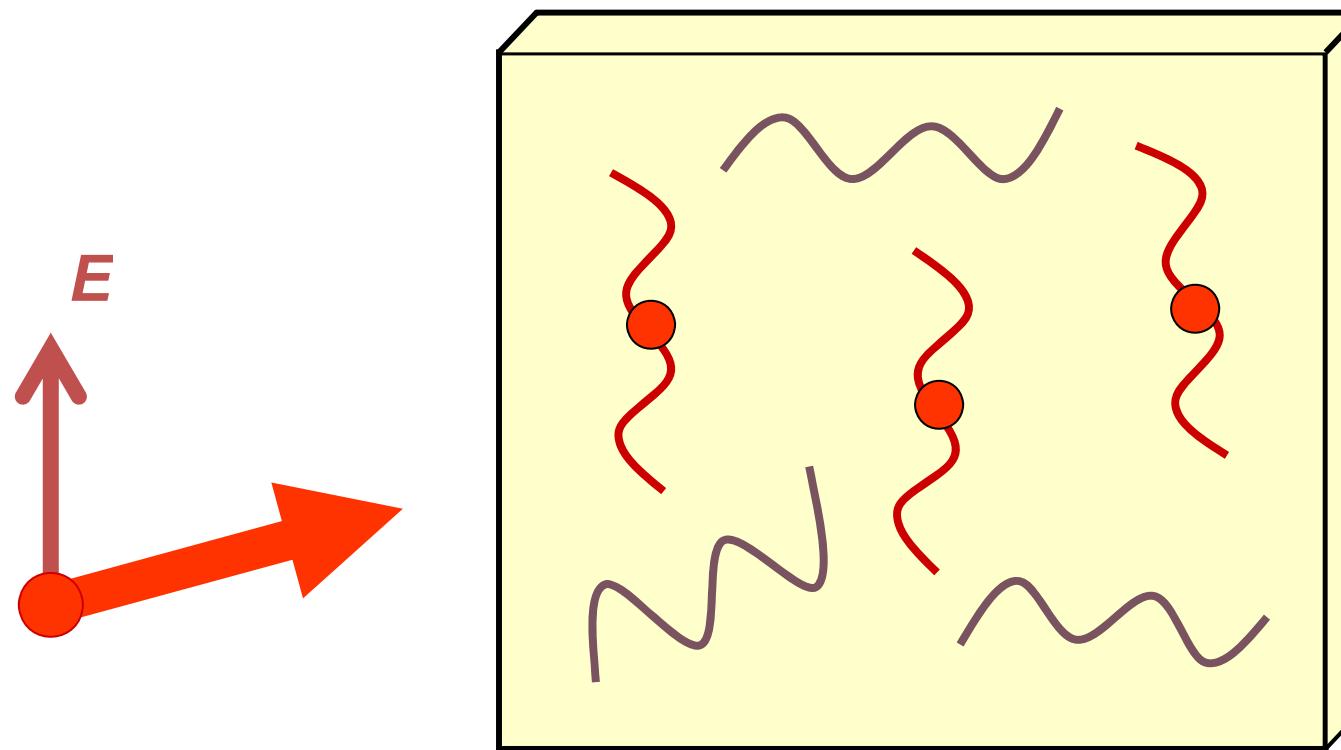
Distribution of states + hopping rates  $V_{ij}(E, T, \dots)$

*Remember Nir's talk*

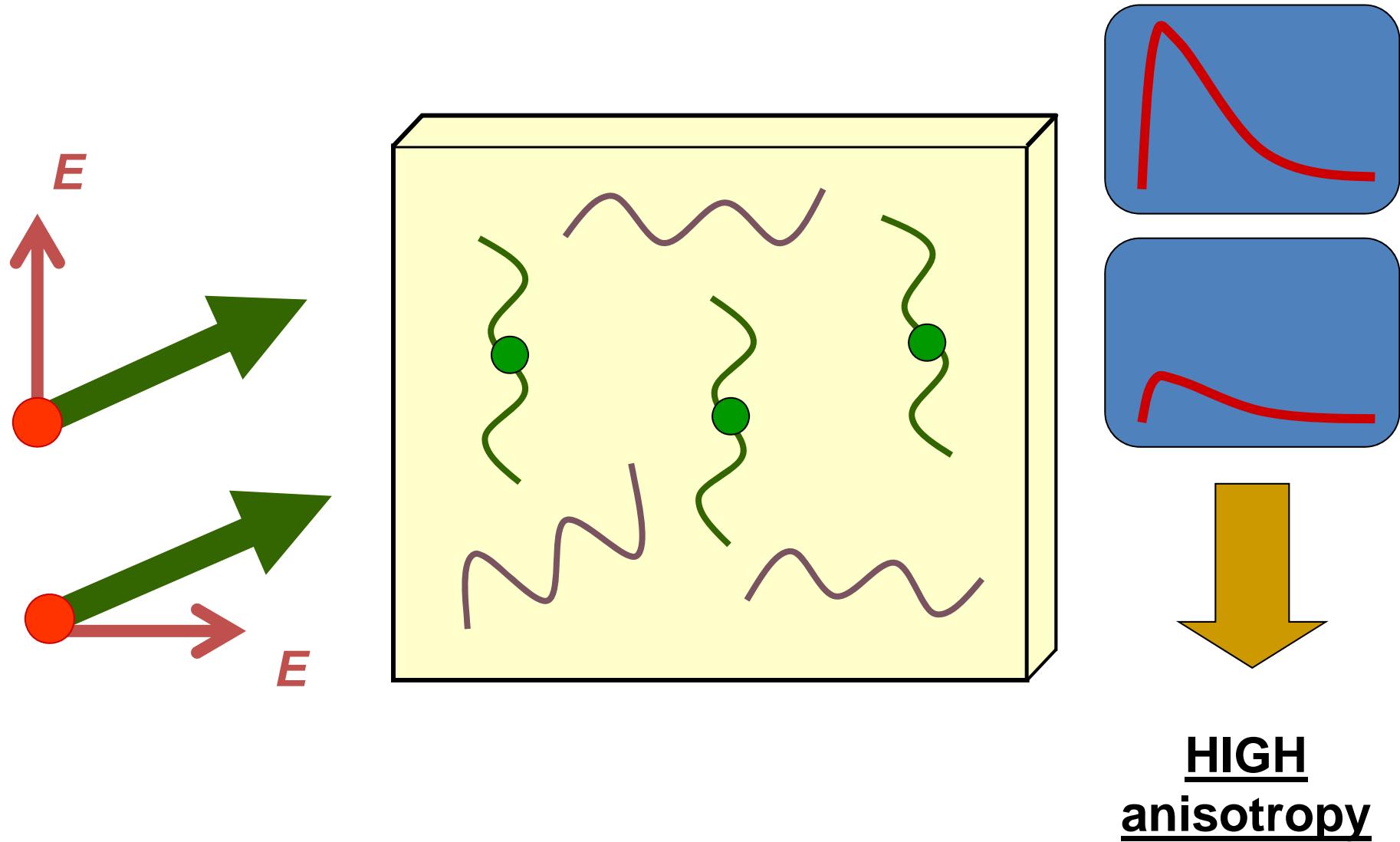
Can we **measure** the distribution of hopping rates?

$$V_{ij}(E, T, \dots)$$

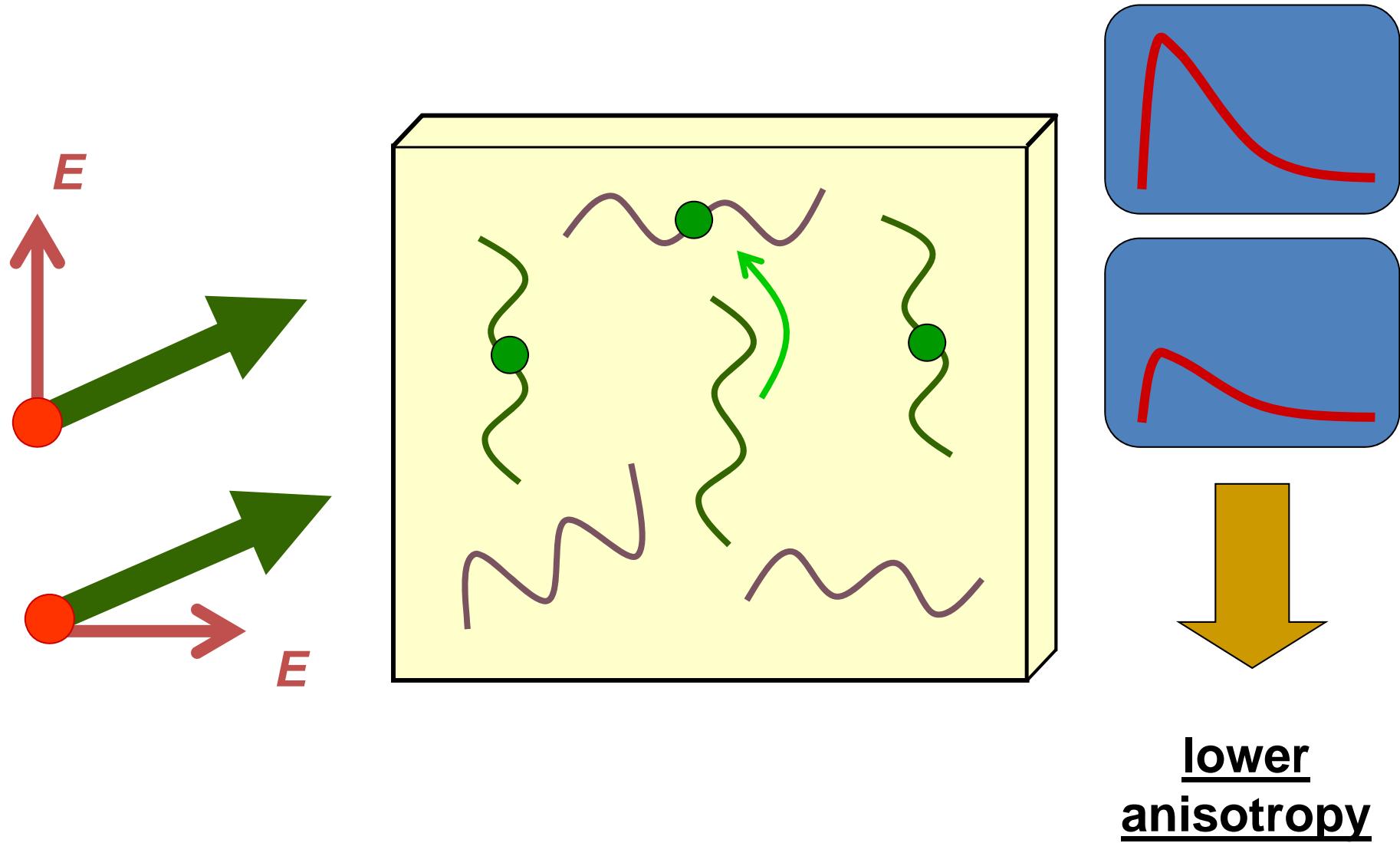
# Polarization sensitive technique



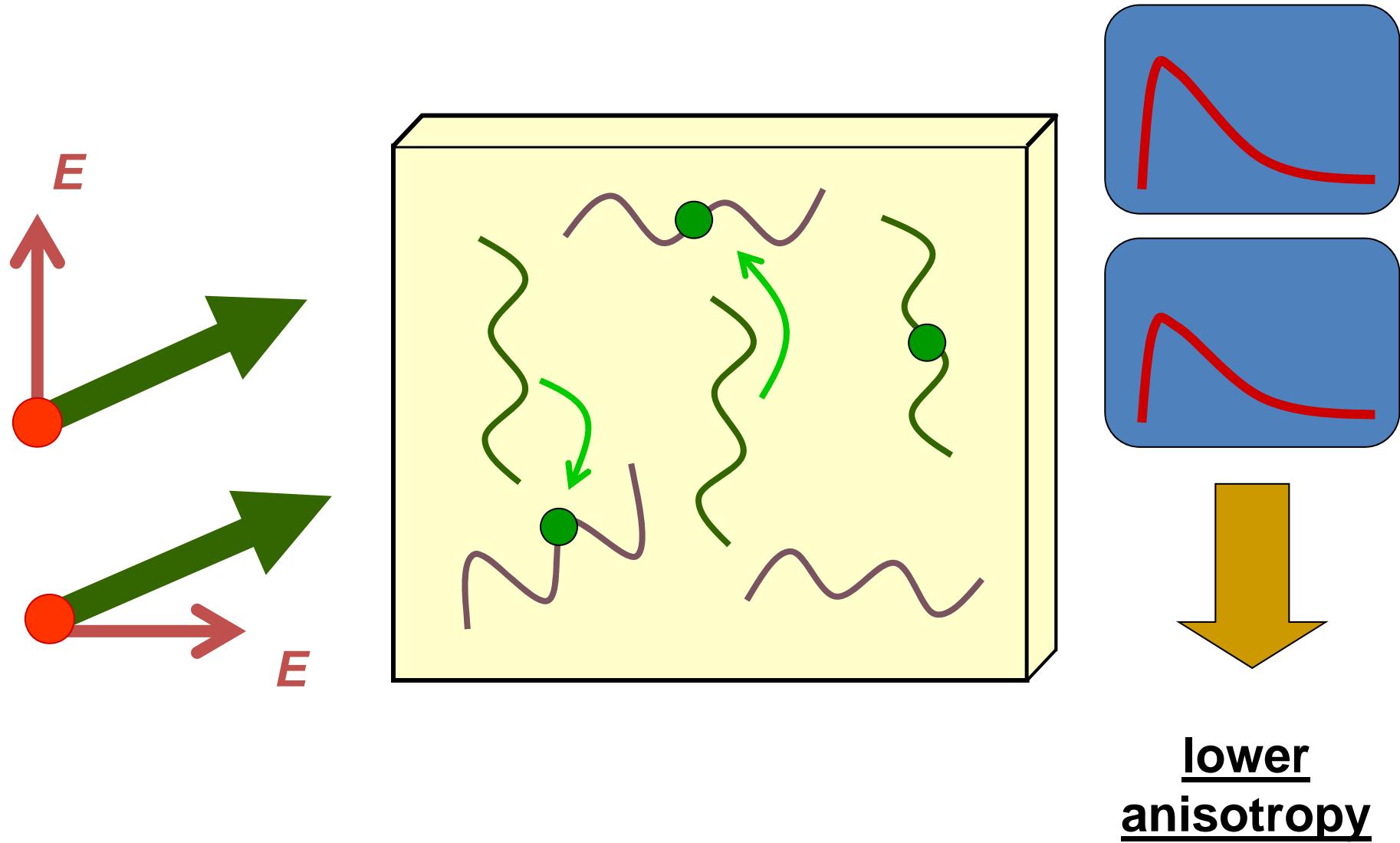
# Polarization TA in CTCs



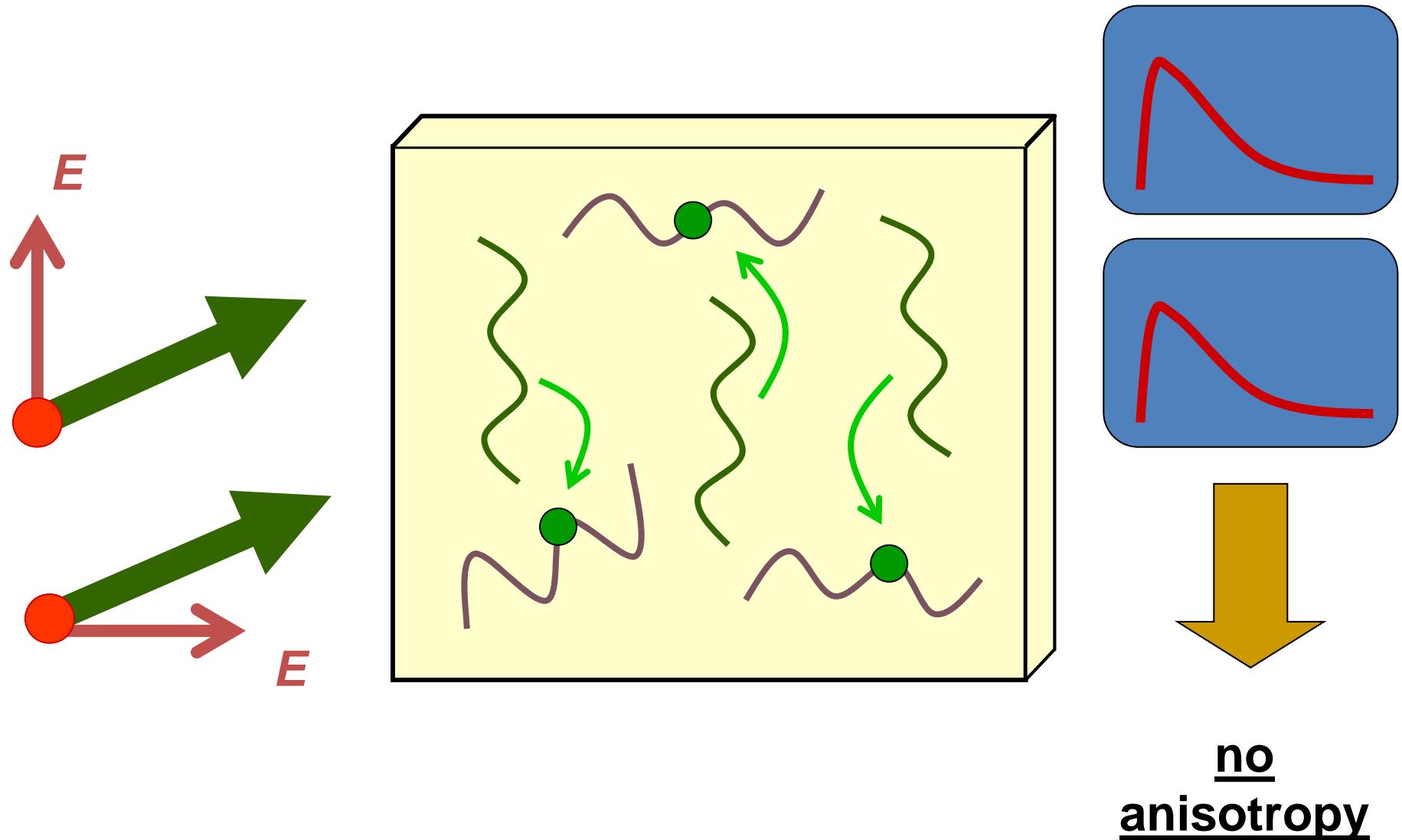
# Polarization TA in CTCs



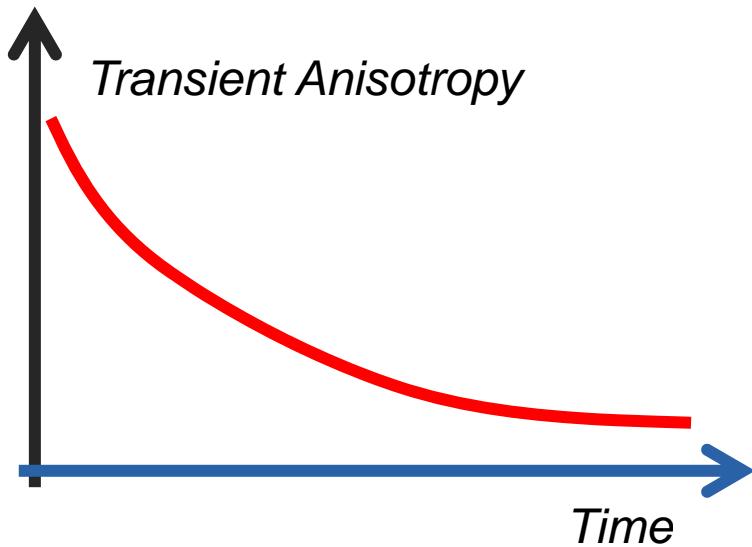
# Polarization TA in CTCs



# Polarization TA in CTCs



# Measuring transient anisotropy – information about hopping ( $V_{ij}$ )



**The distribution of hopping probabilities ( $V_{ij}$ ) will depend on:**

- polymer
- doping
- external field
- temperature
- morphology
- ... and modeling is essential

# Summary

- TA spectroscopy is not suitable to study photophysics in the “working solar cells”
- To study quasi-equilibrium solar-cell dynamics changes of  $\sim 10^{-6}$  will be detected
- We are going to focus on the intermolecular charge hopping to improve general models of conductivity

# Acknowledgements

- Richard Friend
- Philipp Oberhumer, Simon Gelinas, Jenny Clark
- Fast Lab
- OE
- Thank you for your attention !

