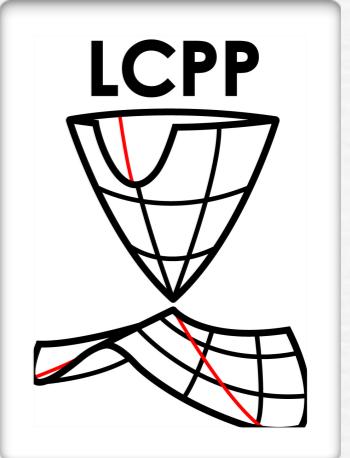




Laboratory of Computational Photochemistry and Photobiology

Dipartimento di Biotecnologia, Chimica e Farmacia - Università di Siena

Chemistry Department - Bowling Green State University



On the Origin of the High Quantum Efficiency of Visual Pigments

Massimo Olivucci

Department of Biotechnology, Chemistry and Pharmacy

Università di Siena



Emanuele Marsili



Laura Pedraza-González



MIUR

Fondazione
Banca d'Italia



Chemistry Department

Bowling Green State University



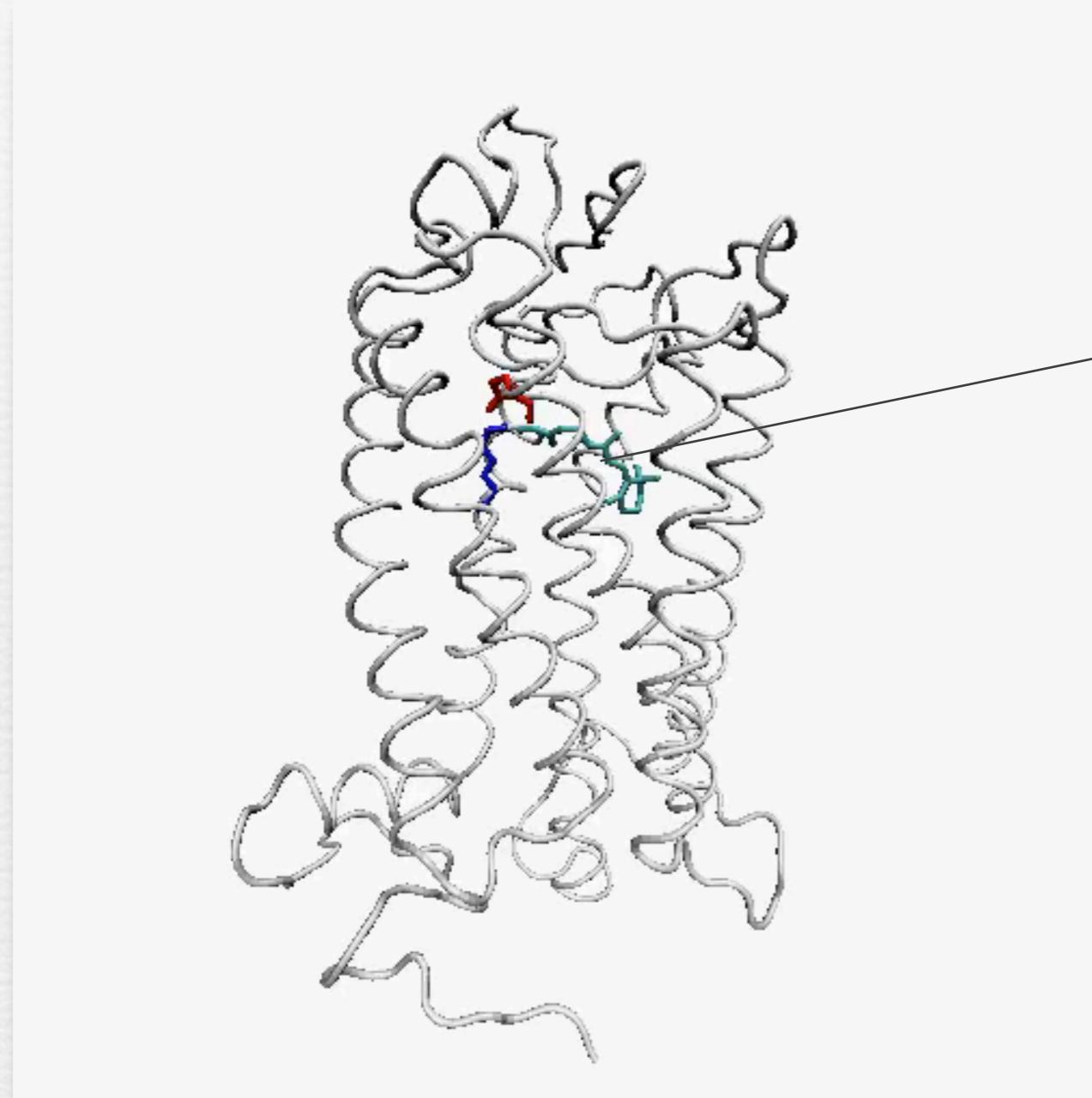
Xuchun Yang

Alejandro Blanco Gonzalez

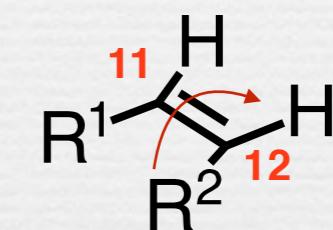
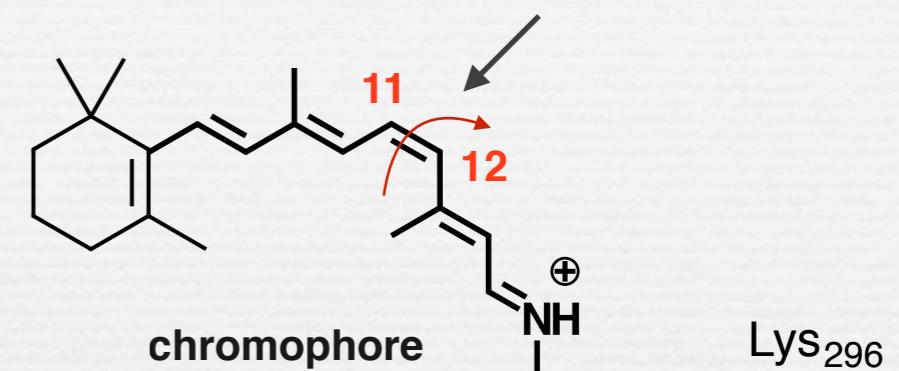


Ohio Supercomputer Center
An OH-TECH Consortium Member

Structure of Rhodopsins



$h\nu$
VIS (ca. 500 nm)



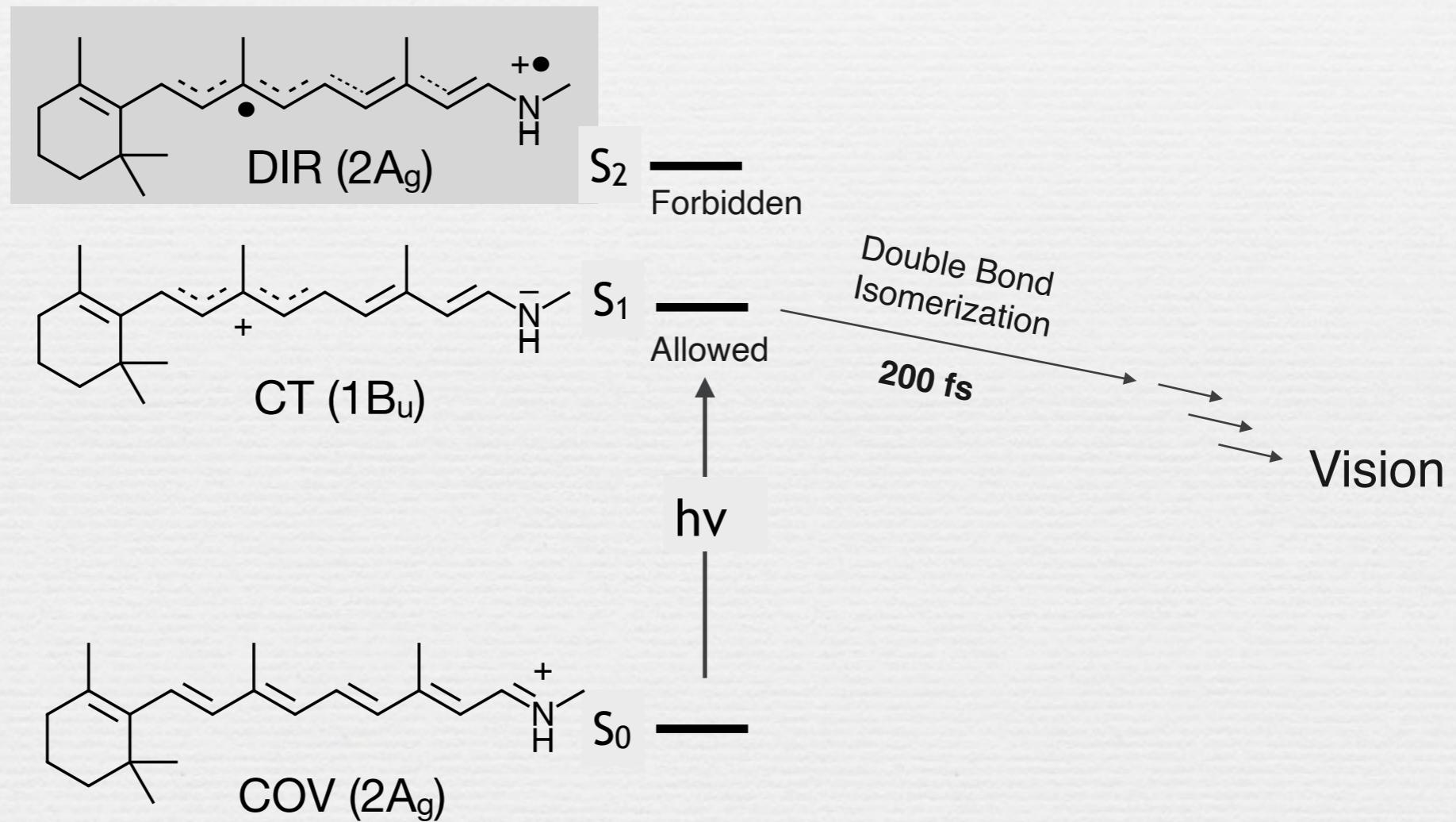
Obs. QY ca. 67%

chromophore or biomimetic
molecular switch in solution:

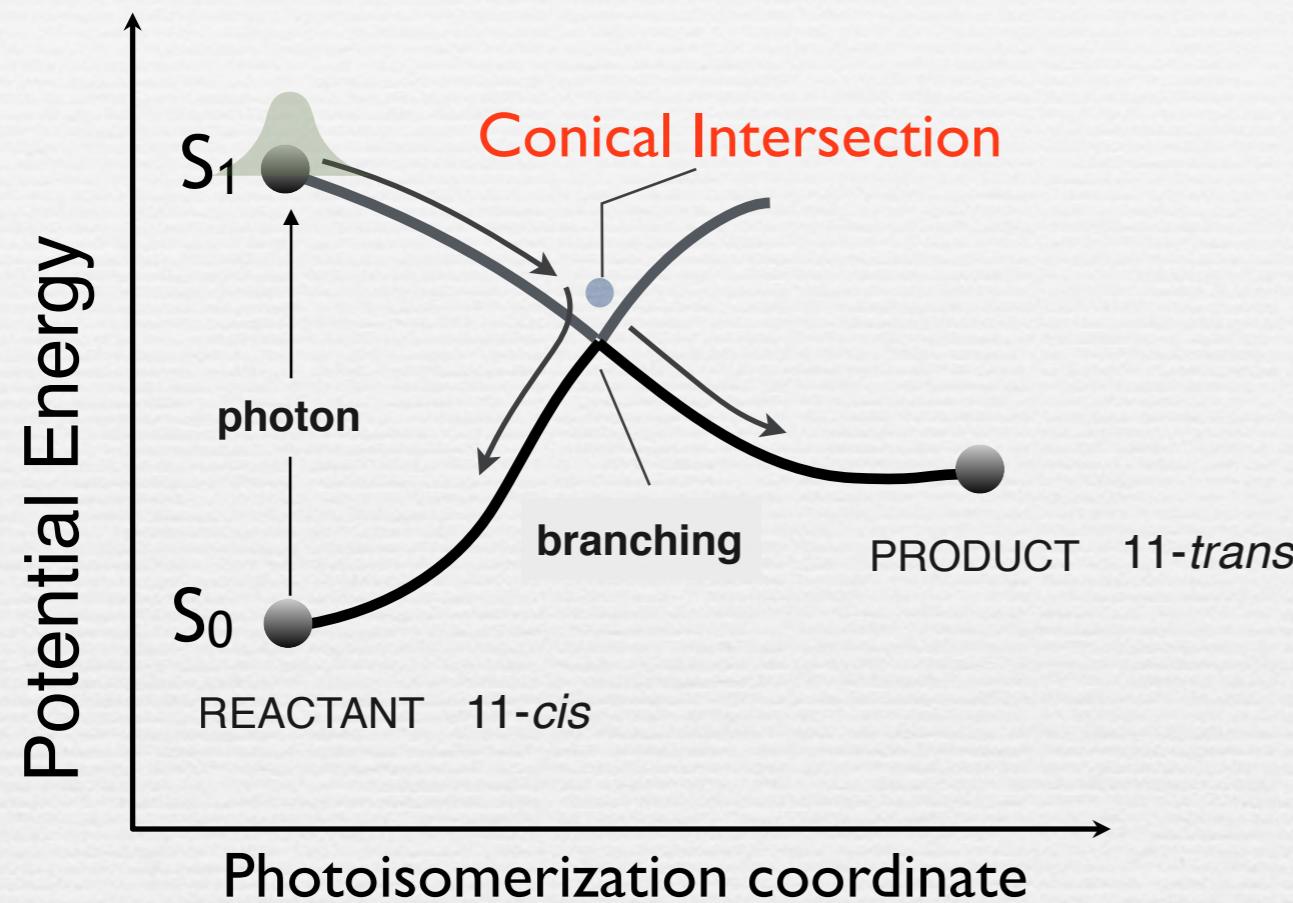
Obs. QY ca. 20%

- Ernst, O. P.; Lodowski, D. T.; Elstner, M.; Hegemann, P.; Brown, L. S.; Kandori, H. *Chem. Rev.* **2014**, *114*, 126-63.
- Gozem, S.; Luk, H. L.; Schapiro, I.; Olivucci, M. *Chem. Rev.* **2017**, *117*, 13502-13565.

Electronic structure of the retinal chromophore



Mechanism of an ultrafast photochemical reaction



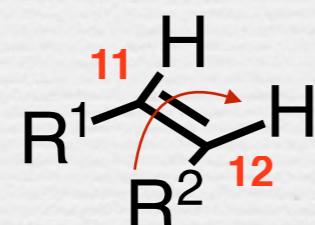
The Landau-Zener model is valid for a **single-mode coordinate**:

$$P = \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi H_{12}^2}{\hbar|vF|}\right)$$

probability of forming the product

velocity along the coordinate

difference in slopes of S_1 and S_0 along the coordinate

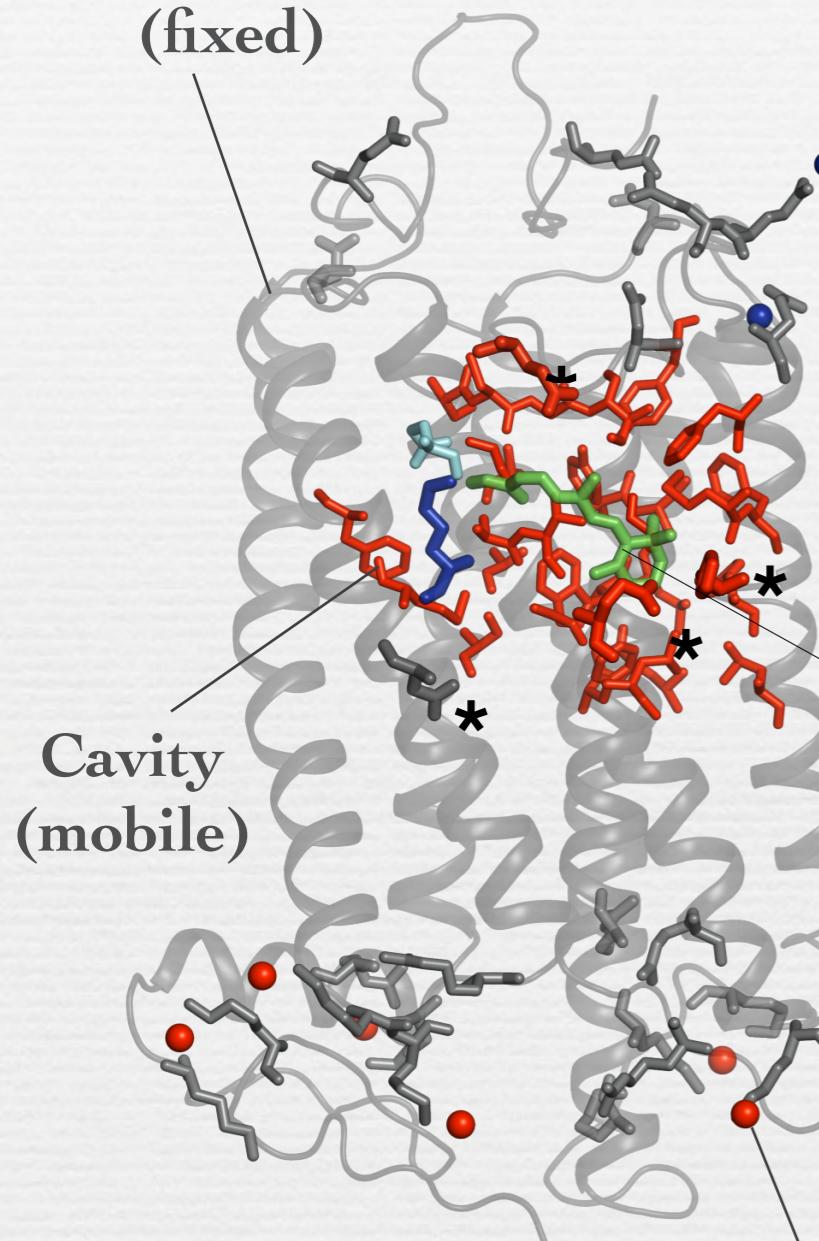


- Gozem, S.; Luk, H. L.; Schapiro, I.; Olivucci, M. *Chem. Rev.* **2017**, 117, 13502-13565.

QM/MM models generated Automatically

Environment

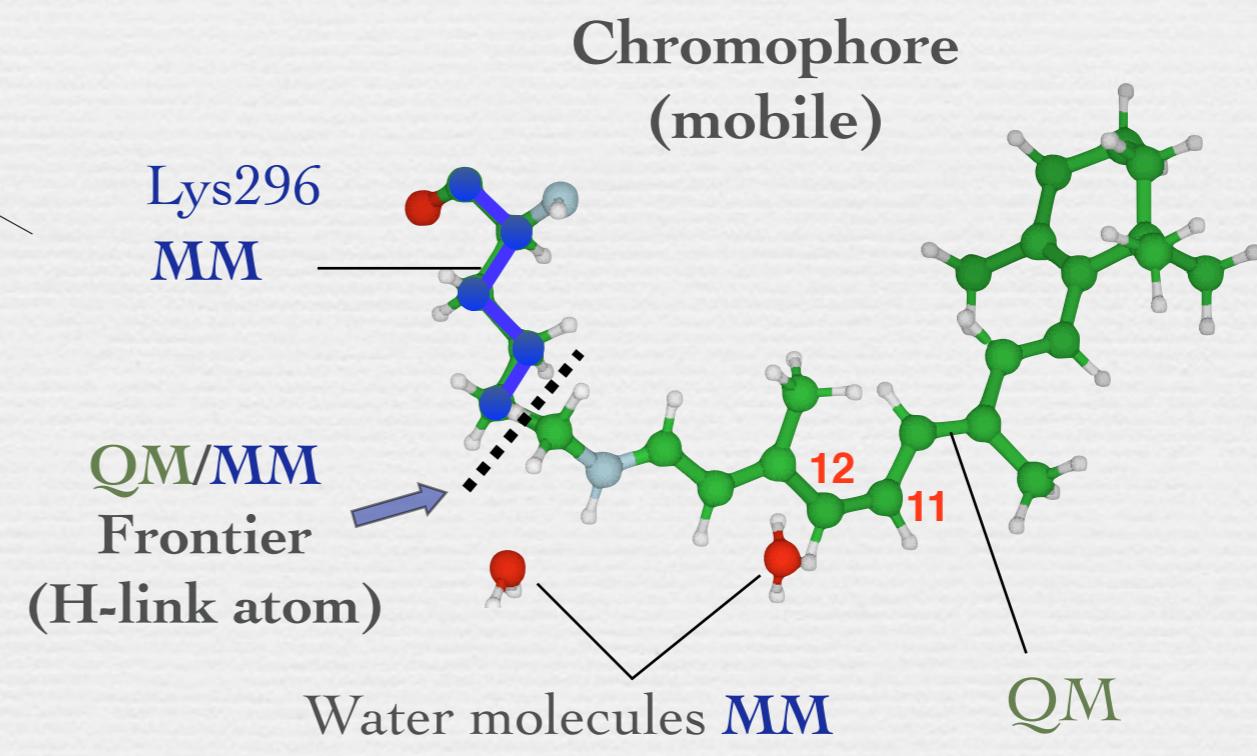
(fixed)



Cavity
(mobile)

Counter-ions
(fixed)

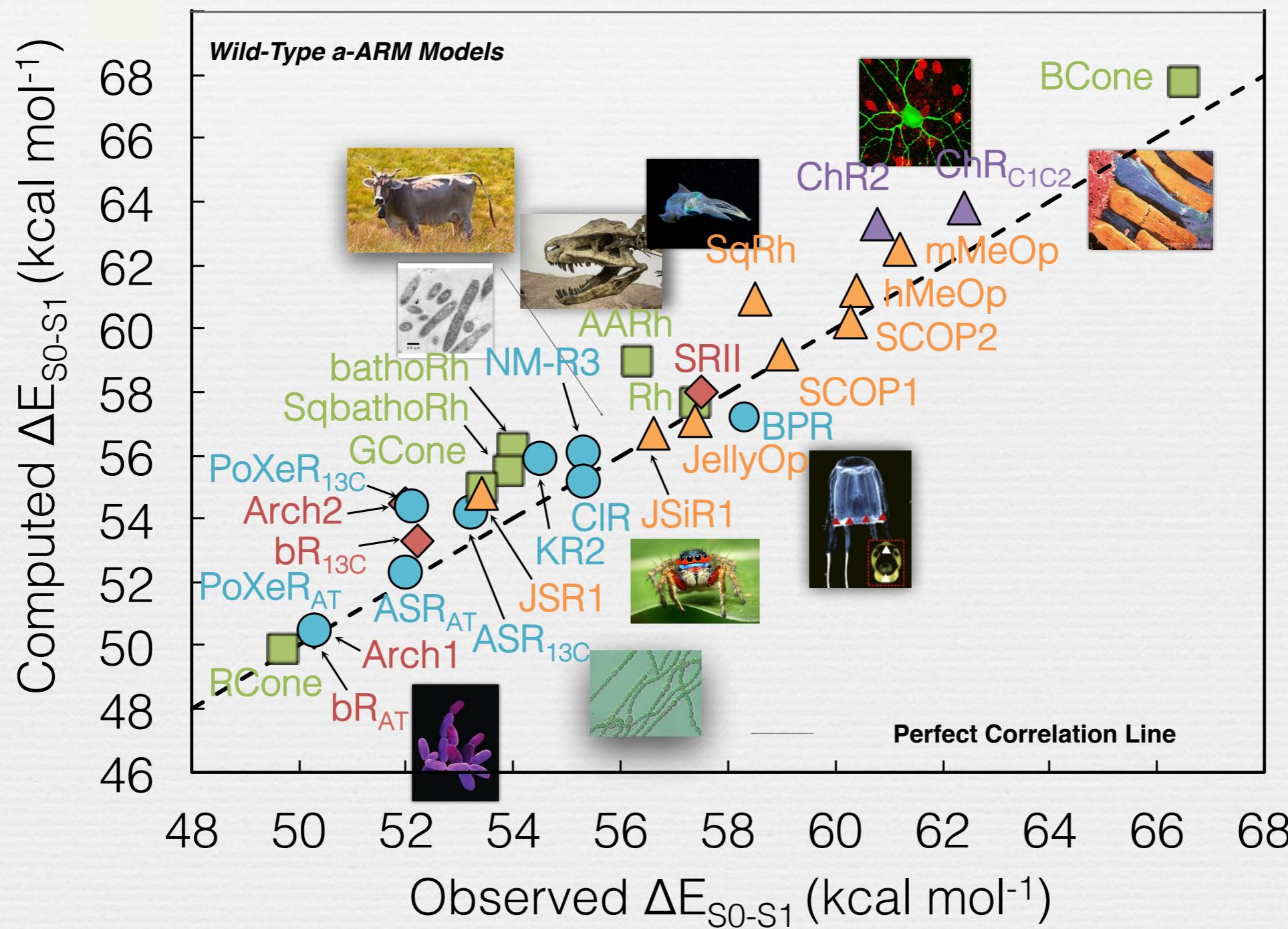
- Gas-phase and globally uncharged monomer
- Chromophore CASPT2/CASSCF/6-31G*
- Electrostatic Embedding, Amber FF (except frontier)
- Only the chromophore, cavity and cavity waters are relaxed



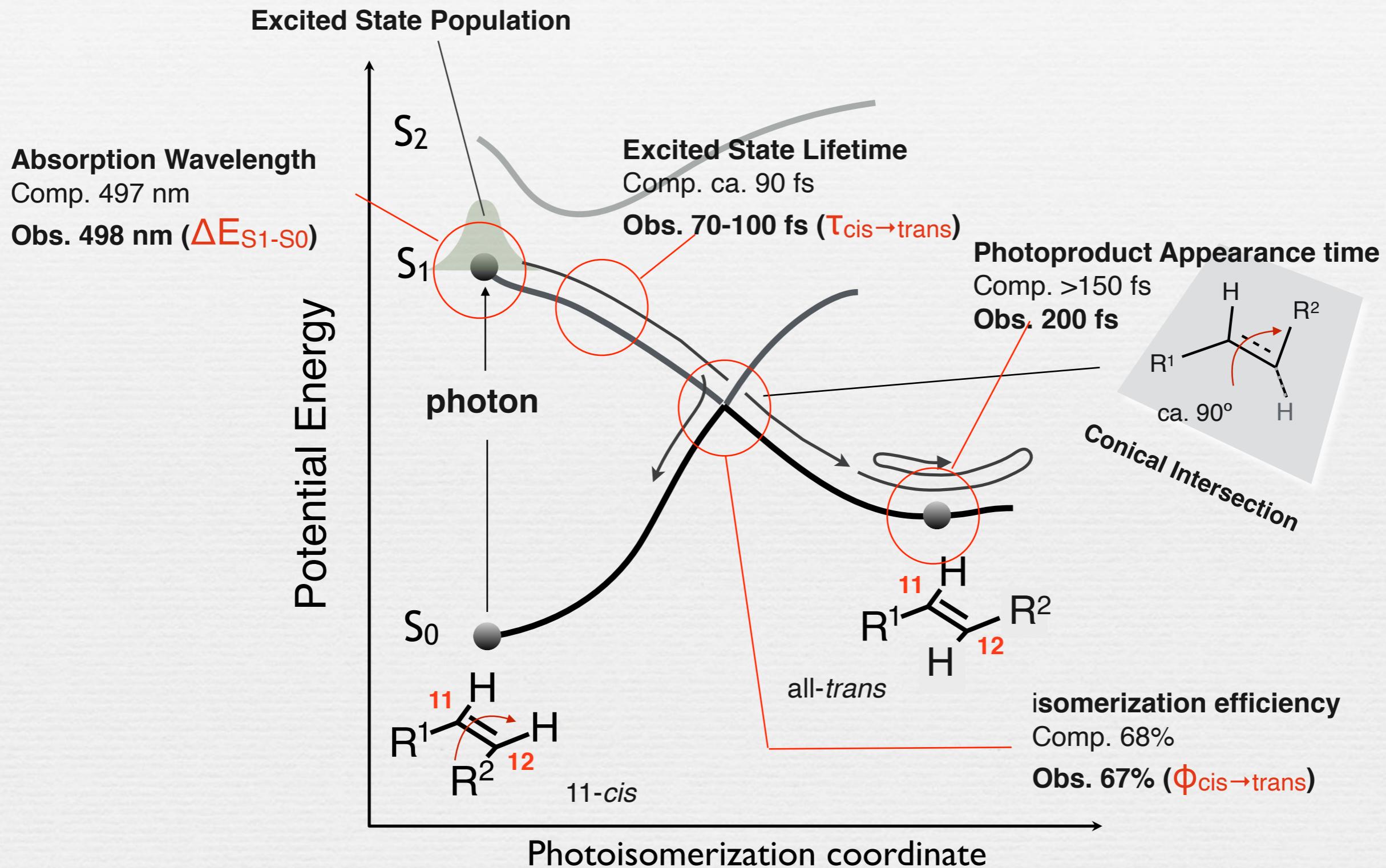
Automatic rhodopsin modeling (ARM) model benchmark

data from 26 rhodopsins from 18 different organisms (one extinct)

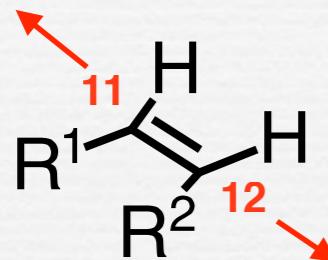
vertebrates, invertebrates, eubacteria and archaea



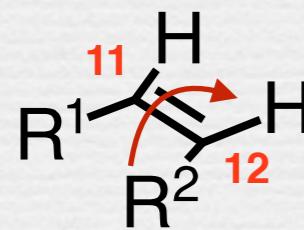
(Bovine) Rod Rhodopsin studies using QM/MM models



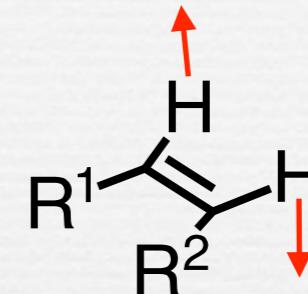
Photoisomerization coordinate



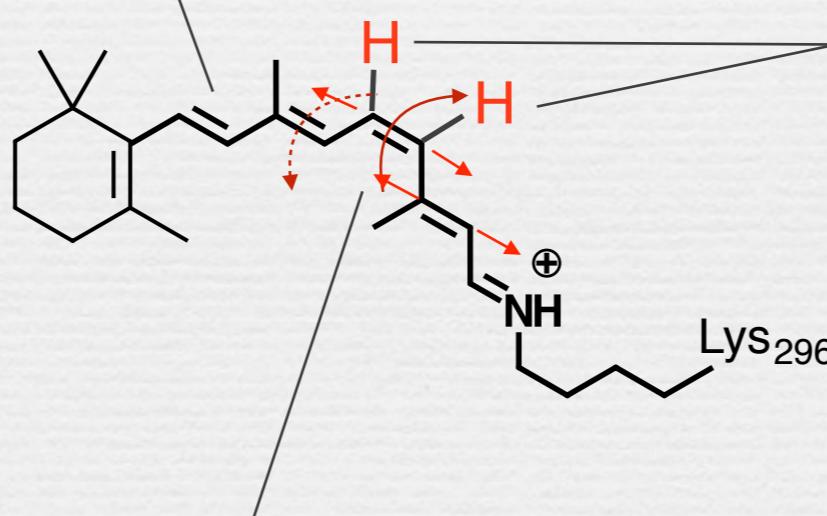
Comp. ca 22 fs period ($\sim 1516 \text{ cm}^{-1}$)
Obs. 20 fs, (1679 cm⁻¹)



Comp. 1/4 period ca. 100 fs
Obs. 70-110 fs



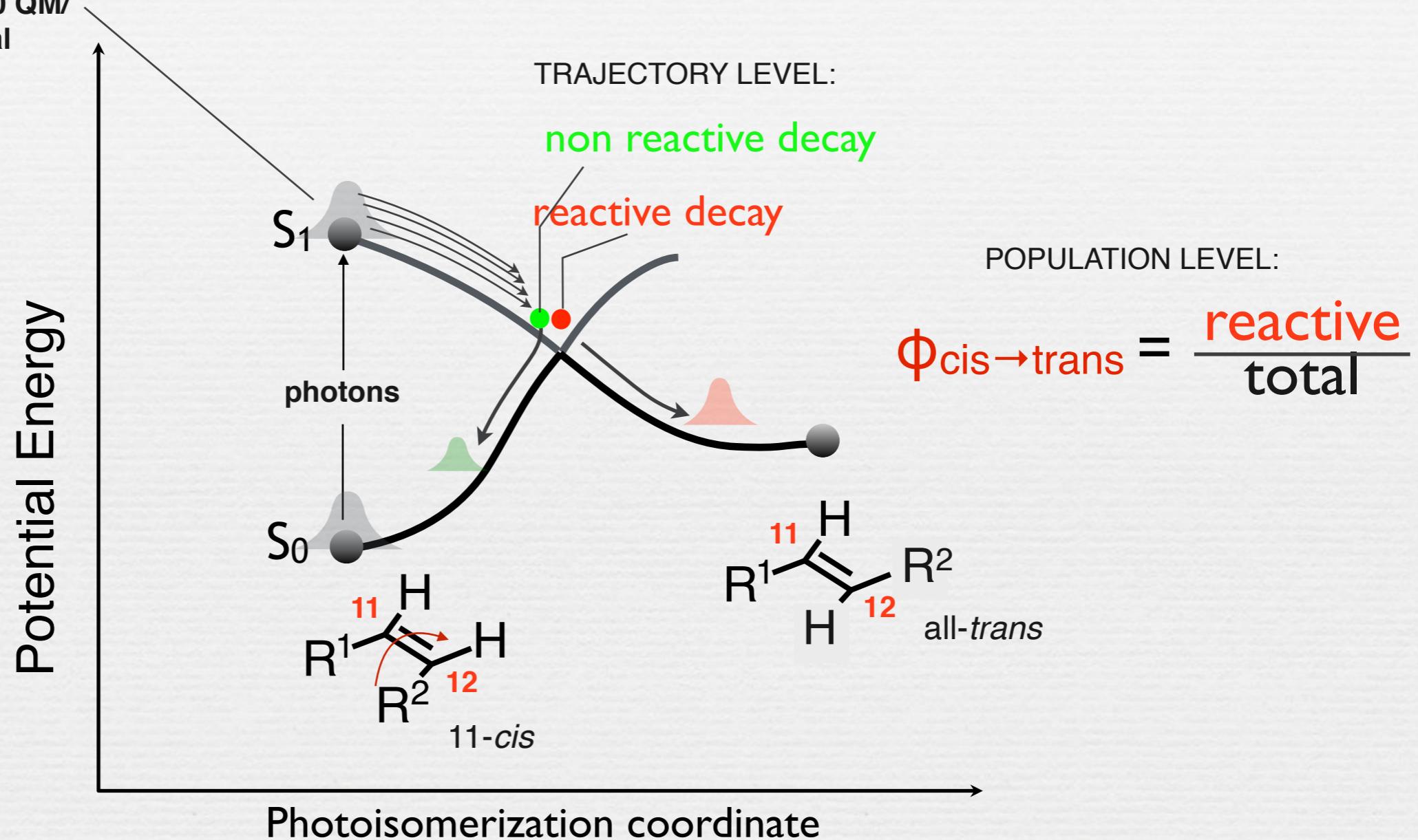
Comp. ca. 40 fs period ($\sim 830 \text{ cm}^{-1}$)
Obs. 45 fs, (746 cm⁻¹)



- Frutos, L. M.; Andruniów, T.; Santoro, F.; Ferré, N.; Olivucci, M. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **2007**, *104*, 7764-7769.
- Polli, D.; Altoè, P.; Weingart, O.; Spillane, K. M.; Manzoni, C.; Brida, D.; Tomasello, G.; Garavelli, M. et al., *Nature* **2010**, *467*, 440.
- Johnson, P. J. M.; Halpin, A.; Morizumi, T.; Prokhorenko, V. I.; Ernst, O. P.; Miller, R. J. D. *Nat. Chem.* **2015**, *7*, 980-6.

Quantum yield calculation using quantum-classical (TSH-GPDC) trajectories

The excited state population dynamics is simulated with **200 QM/MM semi-classical trajectories**



Outline

TRAJECTORY LEVEL:

The **reactivity** of each trajectory is controlled by :

- the phase and magnitude of the π -overlap velocity at the decay point

POPULATION (STATISTICAL) LEVEL:

The **quantum efficiency** value is controlled by:

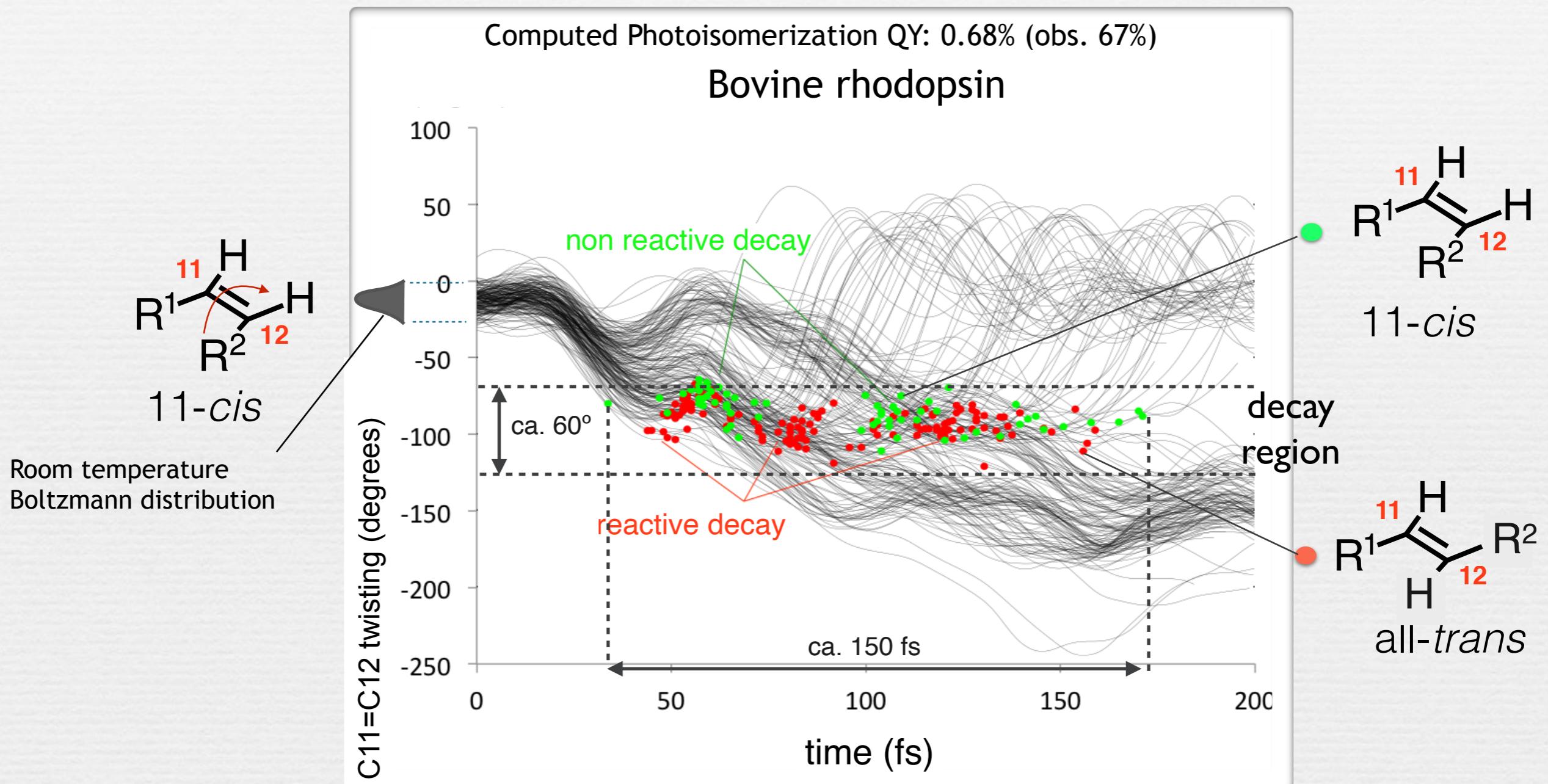
- the splitting (i.d. vibrational decoherence) of the excited state population

Schnedermann, C.; Yang, X.; Liebel, M.; Spillane, K. M.; Lungtenburg, J.; Fernandez, I.; Valentini, A.; Schapiro, I.; Olivucci, M.; Kukura, P.; Mathies, R. A. *Nat. Chem.* **2018**, *10*, 449-455.

X. Yang; M. Manathunga; S. Gozem; J. Léonard; T. Andruniów; M. Olivucci. *Nat. Chem.* **2022**, *14*, 441-449.

Rhodopsin population dynamics

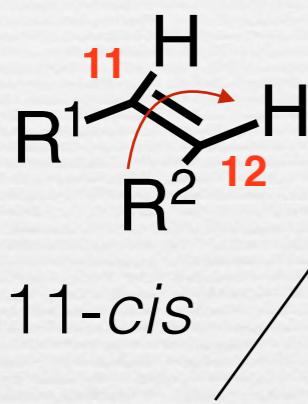
200 TSH trajectories



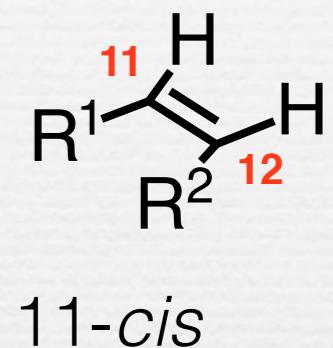
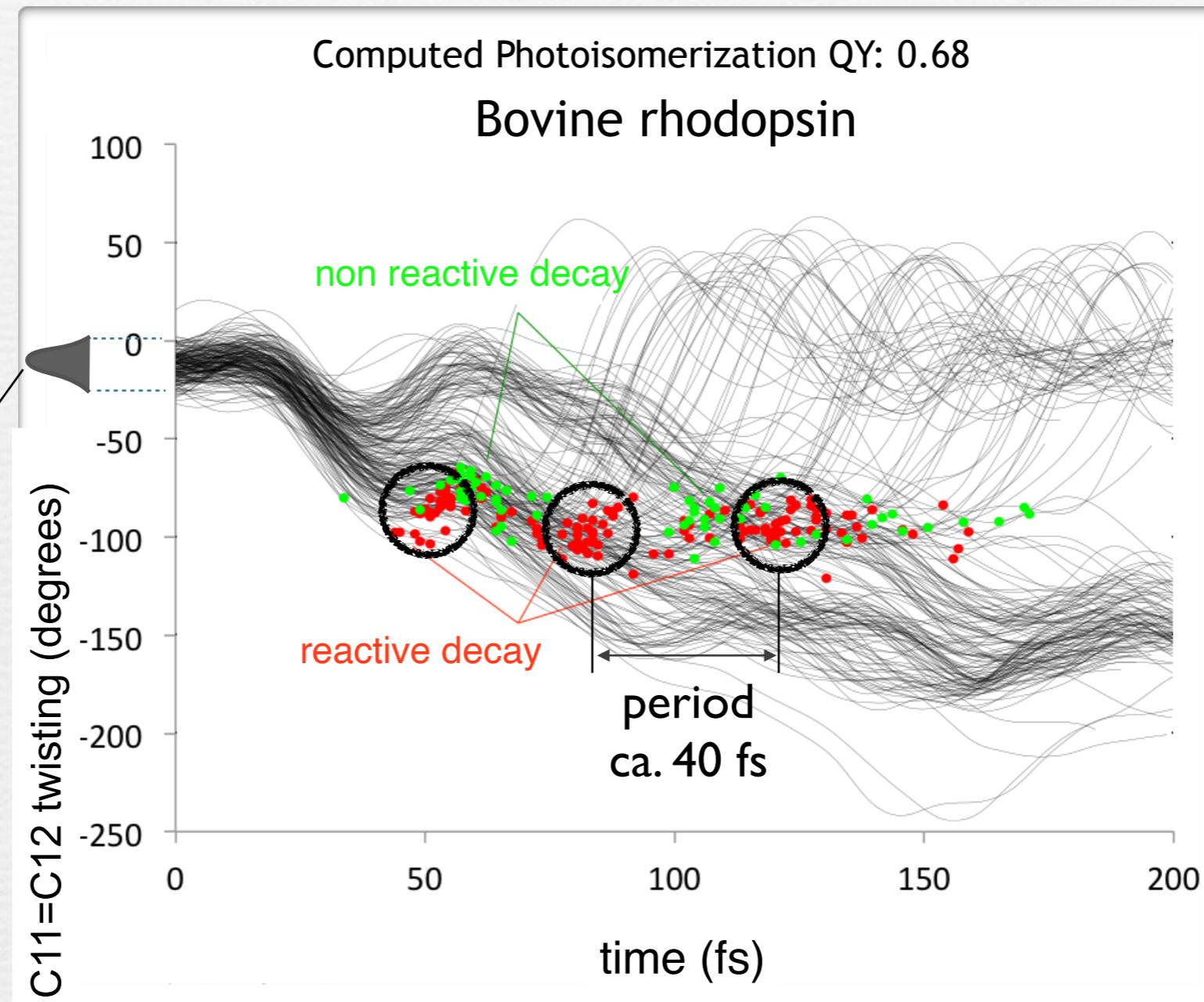
- Schnedermann, C.; Yang, X.; Liebel, M.; Spillane, K. M.; Lungtenburg, J.; Fernandez, I.; Valentini, A.; Schapiro, I.; Olivucci, M.; Kukura, P.; Mathies, R. A. *Nat. Chem.* **2018**, *10*, 449-455.

Rhodopsin population dynamics

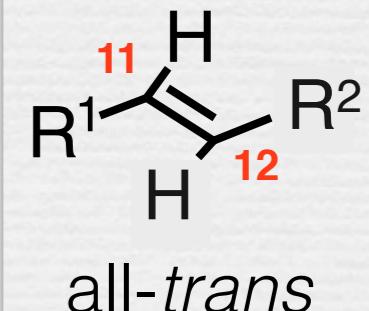
200 TSH trajectories



Room temperature Boltzmann distribution



11-*cis*

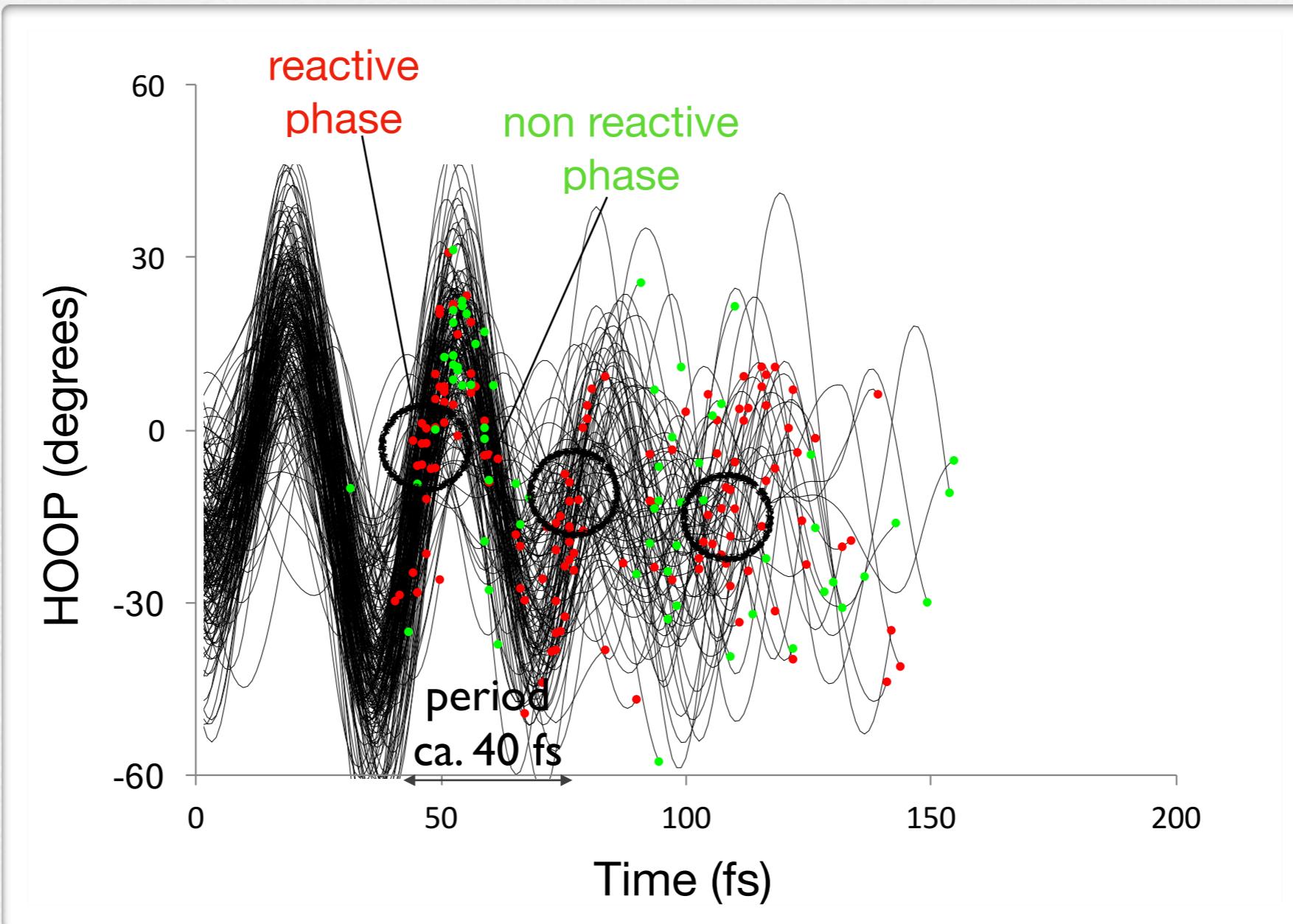
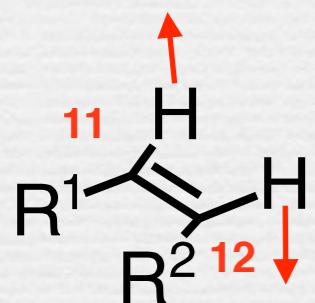


all-*trans*

- Schnedermann, C.; Yang, X.; Liebel, M.; Spillane, K. M.; Lungtenburg, J.; Fernandez, I.; Valentini, A.; Schapiro, I.; Olivucci, M.; Kukura, P.; Mathies, R. A. *Nat. Chem.* **2018**, *10*, 449-455.

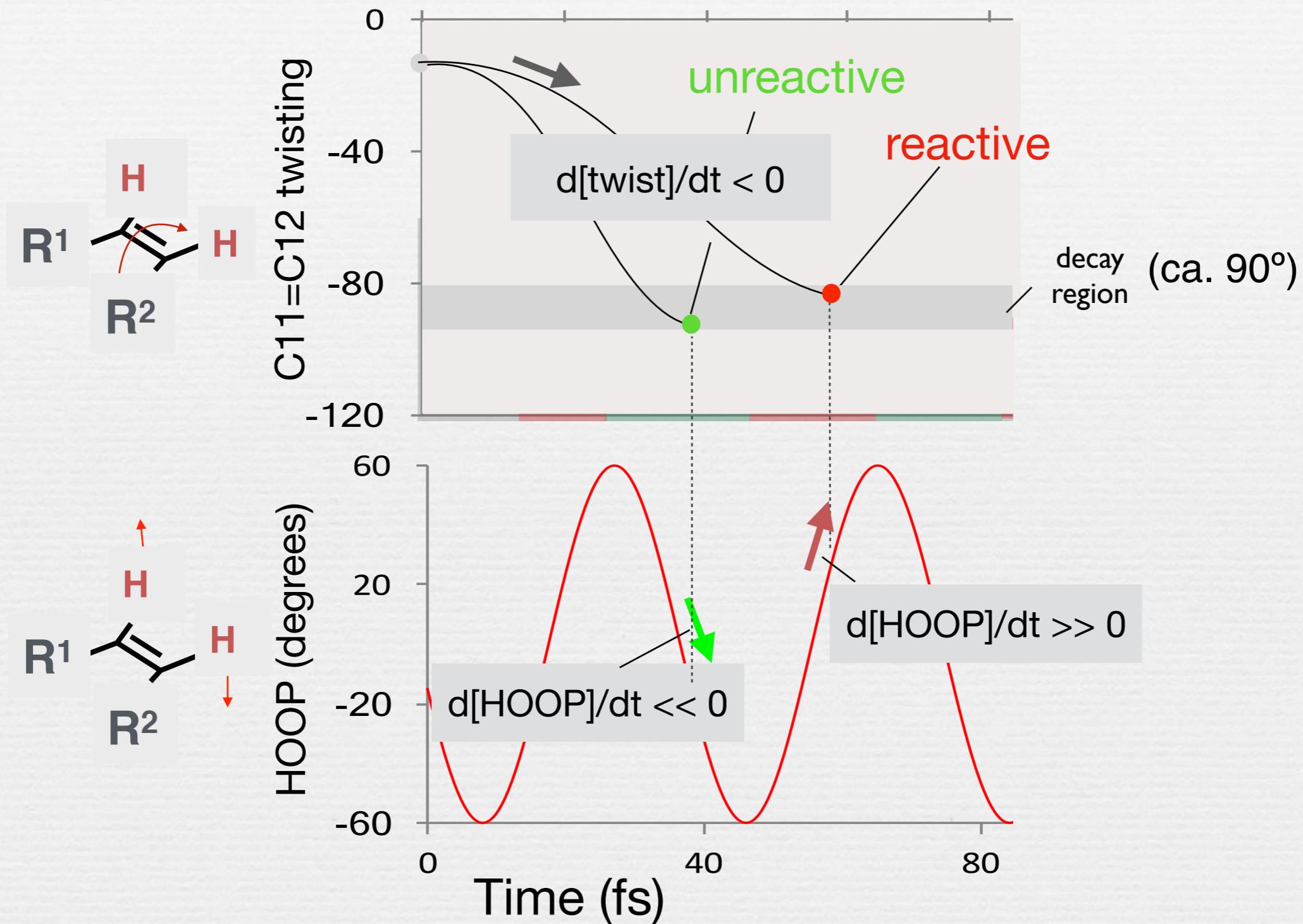
Rhodopsin population dynamics

200 TSH trajectories



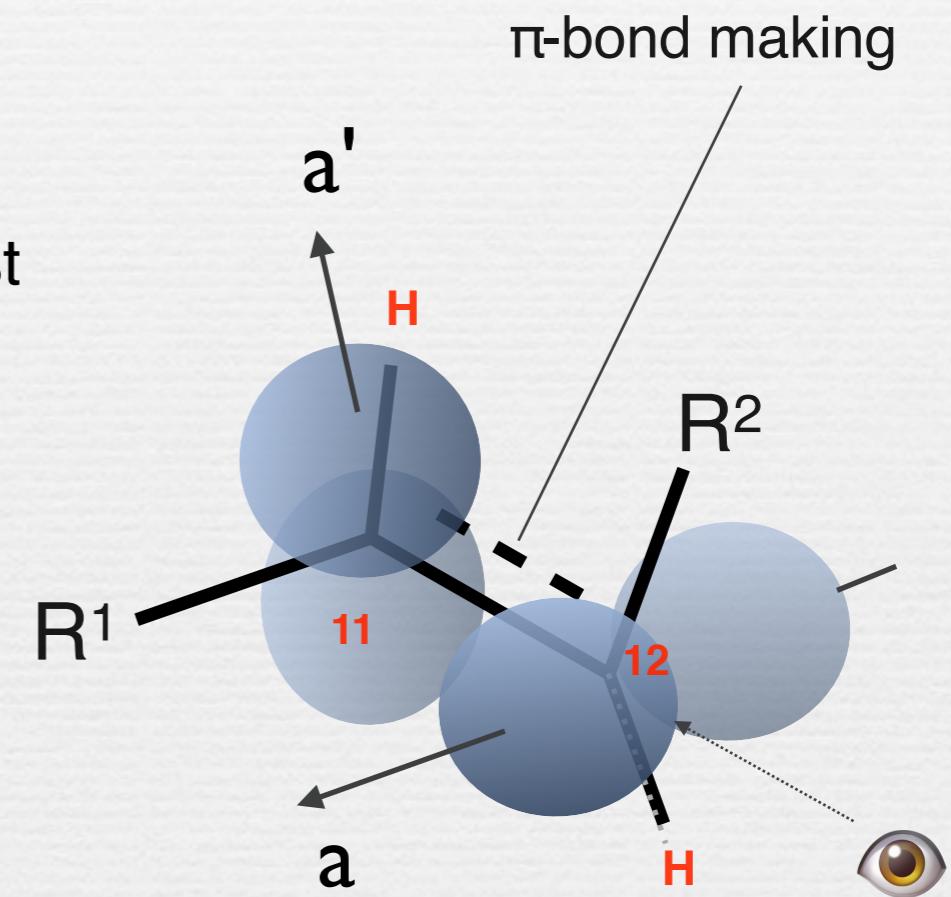
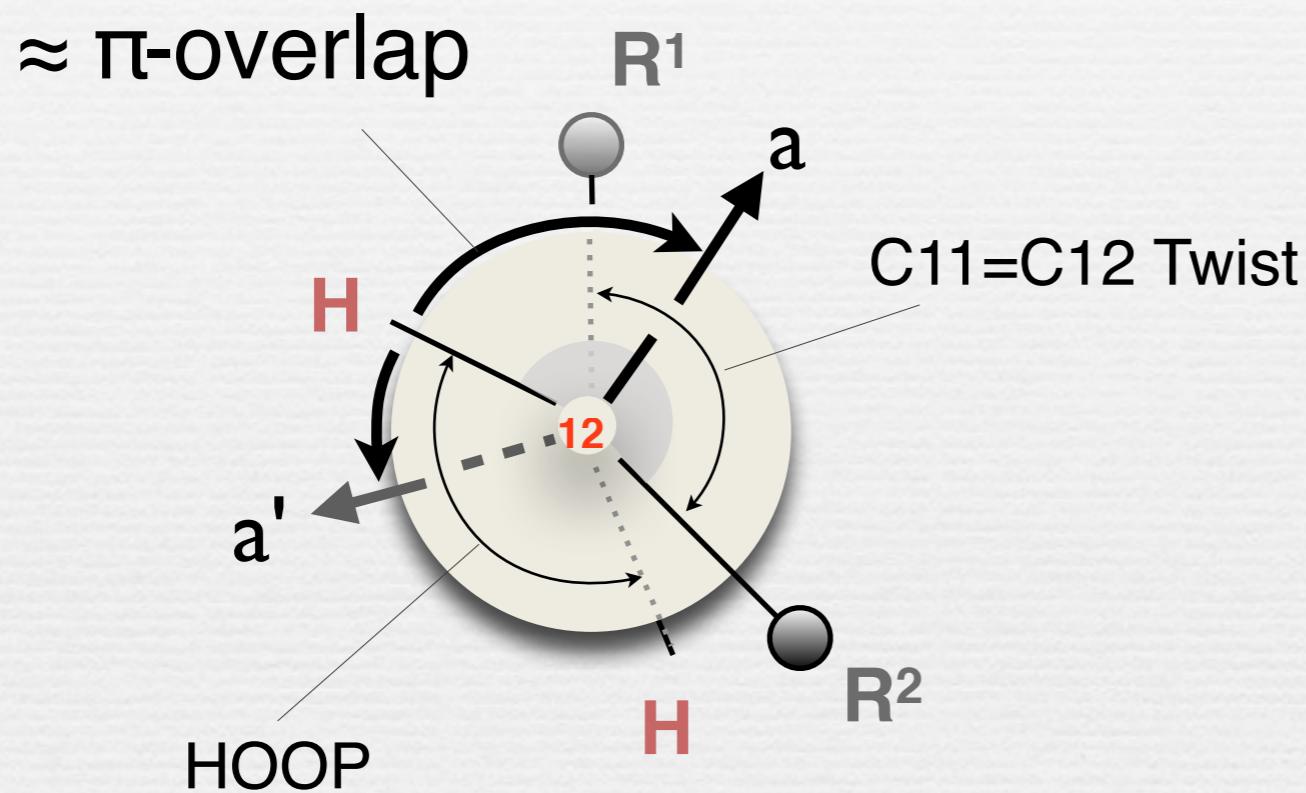
- Schnedermann, C.; Yang, X.; Liebel, M.; Spillane, K. M.; Lungtenburg, J.; Fernandez, I.; Valentini, A.; Schapiro, I.; Olivucci, M.; Kukura, P.; Mathies, R. A. *Nat. Chem.* **2018**, *10*, 449-455.

Relationship between HOOP phase and reactivity



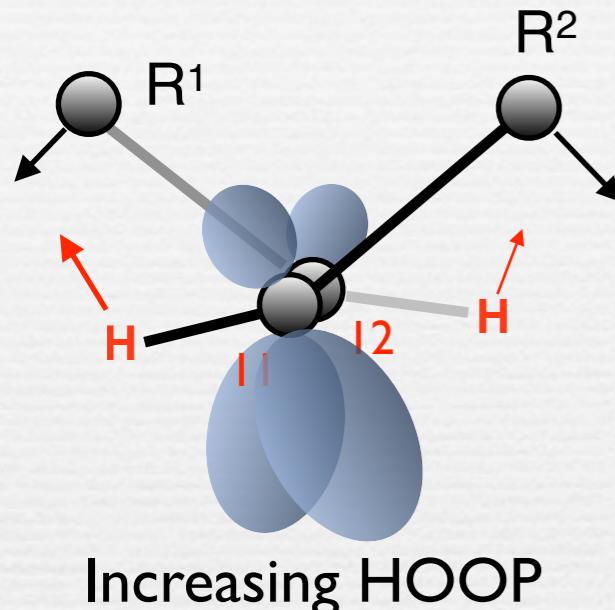
- Klaffki, N.; Weingart, O.; Garavelli, M.; Spohr, E. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2012**, *14*, 14299-14305.
- Schapiro, I.; Ryazantsev, M. N.; Frutos, L. M.; Ferré, N.; Lindh, R.; Olivucci, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 3354-3364.

Relationship between overlap velocity and reactivity

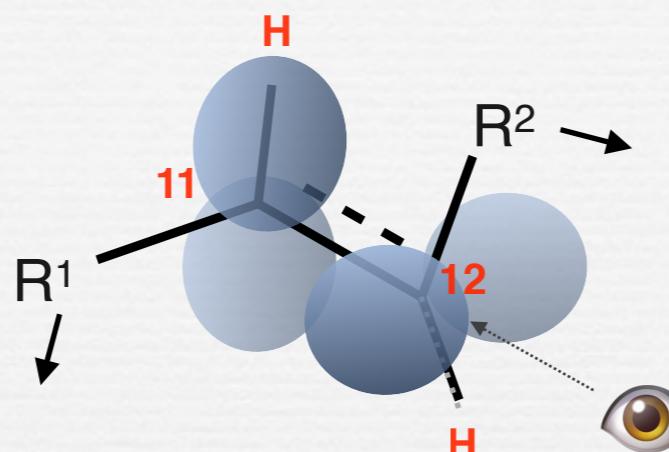


$$\approx \pi\text{-overlap} = (\text{Twist}-\text{HOOP})/2$$

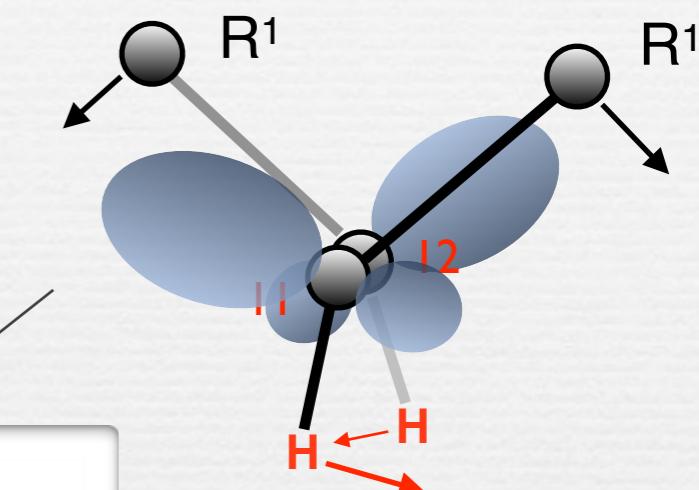
Relationship between overlap velocity and reactivity



$d[\text{overlap}]/dt < 0$
to all-*trans*
(reactive)

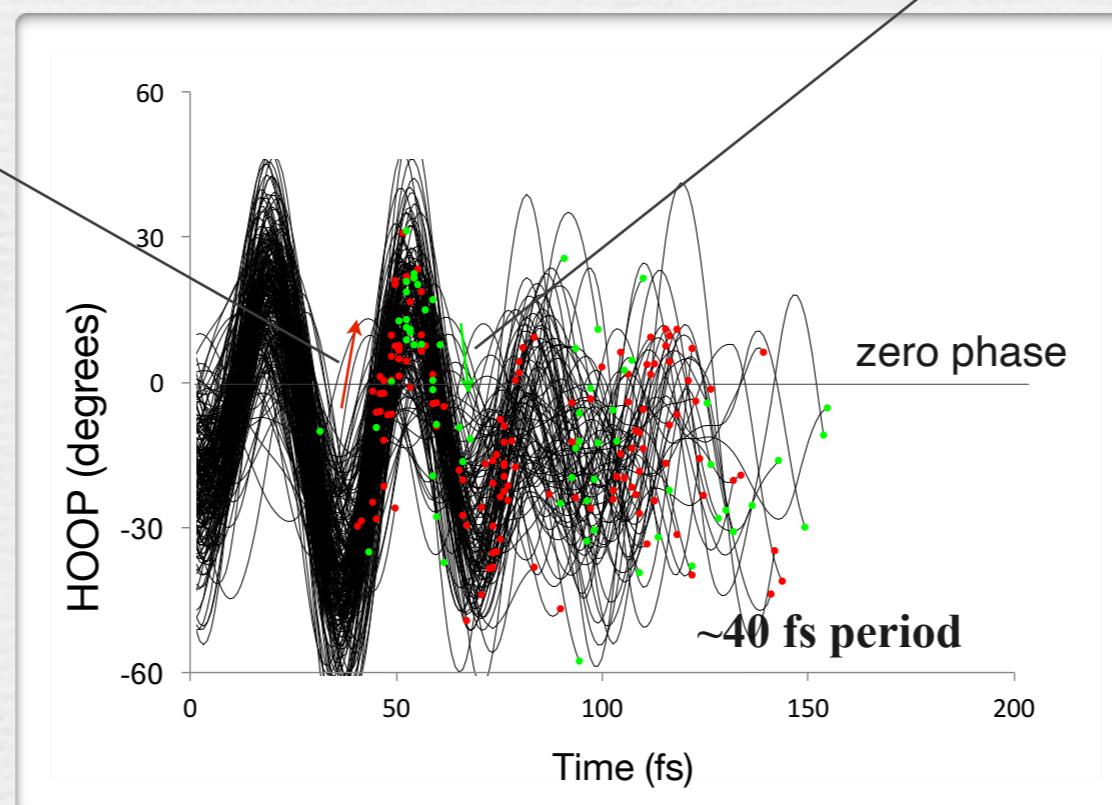


the orbital overlap is ca.
zero at decay



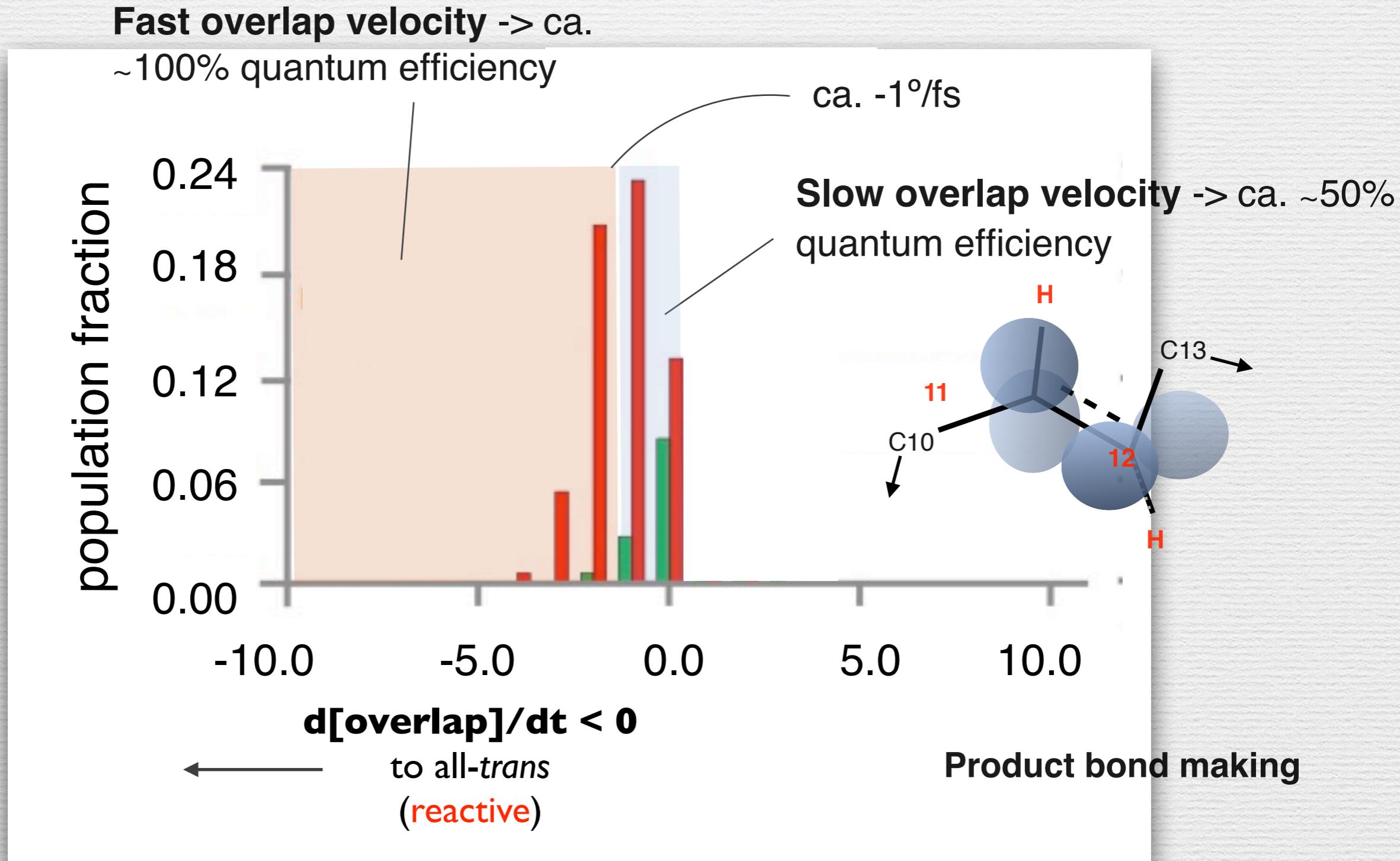
Decreasing HOOP

$d[\text{overlap}]/dt > 0$
to II-*cis*
(unreactive)

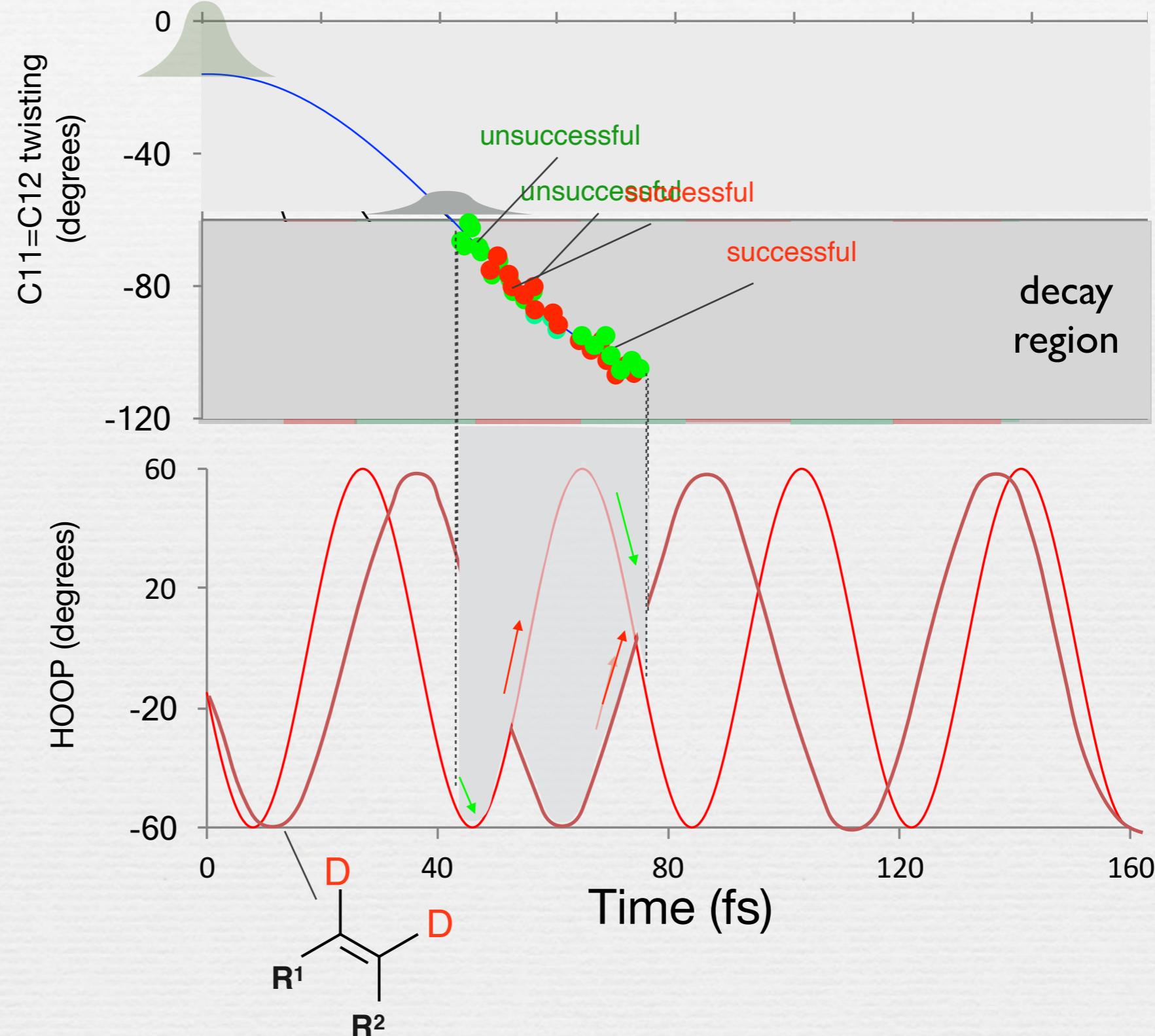
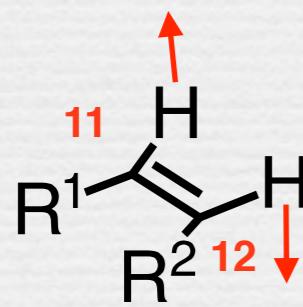
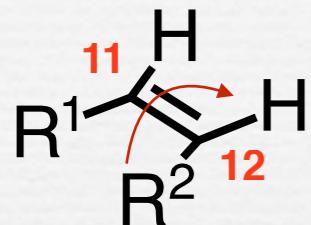


- Weingart, O. *Chem. Phys.* **2008**, 349, 348-355.
- Klaffki, N.; Weingart, O.; Garavelli, M.; Spohr, E. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2012**, 14, 14299-14305.
- Schapiro, I.; Ryazantsev, M. N.; Frutos, L. M.; Ferré, N.; Lindh, R.; and Olivucci, M. *J Am Chem Soc* **2011**, 133, 3354–3364.

Relationship between overlap velocity and quantum efficiency



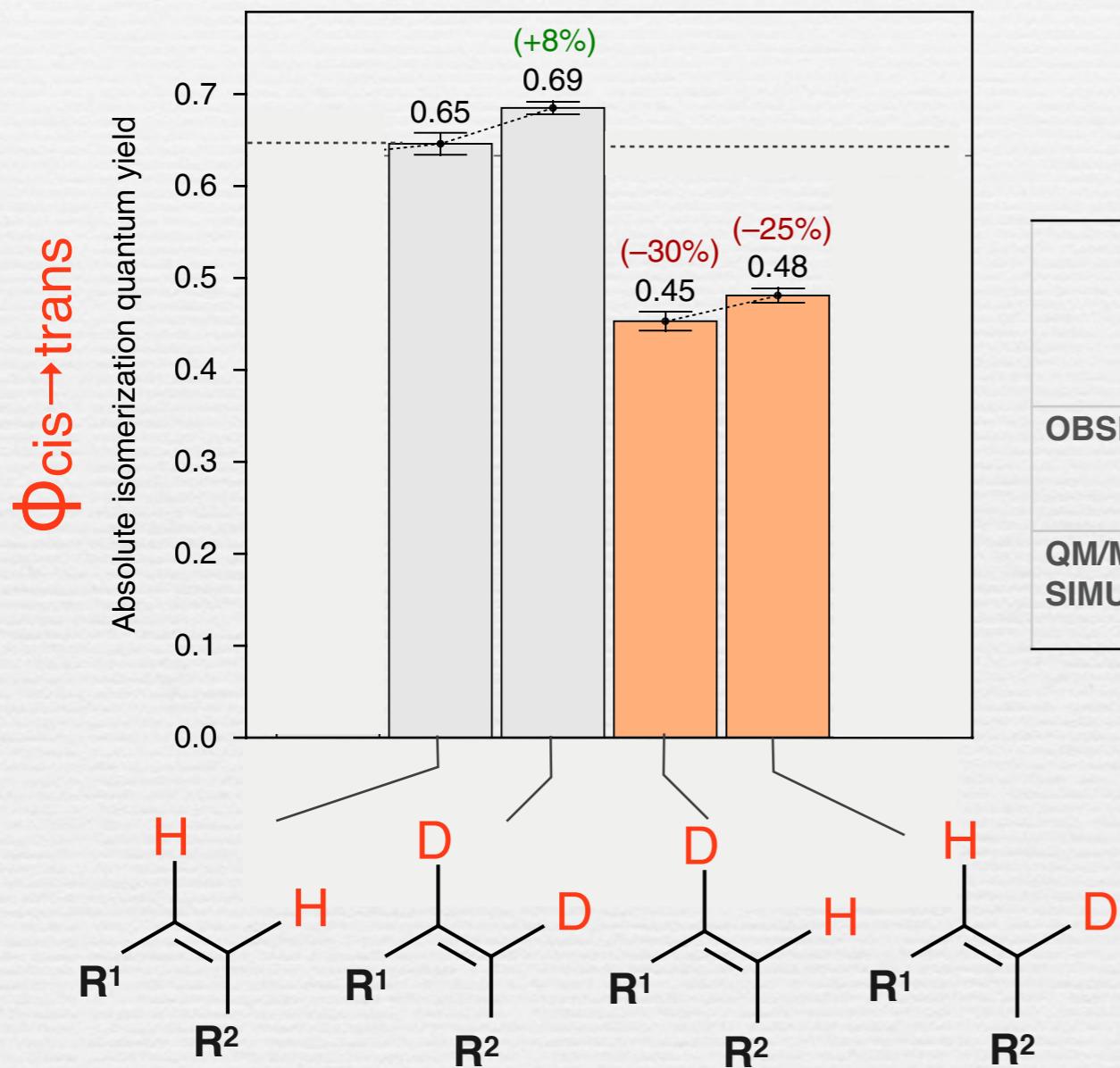
Population dynamics and quantum efficiency



- Schnedermann, C.; Yang, X.; Liebel, M.; Spillane, K. M.; Lungtenburg, J.; Fernandez, I.; Valentini, A.; Schapiro, I.; Olivucci, M.; Kukura, P.; Mathies, R. A. *Nat. Chem.* **2018**, *10*, 449-455.

The phase relationship between HOOP and twisting determines the reactivity

Coworkers: R. A. Mathies, P. Kukura, J. Lugtenburg

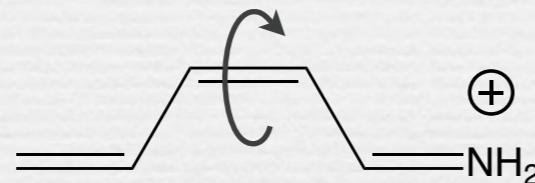


- Schnedermann, C.; Yang, X.; Liebel, M.; Spillane, K. M.; Lungtenburg, J.; Fernandez, I.; Valentini, A.; Schapiro, I.; Olivucci, M.; Kukura, P.; Mathies, R. A. *Nat. Chem.* 2018, 10, 449-455.

CT-MQC Quantum-Classical Trajectories for a Model Chromophore:

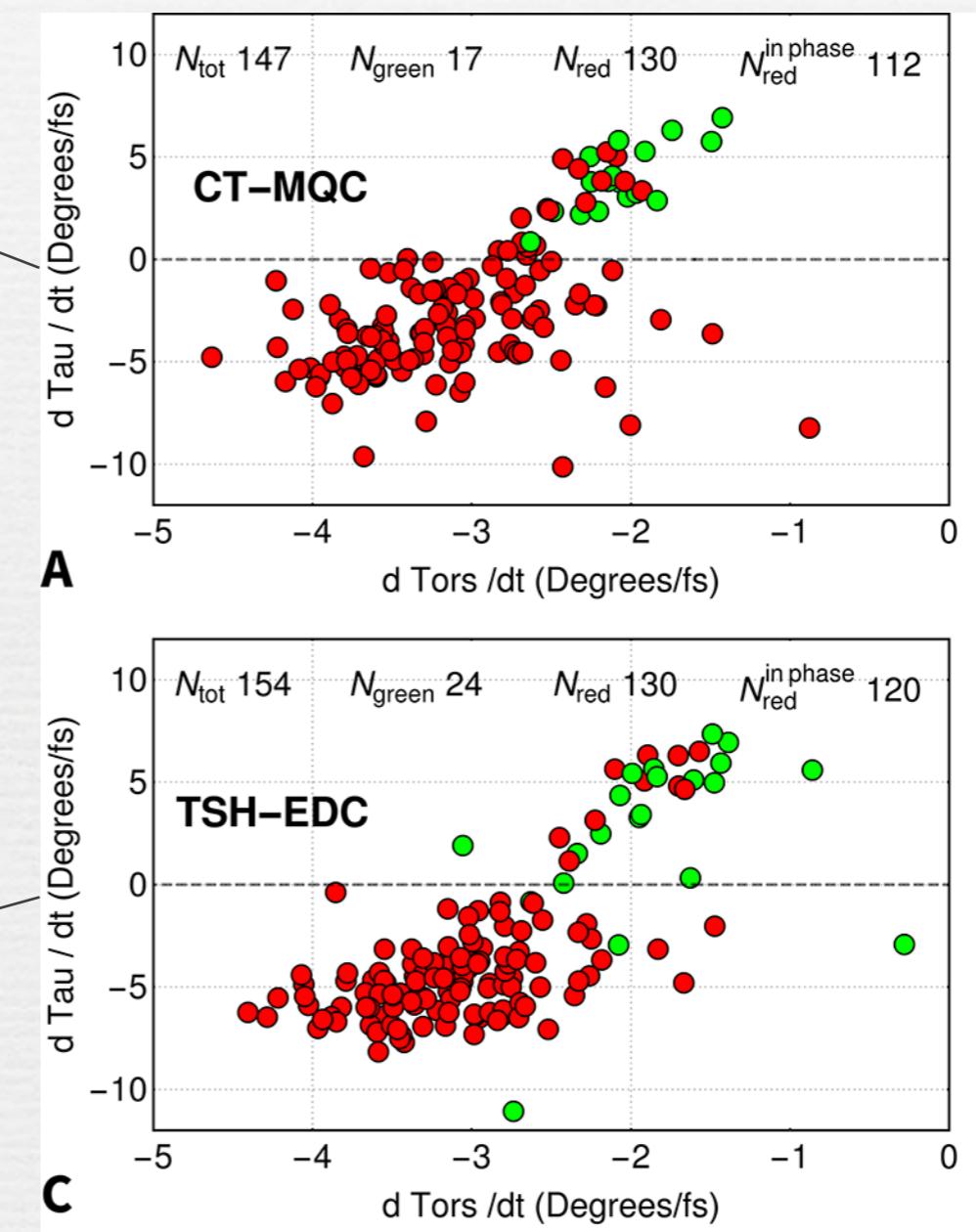
Coworkers: E. Marsili, F. Agostini, D. Lauvergnat

Couple-Trajectory mixed Quantum-Classical (based on exact factorization)



(Parametrized 3D PES)

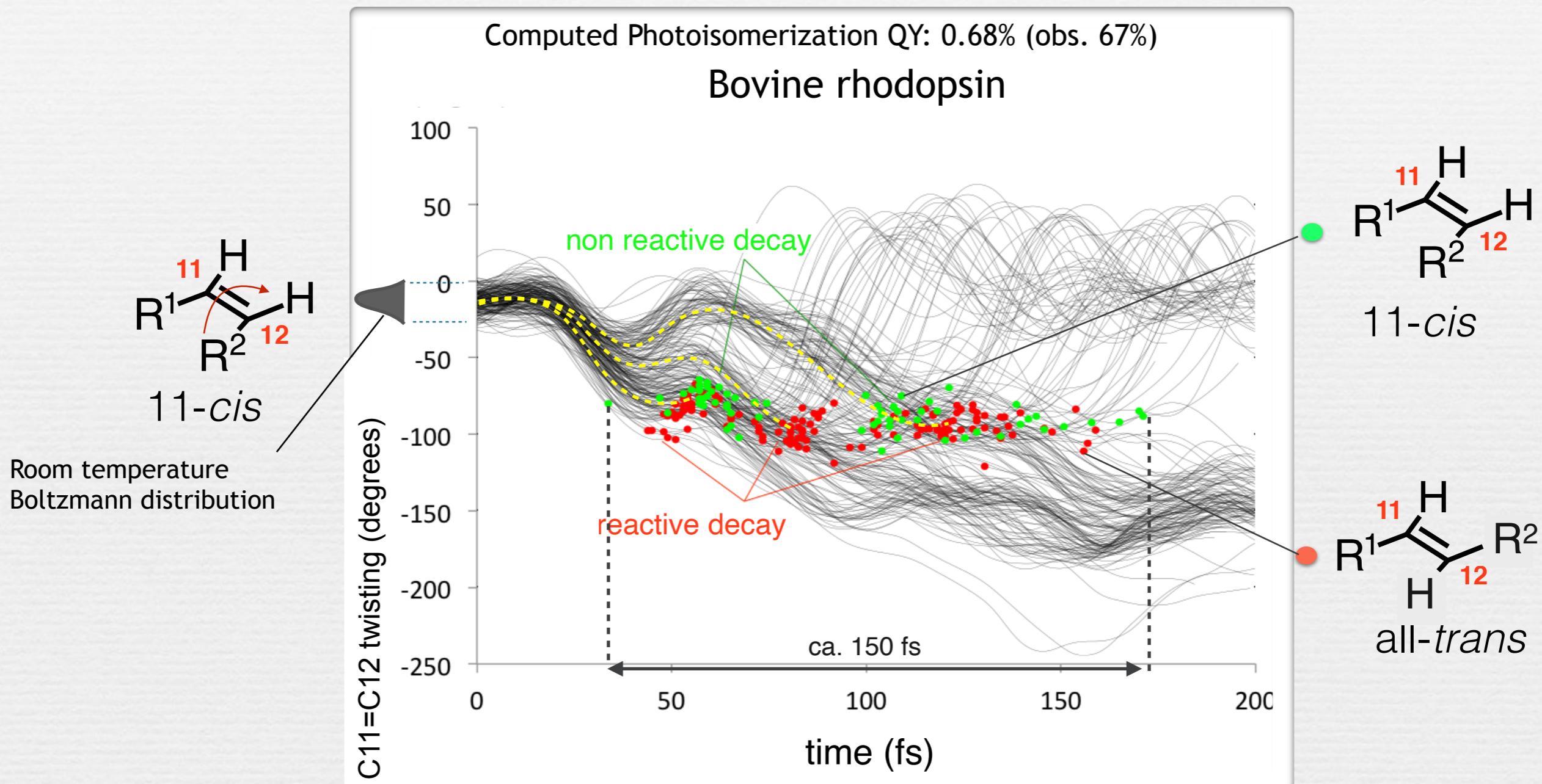
Tully SH with Energy Decoherence Correction



- E. Marsili; M. H. Farag; Y. Xuchun; L. De Vico; M. Olivucci. *J. Phys. Chem. A* 2019, **123**, 1710-1719.
- E. Marsili; M. Olivucci; D. Lauvergnat; F. Agostini. *J. Phys. Chem. A* 2020, **16**, 6032-6048.

Rhodopsin population dynamics

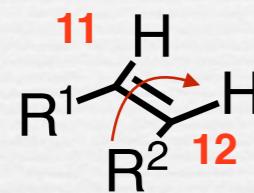
200 TSH trajectories



Fast and slow population dynamics

200 TSH trajectories

Fast subpopulation



HOOP (degrees) twisting (degrees)

- reactive
- unreactive

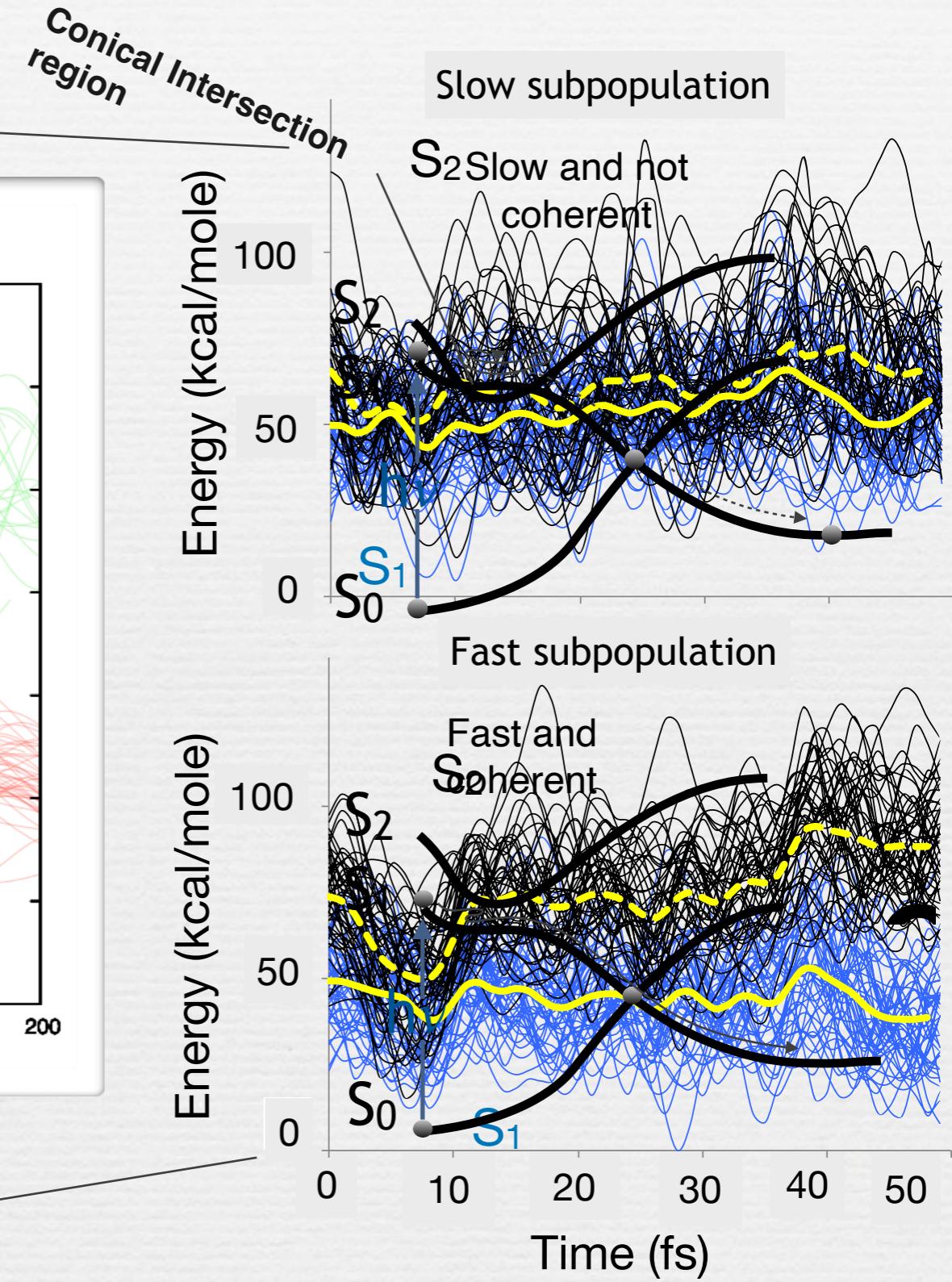
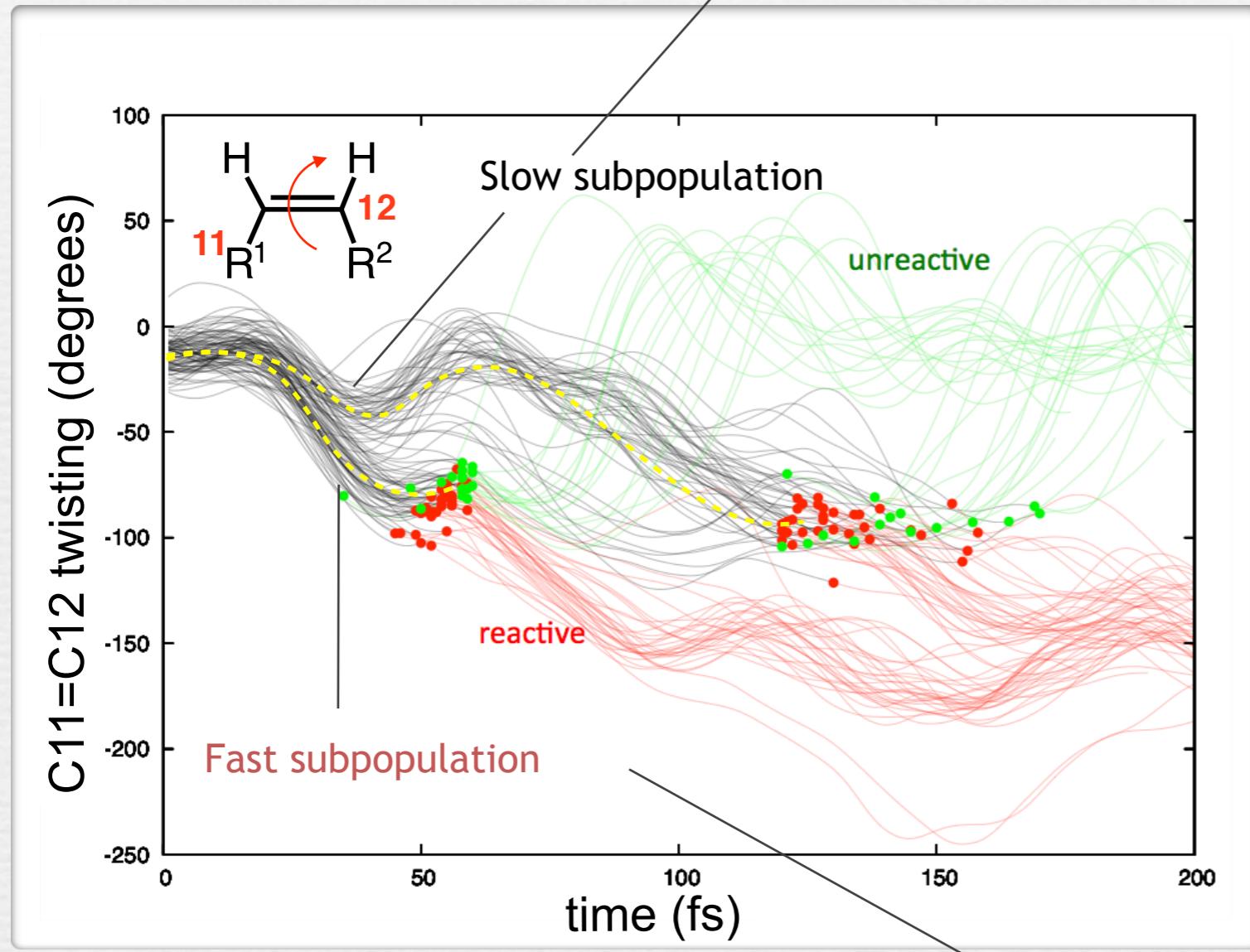
Slow subpopulation

decay region

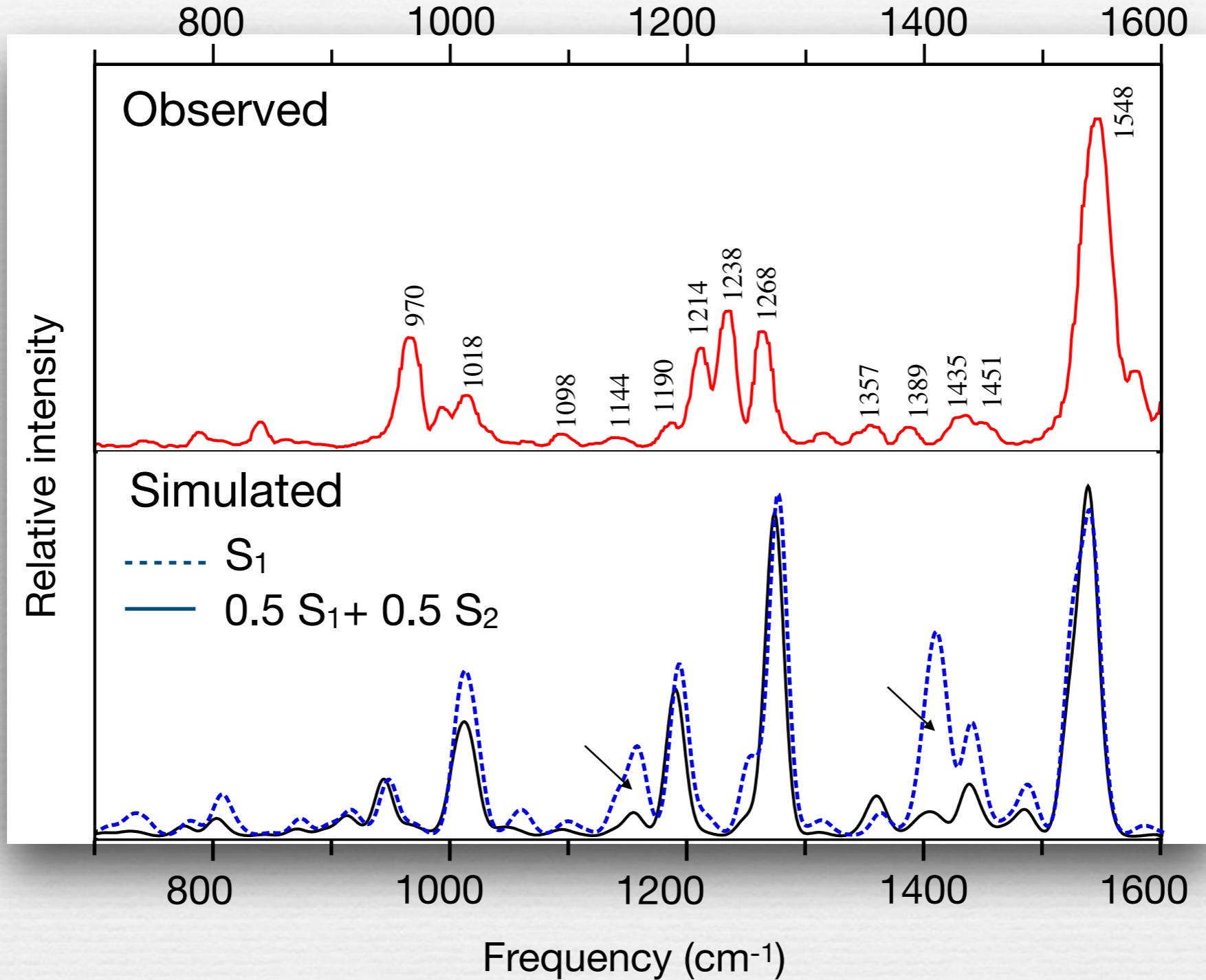
Time (fs)

Fast and slow subpopulation dynamics

50 fast + 50 slow TSH trajectories

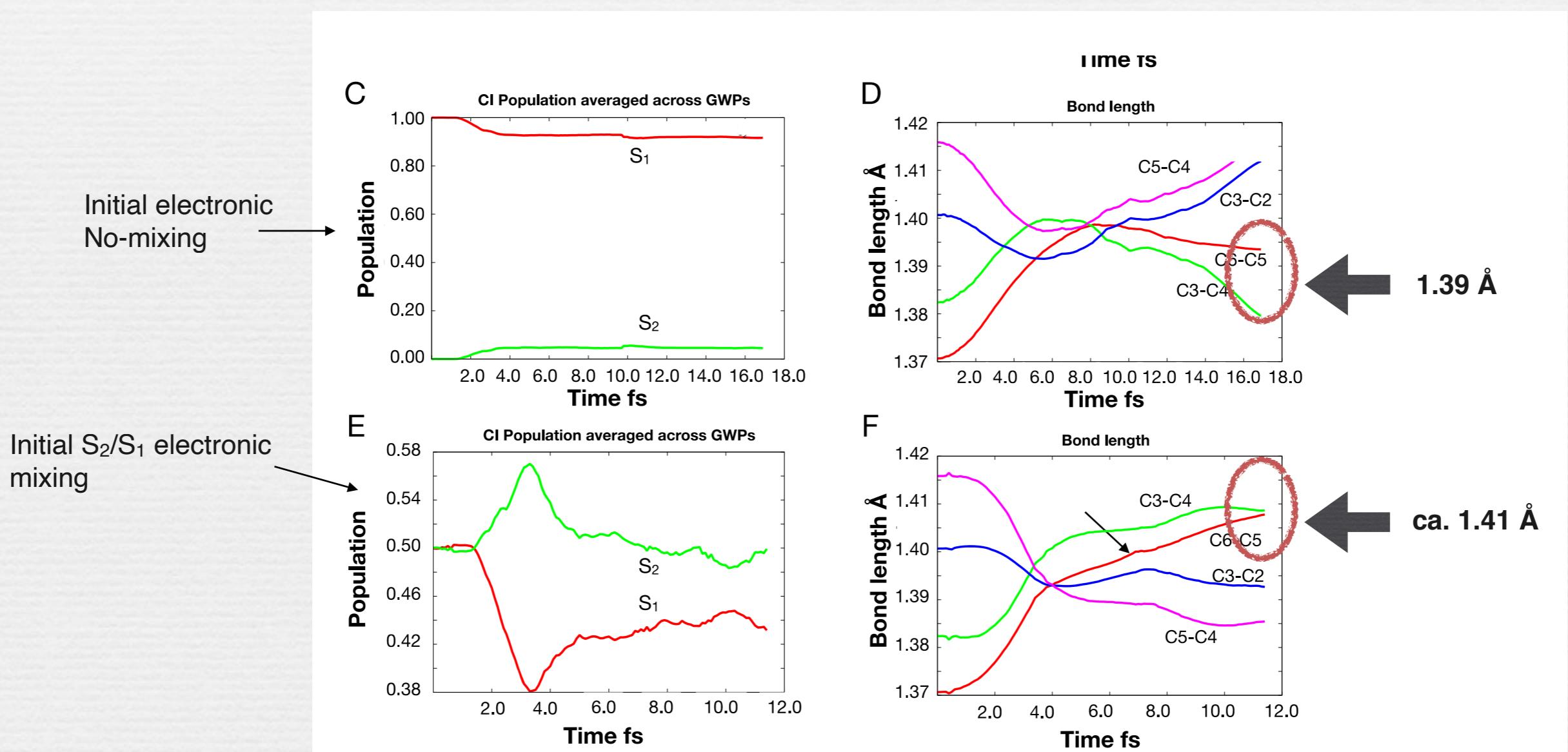
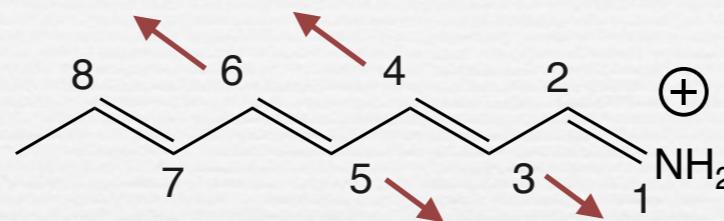


Resonance Raman spectra simulations

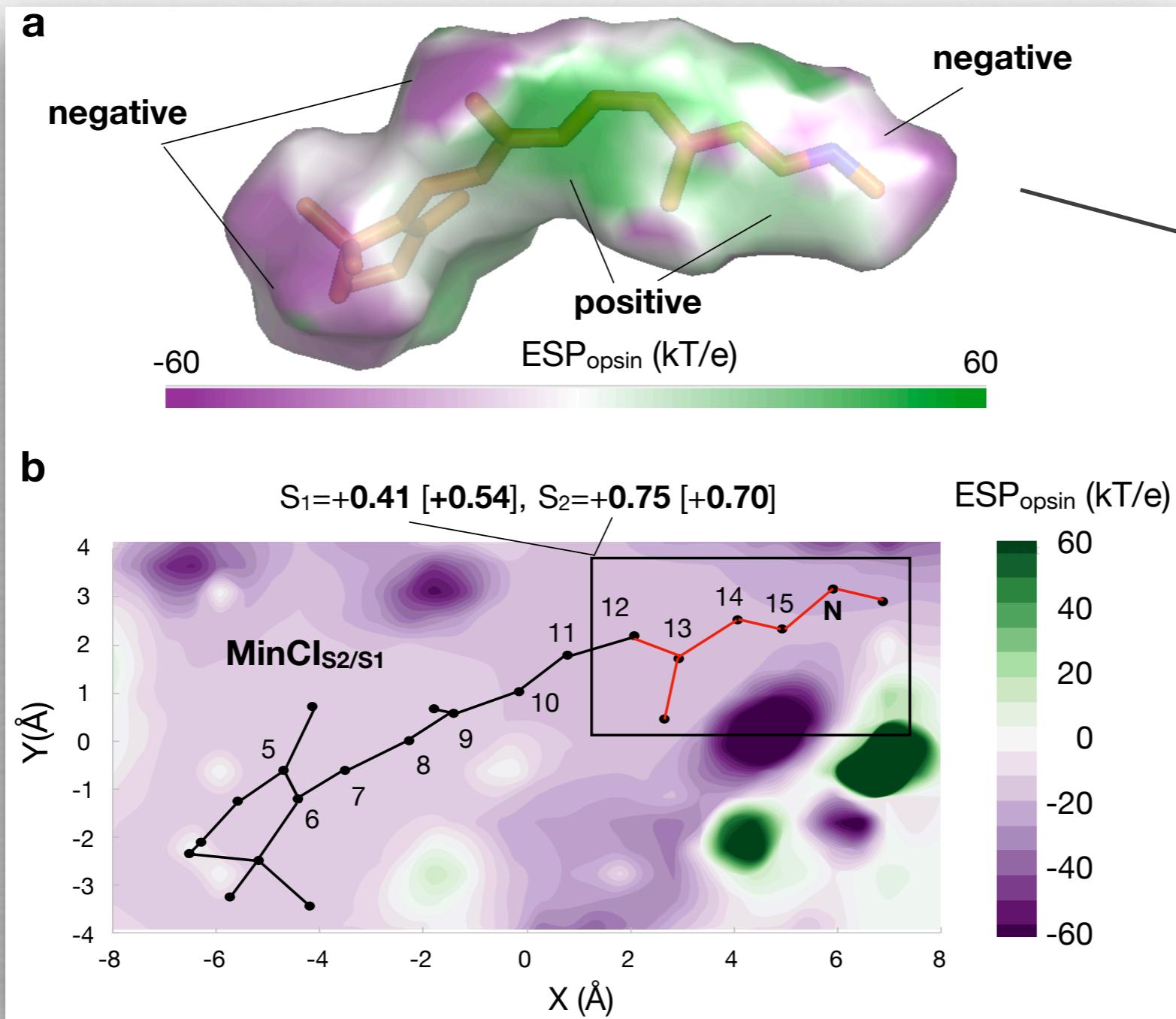


20 fs Gaussian Wavepacket Dynamics for a Model Chromophore

Coworkers: M. A. Robb, G. A. Worth

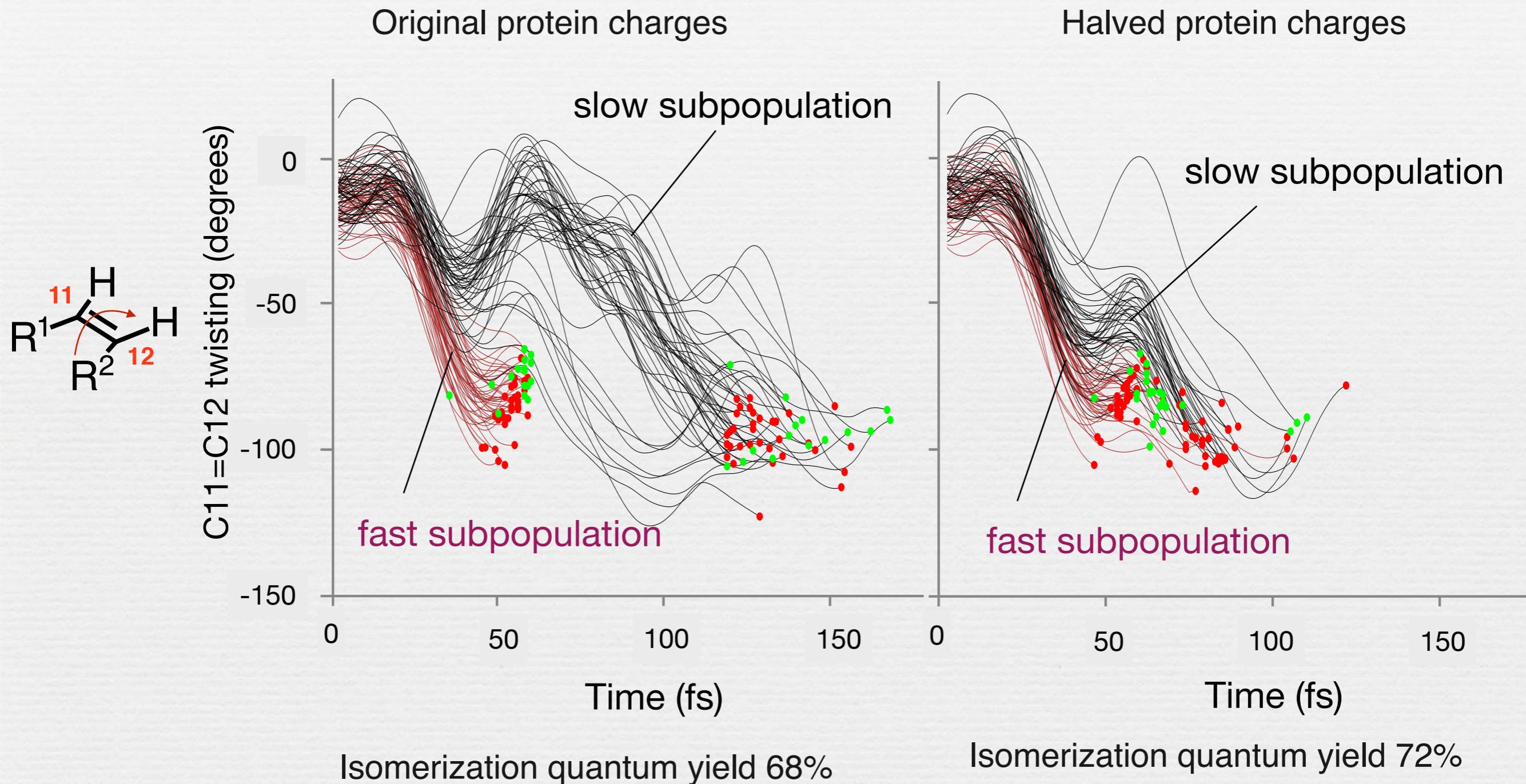


May biological evolution have tuned the population splitting ?



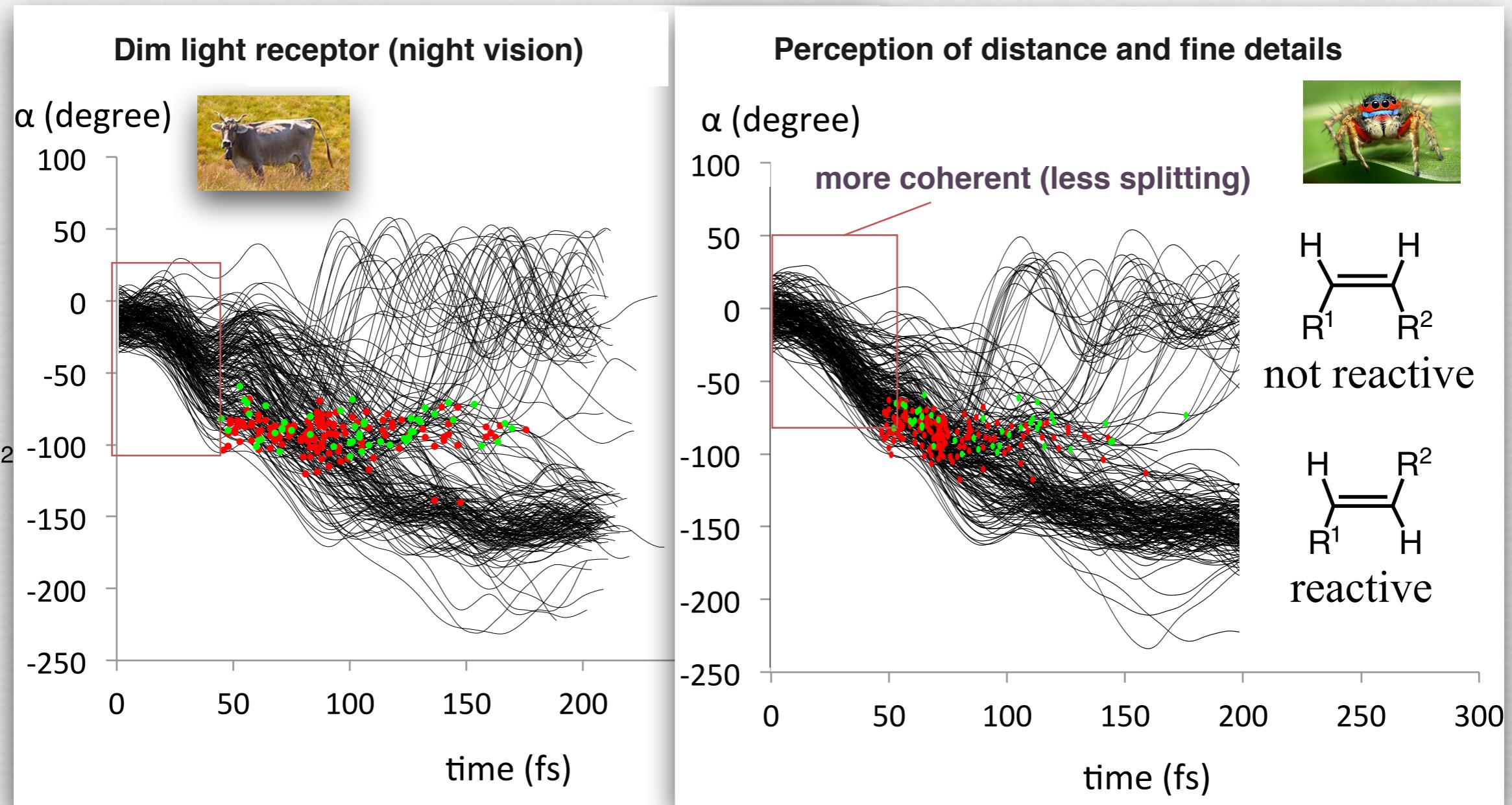
ELECTROSTATIC FIELD PROJECTED BY THE PROTEIN CAVITY ON THE CHROMOPHORE SURFACE

May biological evolution have tuned the population splitting ?



Jumping Spider rhodopsin population dynamics

(with X. Yang)



Absorption Max ca. 497 nm (Obs. 498)
Excited State Lifetime ca. 100 fs (Obs. 70 to 100)
Isomerization Quantum Yields ca. 72% (Obs. 67%)

Absorption Max ca. 542 nm (Obs. 535)
Excited State Lifetime 83 fs
Isomerization Quantum Yields 78%

Conclusion & Perspectives

The quantum efficiency ($\Phi_{\text{cis} \rightarrow \text{trans}}$) of rod rhodopsins is controlled by **two conical intersections**:

