

Brian S. Rolczynski, Ph.D.

The University of Chicago
Gordon Center for Integrative Science, E005
929 East 57th St
Chicago, IL 60637

Email: brolczynski@uchicago.edu
Mobile: (312)515-0821
Office: (773)702-6066
Website: rolczynski.com

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL **2007 – 2012**

Ph.D., Physical Chemistry

Dissertation: “Charge-Transfer Oligomers and Polymers for Organic Photovoltaics: Structure, dynamics, and their implications for solar devices”

University of Washington, Seattle, WA **2002 – 2007**

BS, Chemistry and BA, English (with honors)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL **2013 - present**

Postdoctoral fellow, Department of Chemistry and The James Franck Institute

PI: Greg S. Engel

- Developed a time-ordered, time-domain vibrational technique based on 2D electronic spectroscopy, and used it to observe interexcitonic vibrational correlations in a photosynthetic pigment-protein complex. These correlations can extend coherence lifetimes.
- Developed a method to obtain highly resolved 2D electronic spectra, revealing the overlapping peak positions of feature-rich spectra. This method is generally applicable.
- Built an experiment to measure the transient material response to Laguerre-Gaussian “twisted light,” and used it to measure how the response in semiconductors depends on the light’s orbital angular momentum. These dynamics can be understood and optimized to create solid-state detectors for this quantum number in light. Helped conceive of, design, and obtain funding (\$3 million, see Grants section) for the project.

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL **2007 – 2012**

and concurrently at **Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL** **2010 – 2012**

Graduate researcher, Department of Chemistry and ANSER Center

PI: Lin X. Chen

- Studied intramolecular and intermolecular exciton dissociation in alternating copolymers, identifying trends between intramolecular polymer processes and corresponding bulk heterojunction device efficiencies. These studies explained high power conversion efficiencies in organic photovoltaic devices employing alternating copolymers.
- Examined aggregate morphologies in neat and bulk heterojunction alternating copolymer films using grazing incidence wide/small angle X-ray scattering, demonstrating correlations between π - π stacking distances and bulk heterojunction device fill factor.

- Studied spontaneous self-assembly behavior in spin-coated photovoltaic oligomer systems depending on monomer length, using grazing incidence wide/small angle X-ray scattering and atomic force microscopy.
- Characterized anisotropic absorption behavior of organic donor-acceptor co-crystals as a function of modular chromophore species.

GRANTS

“Transcribing Quantum Information using Quantum Dynamics of Coherent Materials”

(PI: Engel)

10/1/2014 - 9/30/2019

Agency: Department of Defense National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellowship

Total costs: \$3,000,000 (all to U. Chicago, PI: Engel)

Contribution: Helped conceive of and design the project, and co-wrote the proposal.

TALKS

9. **Rolczynski, B. S.** and Engel, G. S. “Correlated Motion for Prolonged Quantum Coherences in a Photosynthetic Protein.” Invited talk, Loyola University, Chicago, IL, 4/20/17.

8. **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Navotnaya, P.; Engel, G. S. “Driving delocalized dynamics using the orbital angular momentum of light.” ACS Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 4/5/17.

7. **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Yeh, S.; Navotnaya, P.; Ashraf, K.; Gardiner, A.; Cogdell, R.; Engel, G. S. “Resolving the detailed 2D spectral structure of the Fenna-Matthews-Olson complex.” ACS Meeting, San Francisco, CA. 4/5/17.

6. **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Zheng, H.; Singh, V.; Navotnaya, P.; Caram, J.; Ashraf, K.; Gardiner, A.; Cogdell, R.; Engel, G. S. “Correlated vibrational motion in the Fenna-Matthews-Olson complex.” ACS Meeting, San Francisco, CA. 4/2/17.

5. **Rolczynski, B. S.** and Engel, G. S. “Correlated exciton environments in the Fenna-Matthews-Olson complex.” Photosynthesis conference, Marshall, IN, 11/5/16.

4. **Rolczynski, B. S.** and Engel, G. S. “Transcribing light’s orbital angular momentum to materials.” Spinovs VI, Chicago, IL, 10/17/16.

3. **Rolczynski, B. S.** and Engel, G. S. “Long-lived coherences through correlated environments.”

ACS Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 8/22/16.

2. **Rolczynski, B. S.** and Engel, G. S. “How Long Does a CdSe Quantum Dot Remember Its Excitation Energy?” Nanotalk Symposium, Chicago, IL, 2/25/14.

1. **Rolczynski, B. S.** and Chen, L. X. “The role of tuning push-pull interactions in small optical gap copolymers.” Gordon Research Seminar, Easton, MA, 7/10/11.

PUBLICATIONS

— submitted or in review —

- **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Yeh, S.-H.; Navotnaya, P.; Lloyd, L. T.; Ginzburg, A. R.; Zheng, H.; Allodi, M. A.; Otto, J. P.; Ashraf, K.; Gardiner, A. T.; Cogdell, R. J.; Kais, S.; Engel, G. S. Measuring the Detailed Excitonic Peak Structure of the Fenna-Matthews-Olson Complex. *Submitted*.

- Allodi, M. A.; Otto, J. P.; Sohail, S. H.; Saer, R. G.; Wood, R. E.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Massey, S. C.; Ting, P.-C.; Blankenship, R. E.; Engel, G. S. Reactive oxygen species affect ultrafast exciton transport in photosynthetic pigment-protein complexes. *Submitted*.

- **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Zheng, H.; Singh, V. P.; Navotnaya, P.; Ginzburg, A. R.; Caram, J. R.; Ashraf, K.; Gardiner, A. T.; Yeh, S.-H.; Kais, S.; Cogdell, R. J.; Engel, G. S. Synchronized Spectral Motion and Correlated Protein Environments Drive Quantum Coherence Lifetimes in Photosynthetic Pigment-Protein Complexes. *In review*.

— published —

23. **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Navotnaya, P.; Sussman, H. R.; Engel, G. S. Cysteine-mediated mechanism disrupts energy transfer to prevent photooxidation. *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 2016. 113(31), 8562. *commentary

22. Flanagan, M. L.; Long, P. D.; Dahlberg, P. D.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Massey, S. C.; Engel, G. S. Mutations to R. sphaeroides Reaction Center Perturb Energy Levels and Vibronic Coupling but Not Observed Energy Transfer Rates. *J. Phys. Chem. A.* 2016. 120(9), 1479.

21. Cho, S.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Xu, T.; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X. Solution Phase Exciton Diffusion Dynamics of a Charge-Transfer Copolymer PTB7 and Homopolymer P3HT. *J. Phys. Chem. B.* 2015, 119(24), 7447.

20. Blackburn, A. K.; Sue, A. C.-H.; Shveyd, A. K.; Cao, D.; Tayi, A.; Narayanan, A.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Sarko, J. M.; Bozdemir, O. A.; Wakabayashi, R.; Lehrman, J. A.; Chen, L. X.; Nassar, M. S.; Stupp, S. I.; Stoddart, J. F. Lock-arm supramolecular ordering: A molecular construction set for cocrystallizing organic charge transfer complexes. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2014, 136, 17224.
19. **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Szarko, J. M.; Son, H. J.; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X. Effects of Exciton Polarity in Charge Transfer Polymer/PCBM Bulk Heterojunction Films. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* 2014, 5(11), 1856.
18. Szarko, J. M.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Lou, S. J.; Xu, T.; Strzalka, J.; Marks, T. J.; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X. Photovoltaic Function and Exciton/Charge Transfer Dynamics in a Highly Efficient Semiconducting Copolymer. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 2014, 24(1), 10.
17. Zheng, H.; Caram, J. R.; Dahlberg, P. D.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Viswanathan, S.; Dolzhenkov, D. S.; Khadivi, A.; Talapin, D. V.; Engel, G. S. Dispersion-free continuum two-dimensional electronic spectrometer. *Applied Optics* 2014, 53(9), 1909.
16. Caram, J. R.; Zheng, H.; Dahlberg, P. D.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Griffin, G. B.; Dolzhenkov, D. S.; Talapin, D. V.; Engel, G. S. Exploring size and state dynamics in CdSe quantum dots using two-dimensional electronic spectroscopy. *J. Chem. Phys.* 2014, 140(8), 084701.
15. Griffin, G. B.; Lundin, P. M.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Linkin, A.; McGillicuddy, R. D.; Bao, Z.; Engel, G. S. Ultrafast energy transfer from rigid, branched side-chains into a conjugated, alternating copolymer. *J. Chem. Phys.* 2014, 140(3), 034903.
14. Caram, J. R.; Zheng, H.; Dahlberg, P. D.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Griffin, G. B.; Fidler, A. F.; Dolzhenkov, D. S.; Talapin, D. V.; Engel, G. S. Persistent Interexcitonic Quantum Coherence in CdSe Quantum Dots. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* 2014, 5(1), 196.
13. Singh, V. P.; Fidler, A. F.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Engel, G. S. Independent phasing of rephasing and non-rephasing electronic spectra. *J. Chem. Phys.* 2013, 139(8), 084201.
12. Tayi, A. S.; Shveyd, A. K.; Sue, C.-H.; Szarko, J. M.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Sarjeant, A. A.; Stern, C. L.; Cao, D.; Paxton, W. F.; Wu, W.; Dey, S. K.; Fahrenbach, A. C.; Guest, J.; Mohseni, H.; Chen, L. X.; Wang, K. L.; Stoddart, J. F.; Stupp, S. I. Room Temperature Ferroelectricity in Supramolecular Networks of Charge Transfer Complexes. *Nature* 2012, 488, 485.

11. **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Szarko, J. M.; Son, H. J.; Liang, Y.; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X. Ultrafast Intramolecular Exciton Splitting Dynamics in Isolated Low-Band-Gap Polymers and Their Implications on Photovoltaic Materials Design. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2012, 134, 9, 4142.
10. Gothard, N. A.; Mara, M. W.; Huang, J.; Szarko, J. M.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Lockard, J. V.; Chen, L. X. Strong Steric Hindrance Effect on Excited State Structural Dynamics of Cu(I) Diimine Complexes. *J. Phys. Chem. A* 2012, 116, 9, 1984.
9. Carsten, B.; Szarko, J. M.; Son, H. J.; Wang, W.; Lu, L.; He, F.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Lou, S. J.; Chen, L. X.; Yu, L. Examining the Effect of the Dipole Moment on Charge Separation in Donor-Acceptor Polymers for Organic Photovoltaic Applications. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2011, 133, 50, 20468.
8. Murray, I. P.; Lou, S. J.; Cote, L. J.; Loser, S.; Kadleck, C. J.; Xu, T.; Szarko, J. M.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Johns, J. E.; Huang, J.; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X.; Marks, T. J.; Hersam, M. C. Graphene Oxide Interlayers for Robust, High-Efficiency Organic Photovoltaics. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* 2011, 2, 3006.
7. Szarko, J. M.; Guo, J.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Chen, L. X. Nanoscale structure, dynamics and power conversion efficiency correlations in small molecule and oligomer-based photovoltaic devices. *Nano Rev.* 2011, 2, 7249.
6. Szarko, J. M.; Guo, J.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Chen, L. X. Current trends in the optimization of low band gap polymers in bulk heterojunction photovoltaic devices. *J. Mater. Chem.* 2011, 21, 22, 7849.
5. **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Szarko, J. M.; Lee, B.; Strzalka, J.; Guo, J.; Liang, Y.; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X. Length-dependent self-assembly of oligothiophene derivatives in thin films. *J. Mater. Res.* 2011, 26, 296.
4. Szarko, J. M.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Guo, J.; Liang, Y.; He, F.; Mara, M. W.; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X. Electronic Processes in Conjugated Diblock Oligomers Mimicking Low Band-Gap Polymers: Experimental and Theoretical Spectral Analysis. *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2010, 114, 14505.
3. Szarko, J. M.; Guo, J.; Liang, Y.; Lee, B.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Strzalka, J.; Xu, T.; Loser, S.; Marks, T. J.; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X. When Function Follows Form: Effects of Donor Copolymer Side Chains on Film Morphology and BHJ Solar Cell Performance. *Adv. Mater.* 2010, 22, 48, 5468.
2. Guo, J.; Liang, Y.; Szarko, J.; Lee, B.; Son, H. J.; **Rolczynski, B. S.**; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X. Structure, Dynamics, and Power Conversion Efficiency Correlations in a New Low Bandgap Polymer:PCBM Solar Cell. *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2010, 114, 2, 742.
1. Szarko, J.; Guo, J.; Liang, Y.; **Rolczynski, B.**; Yu, L.; Chen, L. X. The electron and energy transfer between oligothiophenes and thieno[3,4-b]thiophene units. *Proc. of SPIE* 2008, 7034, 703403.

TEACHING

The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Guest lecture

Wave Mechanics and Spectroscopy

Fall 2015

Research mentor

Graduate Students: Polina Navotnaya, John Otto, Hallie Sussman, Curtis Peterson, Ryan
Mensson

Undergraduates: Alan Ginzburg, Matthew Talaga, Jonathan Michelson

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Research mentor

Graduate Students: Sam Eaton

Undergraduates: Julie Bloom

Super TA, General Physical Chemistry
by invitation only

Spring 2008, Spring 2009

Instructor, Gateway Science Workshop
an honors Chemistry program for undergraduates

Spring 2008, Spring 2009

TA, Advanced Undergraduate Laboratory

Summer 2009

TA, General Inorganic Chemistry

Winter 2008

TA, General Chemistry

Fall 2007

SERVICE

Reviewer

ACS Energy Letters

REFERENCES

1. Greg S. Engel

Professor, Department of Chemistry, James Franck Institute, Institute for Biophysical
Dynamics, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Relation: Postdoctoral advisor

Phone: (773)-834-0818

Email: gsengel@uchicago.edu

2. Lin X. Chen

Professor, Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL *and*
Senior Scientist, Chemical Sciences and Engineering Division, Argonne National Laboratory,
Lemont, IL

Relation: Graduate advisor
Phone: (847) 491-3479
Email: l-chen@northwestern.edu

3. Luping Yu

Professor, Department of Chemistry, James Franck Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Relation: Research collaborator
Phone: (773) 702-8698
Email: lupingyu@uchicago.edu