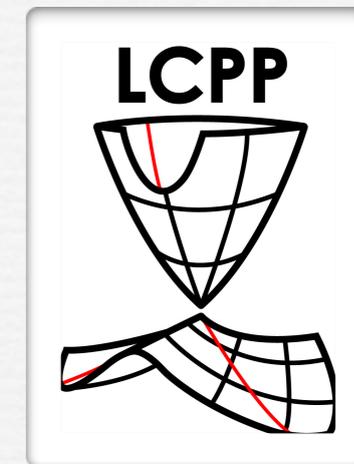




Laboratory of Computational Photochemistry and Photobiology

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

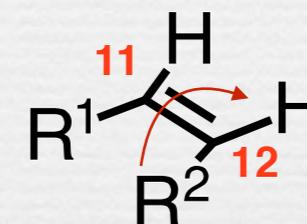
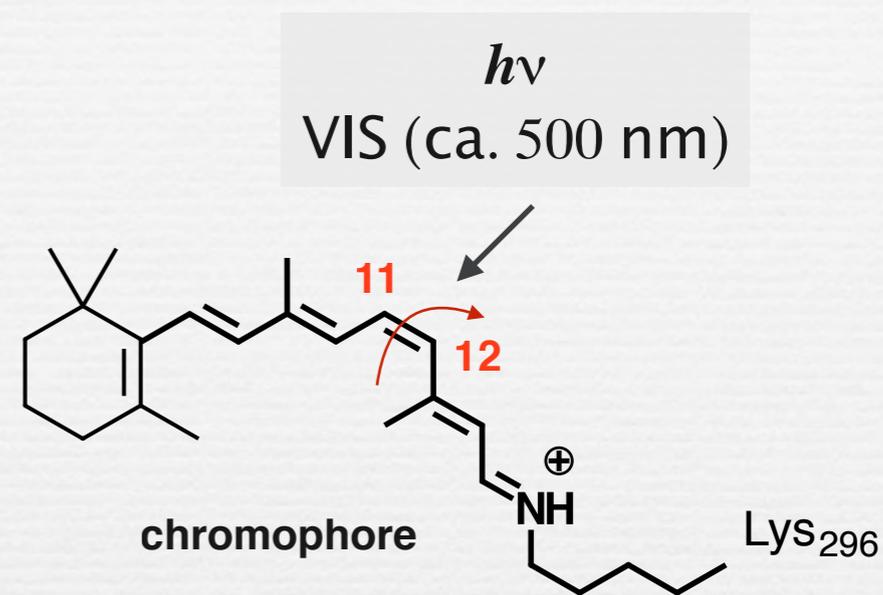
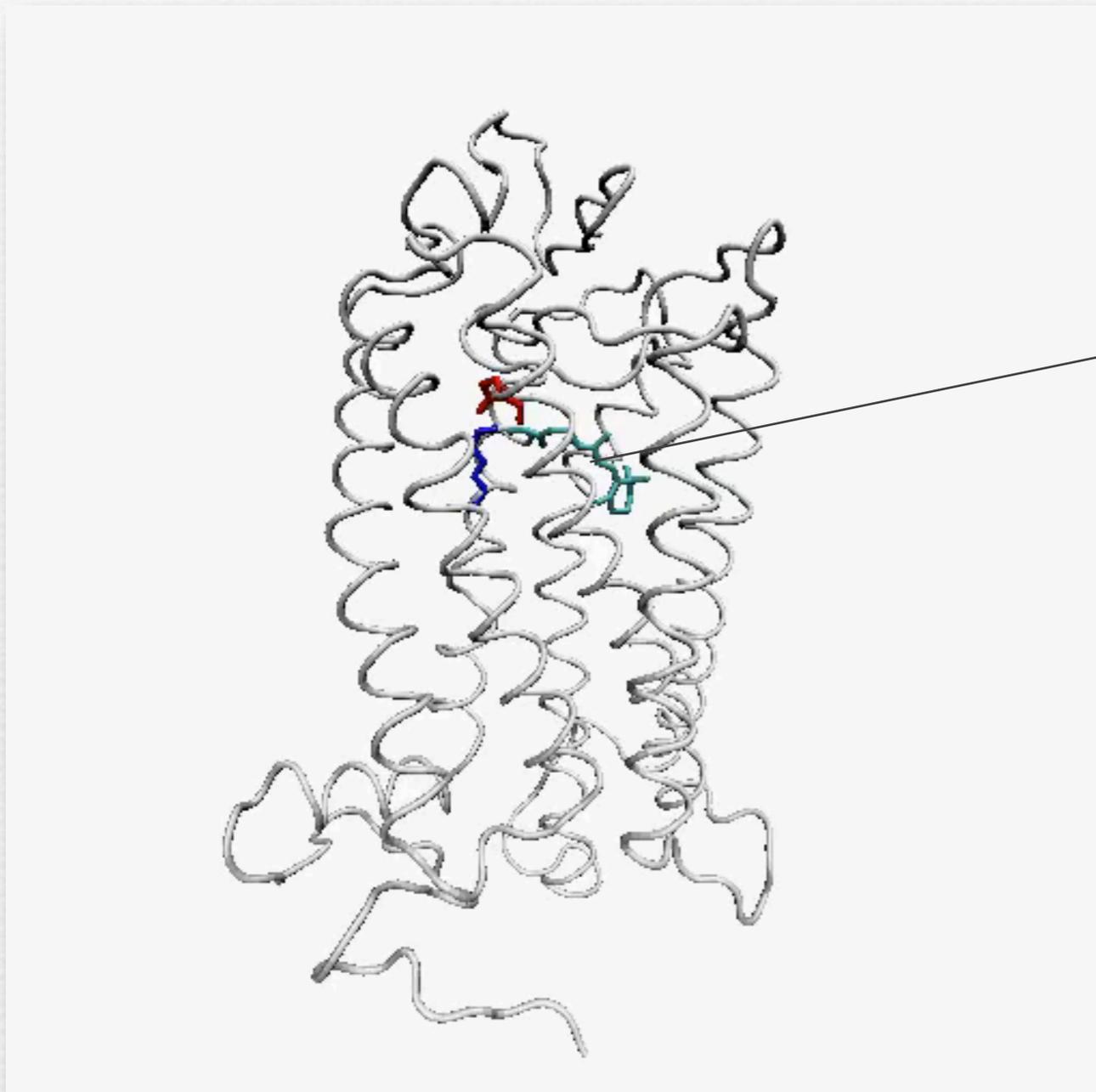
Alejandro Blanco Gonzalez



Ohio Supercomputer Center
An OH·TECH Consortium Member



Structure of Rhodopsins



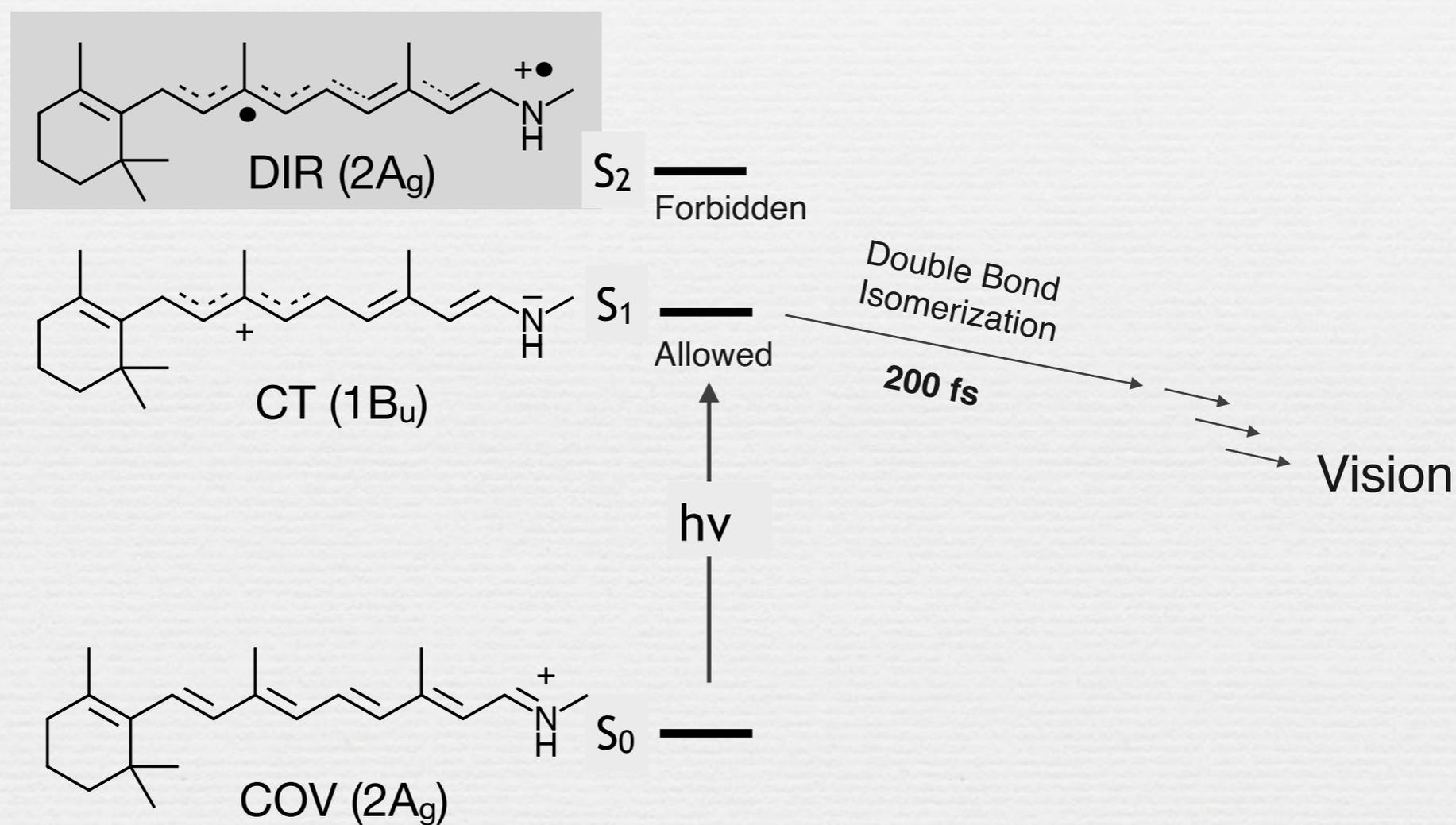
Obs. QY ca. 67%

chromophore or biomimetic
molecular switch in solution:

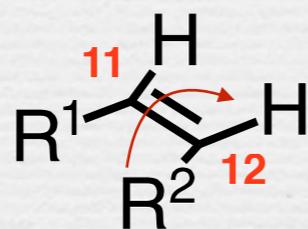
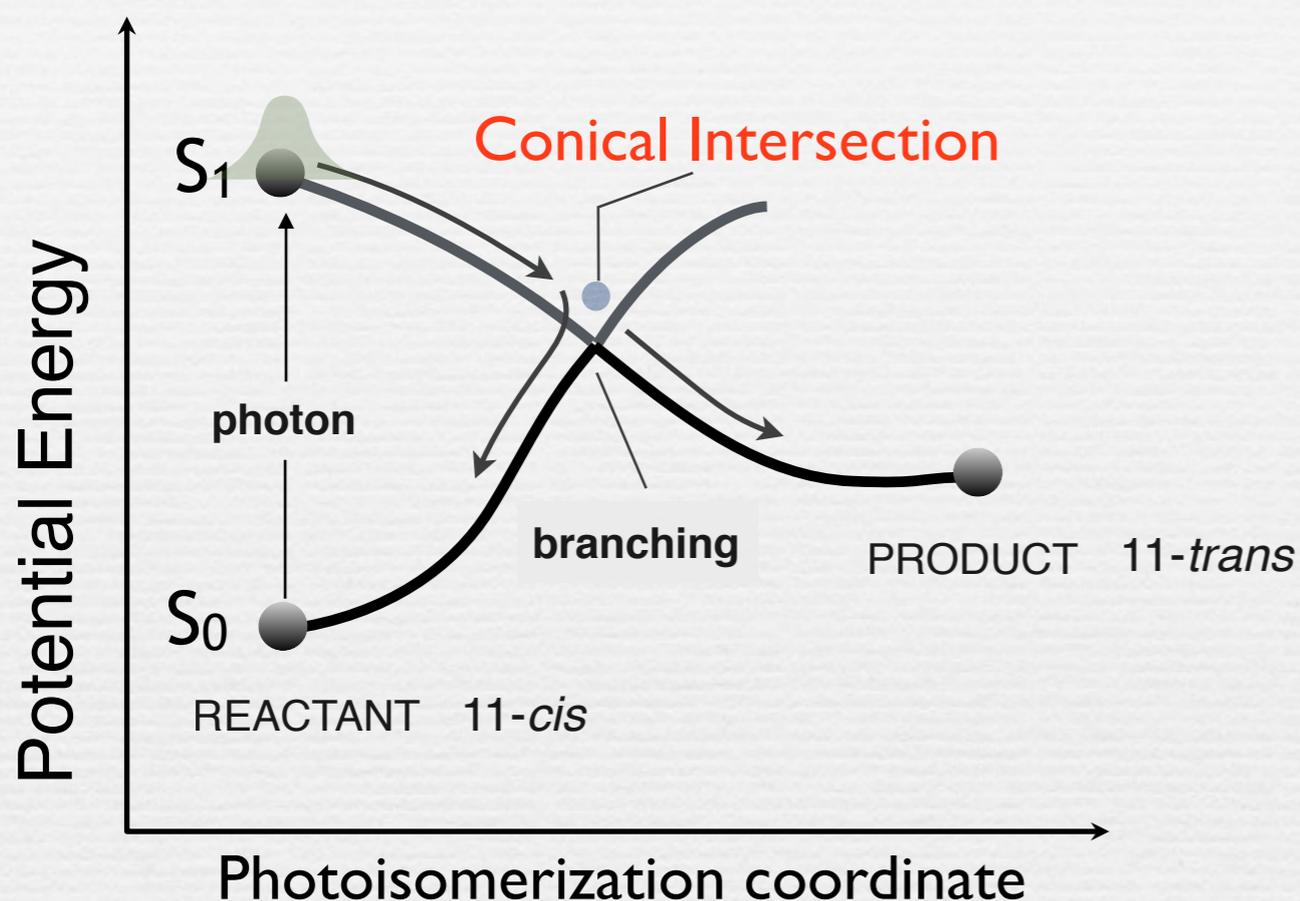
Obs. QY ca. 20%

- 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**:

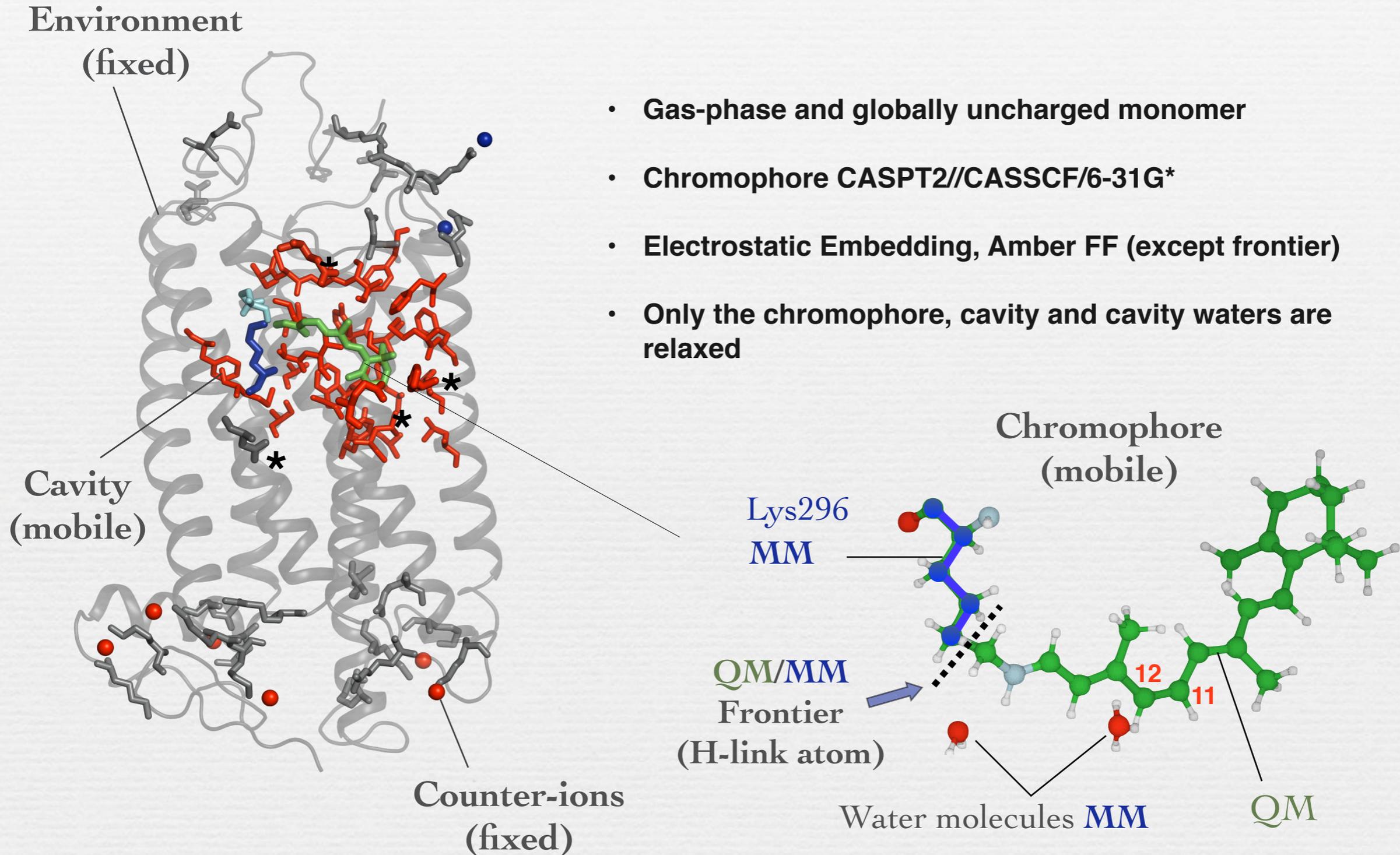
$$P = \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi H_{12}^2}{\hbar|vF|}\right)$$

probability of forming the product

velocity along the coordinate

difference in slopes of S_1 and S_0 along the coordinate

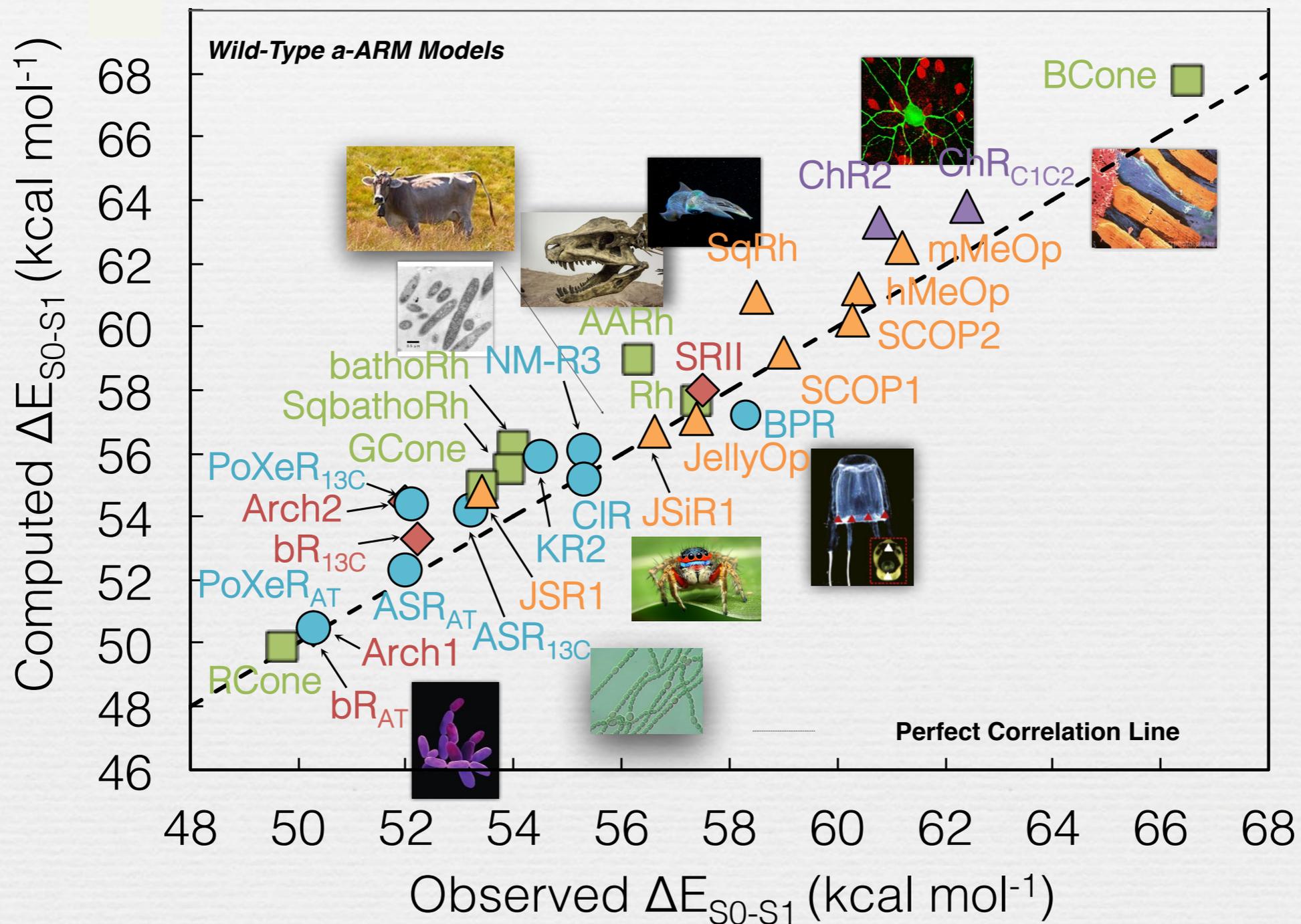
QM/MM models generated Automatically



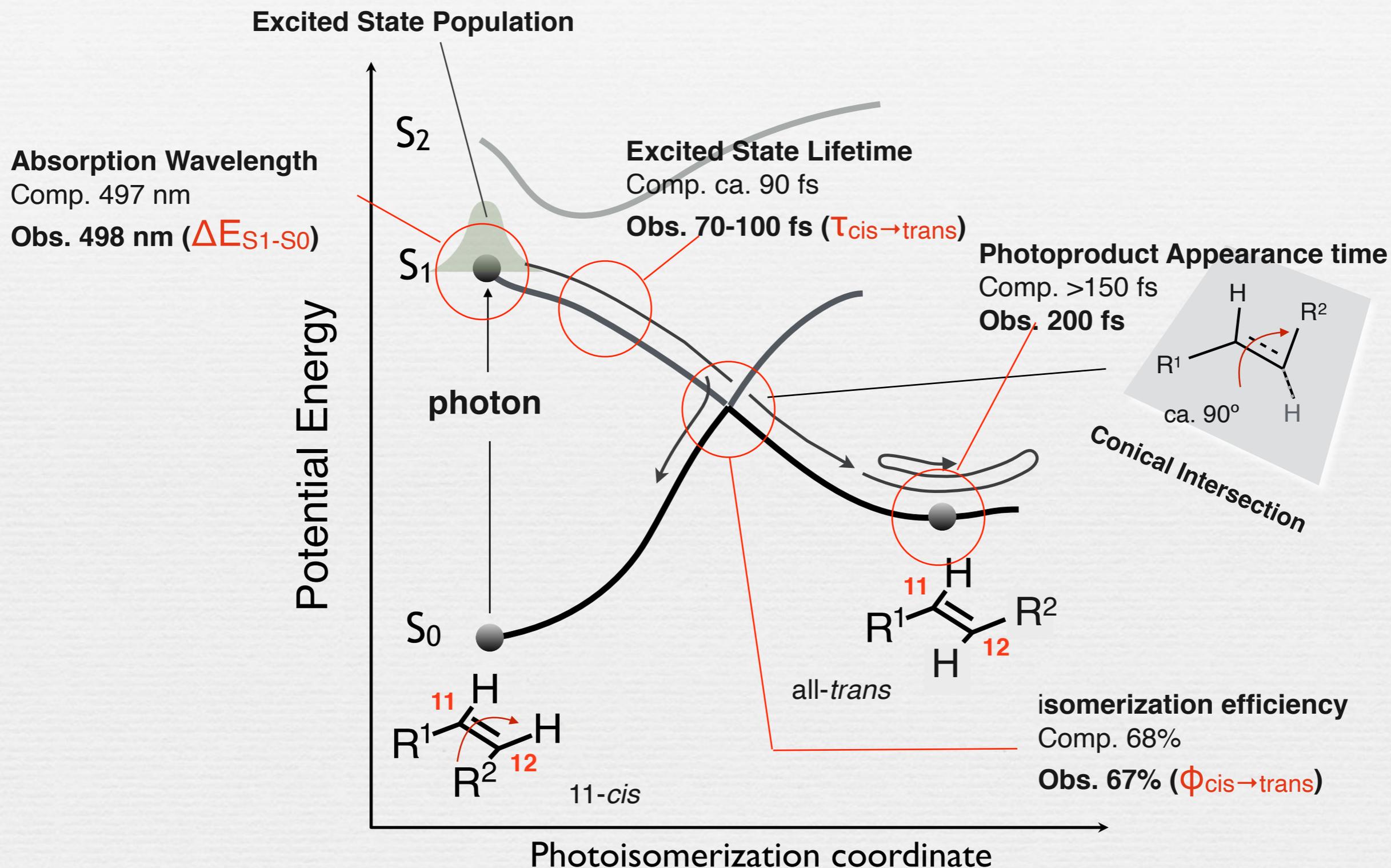
Automatic rhodopsin modeling (ARM) model benchmark

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

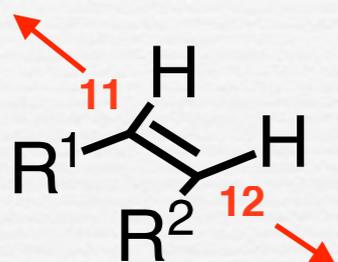
vertebrates, invertebrates, eubacteria and archaea



(Bovine) Rod Rhodopsin studies using QM/MM models



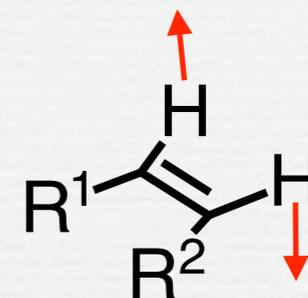
Photoisomerization coordinate



C11=C12 stretching

Comp. ca 22 fs period ($\sim 1516 \text{ cm}^{-1}$)

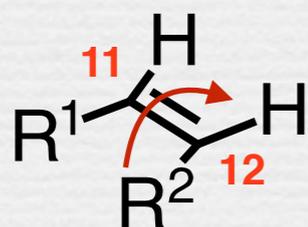
Obs. 20 fs, (1679 cm^{-1})



hydrogen out-of-plane (HOOP) wagging

Comp. ca. 40 fs period ($\sim 830 \text{ cm}^{-1}$)

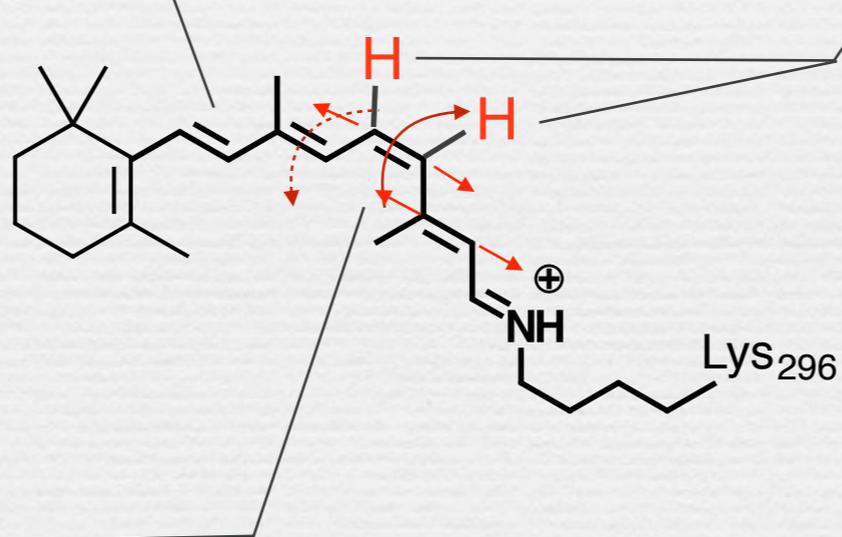
Obs. 45 fs, (746 cm^{-1})



C11=C12 twisting

Comp. 1/4 period ca. 100 fs

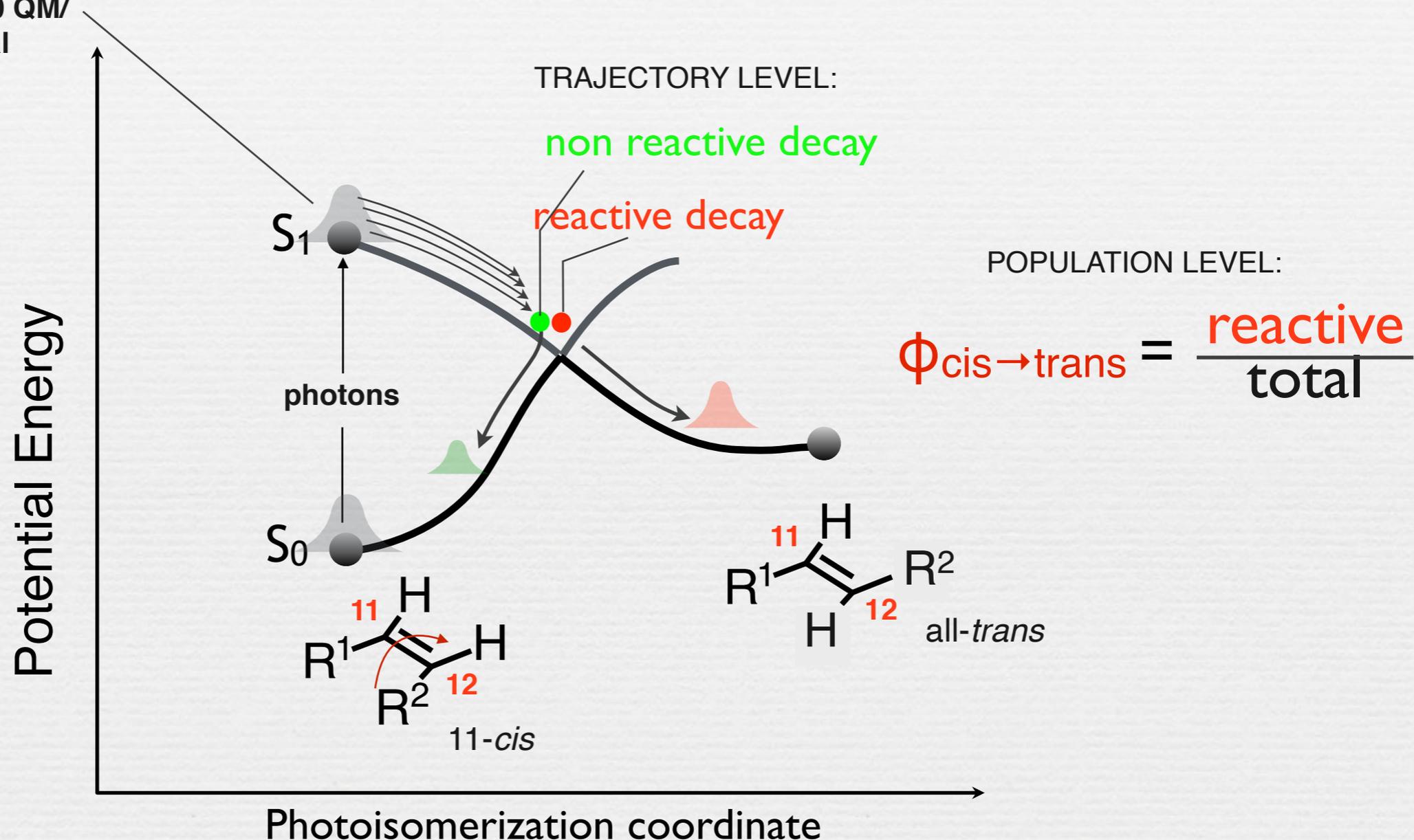
Obs. 70-110 fs



- 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:

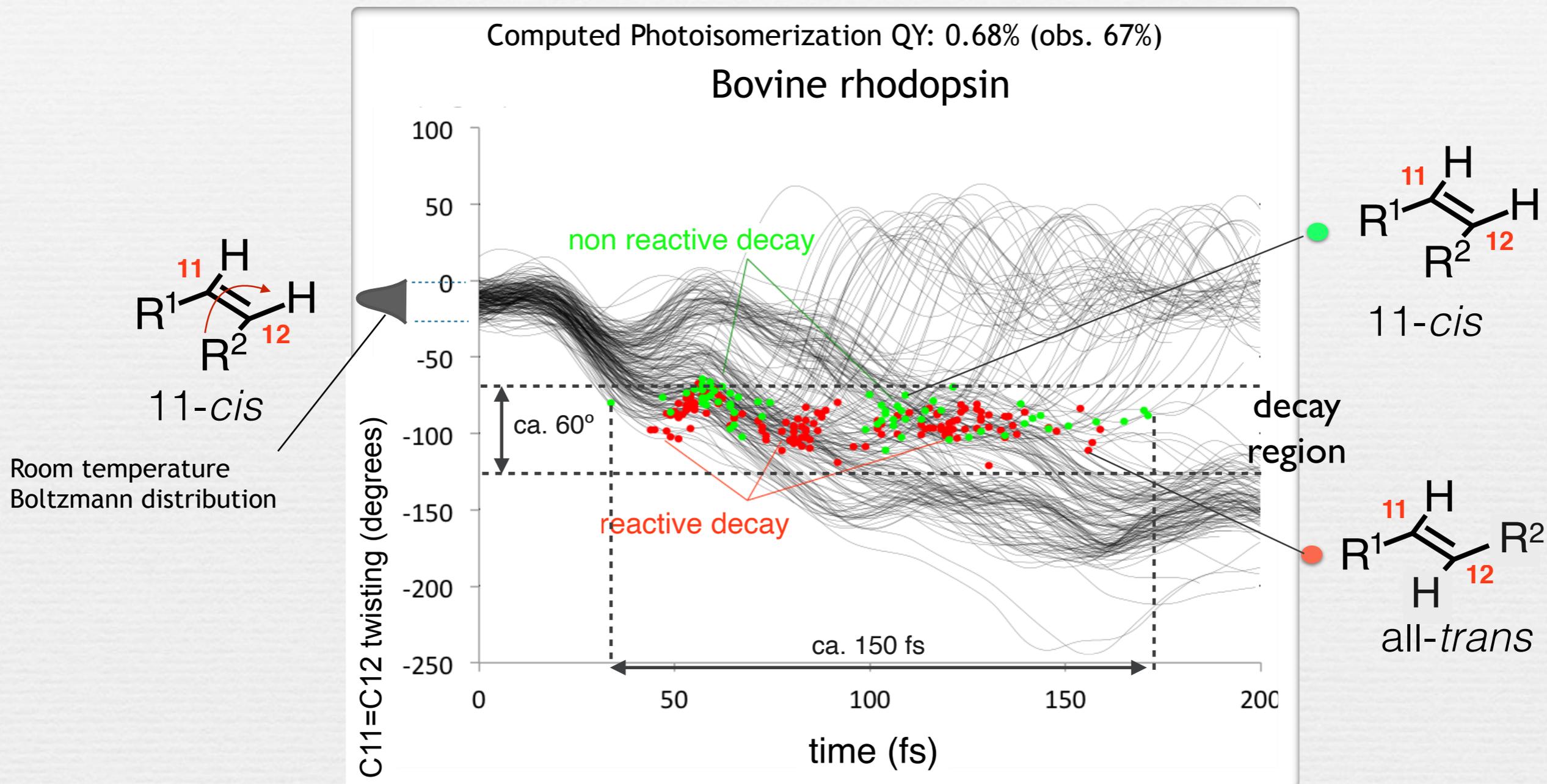
- the **splitting (i.d. vibrational decoherence) of the excited state population**

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

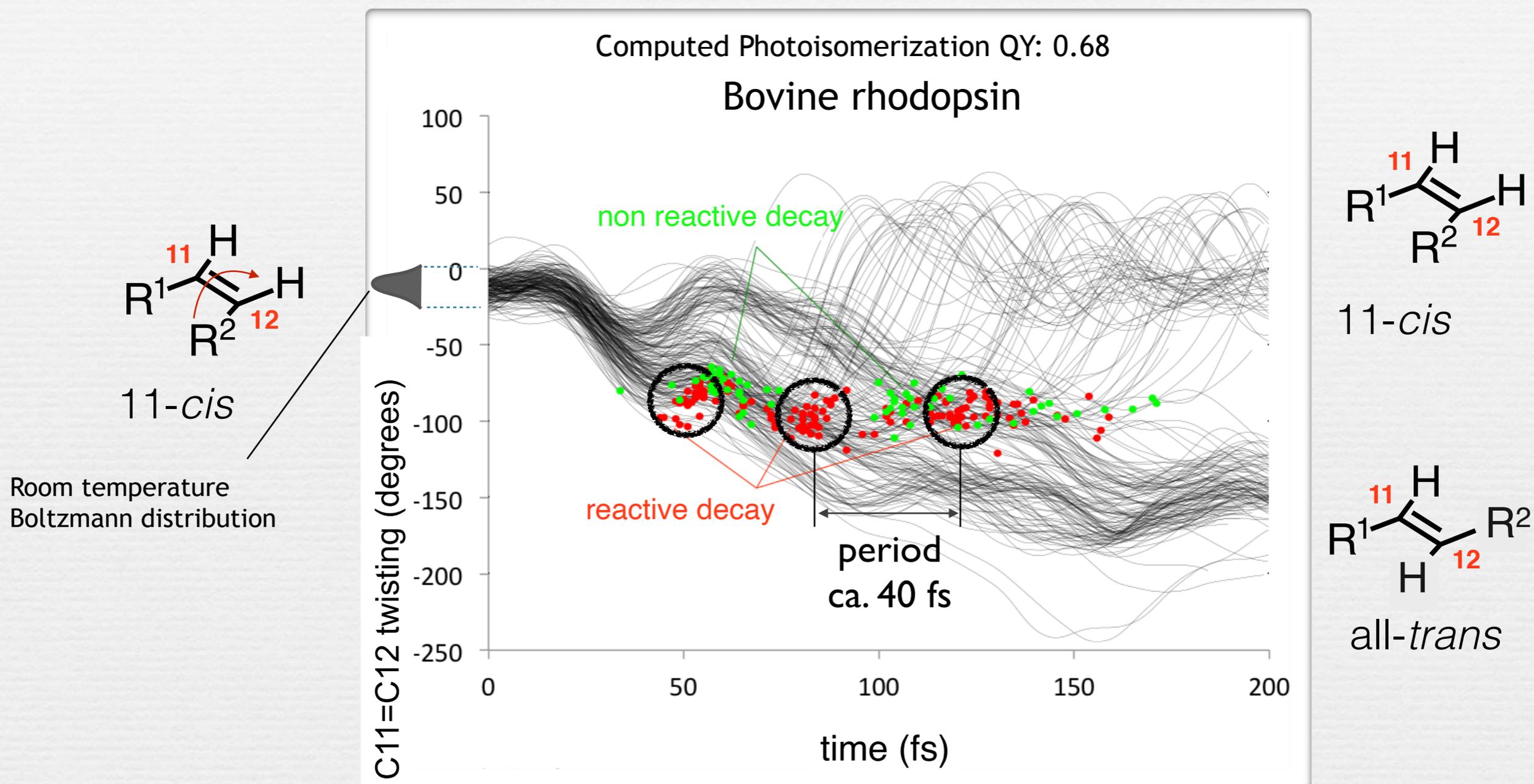
200 TSH trajectories



- 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

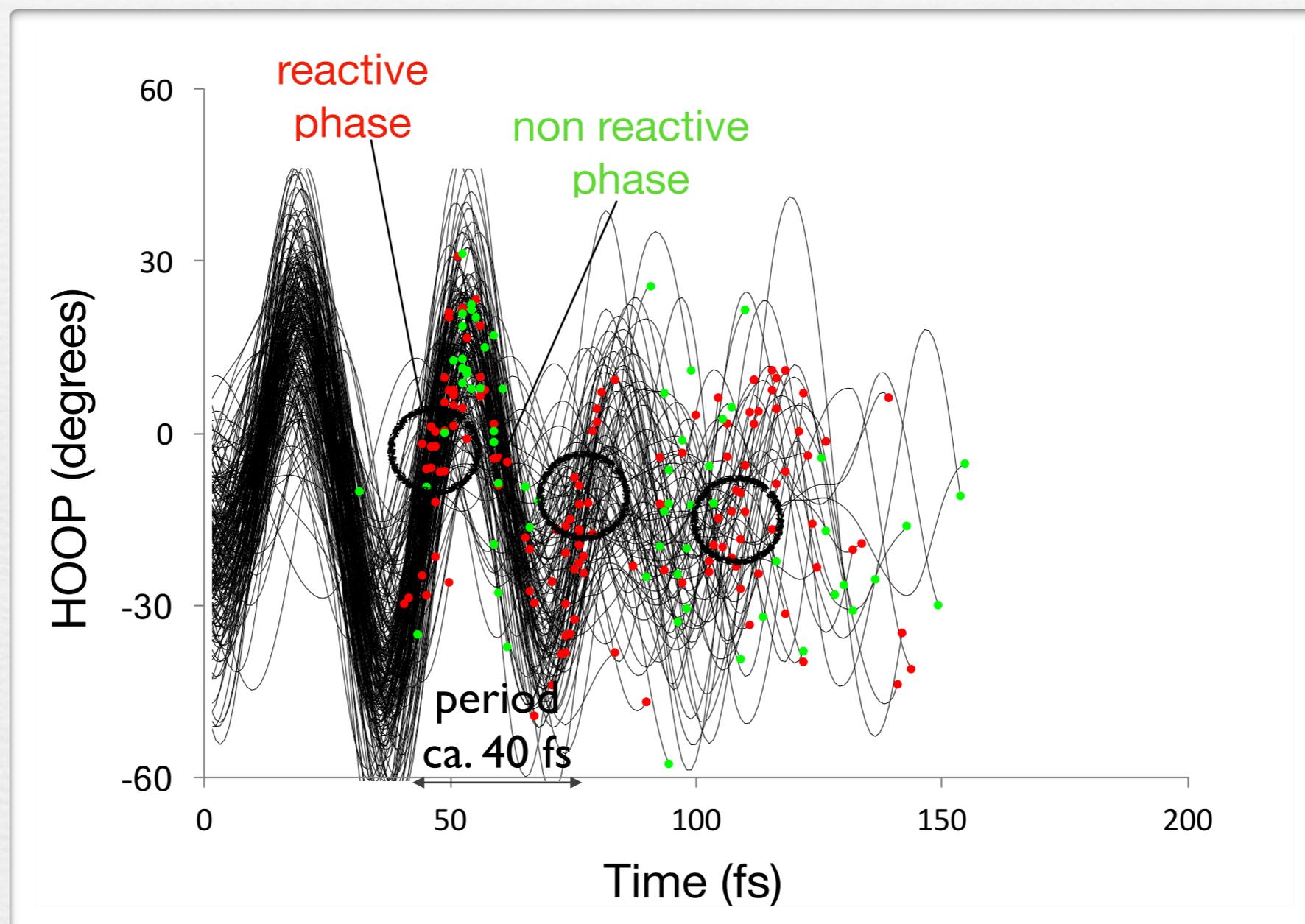
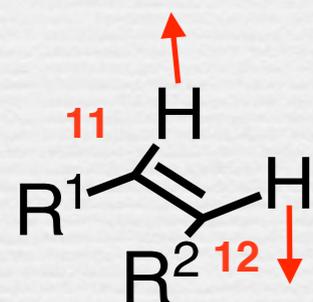
200 TSH trajectories



- 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.

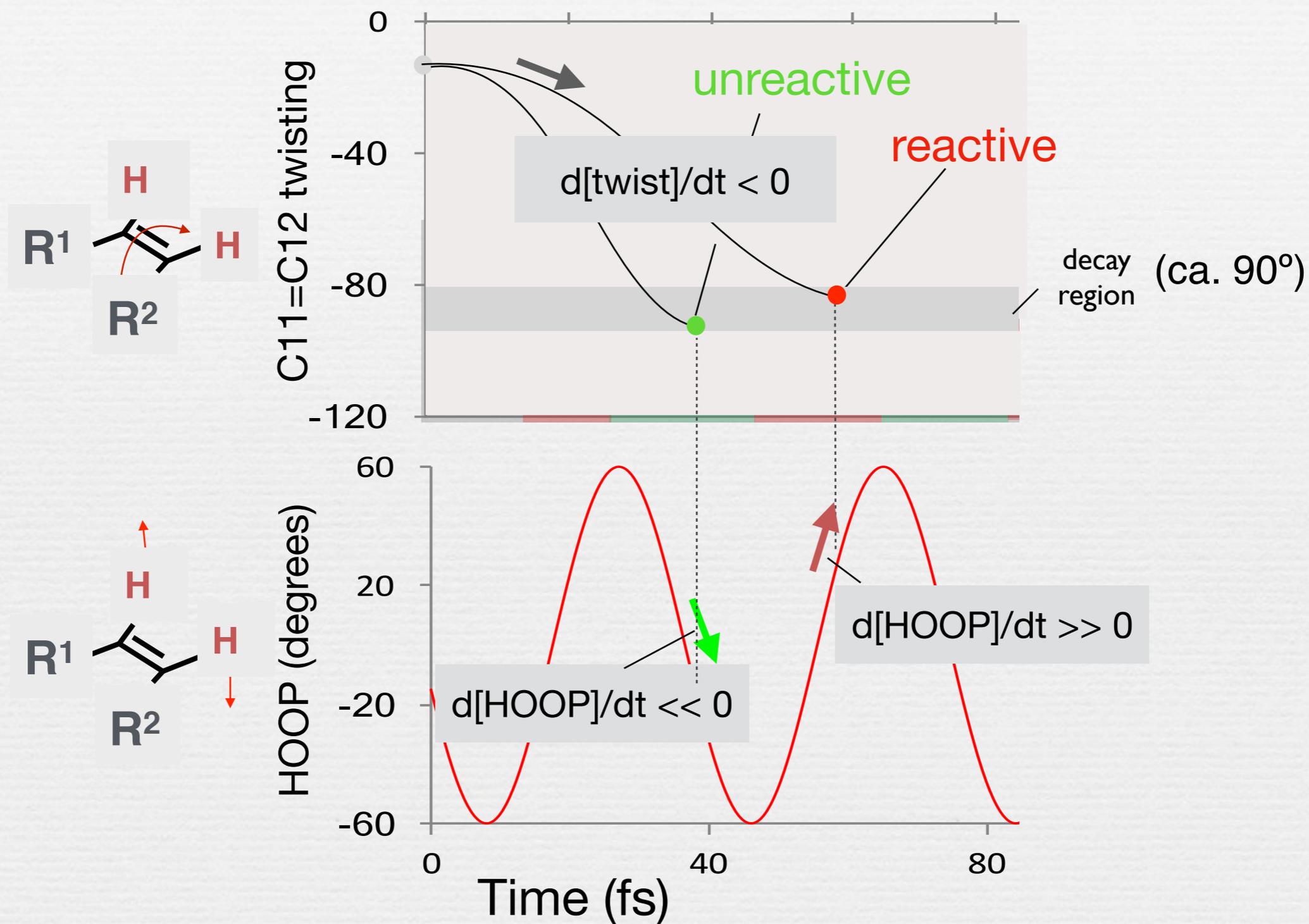
Rhodopsin population dynamics

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.

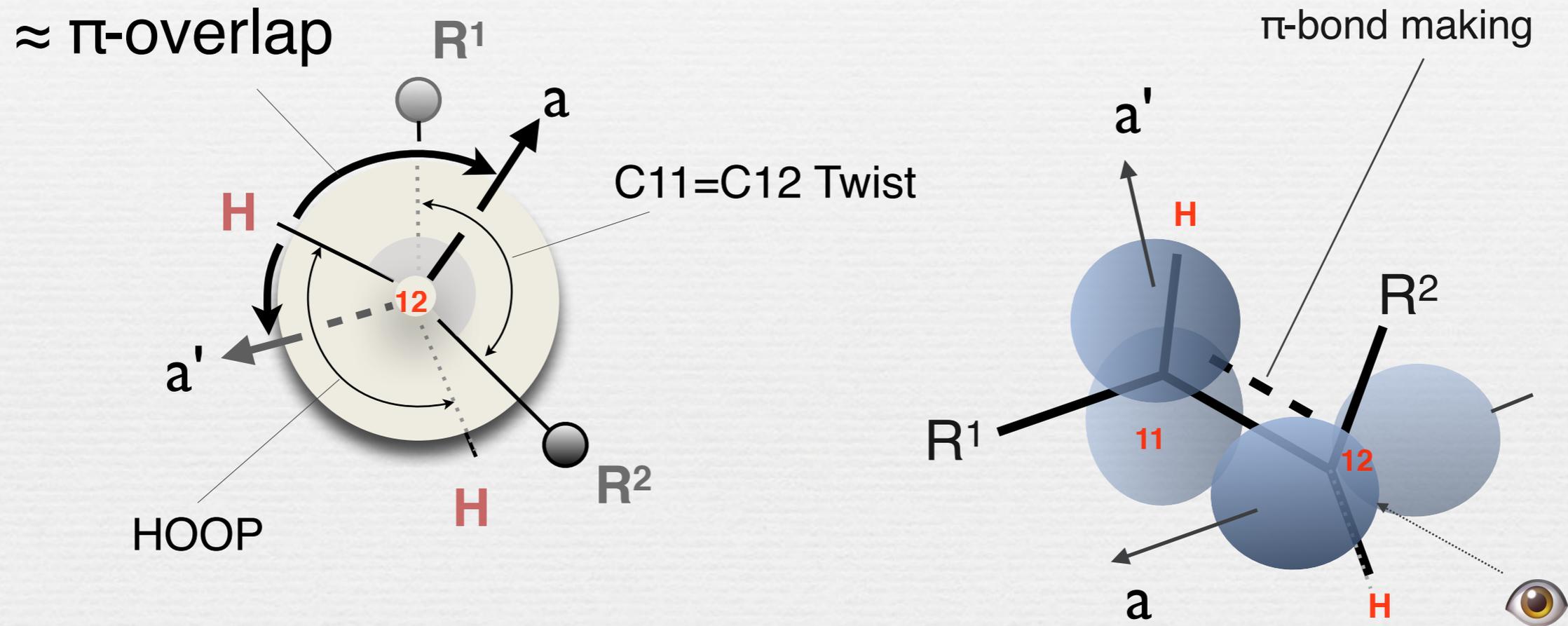
Relationship between HOOP phase and reactivity



● Klaffki, N.; Weingart, O.; Garavelli, M.; Spohr, E. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2012**, *14*, 14299-14305.

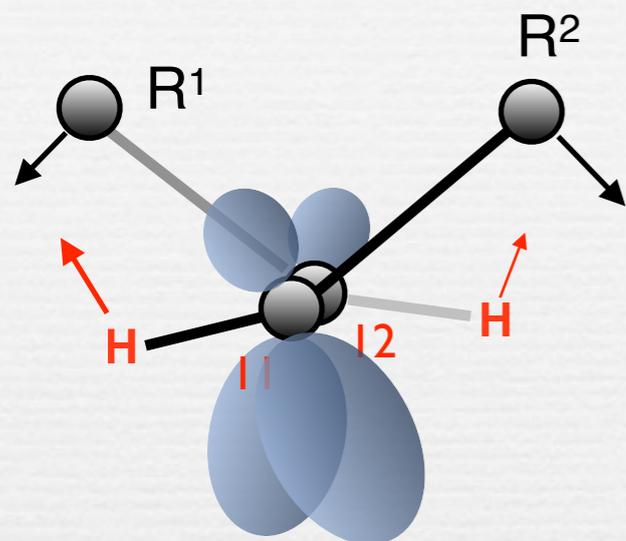
● Schapiro, I.; Ryazantsev, M. N.; Frutos, L. M.; Ferré, N.; Lindh, R.; Olivucci, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 3354-3364.

Relationship between overlap velocity and reactivity



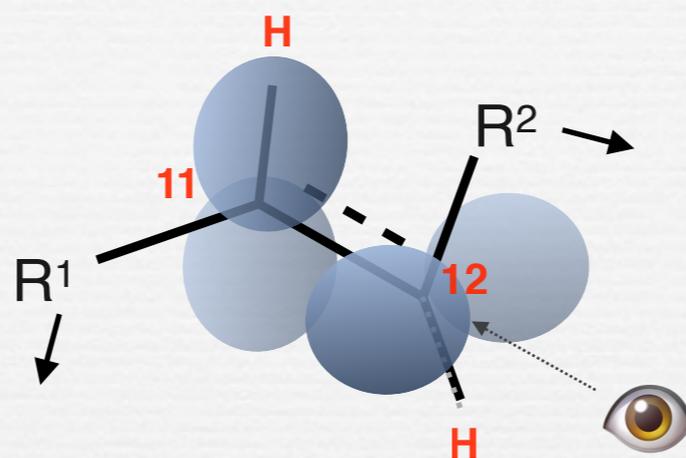
$$\approx \pi\text{-overlap} = (\text{Twist-HOOP})/2$$

Relationship between overlap velocity and reactivity

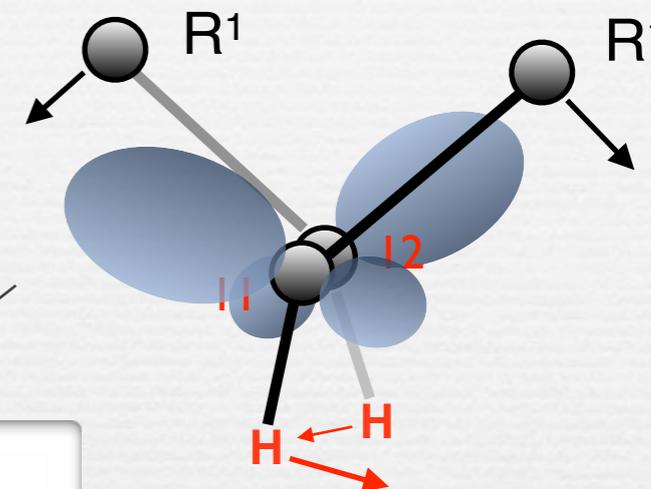


Increasing HOOP

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

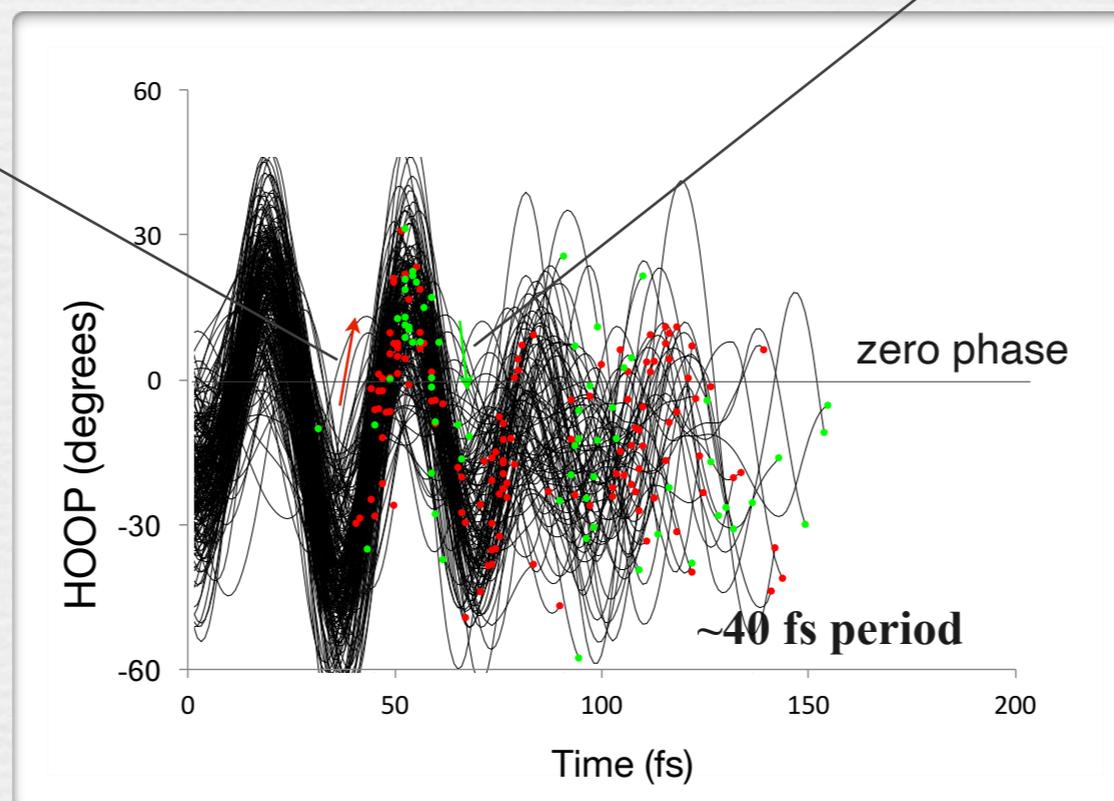


the orbital overlap is ca.
zero at decay



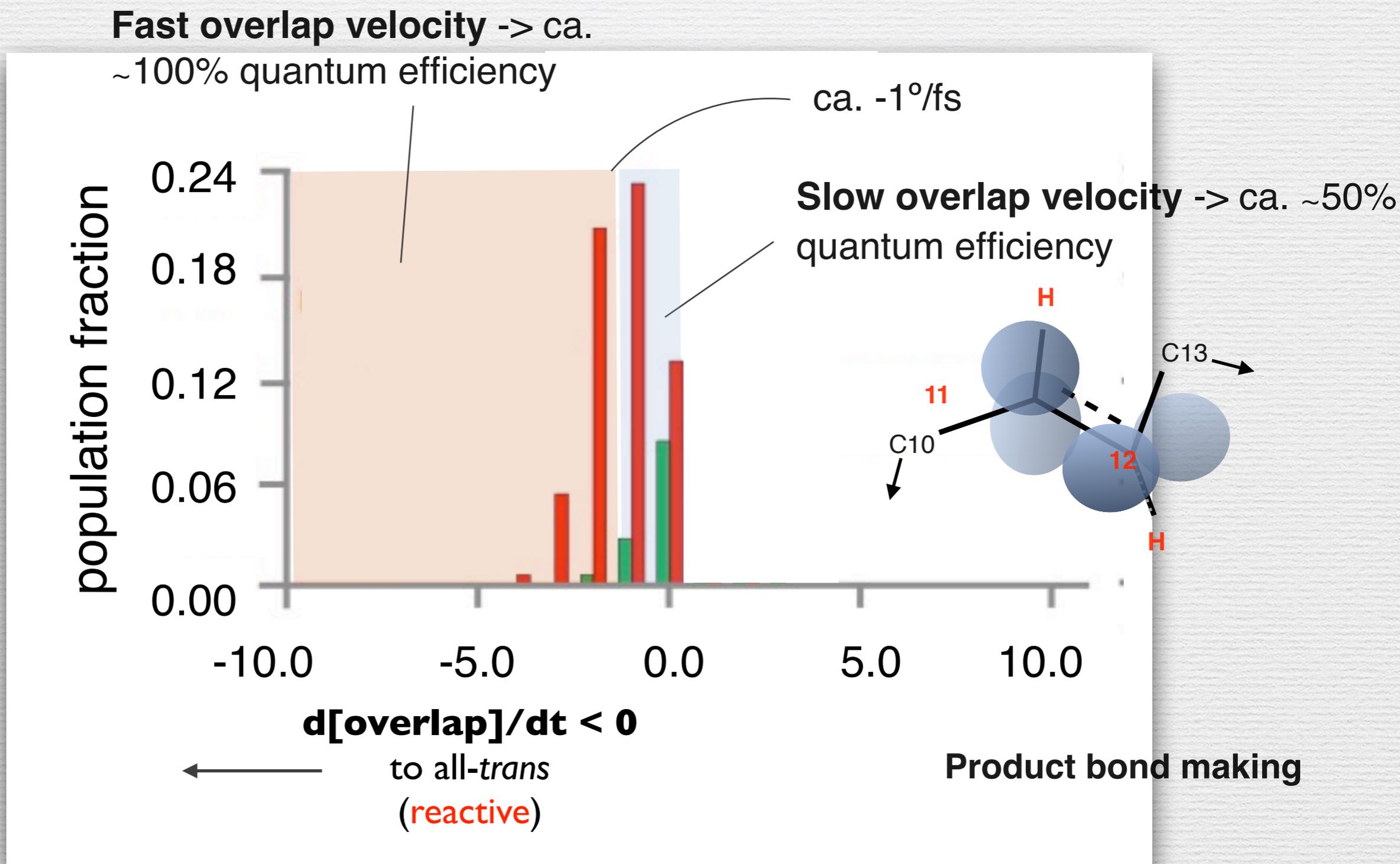
Decreasing HOOP

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

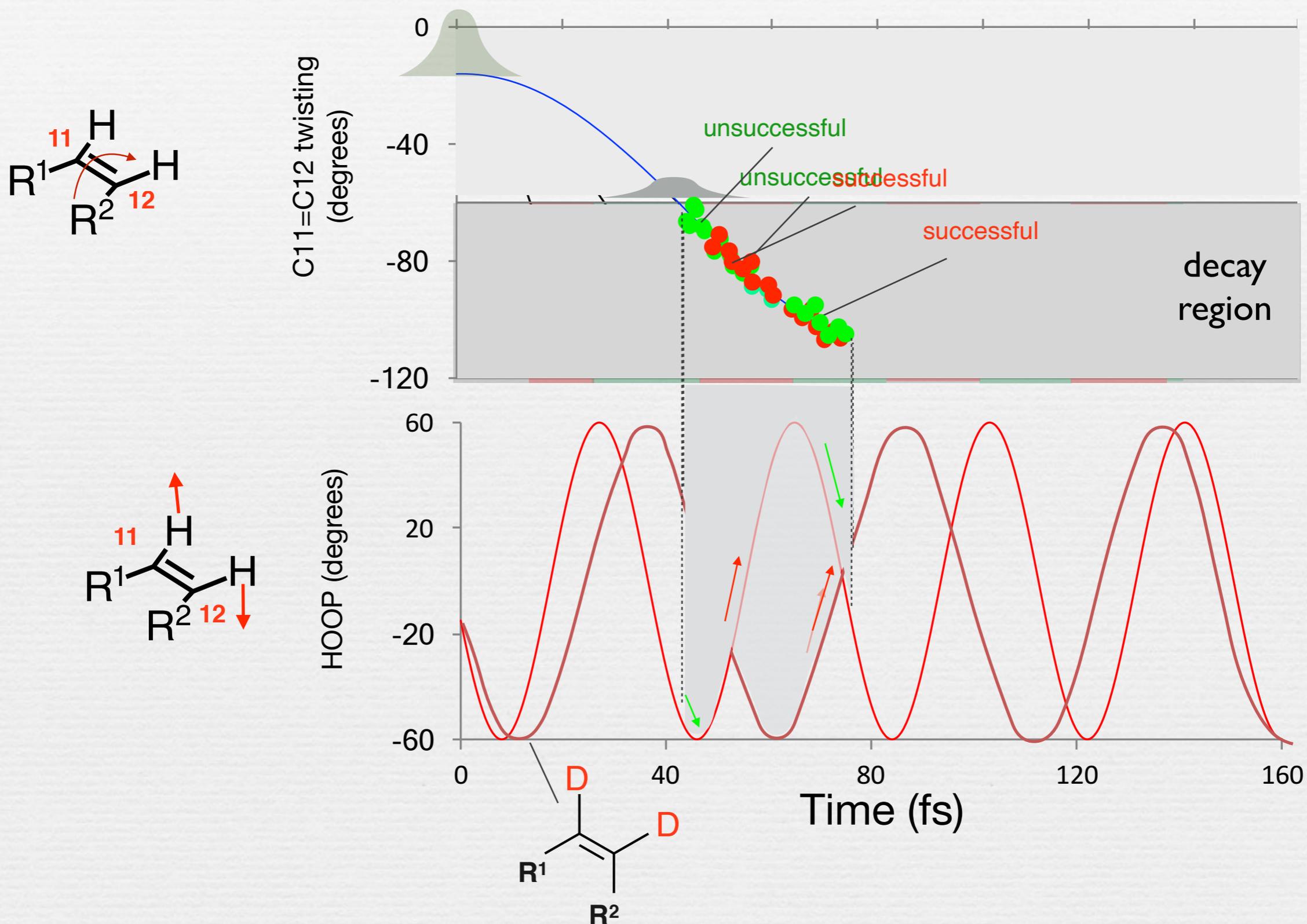


- Weingart, O. *Chem. Phys.* **2008**, 349, 348-355.
- Klaffki, N.; Weingart, O.; Garavelli, M.; Spohr, E. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2012**, 14, 14299-14305.
- Schapiro, I.; Ryazantsev, M. N.; Frutos, L. M.; Ferré, N.; Lindh, R.; and Olivucci, M. *J Am Chem Soc* **2011**, 133, 3354-3364.

Relationship between overlap velocity and quantum efficiency



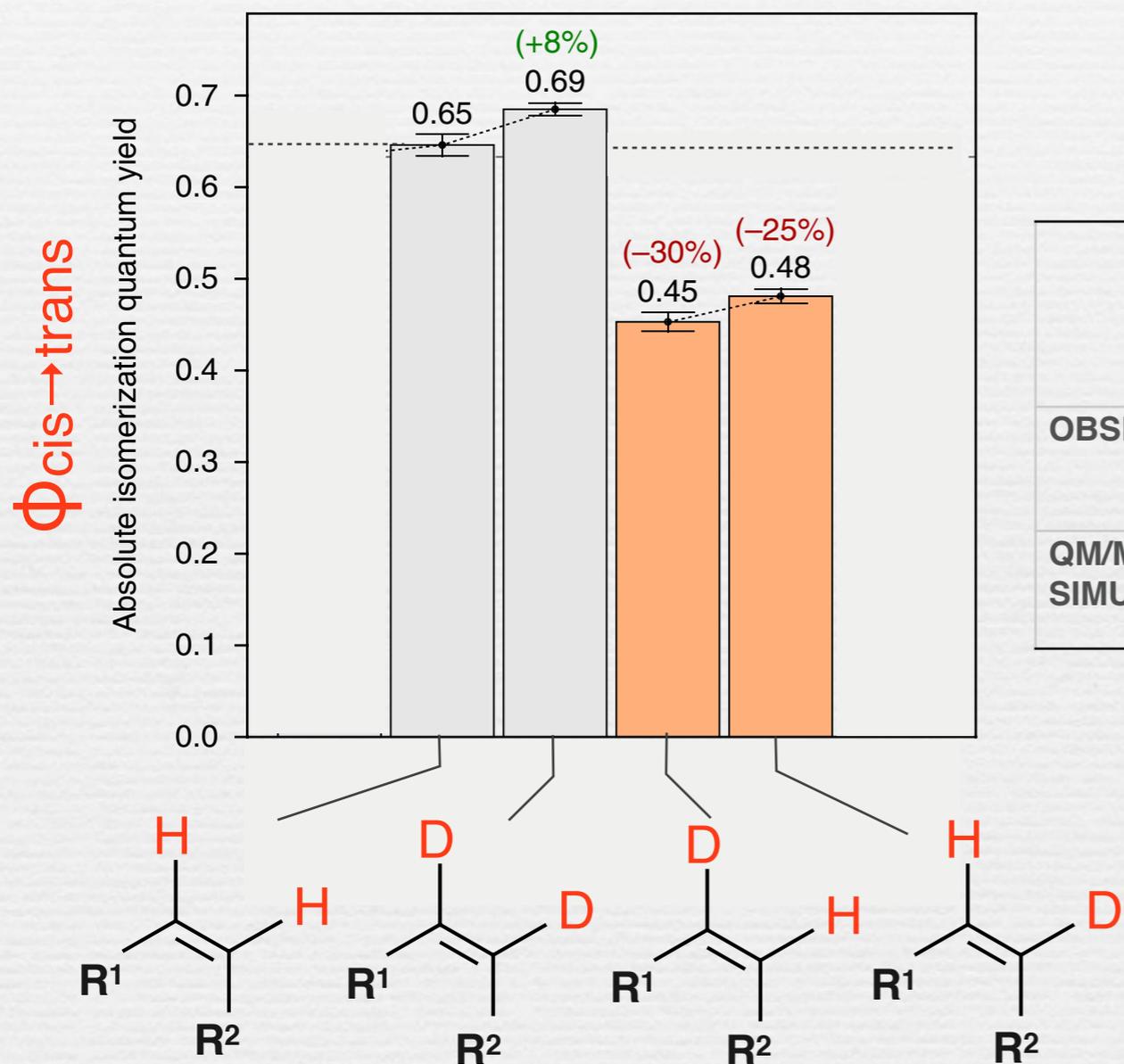
Population dynamics and quantum efficiency



- 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



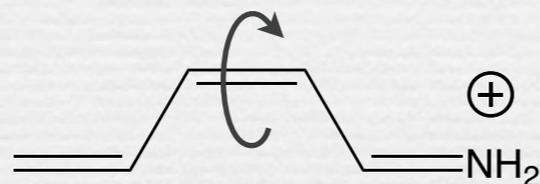
	Quantum yield WT	Quantum yield 11D	
OBSERVED	0.65	0.45 (-30%)	
QM/MM SIMULATED	0.68	0.62 (-14%)	

- 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:

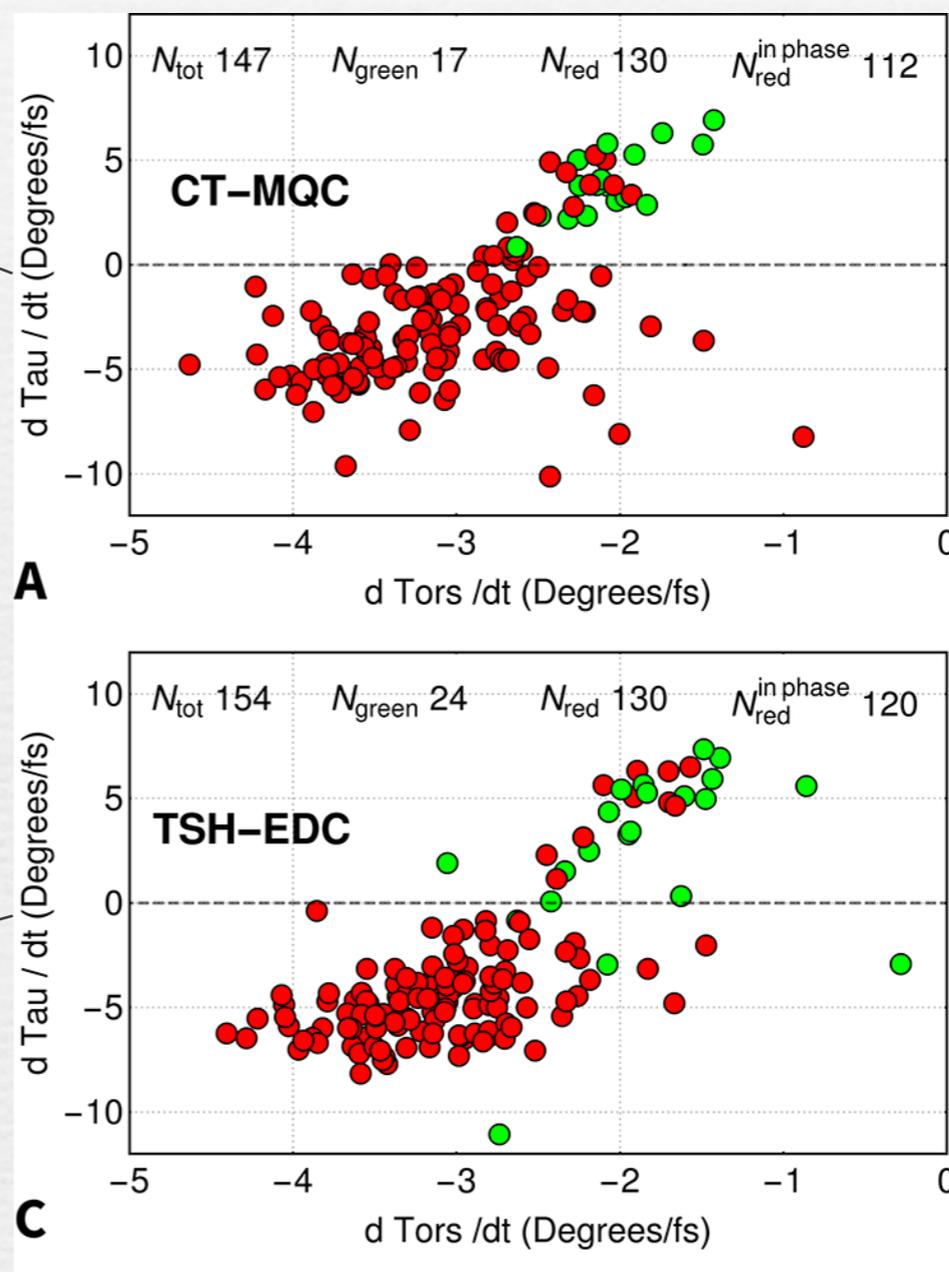
Coworkers: E. Marsili, F. Agostini, D. Lauvergnat

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



(Parametrized 3D PES)

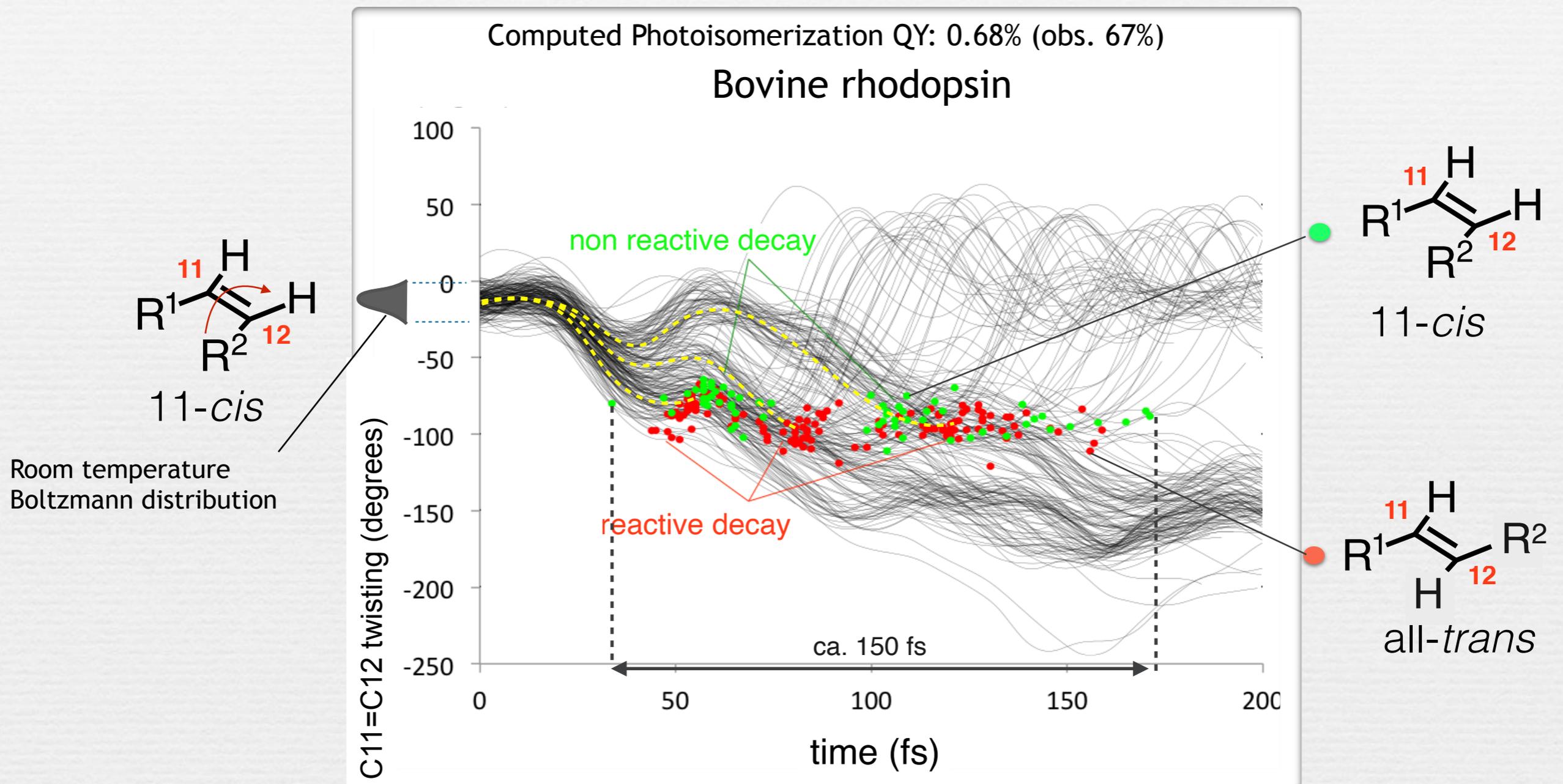
Tully SH with Energy Decoherence Correction



- 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.

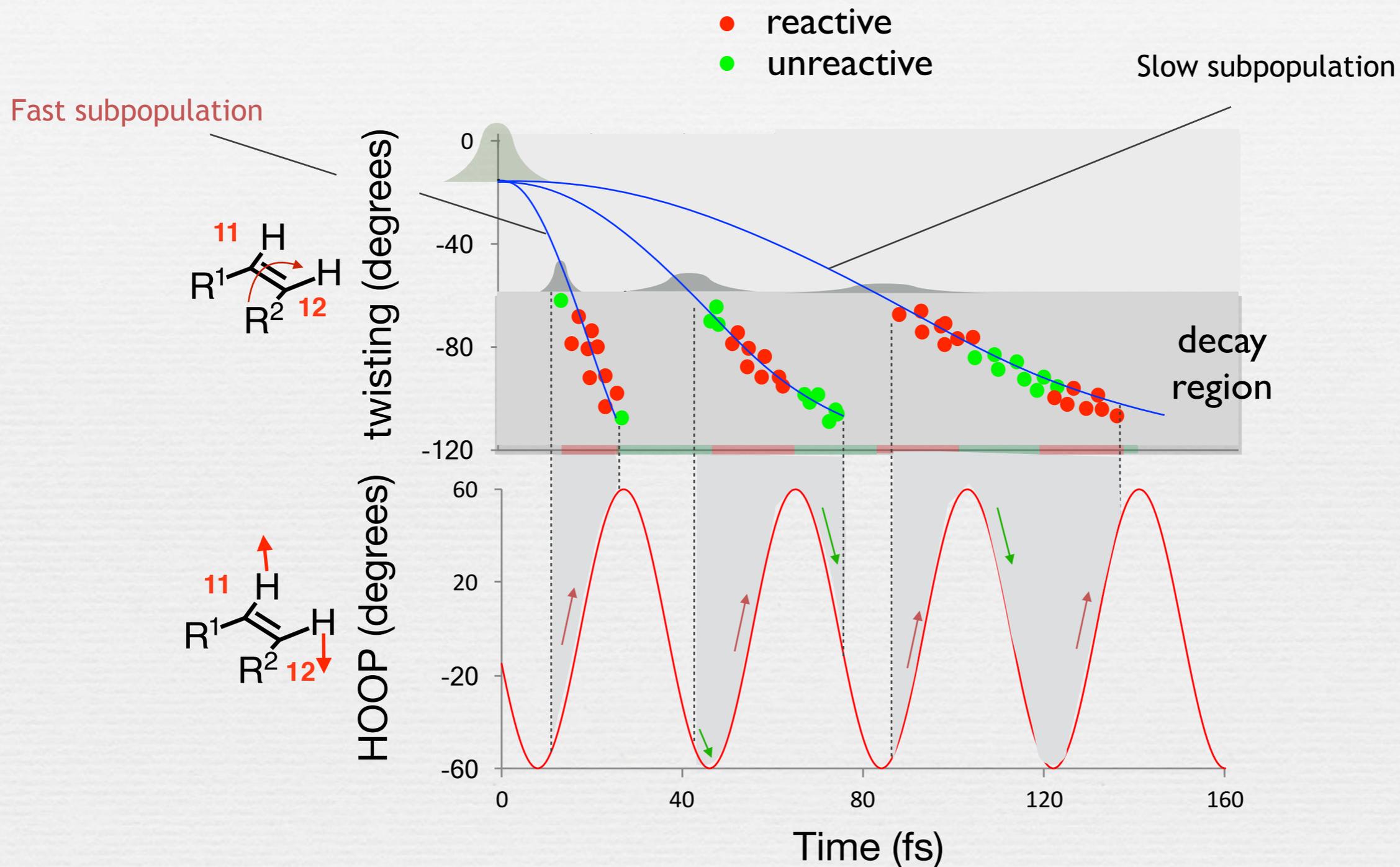
Rhodopsin population dynamics

200 TSH trajectories



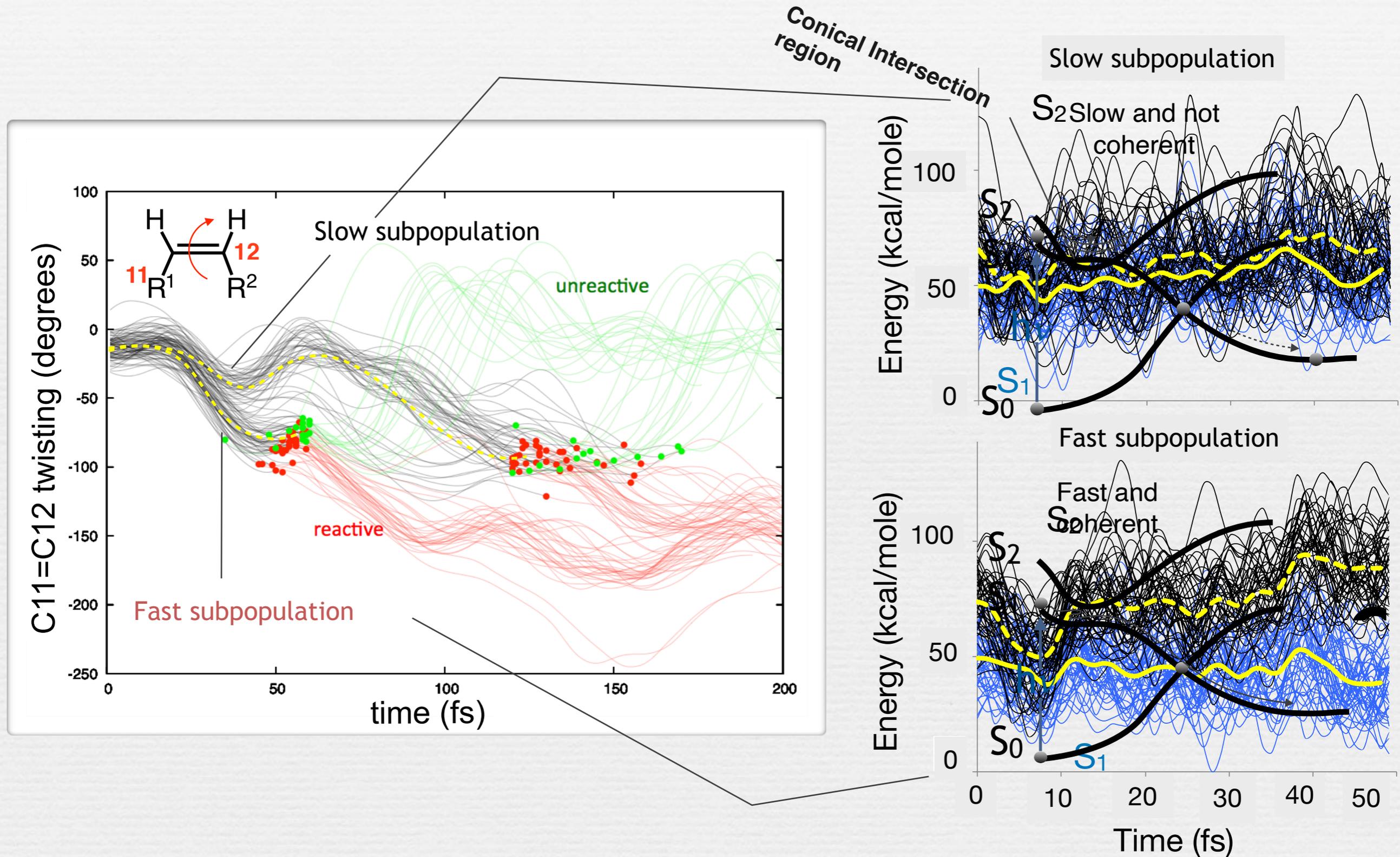
Fast and slow population dynamics

200 TSH trajectories

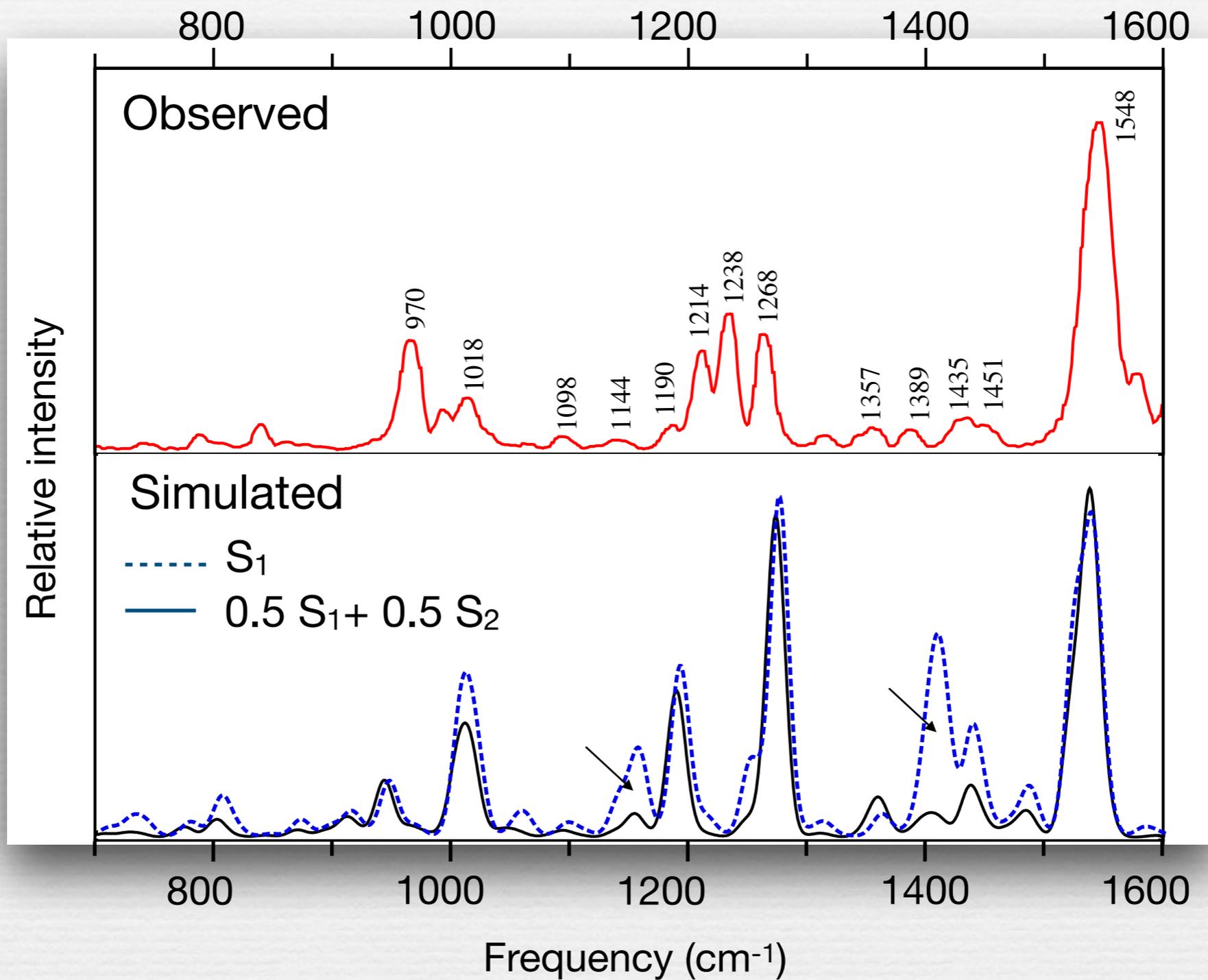


Fast and slow subpopulation dynamics

50 fast + 50 slow TSH trajectories

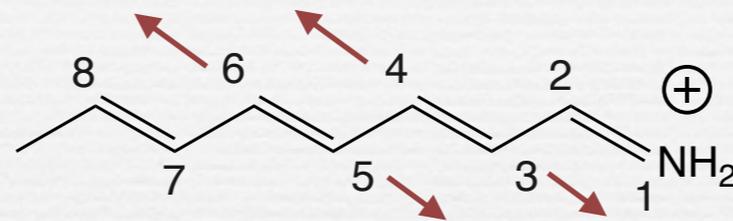


Resonance Raman spectra simulations

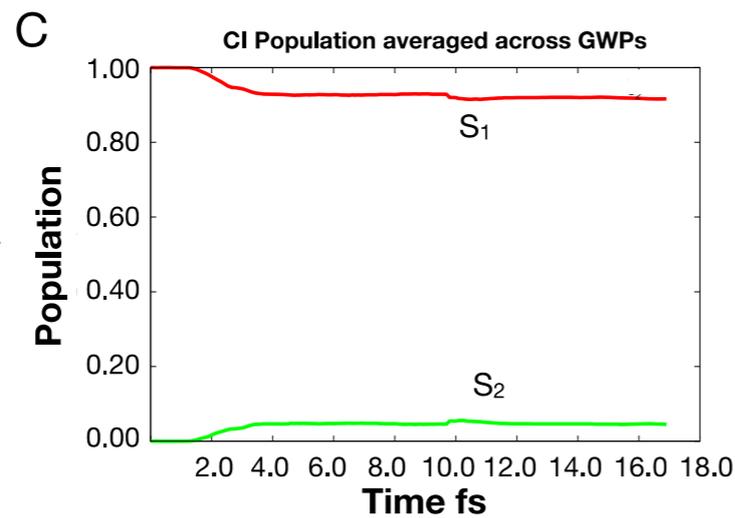


20 fs Gaussian Wavepacket Dynamics for a Model Chromophore

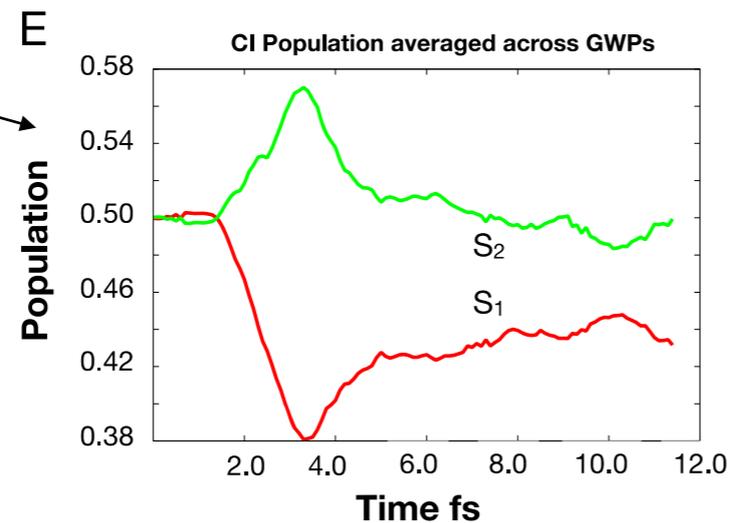
Coworkers: M. A. Robb, G. A. Worth



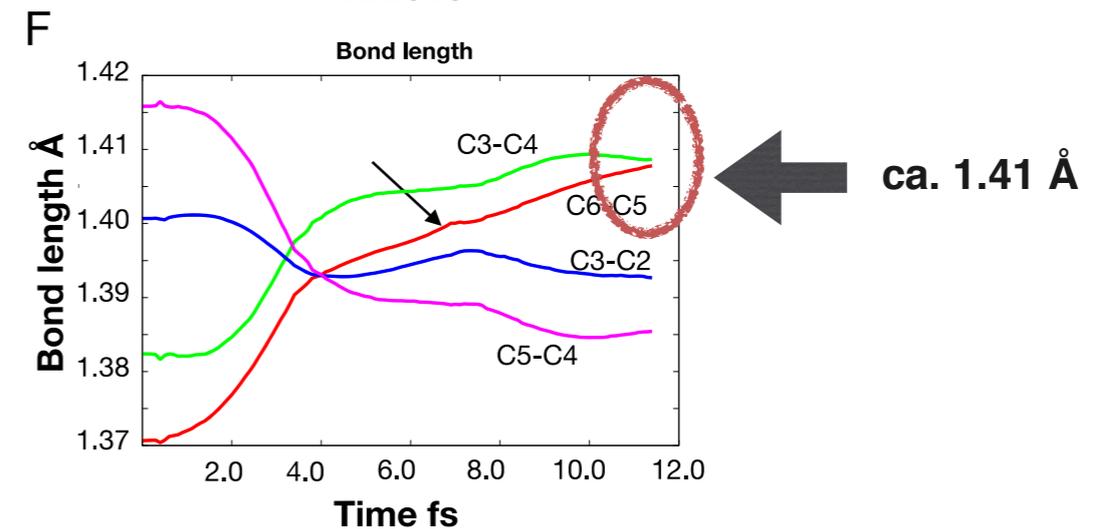
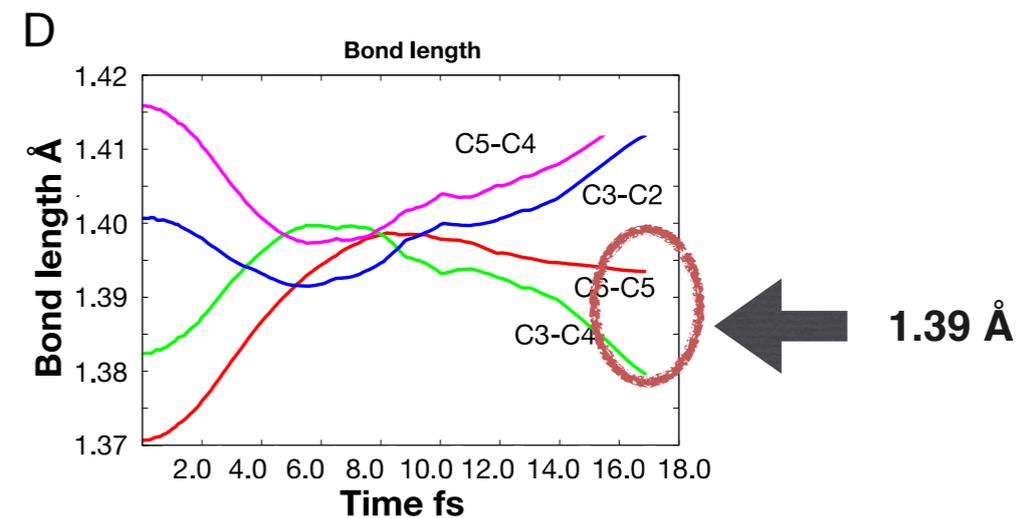
Initial electronic
No-mixing



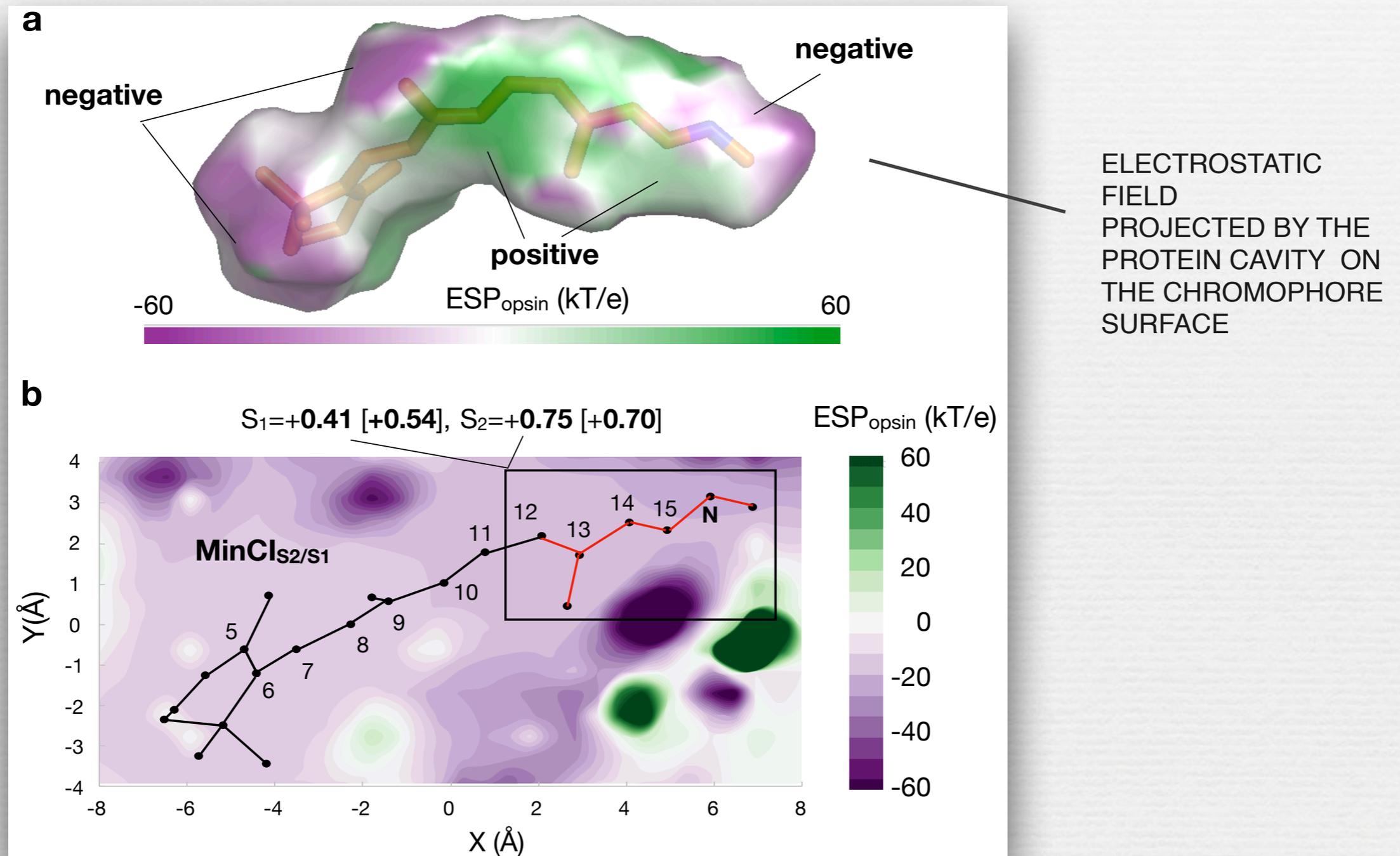
Initial S_2/S_1 electronic
mixing



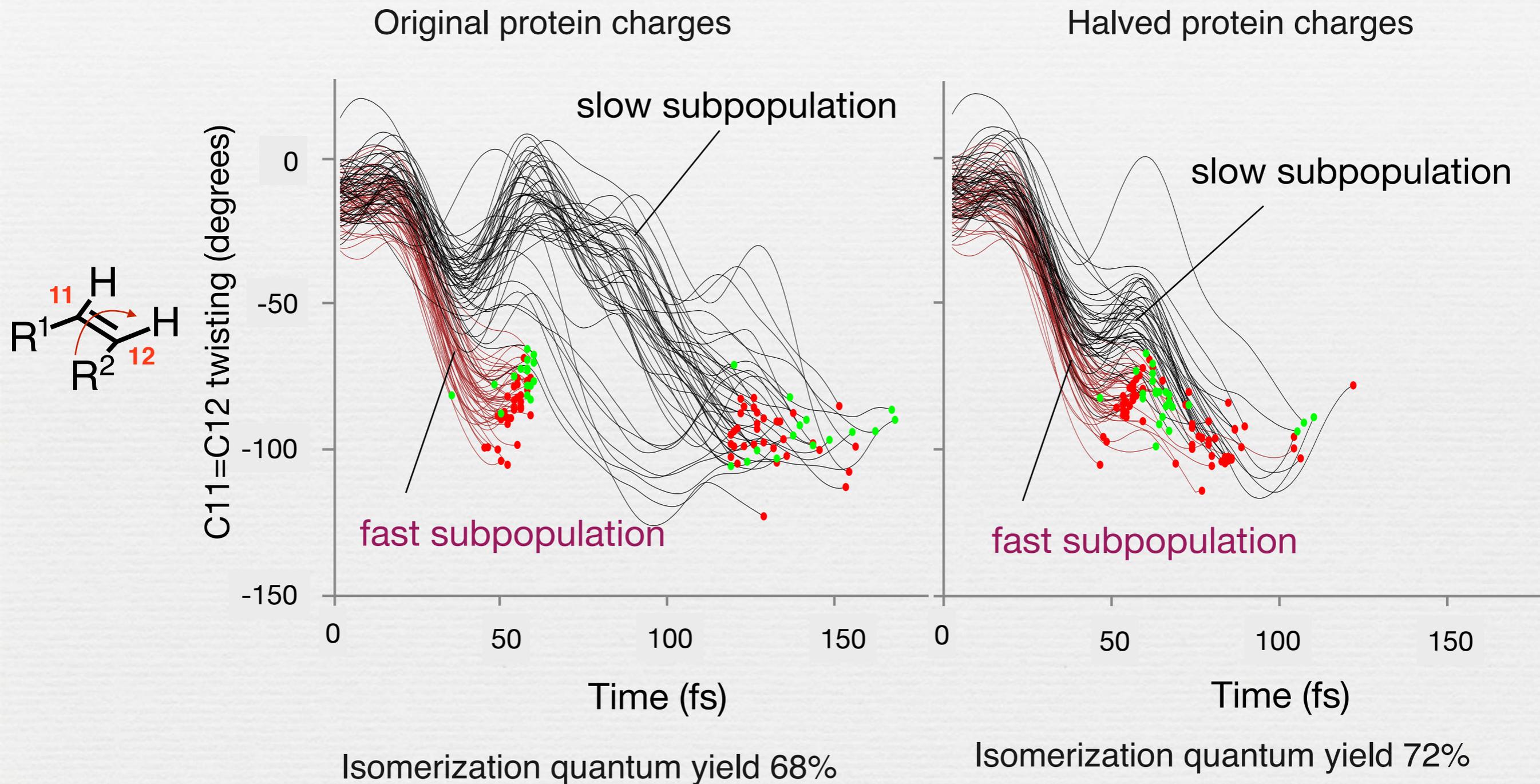
Time fs



May biological evolution have tuned the population splitting ?

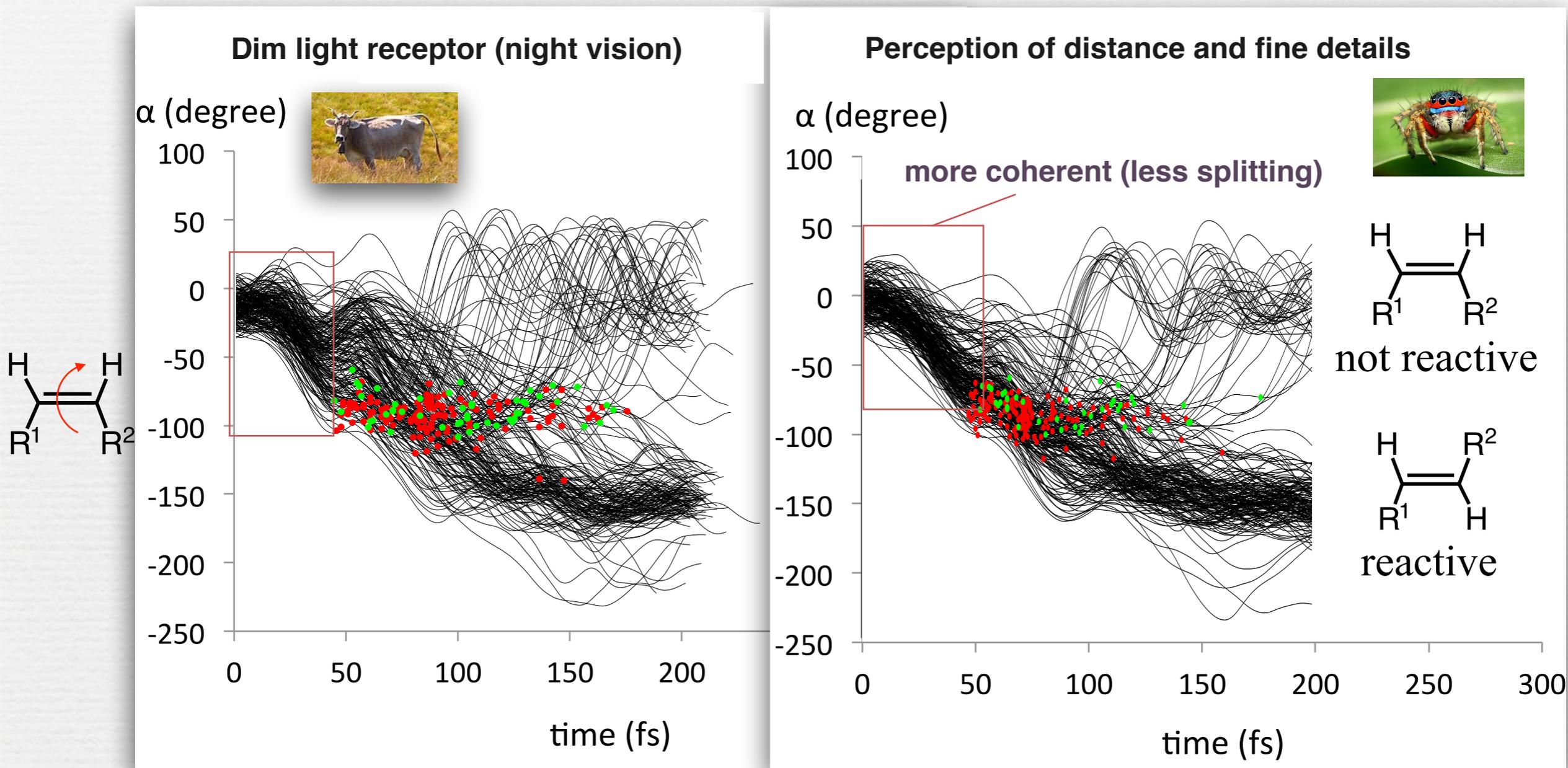


May biological evolution have tuned the population splitting ?



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**:

