

# Optimal control and quantum dynamics

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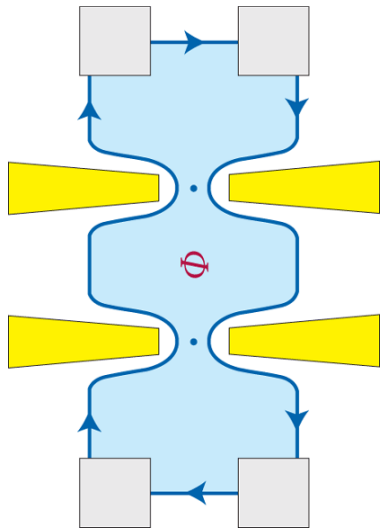
*CECAM, July 23, 2011*

# Outline

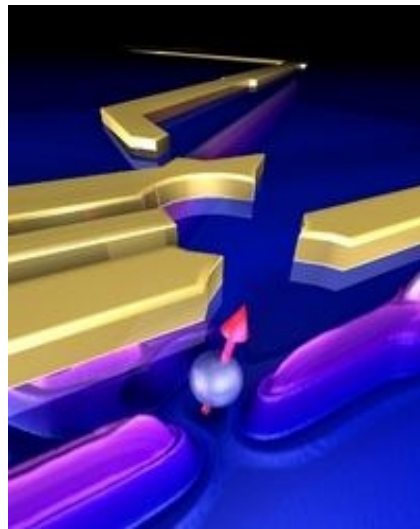
- Some motivation
- TDDFT I - Side remark: “Initial-state dependence”
- Optimal control theory (OCT) and applications
  - Control of excitations
  - Control of 1-electron ionization
  - Control of 2-electron ionization (OCT & TDDFT)

# Long-term objectives

electromagnetic control of low-dimensional systems

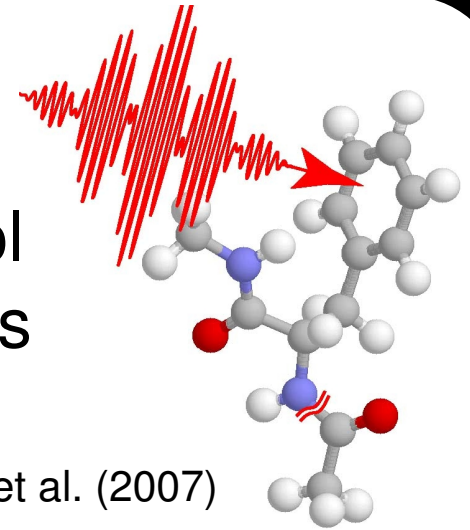


Goldman (2007)



Delft Qubit Project

laser-control of molecules



Laarmann et al. (2007)

4th generation solar cells



Wagner (2009)

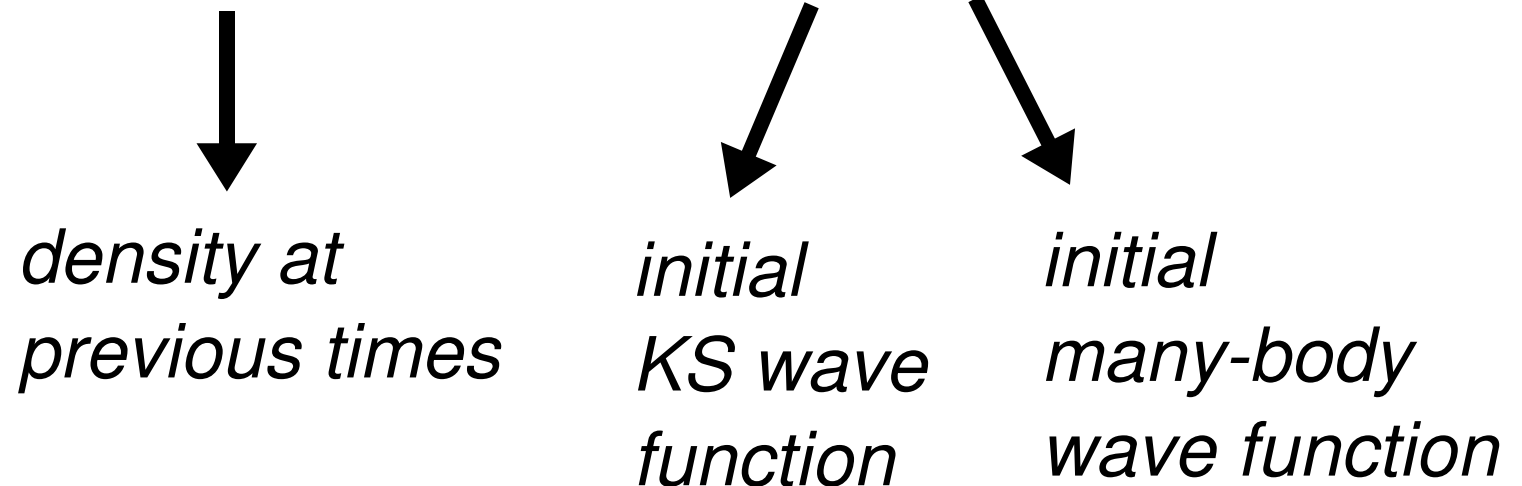
# TDDFT: Initial-state dependence

Reminder: we propagate individual particles exposed to

$$v_{\text{KS}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = v_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + v_{\text{H}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + v_{\text{xc}}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

*system                  classicism                  all the trouble!*

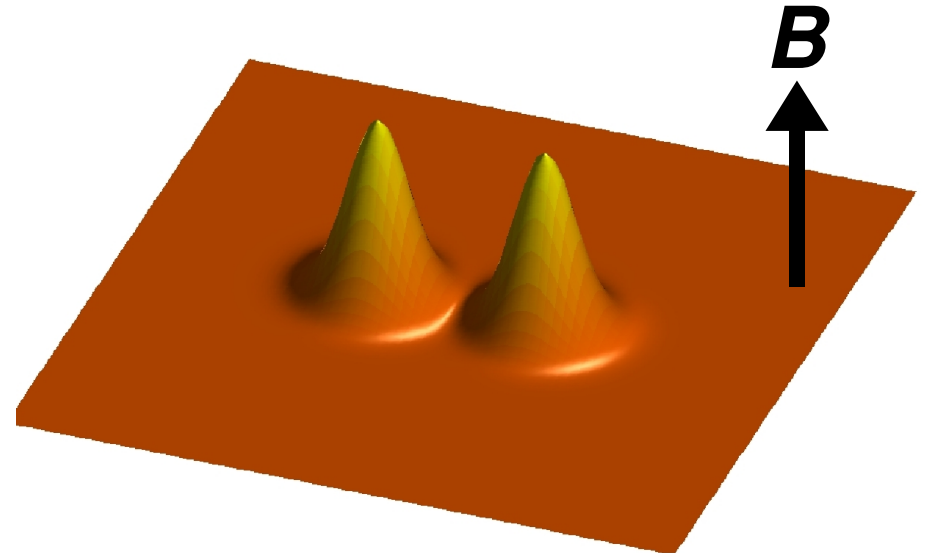
$$v_{\text{xc}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = v_{\text{xc}}[n(\mathbf{r}; t_0, \dots, t), \Phi_0, \Psi_0](\mathbf{r}, t)$$



## Example: Two 2D Gaussian wave packets in magnetic field

$$\psi_{\pm}(x, y) = \frac{1}{a\sqrt{\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{(x \pm a)^2 + y^2}{2a^2}\right] \exp[\pm ix/a]$$

- initially at rest
- interaction effects at  $t > 0$ :
  - => repulsion
  - => Lorentz force
  - => “flower-like” motion



- initial wave function

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{vmatrix} \psi_+(\mathbf{r}_1) & \psi_+(\mathbf{r}_2) \\ \psi_-(\mathbf{r}_1) & \psi_-(\mathbf{r}_2) \end{vmatrix}$$

- initial density

$$\rho(x, y) = \frac{2e^{1 - \frac{x^2 + y^2}{a^2}} \left[ -\cos(2y/a) + e^2 \cosh(2x/a) \right]}{\pi a^2 (e^4 - 1)}$$

# Quiz

## 1. How to construct the initial Kohn-Sham orbitals?

- (a) orthonormalize the wave-packet orbitals and use them
- (b) simply use the wave packets as initial Kohn-Sham orbitals
- (c) take the square root of the exact density (divided by two)
- (d) they cannot be properly constructed in this case

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## 2. Are there alternative choices for orthonormal orbitals that give the exact initial density?

- (a) no
- (b) yes - one other choice
- (c) yes - infinitely many choices



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# Harriman construction

J. E. Harriman, Phys. Rev. A **24**, 680 (1980):

*“For any nonnegative, normalized density an arbitrary number of orthonormal orbitals can be constructed with squares which sum to the given density.”*

Harriman orbitals: 
$$\varphi_i(x, y) = \sqrt{\frac{\rho(x, y)}{N}} \exp [ik f(x)]$$

with any set of  $k = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

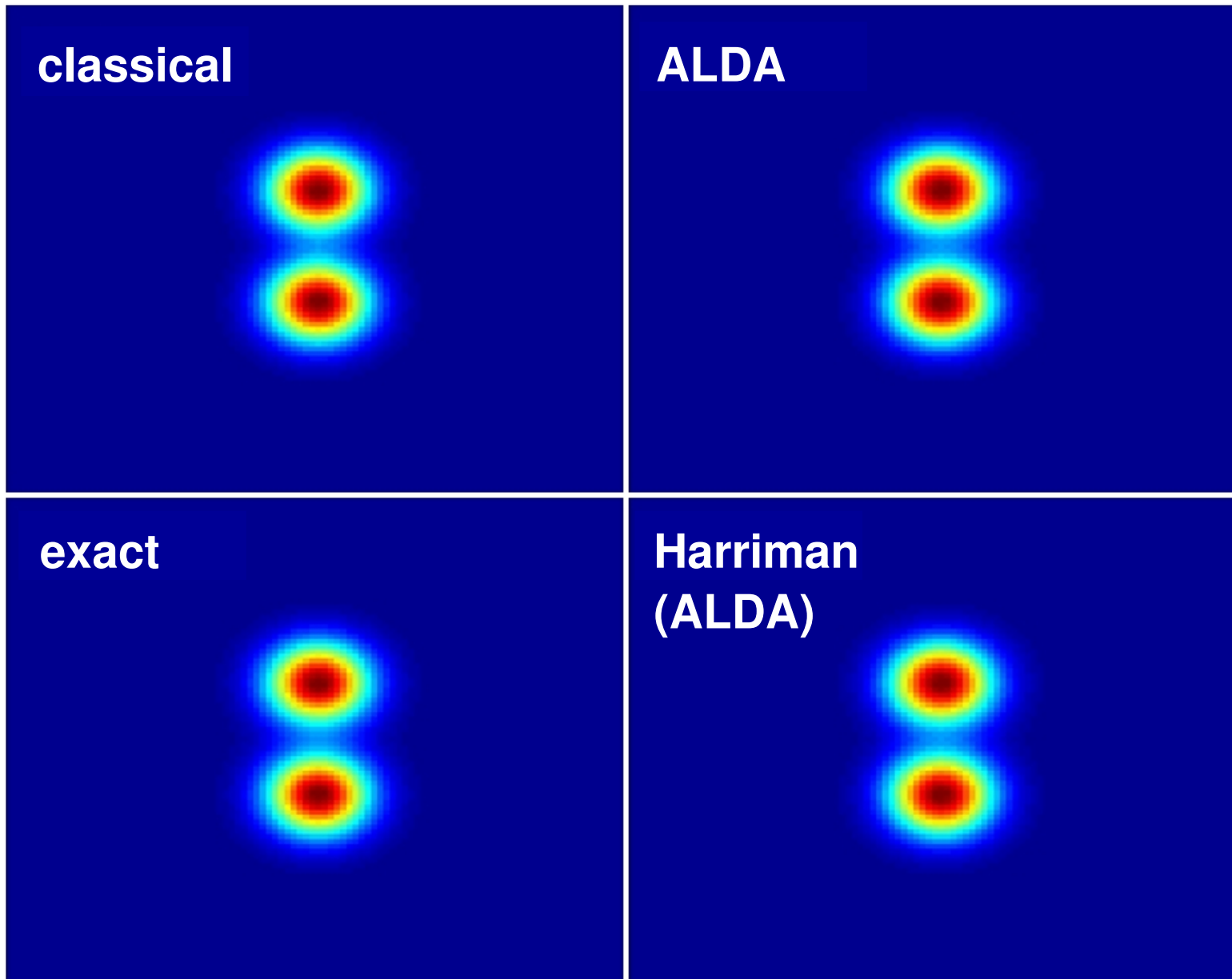
and with 
$$f(x) = \frac{2\pi}{N} \int_{-\infty}^x dx' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \rho(x', y)$$

It is straightforward to show that

$$(1) \quad \sum_{i=1}^N |\varphi_i(x, y)|^2 = \rho(x, y)$$

$$(2) \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx dy \varphi_{k'}^*(x, y) \varphi_k(x, y) = \delta_{kk'}$$

# Time-propagation (animation follows...)

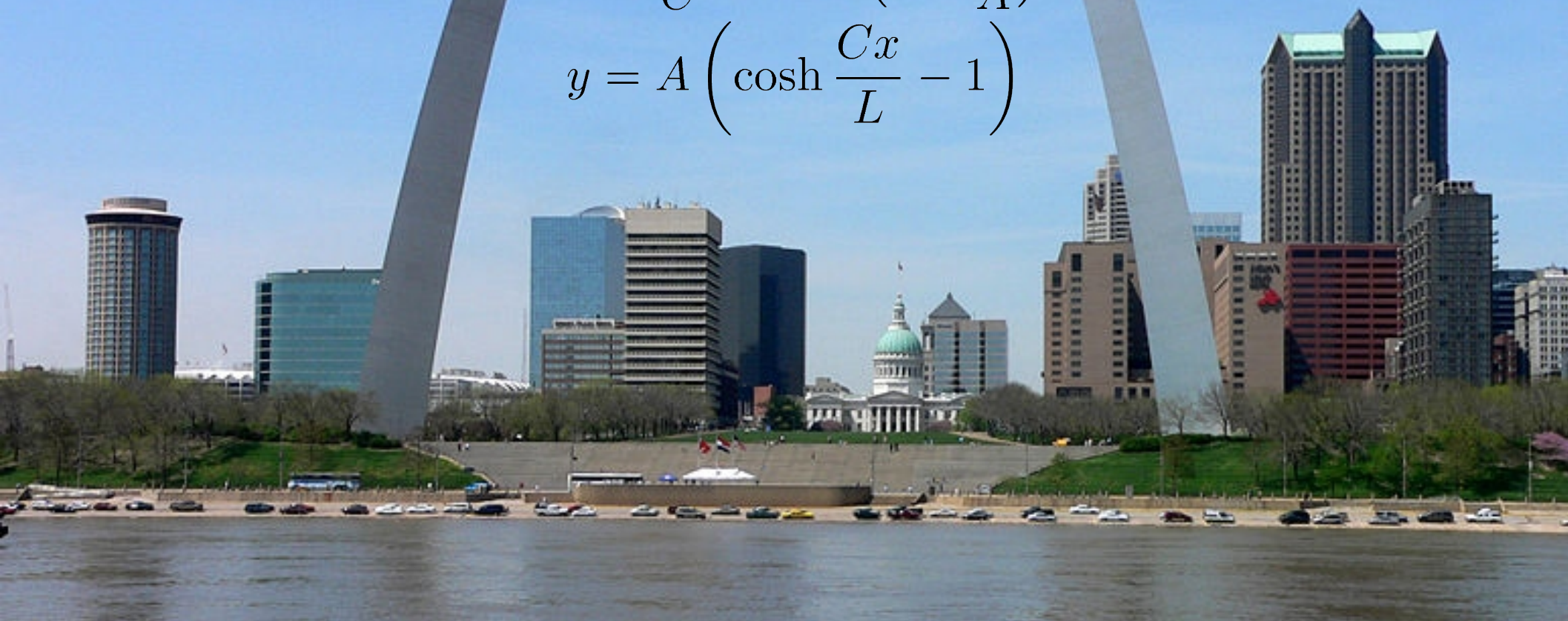


*Fig: Initial density for the time-propagation with different methods.*

# Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, USA

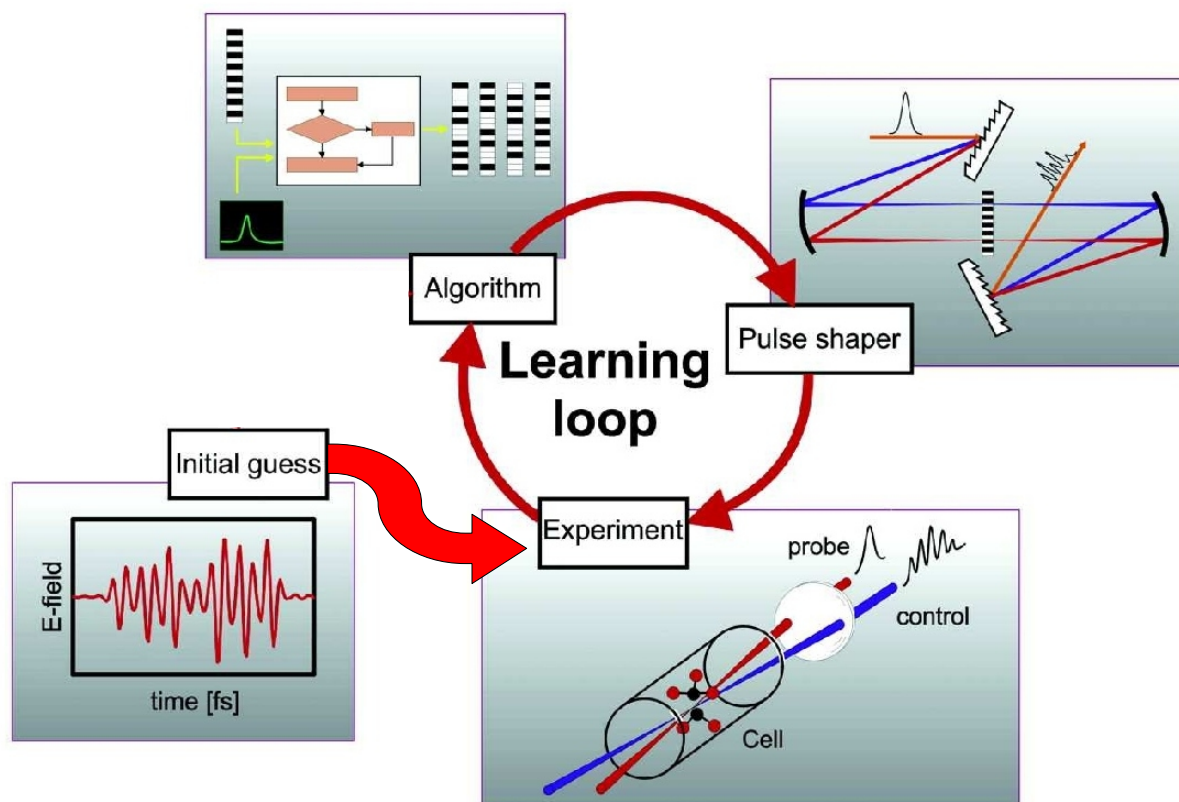


$$x = \frac{L}{C} \cosh^{-1} \left( 1 + \frac{y}{A} \right)$$
$$y = A \left( \cosh \frac{Cx}{L} - 1 \right)$$



# Optimal control: Overview


- Classical control since 1697
- General goals: (i) control of chemical reactions (e.g. molecular design), (ii) coherent control of spin/charge operations (qubits)
- “Traditional” control in chemistry: Learning-loop experiments



from H. Rabiz et al., Science **288**, 824 (2000)

# Quantum optimal control theory (OCT)

Key question: What is the external time-dependent field that drives the system into a predefined goal?

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\Psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H}[\epsilon_k(t)] |\Psi(t)\rangle$$


*control functions*

- Usually the control function is an electric field (laser pulse)

$$\hat{H}(t) = \hat{H}_0 + \epsilon(t) \hat{D}$$

- Most commonly the objective is the transition probability to a target state

# Formulation of OCT

- Find the extremal points of the functional

$$J[\Psi, \chi, \epsilon] = J_1[\Psi] + J_2[\epsilon] + J_3[\Psi, \chi, \epsilon]$$

**target  
functional**

**field  
constraint**

**fulfillment of  
the TD-SE**

$$J_1[\Psi] = \langle \Psi(T) | \hat{O} | \Psi(T) \rangle = |\langle \Psi(T) | \Psi_{\text{target}} \rangle|^2$$

here  $\hat{O}$  is a projection operator

$$J_2[\epsilon] = -\alpha \left[ \int_0^T dt \epsilon^2(t) - E_0 \right] \quad (\text{with fixed fluence})$$

$$J_3[\Psi, \chi, \epsilon] = -2 \text{Im} \left[ \int_0^T dt \langle \chi(t) | i \frac{d}{dt} - \hat{H}(t) | \Psi(t) \rangle \right]$$

# Control equations

- Forward propagation for  $|\Psi(t)\rangle$

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\Psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H}(t) |\Psi(t)\rangle, \quad |\Psi(0)\rangle = |\Psi_{\text{initial}}\rangle$$

- Backward propagation for  $|\chi(t)\rangle$

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\chi(t)\rangle = \hat{H}(t) |\chi(t)\rangle, \quad |\chi(T)\rangle = \hat{O} |\Psi(T)\rangle$$

- Solution field:

$$\epsilon(t) = -\frac{1}{\alpha} \text{Im} \left[ \langle \chi(t) | \mu | \Psi(t) \rangle \right] \quad \text{with} \quad \int_0^T dt \epsilon^2(t) = E_0$$

These self-consistent equations are solved iteratively (various algorithms).

For a review, see J. Werschnik and E.K.U. Gross, J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys. **40**, R175-R211 (2007).

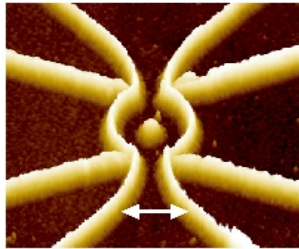


# Application 1: Control of current in a quantum ring

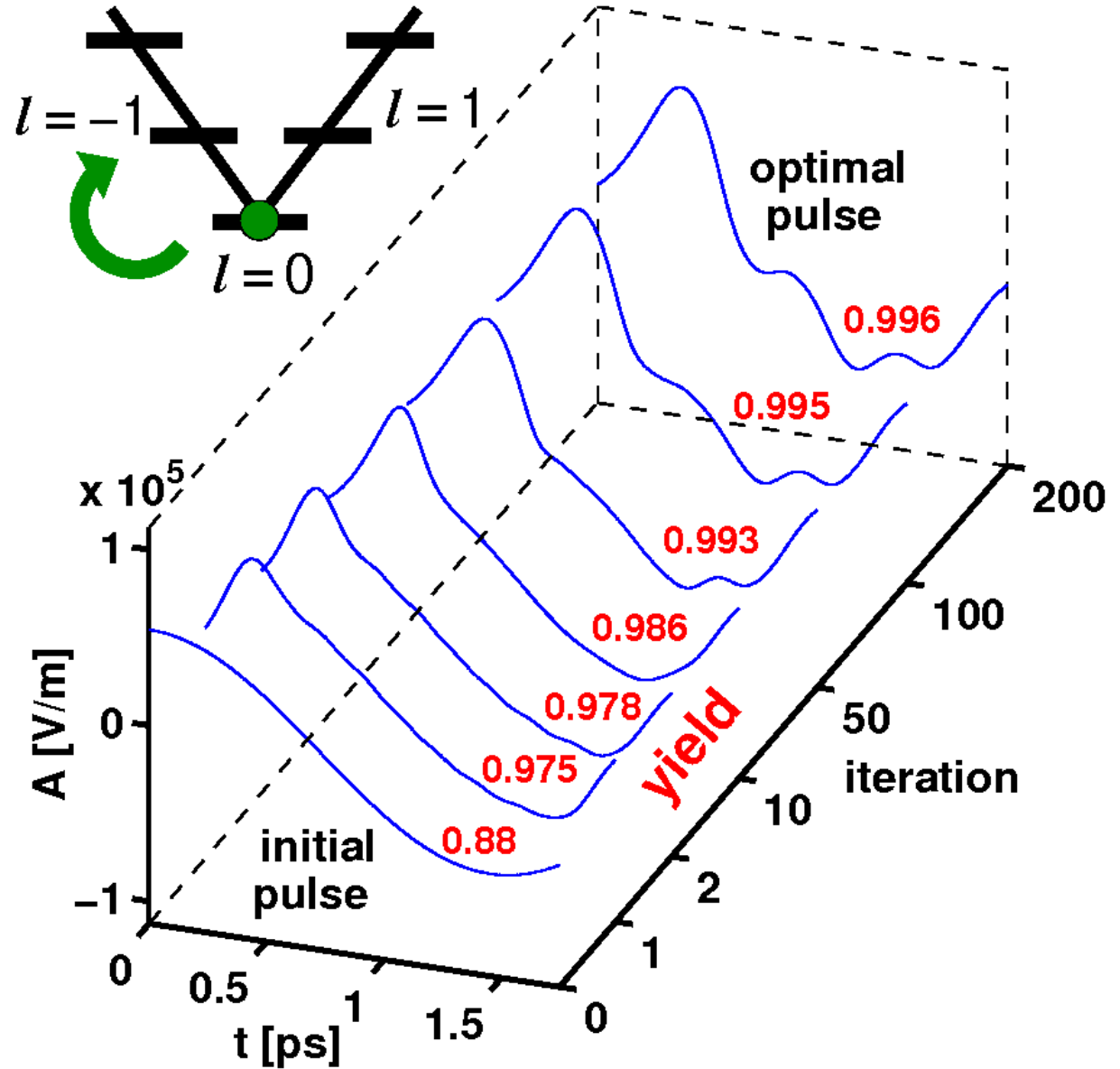
## Experiments:



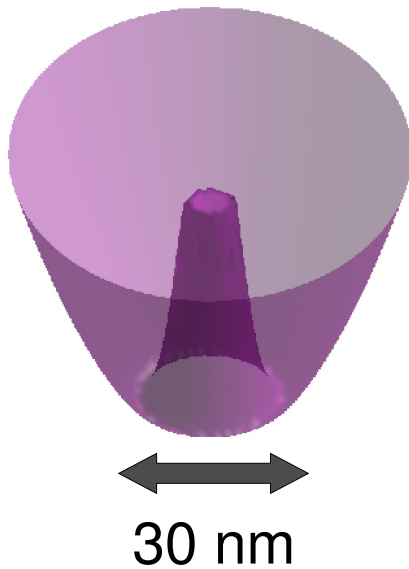
Lorke *et al.* (2000)



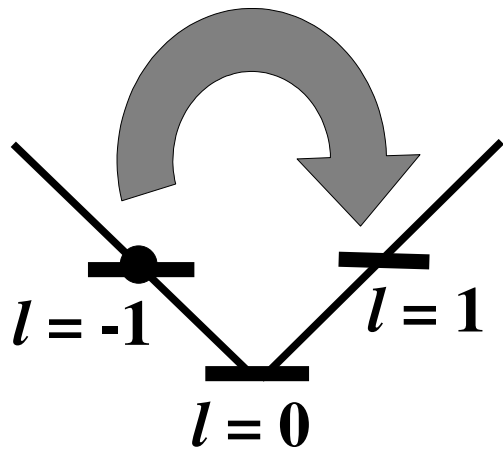
Ihn *et al.* (2001)



## Model:

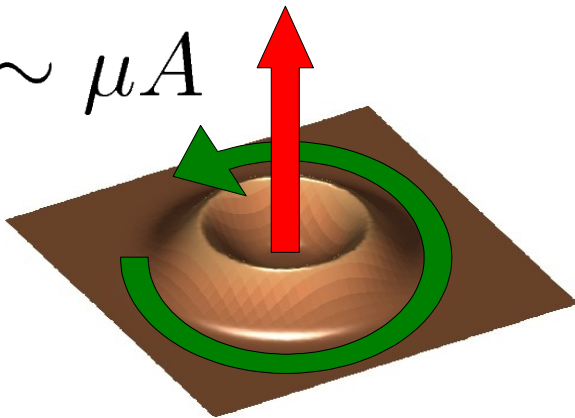


# Coherent spin-switch / single-qubit gate

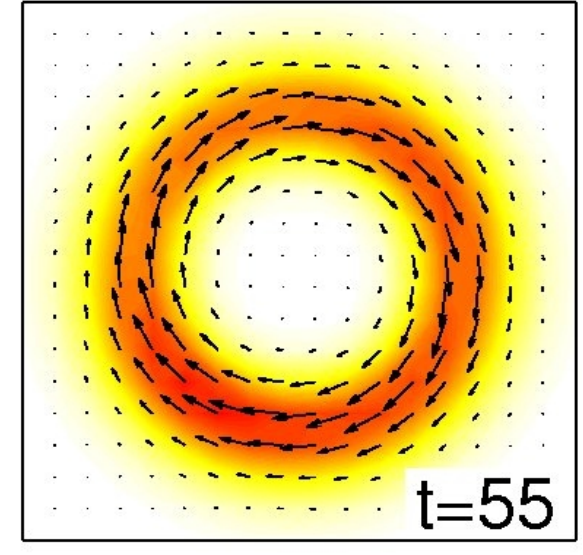
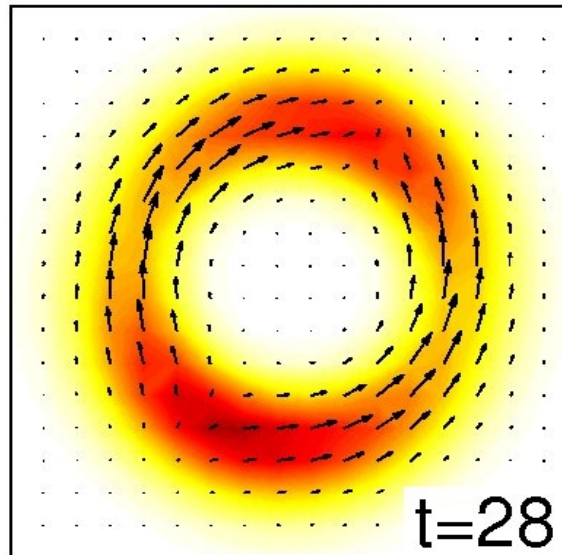
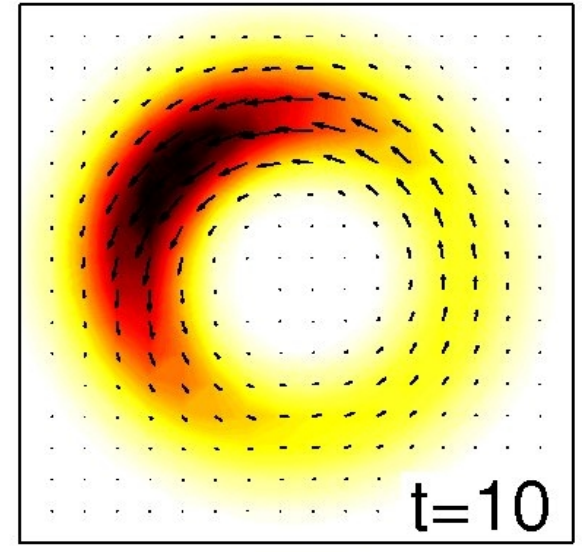
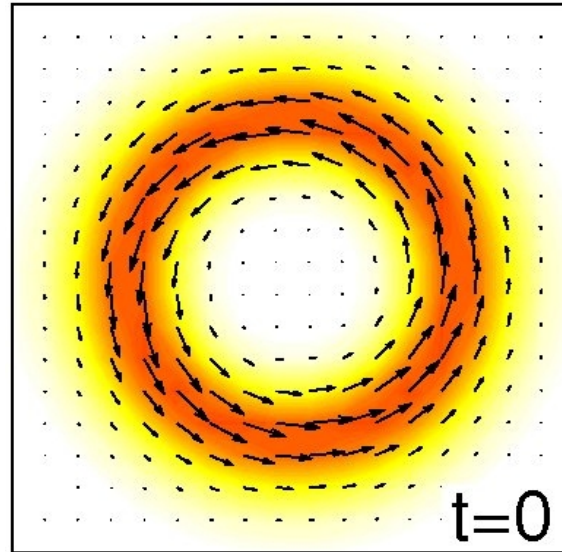


$$B \sim mT$$

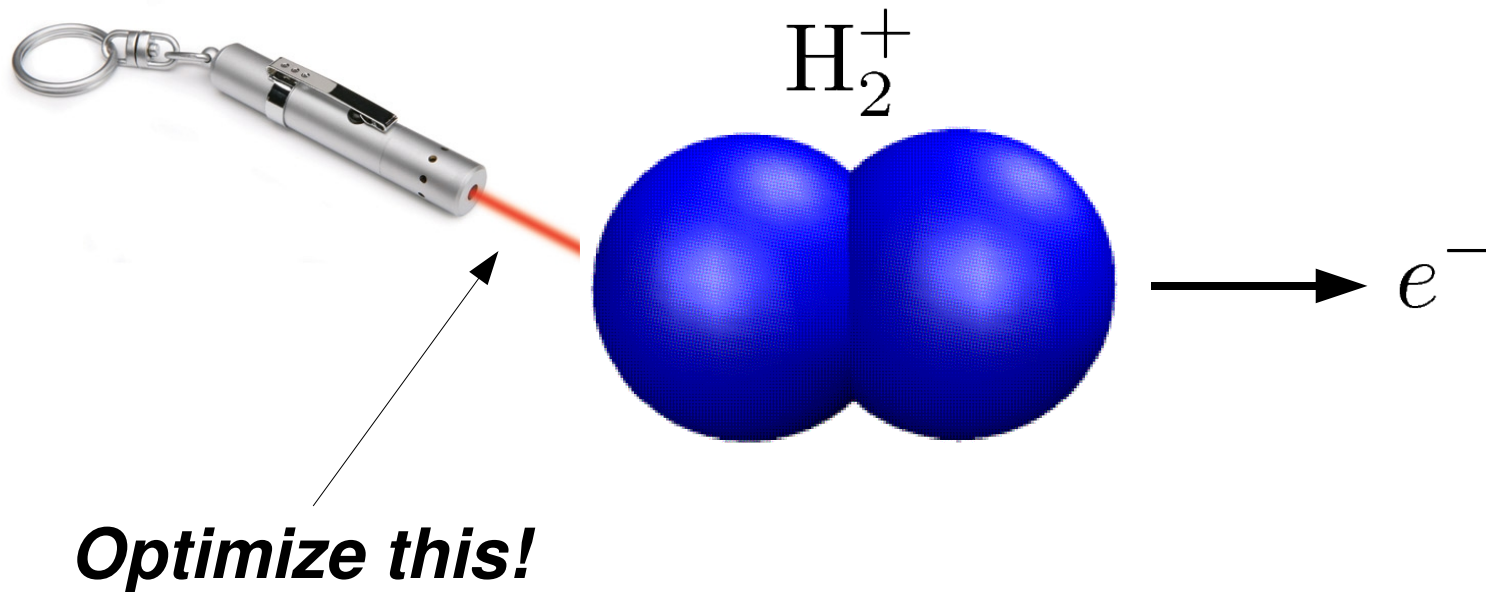
$$I \sim \mu A$$



“single-qubit gate”



## Application 2: Enhancing ionization through pulse shaping



Target operator: 
$$\hat{O} = \hat{1} - \sum_i^{\text{bound}} |\varphi_i\rangle\langle\varphi_i|$$

# Pulse constraints

- Representation in the basis

$$f(t) = f_0 + \sum_{n=1}^N \left[ f_n \sqrt{\frac{2}{T}} \cos(\omega_n t) + g_n \sqrt{\frac{2}{T}} \sin(\omega_n t) \right]$$

- Sum-rule constraint:  $\int_0^T dt f(t) = 0 \Rightarrow f_0 = 0$

- Endpoints:  $f(0) = f(T) = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^N f_n = 0$

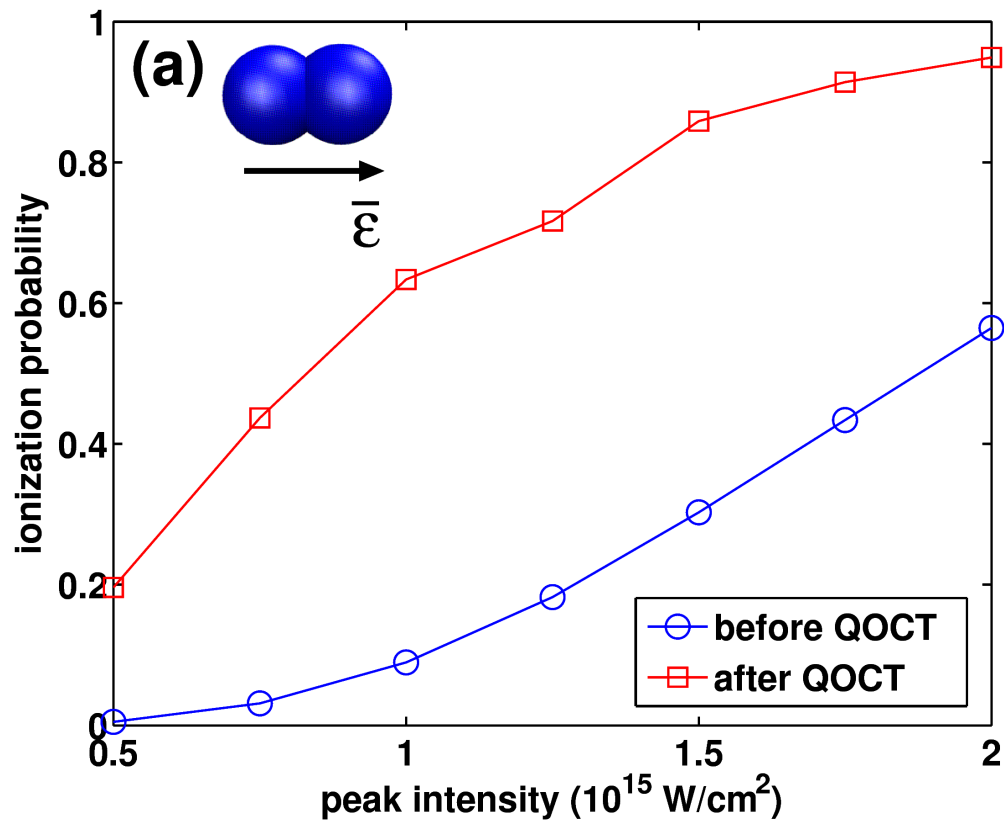
- Cutoff frequency:  $\omega_{\max} = 2 \omega_0$

where the *initial* frequency (before optimization) is  $\omega_0 = 0.114$  a.u.  
-- a typical value for frequency-doubled Ti:S lasers with  $\lambda = 400$  nm

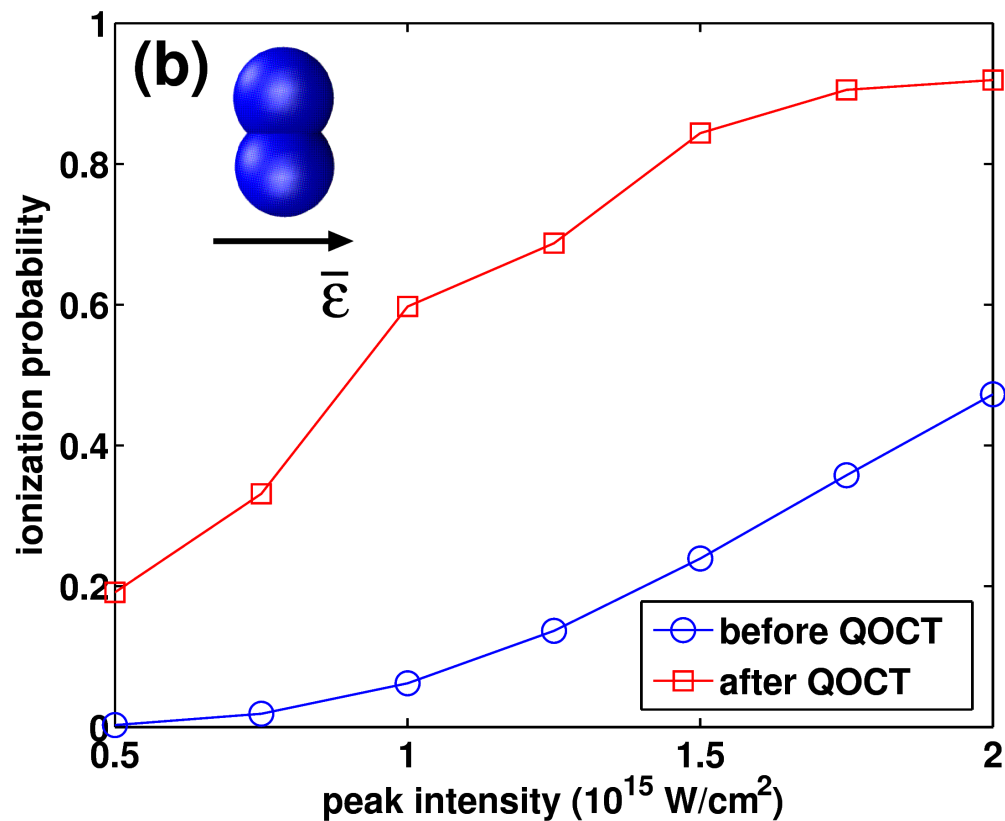
- Pulse length: eight cycles corresponding to  $T \approx 5.3$  ns

- Pulse strength (fluence) fixed:  $F_0 = \int_0^T f^2(t) dt = \text{const.}$

# Effect of pulse optimization



**(a) parallel polarization**



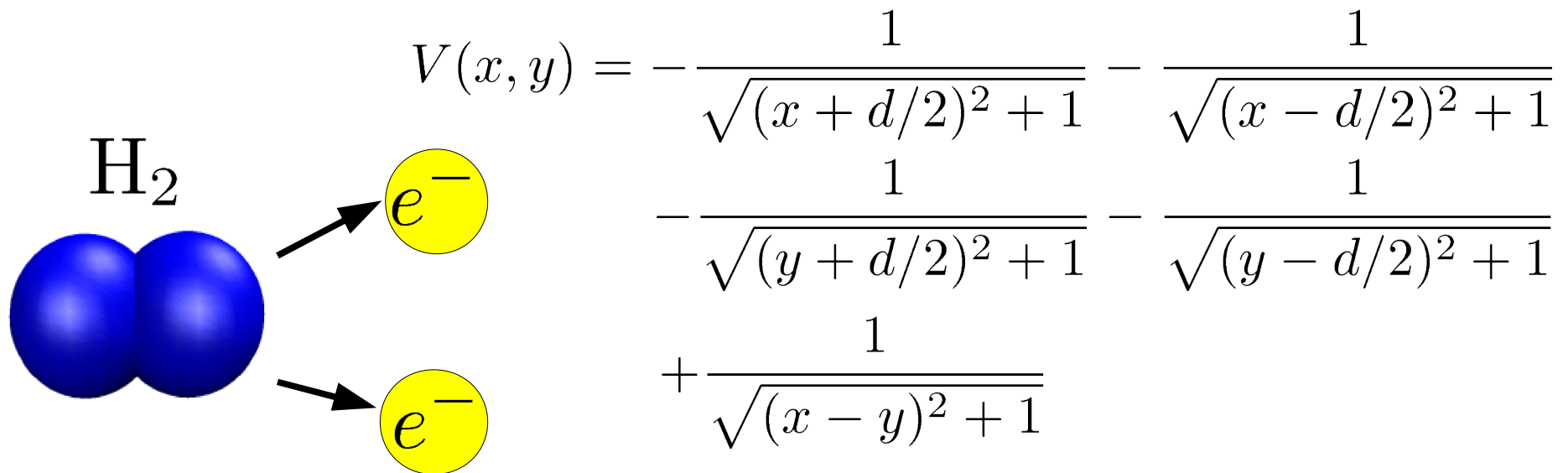
**(b) perpendicular polarization**

## Application 3: Enhancing ionization in a two-particle system

1D model with soft-Coulomb interaction

=> exactly solvable (on a 2D grid - x and y as electron coordinates)

=> in TDDFT with 1D-LDA



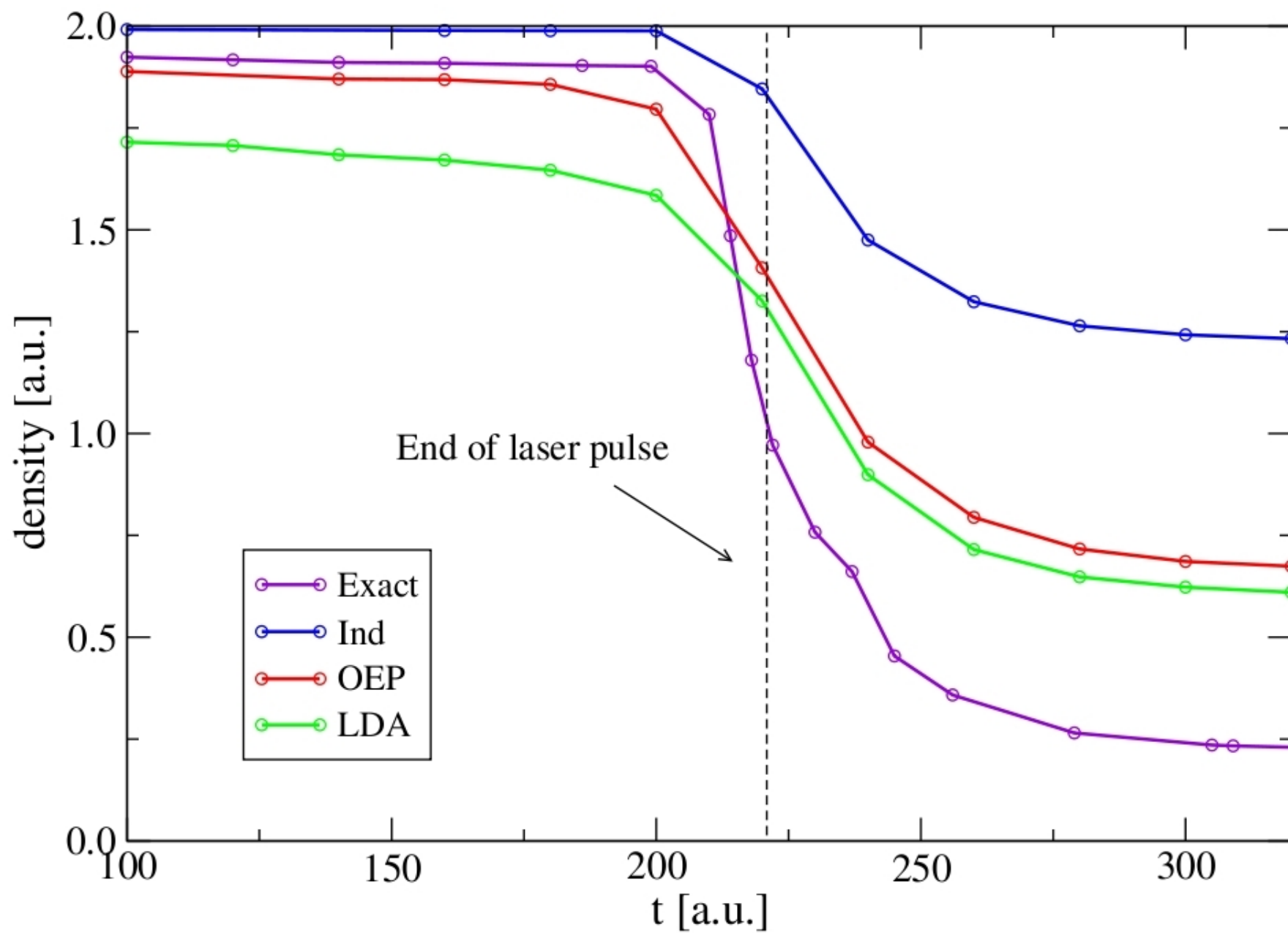
Main idea:

*Use the density (outside the molecule) as the target for ionization within TDDFT-OCT. Compare the result with the exact case.*

For formal “marriage” of OCT and TDDFT, see

A. Castro, J. Werschnik, and E.K.U. Gross, arXiv:1009.2241

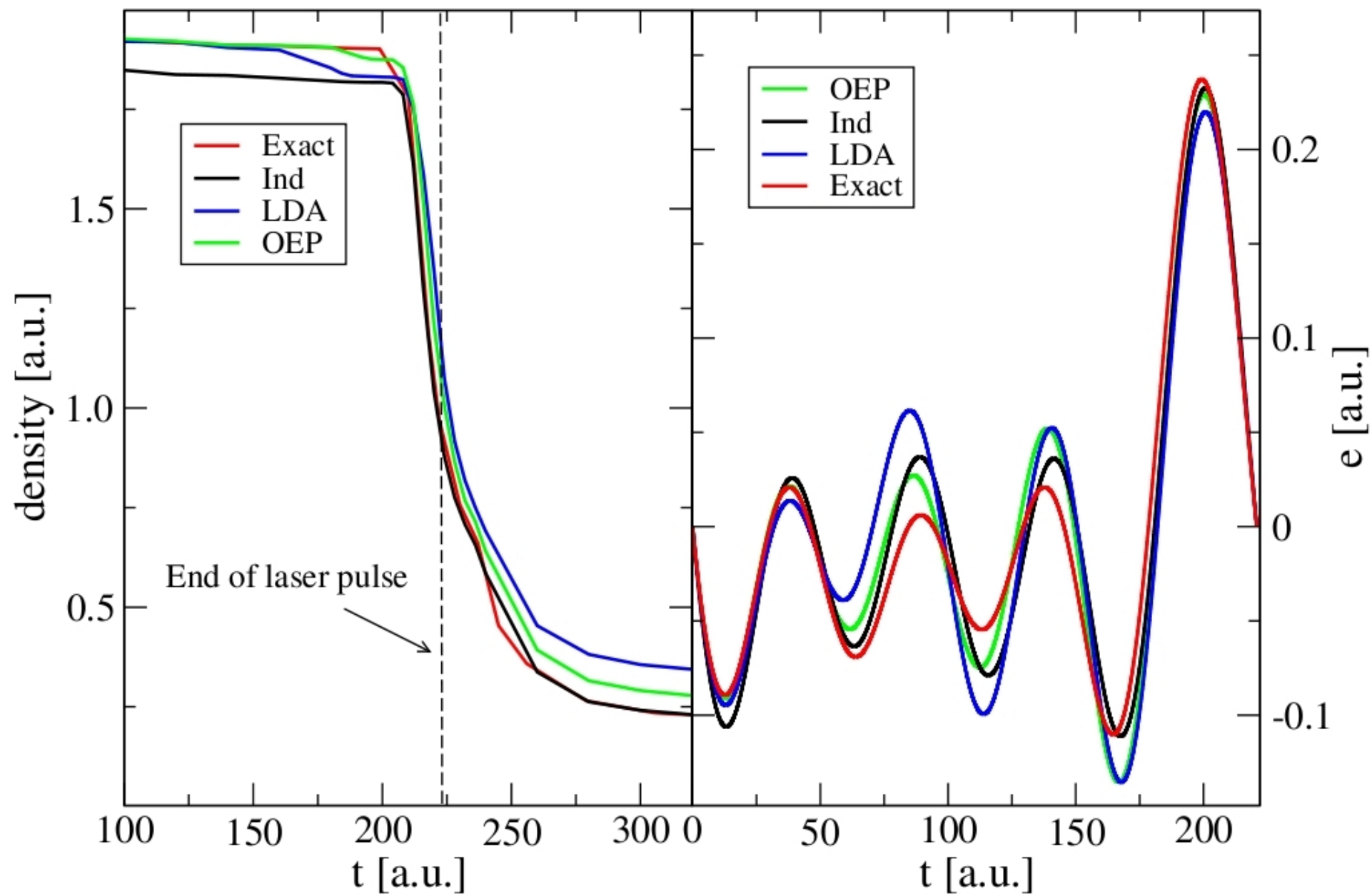
## Ionization yield in different approximations



# Approximate optimized laser pulses applied to exact 1D H2

Ionization yield

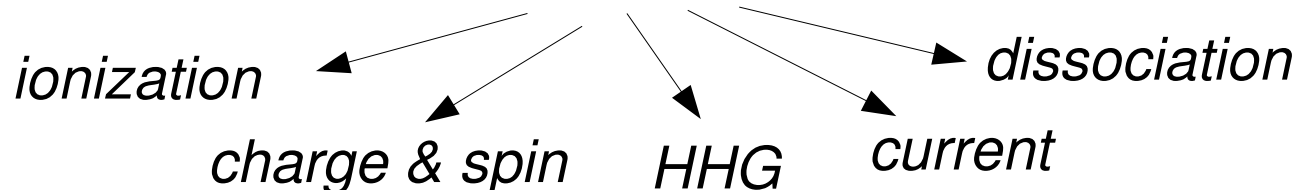
Laser pulses





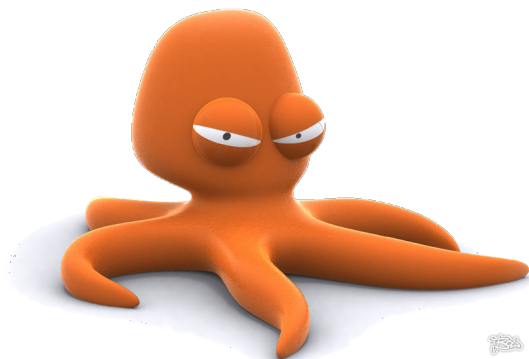
# Summary

- Optimal control theory (OCT) is a powerful tool to achieve quantum mechanical targets via optimization of the external field.



- Ionization of small molecules can be remarkably enhanced by pulse shaping. A density target can be used to describe many-electron ionization, and optimization within ALDA produces pulses that work well in a real system (exact solution / experiment!)

Thanks to: Ville Kotimäki, Tobias Kramer, Alberto Castro, Jan Werschnik, Maria Hellgren, Angel Rubio, E.K.U. Gross



**OCTOPUS** code

(real-space & real-time DFT/TDDFT)  
freely available at: [www.tddft.org](http://www.tddft.org)

A. Castro *et al.*, Phys. Stat. Sol. (b) **243**, 2465 (2006)

Thank you