

# NETLINCS - New Trends in Linear and Non-Linear Spectroscopic Studies of Natural Chirality



Contribution ID: 28

Type: not specified

## Ultrafast chiral spectroscopy for stereocontrolled photochemistry

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 9:40 AM (40 minutes)

The incorporation of chiral structures into photochemical systems is a powerful strategy to control their functions [1]. For example, uni-directional molecular motors, chiral photocatalysts, and chiral metal nanostructures have achieved exceptional levels of stereocontrol over mechanical motion, energy transfer, and electric charge-carriers on the nanoscale. However, the direct characterization of the underlying chiral excited states remains a formidable experimental challenge, due to a lack of analytical techniques that combine high chiral sensitivity in solution phase with ultrafast time resolution [2].

To address this challenge, we have developed an ultrafast electronic circular dichroism set up that measures the absorption difference of left- and right-circularly polarized laser pulses in photoexcited chiral molecules [3]. Through an ultra-sensitive broadband detection scheme, we are now able to capture ultrafast changes in molecular chirality and follow the stereochemical evolution of the associated photoexcited states with sub-picosecond time resolution. This development has extended the scope of ultrafast chiral spectroscopy to new classes of chiral photochemical phenomena, which I will illustrate via two examples: 1) the identification and control of a new reaction coordinate in the spin-crossover dynamics of Fe(II) complexes [4], and 2) the investigation of the energy and chirality transfer dynamics in a chiral lanthanide-based OLED complex with circularly polarized luminescence (CPL) [5].

### References

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**Session Classification:** Solution Phase Studies