

Laurent Nahon, Dr. (HDR), Beamline group leader

Synchrotron SOLEIL
Beamline DESIRS
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DESIRS beamline webpage : <https://www.synchrotron-soleil.fr/fr/lignes-de-lumiere/desirs>

Education

2011	HDR (Habilitation to supervise research)
1991	PhD in physics (Université d'Orsay, France) with special honors
1988	MSc in AMO Physics (Université d'Orsay, France)
1986	Bachelor in fundamental Physics (Université Paris 6- UPMC, France)

Positions

Since 2026	Synchrotron SOLEIL staff as beamline group leader
2005–2025	Secondment from CEA to synchrotron SOLEIL as beamline group leader
1994–2005	Permanent scientist at the CEA (DSM/SPAM) & associated scientist at LURE
1992–1993	Post-doctoral fellow at the department of chemistry, University of California at Berkeley (USA), group of YT Lee.

Current Responsibilities

2004–present	Group leader of the DESIRS VUV beamline
2021–present	Head of the “physical chemistry of atmosphere & universe” scientific group of SOLEIL
2021–present	Appointed member of the PhOM axis board of the Physics graduate school of University Paris-Saclay
2013–2021	Head of the “dilute matter” scientific group of SOLEIL
2014–2020	Head of the “AMO & Plasma” axis of the Physics Department (PhOM) of University Paris-Saclay

Funded large projects

- Beneficiary of a PEPR/LUMA grant TORNADO : 2024-2029
- Scientific responsible for the SOLEIL partner in ANR SynPAHcool : 2022-2026
- Scientific responsible for the SOLEIL partner in ANR VAPOBIO : 2021-2025
- Full Beneficiary of an ITN EU Marie-Curie Network (ASPIRE): 2016-2020
- Scientific responsible for the SOLEIL partner in ANR AAAS : 2019-2024
- Scientific responsible for the SOLEIL partner in ANR CRESUSOL : 2012-2017
- Scientific responsible for the SOLEIL partner in ANR CHIRGEN : 2013-2016
- Scientific responsible for the SOLEIL partner in ANR SRMS2 : 2009-2011
- Scientific responsible for the SOLEIL partner in ANR AAAP : 2007-2010

Current scientific interest

At the head of two VUV beamlines (SU5 @ LURE and DESIRS @ SOLEIL), for more than 25 years, I have been working on VUV photodynamics (absorption, photoionization, fragmentation) on a wide range of samples, mainly isolated species such as cold molecules, radicals, clusters, trapped ionic biopolymers and nanoparticles, as well as condensed matter samples (thin films, ices). My work is

centered on fundamental molecular physics and gas phase physical chemistry, with strong interfaces with chemistry, life sciences, planetary sciences and astrophysics.

Among this large field, part of my activity is focused onto the interaction of Circularly Polarized Light (CPL) and chiral species and in particular onto the so-called Photoelectron Circular Dichroism (PECD) effect at the field crossing between molecular photoionization and chirality (for a review see ref. [13] & [20]). Besides its fundamental interest and analytical applications, PECD could also be, complementary to asymmetric *photochemical* processes in condensed matter, a possible asymmetric *photophysical* process in link with the origin of biomolecular asymmetry, a central and still open issue in astrochemistry.

Summary of scientific production (February 2026)

- *h*-factor 50 (source WOS), 57 (source Google Scholar)
- Citations : 8810 (WOS) / 12135 (Google Scholar)
- 282 publications in peer-reviewed international journals
- 92 Invited Conferences
- 72 Invited seminars

→ Full bibliography available at :

https://scholar.google.fr/citations?hl=fr&user=1HvUXKEAAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate

<https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/AEG-9695-2022>

Selected representative publications

1. S. Hartweg, D. K. Božanić, G. A. Garcia-Macias, L. Nahon, "Large circular dichroism in the total photoemission yield of free chiral nanoparticles created by a pure electric dipole effect", Nat. Commun. (2026) In press
2. D. Stemer, S. Thürmer, F. Trinter, U. Hergenhahn, M. Pugini, B. Credidio, S. Malerz, I. Wilkinson, L. Nahon, G. Meijer, I. Powis, B. Winter, "Photoelectron circular dichroism of aqueous-phase alanine" Chem. Sci. **16**, 8337-8347 (2025).
3. E. Rouquet, J. Dupont, V. Lepere, G.A. Garcia, L. Nahon, A. Zehnacker, « Conformer-Selective Photoelectron Circular Dichroism », Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl., e202401423 (2024).
4. E. Rouquet, M. Roy Chowdhury, G.A. Garcia, L. Nahon, J. Dupont, V. Lepère, K. Le Barbu-Debus, A. Zehnacker, "Induced photoelectron circular dichroism onto an achiral chromophore", Nature Communications **14**, 6290 (2023).
5. S. Hartweg, J. Barnes, B.L. Yoder, G.A. Garcia, L. Nahon, E. Miliordos, R. Signorell, "Solvated dielectrons from optical excitation: An effective source of low-energy electrons", Science **380**,1161 (2023).
6. O. Licht, D. Barreiro-Lage, P. Rousseau, A. Giuliani, A.R. Milosavljevic, A. Isaak, Y. Mastai, A. Albeck, R. Singh, V.T.T. Nguyen, L. Nahon, L. Martinez-Fernandez, S. Diaz-Tendero, Y. Toker, Peptide Bond Formation in the Protonated Serine Dimer Following Vacuum UV Photon-Induced Excitation, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. **62**, e202218770 (2023).
7. J. Dupont, V. Lepere, A. Zehnacker, S. Hartweg, G. A. Garcia and L. Nahon, "Photoelectron Circular Dichroism as a Signature of Subtle Conformational Changes: The Case of Ring Inversion in 1-Indanol", J. Phys. Chem. Lett. **13**, 2313 (2022).
8. C. Meinert, A.D. Garcia, J. Topin, N.C. Jones, M. Diekmann, R. Berger, L. Nahon, S.V. Hoffmann, U.J. Meierhenrich, "Amino acid gas phase circular dichroism and implications for the origin of biomolecular asymmetry", Nature Communications **13**, 502 (2022).

9. R. Hadidi, D. K. Božanić, H. Ganjtabar, G. A. Garcia, I. Powis, and L. Nahon, « Conformer-dependent vacuum ultraviolet photodynamics and chiral asymmetries in pure enantiomers of gas phase proline », *Commun. Chem.* **4**, 72 (2021).
10. S. Hartweg, G. A. Garcia, D. K. Božanić, and L. Nahon, "Condensation Effects on Electron Chiral Asymmetries in the Photoionization of Serine: From Free Molecules to Nanoparticles", *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **12**, 2385 (2021).
11. D. K. Bozanic, G. A. Garcia, O. Sublemontier, J. Pajovic, V. Djoković, and L. Nahon, "Velocity Map Imaging VUV Angle-Resolved Photoemission on Isolated Nanosystems: Case of Gold Nanoparticles," *J. Phys. Chem. C* **124**, 24500 (2020).
12. M. Pitzer, C. Ozga, C. Kustner-Wetekam, P. Reiss, A. Knie, A. Ehresmann, T. Jahnke, A. Giuliani, and L. Nahon, State-dependent fragmentation of protonated uracil and uridine *J. Phys. Chem. A* **123**, 3551 (2019).
13. R. Hadidi, D. K. Bozanic, G. A. Garcia, L. Nahon, Electron asymmetries in the photoionization of chiral molecules: possible astrophysical implications. *Advances in Physics X* **3**, 1477530 (2018). (Invited Review paper)
14. S. Tigrine, N. Carrasco, D. K. Bozanic, G. A. Garcia, L. Nahon, FUV Photoionization of Titan Atmospheric Aerosols. *The Astrophysical Journal* **867**, 164 (2018).
15. N. Carrasco, S. Tigrine, L. Gavilan, L. Nahon, M. S. Gudipati, The evolution of Titan's high-altitude aerosols under ultraviolet irradiation. *Nature Astronomy* **2**, 489-494 (2018)
16. S. Beaulieu, A. Comby, D. Descamps, B. Fabre, G. A. Garcia, R. Géneaux, A. G. Harvey, F. Légaré, Z. Mašín, L. Nahon, A. F. Ordonez, S. Petit, B. Pons, Y. Mairesse, O. Smirnova, V. Blanchet, Photoexcitation circular dichroism in chiral molecules. *Nature Physics* **14**, 484 (2018).
17. S. Hartweg, B. L. Yoder, G. A. Garcia, L. Nahon, R. Signorell, Size-Resolved Photoelectron Anisotropy of Gas Phase Water Clusters and Predictions for Liquid Water. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **118**, 103402 (2017)
18. C. Meinert, I. Myrgorodska, P. de Marcellus, T. Buhse, L. Nahon, S. V. Hoffmann, L. L. S. d'Hendecourt, U. J. Meierhenrich, Ribose and related sugars from ultraviolet irradiation of interstellar ice analogs. *Science* **352**, 208-212 (2016)
19. A. Comby, S. Beaulieu, M. Boggio-Pasqua, D. Descamps, F. Légaré, L. Nahon, S. Petit, B. Pons, B. Fabre, Y. Mairesse, V. Blanchet, Relaxation Dynamics in Photoexcited Chiral Molecules Studied by Time-Resolved Photoelectron Circular Dichroism: Toward Chiral Femtochemistry. *The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters* **7**, 4514-4519 (2016)
20. L. Nahon, G. A. Garcia, I. Powis, Valence shell one-photon photoelectron circular dichroism in chiral systems. *J. Elec. Spec. Rel. Phen.* **204**, 322-334 (2015) (Invited Review paper)
21. P. Modica, C. Meinert, P. de Marcellus, L. Nahon, U. J. Meierhenrich, L. L. S. d'Hendecourt, Enantiomeric Excesses Induced in Amino Acids by Ultraviolet Circularly Polarized Light Irradiation of Extraterrestrial Ice Analogs: A Possible Source of Asymmetry for Prebiotic Chemistry. *The Astrophysical Journal* **788**, 79 (2014)
22. C. Meinert, S. V. Hoffmann, P. Cassam-Chenai, A. C. Evans, C. Giri, L. Nahon, U. J. Meierhenrich, Photonenergy-controlled symmetry breaking with circularly polarized light. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **53**, 210-214 (2014)
23. M. Tia, B. Cunha de Miranda, S. Daly, F. Gaie-Levrel, G. Garcia, I. Powis, L. Nahon, Chiral asymmetry in the photoionization of gas-phase amino-acid alanine at Lyman- α radiation wavelength. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **4**, 2698 (2013).
24. G. Garcia, L. Nahon, S. Daly, I. Powis, Vibrationally induced inversion of photoelectron forward-backward asymmetry in chiral molecule photoionization by circularly polarized light. *Nature Communications* **4**, 2132 (2013).
25. A. Giuliani, A. R. Milosavljevic, K. Hinsén, F. Canon, C. Nicolas, M. Refregiers, L. Nahon, Structure and Charge-State Dependence of the Gas-Phase Ionization Energy of Proteins. *Angew. Chem.-Int. Edit.* **51**, 9552 (2012)