

Supervisor report

České Budějovice, 11.6. 2018

Robert West joined our group as a PhD. student in 2014. Since Robert's master studies in US dealt also with energy transfer processes, his role in the group was to work on ultrafast spectroscopy studies of various photosynthetic systems. Since the beginning of his PhD. studies he has also actively participated in experimental work and during his PhD. years he has also become a skillful experimental physicist. Though without previous experience with ultrafast lasers, he quickly grasped the experimental techniques used in the femtosecond laboratory and already in the first year he was able to carry out complicated experiments on his own.

Thanks to time coincidence with successful grant application in the lab which focused on development of a new ultrafast spectroscopic method called multi-pulse transient absorption spectroscopy, Robert was a very important person in the lab working on this project. He helped to build the experimental setup, but his essential role has later become to interpret the data. Though the method looks quite straightforward on the paper, the data interpretation turned out to be a significantly more complicated than we previously thought. Luckily enough, Robert's presence in the team and his ability to use software like Mathematica and Matlab for sophisticated modeling, we were eventually able to extract valuable information from the extremely complicated data. Now we have one paper published, one in revision and at least two more to be written, and I am quite sure that we would not have this without Robert's skills in modeling the data. He has developed a completely new way of fitting and modeling the multipulse data, which I am sure will be later used not only in our group, but also by others using this experimental method.

Both scientifically and socially, Robert has been an integral member of the group who has been entirely devoted to science. It was a pleasure to work with Robert and it is also a pleasure to recommend the thesis for defense as it fulfills all necessary requirements for awarding a Ph.D.



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