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Single-molecule spectroscopy has proven a versatile tool in biochemistry and molecular biology. In their Communication on page 3363 ff., D. P. Herten et al. describe the first application of this technique to chemical reactions of small molecules by observing the association and dissociation of a Cu^{2+} complex in real time. By the use of confocal microscopy and by designing a fluorescent metal sensor that can be immobilized on glass slides, they were able to obtain the kinetics of individual complexes in thermodynamic equilibrium.

