RABBITT spectroscopy of transition-metal surface states

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Synopsis

We distinguish contributions to the RABBITT phases from surface states of transition metals, due to Fresnel-reflection of the incident IR pulse, the high harmonics of the XUV pulse-train and the XUV photo release process.

We present numerical RABBITT (reconstruction of attosecond beating by interference of two-photon transitions) [1] spectra for photoemission from solids, the occupied surface states of Cu(111), Au(111), and Ag(111) (Fig. 1). We generate the transition-metal surface states based on an effective single-electron potential capable of reproducing the main characteristics of the substrate valence-band electronic surface [2].

Figure 1. RABBITT spectrum from the Au(111) surface state.

Our numerical spectra show RABBITT phases to be strongly affected by the IR pulse Fresnel reflection at the solid-vacuum interface [3], which introduces a phase due to the photoelectron propagating through the overall (i.e., incident plus reflected) electric field. This Fresnel phase \( \phi_E \) largely determines the raw RABBITT phases

\[
\phi_{2n}^{RAB} \equiv \phi_{2n-1}^+ - \phi_{2n+1}^- - \phi_{2n+1}^{(HH)} + \phi_{2n-1}^{(HH)} + 2\phi_E,
\]

as shown in Fig. 2 for different incident directions and detection angles. Since it is well determined, the Fresnel phase contribution \( 2\phi_E \) can be subtracted from the raw RABBITT phase \( \phi_{2n}^{RAB} \), therefore leaving only the contributions from the HH phases \( \phi_{2n-1}^{(HH)} \) and \( \phi_{2n+1}^{(HH)} \) of the XUV pulse train, and the scattering phases \( \phi_{2n-1}^- - \phi_{2n+1}^- \) that are related to the ionization process. \( \phi_{2n-1}^+ \) corresponds to the absorption of an XUV photon of energy \( (2n-1)\omega_R \) plus the absorption of an IR photon, while \( \phi_{2n+1}^- \) stems from the absorption of an XUV photon with energy \( (2n+1)\omega_R \) plus the release of an IR one. These scattering phase differences in our calculations are small, due to the very short propagation time of the photoelectron in the substrate.

Thus,

\[
\phi_{2n}^{RAB} - 2\phi_E \approx -\phi_{2n-1}^{(HH)} + \phi_{2n+1}^{(HH)}
\]

for the odd harmonics in the XUV pulse train can be used to estimate the unknown high harmonic phases \( \phi_{2n+1}^{(HH)} \).

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References

[1] R. Locher et al. 2015 Optica 2 405

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