Streaked and Interferometric Photoemission from Solid Surfaces and Nanoparticles

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Figure 1: A single ultrashort attosecond XUV pulse emits electrons into the field of a delayed IR streaking laser pulse, with the polarization direction rotated by the angle $\phi$. The linear color/gray scale represents the local electric-field-strength enhancement for 50 nm radius Au nanospheres exposed to 720 nm incident IR pulses with peak intensity $10^{11}$ W/cm$^2$.

Over the past two decades attosecond time-resolved spectroscopy has matured to a powerful method for investigating the electronic dynamics in atoms [1] that is now being transferred to the scrutiny of electronic excitations, electron propagation, and collective electronic (plasmonic) effects in solids [1–6] and nanoparticles [1,7–10]. Compared with photoemission from isolated gaseous atoms, numerical simulations of such experiments on complex targets require, in addition, the adequate modeling of (i) the target’s electronic band structure [1–3], (ii) elastic and inelastic scattering of released photoelectrons inside the solid [2–9], (iii) surface and bulk collective electronic excitations [1,7–10], (iv) the screening and reflection of the assisting IR-laser field at the solid surface [4,5], (v) the influence of equilibrating residual charge distributions on emitted photoelectrons [1], and (vi) the effect of spatially inhomogeneous plasmonic fields on the photoemission process [2,3,7–10].

In this talk I will address the extent to which photoelectron propagation in matter and the plasmonic response of nanostructures can be (a) represented in classical [1,6] and quantum mechanical [1–8] simulations and (b) retrieved in IR-streaked XUV [2,3,7–10] and IR-XUV two-photon interference (RABBITT) [4–6] photoemission spectra. As examples, I will discuss our recent numerical results for photoemission from (adsorbate-covered) metal surfaces [2–5] (in comparison with experimental data) and from plasmonic 10 to 200 nm diameter spherical nanoparticles that show how spatio-temporal information of the sub-infrared-cycle plasmonic and electronic dynamics is embedded in time-resolved spectra (Fig. 1) [7–10].

Acknowledgements: Supported in part by NSF Grant No. PHY 1464417, the Chemical Sciences, Geosciences, and Biosciences Division, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Office of Science, US Department of Energy under Award DE-FG02-86ER13491, and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research Grant No. FA9550-17-1-0369.

References


