Electron-Ion Interaction Effects in Attosecond Time-Resolved Photoelectron Spectra

C.-H. Zhang and U. Thumm

Department of Physics, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, USA

(Dated: September 21, 2010)

Photoionization by attosecond (as) extreme ultraviolet (xuv) pulses into the laser-dressed continuum of the ionized atom is commonly described in strong-field approximation (SFA), neglecting the Coulomb interaction between the emitted photoelectron (PE) and residual ion. By solving the time-dependent Schrödinger equation (TDSE), we identify a temporal shift $\delta \tau$ in streaked PE spectra, which becomes significant at small PE energies. Within an eikonal approximation, we trace this shift to the combined action of Coulomb and laser forces on the released PE, suggesting the experimental and theoretical scrutiny of their coupling in streaked PE spectra. The initial state polarization effect by the laser pulse on the xuv streaked spectrum is also examined.

I. INTRODUCTION

Using an xuv attosecond pulse to photoemit electrons from gaseous or solid targets into the electric field of a synchronized delayed femtosecond (fs) infrared (ir) laser pulse provides a powerful tool for investigating ultrafast electron dynamics by recording ir-laser-streaked xuv PE spectra. For strong laser fields and sufficiently fast PEs, streaked PE spectra are conveniently described in SFA, i.e., by ignoring the interaction of the residual ion with the released PE. In this case, subject only to the ir laser electric field, the propagation of PEs can be described in terms of analytically known “Volkov” states. This leads to a delay-dependent energy shift $\delta E_{\text{COE}}(\tau) = -k A_L(-\tau)$ of the center-of-energy (COE) of the xuv-pulse central frequency, $\varepsilon_B$ the binding energy of the initial state, $k$ the PE asymptotic momentum, and $A_L$ the vector potential of the ir pulse. We use atomic units except where stated otherwise and define the delay $\tau$ between the centers of the xuv and ir pulse as positive if the xuv pulse precedes the ir pulse.

The interpretation of sub-fs temporal shifts in streaked PE spectra is a matter of current debate. For example, the recent measurement of a relative delay of $\approx 110 \pm 70$ as between the ir-streaked xuv photoemission from localized 4f core levels and delocalized conduction-band (CB) states of a W(110) surface was understood in the original ref. 1 and a subsequent theoretical work 2 as the difference $\delta t_{\text{CB}-4f} = t_{\text{CB}} - t_{4f}$ between the arrival times of CB and 4f core PEs at the surface. This interpretation is based on the assumption that the ir pulse does not penetrate the surface, such that CB and 4f electrons that are released at the same time $-\tau$ by the absorption of an xuv photon get streaked only upon arrival at the surface, producing the COE shifts $E_{\text{COE}} = -k A_L(-\tau + t_{\text{CB}})$ and $-k A_L(-\tau + t_{4f})$, respectively, in the PE spectra. According to this two-step explanation (photofragmentation followed by streaking), the total emission probability $P_{\text{tot}} = \int dE P(E, \tau)$ from a given initial state would not depend on $\tau$.

In contrast, our analysis of experimental streaked photoemission data for a tungsten and rhenium surface indicates that $P_{\text{CB}}(\tau)$ oscillates with $A_L(\tau)$, with an amplitude of $\approx 10\%$ of the average value. Furthermore, the continuity of the wavefunction and its derivative at the surface, implies that an intense fs ir pulse affects the PEs inside the solid, even if the ir electric field were prohibited from penetrating the surface. We have shown that this observed temporal shift can be reproduced within the SFA and interpreted it as an interference effect in the emission from different lattice sites, observing that the SFA cannot account for relative temporal shifts in the emission from different levels of isolated atoms. A classical transport simulation including the effect of (in)elastic collisions of released PEs with tungsten cores on the propagation of PE inside the solid leads to $\delta t_{\text{CB}-4f} = 33$ as 3. Thus, different models strongly deviate with regard to the assumed attenuation of the streaking ir electric field $E_L(t)$ inside the solid, ranging from no penetration into the surface to penetration depths of 30 and 85 layer spacings or larger than the electron mean free path. The detailed modeling of the (relative) delay in the photoemission from metal surfaces is further complicated by the complex band structure and the ensuing difficulty in assigning a group velocity to the motion of PE wave packets inside the dispersive conduction band, surface charge accumulation, and the general concern that static band-structure calculations and the assumption of an instantaneous plasmon response (i.e., static image charge interactions) are invalid at the as time scale. These shifts may be of particular importance in the interpretation of streaking spectra for complex targets, such as metals, and emphasize the need for more detailed studies of streaked photoemission spectra.

It is of fundamental importance to first understand all contributions to this temporal shift for simple systems. In this work, we focus on the effect of simultaneous ir laser pulse and Coulomb interactions on streaked photoemission spectra from the prototypical ground state of a one-dimensional hydrogen atom. This Coulomb-laser coupling effect was first investigated by Kroll and Wat-
son [10] in their study of laser-assisted atomic scattering. It also affects the spectra of high harmonic generation, multiphoton ionization, and laser-assisted xuv photoionization. For example, the Coulomb interaction causes the xuv streaked PE spectra to be right-left asymmetric [11]. In RABITT measurements (Reconstruction of Attosecond Beating by Interference of Two photon Transition), these simultaneous ir laser pulse and Coulomb interactions induce a so-called atomic phase which shifts sideband intensities as a function of the delay between the xuv pulse train and the ir pulse [12,13].

In this work, we demonstrate, numerically and analytically, how the coupling of the ir laser pulse and the final-state Coulomb interaction of the PE with the residual ion gives rise to a significant temporal shift $\delta \tau$ in the COE of streaked PE spectra with respect to those approximated in SFA. As we will show, inclusion of this Coulomb-laser (CL) coupling alters both, the amplitude of more than 50 as. Fig.s II (a) and (b) show the TDSE ir-streaked PE spectra $P(E, \tau)$ for gaussian xuv pulses of length $\tau_X = 300$ as with $\hbar \omega_X = 90$ and 25 eV, respectively. The ir pulse is also assumed to be a gaussian and has a peak intensity of $I_L = 2 \times 10^{12}$ W/cm$^2$, a carrier frequency $\omega_L = 1.6$ eV/h, and a pulse length $\tau_L = 5$ fs. These spectra are shifted by $\delta \tau = 60$ as, which becomes apparent in the corresponding COE shifts $\delta E_{COE}(\tau)$ in Fig. I (c). The solid curves in Fig.s II (d) and (e) show $\delta \tau$ and the ratio $K/k$ of streaking-oscillation amplitudes for a large range of $\omega_X$. Within an EA approach [11,10,17], we can trace (details will be given further below) this $\omega_X$-dependent temporal shift and the oscillation amplitude enhancement to the CL coupling in the PE final state (dashed curves in Fig.s II (d) and (e)). $\delta \tau$ and $K/k$, for the TDSE and EA calculations, converge at large $\omega_X$ to their respective SFA limits $\delta \tau = 0$ and $K/k = 1$ due to the diminishing influence of the residual ion’s Coulomb force at increasing PE energies. Thus, $\delta \tau$ and $K/k - 1$, are measures for the combined action of the Coulomb and laser force on the PE relative to the action of the ir laser force alone. Since $\delta \tau < 0$, the attractive Coulomb force does not delay the PE emission, as one might intuitively expect. We also note that $K > k$ reveals a Coulomb-enhancement effects that is reminiscent of the Coulomb potential’s infinite range leading to well-understood “Coulomb-Cuts” in energy-differential collision-induced PE spectra [18].

This article is organized as follows. In Sec. III we present numerical results based on the TDSE. In Sec. III we adopt an EA to take into account the simultaneous ir and Coulomb interactions of the PE, and compare our EA and TDSE results. In Sec. IV we examine the effect of the polarization of the initial state on the obtained atomic phase in RABITT is identical to the relative temporal shift in the streaked PE spectrum.

II. TIME-DEPENDENT SCHRÖDINGER EQUATION FOR STREAKING

The exact wavefunction of the one-dimensional model atom interacting with the ir and xuv pulse is determined by the TDSE (in the length gauge)

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(x, t) = \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + U(x) + V(x, t) \right] \Psi(x, t), \quad (1)$$

where $U(x)$ is the Coulomb potential, $V(x, t) = x[E_L(t) + E_X(t)]$ the interaction with the ir and xuv pulse, and $E_{L(X)}$ the electric field of the ir (xuv) pulse. Assuming single-photon ionization in a sufficiently weak xuv pulse, and after splitting the exact wave function for the atom in the combined xuv and ir electric fields according to $\Psi(x, t) = \psi_g(x, t) + \delta \Psi(x, t)$, (1) can be replaced by two coupled equations [13]

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi_g(x, t) = \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + U(x) + xE_L(t) \right] \psi_g(x, t), \quad (2)$$

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \delta \psi(x, t) = \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + U(x) + xE_L(t) \right] \delta \psi(x, t)$$
\[ +x E_X (t + \tau) \psi_p (x, t). \]  

Equation (2) determines the evolution (polarization) of the initial state in the ir field and (3) the generation of PE wave packets by the xuv pulse and their evolution in the ir field. The electric fields \( E_{L(X)} = -\partial A_{L(X)}(t)/\partial t \) of the ir (xuv) pulses are derived from the vector potentials \( A_{L(X)}(t) = A_{L(X)}(0) \cos(\omega_{L(X)} t) e^{-2\log 2 t^2/\tau_{L(X)}^2}. \) Since \( E_{L(X)}(t) \rightarrow \pm \infty \) \( \tau \rightarrow -\infty \), \( \psi \) must fall to zero at \( t \rightarrow -\infty \) and \( \delta \psi \) at \( t \rightarrow -\infty \) = 0. The ground-state initial wave function \( \psi (x) \) and energy \( \varepsilon_B \) are obtained from

\[ \varepsilon_B \psi (x) = \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + U (x) \right] \psi (x). \]  

We solve (2), (4) numerically by wave-packet propagation for times \( |t| \leq 2.5 \tau_L \) with a step size \( \Delta t = 0.2 \) on a spatial grid with \( |x| \leq 2000 \) and spacing \( \Delta x = 0.25 \). Assuming free-electron dispersion, \( E = \frac{k}{\sqrt{2m}} \), we calculate the ir-assisted xuv photoemission probability

\[ P(E, \tau) = \left| \delta \tilde{\psi} (k, \tau, t \rightarrow \infty) \right|^2 \]  

and the corresponding COE

\[ E_{COE} (\tau) = \frac{1}{2} \int dk \left[ k \delta \tilde{\psi} (k, \tau, t \rightarrow \infty) \right]^2 / P_{tot} (\tau), \]

where \( \delta \tilde{\psi} (k, \tau, t) \) is the Fourier transform of \( \delta \psi (x, t) \), and the total emission probability is

\[ P_{tot} (\tau) = \int dk \left| \delta \tilde{\psi} (k, \tau, t \rightarrow \infty) \right|^2 . \]

We model the target atom based on the soft-core Coulomb potential

\[ U (x) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}}, \]

and adjust the parameter \( a = \sqrt{2} \) to the ground state binding energy \( \varepsilon_B = -13.6 \text{ eV} \) of the hydrogen atom. We refer to the exact solution of (2), (4) as “TDSE result” and retrieve the SFA results by ignoring \( U (x) \) in (3). The comparison of TDSE and SFA results is shown in Fig.s 1(a)-(c). By dropping the laser interaction \( x E_L(t) \) in (2), we verified numerically that for the given parameters the polarization of this initial state by the ir pulse can be neglected [1,11]. The initial state polarization effect on the xuv PE spectrum is further discussed in Sec. IV.

### III. EIKONAL APPROXIMATION

In order to trace the influence of the combined action of Coulomb potential and ir pulse on the PE, we write the PE wave function as

\[ \psi_k (x, t) = a_k (x, t) e^{i(k + A_L(t))x - ik^2 t/2 + iS_k(x, t)} \]

with a local phase \( S_k(x, t) \). The real amplitude \( a_k \) is not important for the present investigation. In SFA, the phase \( S_k(x, t) \) is given by the Volkov phase

\[ S_k^{SFA} (t) = k \int_t^\infty dt' A_L (t') \]

and independent of \( x \). In EA, and without the ir field, the phase accumulated by the PE during its propagation in \( U (x) \) from the location \( x \) at time \( t \) to the electron detector is calculated along the free-electron classical trajectory \( x'(t', t, x) = x + k (t' - t) \)

\[ S_k^C (x) = \int_t^\infty dt' U [x'(t', t, x)] = \frac{1}{k} \int_x^\infty dx' U (x'). \]

In the presence of the ir field, the free-electron classical trajectory is modified by a laser-induced drift

\[ \Delta x(t, t') = \int_t^{t'} dt'' A_L (t''). \]

Replacing \( x' \) with \( x_L \) in (11), we obtain the CL phase [11,17]

\[ S_k^{CL} (x, t) = \int_t^\infty dt' U [x_L (t', t, x)], \]

and an eikonal approximation to the local phase in [9]

\[ S_k^{EA} (x, t) = S_k^{SFA} (t) + S_k^{CL} (x, t). \]

In typical streaking experiments and for this study, the ir intensity (\( \sim 10^{12} \text{ W/cm}^2 \)) is low enough for \( \Delta x(t, t') \) being a small deviation from \( x'(t', t, x) \). We thus expand \( S_k^{CL} \) about \( x'(t', t, x) \) and obtain to first order in \( \Delta x(t, t') \)

\[ S_k^{CL} (x, t) = \left. S_k^C (x) - \int_t^\infty dt' F [x'(t', t, x)] \Delta x(t, t') \right| \]

with the Coulomb force

\[ F [x'(t', t, x)] = -\frac{\partial U [x'(t', t, x)]}{\partial x'}. \]

The first term in (16) is the laser-free eikonal Coulomb phase. This term is independent of time as we explicitly indicate in (11). As we should show below this phase does not induce any temporal shift in the streaked xuv spectrum, but changes the transition probability. The second term in (16) includes Coulomb scattering of the PE while it absorbs or releases ir photons [17]. It is proportional to the ir vector potential and causes a temporal shift in the streaked spectrum.

The numerical results for (10) in Fig. 2 (a) resolve the spatial contributions to the CL coupling phase.
The COE of the spectrum for a free PE would be $E_{\text{COE}} = \hbar \omega_{X} / 2k$. The actual shift $\delta \tau$ in the streaking spectrum is obtained by spatial integration according to \[ \Delta S_{k}^{\text{FA}}(x,t) = S_{k}^{\text{FA}}(x,t) - S_{k}^{C}(x) \] (15) where $S_{k}^{C}(x)$ is the contribution to the CL shift. $E_{\text{COE}} = E_{\text{COE}}^{CL} + E_{\text{COE}}^{CL1}$, shown in Fig.s 2 (b) and (c) at $x = 0$ for $\hbar \omega_{X} = 90$ and 25 eV.

According to (22) and (23), $E_{\text{COE}}^{CL}(x,\tau)$ is proportional to $1/k$, while $\delta E_{\text{COE}}^{k}(x,\tau)$ is proportional to $k$. Therefore, the CL coupling effect decreases for increasing PE kinetic energies. As shown in Fig.s 3 (a) and (c), the cancelation between $E_{\text{COE}}^{CL1}$ and $E_{\text{COE}}^{CL2}$ becomes stronger and further reduces the CL coupling with increasing $k$. Note that $E_{\text{COE}}^{CL1}(x,\tau)$ mainly increases the oscillation amplitude of the COE in SFA, while $E_{\text{COE}}^{CL2}(x,\tau)$ changes the oscillation amplitude and induces a phase shift. We can thus introduce a local temporal shift $\delta \tau(x)$ (relative to the SFA phase) and a local oscillation amplitude $K(x)$ by rewriting (21) as

$$\delta E_{\text{COE}}^{k}(x,\tau) = K(x)A_{L}[\tau - \delta \tau(x)].$$

For $x > 0$, (23) shows $\delta \tau(x)$ and $K(x)$ as functions of $x$ for different $\omega_{X}$. $\delta \tau(x)$ can be positive or negative. The actual shift $\delta \tau$ in the streaking spectrum is obtained by spatial integration according to (19). However, as shown in Fig. 3 (c) and (d), $\delta E_{\text{COE}}^{k}(x,\tau)$ agrees well with the TDSE result, since the initial wave function $\psi(x,t)$ is localized at $x = 0$. Similarly, we find that the full TDSE results for $\delta \tau$ (solid line in Fig. 3 (d)) and $K/k$ (solid line in Fig. 3 (e)) agree well with the EA results $\delta \tau(x)$ (dashed line in Fig. 3 (d)) and $K(x)/k$ (dashed line in Fig. 3 (e)) evaluated at $x = 0$. This justifies approximating $\Delta S_{k}^{\text{FA}}(x,t) = S_{k}^{\text{FA}}(x,t) - S_{k}^{C}(x)$ in (15)

$$\Delta S_{k}^{\text{FA}}(x,t) \approx S_{k}^{\text{FA}}(t) - \int_{t}^{\infty} dt' F[x'(t'),t,x = 0] \Delta x(t,t')$$

$$\approx - K E_{L}(t + \delta \tau) \frac{\omega_{L}^{2}}{\omega_{L}^{2}}.$$

where, in the second line, the slow varying envelop approximation is used.

We notice from (21), (23) that the three contributions to $\delta E_{\text{COE}}^{k}(x,\tau)$ are equally proportional to the ir electric field amplitude. Therefore, $\delta \tau$ and $K/k$ do not depend on the intensity of the ir pulse. However, reducing $\omega_{L}$, $|\delta \tau|$ increases and $K/k$ decreases (Fig. 3). This is consistent with (23): at smaller $\omega_{L}$, $A_{L}$ oscillates slower, leading to less cancelation in the time integral and thus to larger
we compare the polarized (a) and unpolarized (b) degenerate. In our TDSE calculation, the initial-state one-dimensional hydrogen atom, all levels are non-

amplitude ratio how it affects the temporal shift addressed previously [19–21]. In this section, we analyze on the streaked xuv photoemission spectrum has been

δτ. Simultaneously, stronger cancelation between δE_{COE}^{CL_1} and δE_{COE}^{CL_2}, results in smaller K(x).

IV. POLARIZATION OF THE INITIAL STATE BY THE IR PULSE

The effect of initial state polarization by the ir pulse on the streaked xuv photoemission spectrum has been addressed previously 19–21. In this section, we analyze how it affects the temporal shift δτ and the oscillation amplitude ratio K/k. We find that the significance of the initial-state polarization depends on whether or not the laser unperturbed initial state is energetically isolated from other levels.

We first consider the non-degenerate case. For our one-dimensional hydrogen atom, all levels are non-degenerate. In our TDSE calculation, the initial-state polarization by the ir pulse can be included (excluded) by keeping (dropping) the term xE_L(t) in (2). In Figs. 5 and 6 we compare the polarized (a) and unpolarized (b) spectrograms and their corresponding centers of energy (c) for the ground state level and the first excited state. Due to its large separation in energy from all excited states, the effect of the polarization of the ground state by the laser pulse on the spectrum is small. It slightly increases the oscillation amplitude but barely changes the temporal shift δτ. In contrast, the first excited state, whose binding energy is 6.34 eV, can be easily polarized due to its laser-induced coupling to the second excited level at 3.64 eV. As can be seen in Fig. 6 the polarization distorts the spectrogram for negative delays where the ir pulse precedes the xuv pulse. This distortion does not uniformly shift the spectrograms. Therefore, δτ cannot be uniquely defined as a delay-independent temporal shift.

For the degenerate case, we consider a space spanned by the stationary wavefunctions ψ_{200}(r) and ψ_{210}(r) of the real (3-dimensional) hydrogen atom. Under the influence of the laser pulse, the wavefunction is

ψ(r,t) = [a_{200}(t)ψ_{200}(r) + a_{210}(t)ψ_{210}(r)].  (26)

By shifting the energy scale such that the binding energies of the two degenerate stationary states are ε_{200} = ε_{210} = 0, and by substituting ψ(r,t) into the TDSE

i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}ψ(r,t) = [H_{at} + zE_L(t)]ψ(r,t),  (27)

we obtain the equations of motion for the coefficients a_{200}(t) and a_{210}(t),

\begin{align}
&i\frac{d}{dt}a_{200}(t) = μE_L(t)a_{210}(t), \quad (28) \\
&i\frac{d}{dt}a_{210}(t) = μE_L(t)a_{200}(t), \quad (29)
\end{align}

where H_{at} is the atomic Hamiltonian and μ = \langle ψ_{200}(r)|z|ψ_{210}(r)\rangle the dipole-coupling matrix element. The above equations can be solved analytically 22,

a_{200}(t) = a_{200}^0 \cos[μA_L(t)] + ia_{210}^0 \sin[μA_L(t)], \quad (30)

a_{210}(t) = a_{210}^0 \cos[μA_L(t)] + ia_{200}^0 \sin[μA_L(t)], \quad (31)
where \( a_{200}^0 \) and \( a_{210}^0 \) are the initial amplitudes at \( t_0 \to -\infty \).

For example, the initial values \( a_{200}^0 = \pm 1/\sqrt{2} \) and \( a_{210}^0 = 1/\sqrt{2} \) give the wavefunctions
\[
\psi_{\pm}(r, t) = \psi_{\pm}(r)e^{\pm i\mu A_L(t)},
\]
which evolve from the Stark states
\[
\psi_{\pm}(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\psi_{210}(r) \pm \psi_{200}(r)].
\]
Similarly, for \( a_{200}^0 = 1 \) and \( a_{210}^0 = 0 \), we obtain the wavefunction
\[
\psi_{2s}(r, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\psi_{+}(r)e^{i\mu A_L(t)} - \psi_{-}(r)e^{-i\mu A_L(t)}],
\]
which evolves from an initial 2s state, while \( a_{200}^0 = 0 \) and \( a_{210}^0 = 1 \) results in a wavefunction that evolves from a stationary 2p state,
\[
\psi_{2p}(r, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\psi_{+}(r)e^{i\mu A_L(t)} + \psi_{-}(r)e^{-i\mu A_L(t)}].
\]

Next, we calculate the ir-streaked spectrum using any of the wavefunctions (32)–(35) as the initial state in (18). In order to disentangle temporal shifts induced by i) the initial-state polarization (relative to an unpolarized target) and ii) the Coulomb potential acting on the final PE state (relative to the SFA, see section III), we neglect the final-state distortion by the Coulomb potential and study initial-state polarization effects within the SFA. In this polarization-effect study, we hence use the Volkov wavefunction \( \psi_k(r, t) \) as an approximation to the final state. If the initial state evolves from a stationary 2s or 2p state according to (34) or (35), the polarization causes delay-dependent interferences between the two Stark states \( \psi_{\pm} \). This interference significantly changes the energy-differential PE yield in the streaking trace in Fig. 7 b relative to the trace for an unpolarized initial state in Fig. 7 a. However, the interference does not induce a relative temporal shift of the polarized relative to the unpolarized spectrum, which is best seen in the centers of energy of the two spectra in Fig. 7 c. This lack of an interference-induced temporal shift is explained by the fact that the dipole expectation values \( \langle \psi_{2s}(r, t) | z | \psi_{2s}(r, t) \rangle \) and \( \langle \psi_{2p}(r, t) | z | \psi_{2p}(r, t) \rangle \) are zero at all times, even though the ir-laser pulse mixes the stationary 2s and 2p states.

The situation is different for the states (32) that evolve out of initial Stark states \( \psi_{\pm} \). The comparison of the energy-differential PE yields in the streaking trace for initial states (32) with and without including ir-laser-induced initial-state polarization shows only very small, hardly noticeable, differences (Fig. 8 a–c). However, temporal shifts (21) become noticeable in the corresponding centers of energies. At a PE energy of 60 eV, they amount to 41 as between an ir-laser polarized and unpolarized initial \( \psi_{+} \) state (Fig. 8 d) and to 82 as between polarized initial \( \psi_{+} \) and \( \psi_{-} \) states (Fig. 8 e). These shifts originate in the permanent dipole moments of the Stark states whose interaction with the ir-laser electric field shifts the streaked spectra.
V. CONCLUSIONS

We have shown how the simultaneous interaction of an xuv PE with the electric field of a streaking ir laser pulse and the Coulomb potential of the residual ion induces a specific Coulomb-Laser-coupling phase and leads to an attosecond temporal shift and amplitude enhancement in the oscillation of the streaked PE spectrum. This shift and amplitude enhancement become significant and observable as the xuv photon energy approaches the ionization threshold. It can be explained semiclassically in terms of an added Coulomb-phase factor in the PE wave function. This factor reveals the origin of the observable temporal shift as a Coulomb-laser coupling effect in the PE dynamics: the PE absorbs and releases ir photons while moving subject to the ionic Coulomb force. The analytical results obtained in EA show that the CL coupling induces a temporal shift relative to $A_L$, thus relative to the SFA result. For the experimental observation of $\delta \tau$ and $K/k$ as a function of the PE kinetic energy, we suggest using xuv pulses with tunable xuv photon energy to photoemit electrons from two levels with a large energy separation [23].

We have also examined the effect of ir-laser-induced polarization of the initial state on the ir-streaked xuv PE spectrum. If the initial state is not degenerate and has a large energetic separation from all other states, its very small polarization does not noticeably affect the PE spectrum. On the other hand, if the initial state can easily be coupled to other states by the ir-laser pulse, its polarization is important and, interestingly, does not uniformly shift the spectrum. If the initial state has a permanent dipole moment, such as the $n=2$ Stark states of hydrogen, there is a relative temporal shift in the streaking traces i) for different initial Stark states and ii) with and without inclusion of the initial-state polarization.

Acknowledgments

We thank F. He for helpful discussions. This work was supported by the NSF and the Division of Chemical Sciences, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Office of Energy Research, US DOE. Some of the numerical computations for this project were performed on the Beocat cluster at Kansas State University.

Appendix A: Using Eikonal Wavefunction for RABITT

In this appendix, we show that atomic phase in RABITT and the relative temporal shift induced by the Coulomb interaction are identical within an eikonal approximation. We start from the ir assisted single xuv-photon photoemission amplitude

$$ T_{f_{i}}(\tau) = -i \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt \langle \psi_{f}(t)|\mathbf{r} \cdot E_{X}(t+\tau)|\psi_{i}(t)\rangle $$

(A1)

where $\psi_{f}(t)$ and $\psi_{i}(t)$ are ir-dressed final and initial states, respectively. Different from streaking, in RABITT attosecond pulse trains (APT) synthesized from a number of odd harmonics of the ir field

$$ E_{X}(t) = E_{X,0} \sum_{n} e^{-i\omega_{n}t+i\varphi_{n}} $$

(A2)

are used. Here $\omega_{n} = (2n+1)\omega_{L}$ and $\varphi_{n}$ are the frequency and phase of the $(2n+1)$-th harmonic, respectively, and $\omega_{L}$ is the fundamental frequency of the ir field. For simplicity, all harmonics are assumed to have the same strength $E_{X,0}$. Using these APT, we obtain a series of peaks in the PE spectrum that are separated by twice the ir photon energy. In the presence of a weak ir field, sidebands will form between the main peaks due to the emission or absorption of ir photons. In RABITT periodic intensity variations are observed in the first sideband due to the interference of two distinct two-photon transition routes: 1) absorption of one harmonic photon with frequency $\omega_{n} = (2n+1)\omega_{L}$ and emission of an ir photon with frequency $\omega_{L}$, 2) absorption of an adjacent lower harmonic photon with frequency $\omega_{n-1} = (2n-1)\omega_{L}$ and an ir photon with frequency $\omega_{L}$. The intensity of the sideband is controlled by the delay $\tau$ between the APT and the ir field,

$$ P_{sb}(\tau) \sim \left[ 1 - \cos \left( 2\omega_{L}\tau + \Delta \varphi_{n} - \Delta \phi_{at} \right) \right]. $$

(A3)

It is shifted by the harmonic phases $\Delta \varphi_{n} = \varphi_{n-1} - \varphi_{n}$ and the atomic phase $\Delta \phi_{at}$ [12, 13, 24]. $\Delta \phi_{at}$ is a function of the PE energy.

Using the eikonal approximated wavefunction, we can now show that the atomic phase $\Delta \phi_{at}/2\omega_{L}$ is equal to the temporal shift $\delta \tau$ in streaked spectra. Using Eq. [23] in the main text for the EA phase $S_{E,A}$, expanding $\psi_{E,A}(x,t)$. 

---

We thank F. He for helpful discussions. This work was supported by the NSF and the Division of Chemical Sciences, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Office of Energy Research, US DOE. Some of the numerical computations for this project were performed on the Beocat cluster at Kansas State University.
up to first order in $E_L$,

$$
\psi_k^{E_A}(x, t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{i(k + A_L(t))x} e^{-iE_k t + iS_C(x)} \left[ 1 - \frac{iKE_L(t + \delta\tau)}{\omega_L^2} \right],
$$  \hspace{1cm} (A4)

substituting it into (A1) for $\psi_f$, and carrying out the time integration, we obtain the transition amplitude up to two-photon process

$$
T(\tau) = -i d_k E_{X,0} \sum_n \delta [E + I_p - (2n + 1)\omega_L] \\
- i \frac{K d_k E_{L,0} E_{X,0}}{2} \sum_n \left\{ \delta(E_k + I_p - 2n\omega_L)e^{-i\omega_L(\tau - \delta\tau)} - \delta(E_k + I_p - (2n + 2)\omega_L)e^{+i\omega_L(\tau - \delta\tau)} \right\},
$$  \hspace{1cm} (A5)

where $E_k = k^2/2$ is the PE kinetic energy, $e^{-i(E_k + I_p)\tau}$ has been dropped,

$$
d_k = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} \int dx e^{-i(k + A_L(t))x} e^{-iS_C(x)} \psi_i(x),
$$  \hspace{1cm} (A6)

and

$$
\hat{E}_L(\omega) = \frac{E_{L,0}}{2\pi} [\delta(\omega + \omega_L) - \delta(\omega - \omega_L)],
$$  \hspace{1cm} (A7)

$$
\hat{E}_X(\omega) = \sum_n E_{X,0} e^{+i\varphi_n} \delta[\omega - (2n + 1)\omega_L]
$$  \hspace{1cm} (A8)

are the Fourier transformations of $E_L(t)$ and $E_X(t)$. The transition amplitude for sidebands at PE energies $E_k = 2n\omega_L - I_p$ follows as

$$
T_{sb}(E_f, \tau) = -i \frac{K d_k E_{L,0} E_{X,0} e^{-i\varphi_n - i\omega_L(\tau - \delta\tau)}}{2\omega_L^2} \left[ 1 - e^{i\varphi_n + 2i\omega_L(\tau - \delta\tau)} \right].
$$  \hspace{1cm} (A9)

Accordingly, the sideband intensity as a function of delay $\tau$ is

$$
P_{sb}(E_k, \tau) = |T_{sb}(\tau)|^2 = \frac{K^2 d_k^2 E_{L,0}^2 E_{X,0}^2}{2\omega_L^4} \left[ 1 - \cos[2\omega_L(\tau - \delta\tau) + \Delta\varphi_n] \right]
$$  \hspace{1cm} (A10)

from which the atomic phase $\Delta\varphi_{at}/2\omega_L = \delta\tau$ is identified.

[1] F. Krausz and M. Ivanov, Rev. Mod. Phys. 81, 163 (2009), and refs therein.

[2] M. Lewenstein, Ph. Balcou, M. Yu. Ivanov, Anne L’Huillier, and P. B. Corkum, Phys. Rev. A 49, 2117 (1994).

[3] C.-H. Zhang and U. Thumm, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 123601 (2009).

[4] A. L. Cavalieri, N. Müller, Th. Uphues, V. S. Yakovlev, A. Baltus caronka, B. Horvath, B. Schmidt, L. Blümel, R. Holzwarth, S. Hendel, M. Drescher, U. Kleineberg, P. M. Echenique, R. Kienberger, F. Krausz, and U. Heinzmann, Nature 449, 1029 (2007).

[5] A. K. Kazansky and P. M. Echenique, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 177401 (2009).

[6] We thank A. L. Cavalieri, and N. Karpowicz for sharing their unpublished experimental data.

[7] S. Varró and F. Ehlotzky, J. Phys. B 31, 2145 (1998).

[8] C. Lemell, B. Solleder, K. Tökési, and J. Burgdörfer, Phys. Rev. A 79, 062901 (2009).

[9] J. C. Baggesen and L. B. Madsen, Phys. Rev. A 78, 032903 (2008); ibid. 80, 030901(R) (2009).

[10] N. M. Kroll and K. M. Watson, Phys. Rev. A 8, 804 (1973).

[11] O. Šmírnova, M. Spanner, and M. Ivanov, Phys. Rev. A 77, 033407 (2008); J. Phys. B 40, F197 (2007).

[12] V. Veniard, R. Taïeb, and A. Maquet, Phys. Rev. A 54, 721 (1996).

[13] E. S. Toma and H. G. Muller, J. Phys. B 35, 3435 (2002).

[14] J. Mauritssson, M. B. Gaarde, and K. J. Schafer, Phys. Rev. A 72, 013401 (2005).

[15] K. Varjú, P. Johnsson, R. López-Martens, T. Remetter, E. Gustafsson, J. Mauritssson, M. B. Gaarde, K. J. Schafer, Ch. Erny, I. Sola, A. Zaïr, E. Constant, E. Cormier, E. Mével, and A. L’Huillier, Laser Physics 15, 449 (2009).
888 (2005).
[16] C. Joachain, Quantum Collision Theory (New York, 1983).
[17] J. I. Gersten and M. H. Mittleman, Phys. Rev. A 12, 1840 (1975).
[18] U. Thumm, J. Phys. B 25, 421 (1992), and refs therein.
[19] A. K. Kazansky and N. M. Kabachnik, J. Phys. B 40, 2163 (2007).
[20] O. Smirnova, A S Mouritzen, S Patchkovskii, and M. Ivanov, J. Phys. B 39, S323 (2006).
[21] J. C. Baggesen and L. B. Madsen, Phys. Rev. Lett. 104, 043602 (2010).

[22] F. Grossmann, Theoretical Femtosecond Physics (Springer, Berlin, 2008).
[23] M. Schultze, M. Fieß, N. Karpowicz, J. Gagnon, M. Korbman, M. Høftetter, S. Neppel, A. L. Cavalieri, Y. Komninos, Th. Mercouris, C. A. Nicolaides, R. Pazourek, S. Nagele, J. Feist, J. Burgdörfer, A. M. Azzeer, R. Ernstorfer, R. Kienberger, U. Kleineberg, E. Goulielmakis, F. Krausz, and V. S. Yakovlev, Science 328, 1658 (2010).
[24] P. M. Paul E. S. Toma, P. Breger, G. Mullot, F. Augé, Ph. Balcou, H. G. Muller, and P. Agostini, Science 292, 1689 (2001).