

Ultrafast processes in the solid state: Light scattering from elementary excitations

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Ultrafast Time Scales



Time (seconds)

Ultrafast Science explores the dynamics of the microscopic world:

- Making or breaking of chemical bonds
- Atomic and Electron dynamics in materials

attoseconds to femtoseconds:

electron motion/correlation,...

femtoseconds to picoseconds:

vibrational motion, electron-phonon and phonon-phonon scattering ,..



First, some advantages of time-domain measurements

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Sheu et al. unpublished





...sometimes just plain resolution!



For perfect crystal, can write down Hamiltonian, but cannot solve.



 $H = \sum_{i} \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} + \sum_{j} \frac{P_j^2}{2M_j} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j' \neq j} \frac{Z_{j'} Z_j e^2}{|\vec{R}_j - \vec{R}_{j'}|} - \sum_{i,j} \frac{Z_j e^2}{|\vec{r}_i - \vec{R}_j|} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i' \neq i} \frac{e^2}{|\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_{i'}|}$

For perfect crystal, can write down Hamiltonian, but cannot solve.



Born-Oppenheimer, valence/core and mean-field approximations, +pert. theory with help from translational and point-group symmetries... ...single-particle excitations (electron-hole) and collective vibrations (phonons)

Elementary excitation soup



Stir in your favorite terms in the Hamiltonian...

Adapted from A. Warhol

Light Scattering and connection with elementary excitations

Response to Applied Field

$$P_{i}(\vec{r},t) = \int \chi_{ij}(\vec{r}',\vec{r},t',t)E_{j}(\vec{r}',t')d\vec{r}'dt'$$

$$P_{i}(\vec{q},\omega) = \chi_{ij}(\vec{q},\omega)E_{j}(\vec{q},\omega)$$

$$\epsilon_{ij}(\vec{q},\omega) = 1 + 4\pi\chi_{ij}(\vec{q},\omega)$$

- In linear Response, χ doesn't depend on E
- Causality, P follows E
- We will see excitation spectrum related to peaks in imaginary χ , ϵ
- Also related to the dynamical structure factor and van Hove correlations

At long wavelengths local response

 \sim

$$P(t) = \int_0^\infty \chi(t') E(t - t') dt'$$

$$\epsilon(\omega) = \epsilon_r(\omega) + i\epsilon_i(\omega) = 1 + \int_0^\infty 4\pi \chi(t') e^{i\omega t'} dt'$$

Kramers-Kronig, follows from causality

$$\epsilon_r(\omega) - 1 = \frac{2}{\pi} Pr \int_0^\infty \frac{\omega' \epsilon_i(\omega')}{\omega'^2 - \omega^2} d\omega'$$
$$\epsilon_i(\omega) = -\frac{2\omega}{\pi} Pr \int_0^\infty \frac{\epsilon_r(\omega')}{\omega'^2 - \omega^2} d\omega'$$

Can obtain real from imaginary part and vice versa, given knowledge everywhere However, note that primary contribution near $\boldsymbol{\omega}$

Microscopic picture of light interacting with electrons/ions

Microscopic picture: Light-matter interaction as perturtabation to (single electron, or ion) Hamiltonian

$$H_0 = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(\vec{r})$$

$$\vec{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}, \vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A} \qquad \Phi = 0, \nabla \cdot \vec{A} = 0$$

$$\vec{p} \rightarrow \vec{p} - \frac{e\vec{A}}{c}$$

$$H = H_0 + H_{eR} = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(\vec{r}) + \frac{e}{mc}\vec{A} \cdot \vec{p} + \frac{e^2A^2}{2mc^2}$$

- In dipole approx. $p \bullet A$ equivallent to $\mu \bullet E$
- A² term typically neglected at optical wavelengths in linear response regime
- A² dominant for x-ray scattering except very near resonance

$$\lambda \gg a, q \approx 0 \rightarrow \vec{A} \approx \vec{A}_0 e^{i\omega t} + c.c$$

Time dependent perturbation theory gives transition rate for SPE...

$$w(\omega) = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \left(\frac{e}{m\omega}\right)^2 \left(\frac{E(\omega)}{2}\right)^2 \sum_{\vec{k}} |P_{cv}|^2 \delta(E_c(\vec{k}) - E_v(\vec{k}) - \hbar\omega)$$

Same matrix elements appear in $Im\{\epsilon\}$

$$\epsilon_i(\omega) = \left(\frac{2\pi e}{m\omega}\right)^2 \sum_{\vec{k}} |P_{cv}|^2 \delta(E_c(\vec{k}) - E_v(\vec{k}) - \hbar\omega)$$

- Similar for phonons, plasmons and other excitations
- More generally for finite q

FIRST-ORDER COUPLING TO ELECTRONS







DISCRETE (exciton) vs. (interband) CONTINUUM

FIRST-ORDER COUPLING TO PHONONS (FAR TO MID INFRARED)



Phonons in 1D



$$M\frac{d^2u}{dt^2} = K(u_{j+1} - 2u_j + u_{j-1})$$

$$= \epsilon e^{i(qR_j - \omega t)}$$

relationship between ω and q, dispersion relation:

 u_j

$$\omega = 2\sqrt{\frac{K}{M}} |\sin(qd/2)|$$

 ω linear for |q|<<1/d : acoustic phonons



Phonons in 1D



Now
$$M_1 \neq M_2$$

$$M_1 \frac{d^2 u^{(1)}}{dt^2} = K(u_j^{(2)} - 2u_j^{(1)} + u_{j-1}^{(2)})$$
$$M_2 \frac{d^2 u^{(2)}}{dt^2} = K(u_{j+1}^{(1)} - 2u_j^{(2)} + u_j^{(1)})$$

Propose solutions:
$$u_j^{(1,2)} = \epsilon^{(1,2)} e^{i(qR_j - \omega t)}$$

dispersion relation:



FIRST-ORDER COUPLING TO PHONONS (EXCITONS)

$$H = -\vec{\mu}_{\text{ions}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{E}} = -\left(\vec{\alpha} \mathcal{Q}_{0} + \sum_{q} \vec{\beta}^{q} \mathcal{Q}_{q}^{2} + \dots\right) \cdot \vec{\mathbf{E}}$$

Driven Oscillator
$$\vec{\mathcal{Q}}_{0} + \Omega_{0}^{2} \mathcal{Q}_{0} = \sum_{i} \alpha_{i} E_{i}$$

Parametric Resonance
$$\vec{\mathcal{Q}}_{q} + \Omega_{q}^{2} \mathcal{Q}_{q} = \left(\sum_{i} \beta_{i}^{q} E_{i}\right) \mathcal{Q}_{-q}$$

RAMAN COUPLING TO PHONONS (TRANSPARENT MEDIA)



IMPULSIVE STIMULATED RAMAN SCATTERING

Non-Raman Mechanisms?

DISPLACIVE EXCITATION OF COHERENT PHONONS



(WORKS ONLY FOR FULLY-SYMMETRIC MODES)

 Ti_2O_3 1.00 $\Lambda \Lambda \Lambda \Lambda \Lambda$ 0.95 AR/R 0.90 (a) 0.85 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 7.1 7.0 Phonon Freq (THz) 6.9 6.8 6.7 6.6 (b) 6.1 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 Time Delay (ps)

FIG. 3. (a) The pump-induced coherent phonon amplitude produces a $\Delta R/R$ as large as 12% initially. This plot convolved with the optical pulse intensity profile yields the least-squares fit to the data in Fig. 2. The fitting function is taken to be an exponentially damped cosine, superimposed on an exponentially decaying background (Ref. 6). (b) The coherent phonon frequency is initially down-shifted by 7%, but subsequently decays back to the 7.0 THz Raman frequency. This plot was obtained by fitting 0.5 ps blocks of the data from Fig. 2 to a decaying sinusoid, superimposed on an exponentially decaying background.

Chen et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 62, 1901 (1993)

Adapted from R. Merlin.

Excitation has coherent and incoherent contribution

Comparison of spontaneous and pump-probe yield femtosecond decay of Raman coherences (Force)







Li et al., Phys Rev. Lett. 110, 047401 (2013)

Squeezed Phonons, q=0 excitation and measurement

S. L. Johnson et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 175563 (2009)



Garrett, Science **275**, 1638 (1997)

Adapted from R. Merlin.

X-ray Scattering and connection with elementary excitations

Inelastic X-ray (and Neutron) Scattering

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 95, NUMBER 1

JULY 1, 1954

Correlations in Space and Time and Born Approximation Scattering in Systems of Interacting Particles

LÉON VAN HOVE Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey (Received March 16, 1954)

 $\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega d\epsilon} = A \, \mathbb{S}(\kappa, \omega),$

$$\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{\kappa},\omega) = (2\pi)^{-1} N \int \exp[i(\mathbf{\kappa} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)] \cdot G(\mathbf{r},t) d\mathbf{r} dt,$$

$$G(\mathbf{r},t) = (2\pi)^{-3} N^{-1} \sum_{l,j=1}^{N} \int d\mathbf{\kappa} \exp(-i\mathbf{\kappa} \cdot \mathbf{r})$$
$$\cdot \langle \exp\{-i\mathbf{\kappa} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{l}(0)\} \cdot \exp\{i\mathbf{\kappa} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{j}(t)\} \rangle.$$

 $S(Q,\omega)$ Related to the imaginary part of density-density response function



14

8

6

2

0

Г

Δ

Σ

Crystal Momentum

Г

L

Λ

х

M. Holt et al., PRL 83 (1999).

(ZHL) 10

Frequency

fit to Bose-Einstein

distribution.

x-rays 2 d



Time and momentum-domain x-ray scattering



Non-equillibrium populations



 $S(\vec{Q};\tau) \propto \sum \langle u_{j,\vec{Q}}(\tau) u_{j',-\vec{Q}}(\tau) \rangle$ j,j'

Trigo et al. Nature Physics. 9, 790, 2013

Non-equillibrium frequency (forces)



Electron-phonon interactions

phonon-phonon interactions

Classical Picture of X-ray Scattering from Phonons

$$\vec{u}_n = \vec{u}\cos(\Omega t + \delta)\cos(\vec{q}\cdot\vec{R}_n)$$
$$z_n = z(t) = \vec{K}\cdot\vec{u}\cos(\Omega t + \delta)$$

$$\begin{split} I(\vec{K},t) &= I_e |f|^2 \overline{e^{\frac{1}{2}z^2(t)}} \left(\\ \frac{N^2 \delta(\vec{K} - \vec{G}) +}{N^2 z^2(t) \delta(\vec{K} - \vec{G} \pm \vec{q})} + \\ + Nz(t)) \delta(\vec{K} - \vec{G} \pm \vec{q}) \right) + \dots \end{split}$$

Change in forces induces temporal coherence



 $\left\langle (\vec{Q} \cdot u_{-\vec{q}}(t))(\vec{Q} \cdot u_{\vec{q}}(t)) \right\rangle$



 $\begin{array}{c} u\\ \text{Sudden Softening}\\ \text{squeezed thermal vibrations} \end{array}$

A new era of hard x-ray sources



Time and momentum-domain x-ray scattering:



Femtosecond time domain diffuse images:

t = -2 ps

Ge, differential signal after high-pass filter (for emphasis)



extracted TA phonon dispersion (Ge)



independent modes (oscillation at twice frequency):

$$\langle u_q u_{-q} \rangle = \frac{1}{4m\omega_q} \left(\left(1 + \frac{\omega_q^2}{\omega_q^{2\prime}} \right) + \left(1 - \frac{\omega_q^{2\prime}}{\omega_q^2} \right) \cos(2\omega'\tau) \right)$$

Trigo, Zhu, et al. in preparation Trigo et al. Nature Physics. 9, 790, 2013

Lattice dynamics of PbTe





PbTe differential scattering (2 µm pump, 1.4 Å probe)



x 10⁻³

4

3

-2

1

0

-1

PbTe near zone-center 100 fs steps (re-binned)



M.P. Jiang et al., in preparation

PbTe (Γ to X) 100 fs steps (re-binned)



Identification based on Cohran, Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A **293**: 433 (1966)

M.P. Jiang et al., in preparation

- Femtosecond x-ray scattering from large wave-vector phonon pairs excited by long-wavelength laser.
 - harmonic crystal (Ge): coherences in $\langle x_{TA,q} x_{TA,-q} \rangle$ at $2\omega_q$
 - anharmonic crystal (PbTe): coherences in <x_{j,q}x_{j',-q}> two-phonon combination modes (j≠j' as well as j=j).
- Resolution limited by maximum delay (sub-meV demonstrated). Range limited by time-resolution (sub-80 fs demonstrated)
- Broad-band x rays, no crystal analyzers and parallel detection of momentum transfer.
- Applicable near and far from equilibrium.

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Fourier-transform inelastic X-ray scattering from time- and momentum-dependent phonon-phonon correlations

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