



Wir schaffen Wissen – heute für morgen

Paul Scherrer Institut

P. Beaud

Resonant X-ray diffraction to study ultrafast phase changes in solid matter



Motivation of ultrafast x-ray studies





Understand how materials work

→ Study dynamic interplay between structural and electronic degrees of freedom on their relevant time and length scales.

Electron dynamics: Str electron correlations <1 fs optica e-e scattering ~10 fs acusti e-ph scattering ~1ps

Structural dynamics:

optical phonons: 10 - 500 fs acustic phonons: 1 - 100 ps Spin dynamics: spin waves < 1ps magnetization: ps-ns

Manipulation of material properties

- \rightarrow access to highly excited electronic states
- \rightarrow ultrafast phase transitions







'Slicing' in storage rings

- Very low flux, 20-500 ph/p, 2kHz
- Time resolution ~160 fs

Free Electron Lasers

- High photon flux, ~10¹² ph/p, 100Hz
- Time resolution <10 fs 100 fs



P. Emma et al. Nature Photon. 4, 641 (2010).

Main experimental technique: X-ray diffraction – resonant XRD



Team



FEMTO (SLS)

Gerhard Ingold Paul Beaud Steven Johnson (-2010) Faton Krasniqi (2004-2007) Simon Mariager Jeremy Johnson (Ekaterina Vorobeva (PhD 2011) Andrin Caviezel (PhD 2014) Sebastian Grübel (PhD 2011 -) Vincent Esposito (PhD 2014 -) Alex Oggenfuss

ETHZ

Steven Johnson Tim Huber Teresa Kubacka Andres Ferrer Jonathan Saari Christian Dornes Lukas Huber Martin Kubli Matteo Savoini

EPFL Chris Milne (EPFL, now SwissFEL) Jochen Rittmann (EPFL)

RESOXS Team (SLS)

Urs Staub Raquel De Souza Shih-Wen Huang Laurenz Rettig Elisabeth Botschafter

microXAS-beamline (SLS)

Daniel Grolimund Camilla Borca



Science

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Simple systems, coherent phonon dynamics (Bi, Te) Johnson, PRL **100** 155501 (2008); Johnson, PRL **102** 175503 (2009); Johnson, PRL **103** 205501 (2009); Johnson, PRB **87** 054301 (2013)

Ultrafast structural phase transition in manganites (FEMTO & LCLS) P. Beaud, PRL **103** 155702 (2009); A. Caviezel, PRB **86**, 174105 (2012); A. Caviezel et al. PRB **87**, 205104 (2013); P. Beaud, Nat. Mater. **13**, 923 (2014).

Charge density waves

E. Möhr-Vorobeva, PRL **107**, 036403 (2011); T. Huber, PRL **113**, 026401 (2014). C. Laulhé, *Physica B*, online (2015).

Magneto-structural transitions (FeRh, Ni₂MnGa))

S. Mariager, PRL 108, 087201 (2012); S. Mariager, PRB 90, 161103(R) (2014).

Structural dynamics in BaFe₂As₂

L. Rettig et al. PRL 114, 067402(2015).

Ultimate speed of antiferromagnetic phase transition in CuO (LCLS) S. Johnson, PRL **108**, 037203 (2012).

Electro-magnon in a multiferroic using intense THz fields (LCLS) T. Kubacka, Science **343**, 1333 (2014). PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT

h

Fe

 A_{1g}

Ultrafast Structural Dynamics of the Fe-Pnictide Parent Compound BaFe₂As₂

L. Rettig,^{1,*} S. O. Mariager,¹ A. Ferrer,^{2,1} S. Grübel,¹ J. A. Johnson,¹ J. Rittmann,^{3,1} T. Wolf,⁴ S. L. Johnson,² G. Ingold,^{1,5} P. Beaud,^{1,5} and U. Staub¹ ¹Swiss Light Source, Paul Scherrer Institut, CH-5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland ²Institute for Quantum Electronics, Physics Department, ETH Zürich, CH-8093 Zürich, Switzerland ³Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Laboratoire de Spectroscopie Ultrarapide, ISIC, FSB, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland ⁴Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Institut für Festkörperphysik, D-76021 Karlsruhe, Germany ⁵SwissFEL, Paul Scherrer Institut, CH-5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland (Received 3 November 2014; published 13 February 2015)

- Ultrafast displacive excitation of coherent A_{1g} phonon (5.5THz).
- Tetrahedra angle α important tuning parameter for superconductivity and Fe magnetic moments.
- Coherent excitation of A_{1g} mode: Transient resurrection of SDW ordering above T_N proposed to interprate THz probe experiment (K.W. Kim *et al.*, Nat. Mater. 11, 497, 2012).

а

b





- Time-resolved x-ray Bragg diffraction to determine transient crystal structure
- Optical pump laser:
 - Ti:Sapphire
 - 800nm, ~100 fs
- X-ray probe:
 - Femtosecond sliced beam at FEMTO beamline (microXAS)
 - 7 keV, ~3 x 10⁵ photons/sec
 - ~ 100 fs pulse duration
- Overall time-resolution ~160 fs
- Grazing incidence of x-rays ~0.45° to match penetration depth of optical pump laser
- Diffracted x-rays detected with Pilatus pixel detector and avalanche photodiode (APD)









- Step-like increase of intensity within the time-resolution
- Coherent oscillations at 5.5 THz, A_{1g} phonon mode
- Cosine-like oscillation phase agrees with displacive excitation



Fluence dependence





- Linear behavior up to ~2 mJ/cm²
- Saturation effects for fluence >3 mJ/cm²
- Determination of As oscillation amplitude by structure factor calculations.
- Displacement towards larger $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$
- Maximal displacement amplitude of >0.6 pm, >5% of Fe-As distance

Comparison to trARPES yields

- A_{1g} electron-phonon deformation potential $\Delta \mu / \Delta z = -(1.0 - 1.5) \text{ eV}/\text{\AA}$
- Electron-phonon coupling constant ($\lambda_{tot} \le 0.35$)

$$\lambda_{\rm A_{1g}} = 0.05 - 0.30$$

- Displacement towards *larger* $\alpha \rightarrow$ transient *increase* of Fe magnetic moments.
- Increase too small to explain resurrection of SDW phase.

L. Rettig et al. PRL 114, 067402 (2009);







- CE-type charge & orbital order Goodenough, Phys. Rev. 100, 555 (1955).
- Jahn-Teller distortion at Mn³⁺ sites leading to a doubling of the unit cell.
- Strong electron-phonon coupling
 → sensitive to optical excitation.

- Transition metal oxides, with perovskite structure.
- Prototype of strongly correlated electron system.
- Exhibit colossal magnetoresistance & insulator-metal transitions.
- Many types of ordering patterns.

Mn³⁺

Mn4+









M. Fiebig et al., Science 280, 1925 (1998)



Polli et al., Nat. Mater. 6, 643 (2007)



- At high fluence dissapearance of superlattice peak
- Evidence of ultrafast structural transition driven by melting of charge and orbital order

Beaud et al. PRL 103 155702 (2009);







Low fluence

Displacive excitation of coherent optical phonon.



Discrepancy:

Phonon assigned *to rare earth cation* motion, but induced coherent phonon must include motion of Mn⁴⁺ sites.

A. Caviezel *et al.* PRB 86, 174105 (2012). A. Caviezel *et al.* PRB 87, 205104 (2013).

Questions:

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- 1. Understand different time scales and role of phonon in structural transition.
- 2. Time scales of CO&OO melting?
- 3. How do electronic states modulate in the presence of a phonon?
- \rightarrow Measure orbital and charge order dynamics with resonant diffraction.
- \rightarrow requires higher photon flux & better time resolution.





- Pr_{0.5}Ca_{0.5}MnO₃,
- thin film ($d \approx 40$ nm), (011)_c-orientation
- Sample cooled to 100 K (nitrogen cryo blower)



Resonant x-ray diffraction





Combines diffraction and element specific absorption, unique site specific probe.

Measures charge, orbital & magnetic order.



Resonant XRD at Mn K edge

Possible at Mn *K* edge due to hybridization of Mn 3d and O 2p states Zimmermann et al. PRL 83, 4872,1999

- (h k/2 0) \rightarrow structural distortion
- (0 k/2 0) \rightarrow orbital order & Jahn-Teller
- $(0 \ k \ 0) \rightarrow charge order$



A time-dependent order parameter for ultrafast photoinduced phase transitions



P. Beaud^{1,2*}, A. Caviezel¹, S. O. Mariager¹, L. Rettig¹, G. Ingold^{1,2}, C. Dornes³, S-W. Huang¹, J. A. Johnson¹, M. Radovic^{1,2}, T. Huber³, T. Kubacka³, A. Ferrer^{1,3}, H. T. Lemke⁴, M. Chollet⁴, D. Zhu⁴, J. M. Glownia⁴, M. Sikorski⁴, A. Robert⁴, H. Wadati^{5,6}, M. Nakamura⁷, M. Kawasaki^{5,7}, Y. Tokura^{5,7}, S. L. Johnson³ and U. Staub¹



- No threshold behavior,.
- Atoms overshoot at high fluence.

- Ultrafast onset of structural and electronic transition.

- Partial recovery of charge order within ~2-3 ps.

IFTTFRS

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 3 AUGUST 2014 | DOI: 10.1038/NMAT

nature materials



Order parameter



Structure factor of a superlattice reflection is direct measure of the order parameter (η):

$$I^{0\overline{3}0} = \left| F^{0\overline{3}0} \right|^2 = |\eta|^2$$

> Initially intensity drops linearly with excitation density, transition occurs for $n_0 > n_c$

$$\eta_0 = \sqrt{1 - n_0/n_c}$$

> After electron-lattice thermalization ($\tau \approx 1$ ps):

$$\eta_{th} = (1 - n_0/n_c)^{\gamma}$$





> Striking ressemblence to $\sqrt{1 - T/T_c}$ the Landau result for 2nd order phase transitions.

> Mean Field Theory including long range correlations: $(1 - T/T_c)^{\beta}$, to $\sqrt{1 - T/T_c}$

(**Universality:** critical exponent β depends on dimension and symmetry, but not on microscopic details of the system)



- Unit cell with 40 atoms, multiple coordinates.
- Simplified model of atomic motion to derive time dependent atomic potential:



Ultrafast collapse of Jahn-Teller distortion \rightarrow chain reaction rearranging the unit cell.



Time evolution





- > Fast loss of long range order, partially recovers within 2-3 ps for $n_0 < n_c$.
- > Strong coupling \rightarrow lowest frequency in chain dominates late dynamics.
- > Atoms are slower, overshoot \rightarrow frequency doubling in diffracted signal.



Beaud et al., Nat. Mater. 13, 923 (2014).



Fairly simple description relying on a single time-dependent order parameter captures the essential dynamics down to ~80 fs.



Paul

Our wish list for the future includes:

- \rightarrow Improved time resolution
 - \rightarrow Polarization control & analysis
 - → Controlled sample environment (temperature, pressure, magnetic fields ...)
 - → Theory
- At SwissFEL we currently build an instrument dedicated to dynamic studies on strongly correlated electron systems.



Universal description of phase transitions in the time domain?

Time dependent order parameter concept proposed to describe ultrafast phase transitions.

$$\eta(t) = \sqrt{1 - n(t)/n_c}$$



must



Summary & outlook



Gerhard Ingold, Jochen Rittmann, Paul Beaud



Dedicated diffractometer for resonant XRD (with polarization control & analysis).
 Flexible station for diverse x-ray scattering geometries (with 16M pixel detector).

must



Dedicated diffractomter for dynamic studies on strongly correlated electron system

- Diffractometer arm with polarization analysis
- Control of x-ray polarization
- Controlled sample environment (low T, high B, ...)
- Extension to include RIXS (phase II)





2. General purpose station





Open for various other techniques & user setups

- Heavy load manipulator
- 16M 2-D pixel detector mounted on a robot arm

Techniques - diffuse scattering, SAXS, WAXS, XAS, nonlinear x-ray pump, ...

Science

- Condensed matter
 - Planetary science (matter under high pressure)
 - Crystallography (Bio), crystals on solid support





Thank you for your attention!