

## Orbital-symmetry-selective spin characterization of Dirac-cone-like state on W(110)

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The surface of W(110) exhibits a spin-orbit-induced Dirac-cone-like surface state, which is of mainly  $d_{z^2}$  orbital character near  $\bar{\Gamma}$ , although it is strongly influenced by the twofold  $C_{2v}$  surface symmetry. Its distinctive  $\mathbf{k}$ -dependent spin polarization along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  is revealed by spin- and angle-resolved photoemission excited with  $p$ - and  $s$ -polarized light. The spin texture of the surface state is found to change sign upon switching from  $p$ - to  $s$ -polarized light. Based on electronic-structure calculations, this behavior is explained by the orbital composition of the Dirac-cone-like state. The dominant part of the state has even mirror symmetry and is excited by  $p$ -polarized light. A minor part with odd symmetry is excited by  $s$ -polarized light and exhibits a reversed spin polarization. Our study demonstrates in which way spin-orbit interaction combines the spin degree of freedom with the orbital degree of freedom and opens a way to manipulate the spin information gathered from the Dirac-cone-like surface state by light. Our results prove that “spin control” is not restricted to topological surface states with  $p$ -type orbital symmetry in topological insulators.

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Topological insulators (TI) have attracted great attention as key materials to generate and manipulate spin currents without magnetic fields [1–3]. The lack of space-inversion symmetry at the surface of a TI leads to Dirac-cone-like, so-called topological surface states (TSS) with helical spin texture induced by strong spin-orbit interaction [4].

The interplay between spin-orbit interaction, orbital symmetries, and spin polarization has become a research focus in studies on the TSS of the prototypical TI  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3$ . Recently, a fascinating idea was presented: the manipulation and control of the spin polarization of the photoemission signal from the Dirac-cone-like TSS by a proper choice of the light polarization, experimental geometry, and photon energy [5–11]. This effect is currently highly debated in view of optospintronics applications. However, detailed studies of the photoelectron spin features are so far restricted to almost isotropic and ideal Dirac-cone-like TSS of  $p$ -type orbital symmetry in materials with  $C_{3v}$  surface symmetry. Hence, the fundamental relation between intrinsic spin polarization and measured spin signal has become a focus of interest recently [12–16].

For a surface state on W(110) within a spin-orbit-induced symmetry gap [17,18], we recently found a Dirac-cone-like dispersion behavior with a spin texture reminiscent of a TSS [19]. In contrast to a TSS, it is derived from  $d$  orbitals and the surface has twofold symmetry ( $C_{2v}$ ). The latter is responsible for a flattened dispersion behavior along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{N}$  compared with a linear dispersion along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  [20] and along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{S}$  [19,21]. Note that only  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{N}$  and  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  lie in mirror planes. Based on several experimental and theoretical studies, the state, around  $\bar{\Gamma}$ , has predominantly  $d_{z^2}$  orbital symmetry, belonging to the  $\Sigma_1$  (single-group) representation, with significant  $\Sigma_3$  and minor  $\Sigma_2$  and  $\Sigma_4$  contributions [20,22–25]. For the  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  mirror-plane direction, photoemission calculations expect high intensity for

excitation with  $p$ -polarized light, based on its dominant even symmetry with respect to the mirror plane, and only small intensity for  $s$ -polarized light [22]. Interestingly and again reminiscent of the TSS behavior, the calculations predict a spin reversal on changing the light polarization from  $p$  to  $s$ .

In this Rapid Communication, we put the predicted spin texture of the W(110) surface state in the mirror-plane direction  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  to the experimental test. We use angle-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy (ARPES) with spin analysis for the photoelectrons to reveal the orbital-symmetry-selective spin texture of the surface state. We chose a highly symmetric experimental geometry: The electrons are excited by linear polarized synchrotron light and the momenta of the electrons are varied in a mirror plane of the crystal.

A clean surface of W(110) was obtained and evaluated by the same procedures as described earlier [19,20]. The experiments have been performed at two beamlines at the Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center (HiSOR): spin-integrated ARPES with light from a linear undulator at beamline BL-1 and spin-resolved ARPES with light from a quasi-periodic variably polarizing undulator [26] at beamline BL-9B, equipped with highly efficient three-dimensional spin-polarization analysis of the ESPRESSO machine [27,28].

At BL-9B, the electric field vector of the synchrotron light can be switched between parallel ( $p$  polarization) and perpendicular ( $s$  polarization) to the plane spanned by the surface normal and the photoelectron propagation vectors by changing the magnetic phase of the undulator. In order to reduce higher harmonics contributions, a quasiperiodic magnet array is used. As a consequence, the generated  $p$ -polarized light is almost fully polarized (>99.95%), while the  $s$  polarization amounts to only about 90% with a 10% contribution of  $p$  polarization at a photon energy of  $h\nu = 43$  eV, caused by the quasiperiodicity of the magnet. This admixture of  $p$ -polarized light in the nominal  $s$ -polarized light becomes a critical issue

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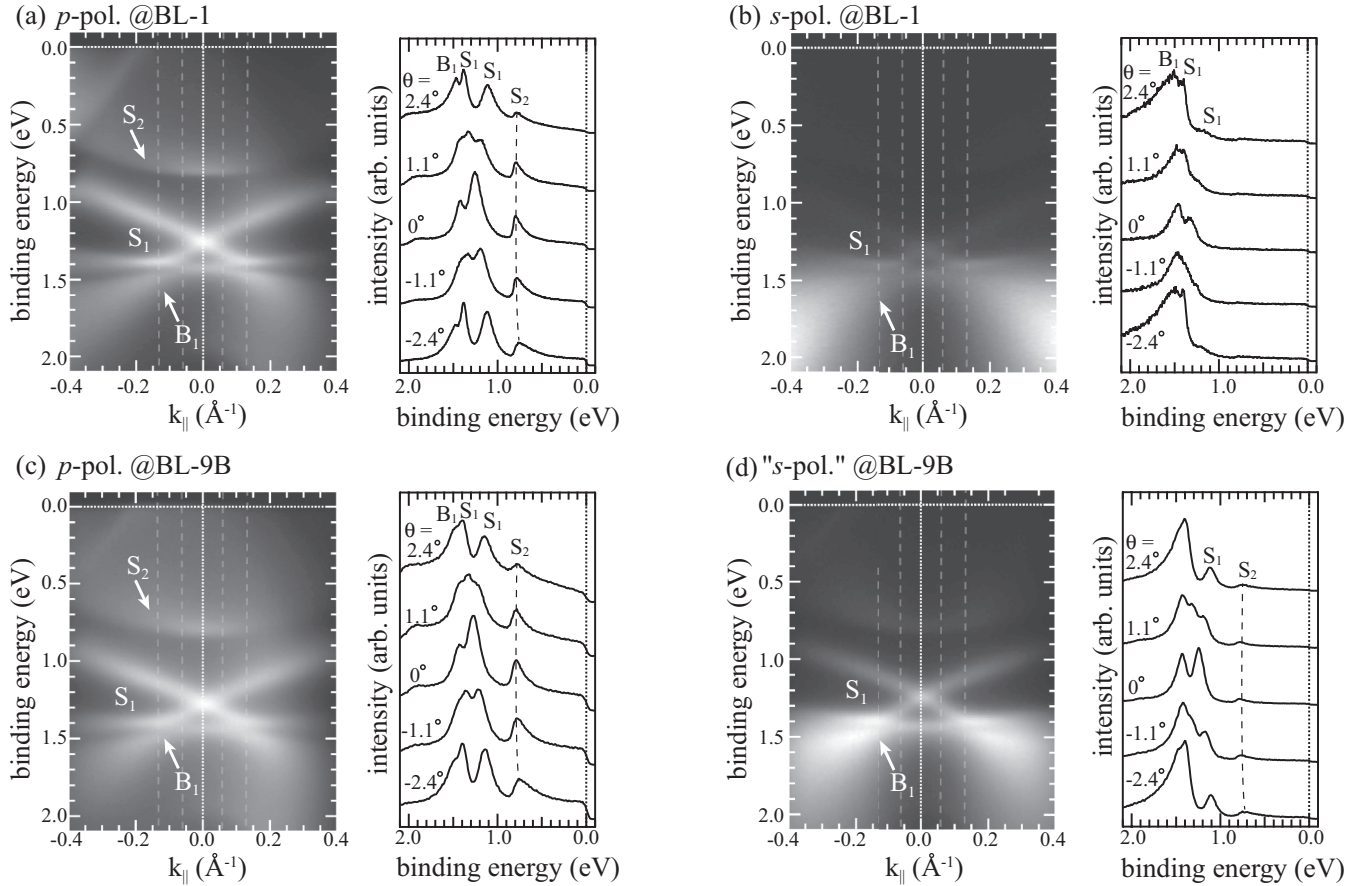


FIG. 1. ARPES results for W(110) along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  obtained for  $p$ - and  $s$ -polarized light of  $h\nu = 43$  eV at BL-1 [(a) and (b)] and BL-9B [(c) and (d)]. The photoemission intensities are presented as contour plots  $E(k_{\parallel})$  on a linear gray scale as well as energy distribution curves (EDCs) for selected emission angles  $\theta = 0^\circ, \pm 1.1^\circ, \pm 2.4^\circ$ , corresponding to  $k_{\parallel}$  values as indicated by dashed lines.

in this study, in which we aim to extract the spin texture of a minor spectral contribution excited exclusively by  $s$ -polarized light. To clearly identify orbital symmetries of the respective states, we used BL-1 for measurements with complete  $p$  and  $s$  polarization yet without spin-polarization detection. The complete linear polarization at BL-1 is preserved on changing the polarization plane by rotating the whole ARPES apparatus with respect to the synchrotron beam.

At both beamlines, the angle of light incidence was  $50^\circ$  relative to the lens axis of the electron analyzer. The overall experimental energy and angle resolutions of ARPES at BL-1 (BL-9B) were set to 15 meV (50 meV) and  $0.2^\circ$  ( $0.3^\circ$ ). Those of spin-ARPES at BL-9B were 50 meV and  $0.75^\circ$ . The spin-ARPES system can resolve both out-of-plane ( $P_z$ ) and two in-plane ( $P_x$  and  $P_y$ ) spin-polarization components. In this work, only one spin component ( $P_y$ , perpendicular to  $k_{\parallel}$ ) was measured, which is the only symmetry-allowed spin polarization direction along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  of a bcc(110) surface. The emission angle  $\theta$  of the photoelectrons is defined as positive (negative), when the surface normal is moved away from (toward) the light propagation vector. All measurements have been performed at a sample temperature of 80 K.

Figures 1(a) and 1(b) show spin-integrated ARPES data for W(110) along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  obtained from BL-1 with pure  $p$ -polarized and  $s$ -polarized light of  $h\nu = 43$  eV. For  $p$ -polarized light [Fig. 1(a)], we observe three characteristic features, a

Dirac-cone-like state  $S_1$ , a surface-state emission  $S_2$ , and a bulk emission  $B_1$ , as identified before [19,20].  $S_1$  clearly shows an almost-linear energy dispersion with a crossing point at a binding energy  $E_B$  of 1.25 eV at  $\bar{\Gamma}$ . In the case of  $s$ -polarized light [Fig. 1(b)], the intensity of  $S_1$  is strongly reduced and the intensity of  $S_2$  is completely lost. This demonstrates that  $S_1$  has predominantly and  $S_2$  completely even symmetry.

Equivalent ARPES spectra obtained from BL-9B are presented in Figs. 1(c) and 1(d). The results for  $p$ -polarized light [Fig. 1(c)] are identical to the results obtained from BL-1 [Fig. 1(a)] except for differences in linewidths that depend on the settings of the energy and angle resolutions in both experiments. For  $s$ -polarized light, however, the ARPES results from BL-9B [Fig. 1(d)] differ significantly from those from BL-1 [Fig. 1(b)]: The intensity of  $S_2$  is not lost and the Dirac-cone-like dispersion behavior of  $S_1$  is clearly visible. This discrepancy is caused by the admixture of  $p$ -polarized light in the nominal  $s$ -polarized light. Even a small contribution of  $p$ -polarized light leads to significant intensity for  $S_1$  due to the strong photoionization cross section. It is, however, favorable that  $S_2$  is exclusively excited by  $p$ -polarized light. This information can be used to remove the  $p$ -induced intensity contribution of  $S_1$  from the nominal  $s$ -induced intensity in the spin-resolved spectra.

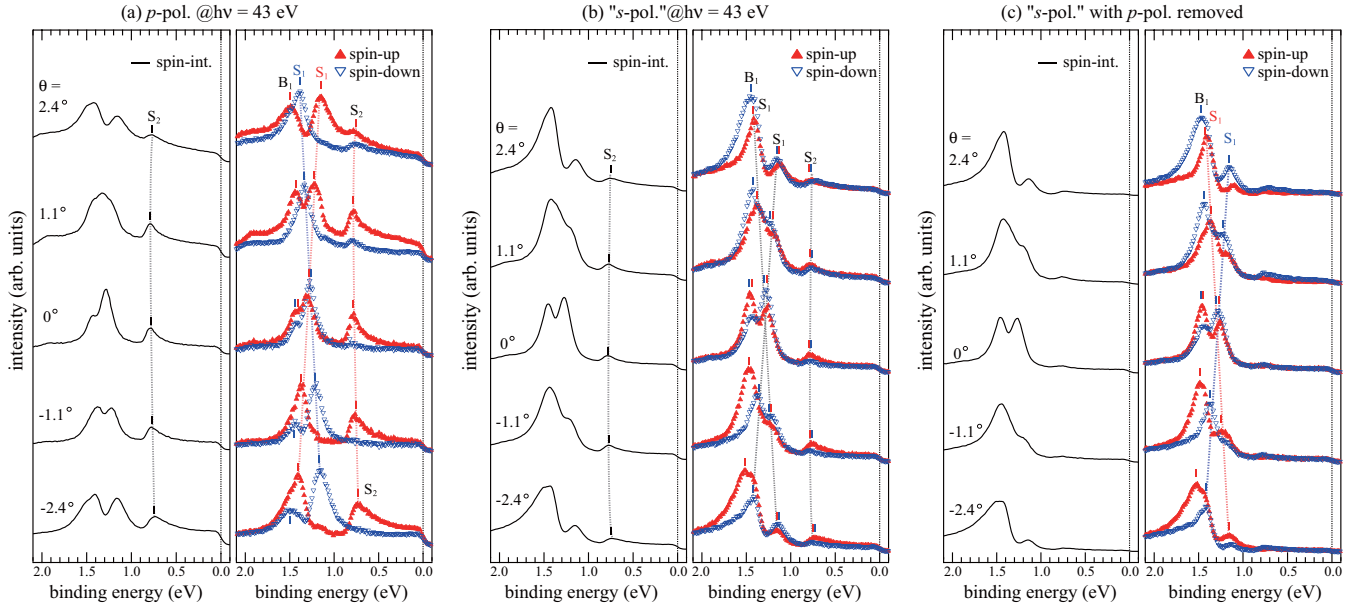


FIG. 2. Spin-integrated and spin-resolved EDCs for W(110) along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  obtained with  $p$ -polarized (a) and nominal  $s$ -polarized light (b) at BL-9B. Panel (c) shows the results where the  $p$  contribution has been removed from the spectra obtained with nominal  $s$ -polarized light. See text for details.

Figures 2(a) and 2(b) show spin-integrated and spin-resolved ARPES data as energy distribution curves (EDC) excited with  $p$ - and  $s$ -polarized light from BL-9B. Spin-up ( $I^{\text{up}}$ ) and -down ( $I^{\text{down}}$ ) intensities are plotted with pointing-up and -down triangles, respectively. For normal emission, the results for  $p$ -polarized light [Fig. 2(a)] show three features:  $B_1$  at  $E_B = 1.45$  eV,  $S_1$  at 1.25 eV in both spin channels, and  $S_2$  as a sharp spin-up peak at 0.78 eV. In the spectra for positive (negative)  $\theta$ , the spin-up (spin-down) peak  $B_1$  shifts to higher  $E_B$  with increasing (decreasing)  $\theta$ . The spin-up peak  $S_2$  shifts slightly to lower  $E_B$  with increasing  $|\theta|$ . For the prominent feature  $S_1$ , the spin-down peak shifts to higher  $E_B$  with increasing  $\theta$ , while the spin-up peak shifts to lower  $E_B$ . These observations confirm a Dirac-cone-like dispersion behavior and spin texture of  $S_1$ , reminiscent of a TSS, as previously shown [19,25]. The bulk-derived feature  $B_1$  shows a Rashba-type spin texture, which reminds us of the behavior of bulk states on Bi(111) [29]. Note that our spectra show not only the  $\mathbf{k}$ -dependent intrinsic spin texture of the respective states. Due to the broken symmetry by the experimental geometry,  $\mathbf{k}$ -independent spin polarization is observed in addition; see, e.g., the dominating spin-up polarization for all angles of electron incidence for excitation with  $p$ -polarized light in Fig. 2(a). This effect has been discussed in detail in the literature [12,15,25,30].

The spectra for nominal  $s$ -polarized light [Fig. 2(b)] show similar spectral features but with modified intensities. The spin-resolved data, however, differ considerably from the results for  $p$ -polarized light. While the spin polarization of  $B_1$  appears almost reversed when changing the sign of  $\theta$ , the spin polarization of  $S_1$  is almost lost. To understand this behavior, the admixture of  $p$  polarization in the  $s$ -polarized light has to be taken into account, which manifests itself in the nonvanishing intensity of  $S_2$ . To eliminate this experimental artifact, we subtracted spin-resolved spectra excited by  $p$ -

polarized light from spectra excited by nominal  $s$ -polarized light. The weighting coefficient  $R$  used for subtraction was derived from the intensity of the spin-integrated peak  $S_2$ , which is exclusively excited by  $p$ -polarized light:

$$I_{s\text{-pol}}^i = I_{s\text{-pol}}^i - R I_{p\text{-pol}}^i \quad (1)$$

Here,  $I_{s\text{-pol}}^i$  ( $I_{p\text{-pol}}^i$ ) and  $I_{s\text{-pol}}^i$  denote spectral intensities excited by completely  $s$ -polarized ( $p$ -polarized) light and nominal  $s$ -polarized light, respectively. The upper index  $i$  denotes spin-up and spin-down.  $R$  is the ratio between photoemission intensities of  $S_2$  for excitation with “ $s$ ”- and  $p$ -polarized light. An estimate for  $R$  (0.08 to 0.12) is derived from the polarization-dependent results for  $S_2$ . The uncertainty in  $R$  is caused by a changing light intensity as well as aging effects of the sample condition, which lead to slightly changing intensities in the spectra used for the subtraction procedure. This also explains why  $S_2$  could not be completely eliminated in Fig. 2(c). With this approach, we were able to reconstruct spin-resolved spectra for fully  $s$ -polarized light in a semiquantitative way [Fig. 2(c)]. More importantly, we are now able to reveal the true spin texture of  $S_1$ , when excited with  $s$ -polarized light: It is reversed in comparison with the  $p$ -polarized case.

This switching spin feature of  $S_1$  is reproduced by our first-principles calculations including the photoemission process in the one-step model as described in Ref. [22]. Figure 3 shows spin-integrated ARPES intensities  $I^{\text{up}} + I^{\text{down}}$  [Figs. 3(a) and 3(d)], intensity differences  $I^{\text{up}} - I^{\text{down}}$  [Figs. 3(b) and 3(e)] and spin-resolved EDCs [Figs. 3(c) and 3(f)] calculated for W(110) along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  for excitation with 100%  $p$ - [Figs. 3(a)–3(c)] and 100%  $s$ -polarized light [Figs. 3(d) and 3(f)] of  $h\nu = 43$  eV.  $S_2$  appears only for excitation with  $p$ -polarized light and the spin polarization of the bulk continuum state  $B_1$  is reversed on switching the linear

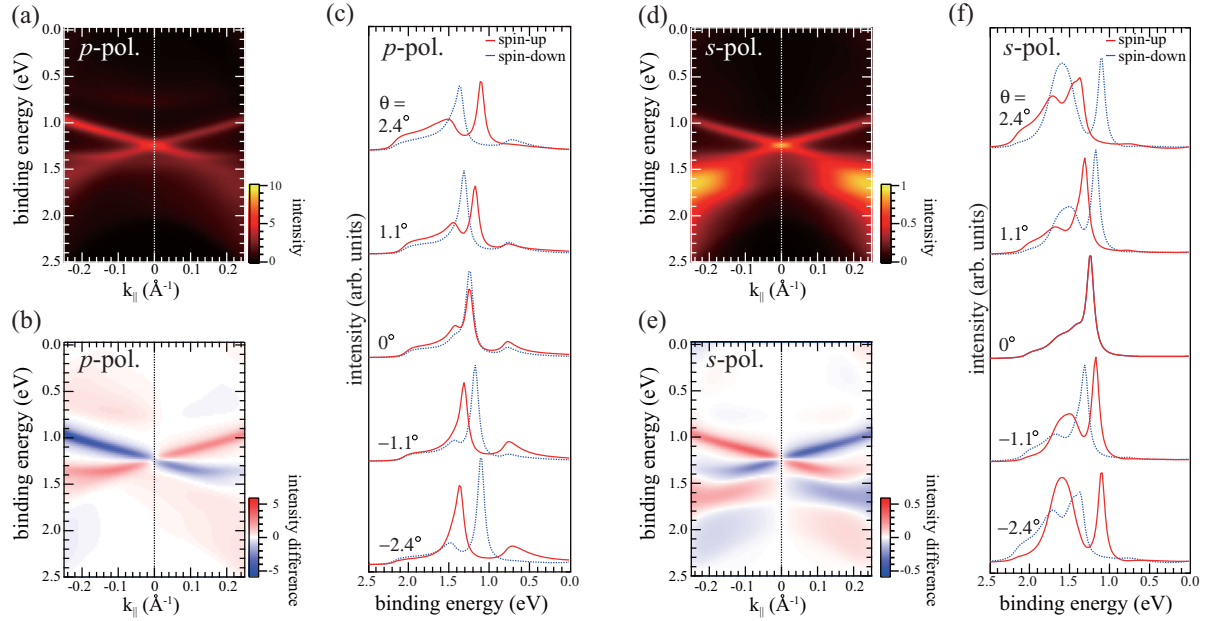


FIG. 3. Spin-integrated and spin-resolved ARPES intensities calculated for W(110) along  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$  within the one-step model of photoemission. Note that the intensities for  $p$ -polarized light are about 10 times higher than for  $s$ -polarized light. Panels (a)–(c) [(d)–(f)] show the calculated spectra excited by the photon energy of 43 eV with  $p$ - ( $s$ -)polarized light. [(b) and (e)] Intensity differences between spin-up and spin-down excited by  $p$ - and  $s$ -polarized light, respectively. [(c) and (f)] spin-resolved EDC spectra with several emission angles.

polarization of the exciting light, all in agreement with our experimental observations.

The calculations provide detailed information about  $S_1$ . According to dipole selection rules for photoelectrons in our experimental geometry, even and odd orbital symmetry in the initial state can be excited by  $p$ - and  $s$ -polarized light, respectively. Considering group theory including spin-orbit interaction under mirror symmetry, the wave function of a spin-orbit-induced spin-split band consists of  $a_1|\text{even}, \uparrow\rangle + a_2|\text{odd}, \downarrow\rangle$  or  $a_1|\text{even}, \downarrow\rangle + a_2|\text{odd}, \uparrow\rangle$  ( $|a_1|^2 \neq |a_2|^2$ ). Here  $\uparrow$  and  $\downarrow$  correspond to spin alignment with direction perpendicular to the mirror plane ( $P_y$  in the experimental geometry). The calculated intensities for  $s$ -polarized light are about 1/10 of those for  $p$ -polarized light [Figs. 3(a) and 3(d)]. According to the electronic structure calculation, the Dirac-cone-like surface state for W(110) is composed of even symmetry ( $\Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_3$ ) with more than 90% spectral weight and odd symmetry (almost only  $\Sigma_2$ ) with less than 10% spectral weight with opposite spin polarization. The photoionization cross section of  $S_1$  for  $p$ -polarized light is, therefore, about 10 times higher than that for  $s$ -polarized light. As a consequence, a small  $p$  admixture in the experimental  $s$ -polarized light has significant influence on the results for  $S_1$ . In the case of 10%  $p$  admixture, no spin polarization is expected for  $S_1$  in the experimental data for nominal  $s$ -polarized light. This is exactly what we observe: Figure 3(b) shows almost equal intensities of  $S_1$  for spin-up and spin-down. This result provides an estimate for the ratio of the

coefficients  $a_1/a_2$  of about 9 in the initial state. Consequently, the spin polarization of the Dirac-cone-like surface state  $S_1$  is roughly 80%.

In summary, we have revealed the orbital-symmetry-selective spin texture of the  $d$ -derived Dirac-cone-like surface state on W(110) with  $C_{2v}$  crystal symmetry using spin-resolved ARPES measurements excited by  $p$ - and  $s$ -polarized light. Along the mirror-plane high-symmetry direction  $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$ , a predominant part of the state has even symmetry and shows a spin texture, which is opposite in sign to the spin structure of a minor part with odd symmetry. This result unveils in which way spin-orbit interaction combines spin and orbital degrees of freedom. Compared with recent results for the topological surface state in  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3$ , which consists of  $p$ -type orbitals at a surface with  $C_{3v}$  symmetry, we conclude that “spin control” is not restricted to topological insulators but a much more general phenomenon.

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