Rapid Communications

Antiphase Fermi-surface modulations accompanying displacement excitation in a parent compound of iron-based superconductors

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(Received 25 August 2017; published 13 March 2018)

We investigate the transient electronic structure of $BaFe_2As_2$, a parent compound of iron-based superconductors, by time- and angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy. In order to probe the entire Brillouin zone, we utilize extreme ultraviolet photons and observe photoemission intensity oscillation with the frequency of the A_{1g} phonon which is antiphase between the zone-centered hole Fermi surfaces (FSs) and zone-cornered electron FSs. We attribute the antiphase behavior to the warping in one of the zone-centered hole FSs accompanying the displacement of the pnictogen height and find that this displacement is the same direction as that induced by substitution of P for As, where superconductivity is induced by a structural modification without carrier doping in this system.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevB.97.121107

Photoirradiation to a material can trigger a phase change into crystallographically and/or electronically modulated structures. This phenomenon is known as photoinduced phase transition (PIPT) [1]. The observation of extremely efficient photochromism (bidirectional switching of molecular structures induced by photoirradiation) in polydiacetylenes is a pioneering work of the discovery of PIPT [2], and emergence of the photoinduced 'hidden' insulating phase in manganese oxide [3] and photoinduced insulator-metal transition in vanadium dioxide [4] are known as typical examples of PIPT in strongly correlated materials.

Recently, it has been reported that photoinduced superconductivity is realized in cuprate superconductors and doped fullerene [5–7]. For 1/8-doped (La,Eu,Sr)CuO₄ (Eu-LSCO), where superconductivity is not observed in the equilibrium state, the Josephson plasma edge was observed by an optical pumping of midinfrared pulse. This has been claimed as evidence for photoinduced superconductivity [5]. Another example is $YBa_2Cu_3O_{6+x}$ (YBCO), which has two CuO₂ layers within a unit cell and in which, differently from LSCO, two Josephson plasma edges and the transverse Josephson plasma mode due to the intrabilayer and interbilayer couplings are observed. Surprisingly, the signal of the Josephson plasma has been detected even at room temperature [6,8].

A key mechanism for the photoinduced superconductivity has been ascribed to atomic displacements induced by anharmonic effects of strongly excited infrared active phonon modes. Lattice modulation corresponding to the A_g phonon has been confirmed by time-resolved x-ray diffraction (TRXRD) measurements using a free electron laser for YBCO [9,10]. On

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the other hand, the observation of coherent phonon excitation indicates the existence of lattice modulations induced by optical pumping, since coherent phonon modes are excited followed by the lattice modulations according to the displacive excitation of coherent phonons (DECP) mechanism [11]. It has been reported that the photoinduced superconductivity can also be realized with a near-infrared pump of 1.5 eV rather than a midinfrared pump in (La,Ba)₂CuO₄ [12]. This may be related to the lattice modulations through the DECP mechanism.

One of the most prominent features of $BaFe_2As_2$ (Ba122), the parent compound of another high- T_c superconductor system, iron-based superconductors [13], is the emergence of superconductivity under various conditions; that is, hole doping by substitution of K for Ba [14], electron doping by substitutions of Co for Fe [15], and isovalent substitution of P for As [16], as well as under high pressure [17]. In the isovalent substitution and high-pressure studies, superconductivity can be induced by structural modifications without carrier doping. This leads to the idea that this material could be driven into a superconducting state by photoirradiation. To this end, it is crucial to study the transient electronic structure after photoirradiation.

In this Rapid Communication, we investigate the transient electronic structure of Ba122 by time- and angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (TARPES) to explore the possibility of photoinduced superconductivity in this system. An extreme ultraviolet laser from high harmonic generation is used to study both the hole and electron FSs, and we observe photoemission intensity oscillation after optical pumping, of which the frequency corresponds to the A_{1g} phonon. We also find that the intensity oscillation is antiphase between the hole and electron FSs. We attribute this antiphase behavior to the warping [18] in one of the hole FSs accompanying the displacement of the pnictogen height. Since the pnictogen

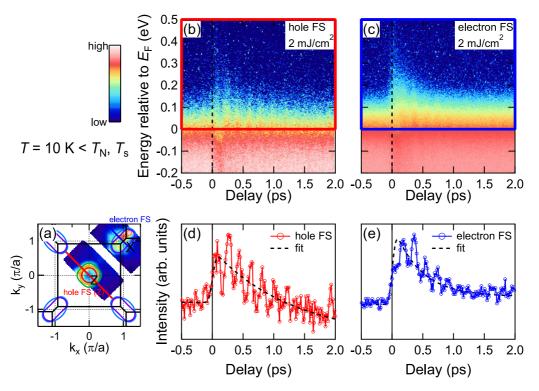


FIG. 1. Time-resolved ARPES (TARPES) spectra of BaFe₂As₂. (a) FS mapping measured with a He discharge lamp. The integrated momentum regions for the TARPES spectra across the hole and electron FSs shown in (b) and (c) are indicated by thick red and blue lines, respectively. The calculated FSs based on DFT are also overlaid. (b), (c) TARPES intensity images taken with the pump fluence of 2 mJ/cm² with respect to energy relative to E_F and pump-probe delay (b) around the zone center and (c) around the zone corner in the two-dimensional BZ, respectively. (d), (e) Integrated intensity from E_F to 0.5 eV above E_F of spectra shown in (b) and (c), respectively. T, T_N , and T_S are the measurement, Néel, and structural transition temperatures, respectively ($T_N \approx T_S = 142$ K).

height is known to be important for superconductivity in iron-based superconductors [19] and the Ba122-based system shows superconductivity by the reduced pnictogen height [16], our observation should be important for the realization of photoinduced superconductivity in iron-based superconductors.

TARPES measurements were performed with a commercial extremely stable Ti:sapphire regenerative amplifier system (Astrella, Coherent) with the center wavelength of 800 nm and pulse duration ~ 30 fs, which was used for the pump light, and a Scienta R4000 hemispherical electron analyzer. After taking a second harmonic (SH) via 0.2-mm-thick β-BaB₂O₄ (BBO), the SH light is focused to the static gas cell filled with Ar and the high harmonics are generated. We selected the ninth harmonic of the SH ($h\nu = 27.9 \text{ eV}$) for the probe light using a set of SiC/Mg multilayer mirrors [20]. The probe light was p polarized. (A component vertical to the surface was contained in the electric field.) While the other experimental conditions were similar to our previous report [21], we succeeded in observing a clear intensity oscillation corresponding to the coherent phonon excitation because the pulse duration of the fundamental laser was shortened and the stability was improved. The temporal resolution was evaluated to be \sim 80 fs from the TARPES intensity far above the Fermi level corresponding to the cross correlation between pump and probe pulses. The total energy resolution was set to \sim 250 meV. All the spectra were taken at 10 K. High quality single crystals of BaFe₂As₂ were grown by self-flux method, and clean surfaces were obtained by cleaving in situ. Band structure calculations based on density functional theory (DFT) were performed using a WIEN2k package [22]. a=3.9625 Å, c=13.0168 Å, and h=1.3602 Å [14] were used for the lattice parameters in equilibrium.

Figure 1(a) shows FS mapping measured with a He discharge lamp around the center and corner of the twodimensional Brillouin zone (BZ), where the hole Fermi surfaces and electron FSs exist, respectively. The calculated FSs based on DFT are also overlaid. Figures 1(b) and 1(c) show the momentum integrated TARPES intensity measured across the hole and electron FSs, respectively, as a function of energy relative to the Fermi level (E_F) and pump-probe delay time. The integrated momentum regions of the hole and electron FSs are indicated by thick red and blue lines in Fig. 1(a), respectively. The spectra show that electrons are excited to above E_F upon photoirradiation and relaxed after that. In addition, oscillatory behaviors can be recognized for the intensity above E_F in the spectra. This can be more clearly recognized in Figs. 1(d) and 1(e), where the integrated intensities of the regions surrounded by boxes in Figs. 1(b) and 1(c), respectively, are plotted. The dashed lines indicate the relaxation curves composed of an exponential decay function plus a residual slowly decaying component convoluted with a Gaussian corresponding to the temporal resolution. Now, the oscillatory components are clearly seen as being superimposed onto the background relaxation curve.

To gain further insight into the observed oscillatory behaviors, we show in Fig. 2(a) the differential curves between

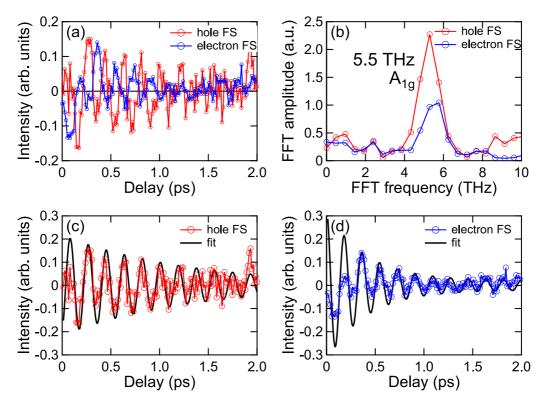


FIG. 2. Analysis of the oscillatory components of the TARPES spectra. (a) Oscillatory components of the hole and electron FSs deduced from the difference between the integrated intensities and decay functions shown in Figs. 1(d) and 1(e), respectively. (b) FFT amplitudes of the oscillatory components of the hole and electron FSs. (c), (d) Fitting results for the oscillatory components to the damped oscillator. Note that the phase of the oscillation is fully inverted between the hole and electron FSs.

the integrated intensities and relaxation curves indicated by the dashed lines in Figs. 1(d) and 1(e), and their fast Fourier transform (FFT) in Fig. 2(b). The peak positions are located at \sim 5.5 THz both for the hole and electron FSs, which evidences that the electronic system oscillates collectively with the frequency of the A_{1g} phonon, as reported by the previous studies [23–26]. By comparing the top and bottom positions of the oscillatory components between the hole and electron FSs, it is noticed that their oscillatory behaviors are antiphase contrary to the previous report [27–29]. In order to confirm this, we have fitted the oscillatory components to the damped oscillation function;

$$(Ae^{-(t-t_0)/\tau} + B)\cos\omega(t-t_0),$$

where t is the pump-probe delay time and ω is the frequency of the A_{1g} phonon (= 5.5 THz), and the others are fitting parameters. The fitting results are shown in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d) for the hole and electron FSs, respectively, and the obtained values are A = -0.22, B = 0, $\tau = 1.3$ ps, and $t_0 = -10$ fs for the hole FSs and A = 0.32, B = 0.02, $\tau = 0.4$ ps, and $t_0 = 0$ fs for the electron FSs. From the facts that the sign of A is opposite between the hole and electron FSs and t_0 is much smaller than the temporal resolution, we concluded that the phase of the oscillation is fully inverted with respect to each other.

In order to investigate the origin of the phase inversion, we have performed band-structure calculations based on DFT for structures modulated by the A_{1g} phonon [30]. Because the A_{1g} phonon mode of Ba122 is the antiphase vibration of As

atoms along the c axis, one can simulate the electronic structure modulated by the A_{1g} phonon mode with the modulation of the internal coordinate of the As atom z. We performed calculations for three values of z, where the pnictogen height h defined as the distance of As atoms from the nearest Fe layer is in equilibrium and varied by $\pm 5\%$ from the equilibrium value. The calculated hole FSs around the Γ and Z points are shown in Figs. 3(a)-3(c) and 3(d)-3(f), respectively, and the electron FSs around the X point are shown in Figs. 3(g) and 3(h) [31]. As can be recognized from the band dispersions, the most strongly modulated FS is the hole FS around the Z point contributed from the d_{z^2} orbital; that is, the d_{z^2} FS is strongly warped for the lower h value whereas the warping is dramatically weakened for the higher h value. As for the other two hole FSs, the modulation of the hole FS contributed from the $d_{yz/zx}$ orbital is relatively weak, while the d_{xy} hole FS has a significant modulation. According to the calculation of the photoemission matrix element, the matrix element of the d_{xy} orbital is smaller for the energy of probe light (= 27.9 eV) due to the small emission angle of photoelectrons and the d_{z^2} orbital is more sensitive to p polarization than other orbitals [32]. Thus, contribution from the d_{z^2} orbital is dominant for the temporal evolution of the TARPES intensity observed in Fig. 1(b). On the other hand, the modulations of the electron FSs are inverted with respect to that of the d_{7^2} hole FS, though their changes are slightly smaller; that is, they become larger for higher h and smaller for lower h. Thus, the observed antiphase oscillations between the hole and electron FSs are

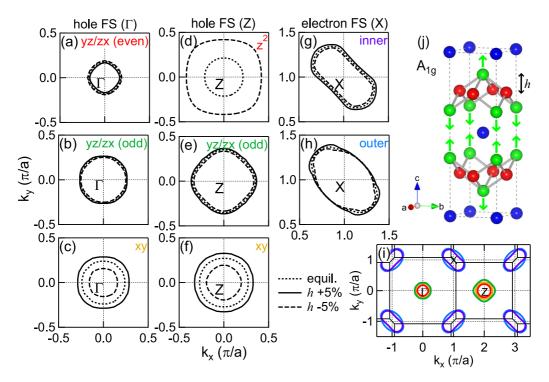


FIG. 3. Modulation of the electronic structure caused by the atomic displacement corresponding to the A_{1g} phonon. (a)–(c), (d)–(f) Modulations of the hole FSs around the Γ and Z points, respectively. (g), (h) Modulations of the electron FSs around the X point. (i) Calculated FSs of the equilibrium state shown in the extended two-dimensional BZ including the Γ , Z, and X points. (j) Crystal structure of BaFe₂As₂ and the definition of the pnictogen height h. Thick arrows indicate the displacements of the As atoms corresponding to the A_{1g} phonon. Note that the d_{xy} FS have low intensity due to matrix-element effects and will not be clearly visible by ARPES [32].

attributed to the FS modulations induced by the displacement of As atoms accompanying the A_{1g} coherent phonon excitation [33].

The mechanism of the coherent phonon excitation has been often discussed and the DECP mechanism is one of the most likely explanations [11]. In this mechanism, the adiabatic energy potential is modified due to photoexcitations and has the minimum with the finite atomic displacement corresponding to the A_{1g} phonon. As a result, the A_{1g} phonon is excited instantaneously and coherently. This mechanism has two important predictions that the oscillation of the coherent phonon shows $\cos(\omega t)$ dependence and only those modes with A_g symmetry are excited [11]. All the above features are consistent with our observations as shown in Fig. 2.

It should be worthwhile discussing possible temporally emerging electronic states. Figure 4 schematically describes the observed coherent phonon excitation and corresponding modulations of the d_{7^2} hole FS based on the DECP mechanism. As shown in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d), the oscillatory component of the TARPES intensity increases for the hole FSs, whereas that of the electron FSs decreases just after the arrival of the pump light. Correspondingly, the size of hole and electron FSs should increase and decrease, respectively, which results from the lowering of the pnictogen height. According to the DECP mechanism, the adiabatic potential after photoexcitation is modified such that it has a minimum at a smaller h. Here, in order to show the variation of the FS size more clearly, we assume the range of the variation of the pnictogen height Δh down to -5 %. This Δh corresponds to the lowering of the pnictogen height by 6.8 pm and the variation of the

Fe-As-Fe bond angle by 2.6°. This variation is too large compared to the observed amplitude of the lattice modulation by TRXRD measurements [25,26]. However, as shown in Fig. 4(j), Ba122 shows superconductivity by lowering the pnictogen height with $\Delta h \sim -1.3\%$, which corresponds to the lowering of the pnictogen height by 2.0 pm. Therefore, if the atomic displacements minimizing the adiabatic potential after photoexcitation could be larger than this value and the accompanying lattice modulations persisted after the photoexcited electrons were relaxed to a metastable state, the observed transient electronic states with coherent phonon excitation may enter a photoinduced superconducting state. This can be expected for semimetals like iron-based superconductors, because it has been known that the lifetime of photoexcited carriers in indirect-gap semiconductors like Si is far longer than the time scale of cooling dynamics [34,35], whereas they are comparable in direct-gap semiconductors like GaAs [36]. Whether the photoinduced superconducting state can be realized in Ba122, it has to be confirmed by terahertz time domain spectroscopy or TARPES measurements with higher energy resolution in the future. Finally, we should note that the sign of the variation of the pnictogen height deduced here is opposite to that deduced from TRXRD measurements [25,26]. This is probably because our measurements were performed at 10 K, far below the structural transition temperature (T_s) , whereas the TRXRD measurements for the observation of the A_{1g} coherent phonon excitation were performed above T_s as schematically shown in Fig. 4(k) [37]. In addition, the difference of the probing depth between TRXRD and TARPES may also be a reason for this opposite tendency.

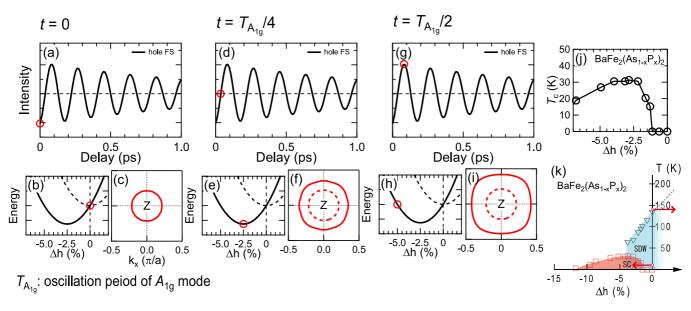


FIG. 4. Schematic description of the observed coherent phonon excitation and corresponding modulations of the d_{z^2} hole FS. (a)–(c) Oscillatory component of the TARPES intensity for the hole FSs ($I_{\rm osc}$), the variation of the pnictogen height Δh , and the calculated d_{z^2} FS, respectively, at t=0. The dashed and solid lines in (b) indicate the adiabatic energy potential at the equilibrium state and the state after the coherent phonon excitation. At t=0, $I_{\rm osc}$ is negative, $\Delta h=0$, and thus h is the largest and the size of the d_{z^2} FS around the Z point becomes the smallest. (d)–(f) The same as (a)–(c) but at $t=T_{A_{1g}}/4$, where $T_{A_{1g}}$ is the oscillation period of the A_{1g} phonon. At $t=T_{A_{1g}}/4$, $I_{\rm osc}$ is neutral, Δh is located where the energy is minimum, and the d_{z^2} FS has a medium size. (g)–(i) The same as (a)–(c) but at $t=T_{A_{1g}}/2$. At $t=T_{A_{1g}}/2$, $I_{\rm osc}$ is positive, Δh is negative and located where the energy is the same as that of $\Delta h=0$, and the d_{z^2} FS around the Z point becomes the largest. The calculated d_{z^2} FS at the equilibrium state is also shown as dashed lines in (f) and (i) for comparison. If this potential modulation that induces the coherent phonon excitation persists for some time, it is expected that the pnictogen atoms are relaxed to the negative Δh positions and the warping of the d_{z^2} FS remains enhanced. (j) T_c of BaFe₂(As_{1-x}P_x)₂ plotted as a function of variation of the pnictogen height Δh . In BaFe₂(As_{1-x}P_x)₂, the pnictogen height lowers as P is substituted for As, and superconductivity emerges at $\Delta h \sim -1.3\%$ ($x \sim 0.16$). (k) Phase diagram of BaFe₂(As_{1-x}P_x)₂ with respect to T and Δh . The signs of Δh from TARPES and TRXRD are indicated by red arrows. The transition temperatures were taken from Ref. [16].

In conclusion, we have performed TARPES measurements on a parent compound of iron-based superconductors, BaFe₂As₂, using an extreme ultraviolet laser from high harmonic generation. The antiphase photoemission intensity oscillation between the hole and electron FSs was observed and attributed to the warping in the d_{z^2} FS around the Z point. We conclude that this displacement is the same direction as that induced by substitution of P for As, where superconductivity is induced by a structural modification without carrier doping. We also suggested a longer lifetime of the photoexcited state in semimetals like iron-based superconductors.

We would like to thank T. Tohyama and M. Imada for valuable discussions and comments and T. Yoshida for valuable comments. This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI (Grants No. JP25220707 and No. JP26610095) and Photon and Quantum Basic Research Coordinated Development Program from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan. H.S., T.S., and M.O. acknowledge the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, and H.S. acknowledges Advanced Leading Graduate Course for Photon Science (ALPS) for financial supports.

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