

Imaging topological states in photoelectron spectroscopy: from magnetic topological insulators to Weyl semimetals

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Over the past decade, topological states of matter have attracted wide interest in condensed matter physics and material science. In this talk, I will report on recent studies, based on angle-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy (ARPES), of two types of topological materials: intrinsic magnetic topological insulators (IMTI) and Weyl semimetals (WSM).

MTI are materials that combine a topological electronic band structure and magnetic order. The recently discovered van der Waals systems $\text{MnBi}_2\text{Te}_4(\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3)_n$ are the first compounds to realize this phenomenology intrinsically. I will present ARPES experiments for the $n = 1$ and 2 members of this material family, while crystalline and magnetic properties of the same samples will be discussed by Anna Isaeva (same session). Our experiments confirm the existence of topological surface states and show how their properties vary with surface termination [1]. Furthermore, I will briefly describe our present efforts to realize these materials in two dimensions via molecular beam epitaxy [2].

Weyl nodes are topologically protected intersections between non-degenerate electron bands and constitute the defining feature of WSM. At these special points in momentum space the Bloch wave functions show a special behavior: in the bulk the Weyl nodes constitute monopoles of Berry flux and at the surface their projections define the termination points of Fermi-arc surface states. I will discuss how these intricate electronic properties manifest in real materials and how they can be addressed experimentally by use of dichroism in ARPES [3,4].

References

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