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ULTRAFASST DYNAMICS OF EXCITED STATES AND LIGHT INDUCED PROCESSES AT SURFACES

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Electronic excitations at surfaces can induce a rich variety of processes, including chemical reactions at surfaces, coherent lattice excitations (phonons) or ultrafast structural transitions of solids. These photoinduced processes occur on ultrafast (femto- to picosecond) timescales and are accompanied by pronounced changes in the electronic structure and occupation of electronic states. Recent advances in femtosecond time-resolved spectroscopy allow direct probing of the underlying fundamental steps and provide a mechanistic understanding of transfer of energy from the electronic system into nuclear motions.

In this talk, I will discuss two different experimental approaches to probe such transient electronic structure changes on ultrafast timescales employing time- and angle-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy (trARPES) and time-resolved resonant inelastic x-ray scattering (trRIXS). XUV based trARPES at 500 kHz repetition rate opens the perspective of excited state band mapping throughout the complete Brillouin zone and monitoring collective phonon dynamics through their influence on the electronic band structure. In particular, we investigate in detail the dynamics of the photoinduced phase transition of quasi-1D metal nanowires on In/Si(111) as a prototypical example for order-order structural transition. On the other hand, experiments at the X-ray free electron laser LCLS performed with trRIXS provide direct insight into chemical bond formation in ultrafast surface reactions. These studies allow new insights into dynamics and details of the potential energy landscape.