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Rashba Splitting and Dichroism of Surface States in Bi/Ag

Surface Alloy

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Abstract

The Rashba effect plays an important role in various spin-related phenomena in

two-dimensional electronic systems. In this work we present a theoretical analysis of the Rashba

effect both analytically and numerically for the prototypical Rashba system Bi/Ag surface alloy,

which shows a giant Rashba spin splitting. The results reveal the critical influence of atomic

spin-orbit coupling and structural inversion asymmetry. In addition, we demonstrate a theoretical

route to interpret the prominent circular dichroic patterns observed by angle-resolved

photoemission spectroscopy in this system. The results reveal a close connection between the

experimentally observed dichroic patterns and the Rashba spin texture.

Keywords: Rashba effect, Bi/Ag surface alloy, ARPES, circular dichroism

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