

Multimessenger Approach to out-of-equilibrium DYNAMICS in Complex Systems (MADYCS)



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Ultrafast anisotropic electronic properties of ZnAs₂ semiconductor

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Comprehension of anisotropic materials is crucial for developing polarization-sensitive photodetectors and polarizers [1]. Binary II-V semiconductors are among the most promising candidates to reach this goal, exhibiting anisotropic optical and electronic responses [2]. As a part of this family, ZnAs₂ has an energy absorption edge that varies by more than 30 meV when light polarization is varied from parallel to orthogonal to the crystallographic *c*-axis. As a result of the optical anisotropy, reflectivity is 1.5 times larger when the electric field is parallel to the *c*-axis, both in the region of transparency [1.2 μm - 20 μm] and at energies larger than the optical gap (around 1.1 eV in the near IR close to the visible part of the spectrum) [2], [3], [4].

Despite this, what gives rise to these properties in these materials is still an open question. To address this inquiry, we have performed a detailed investigation of the band structure of this material using angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES), which unveils different effective masses along ΓX and ΓY directions in the Brillouin zone. Furthermore, we have carried out time-resolved ARPES, that reveals a unique splitting in the transiently populated conduction band that is not reproduced by *ab initio* calculations. The goal of our activity is to clarify the origin of this behavior in the conduction band which may pave the way to the use of ZnAs₂, and II-V semiconductors, in optoelectronic devices leveraging their large anisotropic properties, and the long-lasting charge populations left by light absorption in the visible spectrum.

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