

VISUALIZING PHOTOINDUCED STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS OF MATERIALS AND INTERFACES USING TIME-RESOLVED ELECTRON IMAGING TECHNIQUES

October 14, 2016 at 12:30pm

Engineering Building 2, Rm W122

Modern applications and technological advances in materials and interfacial phenomena often require a fundamental understanding of condensed matter at the atomic level, especially those involving ultrafast light-matter interactions. To study photoinduced dynamics, all-optical femtosecond spectroscopic techniques have been the typical methods of choice, which provide information mostly about electronic changes and sometimes, indirectly, about structures. In this presentation, I will discuss the use of ultrafast electron imaging techniques (diffraction in particular) to visualize structures and dynamics at the pertinent spatial and temporal resolutions. Direct structure-probing at ultrashort time scales allows for the discovery of a structural intermediate and a stepwise pathway for the photoinduced transformation of vanadium dioxide. Our recent results further reveal the behavioral differences between ultrathin films and the bulk. At interfaces, unique structural changes of interfacial molecular assemblies (such as water and methanol) on selected surfaces can be uncovered directly. Present experimental observations indicate that the structures of an assembly have a strong impact on the energy transfer and relaxation across the interface. These findings, together with additional first discoveries of solid-molecule structures at equilibrium, exemplify the strength of using electrons as the probe for interfacial phenomena. I will conclude the talk with a discussion of the potential broad use of ultrafast electron imaging methods for materials and heterogeneous interfacial studies.



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SPEAKER BIO

Ding-Shyue (Jerry) Yang received his bachelor and master degrees in Chemistry from National Taiwan University prior to coming to the United States for his doctoral study at Caltech. Under the supervision of the late Nobel laureate Prof. Ahmed Zewail, Jerry Yang developed the method of ultrafast electron diffraction for condensed-matter studies since its inception. After receiving his Ph.D. degree in 2009, Jerry Yang continued on as a postdoctoral scholar and a research scientist in the Zewail group and successfully designed and built the first scanning ultrafast electron microscope. In 2012, Jerry Yang joined the faculty of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Houston. He was awarded the junior Welch Professorship in 2013 and research support. Jerry Yang's research interests include ultrafast dynamics and transformation pathways of solid materials with intriguing phase transitions as well as interfacial energy- and charge-transfer dynamics in heterogeneous solid-molecule systems.

Contact Professor Jiming Bao at jbao@uh.edu if you would like to arrange for a time to meet with Dr. Yang.

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