

光学学报

强激光场驱动下CO₂分子的非序列双电离产量

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摘要 运用经典系综方法研究了线偏振激光场和双色反旋圆偏振激光场中CO₂分子非序列双电离的产量。结果表明:在激光强度较高的区域,双色反旋圆偏振激光场下CO₂分子非序列双电离的产量高于线偏振激光场;在激光强度较低的区域,结果则刚好相反。这是因为当激光强度较低时,CO₂非序列双电离产量的主要影响因素是抑制势垒,当激光强度较高时,由于抑制势垒发生扭曲,其产量主要受激光场结构的影响。

关键词 原子与分子物理学;非序列双电离;双色反旋圆偏振激光场;线偏振激光场;分子;产量

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1 引言

强激光场与物质相互作用可以产生很多有趣的非线性光学现象,例如多光子电离、阈上电离^[1]、高次谐波^[2-3]、空气激光^[4-5]及非序列双电离^[6-7]等。其中,非序列双电离(NSDI)现象自1983年在实验上首次被观测到以来,逐渐成为原子分子光物理研究的重要方向^[8]。当原子和分子被强激光场照射时,其中的部分电子会被激光场电离,被电离的电子(第一个电子)在激光场的驱动下有机会返回到母核附近与束缚电子(第二个电子)发生碰撞,使其获得能量并脱离母核,这种现象就是NSDI^[9]。

1992年,Fittinghoff^[10]通过实验测试与理论计算得到He原子的电离率随激光强度变化的曲线,并首次从中观察到“膝盖”结构。“膝盖”结构的出现表明在双电离过程中,电离的两个电子并不是毫无联系的,而是相互影响的,它揭示了NSDI机制中电离的两个电子之间存在关联性。以往的研究中,这种“膝盖”结构可以在线偏振(LP)激光场中被频繁观察到,但在圆偏振(CP)激光场中却很少见^[11-14]。最近,一种新型组合电场被提出。该电场由两个固定频率的CP激光场组成^[15-16],因此其被称为双色圆偏振激光场。与其他激光场相比,双色圆偏振激光场具有一种特殊的电场结构和更多的可调参数,例如两束激光的场比和频率比等^[17-20],故被广泛应用于原子和分子的NSDI研究中。近些年,许多科研人员对双原子分子在强激光场驱动下的NSDI相关现象进行研究,例如:郭祯等^[21]从理论上研究得出在CRTCA激光场作用下,N₂分子的NSDI

产量强烈依赖于激光场的波长;林志阳等^[22]从实验上系统探究了激光场的波长对N₂分子和O₂分子NSDI的影响,发现激光场波长对其电子动力学过程起到调控作用等;Li等^[23]发现双色反旋圆偏振(CRTC)激光场有助于提高O₂分子NSDI的产量。然而,对于具有更多核的三原子分子,CRTC激光场是否仍能提高其NSDI的产量?目前已对线性三原子分子(如CO₂)在LP激光场和CRTCA激光场中的动力学过程进行了研究,例如LP激光场下CO₂分子NSDI产量对激光强度的依赖性^[24]以及CRTCA激光场下相对相位对CO₂分子NSDI过程的影响^[25]等。

本文采用全经典的系综方法分别计算了在LP、CP和CRTCA激光场作用下CO₂分子的NSDI产量,结果表明:在激光强度较低的区域,CRTC激光场中CO₂的NSDI产量低于LP激光场中的相应产量,这是因为其受到抑制势垒的影响;在激光强度较高的区域,结果恰恰相反,这是因为当激光强度较高时,抑制势垒发生扭曲,在这种情况下电场结构对NSDI产量的影响占据主导地位。本文着重探索CRTCA激光场作用下影响NSDI产量的因素,其结果可为实验中提高NSDI产量提供参考。

2 理论方法

采用Haan等^[26-27]提出的经典系综方法,这种计算方法目前已被广泛运用到强激光场和原子分子相互作用的研究中。CO₂分子的哈密顿量可表示为

$$H(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2; t) = T(\mathbf{p}) + V(\mathbf{r}, t), \quad (1)$$

式中: \mathbf{r}_1 和 \mathbf{r}_2 分别表示两个电子的位置矢量; \mathbf{p}_1 和 \mathbf{p}_2 分

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别表示两个电子的动量; T 表示动能项; V 表示势能项。

CO_2 分子的动能(使用原子单位)为

$$V_{\text{CO}_2}(\mathbf{r}_i) = -\sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{Z_e}{\sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2 + a_e^2}} - \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{Z_o}{\sqrt{(x_i - R)^2 + y_i^2 + a_o^2}} - \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{Z_o}{\sqrt{(x_i + R)^2 + y_i^2 + a_o^2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2 + q_e^2}}, \quad (3)$$

式中: $-\sum_{i=1}^2 \left(Z_e / \sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2 + a_e^2} \right)$ 为碳原子对电子的库仑势; $-\sum_{i=1}^2 \left[Z_o / \sqrt{(x_i - R)^2 + y_i^2 + a_o^2} \right]$ 和 $-\sum_{i=1}^2 \left[Z_o / \sqrt{(x_i + R)^2 + y_i^2 + a_o^2} \right]$ 为氧原子对电子的库仑势; $1 / \sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2 + q_e^2}$ 为两个电子间的库仑势; $a_e (a_e = 1)$ 、 $a_o (a_o = 0.8)$ 和 $q_e (q_e = 0.05)$ 为软核系数,用来防止自吸收和出现物理奇点。无激光场作用时,两个电子的初始位置和初始动量分布由式(1)进行计算。

两个电子在激光场中的哈密顿量可表示为

$$H = H_{\text{CO}_2} + (\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r}_2) \cdot \mathbf{E}(t). \quad (4)$$

本文所用的 LP 激光场(波长为 1200 nm)的表达式为

$$\mathbf{E}(t) = E_0 f(t) \cos(\omega t) \mathbf{x}, \quad (5)$$

所用的 CP 激光场(波长为 1200 nm)的表达式为

$$\mathbf{E}(t) = E_0 f(t) [\cos(\omega t) \mathbf{x} + \sin(\omega t) \mathbf{y}], \quad (6)$$

所用的 CRTC 激光场的表达式为

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}(t) = & E_{1200} f(t) [\cos(\omega_1 t) \mathbf{x} + \sin(\omega_1 t) \mathbf{y}] + \\ & E_{600} f(t) [\cos(\omega_2 t) \mathbf{x} - \sin(\omega_2 t) \mathbf{y}], \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

式中: $\mathbf{E}(t)$ 为组合激光脉冲的电场; E_{1200} 和 E_{600} 分别对应波长为 1200 nm($\omega_2 = 0.07594$) 和 600 nm($\omega_1 = 0.03796$) 时电场的振幅。激光场的强度比为 $\gamma_E = E_{1200}/E_{600} = 1$, 激光场的光强计算公式为 $E_0 = E_{1200}(1 + \gamma_E) = [E_{600}(1 + \gamma_E)]/\gamma_E = 5.2917 \times 10^{-9} \times \sqrt{I}$ 。由于本文所用的 CRTC 激光场强度比为 1, 因此 CRTC 激光场与 LP 激光场的强度相等。 $f(t) = \sin^2[\pi t/(NT)]$ 为脉冲包络, 其中 T 为光学周期, N 为光学周期数, 取 $N = 16$ 。本文使用的 CRTC 激光场呈现三瓣结构, 激光场的负矢势呈现三角形结构, 之后两个电子在该激光场中运动。

两个电子在激光场中的运动需要求解含时牛顿运动方程:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\mathbf{r}_i}{dt} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}_i} \\ \frac{d\mathbf{p}_i}{dt} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

$$T_{\text{CO}_2}(\mathbf{p}_i) = \frac{\mathbf{p}_1^2}{2} + \frac{\mathbf{p}_2^2}{2}, \quad (2)$$

CO_2 分子的势能为

通过 4~5 阶龙格库塔算法求解式(8)。两个电子的初始位置和动量分布需要满足高斯分布,让电子自由演化足够长的时间,待电子位置和动量分布都稳定时,获得初始系综;加入激光场,所有电子在库仑势和电场的作用下又开始演化,直至脉冲结束。如果脉冲结束时两个电子的总能量,即势能和动能之和大于 0,就记一次双电离事件发生^[28]。

3 结果与讨论

分别计算了不同激光强度下 LP、CP 和 CRTC 激光场中 CO_2 分子的 NSDI 产量,结果如图 1 所示。从图 1 可以清楚观察到,LP 和 CRTC 激光场作用下的产量曲线具有明显的“膝盖”结构,而 CP 激光场作用下的产量曲线没有出现“膝盖”结构,这一结果验证了之前的研究结论^[29]。因此,本节重点讨论 LP 和 CRTC 激光场中 CO_2 分子非序列双电离的相关现象。对比这两条曲线可以看出:在激光强度较低的区域,LP 激光场作用下 CO_2 的 NSDI 产量高于 CRTC 激光场作用下 CO_2 的 NSDI 产量;存在一个转折点,当激光强度高于该点对应的激光强度时,结果则刚好相反。

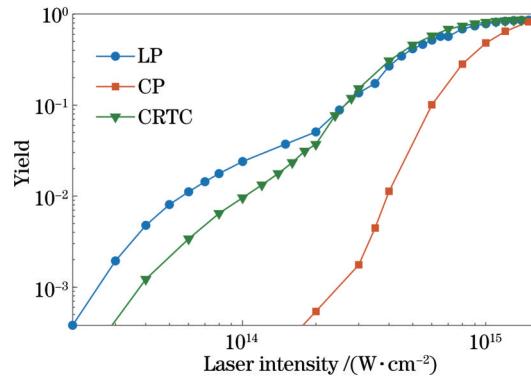


图 1 不同激光强度下 LP、CP 和 CRTC 激光场中 CO_2 分子的 NSDI 产量

Fig. 1 Yield of NSDI for CO_2 in LP, CP, and CRTC laser fields under different laser intensities

首先,分析 CRTC 激光场和 LP 激光场作用下的 NSDI 产量曲线出现拐点的原因。如图 2 所示,分别计算了激光强度为 $0.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 、 $1.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 、 $2.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 和 $4 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 时,

LP 和 CRTC 激光场中的重碰撞时间分布, 其中虚线表示 CRTC 激光场在二维平面中的电场, 实线表示电子重碰撞的时间分布。从图 2 可以看出, 随着激光强度的增加, CRTC 激光场和 LP 激光场下 CO₂ 分子 NSDI 的重碰撞时刻逐渐提前。当激光强度低于

$2.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 时, LP 激光场下的电子重碰撞时刻比 CRTC 激光场下的电子重碰撞时刻靠前; 当激光强度高于 $2.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 时, LP 激光场下的电子重碰撞时刻却比 CRTC 激光场下的电子重碰撞时刻靠后。

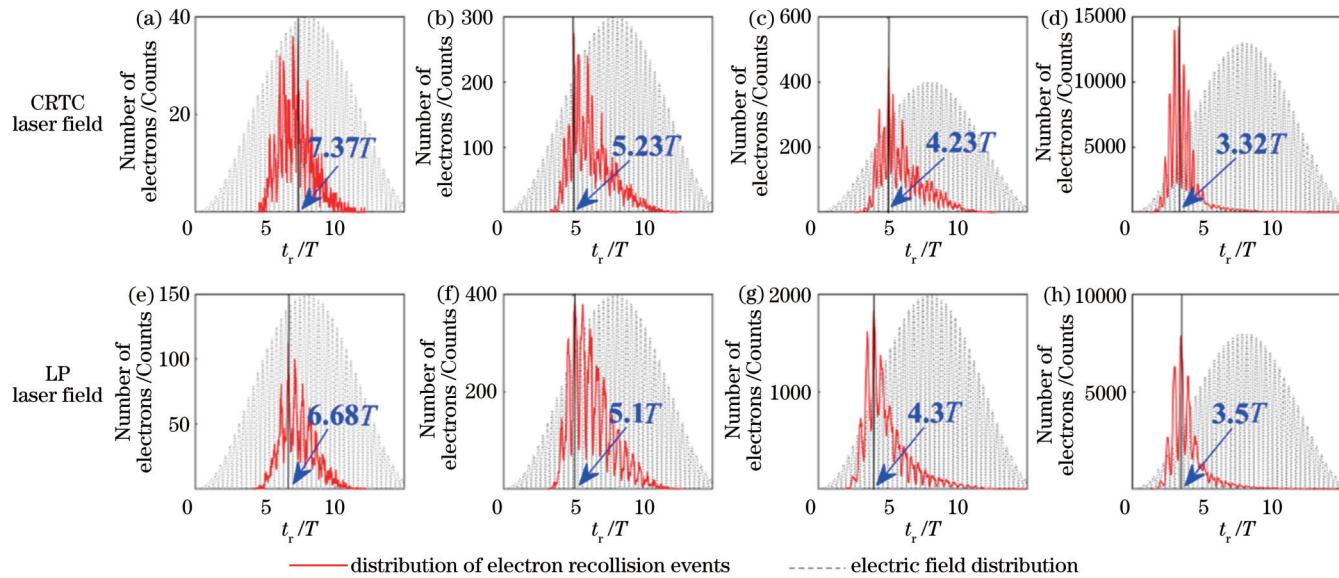


图 2 不同激光强度下 CRTC 激光场和 LP 激光场中的电子重碰撞时间分布。(a)(e) $0.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (b)(f) $1.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (c)(g) $2.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (d)(h) $4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$

Fig. 2 Electron recollision time distribution for CRTC laser field and LP laser field under different laser field intensities. (a) (e) $0.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (b) (f) $1.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (c) (g) $2.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (d) (h) $4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$

根据图 2 所对应的重碰撞时间, 可以计算出电子在不同激光强度下的返回能量, 如图 3 所示。从图 3 可以看出, 当激光强度在 $2.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 附近时, LP 激光场和 CRTC 激光场的返回能量曲线出现一个拐点。在该点处, LP 激光场作用下的电子返回能量和 CRTC 激光场作用下的电子返回能量相等; 在该点之前, LP 激

光场作用下的电子返回能量高于 CRTC 激光场作用下的电子返回能量; 在该点之后, 结果则相反。通过以上对比分析, 可以得出 CRTC 激光场和 LP 激光场作用下 CO₂ 分子的 NSDI 产量曲线在激光强度约为 $2.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 时出现拐点的原因: 在该激光强度附近, 两个激光场的电子返回能量曲线出现了拐点。

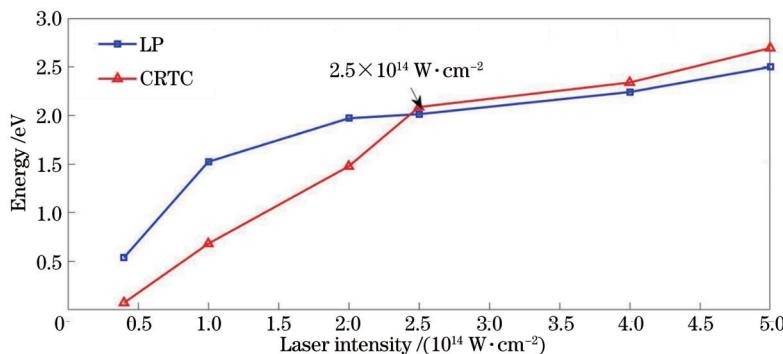


图 3 不同激光强度下 LP 和 CRTC 激光场中 CO₂ 分子 NSDI 的电子返回能量

Fig. 3 Electron return energy of NSDI for CO₂ in LP and CRTC laser fields under different laser intensities

为了进一步探究 CO₂ 分子 NSDI 的电子动力学过程, 采用统计分析方法分别计算在 LP 激光场和 CRTC 激光场作用下 CO₂ 分子 NSDI 过程中的单电离(SI)率和双电离(DI)率, 结果如图 4 所示。图 4(a)展示了当激光强度为 $0.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 和 $4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 时, LP

激光场和 CRTC 激光场作用下 CO₂ 分子的单电离率。可以看出, 无论是在较低的激光强度下还是较高的激光强度下, 两种激光场中第一个电子的电离率始终相似, 这表明激光场的类型并不影响第一个电子的电离。对于第二个电子, 如图 4(b) 所示, 当激光强度较低时, LP

激光场作用下的电离概率高于CRTC激光场作用下的电离概率,但当激光强度较高时,结果则正好相反。综上所述,在CO₂分子的NSDI过程中,当激光强度发生变

化时,第一个电子和第二个电子的电离都会受到影响;当激光场的类型改变时,只有第二个电子的电离受到影响,第一个电子的电离几乎不会受到影响。

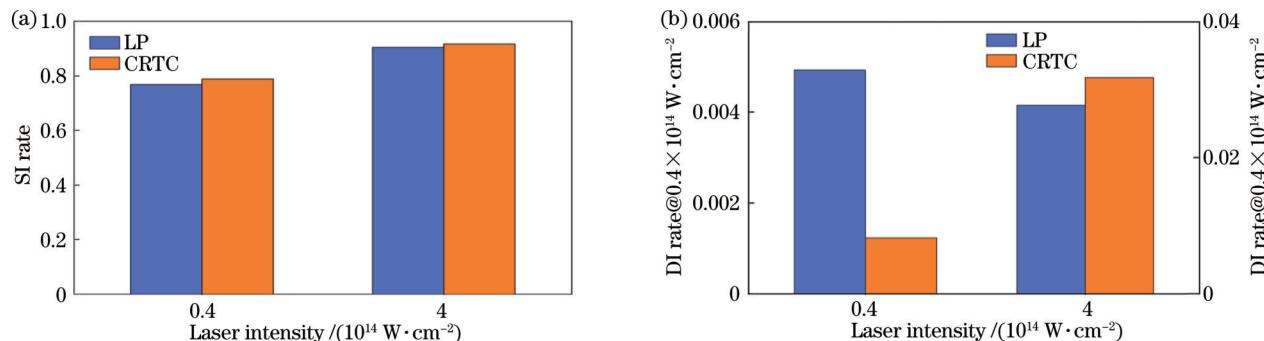


图4 LP激光场和CRTC激光场作用下的单电离率和双电离率对比直方图。(a)单电离率;(b)双电离率

Fig. 4 Comparison histograms of SI rate and DI rate for LP laser field and CRTC laser field. (a) SI rate; (b) DI rate

首先,分析当激光强度较低时,LP激光场作用下CO₂分子的NSDI产量高于CRTC激光场作用下CO₂分子的NSDI产量的原因。CO₂的分子结构是线性的,即3个原子排列成一条直线。因此,当CO₂被LP激光场照射时,CO₂的分子轴与激光场之间不存在夹角^[30-32]。由于CRTC激光场具有三瓣结构,当CO₂分子被CRTC激光场照射时,其分子轴与激光场之间会

存在一个角度。当分子轴和激光场之间有一个夹角时,CO₂分子的势垒会随着该夹角的增大而增加^[33]。在低激光强度区域选取3个激光强度,分别计算每个激光强度下LP激光场和CRTC激光场中的抑制势垒,结果如图5所示。可以观察到,对于同一个激光强度,LP激光场的抑制势垒低于CRTC激光场的抑制势垒。

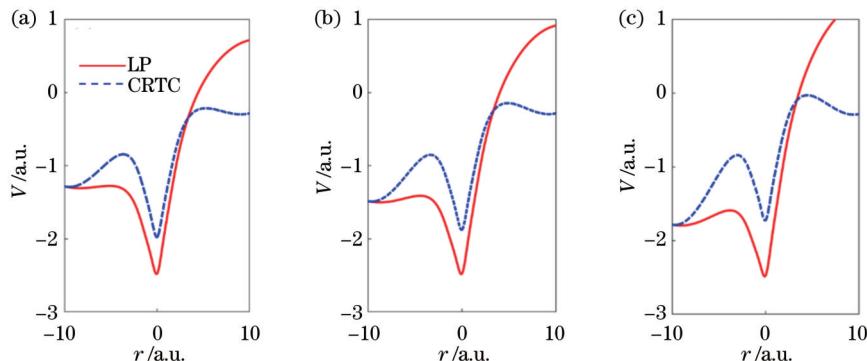


图5 不同激光强度下LP激光场和CRTC激光场的抑制势垒。(a) $0.8 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$; (b) $1.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$; (c) $2.2 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$

Fig. 5 Suppression barrier in LP and CRTC laser fields under different laser intensities. (a) $0.8 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$; (b) $1.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$; (c) $2.2 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$

然后,计算当激光强度为 $0.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$ 和 $2.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$ 时,两个激光场中的电子轨迹图,如图6所示。在激光电场作用时间内,电子能够返回多次,其返回轨迹有以下几种可能:1)电子受到激光电场的作用电离,当激光电场作用势反向时,被电离的电子返回母核附近,由于返回时能量较小,故被母核重新俘获;2)电子返回时将另一个电子击出,自身被俘获,而被击出的电子出射后又返回;3)电子返回时没有与任何电子发生相互作用,而是从母核附近掠过后在相反的方向返回;4)电子返回时将另一个电子击出,两个电子同时出射(传播时间长,长轨迹)或者一个电子出射而另一个电子稍后出射(传播时间短,短轨迹)。前3种类型的返回轨迹都不属于NSDI轨迹,只有第4种属

于NSDI轨迹。本文计算的运动轨迹图为经典轨迹的平均值。

对比图6(a)、(c)可以看到,当激光强度为 $0.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$ 时,CRTC激光场中的电子轨迹比LP激光场中的短;当激光强度为 $2.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$ 时,两个激光场中的电子轨迹相差很小,如图6(b)、(d)所示。这是因为当激光强度较低时,CRTC激光场中CO₂分子的抑制势高于LP激光场,所以第一个电子的返回能量会因较高的抑制势而减少,第二个电子也就很难被电离出来。综上所述,在较低激光强度区域,LP激光场中的双电离率高于CRTC激光场的原因是CRTC激光场相较于LP激光场具有更高的抑制势,因此在该激光场作用下的双电离率也就较低。

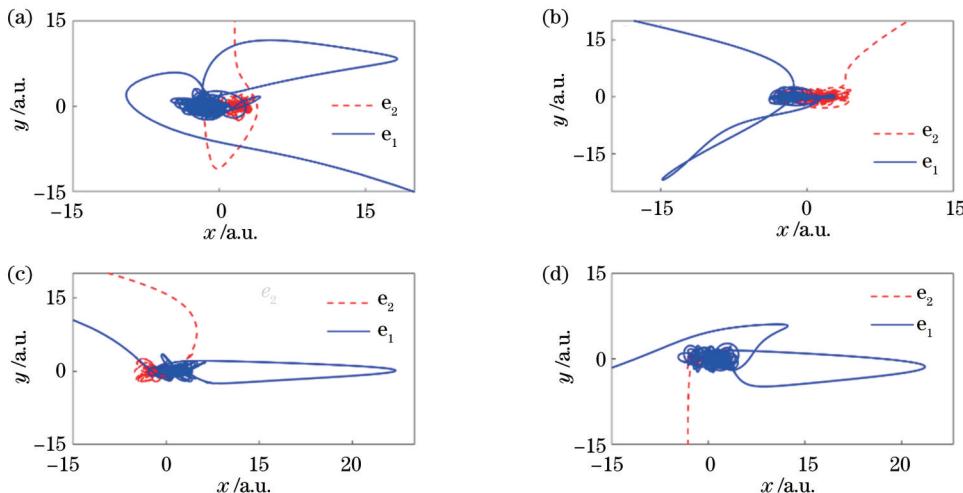


图6 激光强度分别为 $0.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 和 $2.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 时CRT激光场和LP激光场的电子返回轨迹。(a)(b)CRT激光场;(c)(d)LP激光场

Fig. 6 Electron trajectories of CRTC and LP laser fields with laser intensities of $0.4 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ and $2.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$. (a) (b) CRTC laser field; (c) (d) LP laser field

对于激光强度较高的区域(约高于 $2.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$),CRTC激光场中CO₂的NSDI产量明显高于LP激光场,这与双原子分子的现象一致^[23]。这是因为随着激光强度的增加,分子的库仑势发生扭曲,分子结构对NSDI产量的影响越来越小,即抑制势垒对NSDI产量的影响越来越小,此时NSDI产量主要受激光场电场结构的影响。如图7所示,角频率为1:2的CRTC激光场会呈现三瓣结构,为了深入说明这种三瓣结构对NSDI产量的影响,采用数据分析方法研究在LP激光场和CRTC激光场中NSDI的两种电离机制:一种是碰撞激发电离(RII);另一种是碰撞激发场致电离(RESI)^[19]。RII的电离机制是:原子或分子被激光照射时,束缚电子会脱离母核并在激光场的作用下加速运动,当激光场反向时,该电子积累了足够大的能量(大于原子第二电离能)并与母核中的另一束缚电子发生碰撞,使其脱离母核,两个电子同时出射。相反对地,如果返回电子(第一个电离出来的电子)并没有积累足够的能量(小于原子第二电离能)就与母核中的另一束缚电子发生碰撞,那么该束缚电子将不会脱离母核,而是跃迁到激发态,在最大激光脉冲附近再被电离出来,这种电离机制被称为RESI。

选取激光强度为 $3.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 、 $4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 和 $5.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$,分别计算LP激光场和CRTC激光场中NSDI的RII和RESI比率以及动量分布,结果如图8所示。

从图8(a)可以看到:随着激光强度的增加,RII在两个激光场中的比率逐渐降低,而RESI在两个激光场中的比率逐渐增高;在相同激光强度下,CRTC激光场中的RII比率低于LP激光场,而CRTC激光场中的RESI比率却高于LP激光场。这是因为CRTC激光场具有三瓣结构,在该激光场的作用下,当第一个电离的电子遇

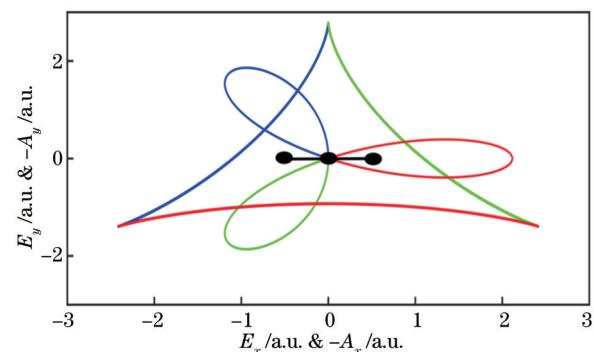


图7 CRTC激光场的电场结构和负矢势曲线图。三瓣代表电场结构,三角形代表CRTC激光脉冲的负矢势,黑点代表CO₂的结构

Fig. 7 Electric field structure and negative vector potential curve of CRTC laser field. Three lobe structure represents electric field structure, triangle structure represents negative vector potential of CRTC laser pulse, and black point represents structure of CO₂

到剩余电子时,一般会在激光场中发生斜向碰撞,从而使电子碰撞更加频繁。但在这种情况下,返回电子的运动轨迹变短,返回能量变小,转移给剩余电子的能量也变小,因此第二个电离的电子倾向于先被激发,再被电离。综上所述,在CRTC激光场作用下,CO₂分子的NSDI过程中RESI机制所占比例更大。

如图8(b)~(d)所示,针对3种激光强度,分别计算了CRTC激光场中第一个电子的动量分布。从图7可以看到,CRTC激光场的负矢势结构呈三角形,如果忽略电离瞬间的初始动量和库仑势对电离电子的影响,第一个电子将沿负矢量电势方向发射。对比分析图8(b)~(d)发现,随着激光强度的增加,分布在靠近原点位置的电子越来越多,表明第一个电子被激光场电离后的运动时间越来越短。第一个电子的运动时间越短,RESI的发生概率越大。以上结果表明,CRTC

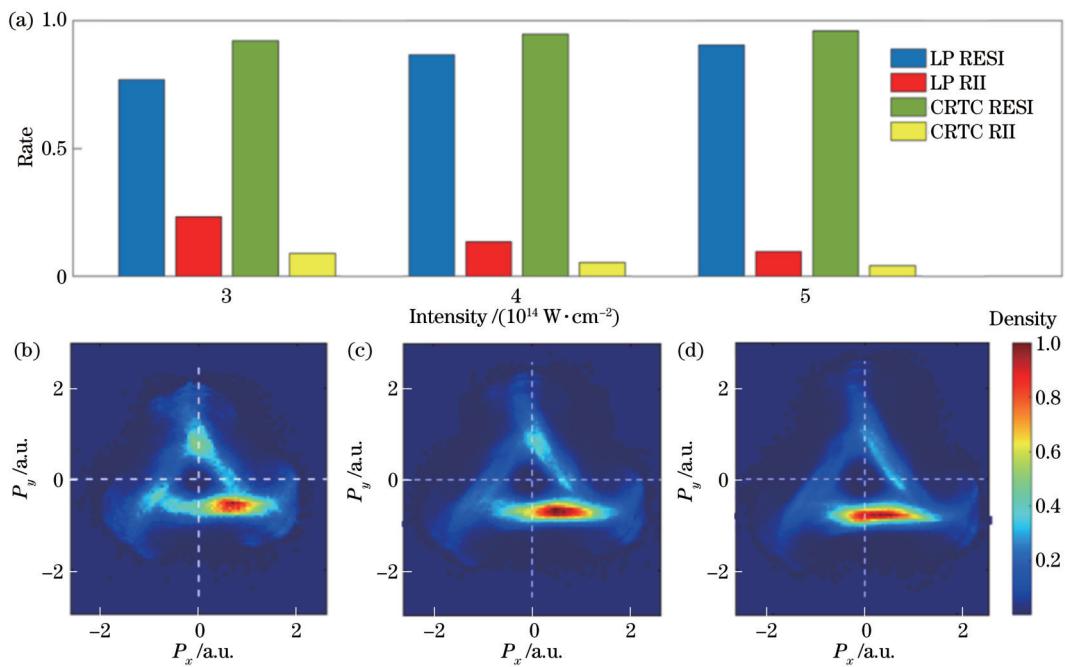


图8 不同激光强度下两个激光场中RESI和RII的比率及CRTCA激光场中第一个电子(返回电子)的动量分布。(a) RESI和RII的比率;(b) $3.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 时CRTCA激光场中第一个电子的动量分布;(c) $4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 时CRTCA激光场中第一个电子的动量分布;(d) $5.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ 时CRTCA激光场中第一个电子的动量分布

Fig. 8 RESI and RII in the two laser fields and momentum distribution (MD) of the first electron (return electron) in CRTCA laser field under different laser intensities. (a) RESI and RII in the two laser fields; (b) MD of the first electron (return electron) in CRTCA laser field at $3.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (c) MD of the first electron (return electron) in CRTCA laser field at $4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (d) MD of the first electron (return electron) in CRTCA laser field at $5.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$

激光场的三瓣结构有助于增加返回电子的数量,从而增大电子发生RESI的概率,而更多的RESI有助于NSDI产量的增加,因此在激光强度较高的区域,CRTCA激光场中CO₂分子的NSDI产量更高。为了进

一步证明RESI机制在CRTCA激光场的NSDI过程中占主导,分别计算了不同激光强度下CRTCA激光场中第二个电子的动量分布以及两个电子的总动量分布,计算结果如图9所示。

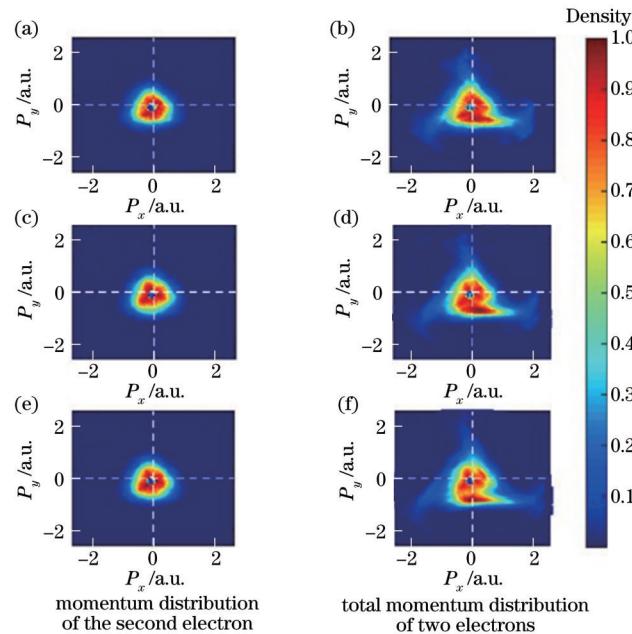


图9 不同激光强度下CRTCA激光场中第二个电子的动量分布和两个电子的总动量分布。(a)(b) $3.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (c)(d) $4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (e)(f) $5.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$

Fig. 9 Momentum distribution of the second electron and total momentum distribution of two electrons under different CRTCA laser intensities. (a)(b) $3.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (c)(d) $4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$; (e)(f) $5.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$

以RESI机制电离的电子中被激光场电离的电子初始动能为0或较低,因此其中心区域的动量较大。从图9(a)、(c)、(e)看到,在3种激光强度下,第二个电子的动量分布基本相似且中心区域的动量较大。观察图9(b)、(d)、(f)得出,中心区域的电子总动量较大,且其分布形状基本由第一个电子的动量分布决定。综上所述,在CRTCA激光场作用下NSDI过程主要以RESI机制为主导。

4 结 论

研究了线性三原子分子CO₂在LP、CP以及CRTCA激光场作用下的NSDI产量。研究结果表明,当激光强度较低时,CRTCA激光场的NSDI产量低于LP激光场。这是因为激光场和分子库仑势相互作用并形成一个抑制势垒,且CRTCA激光场的抑制势要高于LP激光场,因此CRTCA激光场中第二个电子的电离会受到限制。然而,当激光强度较高时,CRTCA激光场的NSDI产量高于LP激光场,这是因为随着激光强度的增大,分子库仑势发生畸变,此时分子结构对电离率几乎没有影响,电离率主要受激光场结构的影响。由于CRTCA激光场具有三瓣结构,且这种三瓣结构有助于增加返回电子的数量及增大电子重碰撞的概率,因此在该激光场的作用下,CO₂分子的NSDI过程主要以RESI机制为主导,因此NSDI产量更高。本文进一步完善了CRTCA激光场作用下线性三原子分子NSDI的相关研究,并为实验中提高分子NSDI产量提供了参考。

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Yield of Non-Sequential Double Ionization of CO₂ Molecules Driven by Intense Laser Fields

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Abstract

Objective The interaction of atoms, molecules, and laser fields can generate many interesting nonlinear phenomena in the research on strong field physics. Among them, non-sequential double ionization (NSDI) has become a research hotspot. In the past, people mainly studied phenomena related to NSDI in the monochromatic laser field. With the continuous development of laser technology, a combined electric field has been applied to the study of NSDI for atoms and molecules. The electric field is composed of two circularly polarized (CP) laser fields with fixed frequency and is also called two-color CP laser field. At present, the counter-rotating two-color circularly polarized (CRTC) laser field is widely applied in research on enhancing the NSDI yield due to its special electric field structure. In recent years, studies have shown that the CRTIC laser field is beneficial to increase the NSDI yield for O₂. However, for triatomic molecules with more nuclei, whether the CRTIC laser field can still increase the NSDI yield is an unexplored question. The dynamics of linear triatomic molecules (CO₂) in the linearly polarized (LP) laser field and CP laser field have been studied, but there are few studies on the CO₂ dynamics in CRTIC laser fields. Therefore, we compare and analyze the NSDI yield for CO₂ driven by intense laser fields, and further complement the research on the electron dynamics process in NSDI of linear triatomic molecules.

Methods The method we adopt is based on the classical ensemble method for solving the time-dependent Newton equation. This method has been widely employed in the study of strong laser fields and atomic-molecular interactions. The NSDI electron dynamics of atomic molecules are simulated through the classical ensemble method in the following three steps. First, a stable initial ensemble is obtained. Second, the laser field components are added to the time-dependent Newton equation, and the initial ensemble is substituted to obtain the final coordinates and momentum distribution of the electrons. Third, the data with double ionization is screened. The initial ensemble is mainly obtained by the following ways. At first, the spatial positions of two electrons are given by the Gaussian random matrix, the total potential energy of two electrons is calculated, and the coordinates of the potential energy less than the total energy are filtered. Then the total kinetic energy is obtained by subtracting the total potential energy from the total energy, and the total kinetic energy is randomly assigned to the electrons to obtain their momentum and coordinates. Finally, the coordinates and momentum of two electrons are substituted into the time-dependent Newton equation without the laser field for a period of time, and then a stable initial system synthesis is obtained. The LP laser field we leverage has a wavelength of 1200 nm, the CP laser

field has a wavelength of 1200 nm, and the CRTC laser field is a combination of two circularly polarized laser beams with wavelengths of 1200 nm and 600 nm.

Results and Discussions First, we calculate the NSDI yield for CO₂ in LP, CP, and CRTC laser fields for various laser field intensities (Fig. 1). The results show that the yield of CO₂ molecules under the CRTC laser field is higher than that under the LP laser field when the laser field is higher. However, the opposite results are obtained when the laser field intensity is lower. Since the knee structure doesn't occur in the yield curve under the action of the CP laser field, it is not discussed in our paper. Then, we calculate the electron return energy diagram based on the main time distribution of the recollision (Fig. 3). The return energy diagram can help us derive the reason for the intersection of the CO₂ yield curves. Second, we investigate the factors affecting the CO₂ NSDI under the action of intense laser fields. By comparing the single ionization rate and double ionization rate of CO₂ in the LP laser field and CRTC laser field (Fig. 4), we can conclude that the main factors affecting the CO₂ NSDI are the laser intensity and laser field type. Third, we explore the electron dynamics process for CO₂ NSDI in the areas with lower laser intensity and higher laser intensity respectively. The results show that under lower laser intensity, the NSDI yield driven by the LP laser field is higher than that driven by the CRTC laser field because of the lower suppression barrier (Fig. 5). However, when the laser intensity is higher, the suppression barrier will be distorted and then the main factor affecting the NSDI yield is the structure of the laser field in this case. As the CRTC has a three-lobed structure (Fig. 7) which helps to increase the number of electrons undergoing recollision, the NSDI yield in the CRTC laser field is higher than that in the LP laser field.

Conclusions Our paper investigates the NSDI yield for linear triatomic molecular (CO₂) driven by LP, CP, and CRTC laser fields. The results indicate that the NSDI yield in the CRTC laser field is lower than that in the LP laser field under lower laser intensity. This is because the interaction between the laser field and the molecular coulomb potential forms a suppression barrier, and the suppression potential in the CRTC laser field is higher than that in the LP laser field. As a result, the ionization of the second electron in the CRTC laser field is limited. However, when the laser intensity is higher, the yield in the CRTC laser field is higher than that in the LP laser field. This is because with the increasing laser intensity, the molecular coulomb potential is distorted, and then the molecular structure almost no longer exerts an effect on the ionization rate, which is largely influenced by the laser field structure. The CRTC laser field is characterized by a special three-lobed structure, and it can help to increase the number of returning electrons and the electron recollision possibility. Therefore, the CO₂ yield is higher under the action of the CRTC laser field. We further complement the study of the NSDI electron dynamics process of linear triatomic molecules driven by intense laser fields, and our results also provide references to improve the NSDI yield of molecules in experiments.

Key words atomic and molecular physics; non-sequential double ionization; two-color circularly polarized laser field; linearly polarized laser field; molecule; yield