

**ATOMS AND MOLECULES IN
INTENSE ULTRASHORT LASER PULSES:
IS THERE A BRIDGE BETWEEN LONG
AND SHORT WAVELENGTH REGIMES?**



Alejandro Saenz

AG Moderne Optik

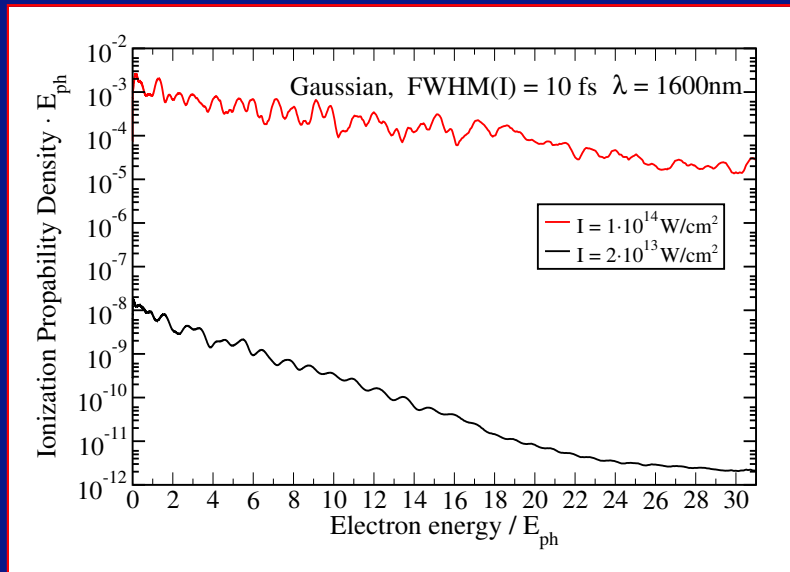
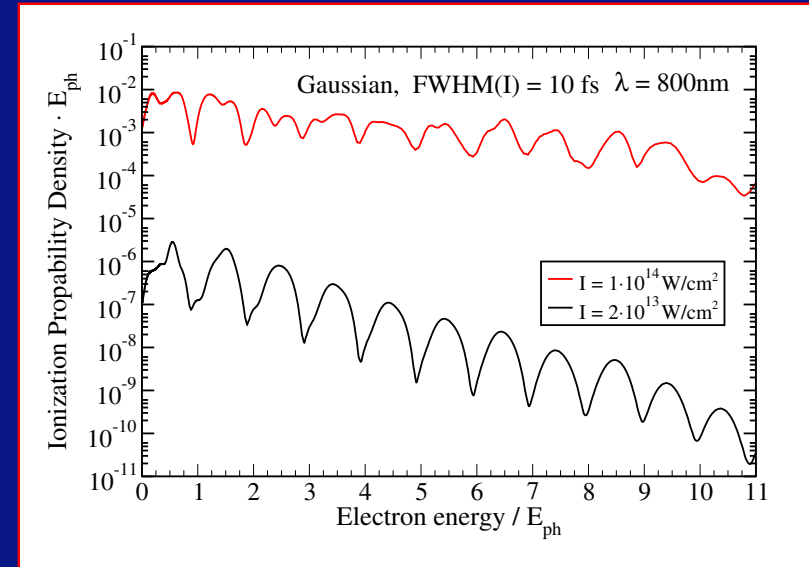
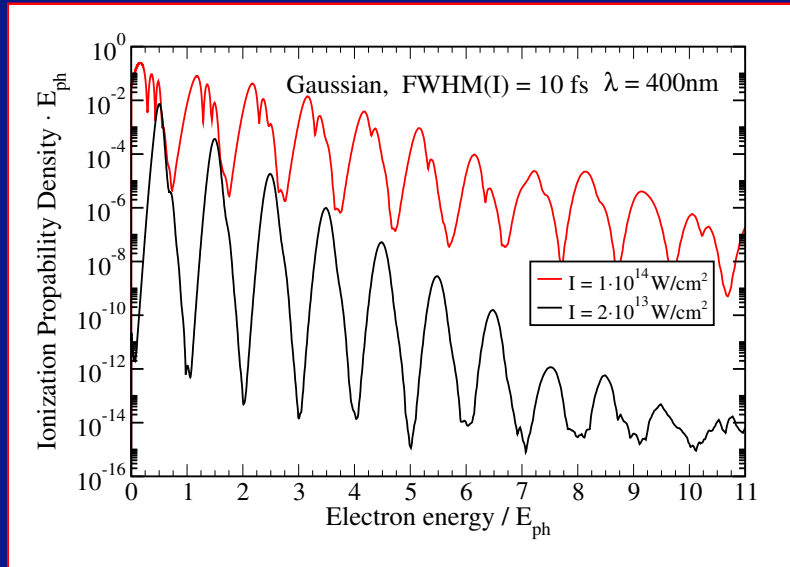
Institut für Physik

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin



(Kavli-Institute for Theoretical Physics, 23.08.2010)

Quasistatic vs. multiphoton picture: electron spectra of H atom



H atom:

Ionization potential $I_P = 13.6 \text{ eV}$

400 nm (3.1 eV) $\longrightarrow N_{\text{ph,min}} = 5$

800 nm (1.55 eV) $\longrightarrow N_{\text{ph,min}} = 9$

1600 nm (0.775 eV) $\longrightarrow N_{\text{ph,min}} = 18$

Efficient solution of TDSE for H atom:

Y. V. Vanne and A. Saenz, to be published

LOPT from helium to molecular hydrogen

J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys. **32** (1999) 5629–5637. Printed in the UK

PII: S0953-4075(99)07138-2

Theoretical two-, three- and four-photon ionization cross sections of helium in the XUV range

Alejandro Saenz[†] and P Lambropoulos^{†‡}

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[‡] Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser, PO Box 1527, Heraklion 71110, Crete, Greece
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Department of Physics, University of Crete, Greece

J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys. **33** (2000) 2791–2807. Printed in the UK

PII: S0953-4075(00)50485-4

Effect of vibration and internuclear axis orientation on multiphoton ionization of H₂⁺

Amalia Apalategui[†], Alejandro Saenz[†], and P Lambropoulos^{†‡}

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[‡] Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser, PO Box 1527, Heraklion 71110, Crete
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INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS PUBLISHING

JOURNAL OF PHYSICS B: ATOMIC, MOLECULAR AND OPTICAL PHYSICS

J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys. **35** (2002) 1909–1928

PII: S0953-4075(02)33213-9

Multiphoton ionization of the hydrogen molecule H₂

Amalia Apalategui and Alejandro Saenz

Fachbereich Chemie, Universität Konstanz, Fach M 721, D-78457 Konstanz, Germany

$$\int_0^\pi |D_{fi}^{(2)}(\vartheta)|^2 \sin \vartheta \, d\vartheta$$

$$= \frac{3}{15} \left| \sum_m \frac{\langle \Psi_i^{\Sigma_g} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^0(\Omega_s) | \Psi_m^{\Sigma_u} \rangle \langle \Psi_m^{\Sigma_u} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^0(\Omega_s) | \Psi_f^{\Sigma_g} \rangle}{(E_m - E_i - \omega)} \right|^2 \quad (7a)$$

$$+ \frac{8}{15} \left| \sum_m \frac{\langle \Psi_i^{\Sigma_g} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{-1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} \rangle \langle \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{+1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_f^{\Sigma_g} \rangle}{(E_m - E_i - \omega)} \right|^2 \quad (7b)$$

$$+ \frac{4}{15} \left| \sum_m \frac{\langle \Psi_i^{\Sigma_g} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{-1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} \rangle \langle \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{-1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_f^{\Delta_g^+} \rangle}{(E_m - E_i - \omega)} \right|^2 \quad (7c)$$

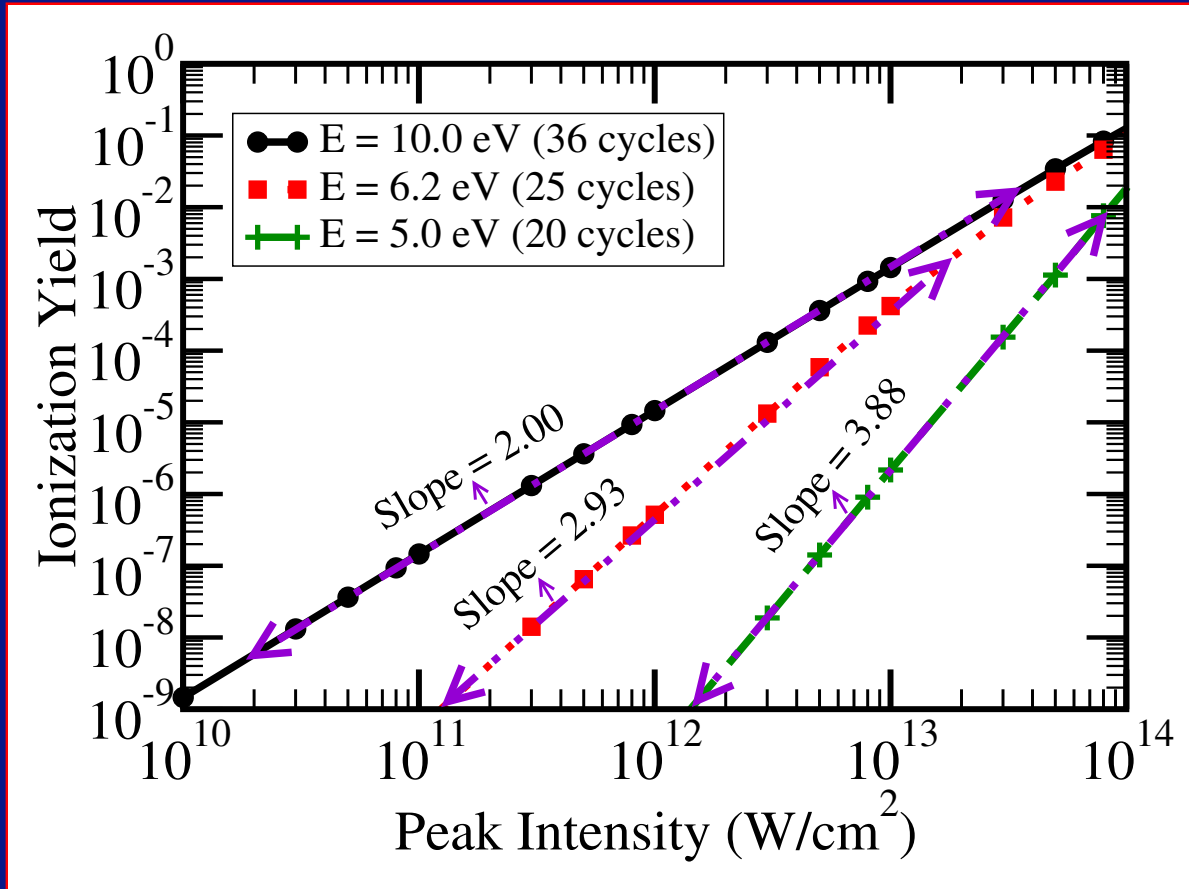
$$+ \frac{2}{15} \left| \sum_m \frac{\langle \Psi_i^{\Sigma_g} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^0(\Omega_s) | \Psi_m^{\Sigma_u} \rangle \langle \Psi_m^{\Sigma_u} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{-1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_f^{\Pi_g^+} \rangle}{(E_m - E_i - \omega)} \right|^2 \quad (7d)$$

$$+ \frac{2}{15} \left| \sum_m \frac{\langle \Psi_i^{\Sigma_g} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{-1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} \rangle \langle \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^0(\Omega_s) | \Psi_f^{\Pi_g^+} \rangle}{(E_m - E_i - \omega)} \right|^2 \quad (7e)$$

$$- \frac{4}{15} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \sum_m \sum_n \frac{\langle \Psi_i^{\Sigma_g} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{-1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} \rangle \langle \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^0(\Omega_s) | \Psi_f^{\Pi_g^+} \rangle}{(E_m - E_i - \omega)} \right. \\ \left. \times \frac{\langle \Psi_f^{\Pi_g^+} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{+1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_n^{\Sigma_u} \rangle \langle \Psi_n^{\Sigma_u} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^0(\Omega_s) | \Psi_i^{\Sigma_g} \rangle}{(E_n - E_i - \omega)} \right\} \quad (7f)$$

$$- \frac{4}{15} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \sum_m \sum_n \frac{\langle \Psi_i^{\Sigma_g} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{-1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} \rangle \langle \Psi_m^{\Pi_u^+} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^{+1}(\Omega_s) | \Psi_f^{\Sigma_g} \rangle}{(E_m - E_i - \omega)} \right. \\ \left. \times \frac{\langle \Psi_f^{\Sigma_g} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^0(\Omega_s) | \Psi_n^{\Sigma_u} \rangle \langle \Psi_n^{\Sigma_u} | \sum_s r_s Y_1^0(\Omega_s) | \Psi_i^{\Sigma_g} \rangle}{(E_n - E_i - \omega)} \right\} \quad (7g)$$

LOPT regime for H₂: intensity scan ($R = 1.4 a_0$)

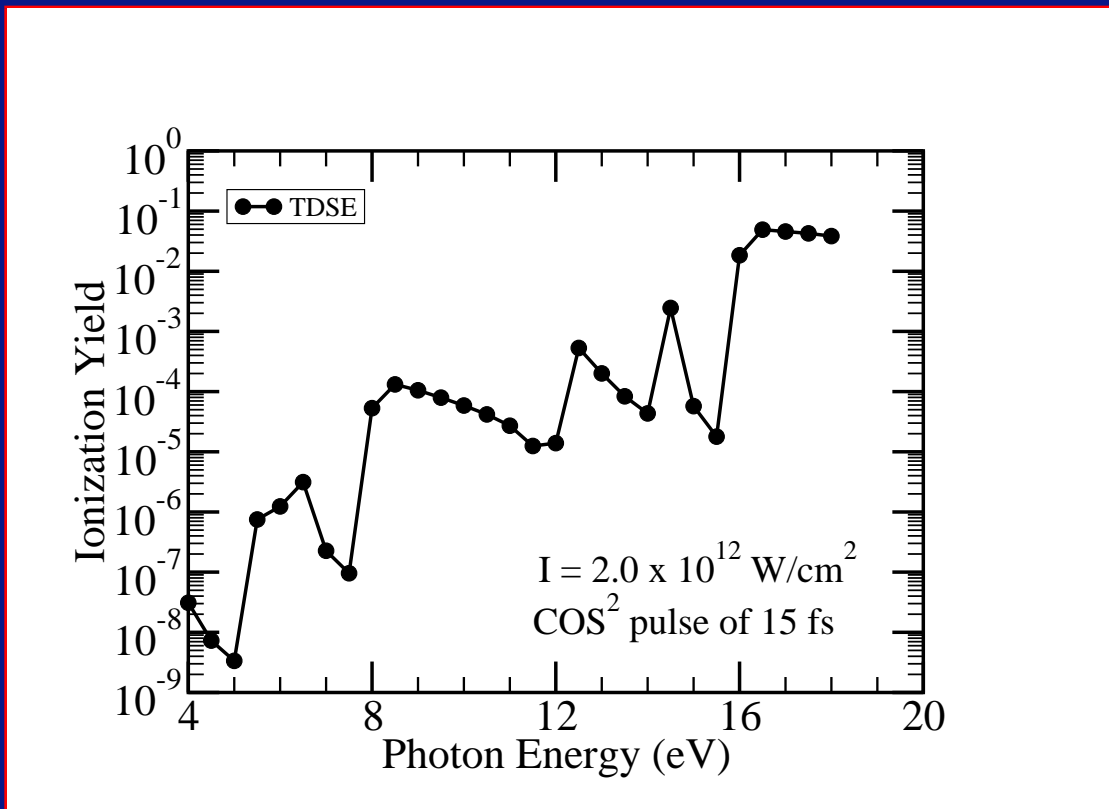


$$\Gamma^{(N)} = \sigma^{(N)} \left(\frac{I}{\hbar\omega} \right)^N$$

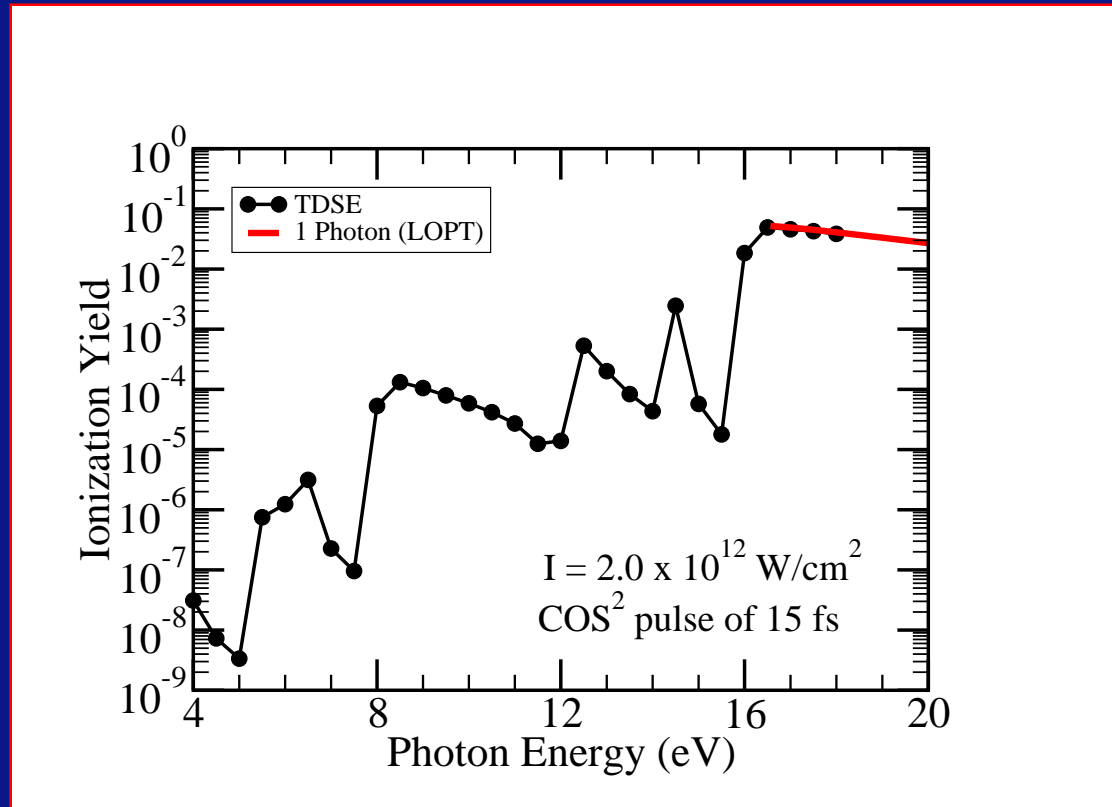
- N : Number of photons
- $\Gamma^{(N)}$: Ionization rate
- $\sigma^{(N)}$: N -photon ionization cross-section
- I : Intensity
- $\hbar\omega$: Photon energy

$$\text{Ionization yield: } P_{\text{ion}} = \int_{\text{pulse}} \Gamma^{(N)} dt$$

LOPT regime for H₂: frequency scan ($R = 1.4 a_0$)



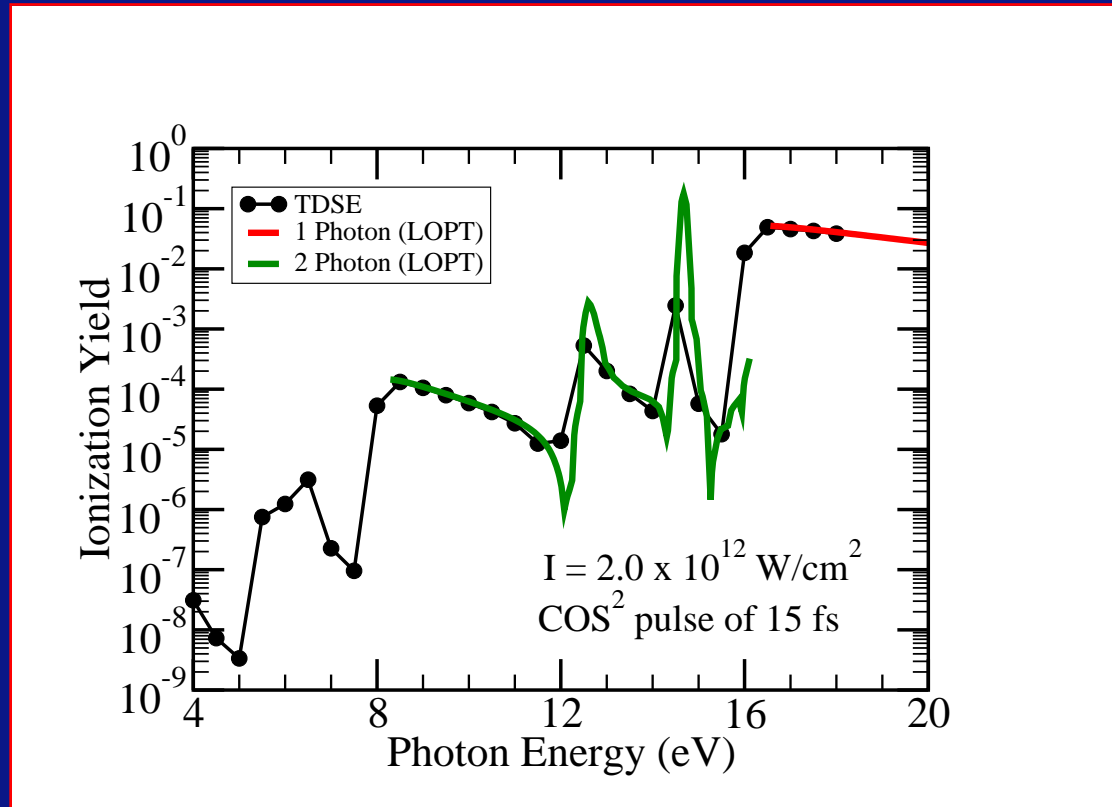
LOPT regime for H₂: frequency scan ($R = 1.4 a_0$)



LOPT: Ionization yield $P_{\text{ion}} = \int \Gamma^{(N)} dt$

$$\Gamma^{(N)} = \sigma^{(N)} \left(\frac{I}{\hbar\omega} \right)^N, \quad \sigma^{(N)} \propto \left| \sum_{\nu, \mu, \dots, \zeta} \frac{\langle \Psi_f | \hat{D} | \Psi_\nu \rangle \langle \Psi_\nu | \hat{D} | \Psi_\mu \rangle \cdots \langle \Psi_\zeta | \hat{D} | \Psi_i \rangle}{[E_\nu - E_i - (N-1)\omega] [E_\mu - E_i - (N-2)\omega] \cdots [E_\zeta - E_i - \omega]} \right|^2$$

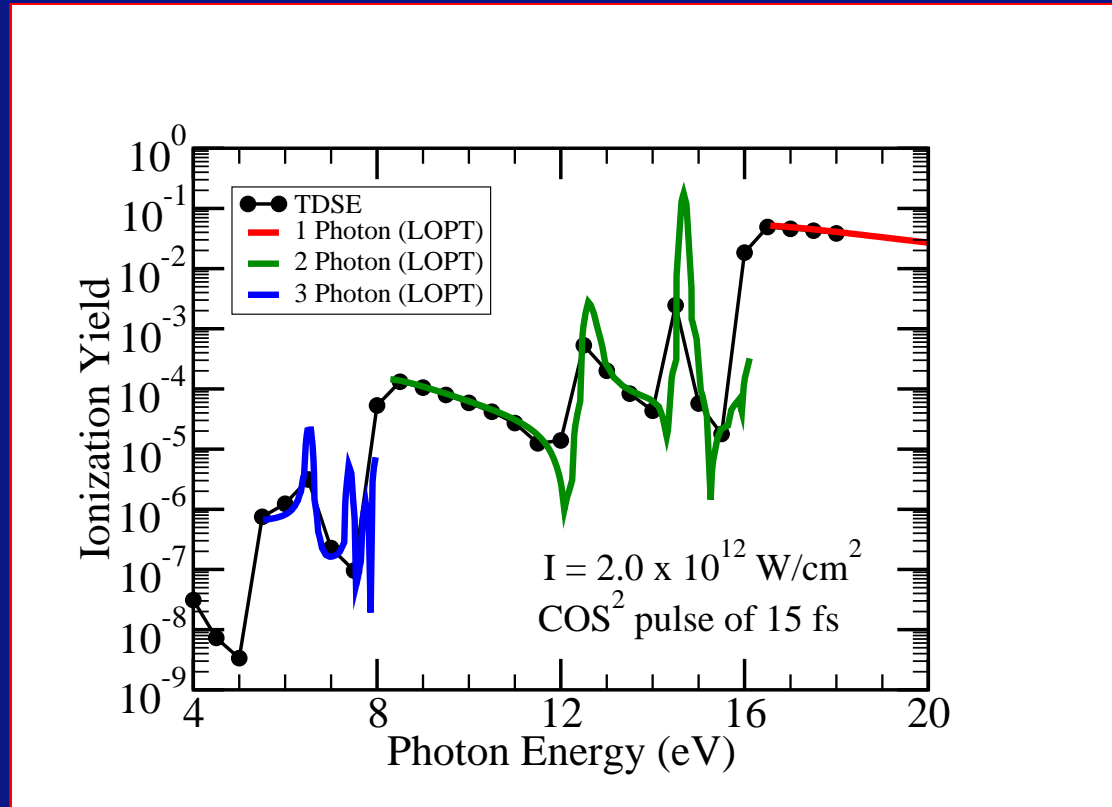
LOPT regime for H₂: frequency scan ($R = 1.4 a_0$)



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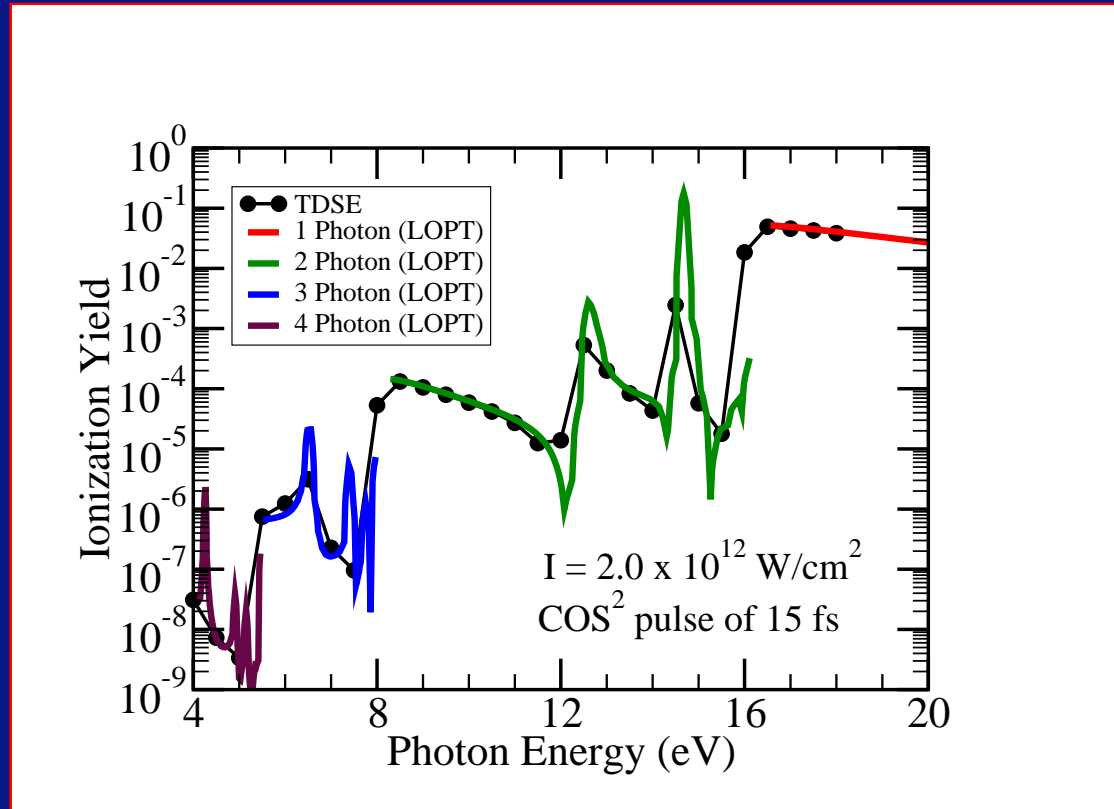
LOPT regime for H₂: frequency scan ($R = 1.4 a_0$)



LOPT: Ionization yield $P_{\text{ion}} = \int \Gamma^{(N)} dt$

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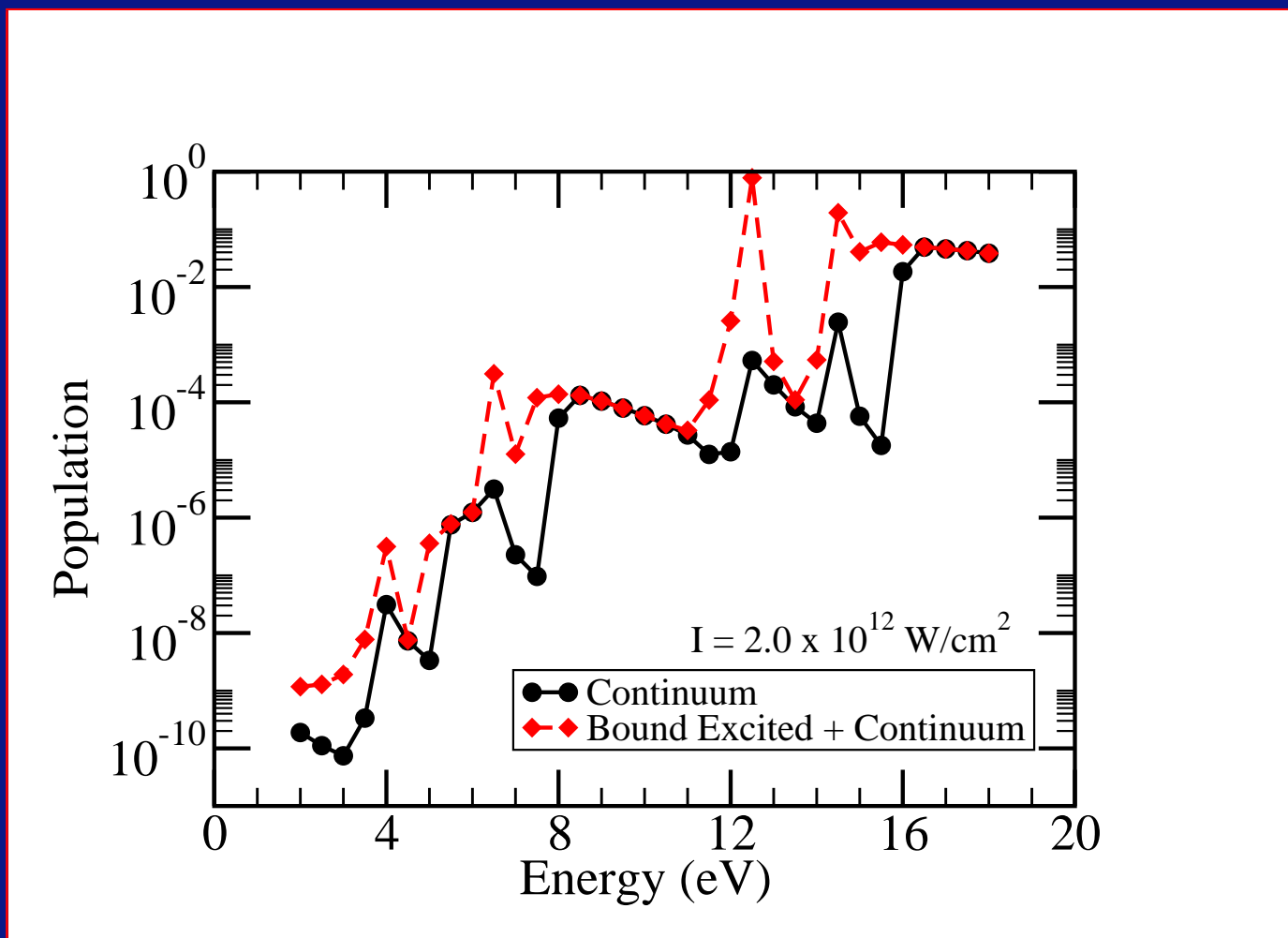
LOPT regime for H₂: frequency scan ($R = 1.4 a_0$)



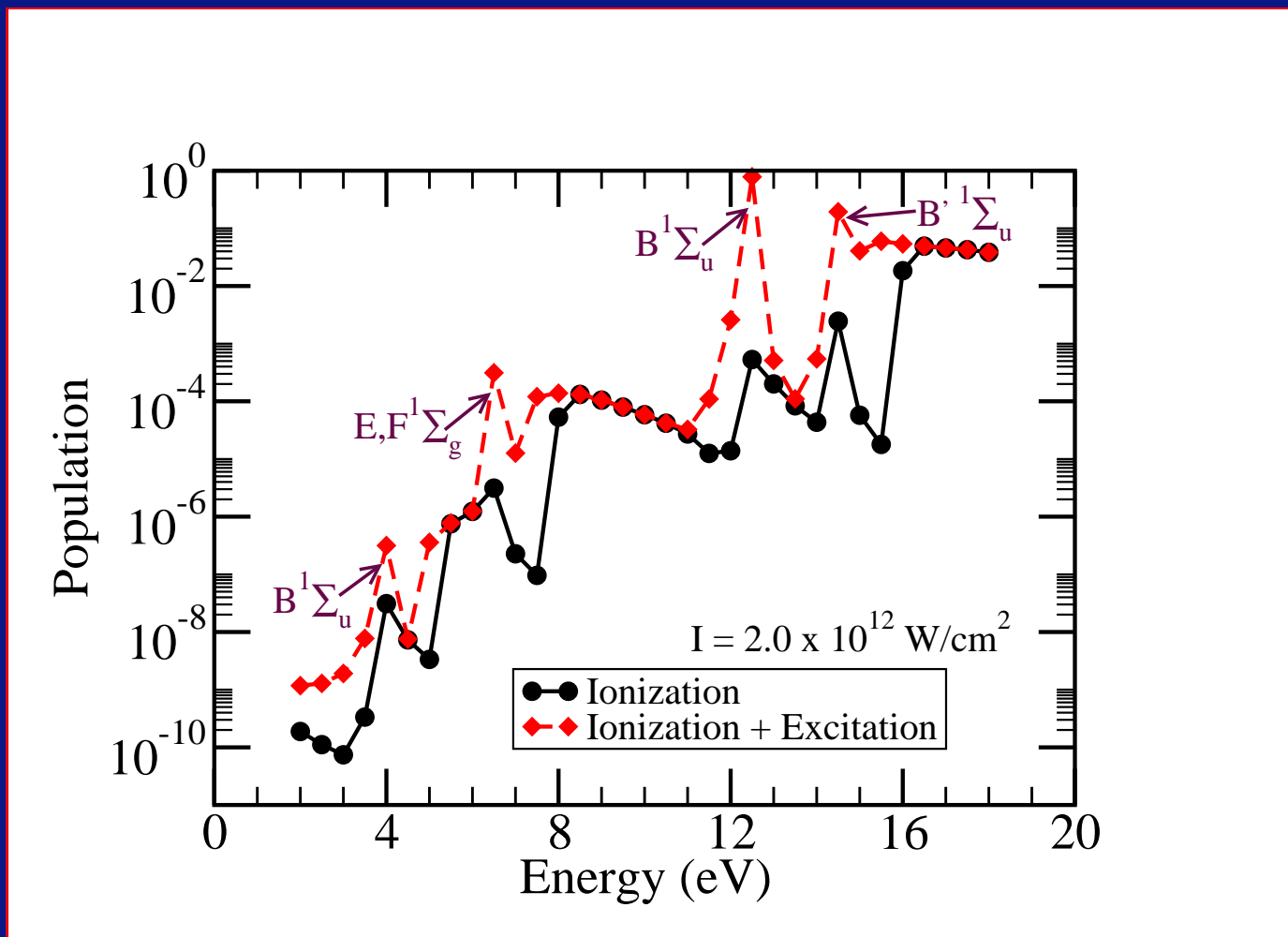
LOPT: Ionization yield $P_{\text{ion}} = \int \Gamma^{(N)} dt$

$$\Gamma^{(N)} = \sigma^{(N)} \left(\frac{I}{\hbar\omega} \right)^N, \quad \sigma^{(N)} \propto \left| \sum_{\nu, \mu, \dots, \zeta} \frac{\langle \Psi_f | \hat{D} | \Psi_\nu \rangle \langle \Psi_\nu | \hat{D} | \Psi_\mu \rangle \cdots \langle \Psi_\zeta | \hat{D} | \Psi_i \rangle}{[E_\nu - E_i - (N-1)\omega] [E_\mu - E_i - (N-2)\omega] \cdots [E_\zeta - E_i - \omega]} \right|^2$$

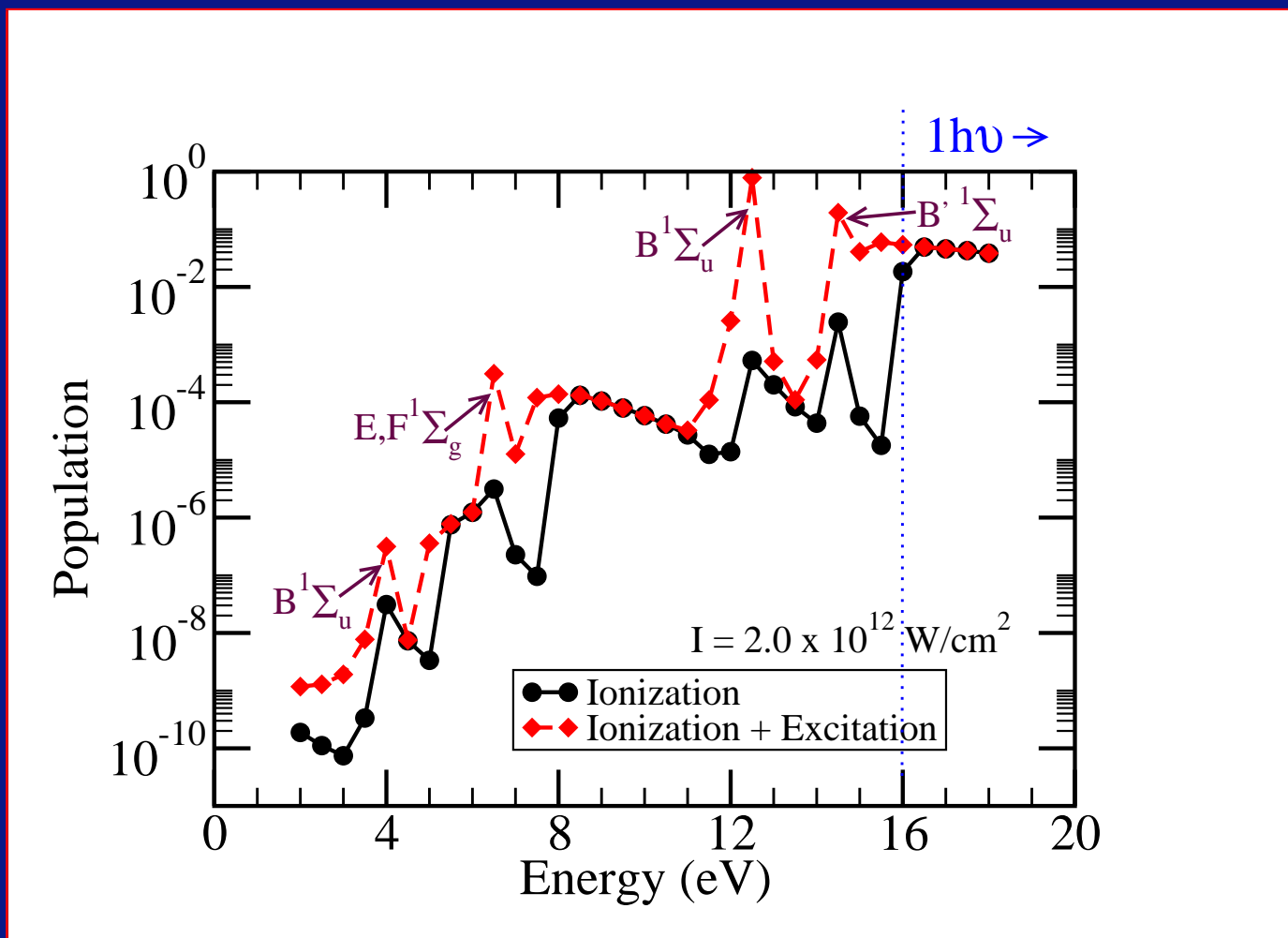
Resonances (REMPI) and thresholds (H_2 , $R = 1.4 a_0$)



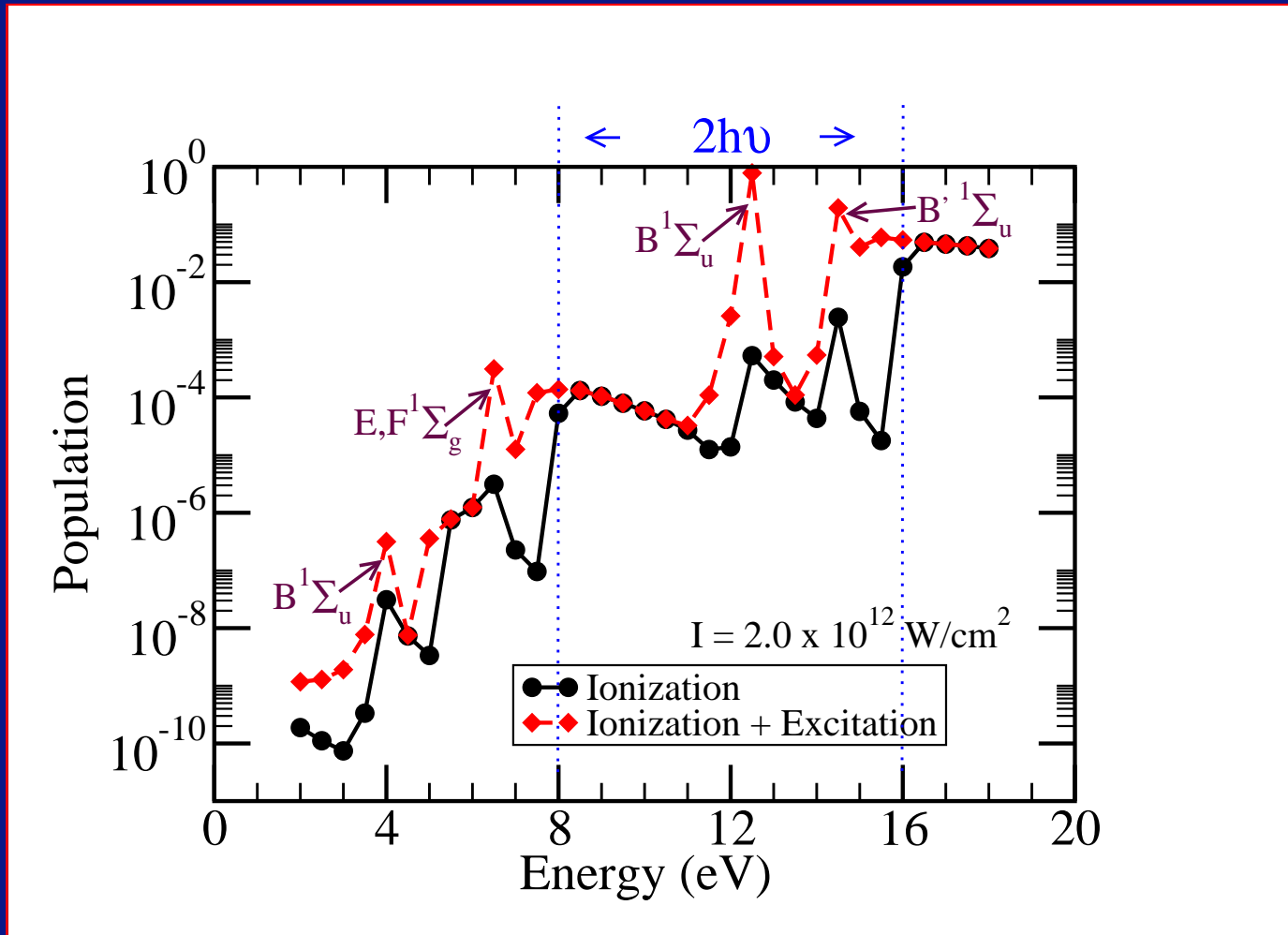
Resonances (REMPI) and thresholds (H_2 , $R = 1.4 a_0$)



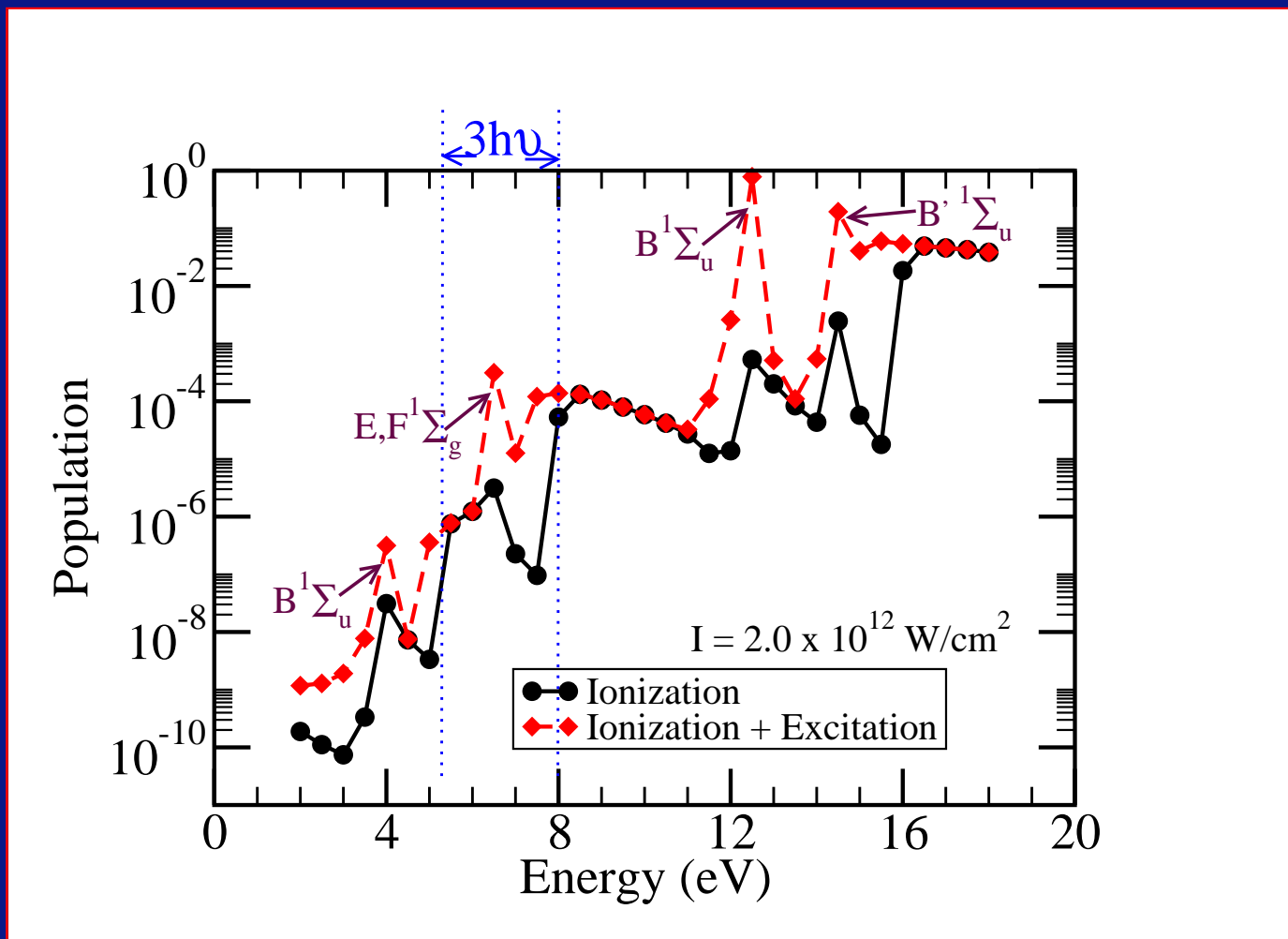
Resonances (REMPI) and thresholds (H_2 , $R = 1.4 a_0$)



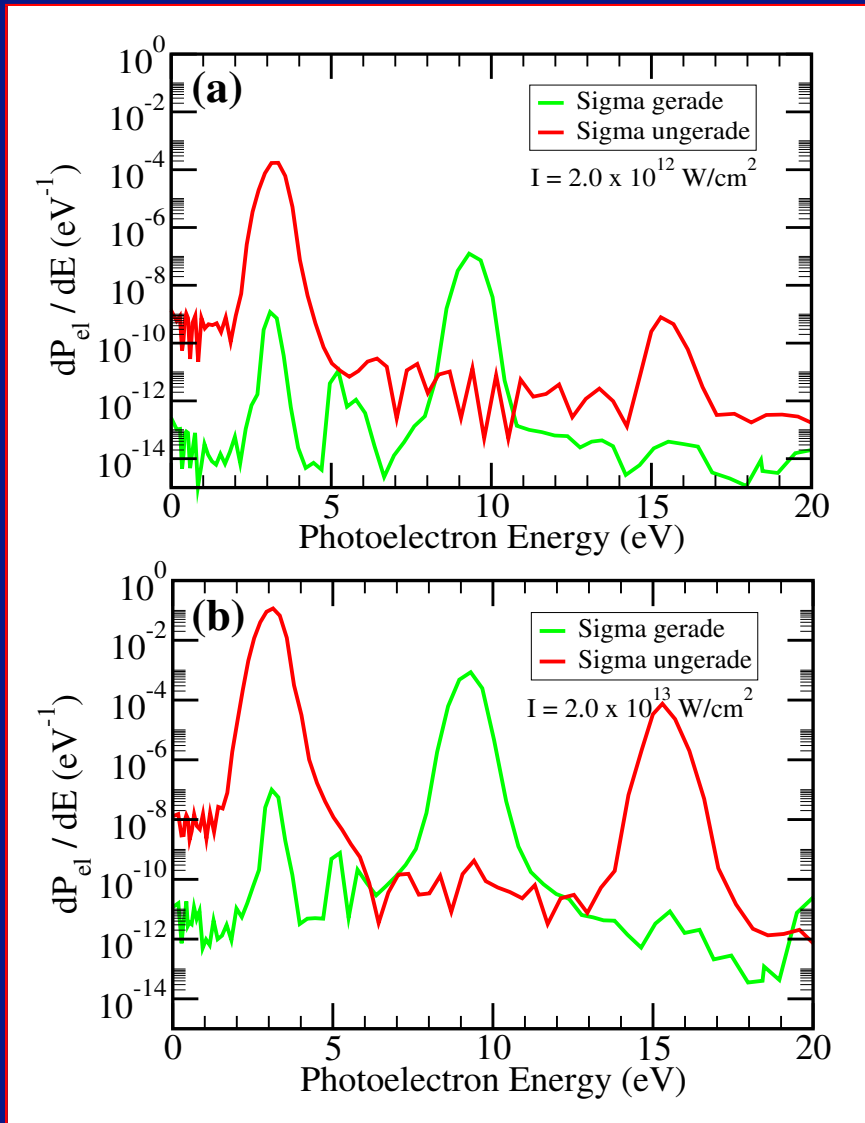
Resonances (REMPI) and thresholds (H_2 , $R = 1.4 a_0$)



Resonances (REMPI) and thresholds (H_2 , $R = 1.4 a_0$)



Photoelectron spectra for H₂



LOPT prediction:

only first Σ_u peak exists
(3 photon process)!

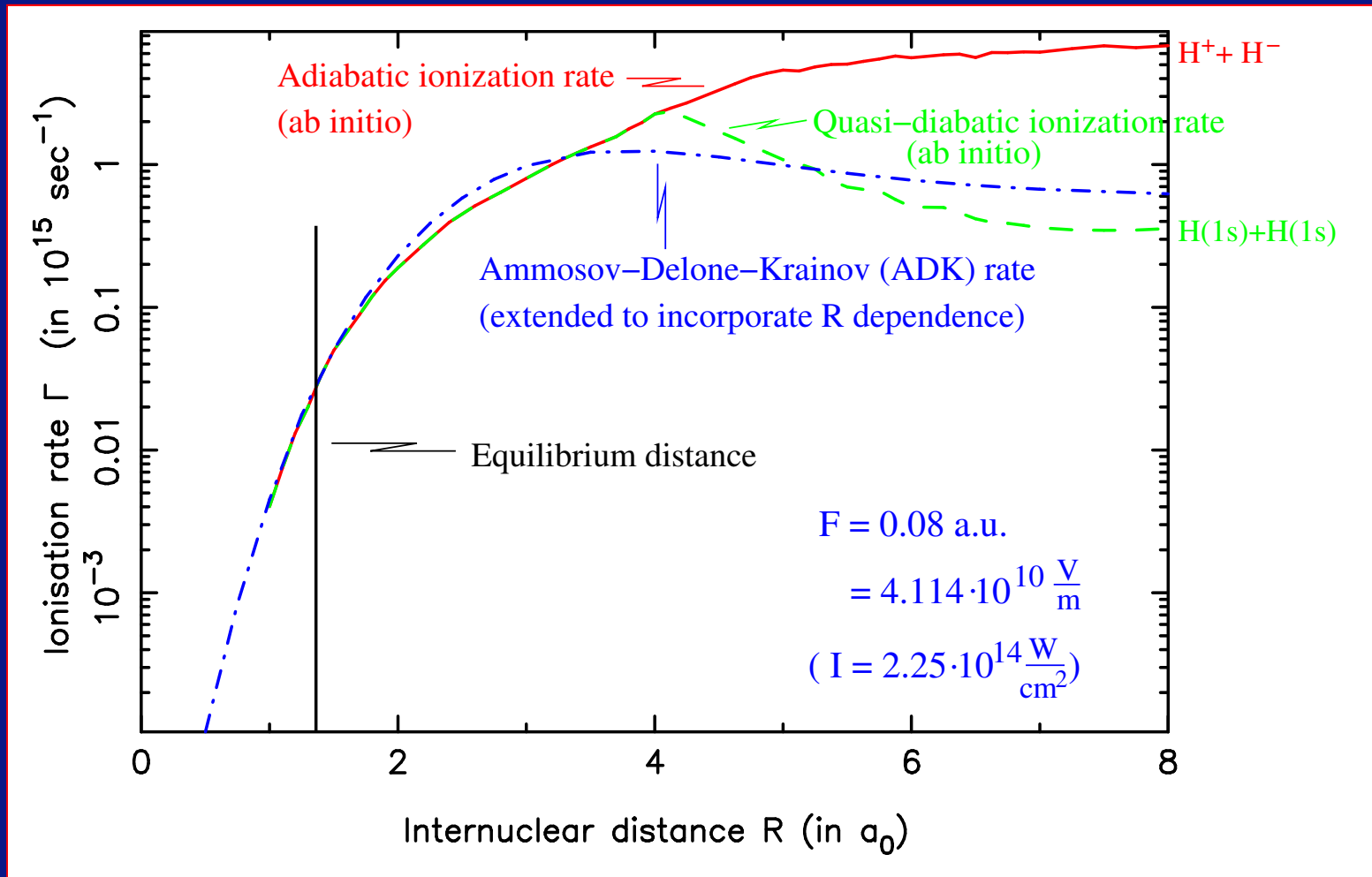
Additional peaks:
above-threshold ionization
(ATI)

H₂ at $R = 1.40 a_0$

Photon energy: 6.2 eV

Pulse length: 25 cycles
 $\approx 16.5 \text{ fs}$

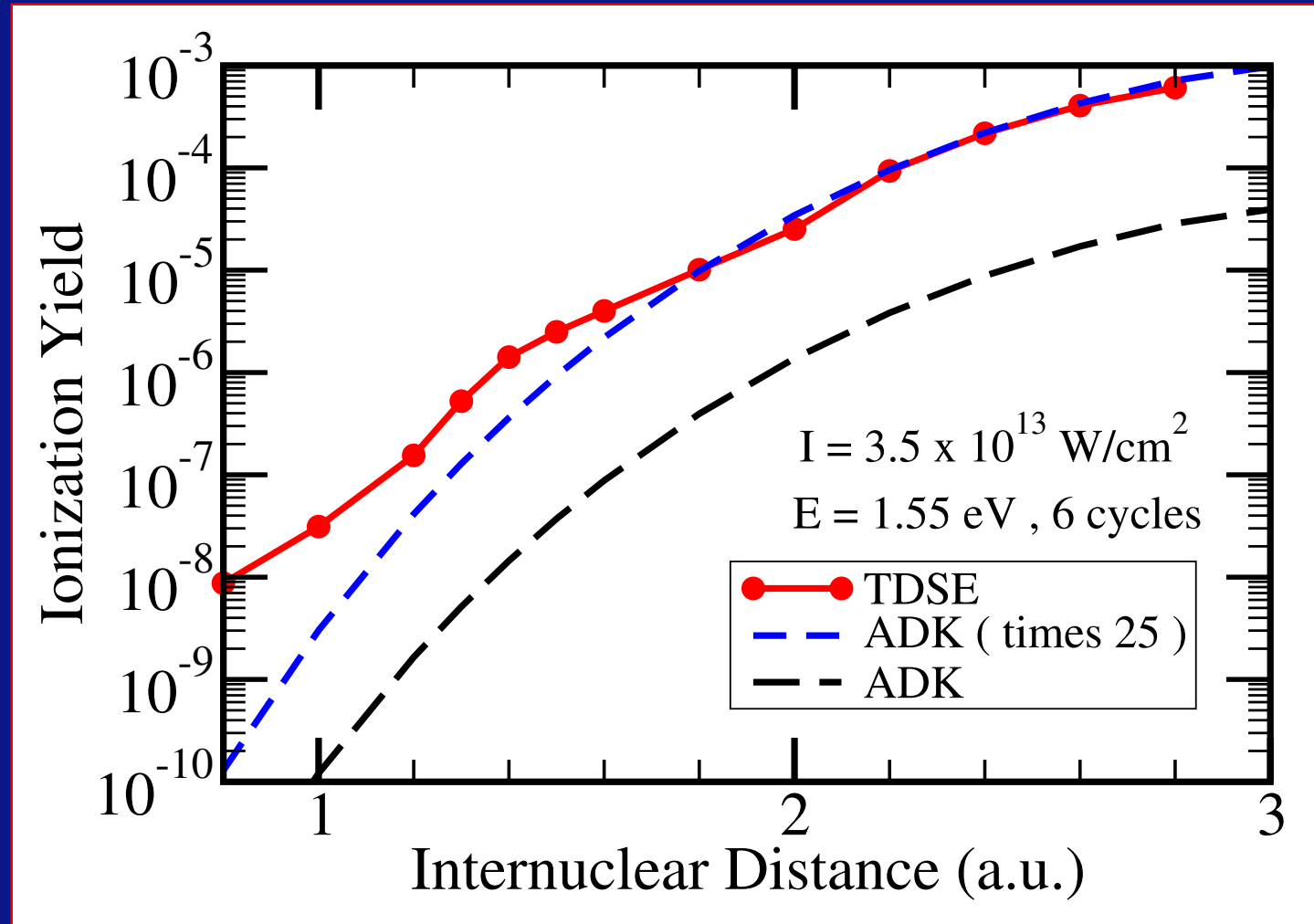
R-dependent ab initio dc ionization rate for H₂



Ab initio calculation (dc field) and experiment confirms: No FC distribution for H₂.

[A. Saenz, *Phys. Rev. A* **61**, 051402 (R) (2000); *Phys. Rev. A* **66**, 063408 (2002).]

Validity of quasi-static approximation for H₂

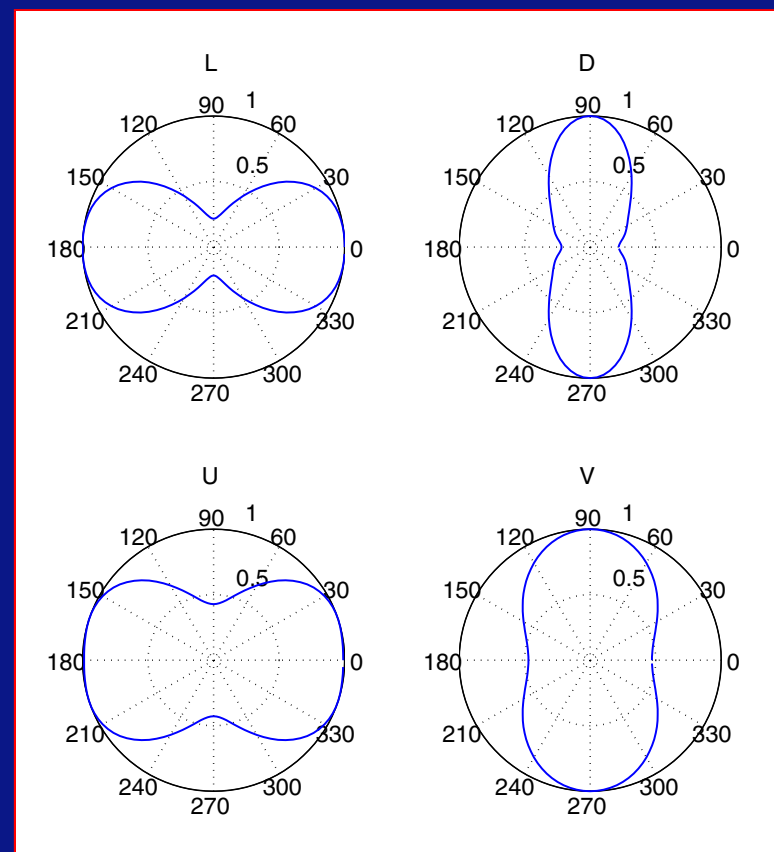
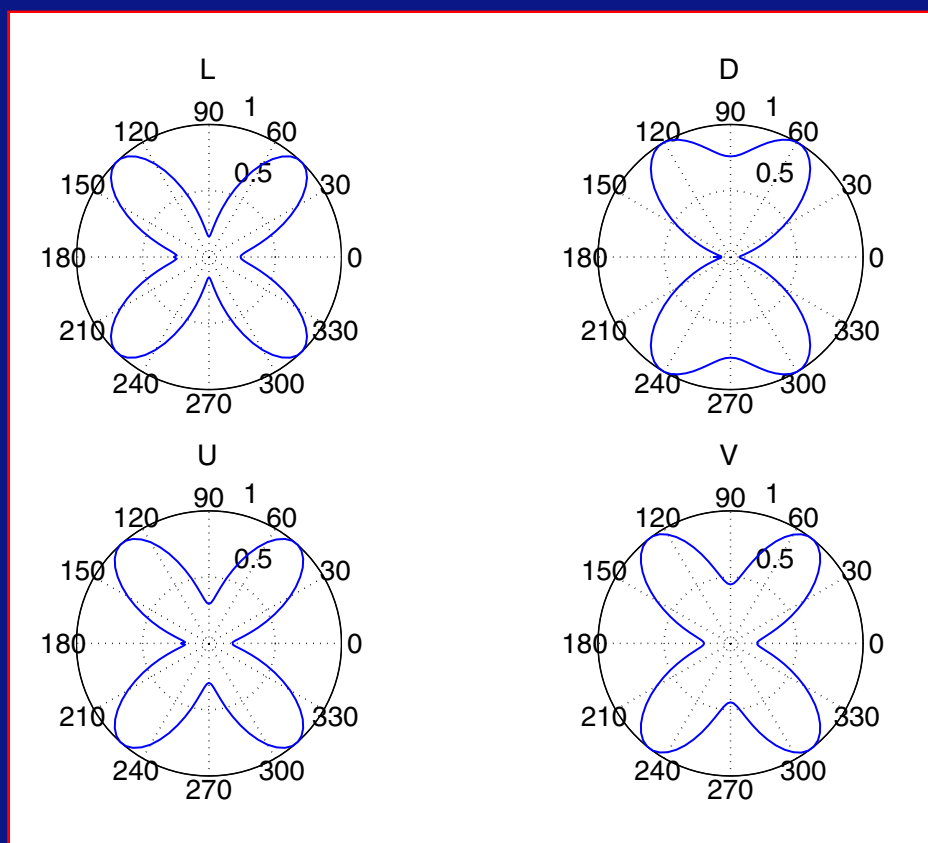


Full dimensional solution of TDSE: M. Awasthi, Y. V. Vanne, A. Saenz, *J. Phys. B* **38**, 3973 (2005) [method];
M. Awasthi and A. Saenz, *J. Phys. B:* **39**, S389 (2006) [R dependence].

Strong-field approximation (SFA) for oxygen and nitrogen

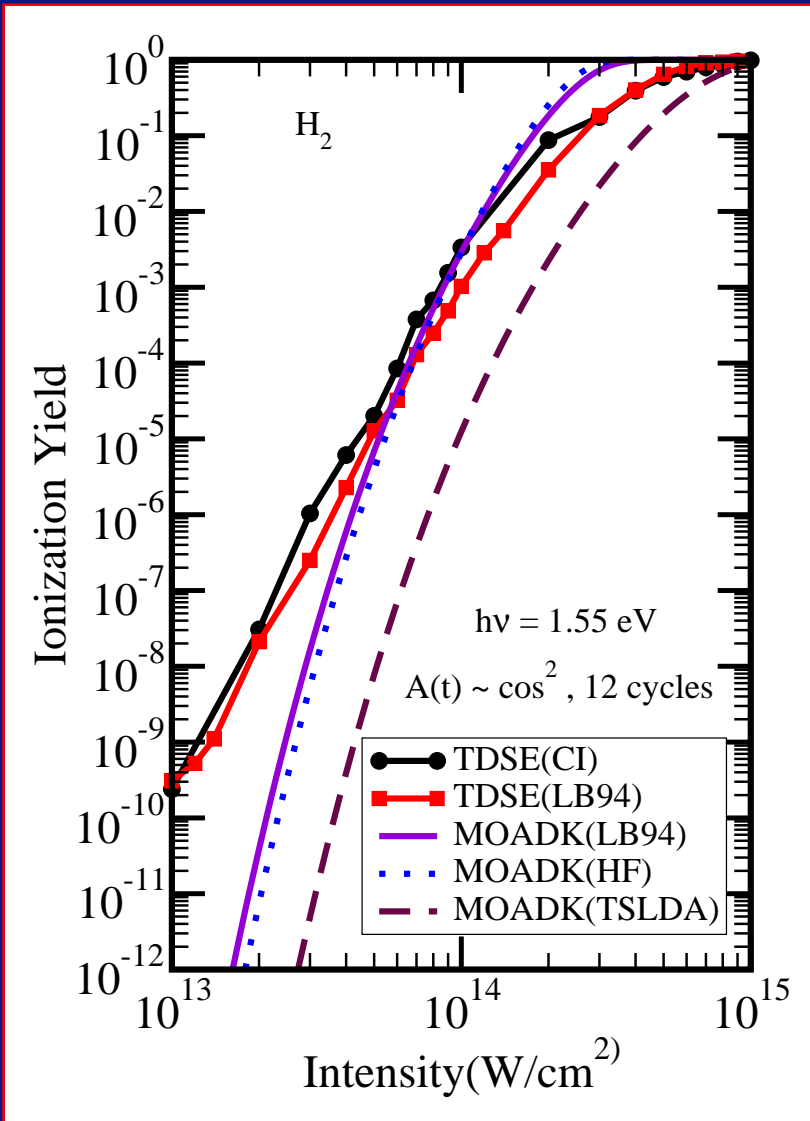
Oxygen O_2

Nitrogen N_2

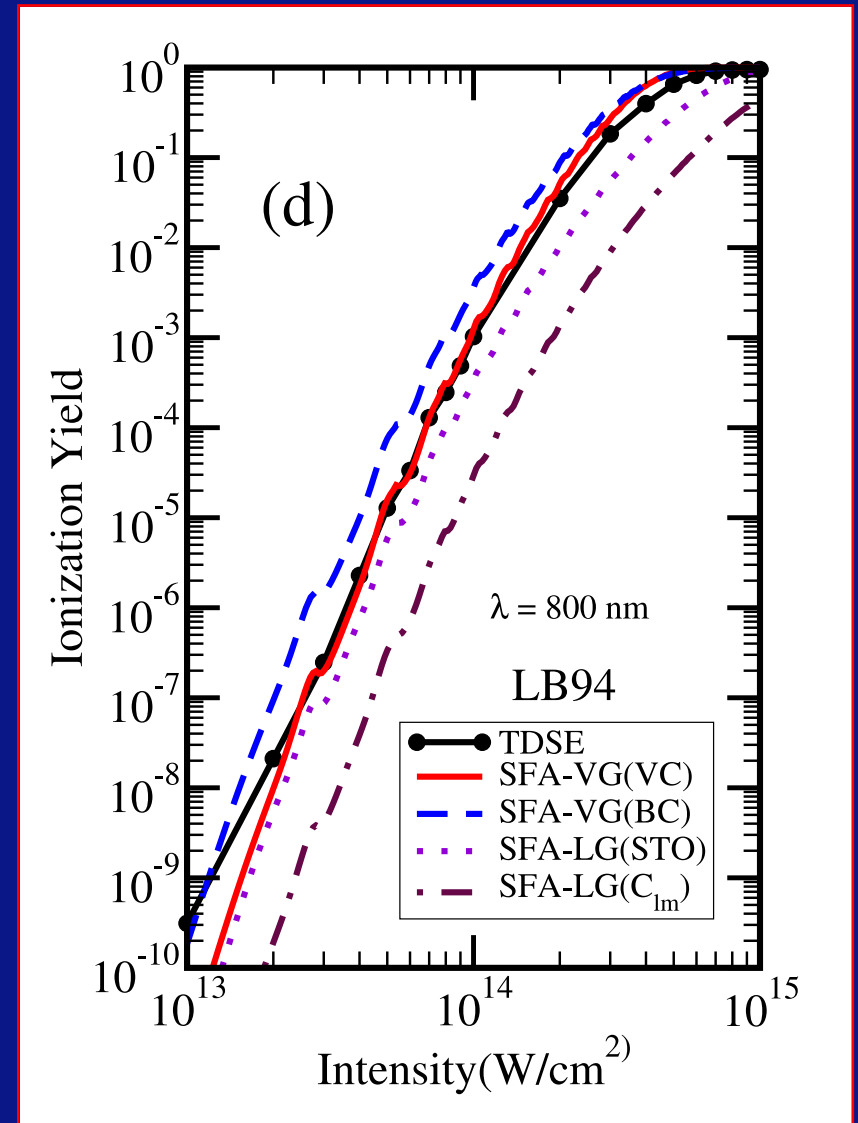
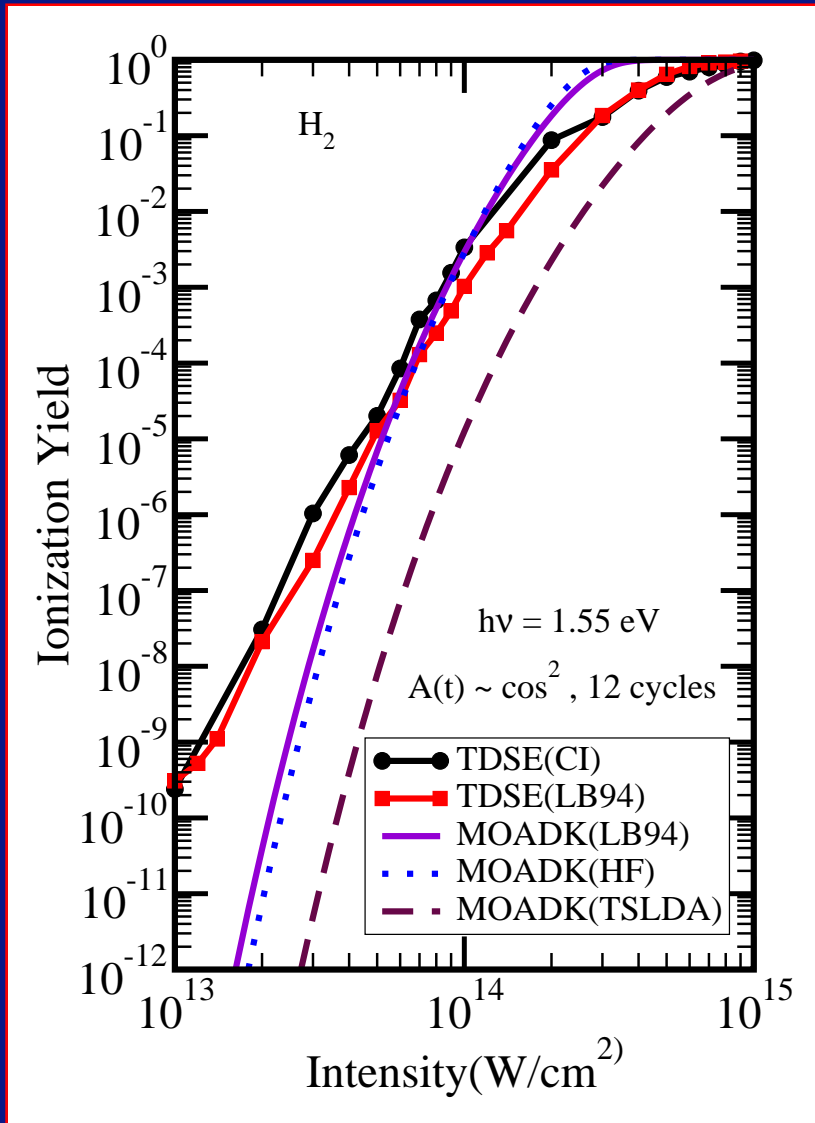


(from D. Milosevic, Phys. Rev. A **74**, 063404 (2006))

Validity of MO-ADK and MO-SFA-V/L for H₂



Validity of MO-ADK and MO-SFA-V/L for H₂



Floquet versus SFA and TDSE

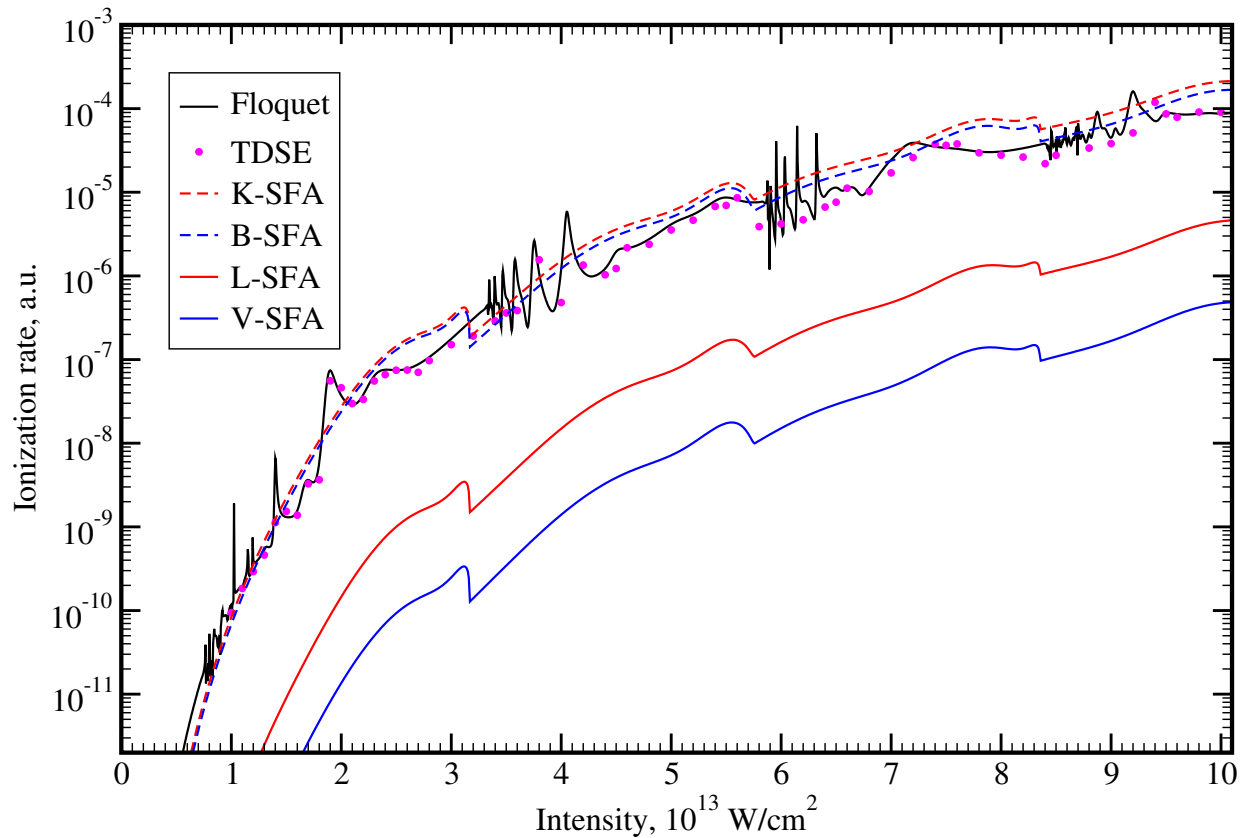
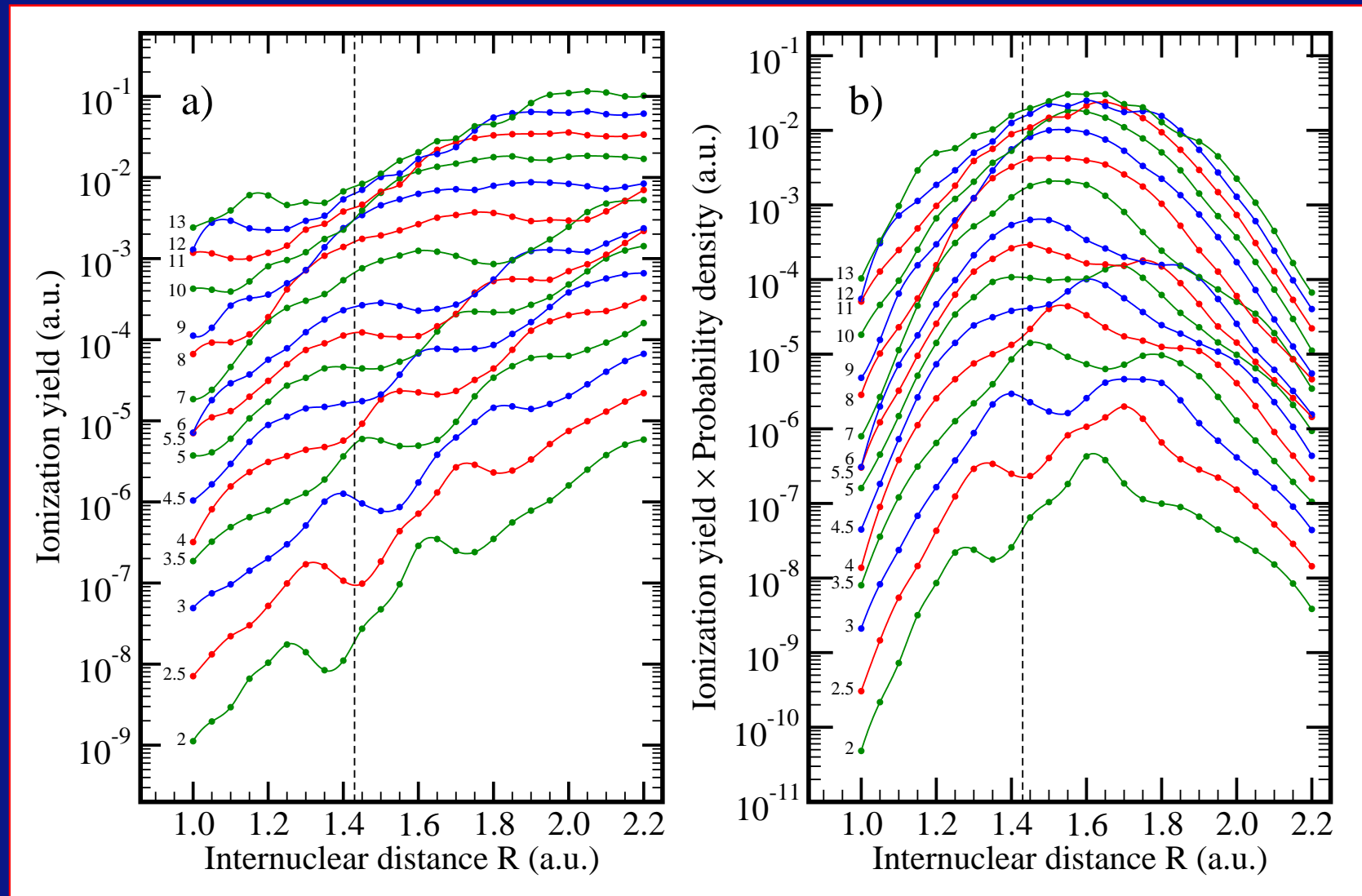


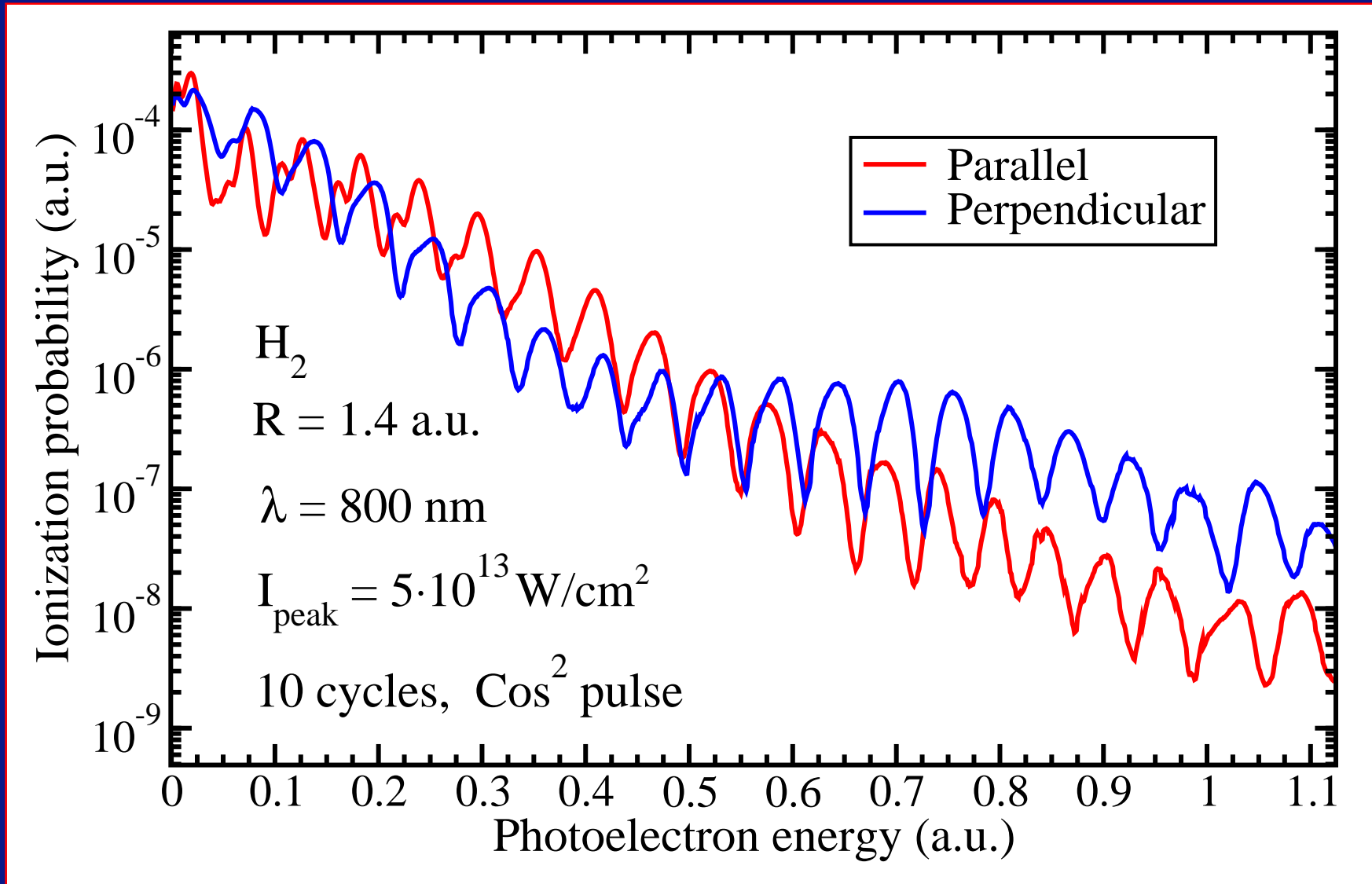
Figure 6.10.: Ionization rates of an H atom for an 800 nm laser field vs. laser intensity. Floquet results are compared with ionization rates yielded by the TDSE method, L-gauge SFA (L-SFA), L-gauge SFA with Krainov's Coulomb correction (K-SFA), V-gauge SFA (V-SFA), and V-gauge SFA with the Coulomb correction of A. Becker *et al.* (B-SFA).

Internuclear-distance dependent ion yields of H₂ (800 nm, perp.)

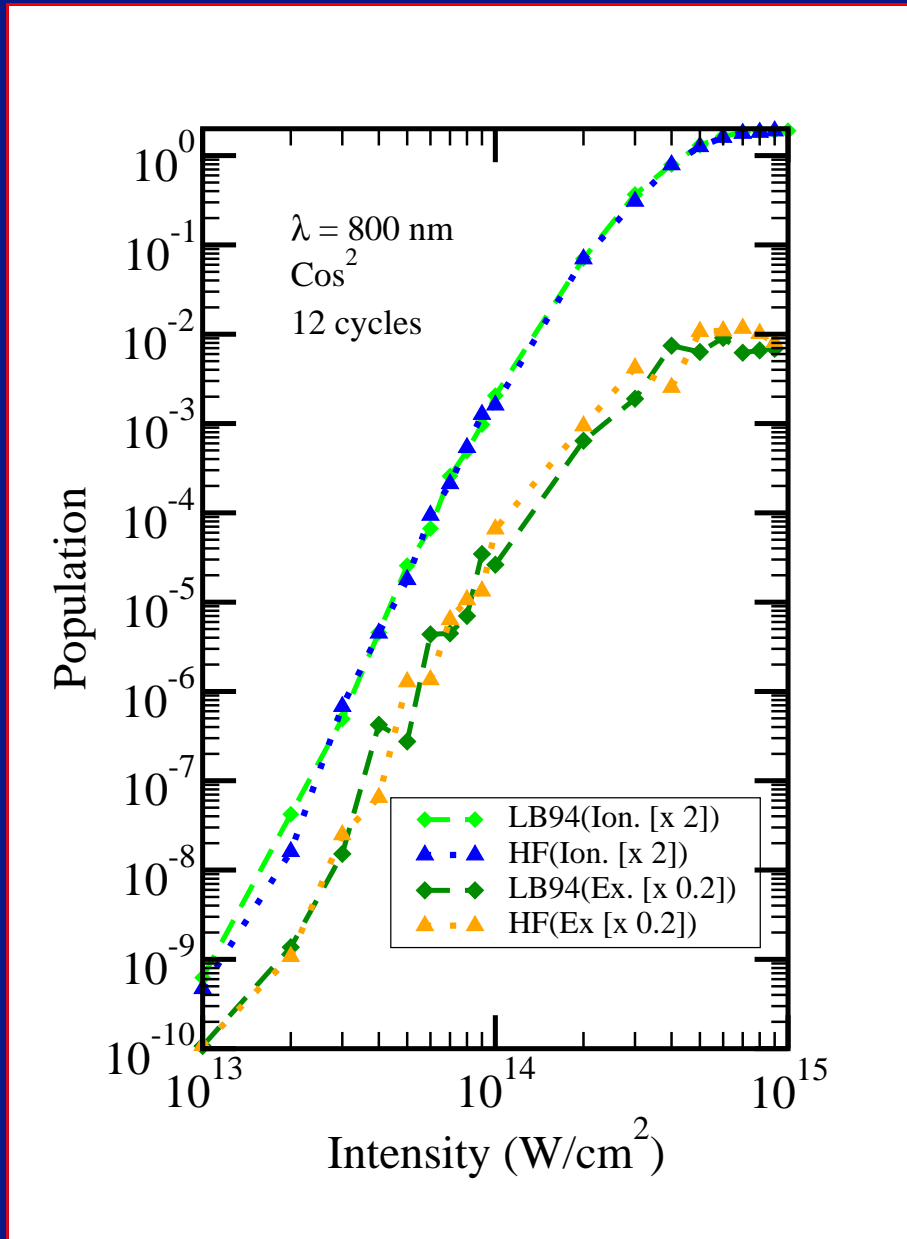


[for method see: Y.V. Vanne and A. Saenz, J. Modern Optics **55**, 2655 (2008); Phys. Rev. A **80**, 053422 (2009)]

Energy-resolved electron spectra (ATI)

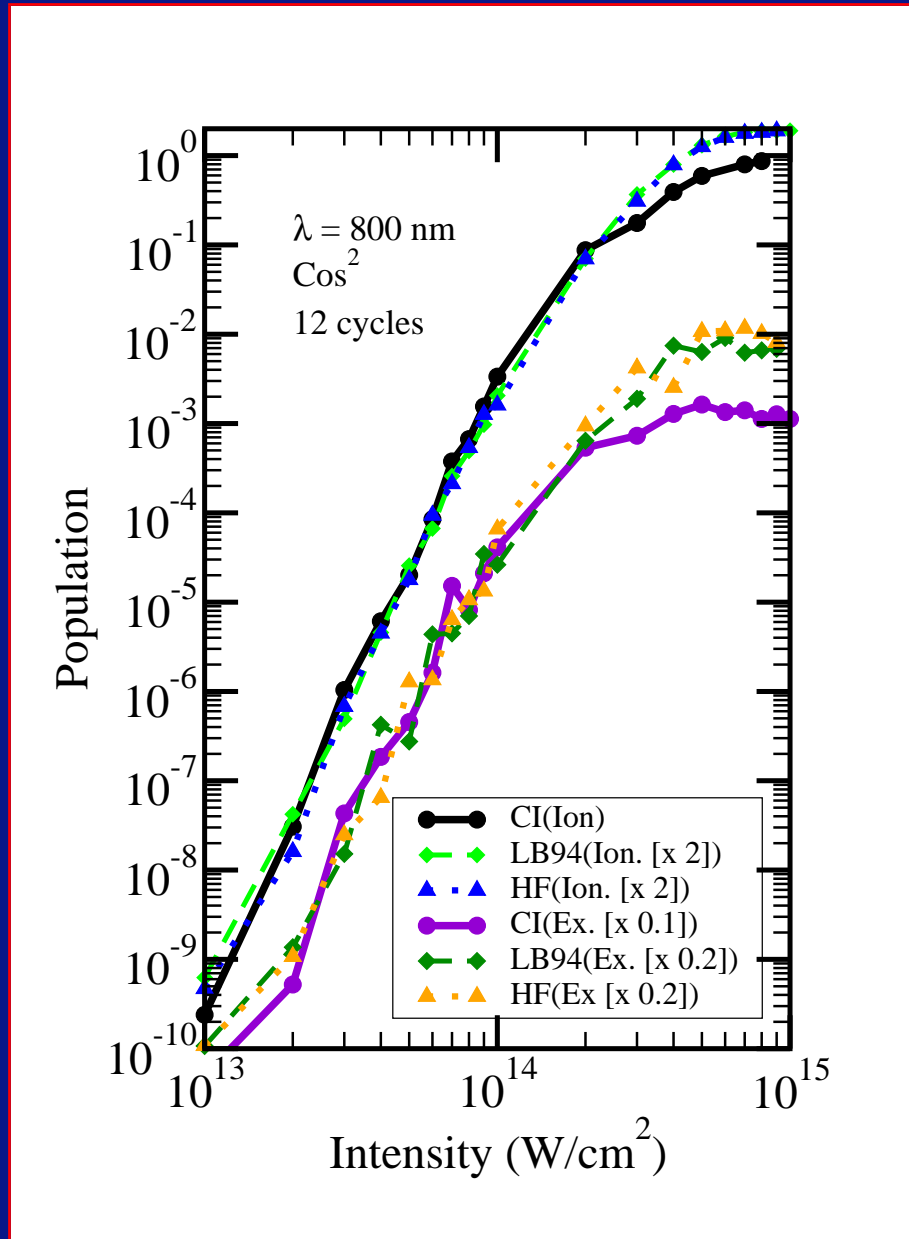


H₂: Hartree-Fock vs. DFT core (excitation)



M. Awasthi et al.
PRA 77, 063403 (2008)

Validity of the SAE approximation for H₂



M. Awasthi et al.
PRA 77, 063403 (2008)