Multiphoton Microwave Ionization of Rydberg Atoms

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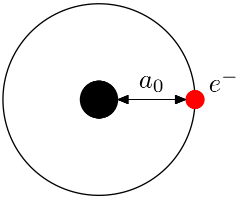
December 17, 2009

Acknowledgments

Professor Tom Gallagher

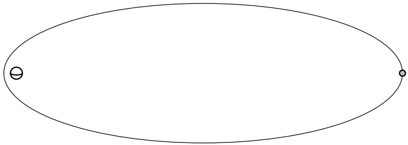
Dr. Haruka Maeda
Dr. Ed Shuman
Dr. Richard Overstreet
Jirikan Nunkaew
Hyunwook Park
Dr. Wei Yang
Dr. Jianing Han
Xiaodong Zhang
Paul Tanner

Atomic Units



Mass	m_e	9.1×10^{-31} kg	= 1
Action	$\hbar$	1.05×10^{-34} J·sec	= 1
Charge	e	1.6×10^{-19} C	= 1
Length	a_0	5.29×10^{-11} m	= 1
Energy	W	2×13.6 eV	= 1
Frequency	$\omega/2\pi$	6.5761×10^{6} GHz	= 1
Electric Field	E	5.137×10^{9} V/cm	= 1

What's a Rydberg Atom?

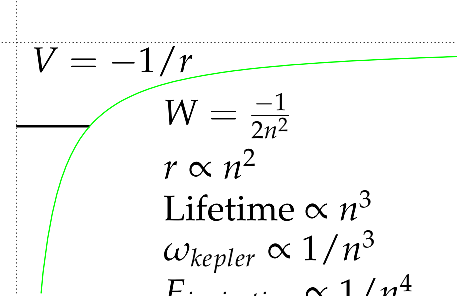


Any atom with one or more electrons of large principal quantum number n, where $n > 10$.

This Talk: $70 < n < 600$

Introduction to Rydberg Atoms

Properties of Rydberg Atoms



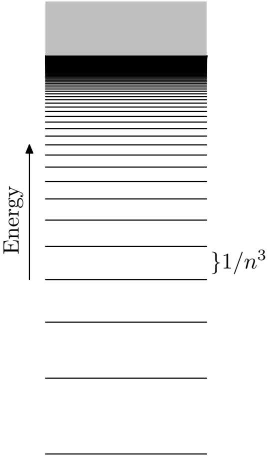
$W = \frac{-1}{2n^2}$

$r \propto n^2$

Lifetime $\propto n^3$

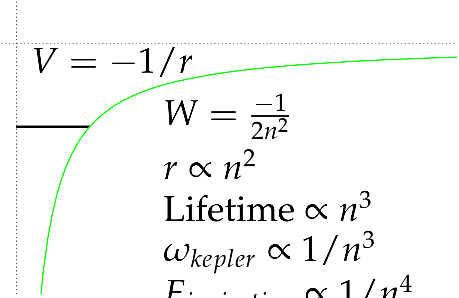
$\omega_{kepler} \propto 1/n^3$

$E_{ionization} \propto 1/n^4$



Introduction to Rydberg Atoms

Properties of Rydberg Atoms



$V = -1/r$

$W = \frac{-1}{2n^2}$

$r \propto n^2$

Lifetime $\propto n^3$

$\omega_{kepler} \propto 1/n^3$

$E_{ionization} \propto 1/n^4$

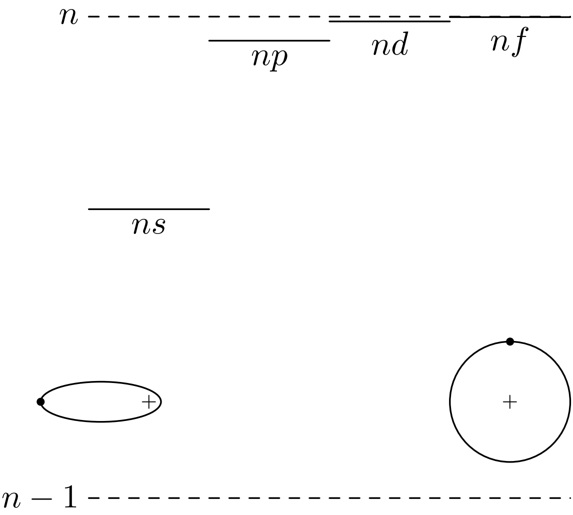
For n=100:

- $W = -1.4\,\text{meV}$
- $< r >= 0.5\,\mu\text{m}$
- $\tau = 1\,\text{ms}$
- $\omega_{kepler} = 2\pi \times 6.5\,\text{GHz}$
- $E_{ionization} = 5.7\,\text{V/cm}$

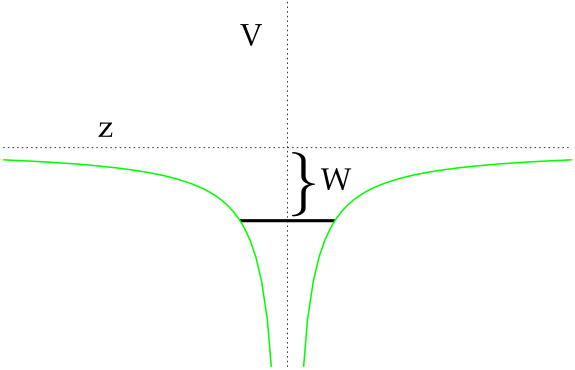
Non-hydrogenic Atoms

Ion core interactions shift energy levels

$$W = \frac{-1}{2(n-\delta_\ell)^2}$$

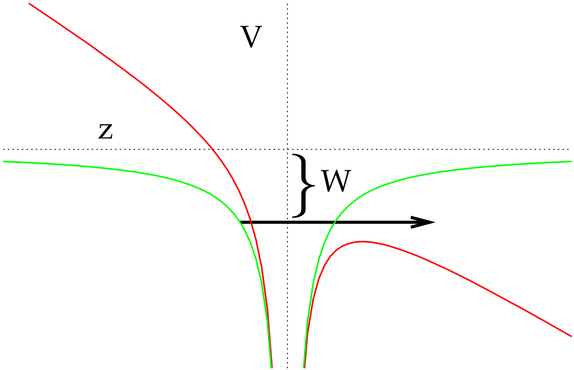


Field Ionization



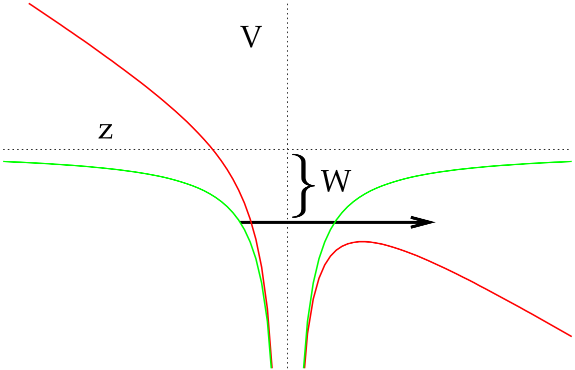
$$V(z) = \frac{-1}{|z|}$$

Field Ionization



$$V(z) = \frac{-1}{|z|} - Ez$$

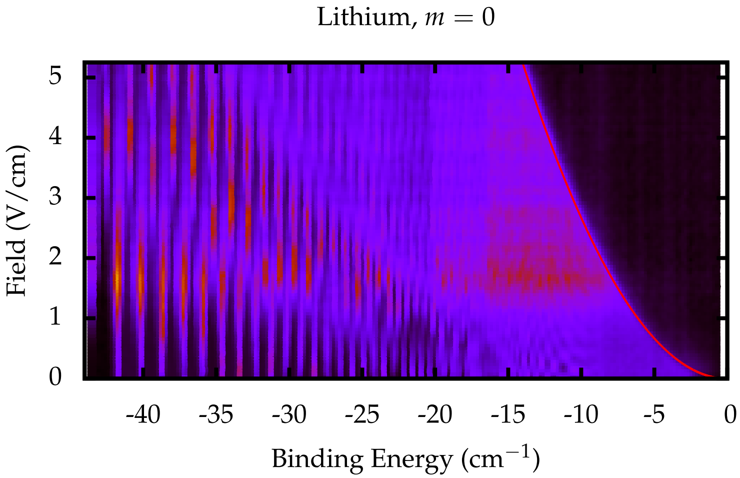
Field Ionization



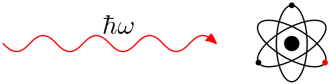
$$V(z) = \frac{-1}{|z|} - Ez$$

$$E = \frac{W^2}{4}$$

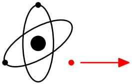
Field Ionization

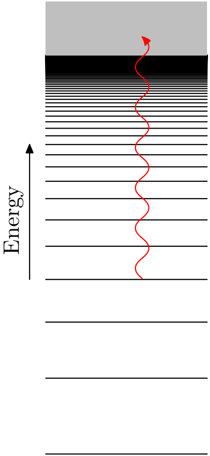


Photoionization



if $\hbar\omega > W$,





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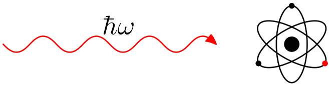
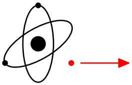
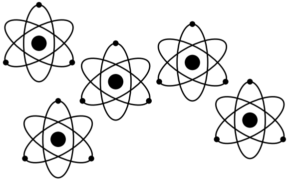


if $\hbar\omega > W$,

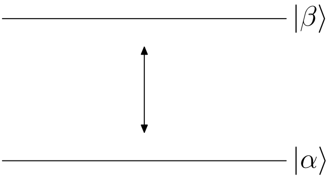


If we have some collection of atoms,



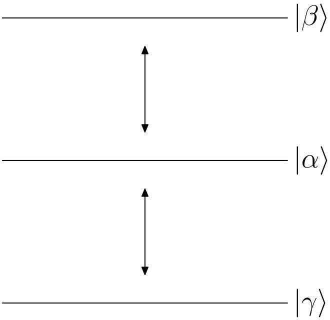
how do we calculate the ionization rate?

Fermi's Golden Rule



Fermi's Golden Rule:
$\Gamma_1 = 2\pi|\langle\alpha|\mu E|\beta\rangle|^2\rho_f$

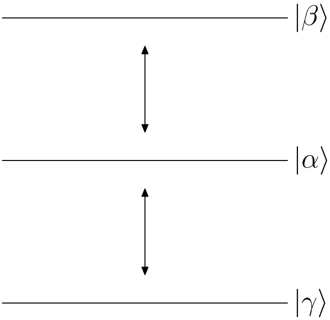
Fermi's Golden Rule



Fermi's Golden Rule:
$\Gamma_1 = 2\pi|\langle\alpha|\mu E|\beta\rangle|^2\rho_f$

$$\Gamma_2 = 2\pi\left|\frac{\langle\gamma|\mu E|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|\mu E|\beta\rangle}{\Delta W}\right|^2$$

Fermi's Golden Rule



Fermi's Golden Rule:
$\Gamma_1 = 2\pi |\langle\alpha|\mu E|\beta\rangle|^2 \rho_f$

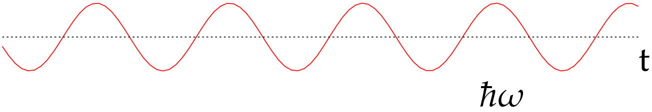
$$\Gamma_2 = 2\pi \left| \frac{\langle\gamma|\mu E|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|\mu E|\beta\rangle}{\Delta W} \right|^2$$

$$\Gamma_N \propto E^{2N}$$

What about microwaves?

If microwaves are just oscillating electric fields…

$$F_0(t)\cos(\omega t)$$

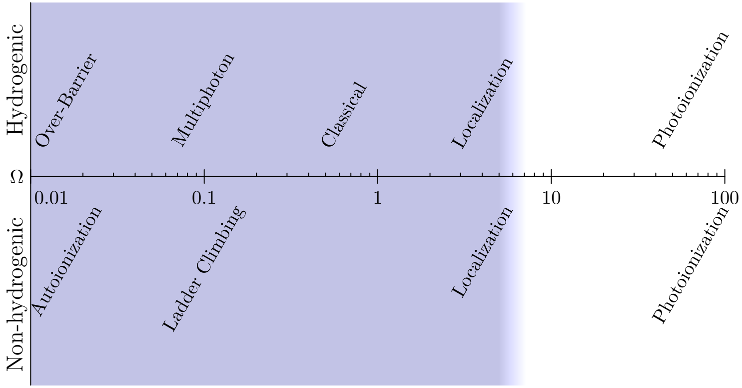


and if microwaves are just photons…

Can we connect field ionization to photoionization using microwave ionization of Rydberg atoms?

Microwave Ionization

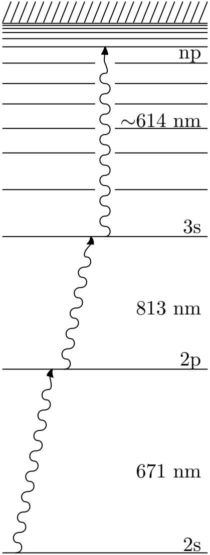
$$\Omega = \frac{\omega}{\omega_{Kepler}} = \omega n^3 \qquad E_0 = \frac{E}{E_{Coulomb}} = En^4$$

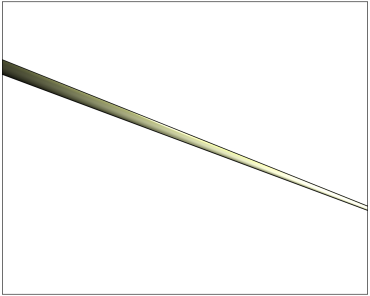


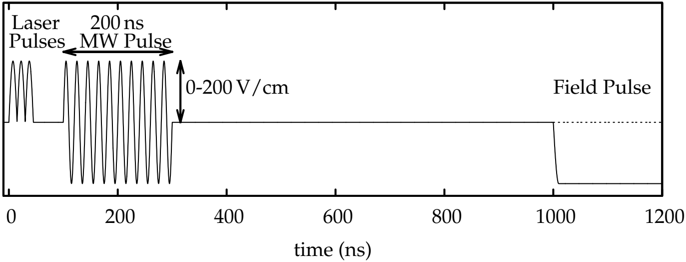
What happens as we approach the photoionization limit?

Outline

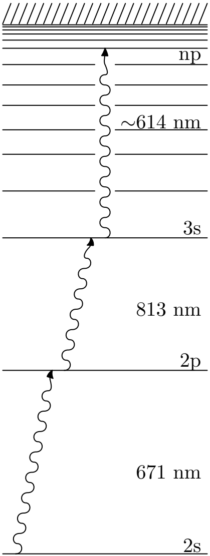
Experimental Setup

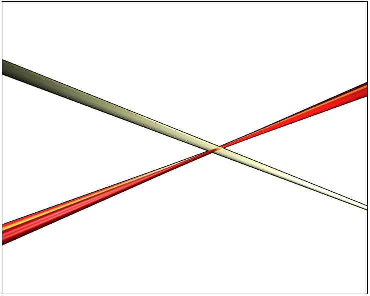


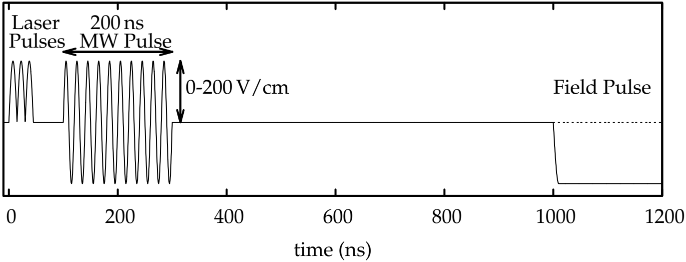




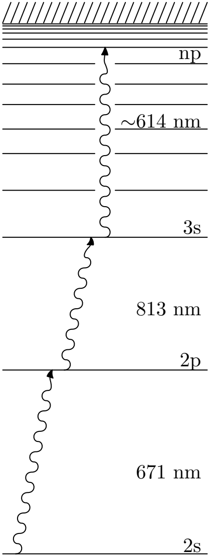
Experimental Setup

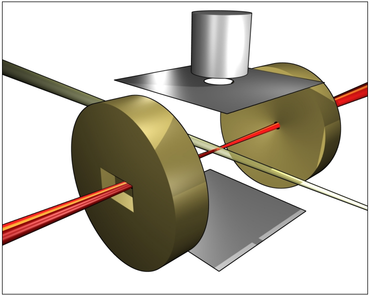


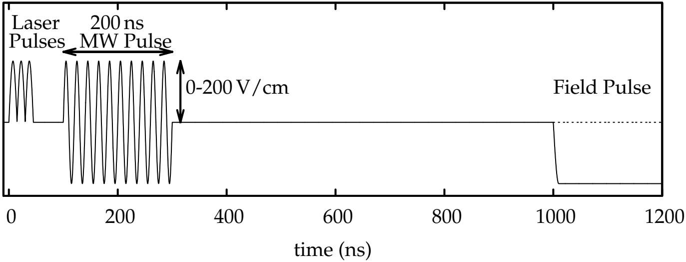




Experimental Setup







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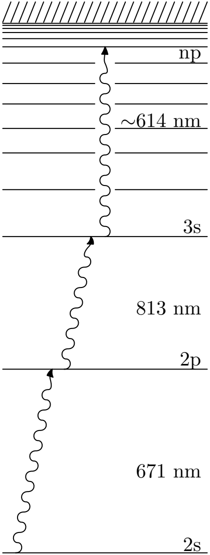
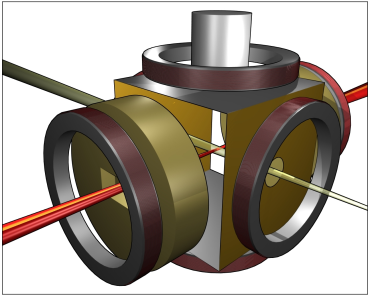
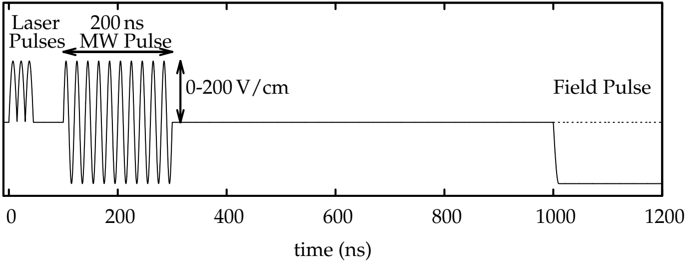
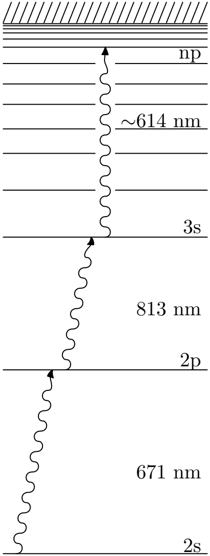


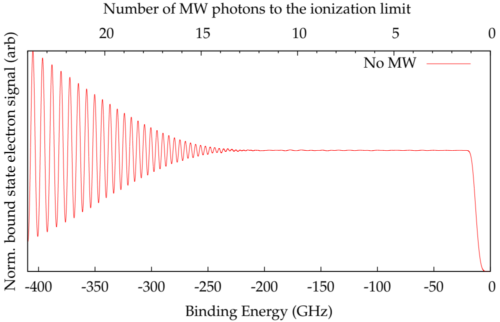


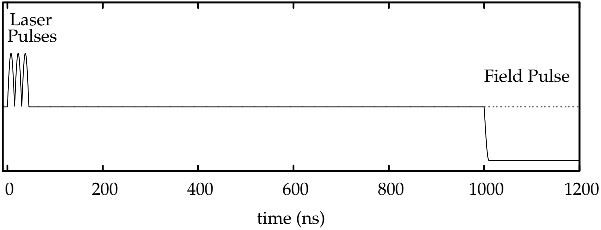


Outline

Expected Results







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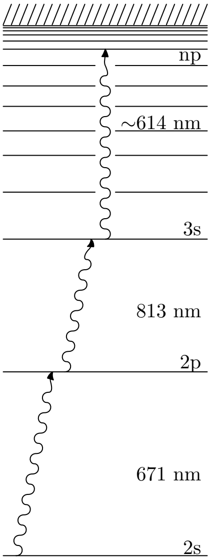
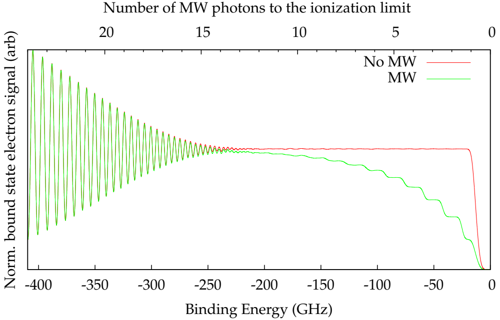
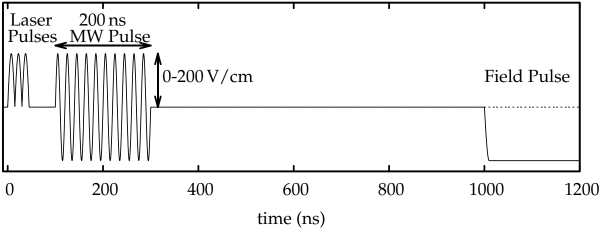
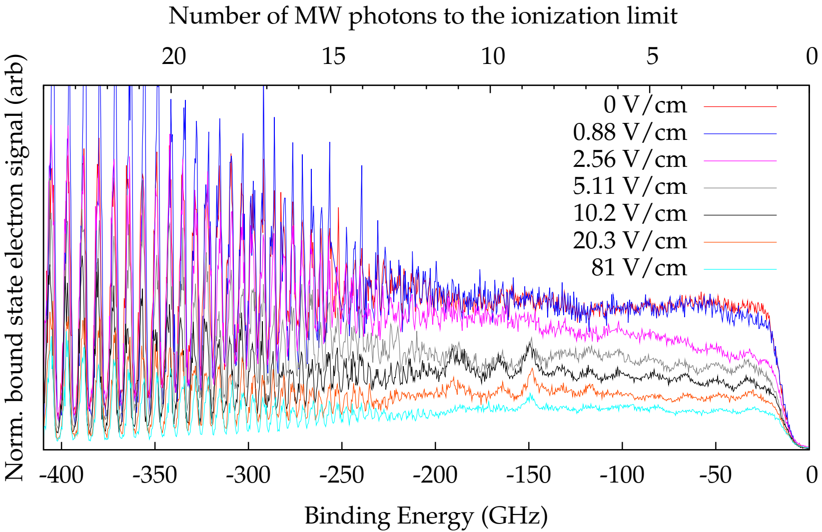


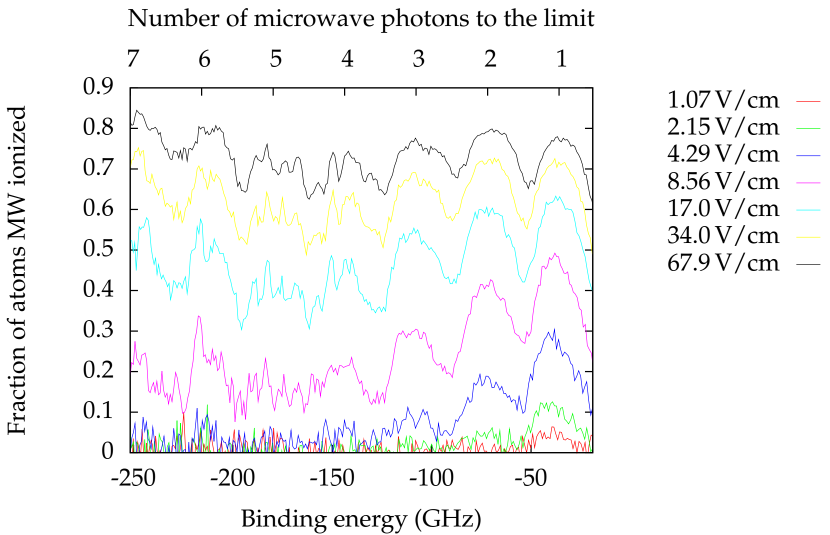




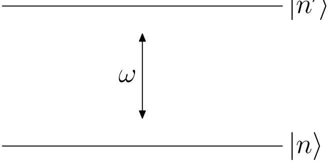
Microwave Ionization Steps - 17 GHz



Microwave Ionization Steps - 36 GHz



Jensen *et al.* Model



Rabi width = $\mu \cdot E = \dfrac{0.4108E}{\omega^{5/3} n^3}$

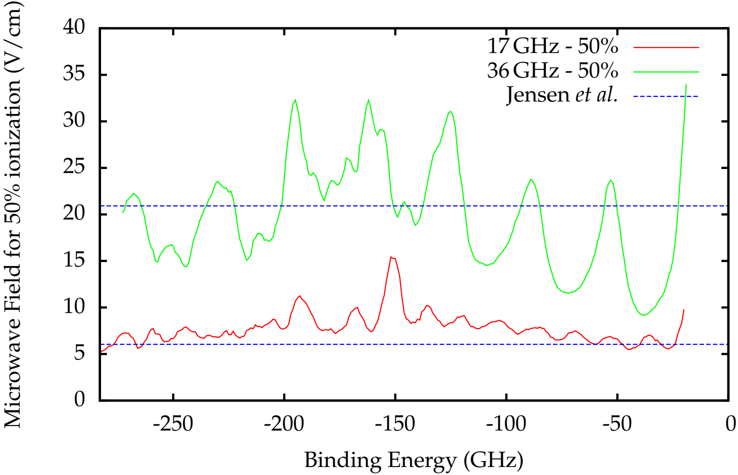
State spacing = $\dfrac{1}{n^3}$

MW ionization occurs when the Rabi width $\geq$ state spacing

$$\boxed{E = 2.4\omega^{5/3}}$$

Jensen *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 62, (1989).

Jensen *et al.* Comparison



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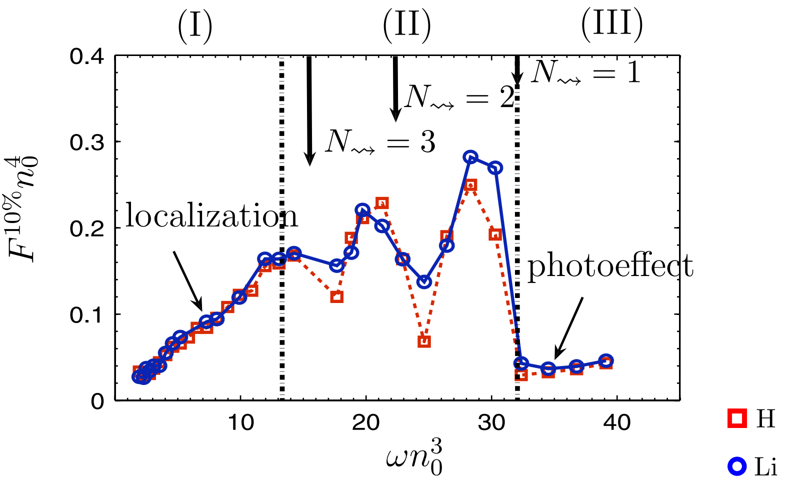
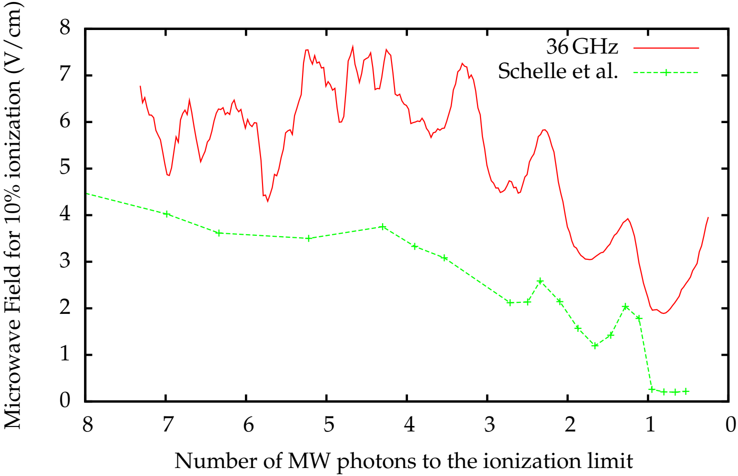
Schelle *et al.* Comparison



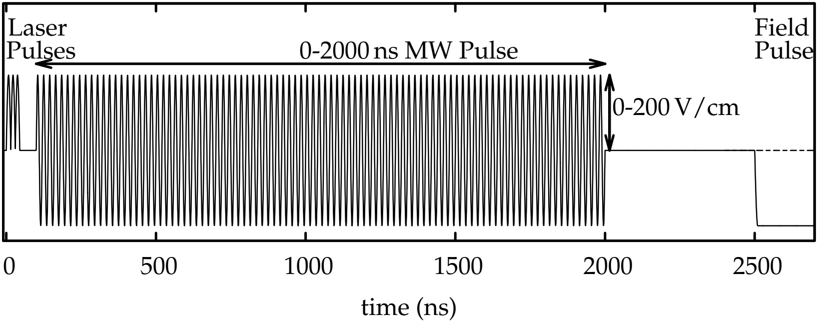
Schelle *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 102, (2009).

Schelle *et al.* Comparison

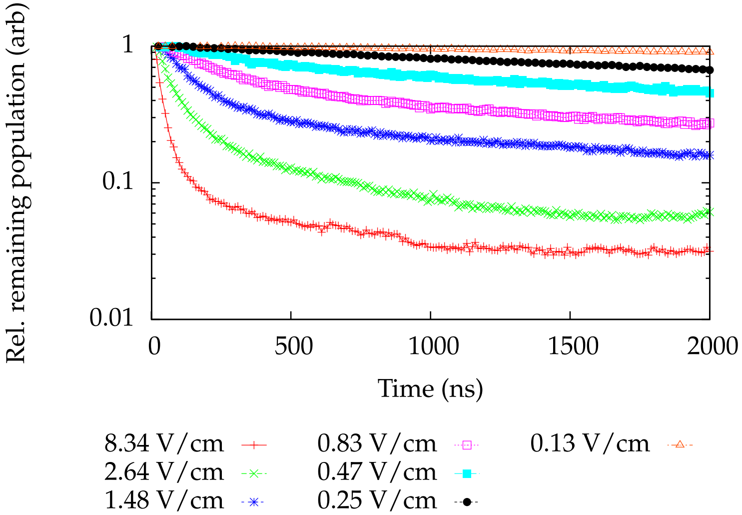


Schelle *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 102, (2009).

Photoionization - Timing



Single Photon Ionization



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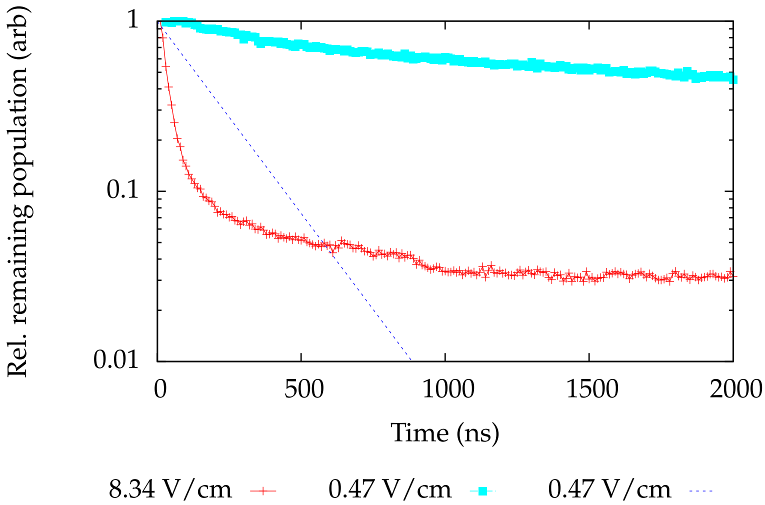
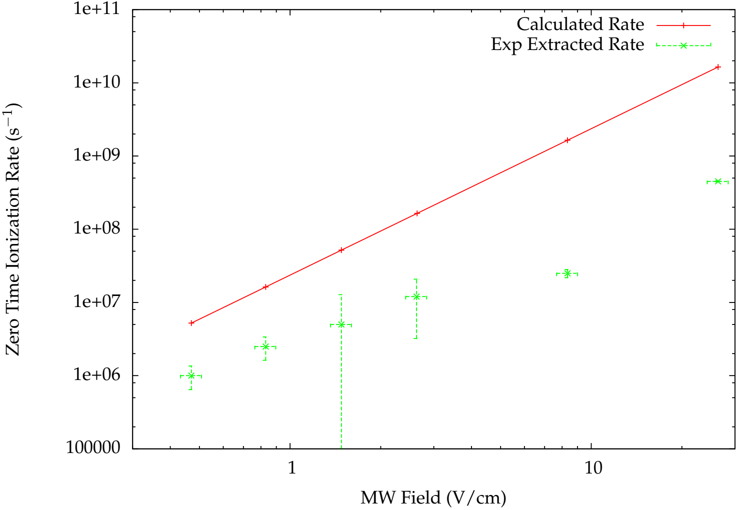
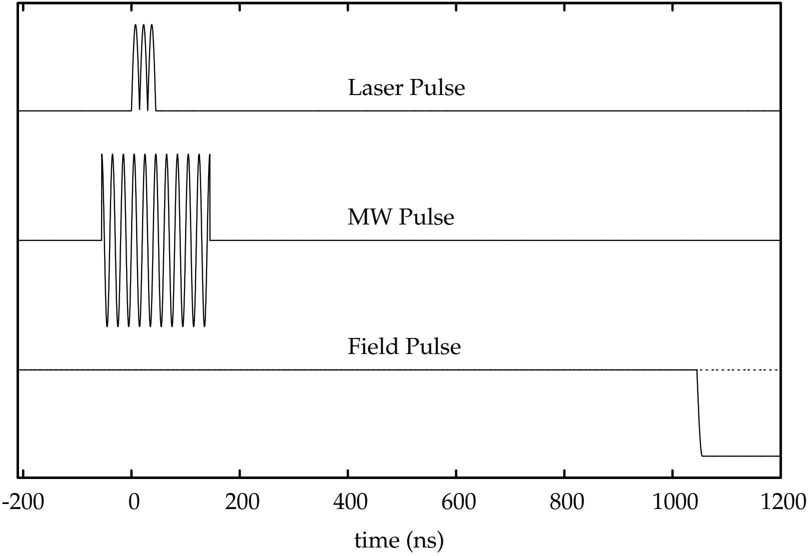


Fermi's Golden Rule Comparison



Outline

Above-Threshold Bound States - Timing



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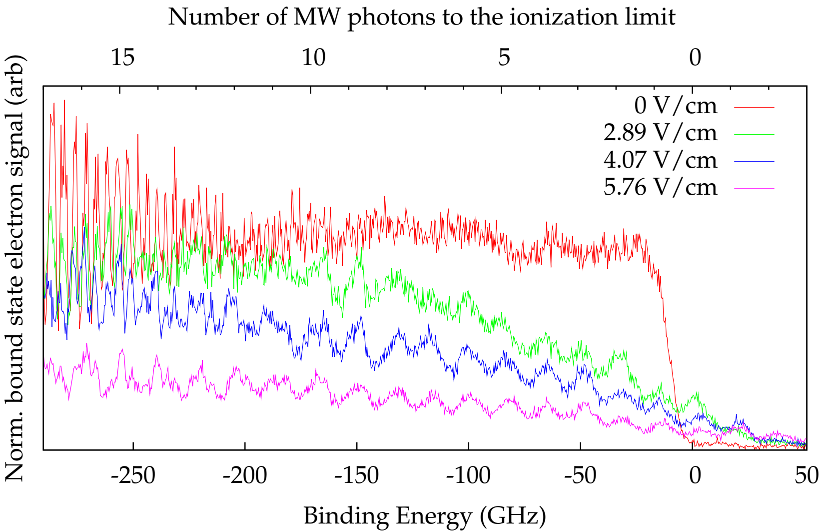

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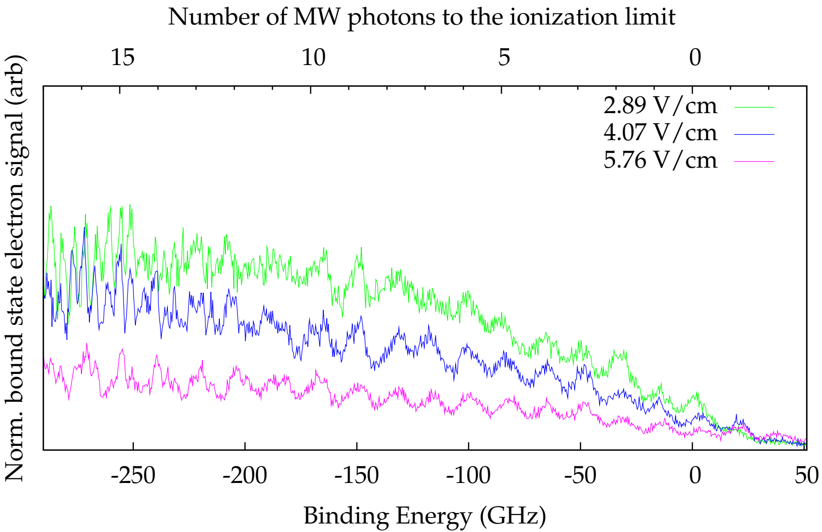
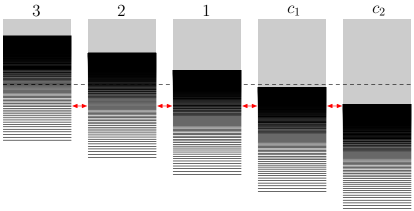
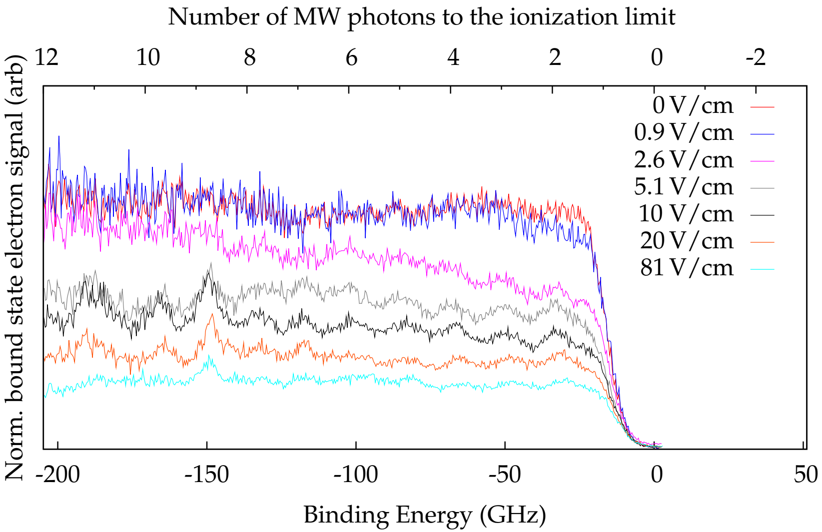


MQDT-Floquet Model

- Coherent coupling of states above and below ionization limit suggests a Multichannel Quantum Defect Theory - Floquet Model
- Floquet Theorem - Periodic perturbations yield periodic solutions



Model Comparison



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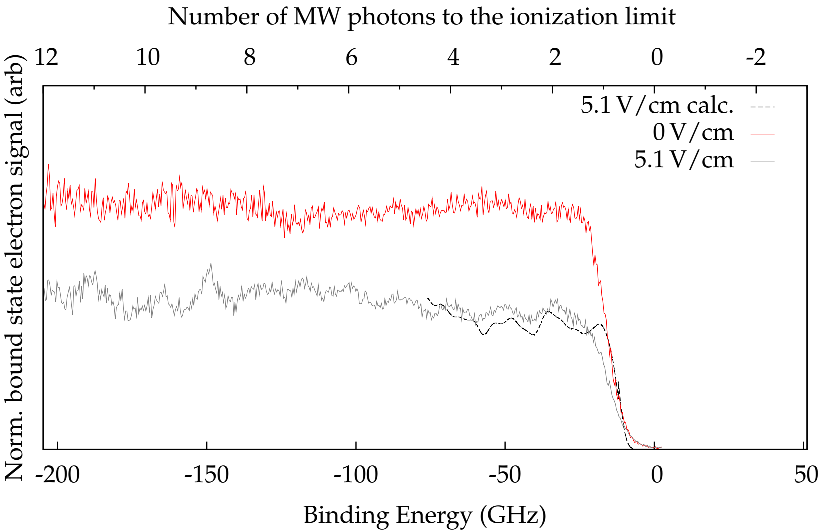
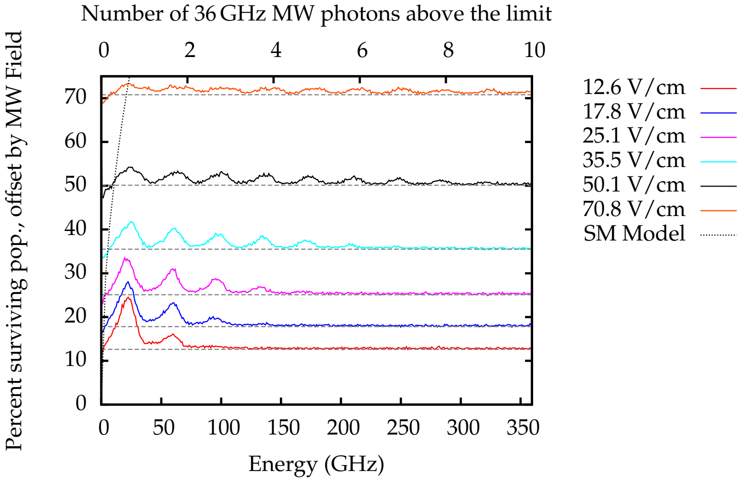
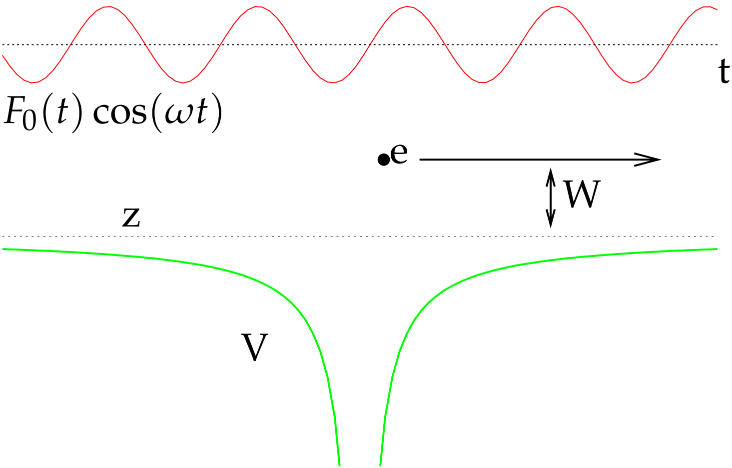


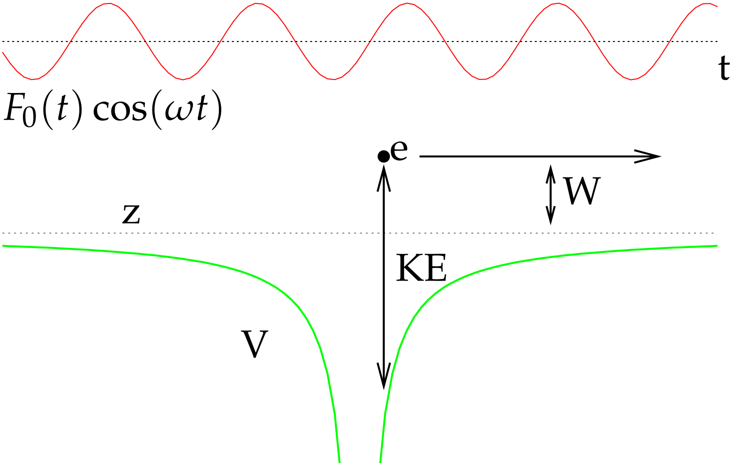
Above-Threshold Bound States



Simpleman's Model

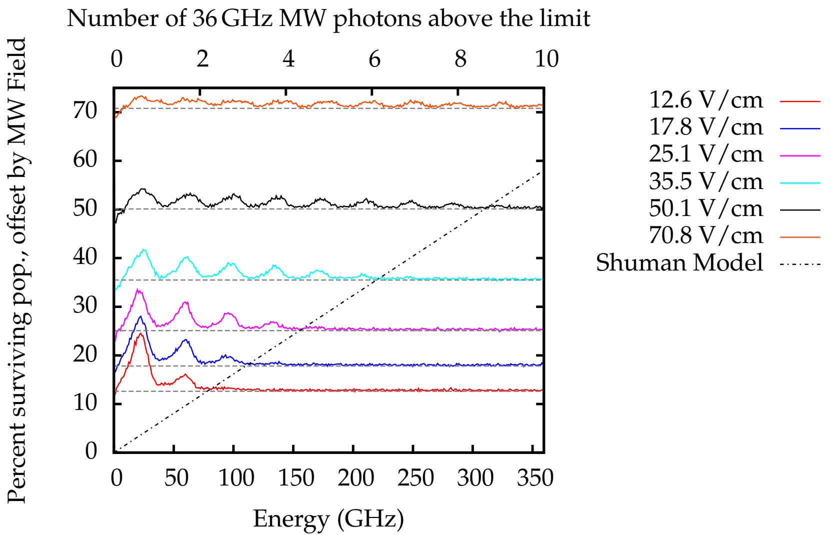


New Classical Model



Shuman et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 101, (2009).

Above-Threshold Bound States



Conclusions

- An Anderson Localization model crossing over to Fermi's Golden Rule does not match experimental results
- The coherent coupling of levels both above and below the ionization limit describes high scaled frequency microwave ionization
- A simple classical model illustrates population transfer from above the limit to bound states