

Massless or heavy due to two-fold symmetry: Surface-state electrons at W(110)

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The C_{2v} symmetry of the W(110) surface influences strongly the spin-polarized Dirac-cone-like surface state within a spin-orbit-induced symmetry gap. We present a detailed angle-resolved photoemission study with s - and p -polarized light along three different symmetry lines. The Dirac-cone-like feature appears along $\overline{\Gamma\text{H}}$ and $\overline{\Gamma\text{S}}$, while it is strongly deformed along $\overline{\Gamma\text{N}}$. A two-fold Σ_3 symmetry of the d -type surface state is identified from photoemission experiments using linearly polarized light. Our results are well described by model calculations based on an effective Hamiltonian with C_{2v} symmetry. The flattened Dirac cone of the surface state is caused by hybridization with bulk continuum states of Σ_1 and Σ_2 symmetry. The spin texture of this state obtained from the model calculations shows a quasi-one-dimensional behavior. This finding opens a new avenue in the study of d -electron-based persistent spin helix systems and/or weak topological insulators.

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Topological insulators and Rashba systems have attracted great attention with regard to dissipationless spin current transport without external magnetic fields.^{1–4} These materials possess spin-split energy-band structures induced by a combination of strong spin-orbit interaction and broken spatial inversion symmetry. They have been extensively studied by angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) with spin resolution and first-principles calculations in recent years.^{5–30} The spin orientation of such low-dimensional states is locked with their crystal momenta. In an ideal two-dimensional electron gas, the spins are completely oriented in-plane and orthogonal to the electron momentum.¹ In real systems, however, the crystal surface symmetry strongly influences the surface electronic structure and thus modifies the spin orientation.^{13,14,27–30} For example, Bi/Ag(111) with C_{3v} symmetry exhibits an anisotropic electronic structure with a largely Rashba-spin-split band and a substantial out-of-plane spin component.^{15,16} Such an anisotropic Rashba effect is driven by both in-plane and normal-to-plane crystal potential gradients as well as admixture of bulk continuum states. These effects have been described by $\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{p}$ perturbation theory using an effective Rashba Hamiltonian, which takes into account the specific point group symmetry.²⁸ Warping effects for topological insulators such as Bi_2Te_3 might also be explained in the same way.^{17,29} This shows that the crystal symmetry and the orbital character of the spin-split bands are closely related to peculiar spin structures. So far, most of the Rashba systems and topological insulators are sp -electron materials with C_{3v} point group symmetry.^{5–12,14–17,19–23,28,29}

Recently, we found nearly massless and strongly spin-polarized surface-state electrons in a spin-orbit-induced symmetry gap of W(110).²⁴ In contrast to the systems described above, this surface state is formed by d electrons and the surface structure has C_{2v} symmetry. Moreover, the constant-energy cuts of this Dirac-cone-like state are found to be strongly distorted compared with sp -electron-based surface Dirac cones at the (111) surface plane of some Bi-based chalcogenides with C_{3v} symmetry.

In this Rapid Communication, we clarify the orbital symmetry of the spin-polarized Dirac-cone-like surface state of W(110) by polarization-dependent ARPES using s - and p -polarized synchrotron radiation. Furthermore, we present model calculations using an effective Rashba Hamiltonian.^{27,28} They perfectly describe our experimentally obtained energy dispersions of the surface state along three symmetry lines $\overline{\Gamma\text{H}}$, $\overline{\Gamma\text{S}}$, and $\overline{\Gamma\text{N}}$, and thus, enable us to reconstruct its three-dimensional “energy shape” as a function of the electron momentum parallel to the surface. These findings for W(110) as a model system provide a pathway to future studies on strongly correlated d -electron-based topological insulators with a highly anisotropic Fermi surface of C_{2v} symmetry.

A clean surface of W(110) was obtained and evaluated by a standard procedure.³¹ A very sharp (1×1) LEED pattern was acquired as shown in Fig. 1(a). Superimposed on the LEED pattern is the surface Brillouin zone (SBZ) of the bcc (110) surface. The x and y axes are defined parallel to the $\overline{\Gamma\text{H}}$ and $\overline{\Gamma\text{N}}$ symmetry lines, respectively. ARPES experiments were performed using linearly polarized undulator radiation at the beamline (BL-1) of the Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center (HiSOR). Electric field vectors can be switched between parallel (p -polarization) and perpendicular (s -polarization) to the plane spanned by the surface normal and photoelectron propagation vectors as schematically shown in Fig. 1(b). The angle of light incidence was 50° relative to the lens axis of the electron analyzer. Overall experimental energy and angular resolutions were set to 15 meV and 0.1° , respectively. All measurements were performed at a sample temperature of 100 K.

Figure 2 shows energy dispersion curves taken with p - and s -polarized light of $h\nu = 22.5$ eV as a function of k_{\parallel} along $\overline{\Gamma\text{H}}$, $\overline{\Gamma\text{S}}$, and $\overline{\Gamma\text{N}}$. Two characteristic features A and S_1 were identified as surface states in former ARPES studies.^{24,32} Besides, broad structures are found for binding energies (E_B) higher than 1.35 eV. For excitation with p -polarized light, shown in Figs. 2(a)–2(c), certain features are essentially independent of the k_{\parallel} direction: the surface state A and a high-intensity broad structure with steep downward dispersion for

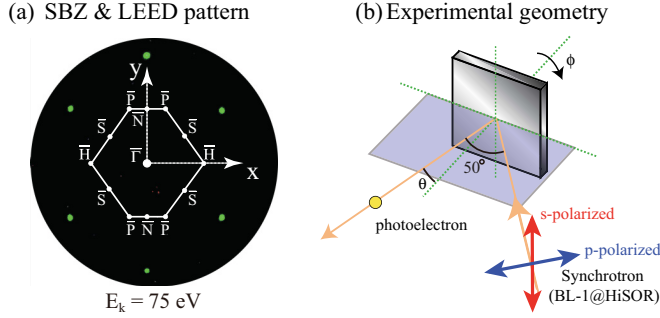


FIG. 1. (Color online) (a) LEED pattern of the clean W(110) surface and surface Brillouin zone (SBZ) of bcc(110) with high-symmetry points $\bar{\Gamma}$, \bar{N} , \bar{P} , \bar{S} , and \bar{H} . (b) Experimental geometry for ARPES using linearly polarized synchrotron radiation.

$E_B > 1.35$ eV. In contrast, the Dirac-cone-like surface state S_1 with a crossing point at $E_B = 1.25$ eV is clearly observed along $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$ and $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{S}$, whereas it cannot clearly be resolved along $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{N}$.

A completely different situation is observed for excitation with s -polarized light, shown in Figs. 2(d)–2(f). The surface state A is totally absent for all the symmetry lines and a new high-intensity feature with downward dispersion appears away from the $\bar{\Gamma}$ point for $E_B > 1.35$ eV. The surface state S_1 is not observed along $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$. Along $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{S}$, it appears with lower intensity as compared with the p -polarized case [Fig. 2(b)]. Along $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{N}$, S_1 is clearly observed but the linear dispersion is lost around the $\bar{\Gamma}$ point. It is rather flat near $\bar{\Gamma}$ ($|k_y| < 0.2 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$) and exhibits strong dispersion only for larger momenta. The surface state S_1 behaves remarkably differently depending on light polarization and symmetry direction.

TABLE I. Possible initial-state symmetries for excitation with p - and s -polarized light, according to dipole selection rules ignoring spin-orbit interaction. Note, Σ_2 -type symmetry can only be observed in an off-normal emission experiment excited by s -polarized light.

	$\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$	$\bar{\Gamma}\bar{N}$
p -pol. (even sym.)	$s, p_z, d_{z^2} : \Sigma_1$ $p_x, d_{zx} : \Sigma_3$	$s, p_z, d_{z^2} : \Sigma_1$ $p_y, d_{yz} : \Sigma_4$
s -pol. (odd sym.)	$d_{xy} : \Sigma_2$ (off-normal) $p_y, d_{yz} : \Sigma_4$	$d_{xy} : \Sigma_2$ (off-normal) $p_x, d_{zx} : \Sigma_3$

We start the discussion on our ARPES results with a symmetry analysis. We focus on the $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$ and $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{N}$ high-symmetry directions, where mirror planes coincide with the measurement plane [see Fig. 1(b)]. To a first approximation, i.e., when no spin-orbit coupling is considered, we can assign odd or even symmetry with respect to each mirror plane to initial states, as shown in Table I. In general, spin-orbit coupling promotes an intermixing between odd and even symmetry bands and thus both kinds of states are observable in principle for both polarizations. Nevertheless, we observed spectral features, which appear alternately for s - and p -polarized light along $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$ and $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{N}$. This implies that the intermixing effect is not dominant in the present case. Therefore, we restrict our symmetry analysis to the single group symmetry (Σ_1 – Σ_4). The wealth of experimental data in our study enables us to extend the symmetry analysis reported in Ref. 33.

(i) A is observed for p -polarized light along both $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$ and $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{N}$, but not for s -polarized light. Therefore, according to Table I, we assign Σ_1 -type symmetry to A .

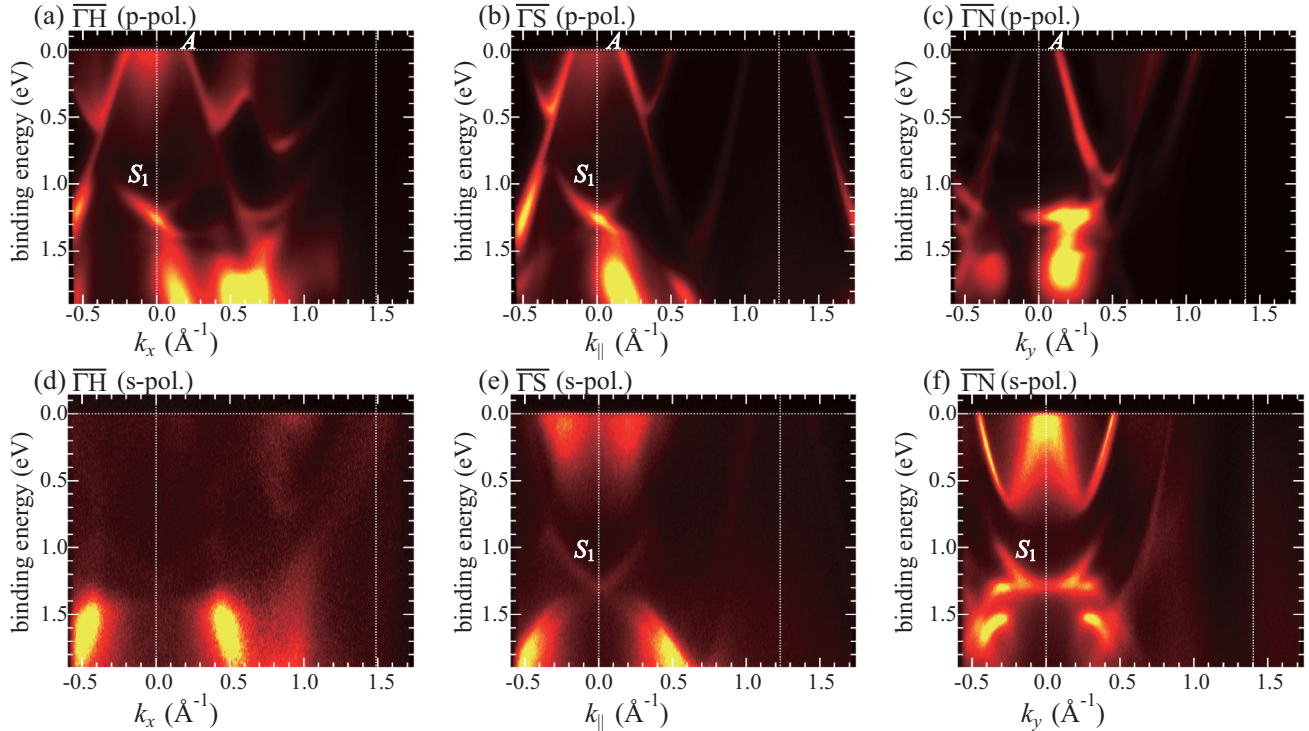


FIG. 2. (Color online) ARPES results for W(110) along $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{H}$, $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{S}$, and $\bar{\Gamma}\bar{N}$ excited by p -polarized [(a)–(c)] and s -polarized [(d)–(f)] light of $h\nu = 22.5$ eV. Horizontal dashed lines mark the Fermi level; vertical dashed lines denote high-symmetry points $\bar{\Gamma}$, \bar{H} , \bar{S} , \bar{N} , respectively.

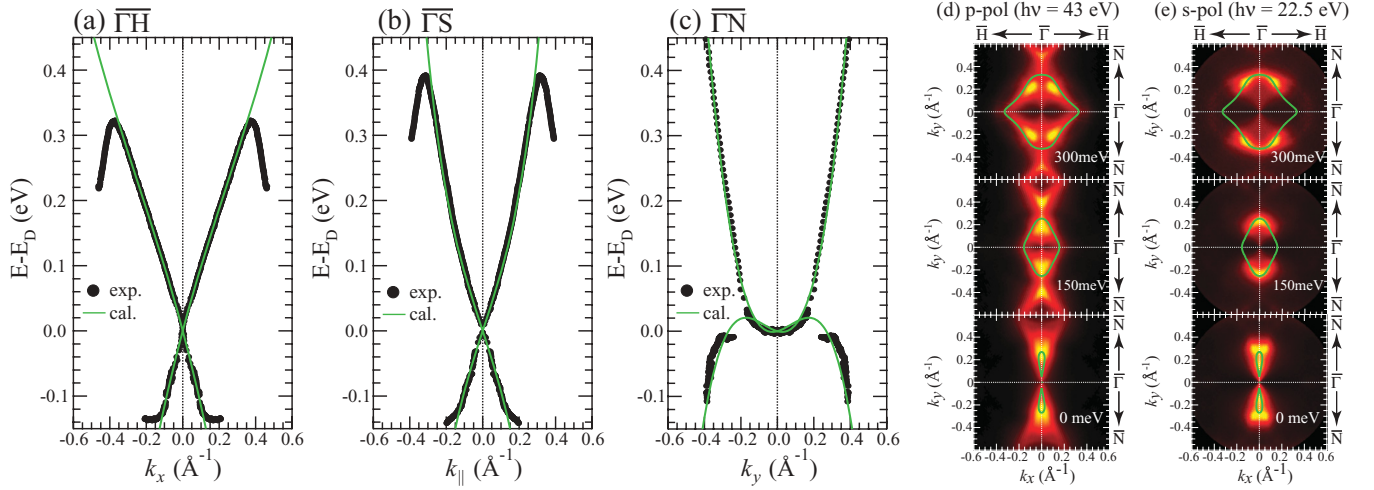


FIG. 3. (Color online) (a)–(c) Intensity maxima plots for S_1 along $\overline{\Gamma H}$, $\overline{\Gamma S}$, $\overline{\Gamma N}$ experimentally obtained (filled circles) from momentum and energy distribution curves taken at $h\nu = 22.5$ eV (see Fig. 2). Solid lines (green) denote band dispersions obtained by effective Hamiltonian calculations considering C_{2v} symmetry (Ref. 28). (d), (e) Constant-energy contours at 300 meV, 150 meV, and 0 meV above the crossing point, obtained with p -polarized synchrotron radiation light of $h\nu = 43$ eV (d) and s -polarized synchrotron radiation light of $h\nu = 22.5$ eV (e). The solid lines (green) are calculated results.

(ii) S_1 is observed for p -polarized light along $\overline{\Gamma H}$ and for s -polarized light along $\overline{\Gamma N}$. It is not clearly seen in the data for s -polarized light along $\overline{\Gamma H}$ and for p -polarized light along $\overline{\Gamma N}$. The dispersion cannot be followed in the latter cases. As a consequence, predominant Σ_3 -type symmetry is assigned to S_1 with possible minor admixture of Σ_1 (Σ_2) along $\overline{\Gamma N}$ ($\overline{\Gamma H}$).

(iii) The situation with the bulk continuum states for $E_B > 1.35$ eV is more complex. Certainly, spectral features appear for p -polarized light along all symmetry directions, while others are observed for s -polarized light, yet with changing intensities. Nevertheless, from these observations, we assign predominant Σ_1 - and Σ_2 -type symmetries to these bulk states, while other symmetries cannot be excluded.

After this symmetry analysis, we will discuss the band dispersion of the spin-polarized surface state S_1 . While the dispersion is Dirac-cone-like along $\overline{\Gamma H}$ and $\overline{\Gamma S}$ with a linear behavior extending over 220 meV, the band appears flat around $\overline{\Gamma}$ along $\overline{\Gamma N}$. In Figs. 3(a)–3(c), we extracted the intensity maxima of S_1 obtained from momentum and energy distribution curves taken at $h\nu = 22.5$ eV [Figs. 2(a), 2(b), and 2(f)]. Additional data taken at $h\nu = 43$ eV (not shown) yield the same dispersion curves around the crossing point. We note that this independence from photon energy confirms the two-dimensional character of the state under consideration.

To understand the strongly anisotropic dispersion behavior of S_1 in more detail, we try to model our results by a simple model. As proposed in the literature,^{27,28} we used an effective Hamiltonian taking into account Rashba parameters up to third order and C_{2v} symmetry:

$$H_{\text{eff}}^{C_{2v}} = \frac{\hbar^2 k_x^2}{2m_x^*} + \frac{\hbar^2 k_y^2}{2m_y^*} + H_R^{(1)} + H_R^{(3)}, \quad (1)$$

$$H_R^{(1)} = \alpha_1^1 k_x \sigma_y + \alpha_2^1 k_y \sigma_x, \quad (2)$$

$$H_R^{(3)} = \alpha_1^3 k_x^3 \sigma_y + \alpha_2^3 k_x^2 k_y \sigma_x + \alpha_3^3 k_x k_y^2 \sigma_y + \alpha_4^3 k_y^3 \sigma_x. \quad (3)$$

Here, $H_R^{(1)}$ and $H_R^{(3)}$ are the first-order and third-order perturbation Hamiltonians taken from Refs. 27,28. The first-order Hamiltonian was sufficient to describe the free-electron-like surface state at Au(110) with parabolic dispersion,²⁷ which is almost not influenced by bulk bands. A third-order Hamiltonian was needed to model the bulk contributions to the surface-state behavior in Bi/Ag(111).²⁸ Furthermore, the authors proposed a third-order Hamiltonian for systems with C_{2v} symmetry, able to account for bulk contributions in those systems. In the present case of W(110), the d -type surface state of Σ_3 symmetry with Dirac-cone-like behavior is very close in energy to bulk bands of Σ_1 and Σ_2 symmetries. Therefore, we expect that our data can be only described by first- and third-order Hamiltonians.

We started to fit the data along $\overline{\Gamma H}$ [Fig. 3(a)] to get $m_x^* = -4.7m_0$, $\alpha_1^1 = 1.05$ eV \cdot \AA , and $\alpha_3^1 = 1.13$ eV \cdot \AA^3 , where m_0 is free-electron mass. We did the same for the data along $\overline{\Gamma N}$ [Fig. 3(c)] and received estimates for $m_y^* = 3.3m_0$, $\alpha_2^1 = -0.08$ eV \cdot \AA , and $\alpha_4^1 = 5.57$ eV \cdot \AA^3 . The two remaining parameters $\alpha_2^3 = -25$ eV \cdot \AA^3 and $\alpha_3^3 = 12.3$ eV \cdot \AA^3 are determined by fitting the dispersion data along $\overline{\Gamma S}$ [Fig. 3(b)] and additional data along $\overline{\Gamma P}$ (not shown). The fit results, included in Figs. 3(a)–3(c) as solid lines, agree well with the experimental data in the energy region around the crossing point. In addition, Figs. 3(d) and 3(e) display constant-energy contours at 300 meV, 150 meV, and 0 meV above the crossing-point energy E_D , obtained with p - and s -polarized light, together with calculated constant-energy contours of the surface state (solid lines). Note that the data for p -polarized light were taken at $h\nu = 43$ eV, at which the surface-state intensity is more pronounced.

An evaluation of the obtained Rashba parameters leads to the following conclusions. (i) The first-order parameters exhibit a strong anisotropy ($|\alpha_1^1| \approx 13|\alpha_2^1|$), even larger than for Au(110) ($|\alpha_1^1| \approx 5|\alpha_2^1|$). (ii) The third-order parameters, which could be neglected for Au(110), are significant contributions

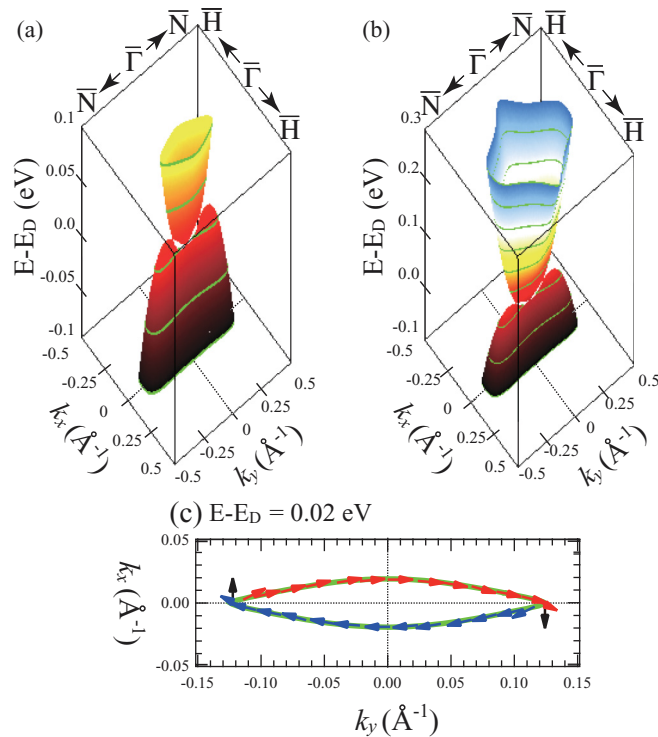


FIG. 4. (Color online) Energy contours of the surface state S_1 as function of k_x, k_y for energies around the crossing point (E_D) based on the parameters of the model calculation: (a) $-0.1 \text{ eV} < E_D < 0.1 \text{ eV}$, (b) $-0.1 \text{ eV} < E_D < 0.3 \text{ eV}$. (c) Spin texture for the constant-energy surface (solid line) at 20 meV above E_D obtained from the model calculation. The in-plane spin components are indicated as arrows. Here, the red (blue) color means spin component parallel to positive (negative) wave vector along $\overline{\Gamma\text{N}}$.

to the model calculation for W(110). Here, the Σ_1, Σ_2 states of the bulk continuum are located only 0.1 eV below the crossing point, which is energetically much closer than the case of Au(110) ($\approx 0.8 \text{ eV}$).²⁷ We assume that a spin-orbit induced mixture of Σ_1, Σ_2 states with the Σ_3 surface state leads to the strongly anisotropic spin-dependent energy splitting for different symmetry directions.

With the model parameters derived from the experimental data, we are able to develop the energy contour of the surface state S_1 as a function of the k_x - k_y plane. Figure 4(a) shows the strongly anisotropic shape of the contour with Dirac-cone-like behavior along $\overline{\Gamma\text{H}}$ and the flat dispersion perpendicular to it ($\overline{\Gamma\text{N}}$).

We want to emphasize that the Hamiltonian used in our model calculation includes information about the spin structure of the surface state. Figure 4(b) shows the spin texture (arrows) for the flattened constant-energy surface (solid line) at 20 meV above E_D . Interestingly, the spins are almost oriented along the $\overline{\Gamma\text{N}}$ direction without out-of-plane spin component. This situation differs from well-known Rashba systems and topological insulators with C_{3v} symmetry that would approach surface states with ideal helical spin texture and shorten the spin relaxation time in the presence of disorder at the surface.^{17,29} On the other hand, the spin texture along the $\overline{\Gamma\text{N}}$ direction at the surface with C_{2v} symmetry would generate a quasi-one-dimensional edge current along the $\overline{\Gamma\text{H}}$ direction. This situation would substantially enhance the spin relaxation time through a persistent spin helix mechanism.³⁴

In conclusion, the orbital symmetry of the spin-polarized anisotropic Dirac-cone-like state at the W(110) surface has been examined by high-resolution ARPES with s - and p -polarized synchrotron radiation. The dominant orbital symmetry for this peculiar surface state is described as $\Sigma_3 (d_{xz})$ in single group representation ignoring spin-orbit coupling. In our analysis, we adapted model calculations with an effective Hamiltonian including first- and third-order Rashba parameters. By fitting our data, we determined the parameters relevant for the model. The experimental surface-state dispersions in three symmetry directions as well as the constant-energy contours are well described by the model. This suggests that the anisotropy of the surface-state dispersion originates from the influence of bulk continuum states with Σ_1 and Σ_2 symmetries on the Σ_3 -type surface state. This anisotropic d -band surface state of W(110) may serve as a model system of a d -electron-based weak topological insulator³⁵ constructed by stacking of one-dimensional topological edge states along a specific direction, which would enhance a spin lifetime substantially. It will be desirable to test the model calculation concerning the spin structure of the surface state by spin-resolved photoemission experiments sensitive to all spin directions.

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