# atomic physics at ERL

Louis DiMauro Cornell ERL workshop June 14-15-2006



- fundamental studies of intense laser-atom interactions
- generation and application of attosecond pulses
- ultra-fast optical engineering





#### AMOP at the LCLS



- AMOS team located in the near-hall
- initial experimental end-station on soft x-ray beamline (0.8-2 keV)
- scientific thrust: fundamental strong-field interactions at short wavelengths



# contrast: long and short wavelength strong-field physics

### ponderomotive potential is everything at long wavelengths

• electron ponderomotive energy (au):

$$U_p = I/4\omega^2$$

• displacement:

 $\alpha = E/4\omega^2$ 

• PW/cm<sup>2</sup> titanium sapphire laser:  $U_p \sim 60 \text{ eV} \& \alpha \sim 50 \text{ au}$ 



for LCLS @ 10<sup>3</sup> PW/cm<sup>2</sup> U<sub>p</sub> &  $\alpha$  are zero! and even more zero for the ERL!!



# contrast: long and short wavelength strong-field physics

• laser multiphoton ionization





x-ray multiphoton ionization





# x-ray strong field experiment



#### needle in the haystack: coincidence measurements



• detect by correlating particle-particle events



J. Ullrich et al., JPB 30, 2917 (1997)

### coincidence measurement



true-to-false ratio:  $T/F = \eta_t C f / (\eta_1 C + N_1)(\eta_2 C + N_2)$   $\eta_{t,1,2}(\sigma,\theta,\epsilon) \equiv \text{detection coefficients}$   $N_{1,2} \equiv \text{noise counts}$   $C \equiv \text{average count rate}$   $f \equiv \text{repetition rate}$ 

• the 120 Hz operation of the LCLS makes coincidence experiments high risk, thus the initial AMOS end-station will not have this capability.



#### **AMOS end-station: single-shot measurements**





### coincidence measurement



true-to-false ratio:  $T/F = \eta_t C f / (\eta_1 C + N_1)(\eta_2 C + N_2)$   $\eta_{t,1,2}(\sigma,\theta,\epsilon) \equiv \text{detection coefficients}$   $N_{1,2} \equiv \text{noise counts}$   $C \equiv \text{average count rate}$   $f \equiv \text{repetition rate}$ 

- the 120 Hz operation of the LCLS makes coincidence experiments high risk, thus the initial AMOS end-station will not have this capability.
- the ERL does have the advantage of high duty cycle!
- does it have high enough intensity for exploring multiphoton processes?



# maybe?

# consider a 2-photon K-shell transition:

• estimate 2-photon cross-section,  $\sigma_2$ perturbative scaling laws<sup>1</sup>:  $\sigma_2 \approx 10^{-54}$  cm<sup>4</sup> s 2<sup>nd</sup>-order perturbation theory<sup>2</sup>:  $\sigma_2 \approx 10^{-52}$  cm<sup>4</sup> s

#### **ERL parameters:**

10<sup>6</sup>/shot, 100 fs, 1A 20 nm waist yields flux ~10<sup>30</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> (10<sup>15</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup>)

transition probability:  $P_2 \approx 10^{-(5-7)}$ 

<sup>1</sup>P. Lambropoulos and X. Tang, J. Opt. Soc. Am. B **4**, 821 (1987) <sup>2</sup>S. A. Novikov and A. N. Hopersky, JPB **33**, 2287 (2000)







### two-photon ionization



- use near resonant enhancement of  $\sigma_2$
- increase number of photons/shot over average power

open the possibility of temporal metrology!



# consider a 2-photon KK-shell transition: $\sigma_{KK}\approx 10^{-48}~cm^4~s$ $P_{\kappa\kappa}\approx 0.1$





# coincidence investigations:

- atomic
- aligned molecules
- cluster dynamics

S.A. Novikov & A. N. Hopersky, JPB 35, L339 (2002)



#### x-ray-laser metrology

#### **Observation of Laser-Assisted Auger Decay in Argon**

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