

Helicity With a Twist: Complete Control of Polarization, Divergence, and Vortex Charge of Attosecond, Extreme Ultraviolet Vortices via Spin-Orbit Coupled High Harmonic Generation

JILA
CU Boulder and NIST

Kevin M. Dorney¹, Laura Rego¹, Nathan J. Brooks¹, Julio San Román², Chen-Ting Liao¹, Jennifer L. Ellis¹, Dmitriy Zusin¹, Christian Gentry¹, Quynh L. Nguyen¹, Justin M. Shaw³, Antonio Picón², Luis Plaja², Henry C. Kapteyn¹, Margaret M. Murnane¹, and Carlos Hernández-García²

¹JILA - Department of Physics, University of Colorado and NIST, Boulder, Colorado, 80309, USA

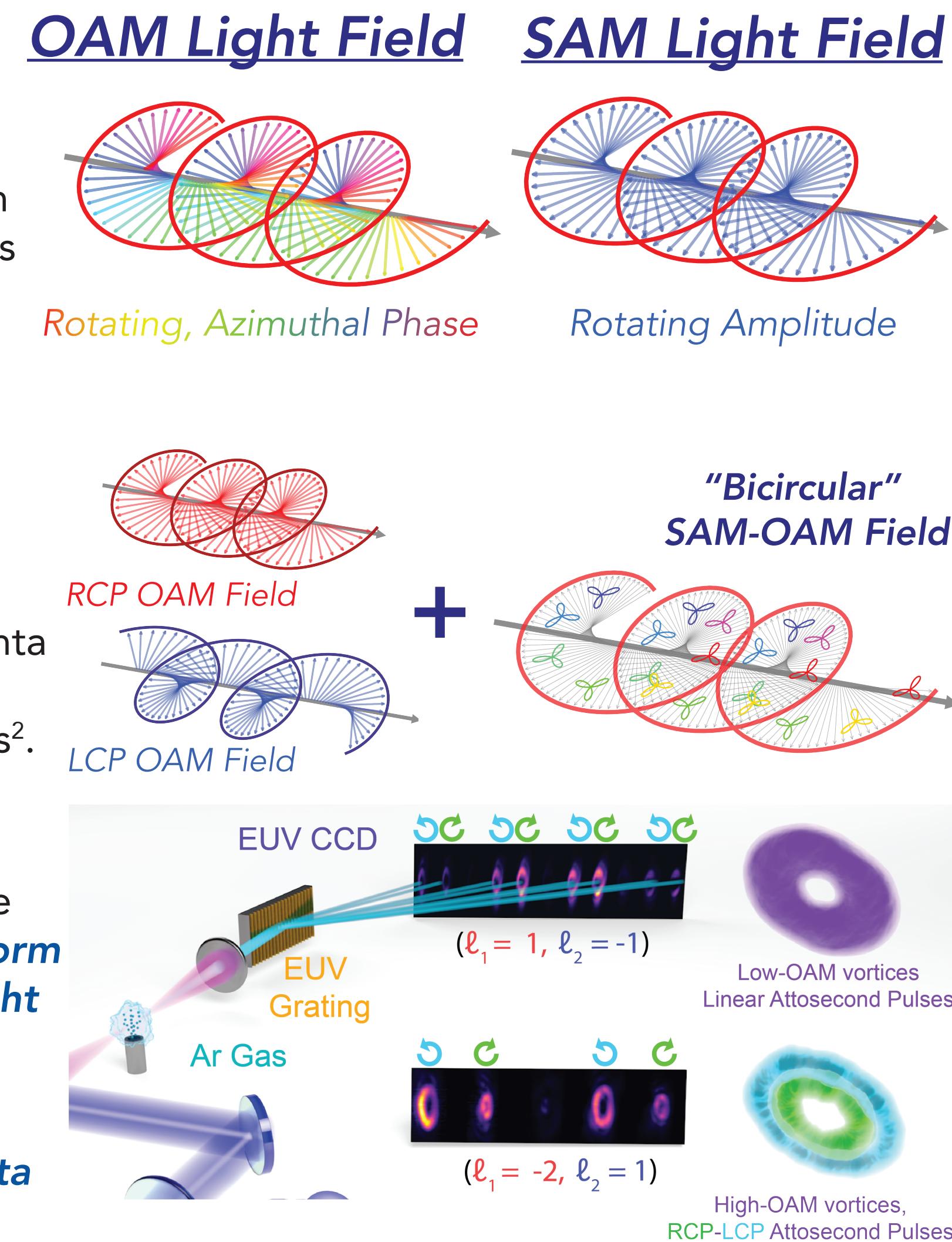
²Grupo de Investigación en Aplicaciones del Láser y Fótónica, Departamento de Física Aplicada, Universidad de Salamanca, E-37008 Salamanca, Spain

³Quantum Electromagnetics Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Boulder, Colorado 80305, USA



ABSTRACT

• **MOTIVATION** - Spin-orbit (SO) coupling is a fundamental property of small, particle-like systems that has recently been observed in photonic systems¹. All-optical SO coupling shows great promise for quantum and optical spectroscopies and metrologies; however, initial demonstrations have been limited to the low-intensity and visible regimes.

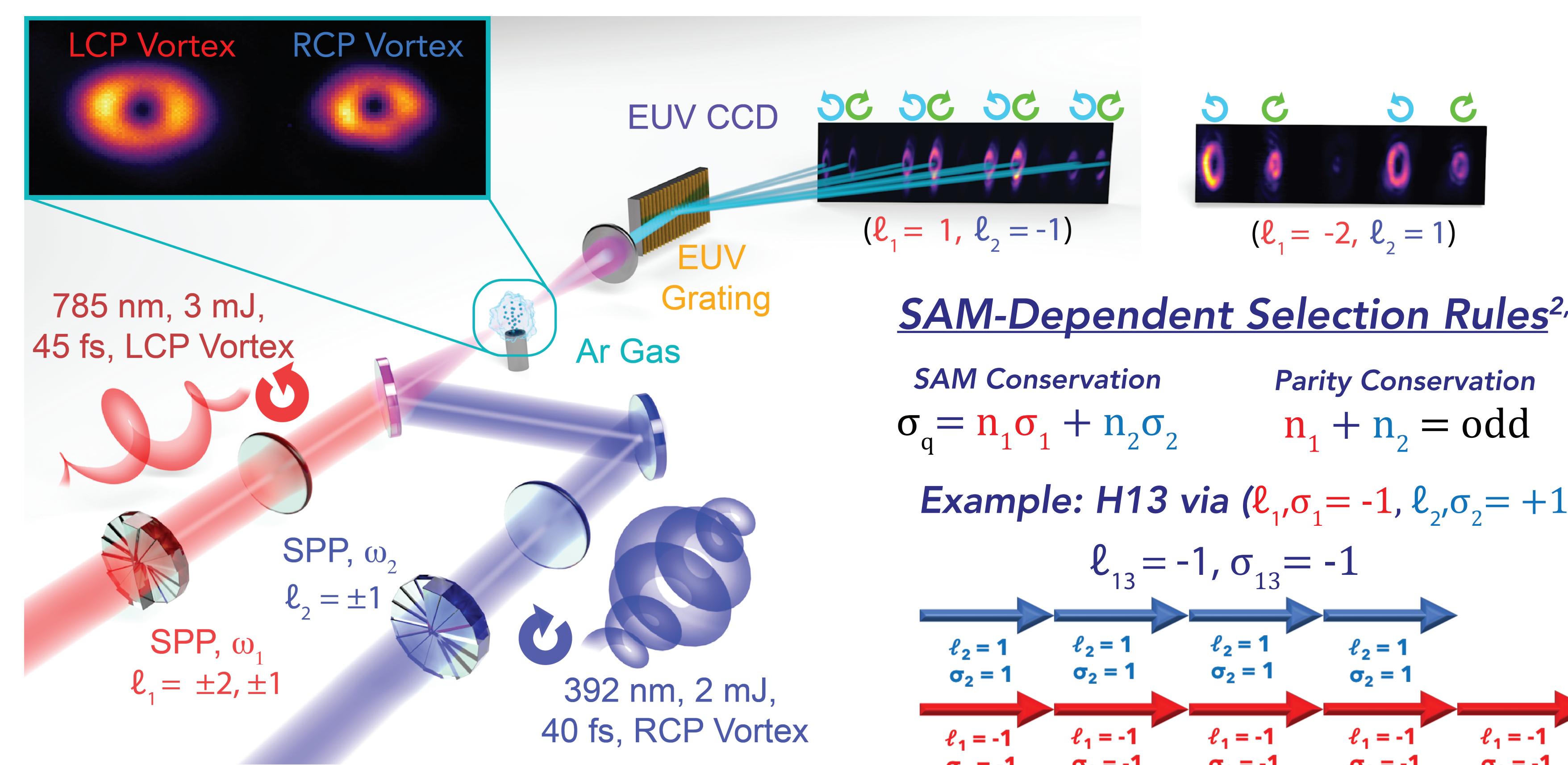


• **EXPERIMENT** - Attosecond, circularly polarized extreme ultraviolet (EUV) vortices are produced via high-harmonic generation (HHG) with a bicircular vortex driver. The emitted EUV vortices exhibit coupled spin and orbital angular momenta (SAM and OAM), enabling full control of the polarization, vortex charge, and propagation properties of the EUV beams².

RESULTS

1. The HHG process entwines the angular momenta of the bicircular and EUV vortices, **yielding an entirely new form of optical SO coupling in high-intensity, non-linear light matter interactions**.
2. We exploit this non-linear SO coupling to generate **coherent EUV vortices with designer angular momenta for EUV chiral spectroscopies**.

SPIN-ORBIT COUPLED HHG VIA BICIRCULAR VORTEX BEAMS



REFERENCES

¹Cardano, F., Marrucci, L. Spin-orbit photonics. *Nat. Photonics* **9**, 776-778 (2015).

²Dorney, K. M. et al. Helicity in a twist: Controlling the polarization divergence and vortex charge of attosecond high harmonic beams via optical spin-orbit coupling. *Nat. Photonics*. **Submitted**. (2018)

³Rego, L. et al. Nonperturbative twist in the generation of extreme-ultraviolet vortex beams. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **117**, 163202 (2016).

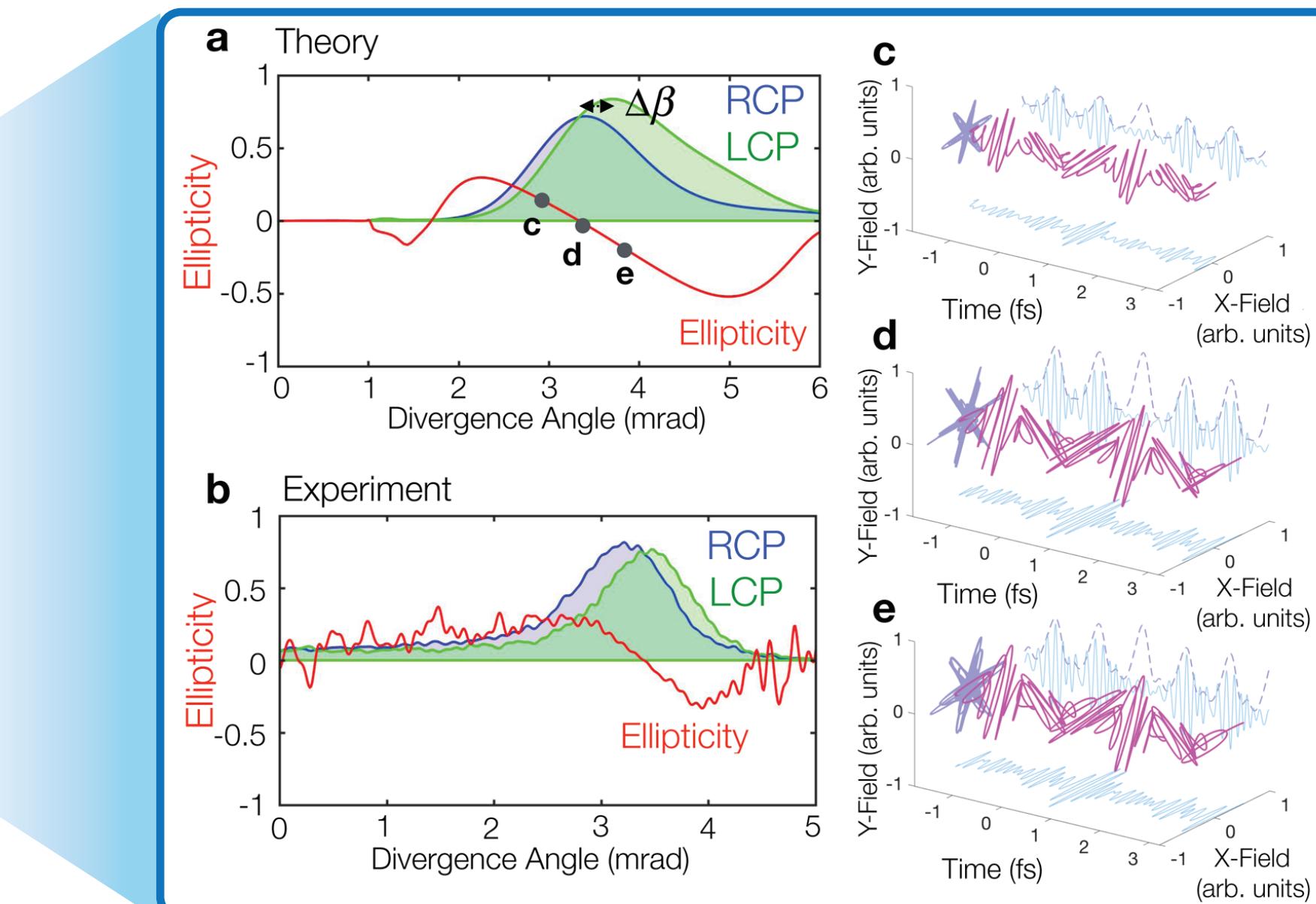
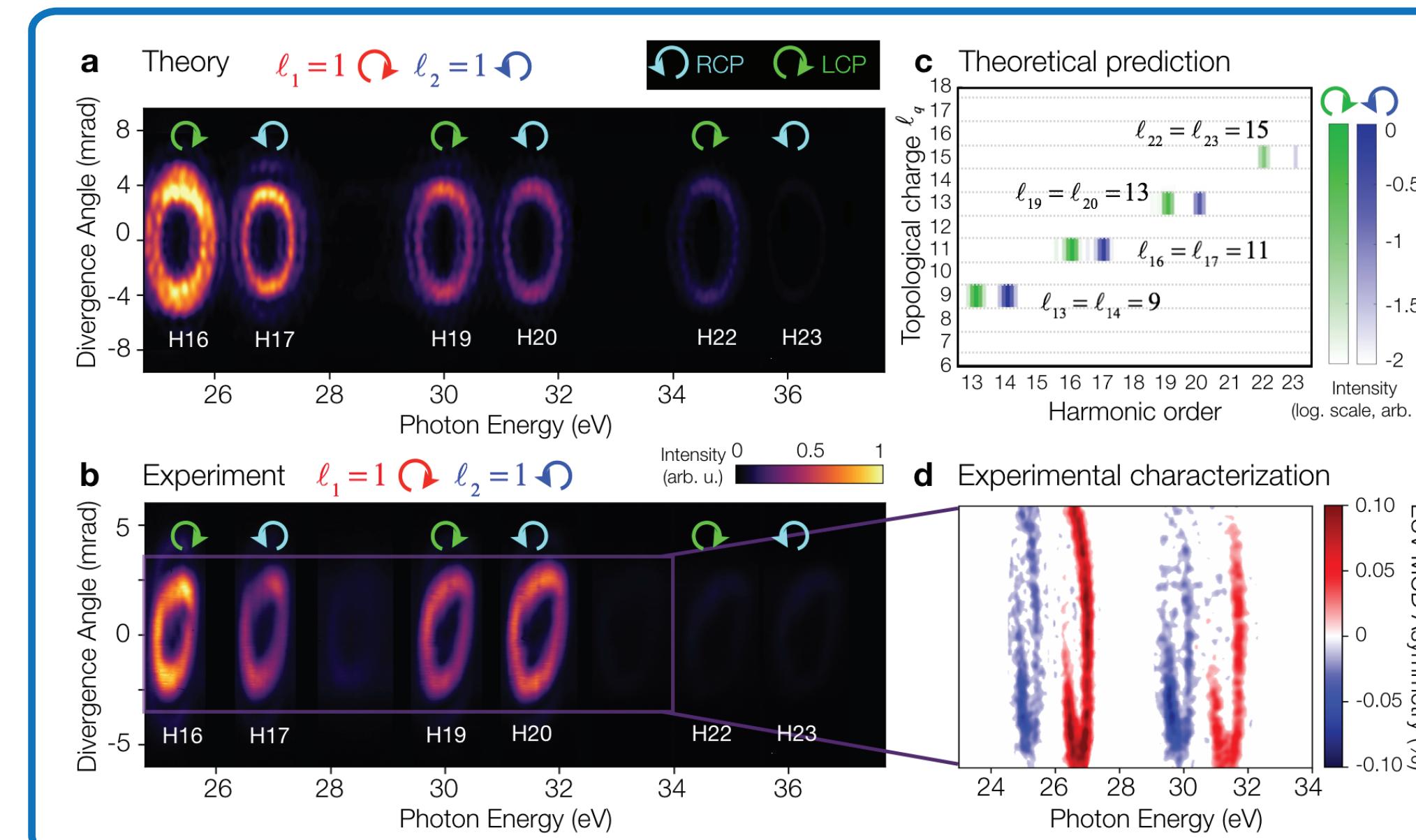
HIGH HARMONIC GENERATION IN THE PRESENCE OF SPIN-ORBIT COUPLING: A NEW REGIME OF ALL-OPTICAL, NONLINEAR, SPIN-ORBIT INTERACTIONS

SO Coupling in SAM-OAM HHG^{2,3}

All-optical control of OAM and divergence, $\Delta\beta$, of EUV vortices by the visible driving lasers!

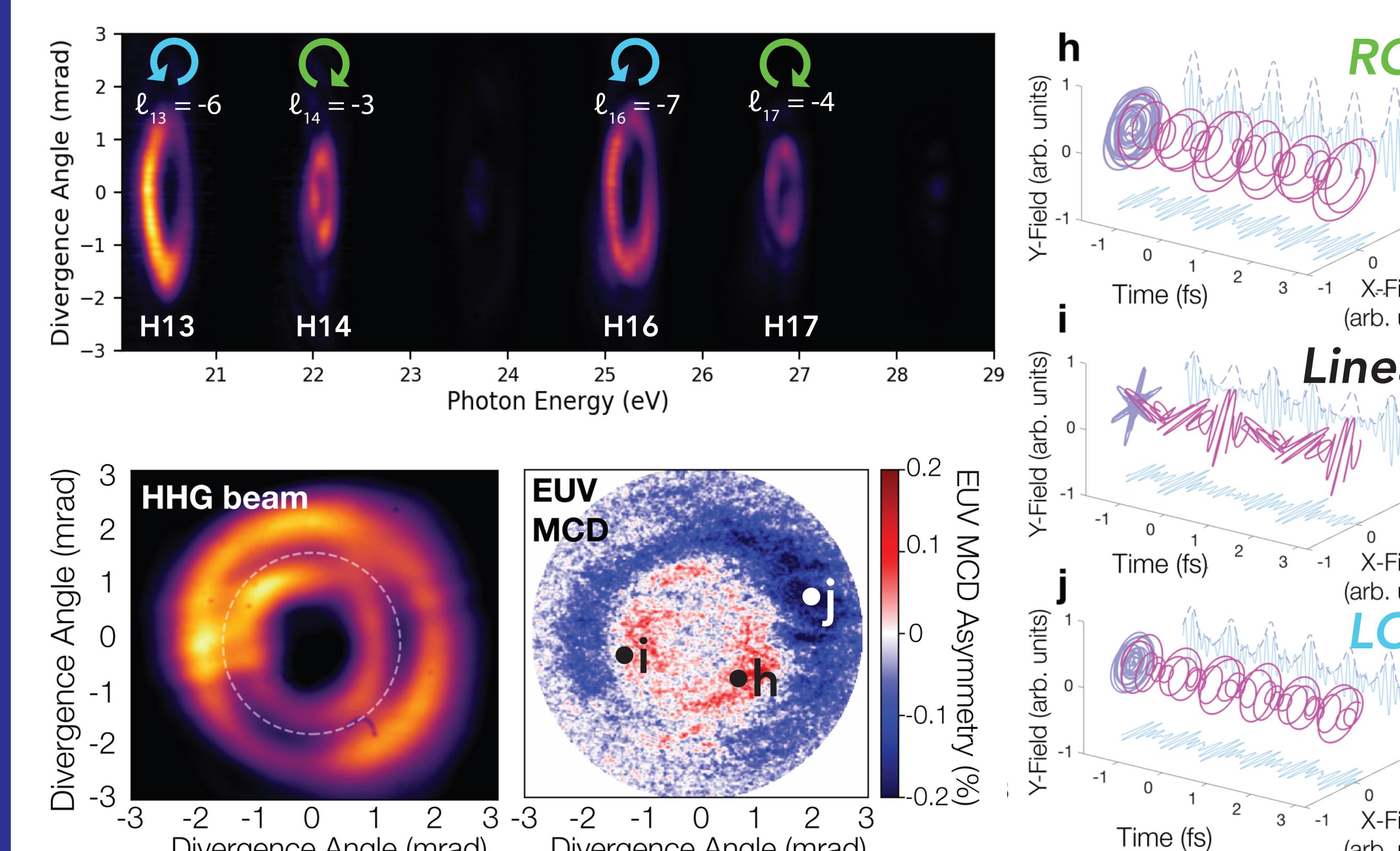
$$\ell_{q,q+1} = \frac{q + 2\sigma_q\sigma_{1,2}}{3}(\ell_1 + \ell_2) - \sigma_q\sigma_{1,2}\ell_{2,1}$$

$$\Delta\beta \propto (\ell_1 - 2\ell_2) \frac{|\ell_1 + \ell_2|}{\ell_1 + \ell_2}$$

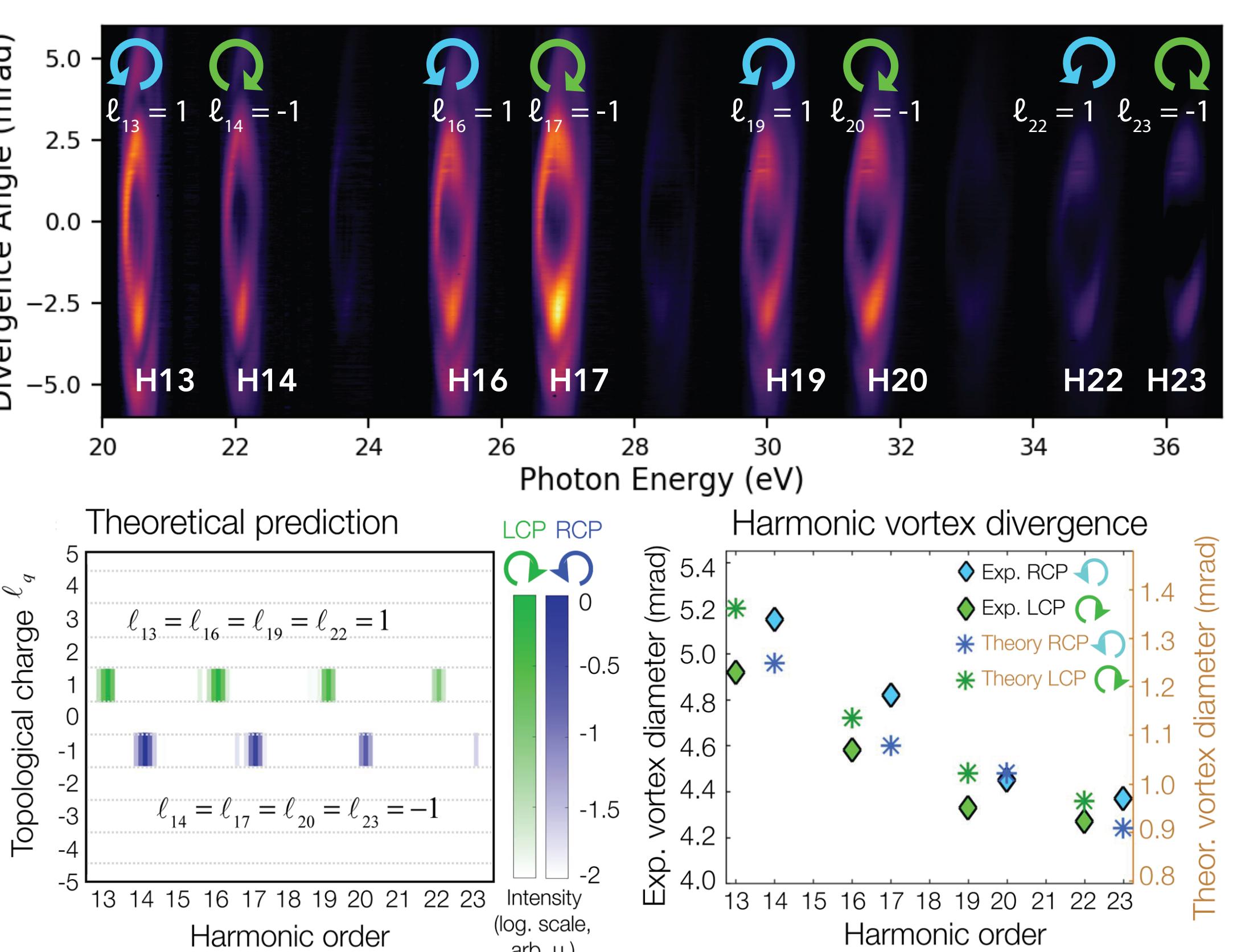


HARNESSING SO COUPLING IN SAM-OAM HHG: ATTOSECOND, EUV VORTICES WITH DESIGNER SAM AND OAM

EUV SAM Control: Spatially Isolated Attosecond Vortices of Opposite Circular Polarization



EUV OAM Control: High-Energy, Low Topological Charge Vortices



CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

- We generate, for the first time, EUV vortex beams with fully controlled SAM and OAM and **discover an entirely new form of nonlinear SO coupling**.
- This work paves the way for **extending SAM and OAM chiral spectroscopies and metrologies to the nanometer spatial, and attosecond temporal scales**.
- Future work is aimed at **generating isolated EUV vortices of pure circular polarization and using these designer vortices for ultrafast, EUV chiral spectroscopies**.

