## Abstract Submitted for the MAR08 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Direct measurement of core-level relaxation dynamics on a YIN, LUIS MIAJA-AVILA, GUIDO surface- adsorbate system JING SAATHOFF, CHAN LA-O-VORAKIAT, MARGARET MURNANE, HENRY KAPTEYN, JILA, University of Colorado, STEFAN MATHIAS, MARTIN AESCHLIMANN, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany, MICHAEL BAUER, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany — Electronic coupling between an adsorbate and the surface on which it resides is fundamental to the understanding of many surface interactions. However, the interaction of highly-excited adsorbate states is an area that has been explored only indirectly to-date. In this work, we present the first direct time-resolved observations of the lifetime of core-excited states of an atom adsorbed onto a surface. By implementing laser-assisted Auger decay on an adsorbate/surface system, we directly measure the lifetime of the  $4d^{-1}$ core level of Xenon on Pt(111) to be 7.1  $\pm$  1.1 fs. This result opens up time domain measurements of highly-excited state dynamics in materials systems where, because of complex interactions, energy-resolved measurements provide incomplete information.

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Date submitted: 12 Dec 2007 Electronic form version 1.4