Abstract Submitted for the MAR10 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Skyrmionic like spin-texture of Rashba electron scattering at magnetic adatoms deposited on the Au(111) surface¹ SAMIR LOUNIS, AN-DREAS BRINGER, STEFAN BLÜGEL, Institut für Festkörperforschung (IFF) and Institute for Advanced Simulation (IAS), Forschungszentrum Juelich — Surfaces are an inversion asymmetric environment. In combination with the spin-orbit interaction, surface electrons experience a Rashba effect, which leads to spin-split surface states [1]. Having an adatom on such a surface, surface states scatter at it. Interferences are created from which, surprisingly, the fingerprints of spin-orbit coupling cannot be seen with a scanning tunneling microscope (STM) [2]. Instead of a single adatom, Walls and Heller [3] proposed to use a corral of atoms to create extra spin-orbit coupling related modulations in the charge density. Resting on multiple scattering theory, we propose to visualize such effects using a spin-polarized STM considering either a single magnetic adatom or a corral of magnetic adatoms.

[1] S. Lashell, B.A. McDougall, E. Jensen, Phys. Rev. Lett. 77, 3419 (1996).

[2] L. Petersen and P. Hedegård, Surf. Sci. 49, 459 (2000).

[3] J.D. Walls and E.J. Heller, Nano Letters 7, 3377 (2007).

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