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Superconducting energy gap and nodes in the doped BaFe₂As₂ system

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Angle resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) is very powerful to know the solid state properties. We have developed low-temperature high-resolution laser-based ARPES system and recently achieved the highest energy resolution of ~ 100 μeV and the lowest sample temperature of ~ 1.0 K. We would like to show our recent results of superconducting-gap measurements on the iron-based superconductors by laser-ARPES, mainly for Ba_{1-x}K_xFe₂As₂ [1-3]. Little Fermi-surface dependent superconducting gap sizes are found for the Ba_{0.6}K_{0.4}Fe₂As₂ that has the maximum T_c around 40K [1]. Inter-orbital interaction is important as well as intra-orbital interaction. On the other hand, KFe₂As₂ is an extremely hole-doped compound in Ba_{1-x}K_xFe₂As₂ system and no longer has electron Fermi surfaces. Regardless of this, KFe₂As₂ still exhibits superconductivity with T_c of 3.4 K and the existence of nodes in its superconducting gap has been suggested by the several transport measurements. Our ultrahigh-resolution laser ARPES [2] unveils that KFe₂As₂ is a nodal s-wave superconductor with highly unusual FS-selective multi-gap structure: a nodeless gap on the inner FS, an unconventional gap with octet-line nodes on the middle FS, and an almost-zero gap on the outer FS. This gap structure may arise from the frustration between competing pairing interactions on the hole FSs causing the eightfold sign reversal. Our results suggest that the A_{1g} superconducting symmetry is universal in iron-pnictides, in spite of the variety of gap functions.

[1] Shimojima *et al.*, Science **332** (2011) 564.

[2] Okazaki *et al.*, Science **337** 1314 (2012).

[3] Malaeb *et al.*, Phys. Rev.B**86** (2012) 165117.