Laser control of resonance tunneling via an exceptional point

Anael Ben-Asher⁽¹⁾, Daniel Šimsa⁽²⁾, Tereza Uhlířová^(2,3), Milan Šindelka^{(2)*} and Nimrod Moiseyev^{(1,4)†}

⁽¹⁾ Schulich Faculty of Chemistry, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa 32000, Israel

⁽²⁾ Laser Plasma Department, Institute of Plasma Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic,

Za Slovankou 1782/3, 18200 Prague 8, Czech Republic

⁽³⁾ Department of Chemical Physics and Optics,

Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics,

Ke Karlovu 3, 121 16 Prague 2, Czech Republic

⁽⁴⁾ Solid State Institute, and Faculty of Physics,

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa 32000, Israel

According to the familiar Breit-Wigner formula, tunneling through a potential barrier is strongly enhanced when the energy of the projectile is equal to the resonance energy. Here we show how a weak cw laser can qualitatively change the character of resonance tunneling, and enforce a sudden and total suppression of the transmission by inducing an exceptional point (EP, special non-Hermitian degeneracy). Our findings are relevant not only for laser control of transmission in the resonance tunneling diodes (RTD), but also in the context of electron scattering through any type of metastable (e.g., autoionization, Auger, ICD) atomic/molecular states, and even in the case of transmission of light/sound waves in active systems with gain and loss.