The Role of Phonons in the Excitation and Relaxation of Adspecies

by

A. C. Beri, Ki-Tung Lee and Thomas F. George

Prepared for Publication

in

Proceedings of the International Conference on Lasers '83, ed. by R. C. Powell (STS, McLean, Virginia, 1984)

Department of Chemistry
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York 14627

January 1984
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THE ROLE OF PHONONS IN THE EXCITATION AND RELAXATION OF ADSPECIES

A. C. Berl, Ki-Tung Lee and Thomas P. George
Department of Chemistry
University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627

Abstract

The IR laser excitation of an adbond is studied by both a quantum mechanical generalized master equation approach and a classical generalized Langevin approach. The role of phonons in the energy flow between the adbond and the surface is considered. The latter approach looks further at local heating via direct excitation of surface atoms. It is seen that the Markovian approximation is in general inadequate, and that local heating is an important mechanism for desorption.

Introduction

The coherence, monochromaticity and high energy density of lasers have recently been exploited to influence dynamical processes occurring at a solid surface. The many diverse applications include catalysis, localized melting, chemical vapor deposition and charged particle generation. While some of the macroscopic aspects of the phenomena occurring during the laser-stimulated surface processes have been studied theoretically, a fundamental microscopic understanding is lacking. In this paper we shall address the role of phonons in the excitation and relaxation of adspecies. In Section II we present a quantum mechanical approach utilizing the generalized master equation to obtain the probability distribution of a laser-excited adbond. In Section III we present a classical generalized Langevin approach, with application to flash desorption. Here, laser excitation of surface atoms in addition to the adbond is also considered. Conclusions are presented in Section IV.

Quantum Generalized Master Equation

In a recent paper we formulated a general theory of vibrational excitation of an adatom-surface bond (adbond) by an IR laser, accompanied by relaxation via vibrational energy exchange between the adbond and lattice vibrations. That formalism is based on a first-principles Hamiltonian approach utilizing first-order perturbation theory, and the effective potential appearing in the zero-order Hamiltonian for the adbond is assumed to be a sum of pair potentials between the adatom and the lattice atoms at their equilibrium positions. For the sake of simplicity, we modeled a process in which a short pulse of radiation excites the vibrational states of the adbond which subsequently decays via energy transfer to the phonons. Here we extend that earlier work to include more general types of laser excitation and introduce an alternative type of effective potential.

Time Evolution of the Laser-Adbond-Solid System

We are primarily interested in the time evolution of the vibrational states of the adbond, which is excited by IR laser radiation and is coupled to the phonon modes of the solid. We choose a laser whose frequency is close to a normal mode frequency of the adbond but not to any of those of the solid. The total Hamiltonian of the system can be written as

$$\hat{H} = \hat{T}_A + \sum_{a} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \hat{V}_{aa} + \hat{P}_{a} \hat{P}_{a} + \frac{1}{2} \hat{V}_{aa'} \right] \hat{v}_{aa'} + \hat{H}_F + \hat{H}_R \quad (1)$$

Here $\hat{T}_A$ is the kinetic energy operator for the adparticle, $\hat{V}_a$ is the interaction between the adparticle and the $a$-th lattice atom, $\hat{P}_a$ is the kinetic energy of the latter, $\hat{V}_{aa'}$ is the interaction energy between the $a$-th and $a'$-th lattice atoms, $\hat{H}_F$ is the Hamiltonian for the free radiation field and $\hat{H}_R$ is the interaction between the adbond and the laser radiation. The study of the time evolution of the vibrational states of the adbond then involves extracting the relevant information from the equations of motion of operators $\hat{O}$ for the whole system

$$\dot{\hat{O}} = -i [\hat{H}, \hat{O}] = -i \hat{H} \hat{O} - \hat{O} \hat{H} \qquad (2)$$

In addition, we also need to specify a set of initial conditions compatible with the history of the system prior to the time the experiment is initiated.
We rewrite our Hamiltonian in the form

$$H = H_a + H_p + H_r + H_{sp} + H_{ar},$$

where

$$H_a = T_a + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{V}_a,$$

$$H_p = \frac{1}{2} \int \left( \langle \hat{a}^+ \rangle + \langle \hat{a} \rangle \langle \hat{a}^+ \rangle \right) \hat{V}_a d\tau,$$

$$H_{sp} = \frac{1}{2} \int (\hat{a}_1^+ \tilde{\hat{V}}_a^+ - \hat{a}_1 \tilde{\hat{V}}_a),$$

$$\tilde{V}_a$$ is the thermodynamic average of $$V_{ai}$$ over the initial equilibrium configuration of the phonon field:

$$\tilde{V}_{ai} = \langle V_{ai} \rangle_p = Tr_p \rho_p(0) V_{ai},$$

$$\rho_p(0)$$ being the initial equilibrium density operator for the phonon field. The adatom is now described by the Hamiltonian $$H_a$$. The radiation field is assumed to be that due to a single-mode laser of frequency $$\omega_l$$ and polarization vector $$\hat{f}$$. Accordingly,

$$H_r = \hbar \omega_l \hat{a}^+ \hat{a},$$

and, in the dipole approximation, $$\hat{f} \hat{\hat{a}} \hat{f} = 1$$, with effective adatom charge $$e_0$$,

$$H_{ar} = -ie_0 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar \omega_l}{\hbar^2 \phi}} \hat{f} \hat{\hat{a}} (\hat{a}^+ \hat{a} - 1),$$

where $$\hat{a}^+$$, $$\hat{a}$$ are creation-annihilation operators for photons, $$\tau$$ is a quantization volume and $$\hat{f}$$ is the wave vector of the radiation field.

Using the projection operator technique, we arrive at a set of coupled integro-differential equations for the matrix elements of a projected density operator $$\rho$$ for the system:

$$\rho_{yy}(t) = -2\hbar^{-2} \int dt' Re \left[ \langle \Delta_{yy}(t') \Delta_{yy}^* \rangle e^{i \omega_0 \Delta t} \right] \rho_{yy}(t)$$

$$- Re \left[ \langle \Delta_{yy}(t') \Delta_{yy}^* \rangle e^{-i \omega_0 \Delta t} \right] \rho_{yy}(t)$$

where

$$\rho_{yy}(t) = \langle A(t)|\rho(t)|A \rangle$$

$$\rho(t) = Tr_p Tr_r W(t)$$

with $$Tr_p$$ and $$Tr_r$$ representing traces over the phonon and radiation spaces. $$|A\rangle$$ is an eigenstate of $$H_a$$ with energy $$\omega_0$$, $$\Delta^{\omega_0}$$ is given as

$$\Delta^{\omega_0} = \left( \omega_0 - E_g \right) / \hbar,$$

and $$W(t)$$ is the density operator of the whole system.

Application of a Linear-Chain Model

In most cases of chemical interest, some charge transfer takes place between an atom and a surface during adsorption. We shall assume the atom to have an effective charge $$e_0$$ and the charge transferred to the solid to be distributed throughout the latter so that it is still essentially neutral. Image-charge effects will be important for the case of metals, but we shall think in terms of semiconductors here to keep the treatment simple.

The vibrational levels of the adatom-surface bond are dictated by the effective potential seen by the adatom. This potential is quite complex, being a result of electrostatic and exchange forces due to the nuclei and electrons of the solid, and is not known for any real system. A simple representation of the effective potential, however, can be obtained by assuming independent pairwise interactions between the adatom and each lattice atom and summing over all lattice atoms. The advantage of such a procedure is that the influence of lattice atoms more than a few lattice constants away from the adatom is negligible (ten lattice atoms should be sufficient for most solids). If the sum of pair potentials can further
be fitted to a single analytic potential, the vibrational levels of the adatom-surface bond reduce to those of a diatomic molecule.

We define a one-dimensional coordinate system with origin at the mean position of the outermost lattice atom. Let \( z \) be the position of the adatom and \( z_i \) the position of the \( i \)-th lattice atom measured in units of \( \beta(0)^{-1} \) to be defined later,

\[
x_i = z_i(0) + u_i = -(i-1)a + u_i, \quad i=1,2,...
\]

where \( u_i \) is the displacement of the \( i \)-th lattice atom from its equilibrium position \( z_i(0) = -(i-1)a \); all in units of \( \beta(0)^{-1} \), assuming a monatomic lattice with uniform spacing \( a \). The interaction potential at the position of the adatom is then a sum of pairwise Morse potentials between it and all the atoms of the chain,

\[
V(z, z_i) = \sum_i v(z_i) \equiv \sum_i V_{al} ,
\]

where \( z_i(0) \) is the position of the minimum of \( v(z) \), \( \beta(0) \) is now identified as the Morse exponent parameter and \( D(0) \) is the well depth of the Morse potential. The zero-order adsorb Hamiltonian becomes

\[
H_z = -\frac{(\beta(0)^2)\frac{\hbar}{2a} + D(0)}{2a} \left[ -2(z-z_0) - (z-z_0) \right] ,
\]

where \( D_0 \) and \( z_0 \) are effective parameters which involve the pair-potential parameters \( D(0) \) and \( z_0(0) \) and the lattice parameters \( a \) and \( \langle\langle u^2\rangle\rangle \), where the last quantity is the mean square displacement of a lattice atom.

Within this model, the generalized master equation, Eq. (10), becomes

\[
\dot{\rho}_{ss}(t) = 2\hbar^{-2} \sum_{\mu,\mu'} \sum_{l,k} \int_0^t dt' \left[ \rho_{ss}(t') \left\{ \left( \mu_{\mu'} \right) L_{l,k}^{(s-s')} \right\} e^{-i\omega_{ss'} t'} + \rho_{ss'}(t') \left\{ \left( \mu_{\mu'} \right) L_{l,k}^{(s-s')} \right\} e^{i\omega_{ss'} t'} \right] \rho_{ss'}(t-t') + A_{ss}(t-t') ,
\]

where the \( A \)'s are time-independent coefficients:

\[
A_{l,k}^{ss'}(s-s') = (-1)^{\mu_1 + \mu_2} \frac{4[D(0)]^2}{\hbar^2} \left[ -\mu(s-z_0(0)) \right]_{ss'} \left[ -\mu'(s-z_0(0)) \right]_{ss'} \times \exp \left[ -\mu'(l-1)a + \mu^2 \frac{z_0(0)^2}{2} \langle u^2 \rangle \right]
\]

and the \( Y \)'s are phonon displacement correlation functions,

\[
Y_{l,k}^{ss'}(t) = \mu \langle u_l(t)u_k(t) \rangle
\]

The term \( \dot{\rho}_{ss'}(t) \) is the contribution to \( \rho_{ss'}(t) \) due to the radiation field. Replacing \( \dot{\rho}_{ss'}(t) \) by \( F_{ss'} \), we can write Eq. (18) as

\[
\dot{F}_{ss'}(t) = \int_0^t \left[ \sum_{l,k} \left[ \left\{ \frac{4[D(0)]^2}{\hbar^2} \left[ -\mu(s-z_0(0)) \right]_{ss'} \left[ -\mu'(s-z_0(0)) \right]_{ss'} \times \exp \left[ -\mu'(l-1)a + \mu^2 \frac{z_0(0)^2}{2} \langle u^2 \rangle \right] \right] \right] \right] \rho_{ss'}(t-t')
\]

where \( K \) consists of contributions due to the phonons and the radiation field,

\[
K_{ss'}(t') = \rho_{ss'}^{(P)}(t') + \rho_{ss'}^{(R)}(t')
\]

For a system such as oxygen on germanium, the amplitude of \( E_{ss'} \) is seen in Fig. 1 to be many orders of magnitude larger than that of \( E_{ss'}^{(p)} \) due to a 1 W/cm² laser. However, the
Fig. 1. Kernel functions $K^{(p)}$ and $K^{(q)}$ for O/Ge. One-, two- and three-phonon processes are included. The laser-adbonds mismatch is 3 cm$^{-1}$.

"frequency" of $K^{(p)}$ is dictated by the Debye frequency of the solid, whereas that of $K^{(q)}$ depends on the degree of resonance between the laser and the levels of the adbond and can be made arbitrarily small within the rotating-wave approximation. For probability functions $P_\gamma$ that change slowly during the vibrational period of typical phonons, the contribution due to $K^{(q)}$ will be subject to cancellations, whereas that due to $K^{(p)}$ will not. Whether this dynamical effect can bridge the gap due to the difference in magnitude of the amplitudes of $K^{(q)}$ and $K^{(p)}$ depends on the sharpness of the laser-adbonds resonance, the details of $K^{(q)}$ and the total irradiation time.

An important consequence of the nature of $K^{(p)}$ is that the dynamics is seen to be non-Markovian since there is no indication that $K^{(p)}$ is localised in time. In general, one expects very complicated nonlocal effects due to the combined laser phonon fields, and great caution must be used when applying a Markovian approximation to such processes. Numerical investigation of the detailed time evolution of a number of laser-adbonds-solid systems is in progress and should provide some more definitive answers.

**Classical Generalised Langevin Equation**

In this section, we shall formulate the problem of flash desorption via a Langevin approach. We model the problem as an incoherent process. Thus, the motions of the phonons serve as a heat bath for the adspecies.

We start with the equation of motion for the i-th atom in a three-dimensional solid

$$m_i \ddot{r}_i = -\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \left( |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j| \right)^2 \left[ \alpha_{ij} r_{ij}^2 + \beta_{ij} r_{ij}^4 + \gamma_{ij} r_{ij}^6 + \delta_{ij} r_{ij}^8 + \epsilon_{ij} r_{ij}^{10} \right] + \frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \left( |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j| \right)^2 \left[ \alpha_{ij} r_{ij}^2 + \beta_{ij} r_{ij}^4 + \gamma_{ij} r_{ij}^6 + \delta_{ij} r_{ij}^8 + \epsilon_{ij} r_{ij}^{10} \right] \cdots \quad (33)$$

where $m_i$ and $r_i$ are the mass and position of the i-th solid atom, and $\beta_{ij}$, $\gamma_{ij}$, $\delta_{ij}$, etc. are the elastic and higher-order nonlinear force constants. For simplicity, let us consider the atoms to have unit masses and also assume the nonlocal, nonlinear effects to be unimportant. Hence, Eq. (33) reduces to

$$\ddot{r}_i = -\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \left( |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j| \right)^2 \left[ \alpha_{ij} r_{ij}^2 + \beta_{ij} r_{ij}^4 + \gamma_{ij} r_{ij}^6 + \delta_{ij} r_{ij}^8 + \epsilon_{ij} r_{ij}^{10} \right] + \frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \left( |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j| \right)^2 \left[ \alpha_{ij} r_{ij}^2 + \beta_{ij} r_{ij}^4 + \gamma_{ij} r_{ij}^6 + \delta_{ij} r_{ij}^8 + \epsilon_{ij} r_{ij}^{10} \right] \cdots \quad (34)$$

We rewrite Eq. (34) in matrix notation as
\[
\mathbf{f} = -\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{H} + \cdots
\]  
(28)

with \(\mathbf{\Gamma}'\) and \(\mathbf{\Gamma}\) diagonal matrices, \(r_{i1} = r_1\) and \(v_{i1} = v_1 = r_2^2\).

We now define projection operators \(\mathbf{P}\) and \(\mathbf{Q}\) such that:

\[
\mathbf{f}(t) = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{f}(t), \quad \mathbf{g}(t) = (1-\mathbf{P}) \mathbf{f}(t) = \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{f}(t), \quad \mathbf{PQ} = \mathbf{Q}, \quad \mathbf{PP} = \mathbf{P}
\]
(26)

\(\mathbf{g}(t)\) are coordinates of those solid atoms interacting with the adspecies, and \(\mathbf{m}(t)\) are coordinates of the remaining solid atoms. Applying these projection operators to Eq. (25), we obtain

\[
\mathbf{f}(t) = [-\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{PP} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{PP} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{PP} \mathbf{\Gamma}' + \cdots] \mathbf{g}(t)
\]
(27)

and

\[
\mathbf{g}(t) = [-\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{QQ} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{QQ} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{QQ} \mathbf{\Gamma}' + \cdots] \mathbf{g}(t)
\]
(28)

\(\mathbf{\Gamma}'\) and \(\mathbf{\Gamma}\) are diagonal matrices with \(s_{i1}(t) = s_1(t)\) and \(v_{i1}(t) = v_1(t)\), and \(\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{PP} = \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{PP}, \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{QQ} = \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{QQ}, \text{etc.}\)

In general, Eq. (28) cannot be solved analytically, so that we seek an approximate solution. First, we obtain the homogeneous solution by applying the equivalent linearization procedure. Thus, we have

\[
\mathbf{\bar{g}}(t) = \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) t + \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) t + \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) t + \cdots
\]
(29)

where \(\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g} \) is the amplitude vector of the bath oscillators, and \(\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g} \) the frequency matrix and \(\mathbf{\Gamma} \) the phase matrix. Hence, we can write down a first-order formal solution for \(\mathbf{m}(t)\) as

\[
\mathbf{g}(t) = \mathbf{\bar{g}}_1(t) + \mathbf{\bar{g}}_2(t)
\]
(30)

where

\[
\mathbf{\bar{g}}_1(t) = \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) \mathbf{g} + \int_0^t dt' \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) \mathbf{g} \sin(\mathbf{\Gamma} t-t') \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(t')
\]
(31)

and

\[
\mathbf{\bar{g}}_2(t) = \int_0^t dt' \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) \mathbf{g} \sin(\mathbf{\Gamma} t-t') \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) \mathbf{g} \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(a) \mathbf{g} \mathbf{\bar{g}}(t' \cdots) \mathbf{g}(t'),
\]
(32)

and again \(\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g} \) is the amplitude vector of the bath oscillators, and \(\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g} \) the frequency matrix and \(\mathbf{\Gamma} \) the phase matrix. Hence, we can write down a first-order formal solution for \(\mathbf{m}(t)\) as

\[
\mathbf{g}(t) = \mathbf{\bar{g}}_1(t) + \mathbf{\bar{g}}_2(t)
\]
(33)

The first two terms on the RHS, which represent the harmonic approximation, are equivalent to the formalism and Adelman and Doll. The third term describes the anharmonic coupling among the y-oscillators. The rest are higher-order response terms which in general can be neglected if the set of y oscillators is sufficiently big. Thus, Eq. (33) becomes

\[
\mathbf{f}(t) = [-\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{PP} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{PP} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{PP} \mathbf{\Gamma}' + \cdots \mathbf{g}(t) - \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{PP} \mathbf{g}_1(t)
\]
(34)

Now, we include the motion of the adspecies to form a complete set of equations of motion. Let \(\mathbf{m}(t)\) be the coordinates of the adspecies. We then have

\[
\mathbf{g}(t) = \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g}(x(t), y(t), \mathbf{\bar{g}})
\]
(35)

\[
\mathbf{f}(t) = [-\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{PP} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{PP} + \mathbf{\Gamma}' \mathbf{PP} \mathbf{\Gamma} + \cdots \mathbf{g}(t) + \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g}(x(t), y(t), \mathbf{\bar{g}}) + \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g}(x(t), y(t), \mathbf{\bar{g}}) - \int_0^t dt' \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g}(x(t-t'), y(t-t'), \mathbf{\bar{g}})
\]
(36)

with \(\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g}(x(t), y(t), \mathbf{\bar{g}}) = -\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g}(x(t), y(t), \mathbf{\bar{g}})\) and \(\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g}(x(t), y(t), \mathbf{\bar{g}}) = -\mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{g}(x(t), y(t), \mathbf{\bar{g}})\).
\[ \langle B(t) E^+(O) \rangle = \hbar p \cos(\theta t) \langle g(0) g^+(0) \rangle \hbar q p = \hbar^2 T g(t) \]  
where we have used 
\[ g(0) = \cos(\theta q) \]  
and 
\[ \langle g(0) g^+(0) \rangle = \theta^{-2} \hbar q \]  
for the canonical ensemble average. The above formalism is ideal for the study of the dynamics of flash desorption by UV radiation, provided the excited electronic potential \( V(x(t), y(t), z) \) is known. The initial vibrational temperature of the \( y \)-oscillators, which is in general higher than the bath temperature, can be chosen by means of the Franck-Condon approximation. Hence, one can study how these \( y \)-oscillators relax and transfer energy to the bath and as well as to the adspecies, which leads to (thermal) desorption. However, excited states associated with the adspecies-solid interaction are rarely known, which is the worst obstacle to solving the overall problem.

The above formalism can also be used to study IR laser-induced desorption by simply including the oscillating force (representing the driving force via the IR laser) in both Eqs. (35) and (36). We would like to point out that previous studies\(^5\) only the adbond or the internal motion of adspecies are IR active. In another words, the oscillating force is included only in Eq. (36). Here, we assume some of the surface modes \( (y \)-oscillators) are also IR active, having frequency compatible with the IR frequency. Actually, this is a reasonable assumption, since these surface atoms which surround the adspecies behave quite differently than the bulk atoms. Thus, the desorption mechanism considered here is not just a resonance process as considered previously,\(^7\) but also an incoherent process which is induced by the local heating of the \( y \)-oscillators. Let \( T_y \) be the steady-state temperature of the \( y \)-oscillators and \( D_0 \) be the dissociation energy of the adbond. If \( k_B T_y > D_0 \), the desorption mechanism is an incoherent process. If \( k_B T_y < D_0 < k_B T_y + \Delta \omega \), where \( \Delta \omega \) is the frequency of the laser, the desorption mechanism is then a partially coherent process, as shown in Fig. 2. The steady-state temperature of the \( y \)-oscillators, which is in general higher than the bath temperature, is due to two complicated competing processes: multiphoton excitation and multiphonon relaxation of the surface modes. The steady-state temperature must satisfy one of the two above conditions; otherwise, an unrealistic high-power laser is required to desorb the adspecies.\(^7\) One must search for an optimum laser frequency for the system of interest in order to achieve the desired steady-state heating of the \( y \)-oscillators.\(^8\)
temperature with a laser of reasonable power density. The steady-state temperature is given by:

\[
\frac{dT_y(t_0)}{dt_0} = 0
\]  \hspace{1cm} (40)

with

\[
T_y(t_0) = \frac{1}{T_B} \int_{t_0-T}^{t_0+T} dt \langle y(t)g(t)\rangle .
\]  \hspace{1cm} (41)

Here, \( T \) is the period of the IR laser.

The usual shortcomings arise in this classical approach. For example, spontaneous emission and tunneling effects are not treated. Fortunately, the deterministic mechanisms of the above desorption process are the incoherent heating and single-photon absorption. Therefore, the neglect of quantum effects will only lead to a small error in the calculation.

Conclusions

Both quantum mechanical and classical treatments of the dynamical role of phonons in the excitation and relaxation of adspecies have been presented. Using a linear-chain model, the former treatment in Section II points out the inadequacy of the Markovian approximation. Furthermore, the laser pumping can be comparable to multiphonon relaxation for conditions such as a shallow potential well for the adspecies and/or very close resonance between the laser and adspecies frequencies. The latter classical treatment in Section III is better suited to a three-dimensional analysis. For example, here the response function, which is the classical analog of the kernel function used in Section II, is more easily obtained. It is seen that local heating of the surface atom by an IR laser is an important mechanism for desorption.

Acknowledgments

This research was supported in part by the Office of Naval Research and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFSC), United States Air Force, under Grant AFOSR-82-0046. The United States Government is authorized to reproduce and distribute reprints for governmental purposes notwithstanding any copyright notation hereon. TFG acknowledges the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation for a Teacher-Scholar Award (1975-84) and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation for a Fellowship (1983-84).

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Dr. Keith H. Johnson  
Department of Metallurgy and Materials Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dr. Chia-wel Woo  
Department of Physics  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dr. J. M. White  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Texas  
Austin, Texas 78712

Dr. Robert M. Hexter  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. R. P. Van Duyne  
Chemistry Department  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dr. J. E. Demuth  
IBM Corporation  
Thomas J. Watson Research Center  
P.O. Box 218  
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

Dr. S. Sibener  
Department of Chemistry  
James Franck Institute  
5640 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dr. M. G. Lagally  
Department of Metallurgical and Mining Engineering  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dr. A. Green  
Quantum Surface Dynamics Branch  
Code 3817  
Naval Weapons Center  
China Lake, California 93555

Dr. Adolph B. Amster  
Chemistry Division  
Naval Weapons Center  
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General Electric Company
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Department of Chemistry
James Franck Institute
5640 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dr. Ronald Lee
R301
Naval Surface Weapons Center
White Oak
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Naval Research Laboratory
Washington, D.C. 20375

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University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

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Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974

Dr. Martin Fleischmann
Department of Chemistry
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Southampton S09 5NH
Hampshire, England

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Department of Physics  
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Irvine, California 92664

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Physics Department  
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Santa Barbara, California 93106

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Chemistry Department  
University of Rochester  
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Thomas J. Watson Research Center  
P.O. Box 218  
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

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Chemistry Department  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, California 93106

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Cornell University  
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Department of Chemistry  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, Ohio 41106

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University Pittsburgh  
Chemistry Department  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260

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Department of Chemistry  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dr. G. D. Stein  
Mechanical Engineering Department  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois 60201

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Systems Engineering  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Troy, New York 12181

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Department of Chemistry  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14853

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Army Research Office  
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Research Triangle Park, NC 27709