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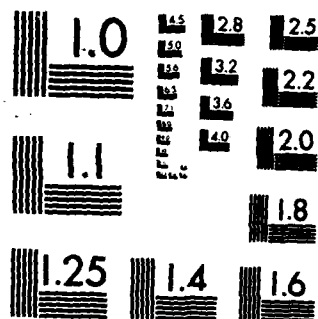
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TECHNICAL REPORT No. 16

Vibrational Excitation of an Adbond by a Short-Pulsed Laser

by

Sander van Smaalen and Thomas F. George

Prepared for Publication

in

AIP Conference Proceedings

Departments of Chemistry and Physics
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October 1986

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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4. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) UBUFFALO/DC/86/TR-16			5. MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S)		
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION Depts. Chemistry & Physics State University of New York		6b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable)	7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION		
6c. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code) Fronczak Hall, Amherst Campus Buffalo, New York 14260			7b. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code) Chemistry Program 800 N. Quincy Street Arlington, Virginia 22217		
8a. NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research		8b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable)	9. PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER Contract N00014-86-K-0043		
8c. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code) Chemistry Program 800 N. Quincy Street Arlington, Virginia 22217			10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NOS.		
			PROGRAM ELEMENT NO.	PROJECT NO.	TASK NO.
			WORK UNIT NO.		
11. TITLE Vibrational Excitation of an Adbond by a Short-Pulsed Laser					
12. PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) Sander van Smaalen and Thomas F. George					
13a. TYPE OF REPORT		13b. TIME COVERED FROM _____ TO _____		14. DATE OF REPORT (Yr., Mo., Day) October 1986	
				15. PAGE COUNT 4	
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION Prepared for publication in AIP Conference Proceedings					
17. COSATI CODES			18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)		
FIELD	GROUP	SUB. GR.			
			LASER-EXCITED ADBOND		
			PHONON-DAMPED ADBOND		
			PULSED LASER		
			CONTINUOUS WAVE LASER		
			COMPARISON STUDY		
			MASTER EQUATION		
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number) A system of a phonon-damped adbond, coherently excited by a laser, is considered. The effect of a series of laser pulses is compared with the effect of a continuous-wave laser.					
20. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS <input type="checkbox"/>			21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified		
22a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL Dr. David L. Nelson			22b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) (202) 696-4410		22c. OFFICE SYMBOL

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VIBRATIONAL EXCITATION OF AN ADBOND BY A SHORT-PULSED LASER

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ABSTRACT

A system of a phonon-damped adbond, coherently excited by a laser, is considered. The effect of a series of laser pulses is compared with the effect of a continuous-wave laser.

INTRODUCTION

Consider an adsorbed atom in a vibrational bond, driven by a laser, and damped due to the lattice vibrations of the substrate. We approximate the vibrating adatom by a one-dimensional oscillator, for the motion perpendicular to the surface.

The interaction between the adatom and the substrate is given by the potential between the atom and the nearest surface atom. Choose the origin on the average position of the surface atom. Let z be the position of the adatom and denote the z -component of the displacement of the surface atom by u_z . Then the problem can be separated in a vibration of the adatom in the potential $V(z-z_0)$, and the interaction with the lattice vibrations, in first order given by

$$H_{ap} = -u_z \frac{dV(z-z_0)}{dz}. \quad (1)$$

A master equation for the time evolution of the reduced density operator of the adbond is then¹⁻³

$$\frac{d\sigma(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [H_a, \sigma(t)] - \Gamma \sigma(t), \quad (2)$$

where Γ is the Liouville relaxation operator. Using that the adbond potential is strongly anharmonic then leads to a set of equations for the level populations $\sigma_n(t)$,¹⁻³

$$\frac{d\sigma_n(t)}{dt} = \sum_k \{a_{kn} \sigma_k(t) - a_{nk} \sigma_n(t)\}. \quad (3)$$

Expressions for the transition rate constants a_{kn} can be found in refs. 1-3.

PULSED-LASER EXCITATION

The laser couples the two levels $|g\rangle$ and $|e\rangle$ of the adbond. Then

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the interaction of the ad-bond with the laser is given by,

$$H_{ar}(t) = \Omega(t) \{ |e\rangle\langle g| \exp(-i\omega t) + |g\rangle\langle e| \exp(i\omega t) \} \quad (4)$$

where $\Omega(t) = -\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{E}_0(t)/\hbar$ is the Rabi frequency, $\vec{\mu} = \langle g | \vec{\mu} | e \rangle$ is the transition dipole moment, and $\vec{E}(t) = \vec{E}_0(t) \cos(\omega t)$ is the electric field of the laser beam. For a cw laser $\vec{E}_0(t)$ is independent of time. For a pulsed laser we assume that $\vec{E}_0(t)$ is slowly varying compared with the laser frequency ω .

An expression for the time evolution of the reduced density operator when the laser is present is obtained by adding $H_{ar}(t)$ to H_a in Eq.2. It is easily seen that the master equation (Eq.3) then also involves the coherences of σ between $|g\rangle$ and $|e\rangle$.

Assume the pulse duration Δt to be much shorter than the inverse of the rate constants in Eq.3. Then the relaxation can be neglected during the pulse, and the effect of the pulse is found from the equations for a two-level system. On resonance it depends only on the pulse area :

$$\theta = \int_{\text{pulse}} dt \Omega(t) \quad (5)$$

The solution is

$$\begin{aligned} R_2(\Delta t) &= R_2^0 \cos(\theta) + R_3^0 \sin(\theta), \\ R_3(\Delta t) &= R_3^0 \cos(\theta) - R_2^0 \sin(\theta), \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where $R_3 = \sigma_e - \sigma_g$ is the population inversion, and $R_2 = i(\bar{\sigma}_{eg} - \bar{\sigma}_{ge})$ is the imaginary part of the coherence in the rotating frame.

A series of equally-spaced π -pulses ($\theta = \pi$) is considered. From Eq.6 it follows that the effect of a π -pulse is to change R_3^0 into $-R_3^0$. If we assume that $R_2^0 = 0$, then it remains zero throughout. Between the pulses (occurring at intervals t_p), the adbond evolves in time according to the master equation (Eq.3). After several pulses the system will reach a quasi steady state in which the time evolution of $\sigma(t)$ is identical in each interval t_p . Then we can express the populations entirely in the rate constants a_{kn} and the time t_p .⁴

COMPARISON WITH CW LASER EXCITATION

An adbond, irradiated by a cw laser, reaches a steady state in which the populations are independent of time. The steady-state values, $\sigma_n(\infty)$, are obtained by solving the master equation for

$$\sigma_n(\text{av}) = \frac{1}{t_p} \int_0^t \sigma_n(t) dt. \quad (7)$$

The first criterion is to require that both lasers have the same average power. In the low-intensity limit, $\Omega_{cw} \ll \gamma$, we find $\eta \ll 1$, that is, the cw laser is much more effective in exciting the adbond than the pulsed laser. In the high-intensity limit $\sigma(\infty)$ and $\sigma(av)$ acquire the same limiting values, and $\eta = 1$.

Table I Comparison of a cw laser and a pulsed laser

	<u>continuous wave laser</u>	<u>pulsed laser</u>
average laser power	Ω_{cw}^2	$\frac{\pi^2}{\Delta t \ t_p}$
average absorbed power	$\hbar\omega \frac{\Omega_{cw}^2}{\gamma} (\sigma_g - \sigma_e)$	$\hbar\omega \frac{1}{t_p} R_s(\Delta t)$
average excited-level population	$\sigma_e(\infty) = \frac{\Omega_{cw}^2}{\gamma^2 + 2\Omega_{cw}^2}$	$\sigma_e(av) = \frac{(1 - \exp[-\gamma t_p])}{t_p (1 + \exp[-\gamma t_p])}$

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