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## TWO-PHOTON SPECTROSCOPY IN ANTHRACENE\*f

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Following the first observation of two-photon absorption by two red ruby photons in anthracene single crystals<sup>1,2</sup> a lively debate has developed about the nature of the transition and the type of excited state involved. Assuming that the observed effect was due to a secondorder dipolar transition it was suggested that (1) an electronic state of even parity<sup>2</sup> or (2) a vibronic state of even parity<sup>3,4</sup> existed in the region of photon energies of twice the rubylaser photon energy. Alternatively it was proposed<sup>5</sup> that the effect was caused by the  $(A \cdot A)$ interaction term of the Hamiltonian. Proposals meraction term of the namificant. Proposal<br>and measurements performed<sup>3-9</sup> to settle these questions have all concentrated on the behavior of the absorption of two laser photons.

We would like to report results of a different experimental approach to the problem, nameent experimental approach to the problem,<br>ly, that of two-photon spectroscopy.<sup>10</sup> A Nd laser source used in combination with a flashtube source of variable photon energy allowed one to investigate the two-photon spectrum from 3.20 to 4.25 eV by directly measuring the absorption of light of the variable source during the laser burst. Figure 1 shows the coincidence of the two-photon absorption signal with the laser pulse. As shown, a particularly good signal-to-noise ratio was achieved through a setup improved over previously used appara<br>tus.<sup>11</sup> Important changes in the earlier appa tus.<sup>11</sup> Important changes in the earlier apparatus include the following: (a) An additional monochromator was placed between the highintensity flash tube (variable source) and the sample to avoid a population of the triplet state of the anthracene; (b) the intensity of the flash tube output was greatly enhanced by decreasing the pulse duration from 1 msec to 50  $\mu$ sec, a delay line being used to assure the proper timing of the laser pulse with the maximum output of the flash-tube pulse; (c) the plane of polarization of the laser source could be turned by  $90^\circ$  using a crystalline quartz rotor;



FIG. 1. Coincidence of the laser signal (lower trace) and the two-photon absorption signal (upper trace). Absorption gives rise to an upward signal on the oscilloscope.

(d) a Nd laser was used to avoid two-photon absorption by two laser photons and subsequent emission of blue light.

Typical results<sup>12,13</sup> are shown in Fig. 2. The two different vibronic spectra, type I and type II, were also obtained for a variety of other polarization combinations and crystal orientations and for crystals from different suppliers. In all cases type-I spectra were observed only if the light from the variable source was polarized parallel to the crystal  $b$  axis and type-II spectra only if polarized perpendicular to the  $b$  axis. Different polarization of the laser light with respect to the crystal axes gave identical spectra with about the same strength.

For an incident photon flux of  $N_L = 5 \times 10^{25}$ laser photons/ $\text{cm}^2$  sec, the observed effect is of the order of  $10\%$  transmission change (at 3.85 eV) for a 2.5-cm long crystal. We calculate an absorption constant  $K = 4 \times 10^{-2}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>



FIG. 2. Two-photon spectrum of anthracene single crystals. The relative change in transmission  $\Delta I/I_0$ of the light from a source of variable photon energy is plotted versus the combined photon energy of both sources. For the type-I spectrum the laser light and the light from the variable source were both polarized along the crystal  $b$  axis. For the type-II spectrum the laser light was polarized along the crystal  $a$  axis; the light from the variable source was unpolarized in a plane perpendicular to the crystal  $b$  axis.

and an absorption cross section of  $\sigma = 10^{-23}$ cm<sup>2</sup>. Dividing by the laser flux we get  $\sigma/N_L$ =  $2 \times 10^{-49}$  cm<sup>4</sup> sec/photon and  $K/N_L = 8 \times 10^{-28}$ cm sec/photon. These values are in agreement with those reported by Hall, Jennings, and Mc-Clintock,<sup>14</sup> Hasegawa and Yoshimura,<sup>15</sup> and Weisz et al.,<sup>16</sup> if one considers the different energy position  $(3.56 \text{ eV})$  and the different size of the resonant denominator $17,18$  for the absorption of two red ruby photons. Absorption of two Raman-shifted laser photons was also reported<sup>3</sup> at 3.18 eV. We did not find two-photon absorption in the region of  $2.3-3.45$  eV; the signal-to-noise ratio in this region is poor, however.

The steep rise of the effect towards higher photon energies is interpreted as being due to a dominant resonance denominator  $(E_C I - h\nu_i)^2$ which appears in second-order dipolar transitions<sup>17,18</sup> involving the  $(\vec{p} \cdot \vec{A})$  term of the interaction Hamiltonian.  $E_{GI}$  is the energy difference between an intermediate state  $I$  and a ground state G and  $h\nu_{\eta}$  is the energy of photons from the variable light source. This interpretation is favored by the fact that values of  $E_{CI}$  extrapolated from the results fall into the known, lowest odd-parity absorption bands of  $A_{11}$  and  $B_u$  symmetry around 25300 cm<sup>-1</sup> (3.13 eV)<br>above the ground state.<sup>19-22</sup> Taken together with the experimental evidence of the dependence of the effect on the polarization of the variable light source, these facts suggest that an electronic intermediate level of  $A_{\rm u}$  symmetry at  $25\,213\,$  cm<sup>-1</sup> (3.1255 eV) for type-I spectra<sup>19</sup> and an intermediate level of  $B_{\rm u}$  symmetry at 25 432 cm<sup>-1</sup> (3.1526 eV) for type-II spectra<sup>19</sup> contribute mainly to the observed effect.<sup>23</sup> In order to isolate the vibronic structure we multiplied the absorption constant  $K$  (calculated from the results of Fig. 2) by a factor  $F = \alpha (E_{GI})$  $-h\nu_{\nu}$ )<sup>2</sup>/h $\nu_{\nu}$ , where  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary constant. The resultant vibronic structure, shown in Fig. 3, can be tentatively assigned to well-known  $a_{\varphi}$  modes<sup>19-22</sup> of 350 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1410 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1170  $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ , and combinations thereof.

We suggest then the existence of two different final states of even parity located at 3.48 and 3.58 eV, respectively, of mixed  $A_g$  and  $B_{\rm g}$  symmetry. These final states might be evenparity electronic states in agreement with lowest two calculated<sup>24</sup> levels of  $B_{1g}$  and  $A_{1g}$  symmetry<sup>25</sup> in the molecule, which would both split into  $A_g$  and  $B_g$  sublevels in the crystal. Their calculated positions<sup>24</sup> in the molecule are around



FIG. 3. The absorption constant  $K$  (calculated from the results of Fig. 2) is here multiplied by  $F = \alpha(E_{GI})$  $-hv_{\nu}$ )<sup>2</sup>/hv<sub>1</sub>, using values of the electronic transition energies of the  $A_{\text{u}}$  and  $B_{\text{u}}$  levels of Ref. 19 for  $E_{GI}$  $(E_{GI} = 3.1255 \text{ eV} \text{ for type-I spectra and } E_{GI} = 3.1526 \text{ eV}$ for type-II spectra).

5 eV, however. On the other hand, the final states might be vibronic states. Their energy position arises then from a, combination of odd-parity electronic states and odd-parity vibrations. The well-known electronic states at  $25\,300\ \text{cm}^{-1}$   $(3.13\ \text{eV})$  as well as a state of  $B_{3u}$  symmetry in the molecule,<sup>26</sup> calculated by Pariser, $^{24}$  are candidates.

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FIG. 1. Coincidence of the laser signal (lower trace) and the two-photon absorption signal (upper trace). Absorption gives rise to an upward signal on the oscilloscope.