

GENERATION OF INFRARED RADIATION BY STIMULATED RAMAN SCATTERING IN LIQUID AND SOLID PARAHYDROGEN

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We report the results of our preliminary investigations into the suitability of condensed phase parahydrogen as a Raman-shifting medium for the generation of tunable infrared radiation for cavity ringdown laser absorption spectroscopy (CRLAS). We have observed the conversion of ~ 10 ns pulses of 532 nm radiation into first-, second-, and third-order vibrational Stokes radiation in bulk liquid and solid parahydrogen after a single 11-cm pass. Surprisingly, we find that liquid-H₂ yields more efficient conversion than solid-H₂ with certain focal geometries, and that in the case of the solid, a collimated or loosely focused pump geometry is more efficient than a tight focus. We also will discuss our more recent studies of Raman shifting using the longer (~ 100 ns) pulses of an alexandrite laser.

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