KINETICS OF VIBRATIONAL UP-PUMPING STUDIED BY STEP-SCAN FOURIER TRANSFORM SPECTROSCOPY

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Gaseous CO in an Ar diluent is prepared in vibrational state $v = 1$ by absorption of pulsed CO laser radiation. Energy subsequently diffuses into higher vibrational states (to $v = 40$) by vibration-to-vibration exchange pumping. This diffusion of energy through vibrational quantum states is observed by step-scan FTIR emission spectroscopy on the 1st overtone CO bands. The method permits monitoring of the time evolution of the vibrational state populations during the exchange pumping process. $\Delta v = 2$ emission spectra at 1 cm^{-1} resolution and 50 μsec time intervals are obtained. Vibrational state-resolved energy exchange rates are inferred from these measurements. In addition, state-resolved associative ionization rates for collisions of vibrationally excited CO are inferred.

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