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OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS OF ION-PAIR TRANSITIONS OF I, COOLED IN A SUPERSONIC FREE-JET **EXPANSION**

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The A' state of I₂ was observed for the first time in a free-jet expansion, where it was prepared by ArF laser excitation of I_2/Ar mixtures close to the nozzle^a. Twenty-seven bands in the v'' = 0 progression of the D' - A' transition were studied by laser excitation spectroscopy, leading to the following improved constants (cm⁻¹) for the A' and D' states:

$$B_0'' = 0.028054$$
, $B_e' = 0.020526$, $\alpha_{e'} = 5.3 \times 10^{-5}$, $\omega_{e'} = 103.953$, $\omega_{e} x_{e'} = 0.2097$, $\omega_{e} y_{e'} = 2.687 \times 10^{-4}$.

Many bands of the β - A transition have also been observed. These originate from A, v'' = 0, and terminate on levels with $25 \le v' \le 68$ of the β state. Full analyses of both band systems will be presented.

^aJ. Tellinghuisen, S. Fei, X. Zheng, and M.C. Heaven, Chem. Phys. Lett. 176, 373 (1991).

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