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OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS OF ION-PAIR TRANSITIONS OF I_2 COOLED IN A SUPERSONIC FREE-JET EXPANSION

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The ANstate of I_2 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 vO = 0 progression of the DN- ANtransition were studied by laser excitation spectroscopy, leading to the following improved constants (cm⁻¹) for the ANand DNstates:

$$\begin{split} &B_0 \text{O} = 0.028054, \ B_e \text{N} = 0.020526, \ \textbf{"}_e \text{N} = 5.3 \text{x} 10^{\text{-5}}, \\ &\textbf{T}_e \text{N} = 103.953, \ \textbf{T}_e x_e \text{N} = 0.2097, \ \textbf{T}_e y_e \text{N} = 2.687 \text{x} 10^{\text{-4}}. \end{split}$$

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

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

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