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THE TWO-PHOTON EXCITATION SPECTRUM OF TRIPHENYLENE IN N-HEPTANE--ETC(U)

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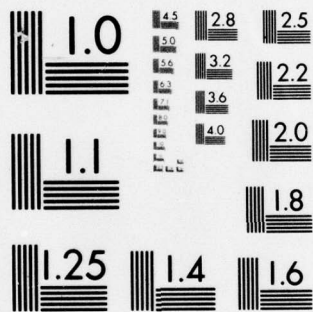
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Contract No. ¹⁵ N00014-75-C-0602

Task No. NR-056-498

9 Interim TECHNICAL REPORT, p. 29

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Prepared for Publication

in

Chemical Physics Letters

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER Technical Report No. 29 ✓	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) THE TWO-PHOTON EXCITATION SPECTRUM OF TRIPHENYLENE IN n-HEPTANE SINGLE CRYSTALS		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Interim Technical Report ✓
		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7. AUTHOR(s) Anne-Marie Merle, Alan Campion and M. A. El-Sayed		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) N00014-75-C-0602 ✓
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Regents of the University of California University of California, 405 Hilgard Ave. Los Angeles, California 90024		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS NR-056-498
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS Office of Naval Research Chemistry Branch Arlington, Virginia 22217		12. REPORT DATE April 19, 1978 ✓
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office) Office of Naval Research Branch Office 1030 East Green Street Pasadena, California 91106		13. NUMBER OF PAGES 13
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Distribution of this document is unlimited.		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) UNCLASSIFIED
		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES To be published in Chemical Physics Letters		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Two-photon processes Triphenylene Excited states Assignments of electronic states		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) A comparison of the one- and two-photon absorption spectra of triphenylene in n-heptane single crystals at 1.6 K reveals that the lowest singlet state (S_1) is of D_{2h} symmetry while the second singlet state (S_2) has D_{2h} symmetry, in contradiction with the commonly accepted assignment.		

The Two-Photon Excitation Spectrum of Triphenylene
in n-Heptane Single Crystals

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Abstract

A comparison of the one- and two-photon absorption spectra of triphenylene in n-heptane single crystals at 1.6 K reveals that the lowest singlet state (S_1) is of 1A_1 symmetry while the second singlet state (S_2) has 1A_2 symmetry, in contradiction with the commonly accepted assignment.

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I. Introduction

The lowest two excited singlet electronic states of triphenylene are observed at 29200 cm^{-1} and 33200 cm^{-1} and have been assigned as the 1L_b and 1L_a states respectively.⁽¹⁾ Calculation predicts these states to lie 30000 cm^{-1} (1L_b) and 33500 cm^{-1} (1L_a) above the ground state.^(2,3) Their transitions to the ground state are electric dipole forbidden. The commonly accepted assignments⁽⁴⁻⁶⁾ for the symmetry of these states is based upon the correlation between the D_{6h} (benzene) and D_{3h} (triphenylene) point groups leading to an A'_2 symmetry for S_1 and an A'_1 symmetry for S_2 . Unfortunately, however, this assignment was made assuming that the C'_2 axis (which passes through the carbon atoms) is preserved upon symmetry reduction. Since the C''_2 axis (which bisects the C-C bonds) is in fact the symmetry axis that is retained, the correct correlation predicts that the lowest excited singlet state S_1 should have A'_1 symmetry and S_2 should have A'_2 symmetry. Unfortunately, the one-photon selection rules predict the transitions from the ground state to either the ${}^1A'_1$ or ${}^1A'_2$ excited states to be symmetry forbidden. Thus the analysis of the previously observed fluorescence spectrum^(5,7) cannot distinguish between a ${}^1A'_1$ or a ${}^1A'_2$ assignment for the lowest excited state.

One-photon spectroscopy is unable to make a definitive assignment of the first two excited singlet states of triphenylene. Two-photon spectroscopy, however, appears to be an appropriate technique for making a distinction between the two possible ${}^1A'_1$ and ${}^1A'_2$ assignments. The selection rules^(8,9) for two-photon absorption predict that the transition from the ground state to a ${}^1A'_1$ excited state is symmetry allowed whereas transitions to the ${}^1A'_2$ excited state are symmetry forbidden.

The two-photon excitation spectrum of the second singlet state of triphenylene in polymethylmethacrylate at 77 K has been reported.⁽⁶⁾ A broad structureless band centered at 33200 cm^{-1} was observed and attributed to the 0,0 transition of an

allowed $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$ transition. The authors concluded that S_2 has a ${}^1A'_1$ symmetry and consequently S_1 has a ${}^1A'_2$ symmetry. The use of a glass matrix prevented the observation of any structure in the spectrum and, in particular, of a weak 0,0 transition indicative of a forbidden two-photon $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$ transition (as predicted by the $D_{6h} \rightarrow D_{3h}$ correlation described above). The definitive symmetry assignment of the electronic states of triphenylene required the examination of the high resolution two-photon spectrum. In this letter we give the results on the two-photon excitation spectrum of triphenylene in an *n*-heptane single crystal (Shpol'skii's matrix) at 1.6 K. This matrix is quite appropriate for such a study as it exhibits the Shpol'skii effect so that the electronic spectra of the guest are sharp and (for triphenylene in *n*-heptane) they do not exhibit the multiplet structure often observed in Shpol'skii spectra of other systems. The use of single crystals appeared to be an experimental requirement for the observation of the two-photon spectrum as it minimizes the scattered light. It has furthermore been shown^(10,11) that they allow the study of oriented isolated guest molecules so that the polarization of the two-photon spectrum can also be investigated in these crystals. The orientation of triphenylene in *n*-heptane single crystals has been previously determined by ESR⁽¹²⁾ and the molecule has been found to lie in the substitutional plane of the lattice defined by the heptane chain axis and the crystallographic (c) axis.⁽¹¹⁾

The two-photon excitation spectrum of triphenylene has been obtained by monitoring the phosphorescence emission, a technique which was first used on pyrazine crystals.⁽⁹⁾ This method is suitable for triphenylene, as its quantum yield of phosphorescence is an order of magnitude higher than that for fluorescence.⁽¹³⁾ A comparison of the observed sharp one- and two-photon spectra clearly shows that, contrary to previous work, S_1 is of ${}^1A'_1$ symmetry and S_2 is of ${}^1A'_2$ symmetry.

II. Experimental

Triphenylene and heptane were obtained from Fluka. Single crystals were grown by slowly cooling the degassed solutions, and were cleaved along the (ab) and (ac) faces. All spectra were taken at 1.6 K.

A Molelectron DL-200 N₂ laser pumped dye laser was used as the excitation source and a gated photon counter⁽⁹⁾ measured the intensity of the undispersed phosphorescence, which was detected by an EMI 6256S photomultiplier. The photomultiplier was protected from scattered laser light by a Corning 7-59 glass filter. The laser intensity was monitored by a Motorola MRD-500 photodiode whose output was fed into a PAR 162 boxcar integrator with the 163 sampling head (1 ns aperture). The laser wavelength, laser intensity and phosphorescence intensity data were processed by an on-line PDP-11/45 computer, which normalized the spectrum to an I^2 dependence.

Four dye solutions covered the wavelength range 6850 to 5950 Å: Nile blue and Rhodamine B, Cresyl Violet and Rhodamine 6G, Rhodamine B, and Rhodamine 6G.

The laser light was polarized by an extra-cavity linear polarizer and the plane of polarization was then rotated by a half-wave Fresnel Rhomb to the desired angle.

III. Results

1. Assignment of the first excited singlet state (S_1) of triphenylene:

The normalized two-photon excitation spectrum of S_1 is presented in Fig. 1B. An interpretation of this spectrum is made easier by comparing it with the one-photon excitation spectrum which is presented in Fig. 1A. The vibronic analysis of this latter spectrum has never been reported. The 0,0 transition is forbidden but appears very weakly at 3430.5 Å because of the reduced symmetry of triphenylene due to matrix effects. The prominent vibrations of the one-photon excitation spectrum have e' symmetry and occur at frequencies very close

to those observed in the fluorescence spectrum (Table 1).^(5,7) The high intensity of the $0,780\text{ cm}^{-1}$ band in the one-photon spectrum allows us to assign it as a false origin. This is confirmed by the fact that the a_1' vibrations -- 424 cm^{-1} , 666 cm^{-1} , 1147 cm^{-1} , 1227 cm^{-1} and 1346 cm^{-1} -- appear in the one-photon spectrum built on the $0,780\text{ cm}^{-1}$ false origin. The general features of the one-photon spectrum, i.e., the weak 0,0 band, and the strong e' false origin bands on which totally symmetric vibrations are built, leave little doubt that the one-photon transition to S_1 is symmetry forbidden.

The most striking feature in the two-photon spectrum, on the other hand, is the strong intensity of its 0,0 band at $6860.9\text{ \AA}$ (29151 cm^{-1}) which appears as the most intense band in the spectrum. The analysis of the two-photon vibronic structure is summarized in Table 1. The spectrum is composed mainly of totally symmetric a_1' vibrations, which confirms that it is two-photon allowed. Note that the main e' vibrations appearing as false origins in the one-photon excitation spectrum do not appear in the two-photon spectrum. Thus the analysis of the two-photon spectrum strongly suggests that the $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$ transition is two-photon allowed. This conclusion, combined with the fact that this transition is one-photon forbidden, leads to the assignment of $^1A_1'$ (and not $^1A_2'$ as was previously given)⁽⁶⁾ for the S_1 state in triphenylene.

Polarization measurements on the two-photon spectrum provide evidence that the 0,0 band and the totally symmetric vibrations are in-plane polarized since the maximum intensity ($I_{\parallel}$) was observed when the light was polarized along the direction of the intersection between the triphenylene plane and the crystallographic (ab) or (ac) faces.⁽¹¹⁾ When the light was polarized perpendicularly to this direction, the intensity ($I_{\perp}$) was observed to be 10% of the value found for $I_{\parallel}$. In-plane polarization of the 0,0 band suggests that the virtual intermediate state of the two-photon process is a $\pi, \pi^* E'$ state. The other possible intermediate state is a $\sigma, \pi^* A_2''$ state which would give rise to an out-

of-plane polarization. A π, π^* intermediate state is however more likely as transitions to these states are known to have oscillator strengths which are much higher than those for σ, π states.

2. Assignment of the second excited singlet state (S_2):

The one- and two-photon excitation spectra of the $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$ transition are presented in Figs. 2A and 2B and show much broader bands than the S_1 excitation spectra. There is a strong similarity between these two spectra which suggests without further analysis that the two-photon spectrum is, as is the one-photon spectrum, electric dipole forbidden. Therefore only the vibrational analysis of the two-photon spectrum is presented in Table 2.

The interpretation of the excitation spectrum to the S_2 state is made more difficult because of possible overlapping with bands that belong to the $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$ transition. Neither the one- or two-photon spectra shows an intense band in the predicted region of the 0,0 transition but only a very weak band at 32403 cm^{-1} . The fact that the main e' vibrations of triphenylene can be found built on this band strongly suggests that it is the 0,0 transition. This assignment corresponds to a gap of 2890 cm^{-1} between the first and second singlet states and is in agreement with the value of 2830 cm^{-1} which has been calculated.⁽¹⁴⁾ The weakness of this band, the great similarity between the one- and two-photon spectra, and the occurrence of non-totally symmetric vibrations allow us to conclude that the two-photon excitation spectrum is electric dipole forbidden and induced by vibronic coupling.

We can thus assign a ${}^1A_2'$ symmetry to the second excited singlet state of triphenylene as its excitation spectrum is both one- and two-photon forbidden. This spectrum is vibronically induced by coupling with E' and E'' higher excited singlet states, as the main e' and some e'' vibrations that appear in the one-photon excitation spectrum of S_1 can also be detected in the S_2 spectrum.

IV. Conclusion

A comparison of the observed one- and two-photon spectra of triphenylene has allowed us to assign the symmetries of the first two excited singlet states S_1, S_2 of triphenylene. The large differences between the observed one- and two-photon spectra of S_1 provide strong evidence that S_1 has a $^1A_1'$ symmetry (to which one-photon transition is forbidden but two-photon absorption is allowed).

On the contrary, the similarity of the one- and two-photon spectra of S_2 , which appear to result from symmetry forbidden transitions in both cases, proves that this state has a $^1A_2'$ symmetry.

Acknowledgment: The authors wish to thank the U.S. Office of Naval Research for financial support.

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Table 1. The analysis[†] of the one- and two-photon excitation spectra of the $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$ transition.

one-photon excitation of S_1		Possible assignment and ground state vibrations		two-photon excitation of S_1	
$h\nu$ cm ⁻¹	$\Delta\nu$ cm ⁻¹			$2 \times h\nu$ cm ⁻¹	$\Delta\nu$ cm ⁻¹
29150 w			0,0	29151 s	
29403 w	253	e'	254		
29425 m	275	e''	279		
		a ₁ '	418	29575 w	424
29775 m	625	e'	619		
		a ₁ '	685	29817 m	666
29931 s	781	e'	775		
		e''	936	30086 m	935
30202 w	1052	e'	1052	30198 w	1047
		a ₁ '	1180	30298 m	1147
30340 w	1190	e'	1187		
		a ₁ '	1230	30378 m	1227
30440 w	1290	e'	1300	30442 w	1291
				30456 m	1305
		2 × a ₁ '	(667)	30478 w	1327
		a ₁ '	1346	30497 m	1346
30506 m	1356				
				30525 m	1374
30581 w	1431	e'	1434		
		a ₁ '	1458	30600 w	1449
30609 m	1459	e'	1497		
30652 w	1502	e'	1505	30656 w	1505
		a ₁ '	1550	30663 m	1512
30750 w	1600	e' + a ₁ '	(253+1346)		
30969 w	1819	e' + a ₁ '	(780+1148)		
		3 × a ₁ '	(667)	31138 w	1987
31177 w	2027	e' + a ₁ '	(780+1227)		
31299 m	2149	e' + a ₁ '	(780+1344)		
31367 m	2217	e' + a ₁ '	(780+1449)		
		2 × a ₁ '	(1148)	31456 w	2305
		2 × a ₁ '	(1399)	31822 w	2671
31888	2738	e' + a ₁ '	(1293+1449)		
		2 × a ₁ '	(1379)	31898 w	2747
31969	2819				

[†] The symmetry assignment has been made in comparison with the fundamental frequencies in the IR and Raman spectra.¹⁵

Table 2. Analysis[†] of the two-photon excitation spectrum of the $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$ transition.

two-photon excitation of S_2		possible assign- ment and ground state vibrations	
$2 \times h\nu \text{ cm}^{-1}$	$\Delta\nu \text{ cm}^{-1}$		
32043 w			0,0
32668 s	625	e'	619
32770 s	727	e''	711
32840 s	797	e'	780
32857	814		
32928 m	885	e''	868
32966 m	923	e''	936
33096 w	1053	e'	1052
33204 w	1161	e'	1162
33295 w	1291	e'	1300
33400 w	1357		
33444 w	1401	e'	1434

[†] The symmetry assignment has been made by comparison with the ground state frequencies.¹⁵

FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. A comparison (on the same energy scale) of the one- (A) and two- (B) photon excitation spectra of triphenylene in n-heptane single crystals at 1.6 K in the $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$ absorption region.

Figure 2. The one- (A) and two- (B) photon excitation spectra of triphenylene in n-heptane single crystals at 1.6 K in the $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$ absorption region.

