Pump-probe spectra and nuclear dynamics for a dissipative molecular system in a strong laser field: predissociation dynamics

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Abstract

The predissociation dynamics of a molecular system under a strong laser field in the condensed phase is investigated by direct numerical integration of the multi-state quantum Fokker-Planck equation. Numerical calculations of probe absorption spectra driven by a strong pump pulse are presented, and discussed. The results show dynamical Stark splitting, but, in contrast to the Bloch equations which contain an infinite-temperature dephasing, we find that at finite temperatures their peaks have different heights even when the pump pulse is on resonance. Furthermore we observe the effect of the diabatic coupling between excited and dissociative states as the peaks on the spectra.

1. Introduction

Progress in ultrafast experimental techniques propel not only the linear but also the nonlinear spectroscopy, which provide a direct means for studying nuclear dynamics in the condensed phase. Further the laser techniques become to allow high intensity and short pulse. One of the central questions is whether the interaction between the high-intensity electromagnetic field and the molecule gives rise to new phenomena which do not occur under "normal" conditions, i.e. low intensities and large pulse durations [1–4].

On the other hand, the predissociation, caused by curve crossing between bound and dissociative states, is interesting phenomenon. Photoinduced dissociation and chemical reaction connect to this phenomenon directly and are studied extensively [5–8].

In the previous study we calculated the pump-probe spectra for displaced harmonic and Morse oscillators system in the strong laser field using the multi-state Fokker-Planck equation for a Gaussian-Markovian noise bath [9,10]. The results showed the effect of finite temperature as well as anharmonicity of a potential, which would not be obtained from the optical Bloch equation [11,12] or the stochastic Liouville equation [13] approach. In this paper, we investigate the probe absorption spectra for a Morse potentials system with a dissociative state in a strong laser field. Our aim is to observe the effect of diabatic coupling between the excited and dissociative states under the strong laser field.

2. Pump-probe spectroscopy

We consider a molecular system with electronic states denoted by $|j\rangle$. The Hamiltonian of the system is

$$H_S = \frac{p^2}{2M} + \sum_j \sum_k |j\rangle U_{jk}(q) \langle k|.$$ (1)
Here, $q$ is a nuclear coordinate strongly coupled to the
electronic state and $p$ is its conjugate momentum. The diagonal element $U_{j,j}(q)$
is the potential surface of the $j$th electronic surface, and the off-diagonal
element $U_{j,k}(q)$ with $j \neq k$ represents the diabatic coupling between
the $j$th and the $k$th states. In this paper, we study a pump-probe experiment in
a three-level system with Morse potential surfaces
denoted by $|g\rangle$, $|e\rangle$ and $|e'\rangle$ (Fig. 1). The transition
frequency between $g$ and $e$ is denoted by $\omega_{ge}$.
We assume that the system is initially in the ground equilibrium state $\rho = |g\rangle \langle g|$, where $\rho_g$ is the equilibirum distribution function of the ground potential surface. In pump-probe experiment, the system is subjected to two light pulses: a strong pump pulse and a weak probe whose frequencies and wave vectors are denoted by $\Omega_1$, $k_1$ and $\Omega_2$, $k_2$, respectively. We assume that $\Omega_1$ and $\Omega_2$ are close to the electronic transition frequency between $g$ and $e$. The total Hamiltonian in the rotating wave approximation is then given by
\begin{equation}
H_A(t) = H_0 + E_i(t)\left(e^{i\tau - i\Omega_1\tau} \hat{\mu}_1^+ + e^{-i\tau + i\Omega_1\tau} \hat{\mu}_1^- \right) + E_2(t)\left(e^{i\tau - i\Omega_2\tau} \hat{\mu}_2^+ + e^{-i\tau + i\Omega_2\tau} \hat{\mu}_2^- \right),
\end{equation}
where $E_i(t)$ and $E_2(t)$ are the temporal envelopes of the
pump and probe pulses, $\hat{\mu}_1^+ = \mu |e\rangle \langle g|$ and $\hat{\mu}_1^- = \mu |g\rangle \langle e|$ are the dipole operators of pump pulse and
$\hat{\mu}_2^+ = \mu |e\rangle \langle g|$ and $\hat{\mu}_2^- = \mu |g\rangle \langle e|$ are ones of probe pulse. In order to calculate probe absorption spectra, we employed the following procedure [9,10]. First

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{fig1.png}
\caption{Potential surfaces of the displaced Morse oscillators system with the dissociative state. The resonant frequency between $|g\rangle$ and $|e\rangle$ is expressed by $\omega_{ge}$.
}
\end{figure}

we consider the evolution of the system subject only
to the pump field. The Hamiltonian is then given by
\begin{equation}
H_A^p(t) = H_0 + E_i(t)\left(e^{i\tau - i\Omega_1\tau} \hat{\mu}_1^+ + e^{-i\tau + i\Omega_1\tau} \hat{\mu}_1^- \right).
\end{equation}
The corresponding solution of the Liouville equation is denoted $\rho^0(t)$:
\begin{equation}
\frac{d}{dt} \rho^0(t) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \left[H_A^p(t), \rho^0(t)\right].
\end{equation}
We next introduce a modified Hamiltonian which includes only the negative frequency component of the probe pulse $E_2$
\begin{equation}
H_A(t) \equiv H_A^0(t) + E_2(t) e^{-i\Omega_2\tau} \hat{\mu}_2^+.
\end{equation}
The solution of the Liouville equation with this Hamiltonian will be denoted $\rho'(t)$:
\begin{equation}
\frac{d}{dt} \rho'(t) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \left[H_A(t), \rho'(t)\right].
\end{equation}
If we expand $\rho'(t)$ to first order in the probe, we obtain
\begin{equation}
P_{s}(t) \approx 2\text{tr} \left[ \mu_2^- \left( \rho'(t) - \rho^0(t) \right) \right] = -i \int_{-\infty}^{t} d\tau' E_2(\tau') \times e^{-i\Omega_2\tau'} \left[ \mu_2^- \left( \mu_2^+ \left( \rho'(t) - \rho^0(t) \right) \right) \right] + \ldots .
\end{equation}
The above expression agrees with the intensity of the probe absorption. We can thus calculate the probe absorption with the frequency $\omega_2$ by subtracting two solutions of the Liouville equation, which can be expressed in the form
\begin{equation}
S(\omega_2) = -\sqrt{\frac{8}{\pi}} \text{Im} \left\{ E_2[\omega_2] \times \int dt e^{i\omega_2 t} \text{tr} \left[ \mu_2^- \left( \rho'(t) - \rho^0(t) \right) \right] \right\},
\end{equation}
where $E_2[\omega_2]$ is the Fourier transform of the probe field amplitude. This scheme can be applied to a system driven by pump pulses of arbitrary number, shape, and strength.
3. Quantum Fokker-Planck equation for a multi-state system interacting with a Gaussian-Markovian noise bath

We now include an environment consisting of a set of harmonic oscillators with coordinates $x_n$ and momenta $p_n$. The interaction between the system and the $n$th oscillator is assumed to be linear with a coupling strength $c_n$. The total Hamiltonian is then given by

$$H(t) = H_s(t) + \sum_n \left[ \frac{p_n^2}{2m_n} + \frac{m_n\omega_n^2}{2} \left( x_n - \frac{c_n q}{m_n\omega_n^2} \right)^2 \right]. \tag{9}$$

The character of the heat-bath is specified by the spectral distribution: All information about the bath which is required for a reduced description of the system dynamics, is contained in its initial temperature and its spectral density. We assume the Ohmic dissipation with the Lorentzian cutoff,

$$J(\omega) = \frac{M\xi}{2\pi} \omega^2 \frac{\omega^2}{\gamma^2 + \omega^2}. \tag{10}$$

With the assumption of the high temperature bath $\beta\hbar\gamma \ll 1$, this spectral density represents a Gaussian-Markovian noise where the symmetric correlation function of the noise induced by the heat-bath, is proportional to $M\xi \gamma e^{-\gamma t}/\beta$. Thus, $\zeta$ and $\gamma$ correspond to the friction and the relaxation time of the noise, respectively. In this case, one can trace over the heat-bath degrees of freedom and obtain the equation of motion in the hierarchy form [14–16]. The important point is that the restriction does not involve the system characteristics frequencies (which can be small or large compared to $\beta^{-1}$), but only a high temperature requirement with respect to the bath parameters, which is much easier to meet. In the following, we employ the Wigner distribution [17,18] defined by

$$W_{jk}(P,R;t) = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dr e^{iP\dot{r}/\hbar} p_j(R - r/2, R + r/2;t). \tag{11}$$

For the $n$th member of hierarchy, $W_{jk}^{(n)}$, where $j$ and $k$ represent diabatic states, the equation of motion is expressed as [19]

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} W_{jk}^{(n)}(P,R;t) = - \frac{P}{M} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} W_{jk}^{(n)}(P,R;t) - \frac{1}{\hbar} \int \frac{dP'}{2\pi\hbar}$$

$$\times \sum_m \left[ X_{jm}(P - P',R;t) W_{mj}^{(n)}(P',R;t) + X_{jm}^*(P - P',R;t) W_{mj}^{(n)}(P',R;t) \right]$$

$$- n\gamma W_{jk}^{(n)}(P,R;t) + \frac{\partial}{\partial P} W_{jk}^{(n-1)}(P,R;t) + n\zeta \gamma \left( P + \frac{M}{\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial P} \right) W_{jk}^{(n-1)}(P,R;t). \tag{12}$$

and anchor equation for large $N$ ($N\gamma \gg \omega_0$: $\omega_0$ is the characteristic frequency of the system)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} W_{jk}^{(N)}(P,R;t) = - \frac{P}{M} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} W_{jk}^{(N)}(P,R;t) - \frac{1}{\hbar} \int \frac{dP'}{2\pi\hbar}$$

$$\times \sum_m \left[ X_{jm}(P - P',R;t) W_{mj}^{(N)}(P',R;t) + X_{jm}^*(P - P',R;t) W_{mj}^{(N)}(P',R;t) \right]$$

$$- N\gamma W_{jk}^{(N)}(P,R;t) + \frac{\partial}{\partial P} W_{jk}^{(N-1)}(P,R;t) + N\zeta \gamma \left( P + \frac{M}{\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial P} \right) W_{jk}^{(N-1)}(P,R;t). \tag{13}$$

Here, $\zeta$ is the friction constant and

$$X_{ij}(P,R;t) = i \int dr e^{iP\dot{r}/\hbar} U_{ij}(R - r/2;t),$$

$$X_{ij}^*(P,R;t) = -i \int dr e^{iP\dot{r}/\hbar} U_{ij}(R + r/2;t) \tag{14}$$

are the Fourier transform representation of the potential terms.
4. Numerical calculation

We consider the displaced Morse potentials system with the dissociative state defined by (see Fig. 1):

\[ U_{gs}(R) = E_g \left[ 1 - e^{-a(R-D_1)} \right]^2, \]

\[ U_{se}(R) = E_s \left[ 1 - e^{-a(R-D_2)} \right]^2 + \hbar \omega_{se}, \]

\[ U_{e'c}(R) = E_c e^{-2a(R-D_2)} + \hbar \omega_{ce}, \]

\[ U_{e'e}(R) = A \]

where \( E_g, a \) and \( D_1 \) are the dissociation energy, the curvature of the potential and the displacement, respectively. The excited state \( e \) is coupled diabatically to the dissociative state by constant force.

Hereafter, we employed the dimensionless coordinate and momentum defined by \( r = R/\hbar M \omega_0 \) and \( p = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{1}{M} \frac{1}{\hbar} p_0 - \omega_0 \), respectively. The displacement and curvature of the potential, \( D_1, D_2, a, \) etc. are also measured in this unit. We set \( E_g = 3649.5 \text{ cm}^{-1} \), \( a = 0.6361 \), and \( D_2 = 40.598 \) as the ground state of \( \text{Cs}_2 \) molecule [20,21], which has been studied by a variety of spectroscopic experiments. The fundamental frequency is then given by \( \omega_0 = 38.7 \text{ cm}^{-1} \). We calculate probe absorption spectra for the displacement \( D_2 = 43.598 \). For the dissociative state, the parameters were chosen to be \( a' = 0.6361 \) and \( A = 300 \text{ cm}^{-1} \), respectively. We have used the value of the inverse correlation time \( \gamma = 4.8 \text{ cm}^{-1} \), and the initial temperature \( T = 300 \text{ K} \), which satisfies the condition \( \beta \hbar \gamma = 0.023 \ll 1 \).

We first calculate the initial equilibrium state by integrating the equation of the motion from time \( t = -t_i \) to \( t = 0 \) with the temporally initial condition,

\[ W_{gs}^{(0)}(p, r; -t_i) = \exp \left[ -\beta \left( \hbar \omega_0 p^2/2 + U_{gs}(r) \right) \right], \]

\[ W_{eg}^{(0)}(p, r; -t_i) = 0. \]

Note that Eq. (16) is the equilibrium state of the system itself, but, it is not the equilibrium state of the total system, since it neglects the system-bath initial correlation, but we can obtain to "true" equilibrium state at \( t = 0 \), if we set \( |t_i| \) for a sufficiently longer time than the characteristic time of the system [15].

The numerical integration of the kinetic equations was performed by using second-order Runge-Kutta method for finite difference expressions of the momentum and the coordinate space. The size of grid was chosen to be 70 x 501 in the mesh range \(-17 < p < 17 \) and \( 33 < r < 78 \). We have taken into account \( N = 11 \) hierarchy elements for \( W^{(n)} \). We calculate the pump-probe spectra by integrating the equation of motion (12) and (13) instead of the Liouville equation following the procedure explained in Section 2.

We assume that pump and probe pulses are Gaussian

\[ E_1(t) = \theta_1 \exp \left[ -\left( t/t_1 \right)^2 \right], \]

\[ E_2(t) = \theta_2 \exp \left[ -\left( t - \tau \right)^2/\tau_2^2 \right], \]

with resonance central frequencies, i.e., \( \Omega_1 = \Omega_2 = \omega_{se} \). We measure the transition between the \( |g\rangle \) and \( |e\rangle \) states only. The pulse durations were taken to be \( \tau_1 = 700 \text{ fs} \) and \( \tau_2 = 30 \text{ fs} \), and the time delay was varied between \( \tau = -2.0 \text{ ps} \) and \( \tau = 1.0 \text{ ps} \), i.e., the pump and the probe pulse are overlapped. The pump intensity was \( \mu\theta_1 = 4.77 \text{ THz} \) and the probe weak \( \mu\theta_2 = 1.59 \text{ GHz} \). Considering ideal gas with pressure of 1 atm at 300 K, they are equivalent to \( 3.14 \times 10^6 \text{ W/m}^2 \) and \( 1.05 \times 10^5 \text{ W/m}^2 \), respectively, for the dipole moment \( \mu = 1 \text{ Debye} \).

In Fig. 2, we show the pump-probe spectra for the strong pulse excitation. The solid lines denote the spectra in the present predissociation case. To see the effects of the dissociative state, we also display the same results without the dissociative state which were given in Ref. [10] (the dashed lines). We set \( \Delta \omega = \omega - \omega_w \). The spectrum at \( \tau = -2.0 \text{ ps} \) is similar to the linear absorption spectrum, since the pump is weak and its effects are small at this early stage. The vibronic side-band peaks are observed in the probe absorption spectrum corresponding to various vibronic absorption-emission processes. The peak about \(-380 \text{ cm}^{-1} \) is attributed to the movement of the wavepacket during nonimpulsive probe detection. The curves at \( \tau = -1.5 \) and \( \tau = -1.0 \text{ ps} \) show the dips about \( 0 \text{ cm}^{-1} \) caused by the unbalance between the population and the coherent contribution of an.
Therefore at the beginning of the pump excitation additional levels are dark for the laser excitation. Since the laser interacts only between the energy at the crossing point. Such reduction of population in the e states induces the additional excitation from the g to e state, which appears as many new peaks in the absorption spectra. For \( \tau = 1.0 \) ps, the pump excitation becomes weak enough and the structure of vibronic bands is recovered.

Fig. 3 shows the time-evolution of the wavepackets \( W_{gg}(p,r;\tau) \), \( W_{ee}(p,r;\tau) \), and \( W_{ee}(p,r;\tau) \). In each figure, the upper one is for \( |e\rangle \) (the excited state), the middle one is for \( |e'\rangle \) (the dissociative state), and the lower one is for \( |g\rangle \) (the ground state). At \( \tau = -1.5 \) ps when the pump pulse is weak, the wavepacket is close to the shape of the ground equilibrium state. Since we considered the Gaussian (non impulsive) laser excitation, the wavepacket goes up and down between the ground and excited state potentials through the laser interaction, the shape of the ground state wavepacket is also changed. For \( \tau = -1.0 \) ps, the population of the excited state increases due to the strong pump pulse, and the population transfer from the g to e state takes place more quickly than that of the non-dissociative state case. The wavepacket created in the e state is forced by the potential and moves in the positive coordinate direction. At the \( \tau = -0.5 \) ps the wavepacket reaches and passes the curve crossing point (about \( r = 52 \)). Although we have used a coordinate independent diabatic coupling, the transition mainly takes place in the vicinity of the curve crossing point, and the e population suddenly increases when the e state wavepacket passes the crossing point. This is because of the potential difference between e and e' states \( \delta U(r) = |U_{ee}(r) - U_{ee'}(r)| \). The off-diagonal elements \( W_{ee'} \) and \( W_{ee'} \) are highly oscillatory functions of time at positions far from the curve crossing point, \( \delta U(r) \) is large. Thus, \( W_{ee'} \) can be large only near the crossing point, where \( \delta U(r) \) is small [19]. After passing the crossing point, the transferred wavepacket starts to move in the e' state potential surface. Since the wavepacket in the e' potential is not stable, the wavepacket in the e' state quickly
Fig. 3. The time-evolution of the wavepackets of the ground (|g⟩), excited (|e⟩) and dissociative (|e'⟩) states for strong pump excitation. In each figure, the upper one is for |e⟩, the middle one is for |e'⟩, and the lower one is for |g⟩.

moves to the positive (τ = −0.5 ps) and then goes out from the edge of potential (τ = 0.0 ps). Compare with the non-dissociative case, at τ = 0.0 ps, the positive momentum parts of the wavepackets on g and e are small due to predissociation. For τ = 0.0, 0.5 and 1.0 ps, the populations on g and e states slightly decreases and increases because of Rabi flopping, and the wavepackets oscillate on each po-
tential surfaces. After the pump pulse is vanished, those wavepackets will reach to the thermal equilibrium state of each potential surface after long time.

5. Conclusion

In this paper we calculate the pump-probe spectra and nuclear dynamics for a displaced Morse oscillators system with the dissociative state by using multi-state quantum Fokker-Planck equation for a Gaussian Markovian bath. The results show interplay between vibronic transitions and dynamical Stark splitting, and denote the effect of diabatic coupling between bound and dissociative states. In comparison with the spectra in displaced Morse oscillators, when the pump pulse is strong, many peaks appear on the spectra in the predissociation case, because of the reduction of population in the $e$ state through the diabatic coupling. The time evolution of the wavepacket shows the interplay of the predissociation and laser excitation in a dissipative environment.

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