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#### Abstract

1.1 Selective bond breaking mediated by few-cycle IR + UV laser pulses. The IR pulse creates a wave packet whose motion corresponds to the extension and compression of the bonds. When the bond of interest has been maximally extended, the wave packet is located at the turning point of the oscillation. At this time, an ultrashort UV pulse is applied that excites the wave packet vertically to a bond-selective region of the upper state. The pre-excited bond proceeds to break, resulting in the formation of one set of products.


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A half-cycle IR pulse orients the molecule in the space-fixed (laboratory) frame. A
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molecule, equivalent to pushing the center hydrogen away from its equilibrium position.
When displacement of the hydrogen is at a maximum, an ultrashort ( $t_{p} \approx 5 \mathrm{fs}$ ) UV
pulse is applied, whose frequency is sufficient to detach an electron from the anion.
The neutral species is now located primarily in a dissociation channel that corresponds
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The laser parameters for each HCP are:
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$E_{0,2}=-3.0 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, t_{0,2}=10 \mathrm{fs}$, and $t_{p 2}=10 \mathrm{fs}$;
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$E_{0,3}=3.0 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, t_{0,3}=23 \mathrm{fs}$, and $t_{p 3}=11 \mathrm{fs}$.
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## Breaking the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bond

IR pulse parameters: $E_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=3.2 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{IR}}=1565 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{IR}}=0, t_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=0 \mathrm{fs}$, and $t_{p, \mathrm{IR}}=50 \mathrm{fs}$.
UV pulse parameters: $E_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=5.0 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{UV}}=28228 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{UV}}=0, t_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=19 \mathrm{fs}$, and $t_{p, \mathrm{UV}}=5 \mathrm{fs}$.

## Breaking the $\mathbf{H}-\mathbf{F}$ bond

IR pulse parameters: $E_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=5.0 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{IR}}=1565 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{IR}}=0, t_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=0 \mathrm{fs}$, $t_{p, \mathrm{IR}}=50 \mathrm{fs}$.
UV pulse parameters: $E_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=8.0 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{UV}}=52423 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{UV}}=0, t_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=29 \mathrm{fs}$ and $t_{p, \mathrm{UV}}=5 \mathrm{fs}$.

## Breaking the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bond:

(a) Few-cycle IR + UV laser pulses achieve maximum $\mathrm{O}+$ HF fragmentation.

IR pulse parameters: $E_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=3.2 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{IR}}=1565 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{IR}}=0, t_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=0 \mathrm{fs}$, and $t_{p, \mathrm{IR}}=50 \mathrm{fs}$.
UV pulse parameters: $E_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=5.0 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{UV}}=28228 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{UV}}=0, t_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=19 \mathrm{fs}$, and $t_{p, \mathrm{UV}}=5 \mathrm{fs}$. (b) Time evolution of the branching ratio of the $\mathrm{O}+$ HF products (solid) versus $\mathrm{OH}+\mathrm{F}$ (dotted).

## Breaking the $\mathbf{H}-\mathbf{F}$ bond:

(c) Few-cycle IR + UV laser pulses achieve maximum $\mathrm{OH}+\mathrm{F}$ fragmentation.

IR pulse parameters: $E_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=5.0 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{IR}}=1565 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{IR}}=0, t_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=0 \mathrm{fs}$, $t_{p, \mathrm{IR}}=50 \mathrm{fs}$.
UV pulse parameters: $E_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=8.0 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{UV}}=52423 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{UV}}=0, t_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=29 \mathrm{fs}$, and $t_{p, \mathrm{UV}}=5$ fs. (d) Time evolution of the branching ratio of the $\mathrm{O}+$ HF products (solid) versus $\mathrm{OH}+\mathrm{F}$ (dotted).
4.25 Generation of a vibrational wave packet from the few-cycle IR pulse shown in Figure $4.24(\mathrm{a})$. IR pulse parameters are: $E_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=3.2 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{IR}}=1565 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{IR}}=0$, $t_{0, \mathrm{IR}}=0 \mathrm{fs}$, and $t_{p, \mathrm{IR}}=50 \mathrm{fs}$. Dominant contributions are from vibrational eigenstates $v_{00}, v_{01}$ (asymmetric stretch), $v_{02}$ (first excited asymmetric stretch), and $v_{11}$ (symmetric + asymmetric). Depletion of population in the anion ( $\mathrm{OHF}^{-}$) ground state begins shortly after $t=19 \mathrm{fs}$, when the UV pulse is fired. The UV pulse parameters are $E_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=5.0 \mathrm{GV} / \mathrm{m}, \omega_{\mathrm{UV}}=28228 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{UV}}=0, t_{0, \mathrm{UV}}=19 \mathrm{fs}$, and $t_{p, \mathrm{UV}}=5 \mathrm{fs}$. After vertical excitation of population to $\mathrm{V}_{n}$, anion population (norm) drops to $\sim 0.98$.140
4.26 Schematic representation of the bending vibration of a triatomic molecule.
4.27 The electric field profile of the laser pulses consisting of very few optical cycles depends on the phase $\varphi$ of the carrier frequency with respect to the pulse's envelope; the maximum of the electric field points in opposite directions at $t=10$ fs for $\varphi=0$ and $\varphi=\pi$. . . . . 144
A. 1 A linear triatomic molecule ABC with bond lengths $R_{\mathrm{AB}}$ and $R_{\mathrm{BC}}$ and masses $m_{\mathrm{A}}, m_{\mathrm{B}}$, and $m_{\mathrm{C}}$, rotates around an axis $Z_{\text {c.o.m }}$ which passes through the center of mass of the molecule.

