

FREQUENCY SHIFTS IN STIMULATED RAMAN SCATTERING

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The nonresonant contributions to the nonlinear susceptibility $\chi^{(3)}$ produce a frequency chirp during stimulated Raman scattering. In the case of transient stimulated Raman scattering, the spectrum of the generated Stokes pulse is found at higher frequencies than expected from spontaneous Raman data. The frequency difference can be calculated from the theory of stimulated Raman scattering.

It has been shown in numerous papers that an intense electromagnetic wave of frequency ω_L , travelling through a Raman active medium, is able to generate a strong Stokes shifted collinear wave at frequency ω_S . In most experimental investigations the Stokes shift $\omega_0 = \omega_L - \omega_S$ of the stimulated Raman process was found to be equal to the Stokes shift known from spontaneous Raman measurements [1]. In contradiction, there exists a number of papers where deviations in the Stokes shifts between stimulated and spontaneous Raman scattering were reported [2].

In this note we present a theoretical and experimental study of the stimulated Raman process taking into account the self-phase modulation of the laser and Stokes wave. It will be shown that under quasi-stationary conditions the stimulated Stokes emission has the same Stokes shift as spontaneous Raman scattering. For the transient stimulated Raman process the situation is different. Theory predicts and experiments confirm a smaller Stokes shift, i.e. a higher Stokes frequency. For clarity, we consider here a specific case, Raman scattering of a molecular vibration in liquids. The theoretical discussion is quite general being applicable to other Raman type process as well.

The nonlinear response of the molecules is represented by the nonlinear polarisation P^{NL} , which may be separated into two parts: A resonant contribution P_R^{NL} due to the molecular transition of interest with a Raman susceptibility $\partial\alpha/\partial q$ and a nonresonant part

$$P_{NR}^{NL} \text{ due to the electronic states of the molecules [3].}$$

$$P^{NL} = P_R^{NL} + P_{NR}^{NL} = N \frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial q} \langle q \rangle E + \chi^{NR(3)} EEE. \quad (1)$$

N is the number density of the molecules and $\langle q \rangle$ denotes the expectation value of the normal mode operator q for the transition. For simplicity we make two assumptions: (i) A highly polarized Raman line is investigated, i.e. $\partial\alpha/\partial q$ is a scalar. (ii) $\chi^{NR(3)}$ is taken to be time independent since the time constants of the electronic contributions are approximately 10^{-14} s. The slower material response is described by the equation of motion [4,5]:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \langle q \rangle + \frac{2}{T_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle q \rangle + \omega_0^2 \langle q \rangle = \frac{1 - 2n'}{2m} \frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial q} E^2. \quad (2)$$

ω_0 and m represent the transition frequency and the reduced mass, respectively, T_2 the dephasing time and n' is the occupation probability of the first excited vibrational level. For the system considered here we have a small population, i.e. $n' \ll 1$.

For the light fields and the coherent material excitation, we make the ansatz of plane waves propagating in the x -direction:

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \sum_j E_j \exp(-i\omega_j t + ik_j x + i\phi_j) + cc \right\}$$

and

$$\langle q \rangle = \frac{1}{2} i \{ Q \exp(-i\omega_q t + ik_q x + i\phi_q) + cc \}. \quad (3)$$

The index $j = S$ and L indicates the Stokes and laser wave, respectively. Energy and wave vector conservation is ensured by the equations:

$$\omega_q = \omega_L - \omega_S \quad \text{and} \quad k_q = k_L - k_S. \quad (4)$$

Introducing eqs. (1) to (4) into the wave equation and considering slowly varying fields one obtains [3,5]:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} Q + iQ \frac{\partial \phi_q}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{T_2} Q + \frac{i(\omega_0^2 - \omega_q^2)}{2\omega_q} Q = \frac{1}{4m\omega_q} \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial q} E_L E_S \exp\{i(\phi_L - \phi_S - \phi_q)\}, \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{\partial E_S}{\partial x'} + iE_S \frac{\partial \phi_S}{\partial x'} = \frac{\pi\omega_S}{cn_S} \left\{ \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial q} N E_L Q \exp[i(\phi_L - \phi_S - \phi_q)] + i6\chi_{SS}^{NR(3)} E_S^3 + i6\chi_{LS}^{NR(3)} E_L^2 E_S \right\}$$

$$\frac{\partial E_L}{\partial x'} + iE_L \frac{\partial \phi_L}{\partial x'} = \frac{\pi\omega_L}{cn_L} \left\{ -\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial q} N E_L Q \exp[-i(\phi_L - \phi_S - \phi_q)] + i6\chi_{SL}^{NR(3)} E_S^2 E_L + i6\chi_{LL}^{NR(3)} E_L^3 \right\}. \quad (7)$$

In eqs. (5) to (7) we introduced the retarded time frame $x' = x$ and $t' = t - x/v$. Group velocity (v) dispersion should be neglected here. n_L, n_S are the refractive indices at the laser and Stokes frequencies ω_L and ω_S . c is the velocity of light. The factors $\chi_{ij}^{NR(3)}$ are the important phase changes generated by the intense light fields. $\chi_{ij}^{NR(3)}$ with $i = j$ determines the self-phase modulation of the laser and Stokes fields (selfaction) while $i \neq j$ gives the effect of the field E_i on the field E_j . Far from electronic resonances the different factors, $\chi_{ij}^{NR(3)}$, are of similar magnitude. When dispersion is neglected the theory of nonlinear susceptibilities gives: $\chi_{ii}^{NR(3)} = 0.5\chi_{ij}^{NR(3)}$ for $i \neq j$ [6]. For small conversion of laser into Stokes light, the underlined terms in eqs. (6) and (7) containing E_S^3, E_S^2 , and $E_S Q$ may be omitted.

We begin the discussion of eqs. (5) to (7) with the quasi-stationary situation where the interaction time is long compared to the dephasing time T_2 . In this case the time derivative of Q in eq. (5) may be neglected. Substitution of Q into eq. (6) allows to solve the equation for the Stokes field. One readily finds the well-known exponential amplification of the Stokes intensity $I_S(x) = I_S(0) \exp(gI_L x)$. At the resonance

frequency where $\omega_0 = \omega_q = \omega_L - \omega_S$, the gain coefficient has the form $g = (4\pi^2\omega_S N T_2 (\partial\alpha/\partial q)^2) / (n_S n_L m c^2 \omega_0)$. The gain is not influenced by the non-resonant susceptibility of the medium.

In fig. 1a we present a calculated Stokes pulse (broken line) generated by a gaussian shaped laser pulse (solid line). Both pulses are normalized to their peak values. As a consequence of the strong experimental amplification $I_S(x)/I_S(0) = 7 \times 10^{10}$, the stimulated Stokes pulse is generated only during a short period near the maximum of the laser pulse ($t = 0$). The duration of the Stokes pulse is one fifth of the laser pulse duration for the amplification considered here (conversion efficiency of $\eta = 10^{-2}$).

The time dependent phases $\phi_L(t)$ and $\phi_S(t)$ are deduced from the imaginary parts of eqs. (6) and (7). The shape of the laser pulse (i.e. $E_L(t)$) and the magnitude of the nonlinear coefficients $\chi_{LL}^{NR(3)}$ and

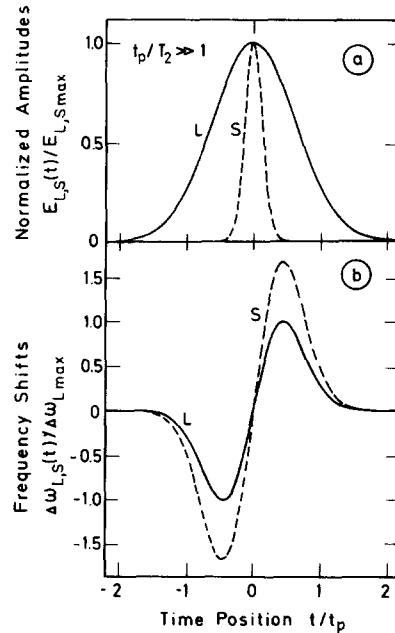


Fig. 1. Quasistationary stimulated Raman scattering including a nonresonant nonlinear susceptibility $\chi^{NR(3)}$ calculated for a gaussian laser pulse. (a) The normalized amplitudes of the laser field (solid line) and the Stokes field (broken line). (b) The shifts of the momentary frequencies of the laser (solid line) and the Stokes pulse (broken line). The time dependence of the frequency shift is determined by the shape of the laser pulse and the value of the nonlinear susceptibilities $\chi_{LL}^{NR(3)} = 0.5\chi_{LS}^{NR(3)}$.

$\chi_{LS}^{NR(3)}$ determine $\phi_L(t)$ and $\phi_S(t)$ at the center of the Raman band, $\omega_S = \omega_L - \omega_0$. The Stokes field of smaller intensity does not affect the phases. The momentary frequencies of the laser and Stokes waves is given by the relation: $\omega_{LS}(t) = \omega_{LS}(0) - \partial\phi_{LS}/\partial t$. In fig. 1b we show the frequency shifts of laser and Stokes radiation: $\Delta\omega_{LS}(t) = \omega_{LS}(t) - \omega_{LS}(0) = -\partial\phi_{LS}/\partial t$. The time dependence of the laser frequency has the familiar pattern resulting from the gaussian laser pulse. The value of $\Delta\omega_{Lmax}$ is estimated from the relation [3,5]:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Delta\omega_{Lmax}}{2\pi c} &= 2 \times 10^{-13} \frac{\omega_L n_2}{2\pi c n_L} \frac{I_L l}{t_p} \\ &= 2 \times 10^{-13} \frac{\tilde{\nu}_L}{n_L} \frac{n_2 G}{t_p g} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

In the right term, $\tilde{\nu}_L$ is the laser frequency in cm^{-1} , $n_2 = (12\pi/n_L)\chi_{LL}^{NR(3)}$ the nonlinearity of the medium in esu, $G = gI_L l$ the Raman gain, g the Raman gain coefficient in cm/watt , t_p the pulse duration in seconds, and l the cell length in cm. For the following practical parameters, $\tilde{\nu}_L = 19000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $n_2 = 1.6 \times 10^{-12}$ esu, $G = 25$, $n_L = 1.5$, and $g = 10^{-9} \text{ cm/W}$, one estimates a small frequency shift of $\Delta\omega_{Lmax}/2\pi c < 1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for a pulse duration of $t_p > 0.1 \text{ ns}$. In fig. 1b the shift of the Stokes frequency (broken line) is 1.67 times larger than the shift of the laser when $\chi_{LL}^{NR(3)} \approx 0.5 \chi_{LS}^{NR(3)}$ and $\tilde{\nu}_S \approx 0.83 \tilde{\nu}_L$ is assumed in the calculation. Of interest is the question here how the frequency shifts influence the spectrum of the Stokes emission. In a Raman generator the amplification starts from noise with Stokes components $\omega_S \neq \omega_L - \omega_0$ over the homogeneous linewidth $\Delta\omega_{Sp} = 2/T_2$. The large amplification of $G = gI_L x \sim 25$ leads to a gain narrowing of approximately a factor of six [3]. In fig. 1b the shift $\Delta\omega_S(t)$ changes sign at the peak of the Stokes pulse ($t = 0$) and E_S as well as $|\Delta\omega_S(t)|$ are symmetrical to $t = 0$. Thus the center of the Stokes spectrum does not change. The frequency shift $\Delta\omega_S$ and the resulting spectral broadening is inversely proportional to t_p . For quasistationary Raman scattering with $t_p \gg T_2$ (or $\Delta\omega_{Sp} \gg 1/t_p$) the broadening due to the nonresonant term $\chi^{NR(3)}$ is negligible.

Different results are obtained for transient stimulated Stokes scattering, when $t_p \approx T_2$. One readily sees from eq. (8) that the larger transient gain of $G \approx 100$ and the shorter pulses of several picoseconds give fre-

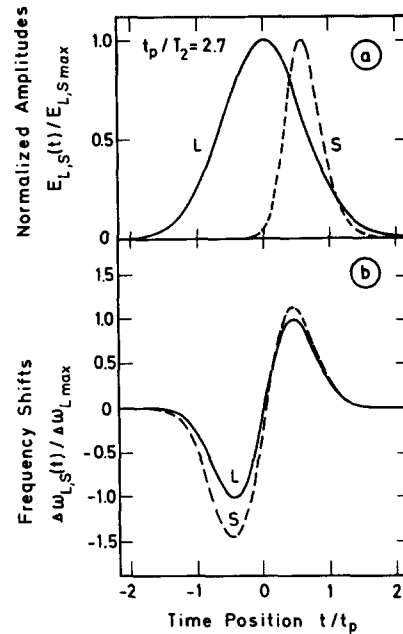


Fig. 2. Transient stimulated Raman scattering including a nonresonant nonlinear susceptibility $\chi^{NR(3)}$. The calculations are carried out for a gaussian laser pulse with a duration of $t_p = 2.7 T_2$, and for nonresonant susceptibilities $\chi_{LL}^{NR(3)} = 0.5 \chi_{LS}^{NR(3)}$. (a) Time dependence of the incident laser amplitude, L, (solid line) and of the generated Stokes amplitude, S, (broken line). (b) Shift of the momentary frequencies of the laser (solid curve) and the Stokes pulse (broken curve). Near the maximum of the Stokes amplitude the laser and Stokes pulses have a similar frequency shift.

quency shifts $\Delta\tilde{\nu}_L = \Delta\omega_L/2\pi c$ of approximately 40 cm^{-1} . For the transient case eqs. (5) to (7) have to be solved numerically. As discussed previously, the slow growth of the material excitation leads to a delayed peak of the Stokes emission [5,8]. The calculations of figs. 2 and 3 are made for the following material parameters: Gain $g = 8 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm/W}$, dephasing time $T_2 = 2.6 \text{ ps}$, nonlinear refractive index $n_2 = 1.6 \times 10^{-13}$ esu, and for the system parameters: Gaussian shaped laser pulse of duration $t_p = 2.7 \times T_2$, conversion efficiency of Stokes to laser energy $\eta_s = 10^{-2}$, and nonresonant susceptibilities $\chi_{LL}^{NR(3)} = 0.5 \chi_{LS}^{NR(3)}$.

Fig. 2a shows the (normalized) laser input pulse and the (normalized) Stokes pulse. The peak of the latter is delayed by approximately $t_D = t_p/2$. Calculations show that values of t_D and of the peak of the Stokes pulse are not affected by the small nonreso-

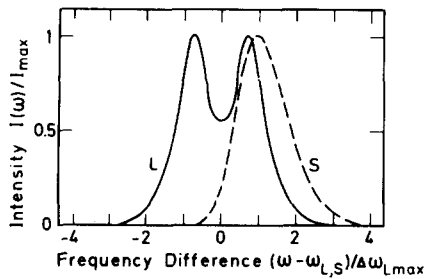


Fig. 3. Normalized spectrum of the transmitted laser pulse (L) and of the generated Stokes pulse (S, broken line) calculated for the parameters used in fig. 2. The laser spectrum is centered around ω_L showing self-phase modulation. The Stokes spectrum is shifted to higher frequencies. ω_S represents the Stokes frequency of spontaneous Raman scattering.

nant term $\chi^{NR(3)}$ considered here. For larger values of $\chi^{NR(3)}$ and taking into account the color dispersion of the medium, one expects a decrease of the transient Stokes amplification [8,9].

In fig. 2b the frequency shifts of laser and Stokes radiation are depicted as a function of time. The normalized frequency shift of the transmitted laser pulse (solid line) is the same for the transient and for the quasistationary situation. The Stokes field (broken line), however, shows less frequency shift in the transient case. This fact is particularly evident at the time of the peak of the Stokes field. Inspection of eqs. (5) to (7) shows that the difference between laser and Stokes shifts decreases with growing material excitation (more accurately, with growing ratio of material excitation Q to driving force $E_S E_L$). In the transient case the material excitation reaches its maximum value at the end of the laser pulse. As a result, at $t = t_p$ the laser and Stokes shifts have equal values and the molecular vibration oscillates with its resonance frequency.

The time dependence of the laser and Stokes pulse (fig. 2a) and the change of the momentary frequencies (fig. 2b) leads to distinct spectra of the laser and Stokes radiation. In fig. 3 the (normalized) spectral intensities are plotted versus frequency differences where ω_L represents the carrier frequency of the input laser pulse and $\omega_S = \omega_L - \omega_0$ the Stokes frequency without self-phase modulation. The spectrum of the transmitted laser pulse shows two maxima resulting from the self-phase modulation by the non-resonant susceptibility $\chi_{LL}^{NR(3)}$. The radiation is distributed symmetrically around the center frequency

ω_L of the incoming laser pulse. The spectrum of the Stokes pulse (broken line) is not centered around the position ω_S of the spontaneous Raman spectrum. Most of the Stokes radiation is generated at a delayed time when a large frequency shift occurs (see fig. 2). Thus the Stokes spectrum is moved by $\Delta\omega_S \approx \Delta\omega_{Lmax}$. Since $\Delta\omega_{Lmax}$ is positive at the trailing part of the laser pulse the whole spectrum is shifted to higher frequencies.

In our experiments we investigated transient stimulated Raman scattering with picosecond laser pulses. We start with a single chirp-free infrared pulse from a passively mode-locked Nd:glass laser system [10]. The pulse is frequency doubled in a KDP crystal to $\nu_L = 18990 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The input pulse to the system has nearly gaussian shape and a duration of $t_p \approx 6.5 \text{ ps}$. A lens of $f = 60 \text{ cm}$ first forms a convergent beam; beyond the focus in the divergent beam the Raman cell is located. Self-focussing within the cell of 2 cm length is not observed and is not expected from numerical estimates. Care was taken to image only the central part of the transmitted laser beam [10] onto the slit of a 2 m grating spectrograph. In this way, the self-phase modulation of the intense part of the beam is clearly observed. The spectra of the laser and Stokes pulses are monitored by an optical multichannel analyser. The spectral resolution of the system is 0.2 cm^{-1} and absolute frequency scale is known with an accuracy of 0.4 cm^{-1} .

We report experimental data of liquid CH_3CCl_3 . Transient stimulated Raman scattering in CH_3CCl_3 is observed from the CH_3 stretching mode with a spontaneous Raman shift of 2939 cm^{-1} . Three experimental spectra are presented in fig. 4. Fig. 4a shows the narrow incoming laser pulse at the laser frequency of 18990 cm^{-1} . We know from simultaneous measurements of the temporal and spectral properties that the incident pulse has no frequency chirp [10]. Quite different is the spectrum of the laser pulse at the end of the Raman cell (fig. 4b). The spectrum with two maxima is typical for a pulse with small self-phase modulation. The laser spectrum of fig. 4b is taken at an intensity level where stimulated Stokes light is procuded with an energy conversion of $\eta_S \approx 10^{-2}$. The stimulated Stokes spectrum (see fig. 4c) is broader than the incoming laser spectrum. This fact is due to the shortening of the Stokes pulse during the stimulated scattering process. Of special interest here is the frequency

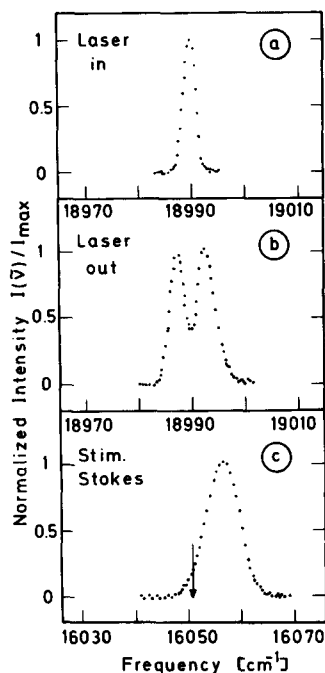


Fig. 4. Experimental results of transient stimulated Raman scattering in liquid CH_3CCl_3 . (a) Spectrum of the incoming bandwidth limited laser pulse centered at $\tilde{\nu}_L \approx 18990 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. (b) Spectrum of the laser pulse transmitted through the Raman cell when Stokes light with an energy conversion of 1% was generated. The spectrum is centered around $\tilde{\nu}_L$ with a structure typical for self-phase modulation. (c) Spectrum of the generated stimulated Stokes pulse. The maximum of the stimulated Stokes spectrum is shifted to higher frequencies. The position of spontaneous Raman scattering at 16051 cm^{-1} is indicated by the arrow.

position of the center of the Stokes pulse. The stimulated Stokes spectrum does not appear at the position of the spontaneous Raman spectrum $\tilde{\nu}_{\text{Sp}} = 16051 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, indicated by the arrow. The stimulated Stokes spectrum is shifted by nearly 6 cm^{-1} to higher frequencies. More accurately, a frequency difference between the spontaneous and stimulated position of $5.5 \text{ cm}^{-1} \pm 0.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ was found at an average value over 20 measurements. This number is in good agreement with the value $\Delta\tilde{\nu}_S = 5.7 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ calculated from eq. (8) using the material parameters of CCl_3CH_3 and the experimental data: $n_2 = 1.6 \times 10^{-13} \text{ esu}$; $\tilde{\nu}_L = 18990 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $G = 75$; $\tau_p = 7 \text{ ps}$, and $g = 8 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm/W}$ [11]. As predicted from eq. (8), the frequency shift of the Stokes pulse remains unchanged when

the product $I_L l$ is held constant. Varying the cell length between 5 cm and 1 cm with a proportional adjustment in laser intensity gave the same experimental Stokes shift.

We have seen shifts of the Stokes spectrum of several wave numbers in other substances with similarly small values of n_2 (e.g. in CCl_4). Considerable larger effects are expected in liquids where orientational contributions give much larger nonlinear coefficients n_2 . For instance, n_2 values of $12.5 \times 10^{-13} \text{ esu}$ or $120 \times 10^{-13} \text{ esu}$ are reported in the literature for benzene or CS_2 , respectively [12]. The theory is more complicated in this case since the transient nature of the orientational contributions has to be incorporated into the calculations.

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