

Abstract Submitted  
for the DAMOP07 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

Sorting Category: 4.1 (C)

**Controlled vibrational quenching of nuclear wave packets in  $D_2^+$**  THOMAS NIEDERHAUSEN, UWE THUMM, James R. Macdonald Laboratory, Kansas State University — The sudden ionization of neutral  $D_2$  molecules by a short and intense pump laser pulse may create a wave packet as a coherent superposition of vibrational states on the lowest ( $1s\sigma_g^+$ ) adiabatic potential curve of the  $D_2^+$  molecular ion. We investigate the possibility of manipulating the bound motion, dissociation, and vibrational-state composition of such nuclear wave packets with one (or several) ultra-short (6 fs) intense ( $1 \times 10^{14}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>) near infrared (800 nm) control laser pulses. We show numerically that a single control pulse with an appropriately tuned time delay can significantly quench the vibrational state distribution of the nuclear wave packet by increasing the contribution of a selected stationary vibrational state of the molecular ion to more than 50%. We also show that a second control pulse with a carefully adjusted delay can further squeeze the vibrational state distribution and suggest a scheme for a multi control pulse “Raman shaping”. Since the resulting nuclear wave function is almost stationary, fragmentation of the molecular ion with a final intense probe pulse can be used to project its nodal structure onto the measurable kinetic energy release, thereby suggesting a tool for assessing the degree at which the nuclear motion in a small molecule can be controlled.

<sup>1</sup>This work is supported by the NSF and US DoE.

Prefer Oral Session  
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Date submitted: 03 Feb 2007

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