RAMAN SPECTROSCOPY OF LASER-MATTER INTERACTIONS

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Raman scattering

- **C. V. Raman in 1928** Nobel Prize, 1930
- Investigation of light scattering by water droplets with focused sunlight and filters
- Appearance of a different (green) color in the scattered (violet) light, which had 10⁻⁷ times lower intensity
- **G. Landsberg, L. Mandelstam** Combinatorial scattering in crystals





Raman scattering

Inelastic light scattering due to the interaction of the incident light with matter.



The energy difference of the excitation and Raman scattered light equals to the energy of a normal vibration of the medium (molecule, crystal).



Raman spectroscopy

- Inelastic light scattering
- Excitation with a monochromatic light source (laser)
- Recording the spectrum of the scattered light in wavelength region different from the excitation



Spectrometer



Raman spectroscopy

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Raman spectroscopy

Inelastic light scattering

(c)

- Excitation with a monochromatic light source (laser)
- Recording the spectrum of the scattered light in wavelength region different from the excitation





Applications

Information related to the vibrations of the medium

- Composition
- Conformation of the molecule
- Crystal lattice
- Crystal orientation
- Presence of isotopes
- Trace elements and defects
- Temperature
- Internal stress



Journal of Raman Spectroscopy keyword cloud



Study of polymerization kinetics

Gamma radiation induced precipitation polymerization of diethylene glycol dimethacrylate (DEGDMA) in different solvents.



Raman spectrum of the monomer mixture polymerized with different doses.



10.0kV 13.7mm x20.0k SE(U,0)

Study of polymerization kinetics

Gamma radiation induced precipitation polymerization of diethylene glycol dimethacrylate (DEGDMA) in different solvents.



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Study of polymerization kinetics

Conversion determined from Raman data and mass difference measurements.

Raman spectroscopy

Mass difference



- The C=C peak intensity >0 even for the maximum degree of conversion indicating that intact C=C bonds remain in the polymer matrix belonging to trapped or "dangling" monomers.

M. Veres et al. IAEA Rad. Tech. Reports (2015)

Polymer samples for irradiation experments

Polymerization mixture

Monomers

- Urethane dimethacrylate (UDMA)
- Triethylene glycol dimethacrylate (TEGDMA)

Photoinitiators

- Camphorquinone
- Ethyl 4-dimethylaminobenzoate

+ GOLD NANORODS (AuNP)





Irradiation



- Ti:Sa based chirped-pulse two-stage amplifier-laser system (Coherent Hydra)
- Smallest impulse length: 40 fs
- Central wavelength: 795 nm
- Repetition rate: 10 Hz
- Max. pulse energy: 30mJ
- Pressure in the vacuum chamber: ~10⁻⁵
 mbar

Low-energy laser pulses



- No crater formation
- The irradiation spot is visible from 1.1 mJ
- The spot size depends on the laser pulse energy



 The doping with gold nanorods affects the structural transformation of the polymer upon laser treatment

Low-energy laser pulses



- The increase of the photoluminescence background is an indication of changes in the bonding configuration
- The Raman spectra of the non-doped polymer are very similar
- Gradual structural transformations occur in the polymer doped with gold nanorods

Intensity map at 1440 cm⁻¹

200 um

Higher pulse energies - Crater formation



Raman characterization of the polymer



Typical Raman spectra of the UDMA polymer

During the polymerization, the ratio of the two peaks characterizes the degree of conversion.

For the craters it shows the level of structural transformation – breaking of C-C bonds.



- The surface of the craters in non-doped polymer changes similarly, and that only slightly depends on the pulse energy.
- With gold nanorods the matrix is altered in a stochastic way, affected by the distribution of the nanorods. The change in the center is more remarkable.

Higher pulse energies - Crater formation



Preliminary results

Origin of the new Raman peaks

Possible assigment – C-D vibrations

DFT calculations of Raman active vibrations of deuterized UDMA



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MA-Au-Irrad - UDMA-Au-Re UDMA-Au-25 UDMA-Au-25 UDMA-Au-10 UDMA-Au-10

UDMA-Au-5

Preliminary results

Origin of the new Raman peaks

Possible assigment – C-D vibrations

Raman experiments with deuterized methyl methacrylate polymer of different deuterium content



Summary

- Raman spectroscopy is an optical spectroscopic technique allowing to study characteristic vibrations of the sample. It can be used to characterize the polymerization kinetics, the degree of conversion and structural transformations in polymers.
- The Raman spectroscopic study of polymer targets doped with gold nanorods and irradiated with ultrashort laser pulses showed that the presence of plasmonic gold nanoparticles has a remarkable effect on the structural transformations occurring due to light-matter interactions
- New Raman peaks were observed in the 2000-2500 cm⁻¹ region of the Raman spectrum upon irradiation with high-energy laser pulses. The presumed origin of these features is the formation of C-D and N-D bonds in the structure.



Acknowledgements

Members of the NAPLIFE Structural Characterization Group

Gábor Galbács Roman Holomb Judit Kámán Ágnes Nagyné Szokol István Rigó

- The NAPLIFE collaboration
- NKFIH and ELKH for financial support



THANKS FOR THE ATTENTION!







Nemzeti Kutatási, Fejlesztési És Innovációs Hivatal