

Photodetachment spectroscopic studies of cold, trapped negative ions

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Photodetachment spectroscopy is a powerful spectroscopic technique for determining the internal state distribution of a molecular anion. Previously, our group studied the threshold photodetachment spectroscopy of CN⁻ at both 16 K and 295 K in a 22-pole ion trap and measured the electron affinity of CN with great precision (EA: 3.864(2) eV) [1]. Here we present the threshold photodetachment spectroscopy study of C₂⁻, speculated to exist in the interstellar medium, in a radiofrequency 16-pole ion trap at 8 Kelvin. We investigated the behaviour of the cross section near the threshold for the ground state transition, C₂X ¹Σ_g⁺ ← C₂⁻X ²Σ_g⁺. We measured the electron affinity of C₂ which is consistent with the previously measured values [3][4]. We also present the status of the absolute cross section and near threshold photodetachment spectroscopic studies of the naphthyl anion (C₁₀H₇⁻), a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon anion (PAH), which may also play a role in interstellar chemistry [5].

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Author: PURUSHU MELATH, Sruthi

Co-authors: Ms LOCHMANN, Christine (University of Innsbruck); Dr ERATH-DULITZ, Katrin (Universität Innsbruck); Dr NOTZÖLD, Markus (Universität Innsbruck); Mr HAUCK, Michael (Universität Innsbruck); Dr WILD, Robert (Universität Innsbruck); Prof. WESTER, Roland (Universität Innsbruck)

Presenter: PURUSHU MELATH, Sruthi

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