IMAGING IN MOLECULAR DYNAMICS

Charged particle imaging has revolutionized experimental studies of photodissociation and bimolecular collisions. Written in a tutorial style by some of the key practitioners in the field, this book gives a comprehensive account of the technique and describes many of its recent applications.

The book is split into two parts. Part I is intended as a series of tutorials. It explains the basic principles of the experiment and the numerical methods involved in interpreting experimental data. After an historical introduction, this section contains a discussion of the basic experiment and goes on to review image reconstruction techniques. The final chapters discuss alternative approaches to charged particle imaging and explore the possibility of employing the technique in conjunction with femtosecond pump-probe methods to study the excited state dynamics of molecules.

Part II describes a number of different applications. These chapters are more directly research oriented, the aim being to introduce the reader to the possibilities for future experiments. The first chapter describes the power of coincidence imaging detection. The possibilities for probing bimolecular collisions are explored in the following chapters and the final chapter introduces a new approach to ion imaging and velocity mapping called slice imaging.

This comprehensive book will be of primary interest to researchers and graduate students working in chemical and molecular physics who require an overview of the subject as well as ideas for future experiments.

Ben Whitaker graduated from Sussex University with first class honours in Chemical Physics in 1978 and a D.Phil. three years later with a thesis on state-to-state rotational energy transfer using high-resolution laser spectroscopy under the supervision of Prof. Tony McCaffery. He subsequently worked briefly at the Université de Provence, Marseilles and then at the Université de Paris-Sud where he developed, together with Prof. Philippe Bréchignac, the AON model for rotational energy transfer between small molecules that emphasized the role of angular momentum constraints. In 1983 he returned to Sussex where he continued to work on energy transfer and laser polarization spectroscopy and, with Prof. Tony Stace, on cluster spectroscopy. In 1988 he left Sussex to work with Prof. Paul Houston at Cornell University where he began work on ion imaging. A year later he took up his present position as a Lecturer, and then Reader at Leeds University. He is the author of some seventy papers mainly in the field of molecular reaction dynamics, but his research interests also span a number of areas from computer to combustion science. In his spare time he enjoys making and flying kites, walking in the Yorkshire Dales and the occasional pint of Taylor’s Landlord (or Harvey’s Best if he is in Sussex). Most of all he enjoys talking science with friends and colleagues, many of whom have contributed to this volume.
Contents

List of contributors page ix
Preface and acknowledgements xi
List of abbreviations xv

Part 1 Technology
1 Charged particle imaging in chemical dynamics: an historical perspective 3
  1.1 Introduction 3
  1.2 The need for angular information: vector correlations 4
  1.3 The Doppler effect 6
  1.4 The ESDIAD inspiration 10
  1.5 Product imaging 11
  1.6 Electron imaging 14
  1.7 Coincidence measurements 15
  1.8 Conclusions 16
  Acknowledgements 16
  References 16

2 Velocity map imaging: applications in molecular dynamics and experimental aspects 20
  2.1 Introduction 20
  2.2 Newton spheres: their concept, creation and analysis 21
  2.3 Images compared to time-of-flight methods 31
  2.4 Velocity map imaging of photodissociation 40
  2.5 The easy experiment 62
  References 64

3 Reconstruction methods 65
  3.1 Introduction 65
  3.2 Symmetric distributions 66
  3.3 Abel and Hankel inversion methods 68
Contents

3.4 Back-projection and onion peeling methods 71
3.5 Iterative inversion 77
3.6 Basis set expansion or BASEX method 79
3.7 Algorithm evaluation 82
3.8 Test results 86
3.9 Forward convolution 106
3.10 Conclusions and outlook 109
3.11 Appendix 110
Acknowledgements 111
References 112
4 Orientation and alignment 113
4.1 Introduction 113
4.2 Formalism 114
4.3 Interpretation 117
4.4 Conclusions 120
References 120
5 Time resolved cameras 122
5.1 Introduction 122
5.2 3-D imaging scheme 123
5.3 Experimental setup 128
5.4 Detector time calibration 129
5.5 Multi-particle detection 132
5.6 Summary 135
Acknowledgements 136
References 136
6 3-D Imaging technique – observation of the three-dimensional product momentum distribution 138
6.1 Introduction 138
6.2 Experimental method 140
6.3 Applications of the delay-line detector 145
6.4 Classic photofragment imaging: photolysis of Cl₂ 150
6.5 Beyond the classic application: modern developments 155
6.6 The road ahead and concluding remarks 162
Acknowledgements 163
References 163
7 Photoelectron and photoion imaging with femtosecond pump-probe time clocking 165
7.1 Introduction 165
7.2 Femtosecond lasers 165
Contents

7.3 Time resolved photoelectron imaging: a new probe of femtochemistry 171
7.4 Time-resolved photoion imaging 182
7.5 Conclusions 184
Acknowledgements 185
References 185

Part 2 Applications
8 Kinematically complete imaging of molecular many-body fragmentation: coincident multi-particle detection and analysis 189
8.1 Introduction 189
8.2 Experimental 191
8.3 The H3 molecule 195
8.4 Imaging two-body decay processes 197
8.5 Imaging three-body decay processes 200
8.6 Presentation of high-dimensional imaging data 202
8.7 Discussion of experimental data 203
8.8 Summary 205
Acknowledgements 205
References 206

9 Collisions of HCl with molecular colliders at \( \sim 540 \text{ cm}^{-1} \) collision energy 208
9.1 Introduction 208
9.2 Experimental 210
9.3 Comparison of images of HCl + molecular colliders with HCl + Ar images 211
9.4 Differential cross-sections from ion images of HCl + N2(\( \Delta j < 5 \)) and HCl + CH4(\( \Delta j < 4 \)) 212
9.5 Extracting DCSs from HCl(\( j_{HCl} = 5 \)) and N2 214
9.6 Conclusions 216
Acknowledgement 216
References 216

10 Measurement of state-resolved differential cross-sections of bimolecular reactions using single beam velocity mapping 217
10.1 Introduction 217
10.2 Experimental 219
10.3 Results and discussion 220
10.4 Conclusions 225
Acknowledgements 226
References 226
## Contents

11 Slice imaging: a new approach to ion imaging and velocity mapping 227  
11.1 Introduction 227  
11.2 Basic principles 228  
11.3 Experimental 232  
11.4 Results 235  
11.5 Conclusions 243  
Acknowledgements 244  
References 244  
Index 247
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Preface and acknowledgements

The field of molecular reaction dynamics has made enormous progress since the pioneering experiments of Yuan Lee, Dudley Herschbach and John Polanyi. The intervening years have seen numerous developments in both experimental techniques and theoretical methods. For the authors of this book one of the most exciting of these advances was the introduction of charged particle imaging by Dave Chandler and Paul Houston described in their 1987 paper ‘Two-dimensional imaging of state-selected photodissociation products detected by multiphoton ionization’ published in the *Journal of Chemical Physics*.

I was extremely fortunate to be able to join Paul Houston in Ithaca in 1988/89 where we constructed the second imaging machine (Dave Chandler’s original machine in Sandia having been temporarily put out of action in an unfortunate accident that Paul describes in the first chapter). It was an extraordinarily exciting experience to be involved in those earlier experiments and I am extremely grateful to Paul for the opportunity. The early data showed the power of the technique to provide graphic insight into chemical mechanism but it was difficult to obtain quantitative information because of instrumental problems to do with the arrangement of the ion optics. These were overcome by André Eppink and Dave Parker working in Nijmegen. Their 1997 paper ‘Velocity map imaging of ions and electrons using electrostatic lenses: application in photoelectron and photofragment ion imaging of molecular oxygen’, which appeared in the *Review of Scientific Instruments*, revolutionized the field and saw a step change in both the quality of the data that could be obtained and the dynamical insight the experiment could provide. Following the publication of their paper the community of ‘imagers’ has burgeoned around the world. The advance, described in detail in Chapter 2, was to remove the thin wire meshes in the ion extraction optics that we had all previously striven so hard to get smooth and flat. The problem with using grids to extract the charged particles, however, was that they distorted the trajectories of particles that passed close to the wires and there was a residual image of the grid in the final image, which limited
the resolution. In an attempt to overcome this André and Dave designed a new extraction region with many electrodes but still ending in a grid. There is a story that Dave accidentally put his thumb through the grid and that André carried on taking data while the new mesh was on order and so discovered velocity map imaging. The moral being that sometimes it is OK to let your thesis supervisor fiddle with your experiments! The real story was more prosaic; that while waiting for the workshop to get the job done of producing more electrodes, André started with the two open extraction electrodes (‘lens’) in combination with the repeller plate, but this only goes to show that it’s always a good idea to carry on experimenting even when you think things may not be working perfectly.

And so you see also that this book is aimed at students (of all ages) who want to get involved in imaging experiments and do them for themselves. What we have aimed to do is create a ‘users guide’ to charged particle imaging that not only describes the kind of information that these experiments are capable of revealing but also gives the ‘tricks of the trade’. The first part of the book is intended as a series of tutorials. After an historical introduction, in Chapter 2 we describe the basic experiment and the velocity mapping technique in some detail. In Chapter 3 we review the image reconstruction techniques that are used to extract dynamical information from the recorded images. Chapter 4 extends this discussion to cases where the original data is not cylindrically symmetric. Chapter 5 presents an alternative approach to charged particle imaging in which the ratio of intensities in a pair of 2-D images is used to extract timing information. In the process the chapter also reviews recent developments in camera technology and other charged particle imaging detectors. Chapter 6 introduces the idea of being able to use these developments in detector technology to directly record 3-D velocity distributions without the need for the reconstruction algorithms. In Chapter 7 we explore the possibilities of employing charged particle imaging techniques in conjunction with femtosecond pump-probe techniques to probe in particular the excited state dynamics of molecules.

The second half of the book describes a number of applications. These chapters are more directly research orientated, the aim being to introduce you to the possibilities for future experiments and the understanding of molecular dynamics that they will engender. In Chapter 8 the power of coincidence imaging detection is described. In Chapters 9 and 10 the possibilities for probing bimolecular collisions are explored, while Chapter 11 introduces a new approach to ion imaging and velocity mapping called slice imaging.

The idea for the book grew out of the last meeting of the European Funded IMAGINET TMR (training and mobility of researchers) network (ERB 4061 PL 97–0264) that was held at Fodele on Crete, 21–25 October 2000. Incidentally, Fodele is reputed to have been the birthplace of the sixteenth century painter Domenikos
Preface and acknowledgements

Theotocopoulos, otherwise known as El Greco, and whose curious astigmatic perspective is perhaps a fitting backdrop for a book about imaging. Producing a tutorial guide to imaging seemed a good idea at the time (perhaps influenced by the Blue Lagoon and other cocktails served in the bar in the evenings) but it has taken rather longer than anticipated to bring the project to a conclusion.
We (the authors) are grateful to the European Union for their support, either directly as participants in the IMAGINE programme, or through their support of the international network meeting, which allowed us to share the results of the programme with a wider audience. All of the participants at the meeting (see photograph) have contributed to this book, either as authors or through the many discussions we have all shared. The senior scientists involved in IMAGINE were Peter Andresen (Bielefeld), Mike Ashfold (Bristol), Thomas Berg (La Vision, GmbH), Eran Elizur (El-Mul Technologies, Ltd), Theofanis Kitsopoulos (FORTH, Heraklion), Jon Howorth (Photek plc), David Parker (Nijmegen), Isaac Shariv (El-Mul Technologies, Ltd), Wim van der Zande (AMOLF, Amsterdam), and myself, but the real work was done by the young and very talented postgraduate and postdoctoral scientists employed from across the European Union in the various participating laboratories. These were Richard Thomas, Yan Picard, André Eppink, Eckart Wrede, Eloy Wouters, Bernd Witzel, Derek Smith, Bernard Bakker, Christoph Gebhardt, Pablo Quintata, Wolfgang Roth, Hans-Peter Loock, and Ralph Delmdahl. IMAGINE stood for Imaging Network for the Direct Visualisation of Chemical Dynamics. Its inspiration was Lennonesque, and it was the epitome of the European Union’s vision for scientific innovation across the member states. Those of us who were involved with it are extremely grateful for the opportunity it offered us to share our ideas and excitement about the potential of imaging methods in chemical dynamics, and the authors hope that this contribution will sow the same seeds of excitement in a new generation of scientists.

All of us would like to dedicate the volume to the memory of Peter Andresen, who very sadly died suddenly soon after. Peter made enormous contribution to molecular dynamics over the years. His experiments on the photodissociation of water were inspirational, and his enthusiasm for ‘imaging’, from ions to the insides of motor engines, infectious. He is greatly missed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADC</td>
<td>Analogue-to-digital convertor</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBO</td>
<td>Beta barium borate</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCD</td>
<td>Charge coupled device</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFD</td>
<td>Constant fraction discriminator</td>
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<td>DCS</td>
<td>Differential cross-section</td>
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<td>DLD</td>
<td>Delay-line detector</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPA</td>
<td>Differential pre-amplifier</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESDIAD</td>
<td>Electron stimulated desorption ion angular distribusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFT</td>
<td>Fast Fourier transform</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTS</td>
<td>Frame threshold suppressor</td>
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<td>FWHM</td>
<td>Full width half maximum</td>
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<tr>
<td>IC</td>
<td>Internal conversion</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISC</td>
<td>Intersystem crossing</td>
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<tr>
<td>IVR</td>
<td>Intramolecular vibrational energy redistribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>KER</td>
<td>Kinetic energy release</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIF</td>
<td>Laser-induced fluorescence</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCP</td>
<td>Micro-channel plate</td>
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<td>MF</td>
<td>Molecular frame</td>
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<td>MSP</td>
<td>Micro-sphere plate</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPA</td>
<td>Optical parametric amplifier</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPO</td>
<td>Optical parametric oscillator</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAD</td>
<td>Photoelectron angular distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>PES</td>
<td>Potential energy surface</td>
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<td>PR</td>
<td>Pulse router</td>
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<td>PSA</td>
<td>Position sensitive anode</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSD</td>
<td>Position sensitive detector</td>
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<td>REMPI</td>
<td>Resonance enhanced multiphoton ionization</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>shaping element</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAC</td>
<td>time-to-analogue converter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDC</td>
<td>time-to-digital converter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOF</td>
<td>time-of-flight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOF-MS</td>
<td>time-of-flight mass spectrometry</td>
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