
Contents

1	The Basic Notions	1
1.1	Introductory Remarks	1
1.2	Excited Molecular States	2
1.2.1	Stationary and Quasi-Stationary States	2
1.2.2	Zero-Order and Exact Molecular States	4
1.3	Coupling Schemes and Level Patterns	6
1.3.1	Small Molecules	7
1.3.2	Large Molecule Limit	10
1.3.3	Sequential-Coupling Model	11
1.4	The Time Evolution of Excited States	12
1.4.1	Vibrational Wave Packet	12
1.4.2	Coherent and Incoherent Excitation	14
1.4.3	The Time Evolution of the Excited Molecule	14
1.5	Summary	21
1.6	Franck-Condon Rule	22
1.6.1	Franck-Condon Rule	22
1.6.2	Energy and Momentum Gap Laws	23
2	Experimental Techniques	29
2.1	Principles of Time- and Energy-Resolved Experiments	29
2.2	Isolated Molecules	31
2.2.1	Gases and Supersonic Jets	31
2.2.2	The Spectroscopy of Isolated Molecules	32
2.3	Time-Resolved Measurements	36
2.3.1	Light Sources for Time-Resolved Spectroscopy	36
2.3.2	Monitoring of the Excited-State Evolution	36
2.4	Model Systems for Molecular Interaction Studies	38
2.4.1	Gas-Phase Collisions	39
2.4.2	Rare-Gas Matrices and Clusters	39
2.4.3	AC Complexes and Half-Collisions	40
2.4.4	From the Model to Real Systems	40

3	Intramolecular Vibrational Redistribution	43
3.1	Introduction	43
3.1.1	Vibrational Relaxation and Redistribution	43
3.1.2	The Model of Independent Oscillators	44
3.2	IVR in Excited Electronic States	46
3.2.1	Bright and Dark Vibrational Levels	46
3.2.2	Fluorescence Studies	47
3.3	IVR in Ground Electronic States	53
3.3.1	General Remarks	53
3.3.2	Emission and Transient Absorption	55
3.3.3	X-H Absorption Spectra	57
3.4	IVR and the Vibrational Predissociation	62
3.5	Modelling of the Level Coupling Patterns	67
3.5.1	Level Coupling Selection Rules	67
3.5.2	The Level Pattern and the Tier Model	70
3.6	Conclusions	71
4	Vibrational and Rotational Relaxation	73
4.1	Introduction	73
4.1.1	Intermolecular Potentials	73
4.1.2	Experimental Studies	76
4.1.3	Main Questions	80
4.2	Collisional Vibrational and Rotational Relaxation	80
4.2.1	Rotational and Vibrational Relaxation Rates	81
4.2.2	Propensity Rules for Rotational Transitions	82
4.2.3	Vibrational Relaxation and Up-Relaxation	84
4.2.4	Conclusion	86
4.3	Direct and Sequential Paths of the Vibrational Relaxation	87
4.3.1	Model Notions	87
4.3.2	The Vibrational Relaxation of Diatomics	87
4.3.3	The Vibrational Predissociation of Complexes of Polyatomic Molecules	92
4.3.4	The Vibrational Relaxation in Hydrogen-Bonded Systems	95
4.4	The Competition Between Relaxation Channels	99
4.4.1	Model Treatment	99
4.4.2	Experiment	100
5	Electronic Relaxation	107
5.1	Potential-Energy Surfaces	107
5.2	Nonintersecting Potential-Energy Surfaces	112
5.2.1	Large Molecules	114
5.2.2	Small-Molecule Properties of Large Molecules	117
5.2.3	Small Molecules	119
5.3	The Environmental Effects on Electronic Relaxation	128
5.3.1	Large and Intermediate-Sized Molecules	128

5.3.2	Small Molecules	128
5.3.3	Pathways of Electronic Relaxation	130
5.4	Intersecting Potential-Energy Surfaces	132
5.4.1	Curve Crossing and Predissociation of Diatomics	132
5.4.2	Coupled Equations Near an Intersection	134
5.4.3	Experimental Studies of Predissociation	136
5.4.4	Fast Relaxation of Polyatomics	143
5.5	Conclusions	151
6	The Electron and Proton Transfer	153
6.1	General Remarks	153
6.2	Electron Transfer	156
6.2.1	Potential Energy Surfaces	156
6.2.2	Spectroscopy and Dynamics	160
6.3	Proton/Hydrogen-Atom Transfer	170
6.3.1	General Notions	170
6.3.2	Intramolecular Hydrogen Transfer	170
6.3.3	Intermolecular Proton Transfer	178
6.4	Final Remarks	179
7	Postface	181
	References	185
	Index	201