Vibrational wave packet induced oscillations in two-dimensional electronic spectra. 

II. Theory

Tomáš Mančal¹, Alexandra Nemeth², Franz Milota³, Vladimír Lukeš⁴, Harald F. Kauffmann⁵ and Jaroslav Sperling⁶

¹Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague, Ke Karlovu 5, Prague 121 16, Czech Republic
²Faculty of Chemistry, University of Vienna, Wittgensteinstrasse 42, 1090 Vienna, Austria
³Lehrstuhl für BioMolekulare Optik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Oettingenstrasse 67, 80538 München, Germany
⁴Department of Chemical Physics, Slovak Technical University, Radlinského 9, 81237 Bratislava, Slovakia
⁵Ultrafast Dynamics Group, Faculty of Physics, Vienna University of Technology, Wiedner Hauptstrasse 8-10, 1040 Vienna, Austria and
⁶Newport Spectra-Physics, Guerickeweg 7, 64291 Darmstadt, Germany

We present a theory of vibrational modulation of two-dimensional coherent Fourier transformed electronic spectra. Based on an expansion of the system’s energy gap correlation function in terms of Huang-Rhys factors, we explain the time-dependent oscillatory behavior of the absorptive and dispersive parts of two-dimensional spectra of a two-level electronic system, weakly coupled to intramolecular vibrational modes. The theory predicts oscillations in the relative amplitudes of the rephasing and non-rephasing parts of the two-dimensional spectra, and enables to analyze time dependent two-dimensional spectra in terms of simple elementary components whose line-shapes are dictated by the interaction of the system with the solvent only. The theory is applicable to both low and high energy (with respect to solvent induced line broadening) vibrations. The results of this paper enable to qualitatively explain experimental observations on low energy vibrations presented in the preceding paper [A. Nemeth et al, arXiv:1003.4174v1] and to predict the time evolution of two-dimensional spectra in ultrafast ultrabroad band experiments on systems with high energy vibrations.

I. INTRODUCTION

Multi-dimensional ultrafast spectroscopic techniques open an increasingly broad experimental window into the dynamics of molecular systems on femtosecond and picosecond time scales. Important experimental insights have been obtained by studying dynamics of small systems such as vibrations of small molecules, peptides and proteins [1], hydrogen bonding networks in water [2] and peptides [3], and electronic transitions in dye molecules [4, 5]. At the same time, multi-dimensional spectroscopy have proven its strength on complex systems ranging from conjugated polymers [6, 7], nanotubes [8], protein chromophore complexes [9, 10], to name but a few experimental data otherwise difficult to interpret. For example, three pulse photon echo peakshift was identified by Cho et al. [11] to reveal the energy gap correlation function. Two-color photon echo peakshift has been found to measure excitonic coupling in a dimer [12] or differences between energy gap correlation functions of two chromophores [13]. Basic 2D spectral line-shapes were classified by Tokmakoff [14] based on a two-level system, and finally, the relation between the non-linear spectroscopic signals and the normalized energy gap correlation function was studied by de Boeij et al. [15] and for 2D spectra by Lazonder et al. [16], to name but a few examples.

In some of these works, insightful information was ob-
tained by expanding the line-shape functions (or energy gap correlation functions) in terms of a suitable parameter, e.g. the time delay between two interactions. In the present study, we follow the same general approach and expand the line-shape correlation functions (describing the interaction of an electronic transition with an intra-molecular vibrational mode) in terms of another suitable parameter, the Huang-Rhys factor $\lambda/\omega$. Here, $\lambda$ is the reorganization energy and $\omega$ the frequency of the mode. The applicability of a low order expansion in terms of the Huang-Rhys factor to the description of the 2D experiment is obviously system-dependent but for the dye molecule studied in Refs. [29] and [3] the qualitative results of the theory presented in this paper were confirmed by a full response function simulation of the 2D spectrum [5].

One of the first theoretical analyses of the vibrational line-shapes in electronic 2D spectra was done by Egorova et al. [26, 27] using the density matrix propagation method. We complement this work by performing a detailed analysis of a two-level electronic system within the response function theory, where vibrational levels are not considered explicitly. Unlike in Refs. [26] and [27] we consider both rephasing and non-rephasing parts of the 2D spectrum, and we study time dependent modulations of the 2D spectrum by slow vibrational modes.

This paper is organized as follows. In the next section, we shortly review two-dimensional Fourier transformed spectroscopy and its theoretical description. In Section III we introduce the non-linear response functions and the line-shape functions which form the basis of our description of the 2D spectra. In Section IV we decompose the total 2D line-shape into several components according to their time dependence and derive elementary 2D line-shapes, which can be used to construct the total 2D spectrum. The time evolution of 2D spectra modulated by low and high energy modes are analyzed in Section V. Our conclusions are summarized in Section VI.

II. TWO-DIMENSIONAL FOURIER TRANSFORMED SPECTROSCOPY

The principles of Two-Dimensional Fourier Transformed Spectroscopy (2D-FT) where described in detail in many references (see e.g. [4, 14]) including the preceding paper, Ref. [29]. Here, we sum up results important for the theoretical modeling of the 2D-FT spectra in this paper.

In 2D-FT we use three laser pulses with wave-vectors $\mathbf{k}_1$, $\mathbf{k}_2$, and $\mathbf{k}_3$ arriving at the sample at times $\tau_1$, $\tau_2$, and $\tau_3$, respectively. In case of sufficiently weak excitation pulses, the intensity of the signal observed in the direction of $-\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2 + \mathbf{k}_3$ is of third order in the total intensity of the incident light and the signal can be well described by third order time-dependent perturbation theory. The propagation of light through a material sample is influenced by the light-induced polarization, which is proportional to a material response function. The total third order response of the system to an excitation by three successive interactions with an external electric field of a laser is

$$R^{(3)}(t_3, t_2, t_1) = \Theta(t_4)\Theta(t_2)\Theta(t_1)$$

$$\times \left( \frac{i}{\hbar} \right)^3 \sum_{n=1}^{4} \{ R_n(t_3, t_2, t_1) - R_0(t_3, t_2, t_1) \}, \quad (1)$$

where $\Theta(t)$ is the Heaviside step-function. The $R_n$ functions are defined according to the standard notation of Ref. [4], and represent different perturbative contributions (know as Liouville pathways) to the total response. The response is a function of three time variables, where $t_1$ denotes the delay between the first and second interaction, $t_2$ denotes the delay between the second and third interaction, and $t_3$ is the delay between the last interaction and the measurement. The polarization of the sample at time $t_3$ after the arrival of the third pulse is given by a three-fold convolution of the response function, Eq. (1), with the incoming electric fields. For very short pulses (impulsive limit) one can identify times $t_1$ and $t_2$ with the delays between the pulses ($t_1 = |\tau_2 - \tau_1|, \quad t_2 = |\tau_3 - \tau_2|$) and one can approximate the polarization by those parts of the above expression that survive the so-called rotating wave approximation (RWA) (see e.g. Ref. [4]). This yields $P_s^{(3)}(t_3, t_2, t_1) \approx R_{rwa}^{(3)}(t_3, t_2, t_1)$. With different ordering of the pulses $\mathbf{k}_1$ and $\mathbf{k}_2$, $R_{rwa}^{(3)}$ contains different Liouville pathways. In particular

$$P_s^{(3)}(t_3, t_2, t_1) \approx -iR_2(t_3, t_2, t_1) - iR_3(t_3, t_2, t_1), \quad (2)$$

for $\tau_1 < \tau_2$ and

$$P_s^{(3)}(t_3, t_2, t_1) \approx -iR_1(t_3, t_2, t_1) - iR_4(t_3, t_2, t_1), \quad (3)$$

for $\tau_1 > \tau_2$. As pointed out in the Introduction, we are interested in two level electronic systems, for which the number of unique pathways is limited to four [30]. The electric field of the measured signal is proportional to the polarization as

$$E_s^{(3)}(t_3, t_2, t_1) \approx \frac{i\omega}{n(\omega)} P_s^{(3)}(t_3, t_2, t_1). \quad (4)$$

In 2D-FT experiments, the signal travels into a direction different from all incoming pulses, where it can be detected by a heterodyne detection scheme without interfering radiation from the three excitation pulses. The radiative prefactor $\omega/n(\omega)$ is removed and the 2D spectrum is obtained by a double Fourier transform (experimentally only one of the Fourier transforms is performed numerically, the other is implicitly involved in the frequency resolved detection scheme) [4, 14]. Signals from both possible time orderings of the $\mathbf{k}_1$ and $\mathbf{k}_2$ pulses (i.e. $\tau_1 < \tau_2$ and $\tau_1 > \tau_2$) are summed to form the 2D-FT spectrum yielding

$$S(\omega_3, t_2, \omega_1)$$
response functions read in detail was done also in the preceding paper, Ref. [29]. The denoted as Often it is advantageous to use another function, usually with the degrees of freedom (DOF) of the surrounding.

The electronic transition due to its interaction frequency) correlation function, describing the fluctuation is defined as

\[ \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty dt_3 dt_1 f(t_3, t_1) e^{i\omega_3 t_3 - i\omega_1 t_1} \]  

Thus, in the impulsive limit the 2D-FT spectrum can be calculated directly by applying a double Fourier transform to the rephasing and non-rephasing components of the third order response function.

III. THIRD ORDER NON-LINEAR RESPONSE FUNCTION

For a two-level electronic system, the third order response functions can be derived in terms of a single quantity called line-shape function, \( g(t) \). The line-shape function is defined as

\[ g(t) = \int_0^t d\tau \int_0^\tau d\tau' C(\tau'), \]

where \( C(t) \) is the so-called energy gap (or frequency-frequency) correlation function, describing the fluctuations of the electronic transition due to its interaction with the degrees of freedom (DOF) of the surrounding. Often it is advantageous to use another function, usually denoted as \( M(t) \), for the discussion of the influence of the bath DOF onto the spectrum (see e.g. [33, 34]). The \( M(t) \) function is (for high temperatures) equal to the real part of the correlation function \( C(t) \) normalized to 1 at \( t = 0 \). An analysis of nonlinear spectra based on \( M(t) \) was done also in the preceding paper, Ref. [29]. The response functions read in detail

\[ R_n(t_3, t_2, t_1) = |d|^4 e^{-i\omega_n(t_1 + t_3) + f_n(t_3, t_2, t_1), n = 1, 4, \]

where \( d \) is the transition dipole moment between the electronic ground and excited state, and we defined

\[ f_1(t_3, t_2, t_1) = -g(t_1) - g^*(t_3) - g^*(t_2) + g^*(t_2 + t_3) \]

\[ + g(t_1 + t_2) - g(t_1 + t_2 + t_3), \]

\[ f_2(t_3, t_2, t_1) = -g^*(t_1) - g(t_3) + g(t_2) - g(t_2 + t_3) \]

\[ - g^*(t_1 + t_2) + g^*(t_1 + t_2 + t_3), \]

\[ f_3(t_3, t_2, t_1) = -g^*(t_1) - g(t_3) + g^*(t_2) - g^*(t_2 + t_3) \]

\[ - g^*(t_1 + t_2) + g^*(t_1 + t_2 + t_3), \]

\[ f_4(t_3, t_2, t_1) = -g(t_1) - g(t_3) - g(t_2) + g(t_2 + t_3) \]

\[ + g(t_1 + t_2) - g(t_1 + t_2 + t_3). \]

Using Eqs. (2) to (14) we can calculate the impulsive response of a two-level electronic system interacting with a rather general environment that is described by some correlation function \( C(t) \).

One of the most common models for the correlation function \( C(t) \) is the so called Brownian oscillator model, which enables to describe both overdamped solvent modes as well as underdamped intramolecular vibrational modes. The Brownian oscillator model and its application to calculation of optical spectra is extensively described in Ref. [30]. In our considerations, we represent certain interesting intramolecular modes by the underdamped version of this model, assuming further that the damping of the oscillator is negligible. For the description of the experimental results, Ref. [29], it seems to be a good approximation for times less than 1 ps. The corresponding energy gap correlation function thus reads

\[ C(t) = \lambda \omega \Xi(T) \cos \omega t - i\lambda \omega \sin \omega t, \]

where \( \Xi(T) = \coth \left( \frac{\hbar \omega}{2k_B T} \right) \). From Eq. (15) it follows that

\[ g(t) = i\lambda t + i\frac{\lambda}{\omega} \sin \omega t + \frac{\lambda}{\omega} \Xi(T) [1 - \cos \omega t]. \]

Here, \( \lambda \) is the reorganization energy and \( \omega \) is the frequency of the mode, respectively. The overdamped Brownian oscillator model is used for modeling the solvent correlation function. We will be interested in the properties of the corresponding solvent \( g(t) \)-function for \( t > \tau_c \) only.
where $\tau_c$ is some characteristic correlation time of the solvent. Particularly, if the solvent energy gap correlation function does not have any slow static component, i.e. if so-called static disorder of the system is negligible, we can write for $t > \tau_c$ (see Ref. 31)

$$g(t) = g_{\text{const}} + \bar{g}(t), \quad (17)$$

where $\bar{g}(t)$ has the property

$$\bar{g}(t + \tau) = \bar{g}(t) + \bar{g}(\tau), \quad (18)$$

i.e. for sufficiently long times, the function $g(t)$ is linear. This property will be used below to simplify Eqs. (11) to (14).

IV. MODULATION OF NON-LINEAR RESPONSE BY VIBRATIONAL MODES

A. Third order response of weakly coupled vibrational modes

Let us consider an electronic two-level system that is coupled to an environment consisting of one dominant underdamped vibrational mode and a bath with a macroscopic number of DOF. The latter DOF are represented by an overdamped Brownian oscillator model and its corresponding line-shape function $g_{\text{bath}}(t)$ which has the property of Eq. (17). The total energy gap correlation function of the system will be assumed in the form

$$g(t) = g_{\text{vib}}(t) + g_{\text{bath}}(t), \quad (19)$$

where $g_{\text{vib}}(t)$ is defined by Eq. (19). The response functions, Eqs. (10) and (11), can thus be factorized into pure solvent and pure vibrational parts. Since we deal here with one electronic transition only, we assume $d = 1$ for the rest of the paper. If the Huang-Rhys factor $\lambda/\omega$ (i.e. the coupling of the vibrational mode to the electronic transition) is sufficiently small, we can expand the vibrational contribution and write to first order in $\lambda/\omega$

$$R_n(t_2, t_1) \approx e^{i(\omega_g + \lambda)(t_1 - t_3)} \bar{R}_n(t_3, t_2, t_1)$$

$$\times \left[ 1 + \frac{\lambda}{\omega} F_n(t_1, t_2, t_3) \right], \quad n = 2, 3 \quad (20)$$

$$R_n(t_3, t_2, t_1) \approx e^{-i(\omega_g + \lambda)(t_1 + t_3)} \bar{R}_n(t_3, t_2, t_1)$$

$$\times \left[ 1 + \frac{\lambda}{\omega} F_n(t_1, t_2, t_3) \right], \quad n = 1, 4. \quad (21)$$

Here, the $\bar{R}_n(t_3, t_2, t_1)$ functions comprise the pure solvent response (except of the optical frequency factor $e^{-i\omega_g(t_3 \pm t_1)}$, cf. Eq. (25) and (26)), and

$$F_n(t_1, t_2, t_3) = K_n(t_1, t_3) + H_n(t_1, t_3) \cos \omega t_2$$

$$+ G_n(t_1, t_3) \sin \omega t_2, \quad (22)$$

with $K$, $H$, and $G$ functions discussed below. We used the fact that if Eq. (10) is inserted into Eqs. (11) to (14), the first two terms we obtain are $f_n(t_3, t_2, t_1) = i\lambda(t_3 \pm t_1) - 2\lambda \Xi(T)/\omega + ...$. These two terms are kept in the exponential of Eqs. (20) and (21), and the rest is expanded in terms of $\lambda/\omega$. The only formal differences between the rephasing and non-rephasing response functions, Eqs. (20) and (21), are the different phase factors in times $t_1$ and $t_3$.

The expansion of the exponential function in Eqs. (20) and (21), $\exp(\frac{\lambda}{\omega} F_n) \approx 1 + \frac{\lambda}{\omega} F_n$, requires $\frac{\lambda}{\omega} F_n$ to be a small number. The function $F_n$ is an oscillating function bound between certain values which represent the points of the extreme deviation from the exact expression for the response functions. One of such values occurs e.g. at $t_3 = 0$ and $t_3 = 0$, where $F_n = 2\Xi(T)$. The validity of the approximation is therefore limited also by temperature. For high temperatures, however, i.e. if $h \omega \gg 2k_B T$ and correspondingly $\Xi(T) \approx 1$, the validity is limited only by the value of the Huang-Rhys factors. The 2D spectra that are the main subject of this paper are obtained by Fourier transforms in times $t_1$ and $t_3$. In applying the approximation it is therefore important that the approximated response function retains the correct periodicity in $t_1$ and $t_3$. The expansion can be generalized for several vibrational modes, but one has to bear in mind that the factor limiting the validity of the approximation might be the sum of Huang-Rhys factors of all expanded modes.

Using the well-known goniometric relations

$$\sin(\alpha + \beta) = \cos \alpha \sin \beta + \sin \alpha \cos \beta, \quad (23)$$

$$\cos(\alpha + \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta - \sin \alpha \sin \beta \quad (24)$$

the $K$, $H$, and $G$ functions can be expanded into a linear combination of simple cos and sin functions. The actual forms of these functions can be found in Ref. 3 or in Appendix A. The $t_2$-dependence of the response related to vibrational modes can thus be approximately separated into stationary, sine oscillating and cosine oscillating parts, using relatively simple factors of Eqs. (11) to (14) from Appendix A.

Due to the properties of the solvent line-shape function $g_{\text{bath}}(t)$, namely Eqs. (17) and (18), the response of the solvent is $t_2$-independent for long times $t_2$. Thus, if $t_2 > \tau_c$ we can write

$$\bar{R}_1(t_3, t_2, t_1) = \bar{R}_4(t_3, t_2, t_1) = e^{-g_{\text{bath}}(t_1) - g_{\text{bath}}(t_3)}, \quad (25)$$

$$\bar{R}_2(t_3, t_2, t_1) = \bar{R}_3(t_3, t_2, t_1) = e^{-g_{\text{bath}}(t_1) - g_{\text{bath}}(t_3)}. \quad (26)$$

This enables us to drop the $t_2$-dependence of the solvent response function in the following discussion, bearing in mind that we always assume $t_2 > \tau_c$. 
B. Two-dimensional Fourier-transformed spectra

The 2D-FT spectrum was defined in Section II. By the double Fourier-transforms, Eqs. (9) and (7), we obtain the total spectrum and its rephasing and non-rephasing parts at a given delay \( t_2 \). The expansions in Eqs. (20) and (21) suggest that the 2D spectrum is composed of a vibration-free spectral shape originating from the solvent response function \( \tilde{R} \) and some vibrational contributions. The pure solvent contributions read

\[
Z_n^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1) = FT_{2D}[-\tilde{R}_n(t_3, t_1)]
\times e^{i\omega_3(t_1-t_3)}(\omega_3, \omega_1), \quad n = 2, 3, (27)
\]

\[
Y_n^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1) = FT_{2D}[\tilde{R}_n(t_3, t_1)]
\times e^{-i\omega_3(t_1+t_3)}(\omega_3, \omega_1), \quad n = 1, 4. (28)
\]

The solvent 2D-FT spectrum is therefore given by

\[
S_{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1) = Z_2^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1) + Z_3^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1)
+ Y_1^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1) + Y_4^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1). (29)
\]

Considering Eqs. (29) and (20) we see that one can write

\[
Z(\omega_3, \omega_1) = Z_2^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1)
= Z_3^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1) = G(\omega_3)G^*(\omega_1), (30)
\]

\[
Y(\omega_3, \omega_1) = Y_1^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1)
= Y_4^{\text{solv}}(\omega_3, \omega_1) = G(\omega_3)G(\omega_1), (31)
\]

where we defined

\[
G(\omega) = \int_0^\infty dt e^{-g(t)+i(\omega-\omega_\text{sg})t}. (32)
\]

Solvent contributions to the 2D spectrum can thus be expressed using just two elementary 2D line-shapes \( Z(\omega_3, \omega_1) \) and \( Y(\omega_3, \omega_1) \), which can be further simplified. The real part of Eq. (32) is directly proportional to the absorption at frequency \( \omega \). Consequently, one can conclude that the real part of the total 2D line-shape, \( \text{Re}(Z + Y) = \text{Re}(G(\omega_3)) \text{Re}(G(\omega_1)) \), represents an absorption–absorption correlation plot, while its imaginary part, \( \text{Im}(Z + Y) = \text{Im}(G(\omega_3)) \text{Re}(G(\omega_1)) \), corresponds to an absorption–refraction correlation plot. For simple symmetric line shapes with a maximum at some frequency \( \omega_{\text{max}} \), e.g. for a Lorentzian, \( Z \) and \( Y \) are related by flipping of the line shape with respect to the \( \omega_1 \)-axis at \( \omega_1 = \omega_{\text{max}} \).

Now we will use elementary rephasing and non-rephasing 2D spectral line-shapes, Eqs. (30) and (31), to construct a \( t_2 \)-dependent line-shape of a molecule possessing a vibrational mode with a sufficiently small Huang-Rhys factor. To this end, we use the fact that the vibrational part of the response function consists of the \( t_2 \)-independent functions \( K_n(t_1, t_3), H_n(t_1, t_3) \) and \( G_n(t_1, t_3) \) that contain only sines and cosines of various combinations of arguments \( \omega t_1 \) and \( \omega t_3 \). The whole \( t_2 \)-dependence is contained in Eq. (22). While performing a Fourier transform of the response functions, Eqs. (20) and (21), we Fourier transform the solvent response function multiplied by the cosine and sine terms from the functions \( K_n(t_1, t_3), H_n(t_1, t_3) \) and \( G_n(t_1, t_3) \).

The total rephasing spectrum can thus be constructed from six possible vibrational contributions. We have e. g.

\[
Z_{\text{cos}}^{(3)}(\omega_3, \omega_1) = FT_{2D}[e^{i(\omega_3+\lambda)(t_1-t_3)}
\times \tilde{R}_2(t_3, t_1) \cos \omega t_3](\omega_3, \omega_1). (33)
\]

The remaining expressions of the same kind are summarized in the first part of Appendix [A]. From now on, we use only \( \tilde{R}_2(t_3, t_1) \), because \( \tilde{R}_2(t_3, t_1) = \tilde{R}_3(t_3, t_1) \) for \( t_2 > \tau_c \) (cf. Eq. (20)), and we drop the lower index for the line-shapes \( Z \) and \( Y \). Similarly we obtain shapes \( Y_{\text{cos}}^{(3)}, Y_{\text{cos}}^{(1)} \) etc. for the non-rephasing part by applying \( FT_{2D} \) to the \( \tilde{R}_1 \) (\( \tilde{R}_4 \)) function.

The vibrational frequency \( \omega \) is much smaller than the frequency of the visible excitation light at which the 2D spectrum is measured and consequently the sine and cosine in the Fourier transform introduce only shifts of the spectral feature without significant changes of its shape.

Using the relations

\[
\cos \omega t = \frac{e^{-i\omega t} + e^{i\omega t}}{2}, (34)
\]

and

\[
\sin \omega t = \frac{e^{-i\omega t} - e^{i\omega t}}{2}, (35)
\]

we obtain e.g.

\[
Z_{\text{cos}}^{(3)}(\omega_3, \omega_1) = \frac{1}{2}Z(\omega_3 - \lambda - \omega, \omega_1 - \lambda)
+ \frac{1}{2}Z(\omega_3 - \lambda + \omega, \omega_1 - \lambda), (36)
\]

or

\[
Z_{\text{sin}}^{(3)}(\omega_3, \omega_1) = \frac{i}{2}Z(\omega_3 - \lambda - \omega, \omega_1 - \lambda)
- \frac{i}{2}Z(\omega_3 - \lambda + \omega, \omega_1 - \lambda), (37)
\]

and analogously for other shapes. All shapes can thus be written as simple linear combinations of the shifted basic
functions of the rephasing solvent response and spectrally. The static rephasing part consisting of the rephasing and non-rephasing parts of the spectrum, re-
independent part, \( S \) contributions to the total 2D-FT spectrum in terms of

\[
W \text{e keep the lower indices the total response can be split into a }
\text{part oscillating with } \cos \omega t_2 \text{ and part oscillating with } \sin \omega t_2, \text{ respectively,}
\]

\[
S(\Omega_3, t_2, \Omega_1) = S^0(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) + S^{\cos}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) \cos \omega t_2 + S^{\sin}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) \sin \omega t_2.
\]

Collecting all parts of the response, we can express all contributions to the total 2D-FT spectrum in terms of the \( Z \) and \( Y \) line-shapes defined in Eqs. (30) and (31). We keep the lower indices \( R \) and \( NR \) to denote the rephasing and non-rephasing parts of the spectrum, respectively. The static rephasing part consisting of the Fourier transform of the rephasing solvent response and functions \( K_2(t_3, t_1) \) and \( K_3(t_3, t_1) \) reads

\[
S^R(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) \approx \left[ Z + i \frac{\lambda}{\omega} Z^{(1)} + \frac{\lambda}{\omega} \Xi(T) Z^{(1)} + Z^{(3)} \right].
\]

The sine oscillating rephasing part which is based on the \( G_2(t_3, t_1) \) and \( G_3(t_3, t_1) \) functions reads

\[
S^{\sin}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) \approx -\frac{\lambda}{\omega} \left[ Z^{(3)} + Z^{(3+1)} \right] + i \frac{\lambda}{\omega} \left[ Z^{(1)} - Z^{(3+1)} \right].
\]

and the cosine oscillating rephasing part composed of the Fourier transforms of the \( H_2(t_3, t_1) \) and \( F_3(t_3, t_1) \) functions can be written as

\[
S^{\cos}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) \approx \frac{\lambda}{\omega} \left[ Z^{(3)} + Z^{(1)} - Z^{(3+1)} - Z \right]
+ i \frac{\lambda}{\omega} \left[ Z^{(1)} - Z^{(3+1)} \right].
\]

The non-rephasing contributions are similarly based on the non-rephasing functions with subindices 1 and 4 and read

\[
S^0_{NR}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) \approx \left[ Y - i \frac{\lambda}{\omega} Y^{(1)} \right] + \frac{\lambda}{\omega} \Xi(T) \left[ Y^{(1)} + Y^{(3)} \right] \]

\[
S^{\sin}_{NR}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) \approx \frac{\lambda}{\omega} \Xi(T) \left[ Y^{(1)} + Y^{(3)} - Y^{(3+1)} \right]
+ i \frac{\lambda}{\omega} \left[ Y^{(1)} - Y^{(3+1)} \right].
\]

The above equations enable to characterize completely the total time-dependent 2D-FT spectrum of a two-level electronic system weakly coupled to a vibrational mode.

V. ANALYSIS OF TIME-DEPENDENT 2D LINE-SHAPES

In this section, all calculations are performed assuming \( T = 300 \) K and the bath correlation function in the form of an overdamped Brownian oscillator with reorganization energy \( \lambda_{bath} = 100 \) cm\(^{-1}\) and correlation time \( \tau_{bath} = 150 \) fs. These numbers represent some characteristic values motivated by the molecular system studied in Paper I and Ref. 13. For the Brownian oscillator model, the long time line-shape function has a constant term \( g_{const} = -\lambda \tau_c (2k_B T \tau_c / \hbar - i) \) and a linear term, which can be written as \( g(t) = -g_{const} / \tau_c \). The high temperature limit \( k_B T \gg \hbar / \tau_c \) is valid for these parameters.

If the influence of vibrational modes converges to zero, i.e., for \( \lambda / \omega \to 0 \), the total spectrum is formed by the sum of the non-shifted rephasing shape \( Z \) and the non-shifted non-rephasing shape \( Y \). Qualitatively, these line-shapes are the same as those presented in Fig. 11. The
real rephasing part of the spectrum has a characteristic orientation of the positive peak along the diagonal line, while the real non-rephasing part is elongated along the anti-diagonal line. Both line-shapes have negative "wings" stretching perpendicularly to the axis of elongation of the particular spectrum. If combined, they form a symmetric shape of the total response with solvent induced broadening only. The dispersive (imaginary) part of the solvent spectrum is also formed by the rephasing and non-rephasing elementary 2D line-shapes which are characterized by a nodal line parallel to the elongation axis of their real counterparts. Thus, the rephasing and non-rephasing dispersive parts differ from each other by the orientation of their nodal lines. The combined spectrum has a nodal line parallel to the $\omega_1$-axis.

The 2D line-shapes $Z$ and $Y$ represent the basic forms from which all spectral components can be constructed by means of a shift by the vibrational frequency $\omega$. We demonstrate this on the contribution $S_R^{\cos}$ (cf. Eq. (45)). Fig. 2a-e depicts the individual terms in Eq. (45) according to Eqs. (41), (B7) and (B9), and 2(f) presents the total contribution $S_R^{\cos}$. The oval shapes represent a single contour of the real part of the rephasing line-shape $Z$, thus showing their characteristic orientation and position in the spectrum. The numbers Fig. 2 represent the intensity of the corresponding spectral feature. Empty contours represent negative peaks, whereas shaded contours indicate positive peaks. From this schematic picture one can draw several conclusions. First, if the shift $\omega$ is small and all contributions overlap significantly, the positive part of the sum is elongated along the diagonal, with asymmetric negative parts along the anti-diagonal line. The negative features are stronger in the lower right corner of the 2D spectrum. Second, for vanishing $\omega$ the total contribution tends to zero, because all terms cancel. Consequently, for the same Huang-Rhys factor, the modulation by slower (lower energy) modes is weaker than the corresponding modulation by faster (higher energy) modes. Third, for $\omega$ larger than the width of the elementary line-shapes $Z$, the rephasing $\cos$ contribution has the strongest positive feature on the right from the central frequency, a strong negative feature in the lower right corner, while in the center the contribution is negative. In the following sections we will demonstrate this prediction by numerical evaluation of Eqs. (42) to (48). Similar intuitive pictures can be created also for the non-rephasing spectra, using the pictorial representation of
the line-shape $Y$.

We will distinguish between fast (high energy) and slow (low energy) vibrational modes relative to the inverse homogeneous spectral width $\Delta_{\text{solv}}$ (FWHM) of the solvent contribution. If $\omega \ll \Delta_{\text{solv}}, \ i.e. \ \text{vibrational cross-peaks in the 2D-FT spectrum or vibrational lines in the absorption spectrum would be indistinguishable, we assume the vibrational mode to be slow. The opposite case, $\omega \gg \Delta_{\text{solv}}, \ \text{characterizes fast vibrational modes for which individual vibrational features could be distinguished in optical spectra.}$

![Diagram](image)

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{image.png}
\caption{The stationary contributions (from top down) $S_R^0(\omega_3, \omega_1)$, $S_{NR}^0(\omega_3, \omega_1)$ and their sum $S^0(\omega_3, \omega_1)$ for the modulation by a high energy vibrational mode of $\omega = 1000 \ \text{cm}^{-1}$ and $\lambda = 300 \ \text{cm}^{-1}$. The figures on the left present the real and the figures on the right the imaginary parts of the spectra, respectively.}
\end{figure}

Although the vibrational contribution is mostly dynamic, i.e. $t_2$-dependent, there is a certain time-independent contribution to the total 2D spectrum that originates from the vibrations. The stationary parts of the 2D spectra for modulation by a low energy vibrational mode of $\omega = 140 \ \text{cm}^{-1}$ and a high energy vibrational mode of $\omega = 1000 \ \text{fs}$ are presented in Figs. 1 and 8 respectively. The reorganization energies have been set to $\lambda = 80 \ \text{cm}^{-1}$ and $\lambda = 300 \ \text{cm}^{-1}$, respectively. In case of the low energy mode, the shift of the line-shape by $\omega$ does not lead to any crosspeaks separated from the main diagonal peaks. The observed line-shape is only slightly broadened and distorted from the pure solvent line-shape by the vibrational contribution. In case of the high energy mode, we can distinguish separate vibrational cross- and diagonal peaks. In all cases we can identify the characteristic direction of elongation of the 2D line-shapes. The imaginary parts of all spectra also show characteristic orientations of the nodal lines. We can conclude that, in the static part of the 2D spectrum modulated by a high energy mode, the line-shapes are dictated by the chromophore solvent interaction, while the positions of the peaks are given by the vibrational frequency.

A. Modulation of 2D spectra by a low energy mode

The $t_2$-time evolution of the 2D spectra is mediated by the $\sin(\omega t_2)$ and $\cos(\omega t_2)$ functions which vary the magnitude of the contributions in Eqs. (44), (45), (47) and (48). A closer look at Eqs. (44) to (48) reveals that the rephasing and non-rephasing contributions have a very similar functional form. They differ mainly by the exchange $Z \leftrightarrow Y$. Apart from this exchange, comparing the two $\sin$ contributions, Eqs. (44) and (47), and the two $\cos$ contributions, Eqs. (45) and (48), there is a flip of the sign in their first terms. This suggests that the rephasing and non-rephasing modulations of the total 2D shape differ not only in the orientation of their elongation, but also in phase. For $\cos \omega t_2 = 1$, the total rephasing contribution is at its maximum, while at the same time, the non-rephasing one is at its minimum. Due to the third term in Eqs. (44), (45), (47) and (48), this property is not exact. However, by studying diagrams similar to Fig. 2 for the various contributions, we have concluded that a $\cos$ non-rephasing line-shape can be obtained from the rephasing one by turning the picture by $\pi/2$ anti-clockwise (corresponding to $Z \leftrightarrow Y$ exchange), mirroring it by the diagonal line, and changing the sign.

Figs. 4 and 5 present the $\cos$ and $\sin$ oscillating parts of the total 2D spectrum for modulation by a low energy vibrational mode. We can immediately notice that for both the $\sin$ and the $\cos$ modulation the real rephasing and non-rephasing contributions are approximately out of phase. For the set of parameters used here, the maximum amplitude of the $\cos$ contribution is approximately twice the maximum amplitude of the $\sin$ contribution, so that the $\cos$ oscillation is the most significant feature in the $t_2$-evolution of the 2D spectrum. Neglecting therefore the $\sin$ contribution for a while, we can predict a mutual out of phase modulation of the rephasing and non-rephasing parts of the 2D spectrum. This leads to the characteristic oscillation of the diagonal and anti-
B. Modulation of 2D spectra by a high energy mode

Encouraged by the successful comparison of the theory presented here with an experiment involving low energy vibrational modes, we can extend the treatment to high energy modes. For fast vibrational modes, where $\hbar \omega \gg 2k_B T$, the validity of the expansion in Eqs. (20) and (21) is limited only by the value of the Huang-Rhys factor $\lambda/\omega$, because $\coth(\hbar \omega/2k_B T) \approx 1$. The composition of different contributions to the 2D spectrum in this case, can be easily understood directly from considerations similar to those which led to Fig. 2. The rephasing real part of the cos contribution shown in Fig. 7 corresponds very well to the depiction of Fig. 2. A negative peak is present in the center of the spectrum, while two positive peaks are below the diagonal and one above the diagonal. The stronger of the two positive peaks below the diagonal is positioned at higher $\omega_1$ frequencies. All
other contributions can be constructed in a similar way, including those oscillating with \( \sin(\omega t) \) (cf. Fig. 8).

Figure 6 presents the time evolution of the total 2D spectrum at different phases of the oscillation. An interesting observation is that for high energy vibrational modes the diagonal peaks oscillate with the opposite phases than in case of the low energy mode modulation, and with the opposite phase with respect to some of the cross-peaks. The shape of the \( \cos \) contributions for low and high energy mode modulations (Fig. 4 vs. Fig. 7), which are constructed from the same \( Z \) and \( Y \) but with different amount of shift from the transition frequency, again enables to understand the difference. Unlike the central diagonal peak, the crosspeaks oscillate between positive and negative values. The phase of these oscillations enables, for example, to clearly distinguish the 2D spectra in times \( t_2 = \pi/2\omega \) and \( t_2 = 3\pi/2\omega \) by the real part of the spectrum only, without referring to the imaginary parts. For low energy modes, these two phases might be very difficult to distinguish.

The presence of negative features in different parts of the 2D-FT spectrum might influence the measured 2D-FT spectrum even if the spectrum of the pulse is not able to cover vibrational crosspeaks (see e.g. Ref. [37]). However, sufficient information for the characterization of wavepacket motion cannot be obtained from such a measurement. If the experiment is performed with a laser pulse of a bandwidth comparable with the width of the

Figure 7: The \( \cos \) contribution for the modulation by a high energy vibrational mode of \( \omega = 1000 \text{ cm}^{-1} \). From top down: the rephasing and non-rephasing parts, and the sum spectrum. The figures on the left present the real and the figures on the right the imaginary parts of the spectra, respectively.
Figure 8: The $\sin$ contribution for the modulation by a high energy vibrational mode of $\omega = 1000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. From top down: the rephasing and non-rephasing parts, and the sum spectrum. The figures on the left present the real and the figures on the right the imaginary parts of the spectra, respectively.

Vibrational peaks in the absorption or 2D spectrum (such as in Refs. [8, 29] and [37]) the frequency of the laser pulse relative to the main diagonal peak determines the amount of influence the fast mode has on the 2D spectrum. In particular, in Refs. [8, 29] the central laser pulse frequency is lower than the position of the main diagonal peak, and the 2D spectrum is thus measured away from the fast vibrational features. Any vibrational modes with vibrational frequency significantly faster than the width of the laser pulse can thus be ignored from the evaluation, which was successfully done in Ref. [8]. On the other hand, if the laser pulse falls into the spectral region between the diagonal peaks, as is the case in Ref. [37], the 2D spectrum is distorted by the high energy mode even if its frequency is larger that the width of the laser pulse.

Application of ultra broadband pulses that would cover significantly the whole region where a studied vibrational mode absorbs, promises to enable a complete characterization of the photo-induced vibrational wavepacket motion. Our results present reference spectra for an underdamped wavepacket motion in a harmonic potential. Distortions from this reference case can reveal changes in the shape of the wavepacket due to weak relaxation, anharmonicity, and also differences between the ground and excited state potential energy surfaces. From this point of view, 2D-FT experiments are of interest not only for molecules in solutions, but also for gas phase molecules, where they can characterize fundamental properties of vibrational DOF.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

We have presented a qualitative theory of the time dependence of two-dimensional line-shapes of a two-level electronic system weakly coupled to a vibrational mode. We have studied the time evolution of the two-dimensional spectra in case of low and high energy vibrational modes and showed that the two-dimensional spectrum at $t_2$-times larger than the correlation time of the solvent can be qualitatively predicted based on the purely solvent two-dimensional line-shapes and knowledge of the vibrational frequency and Huang-Rhys factor. The theory predicts oscillations of the diagonal and anti-diagonal width of the two-dimensional spectrum caused by the rephasing and non-rephasing signals being modulated with opposite phase. In case of a low energy vibrational mode, the signal is predominantly modulated by a cosine term, as confirmed in the accompanying experimental paper. For high energy modes, where the line-shape width is smaller than the vibrational frequency, our theory predicts cross-peaks oscillating similarly to the low energy mode case, but the diagonal peaks oscillating with a phase opposite to the cross-peaks. Ultra broadband laser pulses would be necessary to observe high energy modes of molecules in liquid phases. However, in gas phase, a full characterization of vibrational motion based on two-dimensional spectroscopy would be possible.

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In this appendix, we present explicite formulae for the components of the vibrational response, Eq. \((22)\). The \(t_2\)-independent part \(K_n(t_1, t_3)\) of Eq. \((22)\) reads

\[
K_1(t_1, t_3) = -i[\sin \omega t_1 - \sin \omega t_3]
\]

The cosine oscillating part \(H_n(t_1, t_3) \cos \omega t_2\) of Eq. \((22)\) can be written using

\[
H_1(t_1, t_3) = \Xi(T)[1 - \cos \omega t_3 - \cos \omega t_1 + \cos \omega(t_1 + t_3)]
\]

\[
+ i[\sin \omega t_1 - \sin \omega t_3 - \sin \omega(t_1 + t_3)],
\]

\[
H_2(t_1, t_3) = -\Xi(T)[1 - \cos \omega t_3 - \cos \omega t_1 + \cos \omega(t_1 + t_3)]
\]

\[
+ i[\sin \omega t_1 - \sin \omega t_3 - \sin \omega(t_1 + t_3)],
\]

\[
H_3(t_1, t_3) = -\Xi(T)[1 - \cos \omega t_3 - \cos \omega t_1 + \cos \omega(t_1 + t_3)]
\]

\[
+ i[\sin \omega t_1 + \sin \omega t_3 - \sin \omega(t_1 + t_3)],
\]

\[
H_4(t_1, t_3) = \Xi(T)[1 - \cos \omega t_3 - \cos \omega t_1 + \cos \omega(t_1 + t_3)]
\]

\[
+ i[\sin \omega t_1 + \sin \omega t_3 - \sin \omega(t_1 + t_3)].
\]

Finally, the sine oscillating part \(G_n(t_1, t_3) \sin \omega t_2\) of Eq. \((22)\) has a form of

\[
G_1(t_1, t_3) = \Xi(T)[\sin \omega t_3 + \sin \omega t_1 - \sin \omega(t_1 + t_3)]
\]

\[
+ i[1 - \cos \omega t_3 + \cos \omega t_1 - \cos \omega(t_1 + t_3)],
\]

\[
G_2(t_1, t_3) = -\Xi(T)[\sin \omega t_3 + \sin \omega t_1 - \sin \omega(t_1 + t_3)]
\]

\[
+ i[1 - \cos \omega t_3 + \cos \omega t_1 - \cos \omega(t_1 + t_3)],
\]

\[
G_3(t_1, t_3) = -\Xi(T)[\sin \omega t_3 + \sin \omega t_1 - \sin \omega(t_1 + t_3)]
\]

\[
- i[1 - \cos \omega t_3 - \cos \omega t_1 + \cos \omega(t_1 + t_3)],
\]

\[
G_4(t_1, t_3) = \Xi(T)[\sin \omega t_3 + \sin \omega t_1 - \sin \omega(t_1 + t_3)]
\]

\[
- i[1 - \cos \omega t_3 - \cos \omega t_1 + \cos \omega(t_1 + t_3)].
\]
Appendix B: 2D line-shape components

This appendix lists some intermediate definitions used to derive Eqs. (43) to (48) for the time dependent 2D line-shapes. Line-shape components complementing Eq. (13) read

\[
Z_{\cos}^{(1)}(\omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{i}{2} \left( Z^{(0+)} - Z^{(0-)} \right), \tag{B7}
\]

\[
Z_{\cos}^{(3+1)}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{i}{2} \left( Z^{(+-)} + Z^{(-+)} \right), \tag{B8}
\]

\[
Z_{\sin}^{(1)}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{i}{2} \left( Z^{(-+)} - Z^{(+-)} \right), \tag{B9}
\]

\[
Y_{\cos}^{(3)}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{1}{2} \left( Y^{(0+)} + Y^{(0-)} \right), \tag{B10}
\]

\[
Y_{\sin}^{(3)}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{i}{2} \left( Y^{(-0)} - Y^{(+0)} \right), \tag{B11}
\]

\[
Y_{\cos}^{(1)}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{1}{2} \left( Y^{(0+)} + Y^{(0-)} \right), \tag{B12}
\]

\[
Y_{\sin}^{(1)}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{i}{2} \left( Y^{(0-)} - Y^{(0+)} \right), \tag{B13}
\]

\[
Y_{\cos}^{(3+1)}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{1}{2} \left( Y^{(+-)} + Y^{(-+)} \right), \tag{B14}
\]

\[
Y_{\sin}^{(3+1)}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{i}{2} \left( Y^{(-+)} - Y^{(+-)} \right). \tag{B15}
\]

Lineshape components complementing Eq. (10) read

\[
Z_{\cos}^{(1)}(\Omega_3, \Omega_1) = \frac{i}{2} \left( Z^{(0+)} + Z^{(0-)} \right), \tag{B6}
\]

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