IX-Summer School on Quantum Optics

The Summer School on Quantum Optics, the last of which was organized by J. Held, J. Czub and M. Gil of the University of Gdansk, at Cetniewo, Poland from 1-8 September 1981 has become a traditional event for young physicists from eastern and western European countries to discuss recent developments in their fields and to keep in contact. At Cetniewo, about 80 students and scientists from seven countries met at the well-appointed sports training centre on the Baltic sea. Three main subjects had been chosen and there were presented by lectures at sessions covering respectively experimental and theoretical aspects.

1. The quantum theory of electromagnetic fields and their interaction with atoms and molecules were highlighted in a series of lectures which included light-induced collisional energy transfer and changes in atomic eigenstates by off-resonant monochromatic light. It was shown, that the emission spectrum of a resonant-exited two level system contains sidebands at the atomic Rabi-frequency of the laser field. Coherence and saturation phenomena in photoionisation and different aspects of optical bistability were also treated.

2. Recent experimental developments in quantum optics and atomic physics gave special emphasis to the spectroscopy of Rydberg atoms. New results of double resonance experiments on high levels in indium served as an example to demonstrate the remarkably good agreement between theory and experiment. The use of thermionic diodes in experiments on lithium have allowed the determination of ground state isotope shifts, which had not been detected in Rydberg D-states. The possibility of using sensitive Rydberg-spectroscopy for the detection of infrared photons was discussed. Another interesting subject was trapped-ion spectroscopy. Very high vibrationally excited molecules, reactive molecular beam scattering from solid surfaces; high mobilities, an order of magnitude higher than those of ordinary metals; a maximum in the conductivity versus stage (carrier concentration) relationship; a $T^2$ temperature dependence of resistivity over a wide temperature region; the appearance of extraordinarily large orbital paramagnetism in alkali-metal graphite intercalation compounds; etc.

3. Many papers were presented at the Conference aimed at clarifying the microscopic origin of staging, the most fundamental feature of GICs which has recently attracted the interest of physicists and chemists. Two types of mechanism, electrostatic and elastic, have been proposed. However, self-consistent band structure calculations on higher stage GICs may go some way to answering the question. These non-empirical calculations based on first principles (including the $\sigma$-bands as well as the $\pi$-bands) have shown that only a fraction of the electrons transferred from the alkali-metal layers to the graphite layers is an important feature. The intercalation compounds become superconductors, although neither graphite nor the alkali metals are superconducting themselves. It is now understood that charge transfer from the alkali-metal layers to the graphite layers is an important feature. The electrons of three-dimensional character interact strongly with the electric field of longitudinal polarization waves, a mechanism which is characteristic of intercalation compounds.

A new family of GICs discussed were the magnetic GICs, produced by intercalating magnetic atoms or molecules into graphite. These new materials show varying degrees of anisotropy, depending on the staging, and they form an attractive topic for the solid state physicist. New superconducting GICs were also presented, namely $\text{C}_n\text{KH}_3$, $\text{C}_n\text{RhH}_3$, $\text{C}_n\text{K}_2\text{H}_4$, $\text{C}_n\text{Rh}_2\text{H}_6$, $\text{K}^{+}\text{Li}^{+}\text{C}_4$ and $\text{K}^{+}\text{Li}^{+}\text{C}_6$. A long-standing question is why the first stage alkali-metal graphite intercalation compounds become superconductors, although neither graphite nor the alkali metals are superconducting themselves. It is now understood that charge transfer from the alkali-metal layers to the graphite layers is an important feature. The electrons of three-dimensional character interact strongly with the electric field of longitudinal polarization waves, a mechanism which is characteristic of intercalation compounds.

A smaller number of reports at the Conference dealt with transition metal dichalcogenides. Particular mention should be made of a new interpretation based on the polarizable ion model for the occurrence of lattice distortions in layered compounds. This idea is very interesting, and it differs from the ordinary charge density wave mechanism. I hope these contrasting mechanisms will stimulate further investigations on the microscopic mechanism of lattice distortions in layered materials.
Polyacetylenes and doped polyacetylenes were also much discussed as they have attracted a great deal of interest in parallel with GICs. There are a number of similarities between graphite intercalation compounds and polyacetylene systems despite the two-dimensional character of GICs and the one-dimensional character of polyacetylene systems. Examples are the nature of the bonding between carbon atoms, the nature of dopant species and the charge transfer between dopant and host.


H. Kamimura, Tokyo

Research on hollow cathode lasers carried out at the Central Research Institute of Physics in Budapest was a natural continuation of research performed earlier on positive column He-Ne and He-Cd gas lasers.

From the point of view of obtaining laser oscillation, both the negative glow region near the cathode surface and the positive column are interesting. However, if the cathode surface is concave a strong discharge can occur in the hollow of the curved cathode, which offers a good possibility of developing medium power gas lasers operating in the blue-green and ultraviolet region of the spectrum. While this kind of output is usually achieved using noble gas ion lasers, operating in the positive column part of the discharge, the advantage of a hollow cathode discharge (HCD) is that it contains more high energy electrons than are present in the positive column. The “beam-like” component of high energy electrons is very efficient in exciting high lying ionic and metastable energy levels, sufficiently populated to give the population inversion necessary for laser oscillation.

Research on hollow cathode lasers began around 1970 with an investigation of a He-Cd hollow cathode laser which consisted of a slotted hollow cathode 50 cm long and 4 mm inner diameter mounted over 21 anode pins. Cd was evaporated from two side-arms set between the anodes. Laser oscillation was obtained on visible transitions of the Cd ion (4416 Å blue, 5378 Å green 6360 Å red) but it was noticed that the Cd vapour distribution was not homogeneous along the tube, so that above a certain discharge current, the negative glow discharge contracted into an arc. Evidently the arrangement of many anode pins was not too effective in producing a stable discharge and moreover, the mW output power of the laser was rather low. Research therefore concentrated on two main problems:

1. Construction of a tube with good discharge stability;
2. Producing an appropriate metal vapour discharge.

Investigations on the structure of hollow cathode lasers were pursued in the light of a discovery made during measurements on a laser tube with a copper hollow cathode of small (1.65 mm) inner diameter (Fig. 1). Laser operation was being investigated in a He-Ne mixture at the well-known 6328 Å transition using for excitation 50 Hz half wave rectified a.c. when suddenly a strong laser signal appeared in the high current region as the laser mirrors were being adjusted. This was clearly in the infrared region as only the weak red light of the 6328 Å transition could be seen visually. Determination of the wavelength of the oscillation gave the unexpected value of

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UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
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Applications are invited for the above post, funded by the SERC and tenable from 1 February, 1982 for a period of three years. The successful candidate will be expected to pursue research at the Nuclear Structure Facility, a 30 MV tandem Van de Graaf which is nearing completion at the Daresbury Laboratory. Assistance with the commissioning of the isotope separator at the Daresbury Laboratory will also form a fraction of the candidate’s duties.

Applicants are expected to hold a Ph.D. degree and should have an aptitude for pursuing research in experimental physics.

Salary will be on the Research Associate (1A) scale with an initial salary of £7290 per annum plus USS, corresponding to point 4 of the scale.

Applications, with full C.V. and names of two referees to:
Dr. R. Chapman
(Department of Physics, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL) from whom further details may be obtained.

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at SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ZURICH

The Laboratory for High Energy Physics has an opening for an experimental Ph.D. physicist. The laboratory is located at the Swiss Institute for Nuclear Research (SIN) where most of its research projects are being conducted. The position is in a research group of about ten physicists who are presently engaged in muonic and pionic X-ray experiments with two bent-crystal spectrometers at SIN. The candidate is expected to have experience in medium-energy physics or in a related field. All members of the laboratory are required to devote part of their time to the teaching program at the Federal Institute of Technology. The position is limited to a period of three years, with a possible extension of another three years.

Applicants are invited to submit their résumé, list of publications and two letters of recommendation within four weeks after the appearance of this advertisement to:
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