

Abstract Submitted
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Time-Resolved Observation of Molecular Dissociation Using High Harmonic Generation JULIEN B. BERTRAND, University of Ottawa, HANS JAKOB WÖRNER, DANIIL KARTASHOV, DAVID M. VILLENEUVE, PAUL B. CORKUM — We have realized the first experiments towards dynamic orbital tomography by observing high harmonics generation from dissociating molecules. A pump pulse centered at 400 nm launches a dissociative wave packet in an electronically excited state and a delayed 800 nm pulse generates high harmonics from the excited sample. In a complementary experiment, the ion yield of the two-color experiment has been measured and the range of intensities corresponding to dominant single-photon excitation of the molecules has been identified. In both systems, excitation enhances ionization at short pump-probe delays but decreases the harmonic yield. The results obtained for the dissociation of Br₂ and NO₂ are compared and found to reveal characteristic details of two fundamentally different dissociation mechanisms. The requirements for dynamical orbital tomography are discussed.

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