

Joint density of electronic states for one isolated single-wall carbon nanotube studied by resonant Raman scattering

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Resonant Raman scattering (RRS) measurements made with a tunable laser provide a highly reliable technique to study the shape of the joint density of electronic states (JDOS) of isolated single-wall carbon nanotubes (SWNTs). RRS can be used to determine the energy value for the one-dimensional (1D) van Hove singularities of a SWNT with a precision better than 5 meV, thereby providing important information that could be used for subsequent measurements on this same SWNT. With RRS, the measured width of the JDOS is on the order of $\sim 0.1 - 1.0$ meV, further demonstrating that SWNTs really provide a remarkably good model for 1D mesoscopic systems.

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One dimensional (1D) systems are predicted to exhibit very interesting physical properties arising from the quantum confinement of electrons in the 1D lattice. Due to this quantum confinement, the density of electronic states (DOS) in 1D systems exhibits van Hove singularities, where, in the case of a perfect infinite 1D lattice, the DOS goes to infinity for well-defined energy values. The confinement of a large number of electronic states into a single energy value results in striking physical properties, such as extremely high optical absorption and emission, enhanced thermoelectric power, quantized electronic conductivity, etc. Applications based on these properties could lead to important new technological devices.

Since their first observation in 1993,^{1,2} single-wall carbon nanotubes (SWNTs) have attracted much attention in the physics community, because of the remarkable electronic and mechanical properties theoretically predicted for these 1D mesoscopic systems.^{3,4} Although experiments, such as resonant Raman scattering (RRS)⁵⁻⁷ and optical absorption,⁸ have shown the presence of quantum confinement effects in the DOS of SWNTs, it is very difficult to properly characterize the DOS experimentally, because of the difficulty of making detailed measurements on a single molecule ~ 1 nm in diameter. Most of the experimental studies have been performed on bundles of SWNTs, with a distribution of tube diameters (d_t) and chiral angles (θ). Since the energy values for the van Hove singularities in SWNTs depend on both d_t and θ because of trigonal warping effects,^{9,10} the highly singular DOS expected from theory for one SWNT, cannot be observed experimentally in such a bulk sample. Scanning tunneling spectroscopy (STS) can probe isolated SWNTs,^{11,12} but the features observed by STS, due to van Hove singularities for isolated SWNTs, are normally broad

($\Gamma_j \sim 0.1$ eV) and do not reflect the extremely high quantum confinement expected from theory, due to the interaction between the STS tip and the single 1D molecule, which perturbs the 1D electronic structure of the SWNT.

RRS has been extensively used to study the 1D characteristics of bulk samples of SWNTs.¹³ Due to the quantum confinement of the DOS, strong resonant effects occur in the Raman scattering from an isolated SWNT when the energy of the incident or scattered light matches an electronic transition E_{ii} between van Hove singularities in the valence and conduction bands, thereby strongly enhancing the Raman signal.^{5,6,13,14}

The resonant Raman intensity is proportional to the joint density of electronic states (JDOS). Therefore, the use of the resonant Raman spectra of isolated SWNTs to study their JDOS, and consequently their DOS is theoretically possible, and much effort has therefore been given to measuring such Raman spectra.¹⁵⁻¹⁸ RRS has an advantage over techniques such as STS, since RRS uses light to probe the DOS of SWNTs and is not expected to significantly perturb their 1D electronic structure. Recently, the production of isolated SWNTs by a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) method¹⁹ made it possible to measure isolated SWNTs lying on a Si/SiO₂ substrate.^{20,21} Good agreement between the observed radial breathing mode (RBM) frequencies (ω_{RBM}) and theoretical predictions was observed for these SWNTs, based on a proportionality constant of $\alpha = 248 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ nm}$ in the theoretical dependence of ω_{RBM} on SWNT diameter ($\omega_{\text{RBM}} = \alpha/d_t$).²⁰ The observation of a measurable Raman signal from one SWNT suggests that the intrinsic van Hove singularities in SWNTs must be much sharper than were observed in STS experiments.^{11,12}

In this paper, we measure the resonant window for the resonant Raman scattering of *one* isolated SWNT by using a frequency tunable laser E_l . We here report an asymmetric

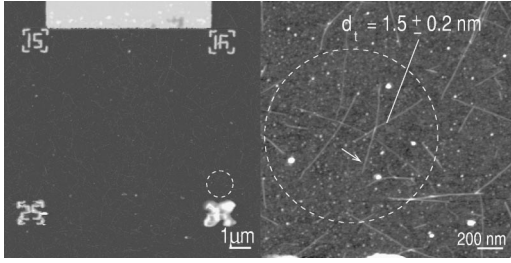


FIG. 1. AFM image of the sample. The left image shows the markers used to localize the spot position (dashed circle) on the substrate during the Raman experiment and for further AFM characterization of the SWNTs present in the light spot (right image).

shape for the E_l dependent resonant window, showing the importance of including the detailed experimentally determined JDOS line shape in the resonant Raman theory for 1D systems and considering incoherent scattering. Therefore, we show that RRS can be used to characterize the JDOS of a SWNT with much better resolution than STS measurements.

Isolated SWNTs were prepared by a CVD method on a Si substrate with a thin SiO_2 surface.^{19,20} Figure 1 shows an atomic force microscopy (AFM) image of the substrate with lithographic markers on an $8 \times 8 \mu\text{m}^2$ lattice. We chose to put the light spot ($\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$ diameter) close to a mark ($\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$ size) in order to achieve good precision in always returning the light spot to the same position as E_l was changed. The dashed circle in Fig. 1 displays the position where we put the laser spot, showing the presence of some isolated SWNTs (see right AFM image of Fig. 1). From the AFM heights, we measured the diameters (d_i) of the 11 SWNTs that lie within the light spot, with d_i ranging from 0.7 nm to 1.9 nm (the AFM precision is about ± 0.2 nm). The excitation was provided by a tunable Ti:Sapphire laser ($P < 10$ mW on the sample) pumped by an Ar ion laser (6 W). The incident light was filtered with a single monochromator (Macpherson 1200 g/mm), and the scattered light was analyzed with an XY DILOR triple monochromator equipped with a N_2 cooled CCD detector. Raman spectra of the sample were measured in the excitation wavelength (energy) range 720 nm (1.722 eV) $\leq E_l \leq 785 \text{ nm}$ (1.585 eV) with steps of 4 nm ($\sim 0.009 \text{ eV}$). All the Stokes and anti-Stokes spectra were corrected to account for spectrometer efficiency at each laser energy, and the spectra were then normalized by the 303 cm^{-1} Si substrate peak intensities. The anti-Stokes intensities were multiplied by $[n(\omega) + 1]/n(\omega)$, where $n(\omega) = 1/[\exp(\hbar\omega/k_B T) - 1]$ is the Bose-Einstein thermal factor, ω is the frequency, k_B is the Boltzmann constant, and T is the temperature. Although we used a high laser power to measure the Raman spectra, T was found to be close to room temperature (not higher than 325 K), and this was confirmed by changing the laser power from $1 \text{ mW}/\mu\text{m}^2$ ($10 \text{ MW}/\text{cm}^2$) to $10 \text{ mW}/\mu\text{m}^2$ ($100 \text{ MW}/\text{cm}^2$), where we found that the Stokes: anti-Stokes intensity ratio for the 521 and 303 cm^{-1} Si peaks remained constant, the ω_{RBM} peak did not show a temperature dependent shift, and the intensity ratios between the RBM features and the 303 cm^{-1} Si peaks also remained constant in both the Stokes and anti-Stokes spectra. The gold marker near the light spot, however, prob-

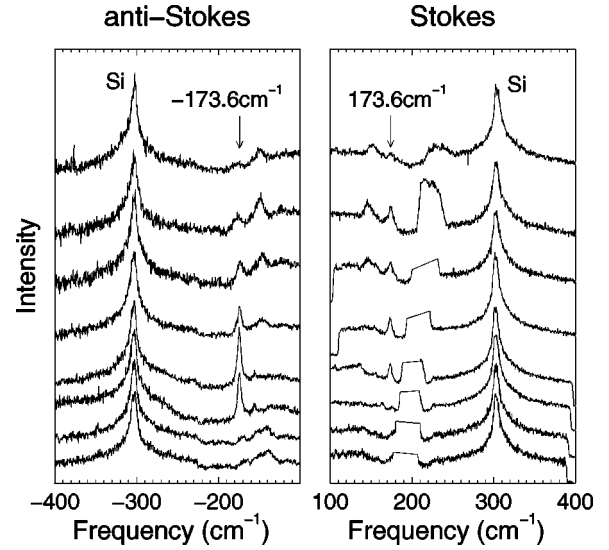


FIG. 2. Stokes and anti-Stokes Raman spectra from isolated SWNTs on a Si/SiO_2 substrate for several different laser excitation energies. From bottom to top, the spectra were taken at $E_l = 1.623, 1.631, 1.640, 1.649, 1.666, 1.685, 1.703, \text{ and } 1.722 \text{ eV}$. The flat region appearing in all Stokes spectra comes from light leakage, and was cut out from the spectra.

ably experienced some heating.

With the light spot position shown in Fig. 1, we measured the Raman spectra with different laser excitation energies. Figure 2 shows the Stokes and anti-Stokes Raman spectra of one light spot for several different excitation laser energies E_l increasing from the bottom to the top spectra (see caption). From Fig. 2, the RBM feature at 173.6 cm^{-1} appears and disappears over the tunable energy range of E_l , thereby allowing us to tune over the whole resonant window of one van Hove singularity in the JDOS of this resonant SWNT. The linewidth for this $\omega_{\text{RBM}} = 173.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ peak is 5 cm^{-1} , typical of one isolated SWNT.²⁰ The points in Fig. 3 show the peak intensity of the 173.6 cm^{-1} RBM feature vs E_l in the Stokes and anti-Stokes processes. As we discuss below, these resonant windows reflect the JDOS of the resonant SWNT.

Figure 3 shows that the resonant window in the anti-Stokes process is clearly asymmetric, exhibiting, from lower to higher E_l , a very sharp increase in signal, followed by a slower decrease. The Stokes signal quality is not as good as the anti-Stokes signal due to the frequency dependent spectrometer efficiency that drops off rapidly with increasing laser wavelength, being worse in the Stokes frequency region. However, similar E_l dependent behavior is observed for both resonant windows (see Fig. 3). This asymmetric behavior is caused by the asymmetry in the JDOS $g(E)$ of one isolated SWNT. The RBM peak intensity $I(E_l)$, which is a function of E_l , can be evaluated from $g(E)$ according to

$$I(E_l) = \int \left| M \frac{g(E)}{(E_l - E - i\Gamma_r)(E_l \pm E_{ph} - E - i\Gamma_r)} \right|^2 dE, \quad (1)$$

where the first and second factors in the denominator, respectively, describe the resonance effect with the incident and

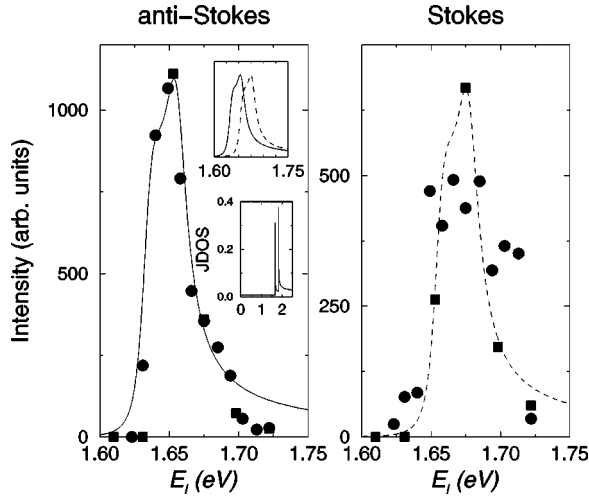


FIG. 3. Raman intensity vs laser excitation energy E_l for the $\omega_{\text{RBM}} = 173.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ peak in the Stokes and anti-Stokes Raman processes. Circles and squares indicate two different E_l runs on the same SWNT sample. The line curves indicate the resonant Raman window predicted from Eqs. (1) and (2), with $E_{ii} = 1.655 \text{ eV}$, $\Gamma_r = 8 \text{ meV}$, and $\Gamma_J = 0.5 \text{ meV}$. The upper inset compares the theoretically predicted Stokes and anti-Stokes resonant windows. The lower inset plots the JDOS for one isolated (18,0) SWNT with $\Gamma_J = 0.5 \text{ meV}$ for all van Hove singularities up to 2.5 eV.

scattered light, where the $+$ ($-$) applies to the anti-Stokes (Stokes) process for the phonon of energy E_{ph} , Γ_r gives the inverse lifetime for the resonant scattering process, and $M = M_i M_{ep} M_s$ is considered to be independent of E in this small energy range, where M_i , M_s , and M_{ep} are, respectively, the matrix elements for the electron-radiation absorption, the electron-radiation emission, and the electron-phonon interaction. If the matrix elements for electronic transitions where momentum is not preserved are negligible, and if we assume incoherent scattering, then the matrix M is diagonal, and the square modulus of the Raman tensor can be taken before integrating over E .

Since all previous E_l dependent studies of RRS were performed on bulk SWNT samples, with a distribution in d_t and θ , then $g(E)$ was approximated by a delta function at the maximum JDOS value of the van Hove singularity.^{6,14,22} However, for one isolated SWNT, the detailed JDOS profile must be taken into account, and $g(E)$ can be expressed by

$$g(E) = \text{Re} \left[\sum_i \frac{a_{C-C} E}{d_t \gamma_0 \sqrt{(E - E_{ii} - i\Gamma_J)(E + E_{ii} + i\Gamma_J)}} \right] \quad (2)$$

where a_{C-C} is the nearest-neighbor distance between carbon atoms, γ_0 is the tight-binding overlap integral, and Γ_J is introduced as a measure of the finite nanotube size effect on the width of the JDOS singularity for the E_{ii} electronic transition. The sum over i takes into account the different van Hove singularities of one SWNT.

The line curves in Fig. 3 show plots for the Stokes (dashed line) and anti-Stokes (solid line) resonant windows, using Eqs. (1) and (2) and $E_{ph} = 21.5 \text{ meV}$ obtained from

$\omega_{\text{RBM}} = 173.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The width of the resonant windows gives $\Gamma_r = 8 \text{ meV}$, in good agreement with previous measurements.^{6,7,22} We found $E_{ii} = 1.655 \pm 0.003 \text{ eV}$ and Γ_J in the range of $\sim 0.1 - 1.0 \text{ meV}$, which is much smaller than the widths for the DOS features observed by STS ($\sim 0.1 \text{ eV}$),^{11,12} and accounts for the observed asymmetry in the resonant window of one SWNT. The upper inset shows a comparison between the theoretically predicted Stokes and anti-Stokes resonant windows, revealing a shift in these resonant windows due to the resonant condition for the scattered photon, $E_l = E_{ii} \pm E_{ph}$ for the anti-Stokes ($+$) and the Stokes ($-$) processes.

From theory, taking $\gamma_0 = 2.90 \text{ eV}$, $a_{C-C} = 0.144 \text{ nm}$, and $\alpha = 248 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ nm}$ in the relation $\omega_{\text{RBM}} = \alpha/d_t$,²⁰ we have very few possibilities for SWNT indices (n, m) which satisfy the observed $E_{ii} \sim 1.655 \text{ eV}$ and $\omega_{\text{RBM}} \sim 173.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The best candidates are metallic SWNTs with an E_{11}^M that is split by the trigonal warping effect.^{9,10} The indices (12,9) have $d_t = 1.45 \text{ nm}$, $E_{11}^M = 1.684 \text{ eV}$ and 1.725 eV , and $\omega_{\text{RBM}} = 171.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; indices (17,2) have $d_t = 1.44 \text{ nm}$, $E_{11}^M = 1.650 \text{ eV}$ and 1.817 eV , and $\omega_{\text{RBM}} = 172.7 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; while indices (18,0) have $d_t = 1.43 \text{ nm}$, $E_{11}^M = 1.655 \text{ eV}$ and 1.831 eV , and $\omega_{\text{RBM}} = 173.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Therefore, based on a previously reported method for determining d_t and θ from the measured RBM spectrum²⁰ and the E_{11}^M value, we identify the $\omega_{\text{RBM}} = 173.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ signal as coming from a (18,0) SWNT. The experimental value at $E_{ii} = 1.655 \text{ eV}$ is in very good agreement with the E_{11}^M predicted for the (18,0) SWNT based on tight-binding calculations. We did not observe the second van Hove singularity predicted at 1.831 eV because the laser could not be tuned above 1.722 eV . Inside the dashed circle in the right image of Fig. 1, there is one SWNT (with $d_t = 1.5 \pm 0.2 \text{ nm}$) which is a good candidate for the resonant (18,0) SWNT. Another possible candidate would be the SWNT with $d_t = 1.2 \pm 0.2 \text{ nm}$ (see small arrow on the right AFM image of Fig. 1), but this tube is perpendicular to the polarization of the applied electric field, and, due to the antenna effect,¹⁷ no signal is expected to come from this tube.

Finally, the lower inset to Fig. 3 plots the highly singular JDOS vs E_l for one isolated (18,0) SWNT obtained from Eq. (2) and considering the experimental value $\Gamma_J = 0.5 \text{ meV}$ taken for all van Hove singularities, since Γ_J is related to finite-size effects for each SWNT.

In conclusion, by using a tunable laser, it is possible to study the JDOS of one isolated SWNT, giving the E_{ii} value with a precision better than 5 meV . The value obtained for $\Gamma_J \sim 0.1 - 1.0 \text{ meV}$ is considerably smaller than the values obtained with STS,^{11,12} suggesting that the DOS in SWNTs exhibits strong 1D behavior. Therefore, resonant Raman spectroscopy can be used to characterize the JDOS of an isolated SWNT, thereby providing important information that could be subsequently used for other properties measurements on this characterized SWNT.

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