

THE SPECTROSCOPY STUDY OF UF AND UF⁺

J. H. BARTLETT, I. O. ANTONOV, M. C. HEAVEN, *Department of Chemistry, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.*

Uranium metal has been laser ablated in a pulsed-jet expansion of 0.1% SF₆ in He to generate the fluoride. Spectroscopic data are obtained using the laser-induced fluorescence and resonance-enhanced multiphoton ionization techniques for gas-phase UF for the first time. The pulsed-field ionization zero electron kinetic energy (PFI-ZEKE) technique is used to study the low-lying states of UF⁺. The ionization potential from PFI-ZEKE for UF is found to be $D_e = 51137 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Ω states up to $\frac{13}{2}$ and vibrational states $v^+ = 0-4$ are observed in the REMPI and PFI-ZEKE spectra. Assignments of the electronically excited states are based on measured Ω values and high-level ab initio calculations.