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► To cite this version:

V. Ananiev, A. Ionin, A. Kotkov, S. Semenov, D. Sinitsin. OPTICAL PUMPING OF CARBON MONOXIDE MOLECULES EXCITED IN ELECTRON BEAM CONTROLLED DISCHARGE. Journal de Physique IV Proceedings, 1991, 01 (C7), pp.C7-783-C7-783. 10.1051/jp4:19917210 . jpa-00250919

HAL Id: jpa-00250919

<https://hal.science/jpa-00250919>

Submitted on 4 Feb 2008

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OPTICAL PUMPING OF CARBON MONOXIDE MOLECULES EXCITED IN ELECTRON BEAM CONTROLLED DISCHARGE

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Experiments on interaction of pulsed electron beam controlled discharge (EBCD) CO laser radiation with monoxide molecules excited in EB CD have been carried out. The behaviour of IR radiation absorption coefficient of vibrational nonequilibrium active medium containing CO molecules with respect to optical energy density and to specific input energy in active medium has been experimentally determined. It has been shown that these dependences was nonlinear, that is evidence to some extent of presence of "explosive absorption".

The analysis of probe IR radiation spectrum transformation under its propagation through the active medium has been made. It has been found that not only strong absorption on vibrational bands $V \Rightarrow V-1$ from $4 \Rightarrow 3$ to $8 \Rightarrow 7$ but amplification on highly bands up to $16 \Rightarrow 15$ existed. From spectral measuring it has been shown that small signal gain on some vibrational-rotational transitions reached the value up to $\sim 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Under conditions of combined (optical + EB CD) pumping of laser mixture the laser action with specific output energy $\sim 5 \text{ J.l}^{-1}.\text{atm}^{-1}$ has been observed at room temperature of active medium. Under the same conditions of pumping at the temperature of active medium $\sim 200 \text{ K}$ the laser action on the first overtone of CO molecule ($\lambda \sim 2.7 - 3.3 \mu$) has been detected.