Rotational Energy Transfer within the $A^1\Sigma_u^+$ State of Na_2 Induced by Collisions with $(^2S_{1/2})$ Na

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The (v'=34, J'=14) level of the $A^1\sum_u^+$ electronic state of Na₂ has been selectively populated by excitation with the 578.1 nm line of a ring dye-laser with rhodamine 6G. Through collisions with $(^2S_{1/2})$ Na atoms, energy is transferred to neighbouring rotational levels in Na₂, and the density of these levels is determined by observing the fluorescence to the electronic ground state. From previous measurements of the lifetime of the $A^1\sum_u^+$ state and new measurements of the intensities of collision-induced spectral lines, absolute collision cross-sections for all rotational transitions up to $\Delta J = \pm 6$ have been obtained; the total cross-section for all rotational transitions observed is:

Key words: Collisional Transfers; Cross-Section; Rotational Energy.