Selective detection in impulsive low-frequency Raman imaging using shaped probe pulses

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Impulsive stimulated Raman scattering (ISRS) using a single short femtosecond pump pulse to excite molecular vibrations offers an elegant pump-probe approach to perform vibrational imaging below 200 cm^{-1}. One shortcoming of ISRS is its inability to offer vibrational selectivity as all the vibrational bonds whose frequencies lie within the short pump pulse bandwidth are excited. To date, several coherent control techniques have been explored to address this issue and selectively excite a specific molecular vibration by shaping the pump pulse. To the best of our knowledge, there has not been any systematic work that reports an analogous shaping of the probe pulse to implement preferential detection. In this work, we focus on vibrational imaging and report vibrational selective detection by shaping the probe pulse in time. We demonstrate numerically and experimentally two pulse shaping strategies with one functioning as a vibrational notch filter and the other functioning as a vibrational low pass filter. This enables fast (25 μs/pixel) and selective hyperspectral imaging in the low frequency regime (< 200 cm^{-1}).

Optical microscopy has evolved as an indispensable tool in bio-imaging owing to the abundance of chemical specific information that can be accessed. Fluorescence microscopy has demonstrated sensitivity up to the single molecule level, however, it is limited by the necessity of fluorescence tags or biomarkers [1]. Vibrational imaging, on the other hand, sacrifices sensitivity but offers the possibility to perform label-free imaging. Further, vibrational imaging offers a simple and elegant way to access intra-molecular chemical specific information (frequencies > 200 cm^{-1}) and inter-molecular structure specific information (frequencies < 200 cm^{-1}) [2–5]. In particular, Raman micro-spectroscopy has become a routine tool used for material characterization owing to the availability of a range of microscope objectives in the visible and the near infra-red ranges [6]. Despite all the advantages that Raman micro-spectroscopy brings to the table, the weak Raman scattering cross-section results in increased integration times, thereby impacting the imaging speed. This low signal problem is circumvented in coherent Raman scattering (CRS) where the rate of Raman scattering is increased by orders of magnitude [7–10]. In CRS, the molecules are coherently driven into vibration by using two light fields (namely pump and Stokes) whose beat frequency matches the frequency of the molecular vibration. Enabled by CRS, video-rate imaging and near-video rate hyper-spectral imaging has been achieved in the high-frequency regime (frequencies > 200 cm^{-1})[11–13].

The enhanced speed of imaging that is achieved in the high-frequency regime by CRS has not found an immediate extension in low-frequency regime (frequencies < 200 cm^{-1}). The limitation to fast imaging in this case comes from the fact that the CRS modalities use chromatic filters to isolate the Raman signal from the input fields. Given that even the best optical edge filters in the market today have a finite transition slope, it thereby results in longer integration times to detect lower frequency shifts.

Impulsive stimulated Raman scattering (ISRS) [14, 15] overcomes the bottleneck faced by CRS in the low-frequency regime by taking a time-domain approach. In ISRS, first demonstrated by Silvestri et al. [16], both the pump and the Stokes fields required to excite a Raman-active mode are obtained from the bandwidth of a single femtosecond pulse. In the time-domain, this means that all modes whose vibrational periods are longer than the pump pulse duration get excited and prepare a vibrational coherence in the focal volume. This vibrational coherence then leads to a time-varying perturbation of the effective linear optical susceptibility which can be linked to a transient refractive index [17]. A probe pulse arriving at different pump-probe delays senses this transient refractive index and undergoes - diffraction [2, 16, 18], modulation in its spatial profile with propagation [19], a shift in its spectral centroid [20–27], change in its state of polarization [28–30] and accumulates a phase shift [23, 31–34]. By looking at one of these read-out mechanisms through a dedicated experimental configuration,

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the temporal Raman response can be retrieved - a simple Fourier transform of which or model estimation like linear predictive singular value decomposition (LPSVD) [31] gives access to the molecular spectrum.

With most of the work done until the late '90s dedicated to spectroscopic applications [18, 20–22] , the first imaging application of ISRS was demonstrated by Koehl et al [35], who imaged polaritons propagation in a ferroelectric crystal. Following this, with the advent of fast delay scanning techniques, Domingue et al. used a spinning window pump-probe delay scanner to acquire hyperspectral images of $Bi_4Ge_3O_{12}$ and $CdWO_4$ crystals at pixel dwell times close of $\approx$ 1s [25]. Despite demonstrating a significant improvement of scan rates ($> 10\times$) in comparison to the other delay lines that existed that time, the pixel dwell times accomplished by this scheme falls short of what is expected for microscopy. Over the years, an acousto-optic programmable dispersive filter (AOPDF) has established itself as a trusted fast delay line serving exactly this purpose [36–38]. Using the AOPDF as a fast delay line, we demonstrated in our previous work, low-frequency hyperspectral Raman imaging with a pixel dwell time of 25 μs using a shot-noise limited detection apparatus [39].

In addition to impulsively exciting a Raman active medium and extracting the (pump) bandwidth-limited Raman spectrum using various read-out mechanisms, there has also been significant work done in the past in developing coherent control mechanisms where selective excitation of modes has been accomplished using shaped pump pulses. First demonstrated by Nelson et al. [40] in the optical generation of tunable ultrasonic waves, where sequenced pair of pump pulses were used to enhance, cancel or phase shift the coherently generated acoustic waves, Weiner et al. [41, 42] extended this idea to optical control of molecular motion by using time-sequenced femtosecond pulses. Coherent control techniques have thrived since then in which appropriately shaped pump pulses have been used to selectively amplify or suppress a desired mode [43–50]. The first imaging application using such coherent control mechanisms was demonstrated by Dudovich et al. [46]. However, in this work, the use of a spectral filter to isolate the generated coherent anti-Stokes Raman scattered (CARS) photons from the input spectrum limited the lowest accessible vibrational frequency to 400 cm^{-1}.

Analogous to the role of the pump pulse in selective excitation is the role of a probe pulse in selective detection. Several papers have considered spectrally resolved detection using a chirped probe pulse to modulate the Raman spectrum of the detected molecules both in the non resonant [51–53] and resonant cases [53]. Although these works were limited to a spectroscopic context, they showed the ability of a shaped probe pulse to dramatically alter the recorded molecular spectra (i.e. revealing or masking Raman lines). In here we adopt a different detection scheme that is more suited for molecular imaging where the probe pulse spectrum is integrated and detected with a fast single pixel detector (photodiode). We explore the temporal shaping of the probe pulse to perform selective vibrational detection and imaging. The AOPDF, which is an ultra-fast delay line and a pulse shaper, enables us to exemplify two distinct pulse

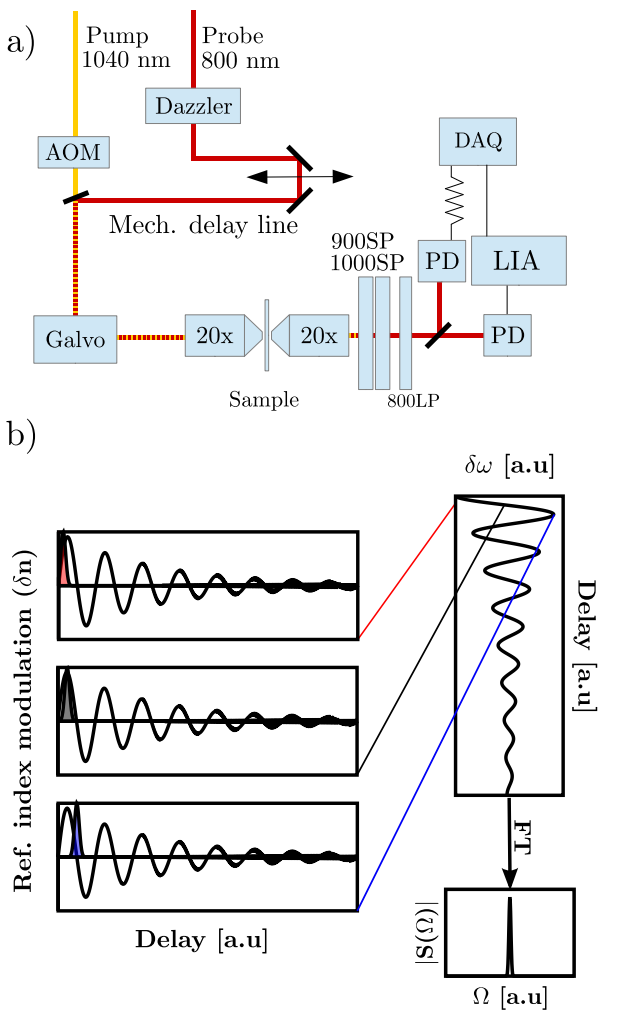

FIG. 1. a) The figure pictorially represents the key components of the setup. PD = photodiode, Galvo = galvanometric mirrors, AOM = acousto-optic modulator, DAQ = data acquisition card, LIA = lock-in amplifier SP = short pass, LP = long pass. b) The figure pictorially represents the logic of the spectral shift detection. The damped sinusoid represents the index variation in time due to the Raman oscillations. The Gaussian function represents the probe pulse field spectrum. Depending on the arrival time of the probe pulse with respect to the pump pulse, it sees a rising or falling edge of the refractive index which translates to a red or blue shift in the spectral centroid of the pulse [17] (indicated here by the color of the pulse). Allowing the probe pulse to pass through an edge filter centered at the probe central frequency, this spectral shift is converted to an intensity modulation in time, the Fourier transform of which gives the vibrational spectrum.

shaping strategies - the first strategy involves a pair of probe pulses and the second strategy uses a chirped-probe pulse. We demonstrate numerically and experimentally that the two-pulse probe technique functions as a tunable vibrational notch filter while the chirped-probe technique functions as a vibrational low-pass filter.

Fig 1a shows a schematic of the experimental setup used in this work. A Chameleon OPO-VIS (Coherent) which consists of a Titanium Sapphire (TiSa) laser produces a 80 MHz pulse train at 800 nm which is used to pump an optical parametric oscillator (APE, fs OPO) - the signal output of which is tuned to 1040 nm. The 1040 nm and the 800 nm beams function as the pump and the probe beams respectively. The pump pulse has a bandwidth of 9.1 $\pm$ 0.3 nm while the probe pulse has a bandwidth of 5.45 $\pm$ 0.2 nm. It is to be noted that the wavelengths of the pump and probe beams are far from the electronic resonances for the samples considered in this study. The pump beam is modulated at 12 MHz using an acousto-optic modulator (AOM) (MT200-A0.2-1064, AA Opto-Electronic, France) which is externally driven by a function generator (AFG1062, Tektronix, France). The pump beam then goes through a double-pass custom transmission grating pair (Wasatch Photonics, USA), with 600 lines per millimeter to compensate for the positive dispersion accumulated with propagation through the optical components in the system such that it has a transform limited pulsewidth of $\approx$ 175 fs at the sample plane. The pulse shaping of the probe beam in order to create the two-pulse structure and the chirped-probe structure is done using the AOPDF (Dazzler WB, Fastlite).

The two-pulse probe structure is achieved by loading two acoustic waves in the Dazzler, the separation of which allows us to tune the intra-pulse distance (T). Indeed, as the diffraction efficiency of the AOPDF is less than one, one optical pulse that encounters two acoustic waves inside of the crystal will be diffracted twice at different delays, thus creating a pair of pulses. Such a scheme can be used for self-interferometry [54]. The phases of the two pulses are manipulated through their respective acoustic waves such that both pulses are transform-limited pulses at the sample plane ($\approx$ 170 fs). For the chirped-probe structure, a single acoustic wave is loaded in the Dazzler and the second order phase is tuned to imprint different chirp values, allowing us to control the chirp of the pulse at the sample plane.

The probe beam then travels through a mechanical delay line (M 415.2S, Physik Instrumente, Germany) in order to catch up with the extra optical path length the pump beam travels in the OPO cavity. Another role of the mechanical delay line is to globally shift the scanning window of the Dazzler which allows us to stitch data from multiple scan windows of the Dazzler for measuring longer delays. The pump and probe beams are recombined by using a dichroic mirror and fine-tuned for collinearity. The recombined beams are then sent into a inverted microscope (Eclipse Ti-U, Nikon, Japan)

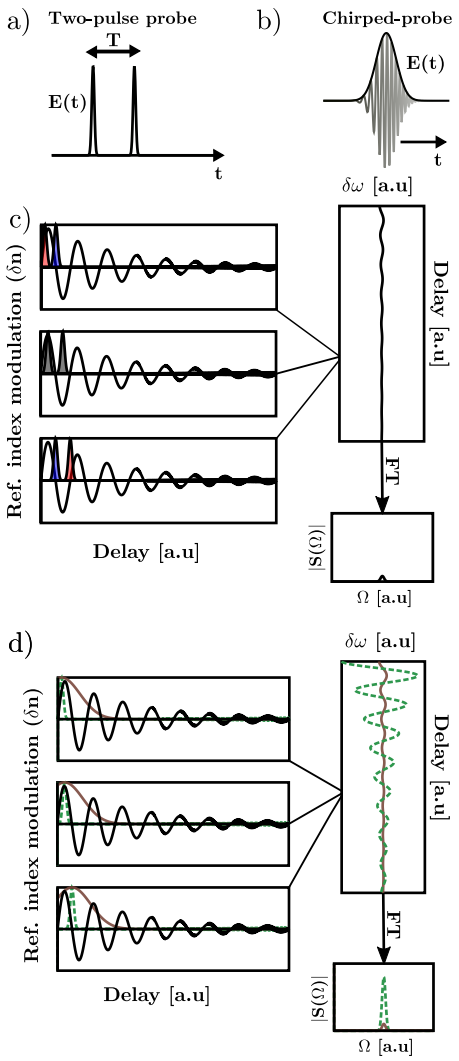

FIG. 2. a) and b) pictorially represent the two-pulse probe structure and the chirped-probe structure arriving with a varying delay after a transform-limited excitation pump pulse has excited the vibrational coherence in the sample. c) When the intra-probe pulse distance is equal to an odd integer multiple of half the vibrational period, the redshift experienced by one pulse compensates the blue shift experienced by the other pulse (indicated by the color of the pulse), thereby inhibiting the detection of the mode via spectral shift detection. d) The Gaussian functions represent the probe field amplitudes of a transform-limited probe pulse (the dashed green) and a chirped pulse (the solid brown). It is seen that with a transform-limited probe pulse, whose period is shorter than the period of the mode, the spectrum of the mode is well retrieved. As the pulse is chirped, the pulse gets broader in time and eventually surpasses the mode period. When this happens the interference between the input and the scattered fields evolve in such a way that the spectral centroid shift goes down and makes the Raman line disappear in the spectrum.

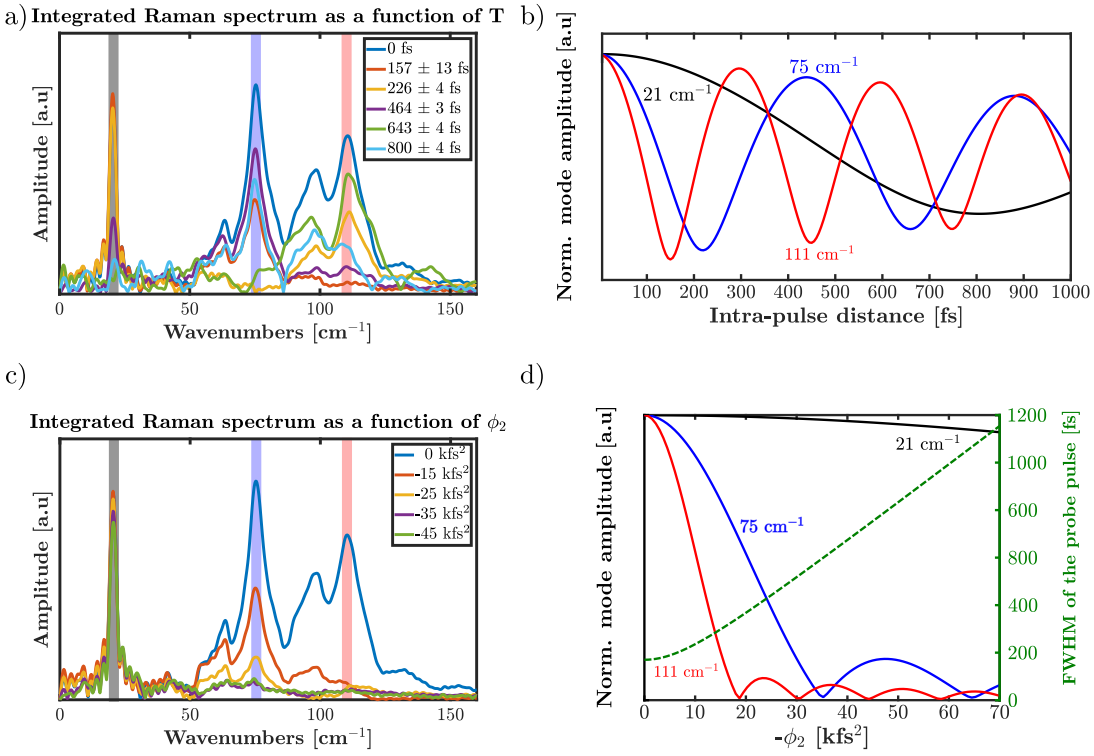

FIG. 3. (a) and (c) show the experimentally acquired spectra of CBZDH using the two-pulse probe structure and the chirped-probe structure respectively. In the two-pulse probe scheme (a) a spectral line disappears when intra-pulse temporal distance T equals to an odd integer multiple of the half-period of the vibration mode. In the chirped-probe scheme (c) the higher wavenumber modes disappear when the probe pulse chirp is increased. The experimental results are in good agreement with the numerical estimation of the mode amplitudes using these two techniques (b) and (d). For instance comparing (a) and (b) it can be seen how the 111 cm^{-1} mode goes undetected at T $\approx$ 157 fs, which is close to the half-period of this mode (which is 150 fs). Similarly comparing (c) and (d) it is seen that the 111 cm^{-1} mode is undetected at $\approx$ -15 kfs^2 which broadens the pulse to $\approx$ 300 fs, which is the period of this mode.

equipped with galvanometric scan mirrors (6215HM60, Cambridge Technology). The scan mirrors are conjugated to the back focal plane of the microscope objective using a 2x telescope. The beams are focused and collected with 20x/0.75NA air objectives (CFI Plan Apo Lambda 20X, Nikon).

The collected light is then sent to our detection unit. The pump beam is blocked by using a set of optical filters (2 ×FES0900, Thorlabs, USA and 2 ×FES1000, Thorlabs, USA). An edge filter (FELH800, Thorlabs, USA) centered at the probe central frequency is used to convert the frequency shift into an intensity modulation at the photodiode. The back focal plane of the collection objective is conjugated to the active area of two photodiodes - one to detect the modulation transfer from the pump to the probe (SRS Lock-in Module, APE, Germany) and the other to detect the integrated transmission of the probe (DET100A, 8 MHz bandwidth). The lock-in amplifier receives its reference input from the same channel of the function generator that drives the AOM.

The output of the lock-in amplifier is connected to a fast waveform digitizer card (ATS460-128M PCI Digitizer, 125 MS/s, AlazarTech, Canada) through a 1.35 MHz low-pass filter (EF508 Thorlabs, 5$^{\text{th}}$order). The different components of the experimental setup are controlled using a custom made Labview interface (Labview2011, National Instruments, USA). A National instruments input/output card (NI 6361, National Instruments, USA) is used to control the galvanometric mirrors, to trigger the data acquisition on the AlazarTech digitizer and to trigger the Dazzler.

Fig 1b illustrates the logic of the frequency shift detection technique. The damped sinusoid depicts the time-varying refractive index activated due to the impulsive pump excitation. The time derivative of the oscillating refractive index results in a phase modulation and a corresponding centroid shift of the probe's power spectrum, which depends on the phase of the vibration as the probe passes through the sample. An optical edge filter centered at the central frequency of the probe converts this spectral centroid shift to an intensity modulation at the photodiode. This intensity modulation allows one to record directly the time response of the sample, and a Fourier transform of the acquired signal (at positive delays exceeding the pulses durations) reveals the vibrational frequencies.

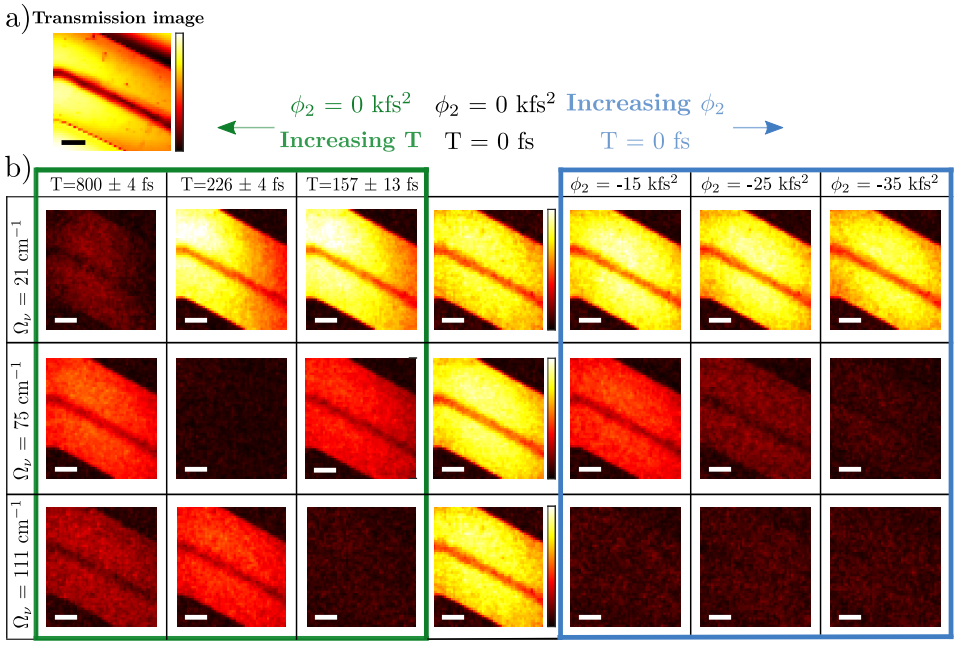

FIG. 4. Hyperspectral images of CBZDH using the two-pulse probe and the chirped-probe structures: (a) The optically resolved transmission image of the crystal. (b) Table of figures showing how the hyperspectral images evolve with the two detection modalities. The movie of the hyperspectral images as a function of T and ϕ_2 emphasizes the fact that two-pulse structure functions as a tunable vibrational notch filter while the chirped-probe functions as a tunable vibrational lowpass filter. The signal in each pixel corresponds to a spectral integration over 0.75 cm^{-1} around the peak.
Scalebar : 60 μm. Image pixel dwell time: 25 μs.

Taking note of the logic of the spectral shift detection, here, we develop first a two-pulse probe structure with an intra-pulse distance such that one pulse sees a leading edge of the refractive index while the other sees a falling edge (Fig 2a). Given that the two pulses have an intra-pulse separation shorter than the integration time of the photodiode, the photocurrents generated in the photodiode incoherently sum to a total value that is proportional to the total incident power after passing through the edge filter. It is this photodetection property that allows for selective detection of particular vibrational modes in the two-pulse case. At a suitable delay between the probe pulse pairs, the increase in transmitted power through the detection edge filter of one of the probe pulse from a rising phase modulation is counteracted by a decrease in transmitting power through the edge filter of the second probe pulse. A mode for which the net frequency shift and thereby the net photocurrent is constant at all delay points goes undetected (Fig 2c). This is analogous to having a vibrational notch filter that blocks a particular mode. To state this mathematically, a mode (neglecting the exponential decay) is suppressed by creating a probe pulse pair with an intra-pulse temporal distance equal to an odd integer multiple of the half-period of the mode.

$$T = \frac{(2n+1)}{2}\tau_m \qquad n \,\epsilon\, \mathcal{Z} \tag{1}$$

where τ_m is the period of the mode.

In the chirped-probe detection (Figs 2b and 2d) the degree of freedom is the second order spectral phase (ϕ_2) of the probe pulse which is linked to the spectral phase (ϕ) as,

$$\phi(\omega) \approx \frac{1}{2}\phi_2(\omega)\cdot(\omega-\omega_0)^2 \tag{2}$$

It can be shown that the second order spectral phase results in temporal stretching of a transform limited pulse [55]. This allows us to build an intuitive time domain picture for the chirped-probe experiments. A mode gets undetected in the spectral shift technique when the probe pulse duration roughly matches the period of the mode. This is because the probe pulse is too long as compared to the period of the time-varying refractive index profile to experience a red, or blue shift (see Fig. 2d). This is attributed to the way the input probe field and the scattered fields interfere under such conditions. The modes go undetected in decreasing order of energy and thereby enabling the chirped-probe to function as a tunable vibrational low-pass filter. The mode attenuation happens on top of the preferential detection due to the bandwidth of the probe pulse as demonstrated in [17]. The general dependence of the mode attenuation on the probe pulse duration/probe bandwidth is numerically demonstrated for the 75 cm^{-1} mode of CBZDH in the Appendix. All the results presented in this work are under the consideration that the probe pulse bandwidth is large enough for a mode to be sensitive to spectral shift detection such that it can

be later played around with by varying the chirp on the probe pulse.

To acquire Raman spectra and images, we stitched data from five successive Dazzler scan windows (each of the Dazzler window being 3.5 ps). Given that all the measurements in this section correspond to one accumulation (i.e. without any averaging), the total image acquisition time over a field of view of 300 μm (2500 pixels with a pixel dwell time of 25 μs) is 0.312 s. We don't show here the time traces recorded in each measurement since the suppression and revival of a mode is more striking in its spectrum. For the measurements reported in this paper, the pump and the probe beams had an average power of 60 mW at the sample plane. Figs 3a and 3c show the

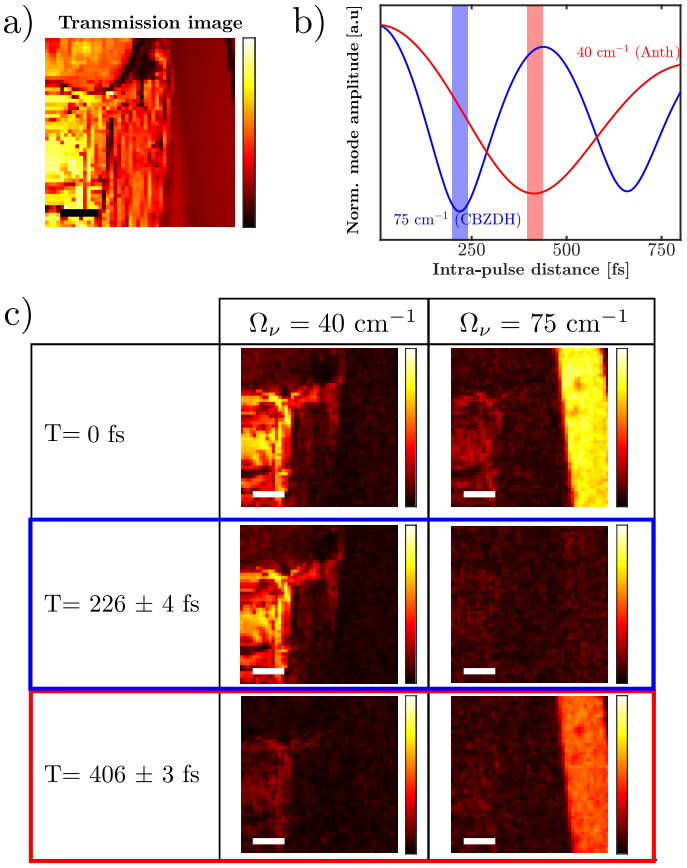

FIG. 5. Hyperspectral images of a compound sample of CBZDH and anthracene using the two-pulse probe: (a) The optically resolved transmission image of anthracene (on the left) and CBZDH (on the right). (b) Numerical result showing the trend of the 40 cm^{-1} mode of anthracene and the 75 cm^{-1} mode of CBZDH as a function of the intrapulse distance. (c) The hyperspectral images of the crystals at the intra-pulse distances highlighted in (b). The signal in each pixel corresponds to a spectral integration over 0.75 cm^{-1} around the peak.

The image nicely exhibits selectively imaging a particular chemical species by simply tuning the T value of the two-pulse structure. Scalebar : 60 μm. Image pixel dwell time: 25 μs.

experimental image integrated spectra of Carbamazepine dihydrate (CBZDH) as a function of the intra-pulse distance (T) and the second order phase values (ϕ_2). For instance, the red stripes in these figures show how the 111 cm^{-1} mode is selectively detected by these two techniques. In Fig 3a, the spectral line at 111 cm^{-1} disappears at T values 157 fs and 464 fs which are odd integer multiples of the half-period of the mode ($\approx$ 150 fs). In Fig 3c, it is seen that the 111 cm^{-1} mode is undetected at $\phi_2 \approx$ -15 kfs^2 which broadens the pulse to $\approx$ 300 fs, which is the period of this mode. The results from the modelling in MATLAB (Fig 3b and 3d) predicting the evolution of the mode amplitudes are in good agreement with the corresponding experimental data. The details about the modelling can be found in the supplementary material. It is to be noted that in Fig 3b the normalized amplitude of each mode goes from 1 to 0 however with different modulation depths since the mode amplitude recorded via spectral shift technique is a function of the probe pulse bandwidth. Here the plots have been overlapped to compare how the modes evolve as a function of the intra-pulse distances rather than to compare the extinction of one with respect to the other.

The hyperspectral images (pixel dwell time of 25 μs) are shown in Fig 4b with Fig 4a being the optically contrasted transmision image of the crystal. The signal in each pixel corresponds to a spectral integration over 0.75 cm^{-1} around the peak. All the hyperspectral images in this section are smoothened with a Gaussian filter of standard deviation of 0.55. Further, the signal in each channel (each mode), for a certain T or ϕ_2 value, is normalized with the signal of the same channel corresponding to T = 0 fs and ϕ_2 = 0 kfs^2. Stated in other words, this implies that the scale bar of a particular channel has nothing to do with the scale bar of another channel, however, for a given channel, the scalebar of the image corresponding to T = 0 fs and ϕ_2 = 0 kfs^2 is applied to the rest of the images (corresponding to different T and ϕ_2 values respectively). The table of figures emphasizes the fact that two-pulse structure functions as a tunable vibrational notch filter while the chirped-probe functions as a tunable vibrational lowpass filter. The figures at the central column correspond to the measurement made using a transform limited probe pulse. To the right, we see how increasing the chirp attenuates the signal from various channels in decreasing order of energy (vibrational lowpass filter). To the left, we see how increasing the intrapulse distance of a two-pulse probe structure selectively notches (vibrational notch filter) the signal from the desired channel.

To further showcase this effect, Fig 5 shows a two-pulse probe measurement made with a composite sample (CBZDH+anthracene) in one field of view. Fig 5a shows the optically resolved transmision image of the crystals with the anthracene crystal on the left and the CBZDH crystal on the right. Fig 5b shows the numerical prediction of the evolution of the 40 cm^{-1} mode of anthracene and the 75 cm^{-1} mode of CBZDH as a function of the in-

trapulse distance. The power of the two-pulse probe technique is evident from the way the two chemical species are uniquely contrasted (Fig 5c) just by tuning the intra-pulse distance.

To conclude, using an AOPDF to shape and delay the probe pulses in time, we have performed vibrational selective detection and fast imaging (pixel dwell time of 25 μs) in the low-frequency regime. To the best of our knowledge this is the first work in the lines of shaping the probe pulse for this purpose in contrast to the numerous works reported so far which involves the shaping of the pump pulse. We have numerically modelled and experimentally verified two pulse shaping strategies – 1) A two-pulse probe structure that functions as a tunable vibrational notch filter and 2) A chirped-probe structure that acts as a tunable vibrational low pass filter. The two-pulse structure finds immediate application when one wishes to detect a small peak that is overlapped by a stronger peak in the molecular spectrum. By tuning the intra-pulse distance, the two-pulse structure can be used to selectively suppress the strong peak from the detected spectra, thereby enhancing the visibility of the weaker peak. On the other hand, if the spectral amplitude of an energetically lower peak is much smaller than that of energetically higher peaks which eventually occupy most of the detector dynamic range, then the second strategy proves to be valuable in improving the visibility of the weaker peak by becoming insensitive to the higher frequency components by a simple variation of the second-order phase of the probe pulse. Stated loosely, both techniques aid in synthetically enhancing the dynamic range of detection at the frequency of interest, although the notch filter is expected to be more relevant for the applications.

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APPENDIX

I. LOGIC OF THE NUMERICAL MODEL

The numerical modelling of the experiments was done in MATLAB. We start by defining the probe field. For simplicity, we ignore the vectorial nature of the field and treat it as a scalar function. Further, we suppress the spatial dependence of the field but its temporal dependence is assumed. The real probe electric field $E_{pr}(t)$ can be written as the real part of an analytic function $\underline{E}_{pr}(t)$:

$$E_{pr}(t) = Re\{\underline{E}_{pr}(t)\}$$

where $\underline{E}_{pr}(t)$ in the slow varying envelope approximation (SVEA) reads:

$$\underline{E}_{pr}(t) = \underline{A}_{pr}(t)\exp(i\omega_0 t)$$

where ω_0 is the central frequency and $\underline{A}_{pr}(t)$ is the total complex temporal pulse envelope. We use $\underline{A}_{pr}(t)$ to define our pulse in model.

The next step is to account for the Raman phase modulation. The pump pulse activates the vibrational coherence which is probed by the probe pulse at a relative delay τ. The phase modulation due to the Raman oscillations reads:

$$\delta\phi_R(t) = \sum_{v,mn} \delta\phi_R^{v,mn}(t) = \sum_{v,mn} \delta\phi_0^{v,mn} h_v^{mn}(t)$$

where v accounts for different modes and m,n account for vibrational energy levels. $\delta\phi_0^{v,mn}$ is the peak phase shift. $h_v^{mn}(t)$ is the impulse response function which reads:

$$h_v^{mn}(t) = \mathrm{H}(t) e^{-\frac{1}{2}\Gamma_{v,mn}t}\sin(\Omega_{v,mn}t)$$

where H(t) is the heaviside step function, $\Gamma_{v,mn}$ is the dephasing rate and $\Omega_{v,mn}$ is the vibrational beat frequency. In our model, without loss of generality, all the modes are equally weighed and assumed to have the same linewidth ($\Gamma_{v,mn}$ = 6 cm^{-1}). For carbamazepine dihydrate, these parameters would then be, $\delta\phi_0^{v,mn} = 1$, $\Omega_{v,mn}$ = 21,75 and 111 cm^{-1} and $\Gamma_{v,mn}$ = 6 cm^{-1}.

The schematic (Fig. 6) represents the logic of the model. We start in the time domain, where, for each pump-probe delay τ, the probe field, $\underline{A}_{pr}(t;\tau)$, senses the phase modulation due to the Raman oscillations, $\delta\phi_R(t)$. We then pass to the frequency domain where the effect of the optical edge filter is contained in the definition of the filter function, G(ω). Once the filter effect is accounted for, we do an inverse Fourier transform and obtain the time domain probe field, $\underline{A}_{pr,m}(t;\tau)$, which has in it now the information about the phase modulation and spectral filtering. Finally, we compute the differential signal, S(τ), which gives the temporal Raman response that we record in an actual experiment.

For the two-pulse probe experiment, we define the probe field as the sum of two Gaussian pulses with an intra-pulse distance (T):

$$\underline{A}_{pr}(t;\tau;T) = e^{-\left(\frac{(t-\tau)^2}{2\tau_p^2}\right)} + e^{-\left(\frac{(t-\tau-T)^2}{2\tau_p^2}\right)}$$

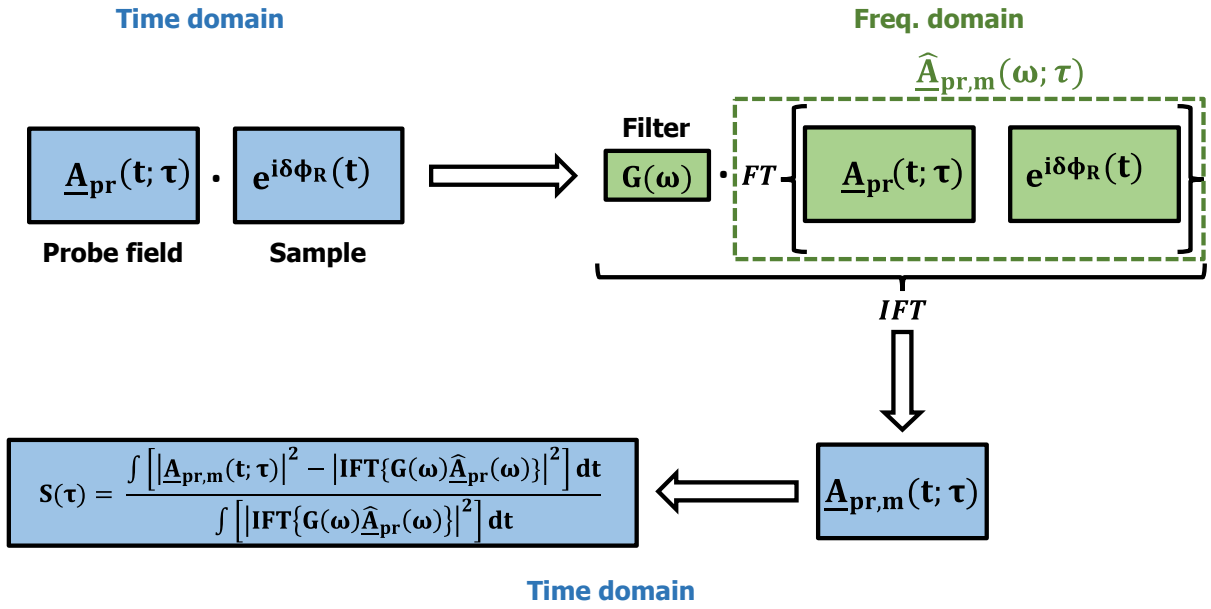

FIG. 6. **Logic of the model**: The schematic captures the general logic of the model. We start in the time domain by finding the product between the field $\underline{A}_{pr}(t;\tau)$ and the phase modulation due to the Raman oscillations, $\delta\phi_R(t)$. To estimate the impact of the temporal phase modulation on the probe's spectrum, we pass on to the frequency domain where we perform spectral filtering through the filter function G(ω). Taking into account the effect of the spectral filter, we go back to the time domain where we compute the differential signal S(τ) through the modulated field $\underline{A}_{pr,m}(t;\tau)$ and the unmodulated field.

where τ_p is linked to the temporal FWHM of the pulse (intensity) as $\tau_{0,\mathrm{FWHM}} = 2\sqrt{\ln 2}\,\tau_p$. And for the chirped probe, we define the probe field as:

$$\underline{A}_{pr}(t;\tau;\phi_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+i(\phi_2\tau_p^{-2})}}\; e^{-\frac{1}{2}\frac{(t-\tau)^2}{\tau_p^2+i\phi_2}}$$

where ϕ_2 is the second order spectral phase.

In the case of the two pulse probe (chirped probe) experiment, we run *for* loops over different intra-pulse distance (second order phase) values and compute the differential transmission through the spectral filter, as a function of the pump-probe delay parameter (τ). A Fourier transform of the delay scan over τ gives us the vibrational spectrum.

II. MODE AMPLITUDE EVOLUTION AS A FUNCTION OF TRANSFORM-LIMITED PULSE WIDTH AND CHIRP VALUE

The transform limited (TL) pulse duration of the probe pulse, or in other words its bandwidth, determines the extent of the spectral overlap between the incident field and the scattered fields (by the molecular vibration modes). As highlighted in our work, a chirped probe functions acts as a vibrational low pass filter, however, the caveat is that the transform limited pulse (i.e. when ϕ_2=0) must have a bandwidth that allows for effective interference with the scattered field (that appears as spectral side bands). In the time domain picture, the probe pulse must be short enough to resolve the refractive index transient resulting from the molecular vibration modes (i.e. shorter that the mode period)

This is evident from Fig 7 where the mode amplitude evolution of the 75 cm^{-1} mode of carbamazepine dihydrate (CBZDH) is shown as a function of the transform limited probe pulse duration and its second order phase value. It is seen that as the TL pulse temporal width of

the probe pulse increases, the chirp value required to attenuate the detected mode amplitude decreases. Eventually, when the probe pulse duration is comparable to the mode duration (444 fs), the sideband spectral interference is so weak that the signal measured via the spectral shift technique vanishes.

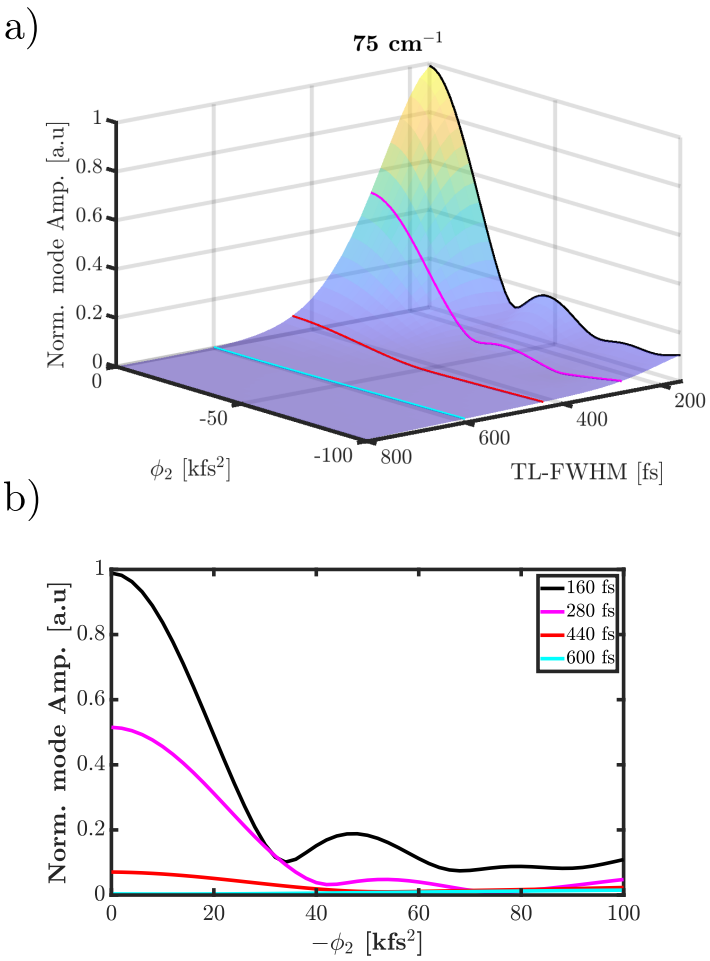

FIG. 7. **Mode amplitude evolution as a function of TL-FWHM**: Fig (a) and (b) depict the dependence of the mode amplitude of the 75 cm^{-1} mode of CBZDH as a function of the transform limited (TL) temporal pulse width (i.e. the FWHM when $\phi_2 = 0$) and the second order phase (ϕ_2). The black curve corresponds to the TL-FWHM relevant to our experiments ($\approx$ 160 fs). As the TL-FWHM becomes longer, the sideband interference becomes weaker and hence the chirp required to extinguish the mode from being detected goes down (depicted by the pink and red curves). At long enough pulse durations, there is no overlap between the incident and the scattered fields making the probe pulse insensitive to spectral shift detection (represented by the cyan curve).

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