

Contributed Lectures D

Lecture Hall AI

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Line Space Theory of Resonant Four-Wave Mixing by Rotationally Anisotropic Photofragments

Alexander Kouzov¹, Peter Radi², Natalie Egorova³,

¹Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia, alex@ak1197.spb.edu; ²Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland, peter.radi@psi.ch; ³Saint-Petersburg University of State Fire Service of EMERCOM, Russia, enat99@mail.ru

Based on the line-space (Liouville) quantum formalism, the potential of Resonant Four-Wave Mixing (RFWM) spectroscopy as a new tool to study rotational and translational anisotropy of photofragments produced by absorption of plane-polarized photons is theoretically addressed. Due to synergy of the flexible polarization setup, fine quantum state resolution and of the possibility to study translational recoil distributions, the tool is unsurpassed among the all-optical means to interrogate the photofragment states.¹ It furnishes a direct way to separate signals induced by the rotational anisotropy which remain silent in laser-induced fluorescence spectra and, as such, constitutes a promising approach to study rotational helicity, one of the crucial signatures of the photolytic bond rupture mechanism.² A Fortran code to calculate a set of irreducible polarization tensors appearing in the case of collinear RFWM geometry is also reported.

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Anomalous centrifugal distortion in NH₂

L. H. Coudert

Institut des Sciences Moléculaires d'Orsay, CNRS - Université Paris Saclay, 91405
Orsay, France, laurent.coudert@u-psud.fr

The NH₂ radical, first observed by Herzberg and Ramsay,¹ is dominated by a strong Renner-Teller effect, evidenced by Dressler and Ramsay,² giving rise to two electronic states: the bent X^2B_1 ground state and the quasi-linear A^2A_1 excited state. The NH₂ radical has been the subject of numerous high-resolution investigations and its electronic,³ ro-vibrational,⁴ and pure rotational transitions⁵ have been measured. A value of the rotational quantum number N as large as 26 could be reached recently for the latter type of transitions using an experimental setup based on synchrotron radiation.⁶

In the X^2B_1 ground state, the NH₂ radical behaves like a light triatomic molecule displaying spin-rotation splittings. Due to the large value of the rotational constants, there exists a strong coupling between the overall rotation and the bending ν_2 mode whose effects increase with the rotational quantum number N and lead to the anomalous centrifugal distortion observed by Martin-Drumel *et al.*⁶

In this talk the Bending-Rotation approach⁷ developed to account for the anomalous centrifugal distortion of the water molecule⁸ is modified to include spin-rotation coupling and is applied to the fitting of high-resolution data pertaining to the ground electronic state of NH₂. In the modified approach, a 4-dimensional Hamiltonian is written using the bending coordinate $t = \cos \theta$, where θ is the Radau⁹ bending angle. A variation of the spin-rotation coupling with the bending coordinate is introduced.

A preliminary line position analysis of the pure rotational transitions reported by Martin-Drumel *et al.*⁶ up to $N = K_a = 12$ and the (010) state allowed us to reproduce the wavenumber of 600 (143) transitions belonging to the ground (excited) vibrational state with an RMS value of 0.6×10^{-3} (1.2×10^{-3}) cm⁻¹ using 71 parameters. The highest order distortion rotational operators considered are of the form $N^{2p}N_z^{2q}$ with $p + q = 4$. This seems to imply that the present approach is more physical than the Watson-type Hamiltonian used by Martin-Drumel *et al.*⁶ since they were led to use distortion rotational operators with $p + q$ as large as 9 although for a larger maximum value of N .

References

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Calculated rotation-bending energy levels of CH_5^+ and a comparison with experiment¹

Xiao-Gang Wang¹ and Tucker Carrington Jr.¹

¹Chemistry Department, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6, Canada;
xgwang.dalian@gmail.com and Tucker.Carrington@queensu.ca

We report $J > 0$ CH_5^+ levels computed by fixing stretch coordinates. They are computed by using a simple product basis, exploiting symmetry, and carefully parallelizing the calculation. The $J > 0$ CH_5^+ levels are compared with those obtained from other theoretical methods and with experimental ground state combination differences of Asvany et al. [Science, **347**, 1346 (2015)]. If the assignment of Asvany et al. is correct, there are important differences between the levels we compute and those observed. We propose a different assignment of the experimental levels that reduces the maximum error from 34 to 2 cm^{-1} . The new assignment can only be correct if states of both parities exist in the experiment. Although, ro-vibrational levels of CH_5^+ cannot be associated with individual vibrational states, they do occur in blocks separated by gaps.

Calculated and experimental energy differences.

G_2^-			H_2^-		
ΔE		Expt. Set 1	ΔE		Expt. Set 2
$J = 0$	(10.9)		$J = 1$	(26.6)	
$J = 2$	40.9	26.5	$J = 2$	5.7	39.7
$J = 1$	49.5	30.3	$J = 0$	15.5	47.3
$J = 2$	53.5	36.4	$J = 2$	31.0	51.8
G_2^+			H_2^+		
ΔE			ΔE		
$J = 1$	(24.2)		$J = 1$	(32.9)	
$J = 2$	26.8		$J = 2$	8.1	
$J = 1$	32.5		$J = 0$	24.2	
$J = 3$	37.4		$J = 2$	25.9	

Fig. 1: A comparison of calculated and experimental energy differences of Asvany et al. [Science, **347**, 1346 (2015)]

References

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AN EMPIRICAL POTENTIAL ENERGY SURFACE FOR THE ELECTRONIC GROUND STATE OF HCO⁺

Giulia Winterhoff¹, Sarah C. Galleguillos Kempf², Tsuneo Hirano³, Per Jensen⁴

¹Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany, 1247049@uni-wuppertal.de; ²Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany, s.galleguillos_kempf@uni-wuppertal.de; ³Ochanomizu University, Tokyo, Japan, hirano@nccsk.com; ⁴Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany, jensen@uni-wuppertal.de

Our work on calculating rovibronic energies and simulating spectra of small molecules involves an analytical, parameterized representation of the potential energy surface for a particular electronic state of the molecule in question. The values of the parameters in the function can, in principle, be obtained (1) by a least-squares fitting of theoretical *ab initio* energies or, (2) by a least-squares fitting of experimentally determined rovibronic energy spacings. In practice, the amount of experimentally determined energy spacings is normally too limited to allow the determination of a complete potential energy surface, and so Method (1) is customarily used to determine initial values for the potential-surface parameters and these parameters are then refined by Method (2), leading to an improved reproduction of the available experimental data. In many cases the available experimental data are so limited that even the refinement poses a problem. With very limited experimental data, only very few parameters can be varied in the refinement, and it is difficult to choose which parameters to vary.

In such cases, we have been able to proceed successfully by simultaneously least-squares fitting to the experimental data and the *ab initio* energies, applying an appropriate weighting of the two types of input data. This procedure was first implemented in the program TROVE¹ which simulates rovibronic spectra for any molecule in an isolated electronic state, and then (as MORBID requires significantly less computer resources than TROVE for doing the same calculation) in the older program MORBID² applicable to triatomic molecules only.

The experimental data are compiled by Neese³ and the *ab initio* energies are newly calculated at the core-valence RCCSD(T)/[aug-cc-pCVQZ(C, O), aug-cc-pVQZ(H)] level of theory. Further details and results of the fits will be given at the conference.

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Dispersion and relativistic corrections to the spectral line shapes

Szymon Wójtewicz¹, Piotr Wcisło¹, Pasquale Amodio², Livio Gianfrani², Daniel Lisak¹, Roman Ciuryło¹

¹Institute of Physics, Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Informatics, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Grudziądzka 5, 87-100 Toruń, Poland, szymon@fizyka.umk.pl; ²Department of Mathematics and Physics, Second University of Naples, Viale Lincoln 5, 81100 Caserta, Italy

The growing requirements in the measurements of the physical constant variations, metrological applications as well as the diagnostics of stellar and planetary systems stimulate the development of spectroscopic techniques and spectral line-shape theories. Modern spectrometers are capable of providing spectra with very high signal-to-noise-ratios exceeding 10^5 . Such precise data require proper analysis in terms of the line-shape models going beyond the commonly used Voigt profile. It is well known that the speed dependence of collisional broadening and shifting, Dicke narrowing and the correlations between velocity-changing collisions and dephasing collisions have to be included in the line-shape analysis. Here we show that at this level of accuracy other, neglected so far, very subtle physical effects have to be taken into account. We present the dispersion and relativistic corrections to the line-shape models on an example of simple Gaussian and Voigt profiles.

We discuss the dispersion corrections including the frequency dependence of the Doppler shifting caused by dispersion^{1,2} as well as by light frequency variation over the whole spectral line shape.² These effects can have non-negligible influence on the spectral line shape and can affect it even at the level of 10^{-5} . The dispersion correction may influence the determination of the line position at the level of kHz.²

Moreover, we provided the relativistic formula describing the Voigt profile in the case of spontaneous emission.³ We verified that our formula has a proper behaviour in two asymptotic cases: the relativistic Gaussian profile and the classical Voigt profile.⁴ We presented an alternative expression, which simplify numerical evaluation for the most physically meaningful weak-relativistic regime. We estimated that at room temperature the relativistic correction can be at the level of 10^{-6} .

The presented results might be crucial for the Doppler-width thermometry¹, astrophysical applications and precise molecular spectroscopy for fundamental studies.⁵

References

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Spin-Rotation Hyperfine Splittings at Moderate to High J Values in Methanol

S.P. Belov,^a G.Yu. Golubiatnikov,^a A.V. Lapinov,^a V.V. Ilyushin,^b

E.A. Alekseev,^{b,c} A.A. Mescheryakov,^b J.T. Hougen,^c Li-Hong Xu^d

^a Institute of Applied Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 46 Ulyanov Street, 603950 Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.

^b Institute of Radioastronomy of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Chervonopraporna 4, 61002 Kharkov, Ukraine.

^c Quantum Radiophysics Department of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Svobody Square 4, 61022, Kharkov, Ukraine

^d Sensor Science Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8441, USA.

^e Department of Physics and Centre for Laser, Atomic, and Molecular Sciences, University of New Brunswick, Saint John, NB, E2L 4L5, Canada

This talk presents an explanation based on torsionally mediated proton-spin–overall-rotation interaction for the observation of doublet hyperfine splittings in some Lamb-dip sub-millimeter-wave transitions between ground-state torsion-rotation states of E symmetry in methanol. These unexpected doublet splittings, some as large as 70 kHz, were observed for rotational quantum numbers in the range of $J = 13$ to 34, and $K = -2$ to +3. Because they increase nearly linearly with J for a given branch, we confined our search for an explanation to hyperfine operators containing one nuclear-spin angular momentum factor I and one overall-rotation angular momentum factor J (i.e., to spin-rotation operators), and ignored both spin-spin and spin-torsion operators, since they contain no rotational angular momentum operator. Furthermore, since traditional spin-rotation operators did not seem capable of explaining the observed splittings, we constructed totally symmetric “torsionally mediated spin-rotation operators” by combining the E-species spin-rotation operator with an E-species torsional-coordinate factor. The resulting operator is capable of connecting the two components of a degenerate torsion-rotation E state. This has the effect of turning the hyperfine splitting pattern upside down for some nuclear-spin states, which leads to bottom-to-top and top-to-bottom hyperfine selection rules for some transitions, and thus to an explanation for the unexpectedly large observed hyperfine splittings. The constructed operator has no nonzero matrix elements within the set of torsion-rotation A_1 and A_2 states, and thus cannot contribute to hyperfine splittings in the A manifold. The theory developed here fits the observed large doublet splittings to a root-mean-square residual of less than 1 kHz, and predicts much smaller splittings for a number of transitions in which no doublet splitting was detected. New measurements of more complicated splitting patterns in the excited torsional states, having triplet and quartet forms, are yet to be explored.