



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE  
OF PHARMACEUTICAL  
INNOVATION

国际创新药学院

# ***Fundamentals of Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry***

## **FUNCHEM.25 Analytics: Infrared Spectroscopy I**

**Professor Dan Wu**

**DATE: 6 December 2024**

# Why the need for spectroscopic analysis?

## QUALITY CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND FORMULATED PRODUCTS

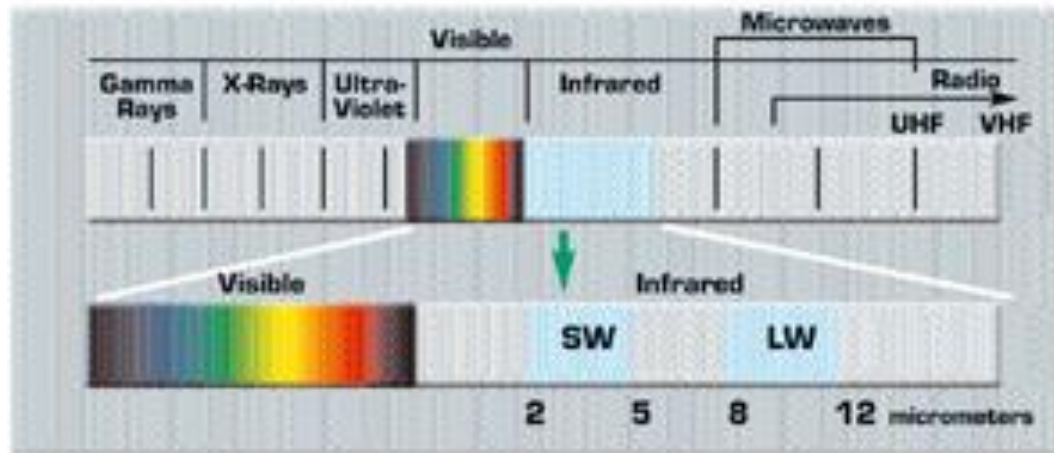
- Product License Standards – manufacturing standards as set out by the licensing authority – e.g. in Britain, this is the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- Published Standards – e.g. British Pharmacopoeia (BP), European Pharmacopoeia (Pharm Eur) and the United States Pharmacopoeia (USP)

# Pharmaceutical Impurities

- Sources of impurities can arise from a range of different sources – raw materials, products of the manufacturing process, degradation products, packaging materials and microbiological contaminants
- Impurities may be separated from other components using chromatography
- Once pure, these can be analysed using spectroscopy and spectrometry

# Infra-Red Radiation

**Infrared allows us to see what our eyes cannot.**



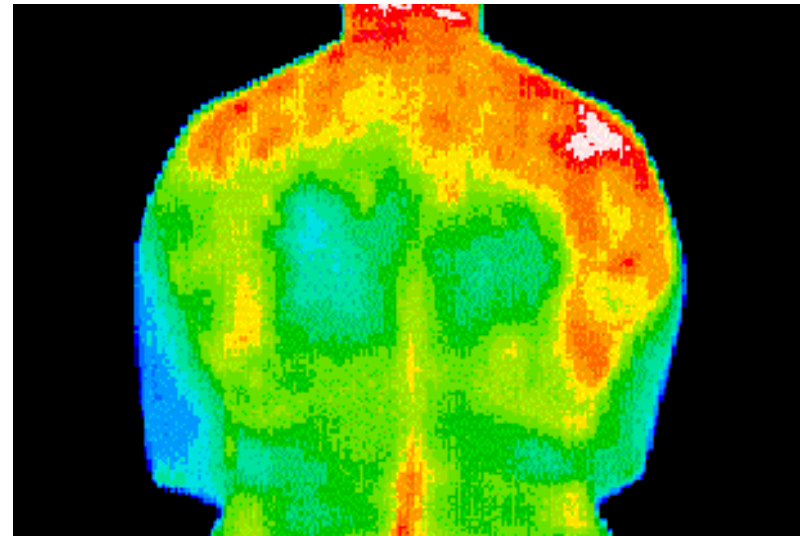
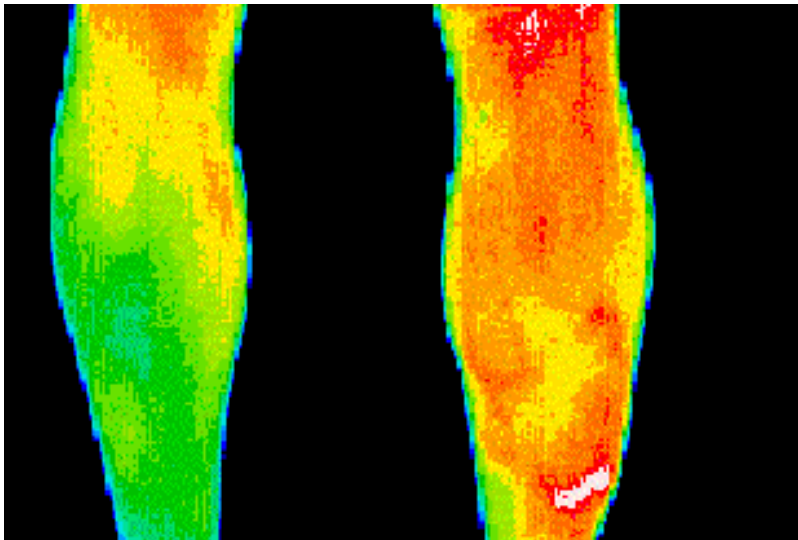
Thermal, or infrared energy, is light that is not visible because its wavelength is too long to be detected by the human eye; we perceive it as heat.

Unlike visible light, in the infrared world, everything with a temperature above absolute zero emits heat.

The higher the object's temperature, the greater the IR radiation emitted.

# Thermography

*Thermography is the use of an infrared imaging and measurement camera to "see" and "measure " thermal energy emitted from an object.*

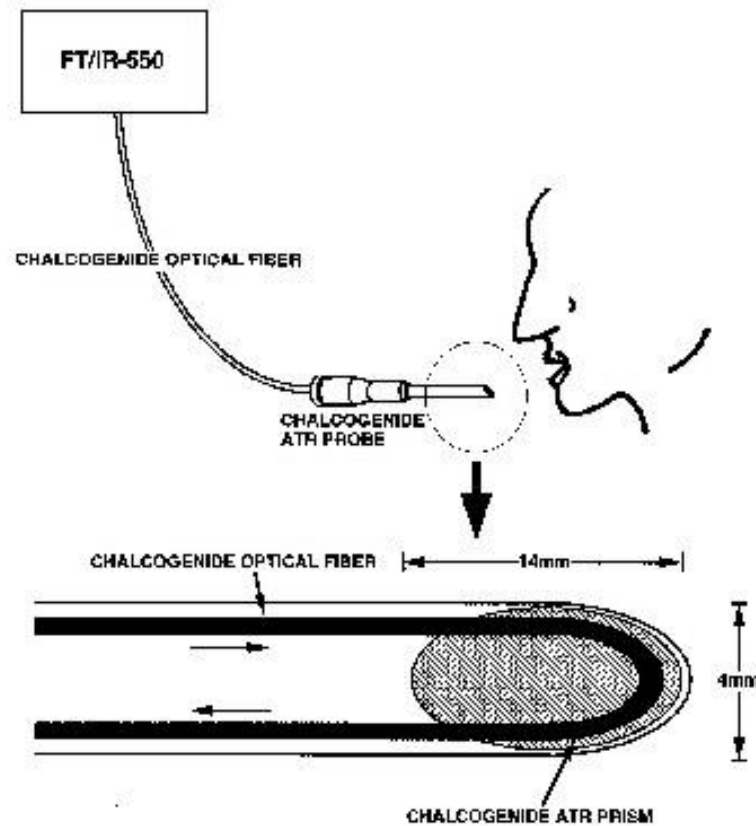


# Pharmaceutical Applications

- Qualitative 'fingerprint' check for identification of drugs
- Used for screening compounds and rapid identification of, for example, C=O groups
- Can be used to characterise samples in solid states (creams and tablets)
- Water content measurement

# Applications

Used in non-invasive measurement of glucose



# Pharmaceutical Applications

Analysis of urine and other biofluids  
(urea, creatinine, protein)





# Types of Spectroscopy

- **Ultraviolet (UV) spectroscopy** uses electron transitions to determine bonding patterns.
- **Infrared (IR) spectroscopy** measures the bond vibration frequencies in a molecule and is used to determine the functional group.
- **Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy** detects signals from hydrogen atoms (in the case of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy) and can be used to distinguish isomers.
- **Mass spectrometry (MS)** fragments the molecule and measures the masses.
- Measurements of physicochemical properties such as melting points and solubility should also be considered

<http://www.cem.msu.edu/~reusch/VirtualText/Spectrpy/InfraRed/infrared.htm>

# Infra-Red Spectroscopy

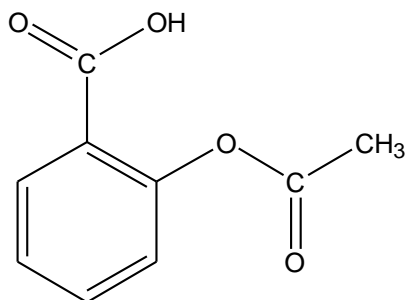
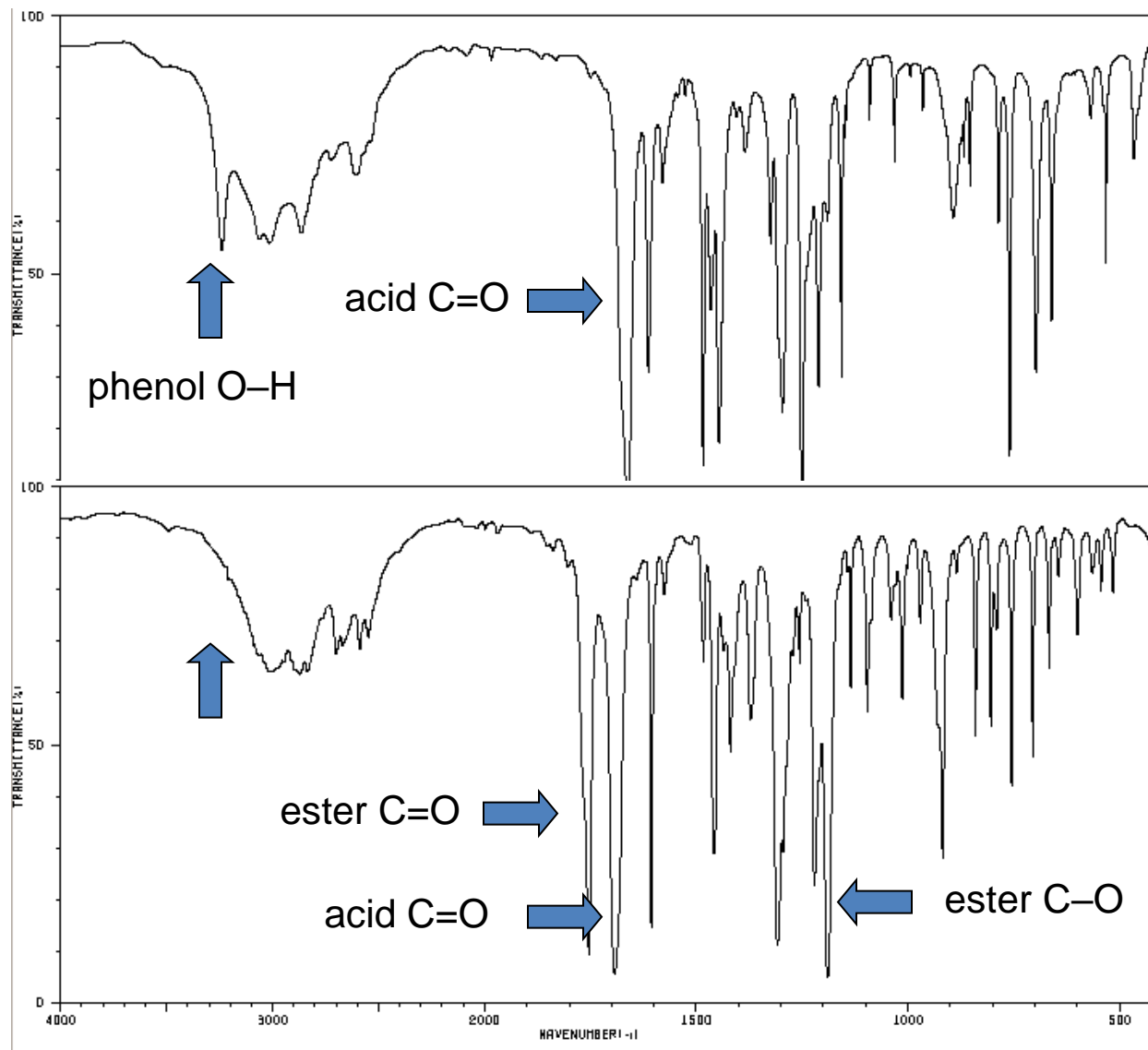
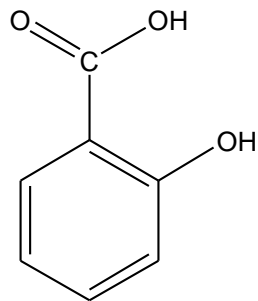
- IR spectroscopy can be used as a means of identification – pure samples of drugs (as well as non-drug molecules) produce IR spectra that are unique to themselves – they can therefore be used as a means of identification.

The British Pharmacopoeia contains a reference collection of IR spectra for this purpose.

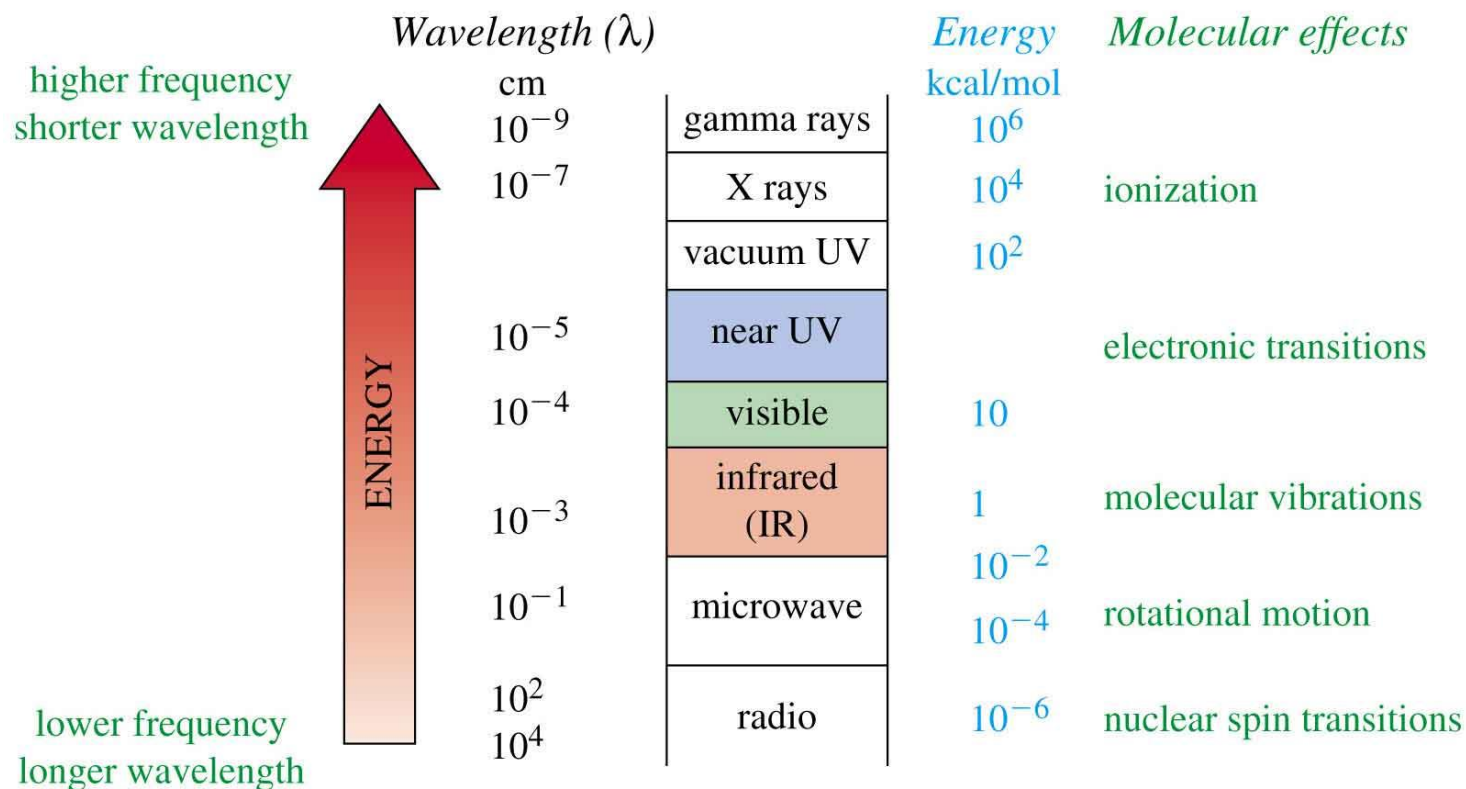
It is thus possible to differentiate chemically similar drugs by studying their IR spectra

- IR spectroscopy can also be used to identify key structural information (functional groups)

# IR Spectroscopy: Salicylic Acid Vs. Aspirin



# What wavelength of electromagnetic radiation is involved in causing vibrations in molecules?




## The IR region

- Just **below red** in the visible region
- More common units are **wavenumbers**, or  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , the reciprocal of the wavelength in centimetres

In a nutshell!



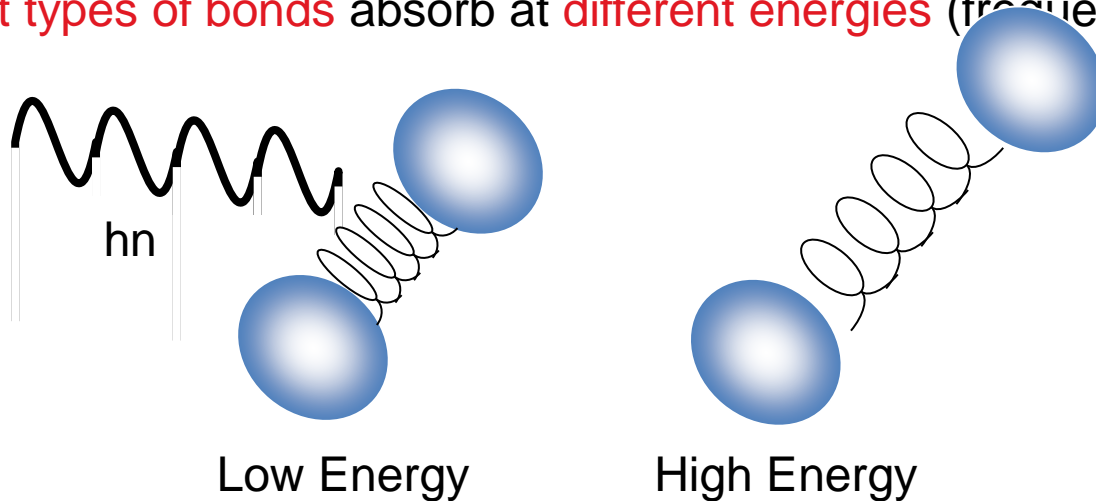
# Infra-red Spectroscopy

IR radiation  induce molecule vibrations  
(bond stretches, angles bend etc)

Very important technique for identifying  
**functional groups** in a molecule

# Principles of IR

- Each IR absorption corresponds to the energies of bond stretching in most molecules
- Different types of bonds absorb at different energies (frequencies)



- Energy for each molecular vibration therefore **unique** for each functional group.

# Different Types of Vibration

Stretching (involves changes in **bond length**)

- Symmetric Stretch

- Asymmetric Stretch

Bending (involves changes in **bond angle**)

- Rocking

- Scissoring

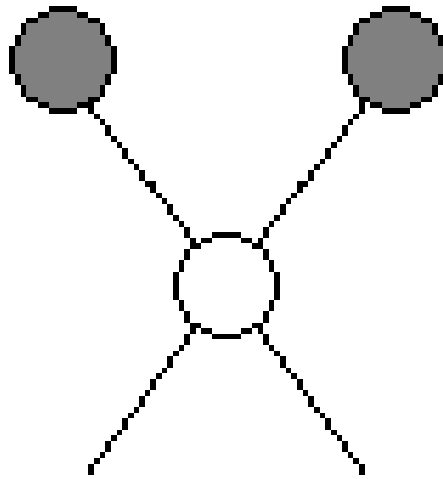
- Wagging

- Twisting

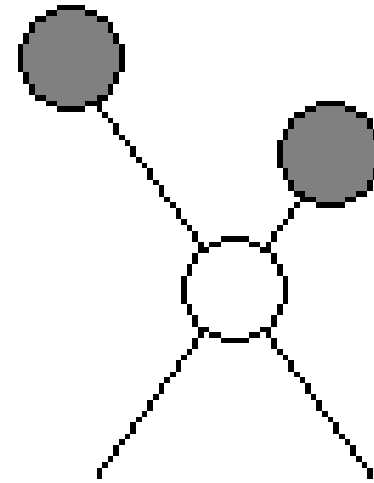


# Different Types of Stretching Vibrations

## Stretching vibrations



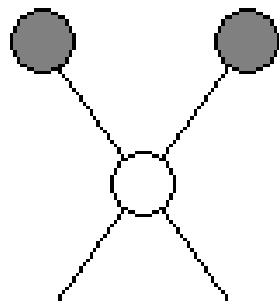
Symmetric



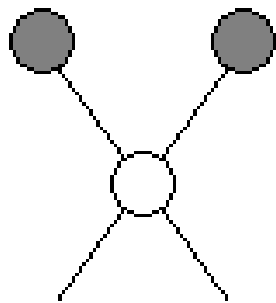
Asymmetric

# Different Types of Bending Vibration

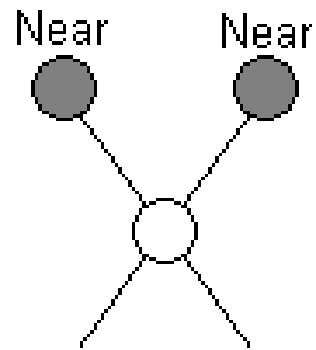
## Bending vibrations



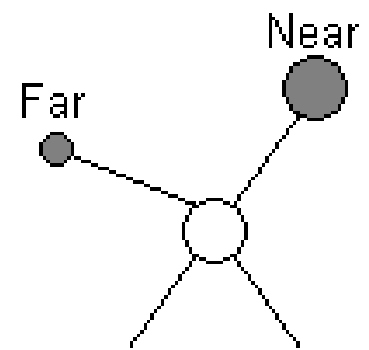
In-plane rocking



In-plane scissoring

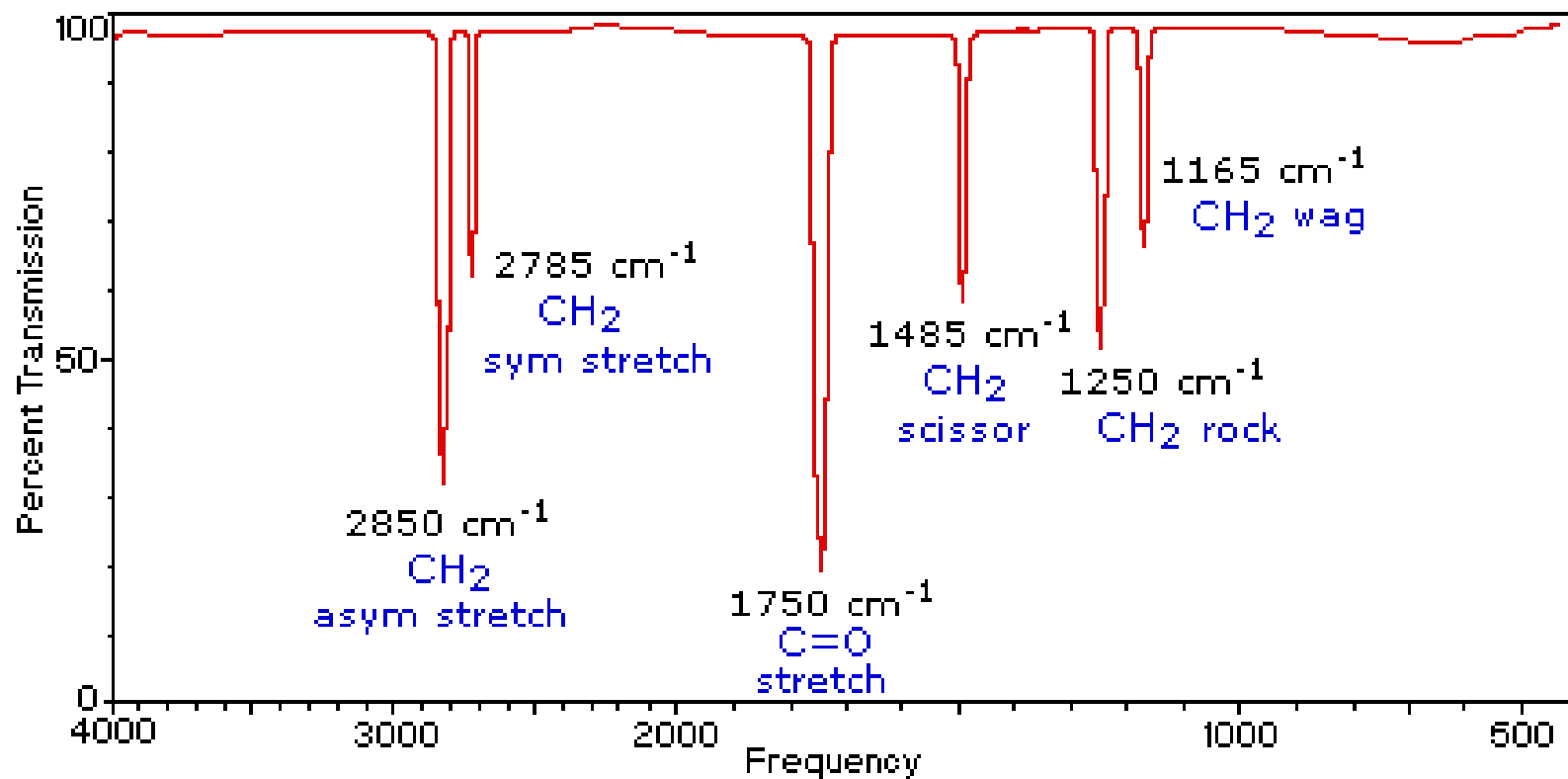
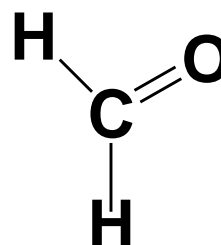


Out-of-plane wagging



Out-of-plane twisting

Formaldehyde: HCHO



# Selection Rules for IR Activity

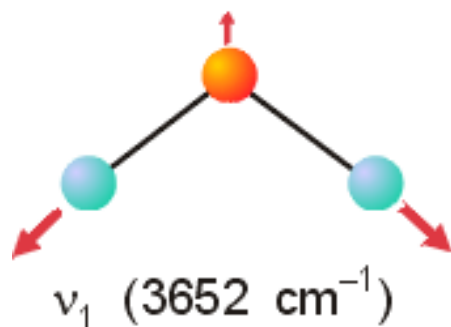
- A vibrational mode can give rise to an absorption of infrared radiation only if the vibration involves a **CHANGE IN THE ELECTRIC DIPOLE MOMENT** of the molecule.
- Hence it should be obvious that the vibration of a **homonuclear diatomic molecule** (eg  $O_2$  ,  $N_2$  ,etc.) does not result in infrared absorption i.e. **IR inactive**
- A polyatomic molecule possesses several vibrations and these **may be Infrared active or inactive** according to the symmetry of the vibrational mode.

# Vibrational Modes

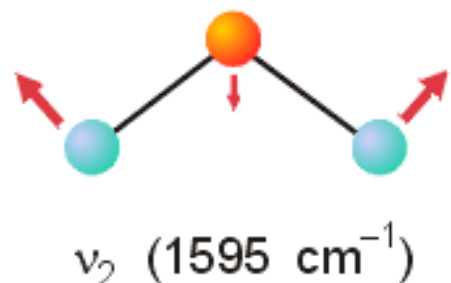
- For a **linear molecule** with  $n$  atoms, there are  $3n - 5$  fundamental vibrations.
- For a **nonlinear molecule** with  $n$  atoms, there are  $3n - 6$  fundamental vibrations.

# WATER VIBRATIONAL MODES

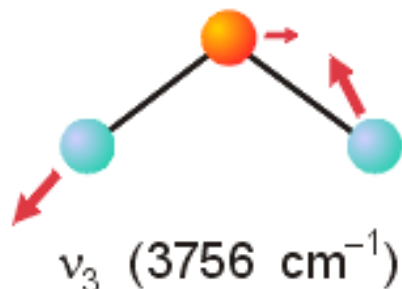
**$3n-6 = 9-6 = 3$  vibrational modes are expected for this non-linear molecule**



**SYMMETRIC** O-H STRETCHING MODE. It can be formed by combining the stretching of the two O-H bonds so that expansions and contractions of the two bonds occur **IN PHASE**.



The middle vibration ( $n_2$ ) is the **BENDING** MODE.

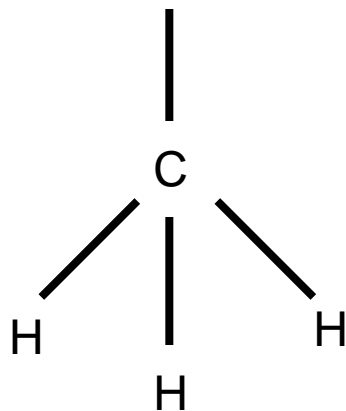


The third vibration ( $n_3$ ) is called the **ASYMMETRIC** O-H STRETCHING MODE. It is formed by combining the expansion of one O-H bond with the contraction of the other O-H bond, ie **OUT OF PHASE**.

Note:

The – CH<sub>3</sub> group gives rise to a

- symmetric C-H stretch at 2850 – 2890 cm<sup>-1</sup>
- asymmetric stretch at 2940 – 2980 cm<sup>-1</sup>
- symmetric deformation at 1375 cm<sup>-1</sup>
- asymmetric deformation at ~ 1470 cm<sup>-1</sup>



Deformation  
'opening and closing  
of an umbrella'

# Vibrational Modes

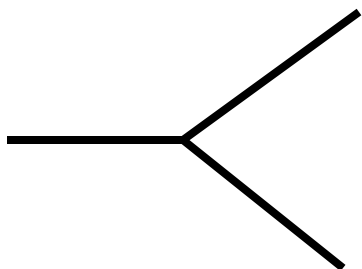
## Skeletal vibrations

1400 - 600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

called the 'fingerprint region'.

*In this portion of the spectrum the energy of the absorption bands varies depending on the structure of a molecule.*

Modes  
of  
vibration



## Characteristic group vibrations

4000-1400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*In this region the bands are characteristic of specific functional groups in a molecule.*

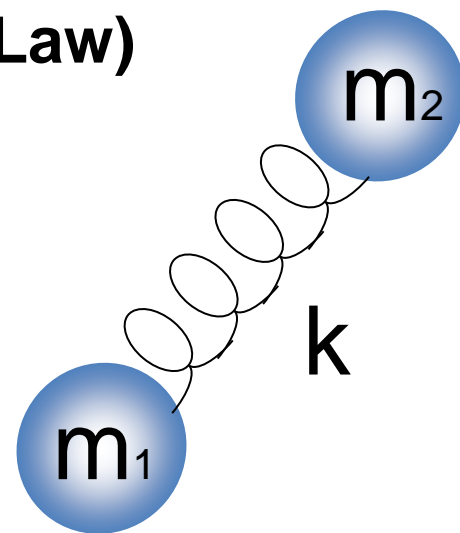
No two molecules will give exactly the same IR spectrum (except enantiomers).



The exact frequency at which a given vibration occurs is determined by the strengths of the bonds involved and the mass of the component atoms.

**To help understand IR, it is useful to compare a vibrating bond to the physical model of a vibrating spring system (described by Hooke's Law)**

$$\bar{\nu} = \frac{1}{2\pi c} \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$



$\bar{\nu}$  = vibrational frequency of the bond,  
in wavenumbers ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )

k = force constant, indicating the strength of the bond (N/m)

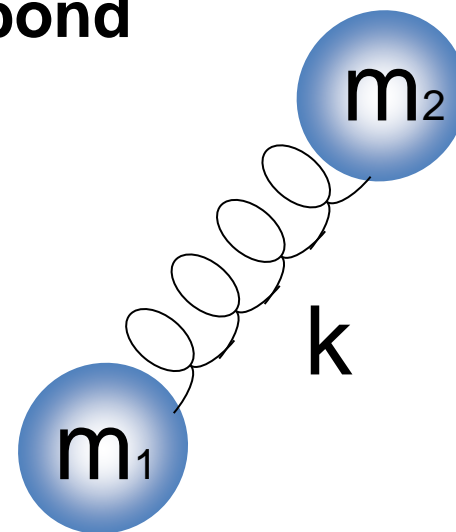
m = reduced mass, which is given by

$$m = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

where  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are the masses of the two atoms  
(in kilograms per molecule)

# How does the strength of the bond influence the vibration?

$$\overline{\nu} = \frac{1}{2\pi c} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}}$$



For a stronger bond (larger  $k$  value),  $\overline{\nu}$  increases.

## Examples

CC bonds:

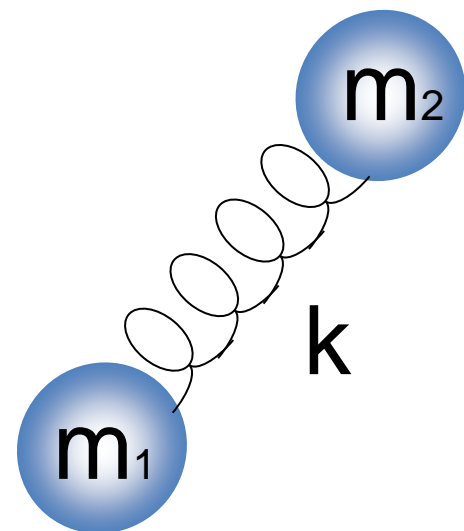


CH bonds:



# How does the mass influence the vibration?

$$\bar{\nu} = \frac{1}{2\pi c} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}}$$



For heavier atoms attached (larger  $\mu$  value),  $\bar{\nu}$  decreases.

## Examples

C-H (3000 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

C-C (1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

C-Cl (800 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

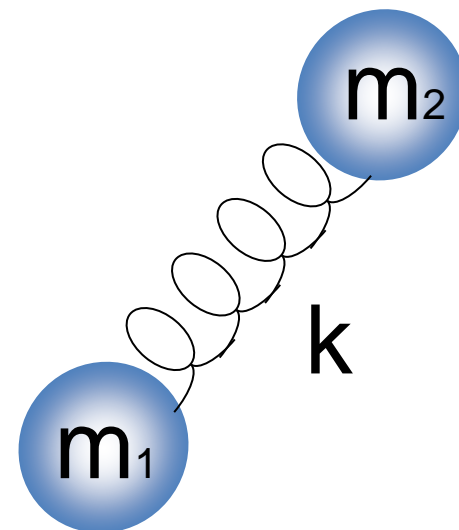
C-Br (550 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

C-I (about 500 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

# Rules of Thumb!

The fundamental wavenumber of a bond-stretching vibration is given by:

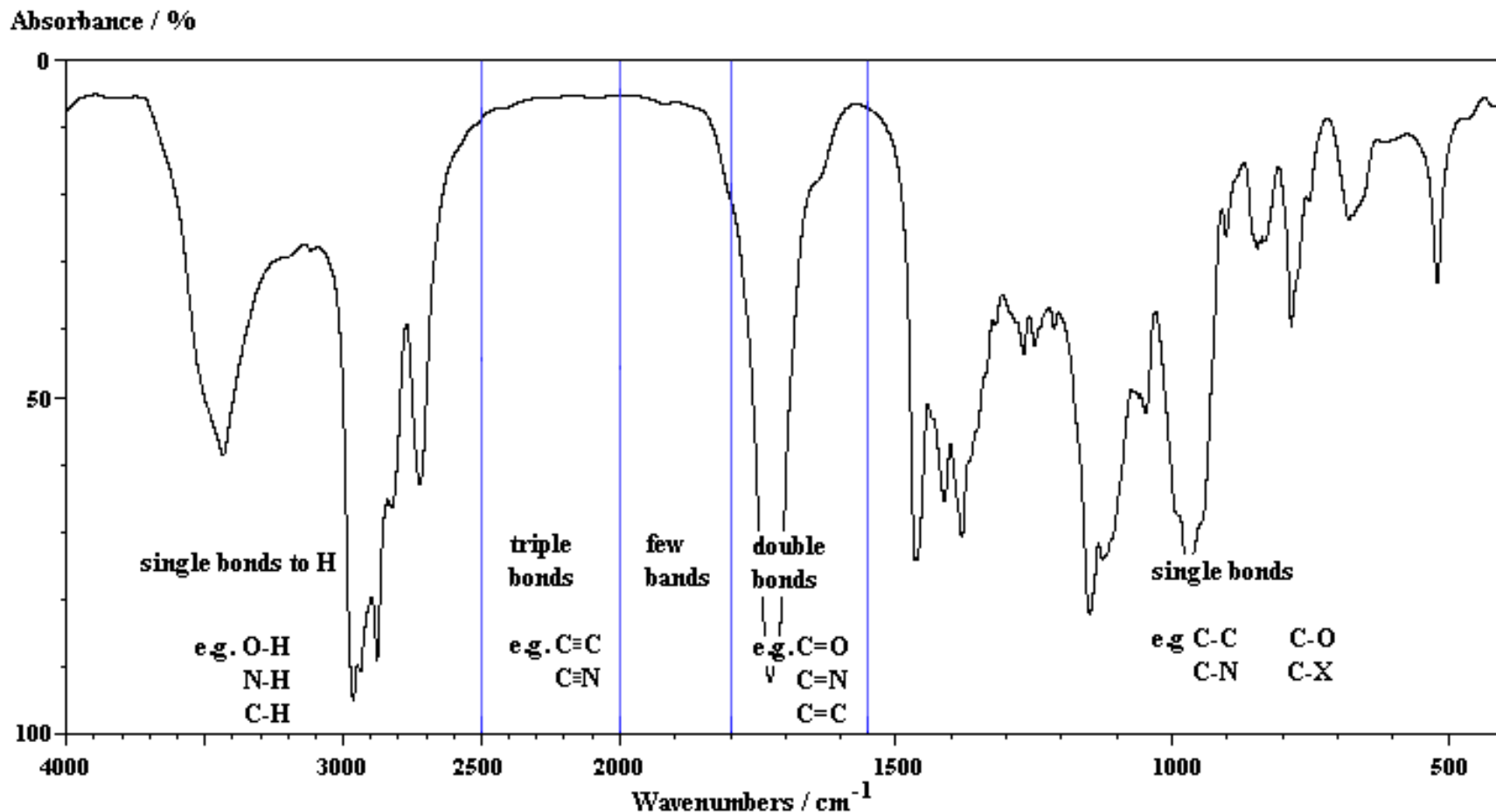
$$\bar{\nu} = \frac{1}{2\pi c} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}}$$



- Frequency bond stretch  $\propto$  strength of bond  
 $\propto$  1/mass of atoms
- Bending frequencies are generally lower than stretching frequencies. ( $k_{\text{bend}} < k_{\text{stretch}}$ ).
- Symmetric stretching frequencies are generally lower than asymmetric stretching frequencies.

# Trends that can be accounted for using Hooke's Law.

It also gives an approximate outline of where specific types of bond stretches may be found.

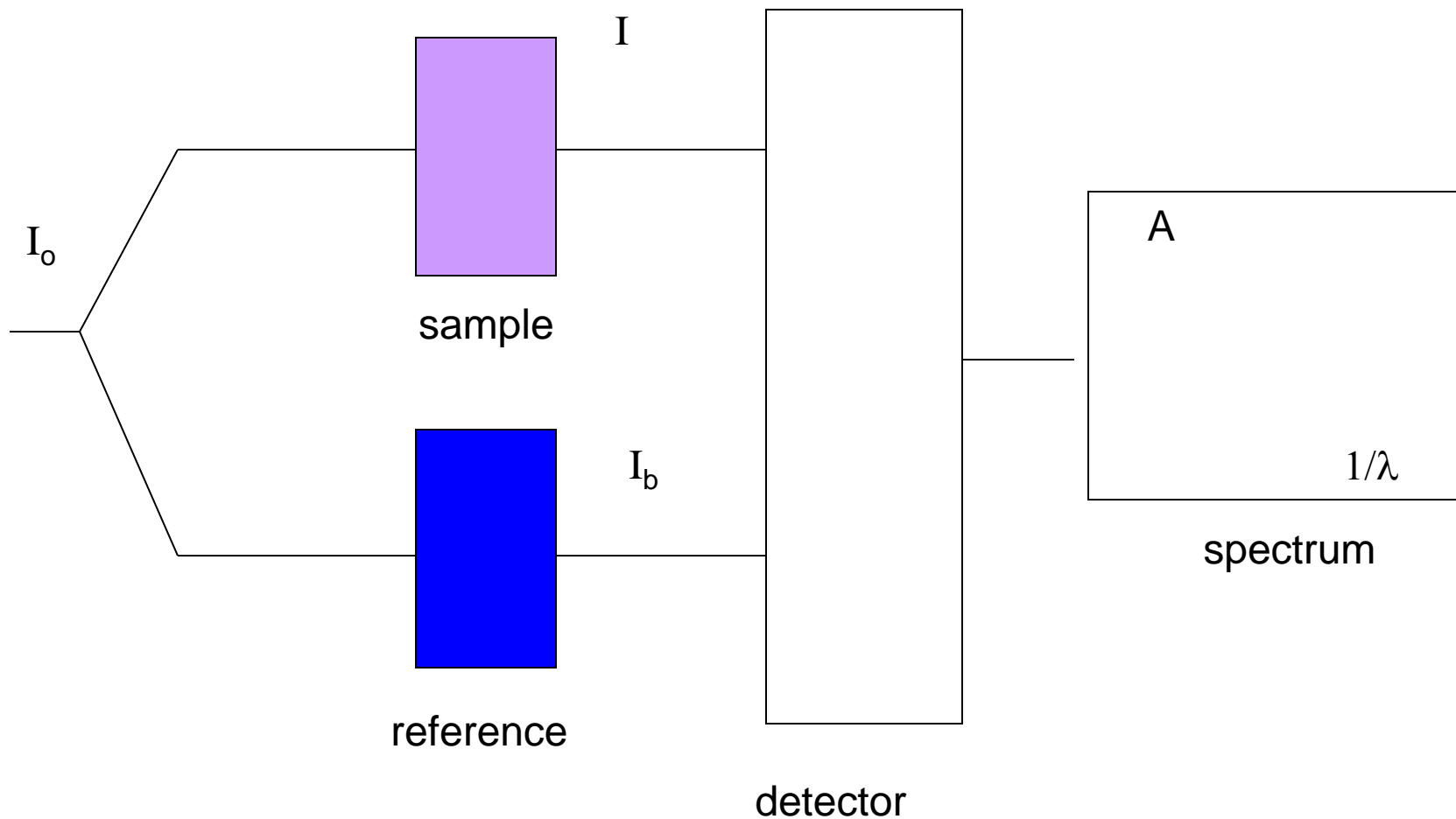


# Experimental set-up - a modern FTIR instrument



FT = Fourier Transform

# Experimental set-up



IR radiation varied from  $4000\text{-}700\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (wavenumbers)

$1/\lambda$

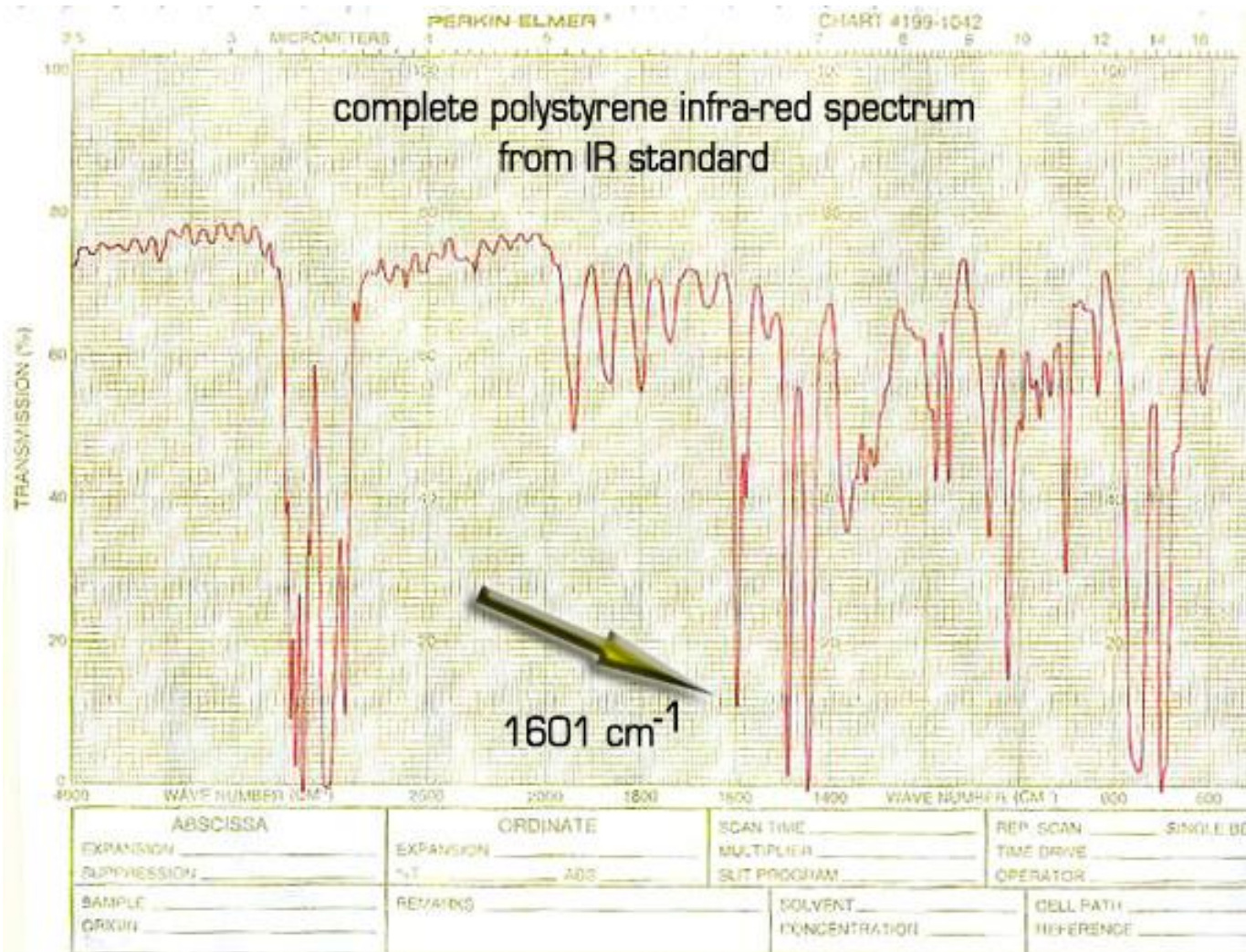


# Experimental set-up

Very similar to UV-VIS, but there are some technical difficulties in working with IR radiation:

- **glass+quartz** absorb IR
  - **useless** for constructing sample cells.
- Instead use **alkali halide crystals**.  
Large NaCl or KBr crystals cut + polished to give disks. Crystal lattices do vibrate, but need much more energy than IR radiation to do so,  $\therefore$  disks transmit 100% IR radiation.
- But! **NaCl dissolves in water!** Cannot record IR spectra for aqueous solutions! Normally **use organic solvents** -  $\text{CHCl}_3$  or  $\text{CCl}_4$ , or pure liquid film etc.

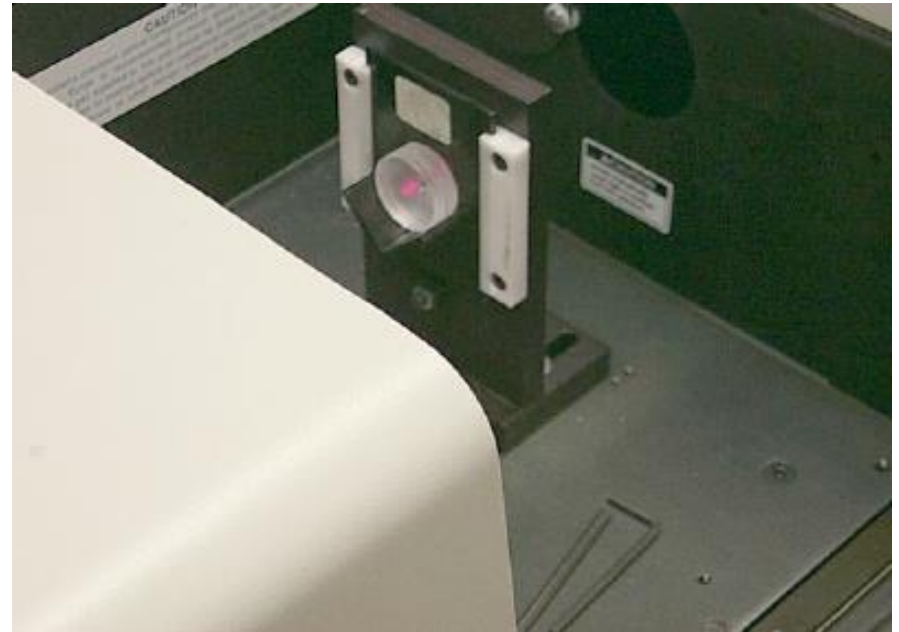
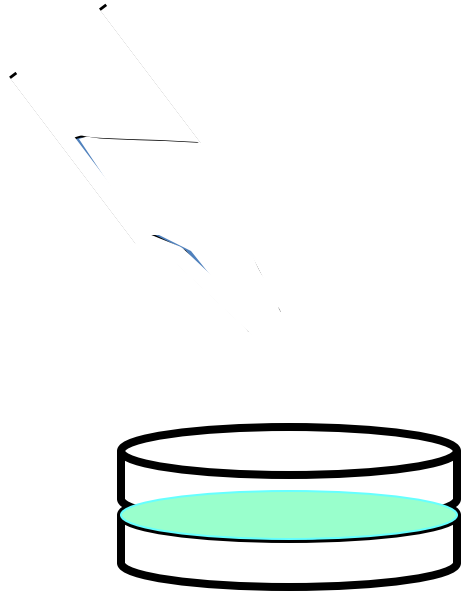




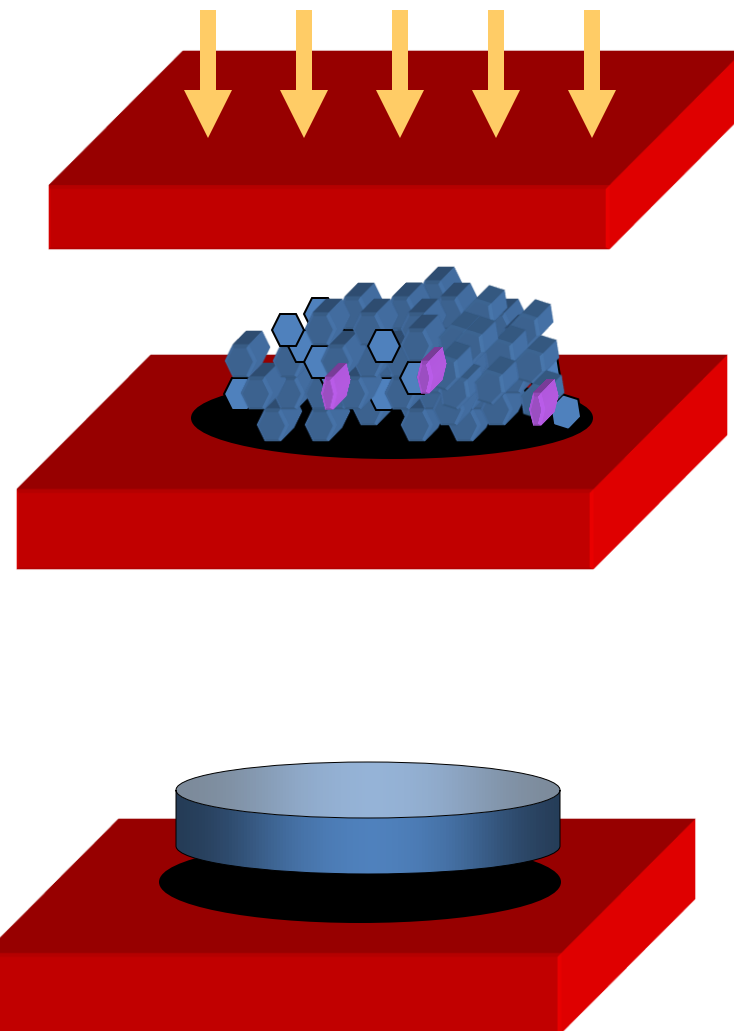
# IR Sample Preparation

- Most flexible system for analysing all 3 states of matter (solid, liquid, gas)
- “Neat” (analysis of liquids/oils)
- Nujol mull or Pellet (analysis of solids)
- Thin Cell (analysis of dissolved solid samples - solutions)
- Long Cell (analysis of gases)

# Preparing a “Neat” IR Sample

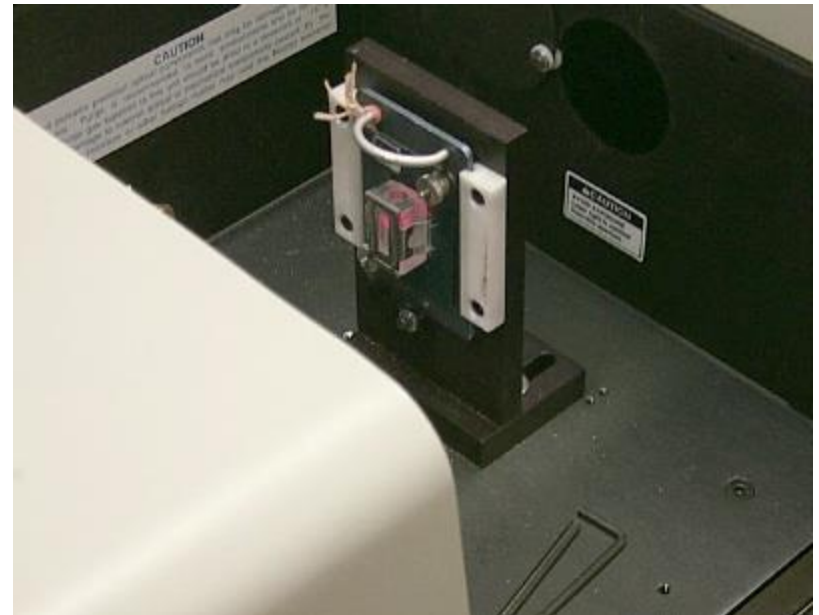


# Preparing a KBr Disk





# IR Liquid Sample Cell



# IR Gas Sample “Cell”



# Recall: Fingerprint of Molecule

- No two molecules will give exactly the same IR spectrum (except enantiomers).
- Simple stretching: 4000-1300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  
*In this region the bands are characteristic of specific functional groups in a molecule.*
- Complex vibrations: 1300 - 600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  
called the 'fingerprint region'.  
*In this portion of the spectrum the energy of the absorption bands varies depending on the structure of a molecule.*



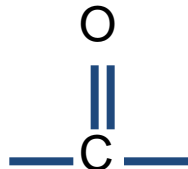
**Due to the complexity of an IR spectrum, it is unusual to assign every single peak on the spectra.**

Fortunately we don't need to!

Most **functional groups** give rise to **characteristic IR absorptions** that change little in going from one compound to another

Functional group

absorption frequency



~ 1690 - 1750 cm<sup>-1</sup>



~ 3200 - 3600 cm<sup>-1</sup>



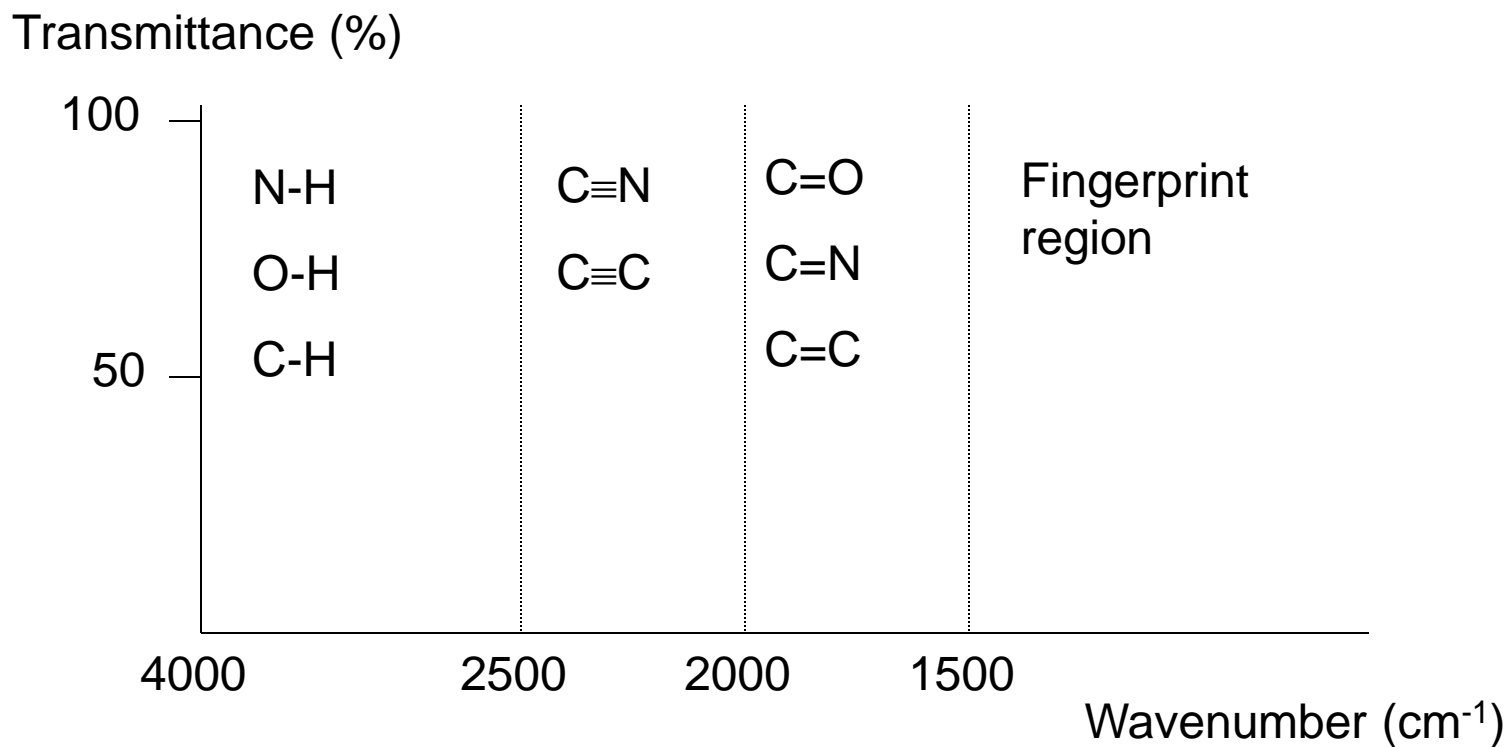
~ 1650 - 1670 cm<sup>-1</sup>



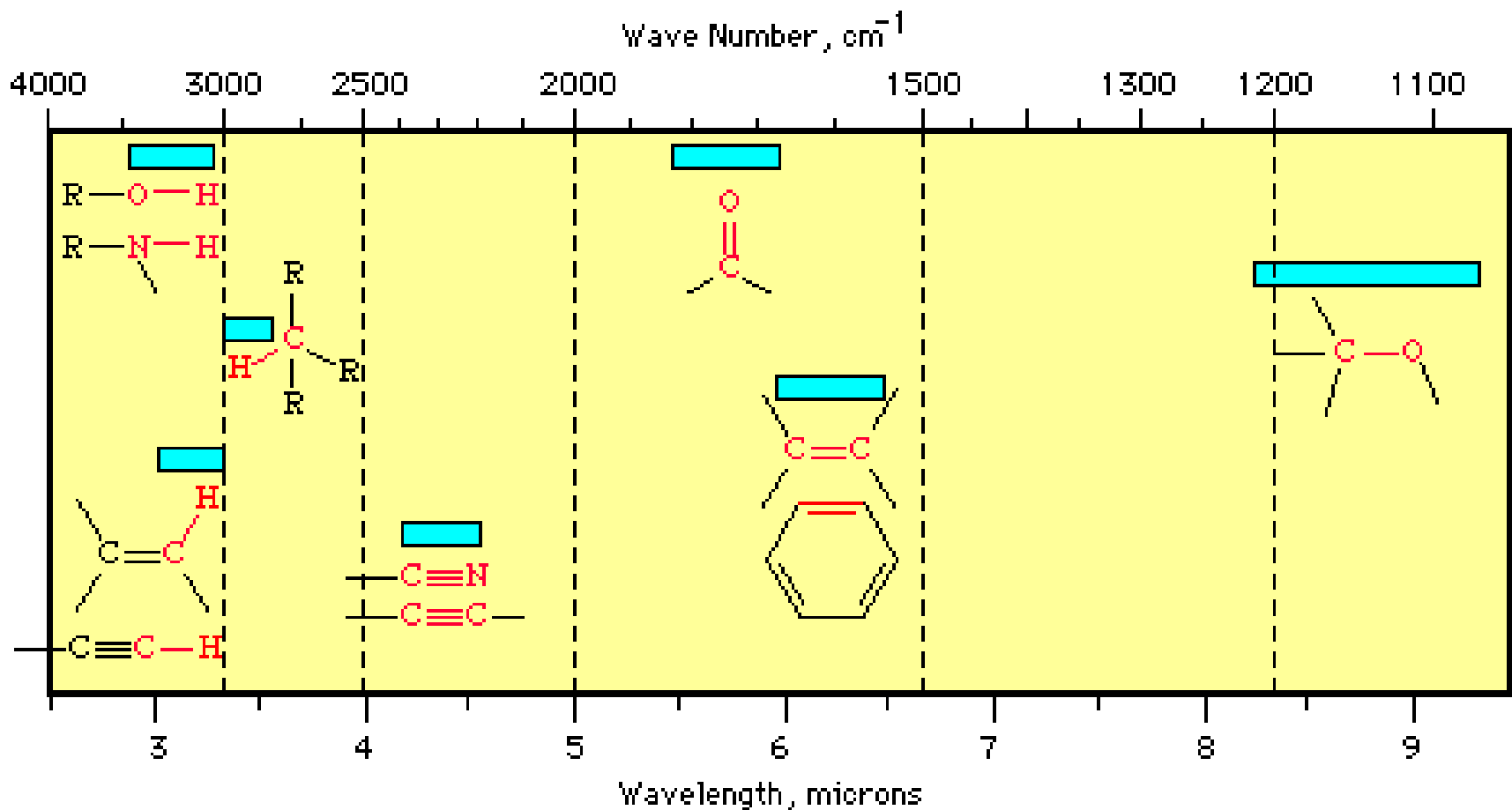
~ 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup>

**As a rough guide, the spectrum can be split  
into four sections**

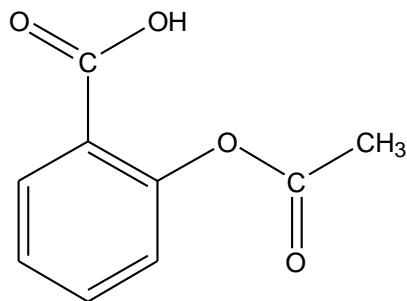
$$\bar{\nu} = \frac{1}{2\pi c} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}}$$



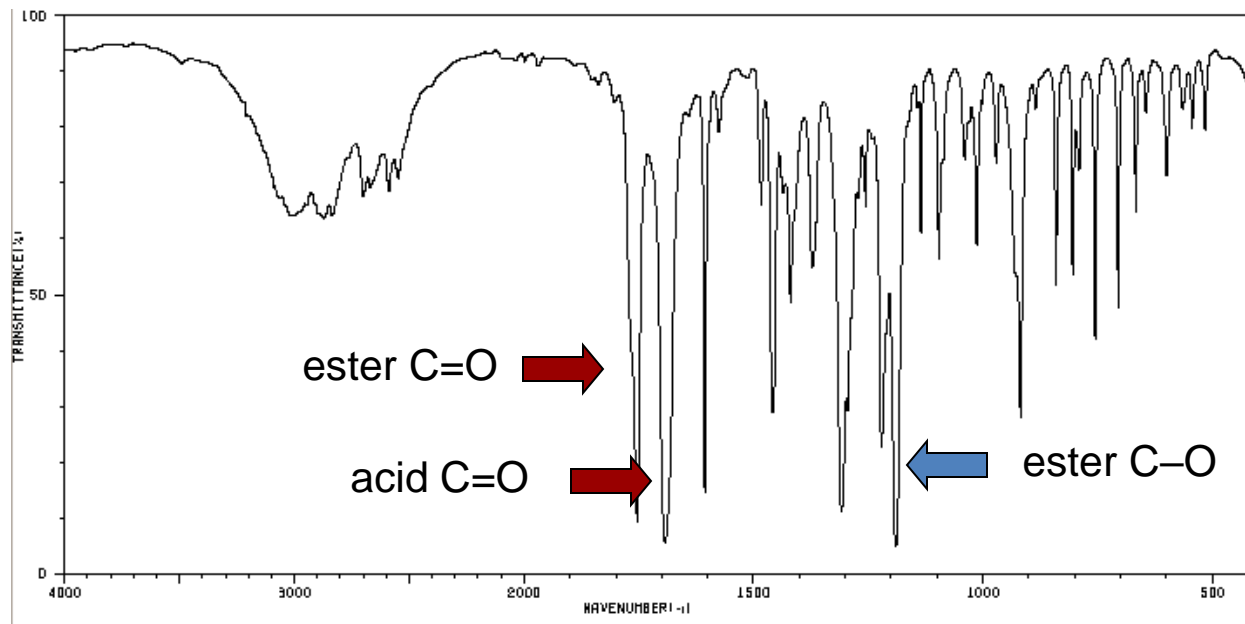
# IR Characteristic Vibrations



# IR Spectroscopy: Where do you begin?!



Aspirin



Characteristic group vibrations

4000-1300 cm⁻¹

Fingerprint region

1300 - 600 cm⁻¹

**So remember to look for peaks to positively identify functional groups, but also remember to look for evidence to discount others.**

