Project 3: Calculating Franck-Condon Factors

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Motivation

Spectroscopy is the study of how light and matter (atoms and molecules) interact. Light can be absorbed by matter (*absorption*) or matter can emit light (*emission*). It turns out that spectroscopy is scientists' main tool for discovering properties of molecules (e.g. their molecular structure, bond strengths, etc.) and for chemical identification. Picture for instance an astronomer taking spectroscopic measurements from a gas cloud located millions of light years away from the Earth. To determine what chemicals this gas cloud comprises of, they certainly cannot travel there and take a physical sample of the gas cloud. The astronomer is tasked with utilizing spectroscopic theory (i.e. models wherein numerical studies can be carried out efficiently) to explain what they see.

Countless other applications like drug discovery, magnetic-resonance imaging (MRI) and climate science rely heavily on spectroscopic methods and theory. This week, you'll familiarize yourself with calculating Franck Condon Factors (FCFs), which are useful in studying *vibronic* transitions in molecules. You'll also get to compare your calculations to real experiments.

Gaussian Boson Sampling

As you have learned in Week 2 in the presentation by Xanadu, Boson Sampling is a powerful tool which demonstrates that a non-universal quantum computer can display exponential speedup over classical computers, especially in the quantum optics or photonics field[1, 2, 3, 4]. For our purpose, Gaussian Boson Sampling (GBS), which uses Gaussian input states, can be used to sample a distribution where the probabilities are proportional to the Franck-Condon Factors, which can then be used to construct vibrational spectra.

Franck-Condon Factors involve the overlap of the "starting" and "ending" wavefunctions of a transition and they are proportional to the amplitude of the vibronic spectrum. The method to calculate the Franck-Condon Factor between state $|m\rangle$ and $|n\rangle$ requires the use of the Doktorov operator, U_{Dok}, which allows the final state to be represented in terms of the initial state. The overlap can then be calculated as

$$FCF = |\langle m|U_{Dok}|n\rangle|^2 \ . \tag{1}$$

This Doktorov operator can be written in terms of displacement, D_α, squeezing,Σ_r and interferometer operators U_1, U_2 as[5, 6]:

$$U_{Dok} = D_\alpha U_2 \Sigma_r U_1 \ . \tag{2}$$

A GBS device can be programmed to perform these operations for a particular molecule, therefore can be used to calculate the FCFs and, in turn, the vibronic spectrum of a molecule. You will have an opportunity to simulate this "experiment" in Task 3.
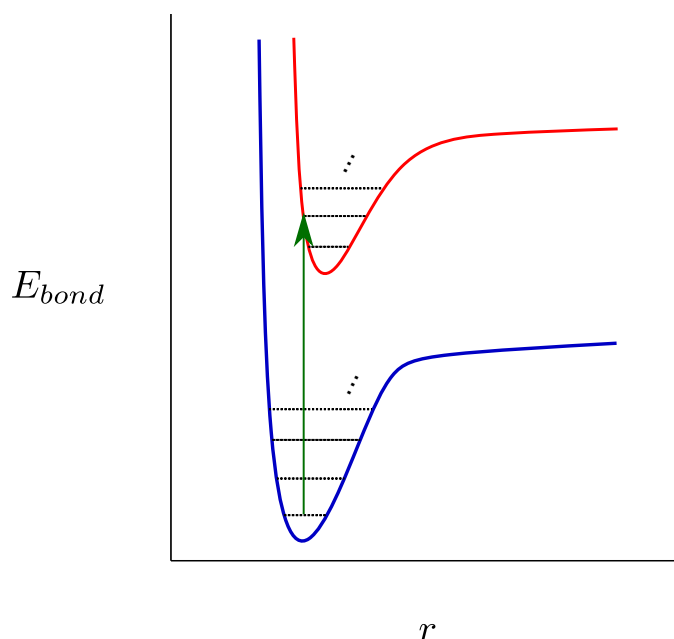
Figure 1: A visualization of vibronic transitions. The blue and red curves represent H_2 and H_2^+, respectively.

Your Tasks

Task #1

In this task, you will calculate Franck-Condon Factors for $H_2 - H_2^+$ using the harmonic oscillator approximation and compare to a real experiment! In a real experiment, we can excite many different vibronic transitions. We would therefore be able to calculate many FCFs that describe different vibronic transitions. For example, it could be that we see excitations corresponding to an H_2 molecule in its $n = 0$ vibrational state to H_2^+ in its $n = 2$ vibrational state (green line in Fig. 1) and its $n = 4$ vibrational state. In this task, we will look at only transitions that have a high FCF (i.e. the corresponding transition is very intense).

You are provided with a `python` notebook called `Task1.ipynb` which calculates all of the information you require. The `FCF_helper.py` file contains all of the calculations done under the hood. [1] Currently, the `spectrum_analysis` function in `FCF_helper.py` only outputs the following.

- `n_0` and `n_p`: The vibrational state numbers of H_2 and H_2^+, respectively, involved in the vibronic transition

- `FCF`: The corresponding FCF associated to the vibronic transition

Here's what we'd like you to do:

1. Open up `FCF_helper.py` and navigate to the `spectrum_analysis` function. Modify the `data` variable so that it also includes the spectral intensity (`Ep - E0`).

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[1] Calculating FCFs comes down to calculating the overlap between the wavefunctions before and after the vibronic transition. The overlap calculation is an integral which we chose to evaluate numerically. We emphasize that molecular parameters like the reduced mass of H_2 and fundamental frequencies of H_2 and H_2^+ are hard-coded in `FCF_helper.py`
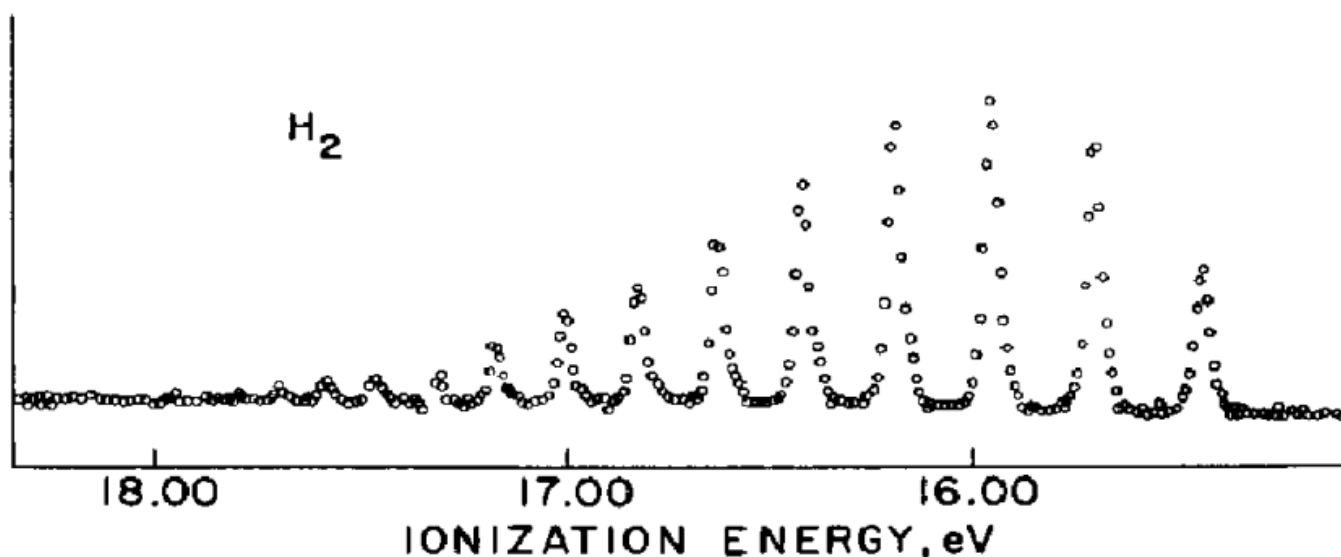
Figure 2: Experimental photoionization spectrum of H_2-H_2^+ from Ref. [7] with the vibrational level of H_2=0.

2. Plot the corresponding FCF versus spectral intensity (i.e. plot `FCF` versus `Ep - E0`) and show the results for `n_0`=0 and `n_p`=10.

Congratulations, you have now successfully predicted the Franck-Condon Factors of $H_2-H_2^+$! Figure 2 shows the photoionization spectrum for H_2. Does it look like the real data in Fig. 2?

Task #2

You are provided with a `C++` code `FC.cxx` created by P.-N. Roy [8], which calculates the photoionization spectrum for any molecule up to triple excitations and although we are still in the harmonic oscillator approximation regime, this code allows multimode mixing between states through the Duschinsky matrix. The theory is based on the paper by Ref [9]. The molecule you will be investigating is V_3 and the temperature is $T = 500K$.
Here's what we'd like you to do:

1. Browse the following references: Refs. [8, 10] should be looked at to understand the matrix element approach which `FC.cxx` uses and for those interested Ref. [4] relates to Gaussian Boson Sampling. You will need a basic understanding of the matrix element approach for the next task, but it's not necessary to fully understand it.

2. Consult the `README.md` for how to compile and run the code

3. Plot the results in your favourite plotting program.

To help you along, here is a summary of the input and outputs of the files.
Input :

- The input file for this code contains the results of diagonalizing the mass-weighted hessian/force-constant matrix (2nd derivative of the Hamiltonian with respect to position). The input file for this project, `V3`, is provided for you. To help you understand the input file, please refer to `filenameformat.txt`.

Output: There will be 3 output files generated.

- `V3.fc.tex` which contains the spectrum assignments, the relative Franck-Condon Factors and the signals. This is an executable latex document that will generate a nice pdf for easy viewing. The *relative Franck-Condon Factor* is the FCF divided by that of the 00 band and does not contain the Boltzmann factor for temperature. The *signal* contains the Boltzmann factor and is the one reflected in the spectrum.

- `V3.sticks.out` outputs the spectrum as "sticks"

- `V3.spec.out` outputs the spectrum, smoothed by a Lorentzian function

For those of you using MacOS or Linux, please do the following command in terminal in order to compile the program: `mv makefile-<your OS> makefile`. This copies the contents corresponding to your operating system into `makefile`. If you are running Windows, compiling `C++` code is a little different. We tested Task #2 using VSCode and everything worked just fine.[2]

Task #3

In this task, you will be simulating a Gaussian Boson Sampling (GBS) "experiment." This code generates samples for computing a vibronic spectrum. Each sample that is generated starts from the vacuum state and the following gates are performed[5, 6]:

1. Two-mode squeezing on all $2N$ modes with parameters `t`

2. Interferometer `U1` on the first N modes

3. Squeezing on the first N modes with parameters `r`

4. Interferometer `U2` on the first N modes

5. Displacement on the first N modes with parameters `alpha` .

The energy of the resultant state is calculated and contributes to the spectrum. After running this simulation over many samples and plotting the energies against their frequency, those states (energies) with a high Franck-Condon Factor will have a larger peak on the spectrum and those with a low Franck-Condon Factor will have a smaller peak. It is important to note that it's not the exact values of the peak heights that we care about in this case (since it's based on a probability distribution), it's the relative heights of the peaks of the spectrum.

Here's what we'd like you to do:

1. You are provided with a `python` notebook called `Task3.ipynb` which calculates all of the information you require. You will be required to use the `Strawberry Fields` library [5, 6]. Click **here** for the install instructions.

2. To be able to use this code, you require an input file which you will have to create. To do this, we will leverage the fact that we have another code that has done this work already, `FC.cxx`, which you became familiar with in Task 2. Your task will be to write the required information from that code (they have been well marked) into a file, which will then be used as your input file to `Sample_Vibronic.py`. You will use V_3 as your system of choice.

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[2]See the documentation on the VSCode website on how to "Get Started with C++ in VSCode".

3. (Optional) The code currently uses a plotting program `plotly` which you may install, which outputs the spectrum as an interactive html page. However, if you wish, you may write the last piece of code to create the spectrum. If possible, include a Lorentzian smoothing in the same way as FC.cxx and directly compare the results from Task 2. You will notice that since we are using Gaussian Boson Sampling method to generate samples, we can only get "relative" peak heights, so you may need to scale the spectrum to agree.

4. Run the code to produce the V_3 spectrum at $T = 500K$. Note, this code may take some time to run, so try with 10 samples to ensure it's working first and then try 20000 to get a smooth spectrum. Compare this spectrum to the previous method. What happens if you decrease the number of samples to 10? 100? 1000? At what number of samples do you feel the spectrum is converged?

This code takes as input a file which requires the following information:

1. Number of atoms in the molecule

2. Vibrational frequencies of the molecule in the ground electronic state

3. Vibrational frequencies of the molecule in the excited electronic state

4. Duschinsky Matrix (encodes information on transformation between ground and excited electronic states)

5. Displacement vector

Challenges

1. An alternative and analogous method to calculating these Franck-Condon Factors using matrix elements is to use a loop hafnian approach (see Ref. [4]) as opposed to the recursion relations of the Hermite polynomials, which improves the speed at which they can be calculated. This can be applied generally to Gaussian Boson Sampling of two multimode Fock states. Calculate the FCFs using this method.

2. Construct a Hamiltonian and diagonalize the mass-weighted Hamiltonian for another molecule and use the results as input for `FC.cxx`. Note: the calculation only works for non-linear molecules.

3. Explain briefly the similarities and differences between the three methods of calculating Franck-Condon Factors:

   (a) Using Hermite polynomials (`FC.cxx`)

   (b) Using Gaussian Boson Sampling (`Sample_Vibronic.py`)

   (c) Loop hafnian approach (see Ref. [4])

4. *Business Application:* These codes use General Public License and Apache 2.0 licenses. Discuss the similarities and differences of these with respect to intellectual property rights of the coder. What are the advantages and disadvantages of codes licensed for the public domain and those that are licensed for private use.

References

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