

Simulation of the Schumann-Runge Bands of Molecular Oxygen via Diatomic Constants

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Contents

1	The Rigid Rotator	6
1.1	The Molecule as a Rigid Rotator	6
1.2	Energy Levels	7
1.3	Spectrum	7
2	The Harmonic Oscillator	9
2.1	The Molecule as a Harmonic Oscillator	9
2.2	Energy Levels	10
2.3	Spectrum	10
3	The Anharmonic Oscillator	11
3.1	The Molecule as an Anharmonic Oscillator	11
3.2	Classical Motion	11
3.3	Energy Levels	11
3.4	Infrared Spectrum	12
4	The Nonrigid Rotator	13
4.1	Energy Levels	13
4.2	Spectrum	13
5	The Vibrating Rotator	14
5.1	Energy Levels	14
6	Total Energy	16
6.1	Vibrational Term	16
6.2	Rotational Term	16
6.3	Transition Wavelengths	17
6.4	Selection Rules	17
6.4.1	Vibrational Transitions	17
6.4.2	Rotational Transitions	17
7	Intensities in Rotation-Vibration Spectra	18
7.1	Vibration	18
7.2	Rotation	18
7.3	Band Intensity	19
8	Spectral Line Shapes	20

8.1	Gaussian Profile	20
8.2	Lorentzian Profile	20
8.3	Voigt Profile	20
9	Laser-Induced Fluorescence	21
A	Diatomic Constants	23
B	Notation	24
	Bibliography	25

List of Figures

1.1	Dumbbell model of a diatomic molecule.	6
9.1	Laser-induced fluorescence in Iodine.	22

List of Tables

A.1	Diatomic constants for $^{16}\text{O}_2$ [2].	23
B.1	Notation [1], [3], [4].	24

Chapter 1

The Rigid Rotator

1.1 The Molecule as a Rigid Rotator

The rigid rotator model assumes that the molecule is shaped like a dumbbell. Each of the two atoms of masses m_1 and m_2 is point-like and are affixed to one another via a massless rigid rod of radius r .

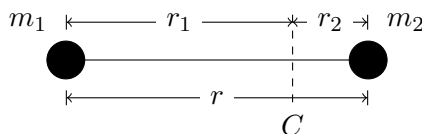


Figure 1.1: Dumbbell model of a diatomic molecule.

The classical expression for the rotational energy of a rigid body is

$$E = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2,$$

where ω is the angular velocity and I is the moment of inertia of the body about the axis of rotation C . For a point mass, the moment of inertia about an axis of a body is

$$I = \sum_i m_i r_i^2.$$

Using this definition, the magnitude of the angular momentum of the system can be found as

$$L = I\omega.$$

Using the angular momentum, the rotational energy of the system can now be expressed as

$$E = \frac{L^2}{2I}.$$

For the dumbbell model, the moment of inertia is

$$I = m_1 r_1^2 + m_2 r_2^2,$$

where

$$r_1 = \frac{m_2}{m_1 + m_2}r \quad \text{and} \quad r_2 = \frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2}r$$

are the distances of the two masses m_1 and m_2 from the center of gravity C . Substituting these two expressions into the moment of inertia gives

$$I = \mu r^2,$$

where

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

is the reduced mass of the molecule.

1.2 Energy Levels

The appropriate Schrödinger Equation for the rigid rotator has $m = \mu$ and $V = 0$ since the model is regarded as perfectly rigid. Solving

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z^2} + \frac{8\pi^2 \mu}{h^2} E \psi = 0$$

leads to the energy eigenvalues given by

$$E = \frac{h^2 J(J+1)}{8\pi^2 \mu r^2} = \frac{h^2 J(J+1)}{8\pi^2 I},$$

where J is the rotational quantum number. The quantized angular momentum can be found using the classical formula shown earlier, which leads to

$$L = \sqrt{2EI} = \frac{h}{2\pi} \sqrt{J(J+1)}.$$

The angular velocity ω and rotational frequency ν_{rot} can also be found as

$$\omega = \frac{h}{2\pi I} \sqrt{J(J+1)} \quad \text{and} \quad \nu_{\text{rot}} = \frac{\omega}{2\pi} = \frac{h}{4\pi^2 I} \sqrt{J(J+1)}.$$

1.3 Spectrum

The emission of a light quantum results from the transition of the rotator from a higher to a lower energy level. Conversely, the absorption of a light quantum produces a transition from a lower to a higher level. The wave number ν of the emitted or absorbed quantum is

$$\nu = \frac{E'}{hc} - \frac{E''}{hc}.$$

The single prime ' refers to the upper state, while the double prime '' refers to the lower state.

The quantity E/hc is called the rotational term value and is denoted $F(J)$. The value of $F(J)$ is given as

$$F(J) = \frac{E}{hc} = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 c I} J(J+1) = BJ(J+1).$$

The constant

$$B = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 c I}$$

is called the rotational constant and is essentially the reciprocal moment of inertia. These two definitions allow for the rewriting of the wavenumber as

$$\nu = F(J') - F(J'') = BJ'(J' + 1) - BJ''(J'' + 1).$$

To find which frequencies are actually emitted or absorbed, selection rules for the rotational quantum number J must be established. The selection rule for J is

$$J' = J'' \pm 1; \quad \text{that is,} \quad \Delta J = J' - J'' = \pm 1.$$

Because $J' > J''$ always (due to J' being the upper state), only $\Delta J = +1$ needs to be considered. Therefore, the absorbed or emitted lines of the rigid rotator are given by

$$\nu = F(J'' + 1) - F(J'') = B(J'' + 1)(J'' + 2) - BJ''(J'' + 1) = 2B(J'' + 1).$$

Writing J instead of J'' when only the J value of the lower state occurs, we get

$$\nu = 2B(J + 1) \quad \text{for} \quad J = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

The rotational frequency of the rigid rotator is

$$\nu_{\text{rot}} = 2cB\sqrt{J(J + 1)}.$$

Chapter 2

The Harmonic Oscillator

2.1 The Molecule as a Harmonic Oscillator

In classical mechanics, the equation of motion for a simple harmonic oscillator is

$$F = -kx = m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2},$$

where F is the force experienced by the particle toward the equilibrium position which is proportional to the distance x away from the equilibrium position. Solving the differential equation for x yields

$$x = x_0 \sin(2\pi t \nu_{\text{vib}} + \varphi),$$

where the vibrational frequency ν_{vib} is given by

$$\nu_{\text{vib}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}.$$

The potential energy for a linear spring is

$$V = \frac{1}{2} kx^2 = 2\pi^2 m x^2 \nu_{\text{vib}}^2$$

The restoring force exerted by the two atoms in a molecule after being displaced from their equilibrium position r_e can be modeled by the equation of motion for a spring as

$$m_1 \frac{d^2 r_1}{dt^2} = -k(r - r_e)$$

and

$$m_2 \frac{d^2 r_2}{dt^2} = -k(r - r_e).$$

Substituting r in place of both r_1 and r_2 gives the single equation

$$\frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} = -k(r - r_e),$$

which is equivalent to

$$\mu \frac{d^2(r - r_e)}{dt^2} = -k(r - r_e)$$

since r_e is constant. From direct comparison with the classical equation of motion for a harmonic oscillator, it follows that the vibrational frequency of the molecule is

$$\nu_{\text{vib}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}}.$$

2.2 Energy Levels

The Schrödinger equation for the harmonic oscillator is

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \frac{8\pi^2\mu}{h^2} (E - \frac{1}{2}kx^2)\psi = 0.$$

Solving this equation leads to the energy eigenvalues given by

$$E(v) = \frac{h}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}} (v + \frac{1}{2}) = h\nu_{\text{vib}} (v + \frac{1}{2}) \quad \text{for } v = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Rewriting the energy as the vibrational term value $G(v)$ gives

$$G(v) = \frac{E(v)}{hc} = \frac{\nu_{\text{vib}}}{c} (v + \frac{1}{2}) = \omega (v + \frac{1}{2}),$$

where the quantity ν_{vib}/c is designated ω and measured in cm^{-1} .

2.3 Spectrum

Similarly to the rigid rotor, the wavenumber of the emitted or absorbed light is given by

$$\nu = \frac{E(v')}{hc} - \frac{E(v'')}{hc} = G(v') - G(v''),$$

where v' and v'' are the quantum numbers of the upper and lower state, respectively.

The selection rule for the vibrational quantum number of the harmonic oscillator is

$$\Delta v = v' - v'' = \pm 1.$$

Again denoting J'' as J , the wavenumber of the emitted or absorbed light is

$$\nu = G(v + 1) - G(v) = \omega.$$

Chapter 3

The Anharmonic Oscillator

3.1 The Molecule as an Anharmonic Oscillator

A first approximation to the actual potential energy function of the molecule can be written as

$$U = f(r - r_e)^2 - g(r - r_e)^3,$$

where f and g are coefficients, with g being much smaller than f . Better approximations can be made by adding higher order terms to this expression.

3.2 Classical Motion

The motion of the anharmonic oscillator can be represented as a superposition of fundamental and overtone vibrations as the following Fourier series:

$$x = x_{01} \sin 2\pi\nu_{\text{vib}}t + x_{02}(3 + \cos 2\pi 2\nu_{\text{vib}}t) + x_{03} \sin 2\pi 3\nu_{\text{vib}}t + \cdots .$$

In this expression, x_{01} , x_{02} , and x_{03} are the amplitudes of the fundamental, the first, and the second overtone, respectively. If the anharmonicity is small ($g \ll f$), then $x_{02} \ll x_{01}$ and $x_{03} \ll x_{02}$. However, x_{02} and x_{03} are proportional to the square and cube of x_{01} , respectively and rapidly become more important as x_{01} increases. Because of the asymmetric potential curve, the time average of the position is not at $x = 0$, but instead at $x = 3x_{02}$.

The frequency of the vibrations is given as

$$\nu_{\text{vib}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}}$$

for very small amplitudes only. This factor decreases slowly as the amplitude x_{01} increases.

3.3 Energy Levels

Substituting the anharmonic potential energy function into the Schrödinger equation and solving for the energy eigenvalues gives

$$E_v = hc\omega_e\left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right) - hc\omega_ex_e\left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + hc\omega_ey_e\left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + \cdots .$$

Written as the vibrational term $G(v)$, this becomes

$$G(v) = \omega_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right) - \omega_e x_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \omega_e y_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + \cdots ,$$

where v is the vibrational quantum number, $\omega_e x_e \ll \omega_e$, and $\omega_e y_e \ll \omega_e x_e$. This equation directly shows that the energy levels of the anharmonic oscillator are not equidistant like those of the harmonic oscillator.

The zero-point energy of the anharmonic oscillator is given by setting $v = 0$ in the vibrational term above:

$$G(0) = \frac{1}{2}\omega_e - \frac{1}{2}\omega_e x_e + \frac{1}{8}\omega_e y_e + \cdots .$$

3.4 Infrared Spectrum

The selection rule for the anharmonic oscillator is given by

$$\Delta v = \pm 1$$

for the most intense transitions, but the two selection rules of

$$\Delta v = \pm 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta v = \pm 3$$

can also appear with decreasing intensity.

The formula for the series of absorption bands 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, \cdots is given as

$$\nu_{\text{abs}} = G(v') - G(0) = G_0(v') = \omega_0 v' - \omega_0 x_0 v'^2 + \omega_0 y_0 v'^3 + \cdots .$$

Chapter 4

The Nonrigid Rotator

4.1 Energy Levels

A good approximation shows that the rotational terms of the nonrigid rotator are given by

$$F(J) = \frac{E_r}{hc} = B[1 - uJ(J+1)]J(J+1),$$

where the value $B[1 - uJ(J+1)]$ now appears in the place of B in the equation for the rigid rotator. This equation can also be written as

$$F(J) = BJ(J+1) - DJ^2(J+1)^2,$$

where D always has a positive value with this choice of sign. If cubic and higher powers in the potential energy are included, the rotational terms values are

$$F(J) = BJ(J+1) - DJ^2(J+1)^2 + HJ^3(J+1)^3 + \dots$$

4.2 Spectrum

The selection rule for the infrared spectrum of the rigid rotator $\Delta J = \pm 1$ is also valid for the non-rigid rotator. Therefore, the wavenumbers of the lines of the infrared rotation spectrum are

$$\nu = F(J+1) - F(J) = 2B(J+1) - 4D(J+1)^3.$$

Chapter 5

The Vibrating Rotator

5.1 Energy Levels

Since the molecule is vibrating, the internuclear distance and therefore the moment of inertia and the rotational constant B are changing rapidly. Since the period of vibration is small compared to the period of rotation, the mean value of B is

$$B_v = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 c \mu} \left[\frac{1}{\bar{r}^2} \right],$$

where $1/\bar{r}^2$ is the mean value of $1/r^2$ during the vibration. The value of B_v will be expected to be smaller than the equilibrium constant B_e since the mean nuclear separation will be greater. The value of B_e is given by

$$B_e = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 c \mu r_e^2} = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 c I_e}.$$

To a first approximation, the rotational constant B_v in the vibrational state v is given as

$$B_v = B_e - \alpha_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \cdots,$$

where α_e is a constant which is small compared to B_e . The ratio α_e/B_e is only slightly larger than $\omega_e x_e/\omega_e$.

A mean rotational constant D_v representing the contribution of centrifugal force can be found as

$$D_v = D_e + \beta_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \cdots.$$

In this equation, β_e is small compared to

$$D_e = \frac{4B_e^3}{\omega_e^2}.$$

The rotational terms in a given vibrational level are therefore given by

$$F_v(J) = B_v J(J+1) - D_v J^2(J+1)^2 + \cdots.$$

Taking into account the interaction between vibration and rotation, the term values for the vibrating rotator are

$$T = G(v) + F_v(J) = \omega_e\left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right) - \omega_e x_e\left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \cdots + B_v J(J+1) - D_v J^2(J+1)^2 + \cdots .$$

For the lowest vibrational state $v = 0$, the rotational constant B_0 must be used in this equation.

If very precise measurements are available, higher powers of $\left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)$ can be taken into account using

$$B_v = B_e - \alpha_e\left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right) + \gamma_e\left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \cdots .$$

In higher powers of $J(J+1)$, the rotational term can be expressed as

$$F_v(J) = B_v J(J+1) - D_v J^2(J+1)^2 + H_v J^3(J+1)^3 + \cdots ,$$

where the rotational constant H_v is given as

$$H_v \approx H_e = \frac{2D_e}{3\omega_e^2}(12B_e^2 - \alpha_e\omega_e)$$

to a first approximation.

Chapter 6

Total Energy

The total energy E of a molecule is approximated by

$$E = E_e + E_v + E_r,$$

that is, the sum of the electronic, vibrational, and rotational energy terms. The same equation written in wavenumber units is

$$T = T_e + G + F. \tag{6.1}$$

6.1 Vibrational Term

For the vibrational and rotational states of the molecule in different electronic states, the vibrating rotator model is used as in Herzberg [1]. The vibrational term $G(v)$ to a fourth-order approximation is therefore

$$G(v) = \omega_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right) - \omega_e x_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \omega_e y_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + \omega_e z_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^4 + \cdots. \tag{6.2}$$

6.2 Rotational Term

The rotational term $F_v(J)$ approximated to the third order is given as

$$F_v(J) = B_v J(J+1) - D_v J^2(J+1)^2 + H_v J^3(J+1)^3 + \cdots. \tag{6.3}$$

The rotational constant B_v can be approximated to the third order as

$$B_v = B_e - \alpha_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right) + \gamma_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \delta_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + \cdots.$$

The centrifugal distortion constant D_v can be approximated to the first order as

$$D_v = D_e + \beta_e \left(v + \frac{1}{2}\right) + \cdots. \tag{6.4}$$

Finally, the third-order constant H_v can be found as the first approximation

$$H_v \approx H_e. \tag{6.5}$$

6.3 Transition Wavelengths

The wavenumbers of the spectral lines corresponding to the transitions between two electronic states (in emission or absorption) are given by

$$\nu = T' - T'' = (T'_e - T''_e) + (G' - G'') + (F' - F''). \quad (6.6)$$

6.4 Selection Rules

6.4.1 Vibrational Transitions

For the $B \ ^3\Sigma_u^- \leftarrow X \ ^3\Sigma_g^-$ transition, the selection rules for the vibrational quantum number are not strictly defined (see Herzberg pg. 151) [1].

6.4.2 Rotational Transitions

The rotational selection rules for the $B \ ^3\Sigma_u^- \leftarrow X \ ^3\Sigma_g^-$ transition are

$$\Delta J = \pm 1 \quad (6.7)$$

since both electronic states have $\Lambda = 0$ (see Herzberg pg. 169) [1].

Chapter 7

Intensities in Rotation-Vibration Spectra

7.1 Vibration

The quantities given by

$$e^{-G_0(v)hc/kT}$$

give the relative numbers of molecules in the different vibrational levels relative to the number of molecules in the lowest vibrational level. A more useful equation gives the ratio between the number of molecules in a certain vibrational level relative to the total number of molecules as

$$\frac{N_v}{N} = \frac{e^{-G_0(v)hc/kT}}{Q_v}.$$

Here, Q_v is the vibrational partition function and is given by

$$Q_v = \sum_{v=0}^{\infty} e^{-G_0(v)hc/kT} = 1 + e^{-G_0(1)hc/kT} + e^{-G_0(2)hc/kT} + \dots.$$

7.2 Rotation

The number of molecules N_J in the rotational level J of the lowest vibrational state at the temperature T is proportional to

$$(2J+1)e^{-F(J)hc/kT}.$$

For most practical cases like a rigid rotator with $\Lambda = 0$,

$$N_J \propto (2J+1)e^{-BJ(J+1)hc/kT}.$$

The number of molecules in the different rotational states does not increase linearly and goes through a maximum with the rotational quantum number

$$J_{\max} = \sqrt{\frac{kT}{2Bhc}} - \frac{1}{2}.$$

The ratio of the actual number of molecules in a given rotational state is given by

$$\frac{N_J}{N} = (2J + 1) \frac{e^{-F(J)hc/kT}}{Q_r},$$

where the rotational partition function Q_r is given as

$$Q_r = \sum_{J=0}^{\infty} (2J + 1) e^{-F(J)hc/kT} = 1 + 3e^{-F(1)hc/kT} + 5e^{-F(2)hc/kT} + \dots \quad (7.1)$$

For higher vibrational levels,

$$N_J \propto (2J + 1) e^{-(G+F)hc/kT}. \quad (7.2)$$

However, the factor $e^{-Ghc/kT}$ can be separated off since the distribution over the rotational levels is the same but the absolute population of all the levels is considerably smaller than for the lowest vibrational level.

7.3 Band Intensity

The variation of the intensity of the lines in a rotation-vibration band as a function of J is essentially given by the thermal distribution of the rotational levels. In this approximation, it is assumed that the transition probability is the same for all lines of a band. In reality, there is a slight dependence on J and ΔJ . For the case of $\Lambda = 0$ when only the P and R branches appear, $J' + J'' + 1$ can be used in place of $2J + 1$; that is, the intensity depends on the mean value of $2J + 1$ for the upper and lower states. The J value of the initial state should be used in the exponential term. For absorption, that is J'' ; for emission, J' .

The intensities of the lines of rotation or rotation-vibration bands in absorption are

$$I_{\text{abs}} = \frac{C_{\text{abs}}\nu}{Q_r} (J' + J'' + 1) e^{-F(J'')hc/kT}. \quad (7.3)$$

In emission, they are

$$I_{\text{em}} = \frac{C_{\text{em}}\nu^4}{Q_r} (J' + J'' + 1) e^{-F(J')hc/kT}. \quad (7.4)$$

Chapter 8

Spectral Line Shapes

8.1 Gaussian Profile

The probability density function (PDF) for the Gaussian profile is

$$G(x; x_0, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - x_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right),$$

where x is the desired wavenumber, x_0 is the intensity at a wavenumber peak, and σ is the broadening parameter.

8.2 Lorentzian Profile

The PDF for the Lorentzian profile is

$$L(x; x_0, \gamma) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\gamma}{(x - x_0)^2 + \gamma^2} \right],$$

where γ is the broadening parameter.

8.3 Voigt Profile

The Voigt profile is a convolution of the Gaussian and Lorentzian profiles. The PDF for the Voigt profile is

$$V(x; x_0, \sigma, \gamma) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \operatorname{Re}[w(z)],$$

where

$$z = \frac{(x - x_0) + i\gamma}{\sigma\sqrt{2}}.$$

Chapter 9

Laser-Induced Fluorescence

Laser-induced fluorescence is a method of spectroscopy that excites a molecule into a higher energy level via the absorption of laser radiation, after which the molecule relaxes back into lower energy levels, emitting light.

A single known ro-vibrational band is isolated and excited by a laser pulse, say the (0, 4) band. The molecule is then excited into a higher state via absorption of the excess laser energy, after which it spontaneously transitions into a higher vibrational state, say (0, 6). Next, the molecule relaxes back into multiple lower vibrational states, which spread out according to the known Franck-Condon factors.

Figure 9.1 below shows the jump from the ground state to the excited state via laser excitation. Subsequently, the molecule relaxes to fill multiple vibrational states at the original electronic state.

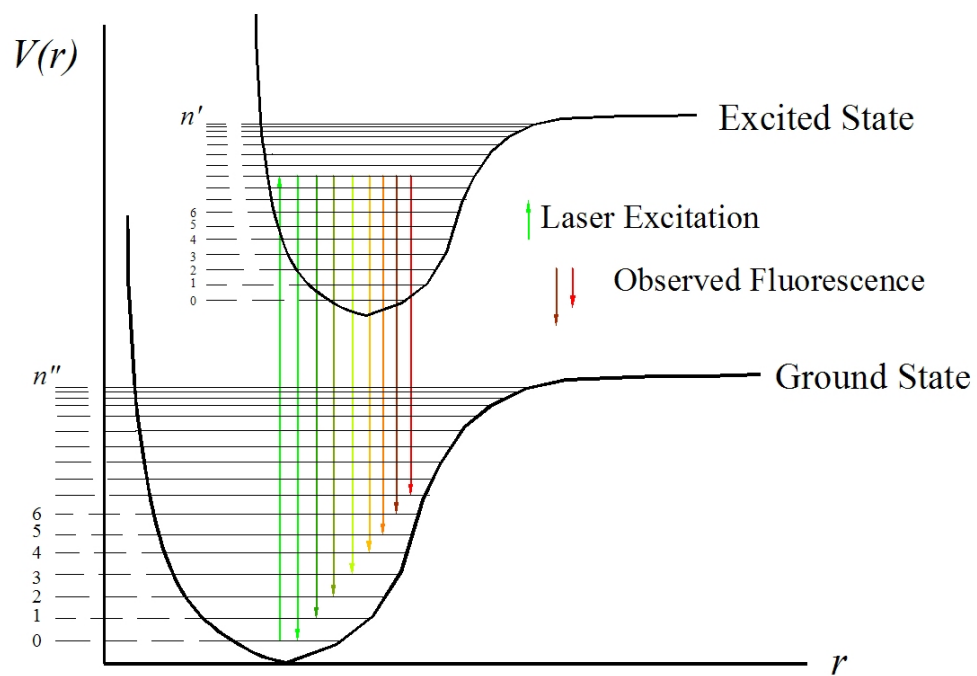


Figure 9.1: Laser-induced fluorescence in Iodine.

Appendix A

Diatomic Constants

Table A.1: Diatomic constants for $^{16}\text{O}_2$ [2].

Symbol	State		Units
	$X \ ^3\Sigma_g^-$	$B \ ^3\Sigma_u^-$	
<i>Electronic</i>			
T_e	0	49793.28	cm^{-1}
<i>Vibrational</i>			
ω_e	1580.19 ₃	709.31	cm^{-1}
$\omega_e x_e$	11.98 ₁	10.65	cm^{-1}
$\omega_e y_e$	0.0474 ₇	−0.139	cm^{-1}
$\omega_e z_e$	−0.00127 ₃	−	cm^{-1}
<i>Rotational</i>			
B_e	[1.4376766]	0.8190 ₂	cm^{-1}
α_e	0.0159 ₃	0.01206	cm^{-1}
γ_e	−	$−5.5_6 \times 10^{-4}$	cm^{-1}
δ_e	−	−	cm^{-1}
<i>Centrifugal Distortion</i>			
D_e			cm^{-1}
β_e			cm^{-1}
<i>Spin-Splitting</i>			
λ			cm^{-1}
γ			cm^{-1}
<i>Other</i>			
H_e			cm^{-1}
r_e			Å
ν_{00}			cm^{-1}

Appendix B

Notation

Table B.1: Notation [1], [3], [4].

Symbol	Definition	Units
<i>Electronic</i>		
T_e	Minimum electronic energy	cm^{-1}
<i>Vibrational</i>		
G	Vibrational energy	cm^{-1}
ω_e	Vibrational constant - first term	cm^{-1}
$\omega_e x_e$	Vibrational constant - second term	cm^{-1}
$\omega_e y_e$	Vibrational constant - third term	cm^{-1}
$\omega_e z_e$	Vibrational constant - fourth term	cm^{-1}
<i>Rotational</i>		
B_e	Rotational constant - equilibrium	cm^{-1}
α_e	Rotational constant - first term	cm^{-1}
γ_e	Rotational constant - second term (rotation-vibration interaction constant)	cm^{-1}
δ_e	Rotational constant - third term	cm^{-1}
<i>Centrifugal Distortion</i>		
D_e	Centrifugal distortion constant - equilibrium	cm^{-1}
β_e	Centrifugal distortion constant - first term	cm^{-1}
<i>Spin-Splitting</i>		
λ	Spin-spin coupling parameter	cm^{-1}
γ	Spin-rotation coupling parameter	cm^{-1}
<i>Other</i>		
H_e	Sixth-order rotational constant	cm^{-1}
r_e	Equilibrium internuclear distance	\AA
ν_{00}	Position of 0-0 band	cm^{-1}

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