

HAOT: A Python package for hypersonic aero-optics analysis

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Summary

Hypersonic flows present a unique challenges due to the complex interplay of fluid dynamics, chemical reactions, and optical phenomena. As a signal from a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) travels through a hypersonic flow field, the beam would be affected by the flow, this can lead to errors on targeting and detection measurements.

HAOT is a Hypersonic Aerodynamics Optics Tools Python package developed to calculate the index of refraction of a hypersonic medium. Its source code is available on [GitHub](#), the documentation is available on [Read the Docs](#) and an example on the usage of the package is given on the GitHub repo under the example folder.

Statement of Need

Many techniques used to calculate optical properties are scattered across various papers, but there is no centralized repository containing all these calculations. Furthermore, some of these calculations require spectroscopy constants, which are often unclear or inconsistently presented in the literature. This package includes a constants module that provides and documents numerous spectroscopy constants for diatomic molecules.

Algorithms

The HAOT package, contains five modules:

- Aerodynamics
- Optics
- Quantum Mechanics
- Constants
- Conversions

Each module can be imported independently. The [documentation](#) explains he functions in each module as well as their usage. Docstrings were used, so the function prototypes and usage are also available in an interactive Python session.

The equation below was introduced by ([Smith & Weintraub, n.d.](#)), and it is a good approximation for the change in the index of refraction as a function of altitude.

$$n(h) \approx 1 + \frac{K_1}{T(h)} \left(p(h) + K_2 \frac{e(h)}{T(h)} \right)$$

Where: K_1 and K_2 are constants, T is the temperature as a function of altitude, p is pressure as a function of altitude, and $e(h)$ is the partial pressure of water vapor.

34 Results for this equation are provided in the figure below.

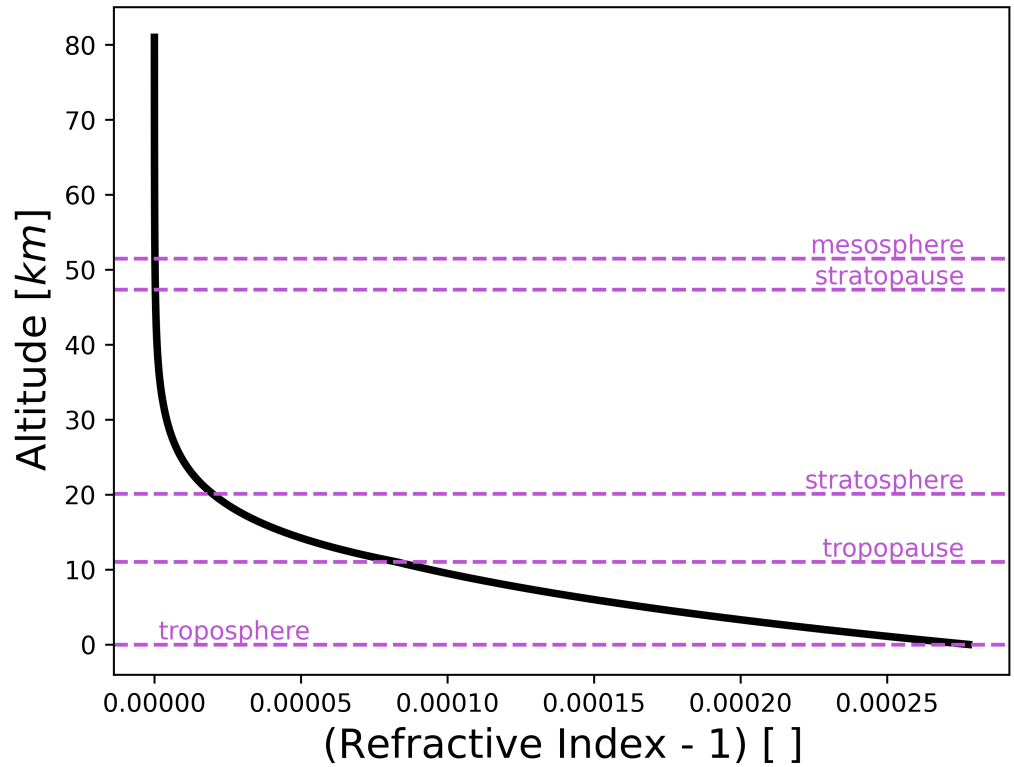


Figure 1: Atmospheric index of refraction for dry air.

35 The equation below shows the formula used to calculate the dilute index of refraction.

$$n - 1 = \rho \sum_{s=1}^N K_s \rho_s$$

36 Where: ρ_s is the species density, ρ is the flow's density, and K_s is the species' Gladstone-Dale
37 constant.


38 Results for this equation are provided in the figure below. This particular results required the
39 use of a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) tool, SU2 (W. T. Maier et al., 2021), (W.
40 Maier et al., 2023), to calculate the fluid properties used by the HAOT tool. 

Figure 2: Index of Refraction for a 5 species gas.

41 A more extensive work showing the results of this package was done by (Liza et al., 2023)

42 Acknowledgements

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