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Probing hydrogen bond potentials via combination band spectroscopy: A near infrared study of the geared bend/van der Waals stretch intermolecular modes in (HF)₂

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High resolution near infrared spectra of the two lowest frequency intermolecular modes in HF-stretch excited states of (HF)₂ have been characterized using a slit-jet infrared spectrometer. In the spectral region surveyed, ten vibration-rotation-tunneling (VRT) bands are observed and assigned to the low frequency “van der Waals stretch” (ν_4) and “geared bend” (ν_5) intermolecular modes, in combination with either the hydrogen bond acceptor (ν_1) or donor (ν_2) high-frequency intramolecular HF stretches. Analysis of the rotationally resolved spectra provide intermolecular frequencies, rotational constants, tunneling splittings, and predissociation rates for the ν_4/ν_5 intermolecular excited states. The intermolecular vibrational frequencies in the combination states display a systematic dependence on intramolecular redshift that allows far-IR intermolecular frequencies to be reliably extrapolated from the near-IR data. Approximately tenfold increases in the hydrogen bond interconversion tunneling splittings with either ν_4 or ν_5 excitation indicate that both intermolecular modes correlate strongly to the tunneling coordinate. The high resolution VRT line shapes reveal mode specific predissociation broadening sensitive predominantly to intramolecular excitation, with weaker but significant additional effects due to low frequency intermolecular excitation. Analysis of the high resolution spectroscopic data for these ν_4 and ν_5 combination bands suggests strong state mixing between what has previously been considered van der Waals stretch and geared bend degrees of freedom. © 1996 American Institute of Physics. [S0021-9606(96)02914-9]

I. INTRODUCTION

The hydrogen bond is of pivotal importance in many areas of science and has stimulated enormous efforts directed toward elucidating its fundamental properties. One approach that continues to provide quantitative information on hydrogen bond interactions is the study of small hydrogen bonded clusters via high resolution molecular spectroscopy.^{1–6} Due to the presence of large amplitude *intermolecular* motion of the constituent monomers within the complex, the spectra of these hydrogen bonded clusters can be qualitatively different from those of covalently bonded species, demonstrating effects due to frustrated internal rotation, tunneling, predissociation, etc. Indeed, spectroscopic data on this large amplitude motion provide important constraints on the strength and angular anisotropy of the hydrogen bond potential energy surface (PES). As a necessary parallel thrust, theoretical quantum mechanical (QM) methods have recently made major advances which now allow “exact” solution of the Schrödinger equation for nuclear motion in four atom hydrogen bonded dimers such as HX–HY (X,Y=Cl, F). Thus these clusters offer particular advantages for rigorous study of the hydrogen bond surface: large amplitude nuclear motion of the light hydrogenic masses samples the potential in

considerable detail, and yet the clusters are sufficiently small to facilitate both experimental and theoretical investigation with full quantum state resolution.

One system which has long been at the focus of combined high-level theoretical and experimental scrutiny is the hydrogen fluoride dimer [(HF)₂] and its isotopomers. Though the simplest four atom prototype of a hydrogen bond, HF dimer displays a remarkable diversity of dynamical behavior, which has been extensively investigated by high-resolution studies in the microwave,^{7–10} far-IR,^{11–14} and near-IR.^{15–21} As a consequence of such efforts, accurate data are now available for the dissociation energy, tunneling splittings, and predissociation lifetimes, with particular experimental emphasis on the high frequency, *intramolecular* degrees of freedom. Analytical representations of the full $3N-6=6$ potential have been presented by Hancock *et al.*²² and Bunker *et al.*²³ based upon fits to high level *ab initio* calculations. Of particular relevance to this paper is the analytical potential surface (SQSBDE) by Quack and Suhm,²⁴ which was fitted to the points of Karpfen *et al.*,²⁵ but also empirically modified to reflect the microwave, far- and near-IR spectroscopic and bond dissociation data^{4,26} available at that time. Indeed, this potential has served as a benchmark surface for full quantum calculations in numerous contexts^{27–38} and has proven consistent with much of the experimental results. As will be demonstrated herein, the SQSBDE potential does a reasonably good job at reproducing spectroscopic properties of the intermolecular vibrations; however, there are significant discrepancies that this study also reveals.

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High resolution vibration–rotation–tunneling (VRT) spectroscopy of weakly bound clusters, especially associated with intermolecular excitation, is a powerful method for extracting information on the attractive part of intermolecular potentials. In HF dimer, the two intramolecular (i.e., “covalent”) vibrational modes correspond to excitation of the hydrogen acceptor (ν_1) and the hydrogen donor (ν_2) subunits, and absorb in the near-IR region close to the free HF monomer stretch around 4000 cm^{-1} . The four intermolecular (i.e., “hydrogen bonded”) modes reflect large amplitude nuclear motion of the two HF moieties, and occur in the far-IR region between 100 and 500 cm^{-1} . Due to the existence of a double minimum on the $(\text{HF})_2$ potential energy surface separated by a relatively low barrier ($\sim 350\text{ cm}^{-1}$), the intermolecular modes are characterized by strongly coupled and highly anharmonic dynamics that are better described as tunneling motions or hindered internal rotations. These four intermolecular vibrational modes correspond approximately to an “antigear bend” (ν_3), a “van der Waals stretch” (ν_4), a “geared bend” (ν_5), and an “out-of-plane torsion” (ν_6) motion of the HF diatoms, though due to coupling in the potential surface or near resonances, there may be substantial blurring of these zero order descriptions. Despite the considerable experimental attention HF dimer has received, the majority of spectroscopic data reflect either the vibrational ground state, or excitation of the high frequency intramolecular modes. There have been several far-IR studies by Quack and co-workers^{12–14} using static cooled cells. However, a combination of resolution, pressure broadening and considerable spectral congestion at these relatively high cell temperatures and pressures renders the spectral analysis difficult. There has also been a near-IR study of a few combination bands by Miller and co-workers²¹ to which we will make comparison. These are taken under low temperature, high resolution molecular beam conditions, but also with lower detection sensitivity than currently demonstrated with the slit jet spectrometer. Thus although the available potential surfaces appear to reproduce many of the previous experimentally observed quantities, high resolution jet studies of all four intermolecular vibrational degrees of freedom in $(\text{HF})_2$ are still needed to provide the most demanding and rigorous set of tests.

Of direct relevance to the present studies, both the intra- and intermolecular dependence of the HF dimer PES can be simultaneously probed in the near-IR via combination bands of the intermolecular modes built on one quantum of intramolecular HF stretch. To the extent that the upper states can be characterized by the full $3N-6$ potential surface adiabatically averaged over intramolecular excitation, such near-IR studies form the perfect compliment to previous work from the far-IR and microwave studies, which sample the intermolecular potential surface adiabatically averaged over the intramolecular *ground* state. However, this adiabatic treatment is necessarily approximate, which therefore also permits qualitatively new dynamics in the *excited* intramolecular states to be investigated, such as state-resolved predissociation, coupling of the intra/intermolecular degrees of freedom, vibrational inhibited tunneling, etc.^{15,17,18,20,39} Thus

the present near-IR studies both synergistically build on previous and ongoing studies in the far-IR microwave regions, and yet exploit advantages posed by tunable near-IR laser methods to probe dynamical phenomena not accessed with lower frequency spectral light sources.

This near-IR access to low-frequency intermolecular modes comes at a significant cost: the combination bands are generally much weaker (by 10^1 – 10^3 -fold) than the intramolecular fundamentals. Fortunately, the high sensitivity (10^7 – 10^8 molecules/ cm^3 /quantum state) of the current difference frequency spectrometer and the low temperature/long absorption path environment of the slit supersonic expansion is sufficient to monitor the HF dimer intramolecular fundamentals with signal to noise in excess of 2000:1. Depending on the degree of spectral broadening from vibrational predissociation, this direct absorption method therefore permits weak combination bands down by as much as 3 orders of magnitude from the fundamental bands to be observed over continuously tunable regions of the infrared.

An important advantage of studying intermolecular modes via intra/intermolecular combination bands is the relatively broad access that tunable near-IR lasers offer over wide spectral regions. For example, continuous high resolution spectral scans over several hundreds of cm^{-1} s at $\leq 0.001\text{ cm}^{-1}$ resolution are more or less “routine,” which greatly facilitates a systematic search for a specific combination band. Furthermore, the intensity information obtained from such near-IR direct absorption methods is experimentally quite reliable and which can be tested against predictions from full quantum calculations. As will be shown below, the observed oscillator strengths can vary dramatically from one combination band to another, and thereby provides an additional mode specific probe of the coupling between inter- and intramolecular excitation. Indeed, in conjunction with continuous coverage over a given spectral region, even the *absence* of a given band is often informative, and establishes rigorous lower limits on its experimental oscillator strength. Stated generally, intensity information represents a specific example of a general class of spectroscopic probes more sensitive to the *eigenfunction* than simply just the *eigenvalue*. In conjunction with full multidimensional QM calculations, these data provide an important new source of quantitative information for testing intermolecular potentials from experiment.

Reported herein is the first of two papers on high resolution combination band spectroscopy and dynamics of HF dimer. In this first paper, combination bands in the region between 3900 and 4150 cm^{-1} associated with the two lowest energy intermolecular modes, the ν_4 van der Waals stretch and ν_5 geared bend, will be discussed. In the second paper, spectra and analysis of the two remaining modes, ν_3 anti-gear bend and ν_6 out-of-plane torsion will be presented. The analysis of these rotationally resolved spectra yields accurate spectroscopic constants, intermolecular energies, and tunneling splitting for all four states that include quanta of both intra- and intermolecular vibrational excitation. The two intermolecular modes discussed herein correspond classically to motion along the tunneling and radial van der Waals

stretching coordinates, thus providing information on the topology of the PES particularly near the barrier to donor–acceptor interchange. In addition, predissociation broadening in the combination band spectra is observed to be strongly mode specific. This behavior is similar to the ν_1 vs ν_2 predissociation rates first observed in the intramolecular fundamentals, but with systematic sensitivity to further intermolecular excitation. Finally, comparison of the new spectroscopic data with recent QM calculations of the VRT energy levels allow trial potential energy surfaces to be quantitatively evaluated.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: In Sec. II, the experimental apparatus and conditions used to form and detect $(\text{HF})_2$ is described. In Sec. III the data and assignments (intramolecular, intermolecular, and tunneling state) are presented for all the combination bands observed along with a brief analysis. In Sec. IV the intermolecular energies, rotational constants, tunneling splittings, and predissociation lifetimes are analyzed in detail. Furthermore, the extent of ν_4/ν_5 mode mixing and the intermolecular energies in the HF-stretch excited states are used to test the accuracy of the SQSBDE trial potential energy surface. Finally, Sec. V summarizes our conclusions on the low frequency ν_4/ν_5 $(\text{HF})_2$ combination bands and points toward future directions.

II. EXPERIMENT

The experimental technique employed is essentially identical to that used for previous studies,^{40,41} with minor modifications for optimum generation of $(\text{HF})_2$. Briefly, the spectra of $(\text{HF})_2$ combination bands are recorded in a slit supersonic jet using direct absorption IR methods based on a tunable difference frequency laser spectrometer. Narrow band (≤ 1 MHz) infrared light is produced via cw nonlinear difference frequency mixing of visible, single mode Ar^+ (488.0 nm) and dye (R6G) lasers in a temperature controlled LiNbO_3 crystal.⁴² The infrared light thus generated is split into a reference and a signal beam, with the IR power on the reference beam monitored with a photovoltaic, liquid N_2 cooled InSb detector. The IR power on the signal beam is monitored on a matched InSb detector, after multipassing 20 times through the long axis of a pulsed, slit jet (4 cm \times 190 μm) supersonic expansion. The IR power of the signal beam is subtracted from the reference power, thereby eliminating common mode noise due to Ar^+ and dye laser fluctuations. Differences arising from signal beam absorption within the duration of the expansion pulse are recorded as a function of IR laser frequency. The relative infrared frequencies are determined by monitoring dye laser transmission fringes through a stabilized Fabry–Perot optical transfer cavity,^{40,41} to which the Ar^+ laser is servo loop locked as well. This technique permits measurement of relative frequencies to better than 0.0001 cm^{-1} , as verified by routine agreement with microwave ground state combination differences at the 3–5 MHz level. Absolute frequency calibration is achieved by referencing to the $R(0)$, $R(2)$, and $R(3)$ lines of monomeric HF at 4000.9894, 4075.2936, and 4109.9363

cm^{-1} , respectively.⁴³ This calibration procedure allows the transition frequencies and vibrational origins to be reported to an absolute accuracy of 0.0002 cm^{-1} .

The $(\text{HF})_2$ complex is formed by adiabatically expanding mixtures of 1.0% HF in a He/Ne/Ar buffer gas mixture at a backing pressure of 450 Torr, resulting in rotational temperatures of 8–10 K. The buffer gas composition found to optimize the formation of $(\text{HF})_2$ is a 50:50 mixture of Ar and “first-run” Ne (70% Ne, 30% He). Absorbances in excess of 5% are typically observed ($\text{S/N} > 2000$) for the strong ν_1 $K_a = 1 \leftarrow 0$ fundamental, corresponding to concentrations at 1 cm downstream from the slit nozzle of 3×10^{10} $(\text{HF})_2$ molecules/ cm^3 . As first noted in previous studies,⁴⁴ small amounts ($\leq 2\%$) of N_2O in the mixture promote the formation of $(\text{HF})_2$ in the jet, ostensibly via formation of the more weakly bound $\text{HF}-\text{N}_2\text{O}$ complex that is “displaced” by a subsequent collision with HF. Therefore, in spectral searches for the weaker combination bands the samples have been purposely doped with trace amounts of N_2O . This leads to occasional extremely weak, multiple quantum overtone and combination band N_2O monomer transitions observed in the region scanned. However, these bands are well known⁴⁵ and at sub-Doppler 0.001 cm^{-1} resolution, any such N_2O signals are readily distinguished from the characteristic and widely spaced spectral pattern due to $(\text{HF})_2$.

III. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

A. Background

As known from early microwave studies,⁷ the potential surface for HF dimer has two equivalent wells which support a large amplitude tunneling motion that interchanges the role of hydrogen bond donor and acceptor HF subunits. Consistent with such large amplitude motion on a floppy potential surface, the overall symmetry of each HF dimer VRT energy level is best analyzed using permutation-inversion (PI) group theory,^{46–50} specifically the MS_4 molecular symmetry group. In this PI group, A/B refer to symmetry/antisymmetry with respect to simultaneous interchange of both H and F nuclei, whereas the $+/-$ refer to the total parity, i.e., inversion of all nuclei through the origin.

For purposes of correctly assigning the observed HF dimer combination bands, it is advantageous to break this rigorous VRT symmetry down further into a product of the tunneling (Γ_{tun}), vibrational (Γ_{vib}), and rotational (Γ_{rot}) symmetries with $\Gamma_{\text{vrt}} = \Gamma_{\text{vib}} \otimes \Gamma_{\text{rot}} \otimes \Gamma_{\text{tun}}$. Unlike total symmetry, these individual labels are approximate, but still meaningful in the limit of weak coupling between overall rotation, tunneling, and the intermolecular vibrational degrees of freedom. More commonly, the experimentally observed bands are labeled by the $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}$ symmetry, with the rotational symmetry already factored out. If one takes electric dipole selection rules and conservation of nuclear spin symmetry into account, allowed vib-tun transitions are predicted between $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} = A^+ \leftrightarrow B^+$ and $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} = A^+ \leftrightarrow A^-, B^+ \leftrightarrow B^-$ symmetry states for in-plane ($\Gamma_{\text{vib}} = A^+, B^+$) and out-of-plane ($\Gamma_{\text{vib}} = A^-, B^-$) vibrations, respectively.

The tunneling splitting in a given vibrational state is defined⁵¹ as the signed difference in the vibrational origins for the pair of tunneling states, i.e.,

$$\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}} = \nu_K(\Gamma_{\text{tun}}=B^+) - \nu_K(\Gamma_{\text{tun}}=A^+). \quad (1)$$

Only the product $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} = \Gamma_{\text{vib}} \otimes \Gamma_{\text{tun}}$ can be inferred directly from the spectra, therefore, the *sign* of the tunneling splitting remains undefined unless Γ_{vib} is somehow specified. The presence of strong anharmonic and/or Coriolis resonances that mix rotation, vibration, and tunneling degrees of freedom can in principle shift one level with respect to the other, and thereby change the sign of the tunneling splitting. However, in the absence of such strong near resonant state mixing, the state within a given tunneling pair which has an additional node along the tunneling coordinate ($\Gamma_{\text{tun}}=B^+$), should be higher in energy than the nodeless ($\Gamma_{\text{tun}}=A^+$) state. As defined by Eq. (1), this is equivalent to a prediction of a *positive* tunneling splitting for all inter and intramolecular vibrational states. Thus the energetic ordering of the total vib-tun symmetries ($\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}$) for tunneling pairs can be used to infer the vibrational symmetry (Γ_{vib}) of that state.

Similarly, for sufficiently weak coupling between inter/intramolecular degrees of freedom, the combination state vibrational symmetry can also be approximately factored into the corresponding product of the intra- and intermolecular vibrational symmetries, i.e., $\Gamma_{\text{vib}} = \Gamma_{\text{intra}} \otimes \Gamma_{\text{inter}}$. Since the intramolecular vibrational frequencies are at least an order of magnitude greater than the corresponding intermolecular frequencies, an adiabatic separation of these degrees of freedom is anticipated to be well justified. The vibrational symmetries of the ν_1 and ν_2 intramolecular modes have been assigned by Mills⁵⁰ to $\Gamma_{\text{intra}}=B^+$ and A^+ , respectively. Both intermolecular modes (nominally the van der Waals stretch and geared bend) described in this paper, are in-plane vibrations with $\Gamma_{\text{inter}}=A^+$ symmetry. Thus the overall vibrational symmetry (Γ_{vib}) is dictated by the intramolecular vibrational symmetry (i.e., $\Gamma_{\text{vib}} = \Gamma_{\text{intra}} \otimes A^+ = \Gamma_{\text{intra}}$).

Consistent with the established convention^{17,18} for $(\text{HF})_2$, term values for each tunneling and $K=K_a$ state are fit separately using the expression

$$E_K(J) = \nu_K + [\bar{B}_K \pm 1/2b_K\delta_{K1}]J(J+1) - D_KJ^2(J+1)^2 + H_KJ^3(J+1)^3. \quad (2)$$

In Eq. (2), ν_K is the energy of the $J=0$ (extrapolated for $K>0$) state for a given K level with respect to the $J=0$, $\Gamma_{\text{vib}}=A^+K=0$ state of $(\text{HF})_2$. Furthermore, $\bar{B}_K = (B_K + C_K)/2$, D_K and H_K are the K -dependent effective rotational and distortion constants in symmetric top notation, while the Kronecker delta δ_{K1} brings in an asymmetry splitting term due to $b_K = (B_K - C_K)/2$ which is only significant for $K=1$ levels. For all the spectra presented in this paper, the J and tunneling state labeling is unambiguously confirmed by well-determined ground state combination differences.⁸ Thus the ground state constants in the least squares fits are fixed at values determined from global fits to previous microwave and near-IR studies.^{14,52} The sextic cen-

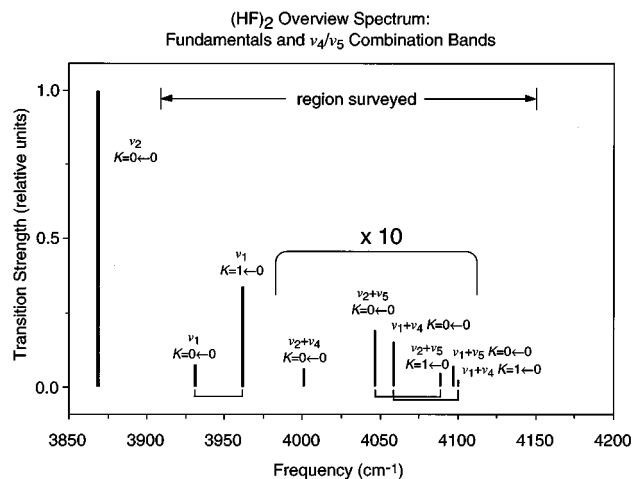


FIG. 1. Overview of the HF dimer spectrum between 3850 and 4200 cm^{-1} with the region surveyed for combination bands indicated. Both the intramolecular HF stretching fundamentals and the ν_4/ν_5 combination bands are shown, with the transition strength of the combination bands magnified ten times. For simplicity, only the origin of one tunneling component is shown for each combination band and fundamental.

trifugal distortion constant H_K is set to zero in the upper state due to the lack of sufficiently high J transitions necessary to determine this constant accurately.

Based on previous experimental data^{21,53} and predictions of the intermolecular mode frequencies,³⁶ the search for HF dimer combination bands associated with the two lowest frequency intermolecular modes (ν_4 and ν_5) covers the 250 cm^{-1} region between 3900 and 4150 cm^{-1} . This search reveals ten VRT bands, six of which have been previously unobserved, and which reflect excitation in each of the ν_4 and ν_5 intermolecular modes, built on either the ν_1 or ν_2 intramolecular fundamentals. A stick spectrum which schematically summarizes the origin frequencies and relative integrated intensities for all the combination bands reported in this paper is shown in Fig. 1. Note that even the strongest combination band is still 50-fold weaker than the corresponding parent fundamental and that an additional 10- to 20-fold dynamic range exists in integrated intensities between the most intense ($\nu_2 + \nu_5$, $K=0 \leftarrow 0$) and least intense ($\nu_1 + \nu_4$, $K=1 \leftarrow 0$) combination bands.

Before we turn to analysis of the combination band spectra in detail, one point is worth noting. Since all the in-plane intermolecular vibrations are of the same $\Gamma_{\text{vib}}=A^+$ symmetry, there can be strong mixing between these modes which can make a zero order description of the motion difficult and potentially misleading. This is especially likely for the “van der Waals stretch” and “geared bend” modes, which are close in energy and therefore susceptible to mixing by angular-radial coupling in the potential surface. Hence, the descriptive labels for these two vibrations will be left in quotations to remind us of their potentially approximate nature yet at the same time maintain continuity with previous studies.^{12,14,21} (Conversely, the standard ν_4 , ν_5 notation requires no such assumptions and provides a rigorously “correct” label, though of course with no physical insight!) In-

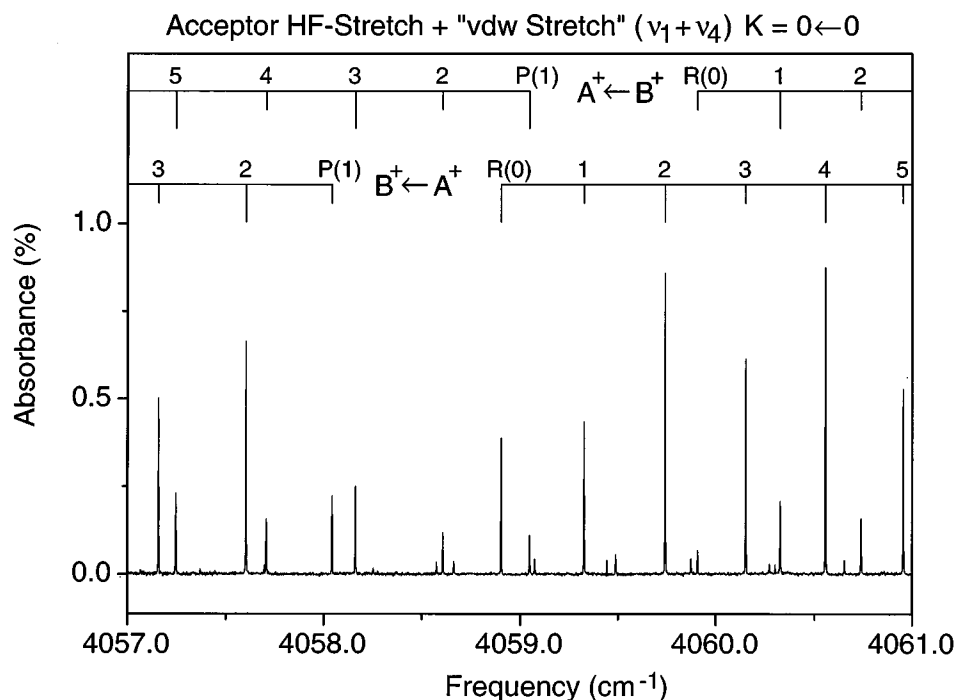


FIG. 2. A section of the spectrum of the $K=0\leftarrow 0$ subband of the $\nu_1+\nu_4$ combination band ($T_{\text{rot}}=10\pm 2$ K) of $(\text{HF})_2$. The A^+ and B^+ symmetry labels refer to $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}$, the vibration-tunneling symmetry. Note the 10:6 spin statistical alternation in both bands and the narrow rovibrational linewidths ($\Delta\nu_{\text{pd}}\approx 30$ MHz). Additional small peaks are due to the multiquantum $(11^1_1)\leftarrow(00^0_0)$ transitions of monomeric N_2O and a combination band ($\nu_1+\nu_4$) of the mixed dimer HFDF.

deed, as will be elucidated below, the combination band rotational constants, predissociation lifetimes, and tunneling splittings in this work provide strong evidence for significant mixing between these “van der Waals stretch” and “geared bend” degrees of freedom. The appropriate zero order description of the low frequency intermolecular modes highlights an important discrepancy between experiment and theoretical predictions based on HF dimer potential surfaces, an issue which will be addressed in the discussion section.

B. ν_4 (“van der Waals stretch”)

1. $(\nu_1+\nu_4)$ $K=0\leftarrow 0$

The lowest frequency intermolecular mode (ν_4) in $(\text{HF})_2$ is predicted from the 6D QM calculations²⁸ to be predominantly a “van der Waals stretch” motion at 126.37 cm^{-1} . In the limit of small off diagonal anharmonicity, one therefore anticipates the $\nu_1+\nu_4$ combination band to be near $3931+126=4057\text{ cm}^{-1}$. Figure 2 shows a segment of the infrared spectrum in the vicinity of 4059 cm^{-1} where, in good agreement with this prediction, a pair of overlapping VRT bands are detected. There are two rotational progressions due to the tunneling motion in HF dimer, and both exhibit the intensity alternation characteristic of HF dimer spectra. The bands are moderately strong (although only $\sim 4\%$ of the transition strength of the $K=1\leftarrow 0$ ν_1 fundamental) and the presence of both $R(0)$ and $P(1)$ lines in both rotational progressions is indicative of a $K=0\leftarrow 0$ band of a near-prolate symmetric top. Combination differences (rms deviation, 0.00017 cm^{-1}) readily confirm that these transitions are due to $(\text{HF})_2$ and allow an unambiguous J labeling and $K''=0$ rotational as-

signment for both VRT bands. Furthermore, due to slight differences in the rotational constants for the two tunneling levels in the ground vibrational state, combination differences can also be used to assign the ground state vibration-tunneling symmetries ($\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}$) for both bands.

This spectroscopic assignment of $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}$ is clearly confirmed by the expected intensity alternation in J'' . Specifically, the lines originating from the $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=A^+(B^+)$ level exhibit an approximately 10:6 (6:10) intensity alternation for even:odd J (for the $K=0$ ground state). This is consistent with the known nuclear spin weights⁴⁶ for exchange of two pairs of equivalent spin $1/2$ particles (i.e., H and F). Thus the vib-tun symmetry assignments ($\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=\Gamma_{\text{vib}}\otimes\Gamma_{\text{tun}}$) are unambiguously corroborated both by the combination differences and nuclear spin statistics. All transitions from $R(7)$ to $P(9)$, inclusive, are observed for each of the two tunneling components and are listed in Table I; the molecular constants obtained from a least squares fit to Eq. (2) are presented in Table II. The standard deviations of the fits are $\approx 0.0001\text{ cm}^{-1}$, which are comparable to the instrumental precision and indicate that no significant perturbations in the rovibrational transitions are present. Comparison of spectroscopic origins from the work of Bohac and Miller²¹ yields fair agreement (within 0.02 cm^{-1}) for both tunneling components, though this earlier study was limited by S/N and lower jet temperatures to only $J<4$ transitions. It is also worth noting that the primary emphasis of the previous work²¹ was toward photofragment distributions rather than spectroscopic study of the intermolecular degrees of freedom.

Assignment of the intramolecular component of this

TABLE I. The observed and fitted transition frequencies (in cm^{-1}) for ν_4 “van der Waals stretch” combination bands. The numbers in parentheses represent the deviations (obs-calc) from the least-squares fit of each VRT band in units of the last reported digit.

	$\nu_1 + \nu_4 K=0 \leftarrow 0$		$\nu_1 + \nu_4 K=1 \leftarrow 0$	$\nu_2 + \nu_4 K=0 \leftarrow 0$
	$B^+ \leftarrow A^+$	$A^+ \leftarrow B^+$	$B^+ \leftarrow A^+$	$A^+ \leftarrow B^+$
$R(10)$	4062.846 45(4)			
$R(9)$	4062.481 79(−7)			
$R(8)$	4062.110 06(−10)			
$R(7)$	4061.731 59(3)	4062.688 37(11)	4103.6770(0)	
$R(6)$	4061.346 34(8)	4062.313 30(−3)	4103.2913(−7)	4002.9272(23)
$R(5)$	4060.954 54(9)	4061.930 54(−19)	4102.9010(4)	4002.5290(−4)
$R(4)$	4060.556 39(8)	4061.540 23(−37)	4102.5043(13)	4002.1265(−11)
$R(3)$	4060.152 10(10)	4061.143 21(15)	4102.0989(−3)	4001.7212(12)
$R(2)$	4059.741 68(1)	4060.738 40(18)	4101.6895(1)	4001.3059(−9)
$R(1)$	4059.325 40(−2)	4060.326 22(3)	4101.2728(−9)	4000.8880(−4)
$R(0)$	4058.903 39(2)	4059.906 92(−13)	4100.8528(9)	a
$P(1)$	4058.042 17(−1)	4059.047 71(−3)		3999.6040(5)
$P(2)$	4057.603 21(5)	4058.607 64(−3)	4099.5526(9)	3999.1643(−13)
$P(3)$	4057.158 50(−8)	4058.160 72(0)	b	3998.7230(1)
$P(4)$	4056.708 35(−8)	4057.706 96(5)	4098.6553(−9)	3998.2763(8)
$P(5)$	4056.252 71(−2)	4057.246 33(9)	b	3997.8246(14)
$P(6)$	4055.791 36(−7)	4056.778 76(3)	b	3997.3680(22)
$P(7)$	4055.324 45(−7)	4056.304 42(8)	b	3996.9004(−24)
$P(8)$	4054.851 93(1)	4055.823 28(21)		3996.4323(−23)
$P(9)$	4054.373 58(2)	4055.334 71(15)		
$P(10)$	4053.889 24(−11)			
$P(11)$	4053.399 29(11)			
$Q(1)$			c	
$Q(2)$			4100.4167(−8)	
$Q(3)$			4100.4111(3)	
$Q(4)$			4100.4016(−2)	
$Q(5)$			4100.3898(−7)	
$Q(6)$			4100.3775(6)	
$Q(7)$			b	

^aToo weak to observe.

^bOverlapped with a $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ transition.

^cUnresolved.

combination band is based on a combination of linewidth and approximate tunneling symmetry arguments. As discussed previously, the energy ordering of a pair of tunneling levels provides information on the intramolecular vibrational

symmetry of those two states. In essence, the energies of the two vibration–tunneling levels are determined from the origins of the two VRT bands, the rigorous dipole selection rule for in-plane transitions ($A^+ \leftrightarrow B^+$), and the known ground

TABLE II. Molecular constants (cm^{-1}) determined from fits of the transition frequencies to Eq. (2) for combination bands assigned to the “van der Waals stretch” (ν_4) and “geared bend” (ν_5) intermolecular modes. All origins are with respect to the $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} = A^+$ tunneling level of the $K=0$ ground vibrational state of $(\text{HF})_2$. The uncertainties in parentheses represent 2σ in the units of the last reported digit.

$\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} =$	$\nu_2 + \nu_4 K=0$ A^+	$\nu_1 + \nu_4 K=0$ B^+	$\nu_1 + \nu_4 K=1$ B^+	$\nu_2 + \nu_5 K=0$ A^+	$\nu_2 + \nu_5 K=1$ A^+	$\nu_1 + \nu_5 K=0$ B^+
ν_0	4000.695 3(19)	4058.475 60(6)	4100.424 3(10)	4046.746 6(4)	4088.694 1(6)	4097.426 16(8)
B^-	0.214 19(16)	0.213 890(3)	0.214 70(8)	0.216 03(2)	0.219 59(4)	0.214 236(3)
$D/10^{-6}$	4.37(28)	2.821(22)	2.4(12)	1.97(22)	1.62(54)	1.75(2)
$b_K/10^{-3}$			3.57(8)		5.35(4)	
σ_{rms}	0.001 93	0.000 07	0.000 8	0.000 47	0.000 72	0.000 11
$\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} =$	B^+	A^+	A^+	B^+	B^+	A^+
ν_0	a	4060.139 57(15)	a	4050.3335(8)	4095.2097(12)	4100.165 27(8)
B^-		0.213 091(12)		0.215 52(3)	0.218 17(8)	0.213 897(3)
$D/10^{-6}$		2.58(16)		2.06(28)	2.5(12)	2.09(2)
$b_K/10^{-3}$					4.93(6)	
σ_{rms}		0.000 16		0.000 90	0.000 90	0.000 10

^aNot observed.

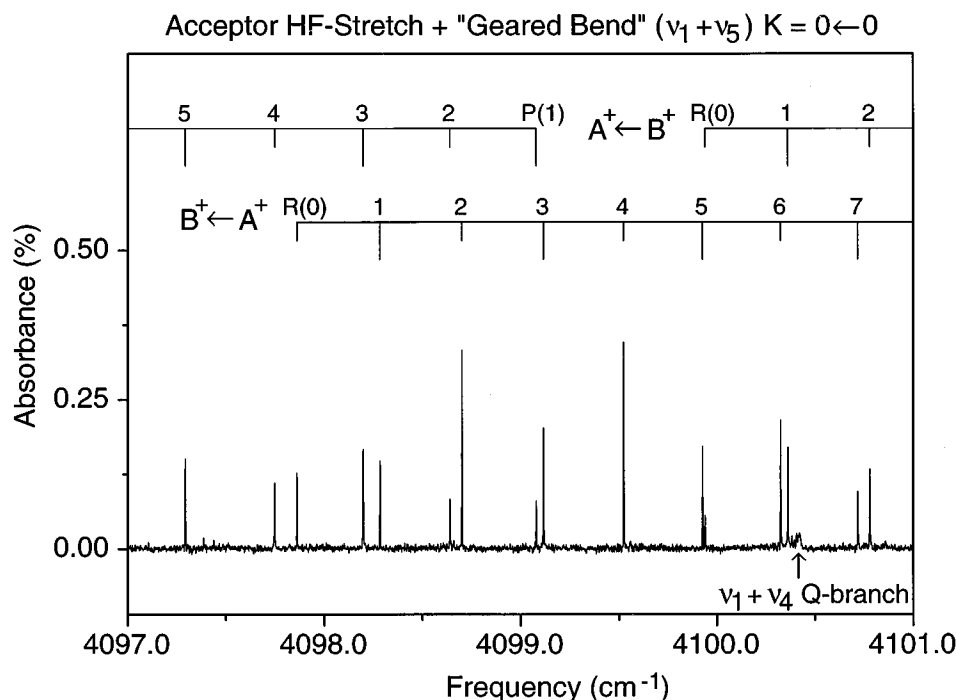


FIG. 3. Spectral region near the origins of the two $K=0 \leftarrow 0$ VRT bands of the $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ combination band of $(\text{HF})_2$. The frequency differences between the two origins reflects the difference between the upper vibrational state and ground vibrational state tunneling splittings. The weaker feature at 4100.4 cm^{-1} is the Q branch of the $B^+ \leftarrow A^+$, $K=1 \leftarrow 0$, $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ combination band of $(\text{HF})_2$.

state tunneling splitting.⁸ For the present band, $\nu_K(\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=A^+) > \nu_K(\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=B^+)$, and thus only a ν_1 intramolecular ($\Gamma_{\text{intra}}=B^+$) assignment is consistent with an increase in total energy for an additional node in the tunneling wave function. Stated alternatively, the ν_1 assignment is consistent with a positive tunneling splitting.

Corroboration of this ν_1 intramolecular assignment can be obtained from a high resolution line shape analysis (to be discussed in Sec. V) of the individual rovibrational transitions. The transitions for each VRT band exhibit narrow contributions from predissociation broadening [$\Delta\nu_{\text{pd}}=25(5)$ and $40(8)$ MHz for $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=A^+$ and B^+ , respectively]. This is qualitatively similar to the predissociation linewidths¹⁵ observed in ν_1 [$\Delta\nu_{\text{pd}}=6.4(5)$ and $9.5(5)$ MHz for $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=A^+$ and B^+ , respectively] and considerably smaller than observed in ν_2 [330(30) MHz for both $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=A^+$ and B^+]. Thus the line shapes also indicate a combination band built on the ν_1 intramolecular stretch. Indeed, in all 14 VRT bands observed in HF dimer to date, we find no exception to this pattern, i.e., there is a consistent correlation between linewidths in combination bands built on ν_1 or ν_2 , and the corresponding ν_1/ν_2 fundamental excitations.

The intermolecular energy is determined by subtracting the origin of the parent HF fundamental from the combination band origin. In order to facilitate a more straightforward comparison with theoretical predictions, this is done consistently for the lower energy tunneling level ($\Gamma_{\text{tun}}=A^+$) for both the fundamental and combination band state. The intermolecular vibrational energy for this combination band is obtained by subtracting the ν_1 fundamental¹⁷ [3930.9030(2) cm^{-1}] from the VRT band origin [4058.475 60(6) cm^{-1}],

yielding an intermolecular energy of $127.5726(2) \text{ cm}^{-1}$. As mentioned above, the two lowest intermolecular modes, i.e., ν_4 and ν_5 have been historically assigned from theory as the “van der Waals stretch” and “geared bend,” respectively, based on 2D cuts through the multidimensional eigenfunctions in order to locate nodes along the various degrees of freedom.^{28,54,55} Comparison with theoretical predictions²⁸ of the “van der Waals stretch” at 126.37 cm^{-1} provides strong circumstantial support for the ν_4 assignment.

However, a more experimentally based evaluation of these descriptive labels suggests otherwise. For $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ excitation ($\Gamma_{\text{vib}}=B^+$), the spacing between the two VRT origins reflect the difference in upper and lower state tunneling splittings. Based on the known^{8,14,52} ground state tunneling splitting of $0.658\,690\,1(7) \text{ cm}^{-1}$, the tunneling frequency in the upper state is $1.6640(2) \text{ cm}^{-1}$, a factor of ~ 7.7 larger than the tunneling splitting in ν_1 ($K=0$) state. Such an increase in the tunneling frequency with ν_4 excitation is significantly larger than the factor of 2.2 predicted by full 6D QM theory,²⁸ and would be particularly surprising if this mode corresponds predominately to “van der Waals stretch” excitation. Conversely, since the “geared bend” motion correlates directly with motion along the tunneling coordinate, a dramatic enhancement of tunneling splitting with “geared bend” excitation is physically more reasonable and indeed predicted by full 6D QM calculations. Though we defer a more detailed discussion to Sec. V, this is the first of several spectroscopic observations that reveal a significant degree of “geared bend” character in the ν_4 state. As will be shown later, this interpretation is corroborated by a similar analysis of tunneling splittings observed in the corresponding ν_5 state.

2. ($\nu_1 + \nu_4$) $K=1 \leftarrow 0$

Based on the hybrid nature of the ν_1 excitation, one also anticipates an associated $K=1 \leftarrow 0$ perpendicular band for $\nu_1 + \nu_4$, spaced roughly one A_{eff} rotational constant ($\sim 32 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) to the blue of the $K=0 \leftarrow 0$ parallel band origin at 4058.5 cm^{-1} . For the purposes of this discussion, A_{eff} is defined as the energy difference between the lower asymmetry split $J=1, K=1$, and $J=0, K=0$ states of a given vibrational level. Indeed, there is a weak (i.e., 0.5% of the integrated intensity than the $K=1 \leftarrow 0$ ν_1 fundamental), red shaded Q -branch feature at $\sim 4100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (see Fig. 3), in the same region as the $K=0 \leftarrow 0$ parallel $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ combination band. While the majority of the P -branch transitions overlap with the much stronger $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ combination band (to be discussed in the next section), a moderately uncongested R -branch progression from $R(0)$ to $R(7)$ is observed. P/R branch combination differences ($\sigma \leq 0.0005 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) calculated using two unobscured P -branch lines firmly establish an unambiguous J labeling of the transitions. In conjunction with an observed Q -branch and $R(0)$, the spectrum is identified as a $K=1 \leftarrow 0$ perpendicular band. The combination differences, intensity alternation in the spectrum, and ν_1 intramolecular assignment are all consistent with a $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} = B^+ \leftarrow A^+$ VRT band. Similarly, the measured VRT transitions to the asymmetry split $K=1$ upper state are consistent with an even parity vibration, or in the more common asymmetric top notation, a B -type band. The transition frequencies presented in Table I are fit to Eq. (2) using the A^+ ground state constants; the molecular constants determined from this fit are in Table II.

Observation of the other tunneling component for this weak combination band would further aid in the intramolecular assignment and also provide the tunneling splitting in the upper state. However, continuous scans $5\text{--}10 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ to either side of the lone VRT band origin (4100.4 cm^{-1}) do not reveal the other component. Based on the S/N for the observed VRT band this implies at least a fivefold decrease in the peak transition strength for the $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} = A^+ \leftarrow B^+$ tunneling component. This difference is considerably larger than predicted by the relative Boltzmann populations of the lower tunneling levels at 10 K, and therefore either reflects a decrease in the transition strength and/or selective predissociation broadening for the A^+ tunneling component of the $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ $K=1$ upper state.

Accurate measurements of the predissociation broadening for the observed transitions are difficult due to low S/N, yet estimates based on modeling the Q -branch structure indicate $\Delta\nu_{\text{pd}}$ is approximately 75(50) MHz, i.e., more consistent with a ν_1 rather than ν_2 intramolecular assignment. Subtraction of the $K=0 \leftarrow 0$ ν_1 origin gives an intermolecular energy of $169.5213(10) \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Given this $K=1$ state is approximately one A_{eff} [$41.9487(10) \text{ cm}^{-1}$] to the blue of the $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ $K=0$ level, this band is tentatively assigned to the $K=1 \leftarrow 0$ perpendicular band of $\nu_1 + \nu_4$. The substantial increase in A_{eff} compared to the ν_1 vibrational state [$31.9630(2) \text{ cm}^{-1}$], would be surprising for a pure “van der Waals stretch,” since this mode is not predicted to have a

large effect on the A axis moment of inertia. Conversely, a pure “geared bend” excitation involves large amplitude motion of the H atoms and thus is anticipated to have a pronounced effect on A_{eff} . We note for later discussion that the increases in A_{eff} observed for both ν_4 and ν_5 excitation are remarkably similar (41.9487 vs 41.9475 cm^{-1}), suggesting again a strong mixing of van der Waals stretch/geared bend character in the two vibrational states.

3. ($\nu_2 + \nu_4$) $K=0 \leftarrow 0$

The assignment of the above series of combination bands to $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ can be further corroborated by a search for the corresponding bands built on the ν_2 donor HF stretch. Indeed, another series of transitions (approximately 0.6% the transition strength of the ν_2 $K=0 \leftarrow 0$ parallel band) are found near 4000 cm^{-1} , approximately 60 cm^{-1} to the red of the combination band assigned to $\nu_1 + \nu_4$, $K=0 \leftarrow 0$. This redshift is very close to the 62 cm^{-1} frequency difference between the ν_1 and ν_2 fundamentals, thus strongly supporting a $K=0 \leftarrow 0$ $\nu_2 + \nu_4$ combination band assignment. Consistent with a ν_2 intramolecular assignment, the predissociation line-widths of these transitions are approximately tenfold broader than the corresponding transitions for the $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ combination band. The observed transitions presented in Table I are assigned unambiguously to originate from the *upper* (B^+) tunneling level of the $K=0$ ground vibrational state, based on combination differences which are confirmed by nuclear spin statistics. Results of the fit to these transition frequencies are presented in Table II. Transitions from the other tunneling component (A^+) are not observed. This tunneling component must be down by at least a factor of 3 in peak transition strength, again presumably due to weaker transition strength and/or greater predissociation broadening.

Observation of both $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ and $\nu_2 + \nu_4$ $K=0 \leftarrow 0$ parallel bands allows the intermolecular energies for the two excited intramolecular states to be compared directly. The intermolecular energy can be determined from the observed $\nu_2 + \nu_4$ tunneling component because it accesses the lower ($\Gamma_{\text{tun}} = A^+$) tunneling level in the excited vibrational state. Subtraction of the ν_2 fundamental [$3868.0793(2) \text{ cm}^{-1}$] yields an intermolecular frequency of $132.6160(19) \text{ cm}^{-1}$, which is close (within 4%) but noticeably higher than the 127.57 cm^{-1} frequency determined from the $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ combination band. This increase in intermolecular frequency is consistent with a greater “stiffening” of the intermolecular potential upon ν_2 vs ν_1 vibrational excitation, as will be discussed in greater detail in Sec. V.

C. ν_5 (“Geared bend”)

1. ($\nu_1 + \nu_5$) $K=0 \leftarrow 0$

The next higher intermolecular mode (ν_5) is predicted by 6D QM calculations²⁸ to be the “geared bend” around 160.58 cm^{-1} . Combination bands built on ν_1 , therefore, are expected in the vicinity of $3931 + 161 = 4092 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Figure 3

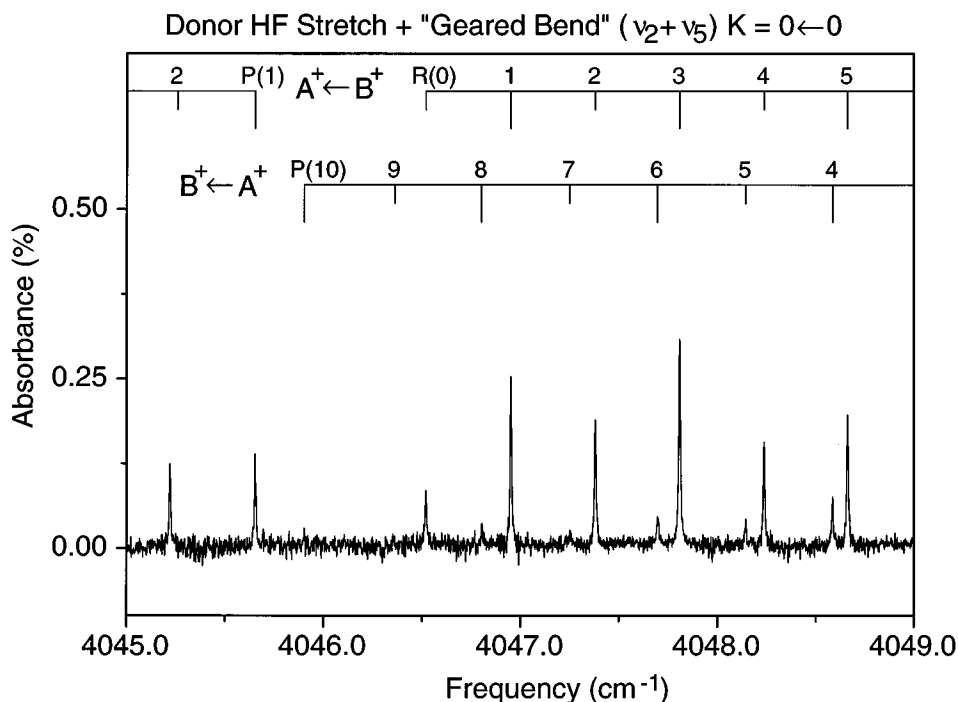


FIG. 4. A section of the infrared absorption spectrum of $(\text{HF})_2$ displaying the $K=0\leftarrow 0$ $\nu_2+\nu_5$ combination band. The origins for these two VRT bands are widely spaced because they correspond to the *sum* of tunneling splittings in lower and upper vibrational states. The rovibrational line shapes ($\Delta\nu_{\text{pd}}\approx 300$ MHz) are much broader than the transitions shown in Figs. 2 or 3; this is consistent with this band being built on ν_2 instead of ν_1 .

shows a small section of a pair of overlapping bands (approximately 2% of the transition strength of the $K=1\leftarrow 0$ ν_1 fundamental) near 4099 cm^{-1} . The rovibrational transitions are readily assigned to the two tunneling components of the $K''=0$ rotational state of HF dimer based upon ground state combination differences and nuclear spin statistics. All transitions from $R(11)$ to $P(12)$, inclusive, are observed for each VRT band and are listed in Table III. The molecular constants obtained by fitting these transitions to Eq. (2) are listed in Table II. In the upper vibrational state the energy of the $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=A^+$ state is higher in energy than the B^+ state, consistent with a B^+ vibrational symmetry and thus a combination band built on ν_1 . Furthermore, the ν_1 intramolecular nature of this combination state is confirmed by the narrow predissociation linewidths [20(5) and 45(8) MHz for the $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=A^+$ and B^+ upper states, respectively] observed for both bands. By virtue of the parallel band structure and the spectroscopic data presented above, these two VRT bands are assigned to the two tunneling components of the $K=0\leftarrow 0$ $\nu_1+\nu_5$ combination band. Low J lines ($J<3$) out of the lower tunneling component were previously reported by Bohac and Miller,²¹ though the slightly weaker (75%) $A^+\leftarrow B^+$ VRT band was not observed due to S/N limitations. Agreement with the previously reported $B^+\leftarrow A^+$ VRT band origin is good and within the limits of their reported uncertainties.

Given the ν_1 intramolecular assignment determined above, the intermolecular frequency is $166.5232(2)\text{ cm}^{-1}$. The tunneling frequency in the upper state, $2.7391(11)\text{ cm}^{-1}$, reflects a 13-fold increase in the tunneling splitting from $\nu_1(K=0)$ state. Such a large increase in the tunneling frequency is consistent with considerable “geared bend” nature

in the ν_5 excitation, since this motion correlates strongly with the tunneling coordinate. However, as noted above, a comparably large increase in tunneling splitting (8-fold) is also observed between $\nu_1+\nu_4$ and ν_1 excitation, which again suggests strongly mixed “van der Waals stretch” and “geared bend” character in each of ν_4 and ν_5 intermolecular modes.

2. ($\nu_2+\nu_5$) $K=0\leftarrow 0$

Based on a $\nu_1+\nu_5$ intramolecular assignment for the combination band above, then the ν_5 intermolecular mode should also be observable built on ν_2 . Figure 4 shows a section of a parallel band ($\sim 2\%$ of the transition strength of the ν_2 $K=0\leftarrow 0$ fundamental) near 4046 cm^{-1} , i.e., approximately 47 cm^{-1} to the red of the $\nu_1+\nu_5$ combination band. This shift is close to (but, as in the previous comparison between $\nu_1+\nu_4$ and $\nu_2+\nu_4$, slightly lower than) the 62 cm^{-1} difference between the ν_1 and ν_2 fundamentals, and thus offers strong confirmation that this is the $K=0\leftarrow 0$ parallel combination band of the ν_5 intermolecular mode built on ν_2 . As evident from inspection of Fig. 4, the predissociation linewidths for these transitions are approximately 10-fold broader [270(20) MHz] than the corresponding $\nu_1+\nu_5$ transitions, in further support of the $\nu_2+\nu_5$ mode assignment. All the observed transition frequencies for both tunneling states are listed in Table III.

Combination differences with the $K=0$ ground state verify the J labeling and tunneling assignment for each VRT band, which again are confirmed by the nuclear spin statistics. The molecular constants determined from fits of the transition frequencies to Eq. (2) are presented in Table II. The energy ordering of the tunneling levels indicates a

TABLE III. The observed and fitted transition frequencies (in cm^{-1}) for ν_5 “geared bend” combination bands. The numbers in parentheses represent the deviations (obs-calc) from the least-squares fit of each VRT band in units of the last reported digit.

	$\nu_1 + \nu_5 \ K=0 \leftarrow 0$		$\nu_2 + \nu_5 \ K=0 \leftarrow 0$		$\nu_2 + \nu_5 \ K=1 \leftarrow 0$	
	$B^+ \leftarrow A^+$	$A^+ \leftarrow B^+$	$B^+ \leftarrow A^+$	$A^+ \leftarrow B^+$	$B^+ \leftarrow A^+$	$A^+ \leftarrow B^+$
R(13)						
R(12)	4102.602 16(−21)					
R(11)	4102.234 66(27)	4104.271 24(−12)				
R(10)	4101.861 39(−8)	4103.906 18(15)	4054.933 0(−4)			
R(9)	4101.483 64(8)	4103.534 69(18)	4054.529 7(8)	4050.353 3(5)		
R(8)	4101.100 55(−9)	4103.157 66(8)	4054.121 4(0)	4049.931 7(−6)		
R(7)	4100.712 62(−4)	4102.774 67(10)	4053.710 3(−9)	4049.510 5(1)		4091.620 6(4)
R(6)	4100.319 60(−1)	4102.385 70(−4)	4053.297 4(−7)	4049.087 0(−1)	4098.250 8(−9)	4091.160 7(−3)
R(5)	4099.921 44(−3)	4101.991 06(−3)	4052.882 6(2)	4048.662 5(0)	4097.817 2(3)	4090.703 8(−15)
R(4)	4099.518 36(12)	4101.590 79(3)	4052.463 6(−4)	4048.236 9(3)	4097.382 5(5)	4090.249 5(−11)
R(3)	4099.109 93(0)	4101.185 07(−3)	4052.041 5(−14)	4047.809 5(2)	a	4089.800 3(−2)
R(2)	4098.696 53(−1)	4100.773 68(−5)	4051.619 5(2)	4047.380 7(0)	4096.514 3(19)	4089.354 7(−8)
R(1)	4098.278 08(−2)	4100.356 73(−1)	4051.192 3(−9)	4046.951 1(2)	4096.078 0(3)	4088.911 0(−3)
R(0)	4097.854 62(−1)	4099.934 36(−9)	4050.766 2(16)	4046.519 9(−1)	4095.643 0(−5)	4088.471 6(7)
P(1)	4096.992 76(2)	4099.073 58(16)	4049.899 2(−9)	4045.654 2(−6)		4087.173 2(11)
P(2)	4096.554 46(4)	4098.635 05(14)	4049.464 6(3)	4045.220 0(−7)		a
P(3)	4096.111 27(2)	4098.191 35(1)	4049.026 0(−3)	4044.785 6(2)		a
P(4)	4095.663 31(0)	4097.742 23(−18)	4048.586 7(6)	4044.349 9(5)		4085.904 5(0)
P(5)	4095.210 72(7)	4097.288 31(15)	4048.144 0(3)	4043.912 8(4)		a
P(6)	4094.753 39(2)	4096.828 94(−3)	4047.700 2(11)	4043.475 4(7)		4085.078 1(4)
P(7)	4094.291 45(−9)	4096.364 74(−13)	4047.251 7(−7)	4043.036 2(0)		
P(8)	4093.825 13(−14)	4095.895 03(−6)	4046.805 2(14)	4042.596 0(−9)		
P(9)	4093.354 46(−20)	4095.420 96(−22)		4042.157 0(0)		
P(10)	4092.879 90(7)	4094.941 98(12)				
P(11)	4092.401 09(20)	4094.457 66(−2)				
P(12)	4091.918 03(5)	4093.968 54(−12)				
P(13)	4091.431 22(−2)					
Q(1)					b	4088.045 0(9)
Q(2)					4095.224 7(−11)	4088.061 7(1)
Q(3)					4095.241 7(−1)	4088.088 1(3)
Q(4)					4095.263 1(−2)	4088.122 7(−1)
Q(5)					4095.289 8(−1)	4088.167 7(10)
Q(6)					4095.321 1(−7)	4088.220 0(7)
Q(7)					4095.358 8(1)	4088.280 6(−3)
Q(8)					4095.401 3(5)	4088.351 5(−1)
Q(9)						4088.430 9(−4)

^aToo weak to observe.^bOverlapped with $P(5)$ of $\nu_1 + \nu_5 \ B^+ \leftarrow A^+$.

$\Gamma_{\text{vib}}=A^+$ vibrational symmetry, which is consistent with the ν_2 intramolecular assignment first deduced from the predissociation linewidths. Low J transitions in both tunneling components of this band were previously reported by Bohac and Miller,²¹ with approximate origins and an upper state tunneling splitting inferred. However, agreement with the previously reported values is not good: though the $B^+ \leftarrow A^+$ band originating from the lower tunneling level is in fair agreement (0.02 cm^{-1}) with the present value, neither the origin nor the reported transition frequencies of the $A^+ \leftarrow B^+$ band are within 2 cm^{-1} of the current measurements. The rotational spacings previously observed by Bohac and Miller in this second band clearly identify HF dimer as the carrier. However, we observe no transitions under the slit jet expansion conditions which match the initially reported values, even though the S/N on the correct $A^+ \leftarrow B^+$ band is easily 20:1 even near the origin (see Fig. 4).

The ν_5 intermolecular frequency is determined to be

$178.6673(4) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ by subtracting the ν_2 fundamental frequency. This ν_5 intermolecular energy is close to but 7% greater than the value determined from the $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ combination band (166.52 cm^{-1}), as anticipated from the $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ and $\nu_2 + \nu_4$ comparison presented earlier. For an upper vibrational state with $\Gamma_{\text{vib}}=A^+$ symmetry, the *difference* in the origins of the two VRT bands corresponds to the *sum* of splittings in the lower and upper vibrational states; the tunneling splitting in the $\nu_2 + \nu_5 \ K=0$ excited state is therefore $3.5868(9) \text{ cm}^{-1}$. This represents a 17-fold increase from the ν_2 state, i.e., similar to the 13-fold increase observed between the ν_1 and $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ states. Indeed, this larger enhancement in the tunneling splitting for the higher energy ν_5 mode (179 cm^{-1} vs 167 cm^{-1}) is expected, as will be discussed in Sec. V. Due to the present reassignment of the $A^+ \leftarrow B^+$ VRT band, the intermolecular frequency and tunneling splitting differ significantly from the values ($\nu_5=180.16 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}=1.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) estimated previously.²¹

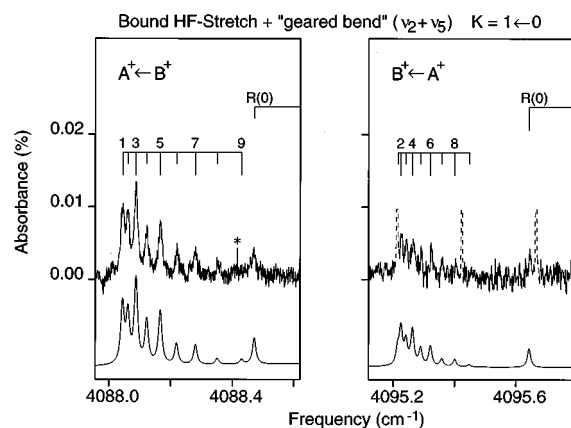


FIG. 5. A portion of spectrum (upper trace) near the two Q branches of the weak $K=1\leftarrow 0$ $\nu_2 + \nu_5$ combination band of $(\text{HF})_2$. To provide a clear view of the $B^+ \leftarrow A^+$ VRT band, strong $K=0\leftarrow 0$ $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ transitions present in the spectrum are truncated and dashed. The lower trace is the simulated spectrum calculated by modeling the Q -branch structure with a sum of Voigt profiles (see text for details). The homogeneous (lifetime) broadening of the line shapes for each VRT band are determined to be 390(50) and 380(75) MHz for the A^+ and B^+ upper states, respectively, consistent with the ν_2 intramolecular assignment. The sharp transition marked with an asterisk is due to a combination band of Ar-HF.

3. $(\nu_2 + \nu_5)$ $K=1\leftarrow 0$

If there is any appreciable perpendicular character to the $\nu_2 + \nu_5$ transition, then by analogy to $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ there should be an additional pair of $K=1\leftarrow 0$ tunneling bands shifted by approximately A_{eff} to the blue of the $\nu_2 + \nu_5$ $K=0\leftarrow 0$ origin, i.e., near 4090 cm^{-1} . Furthermore, due to the sensitivity of the tunneling splitting both to intermolecular energy and K excitation,^{12,15} a $K=1$ “geared bend” intermolecular state near 220 cm^{-1} should exhibit a significantly enhanced tunneling splitting. Consistent with these expectations, there are two widely separated Q -branch features (0.4% of the ν_2 fundamental transition strength) with blue shaded origins near 4088 and 4095 cm^{-1} (see Fig. 5). Closer inspection of the band at 4088 cm^{-1} reveals the corresponding R - and P -branch transitions which are listed in Table III. From combination differences and J -dependent intensity alternations, these transitions are determined to originate from the upper (B^+) tunneling level of the ground vibrational state. The band at 4095 cm^{-1} is slightly weaker and only the corresponding R branch has been positively identified. However, the R and Q branch features (listed in Table III), can be unambiguously assigned to the A^+ lower tunneling state by inspection of the spin statistics. The J labeling for the R branch of this VRT band is based on line spacing with respect to the central Q branch, as confirmed by the rotational least squares fits. Thus these two $B^+ \leftarrow A^+$, $A^+ \leftarrow B^+$ bands correspond to a tunneling pair of a combination band with an unusually large tunneling splitting. The results of fits to Eq. (2) for each VRT band are presented in Table II.

The two VRT bands are assigned to the $K=1\leftarrow 0$ perpendicular band of $\nu_2 + \nu_5$ based on a variety of spectral evidence. First, the bands originate from the two tunneling levels of the $K=0$ ground vibrational state; the presence of Q

branches in both VRT bands therefore clearly establishes the $K=1\leftarrow 0$ perpendicular band assignment. Secondly, the relative ordering of the two VRT band origins [$\nu_K(B^+ \leftarrow A^+) > \nu_K(A^+ \leftarrow B^+)$] indicates $\Gamma_{\text{vib}} = A^+$, consistent with a ν_2 intramolecular vibration. This intramolecular assignment is confirmed by the noticeably broadened predissociation linewidths (approximately 300 MHz) in each band, characteristic of a combination band built on ν_2 vs ν_1 (see Fig. 5). The ν_5 “geared bend” intermolecular assignment is supported by the large tunneling splitting, $6.5153(13)\text{ cm}^{-1}$, determined for this state, since both “geared bend” and K excitation are known^{12,15,21} to increase the tunneling splitting. Finally, subtraction of the ν_2 fundamental yields an intermolecular vibrational frequency of $220.6148(6)\text{ cm}^{-1}$ for the $K=1$ state, which is $41.9475(7)\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (i.e., essentially A_{eff}) higher in intermolecular energy than the $\nu_2 + \nu_5$ ($K=0\leftarrow 0$) band.

As mentioned earlier, the term values for excited K levels can be highly quantum state dependent due to large amplitude motion of the H atoms. In the $\nu_2 + \nu_5$ state, for example, $A_{\text{eff}} = 41.95\text{ cm}^{-1}$ is 30% larger than in the ν_2 ($A_{\text{eff}} = 32.13\text{ cm}^{-1}$) state. The increase in A_{eff} with “geared bend” excitation is expected from vibrational averaging arguments, and is indeed confirmed by QM calculations. The possible extremes range from $A_{\text{eff}} = \text{infinity}$ for the perfectly linear complex, down to a minimum of only $A_{\text{eff}} \cong 10\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (i.e., $B_{\text{HF}}/2$) for a “rectangular” geometry. Physically, the effect of “geared bend” excitation on the A axis moment of inertia skews the average to larger A_{eff} values due to the predominance of contributions from configurations approaching a more linear structure. This is also supported from 4D QM calculations³⁶ for both $K=0$ and $K=1$ states, where “geared bend” excitation is found to increase the $K=1\leftarrow 0$ spacing by approximately 30%, in good agreement with experiment.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Intramolecular vibrational dependence of the intermolecular frequencies

It has long been known from fundamental redshifts observed by Pine *et al.*¹⁷ that $(\text{HF})_2$ is more tightly bound in the ν_1 and ν_2 intramolecular excited states, and that this increase is greater for ν_2 vs ν_1 excitation. Indeed, the small shifts in intermolecular frequencies between the ν_1 and ν_2 supported states provide an alternate measure of this differential “stiffening” of the hydrogen bond with intramolecular excitation. For example, in each of the two cases where an intermolecular mode is observed in combination with both ν_1 or ν_2 , the ν_2 supported intermolecular levels are systematically higher in energy than the corresponding ν_1 supported levels. This trend is consistent with the more strongly redshifted ν_2 donor (2.4%) relative to the ν_1 acceptor stretch (0.8%), and furthermore suggests there may be a useful correlation between intramolecular redshifts and intermolecular frequencies. Of particular interest, therefore, is whether the intermolecular energies determined from combination bands for the in-

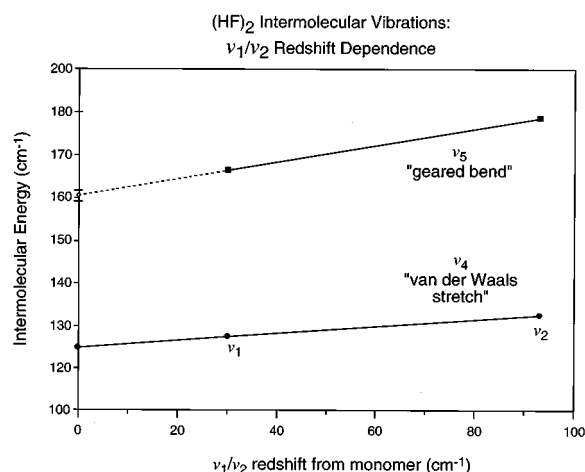


FIG. 6. Plot of the ν_4/ν_5 intermolecular energies as a function of intramolecular redshift. Extrapolation of the ν_5 data to zero redshift predicts a far-IR transition frequency at $160.6(6) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (error estimated from the uncertainties in the intermolecular energies).

tramolecular *excited* states can be used to predict the analogous intermolecular states on the *ground* intramolecular surface.

As a test of this hypothesis, the measured values of ν_4 built on ν_1 (127.57 cm^{-1}) and ν_2 (132.62 cm^{-1}) are plotted as a function of intramolecular redshift in Fig. 6. Also plotted at zero redshift is the ν_4 value [$125(5) \text{ cm}^{-1}$] inferred from far-IR data,²⁴ i.e., where only intramolecular zero point excitation is present. It is evident that the intermolecular frequencies upon intramolecular excitation are remarkably well correlated with the magnitude of the intramolecular redshift. Indeed, the $125.1(1) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ν_4 intermolecular frequency predicted from a simple linear extrapolation of the ν_1/ν_2 combination band data agrees to well within the 5 cm^{-1} uncertainty of the experimentally determined far-IR value. This near linear dependence between intermolecular frequency and redshift bodes well for quantitative predictions of far-IR results from the present combination band data. For example, the

measured values for ν_5 built on ν_1 and ν_2 are also plotted in Fig. 6; extrapolation to zero redshift predicts a far-IR value of $160.6(6) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for the corresponding ν_5 intermolecular fundamental. This mode has not yet been seen in the far-IR, though there has been a tentative assignment¹⁴ of one tunneling component of the much higher frequency ν_5 $K=3 \leftarrow 2$ band at 394 cm^{-1} . Unfortunately, A axis rotation contributions to the intermolecular energies at these high K levels are significantly greater than the ν_5 energy itself, and thus extrapolation from the far-IR data to the ν_5 $K=0$ level is not quantitatively reliable. This prediction should therefore be useful in guiding far-IR spectral searches, and also to compare with QM calculations on trial potential energy surfaces, as described below.

The extrapolated values of ν_4/ν_5 determined from Fig. 6 are compared to two sets of calculations performed by Zhang *et al.*, based on the SQSBDE surface of Quack and Suhm.²⁴ In the first calculations³⁶ the HF intramolecular coordinates are held fixed at vibrationally averaged ground state values, and the resulting 4D intermolecular eigenstates are calculated using a body-fixed variational method. The only other dynamical approximation is to neglect Coriolis interactions (i.e., helicity decoupling), which is anticipated to be a good approximation in general for $(\text{HF})_2$ and is rigorous for $J=0$ states. The second set reflect full 6D coupled calculations²⁸ for the ground intramolecular states and thus are “exact” for a given PES. Both sets of results are summarized in Table IV, and reveal quite reasonable agreement between the calculated and observed values for all ν_4 and ν_5 states observed. The excellent agreement ($<1\%$) between the extrapolated values and the 6D QM calculations represents a significant success of the SQSBDE potential surface for describing the intermolecular dynamics in the ground HF-stretching states. The slight differences between the 4D and 6D calculations provide clear evidence that all $3N-6$ degrees of freedom must be tackled for comparison at any spectroscopic level of precision, but the 4D calculations offer a useful first test of how accurately the intermolecular frequencies are repro-

TABLE IV. The ν_4 and ν_5 intermolecular frequencies (cm^{-1}) determined from the ν_1/ν_2 combination bands. Far-IR intermolecular fundamentals are included along with the extrapolated values from Fig. 6. The uncertainties in parentheses are in units of the last reported digit. Theoretical predictions (4D and 6D) for the far-IR frequencies are discussed in the text.

	K	Near-IR		Far-IR	Theory	
		ν_2	ν_1		4D ^a	6D ^b
Redshift ^c		−93.3432	−30.5195			
ν_4	0	132.6160(19)	127.5726(2)	125.1(1) ^d	125.38	126.37
			[127.549(1)] ^e	[125(5)] ^f		
	1		169.5213(10)		167.91	
ν_5	0	178.6673(4)	166.5232(2)	160.6(6) ^d	160.16	160.58
		[180.16(1)] ^e	[166.518(1)] ^e			
	1	220.6148(6)			214.27	

^aReference 36.

^bReference 38.

^cShift from the HF monomer origin at $3961.422\,490 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

^dFar-IR extrapolations from Fig. 6.

^eReference 21.

^fReference 24.

TABLE V. The \bar{B} and A_{eff} rotational constants for ν_1 and ν_2 excited HF-stretching states of $(\text{HF})_2$, including states with ν_4/ν_5 intermolecular excitation. The measured changes in rotational constants upon intermolecular excitation are compared to theoretical predictions.

$\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} =$	$B^- (\text{cm}^{-1})$				$\Delta \bar{B} (\%)$	
	$\nu_1 K=0$		$\nu_2 K=0$		Expt (Average)	Theory ^a
	B^+	A^+	A^+	B^+		
b	0.217 923(1) ^c	0.217 869(1) ^c	0.219 019(1) ^d	0.218 952(1) ^d		
ν_4	0.213 890(3)	0.213 09(1)	0.214 19(16)		−2.3(1)	−4.2
ν_5	0.214 236(3)	0.213 897(3)	0.216 03(2)	0.219 59(4)	−1.6(1)	−1.2
$\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}} =$	$A_{\text{eff}} (\text{cm}^{-1})$				$\Delta A_{\text{eff}} (\%)$	
	ν_1 B^+	ν_2 A^+	4D QM A^+		Expt	Theory ^e
b	31.963 0(2) ^d	32.1315(8) ^d	39.93			
ν_4	41.948 7(10)		42.63		32.24(1)	6.76
ν_5		41.9475(7)	54.11		30.55(1)	35.5

^aReference 38.^bIntermolecular ground state.^cReference 12.^dReference 17.^eReference 36.

duced. In order to probe the full dimensionality of the PES in more detail, especially given the new combination band data for the ν_4/ν_5 intermolecular frequencies in the ν_1/ν_2 states, full 6D calculations of the intermolecular frequencies in *excited* HF-stretch states will clearly be necessary. Recent results along these lines will be discussed toward the end of this section.

B. Effect of intermolecular excitation on rotational constants

The good agreement between theory and the extrapolated intermolecular frequencies provides strong support that the basic topology of the HF dimer PES is correct. If we pursue this comparison with quantities more sensitive to eigenfunctions than simply eigenvalues, however, discrepancies begin to be apparent. An appropriate place to start is with the \bar{B} and A_{eff} rotational constants measured for the different intermolecular states, since these quantities are preferentially sensitive to (i) average HF–HF center of mass separation and (ii) angular orientation of the H atoms, respectively. We can focus on the effect of intermolecular excitation by investigating *ratios* of combination state \bar{B} and A_{eff} constants to the corresponding values for the ν_1 or ν_2 excited states. This also directly addresses the issue of mixing between the low frequency van der Waals stretch and geared bend degrees of freedom, which is indicated by much of the current spectroscopic data discussed below.

The change in the \bar{B} rotational constant with intermolecular excitation is dominated by the change in $\langle 1/R^2 \rangle$, where R is the center of mass separation between the two HF molecules. Though the expectation values of $1/R^2$ are not available, Zhang *et al.*²⁸ do report $\langle R \rangle$ values for each quantum state in the 6D QM calculations discussed above. The calculations predict a 2.1% increase in $\langle R \rangle$ for ν_4 excitation but only a 0.6% increase for ν_5 excitation. The clear differ-

ences in $\langle R \rangle$ with ν_4 vs ν_5 (“van der Waals stretch” vs “geared bend”) excitation demonstrate that the PES treats these motions as largely decoupled, though the 0.6% increase in $\langle R \rangle$ for ν_5 does already indicate some degree of stretch–bend mixing. Since these are small fractions of $\langle R \rangle$, the value of \bar{B} would be predicted to decrease by approximately −4.2% in the ν_4 state and only −1.2% in the ν_5 excited state, i.e., a 3.5-fold difference. On the other hand, if both the ν_4 and ν_5 intermolecular modes are better described as a more equivalent admixture of van der Waals stretch and geared bend character, then the changes in \bar{B} should be roughly equivalent and halfway between these two extremes. As shown in upper half of Table V, the experimental decreases in \bar{B} are (i) quite similar for both intermolecular modes (−2.3% and −1.6%) and (ii) intermediate between the predicted values, i.e., more consistent with a model of strongly mixed van der Waals stretch and geared bend character in the ν_4/ν_5 manifold.

The eigenvalues for the $J=1$, $K=1$, and $J=0$, $K=0$ states (see Table IV) allow A_{eff} to be calculated directly, which provides another eigenfunction sensitive probe of the angular vs radial motion associated with a given intermolecular state. The experimentally determined values of A_{eff} along with the predictions based on the 4D QM calculations³⁶ are presented in the lower half of Table V. Similar to the analysis of $\Delta \bar{B}$, the fractional changes in A_{eff} for the theoretically predicted intermolecular modes differ by 5.3-fold in magnitude, while experimentally the changes are found to be nearly equivalent (i.e., within 5%). Specifically, the QM calculations predict that excitation of ν_4 (“van der Waals stretch”) has little effect on A_{eff} , while ν_5 (“geared bend”), which involves large amplitude angular motion of the two HF moieties, increases A_{eff} substantially. Physically, the large increases in A_{eff} found experimentally for *both* in-

TABLE VI. Tunneling splittings $\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}$ (cm^{-1}) measured in HF-stretch excited states from the combination band data. The ratio of the observed combination state splittings with the corresponding ν_1 or ν_2 excited values are included in the bottom half of the table for comparison with theory.

	ν_1 acceptor-HF		ν_2 donor-HF		Theory (4D) ^a	
	$K=0$	$K=1$	$K=0$	$K=1$	$K=0$	$K=1$
b	0.2155(4) ^c	0.3499(2) ^c	0.2334(3) ^c	0.3411(9) ^c	0.48	0.86
ν_4	1.6640(2)	d	d		1.11	1.45
ν_5	2.7391(11)		3.5868(9)	6.5153(13)	7.97	18.65
ν_4 ratio	7.72	d	d		2.31	1.68
ν_5 ratio	12.7		15.4	19.1	16.6	21.7

^aReference 36.

^bGround intermolecular state.

^cReference 17.

^dOnly one tunneling level observed.

termolecular modes again suggests considerable angular motion associated with *both* ν_4 and ν_5 .

C. Donor-acceptor interchange tunneling

Intermolecular excitation is predicted to increase the donor-acceptor tunneling rate in a strongly mode specific fashion. A large body of theoretical work^{17,24,28,31–33,36,50,52,54–58} has been directed at describing the HF dimer energy level splittings; the 6D calculations presented above for the ground HF-stretch vibrational states predict that both the ν_4 “van der Waals stretch” and ν_5 “geared bend” should enhance the tunneling rate by factors of 2 and 17, respectively. The geared bend intermolecular mode is predicted to exhibit the larger effect since this mode correlates strongly with the tunneling coordinate over a C_{2h} transition state. Quantitative predictions for the tunneling splittings in states that include one quantum of intramolecular excitation (i.e., which are measured in the present combination band study) are not yet available. However, one would similarly anticipate a strong preferential enhancement of tunneling rates for eigenfunctions with significant components of geared bend versus van der Waals stretch motion.

For purposes of comparison, we can attempt to isolate this effect of intermolecular excitation on tunneling by examination of the ratio of the observed combination state splitting to the corresponding ν_1 or ν_2 excited state value for a given K level. The relevant tunneling splittings and ratios measured in this study for ν_1 and ν_2 excited states, along with the ratios predicted for ground intramolecular states, are presented in Table VI. Examination of the ν_1 data in Table VI reveals that both intermolecular modes enhance the tunneling rate dramatically, leading to excited state splittings on the order of 2 cm^{-1} , i.e., between 8- to 13-fold larger than the corresponding 0.2 cm^{-1} tunneling splittings in ν_1 or ν_2 . However, although the sign and magnitude of these ratios are in good qualitative agreement with theoretical predictions, there is far less mode selectivity observed than anticipated. Specifically, the observed increase in the tunneling splitting for ν_4 is *greater* than predicted while the observed increase for ν_5 excitation is *less* than predicted. This is again consis-

tent with the strong mixing of “van der Waals stretch” and “geared bend” modes predicted from the previous analysis of the rotational constants.

The degree of mode mixing in $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ and $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ can be quantified via the following simple two state analysis. From a two state perspective, we consider tunneling in two zero order “van der Waals stretch” and “geared bend” states, with values $\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{vdw}}$ and $\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{geared}}$, respectively. As a reasonable first estimate, these uncoupled, zero order states would be quite similar to those predicted from the 4D QM calculations,³⁶ which yield a mode specific enhancement ratio of $\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{geared}}/\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{vdw}}=7.2$. In the presence of off diagonal coupling (γ), the ν_4 and ν_5 tunneling splittings for the experimentally observed mixed states would be⁵⁹

$$\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\nu_4} = \Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{geared}} \cos^2(\chi) + \Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{vdw}} \sin^2(\chi), \quad (3a)$$

$$\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\nu_5} = \Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{geared}} \sin^2(\chi) + \Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{vdw}} \cos^2(\chi). \quad (3b)$$

Here, χ is the so-called rotation angle describing the extent of mixing, and given by

$$\tan(2\chi) = 2\gamma/\Delta E. \quad (4)$$

If we accept from 4D QM predictions³⁶ that $\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{vdw}}$ is enhanced 2.31-fold and $\Delta\nu_{\text{tun}}^{\text{geared}}$ 16.6-fold from the tunneling splitting measured in ν_1 , the experimentally observed tunneling splittings can be reproduced by $\cos^2(\chi)=0.7$. This would correspond to a rather significant (i.e., 30%70%) mixing of the zero order geared bend and van der Waals stretch character in the actual ν_4 and ν_5 intermolecular modes.

We can take this analysis one step further. In the limit of strong mixing of these low frequency intermolecular degrees of freedom, one might anticipate that tunneling rates become independent of mode, and depend only on total intermolecular energy and some effective 1D tunneling coordinate. This suggests that the energy dependence of the tunneling rates for the two lowest modes can be characterized by a simple 1D tunneling model and a WKB analysis of the tunneling splittings. For a 1D parabolic barrier to interconversion, the semiclassical WKB approximation predicts tunneling splittings given by

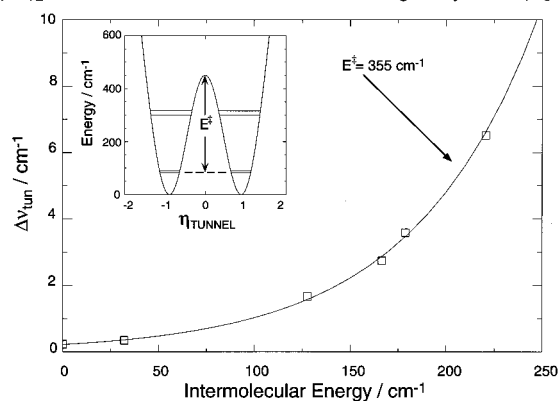
(HF)₂ Intermolecular Modes: 1D WKB Tunneling Analysis of ν_4/ν_5 

FIG. 7. Plot of the observed tunneling splittings versus intermolecular energy along with a least squares fit to Eq. (3). The inset shows a cartoon of the effective 1D tunneling potential used in the WKB analysis along with a definition of the barrier height, E^\ddagger . The effective 1D barrier height (E^\ddagger) is 355(2) cm^{-1} where the reported uncertainty reflects the fit, not the simplifying approximations of a 1D tunneling model.

$$\Delta \nu_{\text{tun}} = \frac{\nu_0}{\pi} \exp\{-\beta[E^\ddagger - E_{\text{inter}}]\}, \quad (5)$$

where ν_0 is the vibrational frequency with which the tunneling species strikes the barrier, and E^\ddagger is the height of the barrier from the zero point level (see inset in Fig. 7). If an effective 1D model is a reasonable approximation, a plot of the tunneling splittings versus intermolecular energy should be fit by a single exponential, with the prefactor given by $\Delta \nu_{\text{tun}} = \nu_0/\pi \exp\{-\beta E^\ddagger\}$, i.e., tunneling splitting observed in ν_1/ν_2 in the absence of intermolecular excitation. Such a plot of the measured tunneling splittings is presented in Fig. 7 indicating a remarkably good fit for both ν_4 and ν_5 excitation built on either ν_1 or ν_2 . Note that the effect of K excitation on tunneling is reasonably well represented on the same plot, which may reflect the fact that K axis excitation leads to centrifugal distortion^{15,56} of (HF)₂ along the tunneling coordinate. Furthermore, the E^\ddagger extracted from this fit is 355(2) cm^{-1} , which when corrected for zero point energy in the geared bend coordinate suggests an empirical 1D tunneling barrier of approximately 438(5) cm^{-1} . This is in reasonable agreement with the initial estimates of the barrier height (400 cm^{-1}) in HF-stretch excited states of Pine *et al.*¹⁷ From the parameters determined in the fit and the known ground state tunneling splitting, the barrier height in the ground intramolecular states is predicted to be 366 cm^{-1} , again in good agreement with the minimum energy tunneling path on the SQSBDE surface of Quack and Suhm (350 cm^{-1}). The key point of this analysis is that the dependence of the tunneling rate on ν_4 , ν_5 excitation can be remarkably well represented by an effective 1D tunneling coordinate, thus corroborating the strong mixing of van der Waals stretch and geared bend degrees of freedom.

D. Vibrational predissociation

Studies of vibrational predissociation in HF dimer provide information on the time scales for energy flow between

TABLE VII. Vibrational predissociation homogeneous linewidths (MHz) for HF dimer. The A^+ and B^+ symmetry labels refer to $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}$ in the upper vibrational state. The uncertainties in parentheses are in units of the last reported digit.

State	$K=0$		$K=1$	
	A^+	B^+	A^+	B^+
ν_1^a	6.4(5)	9.5(5)	10.2(5)	11.8(5)
$\nu_1 + \nu_4$	25(5)	40(8)	b	75(50) ^c
$\nu_1 + \nu_5$	20(5)	45(8)		
ν_2^a	330(30)	330(30)		
$\nu_2 + \nu_4$	b	300(50) ^c		
$\nu_2 + \nu_5$	270(20)	270(20)	390(50)	380(70)

^aReference 15.

^bNot observed.

^cExtremely weak bands, linewidths estimated from Q -branch simulations.

high frequency (intramolecular) and dissociative (intermolecular) degrees of freedom. Previous studies of intramolecular fundamentals (i.e., with only zero point energy in the intermolecular modes), have shown that the predissociation lifetime is strongly ν_1/ν_2 mode specific and also depends weakly on the K rotational state and tunneling state probed.¹⁵ In the present combination band study, we observe the ν_1/ν_2 mode specificity to be maintained but significant effects due to initial *intermolecular* excitation are also identified.

The predissociation lifetimes are determined from a Voigt deconvolution of the HF dimer VRT line shapes. The resulting Lorentzian component from such an analysis can be ascribed completely to predissociation broadening ($\Delta \nu_{\text{pd}}$), since the factors such as pressure and power broadening are negligible for the greatly suppressed collision frequencies in a supersonic jet and typical ($\leq 10 \mu\text{W}$) difference frequency power levels.⁶⁰ The Gaussian component for each transition arises from residual Doppler broadening in the planar expansion, and is determined either from (i) an unconstrained least squares fit (floating both Gaussian and Lorentzian components) to selected strong transitions in the (HF)₂ band or (ii) by independent fits to ArHF transitions present as “impurities” in the jet for which predissociative broadening is negligibly small.^{61,62} High resolution scans (7.5 MHz step size, signal averaging 4–6 slit jet pulses) over transitions for several J levels in a given VRT band are fit separately. No statistically significant J dependence is found in all the bands studied; the Lorentzian components reported in Table VII therefore represent an average over all transitions observed in a given VRT band.

Even in states with *intermolecular* excitation, the predissociation rate depends predominately on the *intramolecular* mode. This is demonstrated in Fig. 8 where typical line shapes for transitions in the strong $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ and $\nu_2 + \nu_5$ combination bands are shown. The greater than tenfold difference in the predissociation rates for the nearly isoenergetic $\nu_2 + \nu_5$ and $\nu_1 + \nu_5$ states is another clear demonstration of the *non-statistical* nature²⁰ of the predissociation dynamics in (HF)₂. Similarly, though too weak to extract quantitative linewidth information, the linewidths for $\nu_2 + \nu_4$ excitation are definitely broader (~ 300 MHz) than $\nu_1 + \nu_4$ [25(5) and 40(8)

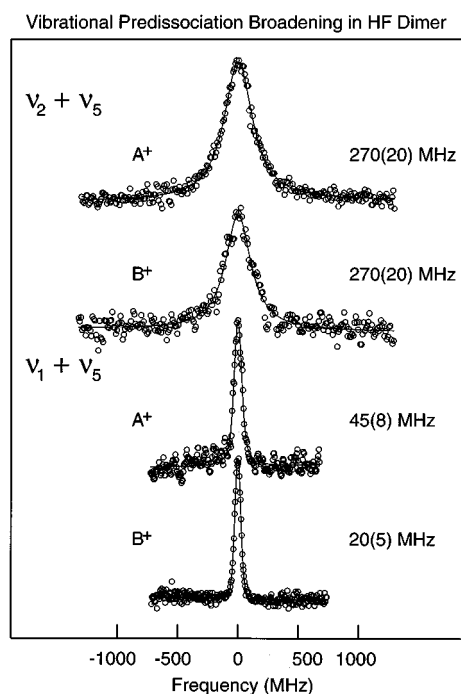


FIG. 8. Four sample rovibrational line shapes for the $K=0\leftarrow 0$ transitions of the $\nu_2+\nu_5$ (top) and $\nu_1+\nu_5$ (bottom) $(\text{HF})_2$ combination bands. The circles represent the experimental data; the lines are the simulated Voigt profiles with homogeneous (lifetime) contributions to the broadening indicated in MHz. The mode specificity observed for the ν_1/ν_2 intramolecular fundamentals is largely reiterated in the combination bands.

MHz]. Thus predissociation from $\nu_2+\nu_4$ appears to be much faster than from the corresponding $\nu_1+\nu_4$ upper states, again by roughly an order of magnitude.

Though the effect of *intermolecular* excitation on the predissociation lifetimes is less pronounced than the *intramolecular* dependence noted above, it is still quite significant. In the ν_1 supported states, where the transitions are sufficiently narrow that small fractional changes are easier to detect, both ν_4 and ν_5 excitation results in a ≈ 4 -fold increase in the predissociation broadening. For the ν_2 supported state, the effect of ν_5 excitation is in the opposite direction, i.e., $\nu_2+\nu_5$ intermolecular excitation leads to a *decrease* in the predissociation rate compared with the ν_2 fundamental. These opposing trends suggest the following simple picture. In the *absence* of intermolecular excitation, the frequencies of the ν_2 and ν_1 fundamentals differ by 62.8 cm^{-1} , with corresponding predissociation rates that differ by factors of 34 to 50, for the A^+ and B^+ tunneling states, respectively. In the presence of intermolecular excitation, however, the two intramolecular modes are closer in energy; specifically the energy difference between the $\nu_2+\nu_5$ and $\nu_1+\nu_5$ origins is reduced by 20% to only 50.7 cm^{-1} . Therefore, one way to view the effect of intermolecular excitation is that it *weakens* the hydrogen bond and *decreases* the splitting between the intramolecular vibrations, and thereby mixes more “donor” stretch character into the ν_1 mode and “acceptor” stretch character into the ν_2 mode, respectively. Thus ν_1 states in the presence of intermolecular excitation mix in a small amount

of ν_2 character and predissociate *more quickly*, while conversely, ν_2 states mix in ν_1 character and predissociate *more slowly*. Indeed, due to the large 34–50-fold difference in the predissociation rates of the zero order ν_1 and ν_2 states, only a relatively small (10%) amount of mixing would be necessary to produce the observed changes for the ν_4 , ν_5 combination states. This trend is also supported by spectroscopic studies of the ν_6 (out-of-plane torsion) and ν_3 (antigear bend) combination bands, the details of which will be presented elsewhere.⁶³

Interestingly, the predissociation rates for $\nu_1+\nu_4$ and $\nu_1+\nu_5$ from a *given* tunneling level (i.e., $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=B^+$ or A^+) are equal to within experimental uncertainty. Furthermore, even the 1.5 fractional increase in predissociation rates *between* $\Gamma_{\text{vib-tun}}=B^+$ and A^+ states in the ν_1 fundamental, is quantitatively echoed in each of the $\nu_1+\nu_4$ and $\nu_1+\nu_5$ combination bands. This could in principle be due to a fortuitous match between predissociative enhancement for van der Waals stretch and geared bend excitation, though this conjecture is not supported by recent Fermi golden rule calculations³⁸ on the QSQBDE potential surface. On the other hand, these observations are consistent with the simple picture of strong state mixing between the zero order stretch–bend states, as supported by spectroscopic data throughout this discussion.

One final comment on the predissociation dynamics from combination states is in order. In previous work, Bohac and Miller²¹ measured the state resolved photofragment distributions produced following $\nu_1+\nu_4$ and $\nu_1+\nu_5$ ($K=0$) excitation for the $\Gamma_{\text{tun}}=A^+$ tunneling level. The $\nu_1+\nu_5$ excited fragments indicated a slightly hotter rotational distribution, whereas the $\nu_1+\nu_4$ state led to higher translational recoil, i.e., qualitatively consistent with a zero order “geared bend” and “van der Waals stretch” description of the intermolecular modes. These differences in the HF fragment distributions were interpreted by the authors as evidence for *weak* stretch–bend coupling in the photodissociation dynamics. On the other hand, the weight of spectroscopic evidence discussed in this paper indicates significant mixing of “van der Waals stretch” and “geared bend” degrees of freedom in the HF-stretch excited states. The conclusions from these two studies need not be inconsistent, however. Specifically, vibrational predissociation in $(\text{HF})_2$ is a “rare” event, occurring on a time scale of tens of thousands of monomer vibrations.^{61,62} Therefore, from a transition state theory perspective,⁶⁴ the predissociation dynamics may be dominated by poor overlap of the initial wave function on some critical intermolecular configuration, which could be substantially different from the geometries sampled by single quantum excitation of the low frequency intermolecular modes. Indeed, this picture would be at least qualitatively consistent with the experimental observation of a relatively modest dependence of vibrational predissociation rate on intermolecular excitation. However, the coupling between angular and radial degrees of freedom could be much weaker as the inter/intramolecular coordinates approach this critical configuration, which would therefore influence the degree of state mixing inferred from a photofragment distribution.

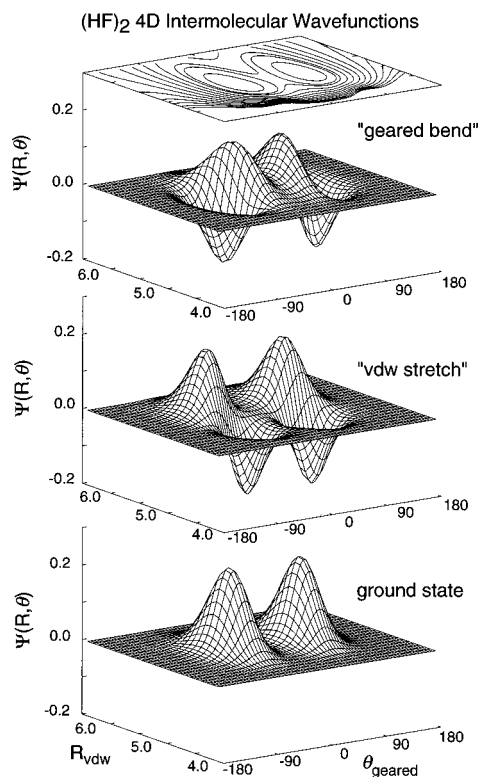


FIG. 9. Wave functions $[\Psi(R_{\text{vdw}}, \theta_{\text{geared}})]$ for the ground state of $(\text{HF})_2$ and the first two excited intermolecular states from 4D calculations on the SQSBDE potential energy surface. Only the lower tunneling component ($\Gamma_{\text{tun}}=A^+$) is shown for each state. R_{vdw} is the van der Waals stretching coordinate (bohr) and θ_{geared} is a perfectly geared bending coordinate (degrees) that interconnects the two tunneling states (see the text for details). A contour plot of the SQSBDE potential is included at the top of the figure; the energy contours are at equally spaced 200 cm^{-1} intervals in the attractive part of the potential. Note the clear nodal pattern for the two excited states in the R_{vdw} and θ_{geared} bend coordinates, respectively. These wave functions are consistent with predominately decoupled angular-radial motion in these states, which is not supported by the experimental data in this paper.

E. Comparison with 6D QM calculations

One goal of this current study is to provide spectroscopic data that will allow for a detailed evaluation of the analytical potentials constructed for $(\text{HF})_2$. From a variety of spectroscopic experimental quantities (i.e., rotational constants, tunneling splittings, and predissociation lifetimes), evidence has been presented that ν_4 and ν_5 access substantially mixed “van der Waals stretch” and “geared bend” zero order states. Such extensive bend–stretch state mixing, however, is not predicted from QM calculations on the SQSBDE surface. This is explicitly demonstrated in Fig. 9, which shows a 2D ($R_{\text{vdw}}, \theta_{\text{geared}}$) cut through 4D intermolecular wave functions calculated on the SQSBDE surface for the ground and first two excited intermolecular states (for simplicity only the lower $\Gamma_{\text{tun}}=A^+$ tunneling state is shown). R_{vdw} is the radial van der Waals stretch coordinate (in bohr), and θ_{geared} is the geared bend/tunneling coordinate (in degrees) defined symmetrically around the C_{2h} transition state. For perfectly geared bending motion, the difference between θ_1 and θ_2 (the angle between either HF molecular axis and the dimer center-of-mass axis) is held fixed ($\sim 55^\circ$) while the sum is

varied linearly. The wave functions are calculated using a finite basis DVR method,^{65–67} holding the two intramolecular coordinates fixed (at the ground vibrationally averaged value of $1.767 a_0$). The calculations have been successively iterated with increasing basis set size; eigenvalues and eigenfunctions are converged to 0.01 cm^{-1} and 5% of the peak values, respectively. In the ground state eigenfunction (bottom panel), the two maxima correspond to the two tunneling configurations, FHFH and HFHF. It is clear from the direction of the nodal patterns that the first excited state (middle panel) is predominantly a pure “van der Waals stretch” (node @ $R_{\text{vdw}} \approx 5.3 \text{ bohr}$) and the second excited state (upper panel) is predominantly a pure “geared bend” (node @ $\theta_{\text{geared}} \approx 38^\circ$), in contradiction with the current experimental results. Therefore, even though the calculated *eigenvalues* for ν_4 and ν_5 agree well with experiment, quantities sensitive to the *eigenfunctions* differ systematically between experiment and theory, and suggest the need for greater angular-radial coupling in the potential surface.

Since the current combination band data is all built on ν_1/ν_2 intramolecular excited states, it is conceivable that these discrepancies between experiment and theory result from the influence of monomer HF-stretch excitation. Since the SQSBDE surface is a function of all six internal coordinates, this hypothesis can be tested by analogous 6D QM calculations in ν_1/ν_2 vibrational states. This is computationally more difficult, since it involves calculating intermolecular “resonance” states with intermolecular plus ν_1/ν_2 mode excitation embedded in the continuum. However, Zhang and co-workers²⁹ have recently been able to perform fully converged, 6D resonance state calculations using a finite basis DVR method for the intermolecular energies of ν_4/ν_5 in ν_1/ν_2 HF-stretch excited states on the SQSBDE surface. The theoretical results are plotted in Fig. 10 along with the experimental values. The results indicate that agreement between experiment and theory for the intermolecular energies in the HF-stretch excited states is *not* improved; indeed, the agreement is noticeably worsened, and even the qualitative “stiffening” trends in the potential surface observed with intramolecular excitation are not consistently reproduced. Thus it does not appear that discrepancies in experimental vs theoretical bend–stretch state mixing can simply be explained by HF stretch excitation. On the contrary, the comparison indicates that the potential actually does a *better* job on the ν_4/ν_5 intermolecular energies in the *ground* intramolecular state and must be refined further to reproduce both the intermolecular energies and eigenfunction properties in the excited intramolecular states. Indeed, the high resolution data presented here and in accompanying papers^{63,68} should provide some of the detailed spectroscopic information necessary to make an accurate 6D potential surface for $(\text{HF})_2$ a realizable goal.

V. SUMMARY

In this paper, we report the measurement of new near-IR VRT spectra for $(\text{HF})_2$ which access excited states in both the van der Waals stretching and geared bend/tunneling co-

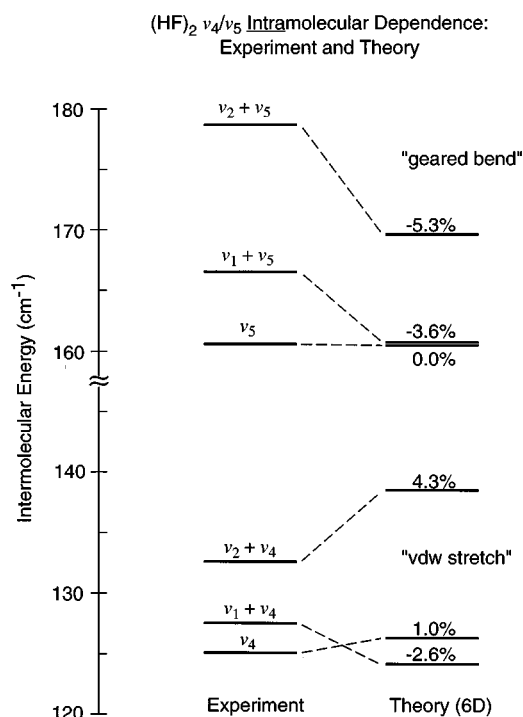


FIG. 10. A comparison between experiment and theory for the ν_4/ν_5 intermolecular energies in the ground and HF-stretch excited states. The theoretical frequencies are determined from 6D QM calculations (see the text for details) on the SQSBDE surface. Note the considerably worse agreement between experiment and theory for the combination band versus fundamental data.

ordinates for excited HF-stretch vibrational states. Increases in the ν_4 and ν_5 intermolecular frequencies are quantitatively correlated with intramolecular redshift, corresponding to a stiffening of the hydrogen bond potential upon HF stretch excitation. This near linear correlation allows the far-IR intermolecular frequencies to be predicted from the combination band data. From a broad range of spectroscopic data presented in this paper, the ν_4 and ν_5 intermolecular states exhibit strongly coupled geared bend/van der Waals stretch motion. For example, the tunneling splittings increase approximately 10-fold with either ν_4/ν_5 excitation, consistent with significant "geared bend" character in each of the intermolecular states. Predissociation broadening rates in the combination bands are dominated by *intramolecular* mode specificity, yet display a smaller but significant dependence on the *intermolecular* mode as well.

Full close coupled 6D QM calculations²⁸ on the SQSBDE potential²⁴ are in excellent agreement with the frequencies of ν_4 and ν_5 determined both by far-IR measurements and extrapolation of the near-IR data. However, the predicted ν_4 and ν_5 eigenfunctions are best described as a nearly decoupled van der Waals stretch and geared bend, respectively. This is in clear contrast to the high resolution spectroscopic evidence from the present combination band data, which indicates extensive bend-stretch mixing in these low frequency modes and suggest the need for greater radial-angular coupling in the attractive well of the (HF)₂ potential. Measurement of both the ν_3 antigeared bend and ν_6 out-of-plane torsion are necessary to evaluate these HF dimer potentials at even higher energies, and near-IR combination band data for these two intermolecular states will be reported elsewhere.⁶³

Also of importance in further refinement of the potential surface would be the analogous data on the intermolecular modes in the D/H substituted dimers. Toward this end, full combination band studies⁶⁸ of all four intermolecular modes in (DF)₂ as well as selected intermolecular modes in DF-HF and HF-DF dimer⁶⁹ are currently in progress.

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