Molecular Vibrations

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Why Estimate Molecular Vibrations?

- Simulation of vibrational spectrum (identification of molecules)
- Vibrational corrections to enthalpy
- (Small) vibrational corrections to polarizability and other properties
- Understanding of vibrational motion could assist dynamics experiments and "mode-selective" chemistry

Small Vibrations in Classical Mechanics

The classic reference is Wilson, Decius, and Cross, *Molecular Vibrations* (Dover, New York, 1980). Cheap book, makes a good reference.

Let us focus on purely classical systems at first; all the results carry over to quantum mechanics.

For small vibrations, the motion of atom α away from its equilibrium value may be described by $\Delta x_{\alpha}, \Delta y_{\alpha}, \Delta z_{\alpha}$, with kinetic energy

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} M_{\alpha} \left[\left(\frac{d\Delta x_{\alpha}}{dt} \right)^{2} + \left(\frac{d\Delta y_{\alpha}}{dt} \right)^{2} + \left(\frac{d\Delta z_{\alpha}}{dt} \right)^{2} \right]$$

If we switch to mass-weighted coordinates, such as $q_1 = \sqrt{M_1}\Delta x_1$, $q_2 = \sqrt{M_1}\Delta y_1$, $q_3 = \sqrt{M_1}\Delta z_1$, $q_4 = \sqrt{M_2}\Delta x_2$, etc., then the kinetic energy operator becomes simpler since the mass factors are now absorbed

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \dot{q}_i^2$$

$$V = V_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_i}\right)_0 q_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \left(\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial q_i \partial q_j}\right)_0 q_i q_j + \cdots$$

$$\tag{1}$$

Remember that at equilibrium, $(\partial V/\partial q_i)_0 = 0$; we can also set $V_0 = 0$. Also abbreviate $(\partial^2 V/\partial q_i \partial q_j)_0$ as just f_{ij} .

Newton's Equations of Motion

We can rewrite Newton's equations of motion as

$$\frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_i} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial q_i} = 0 \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, 3N$$

or

$$\ddot{q}_j + \sum_{i=1}^{3N} f_{ij} q_i = 0$$

A possible solution to this equation is

$$q_i = a_i cos \left(\sqrt{\lambda}t + \phi\right)$$

where the angular frequency is $\sqrt{\lambda}$; this is just $\sqrt{k/m}$ in harmonic oscillator — the m has been absorbed by the mass-weighted coordinate system used here!

Substitute the last expression into the differential equations to get

$$\sum_{i=1}^{3N} (f_{ij} - \delta_{ij}\lambda) a_i = 0 \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, 3N$$

or in matrix notation, just $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{F}}} \ \underline{\mathbf{a}} = \lambda \ \underline{\mathbf{a}}$. This is an eigenvalue equation! We have a solution to this system of 3N linear equations only if λ has special values obtainable from the secular determinant

$$\begin{vmatrix} f_{11} - \lambda & f_{12} & f_{13} & \cdots & f_{1,3N} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} - \lambda & f_{23} & \cdots & f_{2,3N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ f_{3N,1} & f_{3N,2} & f_{3N,3} & \cdots & f_{3N,3N} - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

Normal Modes of Vibration

The matrix eigenvalue equation is equivalent to matrix diagonalization which is equivalent to solving the secular determinant for each λ (N of them). Once we have the eigenvalues λ_k we can get the corresponding eigenvectors $\underline{\mathbf{a}}_k$, giving the motion of each atom for the given eigenvalue λ_k :

$$q_{ik} = a_{ik}cos\left(\sqrt{\lambda_k}t + \phi_k\right).$$

The eigenvectors $\underline{\mathbf{a}}_k$ are the normal modes of vibration. For each normal mode, all the atoms move with the same frequency and phase, but with different amplitudes.

Normal Coordinates

We can define a new set of coordinates using the normal modes. This gives us the "normal coordinates"

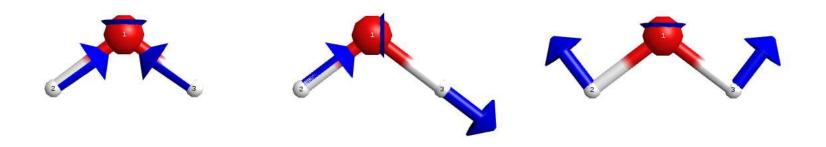
$$Q_k = \sum_{i=1}^{3N} a_{ik} q_i \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, 3N$$

Since the eigenvectors of a real, symmetric matrix $(\underline{\mathbf{F}})$ are orthogonal, T and V become diagonal (no cross terms):

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{3N} \dot{Q}_k^2$$

$$V = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{3N} \lambda_k Q_k^2$$

The Hamiltonian is separable in this representation!



Polyatomic Molecules

What happens for quantum mechanics, and for polyatomic molecules? Use Harmonic Oscillator model.

- 3N-6 frequencies (3N-5 for linear molecules); the rest are translations and rotations with zero frequency
- In normal mode coordinates, Hamiltonian is separable: wavefunction is a product and energy is a sum. Total vibrational energy is $\sum_i \omega_i \hbar(v_i + 1/2)$
- Minimum energy (due to uncertainty principle) is "zero point vibrational energy" (ZPVE or ZPE), where $v_i = 0$ for all i. ZPVE = $\frac{1}{2}\hbar \sum_i \omega_i$

How Would We Get Harmonic Frequencies for a Molecule?

- Easy just diagonalize the second derivative matrix $\underline{\mathbf{F}}$, called the *Hessian*. The frequencies ω_i are the square roots of the eigenvalues, $\sqrt{\lambda_i}$.
- Where do we get \mathbf{F} ?
- Recall $f_{ij} = (\partial^2 V/\partial q_i \partial q_j)$
- Potential energy V is just E_e (B.O. approximation!): Need $\partial E_e^2/\partial q_i \partial q_j$.
- Compute second derivative of E_e in terms of Cartesian displacements $(x_{\alpha}, y_{\alpha}, z_{\alpha}, \text{ call them } \tilde{q}_i)$ and it's easy to transform to mass-weighted coordinates, using

$$\underline{\underline{\mathbf{F}}} = \underline{\underline{\mathbf{M}}}^{-1/2} \ \underline{\underline{\widetilde{\mathbf{F}}}} \ \underline{\underline{\mathbf{M}}}^{-1/2}.$$

• How do we get $\partial^2 E_e/\partial x_\alpha \partial y_\beta$, etc? Need second derivative of electronic energy vs nuclear coordinates. Can compute analytically (using formula) or numerically from finite differences of energies or gradients:

$$\frac{\partial^2 E_e}{\partial x_{\alpha} \partial y_{\beta}} \approx \left[\left(\frac{\partial E_e}{\partial y_{\beta}} \right) \bigg|_{x_{\alpha} = x_{\alpha 0} + \Delta x_{\alpha}} - \left(\frac{\partial E_e}{\partial y_{\beta}} \right) \bigg|_{x_{\alpha} = x_{\alpha 0} - \Delta x_{\alpha}} \right] / \Delta x_{\alpha}.$$

Analytic Hessian Better than Numerical

- Analytic Hessian might cost $\sim 10\text{-}30\mathrm{x}$ cost of energy; analytic gradient costs maybe $\sim 1.5\text{-}2\mathrm{x}$.
- Can need gradients from many displaced geometries up to 6N (+ and for each of 3N coordinates) unless reduced by point group symmetry
- Numerical Hessian contains numerical errors (divide small number by small number)
- (Can land on wrong solution if displacement drops symmetry)

Availability of Analytic Derivatives

Method	Gradient	Hessian
HF, DFT	Y	Y
CI	Y	N
CCSD, CCSD(T)	Y	S
MP2	Y	S
CASSCF	Y	S
CIS	Y	Y
EOM-CCSD	S	N
TD-DFT	S	N

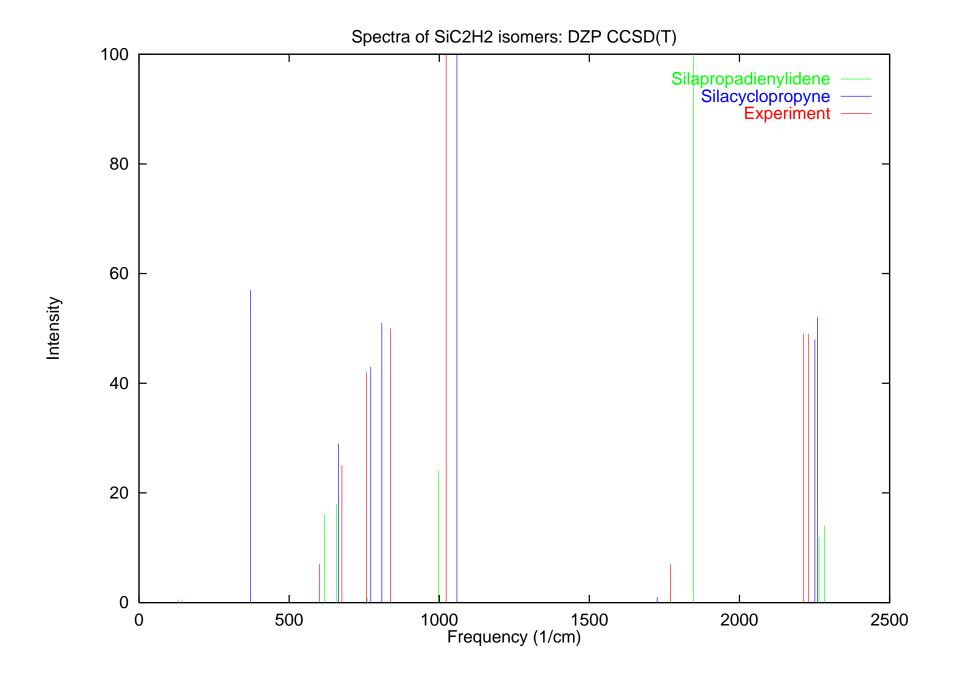
S = available in some packages; Y = widely available

Approximate Average Errors in Harmonic Frequencies

(Using polarized double and triple zeta basis sets)

Method	Error
HF	11%
CISD	4-6%
CCSD	1-4%
$\frac{\text{CCSD}(T)}{T}$	1-3%

Anharmonicity accounts for another $\sim 2\text{-}3\%$ difference from experimental fundamental frequencies. Many workers employ scaling factors for each level of theory to better predict fundamental frequencies.



Scaling ZPVE's

In an enlightening paper, Grev, Janssen, and Schaefer [J. Chem. Phys. 95, 5128 (1991)] showed that using scaled fundamental frequencies to estimate the ZPVE is not necessarily better than using unscaled frequencies. The reason is anharmonicity.

If ZPVE's use scaling, they should have a different scaling factor than the individual frequencies.

$$G(v) = \sum_{r} \omega_{r} \left(v_{r} + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \sum_{r \geq s} \chi_{rs} \left(v_{r} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \left(v_{s} + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \cdots,$$

$$\Delta^{harm} = G(0) - ZPVE^{harm} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{r} \chi_{rr} + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{r > s} \chi_{rs}.$$

$$\Delta^{fund} = G(0) - ZPVE^{fund} = -\frac{3}{4} \sum_{r} \chi_{rr} - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{r > s} \chi_{rs}.$$

Characterization of Stationary Points

- A stationary point is a geometry $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}$ for which the gradient $\partial E_e(\tilde{\mathbf{q}})/\partial \tilde{q}_i$ for all coordinates \tilde{q}_i : can be a (global or local) PES minimum, transition state, or higher order saddle point
- The *Hessian Index* is the number of negative force constants (corresponding to imaginary vibrational frequencies, often printed as negative frequencies)
- For a minimum, verify that there are no imaginary frequencies
- For a transition state, verify there is exactly one unique imaginary frequency

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OH = 0.989276 HOH = 100.0198 \$end					
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1 1 -20.2515674	2 -1.2576205	3 -0.5939092	4 -0.4597630	5 -0.3926280	6 0.5819312
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                                h2o.freq.out
                                                                Page 4/5
# Entering dryman.exe on Fri Dec 15 14:51:30 2000 #
Calculating MO derivatives via CPHF
          10
               2
                            0.009892
                                       0.007094
          12
                            0.000000
                                       0.000000
                      Ω
                                                  Roots Converged
Calculating analytic Hessian of the SCF energy
Polarizability Matrix (a.u.)
   1 -5.5054487 -0.0000000 -0.0000000
   2 -0.0000000 -0.0400454 -0.0000000
   3 -0.0000000 -0.0000000 -2.5654448
Direct stationary perturbation theory relativistic correction:
             0.031221304489
rels =
relv =
            -0.096844180832
rel2e =
            0.023322614724
E_rel =
            -0.042300261619
Hessian of the SCF Energy
      0.8044023 \qquad 0.0000000 \quad -0.0000000 \quad -0.4022012 \quad -0.0000000 \quad -0.3374251
      0.0000000 -0.0001352 0.0000000 -0.0000000 0.0000676 -0.0000000
   3 \quad -0.0000000 \quad 0.0000000 \quad 0.6352335 \quad -0.2165519 \quad -0.0000000 \quad -0.3176168
     -0.4022012 -0.0000000 -0.2165519
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                       VIBRATIONAL ANALYSIS
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         VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCIES (CM**-1) AND NORMAL MODES
* *
                  INFRARED INTENSITIES (KM/MOL)
Frequency:
               2169.95
                                    4141.60
                                                         4392.63
IR Active:
                  YES
                                      YES
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IR Intens:
                 7.245
                                     44.303
                                                          29.972
Raman Active:
                  YES
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                   Y
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                                                   -0.068 0.000 0.000
0
          -0.448 0.000 0.545
                              -0.570 0.000 -0.416
                                                    0.540 0.000 0.453
Η
Η
          0.448 0.000 0.545
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STANDARD THERMODYNAMIC QUANTITIES AT
                                  298.18 K AND
                                                    1.00 ATM
  This Molecule has 0 Imaginary Frequencies
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