

Unit - III

Molecular Spectroscopy: Rotational and Vibrational Spectroscopy

Objectives:

Calculate the bond lengths of diatomics from the value of their rotational constant

Outline the selection rules for rotational and vibrational spectra and rationalize the role of the molecular dipole moment in selection rules.

① Distinguish between the energy levels of a rigid and non-rigid rotors.

Distinguish between harmonic and anharmonic vibrations.

Sketch qualitatively rotational-vibrational spectrum of a diatomic.

Calculate relative populations of rotational and vibrational energy levels.

Identify the IR beam where simple functional groups absorb light.

Rotational Spectra of diatomics

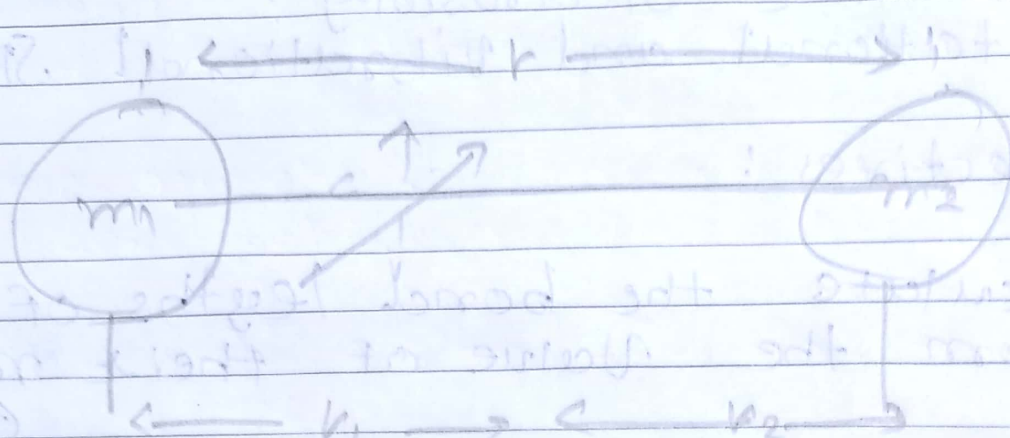


Fig 1: Rigid diatomic with masses m_1 and m_2 joined by a thin rod of length $r = r_1 + r_2$. The centre of mass is at C.

The centre of mass is defined by equality of the moments on both segments of the molecular axis

$$m_1 r_1 = m_2 r_2$$

The moment of inertia is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} I &= m_1 r_1^2 + m_2 r_2^2 \\ &= m_1 r_1 r_2 + m_1 r_1 r_2 \\ &= r r_2 (m_1 + m_2) \end{aligned}$$

Since $m_1 r_1 = m_2 r_2 = m_2 (r - r_1)$
 $(m_1 + m_2) r_1 = m_2 r$

Therefore

$$r_1 = \frac{m_2 r}{m_1 + m_2}$$

$$r_2 = \frac{m_1 r}{m_1 + m_2}$$

Substitute in eqn (1) we get

$$I = \frac{m_1 m_2 r^2}{(m_1 + m_2)} = \mu r^2$$

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

Where μ , the reduced mass is given by

$$\frac{1}{\mu} = \frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2}$$

The rotation of a diatomic is equivalent to a "rotation" of a mass μ at a distance of r from the origin C .

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

L , angular momentum
 $L \omega$ in radian/sec

$$L^2 Y_{lm} = l(l+1) Y_{lm}$$

where Y_{lm} are the spherical harmonics

which has. The quantized rotational energy levels for this diatomic

$$E_J = \frac{h^2}{8\pi^2 I} J(J+1)$$

energy diffⁿ betⁿ two rotational level is usually expressed in cm⁻¹

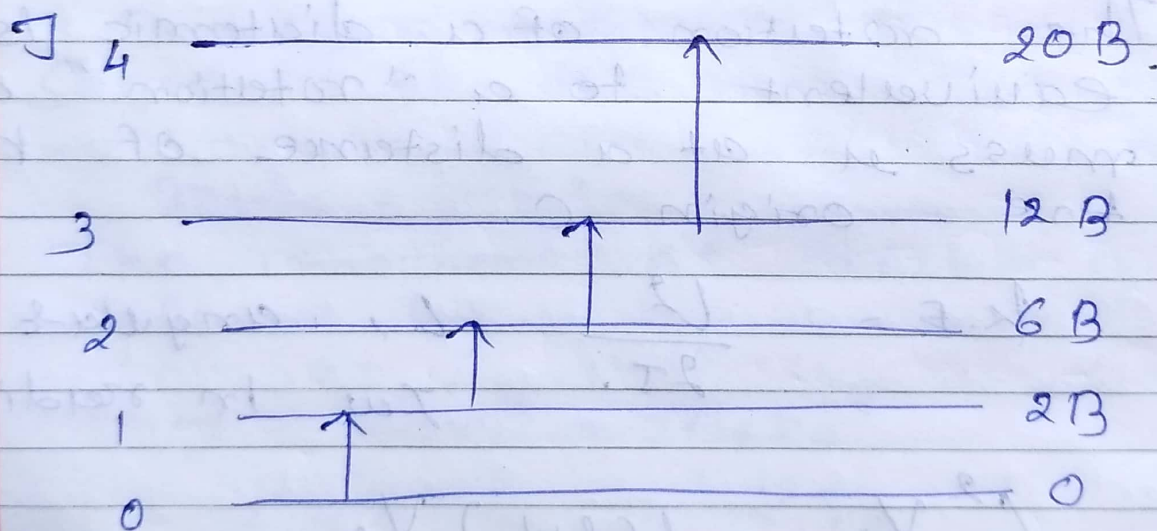
wave number. Correspondingly for given ΔE is given by

$$\nu = \frac{\Delta E}{hc} \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

$$E_J = B(J(J+1)) \text{ where}$$

$$B = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 I_0}$$

rotational energy levels of a diatomic molecule.



Rotational energy levels of a rigid diatomic molecule and the allowed transitions

$$\Delta J = \pm 1$$

molecule has to possess a dipole moment

dipolar molecule rotates, rotating dipole constitutes the transition dipole operator μ .

Molecules such as HCl and CO will show rotational spectra, while H_2 , Cl_2 , and CO_2 will not.

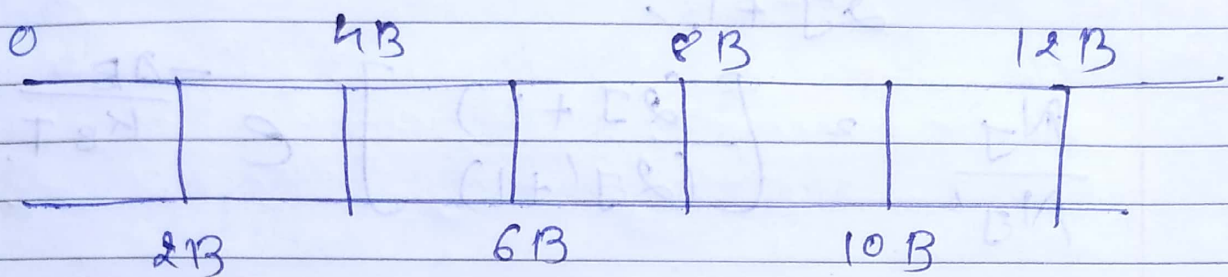


Fig: Rotational spectra of a rigid diatomic. Values of B are in cm^{-1} .

Example: 1.

Calculate the value of I and μ of CO, $B = 1.92118 \text{ cm}^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Sol}^n: \quad I &= \frac{h}{8\pi^2 Bc} \\
 &= 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \\
 &= \frac{8 \times 3.1415^2 \times 1.92118 \times 3 \times 10^{10}}{1.45579 \times 10^{-46} \text{ kg m}^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$I = \mu r^2$$

$$r^2 = \frac{I}{\mu} = \frac{1.45579 \times 10^{-46}}{1.13826 \times 10^{-27}}$$

$$r = 1.131 \text{ \AA}$$

The rotational levels are degenerate. Just as there are three p orbitals for $l=1$, for $J=1$, there are 3 degenerate rotational states.

degeneracy for given value of J is $2J+1$.

$$\frac{N_J}{N_{J'}} = \left[\frac{(2J+1)}{(2J'+1)} \right] e^{-\frac{\Delta E}{K_B T}}$$

When molecules rotate with great speeds, they cannot be treated as a rigid any more. There are distortions due to centrifugal and other forces.

$$E_J \text{ (in cm}^{-1}\text{)} = B J(J+1) - D J^2(J+1)^2$$

Centrifugal distortion. Constant D is given by

$$D = h^3 / (32 \pi^4 I^2 r^2 k_c) \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

Vibrations and Rotations of a diatomic

→ $E_v = (v + \frac{1}{2}) h\nu$ $v = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

The quantized vibration energies E_v of a harmonic oscillator are

→ The vibrational freqⁿ ν related to the force constant k through

$$\nu = \frac{1}{(2\pi)} \sqrt{\frac{k}{\mu}} \text{ Hz}$$

Vibrational motion occurs under the action of binding potential energy. (P.E) curve for a harmonic oscillator is given by

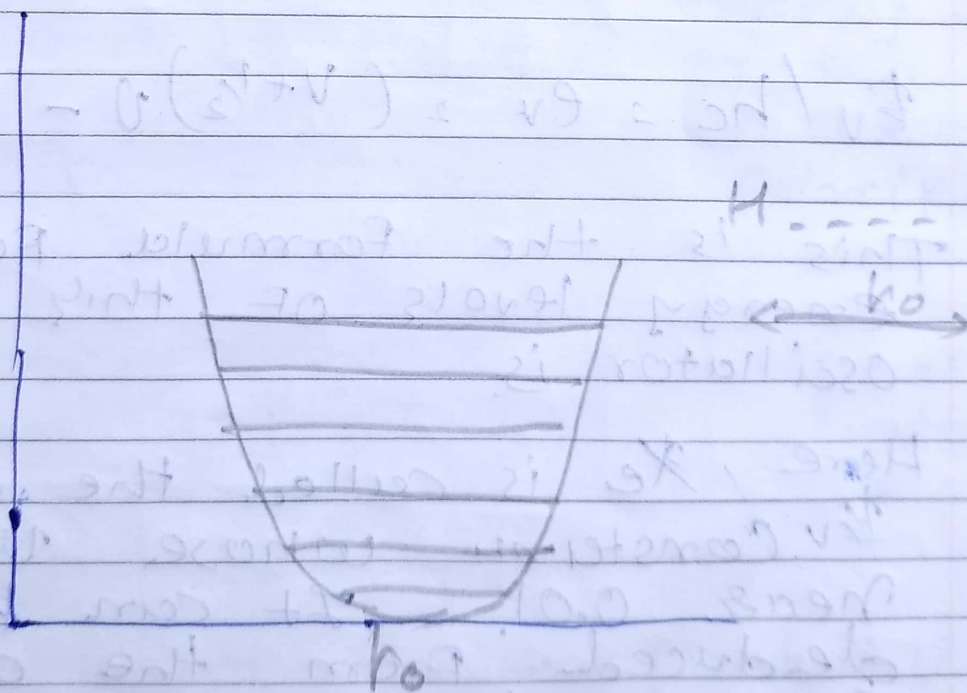


Fig 1: Potential energy of harmonic oscillator $V = k(x - r_0)^2$

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→ on either sides of the equilibrium bond length, r_0 , the PE rises as a symmetric quadratic function.

→ Selection rules for the harmonic oscillator are

$$\Delta v = \pm 1$$

In actual diatomic potential is anharmonic, A good description of an anharmonic oscillator is given by Morse function.

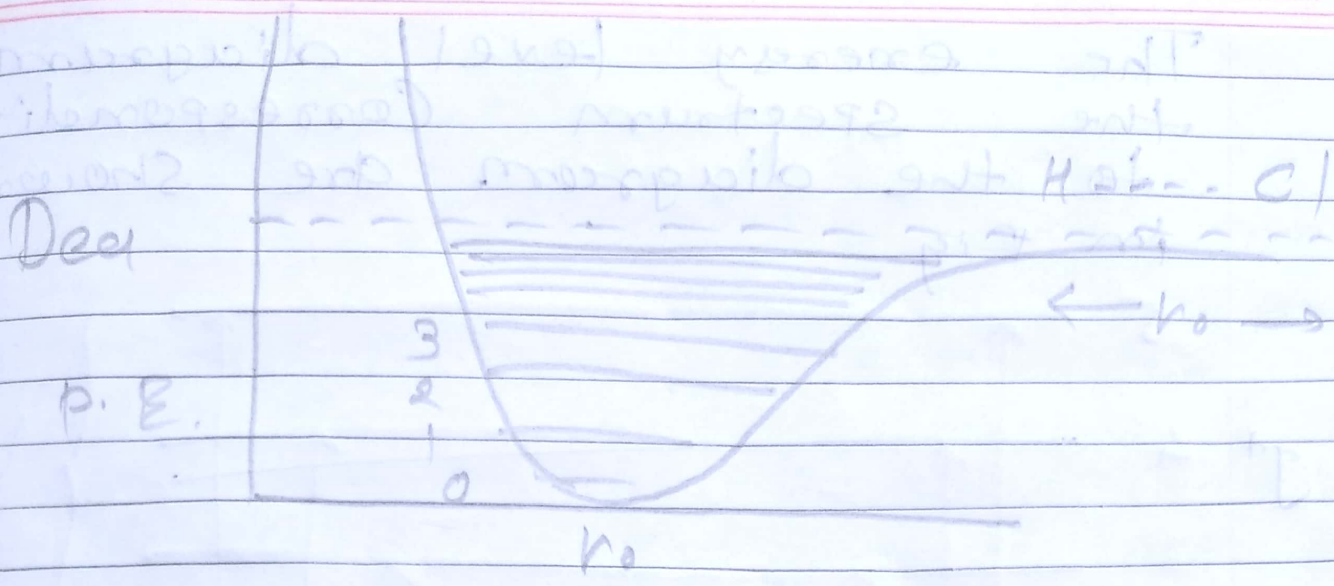
$$P.E. = D_{eq} [1 - \exp\{-a(r_0 - r)\}]^2 \quad (1)$$

In eq (1), D_{eq} is a depth of the P.E curve r_0 is bond length.

$$E_v/hc = \nu_v - (v + \frac{1}{2})^2 \nu - \nu(x_e) \frac{(v + \frac{1}{2})^2}{cm^{-1}}$$

This is the formula for the energy levels of this anharmonic oscillator is.

Here, x_e is called the anharmonicity constant whose value is near 0.01. It can be easily deduced from the above formula that the vibrational energy levels for large v start bunching together.



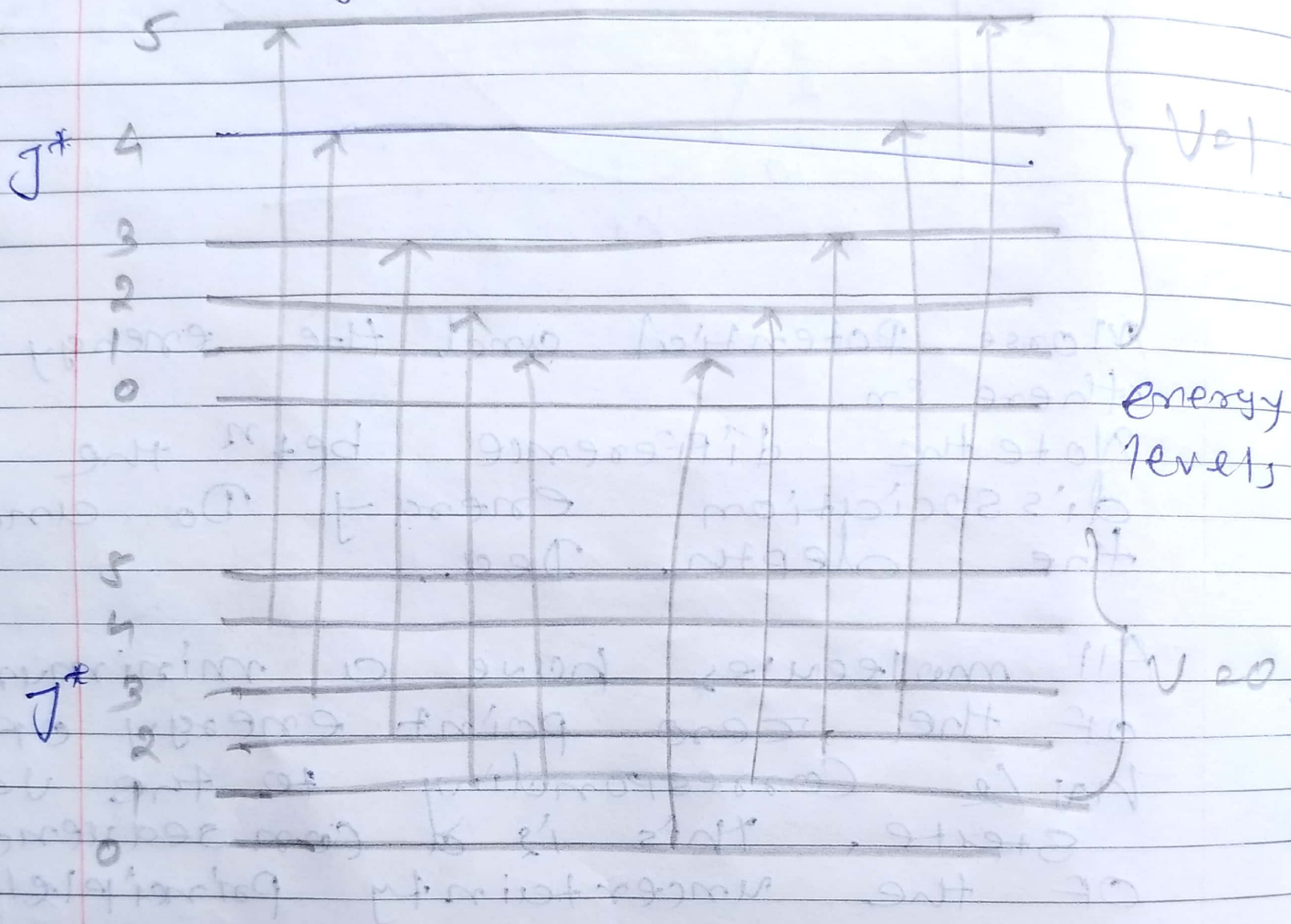
Morse Potential and the energy levels shown in,
 Note the difference betⁿ the dissociation energy D_0 and the depth D_e .

All molecules have a minimum of the zero point energy of $h\nu/2$ corresponding to the $v=0$ state, this is a consequence of the uncertainty principle.

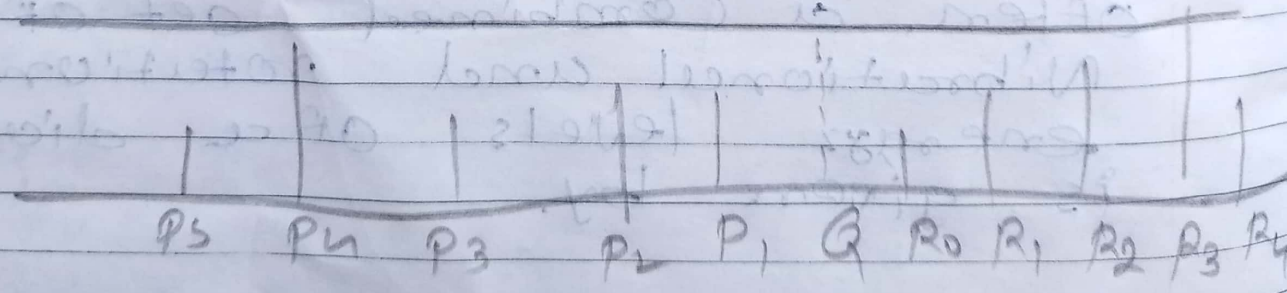
often a combined set of vibrational and rotational energy levels of a diatomic is given by.

$$E_{\text{total}} = B J(J+1) + (v + \frac{1}{2}) \nu - X_e (v + \frac{1}{2})^2 \nu_e \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

The energy level diagram and the spectrum corresponding to the diagram are shown in Fig



The Spectra



The Selection rules are

$$\Delta V = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

$\Delta J = \pm 1, \Delta J = 0$ corresponds to the

Q branch. on the right at higher frequencies and.

$\Delta J = j'' - j' = -1$ Corresponds to the P branch. On the left

The dashed line Q for which

$\Delta J = 0$, is not seen. the difference betⁿ P_0 and P_1 is $4B$ and the diffⁿ betⁿ adjacent R. lines, and adjacent P lines is $2B$.