

Fundamentals of Spectroscopy
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Lecture-14
Rotational Spectroscopy: Selection Rules and Rotational Spectrum

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Rotational Spectroscopy - Selection Rules

Born-Oppenheimer approximation

$\Psi = \Psi_e \Psi_n$

Transition moment integral

$$\langle \Psi' | \hat{\mu} | \Psi \rangle = \int \int \frac{\Psi_e'^* \Psi_n'^*}{N} \hat{\mu} \frac{\Psi_e \Psi_n}{N} d\tau_e d\tau_n$$

$$= \int \Psi_n'^* \Psi_n \left[\int \Psi_e'^* \hat{\mu} \Psi_e d\tau_e \right] d\tau_n$$

permanent dipole moment (μ_0)

$$= \int \Psi_n'^* \mu_0 \Psi_n d\tau_n$$

$$= \int \Psi_n'^* \Psi_n \mu_0 d\tau_n$$

$$= \int \Psi_n'^* \mu_0 \Psi_n d\tau_n$$

$\bar{\nu}_J = 8J(J+1) \text{ cm}^{-1}$
 $0, 2B, 6B, 12B, \dots$
 (cm^{-1})
 $\Delta J = ?$

In the last lecture, we obtained a physical understanding of the origin of rotational spectroscopy. We saw that the energy of the J level that is, $\bar{\nu}_J$ can be expressed as B times J times J + 1 centimeter inverse, where B is the rotational constant, and J is the rotational quantum number. We can write the energies of the different rotational levels as 0, 2B, 6B, etcetera and these again are in wave numbers.

So, now, as we have discussed, we can only get a rotational spectrum when a transition happens, we have to ask the question between which levels can the transition take place? In other words, the question is what change in rotational quantum number is allowed for a rotational transition or what is the allowed value of ΔJ ? To answer this, we need to know the selection rules of rotational spectroscopy.

So, according to Born Oppenheimer approximation so, we can write the wave function of the molecule that is ψ as products of the electronic wave function that is ψ_e and the nuclear wave function that is ψ_N and so, for a rotational transition, the electronic state does not change thus if the initial state is ψ and the transition happens to a final state that is ψ' we are interested in the Transition moment integral which can be written as ψ' the dipole moment operator ψ and if we expand this integral.

We can write as $\psi_e^* \psi_N'$ star dipole moment integral $\psi_e \psi_N d\tau_e d\tau_N$. So, we should remember as in the rotational transition, the electronic state does not change. So, we write this as ψ_e^* . However, because the nuclear state changes we write ψ_N' star. So, we can further write this integral as ψ_N' star ψ_N and then bracket will write ψ_e^* $\psi_e d\tau_e d\tau_N$.

So, the quantity in the bracket is the permanent dipole moment or μ_e corresponding to the electronic state ψ_e since both ψ_e and the dipole moment operated depend on the nuclear configuration the dipole moment vector μ_e depends also on the nuclear configuration. So, now, we can write the nuclear wave function as the products of the vibrational and rotational wave function. So, we can write $\psi_N = \psi_v \psi_r$.

So, if we write that, so, first of all here, because this is that permanent dipole moment, we can write this expression as ψ_N' star $\mu_e \psi_N d\tau_N$. So now, we will write ψ_N as a product of ψ_v and ψ_r . So we will write $\psi_v^* \psi_r'$ star $\mu_e \psi_v \psi_r d\tau_v d\tau_r$. So the integral over the vibrational coordinates that is integration of $\psi_v^* \mu_e \psi_v d\tau_v$ this integral is the permanent dipole moment μ in that particular vibrational state. So, we can further write expression as ψ_r' star $\mu \psi_r d\tau_r$.

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Rotational Spectroscopy – Selection Rules

$$\langle \psi' | \hat{\mu} | \psi \rangle = \int \psi_r'^* \mu \psi_r d\tau_r \rightarrow \mu \int \psi_r'^*(\theta, \phi) F(\theta, \phi) \psi_r(\theta, \phi) d\theta d\phi$$

$$\vec{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_x \\ \mu_y \\ \mu_z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(x, y, z) \rightarrow (R, \theta, \phi)$$

$$\vec{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_x \\ \mu_y \\ \mu_z \end{pmatrix} = \mu \begin{pmatrix} \sin\theta \cos\phi \\ \sin\theta \sin\phi \\ \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} = \mu \begin{pmatrix} F(\theta, \phi) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mu_x = \mu \sin\theta \cos\phi$$

$$\mu_y = \mu \sin\theta \sin\phi$$

$$\mu_z = \mu \cos\theta$$

$$J' = J + 1$$

$$\Delta J = \pm 1$$

So, now, we have this transition moment integral in this form that is integration of ψ_r' star μ ψ_r $d\tau_r$. So, let us now draw this diatomic molecule in the xyz axis. So, this is our x axis, this is our y axis and this is our z axis. So, due to symmetry, the dipole moment is oriented along the inter nuclear distance R .

So, we can write this factor μ as μ_x , μ_y , μ_z . If we change the coordinate access from Cartesian coordinates to polar coordinates, that is from x, y, z to R, θ, ϕ where this angle is θ and if we take a projection this angle is ϕ and the internal distance is R . So, if you make this axis transformation and solve the angular integral, we can write that μ vector = μ_x, μ_y, μ_z , we can write this as $\mu \sin\theta \cos\phi, \mu \sin\theta \sin\phi$ and $\cos\theta$.

In other words, $\mu_x = \mu \sin\theta \cos\phi, \mu_y = \mu \sin\theta \sin\phi$ and $\mu_z = \mu \cos\theta$. So, the magnitude of μ depends on the inter nuclear distance R and because we can write this way on in other words, we can also write like μ , then some function of θ and ϕ . So, this integral now becomes a μ integration of ψ_r' star which is a function of θ and ϕ . Then we have this function of θ

And ϕ that is the angular part of the dipole moment ψ_r' the function of θ and $\phi, d\theta, d\phi$. So, this is the final form that we obtained. The molecule has a rotational spectrum only if this integral is nonzero, thus the grace selection rule for obtaining a rotational spectrum is that

the molecule must have a permanent dipole moment. Because, if this μ becomes 0, then the whole integral becomes 0.

So, they should have or the molecule should have a permanent dipole moment to emit or absorb radiation in making a transition between different states of rotation. This is expected as we saw before our rotating dipole produces an oscillating electric field that can interact with the oscillating field of the light wave thus mononuclear diatomic molecules which do not have a permanent dipole moment, do not show rotational spectrum.

The dipole moment as we know is oriented along the inter nuclear axis of the diatomic molecule. It can be shown that in absence of an external electric or magnetic field, the integral is only nonzero if $J' = J + 1$ where J' is the rotational number associated with the final quantum state and J is the rotational number associated with the initial state does the selection rule for changes in rotational quantum numbers for a diatomic molecule is $\Delta J = \pm 1$.

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Rotational Spectrum

$\Delta J = \pm 1$ 0→1, 1→2, 2→3

J	$\bar{\nu}_J$
0	0
1	2B
2	6B
3	12B
4	20B

$\bar{\nu}_J = 8J(J+1)$

$L = h\sqrt{J(J+1)}$

$\Delta J = J' - J''$

$J' = J + 1$

$J'' = J$

$\Delta J = (J+1) - J = 1$

$J = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$

$2B, 4B, 6B, 8B, 10B$

$\Delta \bar{\nu}_J = \bar{\nu}_{J+1} - \bar{\nu}_J = 8(J+1)(J+2) - 8J(J+1) = 8(J+1)(J+2 - J) = 8(J+1)(2) = 16(J+1)$

$\Delta \bar{\nu}_J = 16(J+1)$

$\Delta \bar{\nu}_0 = 16(0+1) = 16B$

$\Delta \bar{\nu}_1 = 16(1+1) = 32B$

$\Delta \bar{\nu}_2 = 16(2+1) = 48B$

$\Delta \bar{\nu}_3 = 16(3+1) = 64B$

$\Delta \bar{\nu}_4 = 16(4+1) = 80B$

So, now, let us look into the transitions observed in the rotational spectrum of a diatomic rigid rotor with a permanent dipole moment. Since, the selection rule is $\Delta J = \pm 1$ transitions like 0 to 1, 1 to 2, 2 to 3 and so on and so 4th are allowed. So, first let us look again into the energies of the different rotational energy levels. So, we know that $\bar{\nu}_J = 8J(J+1)$. So now, let us make a table for the energies associated with different values of J .

So let us make a table where we are putting J in 1 column and $\bar{\nu}_J$ the other column. So let us say $J = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$. So $\bar{\nu}_J$ is 0. For $J = 1$ this is $2B$ for $J = 2$. If I put the value of $J = 3$ was to in this equation, we will get $6B$ for $J = 3$, we get $12B$ for $J = 4$, we get $20B$. So if you want to visualize this, in terms of an energy level diagram, we can show let us draw this energy levels so this is $J = 0$.

This is $J = 1, J = 2, J = 3, J = 4$ and let us write the energies so this is 0. This is $2B$ for $J = 2$ it is $6B$ for $J = 3$ is $12B$ and for $J = 4$ it is $20B$ so we are only drawing up to $J = 4$ but we can have $J = 5, 6, 7, 8$ so on and so. So for $J = 0$, we have the energy to be 0 or we can say that the molecule is not rotating at all. This is because the angular momentum which is given by $L = \hbar \sqrt{J(J+1)}$.

That angular momentum for $J = 0$ is 0. For $J = 1$, the energy is $2B$, and a rotating molecule has its lowest angular momentum, or the molecule is rotating with the lowest angular velocity. As transitions happen from one energy level to another, we can think that a rotational transition will happen from an energy level with an associated quantum number J to another level with an associated quantum number $J + 1$.

So this is due to the selection rule, $\Delta J = \pm 1$ thus the spectral line correspond to energy difference of any to 2 adjacent rotational energy levels involved in the transition. So, conventionally, ΔJ is referred to $J' - J''$, but J' is the quantum number of the upper state or the state with higher energy or the final state. And J'' is the quantum number associated to the lower state or the state with less energy.

So now, we consider differences between that adjacent levels in order to discuss the rotational spectrum. So, if we imagine the molecule to be in $J = 0$ level, we can let the incident light to be absorbed to raise it to the $J = 1$ level. So the energy absorbed in wave numbers will be for this transition $J = 0$ to 1, the energy absorbed will be $2B - 0$, that is $2B$ wave numbers. If now the molecule is raised from $J = 1$ to $J = 2$ absorption of more energy, we see that the energy of the incident light absorbed is $6B - 2B$ that is, $4B$.

So in general, for a rotational transition from $J'' = J$ to $J' = J+1$, we can write $\Delta \nu$ this is given by $\nu_{J+1} - \nu_J$ that is $B(J+1)^2 - BJ^2$. So, this is if we take B and $J+1$ common, we have $J+2 - J$ that is $2B(J+1)$. So, this is the general formula we have for rotational transition. So, if we have let us say, $J'' = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$. The absorption of radiation will happen.

At $2B, 4B, 6B, 8B, 10B$ and so on. So if we now try to plot a rotational spectrum, what we will have will have centimeter inverse and the x axis. So, we are plotting, so we have some intensity on the y axis. So let us say this is 0. So we have 1st transition at $2B$ the 2nd transition $4B$ the 3rd transition of $6B$ the 4th transition at $8B$ the 5th transition at $10B$ and so on. So, this 1st transition comes from 0 to 1 transition, the 2nd line comes from 1 to 2. 3rd line comes from 2 to 3.

So, we can see, the jet line comes from the jet line in the spectrum comes from the transition of $J-1$ to J . In other words, a step wise rising of the rotational energy levels results in an absorption spectrum of lines at $2B, 4B, 6B, 8B$ etc. centimeter inverse. This can also be shown in the diagram. So, we have only shown up to $J=1$ to $J=2$. Now, if you think about the transition from $J=2$ to $J=3$. The energy difference is $12B - 6B$ this is $6B$.

So, we have the 3rd line at $6B$, the 4th line, the energy difference is $20B - 12B$ that is $8B$. So thus we should observe successive lines in the rotational spectrum, which are given by $2B, 4B, 6B$ does there is a series of lines spaced by a constant amount and the constant separation is equal to $2B$. So, you can see $4B - 2B$ is $2B$, $6B - 4B$ is $2B$, $8B - 6B$ is $2B$, $10B - 8B$ is $2B$ so the constant separation is $2B$ centimeter inverse.

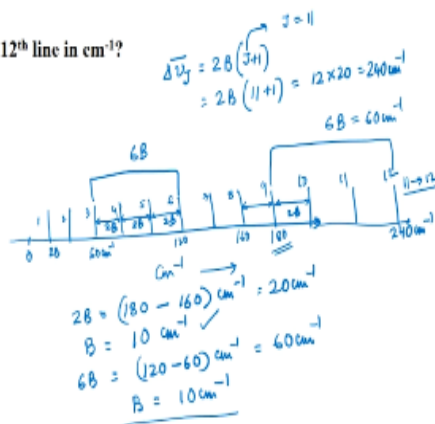
That is from a rotational spectrum, we can find the value of B and from B we can estimate the value of the bond length or inter nuclear distance using the relation between moment of inertia I and that bond length R . So, let us look into a few problems to understand this concept.

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Q. Let us consider a rotational spectrum of a diatomic rigid rotor. The spectrum is plotted in a way that wavenumber increases from left to right on the x-axis. The 3rd, 6th, 8th, and 9th lines from the left appear at 60 cm⁻¹, 120 cm⁻¹, 160 cm⁻¹ and 180 cm⁻¹ respectively.

What is the value of B?

What is the frequency of the 12th line in cm⁻¹?



So, we have the first problem here, let us consider a rotational spectrum of a diatomic rigid rotor. The spectrum is plotted in a way that wave number increases from left to right on the x axis. So, from left to right, the wave number increases. The question says the 3rd, the 6th, the 8th and the 9th lines from the left appear at 60,120,160 and180 wave numbers respectively. So, let us say this is our 0. So, our 1st line is a 2B. So we have 2nd line. This is 1st this is 2nd to this my 3rd line, my 4th line. This is my 5th line, 6th line, 7th, 8th, and 9th line.

So the 3rd line appears at 60 wave numbers, the 6th line at 120 wave numbers, the 8th line at 160 wave numbers and the 9th line as at 180 wave numbers. So the 1st question we should solve is what is the value of B. So we know that any consecutive lines they are separated by 2B so we know that we have some data for these 2 consecutive lines. That is the 8th line and the 9th line. So we can write, 2B =180 – 160 wave numbers, that is 20 wave numbers. So B is 10 wave numbers.

So if you want to cross check this answer, let us say, 3rd to 4th line is separated by 2B, 4 to 5th by 2B, and 5th to 6 by 2B. So the separation between the 3rd and the 6th line is 6B. So we can also put 6B = 120 – 60 wave numbers, that is 60 wave numbers. So if you solve this again, we get B = 10 wave numbers. So we can just make sure our earlier result was right. And the value of the rotational constant B that we need to find out is 10 wave numbers.

So, the 2nd question is, what is the frequency of the 12th line in wave numbers? So, let us draw the 12th line. So, we have 9th line then the 10th 11th 12th. So, because everything is separated by $2B$, so from 9 to 12, it is separated by $6B$ or 60 , wave numbers. So we can say, if 9th line is 180 wave numbers, then the 12th line will be 240 wave numbers. So we can also get this answered in a different way.

So we have seen that the $\Delta \nu$ is $2B$ times $J + 1$. That 12th line comes from the transition from the 11th to 12th level. So here, $J = 11$ this $\Delta \nu = 2B$ times $11 + 1$ that is 12 times 20 . That is 240 wave numbers. So now let us look into another problem.

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Q. For a diatomic molecule AB, the energy of the rotational transition from $J=0$ to $J=1$ state is 3.9 cm^{-1} . The energy for the rotational transition from $J=3$ to $J=4$ state would be:

(a) 3.9 cm^{-1} (b) 7.8 cm^{-1} (c) 11.7 cm^{-1} (d) 15.6 cm^{-1}

Handwritten calculations and diagram:

Diagram showing energy levels for $J=0, 1, 2, 3, 4$. The energy difference between $J=0$ and $J=1$ is 3.9 cm^{-1} . The energy difference between $J=3$ and $J=4$ is $8B$.

Calculations:

$$2B = 3.9 \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

$$8B = 2B \times 4 = 3.9 \times 4 \text{ cm}^{-1} = 15.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

So the next question that we have is for a diatomic molecule, AB the energy of the rotational transition from $J = 0$ to $J = 1$ state is 3.9 wave numbers. The energy of the rotational transition from $J = 3$ to $J = 4$ would be. So this is a multiple choice questions, we have 4 options. So let us look into the problem again. So $J = 0$. This draw the energy levels $J = 1, J = 2, J = 3, J = 4$. So what is given is from $J = 0$ to $J = 1$ the energy for the rotational transition, so this is 3.9 wave numbers.

So we know this $J = 0$ to 1 , this is given by $2B$ so $2B = 3.95$ wave number. So for $J = 3$, the energy is $12B$, and for $J = 4$, the energy is $20B$. So the energy required for this transition is $8B$. So we have to find the energy for the rotational transition from 3 to 4 . That means, we have to find what is the value of $8B$ is. So if $2B = 3.9$ very easily we can say $2B$ times for that is $8B =$

3.9 times 4 this is in wave numbers, that is 15.6 wave numbers. So, this is our answer and this matches with the option D. So, let us look into another problem.

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Q. The spacing of a series of lines in the microwave spectrum of H^{79}Br is 17 cm^{-1} . Find the internuclear distance. (A)

Handwritten solution showing the derivation of the internuclear distance R from the spacing B in the microwave spectrum of H^{79}Br .

Given: Spacing $B = 17 \text{ cm}^{-1}$

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

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

Substituting values: $I = \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Js}}{8 \times (3.14)^2 \times 8.5 \text{ cm}^{-1} \times 3 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-1}}$

Result: $I = 3.294 \times 10^{-47} \text{ Js}^2$

Formula: $I = \mu R^2$

Calculation: $R = \sqrt{\frac{I}{\mu}}$

Substituting values: $R = \sqrt{\frac{3.294 \times 10^{-47}}{1.649 \times 10^{-27}}}$

Result: $R = 1.41 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m} = 141 \text{ pm}$

Additional notes: $2B = 17 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $B = 17/2 = 8.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $J = \text{kg m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$, $Jc^2 = \text{kg m}^2$, $\mu = 1.649 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$, $\text{HCl} \rightarrow 127 \text{ pm}$, $\text{HBr} \rightarrow 141 \text{ pm}$

This problem says the spacing of a series of lines in the microwave spectrum of H Br is 17 wave numbers. So, we have to find the inter nuclear distance R so, as we already know by now, we can read $B = h$ divided by $8 \pi^2 I c$, we also know for a diatomic molecule we can write $I = \mu r^2$, when μ with the reduced mass. So, we have to find the internuclear distance R and all we know is the spacing between a series of lines.

So we know the spacing is given by $2B$, so $2B = 17$ wave numbers, or $B = 17$ divided by $2 = 8.5$ wave numbers. So we know the value of B. So we can write $I = h$ divided by $8 \pi^2 B$ times C. So if we put the value h is 6.626×10^{-34} joule second divided by 8×3.14^2 and then we put the value of B that is 8.5 cm^{-1} and the value of C as $3 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-1}$. So, this becomes 3.294×10^{-47} joule, second square.

So, because joule is kilogram meter square second power - 2, then joule second square equals kilogram meter square. So we can write this as 3.294×10^{-47} kilogram meter square and this unit is right because we are finding out the value of I, I is moment of inertia, that is μr^2 . So if you look into the unit, this is kg. This is an RS distance kilogram meter square. So, we found the right unit.

Now, we have found the value of I . So, because $I = \mu R^2$, so we can rate R equals root over I / μ . So, we know the value of I , but we do not know the value of μ . So, let us find out the value of μ . So, $\mu = 1 \text{ times } 79 \text{ divided by } 1 + 79$, the unit is kilogram per mole. So we can write this as $1 \text{ time } 79 \text{ divided by } 1 + 79 \text{ } 10 \text{ to the power } - 3 \text{ kilograms per mole}$. And because in 1 mole there Avogadro's number of molecules.

So we can write this as $1 \text{ times } 79 \text{ divided by } 1 + 79 \text{ times } 10 \text{ to the power } -3 \text{ divided by the Avogadro number that is } 6.022 \text{ times } 10 \text{ to the power } 23$. So if we do this calculation what we will get is $1.649 \text{ times } 10 \text{ to the power } - 27 \text{ kg}$. So, we now know the value of μ . So, we can write R that we need to find out is root over $3.294 \text{ times } 10 \text{ to the power } - 47 \text{ divided by } 1.649 \text{ times } 10 \text{ to the power } - 27$ so this becomes $1.41 \text{ times } 10 \text{ to the power } -10 \text{ meter so, that is } 141 \text{ Pico meter}$.

So, the answer is $R = 141 \text{ Pico meters}$. So, we should remember one thing in the last class, we found out the bond length of each CL and that was 127 Pico meter . Today we found out the bond length HB R and the bond length is 141 Pico meter . So from the rotational data, we can find out accurate bond length and we can see the bond length of HB R as expected is larger than the bond length of it CL.