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Hyperfine Transitions in the first Overtone mode of Hydrogen Deuteride

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Beyond the metrology and computational challenges associated with molecular hydrogen, key data are expected to assess the physics of simple molecular systems, and even the New Physics beyond the Standard Model. To assist the deciphering of Doppler-free spectra obtained at very high accuracy ($\sim 10^{-9}$), we report on hyperfine transitions of HD in the lowest vibrational levels of the ground electronic state. Using the spin-rotation, nuclear spin-spin and quadrupolar hyperfine couplings determined by means of high-level quantum-chemical calculations, the hyperfine energy levels, and the associated line intensity have been obtained by using tensorial momentum algebra. To illustrate our purpose, the hyperfine line intensity of two specific transitions (P_1 and R_1) belonging to the first overtone of HD is reported and commented on. The calculated stick spectra emphasize the experimental challenge (in terms of sensitivity and of spectral resolution) associated with the spectral analysis, because the lines can be apart by less than 10 kHz.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Since the pioneering observations of “forbidden” vibration-rotation transitions of HD (the most abundant isotopologues of the hydrogen molecule) by Herzberg in the 1950s[1, 2], the complete interpretation of the intensity of these lines has generated a lot of discussions in the literature, even questioning the role of the nonadiabatic couplings in the framework of the Born-Oppenheimer approximation (BOA)[3] as well as the collisional intermolecular potential. Actually, this BOA framework remains pivotal, because of the tractability of the computational solutions[4]. Solving the Schrödinger Equation beyond the BOA, i.e., without considering the associated corrections[5], and even including relativistic effects[6], is nowadays possible. Remarkable computational progresses have been attained on the hydrogen isotopologues thanks to the nonadiabatic perturbation theory (NAPT) or to a modified nonadiabatic approach[7]. The relativistic effects can be in principle considered[8, 9] as well as the QED theory[10]. Restricting the discussion to the hydrogen isotopologue HD, it is worth noting that only the calculation of the transition frequencies has benefited of the last computational developments, either by a variational approach[11–13], or by NAPT[14], but not the vibration-rotation line intensities. The best estimated accuracy on the calculated vibration-rotation line position reaches 1 MHz. Nevertheless, the internal hyperfine couplings (typically for HD, HT, and DT) have just been ignored, except recently, with calculation of the nuclear spin-spin scalar coupling[15]. Accounting for these contributions is crucial to challenge the sub-MHz accuracy which is targeted by very recent experiments.

The recent implementations of very high-resolution spectroscopy setups reveal new controverted behaviors on HD[16, 17]. Then, there are new requirements for examining the internal structure (i.e., beyond the usual rotational structure) of molecules even in the Near-Infrared (NIR) domain, while the study of these structures has been regularly the private garden of microwave spectroscopy. Laser spectroscopy with sub-Doppler resolution (like saturated absorption) can be employed to interrogate the hyperfine structure of molecules at the highest precision (including the microwave range). Indeed, spectroscopy data at the metrology level can now be obtained in different frequency ranges thanks to the assistance of the Optical Frequency Combs (OFC) providing an incredible spectral precision[18]. From a strict metrology point of view, “pure” or structureless transitions (like those of para- H_2) must be in priority targeted to facilitate the data analysis. Unfortunately, such experimental data are not available yet. Nevertheless, data on akin systems are already available, like on HD in the NIR range[16, 17]: they ask for a challenging analysis when a spectral accuracy of $\sim 10^{-9}$ is demonstrated.

Molecular hydrogen is the molecule to choose when challenging new determination of the proton-to-electron mass ratio for example, and ultimately when considering the Physics beyond the Standard Model. Currently, the rovibrational transitions of molecular hydrogen offer the unique advantage to be *ab initio* tractable from the fundamental principles with a level of accuracy approaching the best experimental resolution[17, 19]. However, while in para- H_2 (and para- T_2), $I = 0$ transitions are free of hyperfine complexity, all the other isotopologues (including ortho- H_2 and $-T_2$) exhibit an internal structure due to the nonzero total nuclear spin. The resulting contribution of these hyperfine couplings to the shape of the rotational transitions have only been partially considered nowadays, despite these couplings probably complexifying the resonance shapes observable under nonlinear spectroscopy, cf. by inducing crossover resonances. Furthermore, the hyperfine structure of the $I \neq 0$ isotopologues potentially exhibits a (weak) sensitivity to the proton-to-electron mass ratio which may have to be accurately investigated. In addition, hyperfine interactions are

of crucial importance if they accidentally mix ortho and para energy levels in molecules exhibiting a u/g symmetry, these interactions can reveal “forbidden” transitions, and give rise to nuclear spin conversion[20].

In closed shell molecules, the hyperfine structure when it exists (it requires for nuclei with spin magnetic moments and/or with electric quadrupole moments), remains “microscopic”, while in open shell molecules the hyperfine couplings cannot be ignored, usually. NO_2 is a good example for an open shell molecule, given what can be observed in the NIR-visible range under saturated absorption[21]. Another example is the ion HD^+ which exhibits very large hyperfine coupling intensities compared with those of HD [22]. Indeed, the scheme of energy level coupling by an external electromagnetic field (V , Λ , or N configuration) illustrates the additional complexity linked to the interference between electrical dipolar transitions, arising crossover resonances resulting from nonlinear couplings in a counterpropagating beam geometry, i.e., beyond the linear absorption under weak electromagnetic fields. Crossover resonances appear when, at least, two transitions share the same energy level, and when the transition frequency difference is less than the thermal Doppler broadening (or of the same order). Literally, a single molecule absorbs two counter-propagating photons if the Doppler shift allows exactly compensation of the energy difference between the levels coupled by the external electromagnetic field. Indeed, nonlinear resonances, even when they are associated with weak transitions, remain perfect probes for investigating closed-shell molecules exhibiting hyperfine structures. Thus we anticipate that the present work should provide the key inputs for deciphering the resonance shapes observed on HD as previously mentioned.

Although the inversion symmetry of the full molecular Hamiltonian for homonuclear diatomic molecules (i.e., X_2 , where $X=\text{H}$, D , etc..) makes these species rigorously nonpolar, a small permanent electric dipole moment exists in the corresponding heteroisotopic isotopologues (like HD), thereby making vibrational dipolar transitions of these molecules weakly allowed. While it is perhaps traditional to associate this weak electrical charge asymmetry (the density of charge located on the deuteron differs slightly from that located on the proton) with “nonadiabatic effects” that mix different (clamped-nucleus) adiabatic wave functions[23–30], recent works, like those based on the so called Post-BO approach[7, 31–33], on the so-called non-BO variational approach[34, 35], or on the approximate adiabatic variational approach[36] have convincingly demonstrated that the overwhelming majority of this effect resides in the so-called adiabatic (diagonal Born-Oppenheimer) correction. Hence within this perspective, the intensity of fundamental and overtone vibrational transitions in molecules like HD can be calculated by the usual methods as currently done for the calculation of the hyperfine couplings.

Beyond the weak electrical dipolar transitions mentioned above to probe HD , there are few experimental alternatives. Nevertheless, the existence of electric quadrupolar moments[37] should provide complementary inputs as soon as the saturated absorption of these transitions will have been demonstrated.

The collisional dynamic of molecular hydrogen is dominated by strong velocity-changing collision (VCC) giving rise to the well-established Dicke effect, or “motional” narrowing of the Doppler profile of the transitions in the “high” pressure range, providing non-Voigt profiles[38, 39]. Actually, the detailed analysis of the speed-dependence line broadening and frequency shift (under linear absorption) remains a challenge. Investigating these profiles under saturation conditions may even seem to be a more complex challenge. Despite these difficulties, understanding the Lamb-dip behavior under saturation regimes may appear as an opportunity for probing the HD intermolecular potential. Preliminary data are

now available and their analysis requires full attention, particularly, by extensively investigating the pressure and power dependencies. At low pressures, the molecular interaction transit time, resulting from the finite size of the excitation beam is undoubtedly a source of additional complexity since resonance super-narrowing effects may be anticipated as it has been discussed on several molecular systems[40–44]. Actually, collisional speed-dependence frequency shift[45] may contribute to the asymmetric resonance profiles observed on HD.

The hyperfine structure of the ground vibrational state of HD has been known since the late 1950s, thanks to the nuclear radio-frequency spectroscopy work of Ramsey and collaborators carried out by applying a magnetic field on a molecular beam[46, 47]. Actually, at zero magnetic field, the hyperfine structure spreads over several hundreds of kHz, depending on the transition considered. Nowadays, saturated absorption of weakly absorbing transitions can be observed in the NIR domain with a frequency precision much less than the spectral extension of the Doppler-free rovibrational transitions. Nevertheless, the current spectral resolution does not allow for unambiguously revealing the hyperfine structure. To accommodate disentangling the spectral complexity associated with the hyperfine structure of HD, we report here, i) succinctly on the hyperfine constants characterizing the spin-rotation, nuclear spin-spin dipolar and quadrupolar interactions of HD for $\nu = 0 - 2$ (section II A), ii) on the deduced hyperfine energy splittings which are validated versus Ramsey’s data (sections II F and II G), iii) on the Herman-Wallis coefficients of the overtone band $\nu : 2 - 0$ (section III B), iv) on the hyperfine linear line intensity (in the electric dipole approximation) associated with the molecular absorption (section III C), and v) on the spectrum of two specific transitions (P_1 and R_1) of the overtone considered (section III D). For these calculations, we intensively use the irreducible tensorial algebra following Brown and Carrington[48].

The current calculations can be considered as a step forward in understanding the line shape of the HD resonances between the first vibrational modes, i.e., beyond the rotational structure. The algebraic approach presented in the following can be easily extended to other overtones of HD, and even to molecular systems exhibiting strong hyperfine similarities. This paper also corrects preliminary data previously displayed on the upper part of Fig. 2 of Ref. [16].

The paper is mainly divided in three parts: section II devoted to the calculation of the hyperfine levels, section III devoted to the calculation of the line intensity, followed by a general Discussion in section IV.

II. HYPERFINE INTERACTIONS

A. Hyperfine Constants

Quantum-chemical calculations[49] were carried out at the coupled-cluster single and double CCSD level[50], which is equivalent to a full configuration-interaction (FCI) treatment for a two-electron system such as HD. The basis set used was the uncontracted cc-pV6Z set[51] which consists of $10s$, $5p$, $4d$, $3f$, $2g$, and $1h$ functions for the hydrogen and deuterium. The harmonic force constant was obtained by using the second derivatives of the energy evaluated analytically[52]. In a second step, the vibrational corrections to all hyperfine constants have been computed by using a discrete variable representation (DVR) scheme[53] as described in Ref. [54]. The calculations were carried out at a very high level of theory in order to ensure a reliable simulation of the corresponding spectrum. However, there are remaining error sources such as basis-set truncation, neglect of the relativistic effects, non-Born-Oppenheimer

contributions, and inaccuracies in the used potential curve. All together, they are estimated to be less than 0.5 kHz. All calculations have been performed with a local version of the CFOUR quantum-chemical package[55].

B. Coupling Scheme

In the absence of strong magnetic or electric field, the trivial coupling scheme to calculate the eigenenergies, is a coupled basis involving three angular momenta. However, having to deal with three angular momenta, none of the three possible coupling scheme ($N + \mathbf{i}_D$, $N + \mathbf{i}_H$, or $\mathbf{i}_H + \mathbf{i}_D$) provides only diagonal matrix elements, or even a trivial hierarchy resulting from the coupling terms. Therefore, we will make the choice of the following angular momentum coupling (the Hund's cases a) and b) are equivalent in the absence of electronic spin[56]). We set

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{i}_H, \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{F} is the total angular momentum (invariant), \mathbf{i}_H is the angular momentum of the proton, and where \mathbf{F}_1 is defined by

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = \mathbf{N} + \mathbf{i}_D, \quad (2)$$

where \mathbf{i}_D is the deuteron angular momentum, and where \mathbf{N} is the usual rotational angular momentum of a rigid rotor.

Thus the total adiabatic molecular wave function is defined by $|\psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 i_H F m_F\rangle$ where Λ is in the projection of the electronic angular momentum on the molecule-fixed frame. The electronic and vibrational wave functions (ψ_{ev}) are assumed to be unmixed. m_F is the projection of the total angular momentum in the laboratory-fixed frame, providing a $2F + 1$ Zeeman degeneracy at zero magnetic or electric field.

C. Hamiltonians

The different interactions can be written down by using Cartesian coordinates in the laboratory-fixed frame, as follows (see Refs. [57, 58] for additional details).

Nuclear Spin-Rotation Interactions

The two nuclear spin momenta are independently coupled to the molecule rotation which creates a magnetic field at the position of the nuclei[59]. For a linear molecule each (second-order) spin-rotation tensor is reduced to a single term. Two couplings are provided by the two spin-rotation Hamiltonians proportioned by their respective factor:

$$\mathcal{H}_{nsrH} = c_H \mathbf{i}_H \cdot \mathbf{N} \quad (3)$$

and

$$\mathcal{H}_{nsr_D} = c_D \mathbf{i}_D \cdot \mathbf{N}, \quad (4)$$

where c_H and c_D are the two spin-rotation constants associated with the proton and with the deuteron, respectively. Indeed, these constants are expectation values calculated for the specific electronic-vibration wave function (actually, the perpendicular components to the interatomic axis of the respective tensors)[58].

Dipole–dipole interactions between two nuclear spin magnetic moments

In the ensuing analyses the scalar (or isotropic) spin-spin interaction

$$\mathcal{H}_{dip_0} = c_s \mathbf{i}_D \cdot \mathbf{i}_H \quad (5)$$

has been treated independently from the second order tensor spin-spin interaction derived from the Breit equation[60]

$$\mathcal{H}_{dip} = g_H g_D \frac{\mu_0 \mu_N^2}{4\pi} \left[\frac{\mathbf{i}_H \cdot \mathbf{i}_D}{r_{HD}^3} - \frac{3 (\mathbf{i}_H \cdot \mathbf{r}_{HD})(\mathbf{i}_D \cdot \mathbf{r}_{HD})}{r_{HD}^5} \right], \quad (6)$$

where r_{HD} is the internuclear distance, g_H and g_D are the proton and deuteron g factors, respectively, and where μ_N is the nuclear magneton ($\mu_0 \simeq 4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ H/m is the vacuum permeability)[61].

Electric Quadrupolar interaction

Nuclei with spin magnetic moment Q larger than 1/2 interact with the gradient of the static electrical field ∇E , following Townes and Schawlow[62]

$$\mathcal{H}_{quad} = -\frac{1}{6} \mathbf{Q} : \nabla E, \quad (7)$$

where “:” represents a double inner product between two second-order tensors.

D. Matrix Elements

The matrix elements will be calculated by using the irreducible spherical tensorial algebra, i.e., by first re-expressing the Hamiltonians of section II C as (following Ref. [63])

$$\mathcal{H}_{nsr_H} = c_H \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_H) \cdot \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(N), \quad (8)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{nsr_D} = c_D \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D) \cdot \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(N), \quad (9)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{dip_0} = c_s \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_H) \cdot \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D), \quad (10)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{dip} = g_H g_D \frac{\mu_0 \mu_N^2}{4\pi} \sqrt{10} \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_H) \cdot \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(C^2, i_D), \quad (11)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{quad} = -e \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(Q) \cdot \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(\nabla E), \quad (12)$$

with

$$\mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D, C^2) = [\mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D) \otimes \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(C)]^{(1)}, \quad (13)$$

where the tensor $\mathbf{T}^{(2)}(C)$ is set for the spherical harmonic functions of second-order Y_{2q} associated with the rotation of the vibronic wave functions ψ_{ev} , from the laboratory-fixed to the molecule-fixed frame (see Appendix A)[64].

By employing the usual reduction rules on the tensorial products (cf. Appendix C of Messiah[65]), we can easily calculate the matrix elements (numerical applications are available in Appendix A).

Nuclear Spin-Rotation Interactions

In the chosen coupled basis (see section II B) the deuteron spin-rotation interaction \mathcal{H}_{nsr_D} [Eq. (4)] is purely diagonal, providing matrix elements independent of F :

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda'; N' i'_D F'_1 i'_H F' m_{F'} | \mathcal{H}_{nsr_D} | \psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 i_H F m_F \rangle \\ & = [F_1(F_1 + 1) - i_D(i_D + 1) - N(N + 1)] \frac{c_D}{2} \delta_{FF'} \delta_{F_1 F'_1} \delta_{NN'} \delta_{i_H i'_H} \delta_{i_D i'_D} \delta_{m_F m_{F'}}. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

On the other hand, the proton spin-rotation interaction \mathcal{H}_{nsr_H} [Eq. (3)] is not diagonal. After a double reduction, and by introducing the usual Wigner 6j symbols, we obtain the following matrix elements:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda'; N' i'_D F'_1 i'_H F' m_{F'} | \mathcal{H}_{nsr_H} | \psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 i_H F m_F \rangle \\ & = (-1)^{F+i_H+i_D+N'+2F_1+1} \sqrt{(2F_1+1)(2F'_1+1)} \begin{Bmatrix} F & i_H & F'_1 \\ 1 & F_1 & i_H \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} i_D & N' & F'_1 \\ 1 & F_1 & N \end{Bmatrix} \\ & \times \langle N' \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(N) \| N \rangle \langle i'_H \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_H) \| i_H \rangle c_H \delta_{FF'} \delta_{m_F m_{F'}}, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

which provides the selection rules: $\Delta N = \Delta F = \Delta m_F = 0$, $\Delta F_1 = 0, \pm 1$ and $\Delta i_H = \Delta i_D = 0$ (independently of Λ).

Spin-Spin Dipole Interactions

The matrix elements of the scalar spin-spin interaction are readily calculated by a new double reduction. It becomes from Eq. (5)

$$\begin{aligned}
& \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda'; N' i'_D F'_1 i'_H F' m_{F'} | \mathcal{H}_{dip_0} | \psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 i_H F m_F \rangle \\
&= c_s \delta_{F'F} \delta_{i'_H i_H} \delta_{i'_D i_D} \delta_{m_{F'} m_F} (-1)^{F+F_1+i_H} \begin{Bmatrix} F & i_H & F'_1 \\ 1 & F_1 & i_H \end{Bmatrix} \langle i'_H \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_H) \| i_H \rangle \times \\
& (-1)^{F'_1+N'+i_D+1} \sqrt{(2F_1+1)(2F'_1+1)} \begin{Bmatrix} N' & i_D & F'_1 \\ 1 & F_1 & i_D \end{Bmatrix} \langle i'_D \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D) \| i_D \rangle \delta_{N'N}, \tag{16}
\end{aligned}$$

which provides the same selection rules as the proton spin-rotation coupling [see the rules associated with Eq. (15)].

The matrix elements of the second-order spin-spin dipole interaction [see Eq.(6)] are obtained by a first reduction of the two tensors of first order, and then by a reduction of the term $\mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D, C^2)$ to a product of a second order term $\mathbf{T}^{(2)}(C)$ by of a first order term $\mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D)$. From Eq. (11), and by applying the property stemmed by Eq. (13), we calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
& \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda'; N' i'_D F'_1 i'_H F' m_{F'} | \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(C^2, i_D) \cdot \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_H) | \psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 i_H F m_F \rangle \\
&= \delta_{F'F} \delta_{m_{F'} m_F} (-1)^{F+i_H+F_1} \begin{Bmatrix} F & i'_H & F'_1 \\ 1 & F_1 & i_H \end{Bmatrix} \langle i'_H \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_H) \| i_H \rangle \\
& \times \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda'; N' i'_D F'_1 \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D, C^2) \| \psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 \rangle, \tag{17}
\end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
& \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda'; N' i'_D F'_1 \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D, C^2) \| \psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 \rangle \\
&= \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda'; N' i'_D F'_1 \| [\mathbf{T}^{(2)}(C) \otimes \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D)]^{(1)} \| \psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 \rangle \\
&= \sqrt{3(2F_1+1)(2F'_1+1)} \begin{Bmatrix} i_D & i'_D & 1 \\ N & N' & 2 \\ F_1 & F'_1 & 1 \end{Bmatrix} \\
& \times \langle i'_D \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D) \| i_D \rangle \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda' N' \| \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(C) \| \psi_{ev} \Lambda N \rangle, \tag{18}
\end{aligned}$$

where a Wigner 9j symbol has been introduced. By expressing the reduced vibronic matrix element in the molecule-fixed frame (using the second-rank rotation matrix)

$$\begin{aligned}
& \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda' N' \| \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(C) \| \psi_{ev} \Lambda N \rangle \\
&= \sqrt{(2N+1)(2N'+1)} \sum_{q=-2}^2 (-1)^{N'-\Lambda'} \begin{pmatrix} N' & 2 & N \\ -\Lambda' & q & \Lambda \end{pmatrix} \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda' | \mathbf{T}_q^{(2)}(C) | \psi_{ev} \Lambda \rangle, \tag{19}
\end{aligned}$$

where a Wigner 3j symbol appears, and where the molecular matrix element is defined by (with the help of the spherical

harmonics)

$$\langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda' | \mathbf{T}_q^{(2)}(C) | \psi_{ev} \Lambda \rangle = \left\langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda' \left| \frac{C_q^{(2)}(\theta, \phi)}{r_{HD}^3} \right| \psi_{ev} \Lambda \right\rangle = 2\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{5}} \left\langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda' \left| \frac{Y_{2q}(\theta, \phi)}{r_{HD}^3} \right| \psi_{ev} \Lambda \right\rangle. \quad (20)$$

For coupling confined to a $^1\Sigma$ electronic state ($\Lambda' = \Lambda = q = 0$), the associated selection rules are: $\Delta F = 0$, $\Delta F_1 = 0, \pm 1$, $\Delta N = 0, \pm 2$, and $\Delta i_H = \Delta_D = 0$. Thus the second-order spin-spin dipole coupling constant can be defined by

$$c_{dip} = g_H g_D \mu_N^2 \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \left\langle \psi_{ev} ^1\Sigma \left| \frac{1}{r_{HD}^3} \right| \psi_{ev} ^1\Sigma \right\rangle, \quad (21)$$

obtained by factorizing the numerical coefficient of Eq. (11).

$\left\langle \frac{1}{r^3} \right\rangle$ is a traceless matrix for which only one component is required for a diatomic molecule.

Quadrupolar Interaction

The quadrupolar matrix elements are obtained by a usual reduction on Eq. (12). It becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda'; N' i'_D F'_1 i_H F' m_{F'} | \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(\nabla E) \cdot \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(Q_D) | \psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 i_H F m_F \rangle \\ & = \delta_{F'F} \delta_{m_{F'}m_F} \delta_{F'_1F_1} (-1)^{F'_1+N+i'_D} \begin{Bmatrix} F_1 & N' & i_D \\ 2 & i'_D & N \end{Bmatrix} \\ & \times \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda' N' | \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(\nabla E) | \psi_{ev} \Lambda N \rangle \langle i'_D | \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(Q_D) | i_D \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

where the laboratory-fixed frame matrix element must be re-expressed in the molecule-fixed frame, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda' N' | \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(\nabla E) | \psi_{ev} \Lambda N \rangle = \\ & \sqrt{(2N'+1)(2N+1)} \sum_q (-1)^{N'-\Lambda'} \begin{pmatrix} N' & 2 & N \\ -\Lambda' & q & \Lambda \end{pmatrix} \langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda' | \mathbf{T}_q^{(2)}(\nabla E') | \psi_{ev} \Lambda \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Equations (22) and (23) provide the selection rules: $\Delta F = \Delta F_1 = 0$, $\Delta N = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2$, and $\Delta \Lambda = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2$. When considering only the ground state of HD, the possible mixing between states with different values of Λ can be ignored, because any electronic states with $\Lambda \neq 0$ (like the $^1\Pi$ states) are located at energies very far away from the $X^1\Sigma$ state[66].

Given $q = \Delta \Lambda = 0$, the operator $\mathbf{T}_0^{(2)}(\nabla E')$ can be expressed as a function of $C_0^{(2)}(\theta, \phi)$ and of the spherical harmonics applied to the n electron-nucleus coordinates, and then expressed in the Cartesian molecular coordinates as

$$\langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda | \mathbf{T}_0^{(2)}(\nabla E') | \psi_{ev} \Lambda \rangle = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n \frac{e_i}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left\langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda \left| \frac{3z_i'^2 - r_i'^2}{r_i'^5} \right| \psi_{ev} \Lambda \right\rangle = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n \frac{e_i}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left\langle \psi_{ev} \Lambda \left| \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z_i'^2} \left(\frac{1}{r_i'} \right) \right| \psi_{ev} \Lambda \right\rangle. \quad (24)$$

Only the axial component of the electric field gradient tensor \mathbf{V} (i.e., along the z' direction joining the two nuclei) has to be considered ($V_{x'x'} = V_{y'y'} = -V_{z'z'}/2$, \mathbf{V} is a traceless tensor), and we define

$$q_v = -\frac{1}{2} \langle \psi_{ev} ^1\Sigma | V_{z'z'} | \psi_{ev} ^1\Sigma \rangle, \quad (25)$$

Table I. Vibrational dependence of the hyperfine constants of the ground electronic state of HD[49].

| Vibrational Quantum Number | Energies [†] (cm ⁻¹) | c_H (kHz) | c_D (kHz) | c_{dip} (kHz) | $c_{quad} = eq_v Q_D$ (kHz) | c_s (Hz) |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 0 | 0 | 85.600 (18)[47] | 13.122 (11)[47] | 44.403 (30)[47] | 224.54 (6)[47] | 47 (7)[67] |
| | | 86.2832 | 13.2450 | 44.5792 | 226.6493 | 43 (41.1[15]) |
| 1 | 3633.0 | 85.0775 | 13.0599 | 43.2106 | 225.0968 | |
| | | (84.404) | (12.939) | (43.040) | (223.00) | |
| 2 | 7088.9 | 83.5670 | 12.8280 | 41.7974 | 222.5516 | |
| | | (82.905) | (12.709) | (41.632) | (220.480) | |

The values in parentheses ($\nu = 2$) are corrected from the difference with the values obtained from the experimental data ($N = 1, \nu = 0$), see text.

[†]Anharmonic energies (harmonic energy: 3815.10 cm⁻¹).

which is a scalar quantity independent of N and N' . This quantity can be related to the electric field gradient at the deuteron q_D [67, 68].

The second reduced matrix element of Eq. (22) is given in Appendix A for the usual definition of the deuteron quadrupole moment Q_D , This let us derive the common hyperfine quadrupolar constant $c_{quad} = eq_v Q_D$.

E. Eigenenergies, Wave functions and Assignment

The matrix elements provided by section II D are implemented in a $(2i_D + 1)(2i_H + 1) \times (2i_D + 1)(2i_H + 1)$ square matrix after calculating the respective Wigner symbols, with the help of the selection rules associated with the coupled basis vector established previously (see Fig. 1). Actually, each matrix element is a diagonal blocked sub-matrix of size $(2F + 1) \times (2F + 1)$. The most comprehensive matrix elements (i.e., $\Lambda \neq 0$) have been numerically implemented.

As previously pointed out, the hyperfine matrix elements $\Delta N = \pm 2$ (assigned by an X without parentheses in Fig. 1) barely contribute to the coupling when their value is small compared with the energy difference between the two coupled rotational levels. This is particularly suitable when the rotational constants are large, like for HD. In that case, the $\Delta N = \pm 2$ couplings can be ignored, and only the squared-frame matrix elements of Fig. 1 matter. In this specific case, a unitary transformation (here, a double permutation of the two central columns and rows) allows for diagonalizing two trivial 2×2 matrices along $\Delta N = 0$ instead of diagonalizing one $(2i_D + 1)(2i_H + 1) \times (2i_D + 1)(2i_H + 1)$ matrix (see Fig. 1). The net result is that N remains a quasi good quantum number. However, since each value of N can be coupled up to two values of F_1 , we have introduced the label \pm when necessary, i.e., “+” when $N = F_1$, and “-” otherwise (following spin-rotation conventional notation).

F. Comparison with previous works

Four values of the hyperfine constants of the ground vibrational state ($\nu = 0$) have been proposed by Ramsey and co-authors in two papers[46, 47]. They have been obtained from energy level splitting of the Zeeman sub-transitions under magnetic field inside the $N = 1$ rotational level, see Table I. The scalar spin-spin dipole constant c_s is barely considered here, because it is approximately three orders of magnitude weaker than the other constants[15, 67, 69, 70]. It is worth noting that Ramsey and co-authors[46, 47] defined the two hyperfine constants $d_1 = 2c_{dip}/5$ and $d_2 = \frac{-eq_v Q_D}{10}$.

| F_1 | | N | | | | | |
|---------|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | $F-3/2$ | $F-1/2$ | | $F+1/2$ | $F+3/2$ | |
| $F-3/2$ | $F-3/2$ | | (X) (X) | X | | X | |
| | $F-1/2$ | (X) (X) | | (X) (X) | X X X | | X |
| $F-1/2$ | $F+1/2$ | X | (X) (X) | | (X) | X X X | |
| | $F-1/2$ | | X X X | (X) | | (X) (X) | X |
| $F+1/2$ | $F+1/2$ | X | | X X X | (X) (X) | | (X) (X) |
| | $F+3/2$ | | X | | X | (X) (X) | |

$\mathcal{H}_{nsr_D} : \Delta N = 0; \Delta F_1 = 0$

$\mathcal{H}_{nsr_H} : \Delta N = 0; \Delta F_1 = 0, \pm 1$

$\mathcal{H}_{quad} : \Delta N = 0, (\pm 1) \pm 2; \Delta F_1 = 0$

$\mathcal{H}_{dip} : \Delta N = 0, (\pm 1), \pm 2; \Delta F_1 = 0, \pm 1$

$\mathcal{H}_{dip_0} : \Delta N = 0; \Delta F_1 = 0, \pm 1$

(a)

| F_1 | | N | | | | | |
|---------|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | $F-3/2$ | $F-1/2$ | $F+1/2$ | $F-1/2$ | $F+1/2$ | $F+3/2$ |
| $F-3/2$ | $F-3/2$ | | (X) (X) | | X | X | |
| | $F-1/2$ | (X) (X) | | X X X | (X) (X) | | X |
| $F-1/2$ | $F+1/2$ | | X X X | | (X) | (X) (X) | X |
| | $F-1/2$ | X | (X) (X) | (X) | | X X X | |
| $F+1/2$ | $F+1/2$ | X | | (X) (X) | X X X | | (X) (X) |
| | $F+3/2$ | | X | X | | (X) (X) | |

(b)

Figure 1. Hyperfine matrices (HD-like, i.e., $\Delta i_D = \Delta i_H = \Delta F = 0$, $i_H = 1/2$, $i_D = 1$). Sub-figure a): crude hyperfine matrix for linear molecules. The (X) notation indicates the off-diagonal matrix elements $\Delta N = \pm 1$ which are null for $\Lambda = 0$ ($^1\Sigma$ state). The framed matrix elements follow $\Delta N = 0$. The selection rules are indicated for each coupling, and coordinated by the color set. The diagonal matrix elements ($\Delta N = \Delta F_1 = 0$) comprise the rotational energy (purely diagonal) and the diagonal hyperfine matrix elements. Sub-figure b): matrix obtained after a unitary transformation (permutation of two lines and columns), see text.

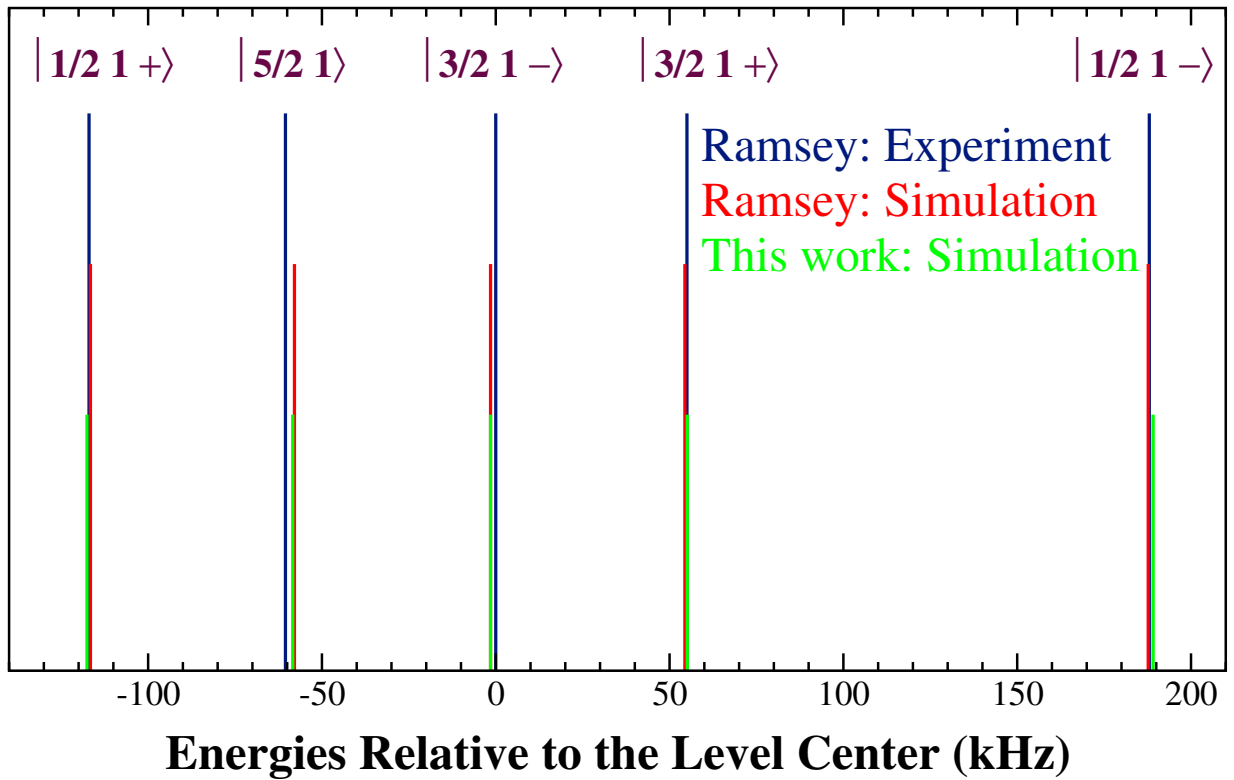


Figure 2. Hyperfine structure of HD for the level $N = 1$, $\nu = 0$. The level assignment $|FN = 1 \pm\rangle$ is defined in section II E (it is noteworthy that the assignment \pm differs from that employed by Ramsey). The experimental energies are displayed in dark blue, from Ref. [46]. The calculated energies obtained from the Ramsey constants [46] are displayed in red, and those obtained from the *ab initio* constants are displayed in green (see Table I). The overlap is better than 3 kHz. The rotational constants have been extracted from Ref. [71].

We observe that the calculated constants in this work are slightly different (i.e., within 1%, that is approximately one order of magnitude larger than the experimental accuracy) from those extrapolated from the experiment, when they can be compared (i.e., for $\nu = 0$, no other values are available in the literature). Nevertheless, the most important result is the behavior of the constants versus the vibrational mode considered: decreasing values with the vibrational energy growth. Hence the values used for the energy calculation of the vibrational level $\nu = 2$ have been corrected for these differences (i.e., extrapolated from $\nu = 0$); see Table I.

G. Validation

The correctness of the matrix element calculation has been checked by reproducing the experimental data available in the literature, i.e., the hyperfine level energies obtained under magnetic field (it is worth noting that the hyperfine constants provided by Ramsey and co-authors [46, 47] have been evaluated by using a decoupled basis-set). The energy values have been extrapolated to zero magnetic field from Fig. 1 of Ref. [46] with the best accuracy possible. They are reported in Fig. 2 and compared to our predictions based on the Ramsey's hyperfine coupling values, as well as on our *ab initio* values (for $\nu = 0$).

It is worth noting that we reach an almost perfect agreement between the calculated and the experimental energies, knowing that the experimental energies extracted from Ref. [46] suffer from evaluated uncertainties of the order of ± 2.5 kHz, which is inside the uncertainty range of our determinations (after correction of the constants). We anticipate

Table II. Herman-Wallis coefficients of HD for the vibrational band $\nu: 2 \leftarrow 0$.

| μ_0 (μD) | c_1 | c_2 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 19.35 (12) | 0.0569 (30) | $-2.00 (39) \times 10^{-3}$ |

The Herman-Wallis coefficients[74] have been obtained by fitting the data provided by Kassi and Campargue[73] with a uniform data weighting: $\mu(m) = \mu_0(1 + c_1 m + c_2 m^2)$, with $m = N + 1$ for the R branch, and $m = -N$ for the P branch (this factor can be deduced from formula B7 by setting $\Lambda = 0$).

The uncertainties (three times the standard deviation) are provided in parentheses (unit of the last digits).

that a similar uncertainty must affect the relative energy positions of the two other vibrational levels. However, there is currently no experimental data to validate this estimation.

III. LINE INTENSITIES

A. Implementation

The calculation of the matrix elements, including the rotational energies and the hyperfine couplings, the diagonalization of the full matrix (i.e., without unitary transformation or approximation, see section II E), the recovering of the level assignments, and then, the calculation of the linear line intensity have been implemented in the application "STEPGRAM". This application is based on the language perl calling "c" subroutines. The matrix diagonalization algorithm is provided by the package PDL (based on LAPACK)[72].

B. Electric Dipole Moment

Strictly considering, the weak rovibrational transitions inside the ground state of HD follow the selection rules and labeling associated with the symmetry group $C_{\infty h}$ [29]. However, because of the weak u/g mixing in a nonadiabatic BOA, the usual symmetry notation of the BOA wave function can be conserved.

The calculation of the line intensity of the hyperfine transitions can be deduced from known vibration-rotation line intensities. Actually, Ref. [73] provides a list of experimental line intensities, and of electric dipole moments for 11 rotational lines of the first overtone band at 294 (1) K. Indeed, the observed values are very close to the calculated ones (within 1%)[25]. For the sake of completeness, the experimental intensities have been fitted (unweighted data) to obtain the Herman-Wallis coefficients[74] of the first overtone band (see Table II). It is worth pointing out that the variation of the dipole moment of the overtone with the rotational transition results from the centrifugal distortion (rotation-vibration interaction) which is a diagonal correction to the BOA[29].

C. Linear Dipolar Line Intensity

Following the usual definition of the line intensity set for degenerate transitions (following HITRAN), we define[75]

$$S_{ul} = \sum_{m_u} \sum_{m_l} S_{um_u;l m_l} = \frac{2\pi^2}{3ch\epsilon_0} \tilde{\sigma}_{ul} \frac{e^{-\frac{E_l}{kT}} - e^{-\frac{E_u}{kT}}}{Q(T)} |\mu_{ul}|^2, \quad (26)$$

where c , ϵ_0 , k and h are the usual constants of the International System of Units, where $Q(T)$ is the partition function, E_u and E_l are the energies of the upper and lower levels, respectively, $\tilde{\sigma}_{ul}$ is the wavenumber of the hyperfine transition, and μ_{ul} is the dipole moment of the hyperfine transition in the electric dipole approximation (see Appendix B). The isotopic abundance is set to 1 (at the opposite of HITRAN). $S_{um_u;l m_l}$ are the line intensities of the sub-transition associated with each upper $|u m_u\rangle$ and lower $|l m_l\rangle$ Zeeman degenerate sub-levels. Actually, $|l m_l\rangle$ is set for the eigenvector $\left| \psi_{ev_l}^{\Lambda_l, F_l, m_{F_l}, i_H, i_D, (N_l, F_{l1})} \right\rangle$, and $|u m_u\rangle$ for $\left| \psi_{ev_u}^{\Lambda_u, F_u, m_{F_u}, i_H, i_D, (N_u, F_{u1})} \right\rangle$ which are obtained by matrix diagonalization (see section II E). By introducing the mixing coefficients $a_{N, F_1}^{\Lambda, F, i_H, i_D, (N, F_1)}$ (derived from the diagonalization), the wave functions are defined by

$$\left| \psi_{ev}^{\Lambda, F, m_F, i_H, i_D, (N, F_1)} \right\rangle = \sum_{F_1=|F-i_H|}^{F+i_H} \sum_{N=|F_1-i_D|}^{F_1+i_D} a_{N, F_1}^{\Lambda, F, i_H, i_D, (N, F_1)} \left| \psi_{ev} \Lambda; N i_D F_1 i_H F m_F \right\rangle, \quad (27)$$

where the assignment (N, F_1) is set for (N, \pm) , as discussed in section II E.

Here, we focus our attention on the hyperfine line intensity (i.e., S_{ul}), and we mainly ignore the Zeeman subline intensity (i.e., $S_{um_u;l m_l}$). However, knowing S_{ul} , it is easy to deduce these subline intensities $S_{um_u;l m_l}$ when the impinging beam polarization (associated with $\Delta m_F = 0, \pm 1$) is known since

$$S_{um_u;l m_l} = \begin{pmatrix} F_u & 1 & F_l \\ -m_{F_u} & \Delta m_F & m_{F_l} \end{pmatrix}^2 S_{ul}. \quad (28)$$

Actually, the values of intensities $S_{um_u;l m_l}$ are required when dealing with nonlinear absorption.

D. Stick Spectra

Armed by the formalism described in the Appendix B, we can generate the line intensity of the hyperfine transitions under interests [i.e., by evaluating the quantity S_{ul} , see Eq.(26)], and then plot the generated stick spectrum for various rotational transitions (the couplings $\Delta \Lambda \neq 0$ can be ignored, because the $B^1\Sigma_u^+$, and $C^1\Pi_u$ states are far away[76]). The simulations have been currently performed for two rotational transitions: P_1 (Fig. 3) and R_1 (Fig. 4) of the first overtone of HD, at room temperature (the two lines share the same lower levels). In addition to the values of the four relevant hyperfine constants, the value of the rotational and of the centrifugal distortion constants are required. The values of B , D and H constants have been taken from the literature: for the ground state in Ref. [71], and for the upper state (including the band origin) in Ref. [73]. The dipole moments of the calculated transitions follow the values provided by section III B. For each simulation, the center of gravity of the hyperfine pattern has been shifted to match the relevant rotational transition center. Hence the Doppler-broadened profile (under linear absorption) of the respective transition

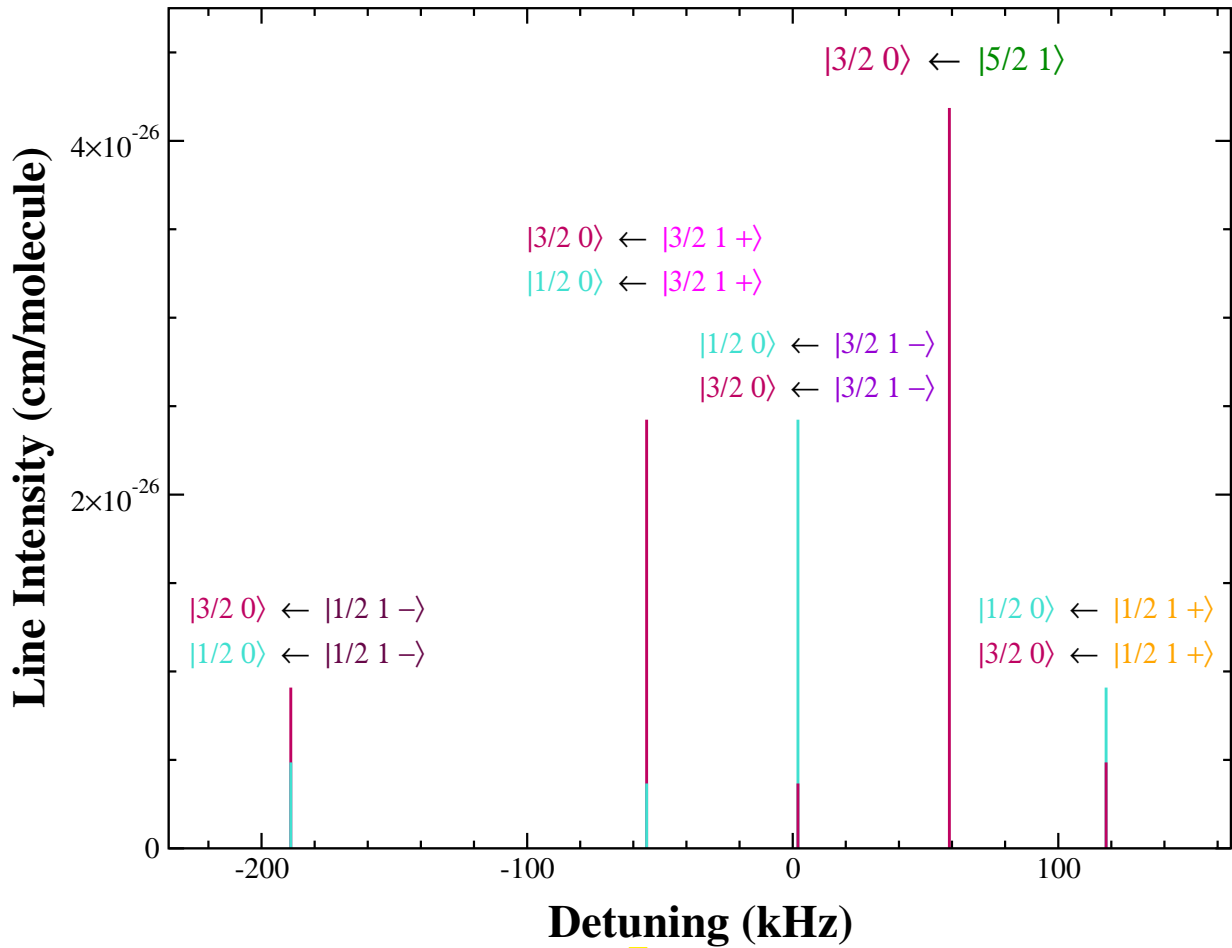


Figure 3. Line intensities of the transition P_1 . The pattern is centered on the center of gravity of the rovibrational transition (209, 7842, 90.882 MHz). The partition function is set to 29.8744 (i.e., for 296 K). The dipole moment is set to 18.2 μD (according to Table II). The rotational constants are taken from Ulivi, de Natale, and Inguscio[71] for the ground vibrational state, and from Kassi and Campargue[73] for the upper vibrational state. The energy level assignment is identical to that provided on Fig. 2. A color coding is associated with the energy levels and to the transitions.

can be centered at a null detuning.

Figure 3 exhibits a spectrum spreading over $\sim 300\text{kHz}$ (nine hyperfine lines) while Fig. 4 exhibits an extension approximately twice larger (21 hyperfine lines). Both spectra are dominated by the strongest (and nondegenerate) line issued from the same hyperfine level $|F_l = 5/2, N_l = 1\rangle$ (there is only one level $F = 5/2$ for $N = 1$). The other hyperfine lines of the transition P_1 are doublets, because the levels $F = 1/2$ and $F = 3/2$ are degenerate for $N = 0$. The stick spectrum of the other rotational transitions ($N < 6$) has also been analyzed (not shown), the spectral extension slightly increases with N . These extensions can approach 1 MHz. It is worth noting that the strongest hyperfine lines tend to spread over $\sim 100\text{kHz}$ for each rotational transition.

The spectrum of the transition R_1 looks very different from that of the transition P_1 , because of the larger number of hyperfine lines, and also because of the lift of hyperfine level degeneracies. Actually, the central frequency of the transition R_1 has been recently determined within a few tens of kHz accuracy, by two different groups using sub-Doppler techniques[16, 17], but they provide two incompatible determinations, while only the Amsterdam group reported about possible contributions of the hyperfine splittings on the observed unresolved resonance profile[16].

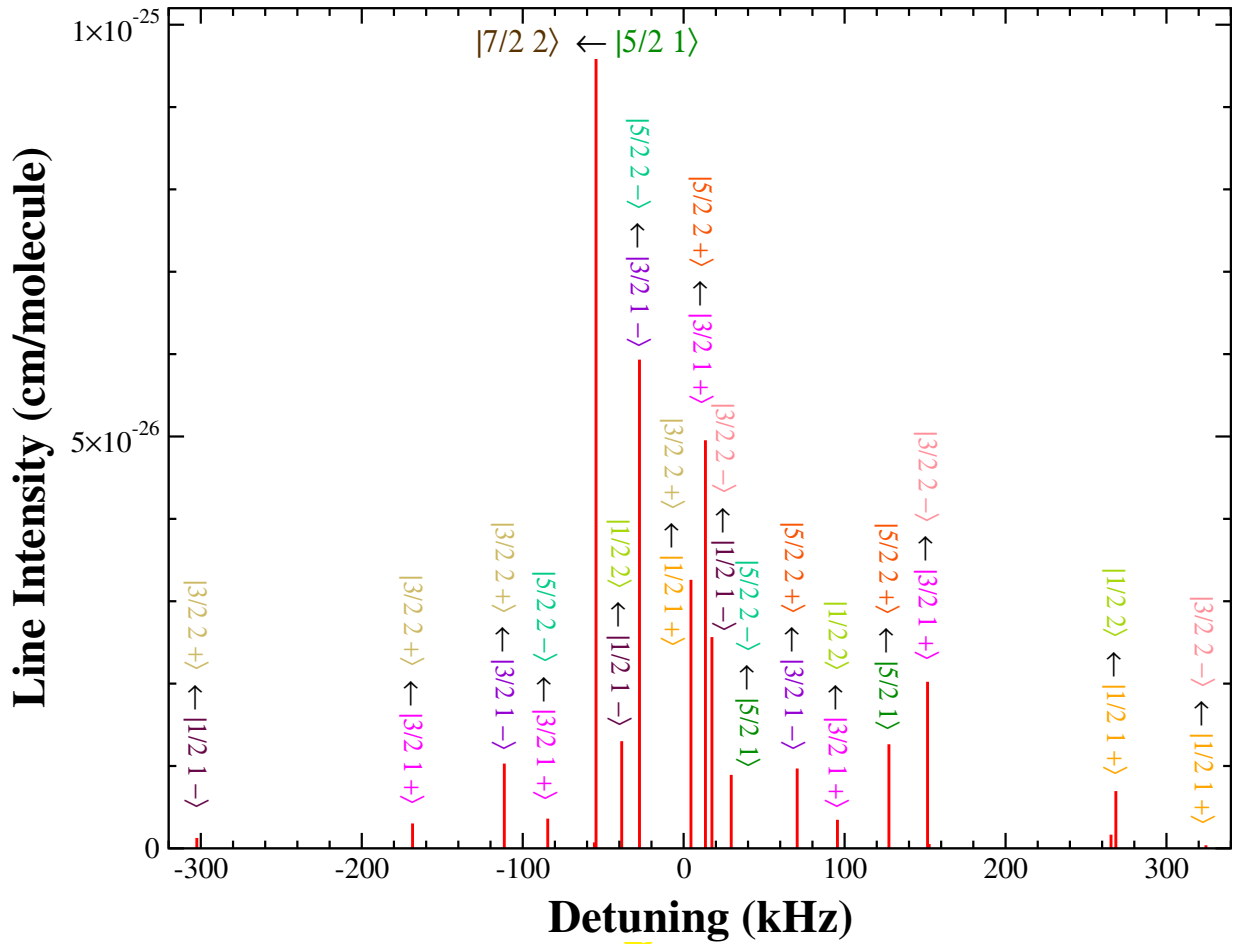


Figure 4. Line intensities of the transition R_1 . The pattern is centered on the center of gravity of the rovibrational transition (217, 105, 183.925 MHz). The partition function is set to 29.8744 (at 296 K). The dipole moment is set to 21.4 μD (according to Table II). Only the assignment of the lines with an intensity larger than 1.5×10^{-27} cm/mol. is reported over a total of 21 hyperfine lines. A color coding is associated with the energy levels. The rest of the caption is identical to that of Fig. 3.

IV. DISCUSSION

Given our simulations of the hyperfine line patterns (Figs. 3 and 4), the pivotal inquiries are, (i) is it possible to observe the predicted hyperfine components, and (ii) which “artifacts” would be induced under non-linear absorption experiments since, 1) only a sub-Doppler technique can allow for approaching the required spectral resolution, and 2) only a very sensitive technique can exhibit a sufficient signal-to-noise ratio? Moreover, nonlinear absorption and high sensitivity do not support a trivial congruent. Nowadays, both targeted objectives (resolution and sensitivity) are challenging for the most elaborated absorption techniques: CRDS (Cavity RingDown Spectroscopy)[17, 77], NICE-OHMS (Noise-Immune Cavity-Enhanced Optical Heterodyne Spectroscopy)[16] or any CEAS (Cavity Enhanced Absorption Spectroscopy). Additionally, the challenge is even more severe when we consider that nonlinear couplings (associated with saturated saturation) would induce crossover resonances, i.e., nonlinear resonances involving more than two energy levels, and even the (degenerated) Zeeman sublevels. Furthermore, additional sideband crossover resonances[78] can be anticipated when a frequency modulation technique is adopted.

While our calculations have been focused on the key first overtone of HD, they can be easily performed for any other vibrational transitions. Actually, the study of the fundamental overtone may be also very promising. The line

intensities can readily be deduced by using the constants provided in Table I. Here, we disregarded about any possible experimental issues which require for specific attention. Nevertheless, it seems that the use of a magnetic field could help to resolve the hyperfine components, at least partially, because it would spread the hyperfine transitions over a larger spectral pattern.

Of course, the quality of the predictions on the relative position of the line position needs to be experimentally investigated. The transition R_1 (Fig. 4) shows a few hyperfine transitions separated by less than 10 kHz, which is currently a real experimental challenge. However, the transitions R_0 and P_1 (Fig. 3) let us anticipate more favorable conditions despite the hyperfine line overlapping, because (i) the minimum frequency separation between transitions reaches ~ 60 kHz, and (ii) the number of distinguishable hyperfine transitions is limited to five with three ones prevailing (the pattern of the transition R_0 is very similar to that of the transition P_1 , except that the frequency scale is reversed). These reduced structures greatly simplify the calculation of the spectral pattern under saturated absorption since only a two-level Λ or V coupling scheme is involved.

It is worth pointing out that our approach of the calculation of the hyperfine line intensity is certainly not ultimate in the absence of calculations of all the hyperfine couplings at the best computational level which would include a nonadiabatic BOA or a Post-BO approach (see Introduction), and relativistic corrections. In this first tentative, the hyperfine parameters have been calculated by using a pure adiabatic BOA, but only minuscule corrections are anticipated (see section II A; inaccuracies are provided). However, the calculated hyperfine level energies have been positively checked with Ramsey's data when it was possible. Thus we anticipate only little propagation of the modeling deficiencies to the hyperfine line intensities.

Last, although the hyperfine formalism has been specifically discussed for the ground electronic state of HD, it has been implemented to cover the upper electronic states of HD exhibiting non null values of Λ and the cases of any linear molecule in the singlet state exhibiting two different nuclear spins; cf. C_2HD , DE, CsE, and even $C^{17}O$ or $^{16}O^{17}O$ (molecules exhibiting a single nuclear spin).

V. CONCLUSIONS

By considering the hyperfine structure of linear molecules involving two different values of the nuclear spin with one $> 1/2$, and by quantum-chemical calculations of the HD hyperfine constants, we have first validated the predicted level structure via the data available in the literature. We then established a formalism allowing us to calculate the linear line intensity of the hyperfine transitions, key data for nonlinear sub-Doppler spectroscopy calculations. In that perspective, the Herman-Wallis coefficients have been derived from the data available in literature. The hyperfine stick spectra have been mainly discussed for two transitions belonging to the first overtone band of HD (i.e., the transitions P_1 and R_1). They show spectral extensions which can reach 1 MHz, opening opportunities to analyze data issued from extremely accurate and sensitive experimental setups.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDICES

A. Some key matrix elements associated with $i_H = 1/2, i_D = 1$

$$\langle i'_H \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_H) \| i_H \rangle = \delta_{i_H i'_H} \sqrt{i_H (i_H + 1) (2i_H + 1)} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}. \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$\langle i'_D \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(i_D) \| i_D \rangle = \delta_{i_D i'_D} \sqrt{i_D (i_D + 1) (2i_D + 1)} = \sqrt{6}. \quad (\text{A2})$$

$$\langle N' \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(N) \| N \rangle = \delta_{NN'} \sqrt{N(N+1)(2N+1)}. \quad (\text{A3})$$

$$\langle i'_D \| \mathbf{T}^{(2)}(Q_D) \| i_D \rangle = \frac{Q_D}{2} \sqrt{\frac{(i_D + 1)(2i_D + 1)(2i_D + 3)}{i_D(2i_D - 1)}} = \sqrt{\frac{15}{2}} Q_D, \quad (\text{A4})$$

with $Q_D = 2 \langle i_D, m_{i_D} = i_D | \mathbf{T}_0^{(2)}(Q_D) | i_D, m_{i_D} = i_D \rangle$ [79].

B. Calculation of $|\mu_{ul}|^2$

Commonly dealing with the linear absorption approximation resulting from an electric dipole transition, it is relevant to survive the Hamiltonian coupling the external electromagnetic field $E(t)$ (in the slowly varying envelop approximation) with the hyperfine transition electric dipole moment μ_{ul} as defined in section III C. By using a similar tensorial formalism to that introduced in section II, we define, in the laboratory-fixed frame

$$\mathcal{H}_{e1}(t) = -\mathbf{T}^{(1)}(\mu) \cdot \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(E) = E(t) \sum_q (-1)^q \mathbf{T}_q^{(1)}(\mu) \mathbf{T}_{-q}^{(1)}(\epsilon), \quad (\text{B1})$$

where $\mathbf{T}^{(1)}(\epsilon)$ is a normalized to one (unitless), possibly complex quantity whose tensorial components (q) reflect the direction of the polarization of the external EMF, $E(t)$ being a scalar. Thus only the matrix elements of $\mathbf{T}_q^{(1)}(\mu)$ need to be calculated. It becomes by reduction

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{ulq} &= \left\langle \psi_{ev_u}^{\Lambda_u, F_u, m_{F_u}, i_{H_u}, F_{1u}}(i_{D_u}, N_u) \left| \mathbf{T}_q^{(1)}(\mu) \right| \psi_{ev_l}^{\Lambda_l, F_l, m_{F_l}, i_{H_l}, F_{1l}}(i_{D_l}, N_l) \right\rangle \\ &= (-1)^{F_u - m_{F_u}} \begin{pmatrix} F_u & 1 & F_l \\ -m_{F_u} & q & m_{F_l} \end{pmatrix} \left\langle \psi_{ev_u}^{\Lambda_u, F_u, i_{H_u}, F_{1u}}(i_{D_u}, N_u) \left\| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(\mu) \right\| \psi_{ev_l}^{\Lambda_l, F_l, i_{H_l}, F_{1l}}(i_{D_l}, N_l) \right\rangle \\ &= (-1)^{F_u - m_{F_u}} \begin{pmatrix} F_u & 1 & F_l \\ -m_{F_u} & q & m_{F_l} \end{pmatrix} \mu_{ul}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B2})$$

By inserting the mixing coefficients [see Eq. (27)] into Eq. (B2), by multiplying by the complex conjugated expression, and by summing over all the polarization components ($\Delta m_F = 0, \pm 1$), we obtain[80] [following Eq. (26)]

$$|\mu_{ul}|^2 = \left| \sum_{F_{1l}=|F_l-i_{Hl}|}^{F_l+i_{Hl}} \sum_{F_{1u}=|F_u-i_{Hu}|}^{F_u+i_{Hu}} \sum_{N_l=|F_{1l}-i_{Dl}|}^{F_{1l}+i_{Dl}} \sum_{N_u=|F_{1u}-i_{Du}|}^{F_{1u}+i_{Du}} a_{N_l, F_{1l}}^{\Lambda_l, F_l, i_{Hl}, i_{Dl}, (N_l, F_{1l})} a_{N_u, F_{1u}}^{\Lambda_u, F_u, i_{Hu}, i_{Du}, (N_u, F_{1u})} \langle \psi_{ev_u} \Lambda_u; i_{Du} N_u F_{1u} i_{Hu} F_u m_{F_u} \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(\mu) \| \psi_{ev_l} \Lambda_l; i_{Dl} N_l F_{1l} i_{Hl} F_l m_{F_l} \rangle \right|^2, \quad (\text{B3})$$

where the reduced matrix element can be calculated:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \psi_{ev_u} \Lambda_u; N_u i_{Du} F_{1u} i_{Hu} F_u \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(\mu) \| \psi_{ev_l} \Lambda_l; N_l i_{Dl} F_{1l} i_{Hl} F_l \rangle \\ &= (-1)^{F_l+i_{Hl}+F_{1u}+1} \sqrt{(2F_l+1)(2F_u+1)} \begin{Bmatrix} i_H & F_l & F_{1l} \\ 1 & F_{1u} & F_u \end{Bmatrix} \\ & \times (-1)^{F_{1l}+i_{Dl}+N_u+1} \sqrt{(2F_{1l}+1)(2F_{1u}+1)} \begin{Bmatrix} i_D & F_{1l} & N_l \\ 1 & N_u & F_{1u} \end{Bmatrix} \\ & \times \langle \psi_{ev_u} \Lambda_u N_u \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(\mu) \| \psi_{ev_l} \Lambda_l N_l \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B4})$$

The following selection rules: $\Delta F = F_u - F_l = 0, \pm 1$ ($0 \leftrightarrow 0$), and $\Delta i_D = \Delta i_H = 0$ are deduced.

Finally, by using the finite rotation matrix $\mathcal{D}_{q'}^{(2)}$ [81], the reduced matrix element in the molecule-fixed referential is deduced:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \psi_{ev_u} \Lambda_u N_u \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(\mu) \| \psi_{ev_l} \Lambda_l N_l \rangle \\ &= \left\langle \psi_{ev_u} \Lambda_u N_u \left\| \sum_{q'} \mathcal{D}_{q'}^{(2)*} \mathbf{T}_{q'}^{(1)}(\mu') \right\| \psi_{ev_l} \Lambda_l N_l \right\rangle \\ &= \sqrt{(2N_u+1)(2N_l+1)} \sum_{q'} (-1)^{N_u-\Lambda_u} \begin{pmatrix} N_u & 1 & N_l \\ -\Lambda_u & q' & \Lambda_l \end{pmatrix} \langle \mathbf{T}_{-q'}^{(1)}(\mu') \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B5})$$

which provides the additional selection rules: $\Delta N = N_u - N_l = 0, \pm 1$ and $\Delta \Lambda = \Lambda_u - \Lambda_l = 0, \pm 1$.

When squaring Eq. (B5), we recognize the usual Hönl-London factor

$$(2N_u+1)(2N_l+1) \begin{pmatrix} N_u & 1 & N_l \\ -\Lambda_u & \Delta \Lambda & \Lambda_l \end{pmatrix}^2. \quad (\text{B6})$$

For parallel transitions [$\Delta \Lambda = 0$, $\langle \mathbf{T}_{-q}^{(1)}(\mu') \rangle = \langle \mu_{z'} \rangle$]

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \psi_{ev_u} \Lambda_u N_u \| \mathbf{T}^{(1)}(\mu) \| \psi_{ev_l} \Lambda_l N_l \rangle \\ &= (-1)^{N_u-\Lambda_u} \sqrt{(2N_u+1)(2N_l+1)} \begin{pmatrix} N_u & 1 & N_l \\ -\Lambda & 0 & \Lambda \end{pmatrix} \langle \mathbf{T}_0^{(1)}(\mu') \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B7})$$

where $\langle \mathbf{T}_0^{(1)}(\mu') \rangle$ is the molecular dipole moment (including the N dependence) as defined in section III B.

It is worth pointing out that HITRAN ignores the individual hyperfine transitions [as compared with Eq. (26)], but it deals with a degeneracy factor carrying out the nuclear spin statistic g_{ns} which is obviously equal to $(2i_D + 1) \times (2i_H + 1)$. The existence of a sum rule on the 6j symbols allows us to check the sum intensity.

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