

# **Terzo Workshop sull'Astronomia Millimetrica in Italia**

## **Laboratory data in support of astronomical detection of molecules**

Assimo Maris

Department of Chemistry “Giacomo Ciamician”  
University of Bologna (Italy)

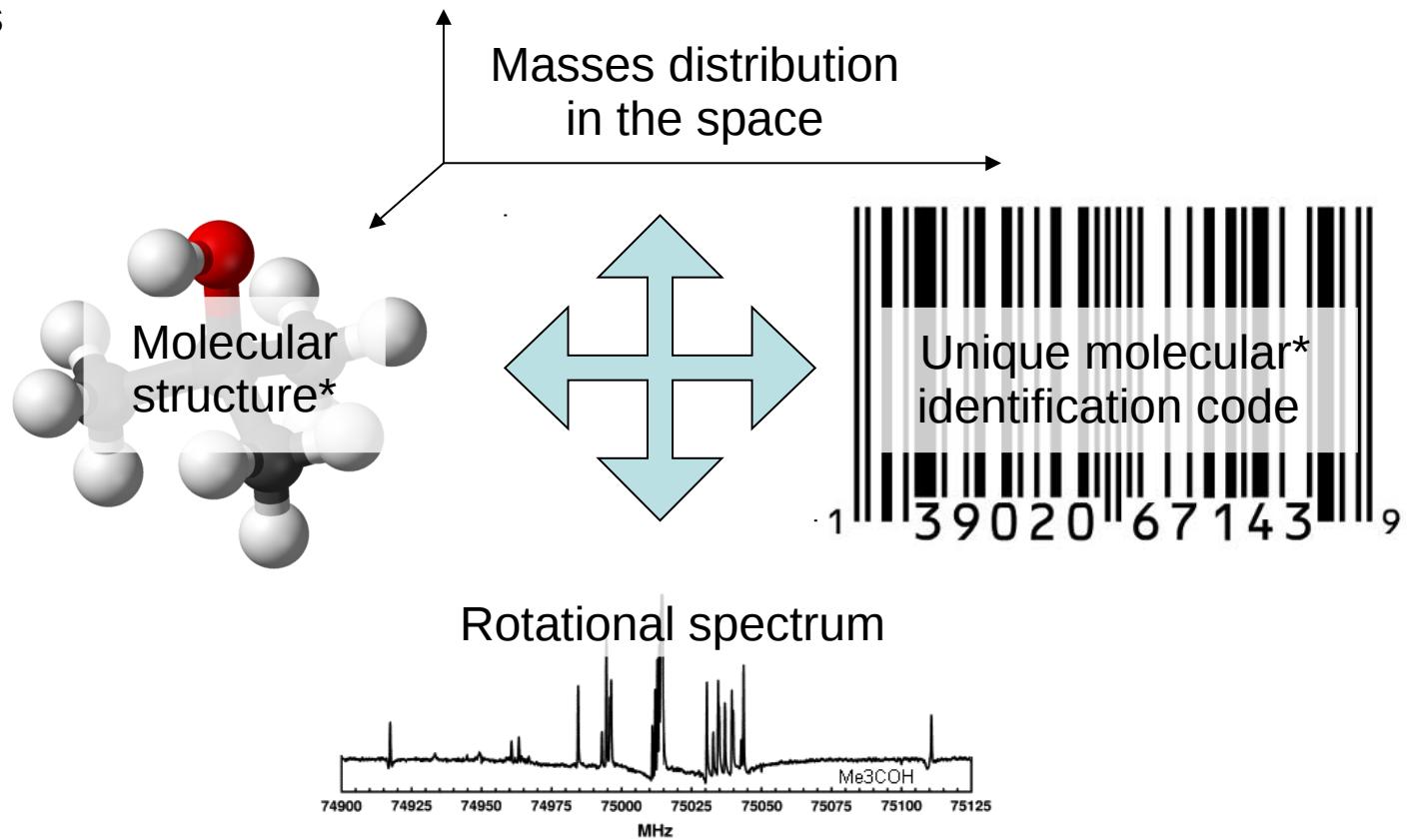


20-21 Gennaio 2015

Istituto di Radioastronomia Bologna, Italy  
CNR Area della Ricerca a Bologna - Sala 216

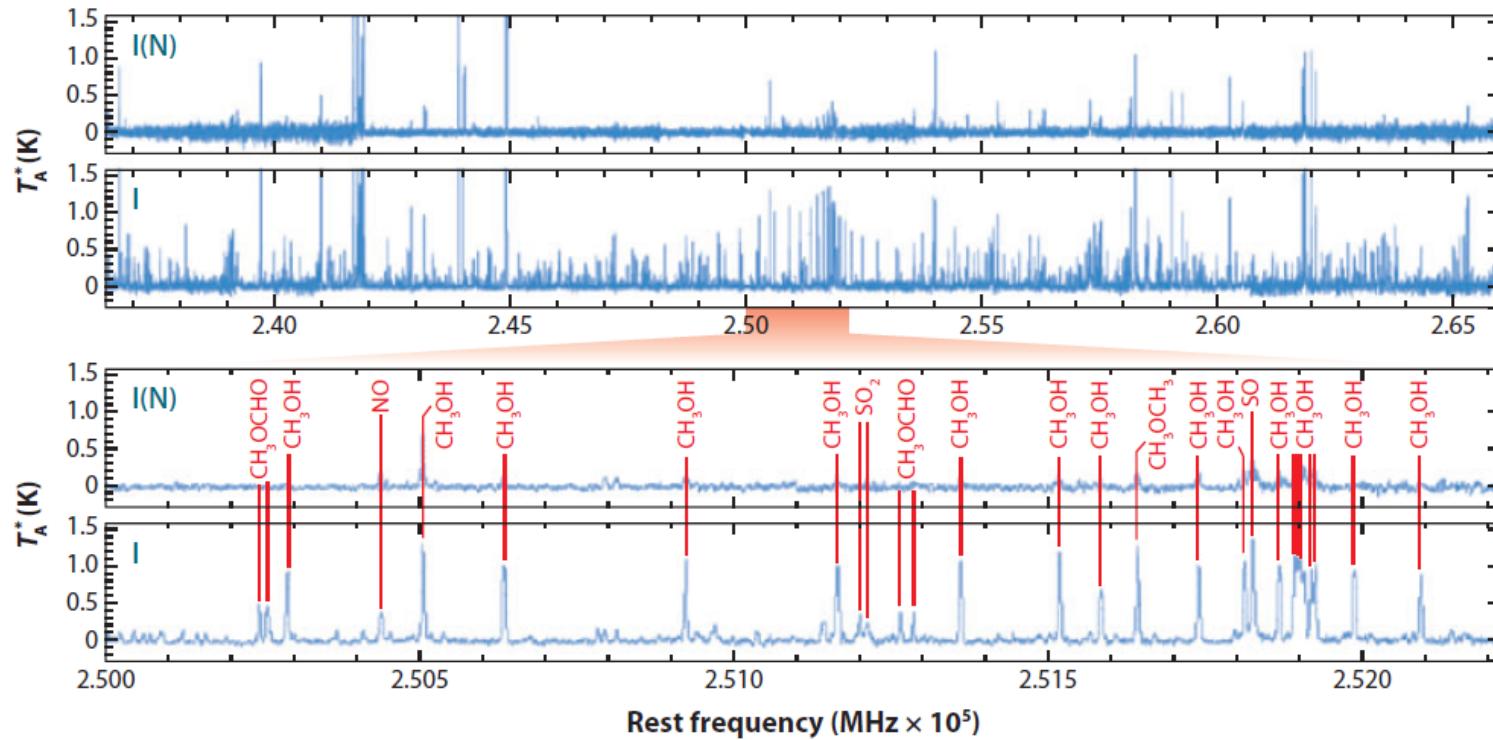
# Rotational spectroscopy

- The research of molecules in space is essential to understand the chemistry of the Universe
- Astrochemical models are based on:
  - identification of the molecules
  - abundance
  - isotopic variations and other details
- Rotational spectroscopy is one of the main techniques for observation and identification of molecules in space



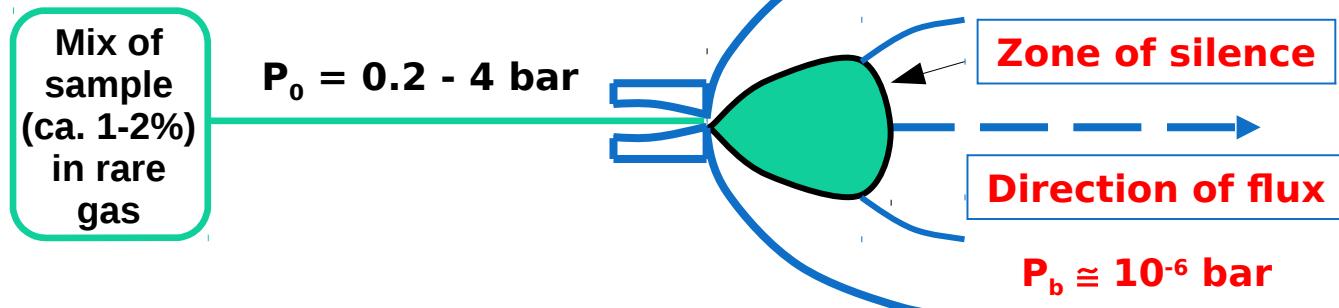
(\*including: tautomers; isotopomers; conformers; vibrational and electronic excited states; ionized species)

# Molecules in space (184+deuterated+unconfirmed)



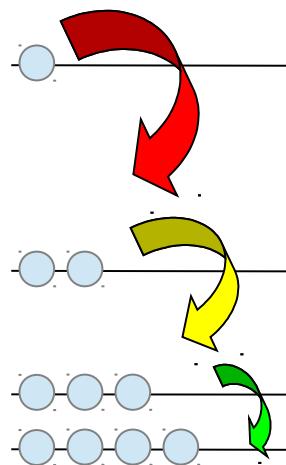
Line surveys in the 1 mm atmospheric window toward two massive young stellar objects, I(N) (top) and I (bottom), in the NGC 6334 star-forming region.

*Herbst & van Dishoeck, Annu. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. 47 (2009) 427*

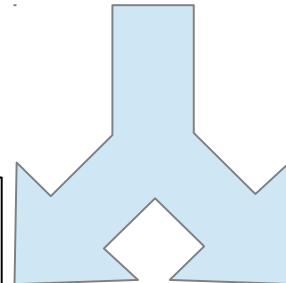


If  $P_0 \gg P_b$  (ca.  $10^5$ )

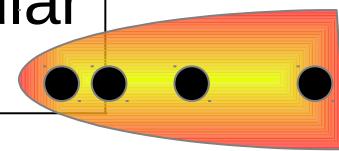
## Supersonic expansion



Cooling of the degrees of freedom

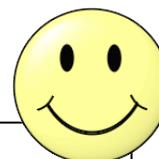


Stop of the intermolecular collisions



Depopulation of the excited vibrational states

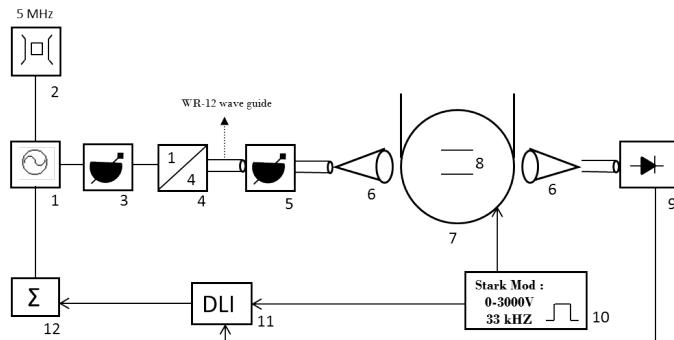
More intense, more simple rotational spectra



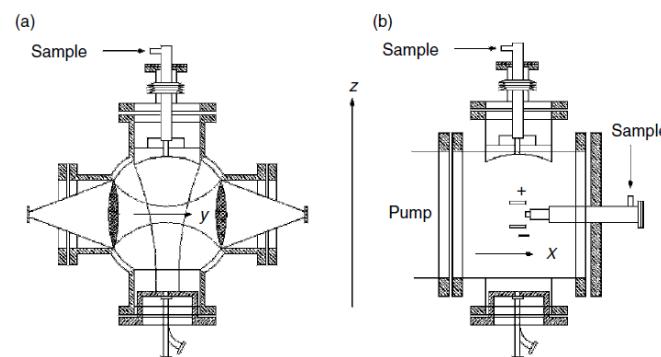
Longer lifetime of kinetically unstable species

# Free Jet Absorption Millimeter Wave spectrometer (FJ-AMMW, 52-74.4 GHz)

- Sweep rate: 10 GHz per day
- Sensitivity:  $10^{-7}$  -  $10^{-8}$  cm $^{-1}$
- Resolution : 200 kHz
- Accuracy: < 50 kHz



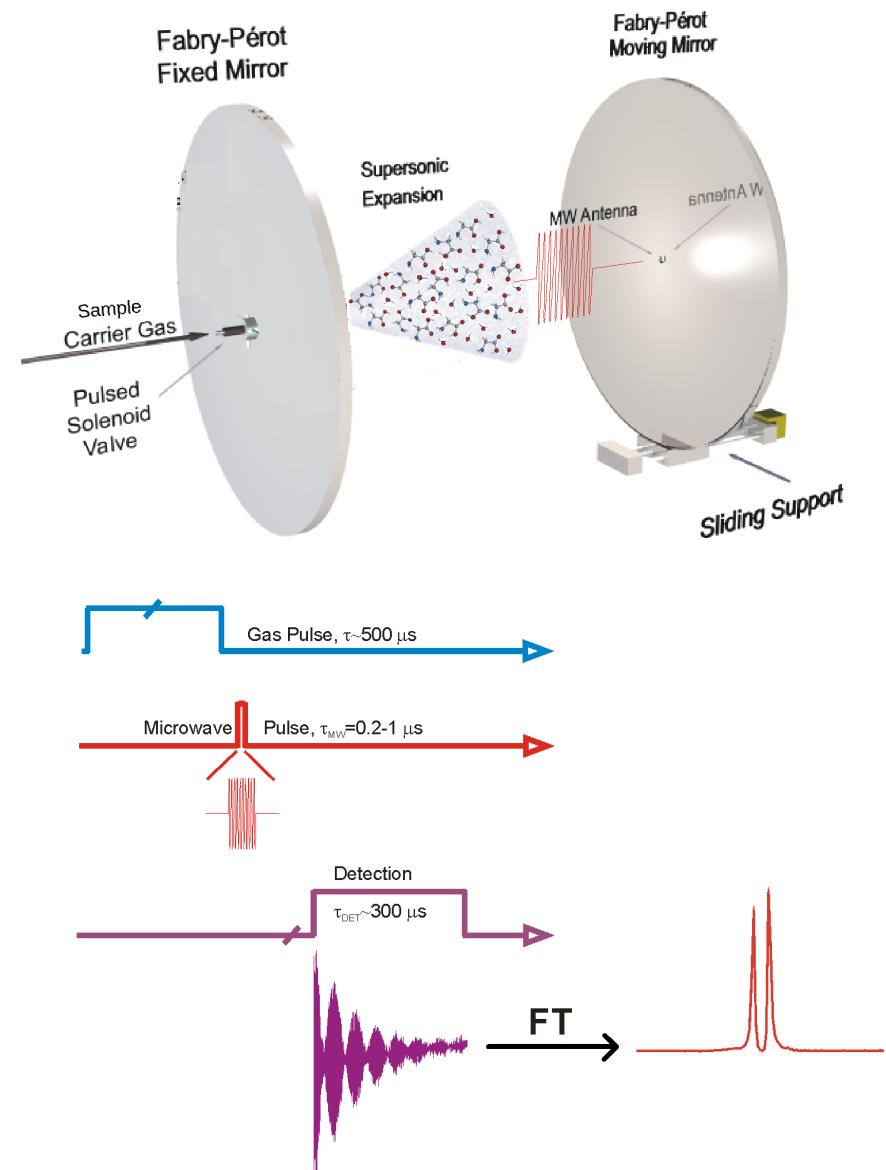
- Typical conditions:
- $P_0 = 200\text{-}500$  mbar,  $P_b = 0.001$  mbar
- $T_{\text{rot}} \approx 10$  K,  $T_{\text{sample}}$  up to 160°
- Jet length: 16 cm



- S. Melandri et al. J. Mol. Struct. 352/353 (1995) 253
- S. Melandri et al. Chem. Phys. Lett. 261 (1996) 267
- C. Calabrese et al. JPC-A 117 (2013) 13712

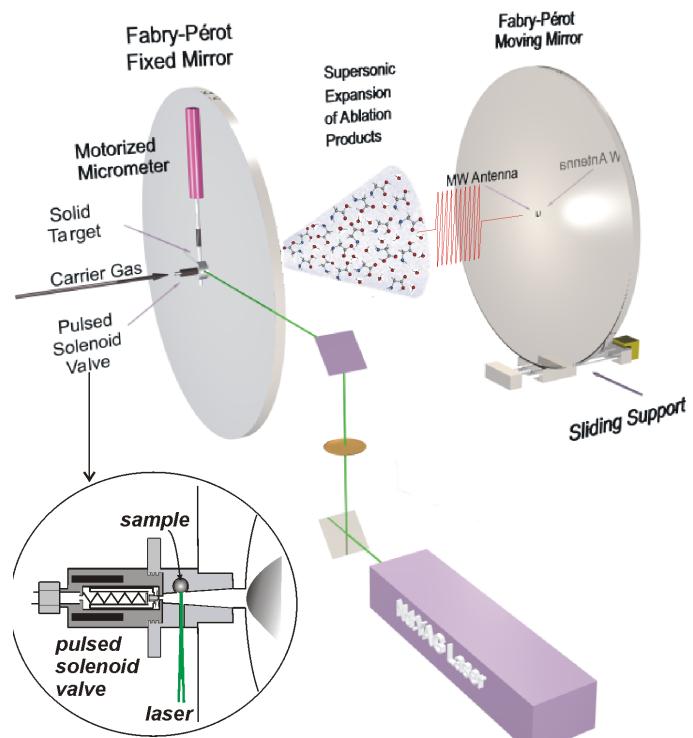
# Molecular Beam Fourier Transform MW spectrometer (MBFTMW, 6-18 GHz)

- Sweep rate: 0.2 GHz per day
- Sensitivity:  $10^{-11} - 10^{-12}$  cm $^{-1}$
- Sub Doppler resolution: few kHz
- Accuracy: < 3 kHz
- $T_{\text{rot}} \approx 1$  K



- Caminati et al., *Chem. Phys. Letters* 392 (2004) 1
- Operated according to: Jens-Uwe Grabow,  
*Habilitationsschrift, Universität Hannover (2004)*

# Experimental Perspective: MBFTMW + Laser ablation/desorption



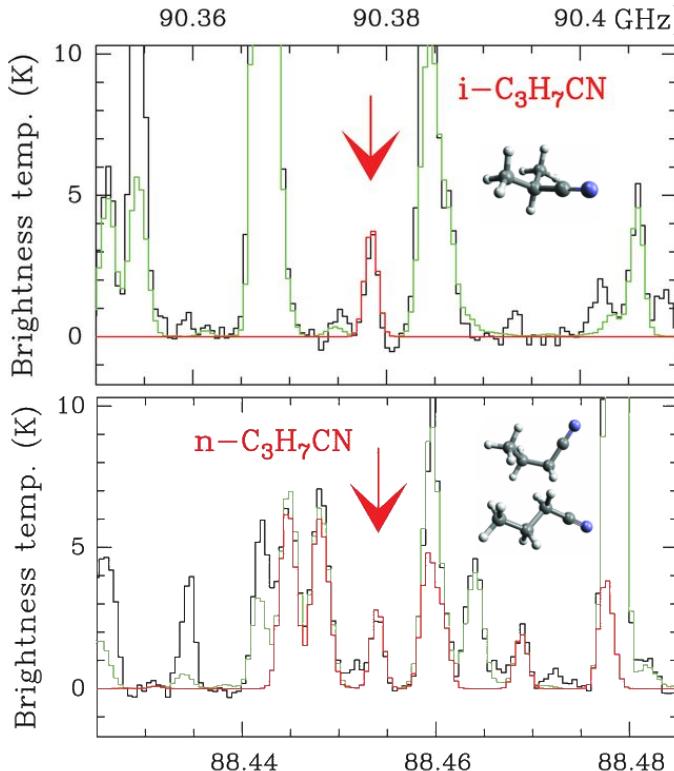
- Laser Nd-YAG (Quanta Systems) 532 nm 10 ns:
- Vaporization without decomposition of solid compounds and biomolecules
- Vaporization of metals

# Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array

## ALMA: 31 - 950 GHz

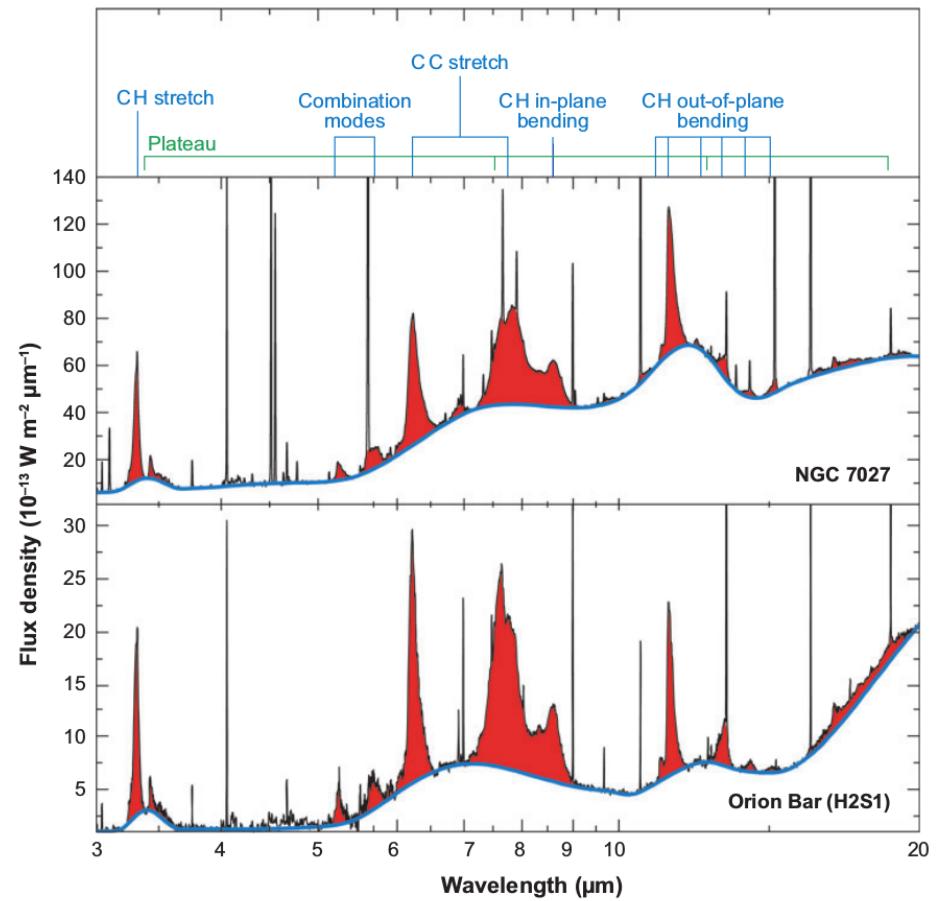
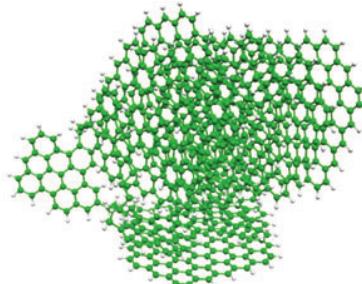
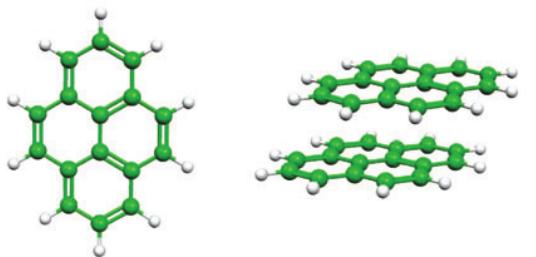


- High sensitivity and resolution
- The interpretation of the plethora of data that will be obtained requires a large number of laboratory data



- Examples of transitions of propyl cyanide toward the northern hot core of Sgr B2(N):
- Black: continuum-subtracted spectrum observed with ALMA
- Green: preliminary model including all identified molecules
- Red: synthetic spectra of *i*-PrCN and *n*-PrCN
- *Belloche et al. Science 345 (2014) 1584*
- *Müller et al. J. Mol. Spectr. 267 (2011) 100*
- *Durig & Li, J. Mol. Struct. 21 (1974) 289*

# Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Molecules



e.g. Tielens, *Annu. Rev. Astron. Astrophys.* 46 (2008) 289

# Fluorenone

## Accurate spectroscopy of polycyclic aromatic compounds: From the rotational spectrum of fluoren-9-one in the millimeter wave region to its infrared spectrum

Assimo Maris,<sup>1,a)</sup> Camilla Calabrese,<sup>1</sup> Sonia Melandri,<sup>1</sup> and Susana Blanco<sup>2</sup>

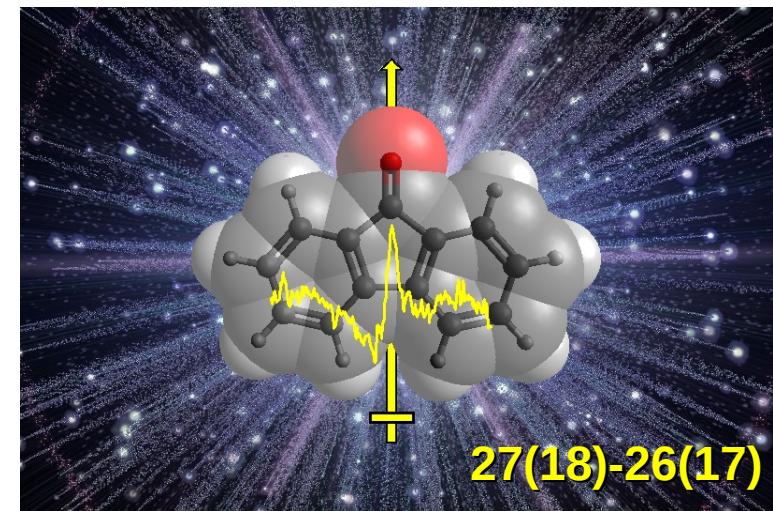
<sup>1</sup>Dipartimento di Chimica "Giacomo Ciamician", Università degli Studi di Bologna, via Selmi, 2, I-40126 Bologna, Italy

<sup>2</sup>Departamento de Química-Física y Química Inorgánica, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Valladolid, Paseo Belén 7, E-47005 Valladolid, Spain

(Received 7 November 2014; accepted 16 December 2014; published online 13 January 2015)

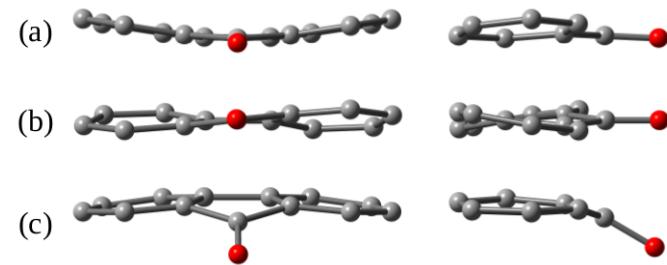
The rotational spectrum of fluoren-9-one, a small oxygenated polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, has been recorded and assigned in the 52–74.4 GHz region. The determined small negative value of the inertia defect ( $-0.3 \text{ u } \text{\AA}^2$ ) has been explained in terms of vibrational-rotational coupling constants calculated at the B3LYP/cc-pVTZ level of theory. Vibrational anharmonic analysis together with second-order vibrational perturbation theory approximation was applied both to fluorenone and its reduced form, fluorene, to predict the mid- and near-infrared spectra. The data presented here give precise indication on the fluorenone ground state structure, allow for an accurate spectral characterization in the millimeter wave and infrared regions, and hopefully will facilitate extensive radio astronomical searches with large radio telescopes. © 2015 AIP Publishing LLC. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.4905134>]

	MHz	e-c		MHz	e-c
24 (24) - 23 (23)	68458.54	-0.08	33 (18) - 32 (17)	66173.33	0.01
25 (24) - 24 (23)	69467.34	-0.06	34 (18) - 33 (17)	67165.88	-0.08
23 (23) - 22 (22)	65567.13	-0.02	35 (18) - 34 (17)	68156.00	0.05
22 (21) - 21 (20)	60793.18	0.19	36 (18) - 35 (17)	69143.00	0.00
23 (21) - 22 (20)	61801.85	0.12	37 (18) - 36 (17)	70126.78	-0.02
23 (20) - 22 (19)	59918.70	-0.04	29 (17) - 28 (16)	60285.52	0.00
24 (20) - 23 (19)	60927.10	0.06	30 (17) - 29 (16)	61283.11	0.02
25 (20) - 24 (19)	61935.03	0.02	31 (17) - 30 (16)	62278.44	0.01
26 (20) - 25 (19)	62942.62	0.08	32 (17) - 31 (16)	63271.25	-0.02
27 (20) - 26 (19)	63949.57	0.03	33 (17) - 32 (16)	64261.29	-0.02
28 (20) - 27 (19)	64956.00	0.10	34 (17) - 33 (16)	65248.17	-0.05
29 (20) - 28 (19)	65961.58	0.07	35 (17) - 34 (16)	66231.64	-0.02
30 (20) - 29 (19)	66966.27	0.02	36 (17) - 35 (16)	67211.27	0.03
31 (20) - 30 (19)	67969.99	0.01	37 (17) - 36 (16)	68186.59	0.05
32 (20) - 31 (19)	68972.52	-0.05	38 (17) - 37 (16)	69157.13	0.03
33 (20) - 32 (19)	69973.88	0.01	39 (17) - 38 (16)	70122.45	0.05
19 (19) - 18 (18)	54001.04	-0.02	31 (16) - 30 (15)	60366.61	0.00
20 (19) - 19 (18)	55009.78	-0.11	32 (16) - 31 (15)	61353.36	-0.01
25 (19) - 24 (18)	60050.56	-0.05	33 (16) - 32 (15)	62336.32	-0.07
26 (19) - 25 (18)	61057.34	-0.04	34 (16) - 33 (15)	63315.20	-0.04
27 (19) - 26 (18)	62063.40	-0.03	35 (16) - 34 (15)	64289.43	0.01
28 (19) - 27 (18)	63068.61	-0.02	36 (16) - 35 (15)	65258.36	-0.04
29 (19) - 28 (18)	64072.85	0.01	32 (15) - 31 (14)	59419.03	0.09
30 (19) - 29 (18)	65075.90	-0.01	33 (15) - 32 (14)	60391.80	0.00
31 (19) - 30 (18)	66077.63	-0.04	34 (15) - 33 (14)	61358.95	0.07
32 (19) - 31 (18)	67078.04	0.07	35 (15) - 34 (14)	62319.56	-0.11
19 (18) - 18 (17)	52118.29	-0.02	36 (15, 22) - 35 (14, 21)	63272.68	0.02
20 (18) - 19 (17)	53126.95	-0.07	36 (15, 21) - 35 (14, 22)	63273.56	0.02
25 (18) - 24 (17)	58165.07	-0.01	37 (15, 23) - 36 (14, 22)	64217.45	0.07
27 (18) - 26 (17)	60175.44	-0.02	37 (15, 22) - 36 (14, 23)	64219.39	0.09
28 (18) - 27 (17)	61179.04	0.01	27 (14) - 26 (13)	52577.06	0.02
29 (18) - 28 (17)	62181.27	-0.02	28 (14) - 27 (13)	53563.41	0.02
30 (18) - 29 (17)	63181.95	-0.11	29 (14) - 28 (13)	54545.41	0.07
31 (18) - 30 (17)	64181.15	0.02	30 (14) - 29 (13)	55522.37	0.09
32 (18) - 31 (17)	65178.30	0.00			



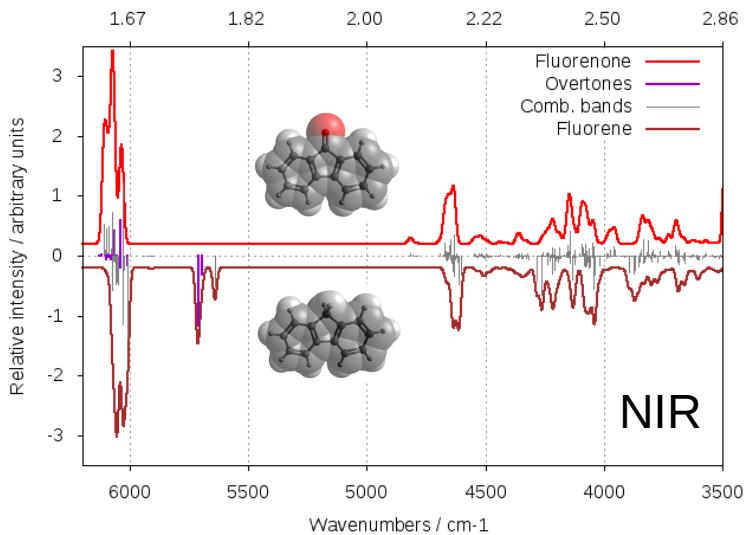
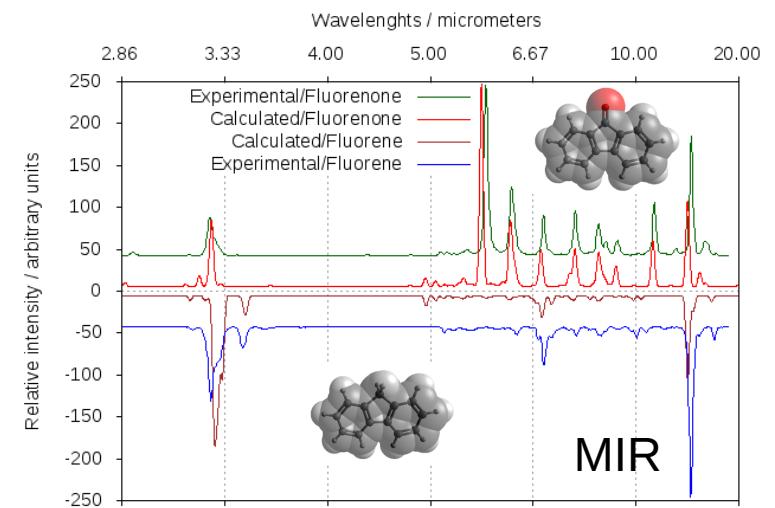
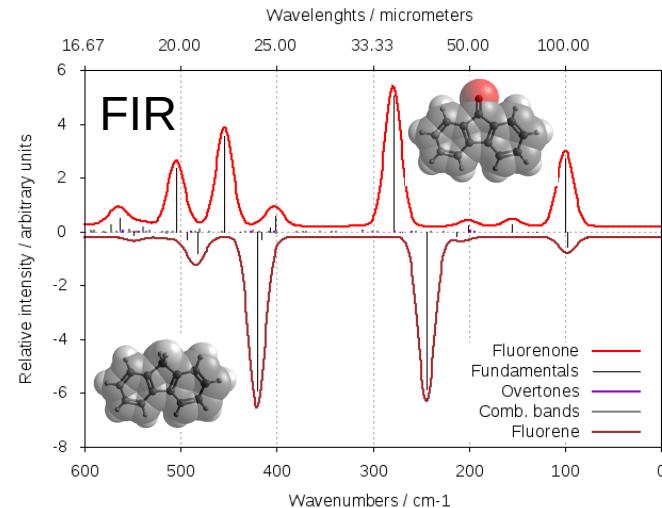
Microwave spectrum of fluorene:  
Thorwirth et al. ApJ 662 (2007) 1309

# Fluorene and fluorenone: infrared spectra prediction (B3LYP/cc-pVTZ)



Irreducible representations of the fundamental vibrational normal modes ( $\Gamma_{fv}$ ) and of the 1:1 combination bands ( $\Gamma_{cb}$ )

9HF				F9O					
$\Gamma_{fv}$	22 a <sub>1</sub>	10 a <sub>2</sub>	11 b <sub>1</sub>	20 b <sub>2</sub>	$\Gamma_{fv}$	21 a <sub>1</sub>	9 a <sub>2</sub>	10 b <sub>1</sub>	20 b <sub>2</sub>
22 a <sub>1</sub>	231 a <sub>1</sub>	220 a <sub>2</sub>	242 b <sub>1</sub>	440 b <sub>2</sub>	21 a <sub>1</sub>	210 a <sub>1</sub>	189 a <sub>2</sub>	210 b <sub>1</sub>	420 b <sub>2</sub>
10 a <sub>2</sub>	45 a <sub>1</sub>	110 b <sub>2</sub>	200 b <sub>1</sub>		9 a <sub>2</sub>		36 a <sub>1</sub>	90 b <sub>2</sub>	180 b <sub>1</sub>
11 b <sub>1</sub>		55 a <sub>1</sub>	220 a <sub>2</sub>		10 b <sub>1</sub>			45 a <sub>1</sub>	200 a <sub>2</sub>
20 b <sub>2</sub>			190 a <sub>1</sub>		20 b <sub>2</sub>			190 a <sub>1</sub>	
$\Gamma_{cb}$	521 a <sub>1</sub>	440 a <sub>2</sub>	442 b <sub>1</sub>	550 b <sub>2</sub>	$\Gamma_{cb}$	481 a <sub>1</sub>	389 a <sub>2</sub>	390 b <sub>1</sub>	510 b <sub>2</sub>



# Acrylic acid

- Already detected in the interstellar medium or circumstellar shells:

- formic acid H-COOH

- acetic acid CH<sub>3</sub>-COOH

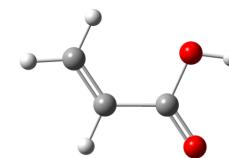
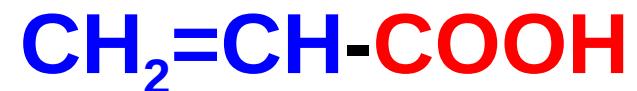
- acrylonitrile CH<sub>2</sub>=CH-CN

- acrolein CH<sub>2</sub>=CH-CHO

- A possible formation pathway of acrylic acid in interstellar ices containing CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> could be:

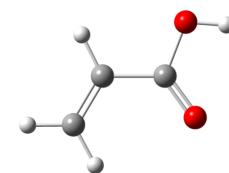


MAYBE?



s-trans aa  
 $\mu_a$  0.66 (10) D  
 $\mu_b$  1.35 (5) D

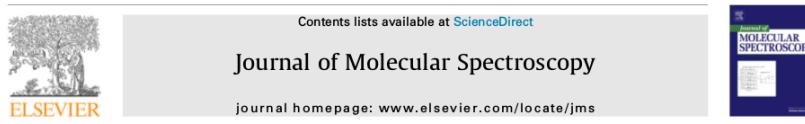
$\Delta E \sim 60 \text{ cm}^{-1}$



s-cis aa  
 $\mu_a$  1.70 (4) D  
 $\mu_b$  1.10 (5) D

# Acrylic acid

Journal of Molecular Spectroscopy 295 (2014) 37–43



Laboratory rotational spectrum of acrylic acid and its isotopologues in the 6–18.5 GHz and 52–74.4 GHz frequency ranges

C. Calabrese<sup>a</sup>, A. Vigorito<sup>a</sup>, G. Feng<sup>a,1</sup>, L.B. Favero<sup>b</sup>, A. Maris<sup>a,\*</sup>, S. Melandri<sup>a</sup>, W.D. Geppert<sup>c</sup>, W. Caminati<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of Bologna, Via Selmi 2, I-40126 Bologna, Italy

<sup>b</sup>Istituto per lo Studio dei Materiali Nanostrutturati, CNR, Via Gobetti 101, I-40129 Bologna, Italy

<sup>c</sup>Department of Physics, Stockholm University, AlbaNova University Center, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden

## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received 25 October 2013

In revised form 7 November 2013

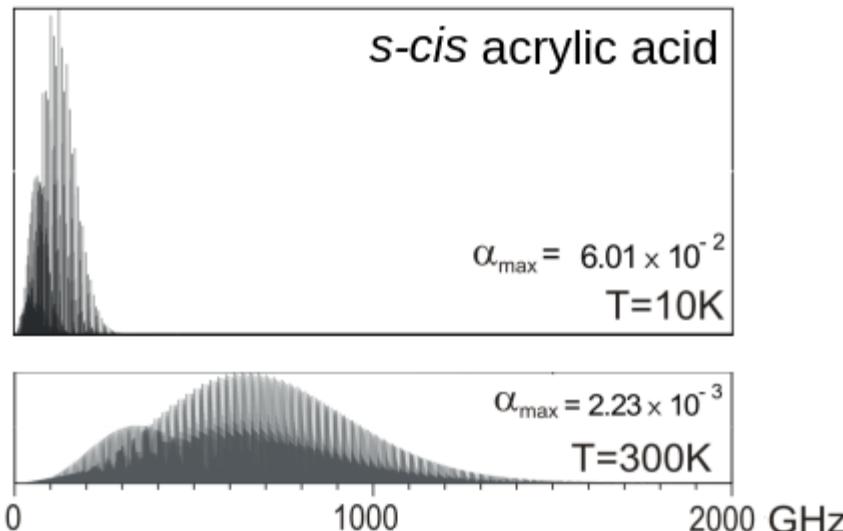
Available online 21 November 2013

**Keywords:**  
Acrylic acid  
Molecular structure  
Rotational spectroscopy  
Supersonic expansion spectroscopy  
Quantum mechanical calculations  
Molecule detection in space  
Astrochemistry

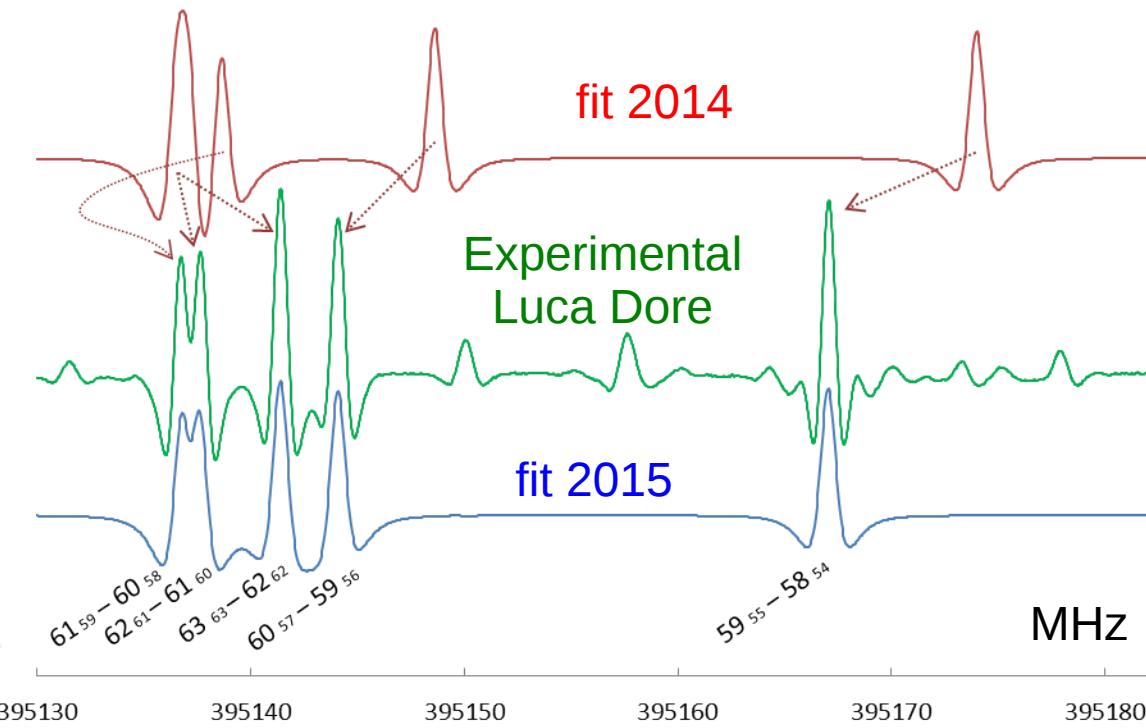
## ABSTRACT

In order to facilitate the detection of acrylic acid in space, for which a possible mechanism of formation is proposed, we extended the measurements of the rotational spectrum of this molecule to the 6–18.5 GHz (time domain Fourier transform) and 52–74.4 GHz (frequency domain) ranges in supersonic expansions. 77 new lines were assigned to the *s-cis* conformer and 83 new lines to the *s-trans* conformer. In addition, the rotational spectra of the three single <sup>13</sup>C isotopologues have been measured in natural abundance for both conformers. High resolution measurements of the carboxylic deuterated isotopologues allowed for the determination of the deuterium nuclear quadrupole coupling constants. All the spectroscopic experimental parameters were compared to the ones obtained with quantum chemical methods at the MP2(fc)/aug-cc-pVTZ and B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ levels of calculation.

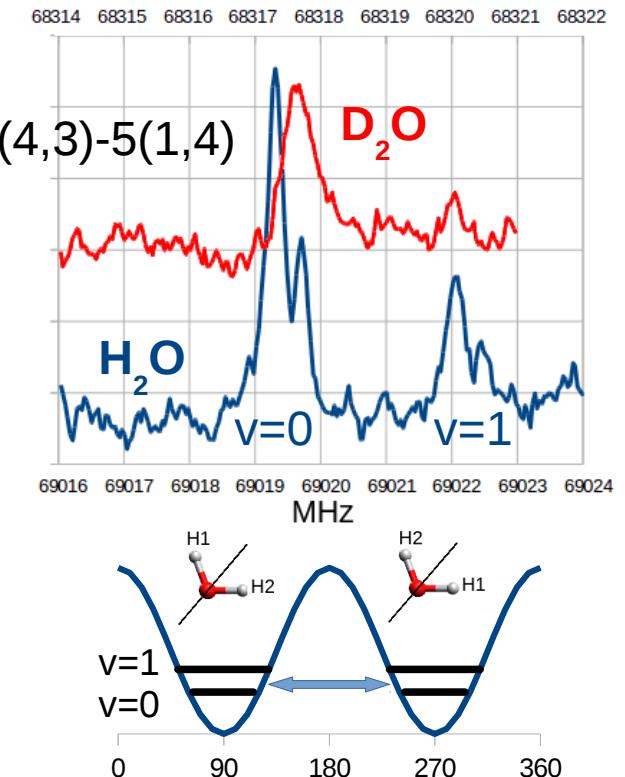
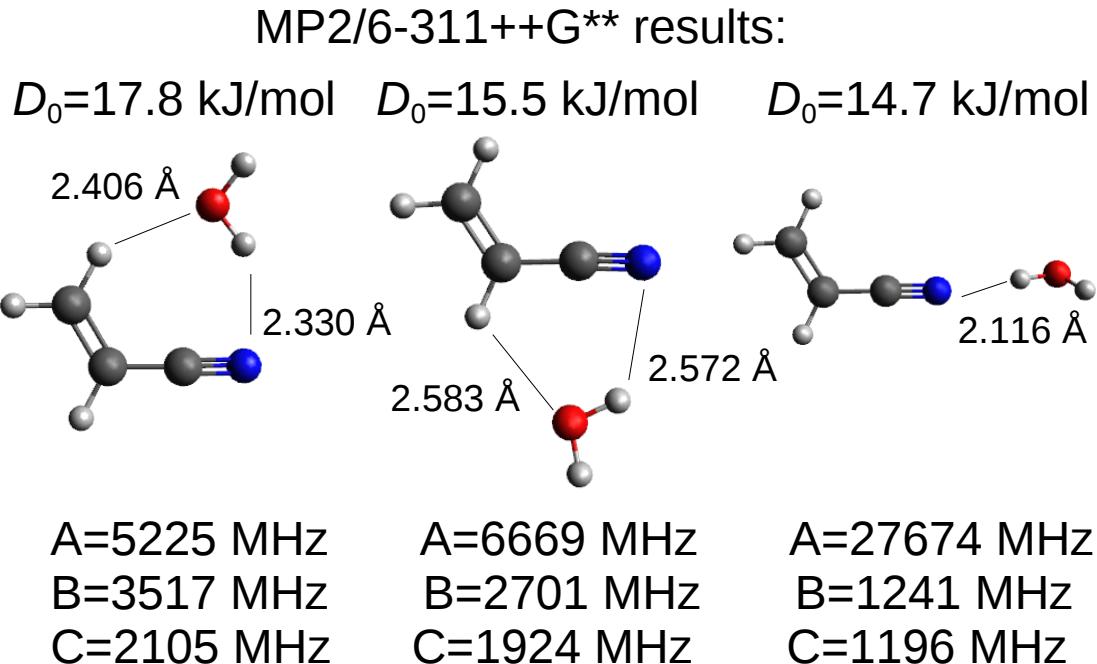
© 2013 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.



	<i>s-cis</i>	<sup>13</sup> COOH	<sup>13</sup> CH	<sup>13</sup> CH <sub>2</sub>	OD	All isotopologues
<i>A</i>	MHz	11078.8707 (18)	11078.4874 (28)	10978.6648 (28)	11078.6840 (27)	11068.1939 (22)
<i>B</i>	MHz	4251.9700 (5)	4245.6528 (8)	4226.0138 (8)	4113.5180 (11)	4075.5367 (5)
<i>C</i>	MHz	3073.3984 (6)	3070.0691 (9)	3052.1501 (9)	3000.3935 (13)	2979.5035 (6)
$\Delta$	uÅ <sup>2</sup>	0.03754 (5)	0.03766 (8)	0.03916 (8)	0.0378 (1)	0.04500 (6)
$\chi_{ss}$	MHz	-	-	-	-	0.150 (6)
$\chi_{bb}$	MHz	-	-	-	-	0.003 (12)
$\chi_{cc}$	MHz	-	-	-	-	-0.153 (12)
		<i>s-trans</i>	<sup>13</sup> COOH	<sup>13</sup> CH	<sup>13</sup> CH <sub>2</sub>	OD
						All isotopologues
<i>A</i>	MHz	10716.1909 (19)	10715.2655 (33)	10615.8802 (28)	10715.3980 (30)	10242.1273 (16)
<i>B</i>	MHz	4388.2996 (6)	4379.1118 (25)	4360.4908 (14)	4365.7304 (15)	4307.8639 (7)
<i>C</i>	MHz	3114.3105 (7)	3109.6045 (20)	3091.8579 (13)	3041.7619 (13)	3033.3856 (7)
$\Delta$	uÅ <sup>2</sup>	0.04906 (6)	0.0492 (2)	0.0507 (1)	0.0493 (1)	0.05303 (7)
$\chi_{ss}$	MHz	-	-	-	-	0.235 (5)
$\chi_{bb}$	MHz	-	-	-	-	-0.092 (7)
$\chi_{cc}$	MHz	-	-	-	-	-0.143 (7)



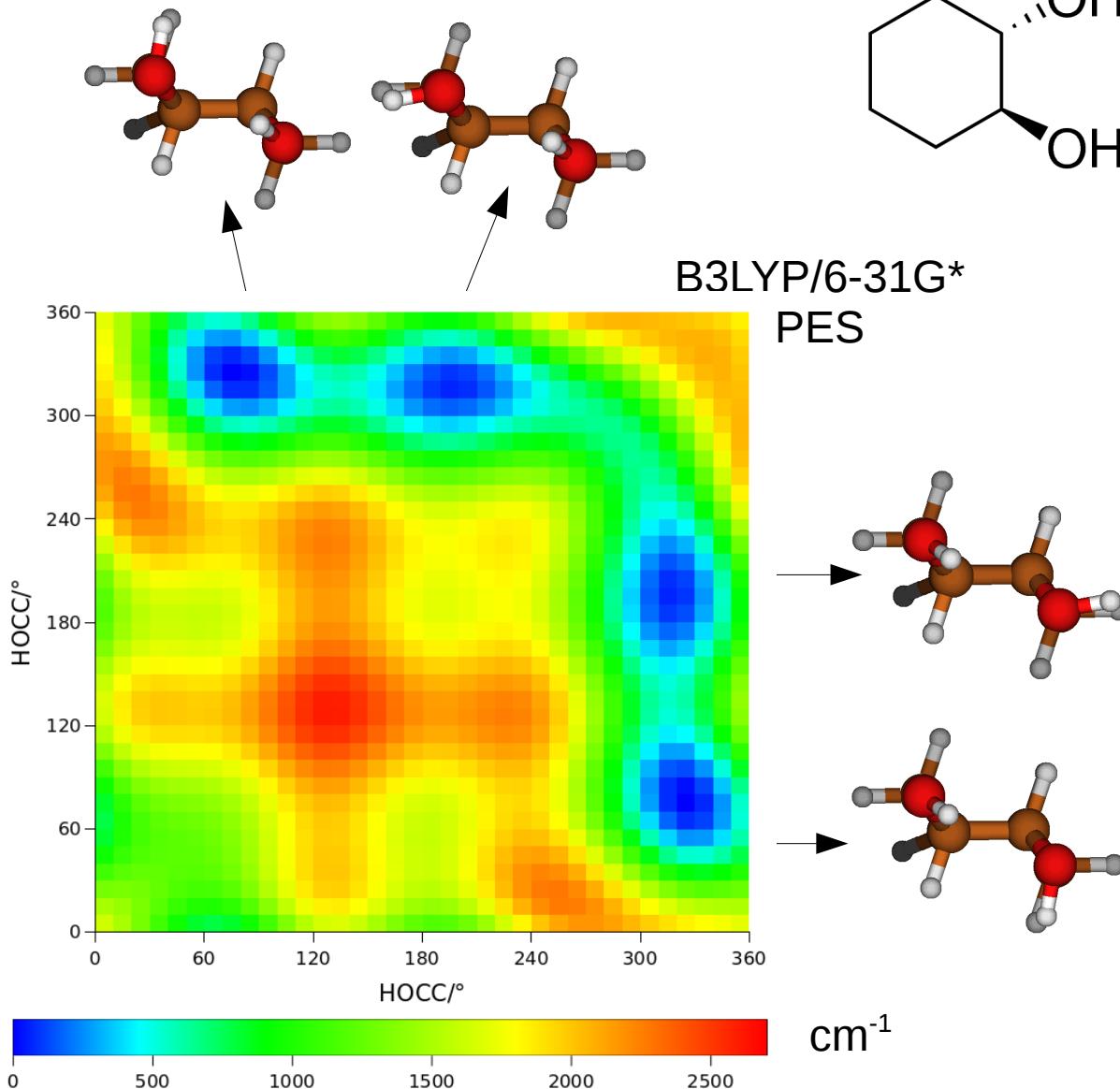
# Acrylonitrile (vinyl cyanide) - water



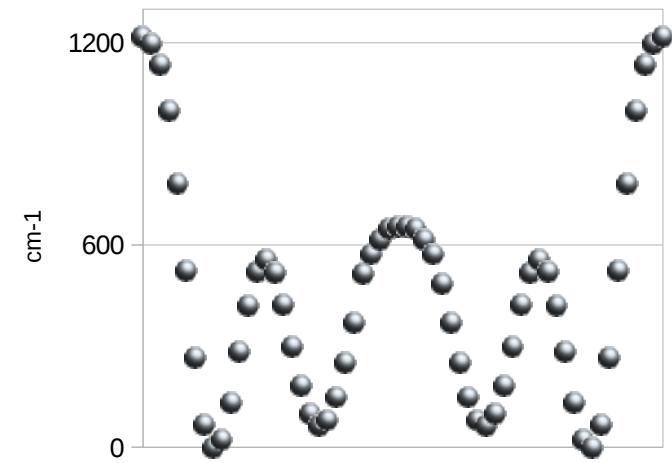
$A_0=5282.022 (2) \text{ MHz}$	Experimental results:
$B_0=3422.840 (3) \text{ MHz}$	$D_J=8.74 (1) \text{ kHz}$
$C_0=2074.858 (4) \text{ MHz}$	$D_{JK}=-4.00 (3) \text{ kHz}$
$A_1=5282.195 (2) \text{ MHz}$	$D_K=15.79 (6) \text{ kHz}$
$B_1=3422.986 (3) \text{ MHz}$	$d_1=-4.089 (2) \text{ kHz}$
$C_1=2074.841 (4) \text{ MHz}$	$d_2=-0.758 (2) \text{ kHz}$
	$\chi_{aa}=-0.38 (10) \text{ MHz}$
	$\chi_{bb}=-1.47 (9) \text{ MHz}$
	$\chi_{cc}=1.84 (9) \text{ MHz}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{cc} &= -0.12 \text{ u}\text{\AA}^2 \text{H}_2\text{O} \\
 M_{cc} &= -0.13 \text{ u}\text{\AA}^2 \text{H}_2^{18}\text{OH} \\
 M_{cc} &= -0.08 \text{ u}\text{\AA}^2 \text{D}_\text{B}\text{OH}_\text{F} \\
 M_{cc} &= -0.12 \text{ u}\text{\AA}^2 \text{D}_2\text{O}
 \end{aligned}$$

# (1S,2S)-trans-1,2-Cyclohexanediol



$\Delta E_{01}$ /MHz	<b>1278.88 (4)</b>
A0/A1 /MHz	2793.655/.671(1)
B0/B1 /MHz	1946.339/.307 (2)
C /MHz	1238.933 (4)
DJ /kHz	0.040 (9)
DJK /kHz	0.19(2)
DK /kHz	0.26 (1)
d1 /kHz	-0.056 (8)
d2 /kHz	0.011 (9)

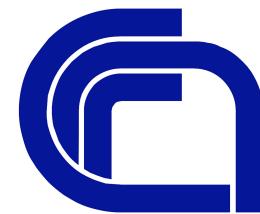




ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

The group

Prof. Sonia Melandri  
Dr. Barbara Michela Giuliano  
Dr. Camilla Calabrese  
Dr. Annalisa Vigorito



Acknowledgments

Dr. Laura Bianca Favero (ISMN)  
Mr. Sergio Mariotti (IRA-INAF)



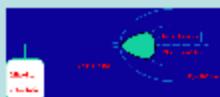
Department of Chemistry "G. Ciamician", University of Bologna, Via Selmi 2, I-40126 Bologna, Italy.

## MILLIMETER WAVE SPECTROSCOPY OF FLEXIBLE MOLECULES RELEVANT TO ASTROCHEMISTRY

S. Melandri, C. Calabrese, A. Maris, B. M. Giuliano, S. Bianco, W. Caminati

### Rotational Spectroscopy:

The investigation of phenomena related to the chemistry of the Cosmos is strongly based on the identification of molecules by spectroscopic methods and a knowledge of their spectroscopic parameters, or their transition frequencies is needed. Rotational spectroscopy, with its high resolution, is the most powerful tool for the unambiguous identification of molecules and laboratory work is needed to provide the community with the spectral features to analyse the cosmological surveys.



The free jet technique allows simple assignment of the spectrum, because of the very low rotational temperatures that are usually achieved.

The high vacuum- low temperature conditions reproduce those of the interstellar medium (ISM) making these kind of experiments very useful to guide astrophysical studies.

Accurate determination of transition frequencies in the MW range (new generation of radio telescopes)

### Pre-biotic molecules: 2-methylaminoethanol

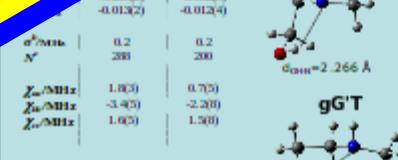
2-(*N*-methylamino)ethanol (MAE) can be considered a precursor of amino acids in the ISM.

The high flexibility of 2-(*N*-methylamino)ethanol involves a complex energy potential surface with a large number of possible stable conformations.



Optimization: 24  
311+ G\*\*

Assignment of rotational frequencies up to 72 GHz and partial reassessment of the rotational spectra of conformational isomers of gGG<sup>11</sup>.



\*Error expressed in units of the last decimal digit.

\*\*Standard deviation in Hz.

\*Number of transitions fit by fit.

\*\* R. E. Penn and J. W. Budson, J. Mol. Spectrosc. 56, 29, 1975.

Work in progress ...  
isotopologues <sup>13</sup>C in natural



### Free Jet Absorption MMW Spectroscopy

Range: 6-78 GHz  
Sweep rate: 10 GHz per day  
Sensitivity:  $10^{-11} \text{ cm}^2$   
Resolution: 100 kHz  
Accuracy of frequency measurements < 0.05 MHz.



### Molecular Beam Fourier Transform Microwave Spectroscopy (MB-FTMW)

Range: 6-48 GHz  
Sweep rate: 0.2 GHz per day  
Sensitivity:  $10^{-11} \text{ cm}^2$   
Resolution: 100 kHz  
Accuracy of frequency measurements < 0.005 MHz.

### Theory

Quantum mechanical calculations were performed on conformations and the molecular properties of conformers. For this purpose, the Gaussian 03 program was used.

[1] (a) S. Melandri, W.M. Giuliano, C. Calabrese, A. Maris, S. Bianco, W. Caminati, J. Mol. Spectrosc. 248, 221 (2007); (b) S. Melandri, W.M. Giuliano, C. Calabrese, A. Maris, S. Bianco, W. Caminati, J. Mol. Spectrosc. 250, 207 (2008).

### Pre-biotic molecules: methylacetate

Methylformate HCOOCH<sub>3</sub> already detected in space.

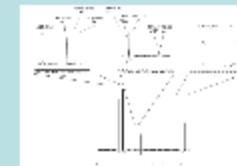
Methylacetate CH<sub>3</sub>COOCH<sub>3</sub> is two top interstellar

Very complex rotational spectrum.

More than 800 lines measure 6-78 GHz.

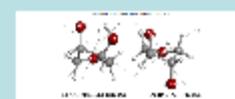
New two-top code written for analysis of the spectra.

M. Tolstik, L. Klein, J. T. Hooper, S. Melandri, L. M. Salter, M. Stahl, J. Mol. Spectrosc. 268 (2011) 221-228



Examples of transitions around 76700 MHz measured in Bologna.

### Biological building blocks: sugars



1,4-anhydrothitol

1,4-anhydrothitol and 1,4-anhydrotreitol precursors to the study of carbohydrates.  
Melting point 20°C. Cyclic structure: lower complexity

B. M. Giuliano, S. Bianco, S. Melandri, and W. Caminati; Astrophys. J. Suppl. Series 179, 359 (2008).

B. M. Giuliano, S. Bianco, S. Melandri, W. Caminati; Chem. Phys. Lett. 467, 74-76 (2008).



Uscendo:  
primo poster  
a destra

Organic and prebiotic molecules