

# Precision measurement of the ionization and dissociation energies of H<sub>2</sub>, HD, and D<sub>2</sub>

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Wim Ubachs,<sup>3</sup> and Frédéric Merkt<sup>1</sup>

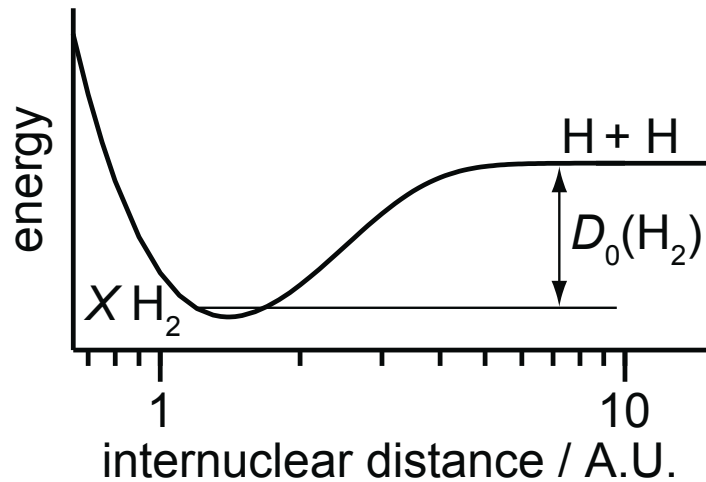
<sup>1</sup> Laboratory of Physical Chemistry, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup> Laboratoire Aimé Cotton du CNRS, Université de Paris-Sud, France

<sup>3</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, Laser Centre,  
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

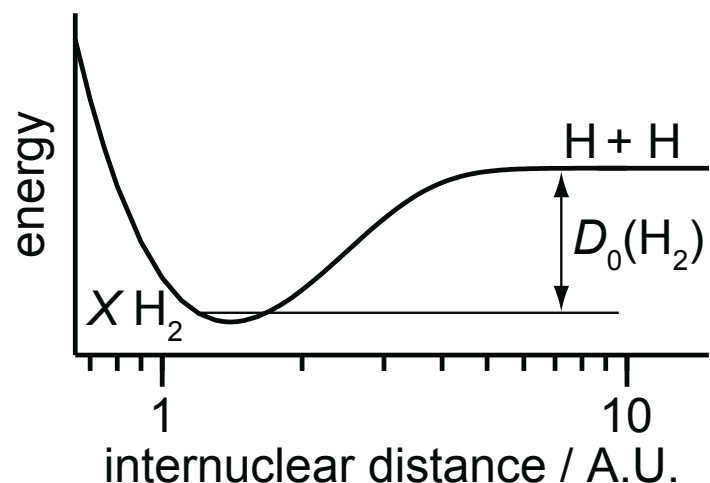
International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy  
Ohio State University, June 21-25, 2010  
RD08, June 24, 11:04am, 1015 McPherson Lab

# Dissociation energy of the hydrogen molecule



- $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{HD}$ , and  $\text{D}_2$  are the “simplest” molecules
- the dissociation energy is a benchmark quantity for any *ab initio* calculation in molecular systems

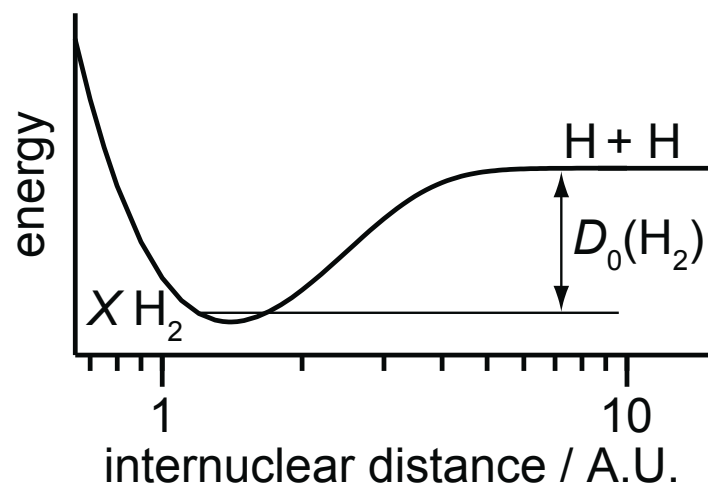
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$D_0(\text{H}_2)$	Year	Experiment	Theory
Witmer	1926	4.15 eV	
Heitler and London	1927		2.9 eV
Richardson and Davidson	1929		
James and Coolidge	1933		
Beutler	1935		

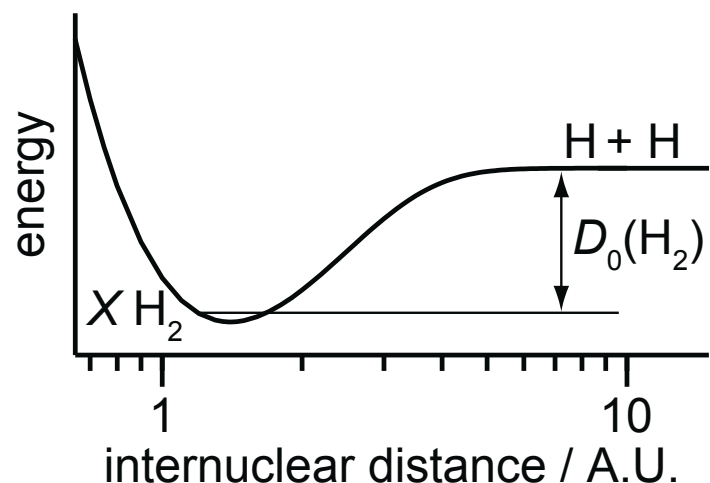
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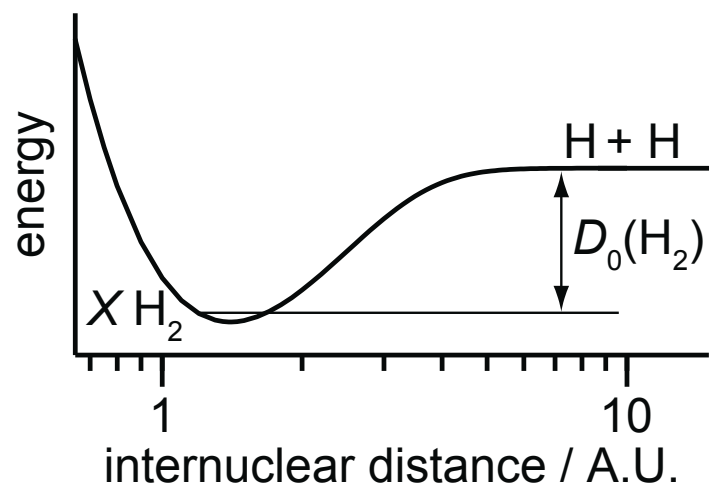
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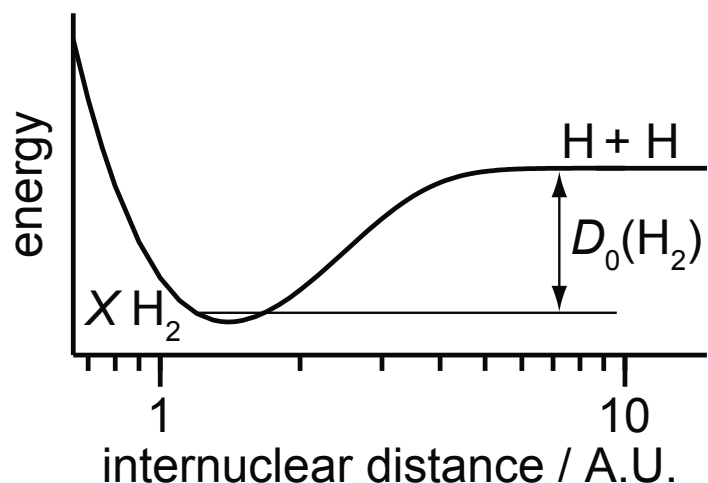
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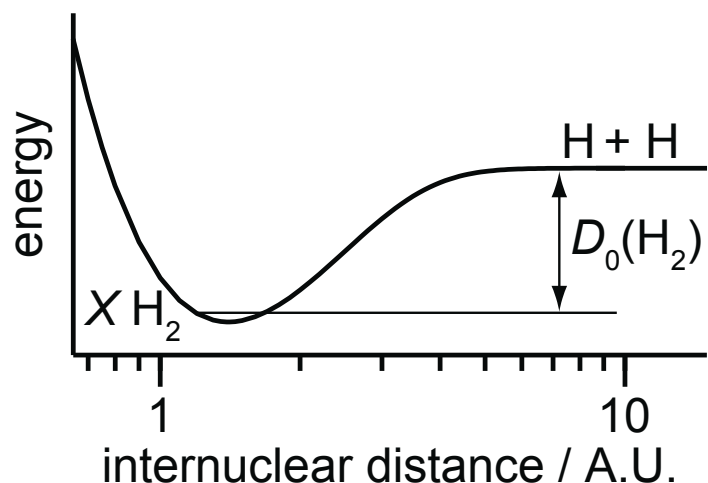
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$D_0(\text{H}_2) / \text{cm}^{-1}$	Year	Experiment	Theory
James and Coolidge	1933		35924(105)
Beutler	1935	36116(6)	
Kolos and Roothaan	1960		
Herzberg and Monfils	1960		
Kolos and Wolniewicz	1965		
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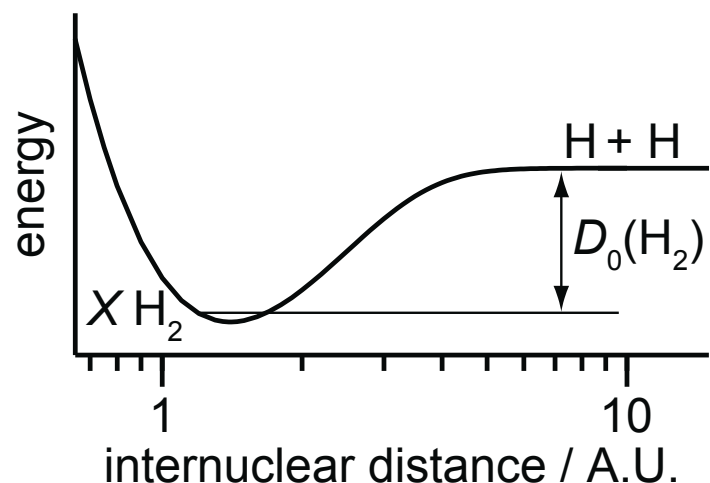


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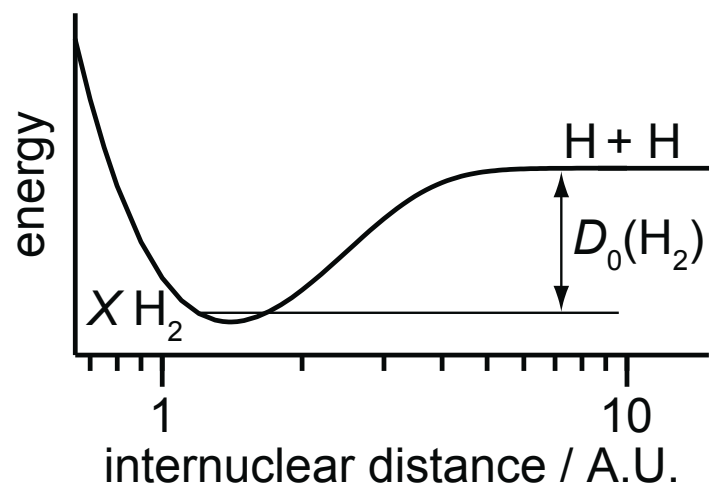
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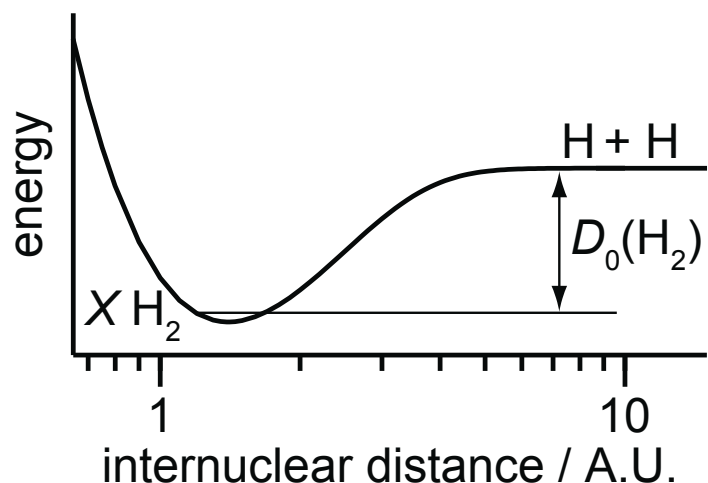
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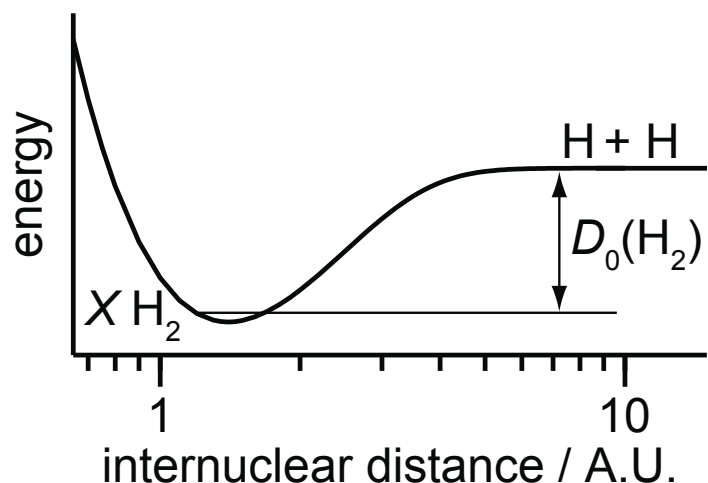
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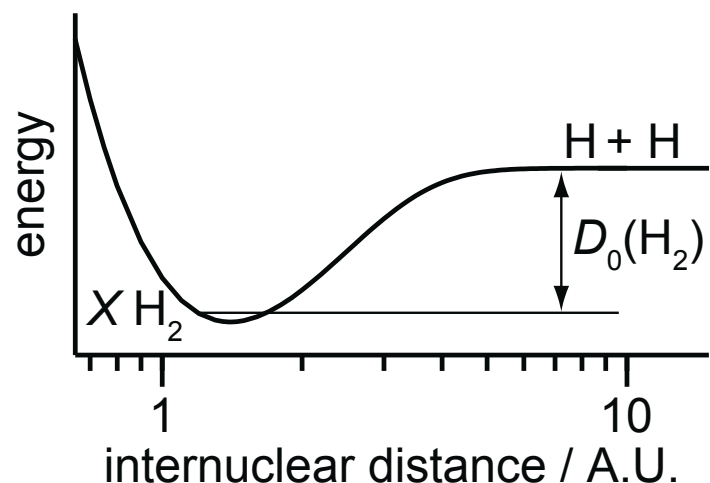
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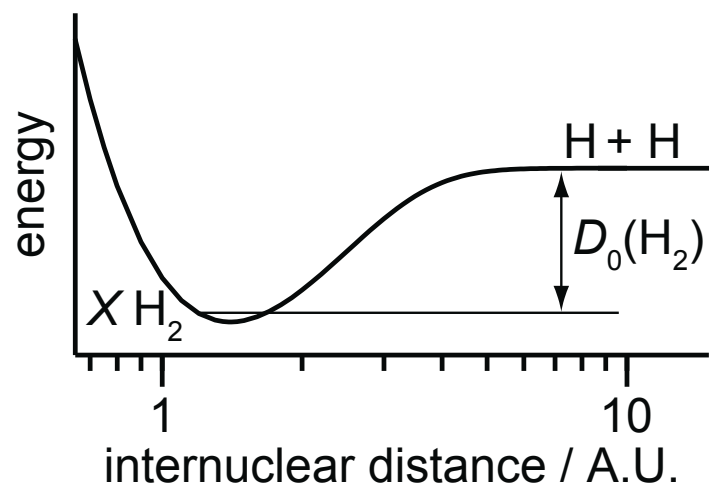
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Kolos and Wolniewicz	1968		36117.4
Herzberg	1970	36117.3(10)	
Stwalley	1970	36118.6(5)	
⋮	⋮		
Wolniewicz	1995		36118.069
Eyler and coworkers	2004	36118.062(10)	

# Dissociation energy of the hydrogen molecule

$D_0(\text{H}_2)$ :	Experiment [1]	36118.0696(4) cm <sup>-1</sup>
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Theory [2]:	
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Born–Oppenheimer	36112.5927(1) cm <sup>-1</sup>
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adiabatic	
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nonadiabatic	
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total $\alpha^0$	
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$\alpha^2$ all relativistic	
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$\alpha^3$ all QED	
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$\alpha^4$ one-loop term	
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Total theory	
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[1] Liu *et al.* JCP **130**, 174306 (2009)

[2] Piszczatowski *et al.* JCTC **5**, 3039 (2009)

# Dissociation energy of the hydrogen molecule

$D_0(\text{H}_2)$ : Experiment [1] 36118.0696(4) cm<sup>-1</sup>

Theory [2]:

Born–Oppenheimer 36112.5927(1) cm<sup>-1</sup>

adiabatic + 5.7711(1) cm<sup>-1</sup>

nonadiabatic + 0.4339(2) cm<sup>-1</sup>

total  $\alpha^0$  36118.7978(2) cm<sup>-1</sup>

$\alpha^2$  all relativistic

$\alpha^3$  all QED

$\alpha^4$  one-loop term

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total  $\alpha^0$  36118.7978(2) cm<sup>-1</sup>

$\alpha^2$  all relativistic – 0.5319(5) cm<sup>-1</sup>

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$\alpha^4$  one-loop term – 0.0016(8) cm<sup>-1</sup>

Total theory 36118.0695(10) cm<sup>-1</sup>

$D_0(\text{D}_2)$ :

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	Theory [2]:	
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	adiabatic	+ 5.7711(1) cm <sup>-1</sup>
	nonadiabatic	+ 0.4339(2) cm <sup>-1</sup>
	total $\alpha^0$	36118.7978(2) cm <sup>-1</sup>
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	$\alpha^4$ one-loop term	– 0.0016(8) cm <sup>-1</sup>
	Total theory	36118.0695(10) cm <sup>-1</sup>
$D_0(\text{D}_2)$ :	Total theory [2]	36748.3633(9) cm <sup>-1</sup>
	Experiment [3]	36748.343(10) cm <sup>-1</sup>

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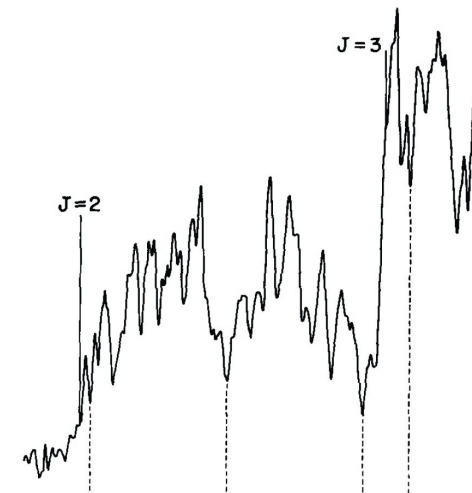
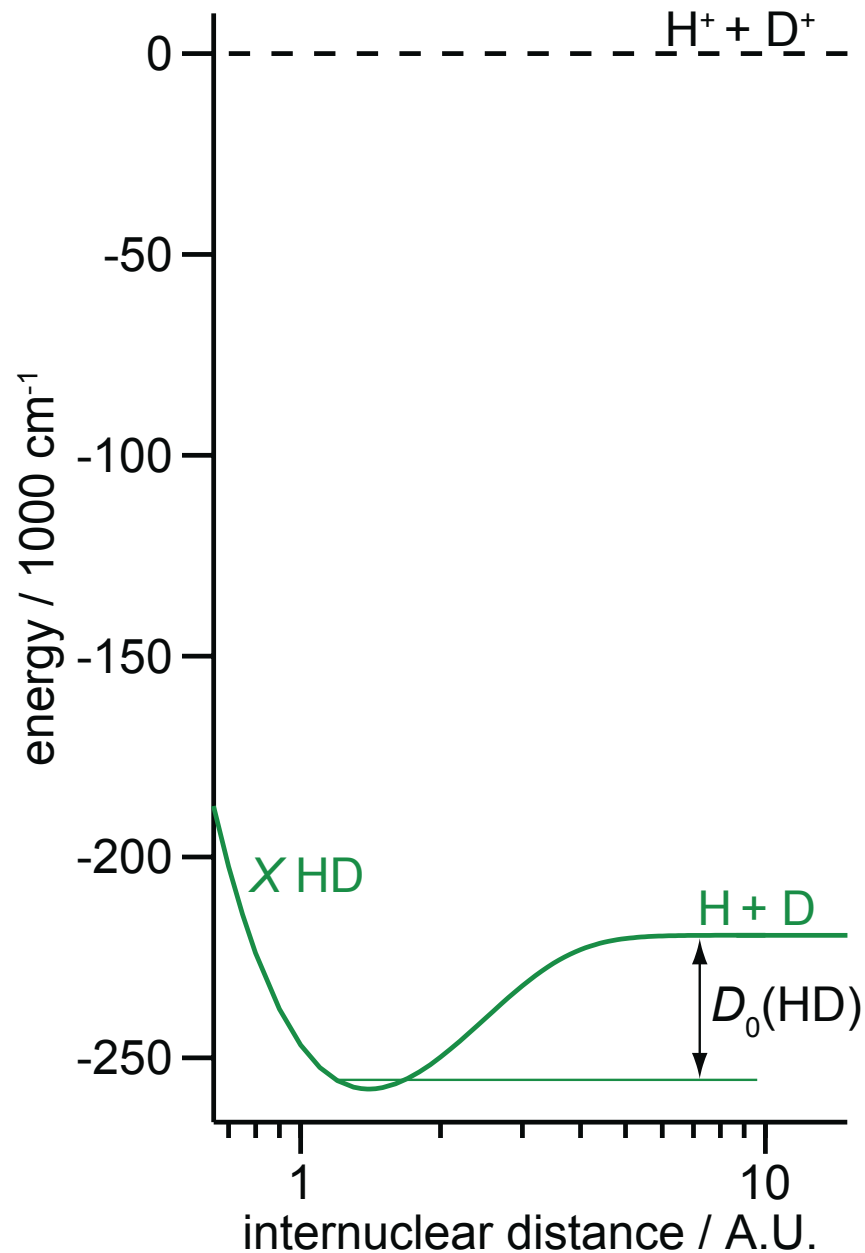
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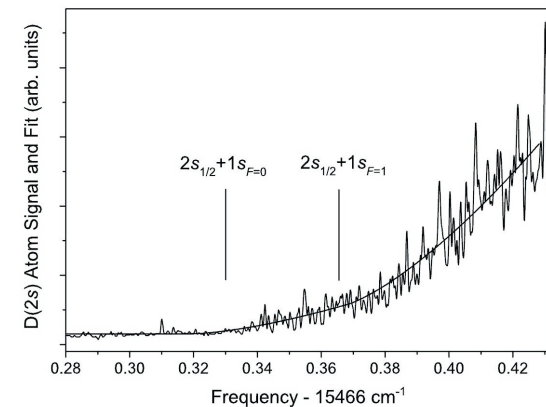
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[4] Liu *et al.* JCP **132**, 154301 (2010)

# Principle of the measurement

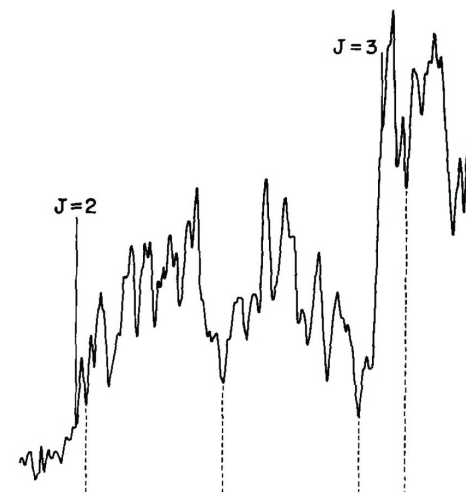
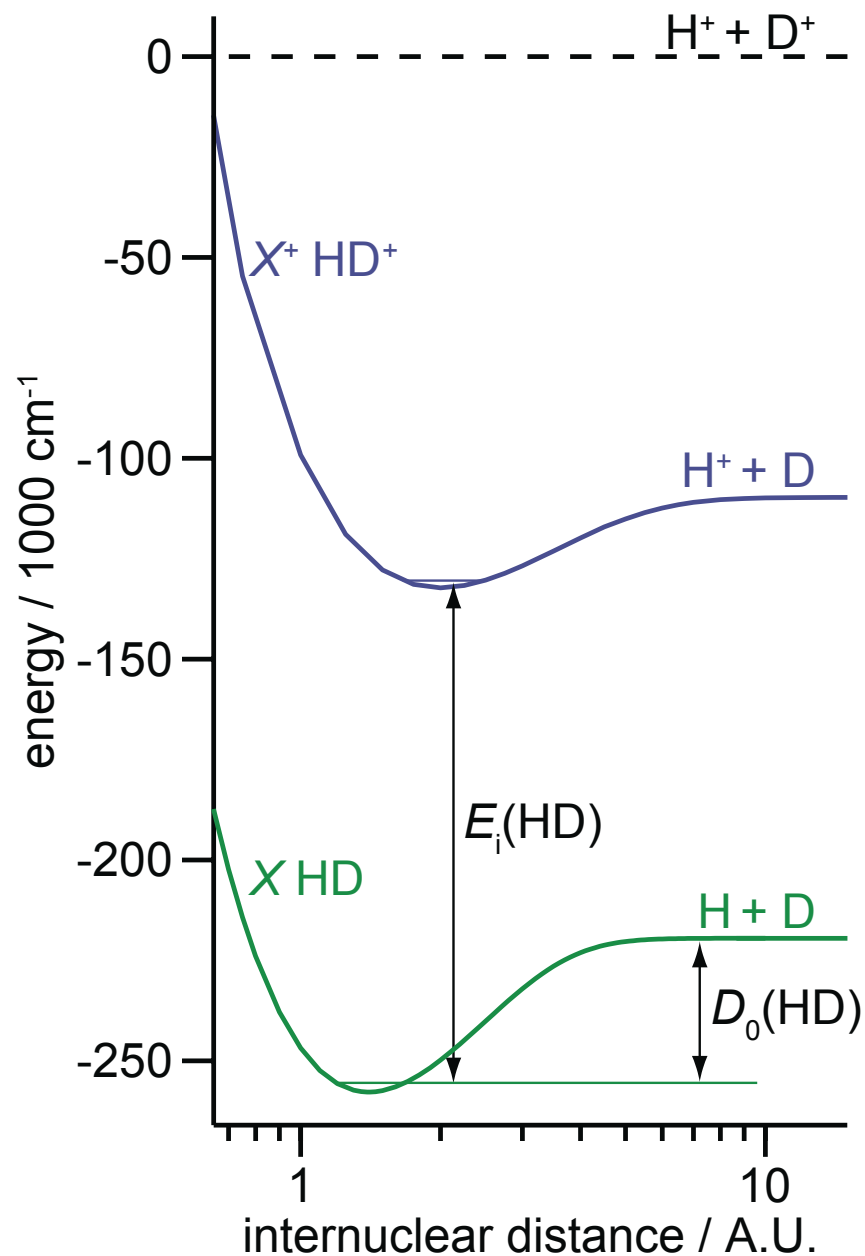


from [Herzberg and Monfils JMS **5**, 482 (1960)]

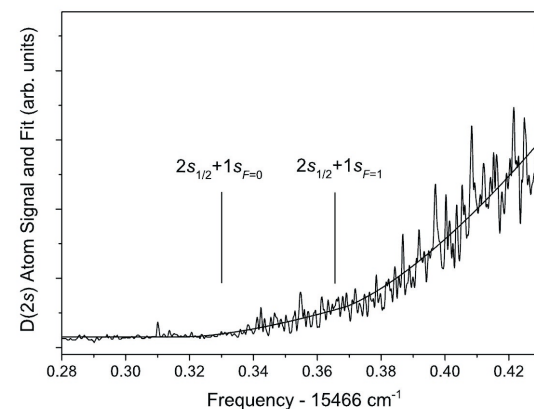


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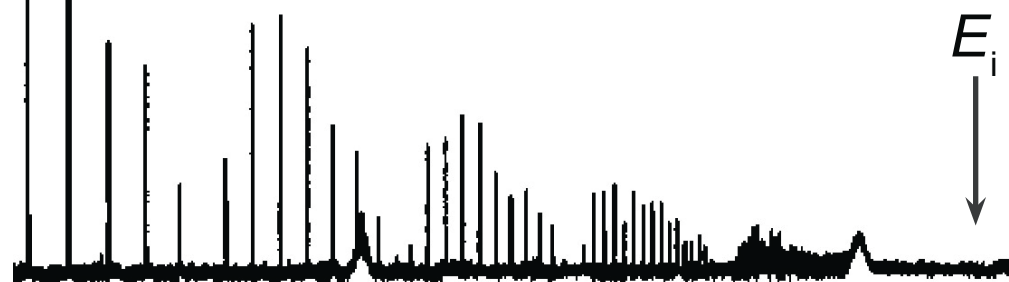
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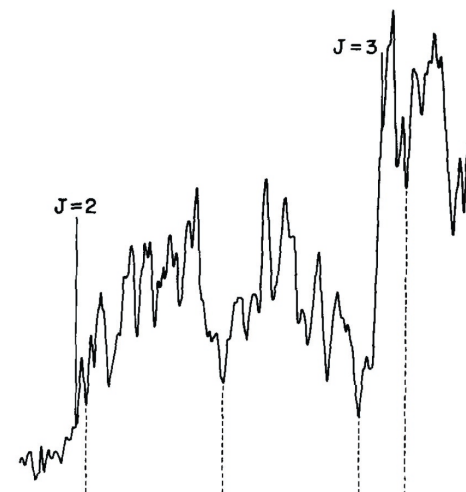
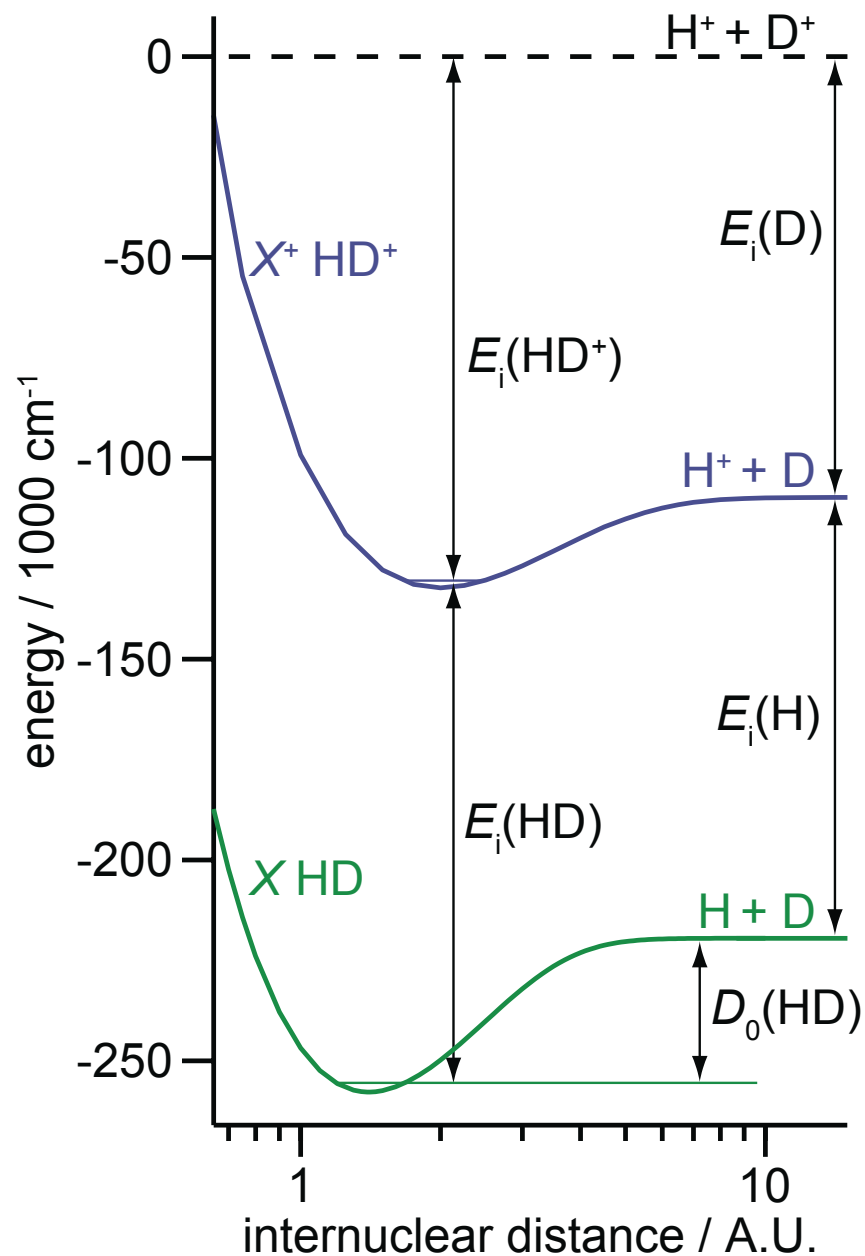


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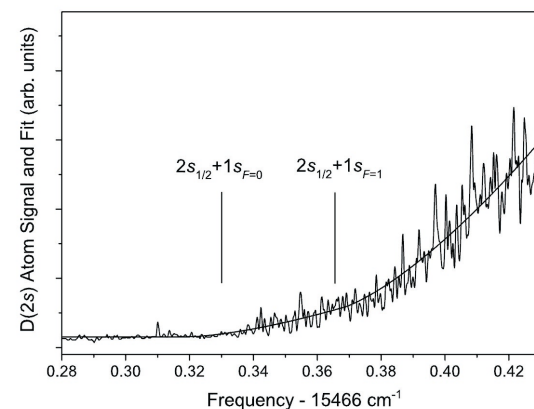


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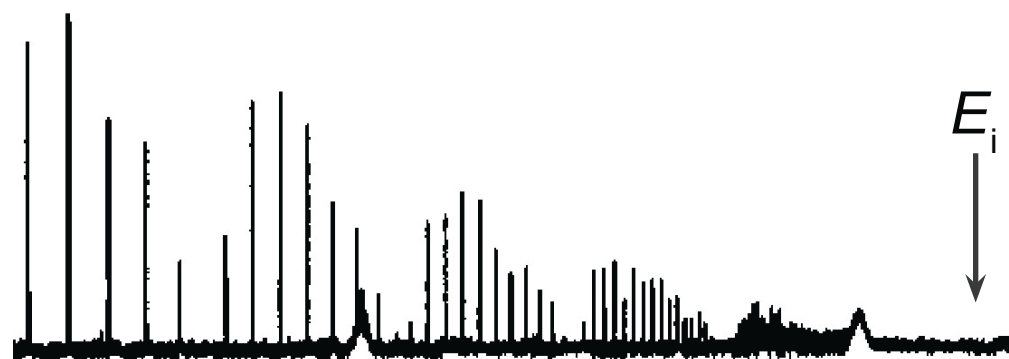
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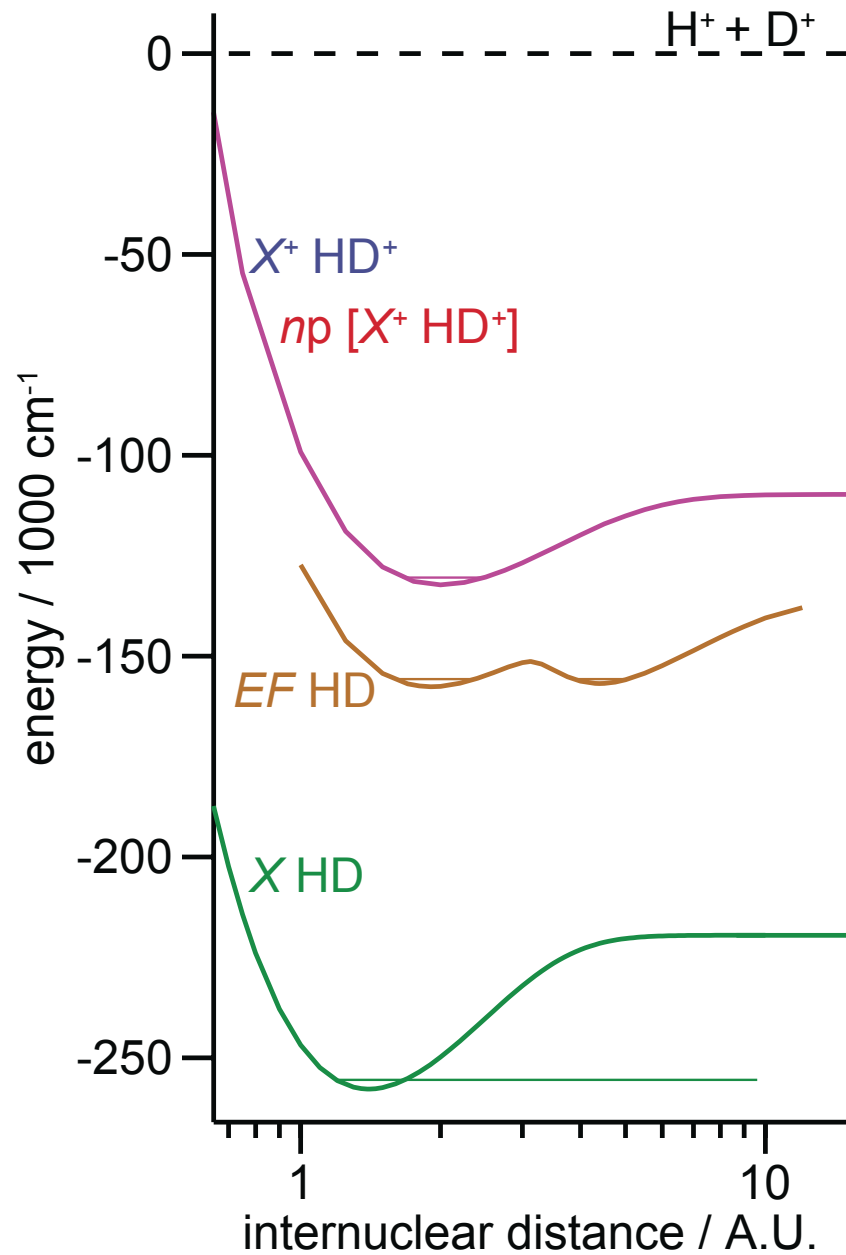


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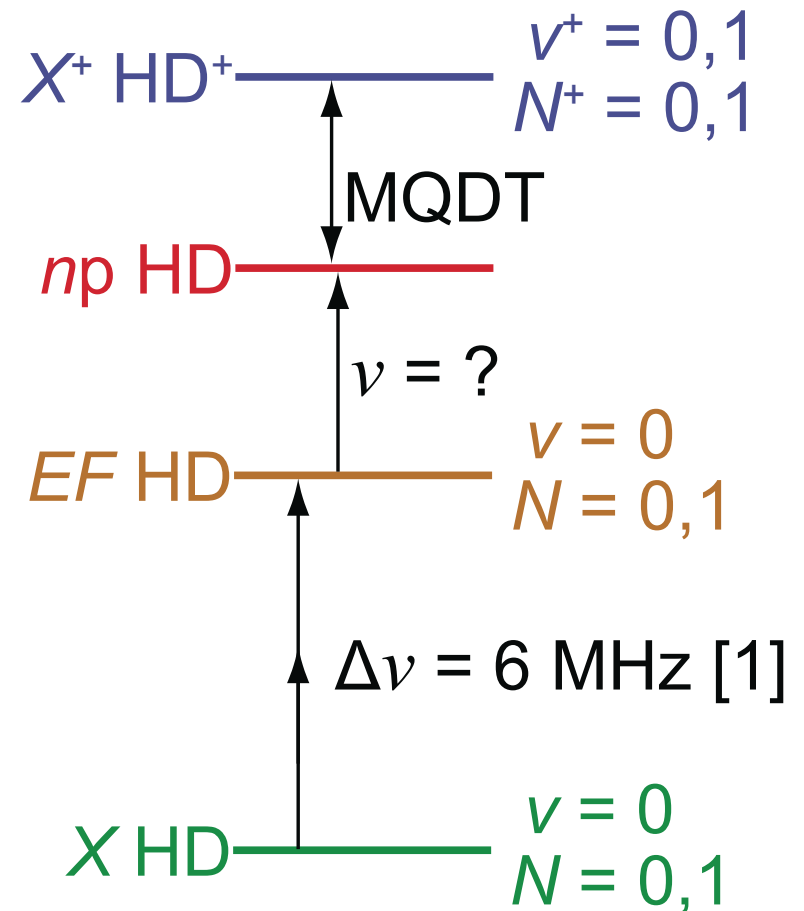
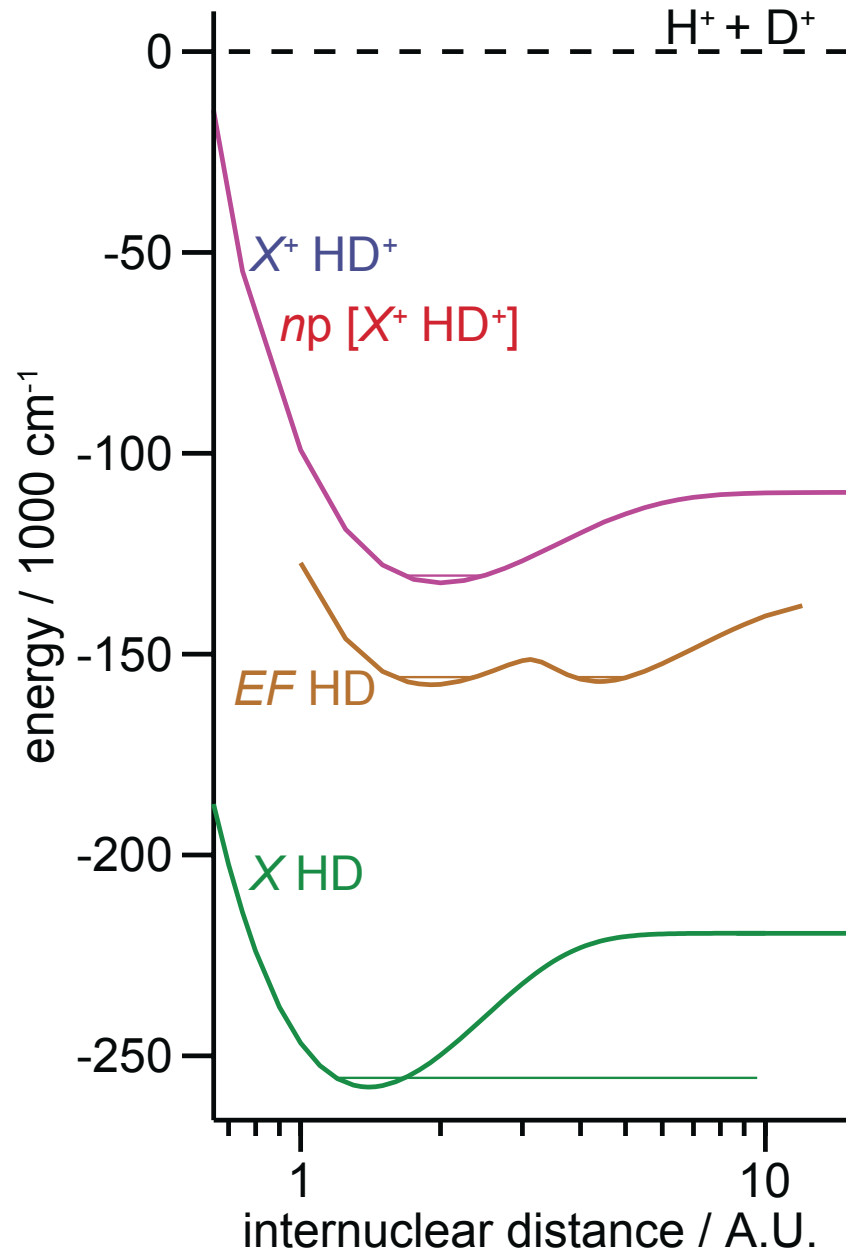


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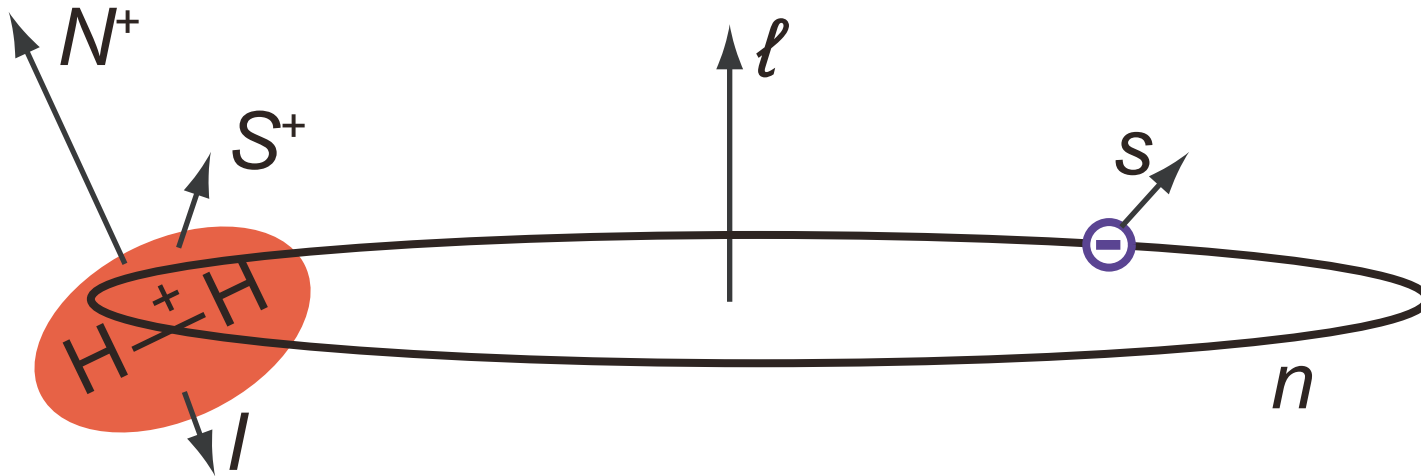


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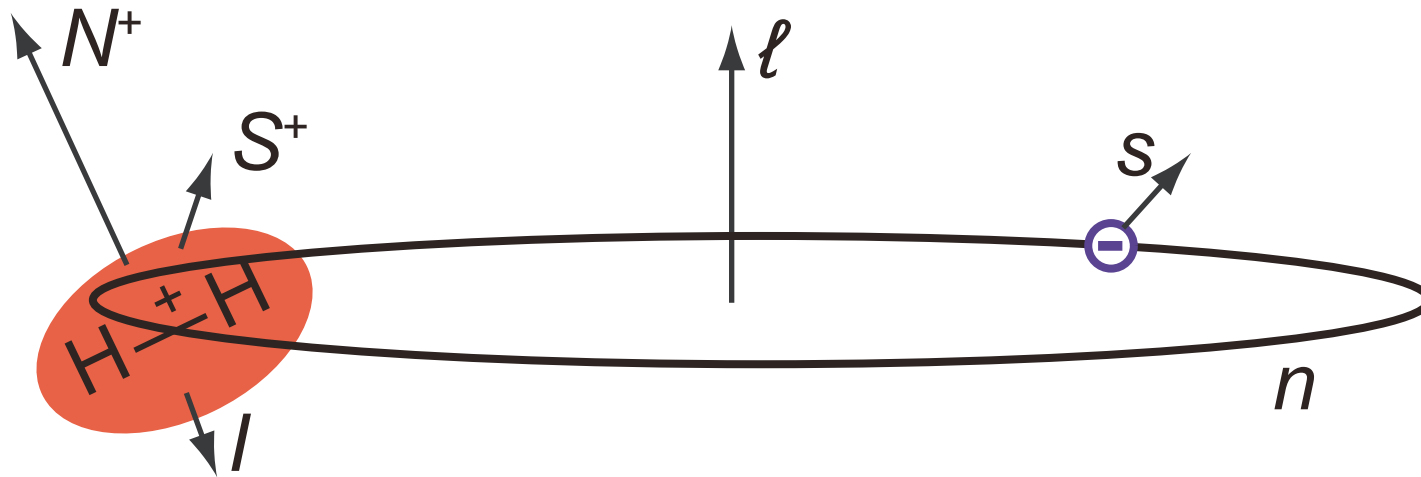
# Rydberg states



Properties of Rydberg states:

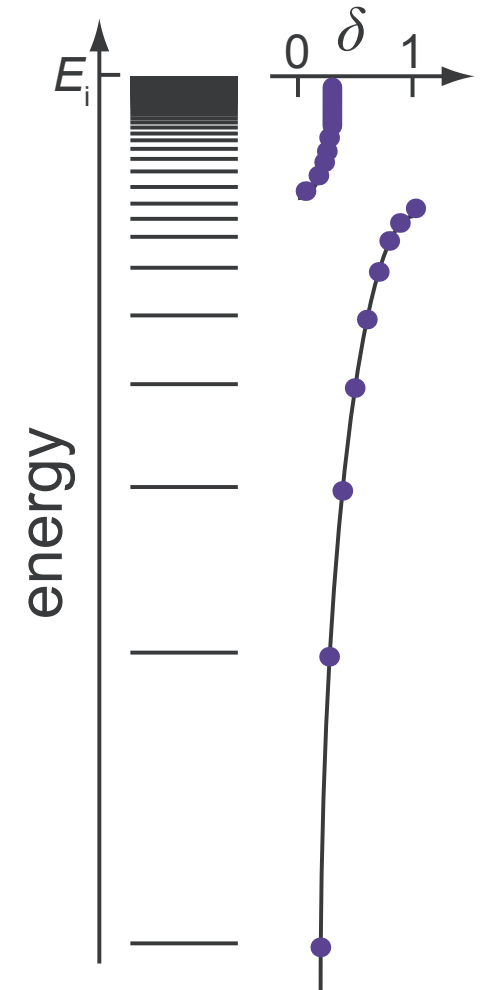
- highly excited electronic states

# Rydberg states



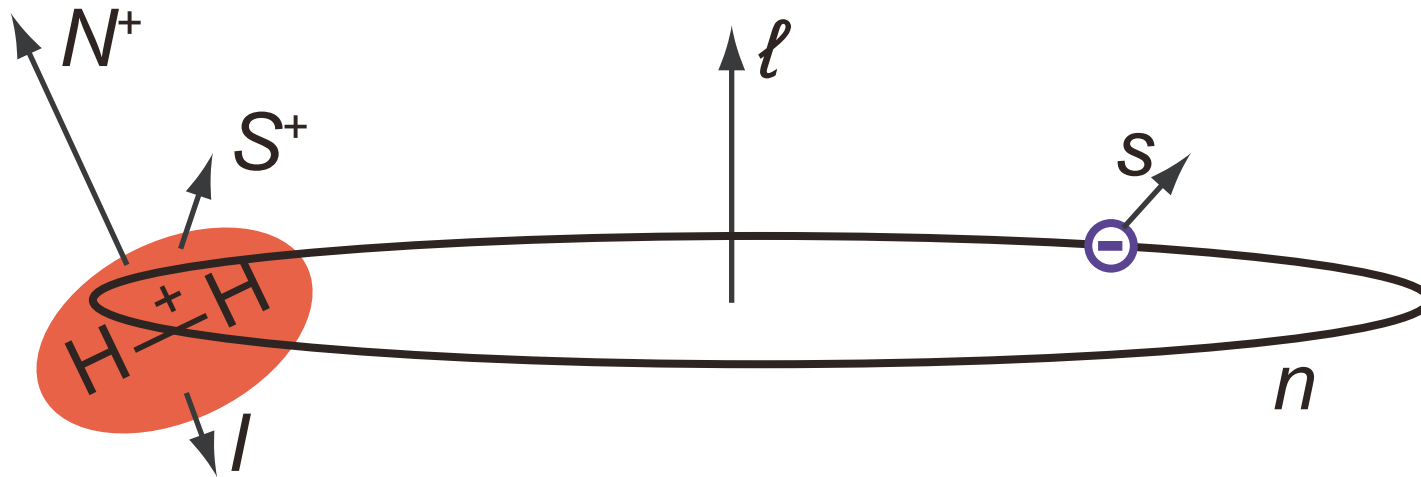
Properties of Rydberg states:

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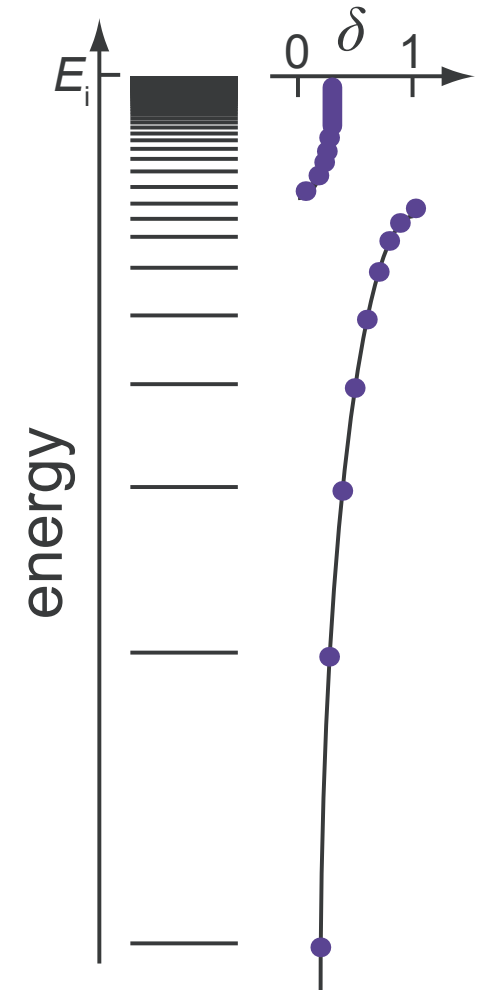
$$E_n = E_i - \frac{hcR_M}{(n - \delta)^2}$$

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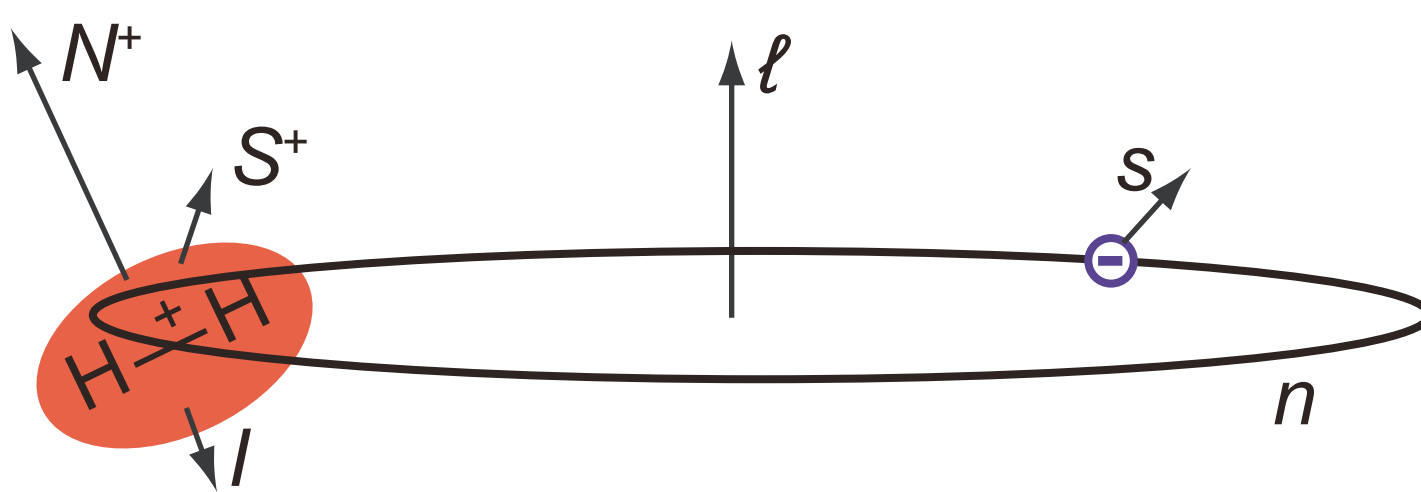
Properties of Rydberg states:

- highly excited electronic states
- energies described by the Rydberg formula
- radiative lifetimes  $\sim \mu\text{s}$  ( $n \approx 50$ )
- sensitive to electric fields
- electron binding energies  $\sim 40 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $n \approx 50$ )

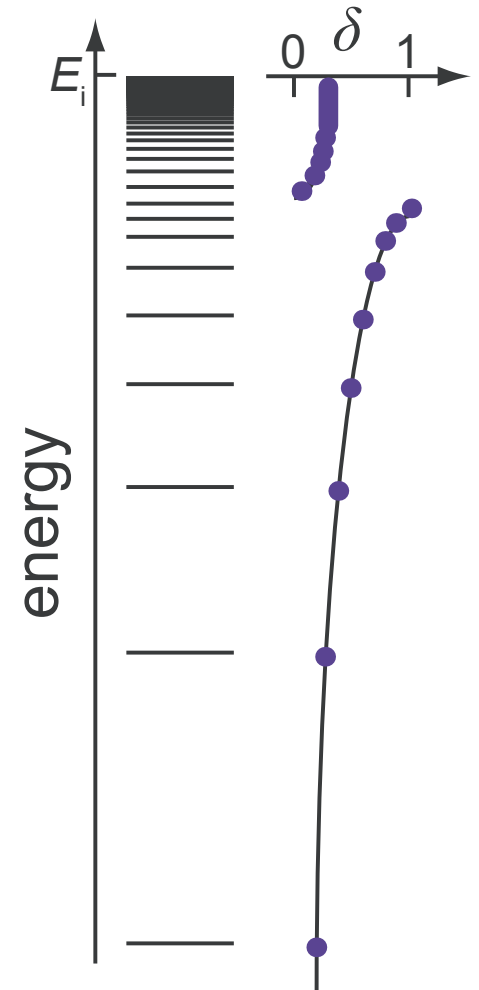


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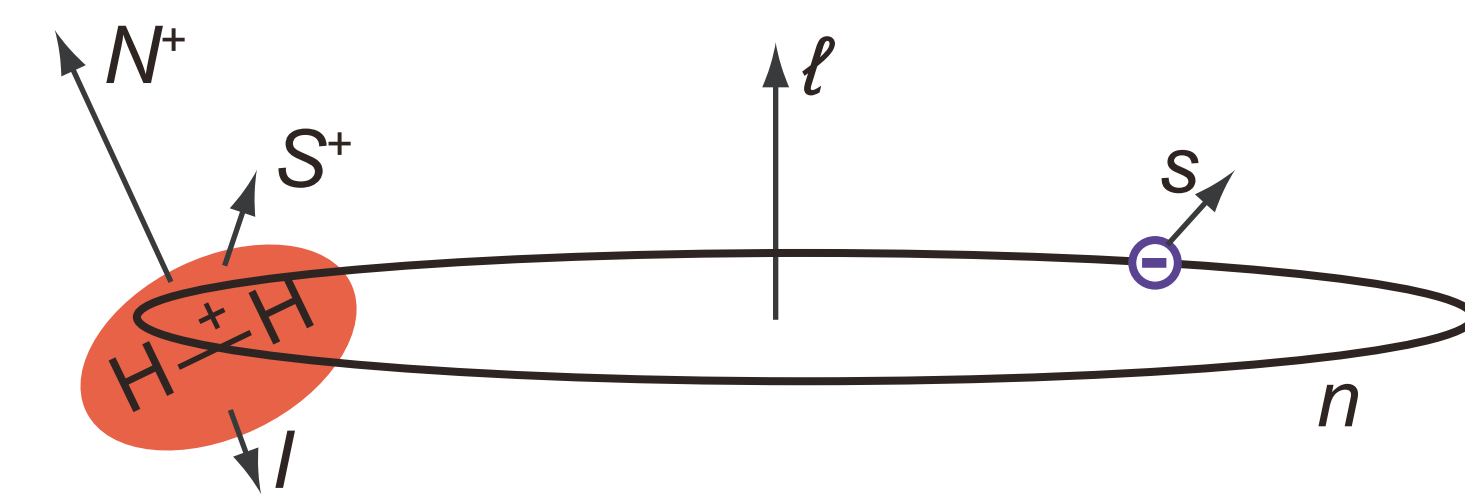


multichannel quantum  
defect theory



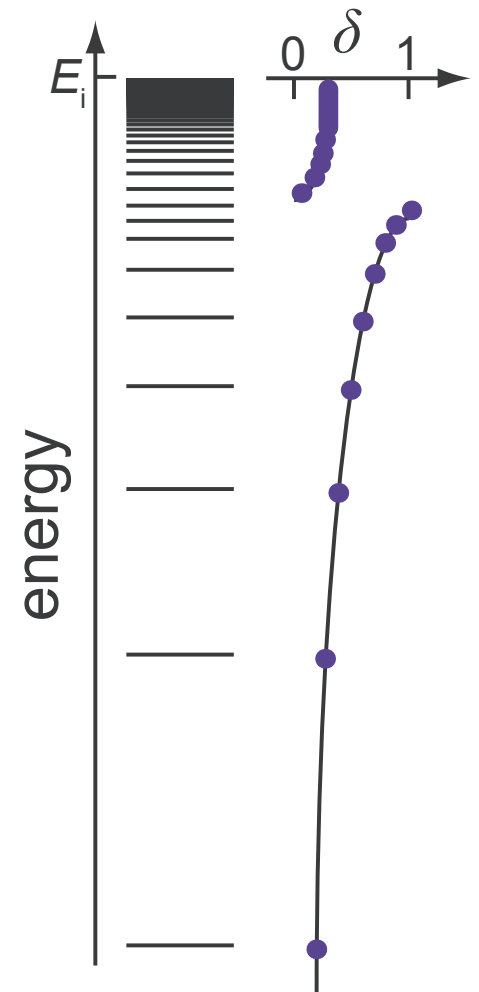
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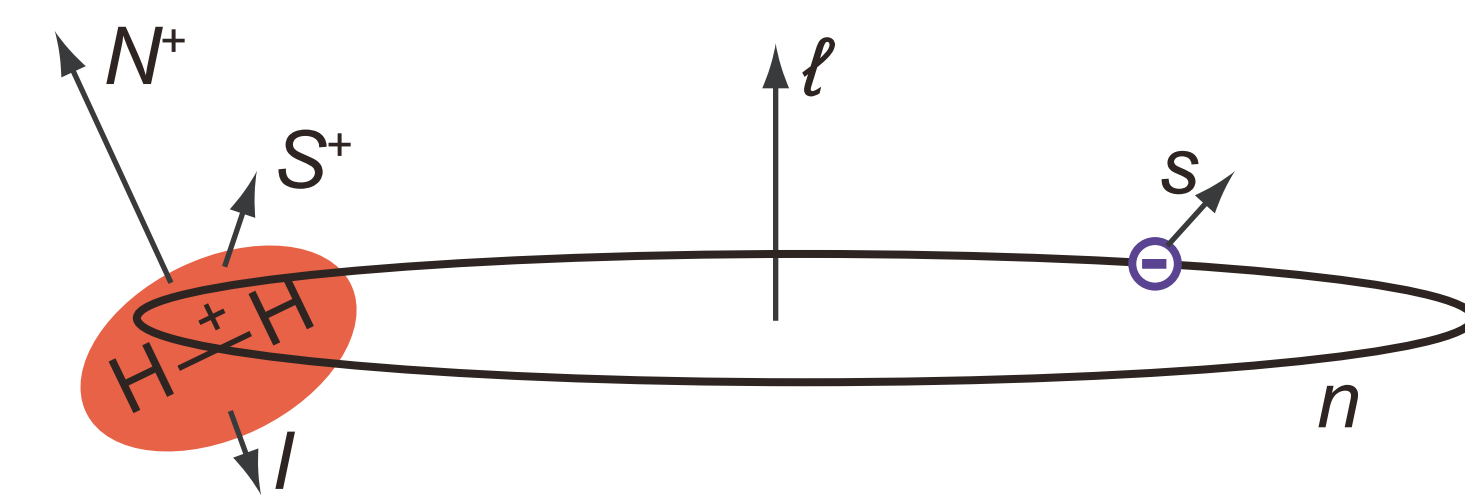
eigen quantum defects

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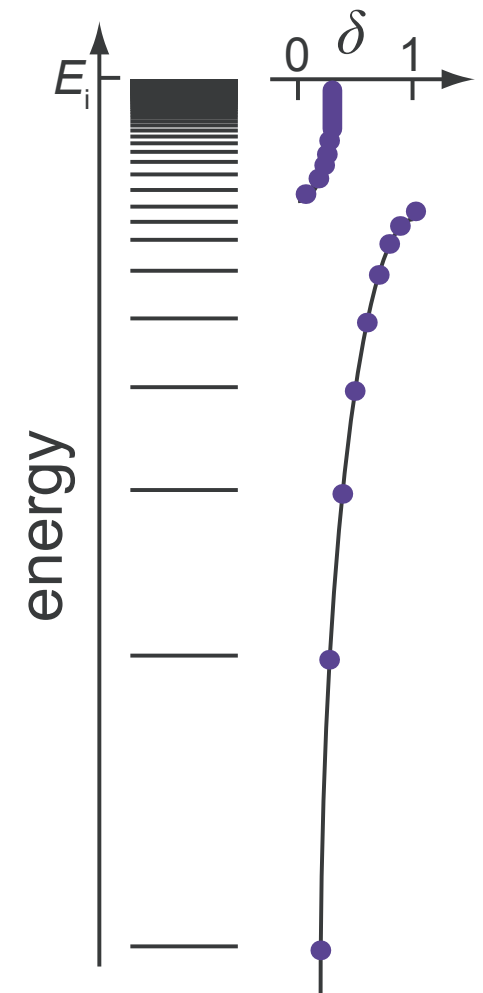
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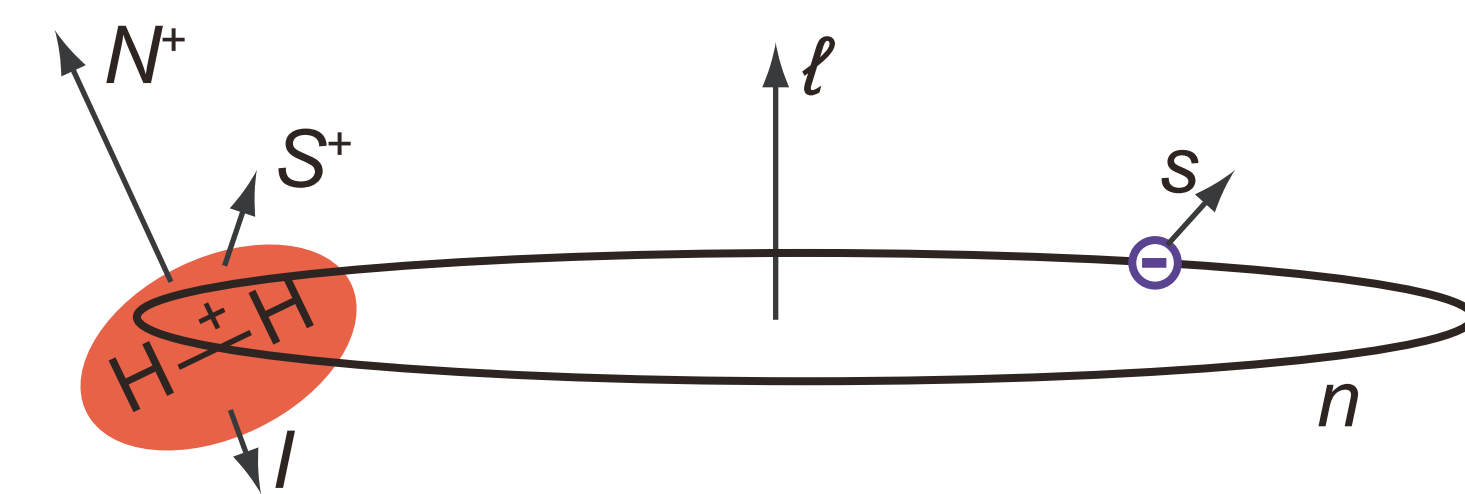
*ab initio* data of  $\text{HD}^+$

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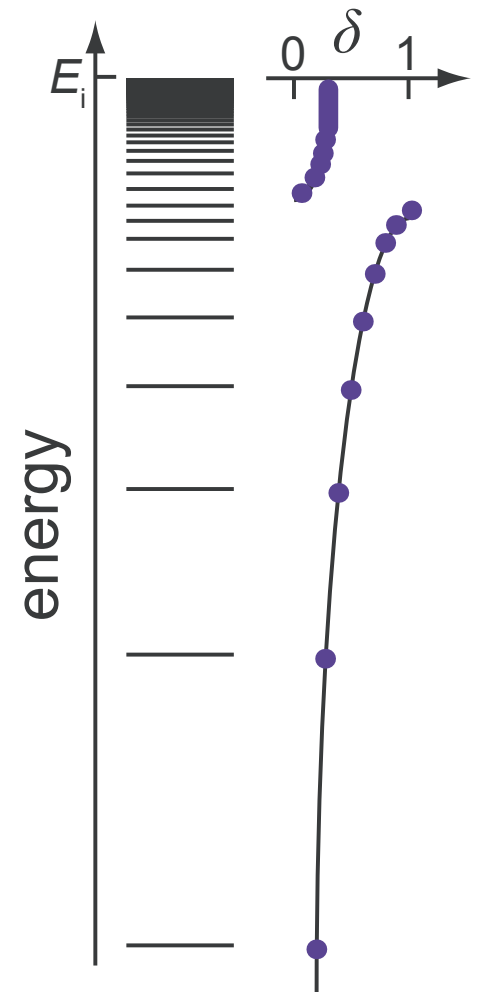


eigen quantum defects

*ab initio* data of  $\text{HD}^+$

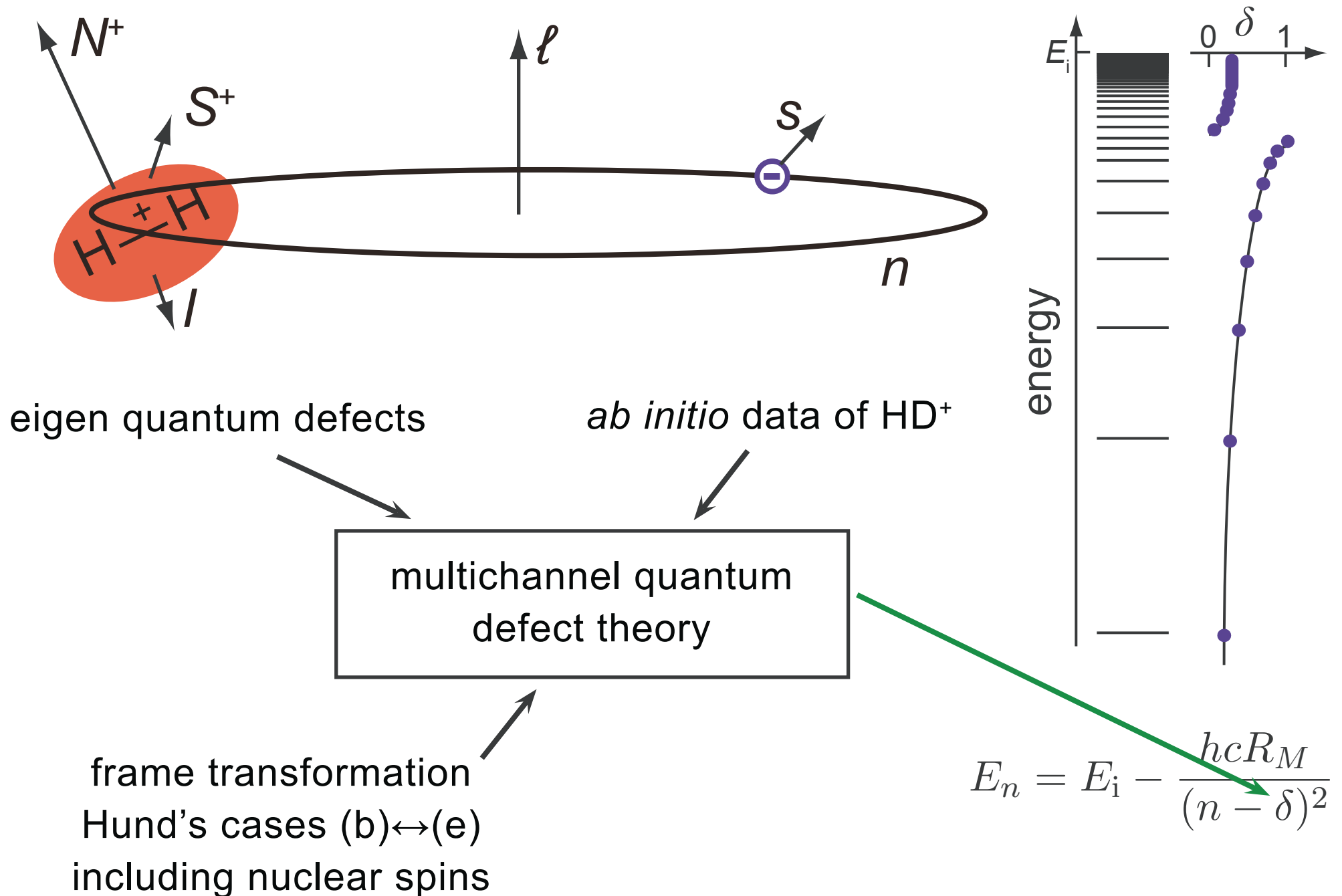
multichannel quantum  
defect theory

frame transformation  
Hund's cases (b) $\leftrightarrow$ (e)  
including nuclear spins



$$E_n = E_i - \frac{hcR_M}{(n - \delta)^2}$$

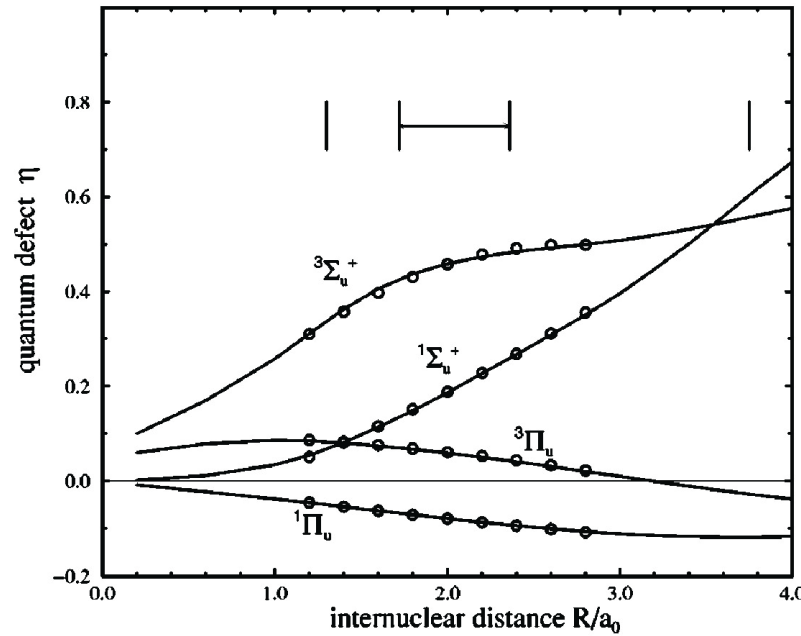
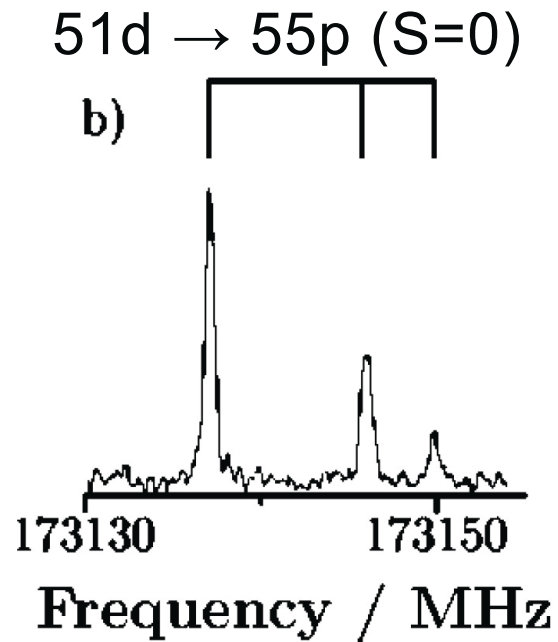
# Rydberg states





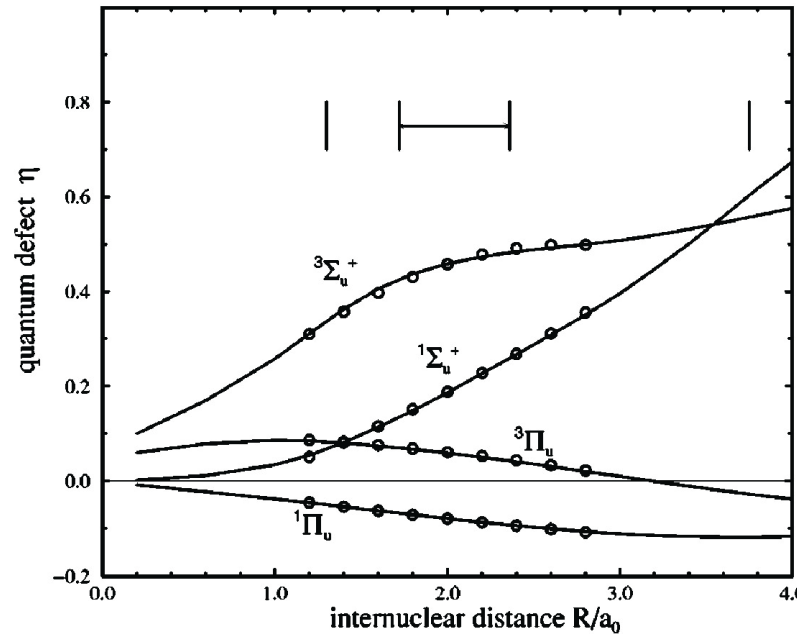
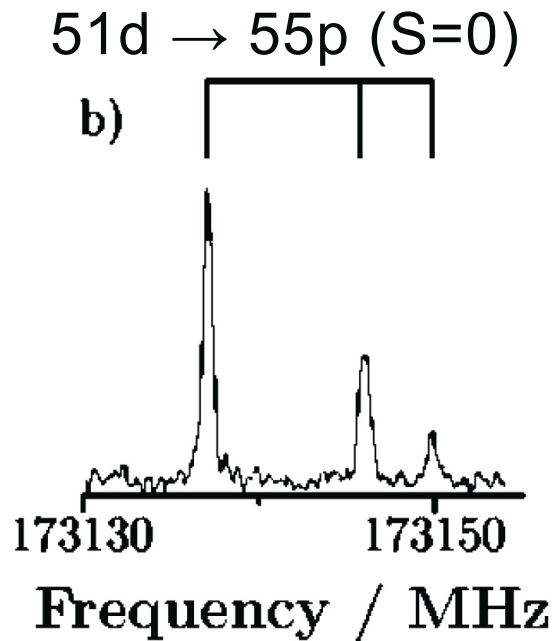
# Origin of the eigen quantum defects

Fitted to very-high resolution data of  $\text{H}_2$   
[Osterwalder *et al.* JCP **121**, 11810 (2004)]



# Origin of the eigen quantum defects

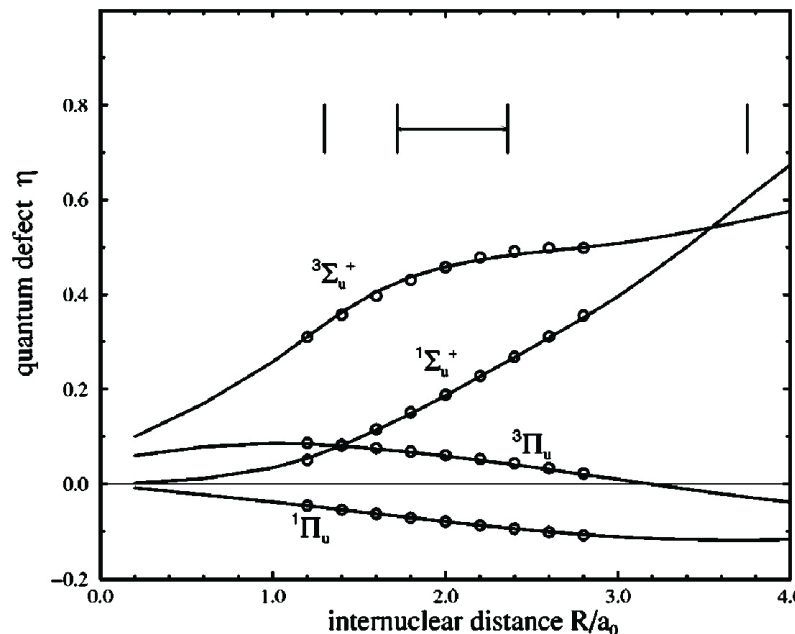
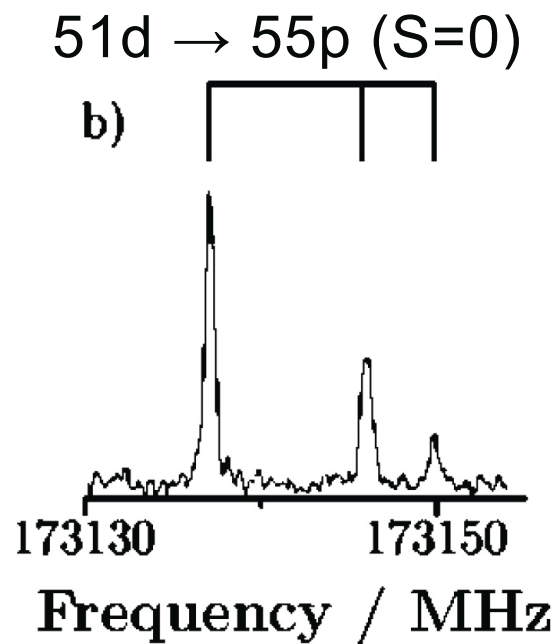
Fitted to very-high resolution data of  $\text{H}_2$   
[Osterwalder *et al.* JCP **121**, 11810 (2004)]



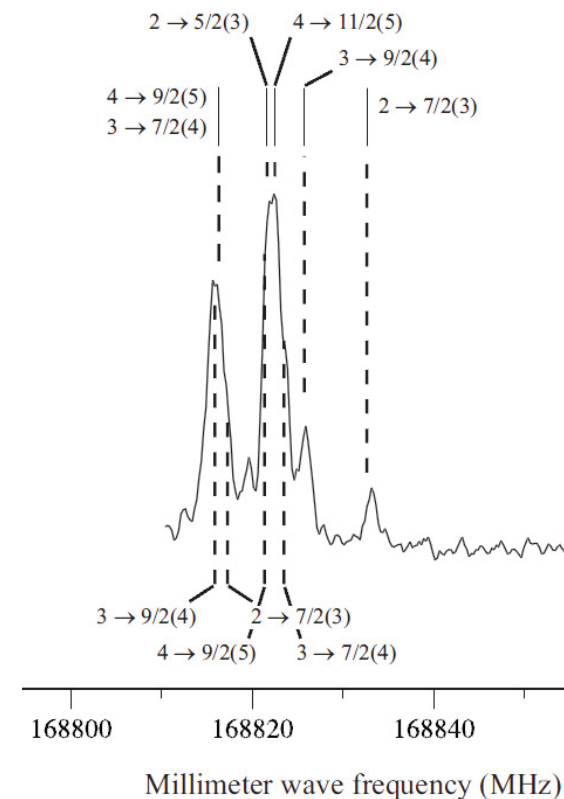
- line width  $< 1$  MHz
- 140  $np$  and  $nf$  states with  $54 \leq n \leq 64$  observed and assigned
- rms deviation after adjustment: 0.6 MHz
- uncertainty of  $E_i$  is 0.3 MHz

# Origin of the eigen quantum defects

Fitted to very-high resolution data of  $H_2$   
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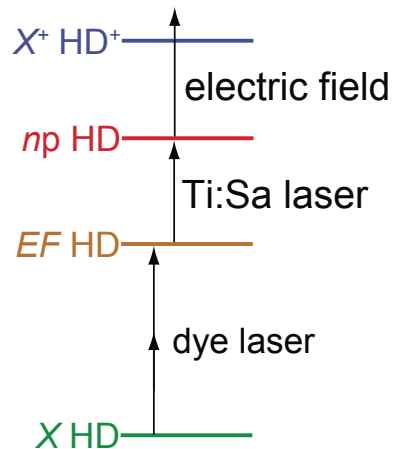
Independent of  
isotopic substitution  
52d  $\rightarrow$  56f in  $D_2$



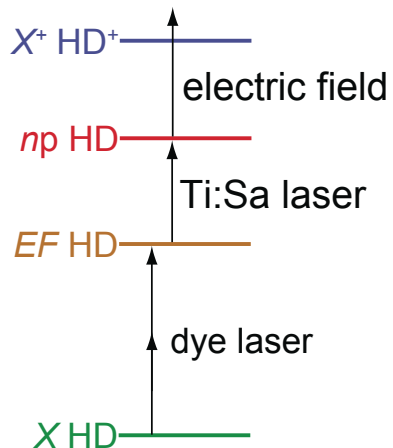
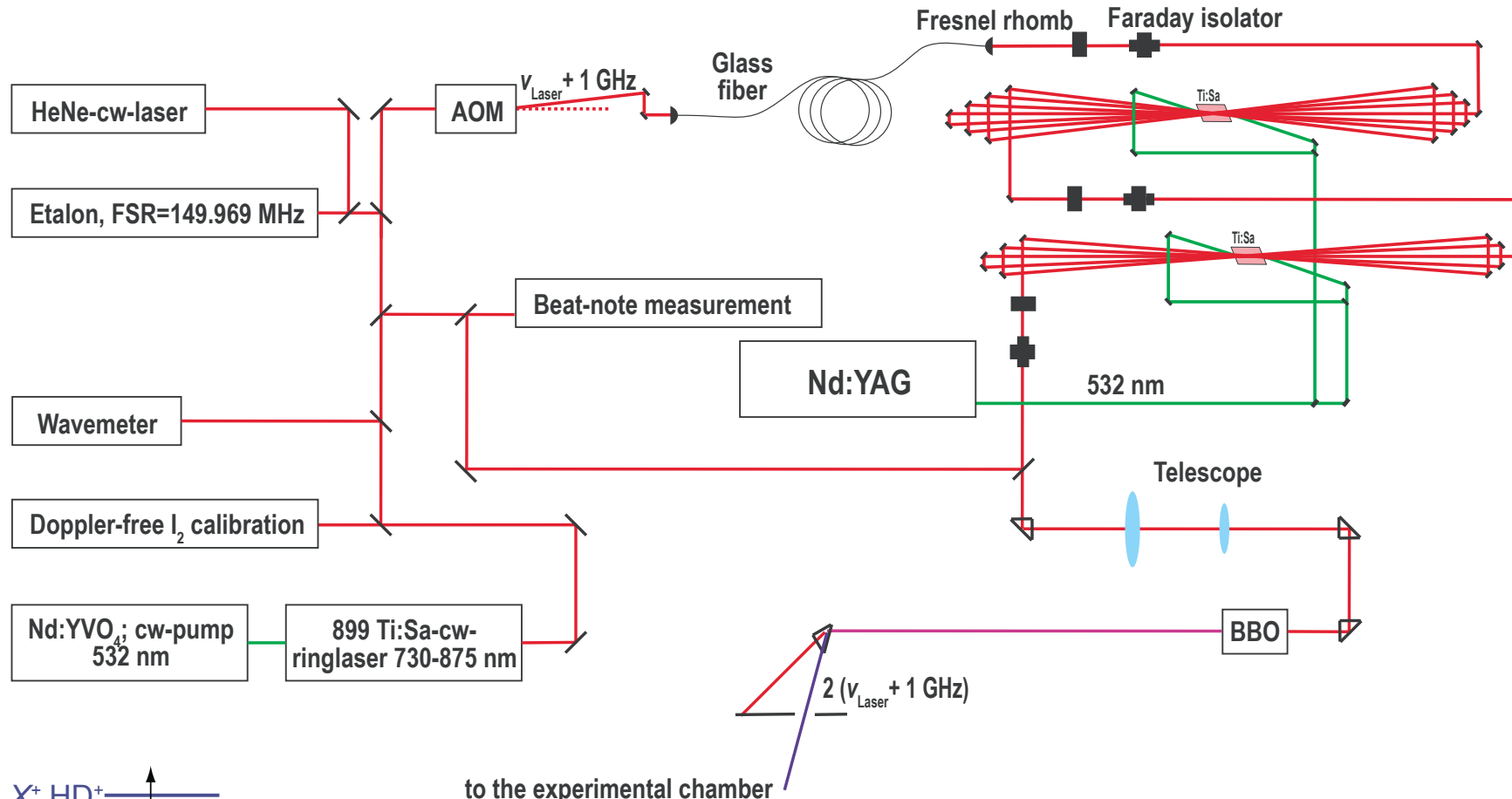
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[Cruse *et al.* PRA **77**, 042502 (2008)]

# Experimental setup

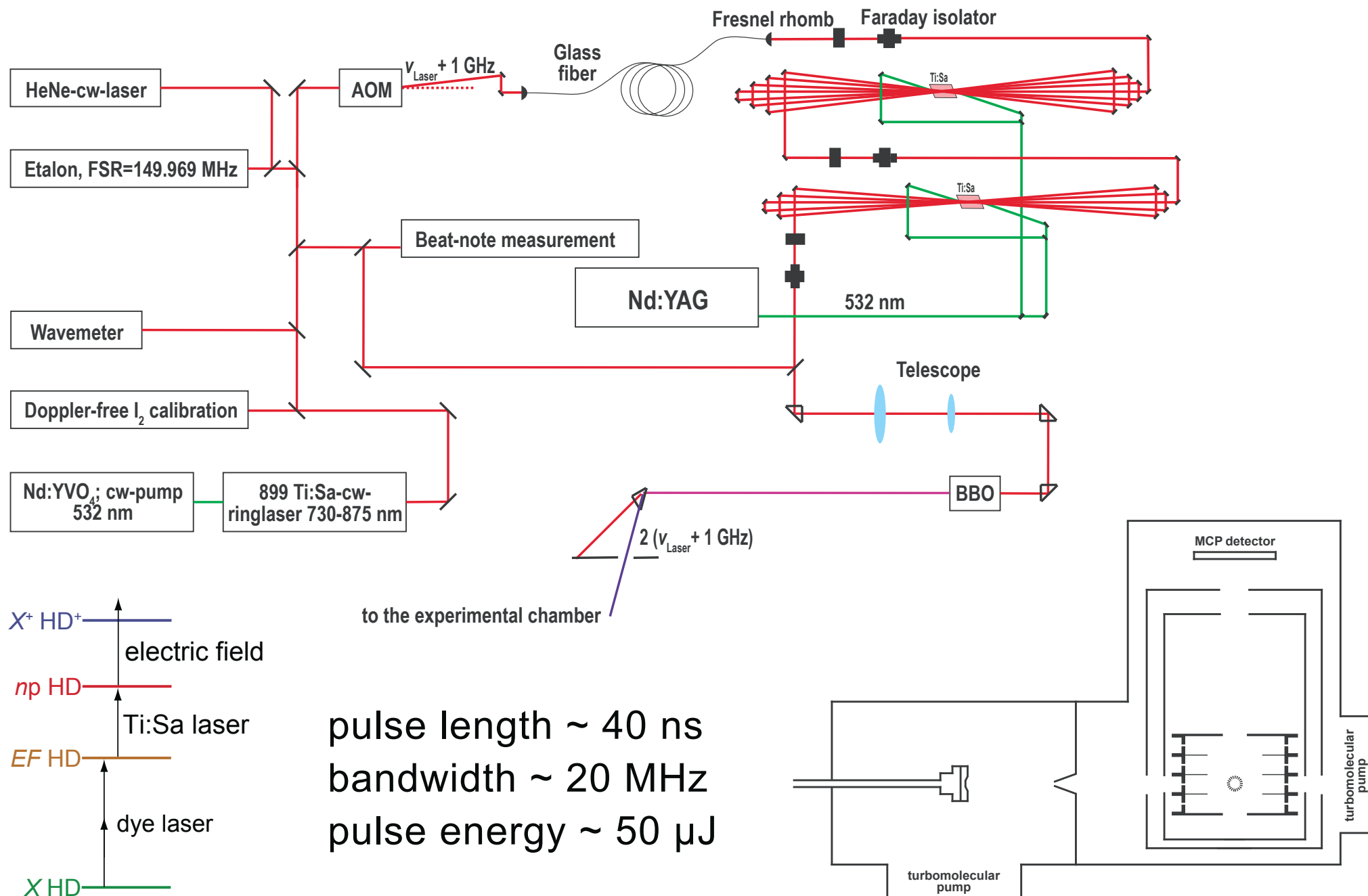


# Experimental setup

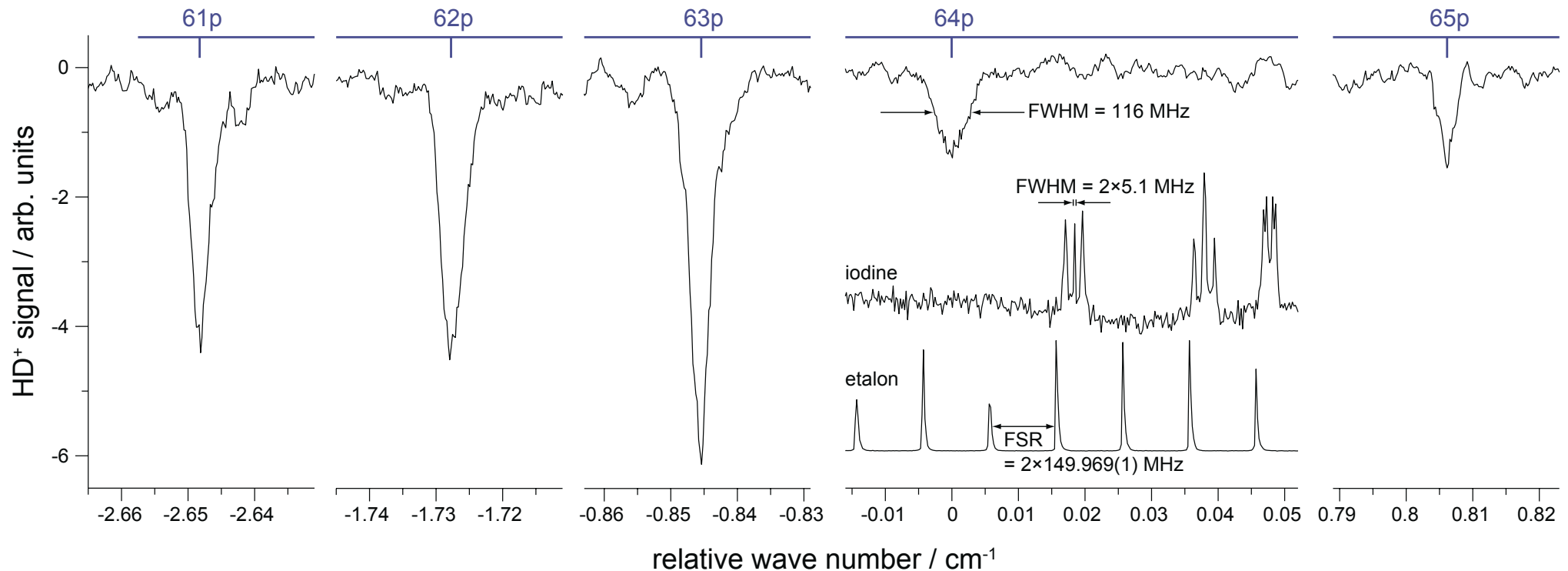


pulse length  $\sim 40$  ns  
bandwidth  $\sim 20$  MHz  
pulse energy  $\sim 50$   $\mu$ s

# Experimental setup



# Survey scans for HD

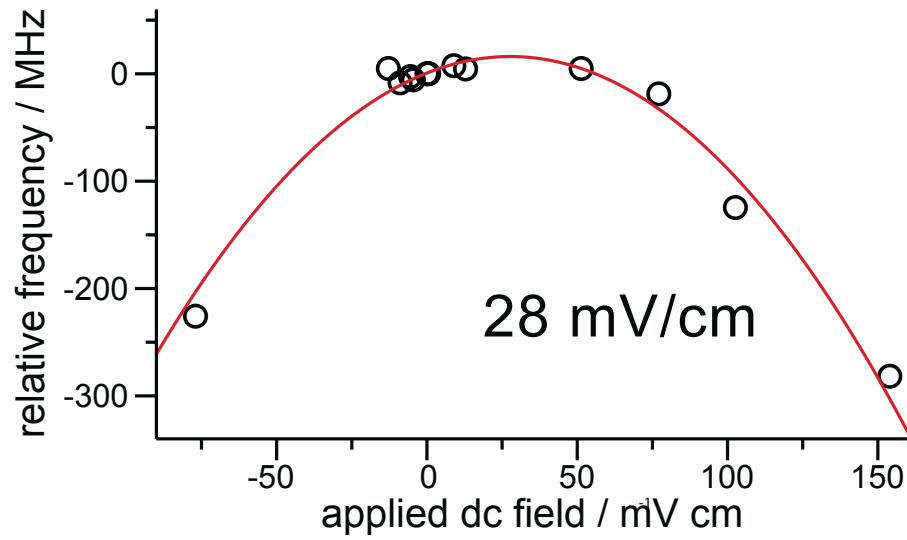


- Doppler-free  $^{127}\text{I}_2$  absorption peaks have been measured with a frequency comb to an accuracy of 100 kHz.
- relative frequency measurement using a high-finesse etalon locked to a polarization-stabilized He-Ne laser

# Absolute wave number measurements in HD

## Sources of experimental errors

- dc Stark shift ( $15.4 \pm 2.4$  MHz)

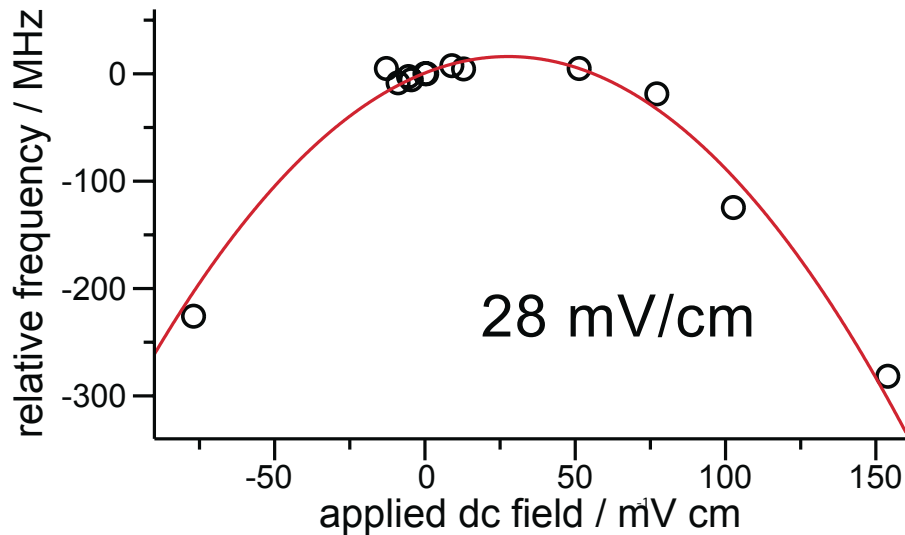




# Absolute wave number measurements in HD

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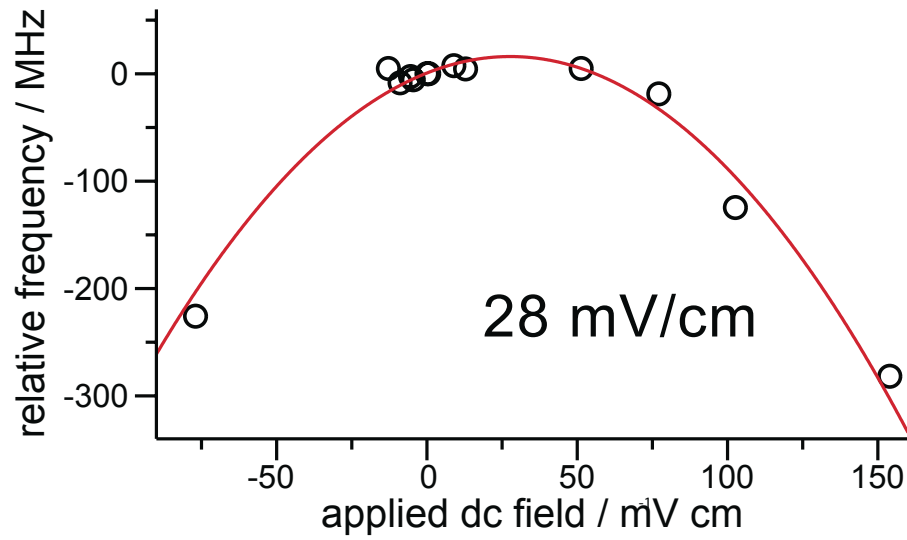


- ac Stark shift ( $0.0 \pm 4.4$  MHz)
- shift induced by  $\text{HD}^+$  ions ( $0.0 \pm 5.2$  MHz)
- frequency shift in the Ti:Sa amplifier (typically  $-8 \pm 1$  MHz)

# Absolute wave number measurements in HD

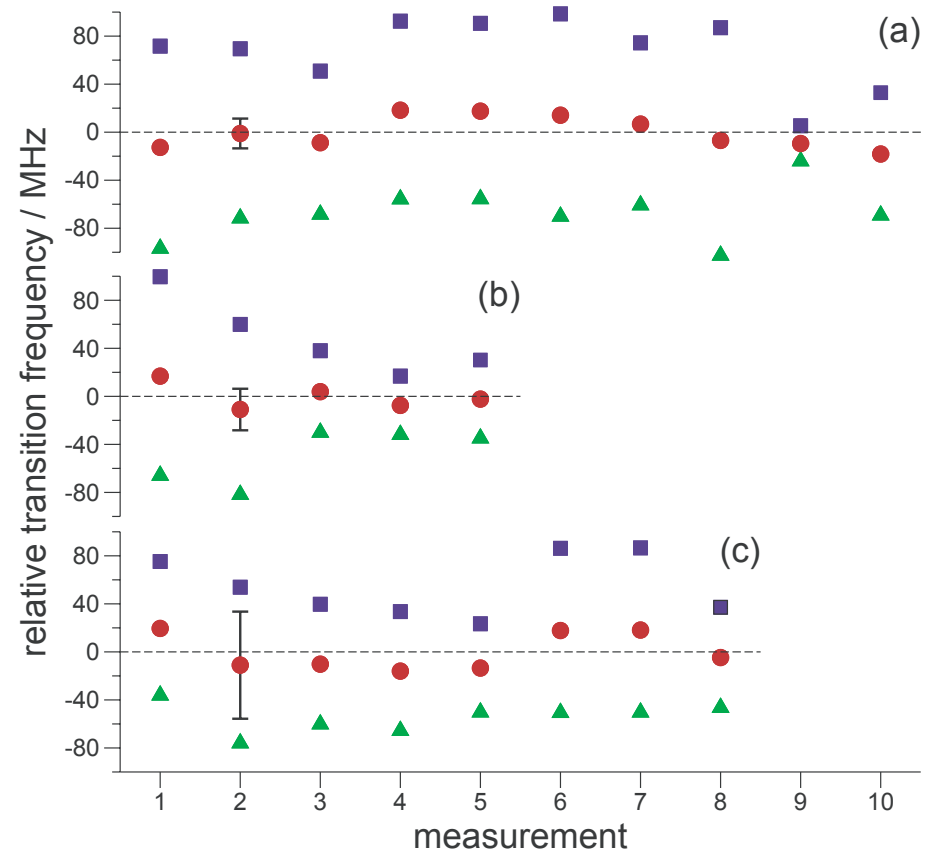
## Sources of experimental errors

- dc Stark shift ( $15.4 \pm 2.4$  MHz)



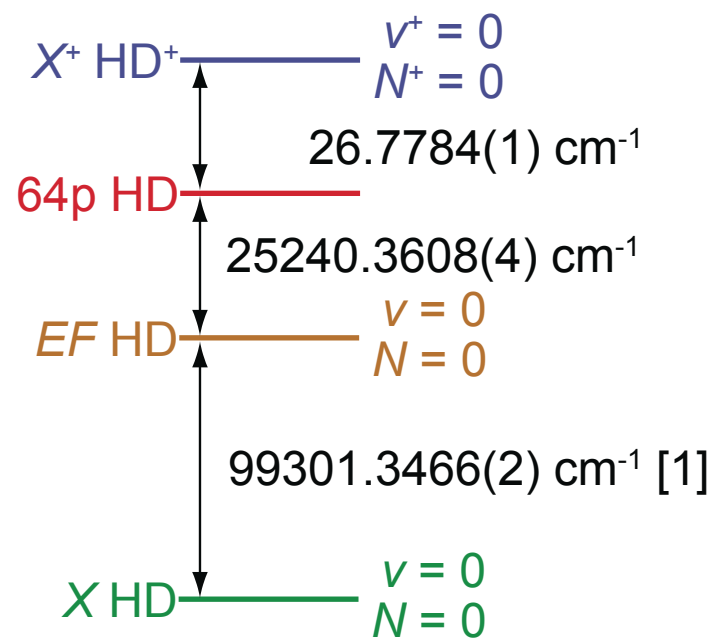
- ac Stark shift ( $0.0 \pm 4.4$  MHz)
- shift induced by  $\text{HD}^+$  ions ( $0.0 \pm 5.2$  MHz)
- frequency shift in the Ti:Sa amplifier (typically  $-8 \pm 1$  MHz)

- eliminate Doppler shift by taking pairs of measurements with counterpropagating laser beams:



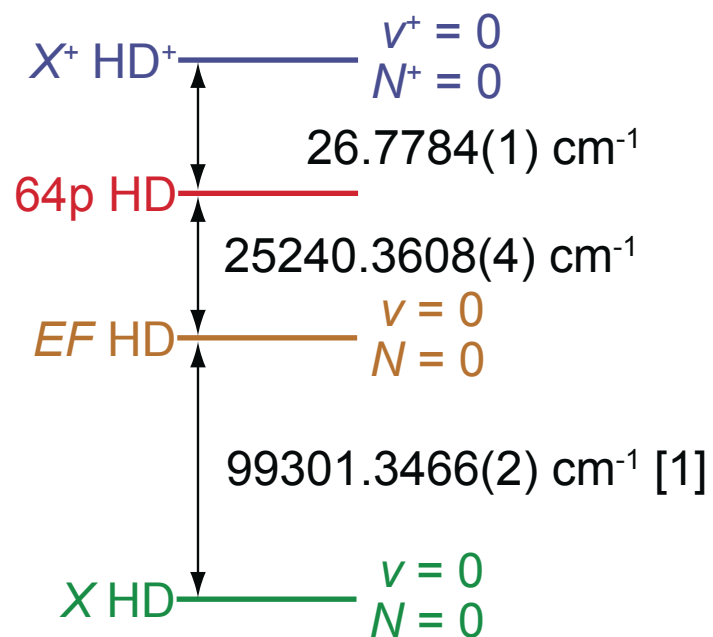
- (a)  $EF (v=0, N=0) \rightarrow 64p (v^+=0, N^+=0)$   
(b)  $EF (v=0, N=1) \rightarrow 69p (v^+=0, N^+=1)$   
(c)  $EF (v=0, N=0) \rightarrow 55p (v^+=1, N^+=0)$

# Results

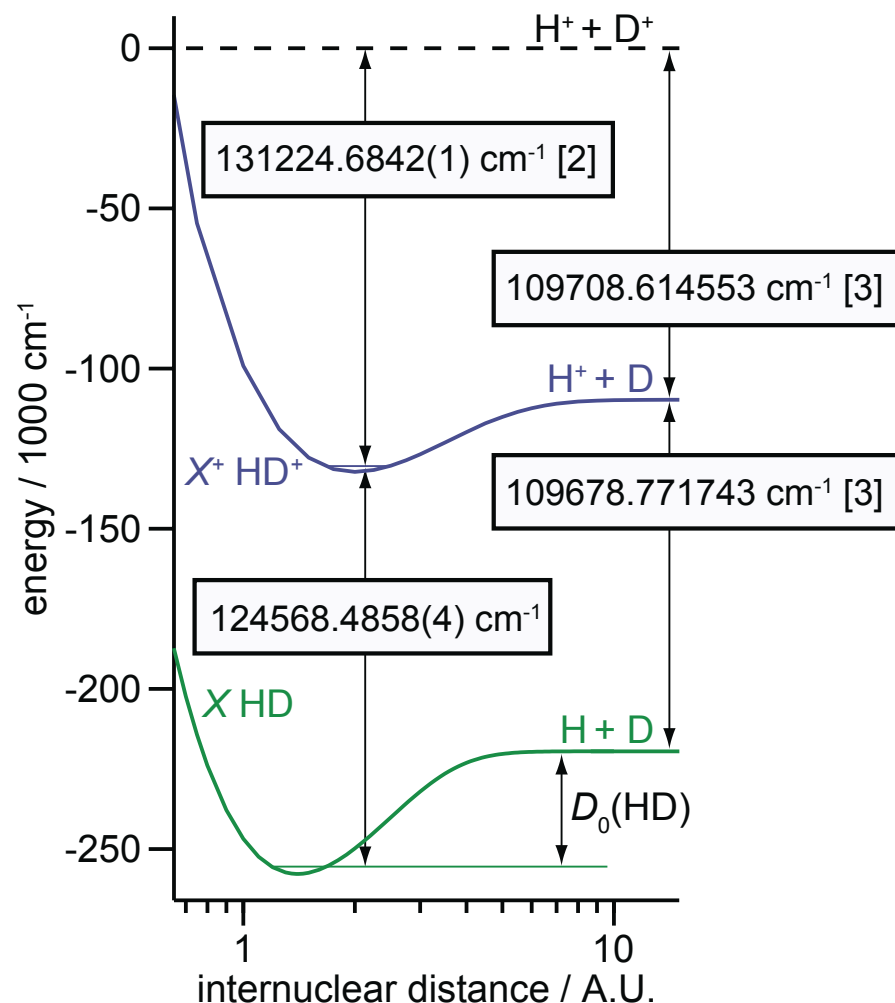


[1] Hannemann *et al.* PRA **74**, 062514 (2006)

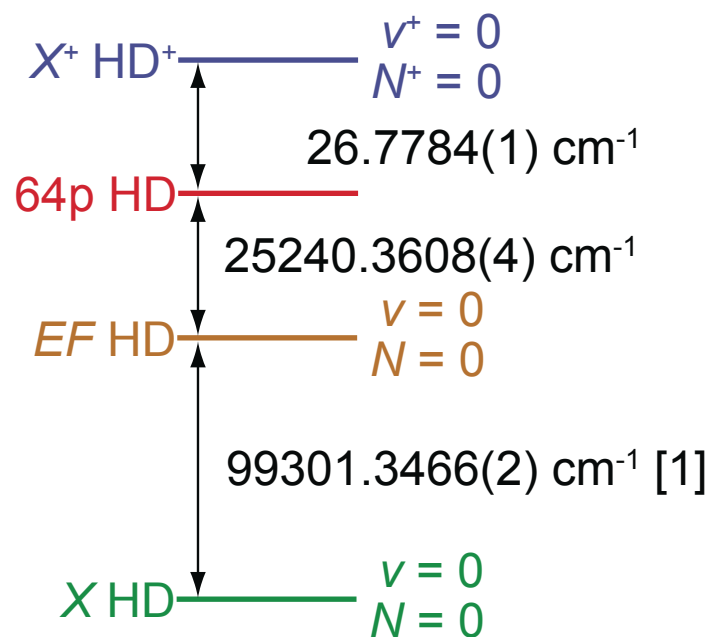
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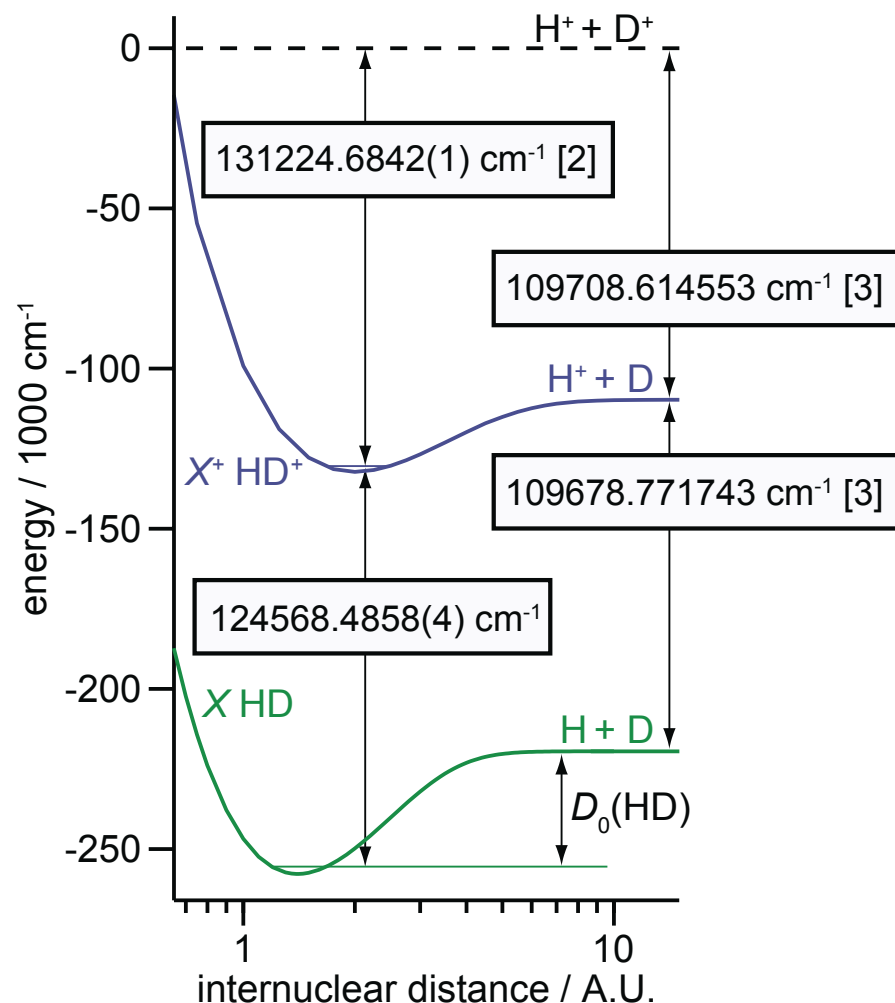
- [1] Hannemann *et al.* PRA **74**, 062514 (2006)  
 [2] Korobov, PRA **77**, 022509 (2008)  
 [3] Mohr *et al.* Rev. Mod. Phys. **80**, 633 (2008)



# Results

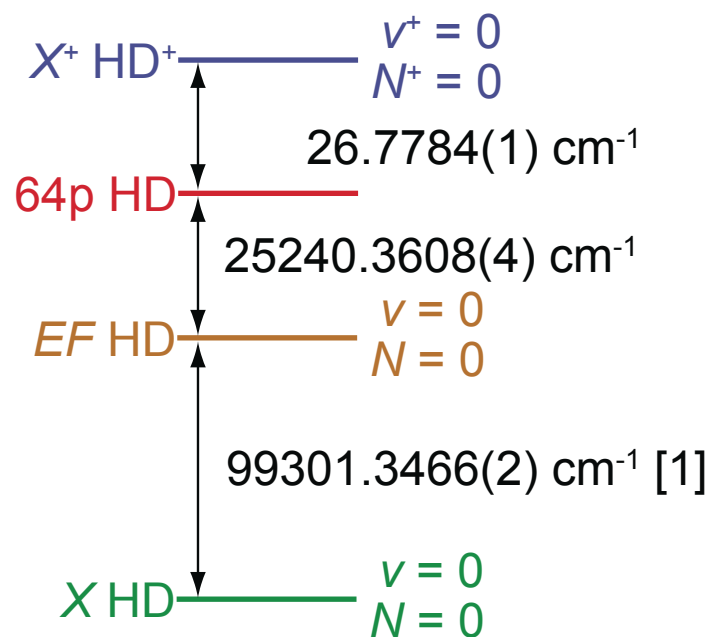


- [1] Hannemann *et al.* PRA **74**, 062514 (2006)  
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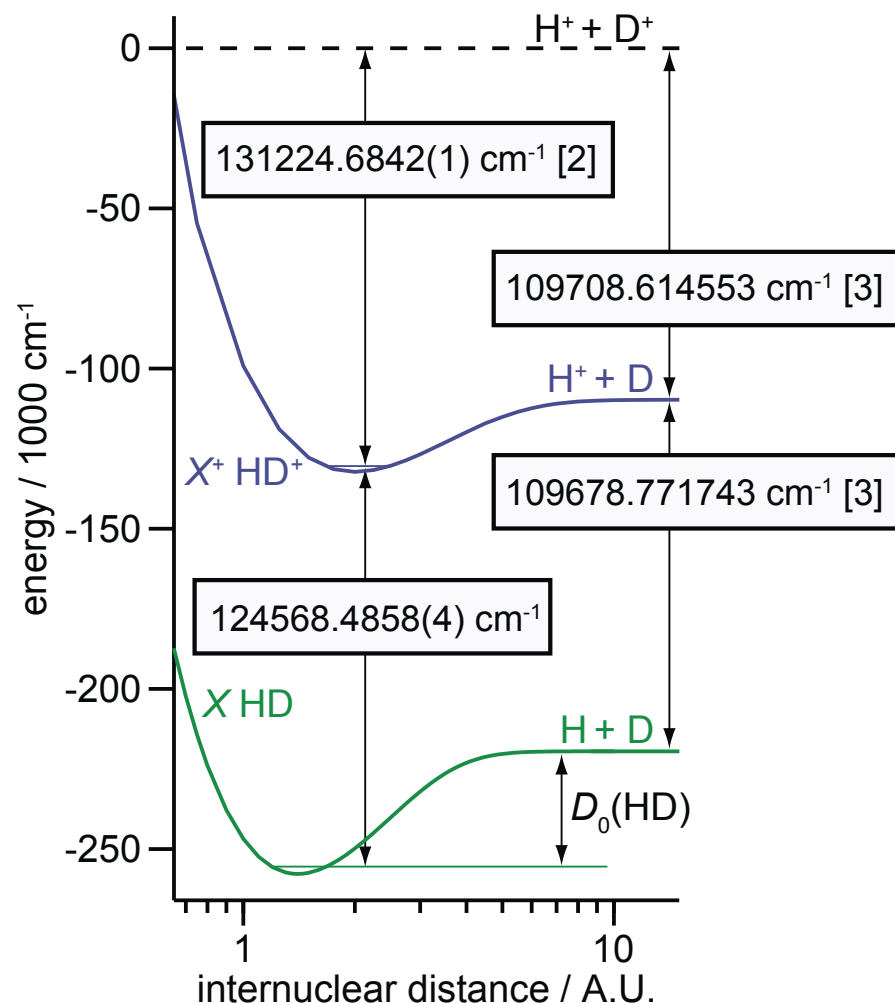


$D_0(\text{HD}) / \text{cm}^{-1}$	Year	Experiment	Theory
Wolniewicz	1995		36405.787
Eyler and coworkers	2004	36405.828(16)	
This work	2010		

# Results

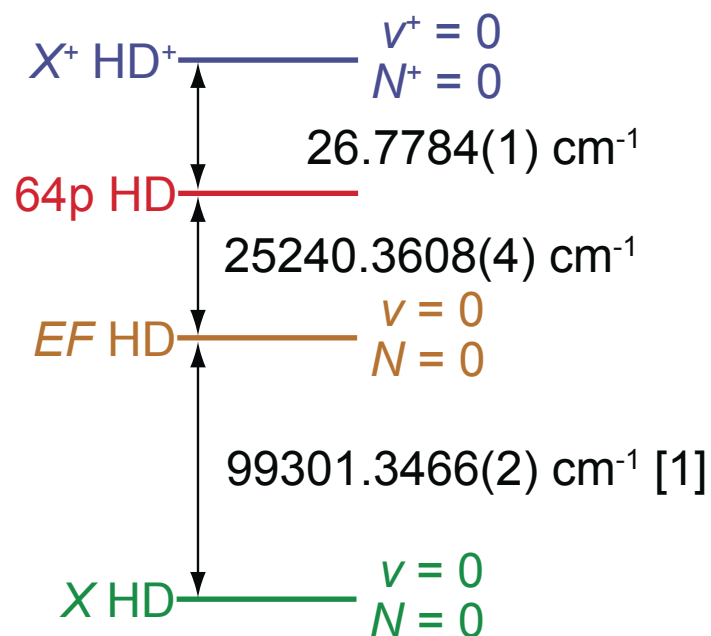


- [1] Hannemann *et al.* PRA **74**, 062514 (2006)  
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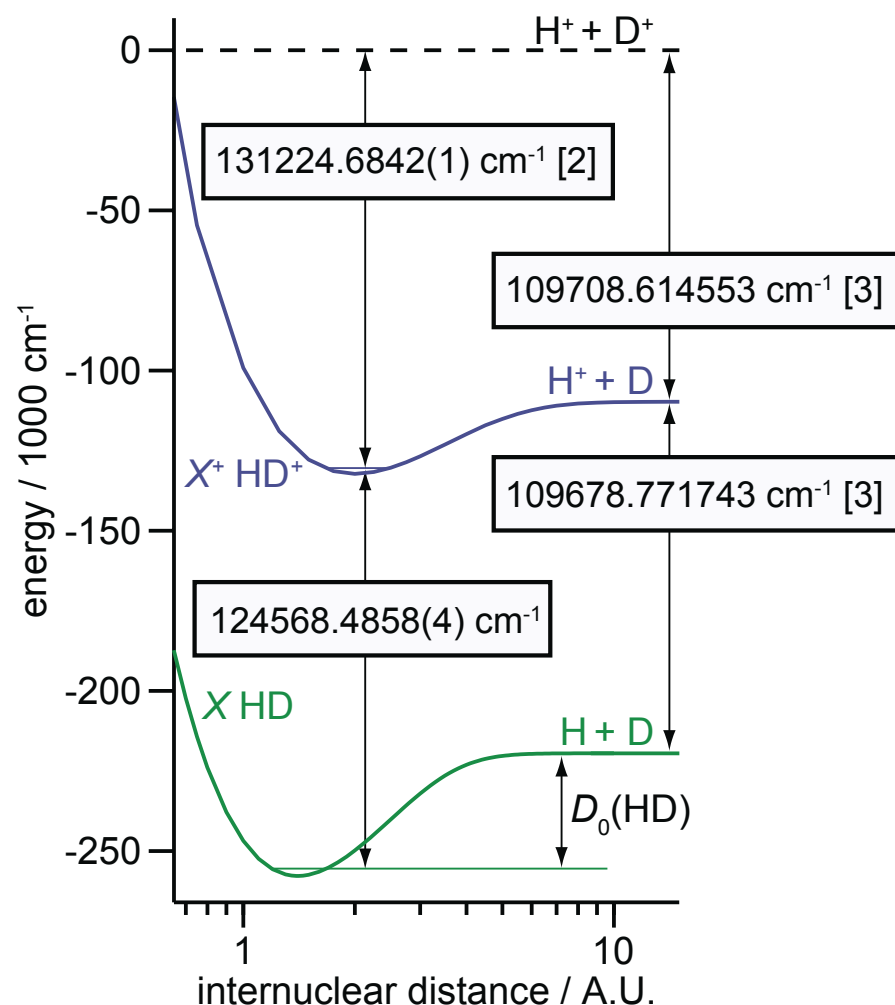


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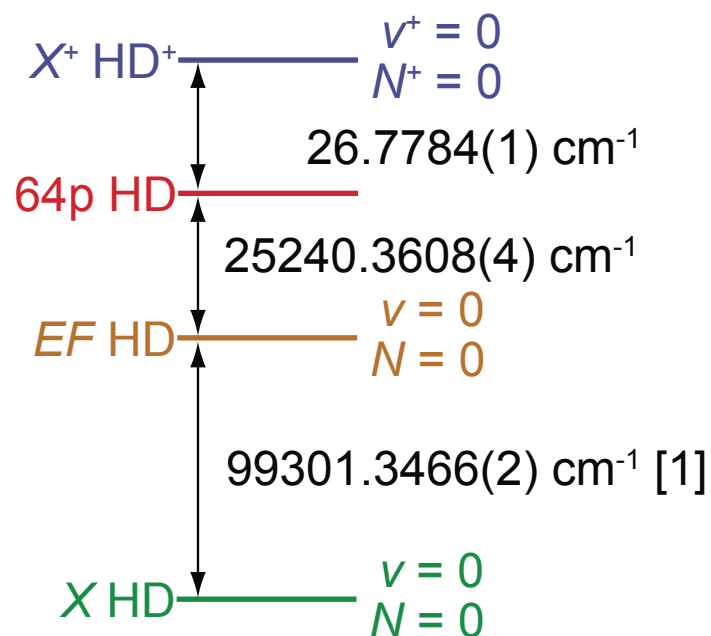


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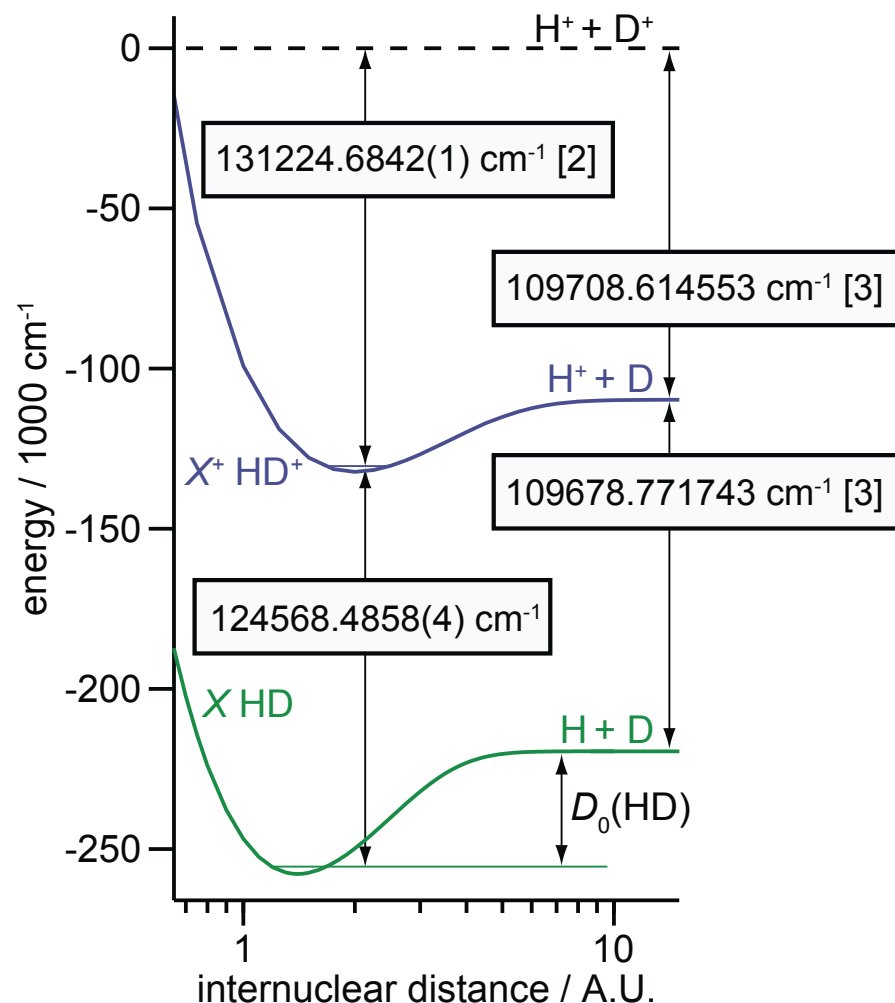


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# Results



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$D_0(\text{HD}) / \text{cm}^{-1}$	Year	Experiment	Theory
Wolniewicz	1995		36405.787
Eyler and coworkers	2004	36405.828(16)	
This work	2010	36405.7837(4)	
Pachucki and coworkers	2010		36405.7828(10) <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> private communication, with permission



# Conclusions

- Transition wave numbers from the  $EF$  ( $v=0$ ,  $N=0,1$ ) to  $np$  Rydberg states ( $n \approx 60$ ) were measured in  $H_2$ , HD and  $D_2$  with an uncertainty of less than 20 MHz.
- Electron binding energies of these Rydberg states could be determined with MQDT (eigen quantum defects adjusted to experimental data).
- Adding the transition energies, the electron binding energies and previously reported term energies of the  $EF$  state led to a determination of the adiabatic ionization energy.
- Combining these measurements with highly accurate theoretical values of the ionization energies of the one-electron systems H, D, and  $HD^+$  further enabled a new determination of the dissociation energy.
- Our values and the results of an *ab initio* investigation by Packuchi and coworkers agree within  $0.001 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (30 MHz) for  $H_2$ , HD, and  $D_2$ .



Merkt group  
ETH Zurich  
**Switzerland**  
(March 2009)







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ETH Zurich  
**Switzerland**  
(March 2009)





# Comparison between survey spectra and MQDT

Rydberg state $n \ell N_N^+(v^+)$	Relative exp. wave number	MQDT binding energy	Sum rel. to mean value				
$(v^+, N^+) = (0, 0)$				66p <sub>12</sub> (0)	−2.12693	25.17429	0.00002
56p <sub>01</sub> (0)	−8.30825	35.08548	−0.00045	66p <sub>11</sub> (0)	−2.07799	25.12428	−0.00106
57p <sub>01</sub> (0)	−7.17062	33.94850	0.00021	69p <sub>12</sub> (0)	0	23.04834	0.00100
58p <sub>01</sub> (0)	−6.20710	32.98551	0.00073	69p <sub>11</sub> (0)	0.05796	22.98922	−0.00016
26p <sub>21</sub> (0)	−5.42239	32.20084	0.00077	70p <sub>12</sub> (0)	0.64966	22.39845	0.00077
60p <sub>01</sub> (0)	−3.59805	30.37518	−0.00055	70p <sub>11</sub> (0)	0.70867	22.33772	−0.00096
61p <sub>01</sub> (0)	−2.64818	29.42491	−0.00096	71p <sub>12</sub> (0)	1.27293	21.77547	0.00105
62p <sub>01</sub> (0)	−1.72758	28.50535	0.00010	71p <sub>11</sub> (0)	1.33390	21.71353	0.00008
63p <sub>01</sub> (0)	−0.84556	27.62288	−0.00036	$(v^+, N^+) = (1, 0)$			
64p <sub>01</sub> (0)	0	26.77844	0.00076	42p <sub>01</sub> (1)	−25.92414	62.07063	0.00089
65p <sub>01</sub> (0)	0.80612	25.97130	−0.00026	47p <sub>01</sub> (1)	−13.30965	49.45468	−0.00057
66p <sub>01</sub> (0)	1.57971	25.20021	0.00224	48p <sub>01</sub> (1)	−11.38886	47.53320	−0.00125
67p <sub>01</sub> (0)	2.31081	24.46389	−0.00297	49p <sub>01</sub> (1)	−9.53819	45.68277	−0.00101
68p <sub>01</sub> (0)	3.01434	23.76127	−0.00207	54p <sub>01</sub> (1)	−1.23751	37.38408	0.00098
$(v^+, N^+) = (0, 1)$				55p <sub>01</sub> (1)	0	36.14565	0.00005
64p <sub>12</sub> (0)	−3.70730	26.75416	−0.00049	56p <sub>01</sub> (1)	1.22532	34.92033	0.00005
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65p <sub>12</sub> (0)	−2.89882	25.94695	0.00079	58p <sub>01</sub> (1)	3.53122	32.61487	0.00050
65p <sub>11</sub> (0)	−2.85518	25.90240	−0.00013	66p <sub>01</sub> (1)	11.05893	25.08584	−0.00082
				69p <sub>01</sub> (1)	13.13060	23.01540	0.00041
				72p <sub>01</sub> (1)	14.98039	21.16590	0.00070

Standard deviation < 24 MHz (experimental uncertainty)

# Comparison between survey spectra and MQDT

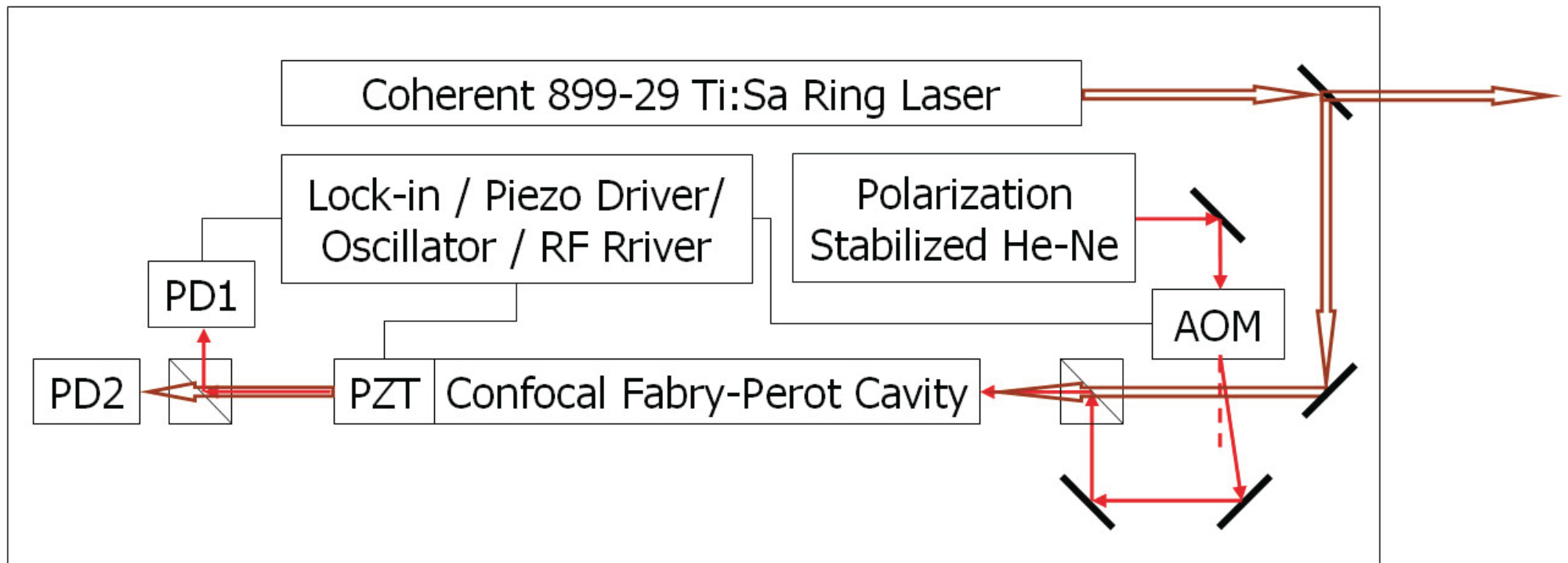
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64p <sub>01</sub> (0)	0	26.77844	0.00076	42p <sub>01</sub> (1)	−25.92414	62.07063	0.00089
65p <sub>01</sub> (0)	0.80612	25.97130	−0.00026	47p <sub>01</sub> (1)	−13.30965	49.45468	−0.00057
66p <sub>01</sub> (0)	1.57971	25.20021	0.00224	48p <sub>01</sub> (1)	−11.38886	47.53320	−0.00125
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68p <sub>01</sub> (0)	3.01434	23.76127	−0.00207	54p <sub>01</sub> (1)	−1.23751	37.38408	0.00098
$(v^+, N^+) = (0, 1)$				55p <sub>01</sub> (1)	0	36.14565	0.00005
64p <sub>12</sub> (0)	−3.70730	26.75416	−0.00049	56p <sub>01</sub> (1)	1.22532	34.92033	0.00005
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				72p <sub>01</sub> (1)	14.98039	21.16590	0.00070

Standard deviation < 24 MHz (experimental uncertainty)

# Error budget

Rydberg state $n \ell N_N^+(v^+)$	64p0 <sub>1</sub> (0)	69p1 <sub>2</sub> (0)	55p0 <sub>1</sub> (1)
Standard deviation of the individual measurements	13.3	11.0	15.7
Statistical uncertainties			
Uncertainty in the determination of the I <sub>2</sub> line centers	$\pm 0.30 \times 2$	$\pm 0.42 \times 2$	$\pm 0.35 \times 2$
Uncertainty in the determination of the HD line centers	$\pm 2.5 \times 2$	$\pm 3.7 \times 2$	$\pm 6.7 \times 2$
Nonlinearity of the $EF \rightarrow n$ laser scans	$< \pm 1.1 \times 2$	$< \pm 1.1 \times 2$	$< \pm 1.1 \times 2$
Residual Doppler shift	$< \pm 0.26$	$< \pm 0.26$	$< \pm 0.28$
Sum in quadrature	$\pm 5.5$	$\pm 7.8$	$\pm 13.6$
Systematic shifts and uncertainties			
Uncertainty caused by the uncertainty of the etalon FSR <sup>a</sup>	$\pm 0.004 \times 2$	$\pm 0.046 \times 2$	$\pm 0.027 \times 2$
Uncertainty in the positions of the I <sub>2</sub> reference lines	$\pm 0.1 \times 2$	$\pm 0.1 \times 2$	$\pm 15 \times 2$
Frequency shift in the Ti:Sa amplifier	$\pm 0.29 \times 2$	$\pm 0.16 \times 2$	$\pm 0.31 \times 2$
Frequency shift in the doubling crystal	$< \pm 0.35$	$< \pm 0.35$	$< \pm 0.35$
ac Stark shift by the $EF \rightarrow n$ laser	$< \pm 1.8 \times 2$	$< \pm 3.0 \times 2$	$\pm 2.2 \times 2$
Frequency shift by the $X \rightarrow EF$ laser	$< \pm 2.9 \times 2$	$< \pm 3.3 \times 2$	$< \pm 2.6 \times 2$
dc Stark shift by the stray electric fields	$(-2.8 \pm 0.6) \times 2$	$(-7.7 \pm 1.7) \times 2$	$(+7.7 \pm 1.2) \times 2$
Pressure shift	$+0.10 \pm 0.05$	$+0.10 \pm 0.05$	$+0.10 \pm 0.05$
Sum and uncertainty in quadrature	$-5.5 \pm 7.0$	$-15.3 \pm 9.6$	$+15.5 \pm 30.9$
Total shift and uncertainty	$-5.5 \pm 12.5$	$-15.3 \pm 17.4$	$+15.5 \pm 44.5$

# HeNe stabilized etalon



# Extrapolation of the ionization energy

Label	Energy interval	Wave number / $\text{cm}^{-1}$	Reference
(1)	$X^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=0) - EF^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=0)$	99301.34662(20)	[1]
(2)	$EF^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=0) - 64p0_1(v^+=0, S=0)$	25240.36096(42)	This work
(3)	$64p0_1(v^+=0, S=0) - X^+{}^2\Sigma_g^+(v^+=0, N^+=0)$	26.77844(3)	This work
$E_i^{(0,0)} = (1)+(2)+(3)$	$X^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=0) - X^+{}^2\Sigma_g^+(v^+=0, N^+=0)$	124568.48602(47)	This work
(4)	$X^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=0) - X^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=1)$	89.227950(5)	[2]
(5)	$X^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=1) - EF^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=1)$	99259.91793(20)	[1]
(6)	$EF^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=1) - 69p1_2(v^+=0, S=0)$	25240.15251(58)	This work
(7)	$69p1_2(v^+=0, S=0) - X^+{}^2\Sigma_g^+(v^+=0, N^+=1)$	23.04834(3)	This work
$E_i^{(0,1)} = (4)+(5)+(6)+(7)$	$X^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=0) - X^+{}^2\Sigma_g^+(v^+=0, N^+=1)$	124612.34673(61)	This work
(8)	$EF^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=0) - 55p0_1(v^+=1, S=0)$	27143.98830(148)	This work
(9)	$55p0_1(v^+=1, S=0) - X^+{}^2\Sigma_g^+(v^+=1, N^+=0)$	36.14565(3)	This work
$E_i^{(1,0)} = (1)+(8)+(9)$	$X^1\Sigma_g^+(v=0, N=0) - X^+{}^2\Sigma_g^+(v^+=1, N^+=0)$	126481.48057(149)	This work

[1] S. Hannemann *et al.* PRA **74**, 062514 (2006)

[2] K.M. Evanson *et al.* Astrophys. J. **330**, L135 (1988)



# Extrapolation of the ionization energy

Label	Wave number / $\text{cm}^{-1}$	Reference
Rotational separation $(v^+, N^+) : (0, 0) \text{---} (0, 1)$		
$E_i^{(0,1)} - E_i^{(0,0)}$	43.86071(77)	This work.
(10)	43.86120186(2)	[1]
Vibrational separation $(v^+, N^+) : (0, 0) \text{---} (1, 0)$		
$E_i^{(1,0)} - E_i^{(0,0)}$	1912.99455(154)	This work
(11)	1912.9952347(7)	[1]
Adiabatic ionization energy		
$E_i^{(0,0)}$	124568.48602(47)	This work
$E_i^{(0,1)} - (10)$	124568.48553(61)	This work
$E_i^{(1,0)} - (11)$	124568.48534(149)	This work
combined $E_i(\text{HD})$	124568.48581(36)	This work

Relative uncertainty  $4 \cdot 10^{-9}$

	H <sub>2</sub>	HD	D <sub>2</sub>
Most recent exp.	124417.476(12) [2]	124568.491(17) [3]	124745.353(24) [4]
This work	124417.49113(37)	124568.48581(36)	124745.39407(58)

[1] V.I. Korobov, PRA **77**, 022509 (2008)

[2] A. de Lange *et al.* PRA **65**, 064501 (2002)

[3] G.M. Greetham *et al.* PCCP **5**, 2528 (2003)

[4] D. Shiner *et al.* PRA **47**, 4042 (1993)

# Dissociation energy of the hydrogen molecule

	Year	Experiment	Theory
James and Coolidge	1933		35924(105)
Beutler	1935	36116(6)	
Kolos and Roothaan	1960		
Herzberg and Monfils	1960	36113.0(3)	
Kolos and Wolniewicz	1965		36117.3 cm <sup>-1</sup>
Kolos and Wolniewicz	1968		36117.4 cm <sup>-1</sup>
Herzberg	1970	36117.3(10)	
Stwalley	1970	36118.6(5)	
Kolos and coworkers	1986		
Stoicheff and coworkers	1992	36118.11(8)	
Eyler and Melikechi	1993	36118.06(4)	
Kolos and Rychlewski	1993		36118.049
Wolniewicz	1995		36118.069
Eyler and coworkers	2004	36118.062(10)	
Liu <i>et al.</i>	2009	36118.06962(37)	
Pachucki and coworkers	2009		36118.0695(10)

	H <sub>2</sub>	HD	D <sub>2</sub>
Ref. [1] (Exp.)	36118.062(10)	36405.828(16)	36748.343(10)
Refs. [2,3] (Theory)	36118.0695(10)	36405.7828(10)	36748.3633(09)
This work (hybrid)	36118.06962(37)	36405.78366(36)	36748.36286(68)