

## PERTURBATIONS IN THE GROUND ELECTRONIC STATE ROTATIONAL SPECTRUM OF TRANSITION-METAL CONTAINING MOLECULES

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Transition-metal containing molecules, in general, have a high density of electronic states even in the energy region of the electronic ground state. Often the pure rotational spectrum of these species exhibits perturbations caused by low-lying excited states. Examples of these perturbations include irregular spin-orbit, fine structure, and hyperfine patterns. A good example of a molecule exhibiting some of these perturbations is  $\text{VCl}^+$ . This species has a  $^4\Sigma^-$  ground state, but has unusually large spin-spin splittings. These perturbations indicate that the ground state is interacting with the excited  $^4\Pi_2$  and/or  $^2\Pi_2$  states. A deperturbation analysis of the rotational spectrum of  $\text{VCl}^+$  is currently underway, and the results of this analysis will be presented.