Free Jet Cooled Laser-Induced Fluorescence Spectrum of Methoxy. 1. Vibronic Analysis of the A and X States

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The methoxy free radical has been formed in a supersonic free jet expansion by KrF photolysis of methyl nitrite. Its laser-induced fluorescence excitation and wavelength-resolved emission spectra have been recorded at low temperature. This paper reports the vibronic analysis of the CH₃O and CD₃O $\tilde{A}^2A_1 \leftrightarrow \tilde{X}^2E$ electronic spectra. A new value for the electronic origin has been determined as well as a nearly complete set of vibrational frequencies.

I. Introduction

The methoxy radical is one of the most interesting and most widely studied¹⁻¹⁰ of all organic free radicals. Much of the interest in CH₃O lies in its ubiquity. The radical is well-known to play important roles in combustion and atmospheric pollution chemistry. It is also of considerable interest in astrophysical work. Since CH₃O is indeed a very reactive free radical, highly sensitive, unambiguous diagnostic techniques for CH₃O are quite valuable. Almost exclusively, these diagnostic techniques are spectroscopic, most usually based upon the $\tilde{A}^2A_1 \leftrightarrow \tilde{X}^2\tilde{E}$ optical transition in the near-ultraviolet, analogous to the $A^2\Sigma \leftrightarrow X^2\Pi$ transition in the closely related, but nonorganic, free radical OH. This latter transition is usually described in "one-electron parlance" as corresponding to the promotion of a p- σ bonding electron to fill the nearly nonbonding p- π orbitals mainly localized on the O atom, with an analogous explanation being appropriate for CH_3O .

However, diagnostic considerations are not the only ones which make spectroscopic studies of methoxy interesting. Theoretical questions about both the ground ${}^{2}E$ and excited ${}^{2}A_{1}$ states are extensive. Indeed, since methoxy is one of the simplest of polyatomic free radicals, it has been the subject of several ab initio calculations¹¹⁻¹⁵ which are by no means in complete agreement with respect to many of its properties.

Methoxy is also of particular theoretical significance from another point of view. It has nominal C_{3v} symmetry, but its ground electronic state is doubly degenerate and subject to a Jahn-Teller distortion. Such a distortion should produce a very unique and interesting spectrum, particularly considering methoxy's moderate spin-orbit splitting ($\sim 60 \text{ cm}^{-1}$). Consequently, methoxy's spectrum should give us the best means for understanding any Jahn-Teller distortion and its interaction with the spin-orbit coupling.

As mentioned above, the literature on methoxy is by most measures vast. Particularly germane to this work, there recently have been a microwave study,³ a laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) study,⁹ and a "cold" jet emission study.¹⁰ Although we have been involved¹⁶ in a series of supersonic free jet LIF studies of larger alkoxy radicals, e.g., C₂H₃O, C₂H₅O, and C₃H₇O, we initially believed that the spectroscopy of methoxy was generally well understood and required little further investigation.

On closer inspection, however, we recognized that, despite the extensive spectroscopic investigations of the radical, none of the bands of the well-known $\tilde{A}^2A_1 \leftrightarrow \tilde{X}^2E$ UV transition has ever been subjected to a detailed rotational analysis (however, note the pioneering work of Powers et al.⁷), resulting, of course, in a lack of knowledge about the excited-state "rotational" parameters. We also realized that the analysis of the relatively simple, cold jet LIF rotational spectra, along with the existence of ground-state parameters from the microwave work, should yield excellent excited-state molecular parameters.

FABLE I:	CH ₃ O' Ã ²	$A_1 - \tilde{X}^2 E_{3/2}$	Origin	Frequency	(cm ⁻¹)
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<1975	1975-1980	1980-1985	>1985	_
30 465ª	32 800 ^b 31 538 ^c	31 536 ^d 31 540 ^{e∫}	31 690 ^h √ 32 306 ⁱ √	
	51 550	31 530 ^g	31 644.5 ^{<i>j</i>,<i>j</i>}	

^aReference 1. ^bReference 4. ^cReference 5. ^dReference 6. eReference 7. fValue quoted specifically for ${}^{2}E_{3/2}$ state; other references do not distinguish between ${}^{2}E_{3/2}$ and ${}^{2}E_{1/2}$ states. ^gReference 8. ^hReference 9. ^lReference 10. ^lThis work and ref 17. The value quoted is measured from the lowest $\tilde{X}^2 E_{3/2}$ rotational level, K = 0, J =0.5, to the lowest $\tilde{A}^2 A_1$ rotational level, N = 0, K = 0.

Once this work began, we discovered that there were a large number of other spectroscopic questions concerning methoxy that are not properly resolved. For instance, Table I summarizes nine different reports purporting to give frequencies for the origin of the methoxy UV electronic transition. Clearly, one must know which band to analyze as the origin to obtain " r_0 rotational" parameters.

We have thus carried out a detailed study of the vibronic spectrum of methoxy as a necessary prelude to the rotational analysis of its bands. The results of this analysis, which are described in this paper, yield a new and, we believe, reliable value for the electronic origin as well as a nearly complete set of vibrational frequencies for both the \tilde{X} and \tilde{A} states. These frequencies are significantly revised from earlier reports. Figure 1 shows a schematic representation of these vibrational motions. A following paper¹⁷ describes the rovibronic analysis of the 0_0^0 and

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CH₃O·



Figure 1. Schematic representations of the three a_1 and three doubly degenerate e vibrations of methoxy.

 3_0^1 bands of CH₃O which yield the first rotational parameters for the \tilde{A} state and, perhaps surprisingly, slightly revised values for the \tilde{X} state. A complete vibrational analysis of the ground state requires an unraveling of the Jahn-Teller effect therein. That Jahn-Teller analysis is deferred to a subsequent paper.

The vibronic analysis of this paper is based upon two kinds of data taken in a supersonic free jet expansion wherein very cold methoxy radicals with rotational temperatures in the range 3-25 K are observed. Laser excitation of these cold radicals are recorded, without rotational resolution, to give an overview of the vibronic structure of the excited state. Once over 6500 cm^{-1} of this spectrum has been recorded, individual bands can be laser excited and the resulting emission wavelength-resolved with a monochromator and optical multichannel analyzer. These results are used to determine the vibronic structure of the ground state and elucidate ambiguous excited-state vibronic assignments. Experiments have been performed on both CH₃O and its perdeuterio analogue, CD₃O.

II. Experimental Section

The methoxy and perdeuteriated methoxy radicals were formed in the excimer laser photolysis of their respective precursors, the alkyl nitrites (CH₃ONO and CD₃ONO) seeded in low concentration into a supersonic free jet expansion. The radicals were then excited by a probe dye laser, and fluorescence was collected with an f/1 lens. Fluorescence excitation spectra were recorded by scanning the excitation wavelength and monitoring total fluorescence. Dispersed fluorescence spectra were obtained by exciting the radicals at the wavelength of a rotational line near the band maxima. After passing through a monochromator at a fixed grating position, the fluorescence was then focused onto the diode array detector of an optical multichannel analyzer (OMA).

The nitrites were synthesized by the dropwise addition of dilute sulfuric acid to a solution of sodium nitrite and the corresponding alcohol.¹⁸ Gaseous at room temperature, the nitrites were collected at -78 °C with an acetone/dry ice bath. FT-IR spectra (Mattson Instruments CYGNUS 25) of the gas showed infrared bands highly characteristic of alkyl nitrites¹⁹ and the absence of any significant impurities.

Our experiments coupling supersonic free jet expansions with laser-induced fluorescence have been previously described.¹⁶ Briefly, the precursor was seeded in a He carrier gas at ~ 10 atm and introduced into the chamber through a commercial pulsed nozzle (Newport BV-100) with a 0.5-mm orifice. A KrF (248



Figure 2. Laser excitation spectrum of CH₃O. The vibrational assignments are indicated above. Only one hot-band sequence, 3_1^v , could be detected and it only weakly, indicating that the radical is relatively cold vibrationally as well as rotationally.

nm) excimer laser (Lumonics Excimer-510) beam crossed the expansion within 2 mm of the nozzle exit to photolyze the RO–NO bond. The probe laser was the frequency-doubled output of a XeCl (308 nm) excimer-pumped dye laser (Lumonics Excimer-510 and HyperDye-300). The dye laser fundamental (Exciton dyes: C540A, Rh590, KR620, Rh640, SR640, and DCM) was doubled by an autotracking second-harmonic generator with a KDP crystal (INRAD Autotracker II). This UV probe laser beam then excited the radicals \sim 6 mm further downstream from the photolysis laser, and fluorescence was collected through a quartz lens at right angles to the plane of the counterpropagating laser beams and the nozzle.

On one side of the plane, the excitation spectra were obtained. Total fluorescence detected by a photomultiplier tube (EMI 9659A) was input to a custom-built gated integrator with a gate width set at 3.6 μ s. The integrated output was then digitized by a 12-bit analog-to-digital converter (Tecmar Lab Master), averaged, and stored in a microcomputer (IBM PC/XT) for further processing. The Lab Master also provided the interface between the microcomputer and the dye laser, thereby permitting scanning of the excitation wavelength. All excitation spectra were calibrated by reference to the iodine frequency standard.²⁰

On the other side of the chamber, total fluorescence was focused onto the entrance slit (0.150 to 1.000 mm) of a 1/3-m monochromator (Instruments SA HR-320). At the exit plane was a 1024-element diode array detector cooled to -25 °C. Data were collected with the detector in the pulsed mode, which allowed the scattered light to be temporarily rejected and resulted in the correct relative intensities between the fluorescence resonant with the exciting wavelength and the rest of the spectra. After 10 min of integration, the signal from the detector was processed by the OMA (EG&G PARC Model 1460) and provided wavelengthresolved emission spectra. Stored data were then transferred to the microcomputer for further analyses. Dispersed fluorescence spectra were calibrated with the iron/neon lines of the iron hollow-cathode spectrum.²¹

III. Results: Methoxy, CH₃O

A. The Electronic Origin. The excitation spectrum, shown in Figure 2, is dominated by a long progression of bands which starts at approximately 31 650 cm⁻¹ and is spaced by 660 cm⁻¹. Dispersed fluorescence spectra of the 31 650-cm⁻¹ band, discussed in detail later, clearly show that this feature does not originate from a hot ground-state level, whereas all the features to the red of this band are seen to be hot. This feature is therefore assigned as the $\tilde{A}^2A_1 \leftrightarrow \tilde{X}^2E_{3/2}$ component of the 0_0^0 band. No excitation

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spectrum is observed from the higher lying $\bar{X}^2 E_{1/2}$ spin-orbit component, presumably because of its essentially nonexistent population at the very low temperature of the jet expansion. Small differences quoted in band positions between the analyses in this paper and ref 17 reflect the error introduced by using band maxima (quoted throughout this paper) rather than the true band origins (used in ref 17).

Traditionally, the origin of a spin-orbit split transition is taken as the mean of the ${}^{2}E_{3/2}$ and ${}^{2}E_{1/2}$ state's excitation frequencies. Since the ground-state spin-orbit splitting is 63 cm⁻¹, this places the traditionally defined origin at 31 618 cm⁻¹, using band maxima. The detailed¹⁷ rotational analysis of this band gives a more accurate value of 31 614.5 cm⁻¹ for the origin and 62.0 cm⁻¹ for the spin-orbit splitting. The value of 31 644.5 cm⁻¹ quoted in Table I is the frequency of the transition from the lowest rotational level of the ${}^{2}E_{3/2}$ state, a value more comparable to the other entries in Table I.

It should be noted here that there has been a good deal of controversy (see Table I) about the assignment of the methoxy origin band and that we present another new value. Most earlier work involved hot spectra, 1,4,5,6 which are much more difficult to interpret unambiguously. Three other jet-cooled spectra have been published which might have been expected to produce a single consistent value for the origin. In 1981 Powers et al.⁷ recorded the first cold spectrum of methoxy. They show a portion of their spectrum between 31 440 and 31 690 cm⁻¹, with the origin centered at 31 540 cm⁻¹ in their Figure 2. We have carefully checked the calibration of our present spectrum and can only conclude that there must be a calibration error in ref 7.

Brossard et al.¹⁰ made an extensive study of the emission from a jet-cooled corona discharge and proposed a value of 32 306 cm⁻¹ for the ${}^{2}E_{3/2}$ subband of the origin. Although somewhat rotationally cooled, the spectrum was characteristic of a vibrationally very hot \tilde{A} state and contained a large number of bands. Their origin is in good agreement with our 3_{0}^{1} band. It appears that these authors simply missed the first member of the ν_{3}' progression.

Another recent study, published by Fuke et al.,⁹ is very similar to the spectrum presented here. It was surprising that their reported origin, 31 690 cm⁻¹, differs from the value given here. A careful inspection of Fuke et al.'s Figure 1 reveals that all features below 32 000 cm⁻¹ differ by 40 cm⁻¹ from our values, whereas both studies are in good agreement above 32 000 cm⁻¹. As noted above, our calibration has been carefully examined and we must conclude that a calibration error was also made in ref 9.

B. \tilde{A}^2A_1 Vibrational Assignment. Although the spectrum shown in Figure 2 is rotationally and vibrationally cold, it is quite complex, containing a large number of vibrational bands. The complexity reflects the fact that all six fundamental vibrational modes (see Figure 1) of methoxy are observed—not just the three totally symmetric vibrations. The three e vibrations gain intensity in excitation because of the Jahn–Teller distortion of the ground electronic state.²² One might consider that the eigenfunction which describes the vibrationless level of the ground electronic state is mixed with the e vibration eigenfunctions of the ground state by the Jahn–Teller effect. Since the vibrationless level has partial e character, transitions to levels with e vibronic symmetry in the excited electronic state become allowed.

Most of the bands observed in the excitation spectrum can be seen to lie in progressions with a 660-cm⁻¹ vibrational interval. Ab initio calculations predict¹¹ a large change in the C–O bond length between the \tilde{A} and \tilde{X} states, and consequently we expect a long progression in ν_3' , the CO stretching vibration. This large

TABLE II: Observed Vibrational Intervals (in $\rm cm^{-1})$ for Several $\rm CH_3 X$ Molecules

mode	X̃ CH₃F ^a	X̃ CH₃Cl ^a	$\mathbf{\tilde{X}} \operatorname{CH}_{3} \mathrm{F}^{+b,c}$	Ĩ CH₃O ^d	à CH ₃ O ^d
ν ₁	2965	2966		2840	3079
ν2	1475	1355	1314	1362	1315
ν_3	1048	732	938	1047	660
ν_4	2982	3042		2774(?)	2962
Vs	1471	1455		1487	1407
ν_6	1196	1015	694	653	595

^aReference 23. ^bReferences 24 and 25. ^cThe two higher frequency vibrations observed by ref 24 and 25 are assigned in agreement with ref 24. The 694-cm⁻¹ vibration, only observed by ref 25, is reassigned as ν_{6} . ^dPresent work.

change in the CO bond length has now been confirmed¹⁷ by the rotational analysis of the 0_0^0 band. It seems clear that the 660-cm⁻¹ interval corresponds to ν_3' , as noted by several earlier authors.^{69,10}

A closer inspection of the v_3' progression reveals that the 3_0^2 and 3_0^2 bands are doubled and that the 3_0^{2-2} and 3_0^{2x-1} ($x \ge 1$) bands, in general, form multiplets with x members. This multiplet structure, noted by earlier authors, ^{6,9,10} arises because of an accidental near degeneracy of v_2' and $2v_3'$. As a result of the Fermi resonance, v_2' gains intensity from $2v_3'$. Dispersed fluorescence spectra of the first diad show that the lower frequency band is predominantly 3_0^2 , whereas the higher frequency feature is best identified as 2_0^1 . This analysis of v_3 and v_2 is consistent with most of the earlier work, but differs from that of Brossard et al.¹⁰ because of their error in assigning the electronic origin and because they have reversed the assignment of v_2' and v_3' . It can also be noted that the 632-cm⁻¹ value for v_2' given by Brossard et al.¹⁰ is very low for this type of umbrella motion and inconsistent with the corresponding vibrations of the methyl halides (see Table II); the C-O geometry change is unlikely to substantially effect this frequency.

Several other obvious progressions in ν_3' can be seen in Figure 2, with first members at 33057 cm^{-1} (1407 cm^{-1} from the origin), $34\,375\,\mathrm{cm^{-1}}$ (2725 cm⁻¹), $34\,612\,\mathrm{cm^{-1}}$ (2962 cm⁻¹), and $35\,389$ cm^{-1} (3739 cm^{-1}). The dispersed fluorescence studies, to be discussed later, show that the 1407, 2725, and 2962-cm⁻¹ progressions can be assigned to bands with e vibrational character. In contrast, the 3739-cm⁻¹ band is characteristic of an a₁ vibrational mode. Since this latter band is not an overtone or combination band of v_2' or v_3' , it might be assigned as v_1' . However, 3739 cm⁻¹ appears to be too large when compared to typical methyl halide stretching frequencies, as shown in Table II. It is more likely that the band is $1_0^1 3_0^1$ and that 1_0^1 is too weak to be observed. This assignment reduces v_1' to 3079 cm⁻¹. A band is observed 3076 cm⁻¹ from the origin, but it is anomalously intense for 1_0^1 . Furthermore, it shows a completely different ground-state vibrational structure from the 3739-cm⁻¹ band when pumped and dispersed. A probable assignment for this 3076-cm⁻¹ band, discussed below, is 6_0^5 .

The 1407- and 2725-cm⁻¹ bands are both e vibrations and differ by the value of ν_2' . They are assigned as 5_0^1 and $2_0^1 5_0^1$. The value adopted for ν_5' is in good agreement with the values seen for methyl chloride and methyl fluoride.

The remaining ν_3' progression, starting 2962 cm⁻¹ from the origin, is assigned as 4_0^1 and its combinations with ν_3' . This asymmetric H-stretching frequency is consistent in magnitude with the methyl halide values (see Table II).

One further series of bands can be identified in the excitation spectrum. The first member is seen as a weak shoulder 65 cm⁻¹ to the low-frequency side of 3_0^1 . The 65-cm⁻¹ interval is very close to the ground-state spin-orbit splitting, but the higher members of the progression grow in intensity relative to, and move away from, the members of the ν_3' progression. The 595-cm⁻¹ separation of the first members of the progression from the origin, although small, is most likely to be ν_6' . The corresponding methyl fluoride vibration is much larger, but this 595-cm⁻¹ value is consistent with the isoelectronic methyl fluoride ion and with the value of ν_6'' observed in the dispersed fluorescence spectra. The progression is thus assigned as 6_0^1 , 6_0^2 , ... 6_0^8 . The lowest members of the

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TABLE III: CH₃O Ã²A₁ ← X²E Excitation Spectrum (cm⁻¹)

wave-	rel		wave-	rel	
number	wavenumber	assignt	number	wavenumber	assignt
30 606	-1044	31	35 0 28	3378	2 ¹ ₀ 3 ¹ ₀ 5 ¹ ₀
31 265	-385	3 ¹	35077	3427	31
31 650	0	00	35 243	3593	3 ¹ ₀ 4 ¹ ₀
31 888	238	3 ²	35 327	3677	60
31 917	267	2031 2031	35 389	3739	1 ¹ ₀ 3 ¹ ₀
32 245	595	6 ¹ 0	35 441	3791	30
32 310	660	3 ¹ ₀	35 477	3827	2 ¹ ₀ 3 ⁴ ₀
32 576	926	31	35 502	3852	2°23°
32 873	1223	6 <u>6</u>	35611	3961	3050
32 937	1287	3ģ	35634	3984	203050
32965	1315	2ģ	35673	4023	2 ² 25 ¹ 0
33 057	1407	50	35727	4077	3 ⁸ 1
33 220	1570	31	35 760	4110	• •
33 503	1853	6g	35855	4205	3 ² 4 ¹ 0
33 582	1932	3°	35918	4268	66
33619	1969	2030	36010	4360	1 ₀ 36
33717	2067	3050	36 047	4397	3 ₀
33852	2202	3 ²	36106	4456	2030
33 968	2318		36168	4518	2ģ3
34042	2392		36 237	4587	3050
34119	2469	67	36 28 1	4631	203050
34 209	2559	37	36 303	4653	263050
34 220	2570	2036	36 363	4713	31
34 265	2615	26	36464	4814	3°40
34350	2700	3656	36 509	4859	6 ₀
34 375	2725	$2_{0}^{1}5_{0}^{1}$	36 6 5 6	5006	3°
34 463	2813	3°1	36 703	5053	2030
34612	2962	40	36773	5123	2 ₀ 3 ₀
34726	3076	60	36867	5217	3856
34830	3180	30	36913	5263	2,375
34 864	3214	2030	36 989	5339	31
34 906	3256	2630	37 272	5622	30
34 991	3341	3656			

progression were too weak to pump and observe dispersed fluorescence, but the higher frequency bands 6_0^5 and 6_0^6 showed structure characteristic of e vibronic levels.

Table III lists the observed vibrational band maxima and vibrational assignments. The $\tilde{A}^2 A_1$ fundamental vibrational frequencies discussed above are summarized in Table II.

C. $\tilde{X}^2 E_i$ Vibrational Assignment. Single vibronic level (SVL) dispersed fluorescence spectra greatly simplify the task of analyzing the ground-state vibrational structure. Much of the congestion, and hence confusion, is removed when all the emission originates from a single rovibronic level.

The dispersed fluorescence spectra observed here can be broadly divided into two general classes: (i) simple, showing strong doubled progressions in the totally symmetric modes (the doubling being spin-orbit splitting) and single lines corresponding to Jahn-Teller active e vibrations; (ii) very complex, containing large numbers of vibrational bands which cannot be explained by six vibrational modes, their harmonic or near-harmonic combinations, and overtones, with their expected degeneracies.

The first class of spectra arise when totally symmetric modes are pumped, a typical example being the 3_0^1 band shown in Figure 3. The second case arises when the degenerate e vibrations of the excited state are pumped, as typified by Figure 4, which shows the 6_0^5 band. Both types of spectra are a consequence of the Jahn-Teller effect.²² That any of the e vibrations are observed in emission from a totally symmetric mode proves that methoxy has a Jahn-Teller distorted ground state. The quenching of the spin-orbit splitting in the e vibrational levels is also a consequence of that distortion and will be discussed later. The very complex spectra that arise when the e vibronic levels of the $\tilde{A}^2 A_1$ state are pumped differ so markedly from the symmetric mode spectra because, in this case, the optical transitions observed in fluorescence access a different set of ground-state levels. It is sufficient, for the present discussion, to note that the $\tilde{X}^2 E$ vibrational levels can be characterized by a Jahn-Teller quantum number j where

$$j = \frac{1}{2}\Lambda + \sum_{i} l_i$$

Here, Λ can take values of +1 or -1 and the l_i are the usual vibrational angular momentum quantum numbers. Transitions



Figure 3. Laser-excited, wavelength-resolved emission spectrum of CH₃O using a monochromator and OMA. The assignments of the main peaks are indicated above the trace. The pump laser frequency coincides with the 3_0^1 excitation band. The OMA is gated open for 3.6 μ s and delayed by 0.6 μ s from the probe laser's firing. In this way scattered laser light is rejected and the emission lines near the laser pump frequency maintain their appropriate relative intensity with respect to the remainder of the spectrum. The monochromator slit width is 150 μ m yielding an effective spectral resolution of ≈ 15 cm⁻¹. A total of 12 000 laser pulses (10 min real time) was integrated to obtain the trace.



Figure 4. Laser-excited, wavelength-resolved emission spectrum of CH₃O. The pump frequency coincides with the band assigned as 6_0^5 . The remaining experimental conditions are as in Figure 3, except the monochromator slit width has been widened to 500 μ m and the integration time shortened to 8 min. No vibrational assignments have yet been made for this spectrum.

from the totally symmetric modes can only access the j = 1/2 levels, whereas the e vibronic levels can emit to levels with higher values of *j*. A more detailed discussion can be found in a recent review article.²²

The vibrational assignments made in this paper arise through a consideration of the single vibronic level (SVL) fluorescence spectra of only the totally symmetric modes. The present assignments are therefore for the j = 1/2 levels of the ground state of methoxy. We defer to a subsequent publication a detailed analysis of the more complex degenerate-mode SVL spectra which contain information about the ground-state levels with $j \ge 3/2$.

Just as in the excitation spectrum, the dominant feature of the fluorescence spectrum is expected to be ν_3'' , the C–O stretching vibration. An examination of Figure 3 shows a strong series of doublets spaced by 1047 cm⁻¹. This interval is just the value expected for the C–O stretch (compare with the similar C–F stretching mode of CH₃F). The doubling represents the spin-orbit splitting of the ground state. Several other ν_3'' progressions are observed in Figure 3, starting 653, 1362 (doublet), and 1487 cm⁻¹ from the center of the origin band. We assign the doublet feature at 1362 cm⁻¹ to ν_2'' , the totally symmetric umbrella mode of the molecule. The single lines are the Jahn–Teller active e vibrations ν_5'' and ν_6'' , in which either the spin–orbital splitting has been

								ave	erage interval	
			pumpeo	t bands				rel to	spin-orbit	
000	310	3 ² ₀	3 ³ ₀	34	3 ⁵ ₀	2 ¹ ₀	$1^{1}_{0}3^{1}_{0}$	pump	splitting removed	assignt
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0)	0	origin
65	65	63	62	60	62	65	63	63 J	U	ongm
683	687	687	684	678	682	685		685	653	ν_6
1047	1040	1048	1050	1041	1045	1050	1053	1047	1047	
1112	1108	1110	1114	1104	1109	1111	1109	1110 🐧	104/	23
			1234	1225	1232			1230	1198	$2\nu_6$
1371	1362	1348	1363	1349	1355	1369		1360	1262	
1424	1421	1431	1437	1428	1434	1422		1428	1502	ν_2
1525	1516	1,01		1513	1520	1521		1519	1487	Vs
10.00	1010		1644	1654	1657			1652	1620	344
1747	1741	1746	1753	1737	1001	1748		1745	1713	$\nu_{2} + \nu_{4}$
1/4/	1/41	1740	1700	1757	2049	17.10		2049	2017	$4\nu_{4}(?)$; $(\nu_{2} + \nu_{4})(?)$
2077	2068	2074	2081	2074	2017	2075	2086	2076		
2137	2132	2133	2140	2134		2135	2146	2137	2075	$2\nu_3$
2157	2152	2133	2140	2134	2235	2100	2140	2239	2207	$y_{2} + 2y_{2}$
			2244	2237	2200			2291	2259	-3 - 2-6
2274	2367	2380	2302	2207	2271	2370		2375	2237	
2374	2307	2380	2392	2470	2371	2370		2472	2392	$\nu_2 + \nu_3$
2473	2517	24/1	2527	2470	2521	2519		2572	2490	<i>u</i> ₀ + <i>u</i> ₀
2524	2517		2527	2568	2570	2517		2571	2490	$v_{2} + 2v_{2}$
2515	2500		2570	2500	2570			2571	2559	$v_2 + 2v_6$
1702	2777	2794	2007	2072	2004	2778		2074	2042	2u + u
2793	2111	2/04	2/91	2000	2806	2778	2812	2705	2733	$\frac{2\nu_3}{\nu_6}$
				2000	2000		2012	2800	2821	ν4(:)
				2052	2054		2027	2033	2821	
2001	2096	2000				2086	2931	2737	2040	ν_1
3091	3085	3086	2110	2110	2106	2080		3007	2006	
3132	3126	21.40	3118	3110	3100	2151		2150	2000	$\nu_2 + \nu_3 + \nu_6$
3156	3151	3149	2244	22(2	3152	2121		3152	3088	$3\nu_3$
3249			3266	3262	3257	3247		3256	3224	$2\nu_3 + 2\nu_6$
3397	3390	3398	3401	3397	3394	3392		3396	3413	$2\nu_3 + \nu_2$
3500	3493	3495		3486	3489	3494	0.500	3493 /	3401	
						2552	3523	3523	3491	$\nu_1 + \nu_6$
3554	3549		3554	3551	3549	3553		3552	3520	$2\nu_3 + \nu_5$

^aSpin-orbit components of ν_1 ; ν_4 (?) is blended with lowest frequency component. ^bSpin-orbit components of $3\nu_3$.

quenched to a value lower than our resolution ($\approx 15 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) or, less likely, transition probability is only significant to one member of the spin-orbit split doublet.

Although the hydrogenic stretching modes ν_1'' and ν_4'' are not present in Figure 3, they have been observed when other excited-state vibrations are pumped and dispersed. The symmetric mode ν_1'' , and its combinations with ν_3'' , dominates the fluorescence spectrum when $1_0^1 3_0^1$ is pumped (Figure 5). The asymmetric mode ν_4'' has tentatively been assigned when 3_0^4 and 3_0^5 are pumped. A moderately strong feature is observed 2774 cm⁻¹ from the pump wavenumber in both spectra. Although this interval is almost exactly equal to the ${}^2E_{3/2}$ component of ν_1'' , the ${}^2E_{1/2}$ component is absent from 3_0^4 and is an order of magnitude weaker in 3_0^5 . Further, the ratio of ν_1'/ν_1'' is 1.083, and, if this scaling factor is applied to ν_4' , ν_4'' is predicted to be 2736 cm⁻¹. These facts suggest that the ν_4'' band may be accidentally degenerate with the ${}^2E_{3/2}$ component of ν_1'' .

Table IV summarizes the various bands observed when the totally symmetric modes are pumped and dispersed together with their assignments. Table II again summarizes the observed fundamental vibrational frequencies. As expected, most of the fundamental vibrations occur in long progressions with ν_3'' . It is also interesting to note that the overtones of ν_6'' are very prominent in some of the spectra, just as overtones of ν_6' were observed in excitation.

D. Spin-Orbit Splitting. The observed splitting of the ground vibrational state is 63 cm⁻¹, and this interval remains constant (to within our experimental error) in the ν_3'' , $2\nu_3''$, and $3\nu_3''$ bands. The splitting observed in ν_2'' is 68 cm⁻¹ but increases to 100 cm⁻¹ in both $\nu_2'' + \nu_3''$ and $\nu_2'' + 2\nu_3''$. For ν_1'' , $\nu_1'' + \nu_3''$, and $\nu_1'' + 2\nu_3''$, we observe a value of 131 cm⁻¹. As noted earlier, no splitting is resolved in any of the e vibrational modes. The fact that we see such large variations in the spin-orbit constant in the totally symmetric modes suggests to us that the Jahn-Teller effect must perturb these totally symmetric modes. This is unusual. Earlier



Figure 5. Laser-excited, wavelength-resolved emission spectrum of CH_3O observed when the band $1_0^{1}3_0^{1}$ is pumped. The other experimental conditions are as in Figure 4.

studies²² of the Jahn-Teller effect have employed models which only couple the Jahn-Teller active vibrations to the zero-point level. The present observations clearly demonstrate that a more complete model Hamiltonian is required to adequately fit the ground-state energy level pattern observed for CH_3O .

IV. Results: Perdeuteriomethoxy, CD₃O

A. Band Origin. The assignment of the 0_0^0 band of the CD₃O should be straightforward once the CH₃O molecule is assigned; only a small isotope shift is expected. However, the most prominent progression observed in the CD₃O excitation spectrum appears to start at 30924 cm⁻¹ (the highest frequency band in Figure



Figure 6. Laser excitation spectrum of CD₃O. The vibrational assignments are indicated above. The four relatively strong, low-frequency, bands marked with a * (and other weaker features in the same region) have very different rotational structure than the remaining bands in the spectrum. It is therefore believed that they arise either from highly excited vibrational levels of CD₃O or from another molecular species. See the text for details.



Figure 7. Laser-excited, wavelength-resolved emission spectrum of CD₃O observed when the 30924 "starred" band of Figure 6 is excited. Other conditions are the same as in Figure 3, except the monochromator slit width is 1 mm.

6 marked with a *) with a regular \sim 660-cm⁻¹ vibrational spacing. This vibrational interval is the expected C-O stretch which shows little change from CH₃O. However, the assignment of the 30924-cm⁻¹ band as the electronic origin would imply that the deuteration has caused a 700-cm⁻¹ isotope shift. This is very improbable. The possibility that the CH₃O spectrum is misassigned has been ruled out by a careful search for, and nonobservation of, another member of the C-O stretching vibration to the red of the $CH_3O 0_0^0$ band. A closer examination of the CD_3O excitation spectrum suggests that the starred band does not belong to the $\nu_{3'}$ progression²⁶ and that the true $\tilde{A}^2A_1 \rightarrow \tilde{X}^2E_{3/2}$ origin value is the next band in the progression at 31581 cm^{-1} . (Given that the ground-state spin-orbit splitting is 54 cm^{-1} in CD₃O, the traditional, mean origin value is reduced to 31 554 cm⁻¹.) This implies a much smaller, and more reasonable, isotope shift of 64 cm⁻¹.

Several pieces of evidence lead to this conclusion. First, the rotational structure of all the starred bands differs considerably from the remaining members of the ν_3' progression, suggesting either a different vibronic symmetry or different species. Second,



Figure 8. Laser-excited, wavelength-resolved emission spectrum of CD₃O observed when the 3_0^1 band is excited. Other conditions are the same as Figure 3. Quotation marks indicate that assignments are tentative.

when emission from the 30924-cm⁻¹ starred band is dispersed, the majority of the fluorescence is emitted far to the red of the pump line (Figure 7). This is quite different from the other members of the progression (see, for example, Figure 8). (An unfortunate consequence of this red-shifted fluorescence is that the signal-to-noise ratio in the region of the pump laser's wavelength is poor, and we cannot definitively say whether the feature is hot. That is, we cannot convincingly observe any features to the blue of our pump laser.) A third piece of evidence is that the dispersed fluorescence spectrum of the starred band, Figure 7, shows a single peak at the pump wavelength rather than the spin-orbit doublet which arises when the ground electronic state vibrationless level is pumped.

These characteristic features of the 30924-cm⁻¹ band are also seen in the other three strong starred excitation features that lie to the red of the assigned origin band in Figure 6. It is interesting that Brossard et al.¹⁰ also observed these four bands in their emission study of CD₃O from a different precursor. (A constant 20-cm⁻¹ difference in wavenumber between this study and that of ref 10 can be explained by a different rotational temperature and, hence, different envelope maxima.) We cannot rule out the possibility that these bands are due to an impurity, but it seems more likely that they are unidentified CD₃O hot bands, with the resulting conclusion that CD₃O is vibrationally hotter in our experiment than CH₃O.

B. Vibrational Assignment of the $\tilde{A}^2 A_1$ State. The wavenumbers of the bands observed in excitation are listed in Table V. Most of the bands lie in a series of progressions with a ~660-cm⁻¹ vibrational spacing. This interval corresponds to ν_3' , and the 663-cm⁻¹ separation between 0_0^0 and 3_0^1 is numerically almost identical with ν_3' for CH₃O. Three additional progressions are seen in the spectrum starting 971, 1047, and 2678 cm⁻¹ to the blue of the origin. The two lower frequency vibrations are ν_2' and ν_5' , but it is not immediately clear which is which. An inspection of the rotational structure of the 971- and 1047-cm⁻¹ bands clearly identifies them as having a1 and e vibronic symmetry, respectively. Thus, we assign ν_2' as 971 cm⁻¹ and ν_5' as 1047 cm⁻¹. The remaining frequency, 2678 cm⁻¹, is too large for a C-D stretching motion and must include 1 quantum of C-O stretch. We assign the 2678-cm⁻¹ band as $1_0^1 3_0^1$. This choice was made, rather than $3_0^1 4_0^1$, because the rotational structure is very similar to the origin and because in CH₃O ν_1' only appears in combination with ν_3' , whereas 4_0^1 itself was observed. Thus $\nu_1' = 2015 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. These excited-state vibrational frequencies are listed in Table VI, where the vibrational frequencies of the similar CD₃F and CD₃Cl molecules are listed.

⁽²⁶⁾ The umbrella motion of CD₃O will lie at a lower frequency than the C-O stretch and hence, by convention, the v_2 and v_3 labels should be exchanged. However, we feel that it is less confusion to continue to label the C-O stretch as ν_3 and the umbrella as ν_2 .

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TABLE V: CD₃O' $\tilde{A}^2A_1 \leftarrow \tilde{X}^2E$ Excitation Spectrum (cm⁻¹)

	wave-	rel	aniant	wave-	rel	ansight
_	number-	wavenumber-	assignt	number	wavenumber	assignt
	29 542	-2039	*	33 945	2364	$3_0^2 5_0^1$
	30150	-1431	*	34179	2598	30
	30 449	-1132		34 259	2678	$1_0^1 3_0^1$
	30 5 5 1	-1030		34 495	2914	2033 2030
	30 704	-877	*	34 586	3005	3 ³ 5 ¹ 0
	30924	-657	*	34 801	3220	30
	31 027	-554		34 902	3321	$1_0^{\bar{1}}3_0^2$
	31 060	-521	6 ⁰	35147	3566	2034 2036
	31 309	-272		35 224	3643	3 ⁴ ₀ 5 ¹ ₀
	31 581	0	00	35 431	3850	36
	31728	147	•	35 538	3957	$1_0^{1}3_0^{3}$
	31773	192		35744	4163	$2_0^{1}3_0^{5}$
	31 857	276		35854	4273	$3_0^{\frac{5}{5}}5_0^{\frac{1}{5}}$
	32103	522		36 060	4479	30
	32 244	663	30	36171	4590	1 ¹ ₀ 34
	32 5 5 2	971	2_0^{1}	36 36 1	4780	2036
	32628	1047	50	36 486	4905	3051 3051
	32 900	1319	3 ² 0	36 672	5091	3°
	33 210	1629	$2_0^{I}3_0^{1}$	36 797	5216	$1_0^{1}3_0^{5}$
	33 292	1711	3050	36 988	5407	$2_0^{\bar{1}}3_0^{\bar{7}}$
	33 554	1973	3	37 108	5527	3751
	33859	2278	$2^{1}_{0}3^{2}_{0}$			

^aCompanion peaks at 50 cm⁻¹ to lower frequency are observed for the strong peaks but are not indicated in the table. Presumably these transitions arise from the ${}^{2}E_{1/2}$ state.

TABLE VI: Observed Vibrational Fundamentals (in cm⁻¹) for Several CD₃X Symmetric Tops

	X̃ CD₃Fª	X̃ CD₃Cl ^b	Ϋ́ CD₃O•	à CD₃O
V ₁	2091	2161		2015
v2	1135	1029	893(?)	97 1
$\bar{\nu}_3$	992	695	1012(?)	663
ν4	2259	2286		
vs	1072 ^c	1058	1174	1047
Vn	912	775	496	

^aReference 27. ^bReference 23. ^cReference 28.

C. Vibrational Assignment of the $\tilde{X}^2 E_i$ State. The 3_0^1 dispersed fluorescence spectrum shown in Figure 8 is typical of the CD₃O spectra and demonstrates some of the problems found when the ground-state vibrational structure is assigned. On deuteriation, the $\nu_2'', \nu_3'', \nu_5'',$ and $2\nu_6''$ vibrations are all expected to lie close to 1000 cm⁻¹. An even more complex picture is expected near 2000 cm⁻¹, where $\nu_1'', 2\nu_2'', 2\nu_3'', \nu_4'', 2\nu_5'',$ and $4\nu_6''$ are clustered. This leads to the characteristic "clumped" spectrum shown in Figure 8, and assignments become difficult to make. Table VII lists the ground-state intervals observed when the indicated modes of the \tilde{A}^2A_1 state are pumped. The lowest frequency vibration, 496 cm⁻¹, is assigned as ν_6'' . It lies close to the value estimated by assuming a $2^{1/2}$ isotopic dependence.

A second vibrational interval, 1174 cm⁻¹, can be assigned with some confidence as v_5'' . This vibrational frequency is too small for v_4'' or v_1'' , and v_2'' is expected to lie at lower frequency than v_5'' . The fact that the 1174-cm⁻¹ vibration is enhanced when $5_0^13_0^4$ is pumped further supports this assignment.

It is difficult to assign any of the other ground-state vibrational frequencies with confidence, and the following discussion must be regarded as speculative. Figure 9, which shows the 2_0^1 dispersed fluorescence spectrum, is quite simple. When compared with the 3_0^1 spectrum (Figure 8), the 893-cm⁻¹ band is seen to have gained considerable intensity, perhaps suggesting that it is ν_2'' . A study of the other spectra listed in Table VII shows that a consistent picture can only be obtained if this is the only component of ν_2'' . That is, the spin-orbit splitting in ν_2'' must have been quenched below our experimental resolution (or only one component has appreciable oscillator strength). This ν_2'' value is smaller than expected, on the basis of simple isotope relationships, but ν_2'' will almost certainly be perturbed to lower frequency by Fermi resonance with ν_3'' .

When the members of the v_3' progression are pumped, the 1012-cm⁻¹ band is prominent; again, the spin-orbit splitting must be small to form a consistent picture if this band is assigned as v_3'' . It might also be noted that the 967- and 1033-cm⁻¹ bands appear to form a strong spin-orbit doublet which appears when

TABLE VII: CD₃O X²E Vibrational Intervals (in cm⁻¹) Observed in Dispersed Fluorescence

	erage interval	ave							
	spin-orbit	rel to			s	umped band	p		
assignt	splitting removed	pump	5 ¹ ₀ 3 ⁴ ₀	1 ¹ ₀ 3 ³ ₀	2 ¹ ₀ 3 ⁴ ₀	20	30	3 ¹ ₀	00
origin	0	0 \	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
origin	0	54 🕺	52	51	54	57	55	54	56
V ₆	496	523	530	534	520		523	517	516
•	707	734	739	742	722				
$v_2(?)$	893	920	919	921	922	920	923	918	915
	921	948							948ª
	967	994	995	993					
	988	1015			1015ª				
$\nu_{2}(?)$	1012	1039			1045	1029	1048	1039	1036
3(1)	1033	1060	1056	1063					
	1060	1087					1093	1086	1083
Ve	1174	1201	1201	1205	1202	1201	1205	1198	1196
- 5	1259	1286	1284	1205	1287	1201	1200	1170	1170
	1466	1493	1487	1502	1496		1499	1486	1487
	1587	1614	1625	1202	1 1 2 0		1617	1606	1609
	1689	1716	1025	1723	1708		1017	1000	100/
	1785	1812	1820	1725	1807	1819	1815	1808	1804
	1872	1899	1897	1907	1913	1904	1900	1889	1886
	1963	1990	1989	2001	1715	1995	1976	1990	1986
	1998	2025	2036	2024	2012	2026	1770	1770	
	2030	2057	2050	2051	2012	2020		2067	2054
	2050	2094	2101	2001	2093		2087	2007	2001
	2126	2153	2101		2157		2159	2151	2146
	2154	2181			2188	2183	2189	2175	2170
	2176	2203	2204	2195	2100	2100	2210	21.0	
	2230	2257		2266	2249				
	2308	2335		2343	2341		2334	2331	2326
	2433	2460		2460					
	2547	2574		2584	2578			2570	2565
	2654	2681	2663	2678	2692		2687	2683	2680
	2701	2728				2732		2730	2723



Figure 9. Laser-excited, wavelength-resolved emission spectrum of CD_3O observed when the 2_0^1 band is excited. Other conditions are the same as Figure 3, except the slit width is 200 μ m. Quotation marks indicate that assignments are tentative.

 $1_0^1 3_0^4$ and $5_0^1 3_0^4$ are pumped. The center of the doublet is 1000 cm⁻¹ from the origin, but it is not obvious how this band should be assigned. The CO stretch is a candidate, but this doublet is not present in the 0_0^0 or 3_0^x spectra.

A fundamental problem exists when attempting to assign these spectra. There are simply too many discrete features in the region below 1200 cm⁻¹. Table VII lists 10 intervals; the number might be reduced to 8 if the 921-cm⁻¹ shoulder is considered to be a blend of the 893- and 967-cm⁻¹ lines and if the 988-cm⁻¹ feature is considered a blend of the 1012- and 967-cm⁻¹ bands. However, even this reduced number cannot be explained in terms of a simple vibrational picture. As noted above, the v_6'' and v_5'' vibrations are singlets, just as in CH₃O. This leaves six features to be accounted for by v_2'' , v_3'' , and $2v_6''$. By analogy with CH₃O, the latter vibration is almost certainly a singlet at our resolution, and v_2'' and v_3''' also do not appear to be doubled. The 707-cm⁻¹ vibration is particularly difficult to explain. It is too small for ν_2'' or ν_3'' , and if it is $2\nu_6''$, this vibration is extremely anharmonic. One possible explanation for the large number of bands is that the dispersed fluorescence spectra show transitions to levels other than the j = 1/2 set normally allowed from the totally symmetric levels of the $\tilde{A}^2 A_1$ state. Some evidence in favor of this explanation is provided when the $5_0^1 3_0^6$ pumped fluorescence is compared to the other totally symmetric modes. All of the ground-state intervals observed when this e vibronic level of the \tilde{A} state is pumped are observed from the totally symmetric pumped levels. This is in stark contrast to the CH₃O spectra discussed earlier and is very surprising.

It is clear that a complete Jahn–Teller analysis will be required to unravel the details of the vibrational structure of $\tilde{X}^{2}E$ CD₃O.

V. Conclusions

A relatively complete picture of the vibronic structure of CH₃O has been provided by its jet-cooled excitation spectrum and its laser-excited, wavelength-resolved emission spectrum. A new value for the origin of the $\tilde{A}^2A_1 \leftrightarrow \tilde{X}^2E$ electronic transition has been obtained, which should be of significance to both spectroscopic and dynamical work involving methoxy. An essentially complete set of vibrational frequencies has been obtained for both the \tilde{A} and \tilde{X} states of CH₃O.

Similar investigations of CD₃O have yielded consistent, but considerably less illuminating results. The excitation spectrum shows most of the corresponding features that were observed for CH₃O. However, several unassigned bands, of quite different structure, are also observed near the origin. The wavelengthresolved emission spectrum of CD₃O is complicated by several factors involving the clustering of the nv_1'' , $2nv_2''$, $2nv_3''$, nv_4'' , $2nv_5''$, and $4nv_6''$ transitions. Significant interactions among several (or all) of these levels make precise spectral analysis exceedingly difficult.

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Single-Pulse Raman Scattering Study of Triaminotrinitrobenzene under Shock Compression

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Pulsed-laser-excited Raman scattering methods have been used to examine the dynamic molecular-level response of an explosive molecule (triaminotrinitrobenzene, TATB) to sustained shock loading at a fused silica window interface. The anomalous behavior of Raman modes associated with nitro groups in the molecule (the 881-cm⁻¹ NO₂ deformation mode, the 1146-cm⁻¹ symmetric C-NO₂ stretching mode, and the 1170-cm⁻¹ totally symmetric NO₂ stretching mode) is compared to results obtained under static high pressure. The shock compression data indicate that elevated temperatures act to restrain pressure-enhanced coupling of NO₂ and NH₂ groups in the molecule. Differences in the spectra obtained under static and dynamic high-pressure conditions are discussed in relation to the known insensitivity of TATB to shock initiation.

Introduction

There is growing interest in the development and use of new experimental techniques to study the time-dependent, molecular-level response of condensed-phase materials to the extreme pressure, density, and temperature conditions achieved during shock compression.¹ In the area of fundamental explosives re-

search, this interest is motivated by the desire to acquire insight into the relevant physical and chemical processes leading to initiation and sustained detonation. Various optical methods have been used to probe shocked and detonating energetic materials, including emission and absorption spectroscopy as well as spontaneous and nonlinear Raman scattering techniques.² Much of

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