

CARS AND INFRARED STUDIES OF $^{32}\text{S}^{16}\text{O}_3$: HOW CAN SUCH A SIMPLE MOLECULE GIVE SUCH A COMPLEX SPECTRUM?

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Sulfur trioxide is an important participant in reactions in the upper atmosphere and also in a number of industrial processes. It is a D_{3h} planar oblate top whose spectroscopy is surprisingly incomplete, in part due to its extreme corrosive properties. We report here a comprehensive investigation of all four fundamental bands of $^{32}\text{S}^{16}\text{O}_3$. High resolution (0.001 cm^{-1}) coherent anti-Stokes Raman scattering (CARS) has been used at Oregon State University to examine the Q-branch structure of the IR-inactive ν_1 symmetric stretching mode of $^{32}\text{S}^{16}\text{O}_3$. This spectrum reveals two intense Q-branch regions, with complex vibrational-rotational structure. The modeling of this has been challenging and involves a subtle combination of Fermi-resonances, indirect Coriolis interactions, and l -resonances with nearby hidden states; $2\nu_4$ ($l=0, \pm 2$), $\nu_2 + \nu_4$ ($l = \pm 1$), $2\nu_2$ ($l=0$). The analysis of the perturbed ν_1 spectrum, achieved by locating these states via high-resolution infrared hot-band studies performed at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, will be presented in this talk.