ABSOLUTE LINE INTENSITIES OF H_2CO IN THE 3.5 AND 5.7- μ m REGIONS

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Formaldehyde (H₂CO) is detected in the earth's troposphere by infrared techniques in the 3.5 and 5.7- μ m regions. Recent measurements produced line positions and relative line intensities^{*a*} and also IR⇔UV line intensity intercomparisons ^{*b*}. For atmospheric retrievals absolute intensities and line broadening parameters are needed. For that, new Fourier transform spectra were recorded at high resolution (0.0035 cm⁻¹) at LADIR in the 1600-3000 cm⁻¹ spectral region. Low pressures (up to 0.5 torr) of H₂CO were generated by warming paraformaldehyde. An appropriate monitoring of the heating temperature (≈ 40° C) avoided any polymerization and allowed to obtained a stable pressure of pure H₂CO (98 ± 1%). In this way accurate line positions and absolute intensities of H₂CO were measured and theoretical modelled in the 3.5 and 5.7- μ m regions leading also to an intercomparison of intensities between the two spectral regions. The determination of self- and N₂-broadening coefficients is in progress.

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^bA. Gratien, B. Picquet-Varrault, J. Orphal, J.-F. Doussin, and J.-M. Flaud, J. Geophys. Res. D, in press, (2007).