The Millimeter and Submillimeter Spectrum of CN in Its First Four Vibrational States¹

DAVID D. SKATRUD AND FRANK C. DE LUCIA

Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27706

GEOFFREY A. BLAKE

Department of Chemistry, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125

AND

K. V. L. N. SASTRY

Department of Physics, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B., Canada E3B 5A3

The rotational absorption frequencies of 65 new lines in the millimeter and submillimeter region of the spectrum have been measured for the CN radical in its ground electronic state. These measurements were made in a low pressure glow discharge of methane and nitrogen and include 25 lines from the v=2 and v=3 vibrational states, in addition to 40 lines from v=0 and v=1. The Dunham constants, as well as the spin-rotation and hyperfine constants of these four vibrational states, were calculated by means of a global nonlinear least squares fit of these data.

I. INTRODUCTION

The CN radical is one of the most extensively studied spectroscopic species (1). However, the extreme chemical reactivity of CN has made observation of its rotational spectra by microwave absorption techniques difficult. In fact, the first detection of the pure rotation spectrum of CN was via the radio astronomical observations of Penzias $et\ al.$ (2). They measured the seven strongest lines due to the fine and hyperfine splitting of the $N=0\to 1$ transitions in the ground vibrational and electronic state. The first laboratory detection was subsequently made by Dixon and Woods (3) in which they measured the same seven lines of the $N=0\to 1$ transitions in both the v=0 and v=1 vibrational states. These were observed with several hours of integration in a glow discharge of cyanogen and nitrogen. The increase in the absorption coefficient with frequency ($\sim v^3$) and the use of sensitive millimeter and submillimeter spectroscopic techniques made possible our measurements of 65 new rotational absorption lines. These transitions, ranging in frequency from 220 to 453 GHz, include 25 from the v=2 and v=3 vibrational states in addition to 40 from v=0 and v=1. In the conditions of our experiments, we found the population of each suc-

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cessive vibrational state to decrease by about a factor of three. A global nonlinear least squares fit of these data was used to calculate the Dunham constants Y_{01} , Y_{11} , Y_{21} , Y_{02} , and Y_{12} and the fine and hyperfine constants for each of the vibrational states.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

Our original observation of CN was in a diagnostic study of the FIR HCN laser discharge plasma. CN is of interest in this system due to the conjecture that it is the chemical precursor of the lasing HCN. The laser glow discharge contained a 1:1 mixture of N₂ and CH₄ at a pressure of 60 mTorr and discharge current of 200 mA. The fraction of the power absorbed was used to calculate an approximate partial pressure of .01 mTorr for CN in the ground vibrational and electronic state. The relative ease with which this measurement was made on the laser diagnostic system served as the impetus for the spectroscopic study of CN in a high sensitivity system.

We have previously described the details of our millimeter and submillimeter spectroscopic technique (4). Briefly, the radiation was produced by a crystal harmonic generator driven by a reflex klystron operating in the 55-GHz region, focused through the cell via quasi-optical techniques, and detected by 1.5-K InSb detector. The klystron was phase-locked to a known harmonic of a frequency synthesizer (referenced to WWVB) capable of phase continuous frequency sweeps. The data was collected in a digital signal averager and processed and measured in a computer.

The glow discharge absorption cell was a 5-ft length of 4-in.-diameter pyrex pipe with hollow cylindrical electrodes at both ends. The cell was wrapped with a solenoid which was used for sine wave Zeeman modulation at 2.6 kHz with detection at 5.2 kHz. The lock-in time constant was 100 msec and the frequency sweep time was 10 sec. The frequencies of forward-reverse frequency sweeps were averaged to cancel the time-constant induced shift in the observed frequency. Because the modulation of the index of refraction of a plasma by magnetic modulation is substantially smaller at short millimeter and submillimeter wavelengths than it is at longer wavelengths (5), we were able to signal average for arbitrary lengths of time without encountering base line problems. The integration times ranged from 1 min (3 up-down sweeps) for intense v = 0 lines to 40 min (120 up-down sweeps) for partially forbidden v = 3 lines. Figures 1 and 2 show typical data. A number of lines were also measured with source modulation to check for frequency shifts from the Zeeman modulation and no statistically significant shifts were found. Several transitions, particularly $\Delta J = 0$, $\Delta F = 0$ lines, were broadened by the earth's field to the extent they split into resolvable doublets. The enclosure of the cell in a μ -metal magnetic shield eliminated this problem.

N₂ and CH₄ were retained from the laser experiment as the precursor gases since they gave a relatively strong spectrum and because of the convenience of working with nontoxic gases. For the spectroscopic experiment, the mixture was optimized at the N₂:CH₄ ratio of 8:1 and at a pressure of approximately 40 mTorr. Unfortunately, we were not able to make an absolute measurement of the flow rate, although we did note that concentration of CN maximized at a flow rate significantly less than that with the diffusion pumped unthrottled. Our power supply limited us to a 185-

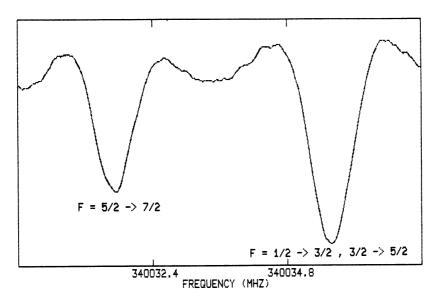


FIG. 1. The hyperfine structure components of the $N=2\to 3$, $J=3/2\to 5/2$ transition of CN in its ground vibrational state.

mA (850 V) discharge, although this current was less than optimal. Since both of the precursor gases have significant vapor pressure at liquid nitrogen temperature, it was possible to cool the discharge cell. It was found that cooling initially increased the signals by about a factor of two, but that further cooling to nitrogen temperature reduced the observed signals by a factor of three. Although all of our measurements were facilely made in an ambient cell, cooling to this optimum intermediate temperature would, of course, be beneficial.

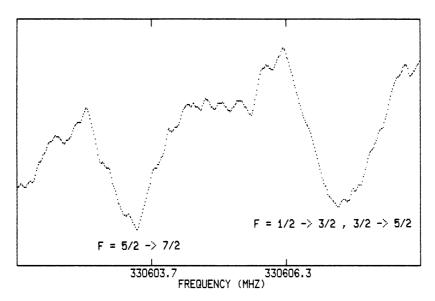


Fig. 2. The hyperfine structure components of the $N=2\to 3$, $J=3/2\to 5/2$ transition of CN in its v=3 excited vibrational state.

III. THEORY

The ground electronic state of CN is $^2\Sigma$. Thus, each rotational energy level is split into a doublet by the spin-rotation interaction. The nitrogen nucleus has spin one; consequently each of these components is further split into a triplet by nuclear magnetic and quadrupole interactions. The basic theory of these systems is well established. In CN, $E_r \gg E_{sr} \gg E_{h/s}$, so Hund's case b is the most appropriate basis in which to evaluate the matrix elements. This corresponds to the coupling scheme

$$\mathbf{N} + \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{J},$$

$$\mathbf{J} + \mathbf{I} = \mathbf{F}.$$
(1)

The zero field Hamiltonian for the rotational energies may be written (3)

$$H = H_r + H_{sr} + H_{hfs} \tag{2}$$

where

$$H_r = Y_{01}N(N+1) + Y_{11}(v+1/2)N(N+1) + Y_{21}(v+1/2)^2N(N+1) + Y_{02}N^2(N+1)^2 + Y_{12}(v+1/2)N^2(N+1)^2$$

$$H_{sr} = \gamma_v \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{S}$$

and

$$H_{hfs} = b_v \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{S} + c_v I_z S_z + \frac{\operatorname{eq} \mathbf{Q}_v}{4} T_0^{(2)}(\mathbf{I}).$$

In these equations N is the angular momentum of the rotation of the molecular frame, S is the electron spin, I is the nitrogen nuclear spin, z is the molecular axis, and $T_0^{(2)}(I)$ is the molecule fixed zeroth component of the quadrupole moment tensor. Here we have identified the coefficients of the power series in v and N with the Dunham constants, $Y_{l,m}$ rather than with the mechanical equilibrium constants B_e , α_e , etc. Even so, because CN is $^2\Sigma$ these $Y_{l,m}$ should be viewed as effective constants that may be contaminated by admixtures with other electronic states. The spin-rotation fine structure constants γ_v , the magnetic hyperfine constants b_v and c_v , and the electric quadrupole constants eq Q_v are left as functions of vibrational state. We have not included the nuclear spin-rotation interaction because the above terms are sufficient for a fit to within experimental uncertainty. The extensive set of rotational data that we have obtained for four vibrational states has allowed us to fit for the five Dunham constants rather than the four individual sets of B_v and D_v , thereby reducing the number of parameters by three.

There are a number of ways to evaluate the matrix elements of the fine and hyperfine interactions. We have used the results of a derivation by Dixon and Woods (3) in our calculations. The rotational matrix elements are diagonal in N and are much larger than any other interaction; so, to an excellent approximation, elements off diagonal in N can be neglected. The Hamiltonian matrix then factors into 2×2 F blocks that were diagonalized in our analysis.

TABLE I

Observed Rotational Frequencies (MHz) for $X^2\Sigma^+$ CN

N	Transition F → N' .	ion 'C'N	īL	Weight	Observed Frequency	Obs Calc.	Transition N J F + N' C	tion N'J'F'	Weight	Observed Frequency	Obs Calc.
v =0				,	6001		5/2	5/2	_	339446 777	-0.002
-	8	1 1/2		 ,	113144.190	0.068	7/1	7,7		339475, 904	0.009
₽,	-	1/2		_ ,	1131/0.535	0.033	5/7	7,7		339516.658	-0.032
≥,	m ,			_,	113191.325	0.038	3/2	5/2	_	340008.097	-0.062
	_ ?				113460.142°	0.0	3/2	5/2	_	340019.602	-0.023
) (بر د				113490.903	0.042	2 3/2 5/2	3 5/2 7/2	_	340031.544	-0.023
	- ~				113508 934ª	0.023	3/2	5/2	_	340035 Angb	-0 027
7 6	9 6			<u>.</u>	226314 540	-0.012	3/2	5/5	-	340033.400	-0.021
	ى ر				226359.871	-0.016	5/5	7/2	-	340247 770b	00 0
· -	5 ~			-	226632.190	0.014	5/2	7/2	-	0111111	
	<u> </u>			. ,	226659.575	0.032	5/5	7/2	_	340261.818	0.030
	; -			_	226663.703	0.018	5/5	7/2	_	340265.025	0.013
	-			_	226679.382	0.041	5/5	7/2	_	453390.057	0.045
3/	· ~			_	226874.166	-0.017	5/5	7/2	_	153391 668 ^b	0.018
3,6	2			_	226874.745	-0.019	5/5	7/5	-	000.	
7 6	- (_	226875.897	0.001	7/2	8/5	_	drzene zanb	0 00
2 6	- ~				226887.352	-0.047	7/2	6/2	-	452000:140	0.063
1 3/	12 5/2	2 5/2	5/5	_	226892.119	-0.032					
		,		-	112101 בקומוני	720 0		5/2	_	224785.301	-0.054
		7/			#10.101211	7,0.0		5/2		224796.360	-0.040
					112140.303	0.000	3/2	5/2	. ,—	224800.896	-0.022
		7/			112//2 813ª	1000	3/2	5/2		336875,457	-0.056
					112442.013	0.02	3/2	5/2	- ,	336886.753	-0.064
				- ,	112453.891ª	0.054	3/2	5/5	_	336898.488	-0.025
					112462 282ª	0.012	3/2	5/2		Jack cooper	
7/1 0	2/5 2	2/5/2	3/2		224230.333	-0.069	2 3/2 3/2	3 5/2 5/2	-	336902.422~	0.00
3,				0.5	224274.624	-0.036	5/5	7/2	_	337112_397 ^b	0.037
<u> </u>					224544.192	-0.005	5/5	7/2	-		
					224571.192	0.015	5/5	7/2	_	337125.917	-0.043
1				_	224575.648	0.058	2/5	1/2	_	33/129.028	-0.048
٦ -				_	224591.097	0.022					
v=2							i.	5		900 607666	
٦ /		3	3/	0.5	222449.743	0.001	3/2 2/	2/5	c. -	333733 144	0.020
1		8	2 5/		222476.403	0.011	3/4 5/	7/6		232777 279	
٦ /		m	2		222481.049	-0.014	3/6 3/	2/6		333744.649	
		m	ر ا		222490.503	0.03/	3/5	7/1	•		
1 3/2	2 3/2	2 5/2	2 5/2	_	222686.588 ^b	0.051	2 3/2 3/2	3 5/2 5/2	_	333759.727	
ري د ر		ر ا	7 6		222688 D82	0.017	5/2 5/	7/2	_	333980.111	0.00
ر ا ا		, r	م ر م د	_	222668.742	0.079	5/2 7/	7/2	_	333983.194	0.013
2		<u>آ</u> و	5								

	Obs Calc.		0.055	-0.051	-0.022		-0.065		0.18
	Observed Frequency		220594.476	220598.361	330603,183	dear rosocc	33000/.1230	0.0	330811.612
	Weight		0.5	0.5	0.5		0.5		6.0
	ition N'J'F'								3 7/2 9/2
	Trans N J F								2 5/2 7/2
	Obs Calc.		0.038	-0.065	-0.068	0.084	201.0	-0.102	-0.118
	Observed Frequency		220348.754	220375.080	220380.030	220395.322	220E02 200b	-006.306023	220583.953
	Weight		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	и С		0.5
manual d	ition N'J'F'						2 5/2 5/2		
וייסבר זי (כסווריווומבת	Transi N J F	v=3					1 3/2 3/2		

and transition frequencies from reference 3.

^bThese unresolved lines were entered into the fit by using the intensity weighted hyperfine splittings predicted by the rest of the data.

IV. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

We have included the 14 v = 0 and v = 1 frequencies measured by Dixon and Woods in our analysis. The observed frequencies, along with the residuals from this nonlinear least squares fit, are listed in Table I. The variance of the fit is 40 kHz, which is within the experimental uncertainty of the measurements. Somewhat better fits and lower rms deviations can be obtained by fitting the vibrational states individually, but the redundancy of these individual fits is smaller and these better fits may be due to the statistics of small numbers. As indicated in the table, 17 of the frequencies have been assigned a statistical weight of 1/2 relative to the rest of the data. This was done because these lines had significantly smaller signal to noise ratios. The derived constants and their uncertainties are listed in Table II. In some cases the uncertainties for constants calculable from the $N=0 \rightarrow 1$ data are comparable to or slightly larger than the uncertainties calculated in Ref. (3). This is not surprising since the fits of seven data points to six adjustable parameters have limited statistical significance. Figures (3)-(6) show the variation of the fine and hyperfine constants with vibrational state. Although it would be possible to fit these to an expansion in v similar to the Dunham expansion of B, we have fitted each vibrational state individually. Inspection of these figures shows a smooth monotonic progression at the 1σ level for all except the quadrupole coupling constants.

Since accurate rest frequencies are of interest to the astronomical community, we have calculated frequencies for all transitions in v = 0, 1, 2, and 3 below 400 GHz. These frequencies and the relative intensities of the fine and hyperfine transitions are tabulated in Table III. The relative intensities were computed from (6)

$$\langle N'SJ'IF' || \mu^{(1)} || NSJIF \rangle$$

$$\propto \left[(2J+1)(2J'+1)(2F+1)(2F'+1) \right]^{1/2} \begin{cases} N' & J' & S \\ J & N & 1 \end{cases} \begin{cases} J' & F' & I \\ F & J & 1 \end{cases} . \quad (3)$$

TABLE II Spectral Constants (MHz) of $X^2\Sigma^+$ CN for v=0, 1, 2, and 3

	Value	σ		Value	σ
Y ₀₁	56954.0231	0.0053	Υ2	212.316	0.029
Y ₁₁	-520.7118	0.0057	b ₂	-32.489	0.042
Y ₂₁	-0.8230	0.0013	c ₂	60.93	0.11
Y ₀₂	-0.19137	0.00021	$eq\overline{Q}_2$	-1.010	0.048
Y ₁₂	-0.00061	0.00018	Υ ₃	209.388	0.037
Y ₀	217.4993	0.0068	b ₃	-31.869	0.066
ь ₀	-33.987	0.016	c ₃	61.18	0.13
c ₀	60.390	0.046	$eq ilde{Q}_3$	-1.195	0.092
eqQ_0	-1.270	0.039	3		
Υl	215.070	0.012			
b	-33.185	0.022			
C 1	60.598	0.049			
eqQ1	-1.170	0.039			

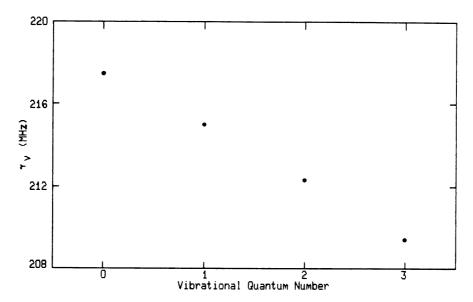


Fig. 3. The spin-rotation constant γ_v as a function of vibrational state. The error bars are too small to show on the resolution of this figure.

The slight mixing associated with the off diagonal J elements is not included in this equation. Recently, Wootten $et\ al$ have observed $N=2\to 1$ transitions in the shell of IRC + 10216 (7). Because these transitions had not been directly observed in the laboratory previous to this work, they calculated these frequencies from the $N=0\to 1$ microwave observations of Dixon and Woods and the optical work of Poletto and Rigutti (8). These calculated frequencies differ from ours in large part due to an apparent sign reversal in their use of the nuclear electric quadrupole constant.

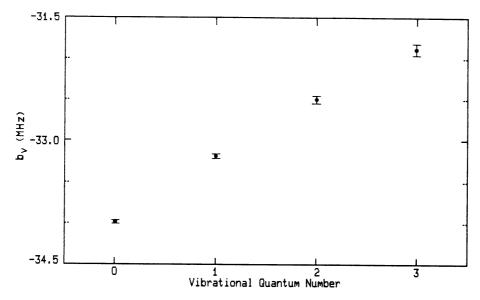


FIG. 4. The magnetic coupling constant b_v as a function of vibrational state. The error bars shown are 1σ .

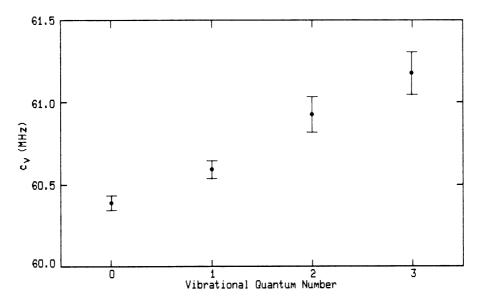


FIG. 5. The magnetic coupling constant c_v as a function of vibrational state. The error bars shown are 1σ .

In addition to the microwave work discussed above, Cenry *et al.* (9) have published a detailed analysis of the red system of the CN molecule. For this work they used high resolution Fourier spectroscopy between 4000 and 11 000 cm⁻¹. They observed very high rotational excitation in a number of vibrational states, and were able to calculate a large set of rotation–vibration constants.

Table IV shows a comparison between the calculated B_v and γ_v of their work and the same quantities calculated from our data. For both of the optical constants, it can be seen that the differences between adjacent vibrational states are calculated

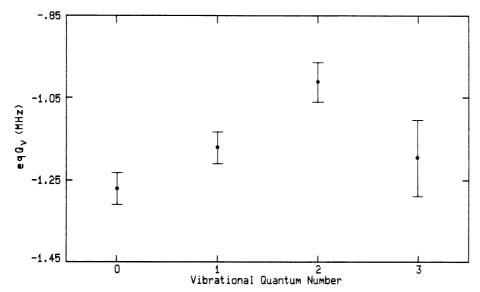


Fig. 6. The electric quadrupole coupling constant eq Q_v as a function of vibrational state. The error bars shown are 1σ .

TABLE III

z	- H	ž	J' F'	INTENSITY	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY
					0 = >	 H >	0 11	F : 1
0	C4	н	C1	1.2	3123.			
	N:	-	C4	0	3170.	2128.9	4000	110034 74
0	/2 1/2		3/2 1/2	88.6	113499,629	2453,8	111404.580	_
	N 1	-		1.0	3488,	2442.7	11707	110741.45
	CI I			6	113144.122		11054	110001
		1	C4	12	113191,287	2148.4	11100.	110051
				-	113520,414	2473.3	111422.847	110270
	1/2 3/2		3/2 3/2	6	3508.91	12462.2	11410	• • •
			C)	m	0	24	110	110342.80
11,	/2 1/2	C1	/2 1/2	4.94	26	224575.590	222481.063	90.0380.08
/ 1	N I	C4	C1	-	26679,	24591	22496.44	0.2950
	CJ (C4 I	C1	0.62	26616,	24528	22434.35	
	nu e	C4 I	CI.	4.94	26632,	24544	7.74	, ,
, i	u e	:4 (ea i	16.67	26659,	24571	3.39	
, i	u r		(1)	0.62	226287.393	24203	27	٠.
, t	u c	71 (N (0.49	26303,	24219	. 65	4
, ,	u c	4 (7/5 7/	10.00	226875.896	224785,355	0	0
, ,	u c	A (4.0	0.49	56298	24214	1.87	_
, ,			40	1.20	226314.552	24230	. 25	220043,830
, ,		4 (u (0 1	26341	24257	06.	
1 0		\1 (N (3.20	226887,399	224796,400		
7 7		'4 c	~1 c	16.80	26874			, t
, ,		4 0	u (0.53	26332	224247.680	222156,931	
1 t			V (2.80	C1	24274.	5	20086.3
, ,		4 (4.0	51.0	26905	4813.67	222715,338	220610.48
, ,			4 (3.20	6892	24800.91	2703.01	220598.41
ò		ч	V	26.67	26874.	224784.090	222686.665	220582,57
2 3/5	2 1/2	35/	2 3/2	6.67	40035.2	336902,301	333759,619	330607.12
	3 1		C4 I	2.13	40019.6		33744.23	30591.9
	٠, ١		N I	11.20	35.5		<u>.</u>	6.709
	'n,		N I	60.0	36665	•		30565
	ו מ		C1 i	2.13	40008.1		. ~	00000
	۱ ور		C4 (17,78	<u>۔</u>	·		330603.20
	, i		4.0	0.53	39446.7	<u>_</u>	1.4	330041.39
	٠ د		.4 (0.10	39462.	•	U 3	330056,633
	ر ا		N 1	12.70	0248.5		w	330812,39
	i i		C4 (0.10	39459.9	336333,579	333198,151	30053
) i		4	o./c	339475,894	. 25	ŗ	07002
							•	2000

^ 4 C N	, n , z	٠,	INTENSITY	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY	FKEUUERUT	FREGUENCI
				0 = >	;; ;;	3 64	₩ 11 >
5/2	3 7/2	5/2	1,55	340261,788	337125,960	333980,109	330824,470
2 5/2 5/2	3 7/2	7/2	17.49	340247,625	337112,249	333966.830	330811,437
5/2			0.10	339493,281	336366,082	333230.023	330084.541
5/5	3 5/2		1.17	339516.690	336389.083	333252,663	330106,952
5/5	3 7/2		0.03	340279.175	337142,788	333996.460	330840,303
5/5	3 7/2	7/2	1.55	340265.012	337129,077	333983,181	330827,271
5/5	3 7/2		23.81	340247.874	337112,442	333966.968	330811.537
3 5/2 3/2	4 7/2	5/2	9.52	453391.571	449213.775	445022,978	440819.089
5/2	4 7/2		1.17	453375,671	449198.101	445007.457	440803,850
3 5/2 5/2	4 7/2	7/2	13.12	453391,708	449213.881	445023,054	440819,144
5/2	4 7/2		0.02	453352,262	449175,100	444984.817	440781,439
3 5/2 7/2	4 7/2		1.17	453368.299	449190.881	445000,415	440796,733
	4 7/2		17,86	453390.011	449212.176	445021,336	440817,422
3 7/2 5/2	4 7/2		0.36	452589.777	448421,395	444241.021	440048.088
2/2	4 7/2		0.03	452605.814	448437,176	444256.618	440063,382
3 7/2 5/2	4 9/2	7/2	13.89	453607,236	449427.033	445233,498	441026.699
7/2	4 7/2		0.03	452603,940	448435.106	444254,300	440061,120
2/2	4 7/2		0.46	452619.977	448450,887	444269,897	440076.414
7/2	4 7/2		0.03	452641.689	448472.182	444290.818	440097,103
7/2	4 9/2		0.91	453621,399	449440.744	445246.777	441039,732
7/5	4 9/2		17.60	453606.634	449426.429	445232.890	441026.090
7/2	4 7/2		0.03	452637,115	448467,522	444286.109	440092,149
7/2	4 7/2		0.63	452658.827	448488.817	444307,030	440112.837
7/2	4 9/2	7/2	0.01	453638,537	449457,379	445262,989	441055,466
7/2	4 9/2		0.91	453623.772	449443.064	445249,102	441041.824
011	4 9/2		22.22	453606.772	449426.536	445232,967	441026,145

TABLE IV
Comparison of Microwave and Optical Results (MHz)

Constant	Microwave	Optical	Difference
В ₀	56693.461(3)	56693.256(129)	0.205
B ₁	56171.110(5)	56170.910(132)	0.200
B ₂	55647.106(5)	55646.905(132)	0.201
B ₃	55121.435(15)	55121.183(141)	0.252
^ү 0	217.500(5)	222.36(99)	-4.86
^ү 1	215.071(12)	220.86(99)	-5.79
^Y 2	212.332(18)	218.01(138)	-5.68
Υ3	209.386(57)	215.55(135)	-6.16

much more accurately than the absolute values. The major disagreement between the microwave and optical γ_v has been previously noted in Ref. (9). Since the microwave values are calculated very directly from a substantially redundant and highly accurate data set, we assume them to be correct. It should be noted that the comparison shown in Ref. (9) between the optical and the microwave B_0 is in fact a comparison between the microwave $B_0' \equiv B_0 - 2D_0$ and an optical B_0 . B_0' is the microwave constant available from the previous microwave work which included only $N = 1 \leftarrow 0$ transitions.

The optical data set was fit to a somewhat different model, so a direct comparison of their derived "equilibrium" constants and our "Dunham" constants is not possible. This is not because we identify the coefficients of the power series as Dunham constants and they identify them as equilibrium constants, but rather because we retain different constants and use different fitting procedures. Even though a direct comparison between our Y_{01} and the $B_{\rm e}$ of Ref. (9) is not strictly appropriate, the large disagreement between the optical $B_{\rm e}$ (56 953.816(7) MHz) and our Y_{01} (56 954.023(5) MHz) is probably due to a misprint in the place value of the uncertainty in Table V of Ref. (9). This would increase their uncertainty by an order of magnitude and place the disagreement at the 3σ rather than 30σ level.

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