Chapter 16-17
An Introduction and Application to Infrared Spectrometry

The infrared region of the spectrum encompasses radiation with wavenumbers ranging from about 12,800 to 10 cm\textsuperscript{-1} or wavelengths from 0.78 to 1000 \(\mu\text{m}\). The infrared spectrum is divided into near-, mid-, and far-infrared radiation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Wavelengths ((\lambda), \mu\text{m})</th>
<th>Wavenumbers ((\nu), \text{cm}^{-1})</th>
<th>Frequencies ((\nu), \text{Hz})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Near</td>
<td>0.78 to 2.5</td>
<td>12800 to 4000</td>
<td>(3.8 \times 10^{14}) to (1.2 \times 10^{14})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>2.5 to 50</td>
<td>4000 to 200</td>
<td>(1.2 \times 10^{14}) to (6.0 \times 10^{12})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far</td>
<td>50 to 1000</td>
<td>200 to 10</td>
<td>(6.0 \times 10^{12}) to (3.0 \times 10^{11})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most used</td>
<td>2.5 to 15</td>
<td>4000 to 670</td>
<td>(1.2 \times 10^{14}) to (2.0 \times 10^{13})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Infrared Spectroscopy

A) Introduction
   A) 1.) Infrared (IR) spectroscopy: based on IR absorption by molecules as undergo vibrational and rotational transitions. Absorption of radiation in this region by a typical organic molecule results in the excitation of vibrational, rotational and bending modes, while the molecule itself remains in its electronic ground state.

Potential energy resembles classic Harmonic Oscillator
2.) IR radiation is in the range of $12,800 - 10 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ or $\lambda = 0.78 - 1000 \text{ m}$.  
- Rotational transitions have small energy differences  
  - $\leq 100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\lambda > 100 \text{ m}$  
- Vibrational transitions occur at higher energies  
- Rotational and vibrational transitions often occur together

3.) Typical IR spectrum for Organic Molecule
Wide Range of Types of Electromagnetic Radiation in nature.
1. Only a small fraction (350-780 nM is visible light).
2. The complete variety of electromagnetic radiation is used throughout spectroscopy.
3. Different energies allow monitoring of different types of interactions with matter.

\[ E = h \nu = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \]
3.) Typical IR spectrum for Organic Molecule
- many more bands than in UV-vis, fluorescence or phosphorescence
- bands are also much sharper
- pattern is distinct for given molecule
  - except for optical isomers
- good qualitative tool
  - can be used for compound identification
  - group analysis
- also quantitative tool
  - intensity of bands related to amount of compound present
- spectra usually shown as percent transmittance (instead of absorbance) vs. wavenumber (instead of $\lambda$) for convenience
**B) Theory of IR Absorption**

1.) **Molecular Vibrations**

   i.) **Harmonic Oscillator Model:**
   - approximate representation of atomic stretching
   - two masses attached by a spring

   \[ E = \frac{1}{2} ky^2 \]

   where:
   - \( y \) is spring displacement
   - \( k \) is spring constant
Vibrational frequency given by:

\[ \nu = \frac{1}{2\pi}\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \]

where:
\( \nu \): frequency
\( k \): force constant (measure of bond stiffness)
\( \mu \): reduced mass \(-\frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}\)

If know \( \nu \) and atoms in bond, can get \( k \):

**Single bonds:**
\( k \approx 3 \times 10^2 \) to \( 8 \times 10^2 \) N/m (Avg \( \approx 5 \times 10^2 \))

double and triple bonds \( \approx 2x \) and \( 3x \) \( k \) for single bond.

\( \nu \propto \sqrt{k} \)

So, vibration \( \nu \) occur in order:

**single < double < triple**
ii.) Anharmonic oscillation:
- harmonic oscillation model good at low energy levels ($\nu_0, \nu_1, \nu_2, \ldots$)
- not good at high energy levels due to atomic repulsion & attraction
  - as atoms approach, coulombic repulsion force adds to the bond force making energy increase greater than harmonic
  - as atoms separate, approach dissociation energy and the harmonic function rises quicker

Because of anharmonics: at low $\Delta E$, $\Delta \nu = \pm 2, \pm 3$ are observed which cause the appearance of overtone lines at frequencies at $\sim 2$-$3$ times the fundamental frequency. Normally $\Delta \nu = \pm 1$
iii.) Types of Molecular Vibrations

**Bond Stretching**

- **Symmetric**: $v_s$
- **Asymmetric**: $v_{as}$

**Bond Bending**

- **In-plane rocking**: $\rho$
- **In-plane scissoring**: $\sigma$
- **Out-of-plane wagging**: $\omega$
- **Out-of-plane twisting**: $\tau$
symmetric
asymmetric
In-plane scissoring
Out-of-plane twisting
In-plane rocking
Out-of-plane wagging
iv.) Number of Vibrational Modes:
- for non-linear molecules, number of types of vibrations: $3N-6$
- for linear molecules, number of types of vibrations: $3N-5$
- why so many peaks in IR spectra
- observed vibration can be less than predicted because
  • symmetry (no change in dipole)
  • energies of vibration are identical
  • absorption intensity too low
  • frequency beyond range of instrument

Examples:
1) HCl: $3(2)-5 = 1$ mode

2) CO$_2$: $3(3)-5 = 4$ modes

See web site for 3D animations of vibrational modes for a variety of molecules
http://www.chem.purdue.edu/gchelp/vibs/co2.html
v.) IR Active Vibrations:

- In order for molecule to absorb IR radiation:
  - vibration at same frequency as in light
  - but also, must have a change in its net dipole moment as a result of the vibration

Examples:

1) CO\textsubscript{2}: \(3(3) - 5 = 4\) modes

\[\begin{array}{c}
\text{\(\delta^-\)} & \text{\(2\delta^+\)} & \text{\(\delta^-\)} \\
\text{\(\delta^-\)} & \text{\(2\delta^+\)} & \text{\(\delta^-\)} \\
\text{\(2\delta^+\)} & \text{\(\delta^-\)} & \text{\(\delta^-\)}
\end{array}\]

\[\mu = 0; \text{IR inactive}\]
\[\mu > 0; \text{IR active}\]

\textit{degenerate – identical energy single IR peak}
A carbon dioxide molecule shown in its four possible modes of vibration.
Example 8: Calculate the absorption frequency for the C-H stretch with a force constant of $k = 5.0 \times 10^2 \text{ N/m}$. 
C) Instrumentation

1.) **Basic Design**

- normal IR instrument similar to UV-vis
- main differences are light source & detector
i.) **Light Source:**
- must produce IR radiation
- can’t use glass since absorbs IR radiation
- several possible types

a) **Nernst Glower**

- rare earth metal oxides (Zr, Ce, Th) heated electrically
- apply current to cylinder, has resistance to current flow
- generates heat (1200° – 2200° C).
- causes light production similar to blackbody radiation
- range of use ~ 670 – 10,000 cm⁻¹
- need good current control or overheats and damaged

b) **Globar**

- similar to Nernst Glower but uses silicon carbide rod instead of rare earth oxides
- similar usable range
c) **Incandescent Wire Source**

- tightly wound nichrome or rodium wire that is electrically heated
- same principal as Nernst Glower
- lower intensity then Nernst Glower or Globar, but longer lifetime

d) **CO$_2$ Laser**

- CO$_2$ laser gas mixture consists of 70% He, 15% CO$_2$, and 15% N$_2$
- a voltage is placed across the gas, exciting N$_2$ to lowest vibrational levels.
- the excited N$_2$ populate the asymmetric vibrational states in the CO$_2$ through collisions.
- infrared output of the laser is the result of transitions between rotational states of the CO$_2$ molecule of the first asymmetric vibrational mode to rotational states of both the first symmetric stretch mode and the second bending mode
- gives off band of ~ 100 cm$^{-1}$’s in range of 900-1100 cm$^{-1}$
- small range but can choose which band used & many compounds have IR absorbance in this region
- much more intense than Blackbody sources

e) **Others**

- mercury arc ($\lambda > 50$ $\mu$m) (far IR)
- tungsten lamp (4000 -12,800cm$^{-1}$) (near IR)
ii.) **Detectors:**
- two main types in common IR instruments

a) **Thermal Detectors**
   
   1.) **Thermocouple**
   - two pieces of dissimilar metals fused together at the ends
   - when heated, metals heat at different rates
   - potential difference is created between two metals that varies with their difference in temperature
   - usually made with blackened surface (to improve heat absorption)
   - placed in evacuated tube with window transparent to IR (not glass or quartz)
   - IR “hits” and heats one of the two wires.
   - can use several thermocouples to increase sensitivity.
2.) Bolometer
- strips of metal (Pt, Ni) or semiconductor that has a large change in resistance to current with temperature.
- as light is absorbed by blackened surface, resistance increases and current decreases
- very sensitive

b) Photoconducting Detectors
- thin film of semiconductor (ex. PbS) on a nonconducting glass surface and sealed in a vacuum.
- absorption of light by semiconductor moves from non-conducting to conducting state
- decrease in resistance $\rightarrow$ increase in current
- range: $10,000 - 333 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ at room temperature
c) Pyroelectric Detectors

- pyroelectric (ceramic, lithium tantalate) material get polarized (separation of (+) and (-) charges) in presence of electric field.
- temperature dependent polarization
- measure degree of polarization related to temperature of crystal
- fast response, good for FTIR
iii.) **Other Components**

   a.) **Sample Cell**

   - must be made of IR transparent material (KBr pellets or NaCl)

   ![Sample Cell Diagram]

   ![Liquid Sample Holder]

   ![NaCl plates]

   b.) **Monochromator**

   - reflective grating is common
   - can’t use glass prism, since absorbs IR

   ![Monochromator Diagram]
iv.) Overall Instrument Design

- Need chopper to discriminate source light from background IR radiation
- Monochromator after sample cell
  - Not done in UV-Vis since letting in all \( h\nu \) to sample may cause photodegradation (too much energy)
  - IR lower energy
  - Advantage that allows monochromator to be used to screen out more background IR light

-Problems:
  - Source weak, need long scans
  - Detector response slow – rounded peaks
v.) **Fourier Transfer IR (FTIR)** – *alternative to Normal IR*

- Based on Michelson Interferometer

**Principal:**

1) light from source is split by central mirror into 2 beams of equal intensity
2) beams go to two other mirrors, reflected by central mirror, recombine and pass through sample to detector
3) two side mirrors. One fixed and other movable
   a) move second mirror, light in two-paths travel different distances before recombined
   b) constructive & destructive interference
   c) as mirror is moved, get a change in signal
• Light enters the spectrometer and is split by the beam splitter. The figure above shows what is referred to as the Michelson interferometer
Destructive Interference can be created when two waves from the same source travel different paths to get to a point.

\[ \Delta \phi = 2\pi \frac{\delta}{\lambda} \]

path difference,
\[ \delta = r_2 - r_1 \]

Remember

This may cause a difference in the phase between the two waves.
- If the paths differ by an integer multiple of a wavelength, the waves will also be in phase.
- If the waves differ by an odd multiple of half a wave then the waves will be 180 degrees out of phase and cancel out.
- observe a plot of Intensity vs. Distance (interferograms)
- convert to plot of Intensity vs. Frequency by doing a Fourier Transform

$$I(x) = \int_{0}^{\infty} B(\nu)(1 + \cos 2\pi x) d\nu$$

- resolution $\Delta \nu = 1/\Delta \delta$ (interval of distance traveled by mirror)

Fourier transform pairs for (A) a monochromatic source and (B) a broadband source.
Advantages of FTIR compared to Normal IR:
1) much faster, seconds vs. minutes
2) use signal averaging to increase signal-to-noise (S/N)
   
   \[ \text{increase } S / N \propto \sqrt{\text{number scans}} \]

3) higher inherent S/N – no slits, less optical equipment, higher light intensity
4) high resolution (<0.1 cm\(^{-1}\))

Disadvantages of FTIR compared to Normal IR:
1) single-beam, requires collecting blank
2) can’t use thermal detectors – too slow

In normal IR, scan through frequency range. In FTIR collect all frequencies at once.
Advantages of FTIR:

Enhanced signal-to-noise
Rapid scanning
High resolution (<0.1 cm\(^{-1}\))
Accurate and reproducible frequency determinations
Larger energy throughput
Free from problems of stray radiation
D) Application of IR

1.) **Qualitative Analysis (Compound Identification)**
   - main application
   - Use of IR, with NMR and MS, in late 1950’s revolutionized organic chemistry
     ► decreased the time to confirm compound identification 10-1000 fold

i.) General Scheme
   1) examine what functional groups are present by looking at group frequency region
      - 3600 cm\(^{-1}\) to 1200 cm\(^{-1}\)
ii.) Group Frequency Region

- approximate frequency of many functional groups (C=O, C=C, C-H, O-H) can be calculated from atomic masses & force constants
- positions changes a little with neighboring atoms, *but* often in same general region
- serves as a good initial guide to compound identity, but not positive proof.
### Abbreviated Table of Group Frequencies for Organic Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bond</th>
<th>Type of Compound</th>
<th>Frequency Range, cm(^{-1})</th>
<th>Intensity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-H</td>
<td>Alkanes</td>
<td>2850-2970</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-H</td>
<td>Alkenes <img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="C=C-H" /></td>
<td>3010-3095, 675-995</td>
<td>Medium strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-H</td>
<td>Alkynes <img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="C≡C-H" /></td>
<td>3300</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-H</td>
<td>Aromatic rings</td>
<td>3010-3100, 690-900</td>
<td>Medium strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-H</td>
<td>Monomeric alcohols, phenols</td>
<td>3590-3650</td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-H</td>
<td>Hydrogen-bonded alcohols, phenols</td>
<td>3200-3600</td>
<td>Variable, sometimes broad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-H</td>
<td>Monomeric carboxylic acids</td>
<td>3500-3650</td>
<td>Medium broad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-H</td>
<td>Hydrogen-bonded carboxylic acids</td>
<td>2500-2700</td>
<td>Medium broad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-H</td>
<td>Amines, amides</td>
<td>3300-3500</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C=C</td>
<td>Alkenes</td>
<td>1610-1680</td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C=C</td>
<td>Aromatic rings</td>
<td>1500-1600</td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C≡C</td>
<td>Alkynes</td>
<td>2100-2260</td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-N</td>
<td>Amines, amides</td>
<td>1180-1360</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C≡N</td>
<td>Nitriles</td>
<td>2210-2280</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-O</td>
<td>Alcohols, ethers, carboxylic acids, esters</td>
<td>1050-1300</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C=O</td>
<td>Aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids, esters</td>
<td>1690-1760</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO(_2)</td>
<td>Nitro compounds</td>
<td>1500-1570, 1300-1370</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
iii.) Fingerprint Region (1200-700 cm\(^{-1}\))
- region of most single bond signals
- many have similar frequencies, so affect each other & give pattern characteristics of overall skeletal structure of a compound
- exact interpretation of this region of spectra seldom possible because of complexity
- complexity \(\rightarrow\) uniqueness
iv.) Computer Searches

- many modern instruments have reference IR spectra on file (~100,000 compounds)
- matches based on location of strongest band, then 2\textsuperscript{nd} strongest band, etc
- overall skeletal structure of a compound
- exact interpretation of this region of spectra seldom possible because of complexity
- complexity $\rightarrow$ uniqueness

*Bio-Rad SearchIT database of ~200,000 IR spectra*
2.) **Quantitative Analysis**

- not as good as UV/Vis in terms of accuracy and precision
  - more complex spectra
  - narrower bands (Beer’s Law deviation)
  - limitations of IR instruments (lower light throughput, weaker detectors)
  - high background IR
  - difficult to match reference and sample cells
  - changes in \( \varepsilon \) (A=\( \varepsilon bc \)) common

- potential advantage is good selectivity, since so many compounds have different IR spectra

  - one common application is determination of air contaminants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminants</th>
<th>Concn, ppm</th>
<th>Found, ppm</th>
<th>Relative error, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Monoxide</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methylethyl ketone</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methyl alcohol</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>99.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethylene oxide</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chloroform</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>99.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example 9: The spectrum is for a substance with an empirical formula of $\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{N}$. What is the compound?