

# Microwave Rotational Spectroscopy

CHE 6416

Michael Evans

# How does Microwave relate to other spectroscopies

- Different types of motion
  - Translational
  - Vibrational
  - Rotational.

# What is Microwave Spectroscopy?

- Microwave stimulates Rotational translations
- Measures the rotational states of molecules
- *Gas Phase*
- Must have a dipole.

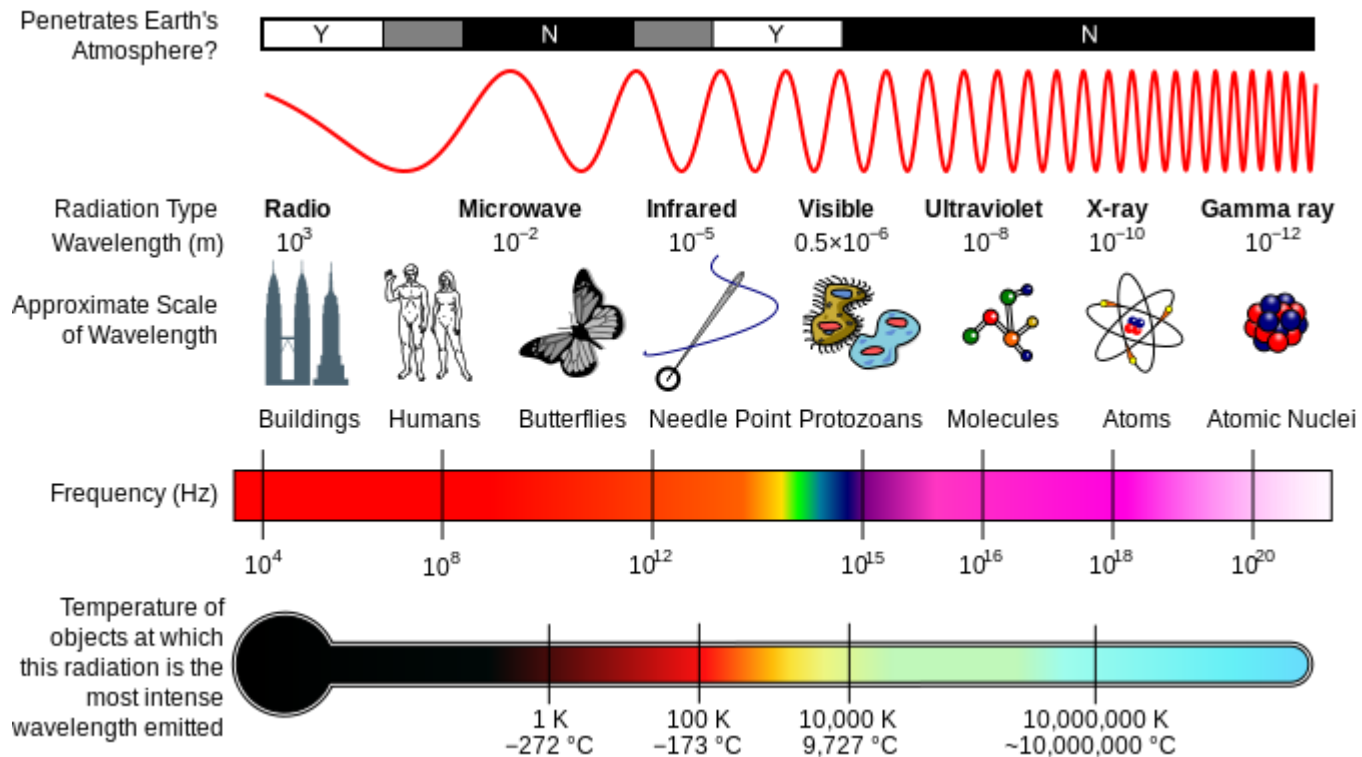
# Applications of MW

- Measurement of bond lengths
- Observation by radio telescopes for life precursors in interstellar clouds
- Precise observation of translating stereochemistries and confirmation verification

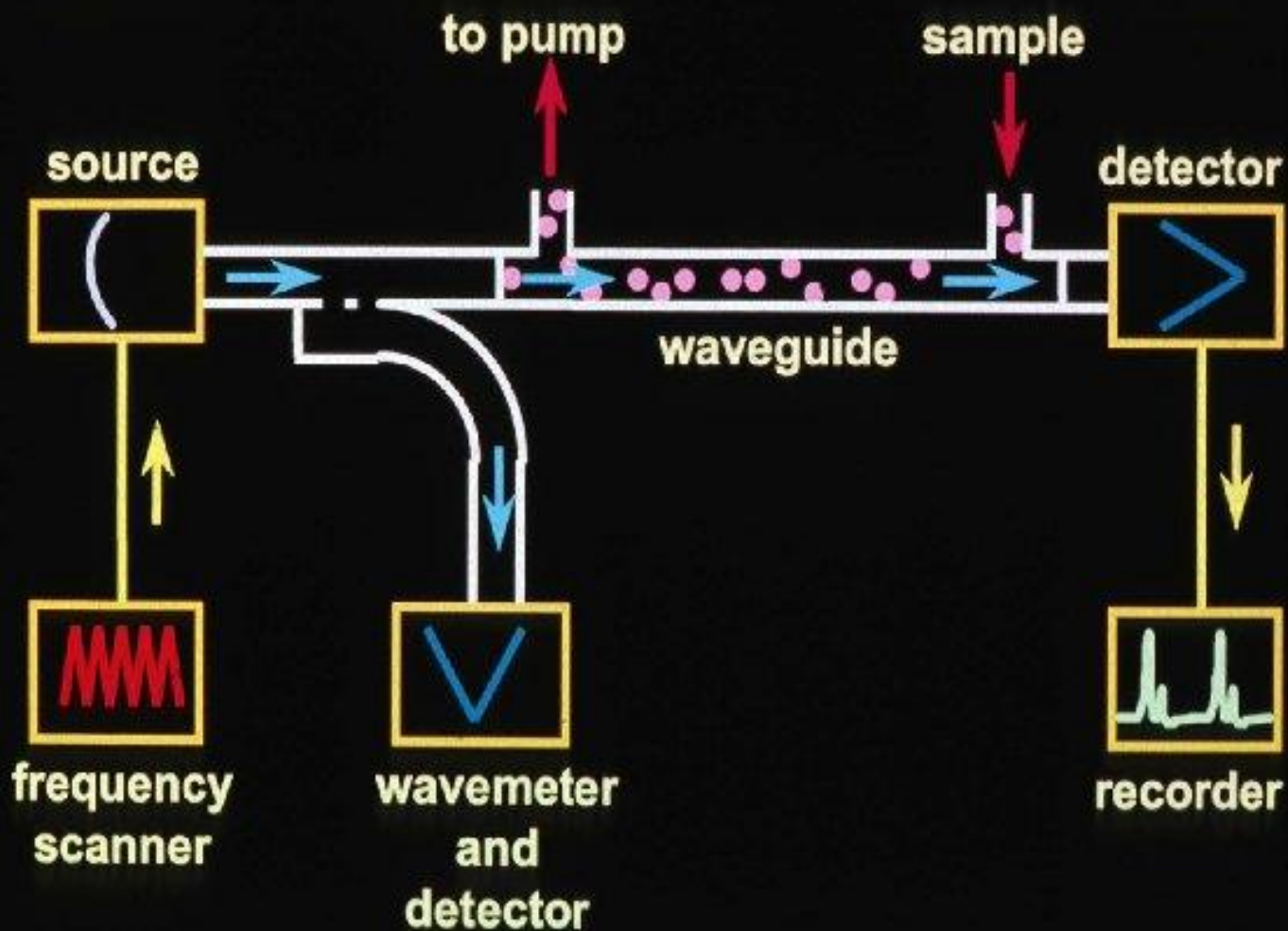
# Microwave Spectroscopy

- RADAR was impetus for its invention
- 1948, Walter Gordy, first published review

# Microwaves



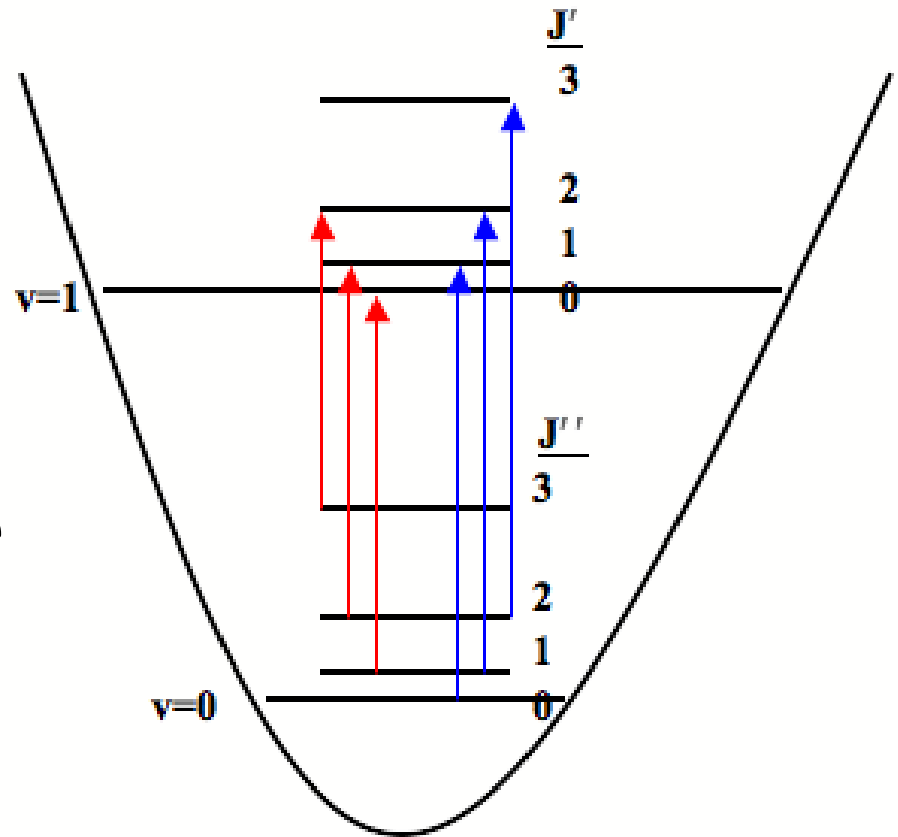
# Microwave spectrometer



# Rotational vs. Vibrational

- Where  $J$  = rotational  
–  $V$  = vibrational
- Observed from lowest vibration state

$$E(J) = B J(J + 1)$$



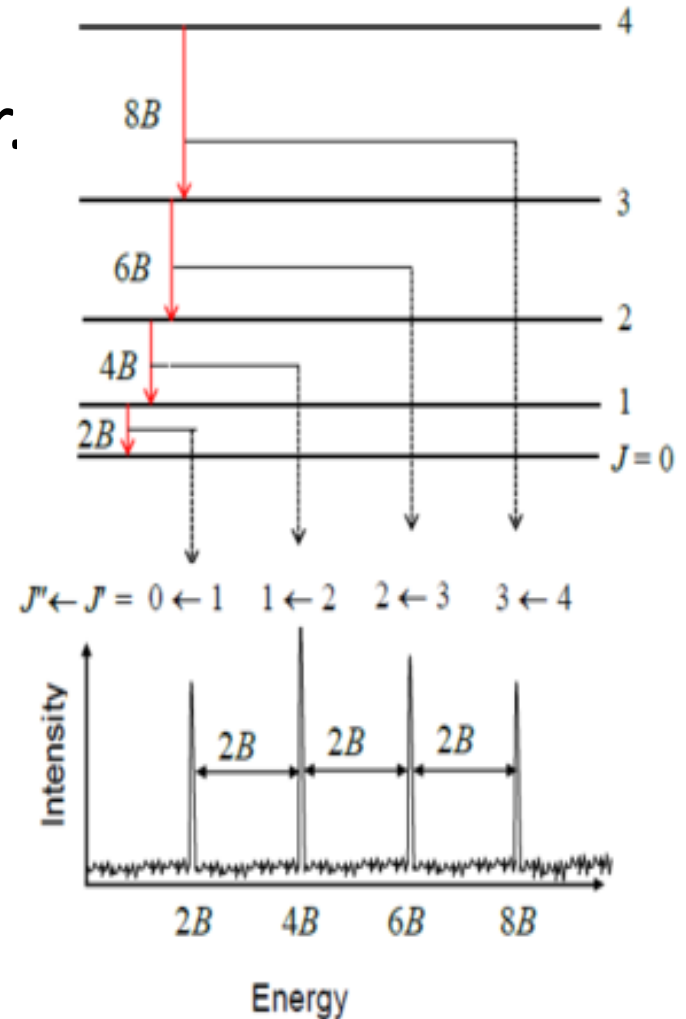


# Motion of Rotation

- 3 Possible moments of inertia
  - $I_a, I_b, I_c$

# Diatomic molecule

- Rotation E from Schrodinger.
- $I_a = I_b, I_c = 0$
- $B = \frac{h}{8Ic\pi^2}$
- $I = R^2 u = \frac{(M_1 M_2)}{(M_1 + M_2)} R^2$
- Line spacing is  $2B$ .



# Theory of Microwave Spectroscopy

- Microwave wavelength photon
- Highest probability of transition
- Molecules with dipoles

# How do we measure if it will translate?

- Probability of Transition =  $\int \psi_{\text{rot}}^*(F) \mu^{\wedge} \psi_{\text{rot}}(I) d\tau$ 
  - Where:  $\psi_{\text{rot}}^*(F)$  is the complex conjugate of the final rotational state
  - $\psi_{\text{rot}}(I)$  is the wave function of the initial rotational state
  - $\mu$  is the dipole moment operator with X, y, z coordinates.
  
  - The function is positive.
  - Only tells if is allowed.

# But there are limits.

- Photons limited
  - Each photon has one unit of momentum

$$\Delta J \pm 1$$

– Only one transition per

# Is it available to translate?

- Boltzmann distribution

$$\frac{n_J}{n_0} = e\left(-\frac{E_{rot}(J)}{RT}\right) / \sum_{J=0}^{J=n} e\left(-\frac{E_{rot}(J)}{RT}\right)$$

Where  $n_J$ =number of molecules excited

$n_0$ =number of molecules in ground state

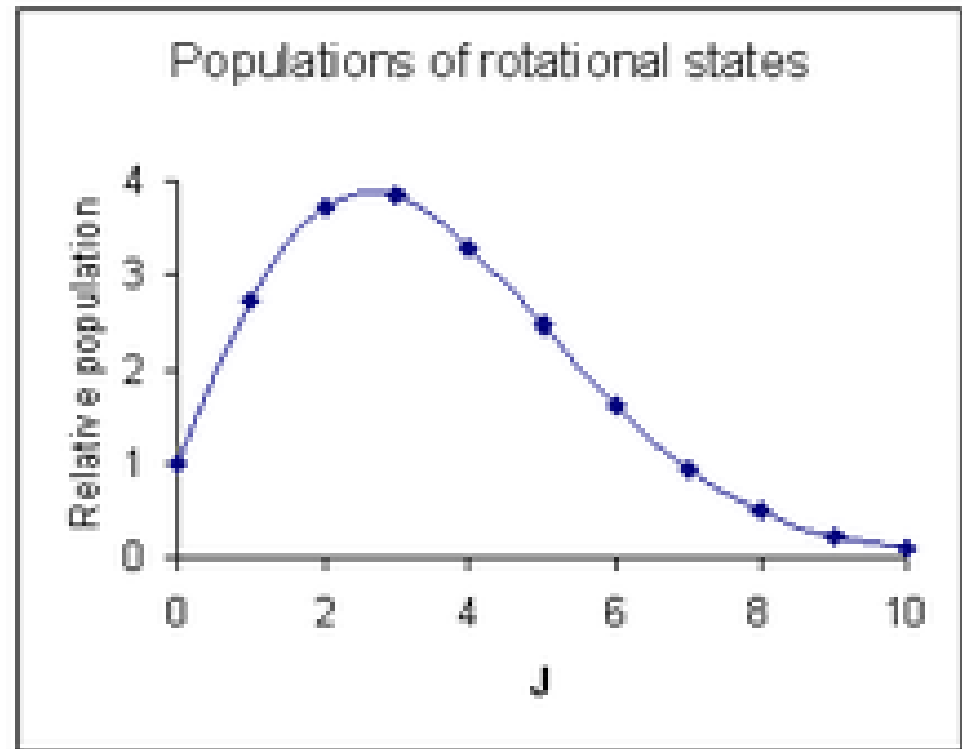
$R$ =gas constant

$T$ =temperature

$E_{rot}J$ =molar energy of the rotational state

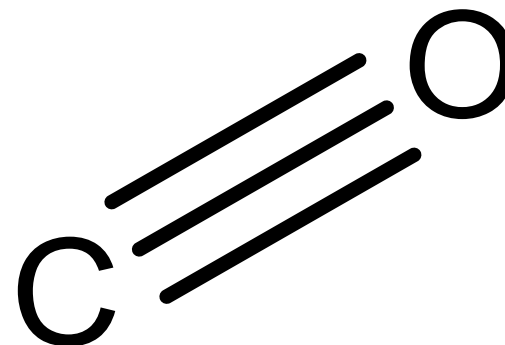
# Plot of Probability

- Probability of Population
- Similar to spectra



# Types of Molecules that are MW-Active

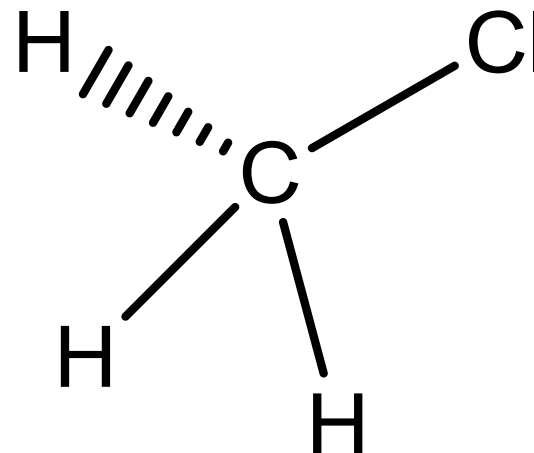
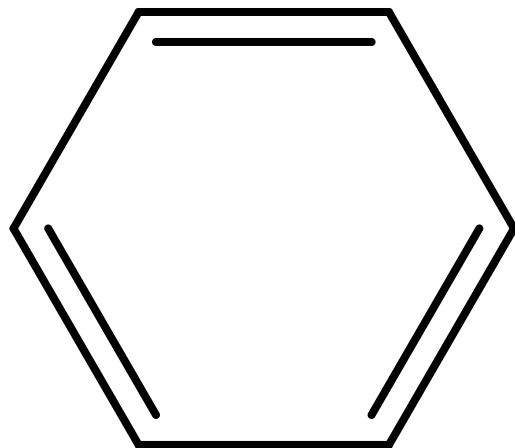
- Linear





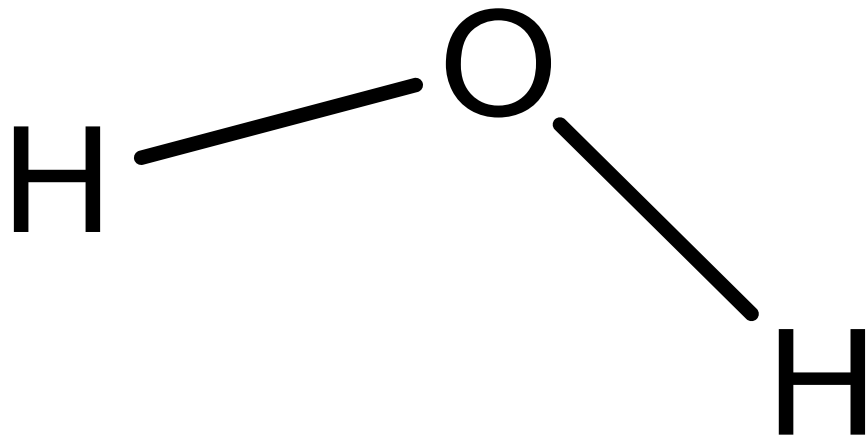
# Types of Molecules that are MW-Active

- Symmetric Tops



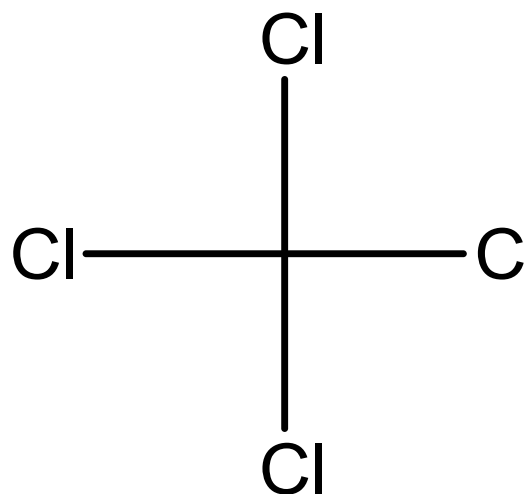
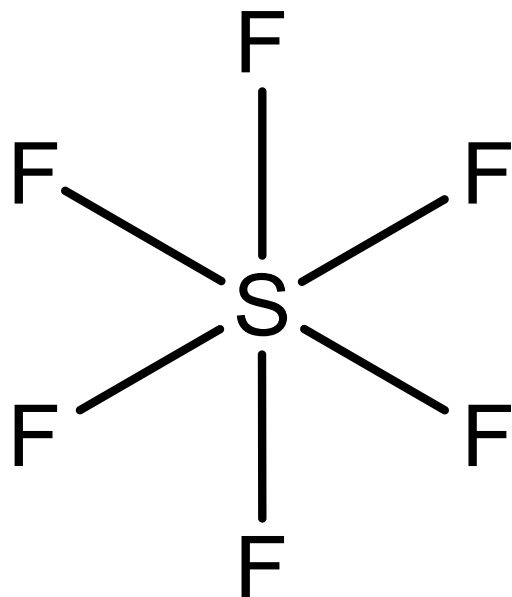
# Types of Molecules that are MW-Active

- Antisymmetric tops



# Types of Molecules that are MW-Active

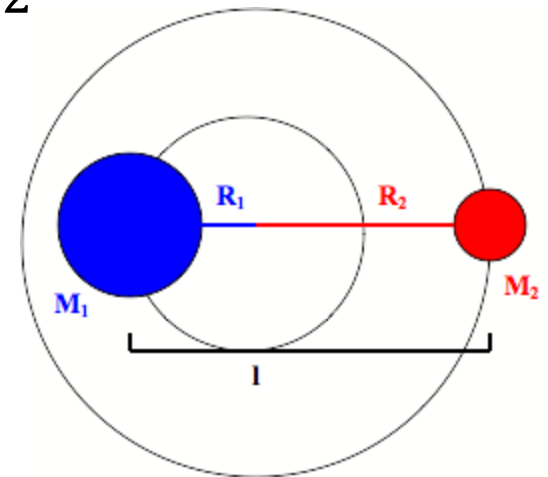
- Spherical tops-*Not active*



# Linear Molecules.

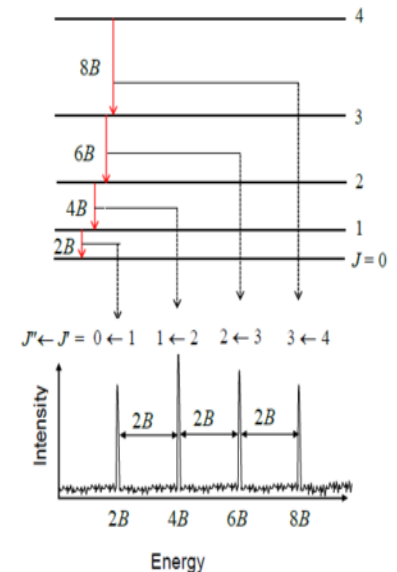
- Linear molecules(Rigid rotors)
- Bond length directly calculated
- $I_a = I_b , I_c = 0$

$$I = R^2 u = \frac{(M_1 M_2)}{(M_1 + M_2)} R^2$$



# Linear Molecules.

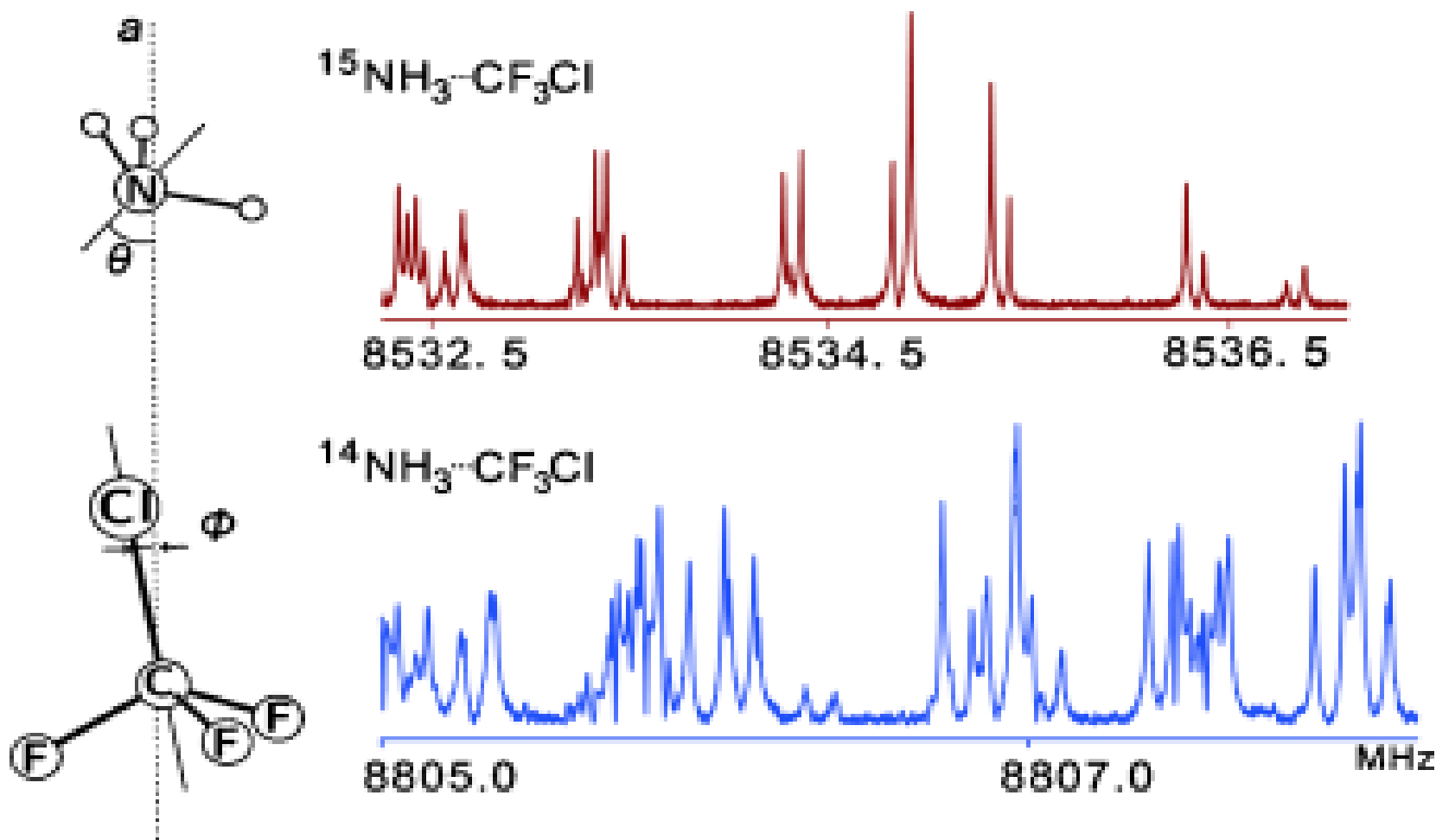
- Linear molecules(Rigid rotors)
- $\Delta J = J' - J'' = \pm 1$
- $\nu_{J' \leftrightarrow J''} = E(J') - E(J'') = 2B(J'' + 1)$ 
  - Where  $J'' = \text{Lower level}$
  - $J' = \text{Upper Level}$



# Symmetric Tops (Rotors)

- Two rotational axes same, one different
- Oblate
  - $I_a \neq I_b = I_c$
  - Oblate.
  - Benzene, XeF<sub>4</sub>
- Prolate
  - $I_a = I_b \neq I_c$
  - Prolate.
  - CH<sub>3</sub>Cl, NH<sub>3</sub>

# Symmetric Top Spectra



Fengm G., Evangelisti, L, Gaspartini, N., Caminati, W., *On the Cl $\cdots$ N Halogen Bond: A Rotational Study of CF $_3$ Cl $\cdots$ NH $_3$* , Chemistry-A European Journal, Vol 18, #5 pg 1364-1368

# Why more complicated?

- With more axis, more complicated
  - Symmetrical molecules gain 2 terms
  - $K$  = vector about the symmetry axis
    - Must be between  $-J$  and  $+J$
  - $M$  = rotational momentum about a external field
    - Also between  $-J$  and  $+J$
    - 0 if no external field



# Why more complicated?

- With more axis, more complicated

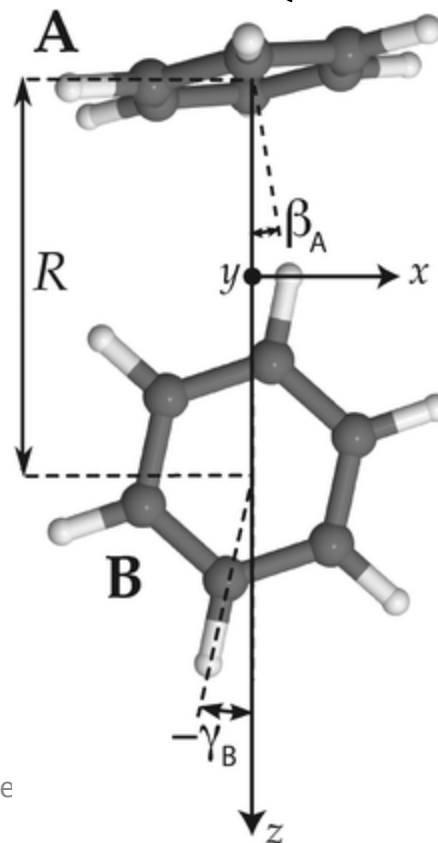
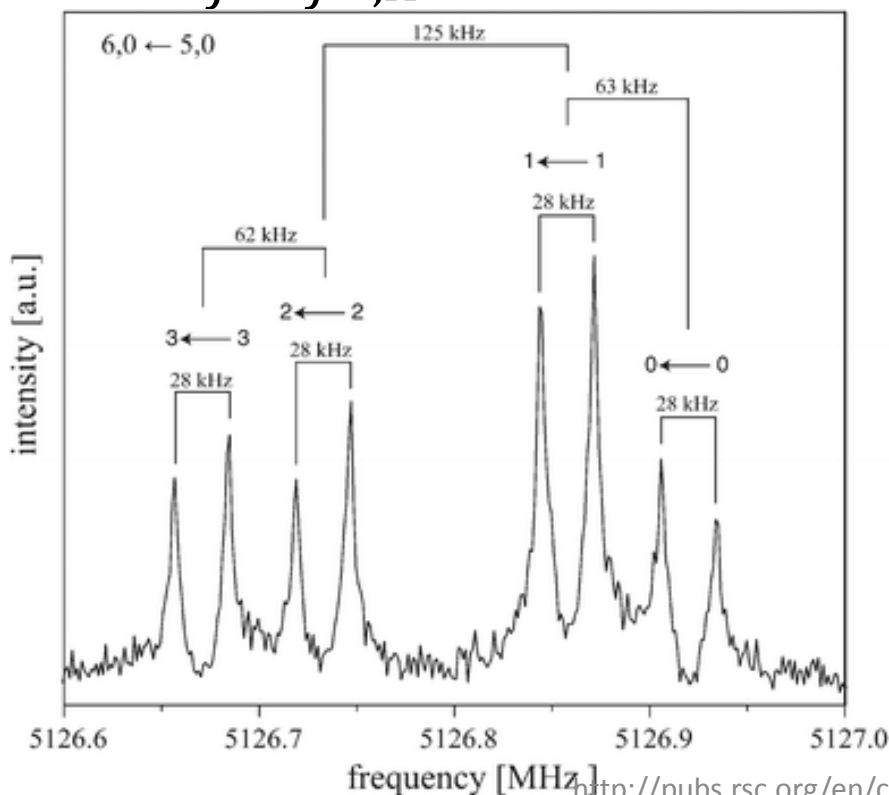
$$- E(J, K) = BJ(J + 1) + (A - B)K^2$$

- Where  $B = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 c I_b}$
- $A = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 c I_a}$ , Prolate
- $A = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 c I_c}$ , Oblate

# Why more complicated?

- Which leads to Lines at:

$$-\nu_{J' \leftrightarrow J'', K} = E(J', K) - E(J'', K) = 2B(J'' + 1)$$



# Why more complicated?

- With more axis, more complicated
  - Stark Effect
  - Hyperfine splitting

# Stark Effect

- Similar to Zeeman effect
- Lifts level degeneracy
- Due to external electric field
- 1st Order-Linear
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Order-Quadratic

# Stark Effect

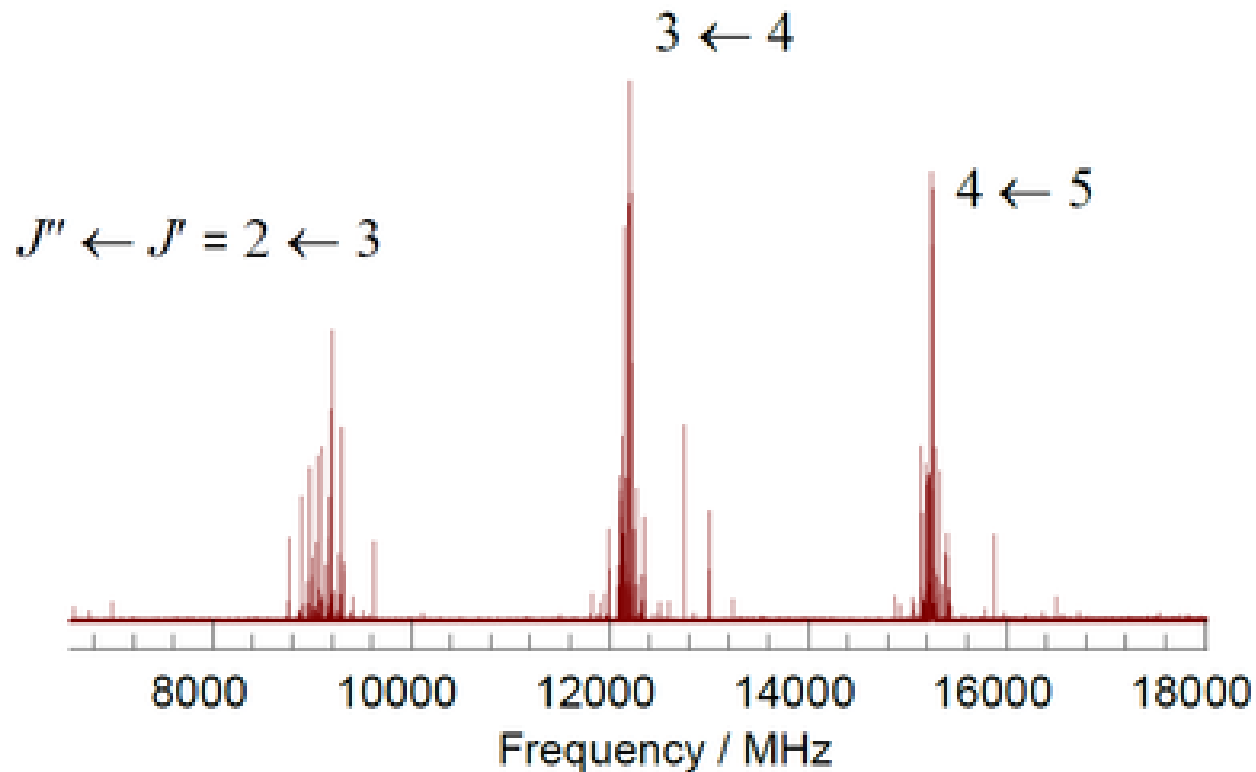
- $E_{Stark}(J, K, M) = - \frac{uEKM}{J(J+1)}$
- $M = 0$ , no stark
- $K, M \neq 0$  splitting occurs
  - $-M$  inc,  $+M$  dec

# Hyperfine Splitting

- Coupling of Nuclear spin and molecular rotation.
  - If  $J > I$ ,  $2I+1$  levels
  - If  $J < I$ ,  $2J+1$  levels.

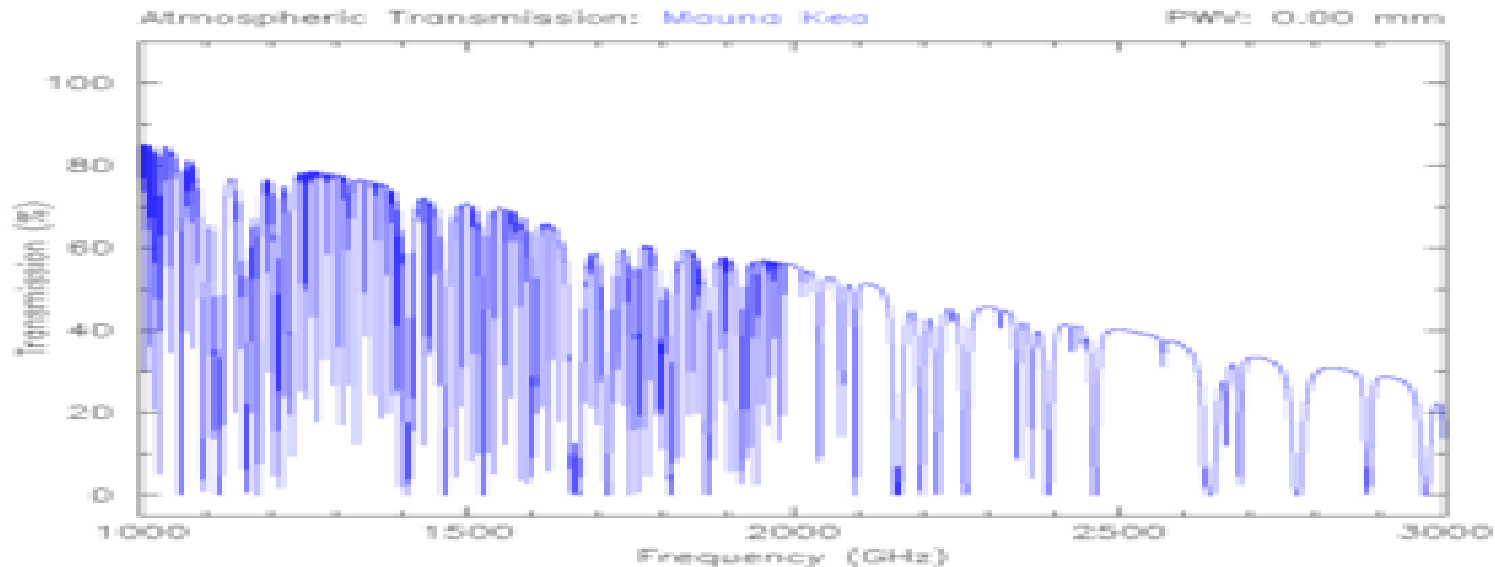
# Hyperfine splitting

- $\text{CF}_3\text{I}$ , Splitting due to  $^{127}\text{I}$



# Asymmetrical Tops

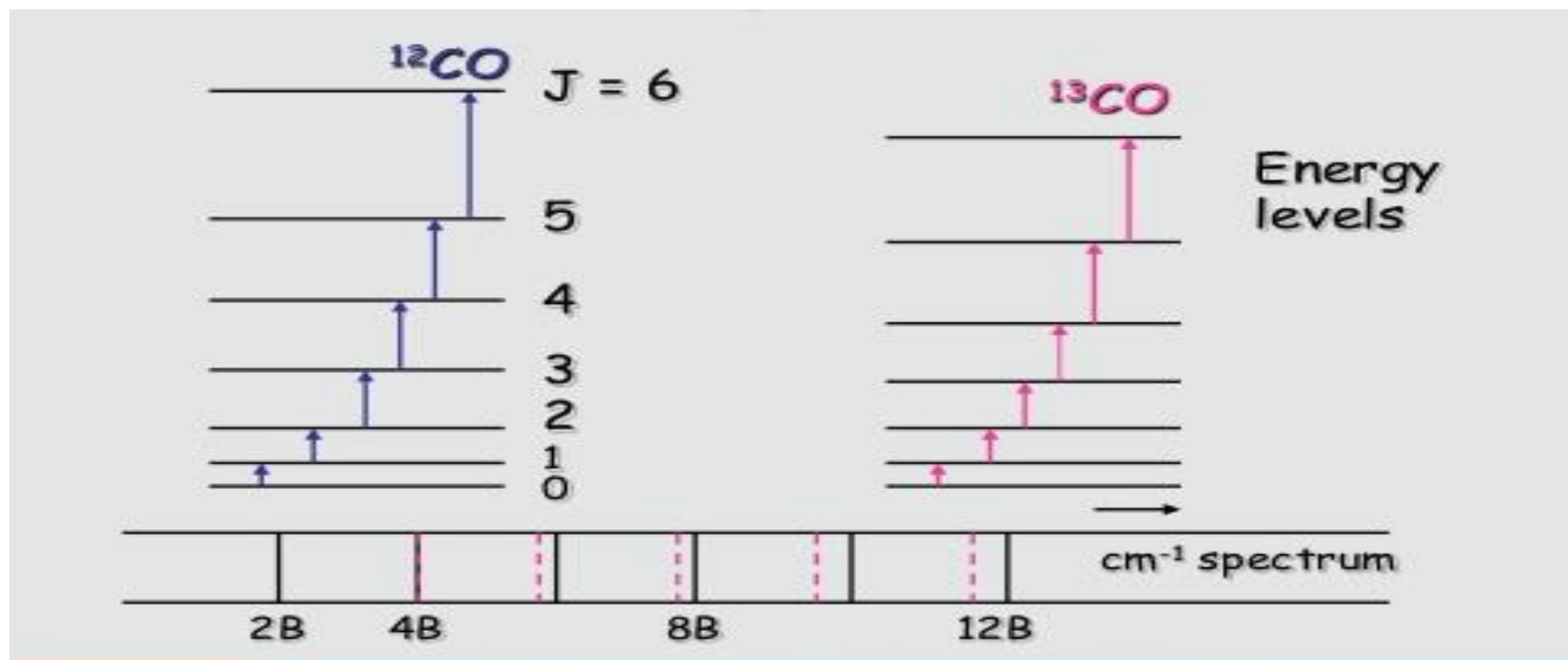
- Three different axes, 3 different inertias
- Most molecules.
- Very complex spectra.





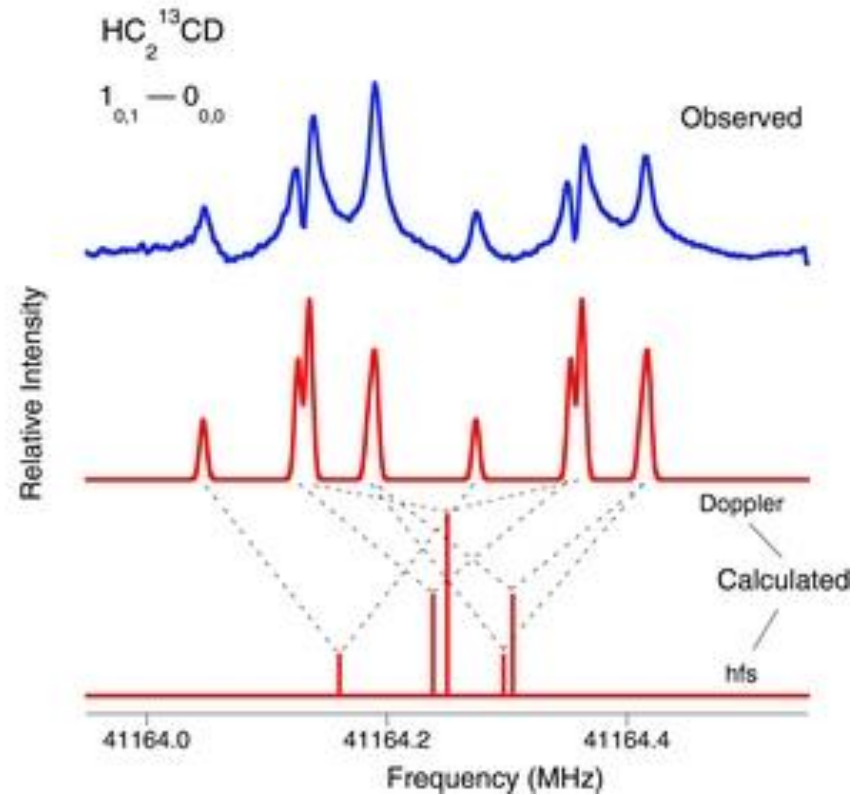
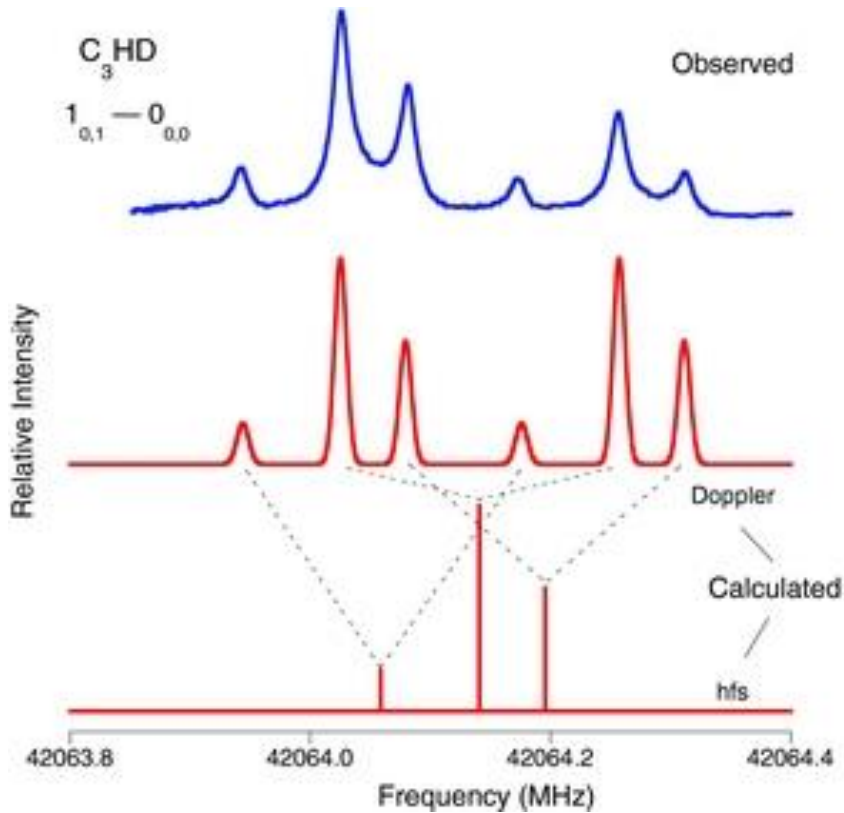
# Effect of Isotope Substitution

- $^{12}\text{C}^{16}\text{O} \rightarrow ^{13}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}$ , mass  $\uparrow$ ,  $B \downarrow$  ( $\sim 1/I$ ),  $E \downarrow$ .



# Isotope splitting

- $c\text{-C}_3\text{HD}$**





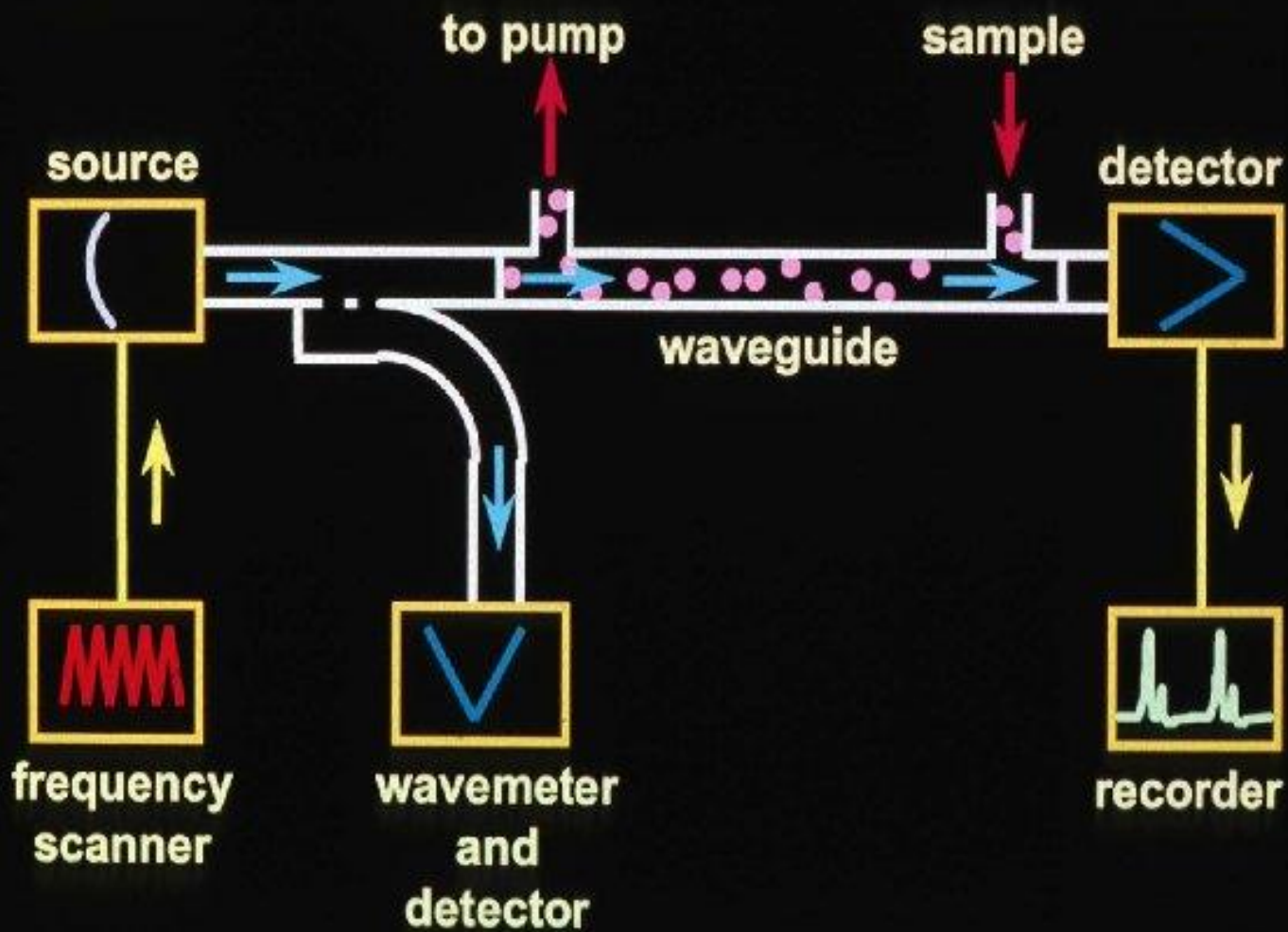
# Instrumentation

- Most homemade.
- Two types spectrometers.
- Stark Modulated
- Fortier Transform Microwave Spectroscopy
  - Similar in concept to FTIR

# Stark Modulated MW Spectrometer

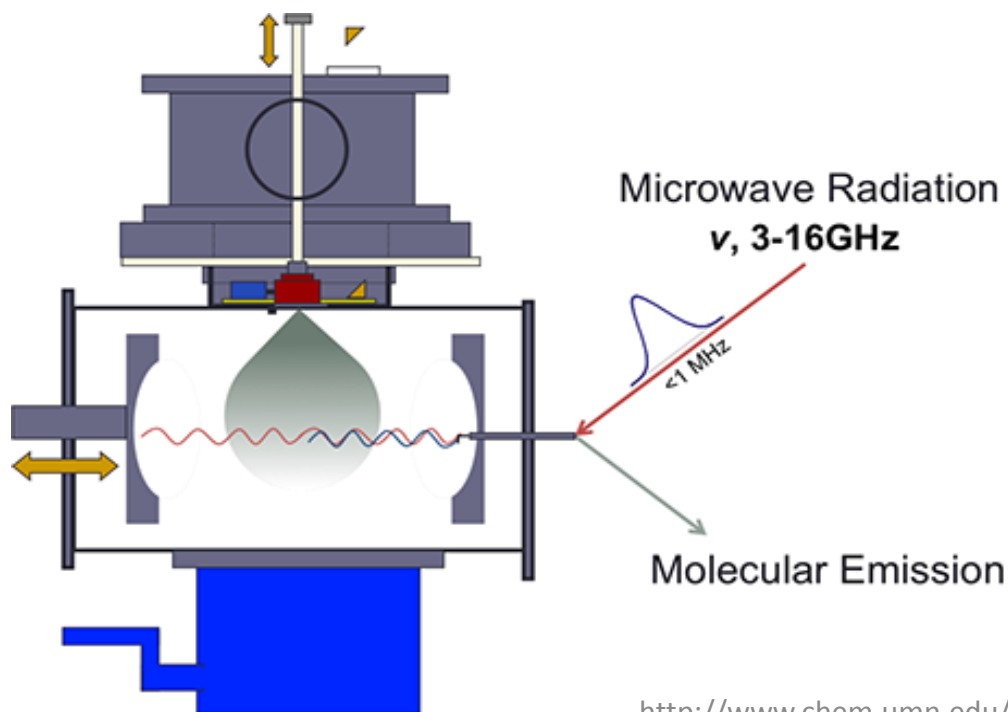
- Samples introduced as a gas.
- Can be heated.
- Generally high vacuum.

# Microwave spectrometer



# FTMW Spectrometer

- Similar in principle to FTIR
- Broader Frequency, Greater Precision

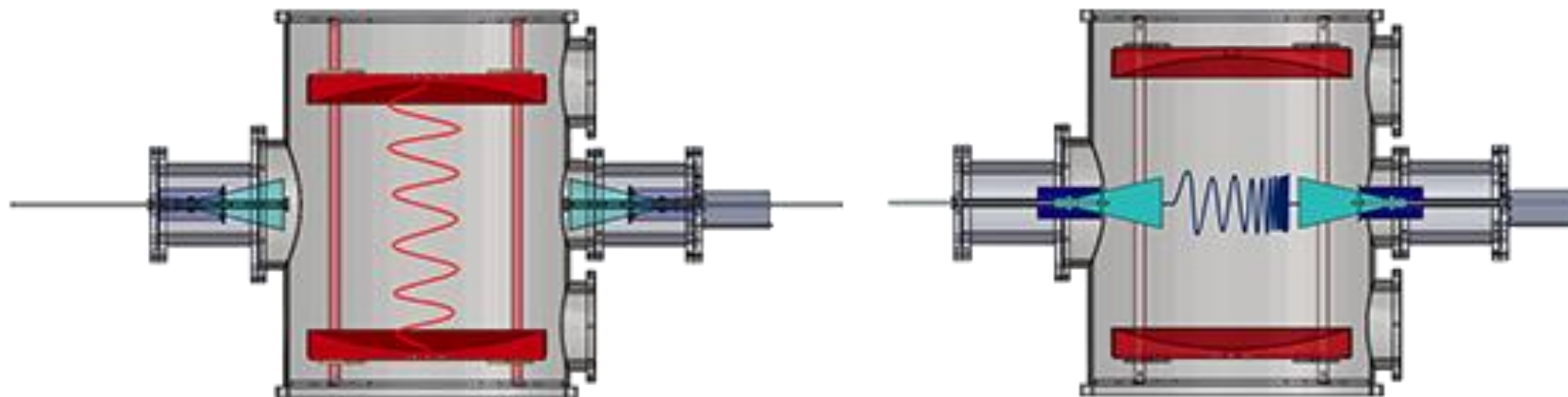


# Chipped Pulse FTMW

- Add waveform generators
- Widens Bandwidth several 1000x
- Decreases spectral search time

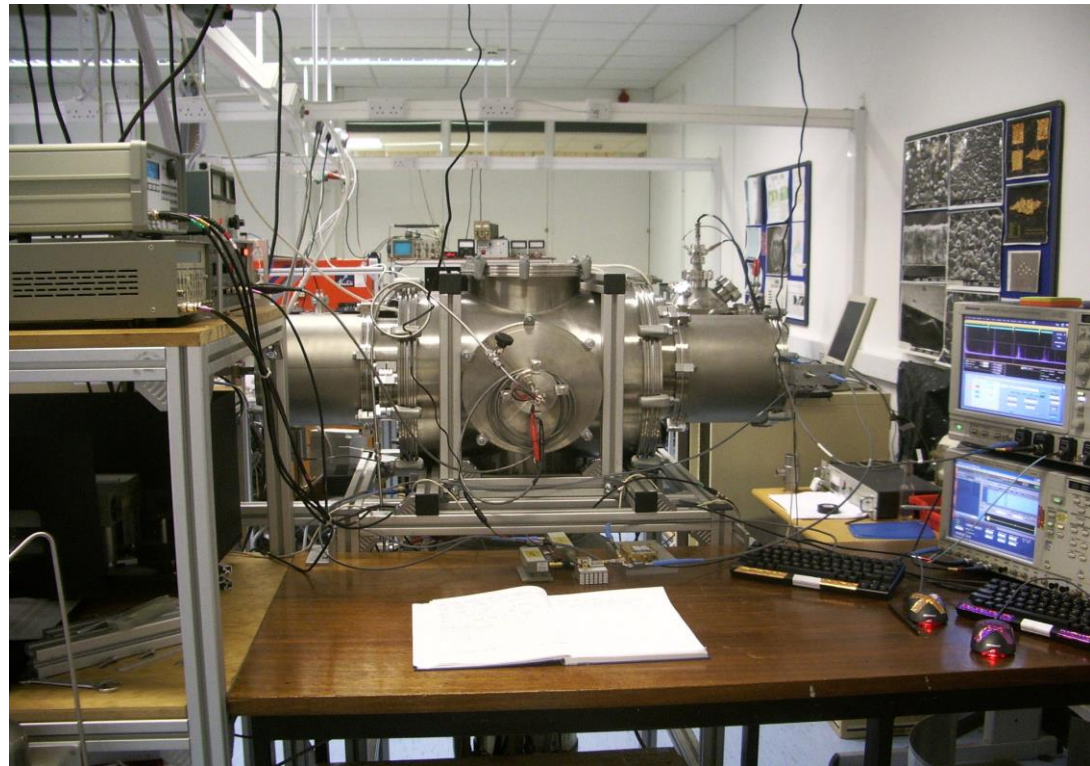


# Chipped Pulse FTMW



# FTMW Spectrometer

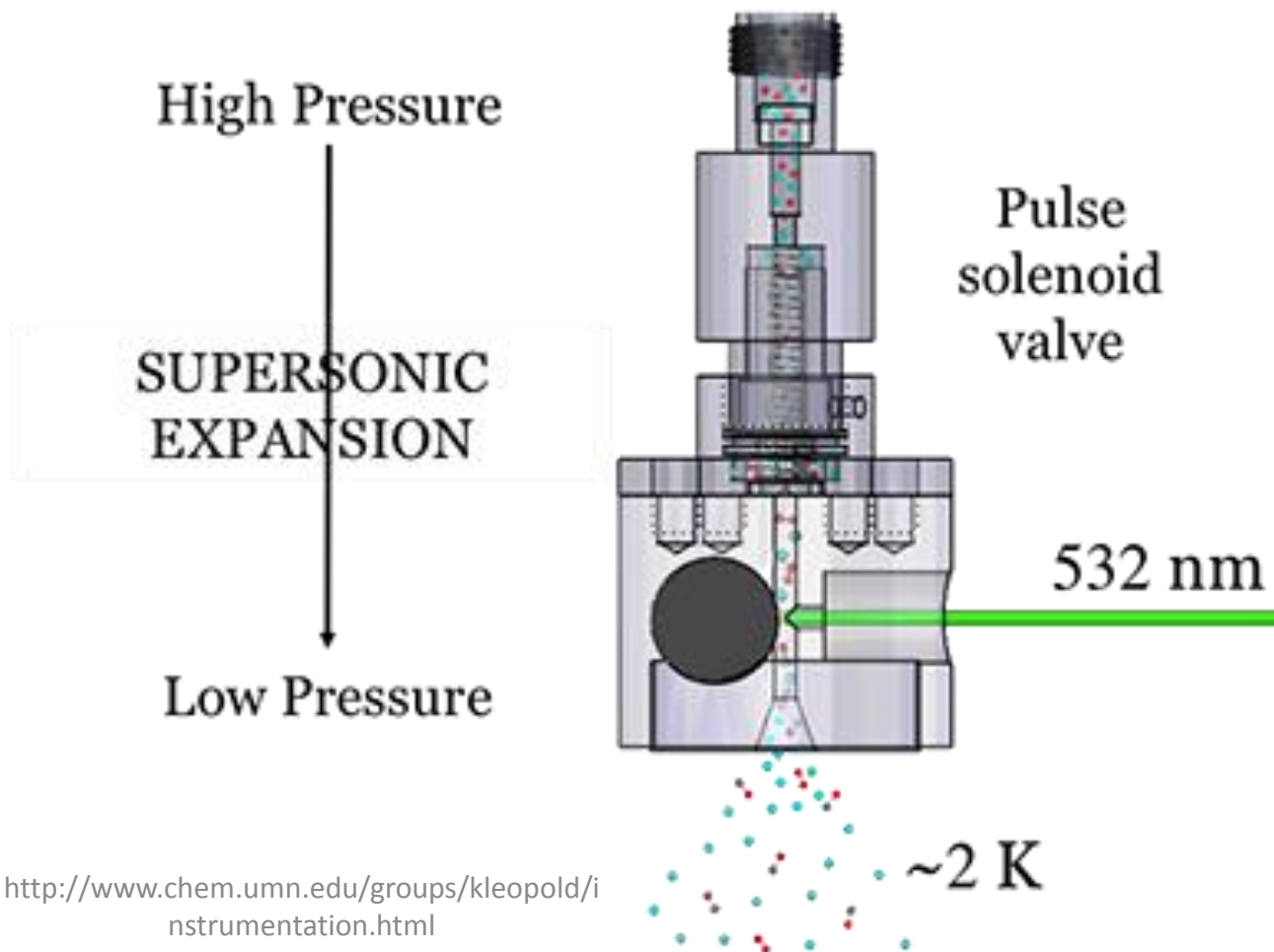
- Typical setup



# Sample Preparation/Introduction

- Gas samples
  - As is
  - As a diluted analyte in a non-MW reactive gas such as Neon
- Solids
  - Laser abatement
  - Vaporization
- Liquids
  - Vaporization
  - Supersonic Expansion

# Supersonic Expansion/Laser Ablatement



# Applications of MW

- Measurement of bond lengths
- Observation by radio telescopes for life precursors in interstellar clouds
- Precise observation of translating stereochemistries and confirmation verification

# Measuring Bond Length.

- For example, we will use the easiest case, a diatomic molecule, HCL.

| cm <sup>-1</sup> | J->J+1 | R(nm) |
|------------------|--------|-------|
| 83.03            | 3-4    | .1288 |
| 103.73           | 4-5    | .1288 |
| 124.3            | 5-6    | .1289 |
| 145.03           | 6-7    | .1289 |
| 165.51           | 7-8    | .1290 |
| 185.86           | 8-9    | .1291 |
| 206.38           | 9-10   | .1292 |
| 226.5            | 10-11  | .1293 |

# Calculation example (HCL)

$$B = \frac{h}{8Ic\pi^2}$$

$$R = \sqrt{\frac{h}{8\pi^2 c B u}}$$

R=

$$\sqrt{\frac{6.626e-34 \text{ J.S}}{8(3.14)^2 (2.99792458e10 \text{ cm.s}) \left(\frac{35.5}{36.5} * 1.661 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}\right) (10.3 \text{ cm}^{-1})}}$$

$$R = 1.29 \times 10^{-10} \text{ M} \text{ or } 0.129 \text{ nm}$$

# Problem

- Calculate bond length for CO
- Given=
  - $2B = 3.8626 \text{ cm}^{-1}$
  - $h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s}$
  - $c = 2.998 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}\cdot\text{s}$
  - Amu to kg =  $1.661 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$



# Calculation example (CO)

$$B = \frac{h}{8Ic\pi^2}$$

$$R = \sqrt{\frac{h}{8\pi^2 c B u}}$$

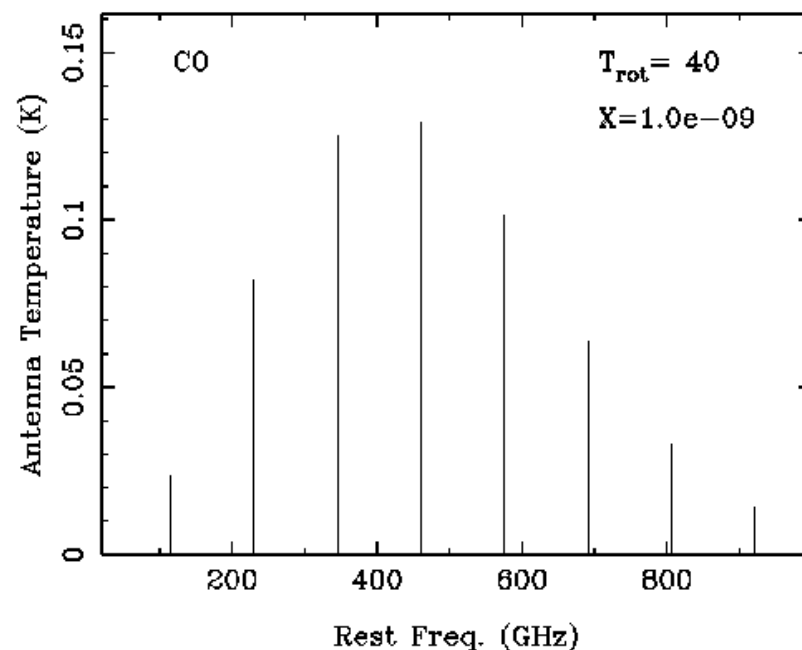
R=

$$\sqrt{\frac{6.626e-34 \text{ J.S}}{8(3.14)^2 (2.99792458e10 \text{ cm.s})\left(\frac{48}{7}\right)*1.661x10-27 \text{ kg})(1.9313 \text{ cm}^{-1})}}$$

$$R=1.13x10^{-10} \text{ M or } 0.113 \text{ nm}$$

# Identification of Organics in Interstellar Space

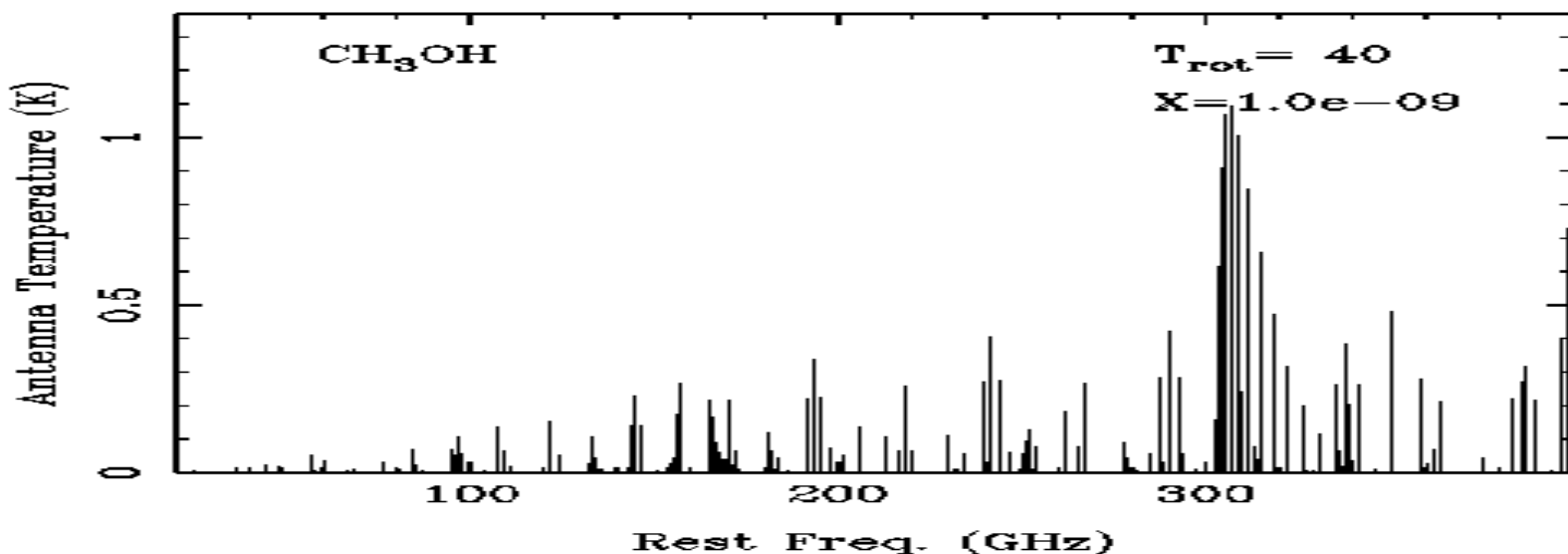
- Gas phase molecules and radicals
- Observed using a radio telescope.
- Linear molecule
  - Simple spectra



# Identification of Organics in Interstellar Space

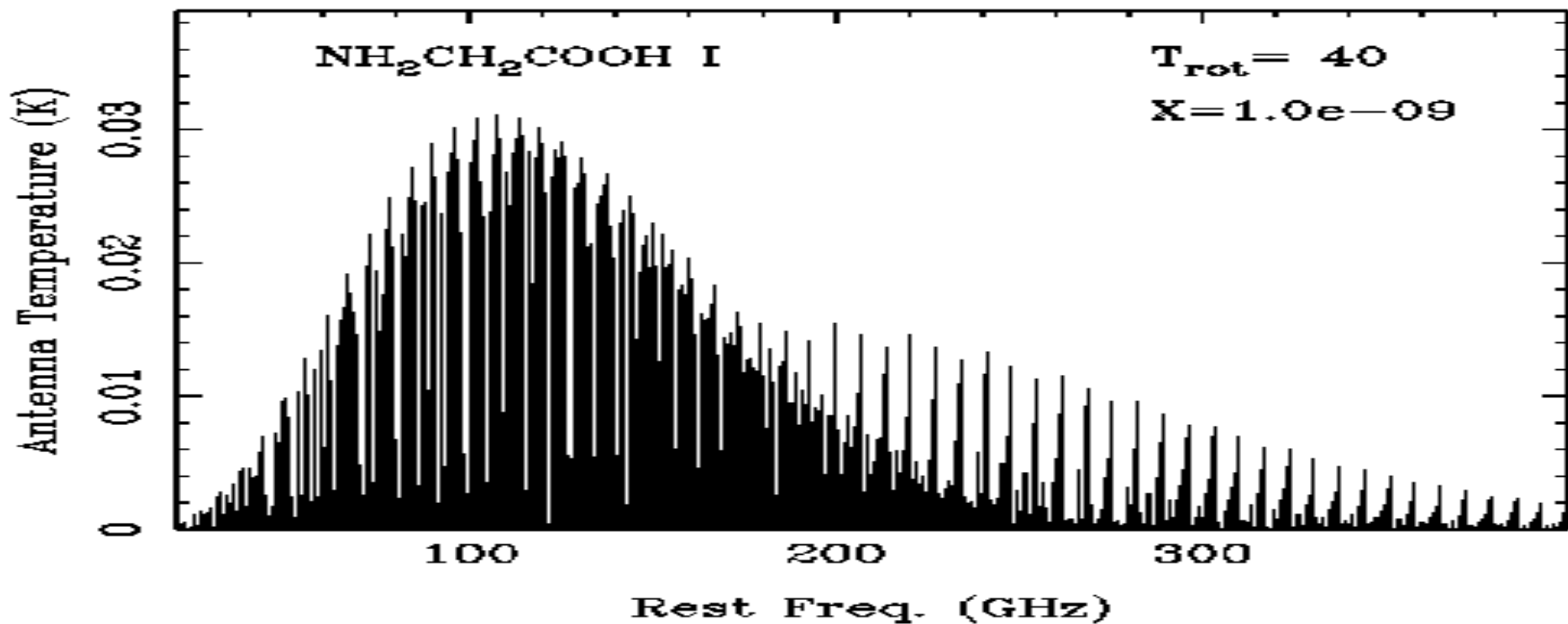
## Space

- Symmetric Molecule
  - Complicated due to symmetric top
  - Many more possible states



# Glycine? in interstellar clouds

- Other more complicated molecules may be observed
- Data too complicated

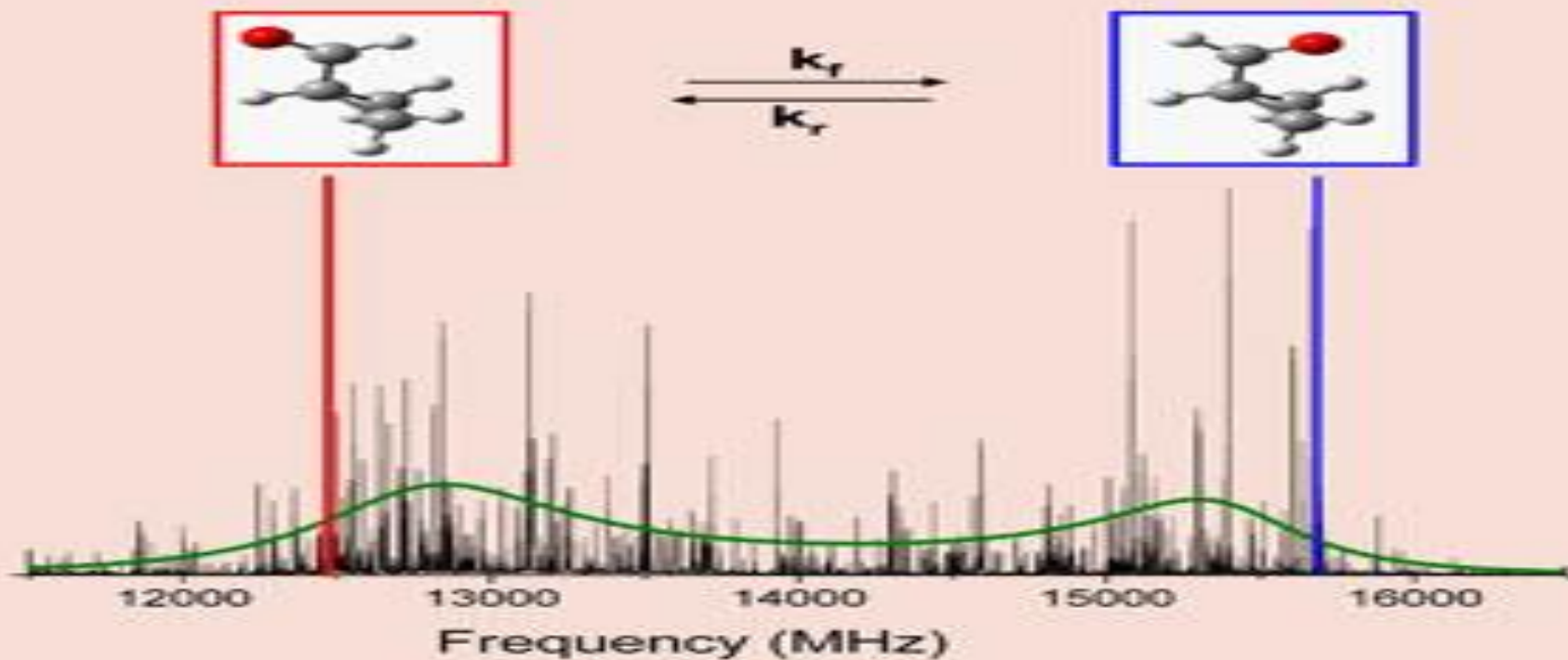


# Molecular Confirmation

- Resolve rapidly interchanging conformers.
- 17000 scans/52 hrs.
- 27 yrs on standard unit.

# Conformers

## Cyclopropane carboxaldehyde



# Conclusion

- Useful for Gas Molecules
- Can determine bond length.
- Diverse usages for the technique.