FORMALDEHYDE: THE 5.7 µm AND 3.6 µm BANDS

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The goal of this study was to achieve absolute line intensities and reliable line broadening parameters for the strong 5.7 μ m and 3.6 μ m bands of formaldehyde (H₂CO) and to generate, for both spectral regions, a complete linelist for atmospheric applications.

High-resolution Fourier transform spectra were recorded at LADIR for the whole $1600 - 3200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ spectral range and for different pathlength-pressure products conditions. Using these spectra, a large set of H₂CO individual line intensities^{*a*} and of self- and N₂-broadening linewidths^{*b*} were measured.

The calculated band intensities derived for the 5.7 μ m and 3.6 μ m bands are in excellent agreement with the values achieved recently by medium resolution band intensity measurements. It has to be mentioned that intensities in the 3.6 μ m achieved in this work are, on the average, about 28 % stronger than those quoted in the HITRAN 2004 database. The linelist of positions and intensities based on this work^{*a*} has been included in the HITRAN 2008 database.

Concerning the linewidths, empirical expansions and theoretical calculations (semi-classical Robert-Bonamy formalism) have been performed and compared to the measurements. Rotational dependences have been studied, and the temperature dependence of the N_2 -broadening coefficients has been calculated.

^aA. Perrin, D. Jacquemart, F. Kwabia-Tchana, and N. Lacome, JQSRT 110,700-716,2009.

^bD. Jacquemart, A. Laraia F. Kwabia-Tchana, R.R. Gamache A. Perrin and N. Lacome, JQSRT in press.