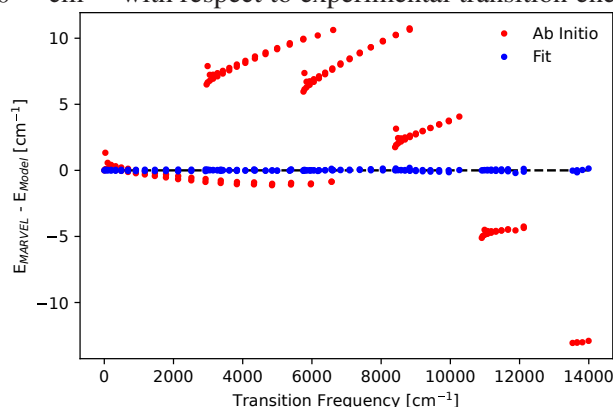


THE MARVELOUS WORLD OF OH⁺

MARCO PEZZELLA, SERGEI N. YURCHENKO, JONATHAN TENNYSON, *Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London WC1E 6BT, UK*

The OH⁺ ion is an interesting molecular species, due to its critical intermediate in interstellar chemistry. OH⁺, together with H₂O⁺ and H₃O⁺, is an important probe of the cosmic ray ionization rates in diffuse clouds, on the surfaces of molecular clouds. It is formed by the reaction of oxygen atoms with cosmic ray ionised H or H₂, and it goes to further reactions with other hydrogen sources to form, *via* multiple steps, OH¹. It acts as an enabler of more complex reaction networks occurring in the interstellar medium². The molecule is also formed in the ionosphere of Earth and comets³.

We started by collecting transition from different experimental work⁴ and processing them using MARVEL⁵ for generating high level accuracy energy levels, with an uncertainty of $1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^{-1}$. These energies are used in DUO⁶ to fit the potential energy curve and couplings of the X³Σ state, leading to a new linelist with RMSE= $5.43 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ with respect to experimental transition energies.



The same procedure is applied to the A³Π state. The coupling between this state and the a¹Δ, b¹Σ⁺, and c¹Π, leads to a more complex situation to analyse⁷. The

¹D. Hollenbach et al 2012 *ApJ* **754** 105

²A. J. Porras et al 2014 *ApJL* **781** L8

³R. Martinez et al 2005 *JCP* **123** 174312, P.V. Stoeva et al 2005 *Planetary and Space Science* **53** 327

⁴Rehfuss et al 1992 *JMS* **151** 59, C. R. Markus et al 2016 *ApJ* **817** 138, J. N. Hodges et al 2017 *ApJ* **840** 81

⁵T. Furtenbacher et al 2007 *JMS* **245** 115

⁶Yurchenko et al 2016 *CPC* **202** 262

⁷D. Yarkony 1993 *JPC* **97** 111

X³Σ and A³Π state curves will be used to generate a comprehensive line list for OH⁺.