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Q. Ma $^a$, R.H. Tipping $^b$ & N.N. Lavrentieva $^c$

$^a$ NASA/Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics, Columbia University, 2880 Broadway, New York, NY 10025, USA

$^b$ Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0324, USA

$^c$ V.E. Zuev Institute of Atmospheric Optics SB RAS, 1, Akademian Zuev square, Tomsk 634021, Russia


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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Theoretical studies of N2-broadened half-widths of H2O lines involving high j states

Q. Maa*, R.H. Tippingb and N.N. Lavrentievac

aNASA/Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics, Columbia University, 2880 Broadway, New York, NY 10025, USA; bDepartment of Physics and Astronomy, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0324, USA; cV.E. Zuev Institute of Atmospheric Optics SB RAS, 1, Akademikan Zuev square, Tomsk 634021, Russia

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Based on the properties of the energy levels and wave functions of H2O states, one can categorize H2O lines into individually defined groups such that within the same group, the energy levels and the wave functions associated with two paired lines have an identity property while those associated with different pairs have a similarity property. Meanwhile, by thoroughly analyzing processes used to calculate N2-broadened half-widths, it was found that the ‘Fourier series’ of $W^{(0)}_{L,K,K'}(i,j;i',j')$ and $W^{(0)}_{L,K,K'}(j,j';i,j)$, and a factor $P_{22}(j,j';i,j)$ are the key items in the Robert-Bonamy formalism to distinguish contributions to $\Delta S(i,j)$ among different transitions of $j_f i \rightarrow j_i i'$. However, these items are completely determined by the energy levels and the wave functions associated with their initial and final states and they must bear the latter’s features as well. Thus, it becomes obvious that for two paired lines in the same group, their calculated half-widths must be almost identical and the values associated with different pairs must vary smoothly as their $j_f$ values vary. Thus, the pair identity and the smooth variation rules are established within individual groups of lines. One can use these rules to screen half-width data listed in HITRAN and to improve the data accuracies.

Keywords: energy levels and wave functions of H2O states; Robert-Bonamy theory; theoretically calculated half-widths and shifts; rules governing spectroscopic parameters of H2O lines; HITRAN

1. Introduction

The modelling of the atmosphere from satellite-based, balloon-based, and Earth-based instruments requires an accurate spectroscopic database such as HITRAN [1,2]. This widely used database has spectroscopic parameters for the most important molecules in bands from the microwave to the ultraviolet spectral regions. It is obvious that the accuracy of these data is essential for users’ applications. This is especially true in accurate atmospheric retrievals involving the very important water vapor molecule. In order to meet the accuracy requirement for the H2O molecule, the H2O database in HITRAN has been updated several times [1,2] and a new HITRAN 2012 version will appear soon. In the recent updating process, the majority of the pressure broadened half-widths, the temperature exponents, and the pressure-induced shifts come from theoretically calculated values using the Robert-Bonamy (RB) formalism [3]. It is worth mentioning that the RB formalism was developed more than three decades ago and it contains several basic assumptions whose applicability was not thoroughly justified. Mainly due to difficulties in developing better formalisms to carry out practical calculations, there are no viable alternatives available and one has to rely on the RB formalism at present. Besides, for lines with small half-width values, contributions to their calculated half-widths result mainly from nearly head-on collisions in which two interacting molecules can reach closer distances [4]. Unfortunately, the largest uncertainties in modeling interaction potentials and collision trajectories usually occur in the short distance regions and they could lead to large errors in calculating contributions from nearly head-on collisions. Thus, calculated half-width values for lines with small half-width values are less reliable [4]. Meanwhile it turns out that, in general, lines with small half-widths are those involving high $j$ states. Thus, uncertainties associated with calculated values would be worse than the requirements needed for users’ atmospheric applications, especially for lines with high $j$ values.

On the other hand, some of the data for the water vapor lines are experimental and may come from different labs. Given the fact that lines with high $j$ values are usually weak, to perform measurements for them becomes more difficult and measured results

*Corresponding author. Email: qma@giss.nasa.gov

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could contain larger uncertainties. In addition, there are a huge number of lines especially at high temperatures, and the majority of them are associated with high $j$ states, and thus to provide these data from experimental measurements is not realistic. In summary, the current uncertainties for the half-widths in the H$_2$O database are far beyond the desired accuracy and it seems that this situation could last for a while.

In order to find realistic ways to improve the accuracies of half-widths of H$_2$O lines, we began this study by wondering whether links between lines of interest and their half-widths do exist or not. If the answer is yes, we hoped that some rules representing these links can be discovered. Of course, the success of this idea relies not only on the nature of pressure broadened half-widths, but also the answer to the fundamental question about why and how calculated N$_2$-broadened half-widths vary for the lines of interest. In fact, we have been interested in this fundamental question for several years and have made many efforts to search for the answer. Very recently, however, we have found a method and in the following we outline our route leading to the answer yes. Readers who are not familiar with the theory may skip over the next three paragraphs.

It is well known that calculated half-widths depend on the lines of interest and also on the environment in which the absorber molecule H$_2$O is immersed. In order to find the answer, our approach is to separate these two dependences as completely as possible. In theoretical calculations, the former is described by the initial and final states of H$_2$O and the latter is explicitly represented by the interaction potential and trajectory models. Within the RB formalism, our investigation targets are contributions to the term of Re$S_2(r_c)$ from individual correlation functions because Re$S_2(r_c)$ plays a crucial role in determining calculated half-widths. Along this way, we have found that for each of the correlations, both its contributions to Re$S_{2,outer}(r_c)$ and Re$S_{2,outer,f}(r_c)$, two of the components of Re$S_2(r_c)$, can be expressed as integrations over time whose integrands mainly consist of two functions. One is the correlation function $F_{L,K_1,K_2,L_2}(t)$ that depends on the potential and trajectory models and is common for all lines. The other is the two functions $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t;jt)$ which depend on the initial or the final states of the lines of interest but are independent of the environment. Thus, for an individual line, two $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t;jt)$ associated with its initial and final states contains all information necessary to determine its contributions to Re$S_{2,outer}(r_c)$ and Re$S_{2,outer, f}(r_c)$. Therefore, it is these two functions $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t)$ that distinguish the different magnitudes of Re$S_{2,outer}(r_c)$ and Re$S_{2,outer, f}(r_c)$ for individual lines.

Meanwhile, similar analysis can be applied to the term of $S_{2,middle}(r_c)$, the remaining component of Re$S_2(r_c)$ also. In this case, it is a factor $P_{L,K_1,K_2}(j;jt;\tau)$ that depends on the lines of interest but is independent of the environment. Then, we know that in order to find the answers we need to focus our attention on the two functions $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t;jt)$ and the factor $P_{L,K_1,K_2}(j;jt;\tau)$.

It turns out that expressions for $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t;jt)$ are given in terms of ‘Fourier series’ and the number of their major components is very limited. This implies that each $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t;jt)$ can be well represented by a spectrum containing only several components. As a result, to analyze profiles of $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t;jt)$ among many different states becomes easier. By simply plotting distributions of the spectra associated with different H$_2$O states, we have found that there are identities of their distributions between certain pairs of states and there are similarities within certain groups of states also. With respect to values of $P_{L,K_1,K_2}(j;jt;\tau)$, similar features have also been found. In addition, the events associated with $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t;jt;\tau)$ and $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t;jt;\tau)$ and the events with $P_{L,K_1,K_2}(j;jt;\tau)$ happen simultaneously among the same lines.

Thus, we are sure that the similar features must exist for the calculated half-widths among certain lines. Armed with the knowledge where the identity and the similarity happen for $W_{L,K_1,K_2}^{(a)}(t;jt)$ and $P_{L,K_1,K_2}(j;jt;\tau)$, we know how to categorize lines into different groups. Then by checking values of the calculated half-width for lines in the same group, our expectation is well verified. At this stage, we are only one step away from finding the answer, namely, we have to explain why these features exist within the groups. Based on quantum mechanics, the energy levels and the wave functions of the H$_2$O states contain all information about the states. Therefore, the latter is a right place to search the answer. By investigating the properties of the energy levels and the wave functions of states, their identities and similarities clearly emerge within the groups. Thus, we have got the answers. With respect to the first question why calculated half-widths vary with the lines, it results from individual energy levels and wave functions associated with their initial and final states. Concerning the second question how calculated results vary with the lines, we know the answer within individually defined groups. It is the identities and the similarities of their energy levels and their wave functions that govern their variations.

After realizing the above, an immediate thought was that there must be similar rules valid for other spectroscopic parameters. In fact, we consider a system consisting of an absorber water molecule immersed in bath molecules while the absorber interacts with electromagnetic fields as a black box. The inputs and
the outputs of this black box are the transition lines of H₂O and their spectroscopic parameters. The main assumptions introduced here are: (1) the outputs depend on the inputs; (2) identical inputs should yield identical outputs; and (3) similar inputs should yield similar outputs. Then, by fully exploiting the identity and similarity properties of the energy levels and wave functions, without knowing what really happens inside the black box, we can expect that the identity and similarity features exist among the spectroscopic parameters. We have found that measurements from different groups do demonstrate the above claim. In addition, several important applications have been proposed. The study based on the black box theory was summarized in a recent paper [5].

For the theoretically calculated N₂-broadened half-widths, we know completely what happens inside of the system. Instead of relying on the black box, we can establish these rules from rigorous theoretical analyses. In addition by developing tools used in the analysis, new features of the line-shape theory can be exhibited. Therefore, the present work is supplementary to recent work [5]. In the present study, we do not follow our discovery route exactly. Because properties of the energy levels and wave functions are fundamental, we first present our discussion of this subject in Section 2. With this as a guide, we then present our analysis, step by step, in the following sections. Finally, we present a short discussion and conclusion section.

2. Properties of energy levels and wave functions of H₂O

It is well known that when one studies energy levels and wave functions for an asymmetric top molecule such as H₂O, one must identify its three principal axes a, b, c with a body-fixed frame [6–9]. There are six different choices to make the identification and they are designated: I R, I L, II R, II L, III R, and III L. Of course, in describing energy levels and wave functions, all these representations are equivalent. The energy levels are independent of the choice of representation. However, the wave functions would be different, but wave functions derived from different representation are exchangeable. One can change them by using rotational transformations representing proper rotation operators under which one body-fixed frame rotates into another. In practice, one can choose the most suitable representation according to one’s preference.

For years there have existed subroutines available to enable one to obtain energy levels and wave functions for important rotational states. Thus, in pursuing their spectroscopic studies, most people adopt energy levels and wave functions derived from these subroutines and they usually do not pay too much attention to these items themselves. However, it turns out that exploiting the properties of energy levels and wave functions proves to be a great help. In order to support this claim, we exhibit some properties of the energy levels and wave functions of H₂O in the ground state first.

Before continuing our discussions, we note that usually states of the H₂O molecule are labelled by three quantum numbers j, kₐ, and kₙ. In the present study, sometimes we may use j and τ (≡kₐ−kₙ) to label a state because we want to use short labels, especially in figures. There is a simple way to recover the corresponding kₐ and kₙ values from j and τ. For the case where j + τ = 2n, kₐ = n and kₙ = j − n. Meanwhile, for the case where j + τ = 2n + 1, kₐ = n + 1 and kₙ = j.

2.1. Properties of energy levels

With respect to energy levels, we present rotational energy levels of H₂O with j = 11 to 20 in the vibrational ground state provided by Barber et al. [10] versus j in Figure 1. In this plot energy levels of states with j + kₐ − kₙ = 0 are plotted by symbols × and those with j + kₐ − kₙ = 1 are plotted by symbols Δ, respectively. In addition, for the former, their values of kₐ − kₙ are plotted on the right side of × and for the latter, the values are on the left side of Δ. As shown in the figure, there are identities of the energy levels between pairs of the states with the same j. Thus, within certain small tolerances, the pair identity of the energy levels holds well. The higher the j is, the firmer the identity holds. With Figure 1, one can easily identify those paired states. They are pairs of two states with the same j and kₙ (=j−n), but their kₐ = n or n + 1 where n = 0, 1, . . . . Two states with the same j and kₐ (=j−n), but kₐ = n or n + 1. We list some of them in braces: {j₁, j₂, j₃, j₄}, {j₁, j₂, j₃, j₄−1}, {j₁, j₂, j₃, j₄−2}, . . . ., {j₂, j₃, j₄−2, j₅−2}, {j₁−1, j₂−1, j₃−1, j₄−1}, and {j₁, j₂, j₃, j₄−1}. Besides this pair identity feature, one can conclude that for each of these pairs, their energy levels vary smoothly as j varies and these variation patterns are well organized along the j axis.

2.2. Properties of wave functions

With respect to wave functions of the H₂O states, they are given in terms of expansion coefficients Uₖₙₗ over the symmetric top wave functions |jkm⟩ with k = −j, −j+1, . . . ., j.

$$|jkm⟩ = \sum_k U_{k\tau}^j |jkm⟩.$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)
With the selected representation, states assigned either by the sub-block $E^+$ or by $E^/-C_0$ have non-zero values of $U_{jk}/C_{28}$ only for $k$ is even and states associated with $O^+$ or $O^-/C_0$ have non-zero values only for $k$ is odd. In addition, depending on the superscripts $+$ and $-C_0$ in the sub-block symbols assigned, $U_{jk}/C_{28}$ is either an even function of $k$ or an odd function of $k$. In the present study, we follow a convention adopted by Zare [9] to define the Wang functions and the symmetric top wave functions. With this convention, symmetry classification by the parities of $k_a$ and $k_c$ in the six representations is given by Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I R</th>
<th>I L</th>
<th>II R</th>
<th>II L</th>
<th>III R</th>
<th>III L</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$J_{even}$</td>
<td>$J_{odd}$</td>
<td>$J_{even}$</td>
<td>$J_{odd}$</td>
<td>$J_{even}$</td>
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<tr>
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<td>eo</td>
<td>ee</td>
<td>eo</td>
<td>ee</td>
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<td>$E^-$</td>
<td>eo</td>
<td>ee</td>
<td>eo</td>
<td>ee</td>
<td>oo</td>
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<tr>
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<td>oo</td>
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<td>oo</td>
<td>eo</td>
<td>oe</td>
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<tr>
<td>$O^-$</td>
<td>oe</td>
<td>oo</td>
<td>oe</td>
<td>oe</td>
<td>ee</td>
<td>ee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the selected representation, states assigned either by the sub-block $E^+$ or by $E^-$ have non-zero values of $U_{jk}$ only for $k$ is even and states associated with $O^+$ or $O^-$ have non-zero values only for $k$ is odd. In addition, depending on the superscripts $+$ and $-$ in the sub-block symbols assigned, $U_{jk}$ is either an even function of $k$ or an odd function of $k$. In the present study, we follow a convention adopted by Zare [9] to define the Wang functions and the symmetric top wave functions. With this convention, symmetry classification by the parities of $k_a$ and $k_c$ in the six representations is given by Table 1.

After outlining the basics about how to describe the wave functions, we exhibit their properties. First, we consider three sets of pairs of states \{j_{00}, j_{11}\}, \{j_{-1,1}, j_{-1,-1}\}, and \{j_{-2,2}, j_{-2,-2}\} and present their coefficients $U_{jk}$ starting from certain boundary values $j_{bd}$ (i.e., 3, 5, and 7, respectively) to $j=26$ in corresponding Figures 2(a)–(c). For these states whose $k_a$ are the maximum or close to the maximum, the I R representation is the best choice.

As shown in the figure, there are two striking features of these coefficients. First of all, coefficients of the paired states such as $j_{00}$ and $j_{11}$ with the same $j$ are almost identical in the positive $k$ axis and one becomes the other’s mirror image in the negative $k$ axis. In other words, their absolute values are always the same. It is worth mentioning that their opposite signs in the negative $k$ axis are necessary to guarantee the orthogonality between their wave functions. Neglecting the sign difference in the negative $k$ axis, we call this feature the pair identity of the wave functions. We note that the higher the $j$, the better the pair identity. Because the pair identity breaks down for $j < j_{bd}$, the plotting in Figure 2 starts from $j = j_{bd}$. Secondly, by comparing the coefficients associated with different
It is obvious that for members of the pairs such as \( j_{0,0} \) with \( j = 3, 4, \ldots \), their patterns are very similar. As \( j \) varies, without any distortions, placements of the patterns shift horizontally along both the positive and negative \( k \) axes. We call this the pattern similarity of the wave functions. It is worthwhile emphasizing that these pattern similarities are valid only among members of these pairs. For example, they are valid within a set of the states \( j_{0,0} \) and within a set of the states \( j_{1,1} \), and so on. Finally, by comparing Figures 2(a)–(c), values of the boundary \( j_{bd} \) increase from 3 to 5 to 7, respectively. This implies that as \( k_c \) decreases from the maximum, the pair identity and the smooth variation break down at higher and higher \( j \) values.

Now, we consider states whose \( k_c \) values are the maximum or close to it. In these cases, the III R representation is more suitable to describe the properties of the wave functions. We present coefficients \( U_{k_c} \) for three sets of pairs of states \( \{j_{0,0}, j_{1,1}\}, \{j_{1,1}, j_{2,2}\}, \text{ and } \{j_{2,2}, j_{3,3}\} \) \( j = j_{bd}, \ldots, 26 \). Their coefficients \( U_{k_c} \) with \( k \) ranging from \(-j\) to \( j \) in the I R representation are represented by symbols \( \times \) and \( \Delta \), respectively. Different colors are used to distinguish different \( j \) values and symbols associated with the same states are connected by dotted or solid lines.

Figure 2. A plot to show properties of H_2O wave functions for three sets of pairs of states \( \{j_{0,0}, j_{1,1}\}, \{j_{1,1}, j_{2,2}\}, \text{ and } \{j_{2,2}, j_{3,3}\} \) for \( j = j_{bd}, \ldots, 26 \). Their coefficients \( U_{k_c} \) with \( k \) ranging from \(-j\) to \( j \) in the I R representation are represented by symbols \( \times \) and \( \Delta \), respectively. Different colors are used to distinguish different \( j \) values and symbols associated with the same states are connected by dotted or solid lines.
functions such as Figures 2 and 3. Alternatively, for a set of paired states $j/C_2^1$ and $j/C_2^2$, by defining the relative difference of their wave functions $\varepsilon$ as

$$\varepsilon = \sum_k \left| U_{j/C_2^1}^j \right|^2 - \left| U_{j/C_2^2}^j \right|^2 \right/ \sum_k \left| U_{j/C_2}^j \right|^2,$$

one can calculate how $\varepsilon$ varies with $j$ and determine a boundary for this set. We note that $\varepsilon$ is a numerical measure of the identity of the paired wave functions. We provide our suggested $j_{bd}$ and their corresponding values of $\varepsilon$ in Table 2. As shown in the table, we have chosen $\varepsilon$ about 1% to determine $j_{bd}$ and the latter match those estimated from the figures well.

In summary, with respect to the $H_2O$ energy levels, there are pair identities and well organized variations exhibited within each of the sets of paired states whose

Table 2. Boundaries for different sets of paired $H_2O$ states.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set</th>
<th>$j_1$</th>
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<th>$j_1$</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$j_{bd}$</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
elements appearing in the perturbation expansion of the $S$ matrix ($=S_1 \cdot S_F$, where $S_1$ and $S_F$ are scattering matrices in Hilbert space). Usually, in practice, these evaluations are limited to the second-order of the expansion. Within the RB formalism that has been widely used for calculating Lorentzian spectral line half-widths and shifts for decades [11–14], the original expression for the half-width is given by

$$\gamma_{RB} = \frac{n_b}{2\pi c \sigma_0} \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} 2\pi b \text{d}b \left[ 1 - \text{Re} S_2(b) \right] e^{-\text{Re} S_2(b)}J_2,$$

where $n_b$ is the number density of the bath molecule, $f(v)$ is the Maxwell–Boltzmann distribution function, $S_1$ and $S_2$ are matrix elements in the Liouville space associated with the first- and second-orders of the perturbation expansion of the Liouville operator $\hat{S}$, and $\langle J_2 \rangle$ means an average over the quantum number $j_2$ of the N$_2$ molecule. However, we have found a subtle error in the RB formalism [15]. After remedying this derivation error, the correct expression for the half-width in the ‘modified’ RB formalism (MRB) becomes [15]

$$\gamma_{MRB} = \frac{n_b}{2\pi c \sigma_0} \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} 2\pi b \text{d}b \left[ 1 - \text{Re} S_2(b) \right] e^{-\text{Re} S_2(b)}J_2.$$

We note that the essential difference between these two expressions is that in Equation (3) the summation over $j_2$ is outside of the cumulant expansion while in contrast, in Equation (4) it is inside. It is worthwhile emphasizing that because the bath average is carried out in the line space, an average over $j_2$ has been included. Thus, by understanding that $S_1(b)$ and $S_2(b)$ are the bath averages associated with the first- and second-order expansions of the Liouville operator, one can suppress all of these $\langle J_2 \rangle$ in Equation (4). For simplicity, we will omit the subscript MRB of $\gamma$.

In the present study, we consider lines in the H$_2$O pure rotational band. Then, by ignoring negligible contributions from $\text{Im} S_2(b)$, making an approximation to replace the integration over the velocity by the averaged velocity $\bar{v} (=\sqrt{8kT/\pi m})$ and changing the integration variable impact parameter $b$ and the lower limit 0 to the distance of closest approach $r_c$ along trajectories and $r_{\text{c, min}}$, the minimum value of $r_c$ corresponding to strictly head-on collisions, respectively, one can obtain a simplified expression for the half-width

$$\gamma = \frac{n_b \bar{v}}{2\pi c} \int_0^{r_{\text{c, min}}} 2\pi b \left[ 1 - e^{-\text{Re} S_2(b)} \right] \text{d}b = \left. \frac{n_b \bar{v}}{2\pi c} \right|_{r_{\text{c, min}}}^{r_{\text{c, max}}} e^{-\text{Re} S_2(r)} \text{d}r_c. \quad (5)$$

$\gamma$ values are high. Meanwhile, for the wave functions, there are pair identities and pattern similarities within each of the same sets defined in analysing the energy levels. In general, sets with small differences between $j$ and $|k_a - k_c|$ have lower boundaries $j_{bd}$ and those with large differences have higher ones. On the other hand, except for the pair identities, other properties of the energy levels and wave functions have individual characters. For example, similar patterns of the wave functions appearing in one set differ significantly from those in other sets. Furthermore, as explained above, these properties disappear for states whose $j$ values are below certain boundaries and the latter vary with the sets.

There are useful explanations about symmetry assignments of H$_2$O wave functions for paired states. Besides, there are quantities associated with the energy levels and the wave functions which are important in the present study because they determine couplings between H$_2$O states. Readers can find discussions of these in sections A-1 and A-2 of the Appendix.

Finally, we would like briefly to point out that it is not difficult to explain why the paired states with high $j$ values have almost the same energy levels and the wave functions. It is well known that the Hamiltonian of the H$_2$O molecule associated with the quantum number $j$ can be expressed by a sub-block form consisting of four sub-matrices, $E^+$, $E^-$, $O^+$, and $O^-$. As an example, we assume $j=even$ and consider the pairs of $j_{1,0}$ and $j_{1,1}$. According to Table A-1 in the Appendix and Figure 1, $j_{1,0}$ is an eigenvector of $E^+$ with the largest eigenvalue and $j_{1,1}$ is an eigenvector of $E^-$ with the largest eigenvalue. Both of these $E^+$ and $E^-$ are tridiagonal and they are almost identical except for adding additional first low and first column in $E^+$. In addition, in comparison with their diagonal elements, their off-diagonal elements are small. The higher the $j$ is, the more identical are $E^+$ and $E^-$. It turns out that their largest eigenvectors and eigenvalues are their ones least affected by their differences. As a result, they bear the identity feature the most. For other cases, similar arguments are also applicable, but we do not pursue this here.

### 3. General formalism in calculating half-widths for H$_2$O lines

After discussing the properties of the energy levels, wave functions, we briefly outline the formalism used to calculate the half-widths and shifts of H$_2$O lines.

The main computational task for calculating the Lorentzian half-widths is the evaluations of matrix elements appearing in the perturbation expansion of the $S$ matrix ($=S_1 \cdot S_F$, where $S_1$ and $S_F$ are scattering matrices in Hilbert space). Usually, in practice, these evaluations are limited to the second-order of the expansion. Within the RB formalism that has been widely used for calculating Lorentzian spectral line half-widths and shifts for decades [11–14], the original expression for the half-width is given by

$$\gamma_{RB} = \frac{n_b}{2\pi c \sigma_0} \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} 2\pi b \text{d}b \left[ 1 - \text{Re} S_2(b) \right] e^{-\text{Re} S_2(b)}J_2,$$

where $n_b$ is the number density of the bath molecule, $f(v)$ is the Maxwell–Boltzmann distribution function, $S_1$ and $S_2$ are matrix elements in the Liouville space associated with the first- and second-orders of the perturbation expansion of the Liouville operator $\hat{S}$, and $\langle J_2 \rangle$ means an average over the quantum number $j_2$ of the N$_2$ molecule. However, we have found a subtle error in the RB formalism [15]. After remedying this derivation error, the correct expression for the half-width in the ‘modified’ RB formalism (MRB) becomes [15]

$$\gamma_{MRB} = \frac{n_b}{2\pi c \sigma_0} \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} 2\pi b \text{d}b \left[ 1 - \text{Re} S_2(b) \right] e^{-\text{Re} S_2(b)}J_2.$$

We note that the essential difference between these two expressions is that in Equation (3) the summation over $j_2$ is outside of the cumulant expansion while in contrast, in Equation (4) it is inside. It is worthwhile emphasizing that because the bath average is carried out in the line space, an average over $j_2$ has been included. Thus, by understanding that $S_1(b)$ and $S_2(b)$ are the bath averages associated with the first- and second-order expansions of the Liouville operator, one can suppress all of these $\langle J_2 \rangle$ in Equation (4). For simplicity, we will omit the subscript MRB of $\gamma$.

In the present study, we consider lines in the H$_2$O pure rotational band. Then, by ignoring negligible contributions from $\text{Im} S_2(b)$, making an approximation to replace the integration over the velocity by the averaged velocity $\bar{v} (=\sqrt{8kT/\pi m})$ and changing the integration variable impact parameter $b$ and the lower limit 0 to the distance of closest approach $r_c$ along trajectories and $r_{\text{c, min}}$, the minimum value of $r_c$ corresponding to strictly head-on collisions, respectively, one can obtain a simplified expression for the half-width

$$\gamma = \frac{n_b \bar{v}}{2\pi c} \int_0^{r_{\text{c, min}}} 2\pi b \left[ 1 - e^{-\text{Re} S_2(b)} \right] \text{d}b = \left. \frac{n_b \bar{v}}{2\pi c} \right|_{r_{\text{c, min}}}^{r_{\text{c, max}}} e^{-\text{Re} S_2(r)} \text{d}r_c. \quad (5)$$
The value of \( r_{c, \text{min}} \) can be determined by an energy conservation equation

\[
\frac{2Y_{\text{tot}}(r_{c, \text{min}})}{m^2} - 1 = 0.
\]  

(6)

Usually, people prefer to represent \( S_2 \) by three components labeled by \( S_{2, \text{outer}, i} \), \( S_{2, \text{outer}, f} \) and \( S_{2, \text{middle}} \), respectively. In the present study, we follow the same custom. As an example, an expression for \( S_{2, \text{outer}, i} \) where the subscript \( i \) is a simple notation for the initial state \( J_i, \tau_i \) is given by [4]

\[
S_{2, \text{outer}, i} = \frac{1}{\hbar(2j_i + 1)} \sum_{j_f} \rho_{j_i j_f} \sum_{j_f} \sum_{j_m} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \left[ \frac{e^{-i\varphi_{j_i j_f}^2}}{2} \right] \left[ \frac{e^{i\varphi_{j_f j_m}}}{2} \right] \\
\times \left\{ \begin{array}{c}
[j_i \tau_i m_i \mathbf{J}_2]V(\mathbf{R}(t)) \left[ j_f^1 \tau_f^1 m_f^1 \mathbf{J}_2 \right] \\
\left[ j_i^1 \tau_i^1 m_i^1 \mathbf{J}_2 \right]V(\mathbf{R}(t)) \left[ j_f \tau_f m_f \mathbf{J}_2 \right]
\end{array} \right\}
\]  

(7)

In the above equation, \( \rho_{j_i j_f} \) is the density matrix of the bath molecule, \( \omega_{\tau_i \tau_f} \) is given by equation (A-1), \( \omega_{j_i j_f} = \left[ E^{(b)}(j_f) - E^{(b)}(j_i) \right]/\hbar \), and \( |j_i \tau_i m_i \mathbf{J}_2\rangle \) = \( |j_f \tau_f m_f \mathbf{J}_2\rangle \) where \( |j_i \tau_i m_i \rangle \) and \( |j_f \tau_f m_f \rangle \) are the basis of Hilbert space for the H\(_2\)O and N\(_2\) molecules, respectively.

In order to overcome convergence problems existing in usual line-shape theories involving the site-site potential models, we have developed a new formalism based on the coordinate representation. We will not provide a detailed development of the new formalism, but interested readers can find its derivation in our previous work [4,16]. Here, we only present some of the important formulas. By introducing the correlation functions \( F_{L_2 K_1 K_2}(t) \) and their Fourier transforms \( H_{L_2 K_1 K_2}(\omega) \) defined by

\[
H_{L_2 K_1 K_2}(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i\omega t} F_{L_2 K_1 K_2}(t) dt.
\]  

(8)

the expression for the real part of \( S_{2, \text{outer}, i} \) can be obtained as

\[
\text{Re} S_{2, \text{outer}, i}(r_c) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sum_{L_2 K_1 K_2} \sum_{j_i j_f} (2j_i + 1) \\
\times \left[ \begin{array}{c}
D(j_i \tau_i j_f^1 \tau_f \tau_f; L_1 K_1)D(j_f \tau_f j_i^1 \tau_i; L_1 K_1^1) \\
\left[ j_f^1 \tau_f^1 m_f^1 \mathbf{J}_2 \right]
\end{array} \right] \\
\times \sum_{j_f} (2j_2 + 1)(2j_f^2 + 1)\rho_{j_f} \\
\times C^2(j_f^2 j_f^1 L_2, 000) \\
\times H_{L_2 K_1 K_2}(\omega_{j_i j_f^1 \tau_f + \omega_{j_f^1 j_f}}).
\]  

(9)

We note that because the correlation functions \( \text{Re} S_{2, \text{outer}, i}(r_c) \) are associated with a specified trajectory, \( \text{Re} S_{2, \text{outer}, i}(r_c) \) is a function of \( r_c \). For clarity, we have explicitly added the argument \( r_c \) for \( \text{Re} S_{2, \text{outer}, i}(r_c) \). As an example, an expression for \( \text{Re} S_{2, \text{outer}, i}(r_c) \) is the same as \( \text{Re} S_{2, \text{outer}, i}(r_c) \) given in Equation (9) except for a replacement of \( j_f, \tau_f, \tau_f \) by \( j_f, \tau_f, \tau_f \). Meanwhile, an expression for \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) is given by

\[
S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{2}} \sum_{L_2 K_1 K_2} \left\{ \begin{array}{c}
(\omega_{j_f^1 j_f} - 1)(2j_f + 1) \left[ j_f \tau_f m_f \mathbf{J}_2 \right]
\end{array} \right\}
\]  

(10)

We note that with our new formalism, the main tasks to calculate N\(_2\)-broadened half-widths for H\(_2\)O lines are evaluations of several dozens of the correlations \( F_{L_2 K_1 K_2}(t) \) labeled by a set of numbers consisting of one tensor rank \( K_1 \) with two subsidiary indices \( K_1 \), another tensor rank \( L_2 \) for N\(_2\) [4]. Because N\(_2\) is a diatomic molecule, \( L_2 \) must be even. Thus, the number of sets is determined by the upper limits of \( L_1 \) and \( L_2 \). If one chooses the II R representation to develop the H\(_2\)O wave functions where the two \( \mathbf{H} \) atoms are symmetrically located in the molecular-fixed frame, values of \( K_1 \) and \( K_1^1 \) must also be even. Due to symmetries, some of the correlation functions are identical. For example, the four correlations labeled by \( (220), (22\bar{2}), (\bar{2}2\bar{2}) \) and \( (\bar{2}20) \) are identical. One can conveniently express this symmetry by \( F_{L_2 K_1 K_2}(t) \). In addition, there is another exchange symmetry between \( K_1 \) and \( K_1^1 \) in the correlation functions. Thus, the number of the correlations required to be evaluated can be reduced significantly.

Finally, as shown in Equations (9) and (10), the expressions for \( \text{Re} S_{2, \text{outer}, i}(r_c) \), \( \text{Re} S_{2, \text{outer}, f}(r_c) \), and \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) are given by summations of contributions from individual correlations. As a result, among all correlations how important the individual correlation is depends on how large its magnitude is. For a specified correlation, the asymptotic behaviour of its magnitude as \( r_c \to \infty \) is well defined. In general, \( (1000), (1002), (22|2|0), (22|\bar{2}|2) \) have large magnitudes and at \( r_c \to \infty \) they vary as \( r_c^m \) with \( m = -14, -8, -16, \) and \( -10 \). respectively. In the present study, we will focus our attention on these correlations.
4. Theoretical tools in analyzing calculated half-widths

4.1. Harmonic expansions appearing in $S_{2,\text{outer},j(r_c)}$ and $S_{2,\text{outer},\tilde{j}(r_c)}$

In the process of deriving Equation (9) for Re$\{S_{2,\text{outer},j(r_c)}\}$ from Equation (7), there is an intermediate expression for $S_{2,\text{outer},j(r_c)}$ such that

$$S_{2,\text{outer},j(r_c)} = \sum_{L_1, K_1, L_2} \int_0^\infty dt \, W^{(a)}_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i; L_1 K_1) \times D(j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i; L_1 K_1) e^{i\omega_{\alpha}(j, \tilde{j}) t}, \quad (11)$$

where two functions are defined by

$$W^{(a)}_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i) = \sum_{j', \tilde{j}'} (2j'_1 + 1)D(j, j'_1 | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i; L_1 K_1) \times D(j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i; L_1 K_1) e^{i\omega_{\alpha}(j, \tilde{j}) t}, \quad (12)$$

and

$$W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t) = \sum_{j, \tilde{j}} (2j + 1)(2\tilde{j} + 1)\rho_j \times C^2(j, \tilde{j} | L_2, 000)e^{i\omega_{\beta} t}, \quad (13)$$

respectively. It is worth mentioning that the correlation functions $F_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j})$ and $W^{(a)}_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i; L_1 K_1)$ are independent of these. On the other hand, $F_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j})$ and $W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$ are common for all lines. Meanwhile, the functions $W^{(a)}_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j})$ associated with $j'$ and $\tilde{j}'$ and their partners associated with $j$ and $\tilde{j}$ are only factors depending on the line of interest. They contain all information necessary to distinguish different amounts of contributions to the half-width of individual lines from the correlations to be considered.

It turns out that in Equations (12) and (13), both $W^{(a)}_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i)$ and $W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$ are given in terms of harmonic expansions. Although these two functions are not periodic, their forms are very similar to the usual Fourier series. Thus, we borrow the concept of the Fourier series here. For later convenience, we rewrite Equation (12) as

$$W^{(a)}_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i) = \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j}) e^{i\omega_{\alpha}(j, \tilde{j}) t}, \quad (14)$$

where the summation index $\alpha$ represents a selected combination of $j'_1$ and $\tilde{j}'_1$ in Equation (12), $\omega_{\alpha}(j, \tilde{j})$ stands for $\omega_{j'_1, \tilde{j}'_1}$, and $A_{\alpha}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j})$ is defined by

$$A_{\alpha}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j}) = (2j'_1 + 1)D(j, j'_1 | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i; L_1 K_1)D(j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i; L_1 K_1). \quad (15)$$

As usual, the ‘Fourier series’ of $W^{(a)}_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i)$ are given by a set of components consisting of two values of $\omega_{\alpha}(j, \tilde{j})$ and $A_{\alpha}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j})$. The total number of components equals how many choices of $\alpha$, and in general, there are several dozens of components. Fortunately, as shown later, there are only a few strong ones because many components are very weak.

Equations (A-2) and (15), one can show that

$$\sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j}) = (2L_1 + 1)\delta_{K'_1, K_1}. \quad (16)$$

The summation of $A_{\alpha}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j})$ over all $\alpha$ equals to $2L_1 + 1$ if $K_1 = K'_1$ or equals to 0 if $K_1 \neq K'_1$. We note that the above discussion is also applicable for analysing Re$S_{2,\text{outer},j(r_c)}$ where the ‘Fourier series’ of $W^{(a)}_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i)$ are introduced.

Similarly, we can rewrite Equation (13) as

$$W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t) = \sum_{\beta} B_{\beta}(L_2)e^{i\omega_{\beta} t}, \quad (17)$$

where the summation index $\beta$ represents a selected pair of $j_2$ and $\tilde{j}_2$, $\omega_{\beta}$ stands for $\omega_{j_2, \tilde{j}_2}$, and $B_{\beta}(L_2)$ is given by

$$B_{\beta}(L_2) = (2j_2 + 1)(2\tilde{j}_2 + 1)\rho_{j_2} C^2(j_2, \tilde{j}_2; L_2, 000). \quad (18)$$

Meanwhile, it is easy to show that the total intensity of the ‘Fourier series’ of $W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$ is equal to $2L_2 + 1$. In contrast with $A_{\alpha}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j})$ which are independent of the temperature, the ‘Fourier series’ of $W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$ depends slightly on the temperature.

Furthermore, by combining Equation (14) and Equation (17), we have

$$W^{(a)}_{L_1, K_1, K'_1}(t; j, \tilde{j} | \tau_i, \tilde{\tau}_i)W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t) = \sum_{\alpha} \sum_{\beta} A_{\alpha}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j})B_{\beta}(L_2)e^{i\omega_{\alpha}(j, \tilde{j}) t} \times E_{\gamma}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j})e^{i\omega_{\gamma} t}, \quad (19)$$

where $\gamma$ is a simple notation for a set of $j_2$, $\tilde{j}_2$, $j'_2$, $\omega_{\gamma}(j, \tilde{j}) = \omega_{j, \tilde{j}; j'_2} + \omega_{j'_2}$, and $E_{\gamma}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j}) = A_{\alpha}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j})B_{\beta}(L_2)$. After having the expressions for $E_{\gamma}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j})$ and $\omega_{\gamma}(j, \tilde{j})$ available and knowing all accessible choices of $\gamma$, one can simply rewrite Re$S_{2,\text{outer},j(r_c)}$ as

$$\text{Re}S_{2,\text{outer},j(r_c)} = \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{L_1, K_1, L_2} \sum_{\gamma} E_{\gamma}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j}) \times H_{L_1, K_1, K'_1; j, \tilde{j}}, \quad (20)$$

This expression clearly shows for an H$_2$O line of interest, how contributions to the Re$S_{2,\text{outer},j(r_c)}$ term from individual correlations are calculated. First of all, one determines a set of pairs $E_{\gamma}(L_1 K_1 K'_1; j, \tilde{j})$ and
\( \omega_j(j;t,\tau) \) with all accessible choices of the \( \gamma \). We note that in contrast with the correlations that are common for all \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) lines and depend on the interaction and trajectory models, this set of pairs depends on the line of interest but is independent of the interaction and trajectory models. In the next step, for an individual correlation, one picks up values of its Fourier transform \( H_{L_1K_1K_1'}L_1(\omega) \) at \( \omega = \omega_j(j,t) \), multiplies the latter by the corresponding values of \( E_j(L_1K_1K_1'L_2;j,t) \), and adds up all the results to obtain the total contributions from this correlation. One then repeats the above step for each of the correlations, and finally one adds up contributions from all correlations to obtain the final result.

### 4.2. General properties of the ‘Fourier series’ of \( W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)}(t;j,t) \)

We outline some properties of \( W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)}(t;j,t) \) that are very helpful in calculating contributions to \( \text{Res}_{2,\text{outer},f(r_c)} \) and \( \text{Res}_{2,\text{outer},f(r_c)} \) from the correlations. For simplicity, as long as their arguments are not involved in discussions, \( W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)}(t;j,t) \) is simplified to \( W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)} \). First of all, it is obvious that there is an exchange symmetry between \( K_1 \) and \( K_1' \) such that

\[
W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)} = W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)}.
\]

(21)

Secondly, based on the fact that there is a symmetry property for the product of \( U_{k't}^j \) and \( U_{k't}^j \)

\[
U_{k't}^j U_{k't}^j = \delta_{kk} U_{k't}^j U_{k't}^j
\]

(22)

that is valid no matter which sub-blocks (\( E^+ \), \( E^- \), \( O^+ \), and \( O^- \)) the wave functions of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) states belong. With this symmetry property, one can show that

\[
W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)} = W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)}.
\]

(23)

As a result, we know that some of \( W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)} \) with different \( K_1 \) and \( K_1' \) are identical. For example, \( W_{222}^{(a)} = W_{2-2-2-2}^{(a)} \), \( W_{220}^{(a)} = W_{202}^{(a)} = W_{2-20}^{(a)} = W_{20-2}^{(a)} \), and so on.

On the other hand, the four correlations \( (2220) \), \( (2-2-20) \), \( (22-20) \) and \( (2-220) \) are identical and the other four correlations \( (2222) \), \( (2-2-22) \), \( (22-22) \) and \( (2-222) \) are identical. Then, from Equation (11) one can conclude that contributions to \( S_{2,\text{outer},f(r_c)} \) and \( S_{2,\text{outer},f(r_c)} \) from the correlations \( (2220) \) and \( (2-2-20) \) are the same because not only \( W_{222}^{(a)} = W_{2-22}^{(a)} \), but also these two correlations are identical. Among the eight correlations listed above, similar conclusions are true for the pair of \( (2222) \) and \( (2-2-22) \), \( (22-20) \) and \( (2-220) \), and \( (22-22) \) and \( (2-222) \). There are many similar identities valid for other correlations. Based on these identity properties, one is able to significantly reduce CPU times required when performing numerical calculations for the half-widths of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) lines.

Besides, with Equation (16) one knows that a summation of \( A_q(L_1K_1K_1';j,t) \) over all \( n \) equals to \( 2L_1 + 1 \) if \( K_1 = K_1' \) or equals to 0 if \( K_1 \neq K_1' \). For example, the total intensity of the spectrum for \( W_{222}^{(a)} \) is 5, meanwhile the summation of the Fourier series of \( W_{2-22}^{(a)} \) is zero. For the latter, the summations over its positive coefficients and over its negative ones are equal to 2.5 and \(-2.5\), respectively. This implies that when contributions to \( S_{2,\text{outer},f(r_c)} \) and \( S_{2,\text{outer},f(r_c)} \) from the correlations \( (22-20) \) are added up, significant cancelations would happen between the positive and negative coefficients associated with \( W_{2-22}^{(a)} \). As a result, the net contributions from \( (22-20) \) are dramatically reduced. Numerical results show that in comparison with \( (2220) \), the contributions from \( (22-20) \) are several times smaller. Given the fact that these two correlations are completely identical, it is the different properties of \( W_{222}^{(a)} \) and \( W_{2-22}^{(a)} \) that play crucial roles here in determining which one is dominant. With respect to other correlations, similar conclusions are also true. Based on these conclusions, one knows which correlations are important and which are not. This is helpful in our quantitative analyses.

### 4.3. Spectra of \( W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)}(\omega;j,t) \)

In order to exploit the benefits of the ‘Fourier series’ of \( W_{L_1K_1K_1'}^{(a)}(t;j,t) \) and to exhibit their intrinsic properties, one examines how they vary with members within the sets of paired states defined previously in analyzing the energy levels and the wave functions. According to definitions of the sets, states belonging to the same sets are paired with their partners and each of the pairs is distinguished by one parameter (i.e., the quantum number \( j \)). Then, by applying the knowledge on the D matrices developed in Section A-2 of the Appendix, one can predict that there are identities between spectra associated with two paired states in the same sets, and one can also expect that these distribution patterns would vary smoothly as the pairs of interest vary.

We choose \( W_{100}^{(a)}(t;j,t) \) as an example. In calculating contributions to \( \text{Re} S_{2,\text{outer},f(r_c)} \) or \( \text{Re} S_{2,\text{outer},f(r_c)} \), these spectra are the most important ones because the correlations \( (1000) \) and \( (1002) \) associated with them are the largest among all the correlations. First of all, we consider the sets of two paired states \( j_0 j_1 j_2 \) and \( j_{-n} j_{n+1} j_2 \) with \( j = j_0 j_1 j_2 \) and \( j_{-n} j_{n+1} j_2 \) where
transitions for the H\textsubscript{2}O molecule.

$$\tau_1 = j - 2n$$ and $$\tau_2 = j - 2n - 1$$. The former is a two-dimensional array constructed by $$a_{j'j'_{0}}$$ and $$A_{j'j'_{0}}(100; j\tau_1)$$ with $$j'$$ and $$j'_{0}$$ (or $$j', k_{a}$$, and $$k'_{c}$$) running over all allowed selections where the expression for $$A_{j'j'_{0}}(100; j\tau_1)$$ is given by

$$A_{j'j'_{0}}(100; j\tau_1) = (2j' + 1)|D(j_{j-n,n}; j'_{0}; 10)|^2.$$  \hspace{1cm} (24)

Meanwhile, the latter is an array constructed by $$a_{j'j'_{0}}$$ and $$A_{j'j'_{0}}(100; j\tau_2)$$ with $$j'$$ and $$j'_{0}$$ over all allowed selections where $$A_{j'j'_{0}}(100; j\tau_2)$$ is given by

$$A_{j'j'_{0}}(100; j\tau_2) = (2j' + 1)|D(j_{j-n,n}; j'_{0}; 10)|^2.$$  \hspace{1cm} (25)

Because the two original states $$j_{j-n,n}$$ and $$j_{j-n,n+1}$$ differ from each other only by $$k_{c} = n$$ and $$k_{c} = n + 1$$, their non-zero coupling partners determined by the selection rule must have the same $$j'$$ and $$k'_{c}$$, but with different $$k'_{c}$$ values differing by 1. For example, as one picks a subsidiary state $$j_{j-n,n+1}$$ with $$j' = j + 1$$ from the allowed coupling list for the original state $$j_{j-n,n}$$, one can find its corresponding subsidiary one $$j'_{n-n,n}$$ appearing in the allowed coupling list for the original state $$j_{j-n,n+1}$$. It is obvious that these two subsidiary states $$j_{j-n,n}$$ and $$j_{j-n,n+1}$$ are paired states. Thus, one can conclude that the two $$D$$ matrices $$D(j_{j-n,n}; j'_{0}, j_{n+1}; 10)$$ and

$$D(j_{j-n,n+1}; j'_{0}, j_{n+1}; 10)$$ which appear in Equations (24) and (25), respectively, are paired also. Besides, the energy difference between the original $$j_{j-n,n}$$ and its coupling $$j'_{n-n,n+1}$$ approximately equals to the difference between the original $$j_{n-n,n+1}$$ and its coupling $$j'_{n-n,n}$$ This implies that the ‘Fourier series’ of $$W_{100}^{(a)}(t; j\tau)$$ associated with $$j_{j-n,n}$$ and that associated with $$j_{n-n,n+1}$$ have one identical component. By extending this discussion to other allowed couplings in their lists, one can conclude that these two paired states almost share identical components. Similar discussions can be carried out for the sets of pairs $$j_{j-n,n}$$ and $$j_{n+1,j-n,n}$$ with $$n = 0, 1, \ldots$$. In summary, one should expect that any pairs of the states whose $$j$$ values are above $$j_{ba}$$ should share identity ‘Fourier series’.

Concerning the analysis of how the spectra would vary with pairs within the same sets, one has to rely on plotting calculated spectra. For better visualization, one can consider the ‘Fourier series’ of $$W_{100}^{(a)}(t; j\tau)$$ as spectra $$W_{100}^{(a)}(\omega; j\tau)$$ consisting of many components. Each of their components can be imaged as a harmonics with $$\omega_{0}(j\tau)$$ and $$A_{0}(100; j\tau)$$ as its frequency and intensity. We would like to note that the terms of the spectrum and intensity are used here in describing the ‘Fourier series’ of $$W_{100}^{(a)}(t; j\tau)$$. Readers should not confuse these with those in describing resonance transitions for the H\textsubscript{2}O molecule.

In the following, we select several different sets of the pairs and calculate their spectra of $$W_{100}^{(a)}(\omega; j\tau)$$.

In Figure 4(a–c), we present the spectra for three sets of $$\{j_{ij}, j_{ij+1}\}$$, $$\{j_{ij-1}, j_{ij-2}\}$$, and $$\{j_{ij-2}, j_{ij-3}\}$$ with $$j = j_{ba}$$ whose $$k_{a}$$ values are the maximum or closer to the maximum and whose wave functions are plotted in Figure 2. In the plots, only $$j$$ values of the pairs are explicitly provided. Based on these $$j$$ values and definitions of the symbols in the plots, one can easily determine to which of the states the spectra belong. As shown in Figure 4(a–c), there are three or four branches consisting of main components from different states. By comparing the spectra between two paired states, one can conclude that their spectra are almost identical because two symbols $$\square$$ and $$\times$$ are always overlapped. The higher the $$j$$ is, the more identical their spectra. In addition, by looking at structures of the branches one can find that their patterns are well organized. This reflects the fact that their spectra vary very smoothly as $$j$$ varies. Finally, by comparing the plots associated with the different sets, one can conclude that different sets have different spectral distributions. It is worth reiterating that the above claims are valid only for those states whose $$j$$ values are above certain boundaries $$j_{ba}$$ and the later depend on the sets of interest.

Similarly, in Figure 5(a–c) we present the spectral distributions for another three sets of pairs $$\{j_{0}, j_{1}, j_{2}\}$$, $$\{j_{1}, j_{0}, j_{1}, j_{1}\}$$, and $$\{j_{2}, j_{0}, j_{2}, j_{1}\}$$ whose $$k_{a}$$ values are the maximum or close to it and whose wave functions are plotted in Figure 3. We don’t repeat the discussion and conclusions here because they are the same as those for the previous three sets. In summary, there are spectrum pair identities and spectrum pattern similarities within the sets defined previously.

There are several others of $$W_{L_{1},K_{1},K_{0}}^{(a)}(\omega; j\tau)$$ with different choices of $$L_{1}, K_{1},$$ and $$K_{0}$$ we expect that they could differ from each other dramatically. For example, the spectra of $$W_{L_{2},K_{0}}^{(a)}(\omega; j\tau)$$ contain components with either positive or negative intensities such that its total intensity is zero. However, we believe that the pair identity and smooth variation features in describing $$W_{100}^{(a)}(\omega; j\tau)$$ within the same sets should remain valid for them also because these features result from the same sources: the properties of the energy levels and the wave functions.

4.4. The ‘Fourier series’ of $$W_{L_{2}}^{(b)}(\omega)$$

We now present profiles of the ‘Fourier series’ of $$W_{L_{2}}^{(b)}(\omega)$$ with $$L_{2} = 0, 2, \ldots$$ which are common for all H\textsubscript{2}O lines. It is obvious that the ‘Fourier series’ of $$W_{L_{2}}^{(b)}(\omega)$$ consists of only one term with its magnitude equals to 1 and $$\omega = 0$$. Next, we consider the ‘Fourier series’ of $$W_{L_{2}}^{(c)}(\omega)$$ which is the most important one among all $$W_{L_{2}}^{(b)}(\omega)$$ and
present its spectrum at $T = 296$ K in Figure 6. As shown in the figure, the spectra consists of many components, but the one located at $\omega = 0$ is overwhelmingly larger than the others.

4.5. Samples of the ‘Fourier series’ of $W^{(a)}_{L_1K_1K_01}(t; \omega, j)$

We now consider spectra associated with the ‘Fourier series’ of $W^{(a)}_{L_1K_1K_01}(t; \omega, j)$ $W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$. We note that although $W^{(a)}_{L_1K_1K_01}(t; \omega, j)$ are independent of the temperature, but $W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$ depends on the temperature slightly. As a result, the ‘Fourier series’ of $W^{(a)}_{L_1K_1K_01}(t; j) W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$ would vary slightly with $T$ also.

First of all, it is obvious that the spectra associated with $W^{(a)}_{L_1K_1K_01}(t; j) W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$ are the same as that of $W^{(a)}_{L_1K_1K_01}(\omega; j)$ because the spectrum associated with $W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$ consists of only one component located at $\omega = 0$ with a unit intensity. With respect to the spectra for $W^{(a)}_{L_1K_1K_01}(t; j) W^{(b)}_{L_2}(t)$, one expects their main patterns
are similar to that of \( W^{(a)}_{LJK} (\omega; \nu) \) because the dominant component of \( W^{(b)}_{L} (\omega) \) is located at \( \omega = 0 \) and its other components are weak.

In order to demonstrate this claim more clearly, we present the spectra of \( W^{(a)}_{LJK} (\omega; \nu) \) for two paired states \( 100, 10 \) and \( 101, 10 \) in Figure 7. As shown by the figure, their spectra contain two major components accounting for 90.7% of the total intensity and one minor one. Then, we present the spectra of the ‘Fourier series’ \( W^{(a)}_{LJK} (\omega; \nu) \) for them in Figure 8. By comparing Figures 7 and 8, it is clear that the whole spectra share the main features of \( W^{(a)}_{LJK} (\omega; \nu) \), but have more small structures due to co-adding many weak components in \( W^{(b)}_{L} (\omega) \).

In the present study, we want to investigate why and how the calculated half-widths vary with lines of interest. Because the Fourier transforms \( H_{LJK} (\omega) \) are common for all lines, the ‘Fourier series’ of \( W^{(a)}_{LJK} (\omega; \nu) \) contain all the information necessary to distinguish contributions to \( \text{Re} S_{2, \text{o user}, i} (\nu) \) and \( \text{Re} S_{2, \text{o user}, f} (\nu) \) for different H2O lines. Given the fact that the spectra of \( W^{(b)}_{L} (\omega) \) are independent of lines,
the only factor to distinguish contributions for individual lines of $j_f, \tau_f \rightarrow j_i, \tau_i$ are their spectra of $W_{L, K, K'}^{(l)}(\omega; j_f, ...)$ and $W_{L, K, K'}^{(r)}(\omega; j_f, ...).$ In addition, we have shown these spectra represent main features of the whole spectra well. Thus, we believe all results and conclusions obtained from analysing $W_{L, K, K'}^{(l)}(\omega; j_f, ...)$ are similar to those that would be derived if the entire spectra were taken into account. Thus, in the following analyses we only focus on the spectra of $W_{L, K, K'}^{(l)}(\omega; j_f, ...)$.

Alternatively, one can argue that among all possible choices of $\omega_{j_f j_i},$ many of them are zero. For those remaining, one can assume $|\omega_{j_f j_i}| \ll |\omega_{j_f j_i}|$ because the rotational constant of the $N_2$ molecule is small.
Given by the simpler spectra

\[ \omega_a(jr) = \omega_{n\gamma} + \omega_{\beta \gamma} \]

Equation (20) can be simplified as

\[ \text{Re} S_{2,\text{outer}}(r_c) \approx \sqrt{2} \sum_{L_i K_i L_2} (2L_2 + 1) \times \sum_a A_a(L_i K_i K_i' j \tau_i) H_{L_1 K_1 L_1}(\omega_a(j \tau_i)). \] (26)

Therefore, we have demonstrated that one can use the simpler spectra \( W_{100}^{(a)}(t; j \tau) \) to analyze contributions to \( \text{Re} S_{2,\text{outer}}(r_c) \) and \( \text{Re} S_{2,\text{outer},f}(r_c) \). In comparison with Equation (20), the number of choices for the \( \alpha \) in Equation (26) is much smaller than that for the \( \gamma \).

### 4.6. The term of \( S_{2,\text{middle}}(r_c) \)

With respect to \( S_{2,\text{middle}}(r_c) \), it can be expressed as

\[ S_{2,\text{middle}}(r_c) = \sum_{L_i K_i L_2} P_{L_i K_i K_i}(j \tau \tau_i) \times \lim_{t \to +\infty} dt W_{2,0}^{(b)}(t)L_{1} K_{1} L_{1}(t) \]

\[ = \sqrt{2\pi} \sum_{L_i K_i L_2} P_{L_i K_i K_i}(j \tau \tau_i) B_{L_i K_i K_i L_i}(r_c). \] (27)

In the above expression, \( P_{L_i K_i K_i}(j \tau \tau_i) \) and \( B_{L_i K_i K_i L_i}(r_c) \) are defined by

\[ P_{L_i K_i K_i}(j \tau \tau_i) = (-1)^L \langle i \mid 2L + 1 \rangle W_{100}(j \tau \tau_i; 1 L_1) \times D(j \tau \tau_i; L_1 K_1 D(j \tau \tau_i; L_1 K_1), \] (28)

\[ B_{L_i K_i K_i L_i}(r_c) = \sum_{\beta \beta \gamma} (2L + 1)(2L + 1) \rho_{\beta} \times C^2(j \tau \tau_i; 0 0 0) H_{L_1 K_1 L_1}(\omega_{\beta \gamma}) \]

\[ = \sum_{\beta \rho} B_{\beta}(L_2) H_{L_1 K_1 L_1}(\omega_{\beta \rho}). \] (29)

respectively. In comparison with the expressions for \( \text{Re} S_{2,\text{outer},f}(r_c) \) in Equation (20), the expression for \( S_{2,\text{middle}}(r_c) \) in Equation (27) is simpler because it is a product of two factors which are not interwoven. The factor of \( B_{L_i K_i K_i L_i}(r_c) \) is a function of \( r_c \) and it is common for all lines. In contrast, the factor of \( P_{L_i K_i K_i}(j \tau \tau_i) \) is a constant and its value depends on the line of interest. Thus, with respect to a specified correlation, how its contributions to \( S_{2,\text{middle}}(r_c) \) would vary as \( r_c \) varies depends only on \( B_{L_i K_i K_i L_i}(r_c) \), and meanwhile the magnitude for the line \( j \tau \tau_i \rightarrow j \tau \tau_i \) would be proportional to the value of \( F_{L_i K_i K_i}(j \tau \tau_i) \).

As mentioned previously, similar to \( \text{Re} S_{2,\text{outer},f}(r_c) \) and \( \text{Re} S_{2,\text{outer},f}(r_c) \), contributions to \( S_{2,\text{middle}}(r_c) \) from individual correlations are also additive. It is not clear how to simplify this expression further.
difficult to show there are no contributions to \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) from correlations with odd \( L_1 \) because the matrix elements \( D(jtr; LK) \) are zero. In fact, with Equation (22) one can show that

\[
D(jtr; LK) = (-1)^{L+K} D(jtr; LK). \tag{30}
\]

Because we use the II R representation to describe the wave functions of H\(_2\)O, the indices \( K_1 \) and \( K_1' \) of the correlations must be even. As a result, Equation (30) means that \( D(jtr; LK) \) are zero unless \( L \) is even. Therefore, we know that there are no contributions to \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) from all the correlations with odd \( L_1 \) values.

At this stage we would like to discuss the symmetries associated with \( P_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(r_c) \) and \( B_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(r_c) \). First of all, with Equation (22) one can also show that

\[
D(jtr; L-K) = D(jtr; LK). \tag{31}
\]

Based on this one can conclude that, as long as \( |K_1| \) remains the same, the values of \( P_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(r_c) \) associated with different \( K_1 \) are identical. The same conclusion is also true for \( K_1^{'} \). One can conveniently express this symmetry as \( P_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(O_{nm}) \). However, there is no exchange symmetry between \( K_1 \) and \( K_1^{'} \) in \( P_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(r_c) \).

Secondly, we discuss symmetry properties of \( B_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(r_c) \). With Equation (29), one can conclude that symmetries of \( B_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(r_c) \) are determined by \( H_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(O_{nm}) \) and the latter’s are the same as those of the correlation function. Therefore, we know that \( B_{2220}(r_c) = B_{2-2-20}(r_c) = B_{2-220}(r_c) \) and \( B_{2222}(r_c) = B_{2-222}(r_c) = B_{22-22}(r_c) = B_{2222}(r_c) \). Similarly, one can express this symmetry as \( B_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(O_{nm}) \). In addition, there is an exchange symmetry between \( K_1 \) and \( K_1^{'} \) in \( B_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(r_c) \).

Finally, it is worth mentioning here that with respect to making contributions to \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \), correlations with \( K_1 \neq K_1^{'} \) and \( K_1 = K_1^{'} \) are comparable. This contrasts with \( S_{2, \text{outer},r}(r_c) \) and \( S_{2, \text{outer},f}(r_c) \) where correlations with \( K_1 \neq K_1^{'} \) are much less important than those with \( K_1 = K_1^{'} \). As a result, in comparison with \( S_{2, \text{outer},r}(r_c) \) and \( S_{2, \text{outer},f}(r_c) \), how important \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) is would depend on whether \( K_1 = K_1^{'} \) or \( K_1 
eq K_1^{'} \) for the correlation to be considered. In general, \( S_{2, \text{outer},r}(r_c) \) and \( S_{2, \text{outer},f}(r_c) \) are larger than \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \), but this may not be true for correlations with \( K_1 
eq K_1^{'} \).

### 4.7. Simplification in evaluating \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \)

It turns out that among all \( B_{L_1,K_1,K_1^{'}L_2}(r_c) \), the most important ones are \( B_{2220}(r_c) \) and \( B_{2222}(r_c) \). Then, one can adopt a simpler approximate formula to calculate \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \)

\[
S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) = 4\sqrt{2}\pi P_{222}(j_{1}, j_{2}, j_{3})B_{2222}(r_c) + B_{2222}(r_c), \tag{32}
\]

where the factor of 4 appearing on the right side of Equation (32) results from the four identical contributions for each \( B_{2220}(r_c) \) and \( B_{2222}(r_c) \). From Equation (32) one can draw two important conclusions about \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \). First, the pattern of \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) (i.e., as a function of \( r_c \) as it varies) is mainly determined by \( B_{2220}(r_c) + B_{2222}(r_c) \). Second, for specified H\(_2\)O lines their contributions to \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) are roughly proportional to values of \( F_{222}(j_{ij}j_{ij}j_{ij}) \). Thus, with these values, one is able to easily judge which lines would have large magnitudes of \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) and which lines would have small ones. Therefore, values of \( F_{222}(j_{ij}j_{ij}j_{ij}) \) play a crucial role to distinguish \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) for different lines.

Based on the potential model used in updating HITRAN 2008 [17], the 20th order cut-off and the ‘exact’ trajectory model, we have derived the function of \( 4\sqrt{2}\pi [B_{2220}(r_c) + B_{2222}(r_c)] \) at \( T = 220, 296, \) and 340 K and present results in Figure 9. As shown in the figure, values of \( 4\sqrt{2}\pi [B_{2220}(r_c) + B_{2222}(r_c)] \) decrease as \( r_c \), increases from the starting point \( r_{c, \text{min}} \). Meanwhile, by comparing its magnitudes at different temperatures, one can conclude that the magnitudes slightly decrease as \( T \) increases.

On the other hand, one can easily evaluate values of \( P_{222}(j_{ij}j_{ij}j_{ij}) \) for all H\(_2\)O lines of the pure rotational band listed in HITRAN from Equation (28). In contrast with \( 4\sqrt{2}\pi [B_{2220}(r_c) + B_{2222}(r_c)] \), \( P_{222}(j_{ij}j_{ij}j_{ij}) \) is a constant, it does not depend on the temperature, and its values are independent of the potential and trajectory models used in calculations. When values of \( P_{222}(j_{ij}j_{ij}j_{ij}) \) for all H\(_2\)O lines are available, it becomes very easy to obtain the corresponding \( S_{2, \text{middle}}(r_c) \) terms approximately for individual lines of interest because one only needs to multiply \( 4\sqrt{2}\pi [B_{2220}(r_c) + B_{2222}(r_c)] \) by their \( P_{222}(j_{ij}j_{ij}j_{ij}) \) values.

In order to exhibit intrinsic properties of \( P_{222}(j_{ij}j_{ij}j_{ij}) \), one needs to calculate values for lines belonging to the individually defined groups. In Section 5, we will provide their definitions in detail. At present, we only note that each of the groups consists of a set of paired lines in a specified branch. As an example, we choose three groups, \{\( j_{1,0,0} \leftarrow j_{1,1,1}, j_{1,1,1} \leftarrow j_{1,0,0} \)\}, \{\( j_{1,1,1} \leftarrow j_{2,1,1}, j_{2,1,1} \leftarrow j_{1,1,1} \)\}, and \{\( j_{0,1,1} \leftarrow j_{2,0,0}, j_{2,0,0} \leftarrow j_{0,1,1} \)\} in the \( R \) branch of the pure rotational band and present their calculated values in Figure 10. As shown in the figure, for two paired lines whose \( j \) values are not less than either of
the $j_{fi}$ associated with their initial and final states, their $P_{222}(j_f \tau_f | j_i \tau_i)$ values are always identical. More specifically, for these three groups, as long as their members’ $j_i$ values are above 7, 10, and 15, respectively, their paired lines have identical $P_{222}(j_f \tau_f | j_i \tau_i)$ values. Meanwhile, by looking at how their values vary as the pair of interest varies within the same groups, one can conclude that the variations with $j_i$ are very smooth. Finally, by comparing values of $P_{222}(j_f \tau_f | j_i \tau_i)$ with the same $j_i$ among different
groups, one can conclude the values could change dramatically.

As another example, we present results of $P_{222}(j_f j_l j_l)$ for three groups $\{j_{fj_1}, j_{fj_2}, j_{fj_3}\}$ with $j_i = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$. In this group, two lines with the same $j_i$ are called paired lines because their final states $j_{fj_1}, j_{fj_2}, j_{fj_3}$ are paired partners in the same set and their initial states $j_{iL}, j_{iM}, j_{iT}$ are also paired partners in the same set. In this group, the pairs of lines are determined by only one variable $j_i$ and the interesting pairs are those with $j_i$ above the boundary $j_{bs} = 7$. Due to similar properties shared by their energy levels and wave functions, one expects that their calculated N$_2$-broadened half-widths must somehow follow a similarity too. In fact, for each of the paired lines in this group we have explicitly shown the spectra $W^{(\omega)}(\omega, j_r)$ associated with their initial and final states in Figure 5(a) and provided their values of $P_{222}(j_f j_l j_l)$ in Figure 10. Given the fact that the former mainly determine their $S_2,_{\text{outer}}(r_c)$ and $S_2,_{\text{outer}}(r_c)$ terms and the latter determine their $S_2,_{\text{middle}}(r_c)$, one can be pretty sure that their half-widths must have similar properties. More specifically, as long as $j_i \geq 7$, the paired lines in this group should have the same half-width values. In addition, these values should vary smoothly with the pairs.

In order to demonstrate this claim, we present calculated Re$S_2(r_c)$ at $T = 296$ K for lines with $j_i = 7, 8, \ldots, 19$ in this group in Figure 12. The calculations are carried out with the modified RB formalism

5. Categorizations of H$_2$O lines and profiles of Re$S_2(r_c)$ for lines within the same groups

We have shown that by dividing H$_2$O states into the sets of paired states, there are the pair identity and smooth variation properties applicable for the energy levels, the wave functions, and the spectra $W^{(\omega)}(\omega, j_r)$ of states belonging to the same sets. This knowledge provides a useful hint for how to divide the H$_2$O lines into groups such that for lines in the same groups their calculated N$_2$ broadened half-widths have similar properties. It is obvious that in specifying the lines, one has to categorize their initial and final states simultaneously. First of all, in order to reduce one variable from $j_i$ and $j_f$, one divides lines into the $P$, $Q$, and $R$ branches. Then, by determining which of the sets of paired states their initial and final states belong to, one categorizes those lines in the same branches.

For example, a group in the $R$ branch $(j_r = j_i + 1)$ consists of a set of pairs of lines $\{j_{iL}, j_{iM}, j_{iT}\}$ with $j_i = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$. In this group, two lines with the same $j_i$ are called paired lines because their final states $j_{iL}, j_{iM}, j_{iT}$ are paired partners in the same set and their initial states $j_{iL}, j_{iM}, j_{iT}$ are also paired partners in the same set. In this group, the pairs of lines are determined by only one variable $j_i$ and the interesting pairs are those with $j_i$ above the boundary $j_{bs} = 7$. Due to similar properties shared by their energy levels and wave functions, one expects that their calculated N$_2$-broadened half-widths must somehow follow a similarity too. In fact, for each of the paired lines in this group we have explicitly shown the spectra $W^{(\omega)}(\omega, j_r)$ associated with their initial and final states in Figure 5(a) and provided their values of $P_{222}(j_f j_l j_l)$ in Figure 10. Given the fact that the former mainly determine their $S_2,_{\text{outer}}(r_c)$ and $S_2,_{\text{outer}}(r_c)$ terms and the latter determine their $S_2,_{\text{middle}}(r_c)$, one can be pretty sure that their half-widths must have similar properties. More specifically, as long as $j_i \geq 7$, the paired lines in this group should have the same half-width values. In addition, these values should vary smoothly with the pairs.

In order to demonstrate this claim, we present calculated Re$S_2(r_c)$ at $T = 296$ K for lines with $j_i = 7, 8, \ldots, 19$ in this group in Figure 12. The calculations are carried out with the modified RB formalism
and based on the potential model used in updating HITRAN 2008 [17]. In addition, 132 correlations have been taken into account and the 'exact' trajectory model was used. As shown in the figure, for each of the pairs their Re$_S$($r_c$) are always identical and the profiles of Re$_S$($r_c$) associated with different $j_i$ values change very smoothly. Based on this, there are pair identity and smooth variation properties for their calculated half-widths because the latter are completely determined by these functions of Re$_S$($r_c$). We will return to this subject latter.

Similarly, one can define other groups in the $R$ branch such as $\{j_{0,n}=j_{1,0,n+1}, j_{1,0,n}=j_{0,n+1}\}$ with $n=1,2,\ldots$. In defining these groups, values of $k_c$ for their initial and final states are closer to the maxima. Meanwhile, we can define groups in the $R$ branch where values of $k_c$ are equal or close to the maxima, such as groups consisting of paired lines $\{j_{ij,-n,n} \leftarrow j_{ij,-n+1,n}, j_{ij,-n+1,n} \leftarrow j_{ij,-n}\}$ with $n=0,1,\ldots$. As long as the selection rule is allowed, more groups based on many other combinations of paired lines are accessible. In addition, there are groups consisting of unpaired lines. For example, $j_{ij,-1,2} \leftarrow j_{ij,0}$ with $j_i=\text{odd}$ are considered as unpaired lines because one cannot find other lines to pair both their final and initial states.

For the $P$ and $Q$ branches, one can perform similar procedures. As another example, we can define a group in the $Q$ branch consisting of a set of paired lines $j_{2,0,j_0} \leftarrow j_{1,0,j_0}$ and $j_{1,0,j_0} \leftarrow j_{0,j_0}$ with $j_0=1,2,\ldots$. We present calculated Re$_S$($r_c$) at $T=296$ K for pairs of lines with $j_i=9,10,\ldots,20$ in this group in Figure 13. As shown in the figure, profiles of these functions of Re$_S$($r_c$) have similar features as the group in the $R$ branch given above.

6. Pair identity and smooth variation rules for the half-widths

After categorizing H$_2$O lines based on properties of energy levels and wave functions of their initial and final states, we are ready to establish rules applicable for the calculated half-widths for lines within individual groups.

We select six groups of lines in the pure rotational band and present their calculated N$_2$-broadened half-widths in Figure 14(a–f). They are three groups of $\{j_{0,j_0} \leftarrow j_{1,j_0}, j_{1,j_0} \leftarrow j_{0,j_0}\}$, $\{j_{1,j_1-1} \leftarrow j_{2,j_1-1}, j_{2,j_1-1} \leftarrow j_{1,j_1-1}\}$, and $\{j_{2,j_2-2} \leftarrow j_{3,j_2-2} \leftarrow j_{2,j_2-1} \}$ in the $R$ branch, two groups of $\{j_{1,j_1-1} \leftarrow j_{2,j_1-1}, j_{2,j_1-1} \leftarrow j_{1,j_1-1}\}$ and $\{j_{2,j_2-2} \leftarrow j_{3,j_2-2} \leftarrow j_{2,j_2-1}\}$ in the $Q$ branch, and one group of $\{j_{2,j_2-2} \leftarrow j_{3,j_2-2} \leftarrow j_{2,j_2-1}\}$ in the $P$ branch. As shown in the figures, paired lines with their $j_i$ values above boundaries in all six groups have almost identical half-widths. In addition, by comparing different pairs in the same groups, their half-widths vary smoothly as their $j_i$ values vary. In general, the boundaries of the groups of lines are determined by...
states with the smallest of \(|k_2 - k_1|\). With Table 2, one can predict these boundaries and they are 7, 10, 13, and 14, respectively. We note that for lines in the \( P \) branch, their \( j_f \) are less than \( j_i \). As a result, the boundary requirement applies for \( j_f \) (i.e. \( j_f \geq 13 \)) and the latter means \( j_i \geq 14 \).

Thus, the pair identity and smooth variation rules applicable for calculated half-widths for lines involving high \( j \) states within the groups can be established. The higher the \( j_i \), the firmer these two rules hold. As explained above, the very origin of these two rules is the properties of the energy levels and the wave functions of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) states. No matter what kinds of potential and trajectory models are used in calculations, theoretically calculated \( \text{N}_2 \)-broadened half-widths must follow these rules.

Furthermore, by scrutinizing the whole process presented above, one cannot find any reason why the analyzing process and the final conclusions described above for the widths are not applicable for calculated pressure-induced shifts. In fact, with the modified RB formalism, the expression for the shift is given by

\[
\delta_{\text{MRB}} = \frac{n_b}{2\pi c} \int_0^{+\infty} v f(v) dv \int_0^{+\infty} 2\pi b \, db \sin(\langle S_1(b) \rangle) \rightleftharpoons \text{Im}(S_2(b))e^{-\text{Re}(S_1(b))}. \tag{33} \]

For lines in the pure rotational band, by replacing the integration over the velocity by the averaged velocity the above expression can be simplified as

\[
\delta_{\text{MRB}} = \frac{n_b}{2\pi c} \int_0^{+\infty} v f(v) dv \int_0^{+\infty} 2\pi b \, db \sin(\langle S_1(b) \rangle) \rightleftharpoons \text{Im}(S_2(b))e^{-\text{Re}(S_1(b))} \, dr_c. \tag{34} \]

Because \( S_{2,\text{middle}}(r_c) \) is real, \( \text{Im}S_2(r_c) \) consists of only two components \( -\text{Im}S_{2,\text{outer},1}(r_c) \) and \( \text{Im}S_{2,\text{outer},2}(r_c) \) where the minus sign of \( \text{Im}S_{2,\text{outer},1}(r_c) \) results from the fact that \( S_2(r_c) = S_{2,\text{outer},1}(r_c) + S_{2,\text{outer},2}(r_c) + S_{2,\text{middle}}(r_c) \) [11]. The expression for \( \text{Im}S_{2,\text{outer},1}(r_c) \) is the same as Equation (9) for \( \text{Re}S_{2,\text{outer},1}(r_c) \) except for a replacement of \( H_{L_1,K_1,L_2}(\omega) \) by the Cauchy principal integrations \( I_{L_1,K_1,L_2}(\omega) \) defined by

\[
I_{L_1,K_1,L_2}(\omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi} P \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \omega \, d\omega' \frac{1}{\omega - \omega'} H_{L_1,K_1,L_2}(\omega'), \tag{35} \]

where \( P \) means the principal part. Similar to the function of \( H_{L_1,K_1,L_2}(\omega) \), \( I_{L_1,K_1,L_2}(\omega) \) are common for all lines. As a result, all the discussions given above are applicable for the calculated shifts and the same two rules must be valid also.

One can extend the discussions to other temperatures for the \( \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{N}_2 \) system. One can carry out similar analysis for other systems involving different perturbers such as \( \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{O}_2 \) and \( \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{H}_2\text{O} \). It seems that there are no any essential differences occurring among these different cases. Therefore, the two rules are not
only applicable for the N₂-broadened half-widths, but also for the air- and self-broadened half-widths and their corresponding temperature exponents.

7. Discussion and conclusions
Based on this understanding acquired in the present study, one can develop useful ways to improve the accuracy of the spectroscopic parameters in databases. First of all, by applying the identity rule to two paired lines, one is able to pick out those values listed in the database that differ appreciably from one another. One can be fairly sure that those data picked out contain large errors or, for instance, came from different theoretical or experimental sources. Meanwhile, by applying the smooth variation rule for lines in the same groups, their individual errors could be partially averaged out using proper smoothing procedures. Thus, one is able to obtain better values with less uncertainty.
For people who are in charge of databases, the present work provides a helpful guide and a useful tool in their developing practices. It is wise to consider that all lines in each of the transition bands belong to a well-organized network. Acting as one member of the network, the half-width value of an individual line is not self-contained because it has to be somehow connected with other values associated with those lines, especially its paired line, who belong to the same group as the line of interest does. The same statement is also true for other spectroscopic parameters. Given the fact that data listed in the databases may come from several independent sources, to take a balance procedure becomes even necessary. Meanwhile, by applying the two rules to each of the groups of lines thoroughly, one can screen the database and identify lines whose half-width values (or other spectroscopic parameters) that behave strangely. These outliers should be carefully checked, or one could consider the option to replace them by smoothed values obtained from their neighboring lines. After removing the errors, they are able to improve the accuracy of the database significantly.

Experimentalists can also use the pair identity and smooth variation rules to check their measured spectroscopic data. If their results scatter wildly, it definitely indicates contaminations or errors existing in their data. In addition, the smooth variation rule provides a sound support and is a useful guide for their developing data smoothing procedures. Again, one has to keep in mind that although the smoothing practice for data with high \( j \) states in the same groups is well justified, one cannot apply it to those lines with low \( j \) states, otherwise the procedures could introduce artificial errors. Finally, with respect to the determination of measurement priorities, it is prudent to choose several lines with high \( j \) in the same group because several good measurements are enough to determine others in the same group. This implies that it is not necessary to measure all lines in the same group for the completeness purpose.

In summary, it is the properties of energy levels and wave functions of the \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) states that play an essential role in establishing the pair identity and the smooth variation rules and these rules reflect natural correlations between the inputs and the outputs for a whole system consisting of an absorber \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) molecule immersed in bath molecules and radiation fields. However, due to the complexity of dynamical processes happening inside the system, these correlations are very difficult to be fully grasped. This implies that it is unrealistic to set as a goal to find common rules with which the outputs can be well monitored from the inputs unless one narrows the variation range of the inputs. Thus, it is the categorization of the \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) lines that enable one to narrow the variation ranges of the inputs first. In fact, after completing the categorization procedures for each of the \( P, Q, \) and \( R \) branches, there is only one independent variable (i.e. the initial quantum number \( j_j \)) left to distinguish lines of interest. Then to establish the rules valid within the individual groups becomes possible. Therefore, these two rules have two characteristics: they are natural, but they are local. Local here means the rules work for each individual groups and are valid only for its members above certain boundaries. Finally, while the present study was carried out in the pure rotational band of \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \), one can extend the study to other \( \text{H}_2\text{O} \) bands and establish similar rules there also. Of course, one has to analyse the properties of the energy levels and wave functions of the states involved in these transitions first.

Acknowledgements

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References


Similarly, we consider the symmetry assignments for the sets of paired states $j_{n,j-n}$ and $j_{n+1,j-n+1}$ where $n=0, 1, \ldots$ whose wave functions in the $III$ $R$ representation are given in Figure 3. In this case, the paired states have the same $k_0$, and their $k_n$ differ from each other by 1. Then, one can conclude that with respect to their wave functions derived in the $III$ $R$ representation, one must be an even function assigned by the superscript $+$ and its partner must be an odd function assigned by the superscript $-$. In terms of their coefficients $U^j_{k_r}$, the conclusion is the same as that for the sets of $j_{n,j-n}$ and $j_{n-1,j-n+1}$ drawn above. In Table A-2, we list the assignments for them. These symmetry properties are important and we will be back to this subject later.

A.2. Important quantities in determining couplings between $H_2O$ states

As shown in Section 4, in the RB formalism there are two quantities which play crucial roles in determining how the Lorentzian half-widths would vary with lines of interest. For two $H_2O$ states $j_1$ and $j_1'$ which can be coupled by the irreducible tensor $L$ and its subsidiary index $K$, the quantities $\omega_{j_1j_1'}$ defined by

$$\omega_{j_1j_1'} = [E^{(H_2O)}(j_1) - E^{(H_2O)}(j_1')] / \hbar$$

(A-1)

represent their energy differences and the quantities $D(j_1j_1'; LK)$ called as the $D$ matrices represent their couplings; and this is defined by

$$D(j_1j_1'; LK) = \sum_k (-1)^j U_{k_r} U_{k_{-r}} C(j_1' L, kK - kK).$$

(A-2)

As shown by Equation (A-1) and (A-2), with the energy levels and the wave functions of these two states, one can easily calculate the energy differences and the $D$ matrices.

However, it turns out that exploiting the properties of these two quantities is fruitful in answering a fundamental question why and how the calculated $N_2$-broadened half-widths and pressure induced shifts would vary with lines of interest. Based on our analysis of the properties of the energy levels and the wave functions of the $H_2O$ described previously, one can find the properties of these two quantities accordingly.

Let us consider two pairs of the states $\{j_\tau_1, j_\tau_2\}$ and $\{j'_\tau_1', j'_\tau_2'\}$. We assume $j_\tau_1$ and $j_\tau_2$ are paired and $j'_\tau_1'$ and $j'_\tau_2'$ are paired. By picking one member from each of the pairs, one gets two combinations, for example, a combination of $j_\tau_1$ and $j'_\tau_1'$ and a combination of $j_\tau_2$ and $j'_\tau_2'$. We assume that the two states in the same combinations can be coupled by $L$ and $K$ where $L$ is the irreducible tensor rank and $K$ is its associated index [4,16], and we would like to compare the energy differences and the $D$ matrices between these two

### Table A-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symmetry assignments for pairs of $j_{n,j-n}$ and $j_{n-1,j-n+1}$ in the $I$ $R$ representation.</th>
<th>$j_{n-1,n}$</th>
<th>$j_{n-1,n+1}$</th>
<th>$j_{n-2,n}$</th>
<th>$j_{n-2,n+1}$</th>
<th>$\ldots$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$j = even$</td>
<td>$E^+$, $E^-$</td>
<td>$O^+$, $O^-$</td>
<td>$E^+$, $E^-$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$j = odd$</td>
<td>$O^+$, $O^-$</td>
<td>$E^+$, $E^-$</td>
<td>$O^+$, $O^-$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table A-2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symmetry assignments for pairs of $j_{n,j-n}$ and $j_{n+1,j-n+1}$ in the $III$ $R$ representation.</th>
<th>$j_{n,j}$</th>
<th>$j_{n-1,j-1}$</th>
<th>$j_{n-2,j-2}$</th>
<th>$j_{n-3,j-3}$</th>
<th>$\ldots$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$j = even$</td>
<td>$E^+$, $E^-$</td>
<td>$O^-$, $O^+$</td>
<td>$E^+$, $E^-$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$j = odd$</td>
<td>$O^-$, $O^+$</td>
<td>$E^+$, $E^-$</td>
<td>$O^-$, $O^+$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
values are negative for even $j$ and positive for odd $j$. In order to show how their magnitudes vary with $j$, we can plot the $D$ matrices for values of $j$ in the range of 1 to 10. As an example, we consider a set of two matrices $D(j\alpha, j'\alpha; LK)$, where $j$ and $j'$ are paired states, and $K$ is the symmetry axis of the H$_2$O molecule. These matrices have been shown to be equal to $D(j\alpha, j'\alpha; LK) = D(j\alpha, j'\alpha; LK)$. In addition, as shown in Section A.1, the evenness or oddness of $U_{jk}$ and $U_{jk'}$ over $K$ must be opposite and this is true for $U_{jk}$ and $U_{jk'}$ also. Thus, it becomes clear that

$$U_{jk}^l U_{jk'}^{l'} \approx U_{jk}^{l'} U_{jk'}^{l},$$

(A-4)

As a result, one can verify Equation (A-5) analytically to obtain

$$D(j\alpha, j'\alpha; LK) = D(j\alpha, j'\alpha; LK).$$

(A-5)

Thus, one can draw an important conclusion that the coupling by $L$ and $K$ between two states approximately equals the coupling between their paired partners. The higher the $j$ is, the more equal these couplings become. We call these non-zero couplings both between two states approximately equal. One has shown that these two are paired $D$ matrices as the paired $D$ matrices later. Besides, there is another interesting feature of the paired $D$ matrices. This feature represents a behavior of their values as $j$ varies. In order to exhibit it, one has to find their values by performing numerical calculations explicitly.

It is worth mentioning that Equation (A-4) is applicable for the coefficients derived accordingly in the I R and III R representation, but not in the II R representation. This implies that we have verified Equation (A-5) analytically in the I R and III R representations, but not in the II R representation. On the other hand, in developing the line shape formalism with the correlation functions described in Section 3, we prefer to choose the II R representation in which the symmetry axis of the H$_2$O molecule lies along the z axis of the molecular fixed frame. With this choice, one is able to exploit more symmetries of H$_2$O to reduce a number of the correlation functions required to be evaluated significantly. Because Equation (A-4) is not valid, to verify Equation (A-5) analytically in the II R representation is not as easy as shown above. In the present study, we do not pursue the analytical verification, rather we carry out numerical verification. In addition, numerical results are needed to exhibit another feature of the paired $D$ matrices.

For later convenience, we rewrite $D(j\alpha, j'\alpha; LK)$ as $D(j\alpha, j'\alpha; LK)$ where $k_a - k_c = \tau$ and $k_a' - k_c' = \tau'$. We note that there are rules to determine whether there are non-zero couplings between states $j\alpha$ and $j\alpha'$ or not. For example, in the II R representation the rule associated with $L = 1$ and $K = 0$ is similar to the selection rule of the H$_2$O transitions: $\Delta j = \pm 1, \Delta k_a = \pm 1, \Delta k_c = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \ldots$, and $\Delta k_c = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \ldots$. The rule for $L = 2$ and $K = 0$ is $\Delta j = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \ldots$, and $\Delta k_c = 0, \pm 2, \pm 4, \ldots$. For other $L$ and $K$ values, the rules become more complicated.

As an example, we consider the sets of two $D$ matrices $D(j\alpha, j'\alpha; LK) = D(j\alpha, j'\alpha; LK)$ where $j = j + 1$. It is obvious that these two are paired $D$ matrices because $j_{\alpha,0}$ of the first $D$ and $j_{\beta,1}$ of the second $D$ are paired states, and $j_{\alpha,2}$ in the first $D$ and $j_{\beta,0}$ in the second $D$ are paired. In addition, there are non-zero couplings both between $j_{\alpha,0}$ and $j_{\beta,1}$ of the first $D$ and between $j_{\alpha,1}$ and $j_{\beta,0}$ of the second $D$. We have calculated these two paired $D$ matrices for values of for $j = 3, \ldots, 26$ and...
found their values are almost identical. However, it turns out that the values are positive for $j = \text{even}$ and become negative for $j = \text{odd}$. In order to show how their magnitudes vary with $j$ more clearly, we plot their calculated magnitudes in Figure A.1. Similarly, we select another two sets $\{D(j_0,j_{i-1};10), D(j_1,j_{i-1};12;10)\}$ with $j' = j$ and $\{D(j_0,j_{i-1};10), D(j_1,j_{i-1};10)\}$ with $j' = j - 1$. Both of them have non-zero couplings and both of them consist of two paired $D$ matrices. Again, because their calculated values change signs for even $j$ and odd $j$ alternatively, we plot their magnitudes in Figure A.1. Based on these results, we can draw two conclusions. First of all, values of the paired $D$ matrices are almost identical. This implies that we have verified Equation (A-5) numerically for these sets. In addition, we would like to note that for these three sets, the identity of paired $D$ matrices becomes valid starting from $j = 3, 5, \text{and} 4$, respectively. These $j$ values are consistent with those $j_{\text{bd}}$ values listed in Table 2. Readers may wonder for the third set, why the identity starts from $j = 4$, but not $j = 3$. It is easy to explain this because for this set, $j' = j - 1$ and the smaller of $j$ and $j'$ must be not less than $j_{\text{bd}}$. Secondly, as shown in the figure, one can conclude that for each of these sets, their magnitudes vary very smoothly as $j$ varies. Variation of the magnitudes with $j$ smoothly is just a feature of the paired $D$ matrices we are looking for.

As another example, instead of choosing states associated with large $k_c$ values we consider sets of the paired $D$ matrices whose states are associated with large $k_c$ values. In addition, with respect to $L$ and $K$ we consider a case of $L=2$ and $K=2$. More specifically, we select $\{D(j_0,j_{i-1};10), D(j_1,j_{i-1};12;10)\}$ with $j' = j$ and $\{D(j_0,j_{i-1};10), D(j_1,j_{i-1};10)\}$ with $j' = j - 1$. We present their calculated magnitudes with $j = 5, \ldots, 26$ in Figure A.2. As shown in the figure, the two features exhibited previously remain the same. We do not repeat the discussion here, other than to mention that in comparison with the previous three sets, the identity of two paired $D$ becomes valid starting from a higher $j$ value. For these three sets, it starts from $j = 7, 10, \text{and} 8$, respectively. These starting values are consistent with those $j_{\text{bd}}$ values listed in Table 2.

With respect to other sets, we believe the same conclusions mentioned above are applicable there also. As shown in Section 3 these two features of the paired $D$ matrices are very helpful in analyzing values of calculated half-width for the H$_2$O lines.