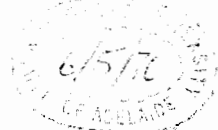


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ABSORPTION OF ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION
BY MOLECULAR HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN

by

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CONTENTS

Summary	i
Preface	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
<u>Chapter 1. Introduction</u>	1
1.1 Experimental Vacuum Ultraviolet Spectroscopy	1
<u>Chapter 2. Theory of Diatomic Molecules</u>	5
2.1 Emission and Absorption of Radiation	5
2.2 Diatomic Molecules	7
2.2.1 Separation of the Wave Equation	8
2.2.2 Vibrational Energy	12
2.2.3 Rotational Energy	17
2.3 Band and Line Intensities	21
2.4 Oscillator Strengths	26
<u>Chapter 3. Curves of Growth</u>	29
3.1 Equivalent Width	30
3.2 Small Absorption Region	33
3.3 Doppler Lines	34
3.4 Pressure Broadening	36
3.5 Experimental Curves of Growth	37
<u>Chapter 4. Molecular Hydrogen Absorption</u>	41
4.1 Previous Measurements	41
4.2 Theoretical Calculations	43
4.3 Experimental Apparatus	44
4.4 Data-Handling System	47
4.5 Measurements of Absorption	50
4.6 Line Oscillator Strengths	55
4.7 Astrophysical Applications	59
4.8 Band Oscillator Strengths	60

<u>Chapter 5. Molecular Oxygen Absorption</u>	65
5.1 Previous Measurements	65
5.2 Experimental Arrangement	67
5.3 Data Recording	69
5.4 Procedure	71
5.5 Discussion	75
5.6 Sources of Error	79
5.7 Oscillator Strengths	80
<u>Chapter 6. The Electronic Transition Moment</u>	84
6.1 Theory of Electronic Transition Moments	84
6.2 Potential Curves	90
6.3 Franck-Condon Factors	93
6.4 Comparison of Theory and Experiment	98
<u>Appendix I.</u>	
Circuits for Molecular Hydrogen Data- Handling System	104
<u>Appendix II.</u>	
Circuits for Molecular Oxygen Data- Handling Systems	106
<u>Appendix III.</u>	
Publications	107
Bibliography	

SUMMARY

This thesis describes experiments carried out to measure absorption coefficients for molecular hydrogen and molecular oxygen in the vacuum-ultraviolet region of the spectrum.

The first four bands of the Lyman system in hydrogen (1060-1130 $\overset{\circ}{\text{A}}$) were investigated using a 1 metre, near-normal incidence monochromator having a best resolution of 0.1 $\overset{\circ}{\text{A}}$. This instrument was fitted with an argon discharge lamp and photoelectric detection methods were used. The digital data-handling system developed for the experiment is described in detail.

An equivalent width method of analysis was used and from the measured absorption coefficients, absolute values of cross-sections for the rotational lines in the bands were obtained.

Absorption cross-sections for the Schumann-Runge band system in molecular oxygen [(2-0) to (20-0) bands covering the wavelength region 1700-2000 $\overset{\circ}{\text{A}}$] were measured using a similar experimental arrangement to that described above. Modifications made to the data handling system to improve the accuracy of the raw data are described. The light source used was an A.C. discharge in hydrogen and

photoelectric detectors were again employed.

Oscillator strengths for the bands were calculated from the measured integrated absorption coefficients and are compared with those obtained by other authors. A comparison is also made between Franck-Condon factors obtained from the derived oscillator strengths in this thesis and various theoretical calculations.