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### Harmonic Force Field and Mean Amplitudes for Gallium Tribromide and Triiodide Dimers

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HARMONIC FORCE FIELD AND MEAN AMPLITUDES FOR  
GALLIUM TRIBROMIDE AND TRIIODIDE DIMERS

Keywords: Molecular vibrations, Force constants,  
Mean amplitudes,  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$ ,  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$

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ABSTRACT

Harmonic force fields are developed for the  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$  and  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$  molecules. The analysis confirms previous assignments of experimental frequencies. Mean amplitudes of vibration are calculated.

A previous communication<sup>1</sup> describes a normal coordinate analysis of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Cl}_6$  and contains references to the similar investigations of aluminum trihalide dimers published in this Journal. In the present work the same methods are applied to  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$  and  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$  in order to contribute to the solution of the problem of vibrational assignments and to supply for the first time calculated mean amplitudes of vibration from spectroscopic data for these molecules.

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## STRUCTURE

Table 1 gives a survey of the structural parameters applied here along with those for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Cl}_6$ . The data for the Cl and Br molecules are from gas electron diffraction measurements of Akishin et al.<sup>2</sup> Experimental data for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$  have not been found. For the bond distances we have adopted the values used by Beattie et al.<sup>3</sup> (given without reference), but not for the bond angles since their values for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$  differ from the experimental data. Instead we transferred the values from  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$ .

## HARMONIC FORCE FIELD AND VIBRATIONAL ASSIGNMENT

A simple harmonic force field is based on five non-vanishing force constants. The numerical values are collected in Table 2 along with those for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Cl}_6$ ,<sup>1</sup> showing the regularities through the series of molecules in question.

The calculated frequencies from these simple force fields for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$  and  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$  are shown in Table 3 along with the observed values from the infrared (mull) and Raman (solid) data.<sup>3</sup> The calculations basically confirm the experimental assignments of the fundamentals throughout. It was found to be possible to adjust the force field to fit exactly all the observed frequencies within reasonable ranges of the force constants. These final

TABLE 1  
Structural Parameters for Gallium Trihalide Dimers

$\text{Ga}_2\text{X}_6$	$\text{Ga}_2\text{Cl}_6$	$\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$	$\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$
Ga-X(terminal), Å	2.09	2.25	2.40
Ga-X(bridged), Å	2.29	2.35	2.60
$\angle \text{X(ter.)GaX(ter.)}$ , °	112	110	110
$\angle \text{X(br.)GaX(br.)}$ , °	89	87	87

TABLE 2  
Force Constants (mdyne/A) of Approximate Force  
Fields for Gallium Trihalide Dimers

Symbol	$\text{Ga}_2\text{Cl}_6$	$\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$	$\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$
$f_s$	2.467	1.965	1.237
$f_r$	0.974	0.814	0.813
$f_\varphi$	0.180	0.180	0.160
$f_t$	0.320	0.270	0.200
$f_\tau$	0.210	0.210	0.210

force fields are given in Table 4 and 5 for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$  and  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$ , respectively. For the inactive  $A_u(\nu_5)$  frequencies we have used the results from the approximate calculations. That was also done for the unobserved  $B_{3u}$  frequencies, viz.  $\nu_{10}$  for both molecules and  $\nu_9$  for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$ . Different calculated values for these frequencies are reported in Ref. 3, viz.  $\nu_9 = 107 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$ ) and  $\nu_{10} = 17$  and  $14 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$  and  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$ , respectively.

#### MEAN AMPLITUDES OF VIBRATION

The final force fields were used to calculate the mean amplitudes of vibration.<sup>4</sup> The results are given in Tables 4 and 5 for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$  and  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$ , respectively. For three of the distances, viz.  $\text{Ga} \cdots \text{X}$ ,  $\text{X}_b \cdots \text{X}_t$  and cis ( $\text{X} \cdots \text{X}$ ), where  $\text{X} = \text{Br}$  or  $\text{I}$ , the values are given in parentheses because they depend critically on the particularly uncertain frequencies  $\nu_5(A_u)$  and  $\nu_{10}(B_{3u})$ . This dependence is increasingly important with increasing temperature.

TABLE 3  
Calculated and Observed Vibrational Frequencies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  
for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$  and  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$

Species	$\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$		$\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$	
	Approx.	Final <sup>a</sup>	Approx.	Final <sup>a</sup>
$A_g$	304	291	245	229
	175	204	130	143
	120	119	86	85
	56	64	43	50
$B_{1g}$	128	158	95	68
$B_{2g}$	354	339	277	265
	111	74	82	55
$B_{3g}$	218	241	206	195
	127	85	99	64
$A_u$	68	(68)	52	(52)
$B_{1u}$	295	268	235	213
	160	188	119	134
	72	90	56	77
$B_{2u}$	236	232	217	189
	77	82	61	61
$B_{3u}$	371	347	300	273
	171	102	121	(121)
	37	(37)	30	(30)

<sup>a</sup>Calculated from the final force field and identical to the experimental data from Ref. 3. Parenthesized values are unobserved.

For  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$  a set of mean amplitudes from electron diffraction data have been reported.<sup>2</sup> They are presumably not accurate enough to be effectively useful in the force constant analysis. We are quoting the values here (in Å units and the sequence of Table 4): 0.054, 0.054, 0.111, 0.080(ass.), 0.080, 0.080, 0.080, 0.120 and 0.128.

TABLE 4  
Final Symmetry Force Constants (mdyne/A) for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$

$A_g$	0.986	$B_{1g}$	0.273
	0.121 1.875		
	0.076 0.024 0.294		
	0.007 -0.015 -0.009 0.233		
$B_{2g}$	1.647	$B_{3g}$	0.789
	-0.105 0.095		-0.140 0.127
$A_u$	0.182	$B_{1u}$	1.021
			0.290 1.864
			-0.001 -0.034 0.283
$B_{2u}$	0.840	$B_{3u}$	1.419
	0.030 0.191		-0.088 0.172
			-0.113 -0.043 0.119

TABLE 5  
Final Symmetry Force Constants (mdyne/A) for  $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$

$A_g$	0.882	$B_{1g}$	0.082
	0.119 0.191		
	0.046 0.017 0.206		
	0.025 -0.013 -0.004 0.214		
$B_{2g}$	0.968	$B_{3g}$	0.585
	-0.094 0.093		-0.083 0.096
$A_u$	0.163	$B_{1u}$	0.872
			0.226 1.289
			-0.002 -0.062 0.302
$B_{2u}$	0.695	$B_{3u}$	1.115
	0.043 0.143		0.023 0.205
			0.031 -0.007 0.151

TABLE 6  
Calculated Mean Amplitudes of Vibration (A units) for  
 $\text{Ga}_2\text{Br}_6$

Distance	0 K	298 K	500 K	1000 K
$\text{Ga-Br}_t$	0.040	0.055	0.068	0.095
$\text{Ga-Br}_b$	0.047	0.073	0.093	0.130
$\text{Ga}\cdots\text{Br}$	(0.061)	(0.137)	(0.176)	(0.248)
$\text{Ga-Ga}$	0.050	0.083	0.105	0.147
$\text{Br}_b\cdots\text{Br}_b$	0.047	0.073	0.093	0.130
$\text{Br}_b\cdots\text{Br}_t$	(0.060)	(0.125)	(0.161)	(0.227)
$\text{com}(\text{Br}\cdots\text{Br})$	0.060	0.127	0.164	0.231
$\text{cis}(\text{Br}\cdots\text{Br})$	(0.084)	(0.245)	(0.317)	(0.448)
$\text{tr}(\text{Br}\cdots\text{Br})$	0.064	0.143	0.185	0.261

TABLE 7  
Calculated Mean Amplitudes of Vibration (A units) for  
 $\text{Ga}_2\text{I}_6$

Distance	0 K	298 K	500 K	1000 K
$\text{Ga-I}_t$	0.041	0.064	0.081	0.114
$\text{Ga-I}_b$	0.046	0.079	0.101	0.142
$\text{Ga}\cdots\text{I}$	(0.059)	(0.143)	(0.185)	(0.261)
$\text{Ga-Ga}$	0.052	0.092	0.117	0.165
$\text{I}_b\cdots\text{I}_b$	0.045	0.084	0.108	0.152
$\text{I}_b\cdots\text{I}_t$	(0.056)	(0.133)	(0.172)	(0.243)
$\text{com}(\text{I}\cdots\text{I})$	0.056	0.131	0.170	0.239
$\text{cis}(\text{I}\cdots\text{I})$	(0.074)	(0.242)	(0.313)	(0.442)
$\text{tr}(\text{I}\cdots\text{I})$	0.062	0.160	0.207	0.292

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