

Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna
Archivio istituzionale della ricerca

Spectroscopy of a low global warming power refrigerant. Infrared and millimeter-wave spectra of trifluoroethene (HFO-1123) in the ground and some vibrational excited states

This is the final peer-reviewed author's accepted manuscript (postprint) of the following publication:

Published Version:

Tamassia F., Melosso M., Dore L., Pettini M., Cane' E., Stoppa P., et al. (2020). Spectroscopy of a low global warming power refrigerant. Infrared and millimeter-wave spectra of trifluoroethene (HFO-1123) in the ground and some vibrational excited states. JOURNAL OF QUANTITATIVE SPECTROSCOPY & RADIATIVE TRANSFER, 248, 1-7 [10.1016/j.jqsrt.2020.106980].

Availability:

This version is available at: <https://hdl.handle.net/11585/778702> since: 2021-02-17

Published:

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.jqsrt.2020.106980>

Terms of use:

Some rights reserved. The terms and conditions for the reuse of this version of the manuscript are specified in the publishing policy. For all terms of use and more information see the publisher's website.

This item was downloaded from IRIS Università di Bologna (<https://cris.unibo.it/>).
When citing, please refer to the published version.

(Article begins on next page)

This is the final peer-reviewed accepted manuscript of:

Filippo Tamassia, Mattia Melosso, Luca Dore, Michele Pettini, Elisabetta Canè, Paolo Stoppa, Andrea Pietropolli Charmet, "Spectroscopy of a low global warming power refrigerant. Infrared and millimeter-wave spectra of trifluoroethene (HFO-1123) in the ground and some vibrational excited states," *Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy and Radiative Transfer*, 248, 106980 (2020)

The final published version is available online at:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jqsrt.2020.106980>

Terms of use:

Some rights reserved. The terms and conditions for the reuse of this version of the manuscript are specified in the publishing policy. For all terms of use and more information see the publisher's website.

This item was downloaded from IRIS Università di Bologna
(<https://cris.unibo.it/>)

When citing, please refer to the published version.

Spectroscopy of a Low Global Warming Power Refrigerant. Infrared and Millimeter-wave Spectra of Trifluoroethene (HFO-1123) in the Ground and some Vibrational Excited States

Filippo Tamassia^{a,*}, Mattia Melosso^b, Luca Dore^b, Michele Pettini^b, Elisabetta Canè^a, Paolo Stoppa^c,
Andrea Pietropolli Charmet^{c,*}

^a*Dipartimento di Chimica Industriale “Toso Montanari”, Università di Bologna, Viale del Risorgimento 4, 40136 Bologna (Italy)*

^b*Dipartimento di Chimica “Giacomo Ciamician”, Università di Bologna, Via F. Selmi 2, 40126 Bologna (Italy)*

^c*Dipartimento di Scienze Molecolari e Nanosistemi, Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia, Via Torino 155, 30172 Mestre (Italy)*

Abstract

In the present work we carried out a combined rotational and ro-vibrational investigation on 1,1,2-trifluoroethene, a relevant unsaturated hydrofluoroolefin recently proposed as refrigerant in mixture with other halogenated compounds (like difluoromethane). By employing a frequency-modulation millimeter-wave spectrometer, the rotational spectra were recorded in the frequency ranges 80–96 GHz and 245–260 GHz for the ground and also the vibrationally excited states $\nu_8 = 1$, $\nu_9 = 1$, $\nu_{12} = 1$, $\nu_9 = 2$, $\nu_{12} = 2$, and $\nu_9 = \nu_{12} = 1$. In addition, the infrared spectra in the region of the ν_6 band (centered at 929.8 cm^{-1}) were measured with a high-resolution Fourier transform spectrometer. The data coming from the detailed rotational and ro-vibrational assignments were combined in a global fit, taking into account also the ground state transitions available in the literature. From this analysis, a very accurate set of rotational and centrifugal distortion constants was determined for the ground state and for all the vibrationally excited states here investigated.

Keywords: Rotational Spectroscopy, Ro-vibrational spectra, Hydrofluoroolefins, Trifluoroethene, HFO-1123

1. Introduction

In the last decades, great attention has been devoted to the search for suitable replacements of the gases used for domestic and industrial purposes which strongly contribute to the atmospheric pollution, the ozone hole and the greenhouse effect. Unsaturated hydrofluoroolefins (HFO’s) are an interesting alternative to chlorofluorocarbons (CFC’s). Indeed, such molecules have a very short atmospheric lifetime, an almost zero Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) and a low Global Warming Potential (GWP) [1]. The search of an ideal candidate for refrigerants is nowadays a crucial issue, considering that recent studies showed that a very limited number of fluids exhibit the required environmental properties [2]. 1,1,2-trifluoroethene ($\text{CF}_2=\text{CHF}$, HFO-1123, hereafter referred as TFE) is used nowadays in heat pumps and conditioning systems, often in mixtures with difluoromethane (CH_2F_2 , HFC-32). In these mixtures self-decomposition does not occur [1]; also, they have low toxicity and are only mildly flammable [1, 3], proving therefore to be a valuable alternative to R-410A, a common refrigerant with high GWP. The atmospheric importance of $\text{CF}_2=\text{CHF}$ has stimulated a number of spectroscopic studies in the past. Low resolution infrared (IR) spectra were first recorded by Mann *et al.* [4] and later by McKean [5]. In 2002

*Corresponding author

Email addresses: filippo.tamassia@unibo.it (Filippo Tamassia), jacpnike@unive.it (Andrea Pietropolli Charmet)

15 Jiang *et al.* [6] calculated the vibrational fundamental wavenumbers and the relative intensities using the
16 Scaled Quantum Mechanical (SQM) force field procedure in combination with the hybrid three-parameter
17 B3-PW91 density functional. Microwave transitions of the ground and some vibrationally excited states
18 were reported a long time ago by Bhaumik *et al.* [7] and Wellington Davis & Gerry [8].

19 More recently, Leung & Marshall recorded rotational transitions of TFE between 6 and 22 GHz by Fourier
20 transform (FT) spectroscopy for the most abundant isotopologue and the two singly ^{13}C -substituted species.
21 From the determined spectroscopic constants they also derived the structural parameters of the molecule
22 [9]. High-resolution infrared studies are however limited to the very strong fundamentals ν_3 , ν_4 , and ν_5 in
23 the atmospheric window, centered at 1360, 1265, and 1173 cm^{-1} , respectively. These high-resolution spectra
24 were recorded with a tunable diode laser and analysed by Visinoni *et al.* [10, 11, 12]. The authors pointed
25 out the presence of several resonances and determined some parameters for the interacting states.

26 The infrared atmospheric window has been only partially analysed and this work aims to a more complete
27 spectroscopic characterization of this region and of the low-lying vibrational states. The goal is to provide
28 the necessary laboratory data useful for the atmospheric detection of this molecule. The infrared spectrum
29 was recorded at high resolution (0.004 cm^{-1}) by FT-IR spectroscopy between 500 and 1500 cm^{-1} , where
30 the ν_3 , ν_4 , ν_5 , ν_6 (929 cm^{-1}), ν_7 (623 cm^{-1}) and ν_{10} (750 cm^{-1}) fundamental bands are located with the
31 objective to assign and analyse for the first time ν_6 , ν_7 , and ν_{10} and to re-investigate ν_3 , ν_4 , and ν_5 . Given the
32 complexity of the ro-vibrational structure, in this paper we focused only on the ν_6 fundamental vibrational
33 band and on the detection of pure rotational transitions in the ground state and in the low energy $\nu_8 = 1$,
34 $\nu_9 = 1$, $\nu_{12} = 1$, $\nu_9 = 2$, $\nu_{12} = 2$, and $\nu_9 = \nu_{12} = 1$ excited vibrational states. The rotational spectra were
35 recorded in the frequency ranges 80-96 GHz and 245-260 GHz using a frequency-modulation millimeter-wave
36 spectrometer.

37 In this work we present therefore a combined rotational and ro-vibrational investigation from which very
38 accurate spectroscopic parameters were determined for the ground state and the investigated excited vibra-
39 tional states.

40 2. Experimental details

41 2.1. Millimeter spectrometer

42 Rotational spectra were recorded in the frequency ranges 80-96 GHz and 245-260 GHz using a frequency-
43 modulation millimeter-wave spectrometer [13, 14]. The radiation source is a Gunn diode (J.E. Carlstrom
44 Co.) emitting in the spectral range 80-115 GHz with an output power up to 50 mW. A passive multiplier
45 (WR3.4X2, Virginia Diodes) is used to reach the higher frequencies. The diode's radiation is phase-locked to
46 a harmonic of a digital frequency synthesizer (HP8672A, 2-18 GHz) and its frequency is sine-wave modulated
47 by a 75 MHz reference signal. Each synthesizer is referenced to a rubidium atomic-clock which guarantees the
48 frequency stability of the radiation. A 3.25 m-long free-space glass absorption cell, filled with trifluoroethene
49 vapor at a static pressure between 1 and 2.5 Pa, was employed for the measurements. The output signal was
50 sensed by two different zero-biased Schottky diode detectors (Millitech, Inc. below 100 GHz and Virginia
51 Diodes above 240 GHz) and demodulated at twice the modulation frequency by an analog lock-in amplifier.
52 The signal is then filtered into an ohmic RC circuit, analog-to-digital converted and sent to a computer.
53 Typically, the spectra were recorded using a frequency modulation $f = 48\text{ kHz}$, a modulation depth (FM)
54 between 90 and 300 kHz, a RC constant of 3 ms, and a frequency step sufficiently small to provide at least
55 twenty points across the expected linewidths.

56 2.2. Infrared spectra

57 The vibrational spectra were recorded with a FT-IR Bomem spectrometer [15], equipped with an MCT
58 detector and a Globar source. The resolution of the spectra was 0.004 cm^{-1} and the optical pathlength,
59 obtained with a multipass absorption cell, was 3 meters. Sample pressures ranged between 0.06 and 1 hPa.
60 Several hundreds scans were co-added in order to improve the signal-to-noise ratio of the spectra. The
61 absolute calibration of the wavenumber axis was attained by referencing ro-vibrational transitions of H_2O
62 and CO_2 from the HITRAN database [16]. An overview of the high-resolution infrared spectrum between
63 500 and 1500 cm^{-1} is shown in Figure 1.

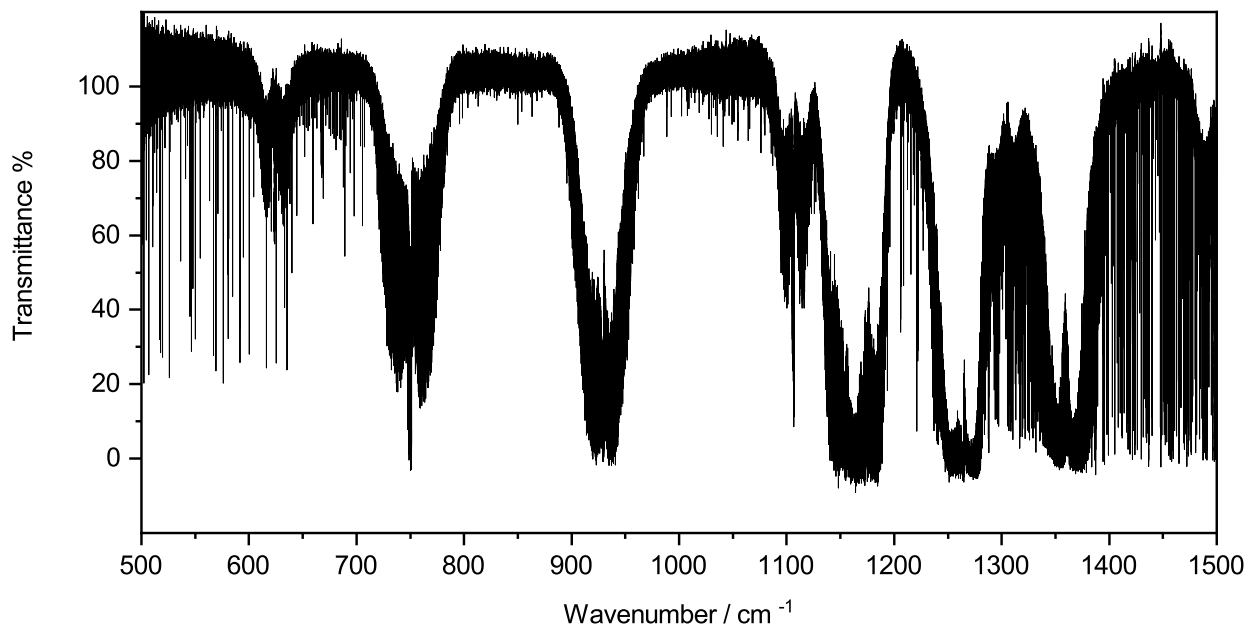


Figure 1: Portion of the infrared spectrum (P=1 hPa, L=3 m, 800 scans, room temperature). The assignment of all fundamental bands is given in Table 1.

64 3. Analysis and results

65 3.1. General features

66 From a spectroscopic point of view, trifluoroethene is a planar near-prolate asymmetric-top molecule belong-
 67 ing to the C_s symmetry point group, having an asymmetry parameter $\kappa=-0.74$. The molecular geometry of
 68 TFE with respect to its principal axes is shown in Figure 2.

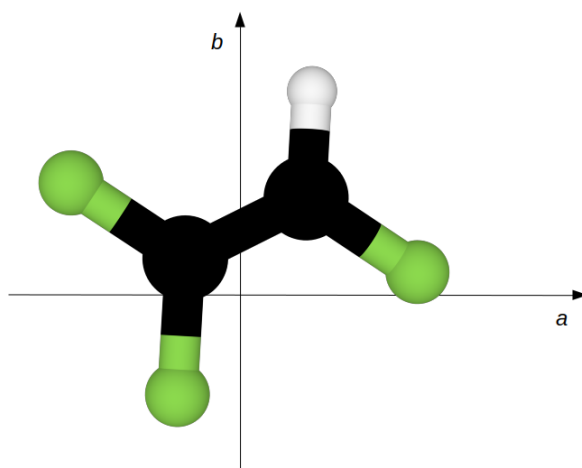


Figure 2: Trifluoroethene in its principal axis system.

69 Its permanent electric dipole moment ($\mu=1.30(6)$ D) lies in the ab plane, with the b component ($\mu_b=1.30(6)$ D)
 70 much greater than that of the a component ($\mu_a=0.075(15)$ D) [7]. Of the 12 fundamentals, all infrared active,
 71 9 are classified as A' modes ($\nu_1 - \nu_9$), whereas the other 3 are A'' ($\nu_{10} - \nu_{12}$). The former give rise to a/b

72 hybrid bands, while the latter produce *c*-type band contours. The vibrational modes and their description
73 are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Vibrational modes.

Symmetry	Mode	Envelope	Rel. intensity ^a	Description	Wavenumber ^b	Reference
<i>A'</i>	ν_1	a/b	m	C–H stretch.	3150	[4]
	ν_2		s	C=C stretch.	1788	[4]
	ν_3		vs	CF ₂ antisym. stretch.	1361.3684(1)	[10]
	ν_4		vs	C–F stretch.	1264.86188(4)	[11]
	ν_5		vs	CHF bend.	1172.6730(1)	[12]
	ν_6		s	CF ₂ sym. stretch.	928.80082(6)	This work
	ν_7		m	C–F bend.	623	[4]
	ν_8		w	CF ₂ bend.	485	[4]
	ν_9		w	CF ₂ rock.	232	[4]
<i>A''</i>	ν_{10}	c	s	CHF oop bend.	750	[4]
	ν_{11}		vw	CF ₂ wag.	555	[4]
	ν_{12}		w	Torsion	305	[4]

^a Abbreviations are used as follows: vs = very strong, s = strong, m = medium, w = weak, vw = very weak.

^b Units are cm⁻¹. Numbers in parenthesis represent quoted uncertainties.

74 The ro-vibrational energies have been modeled by the standard semi-rigid Watson’s *A*-reduced Hamiltonian
75 [17] in the *I'* representation:

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_{\text{vr}} + \mathcal{H}_{\text{cd}}^{(4)} + \mathcal{H}_{\text{cd}}^{(6)} + \dots, \quad (1)$$

76 where \mathcal{H}_{vr} contains the vibrational energy E_v and the rotational constants A , B , and C :

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{vr}} = E_v + \frac{1}{2} (B + C) \mathbf{P}^2 + \left[A - \frac{1}{2} (B + C) \right] \mathbf{P}_a^2 + \frac{1}{2} (B - C) (\mathbf{P}_b^2 - \mathbf{P}_c^2). \quad (2)$$

77 \mathbf{P} is the operator of the total angular momentum and \mathbf{P}_a , \mathbf{P}_b , and \mathbf{P}_c its components along the principal
78 inertial axes in the molecule-fixed coordinate system. The $\mathcal{H}_{\text{cd}}^{(4)}$ part accounts for the centrifugal distortion
79 terms up to 4th power of the angular momentum

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{cd}}^{(4)} = -\Delta_J \mathbf{P}^4 - \Delta_{JK} \mathbf{P}^2 \mathbf{P}_a^2 - \Delta_K \mathbf{P}_a^4 - \delta_J \mathbf{P}^2 (\mathbf{P}_b^2 - \mathbf{P}_c^2) - \delta_K [\mathbf{P}^2 (\mathbf{P}_b^2 - \mathbf{P}_c^2) + (\mathbf{P}_b^2 - \mathbf{P}_c^2) \mathbf{P}^2], \quad (3)$$

80 while $\mathcal{H}_{\text{cd}}^{(6)}$ contains operator with 6th power of \mathbf{P} [see Ref. 18, Eq. (8.100)], and so on. For the ground
81 state only the analysis has also been performed in the Watson’s *S*-reduced Hamiltonian [17]. Its form is not
82 reported here and can be found in Ref. [18], Eqs. (8.110)–(8.113).

83 Since hydrogen and fluorine possess a non-vanishing nuclear spin ($I = 1/2$), rotational energy levels can
84 exhibit a hyperfine-structure due to nuclear spin-spin interactions. These effects were observed for few
85 transitions recorded with a pulsed Fourier-transform microwave spectrometer [9], but they are too small to
86 be detected at high frequencies or in infrared spectra.

87 3.2. Rotational spectra

88 Initially, the rotational spectrum of TFE in its ground vibrational state has been predicted using the spec-
89 troscopic constants reported in Ref. [8]. Literature data were limited to rotational transitions recorded at

90 frequencies below 66 GHz, corresponding to energy levels with J up to 75. Therefore, the available set of
 91 spectroscopic parameters (rotational constants and centrifugal distortion terms) provided reliable predictions
 92 in our spectral coverage.
 93 In the 80–96 GHz window, rotational transitions have been recorded mostly line-by-line, scanning few MHz
 94 around the predicted transition frequencies. On the other hand, in the 245–260 GHz range, where the lines
 95 are more spread out, scanning broader portions was more convenient (see Figure 3).

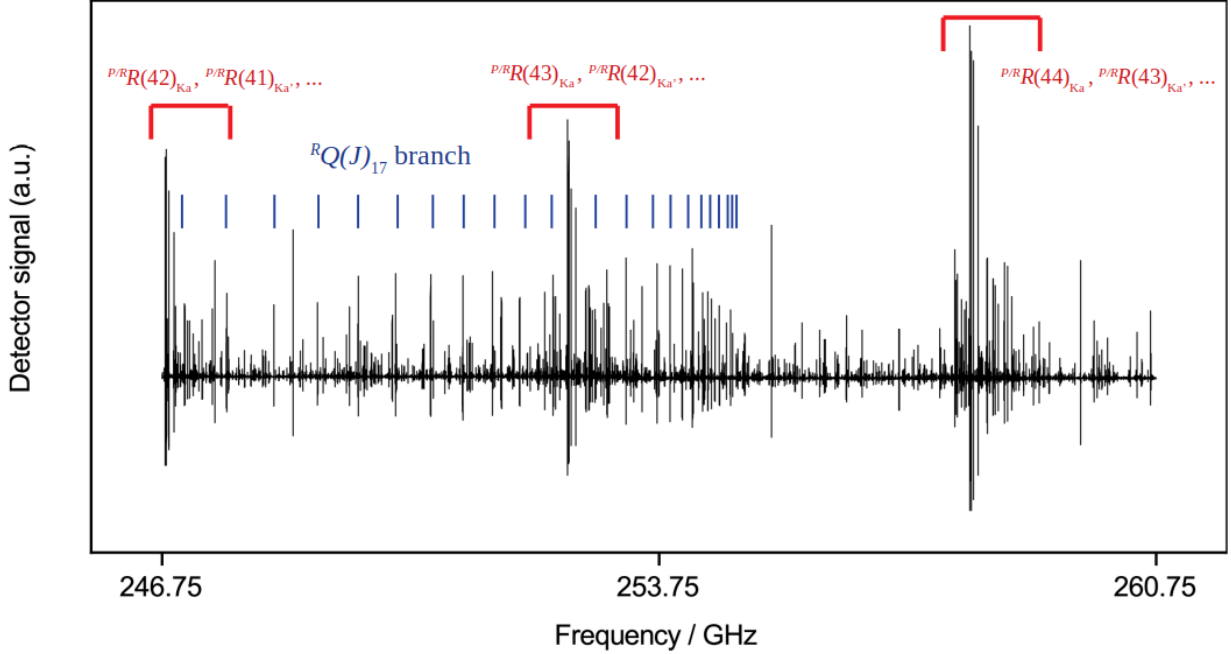


Figure 3: Portion of the millimeter spectrum of trifluoroethene. The spectrum has been obtained by adding consecutive 250 MHz-long scans, all of which were recorded sweeping the frequency upward and downward for an integration time of *ca.* 200 s. The figure shows the complexity of the rotational spectrum, where some $P/R R(J)_{K_a}$ transitions are grouped at certain frequencies. Also, the $RQ(J)_{17}$ branch is reported.

96 A number of 260 b -type transition frequencies have been recorded and added to the previous data set [7, 8, 9],
 97 expanding the data up to $J = 106$ and requiring the inclusion of higher order centrifugal distortion terms.
 98 Singly excited states ($\nu_8 = 1$, $\nu_9 = 1$, and $\nu_{12} = 1$) transitions up to 96 GHz were predicted by using
 99 the spectroscopic constants of Refs. [7, 8]. More precise spectral predictions were later produced in order
 100 to assign the broad spectrum between 245 and 260 GHz. The transitions relative to the doubly excited
 101 vibrational states ($\nu_9 = 2$, $\nu_{12} = 2$, and $\nu_9 = \nu_{12} = 1$) were initially calculated with rotational parameters
 102 derived from the rotational constants of the corresponding singly excited vibrational states and the derived
 103 ro-vibrational coupling constants α . Although the $\nu_{11} = 1$ state is lower in energy than the $\nu_{12} = 2$ and
 104 its rotational lines should be detected more easily because of the higher Boltzmann population, it was not
 105 possible to confidently assign any transitions of the $\nu_{11} = 1$ state. Indeed, the density of lines in the spectrum
 106 and the lack of reliable predictions for the $\nu_{11} = 1$ state made the assignment of transitions belonging to this
 107 excited vibrational state very difficult. On the other hand, it was easier to recognize transitions of $\nu_{12} = 2$,
 108 despite its higher vibrational energy, because the knowledge of the α constants derived from the singly
 109 excited $\nu_{12} = 1$ state allowed rather precise predictions.

110 3.3. The ν_6 fundamental band

111 The structure of the Q branch of the ν_6 fundamental, degrading to lower wavenumbers, appears very dense
 112 and the even ($K_a'' + K_c'' = J''$) and odd ($K_a'' + K_c'' = J'' + 1$) transitions are mostly overlapped. Anyway, the

113 high-wavenumber edge of the Q branch allowed us to estimate the band origin; this datum, combined with
 114 the ground state constants, led to the identification near the band center of several ${}^Q P_K(J)$ and ${}^Q R_K(J)$
 115 groups, which are approximately separated by $(B + C) \simeq 0.22 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. As the J values increase, the lines
 116 belonging to a given cluster start to overlap to a great extent with those of the neighboring manifolds, thus
 117 leading to a very packed structure where the resolved details are very difficult to identify. The most relevant
 118 information for the analysis of the band was yielded by the assignment of groups of lines having high J
 119 and low K_a values. In both the P and R branches, the spectrum is dominated by distinct bandheads; they
 120 are separated by about $2C \simeq 0.18 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and consist of a series of transitions having the J values differing
 121 by one unit between successive lines, each one involving the levels with K_a^+ and $(K_a + 1)^-$, which are
 122 almost degenerate (the superscripts + and - refer to even and odd transitions, respectively). These spectral
 123 features are characteristic of planar molecules; Borchert[19] and Kisiel[20] are the first who investigated
 124 these patterns highlighting that they are due to the near-coincidence of transitions between energy levels
 125 which become degenerate in the oblate symmetric top limit. Figure 4 reproduces a section of the R branch
 126 near 940.3 cm^{-1} with the resolved J lines in the ${}^Q R_K(J = 50 - 59)$ bandheads. The series starts with the
 127 transition having $J'' = K_c''$, and then proceeds toward the higher frequency side with the line sequences of
 128 the two degenerate even and odd components given, in the R branch, by

$$(J - k + 1)_{k, J-2k+1} \leftarrow (J - k)_{k, J-2k} \quad (4)$$

$$(J - k + 1)_{k+1, J-2k+1} \leftarrow (J - k)_{k+1, J-2k} \quad (5)$$

129 where $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

130 By using the constants derived from the analysis of the a -type component we tried to identify also the
 131 b -type transitions, but they could not be reliably assigned given their lower intensities and the very packed
 132 structure of the spectrum.

133 4. Discussion

134 The fitting procedure, the spectral simulation and the calculation of the ro-vibrational term values were
 135 carried out by employing the ATIRS software [21] and the SPFIT/SPCAT program suite [22]. The rotational
 136 and ro-vibrational data were analysed in a global fit together with the literature data for the ground state
 137 only [7, 8, 9]. The transition frequencies of Ref. [7] relative to vibrationally excited states were not used in
 138 our global fit, not only because they are less precise than our measurements, but also because they show
 139 residuals much greater than the stated uncertainties.

140 In Tables 2– 4 the spectroscopic parameters determined for the ground and vibrationally excited states are
 141 reported. Although the global fit was performed using the Watson A -reduced Hamiltonian, in the case of
 142 the ground state (Table 2), the fits have been performed in both the A and S reductions and are compared
 143 with the literature results of Ref. [8]. The quality of the two procedures is equivalent, in terms of root-mean-
 144 square (RMS) error and standard deviation σ , but the precision of the individual parameters is greatly
 145 improved in both cases, with respect to previous determination [8, 9]. This is consistent with the much
 146 wider range of J and K_a values observed in this work, which allowed precise derivations even for high-order
 147 centrifugal distortion terms. As can be seen from inspection of Table 2, our rotational constants (A , B ,
 148 C) as well as our set of quartic centrifugal distortion terms agree well with those reported in the literature
 149 [8, 9]. On the other hand, the values of all the sextic centrifugal constants are totally different from those
 150 of Ref. [8] because (i) our analysis includes a more various sample of transitions and (ii) most of the sextic
 151 constants were completely undetermined in Ref. [8] (i.e., the uncertainty on the constants were greater than
 152 the constants themselves).

153 In Table 3 the results for the singly excited vibrational states $\nu_9 = 1$, $\nu_{12} = 1$, $\nu_8 = 1$ and $\nu_6 = 1$ are
 154 presented. As discussed previously, only the ν_6 fundamental ro-vibrational band has been analysed, while
 155 pure rotational transitions were observed for the other vibrational states.

156 For the fundamental ν_6 , the analysis carried out in the P and R branches led to the assignment of many
 157 transitions (belonging to the a -type component) having $J \leq 85$ and $K_a \leq 11$. Only well resolved features

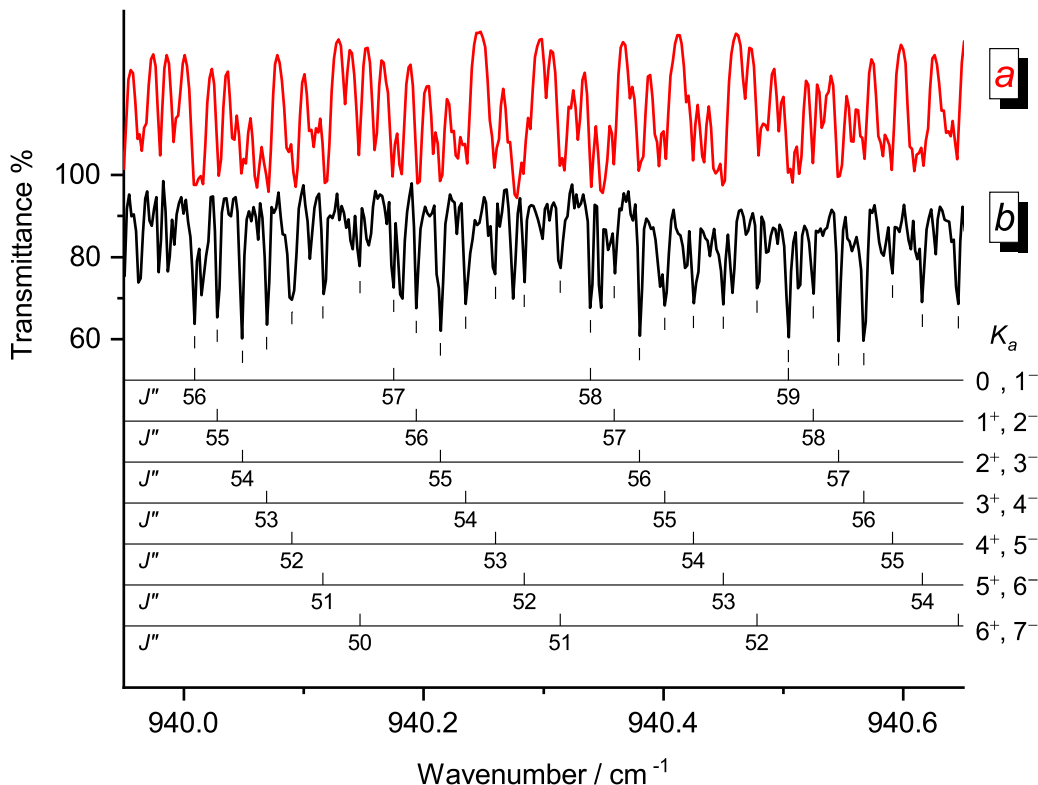


Figure 4: Details of the FT-IR spectrum of the ν_6 band around 940.3 cm^{-1} . Lower (black) trace *b* refers to the experimental spectrum, upper (red) trace *a* refers to the computed one using our best parameters. The line sequences in the $Q_{R_K}(J'' = 50 - 59)$ band heads are reported.

158 were included in the analysis, while badly overlapped features were not considered. It is worthwhile to
 159 point out that the ro-vibrational assignments in the *P* and *R* branches were checked out by ground state
 160 combination differences (GSCDs) as implemented in the Visual Loomis Wood program (a part of the ATIRS
 161 package [21]). The RMS error shown from the final fit of 1622 ro-vibrational transitions is $7.5 \times 10^{-4}\text{ cm}^{-1}$.
 162 In addition to accurate values for band origin and rotational constants, all the quartic centrifugal distortion
 163 constants were refined in the fit, with the exception of Δ_K , due to the fact that K_a does not change in
 164 the observed transitions. The value of Δ_K was fixed to the ground state value. In addition, the sextic
 165 terms could not be reliably determined. It is useful to point out that the excited rotational and centrifugal
 166 distortion terms agree reasonably well with those of the ground state, thus confirming that the set of assigned
 167 transitions for the $\nu_6 = 1$ state is essentially free of perturbations. As a further check of the reliability of
 168 the results, spectral simulations were performed in different portions of the spectrum, as it can be seen by
 169 looking at Figure 4. The computed spectrum compares reasonably well with the experimental one (residual
 170 discrepancies are mainly due to signals coming from hot-bands and the weaker *b*-type component), thus
 171 pointing out the accuracy of the spectroscopic parameters here presented.
 172 Finally, Tables 4 reports the parameters obtained from the analysis of the rotational transitions observed
 173 for the doubly excited vibrational states $\nu_9 = 2$, $\nu_{12} = 2$, and $\nu_9 = \nu_{12} = 1$. For these states, only a
 174 limited number of lines have been detected. Nevertheless, also in these cases precise sets of rotational and

Table 2: Spectroscopic parameters determined for trifluoroethene in the ground vibrational state.

Parameter ^[a]	Unit	Previous ^[b]		Present work	
		<i>A</i> -reduction		<i>S</i> -reduction	
<i>A</i>	MHz	10665.481287(51)	10665.47731(63)	10665.482129(54)	10665.47809(60)
<i>B</i>	MHz	3872.406579(24)	3872.40538(23)	3872.396511(26)	3872.39542(23)
<i>C</i>	MHz	2837.960953(29)	2837.95990(18)	2837.970162(31)	2837.96926(17)
$\Delta_J(D_J)$	kHz	0.731145(12)	0.73066(24)	0.560036(10)	0.56001(23)
$\Delta_{JK}(D_{JK})$	kHz	7.671250(62)	7.6757(29)	8.698079(51)	8.6985(23)
$\Delta_K(D_K)$	kHz	4.92912(16)	4.9248(15)	4.07290(17)	4.07168(66)
$\delta_J(d_1)$	kHz	0.1831457(50)	0.18353(16)	0.1831675(55)	-0.18346(18)
$\delta_K(d_2)$	kHz	4.83607(14)	4.8228(41)	0.0855201(26)	-0.085327(79)
$\Phi_J(H_J)$	mHz	0.2010(29)	0.038(20)	-0.0951(14)	0.056(89)
$\Phi_{JK}(H_{JK})$	Hz	0.019977(56)	0.0027(105)	0.005288(14)	0.0026(22)
$\Phi_{KJ}(H_{KJ})$	Hz	-0.05529(18)	0.0025(288)	-0.864(88)	0.0007(16)
$\Phi_K(H_K)$	Hz	0.07534(20)	0.033(21)	0.03395(17)	0.0306(27)
$\phi_J(h_1)$	mHz	0.0765(15)	-0.02(18)	0.0125(14)	-0.46(29)
$\phi_{JK}(h_2)$	mHz	9.352(55)	14.4(63)	0.1387(10)	0.59(25)
$\phi_K(h_3)$	Hz	0.11635(37)	-0.041(78)	0.07287(19)	0.00014(10)
$\Lambda_{JK}(L_{JK})$	nHz	-3.61(68)		23.05(71)	
Lines		484	182	484	182
$J_{\max}, K_{a\max}$		106, 38	75, 38	106, 38	75, 38
RMS error	kHz	21.6	16.0	21.6	15.8
σ		0.99	0.80	0.99	0.79

Notes: Numbers in parentheses are one standard deviation and apply to the last significant digits. **[a]** *S*-reduction parameters are reported in parentheses. **[b]** Ref. [8].

175 centrifugal distortion constants could be derived. The analysis of the rotational data in excited vibrational
176 states highlighted the presence of accidental perturbations in all the states except $\nu_9 = 1$ and $\nu_{12} = 1$. A
177 correct interpretation of perturbed transitions and their inclusion in the global analysis would require a
178 detailed ro-vibrational analysis of the lowest excited states [23], not available at the moment. Therefore,
179 only unperturbed transitions were included in the final analysis.

180 5. Conclusions

181 In this paper we report the detection of the rotational spectrum of TFE in the ground and in the vibrationally
182 excited states $\nu_9 = 1$, $\nu_{12} = 1$, $\nu_8 = 1$, $\nu_9 = 2$, $\nu_{12} = 2$, and $\nu_9 = \nu_{12} = 1$. Moreover, the fundamental ν_6
183 ro-vibrational band has been observed. All the data were analysed in a global fit and sets of spectroscopic
184 parameters for each state were determined in the *A*-reduction scheme. The quality of the fit is very good, as
185 shown by the values of the statistical errors, the precision of the parameters and the overall good agreement
186 between calculated and observed spectra. As far as the infrared bands are concerned, only a small portion
187 of the recorded high-resolution spectrum has been analysed. In this light, this should be considered as an
188 ongoing work.

189 We are already planning to study in the near future all the fundamentals not yet investigated, especially
190 the ones falling below 500 cm^{-1} , for which a synchrotron-based experiment would be most appropriate.

Table 3: Spectroscopic parameters determined for trifluoroethene in the singly-excited vibrational states.

Parameter	Unit	$\nu_9 = 1$	$\nu_{12} = 1$	$\nu_8 = 1$	$\nu_6 = 1$
E	cm^{-1}	232 ^[a]	305 ^[a]	485 ^[a]	929.800817(68)
A	MHz	10624.33115(21)	10698.10053(46)	10673.4129(13)	10641.54(43)
B	MHz	3870.682459(76)	3879.11980(11)	3874.51307(24)	3867.839(43)
C	MHz	2835.673154(87)	2841.51433(10)	2835.73608(17)	2831.9027(19)
Δ_J	kHz	0.717141(44)	0.740172(89)	0.73194(26)	0.6934(89)
Δ_{JK}	kHz	6.72388(32)	8.33244(86)	7.6312(25)	8.66(23)
Δ_K	kHz	4.8686(22)	5.1612(33)	5.1076(32)	4.92907 ^[b]
δ_J	kHz	0.179378(16)	0.186624(31)	0.184212(84)	0.1656(44)
δ_K	kHz	4.38568(48)	5.22666(72)	4.8513(33)	5.049(44)
Φ_J	mHz	0.178(11)	0.223(26)	0.742(87)	
Φ_{JK}	mHz	4.18(24)	34.27(51)	26.16(59)	
Φ_{KJ}	Hz	-0.08034(91)	-0.0313(14)	-0.0220(47)	
Φ_K	Hz	0.0488(45)	0.0698(61)	0.07529 ^[b]	
ϕ_J	mHz	0.0308(56)	0.1015(99)	0.0768 ^[b]	
ϕ_{JK}	mHz	1.11(21)	17.02(34)	12.7(16)	
ϕ_K	Hz	0.0439(15)	0.1812(22)	0.11635 ^[b]	
Λ_{JKK}	μHz		0.336(52)	-0.00332 ^[b]	
Λ_{JK}	μHz	-2.75(31)	-2.48(60)		
Λ_{KKJ}	mHz	0.0278(25)			
Lines		266	194	67	1622
RMS error	kHz	13.3	19.8	13.5	$7.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-1}$
σ		0.97	0.98	1.01	1.00

Notes: Numbers in parenthesis are one standard deviation and apply to the last significant digits. **[a]** From Ref. [4]. **[b]** Fixed to ground state value.

191 6. Acknowledgement

192 This study was supported by Bologna University (RFO funds), MIUR (Project PRIN 2015: STARS in the
193 CAOS, Grant Number 2015F59J3R), and Ca' Foscari University, Venice (AdiR funds).

194 References

- 195 [1] M. Sarwar Alam, J. Hwan Jeong, Thermodynamic properties and critical parameters of HFO-1123 and its binary blends
196 with HFC-32 and HFC-134a using molecular simulations, *Int. J. Refrig.* 104 (2019) 311–320.
- 197 [2] M. O. McLinden, J. S. Brown, R. Brignoli, A. F. Kazakov, P. A. Domanski, Limited options for low-global-warming-
198 potential refrigerants, *Nat. Commun.* 8 (2017) 14476.
- 199 [3] M. Hashimoto, T. Otsuka, M. Fukushima, H. Okamoto, H. Hayamizu, K. Ueno, R. Akasaka, Development of new low-
200 GWP refrigerants-refrigerant mixtures including HFO-1123, *Sci. Technol. Built En.* 25 (6) (2019) 776–783. [arXiv:https://doi.org/10.1080/23744731.2019.1603779](https://doi.org/10.1080/23744731.2019.1603779), doi:10.1080/23744731.2019.1603779.
201 URL <https://doi.org/10.1080/23744731.2019.1603779>
- 202 [4] D. Mann, N. Acquista, E. K. Plyler, Vibrational spectra of trifluoroethylene and trifluoroethylene- d_1 , *J. Chem. Phys.*
203 22 (9) (1954) 1586–1592.
- 204 [5] D. McKean, CH stretching frequencies, bond lengths and strengths in halogenated ethylenes, *Spectrochim. Acta Part A*
205 31 (9-10) (1975) 1167–1186.
206

Table 4: Spectroscopic parameters determined for trifluoroethene in the overtone and combination states.

Parameter	Unit	$\nu_9 = 2$	$\nu_{12} = 2$	$\nu_9 = \nu_{12} = 1$
E	cm^{-1}	464	610	537
A	MHz	10582.13248(78)	10730.4962(22)	10656.5591(41)
B	MHz	3868.72306(23)	3885.44476(24)	3877.20485(78)
C	MHz	2833.35089(10)	2844.51620(12)	2839.28342(14)
Δ_J	kHz	0.70320(11)	0.76091(17)	0.72476(77)
Δ_{JK}	kHz	5.8417(18)	9.2032(25)	7.4041(52)
Δ_K	kHz	4.7432(44)	5.794(39)	4.844(57)
δ_J	kHz	0.175477(52)	0.192589(97)	0.18200(36)
δ_K	kHz	3.9355(15)	5.7471(21)	4.7743(26)
Φ_J	mHz	0.2014 ^[a]		0.2014 ^[a]
Φ_{JK}	Hz	0.019974 ^[a]		0.027(11)
Φ_{KJ}	Hz	-0.163(14)		-0.05527 ^[a]
Φ_K	Hz	0.07529 ^[a]		0.07529 ^[a]
ϕ_J	mHz	0.0768 ^[a]		0.0768 ^[a]
ϕ_{JK}	mHz	9.348 ^[a]		9.348 ^[a]
ϕ_K	Hz	0.11635 ^[a]		0.322(201)
Lines		67	25	25
RMS error	kHz	11.5	11.9	11.8
σ		0.96	1.17	0.95

Notes: Numbers in parenthesis are one standard deviation and apply to the last significant digits. The values for the vibrational energy levels (E) were estimated by using the data listed in Table 1 and without considering the anharmonicity constants. [a] Fixed to ground state value.

- 207 [6] H. Jiang, D. Appadoo, E. Robertson, D. McNaughton, A comparison of predicted and experimental vibrational spectra
208 in some small fluorocarbons, *J. Comput. Chem.* 23 (13) (2002) 1220–1225.
209 [7] A. Bhaumik, W. Brooks, S. Dass, The microwave spectrum and structure of trifluoro-ethylene, *J. Mol. Struct.* 16 (1)
210 (1973) 29–33.
211 [8] R. Wellington Davis, M. Gerry, Centrifugal distortion in trifluoroethylene, *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* 103 (1984) 187–193.
212 [9] H. O. Leung, M. D. Marshall, Rotational spectroscopy and molecular structure of 1, 1, 2-trifluoroethylene and the 1, 1,
213 2-trifluoroethylene-hydrogen fluoride complex, *J. Chem. Phys.* 126 (11) (2007) 114310.
214 [10] R. Visinoni, S. Giorgianni, A. Baldacci, S. Ghersetti, The infrared laser spectrum of $\text{CF}_2=\text{CHF}$ near 1360 cm^{-1} : Rovi-
215 brational analysis of the ν_3 fundamental, *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* 172 (2) (1995) 456–463.
216 [11] R. Visinoni, S. Giorgianni, A. Baldacci, M. Pedrali, S. Ghersetti, High-resolution infrared measurements and analysis of
217 the ν_4 band of $\text{CF}_2=\text{CHF}$, *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* 182 (2) (1997) 371–377.
218 [12] R. Visinoni, S. Giorgianni, A. Baldacci, S. Ghersetti, Diode laser spectroscopy of trifluoroethylene in the $8.6\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ region,
219 *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* 190 (2) (1998) 248–261.
220 [13] M. Melosso, B. Conversazioni, C. Degli Esposti, L. Dore, E. Cané, F. Tamassia, L. Bizzocchi, The pure rotational spectrum
221 of $^{15}\text{ND}_2$ observed by millimetre and submillimetre-wave spectroscopy, *J. Quant. Spectrosc. Ra.* 222 (2019) 186–189.
222 [14] M. Melosso, B. A. McGuire, F. Tamassia, C. Degli Esposti, L. Dore, Astronomical search of vinyl alcohol assisted by
223 submillimeter spectroscopy, *ACS Earth and Space Chemistry* 3 (7) (2019) 1189–1195. doi:10.1021/acsearthspacechem.
224 9b00055.
225 [15] L. Bizzocchi, F. Tamassia, J. Laas, B. Giuliano, C. Degli Esposti, L. Dore, M. Melosso, et al., Rotational and high-resolution
226 infrared spectrum of HC_3N : Global ro-vibrational analysis and improved line catalog for astrophysical observations,
227 *Astrophys. J. Suppl. S.* 233 (2017) 11.
228 [16] I. E. Gordon, L. S. Rothman, C. Hill, R. V. Kochanov, Y. Tan, P. F. Bernath, M. Birk, et al., The HITRAN2016 molecular
229 spectroscopic database, *J. Quant. Spectrosc. Ra.* 203 (2017) 3–69.
230 [17] J. K. Watson, Aspects of quartic and sextic centrifugal effects on rotational energy levels, *Vibrational spectra and structure*

- 231 6 (1977) 1–89.
- 232 [18] W. Gordy, R. L. Cook, *Microwave molecular spectra*, Wiley, 1984.
- 233 [19] S. J. Borchert, Low-resolution microwave spectroscopy: A new band type, *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* 57 (2) (1975) 312–315.
- 234 [20] Z. Kisiel, The millimeter-wave rotational spectrum of chlorobenzene: Analysis of centrifugal distortion and of conditions
235 for oblate-type bandhead formation, *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* 144 (2) (1990) 381–388.
- 236 [21] N. Tasinato, A. Pietropolli Charmet, P. Stoppa, ATIRS package: A program suite for the rovibrational analysis of infrared
237 spectra of asymmetric top molecules, *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* 243 (2) (2007) 148–154.
- 238 [22] H. M. Pickett, The fitting and prediction of vibration-rotation spectra with spin interactions, *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* 148 (2)
239 (1991) 371–377.
- 240 [23] C. Degli Esposti, L. Dore, M. Melosso, K. Kobayashi, C. Fujita, H. Ozeki, Millimeter-wave and submillimeter-wave spectra
241 of aminoacetonitrile in the three lowest vibrational excited states, *Astrophys. J. Suppl. S.* 230 (2) (2017) 26.