

Rudimentary Principles of  
Molecular  
Spectroscopy  
for ALMA applications



# Content:

Introduction (history,...)

Molecular quantum mechanics

Molecular spectroscopy ( basis ,  
types, theory)

Rotational spectroscopy (including  
hyperfine and structures)

Spectrometers in laboratory and in  
space

Interstellar spectroscopy

# Introduction (history,...)

- The theoretical background of spectroscopy is based on the quantum mechanics (QM)
- Roots of the QM were formed at the beginning of the 20th century. (1900 – Planck, 1905 and 1907 – Einstein, 1912 – Bohr, 1924 – de Broglie, 1925 – Heisenberg, 1926 – Schrödinger ) etc.
- 1927 -1970 Molecular quantum mechanics (MQM) was formulated (Born, Oppenheimer, Heitler, London, Slater , Pauling, Hund, Mulliken, Hartree, Fock etc. )
- Quantum Chemistry = an computational application of MQM to molecules. Computers.

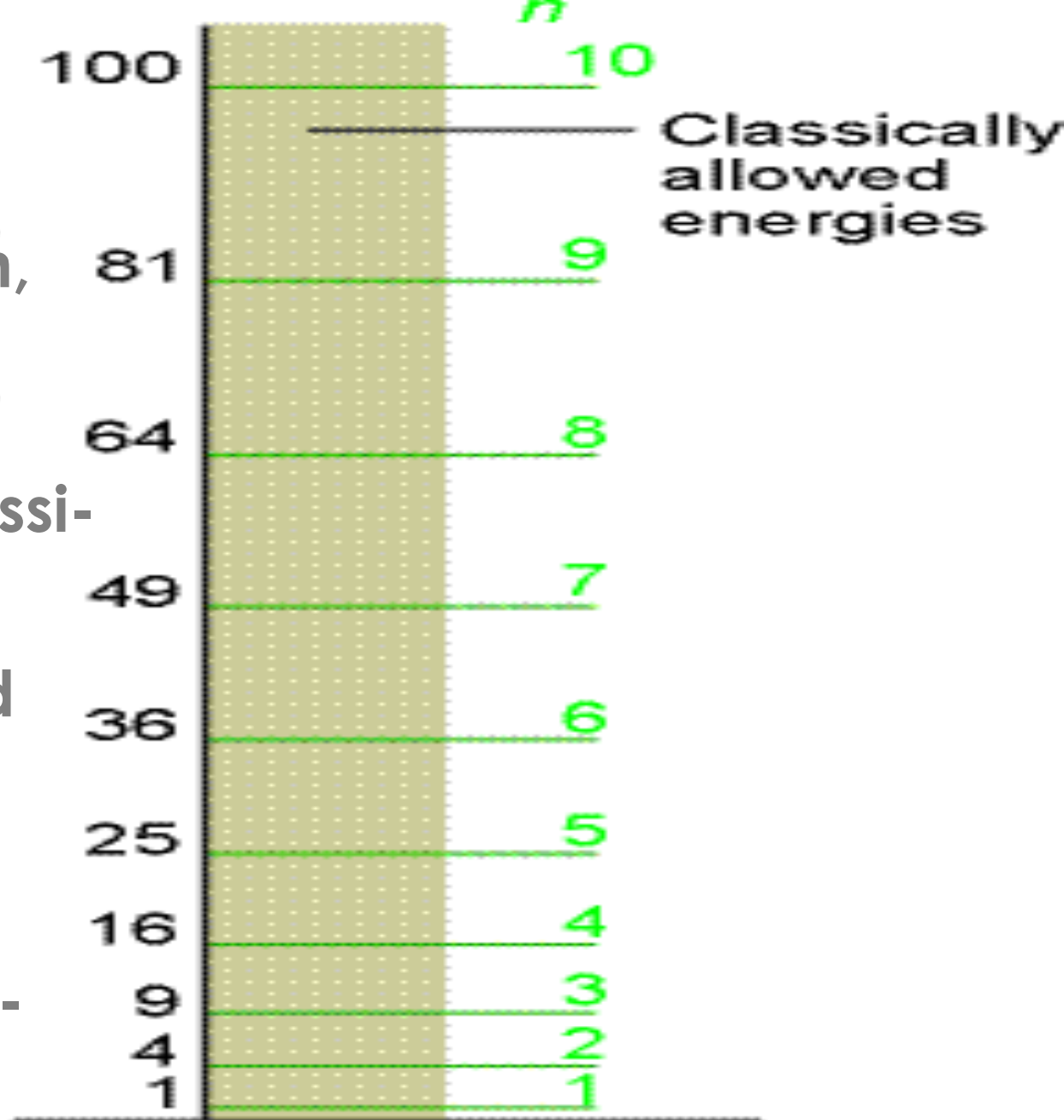
# (Molecular) Quantum Mechanics

tells us:

- Matter (mass) is quantized (elementary particles)
- Energy content in matter (molecules) is quantized (energy levels)
- Energy of an electromagnetic radiation is quantized (photons)
- Exchanges of the energy between the radiation and molecules are quantized

# Example:

A quantum system, like a **molecule**, cannot have any energy like it is obvious in the classical mechanics. Energies of these levels are allowed only for certain values which are characteristic for each individual quantum system - **molecule**.



# Exchanges of the energie between the radiation and molecules are quantized

A.Einstein (1906) considered a hypothetical quantum system having only two states:

- **Quantum state 1** with an **energy E1**

and

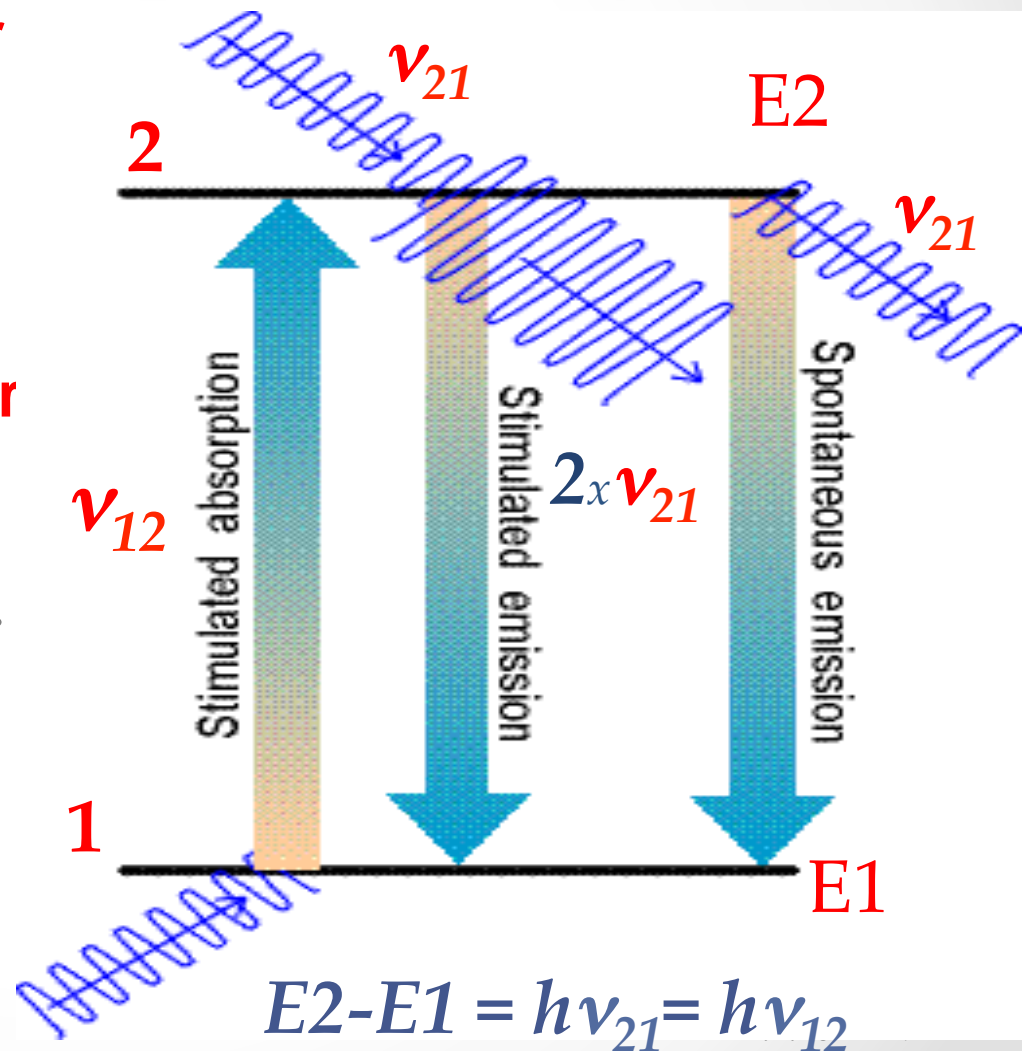
- **Quantum state 2** with an **energy E2**

The system is either in the **state 1** with the energy **E1** or in the **state 2** with the energy **E2**



# Exchanges of the energie between the radiation and the quantum system

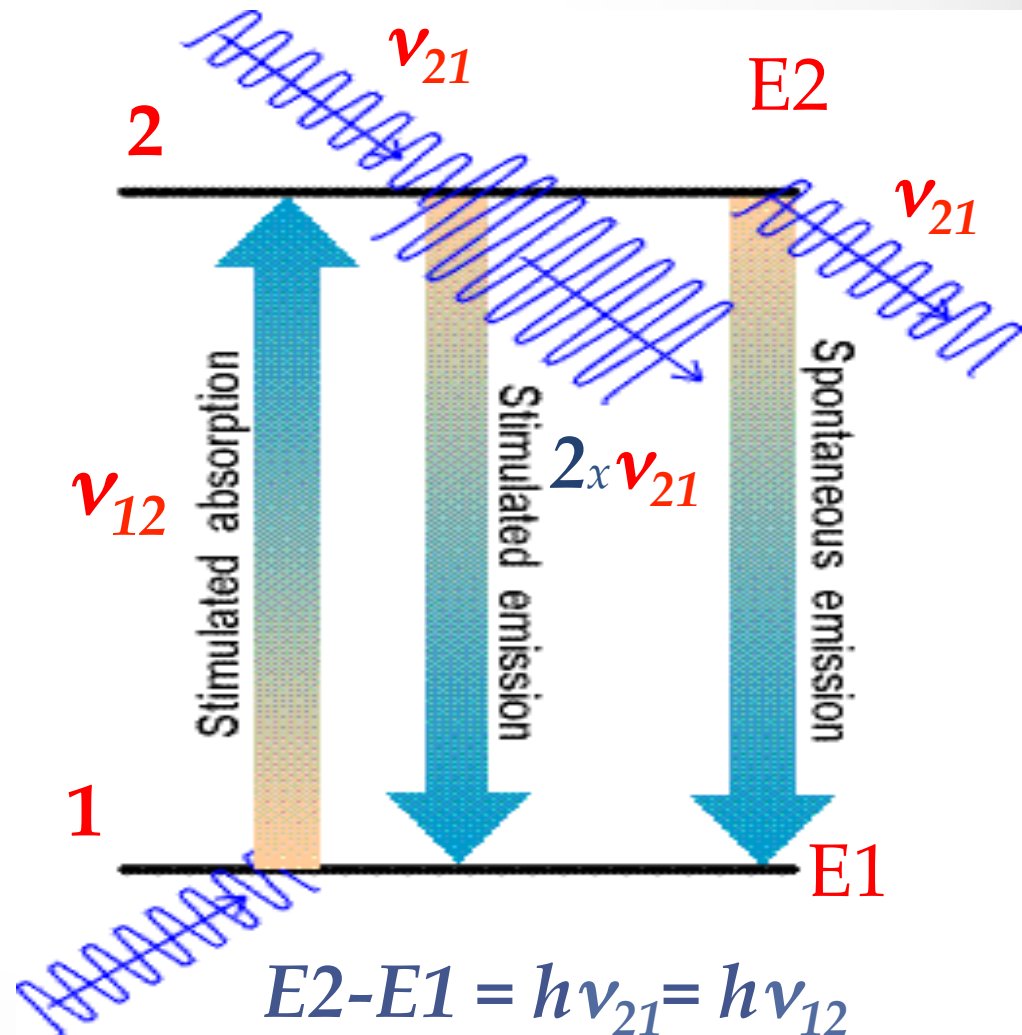
- If the system is in the **lower state 1**, it can change its state only by receiving the quantum energy  **$E = E_2 - E_1$** .
- If the system is in the **upper state 2**, it can change its state only by emitting the quantum energy  **$E = E_2 - E_1$** .
- There are two radiative mechanisms of the deexcitation for this emission.



# Exchanges of the energie between the radiation and a quantum system

In all the cases, the system is either absorbing or emitting photons with energy satisfying, so called, the Bohr resonance condition :

$$E2 - E1 = h\nu_{21} = h\nu_{12}$$



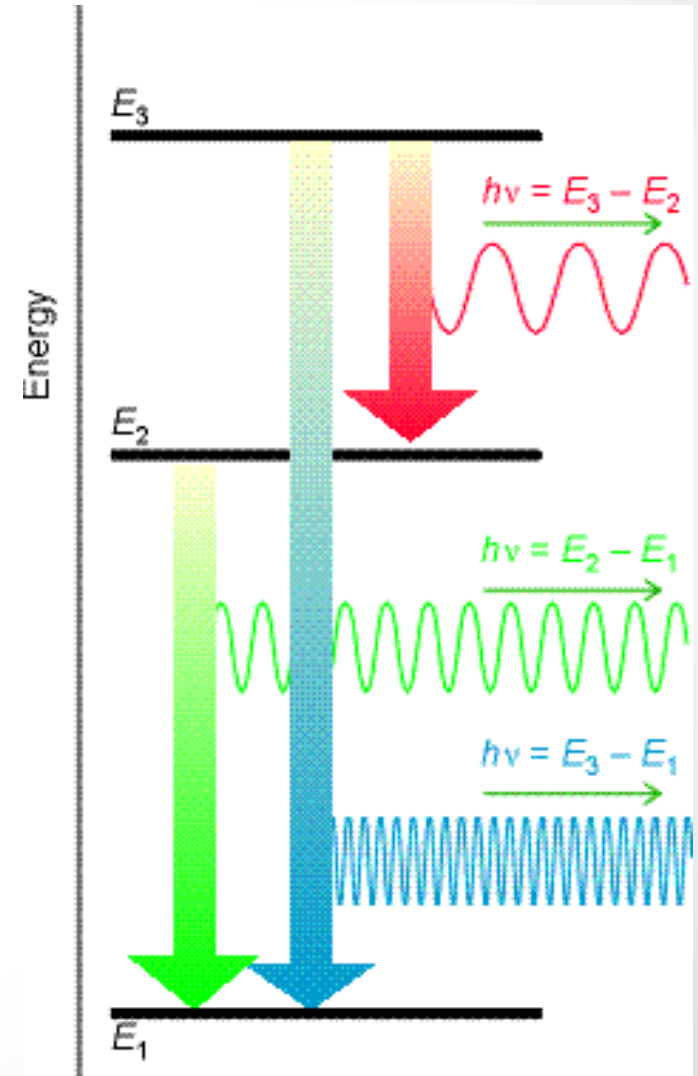


# Exchanges of the energie between the radiation and a molecule

- In Molecules, there is a plenty of energy levels as well as a plenty of different photons  $h\nu_{xy}$  satisfying the Bohr resonance conditions:

$$E_x - E_y = h\nu_{xy}$$

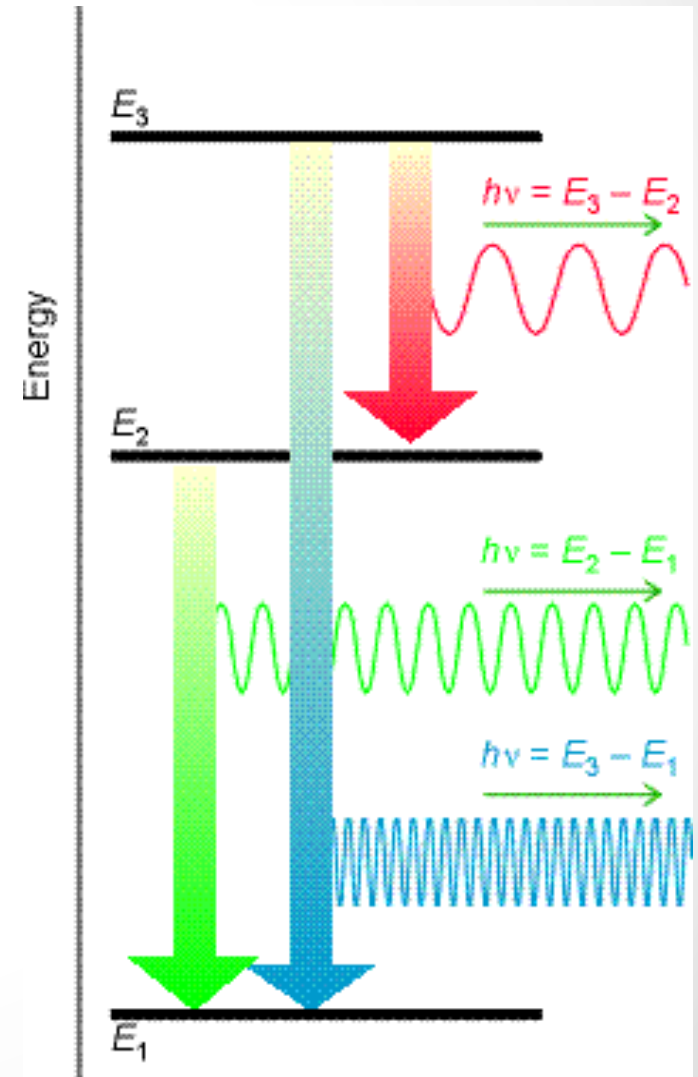
For each molecule, the assembly of energy levels as well as the assembly of the corresponding allowed photons are unique and characteristic.



# Molecular Spectroscopy

For each molecule, the assembly of energy levels as well as the assembly of the corresponding allowed photons are unique and characteristic.

**Molecular Spectroscopy** is a science dealing with molecular energy levels and with **transitions** between them. These transitions are measured by means of the absorption or emission of resonance photons.

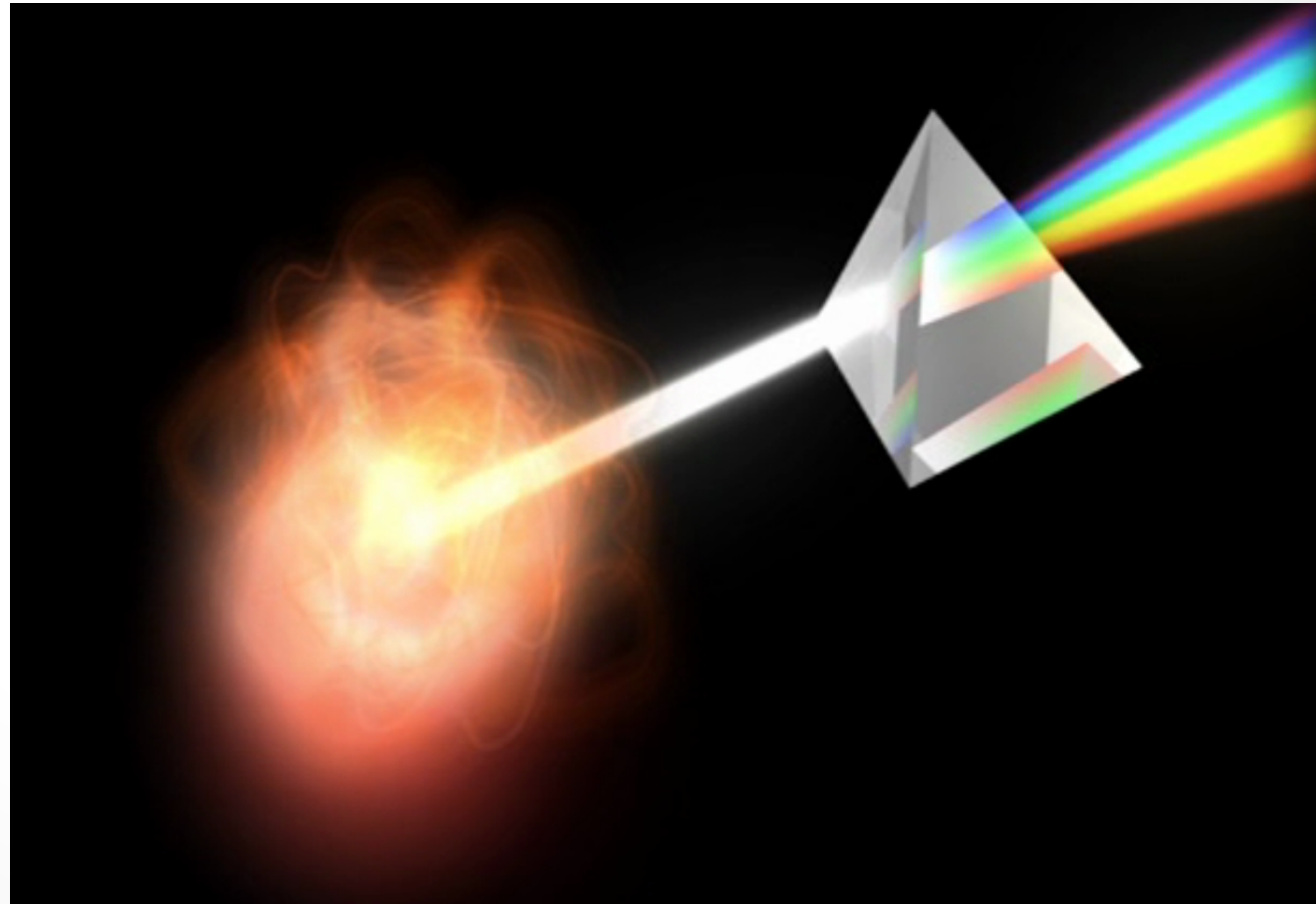


# Molecular Spectroscopy

Spectroscopy is classified into **emission** and **absorption**. In the case of the **emission spectroscopy**, the basic source of radiation is a sample which is analysed.

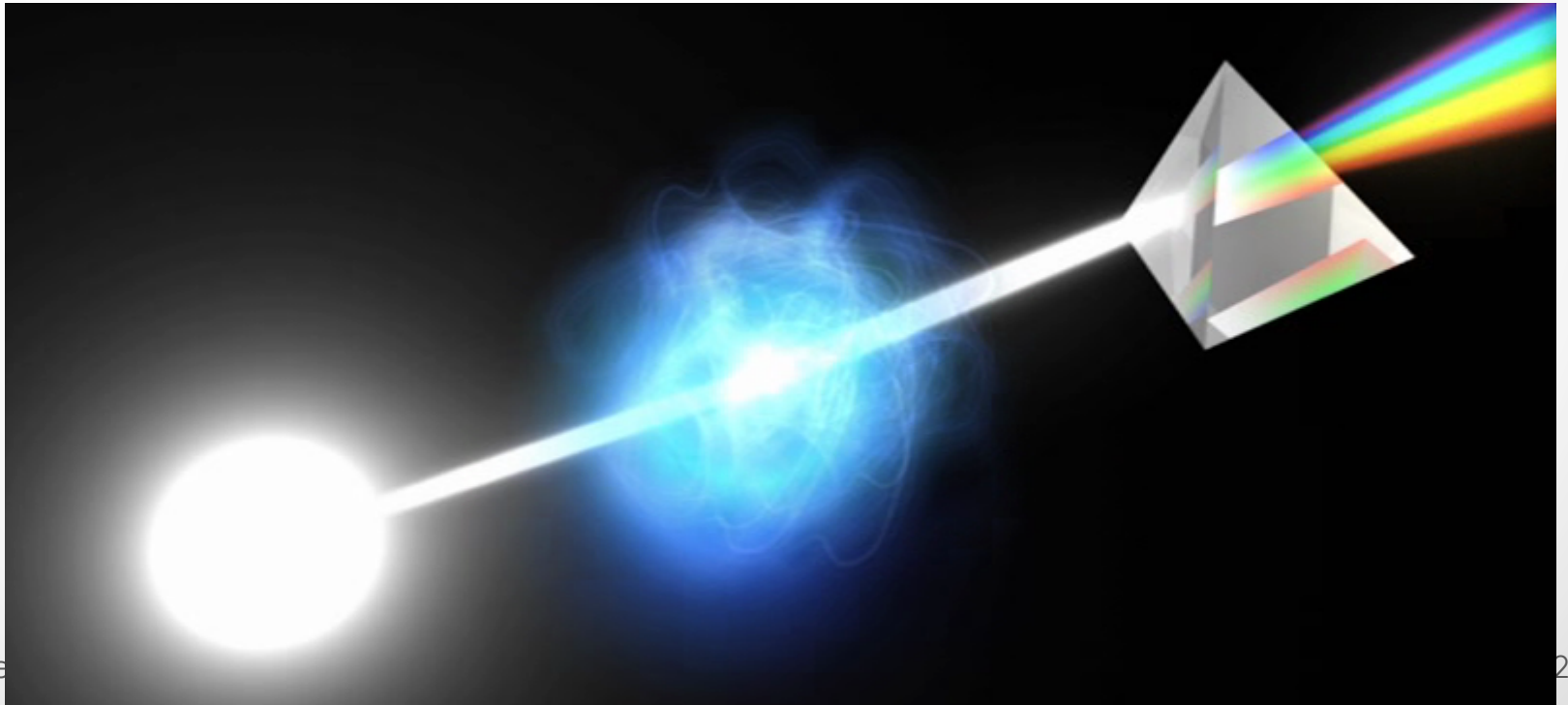
It means, that the radiating molecular system is, at least partly, in an excited state.

Sample can be anywhere (in lab, in space), the spectrometer on satellites, on Earth etc.



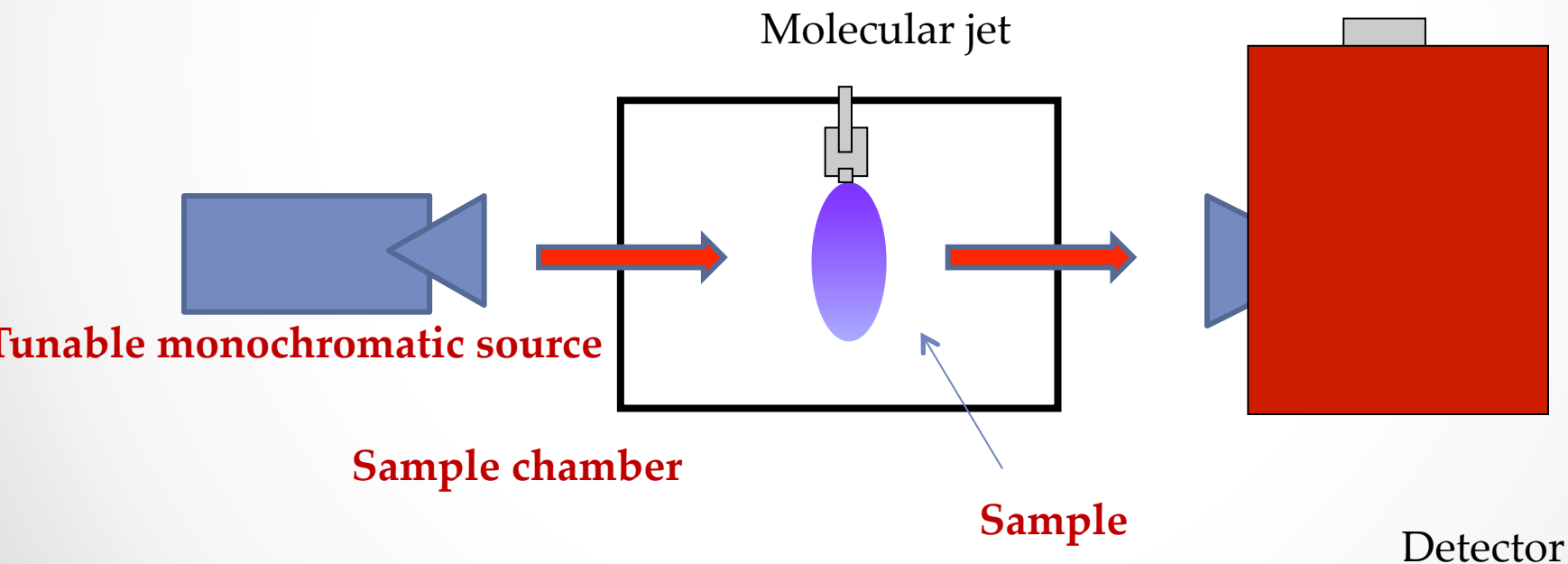
# Molecular Spectroscopy

In the case of **absorption spectroscopy**, a source of radiation is used. The source is either polychromatic or monochromatic. Setup with the polychromatonic radiation source must involve some dispersion system (prisma, interferometer, grating ...)



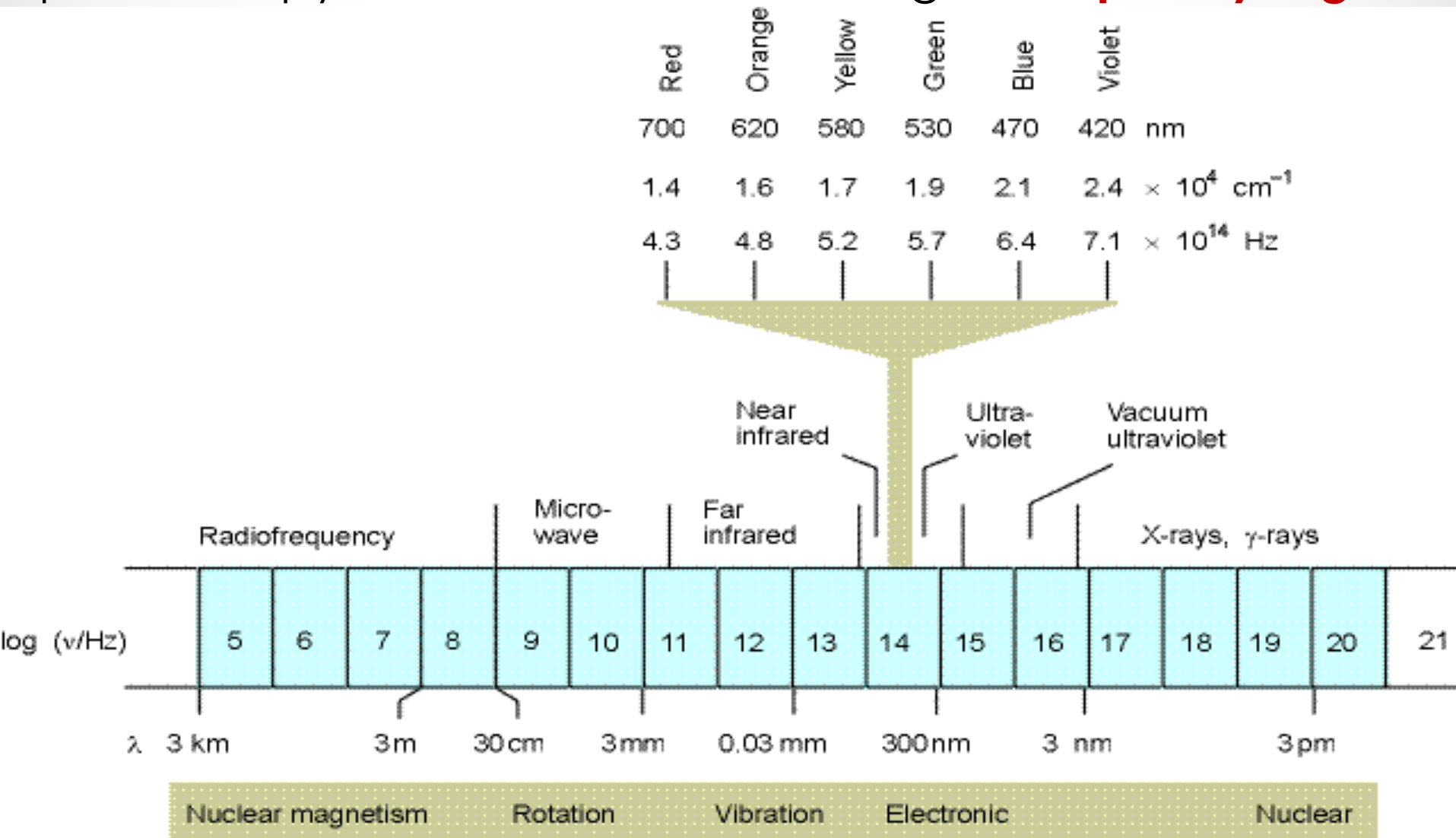
# Molecular Spectroscopy

On the second hand, the **monochromatic tunable sources** are available only exceptionally, only in the spectral regions, where these high-tech sources are available (tunable lasers, gun diodes, karcinotrons, klystrons ...)



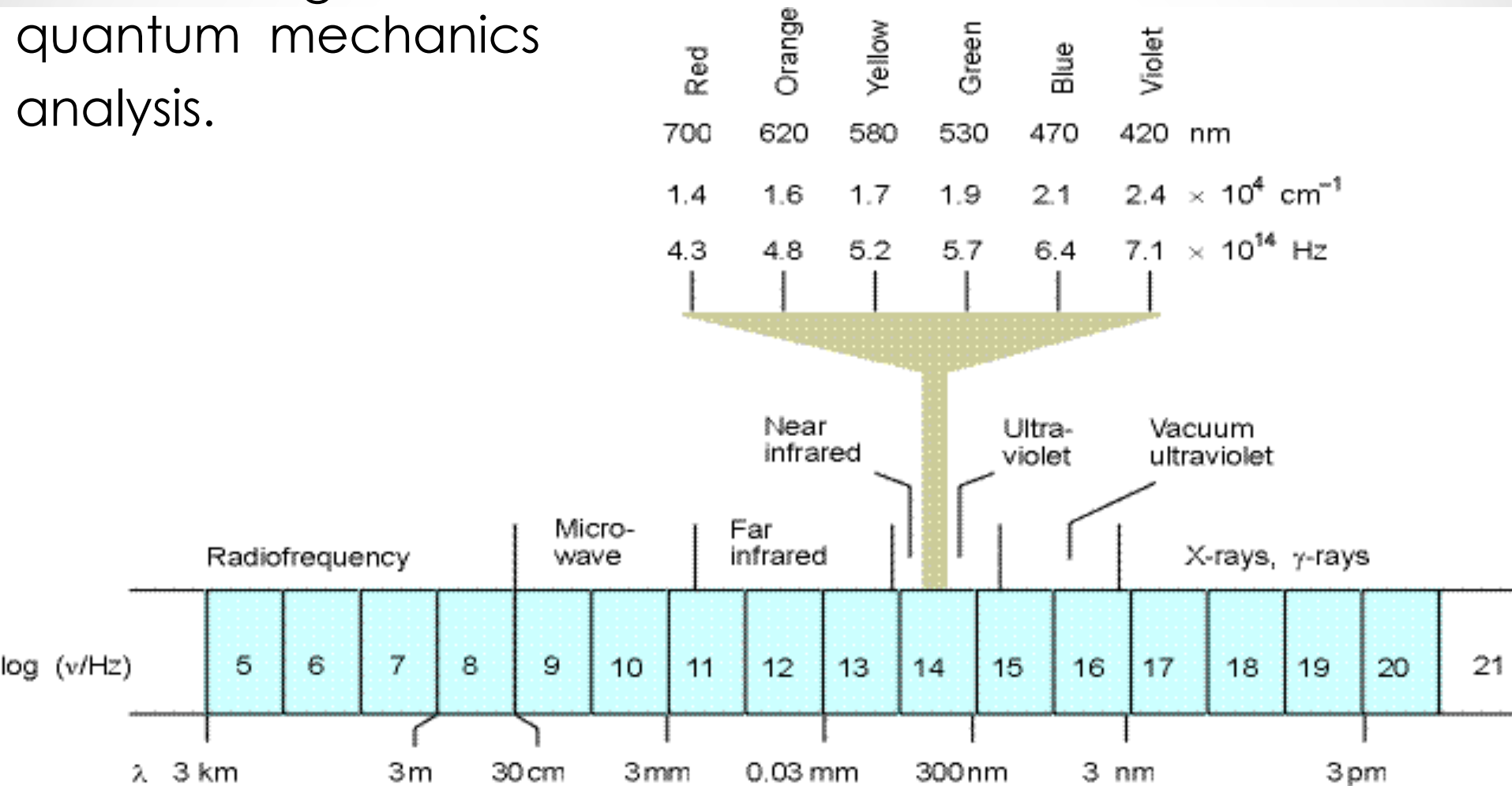
# Molecular Spectroscopy

Spectroscopy is also divided according to **frequency regions**



# Molecular Spectroscopy

or according to **theoretical model** which is used for the quantum mechanics analysis.



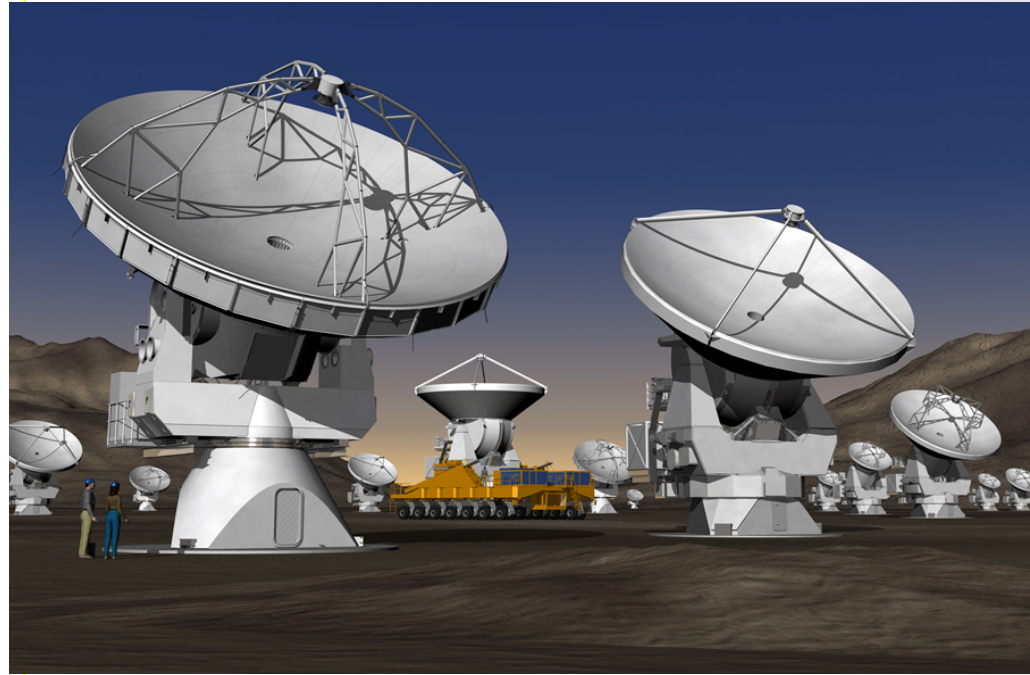
# Molecular Spectroscopy

- **Electronic spectroscopy** (visible, ultraviolet, x-rays) observes transitions with a change of the quantum states of electronic molecular orbitals
- **Vibrational spectroscopy** (Infrared, THz) transitions between states with different vibrational quantum numbers (q.n.). These vibrational states have different content of the internal energy of molecular frame.
- **Rotational spectroscopy** (cm, mm, sub-mm, and FIR) observes transitions between the states which have the same vibrational and electronic q.n. but rotational ones are different.



# Molecular Spectroscopy

From point of view of molecular spectroscopy, the **ALMA** facilities represent an emission high resolution spectrometer in the region of wave-lengthes cca 0.3 -10 mm.



ALMA spectrometer, therefore, makes measurements of **high resolution rotational spectra** in interstellar and circumstellar environments possible. The ALMA spectrometer array can provide the spectra with **the highest sensitivity** and space resolution.

# Rotational spectroscopy

- From the classical point of view, rotational spectroscopy studies changes of angular momenta of the **molecular frame rotation**.
- Quantum mechanics (QM) of angular momentum makes a detailed description of rotation spectra possible.
- QM Hamiltonian (operator for Schrödinger equation) for nuclear parts (without electrons) of a molecule:

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2M_{\text{tot}}} \sum_{\alpha=1}^3 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial X_{\alpha}^2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha,\beta=1}^3 \mu_{\alpha\beta} (\mathcal{P}_{\alpha} - \Pi_{\alpha})(\mathcal{P}_{\beta} - \Pi_{\beta}) + U - \frac{\hbar^2}{2} \sum_{s=1}^{3N-6} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial q_s^2} + V.$$

# Rotational spectroscopy

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**Movement of  
centre of gravity**

# Rotational spectroscopy

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3x3 tensor inversional  
to moment of inertia  
(generally dependent on  
molecular geometry)

vibrational angular  
momentum operators

vibrational energies  
IR region

# Rotational spectroscopy

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3x3 tensor inversional to moment of inertia (generally dependent on vib. coordinates)

dependence on vib. coordinates neglected

Molecular frame angular momentum operators

vibrational angular momentum operators

vibrational energies  
IR region

choice of coordinate system to be the 3x3 tensor diagonal

# Rotational spectroscopy

$$\hat{H} = \cancel{\left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2M_{\text{tot}}} \sum_{\alpha=1}^3 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial X_{\alpha}^2}\right)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha,\beta=1}^3 \mu_{\alpha\beta} (\mathcal{P}_{\alpha} - \Pi_{\alpha})(\mathcal{P}_{\beta} - \Pi_{\beta}) + U - \cancel{\left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \sum_{s=1}^{3N-6} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial q_s^2}\right)} + V$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \{ J_x^2 / I_{xx} + J_y^2 / I_{yy} + J_z^2 / I_{zz} \} \psi_r = E_r \psi_r$$

# Rotational spectroscopy

Schrödinger equation of the **rigid rotor**

$$\frac{1}{2}\{J_x^2/I_{xx} + J_y^2/I_{yy} + J_z^2/I_{zz}\} \psi_r = E_r \psi_r$$

substitution of  $J_x$  and  $I_{xx}$  by  $J_a$  and  $I_a$  etc. so  $I_a \leq I_b \leq I_c$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}\{J_a^2/I_a + J_b^2/I_b + J_c^2/I_c\} \psi_r &= \\ &= \hbar^{-2} \{A J_a^2 + B J_b^2 + C J_c^2\} \psi_r = E_r \psi_r \end{aligned}$$

- where A, B, and C are, so called, **rotational constants**

# Rotational spectroscopy

$$\hbar^{-2} \{A J_a^2 + B J_b^2 + C J_c^2\} \psi_r = E_r \psi_r$$

where A, B, and C are, so called, **rotational constants**

Rotational constants are interconnected with molecular geometry (through the moment inertia) as well as with molecular symmetry.

Schrödinger Equation is for the rigid rotor solvable either analytically or numerically (asymmetric top).

$$A = \frac{h^2}{8\pi^2 I_a}$$

$$B = \frac{h^2}{8\pi^2 I_b}$$

$$C = \frac{h^2}{8\pi^2 I_c}$$



# Rotational spectroscopy

$$I_a = I_b = I_c$$

$$A = B = C$$

**Spherical top** (rotational constants

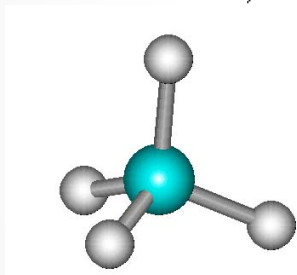
$$\hbar^{-2} \{B J_a^2 + B J_b^2 + B J_c^2\} \psi_r = \hbar^{-2} B \{J_a^2 + J_b^2 + J_c^2\} \psi_r = \hbar^{-2} B J^2 = E_r \psi_r$$

Rotational energy

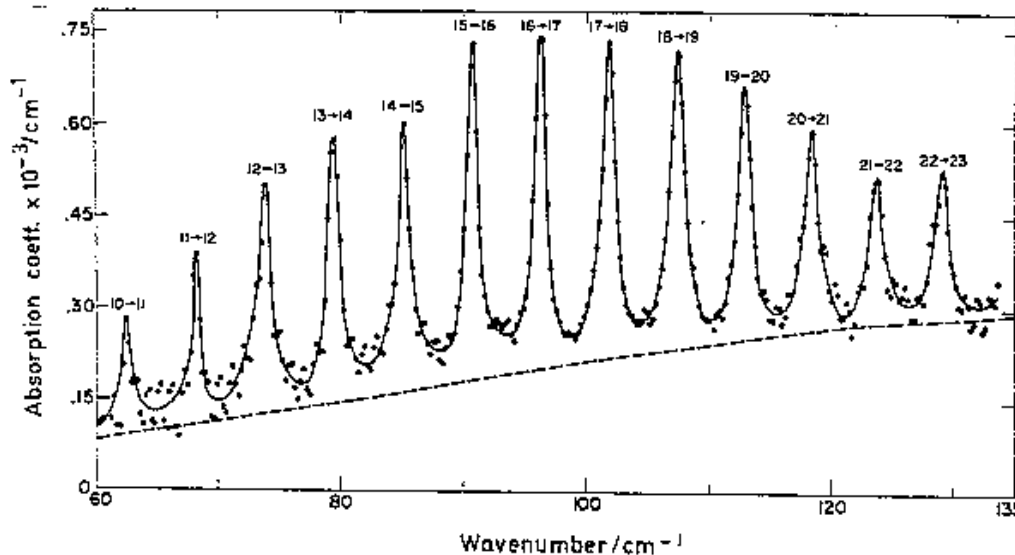
$$E_{J,k,m} = B J(J+1)$$

Transition frequency ( $J+1 \leftarrow J$ )

$$\nu(J) = 2B(J+1) - 2D_J (J+1)^2(J+2) \dots$$

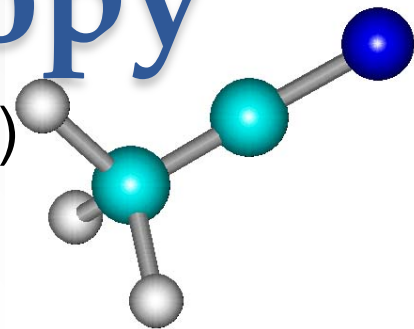


In the spherical top case, the spectrum provides app. equidistant lines with spacing  $2B$



**Figure 4.28** The far infrared pure rotational spectrum of the  $\text{SiH}_4$  molecule obtained with a Michelson interferometer [Reproduced, with permission, from Rosenberg, A. and Ozier, I. (1974) *Can. J. Phys.*, **52**, ...]

# Rotational spectroscopy

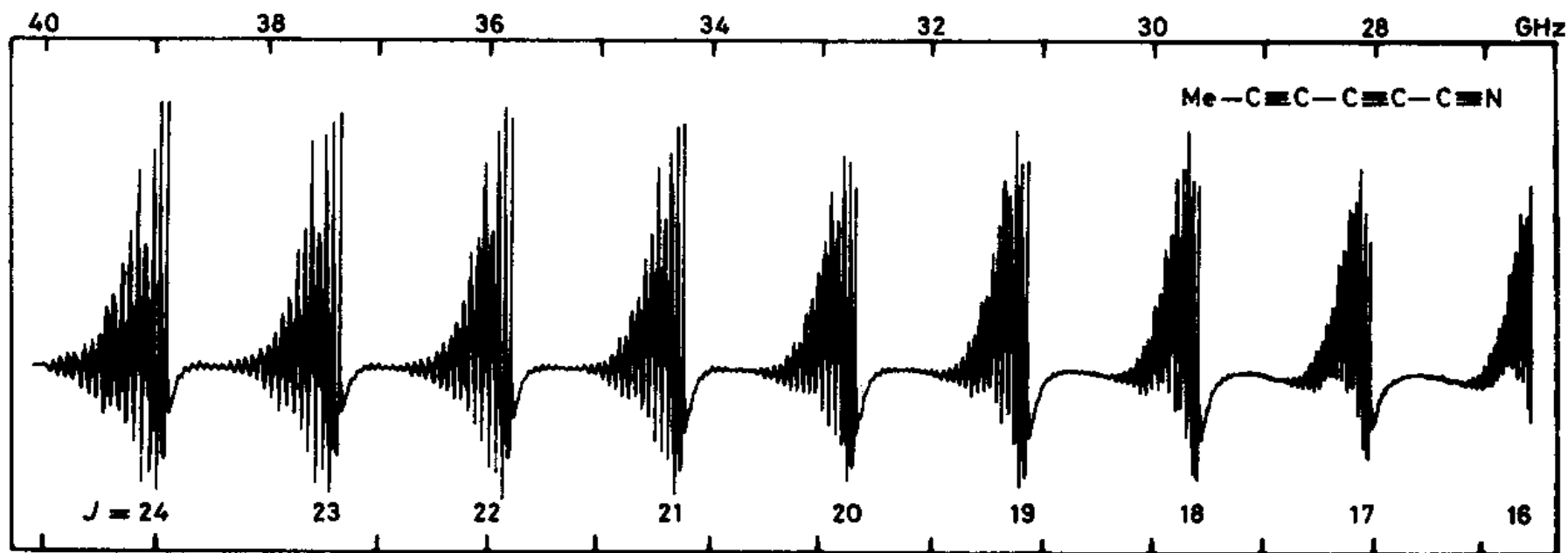


**Prolate symmetric top** (rot. constants  $A > B = C$  )

**Oblate symmetric top** (rot. constants  $A = B > C$  )

Rot. en.  $E_{J,k} = B J(J+1) + (A-B)k^2$  or  $E_{J,k} = B J(J+1) + (C-B)k^2$ .

Trans.fr.  $(J+1, k \leftarrow J, K) \quad \nu(J) = 2B(J+1) - 2D_j (J+1)^2(J+2) - 2D_{jk} (J+1)^2 k^2$



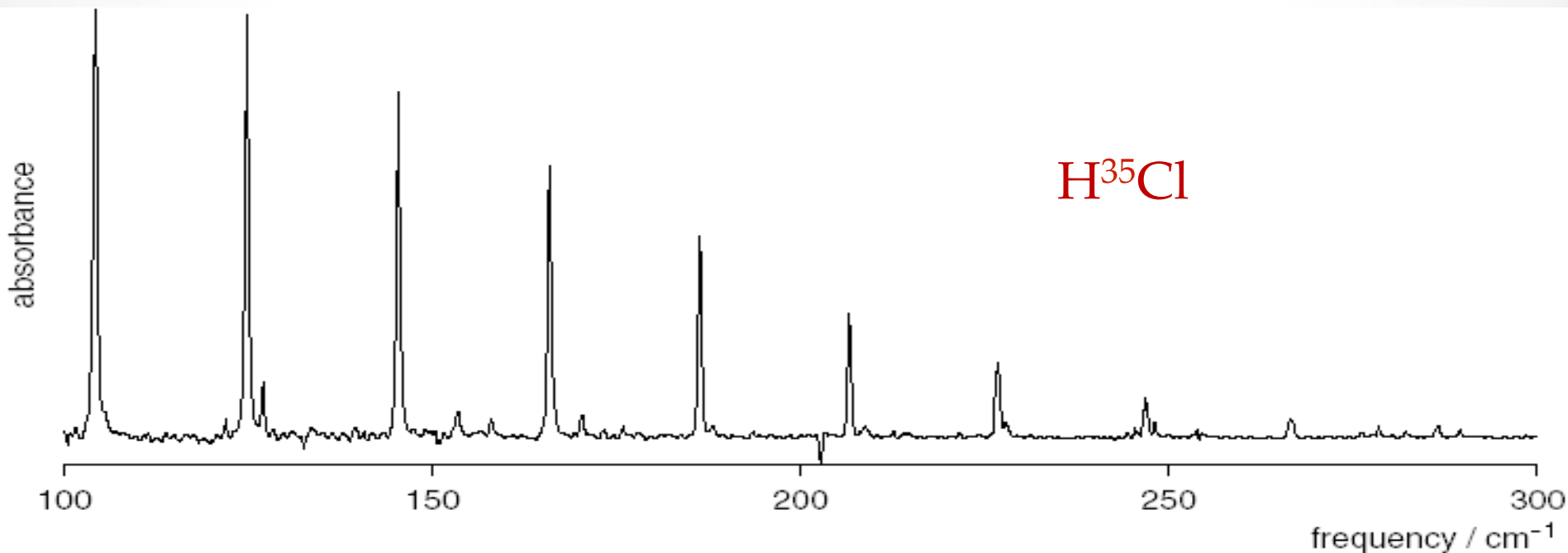
# Rotational spectroscopy

**Linear molecules** are a special case of the prolate **symmetric top** with extremely big rotational constant

$$A \gg B=C$$

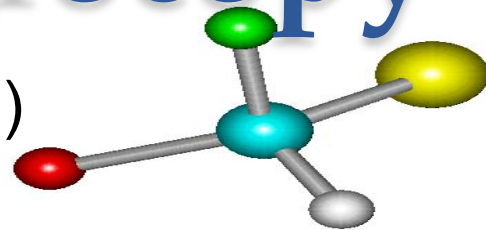
Rot. en.  $E_{J,0} = B J(J+1) + \cancel{(A-B)k^2} - D_J J^2(J+1)^2 + \dots$

Trans.fr.  $(J+1, k=0 \leftarrow J, 0) \quad \nu(J) = 2B(J+1) - 2D_J (J+1)^2(J+2)$



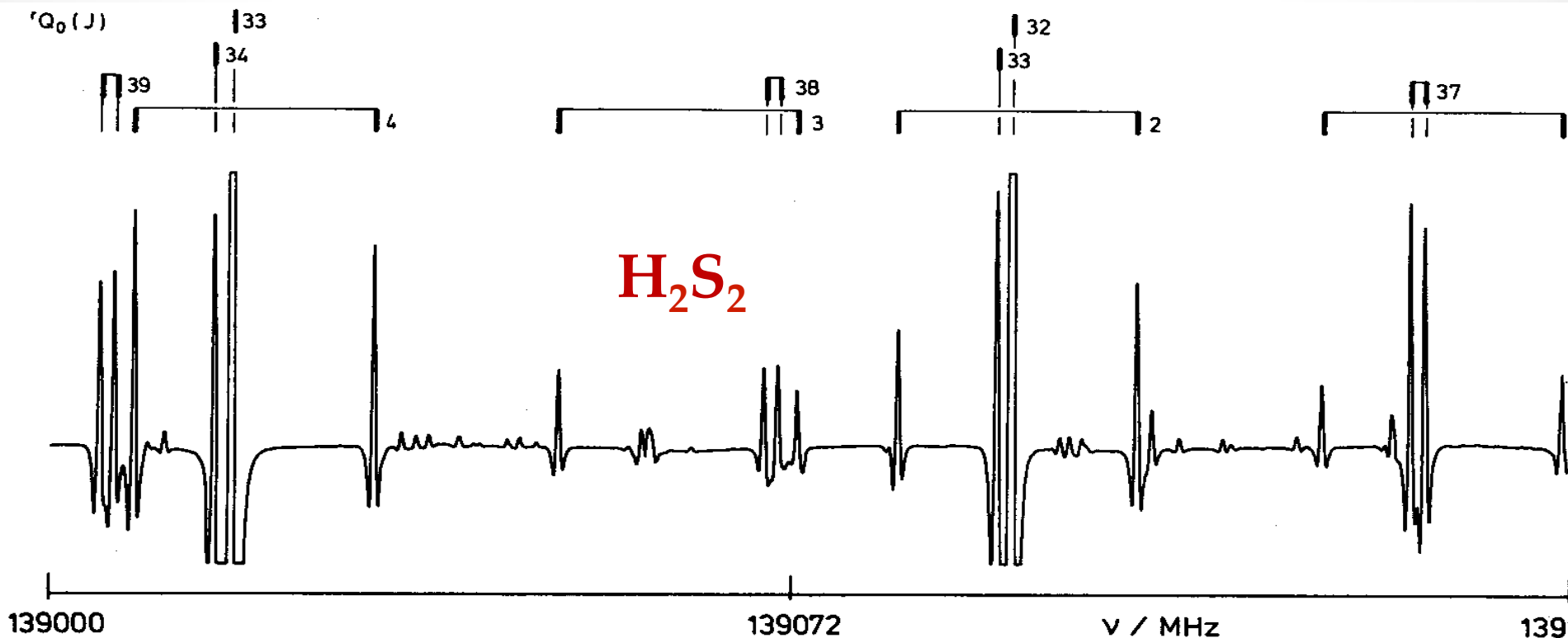
# Rotational spectroscopy

**Asymmetric top** (rot. constants  $A > B > C$ )



*There is no simple analytical expression for energies.*

**The energies are calculated from *Hamiltonian matrices* that are constructed in the basis of *symmetric top wavefunctions***



# Hyperfine and Fine Structures of Rotational Energy Levels

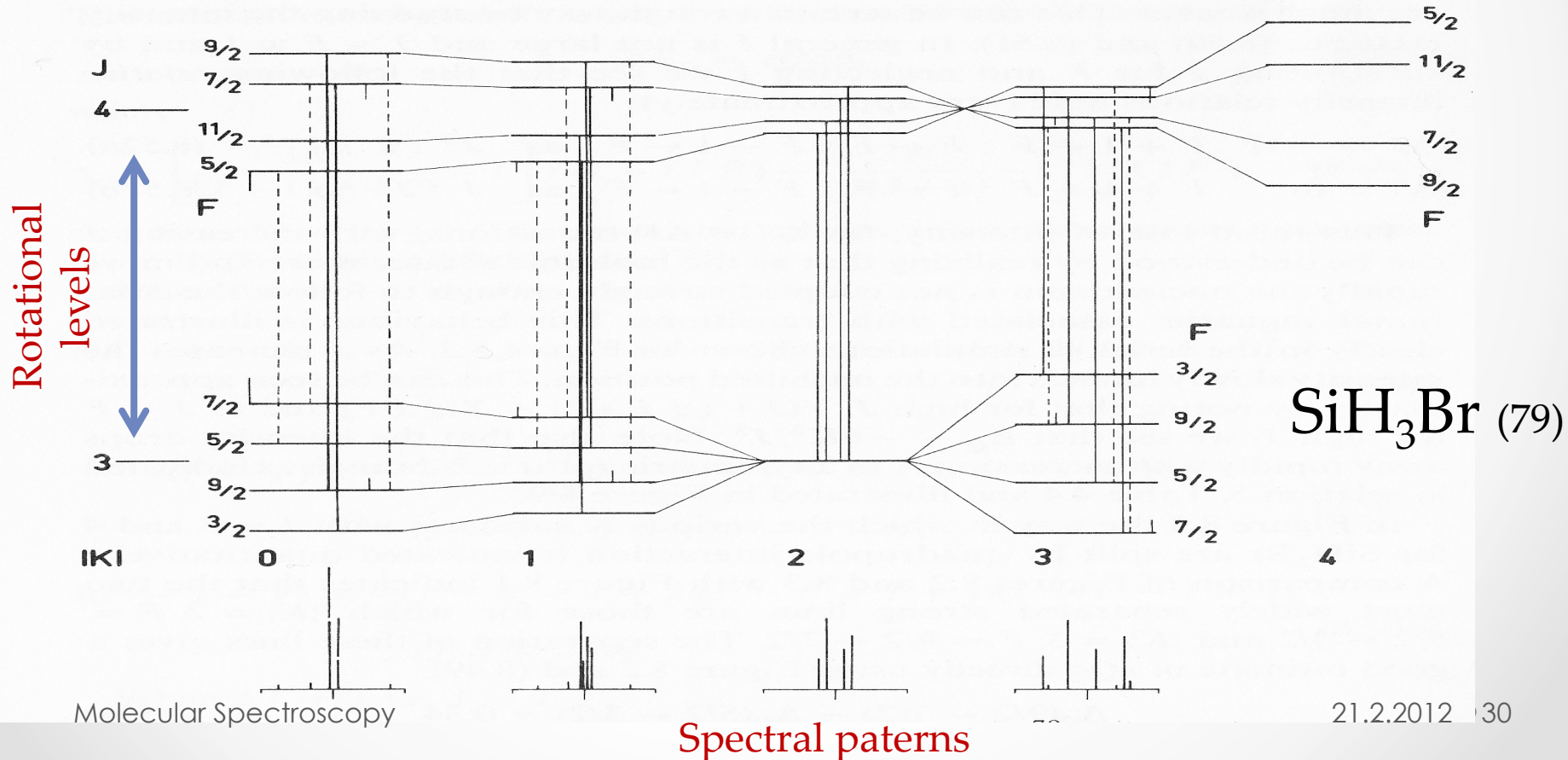
Some nuclei have a **nuclear spin** – inner angular momentum. Since nucleus has an electric charge, it is accompanied with a magnetic moment and, in cases of higher spin  $S > 0.5$ , the nuclei have also electric quadrupole moment.

Since the possible orientations of the spin moments are quantized, there are also quantized **weak interactions** of the **nuclear spin magnetic** and **electric quadrupole moments** with the internal electromagnetic field of molecules.

These **weak interactions of nuclear spins** with the internal electromagnetic **field generate hyperfine structures** of rotational levels.

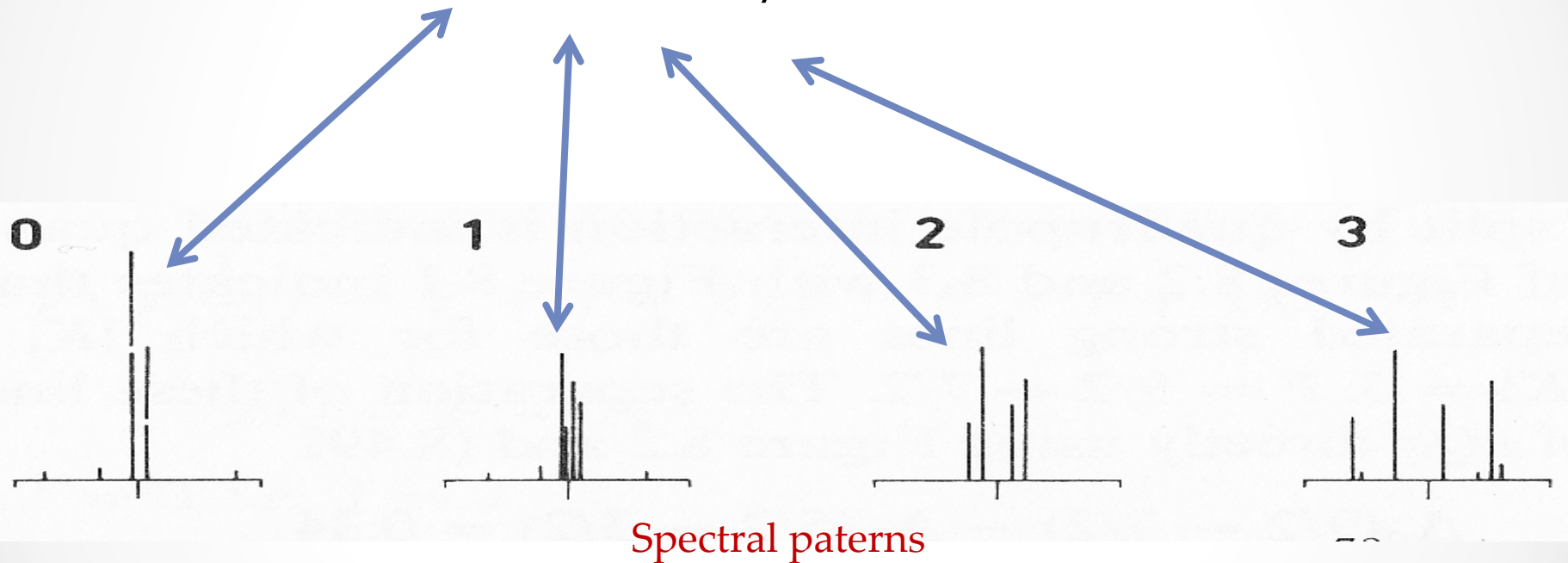
# Hyperfine and Fine Structures of Rotational Energy Levels

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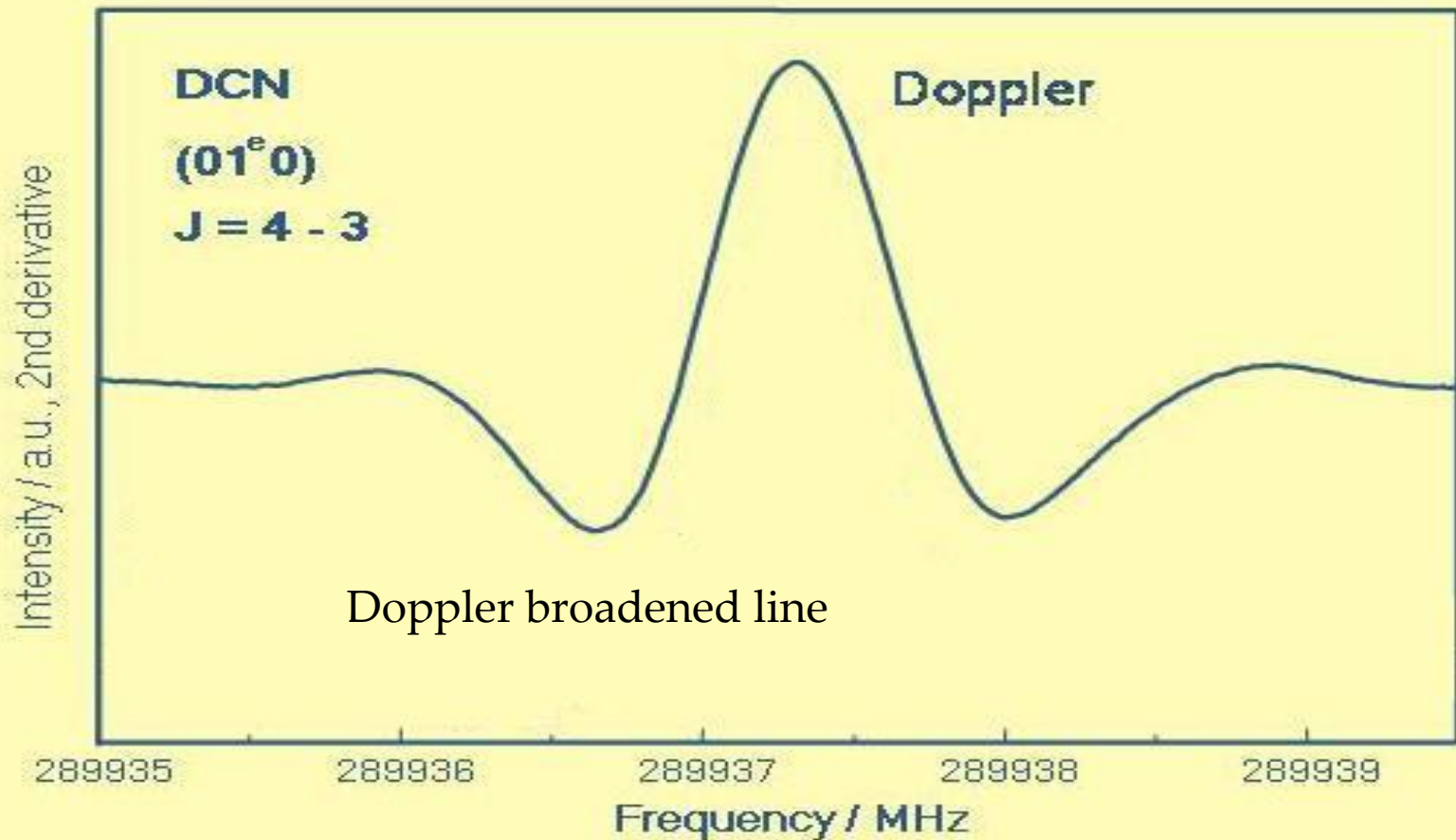
# Hyperfine and Fine Structures of Rotational Energy Levels

These **hyperfine splittings** of rotational levels are often too fine to be resolved and they are hidden broadened lines.



The **collision broadening** of lines can be removed by very low sample pressure when the **Doppler broadening** remains. The Doppler can be suppressed by special experiments.

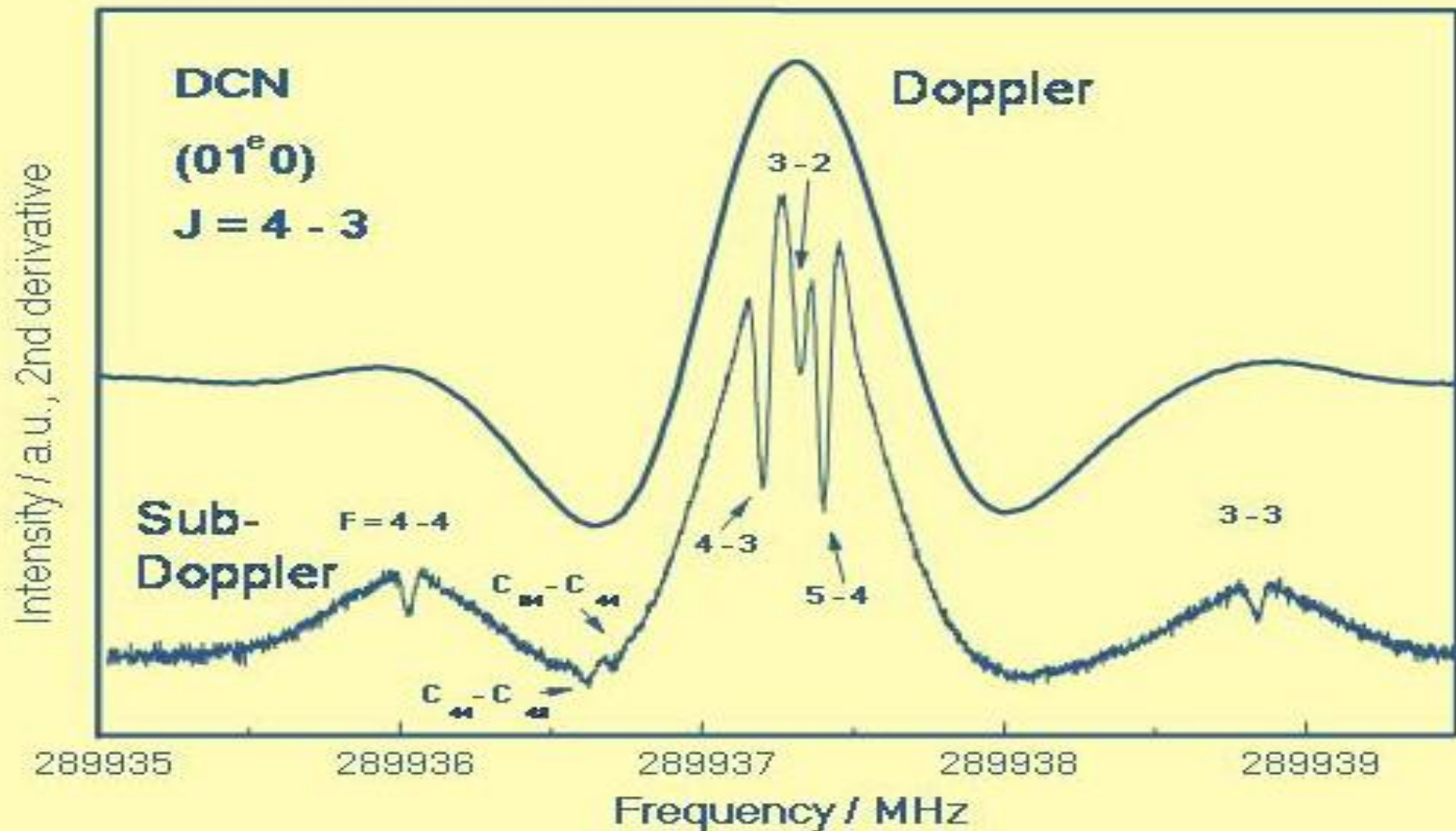
# Hyperfine and Fine Structures of Rotational Energy Levels





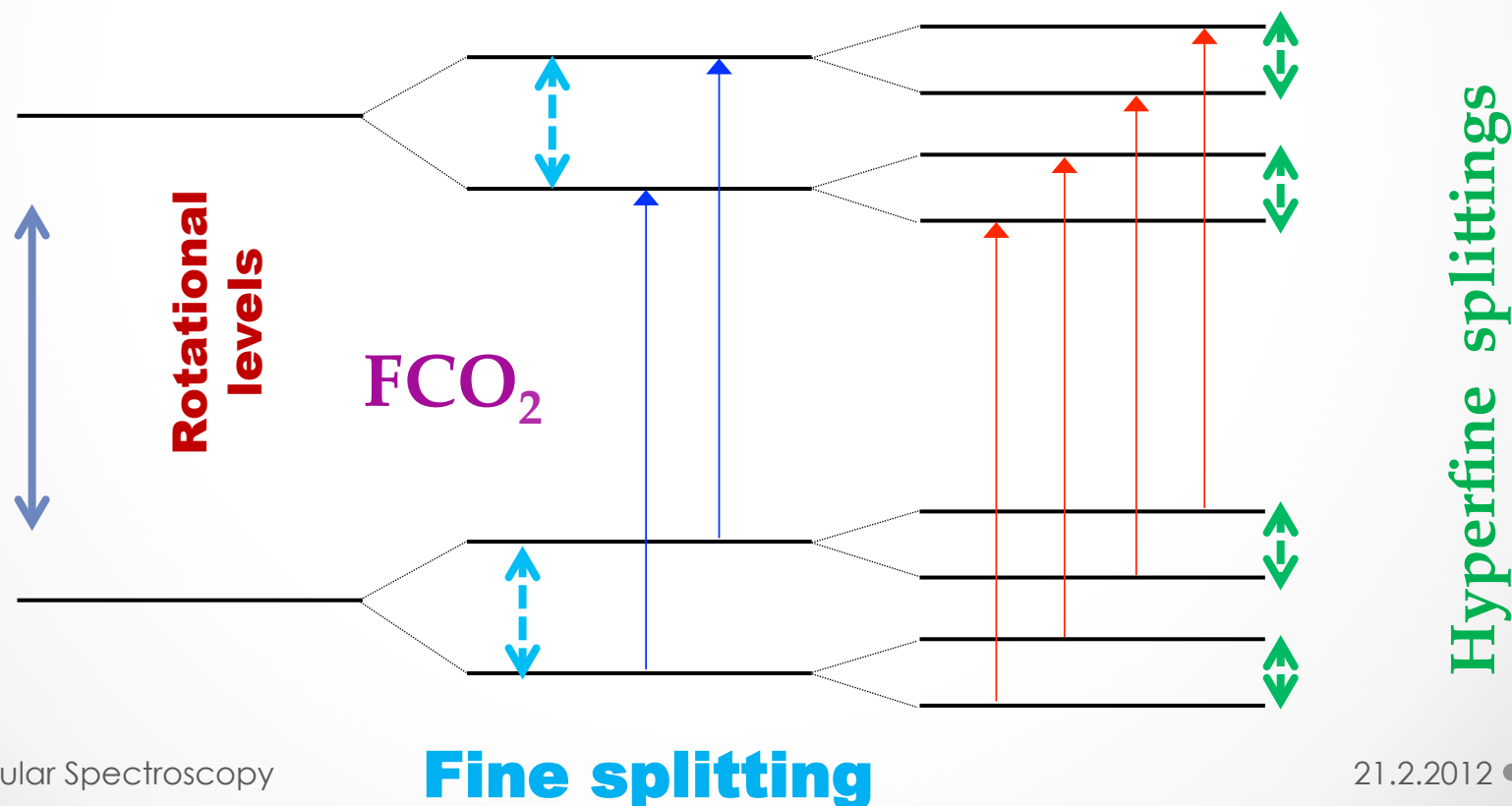
# Hyperfine Structures of Rotational Energy

The same line measured by the saturation Lamb dip technique. These sub-doppler measurements uncover **hyperfine structures**. The **natural broadening** remains.



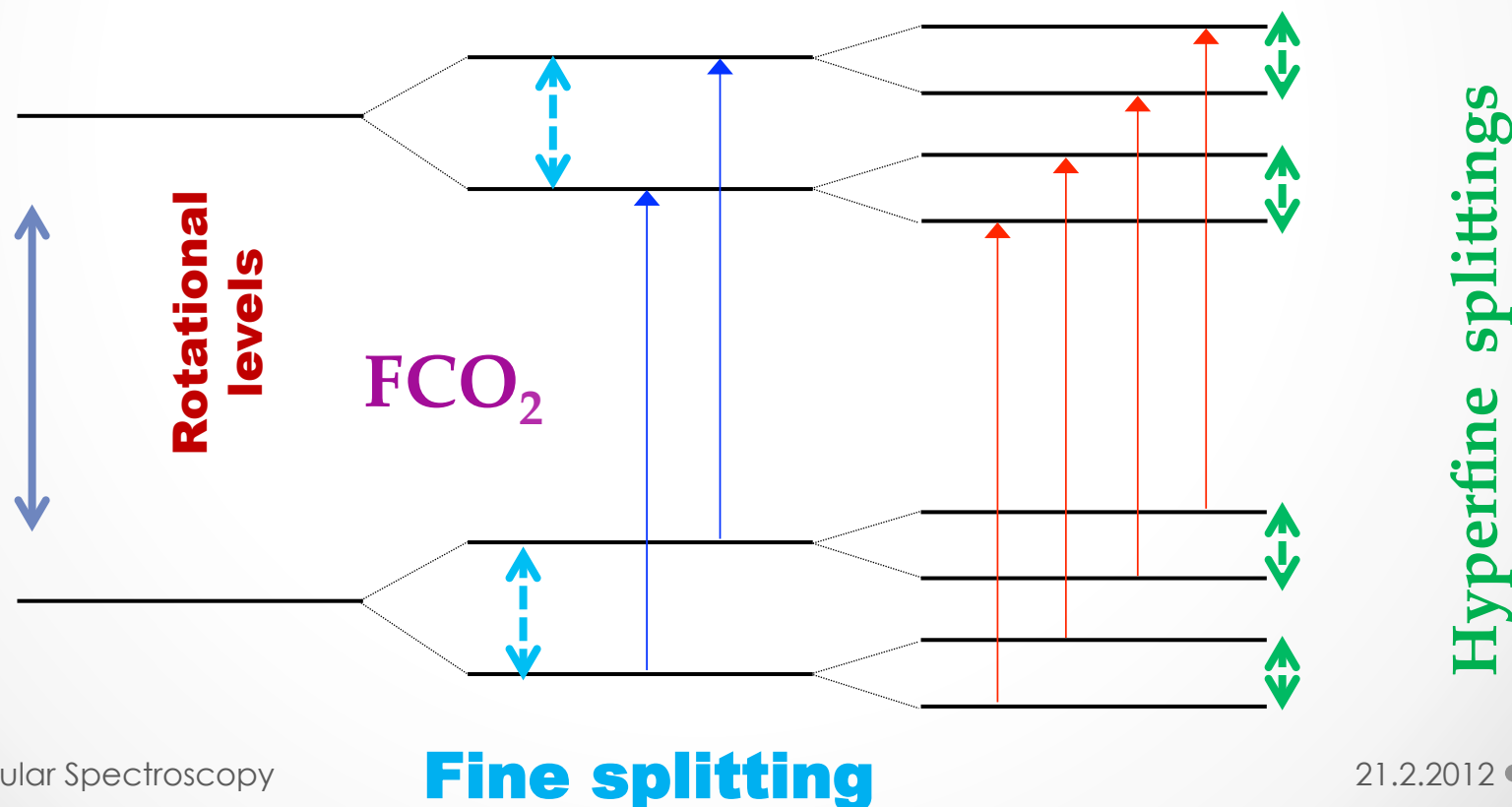
# Fine Structures of Rotational Levels

In the case of the **open shell molecules** (so called **radicals**) that have unpaired electron(s), the **fine structure** of rotational levels can be observed. This splitting is a consequence of the **magnetic interaction of unpaired electrons with internal magnetic fields** in the molecule.



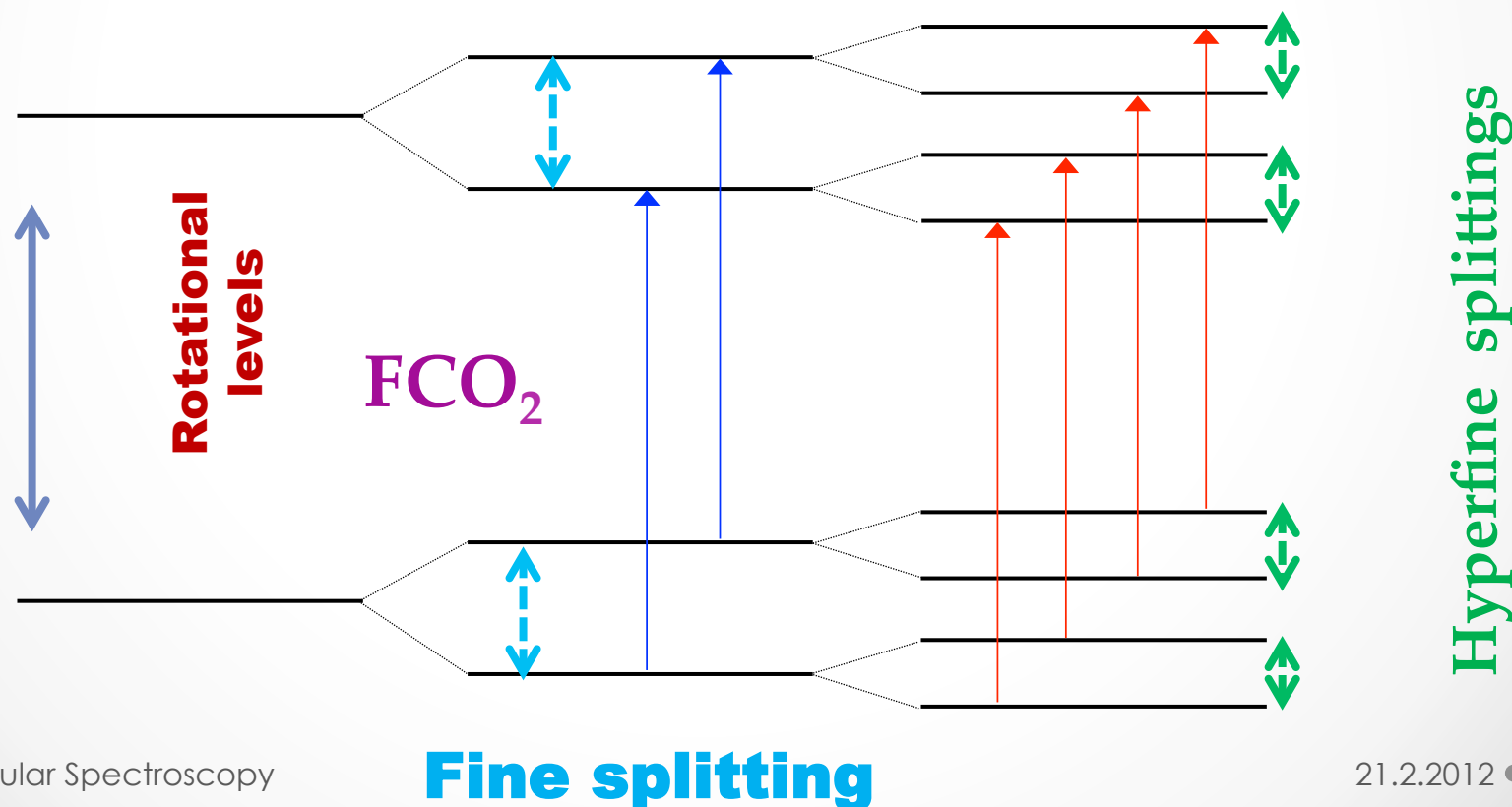
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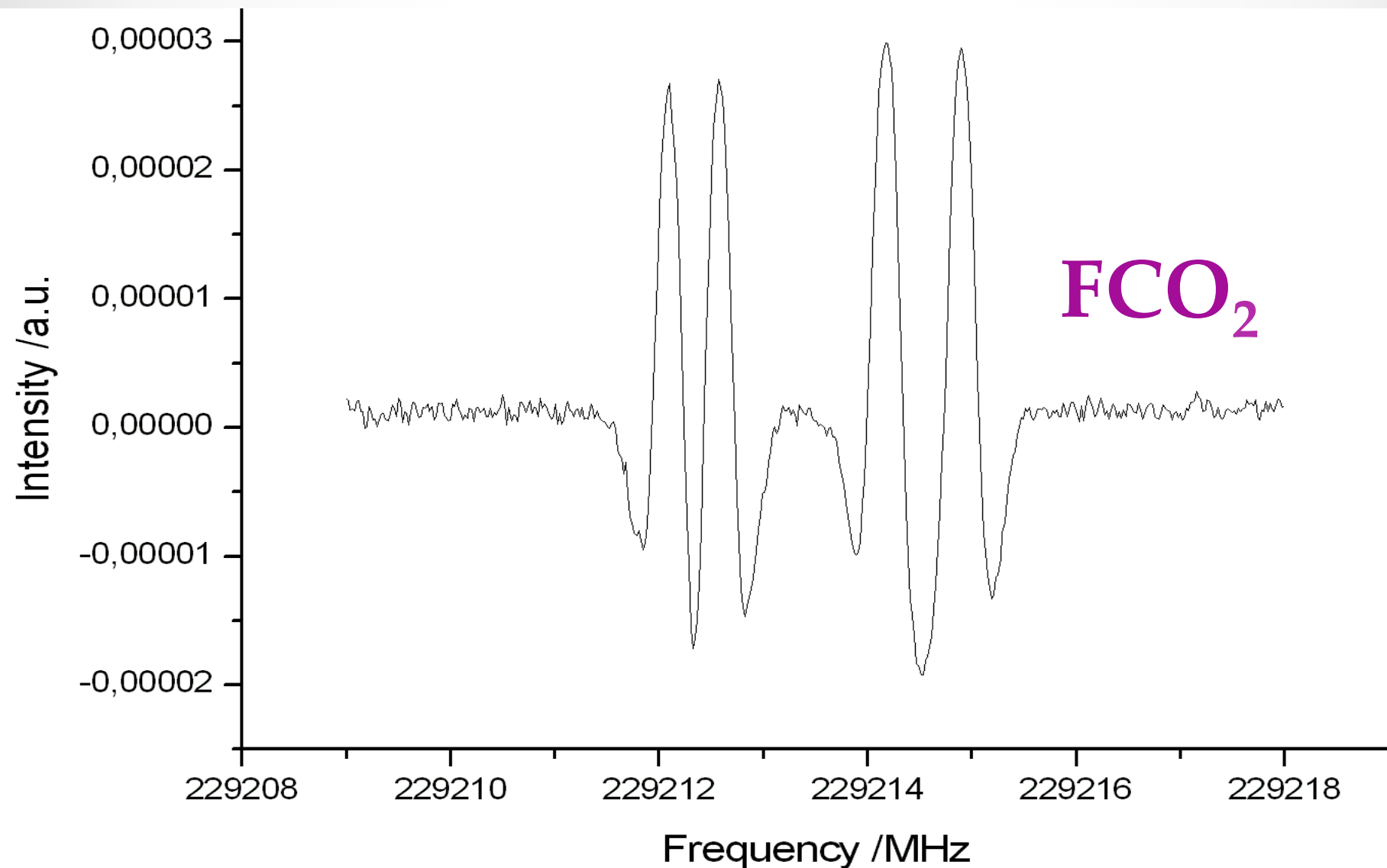


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# Fine and Hyperfine Splittings



# Summary of Rotational Theory

The rotational constants of all molecules and their isotopologues are **unique**

There are **no two molecules with the same rotational constants and with the same rotational spectrum.**

With respect to outstanding accuracy of microwave spectroscopy, **the absolutely certain identification of an molecule**, can be based on observation of several lines (e.g. **hyperfine multiplet**). In the cases, when the speed of the object movements is known, one or two lines are sufficient for the molecule identification.

# Summary of Rotational Theory

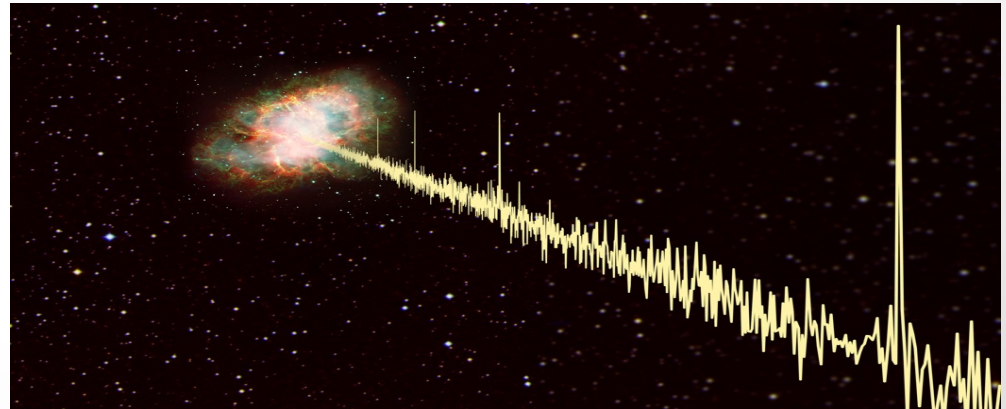
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The identification of molecules is always based on **transition frequencies derived from the laboratory experiment**.

The analysis of experim. data allows evaluation of the **sample temperature** and **relative speed** to observer.

# Notes to MW and THz Experiment

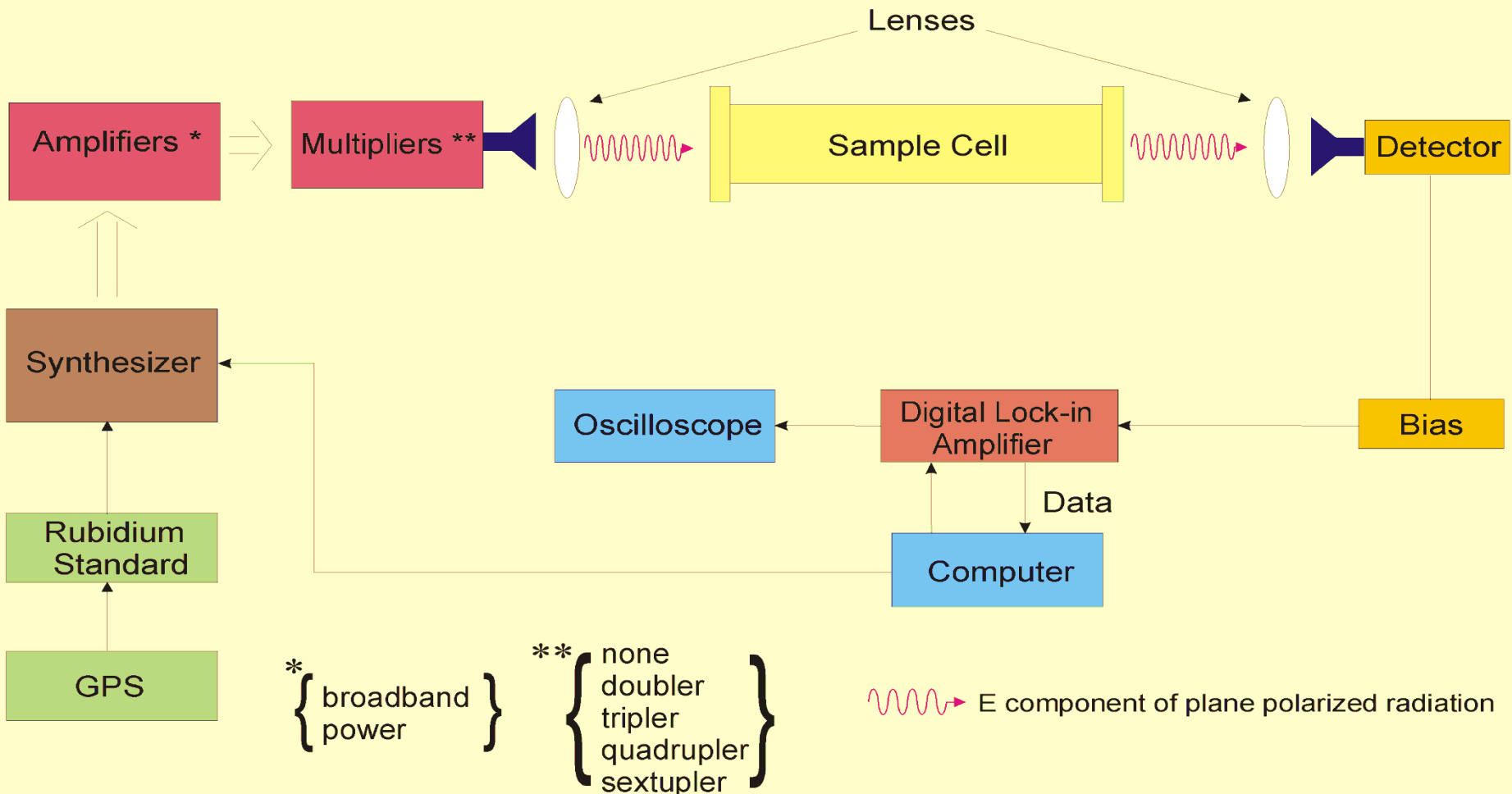
- Present-day advanced microwave and THz spectroscopy uses **tunable monochromatic sources of radiation** for both, the absorption as well as emission setups.
- These sources are usually online or offline linked to an **atomic clock** with **extremely high accuracy**.
- Laboratory experiments use both the absorption as well as emission arrangements.
- Spectra from space are always received like emission spectra by telescope





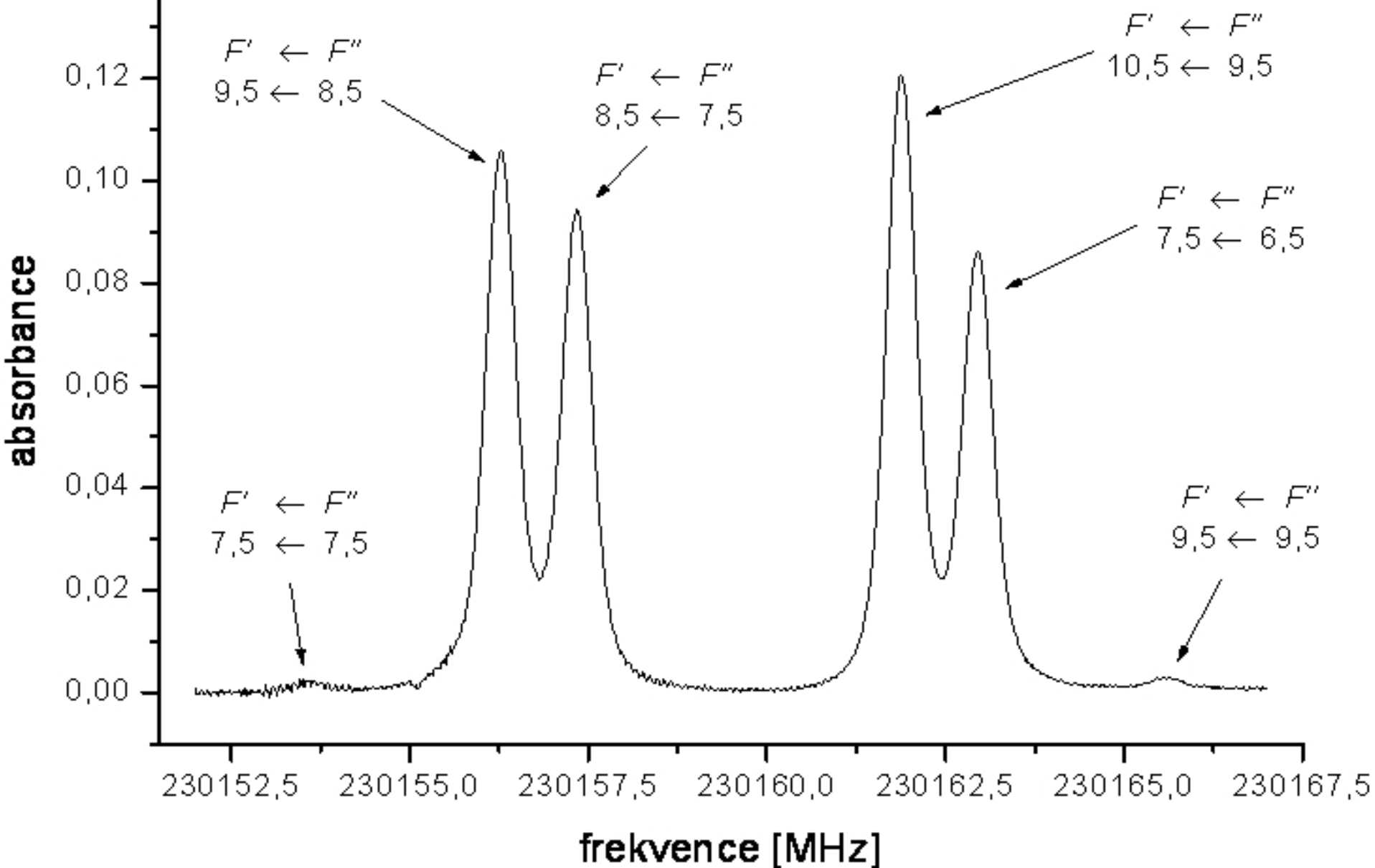
# Notes to MW and THz Experiment

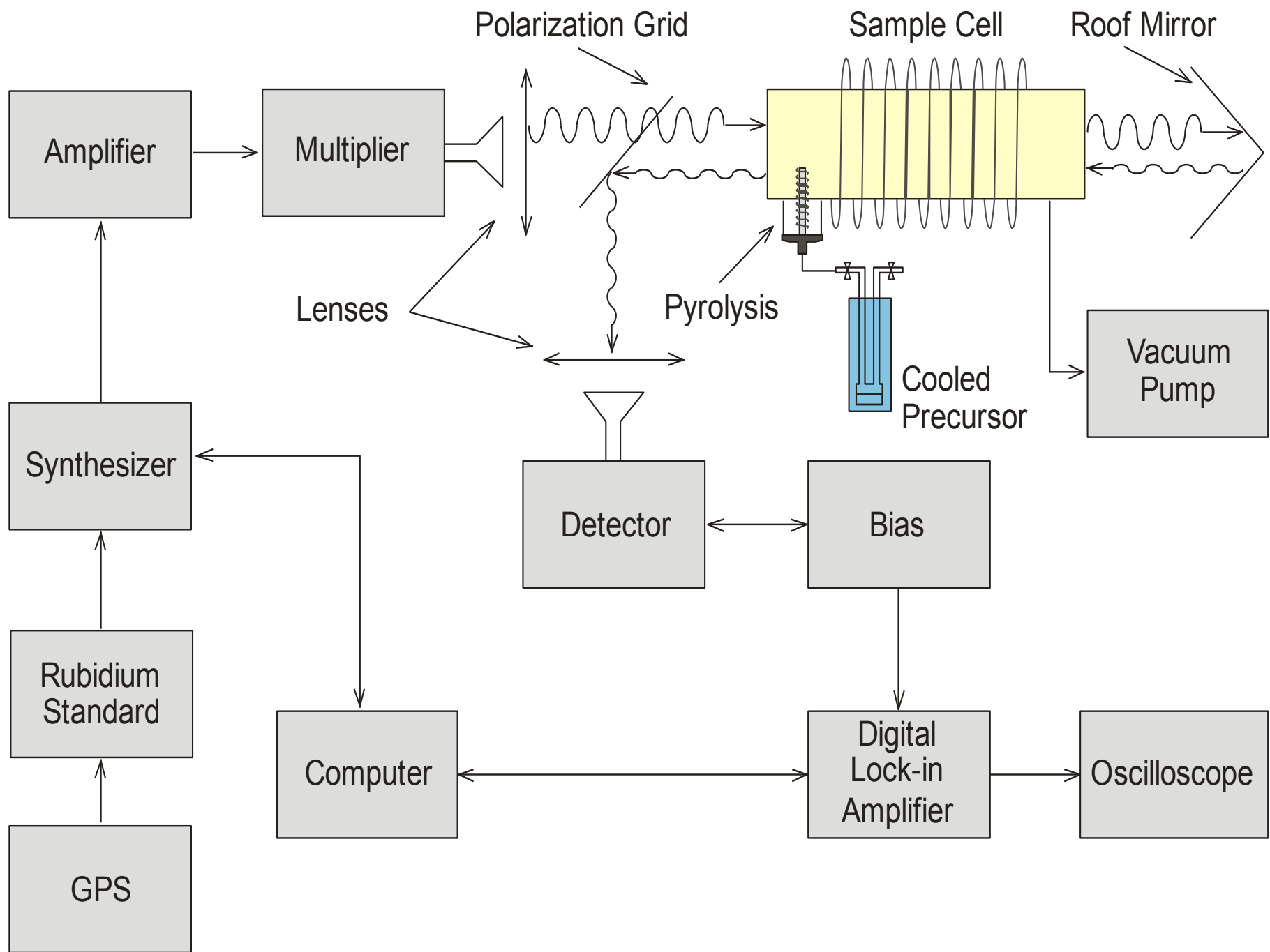
## Scheme of the Prague Millimeter Wave High Resolution Spectrometer



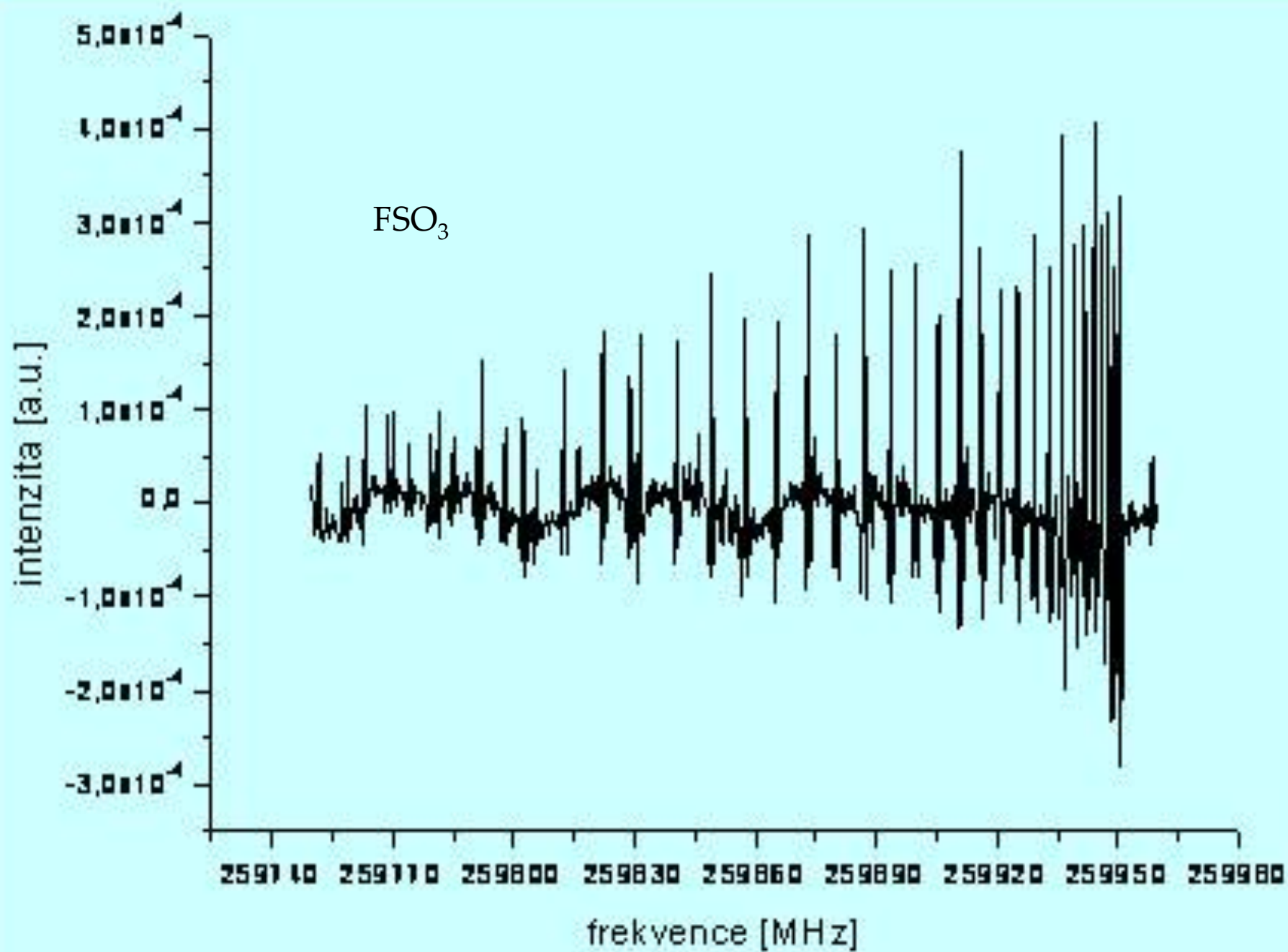
$^{13}\text{CH}_3^{35}\text{Cl}$  rotational transition  $J+1, k \leftarrow J=8, k=6$

quadrupole hyperfine structure

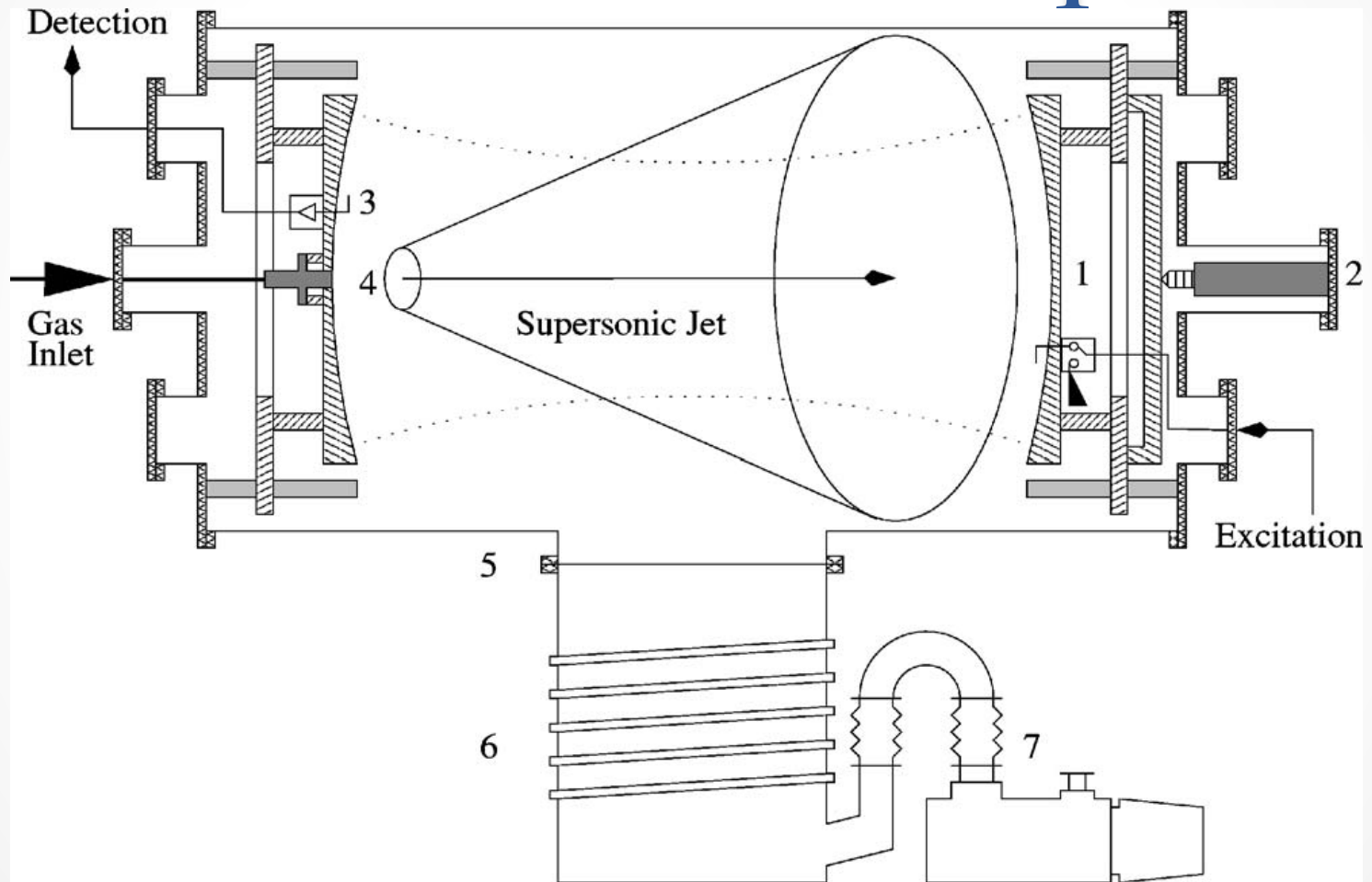




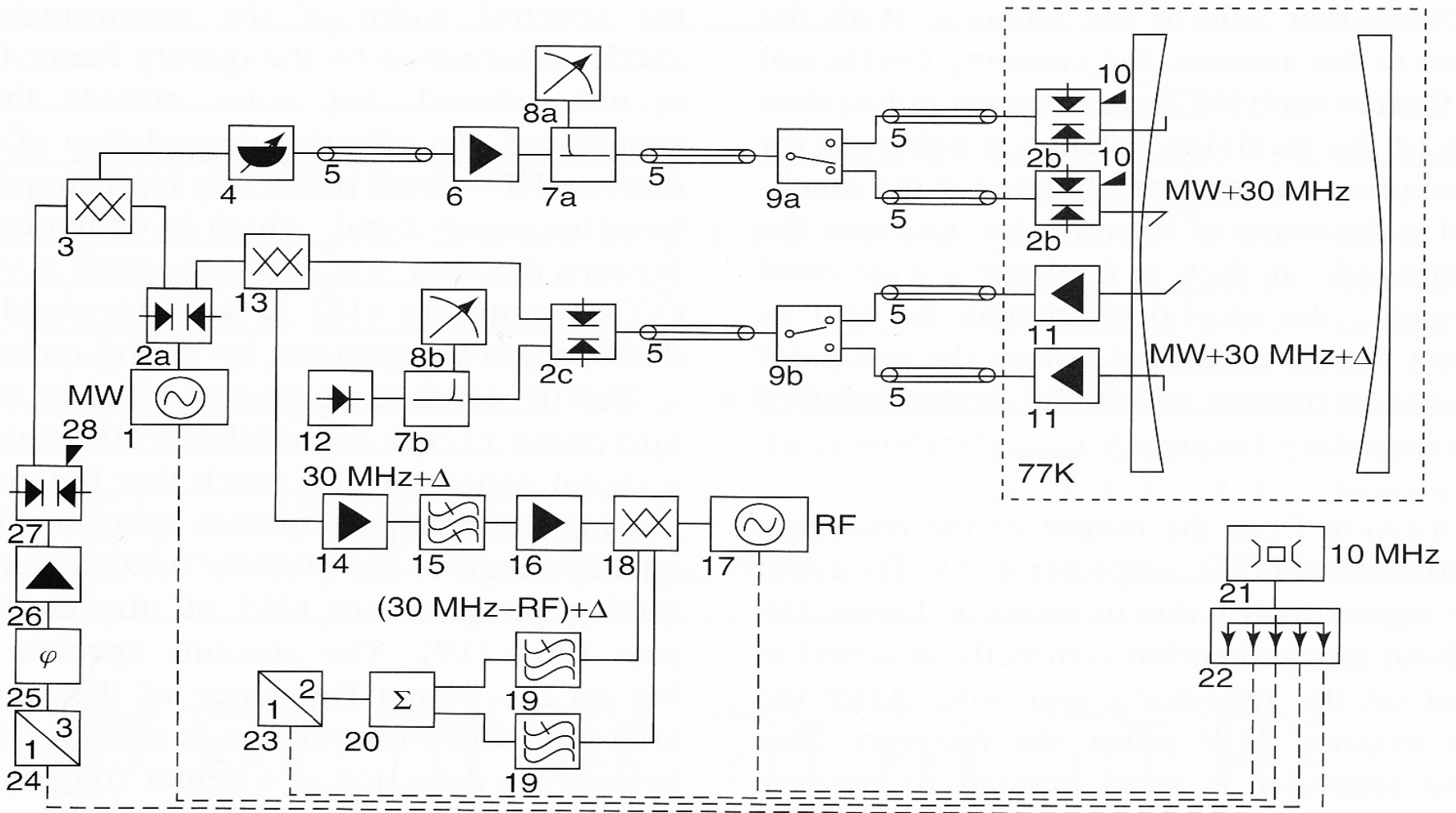
$\text{FSO}_3$

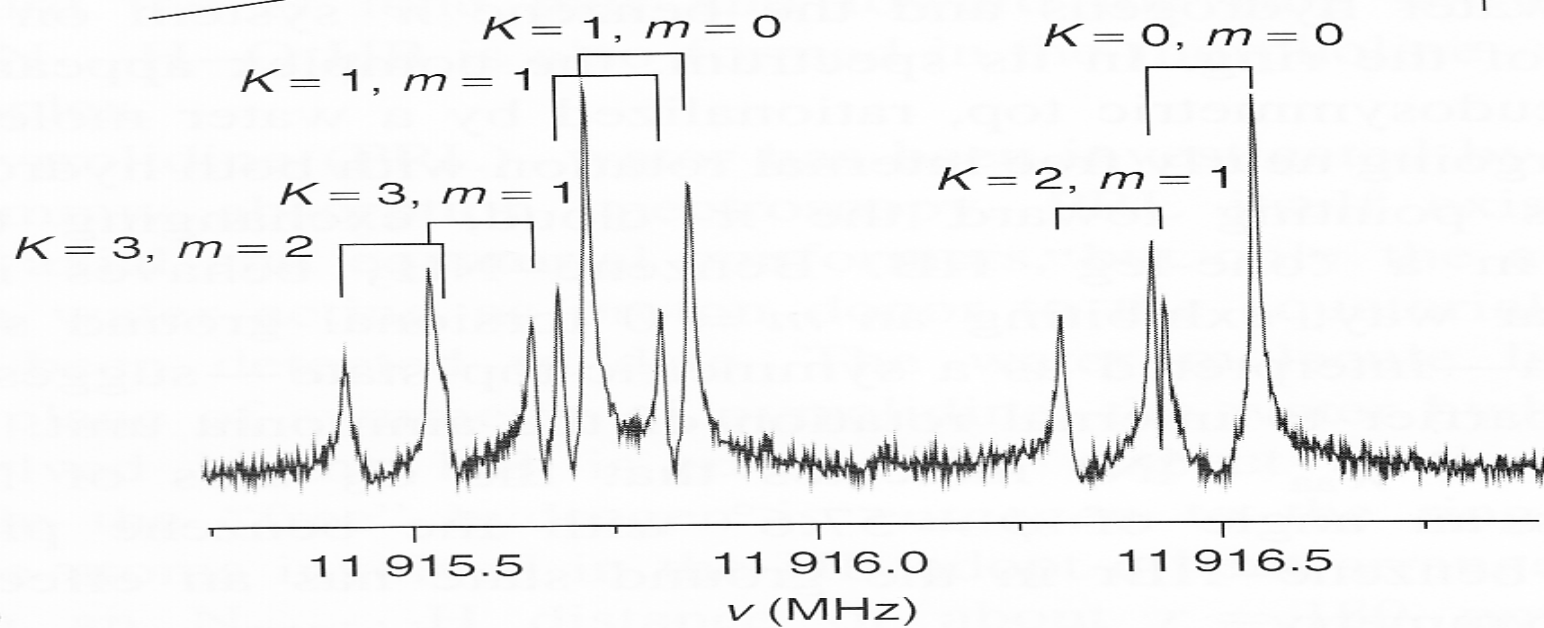
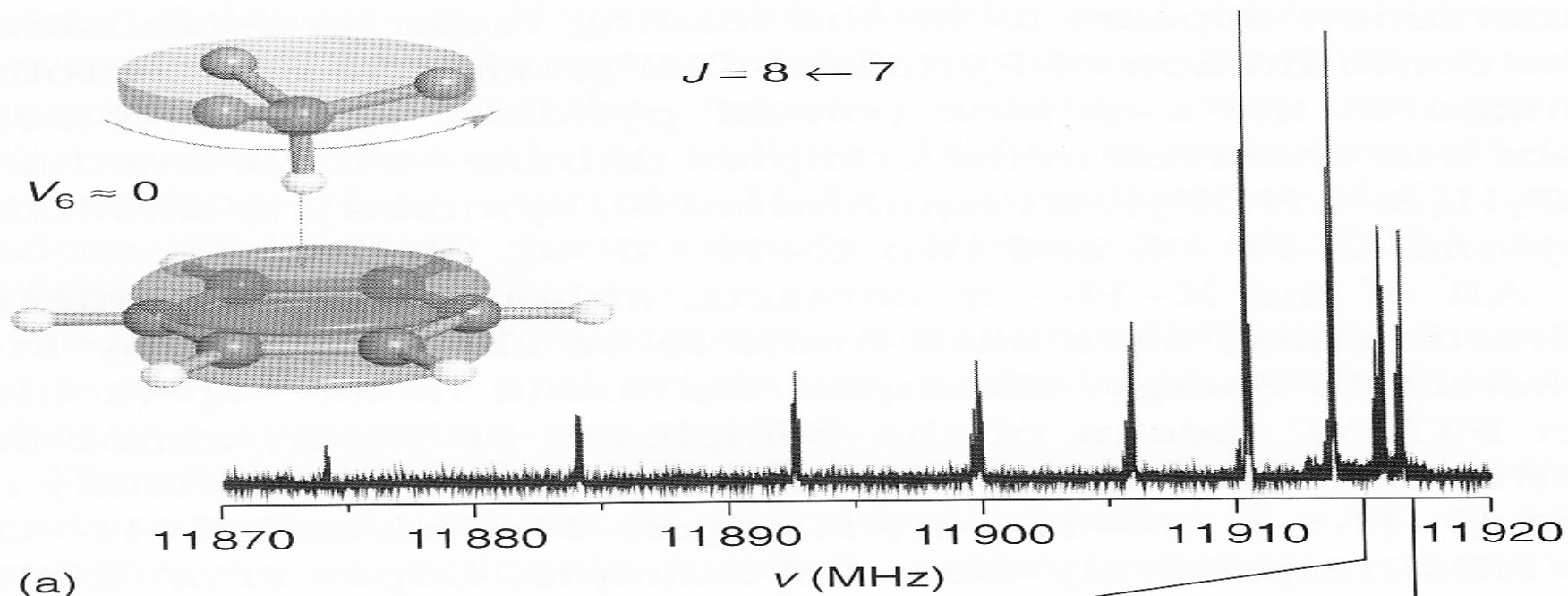


# Emission setup

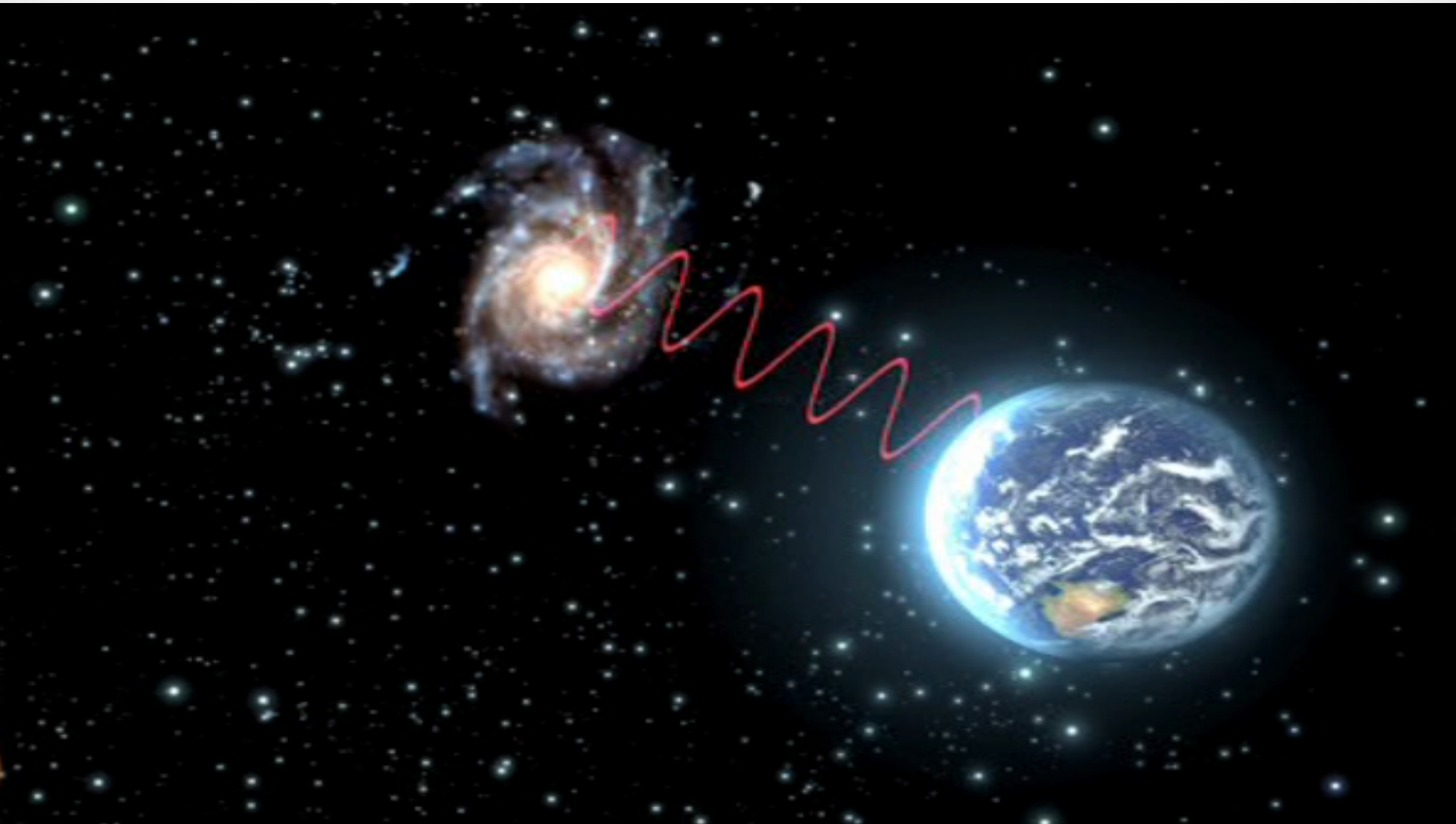


# Emission setup

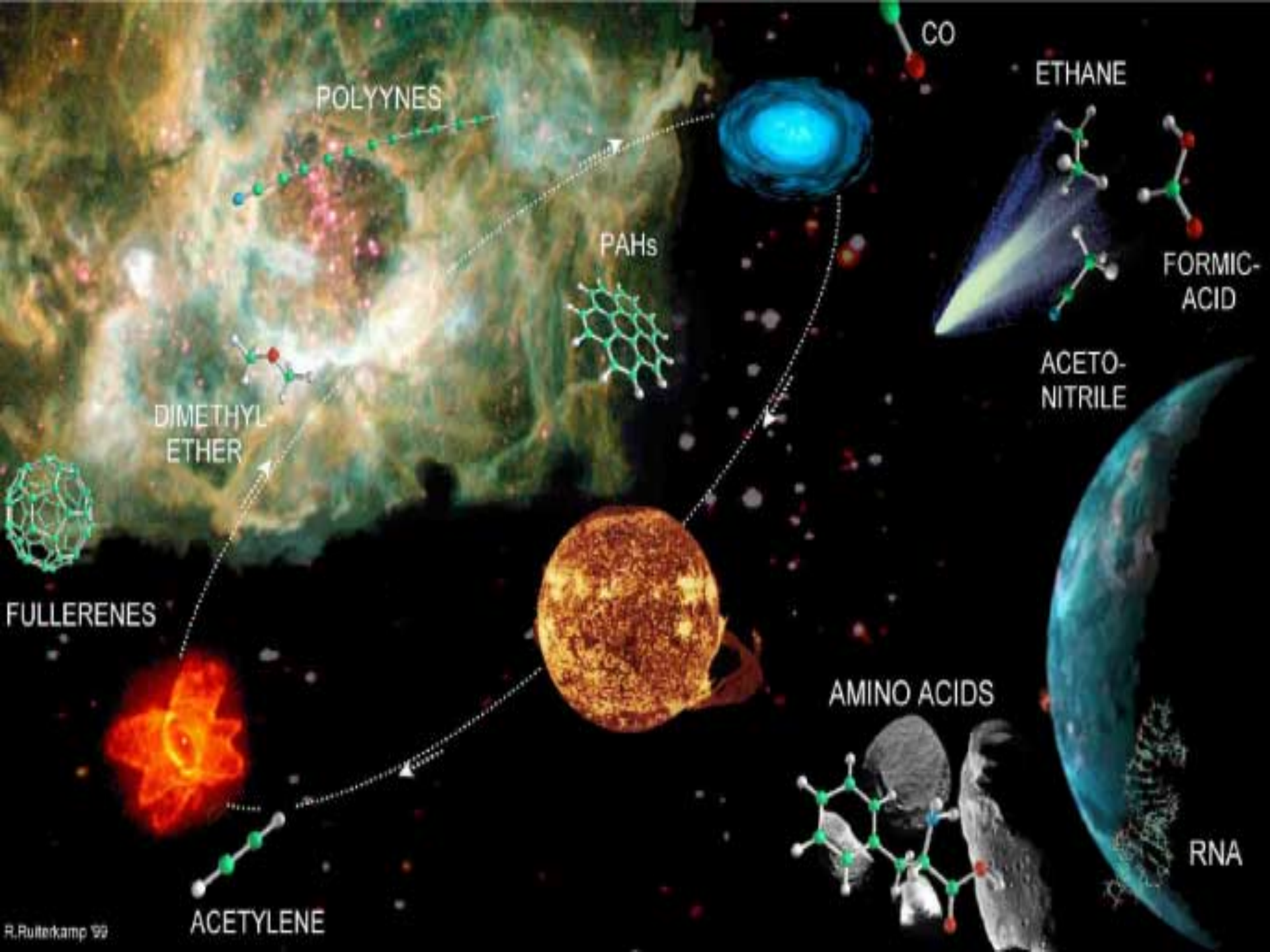


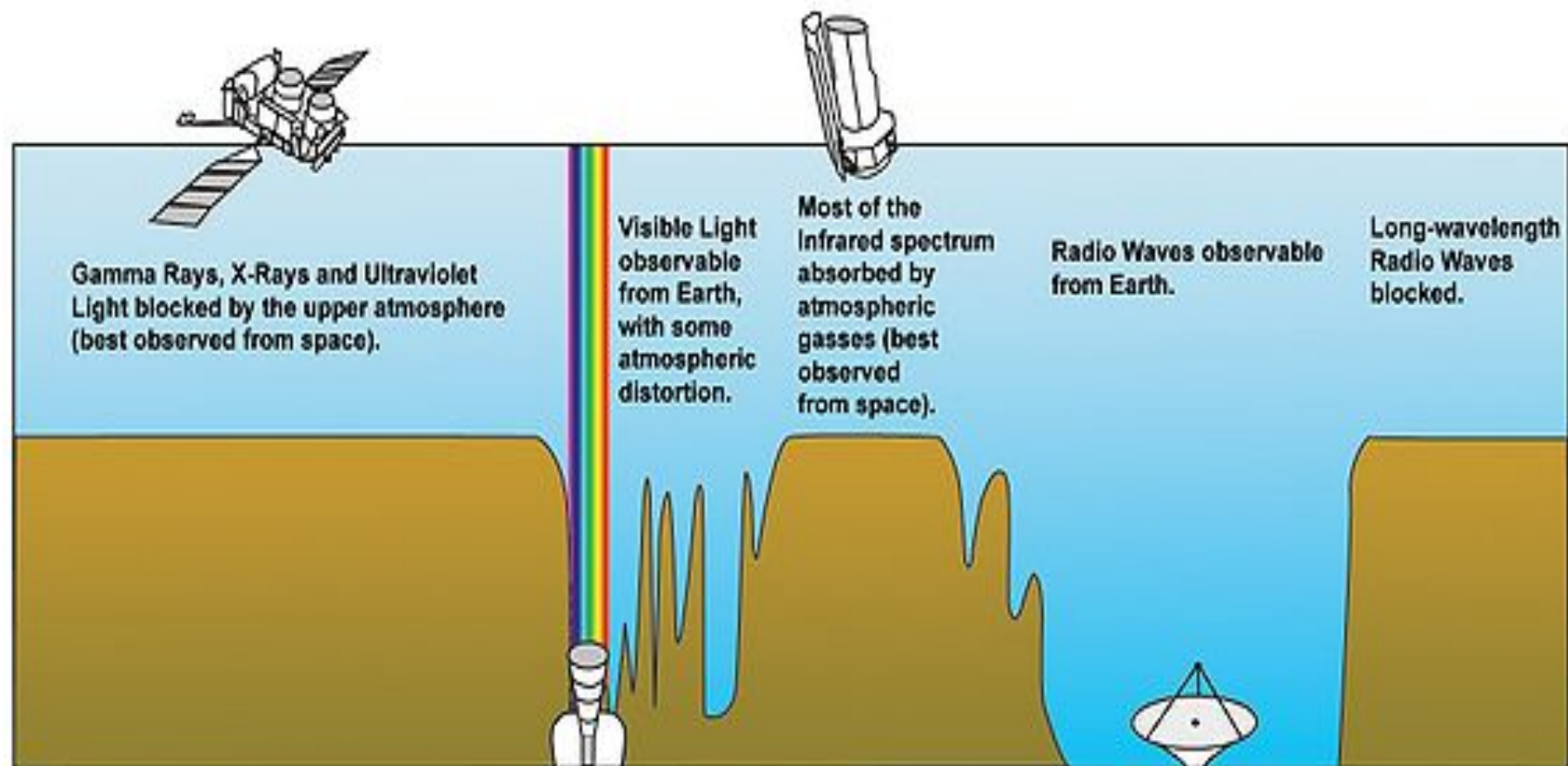
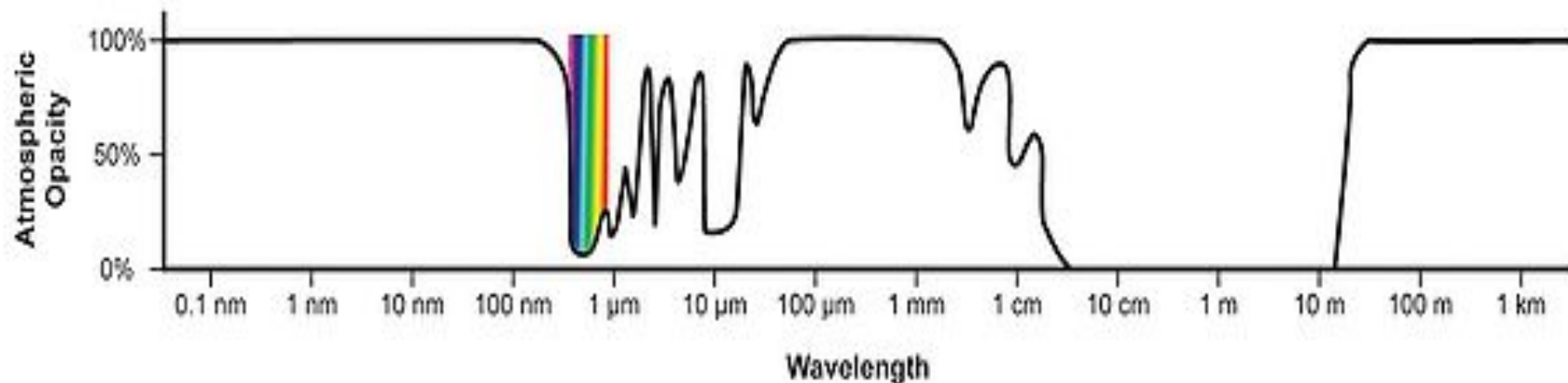


# From Lab to Space









Microwave–radiofrequency 100m telescope -spectrometr, Effelsberg , Bonn, BRD

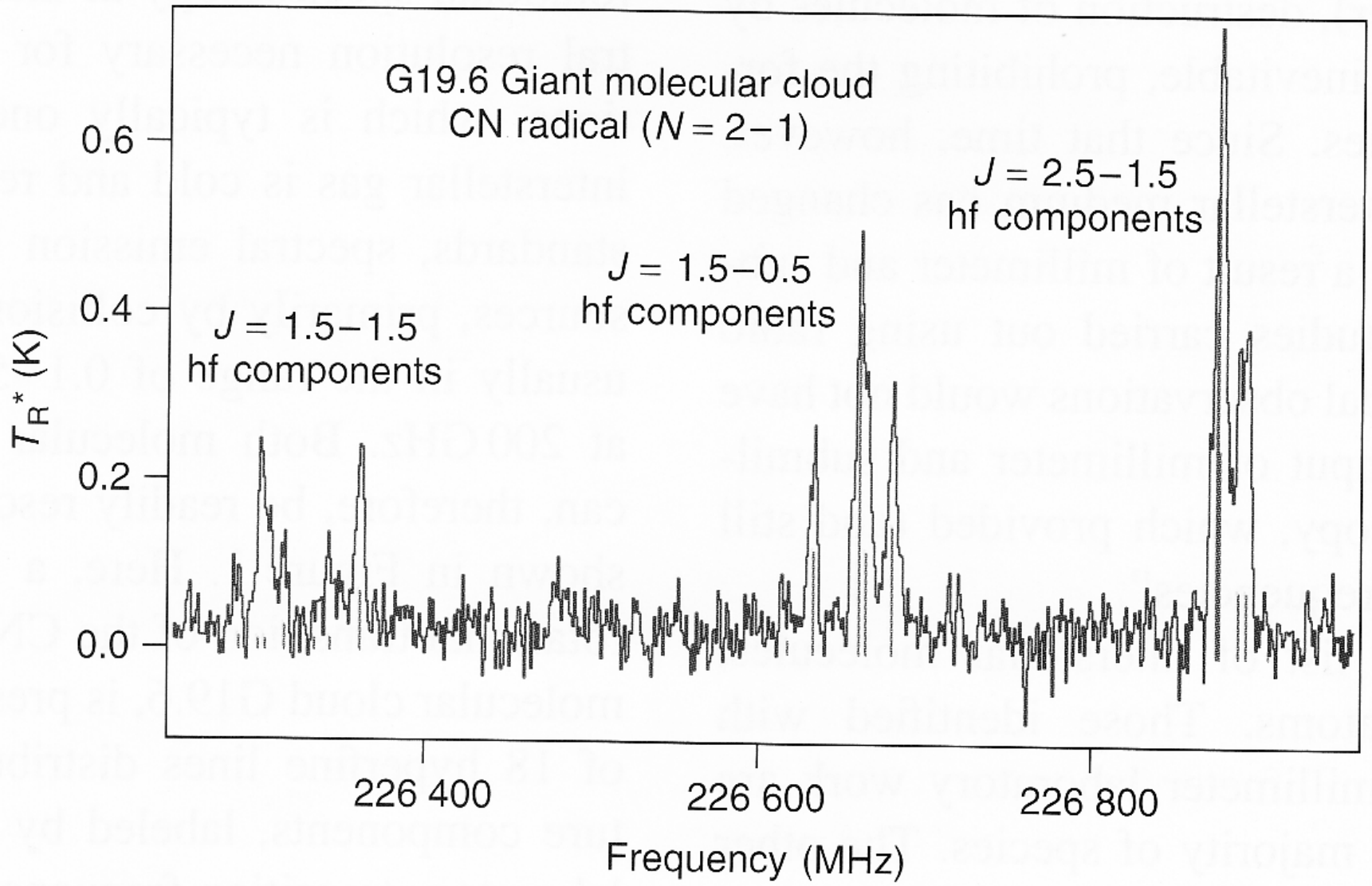


# MW 3m-telescope in Zermatt (Gornergrat 3180m).

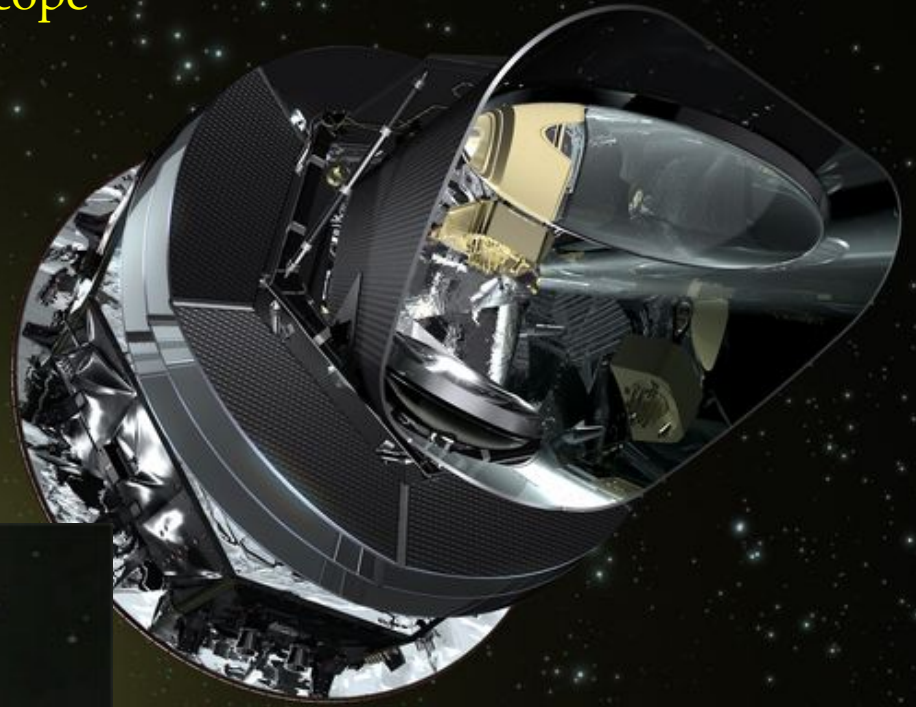


IRAM - 30m  
Granada





Planck, mw telescope



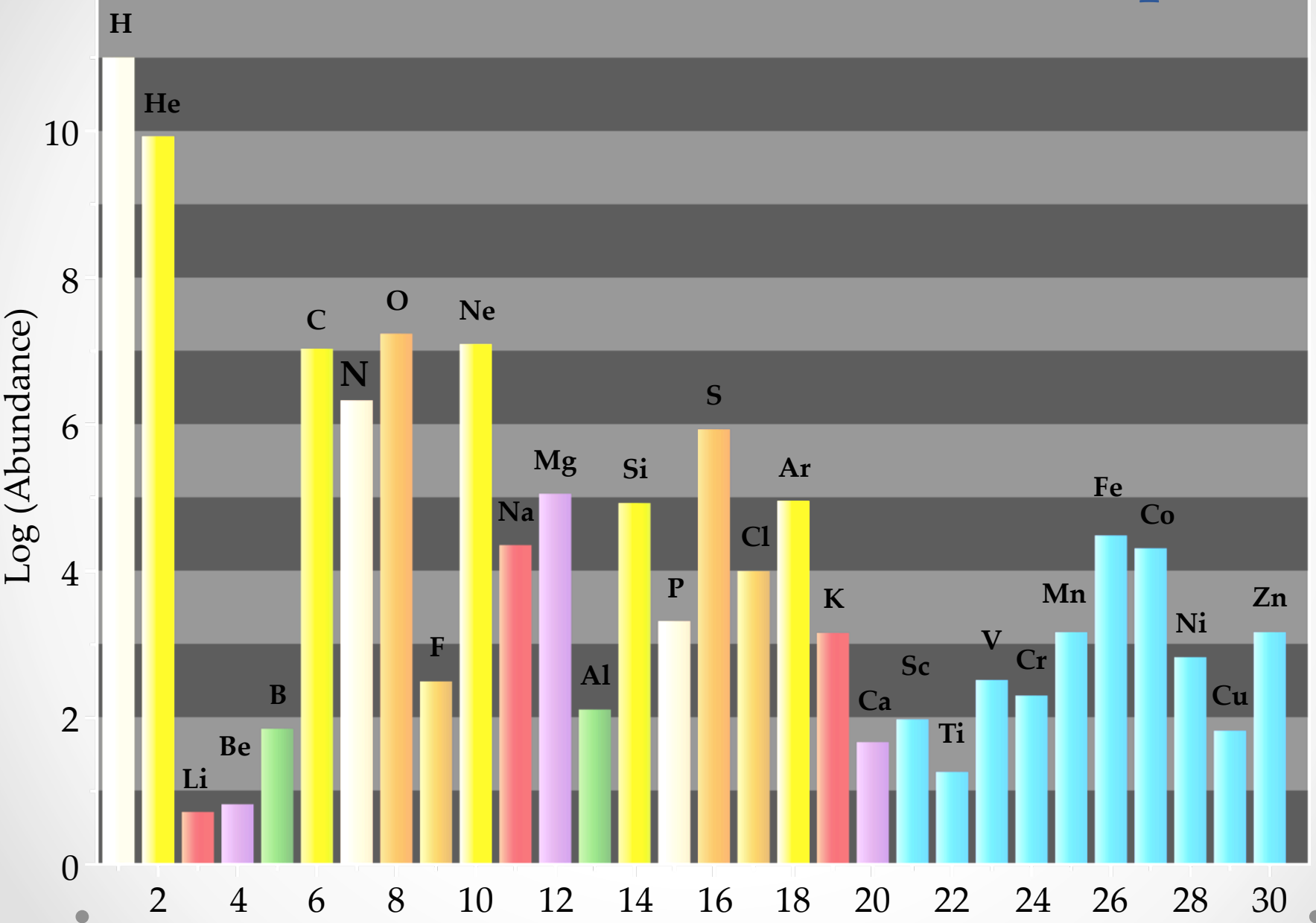
Frequencies: 0.45 – 5 THz, Herschel , mw /ir telescope/spectrometer

# Molecules in the ISM or Circumstellar Shells

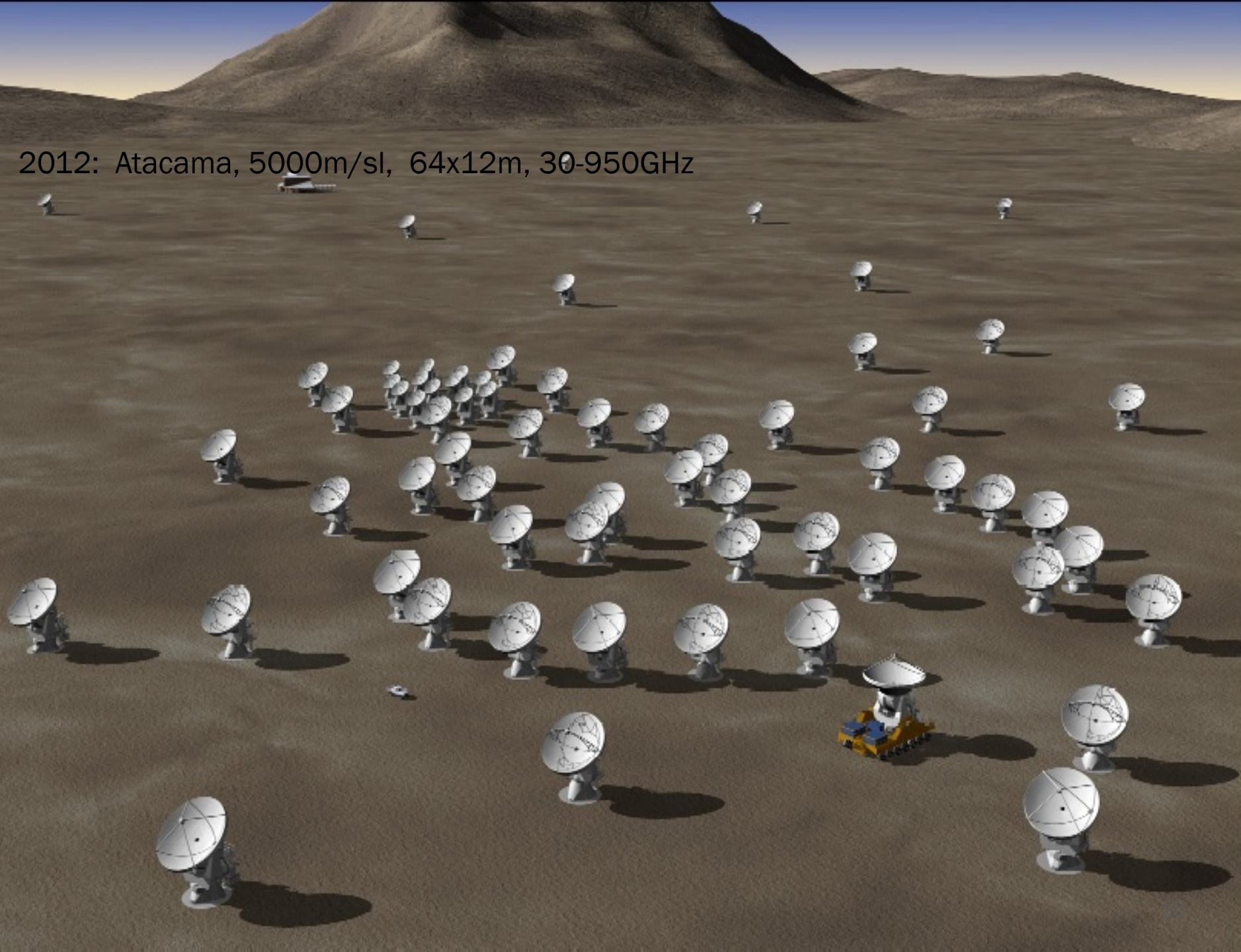
| 2 Atoms                      |                  | 3 Atoms                     |                               | 4 Atoms                                    | 5 Atoms                         | 6 Atoms                                    | 7 Atoms                           | 8 Atoms  | 9 Atoms                            |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| H <sub>2</sub>               | NS               | C <sub>3</sub> <sup>*</sup> | MgNC                          | c-C <sub>3</sub> H                         | C <sub>4</sub> Si               | C <sub>5</sub> H                           | C <sub>6</sub> H                  | CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>3</sub> N                   | CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>4</sub> H   |
| AlF                          | NaCl             | C <sub>2</sub> H            | N <sub>2</sub> H <sup>+</sup> | I-C <sub>3</sub> H                         | C <sub>4</sub> H                | I-H <sub>2</sub> C <sub>4</sub>            | CH <sub>2</sub> CHCN              | HCOOCH <sub>3</sub>                                | CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CN |
| AlCl                         | OH               | C <sub>2</sub> O            | N <sub>2</sub> O              | C <sub>3</sub> N                           | C <sub>4</sub> Si               | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> <sup>*</sup> | CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H  | CH <sub>3</sub> COOH                               | (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> O  |
| C <sub>2</sub> <sup>**</sup> | PN               | C <sub>2</sub> S            | NaCN                          | C <sub>3</sub> O                           | I-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>2</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> CN                         | HC <sub>5</sub> N                 | C <sub>7</sub> H                                   | CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH |
| CH                           | SO               | CH <sub>2</sub>             | c-SiC <sub>2</sub>            | C <sub>3</sub> S                           | c-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>2</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> NC                         | HCOCH <sub>3</sub>                | H <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub>                      | HC <sub>7</sub> N                  |
| CH <sup>+</sup>              | SO <sup>+</sup>  | HCN                         | SO <sub>2</sub>               | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> <sup>*</sup> | CH <sub>2</sub> CN              | CH <sub>3</sub> OH                         | NH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>   | CH <sub>2</sub> OHCHO                              | C <sub>8</sub> H                   |
| CN                           | SiN              | HCO                         | c-SiC <sub>2</sub>            | CH <sub>2</sub> D <sup>+</sup> ?           | CH <sub>4</sub> <sup>*</sup>    | CH <sub>3</sub> SH                         | c-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O | I-HC <sub>6</sub> H <sup>*</sup> (?)               | CH <sub>3</sub> N                  |
| CO                           | SiO              | HCO <sup>+</sup>            | CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>*</sup>  | HCCN                                       | HC <sub>3</sub> N               | HC <sub>3</sub> NH <sup>+</sup>            | H <sub>2</sub> CCHOH              | CH <sub>2</sub> CHCHO (?)                          |                                    |
| CSi                          | SiS              | HCS <sup>+</sup>            | NH <sub>2</sub>               | HCNH <sup>+</sup>                          | HC <sub>2</sub> NC              | HC <sub>2</sub> CHO                        |                                   |  |                                    |
| CP                           | CS               | HOC <sup>+</sup>            | H <sub>3</sub> <sup>**</sup>  | HNCO                                       | HCOOH                           | NH <sub>2</sub> CHO                        |                                   |  |                                    |
| CSi                          | HF               | H <sub>2</sub> O            | H <sub>2</sub> D <sup>+</sup> | HNCS                                       | H <sub>2</sub> CNH              | C <sub>5</sub> N                           |                                   |  |                                    |
| HCl                          | SH <sup>*</sup>  | H <sub>2</sub> S            | HD <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup>  | HOCO <sup>+</sup>                          | H <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> O | I-HC <sub>4</sub> H (?)                    |                                   |  |                                    |
| KCl                          | HD               | HNC                         | SiCN                          | H <sub>2</sub> CO                          | H <sub>2</sub> NCN              | I-HC <sub>4</sub> N                        |                                   |  |                                    |
| NH                           | FeO ?            | HNO                         | SiNC                          | H <sub>2</sub> CN                          | HNC <sub>3</sub>                |  | <b>10 Atoms</b>                   | <b>11 Atoms</b>                                    | <b>12 Atoms</b>                    |
| NO                           | O <sub>2</sub> ? | MgCN                        | AiNC                          | H <sub>2</sub> CS                          | SiH <sub>4</sub> <sup>*</sup>   | CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>5</sub> N (?)       | HC <sub>9</sub> N                 | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub> <sup>*</sup> (?)     | HC <sub>11</sub> N                 |
| CF <sup>+</sup>              |                  |                             |                               | c-SiC <sub>3</sub>                         | H <sub>2</sub> COH <sup>+</sup> | (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO         | CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H  | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub> (?) |                                    |
|                              |                  |                             |                               | NH <sub>3</sub>                            |                                 | (CH <sub>2</sub> OH) <sub>2</sub> ?        |                                   |  |                                    |
|                              |                  |                             |                               | c-SiC <sub>3</sub>                         |                                 | H <sub>2</sub> NCH <sub>2</sub> COOH       |                                   |  |                                    |
|                              |                  |                             |                               | CH <sub>3</sub> <sup>*</sup>               |                                 | CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CHO        |                                   |  |                                    |



# Abundance of Elements in Space



2012: Atacama, 5000m/sl, 64x12m, 30-950GHz



# Ions in Space

|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CH <sup>+</sup>                 | C <sub>4</sub> H <sup>-</sup> |
| CO <sup>+</sup>                 | C <sub>6</sub> H <sup>-</sup> |
| SO <sup>+</sup>                 | C <sub>8</sub> H <sup>-</sup> |
| H <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup>     | C <sub>3</sub> N <sup>-</sup> |
| HCO <sup>+</sup>                |                               |
| HOC <sup>+</sup>                |                               |
| HN <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup>    |                               |
| HCS <sup>+</sup>                |                               |
| H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup>   |                               |
| HCNH <sup>+</sup>               |                               |
| HOCO <sup>+</sup>               |                               |
| HC <sub>3</sub> NH <sup>+</sup> |                               |

## ABUNDANCES IN THE GAS PHASE OF CLOUDS

| Element | Abundance             |
|---------|-----------------------|
| H       | 1.00                  |
| He      | $1.40 \times 10^{-1}$ |
| O       | $1.76 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| C       | $7.30 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| N       | $2.14 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| S       | $8.00 \times 10^{-8}$ |
| Si      | $8.00 \times 10^{-9}$ |
| Fe      | $3.00 \times 10^{-9}$ |
| Na      | $2.00 \times 10^{-9}$ |
| Mg      | $7.00 \times 10^{-9}$ |

ABUNDANCES IN THE GAS PHASE  
OF CLOUDS

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