# Experiment 6: Infrared Spectroscopy Tutorial

# Preparation

There are no prelab questions and the instructor led tutorial during the in-person lab is optional.

Review Sections 12.5-12.8 on interpreting infrared spectra in the course textbook.

The tutorial can be found as an online resource.



# Objectives

The purpose of this experiment is to improve your skill in

- 1. identifying the functional group or groups present in a compound, given a list of the most prominent absorptions in the infrared spectrum and a table of characteristic absorption frequencies.
- 2. identifying the broad regions of the infrared spectrum to determine the presence of functional groups, such as alcohols, amines, and carbonyl groups, in an unknown compound.

## Interpretation of Infrared Spectra

The laboratory instructors will provide a brief infrared tutorial and workshop within the lab class. However, much of this experiment is not wet benchtop chemistry and can be done at home.

- 1. Review the Theory on Infrared Spectroscopy
- 2. Review the Listing of Organic Functional Groups and their corresponding Infrared Spectra.
- 3. Perform the Sample Infrared Spectrum Problems.
- 4. Answer four (4) of the 'Exp. 6 Infrared Unknown Downloads.'

The Unknown Spectra can be at:



## Introduction to Infrared Spectroscopy- Theory and Practice

## **Electromagnetic Radiation**

As you read this page, uncountable numbers of photons or 'light particles' are reflecting off its surface and are being absorbed by pigments (i.e. complex organic molecules) in the rod and cone cells in the retina of your eye. Where the ink (i.e. complex organic dye) has absorbed the photons, you perceive a dark area (i.e. letters) due to the lack of photons from that point on the paper.

On a deeper level, photons (and electrons) are actually wave/particle dualities as described by quantum physics. Photons carry only a discrete amount of energy, called quanta, but the amount of energy of a quanta is defined by the equation, e = h v = h c/l where:

- e = the energy of 1 photon (quanta)
- h = Planck's constant ( $6.62 \times 10^{-27}$  erg sec)
- $\upsilon$  = Frequency in hertz (cycles or l per sec)
- c = Speed of light  $(3 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm per sec})$
- I = Wavelength in cm

Thus, the amount of energy carried by a photon varies directly with its frequency, and because of the relationship between frequency and wavelength, varies inversely with its wavelength. Photons also behave like waves of electromagnetic energy traveling at the speed of light.

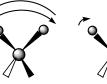
Practically speaking however, you need only understand that photons are the messengers that carry the electromagnetic force between electrons and other elementary particles. Electrons, whether free or bound in a covalent bond, are capable of absorbing (or emitting) photons and changing their energy state. This leads to different types of excitation (nuclear transformations, electronic, rotational, nuclear spin changes, bond deformation) depending on the amount of energy carried by the photon. High-energy photons (x-ray, gamma ray, and cosmic ray) can cause ionization of the molecule, while UV photons are involved in electronic interactions. Remember it is the interaction of electrons (via photons) in the outer cloud surrounding atoms that forms the foundation of all chemical reactions.

### Infrared Radiation

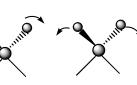
Infrared radiation is composed of photons with a specific range of wavelengths ( $7.8 \times 10^{-5}$  cm to  $10^{-2}$  cm) and frequencies (~ $10^{14}$  to  $10^{12}$  Hz). This range includes the near infrared, the infrared and far-infrared regions. The actual wavelengths of interest to most organic chemists are  $1.667 \times 10^{-3}$  cm to  $2.5 \times 10^{-4}$  cm (the 'infrared' region). These wavelengths ( $\lambda$ ) are most often expressed as there corresponding wave number (n) where n =  $1/\lambda$ , with n measured in cm<sup>-1</sup>. (e.g. I2.5 to 16.6 µm = 4000 to 600 cm<sup>-1</sup>).

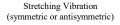
Infrared carries relatively low levels of energy (e.g. ~1 to 10 kcal/mol) which, when absorbed, result in only bond vibrations like stretching and bending, e.g., rocking, scissoring, wagging, and twisting (i.e., bond deformations).











(rocking vibration scissoring vibration waggin SomeTypes of Bending Vibrations

wagging vibration twisting vibration)

Every molecule, depending on its make-up, is capable of absorbing infrared photons and increasing the intensity of its molecular motions. Different functional groups within the molecule will absorb photons at different infrared wavelengths. Thus, when a spectroscopic wavelength scan is performed on an organic molecule, certain I will be absorbed while other I will pass through. Once we have the infrared spectrum of a compound, the spectrum can be analyzed and compared with known infrared absorptions for particular functional groups (see Table 6.1).

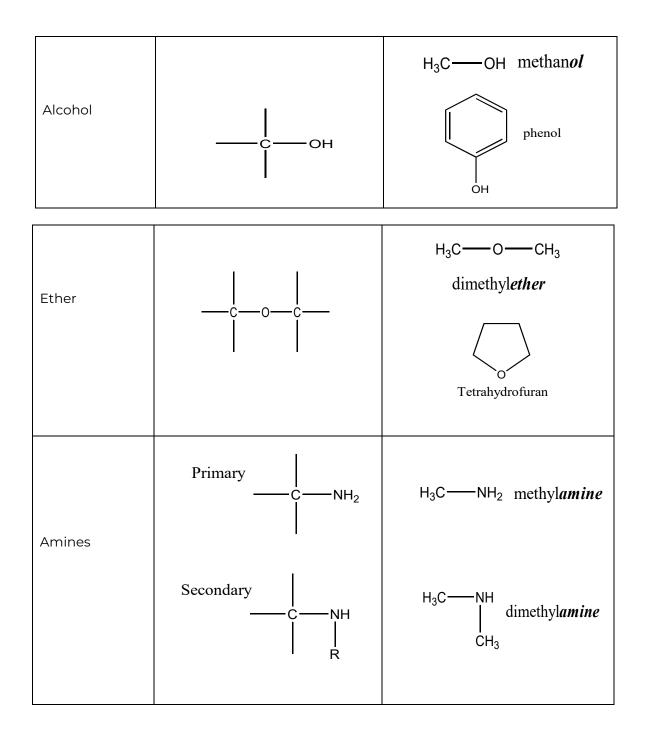
The infrared spectrum for a particular molecule can be very complex, consisting of many absorption bands because of the many possible motions each atom can undergo (a non-linear molecule has 3N-6 normal modes of vibration where N = the number of atoms in the molecule). When analyzing a spectrum, it is important to look at four different regions of the spectrum for the presence or absence of specific absorption peaks. **Note:** you are not required to analyze the fingerprint region.

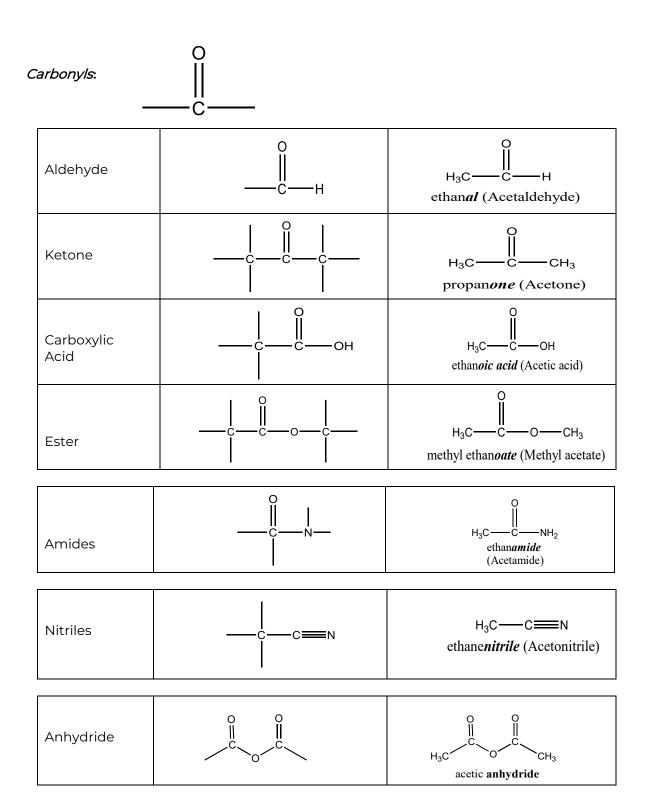
4000		30	00	Wavenu 20	umber cm <sup>-1</sup>	1400	)	600
	N-H O-H	sp <sup>2</sup> CH	sp <sup>3</sup> CH	C≡N C≡C	C=C C=O C=N		fingerprint region	

The following pages contain information to help you understand and interpret infrared spectra.

- 1. a chart showing the structures of various functional groups, which you need to know.
- 2. the wavenumbers of the functional groups, to help you locate pertinent absorption bands on an infrared spectrum.
- 3. Diagrams of the shapes and intensities of various infrared absorption bands, which will help in your interpretation of infrared spectra.
- 4. Finally, your instructor will lead you through the interpretation of sample infrared spectra representative of various functional groups. Unknown spectra are included to allow you to practice on your own. There is a great deal of information to learn, but the more you practice, the easier it becomes to interpret infrared spectra

FAMILY NAME	FUNCTIONAL GROUP STRUCTURE	EXAMPLES AND NOMENCLATURE
Alkane	C	H <sub>3</sub> C—CH <sub>3</sub> eth <i>ane</i> pent <i>ane</i> cyclohex <i>ane</i>
Alkene	c=c sp <sup>2</sup> orbitals	$H_2C$ $CH_2$ $ethene$ propene cyclopentene
Alkyne	C===C sp orbitals	H—−C≡≡C—−н eth <b>yne</b> (Acetylene)



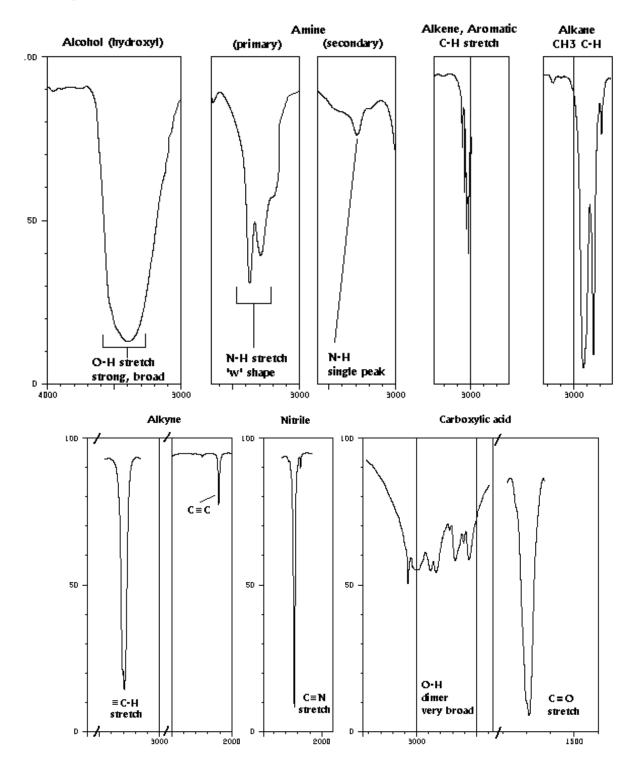


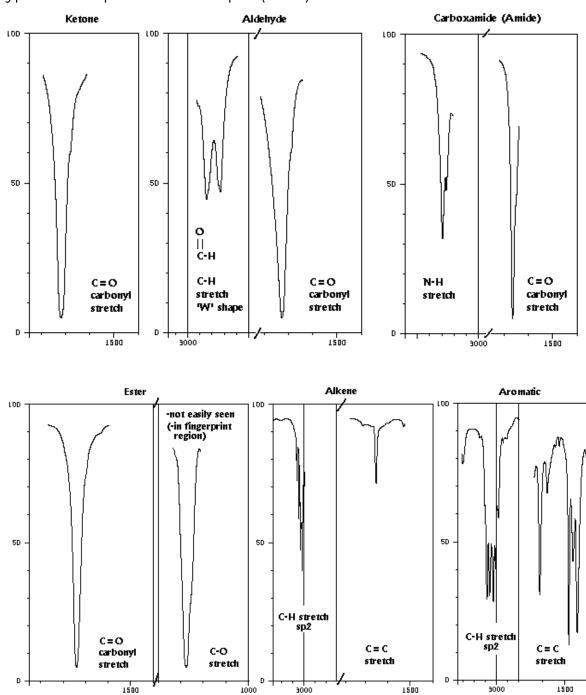
Type of Absorption	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Intensity of Absorption	Absorption of:
O-H stretch	3400-3640	strong, broad	alcohol
	2500-3300	strong, very broad	carboxylic acid
N-H stretch	3310-3350	medium ('W' shape)	amine (1°)
C-H stretch	3300	strong	sp C-H of alkyne
	3030	medium	aromatic
	3020-3100	medium	sp <sup>2</sup> C-H of alkene
	2850-2960	medium to strong	sp <sup>3</sup> C-H of alkane
	2750 & 2850	weak-medium ('W' shape)	O=C-H of aldehyde
C≡N stretch	2210-2260	medium, sharp	nitrile
C≡C stretch	2100-2260	medium, sharp	alkyne
C=O stretch	1670-1780	strong, sharp	carbonyl
	1730-1750		ester
	1720-1740		aldehyde
	1705-1725		ketone
	1700-1725		carboxylic acid
	1640-1700		amide
	ca 1800 and 1760		anhydride
C=C stretch	1650-1670	weak-medium, sharp	alkene
	1600, 1500, 1450	strong sharp	aromatic
C=N stretch	1640-1670	medium, sharp	imine
N-H bend	1500-1650	medium to strong, sharp	amine and amide
N=O stretch	1500-1600 (1540)	strong, sharp	nitro-compound
	and 1320-1390		
C-N stretch	1030, 1230	medium	amine
C-O stretch	1050-1150	strong	alcohol
	1250-1310	strong broad	ester-conjugated
	1240	strong, broad	ester-acetates
	1175	strong, broad	ester-unconjugated
C-Cl stretch (terminal)	600-800	strong	alkyl halide
Ar-Cl stretch	1000-1175	medium-strong	aryl halide
C-Br stretch (terminal)		strong	alkyl halide
C-I (terminal)	500	strong	alkyl halide

Table 6.1Correlation Table of Infrared Absorption and FunctionalGroup.

Note: when a C=C bond is in conjugation with a carbonyl, the observed carbonyl absorption frequency will be  $\leq \sim 30$  cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Shapes of Infrared Absorption Bands Observed for Different Functional Groups





Typical Absorption Band Shapes (cont.)

### How to Interpret an Infrared Spectrum

- **Step 1** Divide the infrared spectrum into four main areas (use pencil and ruler and take into account any off-shift in the spectrum's wavenumbers).
  - i) Above 3000 cm<sup>-1</sup>
  - ii) Between 3000 and 2000 cm<sup>-1</sup>
  - iii) Between 2000 and 1400 cm<sup>-1</sup>
  - iv) Below 1400 cm<sup>-1</sup> (fingerprint region)
- Step 2 Starting at the left of the spectrum, examine the area above
  3000 cm<sup>-1</sup>, first looking in the region near 3300 cm<sup>-1</sup> and record in tabular format the presence/absence of:
  - i) a broad, very strong absorption band of an **'O-H'**. If present, it means you know that your molecule is at least an **alcohol**.
  - ii) A broad, weak to medium strength, double or single absorption band of '**N-H**'. If present it means you have an **amine** (1° or 2°) or possibly an **amide**.
  - iii) A sharp, medium to strong, single absorption band of **'=C-H'** of a **terminal alkyne**.

Note: If present, it means you should also see a 'C=C' absorption near 2250 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

After examining the region around 3300 cm<sup>-1</sup>, look for any sharp, weak to medium absorption just above  $3000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (e.g.,  $3050 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) resulting from the 'C-H' stretch of a sp<sup>2</sup> hybridized carbon. If present, it means you have a **'C=C-H'** of an alkene or aromatic compound.

- Step 3 Next examine the area between 3000 and 2000 cm<sup>-1</sup> and record the presence/absence of absorption bands or peaks.
  - i) First look just below 3000 cm<sup>-1</sup> (e.g., 2850-2950 cm<sup>-1</sup>) resulting from the 'C-H' stretch of a sp<sup>3</sup> hybridized carbon. If present, it means you are seeing the **'C-H'** stretch of an **-CH<sub>2</sub> or -CH<sub>3</sub>** group. Note: This absorption is not very informative as most organic compounds have  $-CH_2$  or  $-CH_3$  groups.
  - ii) Then look for the extremely broad peak, actually starting at 3300 cm<sup>-1</sup> and extending all the way to ~2500 cm<sup>-1</sup>, caused by the **O-H dimer** between two **carboxylic acid** molecules (COOH). This absorption is probably the most difficult to see as other absorption peaks may be overlapping the broad peak.
  - iii) Finally look for a sharp, weak to medium peak caused by either 'C=C' or 'C=N'.
  - iv) If present, then the compound is an alkyne (might also have the 'C-H' of a terminal alkyne, see step 2 above) or a nitrile.
- Step 4 Next examine the area between 2000 and 1400 cm<sup>-1</sup> and record the presence/absence of absorption bands or peaks.

- i) First look near 1700 cm<sup>-1</sup> (e.g. 1680-1750 cm<sup>-1</sup>) for a sharp, strong peak resulting from the **'C=O'** stretch of a **carbonyl**. Note: <u>This</u> <u>absorption is very informative</u> and will be present if your compound is an aldehyde, ketone, ester, amide, or carboxylic acid.
- ii) Next look near 1650 cm<sup>-1</sup> (e.g. 1600-1670 cm<sup>-1</sup>) for a sharp, weak peak resulting from the **'C=C'** stretch of an **alkene**.
- iii) Finally look near 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup> for a sharp, double peak resulting from the **'C=C'** stretch of an **aromatic ring**.
- Step 5 If you dare, you may look in the fingerprint region (area below 1400 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and record the presence of absorption bands or peaks.
  - i) First look near 1200 (1160-1310) cm<sup>-1</sup> for a sharp, strong peak resulting from the 'C-O' stretch of an ester.
    Note: This absorption is very difficult to see and may or may not be present, i.e. conclusive if present, inconclusive if not present.
  - If you suspect you have an aromatic ring (absorption bands at ~3030 and 1600 and 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup> present), you may try to discern the substitution pattern of the benzene ring by looking at the strong absorption bands of the ring 'C-H' out-of-plane bending vibrations in the region 680-900 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Benzene Substitution Pattern	Ring 'C-H' Absorption Bands Present (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
monosubstituted	2 sharp peaks, 730-770, 690-710
ortho disubstituted	1 sharp peak, 735-770
<i>meta</i> disubstituted	3 sharp peaks, 860-900, 750-810, 680- 725
para disubstituted	1 sharp peak, 800-860
1,2,3 trisubstituted	2 sharp peaks, 760-780, 705-745
1,3,5 trisubstituted	2 sharp peaks, 810-865, 675-730
1,2,4 trisubstituted	2 sharp peaks, 870-885, 805-825

Ref. McMurry, J., 1992. Organic Chemistry, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed, Brooks/Cole, p.549-550, (4<sup>th</sup> ed, p.559) Nakanishi, K., 1964. Infrared Absorption Spectroscopy, Holden Day p.27.

iii) Again, if you have an aromatic, you may also try to discern the ring substitution pattern of the benzene ring by looking at the very weak overtone-combination absorption bands of the **ring 'C-H'** stretch vibrations in the region 1670-2000 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Benzene Substitution Pattern	Ring 'C-H' Overtone Bands Present (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
monosubstituted	4 weak equally spaced and shaped sharp peaks
ortho disubstituted	3 weak irregularly spaced/shaped sharp peaks
<i>meta</i> disubstituted	2 weak sharp peaks + one weak broad peak
para disubstituted	2 weak sharp peaks

- iv) If you suspect you have a long straight chain (>4 C) alkane, (absorption bands at 2850-2950 cm<sup>-1</sup> present but not much else), you may try to see the sharp, weak absorption due to the concerted rocking of >4 -CH<sub>2</sub> in a chain. It lies in the region 720  $\pm$  10 cm<sup>-1</sup>.
- **Step 6** Finally, you will summarize your results by making a statement about what functional groups you suspect to be present in the molecule or perhaps you will be asked to select from a list of suggested structures, which molecule most likely would generate the spectrum just analyzed.

### Instructor Led Group Infrared Analysis Problems

Use the tables below to record your results of the 'Infrared Spectral Analyses' for the following compounds (infrared spectra appear on the following pages of this lab manual). Label the absorption bands.

Cyclohexanol	Absorption Band Code#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated
>3000 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1	3331	broad	strong	O-H stretch alcohol
3000-2000 cm <sup>-1</sup>	2	2932 & 2855	sharp	strong	C-H sp <sup>3</sup> stretch
2000-1500 cm <sup>-1</sup>	none				
(Fingerprint)	3	1068	sharp	strong	C-O of alcohol

Functional Group absent: no =C-H, no N-H, no sp<sup>2</sup> H-C=, no C=C, no C=O, no C=C alkene or aromatic

2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol	Absorption Band Code#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated
>3000 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1	~3380	broad	strong	O-H stretch alcohol
	2	3303	sharp	strong	
3000-2000 cm <sup>-1</sup>	3	2876,2938,2987	sharp	med-str.	
	4	2120	sharp	weak	
2000-1500 cm <sup>-1</sup>	none				

Functional Group absent: no N-H, no sp<sup>2</sup> H-C=, no C=N, no C=O, no C=C alkene or aromatic

3-buten-2-ol	Absorption Band Code#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated
>3000 cm <sup>-1</sup>	1	~3350	broad		
	2	3083 & 3012		strong	C-Hstretch
3000-2000 cm <sup>-1</sup>	3		sharp		C-H stretch
2000-1500 cm <sup>-1</sup>	4	1646			

Functional Group absent: no =C-H, no N-H, no C=C, no C=N, no C=O, no C=C aromatic

benzhydrol	Absorption Band Code#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)		tional Group ndicated
$>3000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$	1	3392-3359	broad			
	2	3049 & 3027	sharp		C-H	stretch
3000-2000 cm <sup>-1</sup>	3	2900	sharp		C-H	stretch
2000-1500 cm <sup>-1</sup>	4	1598,1495,1458	sharp			

Functional Group absent: no =C-H, no N-H, no C=C, no C=N, no C=O, no C=C alkene

## Instructor Led Group Infrared Analysis Problems (cont.)

benzaldehyde	Absorption Band Code#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

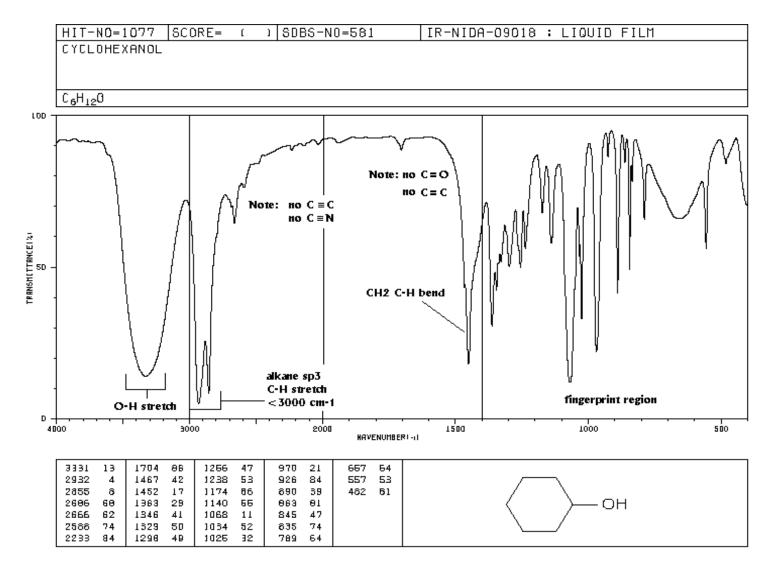
Functional Group absent: no O-H, no ≡C-H, no N-H, no sp<sup>3</sup> C-H, no C≡C, no C≡N, no C=C alkene

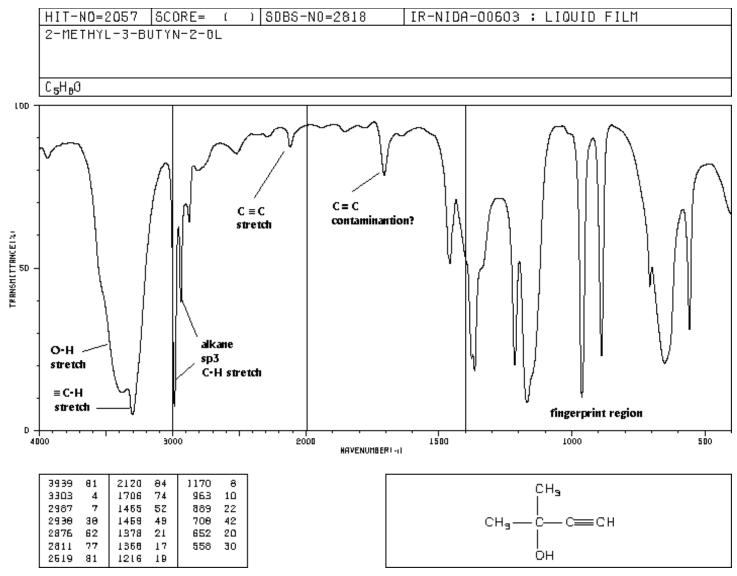
acetic acid	Absorption Band Code#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

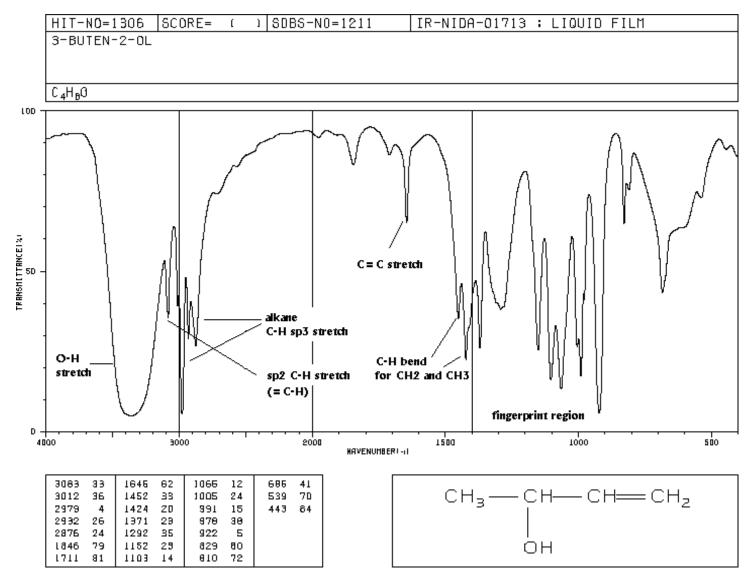
Functional Group absent:

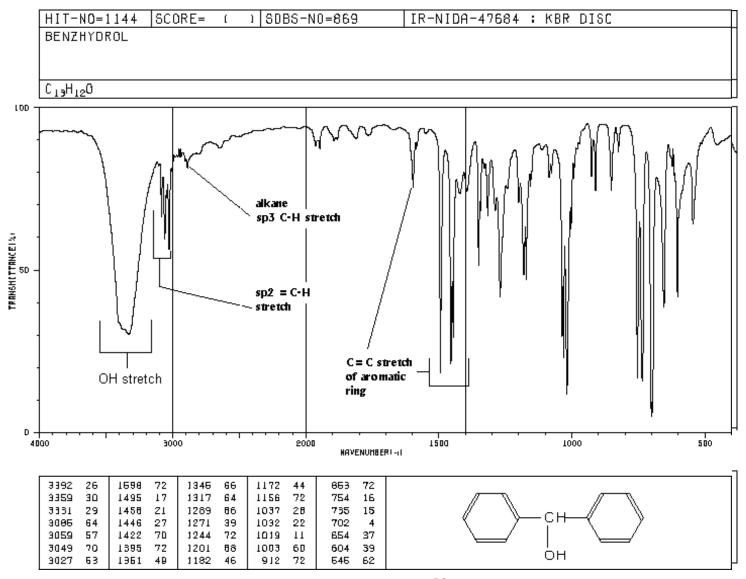
dibutylamine	Absorption Band Code#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

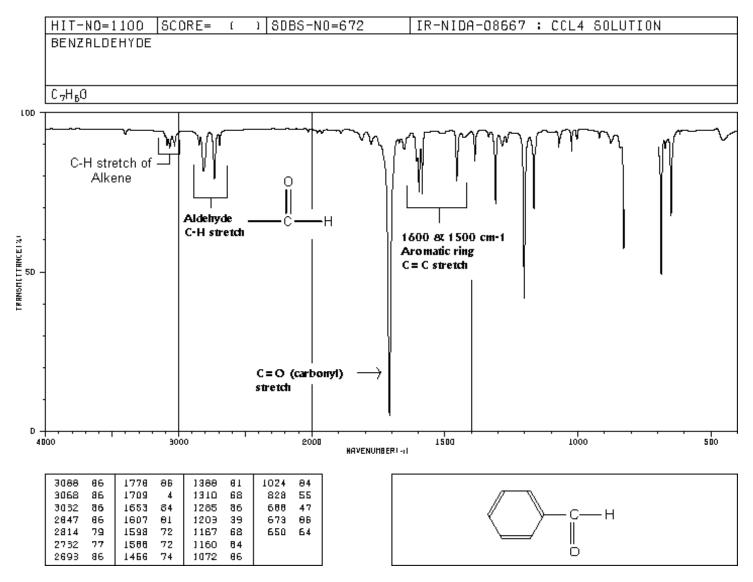
Functional Group absent:

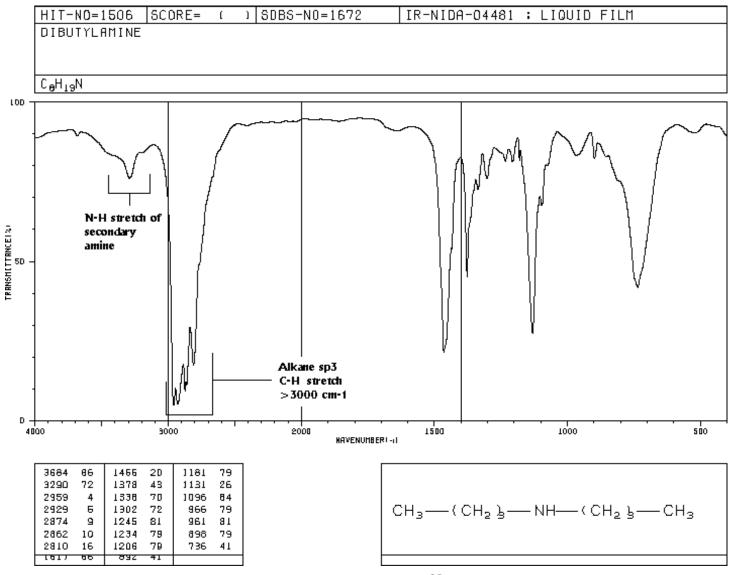












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### Infrared Analysis Practice Problems

# Use the tables below to record your results of the 'Infrared Spectral Analyses' of the provided known spectra in this lab manual.

	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape	Peak Intensity	Functional Group Indicated
benzaldehyde			(sharp, broad)	(strong, medium or weak)	

Functional Group(s) absent:

benzoic acid	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

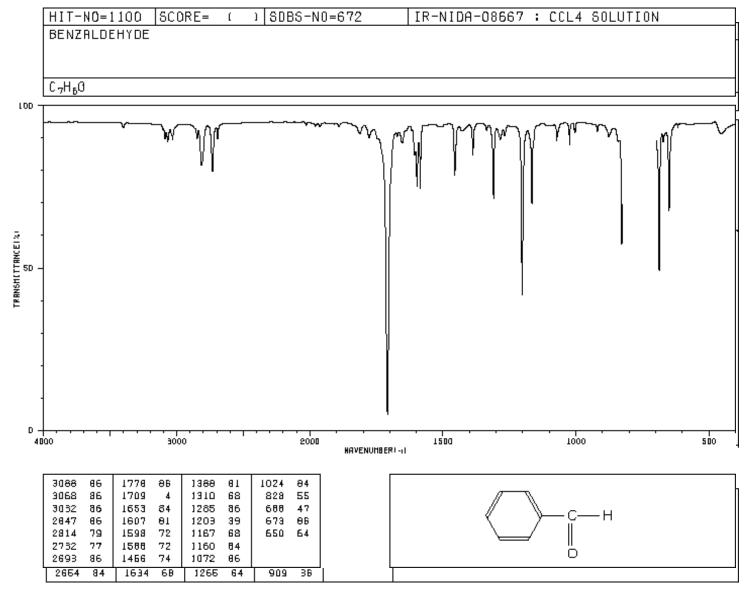
Functional Group(s) absent:

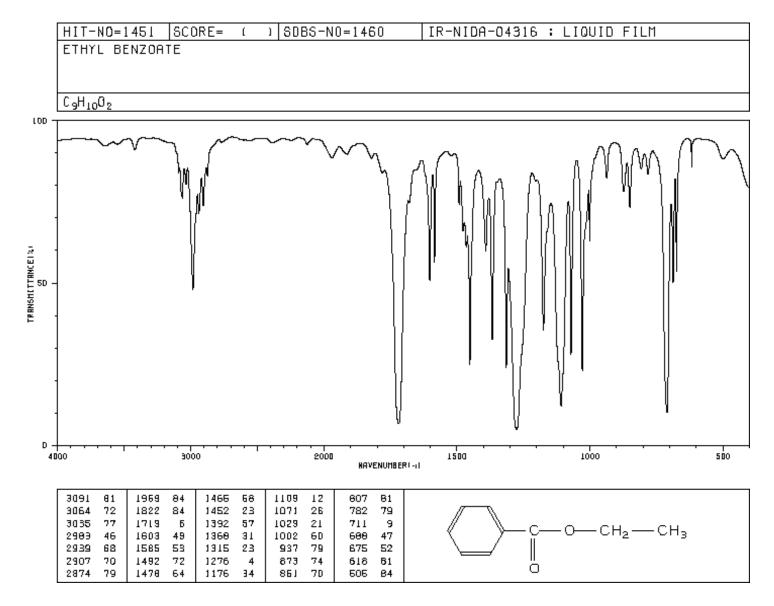
phenylacetylene	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

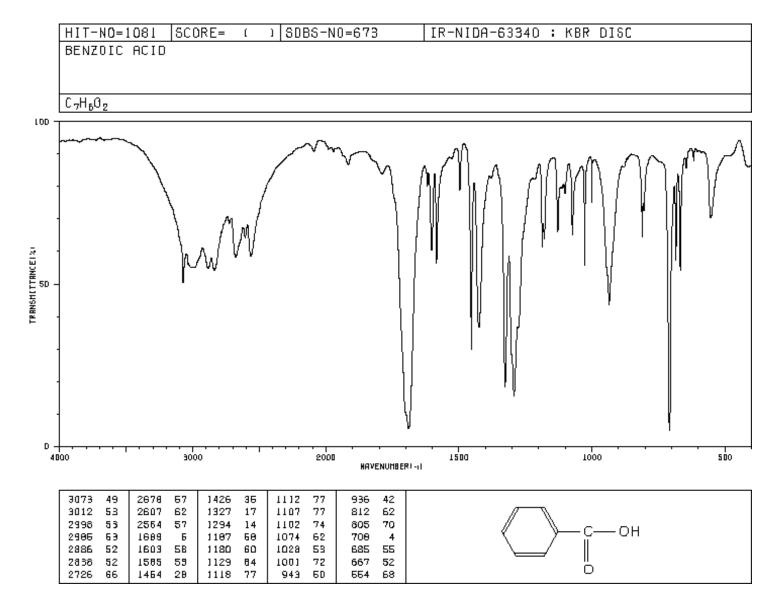
Functional Group(s) absent:

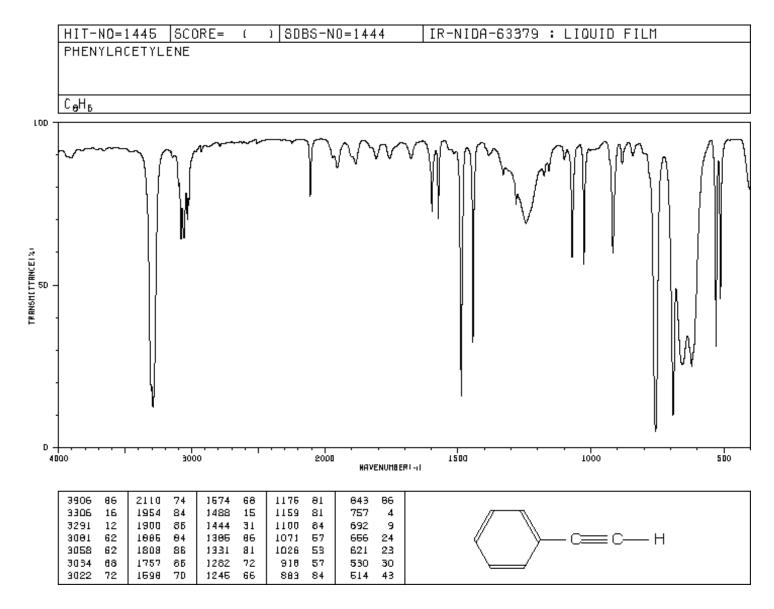
styrene	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

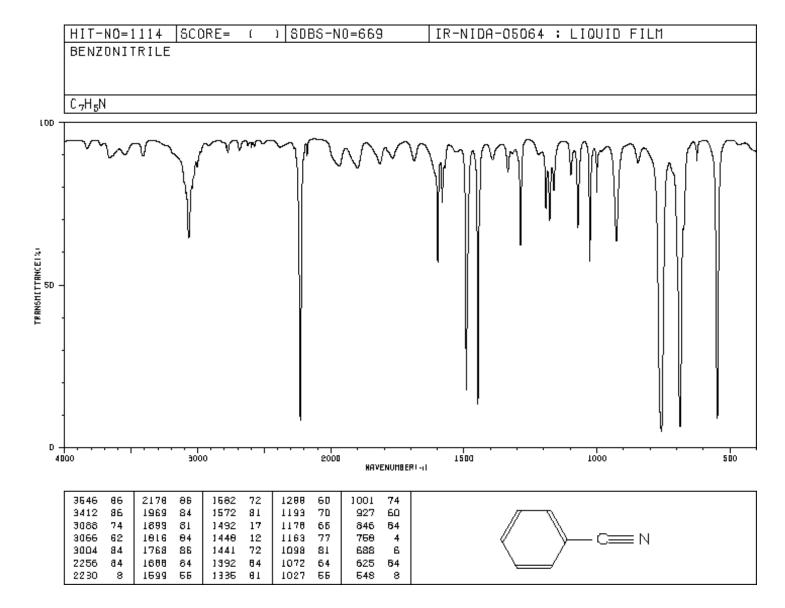
Functional Group(s) absen

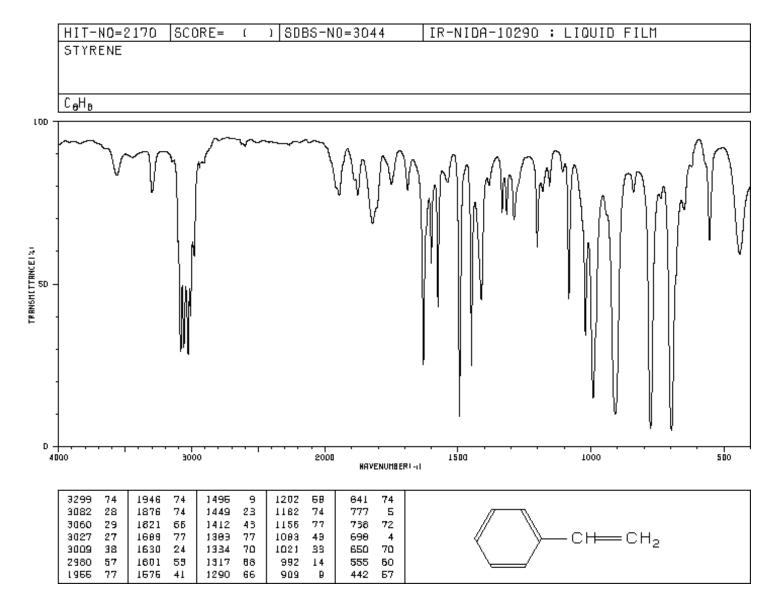












## Write-up

Fill in the following form below and answer the post-lab questions. Use the Word version of the report form so you can add additional space for your answers. You will also need to download four (4) unknown spectra and include that in your report. When complete save as a PDF and email as an attachment to your Academic Expert for grading.

## CHEM 350 Experiment 6 Report Form

Infrared Spectroscopy Tutorial

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_ ID Number:\_\_\_\_\_

### Infrared Knowns

Fill in the following three (3) analyses tables to reflect your characterization of the spectra provided (above).

cyclohexanone	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

Functional Group(s) absent:

ethyl benzoate	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

Functional Group(s) absent:

benzonitrile	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or ,weak)	Functional Group Indicated

Functional Group(s) absent:

### Infrared Unknowns

Select four (4) unknowns from the 'Exp. 6 Infrared Unknown Downloads' list:



Download 4 of the possible 20 spectra (PDFs). Please neatly fill out the table on the unknown spectra and remember to fully label each of the absorption bands identified and identify the compound. If you find the tables on the PDFs too small use this Word template to give yourself more space to write/type.

					<b>V</b> 1
Code:	Absorption	Wavenumber	Peak	Peak	Functional
Name:	Band#	(cm⁻¹)	Shape	Intensity	Group
			(sharp,	(strong, medium	Indicated
			broad)	or weak)	

Functional Group absent:

Code: Name:	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

Functional Group absent:

Code: Name:	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

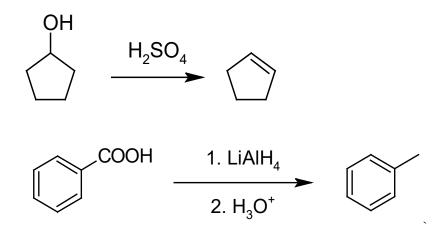
Functional Group absent:

Code: Name:	Absorption Band#	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Shape (sharp, broad)	Peak Intensity (strong, medium or weak)	Functional Group Indicated

Functional Group absent:

### Questions

- 1. What are the major differences you would see in the infrared spectra of an alkane, alkene, and alkyne?
- 2. Consider the C=O absorption of three compounds: 2-butanone (1715 cm<sup>-1</sup>), propanoyl chloride (1772 cm<sup>-1</sup>), and propyl amide (1650 cm<sup>-1</sup>). Explain the observed differences.
- 3. Describe how IR spectroscopy might be used to monitor the progress of each of the following reactions.



I certify that this submitted laboratory report represents entirely my own efforts. I have read and understand the Athabasca University policies regarding, and sanctions for, plagiarism.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_