

## DETECTING HYDROGEN BONDING USING MB-FTMW

José L. Alonso

Universidad de Valladolid  
Spain (XIII century 1293)

Grupo de Espectroscopia Molecular

## GRUPO DE ESPECTROSCOPÍA MOLECULAR Universidad de Valladolid

Pr. JUAN C. LÓPEZ Catedrático Química-Física  
Pr. ALBERTO LESARRI Pr. Titular Química-Física  
Dra. SUSANA BLANCO Asociada Química-Física  
Dra. M. EUGENIA SANZ Investigadora Ramón y Cajal

D. SANTIAGO MATA Técnico de Laboratorio  
Ldo. EMILIO COCINERO Becario FPI  
Dra. RAQUEL SANCHEZ Becaria FPI  
Pr. JOSE L. ALONSO Catedrático Química-Física

Ldo. PABLO VILANUEVA Ph. D. Student  
Ldo. VANESA CORTIJO Ph. D. Student  
Ldo. VANESSA VAQUERO Ph. D. Student  
Ldo. ISABEL PEÑA Ph. D. Student

## Microwave Spectroscopy: Historical Overview

1950: After World War II the components of Radar systems were used to establish MW and MMW  
E. B. Wilson (Harvard)  
C.H. Townes (U. California)  
A.L. Schawlow (Stanford)  
W. Gordy (Duke University)

1945: Clepton & Willians Video mod. NH<sub>3</sub>

1947: Townes, Wilson, Gordy Stark modulation MW & MMW Spectroscopy

1948: Flygare FT-MW Time-domain Flygare

1950: Flygare MB-FT-MW Solid compounds Flygare

1990: Laser-ablation MB-FTMW

## Frequency Domain: Stark Modulation Microwave Spectroscopy

Computer Controlled Spectrometer Valladolid 1985 8-50 GHz

MW Source → Stark Cell → Detector

Stark Modulation

Graphs showing V vs t and I vs v.

## Experimental Information by Microwave Spectroscopy

Rotational Spectra in the MW and MMW region

- Rotational Constants → Conformation and Structure
- Centrifugal Distortion → Force Field Large Amplitud Motions
- Stark Effect → Electric Dipole Moments Components
- Hyperfine Structure → Charge distribution Internal Rotation

*Journal of the American Chemical Society* / 102:4 / February 13, 1980

### Study of an Intramolecular, Bifurcated Hydrogen Bond in 1,3-Dioxan-5-ol by Microwave Spectroscopy

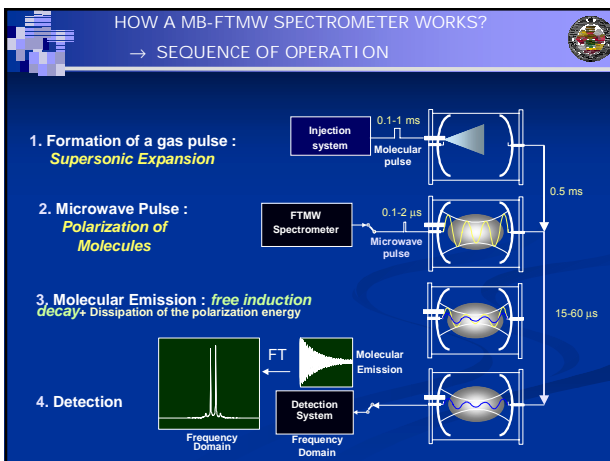
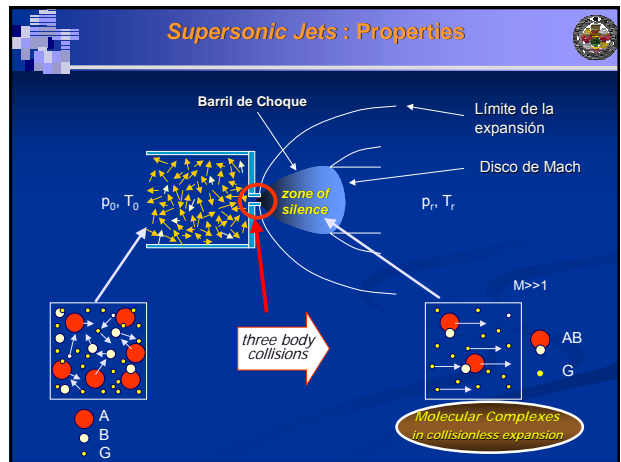
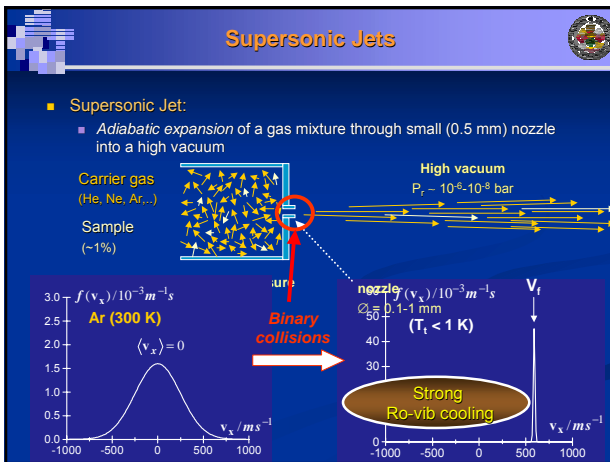
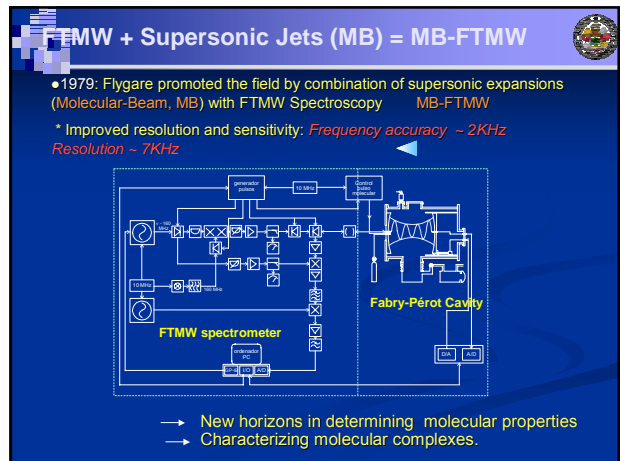
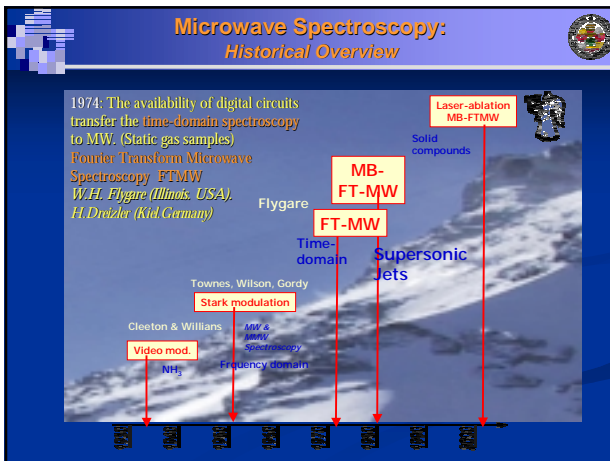
Jose L. Alonso and E. Bright Wilson\*

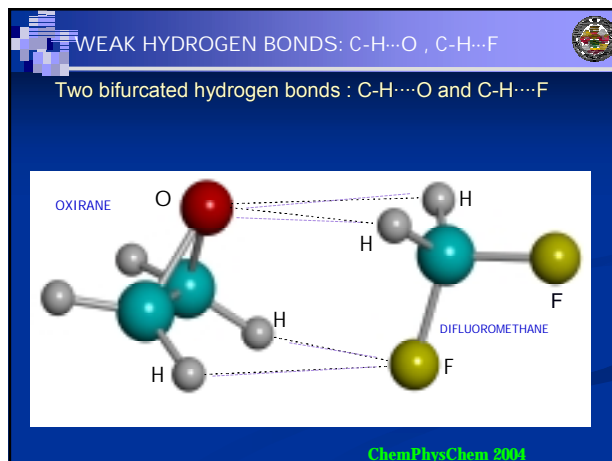
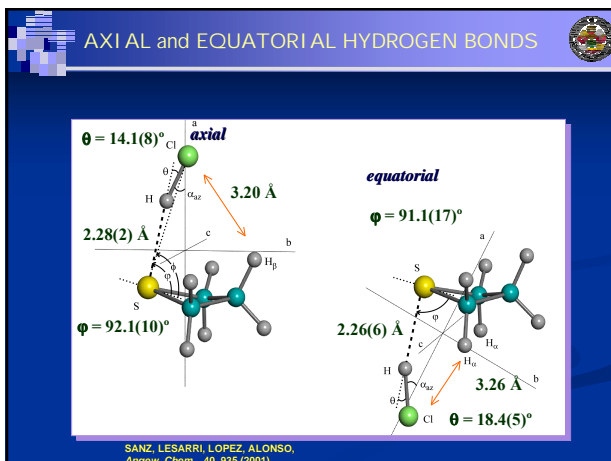
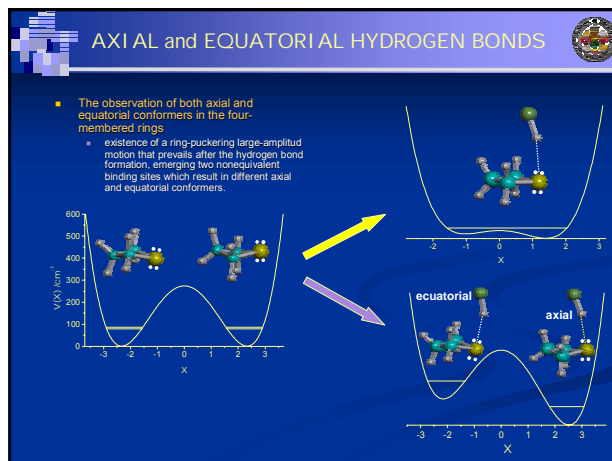
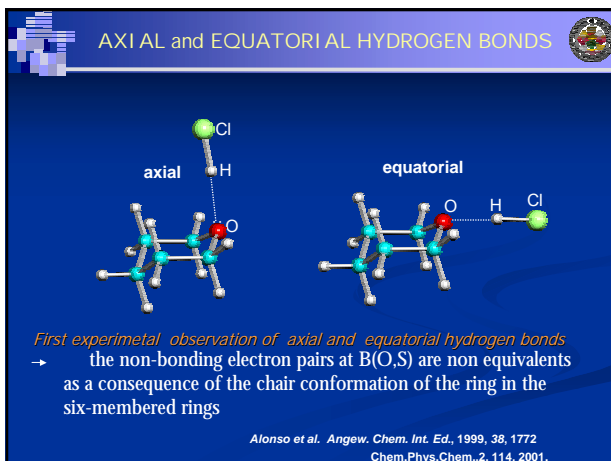
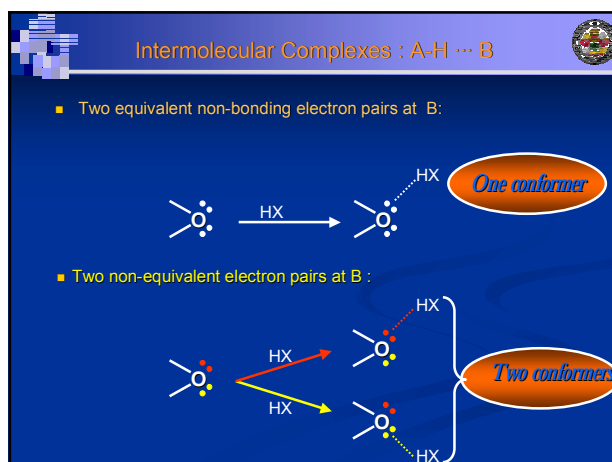
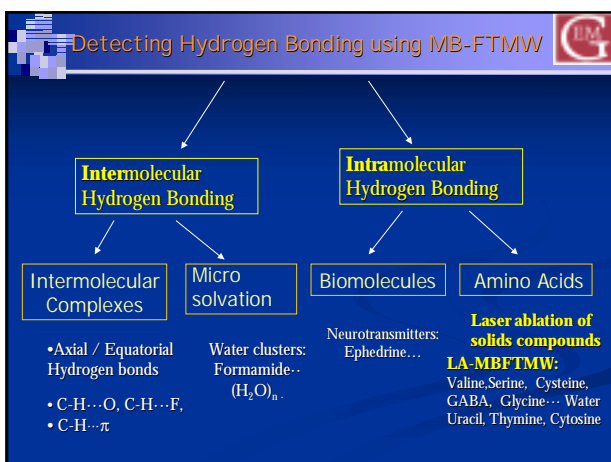
*Contribution from the Mallinckrodt Chemical Laboratory, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. Received July 19, 1979*

Figure 1. Axial and equatorial conformers of 1,3-dioxan-5-ol.

| Transition                            | OH-species     | OD-species     |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| $\nu_1, \nu_2$                        | $\nu_1, \nu_2$ | $\nu_1, \nu_2$ |
| 3 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 2 <sub>1,1</sub>   | 18 975.11      | 0.15           |
| 3 <sub>1,2</sub> ← 2 <sub>1,2</sub>   | 18 927.37      | 0.14           |
| 4 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 3 <sub>0,1</sub>   | 20 078.58      | 0.21           |
| 3 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 2 <sub>1,1</sub>   | 22 277.15      | 0.20           |
| 4 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 3 <sub>0,1</sub>   | 26 968.78      | 0.26           |
| 4 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 3 <sub>1,1</sub>   | 30 027.28      | 0.29           |
| 4 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 3 <sub>0,1</sub>   | 37 057.48      | 0.22           |
| 5 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 4 <sub>0,1</sub>   | 37 821.17      | 0.33           |
| 5 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 4 <sub>1,1</sub>   | 37 837.79      | 0.24           |
| 5 <sub>2,1</sub> ← 4 <sub>2,1</sub>   | 31 463.48      | -0.09          |
| 5 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 4 <sub>1,1</sub>   | 31 833.88      | -0.14          |
| 7 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 6 <sub>1,1</sub>   | 33 827.47      | 0.00           |
| 8 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 7 <sub>0,1</sub>   | 39 446.53      | -0.15          |
| 8 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 7 <sub>1,1</sub>   | 39 443.33      | 0.08           |
| 9 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 8 <sub>0,1</sub>   | 39 704.85      | 0.16           |
| 9 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 8 <sub>1,1</sub>   | 39 254.08      | 0.11           |
| 10 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 9 <sub>0,1</sub>  | 39 025.77      | 0.52           |
| 10 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 9 <sub>1,1</sub>  | 38 963.75      | 0.54           |
| 11 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 10 <sub>0,1</sub> | 38 736.26      | 0.00           |
| 11 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 10 <sub>1,1</sub> | 38 502.99      | 1.10           |
| 12 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 11 <sub>0,1</sub> | 23 961.56      | -0.62          |
| 10 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 9 <sub>1,1</sub>  | 21 896.37      | -0.09          |
| 10 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 9 <sub>0,1</sub>  | 21 898.10      | -0.05          |
| 11 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 10 <sub>1,1</sub> | 21 660.51      | 0.40           |
| 11 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 10 <sub>0,1</sub> | 21 660.51      | -0.22          |
| 10 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 9 <sub>0,1</sub>  | 24 675.87      | -0.97          |
| 11 <sub>0,1</sub> ← 10 <sub>0,1</sub> | 24 675.87      | -0.97          |
| 11 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 10 <sub>1,1</sub> | 24 675.87      | -0.97          |
| 12 <sub>1,1</sub> ← 11 <sub>1,1</sub> | 27 339.17      | -1.56          |

| species                | A                | B                | C                |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| normal                 | 3913.488 (0.007) | 2922.762 (0.009) | 2193.407 (0.010) |
| hydroxy-d <sub>1</sub> | 3851.201 (0.016) | 2867.789 (0.023) | 2183.161 (0.027) |
| $\nu_6 = 1$            | 3916.418 (0.020) | 2919.870 (0.037) | 2193.367 (0.096) |
| $\nu_6 = 1$            | 3918.143 (0.017) | 2914.477 (0.035) | 2185.191 (0.085) |





### WEAK HYDROGEN BONDS: C-H...O, C-H...F

TRIFLUOROMETHANE  
OXIRANE

Three weak hydrogen bonds, one C-H...O and two C-H...F-H, establish the global minimum configuration of the oxirane-trifluoromethane adduct. The trifluoromethyl group can rotate almost freely ( $V_3 = 0.55$  kJ/mol) around its C3 symmetry axes.

Alonso et al. JACS, 2004

### WEAK HYDROGEN BONDS: C-H... $\pi$

\*Weak Hydrogen Bond Complex stabilized by a CH... $\pi$  weak hydrogen bond, is a symmetric top.

\* Both species are characterized by an almost free rotation of the two subunits with respect to each other. The estimated dissociation energy is 8.4 kJ/mol.

BENZENE-TRIFLUOROMETHANE  
symmetric top.

### MICROSOLVATION: The formamide... $(H_2O)_n$ ( $n=1,2$ ) clusters

We have analyzed the rotational spectra of formamide- $(H_2O)_n$  clusters:

- To characterize the different 1:1 and most stable 1:2 conformers.
- To search for evidences of cooperative effects such as *polarization enhanced* or *resonance assisted* hydrogen bonding

mimics the peptide group

shortening of HB lengths

$r(C-N)$  decrease

### MICROSOLVATION: The formamide... $(H_2O)_n$ ( $n=1,2$ ) clusters

**1:1a** The most stable conformer of the formamide- $H_2O$  complex ( $\text{I}$ ), is stabilized by two hydrogen bonds O-H...O=C and N-H...O with water closing a cycle structure.

**1:1b** At the CO site the water acts as a proton donor bonded through the lone-pair of the oxygen atom in the carbonyl group.

**1:1c** At the NH site the water acts as an acceptor through the anti-hydrogen of the amino group.

**1:2a** Closed Cyclic structure with two water molecules establishing three hydrogen bonds.

interactions of water with the peptide functional group

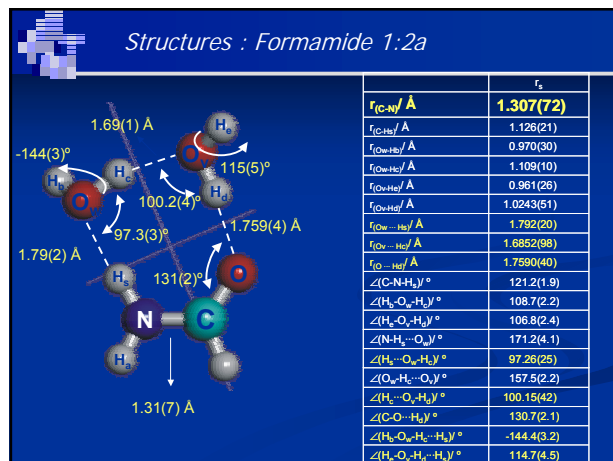
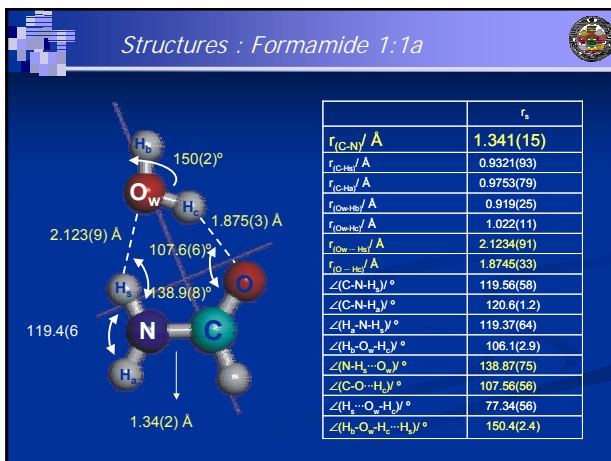
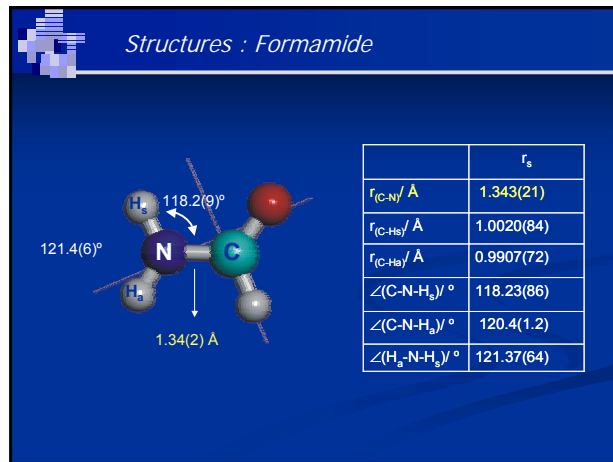
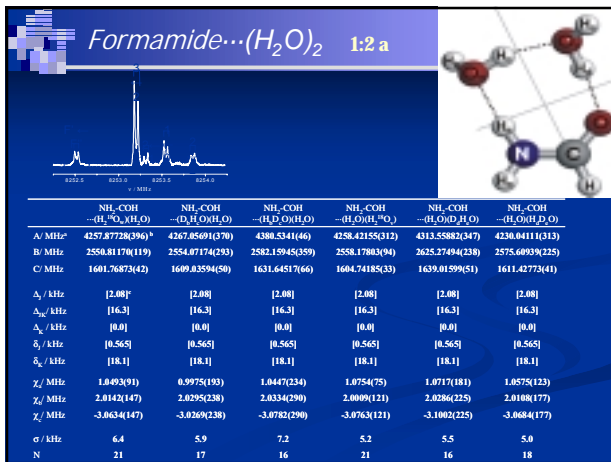
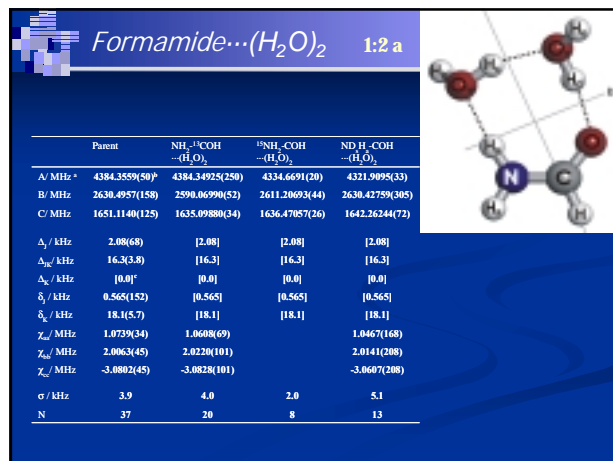
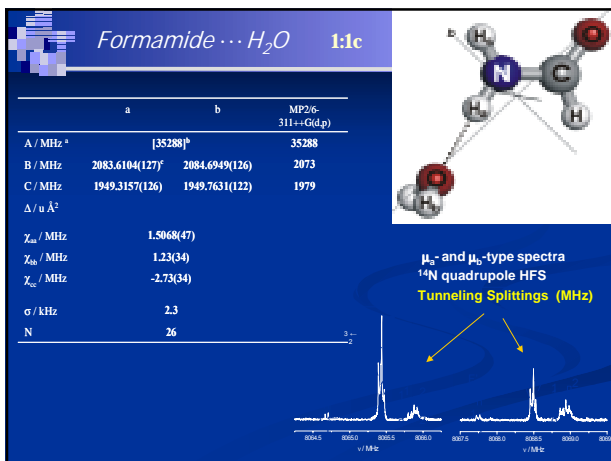
### Formamide... $H_2O$ 1:1a

| Parameter           | $^{14}N$ - $^{13}C$ OH | $^{15}N$ - $^{13}C$ OH | $^{15}N$ - $^{13}C$ OH | $^{15}N$ - $^{13}C$ OH | $^{15}N$ - $^{13}C$ OH | $^{15}N$ - $^{13}C$ OH | $^{15}N$ - $^{13}C$ OH |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| A / MHz             | 11227.9338(21)         | 11224.480(123)         | 10925.166(727)         | 10844.439(24)          | 10419.415(849)         | 11221.598(435)         | 11191.959(21)          |
| B / MHz             | 4586.962(216)          | 4528.653(113)          | 4565.991(10)           | 4588.547(169)          | 4514.142(14)           | 4286.814(99)           | 4287.856(714)          |
| C / MHz             | 2381.827(12)           | 2328.931(11)           | 2322.218(499)          | 2326.771(216)          | 3151.864(113)          | 3103.598(94)           | 3105.383(110)          |
| $A / a^2$           | -0.1881(41)            | -0.1072(41)            | -0.1042(39)            | -0.1211(37)            | -0.1152(44)            | -0.1964(44)            | -0.2976(44)            |
| $\Delta_a$ / kHz    | 7.844(76)              | [7.844]                | [7.844]                | [7.844]                | [7.844]                | [7.844]                | [7.844]                |
| $\Delta_b$ / kHz    | 24.24(48)              | [24.24]                | [24.24]                | [24.24]                | [24.24]                | [24.24]                | [24.24]                |
| $\Delta_c$ / kHz    | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  |
| $\delta_a$ / kHz    | 2.728(58)              | [2.728]                | [2.728]                | [2.728]                | [2.728]                | [2.728]                | [2.728]                |
| $\delta_b$ / kHz    | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  | [0.0]                  |
| $\chi_{NH}$ / MHz   | 1.3321(27)             | 1.3377(69)             |                        | 1.3571(36)             | 1.3652(72)             | 1.3391(52)             | 1.3457(21)             |
| $\chi_{NH_2}$ / MHz | 2.8771(20)             | 2.8334(64)             |                        | 2.8381(20)             | 2.8485(41)             | 2.8271(20)             | 2.8331(17)             |
| $\chi_{CD}$ / MHz   | -3.365(96)             | -3.371(26)             |                        | -3.395(96)             | -3.415(20)             | -3.366(14)             | -3.379(18)             |
| $\sigma$ / kHz      | 4.9                    | 2.6                    | 3.9                    | 8.2                    | 5.7                    | 6.6                    | 6.0                    |
| N                   | 15                     | 5                      | 21                     | 21                     | 21                     | 21                     | 21                     |

### Formamide... $H_2O$ 1:1b

|                     | 0              | I                        | MP2/6-311++G(d,p) |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| A / MHz             |                | 26170.8(61) <sup>a</sup> | 25970             |
| B / MHz             | 2682.97653(65) | 2682.97837(68)           | 2684              |
| C / MHz             | 2433.84992(64) | 2433.84900(63)           | 2438              |
| $\Delta_a$ / kHz    |                | 7.6202(147)              |                   |
| $\Delta_b$ / kHz    |                | -0.2970(38)              |                   |
| $\Delta_c$ / kHz    |                | [0.0] <sup>b</sup>       |                   |
| $\delta_a$ / kHz    |                | 1.3691(133)              |                   |
| $\delta_b$ / kHz    |                | [0.0]                    |                   |
| $\chi_{NH}$ / MHz   |                | 1.8625(22)               |                   |
| $\chi_{NH_2}$ / MHz |                | 1.7393(39)               |                   |
| $\chi_{CD}$ / MHz   |                | -3.6018(39)              |                   |
| $\sigma$ / kHz      |                | 3.3                      |                   |
| N                   |                | 66                       |                   |

$\mu_a$ - and  $\mu_b$ -type spectra  
 $^{14}N$  quadrupole HFS  
Tunneling Splittings (kHz)



### Cooperative Effects

\* No evidences *resonance assisted* hydrogen bonding

1.34(2) Å      1.34(2) Å      1.31(7) Å

$r(C-N)$  decrease

\* Evidences of *polarization enhanced* hydrogen bonding  
 → *shortening of HIB lengths*

### NEUROTRANSMITTERS

*Ethylamine side chain*

Molecules which mediate the connections between nerve cells belong to the family of neurotransmitter. Many share a **common structural motif**

*Ethanolamine side chain*

### EPHEDRINE

It is representative of a wide family of neurotransmitters comprising an ethanolamine side chain attached to an aromatic ring.

→ **Molecular Conformation** plays a crucial role for the understanding of the biological function

The torsional flexibility of the side chain results in an unusual great number of low energy conformers whose relative stability is controlled by intramolecular interactions involving hydrogen bonding.

### Ephedrine: Lower-energy Conformers

AG(a) O-H...N (0 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

AG(b) O-H...N (473 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

GG(a) O-H...N and N-H...π (256 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

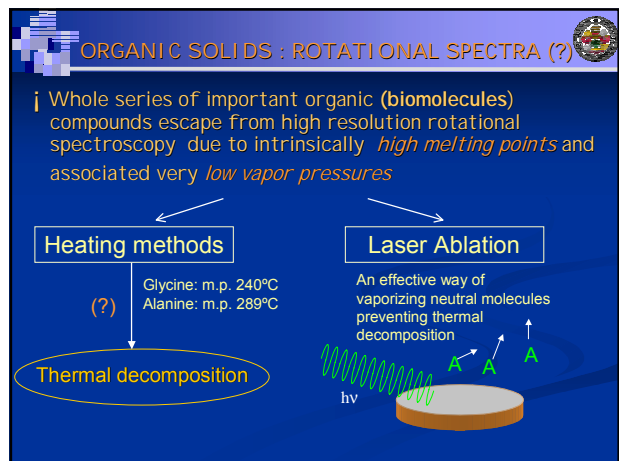
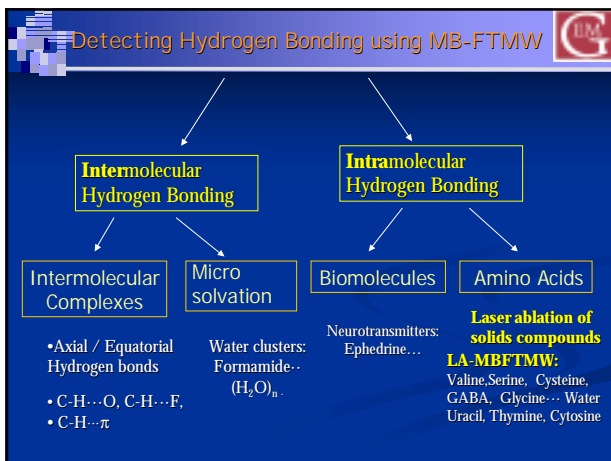
GG(b) O-H...N (1108 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

### MB-FTMW

GEM, Valladolid

### EPHEDRINE

| Spectroscopic Parameters | AG(a)     |                 | GG(a)     |                 | AG(b)     |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
|                          | AB-INITIO | EXPERIMENTAL    | AB-INITIO | EXPERIMENTAL    | AB-INITIO | EXPERIMENTAL    |
| A / MHz                  | 2014.4    | 1998.63822 (35) | 1565.7    | 1568.24526 (49) | 2112.1    | 2115.87705 (59) |
| B / MHz                  | 532.8     | 529.549500 (41) | 597.1     | 592.448419 (73) | 507.2     | 503.794257 (40) |
| C / MHz                  | 504.6     | 500.160014 (41) | 579.3     | 572.416089 (62) | 480.0     | 475.173363 (51) |
| $\chi_{aa}$ / MHz        | 2.63      | 2.5347 (13)     | 2.51      | 2.447 (12)      | 2.70      | 2.564 (17)      |
| $\chi_{bb}$ / MHz        | -3.26     | -2.7436 (17)    | -2.90     | -3.2045 (75)    | -4.83     | -4.622 (11)     |
| $\chi_{cc}$ / MHz        | 0.63      | 0.2089 (17)     | 0.39      | 0.7575 (75)     | 2.14      | 2.058 (11)      |



### MB -FTMW + Laser Ablation

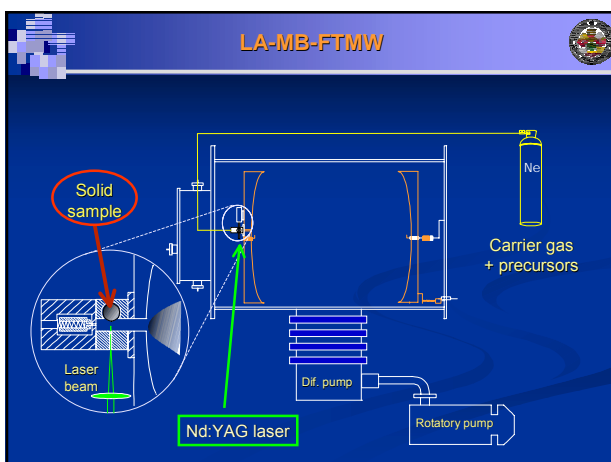
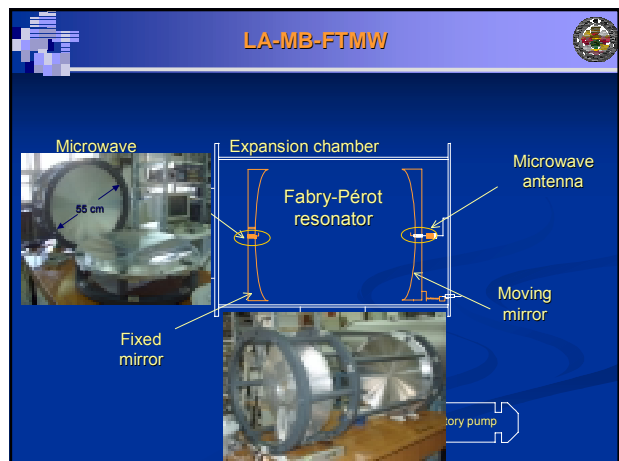
**MB-FTMW Spectroscopy** + **Laser Ablation**

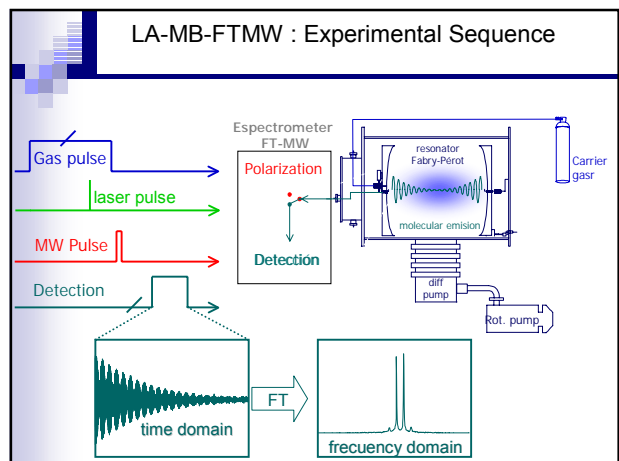
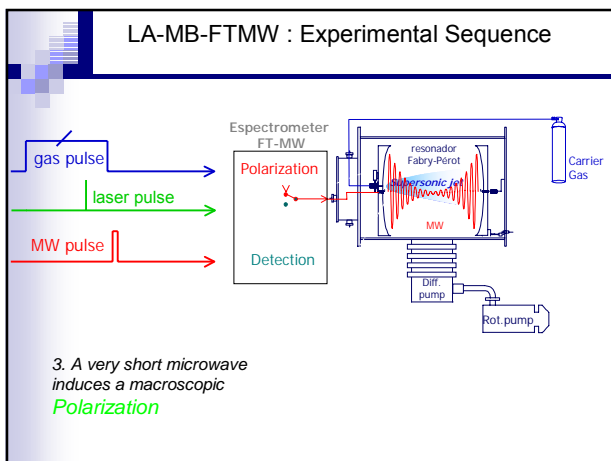
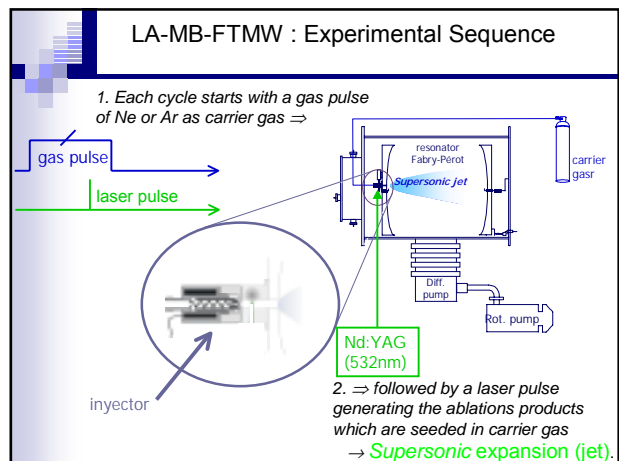
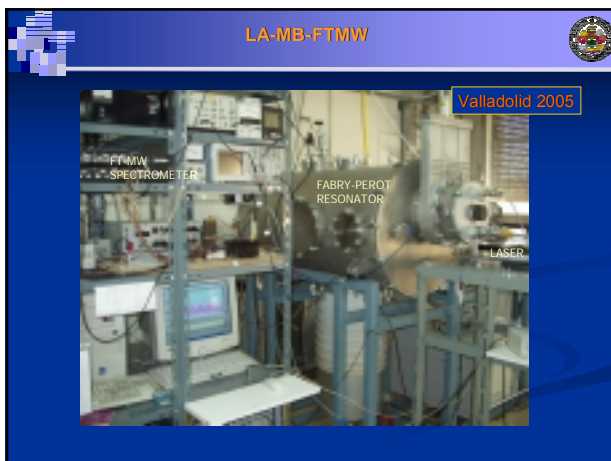
Laser ablation LA is combined with MB-FTMW spectroscopy → **LA-MB-FTMW Spectrometer**  
To allow the structural characterization of the vaporized species in the adiabatic expansion (gas phase)

REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS VOLUME 74, NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 2003

**A laser-ablation molecular-beam Fourier-transform microwave spectrometer: The rotational spectrum of organic solids**  
Alberto Legere, Santiago Horta, Juan C. López, and José L. Alonso<sup>1</sup>  
Departamento de Química Física, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Valladolid, 47105 Valladolid, Spain  
(Received 17 March 2003; accepted 22 July 2003)

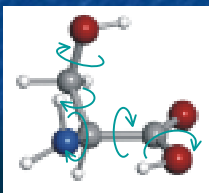
A spectrometer that combines laser ablation of a solid sample with molecular-beam Fourier-transform microwave spectroscopy (MB-FTMW) has been constructed to obtain the rotational spectrum of solid organic molecules. Laser ablation is produced by visible radiation, using the second harmonic of a Nd:YAG laser. The laser hits a solid rod placed on a specially designed pulsed nozzle, coaxially oriented with the axis of the microwave spectrometer Fabry-Pérot cavity.





## Why Amino Acids in the Gas-Phase ?

- The great torsional flexibility of amino acids results in an unusual great number of stable conformers of low energy whose relative stability is controlled by intramolecular interactions.
- $\Rightarrow$  The intrinsic conformational preferences are only revealed in isolation conditions in the gas phase.



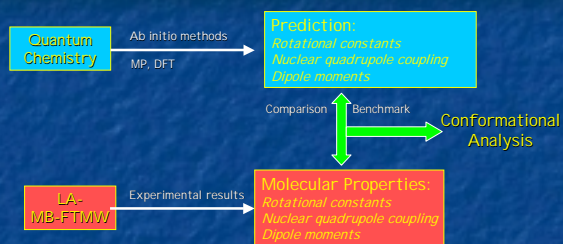
serine up to  
324 predicted  
conformers

## Why Amino Acids in the Gas-Phase ?

- Amino Acids in their natural condensed phases are stabilized as by strong intermolecular interactions as zwitterions (i.e., a bipolar ionized form  $(^+H_3N-CH(R)-COO^-)$  which does not occur in the polypeptide chain  $\rightarrow$  The structural research of the neutral aminoacids should be conducted in gas phase where they present an unsolvated neutral form  $HN-CH(R)-COOH$  which represents the best approximation of an amino acid residue in a polipeptide chain.



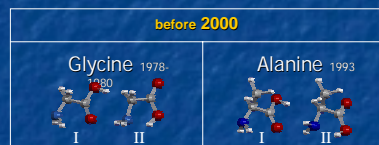
## Why MW Spectroscopy ?



Computational benchmarks : provide accurate structural information directly comparable to the in vacuo theoretical predictions

## Previous studies

- Using heating methods:



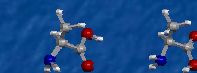
- Two conformers observed  
- Structure of conformer II

- Two conformers observed  
- No Structure

## Amino acids in gas-phase

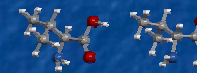
### Aliphatic Amino Acids

Alanine



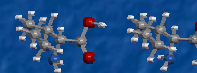
BLANCO, LESARRI, LOPEZ, ALONSO  
JACS, 126, 11675 (2004)

Valine



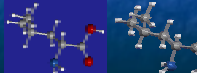
LESARRI, COCINERO, LOPEZ, ALONSO  
Angew. Chemie, 43, 605 (2004)

Isoleucine



LESARRI, COCINERO, LOPEZ, ALONSO  
submitted (2005)

Leucine



## Amino acids in gas-phase

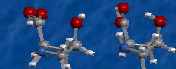
### Imino Acids

Proline



LESARRI, MATA, COCINERO, BLANCO, LOPEZ, ALONSO  
Angew. Chemie, 41, 4672 (2002)

(4*R*)-Hydroxiproline



LESARRI, COCINERO, LOPEZ, ALONSO,  
J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 127, 2572 (2005)

(4*S*)-Hydroxiproline



## Amino acids in gas-phase

### Alcohol / Triol side chain

Serine



Cysteine



## Amino acids in gas-phase

### Two carboxylic groups

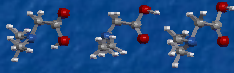
Aspartic acid



## Non-coded Amino acids in gas-phase

### *α-Amino acids*

N,N-dimethyl glycine

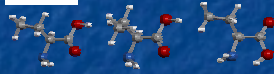


LESARRÉ, COCHIERO, LÓPEZ-ALONSO, ChemPhysChem, In press (2005)

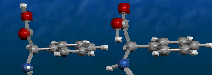
Sarcosine



α-Aminobutyric



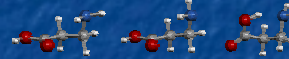
Phenylglycine



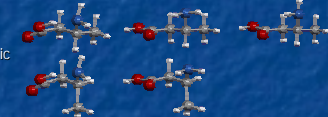
## Non-coded Amino acids in gas-phase

### *β- and γ-Amino acids*

β-Alanine



β-Aminobutyric



γ-Aminobutyric GABA



## Amino Acids in space ?

Laboratory

Spectroscopic parameters

Radiotelescope

- Presence in the interstellar medium: ¿Origin of life?



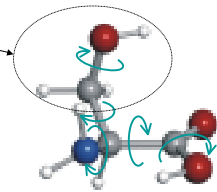
| 8 atoms       | 9 atoms    | 10 atoms   | 11 atoms      | 12 atoms      | 13 atoms      |
|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| glycine       | serine     | alanine    | valine        | isoleucine    | phenylalanine |
| aspartic acid | threonine  | proline    | leucine       | methionine    | tryptophan    |
| histidine     | lysine     | arginine   | glutamine     | glutamic acid | niacin        |
| proline       | methionine | tryptophan | glutamic acid | niacin        | niacin        |
| lysine        | methionine | tryptophan | glutamic acid | niacin        | niacin        |
| proline       | methionine | tryptophan | glutamic acid | niacin        | niacin        |
| lysine        | methionine | tryptophan | glutamic acid | niacin        | niacin        |
| proline       | methionine | tryptophan | glutamic acid | niacin        | niacin        |

136 molecules  
(December 2004)

Glycine ?, Ac. Fórmico, ac. acético, acrilonitrilo, Etilenglicol, benceno?

## SERINE

The introduction of the ethoxy group adds two rotors and the additional donor-acceptor hydrogen bonding capabilities of the hydroxy group



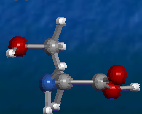
The exploration of the conformational landscape of serine by ab initio quantum chemical calculations

up to 324 predicted conformations  
Granet et al JACS 117 (1995)

## α - Amino Acids

- The conformational behavior is conditioned by the potential formation of 3 different types of intramolecular hydrogen bonds:
  - Type I : amine-to-carbonyl oxygen (NH...O=C)

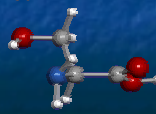
Conf. I



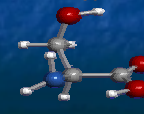
## α - Amino Acids

- The conformational behavior is conditioned by the potential formation of 3 different types of intramolecular hydrogen bonds:
  - Type I : amine-to-carbonyl oxygen (NH...O=C)
  - Type II : N lone pair - Hydroxyl hydrogen (N...H-O)

Conf. I

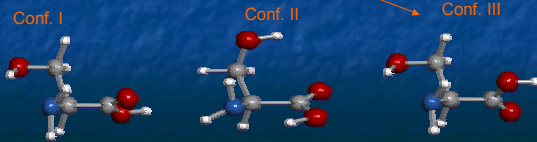


Conf. II



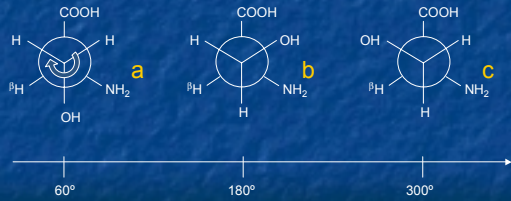
## $\alpha$ - Amino Acids

- The conformational behavior is conditioned by the potential formation of 3 different types of intramolecular hydrogen bonds:
  - Type I: amine-to-carbonyl oxygen (NH...O=C)
  - Type II: N lone pair - Hydroxyl hydrogen (N...H-O)
  - Type III: H amine group - Hydroxyl oxygen (NH...O-H)

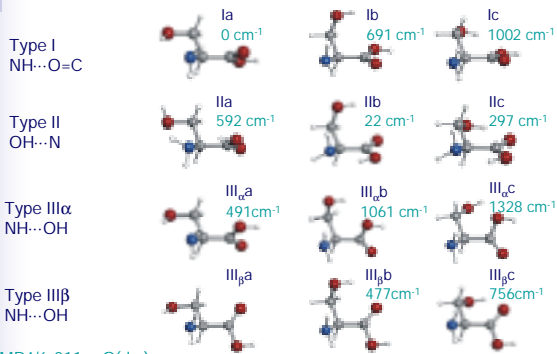


## Amino Acids : Side chain orientation

- The ethoxy group can additionally establish three orientations of the hydroxy group (a, b, c) for each conformer. The energy ordering of these configurations could depend on the backbone conformation.

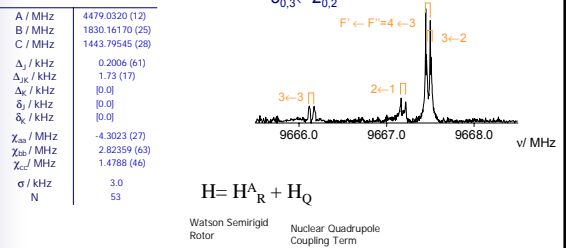


## SERINE : Lower Energy Conformers



## SERINE : Rotational Spectrum

- \* a-type R-Branch transitions of an asymmetric rotor were assigned.
- \* All the transitions are splitted in several components attributable to the nuclear hyperfine interactions of a single <sup>14</sup>N nucleus (I=1).



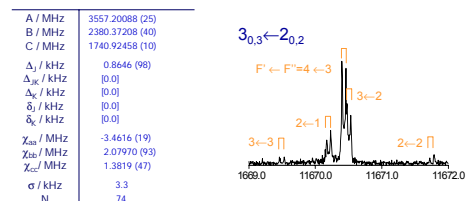
## SERINE

|                               | Ia    |         | IIb   |      | IIc   |      | IIa   |      | III $\beta$ b |      | III $\beta$ c |      |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|
|                               | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp. | MP2   | Exp. | MP2   | Exp. | MP2           | Exp. | MP2           | Exp. |
| A / MHz                       | 4481  | 4479.03 | 3544  |      | 3656  |      | 4522  |      | 3934          |      | 3519          |      |
| B / MHz                       | 1824  | 1830.16 | 2395  |      | 2378  |      | 1850  |      | 2249          |      | 2331          |      |
| C / MHz                       | 1452  | 1443.79 | 1748  |      | 1518  |      | 1479  |      | 1667          |      | 1580          |      |
| $\chi_{aa}$ / MHz             | -4.66 | -4.302  | -3.67 |      | -3.89 |      | -0.44 |      | -0.65         |      | -1.08         |      |
| $\chi_{bb}$ / MHz             | 2.92  | 2.823   | 2.21  |      | 2.13  |      | 2.05  |      | -0.53         |      | -0.75         |      |
| $\chi_{cc}$ / MHz             | 1.74  | 1.478   | 1.44  |      | 1.75  |      | -1.61 |      | 1.19          |      | 1.82          |      |
| $\Delta E$ / cm <sup>-1</sup> | 0     |         | 22    |      | 297   |      | 529   |      | 477           |      | 756           |      |




## SERINE : Rotational Spectrum

- \* Another series of a-type R-Branch transitions of an asymmetric rotor were assigned.
- \* All the transitions are splitted in several components attributable to the nuclear hyperfine interactions of a single <sup>14</sup>N nucleus (I=1).




### SERINE

|                               | Ia    |         | IIb   |         | IIc   |         | IIa   |      | III <sub>b</sub> |      | III <sub>c</sub> |      |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|------|------------------|------|------------------|------|
|                               | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp. | MP2              | Exp. | MP2              | Exp. |
| A / MHz                       | 4481  | 4479.03 | 3544  | 3557.20 | 3656  | 3658.05 | 4522  |      | 3934             |      | 3519             |      |
| B / MHz                       | 1824  | 1830.16 | 2395  | 2380.37 | 2378  | 2387.89 | 1850  |      | 2249             |      | 2331             |      |
| C / MHz                       | 1452  | 1443.79 | 1748  | 1740.92 | 1518  | 1519.18 | 1479  |      | 1667             |      | 1580             |      |
| $\chi_{aa}$ / MHz             | -4.66 | -4.302  | -3.67 | -3.461  | -3.89 | -3.652  | -0.44 |      | -0.65            |      | -1.08            |      |
| $\chi_{bb}$ / MHz             | 2.92  | 2.823   | 2.21  | 2.079   | 2.13  | 2.062   | 2.05  |      | -0.53            |      | -0.75            |      |
| $\chi_{cc}$ / MHz             | 1.74  | 1.478   | 1.44  | 1.381   | 1.75  | 1.590   | -1.61 |      | 1.19             |      | 1.82             |      |
| $\Delta E$ / cm <sup>-1</sup> | 0     |         | 22    |         | 297   |         | 529   |      | 477              |      | 756              |      |



Ia  
0 cm<sup>-1</sup>



IIb

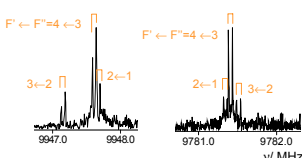
### SERINE : Rotational Spectrum

\* Another two series of a-type R-Branch transitions of an asymmetric rotor were assigned.

\* All the transitions are splitted in several components attributable to the nuclear hyperfine interactions of a single <sup>14</sup>N nucleus (I=1).


$3_{0,3} \leftarrow 2_{0,2}$

|                     |                 |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A / MHz             | 3638.05784 (38) | 4517.473 (17)   |
| B / MHz             | 2387.89651 (99) | 1846.99360 (30) |
| C / MHz             | 1519.18716 (36) | 1463.79646 (31) |
| $\Delta_J$ / kHz    | 0.246 (34)      | 0.242 (10)      |
| $\Delta_{JK}$ / kHz | [0.0]           | [0.0]           |
| $\Delta_K$ / kHz    | [0.0]           | [0.0]           |
| $\delta_J$ / kHz    | [0.0]           | [0.0]           |
| $\delta_K$ / kHz    | [0.0]           | [0.0]           |
| $\chi_{aa}$ / MHz   | -3.6527 (57)    | -0.6066 (55)    |
| $\chi_{bb}$ / MHz   | 2.06213 (26)    | 2.0723 (82)     |
| $\chi_{cc}$ / MHz   | 1.5906 (50)     | -1.466 (30)     |
| $\sigma$ / kHz      | 2.5             | 2.2             |
| N                   | 24              | 24              |




### SERINE


|                               | Ia    |         | IIb   |         | IIc   |         | IIa   |      | III <sub>b</sub> |      | III <sub>c</sub> |      |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|------|------------------|------|------------------|------|
|                               | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp. | MP2              | Exp. | MP2              | Exp. |
| A / MHz                       | 4481  | 4479.03 | 3544  | 3557.20 | 3656  | 3638.05 | 4522  |      | 3934             |      | 3519             |      |
| B / MHz                       | 1824  | 1830.16 | 2395  | 2380.37 | 2378  | 2387.89 | 1850  |      | 2249             |      | 2331             |      |
| C / MHz                       | 1452  | 1443.79 | 1748  | 1740.92 | 1518  | 1519.18 | 1479  |      | 1667             |      | 1580             |      |
| $\chi_{aa}$ / MHz             | -4.66 | -4.302  | -3.67 | -3.461  | -3.89 | -3.652  | -0.44 |      | -0.65            |      | -1.08            |      |
| $\chi_{bb}$ / MHz             | 2.92  | 2.823   | 2.21  | 2.079   | 2.13  | 2.062   | 2.05  |      | -0.53            |      | -0.75            |      |
| $\chi_{cc}$ / MHz             | 1.74  | 1.478   | 1.44  | 1.381   | 1.75  | 1.590   | -1.61 |      | 1.19             |      | 1.82             |      |
| $\Delta E$ / cm <sup>-1</sup> | 0     |         | 22    |         | 297   |         | 529   |      | 477              |      | 756              |      |



Ia



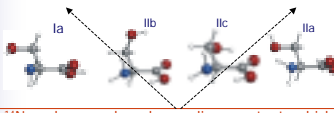
IIb



IIc

### SERINE

|                               | Ia    |         | IIb   |         | IIc   |         | IIa   |         | III <sub>b</sub> |      | III <sub>c</sub> |      |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|------------------|------|------------------|------|
|                               | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2              | Exp. | MP2              | Exp. |
| A / MHz                       | 4481  | 4479.03 | 3544  | 3557.20 | 3656  | 3638.05 | 4522  | 4517.47 | 3934             |      | 3519             |      |
| B / MHz                       | 1824  | 1830.16 | 2395  | 2380.37 | 2378  | 2387.89 | 1850  | 1846.99 | 2249             |      | 2331             |      |
| C / MHz                       | 1452  | 1443.79 | 1748  | 1740.92 | 1518  | 1519.18 | 1479  | 1463.79 | 1667             |      | 1580             |      |
| $\chi_{aa}$ / MHz             | -4.66 | -4.302  | -3.67 | -3.461  | -3.89 | -3.652  | -0.44 | -0.606  | -0.65            |      | -1.08            |      |
| $\chi_{bb}$ / MHz             | 2.92  | 2.823   | 2.21  | 2.079   | 2.13  | 2.062   | 2.05  | 2.072   | -0.53            |      | -0.75            |      |
| $\chi_{cc}$ / MHz             | 1.74  | 1.478   | 1.44  | 1.381   | 1.75  | 1.590   | -1.61 | -1.466  | 1.19             |      | 1.82             |      |
| $\Delta E$ / cm <sup>-1</sup> | 0     |         | 22    |         | 297   |         | 529   |         | 477              |      | 756              |      |



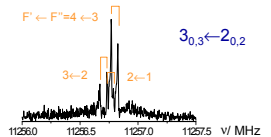
<sup>14</sup>N nuclear quadrupole coupling constants, which depend on the electronic environment around the amino nitrogen are extremely sensitive to the amino group orientation → UNIQUE IDENTIFIER

### SERINE : Rotational Spectrum

\* Another series of a-type R-Branch transitions of an asymmetric rotor were assigned.

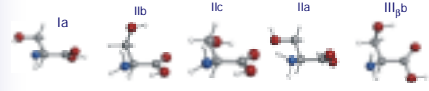
\* All the transitions are splitted in several components attributable to the nuclear hyperfine interactions of a single <sup>14</sup>N nucleus (I=1).

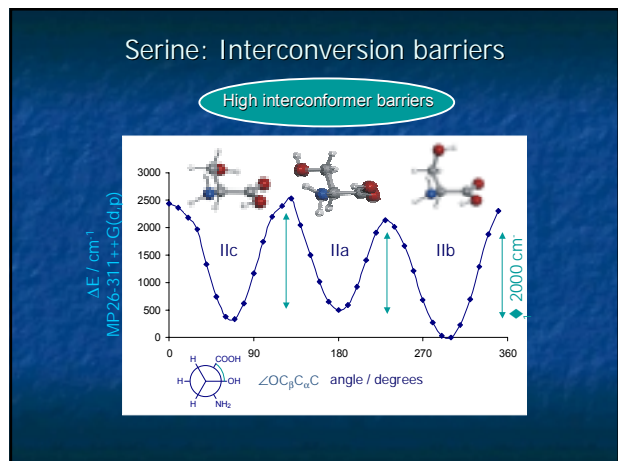
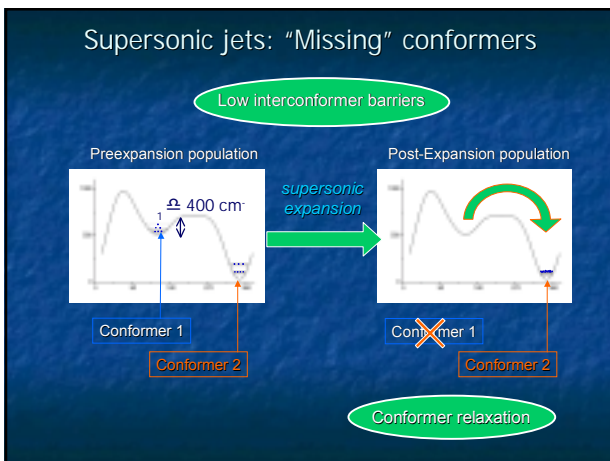
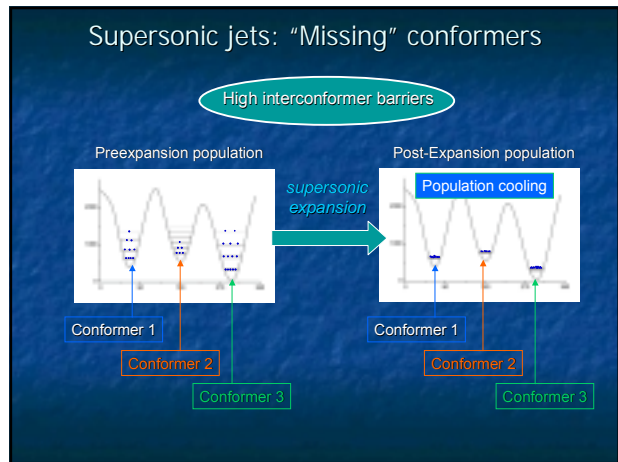
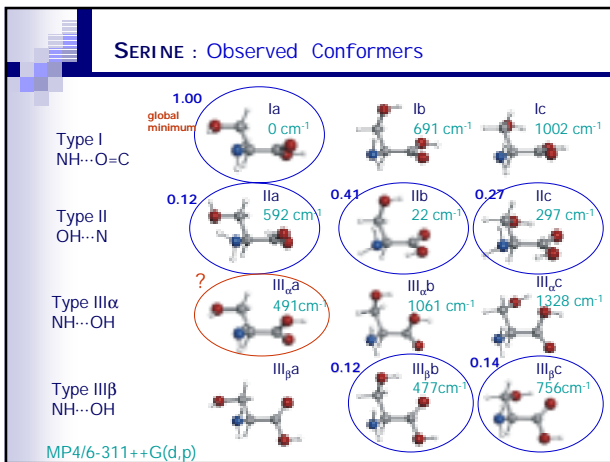
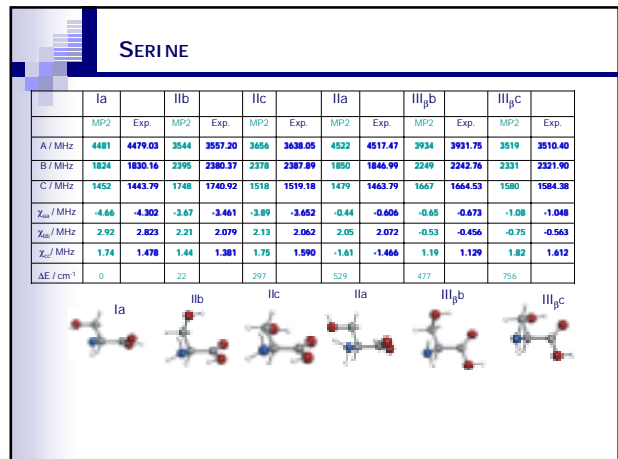
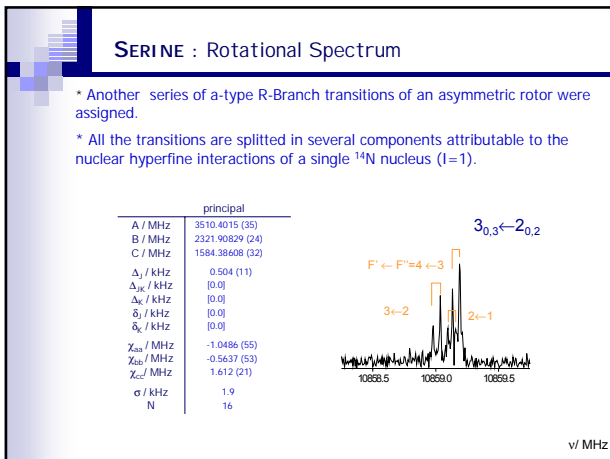
|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| A / MHz             | 3931.7548 (76)  |
| B / MHz             | 2242.76701 (70) |
| C / MHz             | 1664.53012 (11) |
| $\Delta_J$ / kHz    | 0.613 (11)      |
| $\Delta_{JK}$ / kHz | [0.0]           |
| $\Delta_K$ / kHz    | [0.0]           |
| $\delta_J$ / kHz    | 0.245 (11)      |
| $\delta_K$ / kHz    | [0.0]           |
| $\chi_{aa}$ / MHz   | -0.673 (14)     |
| $\chi_{bb}$ / MHz   | -0.456 (33)     |
| $\chi_{cc}$ / MHz   | 1.129 (84)      |
| $\sigma$ / kHz      | 2.4             |
| N                   | 23              |



### SERINE

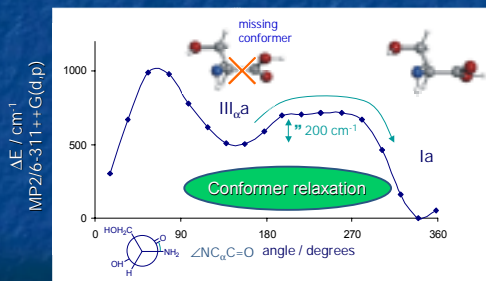
|                               | Ia    |         | IIb   |         | IIc   |         | IIa   |         | III <sub>b</sub> |         | III <sub>c</sub> |      |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|------------------|---------|------------------|------|
|                               | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2   | Exp.    | MP2              | Exp.    | MP2              | Exp. |
| A / MHz                       | 4481  | 4479.03 | 3544  | 3557.20 | 3656  | 3638.05 | 4522  | 4517.47 | 3934             | 3931.75 | 3519             |      |
| B / MHz                       | 1824  | 1830.16 | 2395  | 2380.37 | 2378  | 2387.89 | 1850  | 1846.99 | 2249             | 2242.76 | 2331             |      |
| C / MHz                       | 1452  | 1443.79 | 1748  | 1740.92 | 1518  | 1519.18 | 1479  | 1463.79 | 1667             | 1664.53 | 1580             |      |
| $\chi_{aa}$ / MHz             | -4.66 | -4.302  | -3.67 | -3.461  | -3.89 | -3.652  | -0.44 | -0.606  | -0.65            | -0.673  | -1.08            |      |
| $\chi_{bb}$ / MHz             | 2.92  | 2.823   | 2.21  | 2.079   | 2.13  | 2.062   | 2.05  | 2.072   | -0.53            | -0.456  | -0.75            |      |
| $\chi_{cc}$ / MHz             | 1.74  | 1.478   | 1.44  | 1.381   | 1.75  | 1.590   | -1.61 | -1.466  | 1.19             | 1.129   | 1.82             |      |
| $\Delta E$ / cm <sup>-1</sup> | 0     |         | 22    |         | 297   |         | 529   |         | 477              |         | 756              |      |



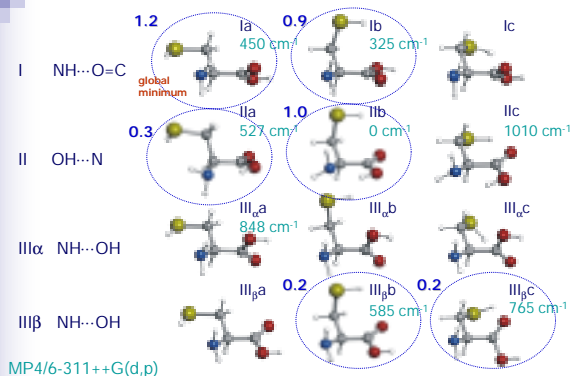


## Serine: Interconversion barriers

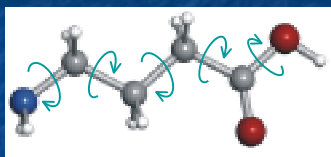
Low interconformer barriers



## Cysteine : Observed Conformers



## GABA (ácido γ-aminobutírico)



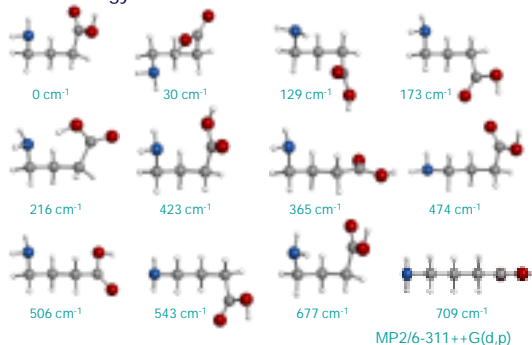
m.p. 195 C

One of the most important inhibitor neurotransmitters  
High concentration in the Central Nervous System

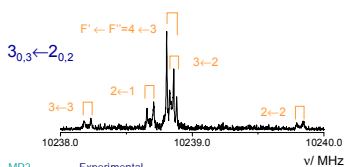
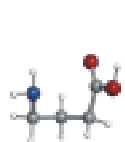
GABA \* 324 conformers

## GABA (ácido γ-aminobutírico)

### Low energy conformers



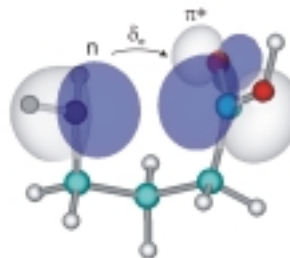
## GABA (ácido γ-aminobutírico)



|                       | MP2   | Experimental    |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|
| A / MHz               | 4129  | 4194.96418 (11) |
| B / MHz               | 1835  | 1792.83867 (40) |
| C / MHz               | 1670  | 1630.69973 (35) |
| Δ <sub>J</sub> / kHz  |       | 1.3007 (84)     |
| Δ <sub>K</sub> / kHz  |       | 3.80 (16)       |
| Δ <sub>L</sub> / kHz  |       | 9.14 (30)       |
| δ <sub>J</sub> / kHz  |       | 0.1020 (74)     |
| δ <sub>K</sub> / kHz  |       | [0.0]           |
| χ <sub>aa</sub> / MHz | -2.64 | -2.2733 (20)    |
| χ <sub>bb</sub> / MHz | 2.61  | 2.5532 (30)     |
| χ <sub>cc</sub> / MHz | 0.03  | -0.2799 (70)    |
| σ / kHz               |       | 2.8             |
| N                     |       | 54              |

## GABA (ácido γ-aminobutírico)

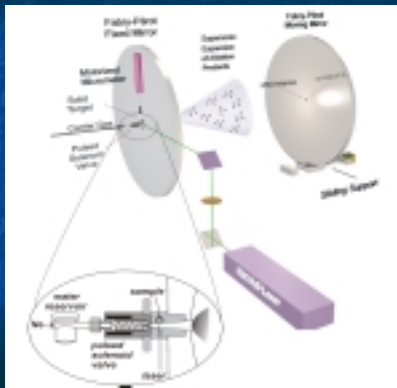
### intramolecular interactions



n ... π\* remote delocalization  
Burgi-Dunitz trajectory

NBO analysis  
RHF/6-311++G(d,p)  
MP2/6-311++G(d,p)

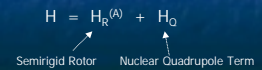
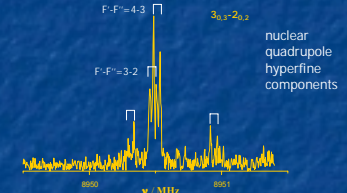
## Glycine···H<sub>2</sub>O: Experimental set-up



## Glycine···H<sub>2</sub>O: Rotational spectrum

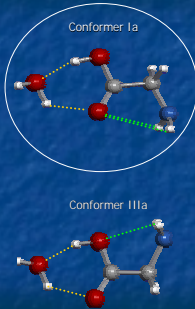
Once the transitions from Glycine I and II were excluded

| Parent                             |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Rotational cons</b>             |                 |
| A (MHz)                            | 8437.979 (149)  |
| B (MHz)                            | 1613.41327 (71) |
| C (MHz)                            | 1378.06131 (51) |
| <b>Planar moment</b>               |                 |
| P <sub>r</sub> (u Å <sup>2</sup> ) | 3.19871 (67)    |
| <b>Centrif. Distort.</b>           |                 |
| D <sub>J</sub> (kHz)               | 0.4296 (59)     |
| D <sub>Ka</sub> (kHz)              | -1.359 (172)    |
| D <sub>Kc</sub> (kHz)              | [0.0]           |
| d <sub>J</sub> (kHz)               | 0.1019 (61)     |
| d <sub>K</sub> (kHz)               | [0.0]           |
| <b><sup>15</sup>N NQC tensor</b>   |                 |
| z <sub>nn</sub> (MHz)              | -3.285 (27)     |
| z <sub>nn</sub> (MHz)              | 1.694 (67)      |
| z <sub>nn</sub> (MHz)              | 1.590 (67)      |
| s (kHz)                            | 3.1             |
| N                                  | 30              |



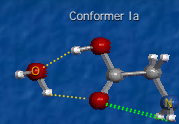
## Glycine···H<sub>2</sub>O: Experiment vs. theory

| Experiment                                   |                 | MP2/6-311++G(d,p) |                |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Parent                                       |                 | Conformer Ia      | Conformer IIIa |
| <b>Rotational cons</b>                       |                 |                   |                |
| A (MHz)                                      | 8437.979 (149)  | 8440              | 7978           |
| B (MHz)                                      | 1613.41327 (71) | 1614              | 1654           |
| C (MHz)                                      | 1378.06131 (51) | 1379              | 1404           |
| <b>Planar moment</b>                         |                 |                   |                |
| P <sub>r</sub> (u Å <sup>2</sup> )           | 3.19871 (67)    | 3.26              | 4.47           |
| <b>Centrif. Distort.</b>                     |                 |                   |                |
| D <sub>J</sub> (kHz)                         | 0.4296 (59)     |                   |                |
| D <sub>Ka</sub> (kHz)                        | -1.359 (172)    |                   |                |
| D <sub>Kc</sub> (kHz)                        | [0.0]           |                   |                |
| d <sub>J</sub> (kHz)                         | 0.1019 (61)     |                   |                |
| d <sub>K</sub> (kHz)                         | [0.0]           |                   |                |
| <b><sup>15</sup>N NQC tensor</b>             |                 |                   |                |
| c <sub>nn</sub> (MHz)                        | -3.285 (27)     | -3.57             | -3.95          |
| c <sub>nn</sub> (MHz)                        | 1.694 (67)      | 1.69              | 2.14           |
| c <sub>nn</sub> (MHz)                        | 1.590 (67)      | 1.88              | 1.80           |
| s (kHz)                                      | 3.1             |                   |                |
| N  | 30              |                   |                |
| <b>Relative energy (kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>)</b> |                 |                   |                |
|  |                 | 0.0               | 4.7            |



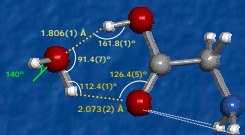
## Glycine···H<sub>2</sub>O: 1 isotopic species

| Parent   |                 | <sup>15</sup> N-glycine<br>-H <sub>2</sub> O | <sup>15</sup> N-glycine<br>-H <sub>2</sub> <sup>18</sup> O |
|--|-----------------|--|--|
| <b>Rotational constants</b>                              |                 |  |  |
| A (MHz)  | 8437.979 (149)  | 8401.068 (109)                               | 8374.89 (11)   |
| B (MHz)  | 1613.41327 (71) | 1579.66148 (61)                              | 1500.69207 (52)  |
| C (MHz)  | 1378.06131 (51) | 1352.44092 (45)                              | 1293.54511 (39)  |
| <b>Planar moment</b>                                     |                 |  |  |
| P <sub>r</sub> (u Å <sup>2</sup> )                       | 3.19871 (67)    | 3.20501 (51)                                 | 3.20776 (51)   |
| <b>Centrifugal distortion constants</b>                  |                 |  |  |
| D <sub>J</sub> (kHz)                                     | 0.4296 (59)     | 0.3834 (55)                                  | 0.3634 (47)  |
| D <sub>Ka</sub> (kHz)                                    | -1.359 (172)    | [0.0]  | [0.0]  |
| D <sub>Kc</sub> (kHz)                                    | [0.0]           | [0.0]  | [0.0]  |
| d <sub>J</sub> (kHz)                                     | 0.1019 (61)     | 0.0777 (56)                                  | 0.0613 (18)  |
| d <sub>K</sub> (kHz)                                     | [0.0]           | [0.0]  | [0.0]  |
| <b><sup>15</sup>N nuclear quadrupole coupling tensor</b> |                 |  |  |
| c <sub>nn</sub> (MHz)                                    | -3.285 (27)     |  |  |
| c <sub>nn</sub> (MHz)                                    | 1.694 (67)      |  |  |
| c <sub>nn</sub> (MHz)                                    | 1.590 (67)      |  |  |
| s (kHz)  | 3.1             | 1.8  | 1.6  |
| N  | 30              | 11   | 11   |



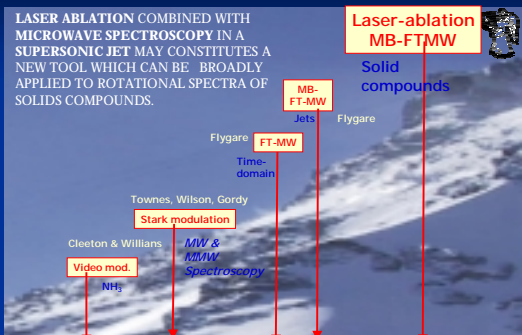
## Glycine···H<sub>2</sub>O: Structure

•Binding a single water molecule to Glycine proceeds through the carboxylic group and gives rise to a closed ring structure with two simultaneous intermolecular hydrogen bonds formed between the carbonyl group and one of the hydrogen atoms of water (O<sub>w</sub>-H···O=C) and between the hydroxyl group and the electron lone pair at the oxygen atom of water (O<sub>w</sub>···H-O-C).



•The structure of Glycine-Water retains the preferred conformation I of the Glycine most stable form, with a *cis*-carboxylic group and a NH···O=C bifurcated intramolecular hydrogen bond

## Microwave Spectroscopy: Historical Overview



 GRUPO DE ESPECTROSCOPIA MOLECULAR 

Universidad de Valladolid 

Funding:

- *Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología*
- *Junta de Castilla y León*