Structure Determination

How to determine what compound that you have?

One way to determine compound is to get an elemental analysis

-basically burn the compound to determine  $\%C$ ,  $\%H$ ,  $\%O$ , etc. from these percentages can determine the molecular formula

Still need to determine structure from molecular formula

We have learned various isomers can result from a given molecular formula



Structure Determination

Need methods to distinguish between possible structures

A nondestructive way is to use absorption spectroscopy

In a simplified picture:



The ability of the sample to absorb incident radiation is measured by the difference in absorbance at the detector versus the blank

Electromagnetic Spectrum

All light travels at a constant speed

The difference is the wavelength of the light (which also determines the energy of the light)

 $E = hv = (hc) / \lambda$ 



Infrared Region

Wavelength of infrared radiation is  $\sim 800$  cm<sup>-1</sup> to 4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> wavenumbers (wavenumbers correspond to number of wavelengths of light in 1 cm) -common descriptor for IR frequencies by organic chemists

As the wavenumber becomes larger the energy increases

The energy level of infrared light corresponds to the energy required to cause molecular vibrations

Depending upon what type of bond is present determines the exact energy required to cause the vibration

The energy of light absorbed therefore indicates what functional group is present

#### Bond Vibration

The energy of the infrared light can interact with the resonant vibrational frequency of the bond

Since different bonds have different energies, they require different energy to cause vibration

consider acetone

 $H_3C$ O  $\mathsf{CH}_3$ 

 $H_3C$ O  $\mathsf{CH}_3$ E

The carbonyl has a strong dipole

When electric field aligns with dipole, bond shortens

The absorption of the infrared light thus changes the dipole for this bond as it vibrates Active versus Inactive

IR only causes a vibration if there is a change in dipole during vibration

Therefore symmetric bonds are inactive

 $CH_3-CH_3$  the carbon-carbon bond of ethane will not observe an IR stretch Or any other symmetric bond

An IR "active" bond is therefore a bond that changes dipole during vibration, While an IR "inactive" bond is a symmetric bond that doesn't change dipole during vibration Number of Vibrations

The number of possible vibrations for a given molecule is determined by the number of atoms present

For nonlinear molecules obtain 3N-6 vibrations (N equals number of atoms present) 3N-5 vibrations for linear molecule

For example consider acetone again  $(C_3H_6O_1)$ Acetone has 10 atoms and is nonlinear Therefore expect  $3(10)-6 = 24$  vibrations

#### Intensity of Absorbance

Intensity of light absorbed by a molecule is related to the dipole of the bond

The greater the dipole, the greater the absorbance intensity

C-O bond stretches are therefore more intense than C-C stretches

Realize the intensity of absorbance is not related to the wavenumber The wavenumber is related to the force constant for the bond vibrating (the stiffness of the bond)

Factors to be considered in an IR spectrum

1) Position of absorbance (wavenumber) Energy required for absorbance

> 2) Intensity of absorbance Related to the dipole of the bond

3) Shape of absorbance (broad or sharp peaks) Tells information about the type of bond Specific Functional Groups

As mentioned specific functional groups have characteristic absorbance frequencies

Consider carbon-carbon bonds

wavenumber

 $~1200$  cm-1  $c - c$ 

 $c = c$  $~1660$  cm-1

 $c \equiv c$  $~2200$  cm-1

As the number of bonds increases between two atoms, the stiffness of the bond increases which results in a harder bond to stretch

# Conjugation lowers the stretching frequency (RESONANCE!!!)



1640 - 1680 cm-1



1620 - 1640 cm-1



#### C-H Bond Stretching

As the %s character increases in a bond, the bond becomes stiffer (already saw that sp hybridized C-C bonds are stiffer than  $sp<sup>3</sup>$  hybridized C-C bonds)

Same is true for carbon-hydrogen bonds

sp hybridized  $\sim$ 3300 cm<sup>-1</sup>

sp<sup>3</sup> hybridized  $2800-3000$  cm<sup>-1</sup> sp<sup>2</sup> hybridized  $3000-3100$  cm<sup>-1</sup>

Key point: only sp<sup>3</sup> hybridized C-H bond stretches are below 3000 cm<sup>-1</sup>

Alcohols and Amines

Both O-H and N-H bonds are "stiff" bonds

# Therefore they have a higher vibrational frequencies



Both N-H and O-H bonds are involved in hydrogen bonding

Due to this hydrogen bonding, each individual O-H bond will have a slightly different vibrational frequency

Therefore this causes the appearance of a broad peak



Amine peaks show the same broad features (N-H bonds are also involved in hydrogen bonding)

Difference is that often observe a sharp peak in the midst of the broad peak (due to one conformation of hydrogen bonding having a preferential formation)



One of the best diagnostic features of IR is for carbonyl compounds

Remember there are many types of carbonyl groups (each can be differentiated only with an IR spectrum)



Due to the large dipole of carbonyl bonds, all carbonyl groups display strong, relatively sharp peaks

 $C=O$   $C=C$ 

large dipole  $\qquad \qquad$  small dipole

Most carbonyl stretching frequencies are centered around 1710-1720 cm-1 and can be distinguished easily from alkene stretches  $(\sim$ low 1600's cm<sup>-1</sup>) due to both the higher frequency and the more intense absorbance

Some carbonyl stretching frequencies are noticeably different than 1710-1720 cm-1

Esters are one type

Esters have an appreciably higher stretching frequency

 $\bigcup_{0}^{0}$  1738 cm<sup>-1</sup>

Higher frequency means a "stiffer" bond

What causes a "stiffer" carbonyl bond?

Substituents on the carbonyl carbon can affect the C=O bond stretch in two ways:

Inductive effect

Resonance effect





from carbon, which then pulls electrons from oxygen to create a stiffer bond

More electronegative Y pulls electron density Lone pair of electrons on Y atom can resonate to create a C=Y double bond and thus a C-O single bond – therefore a weaker C-O bond

The question is which effect is larger

Generally the greater difference in electronegativity between C and Y causes inductive effect to become dominant



Amide group lowers the frequency due to the resonance effect

If a nitrogen is attached to the carbonyl carbon then the lone pair of electrons on nitrogen can stabilize the resonance form



Due to this lower energy resonance form the carbonyl carbon-oxygen bond is less "stiff", therefore the stretching frequency is LOWER

Resonance with extra conjugation will also lower the stretching frequency for a carbonyl



 $~1710cm^{-1}$ 

н

~1690 $cm^{-1}$ 

Resonance allows delocalization of  $\pi$  electrons, therefore carbonyl is less "stiff"



Other Diagnostic Peaks for Carbonyl Compounds

As already observed many carbonyl groups are  $\sim$ 1710-1720 cm<sup>-1</sup> How to distinguish?



# Small Rings

Small rings also have a shift in vibrational frequency to higher energy, Therefore 5,4, or 3 membered rings have the carbonyl stretching frequency shifted



Angle strain in these rings causes the carbonyl group to have more electron density, Therefore a "stiffer" bond

## C-N Bonds

# C-N bonds are in similar regions to C-C bonds



The intensity of absorbance, however is higher due to greater dipole of C-N bond compared to C-C

#### Fingerprint Region

The so-called "fingerprint" region is below  $\sim$ 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup> Vibrations in this region are often complex and hard to assign to a specific functional group of the molecule

-a given molecule, though, has a DISTINCT pattern in this region (reason for this region being called the "fingerprint" region)

One common pattern – differentiating substitution isomers



# Fingerprint Region



Overtone and Combination Bands

**Overtone** 

-when assigning IR spectra be careful to note overtone bands (an intense peak will display a smaller peak at a multiple [2x, 3x, etc.] of that peak)

Combination Bands

Two or more vibrations can couple to cause a vibration at a different position (vibrations must be "coupled" to observe these combination bands)



### Predicted IR Differences





Isomers of  $C_4H_8O_1$ 

