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Air broadened NO linewidths in a temperature range of atmospheric interest

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Self- and N₂-broadened linewidths of NO in the 5.4 μ m band have been measured at 163 and 295 K using high resolution Fourier transform spectroscopy. These linewidths have been calculated using the formalism of Robert and Bonamy. The calculated values are in good agreement with the experimental one. Therefore, the same formalism can be reasonably used in order to calculate O₂-broadened widths which cannot be easily measured. Air-broadened linewidths calculations have been performed in the temperature range [163–295 K]. From the results the J dependence of the exponent m(J) which gives the temperature dependence of the widths, according to the power law $\gamma(T) = \gamma(T_0) (T/T_0)^{-m(J)}$ has been established.

I. INTRODUCTION

The strengths S_{fi} , widths γ_{fi} , and frequencies ω_{fi} of individual spectral lines in the fundamental band of NO are important in a variety of applications such as measurements of NO concentrations in the stratosphere¹ or in automotive exhaust.² Many modern methods, using for instance IR diode laser spectroscopy, are developed in order to determine NO abundance or vertical concentration profiles. It is now evident that the three molecular parameters S_{fi} , γ_{fi} , and ω_{fi} have to be known to a fairly high accuracy to get reliable information from these experiments.

Extensive data on the line positions and intensities in the 0–1 band of NO are available in the literature. $^{3-5}$ Concerning the linewidths, we have examined the most recent laboratory measurements.⁶⁻¹¹ In our opinion, the conclusion of Tejwani et al.⁸ on the scatter of the data still holds, especially for N2 broadening. Moreover it seems that no measurements of N₂-broadened widths at low temperature, of atmospheric interest, have been previously published. We present such measurements here together with a theoretical analysis. A simple power-law dependence of air broadened widths of NO upon temperature has been deduced from this comprehensive study. In Sec. Π we present the experimental conditions and a brief review of the procedure of data reduction. Section III gives the experimental results and a comparison with some previous studies. In Sec. V the data for self- and N_2 -broadened widths are compared with the results of calculations using the formalism due to Robert and Bonamy which is reviewed in Sec. IV.¹² The aim was to establish the reliability of the theoretical model. Then, confident widths can be calculated for O₂ broadening. Indeed, the chemical instability of the $NO-O_2$ system does not allow a direct measurement of γ_{NO-O_2} . Air-broadened widths of NO at

different temperatures between 163 and 295 K have been computed so that the temperature dependence of the widths can be established.

II. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

A. Experimental conditions

The spectra have been recorded with the Fourier-Connes type interferometer of the Laboratoire d'Infrarouge.¹³ The capability of Fourier transform spectroscopy to furnish simultaneously a great number of line intensities and widths is now clearly established.¹¹ For the purpose of width and intensity measurements, it is of the utmost importance to use an apodized apparatus function, in order to eliminate the oscillating feet of the nonapodized function.¹⁴ Among the apodization functions described by Delouis,¹⁵ we have used the so-called "APØ1" function (for details see Refs, 14 and 16).

The half-width of the apodized apparatus function was generally equal to 2.9×10^{-3} cm⁻¹ in our spectra (cf. Table I). With such a high resolution, the use of relatively low pressures of perturber does not lead to important distortions of the profiles. Therefore, only small corrections are necessary to obtain the "true" parameters from "apparent" measured ones. Moreover, we will see later that low pressures of perturber have to be used for NO, in order to minimize a possible interference effect between the two components of each Λ doublet (see later Sec. III).

The experimental conditions are gathered in Table I. The variable path length cell used in the present study has been described previously.¹⁷ It is a stainless steel double body cell cooled by a refrigerant (methylcyclohexane). In order to obtain better thermal insulation and to reduce the water vapor absorption, the cell has been set in a vacuum chamber. During the recording

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Spectrum number	Resolution ^a (10 ⁻³ cm ⁻¹)	Temperature (K)	NO pressure (Torr)	N ₂ pressure (Torr)
1453	2.9	295	150	• • •
1454	2.9	163	83.2	• • •
1457	4.3	163	1.1	82
1458	2.9	295	2	148

TABLE I. Experimental conditions.

^aThe resolution is defined here as the half-width of the apodized apparatus function $AP \not p$ 1.

of the interferograms, the gas temperature remained stable within ± 1 K.

B. Data reduction

A detailed description of the procedure of data reduction has already been given previously.¹⁴ Briefly for each doublet two apparent parameters are measured, the observed peak transmission $[T_{obs}(\sigma_0)]$ and the half-width at half-height of the observed absorption (w). From these parameters, the true value of the half-width γ_{fi} is retrieved from a correspondence table, previously built, which gives γ_{fi} as a function of $T_{obs}(\sigma_0)$, w and d, distance between the two components of each Λ doublet. Indeed, for the pressures used here, γ_{fi} and d are often of similar magnitude (particularly in the ${}^2\pi_{1/2}$ - ${}^2\pi_{1/2}$ subband), and the two components, although not resolved, cannot be considered as completely merged. It has been shown previously that γ_{fi} can be retrieved without any loss of precision, provided d is known with sufficient accuracy.¹⁴ Recent publications on Λ doubling parameters¹⁸⁻²⁰ allow the present compilation of very precise values of d as a function of J in each subband.

Finally, it must be pointed out that two assumptions underlie the data analysis:

(1) We neglect a possible influence of collision-induced transitions between the Λ doublet levels. As outlined by Gordon²¹ the possibility of this mechanism exists, leading to an interference effect between the two components and a narrowing of the resulting profile, this narrowing being more pronounced as the pressure increases. However, it seems reasonable to ignore

	П _{3/2} — П ₃ Subban		•, •	$-\Pi_{1/2}$ band						
J	Obs.	Smoothed ^e values	Obs.	Smoothed ^e values		Previou	is meas		$\frac{1}{2} - \Pi_{1/2}$	
		Varaes		Values		/ 2-133/ 2				
0.5			62 ± 7						65 ± 3 ^e	729
2.5	72 ± 7	69.7	72 ± 7							
3.5	68.4 ± 7	68.8	61.1 ± 7	62.3	55ª		50 ^a			
4.5	68.2 ± 7	68	62 . 9 ± 7	62.2		60 ± 2.5^{c}			58±3.5°	
5.5	67.3 ± 7	67.1	62.1 ± 6	62.1	55ª		51 ^a			
6.5	63 ± 6	66.3	63.3±6	62						
7.5	62.3 ± 6	65.4	60.8 ± 6	61.8	54 ^ª		51 ^a			
8.5	66.6 ± 6	64.6	60.2 ± 6	61.5				57 ^b		
9.5	63.8 ± 6	63.7	65 ± 6	61.2	6	0р		55 ^b		
10.5	62.3 ± 6	62,9	59.3 ±6	60.8	52ª		50 ^a		50 ± 4^{c}	
11.5	64.2 ± 6	62	58.9 ± 6	60.4						
12.5	60.7 ± 6	61.2	61.1 ± 6	59.9						
13.5	61.8 ± 6	60.3	61.9 ± 6	59.4						
14.5	60.3 ± 6	59.4	57.5 ± 6	58.8		58 ^d				58
15.5	55.4 ± 6	58.6	55, 6 ± 6	58.1	53ª	54 ^d	50 ^a			54 ^d
16.5	57.8 \pm 6	57.7	57.2 \pm 6	57.4		53 ^d	•••			534
17.5	60.8 ± 6	56.9	57 ± 6	56.6		50 ^d				50 ^d
18.5	55.7±6	56.3	54.8 \pm 6	55.8		48 ^d				48
19.5	53. 2 ± 6	55.2	55.4 ± 6	54.9		48 ^d				48
20.5	54.2 ± 6	54.3	56.5 ± 6	53.9	48ª	10	47 ^a			40
21.5			51.4 ± 6	52.9	1~					
22.5			52 ± 6	51.9						

TABLE II. Observed HWHM (in 10^{-3} cm⁻¹ atm⁻¹) for the R branch (0-1 band) of NO perturbed by N₂; T = 295 K.

^aFrom Ref. 7.

^bFrom Ref. 6.

^cFrom Ref. 9.

^dReference 8; The ${}^{2}\Pi_{1/2}$ and ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ components having the same J have been assumed to have identical widths. ^eSmoothed values have been obtained through a least squares Chebyshev polynomial fit.

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TABLE III. Observed HWHM (in 10^{-3} cm⁻¹ atm⁻¹) for the *R* branch (0-1 band) of NO perturbed by N₂; *T* = 163 K.

J	$\Pi_{3/2} - \Pi_{3/2}$ subband	$\Pi_{1/2} - \Pi_{1/2}$ subband
10.5	87.7±9	
11.5	89.6±9	
12.5	90.4 ± 9	
13.5	82.3±9	82 ± 8
14.5	84 ± 8	82.7±8
15.5	82.3 ± 8	81.3 ± 8
16.5	86.8 ± 8	77.3±8
17.5	83, 2 ± 9	79.7 ± 8
18.5	82,5±9	77.1 ± 8

this mechanism at pressures below or around 150 Torr, which is the upper limit of the present study. In other words, the components of each Λ doublet are supposed to be additive.

(2) Moreover, we assume that these components have equal widths and intensities. Here, too, experimental and theoretical evidence support this assumption. For instance, there appears to be no significant difference between the widths and intensities of the Λ components for well resolved doublets recorded at lower pressures and high resolution (see Refs. 18 and 22).

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Our experimental results are presented in Tables II– IV and Fig. 1. Measurements have been restricted to the *R* branches of the allowed ${}^{2}\pi_{3/2} - {}^{2}\pi_{3/2}$ and ${}^{2}\pi_{1/2} - {}^{2}\pi_{1/2}$ subbands.

A. NO-N₂ system

The γ_{fi} values at room temperature reported here are in reasonable agreement with the most recent published results. Let us note however that our data are about 15% higher than those of Henry *et al.*⁷ also obtained from high resolution measurement, but using a higher range of pressure (250 to 700 mm Hg). The same conclusion holds when considering the data of Tejwani *et al.*⁸ (P_{N_2} $\simeq 4.8$ atm). A possible explanation of this slight discrepancy is in direct relation with the different conditions of pressure of these experiments. There seems to be no doubt that if the Λ components interfere in a significant manner, the resulting narrowing will be more pronounced as the pressure is more elevated.

To our knowledge, at low temperature, no data are presently available for comparison.

B. NO-NO system

The study has been restricted to only a few lines, this system being of minor importance for atmospheric applications. Let us note that our results obtained with $P_{\rm NO} = 150$ Torr, lie between those of Abels and Shaw¹⁰ $(200 < P_{\rm NO} < 760$ Torr) and those of Mandin *et al.* $(P_{\rm NO} \simeq 21$ Torr).¹¹ Here too the question may be raised of the possibility of an interference mechanism. However, it is difficult to go further in that analysis. Let us note, for instance, that the results of Abels and Shaw for selfbroadening appear to be questionable when compared to the N₂ broadening (cf. Tables II and IV). From this comparison, it seems that NO would be less effective than N₂ in broadening. This is not very plausible, considering the fact that the quadrupolar interactions are higher in NO-NO than in NO-N₂ and that weak dipolar

TABLE IV. Observed HWHM (in 10^{-3} cm⁻¹ atm⁻¹) for the fundamental band of self-broadened NO (R branch).

		7	T = 163 K				
J	Prese	nt work		Previous mea	surements	Present work	
	$\Pi_{3/2} - \Pi_{3/2}$	$\Pi_{1/2} - \Pi_{1/2}$	From Ref. 10		From Ref. 11 ^a	Π _{3/2} -Π _{3/2}	$\Pi_{1/2} - \Pi_{1/2}$
			$\Pi_{3/2} - \Pi_{3/2}$	$\Pi_{1/2} - \Pi_{1/2}$			
12.5	74 ± 7		56	58	87, 97	100.5 ± 9	
13.5	70 ± 7		55	55	87, 97	96 ± 9	
14.5	68 ± 7		55	57	88, 98	93 ± 9	
15,5	68 ± 7		55	56	85, 97	91 ± 9	
16.5	67 ± 7		49	47	82, 98	92 ± 9	86 ± 9
17.5	66 ± 7	63.7 ± 7	49	42	83, 102		86 ± 9
18.5	66 ± 7	61.8 ± 6	50	45	81, 94		92 ± 9
19.5	66 ± 7	$62, 2 \pm 6$	55	46	79, 95		88 ± 9
20.5	62 ± 7	59. 8 ± 6		45			
21.5	65 ± 7	61.1 ± 6		45			
22,5	65 ± 7	60.4 ± 6					
23.5		60.7 ± 7					

^aR branch of the ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2} - {}^{2}\Pi_{1/2}$ (0-1) band of ${}^{15}N^{16}O$; the results correspond, respectively, to *e-e* and *f-f* transitions. The average uncertainty is 25%.

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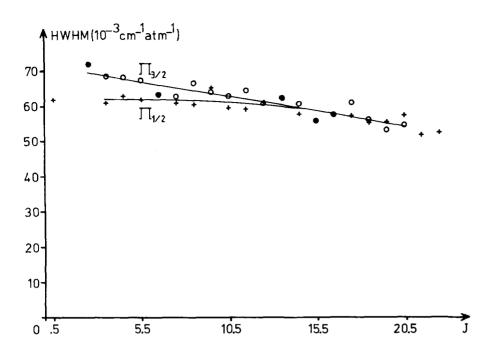


FIG. 1. N₂-broadening coefficients vs J at T = 295 K. Observed values o: ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2} - {}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ subband; +: ${}^{2}\Pi_{1/2} - {}^{2}\Pi_{1/2}$ subband. The straight lines are Chebyshev polynomial fits to the measurements.

interactions also contribute in pure NO broadening. Note for instance that the CO-NO linewidths have been found 10% to 15% higher than the CO-N₂ ones as expected.²³ In contrast with the results of Abels and Shaw, ¹⁰ our results exhibit the expected behavior, either at room or low temperature (cf. Tables II-IV, III-IV).

IV. THEORY

The purpose of this section is to compute the halfwidth at half-maximum (HWHM) γ_{fi} for self- and foreign-gas (N₂ and O₂) broadened NO linewidths by using the semiclassical formalism developed by Robert and Bonamy.¹² This theory has been successfully applied to many diatom-diatom systems in the ground Σ state and has been recently extended to systems in the Π state.^{24,25}

The expression for the HWHM of some f - i transition is

$$\begin{split} \gamma_{fi} &= \frac{n_b}{2\pi c} \sum_{J_2} \rho_{J_2} \int_0^\infty v f(v) \, dv \, \int_0^\infty 2\pi b \, db \left\{ 1 - \left[1 - S_{2,f2\,i2}^{(L)} \right] \right. \\ & \times \exp\left[- \left(S_{2,f2} + S_{2,i2} + S_{2,f2\,i2}^{(C)} \right) \right] \cos\left[S_{2'f2}' - S_{2,i2}' \right] \right\} \,, \end{split}$$

where n_b is the numerical density of the perturbing gas, f(v) is the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution of relative velocities (in practice, the velocity average is not performed and all calculations are made for the average collision velocity \overline{v}), ρ_{J_2} is the Boltzmann distribution of the perturbing molecules, b is the impact parameter. The second order S_2 contributions are dynamically related to the interaction between the colliding molecules. They aforementioned have already been defined in previous papers.^{12,25}

In its ground state, NO is the ²II state which splits into the two components ²II_{1/2} and ²II_{3/2} by spin-orbit interaction, with the ²II_{1/2} levels at lower energy than the ²II_{3/2} levels (normal structure). Moreover, the interaction between the rotational and electronic motions in the molecule produces Λ doubling for each $J({}^{2}\Pi_{1/2,3/2})$. As the coupling is intermediate between Hund's cases (a) and (b), the real wave functions are linear combinations of the symmetric top wave functions $\psi({}^{2}\Pi_{1/2})$ and $\psi({}^{2}\Pi_{3/2})$ corresponding to pure Hund's case (a) in which the quantum number K takes the values 1/2 and 3/2, respectively:

$$\begin{split} & \bar{\psi}_{J,1/2,M} = e(J)\,\psi(^2\Pi_{1/2}) + d(J)\,\psi(^2\Pi_{3/2}) , \\ & \bar{\psi}_{J,3/2,M} = e(J)\,\psi(^2\Pi_{3/2}) - d(J)\,\psi(^2\Pi_{1/2}) . \end{split}$$

As e(J) is nearly 1 [and d(J) nearly 0] provided the rotational quantum number J is not too high, Hund's case (a) may be considered as a good approximation for describing the energy levels of the NO molecule.²⁶ This comes from the fact that the constant $A_0 = 123.2$ cm⁻¹ which represents the magnitude of spin-orbit coupling is higher than the rotational constant $B_0 = 1.696.09$ cm⁻¹.²⁷ Consequently, the modifications to be brought to the theory¹² due to the II ground state are minor in the case of NO. The rotational quantum number J is half-integer with minimum values J = 1/2 or J = 3/2 in the ${}^{2}\Pi_{1/2}$ and ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ states, respectively, and the Clebsch-Gordan coefficients appearing explicitly in $S_2(b)$ (cf. Appendix C of Ref. 12) have to be replaced by those of the symmetric top.²⁵

In this paper, we establish the temperature dependence of air-broadened NO linewidths in a temperature range of stratospheric interest. For that purpose, a comparison will be first made between measured and calculated widths for NO-NO and NO-N₂ systems, in order to test the model. Then O₂-broadened widths can be confidently calculated. Let us recall that the instability of the NO-O₂ system prevents a direct measurement of O₂-broadened widths. Thus the reliability of the calculation is of crucial importance to predict the temperature dependence of air-broadened widths. A similar study was performed by Tejwani *et al.*⁸ in the frame of the Anderson-Tsao-Curnutte theory.²⁸ Our

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	€ (K) ^a	σ(Å) ^a	d_{ij} (kcal Å ¹² /mol) ^b	e _{ij} (kcal Å ⁶ /mol) ^b	r _{1i} , r _{2j} (Å) ^b	Q(10 ⁻²⁶ esu) ^c	$\mu (10^{-18} \text{ esu})^{c}$	$B_0 \ ({\rm cm}^{-1})^{\rm d}$
NO-NO	105.8	3,660	d _{N−N} = 684 988	e _{N−N} ≈ 455	$ r_{1N} = 0.614$ $ r_{10} = 0.537$	$Q_{\rm NO} = -1.8$		$B_0(NO) = 1.6961$
NO-N ₂	118.8	3,58	d _N -o = 366 520	$e_{\rm N=0} = 360$	$ r_{2N} = 0.548$	$Q_{N_2} = -1.52$	$\mu_{\rm NO} = 0.158$	$B_0(N_2) = 2.01$
NO-O2	116.8	3, 55	d ₀₋₀ = 190 829	e ₀₋₀ = 285	$ r_{20} = 0.603$	$Q_{0_2} = -0.39$		$B_0(O_2) = 1.4377$

TABLE V. Physical parameters characterizing the potential energy.

^aValues deduced from the calculated potential surfaces.

^bMidpoint values from: M. Oobatake and T. Ooi, Prog. Theor. Phys. 48, 2132 (1972).

"Recommended values from: D. E. Strogryn and A. P. Stogryn, Mol. Phys. 11, 371 (1966).

^dReference 27 and G. Herzberg, Spectra of Diatomic Molecules (Van Nostrand, Princeton, 1966).

conviction is that this theory, which may give satisfactory results for polar molecules, is no longer valid for instance for NO-O₂ system. Indeed, the quadrupole moment of O₂ being very small (~ 0.4×10^{-26} esu cm²), the straight path trajectory description is therefore unphysical. In our formalism, ¹² the relative translation of the colliding pair takes into account the influence of the isotropic interactions on the trajectory which avoids the unphysical situation in which the molecules interpenetrate.

The remaining problem is to give a correct description of the interaction potential. For low J values, the long-range quadrupolar interactions are expected to dominate broadening (at least for self- and N₂ broadening), the dipole moment of NO being very weak (see Table II). A more convenient description of the potential valid for high J values and for weakly interacting molecules, such as NO-O₂, consists in adding to the electrostatic interactions the so-called atom-atom interactions which include an anisotropic short-ranged potential. The total potential is written as

$$V = V_{A} + V_{B} = \sum_{i,j} \left(\frac{d_{ij}}{r_{1i,2j}^{12}} - \frac{e_{ij}}{r_{1i,2j}^{6}} \right) + V_{\mu_{1}\mu_{2}} + V_{\mu_{1}Q_{2}} + V_{\mu_{2}Q_{1}} + V_{Q_{1}Q_{2}} ,$$

where the indices *i* and *j* refer, respectively, to the *i*th atom of molecule 1 and the *j*th of molecule 2, $r_{1i,2j}$ is the distance between these two atoms, d_{ij} and e_{ij} are the atomic pair energy parameters, and μ and Q are the dipolar and quadrupolar moments of the molecules. The potential may be expressed in terms of the intermolecular distance *r*, and of the spherical harmonics Y_i^m tied to each molecule:

$$V(r, \theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1 - \phi_2) = 4\pi \sum_{i_1, i_2}^{\inf (i_1, i_2)} \sum_{m=-\inf (i_1, i_2)}^{\inf (i_1, i_2)} u_{i_1 i_2 m}(r) \\ \times Y_{i_1}^{mi}(\theta_1, \phi_1) Y_{i_2}^{-m}(\theta_2, \phi_2) .$$

The radial functions $u_{i_1,i_2m}(r)$ depend explicitly on the intramolecular distances r_{1i} and r_{2i} and on the energy

TABLE VI. HWHM (in 10⁻³ cm⁻¹ atm⁻¹) for the fundamental band of NO (R branch) in the ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ ground state.

			NO	-N ₂			NC	-NO
、	295	К	250 K	200 K	163	к	29	95 K
\int_{J}^{T}	a	b	b	b	a	b	a	b
2.5	72	71.8	82.3	99.0		118.1		
3.5	68.4							
4.5	68.2							
5.5	67.3	66.7	76.4	92.0		110.3		
6.5	63							
7,5	62.3							
8.5	66.6	63,5	72.8	87.9		106.0		88.8
9.5	63.8							
10.5	62 .3				87.7			
11.5	64.2	61.2	69.6	82,9	89.6	97.9		
12.5	60.7				90.4		74	
13.5	61.8				82.3		70	
14.5	60.3	57.5	64.5	74.9	84.0	86.3	68	
15.5	55.4				82.3		68	
16.5	57.8				86.8		67	
17.5	60,8	52.5	57.7	65,2	83.2	73.0	66	76.3
18.5	55.7				82.5		66	
19.5	53.2						66	
20.5	54.2	46.7	50.3	55,2		60.1	62	_
22,5							65	63.4

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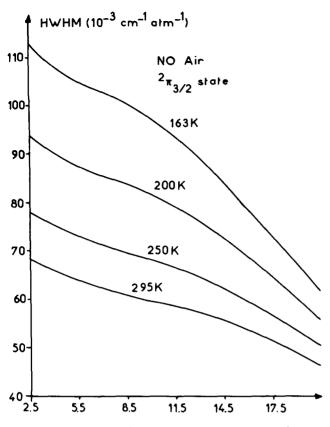


FIG. 2. Air-broadened linewidths of NO; calculated for the ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ subband in the R branch of the fundamental.

parameters d_{ij} and e_{ij} . For details, see Refs. 12 and 15. The parameters used for the potential are given in Table II.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In a previous paper, ²⁴ we focused our attention on the differential broadening between vibration-rotation lines belonging to the ${}^{2}\Pi_{1/2}$ and ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ subbands of NO perturbed by argon or nitrogen. This magnetic effect was first mentioned by Henry *et al.*⁷ and confirmed by Rohrbeck *et al.*⁹ and Sell⁶ but there was not truly agree-

TABLE VII. Calculated HWHM (in 10^{-3} cm⁻¹ atm⁻¹) for the fundamental band of NO perturbed by O₂ (*R* branch) in the ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ ground state.

J^T	295 K	250 K	200 K	163 K
2,5	56.3	64.1	76.1	91.0
5.5	51.9	58.6	69.7	83.5
8.5	50.3	56.8	67.7	81.3
11.5	49.4	55.6	65.8	78.2
14.5	48.1	53.9	63.1	74.1
17.5	46.2	51.6	60.0	69.7
20.5	44.1	49.0	56.7	65.2
<u> </u>				

ment between all authors concerning the absolute magnitude of this effect. From Table II, it appears that our results cooroborate those of Henry *et al.*⁷ for $J \leq 10.5$. For higher J values, the effect, as deduced from our data, seems to disappear more rapidly as J increases. However the conclusion of Ref. 24 concerning the possible influence of multiquantum exchanges still holds.

In the following, the calculations will be restricted to the ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2} - {}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ subband (the magnetic effect which will be disregarded, will however be kept in mind).

Our experimental results for γ_{fi} in the ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ fundamental band are compared with the computed linewidths in Table VI. The agreement is satisfactory for N₂ broadening in the range of temperatures of concern. As the quadrupolar interactions have been found to contribute dominantly to the linewidth, at least for low J values, it seems that the values chosen for the quadrupolar moments for both NO and N₂ molecules (Table V) are of correct magnitude. Note that a precise estimation of these constants is of great importance as soon as one aims to predict some linewidths values for which no experimental comparison can be made (NO-O₂ for instance).

Computed values for O_2 broadened NO linewidths are reported in Table VII. The dominant contribution in this case was found to be due to the short range anisotropic interactions mainly for the intermediate and high

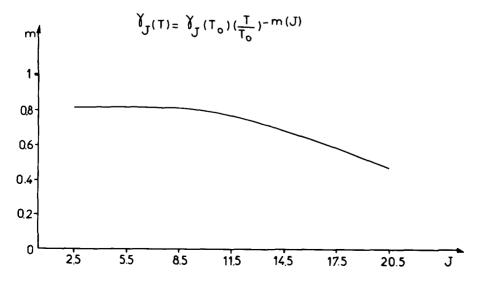


FIG. 3. Power law for the temperature dependence of air-broadened widths of NO: exponent m vs J.

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J values, the quadrupole-quadrupole interaction being of importance only for the low J values.

The knowledge of air-broadened linewidths of NO and their dependence on temperature is essential for atmospheric purpose. They have been calculated by using the relation⁸:

 $\gamma_{\rm NO-Air} = 0.79 \gamma_{\rm NO-N_2} + 0.21 \gamma_{\rm NO-O_2}$.

In Fig. 2, we show the air-broadened linewidths of NO at 163, 200, 250, and 295 K. From these results, it may appear useful to relate $\gamma_J(T)$ (in cm⁻¹ atm⁻¹) to the experimental $\gamma_J(T_0)$ (T_0 being the room temperature) by means of the expression²⁹:

 $\gamma_{J}(T) = \gamma_{J}(T_{0}) (T/T_{0})^{-m(J)}$.

The parameter m(J) is deduced from the calculations. Figure 3 shows the variation of the temperature exponent m(J) with the rotational quantum number J. This parameter varies from m = 0.81 at J = 2.5 to m = 0.47 at J = 20.5. At low J, and in the range of temperatures of concern here (moderate values of the relative energy), the long range electrostatic interactions are more important (quadrupole-quadrupole interaction in r^{-5}) while short range dispersion forces (in r^{-12} to r^{-16}) dominate broadening at high J values. (Let us recall the predominant influence of N₂ broadening.) Thus, the behavior of the temperature exponent curve (Fig. 3) indicates, at each J value which is the dominant interaction in the broadening mechanism. In a simple model deduced by Birnbaum from the ATC theory, ³⁰ the HWHM (in cm⁻¹ atm⁻¹) depends on the temperature following the law:

 $\gamma(T) \alpha T^{-[n+1/2(n-1)]}$

where *n* is the power of (1/r) in the assumed predominant interaction potential. This leads to m = 0.75 for n = 5 at low *J* values and m = 0.57 for n = 16 around *J* = 20.5. In spite of the well-known limitations of the ATC theory the results of Fig. 3 roughly follow the above temperature law because of the *limited* range of temperature considered here (163 < T < 300 K).

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