

JON HOUGEN'S MONOGRAPH NBS 115

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I was a graduate student in the Klemperer group in 1970 when Jon Hougen's "The Calculation of Rotational Energy Levels and Rotational Line Intensities in Diatomic Molecules" appeared. Physical Chemists like to break stuff. My favorite topic, spectroscopic perturbations, presents a rich variety of broken patterns. I began as a collector and NBS 115 both gave me tools to add to my collection and a challenge to look beyond molecular constants. My perturbations were more than molecules behaving badly. The 49 pages of NBS 115 became the foundation of my career as a spectroscopist. Jon Hougen wrote defining guides for many areas of spectroscopy, thereby providing the foundations for many careers. Each such guide echoed the elegant simplicity of NBS 115.