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Citation: *J. Chem. Phys.* **127**, 024308 (2007); doi: 10.1063/1.2749508

View online: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.2749508>

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Ab initio calculations on SnCl₂ and Franck-Condon factor simulations of its $\tilde{a}\text{-}\tilde{X}$ and $\tilde{B}\text{-}\tilde{X}$ absorption and single-vibronic-level emission spectra

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(Received 16 March 2007; accepted 22 May 2007; published online 13 July 2007)

Minimum-energy geometries, harmonic vibrational frequencies, and relative electronic energies of some low-lying singlet and triplet electronic states of stannous dichloride, SnCl₂, have been computed employing the complete-active-space self-consistent-field/multireference configuration interaction (CASSCF/MRCI) and/or restricted-spin coupled-cluster single-double plus perturbative triple excitations [RCCSD(T)] methods. The small core relativistic effective core potential, ECP28MDF, was used for Sn in these calculations, together with valence basis sets of up to augmented correlation-consistent polarized-valence quintuple-zeta (aug-cc-pV5Z) quality. Effects of outer core electron correlation on computed geometrical parameters have been investigated, and contributions of off-diagonal spin-orbit interaction to relative electronic energies have been calculated. In addition, RCCSD(T) or CASSCF/MRCI potential energy functions of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 , \tilde{a}^3B_1 , and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states of SnCl₂ have been computed and used to calculate anharmonic vibrational wave functions of these three electronic states. Franck-Condon factors between the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state, and the \tilde{a}^3B_1 and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states of SnCl₂, which include anharmonicity and Duschinsky rotation, were then computed, and used to simulate the $\tilde{a}\text{-}\tilde{X}$ and $\tilde{B}\text{-}\tilde{X}$ absorption and corresponding single-vibronic-level emission spectra of SnCl₂ which are yet to be recorded. It is anticipated that these simulated spectra will assist spectroscopic identification of gaseous SnCl₂ in the laboratory and/or will be valuable in *in situ* monitoring of SnCl₂ in the chemical vapor deposition of SnO₂ thin films in the semiconductor gas sensor industry by laser induced fluorescence and/or ultraviolet absorption spectroscopy, when a chloride-containing tin compound, such as tin dichloride or dimethyldichlorotin, is used as the tin precursor. © 2007 American Institute of Physics. [DOI: 10.1063/1.2749508]

INTRODUCTION

Stannous [tin(II)] dichloride, SnCl₂, is of importance in a variety of industrial applications. For example, in the polymer industry, Si/SnCl₂ has been established to be an environmentally friendly and efficient silicone-inorganic fire retardant.¹⁻³ Various other catalytic and/or synergic roles of

SnCl₂ have also been demonstrated recently on numerous occasions, such as, in the palladium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation of monoterpenes,⁴ the PdCl₂/SnCl₂ electrodeless deposition of copper on micronic NiTi shape memory alloy particles,⁵ the mild, ecofriendly and fast reductions of nitroarenes to aminoarenes using stannous dichloride dihydrate in ionic liquid tetrabutylammonium bromide,⁶ and the SnCl₂-mediated carbonyl allylation reaction between aldehydes and allyl halides in fully aqueous media.⁷ More relevant to the present study, however, is the role of SnCl₂ in the semiconductor gas sensor industry⁸⁻¹⁰ specifically in the process of chemical vapor deposition (CVD).^{11,12} For instance, SnO₂ thin films with uniform thickness or fine par-

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ticles with uniform size used in gas sensors are often produced in high temperature gas-phase processes, e.g., CVD, high-temperature flow reactors, and flames. Normally, chlorides and organotin compounds, such as tin dichloride, tin tetrachloride, tetramethyltin, and dimethyldichlorotin, are used as Sn precursors for the gas-phase synthesis.^{11–13} SnCl₂, either as a precursor or an intermediate in the oxidation reaction leading to SnO₂ in the CVD process, is present near the surface layer of the growing SnO₂ thin film. In order to achieve efficient process control of an industrial high yield/high volume CVD reactor, *in situ* monitoring of gaseous species, including SnCl₂, in the CVD reactor under different experimental conditions by a spectroscopic technique is often carried out.^{12,14,15} This would yield valuable information on the reaction mechanism involved in the CVD process. Recently, both Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and near infrared tunable diode laser spectroscopy have been employed for this purpose in the CVD of SnO₂ thin films.^{9,12} Nevertheless, several other spectroscopic techniques, including laser induced fluorescence (LIF) spectroscopy^{16–19} and ultraviolet absorption spectroscopy,^{20–23} have been used routinely to measure the densities of reactive intermediates in processing-type plasmas, such as in flame, laser, hot filament, and plasma enhanced CVD processes in the semiconductor industry.^{24–29} Prior to *in situ* monitoring of gaseous species in a CVD reactor, the spectroscopic technique of LIF followed by dispersed fluorescence [single-vibronic-level (SVL) emission] has been employed extensively in the laboratory to characterize the reactive gas-phase species^{30–37} to be monitored in the CVD process. In this connection, we propose in the present study to carry out a combined *ab initio*/Franck-Condon factor investigation on the absorption and SVL emission spectra of SnCl₂, yet to be recorded. Our ongoing, combined *ab initio*/Franck-Condon factor computational research program has investigated the LIF,^{38,39} SVL emission^{40–43} absorption,¹⁵ chemiluminescence,^{43,44} photoelectron,^{45–48} and photodetachment^{49,50} spectra of a number of triatomic species. It has been shown that, combining state-of-the-art *ab initio* calculations with Franck-Condon (FC) factor calculations including anharmonicity, highly reliable simulated electronic spectra with vibrational structure can be produced, and in this way, significant contributions to the analyses of corresponding experimental spectra have been made. In a number of cases, our computed FC factors and/or spectral simulations have led to revisions of previous spectral assignments, including establishing the molecular carrier and/or electronic states involved in the electronic transition, and/or assignments of the observed vibrational structure.^{41,44,47,50} These studies demonstrate the predictive power of our combined *ab initio*/FC computational technique, and hence, it is believed that simulated spectra thus produced in the present study will facilitate future *in situ* monitoring of gaseous SnCl₂ molecules in a CVD process by LIF and/or ultraviolet absorption spectroscopy. At the same time, it is hoped that the present study would stimulate spectroscopists to record the LIF, absorption, and/or dispersed fluorescence spectra of SnCl₂. The present study is also a continuation of similar previous studies by us on the

dihalides of some lighter group 14 (IV-A) elements, namely, CF₂,^{15,49,51} CCl₂,⁵⁰ SiCl₂,⁴⁰ and GeCl₂.³⁸

In fact, SnCl₂ has received considerable attention from spectroscopists^{52–63} and computational chemists.^{64–72} Previous spectroscopic studies include Raman,^{54,58} electron diffraction,^{55–57} emission,^{52,53} and photoelectron studies.^{59–63} However, although the geometrical parameters and vibrational frequencies of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂ have been derived and/or measured from previous spectroscopic studies (*infra vide*), the only experimental information available on the excited states of SnCl₂ has come from two emission studies, which published emission spectra of SnCl₂ recorded from a discharge⁵² and from flames⁵³ over 40 years ago. The agreement between the reported experimental T_0 values of 22 237 (Ref. 52) and 22 249 (Ref. 53) cm⁻¹ (i.e., 2.757 and 2.759 eV, respectively) and available computed multireference configuration interaction (MRCI) and coupled-cluster single-double plus perturbative triple excitations [CCSD(T)] T_e values of 2.61 (Ref. 65) and 2.68 (Ref. 67) eV, respectively, obtained for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂ can be considered as only modest (*infra vide*). Moreover, the only reported experimental vibrational frequencies of 240 and 80 cm⁻¹ tentatively assigned to ν'_1 and ν'_2 of the upper state of SnCl₂ in the emission spectrum⁵³ do not agree well with the only available computed harmonic vibrational frequencies of 336 and 136 cm⁻¹ obtained for the symmetric stretching and bending modes, respectively, of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂ from density functional theory (DFT) calculations.⁶⁶ (Although Ref. 66 quotes computed ω_1 , ω_2 , and ω_3 values of 370, 58, and 382 cm⁻¹ for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂ from CI calculations of Ref. 64, we are unable to trace these values from the original reference. We speculate that there are some typing errors in Table III of Ref. 66 and these values are most likely from DFT calculations of Ref. 66; *infra vide*.) In fact, the only excited state, other than the (1)³B₁ state, which has been investigated by *ab initio* calculations, is the (1)¹B₁ state.⁶⁵ Clearly, further and more reliable calculations on low-lying excited states of SnCl₂ are required in order to confirm or revise the assignments of the available emission spectra.^{52,53}

Lastly, the lowest singlet-triplet gaps of the dihalides of the group 14 elements have recently been receiving considerable attention (see, for example, Ref. 50 and references therein), as also shown in some recent DFT and *ab initio* investigations on SnCl₂.^{65–67} It should also be noted that our previously reported, simulated \tilde{a}^3B_1 - \tilde{X}^1A_1 and \tilde{A}^1B_1 - \tilde{X}^1A_1 absorption spectra of GeCl₂ agree reasonably well with the corresponding experimental LIF spectra, especially for the \tilde{a} - \tilde{X} band system (see Ref. 38 and reference therein). In addition, very recently, a further LIF study on the \tilde{A} - \tilde{X} band system of GeCl₂, with previously unreported dispersed fluorescence spectra of this band system, has been published,³¹ and also a computational study on GeCl₂ dimer, which attempts to explain the congested region of the \tilde{A} - \tilde{X} LIF band system of GeCl₂, has appeared.⁷³ These very recent spectroscopic and computational studies on GeCl₂ show the continued interest in this group of very important reactive intermediates of dihalides of the group 14 elements.

TABLE I. Basis sets used for Sn and Cl.

| Basis | Sn | | | | Cl | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | ECP ^a | Augmented ^b | Frozen ^c | Correlated ^d | All electrons | Frozen ^e | Nb ^f |
| A | AVQZ | | 4s4p4d | 5s ² 5p ² | AV(Q+d)Z ^g | 1s2s2p | 270 |
| A _{SO} | AVQZ ^h | | 4s4p4d | 5s ² 5p ² | AV(Q+d)Z ^h | 1s2s2p | 272 |
| A _f | AVQZ ⁱ | | 4s4p4d | 5s ² 5p ² | AV(Q+d)Z ⁱ | 1s2s2p | 216 |
| A1 | AVQZ | 2d1f1g | 4s4p | 4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ² | AV(Q+d)Z ^g | 1s2s2p | 296 |
| A2 | AVQZ | 3s2p2d1f1g | | 4s ² 4p ⁶ 4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ² | AV(Q+d)Z ^g | 1s2s2p | 305 |
| A3 | AVQZ | 3s2p2d1f1g | | 4s ² 4p ⁶ 4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ² | ACVQZ ^j | 1s | 395 |
| B | AV5Z | | 4s4p4d | 5s ² 5p ³ | AV(5+d)Z ^g | 1s2s2p | 411 |
| B1 | AV5Z | 2d1f1g1h | 4s4p | 4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ³ | AV(5+d)Z ^g | 1s2s2p | 448 |
| B2 | AV5Z | 2s2p2d1f1g1h | | 4s ² 4p ⁶ 4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ³ | AV(5+d)Z ^g | 1s2s2p | 456 |

^aThe ECP28MDF ECP (Ref. 76) was used with the corresponding standard ECP28MDF_{aug-cc-pVQZ} (AVQZ) or ECP28MDF_{aug-cc-pV5Z} (AV5Z) valence basis sets (Refs. 77–79).

^bThe augmented uncontracted functions given are for outer core electrons of Sn, when they are correlated in the RCCSD(T) calculations. For the AVQZ basis set, the augmented functions have the following exponents: 3s(9.0,3.6,1.44), 2p(2.5,1.0), 2d(2.5,1.0), 1f(1.4), and 1g(1.4). For the AV5Z basis set, the augmented functions are 2s(3.5,1.7), 2p(3.2,1.6), 2d(3.875,1.55), 1f(1.3), 1g(1.3), and 1h(1.2).

^cEach of these shells of Sn is accounted for by a single contracted function in the standard ECP basis sets. They are frozen in the correlation calculations.

^dThese Sn electrons are correlated (with augmented appropriate sets of tight functions; see footnote b).

^eThese shells of Cl are frozen in the correlation calculations.

^fTotal numbers of contracted Gaussian functions in the basis sets used for SnCl₂.

^gThe standard all-electron aug-cc-pV(Q+d)Z {AV(Q+d)} or aug-cc-pV(5+d)Z {AV(5+d)} basis sets were used for Cl (Ref. 80).

^hUncontracted s, p, and d functions of the standard basis sets were used in CASSCF spin-orbit interaction calculations; see text.

ⁱThe g functions in both the basis sets of Sn and Cl are excluded in the survey CASSCF calculations; see Table III.

^jThe standard aug-cc-pwCVQZ basis set was used for Cl (Refs. 79 and 80).

THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

Ab initio calculations

The basis sets, frozen cores, and correlated electrons employed in the calculations are summarized in Table I. The computational strategy is described as follows: Firstly, the single-reference restricted-spin couple-cluster single-double plus perturbative triple excitations [RCCSD(T)] method⁷⁴ was employed primarily for calculations on the closed-shell singlet \tilde{X}^1A_1 state and low-lying high-spin triplet excited states of SnCl₂. For low-lying, low-spin, open-shell singlet states, which cannot be described adequately by a single-configuration wave function, the multireference complete-active-space self-consistent field/multireference configuration interaction (CASSCF/MRCI) method⁷⁵ was used. Nevertheless, some CASSCF/MRCI calculations were also performed on the \tilde{X}^1A_1 and \tilde{a}^3B_1 states of SnCl₂, for the purposes of evaluating the relative electronic energies of some low-lying open-shell singlet states (with respect to the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state) and also assessing the reliability of the CASSCF/MRCI method [compared to the RCCSD(T) method; *infra vide*]. In general, the active space employed in the CASSCF/MRCI calculation is a full valence active space, plus the appropriate outer core electrons if required (see Table I), unless otherwise stated (*infra vide*). The largest CI configuration space used in the MRCI calculations performed in the present study is that for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state at the CASSCF/MRCI/A1 level, i.e., it includes Sn 4d¹⁰ electrons in the active space, and it consists of $\sim 95.9 \times 10^6$ contracted configurations and 65.8×10^9 uncontracted configurations in the MRCI calculations. Lastly, it should be noted that in the geometry optimization of the open-shell singlet states, the

computed (MRCI+D) energy (i.e., MRCI energy plus the Davidson correction) was optimized.

Secondly, regarding the basis sets used, the fully relativistic effective core potential, ECP28MDF,^{76,77} which accounts for scalar relativistic effects, has been used for Sn. Standard basis sets^{78,79} of augmented correlation-consistent valence-polarized quadruple-zeta (aug-cc-pVQZ; denoted A in Table I and the following text) and quintuple-zeta (aug-cc-pV5Z; denoted B) qualities have been used for both Sn and Cl [note that the aug-cc-pV(X+d)Z basis sets, X=Q or 5, i.e., with an extra tight d set, were used for Cl;⁸⁰ see Table I]. In addition, different outer core electrons of Sn and/or Cl were included successively in the correlation treatment with extra appropriate sets of tight functions designed based on standard basis sets A and B (basis sets A1, A2, and A3 of QZ quality and B1 and B2 of 5Z quality; see Table I, and footnotes for the exponents of the extra tight functions designed for the outer core). Contributions from core correlation of different levels (i.e., including different core electrons in the correlation calculation) and extrapolation to the complete basis set (CBS) limit can be estimated based on the series of calculations carried out using different basis sets and/or including different core electrons as given in Table I (*infra vide*).

Finally, since the ground and low-lying excited electronic states of SnCl₂ have C_{2v} structures (see next section), and are therefore nondegenerate states, they do not have diagonal spin-orbit splittings. Nevertheless, off-diagonal spin-orbit interactions between states, which are close to each other in energy, could be significant for a molecule containing the heavy fourth row element Sn. Consequently, CASSCF spin-orbit interaction calculations were carried out at the RCCSD(T)/A optimized geometry of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of

TABLE II. The ranges of bond lengths [$r(\text{SnCl})$ in Å] and bond angles [$\theta(\text{ClSnCl})$ in °], and the number of points of the RCCSD(T)/B and CASSCF/MRCI/A energy scans, which were used for the fitting of the potential energy functions (PEFs) of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 , \tilde{a}^3B_1 , and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states of SnCl_2 , and the maximum vibrational quantum numbers of the symmetric stretching (ν_1) and bending (ν_2) modes of the harmonic basis used in the variational calculations of the anharmonic vibrational wave functions of each electronic state and the restrictions of the maximum values of ($\nu_1 + \nu_2$); see text, and Refs. 42 and 45 for details.

| Energy scans | \tilde{X}^1A_1 | \tilde{a}^3B_1 | \tilde{B}^1B_1 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Range of r | $1.77 \leq r \leq 3.50$ | $1.74 \leq r \leq 3.28$ | $1.88 \leq r \leq 2.94$ |
| Range of θ | $65.0 \leq \theta \leq 150.0$ | $64.0 \leq \theta \leq 159.0$ | $73.0 \leq \theta \leq 167.0$ |
| Points | 130 | 110 | 97 |
| Max. ν_1 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Max. ν_2 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Max. ($\nu_1 + \nu_2$) | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Method | RCCSD(T)/B | RCCSD(T)/B | CASSCF/MRCI+D/A |

SnCl_2 in order to assess spin-orbit contributions to the computed vertical excitation energies. Nine states, namely, the lowest singlet and triplet states of each symmetry of the C_{2v} point group and also the $(2)^1A_1$ states, were considered in the average-state CASSCF spin-orbit calculations. The spin-orbit pseudopotential of the ECP28MDF ECP for Sn, uncontracted s , p , and d functions of basis set A (A_{so} in Table I), and the computed CASSCF/MRCI+D/A (MRCI energies including the Davidson correction) energies for the spin-orbit diagonal elements were employed. For the 3B_2 state, the relative computed MRCI+D/A energy obtained employing a larger active space than the full valence active space was used (*infra vide*). For the $(2)^1A_1$ state, the relative computed MRCI+D/A energy obtained in the two state [i.e., $(1)^1A_1$ and $(2)^1A_1$ states] CASSCF/MRCI calculations was used (*infra vide*). The effects of spin-orbit interaction on the computed relative energies were largely found to be small. (While the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl_2 was lowered in energy by 0.003 eV by spin-orbit interaction, all the excited states considered were raised by less than 0.006 eV; computed spin-orbit splittings in all the triplet states considered are less than 0.003 eV.) Consequently, it has been decided to ignore spin-orbit contributions in the energy scans for the fitting of the potential energy functions (PEFs) to be described in the next subsection.

All *ab initio* calculations carried out in the present study have employed the MOLPRO suite of programs.⁸¹

POTENTIAL ENERGY FUNCTIONS, ANHARMONIC VIBRATIONAL WAVE FUNCTIONS, AND FRANCK-CONDON FACTOR CALCULATIONS

The details of the coordinates and polynomial employed for the potential energy function, the rovibrational Hamiltonian⁸² and anharmonic vibrational wave functions used in the variational calculations, and the FC factor calculations including Duschinsky rotation have been described previously^{38,42,45,49} and hence will not be repeated here. Some technical details specific to the present study are, however, summarized in Table II, including the ranges of bond lengths [$r(\text{SnCl})$ in angstroms] and bond angles [$\theta(\text{ClSnCl})$ in degrees], and the number of points in the RCCSD(T)/B or

CASSCF/MRCI/A energy scans, which were used for the fitting of the PEFs of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 , \tilde{a}^3B_1 , and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states of SnCl_2 , and the maximum vibrational quantum numbers of the symmetric stretching (ν_1) and bending (ν_2) modes of the harmonic basis used in the variational calculations of the anharmonic vibrational wave functions of each electronic state and the restrictions of the maximum values of ($\nu_1 + \nu_2$).

It should be noted firstly that, although it has been found in the present study that the first excited singlet state of SnCl_2 is the \tilde{A}^1A_2 state (*infra vide*), this state has neither been considered for FC factor calculations nor spectral simulations. There are three reasons for this decision. First, the electronic transition between the \tilde{X}^1A_1 and \tilde{A}^1A_2 state is dipole forbidden. It should, however, be noted that vibronic coupling involving the asymmetric stretching vibrational mode of b_2 symmetry can lead to nonadiabatic interaction between the \tilde{A}^1A_2 and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states, although this consideration is beyond the scope of the present study. The second reason for ignoring the \tilde{A}^1A_2 state in this part of our investigation is that the equilibrium bond angle, θ_e , of the \tilde{A}^1A_2 state is computed in the range of $\sim 61^\circ - 67^\circ$, which is considerably smaller than the equilibrium bond angle of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state (by over 30° ; *infra vide*). Consequently, the FC factors in the vertical excitation region between these two states are expected to be very small. Finally, the observed emission, absorption, and/or LIF spectra of dichlorides of the lighter members of the group 14 elements have been assigned to transition(s) between the $(1)^3B_1$ (and/or $(1)^1B_1$ state(s), and the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state (see Refs. 31, 38, 40, and 50, and references therein). Therefore, only the $(1)^3B_1 - \tilde{X}^1A_1$ and $(1)^1B_1 - \tilde{X}^1A_1$ transitions of SnCl_2 have been considered in the present study.

Secondly, only the symmetric stretching and bending vibrational modes have been considered in the present study, as the asymmetric stretching mode of b_2 symmetry is only allowed with double quanta in an electronic transition between two states of C_{2v} symmetry. Also, it should be noted that, from published LIF and dispersed fluorescence spectra of GeCl_2 ,^{31,83} particularly based on the very recent study of Ref. 31, the only spectral feature, which has been tentatively as-

TABLE III. Computed relative electronic (T_v , vertical excitation) energies in eV (kcal mole⁻¹) of low-lying singlet and triplet states of SnCl₂ obtained at different levels of calculation (the CAS/ A_f and CASSCF/MRCI/A calculations were carried out at the RCCSD(T)/A optimized geometry of the X^1A_1 state of SnCl₂, while the CASSCF/MRCI/B and RCCSD(T)/B calculations were carried out at the RCCSD(T)/B optimized geometry of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂) (see Table I for the basis sets used).

| State ^a | CAS ^b / A_f | CAS ^c /A | MRCI ^{c,d} /A | MRCI ^{c,d} /B | CCSD(T)/A | CCSD(T)/B |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1A_1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3B_1 | 2.67 | 2.63 | 2.85 | 2.86 | 2.866 | 2.877 |
| ($12a_1$) ¹ ($5b_1$) ¹ | | | (65.7) | (66.0) | (66.1) | (66.3) |
| 1B_1 | 3.91 | 3.95 | 4.08 | 4.11 | | |
| ($12a_1$) ¹ ($5b_1$) ¹ | [1.894] ^e | | (94.2) | 94.7 | | |
| 3A_2 | 4.56 | 4.77 | 4.81 | 4.84 | 4.801 | 4.831 |
| ($5b_1$) ¹ ($9b_2$) ¹ | | | (110.8) | (111.5) | (111.7) | (111.4) |
| 1A_2 | 4.58 | 4.78 | 4.78 | 4.81 | | |
| ($5b_1$) ¹ ($9b_2$) ¹ | | | (110.2) | (110.9) | | |
| 3B_2 | 4.78 | 5.34 ^f | 4.92 ^f | ^g | 4.988 | 5.020 |
| ($5b_1$) ¹ ($3a_2$) ¹ | | | (113.4) | | (115.0) | (115.8) |
| 1B_2 | 5.08 | 5.33 | 5.17 | 5.22 | | |
| ($5b_1$) ¹ ($3a_2$) ¹ | [1.689] ^e | | (119.2) | (120.3) | | |
| 3A_1 | 5.18 | 5.36 | 5.83 | 5.83 | 5.359 | 5.391 |
| ($4b_1$) ¹ ($5b_1$) ¹ | | | (134.4) | (134.3) | (123.6) | (124.3) |
| 1A_1 | | 5.81 ^h | 5.71 ^h | | | |
| ($4b_1$) ¹ ($5b_1$) ¹ | | [1.297] ^e | (131.6) | | | |

^aWith the ECP28MDF ECP accounting for the $1s2s2p3s3p3d$ shells of Sn, the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂ has the electronic configuration of $\cdots(12a_1)^2(4b_1)^2(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^2$. For each excited state, the main open-shell configuration with the largest computed CI coefficient, C_0^{MRCI} , in the MRCI wave function for that state is shown. The computed C_0^{MRCI} and the $\Sigma(C_{\text{ref}})^2$ values obtained from the MRCI calculations for all states are larger than 0.88 and 0.93, respectively.

^bAverage-state CASSCF calculations with eight states: four lowest singlet states and four lowest triplet states of each symmetry of the C_{2v} point group.

^cSingle-state CASSCF/MRCI calculations for each state, except for the (2)¹ A_1 state (see footnote h).

^dMRCI energies plus Davidson corrections.

^eComputed transition dipole moments (in Debye) from average-state CASSCF calculations between excited singlet states and the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂ are in square brackets.

^fThe CASSCF calculation on the (1)³ B_2 state with a full valence active space has convergence problems. These values are obtained employing an active space of the full valence plus one more a_2 empty orbital for both the \tilde{X}^1A_1 and (1)³ B_2 states of SnCl₂.

^gCASSCF convergence problems with a full valence active space; see also footnote f and text.

^hThe results for the (2)¹ A_1 state are from two-state average-state CASSCF/MRCI calculations. i.e., the (1)¹ A_1 and (2)¹ A_1 states (see text).

signed to the asymmetric stretching mode of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of Ge³⁵Cl³⁷Cl, is a weak peak observed in the dispersed fluorescence spectra; Ge³⁵Cl³⁷Cl is actually of C_s symmetry.³¹ Since *ab initio* energy scans and FC factor calculations with the additional coordinate of the asymmetric stretching mode will require considerably more computational effort, it is felt that such a study would await the availability of an experimental spectrum, which shows the need to include the asymmetric stretching mode.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Low-lying excited states of SnCl₂

The computed vertical (T_v) and adiabatic (T_e) excitation energies of some low-lying excited states of SnCl₂ from the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state, obtained at different levels of calculation, are summarized in Tables III and IV, respectively. Some details of these calculations are given in the footnotes of these tables. Before these results are discussed, the following points should be noted. Firstly, the main aim of this part of the present study is to obtain a general picture of the energy ordering (both adiabatically and vertically) of the low-lying excited states of SnCl₂. Secondly, for the (2)¹ A_1 state, the T_v value was obtained from two-state average-state CASSCF/

MRCI calculations [i.e., the (1)¹ A_1 (or \tilde{X}^1A_1) and (2)¹ A_1 states; see footnote h of Table III]. For the geometry optimization of the (2)¹ A_1 state, however, two-state average-state CASSCF calculations were followed by single-state MRCI calculations requesting only the second root. This is because the geometry of the (2)¹ A_1 state was optimized (see footnote c of Table IV) and two-state MRCI calculations involve a significantly larger configurational space than single-state MRCI calculations. Thirdly, for the evaluation of T_v of the (1)³ B_2 state with the CASSCF/MRCI method, CASSCF calculations faced convergence problems with a full valence active space. In order to achieve convergence in the CASSCF calculations, one more virtual molecular orbital of a_2 symmetry was added to the active space (see footnote g of Table III). The agreement between the computed T_v values of the (1)³ B_2 state thus obtained (i.e., the MRCI+D values, see Table III) and those obtained at the RCCSD(T)/A level [i.e., the RCCSD(T) values; see Table III] is excellent, confirming the reliability of the CASSCF/MRCI results with the extra a_2 molecular orbital in the active space. Lastly, computed T_1 diagnostics and CI wave functions obtained from RCCSD(T) and MRCI calculations, respectively (T_1 diagnostics and CI coefficients, C_0 's, are given in Table IV, see also footnote b of Table III), suggest insignificantly small CI

TABLE IV. The optimized geometrical parameters (r_e in Å and θ_e in °), computed relative electronic energies (T_e in eV; relative to the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state) of some low-lying excited singlet and triplet states of SnCl₂ obtained at different levels of calculation, computed T_1 diagnostics [from RCCSD(T) calculations], and CI coefficients of the main configuration (C_0 's from MRCI calculations).

| Methods; states and configuration | r_e | θ_e | T_e | | |
|---|--------|------------|-------|----------|--------------------|
| RCCSD(T)/A | | | RCCSD | RCCSD(T) | T_1 |
| $^3B_1(12a_1)^1(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^2$ | 2.3589 | 116.60 | 2.705 | 2.727 | 0.0172 |
| $^3A_2(12a_1)^2(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^1(3a_2)^2$ | 2.6074 | 59.68 | 3.353 | 3.416 | 0.0109 |
| $^3B_2(12a_1)^2(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^1$ | 2.6124 | 77.75 | 4.418 | 4.409 | 0.0123 |
| $^3A_1(12a_1)^2(4b_1)^1(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^2$ | 2.6560 | 90.43 | 4.799 | 4.748 | 0.0136 |
| RCCSD(T)/B | | | | | |
| $^3B_1(12a_1)^1(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^2$ | 2.3560 | 116.54 | 2.715 | 2.737 | 0.0170 |
| $^3A_2(12a_1)^2(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^1(3a_2)^2$ | 2.6033 | 59.60 | 3.485 | 3.438 | 0.0108 |
| RCCSD(T)/A1 | | | | | |
| $^3B_1(12a_1)^1(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^2$ | 2.3272 | 117.30 | 2.803 | 2.850 | 0.0197 |
| $^3A_2(12a_1)^2(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^1(3a_2)^2$ | 2.5657 | 60.66 | 3.460 | 3.422 | 0.0127 |
| CASSCF/MRCI+D/A ^a | | | MRCI | MRCI+D | C_0 ^b |
| $^1A_2(12a_1)^2(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^1(3a_2)^2$ | 2.4644 | 66.66 | 3.843 | 3.820 | 0.9112 |
| $^1B_1(12a_1)^1(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^2$ | 2.4065 | 115.12 | 3.966 | 3.978 | 0.9208 |
| $^1B_2(12a_1)^2(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^1$ | 2.5431 | 84.73 | 4.789 | 4.720 | 0.8836 |
| $^1A_1(12a_1)^2(4b_1)^1(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^{2c}$ | 2.5481 | 89.773 | 5.601 | 5.577 | 0.8460 |
| CASSCF/MRCI+D/B ^a | | | | | |
| $^1A_2(12a_1)^2(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^1(3a_2)^2$ | 2.4617 | 66.20 | 3.856 | 3.834 | 0.9121 |
| $^1B_1(12a_1)^1(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^2$ | 2.4017 | 115.18 | 3.983 | 3.998 | 0.9037 |
| CASSCF/MRCI+D/A1 ^a | | | | | |
| $^1A_2(12a_1)^2(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^1(3a_2)^2$ | 2.5790 | 60.66 | 3.569 | 3.494 | 0.9058 |
| $^1B_1(12a_1)^1(5b_1)^1(9b_2)^2(3a_2)^2$ | 2.3800 | 119.72 | 3.828 | 3.792 | 0.8989 |

^aThe CASSCF/MRCI and CASSCF/MRCI+D energies of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 states computed at the RCCSD(T) optimized geometry of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state employing the same basis set were used to evaluate the T_e values of the excited states.

^bThe computed CI coefficient of the main configuration obtained from the MRCI calculation.

^cThis is the (2)¹A₁ state; the (1)¹A₁ state is the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state. For the geometry optimization of the (2)¹A₁ state, two-state (of A₁ symmetry), average-state CASSCF calculations were carried out, followed by single-state MRCI calculations requesting for the second root; see text.

mixing in all electronic states considered. In this connection, a single-reference method, such as the RCCSD(T) method, should be adequate for the ground and low-lying excited triplet states.

Since vertical excitation energies (T_v) are more relevant than adiabatic excitation energies (T_e or T_0) for the identification of the molecular carrier of, and/or electronic states involved in, an absorption or LIF spectrum, the energy ordering in the vertical excitation region is first considered based on computed T_v values given in Table III. The lowest-lying excited triplet and singlet states of SnCl₂ are the (1)³B₁ and (1)¹B₁ states, respectively. Above these two states are the (1)³A₂ and (1)¹A₂ states, which are close to each other in energy (separated only by 0.03 eV) and are ~0.7 eV higher in energy than the (1)¹B₁ state. It should be noted that the computed T_v values of the triplet states considered, as shown in Table III, obtained by both the CASSCF/MRCI and RCCSD(T) methods and the two basis sets used are reasonably consistent, suggesting that the computed T_v values, and hence the energy ordering, should be reasonably reliable. However, based on the computed T_e values shown in Table IV, the ascending adiabatic energy ordering of the low-lying electronic states of SnCl₂ is \tilde{X}^1A_1 , \tilde{a}^3B_1 , \tilde{b}^3A_2 , \tilde{A}^1A_2 , \tilde{B}^1B_1 , \tilde{c}^3B_2 , \tilde{C}^1B_1 , \tilde{d}^3A_1 , and \tilde{D}^1A_1 . Adiabatically, the (1)³A₂ and

(1)¹A₂ states are in between the (1)³B₁ and (1)¹B₁ states. From Table IV, it is clear that the \tilde{a} state is the (1)³B₁ state, because the T_e value of the (1)³A₂ state is computed to be consistently larger than that of the (1)³B₁ state by ~0.6 eV at all levels of calculation. However, the differences between the computed T_e values of the (1)¹A₂ and (1)¹B₁ states are small, ranging between 0.15 and 0.30 eV at different levels of calculation. Nevertheless, from the results of our calculations as shown in Table IV, the (1)¹A₂ state is computed to be consistently lower than the (1)¹B₁ state adiabatically at all levels of calculation. Therefore, it is concluded that the low-lying singlet states of SnCl₂ have the order of \tilde{A}^1A_2 and \tilde{B}^1B_1 . This is similar to results obtained from our previous *ab initio* study on GeCl₂ where the T_e of the (1)¹A₂ state was computed to be very close in energy to that of the (1)¹B₁ state, and the suggestion that the \tilde{A} state of GeCl₂ may be the (1)¹A₂ state.³⁸

Regarding electronic excitations from the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂ to low-lying excited singlet states, the computed transition dipole moments between the (1)¹B₁, (1)¹B₂, and (1)¹A₁ states, and the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state, obtained from average-state CASSCF calculations are given in Table III (in square brackets; see footnote f). They suggest that absorptions from

the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state to all three excited singlet states should have appreciable intensities. The electronic excitation from the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state to the $(1)^1A_2$ state of SnCl₂, which is dipole forbidden, has been discussed above, and this discussion will not be repeated here. In the following, we focus on the \tilde{X}^1A_1 , \tilde{a}^3B_1 , and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states of SnCl₂, which are investigated by state-of-the-art *ab initio* calculations and considered for spectral simulation.

GEOMETRICAL PARAMETERS AND VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCIES OF THE \tilde{X}^1A_1 STATE OF SnCl₂

Optimized geometrical parameters and computed vibrational frequencies of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂ are summarized and compared with available theoretical and experimental values in Table V. It is clear that calculations performed in the present study are of higher levels than previously reported, and also, a more systematic investigation has been carried out here. Therefore, we focus only on the results of our calculations. Firstly, when the computed bond angles (θ_e) obtained using the RCCSD(T) method with different basis sets are considered, including outer core electrons in the correlation treatment generally increases their values. However, basis set extension effects, as estimated from differences between results obtained employing basis sets of QZ (basis sets A, A1, A2, and A3; see Table I) and 5Z (basis sets B, B1, and B2) quality, decrease the computed bond angles. Also, the overall core correlation effects (i.e., the overall difference between with and without core correlation) with the larger 5Z quality basis sets are smaller than those with the QZ quality basis sets, but different core electrons with the 5Z basis sets have different and larger correlation effects on θ_e from/than with the QZ basis sets. The relationship between core correlation and basis set size effects on the computed equilibrium bond angle of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂ is complex and these effects do not appear to be simply additive. Nevertheless, the largest core correlation contributions appear to have come from the Sn $4d^{10}$ electrons for both the QZ and 5Z basis sets used. In this connection, core correlation from Sn $4s^24p^6$ and Cl $2s^22p^6$ electrons may be ignored. In any case, the spread of the computed bond angles of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂ obtained at different levels of calculation in the present study is very small (only 0.4°), indicating highly consistent results. Based on the value obtained using basis set B2, the best estimate of the equilibrium bond angle of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂ including corrections of core correlation and extrapolating to the CBS limit (see footnote b of Table V) is $(97.52 \pm 0.16)^\circ$. It is pleasing that the best theoretical estimate from the present study agrees very well with the experimentally derived value of $(97.7 \pm 0.8)^\circ$ of Ref. 55 [from electron diffraction in conjunction with spectroscopic data for anharmonic diffraction analyses (ED+SP); see Table V and original work]. Other available experimental values seem to be too large, but they also have relatively larger uncertainties (see Table V).

Considering the computed equilibrium bond lengths (r_e), both effects of core correlation and basis set extension lead to smaller values. However, basis set extension effects are

significantly smaller than core correlation effects. Similar to the discussion above on the computed θ_e values, including correlation of the Sn $4d^{10}$ core electrons has the largest core correlation effects on r_e , reducing its value by over 0.03 \AA with both QZ and 5Z quality basis sets. Based on the computed value employing basis set B2, the best theoretical estimate for r_e is $2.3412 \pm 0.0052 \text{ \AA}$ (see footnote b of Table V). It is pleasing that this value agrees with all the available experimentally derived values to within the estimated theoretical uncertainty.

Harmonic vibrational frequencies of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl₂ have been calculated employing three basis sets, namely, A, A1, and B. The largest spread of the computed values using different basis sets is 4.2 cm^{-1} for the bending mode (difference between using basis sets A and A1), which may be considered as the estimated theoretical uncertainties of the computed vibrational frequencies reported in this work. Fundamental vibrational frequencies have been computed variationally employing the RCCSD(T)/B PEF for the symmetric stretching and bending modes (Table V). Their values, when compared with the harmonic counterparts, suggest small anharmonicities associated with these two vibrational modes. The agreement between the computed fundamental frequencies with available experimental values is reasonably good, particular for the bending mode.

GEOMETRICAL PARAMETERS AND VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCIES OF THE \tilde{a}^3B_1 AND \tilde{B}^1B_1 STATE-OF SnCl₂

Considering first RCCSD(T) results of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂ given in Table VI, the trends of both core correlation and basis set extension effects on computed θ_e and r_e values are generally similar to those for the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state discussed above. However, the spread of the computed θ_e values of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of 0.75° is nearly double that of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state, showing that the bond angle of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state is more sensitive to the level of calculation than that of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state. Nevertheless, based on the results obtained at the RCCSD(T)/B2 level, the best theoretical estimates for r_e and θ_e of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state are $2.3101 \pm 0.0076 \text{ \AA}$ and $(117.29 \pm 0.06)^\circ$, respectively (see footnote b of Table VI). No experimental values are available for comparison, and hence these best theoretical estimates are currently the most reliable geometrical parameters of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂.

Regarding the computed vibrational frequencies of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂, similar to those of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state discussed above, the difference between the computed harmonic and fundamental values are small, suggesting small anharmonicities for both the symmetric stretching and bending modes. Comparing theory with experiment, the calculated fundamental value of the bending mode obtained employing the RCCSD(T)/B PEF of 85.4 cm^{-1} agrees reasonably well with the only available experimental value of $80 \pm 5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$,⁵³ supporting the assignment of the vibrational structure observed in the emission spectrum to the bending mode of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂. However, the computed fundamental frequency of the symmetric stretching mode of 348.2 cm^{-1}

TABLE V. The optimized geometrical parameters (r_e in Å and θ_e in °) and computed harmonic vibrational frequencies (ω_e 's; fundamental frequencies in square brackets; in cm^{-1}) of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl_2 obtained at the different levels of calculation, those from previous calculations (relatively higher levels only; see text), and available experimental values.

| Basis/methods | r_e | θ_e | $\omega_e (a_1, a_1, b_2)^a$ |
|--|----------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| RCCSD(T)/A | 2.3860 | 97.65 | 361.4, 118.6, 345.5 |
| RCCSD(T)/A1 | 2.3548 | 97.90 | 362.6, 122.8, 345.5 |
| RCCSD(T)/A2 | 2.3539 | 97.92 | |
| RCCSD(T)/A3 | 2.3510 | 97.88 | |
| RCCSD(T)/B | 2.3834 | 97.60 | 363.0, 118.1, 347.1 |
| RCCSD(T)/B PEF | 2.3834 | 97.63 | 364.9, 119.9, – [363.6, 119.8, –] |
| RCCSD(T)/B1 | 2.3503 | 97.75 | |
| RCCSD(T)/B2 | 2.3464 | 97.68 | |
| Best estimate (CBS+core) ^b | 2.3412 | 97.52 | |
| SCF/MRCI/[2s2p1d] ^c | 2.362 | 99.7 | [368, 124, 371] |
| CAS/MRCI/ECP-[3s3p1d],-[4s4p1d] ^d | 2.363 | 98.4 | |
| B3LYP/ECP ^e | 2.417 | 98.9 | |
| LSD ^f | 2.395 | 99.4 | 356, 118, 376 |
| NLSD-PP ^f | 2.422 | 103 | 305, 33, 331 |
| CCSD(T)/EC ^{g,h} | 2.357 | 98.4 | |
| CCSD(T)/ST ^{h,i} | 2.380 | 98.4 | |
| CCSD(T)/ECP2; ^j aug-cc-pVTZ ^k | 2.384 | 98.1 | |
| MP2/ECP2; ^j aug-cc-pVQZ ^k | 2.334 | 98.4 | |
| MP2/ECP2; ^j aug-cc-pVTZ ^k | 2.379 | 97.8 | 345, 122, 337 |
| CCSD(T)/SDB_cc-pVTZ, cc-pVTZ ^l | 2.3802 | 98.3 | 339, 123, 354 |
| MP2/SDB_aug-cc-pVTZ ^{m,n} | 2.375 | 97.6 | 359.1, 147.6, 337.1 |
| B3LYP/SDB_aug-cc-pVTZ ^{m,n} | 2.398 | 98.8 | |
| MP2/SDD; 6-311+G ^o | 2.417 | 98.2 | |
| ED (r_e compilation) ^p | 2.347(7) | 99(1) | |
| ED (thermal average: r_e) ^q | 2.345(3) | 98.5(20) | |
| ED (estimated r_e) ^f | 2.335(3) | 98.1 | |
| ED+SP ^s (r_e) ^r | 2.338(3) | 97.7(8) | |
| ED+SP ^s (r_e) ^t | 2.335(3) | 99.1(20) | |
| Emission ^u | | | [355, 122] |
| Emission ^v | | | [350, 120] |
| Raman ^w | | | [351, 120, 330] |
| Raman (514.5 nm; at 690 and 1024 K) ^x | | | [362, 127, 344] |
| Raman (488 nm; at 690–1024 K) ^x | | | [355, 121, 347] |
| Raman (457.9 nm; at 666, 690, and 1042 K) ^x | | | [358, 121, 340] |

^aSymmetric stretching, bending, and asymmetric stretching modes.

^bBased on the RCCSD(T)/B2 values, the correction to the complete basis set (CBS) limit was estimated by half of the difference between the values obtained using basis sets B2 and A2. The correction of the core correlation of Cl $2s^2 2p^6$ electrons was estimated by the difference between the values obtained using the A3 and A2 basis sets. These corrections are assumed to be additive. The estimated theoretical uncertainties are ± 0.0052 Å and $\pm 0.16^\circ$, based on the difference between the best estimates and those obtained using the B2 basis set.

^cReference 64.

^dReference 65.

^eReference 70.

^fReference 66.

^gA relativistic ECP with the [4s4p1d], and cc-pVTZ basis set for Sn and Cl, respectively.

^hReference 67.

ⁱThe ECP46MWB with the [3s3p2d1f], and cc-pVTZ basis set for Sn and Cl, respectively.

^jThe ECP2 basis set consists of the ECP46MWB ECP and the aug-cc-pVQZ basis set for Sn.

^kReference 69.

^lReference 68.

^mThe aug-cc-pVTZ basis set was used for Cl. However, f functions were excluded and six-component d functions were used.

ⁿReference 71.

^oReference 72.

^pReference 85.

^qReference 56.

^rReference 55.

^sFrom electron diffraction in conjunction with spectroscopic data for anharmonic diffraction analyses.

^tReference 57.

^uReference 52.

^vReference 53.

^wReference 54.

^xReference 58.

TABLE VI. The optimized geometrical parameters (r_e in Å and θ_e in °), computed harmonic vibrational frequencies (ω_e 's in cm⁻¹ and fundamental frequencies in square brackets), and relative electronic energies, T_e , in eV (cm⁻¹) of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 and \tilde{A}^1B_2 states of SnCl₂ obtained at different levels of calculation and from previous computational (relatively higher levels only; see text) and experimental studies.

| \tilde{a}^3B_1 | r_e | θ_e | $\omega_e (a_1, a_1, b_2)^a$ | T_e |
|--|--------|------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| CAS/MRCI+D/A | 2.3399 | 114.52 | | 2.709 (21 851) |
| CAS/MRCI+D/A1 | 2.3495 | 117.22 | | 2.951 (23 8.03) |
| CAS/MRCI+D/B | 2.3368 | 114.50 | | 2.721 (21 950) |
| RCCSD(T)/A | 2.3589 | 116.60 | 346.5, 84.9, 375.5 | 2.727 (21 994) |
| RCCSD(T)/A1 | 2.3272 | 117.30 | | 2.850 (22 989) |
| RCCSD(T)/A2 | 2.3263 | 117.35 | | 2.875 (23 185) |
| RCCSD(T)/A3 | 2.3231 | 117.30 | | 2.878 (23 212) |
| RCCSD(T)/B | 2.3560 | 116.54 | 348.4, 85.2, 377.5 | 2.737 (22 078) |
| RCCSD(T)/B PEF | 2.3560 | 116.85 | 350.1, 84.3, - [348.2, 85.4, -] | |
| RCCSD(T)/B1 | 2.3218 | 117.21 | | 2.860 (23 066) |
| RCCSD(T)/B2 | 2.3176 | 117.34 | | 2.881 (23 239) |
| Best estimate (CBS+core) ^b | 2.3101 | 117.29 | | 2.888 (23 293) |
| Best T_0^c | | | | 2.887 (23 284) |
| CASSCF/ECP-[3s3p1d],-[4s4p1d] ^d | 2.362 | 115.0 | | 2.48 |
| CAS/MRCI/ECP-[3s3p1d],[4s4p1d] ^d | 2.336 | 116.0 | | 2.60 |
| LSD ^e | 2.381 | 117.4 | | 2.68 |
| NLSD-PP ^e | 2.424 | 124.4 | 336, 136, 361 | 2.47 |
| UCCSD(T)/EC ^{f,g} | 2.326 | 116.6 | | 2.61 |
| UCCSD(T)/ST ^{g,h} | 2.357 | 117.3 | | 2.68 |
| Emission ⁱ | | | | 2.757 (22 237) |
| Emission ^j | | | [240(5), 80(5), -] | 2.759 (22 249) |
| \tilde{A}^1B_1 | | | | |
| CAS/MRCI+D/A | 2.4065 | 115.12 | | 3.978 (32 088) |
| CAS/MRCI+D/A PEF | 2.4061 | 115.21 | 280.4, 79.7, - [278.7, 79.4, -] | |
| CAS/MRCI+D/A1 | 2.3800 | 119.72 | | 3.792 (30 582) |
| CAS/MRCI+D/B | 2.4016 | 115.18 | | 3.978 (32 243) |
| Best estimate (CBS+core) ^k | 2.3727 | 119.81 | | 3.821 (30 815) |
| Best T_0^l | | | | 3.813 (30 752) |
| CASSCF/ECP-[3s3p1d],-[4s4p1d] ^d | 2.484 | 119.7 | | |
| CAS-MRCI/ECP-[3s3p1d],-[4s4p1d] ^d | 2.418 | 118.8 | | |

^aSymmetric stretching, bending and asymmetric stretching modes.

^bBased on the RCCSD(T)/B2 values, the correction to the complete basis set (CBS) limit was estimated by half of the difference between the values obtained using basis sets B2 and A2. The correction of the core correlation of C1 2s²2p⁶ electrons was estimated by the difference between the values obtained using the A3 and A2 basis sets. These corrections are assumed to be additive. The estimated theoretical uncertainties for the best r_e , θ_e , and T_e values are ± 0.0076 Å, $\pm 0.06^\circ$, and ± 0.007 eV (54 cm⁻¹), respectively, based on the differences between the best estimated values and those obtained using basis set B2.

^cThe computed harmonic frequencies of all three vibrational modes obtained at the RCCSD(T)/B level of calculation (Tables III and IV) were used for the zero-point vibrational energy correction.

^dReference 65.

^eReference 66.

^fSee footnote c of Table IV.

^gReference 67.

^hSee footnote d of Table IV.

ⁱReference 52.

^jReference 53.

^kBased on the CASSCF/MRCI+D/B values, the correction to the complete basis set (CBS) limit was estimated by half of the difference between the values obtained using basis sets B and A. The correction of the core correlation of Sn 4d¹⁰ electrons was estimated by the difference between the values obtained using the A1 and A basis sets. These corrections are assumed to be additive. The estimated theoretical uncertainties for the best r_e , θ_e , and T_e values are ± 0.029 Å, $4.63^\circ \pm 0.06^\circ$, and ± 0.18 eV (1430 cm⁻¹), respectively, based on the difference between the best estimated values and those obtained using basis set B; see text.

^lThe computed fundamental frequencies of the two symmetric vibrational modes obtained from the RCCSD(T)/B and RASSCF/MRCI+D/A PEFs of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states of SnCl₂ (Tables II and III) were used for the zero-point vibrational energy correction.

disagrees with the only available experimental value of 240 cm⁻¹ obtained from the same emission spectrum.⁵³ It has been noted above in the Introduction that a DFT study⁶⁶ has reported computed harmonic vibrational frequencies of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂. In this study, two functionals, namely, local density approximation (LSD) and NLSD-PP [a non-

local functional consisting of the exchange functional of Perdew and the correlation functional of Perdew and Yang (see Ref. 66)], were employed (see Table VI). If our speculation of some typing errors in the published article,⁶⁶ as mentioned above, is correct, the LDA functional would give ω_1 , ω_2 , and ω_3 values of 336, 136, and 361 cm⁻¹, while the

NLSD-PP functional gives values of 370, 58, and 382 cm^{-1} , respectively, for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl_2 . Based on these DFT values, it appears that the computed ω_2 values are very sensitive to the functionals used and hence their reliability is doubtful. Nevertheless, all the computed ω_1 and/or ν_1 values of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl_2 , whether from the present *ab initio* or previous DFT study, are considerably larger than the experimental value of 240 cm^{-1} obtained from the emission spectrum of Ref. 53. Further spectroscopic investigation is clearly required in order to establish the symmetric stretching vibrational frequency of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl_2 (see also the last section).

Before computed results of the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state of SnCl_2 are considered, it should be noted that geometry optimization calculations have also been carried out on the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state employing the CASSCF/MRCI method using basis sets A, A1, and B. These results for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state, given also in Table VI, are for the purpose of accessing the reliability of the CASSCF/MRCI method for calculations on the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state. This is firstly because the CASSCF/MRCI method is computationally significantly more demanding than the RCCSD(T) method (with the same basis set). Consequently, CASSCF/MRCI calculations on the open-shell singlet \tilde{B}^1B_1 state with basis sets larger than basis sets A1 and/or B are beyond the computational capacity available to us. Secondly, the MRCI method is not size consistent, but the RCCSD(T) method is. Since it has been concluded above that triplet states considered in the present study can be studied adequately with a single-reference method, the RCCSD(T) method, which is size consistent, should be reliable and its results can serve as benchmarks to assess the reliability of the CASSCF/MRCI+D results of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state. In this connection, comparison between CASSCF/MRCI+D and RCCSD(T) results of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state would shed some light on the reliability of the CASSCF/MRCI+D results of the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state, which cannot be studied using the single-reference RCCSD(T) method. The CASSCF/MRCI+D and RCCSD(T) results of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl_2 employing basis sets A, A1, and B are compared in Table VI. Summarizing, the best estimated r_e and θ_e values of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl_2 based on the CASSCF/MRCI+D results shown in Table VI are 2.3449 ± 0.0081 Å and $(117.19 \pm 2.69)^\circ$, respectively (i.e., including core correlation and basis set extension corrections following the same way as for the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state to be discussed; see footnote e of Table VI). If the best estimated RCCSD(T) geometrical parameters of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of 2.3101 Å and 117.29° obtained above are used as benchmarks for comparison, the differences of ± 0.0348 Å and $\pm 0.10^\circ$, between these best estimated RCCSD(T) and corresponding CASSCF/MRCI+D values, may be considered as more reliable theoretical uncertainties associated with the best estimated CASSCF/MRCI+D values of r_e and θ_e for both the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state and also the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state to be discussed below.

Considering the CASSCF/MRCI+D results of the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state of SnCl_2 (see Table VI), while basis set extension effects (from basis sets of QZ to 5Z quality; i.e., basis sets A and B, respectively) on the computed r_e and θ_e values are

insignificantly small, core correlation effects (differences between using basis sets A and A1) on them are considerable, particularly on the calculated equilibrium bond angle. Including Sn $4d^{10}$ outer core electrons in the active space (with basis set A1) gives a computed θ_e value of over 4.5° larger than that when the Sn $4d^{10}$ electrons were frozen in the CASSCF/MRCI calculations (with basis set A). This increase in the computed θ_e value for the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state can be compared with a similar increase of 2.7° for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state with the CASSCF/MRCI method, but a significantly smaller increase of 0.7° with the RCCSD(T) method for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state. In summary, the best estimated r_e and θ_e values of the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state obtained based on the CASSCF/MRCI+D results are 2.373 ± 0.029 Å and $(119.81 \pm 4.63)^\circ$, respectively (see footnote e of Table VI). However, if the more reliable uncertainties associated with the best estimated CASSCF/MRCI+D geometrical parameters obtained above for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state are transferable to the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state, the theoretical uncertainty associated with the best estimated CASSCF/MRCI+D θ_e value of the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state should be significantly smaller than the rather large uncertainty of $\pm 4.63^\circ$, obtained based on CASSCF/MRCI+D results.

COMPUTED T_e AND T_0 VALUES OF THE \tilde{a}^3B_1 AND \tilde{B}^1B_1 STATES OF SnCl_2

The computed T_e values of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states of SnCl_2 obtained at different levels of calculation are also summarized in Table VI. Considering RCCSD(T) results of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state first, basis set extension effects (differences between results employing QZ and 5Z quality basis sets) increase the computed T_e values, but only by ~ 0.01 eV at the RCCSD(T) level. However, core correlation effects on computed T_e values are considerably larger, increasing their values by ~ 0.13 eV. The major part of this increase arises from correlation of Sn $4d^{10}$ electrons, similar to the conclusion made above on core correlation effects on computed geometrical parameters. The best theoretical estimate of the T_e value of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl_2 based on the present investigation is 2.888 ± 0.007 eV ($23\,293 \pm 54$ cm^{-1} ; see footnote e of Table VII). Correcting for zero-point vibrational energies (ZPVEs) employing the computed RCCSD(T)/B harmonic vibrational frequencies of the two states (see Tables V and VI) gives the best T_0 value of 2.887 eV ($23\,284$ cm^{-1}). Comparing this value with available experimental T_0 values of 2.757 eV ($22\,237$ cm^{-1}) (Ref. 52) and 2.759 eV ($22\,249$ cm^{-1}) (Ref. 53) obtained from emission spectra, it appears that the experimental values are too small by ~ 0.13 eV (1050 cm^{-1}). Since the bond angle of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state is computed to be larger than that of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state by $\sim 20^\circ$ (see Tables V and VI), the $\tilde{a}(0,0,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ region of the emission spectrum is therefore expected to be weak. In fact, computed FC factors of the $\tilde{a}(0,0,0)$ - \tilde{X} SVL emission obtained in the present study give the vibrational component $\tilde{a}(0,0,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,11,0)$ at $21\,968$ cm^{-1} the maximum relative intensity (set to a computed FC factor of 1.0) and suggest that the $\tilde{a}(0,0,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ vibrational component at

23 284 cm⁻¹ would be too weak to be observed (with a computed FC factor of 0.000 036). If the observed emission spectra of Refs. 52 and 53 were emitting from the (0,0,0) vibrational level of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂ and the observed bands correspond to the regions of maximum intensity, then the vibrational quantum numbers associated with the observed vibrational structure should be significantly larger than those given in Refs. 52 and 53. Comparing the energy positions of emission lines obtained from the emission spectra reported in Refs. 52 and 53 with our *ab initio*/FC results, those assigned to the $\tilde{a}(0,0,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,2,0)$ component in the emission spectra at 22 005 (Ref. 52) and 22 025 (Ref. 53) cm⁻¹ agree very well (within 0.007 eV or 57 cm⁻¹) with the computed position of 21 968 cm⁻¹ for the $\tilde{a}(0,0,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,11,0)$ component with the largest computed FC factor. Based on this comparison, we speculate that the vibrational assignments in ν'_2 of the emission spectra given in Refs. 52 and 53 are probably too small by nine quanta (i.e., if the molecular carrier is indeed SnCl₂; *infra vide*). Further spectroscopic investigation is required to establish the vibrational assignments and the T_0 position of the \tilde{a} - \tilde{X} band system of SnCl₂ (see also the last section).

Regarding computed T_e values of the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state of SnCl₂, based on the CASSCF/MRCI+D/B value, the best T_e value is estimated to be 3.821±0.18 eV (30815 ±1430 cm⁻¹; see footnote k of Table VI). Correcting for ZPVEs using the computed fundamental frequencies of the symmetric stretching and bending modes obtained from the PEFs of the two states, a best T_0 value of 3.813 eV (30 752 cm⁻¹) is obtained. However, no experimental value is available for comparison. Nevertheless, for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state, both computed RCCSD(T) and CASSCF/MRCI T_e values have been obtained (Table VI). The best CASSCF/MRCI T_e value estimated for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state (following the same way as for the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state; see footnote k of Table VI) is 2.969±0.248 eV (23 952±2002 cm⁻¹). Comparing this value with the corresponding best RCCSD(T) value of 2.888 eV (23 293 cm⁻¹), the difference is 0.082 eV (659 cm⁻¹). This difference between the best CASSCF/MRCI+D and RCCSD(T) T_e values for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state may be considered as a more realistic uncertainty associated with the best CASSCF/MRCI T_e value of the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state.

FRANCK-CONDON SIMULATION OF THE ABSORPTION AND SVL EMISSION SPECTRA OF SnCl₂

The fitted polynomials of the PEFs used in the variational calculations of the anharmonic vibrational wave functions of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 , \tilde{a}^3B_1 , and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states of SnCl₂ are available from the authors. The root-mean-square deviations of these fitted PEFs from the *ab initio* data are 8.2, 10.4, and 3.1 cm⁻¹, respectively. Some representative simulated spectra are given in Figs. 1–5. Each vibrational component of the absorption or SVL emission spectrum has been simulated with a Gaussian line shape and a full width at half maximum (FWHM) of 0.1 or 1.0 cm⁻¹, respectively. In all spectral simulations, the best theoretical T_0 values and best estimated

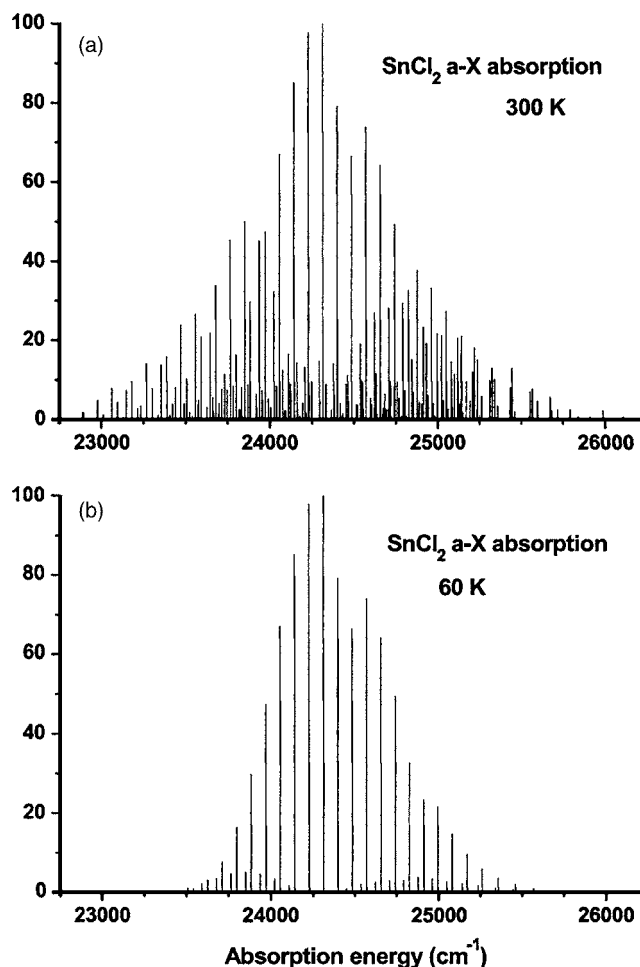


FIG. 1. Simulated \tilde{a} - \tilde{X} absorption spectra of SnCl₂ with a T_0 value of 23 284.4 cm⁻¹, a FWHM of 0.1 cm⁻¹ for each vibrational component, and vibrational temperatures of (a) 60 (bottom trace) and (b) 300 K (top trace); see text for details.

geometrical parameters of each state were used, thus giving the best “theoretical” spectra.

In Fig. 1, the \tilde{a}^3B_1 - \tilde{X}^1A_1 absorption spectra simulated with vibrational temperatures of 60 and 300 K (assuming a Boltzmann distribution for the populations of low-lying vibrational levels of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state) are shown. With a vibrational temperature of 60 K (Fig. 1, bottom trace), the major vibrational structure of the \tilde{a} - \tilde{X} absorption band of SnCl₂ is due to the $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ progression, which has the $\nu'_2=12$ vibrational component at 24 314 cm⁻¹ having the largest computed FC factor (the vibrational component in a spectral band with the maximum computed FC factor has been set to 100% relative intensity in all the figures). As can be seen in Fig. 1 (bottom trace), the $\tilde{a}(0,0,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ component at 23 284 cm⁻¹ is too weak to be observed. The first identifiable vibrational component of this progression is with $\nu'_2=3$ at 23 540 cm⁻¹, though the $\tilde{a}(0,4,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,1,0)$ “hot band” vibrational component at 23 507 cm⁻¹, which has a slightly larger computed FC factor than the $\tilde{a}(0,3,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ component of the main progression, is most likely the first identifiable vibrational component of the whole absorption band at 60 K. The weak vibrational feature

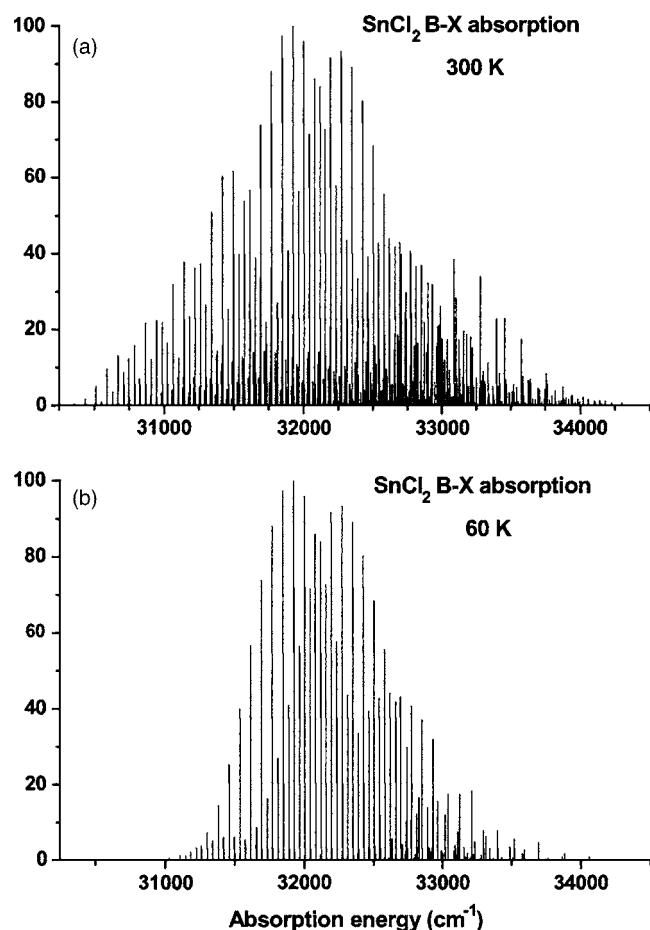


FIG. 2. Simulated $\tilde{B}-\tilde{X}$ absorption spectra of SnCl_2 with a T_0 value of $30\,752.3\text{ cm}^{-1}$, a FWHM of 0.1 cm^{-1} for each vibrational component, and vibrational temperatures of (a) 60 (bottom trace) and (b) 300 K (top trace); see text for details.

underneath the main $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$ progression is the hot band progression, $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 1, 0)$. The $\tilde{a}(1, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$ progression with $\nu'_2 < 7$ is in general weaker than the $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 1, 0)$ hot band series. However, for $\nu'_2 \geq 7$, the $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2+4, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$ and $\tilde{a}(1, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$ vibrational components are very close in energy, and the $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2+4, 0)$ and $\tilde{a}(1, \nu'_2, 0)$ anharmonic vibrational wave functions are heavily mixed. In these cases, Fermi resonances have affected the relative intensities of both series, as shown in some irregularities in the main vibrational structure in Fig. 1 (bottom trace). With a vibrational temperature of 300 K (Fig. 1 top trace), in addition to the $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 1, 0)$ hot band progression, more hot band progressions become observable, namely, $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 2, 0)$, $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 3, 0)$, $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(1, 0, 0)$, $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 4, 0)$, and $\tilde{a}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(1, 1, 0)$ and the first identifiable vibrational component is $\tilde{a}(0, 1, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 4, 0)$ at $22\,890\text{ cm}^{-1}$.

The simulated $\tilde{B}-\tilde{X}$ absorption spectra of SnCl_2 with vibrational temperatures of 60 and 300 K are shown in Fig. 2 (bottom and top traces, respectively). It can be seen that the $\tilde{B}-\tilde{X}$ band system is much more complex than the $\tilde{a}-\tilde{X}$ band

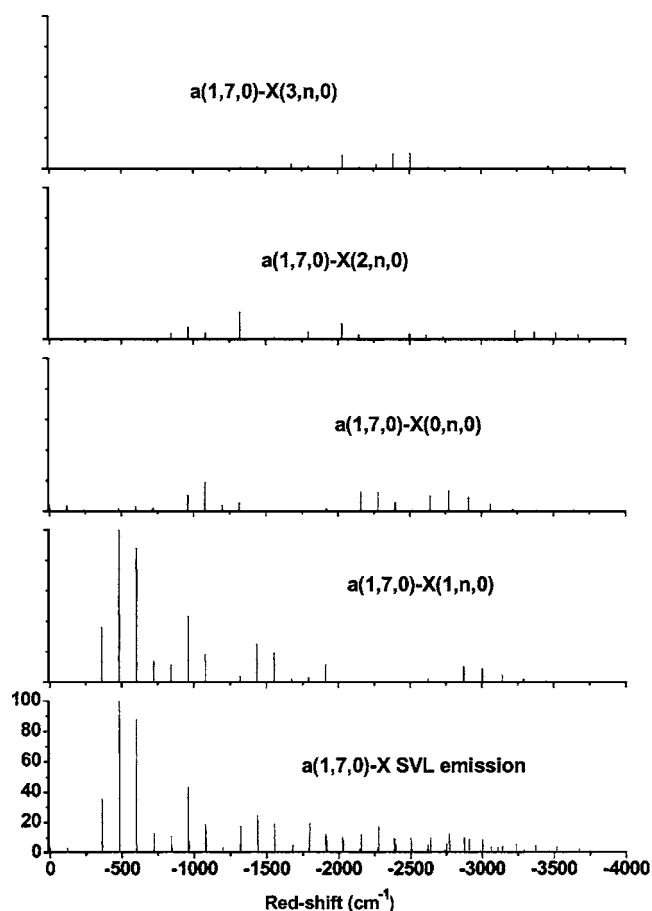


FIG. 3. The simulated $\tilde{a}(1, 7, 0)-\tilde{X}$ SVL emission spectrum of SnCl_2 , resulting from an excitation energy of $24\,229.49\text{ cm}^{-1}$ from the $\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$ level, with a FWHM of 1 cm^{-1} for each vibrational component; the computed Franck-Condon factors of some major vibrational progressions are shown as bar diagrams above the simulated SVL emission spectrum (see text for details).

system. Nevertheless, the main vibrational structure consists mainly of three vibrational progressions, namely, $\tilde{B}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$, $\tilde{B}(1, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$, and $\tilde{B}(2, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$. The strongest vibrational components of these three series are $\tilde{B}(0, 15, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$, $\tilde{B}(1, 16, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$, and $\tilde{B}(2, 17, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$ at $31\,928$, $32\,275$, and $32\,621\text{ cm}^{-1}$ with computed FC factors of 1.0, 0.933, and 0.44, respectively. The $\tilde{B}(3, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$ and $\tilde{B}(4, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$ progressions are predicted to be observable, but with significantly weaker relative intensities. The hot band series $\tilde{B}(0, \nu'_2, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 1, 0)$ is even weaker with a vibrational temperature of 60 K. However, the first identifiable vibrational component is the hot band component $\tilde{B}(1, 1, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 1, 0)$ at $31\,028\text{ cm}^{-1}$. Similar to the $\tilde{a}-\tilde{X}$ band discussed above, the $\tilde{B}(0, 0, 0)-\tilde{X}(0, 0, 0)$ vibrational component is too weak to be observed. Also, similar to above, with a vibrational temperature of 300 K, hot bands arising from excited vibrational levels, $(0, 1, 0)$, $(0, 2, 0)$, $(0, 3, 0)$, $(1, 0, 0)$, $(0, 4, 0)$, and $(1, 1, 0)$ of the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state of SnCl_2 , are predicted in the absorption spectrum.

The $\tilde{a}(1, 7, 0)-\tilde{X}$ and $\tilde{a}(0, 11, 0)-\tilde{X}$ SVL emission spectra,

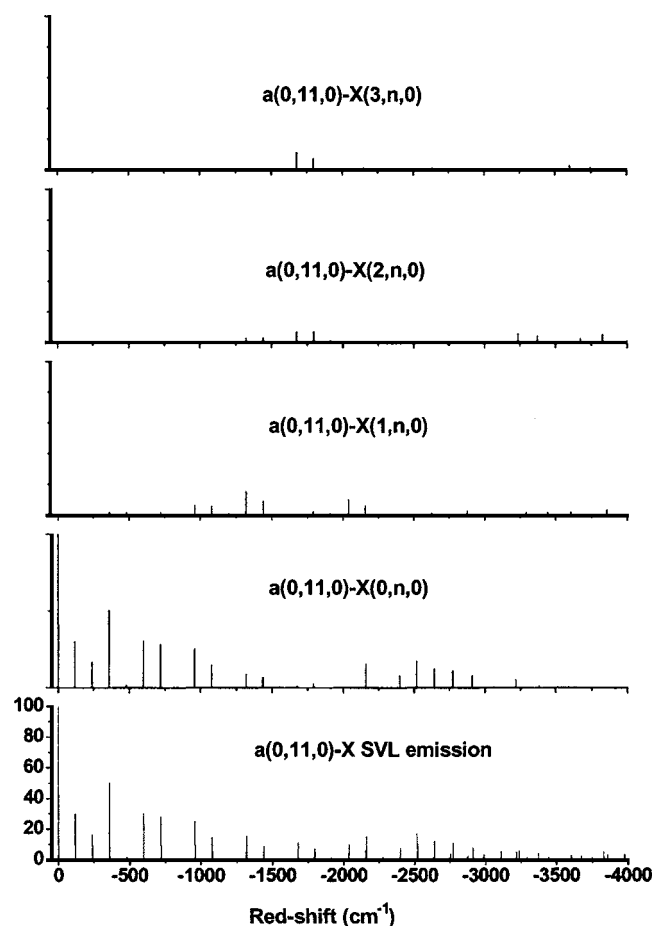


FIG. 4. The simulated $\tilde{a}(0,11,0)$ - \tilde{X} SVL emission spectrum of SnCl₂ resulting from an excitation energy of 24 228.63 cm⁻¹ from the $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ level with a FWHM of 1 cm⁻¹ for each vibrational component; the computed Franck-Condon factors of some major vibrational progressions are shown as bar diagrams above the simulated SVL emission spectrum (see text for details).

which may be recorded following a LIF study of the \tilde{a} - \tilde{X} band of SnCl₂, have been simulated, and are shown in Figs. 3 and 4, respectively, with the computed FC factors of the major vibrational progressions also displayed separately as bar diagrams above the simulated spectra. (Computed FC factors of all the simulated spectra reported here are available from the authors.) The excitation lines required to produce these two SVL emissions have very close computed energies of 24 229.49 and 24 228.63 cm⁻¹, respectively. (Note that the redshift wave number scale in each simulated SVL emission spectrum is displacement from the excitation energy, giving a direct measure of the ground state vibrational energy, as normally used by spectroscopists.) Nevertheless, the $\tilde{a}(1,7,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ and $\tilde{a}(0,11,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ vibrational components to be observed in the LIF spectrum of SnCl₂ have very different computed FC factors of 0.0259 and 0.9759, respectively. Recording the $\tilde{a}(1,7,0)$ - \tilde{X} and $\tilde{a}(0,11,0)$ - \tilde{X} SVL emissions following a LIF study of the \tilde{a} - \tilde{X} band will certainly assist spectral assignments. The vibrational structure of the $\tilde{a}(1,7,0)$ - \tilde{X} emission is mainly due to the $\tilde{a}(1,7,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(1,\nu''_2,0)$ progression with minor contribu-

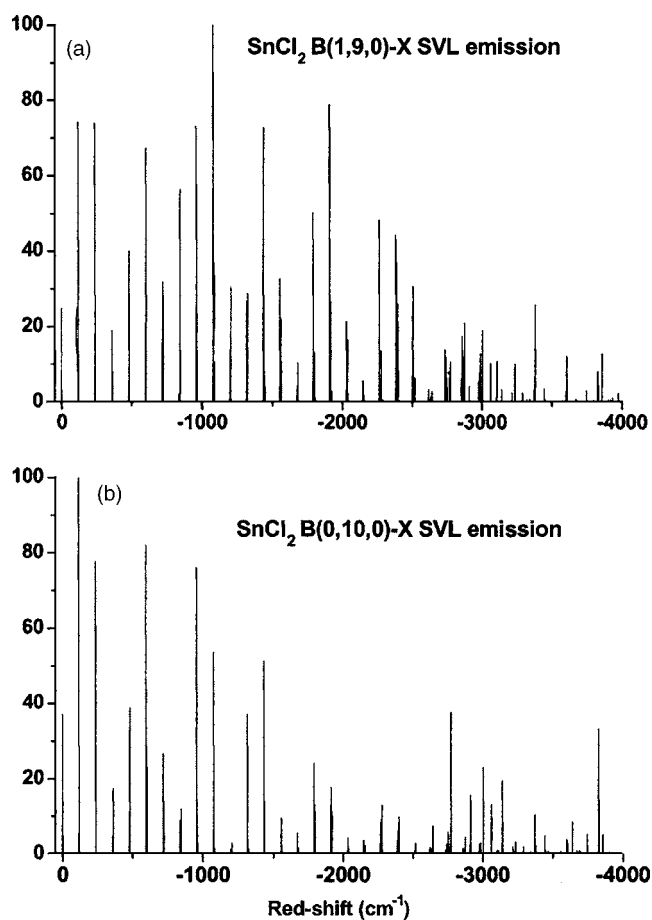


FIG. 5. Simulated SVL emission spectra of SnCl₂ with a FWHM of 1 cm⁻¹ for each vibrational component: (a) the $\tilde{B}(1,9,0)$ - \tilde{X} emission resulting from an excitation energy of 31 735.34 cm⁻¹ from the $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ level (top trace) and (b) the $\tilde{B}(0,10,0)$ - \tilde{X} emission resulting from an excitation energy of 31 539.72 cm⁻¹ from the $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ level (bottom trace); see text for details.

tions from the $\tilde{a}(1,7,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,\nu''_2,0)$, $\tilde{a}(1,7,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(2,\nu''_2,0)$, and $\tilde{a}(1,7,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(3,\nu''_2,0)$ progressions (see bar diagrams in Fig. 3). The vibrational structure of the $\tilde{a}(0,11,0)$ - \tilde{X} emission is mainly due to the $\tilde{a}(0,11,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,\nu''_2,0)$ progression with minor contributions from the $\tilde{a}(0,11,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(1,\nu''_2,0)$, $\tilde{a}(0,11,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(2,\nu''_2,0)$, and $\tilde{a}(0,11,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(3,\nu''_2,0)$ progressions (see bar diagrams in Fig. 4).

The simulated $\tilde{B}(1,9,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ and $\tilde{B}(0,10,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ SVL emission spectra are shown in Fig. 5 (top and bottom traces, respectively). The excitation lines for these two SVL emissions have energies of 31 735.33 and 31 539.72 cm⁻¹, and the vibrational components of the $\tilde{B}(1,9,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ and $\tilde{B}(0,10,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ excitations have computed FC factors of 0.1618 and 0.3988, respectively. The vibrational structure of the $\tilde{B}(1,9,0)$ - \tilde{X} emission is mainly due to the $\tilde{B}(1,9,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(1,\nu''_2,0)$ and $\tilde{B}(1,9,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,\nu''_2,0)$ progressions with minor contributions from the $\tilde{B}(1,9,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(2,\nu''_2,0)$ and $\tilde{B}(1,9,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(3,\nu''_2,0)$ progressions. The vibrational structure of the $\tilde{B}(0,10,0)$ - \tilde{X} emission is mainly due to the $\tilde{B}(0,10,0)$ - $\tilde{X}(0,\nu''_2,0)$ progres-

sion with minor contributions from the $\tilde{B}(0, 10, 0)-\tilde{X}(1, \nu_2'', 0)$, $\tilde{B}(0, 10, 0)-\tilde{X}(2, \nu_2'', 0)$, and $\tilde{B}(0, 10, 0)-\tilde{X}(3, \nu_2'', 0)$ progressions.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

State-of-the-art *ab initio* calculations have been carried out on low-lying singlet and triplet electronic states of SnCl₂. The theoretical singlet-triplet gap of SnCl₂ has been estimated to be 2.887±0.007 eV. Computed relative electronic energies and the computed fundamental ν_2' frequency of 85.4 cm⁻¹ of the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂, and computed FC factors for the electronic transition between the \tilde{a}^3B_1 and \tilde{X}^1A_1 states obtained in the present study appear to support the assignment of previously observed emission spectra^{52,53} to the $\tilde{a}-\tilde{X}$ band system of SnCl₂. However, the best theoretical T_0 value is significantly larger than the available experimental values of 2.757 (Ref. 52) and 2.759 (Ref. 53) eV. Nevertheless, our computed FC factors suggest a very weak $\tilde{a}(0,0,0)-\tilde{X}(0,0,0)$ region of the emission band, and hence the observed band system is most likely in the vertical region. In conclusion, the best theoretical T_0 value for the \tilde{a}^3B_1 state of SnCl₂ is believed to be more reliable than the available experimental values.

It should be noted that a short research note, which reported the observation of the spectrum of Sn₂ (from a heated graphite hollow discharge containing tin chips) 20 years ago, concluded that the emission spectrum reported and attributed to SnCl₂ in Ref. 52 should actually be due to Sn₂.⁸⁴ The aim of this work⁸⁴ was to draw the attention of spectroscopists to the conclusion that “the spectrum of SnCl₂ is still to be found.” It is surprising that no electronic spectrum, absorption, or emission of SnCl₂ has been recorded since, despite the fact that the He I and/or He II photoelectron spectra of SnCl₂ have been recorded in numerous occasions.⁵⁹⁻⁶³ In this connection, we call for spectroscopists to record the absorption, LIF, and SVL emission spectra of SnCl₂ in the laboratory [such as by heating crystalline SnCl₂ to ~260 °C (Ref. 62) in the throat of a nozzle in a supersonic expansion].⁸³ Simulated $\tilde{a}-\tilde{X}$ and $\tilde{B}-\tilde{X}$ absorption spectra of SnCl₂, and also some selected $\tilde{a}-\tilde{X}$ and $\tilde{B}-\tilde{X}$ SVL emission spectra published in the present study should assist locating the $\tilde{a}-\tilde{X}$ and/or $\tilde{B}-\tilde{X}$ band systems, analyses of the observed spectra and provide fingerprint type identification of SnCl₂ in the gas phase, whether in a laboratory or an industrial environment of a CVD reactor.

Lastly, it should be noted that although the (1)¹B₁ and (1)¹A₂ states of SnCl₂ are calculated to be close in energy, our calculations consistently give the (1)¹A₂ state to be the lowest excited singlet state of SnCl₂, not the (1)¹B₁ state, as normally assumed for the dihalides of the group 14 elements. Therefore, it is concluded here that the \tilde{A} state of SnCl₂ is the (1)¹A₂ state. This conclusion is in line with the same finding from our previous study on GeCl₂.³⁸ However, because of a very small equilibrium bond angle of the \tilde{A}^1A_2 state (when compared with the \tilde{X}^1A_1 state), a higher vertical excitation energy of the \tilde{A}^1A_2 state than the \tilde{B}^1B_1 state, and the most

important fact that the electronic transition between the \tilde{A}^1A_2 and \tilde{X}^1A_1 states is dipole forbidden, the (1)¹B₁- \tilde{X}^1A_1 band and not the (1)¹A₂- \tilde{X}^1A_1 band has been observed spectroscopically as the lowest energy singlet band for the dihalides of the group 14 elements (see, for example, Refs. 31, 40, 50, and 51, and references therein). Consequently, the (1)¹B₁ state has been taken to be the \tilde{A} state. Nevertheless, it is noted that vibronic coupling involving the asymmetric stretching mode could lead to nonadiabatic interaction between the \tilde{A}^1A_2 and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states. Such nonadiabatic interaction may perturb the higher energy region of the $\tilde{B}-\tilde{X}$ band system. Although the observed $\tilde{A}^1B_1-\tilde{X}^1A_1$ band systems of CF₂,⁵¹ CCl₂,⁵⁰ and SiCl₂ (Ref. 40) do not show any such perturbation, the $\tilde{A}^1B_1-\tilde{X}^1A_1$ LIF band of GeCl₂ does show an abrupt change in the vibrational structure from a well resolved region to a diffuse region, which is still not fully understood.⁵¹ A further investigation on the electronic energy surfaces of the \tilde{A}^1A_2 and \tilde{B}^1B_1 states including nonadiabatic interaction between these two states may clarify the situation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are grateful to the Research Committee of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University of HKSAR (Grant No. G-YF09) and the Research Grant Council (RGC) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR, Grant Nos. AoE/B-10/1 PolyU and PolyU 501406) for financial support. The provision of computational resources from the EPSRC (UK) National Service for Computational Chemistry Software is also acknowledged.

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