

Contents

Preface	...	...	v
Foreword	...	...	vii
1. Molecules, Isomerism and Large Amplitude Vibrations	...	...	1
1.1 Introduction	...	...	1
1.2 Isomerism	...	...	3
1.3 Potential Energies Associated with Internal Rotation	...	...	5
1.4 The Experimental Approach	...	...	11
1.4.1 Spectroscopic methods	...	...	11
1.4.2 Diffraction methods	...	...	14
1.4.3 Relaxation methods	...	...	15
1.4.4 Classical methods	...	...	19
2. Molecular Energy Levels	...	...	21
2.1 Introduction	...	...	21
2.2 Solution of the Schrödinger Equation	...	...	21
2.3 The Molecular Hamiltonian Operator and Energy Levels	...	...	26
2.4 Electronic States and Potential Energy Surfaces	...	...	29
2.5 Molecular Vibrations	...	...	30
2.5.1 Introduction	...	...	30
2.5.2 Small amplitude molecular vibrations and classical mechanics	...	...	30
2.5.3 Small amplitude molecular vibrations and quantum mechanics	...	...	35
2.5.4 The separation of molecular vibrations	...	...	36
2.6 The Mathematical Representation of Potential Energy Curves for Large Amplitude Vibrations	...	...	38
2.6.1 Periodic potential functions	...	...	39

x Contents

2.6.2 Non-periodic potential functions	40
2.7 Calculation of the Energy Levels associated with One-dimensional Potential Functions	42
2.7.1 Internal rotation hindered by a symmetrical twofold barrier	42
2.7.2 The energy levels associated with a simple non-periodic potential function	47
2.8 Molecular Rotation	51
2.8.1 Rotation in classical mechanics	51
2.8.2 Inertial classification of molecules	52
2.8.3 Rigid rotor energy levels	53
2.8.4 Effective rigid rotor energy levels and rotational constants	57
2.8.5 Centrifugal distortion	60
2.9 Vibration Rotation Interactions	61
3. Experimental Methods of Studying Large Amplitude Internal Motions in Molecules	66
3.1 Introduction	66
3.2 Microwave Spectroscopy	66
3.3 Infrared and Raman Spectroscopy	73
3.4 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy	77
3.5 Gas Phase Electron Diffraction	81
4. The Origin of Potential Barriers	86
4.1 Introduction	86
4.2 Ethane and Early Theories of the Origin of Barriers	87
4.3 Barriers and Conformational Energy Differences Dominated by Specific Interactions	87
4.3.1 Different types of intramolecular forces	87
4.3.2 Double bond character due to resonance	88
4.3.3 Hydrogen bonding	89
4.3.4 Steric effects	91
4.4 The Derivation of Information about Intramolecular Forces from Experimental Potential Functions	92
4.5 The Empirical Approach to the Computation of Conformational Energies and Barriers	94
4.6 Ab Initio Computations of Conformational Energies and Barrier Heights	96
4.6.1 Ab initio molecular orbital computations	97
4.6.2 Energy component analysis of rotational barriers	99
4.6.3 Charge distribution analysis of rotational barriers	101
4.7 Conclusion	101

5. Internal Rotation of Symmetric Groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
5.1 Introduction	...	...	...	103			
5.2 Ethane	...	...	...	103			
5.3 Torsional Energy Levels	...	...	...	104			
5.3.1 Symmetry considerations	...	...	...	105			
5.3.2 Spin statistical weights and absorption line intensities	...	...	...	107			
5.4 The Calculation of Potential Barriers	...	...	...	109			
5.4.1 Torsional frequency method	...	...	...	109			
5.4.2 High barriers	...	...	...	110			
5.4.3 Intermediate barriers	...	...	...	111			
5.4.4 Assessment of the torsional frequency method	...	...	...	112			
5.5 Splittings Method	...	...	...	112			
5.5.1 Principal axis method	...	...	...	114			
5.5.2 Internal axis method	...	...	...	120			
5.6 Comparison of Torsional Frequency and Splittings Method	...	...	...	123			
5.7 Internal Rotation in Symmetric Rotors	...	...	...	124			
5.8 NMR Methods	...	...	...	125			
5.9 Some Selected Methyl and other Symmetric Barriers	...	...	...	127			
5.9.1 Barriers about C—C bonds in substituted ethanes	...	...	...	127			
5.9.2 Other symmetric barriers	...	...	...	130			
5.10 Low Potential Barriers	...	...	...	133			
5.11 Multiple Symmetric Groups	...	...	...	136			
5.12 Internal Rotation in Methanol and Acetaldehyde	...	...	...	140			
5.12.1 Methyl alcohol	...	...	...	141			
5.12.2 Acetaldehyde	...	...	...	141			
6. Internal Rotation of Asymmetric Groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
6.1 Introduction	...	...	...	145			
6.2 Asymmetric Potential Functions	...	...	...	148			
6.3 Internal Rotation in Completely Asymmetric Molecules	...	...	...	153			
6.3.1 The torsional equation	...	...	...	155			
6.3.2 Rotational energy levels and torsion-rotation interactions	...	...	...	156			
6.3.3 The Hamiltonian in the instantaneous principal axis system of the molecule	...	...	...	157			
6.3.4 The reduced potential	...	...	...	158			
6.3.5 Internal rotation in 3-fluoropropene	...	...	...	158			
6.4 Internal Rotation in some Selected Molecules	...	...	...	162			
6.4.1 Molecules with predominantly twofold barriers	...	...	...	162			
6.4.2 Molecules with a predominantly threefold potential function	...	...	...	166			
7. Inversion	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
7.1 Introduction	...	...	...	171			

7.2 Quantum Mechanical Characteristics of the Inversion Vibration	173
7.2.1 Properties of molecular wave functions for an inverting molecule	174
7.2.2 Potential functions for the inversion mode	180
7.2.2.1 Harmonic oscillator perturbed by a Gaussian barrier	180
7.2.2.2 Quadratic-quartic potential function	182
7.2.2.3 Manning potential function	183
7.2.3 Rotation-inversion spectrum of the XY₃ symmetric top	183
7.3 Inversion in Asymmetric Rotors	185
7.3.1 Rotation-inversion spectrum of an inverting asymmetric top molecule	186
7.3.2 Vibration-rotation interactions	189
7.3.3 Inverting molecules	191
7.4 Inversion in Molecules containing more than One Large Amplitude Vibration	193
7.5 Inversion in Excited Electronic States	194
7.6 Molecules with High Barriers to Inversion	195
8. Large Amplitude Vibrations in Ring Compounds	197
8.1 Introduction	197
8.2 Strain in Ring Compounds	200
8.3 Four-Membered Rings	203
8.3.1 Coordinates and potential functions for four-membered rings	203
8.3.2 Examples of ring puckering	206
8.4 Five-Membered Rings	208
8.4.1 Pseudorotation	209
8.4.2 The Hamiltonian operator and energy levels for pseudorotation	213
8.4.3 Examples of pseudorotation	215
8.4.4 Five-membered rings with one or two double bonds	218
8.5 Six-Membered and Larger Rings	219
8.5.1 Cyclohexane and its derivatives	219
8.5.2 Six-membered rings with one and two double bonds	220
8.6 Fused and Bridged Ring Systems	222
9. Internal Rotation and Conformational Flexibility in Macromolecules	226
9.1 Introduction	226
9.2 Proteins	227
9.3 Nucleic acids	233
9.4 Carbohydrates	235
9.5 Conclusion	239
Index	241