























which for a harmonic oscillator is determined by the force constant K of the spring, or its stiffness, and the masses $(m_1 \text{ and } m_2)$ of the two bonded atoms. The natural frequency of vibration of a bond is given by the equation

$$\overline{v} = \frac{1}{2\pi c} \sqrt{\frac{K}{\mu}}$$

which is derived from Hooke's Law for vibrating springs. The **reduced mass** μ of the system is given by

 $\mu = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$

K is a constant that varies from one bond to another. As a first approximation, the force constants for triple bonds are three times those of single bonds, whereas the force constants for double bonds are twice those of single bonds.

Two things should be noticeable immediately. One is that stronger bonds have a larger force constant K and vibrate at higher frequencies than weaker bonds. The second is that bonds between atoms of higher masses (larger reduced mass, μ) vibrate at lower frequencies than bonds between lighter atoms.

In general, triple bonds are stronger than double or single bonds between the same two atoms and have higher frequencies of vibration (higher wavenumbers):

C≡C	C=C	C–C
2150 cm^{-1}	1650 cm^{-1}	1200 cm^{-1}

The C–H stretch occurs at about 3000 cm ⁻¹ . As the atom bonded to carbon increases in mass, the reduced mass (μ) increases, and the frequency of vibration decreases (wavenumbers get smaller):							
С-Н	C–C	С-О	C-Cl	C–Br	C—I		
3000 cm^{-1}	1200 cm^{-1}	1100 cm^{-1}	750 cm^{-1}	600 cm^{-1}	500 cm^{-1}		
$$ Increasing μ							
Bending motions occur at lower energy (lower frequency) than the typical stretching motions because of the lower value for the bending force constant K .							
C-H stretching C-H bending							
$\sim 3000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ $\sim 1340 \text{ cm}^{-1}$							
Hybridization affects the force constant <i>K</i> , also. Bonds are stronger in the order $sp > sp^2 > sp^3$, and the observed frequencies of C–H vibration illustrate this nicely.							
	sp	sj	p^2	sp^3			
	≡C	H =C	—Н —	С-Н			
	3300 ci	m^{-1} 3100	cm ⁻¹ 290	0 cm^{-1}			
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Wavelength in µm and wavenumber in cm⁻¹ can be interconverted using the following expression $\begin{aligned}
\left(cm^{-1} = \frac{1}{(\mu m)} \times 10,000 \quad \text{and} \quad \mu m = \frac{1}{(cm^{-1})} \times 10,000 \end{aligned}\right) \\
\text{Resonance also affects the strength and length of a bond and hence its force constant$ *K*. Thus, whereas a normal ketone has its C=O stretching vibration at 1715 cm⁻¹, a ketone that is conjugated with a C=C double bond absorbs at a lower frequency, near 1675 to 1680 cm⁻¹. That is because resonance lengthens the C=O bond distance and gives it more single-bond character: $<math display="block">\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\heartsuit} & \vdots \ddot{\heartsuit} & \vdots \\ -C & -C \\ -C$

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The Hooke's Law expression given earlier may be transformed into a very useful equation as follows:

$$\overline{v} = \frac{1}{2\pi c} \sqrt{\frac{K}{\mu}}$$

 \overline{v} = frequency in cm⁻¹

c = velocity of light = 3×10^{10} cm/sec

K = force constant in dynes/cm

$$\mu = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}, \text{ masses of atoms in grams,}$$
$$M_1 M_2$$

or
$$\frac{M_1M_2}{(M_1 + M_2)(6.02 \times 10^{23})}$$
, masses of atoms in amu

Removing Avogadro's number (6.02×10^{23}) from the denominator of the reduced mass expression (μ) by taking its square root, we obtain the expression

$$\overline{v} = \frac{7.76 \times 10^{11}}{2\pi c} \sqrt{\frac{K}{\mu}}$$

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