

Computational notes on the electronic properties of carboxylic acid

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ABSTRACT

The present work describing the electronic properties and vibrational characteristics of carboxylic acids. Acetic acid is chosen as model molecules then optimized at B3LYP/6-31g(d,p) level of theory. The vibrational frequencies were calculated at the same level of theory. Band assignments which were calculated as 18 normal modes were assigned as one compare the normal mode coordinates with original one. Band assignments were described indicating the directions of normal modes in terms the vibrating atoms of the acetic acids. It could be concluded that DFT could be a useful tool for elucidation both the structural and vibrational features of carboxylic acids and then further utilized for assignment of the structures contains carboxyl groups which are known as most reactive structures in chemistry, biology and environment.

Keywords: Acetic acids; DFT; Normal mode and IR assignment.

1. INTRODUCTION

Functional groups are leading the chemical interaction according to the role of their hydrogen bonding that they own. Carboxyl group among the most common reactive functional groups [1-4]. It is stated that carboxyl group is among the most reactive functional groups and plays an important role in many interactions specially in chemistry, biology and environment [5-8]. Structure containing carboxyl group is really leading the chemical as well as biological interactions [9-10]. In this sense understanding, the structural and vibrational characteristics of carboxyl group is a point of research interest in both experimental and theoretical basis [11-13].

Accordingly, density functional theory, as well as ab initio quantum mechanical calculations, are utilized to understand

carboxyl group as well as structures containing carboxyl group [14-18].

It is stated that a different class of molecular modeling could be utilized to investigate physical, chemical and thermal properties of many structures and molecules whereas the experimental data are limited or even unavailable [19-24].

Based on these considerations the present study is conducted as computational notes to optimized carboxylic acid then assign the vibrational characteristics. Acetic acids were chosen as a model molecules then geometrical parameters are indicated graphically then each normal mode was indicated by arrows upon the atoms of acetic acid to describe graphically the 18 normal of acetic acid model molecule.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Calculations Details.

Acetic acid was chosen as a model molecule for carboxylic acids then it was calculated with Gaussian 09 [25] softcode at spectroscopy Department, National Research Centre. Structures

were optimized at density functional theory DFT:B3LYP/6-31g(d,p) [26-28], the vibrational spectra were calculated at the same level of theory.

3. RESULTS

Acetic acid which indicated in figure 1-a, was optimized at DFT:B3LYP/6-31g(d,p) level. The optimized structures indicated the calculated bond distances as shown in figure 1-b, while the bond angles are indicated in figure 1-c.

Vibrational spectra were calculated at the same level of theory. The assignment of each normal mode is indicated both in table 1 and figures 2-1 to 2-18. The structure of acetic acid contains 8 atoms so that it is expected to have 18 normal modes ($3 \times 8 - 6 = 18$) which already assigned in table 1 and indicate graphically as in figure 2.

The band assignment is aided by the computer software in which the coordinates of each normal mode is compared with the coordinates of the normal coordinates before vibration.

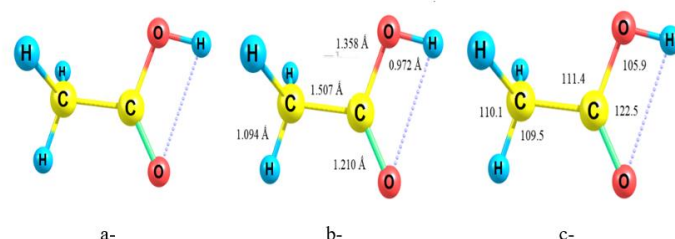


Figure 1. B3LYP/6-31g(d,p) calculated the optimized structure of a-acetic acid, b-acetic acid structure indicating bond distance, c- acetic acid structure indicating bond angles.

The HOMO/LUMO band gap energy as indicated in table 2 is calculated as 7.756 eV while the total dipole moment was 1.605 Debye. Figure 3-a presents the mapped HOMO/LUMO orbitals

which calculated also at the same level of theory. Finally, at figure 3-b indicates the contour of the molecular electrostatic potential MESP for acetic acid.

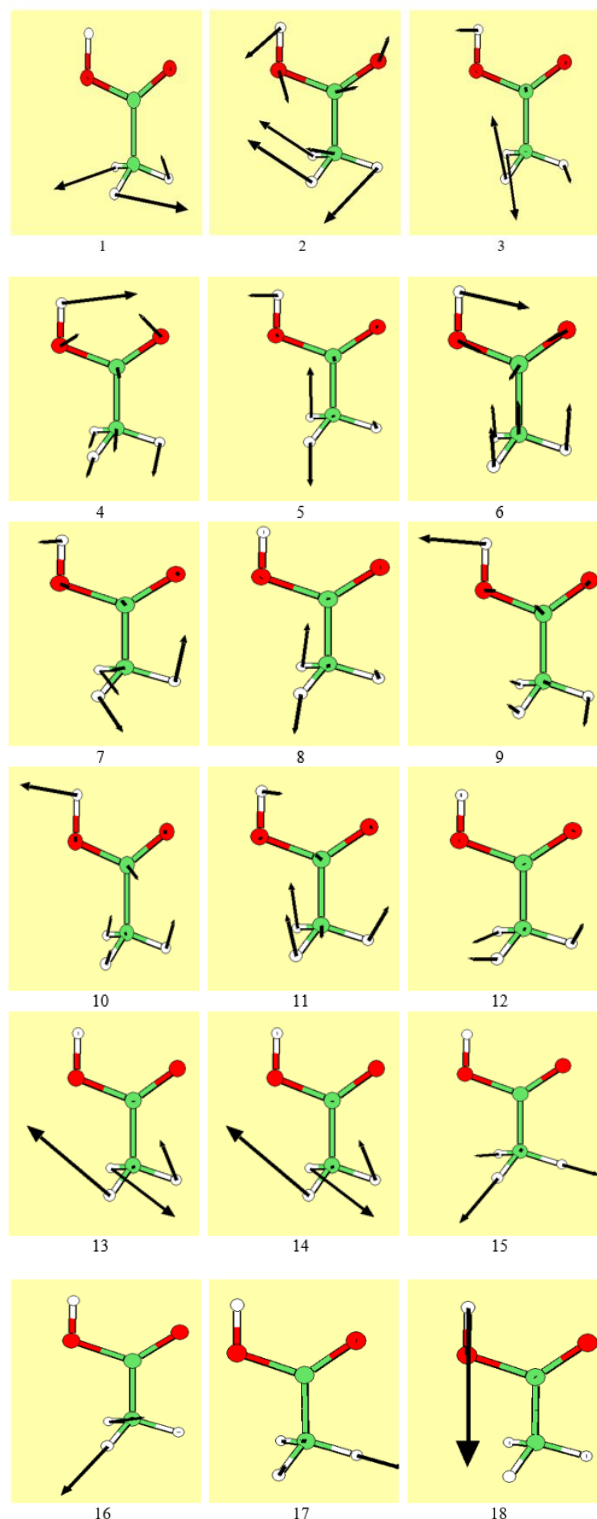


Figure 2. Band assignment for the 18 normal modes of the studied acetic acid which was calculated at B3LYP/6-31g(d,p) level of theory.

4. CONCLUSIONS

DFT level of theory is an important computational tool for studying organic structures with reactive functional groups like carboxyl. The importance of this structure is that it is important in many areas as it could connect metals with organic structures through hydrogen bonding. It could be concluded that computational methods are used to study physical, chemical and

Table 1. B3LYP/6-31g(d,p) calculated frequencies for acetic acid followed by the band assignment.

Normal Mode	IR Frequency	Band Assignment
1	69.1472	CH ₃ torsion
2	419.8942	C-OH torsion
3	542.5553	CCO deform
4	581.7181	C=O op-bend
5	681.6924	OCO deform
6	865.7887	C-C stretch
7	1002.3652	CH ₃ rock
8	1069.9052	CH ₃ rock
9	1216.3154	C-O stretch
10	1355.3911	OB bend
11	1422.5017	CH ₃ s-stretch
12	1484.2944	CH ₃ d-deform
13	1489.8154	CH ₃ d-deform
14	1855.7454	C=O stretch
15	3067.9577	CH ₃ s-stretch
16	3133.5925	CH ₃ d-stretch
17	3186.1694	CH ₃ d-stretch
18	3754.1293	OH-stretch

Table 2. Calculated B3LYP/6-31g(d,p) for HOMO/LUMO band gap energy as eV and total dipole moment TDM as Debye.

Physical Quantity	ΔE	TDM
Calculated Value	7.756	1.605

MESP is an important physical quantity represents the charge distribution for acetic acid. It is stated that both MESP and TDM beside HOMO/LUMO band gap energy are reflecting the reactivity of the given structure [29-31]. MESP is necessary for understanding the electrophilic and nucleophilic attacks sites for acetic acid [32] it is mapped by colors in which the potential is following the increasing orders: red < orange < yellow < green < blue.

The blue indicates the highest MESP and the red indicates the lowest MESP [33].

The present computational notes indicated the suitability of the density functional theory DFT:B3LYP/6-31g(d,p) to study geometrical, vibrational as well as a physical parameter of carboxylic acids and structures containing carboxyl group.

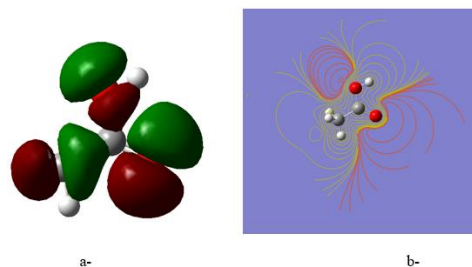


Figure 3. Calculated B3LYP/6-31g(d,p) for a- HOMO/LUMO acetic acid, b- Molecular electrostatic potential MESP contour of acetic acid.

biological interaction and provides important information about structural and vibrational characteristics. This work is confirming the previous findings [34-39].

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