

# Fully relativistic rovibrational energies and spectroscopic constants of the lowest $X:(1)0_g^+$ , $A':(1)2_u$ , $A:(1)1_u$ , $B':(1)0_u^-$ and $B:(1)0_u^+$ states of molecular chlorine

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**Abstract** The main goal of this paper is to present the rovibrational energies and spectroscopic constants of the  $Cl_2$  molecular system in the relativistic states  $X:(1)0_g^+$ ,  $A':(1)2_u$ ,  $A:(1)1_u$ ,  $B':(1)0_u^-$  and  $B:(1)0_u^+$ . More precisely, we have evaluated the  $Cl_2$   $\omega_e$ ,  $\omega_e x_e$ ,  $\omega_e y_e$ ,  $\alpha_e$ ,  $\gamma_e$  and  $B_e$  rovibrational spectroscopic constants using two different procedures. The first was obtained by combining the rovibrational energies, calculated through solving Schrödinger's nuclear equation and the diatomic rovibrational energy equation. The second was obtained by using the Dunham method. The calculated properties are in good agreement with available experimental data.

**Keywords**  $Cl_2$  molecular system · Potential energy curve · Rovibrational energies · Spectroscopic constants

## Introduction

The study of  $Cl_2$  is of great interest to theoretical chemists and physicists. This molecule has a wide range of other applications, it has atmospheric and environmental importance [1], it acts as a plasma processing gas for the use in plasma etching of semiconductors [2] and has ultraviolet gas laser applications [3, 4]; it is a bleaching agent for paper [5] and is used in chlorinated solvents [6], for water purification [7], and in other chemical processes including pharmaceuticals [8, 9]. High accurate theoretical potential energy curves (PECs) are of interest to understand  $Cl_2$  spectra and to analyze nonadiabatic processes [10]. In addition, the accurate bond dissociation energy for ground and excited electronic states of  $Cl_2$  is an important measure for its thermochemistry properties.

In a previous paper, Macedo and de Jong [11] determined a set of electronic energies at different internuclear distances for the ground state and 22 lowest excited states of the chlorine molecular system calculated within a four-component relativistic framework. The *ab initio* PECs of all possible covalent states were calculated using the relativistic complete open shell configuration interaction approach. More details of the computational procedure to determine the  $Cl_2$  relativistic PEC can be obtained in reference [11]. The authors also calculated some spectroscopic constants ( $B_e$ ,  $\omega_e$  and  $\omega_e x_e$ ) using 15th-order polynomial fit, but they did not determine the rovibrational energies of the related system.

The goal in the present work is to obtain the accurate rovibrational energies and spectroscopic constants of the  $Cl_2$

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**Table 1** Parameters obtained for Cl<sub>2</sub> qBO PEC of X:(1)0<sub>g</sub><sup>+</sup>, A':(1)2<sub>u</sub>, A:(1)1<sub>u</sub>, B':(1)0<sub>u</sub><sup>-</sup> and B:(1)0<sub>u</sub><sup>+</sup> relativistic states

$[\alpha]$ (hartree)	X:(1)0 <sub>g</sub> <sup>+</sup>	A':(1)2 <sub>u</sub>	A:(1)1 <sub>u</sub>	B':(1)0 <sub>u</sub> <sup>-</sup>	B:(1)0 <sub>u</sub> <sup>+</sup>
$\alpha_1$	0.00552	0.01473	0.02484	0.01938	0.02754
$\alpha_2$	-0.33159	-0.11016	-0.11325	-0.10496	-0.13303
$\alpha_3$	0.26640	0.25978	0.19732	0.20517	0.24099
$\alpha_4$	-0.01584	-0.08206	-0.03015	-0.03154	-0.03415
$\alpha_5$	-0.00948	-0.43750	-0.36394	-0.38544	-0.44695
$\alpha_6$	-0.01311	0.34131	0.28472	0.29745	0.34156
$\alpha_7$	-0.00207	0.15918	0.12939	0.13695	0.15590
$\alpha_8$	0.00634	-0.24486	-0.22581	-0.23890	-0.26725
$\alpha_9$	0.00448	0.11278	0.10990	0.11706	0.13205
$\alpha_{10}$	-0.00288	-0.02753	-0.02441	-0.02573	-0.03026
$\beta$ (bohr <sup>-1</sup> )	0.65289	0.31148	0.35815	0.35096	0.31109
$r_e$ (bohr)	3.73800	4.63821	4.64919	4.66978	4.65965
$q$	0.80933	2.07271	1.36456	1.40784	1.58657

system in the X:(1)0<sub>g</sub><sup>+</sup>, A':(1)2<sub>u</sub>, A:(1)1<sub>u</sub>, B':(1)0<sub>u</sub><sup>-</sup> and B:(1)0<sub>u</sub><sup>+</sup> relativistic states. More precisely, we have evaluated the Cl<sub>2</sub> rovibrational energies,  $\omega_e$ ,  $\omega_e x_e$ ,  $\omega_e y_e$ ,  $\alpha_e$ ,  $\gamma_e$  and  $B_e$  using the PEC of five covalent states published in ref[11]. To assure the accuracy of fit, the relativistic PECs was fitted using the analytical function based on polynomial q-bond order coordinates of the tenth degree (qBO) [12]. From these analytical forms, we evaluated the Cl<sub>2</sub> rovibrational spectroscopic constants for each state using two different procedures. The first was obtained by combining the rovibrational energies, obtained through solving Schrödinger's nuclear equation and the diatomic rovibrational energy equation. The second was determined by using the Dunham method [13].

The present work is organized as follows. “Methodologies” provides a short commentary on the methodologies adopted to determine the Cl<sub>2</sub> rovibrational energies and spectroscopic constants. “Results and discussion” refers to the results and the consequent discussion. “Conclusions” are summarized in Section 4.

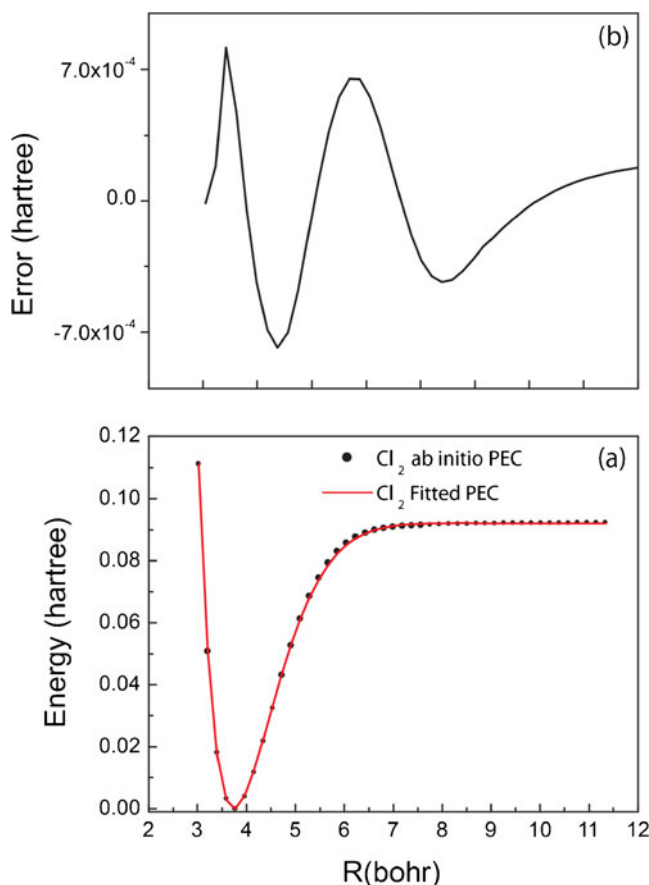
## Methodologies

As stated above, in the present work the Cl<sub>2</sub> electronic energies for ground state and for the excited states A':(1)2<sub>u</sub>, A:(1)1<sub>u</sub>, B':(1)0<sub>u</sub><sup>-</sup> and B:(1)0<sub>u</sub><sup>+</sup> were fitted using the qBO PEC that is given by

$$V^{qBO}([\alpha], q, \rho, \beta) = \sum_{j=1}^{N=10} \alpha_j \left( \exp_q(-\beta\rho) \right)^j, \quad (1)$$

where  $\exp_q(-\beta\rho) = [1 - (1 - q)\beta\rho]^{1/(1-q)}$  is named the q-Exponential function [14], being a generalization of the conventional function based on the Tsallis statistic [15],  $\rho = r - r_e$  and  $r_e$  is the equilibrium bond length of the diatomic

system. The q-exponential function has been applied successfully to a variety of problems in electronic structure [12, 16–20].  $[\alpha]$ ,  $q$  and  $\beta$  are adjustable parameters. All coefficients were optimized using a hybrid procedure based on the



**Fig. 1** (a) Comparison between the qBO (solid line) and *ab initio* (circle) PEC and (b) error between qBO and *ab initio* PEC of the X:(1)0<sub>g</sub><sup>+</sup> relativistic state of Cl<sub>2</sub> system

**Table 2** Calculation of Cl<sub>2</sub> rovibrational spectroscopic constants (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) of the X:(1) 0<sub>g</sub><sup>+</sup>, A':(1)2<sub>u</sub>, A:(1)1<sub>u</sub>, B':(1)0<sub>u</sub><sup>-</sup> and B:(1) 0<sub>u</sub><sup>+</sup> relativistic states, determined via Dunham method. The values in brackets were obtained using the reduced mass of ref [35]

State		$\omega_e(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$\omega_e x_e(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$B_e(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$\alpha_e \times 10^{-3}(\text{cm}^{-1})$
X:(1) 0 <sub>g</sub> <sup>+</sup>	This work	559.71 [563.55]	2.70 [2.74]	0.243 [0.246]	1.613 [1.646]
	Expt. [35]	564.9	2.72	0.244	1.7
	Expt. [36]	559.72	2.72		
	Expt. [37]	559.71	2.70	0.243	
	Expt. [38]			0.244	
	Theor. [11]	563	2.86	0.244	
	Theor. [39]	549.7	2.78		
	Theor. [36]	549	2.98		
A':(1)2 <sub>u</sub>	This work	258.00 [259.77]	5.46 [5.53]	0.158 [0.160]	2.647 [2.702]
	Expt. [40]	258	5.46	0.163	
	Theor. [11]	244	4.21	0.158	
A:(1)1 <sub>u</sub>	This work	264.00 [266.81]	5.14 [5.21]	0.157 [0.159]	2.314 [2.362]
	Expt. [41]	265	5.14		
	Expt. [42]	256	5.1		
	Theor. [11]	241	4.35	0.157	
	Theor. [39]	237.5	5.76		
	Theor. [36]	265	5.86		
B':(1)0 <sub>u</sub> <sup>-</sup>	This work	251.28 [253.00]	5.68 [5.76]	0.156 [0.158]	2.602 [2.656]
	Expt. [43]	253	5.76	0.163	
	Theor. [11]	238	4.55	0.157	
B:(1) 0 <sub>u</sub> <sup>+</sup>	This work	253.64 [255.38]	4.53 [4.59]	0.156 [0.158]	2.317 [2.365]
	Expt. [36]	255.38	4.59		
	Expt. [38]			0.162	
	Theor. [11]	243	4.14	0.157	
	Theor. [39]	240	5.26		
	Theor. [36]	259	4.60		

global optimization method known as Generalized Simulated Annealing (GSA) [21–25], the simplex gradient [26] and Levenberg-Marquardt [27, 28] methods.

Considering the vibrational movement of the nuclei around the equilibrium position as approximately harmonic, the vibrational energies can be expanded near the point  $v + \frac{1}{2}$ . Analogous to the vibrational case, the rotational energies can be expanded near the point  $j(j+1)$ . So the diatomic rovibrational energy equation [29] is the following:

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \omega_e(v + \frac{1}{2}) - \omega_e x_e(v + \frac{1}{2})^2 + \omega_e y_e(v + \frac{1}{2})^3 + \dots + [B_e - \alpha_e(v + \frac{1}{2}) + \gamma_e(v + \frac{1}{2})^2 + \dots]j(j+1) \dots \quad (2)$$

where  $v$  and  $j$  are the vibrational and rotational quantum numbers, respectively. The coefficients of this expansion are called rovibrational spectroscopic constants.  $B_e = \frac{h}{8\pi^2 c I_e}$ , where  $I_e$  denotes the moment of inertia,  $c$  is the speed of light and  $h$  is Planck's constant.

In the first approach, the rovibrational spectroscopic constants are evaluated in the present work by combining the rovibrational energies  $\varepsilon_{ij}$  obtained from Schrödinger's nuclear equation and Eq. 2. Here, Schrödinger's nuclear equation is solved using the discrete variable representation (DVR) method [30–32]. From this combination one can obtain the equations for rovibrational spectroscopic constants as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \omega_e = \frac{1}{24} [14(\varepsilon_{1,0} - \varepsilon_{0,0}) - 93(\varepsilon_{2,0} - \varepsilon_{0,0}) + 23(\varepsilon_{3,0} - \varepsilon_{1,0})] \\ \omega_e x_e = \frac{1}{4} [13(\varepsilon_{1,0} - \varepsilon_{0,0}) - 11(\varepsilon_{2,0} - \varepsilon_{0,0}) + 3(\varepsilon_{3,0} - \varepsilon_{1,0})] \\ \omega_e y_e = \frac{1}{6} [3(\varepsilon_{1,0} - \varepsilon_{0,0}) - 3(\varepsilon_{2,0} - \varepsilon_{0,0}) + 3(\varepsilon_{3,0} - \varepsilon_{1,0})] \\ \alpha_e = \frac{1}{8} [-12(\varepsilon_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{0,1}) + 4(\varepsilon_{2,1} - \varepsilon_{0,1}) + 4\omega_e - 923y_e] \\ \gamma_e = \frac{1}{4} [-2(\varepsilon_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{0,1}) + (\varepsilon_{2,1} - \varepsilon_{0,1}) + 2\omega_e x_e - 9\omega_e y_e] \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Another methodology used to evaluate the spectroscopic constants was that of Dunham [13], which is obtained by

**Table 3** Calculation of Cl<sub>2</sub> rovibrational spectroscopic constants (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) of the X:(1) 0<sub>g</sub><sup>+</sup>, A':(1)2<sub>u</sub>, A:(1)1<sub>u</sub>, B':(1)0<sub>u</sub><sup>-</sup> and B:(1) 0<sub>u</sub><sup>+</sup> relativistic states, determined via Eq. 3. The values in brackets were obtained using the reduced mass of ref [35]

State		$\omega_e(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$\omega_e x_e(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$\omega_e y_e \times 10^{-2}(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$\alpha_e \times 10^{-3}(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$-\gamma_e \times 10^{-6}(\text{cm}^{-1})$
X:(1) 0 <sub>g</sub> <sup>+</sup>	This work	560.19 [564.03]	2.70 [2.73]	-1.20 [-1.10]	1.61 [1.64]	1.91 [2.02]
	Expt. [35]	564.9	2.72		1.7	
	Expt. [36]	559.72	2.72			
	Expt. [37]	559.71	2.70			
	Expt. [38]	563	2.86			
	Theor. [11]	549.7	2.78			
	Theor. [39]	549	2.98			
A':(1)2 <sub>u</sub>	This work	254.99 [256.74]	5.53 [5.61]	1.21 [1.24]	2.69 [2.74]	3.77 [3.87]
	Expt. [40]	258	5.46			
	Theor. [11]	244	4.21			
A:(1)1 <sub>u</sub>	This work	255.97 [257.73]	5.39 [5.47]	-1.65 [-1.68]	2.44 [2.49]	54.62 56.19
	Expt. [41]	265	5.14			
	Expt. [42]	256	5.1			
	Theor. [11]	241	4.35			
	Theor. [39]	237.5	5.76			
	Theor. [36]	265	5.86			
B':(1)0 <sub>u</sub> <sup>-</sup>	This work	251.10 [252.82]	5.68 [5.75]	-2.53 [-2.58]	2.59 [2.64]	65.55 [67.39]
	Expt. [43]	253	5.76			
	Theor. [11]	238	4.55			
B:(1) 0 <sub>u</sub> <sup>+</sup>	This work	249.97 [251.69]	4.72 [4.78]	-0.24 [-0.25]	2.39 [2.45]	36.31 37.35
	Expt. [36]	255.38	4.59			
	Theor. [11]	243	4.14			
	Theor. [39]	240	5.26			
	Theor. [36]	259	4.60			

comparing Eq. 2 and the PEC written with a Taylor expansion around the equilibrium distances. Furthermore, the alternative

technique developed by Dijon group [33] could be used to calculate the rovibrational energies.

**Table 4** Cl<sub>2</sub> rovibrational energies (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) of the X:(1) 0<sub>g</sub><sup>+</sup>, A':(1)2<sub>u</sub>, A:(1)1<sub>u</sub>, B':(1)0<sub>u</sub><sup>-</sup> and B:(1) 0<sub>u</sub><sup>+</sup> relativistic states. The values in brackets were obtained using the reduced mass of ref [35]

$v$	$j$	X:(1) 0 <sub>g</sub> <sup>+</sup>	A':(1)2 <sub>u</sub>	A:(1)1 <sub>u</sub>	B':(1)0 <sub>u</sub> <sup>-</sup>	B:(1) 0 <sub>u</sub> <sup>+</sup>
0	0	279.50[281.41]	125.77[126.62]	124.29[125.12]	123.88[124.72]	122.85[123.68]
1		834.26[839.94]	369.73[372.18]	369.42[371.88]	363.54[365.94]	363.37[365.79]
2		1383.53[1392.89]	602.72[606.62]	603.62[607.53]	591.62[595.43]	594.44[598.31]
3		1927.23[1940.21]	824.83[830.02]	826.78[831.99]	807.97[813.02]	816.03[821.23]
4		2465.31[2481.81]	1036.12[1042.47]	1038.79[1045.15]	1012.42[1018.54]	1028.13[1034.52]
5		2997.68[3017.64]	1236.67[1244.02]	1239.56[1246.90]	1204.80[1211.80]	1230.72[1238.17]
6		3524.29[3547.62]	1426.55[1434.76]	1428.96[1437.13]	1384.89[1392.62]	1423.80[1432.17]
0	1	279.99[281.91]	126.08[126.94]	124.60[125.46]	124.19[125.03]	123.15[124.00]
1		834.74[840.43]	370.03[372.49]	369.73[372.19]	363.85[366.25]	363.68[366.10]
2		1384.01[1393.38]	603.02[606.92]	603.92[607.84]	591.92[595.73]	594.74[598.62]
3		1927.71[1940.69]	825.13[830.32]	827.07[832.29]	808.27[813.31]	816.32[821.52]
4		2465.78[2482.29]	1036.41[1042.76]	1039.08[1045.44]	1012.71[1018.83]	1028.42[1034.81]
5		2998.15[3018.12]	1236.96[1244.31]	1239.84[1247.19]	1205.07[1212.09]	1231.01[1238.46]
6		3524.76[3548.09]	1426.83[1435.04]	1429.24[1437.41]	1385.16[1392.89]	1424.07[1432.46]

## Results and discussion

In this section we present results of dynamics properties of the  $\text{Cl}_2$  system in the  $X:(1)0_g^+$ ,  $A':(1)2_u$ ,  $A:(1)1_u$ ,  $B':(1)0_u^-$  and  $B:(1)0_u^+$  relativistic states. Table 1 shows the fitted parameters of the qBO PEC that generate the best  $\text{Cl}_2$  rovibrational and spectroscopic constants, for all relativistic states studied in this work.

Fig. 1a shows both the  $\text{Cl}_2$  *ab initio* and fitted PEC of the  $X:(1)0_g^+$  state. Figure 1b presents the error between *ab initio* and fitted energies. To avoid a proliferation of figures, only the PEC of the  $X:(1)0_g^+$  state was included in Fig. 1. The results of the maximum (minimum) deviation and the  $\chi^2$  error found between values for the *ab initio* and fitted energies were:  $1.21 \times 10^{-3}$  ( $1.30 \times 10^{-5}$ ) and  $1.19 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $8.28 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $2.52 \times 10^{-5}$ ) and  $1.12 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $5.47 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $7.88 \times 10^{-5}$ ) and  $3.31 \times 10^{-6}$ ,  $2.48 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $1.31 \times 10^{-6}$ ) and  $2.44 \times 10^{-7}$  and  $1.46 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $4.16 \times 10^{-7}$ ) and  $6.86 \times 10^{-8}$  hartree for the  $X:(1)0_g^+$ ,  $A':(1)2_u$ ,  $A:(1)1_u$ ,  $B':(1)0_u^-$  and  $B:(1)0_u^+$  relativistic states, respectively. From these results we can see close agreement between the *ab initio* and fitted energies. Although this is not the focus of this work, it is important to point out that the success of the fitting procedure is, in part, due to the q-exponential function's flexibility. This function is more delocalized than the conventional exponential function, so that for  $q > 1$ , decay of the q-exponential function is slower than for a conventional exponential one. If  $q < 1$ , the decay is faster, reaching zero at  $\frac{1}{1-q}$ . At the limit  $q \rightarrow 1$ , the generalized qBO PEC (Eq. 1) is equivalent to the usual bond order one. Note that for the different values of q parameters the q-exponential function becomes more (less) diffuse for higher (lower) values than one. In all cases, the deviations of the q parameter are relevant to fit, being approximately: 0.20, 1.07, 0.36, 0.40 and 0.58 for fit of  $X:(1)0_g^+$ ,  $A':(1)2_u$ ,  $A:(1)1_u$ ,  $B':(1)0_u^-$  and  $B:(1)0_u^+$  PECs, respectively.

The  $\text{Cl}_2$   $X:(1)0_g^+$ ,  $A':(1)2_u$ ,  $A:(1)1_u$ ,  $X:(1)0_g^+$  and  $B':(1)0_u^-$  rovibrational spectroscopic constants obtained through the Dunham method and nuclear Schrödinger solutions (via Eq. 3) are shown in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. We used two different experimental values for  $\text{Cl}_2$  reduced mass equal to 17.73 u ( $^{35}\text{Cl}$ ) and 17.48942 u ( $^{37}\text{Cl}$ ) obtained from ref [34] and ref [35], respectively.

All values of  $\omega_e$ ,  $\omega_e x_e$  and  $B_e$  are in excellent agreement with experimental data [35–43]. This is particularly notable for the  $X:(1)0_g^+$  relativistic state, the deviation between  $\omega_e(\omega_e x_e)$  calculated in this work and that in ref [34] is  $0.00(0.00) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , when we used the Dunham method, and under  $0.48(0.00) \text{ cm}^{-1}$  when we calculated via Eq. 3, both using the reduced mass obtained from ref [34]. In contrast, for the same state and using the reduced mass obtained from ref [35], the deviation between  $\omega_e(\omega_e x_e)[\alpha_e]$  calculated in this

work and that in ref [35] is under  $1.35(0.02)[0.054] \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , when we used the Dunham method, and  $0.87(0.01)[0.06] \text{ cm}^{-1}$  when we calculated via Eq. 3. This is a very satisfactory result. The values of  $\omega_e$ ,  $\omega_e x_e$  and  $\alpha_e$  obtained according to the Dunham method are very close to those determined via Eq. 3. Indeed, the Dunham method presented results closer to the experimental one, when compared to those obtained using Eq. 3. It is also important to emphasize that although we used the same *ab initio* energies as Macedo and de Jong [11] our results present the best agreement with experimental results available in literature. Although the deviations are small, it is worth stressing that even when a qBO PEC of the tenth degree is used we can still have a slight ( $\chi^2$ ) problem of accuracy in the electronic energy fit procedure.

Table 4 lists a set of rovibrational energies obtained by solving the Schrödinger nuclear equation with  $v$  varying between 0 and 6, and  $j$  between 0 and 1. In this case, we again used the same two values for  $\text{Cl}_2$  reduced mass, as cited above. The difference of values for rovibrational energies using the reduced mass obtained from ref [34] and ref [35], respectively, are relatively large. For example, for the  $\varepsilon_{0,0}$  this difference is about  $1.91 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , while for the  $\varepsilon_{6,0}$  it is about  $23.33 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

## Conclusions

In this paper we have calculated dynamics properties of  $X:(1)0_g^+$ ,  $A':(1)2_u$ ,  $A:(1)1_u$ ,  $B':(1)0_u^-$  and  $B:(1)0_u^+$  relativistic states of  $\text{Cl}_2$  system. To this end, we used the PEC obtained using correlated four-component relativistic calculations. The calculated values of equilibrium vibrational frequency ( $\omega_e$ ), anharmonic constant ( $\omega_e x_e$ ) and rotational constant ( $B_e$ ) are in excellent agreement with experimental data available in the literature. This fact suggests that the results of other spectroscopic constants and rovibrational energies presented in this work have the same accuracy. This accurate  $\text{Cl}_2$  PEC study, for different relativistic states, is of fundamental importance to many issues, including atom-atom collisions, prediction of cluster structures, and chemical reactivity.

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