# Letter

# A theoretical study of the second band of the photoelectron spectrum of benzene with an analysis of the vibrational structure

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Abstract. Ab initio calculations have been performed to study the second band of the photoelectron spectrum of benzene with analysis of the vibrational structure. The  ${}^{2}E_{2q}$  and  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  states contribute to this band. In this study each contribution to the band is discussed. We propose that the onset of the band should be assigned to the 0-0 transition of the  ${}^2A_{2u}$  state.

Key words: Franck–Condon factor  $-$  Theoretical intensity curve of ionization  $-{}^2A_u$  and  ${}^2E_{2g}$  of  $C_6H_6^+$  – Normal vibrational calculation

## 1 Introduction

The electronic configuration of the ground state of benzene is represented by  $\dots$   $1a_{2u}^2$  3e<sub>2g</sub><sup>4</sup>1e<sup>4</sup><sub>1g</sub> with the  $D_{6h}$ symmetry point group. The  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  and  ${}^{2}E_{2g}$  states contribute to the second band of the photoelectron spectrum (PES).

The second band has been observed in the energy range from 11.49 to 13 eV  $[1-4]$ . Several assignments of the spectrum have been reported. Considering the nature and magnitude of the effect of deuteration on the spectrum, Potts et al. [2] have proposed that the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  and  ${}^{2}E_{2g}$  states correspond to the lower-energy side and the higher-energy side, respectively.

Turner et al. [1] have reported the results of various molecular orbital calculations. All calculations gave the same result that the ionization potential of the  ${}^{2}E_{2a}$ state was smaller than that of the  $A_{2u}$  state. Kimura et al. [3] have reported the vertical ionization energy (VIE) obtained by ab initio calculations. The  ${}^{2}E_{2g}$  and  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  states were assigned to the lower-energy side and the higher-energy side, respectively. As far as we are aware, all ab initio calculations  $[1, 3-5]$  give the VIE of the <sup>2</sup>E<sub>2g</sub> state to be lower than that of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>2u</sub> state.

The band of the spectrum has two characteristics: one is the position of the band and the other is the shape. The position depends mainly on the electronic IE. The shape depends on the vibrational structure. It is, therefore, necessary to consider these two aspects for the assignment of the spectrum.

As the molecule is ionized, the equilibrium molecular structure is changed from that of the ground state. The VIE does not include this change. A zero-zero ionization energy (0-0 IE) gives the onset of the band. The 0-0 IE is determined by using the energy of the zero-point vibrational levels and the adiabatic ionization energy (AIE), which is the energy from the bottom to the bottom of the potential curve.

The shape of the band depends on the vibrational structure of the ionic state. The intensity of the vibrational excitation depends on the Franck–Condon factor (FCF), which is a function of the magnitude of the change in the equilibrium molecular structure and the vibrational wavefunction.

The  ${}^{2}E_{2g}$  state is a doubly degenerate state. The molecular structure of the degenerate state should distort to one of lower symmetry such as  $D_{2h}$  symmetry by the Jahn–Teller distortion effect. The <sup>2</sup>E<sub>2g</sub> state correlates to the <sup>2</sup> $A_g$  and <sup>2</sup> $B_{1g}$  states of  $D_{2h}$  symmetry. The molecular structure of the  ${}^{2}E_{2g}$  state by the Jahn–Teller distortion within  $D_{2h}$  symmetry has been reported by Kato et al. [6].

The  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  state is not a degenerate state. The symmetry of the equilibrium molecular structure of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  state is the same  $D_{6h}$  symmetry as the ground state.

In this work, we study the equilibrium molecular structures of the  ${}^{2}E_{2g}$  and  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  states by using the ab initio self-consistent-field (SCF) method. We calculated the ionization energies by means of single and double excitation configuration interaction (SDCI) calculations. We obtained the vibrational wavefunction using the normal vibrational calculation, the FCF, and the intensity curve.

Based on these calculations, we discuss an interpretation of the second band from the viewpoint of the position and shape of the band compared to the photoelectron spectrum.

#### 2 Method of calculations

We used the basis sets of the MIDI-4-type prepared by Tatewaki and Huzinaga [7]. These are augmented by one p-type polarization function for H and one d-type polarization function for C. The exponents of the polarization functions for H and C are 0.68 and 0.61, respectively.

The gradient technique for Roothaan's restricted Hartree–Fock (RHF) method was employed to determine the optimum molecular structure of the ground state and of the ionic states.

The SDCI method was employed to obtain more accurate ionization energies for the estimation of the VIE and AIE. In the SDCI method, singly and doubly excited configuration state functions were generated where the inner shells were kept frozen. In the SDCI calculations, we used the  $D_{2h}$  symmetry point group.

The normal vibrational calculation of the totally symmetric modes was done by means of the gradient technique with the RHF wavefunction. We had some restrictions on the calculation of the FCFs: only the vibrational transitions to the totally symmetric modes of the ionic state were allowed and the initial state was the zero-point vibrational level of the ground state. The method of calculation of the FCFs and the theoretical intensity curves was the same as we used in a previous paper [8].

This work was carried out using the computer program system GRAMOL [9] for the gradient technique and the calculation of normal modes, and ALCHEMY II  $[10-12]$  was used for the CI calculations.

#### 3 Results and discussion

The results of the optimized molecular structures of the ground and ionic states using the RHF method are listed in Table 1. The molecular structure of the  $D_{6h}$  symmetry of the  ${}^{2}E_{2g}$  state distorts to the more stable structure of  $D_{2h}$  symmetry by the Jahn-Tellar effect. However, the nondegenerate  ${}^2A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state of  $D_{6h}$  symmetry keeps the same symmetry. Table 1 also shows the magnitude of the change in the equilibrium molecular structure on ionization. For the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state, it shows that only the change in the  $C-C$  distance is recognizable. Kato et al. [6] have obtained optimized geometries for the  ${}^{2}A_{q}$  $(D_{2h})$  and  ${}^{2}B_{1g}$   $(D_{2h})$  states at the unrestricted HF/4-31 G level (Table 1).

#### 3.1 Ionization energies

The VIE and AIE at the SCF level are given in Table 2. The VIE of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state is larger than that of the  ${}^{2}E_{2g}$  (D<sub>6h</sub>) state, which is consistent with the calculations by Kimura et al. [3]. The AIE of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>2u</sub>  $(D_{6h})$  state is also larger than those of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) states.

The results of the SDCI calculations are given in Tables 3 and 4.

In the single-reference SDCI (SRSDCI) calculation, we used a reference configuration of the RHF wavefunction of the respective state and the  $D_{2h}$  symmetry point group. The configuration  $\dots 1a_{2u}^1 3e_{2g}^4 1e_{1g}^4$  of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$   $(D_{6h})$  state correlates to the configuration<br>...  $1b_{1u}^{1}6a_{g}^{2}3b_{1g}^{2}1b_{3g}^{2}1b_{2g}^{2}$  of the  ${}^{2}B_{1u}$   $(D_{2h})$  state. For the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>2u</sub> (D<sub>6h</sub>) state, Table 3 shows that the weight of the main configuration of ...  $1b_{1u}^1 6a_g^2 3b_{1g}^2 1b_{3g}^2 1b_{2g}^2$  is 81.9%. The weights of the reference configurations of the  ${}^{2}A_{g}$  $(D_{2h})$  and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  states are 82.8 and 82.3%, respectively. Table 4 shows that the VIE and AIE of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  $(D_{6h})$  state are larger than those of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  and  ${}^{2}B_{1q}$  (D<sub>2h</sub>) states.

In the two-reference SDCI (2RSDCI) calculation, the weight of the configuration of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state changes drastically compared to the SRSDCI calculation. The contribution of the main configuration decreases and that of the other configuration of  $\ldots 1b_{1u}^2 6a_g^2 3b_{1g}^2 1b_{2g}^1 1b_{2g}^1 1a_u^1$  increases. The other configuration corresponds to the two-electron excitation of  $1b_{3g} 1b_{2g} \rightarrow 1b_{1u} 1a_u$ . For the  ${}^2A_g$  (D<sub>2h</sub>) and  ${}^2B_{1g}$  (D<sub>2h</sub>) states, we did not find any recognizable change in the weight of the main configuration. Table 4 shows that

Tabel 1. Optimized molecular structure and magnitude of the change in geometry upon ionization. Bond lengths are in angstroms, angles in degrees. The values in parentheses are the magnitudes of the change in geometry upon ionization. Kato et al. [6] have reported the following optimized geometries. For <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub>: C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> = 1.355, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> = 1.441, C<sub>1</sub>-H<sub>1</sub> = 1.108, C<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub> = 1.072, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> = 127.5 and  $C_1-C_2-H_2 = 127.1$ . For  ${}^{2}B_{1g}$ :  $C_1-C_2 = 1.406$ ,  $C_2-C_3 = 1.338$ ,  $C_1-H_1 = 1.067$ ,  $C_2-H_2 = 1.093$ ,  $C_2-C_1-C_6 = 112.3$  and  $C_1-C_2-H_2 = 113.1$ 

<b>State</b>	$C_1-C_2$ ( $\Delta C_1-C_2$ )	$C_2-C_3$ ( $\Delta C_2-C_3$ )	$C_1$ -H $(AC_1$ -H $)$	$C_2$ -H ( $\Delta C_2$ -H)
${}^{1}\mathbf{A}_g$ $(D_{2h})$ Exp. <sup>a</sup> <sup>2</sup> A <sub>2u</sub> (D <sub>6h</sub> ) ${}^{2}A_g(D_{2h})$ ${}^{2}B_{1g}^{r}(D_{2h})$	1.388 1.397 1.420 $(+0.032)$ $1.360(-0.028)$ $1.407 (+0.019)$	1.388 1.397 $1.420 (+0.032)$ $1.440 (+0.052)$ $1.343(-0.045)$	1.083 1.084 $1.081(-0.002)$ $1.119 (+0.036)$ $1.077(-0.006)$	1.083 1.084 $1.081(-0.002)$ $1.084 (+0.001)$ $1.105 (+0.022)$
<b>State</b> $^{1}A_{g}$ $(D_{2h})$ Exp. <sup>a</sup> <sup>2</sup> A <sub>2u</sub> (D <sub>6h</sub> ) ${}^{2}A_g$ (D <sub>2h</sub> ) ${}^2B_{1g}$ $(D_{2h})$	$C_6 - C_1 - C_2 (\Delta C_6 - C_1 - C_2)$ 120.00 120.00 120.00(0.00) $127.77 (+ 7.77)$ $112.32(-7.68)$	$C_3-C_2-H$ ( $\Delta C_3-C_2-H$ ) 120.00 120.00 120.00 (0.00) $116.45(-3.55)$ $123.68 (+3.68)$		

 $a$  Ref. [13]

<b>State</b>	VIE (eV)	$AIE$ (eV)
$\begin{array}{l} {^{2} \! \! \! \; \mathbf{A}_{2u} \left( D_{6h} \right)} \\ {^{2} \! \! \; \mathbf{A}_{g} \left( D_{2h} \right)} \\ {^{2} \mathbf{B}_{1g} \left( D_{2h} \right)} \end{array}$	12.90 12.69 12.69	12.73 12.15 12.17

**Table 3.** Configuration interaction (CI) calculation of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  $(D_{6h})$  state using the  $D_{2h}$  symmetry point group. The configuration state functions (CSF) and the results of single-reference single and double excitation CI (SRSDCI) and two-reference SDCI (2RSDCI) calculations are listed

<b>CSF</b>	Weight of CSF $(\% )$		
	<b>SRSDCI</b>	2RSDCI	
$\ldots 1b_{1u}^1$ 6a <sup>2</sup> 3b <sub>1a</sub> 1b <sub>3a</sub> 1b <sub>2a</sub>	81.9	63.5	
$\ldots 1b_{1u}^2$ 6a <sup>2</sup> 3b <sub>1a</sub> 1b <sub>1a</sub> 1b <sub>1a</sub> 1a <sub>u</sub>	0.6	18.9	

Table 4. Ionization energies (eV) from the SDCI calculations. Total energy of  ${}^{1}A_{a}$ : -231.114102 (a.u.). The reference of the SRSDCI calculation of  ${}^2A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) is ...  $1b_{1u}^1$   $6a_g^2$   $3b_{1g}^2$   $1b_{3g}^2$   $1b_{2g}^2$  represented by the  $D_{2h}$  symmetry point group. The references of the SRSDCI calculation of  ${}^2A_g$   $(D_{2h})$  and  ${}^2B_{1g}$   $(D_{2h})$  are ...  $1b_{1u}^2$   $6a_g^1$   $3b_{1g}^2$   $1b_{2g}^2$  and ...  $1b_{1u}^2$   $6a_g^2$   $3b_{1g}^1$   $1b_{3g}^2$   $1b_{2g}^2$ , respectively. For the 2RSDCI calculation of  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ), the references are ...  $1b_{1u}^1$   $6a_g^2$   $3b_{1g}^2$   $1b_{3g}^2$   $1b_{2g}^2$  and  $...$   $1b_{1u}^2$   $6a_g^2$   $3b_{1g}^2$   $1b_{3g}^1$   $1b_{2g}^1$   $1a_u^1$ 

State			Method VIE AIE 0-0 IE Franck-Condon factor
${}^{2}A_{2u}$ (D <sub>6h</sub> ) SRSDCI 12.92 12.71 ${}^{2}A_g$ ( <i>D</i> <sub>2<i>h</i></sub> ) SRSDCI 12.40 11.92 11.89 0.043 ${}^{2}B_{1g}$ ( <i>D</i> <sub>2<i>h</i></sub> ) SRSDCI 12.40 11.92 11.91 0.040	2RSDCI 12.04 11.78 11.77		0.289

the VIE and AIE of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state are smaller than those of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  states.

#### 3.2 Normal vibrational calculation

The two  $a_{1g}$  and four  $e_{2g}$  vibrational modes of  $D_{6h}$ symmetry correlate to the  $a<sub>a</sub>$  totally symmetric modes of  $D_{2h}$  symmetry. The vibrational frequencies of the six totally symmetric modes of the  ${}^{1}A_g$ ,  ${}^{2}A_g$  and  ${}^{2}B_{1g}$  states of  $D_{2h}$  symmetry are given in Table 5 along with the two  $a_{1g}$  vibrational modes of  $D_{6h}$  symmetry of the  ${}^2A_{2u}$  state.

The observed vibrational frequencies of the  ${}^{1}A_{q}$  state are given in Table 5. Comparing the calculated values and the observed values, we find that the calculated values are overestimated by  $8.4-11.8\%$ .

We characterize each mode by use of the conventional potential-energy distribution. Table 5 shows that the  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  modes are characterized as C—H stretching modes, the  $v_3$  and  $v_5$  modes are the C-C stretching modes, the  $v_4$  mode is the C-C-H bending mode, and the  $v_6$  mode is the C-C-C bending mode. The  $v_1$  and  $v_5$ modes correlate to the  $a_{1g}$  modes of  $D_{6h}$  symmetry.

#### 3.3 Vibrational structure

We illustrated the theoretical intensity curve with a half width of 0.02 eV for each state. The theoretical intensity curves for the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>2u</sub> ( $D_{6h}$ ), <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) states are illustrated in Figs. 1–3, respectively.

Figure 1 shows the vibrational structure of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  $(D_{6h})$  state: this has a very simple structure. An interpretation is given in Table 6. Only the  $v_5$  mode is excited: this is the  $C-C$  stretching mode. This is connected to the change in the equilibrium molecular structure where only the change in the  $C-C$  distance is recognizable. The 0-0 transition has strong intensity. The 0-0 IE is 11.77 eV using the 2RSDCI calculation.

Figures 2 and 3 show the theoretical intensity curves of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) states, respectively. An interpretation of each vibrational level is given in Tables 7 and 8. In both states, excitations of the  $v_3$  and  $v_6$ modes have considerable intensity. The  $v_3$  and  $v_6$  modes are the C $\sim$ C stretching and C $\sim$ C $\sim$ C bending modes, respectively. This is connected to the change in the equilibrium molecular structure. Table 1 shows that there are distinguishable changes in the  $C-C$  bond length and in the  $C-C-C$  bond angle in both states. The 0-0 transitions had medium intensity, the magnitude of which was 15% of that of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>2u</sub> ( $D_{6h}$ ) state. The 0-0 IEs of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  states from the SRSDCI calculations are 11.89 and 11.91 eV, respectively.

#### 3.4 Interpretation of the second band

The second band had an onset at 11.49 eV: this had a narrow peak and strong intensity. This peak was assigned to the 0-0 transition.

Using the result of the calculations of the 0-0 IE at the RHF or SRSDCI levels, we may assign the onset to the 0-0 transition of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  states; however, the intensities of the 0-0 transitions of these states are so weak that we do not give a reasonable interpretation of the strong intensity of the first peak of the second band.

The results of the 2RSDCI calculations give a 0-0 IE for the  ${}^2A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state 0.12–0.14 eV lower than for the  ${}^{2}A_{q}$  (D<sub>2h</sub>) and  ${}^{2}B_{1q}$  (D<sub>2h</sub>) states. The intensity of the 0-0 transition of the <sup>2</sup> $A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state is 7 times stronger than that of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  states. The overall feature of the intensity curve is shown in Fig. 4, and is compared with the observed PES of Turner et al. [1]. The vibrational structure of the theoretical intensity curve reproduces the PES well. This figure shows that the onset of the band is only due to the 0-0 transition of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state. It also indicates that the  ${}^{2}A_g$  ( $D_{2h}$ ) and  ${}^{2}B_{1g} (D_{2h})$  states contribute to the higher vibrational levels above the second peak.

#### 4 Conclusion

We studied the second band of the PES by ab initio calculations from the viewpoints of the position and the





Fig. 1. The theoretical intensity curves  $(TICs)$  of the ionization energy of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state with a half width of 0.02 eV

shape of the band. The <sup>2</sup>E<sub>2g</sub>  $(D_{6h})$  state distorts to the  ${}^{2}A_{g}$  and  ${}^{2}B_{1g}$  states of  $D_{2h}$  symmetry. The  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ),  ${}^{2}A_{g}$  ( $D_{2h}$ ) and  ${}^{2}B_{1g}$  ( $D_{2h}$ ) states contribute to the second band.



Fig. 2. The TICs of the ionization energy of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>q</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) state with a half width of 0.02 eV

The onset of the second band of the PES has a strong intensity. The FCF calculations reveals that the intensity of the 0-0 transition of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$   $(D_{6h})$  state is 7 times stronger than that of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) states.<br>Therefore, the onset of the PES should be connected to the 0-0 transition of the  ${}^2A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state.

The 0-0 IEs of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  states at the RHF or SRSDCI levels are lower than that of  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  $(D_{6h})$  state by 0.8 eV; therefore, the calculations at the RHF or SRSDCI levels do not give a reasonable 0-0 IE for the assignment of the onset of the second band.

The 2RSDCI calculations gives the 0-0 IE of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  $(D_{6h})$  state to be 0.12–0.14 eV lower than those of the  ${}^2A_g^{(1)}(D_{2h})$  and  ${}^2B_{1g}(D_{2h})$  states. Using this result, we obtained a reasonable theoretical intensity curve compared with the second band of the PES. Therefore, we



Fig. 3. The TICs of the ionization energy of the <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub>  $(D_{2h})$  state with a half width of 0.02 eV

**Table 6.** Vibrational levels of the <sup>2</sup> $A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state. The intensity is classified into s or m according to the magnitude of the Franck– Condon factors (*FCF*) as follows. s:  $0.06 \leq$  FCF  $\leq$  0.37 and m:  $0.03 <$  FCF  $< 0.06$ 

IΕ	Vibrational levels		
11.77	s(00)		
11.90	s(01)		
12.02	s(0, 2)		
12.15	s(03)		
12.28	m(0, 4)		

**Table 7.** Vibrational levels of the  ${}^2A_g$  ( $D_{2h}$ ) state. The intensity is classified into s, m or w according to the magnitude of the FCFs as follows s:  $0.08 <$  FCF  $<$  0.09, m:  $0.03 <$  FCF  $<$  0.05 and w:  $0.01 \leq FCF \leq 0.03$ 





Fig. 4. The TICs of the ionization energy of the second band with a half width of 0.04 eV and the observed photoelectron spectrum (PES) of Turner et al. [1]. Each line illustrates the TIC as follows: solid line: the total intensity curve: dotted line:  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ); dashed line:  ${}^{2}A_{g}$  (D<sub>2h</sub>); dashed dotted line:  ${}^{2}B_{1g}$  (D<sub>2h</sub>)

propose that the onset of the band at 11.49 eV is the 0-0 transition of the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>2u</sub> ( $D_{6h}$ ) state and the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>g</sub> ( $D_{2h}$ ) and  ${}^{2}B_{1g}$  (D<sub>2h</sub>) states contribute to the intensity of the higher-<br>energy region.

In the 2RSDCI calculation of the  ${}^{2}A_{2u}$  ( $D_{6h}$ ) state, the contribution of the double excitation of  $1b_{3g} 1b_{2g} \rightarrow$  $1b_{1u}$   $1a_u$   $(D_{2h})$  increases.





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