



Carbon monoxide consists of ordinary ^{12}C and ^{16}O atoms, which have masses

$$^{12}\text{C} = 12 \times m_{\text{H}} = 12 \times 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$$

$$^{16}\text{O} = 16 \times m_{\text{H}} = 16 \times 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$$

So

$$m_{\text{C}} = \frac{12}{16} m_{\text{O}} = \frac{3}{4} m_{\text{O}}$$

We can write the sum of forces on each atom as

$$m_{\text{C}} \frac{d^2 x_1}{dt^2} = \frac{3}{4} m_{\text{O}} \frac{d^2 x_1}{dt^2} = -kx_1 + kx_2$$

$$m_{\text{O}} \frac{d^2 x_2}{dt^2} = 1 m_{\text{O}} \frac{d^2 x_2}{dt^2} = +kx_1 - kx_2$$

where k = force constant of the bond between atoms.

We can re-write as a matrix equation

$$\frac{d^2 x_1}{dt^2} = -\frac{4k}{3m_{\text{O}}} x_1 + \frac{4k}{3m_{\text{O}}} x_2$$

$$\frac{d^2 x_2}{dt^2} = +\frac{k}{m_{\text{O}}} x_1 - \frac{k}{m_{\text{O}}} x_2$$

$$\text{Or } \left(\frac{k}{m_0} \right) \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{4}{3} & +\frac{4}{3} \\ +1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d^2 x_1}{dt^2} \\ \frac{d^2 x_2}{dt^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Now, if we assume that some linear combination of positions will cause this system to exhibit simple harmonic motion, we can write

$$s = ax_1 + bx_2$$

and

$$\left(\frac{k}{m_0} \right) \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{4}{3} & +\frac{4}{3} \\ +1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = -\omega^2 \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

To find eigenvalues, start w/ top row of matrix

$$-\frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0} a + \frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0} b = -\omega^2 a$$

$$\frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0} b = \left(\frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0} - \omega^2 \right) a$$

$$\rightarrow b = \left[\frac{\frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0} - \omega^2}{\frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0}} \right] a$$

And substitute this \nearrow expression into the lower row of matrix:

$$\frac{k}{m_0} a - \frac{k}{m_0} \left[\frac{\frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0} - \omega^2}{\frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0}} \right] a = -\omega^2 a \left[\frac{\frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0} - \omega^2}{\frac{4}{3} \frac{k}{m_0}} \right]$$

Simplify and try to solve for the frequency ω^2 :

$$\frac{4}{3} \left(\frac{k}{m_0} \right)^2 - \frac{4}{3} \left(\frac{k}{m_0} \right)^2 + \frac{k}{m_0} \omega^2 = - \frac{4k}{3m_0} \omega^2 + \omega^4$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{7}{3} \frac{k}{m_0} \omega^2 - \omega^4 = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \omega^2 = \frac{7k}{3m_0}$$

So the frequency of this vibration should be

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{\frac{7}{3} (1860 \text{ N/m})}{16 \times 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}}}$$

$$\omega = 4.03 \times 10^{14} \frac{\text{rad}}{\text{s}}$$

The wavelength will be

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{\omega/2\pi} = \frac{2\pi c}{\omega} = 4.67 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}$$

Now, if the carbon atom is ^{13}C instead of ^{12}C , then the ratio of masses is

$$m_c = \frac{13}{16} m_0$$

and the matrix of forces looks like

$$\left(\frac{k}{m_0} \right) \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{16}{13} & +\frac{16}{13} \\ +1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d^2 x_1}{dt^2} \\ \frac{d^2 x_2}{dt^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

If one performs exactly the same analysis, one ends up with

$$\omega^2 = \frac{29}{13} \frac{k}{m_0} \quad \left(\text{instead of } \frac{7}{3} \frac{k}{m_0} \right)$$

which means for ^{13}CO

$$\omega = 3.94 \times 10^{14} \frac{\text{rad}}{\text{s}}$$

and

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{\omega/2\pi} = 4.78 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}$$