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Resonant states of H_3^- molecule and its isotopologues D_2H^- and H_2D^- .

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Abstract

Using the ground potential energy surface[M. Ayouz *et al.* J. Chem Phys **132** 194309 (2010)] of the H_3^- molecule, we have determined the energies and widths of the complex resonant levels of H_3^- located up to 4000 cm^{-1} above the dissociation limit $\text{H}^- + \text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 0)$. Bound and resonant levels of the H_2D^- and D_2H^- isotopologues have been also characterized within the same energy range. The method combines the hyperspherical adiabatic approach, slow variable discretization method, and complex absorbing potential. These results represent the first step for modeling the dynamics of the associated diatom-negative ion collision at low energy involving rotational quenching of the diatom and reactive nucleus exchange via weak tunneling effect through the potential barrier of the potential energy surface.

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I. INTRODUCTION

About 92% of the atoms in the universe are hydrogen atoms, so that the chemistry of the interstellar medium (ISM) is dominated by its amount under various molecular forms and charge states. It is thus enlightening to briefly review a few of them. The H_2 molecule is the most abundant component of the interstellar gas. It is constantly ionized by cosmic rays to produce strongly bound H_2^+ ions which rapidly reacts with H_2 to produce H_3^+ [1]. While much smaller than the H_2 one, the steady-state concentration of H_3^+ ion is the largest of all molecular species in the ISM. The H_2 molecule has a proton affinity of about 4.5 eV [2] smaller than the one of most molecules, so that H_3^+ represents a very efficient proton donor inducing then a rich chemistry. The simplest negative ion H^- is thought to be present in noticeable amounts in the ISM, but it has not been detected yet despite huge observational efforts [3]. The H_2^- anion is known to be unstable, and exists only as a resonance induced by high rotational states in H_2 [5]. The neutral H_3 molecule has no bound level as it exhibits a purely repulsive potential energy surface in its ground state [6].

While the H_3^+ ion is often presented as the simplest triatomic molecule, it is interesting to recall that the H_3^- anion exists as well, while its detailed structure has not been characterized yet by spectroscopy. This ion has been observed in a discharge plasma experiment [7] and in sputtering experiments [8] using mass spectrometry, together with various isotopic compounds. In a previous study [9] (hereafter referred to as paper I) we theoretically investigated the structure of the electronic ground state H_3^- anion, including its PES and its permanent dipole moment surface (PDMS). Following previous studies of the same type [10], we confirmed that this ion is bound due to long-range polarization forces induced by the interaction of the quadrupole moment of H_2 with the charge of H^- . For this reason it is often referred to as a van der Waals molecule. We determined the energy of the rovibrational bound levels of its electronic ground state, the deepest one being bound by about 71 cm^{-1} with respect to the $\text{H}^- + \text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 0)$ dissociation limit. In a further study [11] (hereafter referred to as paper II) we explored the formation of the H_3^- anion in the ISM via the radiative association (RA) of H_2 and H^- . If probed, the presence of H_3^- would then be a proof of the still unresolved issue of the existence of H^- itself in the ISM. Unfortunately, the computed rate for the RA reaction $\text{H}_2 + \text{H}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_3^- + (\text{photon})$ has been found too weak to expect a significant signal from the absorption spectrum of H_3^- .

Besides, the interest for the study of low-energy chemical reaction between negative ions and neutral systems is currently increasing [12] with the development of multipole radio-frequency traps for ions [13] combined with buffer-gas-cooling and laser-cooling techniques [14]. In this respect, the elastic, inelastic, and reactive collisions between H^- and H_2 and between their various isotopologues (D^- , HD , D_2) represent prototype processes for such fundamental systems, which have been extensively studied both experimentally (see for instance Refs.[15], [12], paper I, and references therein) and theoretically (see for instance Refs.[16–19], paper I, and references therein). Heteronuclear systems like H_2+D^- and $\text{HD}+\text{H}^-$ are particularly relevant as they allow the detection of reactive processes involving the exchange of one H and one D atom. To our knowledge, besides our study of paper II, there is only one other theoretical work devoted to the dynamics of the bound H_2D^- van der Waals system, namely its prereaction induced by a photonic excitation [17] of resonances lying within the electronic ground state. Multiple rf traps would be the perfect tool to study the formation of such triatomic anions through radiative processes and their level structure: indeed the temperature of the trap can nowadays be controlled and varied with a good precision while the trapped ions can be kept inside the trap for hours [13, 20], allowing for a long observation ideal for low rate processes like radiative association.

To guide such prospected experimental studies, it is highly desirable to theoretically investigate the level structure of this family of triatomic anions, taking advantage of the new ground state potential energy surface determined in paper I. The present paper is devoted to the characterization of the stable levels and the prereacting resonances of H_3^- and its isotopologues lying within their electronic ground state. In Section II, we briefly recall the main steps of the bound state calculations based on the hyperspherical adiabatic approach, and on the resolution of the Schrödinger equation with the Slow Variable Discretization (SVD) method. Energies and (non-radiative) widths of resonant states are obtained through the use of a complex absorbing potential (CAP). As a follow-up of papers I and II, the energy and widths of the prereacting resonances of H_3^- are presented in Section III up to the $\text{H}_2(v_d = 1, j_d = 1)$ collisional threshold. We display in Section IV the hyperspherical adiabatic potential curves and the calculated energies of the bound levels of the H_2D^- and D_2H^- systems, and the energies and widths of their prereacting resonances. Atomic units for distances ($1 \text{ a.u.} = a_0 = 0.0529177 \text{ nm}$) and energies ($1 \text{ a.u.} = 2 R_\infty = 219474.63137 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) will be used throughout the paper except otherwise stated.

II. THE SVD FORMULATION OF THE SCHRÖDINGER EQUATION

The system of Smith-Whitten hyperspherical collective coordinates [21] is a well-known convenient starting point to write the Schrödinger equation for a triatomic system composed of three particles with masses m_i ($i=1,2,3$) with total mass M and reduced mass μ :

$$M = \sum_{i=1}^3 m_i; \mu = \sqrt{\frac{\prod_{i=1}^3 m_i}{M}}, \quad (1)$$

The hyper-radius ρ and the hyperangles θ and ϕ are related to the three relative internuclear distances r_i ($i=1,2,3$) according to

$$r_i = \frac{\rho d_i}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{1 + \sin \theta \sin(\phi + \epsilon_i)} \quad (2)$$

where

$$d_i = \sqrt{\frac{m_i}{\mu} \left(1 - \frac{m_i}{M}\right)} \quad (3)$$

$$\epsilon_1 = 2 \arctan\left(\frac{m_2}{\mu}\right) \quad (4)$$

$$\epsilon_2 = -2 \arctan\left(\frac{m_1}{\mu}\right) \quad (5)$$

and $\epsilon_3 = 0$. The main steps of our approach are discussed in detail in several publications [9, 22, 23] and are briefly recalled below. It relies on the adiabatic separation between hyper-radius and hyperangles combined to the slow variable discretization (SVD) method [22–24] which allows for an easy treatment of non-adiabatic couplings between hyperspherical adiabatic channels. Assuming a total angular momentum $J = 0$, the eigenfunctions $\Psi = \rho^{-5/2}\psi$ with energy \mathcal{E} of the three-particle system mutually interacting through a potential V depending only on the three internuclear distances are obtained by solving the Schrödinger equation expressed in the center-of-mass frame [21]

$$\left(-\frac{1}{2\mu} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{\Lambda_0^2 + \frac{15}{4}}{2\mu\rho^2} + V\right) \psi = \mathcal{E}\psi \quad (6)$$

The operator Λ_0 above is the grand angular momentum [21, 25] depending only on θ and ϕ for $J = 0$. This equation is solved in two steps. Assuming a discrete variable representation (DVR) of the hyperspherical radius on N_ρ points ($j = 1, \dots, N_\rho$) the following 2D Schrödinger equation is solved at every ρ_j

$$\left(\frac{\Lambda_0^2 + \frac{15}{4}}{2\mu\rho_j^2} + V\right) \varphi_{a,j}(\theta, \phi) = U_a(\rho_j)\varphi_{a,j}(\theta, \phi) \quad (7)$$

The function $\varphi_{a,j}(\theta, \phi)$ is the hyperangular wave function at ρ_j for a -th eigenvalue $U_a(\rho_j)$, and is expanded over a set of B-splines $h_\kappa(\phi)$ and $g_\lambda(\theta)$ [26–28]

$$\varphi_{a,j}(\theta, \phi) = \sum_{\kappa,\lambda} C_{\kappa,\lambda} h_\kappa(\phi) g_\lambda(\theta) \quad (8)$$

The members of the collection of $U_a(\rho_j)$ values (with $1 \leq a \leq N_c$, N_c being the number of channels included in the calculation) are called adiabatic hyperspherical potentials. The total vibrational eigenfunction $\psi(\rho, \theta, \phi)$ is written as an expansion over the basis functions $y_{a,j}(\rho, \theta, \phi)$ with unknown coefficients $c_{a,j}(\rho)$:

$$\psi(\rho, \theta, \phi) = \sum_{a=1}^{N_c} \sum_{j=1}^{N_\rho} y_{a,j}(\rho, \theta, \phi) c_{a,j}(\rho) \quad (9)$$

The basis functions $y_{a,j}(\rho, \theta, \phi)$ are constructed as products of $\varphi_{a,j}(\theta, \phi)$ with plane wave functions $\pi_j(\rho)$ representing a set of orthogonal and normalized basis functions localized at DVR grid points ρ_j :

$$y_{a,j}(\rho, \theta, \phi) = \pi_j(\rho) \varphi_{a,j}(\theta, \phi) \quad (10)$$

Inserting the expansion of Eq.9 in Eq.6 leads to a set of coupled differential equations for the coefficients $c_{a,j}$ associated to the eigenvalue \mathcal{E}

$$\sum_{a'j'} \left[\langle \pi_{j'} | -\frac{1}{2\mu} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \rho^2} | \pi_j \rangle O_{a'j',aj} + U_a(\rho) \delta_{a'a} \delta_{j'j} \right] c_{j'a'}(\rho) = \mathcal{E} \sum_{a'} O_{a'j',aj} c_{j'a'} , \quad (11)$$

where the overlap matrix elements $O_{a'j',aj}$ are defined as

$$O_{a'j',aj} = \langle \varphi_{a',j'}(\theta, \phi) | \varphi_{a,j}(\theta, \phi) \rangle . \quad (12)$$

where the brackets denote integration over hyperangles θ, ϕ .

The main advantage of the SVD method [22, 23] is that these matrix elements account for the non-adiabatic couplings between the hyperspherical channels through the matrix elements of Eq. 12, avoiding to consider the derivatives of adiabatic states with respect to ρ and therefore greatly simplifying the numerical solution of the equation. In fact, the SVD method is similar in spirit to the diabatic-by-sector method by Launay and co-workers (see for instance Ref.[29]). In both methods, at each hyper-radius ρ , an adiabatic $\varphi_{a,j}(\theta, \phi)$ basis is calculated. In the diabatic-by-sector method, a Numerov-type propagation procedure is implemented over each ρ sector using this locally-adapted adiabatic basis. In the SVD

approach, the locally-adapted adiabatic basis is directly used to construct the global Hamiltonian matrix, which is then diagonalized, resulting into a relatively small-sized Hamiltonian matrix.

In order to adapt the DVR of ρ to the local oscillation frequency of the hyperradial coefficients $c_{ja}(\rho)$ and to minimize the number of DVR grid points, we use a mapping procedure $\rho = \rho(x)$ of the hyperradius coordinate by a new coordinate x [30]. The grid steps $\Delta\rho$ and Δx in ρ and x are linked by the jacobian $j(x)$ of this change of variable

$$\Delta\rho = j(x)\Delta x \quad \text{where} \quad j(x) = \frac{d\rho}{dx} \quad (13)$$

Equation 11 is then rewritten as

$$\sum_{a'j'} \left[\langle \pi_{j'} | -\frac{1}{4\mu} \left(\frac{1}{j^2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \frac{1}{j^2} \right) | \pi_j \rangle O_{a'j',aj} + \tilde{U}_a(\rho(x)) \delta_{a'a} \delta_{j'j} \right] \tilde{c}_{j'a'} = \mathcal{E} \sum_{a'} O_{a'j,aj} \tilde{c}_{ja} \quad (14)$$

where the transformed adiabatic potentials $\tilde{U}_a(\rho(x))$ depend on the derivatives j' and j'' with respect to x

$$\tilde{U}_a(\rho(x)) = U_a(\rho(x)) + \frac{1}{4\mu} \left(\frac{7(j')^2}{2j^4} - \frac{j''}{j^3} \right) \quad (15)$$

The coefficients $\tilde{c}_{j'a'} = \sqrt{j}c_{j'a'}$ correspond to the definition of a scaled wave function $\tilde{\psi}(\rho, \theta, \phi) = \sqrt{j}\psi(\rho, \theta, \phi)$ normalized to 1 in the x coordinate. In practice, the mapping function $\rho(x)$ is estimated from the local de Broglie wavelength, which is given from the local kinetic energy $E_{kin}(\rho)$ so that

$$\Delta\rho = \beta \frac{\pi}{2\mu E_{kin}(\rho)} \quad (16)$$

where the parameter $\beta \leq 1$ allows for checking convergence of the results against the size of the grid.

Eq.14 is a generalized eigenvalue problem of dimension $(N_\rho \times N_c) \times (N_\rho \times N_c)$ with eigenvalues \mathcal{E} eigenvectors \tilde{c} . It is solved using standard numerical procedures taken from LAPACK and ARPACK libraries [31].

Resonant states and their non-radiative lifetime are obtained using a complex absorbing potential (CAP) which simulates an infinite hyperradial grid (see Refs.[32, 33]). The CAP is placed at the end of the hyperradial grid and absorbs the outgoing dissociation flux of decaying resonant states. The same CAP is used for adiabatic hyperspherical potentials *i.e.* $\tilde{U}_a(\rho(x)) \rightarrow \tilde{U}_a(\rho(x)) - iV_{CAP}(\rho(x))$. The resulting Hamiltonian is now non-Hermitian and

its complex eigenenergies are expressed as $\mathcal{E} = E_r - i\Upsilon/2$ where E_r is the energy position of the resonance and Υ is the resonance width. Following Ref.[32] and the study of Blandon *et al.* [23] about resonances in three-body systems, we used the quadratic form

$$V_{CAP}(\bar{\rho}) = \frac{3}{2}A_2\bar{\rho}^2 \quad (17)$$

with

$$\bar{\rho} = \frac{\rho - (\rho_{max} - L)}{L} \quad (18)$$

where L is the damping length and A_2 the magnitude of the CAP, and ρ_{max} the upper bound of the hyperradial grid.

The parameters of the CAP ($L = 12$ a.u., $A_2 = 0.0046$ a.u.) are adjusted in order to minimize the sum of the reflection and transmission coefficients of the wave functions according to the general recommendations of Ref.[32]. We should recall that solving Eq.14 delivers complex energies related either to resonances, or to discretized continuum states related to energetically-open dissociation channels. Resonances are identified by the convergence and of their energy and width with respect to changes of N_ρ , N_c , N_θ , N_ϕ , L , and A_2 . We found that $N_\rho = 180$ and $N_\theta = 60$ were sufficient to converge the adiabatic hyperspherical potentials $U_a(\rho)$ for all ions. $N_\phi = 80$ was used for H_3^- while $N_\phi = 140$ was needed for H_2D^- and D_2H^- due to the strong localization of the hyperangular wave functions. Finally the convergence of E_r values was also checked especially for high-lying resonant states (close to 4000 cm^{-1} above E_{00}^d) leading to $N_c = 10$ for H_3^- and $N_c = 20$ for H_2D^- and D_2H^- (due to the important number of dissociation channels in the latter case).

III. THE PREREACTING RESONANCES OF THE H_3^- GROUND STATE

In the remaining part of the paper we use the ground state potential energy surface (PES) determined in paper I with the coupled-electron pair approximation (CEPA-2) method [10] included in the MOLPRO package [34]. Jacobi coordinates have been used to build a grid of 3024 geometries: $r \in [0.8; 2.4]$ is the distance between a give pair of nuclei, $R \in [1.9995; 56.4227]$ is the distance from the center of mass of the pair to the third nucleus, and $\gamma \in [0; 2\pi]$ is the angle between vectors \vec{R} and \vec{r} . The ground state PES is generated at arbitrary points using an interpolation routine applied to the *ab initio* calculation and an analytical extrapolation at short and large distances. The asymptotic energy of this

PES at infinite separation between $\text{H}_2(r_e = 1.403\text{a.u.})$ and H^- is $D_{as} = -1.701683\text{a.u.}$ with respect to the origin taken when all particles are infinitely separated. The PES has a van der Waals minimum for the collinear geometry at $r = 1.421$ a.u. and $R = 6.069$ a.u. with a well of depth 401 cm^{-1} (with respect to D_{as}). There is also a barrier for nuclei exchange with a minimum height of $E_h = 3641\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (above D_{as}) for collinear geometry at $r_{\text{H-H}} = r_{\text{H-H}^-} = 1.996$ a.u..

The nuclear dynamics is solved in the centre-of-mass frame assuming $J = 0$. We have used equal masses $m_H = 1837.3621$ a.u. for all three atoms in the H_3^- molecule, *i.e.* the sum of the hydrogen mass and one third of electron mass as required by the hyperspherical approach. In the hyperspherical treatment ρ varies in the interval $[0, \rho_{max}) = 120.42$. The vibrational and resonant states are characterized according to one of the irreducible representations $\Gamma = A'_1, A''_1, A'_2, A''_2, E'$ or E'' of the molecular symmetry group D_{3h} . In case of $J = 0$, the calculation can be performed in C_{3v} symmetry subgroup for H_3^- . The hyperangle θ varies in the interval $[0, \pi/2]$ while the range for ϕ can be restricted for three identical particles to $[-\pi/2, -\pi/6]$ for wave function of the A'_1 or A'_2 irreducible representations (*irreps* in the following) of their molecular symmetry group (C_{3v}), and to the interval $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$ for wave functions of the E' irrep.

All results in the following tables correspond to a total angular momentum $J = 0$ with its projection $\Omega = 0$ along the axis of R . In addition we label the bound and resonant levels with the *irrep* Γ , and the approximate quantum numbers of the internal state of the dimer v_d and j_d when it is infinitely separated from the negative ion (*i.e.* the dissociation limit they are related to). When a series of levels converges toward a given limit $\text{H}_2(v_d, j_d) + \text{H}^-$, they are numbered with the integer $v_t \geq 0$ denoting approximately the vibrational motion of the van der Waals complex in the R Jacobi coordinate. For instance the bound levels of A'_1 symmetry are labeled with $v_d = 0, j_d = 0$ and v_t , while those of A'_2 symmetry are labeled with $v_d = 0, j_d = 1$ and v_t . The binding energy of the H_3^- bound levels have already been presented in papers I and II, and were found in good agreement with the previous determination of Ref. [10].

The other discrete levels of the ground state PES are prereacting resonances as they are located above the energy E_{00}^d of the $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j = 0) + \text{H}^-$ (for A'_1 symmetry) or the energy E_{01}^d of the $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j = 1) + \text{H}^-$ (for A'_2 symmetry) dissociation limits. The corresponding hyperspherical adiabatic potentials are displayed in Fig.1 and their positions

and their widths are given in Table I. Potentials for the E' symmetry are not reported in the Figure or in the Table as they are undistinguishable from those of A'_1 and A'_2 symmetries in the energy range below the top of the barrier (*i.e.* without proton exchange). Note that the minimum height E_h of the barrier above is given with respect to the $\text{H}_2(r_e)+\text{H}^-$ dissociation limit with energy D_{as} , while the lowest dissociation limit $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 0)+\text{H}^-$ is located 2173.5 cm^{-1} above D_{as} . Therefore all resonances with energies larger than 1468 cm^{-1} above $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 0)+\text{H}^-$ may in principle undergo tunneling above the barrier for a given geometry. However the average over the hyperspherical angles yields a barrier with a top located about 3600 cm^{-1} above E_{00}^d . In this energy range we indeed see avoided crossings between the short-range repulsive part of the hyperspherical adiabatic curves correlated to different nuclei arrangements which are the sign of efficient tunneling.

All the identified resonances in a range of about 4000 cm^{-1} above $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 0)+\text{H}^-$ exhibit lifetimes at least in the nanosecond range, so that they may be detectable during a collision provided that the collision energy is well-defined at the millikelvin level. This could be reached for H^- kinetic energy in ion traps, but probably much harder for the neutral kinetic energy. We note that the lifetimes increase with increasing values of the asymptotic dimer rotational quantum number which reflects that the energy gap with open decay channels increases as well. There is no clear evidence for tunneling as the lifetimes do not become shorter when their energy reaches the minimum height of the barrier. When two thresholds are close in energy one could expect the manifestation of Feshbach resonances. An example is displayed in the enlarged view of Fig.1(a) with the limits $\text{H}_2(v_d = 1, j_d = 0)+\text{H}^-$ and $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 8)+\text{H}^-$. However the large computed lifetimes suggest that the interaction is probably small which is not surprising given the huge difference in the rotation quantum number of the dimer. Due to the expected large permanent dipole moment, these resonances could be excited once H_3^- is created and trapped, so that they could be excited although their energy is not easily accessible with currently available lasers. Selection rules are the same than for the radiative association process discussed in paper II. For comparison, we also report in Fig.1(b) the curves for D_3^- showing the expected influence of the mass on the density of resonances over the same energy range. We assumed $m_D = 3670.8162 \text{ a.u.}$ for the deuterium atom, *i.e.* the sum of the deuterium mass and one third of electron mass.

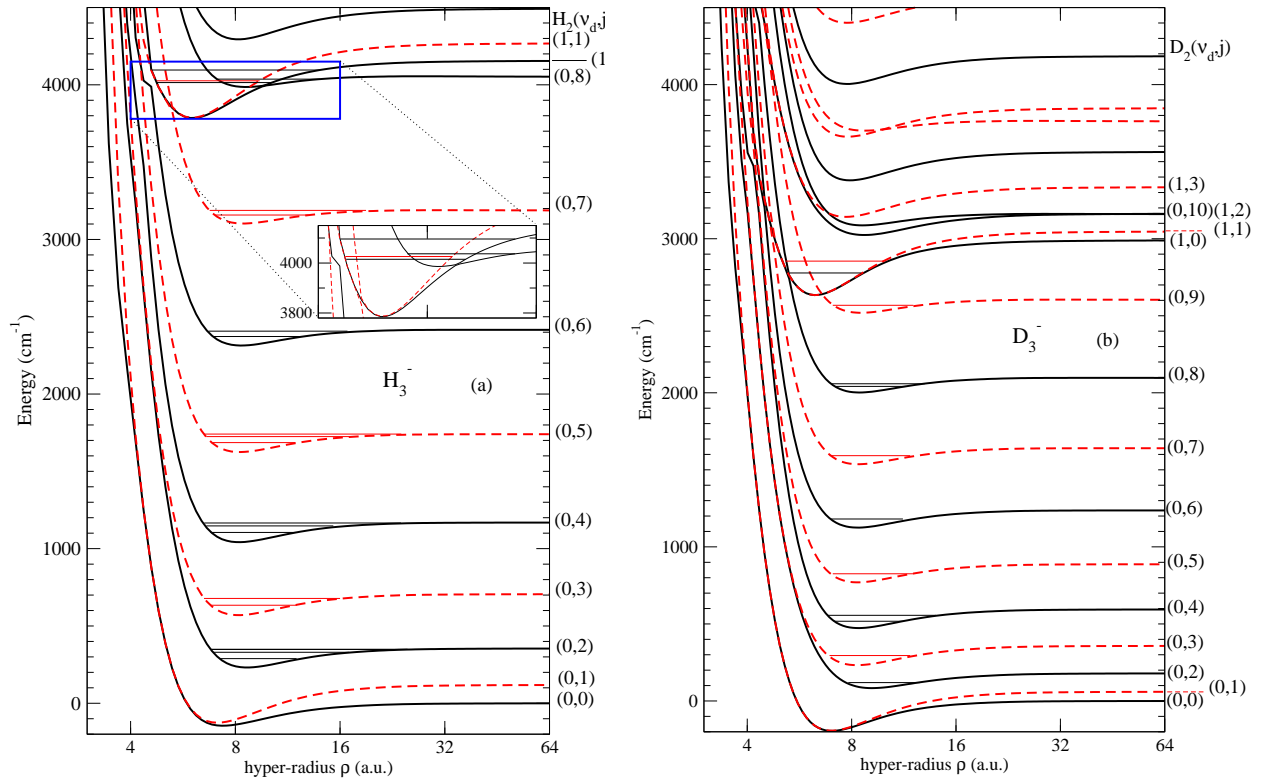


FIG. 1: Hyperspherical adiabatic potentials of the (a) H_3^- and (b) D_3^- electronic ground state computed in the present work. Dissociation limits are labeled with the vibrational (v_d) and rotational (j_d) quantum number of H_2 (D_2). Full black lines: A'_1 symmetry; dashed red lines: A'_2 symmetry. The curves for E' symmetry are not reported as they would be superimposed on the A'_1 and A'_2 curves. The actual positions of some of the prereacting resonances displayed in Tables I are represented by horizontal lines. Note the logarithmic scale for the hyper-radius axis.

IV. VIBRATIONAL AND RESONANT STATES OF H_2D^- AND D_2H^-

The study of the structure of the heteronuclear isotopologues is relevant for experiments. Indeed one can rely on the detection of products of different masses to investigate the dynamics of the trimer. With the same PES the spectroscopic properties of the isotopologues H_2D^- and D_2H^- can be extracted by a simple mass scaling using the values of the preceding section to fix reduced masses. In the case of $J = 0$, the calculation are performed in C_{2v} symmetry group for both molecules, with θ in the interval $[0, \pi/2]$ and ϕ in the interval $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$. The upper bound of the hyper-radius grid is fixed at 106.9 a.u. and

$J,\Omega,j_d,v_t,v_d,\Gamma$	E_r	$\frac{\Upsilon}{2}$	τ	$J,\Omega,j_d,v_t,v_d,\Gamma$	E_r	$\frac{\Upsilon}{2}$	τ
0,0,2,0,0, A'_1	289.9	0.0194	0.136	0,0,3,0,0, A'_2	634.2	0.00004	64
0,0,2,1,0, A'_1	330.0	0.0187	0.141	0,0,3,1,0, A'_2	678.7	0.000048	54
0,0,2,2,0, A'_1	348.7	0.0097	0.273	0,0,5,0,0, A'_2	1686.3	0.00045	5.8
0,0,4,0,0, A'_1	1105.2	0.0152	0.174	0,0,5,1,0, A'_2	1725.3	0.00045	5.8
0,0,4,1,0, A'_1	1147.4	0.0156	0.169	0,0,5,2,0, A'_2	1740.7	0.0001	25
0,0,4,2,0, A'_1	1166.0	0.007	0.365	0,0,7,0,0, A'_2	3158.7	0.0000261	101
0,0,6,0,0, A'_1	2372.6	0.00016	16	0,0,7,1,0, A'_2	3190.5	0.000018	143
0,0,6,1,0, A'_1	2407.3	0.00014	18	0,0,1,0,1, A'_2	4026.5	0.0172	0.154
0,0,8,0,0, A'_1	4037.8	0.00001	298	0,0,1,1,1, A'_2	4134.3	0.029	0.090
0,0,0,0,1, A'_1	4015.9	0.01	0.25	0,0,1,2,1, A'_2	4203.1	0.0296	0.089
0,0,0,1,1, A'_1	4096.7	0.01	0.25	0,0,1,3,1, A'_2	4245.4	0.020	0.12
0,0,0,2,1, A'_1	4137.4	0.01	0.25	0,0,1,4,1, A'_2	4262.2	0.010	0.25
0,0,0,3,1, A'_1	4153.5	0.005	0.53				
0,0,2,0,1, A'_1	4416.2	0.0008	3.24				
0,0,2,1,1, A'_1	4463.4	0.001	2.5				
0,0,2,2,1, A'_1	4484.6	0.001	2.5				

TABLE I: Energy position E_r (in cm^{-1}) (with respect to the energy E_{00}^d), half-width $\frac{\Upsilon}{2}$ and corresponding lifetime τ (in ns) of the prereacting resonances of A'_1 and A'_2 symmetry of the H_3^- electronic ground state. The lowest dissociation limit E_{00}^d is located at 2173.5 cm^{-1} above the energy D_{as} at infinite separation of $\text{H}_2(r = r_e = 1.403) + \text{H}^-$ (see paper I). The number of digits for the widths is representative of the achieved convergence when varying the CAP parameters. Levels of E' symmetry are not reported as they are degenerate with those of A'_1 and A'_2 symmetries in the present energy range.

92.86 a.u. for H_2D^- , and D_2H^- , respectively. The resulting hyperspherical adiabatic curves are displayed in Figure 2. One can immediately see that two kinds of dissociation limits corresponding to different fragments alternate in energy, making explicit the possibility for tunneling and nucleus exchange reaction. When the fragment dimer is homonuclear the corresponding states are characterized by the A or B *irreps*. On the other hand when HD is the dimer fragment this symmetry cannot be defined anymore. In other words they are

represented by a linear combination of states of A and B symmetry yielding a state identified with the label A' of the C_s symmetry group.

We first report in Table II the energies of the bound levels located below the lowest asymptote in each symmetry, thus extending the results of paper I. As expected from that paper, the results are in good agreement with the previous determination of Ref.[10] for the bound levels of D_2H^- located below the $D_2(0,0)+H^-$, $D_2(0,1)+H^-$, $HD(0,0)+H^-$ limits for the A , B , and A' symmetries, respectively. We determined the position of a few more levels in the B symmetry compared to Ref.[10]. In principle the latter levels of A' symmetry should be considered as resonances, but we numerically checked that their lifetime is almost infinite. This result expresses that they cannot undergo tunneling through the potential barrier toward the lowest $D_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 0, 1, 2)+H^-$ outgoing channels. We note also that the uppermost weakly bound levels labeled $(0,0,1,5,0,B)$ and $(0,0,0,4,0,A')$ are actually found with a finite lifetime larger than 1000 ns which reflects that their non-adiabatic coupling could induce their dissociation.

For completeness we display in Table III the energies of the H_2D^- bound levels of symmetry A' located below the lowest $HD(0,0)+H^-$ limit, which were previously unknown. Just like the other isotopologue, we checked numerically that the H_2D^- levels located below the $H_2(0,0)+D^-$ and $H_2(0,1)+D^-$ (of A and B symmetry, respectively) can be considered as genuine bound levels with negligible tunneling.

In the last series of Tables IV,V,VI,VII we display the energies and widths of H_2D^- and D_2H^- within the same energy range than for H_3^- . A few general trends can be observed. The resonances of A' symmetry in H_2D^- and D_2H^- are quite short-lived due to the fact that more dissociation channels are open compared to the other cases. For A and B symmetries, resonances in D_2H^- are generally larger than those in H_2D^- , reflecting the higher mass of the system leading to smaller energy gaps between adiabatic channels. Like in the case of H_3^- above, resonances associated to dissociation limits involving a homonuclear dimer with high j_d value are also found almost stable compared to lower resonances.

V. DISCUSSION AND PERSPECTIVES

In this paper we characterized the complex structure of the bound and resonant levels of H_3^- and its isotopologues H_2D^- and D_2H^- within an energy range of about 4000 cm^{-1}

$J, \Omega, j_d, v_t, v_d, \Gamma$ D_2H^-	E_0		$E_b^0(E'_b)$	
	This work	[10]	This work	[10]
0,0,0,0,0, A	1429.1	1430.9	-113.1	-107.3
0,0,0,1,0, A	1493.4	1492.5	-48.8	-45.7
0,0,0,2,0, A	1526.5	1526.3	-15.7	-11.9
0,0,0,3,0, A	1540.0	1536.7	-2.2	-1.5
0,0,1,0,0, B	1433.5	1436.5	-108.7 (-168.4)	-101.7 (n/a)
0,0,1,1,0, B	1509.4	1509.6	-32.8(-92.0)	-28.6 (n/a)
0,0,1,2,0, B	1557.7		15.5 (-44.2)	
0,0,1,3,0, B	1584.6		42.4 (-17.3)	
0,0,1,4,0, B	1597.6		55.4 (-4.3)	
0,0,1,5,0, B	1601.9		59.7 (-0.05)	
0,0,0,0,0, A'	1788.1	1789.5	245.8(-97.1)	251.3(-91.3)
0,0,1,0,0, A'	1804.2	1806.2	261.9(-81.0)	268.0(-74.6)
0,0,0,1,0, A'	1837.3	1835.1	295.0(-47.9)	296.9(-45.7)
0,0,0,2,0, A'	1862.7	1864.3	319.8(-23.1)	326.1(-16.5)
0,0,1,1,0, A'	1870.8	1867.2	327.4(-15.5)	329.0(-13.6)
0,0,0,3,0, A'	1880.7	1877.1	337.6(-5.3)	338.9(-3.7)
0,0,0,4,0, A'	1885.2	1880.3	342.9(-0.06)	342.1(-0.5)

TABLE II: Computed energies (in cm^{-1}) for bound levels of the D_2H^- molecule. The energies E_0 are given with respect to D_{as} (see text). The energies E_b^0 are given with respect to the dissociation limit $D_2(0,0)+H^-$ for all levels. The energies E'_b relative to $D_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 1)+H^-$ for B levels, and relative to the $HD(v_d = 0, j_d = 1)+D^-$ for the A' levels are also given in parenthesis.

above the lowest dissociation limit where the relevant diatom is in its rovibrational ground level $v_d = 0, j_d = 0$. This energy range is mostly located below the top of the potential barrier between the two configurations where one nucleus has been exchanged between the atomic negative ion and the neutral dimer (*i.e.* H_2/H^- , H_2/D^- and D_2/H^- respectively). We took advantage of the elegant formalism of the Slow Variable Discretization (SVD) [24]

$J, \Omega, j_d, v_t, v_d, \Gamma$	E_0	$E_b^0 (E'_b)$
H_2D^-	This work	
0,0,0,0,0, A'	1797.9	-87.3
0,0,0,1,0, A'	1816.0	-69.2
0,0,0,2,0, A'	1851.2	-34.0
0,0,0,3,0, A'	1875.5	-9.7
0,0,0,4,0, A'	1884.5	-0.7
0,0,0,0,0, A	2095.9	210.7 (-77.7)
0,0,0,1,0, A	2138.2	253.0 (-35.4)
0,0,0,2,0, A	2161.4	276.2 (-12.2)
0,0,0,3,0, A	2171.8	286.6 (-1.8)
0,0,1,0,0, B	2129.5	244.3 (-162.3)
0,0,1,1,0, B	2196.2	311.0 (-95.6)
0,0,1,2,0, B	2241.3	356.1 (-50.5)
0,0,1,3,0, B	2268.8	383.6 (-23.0)
0,0,1,4,0, B	2283.8	398.6 (-8.0)
0,0,1,5,0, B	2290.6	405.4 (-1.2)

TABLE III: Computed energies (in cm^{-1}) for bound levels of the H_2D^- molecule. The energies E_0 are given with respect to D_{as} (see text). The energies E_b^0 are given with respect to the dissociation limit $\text{HD}(v_d = 0, j_d = 0) + \text{H}^-$ for all levels. The energies E'_b relative to $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 0) + \text{H}^-$ for A levels, and to $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 1) + \text{H}^-$ for B levels are also given in parenthesis.

to implement the calculation of energy levels and widths in the body-fixed frame of the trimer for states with total angular momentum $J = 0$ using the hyperspherical coordinates. We extended the preliminary study of Ref.[23] for three-body resonances to the realistic case of the family of the simplest triatomic negative ions. The present results contribute to their improved knowledge in the perspective of the search for its possible presence in astrophysical environments [11], in the context of the recent discovery of stable molecular anions in the interstellar medium [35, 36].

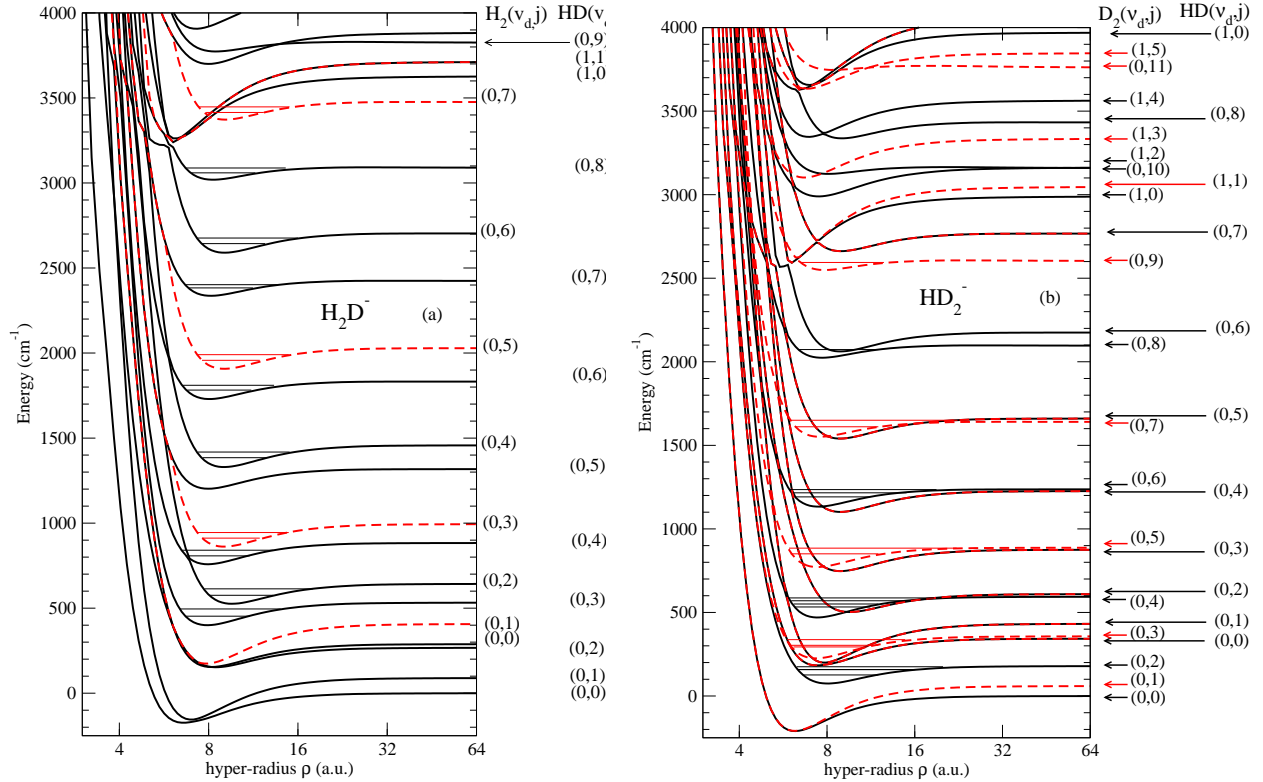


FIG. 2: Hyperspherical adiabatic potentials of the (a) H_2D^- and (b) D_2H^- electronic ground state computed in the present work. Dissociation limits are labeled with the vibrational (v_d) and rotational (j_d) quantum number of the relevant dimer, *i.e.* (a) H_2 or HD, and (b) D_2 or HD. Full black lines (dashed red lines) refer to the A (B) symmetry for states correlated to a dissociation limit involving H_2 (D_2). Curves related to the A' symmetry (correlated to a limit involving HD) are drawn in full black line and can be distinguished from the previous ones with the arrows on the right side of each panel. The actual positions of some of the prereacting resonances displayed in Tables IV,V,VI,VII are represented by horizontal lines. Note the logarithmic scale for the hyper-radius axis.

The level structure we obtained is conveniently labeled by the dissociation limit of the hyperspherical adiabatic curves in terms of the internal rovibrational state of the fragment dimer. This first expresses that the couplings between various adiabatic channels N_c is generally small, inducing non-radiative lifetimes for the resonance larger than 0.1 ns. For every adiabatic hyperspherical curve, we identified a vibrational structure associated to the relative vibration of the negative ion and of the dimer along the axis connecting their centre-of-mass. This corresponds to the long-range nature of the interaction between the negative

$J, \Omega, j_d, v_t, v_d, \Gamma$	E_r	E_r^0	$\frac{\gamma}{2}$	τ
0,0,2,0,0, A'	2092.0	206.8	0.0189	0.140
0,0,2,1,0, A'	2129.1	243.9	0.0171	0.155
0,0,2,2,0, A'	2148.2	263.0	0.0053	0.501
0,0,3,0,0, A'	2389.2	504.0	0.2307	0.0115
0,0,3,1,0, A'	2413.0	527.8	0.1223	0.0217
0,0,4,0,0, A'	2704.5	819.3	0.0310	0.0856
0,0,4,1,0, A'	2745.7	860.5	0.0362	0.0733
0,0,4,2,0, A'	2766.6	881.4	0.0091	0.291
0,0,5,0,0, A'	3147.2	1262.0	0.0166	0.160
0,0,5,1,0, A'	3185.9	1300.7	0.0165	0.160
0,0,6,0,0, A'	3672.4	1787.2	0.0062	0.43
0,0,6,1,0, A'	3707.7	1822.5	0.0050	0.53
0,0,7,0,0, A'	4276.5	2391.3	0.0024	1.1
0,0,7,1,0, A'	4307.0	2421.8	0.0023	1.1
0,0,8,10,0, A'	4955.5	3070.3	0.0007	3.8

TABLE IV: Computed energies (in cm^{-1}), half-widths $\frac{\gamma}{2}$ (in cm^{-1}) and corresponding lifetimes τ (in ns) for prereacting resonances in the H_2D^- molecule. The energies E_r are given with respect to D_{as} . The energies E_r^0 are given with respect to the dissociation limit

$$\text{HD}(v_d = 0, j_d = 0) + \text{H}^- \text{ located at } 1885.2 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ above } D_{as}.$$

ion and the neutral dimer, dominated by the charge-quadrupole interaction varying as R^{-3} . The rotational structure of these levels v_t , reflecting the mechanical rotation of the negative ion and the dimer, can readily be estimated considering the position of the minima of the hyperspherical adiabatic curves around 8 a.u. for the bound levels, and around 10 a.u. for the resonances. Assuming that $\rho \approx R$ and considering the reduced mass μ_{Jacobi} of the ion-dimer system, the resulting rotational constant $B_e = 1/(2\mu_{\text{Jacobi}}R^2)$ is found in the range of 1 cm^{-1} for H_3^- down to 0.4 cm^{-1} for the heavy isotopologues. This value is well below the typical energy spacing between two of such vibrational levels v_t . It is worthwhile to recall that imposing $J = 0$ in these kinds of calculations involving hyperspherical coordinates imposes that the orbital angular momentum $\vec{\ell}$ between the negative ion and the dimer

$J, \Omega, j_d, v_t, v_d, \Gamma$	E_r	$E_r^0(E'_r)$	$\frac{\gamma}{2}$	τ
0,0,2,0,0,A	2455.9	570.7(282.3)	0.0029	0.91
0,0,2,1,0,A	2494.7	609.5(321.1)	0.0045	0.59
0,0,2,2,0,A	2517.1	631.9(343.5)	0.0018	1.47
0,0,2,3,0,A	2525.9	640.7(352.3)	0.0012	2.2
0,0,4,0,0,A	3264.5	1379.3(1090.9)	0.0039	0.68
0,0,4,1,0,A	3306.7	1421.5(1133.1)	0.0098	0.27
0,0,4,2,0,A	3332.8	1447.6(1159.2)	0.0051	0.52
0,0,4,3,0,A	3341.1	1455.9(1167.5)	0.0035	0.76
0,0,6,0,0,A	4523.7	2638.5(2350.1)	0.0000264	1005
0,0,6,1,0,A	4563.1	2677.9(2389.5)	0.0000267	994
0,0,6,2,0,A	4584.7	2699.5(2411.1)	0.0000064	4147
0,0,3,0,0,B	2796.7	911.5(504.9)	0.0000051	5200
0,0,3,1,0,B	2839.6	954.4(547.8)	0.0000117	226
0,0,3,2,0,B	2867.0	981.8 (575.2)	0.0000036	737
0,0,3,3,0,B	2876.1	990.9(584.3)	0.0000058	457
0,0,5,0,0,B	3841.6	1656.4(1549.8)	0.0000615	43.1
0,0,5,1,0,B	3882.7	1997.5(1590.9)	0.0002565	10.34
0,0,5,2,0,B	3906.9	2021.7(1615.1)	0.0000804	33.0
0,0,5,3,0,B	3914.1	2028.9(1622.3)	0.0000382	69.5
0,0,7,0,0,B	5304.9	3013.1(3419.7)	0.0000010	2654
0,0,7,1,0,B	5342.3	3457.1(3050.5)	0.0000054	491

TABLE V: Same as Table IV for resonances of A and B symmetries. We added in parenthesis the energy E'_r with respect to the dissociation limit $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 0) + \text{D}^-$ (for A levels) and $\text{H}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 1) + \text{D}^-$ (for B levels) located respectively at 2173.6 cm^{-1} and 2291.8 cm^{-1} above D_{as} .

is equal to the internal angular momentum \vec{j}_d of the dimer. From a collisional point of view, the reported results correspond to increasing partial waves as the dissociation limit is higher in energy. Thus the hyperspherical adiabatic curves actually behave asymptotically

as $E_d + \ell(\ell + 1)/(2\mu_{\text{Jacobi}}R^2)$ (assuming $\rho \approx R$ at large distances) where E_d is the energy of the dimer. The small widths of the resonances suggest that for $J = 0$, $\ell \equiv j_d$ is a good quantum number, and would actually determine the rotational structure of these resonances.

Up to now there is no evidence for the observation of such resonances in the scattering experiments between D_2 and H^- , or H_2 and D^- [15]. First the energy resolution was such that only patterns associated to the internal state of the fragment dimer were characterized, either its vibrational state [15] or its rotational state [37]. Furthermore these experiments have been performed for collision energies higher than the predicted potential barrier so that reactive processes are likely to dominate the dynamics.

In order to check the present results, high-resolution scattering experiments are desirable, which could be achieved soon using multipole traps for cold ions. Moreover the present calculations should be extended to non-zero total angular momentum (see for instance Ref.[38]) in order to compute total cross sections including all relevant partial waves, to predict the actual contribution of such resonances.

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$J, \Omega, j_d, v_t, v_d, \Gamma$	E_r	E_r^0	$\frac{\Upsilon}{2}$	τ
0,0,2,0,0,A	1669.1	126.9	0.0045	0.59
0,0,2,1,0,A	1700.7	158.5	0.0061	0.43
0,0,2,2,0,A	1718.0	175.8	0.0036	0.73
0,0,4,0,0,A	2075.0	532.8	0.1868	0.0142
0,0,4,1,0,A	2113.2	571.0	0.1860	0.0142
0,0,4,2,0,A	2133.5	591.3	0.1008	0.0263
0,0,4,3,0,A	2137.0	594.8	0.0137	0.194
0,0,6,0,0,A	2735.0	1192.8	0.0051	0.52
0,0,6,1,0,A	2768.1	1225.9	0.0037	0.72
0,0,6,2,0,A	2782.2	1240.0	0.0028	0.95
0,0,8,0,0,A	3619.3	2077.1	0.0003	8.8
0,0,8,0,0,A	3643.0	2100.8	0.0001	26
0,0,3,0,0,B	1831.0	288.8(229.1)	0.000504	5.26
0,0,3,1,0,B	1871.0	328.8(269.1)	0.000524	5.06
0,0,3,2,0,B	1893.5	251.3 (291.6)	0.000496	5.35
0,0,3,3,0,B	1899.5	357.3 (297.6)	0.000078	34
0,0,5,0,0,B	2375.4	833.2 (773.5)	0.0052	0.51
0,0,5,1,0,B	2411.6	1869.4 (809.7)	0.0060	0.44
0,0,5,2,0,B	2429.6	787.4 (827.7)	0.0019	1.4
0,0,7,0,0,B	3150.2	1608.0 (1548.3)	0.0013	2.04
0,0,7,1,0,B	3178.5	1636.3 (1576.6)	0.000636	4.17
0,0,9,0,0,B	4139.8	2597.6 (2537.9)	0.00010	26

TABLE VI: Computed energies (in cm^{-1}), half-widths $\frac{\Upsilon}{2}$ (in cm^{-1}) and corresponding lifetimes τ (in ns) for prereacting resonances in the D_2H^- molecule. The energies E_r are given with respect to D_{as} . The energies E_r^0 are given with respect to the dissociation limit $\text{D}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 0) + \text{H}^-$ located at 1542.2 cm^{-1} above D_{as} . For resonances of B symmetry we added in parenthesis the energy E_r' with respect to the dissociation limit $\text{D}_2(v_d = 0, j_d = 1) + \text{H}^-$ located at 1601.9 cm^{-1} above D_{as} .

$J, \Omega, j_d, v_t, v_d, \Gamma$	E_r	E_r^0	$\frac{\Upsilon}{2}$	τ
0,0,2,0,0, A'	2084.4	542.2 (192.2)	0.0019	1.40
0,0,2,1,0, A'	2118.2	576.0 (233.0)	0.0018	1.47
0,0,2,2,0, A'	2137.8	595.6 (252.6)	0.0016	1.66
0,0,2,3,0, A'	2148.4	606.2 (263.2)	0.0013	2.04
0,0,3,0,0, A'	2335.5	793.3 (450.3)	0.1693	0.0156
0,0,3,1,0, A'	2374.7	832.5 (489.5)	0.2617	0.0101
0,0,3,2,0, A'	2401.2	859.0 (516.0)	0.2175	0.0122
0,0,3,3,0, A'	2411.7	869.5 (526.5)	0.0969	0.0273
0,0,3,4,0, A'	2417.2	875.0 (532.0)	0.0218	0.121
0,0,4,0,0, A'	2689.7	1147.5 (804.5)	0.0062	0.43
0,0,4,1,0, A'	2728.7	1186.5 (843.5)	0.0087	0.30
0,0,4,2,0, A'	2754.5	1212.3 (869.3)	0.0079	0.33
0,0,4,3,0, A'	2764.1	1221.9 (878.9)	0.0042	0.63
0,0,5,0,0, A'	3128.3	1586.1 (1243.1)	0.0060	0.44
0,0,5,1,0, A'	3166.4	1624.2 (1281.2)	0.0098	0.27
0,0,5,2,0, A'	3191.3	1649.1 (1306.1)	0.0080	0.33
0,0,5,3,0, A'	3199.9	1657.7 (1314.7)	0.0042	0.63
0,0,6,0,0, A'	3649.0	2106.8 (1763.8)	0.0016	1.66
0,0,6,1,0, A'	3685.9	2143.7 (1800.7)	0.0026	1.02
0,0,6,2,0, A'	3709.2	2167.0 (1824.0)	0.0018	1.47
0,0,6,3,0, A'	3716.7	2174.5 (1831.5)	0.0010	2.6
0,0,7,0,0, A'	4248.3	2706.1 (2363.1)	0.00067	3.96
0,0,7,1,0, A'	4283.6	2741.4 (2398.4)	0.00096	2.76
0,0,7,2,0, A'	4304.7	2762.5 (2419.5)	0.00092	2.88

TABLE VII: Same as Table V for resonances of A' symmetry. We added in parenthesis the energy E_r' with respect to the dissociation limit $\text{HD}(v_d = 0, j_d = 0) + \text{D}^-$ located at 1885.2 cm^{-1} above D_{as} .