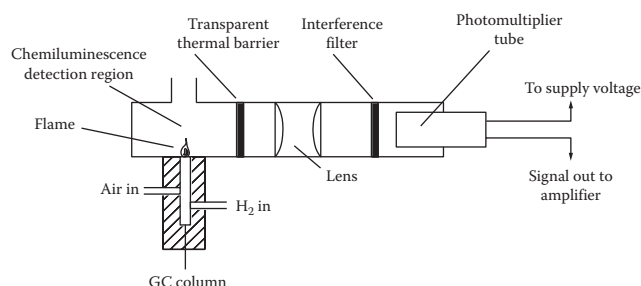


Where the level of potentially interfering compounds is relatively low and not rapidly changing, the previous system has operated successfully using the sample gas with the  $H_2S$  selectively removed as the “zero” reference gas. Potentially interfering compounds are those with conjugated double bonds, such as 1,3-butadiene and aromatics and other sulfur compounds.

Where background absorbance is excessively high and changing rapidly, a special system has been developed for selective  $H_2S$  analysis. In this system,  $H_2S$  is extracted with a dilute ammonium hydroxide solution, and the strong UV absorption of the ammonium sulfide formed in solution is measured and calibrated for  $H_2S$  concentration in the gas stream.

### Chromatograph

Process gas chromatographs have been designed for environmental monitoring of  $H_2S$  at the ppm level using the sulfur-specific flame photometric detector (FPD) (Figure 1.31g). See Chapter 227 for the basic principles of gas chromatography and a more detailed description of the FPD.



**FIG. 1.31g**

*The flame photometric detector.*

### APPLICATIONS

For Claus sulfur recovery applications, a top of the pipe analyzer is available, which can measure both  $H_2S$  and  $SO_2$ . An installed unit is shown in Figure 1.31h.





**FIG. 1.31h**

*Top of the pipe tail gas analyzer detects both  $H_2S$  and  $SO_2$ . (Courtesy of Ametek Process Instruments.)*

### SPECIFICATION FORMS

When specifying hydrogen sulfide analyzers only, one can use the ISA form 20A1001, and when specifying both the analyzer and the composition or properties of the process, which it will be monitoring, use the ISA form 20A1002. Both forms are reproduced with the permission of the International Society of Automation on the next pages.

1	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION		ANALYSIS DEVICE			6	SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATIONS				
2			Operating Parameters			7	Document no				
3						Latest revision		Date			
4						Issue status					
5											
11	ADMINISTRATIVE IDENTIFICATIONS					40	SERVICE IDENTIFICATIONS Continued				
12	Project number		Sub project no		41	Return conn matl type					
13	Project					42	Inline hazardous area cl		Div/Zon	Group	
14	Enterprise					43	Inline area min ign temp		Temp ident number		
15	Site					44	Remote hazardous area cl		Div/Zon	Group	
16	Area		Cell	Unit	45	Remote area min ign temp		Temp ident number			
17						46					
18	SERVICE IDENTIFICATIONS					47					
19	Tag no/Functional ident					48	COMPONENT DESIGN CRITERIA				
20	Related equipment					49	Component type				
21	Service					50	Component style				
22	P&ID/Reference dwg					51	Output signal type				
23	Process line/nozzle no					52	Characteristic curve				
24	Process conn pipe spec					53	Compensation style				
25	Process conn nominal size		Rating			54	Type of protection				
26	Process conn termn type		Style			55	Criticality code				
27	Process conn schedule no		Wall thickness			56	Max EMI susceptibility		Ref		
28	Process connection length					57	Max temperature effect		Ref		
29	Process line matl type					58	Max sample time lag				
30	Fast loop line number					59	Max response time				
31	Fast loop pipe spec					60	Min required accuracy		Ref		
32	Fast loop conn nom size		Rating			61	Avail nom power supply		Number wires		
33	Fast loop conn termn type		Style			62	Calibration method				
34	Fast loop schedule no		Wall thickness			63	Testing/Listing agency				
35	Fast loop estimated lg					64	Test requirements				
36	Fast loop material type					65	Supply loss failure mode				
37	Return conn nominal size		Rating			66	Signal loss failure mode				
38	Return conn termn type		Style			67					
39						68					
69	PROCESS VARIABLES		MATERIAL FLOW CONDITIONS			101	PROCESS DESIGN CONDITIONS				
70	Flow Case Identification		Units			102	Minimum		Maximum	Units	
71	Process pressure					103					
72	Process temperature					104					
73	Process phase type					105					
74	Process liquid actl flow					106					
75	Process vapor actl flow					107					
76	Process vapor std flow					108					
77	Process liquid density					109					
78	Process vapor density					110					
79	Process liquid viscosity					111					
80	Sample return pressure					112					
81	Sample vent/drain press					113					
82	Sample temperature					114					
83	Sample phase type					115					
84	Fast loop liq actl flow					116					
85	Fast loop vapor actl flow					117					
86	Fast loop vapor std flow					118					
87	Fast loop vapor density					119					
88	Conductivity/Resistivity					120					
89	pH/ORP					121					
90	RH/Dewpoint					122					
91	Turbidity/Opacity					123					
92	Dissolved oxygen					124					
93	Corrosivity					125					
94	Particle size					126					
95						127					
96	CALCULATED VARIABLES					128					
97	Sample lag time					129					
98	Process fluid velocity					130					
99	Wake/natural freq ratio					131					
100						132					
133	MATERIAL PROPERTIES					137	MATERIAL PROPERTIES Continued				
134	Name					138	NFPA health hazard		Flammability	Reactivity	
135	Density at ref temp		At			139					
136						140					
Rev	Date	Revision Description	By	Appv1	Appv2	Appv3	REMARKS				

1	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION		ANALYSIS DEVICE				6	SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATIONS		
2			COMPOSITION OR PROPERTY				7	Document no		
3			Operating Parameters (Continued)				8	Latest revision	Date	
4							9	Issue status		
5							10			
11	PROCESS COMPOSITION OR PROPERTY					MEASUREMENT DESIGN CONDITIONS				
12	Component/Property Name		Normal	Units	Minimum	Units	Maximum	Units	Repeatability	
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75										
Rev	Date	Revision Description	By	Appv1	Appv2	Appv3	REMARKS			

**Abbreviations**

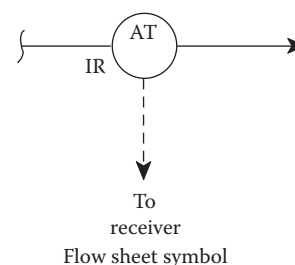
FPD	Flame photometric detector
LED	Light emitting diode
MOS	Metal oxide semiconductor
UV	Ultraviolet

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## 1.32 Infrared and Near-Infrared Analyzers

**J. E. BROWN** (1969)      **A. C. GILBY** (1982)  
**B. G. LIPTÁK and T. M. CARDIS** (1995)  
**E. H. BAUGHMAN** (2003)      **B. G. LIPTÁK** (2017)



### INFRARED ANALYZERS

<i>Process streams</i>	Gas or liquid, surface analysis of solids
<i>Ranges and applications</i> (See <a href="#">Table 1.32a</a> )	<p>Maximum range is usually 100%, with path length adjustment</p> <p>Ammonia—100 ppm</p> <p>Carbon monoxide—25 ppm</p> <p>Carbon dioxide—20 ppm</p> <p>Ethylene—100 ppm</p> <p>Hexane—100 ppm</p> <p>Methane—10 ppm</p> <p>Moisture (humidity)—50 ppm</p> <p>Nitrous oxide—10 ppm</p> <p>Propane—100 ppm</p> <p>Sulfur dioxide—100 ppm</p> <p>(Notes: 1. Some of these analytes can be measured by UV (<a href="#">Chapter 1.69</a>), for example, sulfur dioxide.</p> <p>2. The minimum range is also a function of the matrix—the minimum for benzene in air is going to be much lower than that for benzene in gasoline.</p> <p>3. The normal range is a factor of 10, so ammonia could be 10–100 ppm or 1%–10%, but not 100 ppm to 10%.</p> <p>4. These are examples only, not an exclusive list.)</p>
<i>Operating pressure</i>	Standard from atmospheric to 150 psig (10 bars); special up to 1000 psig (70 bars)
<i>Operating Temperature</i>	–40°C to 50°C (–40°F to 120°F) is standard; probe temperatures can be higher with special Arrangements
<i>Humidity limitations</i>	Up to 95% relative humidity (normally the instrument is purged, which negates the effect of humidity in the atmosphere).
<i>Materials of construction</i>	Cell bodies are available in all standard materials; windows can be made of sodium chloride, calcium fluoride, barium fluoride, sapphire, or zinc selenide
<i>Cell lengths</i>	For liquids, from 0.004 to 4 in. (0.1 to 100 mm); for gases, up to 40 m (130 ft) enclosed and any length for open-path monitoring
<i>Warm-up time</i>	15–20 min. (For most stable operation, allow 16 hr for warm-up.)
<i>Repeatability</i>	±1% of full scale
<i>Linearity</i>	±0.5 of full scale
<i>Inaccuracy</i>	±2% of span
<i>Drift</i>	±1% of full scale for zero and the same for span per day

(Continued)

<i>Costs</i>	<p>Remember that the installation and upkeep costs are normally much larger than just the vendor costs given below.</p> <p>Single-beam portable or laboratory units cost \$4000–\$5000</p> <p>Industrial nondispersive infrared analyzer with diaphragm capacitor costs \$8,000</p> <p>Multigas analyzer pulling in up to five gases from 50-m (150-ft) distances costs \$25,000–\$27,000</p> <p>Microprocessor-based portable spectrometer with preprogrammed multicomponent identification capability for ambient air monitoring and with space for 10 user-defined standards for calibration, AC/DC converter, sample probe, and carrying case costs \$20,000</p> <p>Industrial FTIR costs \$75,000–\$125,000</p>
<i>Partial list of suppliers</i>	<p>ABB Process Analytics—Bomem <a href="http://new.abb.com/products/measurement-products/analytical">http://new.abb.com/products/measurement-products/analytical</a></p> <p>Ametek <a href="http://www.ametekpi.com/products/Thermox-WDG-V-Combustion-Analyzer.aspx">http://www.ametekpi.com/products/Thermox-WDG-V-Combustion-Analyzer.aspx</a></p> <p>Aqua Measure <a href="http://www.aquameasure.com/methods.htm">http://www.aquameasure.com/methods.htm</a></p> <p>CAI <a href="http://www.gasanalyzers.com/products-ia.php">http://www.gasanalyzers.com/products-ia.php</a></p> <p>Combustion <a href="http://www.cambustion.com/products/ndir500/operating-principle">http://www.cambustion.com/products/ndir500/operating-principle</a></p> <p>Control Instruments Corp. <a href="http://www.controlinstruments.com/technologies/infrared-analyzers">http://www.controlinstruments.com/technologies/infrared-analyzers</a></p> <p>Enviro-Analytical <a href="http://www.enviro-analytical.com/enviroproducts/ftir_analyzers.html">http://www.enviro-analytical.com/enviroproducts/ftir_analyzers.html</a></p> <p>Fuji Electric <a href="http://www.fujielectric.com/products/instruments/library/catalog/box/doc/ECNO325c.pdf">http://www.fujielectric.com/products/instruments/library/catalog/box/doc/ECNO325c.pdf</a></p> <p>Horiba Instruments <a href="http://www.horiba.com/us/en/automotive-test-systems/products/emission-measurement-systems/portable-emission-analyzers/details/mexa-584l-826/">http://www.horiba.com/us/en/automotive-test-systems/products/emission-measurement-systems/portable-emission-analyzers/details/mexa-584l-826/</a></p> <p>Infrared Industries <a href="http://www.infraredindustries.com/product/ir-8400d-dual-stream-gas-analyzer/">http://www.infraredindustries.com/product/ir-8400d-dual-stream-gas-analyzer/</a></p> <p>International Sensor Technology <a href="http://www.intlsensor.com/pdf/products.pdf">http://www.intlsensor.com/pdf/products.pdf</a></p> <p>K2BW <a href="http://www.k2bw.com/5_c_18.htm">http://www.k2bw.com/5_c_18.htm</a></p> <p>Midac <a href="http://www.midac.com/i-series.html">http://www.midac.com/i-series.html</a></p> <p>Moisture Register Products, of Aqua Measure Instruments, <a href="http://www.aquameasure.com/">http://www.aquameasure.com/</a></p> <p>NDC <a href="http://www.ndc.com/en/Products/At-Line-Near-Infrared-Analyzers/InfraLab-Meat-Analyzer.aspx">http://www.ndc.com/en/Products/At-Line-Near-Infrared-Analyzers/InfraLab-Meat-Analyzer.aspx</a></p> <p>Servomex <a href="http://www.servomex.com/servomex/web/web.nsf/en/servoflex-minimp-5200-multipurpose">http://www.servomex.com/servomex/web/web.nsf/en/servoflex-minimp-5200-multipurpose</a></p> <p>Shimadzu (A, B) <a href="http://www.shimadzu.com/an/spectro/uv/uv1800/uv2.html">http://www.shimadzu.com/an/spectro/uv/uv1800/uv2.html</a></p> <p>Siemens <a href="http://www.automation.siemens.com/mcms/sensor-systems/en/process-analytics/gas-analyzer-gas-analysis/extractive/ir-active-components/pages/ultrammat-23.aspx">http://www.automation.siemens.com/mcms/sensor-systems/en/process-analytics/gas-analyzer-gas-analysis/extractive/ir-active-components/pages/ultrammat-23.aspx</a></p> <p>Signal Instruments, <a href="http://www.k2bw.com/418.htm">http://www.k2bw.com/418.htm</a></p> <p>Teledyne <a href="http://www.teledyne-ai.com/products/7500.asp">http://www.teledyne-ai.com/products/7500.asp</a></p> <p>Thermo Scientific <a href="http://www.thermoscientific.com/en/search-results.html?keyword=Fourier+Transform+Infrared+Spectroscopy+%28FTIR%29&amp;countryCode=US&amp;matchDim=Y">http://www.thermoscientific.com/en/search-results.html?keyword=Fourier+Transform+Infrared+Spectroscopy+%28FTIR%29&amp;countryCode=US&amp;matchDim=Y</a></p> <p>Unity Scientific, <a href="http://www.unityscientific.com/products/wet-chemistry/sample-preparation">http://www.unityscientific.com/products/wet-chemistry/sample-preparation</a></p> <p>Wilks-Spectro Scientific Co. <a href="http://www.wilksir.com/products/infraran-specific-vapor-analyzers.html">http://www.wilksir.com/products/infraran-specific-vapor-analyzers.html</a></p> <p>Yokogawa <a href="http://www.yokogawa.com/an/ir-gas/an-ir-gas-001en.htm">http://www.yokogawa.com/an/ir-gas/an-ir-gas-001en.htm</a></p> <p>Zeltex Inc. <a href="http://www.zeltex.com/portable/101.pdf">http://www.zeltex.com/portable/101.pdf</a></p> <p>Most popular: ABB, Servomex, and Siemens</p>
<i>Fiber-optics, sample systems, tools</i>	<p>Axiom, sample systems, fibers, both NIR and IR <a href="http://www.goaxiom.com/process_products_NIR-UV.html#process_nir_multiplexer">http://www.goaxiom.com/process_products_NIR-UV.html#process_nir_multiplexer</a></p> <p>Dave Mayes, a developer of spectroscopic tools (<a href="http://www.dsquared-dev.com">http://www.dsquared-dev.com</a>)</p> <p>Equitech International Corp., fiber switches, fiber connections to the process, sampling systems <a href="http://www.equitechintl.com/Multiplexer.htm">http://www.equitechintl.com/Multiplexer.htm</a></p> <p>Fiber Tech Optica, fiber optics only <a href="http://www.fibertech.com/enterprise/fiber-optic-services/">http://www.fibertech.com/enterprise/fiber-optic-services/</a></p> <p>Optec <a href="http://www.optek.com/Product_Detail.asp?ProductID=26">http://www.optek.com/Product_Detail.asp?ProductID=26</a></p> <p>Remspec Corp. Fiber Optics <a href="http://ir-fiber.com/">http://ir-fiber.com/</a></p> <p>Solutions Plus, Inc., makers of traceable standards, a division of Ricca Chemical <a href="http://www.riccachemical.com/">http://www.riccachemical.com/</a></p>

**NEAR INFRARED ANALYZERS**

<i>Process fluids</i>	Gas, liquid, or solid, but mostly liquid and solid
<i>Some applications</i> (See <a href="#">Table 1.32b</a> )	<p>Active ingredient in drugs</p> <p>Benzene in gasoline, 0.2%–1%</p> <p>Boiling points of gasoline, 50°C–200°C (122°F–392°F)</p> <p>Btu of natural gas (high pressure)</p> <p>Caustic in water 0.1%–10%</p> <p>Cetane of diesel fuel</p>

(Continued)

	Molecular weight of small polymers Octanes of gasoline, 80–100 Octanes of components of gasoline, 60–120 Protein content of wheat p-Xylene concentration in mixture of aromatics
<i>Operating pressure</i>	150 PSI standard (10 bar) 1000 PSI special (70 bar)
<i>Ambient temperature</i>	–40°C to 50°C (–40°F to 120°F) is standard. (Note: Since the ambient temperature changes, it will affect the spectrometer and it will require temperature stabilization.)
<i>Stream temperature</i>	This restricts cell material only; normally one keeps the temperature constant.
<i>Humidity limitations</i>	None—NIRs, like IRs, should be purged; this eliminates the humidity problem.
<i>Materials of construction</i>	Cell bodies in all standard materials; windows can be quartz (most common), sapphire, and others
<i>Cell path lengths</i>	For liquids, 0.04–4 in. (1–100 mm); for gas, long (unless sample is at high pressure so cell length becomes too long to be practical)
<i>Warm-up time</i>	Manufacturers normally quote minutes—recommend overnight for best stability
<i>Repeatability</i>	±0.01% of full scale
<i>Linearity</i>	±0.5% of full scale
<i>Inaccuracy</i>	±1% of span (depends on how well the “modeling” has been done; can be much better)
<i>Drift</i>	±0.01% of full scale and the same for span per day
<i>Costs</i>	\$80,000–\$180,000, depending on number of streams, distance between the analyzer and sample, and sample preparation required. (How can these costs be justified by the user? At one installation, the analyzer is determining 25 properties every 45 s. It is also possible to look at several streams and still update the control system as often as needed. At another installation, the plant estimated that the analyzer saved \$15 million the first year it was in service.)
<i>Partial list of suppliers</i>	ABB Process Analytics—Bomen <a href="http://new.abb.com/products/measurement-products/analytical">http://new.abb.com/products/measurement-products/analytical</a> Bran and Luebbe—Technicon <a href="http://www.ebay.com/itm/Bran-Luebbe-IA450-Technicon-TechniServ-NIR-/221349142772">http://www.ebay.com/itm/Bran-Luebbe-IA450-Technicon-TechniServ-NIR-/221349142772</a> Brimrose Corporation of America <a href="http://www.brimrose.com/products/nir_mir_spectrometers/sort_by_spectrometers.html">http://www.brimrose.com/products/nir_mir_spectrometers/sort_by_spectrometers.html</a> Foss-NIR Systems <a href="http://www.foss.dk/">http://www.foss.dk/</a> Guided Wave <a href="http://www.guided-wave.com/products/spectrometers.html">http://www.guided-wave.com/products/spectrometers.html</a> Hamilton Sundstrand (AIT Division—Analect) <a href="http://www.spectroscopyonline.com/spectroscopy/product/productDetail.jsp?id=48253">http://www.spectroscopyonline.com/spectroscopy/product/productDetail.jsp?id=48253</a> Jasco Analytical Instruments <a href="http://www.jascoinc.com/products/spectroscopy/uv-visible-nir">http://www.jascoinc.com/products/spectroscopy/uv-visible-nir</a> LTI <a href="http://www.LTIndustries.com">http://www.LTIndustries.com</a> Ocean Optics <a href="http://www.coleparmer.com/Product/Ocean_Optics_Chem_USB4_Visible_NIR_Spectrophotometer/WU-83500-10">http://www.coleparmer.com/Product/Ocean_Optics_Chem_USB4_Visible_NIR_Spectrophotometer/WU-83500-10</a> Rosemount Analytical, Inc.—Emerson <a href="http://www2.emersonprocess.com/siteadmincenter/PM%20Rosemount%20Analytical%20Documents/PGA_Manual_AOTF-NIR_200010.pdf">http://www2.emersonprocess.com/siteadmincenter/PM%20Rosemount%20Analytical%20Documents/PGA_Manual_AOTF-NIR_200010.pdf</a> Thermo Electron <a href="http://www.thermo.com/eThermo/CMA/PDFs/Various/File_27448.pdf">http://www.thermo.com/eThermo/CMA/PDFs/Various/File_27448.pdf</a> Unity Scientific <a href="http://www.unityscientific.com/products/NIR/at-line/smartsampler.asp">http://www.unityscientific.com/products/NIR/at-line/smartsampler.asp</a>

## INTRODUCTION

In the first part of this chapter, the infrared (IR) analyzers will be discussed, while the near-infrared (NIR) analyzers will be described in the second part of this chapter. This is not the only chapter where IR and NIR analyzers are discussed. As can be seen from the analyzer selection guide provided in Table 1.1a, IR and NIR analyzers are applicable to a wide range of analytical tasks.

It should also be noted that the boundaries between ultraviolet (UV), visible, NIR, and IR are slowly disappearing. Analyzers are evolving that are capable of operating in all of these spectra, and as the mathematical tools to handle full spectral ranges are becoming available. The addition of microprocessors or tabletop computers has enhanced the performance of these instruments by providing such features as self-calibration, self-diagnostics, and chemometric tools, for example, partial least squares (PLS) and principal



component regression (PCR), to name two, while design modularity has contributed to simplifying maintenance.

For an overall view of where process analysis is going, the annual conference of the International Forum for Process Analytical Chemistry (IFPAC) can be recommended. It is held annually and normally contains sessions on process IR and NIR; for more information, see <http://www.ifpac.com>.

## PRINCIPLES OF ANALYSIS

The composition of both gases and liquids can be analyzed by measuring their absorption or reflectance in the infrared (IR) or near-infrared (NIR) spectral regions. These analyzers can operate either in the photometric (absorption) or in the spectrophotometric (dispersion) mode, and some designs are capable to operate in both.

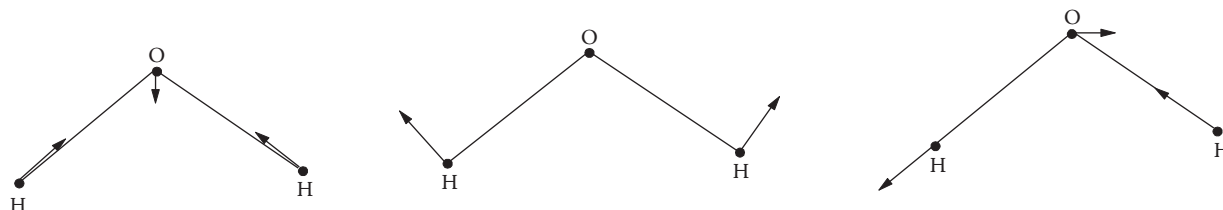
IR absorption (or reflection used with solid samples) is a technique that can be used successfully for continuous chemical analysis. The infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum is generally considered to cover wavelengths from 0.8 to 20,000  $\mu\text{m}$ . NIR normally covers 0.8 to 2500  $\mu\text{m}$ , and classic IR covers the rest. For IR analysis, these limits are normally put in terms of frequency ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , wave numbers

or the number of waves per cm): 4000–500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , which corresponds to wavelengths of 2,500–20,000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Except for a small overlap region, sources and detectors that are needed in the NIR will not work in the IR, and vice versa. Some laboratory spectrometers have both sources and detectors so they can work in both areas. For the process, most gas analysis is done in the IR and most solid and liquid analysis is done in the NIR. The choice is based on workable path lengths.

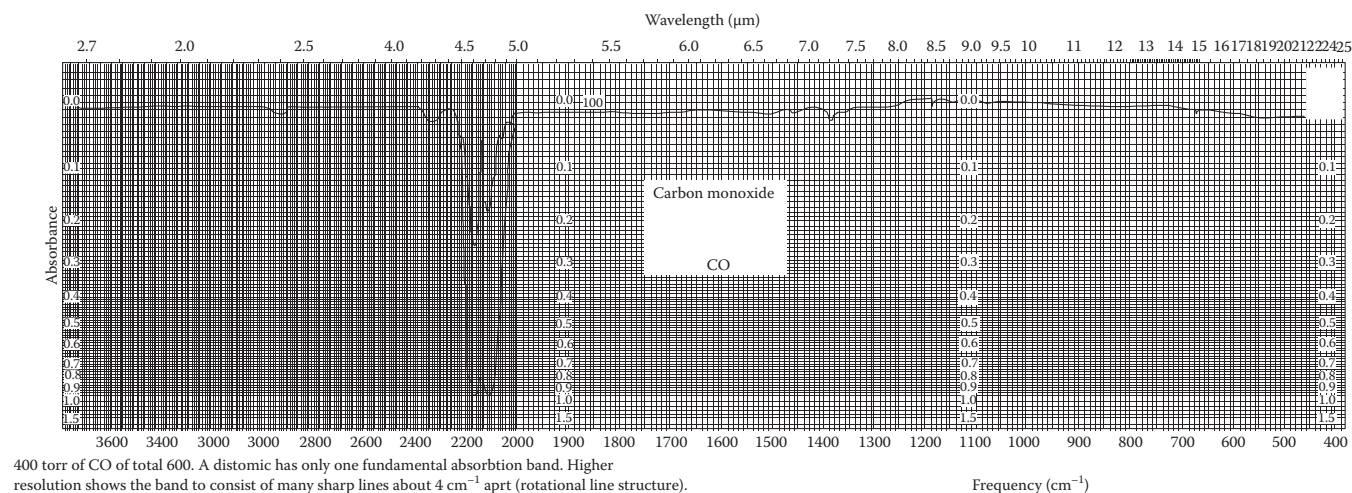
Infrared radiation interacts with almost all molecules (except the homonuclear diatomics oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ); nitrogen ( $\text{N}_2$ ); hydrogen ( $\text{H}_2$ ); chlorine ( $\text{Cl}_2$ ); etc., and monatomics such as helium (He); neon (Ne); etc.) by exciting molecular vibrations and rotations that affect the dipole of the molecule (Figure 1.32a). The oscillating electric field of the IR wave interacts with the electric dipole of the molecule, and when the IR frequency matches the natural frequency of the molecule, some of the IR power is absorbed.

The pattern of wavelengths, or frequencies, absorbed identifies the molecule in the sample. The strength of absorption at particular frequencies is a measure of the concentration of the species. Analytical laboratory IR is largely concerned with identification, or qualitative analysis, while process IR is concerned with quantitative analysis. Some typical spectra are shown in Figure 1.32b. The NIR consists of overtones and combinations of these IR bands.



**FIG. 1.32a**

The three fundamental vibrations of the water molecule (left to right) are symmetric stretch, bend, and asymmetric stretch. The amplitudes of the vibrations have been exaggerated for clarity.

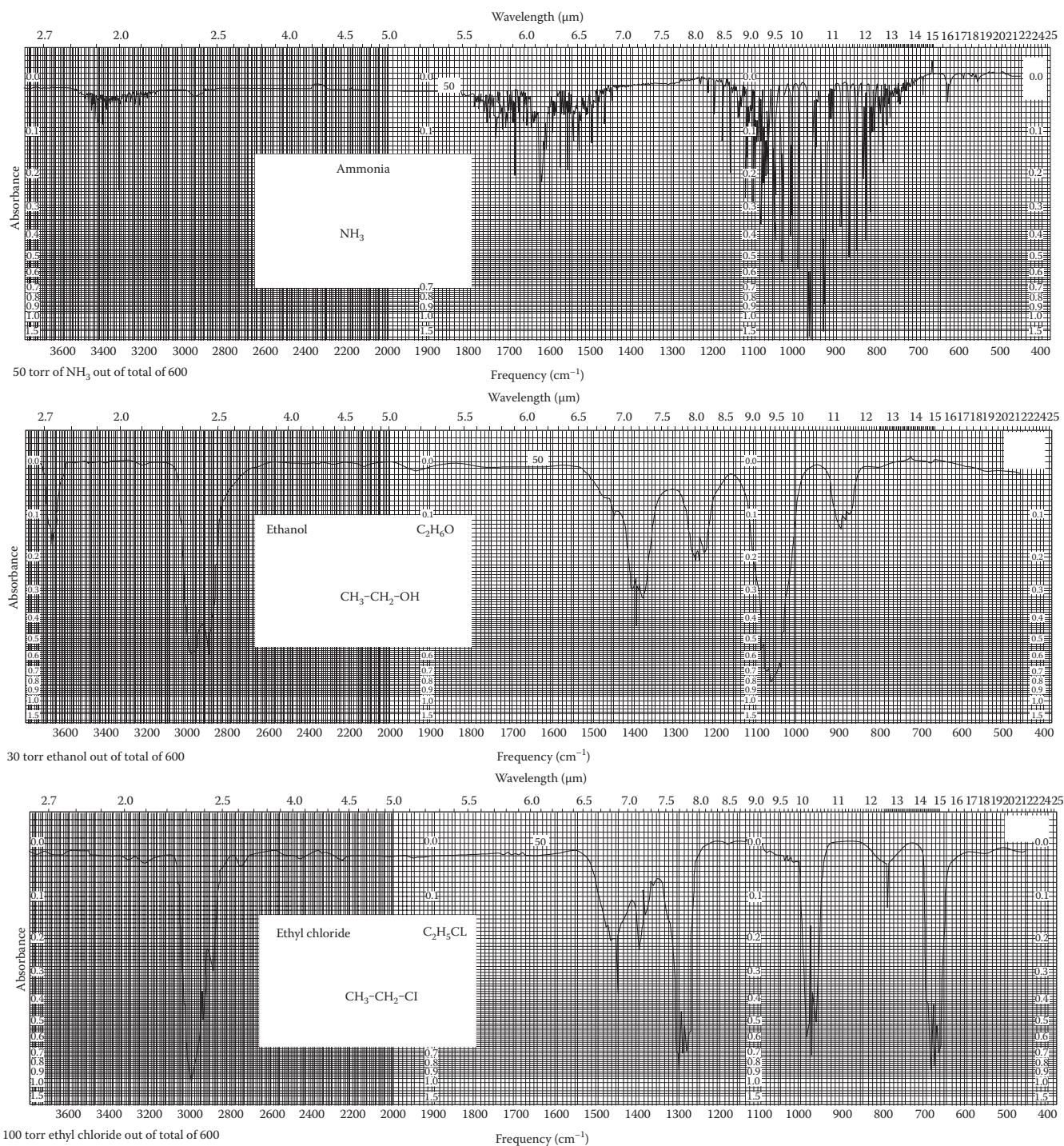


**FIG. 1.32b**

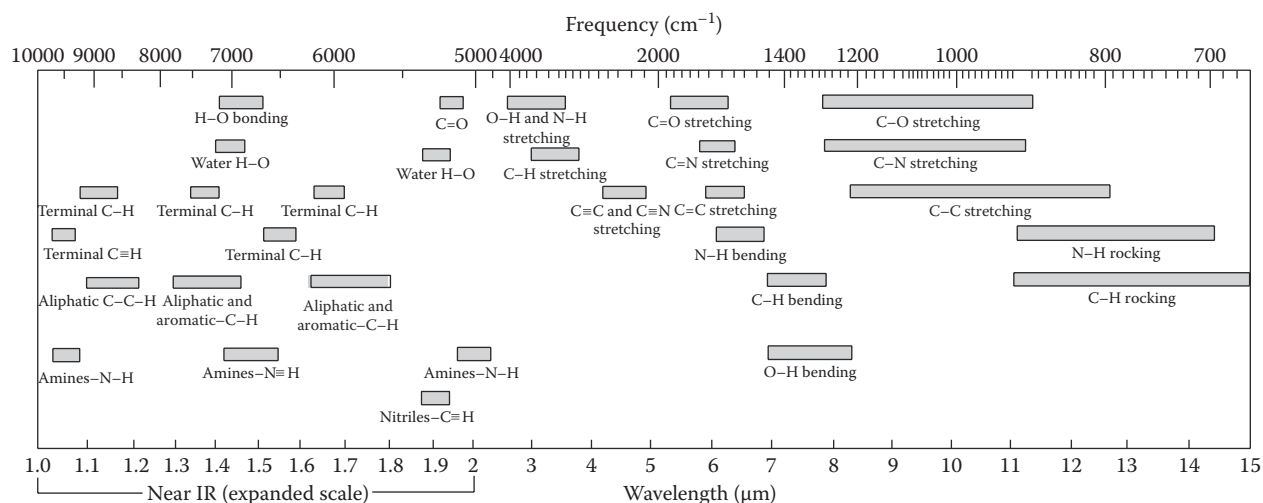
Examples of IR spectra recorded using a laboratory double-beam spectrometer. All spectra are gas phase using a 2 in. (5-cm) cell with  $\text{N}_2$  added to give a total pressure of 600 mmHg (torr). (Courtesy of Dow Chemical Co.)

(Continued)



**FIG. 1.32b (Continued)**

Examples of IR spectra recorded using a laboratory double-beam spectrometer. All spectra are gas phase using a 2 in. (5-cm) cell with  $\text{N}_2$  added to give a total pressure of 600 mmHg (torr). (Courtesy of Dow Chemical Co.)

**FIG. 1.32c**

Functional group frequency chart. Fundamental vibrations absorb in the mid-IR; overtones and combination bands are 10–10,000 weaker and absorb in the NIR.

Particular groups of atoms tend to absorb at the same frequency with very little influence from the rest of the molecule. These group frequencies are a great help in identifying the molecules from the IR spectra (Figure 1.32c). On the other hand, similar molecules, such as a series of homologous hydrocarbons, have very similar IR spectra.

Infrared analysis is, therefore, most straightforward when the component molecules of the sample have significantly different atomic groupings. A mixture of aliphatic hydrocarbons would be better analyzed by another technique, such as gas chromatography. The part of the spectrum offering the best discrimination between molecules is between 7 and 15  $\mu\text{m}$ , 1430 and 670  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , the so-called fingerprint region. Given the very large signal-to-noise ratio in the NIR, one can make very fine separations between similar species; for example, o-xylene can be measured in a mixture of xylene, ethylbenzene, and benzene.

### Beer–Lambert Law

The starting point for quantitative analysis is the Beer–Lambert law, frequently just called Beer’s law, which relates

the amount of light absorbed to the sample’s concentration and path length.

$$A = abc = \log_{10} \frac{I_0}{I} \quad 1.32(1)$$

where

A is the absorbance

I is the IR power-reaching detector with sample in the beam path

$I_0$  is the IR power-reaching detector with no sample in the beam path

a is the absorption coefficient of pure component of interest at analytical wavelength; the units depend on those chosen for b and c; a newer term,  $\epsilon$ , extinction coefficient, is the preferred term in the academic literature

b is the sample path length, sometimes l is used

c is the concentration of sample component

The law states that concentration is directly proportional to absorbance at a given wavelength and path length at specified temperature and pressure. Note that, however, the logarithm