Rovibrational levels of HD †

Krzysztof Pachucki^{1,‡} and Jacek Komasa^{2,§}

¹Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of Warsaw, Hoża 69, 00-681 Warsaw, Poland ²Faculty of Chemistry, A. Mickiewicz University, Grunwaldzka 6, 60-780 Poznań, Poland

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Abstract

The dissociation energies of all rotation-vibrational states of the molecular HD in the ground electronic state are calculated to a high accuracy by including nonadiabatic, relativistic α^2 , and quantum electrodynamic α^3 effects, with approximate treatment of small higher order α^4 , and finite nuclear size corrections. Obtained result for the ground molecular state of 36 405.7828(10) cm⁻¹ is in a small disagreement with the latest most precise experimental value.

[†] Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Extensive tables of all 400 bound rovibrational states of HD. [‡]Electronic address: krp@fuw.edu.pl

[§]Electronic address: komasa@man.poznan.pl

I. INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of quantum mechanics the molecular hydrogen and its isotopomers were a ground for testing and developing experimental techniques and theoretical models. In determination of the dissociation energy (D_0) , experiment and theory have diminished their individual uncertainties to the level below 10^{-3} cm⁻¹ in a good agreement between themselves. Namely, the latest theoretical $D_0 = 36 118.0695(10)$ cm⁻¹ of H₂, obtained by Piszczatowski *et al.* [1], agrees very well with 36 118.06962(37) cm⁻¹ derived experimentally by Liu *et al.* [2]. Analogous results obtained last year for D₂ are 36 748.3633(9) cm⁻¹ from theory [1] and 36 748.36287(60) cm⁻¹ from experiment [3]. The tiny difference of 0.0004 cm⁻¹ fits well within both error estimates. To achieve this 10^{-3} cm⁻¹ level of accuracy, the theory must have taken into account, with sufficient precision, not only the electron correlation but also the finite nuclear mass, relativistic, and quantum electrodynamics (QED) effects.

Particularly challenging is the accurate inclusion of nonadiabatic effects. One possible approach is to obtain a nonadiabatic wave function (depending explicitly on nuclear coordinates) by minimizing the nonrelativistic energy. For H₂ such calculations, using explicitly correlated James-Coolidge functions, were attempted by Kołos and Wolniewicz in 1963 [4, 5] and 15 years later by Bishop and Cheung [6]. The same authors performed purely nonadiabatic calculations for HD. Kołos and Wolniewicz obtained $D_0 = 36402.4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ [7], whereas Bishop and Cheung reported $D_0 = 36405.97 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ [8]. Calculation in a similar spirit, but using extensively optimized explicitly correlated Gaussian functions, were performed by Stanke *et al.* [9]. Their nonadiabatic wave function was further employed to compute perturbatively the relativistic correction to the nonadiabatic energy. An apparent drawback of these methods is their decreasing accuracy observed for the higher excited states, particularly those laying close to dissociation threshold. For such states the perturbative treatment of relativistic effects may be inadequate. As an example, the v = 14, J = 4 state of H₂ becomes a resonance after the inclusion of relativistic effects on the level of the potential energy curve (PEC). Moreover, certain properties like the ortho-para mixing or the scattering length, are inaccessible within the direct nonadiabatic approach.

In contrast, the nonadiabatic perturbation theory (NAPT) approach employed here, relies on solving the radial, variable-mass Schrödinger equation with the PEC for the nuclei constructed from the adiabatic potential augmented by *R*-dependent nonadiabatic, relativistic and QED corrections. The theory of the nonadiabatic potentials has been developed in Refs. 10 and 11, whereas

the relativistic and QED corrections to the PEC are evaluated on the basis of the nonrelativistic quantum electrodynamics (NRQED) [12–14]. These corrections are unambiguously identified by an expansion of a bound atomic or molecular state energy in powers of the fine structure constant α

$$E = E^{(0)} + \alpha^2 E^{(2)} + \alpha^3 E^{(3)} + \alpha^4 E^{(4)} + \cdots,$$
(1)

where $E^{(3)}$ and higher order terms may additionally depend on $\ln \alpha$. The first term of the expansion represents the nonrelativistic energy, $\alpha^2 E^{(2)}$ is the leading relativistic contribution, terms proportional to α^3 and α^4 describe the QED effects of the leading and higher order, respectively. In this paper we report on application of this approach to all rovibrational levels of the ground electronic state of HD molecule. Uncertainty of our results comes mainly from the neglect of the finite nuclear mass corrections of the order $\alpha^2 m/M$ to the relativistic contribution to the PEC, and from the approximate treatment of the α^4 correction. The neglect of higher order nonadiabatic terms proportional to $(m/M)^3$ also increases the overall uncertainty.

II. NONRELATIVISTIC HAMILTONIAN

We consider a two-electron diatomic molecule in the reference frame attached to the geometrical center of the two nuclei. The total wave function ϕ is a solution of the stationary Schrödinger equation

$$H\phi = E\phi, \qquad (2)$$

with the Hamiltonian

$$H = H_{\rm el} + H_{\rm n} \,, \tag{3}$$

split into the electronic and nuclear parts. In the electronic Hamiltonian

$$H_{\rm el} = -\sum_{a} \frac{\nabla_a^2}{2\,m_{\rm e}} + V\,,\tag{4}$$

where V is the Coulomb interaction

$$V = -\frac{1}{r_{1A}} - \frac{1}{r_{1B}} - \frac{1}{r_{2A}} - \frac{1}{r_{2B}} + \frac{1}{r_{12}} + \frac{1}{R},$$
(5)

the nuclei have fixed positions \vec{R}_A (proton) and \vec{R}_B (deuteron), and $\vec{R} = \vec{R}_A - \vec{R}_B$. The nuclear Hamiltonian in the reference frame fixed at the geometrical center is

$$H_{\rm n} = -\frac{\nabla_R^2}{2\,\mu_{\rm n}} - \frac{\nabla_{\rm el}^2}{2\,\mu_{\rm n}} - \left(\frac{1}{M_B} - \frac{1}{M_A}\right) \vec{\nabla}_R \cdot \vec{\nabla}_{\rm el} = H_{\rm n}' + H_{\rm n}'',$$
(6)

where $\vec{\nabla}_{el} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a} \vec{\nabla}_{a}$, $\mu_n = (1/M_A + 1/M_B)^{-1}$ is the nuclear reduced mass, and H'_n , H''_n are even and odd parts with respect to the inversion.

In order to simplify the calculation of nonadiabatic corrections we introduce a unitary transformation

$$\tilde{H} = U^+ H U \tag{7}$$

of the form

$$U = e^{\lambda \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R} \tag{8}$$

with $\vec{r} = \sum_a \vec{r_a}$ and the nuclear mass asymmetry parameter

$$\lambda = -\frac{m_{\rm e}}{2} \left(\frac{1}{M_B} - \frac{1}{M_A} \right). \tag{9}$$

The transformed Hamiltonian is

$$\tilde{H} = H + \lambda [H, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R]
+ \frac{\lambda^2}{2} [[H, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R], \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R] + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^3),$$
(10)

where the higher order terms in the electron-nuclear mass ratio $O[(m_e/M_{A,B})^3]$ are neglected, so that

$$\tilde{H} = H_{\rm el} + H'_{\rm n} + \lambda \left[V, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R \right]
+ 2 \frac{\lambda^2}{m_{\rm e}} \left[\vec{\nabla}_{\rm el} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R \right] + \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \left[\left[H_{\rm el}, \, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R \right], \, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R \right],$$
(11)

and the odd $O[(m_e/M_{A,B})^2]$ terms are neglected as well. The internal commutator in the last term of Eq. (11) is

$$[H_{\rm el}, \, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R] = -\vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R(V) - \frac{2}{m_{\rm e}} \, \vec{\nabla}_{\rm el} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R \,, \tag{12}$$

so that the transformed Hamiltonian can be decomposed as

$$\tilde{H} = H_{\rm el} + \tilde{H}'_{\rm n} + \tilde{H}''_{\rm n} \,. \tag{13}$$

where

$$\tilde{H}'_{n} = H'_{n} + \lambda^{2} \left[\frac{1}{m_{e}} \vec{\nabla}_{el} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_{R} - \frac{1}{2} \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_{R}(V), \, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_{R} \right]
= H'_{n} + \frac{\lambda^{2}}{m_{e}} \nabla^{2}_{R} + \frac{\lambda^{2}}{2} r^{i} r^{j} \nabla^{i}_{R} \nabla^{j}_{R}(V)$$
(14)

$$\tilde{H}_{n}^{\prime\prime} = -\lambda \, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_{R}(V) \,. \tag{15}$$

Both the nuclear Hamiltonians involve the derivative of the Coulomb operator V, which is

$$\vec{\nabla}_R(V) = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\frac{\vec{r}_{1A}}{r_{1A}^3} + \frac{\vec{r}_{1B}}{r_{1B}^3} - \frac{\vec{r}_{2A}}{r_{2A}^3} + \frac{\vec{r}_{2B}}{r_{2B}^3} \right) - \frac{\vec{n}}{R^2}$$
(16)

with $\vec{n} = \vec{R}/R$, while the second derivative of V is further transformed in Eqs. (47), (48), and (49).

III. ADIABATIC APPROXIMATION

In the adiabatic approximation the total wave function of the molecule

$$\phi_{\rm a}(\vec{r},\vec{R}) = \phi_{\rm el}(\vec{r}) \ \chi(\vec{R}) \tag{17}$$

is represented as a product of the electronic wave function ϕ_{el} and the nuclear wave function χ . The electronic wave function obeys the clamped nuclei electronic Schrödinger equation

$$\left[H_{\rm el} - \mathcal{E}_{\rm el}(R)\right] |\phi_{\rm el}\rangle = 0, \tag{18}$$

while the wave function χ is a solution to the nuclear Schrödinger equation with the effective potential generated by electrons

$$\left[-\frac{\nabla_R^2}{2\,\mu_{\rm n}} + \mathcal{E}_{\rm a}(R) + \mathcal{E}_{\rm el}(R) - E_{\rm a}\right] |\chi\rangle = 0, \qquad (19)$$

where $\mathcal{E}_{a}(R)$ is the so called adiabatic (or diagonal) correction defined as

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{a}}(R) = \langle \phi_{\mathrm{el}} | H'_{\mathrm{n}} | \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \rangle_{\mathrm{el}} = \frac{1}{2\mu_{\mathrm{n}}} \left(\left\langle \vec{\nabla}_{R} \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \middle| \vec{\nabla}_{R} \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \right\rangle_{\mathrm{el}} - \left\langle \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \middle| \vec{\nabla}_{\mathrm{el}}^{2} \middle| \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \right\rangle_{\mathrm{el}} \right).$$
(20)

Separation of the angular variables in Eq. (19) leads to the well known radial nuclear equation

$$\left[-\frac{1}{R^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial R}\frac{R^2}{2\mu_{\rm n}}\frac{\partial}{\partial R} + \frac{J(J+1)}{2\mu_{\rm n}R^2} + \mathcal{E}_{\rm el}(R) + \mathcal{E}_{\rm a}(R)\right]\chi_J(R)$$
$$= E_{\rm a}\chi_J(R). \tag{21}$$

Solving this equation gives an adiabatic energy level E_a and an adiabatic radial nuclear wave function χ_J .

IV. NONADIABATIC NUCLEAR SCHRÖDINGER EQUATION

Following the NAPT formalism introduced recently [10, 11], we can obtain energy levels E including leading nonadiabatic corrections by solving the following nonadiabatic version of the radial Schrödinger equation

$$\left[-\frac{1}{R^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial R}\frac{R^2}{2\mu_{\parallel}(R)}\frac{\partial}{\partial R} + \frac{J(J+1)}{2\mu_{\perp}(R)R^2} + \mathcal{Y}(R)\right]\chi_J(R) = E\chi_J(R),$$
(22)

where $\mathcal{Y}(R)$ is a nonadiabatic potential energy function. In the nonrelativistic limit

$$\mathcal{Y}(R) = \mathcal{E}_{\rm el}(R) + \mathcal{E}_{\rm a}(R) + \delta \mathcal{E}_{\rm na}(R) + \delta \mathcal{E}_{\rm na}'(R), \tag{23}$$

with the nonadiabatic correction constructed from the homonuclear part $\delta \mathcal{E}_{na}(R)$, defined in our previous work on H₂ [10, 11], and the heteronuclear part proportional to λ^2

$$\delta \mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{na}}^{\prime} = \lambda^{2} \left[\left\langle \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \left| \frac{1}{m_{\mathrm{e}}} \nabla_{R}^{2} + \frac{1}{2} r^{i} r^{j} \nabla_{R}^{i} \nabla_{R}^{j}(V) \right| \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \right\rangle_{\mathrm{el}} + \left\langle \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \left| \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_{R}(V) \frac{1}{(\mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{el}} - H_{\mathrm{el}})^{\prime}} \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_{R}(V) \right| \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \right\rangle_{\mathrm{el}} \right],$$
(24)

which is obtained from Eqs. (14) and (15). Apart from the nonadiabatic potential $\mathcal{Y}(R)$, the difference between Eqs. (22) and (21) lies in the effective masses used. In the adiabatic equation (21) the reduced nuclear mass μ_n appearing in both translational and rotational kinetic terms is a constant, while in the nonadiabatic equation (22) it is given by two different functions of the internuclear distance. These two effective reduced mass functions

$$\frac{1}{2\,\mu_{\parallel}(R)} \equiv \frac{1}{2\,\mu_{\rm n}} + \mathcal{W}_{\parallel}(R) - \frac{\lambda^2}{m_{\rm e}} \tag{25}$$

$$\frac{1}{2\,\mu_{\perp}(R)} \equiv \frac{1}{2\,\mu_{\rm n}} + \mathcal{W}_{\perp}(R) - \frac{\lambda^2}{m_{\rm e}} \tag{26}$$

are defined with the help of additional radial functions

$$\mathcal{W}_{\parallel}(R) = \frac{1}{\mu_{\rm n}^2} \left\langle \vec{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R \phi_{\rm el} \left| \frac{1}{(\mathcal{E}_{\rm el} - H_{\rm el})'} \right| \vec{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_R \phi_{\rm el} \right\rangle_{\rm el}$$
(27)

and

$$\mathcal{W}_{\perp}(R) = \frac{1}{\mu_{\rm n}^2} \frac{\left(\delta^{ij} - n^i n^j\right)}{2} \left\langle \nabla_R^i \phi_{\rm el} \left| \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}_{\rm el} - H_{\rm el}} \right| \nabla_R^j \phi_{\rm el} \right\rangle_{\rm el}.$$
(28)

In total, three radial functions are needed to construct the nonadiabatic radial Schrödinger equation (22) for diatomic molecules: two functions, defined by Eqs. (27) and (28), to describe the variable effective reduced masses of Eqs. (25) and (26), and the nonadiabatic potential \mathcal{Y} . This potential, in turn, is expressed by another four functions: BO energy \mathcal{E}_{el} , adiabatic \mathcal{E}_{a} , nonadiabatic homonuclear $\delta \mathcal{E}_{na}$ and heteronuclear $\delta \mathcal{E}'_{na}$ corrections (see Eq. (23)).

V. SEPARATED ATOMS LIMIT

At large internuclear distances the effective reduced mass functions (25) and (26) are expected to approach a value corresponding to the reduced mass of separate H and D atoms

$$\frac{1}{\mu_A} = \frac{1}{m_{\rm p} + m_{\rm e}} + \frac{1}{m_{\rm d} + m_{\rm e}} \,. \tag{29}$$

Because $\mathcal{W}_{\parallel}(R)$ and $\mathcal{W}_{\perp}(R)$ tend to $-m_{\rm e}/(4\,\mu_{\rm n}^2)$, when $R \to \infty$, we have

$$\frac{1}{2\,\mu_{\parallel}(\infty)} = \frac{1}{2\,\mu_{\perp}(\infty)} = \frac{1}{2\,\mu_{\rm n}} - \frac{m_{\rm e}}{4\,\mu_{\rm n}^2} - \frac{\lambda^2}{m_{\rm e}} \tag{30}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{m_{\rm p}} \left(1 - \frac{m_{\rm e}}{m_{\rm p}} \right) + \frac{1}{m_{\rm d}} \left(1 - \frac{m_{\rm e}}{m_{\rm d}} \right) \right],\tag{31}$$

which are exactly the leading terms of the expansion of the atomic reduced mass (29) in the electron-nuclear mass ratio

$$\frac{1}{2\,\mu_A} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{m_{\rm p}} \left(1 - \frac{m_{\rm e}}{m_{\rm p}} + \left(\frac{m_{\rm e}}{m_{\rm p}} \right)^2 - \dots \right) \right]$$
(32)

$$+\frac{1}{m_{\rm d}}\left(1-\frac{m_{\rm e}}{m_{\rm d}}+\left(\frac{m_{\rm e}}{m_{\rm d}}\right)^2-\dots\right)\right].$$
(33)

In the separated atoms limit, the nonrelativistic energy of the system (the dissociation threshold) $\mathcal{E}(\infty)$ is simply a sum of the energies of hydrogen and deuterium atoms expressed by their reduced masses

$$\mathcal{E}(\infty) = -\frac{\mu_{\rm H}}{2} - \frac{\mu_{\rm D}}{2} \,. \tag{34}$$

The expansion of $\mathcal{E}(\infty)$ in the electron to nucleus mass ratio is of the form

$$\mathcal{E}(\infty) = -1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{m_{\rm e}}{m_{\rm p}} + \frac{m_{\rm e}}{m_{\rm d}} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{m_{\rm e}^2}{m_{\rm p}^2} + \frac{m_{\rm e}^2}{m_{\rm d}^2} \right) + \dots$$
(35)

Subsequent terms of this expansion coincide with the $R \to \infty$ limits of corresponding components of the nonadiabatic potential $\mathcal{Y}(R)$ of Eq. (23),

$$\mathcal{E}_{\rm el}(\infty) = -1\,,\tag{36}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\rm a}(\infty) = \frac{m_{\rm e}}{2\,\mu_{\rm n}}\,,\tag{37}$$

$$\delta \mathcal{E}_{\rm na}(\infty) = -\left(\frac{m_{\rm e}}{2\,\mu_{\rm n}}\right)^2\,,\tag{38}$$

$$\delta \mathcal{E}'_{\rm na}(\infty) = -\lambda^2 \,. \tag{39}$$

In particular, the sum of Eqs. (38) and (39) is equal to the third term in the expansion (35).

VI. RELATIVISTIC AND RADIATIVE CORRECTIONS

The relativistic correction to the adiabatic potential for a singlet state is given by the expectation value with the nonrelativistic wave function of the Breit-Pauli Hamiltonian [15]

$$\alpha^{-2}\hat{H}_{\rm BP} = -\frac{1}{8}\sum_{a} p_{a}^{4} + \frac{\pi}{2}\sum_{A}\sum_{a} Z_{A}\delta(\vec{r}_{aA}) + \pi\sum_{a < b}\delta(\vec{r}_{ab}) -\frac{1}{2}\sum_{a < b}\left(\vec{p}_{a}\frac{1}{r_{ab}}\vec{p}_{b} + \vec{p}_{a}\cdot\vec{r}_{ab}\frac{1}{r_{ab}^{3}}\vec{r}_{ab}\cdot\vec{p}_{b}\right).$$
(40)

The expectation value $\mathcal{E}^{(2)}(R) = \left\langle \phi_{\rm el} \left| \hat{H}_{\rm BP} \right| \phi_{\rm el} \right\rangle_{\rm el}$ as a function of R, was computed for H₂ to a high accuracy by Wolniewicz in 1993 [16] and has recently been recalculated in Ref. 1. In the present calculations, as in all the previous ones, we have omitted the small relativistic recoil corrections, namely that proportional to $\alpha^2 m_{\rm e}/M$.

Another α^2 effect, which can be easily incorporated into the relativistic potential, results from the spatial distribution of the nuclear charge. The energy shift caused by this effect is given by the formula

$$\mathcal{E}_{\rm fs}(R) = \frac{2\pi}{3} \frac{\alpha^2}{\lambda_C^2} \sum_A Z_A r_{\rm ch}^2(A) \left\langle \phi_{\rm el} \left| \sum_a \delta(\vec{r}_{aA}) \right| \phi_{\rm el} \right\rangle_{\rm el}, \tag{41}$$

where $\lambda_C = 386.15926459$ fm is the Compton wavelength over 2π and $r_{ch}(A)$ is the root mean square charge radius of the nuclei A, with values of $r_{ch}(p) = 0.8768(69)$ fm and $r_{ch}(d) = 2.1402(28)$ fm [17, 18]. For the dissociation energy of the ground rovibrational level this effect is quite small and amounts to -0.000119 cm⁻¹ with tendency to diminish to zero for higher levels. The leading order QED correction is given by [19]

$$\mathcal{E}^{(3)}(R) = \alpha^{3} \sum_{a < b} \left\{ \left[\frac{164}{15} + \frac{14}{3} \ln \alpha \right] \langle \phi_{\mathrm{el}} | \delta(\vec{r}_{ab}) | \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \rangle_{\mathrm{el}} - \frac{7}{6\pi} \left\langle \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \left| P\left(\frac{1}{r_{ab}^{3}}\right) \right| \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \right\rangle_{\mathrm{el}} \right\} + \alpha^{3} \sum_{A} \sum_{a} \left[\frac{19}{30} - 2 \ln \alpha - \ln k_{0} \right] \frac{4Z_{A}}{3} \left\langle \phi_{\mathrm{el}} | \delta(\vec{r}_{aA}) | \phi_{\mathrm{el}} \right\rangle_{\mathrm{el}}.$$

$$(42)$$

Numerical evaluation of $\mathcal{E}^{(3)}$ has been described in details in Ref. 1. We only mention here that this evaluation includes such terms as the Bethe logarithm $\ln k_0$ and the expectation value of the Araki-Sucher distribution $P(1/r^3)$ [20]. As previously [1], the higher order QED contribution [14] has been estimated by the corresponding one-loop electron self-energy correction

$$\mathcal{E}^{(4)}(R) \approx \pi \,\alpha^4 \left(\frac{427}{96} - \ln 4\right) \sum_A \sum_a \left\langle \phi_{\rm el} \left| \delta(\vec{r}_{aA}) \right| \phi_{\rm el} \right\rangle_{\rm el} \,. \tag{43}$$

The large-R behaviour of the above relativistic and QED potentials has been determined using asymptotic constants reported in Refs. 1 and 21.

The relativistic and QED corrections can be computed directly, as expectation values with the adiabatic wave function. It is more convenient and more accurate, however, to include them into the nonadiabatic Schrödinger equation (22) by adding pertinent radial functions into the $\mathcal{Y}(R)$ potential (23). In such an approach, the eigenvalue of the Schrödinger equation represents a total energy including all the mentioned finite nuclear mass, relativistic and QED effects.

VII. COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

The radial nonadiabatic equation (22), apart from the clamped nuclei energy \mathcal{E}_{el} and the adiabatic correction \mathcal{E}_{a} , involves \mathcal{W}_{\parallel} , \mathcal{W}_{\perp} , and the potentials $\delta \mathcal{E}_{na}$ and $\delta \mathcal{E}'_{na}$ in Eq. (24). The numerical values for all but last radial functions were obtained for H₂ and a simple rescaling by the first or second power of the reduced mass ratio converts them to pertinent HD functions. For this reason, we shall omit a detailed description on how these functions were obtained, referring the reader to our previous work on H₂ [10, 11]. Below we give only basic information on these functions and then concentrate on the new terms which result from the nuclear mass asymmetry in HD.

The electronic energy, \mathcal{E}_{el} , used in this work is exactly the same as the one reported in Ref. 1. Its analytic form is based on the energy points calculated by Sims and Hagstrom [22] using Hylleraas

wave function and by Cencek [23] using explicitly correlated Gaussian (ECG) wave function. The relative accuracy of these calculations is of the order of 10^{-12} , which corresponds to about 10^{-10} of the relative accuracy of the Born-Oppenheimer potential. The ground state dissociation energy obtained by numerically solving the adiabatic Schrödinger equation (21) in the Born-Oppenheimer approximation with this analytic potential is 36401.93319 cm⁻¹ (see also Table I). Also the relativistic and QED corrections to the potential obtained for H₂ in Ref. 1 apply directly to HD because they do not depend on the nuclear mass.

The adiabatic correction \mathcal{E}_a has been evaluated analytically by means of a new method described in [10, 11]. The radial function \mathcal{E}_a previously obtained for H₂ has been rescaled to HD by the ratio of the reduced masses of nuclei $\mu_n^{H_2}/\mu_n^{HD}$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{a}}^{\mathrm{HD}} = \frac{m_{\mathrm{p}} + m_{\mathrm{d}}}{2 \, m_{\mathrm{d}}} \mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{a}}^{\mathrm{H}_{2}} \tag{44}$$

and lead to the adiabatic dissociation energy of the ground state equal to $36\,406.18407$ cm⁻¹.

Similarly, the nonadiabatic potentials $\delta \mathcal{E}_{na}$, \mathcal{W}_{\parallel} , and \mathcal{W}_{\perp} were obtained for H₂ in Ref. 11 and here are rescaled to HD by the square of the reduced mass ratio $\left(\frac{m_{\rm p}+m_{\rm d}}{2m_{\rm d}}\right)^2$. Numerical values of the nuclear masses $m_{\rm p} = 1836.152\,672\,47\,m_{\rm e}$ and $m_{\rm d} = 3670.482\,965\,4\,m_{\rm e}$ used in this study are based on the CODATA 2006 compilation of fundamental physical constants [17] and were taken from the NIST Web Page [18]. The nuclear reduced mass of HD is $\mu_{\rm n} = 1223.899\,2280\,m_{\rm e}$ and the nuclear mass asymmetry parameter $\lambda = 1.360\,866\,554\,2\cdot10^{-4}\,m_{\rm e}$.

The only newly evaluated function of R is the heteronuclear nonadiabatic correction $\delta \mathcal{E}'_{na}$, Eq. (24), resulting from those terms of the Hamiltonian \tilde{H} , which contain λ [see Eqs. (14,15)]. $\delta \mathcal{E}'_{na}$ comprises three parts. The first part is analogous to the nuclear kinetic energy term in the adiabatic correction (20) and requires evaluation of the derivative of the electronic wave function over the nuclear variable \vec{R} . This differentiation can be accomplished with the help of the following formula [24]

$$\vec{\nabla}_R \phi_{\rm el} = \vec{n} \, \frac{1}{(\mathcal{E}_{\rm el} - H_{\rm el})'} \, \frac{\partial V}{\partial R} \phi_{\rm el} - \frac{i}{R} \vec{n} \times \vec{L}_{\rm n} \phi_{\rm el} \,. \tag{45}$$

In the above equation, the first term gives the parallel component and requires an additional basis set of ${}^{1}\Sigma_{g}^{+}$ symmetry to evaluate the reduced resolvent. The perpendicular component is obtained by evaluation of the expectation value of an operator resulting from the last term, which involves the nuclear angular momentum operator $\vec{L}_{n} = -i\vec{R} \times \vec{\nabla}_{R}$. Here we made use of the following identity valid for the Σ states: $\vec{L}_{n} \phi_{el} = -\vec{L}_{el} \phi_{el}$, where \vec{L}_{el} is the electronic angular momentum operator $\vec{L}_{el} = -i\sum_{a}\vec{r}_{a} \times \vec{\nabla}_{a}$. In this new formulation, it is possible to avoid the Π symmetry functions to be involved—the perpendicular component is obtained directly from the electronic ground state wave function as

$$-\frac{1}{R^2}\left\langle\phi_{\rm el}\left|L_{\rm el}^2\right|\phi_{\rm el}\right\rangle_{\rm el}\,.\tag{46}$$

The second part of $\delta \mathcal{E}'_{na}$ contains operators which are difficult in numerical evaluation, so we transform it to a more convenient form using the following identity

$$\nabla_R^i \nabla_R^j (V) = \left(\nabla_R^i \nabla_R^j - \nabla_{\rm el}^i \nabla_{\rm el}^j \right) (V) + \nabla_{\rm el}^i \nabla_{\rm el}^j (V) \,. \tag{47}$$

The first term on the right hand side of Eq. (47) is

$$\left(\nabla_{R}^{i} \nabla_{R}^{j} - \nabla_{\rm el}^{i} \nabla_{\rm el}^{j}\right)(V) = \frac{3 R^{i} R^{j} - \delta^{ij} R^{2}}{R^{5}} - \frac{4 \pi}{3} \delta^{ij} \delta^{3}(R), \qquad (48)$$

(the $\delta^3(R)$ part can be neglected) while the second term is evaluated using integration by parts

$$\left\langle \phi_{\rm el} \left| r^{i} r^{j} \nabla_{\rm el}^{i} \nabla_{\rm el}^{j}(V) \right| \phi_{\rm el} \right\rangle_{\rm el} = \int d\vec{r} \, V \, \nabla_{\rm el}^{i} \, \nabla_{\rm el}^{j} \left(r^{i} r^{j} \phi_{\rm el}^{2} \right).$$
(49)

The third part of heteronuclear nonadiabatic correction $\delta \mathcal{E}'_{na}$, Eq. (24) is again a second order quantity, which requires evaluation of the resolvent in the basis set of ${}^{1}\Sigma_{u}^{+}$ symmetry.

All these expectation values as well as the second order quantities were evaluated in the basis of exponentially correlated Gaussians (ECG) functions [25]

$$\psi_k(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2) = (1 + \hat{P}_{12})(1 \pm \hat{\imath}) \Xi$$

$$\times \exp\left[-\sum_{i,j=1}^2 A_{k,ij}(\vec{r}_i - \vec{s}_{k,i})(\vec{r}_j - \vec{s}_{k,j})\right],$$
(50)

where the matrices \mathbf{A}_k and vectors \vec{s}_k contain nonlinear parameters, 5 per basis function, to be variationally optimized with respect to either the electronic energy or pertinent Hylleraas functional. The antisymmetry projector $(1 + \hat{P}_{12})$ ensures singlet symmetry, the spatial projector $(1 \pm \hat{i})$ —the gerade (+) or ungerade (-) symmetry, and the Ξ_k prefactor enforces Σ states when equal to 1, or Π states when equal to y_i —the perpendicular Cartesian component of the electron coordinate. For the second order matrix elements we generated a 600-term ECG basis set of ${}^{1}\Sigma_{g}^{+}$ or ${}^{1}\Sigma_{u}^{+}$ symmetries. The nonlinear parameters of this basis were optimized by minimizing the functional corresponding to this matrix element.

Finally, the total potential \mathcal{Y} in the Schrödinger equation (22) reads

$$\mathcal{Y}(R) = \mathcal{E}_{\rm el}(R) + \mathcal{E}_{\rm a}(R) + \delta \mathcal{E}_{\rm na}(R) + \delta \mathcal{E}_{\rm na}'(R) + \mathcal{E}^{(2)}(R) + \mathcal{E}_{\rm fs}(R) + \mathcal{E}^{(3)}(R) + \mathcal{E}^{(4)}(R).$$
(51)

All its components were shifted by subtracting corresponding atomic values (see Sec. V and [1]) so that they asymptotically tend to zero.

VIII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table I shows the dissociation energy of the ground rovibrational level decomposed into all the known significant contributions. Particular corrections have been computed as a difference between the eigenvalues obtained adding successively corresponding contributions to the potential \mathcal{Y} , Eq. (51). For instance, the α^2 relativistic correction has been evaluated from two eigenvalues: one obtained with $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{E}_{el} + \mathcal{E}_{a} + \delta \mathcal{E}_{na} + \delta \mathcal{E}'_{na} + \mathcal{E}^{(2)}$ and the other with $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{E}_{el} + \mathcal{E}_{a} + \delta \mathcal{E}_{na} + \delta \mathcal{E}'_{na}$. Relativistic and QED corrections can also be obtained without the nonadiabatic potential $\delta \mathcal{E}_{na} + \delta \mathcal{E}'_{na}$. The difference for the ground state is quite small 10^{-6} cm⁻¹, however for excited states the difference can be larger.

There are several possible sources of the uncertainty in the final dissociation energy. The three dominating are (i) the missing relativistic and QED recoil terms of $\mathcal{O}(m_e/M)$, (ii) the neglect of the nonadiabatic terms of $\mathcal{O}[(m_{\rm e}/\mu_{\rm n})^3]$, and (iii) the approximate treatment of the $lpha^4$ contribution. Although the formulas for the omitted relativistic recoil terms are explicitly known [24], no numerical calculations have been performed so far. The error caused by the neglect of this term can be estimated as $m_{\rm e}/\mu_{\rm n}$ times the α^2 correction (see [1]) and, analogously, times the α^3 correction to account for the missing QED recoil term. For D_0 of the ground rovibronic level these two contributions are 0.00043 cm^{-1} and 0.00016 cm^{-1} , respectively. In a similar fashion, the contribution to the error budget from the missing higher order nonadiabatic terms can be approximated as proportional to $m_{\rm e}/\mu_{\rm n}$ times the second order nonadiabatic correction, which amounts to 0.00026 cm^{-1} at the ground level. The last meaningful part of the uncertainty results from the incomplete treatment of the higher order QED effects. As previously [1], we conservatively estimate that the terms omitted in $\mathcal{E}^{(4)}$, Eq. (43), contribute ca. 50% of the one-loop term, which yields 0.0008 cm^{-1} of the uncertainty. The quadratic sum of these four error components leads to the overall uncertainty on the ground state D_0 of less then 0.0010 cm⁻¹. For the rotationally and vibrationally excited levels, the uncertainty changes in accord with the size of the corrections. Its estimation for individual levels is listed in the ESI file related to this article. In total, there are 400 bound levels with the vibrational quantum number v ranging from 0 to 17. The number of the rotational levels decreases with growing v from 37 for v = 0 to only 2 in the highest v = 17

state. The full set of the total dissociation energies is presented in Table V. Moreover, a detailed specification, similar to that in Table I, has been prepared for each bound rovibrational level and is made available through the ESI service. For each combination of the vibrational and rotational quantum numbers there are 8 entries corresponding to: six components of the dissociation energy, the total D_0 , and the estimated uncertainty of the total D_0 . The six components of the total D_0 are, respectively: the Born-Oppenheimer, adiabatic, nonadiabatic, α^2 relativistic (including finite nuclear size), α^3 QED, and α^4 QED.

Table II assembles several experimental and theoretical nonadiabatic values of D_0 obtained over the years for the ground rovibrational level. More details on the progress in determining the dissociation energy of HD can be found in a brief review by Stoicheff [26]. The first variational nonadiabatic calculation for HD has been performed by Bishop and Cheung [8]. They used 858 basis functions, each being a product of an electronic James-Cooledge function and some radial Gaussian-type function, and obtained the nonrelativistic $D_0 = 36405.97 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ with an estimated convergence error of 0.28 cm⁻¹. Approximate relativistic (-0.54 cm^{-1}) and radiative (-0.22 cm^{-1}) corrections completed the dissociation energy to the value displayed in Table II.

A more accurate relativistic dissociation energy of HD molecule was first obtained by Wolniewicz [27] in 1983, and later by Kołos and coworkers [28, 29]. In 1995 Wolniewicz has markedly improved his electronic wave functions and refined the final dissociation energy to get $36405.787 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ shown in Table II. This value differs from ours by a few thousands of a wave number in accord with the uncertainty estimated by Wolniewicz. Concerning the QED correction to the ground state D_0 we mention the old but very good estimation -0.197 cm^{-1} by Ladik [30]. It agrees surprisingly well with the current rigorous result, see Table I.

Last year, Stanke *et al.* [9] performed new variational nonadiabatic calculation employing 10000 explicitly correlated Gaussian basis functions. Their nonrelativistic total energy of -1.1654719220(20) hartree, when subtracted from the sum of the atomic nonadiabatic energies, Eq. (34), yields $D_0 = 36406.5105 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in good agreement with our nonrelativistic subtotal value in Table I, the difference is $0.0003(2) \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Their relativistic correction computed with the nonadiabatic wave function is -1.089307×10^{-5} hartree. Because the corresponding atomic limit ($-\alpha^2/4$ hartree) is known to a high accuracy (the leading order recoil term vanishes), the relativistic D_0 can be inferred from this data as equal to $36405.9794 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. We note here that now the discrepancy increases to $0.0012(5) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in comparison with our relativistic result. If this difference were attributed to the relativistic recoil contribution, it would be almost 3 times larger

than the conservative estimate of this effect discussed above.

Table II collects also dissociation energies determined experimentally. The first measurement of D_0 for HD was performed by Herzberg and Monfils in 1960 [31] yielding 36400.5 cm⁻¹. Motivated by a discrepancy with the famous theoretical results by Kołos and Wolniewicz [32], Herzberg repeated his experiment [33, 34] using an improved apparatus and established $D_0 =$ $36406.2(4) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ shown in Table II. This value, however, is in fact an arithmetic mean of two independent measurements: $36\,405.8~{\rm cm^{-1}}$ and $36\,406.6~{\rm cm^{-1}}$, the former being very close to our value. In 1993, Eyler and Melikechi [35] determined the dissociation threshold from the EF ${}^{1}\Sigma_{q}^{+}$ state and, in combination with the spectra measured by Diecke [36], obtained $D_{0} =$ $36\,405.88(10)$ cm⁻¹. At the same time, Balakrishnan *et al.* [37] performed a delayed detection of the fluorescence spectrum of photodissociated hydrogen and arrived at $D_0 = 36405.83(10) \text{ cm}^{-1}$. These results, although systematically larger, are in agreement within their uncertainties with current theoretical predictions. An order of magnitude more accurate measurements were reported by Eyler group in 2004 [38]. In a three-step experiment aiming at determination of the second dissociation threshold they obtained $D_0 = 36\,405.828(16) \text{ cm}^{-1}$. This result is 3σ away from our theoretical value. In view of an increased precision on both the experimental and theoretical side it must be stated that currently there is a discrepancy of ca. 0.05 cm^{-1} in the determination of D_0 for HD.

Accuracy of the present results can also be assessed by comparison of the energy difference corresponding to the lowest rotationless vibrational transition with the available literature data (see Table III). The most accurate theoretical predictions by Wolniewicz and by Kołos and Rychlewski as well as the experimental data are in very good agreement with the present result 3632.1604(5) cm⁻¹. Here, we estimated the uncertainty in the same way as for the dissociation energy (see above) i.e. assuming that the error components are proportional to corresponding corrections.

In contrast to the homonuclear isotopomers, the electric dipole transitions between the lowest rotational states of HD are allowed and the transition energy can, in principle, be measured directly. In Table IV we present values of all significant contributions to the lowest $J = 0 \rightarrow 1, 2$ transition energies and compare with the available experimental data. These data are not very accurate, but we think, once they are improved, this comparison would be a significant test of the present molecular structure theory.

The ionization potential (IP) of HD can be related to its dissociation energy by

$$IP = D_0(HD) - E(H) - D_0(HD^+).$$
(52)

Since the dissociation energy of HD⁺, as well as the total energy of the hydrogen atom are known very accurately, we can evaluate IP with an accuracy adequate to that of D_0 (HD). Up to date values of $E(H) = -109678.7717 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $D_0(HD^+) = 21516.06960 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ have been compiled by Liu *et al.* [3] on the basis of current fundamental constants [17] and calculations by Korobov [39, 40]. IP computed for HD from the above formula amounts to $124568.4849(10) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ with the uncertainty transfered directly from D_0 .

IX. CONCLUSION

The high accuracy of 0.001 cm^{-1} for the theoretically predicted dissociation energy of H₂ and isotopomers has been achieved due to the recent progress made in two directions. The first one, enabled a complete treatment of the leading QED effects. In particular, the approach to effectively calculate the many electron Bethe logarithm and mean values of singular operators, like the Araki-Sucher term, has been developed [1, 41, 42]. The second direction, indispensable to reach this accuracy, is the nonadiabatic perturbation theory [10, 11, 24], which enables a rigorous approach to the finite nuclear mass effects beyond the adiabatic approximation. However, an accurate nonadiabatic correction to relativistic contribution still remains to be evaluated.

In comparison of theoretical predictions with recent experimental results we observe a very good agreement for dissociation energies of H₂ and D₂, and a small discrepancy of 0.045(16) cm⁻¹ for HD. Moreover, our predictions for transition energies, such as $J = 0 \rightarrow 1$ and $J = 0 \rightarrow 2$ (v = 0) are much more accurate than present experimental values for HD. Therefore, a new measurement with an increased precision of dissociation and transition energies of HD molecule would be very desirable.

Acknowledgments

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Component	D_0
ВО	36401.9332(1)
Adiabatic correction	4.2509(1)
Nonadiabatic correction	0.3267(2)
α^0 subtotal	36406.5108(2)
α^2 correction	-0.5299(4)
α^2 finite nuclear size correction	-0.0001(0)
α^0 + α^2 subtotal	36405.9809(5)
α^3 correction	-0.1964(2)
α^4 correction	-0.0016(8)
Total	36405.7828(10)

TABLE I: Components of D_0 (in cm⁻¹) for the v = 0, J = 0 state of HD. Uncertainties of α^2 and α^3 come from the neglect of nuclear recoil corrections and that of α^4 from the approximate formula.

Component	D_0	δ
This work	36405.7828(10)	
Theory		
Stanke et al. (2009) [9]	36405.7814^a	-0.0014
Wolniewicz (1995) [43]	36405.787	0.004
Kołos and Rychlewski (1993) [29]	36405.763	-0.020
Kołos, Szalewicz, Monkhorst (1986) [28]	36405.784	0.001
Wolniewicz (1983) [27]	36405.73	0.05
Bishop and Cheung (1978) [8]	36405.49	-0.29
Experiment		
Zhang et al. (2004) [38]	36405.828(16)	0.045
Balakrishnan et al. (1993) [37]	36405.83(10)	0.05
Eyler and Melikechi (1993) [35]	36405.88(10)	0.10
Herzberg (1970) [33, 34]	36406.2(4)	0.4

TABLE II: Comparison of theoretical and experimental results for D_0 (in cm⁻¹) of the v = 0, J = 0 state of HD. δ is a difference to our result.

^{*a*} The original $D_0 = 36405.9794 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ from [9] has been augmented by a sum of our α^3 and α^4 QED corrections equal to -0.1980 cm^{-1} .

Source	ΔE	δ
This work	3632.1604(5)	
Theory		
Stanke et al. (2009) [9]	3632.1614^a	0.0010
Wolniewicz (1995) [43]	3632.161	0.001
Kołos and Rychlewski (1993) [29]	3632.161	0.001
Experiment		
Stanke et al. (2009) [9]	$3632.1595(17)^b$	-0.0009
Rich et al. (1982) [44]	$3632.159(6)^c$	-0.001
McKellar et al. (1976) [45]	$3632.152(9)^c$	-0.008

TABLE III: Comparison of theoretical and experimental results for the energy difference ΔE (in cm⁻¹) between v = 0 and v = 1 rotationless states of HD. δ is a difference to our result.

^{*a*} The original $\Delta E = 3632.1802 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ from [9] has been augmented by a sum of our α^3 and α^4 QED corrections equal to -0.0187 cm^{-1} .

^b 1σ uncertainty.

 c 3σ uncertainty.

cm ⁻¹ .		
Component	$\Delta E(0 \to 1)$	$\Delta E(0 \to 2)$
ВО	89.270629	267.196840
Adiabatic correction	-0.036086	-0.107842
Nonadiabatic correction	-0.007782(6)	-0.023287(19)
α^0 subtotal	89.226761(6)	267.065711(19)
α^2 correction	0.001948(2)	0.005813(5)
$\alpha^0 + \alpha^2$ subtotal	89.228709(6)	267.071524(20)
α^3 correction	-0.000771(1)	-0.002303(2)
α^4 correction	-0.000007(4)	-0.000018(9)
Total	89.227933(8)	267.069205(22)
Experiment, [46] and [47]	89.23	267.086(10)

TABLE IV: Components of theoretically predicted transition energy ΔE between J = 0 and J = 1, and between J = 0 and J = 2 rotational levels of the ground vibrational state (v = 0) of HD. All entries in cm⁻¹.

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