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**New and improved infrared absorption cross sections for  
chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22)**

by

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40 **Abstract**

41           The most widely used hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) commercially since the  
42 1930s has been chlorodifluoromethane, or HCFC-22, which has the undesirable effect of  
43 depleting stratospheric ozone. As this molecule is currently being phased out under the  
44 Montreal Protocol, monitoring its concentration profiles using infrared sounders crucially  
45 requires accurate laboratory spectroscopic data. This work describes new high-resolution  
46 infrared absorption cross sections of chlorodifluoromethane over the spectral range 730 –  
47 1380  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , determined from spectra recorded using a high-resolution Fourier transform  
48 spectrometer (Bruker IFS 125HR) and a 26-cm-pathlength cell. Spectra of  
49 chlorodifluoromethane / dry synthetic air mixtures were recorded at resolutions between 0.01  
50 and 0.03  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (calculated as 0.9/MOPD; MOPD = maximum optical path difference) over a  
51 range of temperatures and pressures (7.5 – 762 Torr and 191 – 295 K) appropriate for  
52 atmospheric conditions. This new cross-section dataset improves upon the one currently  
53 available in the HITRAN and GEISA databases; in particular it provides coverage over a  
54 wider range of pressures and temperatures, has more accurate wavenumber scales, more  
55 consistent integrated band intensities, improved signal-to-noise, is free of channel fringing,  
56 and additionally covers the  $\nu_2$  and  $\nu_7$  bands.

57



## 58 **1. Introduction**

59           The consumer appetite for safe household refrigeration led to the commercialisation  
60 in the 1930s of dichlorodifluoromethane, or CFC-12, a nonflammable and non-toxic  
61 refrigerant (Myers, 2007). Within the next few decades, other chemically related refrigerants  
62 were additionally commercialised, including chlorodifluoromethane, or HCFC-22, which  
63 found use in a wide array of applications such as air conditioners, chillers, and refrigeration  
64 for food retail and industrial processes. Additionally, HCFC-22 was a component of  
65 refrigerant R-502, an azeotropic blend of 48.8% HCFC-22 and 51.2% CFC-115 by mass,  
66 introduced in the 1960s for commercial refrigeration equipment (Watanabe, 2003). The use  
67 of chlorodifluoromethane has also grown as a feedstock, for example its pyrolysis yields  
68 tetrafluoroethylene (TFE), the monomer for polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), which is  
69 trademarked as Teflon (Myers, 2007). Furthermore, its manufacture results in the by-product  
70 trifluoromethane, or fluorofom (HFC-23), a very strong greenhouse which continues to  
71 increase in the atmosphere (Harrison et al., 2012).

72           The discovery that CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) could reach the stratosphere and  
73 photodissociate to release chlorine atoms, which would catalyse the destruction of  
74 stratospheric ozone (Solomon, 1999), led to international action and the ratification of the  
75 1987 Montreal Protocol (and its later amendments), which aimed to phase-out the worldwide  
76 production and use of CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances. HCFCs  
77 (hydrochlorofluorocarbons), which were not regulated until the 1992 amendment and have a  
78 less deleterious effect on the ozone layer than CFCs, were designated ‘transitional’  
79 replacements to aid in the rapid phase out of CFCs. With the worldwide CFC phase out  
80 achieved, the focus has shifted to ending the use of HCFCs themselves, with a final phase out  
81 currently scheduled for 2040 in the developing world and 2030 for developed countries.

82           HCFCs, in particular HCFC-22, continue to increase in the atmosphere. HCFC-22  
83 is currently the most abundant HCFC in the Earth’s atmosphere; it has an ozone depletion  
84 potential of 0.034 (Harris et al., 2014), and an atmospheric lifetime of 11.9 years (Harris et  
85 al., 2014). It is also a very strong greenhouse gas with a 100-year global warming potential  
86 of 1780 (Harris et al., 2014). It is unsurprising, therefore, that there is much work carried out  
87 in monitoring HCFC-22 atmospheric concentrations. For example, according to in-situ,  
88 ground-based AGAGE (Advanced Global Atmospheric Gases Experiment) measurements,  
89 the tropospheric abundance of HCFC-22 increased from 191.8 ppt in 2008 to 214.2 ppt in  
90 2011 to 219.8 ppt in 2012 (Carpenter et al., 2014), with a 2011–2012 growth rate of  
91 2.6%/year. However, emissions of HCFC-22 have stabilised since 2008 at  $\sim 370 \text{ Gg year}^{-1}$



92 (Carpenter et al., 2014). Saikawa et al. (2012) have estimated regional HCFC-22 emissions  
93 from globally distributed surface data, which indicate an increasing trend between 1995 and  
94 2009, and a surge in HCFC-22 emissions between 2005 and 2009 from developing countries  
95 in Asia, including China and India, partially offsetting first efforts in developed countries to  
96 phase out production and consumption. Although there is believed to be a large worldwide  
97 bank of HCFC-22 in refrigeration systems, it is expected that emissions will decline over the  
98 coming decade as new refrigerants are adopted (Carpenter et al., 2014).

99 Measurements of HCFC-22 in the atmosphere are also made using remote-sensing  
100 techniques. The literature reports a number of remote-sensing instruments capable of  
101 measuring HCFC-22 in the Earth's atmosphere; the ATMOS (Atmospheric Trace MOlecule  
102 Spectroscopy) instrument deployed on the space shuttle (Irion et al., 2002), the JPL balloon-  
103 borne MkIV interferometer (Velazco et al., 2011), the MIPAS (Michelson Interferometer for  
104 Passive Atmospheric Sounding) instrument on ENVISAT (ENVironmental SATellite) (e.g.  
105 Moore and Remedios, 2008), and the ACE-FTS (Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment –  
106 Fourier transform spectrometer) instrument on SCISAT (Brown et al., 2011).

107 Crucially these remote-sensing datasets all rely on the accuracy of the underlying  
108 laboratory spectroscopy used in the forward model. Since the chlorodifluoromethane  
109 infrared (IR) spectrum consists of an abundance of densely packed lines, it is virtually an  
110 impossible task to derive spectroscopic line parameters. The solution for remote-sensing  
111 purposes is to derive absorption cross sections from air-broadened spectra recorded in the  
112 laboratory. In order to be most useful for remote sensing, these cross-section datasets  
113 require: (1) accurate band intensities; (2) accurate wavenumber scales; (3) a wide coverage of  
114 atmospherically relevant pressure-temperature (PT) combinations; (4) spectra recorded at an  
115 appropriate resolution (Doppler-limited at the lowest pressures). This work presents new  
116 spectroscopic data which improve upon those currently available in the HITRAN (High-  
117 resolution TRANsmission) and GEISA (Gestion et Etude des Informations Spectroscopiques  
118 Atmosphériques) databases. In Section 2, a discussion of previous HCFC-22 IR absorption  
119 cross section datasets, derived from laboratory measurements, is presented. Section 3  
120 provides details on the new measurements taken as part of this work and the derivation of  
121 cross sections, with Section 4 providing a discussion of the results and comparison with  
122 previous measurements.

123

## 124 **2. Previous quantitative spectroscopic measurements of chlorodifluoromethane**



125 There are two principal chlorodifluoromethane isotopologues,  $\text{CH}^{35}\text{ClF}_2$  and  
126  $\text{CH}^{37}\text{ClF}_2$ , with abundances of  $\sim 76\%$  and  $\sim 24\%$ , respectively. Both isotopologues are  
127 asymmetric tops belonging to the  $C_s$  point group, and each possess a single plane of  
128 symmetry (CHCl) containing the  $a$  and  $c$  principal axes. Chlorodifluoromethane has nine  
129 fundamental vibrational modes, six ( $\nu_1 - \nu_6$ ) are symmetric ( $A'$ ) with respect to the symmetry  
130 plane, appearing as  $a/c$ -type bands in the IR, and three ( $\nu_7 - \nu_9$ ) are antisymmetric ( $A''$ ) with  
131 respect to the symmetry plane, corresponding to  $b$ -type bands (Snels and D'Amico, 2001).

132 The  $730 - 1380 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectral range covered in the present work contains a number  
133 of strong band systems: the fundamental  $\nu_4 \sim 804.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{CH}^{37}\text{ClF}_2$ ) /  $809.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{CH}^{35}\text{ClF}_2$ )  
134 (Ross et al., 1989) in Fermi resonance with the overtone  $2\nu_6 \sim 820.9$  ( $\text{CH}^{37}\text{ClF}_2$ ) /  $829.1$   
135 ( $\text{CH}^{35}\text{ClF}_2$ ) (Ross et al., 1989), and Coriolis-coupled doublets  $\nu_3 \sim 1108.7 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\nu_8 \sim$   
136  $1127.1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{CH}^{37}\text{ClF}_2$ ) /  $1127.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{CH}^{35}\text{ClF}_2$ ) (Snels and D'Amico, 2001), and  $\nu_2 \sim$   
137  $1312.9 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{CH}^{37}\text{ClF}_2$ ) /  $1313.1$  ( $\text{CH}^{35}\text{ClF}_2$ ) and  $\nu_7 \sim 1351.7 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Thompson et al., 2002).  
138 Figure 1 provides a plot of the new absorption cross section at 270.0 K and 7.51 Torr with  
139 these main band systems labelled. Note that the  $\nu_4$  and  $2\nu_6$  Q branches associated with each  
140 isotopologue are easily identified in Figure 1. Full details on the measurement conditions  
141 and derivation of this cross section are given in Section 3.

142 The first published absolute intensities of chlorodifluoromethane IR bands were  
143 those of Varanasi and Chudamani (1988), however it was several years later before  
144 absorption cross sections appeared (McDaniel et al., 1991). Derived from measurements of  
145 pure chlorodifluoromethane at  $0.03 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution and 203, 213, 233, 253, 273, and 293 K  
146 ( $780\text{--}1335 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), these cross sections were subsequently incorporated into the HITRAN  
147 1992 compilation (Rothman et al., 1992; Massie and Goldman, 1992).  $\text{N}_2$ -broadened  
148 chlorodifluoromethane absorption cross sections for the bands between  $700$  and  $1400 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  
149 derived from measurements over a range of temperatures down to 200 K at a spectral  
150 resolution of  $0.03 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , were subsequently published by Varanasi et al. in 1994. Seven of  
151 these PT combinations, over the range  $760\text{--}860 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  with temperatures ranging from 216 to  
152 294 K and pressures from 40 to 760 Torr, were included in the HITRAN 1996 compilation  
153 (Rothman et al., 1998).

154 The chlorodifluoromethane cross sections were given an overhaul for HITRAN  
155 2000 (Rothman et al., 2003); the database now contained nine cross sections ( $0.03 \text{ cm}^{-1}$   
156 resolution) from Clerbaux et al. (1993) for pure samples at three temperatures (287 K, 270 K  
157 and 253 K) and three wavenumber ranges ( $760\text{--}860 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1060\text{--}1210 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and  $1275\text{--}1380$   
158  $\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), and 57 from Varanasi (private communication, 2000) over the range 181–297 K and



159 21-761 Torr, 26 of these covering 760–860  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and the remaining 31 covering 1070–1195  
160  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; note that this dataset does not cover the  $\nu_2$  and  $\nu_7$  bands. Whereas the Clerbaux dataset  
161 (Clerbaux et al., 1993) is not particularly useful for atmospheric remote-sensing applications  
162 because it does not cover an appropriate range of atmospheric temperatures and pressures,  
163 the Varanasi dataset has been used extensively for such applications over the last decade and  
164 a half. This dataset has remained unchanged for subsequent HITRAN compilations,  
165 including the most recent HITRAN 2012 (Rothman et al., 2013), and has additionally been  
166 included in the most recent GEISA 2003 (Jacquinet-Husson et al., 2005) and 2009  
167 (Jacquinet-Husson et al., 2011) compilations, although in GEISA there are 51 cross-section  
168 files, six of which cover both spectral regions. Despite its widespread use, the Varanasi  
169 dataset has a number of deficiencies which will be fully discussed in Section 4.

170

### 171 **3. New absorption cross sections of air-broadened chlorodifluoromethane**

#### 172 **3.1. Experimental**

173 The experimental setup has been used previously for related measurements (e.g.  
174 Harrison et al., 2010; Harrison, 2015b), so only a summary is provided here. All air-  
175 broadened chlorodifluoromethane IR spectra were recorded at the Molecular Spectroscopy  
176 Facility (MSF), Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL), using a Bruker Optics IFS 125 HR  
177 FTS, and an internally mounted 26-cm-pathlength sample cell connected to a Julabo F95-SL  
178 Ultra-Low Refrigerated Circulator filled with ethanol. Sample mixtures were prepared by  
179 introducing chlorodifluoromethane (Asahi Glass Company, > 99% purity, natural-abundance  
180 isotopic mixture, used ‘as is’) directly into the cell and then adding dry synthetic air (‘Air  
181 Zero’, supplied by BOC); between measurements the cell was evacuated to < 0.001 Torr.  
182 Mixture pressures were measured close to the cell inlet using Baratron capacitance  
183 manometers (MKS), and the cell temperature was monitored by four platinum resistance  
184 thermometers (PRTs) in thermal contact at different points on the exterior surface of the cell;  
185 for the majority of measurements the temperature gradient within the cell was below 0.5 K,  
186 although this was closer to 1.0 K at the lowest temperatures. Spectra were recorded at  
187 resolutions between 0.01 and 0.03  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (defined as the Bruker instrument resolution of  
188 0.9/MOPD; MOPD = maximum optical path difference), a similar range to those of the  
189 Varanasi measurements; 0.01  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  resolution for the lowest pressures (in the Doppler-limited  
190 regime), and 0.03  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the highest pressures. The FTS instrumental parameters and  
191 settings are summarised in Table 1, with sample pressures, temperatures, and their  
192 experimental uncertainties and associated spectral resolutions listed in Table 2. Multiple



193 interferograms were recorded at each PT combination in order to improve the signal-to-noise,  
194 with empty cell background interferograms recorded before and after these sample  
195 measurements. Pure nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) spectra were additionally recorded at each  
196 temperature to calibrate the wavenumber scale of the air-broadened chlorodifluoromethane  
197 spectra.

198

### 199 **3.2. Determination of absorption cross sections for chlorodifluoromethane**

200 The procedure for generating absorption cross sections from the experimental data is  
201 identical to that reported previously (e.g. Harrison et al., 2010; Harrison, 2015b). A Fourier  
202 transform algorithm was applied to measured interferograms using Bruker's OPUS software,  
203 and transmittance spectra calculated directly as  $I_{\text{sample}}/I_{\text{background}}$ . Wavenumbers were  
204 calibrated against the positions of isolated N<sub>2</sub>O absorption lines in the ranges 1140 to 1320  
205 cm<sup>-1</sup>, taken from the HITRAN 2012 database (Rothman et al., 2013).

206 Initial absorption cross sections were derived via the Beer-Lambert Law, which  
207 relates the transmittance,  $\tau(\nu, P_{\text{air}}, T)$ , at wavenumber  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>), temperature  $T$  (K) and  
208 synthetic air pressure  $P_{\text{air}}$ , to the absorption cross section,  $\sigma(\nu, P_{\text{air}}, T)$ , with units cm<sup>2</sup>  
209 molecule<sup>-1</sup>, by

210

$$211 \quad \sigma(\nu, P_{\text{air}}, T) = -\frac{10^4 k_{\text{B}} T}{Pl} \ln \tau(\nu, P_{\text{air}}, T), \quad (1)$$

212

213 where  $P$  is the pressure of the absorbing gas (Pa),  $l$  is the optical pathlength (m) and  $k_{\text{B}}$  is the  
214 Boltzmann constant ( $= 1.3806488 \times 10^{-23}$  J K<sup>-1</sup>).

215 During the experimental work, evidence was found for chlorodifluoromethane  
216 adsorption in the vacuum line and on the cell walls, resulting in its partial pressure during  
217 each measurement differing from the initial, measured, value; although there was no  
218 evidence for this partial pressure changing over the course of a scan. This confirms previous  
219 observations made during the Spectroscopy and Warming potentials of Atmospheric  
220 Greenhouse Gases (SWAGG) project, which focused only on spectroscopic measurements  
221 for radiative forcing and global warming potentials rather than for remote sensing (Ballard et  
222 al., 2000). Due to this adsorption, the initial cross sections derived from Equation 1 needed  
223 to be calibrated against a "calibration standard" integrated band strength. This assumes that  
224 the integrated intensity over each band system is independent of temperature. The reader is  
225 referred to the discussion in Harrison et al. (2010) for a more complete explanation of the



226 underlying assumption, and references cited within Harrison (2015a) for details on the  
227 successful use of this approach in the past.

228 Integrated band strengths were calculated over the range 730 – 1265 cm<sup>-1</sup> for each of  
229 these cross sections, and ratios taken against a “calibration standard” integrated band strength  
230 over the same spectral range, derived from two 760-Torr-N<sub>2</sub>-broadened  
231 chlorodifluoromethane spectra (recorded at 278 and 298 K) from the Pacific Northwest  
232 National Laboratory (PNNL) IR database (<http://nwir.pnl.gov>) (Sharpe et al., 2004). Final  
233 absorption cross sections were obtained by calibrating the y-axis, i.e. multiplying each cross  
234 section from Eq. (1) by the calibration factor  $\xi$ , given by

235

$$236 \quad \xi = \frac{9.3554 \times 10^{-17} \text{ cm molecule}^{-1}}{\int_{730 \text{ cm}^{-1}}^{1265 \text{ cm}^{-1}} \sigma(\nu, P_{\text{air}}, T) d\nu} \quad (2)$$

237

238 Note that each PNNL spectrum, recorded at 0.112 cm<sup>-1</sup> spectral resolution, is a composite of  
239 multiple pathlength–concentration burdens, and great care has been taken to ensure that  
240 sample concentrations have been determined accurately; systematic errors are ~ 1.5 % (1 $\sigma$ ).

241 The wavenumber accuracy of the new absorption cross sections is comparable to the  
242 accuracy of the N<sub>2</sub>O lines used in the calibration; HITRAN error codes indicate this is  
243 between 0.001 and 0.0001 cm<sup>-1</sup>, but in reality is likely closer to 0.0001 cm<sup>-1</sup>. In order to  
244 obtain an estimate of the y-axis random errors, many measurements should be taken at each  
245 PT combination. Due to time constraints, however, only one spectrum has been recorded for  
246 each of these combinations, in the same manner as the Varanasi dataset. Despite this, it is  
247 expected that systematic errors make the dominant contribution to the uncertainty.  
248 Maximum uncertainties in the sample temperatures ( $\mu_T$ ) and total pressures ( $\mu_P$ ) are 0.3 %  
249 and 0.7 %, respectively (Table 2). The photometric uncertainty ( $\mu_{\text{phot}}$ ) is estimated to be ~2  
250 %. The pathlength error ( $\mu_{\text{path}}$ ) is estimated to be negligibly small, lower than 0.1 %.  
251 According to the relevant metadata files in the PNNL database, the systematic error in the  
252 PNNL chlorodifluoromethane spectra used for intensity calibration is estimated to be  $\leq 3$  %  
253 (2 $\sigma$ ). Equating the error,  $\mu_{\text{PNNL}}$ , with the 1 $\sigma$  value, i.e. 1.5 %, and assuming that the error  
254 estimates for all quantities are uncorrelated, the overall systematic error in the dataset can be  
255 calculated from:

256





257 
$$\mu_{\text{systematic}}^2 = \mu_{\text{PNNL}}^2 + \mu_{\text{T}}^2 + \mu_{\text{P}}^2 + \mu_{\text{phot}}^2. \quad (3)$$

258

259 Note that using PNNL spectra for intensity calibration effectively nullifies the errors in the  
260 chlorodifluoromethane partial pressures and cell pathlength, so these do not have to be  
261 included in Eq. (3). According to Eq. (3), the systematic error contribution,  $\mu_{\text{systematic}}$ , to the  
262 new cross sections is  $\sim 3\%$ .

263

#### 264 **4. Discussion and comparison of absorption cross-section datasets**

265 This section outlines the improvements in the new absorption cross-section dataset  
266 in relation to the previous Varanasi dataset. A numerical quantification of how the new cross  
267 sections improve atmospheric retrievals is beyond the scope of this work. However, some  
268 preliminary investigations of the ACE-FTS HCFC-22 retrieval for the upcoming version 4.0  
269 processing indicate an improvement in the  $1\sigma$  retrieval errors (C.D. Boone, personal  
270 communication, 2015); a more detailed investigation will follow at a later date.

271 This new dataset is available electronically from the author, and will be made  
272 available to the community via the HITRAN and GEISA databases.

273

##### 274 **4.1. Signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs)**

275 The SNRs of the new transmittance spectra, calculated using Bruker's OPUS  
276 software at  $\sim 990 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  where the transmittance is close to 1, range from 1300 to 2500 (rms).  
277 Without access to the original Varanasi transmittance spectra and without knowledge of the  
278 absorber partial pressures, it is not possible to determine the same quantity for the Varanasi  
279 measurements. A direct comparison between the absorption cross-section datasets reveals  
280 the new cross sections represent an overall improvement in SNR.

281

##### 282 **4.2. Channel fringing**

283 The majority of the Varanasi cross sections, principally those derived from  $0.01\text{-cm}^{-1}$   
284  $^{-1}$ -resolution spectra at low P and T, contain channel fringes noticeably above the noise level,  
285 likely equating with peak-to-peak amplitudes of  $\sim 2\text{-}3\%$  in transmittance for the original  
286 Varanasi measurements; these are caused by reflections from windows etc. in the optical path  
287 of the spectrometer. For the measurements described in the present work, channel fringes  
288 have been avoided by using wedged cell windows.

289



### 290 **4.3. Integrated band strengths**

291 In order to compare integrated band strengths of the new absorption cross sections  
292 with those of Varanasi, integrals have been calculated over the spectral ranges of the  
293 Varanasi cross-section files in HITRAN, 760 – 860 and 1070 – 1195  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , covering  
294 principally the  $\nu_4 / 2\nu_6$  and  $\nu_3 / \nu_8$  bands respectively. There are a number of instances of  
295 baseline inconsistencies in the Varanasi cross sections, e.g. shifts or changes in slope, and the  
296 cross sections provided via both the HITRAN and GEISA databases have had all negative y-  
297 values set to zero; these issues will all contribute to systematic errors in the Varanasi  
298 integrated band strengths. Figure 2 provides a plot of integrated band strength (without error  
299 bars, for ease of viewing) against temperature for each dataset and wavenumber range. The  
300 Varanasi integrated band strengths display a small spread in values, with a good deal more  
301 scatter for the  $\nu_3 / \nu_8$  bands, however there is no evidence for any temperature dependence, as  
302 expected.

303

### 304 **4.4. Wavenumber calibration**

305 There is no mention of wavenumber calibration in the initial publication of Varanasi  
306 et al. (1994), however the HITRAN 2000 publication (Rothman et al., 2003) states that the  
307 wavenumber scales were calibrated using the absorption lines of ammonia, acetylene, carbon  
308 dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide bands in the thermal IR (7–14  $\mu\text{m}$ ) as given in HITRAN.  
309 Despite this, the wavenumber scale does not agree with that determined for the new dataset,  
310 and there is some variation in this scale from cross section to cross section. Figure 3  
311 provides a plot of the new cross section at 201.5 K and 52.51 Torr, with the difference  
312 relative to a re-baselined and re-normalised Varanasi cross section (at 201.0 K and 50.4 Torr)  
313 plotted underneath (new – old). The difference plot reveals a number of sharp features,  
314 particularly the one at  $\sim 829.05 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which coincides with the sharp  $2\nu_6$  Q branch of the  
315 ( $\text{CH}^{35}\text{ClF}_2$ ) isotopologue. Although there are small differences in the measurement P, T and  
316 intensity between the two cross sections, the systematic features in the differences result  
317 almost entirely from the poor wavenumber scale of the Varanasi cross section, which in this  
318 spectral region is shifted too low by  $\sim 0.0045 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (a correction factor of  $\sim 1.000005$ ). This  
319 is in line with the wavenumber calibration errors observed for previous Varanasi HFC-134a  
320 (Harrison, 2015a) and CFC-12 (Harrison, 2015b) datasets.

321

### 322 **4.5. Pressure-temperature coverage**



323 A retrieval scheme in which the forward model uses absorption cross sections  
324 should ideally interpolate between cross sections rather than extrapolate beyond them. The  
325 target P and T of an atmospheric spectrum should be bracketed with four cross sections, two  
326 of these at higher T, two at lower T, and one each of these at lower and higher P. This means  
327 that the PT combinations within the dataset must cover all possible combinations of pressure  
328 and temperature appropriate for the region of the atmosphere being observed. Figure 4  
329 provides a graphical representation of the PT combinations for both datasets. It is readily  
330 observed that the Varanasi dataset does not cover a wide enough range of pressures and  
331 temperatures for the successful implementation of a four-point interpolation scheme. Note,  
332 for example, that above 225 K the very strong  $2\nu_6$  Q branch ( $\text{CH}^{35}\text{ClF}_2$ ) is covered by only  
333 six absorption cross sections, each at a different temperature; this would necessarily result in  
334 errors in retrieved HCFC-22 mixing ratios. The new dataset presented in this work has  
335 extended the PT coverage (30 PT combinations in total) to resolve this problem. However, it  
336 was not possible to record spectra at temperatures below 191 K with the Julabo F95-SL  
337 Ultra-Low Refrigerated Circulator used in this work.

338

## 339 5. Conclusions

340 New high-resolution IR absorption cross sections for air-broadened  
341 chlorodifluoromethane have been determined over the spectral range  $730 - 1380 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , with  
342 an estimated uncertainty of 3 %. Spectra were recorded for mixtures of  
343 chlorodifluoromethane with dry synthetic air in a 26-cm-pathlength cell at spectral  
344 resolutions between  $0.01$  and  $0.03 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (calculated as  $0.9/\text{MOPD}$ ) over a range of  
345 temperatures and pressures appropriate for upper troposphere – lower stratosphere conditions  
346 ( $7.5 - 762 \text{ Torr}$  and  $191 - 295 \text{ K}$ ). Intensities were calibrated against chlorodifluoromethane  
347 spectra in the PNNL IR database. These new cross sections improve upon those currently  
348 available in the HITRAN and GEISA databases (Varanasi et al. in 1994; Rothman et al.,  
349 2003); in particular they cover a wider range of pressures and temperatures, have more  
350 accurately calibrated wavenumber scales, have more consistent integrated band intensities,  
351 exhibit no discernible channel fringing, possess improved SNR, and additionally cover the  $\nu_2$   
352 and  $\nu_7$  bands. This dataset will provide a more accurate basis for retrieving HCFC-22  
353 abundances from atmospheric IR spectra recorded by remote sensing instruments.

354

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360

### 361 **Figure Captions**

362 Figure 1. The IR absorption cross section of chlorodifluoromethane / dry synthetic air at  
363 270.0 K and 7.51 Torr, with vibrational band assignments for the main band systems covered  
364 in this work. Note that the arrows associated with  $\nu_4$  and  $2\nu_6$  indicate the Q branches  
365 associated with each isotopologue, with that for the more abundant  $\text{CH}^{35}\text{ClF}_2$  at higher  
366 wavenumber than  $\text{CH}^{37}\text{ClF}_2$ .

367

368 Figure 2. A plot of integrated band strength versus temperature for each of the datasets over  
369 the wavenumber ranges  $760 - 860 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (principally the  $\nu_4$  and  $2\nu_6$  bands; bottom) and  $1070$   
370  $- 1195 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , (principally the  $\nu_3$  and  $\nu_8$  bands; top). The Varanasi data at each temperature  
371 display a small spread in values, with a good deal more scatter in the  $\nu_3 / \nu_8$  band strengths,  
372 likely due to some systematic error in the measurements.

373

374 Figure 3. Top: the new IR absorption cross section of chlorodifluoromethane / dry synthetic  
375 air at 201.5 K and 52.51 Torr, covering part of the  $\nu_4$  and  $2\nu_6$  bands. Bottom: the difference  
376 between the new cross section and the re-baselined and re-normalised Varanasi cross section  
377 at 201.0 K and 50.4 Torr (new – old). The observed features in the difference plot are  
378 indicative of poor wavenumber calibration in the Varanasi cross section.

379

380 Figure 4. A graphical representation of the PT coverage for both the new and Varanasi  
381 datasets. Although the new dataset contains fewer individual IR absorption cross sections  
382 (30), it has been optimised to provide a more balanced dataset with wider PT coverage.

383

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540

541 **Tables**

542

543 Table 1: FTS parameters and cell configuration for all measurements

Mid-IR source	Globar
Detector	Mercury cadmium telluride (MCT) D313 <sup>a</sup>
Beam splitter	Potassium bromide (KBr)
Optical filter	~700–1700 cm <sup>-1</sup> bandpass
Spectral resolution	0.01 to 0.03 cm <sup>-1</sup>
Aperture size	3.15 mm
Apodisation function	Boxcar
Phase correction	Mertz
Cell windows	Potassium bromide (KBr) (wedged)
Pressure gauges	3 MKS-690A Baratrons (1, 10 & 1000 Torr) (±0.05% accuracy)
Thermometry	4 PRTs, Labfacility IEC 751 Class A

544 <sup>a</sup>Due to the non-linear response of MCT detectors to the detected radiation, all interferograms  
 545 were Fourier transformed using Bruker's OPUS software with a non-linearity correction  
 546 applied.

547

548



549 Table 2: Summary of the sample conditions for all measurements.

Temperature (K)	Initial CHClF <sub>2</sub> Pressure (Torr) <sup>a</sup>	Total Pressure (Torr)	Spectral resolution (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>
190.9 ± 0.5	0.1440	7.496 ± 0.008	0.0100
190.8 ± 0.5	0.1875	50.75 ± 0.08	0.0150
190.8 ± 0.5	0.1984	99.50 ± 0.23	0.0150
190.8 ± 0.5	0.3018	199.2 ± 0.4	0.0225
201.5 ± 0.4	0.1566	7.507 ± 0.030	0.0100
201.5 ± 0.4	0.1902	52.51 ± 0.15	0.0150
201.4 ± 0.4	0.2027	100.6 ± 0.7	0.0150
201.4 ± 0.4	0.3377	200.0 ± 0.2	0.0225
201.4 ± 0.4	0.3267	302.5 ± 0.7	0.0300
216.3 ± 0.1	0.1721	7.570 ± 0.005	0.0100
216.3 ± 0.1	0.2066	50.83 ± 0.11	0.0150
216.3 ± 0.1	0.2280	100.6 ± 0.1	0.0150
216.3 ± 0.1	0.3851	200.6 ± 0.2	0.0225
216.3 ± 0.1	0.3862	349.5 ± 0.2	0.0300
232.7 ± 0.1	0.1857	7.500 ± 0.002	0.0100
232.8 ± 0.1	0.2229	50.07 ± 0.02	0.0150
232.7 ± 0.1	0.3288	100.3 ± 0.0	0.0150
232.7 ± 0.1	0.4769	201.9 ± 0.1	0.0225
232.7 ± 0.1	0.4800	399.9 ± 0.1	0.0300
251.2 ± 0.2	0.2571	7.523 ± 0.023	0.0100
251.2 ± 0.2	0.3683	50.82 ± 0.04	0.0150
251.2 ± 0.2	0.4594	204.9 ± 0.1	0.0225
251.2 ± 0.2	0.6050	400.2 ± 0.1	0.0300
251.2 ± 0.2	0.6469	602.6 ± 0.2	0.0300
270.0 ± 0.2	0.2858	7.514 ± 0.045	0.0100
270.0 ± 0.2	0.5317	201.5 ± 0.0	0.0225
269.9 ± 0.1	0.6917	352.2 ± 0.0	0.0300
269.9 ± 0.1	0.9080	759.9 ± 0.2	0.0300
294.5 ± 0.1	0.8388	351.4 ± 0.1	0.0300
294.8 ± 0.1	1.0162	761.6 ± 0.5	0.0300

550 <sup>a</sup> MKS-690A Baratron readings are accurate to ± 0.05%.

551 <sup>b</sup> Using the Bruker definition of 0.9/MOPD.

552







