The Infrared Spectra of Carbonyl Compounds in Alcohols

By Hiroshi MINATO*

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The infrared spectra of carbonyl compounds in alcohols have not been studied extensively, but the shift due to the hydrogen bonding is Rasmussen et al.1), regarded as rather small. for example, report that the carbonyl absorption of diacetone alcohol occurs at 1712 cm^{-1} despite the fact that the hydroxyl frequencies indicate the presence of strong hydrogen Grove and Willis²) estimate the bonding.

influence of hydrogen bonding on some ketones as being not greater than 10 cm⁻¹, and Searles et al.³) have shown that the carbonyl shift in an equimolar mixture of carbon tetrachloride and methanol is about 8 cm⁻¹ with esters, and 7 to 15 cm^{-1} with lactones, depending upon the ring size.

Becker⁴) determined the infrared spectra of benzophenone in ethanol and in tetrachloroethylene, and in ethanol observed two bands of about equal intensity at 1666 cm^{-1} and

^{*} Present address : Department of Chemistry, International Christian University, Mitaka, Tokyo.

¹⁾ R. S. Rasmusssen, D. D. Tunnicliff and R. R. Brattain, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 71, 1068 (1949).
2) J. F. Grove and H. A. Willis, J. Chem. Soc., 1951,

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³⁾ S. Searles, M. Tamres and G. M. Barrow, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 75, 71 (1953).

⁴⁾ R. S. Becker, J. Molecular Spectroscopy, 3, 1 (1959).

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 1656 cm^{-1} , and, in tetrachloroethylene, a single band at 1668 cm^{-1} . It appears that this phenomenon has not been mentioned elsewhere, including the excellent reviews on hydrogen bonding recently published^{5,6}. In order to obtain general knowledge about carbonyl absorption in alcohols and, particularly, to clarify the nature of the double peak, this investigation was undertaken.

Experimental

Materials.—Methyl *t*-butylperoxy carbonate was prepared by the drop-by-drop addition of a cooled sodium hydroxide solution to an equimolar mixture of *t*-butyl hydroperoxide and methyl chloroformate at -5° C. All the other chemicals were those of the best grade commercially available in the United States and were used without further purification.

TABLE]	[.	Carbonyl	BANDS	IN	CARBON	TETRACHLORIDE	AND	METHANOL
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	In CCl ₄ wave number	In CH ₃ OH wave number		$\nu_2 - \nu_1$	$(\mathbf{O}, \mathbf{D})_{\mathbf{y}_2}$
	ν_0	ν_1	ν_2		(O. D.) _۲
Carbonate					
Di-t-butyl carbonate	1739	1739	1712	27	0.53
Di-m-cresyl carbonate	1783	1783	1761	22	0.68
Di-n-butyl carbonate	1745	1745	1727	18	0.78
Di-o-cresyl carbonate	1779	1779	1757	22	0.80
Diethyl carbonate	1748	1748	1730	18	0.81
Ethylene carbonate	1818	1805	1779	26	0.87
Methyl <i>t</i> -butylperoxy carbonate ^a	1795 1764	1795	1776	19	1.25 ^a)
Aldehyde					
Benzaldehyde	1706	(1704) ^a)	(1695) ^{b)}	9	
p-Anisaldehyde	1704	(1692) ^{b)}	(1681) ^{b)}	11	
Ketone					
Acetone	1718		1709	9 0)	
2-Heptanone	1718		1706	12c)	
4-Heptanone	1715		1704	11c)	
2, 6-Dimethylheptanone-4	1712		1704	8c)	
Diacetone alcohol	1712		1701	11°)	
Triacetone alcohol	1698		1698	0	
Benzophenone	1667	1667	1656	11	0.91
Fluorenone	1724		(1712) ^{b)}	12°)	
Lactone					
γ-Butyrolactone	1779		(1764) ^{b,d)}	15°)	
γ -Valerolactone	1783		(1764) ^{b,d)}	19°)	
Ester					
Methyl 3, 5-dinitro benzoate	1742	1739	(1724) ^{e)}	15	(0.27)
Methyl benzoate	1727	1727	1709	18	0.75
Phenyl benzoate	1742	1742	1727	15	0.78
Ethyl benzoate	1724	1721	1704	17	0.84
Ethyl butanoate	1739	1736	1718	18	1.02
Methyl acetate	1745	1745	1730	15	1.09
Isopropyl acetate	1739	1736	1715	21	1.14
Ethyl salicylate	1684	1681d)		3c)	

^{a) This peroxycarbonate is exceptional in that it has two carbonyl bands, 1795 and 1764 cm⁻¹ (O. D.₁₇₉₅=0.32), even in carbon tetrachloride. Recently, Martin reported that di-}*t*-butylperoxy carbonate possesses a split carbonyl band, with a high intensity peak at 1825 and a somewhat less intense peak at 1795 cm⁻¹ (M. M. Martin, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 83, 2870 (1961)).

- b) The wave numbers in parentheses are inaccurate due to the diffused nature of the bands.
- c) These are $\nu_{MeOH} \nu_{CC1_4}$, not $\nu_2 \nu_1$.
- d) The band in methanol is a little broader than that in carbon tetrachloride.
- $e\,)$ $\,$ These are the shoulders of stronger bands and are not accurate.

⁵⁾ G. C. Pimentel and A. L. McLellan, "The Hydrogen Bond", W. H. Freeman and Co., London (1960).

⁶⁾ D. Hadzi (ed.), "Hydrogen Bonding", Pergamon Press, London (1959).

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	In methanol wave number		$\frac{(\mathbf{O},\mathbf{D})_{\mathbf{y}_2}}{(\mathbf{O},\mathbf{D})}$	In <i>t</i> -amyl alcohol wave number		$\frac{(\mathbf{O},\mathbf{D})_{\mathbf{y}_2}}{(\mathbf{O},\mathbf{D})}$
	ν_1	ν_2	$(0. D.)_{y_1}$	ν_1	ν_2	$(0, \mathbf{D}_{\cdot})_{y_1}$
Phenyl benzoate	1742	1727	0.78	1742	1730	1.00
Benzophenone ^a)	1667	1656	0.91	1667	1658	1.21
Isopropyl acetate	1736	1715	1.14	1739	1721	1.74

TABLE II. CARBONYL BANDS IN METHANOL AND *t*-AMYL ALCOHOL

a) In ethanol, $\nu_1 = 1667 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\nu_2 = 1656 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, (O. D.) $\nu_2 / (\text{O. D.})_{\nu_1} = 1.0$

TABLE III. CARBONYL BANDS OF ISOPROPYL ACETATE IN MIXTURES OF t-AMYL ALCOHOL AND CARBON TETRACHLORIDE

Vol. % of	(t-AmOH)	Wave n	umber		$(O. D.)_{y_2}$	
t-AmOH	(<i>i</i> -PrOAc)	ν_1	ν_2	$\nu_2 - \nu_1$	(O. D.) _v ;	
4%	1.13	1739				
8	2.25	1736	1724	12		
20	5.6	1739	1724	15	0.78	
100	28.2	1739	1721	18	1.74	

(The concentration of isopropyl acetate is 0.32 м.)

Infrared Spectra.—The infrared spectra of carbonyl compounds were determined in carbon tetrachloride, methanol or *t*-amyl alcohol by using calcium fluoride cells 0.2 mm. in thickness with a Perkin-Elmer Model 21 infrared spectrophotometer. The concentrations of the carbonyl compounds ranged from ca. 0.1 to 0.3 M, and were chosen so as to show the double peak clearly in alcohols.

Results

The infrared spectra of various carbonates, aldehydes, ketones, lactones and esters were determined in carbon-tetrachloride and alcohols. The wave numbers of carbonyl bands in carbon tetrachloride (ν_0) and in alcohols (ν_1 and ν_2), together with the ratios of the optical density of the two bands in alcohols, are shown in Tables I, II, III and IV. The spectrum of the carbonyl absorption of isopropyl acetate in methanol is shown in Fig. 1; this will serve as an example of the doublet bands and also shows the independence of the relative band intensities of the concentration.

The results shown in Tables $I - IV_{L}$ may be summarized as follows.

TABLE IV.	CARBONYI	. BAND OF	ISOPROPYL
ACETAT	E OF THE	VARIOUS CO	ONCEN-
ті	RATIONS IN	METHANO	L

Isopropyl acetate mol./l.	$\frac{({\rm O.}~D.)\nu_2}{({\rm O.}~D.)\nu_1}$
0.404	1.12
0.305	1.13
0.152	1.21
0.122	1.09
0.061	1.25
$(\nu_2 = 1715, \nu_1 = 1736 \text{ cm}^{-1})$	



Fig. 1. Carbonyl band of isopropyl acetate in methanol.

Concentration of *i*-PrOAc; A, 0.404; B, 0.305; C, 0.122; D, 0.061 M. Spectral slitwidth, 2 cm^{-1} .

1) Except for ethyl salicylate and methyl 3, 5-dinitrobenzoate, all the esters and carbonates appear to give two carbonyl bands in methanol, one at a wave number almost identical with the one in carbon tetrachloride, and the other lower by $15 \sim 27 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

2) Carbonyl bands of aliphatic ketones shift by $9\sim15 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ but do not give two bands in methanol. Benzophenone gives two bands, 11 cm^{-1} apart, while fluorenone seems

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to give one broad band which may well in fact consist of two bands.

3) Diacetone alcohol, the carbonyl group of which is already hydrogen-bonded, suffers a further shift as much as 11 cm^{-1} in methanol, whereas the carbonyl absorption of triacetone alcohol is not affected by the change of solvents.

4) Aldehydes seem to give one broad band which may well in fact consist of two bands. The shift of the center of the band is $6 \sim 18$ cm^{-1} .

5) Lactones gives one broad band in methanol, shifted by $15 \sim 19 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

6) The (Optical density of ν_2)/(Optical density of ν_1) ratio increases as the alcohol is changed from methanol to *t*-amyl alcohol.

7) No significant change in the ratio of the band intensities was observed for various concentrations of isopropyl acetate in methanol.

Discussion

The infrared literature contains numerous examples of monocarbonyl compounds that exhibit two or more prominent bands between 1900 and 1650 cm^{-1} . In the absence of other acceptable explanations, both bands are usually assigned to vibrations involving the carbonyl groups. These doublet carbonyl peaks have been attributed to equilibria between conformational isomers, to Fermi resonance, or to some form of interaction between carbonyl compounds and solvents.

It is not possible to write pairs of stable, conformationally isomeric structures for the carbonyl compounds considered here. In order for the equilibria between conformational isomers to be the cause of the doublet carbonyl bands, it is necessary for the energy difference between two forms to be small enough to allow a significant concentration of the less stable form to exist in equilibrium at room temperature, and the inductive, mesomeric and field effects on the carbonyl group must differ sufficiently in the two forms to induce a significant displacement of the two carbonyl frequencies.

Next, the possibility of attributing these doublet carbonyl bands to Fermi resonance should be examined. Yates and his collaborators^{7,8}) found that some cyclopent-2-enones exhibited doublet carbonyl bands, the relative intensities of which were dependent on solvents. By a careful examination of the infrared spectra of 5,5-dimethylcyclopent-2-enone, deuterated cyclopent-2-enone and other substituted cyclo-

they showed unambiguously pent-2-enones. that these doublet carbonyl bands arose from Fermi resonance between the carbonyl vibration and the out-of-plane bending vibration of the single ethylenic C-H bond. Angell et al.⁹⁾ attributed the double bands of cyclopentanone to the Fermi resonance.

However, the Fermi resonance does not seem to be an acceptable explanation for the doublet carbonyl bands of esters and carbonates in alcohols for the following reason. It is highly unlikely that an accidental degeneracy between the carbonyl stretching mode and an overtone or combination bands would occur through such a wide range of different types of structure. Although Jones et al.^{10,11} reluctantly and tentatively attributed the doublet carbonyl bands of unsaturated lactones to Fermi resonance, they were not satisfied with their choice of explanation for the same reason. Yates and Williams⁸⁾ found that while 3, 4diphenylcyclopent-2-enone showed a doublet carbonyl absorption at 1718 and 1695 cm^{-1} due to the Fermi resonance with an overtone of the out-of-plane bending vibration of the single ethylenic carbon-hydrogen bond at $860 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$, 3, 4-diphenyl-5, 5 - dimethylcyclopent - 2 - enone showed a singlet carbonyl band since its ethylenic carbon-hydrogen absorption was at 873 cm^{-1} . It is utterly unlikely that the doublet carbonyl bands of all the compounds in Table I arose from an accidental degeneracy between the carbonyl stretching mode and an overtone or combination band, from, i.e., a Fermi resonance.

If these doublet carbonyl bands observed in alcohols cannot be attributed either to equilibria between conformational isomers or to a Fermi resonance, one is forced to believe that these doublet bands are due to some form of interaction between carbonyl compounds and solvents.

If these doublet carbonyl bands in alcohols are due to the hydrogen bonding between the carbonyl oxygen and solvent alcohols, the following three sets of species are conceivably responsible for the doublet bands: 1) nonhydrogen-bonded carbonyl and hydrogen-bonded carbonyl, 2) hydrogen-bonded carbonyl with monomeric alcohol and with polymeric alcohol, and 3) mono-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl and di-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl.

The first set of species does not seem acceptable because of the following two reasons.

⁷⁾ P. Yates, N. Yoda, W. Brown and B. Mann, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 80, 202 (1958).

⁸⁾ P. Yates and L. L. Williams, ibid., 80, 5896 (1958).

⁹⁾ C. L. Angell, P. J. Krueger, R. Lauzon, L. C. Leitch, K. Noack, R. J. D. Smith and R. L. Jones, Spectrochim.

Acta, 11, 926 (1959). (10) R. N. Jones, C. L. Angell, T. Ito and R. J. D. Smith, Can. J. Chem., 37, 2007 (1959).

¹¹⁾ R. N. Jones and B. S. Gallagher, J. Am. Chem. Soc.,

^{81, 5242 (1959).}

First, diacetone alcohol, the carbonyl group of which is already hydrogen-bonded, absorbs at 1712 cm^{-1} in carbon tetrachloride, while 2, 6-dimethylheptanone-4 absorbs at 1712 cm^{-1} and heptanone-4 absorbs at 1715 cm^{-1} in the same solvent, the latter two not being hydrogenbonded. Second, the carbonyl absorption of diacetone alcohol, which is already hydrogenbonded, is shifted as much as 11 cm^{-1} when its spectrum is taken in methanol.

The second set was chosen by $Becker^{4)}$ as responsible for the doublet bands of benzophenone in ethanol. He attributed the absorption at 1666 cm⁻¹ to the carbonyl group hydrogen-bonded to the monomeric alcohol and the absorption at 1656 cm⁻¹ to the carbonyl group hydrogen-bonded to the polymeric alcohol. However, it seems highly unlikely that the ethanol monomer can exist in pure ethanol. The oxygen of the ethanol molecule hydrogen-bonded to a carbonyl group is more basic and should be hydrogen-bonded to other molecules of ethanol.

Therefore, in the absence of other acceptable explanations, the most reasonable explanation for the double bands seems to be that carbonyl compounds in alcohols may exist as both a mono-hydrogen-bonded form and a di-hydrogenbonded form 12,13 . In Tables I, II and III, ν_1 is attributed to the mono-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl and ν_2 is attributed to the di-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl. These assignments are made on the basis of the following observations: (a) The carbonyl absorption of diacetone alcohol occurs at 1712 cm⁻¹ in carbon tetrachloride despite the fact that the hydroxyl frequencies indicate strong hydrogen-bonding (3484cm^{-1}) , while 2, 6-dimethylheptanone-4 and heptanone-4 absorb in the same solvent at 1712 and 1715 cm⁻¹ respectively, these latter two not being hydrogen-bonded. This fact indicates that the carbonyl absorption of a mono-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl compound occurs at nearly the same wave-number as that of a non-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl compound. (b) Triacetone alcohol, in which two intramolecular hydrogen bondings are possible, absorbs in carbon tetrachloride at 1698 cm⁻¹

12) The positions of two molecules of water in the crystalline structure of $Na_2CO_3 \cdot NaHCO_3 \cdot 2H_2O$ are as follows (Ref. 5, p. 264):



13) The oxygen atoms of water molecules are pictured as hydrogen-bonded to two hydrogens of other water molecules. See, for example, E. S. Gould, "Inorganic Reactions and Structure", Henry Holt and Co., New York (1955), p. 32.

(compare this value with 1712 cm^{-1} of diacetone alcohol). The carbonyl absorption of triacetone alcohol does not suffer any shift at all when the solvent is changed from carbon tetrachloride to methanol. These facts indicate that a carbonyl absorption is shifted a great deal when the compound is subjected to a condition where di-hydrogen-bonding may take place, and that the carbonyl absorption of a di-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl compound is not affected at all by changing the solvent from carbon tetrachloride to methanol, while that of a mono-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl compound is shifted almost as much as that of a nonhydrogen-bonded carbonyl compound by changing the solvent from carbon tetrachloride to methanol.

It is an interesting question why monohydrogen-bonding gives only a small shift while di-hydrogen-bonding gives a rather large shift. A plausible explanation is that, since a carbonyl oxygen probably uses one of its porbitals in forming the σ -bond with carbon and another p-orbital in forming the π -bond, two unshared electron pairs are in the 2s and Therefore, the first hydrogen-2p orbitals. bonding probably takes place by making use of the rich electron density of the unshared This hydrogen bonding probably p-orbital. will not affect the stretching frequency of a carbonyl bond very much. The second hydrogen bonding, however, may strongly affect the stretching frequency of the carbonyl bond, if use must be made of the electrons closer to the carbon-oxygen bond. In other words, extensive hybridization of oxygen orbitals would be required for the formation of two hydrogen bonds, whereas little hybridization would be required to form a single hydrogen bond.

Alkyl ketones are exceptional in that they show only one carbonyl band in methanol, one shifted by $8 \sim 12 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. They lack the conjugated π -system which is present in esters, carbonates and aryl ketones. The lack of conjugation and the presence of electron-releasing alkyl groups make alkyl ketones form di-hydrogen-bonds more easily than esters, carbonates or aryl ketones, in which the π electrons of the carbonyl bond are somewhat spread to the conjugated π -system. In methyl 3, 5-dinitrobenzoate, the π -electrons of the carbonyl bond are strongly pulled to the benzene ring and di-hydrogen-bonded forms are present in a very small quantity, if at all. Methyl trichloroacetate and methyl trifluoroacetate, both of which are esters of strong acids, show only one band in methanol¹⁴), presumably

¹⁴⁾ T. G. Traylor, private communication.

due to the absence of the di-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl.

In the case of ethyl salicylate, the carbonyl π -electrons are completely spread to the quasisix membered ring and are not available to form an additional hydrogen-bond. As may be seen in Table I, the carbonyl band of ethyl salicylate is not affected by changing the solvent from carbon tetrachloride to methanol. Its carbonyl band in carbon tetrachloride is at 1684 cm⁻¹, which is 40 cm⁻¹ lower than that of ethyl benzoate in carbon tetrachloride and 20 cm⁻¹ lower than that of ethyl benzoate in methanol.

Searles et al.³⁾ found that the shift of the carbonyl band by changing the solvent from carbon tetrachloride to an equimolar mixture of carbon tetrachloride and methanol is 7 cm^{-1} for β -propiolactone, 12 cm^{-1} for γ -butyrolactone, and 15 cm^{-1} for δ -valerolactone. These are shifts of the centers of the broad band, and so the bigger shifts may mean a more di-hydrogenbonded form. The carbonyl band of γ -butyrolactone is further shifted when its infrared spectrum is determined in pure methanol (15 cm^{-1} ; see Table I).

The higher (Optical Density of ν_2)/ (Optical Density of ν_1) ratio with *t*-amyl alcohol than with methanol may be explained by the fact that self-hydrogen-bonding is much weaker in *t*-amyl alcohol than in methanol¹⁵). Therefore, the equilibrium, self-bonded alcohol \rightleftharpoons carbonyl-bonded alcohol, is shifted more to the right in the case of *t*-amyl alcohol, even though methanol is a stronger acid. It is presumably only as a hydrogen acceptor that t-amyl alcohol is ineffective; accordingly, we have a carbonyl compound able to compete with the oxygen of t-amyl alcohol in the hydrogen acceptor role, whereas the carbonyl oxygen cannot compete so well with the oxygen of methyl alcohol.

Summary

The infrared spectra of some esters, lactones, carbonates, ketones and aldehydes in methanol and *t*-amyl alcohol have been determined. With few exceptions, they showed either two carbonyl peaks separated by $15\sim 27 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ or a broad carbonyl peak shifted by $9 \sim 19 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ from the wave number as determined in carbon tetrachloride. The relative intensities of the two bands are independent of the con-Some possible explanations for centration. this phenomenon have been discussed, and as a result these doublet carbonyl bands have been attributed to the mono-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl and the di-hydrogen-bonded carbonyl.

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> Department of Chemistry Harvard University Cambridge 38, Massachusetts U. S. A.

¹⁵⁾ L. J. Bellamy, "The Infrared Spectra of Complex Molecules", John Wiley, New York (1959), p. 101.