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[Boris A. Kolesov](#) \*

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## Article

# Dynamics of Halogen Molecule Vibrations in Molecular Crystals: Temperature and Halogen Dependency

B.A. Kolesov

A.V. Nikolaev's Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia; kolesov@niic.nsc.ru

**Abstract:** Raman spectra of  $[\text{TeX}_6](\text{Y}_2)$  ( $\text{X}, \text{Y} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$ ) were recorded in the temperature range 5–300 K. The vibration frequency of molecular halogens as function on temperature and the type of halogen  $\text{X}^-$  in the  $[\text{TeX}_6]^{2-}$  complex was obtained. The vibration frequency of the molecular halogen  $\text{Y}_2$  depends on the type of halogen  $\text{X}^-$  complex  $[\text{TeX}_6]^{2-}$ . The temperature dependence of the  $\text{Y}_2$  frequency is anomalous compared to what was expected for a conventional anharmonic oscillator. It is shown that the interpretation of the experimental results based on the concept of traditional chemical bonding is quite satisfactory in all cases. The study was motivated by the need to consider the mechanism of interaction in the  $\text{X}^- - \text{Y}_2$  contacts.

**Keywords:** halogens; chemical bonding; halogen bonding; Raman spectroscopy

## Introduction

The interaction of atoms with each other is determined by several components: electrostatic, polarization, exchange repulsion, charge transfer, and coupling [1]. Chemical bonds formed with the listed participants are called non-valent and are classified as weak. However, the bond becomes strong if molecular orbitals are occurred and electron density shared on them. In this case, the bond is usually called valent.

Among non-valent interactions, the halogen bonding has recently occupied a special place. According to the IUPAC definition [2], "A halogen bond occurs when there is evidence of a net attractive interaction between an electrophilic region associated with a halogen atom in a molecular entity and a nucleophilic region in another, or the same, molecular entity." The formulation of the concept of halogen interaction is rather vague and allows us to refer to it any contact of a halogen atom with its surroundings without considering the details of the interaction. The halogen bonding, has been widely discussed in the literature [3,4] and works cited here]. Its role and significance in molecular crystals are still debated. Since it is not possible to consider the huge number of variants falling under this definition, in this work we have limited ourselves to describing the properties of  $\text{X}-\text{Y}_2$  contacts ( $\text{X}$  and  $\text{Y}$  are halogen atoms) and the interaction of  $\text{Y}_2$  molecules with each other in molecular crystals. The purpose of the present work is to consider the mechanism of interaction in these two types of contacts.

The main objective of this work was to examine how the vibration frequency of molecular halogens changes under various internal (composition) and external (temperature, pressure) conditions in order to clarify the nature of the interaction between molecular systems containing halogen atoms. The compounds  $[\text{TeX}_6](\text{Y}_2)$  were chosen as objects of study, where  $\text{X}, \text{Y} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$ , and molecular halogen  $\text{Y}_2$  form bridges between neighboring  $[\text{TeX}_6]^{2-}$  octahedra and are in contact with halogen atoms  $\text{X}^-$  of the same or another type ( $\text{Y} - \text{X}$  contact). The composition of the crystals under study also included various counterions, which are not described in the text due to the insignificance or absence of their influence on the vibrational spectra of the main molecular form. Information on the effects of external pressure is taken from the literature. Raman spectra of fine-crystalline

[TeX<sub>6</sub>](Y<sub>2</sub>) compounds were measured as function of temperature in the range 5 K – 300 K. It should be noted, however, that a complete series of [TeX<sub>6</sub>](Y<sub>2</sub>) compounds suitable for comparing the influence of halogen type in contacts Y – X, exists only for complexes [TeX<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>), where X = Cl, Br, I. The synthesis of crystals with molecular groups Cl<sub>2</sub> and Br<sub>2</sub> at any X is either not always possible, or the resulting compounds do not have sufficient stability. Of course, these restrictions are dictated by the electronegativity ratio and chemical activity of the contacting halogen atoms. For this reason, the primary attention in the work was paid to the properties of compounds [TeX<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>), where X = Cl, Br, I. Other possible structures [MeX<sub>6</sub>](Y<sub>2</sub>), (Me – metal) are considered as additional.

Another object of study in this work is molecular crystals of the halogens Cl<sub>2</sub>, Br<sub>2</sub> and I<sub>2</sub>. They are of great interest because an external pressure transforms them into a monatomic phase with the formation of a continuous two-dimensional network of identically bonded halogen atoms [5]. In addition, it was noticed (and this is the most crucial effect for these crystals) that at low (0 - 5 GPa) pressure, the intramolecular halogen-halogen distance unexpectedly increases, and only at P > 5 GPa does the crystal response becomes normal [6]. At the same time, intermolecular distances demonstrate “correct” behavior over the entire pressure range. Based on Raman study of I<sub>2</sub> crystals [7], it was found that the change in the wavenumbers of intra- and intermolecular vibrations in the temperature range 5 K – 300 K completely corresponds to what was observed in the experiments with pressure in crystalline bromine [6] with the only difference is that the change in inter- and intramolecular distances in the crystal in a given temperature range corresponds only to the initial region of the pressure range of 1-2 GPa. In both papers, the experiment was confirmed by quantum chemical calculations. The authors of [6,7] concluded that the reason for the anomalous decrease in the vibration frequency of I<sub>2</sub> at low pressures is intermolecular interaction. Perhaps it is this interaction that provokes the transition of the I<sub>2</sub> crystal from a molecular to a monatomic structure at high pressure. In addition it was also found that I<sub>2</sub> molecules can generate one-dimensional chains in nano-sized channels [8].

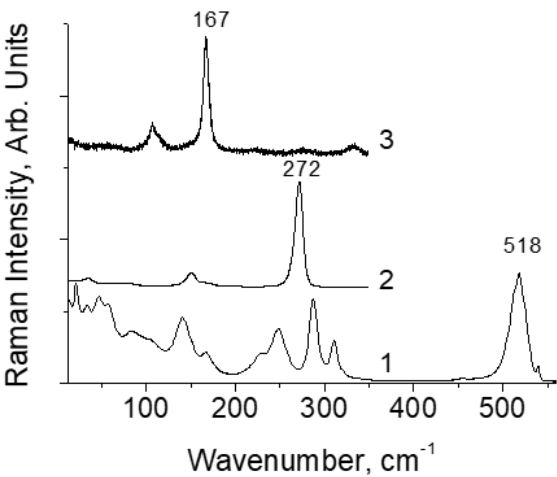
## Experimental

All compounds used in this work were synthesized over the past ten years in the group of Prof. Sergei Adonin (Nikolaev's Institute of Inorganic Chemistry of Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences). Subsequently, publications containing a detailed description of the preparation of the corresponding compounds are cited in the text.

Raman spectra were collected using a LabRAM HR Evolution (Horiba) spectrometer with a CCD Symphony (JobinYvon) detector that provided 2048 pixels along the abscissa with the excitation by the 633 nm of He-Ne laser. At all temperatures, the spectra are measured in backscattering collection geometry with a Raman microscope. Spectral resolution was around 0.7 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Closed cycle He-cryostat (DE210AF-GMX-20-OM type of ARS Company, USA) provides a temperature range from 5 to 300 K.

## Results and Discussion

Figure 1 shows typical Raman spectra of [TeX<sub>6</sub>](Y<sub>2</sub>) at room temperature. The positions of the band maxima are indicated only for the stretching vibrations of Cl<sub>2</sub> (spectrum 1), Br<sub>2</sub> (2) and I<sub>2</sub> (3). The remaining modes relate to vibrations of [TeX<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> octahedra, the study of which is beyond the scope of the present work and are not considered here. In some cases, the spectra also contain vibrational lines of counterions, which are also not considered. Table 1 lists the vibration wavenumber of Y<sub>2</sub> and the length of the X–I and I–I bonds. As can be seen from the table, in [TeX<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>) compounds, which represent a complete series of halogen type X, the mode frequency ν(I<sub>2</sub>) depends significantly on X, and the interpretation of this effect is one of the goals of this work.



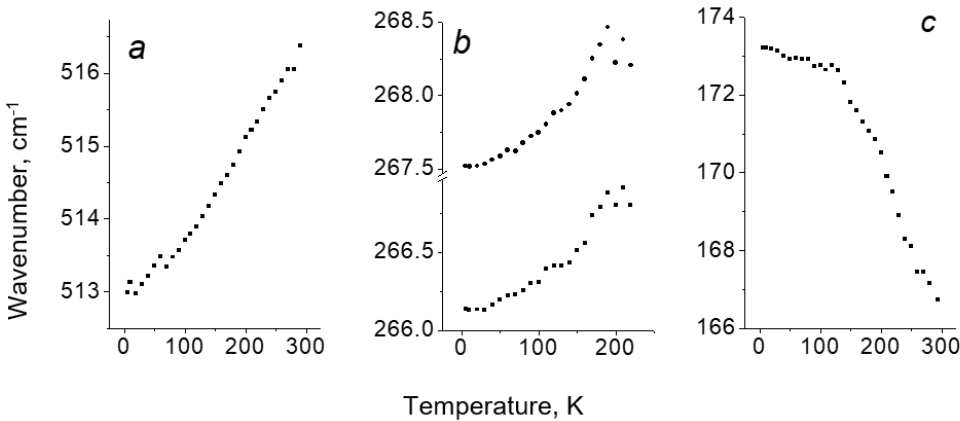
**Figure 1.** Raman spectra of [TeX<sub>6</sub>](Y<sub>2</sub>) compounds at room temperature. 1 – [TeCl<sub>6</sub>](Cl<sub>2</sub>), 2 – [TeBr<sub>6</sub>](Br<sub>2</sub>), 3 – [TeI<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>).

**Table 1.** Vibration frequencies of molecular halogens Y<sub>2</sub>. For Br<sub>2</sub> and I<sub>2</sub> in halogen crystals, two frequency values are given,  $\nu_1$  (sym) and  $\nu_2$  (asym). Cl<sub>2</sub> vibrations in the spectrum are represented by three components related to different isotopic compositions; the table lists the frequency values of the mid component corresponding to the mixed composition of isotopes in Cl<sub>2</sub>. Different entries for the same compound, for example [TeBr<sub>6</sub>]I<sub>2</sub>, refer to the synthesis of that compound at different time and under different conditions.

Compound	$\nu(\text{Y-Y}), \text{cm}^{-1}$	$d(\text{Y-Y}), \text{\AA}$	$d(\text{Y-X}), \text{\AA}$	Reference
Cl <sub>2</sub> (Gas)	554, 547, and 539			[9]
Cl <sub>2</sub> (Liquid)	532, 540, 547			[10]
Cl <sub>2</sub> (Solid)	540 (15 K)			[11]
Br <sub>2</sub> (Gas)	323.2,			[12]
Br <sub>2</sub> (Cavity)	300 in C60			[13]
Br <sub>2</sub> (Liquid)	318.6			[14]
Br <sub>2</sub> (Solid)	297 (15 K), 302			[11,15]
I <sub>2</sub> (Gas)	213.7			[16]
I <sub>2</sub> (Cavity)	197-198 in C60, C70, 208-213 in zeolites			[17,18]
I <sub>2</sub> (Liquid)	204			[19]
I <sub>2</sub> (Solid)	180, 189.7			[7]
[TeCl <sub>6</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub>	505	2.007	2.951	[20,21]
	513	2.002	3.155	
	498	2.006	2.98	
[TeCl <sub>6</sub> ]I <sub>2</sub>	191.2	2.7	3.19	[22]
	196.6	2.694	3.0-3.2	
	196.5	2.692	3.127	
	192.5	2.704	3.213	
	194.5	2.695	3.177	
[TeBr <sub>6</sub> ]Br <sub>2</sub>	266.8	2.333	3.0-3.04	[23]
	271.6	2.324	3.04	
[TeBr <sub>6</sub> ]I <sub>2</sub>	192.1	2.69	3.1-3.18	[24]
	184.0	2.715	3.201	
	169.3	2.71	3.27	
	192.2	2.693	3.1	
	190.2	2.73-2.74	3.14-3.3	

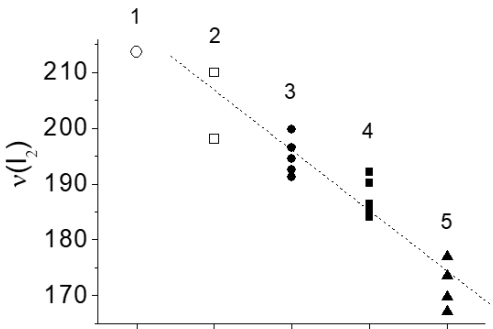
	186.5	2.707	3.32	
[TeI <sub>6</sub> ](I <sub>2</sub> )	167.1	2.748	3.261	[25]
[BiI <sub>6</sub> ](I <sub>2</sub> )	173.5	2.749	3.527	[26–28]
	177.0	2.731	3.323	
	169.8	2.761	3.519	

Figure 2 shows vibration wavenumber of Cl<sub>2</sub>, Br<sub>2</sub> and I<sub>2</sub> molecular halogens vs temperature for three different [TeX<sub>6</sub>](Y<sub>2</sub>) compounds. Vibration frequencies of  $\nu(\text{Cl}_2)$  (Figure 2a) and  $\nu(\text{Br}_2)$  (Figure 2b) decrease upon cooling down. This behavior is anomalous since, as is well known, the vibration frequency of a conventional anharmonic oscillator should increase with decreasing temperature (see, for example, Ref. [29,30]). An interpretation of the observed anomaly is another goal of the work. At the same time, the frequency of the  $\nu(\text{I}_2)$  mode in [TeI<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>) (Figure 2c) shows the expected positive shift with decreasing temperature, and this difference in the temperature behavior of the vibration frequencies of the molecular halogens also needs to be interpreted.



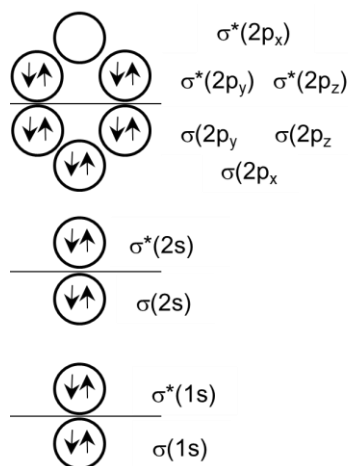
**Figure 2.** Peak position of the Y<sub>2</sub> vibrational bands as a function of temperature. (a) – [TeCl<sub>6</sub>](Cl<sub>2</sub>), (b) – [TeBr<sub>6</sub>](Br<sub>2</sub>), (c) – [TeI<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>). In the [TeBr<sub>6</sub>](Br<sub>2</sub>), two close modes are observed at 266 and 267 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which overlap at T > 220 K, and correct decomposition of the broad band into two components becomes difficult. The observation of two modes instead of one in the compound with bromine is probably due to partial disordering of the crystal lattice.

Figure 3 shows the vibration frequency of halogen dimer I<sub>2</sub> at various contacts. To find out why the vibration frequency of I<sub>2</sub> depends on the placement environment, it is necessary to consider the mechanism of formation of Y<sub>2</sub> vibration frequency.



**Figure 3.** Vibration frequency I<sub>2</sub> vs type of contact. 1 – I<sub>2</sub> in gas [16], 2 – I<sub>2</sub> in cavity [17,18], 3 – [TeCl<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>), 4 – [TeBr<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>), 5 – [MeI<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>) (Me – Te, Bi). The numerical data are taken from Table 1. The dashed line was drawn by eye.

The outer electronic shell of halogen atoms is  $s^2p^5$ . All molecular orbitals in the  $Y_2$  molecule are occupied except for the  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  term (LUMO), which is entirely unoccupied (Figure 4). On the other hand, halogen X in the  $[TeX_6]^{2-}$  complex has a saturated outer electron shell (HOMO). Its charge state is  $X^-$  due to bonding with the complexing metal Te(IV) and charge migration from the counterion in the crystal lattice. An excess negative charge of the halogen atom in the  $[TeX_6]^{2-}$  complex provokes the spreading of electron density to antibonding  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  orbital of  $Y_2$ . It will results in a weakening of the intramolecular Y–Y bond and a decrease in  $Y_2$  vibrational frequency.



**Figure 4.** Orbital occupation in  $I_2$ .

Charge spreading to the unoccupied antibonding orbital  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  of the  $I_2$  dimer in  $[TeX_6](I_2)$  compounds is limited by the energy ratio of the dimer LUMO and the  $[TeX_6]^{2-}$  HOMO. The less the energy of the electronic term  $X^-$  in  $[TeX_6]^{2-}$  compare to the energy of  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  orbital of  $Y_2$ , the smaller the charge shift to the  $Y_2$ . The outer electronic shell of Cl atoms is  $3s^23p^5$ . On the energy scale, these states are located significantly lower than the state of the antibonding orbital  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  of the  $I_2$  dimer, whose electronic configuration is  $5s^25p^5$ . For this reason, the charge transfer from  $Cl^-$  to  $I_2$  in  $[TeCl_6](I_2)$  is negligibly small. The same, but to a lesser extent, applies to  $[TeBr_6](I_2)$ . However, the HOMO energy of the  $I^-$  ion is quite comparable to the LUMO energy of the  $I_2$  dimer, and the charge spreading from  $I^-$  to  $I_2$  in  $[TeI_6](I_2)$  will be more significant than in the two previous cases. It agrees with the observed dependence of  $\nu(I_2)$  on the type of halogen X in the  $[TeX_6](I_2)$  series (Table 1, Figure 3).

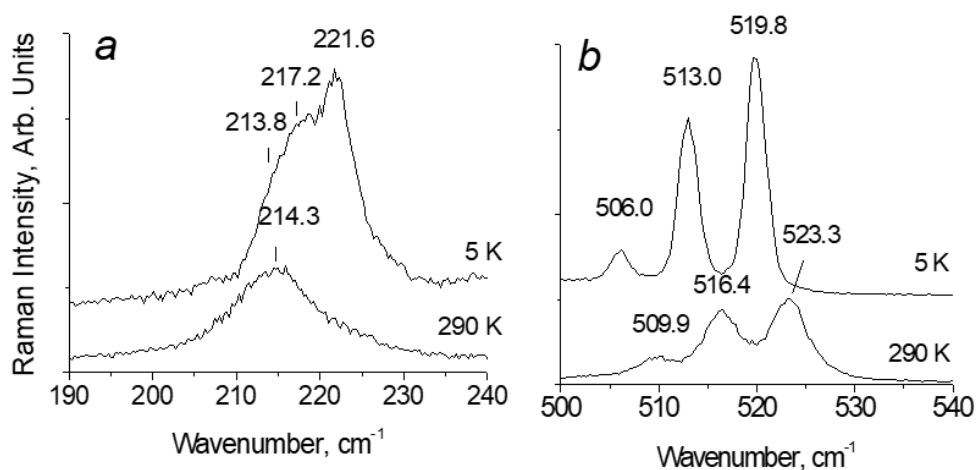
Thus, the assumption of charge transfer from the surrounding cavity and from the halogen atom  $X^-$  in  $[TeX_6](I_2)$  compounds to the unoccupied orbital of the  $Y_2$  dimer is the only correct one for the interpretation of the experimental data given in Table 1 and Figure 3. Another reliable experiment confirming the proposed mechanism of interaction of halogen atoms in the contact  $X^-Y_2$  is the temperature dependence of the  $Y_2$  vibrational frequency. It is presented in the next paragraph

#### *Temperature Dependence of $\nu(Y_2)$ in $[TeX_6](Y_2)$*

The temperature of the crystal determines the population of the vibrational states of  $Y_2$  molecules. As the temperature decreases, the vibrations freeze out, i.e., decrease in vibrational quantum number. In an anharmonic oscillator, which is described by the 6-12 potential of Lennard-Jones, it should result in a shortening of bond lengths, i.e., Te–X, X–Y and Y–Y bond lengths in the case, and an increase in their vibration frequency (see Ref. [29,30] for details). On the other hand, the vibration frequency of  $Y_2$  should fall at the X–Y bond lengths shortening due to an increase in the population of the  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  orbital of the  $Y_2$ . The compromise between these two processes determines the temperature dependence of the vibration frequency  $\nu(Y_2)$ . It is the temperature dependence that makes it possible to determine which of the two processes, anharmonicity of vibrations or a change in the population of the antibonding  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  orbital, prevails in the temperature dependence of the  $\nu(Y_2)$ .



The vibration frequency of Cl<sub>2</sub> in the lattice is about 540 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Table 1). The population of the first excited vibrational state is negligible (about 0.08 at room temperature). In other words, in the temperature range 5 K – 300 K, only a transition from the zero vibrational state to the first excited state is observed in the vibrational spectrum and the anharmonic contribution to the frequency of the Cl<sub>2</sub> stretching vibration does not change with temperature. At the same time, the frequency of translational modes of the Cl<sub>2</sub> dimer is much lower, about 220 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Figure 5), and the population of the first excited state of this mode is 0.5 – 0.6 at room temperature. Consequently, its freezing will affect the length of Cl<sup>-</sup>–Cl<sub>2</sub> and the population of the  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  orbital of Cl<sub>2</sub>. For this reason, the  $\nu(\text{Cl}_2)$  stretching mode shows a strong decrease in the range of 5 K – 300 K compared to  $\nu(\text{Br}_2)$  and  $\nu(\text{I}_2)$  (Figure 2).



**Figure 5.** Translational (a) and stretching (b) vibrations of Cl<sub>2</sub> molecular fragment in [TeCl<sub>6</sub>](Cl<sub>2</sub>) at 5 K and 290 K.

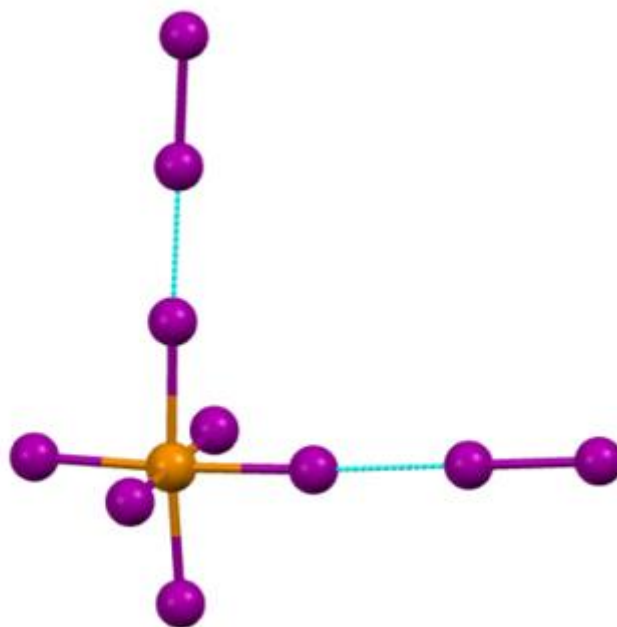
Figure 5 shows the spectra of the compound [TeCl<sub>6</sub>](Cl<sub>2</sub>) at 5 K and 290 K in the frequency range of stretching (around 500 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and translational (around 200 cm<sup>-1</sup>) vibrations of Cl<sub>2</sub>. The splitting of the band of stretching and translational vibrations of Cl<sub>2</sub> into three components is associated with the isotopic composition of chlorine and makes their assignment reliable. The ratio of the natural content of the heavy isotope <sup>37</sup>Cl and the light isotope <sup>35</sup>Cl can be taken with sufficient accuracy as 0.25:0.75. In this case, the number of pairs with heavy, mixed composition and light isotopes in the crystal should be in a ratio of  $\frac{1}{16} : \frac{6}{16} : \frac{9}{16}$ . The observed ratio of the integral intensities of the three translation and three stretching modes corresponds with the calculated values with great accuracy. To indicate the frequency of Cl<sub>2</sub> vibration we will use the peak position of the mid mode.

It can be seen that if the wavenumber of the intramolecular mode of Cl<sub>2</sub> decreases from 516 cm<sup>-1</sup> at 290 K to 513 cm<sup>-1</sup> at 5 K, then the wavenumber of the translational mode of Cl<sub>2</sub> increases from 214 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 217 cm<sup>-1</sup> at the same temperature range, which confirms the above assignment of the temperature dependence of vibration frequencies. In other words, these results highlight that strengthening of intermolecular interactions [TeX<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> – Y<sub>2</sub> provokes to weakening of intramolecular bonds.

However, in all [TeI<sub>6</sub>](I<sub>2</sub>) species, the  $\nu(\text{I}_2)$  increases at cooling down (Figure 2 c). This means that the contribution of charge transfer from [TeI<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> to the antibonding orbital of the I<sub>2</sub> dimer either changes very little or even decreases with decreasing temperature in contrary to a similar process in [TeCl<sub>6</sub>](Cl<sub>2</sub>) and [TeBr<sub>6</sub>](Br<sub>2</sub>). This effect should not be confused with the composition dependence (Figure 3) obtained at room temperature only. This somewhat unusual result can be understood if we take into account the parameters of the halogen atoms. The empirical atomic radius of iodine (1.4 Å) is significantly larger than that of Br (1.15 Å) and Cl (1.0 Å) atoms. It means probably that bromine and chlorine atoms can track the anharmonic shortening of the Te-X bond lengths in the [TeX<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2-</sup>

octahedron at cooling down. Still, iodine atoms cannot do it because of their large size and an emergence of steric hindrance.

Of the six Te–X bonds, the maximum effect from steric restrictions will be obtained by the two weakest Te–X bonds, the halogen atoms of which have additional bonds with neighboring  $Y_2$  dimers. (Figure 6, which shows a fragment of the crystal structure).

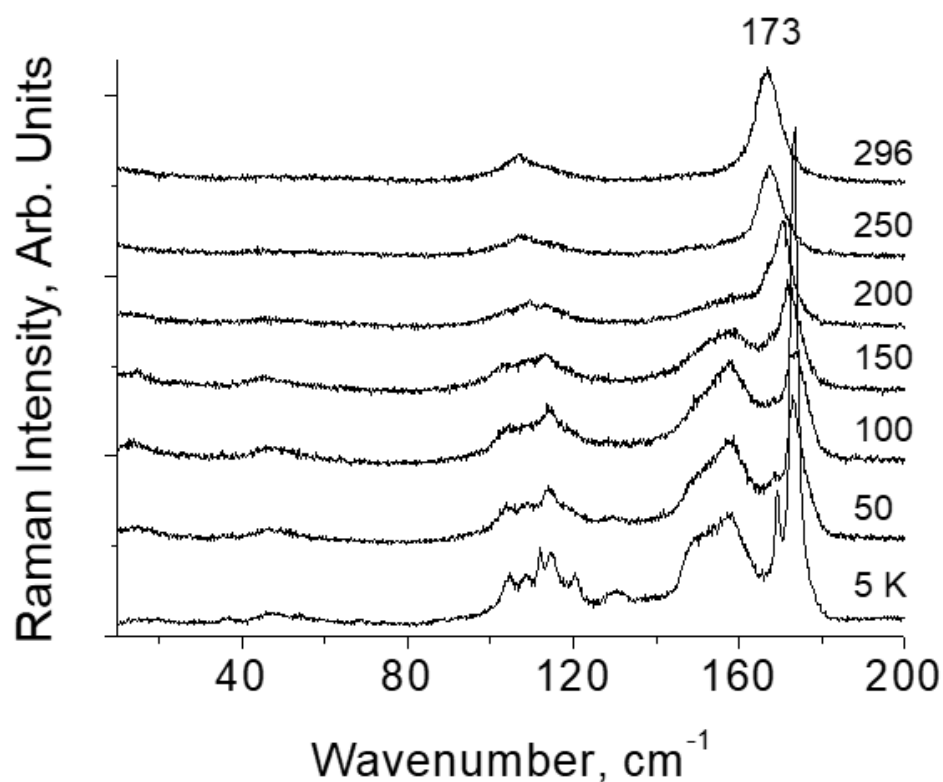


**Figure 6.** Fragment of  $[TeI_6](I_2)$  crystal structure.

It is these two bonds of the complex that will not be able to respond to a decrease in temperature, and the charge acquired by the corresponding iodine atoms during interaction with Te(IV) may either not change or even decrease with decreasing temperature, just like the charge transferred from these two  $I^-$  to the antibonding orbital  $I_2$ . At the same time, the population of the  $I_2$  vibrational mode drops from 0.8 at room temperature to 0.0 at 5 K, suggesting a noticeable anharmonic effect. This explains the difference in the temperature behavior of the  $\nu(Y_2)$  in  $[TeI_6](I_2)$  compared to  $[TeCl_6](Cl_2)$  and  $[TeBr_6](Br_2)$  (Figure 2).

The assumption of steric hindrance in the  $[TeI_6]^{2-}$  octahedron is confirmed experimentally. Figure 7 shows the spectra of  $[TeI_6](I_2)$  at various temperatures. In the low-temperature spectrum, two packets of vibrational modes are observed, i.e., in the region of  $110\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $160\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The first of them relates to Raman-active (symmetric), and the second to IR-active (asymmetric) vibration modes of the  $[TeI_6]^{2-}$  octahedron [31]. Asymmetric modes arise in the spectrum at  $T < 200\text{ K}$ . The arising of vibrations forbidden in the Raman spectrum means a distortion of the octahedron, in which various (short and long) Te–I bonds appear in the structure. This phenomenon is not observed in  $[TeCl_6](Cl_2)$  and  $[TeBr_6](Br_2)$ .

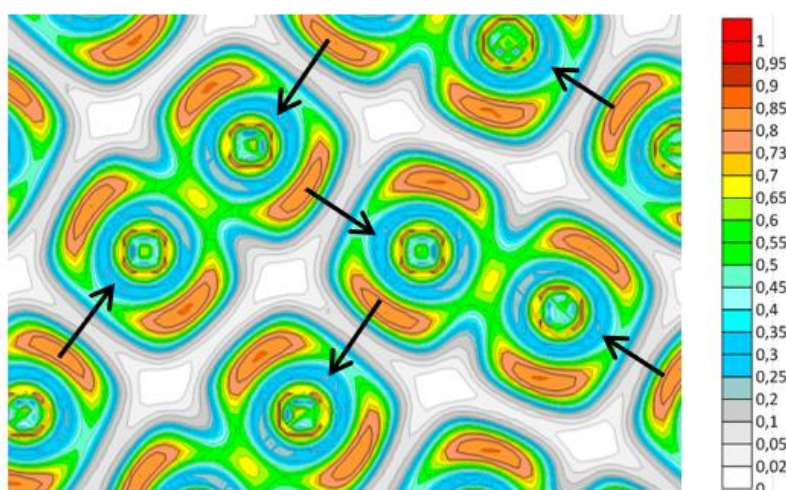




**Figure 7.** Arising of bands of forbidden vibrations of the  $[\text{TeI}_6]^{2-}$  octahedron with decreasing temperature  $[\text{TeI}_6](\text{I}_2)$ .

#### Halogen Crystals $\text{Cl}_2$ , $\text{Br}_2$ , $\text{I}_2$

The crystal structures of the halogens  $\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{Br}_2$ , and  $\text{I}_2$ , as well as chalcogens, for example,  $\text{O}_2$ , are very similar between them. Figure 8 shows the layout of  $\text{I}_2$  molecules in the plane of the  $\text{I}_2$  crystal and the value of the electron localization function calculated in [7].



**Figure 8.** The layout of  $\text{I}_2$  molecules and distribution of values of the electron localization function in the  $\text{I}_2$  crystal plane (from Ref. [7]). The arrows indicate the directions of the expected interaction of the  $\pi^*(2p_y)$ -orbitals of the  $\text{I}_2$  with the unoccupied  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$ -orbital of the neighboring molecular halogens. The axis designations refer to the internal coordinates of the molecular halogen.

As mentioned above, the LUMO of the I<sub>2</sub> molecule is  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$ , and HOMO is  $\pi^*(2p_y, 2p_z)$ . I<sub>2</sub> molecules are located in the crystal relative to each other in such a way that the occupied  $\pi^*(2p_y)$  orbital of each molecule can interact with the unoccupied  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  orbital of the neighboring molecule (shown by arrows in Figure 8). This interaction is more substantial the lower the temperature of the crystal. For this reason, the frequency of the I<sub>2</sub> stretching vibration decreases slightly with decreasing temperature (Figure 3 in Ref. [7]) even despite the decrease in the anharmonic contribution.

Intermolecular interaction in halogen crystals is much weaker than intramolecular ones. In other words, the spring that characterizes intermolecular interaction is much weaker than the spring that determines intramolecular bonding. In an experiment with external pressure, at low pressure, the weak spring compresses first, and then, after a certain threshold (3–5 GPa), when the resource for shortening the intermolecular distance ends, the firm spring of the intramolecular bond begins to compress. But the first of the two processes is a decrease in frequency  $\nu(\text{I}_2)$ , and the second one is its increase. Such a nonmonotonic dependence of  $\nu(\text{I}_2)$  in I<sub>2</sub> crystals was obtained experimentally and in calculations [7]. A similar effect was observed also in solid oxygen O<sub>2</sub> (see Figure 3 in Ref. [32]). This is unsurprising, since the crystal structure of halogens and chalcogens as well as population of their molecular orbitals are very similar. Thus, the observed effects in both types of crystals, I<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>, with changes in temperature or pressure, are in good agreement with the model of intermolecular interaction proposed in this work.

#### *Valent or Non-Valent Bonding?*

All experimentally observed phenomena given above are interpreted from the point of view of the interaction of molecular orbitals, i.e., traditional chemical (valent) interaction.

The definition of halogen bonding (see above) does not include the possibility of electron density spreading from one halogen atom to another. If, however, such spreading occurs, then the halogen bonding will not differ from an ordinary (valent) chemical bonding. The dependences of the Y<sub>2</sub> vibration frequency on temperature (Figure 2) and composition (Figure 3) are formed when the population of the antibonding  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  orbital of the molecular halogen changes. The latter occurs due to the spreading of electron density from X<sup>−</sup> to  $\sigma^*(2p_x)$  orbital of Y<sub>2</sub>, which is possible with valent bonding. Hence, the presented experimental data cannot be implemented within the halogen bonding concept.

#### **Conclusion**

The assignment of the vibrational spectra of halogen atoms at the X–Y<sub>2</sub> contact or in the Y<sub>2</sub> crystals on the basis of traditional chemical (valent) interaction is quite successful and reasonable, and there is no need to introduce an additional halogen bonding. On the other hand, this work concerns only a very limited number of chemical compounds containing halogen atoms, and it is not excluded that there exist such compounds where the bonding between halogen atoms can be realized only under the condition of interaction of nucleophilic and electrophilic fragments.

The work may be useful in the design of new materials, as well as in the study of biomolecular and functional systems.

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