

**Statistical Thermodynamics for Engineers**  
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**Lecture 31**

**The rotational and vibrational energy mode for a diatomic molecule**

Welcome to lecture number 21 on the statistical thermodynamics' sources for engineers. We are going to have companion tutorial sessions on spherical coordinates on the linear Hermitian operators as well as on Eigen values and Eigen functions and we are also going to have a brief idea about the ODEs, the different forms of ODEs because we are using some of them. So, this will be mainly as a recap or recollection of the courses that you have taken earlier. So, so far, we have as we know we have done an extensive piece of work in analyzing the rotational energy mode and how is it represented by the Legendre's polynomial.

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Consider a rigid 2 particle system

$r$  is fixed

This is rigid rotor is undergoing rotation at  $\omega$   $\rightarrow$  angular momentum.

$$K = K.E = \frac{L^2}{2I}$$
$$L = I\omega$$
$$I = \mu r^2$$

$\hookrightarrow$  moment of inertia

Now, let us consider a rigid 2 particle system. So, assuming that this is the 2 particle, this is  $r$  and we are assuming that this  $r$  is fixed. So, this is rigid rotor, is undergoing rotation at  $\omega$ . So, this is a rigid rotor therefore, undergoing rotation  $\omega$ . So, we are still in the rotational analysis. So,  $K$  being the kinetic energy, is given as  $L$  square by  $2I$  where  $L$  is  $I \omega$ , so  $L$  is angular momentum  $I$ . It is also given as  $\mu r$  square where  $I$  is the moment of inertia and the  $\mu$  was the reduced mass. This part was well understood before.

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$$K = K.E = \frac{L^2}{2I}$$

$$L = I\omega$$

$$I = \mu r^2 \text{ reduced mass}$$

$$\hookrightarrow \text{moment of inertia}$$

$$\hat{K} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla^2$$

$$= -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left[ \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin^2 \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \right]$$

So, a operator for the kinetic energy is basically  $\hbar$  square by  $2\mu$   $\nabla^2$  this, which is  $\hbar$  square by  $2\mu$   $1$  over  $r$  square  $d$  by  $dr$   $r$  square  $d$  by  $dr$  plus  $1$  over  $r$  square  $\sin$  theta  $d$  by  $d$  theta by  $\sin$  theta optional theta plus  $1$  over  $r$  square  $\sin$  square theta square, that is the total expression you recall.

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$$+ \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2}$$

For a rigid rotor,  $r$  is invariant

$$\hat{K} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2I} \left[ \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin^2 \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \right]$$

$r$  is invariant for most molecules not showing any vibrational motion

So, for a rigid rotor,  $r$  is invariant. That means it is fixed. So, the  $\hat{K}$  operator it will become, so, there is no differential with respect to  $r$ .  $\hbar$  square by  $2I$ ,  $1$  over  $\sin$  theta  $d$  by  $d$  theta plus  $1$  over square theta,  $R$  is invariant for most molecules. Molecules not showing any vibrational motion. So, that is what it is.

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$$\hat{L} = -\hbar^2 \left[ \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \left( \sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial\phi^2} \right]$$

$\theta$  is invariant for most molecules not showing any vibrational motion.

Apply to spherical harmonics

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So, therefore, this operator  $\hat{L}$  is equal to minus  $\hbar$  squared 1 over  $\sin\theta$  d by d  $\theta$   $\sin\theta$  d by d  $\theta$  plus 1 over  $\sin$  squared  $\theta$  d square... So, remember this was the  $\hat{L}$  operator,  $\hat{L}$  was  $\hat{L}$ . So, this is the operator or the quantum mechanical operator for  $\hat{L}$ . So, apply to the spherical harmonics, what were the spherical harmonics?

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$$Y_J^m(\theta, \phi) = \left[ \frac{(2J+1)(J-|m|)!}{4\pi(J+|m|)!} \right]^{1/2} P_J^{|m|}(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

Total soln.

↳ various solns for different values of  $J$  and  $m$  are

Let us just recall that the spherical harmonics these were the spherical harmonics.

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$$\frac{d^2 u}{d\omega^{2l+2}} (\omega^2 - 1)$$

Total soln

$$Y_J^m(\theta, \phi) = \left[ \frac{(2J+1)(J-m)!}{4\pi(J+m)!} \right]^{1/2} P_J^m(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

↳ various solns for different values of  $J$  and  $m$  are

So, we apply a operator to the spherical harmonics. So,  $L^2$   $Y_J^m(\theta, \phi)$  is equal to minus  $\hbar^2 J(J+1)$   $Y_J^m(\theta, \phi)$  plus  $\hbar^2 m^2$   $Y_J^m(\theta, \phi)$  is equal to  $\alpha \hbar^2 Y_J^m(\theta, \phi)$ .

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$$L^2 Y_J^m(\theta, \phi) = J(J+1) \hbar^2 Y_J^m(\theta, \phi)$$

multiply by  $R$

$$L^2 \psi_{Jm} = J(J+1) \hbar^2 \psi_{Jm}(\theta, \phi)$$

$\langle L^2 \rangle = J(J+1) \hbar^2$

↳ angular momentum of a rigid diatomic molecule

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$$L^2 Y_J^m(\theta, \phi) = J(J+1) \hbar^2 Y_J^m(\theta, \phi)$$
 multiply by  $R$   

$$L^2 \Psi_{int} = J(J+1) \hbar^2 \Psi_{int}(\theta, \phi)$$
  

$$\langle L^2 \rangle = J(J+1) \hbar^2$$
 ↳ angular momentum of a rigid diatomic molecule

So, in other words  $L^2 Y_J^m(\theta, \phi)$  is equal to  $J(J+1) \hbar^2 Y_J^m(\theta, \phi)$ . So, multiply by  $R$ , equal to  $J(J+1) \hbar^2 \Psi_{int}(\theta, \phi)$ . So, that is what it is. So, this  $R$  is basically was the separation of variables that we did earlier variable. So, this was what it was. So, therefore,  $L^2 \Psi_{int} = J(J+1) \hbar^2 \Psi_{int}(\theta, \phi)$ .

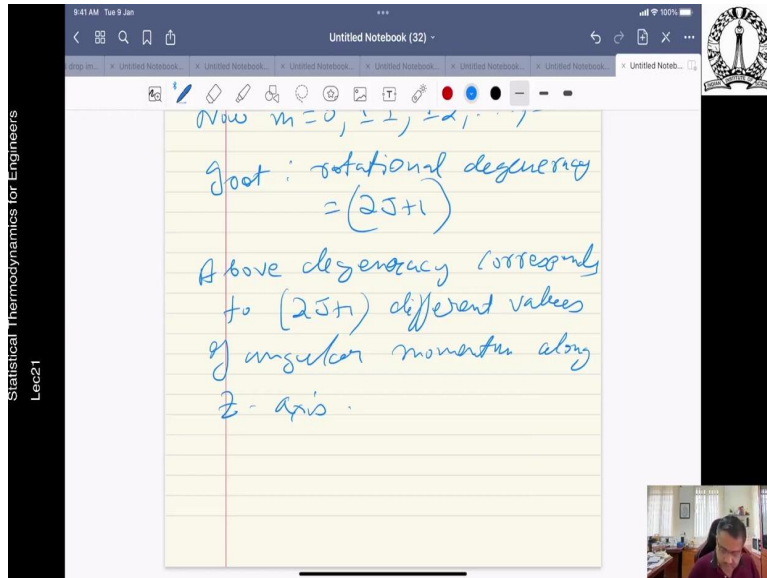
So, this is the angular momentum of a rigid diatomic molecule... and the energy of rotation assuming it is a rigid rotor is  $J(J+1) \frac{h^2}{8\pi^2 I_e}$ . In wave number units, we have number space, you can write it as  $F_J = E_{rotation} / hc = J(J+1) B_e$  where  $J$  is equal to 0, 1, 2, and  $B_e$  is  $h^2 / 8\pi^2 I_e$ .  $I_e$  is equal to  $\mu r_e^2$ , we will we will take a look at what it is.

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$$B_e = \frac{h^2}{8\pi^2 I_e} \quad I_e = \mu r_e^2$$
  

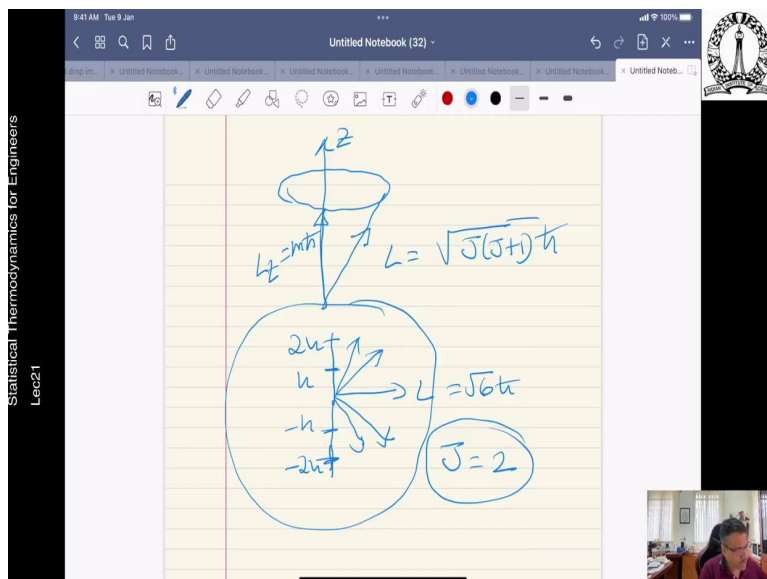
$$I_e = \mu r_e^2$$
 ↳ equilibrium internuclear distance  $r_e$ , diatomic molecule which is behaving as a rigid rotor.  
 Now  $m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm J$   
 g<sub>rot</sub>: rotational degeneracy =  $(2J+1)$



So,  $i$  e equal to  $\mu r$  square, now this is the equilibrium,  $r_e$  is the equilibrium inter nuclear distance  $r_e$  or molecule which is behaving as a rigid rotor. Now,  $m$  is equal to 0 plus minus 1 plus minus 2 up to  $j$ . So, the degeneracy or the G rotation is also called the rotational degeneracy is given as  $2J$  plus 1.

So, that means the above degeneracy received corresponds to  $2J$  plus 1, different values of angular momentum, angular momentum along the z axis, something like that. So, this is what we have. So, let us see if there is anything that I missed. The Z quantity, it is basically the z component to them. So, for  $z$  equal to 2, let us show it with a simple figure.

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So, this is the Z axis. So,  $L_z$  of two  $mh$  bar it is like this. So, this is basically  $L_j$  into  $j$  plus 1  $h$  bar. So, this is how, if this is actually equal to 2 then you can have, so, let us do basically

probably a problem to navigate some of this. So, this is how the quantization occurs along the z axis. So, the z component of the angular, so, this is this if you look at figure 612 from the book you will get a much fairer idea. So, it is like this  $L$  equal to root over say  $6 h \bar{h}$ . So, therefore, this was minus  $h$  this is minus  $2 h$ , this is plus  $h$ , this is plus  $2h$ . So, this is how the degeneracy part actually happens.

It is  $2j + 1$  as you can see that there are 5 degeneracy level here,  $j$  is equal to 2. So,  $2 + 3$  so,  $J$  is equal to 2 and this is how the quantization actually happens. So, I think this is a useful way of doing that what the degenerate levels are. So, this is for a rigid rotor and found out that what will be the corresponding degeneracy levels. Now, you are going to go and take a look at the vibrational energy mode.

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Vibrational Energy mode

$$\frac{d}{dr} \left( r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right) + \left\{ \frac{2\mu r^2}{\hbar^2} [E_{int} - V(r)] - j(j+1) \right\} R = 0$$

$E_{int}$  : energy of all moving electrons in a molecule

Alright, the vibrational energy mode up next. So, we have still the  $r$  component when we separate it by 2, so this is  $d$  by  $dr$  square  $dr$  by small  $r$   $2 \mu R$  square by  $\hbar$  bar square  $E_{int}$  minus  $V_r$  minus  $j$  into  $j + 1$  into  $r$  is equal to 0. So, this is the internal energy,  $A$  of all moving electrons in a molecule. Not a single  $r$  coordinate per se.

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Separate the electronic and nuclear motion using Born-Oppenheimer approx.

$$m_{\text{nucleus}} \gg m_{\text{electrons}}$$

Electrons are rapidly moving and cover many orbits during a single vibration and rotation of nucleus

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So, separate the electronic and the nuclear motion, we can separate, separate the electronic and nuclear motion using Born-Oppenheimer approximation. So, that means obviously, the mass of the nucleus is much greater than the mass of the electrons. This we know. So, the electrons are rapidly moving. So, electrons are rapidly moving and cover many orbits during a single vibration and rotation of nucleus.

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orbits during a single vibration and rotation of nucleus

$$\Psi_{\text{int}} = \Psi_{\text{el}} \Psi_{\text{ov}}$$
$$\hat{H}_{\text{el}} \Psi_{\text{el}} = \bar{E}_{\text{el}} \Psi_{\text{el}}$$
$$\hat{H}_{\text{ov}} \Psi_{\text{ov}} = \bar{E}_{\text{ov}} \Psi_{\text{ov}}$$
$$E_{\text{int}} = E_{\text{el}} + E_{\text{ov}}$$

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So, the internal therefore is written as electronic into ro-vibrational, rotational vibration. So, this is rovibrational, rotation and vibration. So, this is the Hamiltonian for the electronic, this is electronic is equal to energy electronic into the wave function and then of course, you have



the rovibrational multiplied by the rovibrational wave function, this is rovibrational  $\psi$ . So, and of course the internal energy is written as  $E$  electronic plus  $E$  ro vibration.

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Radial portion of  $S$ . wave Equation

$$\frac{d}{dr} \left( r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right) + \frac{2\mu r^2}{\hbar^2} \left[ E_{rov} - V(r) - \frac{\hbar^2 J(J+1)}{2\mu r^2} \right] R = 0$$

↳ accounts for electronic motion

$$E_{rov} = E_{rot} + E_{vib}$$

So, now, if we do this the radial portion of the Schrodinger's wave equation that becomes  $d$  square plus  $2 \mu$  square  $h$  bar square, then I am writing whatever goes in the bracket  $E$  rovibrational minus  $V_r$  is  $h$  bar square by  $2 \mu r$  square is  $2 \mu r$  square  $J$  into  $J$  plus  $1 r$  equal to  $0$ , this part accounts for electronic motion. So, now further,  $E$  rovibrational is written as  $E$  rotational plus  $E$  rovibrational.

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electronic motion

$$E_{rov} = E_{rot} + E_{vib}$$

$$\frac{d}{dr} \left( r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right) + \frac{2\mu r^2}{\hbar^2} \left[ E_{vib} - V(r) \right] R = 0$$

↳ includes electronic energy  $V(r) = E_{el}(r)$

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includes electronic energy  $V(r) = E_{el}(r)$

Since  $E_{el}(r)$  provides the inter-nuclear potential  $E_{rov} = E_{rot} + E_{vib}$

$V(r)$  needs an expression

So therefore,  $\frac{d}{dr} \left[ \frac{1}{r^2} \left( \frac{d}{dr} \left( r^2 \frac{d}{dr} \right) + 2\mu^2 \frac{\hbar^2}{8\pi^2} E_{vib} - V(r) \right) \right] = 0$ , this basically includes electronic energy... So, since electronic energy provides the inter-nuclear potential, the rovibrational energy is the sum of rotational and vibrational energy. So,  $V(r)$  needs an expression, at this point we need to have an expression for  $V(r)$ . So,  $V(r)$  which is basically nothing but includes electronic potential needs an expression.

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inter-nuclear potential  $E_{rov} = E_{rot} + E_{vib}$

$V(r)$  needs an expression

most popular choice is Morse potential

$$V(r) = D_e \left[ 1 - e^{-\beta(r-r_e)} \right]^2$$

Two fitting parameters

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Two fitting parameters

$r_e$ : internuclear distance at thermodynamic equilibrium

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Before we move any further, the most popular choice is called the morse potential. so, morse potential is something like this, it is written as  $V_r$  is equal to  $D_e$ , we will come across what  $D_e$  is,  $1 - e^{-\beta(r - r_e)}$ ,  $r_e$  remember is the mean, the equilibrium internuclear distance  $A^2$ . So,  $D_e$  and  $\beta$  are basically 2 fitting parameters,  $r_e$  is the internuclear distance,  $r_e$  is the inter nuclear distance at thermodynamic equilibrium.

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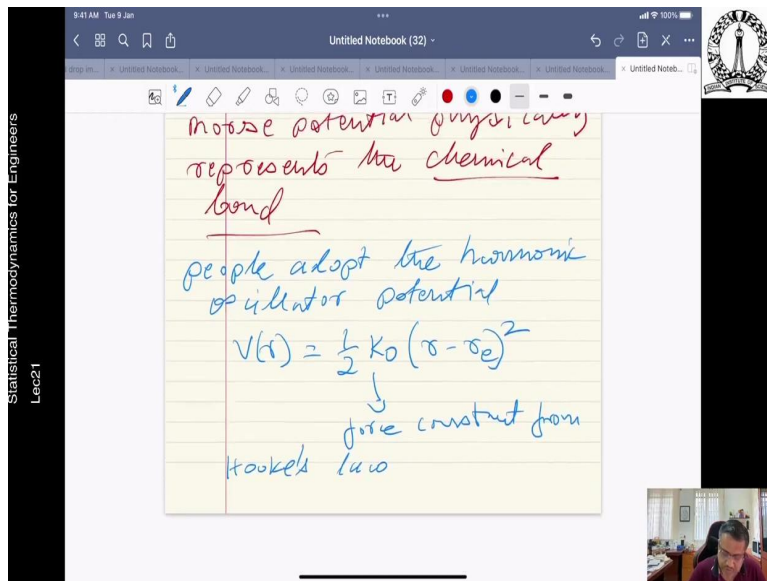
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morse potential physically represents the chemical bond

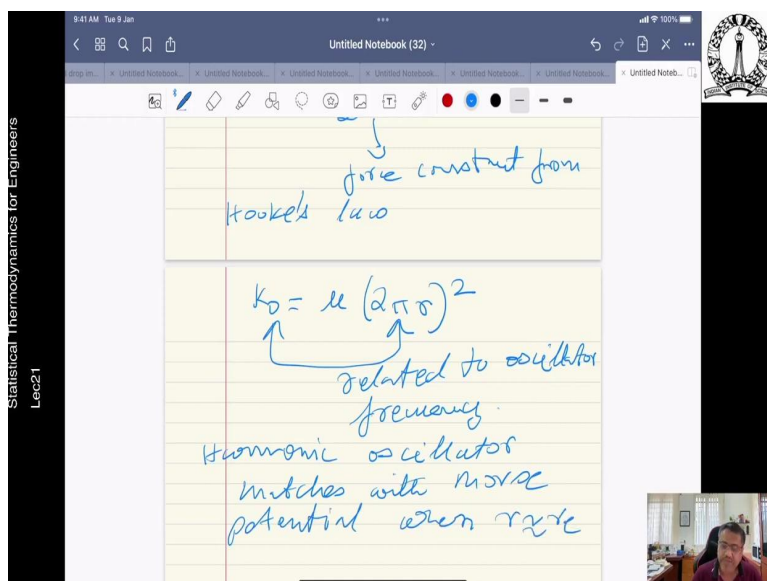
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So, let us look at this. This is the  $r$ . So, this is  $r_e$ , this is basically your  $D_e$ . So, you need a fitting parameters actually or it is internuclear distance. So, the Morse potential basically what does Morse potential actually mean? So, Morse potential physically represents the chemical bond. But it is hard to deal with. So, people adopt something which is a little bit easier to handle. So, people adopt the harmonic oscillator potential. It is easier to handle so to say. So, it is much easier to handle. So,  $V(r)$  is therefore written as  $\frac{1}{2} K_0 (r - r_e)^2$  is  $K_0$  is like a spring constant, force constant. So, this is like a force constant  $K_0$  which comes from Hooke's law.

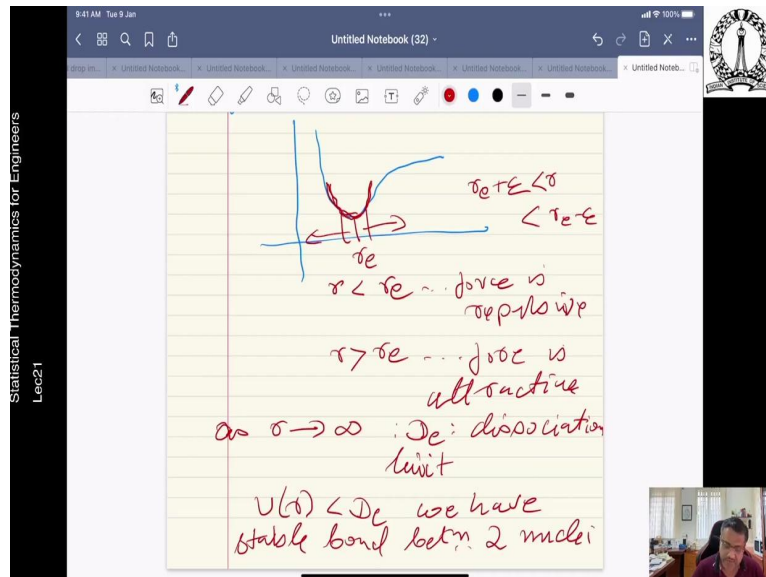
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So, Hooke's law means  $K_0$  not, now given as  $\mu (2\pi\nu)^2$ . So, this is actually related to the oscillator frequency. So, the harmonic oscillator matches with the Morse potential when  $r_e$  is

harmonic oscillator matches with Morse potential, when  $r$  is closer to  $r_e$ . So, around the equilibrium intramolecular distance, so, this is that.

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So, this is the Morse potential, harmonic oscillator will somewhat like here. So, in this zone, which is around  $r_e$ , it is going to be valid. So,  $r_e$  plus epsilon  $r$  is less than, something like that. So, this is valid. So, what we can see is that if  $r$  is less than  $r_e$ , the force is repulsive. When you go to this direction, force is repulsive; when  $r$  is greater than  $r_e$  you go in this particular direction, force is attractive and as  $r$  goes to infinity then we reach the which is called dissociation limit. That means, the bond is broken, dissociation limit, the bond is basically broken. So, if your  $V_r$  is less than  $D_e$ , we have stable bond between 2 nuclei.

Do you understand the nuclei? So, here it is repulsive, here it is attractive. So, if you go beyond a certain level right around here, it is lead to dissociation limit. So, normally when your  $V_r$  or your potential energy is less than  $d$ ,  $d$  remember is that value is actually much less than  $d$ , we have a stable bond between 2 nuclei. So, when you supply excessive energy what happens is that you carry the risk of dissociation.

And we are dealing with a harmonic oscillator which only agrees within a small space around this equilibrium internuclear distance and that is represented by essentially a spring constant type of thing. So, and this is required because we need an expression for the potential function. So, in the next class we are going to see where this activity leads us, in the subsequent chapters, in the subsequent classes we will see where does it lead us. Thank you.