

459. Title: Millimeter-wave spectroscopy of titanium dioxide, TiO<sub>2</sub>

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Abstract: The millimeter-wave rotational spectrum of TiO<sub>2</sub> in its ground vibrational state has been recorded in the frequency range from 248 to 345 GHz using the Cologne Supersonic Jet Spectrometer for Terahertz Applications (SuJeSTA). Forty-two b-type rotational transitions of the main isotopologue <sup>48</sup>TiO<sub>2</sub> and five transitions of <sup>46</sup>TiO<sub>2</sub> in natural abundance have been measured up to  $J = 22$  and  $K_a = 8$  which corresponds to excitation temperatures of 170 K. TiO<sub>2</sub> was formed by laser ablation and adiabatically cooled in a supersonic jet of helium to rotational temperatures of 20 K. The new transitions have been analyzed together with previously reported data obtained from Fourier-transform microwave spectroscopy in the frequency range from 7 to 42 GHz. The improved and extended set of spectroscopic parameters provides accurate transition frequencies for future astronomical searches in the millimeter-wave region.