

## Supplementary Information

**Table S1.** Band centers ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), band limits ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and integrated intensities for the molecules with available spectrum in PNNL database.

Molecule	Band center	Band limits	Integral	Integrated Intensity*	
				$\text{atm}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$	$\text{km mol}^{-1}$
<b>CO</b>	2142	2030 – 2245	0.0108817	250.6	61.7
<b>F<sub>2</sub>CO</b>	1944	1850 – 2000	0.0732902	1687.5	415.4
<b>Cl<sub>2</sub>CO</b>	1827	1780 – 1890	0.0465606	1072.1	263.9
<b>HCOOH</b>	1776	1700 – 1820	0.0610520	1405.3	345.9
<b>CH<sub>3</sub>COOH</b>	1790	1700 – 1850	0.0542142	1248.2	307.3
<b>Acetone</b>	1740	1650 – 1850	0.0260469	599.7	147.6
<b>Acetaldehyde</b>	1745	1650 – 1900	0.0247776	570.5	140.4
<b>Formaldehyde</b>	1745	1660 – 1820	0.0137370	316.3	77.9
<b>Glycolaldehyde</b>	1754	1650 – 1825	0.0227784	524.5	129.1
<b>Glyoxal</b>	1731	1661 – 1808	0.0255018	587.1	144.5
<b>Methylglyoxal</b>	1731	1691 – 1773	0.0284755	654.7	161.2
<b>Diacetyl</b>	1729	1690 – 1769	0.0318350	732.4	180.3

\* – The two units are shown since ( $\text{atm}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$ ) is preferred by PNNL and ( $\text{km mol}^{-1}$ ) is the most common in outputs of *ab initio* packages like Gaussian, Gamess–UK and CFOUR. The conversion factor between them is 1/4.0623.

**Table S2.** Individual charge, charge transfer and counterpolatization contributions to the carbonyl stretching intensity, at QCISD/cc–pVTZ, in  $\text{km mol}^{-1}$ .

Molecule	C <sup>2</sup>	CT <sup>2</sup>	CP <sup>2</sup>	2xCxCT	2xCxCP	2xCTxCP	Total
<b>CO</b>	210.3	213.2	68.8	-423.5	240.5	-242.2	67.1
<b>F<sub>2</sub>CO</b>	611.2	444.0	301.9	-1041.9	859.1	-732.2	442.2
<b>Cl<sub>2</sub>CO</b>	237.8	90.6	139.6	-293.6	364.3	-224.8	313.9
<b>Br<sub>2</sub>CO</b>	183.7	25.1	79.0	-135.8	240.9	-89.1	303.8
<b>HFCO</b>	330.5	265.0	244.3	-571.2	475.3	-483.9	260.1
<b>HCICO</b>	209.8	148.2	110.3	-270.7	302.3	-176.7	323.2
<b>HBrCO</b>	187.1	208.8	91.5	-177.3	254.2	-179.4	384.8
<b>HCOOH</b>	421.5	323.7	269.7	-732.2	613.7	-565.6	330.8
<b>H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub></b>	855.3	650.3	348.0	-1491.6	1090.9	-951.1	501.9
<b>CH<sub>3</sub>COOH</b>	420.1	304.7	255.7	-614.0	471.3	-543.7	294.1
<b>Acetone</b>	173.6	104.1	85.1	-268.8	242.9	-188.1	148.8
<b>Acetaldehyde</b>	168.4	125.2	98.6	-246.0	225.1	-221.7	149.5
<b>Formaldehyde</b>	153.9	130.3	64.3	-283.2	199.0	-183.0	81.2
<b>Glycolaldehyde</b>	151.0	136.7	96.2	-241.0	204.8	-229.3	118.4
<b>Glyoxal</b>	331.2	358.0	188.2	-647.2	455.2	-517.7	167.8
<b>Methylglyoxal</b>	326.4	316.4	178.6	-633.8	465.0	-472.7	179.9
<b>Diacetyl</b>	327.1	305.0	182.0	-630.8	484.8	-464.5	203.5

**Table S3.** CCTCP contributions to the carbonyl stretching intensity in different levels of theory, in km mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Molecule	Method	Basis set	C <sup>2</sup>	CTCP <sup>2</sup>	2xC <sub>x</sub> CTCP	Total
CO	B3LYP	cc-pVDZ	208.0	35.1	-171.0	72.1
		cc-pVTZ	197.7	29.4	-152.5	74.6
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	202.1	29.8	-155.3	76.6
	M06-2X	cc-pVDZ	219.5	28.9	-159.3	89.1
		cc-pVTZ	213.7	24.7	-145.4	93.0
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	216.5	24.8	-146.5	94.8
	PBE0	cc-pVDZ	212.8	33.0	-167.5	78.2
		cc-pVTZ	205.7	30.4	-158.2	78.0
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	210.2	31.3	-162.1	79.3
H <sub>2</sub> CO	M06-2X	cc-pVDZ	188.2	72.0	-232.8	27.4
		cc-pVTZ	191.1	67.0	-226.4	31.8
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	196.5	66.6	-228.8	34.3
	QCISD	cc-pVDZ	203.8	40.8	-182.4	62.2
		cc-pVTZ	210.3	39.8	-183.0	67.1
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	216.6	40.1	-186.5	70.2
	Average		206.2	39.6	-177.2	68.6
	Standard Deviation		9.5	15.8	29.8	21.4
HFCO	B3LYP	cc-pVDZ	160.7	5.0	-56.9	108.8
		cc-pVTZ	149.5	3.5	-46.0	107.0
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	164.4	5.2	-58.7	111.0
	M06-2X	cc-pVDZ	175.3	6.3	-66.7	114.9
		cc-pVTZ	168.1	5.5	-60.6	113.0
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	185.2	7.4	-74.2	118.4
	PBE0	cc-pVDZ	166.6	5.2	-58.9	112.9
		cc-pVTZ	155.2	4.2	-50.9	108.5
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	169.9	6.0	-64.0	111.9
	MP2	cc-pVDZ	156.3	18.1	-106.3	68.1
		cc-pVTZ	137.6	14.8	-90.3	62.1
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	154.3	18.7	-107.4	65.6
	QCISD	cc-pVDZ	166.9	12.9	-92.6	87.1
		cc-pVTZ	153.9	11.3	-83.3	81.9
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	171.7	15.0	-101.4	85.3
	Average		162.2	9.1	-73.3	98.1
	Standard Deviation		11.9	5.5	23.1	20.8

**Table S4.** Dynamic CCTCP atomic contributions for carbon and oxygen at QCISD/cc-pVTZ, in km mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Molecule	Atom	C <sup>2</sup>	CTCP <sup>2</sup>	CxCTCP	CTCPxC	Total
<b>CO</b>	C	120.2	22.7	-52.3	-52.3	38.4
	O	90.1	17.1	-39.2	-39.2	28.8
<b>F<sub>2</sub>CO</b>	C	463.8	10.1	-69.3	-67.6	337.0
	O	133.9	4.3	-20.0	-28.5	89.6
<b>Cl<sub>2</sub>CO</b>	C	149.8	4.8	22.3	31.7	208.6
	O	87.9	0.5	13.1	3.3	104.8
<b>Br<sub>2</sub>CO</b>	C	105.7	12.5	30.2	43.8	192.3
	O	78.0	2.5	22.3	8.7	111.5
<b>HFCO</b>	C	219.0	13.9	-29.0	-19.6	184.3
	O	106.1	6.8	-16.0	-22.1	74.8
<b>HCICO</b>	C	121.0	51.7	12.3	24.4	209.4
	O	84.6	21.4	7.4	-4.3	109.2
<b>HBrCO</b>	C	102.6	76.5	24.4	38.7	242.2
	O	79.8	33.6	17.7	2.8	133.8
<b>HCOOH</b>	C	246.9	14.0	-36.9	-12.1	211.9
	O	114.4	6.7	-19.0	-10.4	91.7
<b>H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub></b>	C	513.6	21.5	-120.3	-91.2	323.7
	O	154.2	2.4	-36.1	-9.9	110.6
<b>CH<sub>3</sub>COOH</b>	C	247.0	8.7	-45.7	-23.5	186.4
	O	110.6	3.3	-19.4	-10.2	84.3
<b>Acetone</b>	C	101.6	0.1	-7.6	0.6	94.6
	O	70.9	0.9	-5.3	-11.8	54.7
<b>Acetaldehyde</b>	C	99.1	-0.3	-5.9	4.7	97.6
	O	69.1	1.0	-4.6	-10.8	54.7
<b>Formaldehyde</b>	C	90.9	3.5	-24.9	-12.8	56.7
	O	64.6	4.7	-17.7	-17.2	34.4
<b>Glycolaldehyde</b>	C	91.4	0.5	-10.6	-4.2	77.2
	O	66.3	2.1	-8.3	-13.5	46.7
<b>Glyoxal</b>	C	183.0	11.7	-52.7	-42.3	99.6
	O	146.5	13.5	-42.5	-45.6	71.8
<b>Methylglyoxal</b>	C	182.5	10.3	-47.2	-37.0	108.6
	O	143.5	11.0	-37.2	-42.5	74.9
<b>Diacetyl</b>	C	185.9	11.2	-40.8	-32.7	123.7
	O	142.4	10.3	-32.4	-39.8	80.4

**Table S5.** Dynamic atomic contributions to the carbonyl stretch infrared intensities (in km mol<sup>-1</sup>) calculated in different levels of theory.

Molecule	Method	Basis set	C	O	Subst.	% C	% O	% (C+O)
CO	B3LYP	cc-pVDZ	41.3	31.0	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVTZ	42.7	32.0	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	43.8	32.9	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
M06-2X		cc-pVDZ	51.0	38.2	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVTZ	53.2	39.9	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	54.2	40.7	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
PBE0		cc-pVDZ	44.7	33.6	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVTZ	44.6	33.4	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	45.4	34.0	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
MP2		cc-pVDZ	15.7	11.8	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVTZ	18.2	13.6	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	19.6	14.7	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
QCISD		cc-pVDZ	35.6	26.7	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVTZ	38.4	28.8	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	40.2	30.1	—	57.1	42.9	100.0
H <sub>2</sub> CO	B3LYP	cc-pVDZ	73.2	45.5	-9.8	67.2	41.8	109.0
		cc-pVTZ	73.1	45.4	-11.4	68.3	42.4	110.7
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	75.7	47.2	-11.9	68.1	42.5	110.7
M06-2X		cc-pVDZ	75.4	49.5	-9.9	65.6	43.0	108.6
		cc-pVTZ	75.0	49.5	-11.4	66.3	43.8	110.1
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	78.7	51.9	-12.1	66.4	43.8	110.2
PBE0		cc-pVDZ	75.1	48.0	-10.2	66.5	42.5	109.0
		cc-pVTZ	73.4	47.1	-11.9	67.6	43.4	110.9
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	75.6	48.7	-12.3	67.5	43.5	111.0
MP2		cc-pVDZ	48.2	26.0	-6.0	70.7	38.2	108.8
		cc-pVTZ	45.1	25.4	-8.3	72.5	40.8	113.3
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	47.4	27.2	-9.0	72.3	41.4	113.7
QCISD		cc-pVDZ	60.0	34.8	-7.6	68.8	39.8	108.7
		cc-pVTZ	56.8	34.4	-9.9	69.9	42.3	112.2
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	59.4	36.5	-10.5	69.6	42.8	112.3
HFCO	B3LYP	cc-pVDZ	183.4	78.9	-0.8	70.1	30.2	100.3
		cc-pVTZ	189.4	83.6	-1.9	69.9	30.8	100.7
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	194.5	86.8	-2.1	69.7	31.1	100.7
M06-2X		cc-pVDZ	205.7	88.6	0.4	69.8	30.1	99.9
		cc-pVTZ	209.3	92.3	-0.4	69.5	30.6	100.1
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	212.8	94.8	-0.9	69.4	30.9	100.3
PBE0		cc-pVDZ	194.5	83.2	0.1	70.0	29.9	100.0
		cc-pVTZ	193.3	83.7	-0.9	70.0	30.3	100.3
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	199.1	87.9	-1.1	69.6	30.8	100.4
MP2		cc-pVDZ	164.8	60.3	1.4	72.8	26.6	99.4
		cc-pVTZ	168.7	65.0	0.2	72.2	27.8	99.9
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	173.7	69.1	-0.6	71.7	28.5	100.2
QCISD		cc-pVDZ	179.4	69.7	1.8	71.5	27.8	99.3
		cc-pVTZ	184.5	74.9	1.0	70.9	28.8	99.6
		cc-pVQZ <sup>g</sup>	188.7	78.5	0.6	70.5	29.3	99.8