MEASUREMENTS DOUBLY-SUBSTITUTED METHANE ISOTOPOLOGUE (13CH3D AND 12CH2D2) ABU-DANCE USING FREQUENCY STABILIZED MID-IR CAVITY RINGDOWN SPECTROSCOPY

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In this work, we demonstrated a spectroscopic method of measuring abundances of doubly-substituted methane isotopologues (13 CH₃D, 12 CH₂D2). In this method, we use a frequency stabilized cavity ringdown spectroscopy (FS-CRDS) technique to measure Δ^{12} CH₂D2 in naturally abundant methane to sub 0.1% level within one hour of average. Compare to traditional isotope-ratio mass spectrometer, which requires more than 24 hours of average to achieve comparable precision, this method provides a fast way of measuring clumped isotopologue abundance optically without destroying samples.