

Structural study of supercritical water. III. Rotational dynamics

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The rotational dynamics of water in super- and subcritical conditions is investigated by measuring the spin-lattice relaxation time T_1 of heavy water (D_2O). The experimentally determined T_1 is shown to be governed by the quadrupolar relaxation mechanism even in the supercritical conditions and to provide the second-order reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} of the O–D axis of a single water molecule. It is then found that while τ_{2R} decreases rapidly with the temperature on the liquid branch of the saturation curve, it remains on the order of several tens of femtoseconds when the density is varied up to twice the critical at a fixed supercritical temperature of 400 °C. The comparison of τ_{2R} with the angular momentum correlation time shows that the rotational dynamics is not diffusive in supercritical water. The dependence of τ_{2R} on the hydrogen bonding state is also examined in combination with molecular dynamics simulations, and the effect of the hydrogen bonding on the rotational dynamics in supercritical water is found to be weaker than but to be on the same order of magnitude as that in ambient water on the relative scale. Actually, although τ_{2R} is divergent in the limit of zero density, it is observed to increase with the density when the density is above $\sim 1/3$ of the critical. © 2001 American Institute of Physics. [DOI: 10.1063/1.1336571]

I. INTRODUCTION

Supercritical water receives much attention recently as a novel and clean medium for chemical processes of environmental and industrial importance.^{1–5} The rate of a chemical process in a fluid medium is determined by the thermodynamics and dynamics of hydration of the chemical species involved in the process. Although the overall behavior of a chemical reaction is governed by the free energy profile along the reaction coordinate, the dynamics of hydration often plays an important role in determining the reaction rate constant and is indispensable for a molecular description of the rate constant. The dynamics of supercritical hydration is inseparably related to the dynamical structure of pure solvent water at the supercritical state. Thus, in order to establish the molecular picture of the hydration dynamics in supercritical water, it is essential to characterize the dynamics of supercritical water as a pure solvent.

The study of the static structures of supercritical water forms a basis for addressing the dynamical counterparts. Previous experimental studies of the static structures focused mainly on the hydrogen bonding structure in supercritical water and revealed that the hydrogen bonding persists even at densities below the critical.^{6–21} While these static studies extract pictures averaged over various hydrogen bonding states, the dynamical studies characterize the interconversion among the microscopic states. The first dynamical study of supercritical water was performed by Jonas *et al.*^{22–25} a couple of decades before the modern spectroscopic and diffractometric measurements are conducted and the molecular simulation method is intensively employed.^{6–21,26} In their high-temperature and high-pressure studies of H_2O , Jonas *et al.* determined through proton (1H) NMR the translational

diffusion constant and spin-lattice relaxation time of supercritical water, which represent the two aspects of dynamics, translational and rotational, respectively.

Since the intermolecular interaction of such a hydrogen bonding fluid as water is strongly dependent on the orientation of the molecules involved, the rotational dynamics is considered more suited to probe the local structure of fluid than the translational dynamics.^{27–29} In the classic works by Jonas *et al.*, it was found that the spin-lattice relaxation time of supercritical H_2O is dominated by the spin-rotation mechanism and provides information about the relaxation time of the angular momentum of a single water molecule.^{22–25} When the local structure is concerned, however, a dynamical study performed in the momentum space is less insightful than the complementary study performed in the configuration space. In other words, it is desirable to adopt an experimental method which probes the rotational dynamics in the configuration space. Microwave spectroscopy is a method to determine the dielectric relaxation time, which characterizes the time scale involved in the collective motion of the total dipole moment of the system. In recent papers by Okada *et al.*, it was reported that the dielectric relaxation time of supercritical water exhibits a sharp inversion as a function of the density.^{30,31} On the other hand, since the hydrogen bonding is still present in supercritical water and the intermolecular correlations are not considered weak,^{6–21} an intuitively appealing picture may be constructed from the dynamical information of a single water molecule. In this work, we determine the reorientational correlation time of a single water molecule in supercritical heavy water (D_2O ; $^2H \equiv D$) by measuring the deuteron NMR spin-lattice relaxation time. We show that the deuteron spin-lattice relaxation time of supercritical heavy water is governed by the quadrupolar mechanism and provides information about the motion of a single water molecule in the configuration space.

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In order to extract molecular information from an experimentally determined structural quantity, it is often useful to perform a supplementary analysis through computer simulation. In previous works on the static structure of supercritical water, we combined the proton chemical shift measurements with the computer simulations over a wide set of thermodynamic and intramolecular states.⁶⁻⁸ We then examined the validity and limitation of an empirically useful model and determined a quantity which is not easily accessible only from the chemical shift. Since the fluid structure may be examined at desired detail in computer simulation once the intermolecular interactions are given, it is also insightful to perform a dynamical analysis of supercritical water through computer simulation. In this work, we supplement the NMR relaxation measurements with molecular dynamics simulations and extract dynamical information which is consistent with but surpasses that obtained from the NMR measurements.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Experiment

In order to realize a supercritical state of heavy water (D_2O), the capillary method described in Refs. 6 and 7 was employed. In this method, water is confined in a sealed capillary made of quartz and the capillary is placed in an NMR sample tube (see Fig. 2 of Ref. 7). The content of water in the capillary uniquely determines the density at supercritical conditions. The density of supercritical heavy water can be conveniently expressed by the packing fraction, which is defined as the ratio of the (liquid) water volume in the capillary to the total volume of the capillary at room temperature. When the packing fraction is ρ , the density of heavy water at a supercritical temperature is $1.1\rho \text{ g/cm}^3$, provided that the liquid density is 1.1 g/cm^3 at room temperature. The packing fractions examined in the present work are $\rho = +0.0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5,$ and 0.6 with errors of less than 0.03 . The expression $\rho = +0.0$ means that the packing fraction is smaller than 0.02 , though water is definitely present in the capillary. We adopt this expression for the lowest packing fraction since it is not possible in our capillary apparatus to identify ρ precisely when $\rho \leq 0.02$. Actually, it is sufficient for the discussion at the end of Sec. III simply to specify that the lowest ρ examined is certainly smaller than 0.1 .

In the following, we express the density of supercritical heavy water in terms of the packing fraction ρ . Furthermore, at any thermodynamic state, we express the density as ρ when it is $1.1\rho \text{ g/cm}^3$. This expression is convenient because light water (H_2O) with a packing fraction of ρ involves a density of $\rho \text{ g/cm}^3$ at a supercritical state and the number densities of H_2O and D_2O with the same packing fraction are coincident with each other. Indeed, ρ is simply the ratio of the density at the thermodynamic state of interest to the liquid density at room temperature.

Heavy water (more than 99.9% D purity) was obtained from CEA (Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique, France) and used without further purification. High-temperature experiments were possible by setting a high-temperature probe in a multipurpose NMR spectrometer (JEOL EX-270 wide-

bore type) equipped with an Oxford superconducting magnet (6.35 T). See Fig. 1 of Ref. 7 for an overview of our high-temperature probe, which was developed in cooperation with JEOL. In this probe, the temperature was accurate within 5°C . In the capillary method, a supercritical state is realized only by raising the temperature of the sample. In the relaxation measurements at supercritical states, the temperature was fixed at 400°C and the density was taken as a variable. In addition, the measurements were performed at ambient and subcritical temperatures shown in Table I. At these temperatures, water measured was on the liquid branch of the saturation curve and its density was uniquely determined by the temperature. Actually, the densities listed in Table I were taken from the saturation curve of D_2O when the temperature is below the critical.³² Note that the values of the D_2O density below the critical temperature are close to the corresponding values of the H_2O density on the saturation curve when the density is expressed in the units of mol/cm^3 .

The deuteron spin-lattice relaxation time T_1 of D_2O was measured by the inversion-recovery method with the $\pi-t-\pi/2$ pulse sequence. The resonance frequency of deuteron was 41 MHz. In each measurement, the number of delay times t was 20 and the largest t was taken to be more than $7T_1$. The free induction decay signals were accumulated at least twice and the signal-to-noise ratio exceeded 40. At each thermodynamic state, the T_1 measurement was performed more than five times and was reproducible within 3%. In other words, our precision in the T_1 value is 3%.

The inner diameter of a capillary employed in the present work is 0.7 mm when the density ρ is 0.2 or larger and it is 1.5 mm when ρ is 0.2 or smaller.³³ At $\rho = 0.2$ and 400°C the T_1 values of D_2O were compared between the two sizes of capillaries and were found to be coincident within our experimental precision. Furthermore, the lengths of the capillaries were between 2 and 3 cm, and the observed T_1 did not depend on the capillary length when the thermodynamic state was fixed. This shows that the surface effect on the relaxation measurements is negligible for our sample containers.³⁴

The dissolution of quartz into water is another possible cause of errors in our T_1 measurements of D_2O . In an aqueous solution of SiO_2 , the measured relaxation rate $(1/T_1)_{\text{meas}}$ consists of three types of relaxation rate. The first one is the rate $(1/T_1)_{\text{bulk}}$ of bulk water and is the target of our measurements. The second one is the rate $(1/T_1)_{\text{shell}}$ of the water molecules in the hydration shell of the dissolved form of SiO_2 . The third rate $(1/T_1)_{\text{complex}}$ is the contribution of the deuterons which constitute the aqua complex, most probably D_4SiO_4 .³⁵ When the mole fraction of SiO_2 is x in the aqueous solution and the interconversion among the three states of the D nucleus is much faster than the T_1 process, the measured relaxation rate $(1/T_1)_{\text{meas}}$ is expressed as

$$\left(\frac{1}{T_1}\right)_{\text{meas}} = \left(\frac{1}{T_1}\right)_{\text{bulk}} + \left(\left(\frac{1}{T_1}\right)_{\text{shell}} - \left(\frac{1}{T_1}\right)_{\text{bulk}}\right)nx + \left(\left(\frac{1}{T_1}\right)_{\text{complex}} - \left(\frac{1}{T_1}\right)_{\text{bulk}}\right)\alpha mx, \quad (1)$$

where n is the hydration number, α is a factor of at most 1,

TABLE I. Experimental conditions and results.

Temperature (°C)	Density (ρ) ^a	T_1 (s)	Reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} (fs)		
			QCC=256 kHz	variable QCC ^b	QCC=308 kHz
30	1.00	0.50±0.01	2.1×10 ³		
50	0.99 ^c	0.78±0.01	1.3×10 ³		
100	0.96 ^c	1.72±0.03	6.0×10 ²		
150	0.92 ^c	2.82±0.07	3.7×10 ²		
200	0.86 ^c	4.2±0.1	2.5×10 ²		
250	0.80 ^c	5.9±0.2	1.7×10 ²		
300	0.71 ^c	7.3±0.2	1.4×10 ²		
340	0.61 ^c	9.1±0.2	1.1×10 ²		
400	0.6	12.6±0.1	8.2×10 ¹	6.4×10 ¹	5.7×10 ¹
400	0.5	12.7±0.2	8.1×10 ¹	6.3×10 ¹	5.6×10 ¹
400	0.4	13.5±0.4	7.8×10 ¹	5.8×10 ¹	5.3×10 ¹
400	0.3	14.3±0.3	7.6×10 ¹	5.4×10 ¹	5.0×10 ¹
400	0.2	14.6±0.3	7.1×10 ¹	5.1×10 ¹	4.9×10 ¹
400	0.1	15.3±0.1	6.7×10 ¹	4.8×10 ¹	4.7×10 ¹
400	+0.0 ^d	3.7±0.1	2.8×10 ²	1.9×10 ²	1.9×10 ²

^a ρ is the dimensionless ratio of the density at the thermodynamic state of interest to the liquid density at room temperature.

^bThe variable QCC is determined by assuming that the deviation of the QCC value at a thermodynamic state of interest from that at the dilute gas state is proportional to the corresponding deviation of the average dipole moment of a water molecule calculated by the molecular dynamics simulations.

^cThe liquid branch of the saturation curve.

^dThe actual value of ρ for the sample with $\rho = +0.0$ is definitely nonzero but smaller than 0.02. Although the precise value is not determined, it is not necessary for the discussion at the end of Sec. III.

and m is the number of water molecules needed to form one complex molecule.³⁶ At ambient conditions, it is observed for both ionic and nonpolar solutes that the relaxation rate $1/T_1$ in the hydration shell differs from that in the bulk within a factor of ~ 2 .^{29,37} It is then natural to consider at super- and subcritical conditions that the relaxation rate $(1/T_1)_{\text{shell}}$ in the hydration shell of the dissolved form of SiO_2 deviates from the rate $(1/T_1)_{\text{bulk}}$ in the bulk by a factor of less than ~ 2 . In this case, Eq. (1) shows that a 3% deviation of the measured rate $(1/T_1)_{\text{meas}}$ from $(1/T_1)_{\text{bulk}}$ requires $n_x \geq 0.03$ when the contribution of the water molecules in the hydration shell is concerned. Among the thermodynamic states examined in the present work, the solubility of SiO_2 is the highest at the density of $\rho = 0.6$ and the temperature of 400 °C. Since the solubility of SiO_2 is essentially the same between H_2O and D_2O when expressed in the units of mole fraction, the mole fraction x of SiO_2 in water is $x = 4 \times 10^{-4}$ at the supercritical state of $\rho = 0.6$ and 400 °C and is smaller at the other thermodynamic states.³⁸ Therefore, the water molecules in the hydration shell of the dissolved form of SiO_2 affects the relaxation rate by 3% when the hydration number n is larger than an unphysical value of ~ 75 . This shows, in turn, that the formation of the hydration shell around the dissolved form of SiO_2 does not influence the T_1 value within our experimental precision. A similar argument can also be employed to rule out the possibility of errors caused by the complex formation expressed by the third term in the right-hand side of Eq. (1).

When a sample capillary is prepared at room temperature, air is contained in the gas phase of the capillary (see Fig. 2 of Ref. 7) and is mixed with water in the high-temperature conditions. Since 20% of air is oxygen, the concentration of oxygen is less than 10^{-2} mol/l in the one-phase

region and this amount of paramagnetic oxygen may shorten the spin-lattice relaxation spuriously. In order to examine the possibility of the spurious shortening, we also conducted the T_1 measurements after oxygen was purged from the air in the capillary and substituted with nitrogen. The measurements were performed at a density of $\rho = 0.1$ and a supercritical temperature of 400 °C. It was then found within our experimental precision that the measured deuteron T_1 for the samples without oxygen are coincident with those with oxygen in air. Thus, since the oxygen concentration in a sample with $\rho \geq 0.2$ is lower than that in a sample with $\rho = 0.1$, the effect of oxygen is negligible when $\rho \geq 0.1$. Oxygen was purged for the sample with $\rho = +0.0$.

B. Simulation

The molecular dynamics simulation was performed for both light water (H_2O) and heavy water (D_2O). As seen in Sec. II A, the densities of these two water can be conveniently expressed by the packing fraction ρ . The supercritical states simulated in the present work mostly correspond to those treated experimentally and are specified by densities of $\rho = 0.02, 0.05, 0.10, 0.20, 0.30, 0.40, 0.50,$ and 0.60 and a temperature of 400 °C.³⁹ For reference, we also simulated an ambient condition of $\rho = 1.00$ and 30 °C.

The TIP4P-FQ model was adopted as the intermolecular potential function between water molecules.⁴⁰ In this water model, the distribution of the partial charges in a water molecule fluctuates in response to the configuration of the other water molecules. The periodic boundary condition was employed and the Ewald summation was implemented to handle the electrostatic potentials. The screening parameter was set to $5/L$, where L is the length of the unit cell, and 256

reciprocal lattice vectors were used. In order to perform an efficient and stable molecular dynamics simulation, it is desirable to employ a time-reversible and area-preserving algorithm. This type of algorithm appropriate for such an asymmetric molecule as water was developed by Dullweber *et al.* and subsequently and independently by us.^{41,42} In this work, our version of the algorithm was used with a time step of 1 fs by locating 256 water molecules in a cubic unit cell, and the molecular dynamics was carried out for 100 ps at each state of interest.

The self-consistent equation for determining the partial charge distribution in the TIP4P-FQ model was solved by the iterative scheme. When the partial charge distribution at the previous configuration is used at the initial step of iteration, however, the distribution at the current configuration depends on that at the previous configuration and the time-reversibility of the molecular dynamics algorithm is violated. This difficulty can be easily circumvented by setting the partial charge distribution at the initial step of iteration to be the one independent of the instantaneous configuration, for example, the predetermined average distribution. It was seen in the present work, nevertheless, that the quantities of interest calculated when the partial charge distribution at the previous configuration is utilized to initialize the iteration are not different from those calculated when the predetermined average distribution is utilized. Thus, we adopted the partial charge distribution at the previous configuration as the distribution at the initial step of iteration for the current configuration.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Fig. 1(a), we show the evolution of the deuteron spectrum with the delay time for a sample with the lowest density of $\rho = +0.0$ at a supercritical temperature of 400 °C. It is indeed seen that the signal-to-noise ratio is large enough to determine the spin-lattice relaxation time T_1 . At the other thermodynamic states, the acquisition of the spectra is easier than at $\rho = +0.0$, in proportion to the density involved. The magnetizations $M(t)$ extracted from Fig. 1(a) and those at $\rho = 0.1$ and 400 °C are plotted in Fig. 1(b) as functions of the delay time t . The exponential decay to the equilibrium value M_0 is evident and T_1 can be accurately evaluated. Figure 1(b) also shows the inversion recovery at an ambient liquid state with a density of $\rho = 1.0$ and a temperature of 30 °C. The decay to the equilibrium value at the ambient state seems almost instant when compared to the decay at the supercritical state with $\rho = 0.1$. In other words, when ρ is not too small, T_1 at a supercritical state is longer by an order of magnitude than that in the ambient state and a T_1 measurement takes a much longer time in the supercritical state.

In Table I, we show the experimentally determined T_1 of heavy water over the thermodynamic states treated in this work. It is seen that while T_1 increases rapidly with the temperature on the liquid branch of the saturation curve, it remains on the same order of magnitude against the density variation between $\rho = 0.1$ and 0.6 at a fixed temperature of 400 °C. In order to elucidate the molecular-level dynamics of supercritical water, it is necessary to determine the relaxation mechanism governing T_1 . In general, the dipolar mechanism

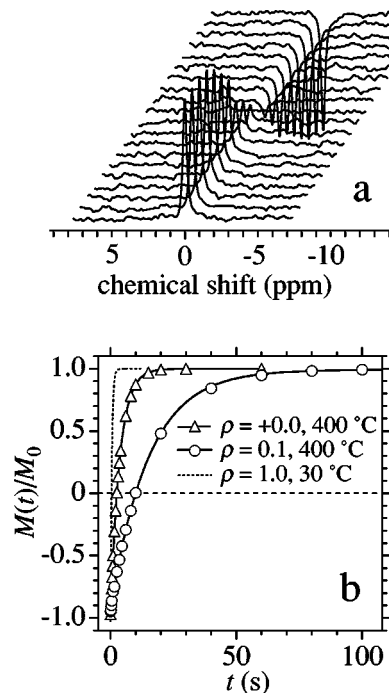


FIG. 1. (a) The evolution of the deuteron spectrum of D_2O with the delay time for a sample with a density of $\rho = +0.0$ at a supercritical temperature of 400 °C. (b) The normalized magnetization $M(t)/M_0$ as a function of the delay time t at $\rho = +0.0$ and 0.1 and 400 °C. The experimentally determined $M(t)/M_0$ and its exponential fit are represented by the open symbols and the solid line, respectively. $M(t)/M_0$ at an ambient liquid state with a density of $\rho = 1.0$ and a temperature of 30 °C is also shown in (b) by the dotted line.

is overwhelmed by the quadrupolar mechanism for a deuteron.⁴³ Furthermore, at ambient conditions, the quadrupolar mechanism controls T_1 since the spin-rotation mechanism is negligible. At high-temperature conditions, however, the relaxation of the angular momentum of a molecule becomes slow and careful treatment may be needed for the competition between the quadrupolar and spin-rotation mechanisms. We estimate the contribution of the spin-rotation mechanism to the deuteron T_1 of supercritical heavy water (D_2O) on the basis of the proton T_1 of supercritical light water (H_2O) determined by Jonas *et al.*^{22,23} Let $1/T_{1, sr}^h$ and $1/T_{1, sr}^l$ be the contributions of the spin-rotation mechanism to the $1/T_1$ of heavy and light water, respectively. According to Ramsey, the spin-rotation tensor is proportional to the magnetogyric ratio and inversely to the moment of inertia for a series of molecules in which the electronic structure is not different and the molecular vibration is not significant.⁴⁴ It is then easy to see that

$$\frac{1/T_{1, sr}^h}{1/T_{1, sr}^l} \approx \frac{I^l \tau_j^h}{I^h \tau_j^l} \left(\frac{\gamma^h}{\gamma^l} \right)^2, \quad (2)$$

where I^h , γ^h , and τ_j^h are, respectively, the average moment of inertia of D_2O , the deuteron magnetogyric ratio, and the correlation time of the angular momentum of D_2O , and I^l , γ^l , and τ_j^l are the corresponding quantities for H_2O . The computer simulations provide a reasonable estimate of τ_j^h/τ_j^l . In Fig. 2(a), we show τ_j^h and τ_j^l at the supercritical conditions simulated. The angular momentum correlation time τ_j^l of H_2O calculated by employing the TIP4P-FQ

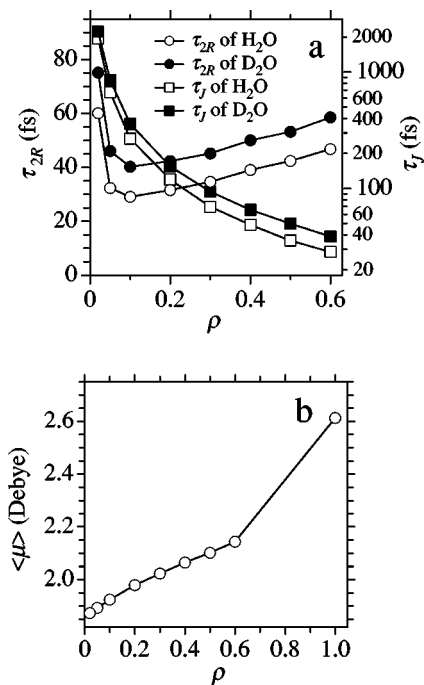


FIG. 2. (a) The reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} and the angular momentum correlation time τ_j of simulated heavy and light water as functions of the density ρ in the supercritical region. (b) The average dipole moment $\langle \mu \rangle$ of a water molecule as a function of the density ρ . The temperature is 400 °C when $\rho \leq 0.6$, and it is 30 °C when $\rho = 1.0$.

model is in good agreement with the corresponding experimental value by Jonas *et al.* According to the simulation results in Fig. 2(a), $\tau_j^h/\tau_j^l \approx 1.3$. Equation (2) then shows, by virtue of $I^h/I^l \approx 2$ and $\gamma^h/\gamma^l \approx 1/6.5$, that $1/T_{1, sr}^h$ is smaller than $1/T_{1, sr}^l$ by an order of magnitude. Furthermore, since the proton T_1 of light water is determined by the spin-rotation mechanism in the supercritical conditions, $T_{1, sr}^l$ is essentially equal to T_1 of light water.^{22,23,45} It is thus implied, in combination with Jonas *et al.*'s T_1 data of supercritical light water, that $1/T_{1, sr}^h$ is an order of magnitude smaller than $1/T_1$ of supercritical heavy water shown in Table I. For example, when the temperature is 400 °C, the contribution of the spin-rotation mechanism to the deuteron $1/T_1$ of D_2O is ~ 8 and $\sim 1\%$ at $\rho = 0.1$ and 0.6 , respectively.⁴⁶ Therefore, it is concluded that the deuteron T_1 of supercritical heavy water is dominated by the quadrupolar mechanism. This conclusion is also valid in the subcritical conditions because the contribution of the spin-rotation mechanism is smaller at a lower temperature.

In the quadrupolar mechanism, the deuteron T_1 is related to the correlation time τ_{2R} through

$$\frac{1}{T_1} = \frac{3\pi^2}{2} \left(\frac{e^2 Q q}{h} \right)^2 \tau_{2R}, \quad (3)$$

where h is the Planck constant and $e^2 Q q/h$ is the quadrupolar coupling constant (QCC) which represents the interaction between the quadrupole moment of the D nucleus (eQ ; $Q = 2.77 \times 10^{-11} \text{ \AA}^2$ for the D nucleus) and the electric field gradient at the nucleus (eq). When D_2O is in the ambient liquid conditions, the QCC is taken to be 256 kHz.⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹ When D_2O is in the dilute gas phase, on the other hand, the

QCC is determined to be 308 kHz.^{47,50} This shows that the QCC of D_2O is dependent on the state of the system. Since a supercritical state lies between the ambient liquid phase and the dilute gas phase, the QCC at the supercritical state is considered to be between 256 and 308 kHz. In other words, when the QCC is taken to be equal to 256 and 308 kHz, the τ_{2R} obtained from Eq. (3) are upper and lower bounds for the exact τ_{2R} , respectively.

The QCC value is in principle affected by the intermolecular interactions. According to our molecular dynamics simulations, however, the intermolecular contribution to the QCC was typically found to be less than 5 kHz, and it is justified to consider that the QCC is dominated by the intramolecular polarization state. In this case, the QCC for the D nucleus of D_2O is determined almost entirely by the covalent σ electrons in the O–D bond. Thus, τ_{2R} describes the reorientational relaxation of the unit vector along the O–D bond and is expressed as

$$\tau_{2R} = \int_0^\infty dt \left\langle \frac{3}{2} \cos^2 \theta(t) - \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle, \quad (4)$$

where $\theta(t)$ is the angle between the O–D bond vectors at time 0 and at time t and $\langle \dots \rangle$ denotes the ensemble average. The effect of the anisotropy of the electric field gradient is neglected in Eq. (3) since the distribution of the σ electrons is almost cylindrical on the O–D axis.⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹ It should be noted that τ_{2R} is the relaxation time of a single water molecule, while the dielectric relaxation time as reported by Okada *et al.*^{30,31} characterizes the collective motion of all the water molecules in the system. Furthermore, Eq. (3) is a valid expression irrespective of the type of reorientational relaxation and is applicable to a nondiffusive relaxation.

Since the intramolecular polarization state of a water molecule is characterized by its dipole moment, we further assume that the deviation of the QCC value at a given thermodynamic state from that at the dilute gas state is proportional to the corresponding deviation of the average dipole moment of a water molecule.⁵¹ The average dipole moment of the TIP4P-FQ model at the thermodynamic states of interest is shown in Fig. 2(b) and is used to estimate the QCC value for supercritical water. The approximate QCC value obtained in this procedure is a variable between 256 and 308 kHz and determines the reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} uniquely through Eq. (3). In the supercritical conditions, Table I lists τ_{2R} determined from the variable QCC with the upper and lower bounds obtained by setting QCC = 256 and 308 kHz, respectively. When the temperature is below the critical, on the other hand, Table I lists only τ_{2R} estimated by adopting the ambient liquid phase value of 256 kHz for the QCC.

In Fig. 3(a), we show τ_{2R} as a function of the density ρ over the thermodynamic states examined in the present work. In this figure, the QCC value adopted in Eq. (3) is the ambient liquid phase value of 256 kHz when $\rho > 0.6$ and the system is on the liquid branch of the saturation curve. At the supercritical states with $\rho \leq 0.6$, τ_{2R} shown in Fig. 3(a) is determined above from the variable QCC (at $\rho = +0.0$, the effect of the difference between the variable QCC and the dilute gas phase value of 308 kHz is negligible in the precision

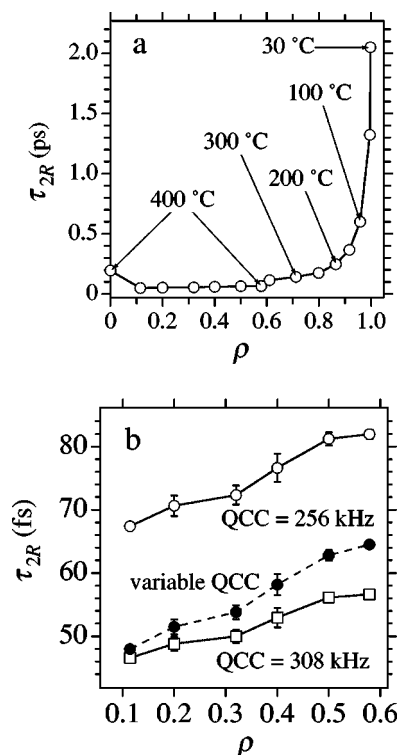


FIG. 3. The reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} of heavy water as a function of the density ρ (a) in the whole range examined in this work and (b) in the supercritical region. In (a), the quadrupolar coupling constant (QCC) is taken to be the ambient liquid phase value of 256 kHz when $\rho > 0.6$, and it is determined as a variable from the computer simulation results of the average dipole moment when $\rho \leq 0.6$. The temperature is 400 °C when $\rho \leq 0.6$, and it is uniquely determined from the liquid branch of the saturation curve when $\rho > 0.6$. In (b), the open circles connected by the solid line represent τ_{2R} obtained from Eq. (3) by taking QCC=256 kHz, the filled circles connected by the dashed line represent τ_{2R} obtained by estimating the variable QCC from the simulations, and the open squares connected by the solid line represent τ_{2R} obtained by taking QCC=308 kHz. At each state, upper and lower bounds for τ_{2R} are obtained by adopting QCC = 256 and 308 kHz, respectively.

of the figure). It is seen that τ_{2R} decreases rapidly with the temperature on the liquid branch of the saturation curve. While the reorientational relaxation proceeds on the order of picosecond in ambient water, it is on the order of several tens of femtoseconds when a supercritical state is realized. In the supercritical conditions with $0.1 \leq \rho \leq 0.6$, τ_{2R} determined from the variable QCC is plotted in Fig. 3(b) as a function of ρ with the upper and lower bounds obtained by adopting QCC=256 and 308 kHz, respectively. At a fixed supercritical temperature of 400 °C, τ_{2R} is between 45 and 80 fs at all the densities in Fig. 3(b). When the chemical shift δ is concerned in the supercritical conditions, it was found in previous papers that the strength of the density dependence expressed as $\rho \partial \delta / \partial \rho$ is comparable to δ itself.^{6,7} For the reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} , in contrast, Fig. 3(b) shows that τ_{2R} changes only by $\sim 30\%$ in response to the density variation from $\rho = 0.1$ to 0.6 at a fixed temperature of 400 °C. This shows that the rotational dynamics reflects only partially the change in the state of the hydrogen bonding caused by the density variation. Actually, the “free-rotor correlation time” is ~ 45 fs at 400 °C and is comparable to the τ_{2R} observed.^{52–54}

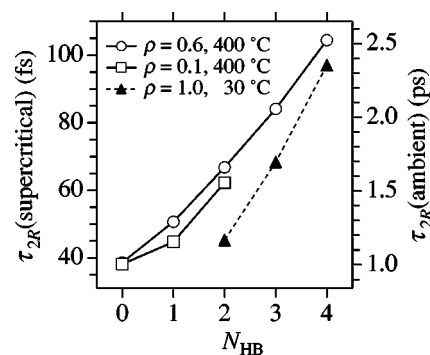


FIG. 4. The reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} of simulated heavy water as a function of the number N_{HB} of hydrogen bonds at supercritical states of $\rho = 0.1$ and 0.6 and 400 °C and at an ambient state of $\rho = 1.0$ and 30 °C.

In order to closely see the effect of the hydrogen bonding state on the rotational dynamics, we examine the dependence of τ_{2R} on the number of hydrogen bonds at time 0 in Eq. (4) by using the molecular dynamics simulations. Following Ref. 8, we call a pair of water molecules hydrogen-bonded when the distance of the closest intermolecular O–H (O–D) pair is smaller than the threshold distance 2.4 Å. In this definition, the number of hydrogen bonds of a water molecule is obviously four in the ice configuration. We correlate τ_{2R} to the number N_{HB} of hydrogen bonds at the initial time 0 in Eq. (4). Figure 4 then shows τ_{2R} of D₂O as a function of N_{HB} at supercritical states of $\rho = 0.1$ and 0.6 and 400 °C and at an ambient state of $\rho = 1.0$ and 30 °C. It is observed that the absolute change in τ_{2R} against the variation of N_{HB} is larger by orders of magnitude at the ambient state than at the supercritical states. On the other hand, the relative change at the supercritical states is on the average $\sim 2/3$ of that at the ambient state. When seen on the relative scale, therefore, the dependence of the rotational dynamics on the hydrogen bonding state in supercritical water is weaker than but is on the same order of magnitude as that in ambient water.⁵⁵ According to Fig. 3(b) and the number N_{HB} of hydrogen bonds determined in Ref. 7, the experimental τ_{2R} increases by $\sim 20\%$ per hydrogen bond when the density is varied at a constant supercritical temperature. This relative increase is comparable to that observed in Fig. 4 at fixed density and temperature in the supercritical conditions.

According to Fig. 2(a), the angular momentum correlation time τ_J of heavy water is larger by $\sim 30\%$ than that of light water. It is then inferred from Jonas *et al.*'s τ_J data of light water^{22,23} that τ_J of heavy water is 50 fs at $\rho = 0.6$ and 400 °C and is larger at a lower density. In this case, the reorientational correlation time shown in Fig. 3 satisfies $\tau_{2R} \lesssim \tau_J$ over the entire range of supercritical conditions examined, as expected by Jonas *et al.*^{22,23} Thus, it is concluded that the reorientational relaxation is not diffusive and that the inertial effect is operative. The present conclusion is consistent with the molecular dynamics simulation results in Fig. 2(a). Indeed, Fig. 2(a) shows for both supercritical H₂O and D₂O that τ_{2R} is comparable to or smaller than τ_J . Furthermore, the ratios of τ_{2R} and τ_J of D₂O to those of H₂O in the supercritical conditions are ~ 1.3 and are close to the square root of the ratio of the moment of inertia. Since the viscosity

is experimentally coincident within $\sim 5\%$ between H_2O and D_2O in the supercritical conditions,³² the τ_{2R} difference between H_2O and D_2O reflects the inertial effects in the reorientational relaxation.^{56–58} At the ambient condition of $\rho = 1.0$ and 30°C , on the other hand, since the angular momentum relaxation was found in the molecular dynamics simulations to be faster than the reorientational relaxation by orders of magnitude, the rotational diffusion limit is realized.

In Jonas *et al.*'s relaxation study of supercritical light water, they evaluated τ_{2R} by assuming that it is inversely proportional to the translational diffusion constant.^{22,23} Figure 3(b) and the experimentally determined translational diffusion constant^{24,59} show that Jonas *et al.*'s approximate procedure is effective to obtain a rough estimate of τ_{2R} . The procedure overestimates the density dependence of τ_{2R} by a factor of ~ 4 , however, due to the stronger density dependence of the translational diffusion constant. It is then seen in combination with the viscosity data³² that the (relative) variation is stronger in the order of the translational diffusion, the viscosity, and the reorientational relaxation when the density is changed at a fixed supercritical temperature. The weaker density dependence of an orientational degree of freedom is evident in the context of the equilibrium structure. In Ref. 8, it was shown that while the radial distribution function of supercritical water involves a higher peak at a lower density, the orientational distribution function is essentially independent of the density variation at a fixed supercritical temperature.

According to Fig. 3, the experimentally determined τ_{2R} at the supercritical states is an increasing function of the density ρ in the range $\rho \geq 0.1$ and exhibits an inversion of the ρ dependence in the low-density regime of $\rho \leq 0.1$. This density dependence of τ_{2R} is in agreement with the simulation results shown in Fig. 2(a). The agreement is also satisfactory with the results of the molecular dynamics simulations by Yoshii *et al.* using the RPOL polarizable model^{60,61} and by Balbuena *et al.* using the SPC/E effective potential model.^{62,63} On the other hand, it was reported by Okada *et al.* that the dielectric relaxation time exhibits a sharp increase with the density reduction below $\rho \sim 0.4$, in clear disagreement with recent computer simulation results.^{30,31,64,65} Actually, both the reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} obtained from NMR and the dielectric relaxation time are, in principle, to diverge in the limit of zero density because the angular momentum of each molecule is conserved when the intermolecular interactions are absent. The comparison of our τ_{2R} with Okada *et al.*'s dielectric relaxation time further meets the expectation that τ_{2R} is smaller than the dielectric relaxation time; while τ_{2R} describes the motion of a single molecule in terms of the second-order Legendre polynomial, the dielectric relaxation time represents the collective motion of the molecules in the system in terms of the first-order Legendre polynomial. Nevertheless, the inversion of the density dependence is evidenced at a much higher density for Okada *et al.*'s dielectric relaxation measurements than for the NMR and simulations. In addition, it was observed from a Raman spectroscopic study by Okazaki *et al.* that the inversion is evident below half the critical density for supercritical CF_3H (the fact that CF_3H

involves a weaker intermolecular interaction than water is reflected in the higher inversion density).⁶⁶ Thus, the apparent disagreement is present in the density dependence between the results from the NMR and simulations and those from Okada *et al.*'s dielectric relaxation measurements performed in the frequency range up to 40 GHz.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The spin-lattice relaxation time T_1 of heavy water (D_2O) has been measured at super- and subcritical conditions. It has then been shown, in combination with Jonas *et al.*'s T_1 data of high-temperature light water (H_2O),^{22,23} that the deuteron T_1 of high-temperature heavy water is dominated by the quadrupolar mechanism and is related to the reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} of the O–D axis of a single water molecule. According to the experimentally determined τ_{2R} , the reorientational relaxation proceeds in supercritical water on the order of several tens of femtoseconds, whereas it does on the order of picosecond at ambient conditions. In addition, τ_{2R} in supercritical water has been found to be comparable to or smaller than the angular momentum correlation time. In this case, the rotational dynamics is not diffusive and the inertial effect is operative. The relative dependence of τ_{2R} on the number of hydrogen bonds in supercritical water has also been studied in combination with molecular dynamics simulations and found to be on the same order of magnitude as that in ambient water. Actually, although τ_{2R} is close to the “free-rotor correlation time,” it is an increasing function of the density above $\sim 1/3$ of the critical.

In order to obtain quantitative insights into a reaction dynamics in supercritical water, it is often necessary to estimate the lifetime of the hydration structure around the reactive species. As noted in the discussion concerning Eq. (1), it is natural to consider for both ionic and nonpolar solutes that when a super- or subcritical condition is realized, the reorientational relaxation of a water molecule around the solute deviates from that in the pure solvent by a factor of less than ~ 2 . Thus, τ_{2R} determined in the present work serves as the characteristic time for the orientational part of a dynamical process in super- and subcritical water. In subsequent work, we treat aqueous solution systems in super- and subcritical conditions and probe the orientational structure around the solute from a dynamical point of view.

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- ⁵⁵It is a matter of semantics to judge whether or not the hydrogen bonding affects the reorientational dynamics. According to Fig. 4, however, when the effect of the hydrogen bonding is to be called “strong” in the reorientational dynamics in ambient water, it should be called at least “present” in supercritical water.
- ⁵⁶In our molecular dynamics simulations, the interaction potential is identical between H_2O and D_2O and the differences in the dynamical properties of light and heavy water shown in Fig. 2(a) reflect only the difference in the mass (and moments of inertia). It has actually been found, however, that the hydrogen bonding of D_2O is stronger by ~ 0.2 kcal/mol than that of H_2O (Ref. 57). In order to see the effect of the hydrogen bond strength, we also performed molecular dynamics simulations of H_2O at supercritical states of $\rho = 0.1$ and 0.6 and 400 °C. In these simulations, the original TIP4P model (Ref. 58) and a modified TIP4P-like model with an increased dipole moment were employed by adopting the same simulation conditions as those described in Sec. II B for the TIP4P-FQ model. The original TIP4P model was constructed so that the dipole moment of a water molecule is fixed at 2.18 D. In the modified model, the partial charges on the interaction sites were adjusted to give a fixed dipole moment of 2.33 D, and the Lennard-Jones parameters were taken to be identical to those of the original TIP4P model. We made this adjustment of the dipole moment in order to increase the hydrogen bond energy by ~ 0.2 kcal/mol. It was then found that the reorientational correlation time τ_{2R} is

- larger by $\sim 10\%$ for the TIP4P-like model with the increased dipole moment. In other words, the strengthened hydrogen bonding by ~ 0.2 kcal/mol at a fixed mass of the water molecule does not lead to a $\sim 30\%$ slowdown of the reorientational relaxation, which is realized in Fig. 2(a) by varying the mass at the fixed interaction potential. Therefore, it is expected for the reorientational relaxation of real supercritical water that the effect of the difference in the mass between H_2O and D_2O overwhelms the effect of the difference in the hydrogen bond strength.
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