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The use of precise molecular line spectroscopy in a search for m_e/m_p variations

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We report results of precise laboratory spectroscopy for a set of astrophysically important species carried out at the Institute of Applied Physics of the RAS over the last years. The investigations are based on Lamb-dip measurements at mm—sub-mm wavelengths with the developed sub-Doppler spectrometer. In particular, from a comparison of precise radio astronomical and laboratory frequencies of CH_3OH lines we estimate the upper limit on the possible m_e/m_p variation in dark interstellar clouds as $\leq 1.5 \times 10^{-8}$.

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