



From the symmetry of the molecule and the fact that the D atom has the same mass as two H atoms it is easy to see that the center of mass lies not in the center of the equilateral

triangle, but shifted towards D. The y-position of D is  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}a$ , while the y-position of both H atoms is  $-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}a$ . Looking at the sketch above we can write the tensor of inertia. Note that the z-coordinates of all atoms are zeros.

$$I = \sum_i \begin{bmatrix} m_i(y_i^2 + z_i^2) & -m_i x_i y_i & -m_i x_i z_i \\ -m_i x_i y_i & m_i(x_i^2 + z_i^2) & -m_i y_i z_i \\ -m_i x_i z_i & -m_i y_i z_i & m_i(x_i^2 + y_i^2) \end{bmatrix} = \sum_i \begin{bmatrix} m_i y_i^2 & -m_i x_i y_i & 0 \\ -m_i x_i y_i & m_i x_i^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & m_i(x_i^2 + y_i^2) \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$= m \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cdot \frac{3}{16} a^2 + \frac{3}{16} a^2 + \frac{3}{16} a^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{4} a^2 + \frac{1}{4} a^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \cdot \frac{3}{16} a^2 + \frac{3}{16} a^2 + \frac{3}{16} a^2 + \frac{1}{4} a^2 + \frac{1}{4} a^2 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$= m \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{4} a^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} a^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{5}{4} a^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

As we can see the tensor of inertia is already diagonal in the chosen coordinate system and

$$I_1 = \frac{3}{4} m a^2 \quad I_2 = \frac{1}{2} m a^2 \quad I_3 = \frac{5}{4} m a^2$$