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ELECTRONIC ENERGY LEVELS AND CRYSTAL QUANTUM STATES OF Tm (IV)

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Printed for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

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ABSTRACT

To date limited agreement has been obtained between theory and experiment for 4f ---> 4f transitions for Tm (IV) (4f¹²). It is clear from the considerations that have appeared so far in the literature that intermediate coupling is important in the case of Tm (IV). Solutions of the intermediate field equations yield $\zeta_{4f} = 2700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $F_2 = 450 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, and $\chi = (\frac{\zeta}{F_2}) = 3$. Experimental agreement to $\pm 200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ was obtained.

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INTRODUCTION

Experimental investigations together with the theoretical considerations of Van Vleck¹ and Bethe² indicate that the sharp absorption lines of the rare-earth ions in the visible and near-infrared spectra are due to $4f \longrightarrow 4f$ transitions. The case of Tm IV (Tm⁺³ ion) should yield to complete theoretical and experimental treatment, since it is a relatively simple problem of 12 <u>f</u> electrons. To date there have been many papers dealing with the absorption spectrum of Tm IV.³⁻⁹ Spedding has made the intermediate calculations for Tm IV using the ratios of F_{4}/F_{2} and F_{6}/F_{2} as derived from La II.⁶ The disagreement between Spedding's calculated and observed values averages about 1500 cm⁻¹. Jørgensen, who has made similar calculations, disagrees with Spedding on the assignments of the ${}^{3}F_{2}$, ${}^{1}I_{6}$, and ${}^{3}P_{2}$ levels.⁷ It would seem reasonable that better agreement should exist, particularly since very good agreement between theory and experiment has been obtained for Pr IV.¹⁰⁻¹³

A. GENERAL THEORY

The electronic configuration of Tm IV in the ground state is sometimes written as [Xe core] $\underline{4f}^{12}$ where there are essentially two "holes" in the $\underline{4f}$ shell. It is easily seen that Tm IV spectroscopically is quite similar to Pr IV, which has only two electrons in the $\underline{4f}$ shell. According to the Pauli equivalence theoren, both ions should have the same number of electronic states. The only difference, as described by Hund's rules, would be that the multiplets are inverted.

Following the coupling scheme of Russell and Saunders, one may couple 12 equivalent f electrons to obtain

 $^{1}s^{3}P^{1}D^{3}F^{1}G^{3}H^{1}I$

The calculations for pure electrostatic interactions for Tm IV (\underline{f}^{12}) are the same as for Pr IV (f^2). In an earlier paper¹⁴ the authors have developed in step-wise form the theory for the electronic energy levels of Tm IV in the intermediate coupling case, 14 following the methods outlined by Condon and Shortley,¹⁵ and Spedding.⁶ The electrostatic results are given in Table I. In order to complete such calculations, it is necessary to consider which radialwave equations should be put into the Slater integrals, F_k . The <u>4f</u> hydrogenic wave functions will not describe very satisfactorily the <u>f</u> electrons in the Tm ion. A self-consistent field approximation would be necessary in order to obtain better radial functions. However, the ratio of F_k integrals is reasonably insensitive to the choice of the actual radial distribution function. One of the members of our group (John D. Axe) has calculated F_h/F_2 and F_6/F_2 ratios for the unlikely "square" radial distribution of 4f electrons and has obtained values that are not far from those obtained by Elliott, Judd, and Runciman¹⁶ for a hydrogenic distribution. We have calculated the ratios, $F_{\rm h}/F_2$ and F_6/F_2 , using hydrogenic wave functions by straight integration methods and have obtained values identical with those of Judd.¹⁷ When the electrostatic equations in terms of F, were normalized to 3 H as the ground state, the results were found to be in complete agreement with those obtained by Elliott, Judd, and Runciman.¹⁶

It has been found for many of the +3 rare-earth ions that intermediate coupling is important. Qualitatively the L-S coupling scheme may predict the proper order of levels from the ground state in some cases where one is not too far out into intermediate coupling. In the case of Tm IV, certain levels such as the ${}^{1}G_{4}$ and ${}^{3}F_{2}$ are greatly effected by other levels of the same j value. In the crystal lattice, crystal quantum levels having the same quantum numbers or levels related to one another by selection rules will also be affected to a lesser extent. It is therefore necessary to introduce the spin-orbit interaction term (ζ) into the secular equations. The addition of the crystal-field interaction to the secular equations will be considered in a later paper.

Spedding has given the secular equations for \underline{f}^2 . ⁶ For the \underline{f}^{12} configuration, one need only change the sign in front of each ζ value.¹⁵ The authors divided each term and ζ value in Spedding's equation by F_2 and used the variable $\chi = \zeta/F_2$. The secular equations may be solved for energy/ F_2 as a

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	Pure Electrostatic Energy	Levels - <u>f</u> Configuration	l
Level	Electrostatic equations in terms of Slater integrals	Electrostatic equations in terms of F ₂ (a)	Energy levels normalized to 3 _H = 0
3 _H	$F_{0} - 25 F_{2} - 51 F_{4} - 13 F_{6}$	F _o - 32.3 F ₂	0.00 F ₂
3 _F	$F_0 = 10 F_2 = 33 F_4 = 286 F_6$	F ₀ - 18.9 F ₂	13.4 F ₂
¹ G	$F_0 - 30 F_2 + 97 F_4 + 78 F_6$	F - 15.5 F ₂	16.8 F ₂
¹ D	$F_0 + 19 F_2 - 99 F_4 + 715 F_6$	F ₀ + 16.3 F ₂	48.4 F ₂
lI	$\mathbf{F}_{0} + 25 \mathbf{F}_{2} + 9 \mathbf{F}_{4} + \mathbf{F}_{6}$	F ₀ + 26.3 F ₂	58.6 F ₂
3 _P	$F_0 + 45 F_2 + 33 F_4 - 1287 F_6$	F ₀ + 30.3 F ₂	62.6 F ₂
ls	$F_{0} + 60 F_{2} + 198 F_{4} + 1716 F_{6}$	F ₀ + 113.2 F ₂	145.5 F ₂
(a) F ₄	= 0.138 F_2 , and F_6 = 0.0151 F_2 .		

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function of χ . Since all except the three-by-three equations were solved by hand, it is possible to give complete analytical expressions (see Table II). The values for the three-by-three equations were obtained from an IBM-650 program. The results of the calculations appear in Fig. 1.

B. EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

Spectrographic Equipment

The spectra were taken on a Wadsworth spectrograph. Two gratings were used in this instrument -- one with 30,000 lines-per-inch and another with 15,000 lines-per-inch -- giving dispersions of 2.46 A per mm and 5.25 A per mm.

The light sources employed were an air-cooled high-pressure mercury lamp (BH6) and a commercially available Kistiakowsky-type hydrogen discharge lamp.¹⁸ Quartz and pyrex dewars were used. Three types of polarizers were employed -- a Nicol, an Ahrein with untraviolet-transmitting cement, and a Wollaston. Iron and mercury lines served as wavelength references. The plates were measured on a precision screw-type comparator.

Crystals

The spectra of three crystals have been observed: $\text{Tm} (C_2H_5SO_4)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$, $\text{TmCl}_3 \cdot 6H_2O$, and TmCl_3 in LaCl₃. The ethylsulfate was prepared by mixing stoichiometric amounts of thulium sulfate and barium ethylsulfate. After the solutions were centrifuged to remove the $BaSO_4$, they were allowed to evaporate slowly at room temperature.

The hydrated chloride was grown by slow evaporation of a 6.0 <u>N</u> HCl solution. The TmCl₃ in anhydrous LaCl₃ crystal was prepared by sublimation of the mixed chlorides in vacuum. The purified mixture was melted into quartz crystal-growing tubes, sealed under vacuum, and slowly lowered through a furnace.¹⁹ X-ray analysis of several of these crystals showed that the crystal would remain predominantly hexagonal when as much as 10% TmCl₃ could be in-corporated into the LaCl₃ matrix. The crystal structure of TmCl₃ is tetragonal and the compositions above 10% did not give a single crystal. The Tm⁺³ in

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· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Analytical Expressions for $E/F_2 = f(X)$
Levels	$E/F_2 = f(X)$
³ H ₅	X
³ F 3	13.4 + X
³ P ₁	62.5 + X
¹ s _o	$104 + x + 1/2\sqrt{196x^2 - 332x + 6824}$
³ P _O	$104 + x - 1/2\sqrt{196x^2 - 332x + 6824}$
l ₆	29.3 - 2.5x + $1/2\sqrt{49x^2 + 586x + 3440}$
³ H ₆	29.3 - 2.5x - $1/2\sqrt{49x^2 + 586x + 3440}$

Table II

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Fig. 1. Energy-level diagram for Tm IV in intermediate coupling. The ${}^{1}S_{0}$ varies from 145.5 X = 0 to 159.3 for X = 5. LaCl crystals showed strong continuous absorption below 3000 A, completely masking the ${}^{3}P$ levels. The other crystals, however, were transparent in this region. Jørgensen notes a similar opacity for Tm^{+3} in HClo_{4} and attributes this to $\underline{f-d}$ transitions.²⁰

3 H₄ and 3 H₅ levels

The spectrum of 203.0 mg of anhydrous TmCl₃ in 10.0 ml of 0.10 <u>M</u> DCl in > 98.5% D₂O was measured between 1 and 2 µ on a recording Cary 14 spectrophotometer. An acid solution was necessary in order to prevent the hydrolysis of the Tm⁺³ ion. Ordinary-water absorption bands appear around 1.4 µ and 1.8 µ, making it difficult to employ H₂O as a solvent for absorption studies in the region from 1 to 2 µ. In the case of D₂O, the isotope shift is far enough to the red (to about 2.2 µ) to make D₂O a useful solvent for studies in the region where the ³H₅ and ³H₄ levels are expected. Two peaks (1.175 µ and 1.206 µ) and one shoulder (1.217 µ) were found for the ³H₅, and one peak (1.668 µ) and one shoulder (1.715 µ were found for the ³H₄ (see Fig. 4). The theoretical values calculated for ³H₅ and ³H₄ are 8520 cm⁻¹ and 5320 cm⁻¹, which may be compared with the mean experimental values 8,390 cm⁻¹ and 5,900 cm⁻¹, respectively.

C. RESULTS

Johnsen has identified the O and ±l crystal quantum levels of the ${}^{3}\text{H}_{6}$ ground-state multiplet and the upper multiplets of ${}^{3}\text{F}_{2,3,4}$ and ${}^{1}\text{G}_{4}$. Our work confirms these ground-state assignments for transitions to the ultraviolet multiplets of ${}^{3}\text{P}_{0.1.2}$ and ${}^{1}\text{D}_{2}$.

The symmetry of the Tm^{+3} ion in the ethylsulfate crystal is C_{3h} as given by Johnsen⁹ and Ketelaar.²¹ The crystal-quantum selection rules for this symmetry have been discussed previously.¹⁰ The ultraviolet multiplets appear sharper than the ${}^{3}\text{F}_{2,3,4}$ group. As a result, one observes transitions from additional ground-state crystal quantum levels to excited states. At 77°K, 194°K, and 273°K, the 3 and ±2 crystal quantum levels of the ${}^{3}\text{H}_{6}$ are populated. Transitions from these levels appear more intense as one goes from N₂ temperature

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 $(77^{\circ}K)$ to CO₂ temperature (194°K). From the 3 and ±2 crystal quantum states the position of the $\mu = 0$ level in ${}^{1}G_{\mu}$ was determined.

Figure 2 is the energy level diagrams for the ${}^{3}P_{0}$, ${}^{3}P_{1}$, ${}^{3}P_{2}$ multiplets; Fig. 3 is the diagram for the ${}^{1}D_{2}$ and ${}^{1}G_{4}$. The ${}^{3}F_{2,3,4}$ lines are too broad to permit an extension of the analysis. Polarized lines are observed between the ${}^{3}P_{0}$ and ${}^{3}P_{1}$ multiplets which are not due to impurities. These lines are probably due to the ${}^{1}I_{6}$ multiplet. The lines are faint and difficult to distinguish from vibrational lines of the ${}^{3}P_{0}$ and ${}^{3}P_{1}$. As many as 10 vibrational lines per multiplet appear to the violet of the ${}^{3}P_{2}$ and ${}^{1}D_{2}$.

Holmium and erbium ethylsulfate crystals were prepared and polarization spectra taken to determine if these impurities appeared in the Tm spectra. No lines of Er or Ho were observed in the Tm spectra taken.

The experimental data, including Johnsen's were fitted to Fig. 1 and a good fit was obtained for $\chi = 3$, $F_2 = 450 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, and ζ_{4f} 2700 cm⁻¹. The spinorbit interaction term, ζ , as used in Fig. 1 and in Spedding's work is one half this value. From these parameters the calculated positions were obtained and are tabulated in Table III. Table IV includes the measured wave lengths, their intensity and polarization, and the crystal quantum transitions for the ethylsulfate.

Table V gives the wave length and intensity for the lines appearing in the spectrum of $\text{TmCl}_3 \cdot 6 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$. The similarity in the spectra of the hydrated chloride and the ethylsulfate allows us to assign the multiplets, but the crystal quantum assignment cannot be made because the point symmetry of the Tm^{+3} ion is not known. Table VI gives the wave lengths and intensities for the TmCl_3 in LaCl₃. The only multiplets seen are the ${}^1\text{D}_2$ and ${}^1\text{G}_4$. The continuous absorption in the ultraviolet masks the ${}^3\text{P}$ levels, and the ${}^3\text{F}$ levels are too weak for good measurements.

DISCUSSION OF ERRORS

The spectral lines of the ${}^{3}P_{0,1,2}$ and ${}^{1}D_{2}$ groups are measured to ± 0.1 A; the ${}^{1}G_{1}$ lines are measured to ± 0.2 A. It is not possible to measure the positions of lines more accurately than this because line widths are considerable in many cases. In some cases the calculated energy levels (Table III)

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MU-17817

Fig. 2. Transitions from ground states to ${}^{3}P_{2,1,0}$ of Tm $(C_{2}H_{5}SO_{4})_{3}$ 9 H₂O. Spectra of single crystal at 77°K; electromagnetic radiation transmitted perpendicular to unique Z axis of crystal. Forbidden transition 3 \longrightarrow ± 2 observed in ${}^{3}P_{2}$ group.



MU-17818

Fig. 3. Transitions from ground states to ${}^{1}D_{2}$ and ${}^{1}G_{4}$ of Tm $(C_{2}H_{5}SO_{4})_{3} \cdot 9 H_{2}O$. Spectra of single crystal at 77^oK; electromagnetic radiation transmitted perpendicular to unique Z axis of crystal. Forbidden transition 3 ---> ± 2 observed in ${}^{1}D_{2}$ and ${}^{1}G_{4}$ groups.



MU - 17819

Fig. 4. The
$${}^{3}H_{5}$$
 and ${}^{3}H_{4}$ multiplets in $D_{2}O$.

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Table	III

	Comparison of Thecry with Exp	periment
	Values for energ	gy levels (cm ⁻¹)
Levels	Theor y	Experiment
³ H ₆	100	105
З _{Н4}	5320	5900
³ H ₅	8520	8390
³ F ₄	12730	12673 ⁹
3 _{F3}	14550	144469
3 _{F2}	15000	150929
¹ G ₄	21120	212759
¹ D ₂	28090	27926
¹ I ₆	33850	an an
³ Po	35600	35074
³ P1	36640	36443
³ P ₂	38440	38100
¹ s ₀	75030	

Table IV

	Spectra,	polarizat	ion,	and	crystal q	uant	um t	ransitions	of	Tm(C	2 ^H 5 ^{SO} 4)3	• 9н ₂ 0	
Term assign	Crysta - quantum	1 <u>Wav</u> 77°K	relen	gths	, intensit 194°K	ies,	and	polarizat 273 K	ion			Wave (in v	numbers acuum)
ment	trans.	(in air)	<u> </u>	Р.	(in air)	<u> </u>	P.	(in air)	Ι.	<u>P.</u>	77°K	194°K	273°K
³ P ₂	$0 \rightarrow \pm 2$ $\pm 1 \rightarrow \pm 2$ $\pm 1 \rightarrow \pm 1$ $3 \rightarrow \pm 2$ $3 \rightarrow \pm 1$	2621.1 2623.4 2629.0 2634.6 2640.0	^b а 8 8 4 4 4 1 1	σ π σ π σ	2621.7 2624.0 2629.3 2635.1 2639.8	တို့တို့တို့တို့ စိုတို့တို့တို့တို့	σ π σ π σ	2629.6 2635.4 2640.1	4ª 5ª 6	σ π σ	38,140 38,107 38,027 37,945 37,866	38,132 38,099 38,022 37,938 37,870	38,017 37,934 37,866
3 _P 1	±l→±l 3→±1,0	2742.2 2754.4	8 ^a 3	σ σ	2743.1 2755.5	5ъ 5ъ 5	σ σ	2743.9	4 ^c	σ	36,456 36,294	36,444 36,280	36,434
³ P ₀	$\begin{array}{c} 3 \rightarrow & 0 \\ \pm 2 \rightarrow & 0 \end{array}$	2866.2 2869.1	6 ^c 6 ^c	π σ	2867.6 2870.4	5 ^c 5 ^d	π σ	2867.5 2870.6	5a 5	π σ	34,879 34,843	34,863 34,828	34,862 34,825
'D2	$\pm 1 \rightarrow \pm 1$	3578.3	9^{d}_{d}	σ	3578.9	6 ^d	σ	3579.0	6 ^đ	σ	27,938	27,934	27,933
	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \rightarrow \pm 2 \\ 3 \rightarrow \pm 1 \end{array}$	3587.4	9° 9° 50	σ σ	3587.9	6 ^c	π	3589.7	4ª	π	27,867	2 7,8 64	27,850
	$3 \rightarrow \pm 2$ $\pm 2 \rightarrow 0$	3608.6 3616.2	чр 4 3 3	π σ	3608.7 3616.4	6 ⁰ 6	π σ	3608.4 3616.9	8 ^b 8 ^b	π σ	27,705	2 7,7 04 27 , 644	27 ,7 05 2 7,6 40
L _G ,	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \rightarrow 3 \\ \pm 1 \rightarrow 3 \\ 0 \rightarrow 3 \\ \pm 1 \rightarrow 3 \\ 0 \rightarrow \pm 2 \\ \pm 1 \rightarrow \pm 2 \\ 3 \rightarrow \pm 2 \\ 3 \rightarrow \pm 2 \\ \pm 2 \rightarrow \pm 2 \\ \pm 2 \rightarrow \pm 2 \end{array}$	4676.3 4683.4 4691.8 4698.2 4705.5 4723.0 4725.0 4725.0 4725.0 4741.7 4747.1 4749.3 4754.8 4774.5	^a bbddabbbabcbabcba	π σ π σ σ π π σ σ σ	4685.0 4698.0 4708.7 4724.6 4745.2	5 ^c 3 ^d 3 ^d 5 ^d 5 ^b	π π π π				21,379 21,346 21,341 21,308 21,279 21,246 21,168 21,158 21,135 21,084 21,060 21,049 21,025 20,938	21,339 21,277 21,231 21,160 21,068	
^a Line v ^b Line v ^c Line v ^d Line v	vidth; 0.1 vidth; 0.5 vidth; 1.0 vidth; 2.0	A to 0.5 A to 1.0 A to 2.0 to 4.0 A.	A. A. A.		• .			•					

-:6-

Table V

38,585 38,410 38,281 38,249 38,127 38,066 36,562 36,439 36,391	8°d 98°c 54°c 4°c 4°c 4°c 4°c 4°c 4°c 4°c 4°c 4°c	l _G 3 _F e	4629.2 4645.9 4649.5 4680.5 4709.8 4709.8 4716;5 4719.8	21,596 21,518 21,502 21,359 21,226 21,196 21,181	
36,562 36,439 36,391	4 ⁰ 6 ^a	з _ғ е			┶┶
	6	-2	6567 6586	15,220 15,180	م ح ح 5
34,721 28,140 28,110 28,082 28,008 27,978	5 [°] 6°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°°	³ F3	7058 7064 7104 7116 7140 7147 7159	14,160 14,150 14,070 14,050 14,020 13,990 13,970	6 9 7 4 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
27,932	3	3 _₽ 4	7709 7781 7793 7828 7910 79 22	12,970 12,850 12,830 12,770 12,640 12,620	3 d 3 d 2 2 2 2
0.3 A.			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	0.3 A. 0.8 A. 1.5 A.	0.3 A. 0.8 A. 1.5 A.	0.3 A. 0.8 A. 1.5 A.	7828 7910 7922 0.3 A. 0.8 A. 1.5 A.	7828 12,770 7910 12,640 7922 12,620 0.3 A. 0.8 A. 1.5 A.

^eF_{2,3,4} measured to nearest 1 A.

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	Spectra and Polarizat	ion of Anhydrous Tr	nCl in LaCl 3	
Term assignment	λ (A) $77^{\circ}K$ (in air)	λ (cm ⁻¹) 77 ⁰ K (in vac.)	Р	I
1 _{D2}	3609.3	27,689	σ	5 ^b
2	3614.2	27,661	σ	5 ^b
	3618.2	27,630	π	4 ^a
	3621.6	27,604	ď	3 [°]
	3626.3	27,569	σ	3 [°]
	3630.9	27,534	π	4 ^b
1 _{G),}	4708.0	21,234	π	Ъp
ч т	4714.1	21,207	π	4 ^b
	4733.0	21,122	Q	2 ^c
	4636.1	21,109	σ	2 ^c
	4740.6	21,088	π	3 ^a
	4743.7	21,075	π	3 ^a
	4752.0	21,038	. ď	lp
8	Line width less than	0,1 A,	₩Quards 346 mBy 346 000 100 0 mBy 1	
ď	Line width; 0.1 A to	0,5 A.		
c	Line width; 0.5 A to	1.5 A.	an george and the first of the second state of the second state of the second state of the second state of the	

Table VI

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differ from the experimental value by as much as 200 cm^{-1} . This lack of agreement is due to (a) the theoretical calculations for the field-free ion are good only to 100 cm^{-1} , (b) the perturbing influence of the neighboring ligands in the crystal will shift the centers of the stark-split j-levels from the field-free j-level calculations, and (c) the center of gravity of the crystal-field split levels cannot be known without a detailed calculation of the crystal-field splitting.

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