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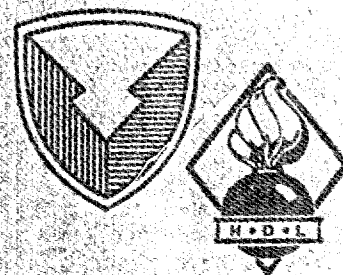
September 1992

**AD-A259 136**



# Energy Levels and Predicted Absorption Spectra of Rare-Earth Ions in Rare-Earth Arsenides

by Donald E. Wortman and Clyde A. Morrison



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| 4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE<br>Energy Levels and Predicted Absorption Spectra of Rare-Earth Ions in Rare-Earth Arsenides                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                             |                                                            | 5. FUNDING NUMBERS                                          |                                                                          |
| 6. AUTHOR(S)<br>Donald E. Wortman and Clyde A. Morrison                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                             |                                                            |                                                             |                                                                          |
| 7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)<br>Harry Diamond Laboratories<br>2800 Powder Mill Road<br>Adelphi, MD 20783-1197                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                             |                                                            | 8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION<br>REPORT NUMBER<br>HDL-TM-92-25 |                                                                          |
| 9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)<br>U.S. Army Laboratory Command<br>2800 Powder Mill Road<br>Adelphi, MD 20783-1145                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                             |                                                            | 10. SPONSORING/MONITORING<br>AGENCY REPORT NUMBER           |                                                                          |
| 11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES<br>AMS code: 612120H25<br>HDL PR: 2R8A51                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                             |                                                            |                                                             |                                                                          |
| 12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT<br><br>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                             |                                                            | 12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE                                      |                                                                          |
| 13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)<br><br>A crystal-field Hamiltonian for octahedral symmetry was used along with free-ion parameters for aqueous solution to fit the reported optical absorption spectra of $\text{Er}^{3+}$ in ErAs. Parameters obtained from this fit were then used in a model to predict optical absorption spectra of $\text{Er}^{3+}$ for the $^4I_{15/2}$ to $^4I_{13/2}$ multiplets at 5, 74, and 300 K; these predictions showed excellent agreement with the reported experimental data at these temperatures. Consequently, we used an interpolation procedure to predict the crystal-field splittings of the lower multiplets of the rare-earth ions $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ through $\text{Yb}^{3+}$ in their respective arsenide compounds. The lowest multiplet energy levels predicted for $\text{Tm}^{3+}$ and $\text{Yb}^{3+}$ compare favorably with measurements made by inelastic neutron scattering. In addition, we calculate the absorption spectra for $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ , $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ , $\text{Ho}^{3+}$ , $\text{Tm}^{3+}$ , and $\text{Yb}^{3+}$ in their respective arsenide compounds at 4.2, 77, and 300 K. From these calculations, we show the transitions between the levels of the lowest two $J$ multiplets for each of the ions. |                                                             |                                                            |                                                             |                                                                          |
| 14. SUBJECT TERMS<br><br>Rare-earth arsenides, rare-earth spectra                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                             |                                                            | 15. NUMBER OF PAGES<br>29                                   |                                                                          |
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| 17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION<br>OF REPORT<br>Unclassified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION<br>OF THIS PAGE<br>Unclassified | 17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION<br>OF ABSTRACT<br>Unclassified | 20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT<br>UL                            |                                                                          |

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# 1. Introduction

Small, stable, narrow-linewidth lasers built by the doping of rare-earth ions in III-V semiconductors are of current interest for optoelectronic components and integrated optical circuits. Lasers with these desirable properties can be pumped by photons whose energies are greater than the band gap or by current injection into the region occupied by the rare-earth ions. Characteristic, narrow-line frequencies of the  $4f^N$  rare-earth ions can provide direct laser output or can be used to lock III-V semiconductor laser transitions [1].

In the work reported here, we analyze the absorption spectra [2] of  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in a 3300-Å-thick layer of ErAs to obtain phenomenological crystal-field parameters,  $B_{nm}$ , for  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in ErAs. The  $B_{nm}$  were obtained by least-squares fitting the reported spectra on the  $^4I_{15/2}$  and  $^4I_{13/2}$  multiplets of  $\text{Er}^{3+}$ , and these were also used to calculate the magnetic dipole line strengths for all the transitions, as well as the magnetic  $g$  factors for each level. The magnetic dipole line strengths were then used to compute the absorption spectra of  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in ErAs; the computation results compare favorably with experiment. The line-to-line emission branching ratios were calculated as a function of temperature for the  $^4I_{13/2}$  to  $^4I_{15/2}$  transitions of  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in ErAs. Using these  $B_{nm}$  for Er, we next predict the  $B_{nm}$  for the entire triply ionized rare-earth series of arsenides,  $\text{LnAs}$  ( $\text{Ln} = \text{Ce}$  to  $\text{Yb}$ ). These latter  $B_{nm}$  are then used to predict the energy levels and the magnetic dipole line strengths for triply ionized Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, and Yb in their respective arsenide lattices. We present the absorption spectra calculated for transitions between the levels of the lowest two  $J$  multiplets of these ions, assuming a Lorentzian lineshape with a linewidth of  $3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Much of the analysis follows the procedure used previously [3] in the investigation of the spectra of triply ionized lanthanides (rare-earth ions),  $\text{Ln}^{3+}$ , in  $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaLnCl}_6$ .

The phenomenological  $A_{nm}$  for  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in ErAs were obtained from the relation  $B_{nm} = \rho_n A_{nm}$ , where the  $\rho_n$  for each rare-earth ion were given in 1979 by Morrison and Leavitt [4]. These phenomenological  $A_{nm}$  for ErAs and the 1968 x-ray data of Wyckoff [5] yielded  $B_{nm}$ , which were used to compute the energy levels and multiplet branching ratios for the triply ionized rare-earth ions,  $\text{LnAs}$ , for  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$  through  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$ . The free-ion aqueous parameters of Carnall et al [6] were used in all these calculations.

# 2. Fitting Experimental Data

In 1991, Schneider et al [2] reported the absorption spectra of  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in ErAs at 5, 74, and 300 K and gave an analysis of the energy levels using the Hamiltonian of Lea et al [7] in 1962. The ErAs they investigated was a 3300-Å-thick layer grown by molecular beam epitaxy on a substrate of GaAs capped by a thin layer of GaAs.

The data of Schneider et al [2] were used along with the crystal-field Hamiltonian,  $H_{CEF}$ , for the  $4f^N$  electronic configuration in  $O_h$  symmetry, given by

$$H_{CEF} = B_{40} \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ C_{40}(\hat{r}_i) + \sqrt{\frac{5}{14}} [C_{44}(\hat{r}_i) + C_{4-4}(\hat{r}_i)] \right\} + B_{60} \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ C_{60}(\hat{r}_i) - \sqrt{\frac{7}{2}} [C_{64}(\hat{r}_i) + C_{6-4}(\hat{r}_i)] \right\}, \quad (1)$$

to obtain the best least-squares fit between the calculated and measured energy levels. In obtaining the best fit to the experimental data, we varied  $B_{40}$  and  $B_{60}$  as well as the calculated difference in the centroids of the  $^4I_{15/2}$  and  $^4I_{13/2}$  multiplets. The free-ion wavefunctions were determined from the parameters [6] for aqueous solution. Because we could not convert the parameters  $B_4$  and  $B_6$  of Schneider et al [2] to the form used in equation (1), we started the fit with the  $B_{40}$  and  $B_{60}$  values given elsewhere [3] for  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in  $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaErCl}_6$ . The reason for this choice is that the point-group symmetry for  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in  $\text{ErAs}$  and in  $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaErCl}_6$  is the same in each material ( $O_h$ ). Again, as before [3], we label the states according to their transformation properties under the group  $O$  rather than  $O_h$ . This entails dropping the parity labels (+) or (−), which are determined by the number of  $f$  electrons. The irreducible representations of the  $O$  group are from Koster et al [8]. The resulting parameters, energy levels, and wavefunction compositions are given in table 1.

**Table 1.** Theoretical and experimental energy levels ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and composition for  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in  $\text{ErAs}^a$

| No. <sup>b</sup> | Centroid <sup>c</sup> | I. R. <sup>d</sup> | $E_{\text{Theo.}}$ | $E_{\text{Exp.}}^e$ | Free-ion mixture (%)                                     |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                | 61                    | $\Gamma_8$         | 0.3                | 0                   | 99.99 $^4I_{15/2}$                                       |
| 2                |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 26.4               | 27.2                | 99.99 $^4I_{15/2} + 0.01 \ ^4I_{13/2}$                   |
| 3                |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 28.6               | 27.2                | 99.99 $^4I_{15/2} + 0.01 \ ^4I_{13/2}$                   |
| 4                |                       | $\Gamma_6$         | 126.8              | 129.0               | 100.00 $^4I_{15/2}$                                      |
| 5                |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 133.5              | 133.5               | 99.99 $^4I_{15/2}$                                       |
| 6                | 6534                  | $\Gamma_6$         | 6490.7             | 6491.3              | 99.99 $^4I_{13/2}$                                       |
| 7                |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 6505.4             | 6505.7              | 99.97 $^4I_{13/2} + 0.03 \ ^4I_{11/2}$                   |
| 8                |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 6515.4             | 6515.7              | 99.96 $^4I_{13/2} + 0.03 \ ^4I_{11/2}$                   |
| 9                |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 6582.6             | 6583.0              | 99.99 $^4I_{13/2} + 0.01 \ ^4I_{15/2}$                   |
| 10               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 6583.9             | 6583.0              | 99.99 $^4I_{13/2} + 0.01 \ ^4I_{15/2}$                   |
| 11               | 10,220                | $\Gamma_6$         | 10194.8            | —                   | 99.97 $^4I_{11/2} + 0.01 \ ^4I_{9/2} + 0.01 \ ^4F_{7/2}$ |
| 12               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 10201.2            | —                   | 99.95 $^4I_{11/2} + 0.04 \ ^4I_{9/2}$                    |
| 13               |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 10236.5            | —                   | 99.96 $^4I_{11/2} + 0.03 \ ^4I_{13/2}$                   |
| 14               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 10239.9            | —                   | 99.97 $^4I_{11/2} + 0.02 \ ^4I_{13/2}$                   |

<sup>a</sup> $B_{40} = 704.5$ ,  $B_{60} = 51.07 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and  $\text{rms} = 0.870 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

<sup>b</sup>Numbers used to designate levels used in discussion.

<sup>c</sup>In absence of experimental data, centroids were calculated from aqueous solution parameters of Carnall et al [6].

<sup>d</sup>Irreducible representation of  $O$  group, Koster et al [8].

<sup>e</sup>Tsang and Logan [1].

### 3. Calculation of Magnetic Dipole Line Strengths

Since the  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  ion occupies a site with  $O_h$  symmetry, the electric dipole transitions are parity forbidden. However, the magnetic dipole operator has even parity and should correspond to the experimental absorption, if we assume that the absorption is not vibrationally assisted. Because of the excellent agreement of the calculated values of the energy levels with the experimental values, we assume that all the observed levels are magnetic dipole. The operator we use for the magnetic dipole,  $\mathbf{M}$ , is

$$\mathbf{M} = \frac{\alpha a_0}{2} (\mathbf{L} + g_e \mathbf{S}) , \quad (2)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the fine structure constant,  $a_0$  the Bohr radius,  $g_e$  the free-electron  $g$ -factor, and  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{S}$  are the orbital and spin operators, respectively. We then calculate the line strength given by

$$S_{nm} = \sum_{i,f} |\langle m\Gamma_f | \mathbf{M} | n\Gamma_i \rangle|^2 , \quad (3)$$

where the sum on  $i$  and  $f$  is over all the components of  $\Gamma_i$  and  $\Gamma_f$ . The wavefunctions  $|n\Gamma_i\rangle$  and  $|m\Gamma_f\rangle$  are obtained from the simultaneous diagonalization of the crystal field in equation (1) and the free-ion Hamiltonian with the parameters for  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  given by Carnall et al [6]. These results are given in table 2. We also calculated the  $g$  values as defined earlier [3] for the  $^4I_{15/2}$  and  $^4I_{13/2}$  energy levels; these results are given in table 3.

Table 2. Magnetic dipole line strengths,  $S_{nm}$  ( $10^{-23} \text{ cm}^2$ ), for line-to-line  $^4I_{15/2} \leftrightarrow ^4I_{13/2}$

| $m, \Gamma_i \backslash n, \Gamma_j$ | 6, $\Gamma_6$ | 7, $\Gamma_8$ | 8, $\Gamma_7$ | 9, $\Gamma_7$ | 10, $\Gamma_8$ |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1, $\Gamma_8$                        | 47.73         | 30.74         | 3.139         | 0.01178       | 0.3887         |
| 2, $\Gamma_7$                        | 0             | 6.804         | 8.717         | 1.060         | 3.290          |
| 3, $\Gamma_8$                        | 0.0015        | 33.16         | 14.69         | 8.120         | 8.001          |
| 4, $\Gamma_6$                        | 0.0028        | 0.0032        | 0             | 0             | 44.75          |
| 5, $\Gamma_8$                        | 0.0398        | 0.2482        | 0.2345        | 38.43         | 40.15          |

Table 3.  $g$  values of  $^4I_{15/2}$  and  $^4I_{13/2}$  levels of  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in  $\text{ErAs}^a$

| No. | I. R.      | $g_1$   | $g_2$   |
|-----|------------|---------|---------|
| 1   | $\Gamma_8$ | 4.945   | -11.897 |
| 2   | $\Gamma_7$ | —       | 6.777   |
| 3   | $\Gamma_8$ | -1.194  | 9.697   |
| 4   | $\Gamma_6$ | -5.933  | —       |
| 5   | $\Gamma_8$ | -12.174 | 0.215   |
| 6   | $\Gamma_6$ | 5.546   | —       |
| 7   | $\Gamma_8$ | -2.506  | -5.996  |
| 8   | $\Gamma_7$ | —       | -3.642  |
| 9   | $\Gamma_7$ | —       | 4.285   |
| 10  | $\Gamma_8$ | 0.294   | 9.737   |

<sup>a</sup>For an explanation of definition of notation of  $g$  values, see Morrison et al [3].

## 4. Comparison with Experiment

The line strengths given in table 2 have been used to calculate the line-to-line absorption as a function of energy at 5, 74, and 300 K reported by Schneider et al [2]. The results are shown in figure 1. The quantity plotted,  $I(E)$ , is

$$I(E) = \sum_{j=6}^{10} \sum_{i=1}^5 \frac{(E_j - E_i) S_{ij} \exp[-(E_i - E_1)/kT]}{[E - (E_j - E_i)]^2 + (\Delta/2)^2} Z_1, \quad (4)$$

where

$$Z_1 = \sum_{i=1}^5 w_i \exp[-(E_i - E_1)/kT] \quad (5)$$

and  $\Delta$  is the full linewidth at half maximum value, and, as suggested by Schneider et al [2], we have used  $\Delta = 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . If this figure is compared with figure 1 of Schneider et al [2], we find that every line agrees with their results, except for the splittings of the lines they label 1 and 2.

## 5. Emission Branching Ratios

We calculated the emission branching ratios assuming that the  $^4I_{13/2}$  level is pumped and the population of this state is thermalized. That is, we calculate

$$\beta_{ij} = \frac{\exp[-(E_j - E_6)/kT] S_{ij} (E_j - E_i)^3}{S_o Z_2} \quad (6)$$

for  $j = 6$  to  $10$ ,  $i = 1$  to  $5$ , where

$$Z_2 = \sum_{j=6}^{10} w_j \exp[-(E_j - E_6)/kT]; \quad (7)$$

$S_o$  is determined such that

$$1 = \sum_{i=1}^5 \sum_{j=6}^{10} \beta_{ij},$$

and  $w_j$  is the degeneracy of each level in the  $^4I_{13/2}$  multiplet ( $w_j = 2$  for  $\Gamma_6$  and  $\Gamma_7$ , and 4 for  $\Gamma_8$ ). The  $\beta_{ij}$  are shown in figure 2 for the four largest branching ratios at  $T = 300 \text{ K}$ . At all temperatures, the largest branching ratio is from level 6 to level 1 ( $\Delta E = 6491.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). However, at room temperatures, the transition of level 7 to level 3 ( $\Delta E = 6478.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) has a large branching ratio

(13.4 percent), but since level 3 is only  $27.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  above the ground level, population inversion would be difficult. Also, at room temperature, it might be possible to achieve population inversion in the transition from level 10 to level 4 ( $\beta = 12.5$  percent) at  $129 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\Delta E = 6454.0 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).

**Figure 1. Predicted absorption spectra of  $^4I_{15/2}$  to  $^4I_{13/2}$  levels of  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in ErAs, assuming a Lorentzian line shape with  $\Delta E = 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ :**

- (a)  $T = 5 \text{ K}$ ,  
 (b)  $T = 74 \text{ K}$ , and  
 (c)  $T = 300 \text{ K}$ .

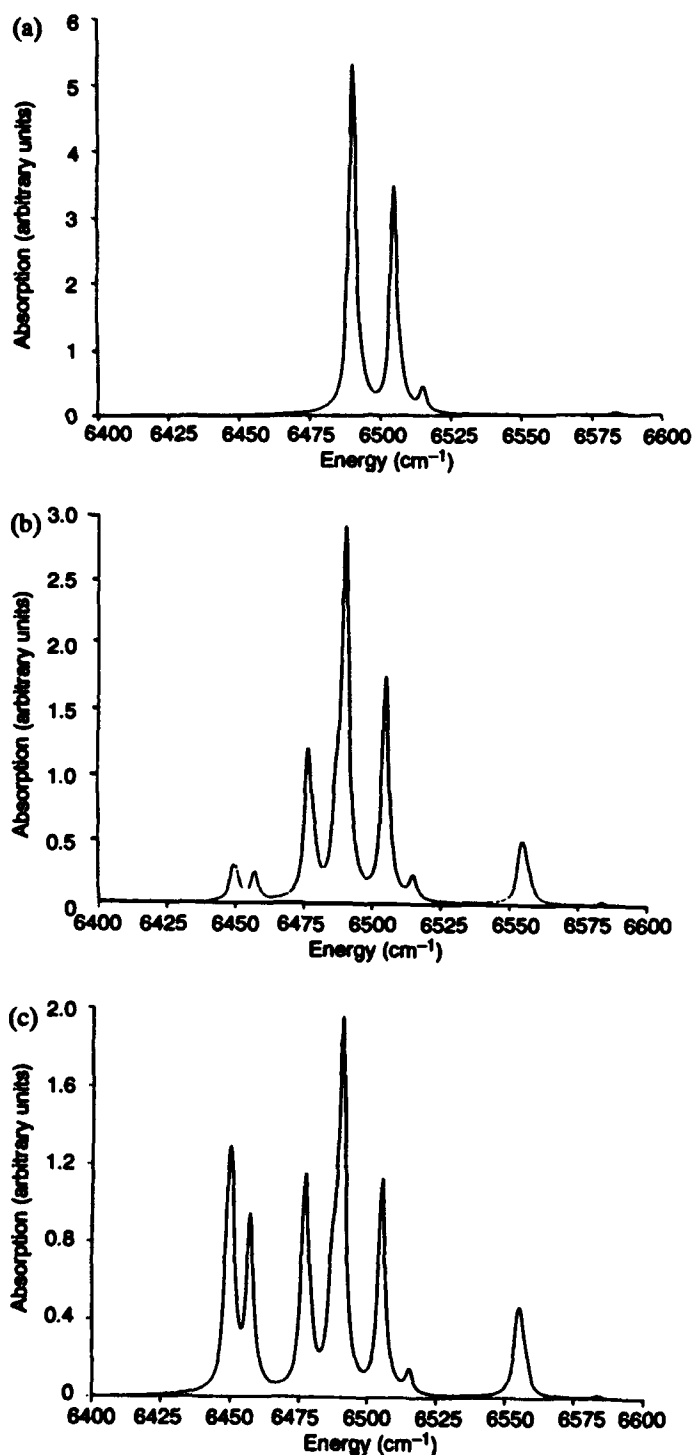
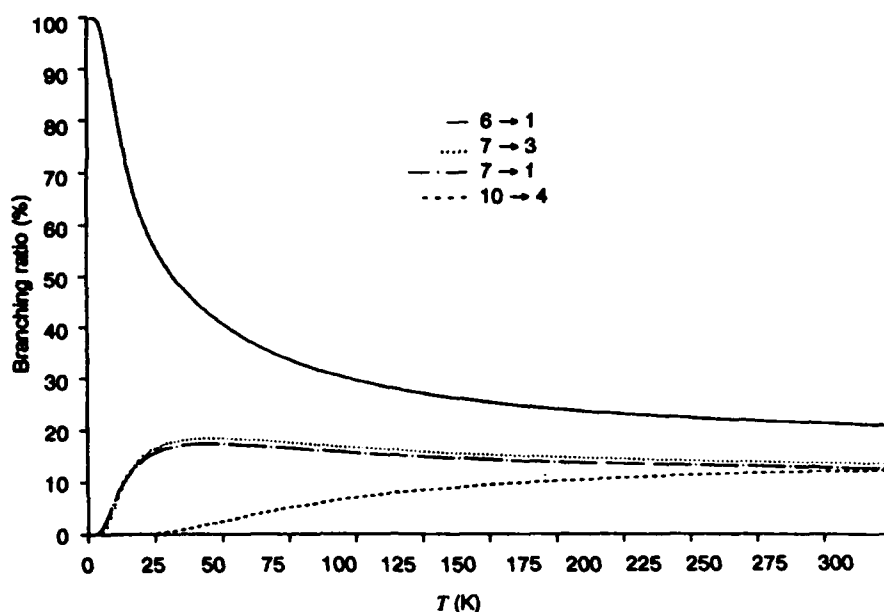


Figure 2. Four largest line-to-line branching ratios at 300 K for  $^4I_{13/2}$  to  $^4I_{15/2}$  transitions for  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in ErAs.



## 6. Theoretical Predictions

In the three-parameter theory of crystal fields proposed in 1975 by Leavitt et al [9], the crystal-field parameters,  $B_{nm}$ , are related to the crystal-field components by

$$B_{nm} = \rho_n A_{nm}, \quad (8)$$

and it is assumed that the  $\rho_n$  are dependent only on the lanthanide ion and the  $A_{nm}$  are host dependent. In the cubic symmetry for the  $\text{LnAs}$  compounds, we need only  $\rho_4$  and  $\rho_6$  along with  $A_{40}$  and  $A_{60}$ . The values for  $\rho_n$  have been tabulated elsewhere [4], and we use these values here. Using the values of  $\rho_4$  and  $\rho_6$  for  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  and the values of  $B_{40}$  and  $B_{60}$  from the best fit given in table 1, we obtain experimental values of the crystal components  $A_{40}(\text{Er})$  and  $A_{60}(\text{Er})$ , which can be used in equation (8) to predict the energy levels of the other lanthanides as impurities in ErAs. However, we wish to find the  $A_{nm}(\text{Ln})$  in  $\text{LnAs}$ . To obtain the  $A_{nm}(\text{Ln})$  for  $\text{LnAs}$ , we assume that the dominant contribution to the  $A_{nm}(\text{Ln})$  is given by the monopole contribution to the crystal-field components. For cubic site symmetry, the monopole  $A_{nm}$  can be written as

$$A_{nm}(\text{Ln}) = V_{nm}/a(\text{Ln})^{n+1}, \quad (9)$$

where  $a(\text{Ln})$  is the lattice constant for  $\text{LnAs}$  and the  $V_{nm}$  are crystal-field components for the unit lattice constant and are the same for all cubic  $\text{LnAs}$ . The  $a(\text{Ln})$  for a number of lanthanides are given by Wyckoff [5], and his results have been used to interpolate the lattice constants for all the  $\text{LnAs}$  from LaAs through LuAs; these results are given in table 4.

We obtain the  $A_{nm}(Ln)$  for  $LnAs$  from equation (9) by using

$$A_{nm}(Ln) = A_{nm}(Er) \left[ \frac{a(Er)}{a(Ln)} \right]^{n+1} \quad (10)$$

with the  $A_{nm}(Er)$  determined from the phenomenological  $B_{40}$  and  $B_{60}$  for Er in ErAs. These results are given in table 5, along with the  $B_{40}$  and  $B_{60}$  for all the  $LnAs$  given in table 4. If the values of  $B_{40}$  and  $B_{60}$  in table 5 are compared to the values given earlier [3] (table VI) for  $Ln^{3+}$  in  $Cs_2NaLnCl_6$ , we see that the  $B_{40}$  and  $B_{60}$  are much smaller for  $LnAs$ .

**Table 4.** Lattice constants for  $LnAs$  ( $Ln = La$  to  $Lu$ ) for experimental values and interpolated values for triply ionized rare-earth ions with electronic configuration  $4f^N$

| $N$ | Ion | $a$ (Å) <sup>a</sup> | $a$ (Å) <sup>b</sup> |
|-----|-----|----------------------|----------------------|
| 0   | La  | 6.125                | 6.103                |
| 1   | Ce  | 6.060                | 6.060                |
| 2   | Pr  | 5.997                | 6.019                |
| 3   | Nd  | 5.958                | 5.980                |
| 4   | Pm  | —                    | 5.943                |
| 5   | Sm  | 5.921                | 5.908                |
| 6   | Eu  | —                    | 5.875                |
| 7   | Gd  | 5.854                | 5.844                |
| 8   | Tb  | 5.827                | 5.814                |
| 9   | Dy  | 5.780                | 5.787                |
| 10  | Ho  | 5.771                | 5.762                |
| 11  | Er  | 5.732                | 5.738                |
| 12  | Tm  | 5.711                | 5.717                |
| 13  | Yb  | 5.698                | 5.697                |
| 14  | Lu  | —                    | 5.679                |

<sup>a</sup>R.W.G. Wyckoff [5].

<sup>b</sup> $a(N) = 6.103273 - 4.378697X + 9.666212X^2$ ,  $X = N/100$  (rms =  $1.326 \times 10^{-2}$  Å)

**Table 5.** Interpolated crystal-field components,  $A_{kq}$ , and crystal-field parameters,  $B_{nm}$ , for  $LnAs$

| $N$ | Ion | $A_{40}$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> /Å <sup>4</sup> ) | $B_{40}$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) | $A_{60}$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> /Å <sup>6</sup> ) | $B_{60}$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0   | La  | 1254                                         | —                            | 33.76                                        | —                            |
| 1   | Ce  | 1299                                         | 979.4                        | 35.47                                        | 83.06                        |
| 2   | Pr  | 1344                                         | 869.0                        | 37.19                                        | 69.75                        |
| 3   | Nd  | 1388                                         | 802.1                        | 38.92                                        | 61.87                        |
| 4   | Pm  | 1432                                         | 764.8                        | 40.65                                        | 57.79                        |
| 5   | Sm  | 1475                                         | 745.0                        | 42.37                                        | 55.97                        |
| 6   | Eu  | 1517                                         | 733.9                        | 44.07                                        | 55.10                        |
| 7   | Gd  | 1558                                         | 725.7                        | 45.74                                        | 54.31                        |
| 8   | Tb  | 1598                                         | 717.6                        | 47.38                                        | 53.22                        |
| 9   | Dy  | 1636                                         | 710.4                        | 48.97                                        | 51.98                        |
| 10  | Ho  | 1672                                         | 705.4                        | 50.50                                        | 51.11                        |
| 11  | Er  | 1707                                         | 704.5                        | 51.97                                        | 51.07                        |
| 12  | Tm  | 1739                                         | 705.1                        | 53.36                                        | 51.48                        |
| 13  | Yb  | 1770                                         | 697.0                        | 54.66                                        | 49.85                        |
| 14  | Lu  | 1797                                         | —                            | 55.86                                        | —                            |

## 7. Predicted Energy Levels, $g$ Values, Absorption Spectra, and Multiplet Branching Ratios

The  $B_{40}$  and  $B_{60}$  in table 5 are used in equation (1) along with the free-ion centroids of Carnall et al [6] from the aqueous data to obtain the energy levels,  $g$  values, absorption spectra, and branching ratios for  $Ln = Tb, Dy, Ho, Tm,$  and  $Yb$  in  $LnAs$ . Only the multiplets that lie in the band gap of GaAs ( $\sim 11,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) are given.

### 7.1 Tb in TbAs

The energy levels and free ion composition of the wavefunctions for the  ${}^7F_J$  for  $J = 6$  through 0 are given in table 6. For most values of  $J$ , the free-ion component of the wavefunction exceeds 99 percent, and this result would indicate that the analysis of the experimental data using the operator equivalent method given by Lea et al [7] would give a good representation of the crystal-field parameters. The strongest optical absorption would be in the  $2000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  region ( ${}^7F_6 \rightarrow {}^7F_5$ ), which is the long wavelength limit given by Schneider et al [2]. Multiplet line strengths of  ${}^7F_6$  to higher multiplets are two

Table 6. Predicted energy levels and free-ion mixture for  $Tb^{3+}$  in TbAs<sup>a</sup>

| No. <sup>b</sup> | Centroid <sup>c</sup> | I. R. <sup>d</sup> | Energy (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) | Free-ion mixture (%)                          |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1                | 74                    | $\Gamma_1$         | 0.0                        | $99.86 {}^7F_6 + 0.13 {}^7F_4$                |
| 2                |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 17.8                       | $99.75 {}^7F_6 + 0.16 {}^7F_5 + 0.08 {}^7F_4$ |
| 3                |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 38.6                       | $99.62 {}^7F_6 + 0.35 {}^7F_5 + 0.02 {}^7F_4$ |
| 4                |                       | $\Gamma_2$         | 121.5                      | $99.94 {}^7F_6 + 0.06 {}^7F_3$                |
| 5                |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 148.6                      | $99.86 {}^7F_6 + 0.09 {}^7F_5 + 0.03 {}^7F_4$ |
| 6                |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 157.6                      | $99.88 {}^7F_6 + 0.06 {}^7F_5 + 0.05 {}^7F_4$ |
| 7                | 2112                  | $\Gamma_4$         | 2058.3                     | $99.84 {}^7F_5 + 0.11 {}^7F_6 + 0.04 {}^7F_1$ |
| 8                |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 2112.1                     | $99.43 {}^7F_5 + 0.44 {}^7F_6 + 0.10 {}^7F_2$ |
| 9                |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 2160.5                     | $99.81 {}^7F_5 + 0.09 {}^7F_2 + 0.06 {}^7F_6$ |
| 10               |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 2177.3                     | $99.72 {}^7F_5 + 0.19 {}^7F_3 + 0.05 {}^7F_6$ |
| 11               | 3370                  | $\Gamma_1$         | 3309.9                     | $99.56 {}^7F_4 + 0.30 {}^7F_0 + 0.13 {}^7F_6$ |
| 12               |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 3334.7                     | $99.59 {}^7F_4 + 0.16 {}^7F_1 + 0.13 {}^7F_3$ |
| 13               |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 3354.9                     | $99.89 {}^7F_4 + 0.05 {}^7F_6 + 0.05 {}^7F_5$ |
| 14               |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 3466.0                     | $99.38 {}^7F_4 + 0.56 {}^7F_3 + 0.05 {}^7F_6$ |
| 15               | 4344                  | $\Gamma_4$         | 4334.8                     | $99.30 {}^7F_3 + 0.36 {}^7F_1 + 0.20 {}^7F_5$ |
| 16               |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 4360.5                     | $97.33 {}^7F_3 + 2.03 {}^7F_2 + 0.57 {}^7F_4$ |
| 17               |                       | $\Gamma_2$         | 4395.4                     | $99.94 {}^7F_3 + 0.06 {}^7F_6$                |
| 18               | 5028                  | $\Gamma_5$         | 5012.1                     | $97.86 {}^7F_2 + 2.05 {}^7F_3 + 0.08 {}^7F_5$ |
| 19               |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 5111.1                     | $99.89 {}^7F_2 + 0.09 {}^7F_5 + 0.01 {}^7F_4$ |
| 20               | 5481                  | $\Gamma_4$         | 5502.8                     | $99.43 {}^7F_1 + 0.38 {}^7F_3 + 0.15 {}^7F_4$ |
| 21               | 5703                  | $\Gamma_1$         | 5722.6                     | $99.70 {}^7F_0 + 0.30 {}^7F_4$                |

<sup>a</sup> $B_{40} = 717.6$  and  $B_{60} = 53.22 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

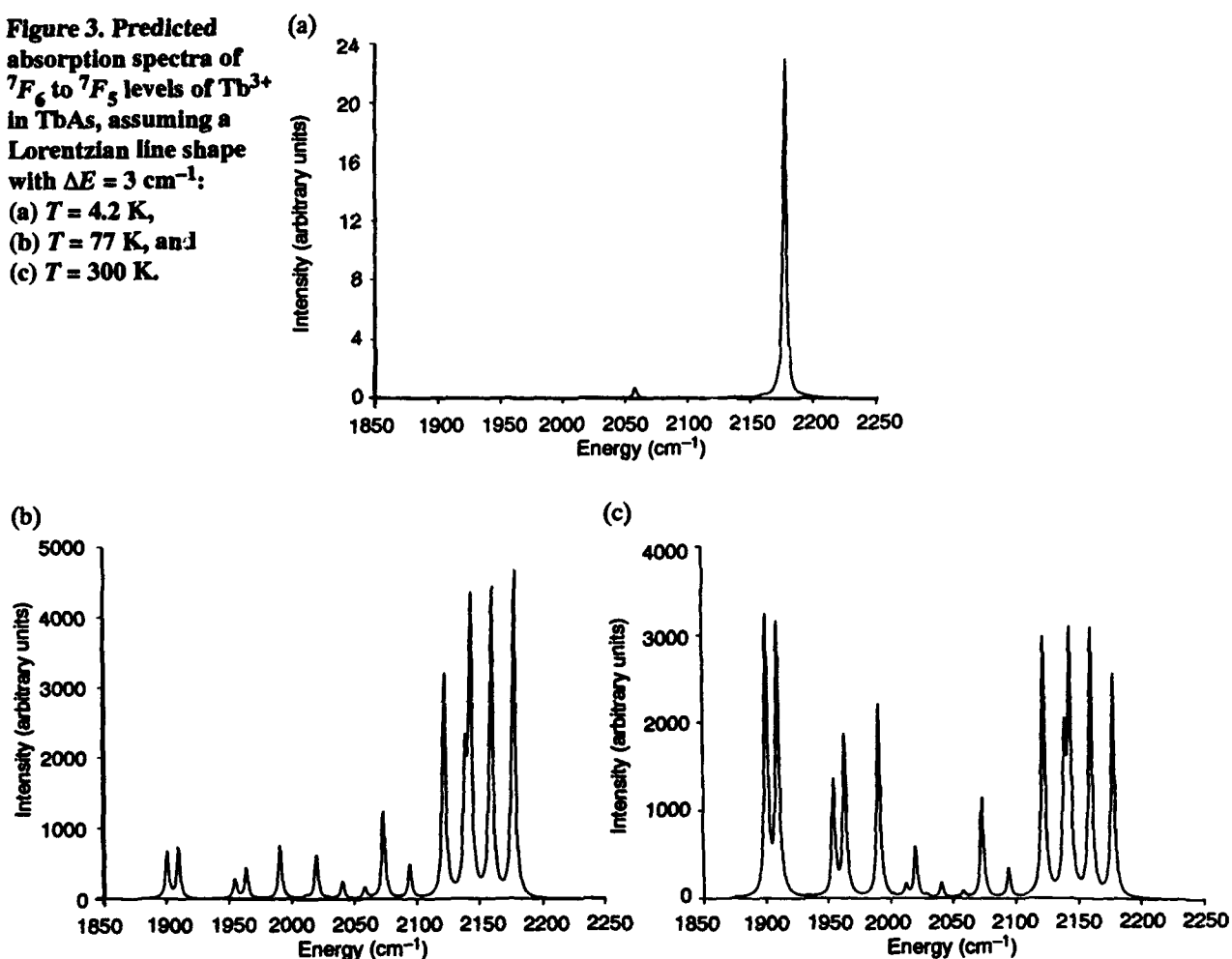
<sup>b</sup>Numbers to designate levels used in discussion.

<sup>c</sup>Aqueous centroids.

<sup>d</sup>Irreducible representation of  $O$  group, Koster et al [8].

orders of magnitude smaller than the  ${}^7F_6 \rightarrow {}^7F_5$  transitions. The absorption spectra for the transitions between the energy levels of the  ${}^7F_6$  to the  ${}^7F_5$  were computed using equation (4) with  $1 \leq i \leq 6$ ,  $7 \leq j \leq 10$  (table 6) and are shown in figure 3 for  $T = 4.2$ ,  $77$ , and  $300$  K. In addition, the  $g$  values for all the states are given in table 7.

**Figure 3. Predicted absorption spectra of  ${}^7F_6$  to  ${}^7F_5$  levels of  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$  in TbAs, assuming a Lorentzian line shape with  $\Delta E = 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ :**  
 (a)  $T = 4.2$  K,  
 (b)  $T = 77$  K, and  
 (c)  $T = 300$  K.



**Table 7. Predicted  $g$  values for  $\Gamma_4$  and  $\Gamma_5$  levels of  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$  in TbAs<sup>a</sup>**

| No. | I. R.      | $g$     |
|-----|------------|---------|
| 2   | $\Gamma_4$ | 1.5568  |
| 3   | $\Gamma_5$ | 5.6857  |
| 5   | $\Gamma_5$ | 1.7981  |
| 7   | $\Gamma_4$ | 8.9031  |
| 8   | $\Gamma_5$ | 7.4531  |
| 10  | $\Gamma_4$ | -7.4577 |
| 12  | $\Gamma_4$ | 1.6281  |
| 14  | $\Gamma_5$ | -7.1609 |
| 15  | $\Gamma_4$ | -4.6128 |
| 16  | $\Gamma_5$ | -1.0517 |
| 18  | $\Gamma_5$ | 2.2372  |
| 20  | $\Gamma_4$ | 2.9733  |

<sup>a</sup>See Morrison et al [3] for definition of  $g$  values.

## 7.2 Dy in DyAs

The energy levels and free-ion wavefunction composition for  ${}^6H_J$ ,  $J = 15/2$  through  $5/2$ , and  ${}^6F_{11/2}$ ,  ${}^6F_{9/2}$ , and  ${}^6F_{7/2}$  are given in table 8. Even though the crystal-field parameters are small, the free-ion levels are mixed by the crystal field. In some cases the mixture of different states consists of 40 percent of a state. For example, one level of the labeled  ${}^6F_{9/2}$  multiplet and one level in the multiplet labeled  ${}^6H_{7/2}$  are only 60 percent of their respective multiplets. The multiplet-to-multiplet branching ratios for each multiplet are shown in figure 4. The absorption spectra for the transitions between the energy levels

**Table 8. Predicted energy levels and free-ion mixture for  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  in  $\text{DyAs}^a$**

| No. <sup>b</sup> | Centroid <sup>c</sup> | I. R. <sup>d</sup> | Energy (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) | Free-ion mixture (%)                                             |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                | 40                    | $\Gamma_6$         | 0.0                        | 99.99 ${}^6H_{15/2}$ + 0.01 ${}^6F_{11/2}$                       |
| 2                |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 12.8                       | 99.98 ${}^6H_{15/2}$ + 0.02 ${}^6H_{13/2}$                       |
| 3                |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 85.5                       | 99.90 ${}^6H_{15/2}$ + 0.09 ${}^6H_{13/2}$                       |
| 4                |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 139.2                      | 99.95 ${}^6H_{15/2}$ + 0.03 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ + 0.01 ${}^6F_{9/2}$  |
| 5                |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 174.0                      | 99.95 ${}^6H_{15/2}$ + 0.03 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ + 0.01 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ |
| 6                | 3505                  | $\Gamma_8$         | 3530.2                     | 99.93 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ + 0.03 ${}^6H_{15/2}$ + 0.02 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ |
| 7                |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 3532.1                     | 99.88 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ + 0.08 ${}^6H_{15/2}$ + 0.02 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ |
| 8                |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 3566.4                     | 99.68 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ + 0.23 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ + 0.06 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ |
| 9                |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 3576.4                     | 99.79 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ + 0.12 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ + 0.04 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ |
| 10               |                       | $\Gamma_6$         | 3589.8                     | 99.95 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ + 0.02 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ + 0.02 ${}^6H_{9/2}$  |
| 11               | 5833                  | $\Gamma_6$         | 5860.9                     | 99.84 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ + 0.07 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ + 0.03 ${}^6H_{7/2}$  |
| 12               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 5867.6                     | 99.72 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ + 0.09 ${}^6H_{9/2}$ + 0.08 ${}^6F_{9/2}$   |
| 13               |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 5896.5                     | 99.62 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ + 0.24 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ + 0.09 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ |
| 14               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 5909.0                     | 99.77 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ + 0.09 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ + 0.06 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ |
| 15 <sup>e</sup>  |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 7707.9                     | 78.72 ${}^6H_{9/2}$ + 21.04 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ + 0.13 ${}^6F_{9/2}$  |
| 16               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 7729.1                     | 96.45 ${}^6H_{9/2}$ + 3.05 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ + 0.26 ${}^6F_{9/2}$   |
| 17               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 7749.0                     | 98.56 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ + 1.31 ${}^6H_{9/2}$ + 0.05 ${}^6H_{11/2}$  |
| 18               |                       | $\Gamma_6$         | 7754.5                     | 82.88 ${}^6H_{9/2}$ + 16.83 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ + 0.24 ${}^6F_{9/2}$  |
| 19               |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 7758.4                     | 99.83 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ + 0.09 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ + 0.07 ${}^6H_{13/2}$ |
| 20               |                       | $\Gamma_6$         | 7847.3                     | 82.99 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ + 16.74 ${}^6H_{9/2}$ + 0.13 ${}^6H_{7/2}$  |
| 21               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 7851.6                     | 77.12 ${}^6F_{11/2}$ + 22.69 ${}^6H_{9/2}$ + 0.12 ${}^6H_{11/2}$ |
| 22               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 9080.5                     | 59.91 ${}^6F_{9/2}$ + 39.95 ${}^6H_{7/2}$ + 0.05 ${}^6H_{9/2}$   |
| 23               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 9149.8                     | 99.34 ${}^6F_{9/2}$ + 0.40 ${}^6H_{7/2}$ + 0.11 ${}^6H_{9/2}$    |
| 24               |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 9150.1                     | 99.39 ${}^6H_{7/2}$ + 0.30 ${}^6H_{5/2}$ + 0.28 ${}^6F_{7/2}$    |
| 25               |                       | $\Gamma_6$         | 9162.2                     | 88.08 ${}^6F_{9/2}$ + 11.55 ${}^6H_{7/2}$ + 0.30 ${}^6H_{9/2}$   |
| 26               |                       | $\Gamma_6$         | 9196.9                     | 88.06 ${}^6H_{7/2}$ + 11.63 ${}^6F_{9/2}$ + 0.16 ${}^6F_{7/2}$   |
| 27               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 9214.4                     | 59.02 ${}^6H_{7/2}$ + 40.10 ${}^6F_{9/2}$ + 0.43 ${}^6H_{5/2}$   |
| 28               | 10169                 | $\Gamma_8$         | 10200.2                    | 99.22 ${}^6H_{5/2}$ + 0.35 ${}^6H_{7/2}$ + 0.15 ${}^6F_{7/2}$    |
| 29               |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 10265.9                    | 98.37 ${}^6H_{5/2}$ + 1.15 ${}^6F_{7/2}$ + 0.24 ${}^6H_{7/2}$    |
| 30               | 11025                 | $\Gamma_7$         | 11061.7                    | 98.54 ${}^6F_{7/2}$ + 1.09 ${}^6H_{5/2}$ + 0.34 ${}^6H_{7/2}$    |
| 31               |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 11089.9                    | 99.78 ${}^6F_{7/2}$ + 0.16 ${}^6H_{5/2}$ + 0.03 ${}^6H_{9/2}$    |
| 32               |                       | $\Gamma_6$         | 11105.6                    | 99.75 ${}^6F_{7/2}$ + 0.19 ${}^6H_{7/2}$ + 0.02 ${}^6H_{9/2}$    |

<sup>a</sup> $B_{40} = 710.4$  and  $B_{60} = 48.97 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

<sup>b</sup>Numbers to designate levels used in discussion.

<sup>c</sup>Aqueous centroids.

<sup>d</sup>Irreducible representation of O group, Koster et al [8].

<sup>e</sup>Levels 15 through 27 are mixed. Centroids

are  ${}^6H_{9/2} = 7692$ ;

${}^6F_{11/2} = 7730$ ;

${}^6F_{9/2} = 9087$ ; and

${}^6H_{7/2} = 9115 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

of the  ${}^6H_{15/2}$  to the  ${}^6H_{13/2}$  were computed using equation (4) with  $1 \leq i \leq 5$  and  $6 \leq j \leq 10$  (table 8) and are shown in figure 5 for  $T = 4.2, 77$ , and  $300$  K. The  $g$  values for each state are given in table 9.

Figure 4. Multiplet-to-multiplet branching ratios for  $Dy^{3+}$  in DyAs.

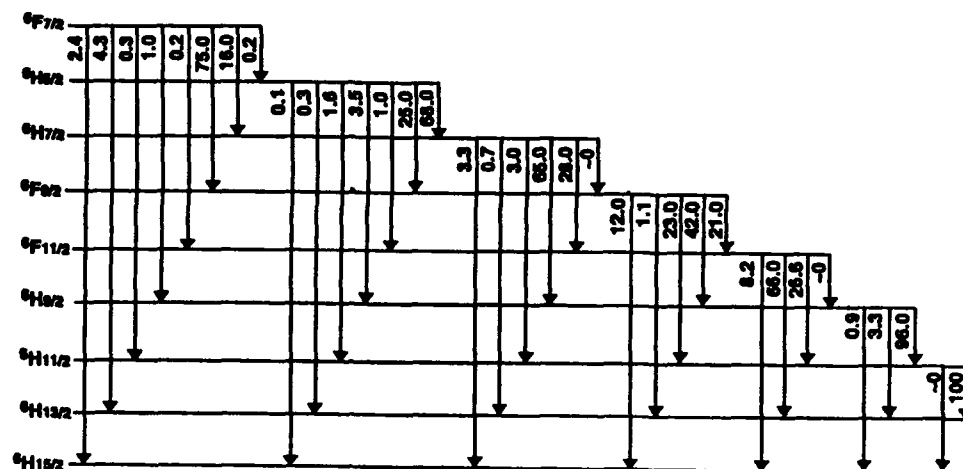
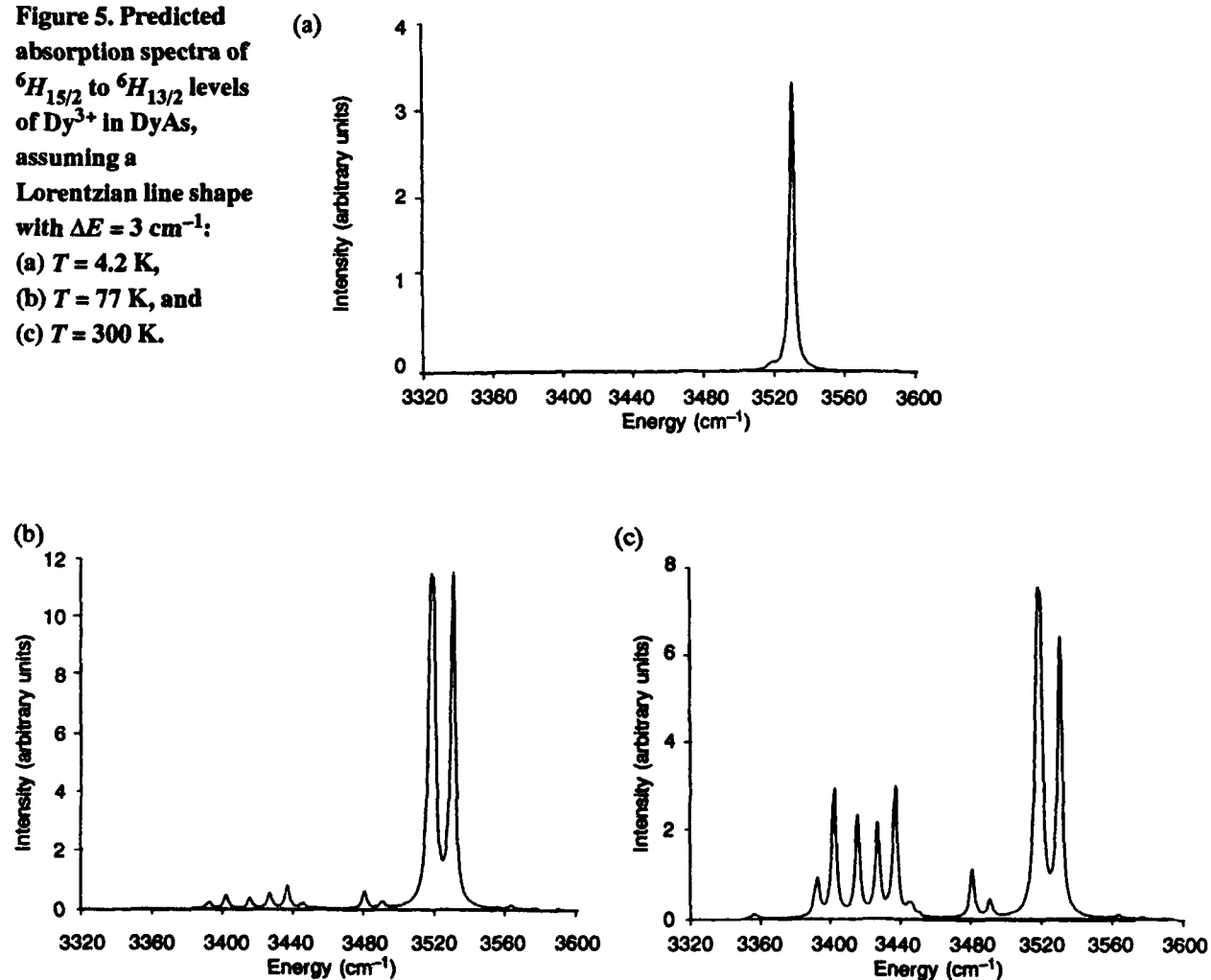


Figure 5. Predicted absorption spectra of  ${}^6H_{15/2}$  to  ${}^6H_{13/2}$  levels of  $Dy^{3+}$  in DyAs, assuming a Lorentzian line shape with  $\Delta E = 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ :  
(a)  $T = 4.2$  K,  
(b)  $T = 77$  K, and  
(c)  $T = 300$  K.



**Table 9. Predicted  $g$  values for  $\Gamma_6$ ,  $\Gamma_7$ , and  $\Gamma_8$  levels of  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  in  $\text{DyAs}^a$**

| No. | I. R.      | $g_1$   | $g_2$   | No. | I. R.      | $g_1$  | $g_2$   |
|-----|------------|---------|---------|-----|------------|--------|---------|
| 1   | $\Gamma_6$ | -6.624  | —       | 17  | $\Gamma_8$ | 0.314  | -10.742 |
| 2   | $\Gamma_8$ | -12.035 | -0.908  | 18  | $\Gamma_6$ | 2.415  | —       |
| 3   | $\Gamma_7$ | —       | 7.514   | 19  | $\Gamma_7$ | —      | -5.288  |
| 4   | $\Gamma_8$ | -5.335  | 10.394  | 20  | $\Gamma_6$ | -3.668 | —       |
| 5   | $\Gamma_8$ | 8.074   | -11.703 | 21  | $\Gamma_8$ | 8.544  | 2.668   |
| 6   | $\Gamma_8$ | 0.525   | 11.245  | 22  | $\Gamma_8$ | -6.729 | 1.490   |
| 7   | $\Gamma_7$ | —       | 4.599   | 23  | $\Gamma_8$ | 8.363  | 0.382   |
| 8   | $\Gamma_7$ | —       | -3.723  | 24  | $\Gamma_7$ | —      | 2.303   |
| 9   | $\Gamma_8$ | -3.074  | -6.908  | 25  | $\Gamma_6$ | 4.330  | —       |
| 10  | $\Gamma_6$ | 6.339   | —       | 26  | $\Gamma_6$ | -1.159 | —       |
| 11  | $\Gamma_6$ | -4.387  | —       | 27  | $\Gamma_8$ | -5.507 | 0.051   |
| 12  | $\Gamma_8$ | 7.100   | 3.166   | 28  | $\Gamma_8$ | 0.078  | 1.320   |
| 13  | $\Gamma_7$ | —       | -4.442  | 29  | $\Gamma_7$ | —      | -0.264  |
| 14  | $\Gamma_8$ | 0.938   | -9.698  | 30  | $\Gamma_7$ | —      | 4.124   |
| 15  | $\Gamma_8$ | 5.879   | 2.836   | 31  | $\Gamma_8$ | -5.101 | -1.358  |
| 16  | $\Gamma_8$ | -5.722  | -0.403  | 32  | $\Gamma_6$ | -3.230 | —       |

<sup>a</sup>See Morrison et al [3] for definition of  $g$  values.

### 7.3 Ho in HoAs

The energy levels and free-ion wavefunction composition for the  $^5I_J$  multiplet of  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$  in HoAs for  $J = 8$  to 5 are given in table 10. For each  $^5I_J$  level, the composition of that state is practically 100 percent. The absorption spectra for the transitions between the energy levels of the  $^5I_8$  to  $^5I_7$  were computed using equation (4) with  $1 \leq i \leq 7$  and  $8 \leq j \leq 13$  (table 10) and are shown in figure 6 for  $T = 4.2, 77$ , and 300 K. The  $g$  values for each state are given in table 11.

**Table 10. Predicted energy levels and free-ion mixture for  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$  in HoAs<sup>a</sup>**

| No. <sup>b</sup> | Centroid <sup>c</sup> | I. R. <sup>d</sup> | Energy ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) | Free-ion mixture (%)                    |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1                | 80                    | $\Gamma_3$         | 0.0                         | 99.99 $^5I_8$                           |
| 2                |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 2.3                         | 100.00 $^5I_8$                          |
| 3                |                       | $\Gamma_1$         | 7.5                         | 100.00 $^5I_8$                          |
| 4                |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 88.0                        | 99.98 $^5I_8 + 0.01 ^5I_7$              |
| 5                |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 93.6                        | 99.99 $^5I_8 + 0.01 ^5I_7$              |
| 6                |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 116.3                       | 99.99 $^5I_8$                           |
| 7                |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 117.9                       | 99.99 $^5I_8$                           |
| 8                | 5116                  | $\Gamma_4$         | 5065.7                      | 99.98 $^5I_7 + 0.01 ^5I_8$              |
| 9                |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 5068.9                      | 99.99 $^5I_7 + 0.01 ^5I_8$              |
| 10               |                       | $\Gamma_2$         | 5110.2                      | 99.97 $^5I_7 + 0.02 ^5I_6$              |
| 11               |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 5120.6                      | 99.97 $^5I_7 + 0.02 ^5I_6$              |
| 12               |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 5127.0                      | 99.97 $^5I_7 + 0.02 ^5I_6$              |
| 13               |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 5139.7                      | 99.99 $^5I_7 + 0.01 ^5F_5$              |
| 14               | 8614                  | $\Gamma_3$         | 8570.7                      | 99.97 $^5I_6 + 0.02 ^5I_7$              |
| 15               |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 8574.6                      | 99.96 $^5I_6 + 0.02 ^5I_7 + 0.01 ^5I_5$ |
| 16               |                       | $\Gamma_2$         | 8590.8                      | 99.97 $^5I_6 + 0.02 ^5I_7$              |
| 17               |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 8615.4                      | 99.92 $^5I_6 + 0.07 ^5I_5$              |
| 18               | 11164                 | $\Gamma_4$         | 8625.7                      | 99.94 $^5I_6 + 0.04 ^5I_5$              |
| 19               |                       | $\Gamma_1$         | 8634.6                      | 99.98 $^5I_6 + 0.01 ^5I_4 + 0.01 ^5F_4$ |
| 20               |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 11127.2                     | 99.94 $^5I_5 + 0.04 ^5I_6$              |
| 21               |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 11144.8                     | 99.92 $^5I_5 + 0.07 ^5I_6$              |
| 22               |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 11166.5                     | 99.88 $^5I_5 + 0.11 ^5I_4 + 0.01 ^5F_4$ |
| 23               |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 11174.1                     | 99.9 $^5I_5 + 0.07 ^5I_4 + 0.01 ^5I_6$  |

<sup>a</sup> $B_{40} = 705.4$  and  $B_{60} = 51.11 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

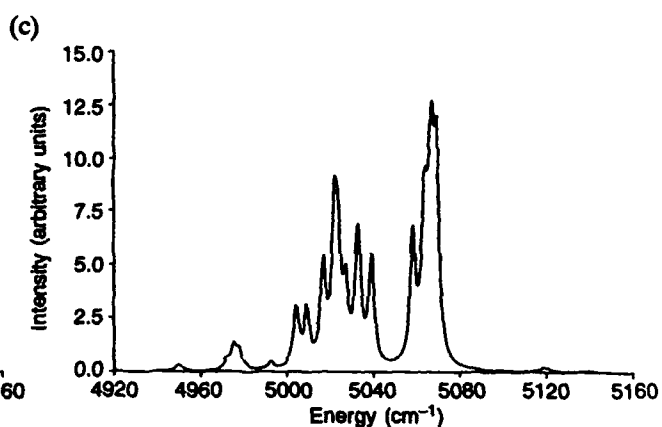
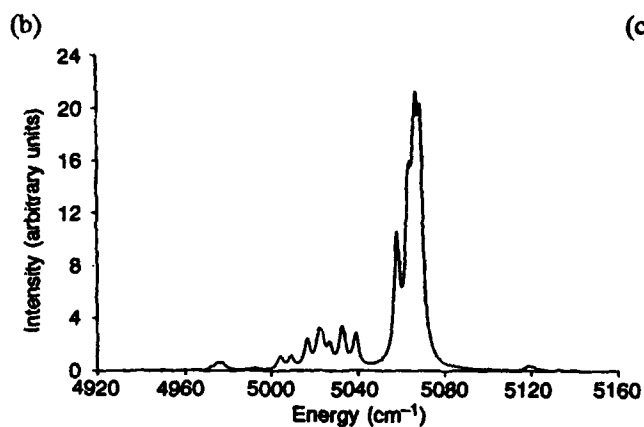
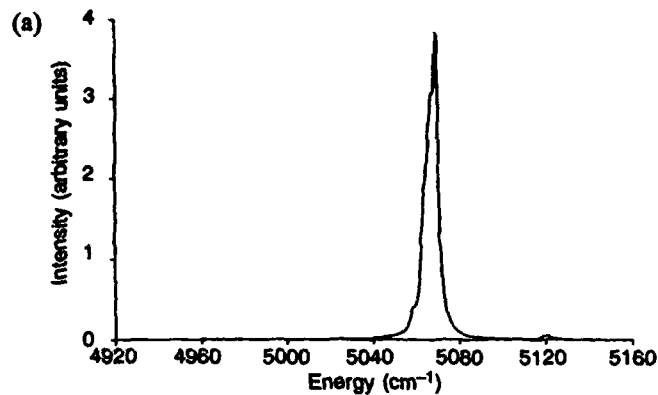
<sup>b</sup>Numbers to designate levels used in discussion.

<sup>c</sup>Aqueous centroids.

<sup>d</sup>Irreducible representation of O group, Koster et al [8].

**Figure 6. Predicted absorption spectra of  $^5I_8$  to  $^5I_7$  levels of  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$  in  $\text{HoAs}$ , assuming a Lorentzian line shape with  $\Delta E = 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ :**

- (a)  $T = 4.2 \text{ K}$ ,  
(b)  $T = 77 \text{ K}$ , and  
(c)  $T = 300 \text{ K}$ .



**Table 11. Predicted  $g$  values for  $\Gamma_4$  and  $\Gamma_5$  levels of  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$  in  $\text{HoAs}$ <sup>a</sup>**

| No. | I. R.      | $g$     |
|-----|------------|---------|
| 2   | $\Gamma_4$ | -0.4529 |
| 4   | $\Gamma_4$ | -8.245  |
| 5   | $\Gamma_5$ | -9.6228 |
| 7   | $\Gamma_5$ | 8.3998  |
| 8   | $\Gamma_4$ | -8.2079 |
| 9   | $\Gamma_5$ | -7.4662 |
| 11  | $\Gamma_5$ | -3.1396 |
| 13  | $\Gamma_4$ | 9.3763  |
| 15  | $\Gamma_5$ | 2.0476  |
| 17  | $\Gamma_5$ | 3.2855  |
| 18  | $\Gamma_4$ | 1.0616  |
| 20  | $\Gamma_4$ | 5.4363  |
| 21  | $\Gamma_5$ | 4.6125  |
| 23  | $\Gamma_4$ | -4.4706 |

<sup>a</sup>See Morrison et al [3] for definitions of  $g$  values.

## 7.4 Tm in TmAs

The energy levels and free-ion wavefunction composition for the  $^3H_6$ ,  $^3F_4$ , and  $^3H_5$  multiplet of  $Tm^{3+}$  in TmAs are given in table 12. Each of the  $^3H_j$  and  $^3F_4$  consist of 100 percent of the free-ion level. These results indicate that the method of Lea et al [7] would be applicable to all the multiplets. The absorption spectra for the transitions between the energy levels of  $^3H_6$  to the  $^3F_4$  were computed using equation (4) with  $1 \leq i \leq 6$  and  $7 \leq j \leq 10$  (table 12) and are shown in figure 7 for  $T = 4.2, 77$ , and 300 K. The  $g$  values for all the levels are given in table 13.

In 1979, Hulliger [10] listed four different sets of experimental energy levels for the  $^3H_6$  multiplet as given in table 14. Table 15 compares our results with Hulliger's. In almost all cases, our predicted values lie within the variance of the experimental energy levels given in table 14.

**Table 12. Predicted energy levels and free-ion mixture for  $Tm^{3+}$  in TmAs<sup>a</sup>**

| No. <sup>b</sup> | Centroid <sup>c</sup> | I. R. <sup>d</sup> | Energy (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) | Free-ion mixture (%)                    |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1                | 202                   | $\Gamma_1$         | 0.0                        | 99.91 $^3H_6 + 0.08 ^3F_4$              |
| 2                |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 28.7                       | 99.95 $^3H_6 + 0.04 ^3F_4$              |
| 3                |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 62.9                       | 99.98 $^3H_6 + 0.01 ^3F_4 + 0.01 ^3H_5$ |
| 4                |                       | $\Gamma_2$         | 145.7                      | 100.00 $^3H_6$                          |
| 5                |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 201.9                      | 99.99 $^3H_6$                           |
| 6                |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 215.5                      | 99.98 $^3H_6 + 0.01 ^3F_4$              |
| 7                | 5812                  | $\Gamma_5$         | 5620.6                     | 99.98 $^3F_4 + 0.01 ^3H_6 + 0.01 ^3H_4$ |
| 8                |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 5750.3                     | 99.91 $^3F_4 + 0.07 ^3H_5 + 0.01 ^3H_6$ |
| 9                |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 5778.2                     | 99.91 $^3F_4 + 0.05 ^3H_5 + 0.04 ^3H_6$ |
| 10               |                       | $\Gamma_1$         | 5815.6                     | 99.91 $^3F_4 + 0.08 ^3H_6$              |
| 11               | 8390                  | $\Gamma_9$         | 8225.6                     | 99.90 $^3H_5 + 0.05 ^3F_4 + 0.03 ^3H_4$ |
| 12               |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 8244.8                     | 99.83 $^3H_5 + 0.08 ^3H_4 + 0.07 ^3F_4$ |
| 13               |                       | $\Gamma_5$         | 8331.5                     | 99.96 $^3H_5 + 0.01 ^3F_2 + 0.01 ^3H_6$ |
| 14               |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 8380.2                     | 99.97 $^3H_5 + 0.02 ^3H_4$              |
| 15               | 12720                 | $\Gamma_5$         | 12569.9                    | 99.63 $^3H_4 + 0.33 ^3F_3 + 0.04 ^3F_2$ |
| 16               |                       | $\Gamma_3$         | 12622.4                    | 99.81 $^3H_4 + 0.11 ^3F_2 + 0.08 ^3H_5$ |
| 17               |                       | $\Gamma_4$         | 12664.3                    | 99.85 $^3H_4 + 0.10 ^3F_3 + 0.05 ^3H_5$ |
| 18               |                       | $\Gamma_1$         | 12724.4                    | 99.99 $^3H_4$                           |

<sup>a</sup> $B_{40} = 705.1$  and  $B_{60} = 51.48 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

<sup>b</sup>Numbers to designate levels used in discussion.

<sup>c</sup>Aqueous centroids.

<sup>d</sup>Irreducible representation of O group, Koster et al [8].

Figure 7. Predicted absorption spectra of  $^3H_6$  to  $^3F_4$  levels of  $Tm^{3+}$  in TmAs, assuming a Lorentzian line shape with  $\Delta E = 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ :

- (a)  $T = 4.2 \text{ K}$ ,  
 (b)  $T = 77 \text{ K}$ , and  
 (c)  $T = 300 \text{ K}$ .

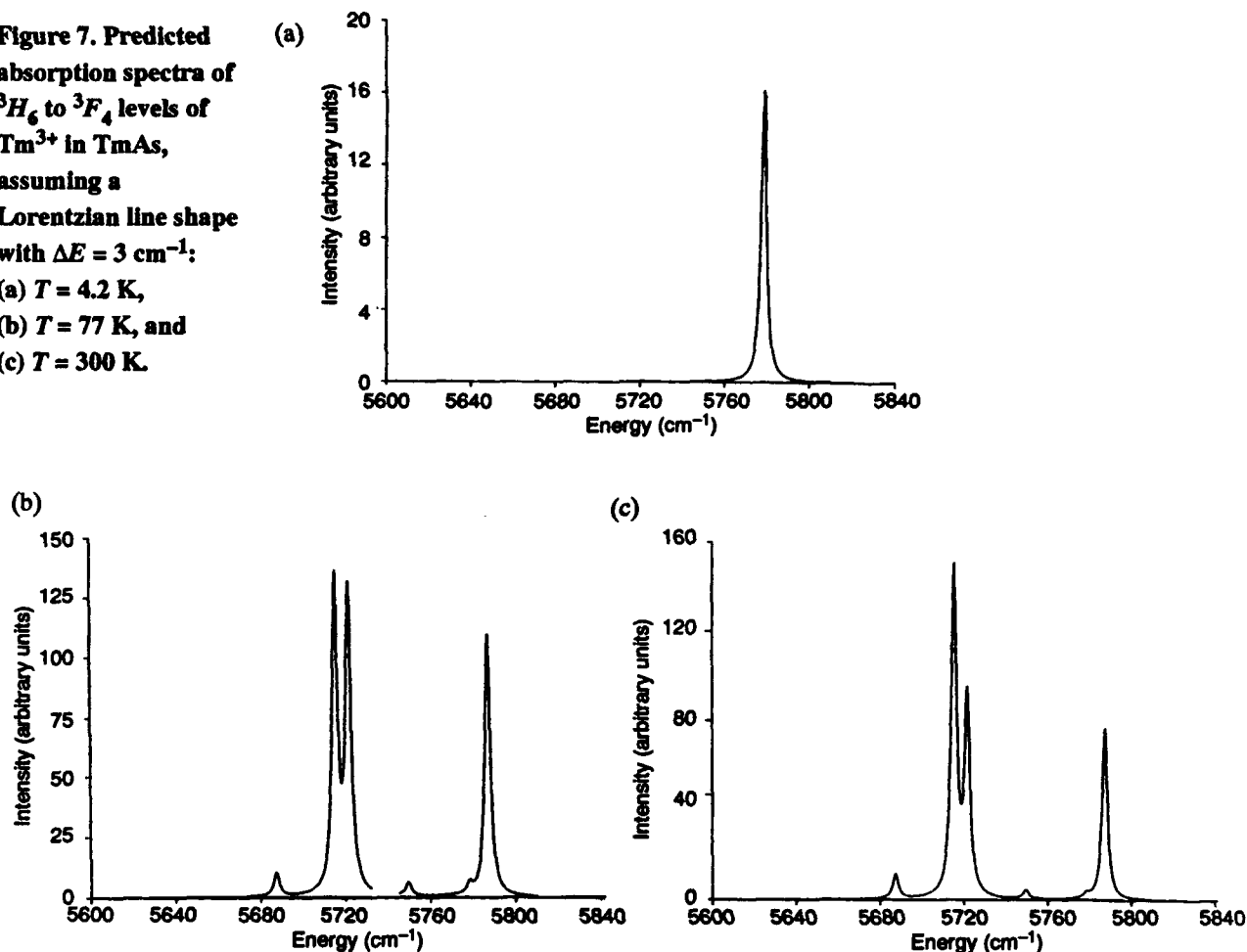


Table 13. Predicted  $g$  values for  $\Gamma_4$  and  $\Gamma_5$  levels of  $Tm^{3+}$  in TmAs<sup>a</sup>

| No. | I. R.      | $g$     |
|-----|------------|---------|
| 2   | $\Gamma_4$ | 1.1755  |
| 3   | $\Gamma_5$ | 3.5743  |
| 5   | $\Gamma_5$ | 2.2514  |
| 7   | $\Gamma_5$ | -5.6900 |
| 9   | $\Gamma_4$ | 1.1394  |
| 11  | $\Gamma_4$ | -5.0612 |
| 13  | $\Gamma_5$ | 5.1658  |
| 14  | $\Gamma_4$ | 6.0613  |

<sup>a</sup>See Morrison et al [3] for definitions of  $g$  values.

Table 14. Experimental energy levels ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of  $Tm^{3+}$  in TmAs reported by Hulliger [10]<sup>a</sup>

| No. <sup>b</sup> | I. R.      | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    |
|------------------|------------|------|------|------|------|
| 2                | $\Gamma_4$ | 21.5 | 21.5 | 19.5 | 23.6 |
| 3                | $\Gamma_5$ | 46.5 | 48.7 | 41.7 | 50.7 |
| 4                | $\Gamma_2$ | 139  | 101  | 124  | 152  |
| 5                | $\Gamma_5$ | 165  | 162  | 148  | 181  |
| 6                | $\Gamma_3$ | 174  | 174  | 156  | 190  |

<sup>a</sup>See Hulliger [10] for references to experimental data. Hulliger's data are multiplied by  $0.6950 \text{ cm}^{-1}/\text{K}$ .

<sup>b</sup>Numbers correspond to table 12: ground state is  $\Gamma_1$ .

Table 15. Comparison of present work and Hulliger [10]

| Level            | Energy levels ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) |                |
|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
|                  | Present work                       | 1979, Hulliger |
| 2 ( $\Gamma_4$ ) | 28.7                               | 19.5–23.6      |
| 3 ( $\Gamma_5$ ) | 62.9                               | 41.7–50.7      |
| 4 ( $\Gamma_2$ ) | 145.7                              | 101–152        |
| 5 ( $\Gamma_5$ ) | 201.9                              | 148–181        |
| 6 ( $\Gamma_3$ ) | 215.5                              | 156–190        |

## 7.5 Yb in YbAs

The energy levels and free-ion wavefunction composition for the two multiplets,  $^2F_{7/2}$  and  $^2F_{5/2}$ , of  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  in YbAs are given in table 16. The  $J$  mixing by the crystal field is negligible, and each level is practically 100 percent of that multiplet (99.99 percent). The absorption spectra for the transitions between the energy levels of the  $^2F_{7/2}$  to the  $^2F_{5/2}$  were computed using equation (4) with  $1 \leq i \leq 3$  and  $4 \leq j \leq 5$  (table 16) and are shown in figure 8 for  $T = 4.2$ , 77, and 300 K. The  $g$  values for each level are given in table 17. The energy levels of the  $^4F_{7/2}$  have recently been determined by inelastic neutron scattering in 1990 by Kohgi et al [11]. They report the first excited state,  $\Gamma_8$ , at  $144 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at  $T = 14 \text{ K}$ , and at 200 K they report the  $\Gamma_8$  at  $152 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the  $\Gamma_7$  at  $340 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In 1991, Donni et al [12] reported the  $\Gamma_8$  at  $141 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the  $\Gamma_7$  at  $331 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; these measurements were made over a temperature range of 40 to 295 K. Both Kohgi et al [11] and Donni et al [12] found their experimental data consistent with a  $\Gamma_6$  ground level. We calculated the line strength for the  $\Gamma_6 \rightarrow \Gamma_8$  to be  $558 \times 10^{-23} \text{ cm}^2$  and the  $\Gamma_8 \rightarrow \Gamma_8$  line strength to be  $358 \times 10^{-23} \text{ cm}^2$ , which qualitatively agrees with the plots of Donni et al [12].

**Table 16. Predicted energy levels and free-ion mixture for  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  in YbAs<sup>a</sup>**

| No. <sup>b</sup> | Centroid <sup>c</sup> | I. R. <sup>d</sup> | Energy (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) | Free-ion mixture (%)                 |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1                | 250                   | $\Gamma_6$         | 0.0                        | 100.00 $^2F_{7/2}$                   |
| 2                |                       | $\Gamma_8$         | 128.6                      | 99.99 $^2F_{7/2}$ + 0.01 $^2F_{5/2}$ |
| 3                |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 293.7                      | 99.99 $^2F_{7/2}$ + 0.01 $^2F_{5/2}$ |
| 4                | 10450                 | $\Gamma_8$         | 10272.9                    | 99.99 $^2F_{5/2}$ + 0.01 $^2F_{7/2}$ |
| 5                |                       | $\Gamma_7$         | 10471.8                    | 99.99 $^2F_{5/2}$ + 0.01 $^2F_{7/2}$ |

<sup>a</sup> $B_{40} = 697.0$  and  $B_{60} = 49.85 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

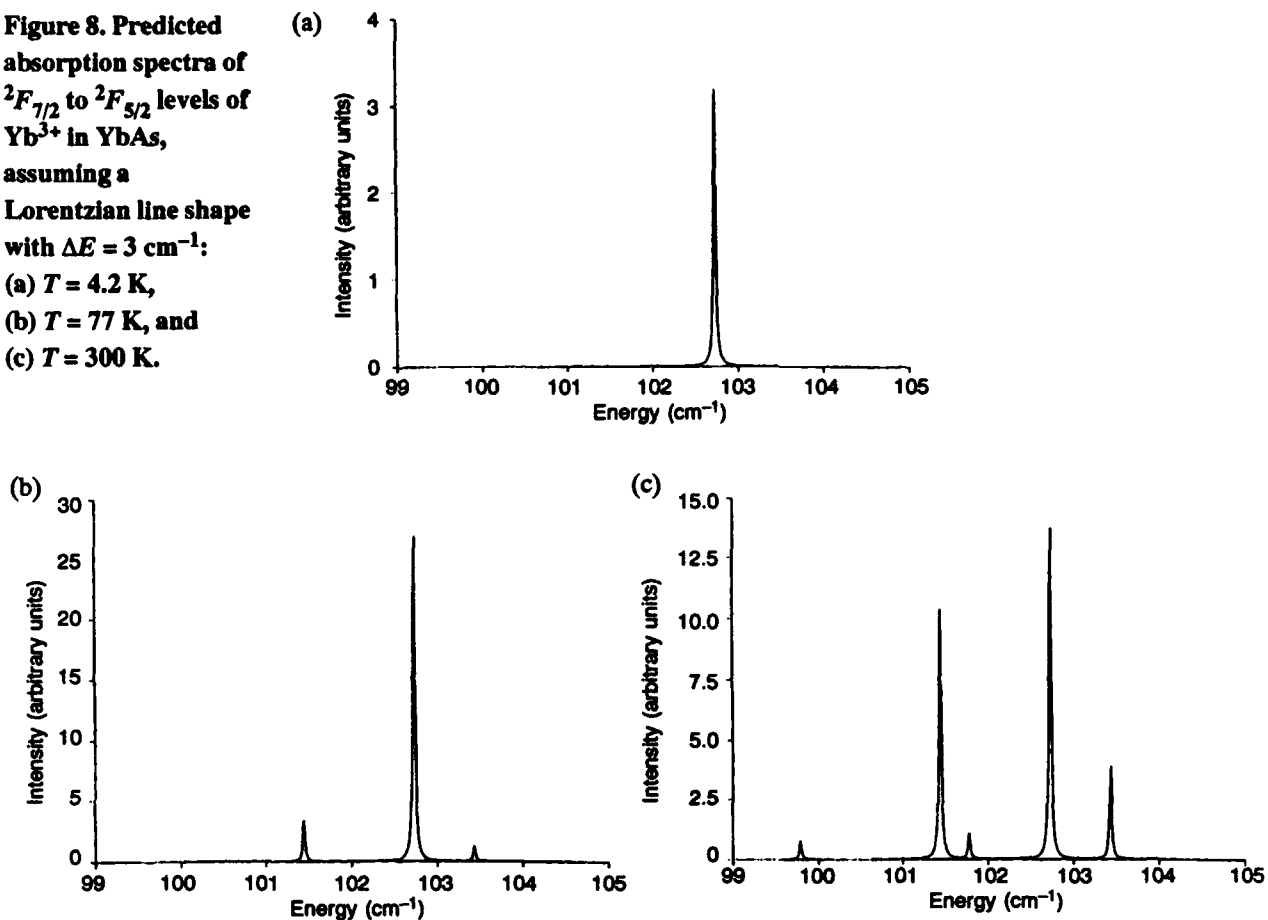
<sup>b</sup>Numbers to designate levels used in discussion.

<sup>c</sup>Aqueous centroids.

<sup>d</sup>Irreducible representation of  $O$  group, Koster et al [8].

**Figure 8. Predicted absorption spectra of  $^2F_{7/2}$  to  $^2F_{5/2}$  levels of  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  in  $\text{YbAs}$ , assuming a Lorentzian line shape with  $\Delta E = 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ :**

- (a)  $T = 4.2 \text{ K}$ ,  
 (b)  $T = 77 \text{ K}$ , and  
 (c)  $T = 300 \text{ K}$ .



**Table 17. Predicted  $g$  values for  $\Gamma_6$ ,  $\Gamma_7$ , and  $\Gamma_8$  of  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  in  $\text{YbAs}$ <sup>a</sup>**

| No. | I. R.      | $g_1$  | $g_2$  |
|-----|------------|--------|--------|
| 1   | $\Gamma_6$ | -2.667 | —      |
| 2   | $\Gamma_8$ | -4.179 | -1.155 |
| 3   | $\Gamma_7$ | —      | 3.419  |
| 4   | $\Gamma_8$ | 0.8442 | 3.153  |
| 5   | $\Gamma_7$ | —      | -1.417 |

<sup>a</sup>See Morrison et al [3] for definitions of  $g$  values.

## 8. Conclusion

We have used a crystal-field Hamiltonian appropriate for a rare-earth ion in octahedral cubic symmetry and varied two crystal-field parameters,  $B_{40}$  and  $B_{60}$ , to obtain the best fit to the experimental data of Schneider et al [2] taken on  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in ErAs. We also calculated the optical absorption data and obtained excellent agreement with the results of their traces taken at 5, 74, and 300 K.

Using scaling and interpolation procedures, we obtained phenomenological  $A_{nm}$  for the entire LnAs series ( $\text{Ln} = \text{La}$  to  $\text{Lu}$ ). No attempt at a more fundamental theory of the  $A_{nm}$  (such as given in 1991 by Stevens and Morrison [13]) was considered. The phenomenological  $A_{nm}$  then yielded  $B_{nm}$  for the LnAs series from which energy levels below the band gap of GaAs,  $g$  values, and multiplet branching ratios were calculated for the rare-earth ions  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$  through  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$ . The energy levels of the ground multiplet of  $\text{Tm}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  in their respective arsenide compounds are in reasonable agreement with the energy levels determined by inelastic neutron scattering experiments. Calculated absorption spectra at 4.2 to 300 K are also given for the lowest lying multiplets for  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$  through  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  in their respective arsenide compounds. The  $g$  values for all the levels in all the compounds are calculated.

## Acknowledgements

Greg Turner, Wayne Lee, and Baruch Sheinson are thanked for their help with the calculations and graphing.

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