

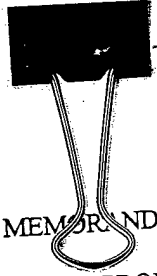
REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY)		2. REPORT TYPE Technical Papers		3. DATES COVERED (From - To)	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER 2303	
				5e. TASK NUMBER M2C8	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC) AFRL/PRS 5 Pollux Drive Edwards AFB CA 93524-7048				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC) AFRL/PRS 5 Pollux Drive Edwards AFB CA 93524-7048				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;">1121 007</div>					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT A	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON Leilani Richardson
a. REPORT Unclassified	b. ABSTRACT Unclassified	c. THIS PAGE Unclassified			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code) (661) 275-5015

62 separate items are enclosed



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TP-FY99-0045A

✓ Spreadsheet
✓ DB

MEMORANDUM FOR PRR (Contractor Publication)

10 February 1999

FROM: PROI (TI) (STINFO)

SUBJECT: Authorization for Release of Technical Information, Control Number: AFRL-PR-ED-TP-FY99-0045A
K.O. Christe, D.A. Dixon et al. (RSTX) and J.A. Sheehy, "A Quantitative Scale for the Strength of Lewis Acids"
and "On the Reaction of N_2F^+ with HN_3 and the Synthesis and Characterization of $N_5^+AsF_6^-$ "
Presentation (Statement A)

A QUANTITATIVE SCALE FOR THE STRENGTH OF LEWIS ACIDS

KARL O. CHRISTE, DAVID A. DIXON, DOUGLAS McLEMORE

ON THE REACTION OF N_2F^+ WITH HN_3 AND
THE SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF $N_5^+AsF_6^-$

KARL O. CHRISTE, WILLIAM W. WILSON, JEFFREY A. SHEEHY

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QUANTITATIVE SCALE FOR THE STRENGTH OF LEWIS ACIDS

TWO TYPES OF ACIDS

- BRONSTED OR PROTIC ACIDS (PROTON DONORS)



QUANTITATIVE SCALES ARE KNOWN : pH AND pK SCALES

IONIC PRODUCT OF H₂O

$$K_w = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-14} \quad \text{pH} = -\log [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$$

$$\text{p}K_\alpha = -\log K_\alpha = [\text{H}^+][\text{A}^-]/[\text{HA}]$$

- LEWIS ACIDS (ELECTRON ACCEPTORS)



STRENGTH IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE

NO QUANTITATIVE SCALE KNOWN

PROPOSED LEWIS ACID STRENGTH SCALE

- F⁻ ION IS A VERY STRONG LEWIS BASE
 - HAS A SMALL DIAMETER
 - INTERACTS WITH MOST LEWIS ACIDS
 - IS WELL SUITED FOR THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS
- F⁻ AFFINITY (FA) INCREASES WITH LEWIS ACID STRENGTH AND, THEREFORE, CAN SERVE AS A BASIS FOR A QUANTITATIVE LEWIS ACIDITY SCALE
- ONLY FEW F⁻ AFFINITY DATA WERE AVAILABLE ESPECIALLY FOR INORGANICS;
 - MANY WERE ONLY QUALITATIVE (CYCLOTRON RESONANCE BRACKETING AND EQUILIBRIUM MEASUREMENTS)
 - LARGE ERRORS AND DIFFERENT METHODS GAVE DIFFERENT RESULTS
- NEEDED
 - A QUANTITATIVE, INTERNALLY CONSISTENT SET OF FA'S FOR ANY DESIRED LEWIS ACID

METHODS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF QUANTITATIVE F⁻ AFFINITY SCALE

- THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS, USING POLARIZED DOUBLE-ZETA BASIS SETS, WERE PERFORMED AT THE FOLLOWING LEVELS

LDF

NLDF

MP2

- TO SIMPLIFY THE CALCULATIONS, BECAUSE THE ELECTRON AFFINITY OF F IS HARD TO CALCULATE, COF₂ WAS USED AS A REFERENCE COMPOUND



- TO CONVERT TO ABSOLUTE VALUES, THE EXPERIMENTALLY KNOWN FA OF COF₂ (49.9 kcal/mol) WAS ADDED TO THE RELATIVE FA VALUES

PROPOSAL OF A pF SCALE FOR LEWIS ACIDITY

- F⁻ AFFINITIES WERE CALCULATED FOR 106 LEWIS ACIDS AND RANGE FROM 0 - 120 kcal/mol ON THE ABSOLUTE SCALE GIVING A VALUE OF FA (AlF₃) = 115 kcal/mol, THE SAME AS DETERMINED BY THERMODYNAMIC EXPERIMENT

- TO OBTAIN A LEWIS ACIDITY SCALE RANGE COMPARABLE TO THE FAMILIAR pH SCALE RANGE OF 0-14, THE FOLLOWING CONVENTION IS PROPOSED

$$\text{pF} = \frac{\text{F}^- \text{ AFFINITY (kcal/mol)}}{10}$$

GIVING A pF RANGE OF 0-12, WITH 12 BEING THE VALUE FOR THE STRONGEST KNOWN LEWIS ACID (SbF₅)

ABBREVIATED pF SCALE

(CHRISTE, DIXON, McLEMORE)

<u>COMPOUND</u>	<u>pF</u>	<u>COMPOUND</u>	<u>pF</u>	<u>COMPOUND</u>	<u>pF</u>
SbF ₅	12.03	cis-IO ₂ F ₃	9.66	SOF ₄	6.60
AlF ₃	11.50	PF ₅	9.49	XeOF ₄	6.37
AlFCl ₂	11.50	SeOF ₄	8.69	TeF ₆	6.15
AlF ₂ Cl	11.47	TeF ₄	8.34	POF ₃	5.86
AlCl ₃	11.46	BF ₃	8.31	XeF ₄	5.71
TeOF ₄	10.79	GeF ₄	8.30	SF ₄	5.67
InF ₃	10.75	ClF ₅	7.47	COF ₂	4.99
GaF ₃	10.70	BrF ₃	7.35	PF ₃	4.49
AsF ₅	10.59	SiF ₄	7.35	HF	3.68
SnF ₄	9.82	SeF ₄	7.12	NO ₂ F	1.92
				NOF	1.74

SPECIAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE pF SCALE

- pF VALUES ARE FOR THE FREE ISOLATED MOLECULES
- VALUES FOR ASSOCIATED SOLIDS MUST BE CORRECTED
- FORMATION OF COMPLEX FLUORO ANIONS CAN BE CORRELATED WITH THE pF SCALE AND BECOMES DIFFICULT BELOW pF ~ 3.5
- PREPRINTS OF PAPER SHOULD BECOME AVAILABLE WITHIN 4-8 WEEKS

N_2F^+ CHEMISTRY AND SYNTHESIS OF $N_5^+AsF_6^-$

- HOMOLEPTIC POLYINITROGEN COMPOUNDS ARE OF GREAT INTEREST FOR HIGH ENERGY DENSITY MATERIALS (HEDM)
- MANY THEORETICAL STUDIES DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS HAVE BEEN DONE, BUT NO SUCCESSFUL SYNTHESIS OF A HOMOLEPTIC POLYINITROGEN HEDM HAS BEEN REPORTED
- ONLY TWO HOMOLEPTIC POLYINITROGEN COMPOUNDS ARE KNOWN WHICH CAN BE PREPARED IN SUBSTANCE

N_2 1772 RUTHERFORD, SCHEELE, CAVENDISH

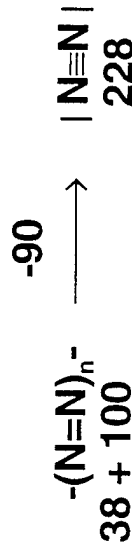
N_3^- 1890 CURTIUS

PROBLEMS WITH SYNTHESIS OF POLYNITROGEN HEDM

- ALL THE ENERGY MUST COME FROM ENDOTHERMICITY WHICH MAKES POLYNITROGEN HEDM EXTREMELY DANGEROUS (SENSITIVITY INCREASES WITH INCREASING ENERGY)
- BASIS FOR HIGH ENERGY CONTENT ARE THE LARGE DIFFERENCES IN BOND

ENERGIES FOR N-N BONDS

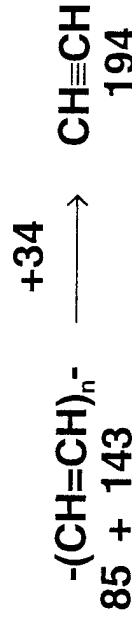
N-N	38 kcal/mol
N=N	100 kcal/mol
N≡N	228 kcal/mol



EXCEPTIONS: N₂, O₂

STABLE MONOMERS
UNSTABLE POLYMERS

C-C	85 kcal/mol
C=C	143 kcal/mol
C≡C	194 kcal/mol



NORMAL CASE:

STABLE POLYMERS
UNSTABLE MONOMERS

GENERAL CONCEPT FOR POLYNITROGEN HEDM SYNTHESIS

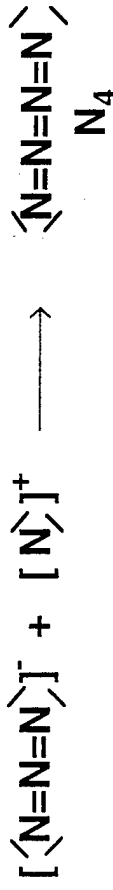
- ALL POLYNITROGEN COMPOUNDS ARE UNSTABLE WITH RESPECT TO N₂
- ACTIVATION ENERGY BARRIER TOWARD N₂ ELIMINATION IS DETERMINED BY THE WEAKEST BOND IN POLYNITROGEN COMPOUND
- THE BARRIER AND METASTABILITY OF POLYNITROGEN COMPOUNDS MUST BE INCREASED BY SUITABLE RESONANCE STRUCTURES



- DOUBLE BOND CHARACTER OF N-N BONDS IN AZIDE ION EXPLAINS ITS EXCEPTIONAL STABILITY
- HOW CAN THIS STABILIZATION EFFECT BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF?

EXPANSION OF THE AZIDE STRUCTURE

- ADDITION OF $[\text{N}]^+$ UNITS TO N_3^-



- HOWEVER, THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS SHOW THAT $D_{\infty h} \text{N}_4$ IS NOT STABLE

$\text{N}=\text{N}=\text{N}=\text{N}$ NEIGHBORING CHARGES OF EQUAL SIGN MUST BE AVOIDED
(-) (+) (+) (-)

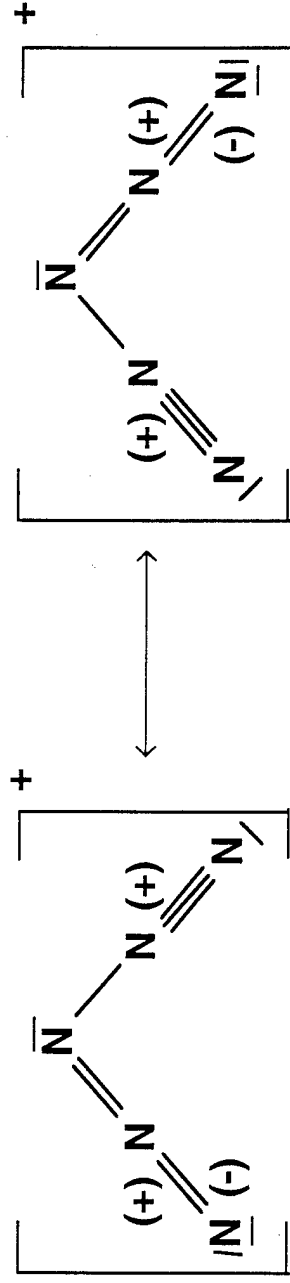
- NO PLAUSIBLE RESONANCE STRUCTURES CAN BE WRITTEN FOR N_4 WHICH RETAIN DOUBLE BOND CHARACTER WHILE AVOIDING NEIGHBORING CHARGES OF EQUAL SIGN

EXPANSION OF THE AZIDE STRUCTURE TO N_5^+

- THE SAME PROBLEM EXISTS FOR N_5^+ WITH NEIGHBORING POSITIVE CHARGES



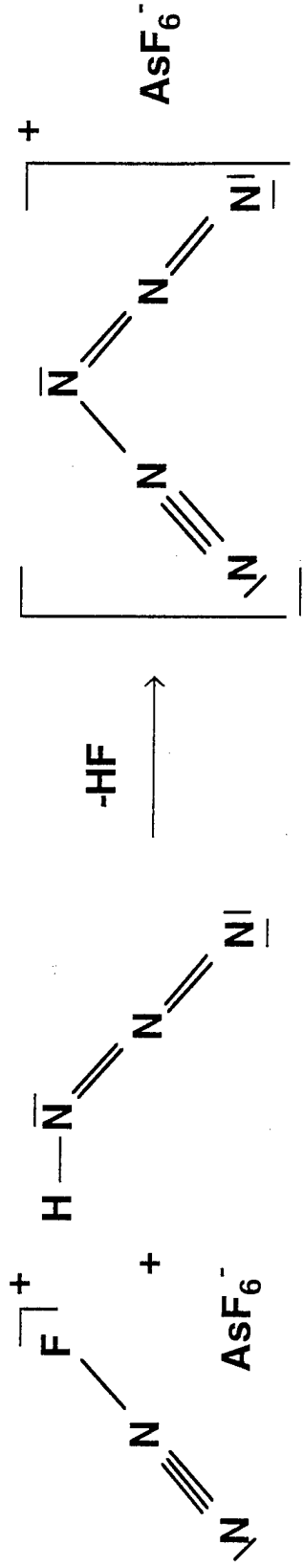
- RESONANCE STRUCTURES, HOWEVER, CAN BE WRITTEN WHICH AVOID THIS PROBLEM



- AB INITIO CALCULATIONS (CCSD(T) AND B3LYP) CONFIRM THE STABILITY OF THIS C_{2v} STRUCTURE

SELECTION OF SUITABLE STARTING MATERIALS FOR N_5^+ SYNTHESIS

- REQUIREMENTS
 - STARTING FRAGMENTS MUST HAVE ALREADY BUILT IN WEAKENED BONDS
 - MUST HAVE A FORMAL POSITIVE CHARGE (IP OF $N_2 = 359$ kcal/mol)
 - COUPLING REACTION MUST BE EXOTHERMIC
 - CHOICE OF SUITABLE SOLVENT (HEAT SINK, STABILIZATION, SAFETY)
- IDEAL CANDIDATE SYSTEM



ACTUAL SYNTHESIS OF $N_5^+AsF_6^-$

- SYSTEM WORKED AS PLANNED



HIGH YIELD

ONLY OTHER BYPRODUCT 20-40% $H_2N_3^+AsF_6^-$

2 MMOL (0.5 G SCALE)

- PROPERTIES OF $N_5^+AsF_6^-$

WHITE SOLID

SPARINGLY SOLUBLE IN HF

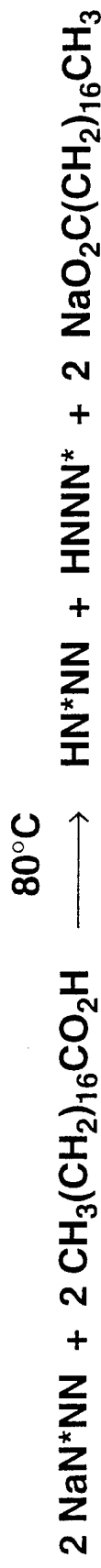
MARGINALLY STABLE AT 22 °C

HIGHLY ENERGETIC

REACTS VIOLENTLY WITH WATER AND ORGANICS

CALCULATED $\Delta H_f^\circ N_5^+ (g) = 353 \text{ kcal/mol}$

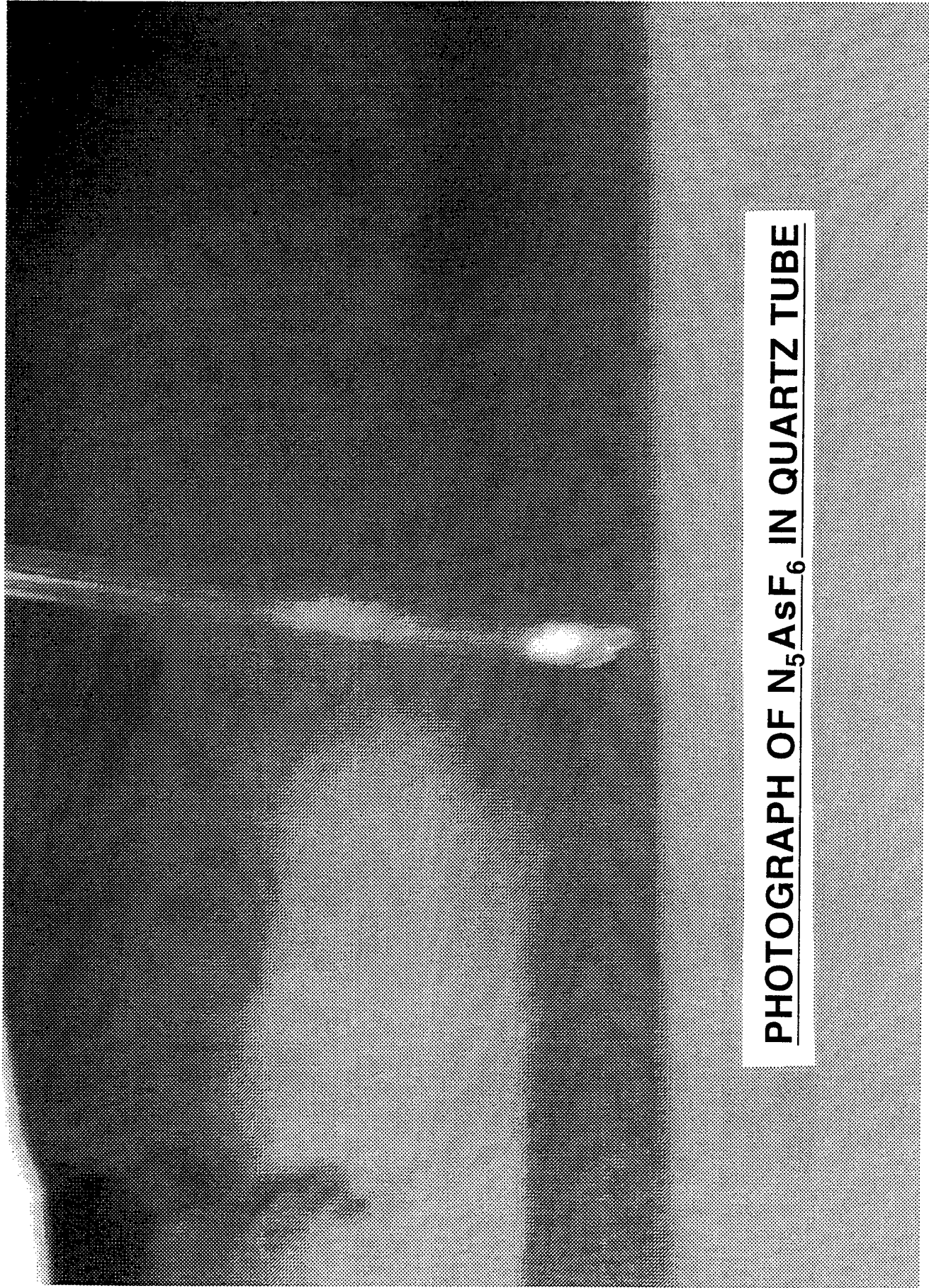
SYNTHESIS OF ^{15}N LABELED $\text{N}_5^+ \text{AsF}_6^-$



^{15}N LABELED $\text{N}_5^+ \text{AsF}_6^-$ NEEDED FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF
 N_5^+ BY SPECTROSCOPIC METHODS

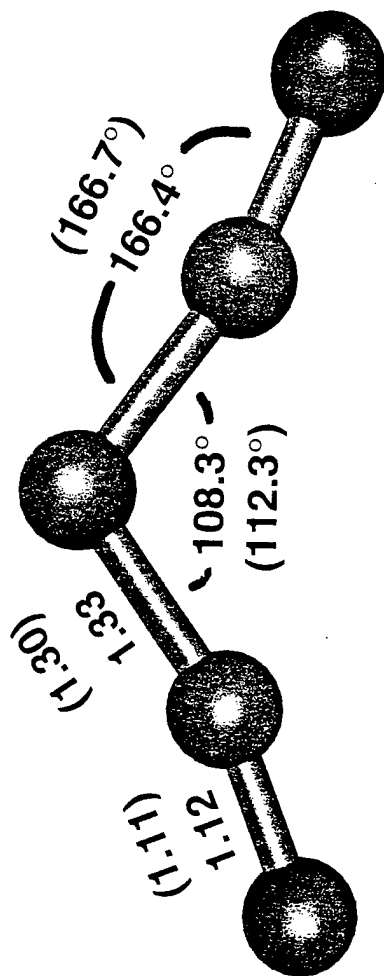
CHARACTERIZATION OF $N_5^+ ASF_6^-$

- ^{14}N AND ^{15}N NMR SPECTRA
- LOW-TEMPERATURE RAMAN AND INFRARED SPECTRA OF NORMAL AND ISOTOPICALLY LABELED N_5^+
- NORMAL COORDINATE ANALYSIS
- MASS SPECTROSCOPY
- THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS
OPTIMIZED GEOMETRY
VIBRATIONAL SPECTRA
ISOTOPIC SHIFTS
NMR SHIFTS
HEAT OF FORMATION



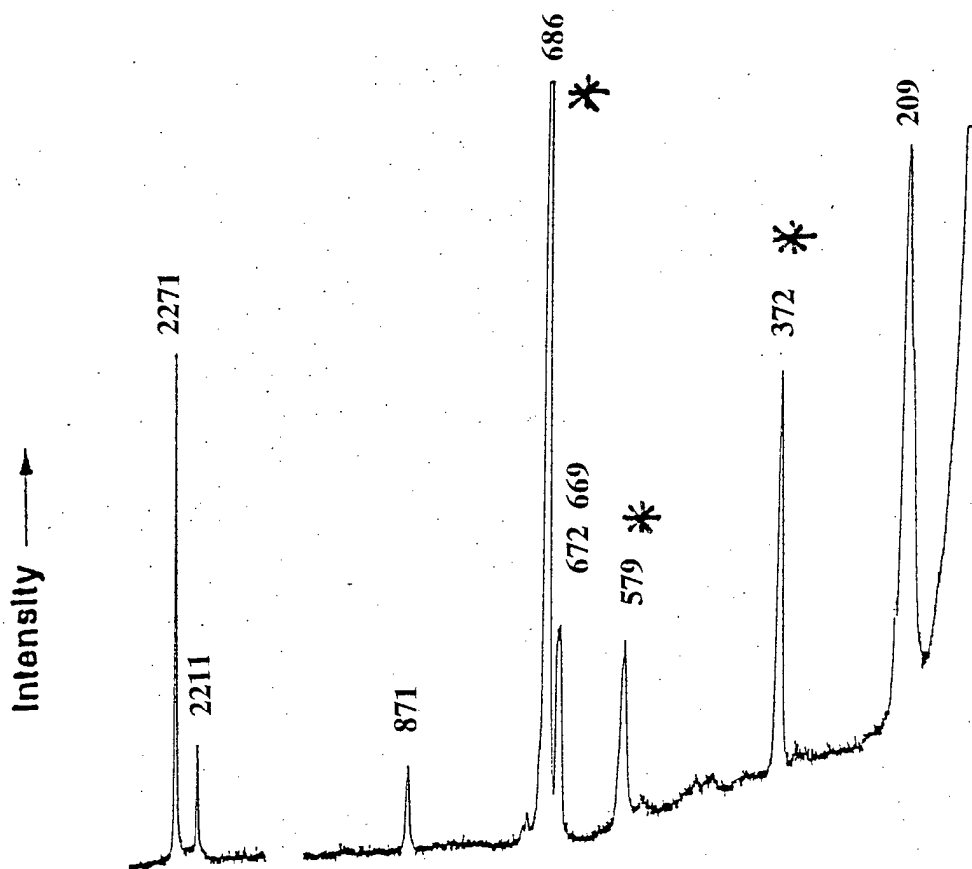
PHOTOGRAPH OF N₅AsF₆ IN QUARTZ TUBE

OPTIMIZED GEOMETRIES FOR N_5^+ CCSD(T) (B3LYP) VALUES



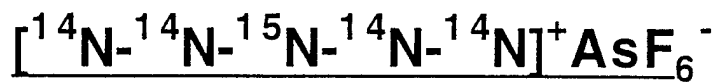
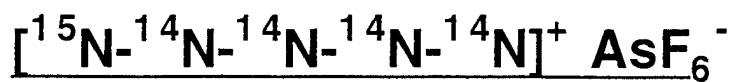


LOW-TEMPERATURE RAMAN SPECTRUM

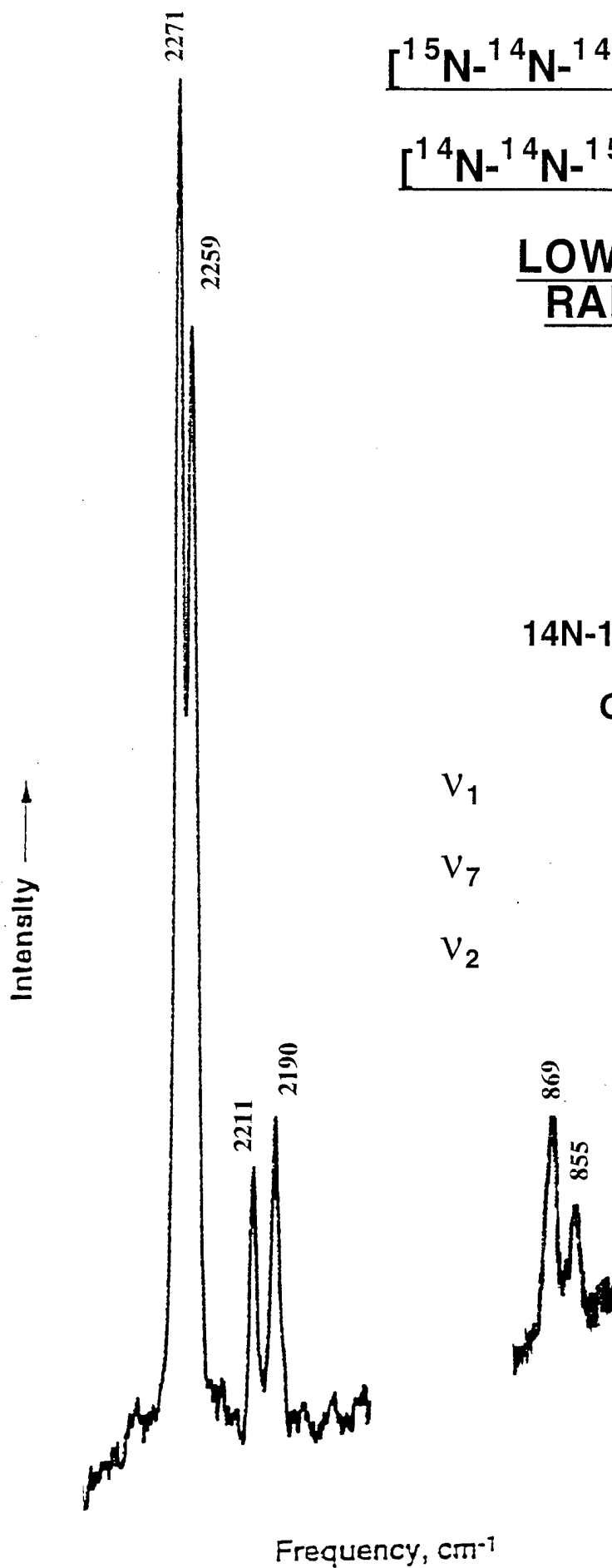


* = AsF₆⁻

	Frequency, cm ⁻¹		
N ₅ ⁺	OBSD (cm ⁻¹)	CCSD(T) (cm ⁻¹)	B3LYP (cm ⁻¹)
V ₁ (A ₁)	2271	2229	2336
V ₇ (B ₂)	2211	2175	2282
V ₂ (A ₁)	871	818	850
V ₄ (A ₁)	209	181	193



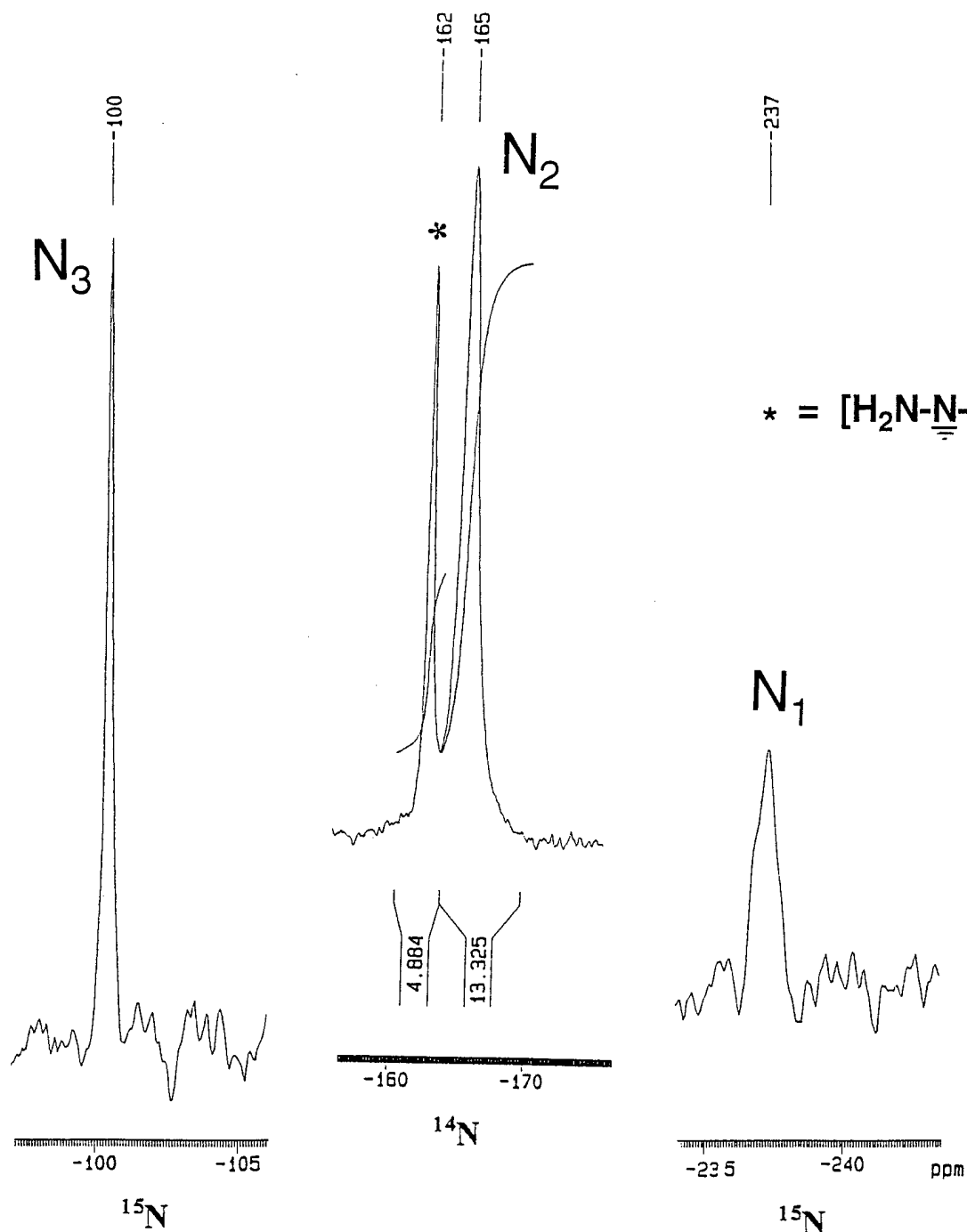
LOW-TEMPERATURE RAMAN SPECTRUM



14N-15N SHIFTS (cm⁻¹)

	OBSD	CALCD
V ₁	12	11.8
V ₇	21	21.4
V ₂	14	14.1

NITROGEN NMR SPECTRA OF



NMR SHIFTS (ppm)

OBSD

CALCD

N_1

-237.3

-235

N_2

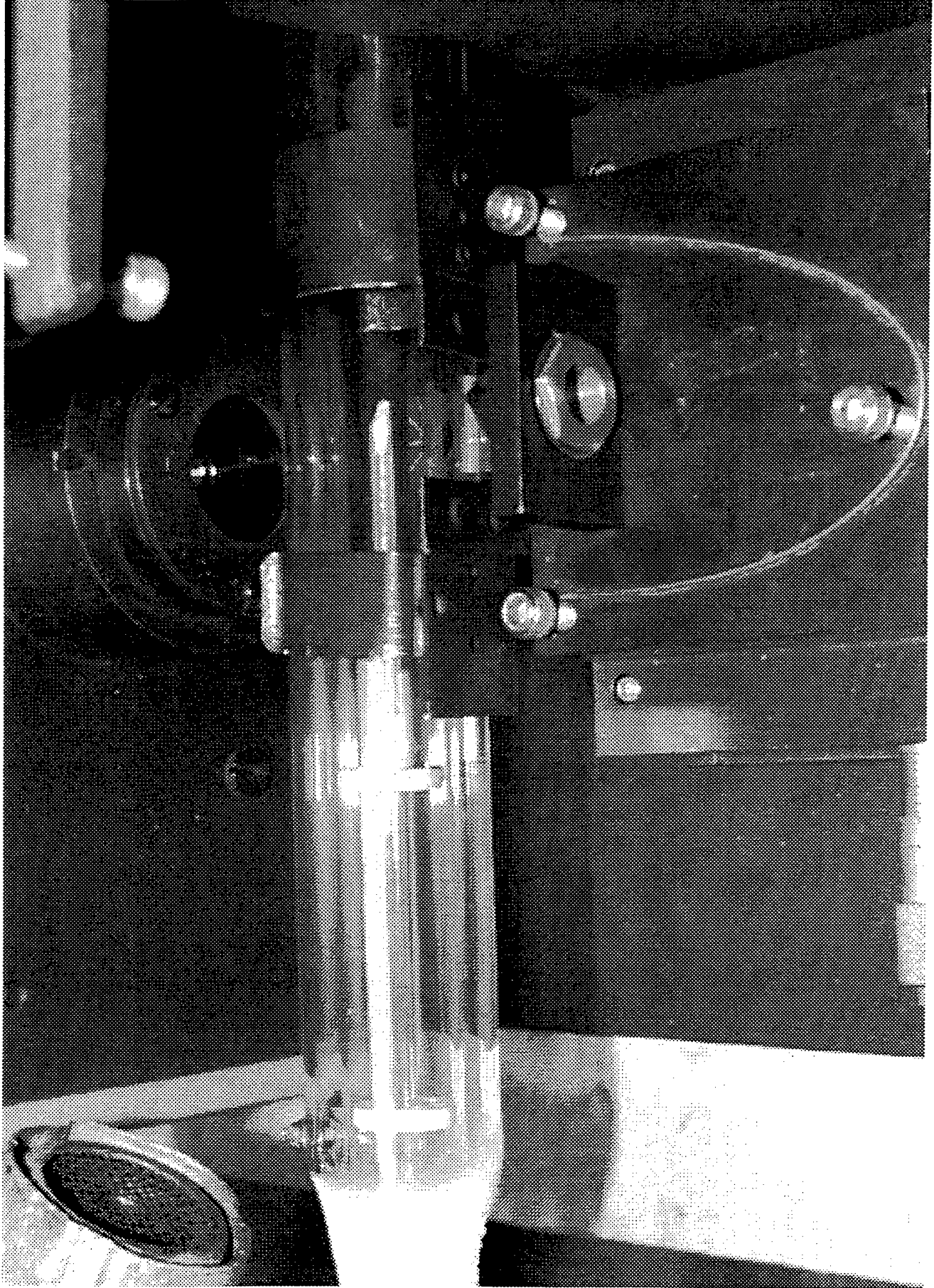
-165.3

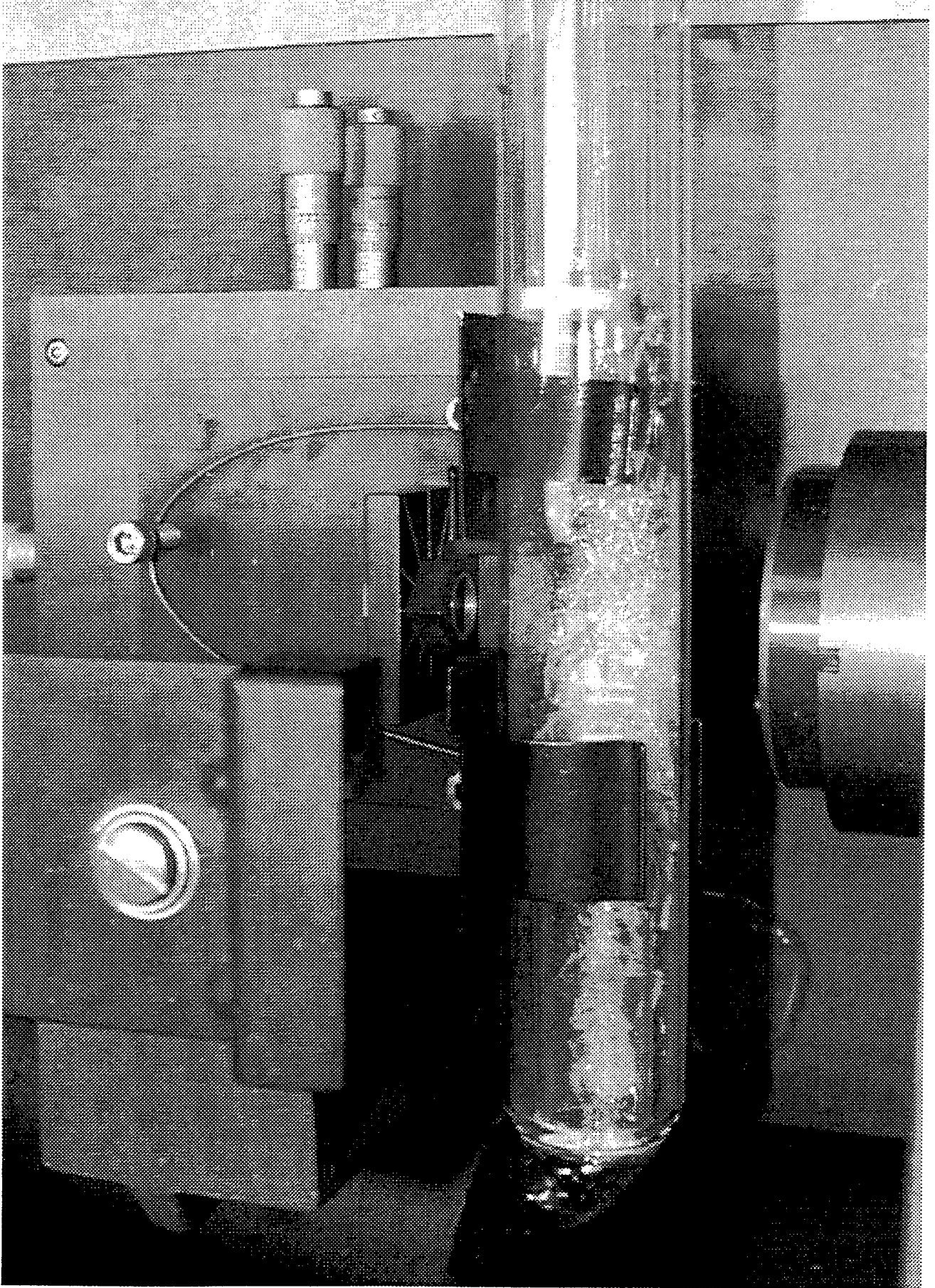
-166

N_3

-100.4

-95





WORK IN PROGRESS

- SYNTHESIS OF $N_5^+SbF_6^-$
- SENSITIVITY AND SAFETY DATA
- COMBINATION OF N_5^+ WITH POLYNITROGEN ANIONS
TO PREPARE FIRST ALLOTROPE OF N_2
- SYNTHESIS OF XeN_3^+

SUMMARY

- A QUANTITATIVE SCALE FOR THE STRENGTH OF LEWIS ACIDS WAS DEVELOPED
- $N_5^+AsF_6^-$, THE ONLY HOMOLEPTIC POLYNITROGEN COMPOUND BESIDES N_2 AND N_3^- WHICH CAN BE MADE IN BULK, WAS PREPARED FROM $N_2F^+AsF_6^-$ AND HN_3 AND WAS CHARACTERIZED
- N_5^+ HAS A V-SHAPED CHAIN STRUCTURE AND IS MARGINALLY STABLE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- COWORKERS

- JERRY BOATZ

MARIO FAJARDO

ALAN KERSHAW

JOHN STANTON

- DARPA

AFOSR

NSF