



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION  
**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS**  
I.C.T.P., P.O. BOX 586, 34100 TRIESTE, ITALY, CABLE: CENTRATOM TRIESTE



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY**

c/o INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS 34100 TRIESTE (ITALY) VIA GRIGNANO, 9 (ADRIATICO PALACE) P.O. BOX 586 TELEPHONE (040-224572) TELEFAX (040-224575) TELEX 460495 APH I

SMR/543 - 19

EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOP ON  
HIGH TEMPERATURE SUPERCONDUCTORS AND RELATED MATERIALS  
(BASIC ACTIVITIES)

(11 February - 1 March 1991)

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" EPR Spectroscopy and Microwave Absorption of HTS Materials "

PART I

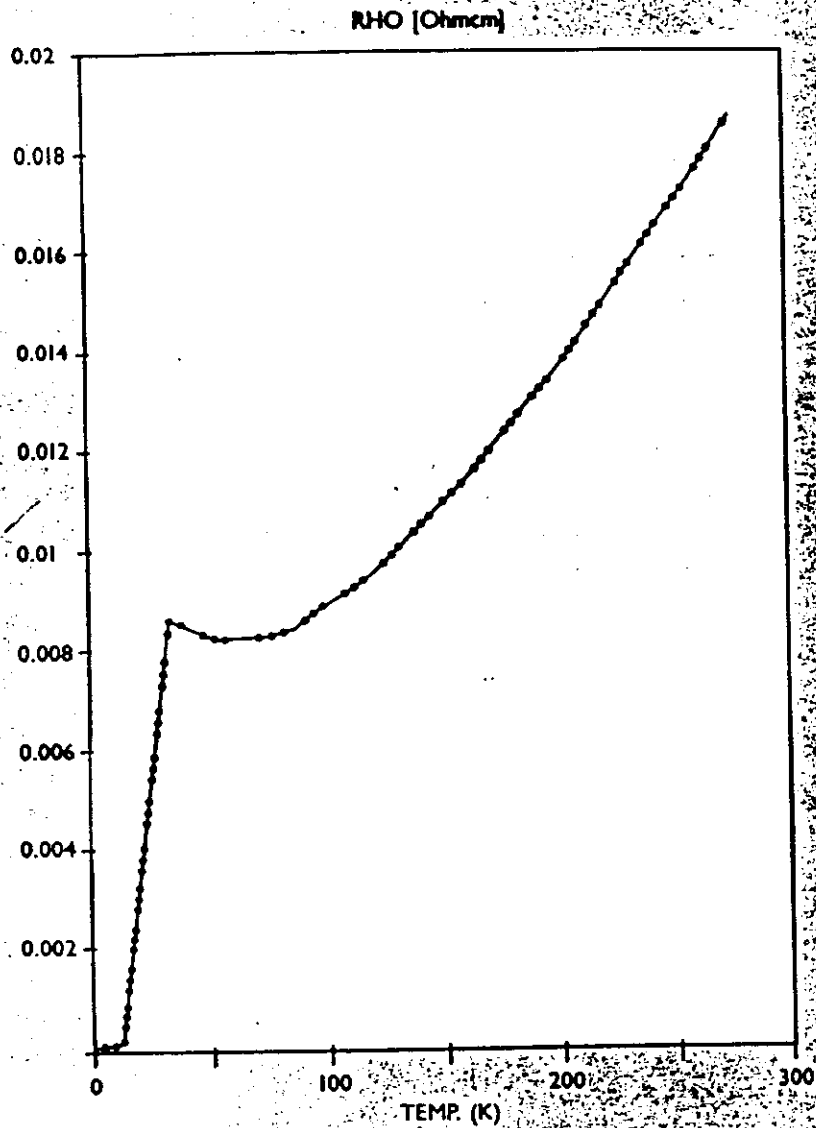
presented by:

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Università degli Studi di Parma  
Dipartimento di Fisica  
Viale delle Scienze  
43100 Parma  
Italy

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These are preliminary lecture notes, intended only for distribution to participants.

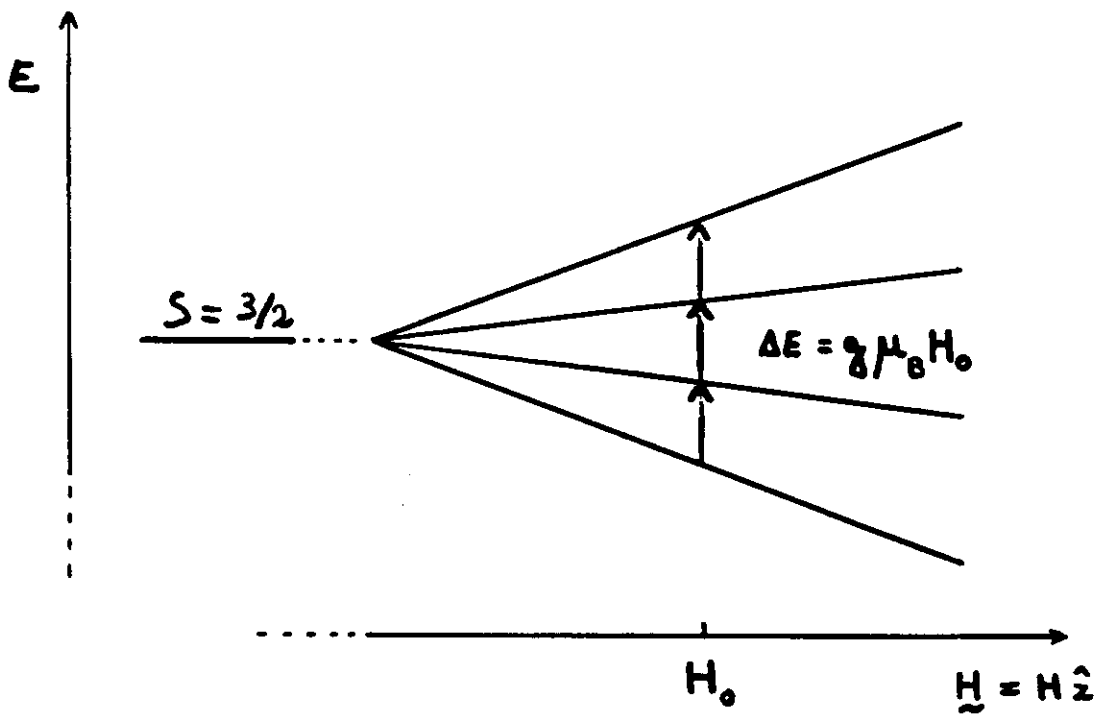




*Il grafico mostra l'andamento della resistività di un campione di lantanio-bario-rame-ossigeno in funzione della temperatura misurata il 18 marzo 1986 da Müller e Bednorz. La resistività mostra una caduta a 35 gradi Kelvin ovvero -238 gradi centigradi che indica l'apparire della superconduttività. Questa è la prima misura originale dei due scienziati premio Nobel per la fisica nel 1987. (cortesia Autore)*

Since the discovery of ... by ...





$$\hbar \nu = g \mu_B H_0$$

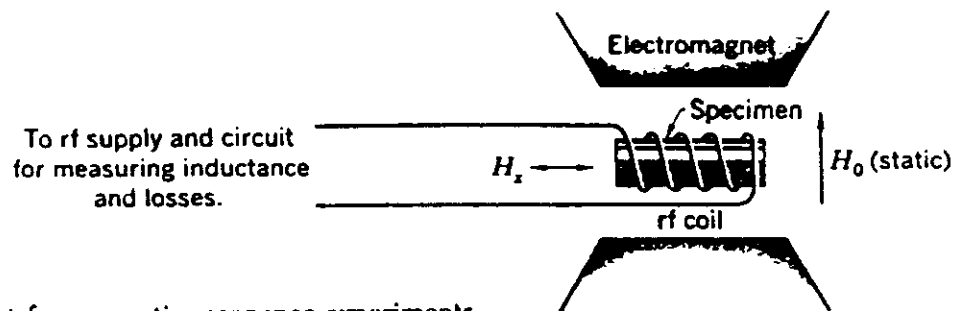
$$\mu_B = 1.4 \text{ MHz/gauss} \quad , \quad g = 2$$

	$\nu$	$\lambda$	$H_0$
X band	$\sim 9 \text{ GHz}$	$\sim 3 \text{ cm}$	$\sim 3200 \text{ gauss}$
Q band	$\sim 35 \text{ GHz}$	$\sim 0.8 \text{ cm}$	$\sim 12500 \text{ gauss}$

$T_1$  : spin-lattice

$T_2$  : spin-spin

$$T_1 \geq T_2 \sim 10^{-9} \text{ sec}$$



Schematic arrangement for magnetic resonance experiments.

$$dM_z/dt = \gamma(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H})_z + (M_0 - M_z)/T_1,$$

$$dM_x/dt = \gamma(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H})_x - M_x/T_2;$$

$$dM_y/dt = \gamma(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H})_y - M_y/T_2,$$

$$h\gamma = g\mu_B$$

$$H_x \ll H_0$$

$$M_x(t) = [\chi' \cos \omega t + \chi'' \sin \omega t] H_{x0}$$

$$\chi' = \frac{\chi_0}{2} \omega_0 T_2 \frac{(\omega_0 - \omega) T_2}{1 + (\omega - \omega_0)^2 T_2^2}$$

$$\chi'' = \frac{\chi_0}{2} \omega_0 T_2 \frac{1}{1 + (\omega - \omega_0)^2 T_2^2}$$

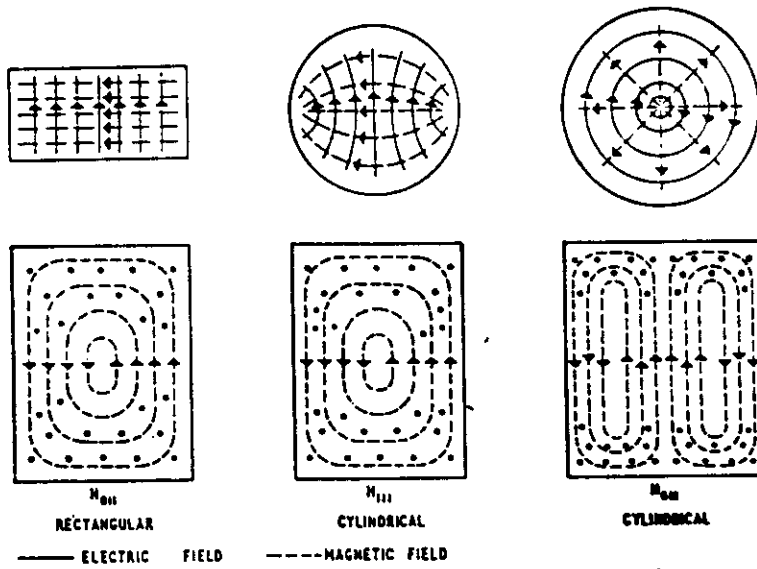


Fig. 10.1. Some commonly used microwave cavities, showing the electric and magnetic field configurations

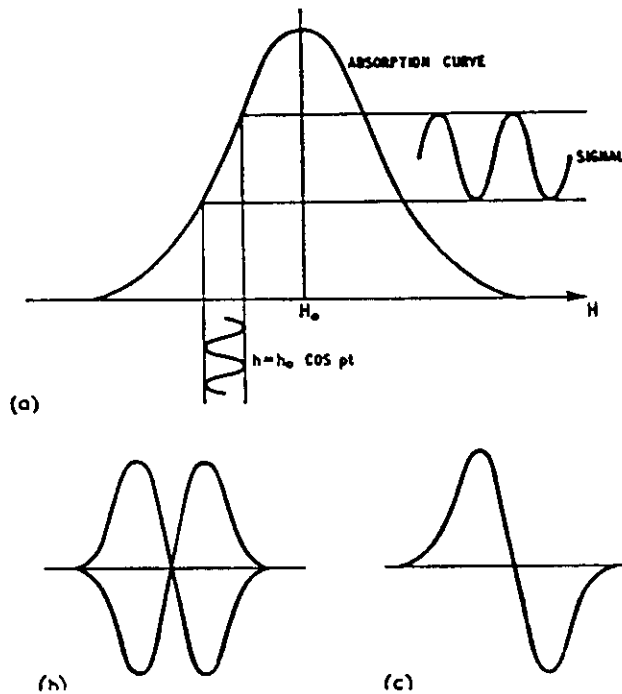


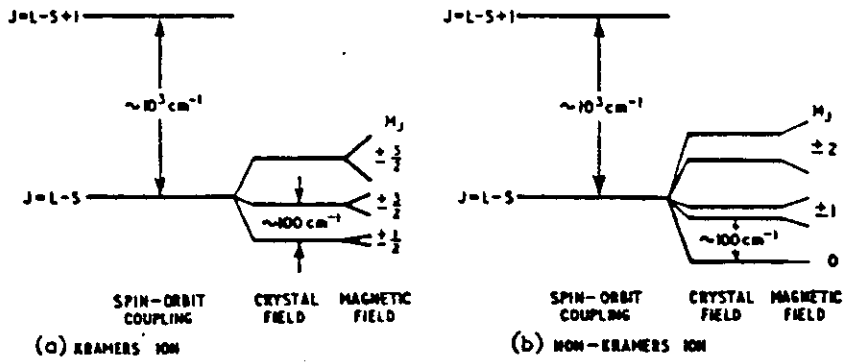
Fig. 10.9. Outline of the signal produced by a high frequency modulation system. (a) The origin of the signal, (b) the unrectified signal, (c) the output of a phase-sensitive rectifier

gruppo del ferro : ...  $3d^N 4s^2$

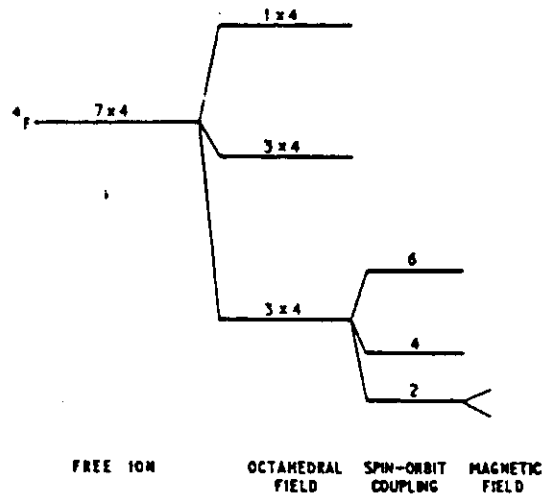
terre rare : ...  $4f^N 5s^2 5p^6 5d^1 6s^2$

attinidi : ...  $5f^N 6s^2 6p^6 6d^1 7s^2$

$\text{cm}^{-1}$	3d	4f	5f
Coulomb energy	$10^4 \sim 10^5$	$10^4 \sim 10^5$	$10^4 \sim 10^5$
S-O splitting	$10^2 \sim 10^3$	$10^3$	$3 \cdot 10^3$
C-F splitting	$10^4$	$10^1 \sim 10^2$	$10^2 \sim 10^3$



Energy level diagrams to illustrate typical behaviour of (a) a Kramers and (b) a non-Kramers ion in a 'weak' crystal field (splittings not to scale)



Splitting of the  $4F$  levels in  $Co^{2+}$  due to the combined effect of an octahedral crystal field and spin-orbit coupling. The number against each level indicates the degeneracy of that level

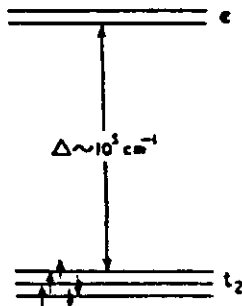


Illustration of the 'strong field'  $3d^5$  configuration, all five electrons being in triplet  $t_2$  orbitals and giving rise to a total spin  $S = \frac{5}{2}$



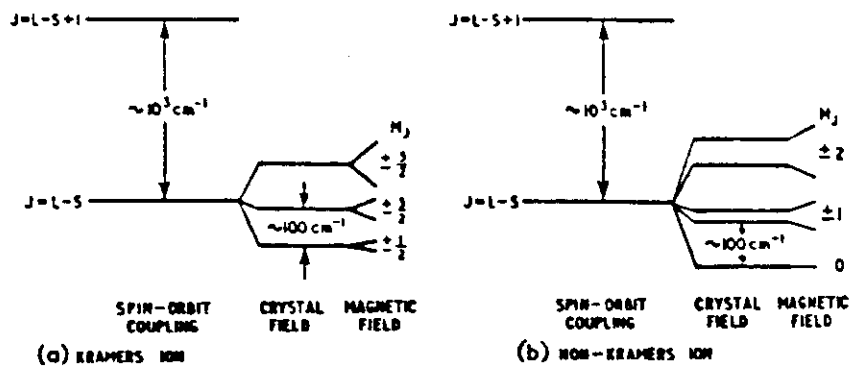


Fig. 2.2. Energy level diagrams to illustrate typical behaviour of (a) a Kramers and (b) a non-Kramers ion in a 'weak' crystal field (splittings not to scale)

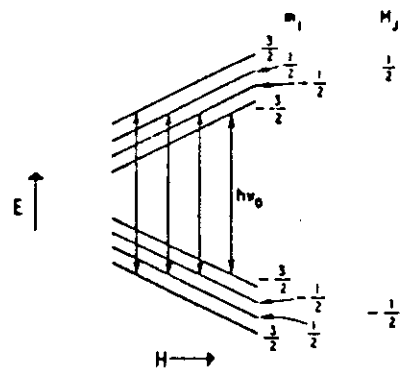
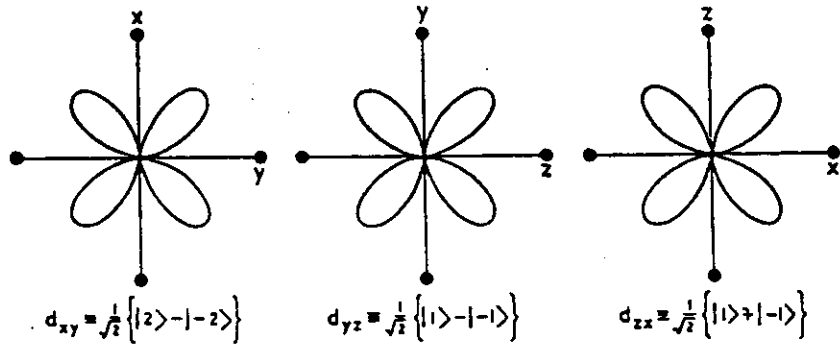
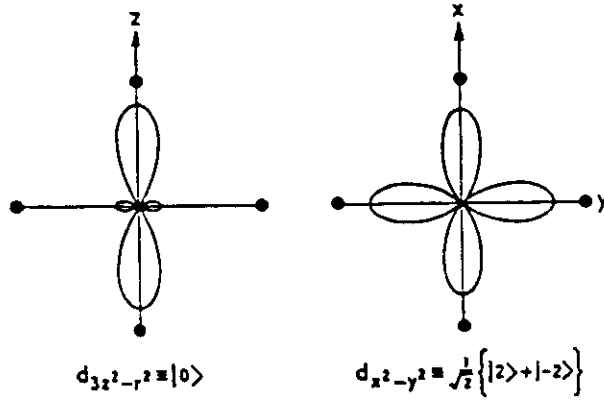
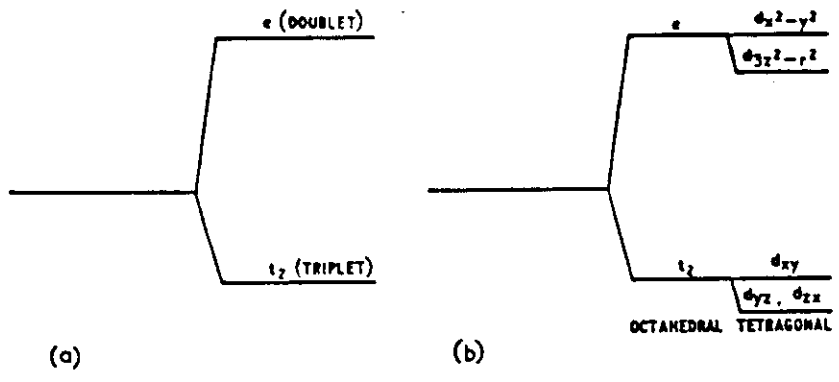


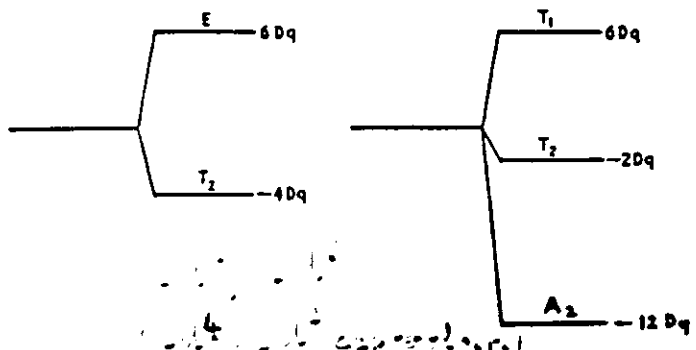
Fig. 2.6. Diagram to show the origin of hyperfine structure for the case  $M_J = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $m_I = \frac{3}{2}$ . The four allowed transitions (characterised by  $\Delta m_I = 0$ ) are indicated



Angular distribution functions for the five *d* orbitals  
The black circles represent neighbouring ions



Energy levels of a single *d* electron in crystal fields of (a) octahedral and (b) tetragonal symmetry



The splitting of *D* and *F* states in octahedral crystal field

Handwritten notes:  $3d^2, 3d^1$ ,  $(3d^2, 3d^1)$ ,  $3d^2 - 3d^1 - \dots$

IONS OF THE 3d GROUP

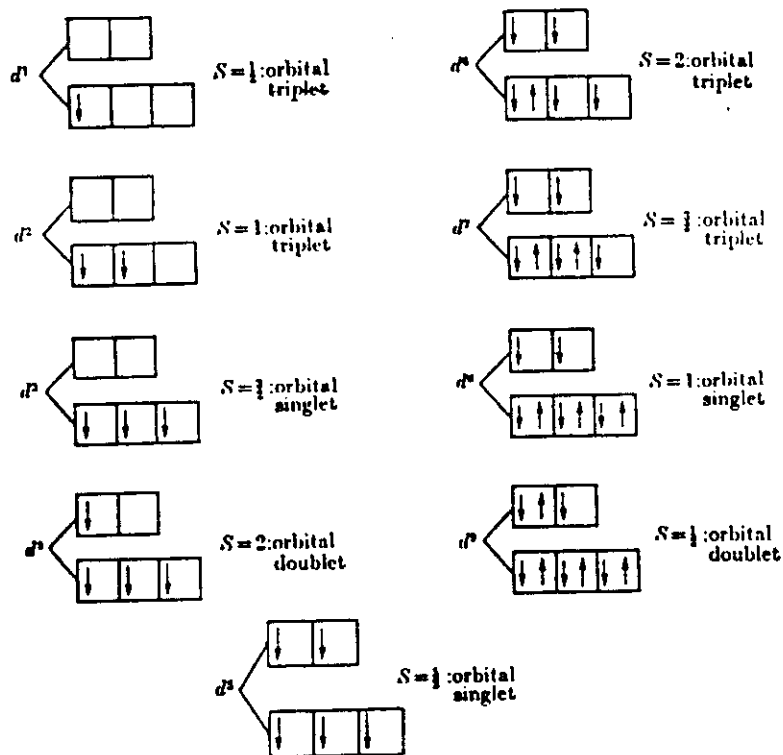


FIG. 7.7. Construction of the ground states of the  $d$ -configurations in an octahedral field using the strong crystal field approach, but assuming the spin coupling to be stronger than the crystal field energy.

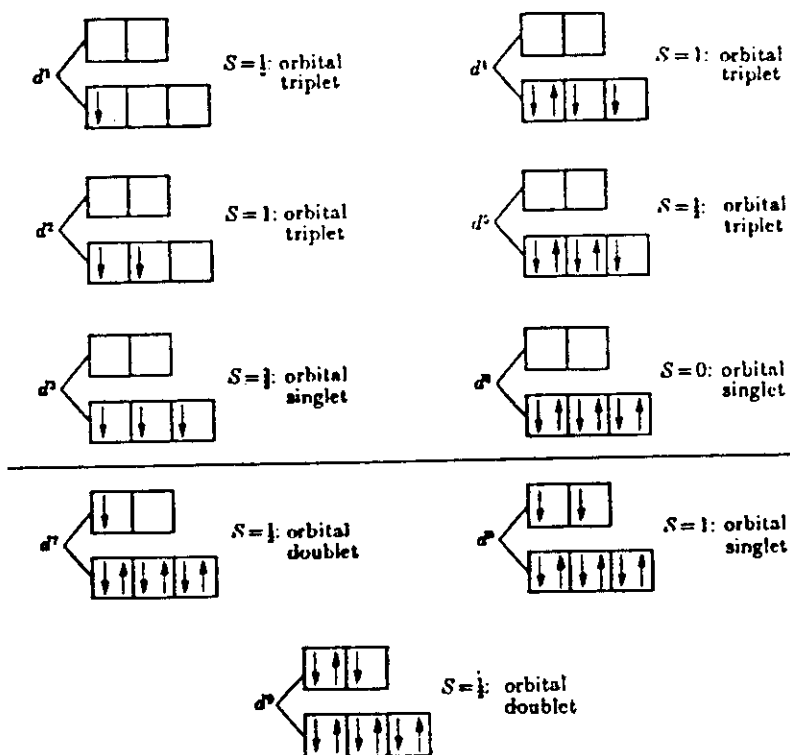


FIG. 7.8. Construction of the ground states of the  $d$ -configurations in an octahedral field using the strong crystal field approach, and assuming the crystal field energy to be larger than the spin coupling energy.

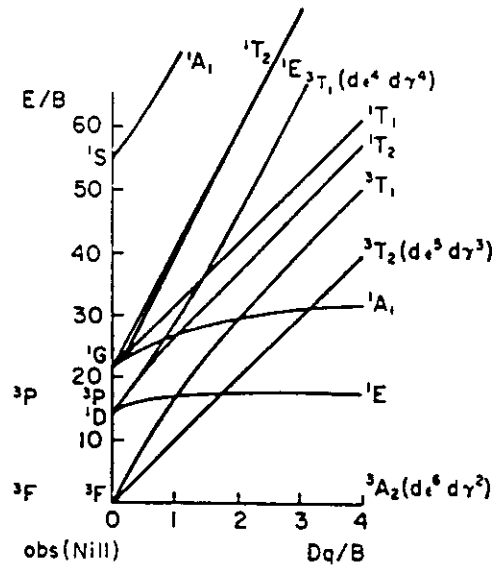


FIG. 5.2. The energy level diagram for the  $N = 8$  system ( $\text{Ni III} : 3d^7(^4F)4s^1F \sim 51$ ;  $\gamma = 4.71$ ;  $B = 1030$ ).

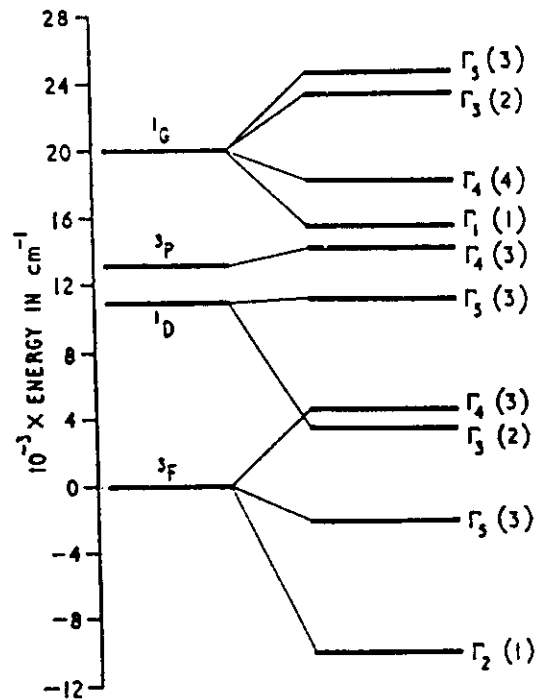
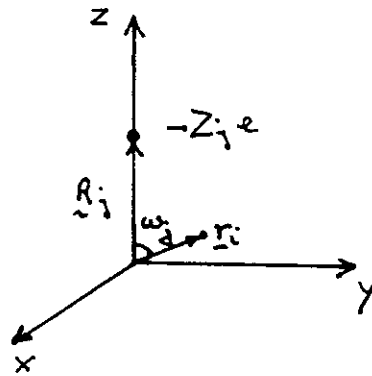


Fig. 2.12. Splittings of the ground and excited terms of  $3d^8$  by an octahedral field. The magnitudes of the splittings are those appropriate for a  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  ion present as an "impurity" in a  $\text{MgO}$  host crystal (see Table 2.10). The labels for the states indicate the symmetries of the wavefunctions (Bethe's notation), the bracketed numbers indicating the orbital degeneracies remaining

$$V(\bar{r}_i) = - \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{Z_j e}{|\bar{R}_j - \bar{r}_i|}$$



$$r_i \ll R_j$$

$$V(\bar{r}_i) = - e \sum_j Z_j \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_i^k}{R_j^{k+1}} P_k(\cos w_j)$$

$$P_k(\cos w_j) = \frac{4\pi}{2k+1} \sum_{q=-k}^k Y_k^q(\vartheta_i, \varphi_i) Y_k^{q*}(\vartheta_j, \varphi_j)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{CF} = \sum_i \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{q=-k}^k A'_{kq} r_i^k Y_k^q(\vartheta_i, \varphi_i)$$

$$A'_{kq} = e^2 \frac{4\pi}{2k+1} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{Z_j Y_k^{q*}(\vartheta_j, \varphi_j)}{R_j^{k+1}}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{CF} = \sum_{k,q} A_{kq} \sum_{i=1}^n f_{kq}(x_i, y_i, z_i)$$

↓

$$\mathcal{H}_{CF} = \sum_{k,q} A_{kq} \langle r^k \rangle \Theta_k \hat{O}_k^q$$

$$A_{kq} = \frac{2k+1}{4\pi} S_k^q A'_{kq}$$

$$A_{kq} = S_k^0 \sqrt{\frac{2k+1}{4\pi}} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{z_j e^2}{R_j^{k+1}} K_{kq}(\theta_j, \varphi_j)$$

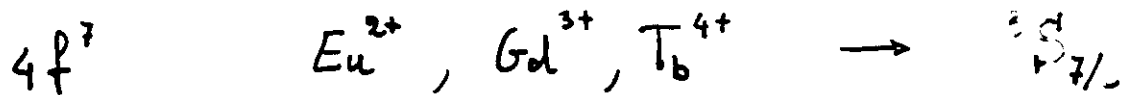
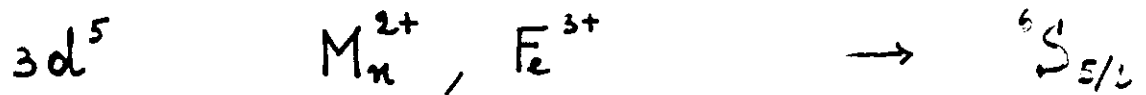
$$B_{kq} = A_{kq} \langle r^k \rangle \Theta_k \cdot (1 - \sigma_k)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{CF} = \sum_{\substack{k=2 \\ (\text{pari})}}^{2l} \sum_{q=-k}^k B_{kq} \hat{O}_k^q$$

$$B_{kq} = \sum_{j=1}^N \bar{B}_k(R_j) K_{kq}(\theta_j, \varphi_j)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{CF}^{cub} = B_4 (\hat{O}_4^0 + 5\hat{O}_4^4) + B_6 (\hat{O}_6^0 - 21\hat{O}_6^4)$$

## S-state ions - EPR experiments



- $\text{Gd}^{3+}$
- line width sufficiently narrow till to RT
  - hyperfine structure usually unresolved
  - zero field splitting low enough to allow usually a detailed analysis of the transitions

$$|{}^8S_{7/2}\rangle = s |{}^8S_{7/2}\rangle + p |{}^6P_{7/2}\rangle + d |{}^6D_{7/2}\rangle$$

+ smaller contributions

$$s = 0.9866$$

$$p = 0.1618$$

$$d = -0.0123$$

$$\psi_{0\sigma}^a = \alpha d_{x^2-y^2}^a + \xi d_{z^2}^a - \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{2}} (-\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_x^4) - \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{2}} (\sigma_y^5 - \sigma_y^3) - \sqrt{2} \varepsilon (-\sigma_z^6 + \sigma_z^1)$$

with

$$\sigma^i = n p^i \mp (1 - n^2)^{1/2} s^i,$$

$$g_x = 2.0023 - \frac{2\lambda_0 \beta'^2}{\Delta yz} \cdot [\alpha + \sqrt{3}\xi][\alpha + \sqrt{3}\xi - 2\alpha' S_{xy}],$$

$$g_y = 2.0023 - \frac{2\lambda_0 \beta^2}{\Delta xz} \cdot [\alpha - \sqrt{3}\xi][\alpha - \sqrt{3}\xi - 2\alpha' S_{xy}],$$

$$g_z = 2.0023 - \frac{8\lambda_0 \beta_1^2}{\Delta xy} \alpha [\alpha - 2\alpha' S_{xy}],$$

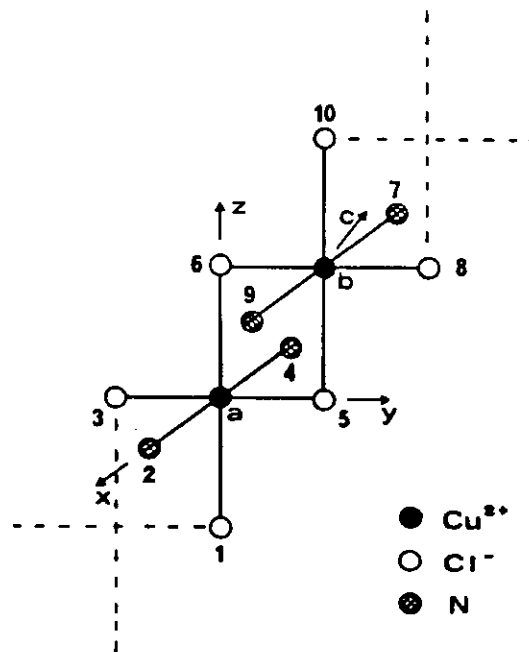
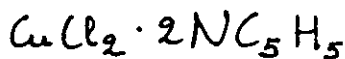
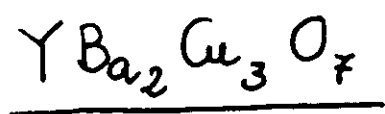
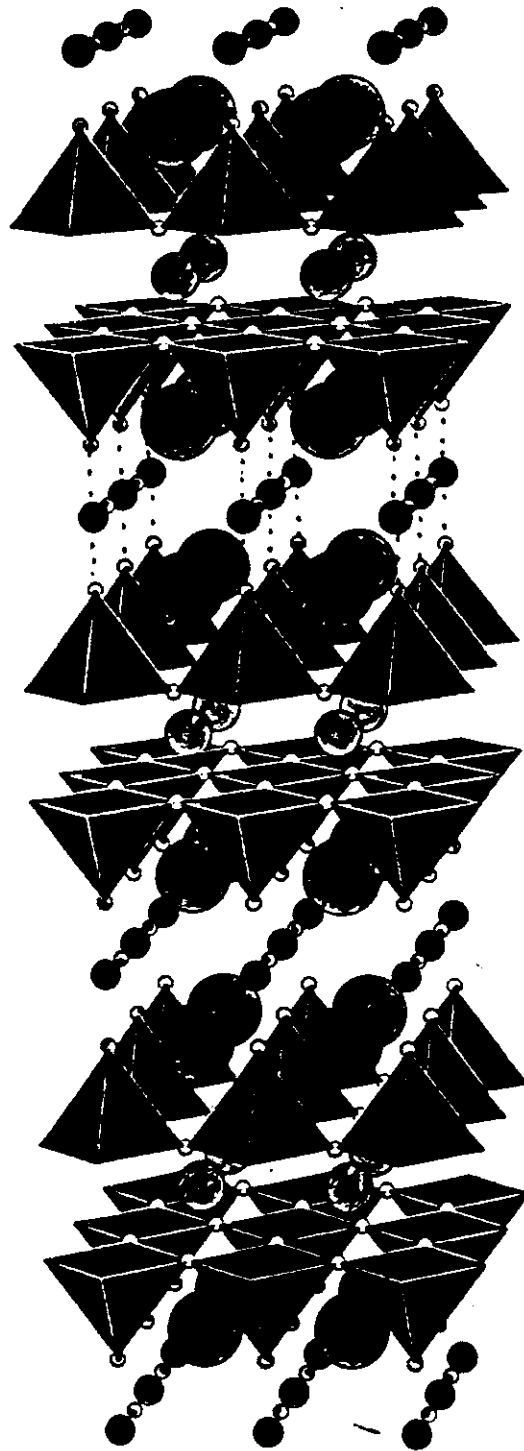


Fig. 1. A segment of a linear chain parallel to the c axis in CDP.



- G. Amoretti, V. Varacca and A. Vera - Z. Naturforsch. 34a, 353 (1979)  
 G. Amoretti, Z. Naturforsch. 33a, 130 (1978)  
 G. Amoretti and V. Varacca, Z. Chem. Phys. 61 (74) 3651, 65 (76) 1511, 67 (77)





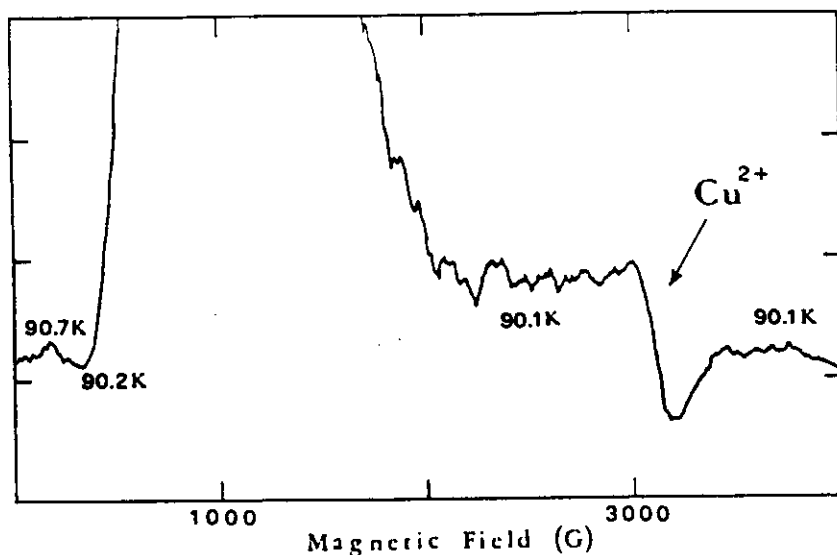


Fig. 1. The onset of the low-field intense non resonant absorption and the signal of localized  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions. During the field sweep the temperature was slightly decreased across  $T_c$ . The superconductive transition is evidenced by the sudden rise of the signal at 90.2 K

which may be attributed to copper paramagnetic ions, as will be discussed later. The signals of samples I, were found to be about thirty times stronger in intensity after the sintered samples ( $\sim 15$  mg of material) were ground to the powder in an agate mortar. This fact can be explained in terms of complete penetration of the powder by the microwave field, taking into account that the skin depth is of the order of  $10^{-2} - 10^{-3}$  cm for a sintered sample at 9 GHz. Sample II was ground to a powder too, for comparison with the other ones. The number of resonant spins has been determined by comparison with signals from known quantities of  $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . A maximum concentration of 5% of resonant copper ions has been observed in the type I samples showing the weakest Meissner effect ( $\sim 15\%$ ). They will be called "Ia" in the following. The concentration is of the order of 1% for sample II and for the type I samples showing a stronger Meissner effect ( $\geq 40\%$ , "Ib" samples).

The transition to the superconducting phase has been checked in the various samples by observing the onset temperature of the intense non-resonant low-field absorption (Fig. 1), and was found to be  $(90 \pm 0.5)$  K in all the cases.

The RT spectra for both the sintered and the powdered Ia compounds are shown in Fig. 2. Sample Ib and II give rise to very similar spectra. That of sample II is shown in Fig. 3. All these signals present the characteristics of powder spectra due to  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  in the tetragonal symmetry. In the axial hypothesis, a reasonable decomposition allowed us to deduce the g values:

$$g_{\parallel} = 2.21 \pm 0.02$$

$$g_{\perp} = 2.06 \pm 0.02,$$

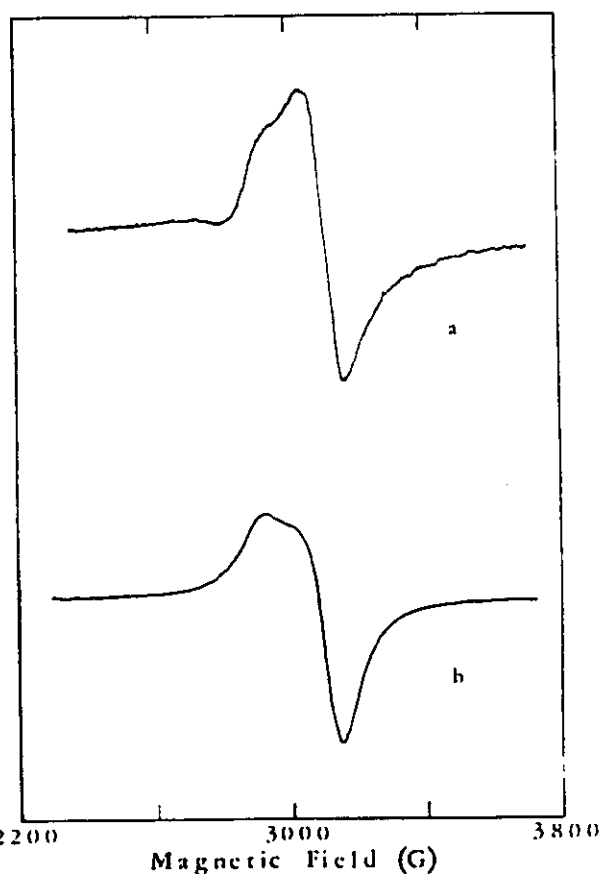


Fig. 2. RT spectra of Ia-type samples. a sintered. b powdered. The intensity is about thirty times greater in the second case

in line with those usually observed for copper in oxygen coordination, with  $3d_{x^2-y^2}$  as the orbital ground state. These values, which are essentially constant

G. Amoretti, E. Buluggiu, A. Vera, G. Calestani and F.C. Natacotta,  
Z. Phys. B 72, 17 (1988)

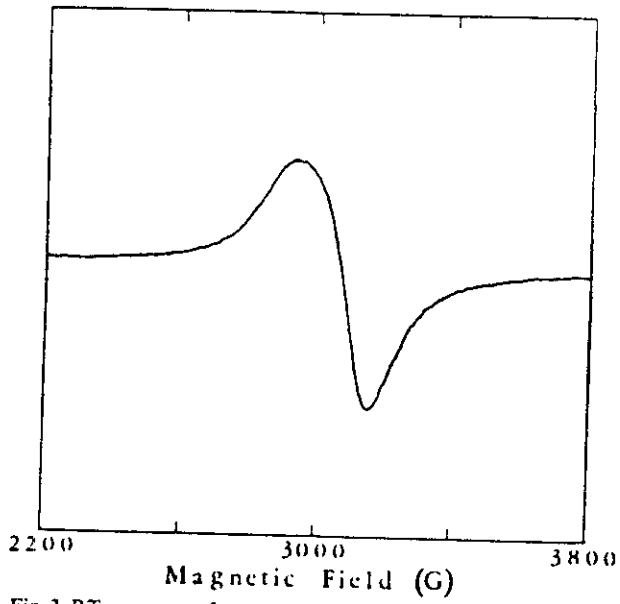


Fig. 3. RT spectrum of sample II (powdered)

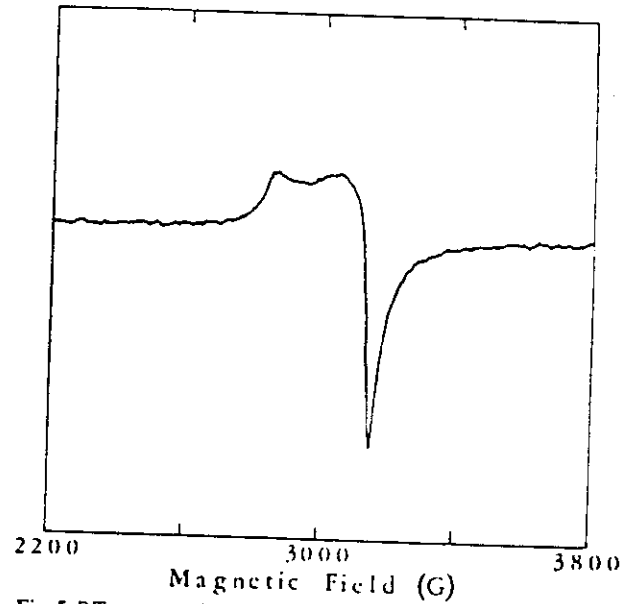


Fig. 5. RT spectrum frequently observed in the YBCO samples when damaged by hydration

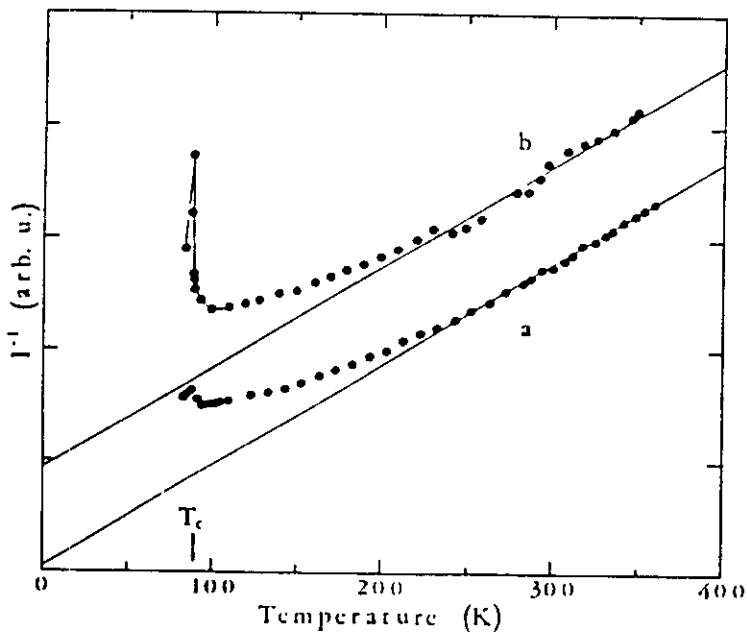


Fig. 4. Inverse peak-to-peak height (arbitrary units) of the ESR signal as a function of the temperature. a sample I a. b sample I b. The fitting of the high temperature tail is shown too

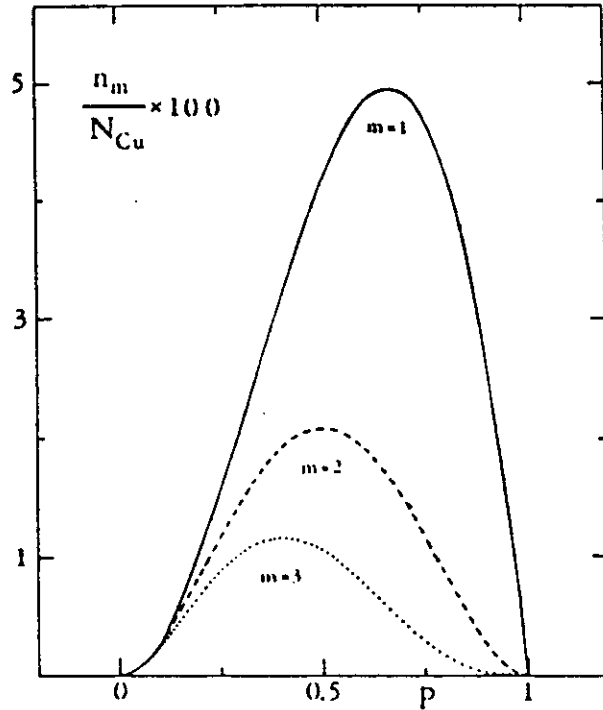


Fig. 6. The fraction of monomers, dimers and trimers in the linear chains versus  $p$

Table 1. The values of  $n_m/N_{Cu}$  in percent, for some relevant values of  $p$

$m$	$p$		
	$1/3$	$1/2$	$2/3$
1	2.5	4.2	4.9
2	1.6	2.1	1.6
3	1.1	1.0	0.5

$$n_m = \frac{N_{Cu}}{3} (1-p)^m p^2,$$

where  $N_{Cu}$  is the total number of copper atoms in the crystal and  $p$  is the fractional concentration of  $Cu^{3+}$  ions in the chains.

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*'Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?'*

*'To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time.'*

*'The dog did nothing in the night-time.'*

*'That was the curious incident.'*

*A. Conan Doyle in "Silver Blaze".*

F. Mehran and P.W. Anderson  
Solid State Commun. 71, 29 (1989)

$$\Delta \omega = \omega_A \frac{\xi}{2}$$



10d = 500

L = 5

R = 0.1  
t = 10

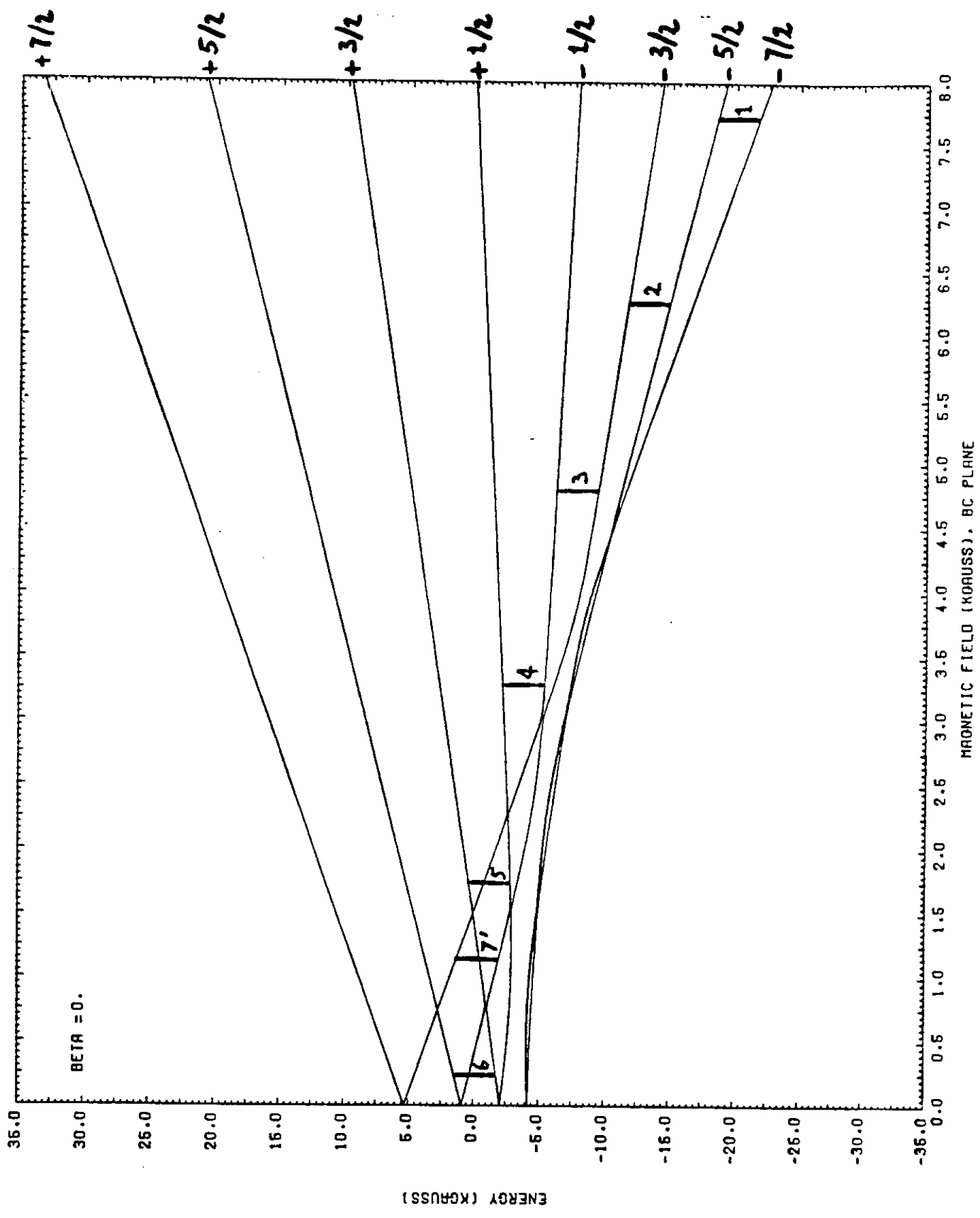
AA = 2500  
II = 12300

Pot = 30kV

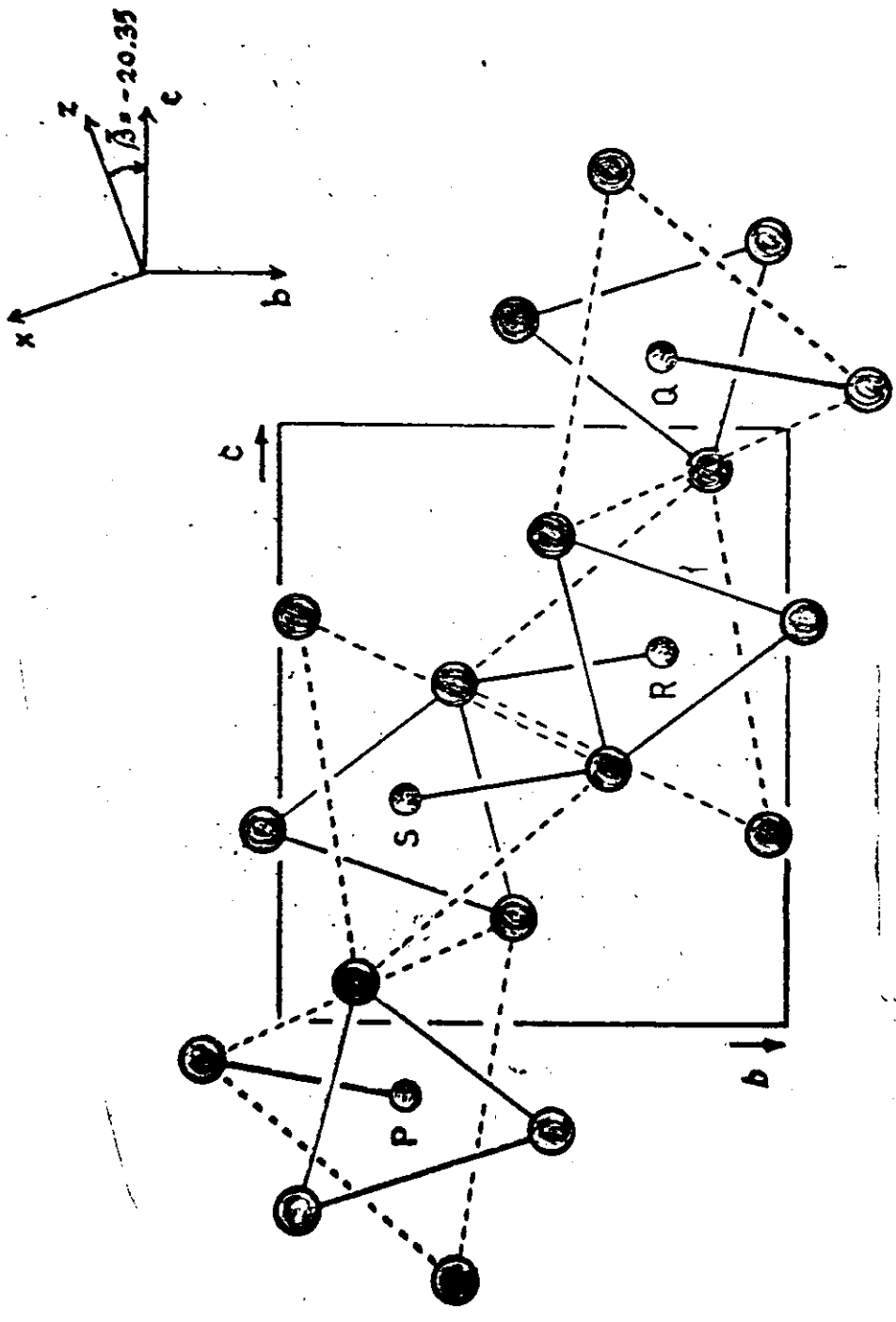
8 sep RT

Aug 34460

G. Amoretti, D.C. Giori, V. Varacca, S.C. Spirlet, I. Rebizant, Phys. Rev. B 20, 3573 (1979)



ThS<sub>2</sub> : Gd<sup>3+</sup>



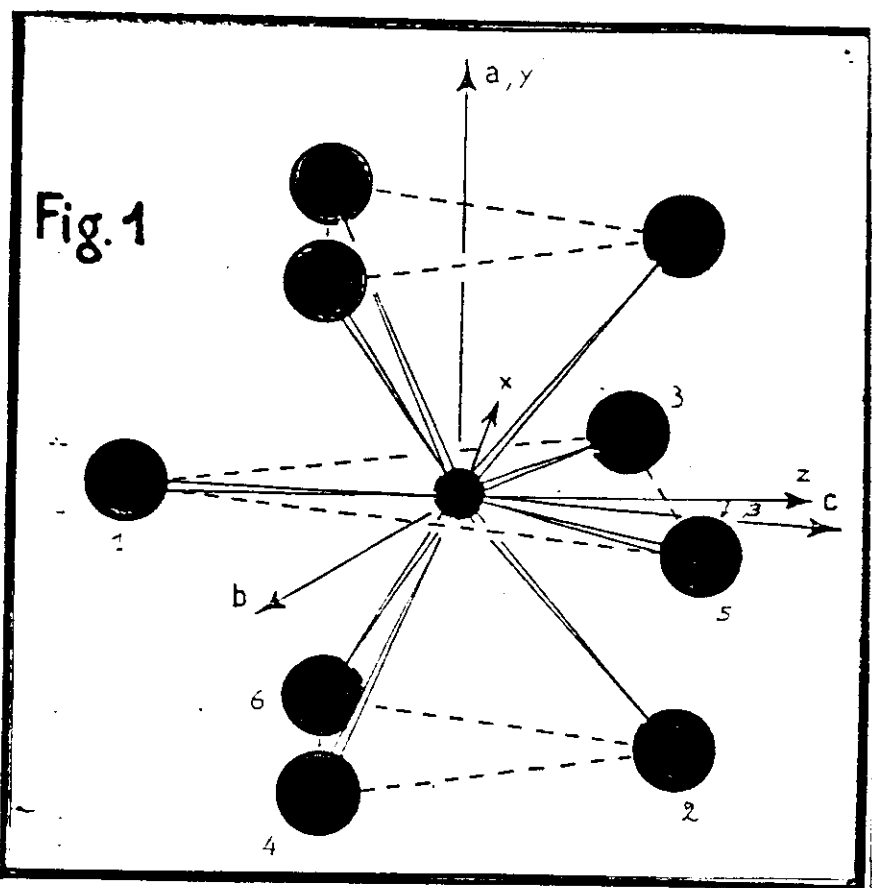
*a* = 4.255 Å  
*b* = 7.245 Å  
*c* = 8.600 Å



**ThS<sub>2</sub>**

\* Gd<sup>3+</sup> sostituzionale  
 \*\* Gruppo puntuale **C<sub>s</sub>**

	R	K <sub>2</sub> <sup>0</sup>	K <sub>2</sub> <sup>1</sup>	K <sub>2</sub> <sup>2</sup>
S <sub>1</sub>	2.74	0.989	-0.521	0.011
S <sub>2</sub>	2.80	0.128	0.142	-0.868
S <sub>3</sub>	2.94	-0.126	2.595	1.126
S <sub>4</sub>	3.00	-0.270	1.369	-0.231
S <sub>5</sub>	3.05	0.092	-2.933	0.908
S <sub>6</sub>	3.13	-0.337	-1.293	-0.054



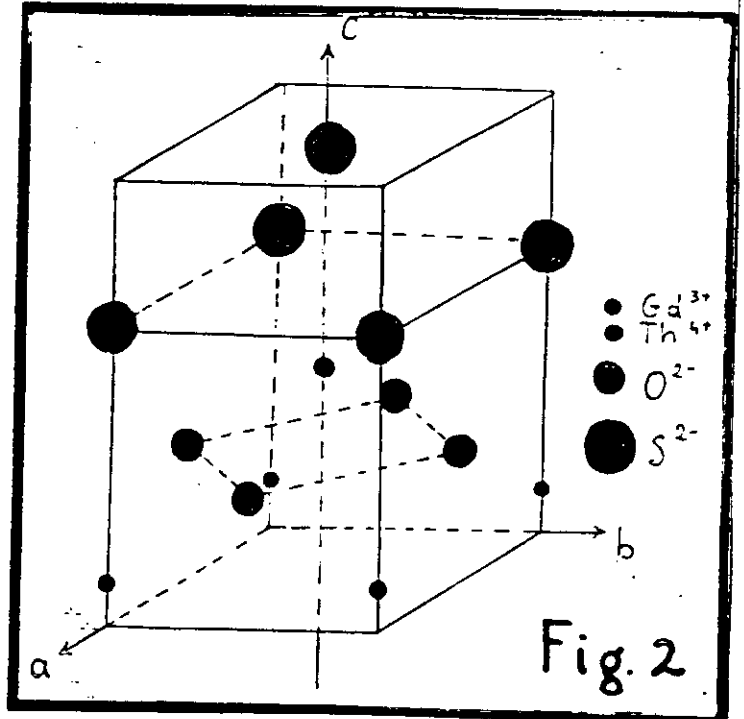
n \ m	0	1	2	3	4
2	708	0	-243	-	-
4	-4.0	25	-4.0	-125	-20

**ThOS**

\* Gd<sup>3+</sup> sostituzionale  
 \*\* Gruppo puntuale **C<sub>4v</sub>**

	R	K <sub>2</sub> <sup>0</sup>
O	2.39	-0.025
S	2.98	-0.321
S'	3.01	1.

n \ m	0	4
2	183.33	-
4	-1.404	-28.3



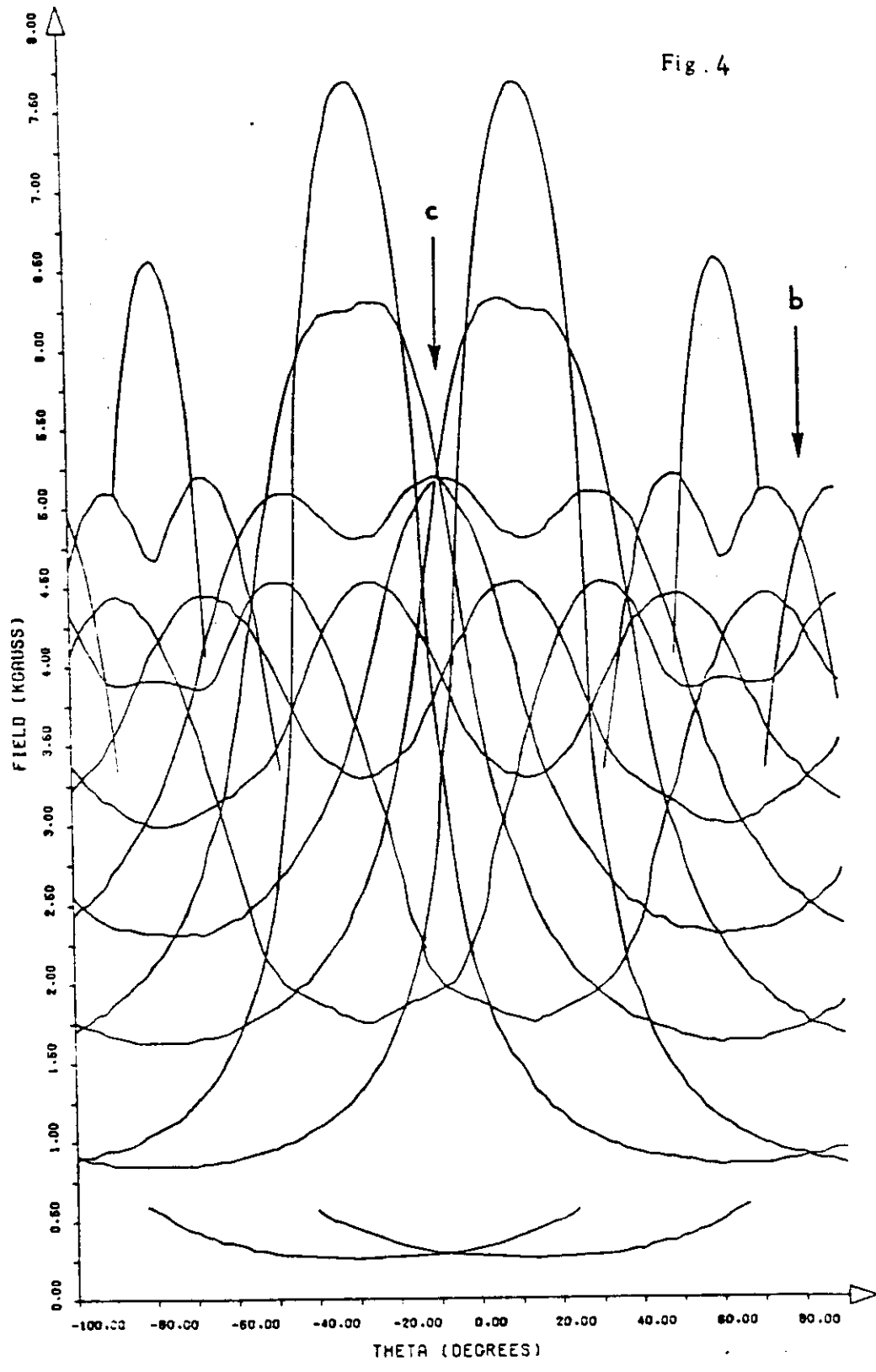
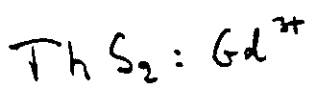
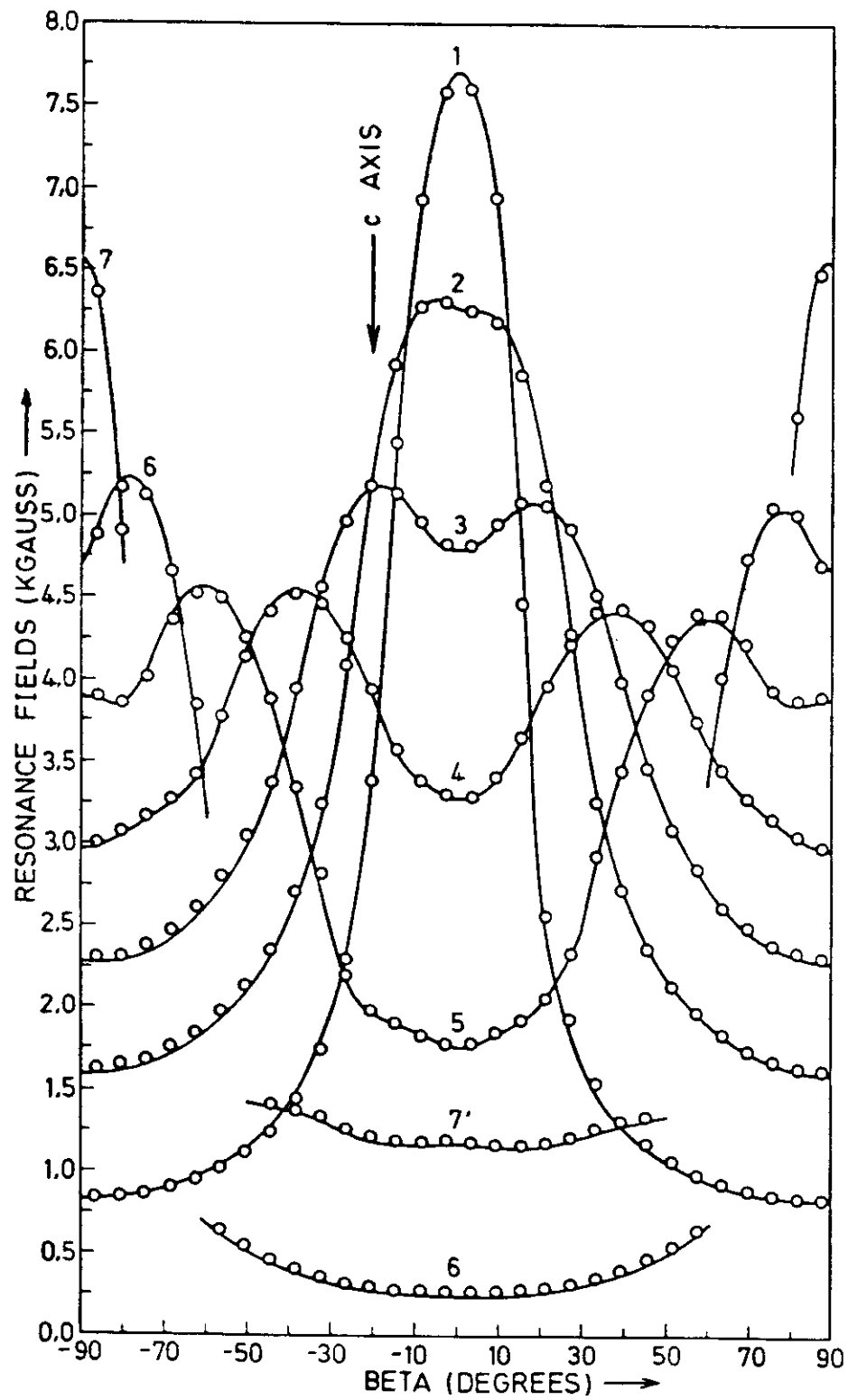


Fig. 4



G. Amoretti, D.C. Giori and V. Varacca, Z. Naturforsch. 36a, 116:



$\text{ThS}_2 : 6d^{3+}$

Fig. 5

G. Amoretti, D.C. Giori and V. Varacca, *Z. Naturforsch.* **36a**, 1163 (1981)

20

« Application of the superposition model to the analysis of crystal field parameters in low symmetry systems : the use of a two exponents power law »

The SPM assumes that the total crystal field on a given ion can be constructed from a sum of axially symmetric contributions of the ligands<sup>4</sup>.

This assumption is consistent with the hypothesis that :

- the coordinated ions make the dominant contribution to the crystal field
- this contribution is due principally to overlap and covalency effects.

If the CF hamiltonian is written as

$$\mathcal{H}_{CF} = \sum_{n,m} B_n^m O_n^m \quad (1)$$

with

$$B_n^m = A_n^m \langle r^n \rangle \Theta_n^m \quad (2)$$

↑ Stevens coefficients

the SPM model assumes that

$$A_n^m \langle r^n \rangle = \sum_i \bar{A}_n(R_i) K_n^m(\theta_i, \varphi_i) \quad (3)$$

(ligands) ↑                      ↑  
 intrinsic parameter              coordination factors

or equivalently

$$B_n^m = \sum_i \bar{B}_n(R_i) K_n^m(\theta_i, \varphi_i) \quad (4)$$

with

$$\bar{B}_n(R_i) = \bar{A}_n(R_i) \Theta_n^m \quad (5)$$

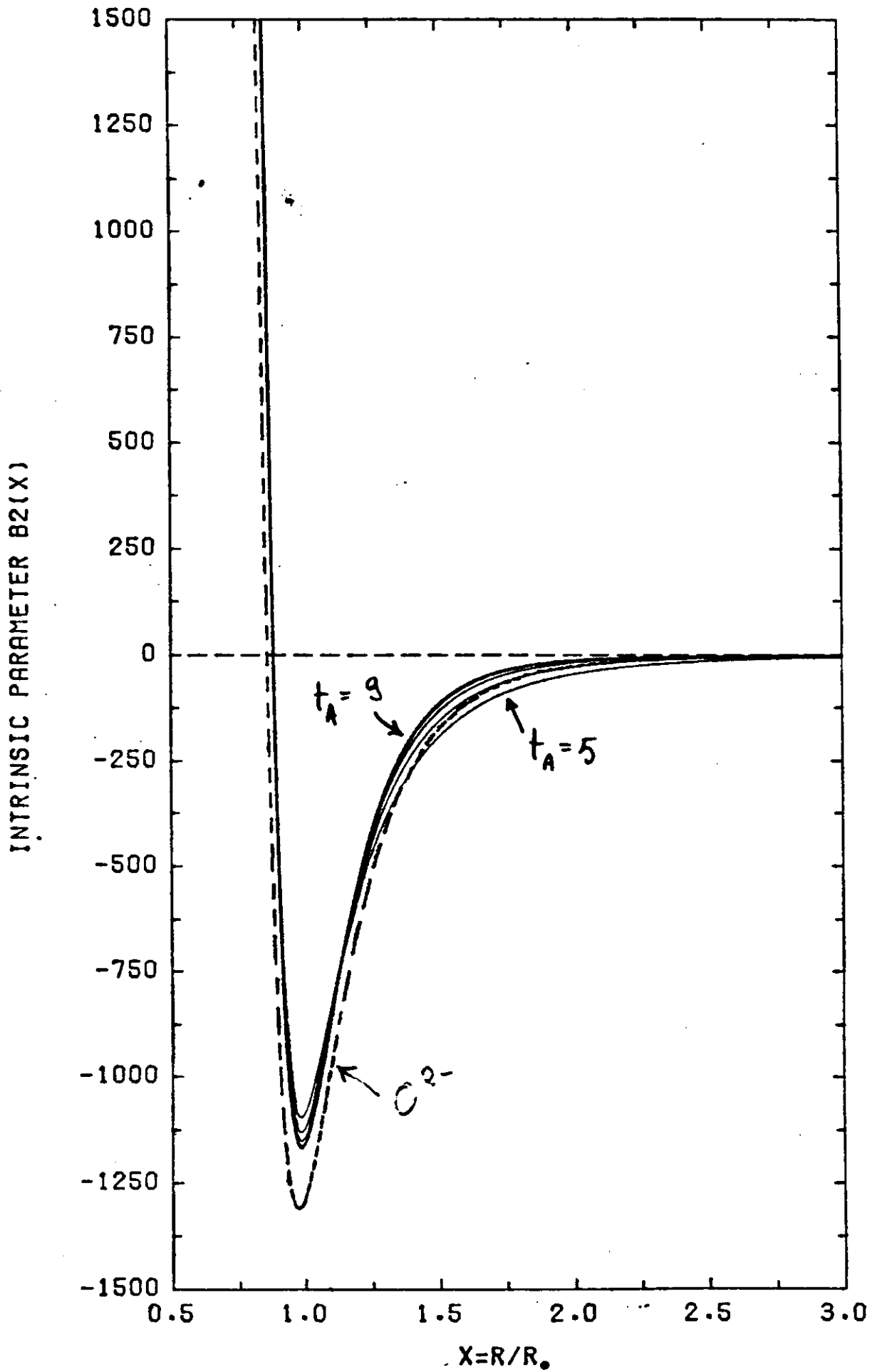
The point charge approximation corresponds to

$$\bar{A}_n(R_i) = S_n^0 \sqrt{\frac{2n+1}{4\pi}} \frac{e^2 z_i \langle r^n \rangle}{R_i^{n+1}} \quad (6)$$

where

$$S_2^0 = \sqrt{\pi/5}, \quad S_4^0 = \sqrt{\pi/12}, \quad S_6^0 = \frac{1}{8} \sqrt{\pi/13} \quad (6')$$

and the effective charge  $z_i$  is positive for negative ions.



# Paramagnetic resonance and local position of $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ in ferroelectric $\text{BaTiO}_3$

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EPR spectra of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ ,  $S = \frac{1}{2}$ , substituting for  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  are reported as a function of temperature  $T$  in all four phases of  $\text{BaTiO}_3$ . In the three ferroelectric phases (FEP's), the principal axis of the Hamiltonian is always along the polar axis. There are two crystal-field terms, one proportional to the square of the polarization and a large one linear in  $T$ . The latter is the same in all FEP's. The existence of the first term shows that the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  remains centered in the octahedral cell. The existence of the latter, not observed for  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , points to large thermal fluctuations of the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ . These are ascribed to the absence of antibonding, repelling  $e_g$  electrons directed towards the oxygen atoms which are present for  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ . Saturation of the  $b_2^0(T)$  term for low  $T$  is accounted for by a Debye model for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  with an energy of only 236.6 K, proving independently a flat ionic potential for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ . The picture of considerable  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  amplitude fluctuations agrees with an effectively reduced  $\text{Cr}^{3+}\text{-O}^{2-}$  distance of 0.02 Å compared to the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{-O}^{2-}$  distance obtained from the superposition-model analysis. The latter yields the correct sign and magnitude of the crystal-field  $b_2^0$  terms in all FEP's. It confirms that a maximum of the intrinsic superposition-model parameter  $b_2^0(R)$  for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ , derived earlier by Müller and Berlinger, occurs for  $R$  between 1.95 and 1.96 Å.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Recently, Siegel and Müller<sup>1</sup> were able to interpret some two-decade-old paramagnetic resonance experiments on  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  substituting for  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  in  $\text{BaTiO}_3$ . These early experiments of Hornig, Rempel, and Weaver<sup>2</sup> were carried out as a function of temperature in the cubic and tetragonal ferroelectric phases (FEP's). Studies of Sakudo and Unoki<sup>3</sup> extended the investigations to the orthorhombic and rhombohedral phases for one specific temperature in each of the two phases. It was shown in the aforementioned analysis, using the superposition model with parameters determined earlier,<sup>4</sup> that the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  participates less than an order of magnitude in the collective motion of the  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  ions responsible for ferroelectricity, i.e., the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  remains at the center of the oxygen octahedron in all three ferroelectric phases.

The sizes of  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  in octahedral oxygen coordination are nearly the same. The difference in behavior, that one undergoes a cooperative transition and the other remains centered, can have two origins. (a) The  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  has an empty  $3d$  shell, whereas that of the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  is half-filled. It has been discussed that the emptiness of the  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$   $d$  shell is crucial for the occurrence of the ferroelectricity.<sup>1</sup> (b) There is a charge difference of one unit between  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ . In a recent theoretical study, Sangster<sup>5</sup> showed the occurrence of radial enhancement of ions owing to the charge misfit between the substituted ion and the impurity. Thus the radius of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  is enhanced in  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  as compared to that in an oxide, where it replaces an intrinsic trivalent ion. In order to elucidate further the two possible reasons for the centering of the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  just men-

tioned, another trivalent ion with nearly the same ionic radius as that of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,<sup>6</sup> but with a different  $3d$  configuration, has been studied.

$\text{Cr}^{3+}$  is such an ion, but with an electron configuration  $3d^3$  as compared to  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  with  $3d^5$ . Whereas  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  in the high-spin configuration has its two subshells with  $t_{2g}$  and  $e_g$  character half-filled,  $(t_{2g})^3(e_g)^2$ ,  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  has only the  $t_{2g}$  subshell half filled with configuration  $(t_{2g})^3$  and the  $(e_g)$  shell empty. The  $(e_g)^2$  are antibonding  $\sigma$  orbitals and will cause a larger repulsion from the negative oxygen shells to keep the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  centered; see Fig. 1. On the other hand, the  $(t_{2g})^3$  are essentially nonbonding, having their charge density pointing midway between the oxygen electron density. Recent uniaxial stress experiments on  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  in cubic  $\text{MgO}$  at room temperature indicated that  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  may be slightly off center along the  $\langle 100 \rangle$  cubic positions.<sup>7</sup> Thus  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  appeared as a valid candidate to decide whether the  $3d^4$  configuration or the size enhancement, owing to the charge misfit, is more important.

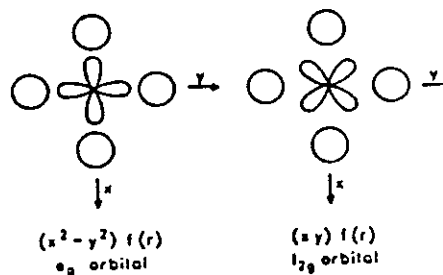


FIG. 1. Shapes of  $e_g$  and  $t_{2g}$  orbitals in octahedral coordination.

## EPR of $Gd^{3+}$ in a Single Crystal of Thorium disulfide ( $ThS_2$ )

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Z. Naturforsch. **36a**, 1163–1168 (1981); received September 7, 1981

In this paper we report the experimental angular behaviour of the EPR spectra for a single crystal of Thorium disulfide ( $ThS_2$ ) doped with  $Gd^{3+}$  at very low concentration (of the order of 10 p.p.m.). The experimental data are interpreted in terms of a spin Hamiltonian which reflects the crystal field symmetry at the Th site, that is monoclinic  $C_2$ , and therefore shows that the doping ions enter substitutionally without lowering the site symmetry. The low symmetry and the unusually large values of the crystal field parameters  $b_2^0$  and  $b_2^{-2}$  have made it necessary to use a numerical fitting procedure, starting from the exact numerical diagonalization of the energy matrix for any given direction of the static magnetic field.

## Superposition Model Analysis of the Spin Hamiltonian Parameters of Two $Gd^{3+}$ Doped Thorium Dichalcogenides

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The spin Hamiltonian parameters of  $Gd^{3+}$  in a single crystal of Thorium disulfide ( $ThS_2$ ) are analysed by means of the superposition model, in its most general form of a two exponents power law. In fact, the approximated one exponent power law is not suitable for this compound, where the ion-ligand distances show a quite large spread. The results of the analysis are then applied to the case of  $Gd^{3+}$  doped Thorium oxy-sulfide ( $ThOS$ ), where the fitting of the experimental data is possible only assuming some distortion of the ligand cage.

## The Refined Structure of $ThS_2$ and the Implications on the Superposition Model Analysis of $ThS_2: Gd^{3+}$ Spin Hamiltonian Parameters

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The crystal structure of  $ThS_2$  has been refined starting from single crystal diffractometry data. The accurate determination of the positional parameters allows us to reexamine the SPM analysis of the second degree crystal field parameters for  $Gd^{3+}$  in  $ThS_2$  matrix. The fitting of the EPR data is still possible by means of a suitable two exponents power law for the intrinsic parameter only if the substitutional  $Gd^{3+}$  ion displaces in the mirror (bc) plane with respect to the undistorted  $Th^{4+}$  site. The resulting increase of the mean metal-ligand distances agrees with the expected expansion of the ligand cage around the trivalent Gd ion. The applicability of the proposed method to examine the impurity induced distortions in a host crystal is discussed too.



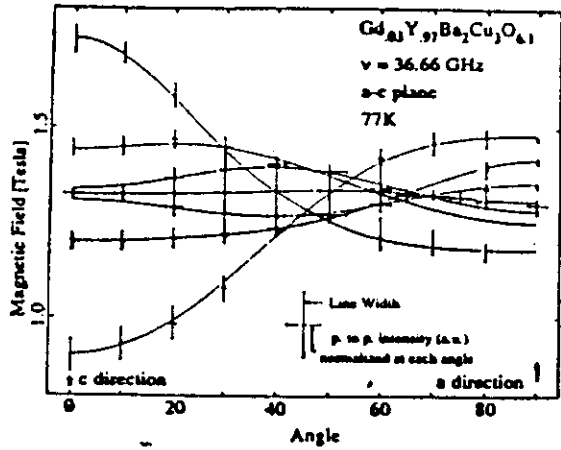


Fig. 1. Angular dependence of Gd ESR at  $K_u$ -band in  $YBa_2Cu_3O_{\delta}$  in the  $a$ - $c$  plane at 77 K. Note that the lines in each measurements are not error bars but line width (vertical line) and peak to peak intensity (horizontal line). Intensities which are too small to be indicated are represented by a small circle. The intensities are normalized separately for each angle.

Table I  
Crystal field parameters in MHz and  $g$ -value of Gd in  $YBa_2Cu_3O_{\delta}$  at  $\sim 35$  GHz and 77 K. The  $T_c \sim 70$  K for the  $x=0.7$  material.

$x$	$3B_2^0 = D$	$B_2^0$	$B_4^0$	$g$ -value
$0.1 \pm 0.1$	$1307 \pm 5$	$3.01 \pm 0.1$	$-11.4 \pm 0.2$	$1.989 \pm 0.005$
$0.7 \pm 0.1$	$1359 \pm 15$	$0.75 \pm 0.2$	$-9.03 \pm 0.5$	$1.996 \pm 0.005$

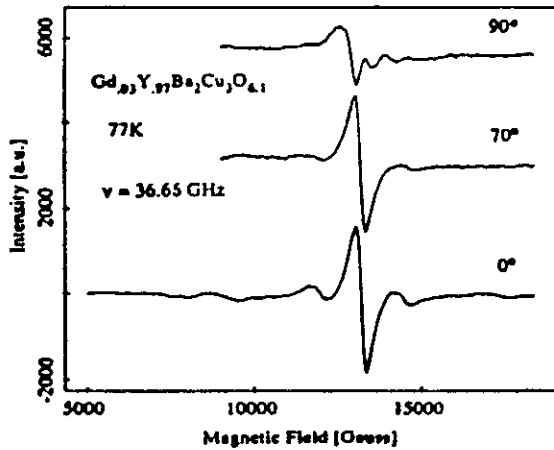


Fig. 2. The spectra corresponding to fig. 1 for  $H || 0, 70$  and  $90$  degrees.

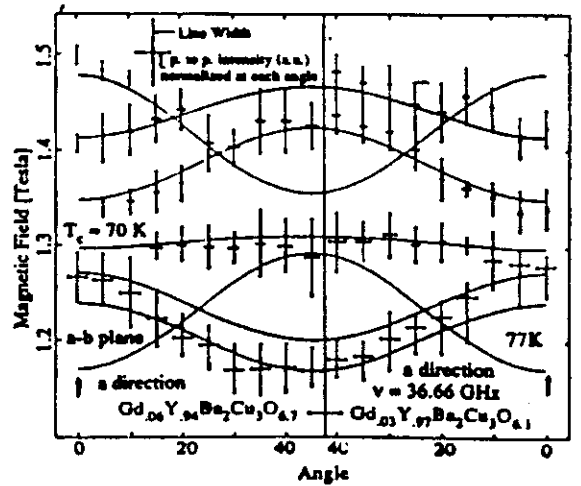


Fig. 3. Angular dependence of Gd ESR at  $K_u$ -band for  $YBa_2Cu_3O_{\delta=1}$  and  $YBa_2Cu_3O_{\delta=0.7}$  and taken in the  $a$ - $b$  plane at 77 K. Note that, again, the lines in each measurements are not error bars but line width (vertical line) and peak to peak intensity (horizontal line), and that the intensities are normalized separately for each angle.

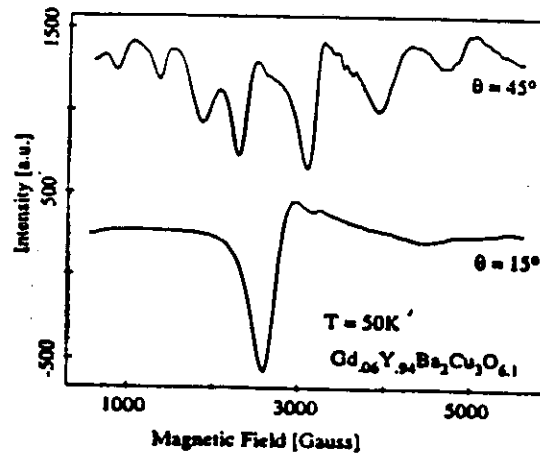


Fig. 4. The spectra at X-band for  $\theta = 15^\circ$  and  $\theta = 45^\circ$  away from the  $a$  direction in the  $a$ - $b$  plane for  $Gd_{0.06}Y_{0.94}Ba_2Cu_3O_{6.1}$ .

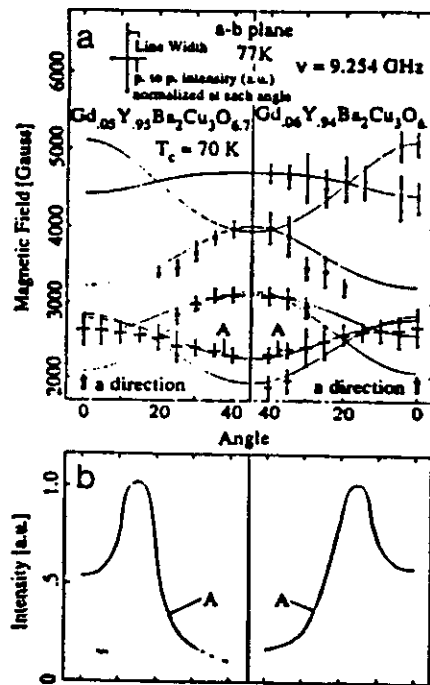


Fig. 5 (a) Angular dependence of Gd ESR at X-band for  $YBa_2Cu_3O_{6.1}$  and  $Y_{0.95}Ba_2Cu_3O_{6.7}$  at 77 K. Note that significance of the horizontal and vertical lines is as for figs. 1 and 3. (b) Peak to peak intensities of line A for different directions.

D. Shaltiel et al. (1989)

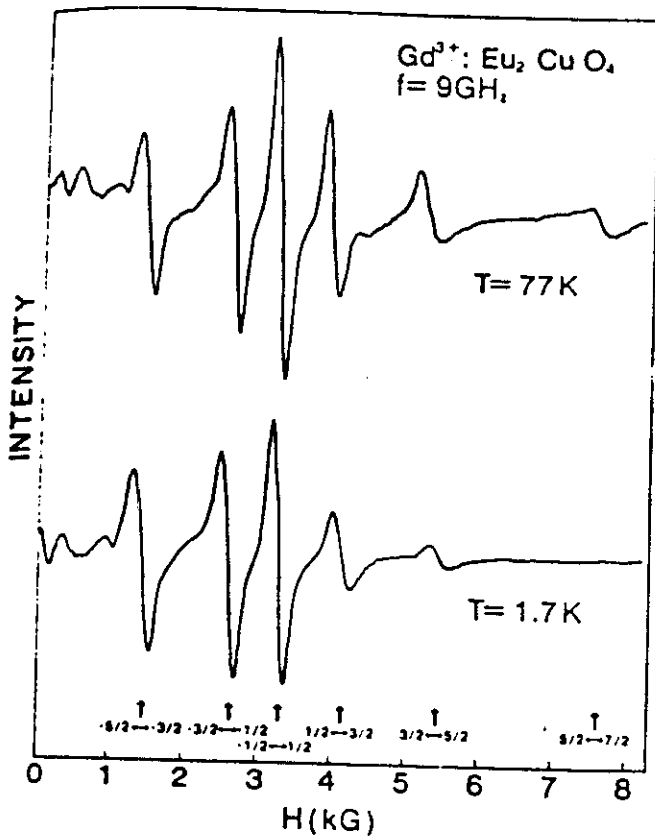


FIG. 1. ESR spectra of  $\text{Eu}_2\text{CuO}_4$  doped with 1.5 at. % Gd, taken at 9 GHz with the external magnetic field parallel to the  $c$  axis. Notice the reduced intensity of the high-field fine-structure lines at 1.7 K. Also, notice that due to the large crystal-field splitting, the  $-\frac{1}{2} \leftrightarrow -\frac{3}{2}$  transition cannot be observed at this frequency.

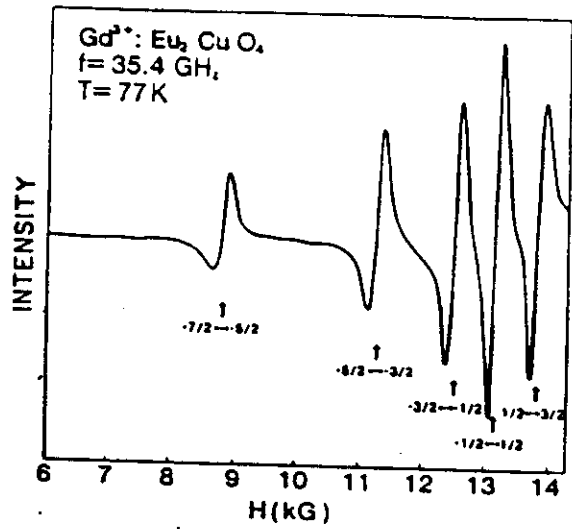
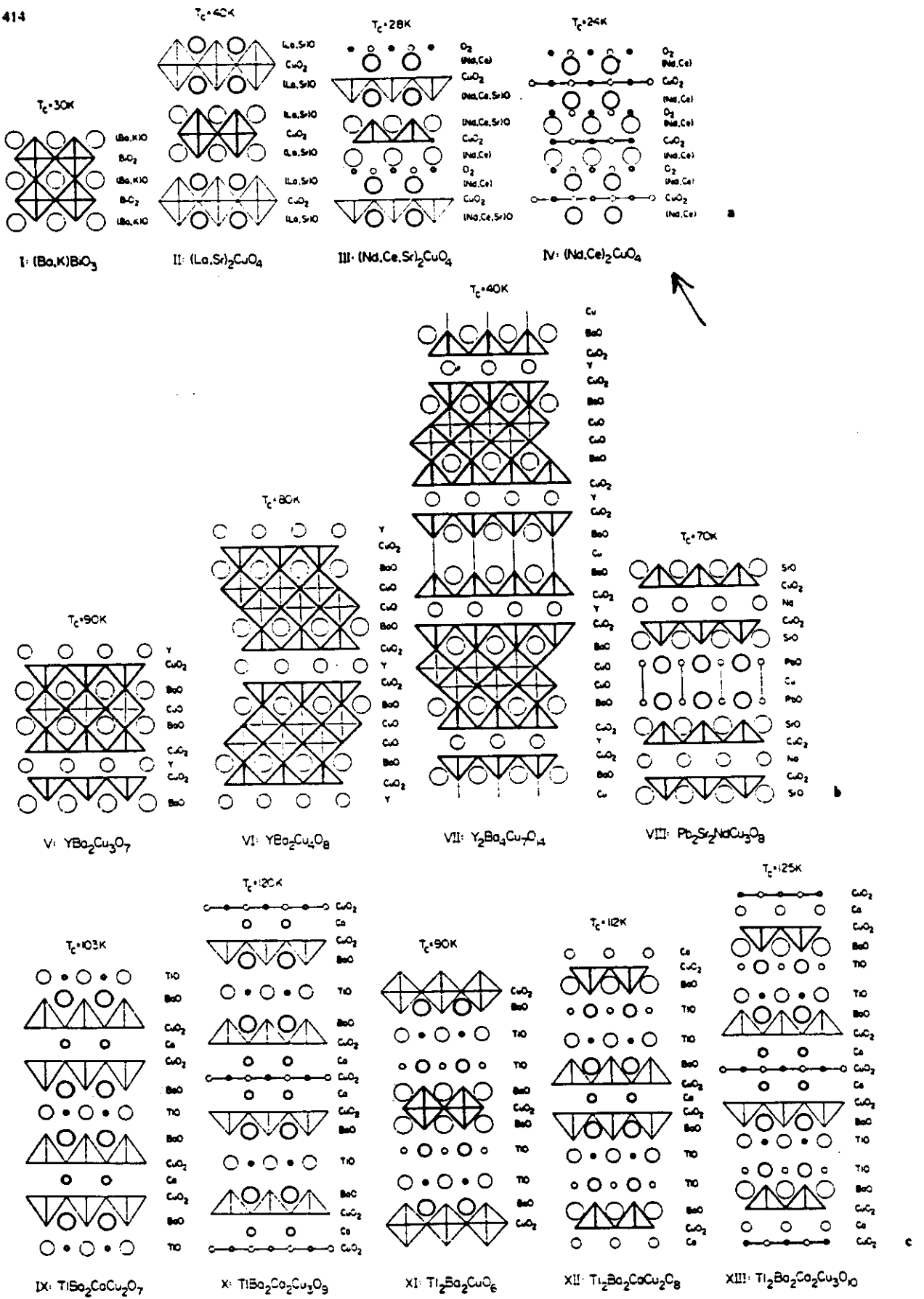


FIG. 2. ESR spectrum of  $\text{Eu}_2\text{CuO}_4$  doped with 1.5 at. % Gd, taken at 35 GHz with the magnetic field parallel to the  $c$  axis. Notice that at this frequency we do observe the low-field  $-\frac{1}{2} \leftrightarrow -\frac{3}{2}$  fine-structure line.

TABLE I. Crystal-field parameters and  $g_1$  values for dilute  $\text{Gd}^{3+}$  ions in  $\text{Eu}_2\text{CuO}_4$ .

Temperature (K)	$b_2^0$ ( $10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )	$b_4^0$ ( $10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )	$g_1$	Frequency (GHz)
5	-486(7)	-32(2)	1.82(1)	9.25
30	-492(7)	-32(2)	1.84(1)	9.25
84	-509(7)	-37(2)	1.90(1)	9.25
77	-502(7)	-37(2)	1.91(1)	9.00
77	-524(10)	-40(2)	1.94(1)	35.4
Room temperature	-505(10)	-40(2)	1.95(1)	35.4

Rao, Torar, Oseroff, Vier, Shultz, Thompson, Cheong and Fisk  
 Phys. Rev. B 38 (1988) 8920



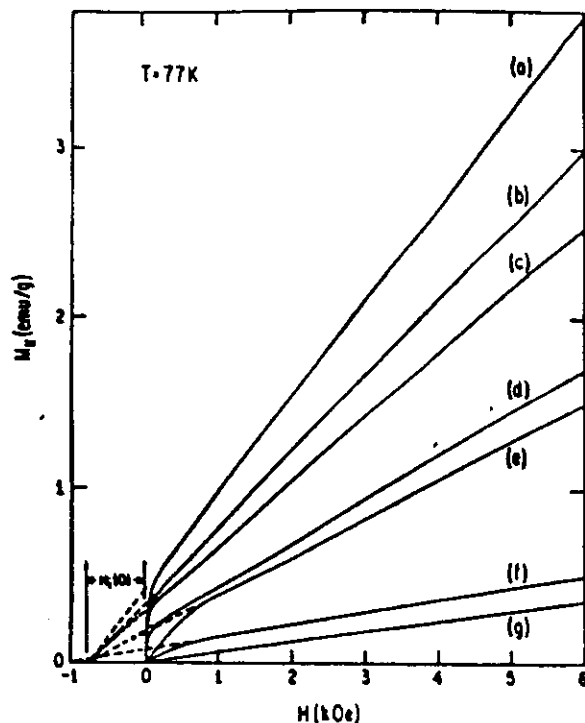


FIG. 4. The dc magnetization,  $M_{dc}$ , vs magnetic field applied parallel to the  $a$ - $b$  plane for the following compounds at a temperature of 77 K: (a)  $\text{GdTbCuO}_4$ , (b)  $\text{EuTbCuO}_4$ , (c)  $\text{Gd}_2\text{CuO}_4$ , (d)  $\text{EuGdCuO}_4$ , (e)  $\text{SmGdCuO}_4$ , (f)  $\text{Eu}_{1.2}\text{Gd}_{0.7}\text{CuO}_4$ , and (g)  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$ . The linear dependence at higher fields corresponds to the paramagnetism of the  $R$  ions. When extrapolated back to zero  $M_{dc}$ , all the lines but the one for  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  intersect near a reverse field,  $H_c(0) = 800$  Oe.

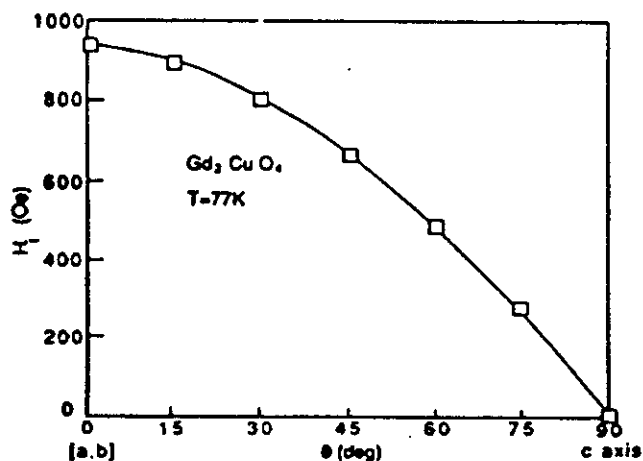


FIG. 6. The internal field  $H_i$  for  $\text{Gd}_2\text{CuO}_4$  at 77 K, obtained by extrapolating to zero magnetization once the linear region in the magnetization has been established, is given as a function of angle of the applied field to the  $\text{CuO}_2$  planes. The solid line corresponds to the best fit to  $H_i(\theta) = H_i(0)\cos\theta$  with  $H_i(0) = 930$  Oe. The  $\cos\theta$  dependence arises because we only measure the component of  $M_{dc}$  in the direction of the applied field, as discussed in the text.

$$H_r(\theta) = H_0 - H_1(\theta) \cos \theta + K'/\cos \theta$$

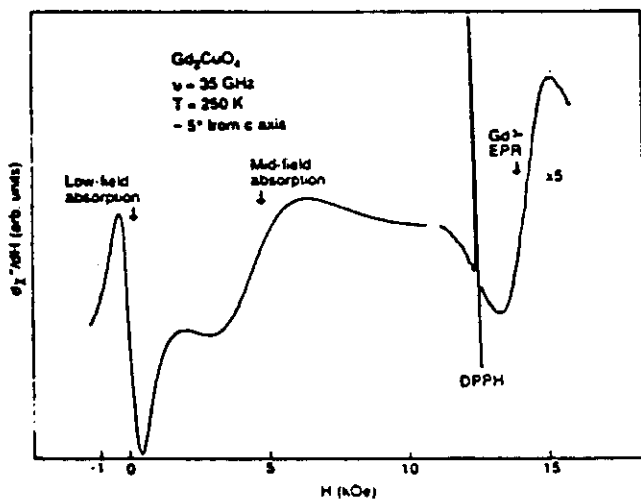


FIG. 17. Spectrum for a 0.3 mg single crystal of  $Gd_2CuO_4$ , measured at 250 K and 35 GHz with the field applied  $\sim 5^\circ$  from the  $c$  axis, so the low-field absorption, midfield absorption, and  $Gd^{3+}$  EPR signals are all resolved. The DPPH is used as a marker. Notice the substantial shift from  $g=2.00$  for the  $Gd^{3+}$  EPR line.

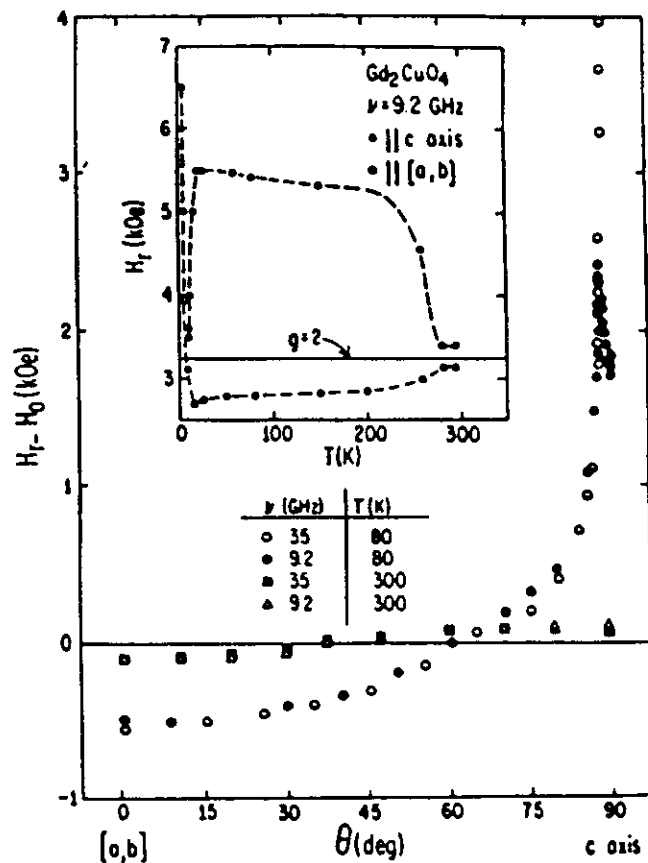


FIG. 18. The field shift of the EPR of the  $Gd^{3+}$  ion in  $Gd_2CuO_4$ , relative to that for  $g=2$ , vs  $\theta$ , the angle of the applied field relative to the  $a$ - $b$  plane for the temperatures and frequencies indicated. Above 270 K,  $H_r$  is basically independent of angle, whereas below and down to  $\sim 19$  K, there is the anisotropic behavior shown. Inset.  $H_r$  vs temperature for  $\theta=0^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ . Note the rapid changes in  $H_r$  at temperatures near  $T_2$  and  $T_1$ .

S. Oseroff et al., Phys. Rev. B 41 (1990) 1934

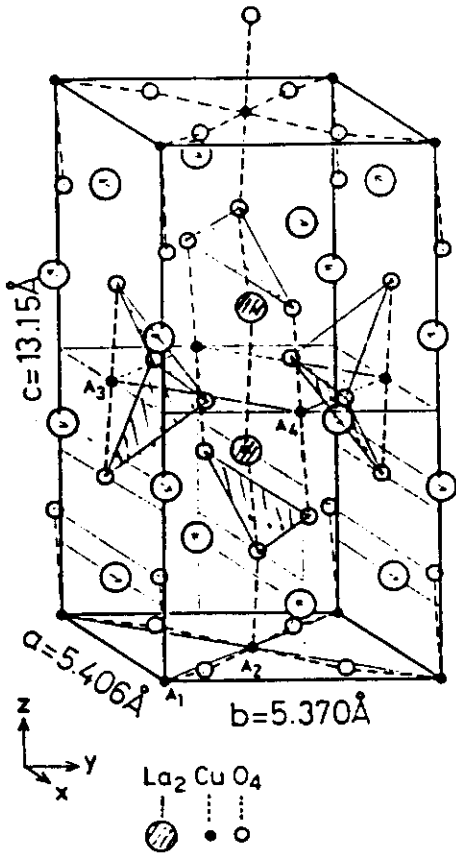


Fig. 1. The crystal structure of  $\text{La}_2\text{CuO}_4$  (space group:  $Abma$ ) from ref. 5. Arrows shown in the La and O sites indicate the directions of their displacements.

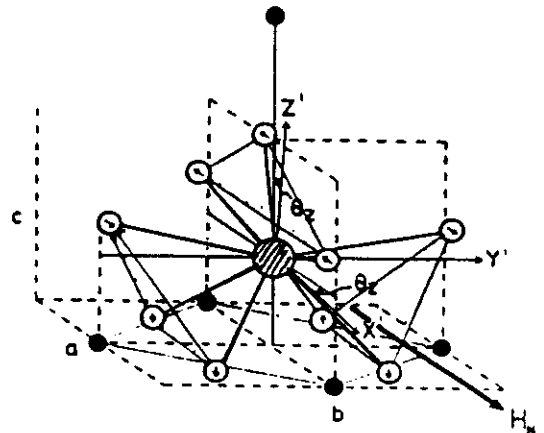


Fig. 9. Local arrangement of oxygen atoms around a lanthanum atom. The principal axes  $X$ ,  $Y$  and  $Z$  of EFG calculated by the point charge model and the direction of the internal field  $H_x$  at the lanthanum site are shown (see text). Arrows show the directions of the displacements of the oxygen atoms.

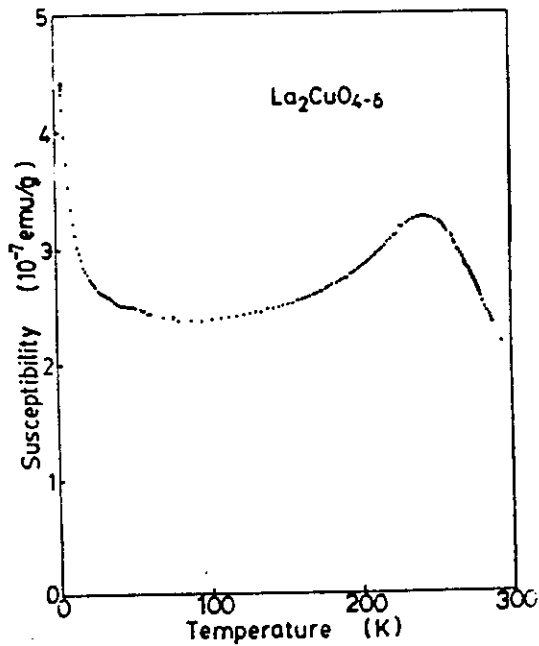


Fig. 2. Temperature dependence of magnetic susceptibility of  $\text{La}_2\text{CuO}_{4-x}$  in a static field of 11.8 kOe.

