

Hg⁺ IONS IN KH₂PO₄-TYPE LATTICES: NOVEL SUPERHYPERFINE INTERACTIONS
AND ¹⁹⁹Hg/²⁰¹Hg HYPERFINE ANOMALY

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Abstract

Unlike earlier used paramagnetic probes for KH₂PO₄-type lattices, the Hg⁺ (6s¹) ions exhibit superhyperfine couplings to 4 ³¹P nuclei. Detailed computer simulations of ¹⁹⁹Hg⁺ (I = 1/2) and ²⁰¹Hg⁺ (I = 3/2) hyperfine transitions yield a new value for the ¹⁹⁹Hg/²⁰¹Hg hyperfine anomaly, a difficult to measure but theoretically important parameter. Evidence is obtained for low symmetry excitations in the high temperature phases of NH₄H₂PO₄ and ND₄D₂PO₄, of significance for the development of new theoretical models.

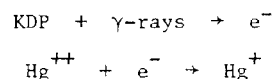
I. INTRODUCTION

Paramagnetic probes have provided valuable, quantitative information on the role of the anionic fragments (PO₄³⁻ and AsO₄³⁻) in the KD₂PO₄-type of ferroelectrics and antiferroelectrics. However, parallel studies of the cations (K⁺, Rb⁺, Cs⁺ and NH₄⁺) have not yet been possible, the progress being hampered mainly by the lack of suitable paramagnetic probes which could accurately simulate the cationic behavior. Previously used probes are Fe³⁺, Cr³⁺, Cu²⁺ and Tl²⁺, all of which have an excess of positive charge compared with that of the substituted cations (1). This excess charge would necessarily lead to some structural deformation of the surroundings, and hence all these previously used ions might not be considered as faithful probes. Recently we reported (2) that Hg⁺ ions can be stabilized in KH₂PO₄ and NH₄H₂PO₄. It was found that the Hg⁺ hyperfine lines exhibited a 1:4:6:4:1 quintet superhyperfine structure for T > T_C, T_C being the para-ferro (or anti-ferro) electric transition temperature, 123 K for KH₂PO₄ and 147 K for NH₄H₂PO₄. While the preliminary results (2) showed that the Hg ion couples strongly to the lattice and exhibits large spectral changes related to the lattice changes at T_C, the spin Hamiltonian parameters were not determined in that study because the very large (~35 GHz) hyperfine tensor made it difficult to obtain an accurate analytical expression for the EPR transition energy as a function of the applied Zeeman field. Moreover, it was not clarified whether the quintet/triplet superhyperfine pattern observed on each of the Hg⁺ transitions was from the four hydrogen-bonded

protons such as in AsO₄⁴⁻ in KH₂AsO₄ (1), or due to four ³¹P nuclei of the nearby PO₄³⁻ units. In this paper we describe our measurements of Hg⁺ centers in deuterated samples and show that in contrast to the AsO₄⁴⁻ center, the quintet/triplet superhyperfine structure on the Hg⁺ ion arises from four ³¹P nuclei (2,3). We also report accurate Hg⁺ hyperfine parameters from both the ¹⁹⁹Hg and the ²⁰¹Hg nuclei and show evidence for a hyperfine anomaly for the ¹⁹⁹Hg, ²⁰¹Hg nuclei, a quantity of high theoretical interest and difficult to obtain experimentally (3).

II. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Hg⁺ ions were formed by γ -irradiating a nominally 1% Hg⁺⁺-doped KH₂PO₄ (or NH₄H₂PO₄) crystal. Hg⁺ is formed by capturing a photoelectron by Hg⁺⁺ ion as follows



All crystals were grown from aqueous solution at room temperature. D₂O was used for growing KD₂PO₄ and ND₄D₂PO₄. EPR measurements were made at X-band (10 GHz) frequency, using a Bruker EPR spectrometer, model ER 200D. The line positions were measured accurately with a Bruker field-tracking gaussmeter and a Hewlett-Packard frequency counter. A Bruker digital variable temperature accessory was used for controlling the sample temperature to an accuracy of ± 0.5 K.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 shows EPR spectra of Hg(I) centers in (a) KH₂PO₄, (b) NH₄H₂PO₄ and (c) ND₄D₂PO₄ for H//c at room temperature.

The quintet signal around 3400 G is from the Hg⁺ which have I = 0 Hg isotopes (¹⁹⁸Hg, ²⁰⁰Hg, ²⁰²Hg etc.). The 5500 G signal is the hyperfine transition from the ¹⁹⁹Hg (I = 1/2) nucleus while that at 7450 G is assigned to the ²⁰¹Hg (I = 3/2) nucleus (1). The transition fields as well as the quintet superhyperfine splittings are fairly similar in KH₂PO₄, NH₄H₂PO₄.

and $\text{ND}_4\text{D}_2\text{PO}_4$, showing that four ^{31}P nuclei and not the four (H-bond) protons cause the quintet superhyperfine splittings.

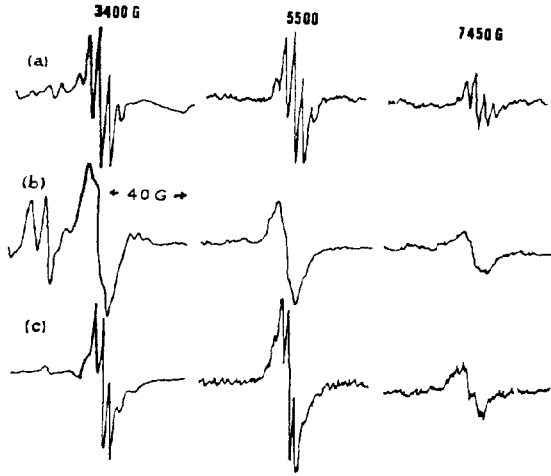


Fig. 1. EPR spectra of $\text{Hg}(\text{I})$ in (a) KH_2PO_4 , (b) $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$, and (c) $\text{ND}_4\text{D}_2\text{PO}_4$ at 300 K. Lines shown left to right are from the ^{200}Hg ($I = 0$), ^{199}Hg ($I = 1/2$) and ^{201}Hg ($I = 3/2$) isotopes.

The effects of the phase transition on the Hg^+ spectra are presented in Figure 2 for $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$, $T_c = 147$ K. The 7450 G ($^{201}\text{Hg}^+$) line is chosen for this study.

At least two somewhat novel results can be noted from Figure 2. First, over a range of about 5° around T_c (~ 147 K), the spectra consist of (simultaneously present) features representing the high ($T > T_c$) temperature (paraelectric) and the low ($T < T_c$) temperature (antiferroelectric) lattice. Second, the 1:4:6:4:1 quintet representing four equivalent ^{31}P nuclei for $T \gg T_c$ changes to a 1:2:1 triplet for $T \ll T_c$, thus reflecting the symmetry lowering due to the phase transition.

Since the ^{31}P superhyperfine was rather unexpected, detailed temperature and computer-simulation studies were carried out for the superhyperfine structure for $\text{ND}_4\text{D}_2\text{PO}_4$. Figure 3 shows a typical spectrum for H//c at 115 K, in the antiferroelectric phase of $\text{ND}_4\text{D}_2\text{PO}_4$.

It is clear that the superhyperfine structure is due to 4 ^{31}P nuclei which are equivalent for $T > T_c$ and become nonequivalent (2 groups of 2) at $T < T_c$. Detailed studies are

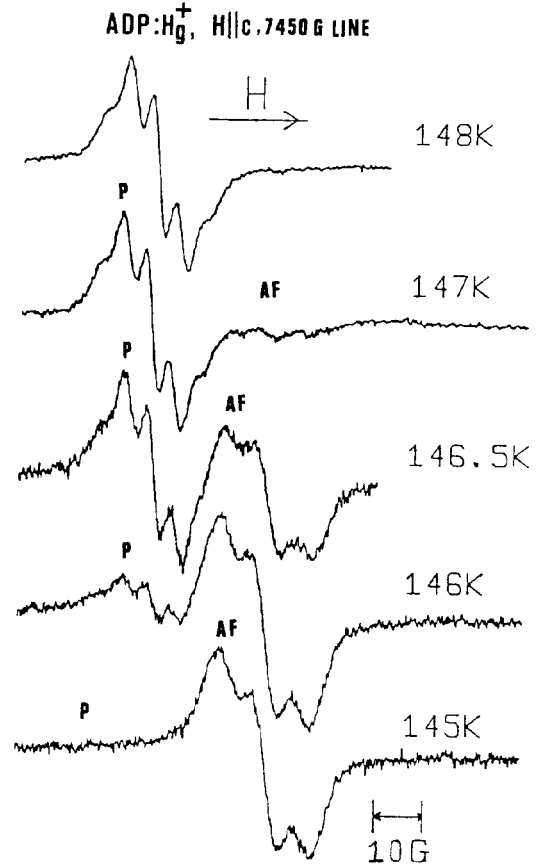


Fig. 2. Typical EPR spectra of $\text{Hg}(\text{I})$ near T_c (~ 147 K) for $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$ (ADP). The spectra exhibit superposition of the paraelectric and antiferroelectric phases around T_c (≈ 147 K).

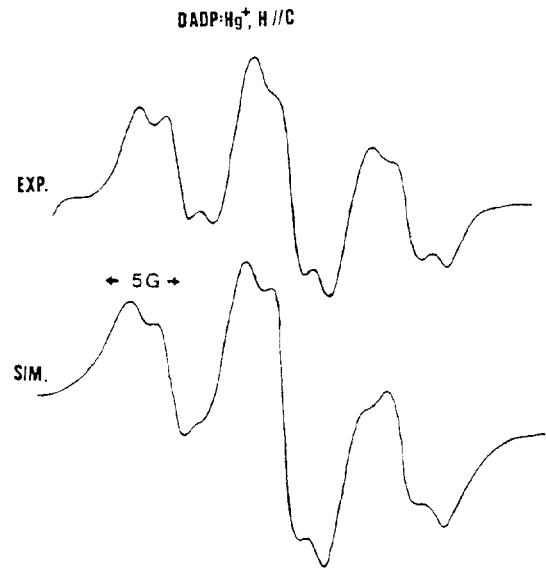


Fig. 3. Experimental and simulated ^{31}P superhyperfine spectra for $\text{Hg}(\text{I})$ in $\text{ND}_4\text{D}_2\text{PO}_4$ at 115 K ($T < T_c$).

currently in progress for measuring the motional dynamics of the cations which have not yet been performed for any of the KH_2PO_4 -type of crystals.

We now discuss the $^{199}\text{Hg}/^{201}\text{Hg}$ hyperfine anomaly which has been determined via an accurate computer simulation of the observed EPR transitions. The analysis procedure and the computer program used has been described earlier (3,4).

$^{199}\text{Hg}-^{201}\text{Hg}$ Hyperfine Anomaly, Δ :

Normally for two isotopes, 1 and 2, the ratio of their hyperfine constants, A_1 and A_2 , is directly proportional to their nuclear g-factors g_1 and g_2 , i.e.,

$$\frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{g_1}{g_2} \quad (1)$$

This relationship assumes that the nuclei are point charges. However, for heavy nuclei, such as ^{199}Hg and ^{201}Hg , one expects the nuclei to have finite sizes. In that case equation (2) becomes

$$\frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{g_1}{g_2} (1 + \Delta^{BW} + \Delta^{RB}), \quad (2)$$

Here Δ^{BW} is the difference of the so-called Bohr-Weisskopf hyperfine anomaly (5,6) for the two isotopes, Δ^{BW} takes into the distribution of the magnetic moment within the nuclei, and Δ^{RB} , the so-called Rosenthal-Breit term (7-9) relates to the differences in the coulomb field due to the nuclear shapes. The total correction term, Δ_{total} , can be written as

$$\Delta_{\text{total}} = \Delta^{RB} + \Delta^{BW} \approx \frac{^{199}A_{\text{iso}}}{^{201}A_{\text{iso}}} \times \frac{^{201}g_N}{^{199}g_N} - 1$$

This value is included in Table 1 for various hosts. Interestingly it is seen that Δ_{total} is influenced by the antiferroelectric phase transition. While similar measurements are in progress using other hosts, the present study shows that Δ^{RB} makes a dominant contribution to Δ_{total} , and is perhaps of the opposite sign than Δ^{BW} . To our knowledge this is the first such detailed measurement of Δ for the mercury isotopes, and it shows that in heavy metals the shapes of the nuclei are affected by dielectric polarizations below T_c .

Table 1

Hyperfine Structure Anomaly (Δ) for $^{199}\text{Hg(I)}$ and $^{201}\text{Hg(I)}$

Host Crystal	$^{199}A_{\text{iso}}/\text{MHz}$	$^{201}A_{\text{iso}}/\text{MHz}$	$\Delta(\%)$
KH_2PO_4 (297 K)	35347 ± 5	-13084.7 ± 1.2	-0.28 ± 0.02
$\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$ (297 K)	35540 ± 9	-12783.9 ± 1.0	-0.27 ± 0.03
$\text{ND}_4\text{D}_2\text{PO}_4$ (297 K)	34913 ± 10	-12816.5 ± 2.6	$+0.56 \pm 0.04$
$\text{NH}_2\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$ (120 K)	35878 ± 12	-13204.9 ± 1.2	$+0.30 \pm 0.04$
$\text{ND}_4\text{D}_2\text{PO}_4$ (130 K)	35671 ± 42	-13174.9 ± 1.9	-0.06 ± 0.12

Acknowledgement. Partial support by the National Science Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

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