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# The Huang–Rhys factor $S(a_{1g})$ for transition-metal impurities: a microscopic insight

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Abstract. A microscopic model for evaluating the Huang-Rhys factor  $S(a_{1g})$  associated with the symmetric mode of a transition-metal impurity M in insulators is proposed. It is applied to the first excited states of  $Cr^{3+}$ ,  $V^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$  and  $Cu^{2+}$ . If 10Dq is proportional to  $R^{-n}$  (R is the metal-ligand distance) it is shown that  $S(a_{1g})$  is proportional to  $n^2$ as well as to  $[\omega(a_{1g})]^{-3}$ . Theoretical calculated values of the exponent n indicate that it varies slightly along the ligand series  $F^- \rightarrow Cl^- \rightarrow Br^-$  giving rise to an increase in  $S(a_{1g})$ . This explains why the Stokes shift of systems involving MBr<sub>N</sub> units can be similar or higher than the corresponding shifts of MF<sub>N</sub> complexes. The calculated values of  $S(a_{1g})$  are reasonably close to available experimental estimations and support the fact that the contribution of the  $a_{1g}$  mode to the Stokes shift is between 50 and 70% for  $CrX_6^{3-}$  (X  $\equiv$  halides) complexes while it is smaller than 40% for the corresponding systems involving Mn<sup>2+</sup>. The dependence of  $S(a_{1g})$  on R is also analysed, leading to an increase in  $S(a_{1g})$  upon increasing R. This trend which has been directly verified for  $V^{2+}$  in chlorides can also explain the increase in the Stokes shift observed experimentally when R is increased.

#### 1. Introduction

Salient features displayed by optical properties associated with localized centres in non-metallic materials arise from electron-phonon coupling. Examples of these are the Stokes shift, the appearance of vibrational progressions in optical spectra and the existence of non-radiative transitions [1].

The strength of the linear electron-phonon coupling between an electronic excited state  $\Gamma_e$  and a vibrational mode  $\Gamma_i$  (whose frequency is  $\omega_i/2\pi$ ) is measured through the so-called Huang-Rhys factor  $S_i$ . This factor alone determines the relative intensity of a given member corresponding to the progression due to the  $\Gamma_i$  mode. The Huang-Rhys factor  $S_i$  is zero if  $\Gamma_i \not\subset \Gamma_e \times \Gamma_e$  and so, if the localized system is centrosymmetric, only progressions with even vibrational modes are allowed.

As regards the Stokes shift  $\Delta E_s^0$ , for an electric dipole transition it is given by [2]

$$\Delta E_{\rm s}^0 = 2 \sum_{\rm i} S_{\rm i} \hbar \omega_{\rm i} \tag{1}$$

and thus involves the coupling to all allowed vibrational modes. In (1),  $\Delta E_s^0$  is thus taken as the difference between the first moments  $M_1$  of the absorption and the

corresponding emission band. If the transition is, however, parity forbidden but assisted by an odd vibration mode whose frequency is  $\omega_{\mu}/2\pi$ , (1) has to be replaced by

$$\Delta E_{\rm s} = \Delta E_{\rm s}^0 + 2\hbar\omega_{\rm u} \tanh(\hbar\omega_{\rm u}/2kT). \tag{2}$$

As  $\hbar\omega_u$  is typically of the order of 100 cm<sup>-1</sup>, the difference between  $\Delta E_s$  and  $\Delta E_s^0$  becomes equal to  $2\hbar\omega_u$  at low temperatures but may be negligible at room temperature.

In the case of transition-metal (TM) impurities M in  $O_h$  or  $D_{4h}$  symmetries the socalled crystal-field transitions are magnetic dipole allowed giving rise to weak zerophonon lines of energy  $E_{ZPL}$ . The assistance of an odd mode gives rise to a more intense false origin of the progressions located at  $E_{ZPL} + \hbar \omega_u$  for absorption peaks at low temperatures. Furthermore, associated with the false origin, several progressions involving local even modes of the MX<sub>N</sub> complex (formed with the X ligands) have been discovered. In particular for TM impurities in  $O_h$  symmetry, clear evidence of the coupling to the  $a_{1g}$  as well as to the  $e_g$  Jahn-Teller mode has been obtained for several cases. Good examples have been found for instance for  $Cr^{3+}$  in some elpasolite lattices [3-7]. This experimental finding is thus quite consistent with the good understanding of optical and EPR parameters due to TM impurities in insulators reached only on the basis of localized MX<sub>n</sub> unit [8].

Despite the relevant role played by the Huang-Rhys factors  $S_i$ , few efforts have been devoted to gaining a better microscopic insight into them. Through this work a model for calculating  $S(a_{1g})$  is developed and applied to the first excited state  $({}^{4}T_{2g} \text{ or } {}^{4}T_{1g})$  of some d<sup>3</sup> [4, 5, 7, 9] and d<sup>5</sup> [10-12] O<sub>h</sub> complexes, as well as to the  ${}^{2}B_{2g}(\sim xy)$  state of the D<sub>4h</sub> CuCl<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> complex [13].

If we designate by E the energy difference between the excited and the ground state a microscopic insight into  $S(a_{1g})$  requires us to know the dependence of E upon the metal-ligand distance R. In the case of the d<sup>3</sup> systems referred to, the relative position of the  ${}^{4}T_{2g}$  state is fixed only by 10Dq. A similar situation holds for the  ${}^{2}B_{2g}$  state of  $CuCl_{4}^{2-}$ . As regards the  ${}^{4}T_{1g}$  state of d<sup>5</sup> impurities with local O<sub>h</sub> geometry it depends on 10Dq as well as on the effective Racah parameters B and C.

Work performed on several fluoride complexes [10, 14, 15] indicates, however, that *B* and *C* are almost independent of *R*. Furthermore, designating by  $R_{\rm ML}$  the metalligand distance expected on the basis of ionic radii, it is found that in the vicinity of  $R_{\rm ML}(\delta R/R_{\rm ML} \leq 10^{-2})$  the dependence of 10Dq upon *R* can be represented by the law [10, 14, 15]

$$10Dq = AR^{-n}. (3)$$

A law of this kind with n = 5 is reached within the framework of crystal-field theory which gives rise, however, to 10Dq-values substantially smaller than experimental data. Values of 10Dq comparable with experimental data are obtained within the more realistic molecular orbital scheme applied to the MX<sub>N</sub> complex [8].

As the exponent n is strongly related to  $S(a_{1g})$ , we have firstly performed theoretical calculations of it for several TM complexes in order to explore its dependence on the ligand nature and the kind of impurity. In a second step we have evaluated  $S(a_{1g})$  for several impurities (using for this goal the  $\omega(a_{1g})$ -value measured experimentally) and compared our results with available experimental estimations of  $S(a_{1g})$ . In fact, precise determinations of  $S(a_{1g})$  for TM impurities with  $O_h$  geometry are often difficult as several progressions exist in the same spectrum with overlaps between them and thus

precise values of relative intensities associated with each peak of a given progression cannot be obtained.

Aside from the understanding of the experimental  $S(a_{1g})$ -values through the present research we wish to investigate the following points:

(1) the contribution of

$$\Delta E_{\rm s}^{0}({\rm a}_{1\rm g}) = 2S({\rm a}_{1\rm g})\hbar\omega({\rm a}_{1\rm g}) \tag{4}$$

to the Stokes shift  $\Delta E_s$ ;

(2) the dependence of  $S(a_{1g})$  upon the ligand nature provided that both the impurity and the local geometry are kept (in this case we shall explore whether the trends predicted for  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1g})$  are followed or not by  $\Delta E_s$ );

(3) the dependence of  $S(a_{1*})$  upon the metal-ligand distance R.

#### 2. Theoretical details

Within the linear electron-phonon coupling scheme the Huang-Rhys factor associated with a single vibrational mode  $\Gamma_i$  (whose collective coordinate is  $Q_i$ ) and an electronic state  $\Gamma_e$  is given by [1, 2]

$$S_{i} = \left(2\hbar K_{i}\omega_{i}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial Q_{i}}\right)^{2}$$
(5)

where  $K_i$  is the force constant of the mode. For an  $MX_N$  complex whose ligands are all equivalent,  $Q(a_{1g})$  is just given by

$$Q(\mathbf{a}_{1\sigma}) = \sqrt{N}(R - R_0) \tag{6}$$

where  $R_0$  denotes the equilibrium metal-ligand distance in the ground state depending upon the chemical pressure exerted by the rest of the lattice as well as on external applied pressures. In all cases studied in this work,  $\partial E/\partial R$  is essentially given by  $\partial (10Dq)/\partial R$ [1]. Thus taking into account equation (3) and putting  $K(a_{1g}) = M\omega^2(a_{1g})$ , where M is the ligand mass, we find that

$$S(\mathbf{a}_{1g}) = n^2 (10Dq)^2 / 2N\hbar M R_0^2 \omega^3(\mathbf{a}_{1g}).$$
<sup>(7)</sup>

In this expression, 10Dq and  $\omega(a_{1g})$  both depend on the actual  $R_0$ -value.

As few measurements of the exponent n are available in the literature [10, 16–18] we have calculated it for some complexes using the self-consistent charge extended Hückel (SCC EH) and MS  $X_{\alpha}$  methods. Details of the calculation procedure are given for instance in [19]. The results of our calculations are collected in table 1 together with theoretical values of the exponent n found by other workers [14, 15, 20, 21].

#### 3. Applications and discussion

Inspection of table 1 tells us that the HFR and SCC EH methods give values of n which lie between 4 and 6 while the corresponding values obtained by  $X_{\alpha}$ -type methods are, however, systematically smaller. A salient feature of table 1 is the near independence of the exponent n on the ligand nature as inferred from comparing the values found for  $MnF_{6}^{4-}$  and  $MnCl_{6}^{4-}$  or those for  $CuF_{4}^{2-}$ ,  $CuCl_{4}^{2-}$  and  $CuBr_{4}^{2-}$ .

As regards the comparison with available experimental measurements an *n*-value of 4.7 has been derived for  $MnF_6^{4-}$  by analysing the variation in the optical spectrum

Complex	Geometry	Calculation method	n	Reference
CrF <sub>6</sub> <sup>3-</sup>	Oh	HFR	4.3	[14]
CrF <sub>6</sub> <sup>5</sup>	Ob	HFR	5.9	[14]
VF6	Oh	HFR	5.2	[14]
MnF <sub>6</sub> <sup>4-</sup>	Oh	SCC EH	6.1	Present work
		MS $X_{\alpha}$	4.8	Present work
		HFR	5.5	[15]
		DV Xa	3.4	[19]
MnF <sup>6-</sup>	Ob	SCC EH	5.9	Present work
MnCl <sub>6</sub> <sup>4</sup>	Oh	SCC EH	5.8	Present work
MnS <sup>4—</sup>	Td	HFR	5.5	[20]
NiF <sub>4</sub> <sup>3</sup>	D <sub>4b</sub>	SCC EH	5.5	Present work
		ms Xα	3.9	Present work
CuF <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	D <sub>4b</sub>	SCC EH	5.0	Present work
		MS $X_{\alpha}$	3.2	Present work
CuCl <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	D <sub>4b</sub>	SCC EH	5.0	Present work
		MS $X_{\alpha}$	3.3	Present work
CuBr <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	D <sub>4b</sub>	ms X <sub>a</sub>	3.4	Present work
CuF <sub>6</sub> <sup>4</sup>	D <sub>4b</sub> <sup>a</sup>	SCC EH	4.7	Present work
		MS $X_{\alpha}$	4.1	Present work
CuCl <sub>6</sub> <sup>4</sup>	D <sub>4b</sub> <sup>a</sup>	SCC EH	4.3	Present work
		мs X <sub>а</sub>	3.2	Present work

**Table 1.** Theoretical values of the exponent n (defined in (3)) found for different complexes using Hartree-Fock-Roothaan (HFR), SCC EH or  $X_{\alpha}$ -type methods.

<sup>a</sup> 'Elongated octahedral' geometry where the four equatorial ligands are closer to the central cation than the two axial ligands are.

through the series of fluoroperovskites doped with  $Mn^{2+}$  [10, 18]. In the case of NiO [16] and  $Al_2O_3$ :  $Cr^{3+}$  [17] *n* values of 5 and 4.5, respectively, have been obtained through the variations induced in the optical spectrum by hydrostatic pressures. In the latter case an *n*-value of 4.5 was derived, however, assuming that the local compressibility is equal to the bulk compressibility.

Bearing in mind all these facts, we have calculated the  $S(a_{1g})$ -values collected in table 2 assuming that, as a reasonable first approximation, n = 5 and taking  $\omega(a_{1g})$ -values from experiment. It is worth noting that, although the *n*-value of 5 is obtained in a pure crystal-field theory, this has to be viewed as a fortuituous coincidence. In fact, crystal-field theory predicts 10Dq-values which are much smaller than experimental data [8].

Let us firstly discuss the  $b_{2g} (\sim xy) \rightarrow b_{1g} (\sim x^2 - y^2)$  transition of the square-planar  $CuCl_4^{2-}$  unit where only the  $a_{1g}$  vibration of the complex can give rise to progressions, as is indeed observed [13]. From the analysis of the intensity of nine peaks resolved at 10 K an  $S(a_{1g})$ -value of 3.7 has been derived [13] which is close to our calculated value. In (MetH)<sub>2</sub>CuCl<sub>4</sub>, however, no luminescence has been reported which prevents the comparison of the Stokes shift with our calculated  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1g})$ -value.

In all other systems included in table 2, luminescence has been observed although vibrational progressions exhibit a more complex pattern. This means that there is a possibility of coupling to other even modes (and especially to the eg Jahn-Teller mode of the octahedral complex) as well as the possibility of the existence of several false origins.

			Reference	ادرا	5 K) [4,5]	5 K) [5]	0 K) [9] 0 K) [9]	rr) [10, 12]	70 K) [11]	
מוכ הומושי			$\Delta E_t$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	١	[7]	2200 (1	1910 (1	1350 (1	2936 (	
plex is D4h squ			$\Delta E_{\rm 0}^0({\rm a_{1g}}) \\ ({\rm cm^{-1}})$	2365	1460 (RT) 1260	0/11	096	1060 390	470	
the CuCl <sup>2</sup> com		(a <sub>1g</sub> )	Experimental	60	3. <sup>4</sup> 1550	1.6	4	4.5	2.4	
2CuCla where		Ň	Calculated		4.3	2.1	3.2 2.0	7.4	1.0 1.0	
permentation of (MetH); geometry.	geomeny.		10Dq	(rm)	12 480 1 4	13 000	12 400 9330	0006	8220 6700	
he exception	octahedra		ћш(a <sub>1</sub> g)	(cu) .)	275	298	183	240 220	540 734	5
lluces of a en. With t	is a local		•	(¥)	2.26	550 7.45	2.60	2.50	2.08	107
experiment. The va	the complex exhibit		System		(Met H)2OuCl4	Rb2KGaF6:Cr <sup>+</sup>	Cs2NaIIIC46-Ct Cs2NaYBr6:Cr3+	MgCl <sub>2</sub> :V <sup>2+</sup>	KZnF3:Mn <sup>2+</sup>	MnCl <sub>2</sub>

Table 1. Calculated values of  $S(a_{1_1})$  and  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1_5})$  using equation (7), assuming n = 5 and taking  $\omega(a_{1_5})$  and 10Dq from trable 1. Calculated values of  $S(a_{1_4})$  and  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1_5})$  using equation (7), assuming n = 5 and taking  $\omega(a_{1_5})$  and 10Dq from experiment. The values of available experimental Stokes shifts (measured at the temperatures indicated in parentheses) and experiment. The values of available experimental Stokes shifts (measured at the temperatures indicated in parentheses) and

Comparing our calculated values of  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1g})$  with the corresponding Stokes shifts  $\Delta E_s$  found experimentally, we note that  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1g}) < \Delta E_s$  as it should in view of (2).

In the case of  $Cr^{3+}$  systems with  ${}^{4}T_{2g}$  as the first excited state, we see that our calculated  $S(a_{1g})$ -value of 2.1 for CsNaInCl<sub>6</sub>:Cr<sup>3+</sup> is reasonably close to the experimental estimation of  $S(a_{1g}) = 1.6$ . Furthermore our results indicate that the contribution of  $\Delta E_{s}^{0}(a_{1g})$  to the Stokes shift  $\Delta E_{s}$  lies between 50 and 70%. This concurs with the experimental finding for CsNaInCl<sub>6</sub>:Cr<sup>3+</sup> where it has been found [4, 5] that  $\Delta E_{s}^{0}$  is essentially given by

$$\Delta E_{\rm s}^0 = \Delta E_{\rm s}^0(a_{1\rm g}) + \Delta E_{\rm s}^0(e_{\rm g}) \tag{8}$$

and  $\Delta E_{s}^{0}(a_{1g}) = 955 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\Delta E_{s}^{0}(e_{g}) = 625 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

As regards MgCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup> our calculated value  $S(a_{1g}) = 2.0$  is smaller than  $S(a_{1g}) = 4.0$ estimated [9] from the relative intensity of first peaks of the corresponding progression. We believe, however, that the latter value is an overestimation as, if  $S(a_{1g}) = 4$ , then  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1g}) = 1920 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  which is almost equal to the Stokes shift measured at 10 K, thus implying that no progressions associated with the  $e_g$  Jahn-Teller mode of VCl<sub>6</sub><sup>4-</sup> exist. Nevertheless Galli *et al* [9] observe such progressions, estimating that  $S(e_g) =$ 1.0. Therefore, taking into account equations (2) and (8) and the reported values  $S(e_g) =$ 1.0,  $\hbar\omega(e_g) = 209 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\Delta E_s = 1910 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at 10 K we find that  $\Delta E_s^0(e_g) =$ 420 cm<sup>-1</sup> and thus  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1g}) < 1490 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $S(a_{1g}) < 3.1$ . The latter value is now more compatible with  $S(a_{1g}) = 2.0$  calculated under the assumption that n = 5.

Concerning KZnF<sub>3</sub>:Mn<sup>2+</sup> the inspection of the luminescence spectrum obtained by Rodríguez *et al* [12] indicates that  $S(a_{1g})$  is likely to be smaller than unity although an estimation of it has not been reported. Nevertheless  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1g})$  can be determined indirectly from the experimental value  $\Delta E_s = 1350 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  measured at room temperature and use of (8). The  $\Delta E_s^0(e_g)$ -value of 900 cm<sup>-1</sup> is obtained from  $S(e_g)$ = 1.5 measured experimentally [12] through the reduction in the spin-orbit coupling coefficient due to the Ham effect. A similar value was found for RbMnF<sub>3</sub> [22]. Thus, if we take into account equation (8), a  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{1g})$ -value of 450 cm<sup>-1</sup> is derived which is not far from the calculated value in table 2.

All this then support the fact that at variance with findings for  $d^3$  systems,  $S(e_g)$  for  $MnF_6^{4-}$  can be a factor of about 3 higher than  $S(a_{1g})$ . A similar situation would arise for  $MnCl_2$  where indirect estimations by Ronda *et al* [11] lead to  $S(e_g)/S(a_{1g}) = 4.9$ .

As regards the dependence of  $S(a_{1g})$  upon the ligand nature, table 2 shows that, for  $Cr^{3+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$  complexes,  $S(a_{1g})$  increases when we go through the ligand series  $F^- \rightarrow Cl^- \rightarrow Br^-$ . Taking into account (5) and (7), now we can say that this increase is due to the significant decrease in both the force constant  $K(a_{1g})$  and  $\omega(a_{1g})$  on going through the series, which is not balanced by the decrease experienced by  $(10Dq)^2$  and  $R_0^{-2}$ . In fact the relative values of  $K(a_{1g})$ ,  $\omega(a_{1g})$  and 10Dq through the series of complexes  $MF_6 \rightarrow MCl_6 \rightarrow MBr_6$  are roughly as follows [23, 24]:

$K(a_{1g}) = 1$	$\omega(a_{1g}) = 1$	10Dq = 1	for F <sup>-</sup>
$K(\mathbf{a_{1g}}) = 0.60$	$\omega(\mathbf{a}_{1g}) = 0.55$	10Dq = 0.87	for Cl <sup>-</sup>
$K(\mathbf{a}_{1g}) = 0.48$	$\omega(a_{1g}) = 0.35$	10Dq = 0.80	for Br <sup>-</sup> .

Therefore the increase experienced by  $S(a_{1g})$  along the ligand series permits one to understand why the Stokes shift for  $Cs_2NaYBr_6:Cr^{3+}$  is close to that for  $Rb_2KGaF_6:Cr^{3+}$ although local stretching frequencies for the former are about one third of those for the latter.

Let us now briefly discuss the dependence of  $S(a_{1g})$  upon  $R_0$  for a given complex which can be experimentally measured either by changing the host lattice or by applying an external hydrostatic pressure. The dependence of  $\omega(a_{1g})$  upon  $R_0$  follows the Grüneisen relation

$$\partial(\ln \omega)/\partial(\ln R_0) = -3\gamma.$$
 (9)

Therefore taking into account equations (3), (7) and (9) we finally obtain

$$S(\mathbf{a}_{1g}) \propto R_0^{9\gamma - 2(n+1)}$$
. (10)

As the Grüneisen coefficient  $\gamma$  for stretching modes is positive and normally lies between 2 and 3 [25, 26] we expect that, if  $n \simeq 5$ , then the exponent  $9\gamma - 2(n + 1)$  in (10) is clearly positive and so  $S(a_{1g})$  should increase upon increasing the metal-ligand distance  $R_0$ . This conclusion is well supported by experimental data on MgCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup> and CdCl<sub>2</sub>:  $V^{2+}$  gathered in table 2. In fact, MgCl<sub>2</sub>:  $V^{2+}$  exhibits a 10Dq-value which is 330 cm<sup>-1</sup> higher than that of CdCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup>. Following equation (3) and taking n = 5, such a difference would correspond to  $\Delta R_0 \simeq 0.02$  Å between the  $R_0$ -values for CdCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup> and  $MgCl_2:V^{2+}$ . This is quite consistent with findings for substitutional impurities placed in a series of similar lattices where  $R_0$ -values are normally ordered as the corresponding values  $R_p$  of the perfect lattice [8]. Furthermore this idea is reinforced by the smaller  $\hbar\omega(a_{1g})$ -value of 220 cm<sup>-1</sup> shown by CdCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup> compared with  $\hbar\omega(a_{1g}) = 240$  cm<sup>-1</sup> for MgCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup>. The difference  $\hbar\Delta \omega(a_{1g}) = -20 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  between them is compatible with (9),  $\gamma \simeq 3$  and again  $\Delta R_0 \simeq 0.02$  Å. Our calculated values give a ratio of  $S(a_{1g})$ for CdCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup> to  $S(a_{1g})$  for MgCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup> equal to 1.2, which compares well with the experimental estimation (table 2). Furthermore in these cases an increase in  $S(e_p)$  upon increasing  $R_0$  has also been reported by Galli et al [9] who find that  $S(e_g) = 1.7$  for  $CdCl_2:V^{2+}$  while  $S(e_g) = 1.0$  for  $MgCl_2:V^{2+}$ .

It is worth noting that the dependence of Huang-Rhys factors upon  $R_0$  could also give rise to an increase in  $\Delta E_s$  as the metal-ligand distance is increased. In fact as regards the dependence of  $\Delta E_s^0(a_{12})$  upon  $R_0$  it is given by

$$\Delta E_s^0(\mathbf{a_{1g}}) \propto R_0^{6\gamma - 2(n+1)}.$$
(11)

Considering again the two systems in table 2 involving VCl<sub>6</sub><sup>4-</sup> units and assuming that  $\gamma = 3$  and n = 5, we find that  $\Delta E_s^0(\mathbf{a}_{1g}) \propto R_0^6$ . This result is thus compatible with the experimental increase  $\delta(\Delta E_s) = 340 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  on going from MgCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup> to CdCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup> although the calculated  $\delta[\Delta E_s^0(\mathbf{a}_{1g})]$ -value is only 100 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Furthermore, taking into account the estimated values of  $S(\mathbf{e}_g)$  as well as  $\hbar\omega(\mathbf{e}_g) = 209 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for MgCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup> and  $\hbar\omega(\mathbf{e}_g) = 185 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for CdCl<sub>2</sub>:V<sup>2+</sup>, we find that  $\delta[\Delta E_s^0(\mathbf{e}_g)] = 210 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; so the experimental increase  $\delta(\Delta E_s) = 340 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  can reasonably be understood.

In the case of  $Mn^{2+}$ -doped fluoroperovskites it has been observed [10] that, at room temperature,  $\Delta E_s = 1675 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for RbCdF<sub>3</sub>:Mn<sup>2+</sup> which is 320 cm<sup>-1</sup> higher than the value in table 2 for KZnF<sub>3</sub>:Mn<sup>2+</sup>. Therefore, as the metal-ligand distances  $R_0 = 2.13 \text{ Å}$  for RbCdF<sub>3</sub>:Mn<sup>2+</sup> and  $R_0 = 2.08 \text{ Å}$  for KZnF<sub>3</sub>:Mn<sup>2+</sup> have been derived by

three independent methods [10, 27] a similar situation to that observed for  $V^{2+}$  chlorides is again encountered. Therefore, for  $MnF_6^{4-}$  in fluoroperovskites,  $S(a_{1g})$  would also increase as  $R_0$  increases.

Although the results reported here are encouraging, further efforts are necessary for a better understanding of electron-phonon coupling in TM impurities. The achievement of precise values of the exponent n, the calculation of the Huang-Rhys factor of the Jahn-Teller mode  $e_g$  and the extension of the analysis carried out in this work to a larger number of systems are among the goals for the near future.

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