

Electronic Structure and Spatial Arrangement of C_{2v} -Coordinated Ferric Iron in Metmyoglobin, Metmyoglobin Fluoride, and Methemoglobin

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Electronic Structure, Metmyoglobin, Metmyoglobin Fluoride, Methemoglobin

The electronic term scheme of ferric iron in metmyoglobin, metmyoglobin fluoride, and methemoglobin is evaluated by a Hamiltonian which involves the Coulomb repulsion of the 3d electrons, their interaction with the C_{2v} -coordinated ligands, and spin-orbit coupling. The adjustable parameters of the theory were determined by a least squares fit to experimental EPR, susceptibility, and far-infrared data reported in the literature. According to these results, the structural properties of the ferric ion and its neighboring ligands were discussed by means of group theoretical arguments: An increasing out of plane position of the ferric ion is found in the sequence metHb—metMb—MbF which corresponds to an increasing binding strength with the axial ligands.

I. Introduction

A great deal of experimental work has been done during the past years to determine the electronic structure of the ferric ion in biological substances. At the present state of our understanding, three methods proved to yield most valuable information regarding the low-lying energy levels within the $3d^5$ configuration of the ferric ion — the electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR), the measurement of static paramagnetic susceptibilities, and the techniques of far-infrared Fourier transform spectroscopy. However, the common interpretation of the experimental results in terms of the spin Hamiltonian formalism gives no insight in the detailed structure of the ferric system. This formalism acts only as a tabulation scheme in order to catalog the experimental results with fortuitous accuracy, depending on the number of adjustable parameters. In attempting to improve on this prescriptive approach, Harris *et al.*^{1–4} evaluated within the basis set of three total five-electron multiplets $^6A_1(t_2^3 e^2)$, $^4T_1(t_2^4 e)$ and $^2T_2(t_2^5)$ the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the low-lying Kramers doublets of the ferric ion by means of a Hamiltonian which takes into account the Coulomb repulsion between the five 3d-electrons, the interaction with the C_{4v} -coordinated ligands, and spin-orbit coupling. This calcu-

lation is a function of certain parameters which were varied until the best fit with experimental data was obtained. It should be noticed, however, that this basis set is only a suitable starting point in the limit of a strong octahedral ligand field, where contributions of the lower C_{4v} -symmetry to the Hamiltonian are sufficiently small. From the well known structural properties of the porphyrin compounds it is obvious that at least the sixth coordination of the ferric ion is occupied by a ligand with deviating binding strength. For that reason, the adjusted parameters of the strong octahedral field approximation are related with limited accuracy to the corresponding physical interactions of the ferric system. On the other hand, the low-lying energy levels of the $3d^6$ configuration in Fe^{2+} -porphyrin compounds were calculated within a basis set reflecting exactly the C_{4v} point symmetry of the ferrous ion⁵. A small rhombic perturbation and spin-orbit coupling were handled as perturbations and the inherent parameters of the theory were successfully adjusted to the temperature dependent quadrupole splittings and susceptibility measurements by a least squares fit procedure^{6–9}. Thus, the aim of the present paper is to carry over this concept to the $3d^5$ configuration of C_{2v} -coordinated Fe^{3+} in biological systems, so that the experimental results on ferrous and ferric porphyrin compounds can be discussed simultaneously. In Sec. II the formalism of the theory will be applied to the $3d^5$ configuration of C_{2v} -coordinated ferric iron and the results

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obtained are put into a form more suitable for numerical computations. Sec. III includes a discussion of the electronic structure and the spatial arrangement of the ferric ion in metmyoglobin (Mb), metmyoglobin fluororide (MbF), and methemoglobin (Hb). The adjustable parameters of the theory are obtained by a least squares fit to temperature dependent magnetic susceptibility data¹⁰, far-infrared data¹¹, and frequency dependent EPR data, where the anisotropy of the g -tensor in the hem plane is observed with high accuracy^{12, 13}.

II. Theory

The basis set of the $3d^5$ configuration is given by the following total five-electron multiplets $(2S+1)L$, where $(2S+1)$ is the spin multiplicity, L the angular quantum number, and v the seniority number^{14, 15}

$$\begin{aligned} S=5/2: & \frac{6}{5}S; \\ S=3/2: & \frac{4}{3}P, \frac{4}{5}D, \frac{4}{3}F, \frac{4}{5}G; \\ S=1/2: & \frac{2}{5}S, \frac{2}{3}P, \frac{2}{1}D, \frac{2}{3}D, \frac{2}{5}D, \frac{2}{3}F, \frac{2}{5}F, \frac{2}{3}G, \frac{2}{5}G, \frac{2}{3}H, \frac{2}{5}I. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

In a first step we diagonalize this basis set by means of a Hamiltonian which takes into account the approximate C_{4v} point symmetry of the iron cation and the Coulomb repulsion between the 3d electrons. The first part of the Hamiltonian

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_1 = & (2/7)^{1/2} (\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1) \hat{V}_0^{(2)} \\ & + (1/70)^{1/2} (\varepsilon_3 + 6\varepsilon_2 - 8\varepsilon_1) \hat{V}_0^{(4)} \\ & + 1/2 \varepsilon_3 (\hat{V}_4^{(4)} + \hat{V}_{-4}^{(4)}), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

is determined by the energy gaps ε_μ of the anti-bonding single 3d electron orbitals

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_1 &= E(3d_{xz, yz}) - E(3d_{xy}), \\ \varepsilon_2 &= E(3d_{z^2}) - E(3d_{xy}), \\ \varepsilon_3 &= E(3d_{x^2-y^2}) - E(3d_{xy}). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The second part is given by

$$\hat{H}_2 = \hat{e}_1 E_1 + \hat{e}_2 E_2, \quad (4)$$

where the coefficients E_1 and E_2 are certain linear combinations of the Slater integrals⁵ (we refer to this paper for definitions, notation, and discussions). As in the case of the ferrous system, we choose these coefficients to be $E_1 = 4918 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $E_2 = 403 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; deviations from the exact values yield only a renormalization of the energy scale. The matrix elements of the tensor operator $\hat{V}_q^{(K)}$ are defined by the equation

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle d^5 v, S M_s, L M_L | \hat{V}_q^{(K)} | d^5 v', S' M'_s, L' M'_L \rangle \\ &= (-1)^{L-M_L} \begin{pmatrix} L & K & L' \\ -M_L & q & M'_L \end{pmatrix} \\ & \langle d^5 v S L || \hat{V}^{(K)} || d^5 v' S' L' \rangle \delta(S S') \delta(M_s M'_s). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The reduced matrix elements of the second rank tensor $\hat{V}^{(2)}$ are proportional to those calculated by Racah¹⁴

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle d^5 v S L || \hat{V}^{(2)} || d^5 v' S' L' \rangle \\ &= (5^{1/2}/35) \langle d^5 v S L || 35 \hat{U}^{(2)} || d^5 v' S' L' \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

and the reduced matrix elements of the tensor operator $\hat{V}^{(4)}$ are listed in Table I. The required matrix elements of the two-particle operators \hat{e}_1 and \hat{e}_2 in Eqn (4) are tabulated in Table II, showing that Coulomb interaction between the five 3d electrons only violates the seniority of the base vectors $\frac{1}{2}D$ and $\frac{3}{2}D$. The secular problem within the $3d^5$ configuration has been worked out *via* computer for the Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_1 + \hat{H}_2$, depending on the three energy gaps ε_μ ; reasonable values of these parameters for C_{2v} -coordinated Fe^{3+} in porphyrins and related compounds are given by

$$\begin{aligned} 22000 \text{ cm}^{-1} &\lesssim \varepsilon_3 < 28000 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \\ 0.4 \varepsilon_3 &< \varepsilon_2 < 0.8 \varepsilon_3, \\ -200 \text{ cm}^{-1} &< \varepsilon_1 < 800 \text{ cm}^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Figure 1 shows the positions of the low-lying energy levels 6A_1 , 4A_2 , 4E , 2B_2 , and 2E . In order to under-

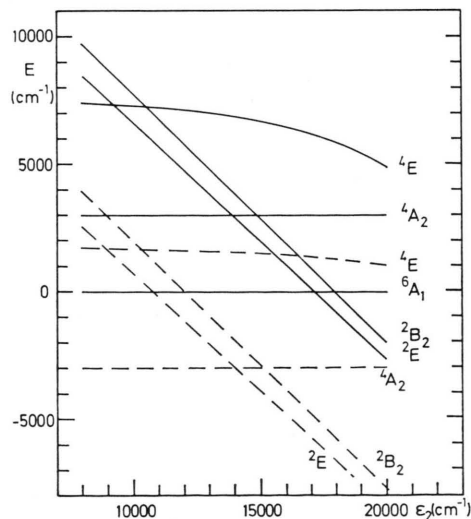


Fig. 1. Computer results for the low-energy spectrum within the $3d^5$ configuration of C_{4v} -coordinated Fe^{3+} , plotted as a function of the energy gap ε_2 . The solid and the dashed lines represent two different calculations using the parameters $\varepsilon_1 = 600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\varepsilon_3 = 22000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, and $\varepsilon_1 = 600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\varepsilon_3 = 28000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, respectively.

$S=5/2:$	$\langle d^5, {}^6S \parallel \hat{V}^{(4)} \parallel d^5, {}^6S \rangle = 0.$			
$S=3/2:$	4P	4D	4F	4G
4P	0	0	0	$3(2)^{1/2}$
4D	0	0	$-3(10/7)^{1/2}$	0
4F	0	$3(10/7)^{1/2}$	0	$3(11/7)^{1/2}$
4G	$-3(2)^{1/2}$	0	$-3(11/7)^{1/2}$	0

Table I. The reduced matrix elements $\langle d^5 v S L \parallel \hat{V}^{(4)} \parallel d^5 v' S L' \rangle$ between the different terms $({}^{2S+1})_v L$ of the configuration $3d^5$.

$S=1/2$	2S	2P	2D	2D	2D
2S	0	0	0	0	0
2P	0	0	0	0	0
2D	0	0	0	$(-5/7)(7)^{1/2}$	0
2D	0	0	$(-5/7)(7)^{1/2}$	0	$(10/7)(2)^{1/2}$
2D	0	0	0	$(10/7)(2)^{1/2}$	0
2F	0	0	$(10)^{1/2}$	0	$(35/4)^{1/2}$
2F	0	$(9/14)(7)^{1/2}$	0	$(11/14)(14)^{1/2}$	0
2G	$2(6/7)^{1/2}$	0	$3(22/21)^{1/2}$	0	$(-3/14)(11/3)^{1/2}$
2G	0	$-3(11/28)^{1/2}$	0	$(9/7)(5/2)^{1/2}$	0
2H	0	0	$-(22)^{1/2}$	0	$-2(11/7)^{1/2}$
2I	0	0	0	$2(13/7)^{1/2}$	0

stand the relation between the particular low energy spectrum and the parameters ε_μ , we computed a variety of spectra which are not shown in this paper. From those we deduced the following empirical formulas

$$\begin{aligned}
 E({}^6A_1) &= 0, \\
 E({}^4A_2) &= 24765 - 0.99 \varepsilon_3, \\
 E({}^2E) &= 36960 + 0.96 \varepsilon_1 - 0.93 \varepsilon_2 - 0.98 \varepsilon_3, \\
 E({}^2B_2) &= 37570 + 1.90 \varepsilon_1 - 0.98 \varepsilon_2 - 0.96 \varepsilon_3, \\
 E({}^4E) &= 26480 + 0.96 \varepsilon_1 - 0.12 \varepsilon_2 - 0.85 \varepsilon_3,
 \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where the energies are given in units of cm^{-1} . The eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the 4A_2 level depend solely upon ε_3 . According to Eqns (7) and (8), the 4E level lies at least 3400 cm^{-1} above the particular ground state, so that this term contributes only slightly to our further computations.

In the second step of the calculation, the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the low-lying levels 6A_1 , 4A_2 , 2E , 2B_2 , and 4E , still dependent on the adjustable parameters ε_μ , are used as base vectors

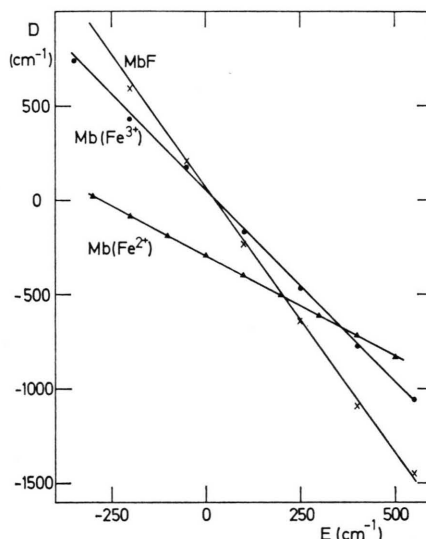


Fig. 2. Correlation between the two rhombic parameters D and E for MbF, metMb, and Mb(Fe^{2+}) obtained by a least squares fit to the experimental data. In the case of Mb(Fe^{2+}), the experimental data include temperature dependent susceptibility, field dependent magnetization, and Mössbauer measurements⁹.

Table II. Matrix elements of the two-particle operators \hat{e}_1 and \hat{e}_2 for the multiplets of the configuration $3d^5$.

Diagonal matrix elements																
	6S	4P	4D	4F	4G	2S	2P	2D	2D	2D	2F	2F	2G	2G	2H	2I
\hat{e}_1	0	7	5	7	5	8	10	14	10	8	10	8	10	8	10	8
\hat{e}_2	0	-21	9	9	-5	24	60	0	12	18	-30	12	26	4	-24	-18

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{Nondiagonal matrix element} \\
 &\langle 3d^5, {}^1D \mid \hat{e}_2 \mid 3d^5, {}^3D \rangle = -12(14)^{1/2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

for the diagonalization of the relatively weak spin-orbit interaction \hat{H}_3 and rhombic perturbation \hat{H}_4 . The relevant matrix elements for spin-orbit interaction

$$\hat{H}_3 = \xi \sum_{i,q} (-1)^q \hat{s}_q^{(1)} \hat{l}_{-q}^{(1)} \quad (9)$$

in analogy to our previous papers^{5, 6, 8, 9}, so that the matrix element with the ferrous high-spin state 5E is simply given by

$$\langle 3d^6, ^5E_+ | \hat{H}_4 | 3d^6, ^5E_- \rangle = D + E. \quad (12a)$$

Thus, rhombic perturbation splits the single

3F	3F	3G	3G	3H	3I
0	0	$2(6/7)^{1/2}$	0	0	0
0	$(9/14)(7)^{1/2}$	0	$3(11/28)^{1/2}$	0	0
$-(10)^{1/2}$	0	$3(22/21)^{1/2}$	0	$(22)^{1/2}$	0
0	$(-11/14)(14)^{1/2}$	0	$(9/7)(5/2)^{1/2}$	0	$2(13/7)^{1/2}$
$(-1/2)(35)^{1/2}$	0	$(-3/14)(11/3)^{1/2}$	0	$2(11/7)^{1/2}$	0
0	$(-11/4)^{1/2}$	0	$(3/2)(7)^{1/2}$	0	$(-7/2)(13/7)^{1/2}$
$-(11/4)^{1/2}$	0	$(3/2)(33/7)^{1/2}$	0	$-(143/28)^{1/2}$	0
0	$(-3/2)(33/7)^{1/2}$	0	$(-9/14)(39)^{1/2}$	0	$-(39/28)^{1/2}$
$(-3/2)(7)^{1/2}$	0	$(-9/14)(39)^{1/2}$	0	$-3(13/28)^{1/2}$	0
0	$-(143/28)^{1/2}$	0	$3(13/28)^{1/2}$	0	$-2(13)^{1/2}$
$(7/2)(13/7)^{1/2}$	0	$-(39/28)^{1/2}$	0	$2(13)^{1/2}$	0

are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle d^5 v S M_s L M_L | \sum_i \hat{s}_i^{(1)} \hat{l}_{-i}^{(1)} | d^5 v' S' M'_s L' M'_L \rangle \\ = (-1)^{S-M_s} \begin{pmatrix} S & 1 & S' \\ -M_s & q & M'_s \end{pmatrix} (-1)^{L-M_L} \begin{pmatrix} L & 1 & L' \\ -M_L & -q & M'_L \end{pmatrix} \\ \langle d^5 v S L \| \sum_i \hat{s}_i^{(1)} \hat{l}_i^{(1)} \| d^5 v' S' L' \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where the reduced matrix elements are equal to those given by Racah¹⁴

$$\begin{aligned} \langle d^5 v S L \| \sum_i \hat{s}_i^{(1)} \hat{l}_i^{(1)} \| d^5 v' S' L' \rangle \\ = \langle d^5 v S L \| (30)^{1/2} \hat{V}^{(11)} \| d^5 v' S' L' \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

The coupling constant ξ is a fit parameter, too. As in the case of the ferrous ion⁸, a reduction of the free ion value $\xi_0 = 420 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ by approximately a factor of 0.7 is expected in the ferric porphyrin compounds.

The analysis⁸ of the single crystal experiment on Mb(Fe^{2+})¹⁶ yielded that the principal axes x and y of the electric field gradient (efg) tensor are oriented along the NVL 416–NPR 418 and NVR 415–NPL 417 directions of the pyrrole nitrogens, respectively, indicating that rhombic perturbation lowers the C_{4v} point symmetry of the iron cation to C_{2v} . In this case, the Hamiltonian \hat{H}_4 is given by^{9, *}

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_4 = (7/3)^{1/2} D (\hat{V}_2^{(2)} + \hat{V}_{-2}^{(2)}) \\ - (7/4)^{1/2} E (\hat{V}_2^{(4)} + \hat{V}_{-2}^{(4)}), \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where the relevant matrix elements are defined in Eqn (5). The coefficients of Eqn (12) are chosen

electron doublet ($3d_{xz,yz}$) by an amount of $2(D+E)$, because, within the $3d^6$ configuration, the single electron orbitals and their associated high-spin levels are identical. In principle, the two parameters D and E can be determined from the rhombic splittings of the orbital degenerate base vectors 2E and 4E . However, the low-lying Kramers doublets which will be correlated to EPR, far-infrared, and susceptibility data, are insensitive to the rhombic splitting of the high-lying 4E term. For that reason we can only fix a certain linear combination of D and E from those experiments. On the other hand, the analysis of experimental data in Sec. III indicates that the rhombic parameters are similar for ferric and ferrous hem compounds; this assumption allows to fix the two parameters

* Note that the principal axes x and y of the efg and of the g -tensor are always parallel to the hem plane for rhombic symmetry. However, in the general case of C_2 -symmetry, when the principal axes do not point towards the pyrrole nitrogen positions, one must add two further terms to \hat{H}_4 : $i(7/3)^{1/2} D' (\hat{V}_2^{(2)} - \hat{V}_{-2}^{(2)}) - i(7/4)^{1/2} E' (\hat{V}_2^{(4)} - \hat{V}_{-2}^{(4)})$, which give rise to complex matrix elements. In the remainder of the paper we neglect these additional terms assuming C_{2v} point symmetry of the ferrous and ferric cation in hem compounds.

separately. As mentioned above, the required matrix elements of $\hat{H}_3 + \hat{H}_4$ with the base-vectors depend implicitly upon the parameters ε_1 , ε_2 , and ε_3 . In the Appendix, these matrix elements are put into a form suitable for numerical computations.

$$\begin{aligned} |a, \pm\rangle = & x_{a1} |^6A_1, \pm 5/2\rangle + x_{a2} |^6A_1, \mp 3/2\rangle + x_{a3} |^4A_2, \mp 3/2\rangle \\ & \pm x_{a4} |^4E_{\pm}, \mp 1/2\rangle \pm x_{a5} |^4E_{\mp}, \pm 3/2\rangle \pm x_{a6} |^2B_2, \pm 1/2\rangle \\ & + x_{a7} |^2E_{\mp}, \mp 1/2\rangle + x_{a8} |^6A_1, \pm 1/2\rangle + x_{a9} |^4A_2, \pm 1/2\rangle \\ & \pm x_{a10} |^4E_{\pm}, \pm 3/2\rangle \pm x_{a11} |^4E_{\mp}, \mp 1/2\rangle + x_{a12} |^2E_{\pm}, \mp 1/2\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The eigenvalues E_a and the eigenvectors $x_{a\mu}$ of the Kramers doublets depend upon the six adjustable parameters ε_1 , ε_2 , ε_3 , ξ , D , and E . If we calculate in a final step the g -tensor and the paramagnetic susceptibility as a function of E_a and $x_{a\mu}$, then we can evidently fit the six parameters, at least in principle, to the corresponding experimental results.

The interaction with an external magnetic field \mathbf{H} may be treated as a perturbation; its corresponding Hamiltonian \hat{H}_5 is given by

$$\hat{H}_5 = \beta_0 \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{L} + g_0 \mathbf{S}), \quad (14)$$

where $\beta_0 = 0.4669(\text{cm}^{-1}/\text{T})$ is the Bohr magneton (1 Tesla = 10 KG), and $g_0 = 2.0023$ is the electronic g factor. It is straightforward to evaluate the relevant matrix elements of the operator $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{L} + g_0 \mathbf{S}$ within the Kramers doublets of Eqn (13). The contribution of the orbital angular momentum \mathbf{L} which depends implicitly upon ε_1 , ε_2 , and ε_3 is listed in the Appendix, though it becomes strongly quenched by the interactions \hat{H}_1 and \hat{H}_4 . On writing

$$\begin{aligned} \langle a, \pm | \hat{J}_x | \beta, \pm \rangle &= 0, \\ \langle a, \pm | \hat{J}_x | \beta, \mp \rangle &= C_{\alpha\beta}^x, \end{aligned}$$

The diagonalization of $\hat{H}_3 + \hat{H}_4$ within the basis set gives rise to 12 Kramers doublets $|a=1 \dots 12, \pm\rangle$ which are certain linear combinations of the base vectors

$$\begin{aligned} \langle a, \pm | \hat{J}_y | \beta, \pm \rangle &= 0, \\ \langle a, \pm | \hat{J}_y | \beta, \mp \rangle &= \pm i C_{\alpha\beta}^y, \\ \langle a, \pm | \hat{J}_z | \beta, \pm \rangle &= \pm C_{\alpha\beta}^z, \\ \langle a, \pm | \hat{J}_z | \beta, \mp \rangle &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where the $C_{\alpha\beta}^i$ are functions of $x_{a\mu}$ and $x_{\beta\nu}$, we obtain by perturbation theory up to second order the magnetic field dependent g -tensor components g_{α}^i of the Kramers doublets $|a, \pm\rangle$

$$g_{\alpha}^i = 2 C_{\alpha\alpha}^i - 2 (\beta_0 H^i)^2 \sum_{\beta \neq \alpha} \frac{(C_{\alpha\beta}^i)^2 (C_{\alpha\alpha}^i - C_{\beta\beta}^i)}{(E_{\alpha} - E_{\beta})^2}. \quad (16)$$

The superscript i corresponds to x , y , z , respectively. The paramagnetic susceptibility can be derived in a similar way. With the aid of the abbreviations

$$\lambda_{\alpha\pm}^i = \sum_{\beta \neq \alpha} \frac{(C_{\alpha\beta}^i)^2}{(E_{\alpha} - E_{\beta}) \pm \beta_0 H^i (C_{\alpha\alpha}^i - C_{\beta\beta}^i)} \quad (17a)$$

and

$$E_{\alpha\pm}^i = E_{\alpha} \pm \beta_0 H^i C_{\alpha\alpha}^i + (\beta_0 H^i)^2 \lambda_{\alpha\pm}^i, \quad (17b)$$

the susceptibility X^i becomes

$$\begin{aligned} X^i(T) = & (N \beta_0 / H^i) \sum_{\alpha} [(C_{\alpha\alpha}^i - 2 \beta_0 H^i \lambda_{\alpha-}^i) \exp(-E_{\alpha-}^i / kT) \\ & - (C_{\alpha\alpha}^i + 2 \beta_0 H^i \lambda_{\alpha+}^i) \exp(-E_{\alpha+}^i / kT)] / \sum_{\alpha} [\exp(-E_{\alpha-}^i / kT) + \exp(-E_{\alpha+}^i / kT)], \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where N is Avogadro's number, and H^i is the i th component of the applied magnetic field. The magnetic susceptibility observed for a random sample is

$$\bar{X}(T) = 1/3 (X^x + X^y + X^z). \quad (19)$$

III. Analysis of Experimental Data for Metmyoglobin, Metmyoglobin Fluoride, and Methemoglobin

The available frequency range for the far-infrared measurements of these compounds¹¹ was approxi-

mately $3.5 - 16 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The spectra show absorptions corresponding to the Zeeman splitting of the ground doublet $\Delta E_1(H)$ in applied fields up to 52.2 kOe. According to Eqn (16), this splitting is given by

$$\Delta E_1^i = g_1^i \beta_0 H^i. \quad (20)$$

It should be noticed, however, than Eqn (16) was derived under the supposition that the Zeeman splittings are small compared with the relative energies of the Kramers doublets. Setting $g_1^i \cong 6$, we find the high-field limit of Eqn (20) to be ap-

proximately 15 kOe and 25 kOe for MbF and metMb, respectively. For that reason, the curves in Figs 4 and 5 were calculated by an exact treatment,

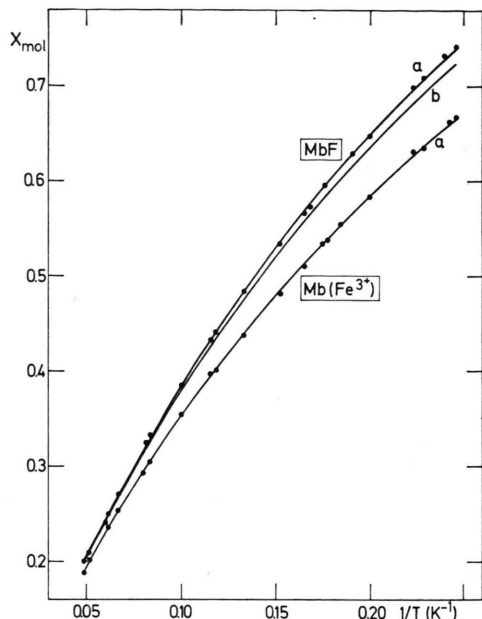


Fig. 3. Paramagnetic susceptibility of metMb and MbF as calculated from the corresponding fits in Tables III and IV. The experimental points were read from Fig. 1 of ref. ¹⁰.

where the interaction \hat{H}_5 is diagonalized together with $\hat{H}_3 + \hat{H}_4$. Absorption corresponding to a zero-field splitting $E_2 - E_1 = 11.88 \pm 0.16 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ between the two lowest Kramers doublets was observed in the spectrum of MbF (in the remainder of the paper we set $E_1 = 0$). However, no absorptions were found in zero field below the maximum frequency limit of $\sim 16 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for metMb and metHb. This observation implies $E_2 \gtrsim 16 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for these complexes; a more accurate estimate of E_2 was deduced from the data for the Zeeman splitting of the ground doublet¹¹, yielding $E_2(\text{metMb}) = 19.0 \pm 3.0 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $E_2(\text{metHb}) \cong 21 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Magnetic susceptibility measurements on random samples of hemoproteins down to 4.2 K have been reported by Tasaki *et al.*¹⁰. The magnitude of the applied field was 12 kOe. The experimental data for metMb ($p_{\text{H}} = 6$) and MbF are shown in Fig. 3 within the accuracy that $X_{\text{exp}}(T)$ can be read from Fig. 1 of ref. ¹⁰. In order to compare the experimental data with the paramagnetic susceptibility $X(T)$ as obtained from Eqns (18) and (19), we must introduce two further parameters n and X_{dia}

$$X_{\text{exp}}(T) = n X(T) + X_{\text{dia}}. \quad (21)$$

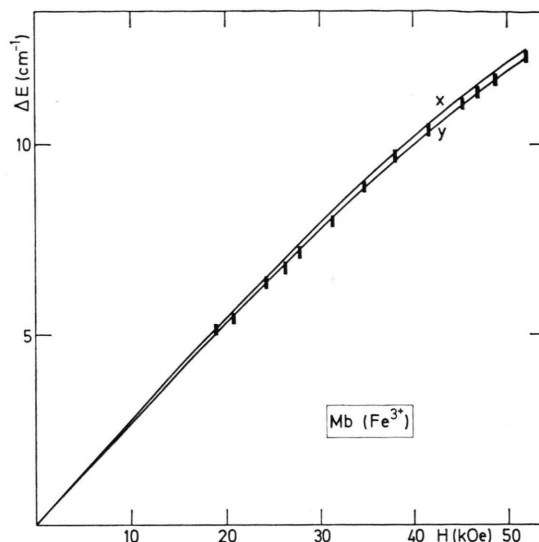


Fig. 4. Zeeman splitting of the ground doublet for metMb as calculated from fit *a* in Table III. The graphs *x* and *y* correspond to magnetic fields applied in the *x* and *y* direction, respectively. The bars are the measured absorption maxima read from Fig. 13 of ref. ¹¹.

The diamagnetic part X_{dia} is a trivial parameter which could be easily determined by the fit procedure, because it is not correlated with the adjustable parameters of the theory. The factor n corrects a possible experimental error by the determination of the number of iron ions in the samples; a conservative estimate is $n = 1.00 \pm 0.02$. The magnetic susceptibility of metHb is considerably smaller than that expected from a high-spin compound. During the course of repeated measurements¹⁷, the value of the susceptibility was found to vary from time to time in the same sample preparation. It is assumed, therefore, that a fluctuating portion of the iron ions of metHb has a low-spin ground state, so that these measurements are unsuitable for our fit procedure.

The g -tensor is defined in the principal axes system (x, y, z) by the corresponding spherical polar angles (ϑ, φ)

$$g(\vartheta, \varphi) = \sqrt{(g_x^2 \cos^2 \varphi + g_y^2 \sin^2 \varphi) \sin^2 \vartheta + g_z^2 \cos^2 \vartheta}. \quad (22)$$

The magnetic field dependent components g_x, g_y, g_z can be evaluated from Eqn (16). Kotani *et al.*¹² have measured the anisotropy of the g -tensor in the hem plane ($\vartheta = \pi/2$) of single crystals of MbF and metMb. From these data (Figs 1 and 2 of ref. ¹²), we determined by a least squares fit the principal

components g_x , g_y and the angles φ which correspond to the maximum g -values ($\vartheta = \pi/2$) in the a b -plane and b c^* -plane, respectively, yielding

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MbF: } g_x(10 \text{ GHz}) &= 6.048 \pm 0.003, \\ g_y(10 \text{ GHz}) &= 5.870 \pm 0.005, \\ \varphi_{ab} &= (20.7 \pm 1.2)^\circ, \\ \varphi_{bc^*} &= (-101.7 \pm 1.2)^\circ, \\ \text{metMb: } g_x(10 \text{ GHz}) &= 5.979 \pm 0.004, \\ g_y(10 \text{ GHz}) &= 5.845 \pm 0.007, \\ \varphi_{ab} &= (14.6 \pm 2.0)^\circ, \\ \varphi_{bc^*} &= (-107.8 \pm 2.0)^\circ. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Additional measurements of the maximum g -values in the a b -plane $g(\vartheta = \pi/2, \varphi_{ab})$ for single type A crystals of metMb and MbF at 34 and 55 GHz were reported by Gray *et al.*¹³ Less accurate measurements on metHb were also reported¹³ for a single type A crystal in the a b - and b c^* -plane, and for the low-field extrema ($\cong g_x$) of a polycrystalline sample. It is assumed in our analysis that the angles φ_{ab} and φ_{bc^*} for metHb are equal to those of metMb. The experimental data are listed in the Tables III – V.

We are now in the position to determine the six adjustable parameters ε_1 , ε_2 , ε_3 , ξ , D , and E of the theory. As outlined in Sec. II, the rhombic perturbation is already defined by a certain linear combination of D and E from those experiments discussed above. Fig. 2 shows the correlation between D and E for MbF, metMb, and ferrous Mb⁹ obtained by the fit procedure. If the rhombic parameters are similar for ferric and ferrous hem compounds, the value of E can be placed in the vicinity of $E \cong 250 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The small π -antibonding^{5,8} energy gap ε_1 does not affect the fit procedure of ferric high-spin hem compounds within an allowed energy range of $100 \text{ cm}^{-1} < \varepsilon_1 < 800 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. It is probable true that ε_1 is slightly larger than in ferrous Mb and HbA, where ε_1 was found to be about 800 cm^{-1} . The spin-orbit coupling constant ξ should have the same value in the various ferric hem complexes. In analogy to ferrous compounds⁸ one expects a value of about 290 cm^{-1} . A free fit to the experimental data of metMb and MbF places ξ in the range $\xi = 300 \pm 25 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. According to this dis-

	Fit a	Fit b	Experim. data
$\varepsilon_2 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	13941 ± 37	13756 ± 65	
$\varepsilon_3 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	23595 ± 38	23617 ± 33	
$D (\text{cm}^{-1})$	-464 ± 25	-496 ± 29	
$g_x(10 \text{ GHz})$	5.981	5.981	5.979 ± 0.004 ref. ¹²
$g_y(10 \text{ GHz})$	5.847	5.847	5.845 ± 0.007 ref. ¹²
$g_{ab}(34 \text{ GHz})$	5.967	5.967	5.971 ± 0.004 ref. ¹³
$g_{ab}(55 \text{ GHz})$	5.956	5.958	5.958 ± 0.005 ref. ¹³
$E_2 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	16.05	17.18	19.0 ± 3.0 ref. ¹¹
$E_3 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	64.93	66.06	
$E(^4A_2) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	1406	1384	
$E(^2E_+) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	1225	1403	
$E(^2E_-) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	901	1025	
$E(^2B_2) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	1636	1797	
$E(^4E) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	4943	4947	

Table III. Least squares results of the fitting procedure for the parameters ε_2 , ε_3 , and D in metMb. The two fits a and b refer to $n=1$ and $n=1.02$ of Eqn (21), respectively. $E_1=0$, E_2 , and E_3 are the relative energies of the three lowest Kramers doublets. The energies $E(^4A_2)$, $E(^2E_+)$, $E(^2B_2)$, and $E(^4E)$ correspond to the base vectors of Eqn (8) in the absence of spin-orbit coupling.

	Fit a	Fit b	Fit c	Experim. data
$\varepsilon_2 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	14572 ± 128	14414 ± 100	14440 ± 135	
$\varepsilon_3 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	22887 ± 113	23016 ± 85	22932 ± 115	
$D (\text{cm}^{-1})$	-639 ± 129	-615 ± 90	-660 ± 140	
$g_x(10 \text{ GHz})$	6.050	6.046	6.048	6.048 ± 0.003 ref. ¹²
$g_y(10 \text{ GHz})$	5.873	5.868	5.873	5.870 ± 0.005 ref. ¹²
$g_{ab}(34 \text{ GHz})$	6.015	6.012	6.014	6.008 ± 0.003 ref. ¹³
$g_{ab}(55 \text{ GHz})$	5.990	5.992	5.992	5.967 ± 0.004 ref. ¹³
$E_2 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	10.83	11.74	11.35	11.88 ± 0.16 ref. ¹¹
$E_3 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	40.18	43.49	41.35	
$E(^4A_2) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	2107	1979	2062	
$E(^2E_+) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	1482	1481	1577	
$E(^2E_-) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	870	901	922	
$E(^2B_2) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	1698	1729	1784	
$E(^4E) (\text{cm}^{-1})$	5470	5379	5447	

Table IV. Least squares results of the fitting procedure for the parameters ε_2 , ε_3 , and D in MbF. The fit criteria of the three fits are described in the text. $E_1=0$, E_2 , and E_3 are the relative energies of the three lowest Kramers doublets. The energies $E(^4A_2)$, $E(^2E_+)$, $E(^2B_2)$, and $E(^4E)$ correspond to the base vectors of Eqn (8) in the absence of spin-orbit coupling.

	Fit	Experim. data (ref. ¹³)
ε_2 (cm ⁻¹)	12455 ± 2260	
ε_3 (cm ⁻¹)	23890 ± 174	
D (cm ⁻¹)	-528 ± 59	
g_x (34 GHz)	5.961	5.990 ± 0.025 polycrystalline
g_x (55 GHz)	5.956	5.98 ± 0.03 polycrystalline
g_{ab} (34 GHz)	5.950	5.938 ± 0.005 single crystal
g_{ab} (55 GHz)	5.946	5.94 ± 0.01 single crystal
g_{bc^*} (34 GHz)	5.810	5.80 ± 0.03 single crystal
E_2 (cm ⁻¹)	23.87	≈ 21 ref. ¹¹
E_3 (cm ⁻¹)	83.20	
$E(^4A_2)$ (cm ⁻¹)	1114	
$E(^2E_+)$ (cm ⁻¹)	2370	
$E(^2E_-)$ (cm ⁻¹)	1944	
$E(^2B_2)$ (cm ⁻¹)	2810	
$E(^4E)$ (cm ⁻¹)	4871	

Table V. Least squares results of the fitting procedure for the parameters ε_2 , ε_3 , and D in metHb. $E_1=0$, E_2 , and E_3 are the relative energies of the three lowest Kramers doublets. The energies $E(^4A_2)$, $E(^2E_+)$, $E(^2E_-)$, $E(^2B_2)$, and $E(^4E)$ correspond to the base vectors of Eqn (8) in the absence of spin-orbit coupling.

cussion, we can reduce the least squares procedure to three of the six adjustable parameters, keeping ε_1 , ξ , and E constant at the nominal values

$$\varepsilon_1 = 200 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \quad \xi = 300 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \quad E = 250 \text{ cm}^{-1}. \quad (24)$$

Small deviations of ε_1 and ξ from these values cause only a slight and systematic modification of the adjustable parameters ε_2 and ε_3 which does not affect our conclusions concerning the spatial arrangement of the ferric ion in these compounds, whereas E is only correlated to the rhombic fit parameter D .

The results of the least squares procedure are summarized in Tables III – V. In the case of metMb (Tab. III), the three parameters ε_2 , ε_3 , and D were varied until the best fit with both the EPR and susceptibility data was obtained; no fit to the estimated value ¹¹ of the zero-field splitting E_2 was included in this procedure. The two fits *a* and *b* refer to $n=1$ and $n=1.02$ of Eqn (21), respectively. The theoretical susceptibilities of both fits correspond, within the accuracy of the drawing, to curve *a* in Fig. 3. Fig. 4 shows the Zeeman splittings of the ground doublet obtained from fit *a*, when the magnetic field is oriented along the *x* and *y* direction, respectively. The measured absorption maxima fit the lower ΔE_1^y curve as expected from physical reasoning. The results for MbF are listed in Table IV. Fit *a* was performed in analogy to fit *a* of metMb, whereas the least squares criteria of fit *b* include the measured zero-field splitting $E_2 = 11.88 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. In neither case is the agreement with both the far-infrared and susceptibility data (curves *a*, *b* of Fig. 3) perfect. It should be noticed, however, that the discrepancies between curve *b* and the experimental data can be removed by choosing

a rather large $n=1.027$ in Eqn (21). Finally, the results of a least squares procedure, including EPR and susceptibility data but no far-infrared data, are shown in fit *c*, when n was also handled as a fit parameter, yielding $n=1.015 \pm 0.004$. Here, the calculated frequencies of the far-infrared absorptions are in accordance with the experimental data as shown in Fig. 5. The only discrepancy between theory and experiment was found for the g_{ab} -value at 55 GHz, which certainly arises from an error due to sample misorientation. The least squares fit criteria for metHb include only EPR data of limited accuracy (Table V) so that the error of the fit parameter ε_2 is exceedingly large, though the calculated zero-field splitting is in reasonable agreement with the estimated value ¹¹ of $E_2 \approx 21 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. This should be kept in mind in the subsequent discussion of the iron geometry relative to the hem plane and to the axial ligands at the 5th and 6th coordination.

In hemoproteins, the iron cation is approximately C_{4v} -coordinated to the four pyrrole nitrogens of the porphyrin ring and to the hem-linked nitrogen atom N_ϵ of histidine F8. The sixth coordination position of the ferric ion is occupied by a water molecule in metMb and metHb or a fluoride ion in MbF. The binding strengths of these ligands with the iron cation are closely related to the energy gaps $\varepsilon_2 = E(3d_{z^2}) - E(3d_{xy})$ and $\varepsilon_3 = E(3d_{x^2-y^2}) - E(3d_{xy})$ between the σ -antibonding $3d_{z^2}$ and $3d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbitals and the nonbonding $3d_{xy}$ orbital. It was shown by means of group theoretical arguments ⁵ that the $3d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbital interacts solely with the porphyrin σ -system, while the $3d_{z^2}$ orbital reacts very sensitively upon the binding strengths of the axial ligands; tight binding of the iron cation with the axial ligands or

the porphyrin ring lifts up the energy ε_2 or ε_3 , respectively. The results of the fitting procedure in Tables III–V yield a decreasing binding strength ε_3 of the ferric ion with the porphyrin ring in the sequence metHb – metMb – MbF which is obviously due to an increasing out of plane position of the iron cation, while its binding strength ε_2 with the axial ligands shows a reversed behaviour. This is consistent with physical reasoning, because the iron geometry relative to the neighboring ligands is governed by the corresponding binding strengths: A lengthening of the distance between the iron and the pyrrole nitrogens in the hem plane is expected, if the binding strength with an axial ligand becomes more dominant. Thus, the more planar situation in metHb compared with metMb is likely caused by a larger displacement of the histidine F8 from the porphyrin ring. This reciprocal relationship between the out of plane position of the iron cation and its bond length with the N_ϵ nitrogen of the proximal histidine which is in contradiction^{9,18} with the Perutz model¹⁹, was also found⁸ for ferrous Mb and HbA. In the ferrous compounds, however, the more planar geometry was observed in Mb.

According to Eqn (8), the binding strength ε_3 determines the energy of the 4A_2 level which is responsible for the zero-field splitting of the lowest Kramers doublets in high-spin compounds *via* spin-orbit coupling. In planar high-spin compounds the low-lying 4A_2 level gives rise to a large zero-field splitting. It is interesting to note that the zero-field splitting for the fluoro derivatives of myoglobin, hemoglobin, and protoheme are very similar¹¹, indicating that the relative large out of plane position of the ferric ion is mainly determined by the strong bonding with the fluoride ion. Consequently, the ferric ion should be shifted towards the fluoride ion in these compounds. On the other hand, the fit data in Table V indicate that the near planar iron in metHb interacts only slightly with its axial ligands. Thus, it seems possible to me that metHb has an inversion motion in analogy to the ammonia molecule NH_3 , so that the ferric ion can vibrate through the center of the hem plane. This should be kept in mind by the analysis of the experimental susceptibility data of metHb which were found to be considerably smaller than those expected for high-spin compounds.

The approach of this paper can also be extended to low-spin compounds. In hemoproteins is the

binding strength of the four pyrrole nitrogens relatively weak, so that the 4A_2 term lies at least $\sim 1100\text{ cm}^{-1}$ above the 6A_1 term. Tight binding of the axial ligands with the iron cation lifts up the energy ε_2 . In this case the rhombic split 2E term becomes the ground state which is characterized by a large anisotropy of the g -tensor.

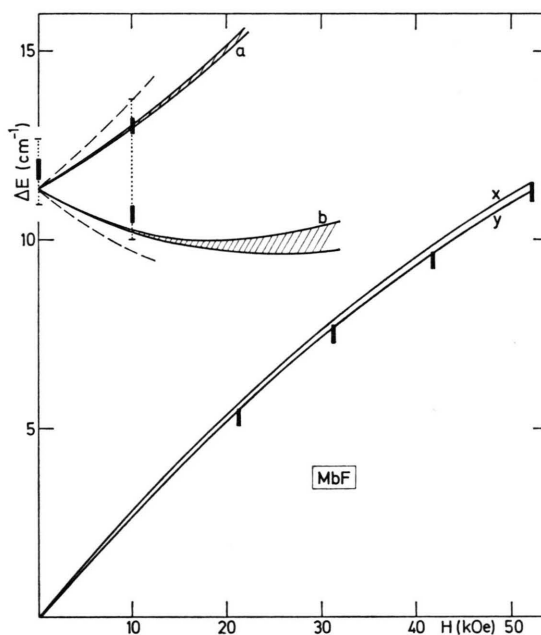


Fig. 5. Far-infrared transitions in MbF as calculated from fit c in Tab. IV. The graphs x and y correspond to the Zeeman splitting of the ground doublet $\Delta E_1 = E_{1+} - E_{1-}$ in magnetic fields applied in the x and y direction, respectively. The shaded areas a and b cover the transition frequencies $E_{2\pm} - E_{1-}$ and $E_{2\pm} - E_{1+}$ for $H \perp z$, respectively. The dashed lines limit the region of additional weak absorption. The bars are the measured absorption maxima, and the dotted error flags indicate the approximate width of the observed absorptions as read from Fig. 12 of ref. ¹¹. It is expected that the absorption maxima fit the lower $\Delta E_1 y$ curve and the strong transition area a , and are slightly shifted above the weaker transition area b , because the averaging over crystallite orientations contributes to this maximum.

Appendix

In this Appendix, the matrix elements of the operators \hat{H}_3 , \hat{H}_4 , \hat{L}_z , and $\hat{L}_\pm = \hat{L}_x \pm i\hat{L}_y$ within the base vectors 6A_1 , 4A_2 , 4E , 2B_2 , and 2E are put into a form suitable for numerical computations. The empirical formulas were obtained by a linear least squares interpolation of exact matrix elements which were calculated for a variety of reasonable ε_1 , ε_2 , ε_3 values defined in Eqn (7). Deviations from the exact matrix elements are less than 2%,

Table A1. The coefficients $a_{\mu\nu}$ defined in Eqn (A1).

μ	$a_{\mu 0}$	$a_{\mu 1} \cdot 10^6$	$a_{\mu 2} \cdot 10^6$	$a_{\mu 3} \cdot 10^6$
1	-0.620	0	0	-0.7
2	-0.632	0	-14	14
3	-0.644	11	24	-31
4	2.154	-22	12	0
5	-0.264	11	51	-58
6	1.935	-6	93	-92
7	2.608	-7	19	-10
8	-1.503	-6	5	-2
9	1.279	-11	14	-6
10	-0.271	2	-58	56
11	1.879	-4	45	-41
12	-0.728	6	-8	0
13	-0.797	6	-8	0
14	0.134	18	-67	63
15	1.175	-6	16	-11
16	-1.302	-11	17	-14
17	-2.295	-9	25	-1

if the corresponding base vectors lie at most 4000 cm^{-1} above the particular ground state. With the aid of the interpolation formula

$$M_\mu = a_{\mu 0} + a_{\mu 1} \cdot \varepsilon_1 + a_{\mu 2} \cdot \varepsilon_2 + a_{\mu 3} \cdot \varepsilon_3, \quad (\text{A1})$$

where the $a_{\mu\nu}$ are listed in Table A1, we obtain the following nonvanishing matrix elements:

$$\langle {}^4A_2 - 3/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^6A_1 - 3/2 \rangle = -\xi(2)^{1/2} M_1$$

$$\langle {}^4A_2 - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^6A_1 - 1/2 \rangle = -\xi(3)^{1/2} M_1$$

$$\langle {}^4E_- - 3/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^6A_1 - 5/2 \rangle = \xi(5)^{1/2} M_2$$

$$\langle {}^4E_+ - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^6A_1 - 3/2 \rangle = -\xi(3)^{1/2} M_2$$

$$\langle {}^4E_- - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^6A_1 - 1/2 \rangle = \xi(3/2)^{1/2} M_2$$

$$\langle {}^4E_+ - 3/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^6A_1 - 1/2 \rangle = -\xi(1/2)^{1/2} M_2$$

$$\langle {}^4E_+ - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4A_2 - 3/2 \rangle = \xi(1/10)^{1/2} M_3$$

$$\langle {}^4E_+ - 3/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4A_2 - 1/2 \rangle = \xi(1/10)^{1/2} M_3$$

$$\langle {}^4E_- - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4A_2 - 1/2 \rangle = -\xi(2/15)^{1/2} M_3$$

$$\langle {}^2E_- - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4A_2 - 3/2 \rangle = -\xi \cdot 0.5 M_4$$

$$\langle {}^2E_+ - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4A_2 - 1/2 \rangle = -\xi(1/12)^{1/2} M_4$$

$$\langle {}^4E_\pm - 3/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4E_\pm - 3/2 \rangle = \pm \xi(3/20)^{1/2} M_5$$

$$\langle {}^4E_\pm - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4E_\pm - 1/2 \rangle = \mp \xi(1/60)^{1/2} M_5$$

$$\langle {}^2E_\pm - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4E_\mp - 1/2 \rangle = \pm \xi(1/6)^{1/2} M_6$$

$$\langle {}^2B_2 - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4E_+ - 1/2 \rangle = -\xi(1/12)^{1/2} M_7$$

$$\langle {}^2B_2 - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^4E_- - 3/2 \rangle = -\xi \cdot 0.5 M_7$$

$$\langle {}^2E_- - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^2B_2 - 1/2 \rangle = \xi(1/3)^{1/2} M_8$$

$$\langle {}^2E_\pm - 1/2 | \hat{H}_3 | {}^2E_\pm - 1/2 \rangle = \pm \xi(1/6)^{1/2} M_9$$

$$\langle {}^4E_- - 1/2 | \hat{H}_4 | {}^4E_+ - 1/2 \rangle = D \cdot M_{10} + E \cdot M_{11}$$

$$\langle {}^4E_+ - 3/2 | \hat{H}_4 | {}^4E_- - 3/2 \rangle = D \cdot M_{10} + E \cdot M_{11}$$

$$\langle {}^2E_+ - 1/2 | \hat{H}_4 | {}^2E_- - 1/2 \rangle = D \cdot M_{12} + E \cdot M_{13}$$

$$\langle {}^4E_\pm | \hat{L}_z | {}^4E_\pm \rangle = \pm M_{14}$$

$$\langle {}^2E_\pm | \hat{L}_z | {}^2E_\pm \rangle = \pm M_{15}$$

$$\langle {}^4E_\mp | \hat{L}_\pm | {}^4A_2 \rangle = \pm M_{16}$$

$$\langle {}^4A_2 | \hat{L}_\mp | {}^4E_\mp \rangle = \pm M_{16}$$

$$\langle {}^2E_\pm | \hat{L}_\mp | {}^2B_2 \rangle = \pm M_{17}$$

$$\langle {}^2B_2 | \hat{L}_\pm | {}^2E_\pm \rangle = \pm M_{17}$$

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