Centrifugal correction to hyperfine structure constants in the ground state of lead monofluoride

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The sensitivity of the PbF molecule to the electron electric dipole moment has motivated detailed microwave spectroscopy. Previous theoretical approaches cannot fully explain the spectra. In turn, the explanation from "first principles" is very important both for molecular theory and for confirmation of the correctness of the interpretation of experimental data obtained with high precision. All of these issues are decisively addressed here. We have determined centrifugal correction parameters for hyperfine structure constants, both on lead and fluorine nuclei, of the $X^2\Pi_{1/2}$ state of lead monofluoride. These parameters were obtained by fitting experimentally observed pure rotational transitions and from *ab initio* calculations. We show that taking this correction into account is required to reproduce the experimental transition energies obtained by R. J. Mawhorter *et al.* [Phys. Rev. A **84**, 022508 (2011)].

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Interest in the theoretical study of PbF is motivated primarily by the proposed experiments to search for the simultaneous violation of time-reversal invariance (T) and space parity (P) [1–5]. An experiment to search for the P, Todd property of the electron, i.e., its electric dipole moment or eEDM, using trapped PbF molecules is currently under consideration [3]. Another experiment using PbF to measure the P-odd anapole moment has also been recently suggested [6]. The hyperfine structure (hfs) constants for the ground state of PbF are known with high accuracy [7]. The hyperfine structure of the rotational levels of such a molecule is usually described by an effective spin-rotational Hamiltonian. Parameters of this Hamiltonian can be obtained by fitting experimentally observed transitions. The accuracy of the measured transitions in [7] was so high that some terms new to the traditionally used spin-rotational Hamiltonian were introduced [see Eq. (5) in [7]] to describe them. The nature of these parameters is currently unknown. It is unclear how they can be extracted from electronic structure calculations. The goal of the present paper is to reproduce the rotational spectra of the $X^2\Pi_{1/2}$ state obtained by Mawhorter et al. [7] from "first principles," i.e., without any artificial parameters. This is important both for molecular theory and for confirmation of the correctness of interpretation of experimental data obtained with high precision. To verify the nature of the new terms introduced in the present paper, the parameters of the spin-rotational Hamiltonian are obtained in two different ways, from fitting the experimentally observed transitions and from ab initio calculations.

In this Rapid Communication the hyperfine structure of rotational levels of the $^2\Pi_{1/2}$ electronic state is obtained by numerical diagonalization of the molecular Hamiltonian (\boldsymbol{H}_{mol}) on the basis set of the electronic-vibrational-rotational wave functions

$$\chi(R)_J \Psi_{2\Pi_{1/2}} \theta^J_{M,\pm 1/2}(\alpha,\beta) U^F_{M_I} U^{Pb}_{M_I},$$
 (1)

$$\chi(R)_J \Psi_{^2\Pi_{3/2}} \theta^J_{M,\pm 3/2}(\alpha,\beta) U^{\rm F}_{M_I} U^{\rm Pb}_{M_I}.$$
 (2)

The vibrational wave function is $\chi(R)_J$ and it is determined by the equation

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$$\left(-\frac{\hbar^2 d^2}{2M_r dR^2} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2M_r} \frac{J(J+1)}{R^2} + V(R)\right) \chi_J = E_J \chi_J. \quad (3)$$

Here $\theta_{M,\Omega}^J(\alpha,\beta)=\sqrt{(2J+1)/4\pi}\,D_{M,\Omega}^J(\alpha,\beta,\gamma=0)$ is the rotational wave function and $U_{M_I}^{\mathrm{F,Pb}}$ are the nuclear spin wave functions on F and Pb for $^{207}\mathrm{Pb}^{19}\mathrm{F}$. J and M are the electron-rotational angular momentum and its projection onto the laboratory axis z, respectively, while $M_I=\pm 1/2$ is the projection of the nuclear angular momentum onto the same axis. For even Pb $^{19}\mathrm{F}$, the nuclear spin wave function on Pb $U_{M_I}^{\mathrm{Pb}}=1$. The scheme of the calculation is similar to that in [8], although here we additionally introduce J dependence for the vibrational wave functions. As one can see below, this is required to reproduce the experimental transition energies of the $^2\Pi_{1/2}$ state.

I. ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE CALCULATIONS

A series of *ab initio* calculations was performed in the present paper. To compute the hyperfine structure constants of the PbF molecule a scheme which combines the generalized relativistic effective core potential (GRECP) approach [9,10] with the nonvariational restoration procedure [11] was used. The "two-step" approach has recently been used in [5,8,12–15] for the calculation of other "core properties" (such as effective electric field on electron, Schiff moment enhancement factor, etc.) in molecules and atoms.

To compute the hyperfine structure constants for the ground and excited states of PbF, the fully relativistic Fock-space coupled-cluster code with single and double cluster amplitudes (FS-RCCSD) [16,17] was applied. In this calculation both the valence and outer-core $(5s^25p^65d^{10}6s^26p^2)$ electrons of Pb and all the electrons of F (i.e., 31 electrons in total) were treated explicitly while the inner-core electrons of Pb were excluded using the GRECP method.

To calculate the Pb hyperfine parameters, a basis set consisting of 8s, 7p, 4d, 1f, and 1g ([8,7,4,1,1]) contracted Gaussian basis functions on Pb and 5s, 4p, 2d, 1f ([5,4,2,1])

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functions on F was used. To calculate the F hyperfine parameters the basis set on Pb was reduced to [8,6,3,1], while the basis set on F was increased to [7,6,3,1]. The original set of basis functions on Pb was taken from a previous paper [18], while for F the atomic natural orbitals-large basis set from the MOLCAS 4.1 library [19] was used.

To compute HFS constants between the ground and excited states a direct multireference configuration interaction approach was used accounting for spin-orbit effects (SODCI) [20] and employing the spin-orbit selection procedure [21] for configuration state functions. Thirteen electrons $(6s^26p^2$ for Pb and $1s^22s^22p^5$ for F) were explicitly treated in this calculation. The outer-core electrons of Pb were frozen as spinors [10] using the GRECP technique.

II. MOLECULAR HAMILTONIAN

We represent the molecular Hamiltonian as

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{mol}} = \mathbf{H}_{\text{rot}} + \mathbf{H}_{\text{hfs}} + \mathbf{H}_{1}. \tag{4}$$

Here \mathbf{H}_{rot} is the rotational Hamiltonian and \mathbf{H}_{hfs} is the hyperfine interaction between electrons and nuclei. \mathbf{H}_1 includes the nuclear spin-rotational interaction and also effectively takes into account the \mathbf{H}_{rot} and \mathbf{H}_{hfs} interactions between $^2\Pi_{1/2}$ and other electronic states. For \mathbf{H}_1 we have

$$\mathbf{H}_1 = c_1 \mathbf{I}_1 \cdot \mathbf{J} + c_2 \mathbf{I}_2 \cdot \mathbf{J} + c_0 \mathbf{I}_1 \cdot \mathbf{I}_2. \tag{5}$$

The parameters required to calculate the matrix elements of \mathbf{H}_{rot} and \mathbf{H}_{hfs} in the basis set (2) are determined by Eqs. (6)–(14):

$$E_J = BJ(J+1) - D[J(J+1)]^2, (6)$$

$$p_{J} = \frac{\hbar^{2}}{M_{r}R^{2}} \left(\chi_{J} \left\langle \Psi_{^{2}\Pi_{1/2}} \middle| J_{+}^{e} \middle| \Psi_{^{2}\Pi_{-1/2}} \right\rangle \chi_{J} \right), \tag{7}$$

where

$$p_J \equiv p + p_D J(J+1),\tag{8}$$

$$\tilde{p} = 2B \langle \Psi_{2\Pi_{3/2}} | J_{+}^{e} | \Psi_{2\Pi_{1/2}} \rangle, \tag{9}$$

$$A_{J\parallel n} = \frac{\mu_n}{I\Omega} \left\langle \chi_J \langle \Psi_{\Pi_{1/2}} | \sum_i \left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i \times \boldsymbol{r}_i}{r_i^3} \right)_z | \Psi_{\Pi_{1/2}} \rangle \chi_J \right\rangle, \quad (10)$$

where

$$A_{J||n} \equiv A_{||n} + A_{D||n} J(J+1), \tag{11}$$

$$A_{J\perp n} = \frac{\mu_n}{I} \left\langle \chi_J \langle \Psi_{\Pi_{1/2}} | \sum_i \left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i \times \boldsymbol{r}_i}{r_i^3} \right)_+ | \Psi_{\Pi_{-1/2}} \rangle \chi_J \right\rangle, \tag{12}$$

where

$$A_{J\perp n} \equiv A_{\perp n} + A_{D\perp n} J(J+1),$$
 (13)

and

$$\tilde{A}_{\perp n} = \frac{\mu_n}{I} \langle \Psi_{2\Pi_{3/2}} | \sum_i \left(\frac{\alpha_i \times r_i}{r_i^3} \right)_+ | \Psi_{2\Pi_{1/2}} \rangle. \tag{14}$$

Here p_D , $A_{D||n}$, and $A_{D\perp n}$ are centrifugal corrections to the corresponding parameters p, $A_{\parallel n}$, and $A_{\perp n}$. \mathbf{J} , \mathbf{J}^e and \mathbf{I}_n are the electron-rotational, electron and nuclear angular momentum operators, respectively. Note that n = 1 for F and n = 2 for ²⁰⁷Pb. Thus μ_n is the magnetic moment of ¹⁹F for n=1 and ²⁰⁷Pb for n = 2. α_i are the Dirac matrices for the *i*th electron, and \mathbf{r}_i is its radius vector in the coordinate system centered on the F or Pb atom. To evaluate the vibration-rotation energies E_J and wave functions χ_J , the Schrödinger equation (3) was solved for the ground vibration level and several lowest rotational levels numerically using the MOLCAS 4.1 package [19]. The potential energy values calculated for eight internuclear distances, R = 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 4.0, 4.2, 4.3 a.u., were used. Then parameters B and D were obtained by fitting E_J using Eq. (6). To compute p, p_D , $A_{\parallel(\perp)n}$, and $A_{D\parallel(\perp)n}$ we first calculated corresponding properties for the distances listed above. Then the J-dependent matrix elements (7), (10), and (12) over the χ_I wave functions were evaluated and the $p, p_D, A_{\parallel(\perp)n}, A_{D\parallel(\perp)n}$ parameters were fitted using Eqs. (8), (11), and (13). Parameters \tilde{p} and $\tilde{A}_{\perp n}$ [Eqs. (9) and (14)] were computed using only the electronic wave function calculated at R = 3.9 a.u..

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned above, the parameters of the molecular effective spin-rotational Hamiltonian for PbF were determined in the present work both by fitting the experimentally observed transitions and on the basis of *ab initio* calculations of the

TABLE I. Parameters used to obtain the pure rotational spectra for ²⁰⁸Pb¹⁹F.

Fit	1	2	3	4	5	6
$B \text{ (cm}^{-1})$	0.228027888	0.228034349	0.228034349	0.228034349	0.228027888	0.228027888
$D \times 10^7 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	1.855	1.855	1.855	1.855	1.856	1.856
$p (\text{cm}^{-1})$	-0.138214051	-0.138214052	-0.138214052	-0.138214042	-0.138214041	-0.138214041
$p_D \times 10^7 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	-1.020	-1.020	-1.020	-1.037	-1.037	-1.037
\tilde{p} (cm ⁻¹)	Fixed to zero	0.4625	0.4625	0.4625	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero
$A_{\parallel 1}$ (MHz)	409.906	409.906	409.919	409.919	409.906	409.905
$A_{D 1}^{"} \times 10^{4} (\text{MHz})$	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero	-1.3	-2.9	Fixed to zero
$A_{\perp 1}$ (MHz)	255.9936	255.9935	255.9935	255.9912	255.9911	255.9911
$A_{D\perp 1} \times 10^4 (\mathrm{MHz})$	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero	5.2	5.3	5.3
c_1 (MHz)	0.0095	0.0095	0.0051	0.0051	0.0095	0.0095
$\tilde{A}_{\perp 1}$ (MHz)	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero	157	157	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero

TABLE II. Parameters used to obtain the pure rotational spectr	a for ²⁰⁷ Pb ¹⁹ F	
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Fit	1	2	3	calc.
B (cm ⁻¹)	0.228126407	0.228119947	0.228119945	0.229
$D \times 10^7 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	1.865	1.867	1.869	1.83
$p (\text{cm}^{-1})$	-0.138270134	-0.138270134	-0.138270110	-0.140
$p_D \times 10^7 (\text{cm}^{-1})$	-1.102	-1.101	-1.098	
\tilde{p} (cm ⁻¹)	0.4625	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero	0.368^{a}
$A_{\parallel 1}$ (MHz)	409.910	409.897	409.896	437
$A_{D 1} \times 10^4 (\text{MHz})$	-0.2	-5.4	Fixed to zero	-4.9
$A_{\perp 1}$ (MHz)	255.9921	255.9920	255.9919	232
$A_{D\perp 1} \times 10^4 (\mathrm{MHz})$	4.5	4.5	4.7	7.1
c_1 (MHz)	0.0051	0.0095	0.0095	
$\tilde{A}_{\perp 1}$ (MHz)	153	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero	166 <mark>ª</mark>
$A_{\parallel 2}$ (MHz)	10146.5957	10146.6691	10146.6697	9796
$A_{D 2} \times 10^3 (\text{MHz})$	5.7	5.7	Fixed to zero	5.8
$A_{\perp 2}$ (MHz)	-7264.0375	-7264.0375	-7264.0381	-6911
$A_{D\perp 2} \times 10^3 (\mathrm{MHz})$	-6.4	-6.4	-6.5	-5.9
c_2 (MHz)	0.0617	0.0367	0.0375	
$\tilde{A}_{\perp 2}$ (MHz)	-896	Fixed to zero	Fixed to zero	-1217^{a}
c_0 (MHz)	0.0011	0.0013	0.0015	

^aThis parameter was calculated in 13-electron approximation using the SODCI method (see text).

 $\Psi_{^2\Pi_{1/2}}$ and $\Psi_{^2\Pi_{3/2}}$ states. To clarify the relative role of the different parameters we have performed several fits with some parameters fixed to zero. The parameters thus obtained are listed in Tables I and II. The calculated parameters agree reasonably well with the fitted ones. The present $A_{\parallel 2}=9796$ MHz and $A_{\perp 2}=-6911$ MHz values are in good agreement with those obtained in paper [5], which were found to be 9727 MHz and -6860 MHz, respectively. In this Rapid Communication we use a larger basis set and the FS-RCCSD method for electronic structure calculations instead of the SODCI method used in [5]. Besides, in the latter paper the $A_{\parallel 2}$ and $A_{\perp 2}$ values were evaluated using the only electronic

wave function obtained at R = 4.0 a.u., whereas in the present paper they are obtained from Eqs. (11) and (13), respectively.

The deviations of our fits from the observed microwave transitions are given in Table III for ²⁰⁸Pb¹⁹F and in Table IV for ²⁰⁷Pb¹⁹F. The error was defined as

$$\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{\rm r}} \left(\frac{\nu_{\rm fit} - \nu_{\rm obs}}{\delta_i}\right)^2},\tag{15}$$

where N_t is the number of measured transitions and δ_i is the experimental error for a given transition. In fit 1 for the $^{208}\text{Pb}^{19}\text{F}$ the parameters \tilde{p} , $\tilde{A}_{\perp 1}$, $A_{D\parallel 1}$, and $A_{D\perp 1}$ are

TABLE III. Observed pure rotational transition frequencies v_{obs} [7] of the X_1 state of $^{208}\text{Pb}^{19}\text{F}$ in units of MHz. The deviation of nth fit is given by $\Delta_n = v_{\text{fit}} - v_{\text{obs}}$ in units of the last digit of precision (100 Hz).

Levels	$v_{ m obs}$	Δ [7]	Δ_1	Δ_2	Δ_3	Δ_4	Δ_5	Δ_6
1-3	3922.5065(20)	-6	-10	-10	- 9	-5	-5	-3
2-4	4194.7773(7)	-1	0	0	0	3	3	1
1-4	4229.7176(30)	15	29	29	29	19	20	19
6-7	8117.3017(10)	-8	-6	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5
5-7	8199.8478(9)	4	6	6	7	6	6	5
6-8	8307.5180(20)	-2	8	9	8	6	6	5
5-8	8390.0664(20)	-12	-3	-3	-3	- 7	- 7	- 7
10-11	12277.6822(7)	1	12	13	13	3	3	3
9-12	12540.8465(8)	-5	-17	-17	-17	-3	-3	-3
14-15	16428.5160(10)	2	11	11	11	-2	-2	-2
13-16	16688.4929(20)	17	-35	-36	-36	10	10	11
1-5	18414.5880(5)	1	5	5	5	2	2	2
2-6	18462.1933(5)	2	-7	-7	-8	0	0	-1
1-6	18497.1352(5)	2	6	5	6	1	1	1
4-7	22384.7171(5)	1	- 7	- 7	-6	-2	-2	-1
4-8	22574.9344(5)	-2	-3	-3	-3	-1	-1	0
3-7	22691.9306(5)	-2	8	8	7	-1	-1	-3
Error		1.86	4.84	4.83	4.82	1.60	1.62	1.63

TABLE IV. Observed pure rotational transition frequencies $\nu_{\rm obs}$ [7] of the X_1 state of $^{207}{\rm Pb}^{19}{\rm F}$ in units of MHz. The deviation of nth fit is given by $\Delta_n = \nu_{\rm fit} - \nu_{\rm obs}$ in units of the last digit of precision (100 Hz).

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Levels	$ u_{ m obs}$	Δ [7]	Δ_1	Δ_2	Δ_3
3-6	3187.4875(20)	5	-6	-6	-7
2-6	3219.8137(7)	-3	1	1	-1
10-11	4455.4540(25)	21	16	16	14
9-12	4699.2265(25)	29	29	29	26
1-4	8495.0022(7)	1	5	5	1
18-19	8620.5475(10)	-8	20	20	18
1-5	8687.2098(7)	6	4	4	1
8-13	11 682.5211(7)	6	2	2	-2
7-13	11 715.3703(7)	-14	-13	-13	-17
8-14	11 867.6415(10)	-8	-9	-8	-12
7-14	11 900.4870(7)	9	13	14	10
3-7	14 430.1830(5)	13	2	2	2
2-7	14 462.5104(5)	-8	-3	-3	-4
3-8	14 463.0311(5)	3	-2	-2	-2
2-8	14 495.3580(5)	-11	-2	-2	-3
16-21	15 865.1888(5)	-8	-6	-5	-4
15-22	16 108.7271(5)	-4	-2	-2	0
2-9	18 333.5013(5)	3	5	6	7
3-10	18 380.8711(5)	5	1	2	0
2-10	18 413.1982(5)	-12	-1	-1	-3
5-11	22 377.8342(5)	2	3	4	5
5-12	22 541.9123(5)	-1	-2	-1	2
4-11	22 570.0427(5)	-2	-6	-5	-5
1-7	22 658.9018(5)	-5	- 7	-6	-6
1-8	22 691.7486(5)	-2	3	3	3
6-13	22 958.0652(5)	-1	1	1	-2
6-14	23 143.1846(5)	-4	1	1	-2
5-13	25 687.0601(5)	-4	-2	-1	-2
5-14	25 872.1789(5)	-1	4	4	4
4-13	25 879.2667(5)	12	8	8	8
4-14	26 064.3873(5)	-3	-3	-4	-4
Error		6.68	5.12	5.13	5.13

fixed to zero. Note that the parameters \tilde{p} and $\tilde{A}_{\perp 1}$ take into account the interactions of $\mathbf{H}_{\rm rot}$ and $\mathbf{H}_{\rm hfs}$, respectively, with the $^2\Pi_{3/2}$ electronic state. In the cases of fit 2, fit 3, and fit 4 we sequentially include parameters \tilde{p} , $\tilde{A}_{\perp 1}$, and $A_{D\parallel 1}$ with $A_{D\perp 1}$. Data from Table III show that accuracy for the cases of fit 2 and fit 3 is actually the same as for fit 1. Note that the inclusion of the \tilde{p} and $\tilde{A}_{\perp 1}$ parameters strongly influences the c_1 parameter. This is in agreement with the fact that c_1 , in particular, takes into account the $\mathbf{H}_{\rm rot}$ and $\mathbf{H}_{\rm hfs}$

For $^{207}\text{Pb}^{19}\text{F}$ we have performed the following fits. In fit 1 all the parameters were used. In fit 2 we have excluded the parameters corresponding to interactions with the $^2\Pi_{3/2}$ electronic states. Data from Table IV show that this does not influence the accuracy of the fit.

In fits 1 and 2 for ${}^{207}{\rm Pb^{19}F}$ and in fits 4 and 5 for ${}^{208}{\rm Pb^{19}F}$ we have included centrifugal corrections for both $A_{\parallel n}$ and for $A_{\perp n}$ parameters. However, it is clear from general theory [see Eq. (2) in Ref. [4] and Eq. (2) in Ref. [22]] that for a ${}^{2}\Pi_{1/2}$ state $A_{\perp n}$ is the leading term, and the J dependence of the hyperfine splitting shows that the contribution due to $A_{\parallel n}$ is further reduced as J increases. Of course the centrifugal corrections become more important at higher J, where the relative influence of the $A_{\parallel n}$ terms is quite diminished. Hence the inclusion of the $A_{D\parallel n}$ centrifugal correction parameters should be less important to the fits than $A_{D\perp n}$. To confirm this we have performed fit 6 for ${}^{208}{\rm Pb^{19}F}$ and fit 3 for ${}^{207}{\rm Pb^{19}F}$ where we have excluded the $A_{D\parallel n}$ parameters. Data in Tables III and IV show that this does not influence the accuracy of the fits.

In paper [7], new d_{c1} and d_{c2} parameters were introduced to fit the spectra of PbF. Two possibilities were given for their origin. Our parameters $A_{D\perp 1}$ and $A_{D\perp 2}$ are also required to fit the spectra of PbF and are in robust agreement within experimental uncertainty with d_{c1} and d_{c2} , which were found to be 0.000 56(10) MHz and -0.007(2) MHz, respectively. Therefore, we suggest that parameters $d_{c1,2}$ can be treated rather as centrifugal corrections to the $A_{\perp 1,2}$ parameters in accordance with the second interpretation given in [7].

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interactions between the ${}^2\Pi_{1/2}$ and ${}^2\Pi_{3/2}$ electronic states. On the other hand, one can see that parameters $A_{D\parallel n}$ and $A_{D\perp n}$ are important and that their inclusion allows one to reproduce transition energies within the experimental accuracy. In fit 5 we keep $A_{D\parallel 1}$ and $A_{D\perp 1}$ while removing the \tilde{p} and $\tilde{A}_{\perp 1}$ parameters. This only slightly influences the accuracy of the fit.

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