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ION PAIR ABSORPTION IN PrCl₃

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In experiments by Versanyi¹ it was demonstrated that in PrCl₃ one photon can excite simultaneously two Pr³⁺ ions to different excited levels, one of which was always ³P₀. This was shown by the appearance of fluorescence from ³P₀ with monochromatic excitation at frequencies where a single ion could not possibly absorb but which numerically corresponded to the sum of different absorption frequencies of the single ion.

Naturally fluorescence can occur only if there is absorption at the exciting frequency. We have now been able to obtain with suitable crystals of pure PrCl₃ under the proper experimental arrangements the absorption lines corresponding to ion pair absorption. The region most suitable for observing these absorption lines is that beyond the ³P₂ lines, as we know that there can be no absorption lines of the Pr³⁺ ion between 22 220 and about 50 000 cm⁻¹.

It turns out that in the region between 22 220 and 28 100 cm⁻¹ there are about 90 weak but very distinct absorption lines, the frequencies of almost all of which can be written as the sum of two ordinary absorption frequencies. In this region one is sure that there are no single-absorption lines, and occasional impurity lines can be recognized by their greater sharpness.

Table I gives the wave numbers and classifications of the observed lines in a representative interval. The intensities are estimates from microphotometer traces, such as shown in Fig. 1. The

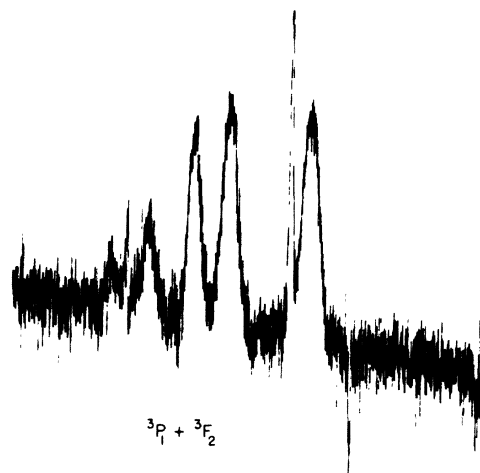


FIG. 1. Ion pair absorption lines of Pr³⁺ near 26 000 cm⁻¹. The sharp line is due to Nd³⁺.

width of the lines is of the order of 6 cm⁻¹, considerably larger than that of the impurity lines. The lines are the sums of the two energy levels within the limits of experimental errors, which may here be more than 1 cm⁻¹ for weak and crowded lines. The table shows that there are occasionally systematic deviations because the energy levels of concentrated PrCl₃, having to be derived from very broad lines, are not always accurately known.

Practically all sums of known levels which fall

Table I. Ion pair absorption lines of PrCl_3 . All lines found in this interval are listed. The symbols have the following meanings: ν , observed wave number; I , estimated intensity; L_1, μ_1, L_2, μ_2 , designation of level and Stark components of excited states of first and second ion, respectively; ν_{calc} , calculated wave number.

ν	I	L_1+L_2	μ_1, μ_2	ν_{calc}	ν	I	L_1+L_2	μ_1, μ_2	ν_{calc}
25 368.5	30	P_0+F_2	0 , 1	68.7	27 099.7	8	P_2+F_2	0, 1	00.2
381.5	5				108.4	2	P_2+F_2	0, 0 ^b	10.3
397.1	29	P_0+F_2	0 , 2	97.1	119.0	20	P_2+F_2	1, 1	19.8
406.3	4				128.0	5	P_2+F_2	0, 2	28.6
410.8	10	P_0+F_2	0 , 0	10.6	139.5	17	P_2+F_2	2, 1	39.5
							P_2+F_2	0, 0	42.2
960.0	34	P_1+F_2	1 , 1	60.2	147.2	17	P_2+F_2	1, 2	48.3
967.1	9s ^a				159.5	13	P_2+F_2	1, 0	61.8
971.5	2	P_1+F_2	1 , 0 ^b	70.2	165.2	11	P_2+F_2	2, 2	67.9
977.5	1				179.4	5	P_2+F_2	2, 0	81.5
988.4	28	P_1+F_2	1 , 2	88.6	194.1	4	P_0+F_4	0, 3	97.7
		P_1+F_2	0 , 1	90.14	214.9	8	P_0+F_4	0, x	16.4
26 001.7	20	P_1+F_2	1 , 0	02.1	230.9	12	P_0+F_4	0, 1	32.2
017.3	10	P_1+F_2	0 , 2	18.6	250.3	18	P_0+F_4	0, 2	50.5
030.3	3	P_1+F_2	0 , 0	32.1	321.7	17	P_1+F_3	1, 0	23.4
116.2	2s ^a				337.9	20	P_1+F_3	1, 2	40.2
193.5	15	I_6+F_2	0 , 1	92.6	344.6	4	P_1+F_3	1, 3	45.7
221.7	30	I_6+F_2	0 , 2	21.0	368.0	2	P_1+F_3	0, 2	70.2
235.9	11	I_6+F_2	0 , 0	34.5	374.8	5	P_1+F_3	0, 3	75.7
265.4	2				389.3	8	P_1+F_3	1, 1	89.3
277.2	1				405.0	3	P_1+F_3	1, 3'	04.6
289.2	4	I_6+F_2	0', 1	88.3	419.1	2	P_1+F_3	0, 1	19.3
305.5	9	I_6+F_2	1 , 1	03.5	432.4	1	P_1+F_3	0, 3'	34.6
315.7	3	I_6+F_2	0', 2	16.7					
331.6	18	I_6+F_2	1 , 2	31.9	573.1	2	I_6+F_3	0, 2	72.6
350.1	3				620.1	2	I_6+F_3	0, 1	21.2
374.4	13	D_2+G_4	0 , 2	73.8	667.3	8b	I_6+F_3	1, 0	66.7
407.7	8	P_2+H_6	0 , 3	03.9	681.0	5	I_6+F_3	1, 2	83.5
					732.8	7	I_6+F_3	1, 1	32.6
732.0	9	P_0+F_3	0 , 0	31.9	758.1	2	P_1+F_4	1, 3' ^b	57.3
746.9	18	P_0+F_3	0 , 2	48.7	811.0	7	P_1+F_4	1, x	07.9
753.0	7	P_0+F_3	0 , 3	54.3	822.0	8	P_1+F_4	1, 1	23.6
797.6	10	P_0+F_3	0 , 1	97.8	839.0	5	P_1+F_4	0, x	37.9
812.7	2	P_0+F_3	0 , 3'	13.1	851.5	4	P_1+F_4	0, 1	53.6
850.3	1								

^aSharp impurity lines, chiefly Nd^{3+} .

^bAbsorption from first excited Stark component.

into this region are observed, in particular also the combinations of the components of 3P_1 , 3P_2 , and 1I_6 with the low-lying levels 3H and 3F , while in Varsanyi's fluorescence experiments there is only evidence for combinations with 3P_0 . This seeming discrepancy is explained by the fact that excitation of $^3P_{1,2}$ and 1I_6 in concentrated PrCl_3 yields no or only very weak fluorescence, which is different from the situation in PrCl_3 highly diluted with LaCl_3 , where, for instance, excitation of 3P_2 produces strong fluorescence from 3P_0 .

The ion pair absorption lines show no noticeable polarization.

The existence of the ion pair absorption lines is in agreement with nonlinear coupling between neighboring Pr^{3+} ions and the more formal theoretical considerations of Dexter.²

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