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► **To cite this version:**

R.S. Krishnan, R.S. Katiyar. The Raman spectrum of magnesium fluoride. *Journal de Physique*, 1965, 26 (11), pp.627-629. 10.1051/jphys:019650026011062700 . jpa-00206049

HAL Id: jpa-00206049

<https://hal.science/jpa-00206049v1>

Submitted on 4 Feb 2008

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THE RAMAN SPECTRUM OF MAGNESIUM FLUORIDE

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Résumé. — On a étudié le spectre Raman d'un monocristal de MgF_2 , excité par la radiation de résonance du mercure. Les raies Raman observées correspondent à des déplacements de fréquence 73, 90, 154, 165, 295, 405, 415, 560, 2472 et 2535 cm^{-1} . Ce spectre a été analysé à partir des données infrarouges de Barker, et les constantes de force ont été calculées. Les valeurs de ces constantes suggèrent un caractère fortement moléculaire de la structure de MgF_2 .

Abstract. — The Raman spectrum of a single crystal of MgF_2 has been investigated using the resonance radiation of mercury as exciter. The observed Raman lines are of frequency shifts 73, 90, 154, 165, 295, 405, 415, 560, 2472 and 2535 cm^{-1} . An analysis of the vibration spectrum has been made taking into account the infrared data of Barker, and the force constants have been calculated. The force constants suggest that the structure of MgF_2 has considerable molecular character.

Magnesium fluoride, which occurs in nature as the mineral sellaite, crystallizes with rutile structure. Excellent quality single crystals are made in small scale production by "Optovac" and in view of its useful physical properties and the increasing application it finds in infrared and in masers, a knowledge of its vibration spectrum is of importance. Although the polarized infrared reflection spectrum of oriented samples of MgF_2 has been studied by A. S. Barker [1], the Raman spectrum of MgF_2 is not known hitherto. Since the structure of MgF_2 is such that only four of the eleven possible vibrations are infrared active, a study of its Raman spectrum is essential for an understanding of its vibrational spectrum.

The single crystal of MgF_2 used in the present investigation was a gift from the Optovac Inc. Mass. and was about 3 cm long and 1 cm in dia-

meter. It was ground and polished by the standard methods. As the crystal was transparent to the ultraviolet, the resonance radiation of mercury λ 2537 was employed for exciting its Raman spectrum. The spectrum was recorded with a Hilger medium quartz spectrograph having a linear dispersion of about 140 cm^{-1} per mm in this spectral region. The light was incident perpendicular to the axis of the cylindrical specimen and the scattered light was along the axis which was roughly the optic axis of the crystal also. Using a slit width of 0.02 mm and Zenith Astronomical plate, exposures of the order of 48 hours had to be given to obtain an intense picture. In all 10 Raman lines were observed and their frequency shifts have been given in Table 1, while the spectrum with its microphotometer record has been reproduced in figure 1.

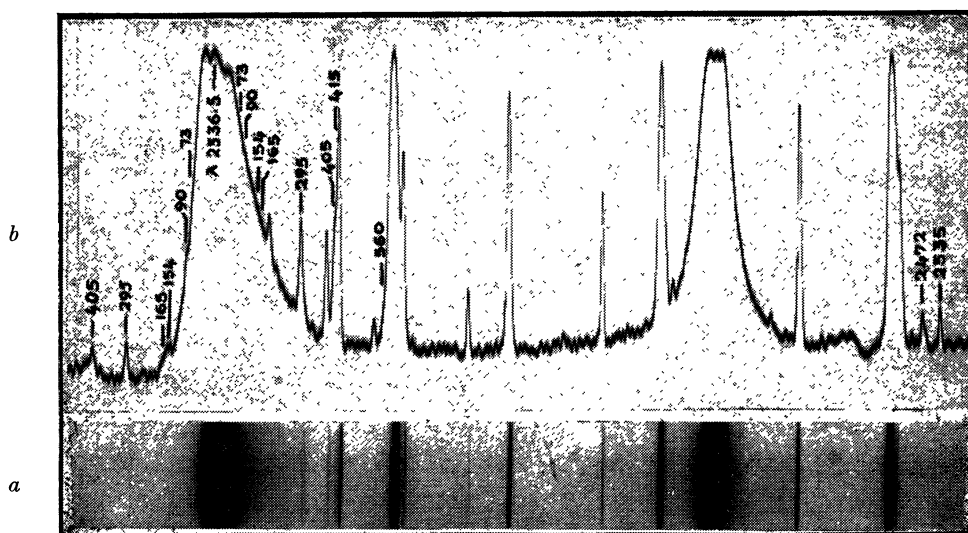


FIG. 1. — (a) Raman spectrum of magnesium fluoride (MgF_2) taken with a medium Quartz spectrograph. (b) Its microphotometer record.

TABLE I

OBSERVED IN RAMAN SPECTRUM cm ⁻¹	ASSIGNMENT	INFRARED FREQUENCIES (BARKER cm ⁻¹)	CALCULATED cm ⁻¹
—	—	—	—
73	$\omega_3(B_{1g})$	—	71
90	Not assigned	—	—
154	$\omega_5(E_g)$	—	161
165	Not assigned	—	—
—	ω_{12} (T. O.)	247	205
—	$\omega_2(A_{2g})$	—	287
295	$\omega_1(A_{1g})$	—	295 (assumed)
—	ω_{12} (L. O.)	303	—
—	$\omega_6(A_{2u})$	399	399 (assumed)
405	$\omega_4(B_{2g})$	—	405 (assumed)
—	ω_{11} (T. O.)	410	400 (assumed d)
415	ω_{11} (L. O.)	415	—
—	ω_{10} (T. O.)	450	460 (assumed)
560	$(\omega_4 + \omega_5)$	556	—
	ω_{10} (L. O.)	617	—
	ω_8 (L. O.)	625	—
	ω_8 (inactive)	—	428
	ω_9 (inactive)	—	166

Magnesium fluoride has the same tetragonal structure as rutile and belongs to the space group $P4_2/mnm$ and the point group symmetry is D_{4h} . There are 2 molecules in the unit cell and the unit cell dimensions are $a = 4.621 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 3.05 \text{ \AA}$ [2]. The unit cell contains 2-Mg atoms in the position (0, 0, 0) and $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ and 4-F atoms in the positions $(\frac{1}{2} - u, \frac{1}{2} + u, \frac{1}{2})$; $(\frac{1}{2} + u, \frac{1}{2} - u, \frac{1}{2})$; $(u, u, 0)$ and $(\bar{u}, \bar{u}, 0)$ with $u = 0.31$. The structure may easily be visualised and is shown in figure 2a and the projection in figure 2b.

The number of vibrational frequencies under the different symmetry types of D_{4h} may be written by standard group theoretical methods as has been done by Narayanan P. S. for rutile [3]. The 15 possible modes of vibration are distributed as $1A_{1g} + 1A_{2g} + 1A_{2u} + 1B_{1g}$
 $+ 2B_{1u} + 1B_{2g} + 1E_g + 3E_u$.

The two modes of type B_{1u} and one of type A_{2g} are inactive in both Raman and infrared spectra.

Thus 4 distinct frequencies are allowed in Raman effect and 4 distinct frequencies in infrared absorption. However on account of Coulomb interaction the longitudinal and transverse optic vibration frequencies have different values in accordance with the Lyddane-Sachs-Teller relation [1]. While Barker has identified the eight infrared mode frequencies with the help of their polarization characteristic and theoretical dispersion relation, a calculation of the vibration spectrum of MgF_2 as has been done by F. Matossi [4], [5] for rutile will make it possible for us to give a definite assignment of the observed Raman lines. The general frequency formulas for the different species have been given in [4] and a numerical calculation for MgF_2 was made employing a harmonic force system considering bond stretching forces between

Mg — F (horizontal e.g. 5 — 1 in figure) force constant k_1 ,

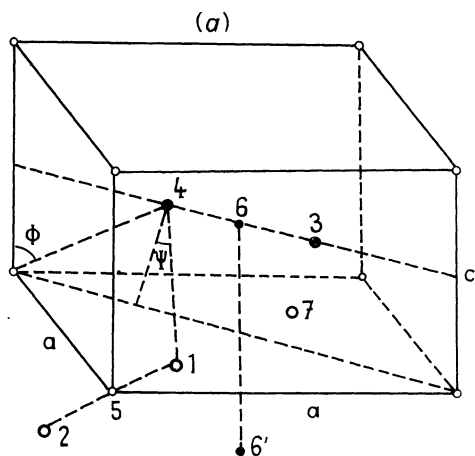
Mg — F (oblique e.g. 1 — 6) force constant k_2 ,

F — F (horizontal e.g. 1 — 7) force constant k' ,

F — F (oblique e.g. 1 — 4) force constant k'' ,

and bond bending forces at

Mg (e.g. angle 4-6-3 in the horizontal plane) force constant d_1 ,



○ Fluorine
 ◦ Magnesium
 Shaded circles are the atoms
 at level $c/2$ above the basal plane

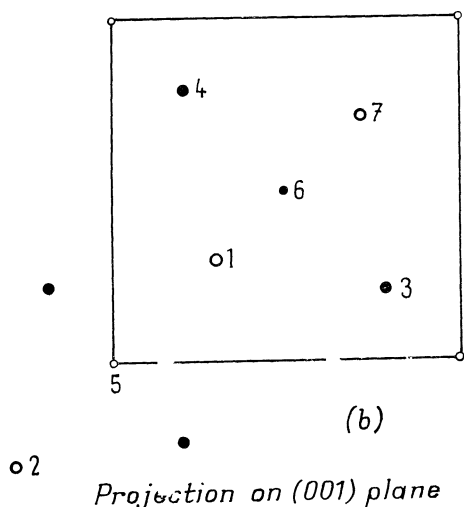


FIG. 2.

Mg (e.g. angle 4-6-3 in the vertical plane) force constant d_2 ,

F (e.g. oblique angle 6-1-6') force constant d_3 .

In the present calculation the frequencies 399, 400, 460, 405 and 295 cm^{-1} were assumed and also their assignment as indicated in Table I. A preliminary check showed that as in rutile, it is possible to get a satisfactory agreement between the calculated and observed frequencies even if $k_2 = 0$ and $d_3 = 0$ showing thereby that from the vibrational point of view the MgF_2 structure is molecular in character. The two possible sets of force constants are

$$\left. \begin{aligned} k_1 &= 0.709 \\ k' &= 0.108 \\ k'' &= 0.123 \\ d_1 &= 0.348 \\ d_2 &= 0.359 \end{aligned} \right\} \times 10^5 \text{ dynes/cm}$$

and

$$\left. \begin{aligned} k_1 &= 0.717 \\ k' &= 0.104 \\ k'' &= 0.123 \\ d_1 &= 0.348 \\ d_2 &= 0.359 \end{aligned} \right\} \times 10^5 \text{ dynes/cm}$$

A comparison of the calculated and observed Raman shifts in Table I shows that the agreement is reasonable. In the first approximation one would expect the g-u selection to be valid even in the infrared modes split under Coulomb interaction. However the observed line at 445 cm^{-1} is identical with the ω_{11} (LO) reported by Barker and is therefore assigned to this mode. No definite assignment is made now to the Raman lines at 2472 and 2535 cm^{-1} but they probably owe their origin to a localized mode due to some impurity. Further work on this is in progress.

Our sincere thanks are due to Mr. Robert Meller of Optovac for presenting us the specimen of MgF_2 used in this study.

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