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VIBRATIONAL SPECTRUM OF Na₂HPO₄. 2H₂O

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COMPOUNDS in the series Na_2HPO_4 . nH_2O (n=0,2,7,12) are of considerable interest and have been the subject of extensive experimental investigations ¹⁻⁴. X-ray structural studies of Na_2HPO_4 . $2H_2O$ have indicated the presence of two distinct types of water molecules and the nature of hydrogen and coordination bonds in the crystal². Chapman and Thirlwell⁴ from their 1R analysis showed two distinct HPO_4^{2-1} ions in Na_2HPO_4 . $2H_2O$ contrary to the x-ray results. A vibrational study has been attempted to resolve the ambiguities in the structure and to understand the dynamics of the crystal.

The IR spectrum of the sample prepared as KBr pellet has been recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 283 spectrophotometer. A SPEX Ramalog 1401 equipped with a Spectra Physics model 165 Ar⁺ laser (5145 Å line with 100-200 MW) has been used to record the spectrum.

 Na_2HPO_4 . $2H_2O$ crystallizes in an orthorhombic system with space group Pbca (D_{2k}^{15}) and has eight molecules in the unit cell². Sodium atoms and $HPO_4^{2^m}$ ions are in general positions. The two water molecules occupy crystallographically non-equivalent C_1 sites. $HPO_4^{2^m}$ groups are linked into an infinite chain by the

hydrogen bonds made by water II. Adjacent chains are bonded by weaker hydrogen bonds by water I. The factor group analysis predicts 333 (excluding 3 acoustic modes) vibrational modes at k = 0.

$$\Gamma_{333} = 42 A_g + 42 B_{1g} + 42 B_{2g} + 42 B_{3g}$$

$$+ 42 A_u^{(o)} + 41 B_{1u} + 41 B_{2u} + 41 B_{3u}$$

The g modes are Raman active and u modes except A_u are infrared active. The highest possible symmetry of HPO_4^{2-} ion (considered as $HOPO_3^{2-}$) is C_{3v} , corresponding to free rotation of the hydroxyl group about its P-O bond⁵. Of the 12 internal modes of HPO_4^{2-} ion, $9(3A_1 + 3E)$ are associated with PO_4 group and 3 with OH group. These modes are both IR and Raman active.

In the crystal, the HPO₄² ions occupy sites of lower symmetry than its free ion symmetry $(C_{3\nu})$. This leads to anisotropic crystal field which removes the degeneracies of the normal modes. The non-degenerate PO₃ symmetrical stretching mode, correlated to A₁ species of the PO_4^{3-} ion with T_d symmetry splits into two components both in IR and Raman (table 1). The splitting of this nondegenerate mode is due to the resonance interaction between vibrating ions of the unit cell. Two types of HPO₄²⁻ ions producing these two lines are not possible, since no doubling of lines corresponding to other stretching modes is observed. The P-O(H) stretching mode (A₁) and PO₃ asymmetric stretching mode (E) are derived from the triple degenerate P-O asymmetric stretching mode (F₂) of PO_4 group with T_d symmetry. The bands observed due to these modes are strong both in in and Raman.

In order to assign the deformation vibration of HPO_4^{2-} ion, it has been assumed that the bending modes of HPO_4^{2-} ion consist of $\delta_{as} PO_3(E)$, $\delta_s PO_3(A_1)$ and $\delta P(OH)(E)$ vibrations. Bands due to these modes have appeared in the 390-600 cm⁻¹ region. The relationship between v_{OH} and r(O-H) suggests an OH stretching frequency in the 2700-3000 cm⁻¹ region. The band at 2910 (1R and Raman) has been assigned to (P) O-H stretching mode. The bands at 2440 and 2330 cm⁻¹ (1R) are taken as combinations.

The two doublets in the OH stretching region of water indicates two crystallographically distinct types of water molecules in the crystal. The bands corresponding to each water molecule have been assigned on the basis of their hydrogen bond strength. The bands in the 450-700 cm⁻¹ region have been tentatively assigned to liberational modes of water⁷. The OPO bending modes have also been observed in this region.

Table 1 Vibrational spectral data and assignments for Na₂HPO₄. 2H₂O

Raman cm ⁻¹	IR cm ⁻¹	Assignment
3450 m	3440 s	Water I
3375 m	3380 w	vas Water II
3123 m	3120 m	Water I
3079 m	3080 w	v _s Water II
2910 w	2910 w	(P)O-H stretch
	2440 m	Combinations
	2330 w	
	1710 m	HOH bending
1258 vw	1260 m	Inplane POH bending (β OH)
1143 s	1120 s	PO actionalch
1067 s	1055 s	PO ₃ asy-stretch
990 sh	980 sh	PO sym stratch
952 vs	950 s	PO ₃ sym. stretch
865 s	860 s	P-O(H) stretch
800 vw	810 m	Out of plane POH bending (y OH)
700 vw	690 w	Rr water
571 s	580 vw	PO ₃ asy, bending
544 m	540 w	1 O3 asy. bending
	525 w	Rt water
516 s	510 s	PO ₃ sym. bending
452 m		Rw water
412 m	385 w	OPO (H) bending
399 s		Of O (11) bending
350 w		
288 w		Na ⁺ O stretch?
229 w		
195 w		
156 w		Lattice modes
143 w		
104 w		OH O stretch?
96 w		
79 w		

Rw, Rt, Rr: wagging, twisting and rocking libration. s—Strong, m—medium, w—weak

As the identification of the external modes is difficult without single crystal data, the bands below 350 cm⁻¹ have been assigned to the lattice modes. The proposed assignments are given in table 1.

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RESULTS OF A MAGNETIC STUDY ON A CHROMITE REEF AT TEKURU IN THE EASTERN GHATS BELT

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In geophysical literature there are a large number of reports¹⁻⁵ on the exploration for chromites. They include successes, failures and controversies in delineating chromite ore bodies by employing the magnetic method. In this note results of field and laboratory magnetic investigations over a chromite occurrence at Tekuru (17°23′ N, 81°35′ E) are examined. The chromite ore at Tekuru is associated with ultramafic rocks like chromitites and pyroxenites. The country rocks are the khondalite gneisses. The chromite reef, exposed on the crest of Enukonda hill, strikes at N 45° E with a dip of 75° SE. On either side of the crest the reef is covered by thick soil and its width varies around two metres⁶.

Vertical magnetic field observations were made, along lines perpendicular to the strike of the chromite reef at intervals of 3 m in general and near the reef at intervals of 1.5 m. Four such parallel traverses, at an interval of 30 m, were made with a torsion magnetometer (Askania Werke make) which has a scale value of 250 ys and a reading accuracy of about 2 ys. The observations were referred to a Base Station for purposes of data reduction and the anomalies are shown plotted in figure 1. The 1800 y anomaly on profile (1) and -2100 y anomaly on profile (2) were observed on the outcropping khondalite gneisses. A minimum (-250 ys) on profile (4) coincides with the position of the chromite reef. There is a similar low in the strike direction of the reef on profile (3). These are not the only lows on the profiles. So, the anomaly due to chromite is not conspicuous. In the unoccupied portion of profile (1) the area is characterised by a scarp-like sharp descent. Towards NE of profile (4) the area is marked by an increase in elevation and outcropping country rock gneisses. Seven samples of chromite ore and four samples of the khondalite gneiss were collected for the determination of their NRM