Contents

Fundamental constants – Unit conversions 1

Chapter 1 – The electron paramagnetic resonance phenomenon 3

1.1 – What is a spectroscopy experiment? 3

1.1.1 – Exchange of energy between matter and radiation 3

1.1.2 – Spectroscopic techniques 4

1.2 – Magnetic spectroscopy techniques 6

1.3 – Diversity of paramagnetic centres 7

1.3.1 – Electrons have two magnetic moments 7

1.3.2 – Paramagnetic atoms 9

1.3.3 – Paramagnetic molecules 12

1.4 – Principle of electron paramagnetic resonance experiments 13

1.4.1 – Reduced angular momenta 13

1.4.2 – Interaction between a paramagnetic centre and a magnetic field 13

1.4.3 – EPR transitions 15

1.4.4 – Expression of the absorption signal 16

1.5 – Basic EPR spectrometry instrumentation 18

1.5.1 – A few orders of magnitude 18

1.5.2 – Simplified description of an EPR spectrometer 19

1.5.3 – Tuning the spectrometer 21

1.6 – Points to consider in applications 21

1.6.1 – Electronic and nuclear paramagnetism 21

1.6.2 – Importance of paramagnetic centres 22

1.6.3 – Continuous wave EPR and pulsed EPR 22

1.6.4 – Some observations 23

Complement 1 – Magnetic moment created by a rotating point charge 24

Complement 2 – Why are B_2 and O_2 paramagnetic molecules? 25

Complement 3 – How magnetic field modulation affects the signal detected 27

References 28

Exercises & Answers to exercises 29

Chapter 2 – Hyperfine structure of a spectrum in the isotropic regime 31

2.1 – The various origins of spectral features in EPR 31

2.2 – Hyperfine interactions 32

2.2.1 – The nuclear magnetic moment 32

2.2.2 – Hyperfine interactions between unpaired electrons and nuclei 35

2.2.3 – The isotropic regime 36

2.3 – EPR spectrum for a centre which interacts with a single nucleus in the isotropic regime 37

2.3.1 – Expression of the energy levels for the centre 37

2.3.2 – EPR spectrum for $S = ½$ and $I = ½$ 38

2.3.3 – EPR spectrum for $S = ½$ and $I = 1$ 41

2.3.4 – General case 43

2.4 – EPR spectrum for a centre which interacts with several nuclei in the isotropic regime 45

2.4.1 – Hyperfine interactions with several equivalent nuclei 45

2.4.2 – Interaction with non-equivalent nuclei 50

2.5 – Important points for applications 51

2.5.1 – Importance of hyperfine interactions 51

2.5.2 – Free radicals 51

2.5.3 – Transition ion complexes 52

Complement 1 – The paramagnetic radical probes technique 53

Complement 2 – “Pascal’s triangles“ 54

References 55

Exercises & Answers to exercises 56

Chapter 3 – Introduction to the formalism of the space of spin states. The Hamiltonian operator 61

3.1 – Introduction 61

3.2 – Space of spin states associated with an angular momentum 63

- 3.2.1 – Construction of linear operators from $\mathbf{J}$ – Specific bases of $\mathcal{E}_J$ 63
- 3.2.2 – The scalar product 65
- 3.2.3 – Representation of an operator by a matrix 65
- 3.2.4 – Eigenvectors and eigenvalues of an operator 67
- 3.2.5 – Application to a centre characterised by $J = ½$ 69
- 3.2.6 – How can we use the formalism of the space of spin states associated with an angular momentum? 73

3.3 – Spin states and allowed energy levels for a paramagnetic centre placed in a magnetic field 74

- 3.3.1 – Interaction between a centre with an isotropic magnetic moment and a field $\mathbf{B}$ 74
- 3.3.2 – When the magnetic moment is anisotropic 75

3.4 – Transition probabilities and allowed transitions 78

3.5 – Possible spin states and allowed transitions in the presence of hyperfine interaction 79

- 3.5.1 – Determining the energy levels 80
- 3.5.2 – Allowed transitions 83

3.6 – Points to consider in applications 84

- 3.6.1 – Why is a spin Hamiltonian used in EPR and magnetic spectroscopies? 84
- 3.6.2 – What does the spin Hamiltonian do? 84
- 3.6.3 – Looking back to the procedure described in chapters 1 and 2 84

Complement 1 – Diagonalisation of $\tilde{\mathrm{H}}_{Zeeman}$ in any basis 86

Complement 2 – The principle of perturbation theory 88

References 93

Exercises & Answers to exercises **94**

Chapter 4 – How anisotropy of the $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$ matrices affects spectrum shape for radicals and transition ion complexes **101**

4.1 – Introduction **101**

4.2 – The $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}$ matrix **102**

4.2.1 – How the molecule's symmetry properties affect the $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}$ matrix 102

4.2.2 – The principal values of the $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}$ matrix 103

4.3 – Shape of the spectrum produced by an ensemble of paramagnetic centres in the absence of hyperfine interaction **110**

4.3.1 – Variation in g' values with the direction of $\mathbf{B}$ 110

4.3.2 – Shape of the EPR spectrum depending on the nature of the sample 112

4.3.3 – Notes on the spectra produced by polycrystalline powders or frozen solutions 117

4.4 – How anisotropic hyperfine interaction affects the shape of the EPR spectrum **118**

4.4.1 – The hyperfine matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$ 118

4.4.2 – Expression of the resonance field in the presence of anisotropic hyperfine interaction 121

4.4.3 – Effect of $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$ matrix anisotropy on the shape of the powder spectrum .. 123

4.5 – How molecular movements affect the spectrum: isotropic and very slow motion regimes **129**

4.5.1 – A hypothetical experiment 129

4.5.2 – Effects of rotational Brownian motion of paramagnetic molecules 132

4.6 – Points to consider in applications **133**

4.6.1 – Spectrum for a single crystal 133

4.6.2 – Powder spectrum for centres of spin ½ 135

4.6.3 – Spectra for transition ion complexes 135

4.6.4 – Spectra for free radicals 136

4.6.5 – The EPR spectrum contains additional information 136

Complement 1 – Splitting of the energy levels for the electrons in an octahedral complex 137

Complement 2 – Possible values of $\mathbf{g}'$ when the $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}$ matrix is rhombic 139

Complement 3 – Expression for the density of resonance lines for a centre with axial symmetry 141

Complement 4 – Expression giving the energy levels for any direction of $\mathbf{B}$ when the $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$ matrices are anisotropic 144

Complement 5 – An example of a study of a single crystal: identification of the site of Ti^{3+} fluorescence in $LaMgAl_{11}O_{19}$ 147

References 149

Exercises & Answers to exercises 151

Chapter 5 – Spectrum intensity, saturation, spin-lattice relaxation 155

5.1 – Introduction 155

5.2 – Spectrum intensity at thermal equilibrium....156

5.2.1 – Absorption signal and intensity of a resonance line.... 156

5.2.2 – Expressions for the absorption signal and the intensity of the spectrum for a powder or a frozen solution.... 163

5.2.3 – Intensity of the spectrum produced by a single crystal.... 165

5.2.4 – Intensity of the resonance lines and of the spectrum in the presence of hyperfine interactions 166

5.3 – Signal saturation 167

5.3.1 – Saturation of an EPR transition.... 167

5.3.2 – Expression for the absorption signal in the saturated regime.... 170

5.3.3 – Significance of the saturation phenomenon.... 172

5.4 – Spin-lattice relaxation....174

5.4.1 – The various spin-lattice relaxation processes.... 174

5.4.2 – How can the spin-lattice relaxation time T_1 be measured? 178

5.4.3 – Relaxation phenomena and EPR spectroscopy in practice.... 180

5.5 – Points to consider in applications....182

5.5.1 – Intensity of the resonance lines and the spectrum 182

5.5.2 – Use of spin-lattice relaxation 183

Complement 1 – Fermi's golden rule 185

Complement 2 – Expression of the intensity factor for an axially symmetric centre of spin ½ 187

Complement 3 – Homogeneous and inhomogeneous lines 189

References 192

Exercises & Answers to exercises 193

Chapter 6 – The zero-field splitting term. EPR spectrum for paramagnetic centres of spin greater than ½ 197

6.1 – Introduction 197

6.2 – The zero-field splitting term 198

6.2.1 – The $\tilde{\mathbf{D}}$ matrix 198

6.2.2 – The D and E parameters 200

6.3 – Definition and general characteristics of "high-field" and "low-field" situations 202

6.3.1 – The energy levels for a centre with axial symmetry for the canonical directions of the magnetic field 202

6.3.2 – "High-field" and "low-field" situations 205

6.4 – General properties of the spectrum in the high-field situation 207

6.4.1 – Energy levels and allowed transitions 207

6.4.2 – Intensity of the resonance lines and the spectrum 208

6.5 – Shape of the powder spectrum in the high-field situation 210

6.5.1 – Expression for the resonance field in axial symmetry 210

6.5.2 – Shape of the spectrum in axial symmetry 211

6.5.3 – The"half-field" line for $S = 1$ 215

6.5.4 – Shape of the spectrum in "rhombic" symmetry 217

6.6 – EPR spectrum for complexes of half-integer spin in the low-field situation. Kramers doublet 218

6.6.1 – Case of a complex with axial symmetry 218
6.6.2 – Generalisation to a complex of any geometry 223

6.7 – EPR spectrum for integer-spin complexes in the low-field situation 224

6.8 – Points to consider in applications 225
6.8.1 – Organic molecules in a triplet state 226
6.8.2 – Transition ion complexes in the high-field situation 226
6.8.3 – Transition ion complexes in the low-field situation 227
6.8.4 – Spin-lattice relaxation for centres of spin greater than ½ 227

Complement 1 – Intensity of the resonance line at high temperature in the high-field limit 229

Complement 2 – Shape of the low-field spectrum for a centre of spin $S = 1$ 231

References 233

Exercises & Answers to exercises 235

Chapter 7 – Effects of dipolar and exchange interactions on the EPR spectrum. Biradicals and polynuclear complexes 241

7.1 – Introduction 241

7.2 – Origin and description of intercentre interactions 242
7.2.1 – The true nature of exchange interaction 242
7.2.2 – Phenomenological description of exchange interaction 248
7.2.3 – “Anisotropic components” of exchange interaction 249
7.2.4 – Magnetic dipolar interaction 250

7.3 – Effects of weak intercentre interactions on the spectrum 250
7.3.1 – Effects of the dipolar interactions 251
7.3.2 – Effects of the exchange interaction 256
7.3.3 – General case 261

7.4 – Effects of strong exchange interaction on the spectrum Biradicals and polynuclear complexes 262
7.4.1 – Introduction 262

7.4.2 – Construction of equivalent Hamiltonians for a pair of paramagnetic centres 263
7.4.3 – Equivalent Hamiltonians and EPR spectra for a few typical pairs 267

7.5 – How intercentre interactions affect the intensity of the spectrum and the relaxation properties 274
7.5.1 – EPR spectrum intensity 274
7.5.2 – Relaxation properties 275

7.6 – Points to consider in applications 277
7.6.1 – How weak intercentre interactions affect the spectra 277
7.6.2 – How strong exchange interaction affects the spectrum 277
7.6.3 – Dynamic effects of intercentre interactions 278

Complement 1 – Equivalent Hamiltonian for a trinuclear complex 279

References 282

Exercises & Answers to exercises 284

Chapter 8 – EPR spectrum for complexes of rare earth and actinide ions 289

8.1 – Rare earth ions 289
8.1.1 – Magnetic moment of free rare earth ions 290
8.1.2 – Hyperfine interaction with the nucleus 291

8.2 – Complexes of rare earth ions: effect of interaction with ligands 293
8.2.1 – Expression describing the interaction of electrons in the $4f$ subshell with ligands 293
8.2.2 – Effects of interaction with ligands on the ground multiplet 295

8.3 – The EPR spectrum for complexes of rare earth ions with half-integer J values 298
8.3.1 – Introduction 298
8.3.2 – Expression for the effective parameters 299
8.3.3 – The case of cations in an S state 300
8.3.4 – Application: analysing the data obtained for ethyl sulfates 301
8.3.5 – Spin-lattice relaxation for complexes with half-integer spin 305

8.4 – The EPR spectrum for complexes of rare earth ions with integer J values 306

8.4.1 – Intradoublet transitions 306

8.4.2 – Transitions between singlets 307

8.5 – Actinide complexes 307

8.5.1 – Introduction 307

8.5.2 – Comparison of spectra for complexes of trivalent rare earth and actinide cations 309

8.5.3 – Complexes of high valence actinides: example of cations with a $5f^1$ configuration 310

8.6 – Points to consider in applications 313

8.6.1 – Comparison of the EPR characteristics of transition ion and rare earth ion complexes with a half-integer spin 313

8.6.2 – Interpreting spectra for rare earth complexes 314

8.6.3 – Actinide complexes 315

Complement 1 – Rare earth elements and actinides: etymological considerations 316

References 317

Exercises & Answers to exercises 319

Chapter 9 – How instrumental parameters affect the shape and intensity of the spectrum. Introduction to simulation methods 323

9.1 – Introduction 323

9.2 – How field sweep and field modulation affect the shape of the spectrum 324

9.2.1 – Effects of modulation at the level of the sample 325

9.2.2 – Effects of magnetic field modulation and sweep at the level of the detection chain 326

9.3 – How the power and frequency of the radiation affect the spectrum. The temperature parameter 329

9.3.1 – Effect of the power and frequency of the radiation 329

9.3.2 – Temperature-related effects 332
9.3.3 – Case study: seeking the origin of line splitting in an EPR spectrum 333

9.4 – Simulating spectrum saturation 335
9.4.1 – Simulating saturation of a homogeneous Lorentzian line 336
9.4.2 – Simulating saturation of an inhomogeneous line 338
9.4.3 – Simulating saturation of a powder spectrum 340

9.5 – Introduction to numerical simulation of the EPR spectrum 341
9.5.1 – Why simulate a spectrum? 341
9.5.2 – How can the spectrum be numerically calculated? 343
9.5.3 – The linewidth problem 344

9.6 – Points to consider in applications 345
9.6.1 – How should the modulation and sweep parameters be selected? 345
9.6.2 – How can a saturation curve be simulated? 346
9.6.3 – How can an EPR spectrum be simulated? 347

Complement 1 – Some properties of the convolution product 348

Complement 2 – Quantitative analysis of the saturation curve for an inhomogeneous line 350

Complement 3 – Quantitative study of relaxation broadening 352

Complement 4 – Using standard samples in EPR spectroscopy 354

Complement 5 – Numerical simulation software 357

References 359

Exercises & Answers to exercices 361

Appendix 1 – Expression of the magnetic moment of a free atom or ion 363

First step: electrostatic interactions to which electrons are subjected 363
1 – Microstates 363
2 – (L, S) terms 364

Second step: magnetic interactions to which electrons are subjected 367
1 – Multiplets 367

2 – Expression for the magnetic moment 368

Appendix 2 – Expression of $\tilde{\mathrm{g}}$ and $\tilde{\mathrm{A}}$ matrices given by ligand field theory for a transition ion complex 371

1 – Electrostatic interactions in free ions 371

2 – Electrostatic interactions with ligands 372

3 – Magnetic interactions 374

3.1 – Effects of spin-orbit coupling and interaction with a magnetic field 374

3.2 – Effects of hyperfine interactions 377

3.3 – The case of complexes of cations in an S state 379

Appendix 3 – Dipolar interactions between a nuclear magnetic moment and electron spin magnetic moments 381

1 – The dipolar matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}$ 381

Case where the $\varphi(\mathbf{r})$ orbital is spherically symmetric relative to the nucleus 382

2 – Principal axes and principal values of the $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}$ matrix 383

2.1 – $\varphi(\mathbf{r})$ is an atomic orbital centred at O 384

2.2 – $\varphi(\mathbf{r})$ is centred at a point C which is remote from the nucleus 384

3 – Case with several unpaired electrons 385

Appendix 4 – Some properties of angular momentum operators. Spin coupling coefficients and equivalent operators. Application to Landé's formula and to dipolar hyperfine interactions 387

1 – Definition of coupled bases and spin coupling coefficients 387

1.1 – Product bases and coupled bases 387

1.2 – Construction of the matrices representing operators defined from $\mathbf{J}_1$ and $\mathbf{J}_2$ in the coupled basis 389

1.3 – Spin coupling coefficients 390

1.4 – Application to the energy of multiplets. Demonstration of the Landé formula ... 392

2 – Calculation of the dipolar components of the hyperfine interaction within an (L, S) term 393

Appendix 5 – The notion of spin density **397**
1 – Definition 398
2 – Spin density in a mononuclear complex 400
3 – Spin density in a dinuclear complex 402
Appendix 6 – Example of calculation of the spin-lattice relaxation time T_1: the direct process **407**
Appendix 7 – Matrix elements of operators defined from components of an angular momentum **411**
Glossary **413**
Index **417**