Electron-phonon coupling in charge-transfer and crystal-field states of Jahn-Teller CuCl$_6^{4-}$ systems

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(Received 25 March 1999)

In this work we present an octahedral perturbative model to explain the dependence of the crystal-field (CF) and the charge-transfer (CT) energy with respect to structural distortions in Jahn-Teller (JT) CuCl$_6^{4-}$ systems. The method provides a simple way to express the variation of electronic energy to complex distortions of the totally symmetric mode $Q_{a1g}$ and the JT mode $Q_g$, as a function of the corresponding electron-vibration coupling constants $[\partial E/\partial Q_{a1g}]_0$ and $[\partial E/\partial Q_g]_0$. A value of 9100 cm$^{-1}$ for the linear JT coupling constant $A_1$ has been obtained for the octahedral $2E_g(x^2-y^2,3z^2-r^2)$ CF state ($e\otimes E$) from structural correlations along a series of copper compounds. The corresponding JT coupling for the $2T_{1g}(\pi)$ CT state ($e\otimes T$), $A_2$ = 3000 cm$^{-1}$, has been derived from hydrostatic pressure measurements performed on the (C$_2$H$_4$NH)$_2$CuCl$_4$ perovskite layer. A noteworthy conclusion of this model is that a redshift of the intense $e_g(\pi)$-to-$b_{1g}(x^2-y^2)$ CT band is more rapidly than the equatorial distance by $|\Delta R_{el}|>|\Delta R_{eq}|$. These results are discussed in light of recent pressure experiments carried out in wide-gap CT semiconductors of the $A_2$CuCl$_4$ family. [S0163-1829(99)02534-5]

I. INTRODUCTION

Linear electron-vibration coupling in $O_h$ transition metal (TM) complexes $MX_6$, $X = F, Cl, Br, O, S, CN, ...$, is a fundamental parameter to understand the optical spectra and the relaxed excited-state equilibrium geometry, as well as to predict structural distortions of the complex induced by uniaxial stress or hydrostatic pressure. In Jahn-Teller (JT) systems such as CuX$_6^{4-}$, the knowledge of the linear coupling constants $[\partial E/\partial Q_{a1g}]_0$ and $[\partial E/\partial Q_g]_0$, associated with displacements along the symmetric modes of the $O_h$ complex $a_{1g}$ and the JT active $e_g(Q_g,Q_e)$, for the crystal-field (CF) and charge transfer (CT) excited states is important. These coupling constants largely determine the ground state and the CT equilibrium geometries. In fact, the first derivative $A_1 = \frac{1}{2}\partial E_{CF}/\partial Q_{a1g}$, where $E_{CF}$ is the splitting of the octahedral $2E_g(x^2-y^2,3z^2-r^2)$ state, plays a crucial role in the $e\otimes E$ JT coupling. 4-6 In first-order JT coupling, the CuX$_6^{4-}$ ground-state geometry corresponds to any point of the circumcircle of radius $r_0 = \sqrt{Q_{a1g}^2 + Q_{e}^2} = A_1/\mu \omega$, in $(Q_g,Q_e)$ space (Mexican hat potential-energy surface). This means that structures going from the axially elongated octahedron ($Q_g = p_0, Q_e = 0$) to the axially compressed octahedron ($Q_g = -p_0, Q_e = 0$), passing through different tetragonal and rhombohedral intermediate structures ($Q_g \neq 0, Q_e \neq 0$), are equally probable. Second-order JT effects of $e_g$ symmetry and anharmonic effects stabilize the axially elongated geometry ($D_{4h}$) having the tetragonal axis along either $z, x, o, y$ with the same probability, i.e., along any minimum of the three potential wells of the warped Mexican hat at $(Q_g = p_0, Q_e = 0)$, $(Q_g = -\frac{1}{2}p_0, Q_e = (\sqrt{3}/2)p_0)$ and $(Q_g = -\frac{1}{2}p_0, Q_e = -(\sqrt{3}/2)p_0)$, respectively. In that case the JT stabilization energy is $\Delta E = -E_{JT} = -A_1p_0/2$. A detailed review of the $e\otimes E$ JT effect in Cu$^{2+}$ complexes can be found elsewhere. 4-6

Analogously, the linear coupling constant of the first CT state with respect to octahedral distortions $Q_{a1g}$ and $Q_{e}$ are important since they contain valuable information on the variation of the $X^-\rightarrow$Cu$^{2+}$ CT energy $E_{CT}$ to JT distortions as well as to isotropic changes of volume. In particular, the knowledge of how $E_{CT}$ depends upon structural distortions is relevant in wide band-gap CT semiconductors like the layered perovskites $A_2$CuCl$_4$ ($A =$ alkylammonium group), 7-10 as well as many copper oxides, 10-12 given that it is related to the energy gap governing the electrooptical properties of these materials.

The aim of this work is to investigate the electron-vibration coupling associated with the first CF $a_{1g}(3z^2-r^2)\rightarrow b_{1g}(x^2-y^2)$ electronic transition and the first $e_g(\pi)\rightarrow b_{1g}(x^2-y^2)$ CT transition in CuCl$_6^{4-}$ systems. The coupling constants are obtained from structural correlations on the basis of a perturbed octahedral model, and are used to explore how structural changes of the complex affect the CT and CF states in JT Cu$^{2+}$ systems. The results of this work are applied to predict energy shifts as a function of the complex distortion. Recent pressure experiments on $A_2$CuCl$_4$ will also be discussed within this model. 7,13

$A_2$CuCl$_4$ layer compounds show a large variety of interesting physical phenomena associated with the antiferrodistortive structure displayed by the JT axially elongated CuCl$_6^{4-}$ complexes (Fig. 1). They are two-dimensional ferromagnets with $T_C = 10$ K (Refs. 14 and 15) and have attracted interest as material related to high-$T_C$ superconductors and as organic-inorganic hybrid layered systems. The color of these crystals, which is determined by the optical window formed by the first $e_g(\pi)\rightarrow b_{1g}(x^2-y^2)$ CT band placed at 26 000 cm$^{-1}$, and the CF band of highest energy around 12 000–17 000 cm$^{-1}$, strongly depends on the CuCl$_6^{4-}$ coordination geometry. 16-20 Therefore structural changes of the complex geometry induced either by temperatura-
ture or pressure may lead to interesting thermochromic or piezochromic effects. The thermochromism exhibited by the \([\text{C}_{2}\text{H}_{3}\text{NH}_{3}]_{2}\text{CuCl}_{4}\) crystal is an example of this behavior.\(^{21}\)

In this work we investigate the influence of structural changes of \(\text{CuCl}_{6}^{4-}\) on the optical properties in both CT and CF domains. This knowledge is of value in establishing guidelines to be followed for the synthesis of \(\text{Cu}^{2+}\)-based optical materials.

II. EXPERIMENT

Single crystals of \((\text{C}_{2}\text{H}_{3}\text{NH}_{3})_{2}\text{CuCl}_{4}\) examined in pressure experiments, were grown from aqueous solution as described elsewhere.\(^{20}\) The hydrostatic pressure experiments were done in a diamond-anvil cell (High Pressure Diamond Optics, Inc.), using paraffin oil as the pressure transmitter to prevent crystal hydration. The absorption spectra have been obtained with an implemented single beam spectrometer\(^{13,22}\) able to measure optical densities in the 0–5 range. Microsamples of \(80\times 80\times 2 \mu \text{m}^{3}\) were necessary for obtaining suitable CT spectra of the layered perovskites (absorption coefficient, \(k \approx 5 \times 10^{4} \text{ cm}^{-1}\)). The pressure was measured through the \(R\)-line shift of ruby chips introduced in the hydrostatic cavity. The ruby luminescence was excited with the 568-nm line of a Coherent I-302 Krypton Laser.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Perturbed octahedral model for \(\text{CuCl}_{6}^{4-}\)

The perturbative model developed here deals with the dependence of the CF and CT transitions as a function of the \(\text{CuCl}_{6}^{4-}\) distortion. The model consists of expanding the octahedral \(\text{CuCl}_{6}^{4-}\) Hamiltonian in terms of the normal coordinates \(Q_i\) \((i=a_{1g}, e_{g}, e_{u})\), rather than in terms of bond distances \(R_i\) \((i=ax,eq,eq_{2})\). This procedure is advantageous since it expresses separately CF and CT contributions and most parameters involved in the model can be obtained experimentally through structural correlations. In addition, it provides information concerning the electron-vibration coupling associated, not only with the electronic ground state, but also with the first \(\text{Cl}^{-}-\text{Cu}^{2+}\) CT state both from variations of volume, \([\partial E_{\text{CT}}/\partial Q_{a_{1g}}]\)\(_{Q_{0}}\), and from tetragonal distortions at constant volume, \([\partial E_{\text{CT}}/\partial Q_{e_{g}}]\)\(_{Q_{0}}\). A conclusion derived from this model is that a redshift of the first CT energy in \(\text{CuCl}_{6}^{4-}\) is possible upon anisotropic reduction of the complex volume. Moreover, it predicts a CT redshift even for complex distortions involving a reduction of all Cu-CI distances. In particular, these estimates foresee a pressure-induced redshift for the first CT band in \(A_{2}\text{CuCl}_{4}\) in the event of an axial distance decrease while the equatorial Cu-Cl distance is unmodified: \(\Delta R_{ax}<0, \Delta R_{eq}=0\). This structural variation upon pressure was in fact proposed by Morimoto and Tokura in \((\text{C}_{2}\text{H}_{3}\text{NH}_{3})_{2}\text{CuCl}_{4}\) from Raman measurements,\(^{7}\) and thus is in agreement with the CT redshift observed in this crystal and in other \(A_{2}\text{CuCl}_{4}\) systems.\(^{13}\)

The proposed perturbative model is similar to Kaplyanskii’s method for describing piezospectroscopic shifts in optical centers.\(^{23}\) In general, the variation of the \(\text{CuCl}_{6}^{4-}\) complex Hamiltonian with respect to distortions of the octahedral symmetry can be expanded as a function of the octahedral normal coordinates \(Q_i\) as

\[
H = H_0 + \Delta H = H_0 + \sum_{i} \left[ \frac{\partial H}{\partial Q_i} \right]_{Q_{0}} Q_i, \tag{1}
\]

where \(H_0\) is the octahedral Hamiltonian and \(\left[ \frac{\partial H}{\partial Q_i} \right]_{Q_{0}}\) is the Hamiltonian derivative with respect to a complex distortion described by the normal coordinate \(Q_i\) (\(i\) denotes the corresponding \(O_{ni}\) irreducible representation). Although this expansion could also be done as a function of the six bond distances \(R_i\), the use of normal coordinates is advantageous for analyzing the relevant energy derivatives of the perturbed Hamiltonian \(\Delta H\). In fact, the corresponding Hamiltonian representation matrices \(\langle \Delta H \rangle\) are traceless for all modes except for the totally symmetric \(a_{1g}\), if the electronic states involved in the transition are like in the present case \(^{2}E_{g}\) and \(^{2}T_{1u}\), orbital doublets or triplets (Fig. 2):
ELECTRON-PHONON COUPLING IN CHARGE-TRANSFER EFFECTS

\( \Delta H = A_1 \left[ -Q_i, Q_j \right] \)

\( \Delta H = A_2 \left[ \frac{1}{2} Q_i - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} Q_j \right] \)

therefore \( \text{Tr} \left( \frac{\partial H}{\partial Q_i} \right) = 0 \) for all \( Q_i \neq Q_{a_1g} \).

This means that the center of gravity of the split one electron \( e_g \) and \( t_{1u} \) levels (or the corresponding \( 2E_g \) and \( 2T_{1u} \) states) does not change under any structural distortion keeping constant the average bond distance: \( D_{Q_{a_1g}} = 0 \). This feature is illustrated in the energy level diagrams of Fig. 2. The CT and CF levels of \( t_{1u} \) and \( e_g \) symmetry in \( O_h \) split into \( e_u + a_{2u} \) and \( a_{1g} + b_{1g} \), respectively, under static distortions of tetragonal \( D_{4h} \) symmetry. Note that although the split levels reverse upon changing the \( Q_g \) sign, i.e., from elongated octahedron to compressed octahedron, their center of gravity does not shift. Within this scheme, the energy of the first \( x,y \)-polarized CT transition \( (e_u \rightarrow b_{1g} \text{ for } Q_g > 0) \) or \( e_u \rightarrow a_{1g} \text{ for } Q_g < 0 \) shifts to lower energies on passing from an elongated to a compressed geometry. However, no shift would be observed for the first CF transition \( (a_{1g} \rightarrow b_{1g} \text{ for } Q_g > 0) \) or \( b_{1g} \rightarrow a_{1g} \text{ for } Q_g < 0 \) since the corresponding transition energy is proportional to the JT energy \( (E_{\text{CT}} = 4E_{\text{JT}}) \). The transition energy depends on the modulus of \( Q_g \) but does not on its sign \((E_{\text{JT}} = 1/2A_1 |Q_g|)^{1-6}\). This simple figure illustrates the relevance of the JT stabilization energy \( E_{\text{JT}} \) on the band shift due to tetragonal distortions, and therefore plays an important role for understanding the sign and the magnitude of the band shift.

Following the scheme of Fig. 2, the variation of the CT and CF transition energies induced by distortions of the octahedral symmetry is given by Eq. (3):

\( \Delta E_{\text{CT}} = \Delta [E(b_{1g}) - E(e_u)] \)

\( = \sum_i \left[ \frac{\partial \Delta E(b_{1g})}{\partial Q_i} - \frac{\partial \Delta E(e_u)}{\partial Q_i} \right] Q_j = 0, Q_i \)

\( \Delta E_{\text{CF}} = \Delta [E(b_{1g}) - E(a_{1g})] \)

\( = \sum_i \left[ \frac{\partial \Delta E(b_{1g})}{\partial Q_i} - \frac{\partial \Delta E(a_{1g})}{\partial Q_i} \right] Q_j = 0, Q_i \)

Here \( \Delta E(i) \) represents the eigenvalues of the perturbative Hamiltonian \( \Delta H \) for the octahedral \( i = t_{1u} \) and \( e_g \) mainly Cl\(^{-}\) and Cu\(^{2+}\) molecular orbitals (MO), respectively.

Limiting our analysis to the usual isotropic \( (Q_{a_1}) \) and tetragonal \( (Q_g) \) distortions displayed by CuCl\(^{4-}\) complexes (an analysis including the \( Q_r \) rhombic distortion is straightforward), then the variation of the transition energy according to Fig. 2 can be written as
TABLE I. Relevant structural and spectroscopic parameters for several Cu$^{2+}$ chlorides. $R_{eq}$ and $R_{ax}$ are the equatorial and axial Cu-Cl distances of the CuCl$_6^{2-}$ complexes. The first three compounds correspond to square-planar CuCl$_4^{2-}$ complexes. $\Delta R_{eq}$ denotes the orthorhombic distortion of the nearly tetragonal complex, $R_{eq}=(R_1+R_2)/2$ and $\Delta R_{eq}=(R_1-R_2)/2$ where $R_1$ and $R_2$ are the short Cu-Cl distances defining the equatorial plane of the complex. The tetragonal and rhombic normal coordinates $Q_\theta$ and $Q_\phi$ are related to these distances as $Q_\phi=(2\sqrt{3})(R_{eq}-R_{ax})$ and $Q_\theta=2\Delta R_{eq}$; $R_0=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(R_1+R_2+R_3)=\frac{1}{2}(2R_0+R_{ax})$ is the average Cu-Cl distance. The three ($e_1$, $e_2$, and $e_3$) parameters are the crystal-field energies associated with transitions $a_1g(3z^2-r^2)\rightarrow b_{1g}(x^2-y^2)$, $b_{2g}(x,y)\rightarrow b_{1g}(x^2-y^2)$, and $e_g(xz,zy)\rightarrow b_{1g}(x^2-y^2)$, respectively, obtained from the electronic spectra. $e_1=\Delta_e$ represents the splitting of the parent octahedral $e_g(x^2-y^2,3z^2-r^2)$ levels. The experimental data were taken from references given in the last row. Compounds are written with the commonly used names.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>$R_{eq}$ (Å)</th>
<th>$R_{ax}$ (Å)</th>
<th>$\Delta R_{eq}$ (Å)</th>
<th>$e_1=\Delta_e$ (cm$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$e_2=10Dq$ (cm$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$e_3$ (cm$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$Q_\phi$ (Å)</th>
<th>$Q_\theta$ (Å)</th>
<th>$\rho$ (Å)</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
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<tr>
<td>C$_2$H$_5$H$_2$O$_2$CuCl$_4$</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>16 600</td>
<td>12 200</td>
<td>14 000</td>
<td>28,29,30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(creatininium)CuCl$_4$</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>16 500</td>
<td>12 300</td>
<td>14 000</td>
<td>34,30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(nmp)CuCl$_4$</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>16 900</td>
<td>12 500</td>
<td>14 500</td>
<td>31,32,33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Pt(NH$_3$)$_4$CuCl]$_4$</td>
<td>2.287</td>
<td>3.257</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>14 300</td>
<td>34,30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cycloamH$_2$)CuCl$_6$</td>
<td>2.296</td>
<td>3.175</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>11 100</td>
<td>12 200</td>
<td>14 000</td>
<td>35,36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n-PrNH$_2$)$_2$CuCl$_4$</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12 300</td>
<td>13 500</td>
<td>27,38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(EtNH$_2$)$_2$CuCl$_4$</td>
<td>2.281</td>
<td>2.975</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>11 130</td>
<td>12 390</td>
<td>13 290</td>
<td>0.801</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.801</td>
<td>37,38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Me$_2$NH$_2$)$_2$CuCl$_4$</td>
<td>2.290</td>
<td>2.907</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>11 090</td>
<td>12 110</td>
<td>13 210</td>
<td>0.712</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.712</td>
<td>39,40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3-Cl-an)$_4$CuCl$_6$(Cl)$_2$</td>
<td>2.327</td>
<td>2.827</td>
<td>0.051</td>
<td>9000</td>
<td>10 400</td>
<td>12 100</td>
<td>0.577</td>
<td>0.101</td>
<td>0.586</td>
<td>43,44,25</td>
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<tr>
<td>CsCuCl$_3$</td>
<td>2.318</td>
<td>2.776</td>
<td>0.037</td>
<td>8300</td>
<td>10 000</td>
<td>12 930</td>
<td>0.529</td>
<td>0.074</td>
<td>0.534</td>
<td>35,36</td>
</tr>
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</table>

However, it can be estimated from MS-X$\alpha$ calculations performed on CuCl$_6^{4-}$ of $D_{4h}$ symmetry for different values of $R_{ax}$ and $R_{eq}$. It is worth noting here that although calculations provide suitable values of the electronic structure of the complex, they underestimate the variation of the JT energy with respect to the tetragonal distortion in comparison to the results shown in Fig. 3. The value $[\partial E_{\text{CT}}/\partial Q_{a1g}]_{Q_{\phi}=0}=-13.500$ cm$^{-1}$/Å, employed in this work has been obtained from calculations performed on CuCl$_6^{4-}$ for two different geometries ($Q_{\phi}>0$ and $Q_{\phi}<0$) (Ref. 24) by extracting the tetragonal contribution to the total CT energy. This value is similar to estimates based on the variation of electrostatic potential created by the complex at the ligand and metal sites. That variation is known to be mainly responsible for the CT shifts induced by variations of $R$ in $O_6$ complexes. Therefore the $R$-dependence of the CT energy obtained on the basis of this assumption is

$$
\frac{\partial E_{\text{CT}}}{\partial Q_{a1g}} = \frac{\partial E_{\text{CT}}}{\partial Q_{a1g}} e\frac{\partial V_{L-M}}{\partial R} = \frac{1}{6} \frac{e^2}{R^2} (-2.67q_M + q_L) = -14 000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$/Å
$$

for an average Cu-Cl distance $R_0=2.53$ Å, and ionic charges $q_L=-1$ for the ligand and $q_M=2$ for the metal, respectively. $V_{L-M}$ is the electrostatic potential difference at the ligand and metal sites. The similarity between this and the MS-X$\alpha$ value makes it a proper estimate of this unknown parameter.
ELECTRON-PHONON COUPLING IN CHARGE-TRANSFER . . .

The extrapolated derivative obtained from Fig. 3 is
\[
\left[ \frac{\partial E_{\text{CF}}}{\partial \rho} \right]_{\rho=0} - \left[ \frac{\partial E_{\text{CF}}}{\partial Q_{\theta}} \right]_{Q_{\theta}=0} = \frac{4}{5} \frac{\partial E_{\text{JT}}}{\partial Q_{\theta}} \bigg|_{Q_{\theta}=0} = 18 \, 200 \, \text{cm}^{-1}/\text{Å}.
\]

Note that this value is higher than the CT isotropic contribution \( \left[ \partial E_{\text{CT}} / \partial Q_{\text{diag}} \right]_{Q_{\text{diag}}=0} = -13 \, 500 \, \text{cm}^{-1}/\text{Å} \), thus stressing the relevance of the JT contribution to the CT shifts. The linear electron-vibration coupling constant between the octahedral degenerate \( ^2E_g \) ground state and the vibrational \( e_g(Q_{\theta}, Q_{\rho}) \) mode \( E \otimes e \) is then
\[
A_1 = -\left[ \partial E(^2B_{1g}) / \partial Q_{\theta} \right] = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \partial E_{\text{CF}} / \partial Q_{\theta} \right]_{Q_{\theta}=9100 \, \text{cm}^{-1}/\text{Å}}.
\]

The JT coupling constant obtained through this method is similar to \( A_1 = 7000 \, \text{cm}^{-1}/\text{Å} \) found by Reinen and Hitchman in CuCl\(_6\)\(^{4-}\) formed in the triclinic compound (3-Cl-an)\(_6\)[CuCl\(_6\)]Cl\(_4\). The discrepancy is due to the procedure employed by the authors for estimating \( A_1 \) as twice the ratio of the JT energy found by structural correlation and the vibrational \( e_g(Q_{\theta}, Q_{\rho}) \) mode, \( E \otimes e \) is then
\[
A_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \partial \Delta_{\text{JT}}(\rho) / \partial \rho \right]_{\rho=0}.
\]

It must be observed that the JT distortion \( \rho_0 = A_1 / \mu \omega^2 \), deduced for an isolated CuCl\(_6\)\(^{4-}\) complex taking \( \mu_{\text{Cl}} = 5.9 \times 10^{-23} \, \text{g} \) and \( \omega = 4.2 \times 10^{13} \, \text{s}^{-1} \), is \( \rho_0 = 0.18 \, \text{Å} \). Note that this value is significantly shorter than the experimental JT distortion found for CuCl\(_6\)\(^{4-}\) along the series shown in Table I stressing the influence of the crystal anisotropy in the JT equilibrium geometry. Therefore the present estimates suggest that a reduction of the JT distortion induced by pressure from the zero pressure values \( \rho_0 = 1.0 - 0.6 \, \text{Å} \) at high pressure is likely.

B. Charge-transfer band assignment

The JT contribution to the CT energy coming from the ligand \( t_{1u} \) MO cannot be obtained from structural correla-

FIG. 3. Spectroscopic and structural correlations in CuCl\(_6\)\(^{4-}\) complexes. The plot shows the variation of the tetragonal splitting, \( \Delta_x = 4E_{\text{JT}} - E[2_{1g}((x^2-y^2)] - E[3g(3z^2-r^2)] \), with the structural distortion coordinate, \( \rho = [Q_{z}^2 + Q_{4z}^2]^{1/2} \), measured along the series of copper compounds given in Table I. The full line is the least-square fitting to a quadratic function. The linear electron-vibration Jahn-Teller coupling derived from this curve is \( A_1 = 9100 \, \text{cm}^{-1} \).

The spectra have been fitted to the sum of two Gaussians which are shown (full lines) together with the absorption data (points). The inset shows the variation of the peak energy of the two Gaussians

FIG. 4. Variation of the absorption band associated with the first Cl\(_{-}\)Cu\(^{2+}\) CT transition \( e_u(\pi) \rightarrow b_{1g}(x^2-y^2) \) with hydrostatic pressure in the (C\(_3\)H\(_7\)NH\(_3\))\(_2\)CuCl\(_4\) perovskite layer. Note the presence of a small shoulder at low energies (see text for assignment). The spectra have been fitted to the sum of two Gaussians which are shown (full lines) together with the absorption data (points). The inset shows the variation of the peak energy of the two Gaussians with pressure. The straight lines correspond to least-square linear fitting of the data: \( E_{\text{CT1}} = 26 \, 300 - 18.5 \, P \) and \( E_{\text{CT2}} = 22 \, 400 - 4.2 \, P \). Units in \( \text{cm}^{-1} \) (E) and kbars (P). Crystal size: \( 80 \times 80 \times 2 \, \mu\text{m}^3 \).
presence of the weak component at 22 400 cm$^{-1}$ is likely to reflect the actual $D_{2h}$ symmetry (nearly $D_{4h}$) of the CuCl$_6^{4-}$ complex in (C$_2$H$_7$NH$_3$)$_2$CuCl$_4$.	extsuperscript{27} This interpretation is strongly supported by the pressure behavior of the two components. First, the weak $a_{2u} \rightarrow b_{1g}$ component ($a_{2u} \rightarrow d_{1g}$ in $D_{2h}$) of the CT band increases with pressure. Second, both components shift to lower energies and their splitting continuously reduces with pressure. Both features agree with the structural model proposed by Morimoto and Tokura,	extsuperscript{7} for explaining the pressure-induced disappearance of the antiferrodistortive structure in (C$_2$H$_7$NH$_3$)$_2$CuCl$_4$. The authors suggest an evolution of the complex structure from an elongated octahedron to an octahedron or a nearly octahedral geometry. This structural transformation must bring the two $e_u \rightarrow b_{1g}$ and $a_{2u} \rightarrow b_{1g}$ CT components into $t_{1u} \rightarrow e_g$ in the hypothetical octahedral limit, where both components should have the same energy and intensity. Nevertheless, an evolution of CuCl$_6^{4-}$ to an octahedron is not possible due to the JT effect.	extsuperscript{4-6} The present results can be concealed with the disappearance of the antiferrodistortive structure if we assume that the main effect of pressure on the local structure of CuCl$_6^{4-}$ is to reduce the axial distance and the out-of-layer equatorial Cu-Cl distance, leading to an orthorhombic complex with a radius $\rho_0 \approx 0.18$ Å, close to the octahedron $\rho_0 = 0$.

Therefore the results of Fig. 4 support the structural evolution foreseen from Raman measurements,\textsuperscript{7} and also confirm the CT assignment for this low energy shoulder proposed elsewhere.\textsuperscript{26}

**C. Energy shift analysis**

According to the CT band assignment, we can now make a rough estimate of the electron-vibration coupling constant, $A_2 = \frac{1}{2} \langle \frac{\partial E_\text{e}}{\partial Q} \rangle_{Q_{a_{1g}}} = 3000$ cm$^{-1}$/Å, from the CT band splitting observed at atmospheric pressure, $\Delta E_{a} = 3900$ cm$^{-1}$ in (C$_2$H$_7$NH$_3$)$_2$CuCl$_4$ and the corresponding tetragonal distortion, $Q_{a} = 0.87$ Å. Although this procedure underestimates the actual derivative at $Q_{a} = 0$, it does not affect the conclusions derived throughout the present analysis. Replacing these values in Eq. (4) we obtain

$$\Delta E_{\text{CT}} = \left[ \frac{2 \partial E_\text{e}}{3 \partial \rho_a} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{\partial E_L}{\partial Q} \right] Q_{a_{1g}} + \left[ \frac{\partial E_{\text{CT}}}{\partial Q_{a_{1g}}} \right]_{Q_{a}=0} Q_{a_{1g}} = \left(9100 \pm 1500 \right) Q_{a} - 13500 Q_{a_{1g}}$$

(5)

Before analyzing the CT shift for different distortions of the CuCl$_6^{4-}$ octahedron on the basis of Eq. (5), it is worthwhile to underline that the JT contribution to the first CT energy $E_{\text{CT}} = 26000$ cm$^{-1}$ in (C$_2$H$_7$NH$_3$)$_2$CuCl$_4$ is approximately $\Delta_{J} = 2 \left[ \frac{\partial E_\text{e}}{\partial \rho_a} + \frac{1}{3} E_L \right] = 5650 + 1300 + 6950$ cm$^{-1}$ (Table I and Fig. 4). This value represents 27% of the total energy, thus confirming the importance of JT effect to the CT energy in CuCl$_6^{4-}$. Given that this term is directly related to structural deviations from the octahedral symmetry, distortions of the $A_2$CuCl$_4$ layer crystals yielding a decrease of the initial tetragonal symmetry of CuCl$_6^{4-}$ must affect significantly both the first CT and CF energies.

From Eq. (5), we conclude that the CT shift is different for elongated and compressed $D_{4h}$ complexes. In the former case, $\Delta E_{\text{CT}} = 10600Q_{\alpha} - 13500Q_{a_{1g}}$ while it is 7600$Q_{\alpha} - 13500Q_{a_{1g}}$ in the latter case. However, a similar contribution to the CT shift is found for a tetragonal and an isotropic distortion described in terms of normal coordinates in both situations. As is well known, Eq. (5) also predicts a CT blueshift upon an isotropic compression of CuCl$_6^{4-}$. $Q_{a_{1g}} > 0$ and $Q_{\alpha} = 0$. Nevertheless, either a blueshift or a redshift is possible whenever an elongated ($Q_{\alpha} > 0$) or a compressed ($Q_{\alpha} < 0$) tetragonal distortion at constant volume takes place. This result agrees with findings on CuCl$_6^{4-}$ for these two geometries through MS-Xα calculations.\textsuperscript{24}

Interestingly, the structural distortion attained in pressure experiments performed on $A_2$CuCl$_4$ is worthwhile. The pressure-induced axially compression of CuCl$_6^{4-}$ is also accompanied by a reduction of the complex volume: $Q_{\alpha} < 0$, $Q_{a_{1g}} < 0$. This means that $\Delta E_{\text{CT}} = -10600|Q_{\alpha}| + 13500|Q_{a_{1g}}|$, and therefore there is a competition between both isotropic and tetragonal distortions tending to shift the CT band to higher and lower energies, respectively. There will be either a redshift or a blueshift depending on whether $|Q_{\alpha}|$ is greater or smaller than 1.27 $|Q_{a_{1g}}|$, respectively. In terms of Cu-Cl distances, the CT shift can be written as $\Delta E_{\text{CT}} = +12000\Delta R_{ax} - 34300\Delta R_{eq}$ for elongations while $\Delta E_{\text{CT}} = -2250\Delta R_{ax} - 38000\Delta R_{eq}$ for compressions. A salient conclusion of this analysis is that a CT redshift associated with the reduction of all Cu-Cl distances is possible in elongated CuCl$_6^{4-}$. Such a redshift, however, is not possible in an axially compressed complex since the two coefficients are negative, i.e., the JT contribution to the CT shift coming from the metal and ligand orbitals have opposite signs (Fig. 2). The positive value of $\frac{\partial E_{\text{CT}}}{\partial Q_{a_{1g}}} |_{Q_{\alpha}=0}$ indicates that the JT contribution to the CT band shift associated with the shortening of the axially elongated Cu-Cl bond is more important than the blueshift contribution due to volume reduction. This result is noteworthy since it predicts a CT redshift upon $\Delta R_{ax} < 0$ and $\Delta R_{eq} < 0$ if the variation of the equatorial distance is shorter than 3.5% the axial distance variation ($\left|\Delta R_{eq} \right| < 0.035\left|\Delta R_{ax}\right|$). Therefore JT distortions play a crucial role in the CT energy shift.

According to the proposed structural evolution for CuCl$_6^{4-}$ upon pressure, the redshift of about 1000 cm$^{-1}$ observed along the $A_2$CuCl$_4$ series can be accounted for within this model if the main effect of pressure is to reduce the Cu-Cu distance within the crystal layer (i.e., the orthorhombic $a$ and $b$ lattice parameters) but keeping the four short equatorial Cu-Cl bonds at $R_{eq} = 2.29$ Å. With regard to the local structure of Cu$^{2+}$, this evolution leads to a reduction of $R_{ax}$, and therefore to a CT redshift according to the previous analysis. Given that a variation of about $\Delta R_{ax} \sim 0.7$ Å is expected in the explored pressure range, the CT shift would be similar to the measured one according to Eq. (5). It must be emphasized, however, that although the present analysis provides suitable values of the CT shift rate in distorted CuCl$_6^{4-}$ complexes, quantitative estimates from this perturbative model must be taken with caution for distortions $Q_{\alpha} > 0.5$ Å (Fig. 3). Precise quantitative estimates for highly distorted complex like most of the known Cu$^{2+}$ complexes
deserve electronic structure calculations as a function of $R_{\text{eq}}$ and $R_{\text{ax}}$ around the tetragonal equilibrium geometry of CuCl$_6^{2-}$. Work along this line is currently in progress.

**IV. CONCLUSIONS**

In this work we have developed a perturbative octahedral-complex model to predict energy shift of the CT and CF bands in JT CuCl$_6^{2-}$ systems induced by isotropic and tetragonal structural distortions. This model is advantageous since the shift rates can be described in terms of linear electron-vibration coupling parameters whose values can be obtained from structural correlations. In addition, second-order effects like configuration interaction between different octahedral states, are negligible within this model. The shift rate estimates and the electron-vibration coupling constants associated with the JT effect for the ground state $A_1$ ($\varepsilon \otimes E$) and the CT state $A_2$ ($\varepsilon \otimes T$) provide a simple way of explaining the pressure-induced CT redshift as well as the structural variation of the Cu$^{2+}$ environment related to the progressive disappearance of the antiferrodistortive structure observed along the ($C_{n}H_{2n+1}NH_{3})_2CuCl_4$ ($n = 1–3$) series in hydrostatic pressure experiments.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Fruitful discussions with Professor M. Moreno, Professor J. A. Aramburu, and Professor M. T. Barriuso (University of Cantabria), and Professor M. Hitchman (University of Tasmania) are acknowledged. This work was supported by Caja Cantabria, the Vicerrectorado de Investigacion de la Universidad de Cantabria and the CICYT (Project No. PB95-0581).

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