

# Coordination Chemistry and Reactivity of f Elements

Cours 2 Electronic spectroscopy and magnetism of 4f elements. MRI contrast agents

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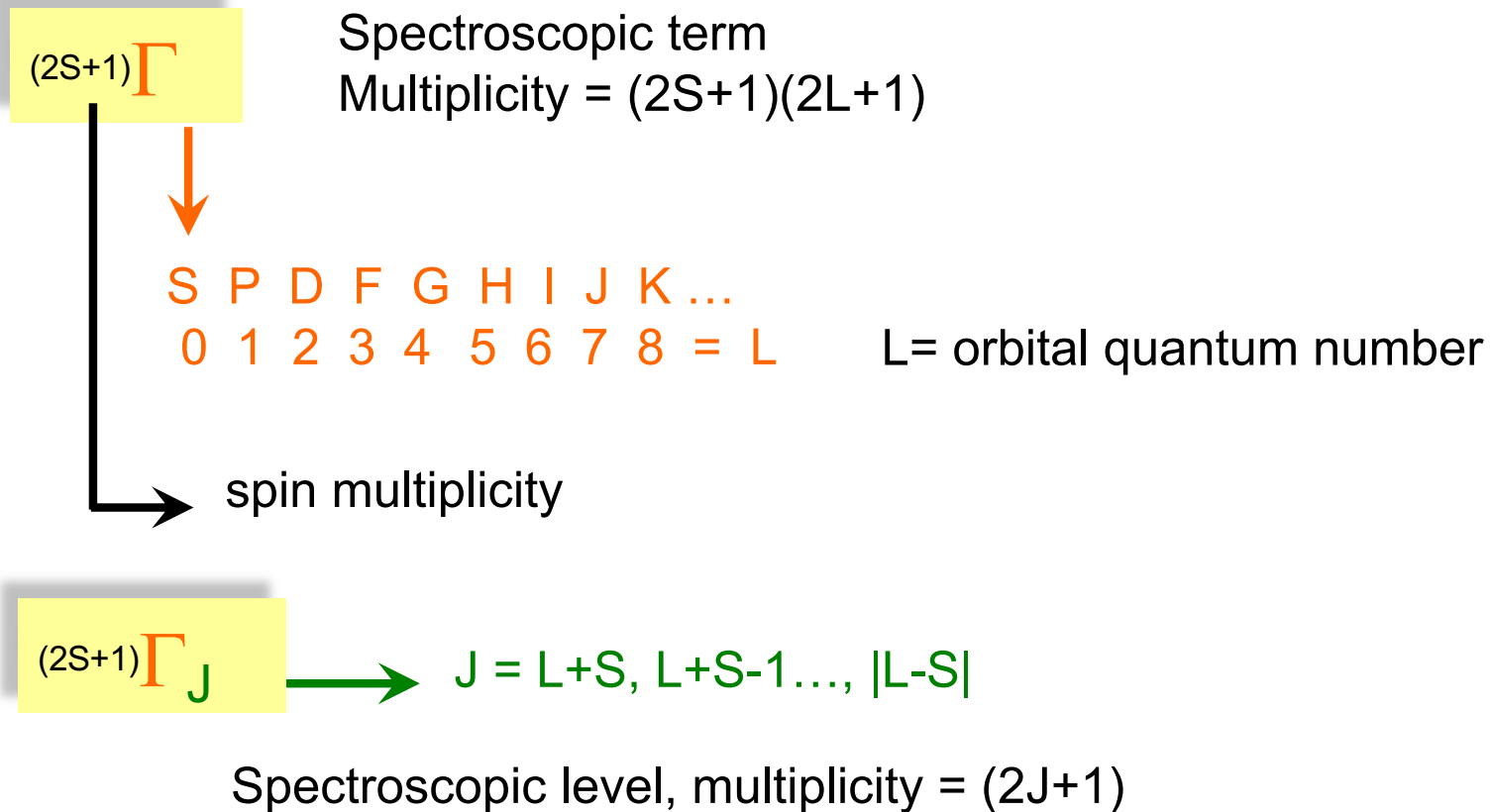
# Learning Outcomes

- Use Hunds rules to calculate the lanthanide ground state
- Calculate the magnetic moment of lanthanide ions
- Understand why spin-only formula is not adequate
- Explain why excitation (electronic) spectra are not dependent on ligand environment
- Explain the use of lanthanides as MRI agent and NMR Shift Reagents
- Know the properties needed for use of Gd complexes as MRI contrast agents

# Electronic levels

## 2.1.1 Electronic structure of 4f elements

**Russel-Saunders coupling usually works well**



# Electronic levels

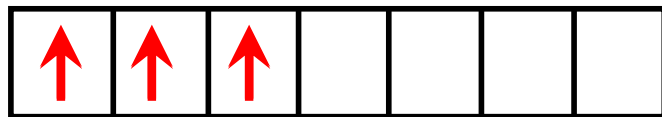
Hund's rules for ground state:

- Spin multiplicity must be the highest possible ( $S_{\max}$ )
- If more than one term have the highest multiplicity, the term with the highest value of  $L$  is the ground state ( $L_{\max}$ )
- The ground level has  $J_{\min}$  if the subshell is less than half filled,  $J_{\max}$  if the subshell is more than half filled

$$S_{\max} = 3 \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$L_{\max} = 6 \quad J = 15/2 \dots 9/2$$

Example:  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$ ,  $4f^3$



3    2    1    0    -1    -2    -3

$m_\ell \quad (\ell = 3)$

$$J = L+S, L+S-1, \dots, |L-S|$$

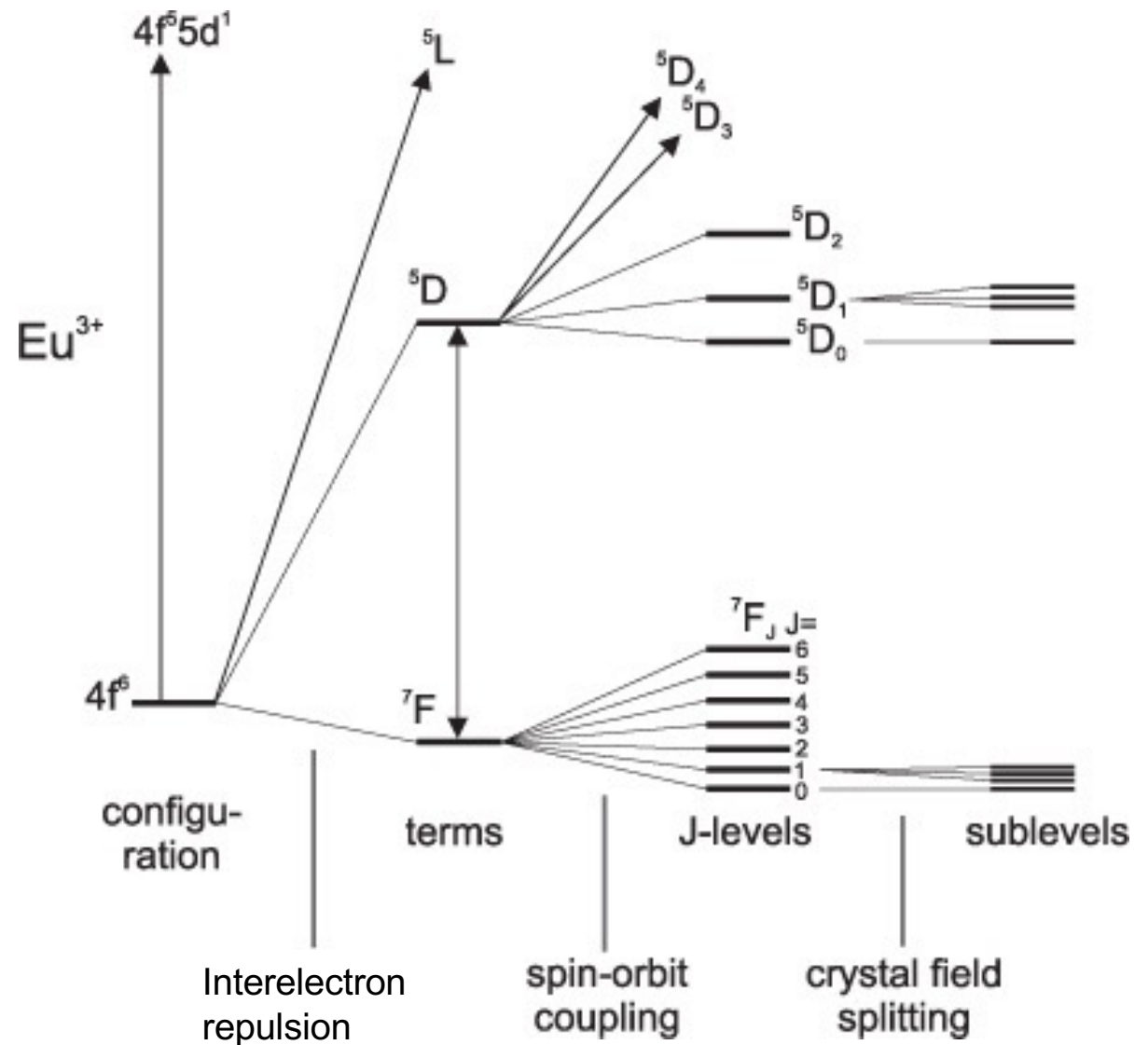
$$(2S+1) \Gamma_J$$

$$4I_{9/2}$$

# Electronic levels in lanthanides

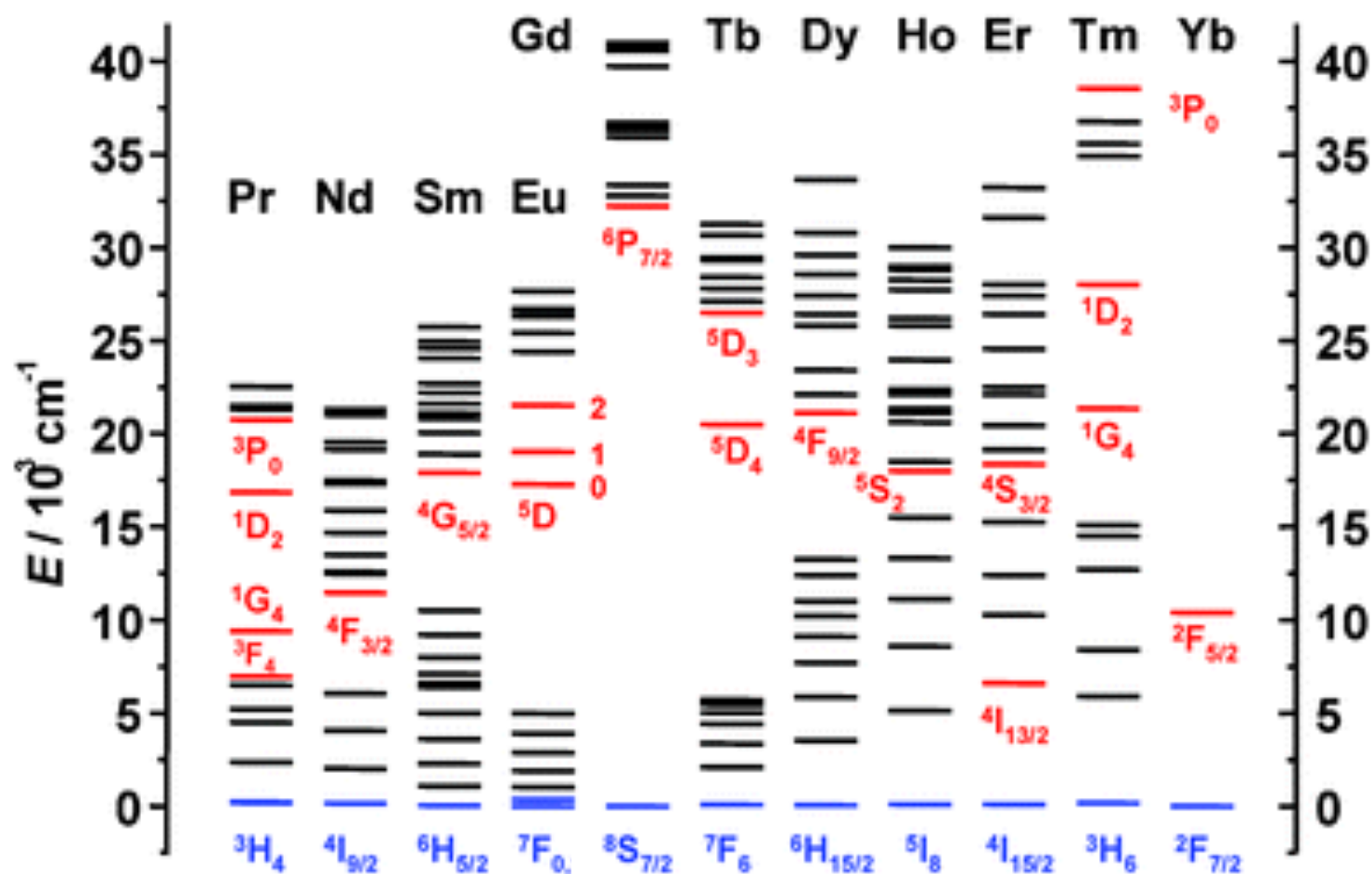
## Ligand field effects in lanthanides

They are very weak, a few hundreds  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  as compared to a few thousands for spin-orbit coupling, and  $10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for electron repulsion.



# Electronic levels

Some electronic levels...



Partial energy diagrams for the lanthanide aquo ions.

The main luminescent levels are drawn in red, while the fundamental level is indicated in blue.

# Electronic absorption spectra of Ln(III) ions

## f-f transitions

- Narrow bands
- Low absorption coefficient (forbidden transitions by Laporte and selection rules)
- Bary-centers of LF (ligand field) sublevels are not much dependent on the nature of the Ln<sup>III</sup> environment therefore energy of the transitions is more or less constant

## Electronic levels

<b>Ln<sup>3+</sup></b>	<b>4f<sup>n</sup>, n</b>	<b>Ground level</b>	<b>Color</b>
<b>Ce</b>	<b>1</b>	<b><sup>2</sup>F<sub>5/2</sub></b>	<b>colorless</b>
<b>Pr</b>	<b>2</b>	<b><sup>3</sup>H<sub>4</sub></b>	<b>green</b>
<b>Nd</b>	<b>3</b>	<b><sup>4</sup>I<sub>9/2</sub></b>	<b>lilac</b>
<b>Pm</b>	<b>4</b>	<b><sup>5</sup>I<sub>4</sub></b>	<b>pink</b>
<b>Sm</b>	<b>5</b>	<b><sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub></b>	<b>yellow</b>
<b>Eu</b>	<b>6</b>	<b><sup>7</sup>F<sub>0</sub></b>	<b>pale pink</b>
<b>Gd</b>	<b>7</b>	<b><sup>8</sup>S<sub>7/2</sub></b>	<b>colorless</b>
<b>Tb</b>	<b>8</b>	<b><sup>7</sup>F<sub>6</sub></b>	<b>colorless</b>
<b>Dy</b>	<b>9</b>	<b><sup>6</sup>H<sub>15/2</sub></b>	<b>yellow</b>
<b>Ho</b>	<b>10</b>	<b><sup>5</sup>I<sub>8</sub></b>	<b>yellow</b>
<b>Er</b>	<b>11</b>	<b><sup>4</sup>H<sub>15/2</sub></b>	<b>rose</b>
<b>Tm</b>	<b>12</b>	<b><sup>3</sup>H<sub>6</sub></b>	<b>pale green</b>
<b>Yb</b>	<b>13</b>	<b><sup>2</sup>F<sub>7/2</sub></b>	<b>colorless</b>



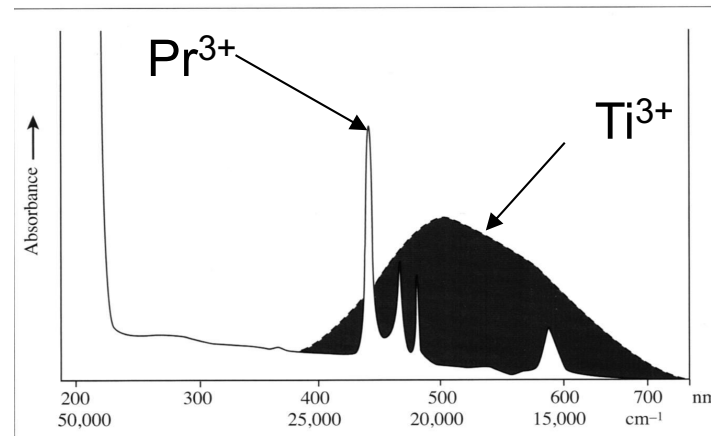
# Transitions f-f

- Spectra of complexes  $\approx$  spectra of free ions, not affected by geometry
- Narrow Bands
- Forbidden transitions by Laporte selection rules ( $\Delta l : \pm 1$ )  $\epsilon < 10 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$  colours less intense than d metal complexes

d-d transitions  $\sim 100 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$  (rules relaxed by vibronic coupling) and  $\pi\text{-}\pi \sim 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$

Pale colour of lanthanide(III) complexes

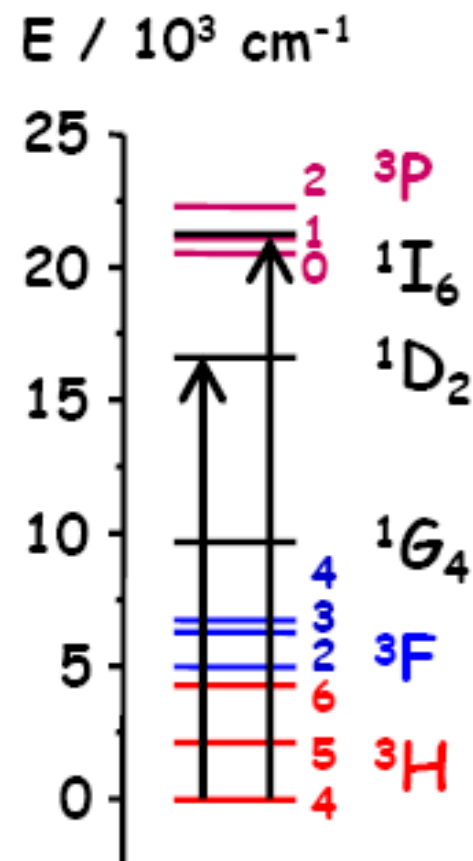
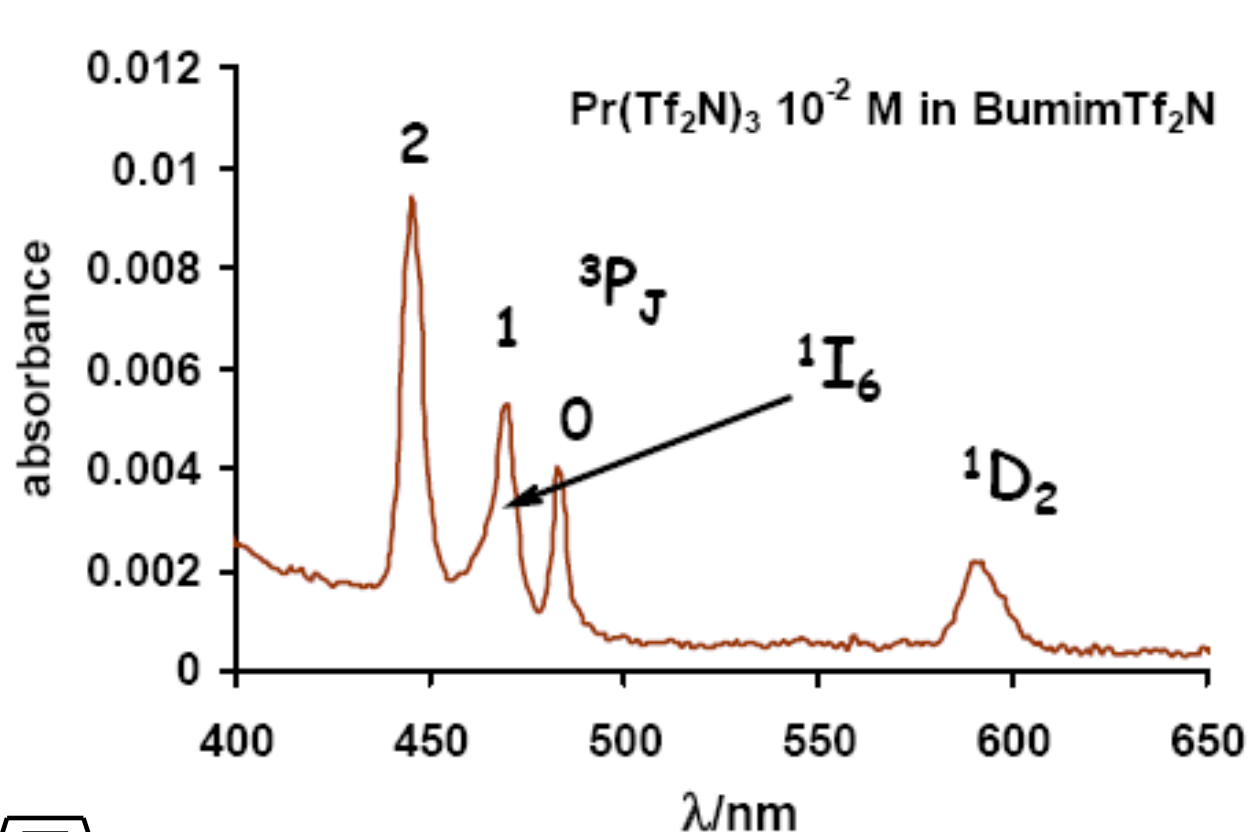
Relaxation of the Laporte selection rule occurs by spin-orbit coupling (l and s)



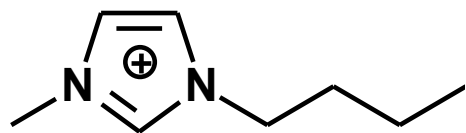
Electronic spectrum of  $\text{Pr}^{3+} (f^2)$  (narrow line)

Electronic spectrum of  $\text{Ti}(\text{H}_2\text{O})^{3+} (d^1)$  (broad line)

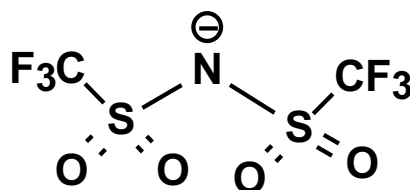
# Transitions f-f



Pr<sup>III</sup> 4f<sup>2</sup>, <sup>3</sup>H<sub>4</sub>



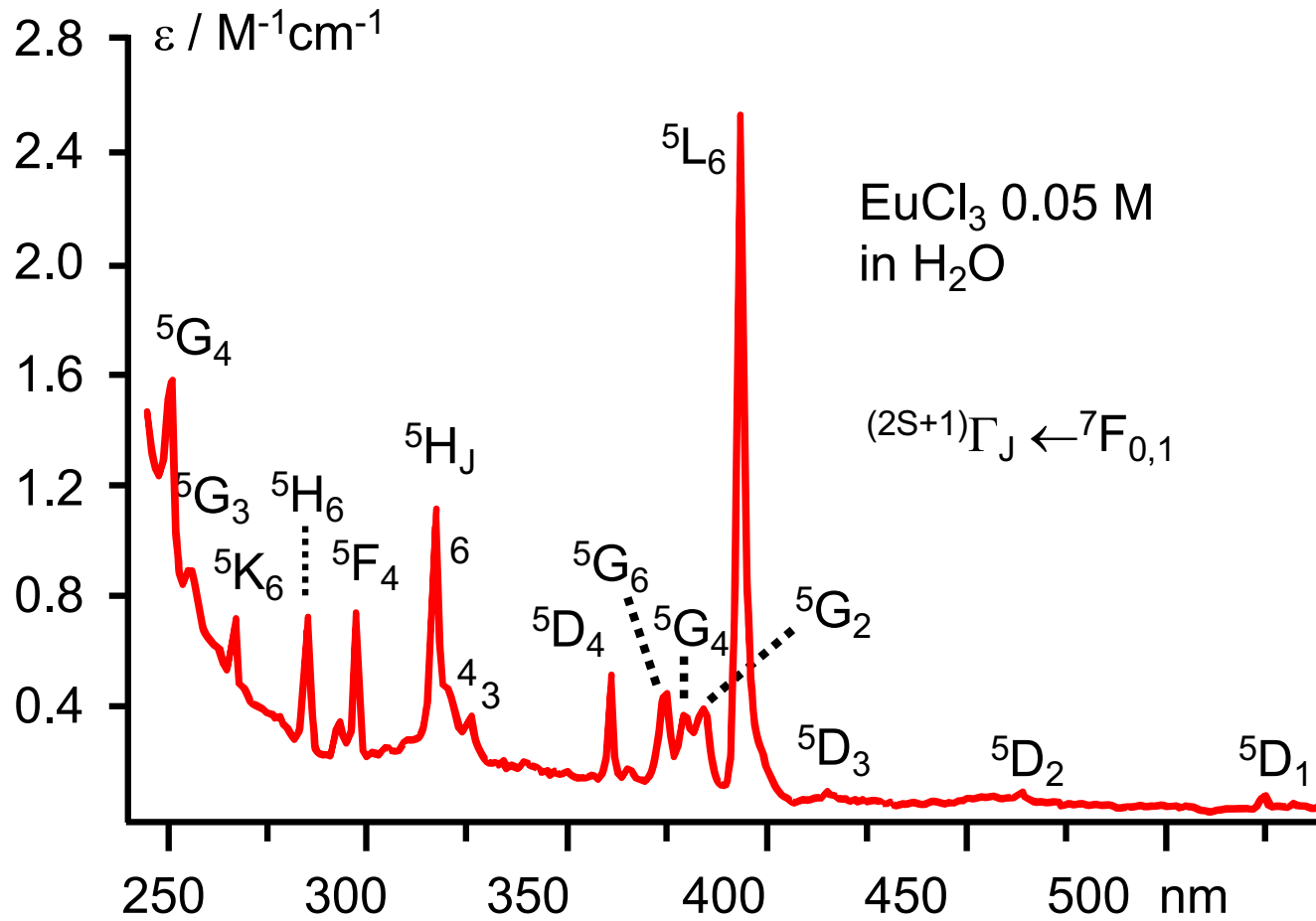
Tf<sub>2</sub>N



- Line-like absorption and emission spectra
- Transitions between states derived from Russell-Saunders spin orbit coupling (J)
- Pale colours (formally forbidden transitions)

# Transitions f-f

Europium(III),  $4f^6$



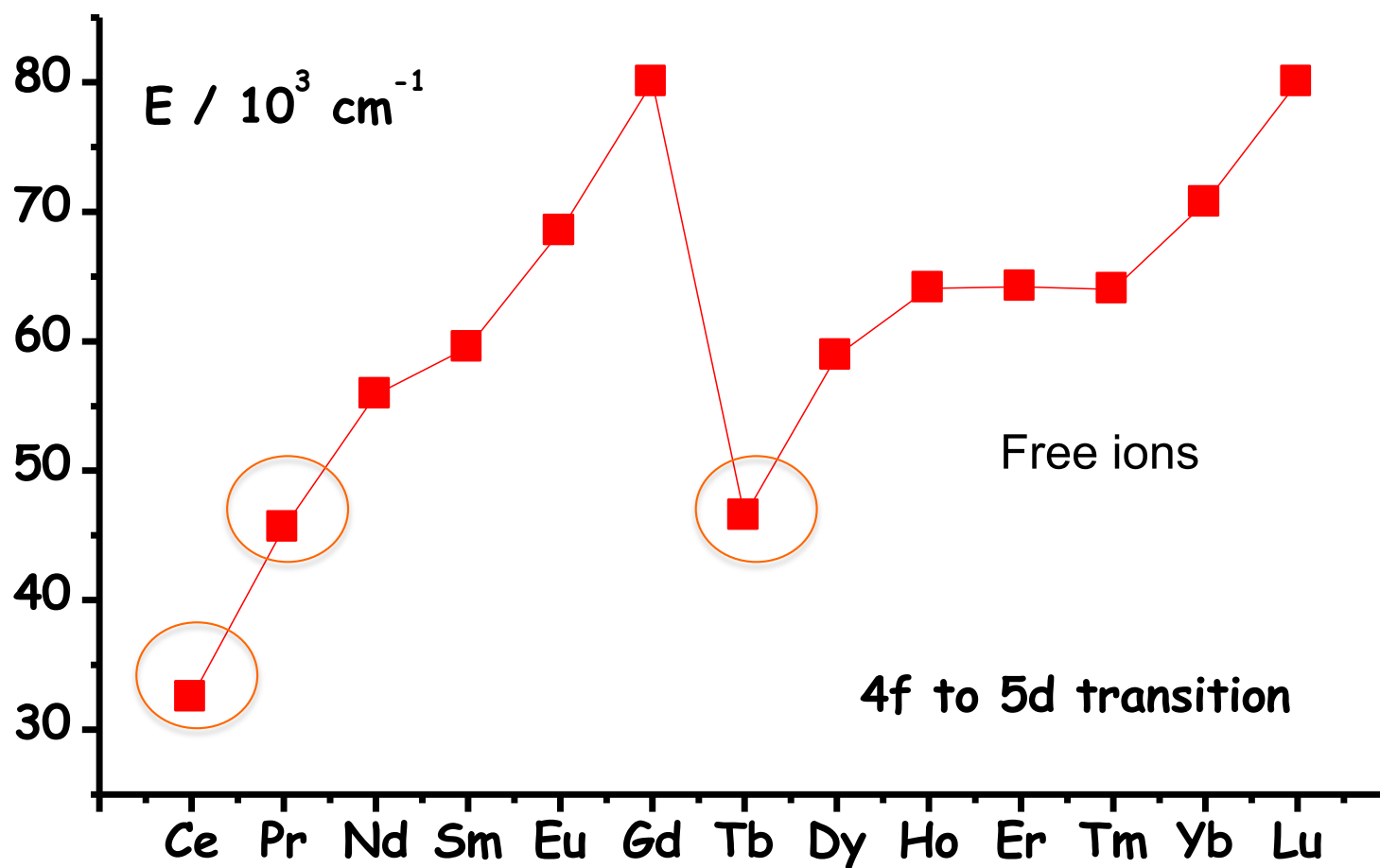
# Transitions f-d

Allowed by Laporte's rule,  $\approx 100\text{-}1000\text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$

Highly energetic, except for  $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}$ ,  $\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}$  and  $\text{Tb}^{\text{III}}$

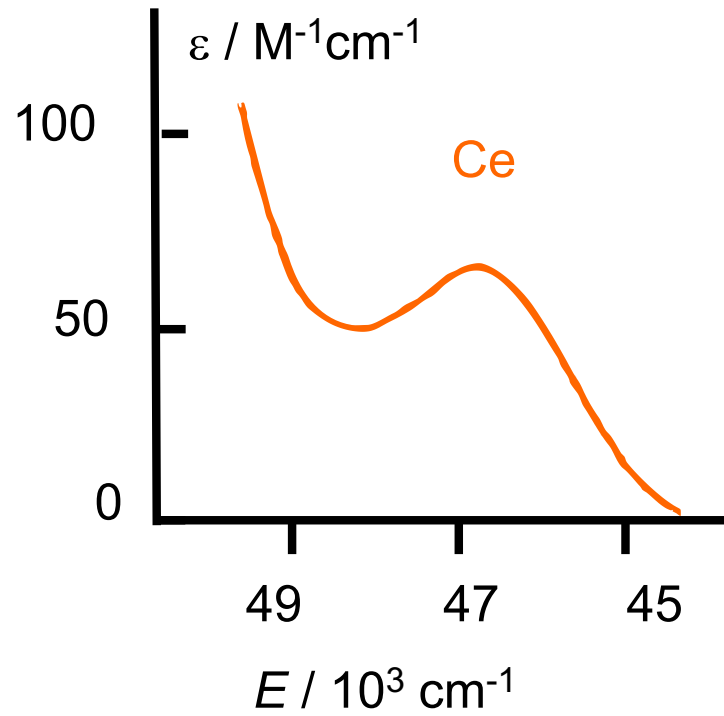
The  $\text{Ce}^{3+}$  transition  $4f^1$  to  $4f^05d^1$  varies with the ligand :

$49737\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for  $\text{Ce}^{3+}$  gas,  $17650\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for  $[\text{Ce}\{\text{C}_5\text{H}_3(\text{SiMe}_3)_2\}_3]$

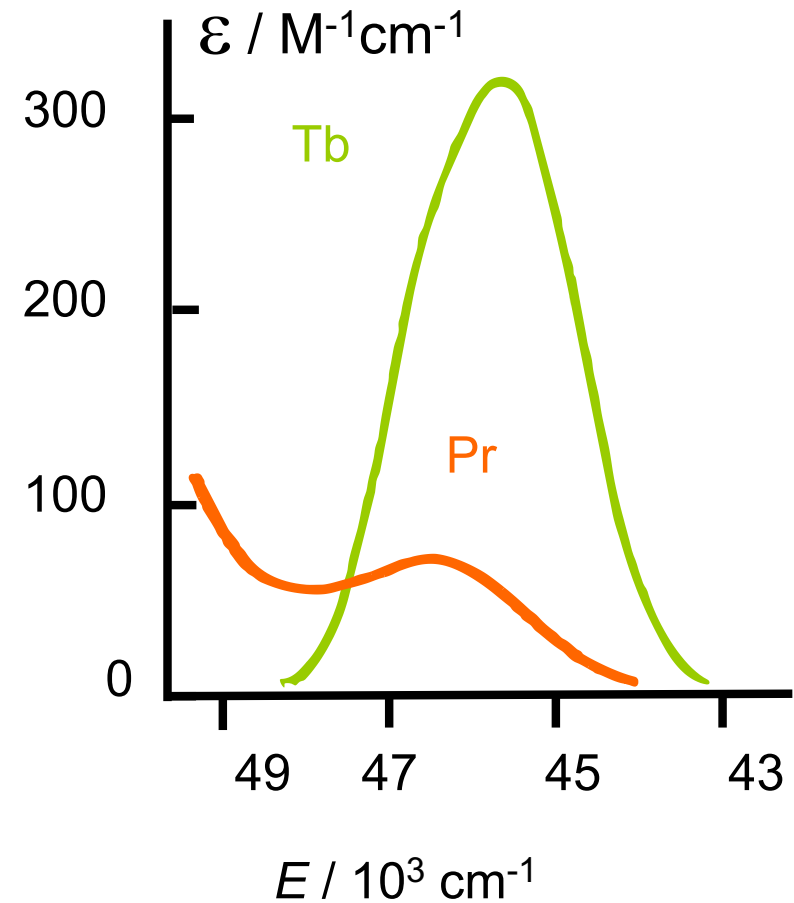


# Transitions f-d

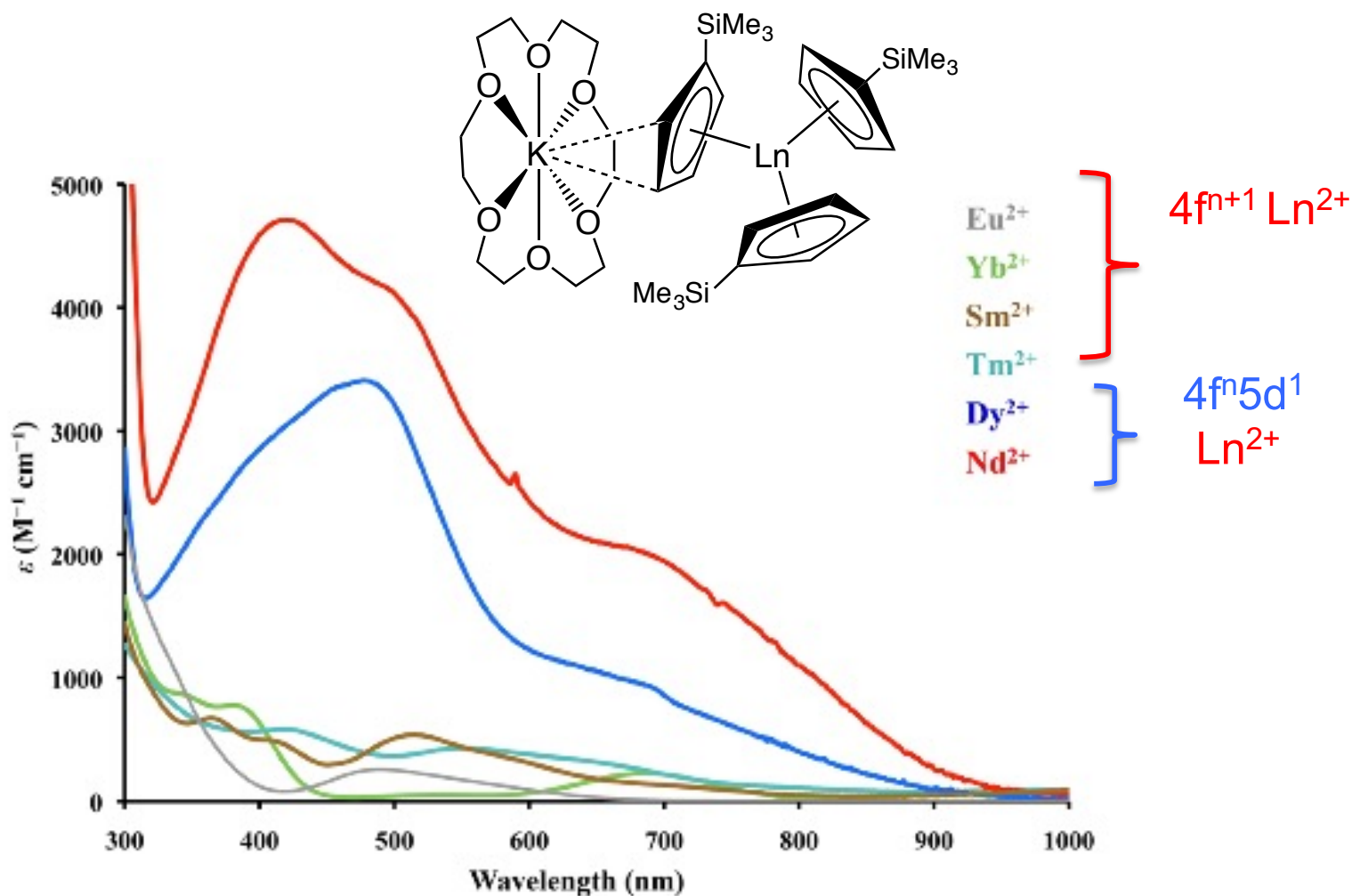
Observed f-d transitions for  
 $\text{LnBr}_3$  in anhydrous EtOH:



$\text{Ln}^{III} (\text{aq})$



# Electronic absorption spectra of Ln(II) Ions



Experimental UV-vis spectra of  $[K(2.2.2\text{-cryptand})][Cp'_3Ln]$ , ( $Ln = Nd, Sm, Eu, Dy, Tm, Yb$ ), in THF at 298 K.

High  $\epsilon$  of non-classical  $Ln^{2+}$  is due to metal-ligand mixing in the  $4f^n5d^1$  configuration

Absorption for  $4f^{n+1} Ln^{2+}$  is due to f-d mixing

# Magnetic Properties

A paramagnetic substance placed in the magnetic field contributes its own magnetic field due to the circulating charges. The total field strength is then increased by the field strength of the sample called magnetisation **M**.

**This quantity can be measured by the magnetic susceptibility  $\chi = M/H$**

The measured quantity is the susceptibility per mass unit  $\chi_w$

The molar susceptibility is obtained multiplying per the molecular mass  $\chi_w = \chi_m \times M_m$

$$\chi = C/T \text{ (loi de Curie)}$$

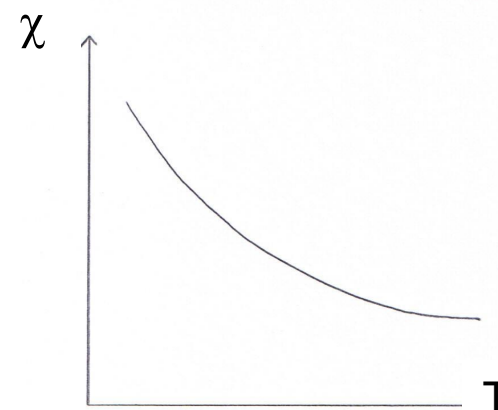
$$\chi_M = \chi_M^{\text{dia}} + \chi_M^{\text{para}}$$

$\chi^{\text{dia}}$

Diamagnetic  
repelled  
by the magnetic field  
< 0 weak  
T independant

Paramagnetic  
attracted by the field

> 0 strong  
Varies in 1/T  
( $\chi = C/T$  with C curie constant)



$$\chi_M = -1 \text{ à } -500 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1}$$

$$\chi_M = + 0 \text{ à } 1 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1}$$

# Magnetic Moment

If we have a collection of identical molecules each of magnetic moment  $\mu$  and free to orient itself in a magnetic field, then in the field there will be some alignment but this will be opposed by the thermal motion of the molecules.

**M is a constant but the measured moment decreases with temperature**

$$\mu = \frac{\sqrt{3RT \cdot \chi_M}}{N_A}$$

$$\mu_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\sqrt{3RT \cdot \chi_M}}{N_A \cdot \beta}$$

$\mu$  is given in Bohr magnetons :

$$\mu = \mu_{\text{eff}} \cdot \beta$$

$$\beta = 9.2741 \times 10^{-24} \text{ JT}$$



# Magnetic Properties

## Paramagnetism

- The spin-only formula is used to predict the magnetic moment:

Only spin contribution, (métaux d):

$$\mu_{eff} = \mu_s = g_e \sqrt{S(S+1)} = \sqrt{n(n+2)}$$

Or  $\mu$  est exprimé en magnéton de Bohr BM or  $\mu_\beta$   $\mu_\beta = 9.2741 \times 10^{-24}$  JT

$S$  = spin quantum number ( $\frac{1}{2}$  for each unpaired electrons)

$g_e$  = giromagnetic ratio around 2.00

$n$  = number of unpaired electrons

# Magnetic Moment of $\text{Ln}^{3+}$

						Spin Only formula	
Ln	conf.	n	Fond	1 <sup>er</sup> ex.	$\Delta E$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\mu_{\text{calc}}$	$\mu_{\text{exp}}$
Ce	$f^1$	1	$^2F_{5/2}$	$^2F_{7/2}$	2200	1,73	2,5-2,8
Pr	$f^2$	2	$^3H_4$	$^3H_5$	2100	2,83	3,2-3,6
Nd	$f^3$	3	$^4I_{9/2}$	$^4I_{11/2}$	1900	3,87	3,2-3,6
Pm	$f^4$	4	$^5I_4$	$^5I_5$	1600	4,90	
Sm	$f^5$	5	$^6H_{5/2}$	$^6H_{7/2}$	1000	5,92	1,3-1,5
Eu	$f^6$	6	$^7F_0$	$^7F_1$	300	6,93	3,1-3,4
Gd	$f^7$	7	$^8S_{7/2}$	$^6P_{7/2}$	32000	7,94	7,9-8,1
Tb	$f^8$	6	$^7F_6$	$^7F_5$	2000	6,93	9,2-9,7
Dy	$f^9$	5	$^6H_{15/2}$	$^6H_{13/2}$	3300	5,92	10,1-10,6
Ho	$f^{10}$	4	$^5I_8$	$^5I_7$	5300	4,90	10,0-10,5
Er	$f^{11}$	3	$^4I_{15/2}$	$^4I_{13/2}$	6500	3,87	9,2-9,6
Tm	$f^{12}$	2	$^3H_6$	$^3F_4$ d)	5800	2,83	7,0-7,3
Yb	$f^{13}$	1	$^2F_{7/2}$	$^2F_{5/2}$	10000	1,73	4,3-4,6

wrong

Gd<sup>3+</sup> OK

wrong

# Magnetism

When Russell-Saunders scheme for **spin-orbit coupling (SOC)** is valid and when the ground state is pure and well separated from excited states, the following formulae are well adapted to predict the effective magnetic moment:

$$\mu_{\text{eff}} = \mu_j = g_J \sqrt{J(J+1)}$$

$$g_J = 1 + \frac{J(J+1) + S(S+1) - L(L+1)}{2J(J+1)}$$

$$\chi T = g \cdot J(J+1)/8$$

**Example:** Calculate the magnetic moment for a complex of  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$ , such as  $\text{Ho}(\text{phen})_2(\text{NO}_3)_3$ .

The ground state is  $^5\text{I}_8$  ( $^{2S+1}L_J$ ), since  $2S+1=5$ ,  $S=2$ ;  $L=6$  (I state);  $J=8$ .  $g_J$  must first be calculated;  $g_J = 3/2 + [S(S+1) - L(L+1)]/2J(J+1)$

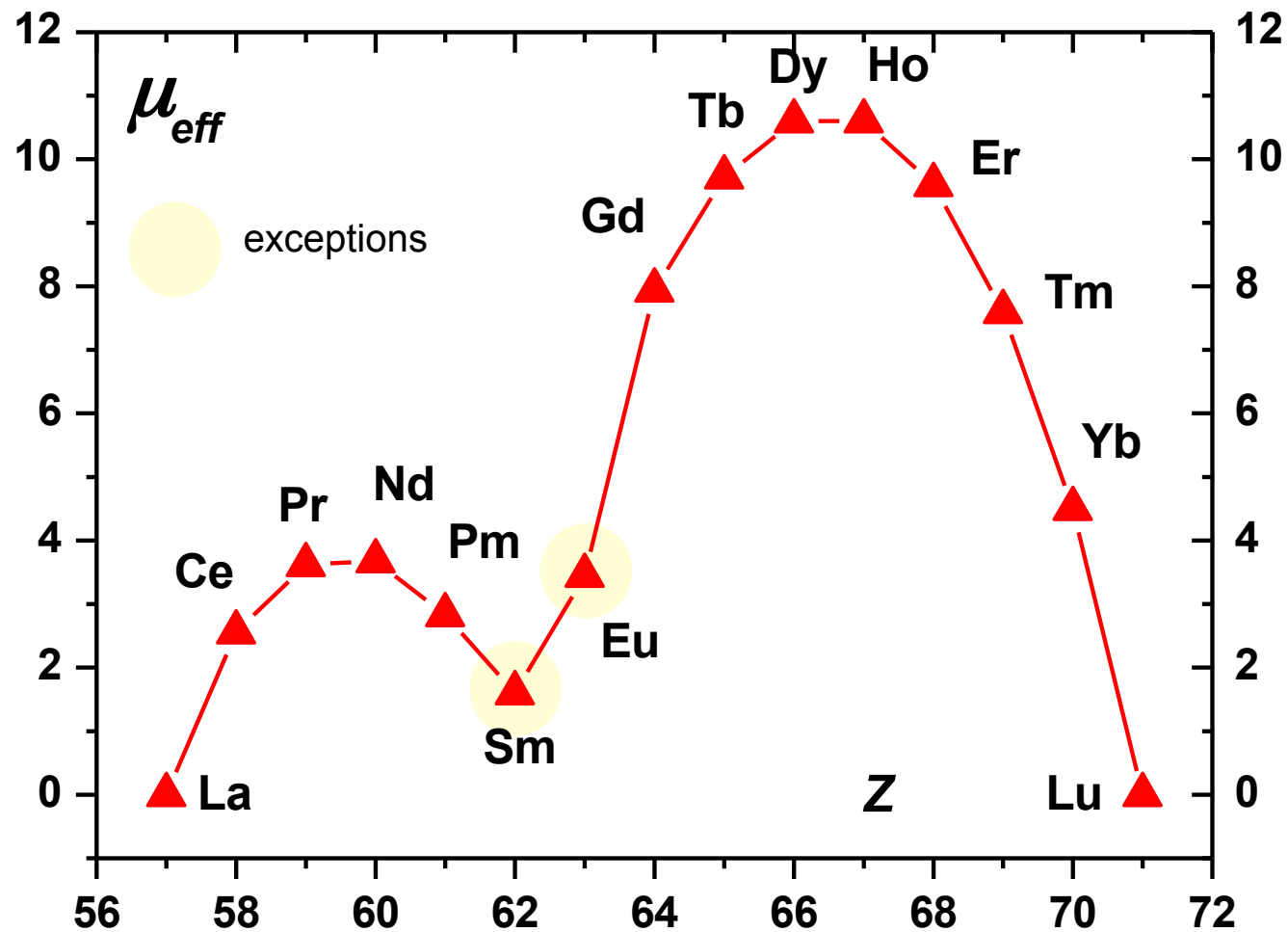
Substituting,  $g_J = 3/2 + [2(2+1) - 6(6+1)]/2 \times 8(8+1) = 3/2 - 36/144$ , so  $g_J = 5/4$ .

Now substitute in  $\mu_{\text{eff}} = g_J \sqrt{J(J+1)}$ ;  $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 5/4 \sqrt{8(8+1)} = 10.60 \mu_B$

# Electronic levels and magnetic moments

Ln <sup>3+</sup>	4f <sup>n</sup> , n	Ground level	Color	Magnetic moment exp.	Calc.with
					SOC formula
Ce	1	<sup>2</sup> F <sub>5/2</sub>	colorless	2.3-2.5	2.54
Pr	2	<sup>3</sup> H <sub>4</sub>	green	3.4-3.6	3.58
Nd	3	<sup>4</sup> I <sub>9/2</sub>	lilac	3.5-3.6	3.62
Pm	4	<sup>5</sup> I <sub>4</sub>	pink	n.a.	2.68
Sm	5	<sup>6</sup> H <sub>5/2</sub>	yellow	1.4-1.7	0.85
Eu	6	<sup>7</sup> F <sub>0</sub>	pale pink	3.3-3.5	0
Gd	7	<sup>8</sup> S <sub>7/2</sub>	colorless	7.9-8.0	7.94
Tb	8	<sup>7</sup> F <sub>6</sub>	colorless	9.5-9.8	9.72
Dy	9	<sup>6</sup> H <sub>15/2</sub>	yellow	10.4-10.6	10.6
Ho	10	<sup>5</sup> I <sub>8</sub>	yellow	10.4-10.7	10.6
Er	11	<sup>4</sup> H <sub>15/2</sub>	rose	9.4-9.6	9.58
Tm	12	<sup>3</sup> H <sub>6</sub>	pale green	7.1-7.5	7.56
Yb	13	<sup>2</sup> F <sub>7/2</sub>	colorless	4.3-4.9	4.54

# Magnetic moment



The number of unpaired electrons is given by the electronic configuration (small CFT )

In the case of Eu and Sm the first excited states are close to the ground state at room T  
So the exp magnetic moment is the mix of ground and excited state moments

# Magnetic Moment of $\text{Ln}^{3+}$

Including excited states

Ln	conf.	n	Fond	1 <sup>er</sup> ex.	$\Delta E$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$g_J$	SO $\mu_{\text{calc}}$	SOC $\mu_{\text{calc}}$	$\mu_{\text{calc}}$	$\mu_{\text{exp}}$
Ce	$f^1$	1	$^2F_{5/2}$	$^2F_{7/2}$	2200	0,86	1,73	2,54	2,56	2,5-2,8
Pr	$f^2$	2	$^3H_4$	$^3H_5$	2100	0,80	2,83	3,58	3,62	3,2-3,6
Nd	$f^3$	3	$^4I_{9/2}$	$^4I_{11/2}$	1900	0,73	3,87	3,62	3,68	3,2-3,6
Pm	$f^4$	4	$^5I_4$	$^5I_5$	1600	0,60	4,90	2,68	2,83	
Sm	$f^5$	5	$^6H_{5/2}$	$^6H_{7/2}$	1000	0,29	5,92	0,85	1,60	1,3-1,5
Eu	$f^6$	6	$^7F_0$	$^7F_1$	300		6,93	0	3,45	3,1-3,4
Gd	$f^7$	7	$^8S_{7/2}$	$^6P_{7/2}$	32000	2,00	7,94	7,94	7,94	7,9-8,1
Tb	$f^8$	6	$^7F_6$	$^7F_5$	2000	1,50	6,93	9,72	9,72	9,2-9,7
Dy	$f^9$	5	$^6H_{15/2}$	$^6H_{13/2}$	3300	1,33	5,92	10,65	10,6	10,1-10,6
Ho	$f^{10}$	4	$^5I_8$	$^5I_7$	5300	1,25	4,90	10,61	10,6	10,0-10,5
Er	$f^{11}$	3	$^4I_{15/2}$	$^4I_{13/2}$	6500	1,20	3,87	9,58	9,6	9,2-9,6
Tm	$f^{12}$	2	$^3H_6$	$^3F_4$ d)	5800	1,17	2,83	7,56	7,6	7,0-7,3
Yb	$f^{13}$	1	$^2F_{7/2}$	$^2F_{5/2}$	10000	1,14	1,73	4,54	4,5	4,3-4,6

# Magnetic Moment of $\text{Ln}^{2+}$

**Table 1. Experimental and Predicted  $\chi_M T$  Values for the  $\text{Ln}^{\text{II}}$  Complexes  $[\text{Cp}'_3\text{Ln}]^-$**

$\text{Ln}^{\text{II}}$	$n$	exp. $\mu_{\text{eff}}^a$	exp. $\chi_M T^b$	$\chi_M T$ ( $4f^n 5d^1$ ) coupled	$\chi_M T$ ( $4f^{n+1}$ )	$\chi_M T$ ( $4f^n 5d^1$ ) uncoupled
Y		1.78	0.4	0.375	N/A	0.375
La		1.72	0.37	0.375	0.8	0.375
Ce	1	2.62	0.86	0.33	1.6	1.18
Pr	2	2.93	1.07	0.875	1.64	1.98
Nd	3	3.01	1.13	0.9	0.9	2.02
Sm	4	3.64	1.66	0	0	0.47
Eu	5	7.65	7.60	1.5	7.88	0.375
Gd	6	8.91	9.93	10	11.82	8.26
Tb	7	10.48	13.73	14.42	14.13	12.20
Dy	8	11.35	16.1	17.01	14.07	14.51
Ho	9	11.41	16.26	16.9	11.48	14.45
Er	10	9.94	12.35	14.06	7.15	11.86
Tm	11	4.14	2.22	9.23	2.57	7.53
Yb	12	0	0	3.9	0	2.95

Very high magnetic moments with Dy and Ho

$4f^{n+1} \text{Ln}^{2+}$

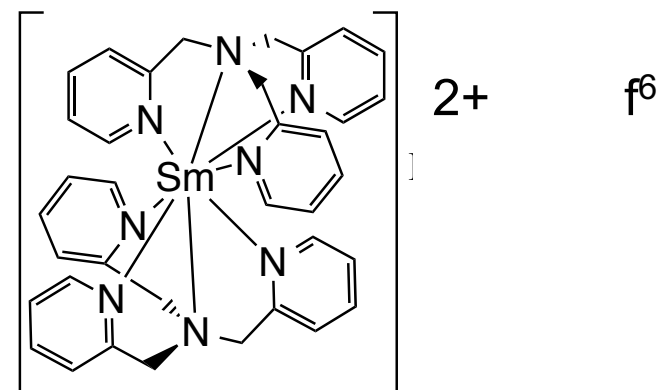
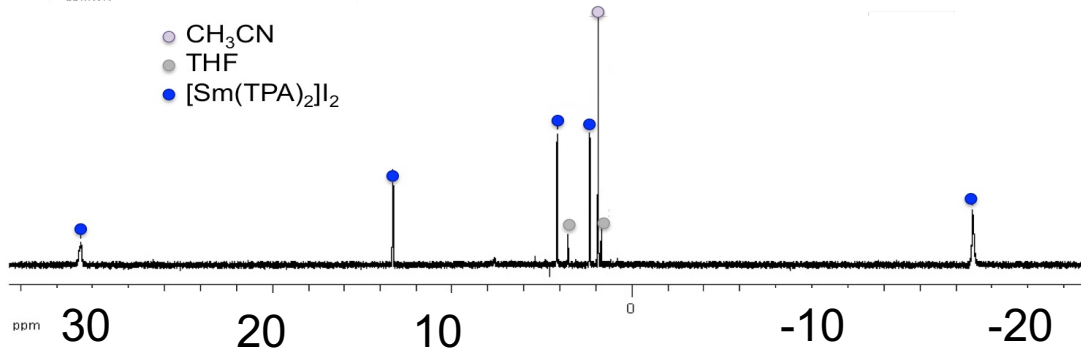
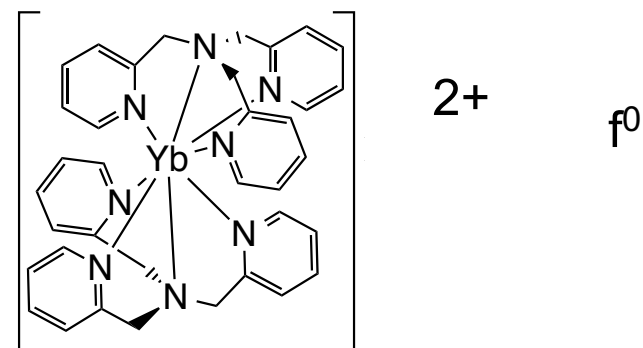
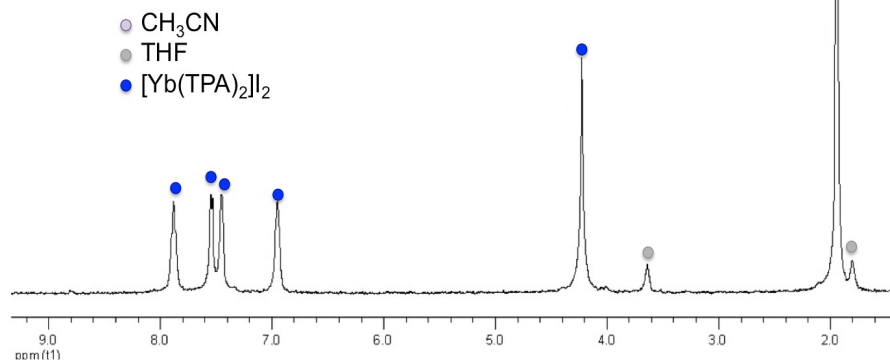
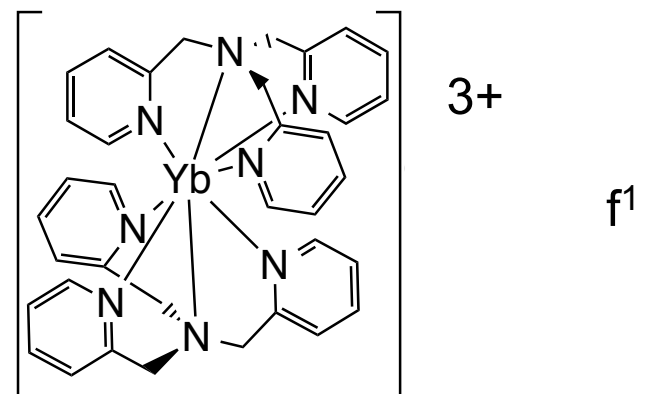
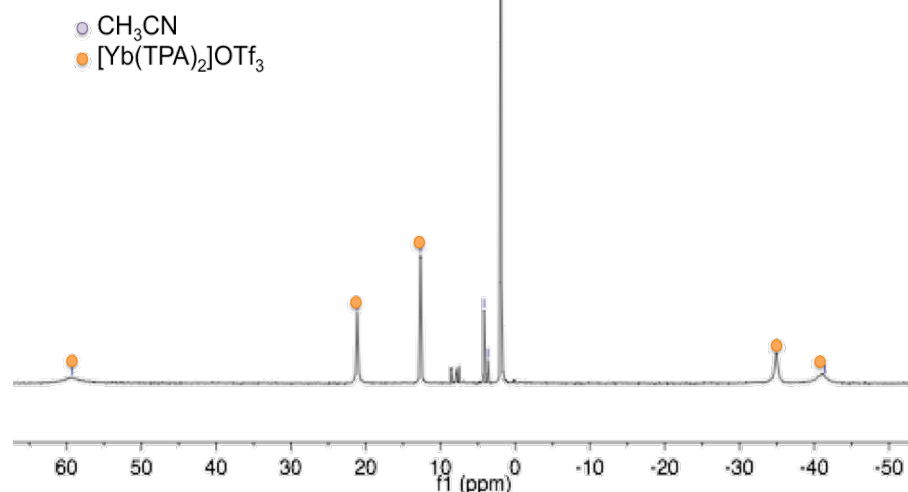
$4f^n 5d^1$

Evans J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 9855–9860

Ce, Pr, Nd :mixed configuration??

# NMR Spectra can be recorded in spite of large $\mu$

Due to fast electron relaxation (only exception  $\text{Gd}^{3+}$ )



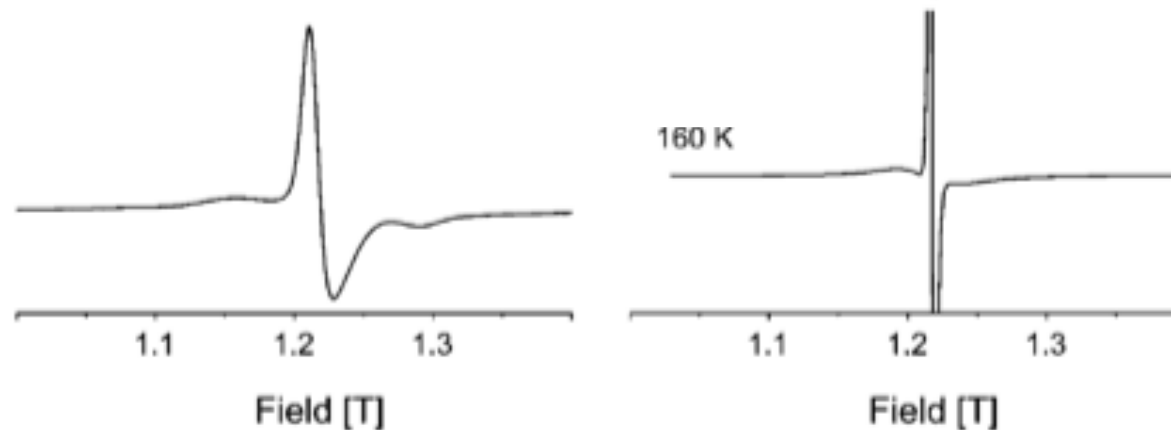


# EPR Spectra

Due to the **rapid** electronic relaxation NMR spectra are observed , but for most ions EPR spectra can only be recorded at low T (20 K) (very rapid electron relaxation,  $\approx 10^{-13}$  s).

$\text{Gd}^{3+}$  ( $4f^7$ )  $^8S$  ground state with no orbital contribution

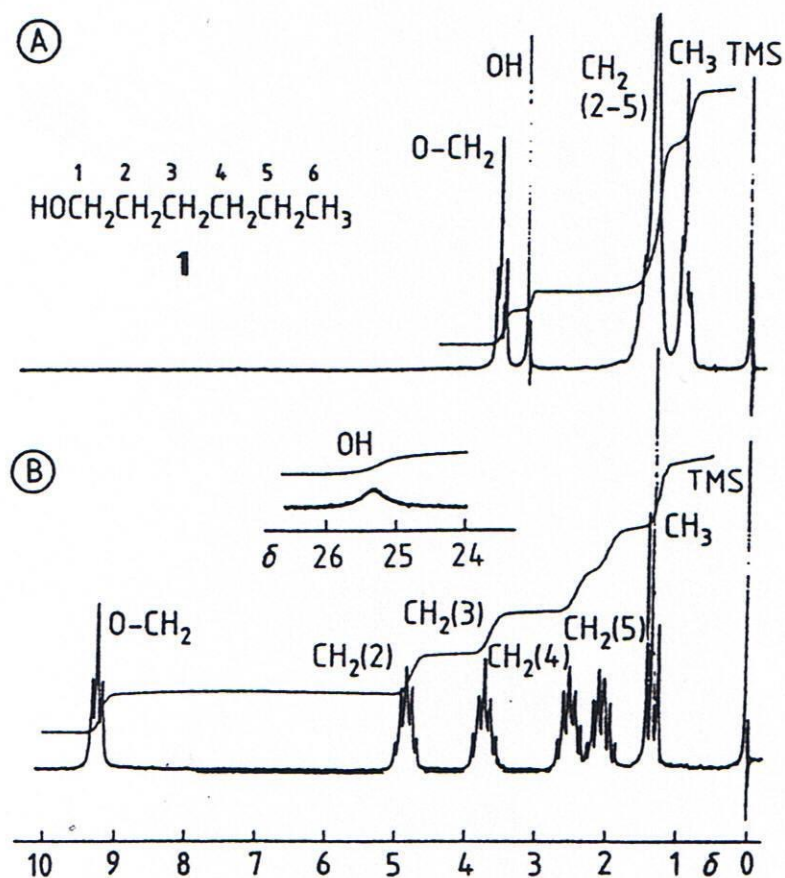
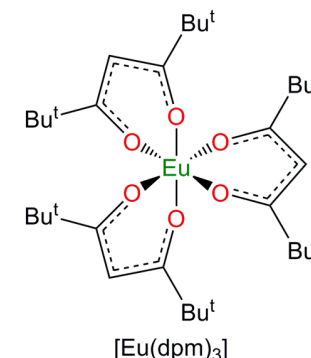
Very slow electron relaxation time ( $\approx 10^{-9}$  s), EPR can be measured at room temperature



EPR can give informations on crystal field splitting

# Ln(III) complexes as NMR “Shift reagents”

Some Ln  $\beta$ -diketonate complexes are used to resolve  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra in busy overlapping regions. For example 1-hexanol



**$^1\text{H}$  NMR 90 MHz**  
of 1-hexanol

**A.** hexan-1-ol in CCl<sub>4</sub>

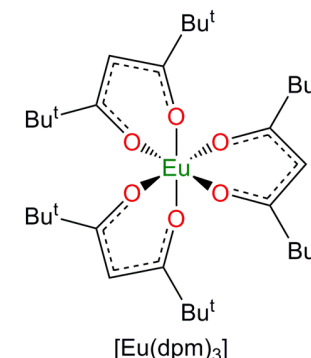
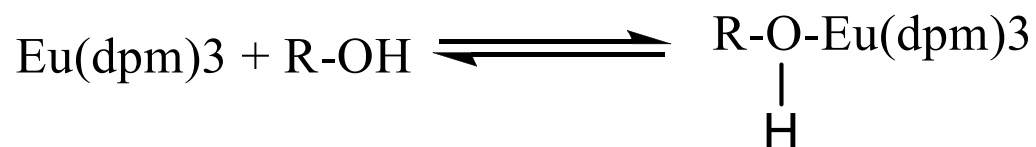
Overlapped signals

**B.** hexan-1-ol in presence of  
Eu(dpm)<sub>3</sub> in CCl<sub>4</sub>

Shifted signals

Less used with spreading of high field NMR

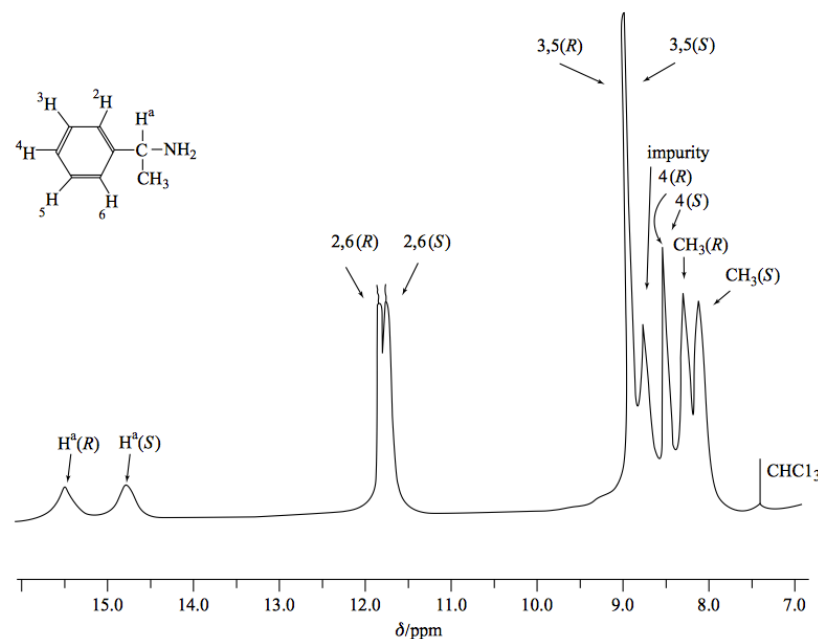
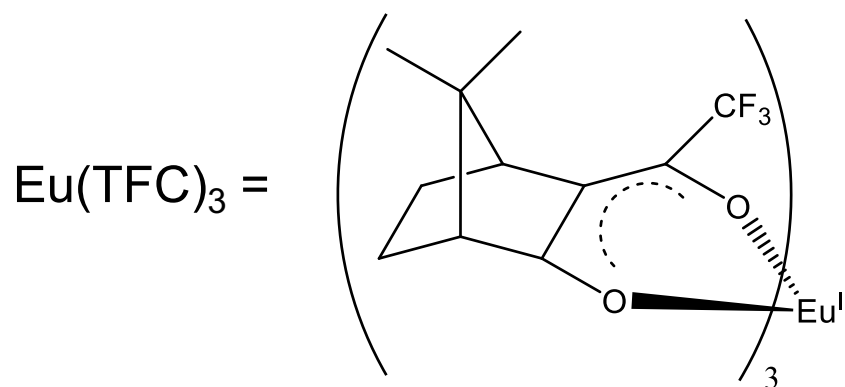
# Ln(III) complexes as NMR “Shift reagents”



OH coordinates to Eu, protons experience paramagnetism.

Paramagnetic effects vary with distance, spreading out the signals.

Chiral Eu Complexes:



One can also use chiral Ln β-diketonate complexes to analyse mixtures of enantiomers [(R)- and (S)- diastereomeric complexes formed.

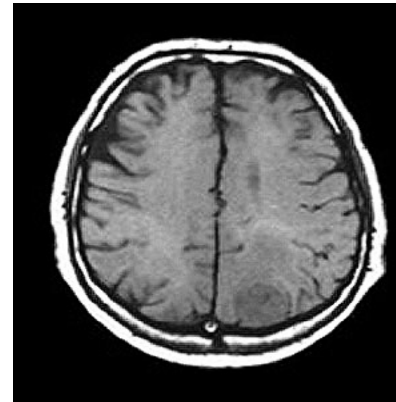
# Application of $\text{Ln}^{3+}$ Magnetic Properties in MRI

MRI: Detection of the water protons  
( $^1\text{H}$  NMR)

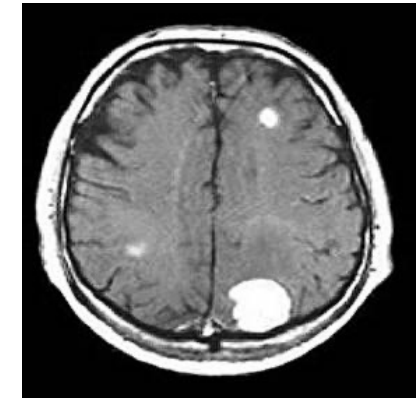
Signal intensity =  $f(T_1, T_2)$   
Depends of tissues



Addition of contrast agents  
( $T_1 \searrow, T_2 \searrow$ )



*Without contrast agent*



*With contrast agent*

❖ *improve the contrast cancerous vs healthy tissues*

❖ *target a specific organ of function (blood pool...)*

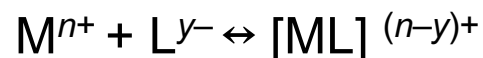
Binding of the water to a metal with high magnetic moment will **decrease** the nuclear relaxation time. A good contrast agent needs large number of water molecules coordinated to a metal with **high magnetic moment**.

$\text{Gd}^{3+}$  ion has a large number of unpaired electrons ( $S = 7/2$ ) and its magnetic properties are **isotropic**. It has a relatively **long electron-spin relaxation time**,  $\sim 10^{-9}$  s, which makes it more suitable than other very paramagnetic ions such as  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ , and  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  ( $\sim 10^{-13}$  s). These factors are very favourable for nuclear spin relaxation.

**$\text{Gd}^{3+}$  toxic so we need to include it in stable complexes.**

# Stability of Lanthanide Complexes

For the following reaction:



We can define the stability constant,  $\beta_1$ :

$$\beta_1 = [ML^{(n-y)+}] / [M^{n+}][L^{y-}]$$

The stability generally increases across the Ln series

Electrostatic interaction prevails: higher stability at the end of the series due to the high density charge (lanthanide contraction)

$Ln^{3+}$  are hard ions and form higher stability complexes with hard bases such as water, negative oxygen and negative N donors

Higher stability with more electron donor ligands

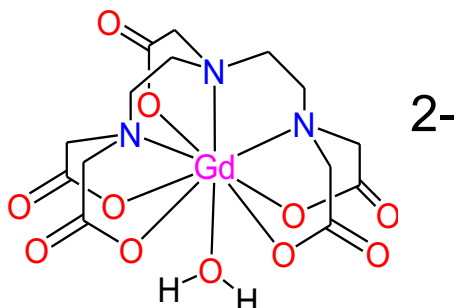
Multidentate ligands have higher stability values as for TM due to chelate effect (large  $\Delta S$ ).

# Complexes Stability in Water

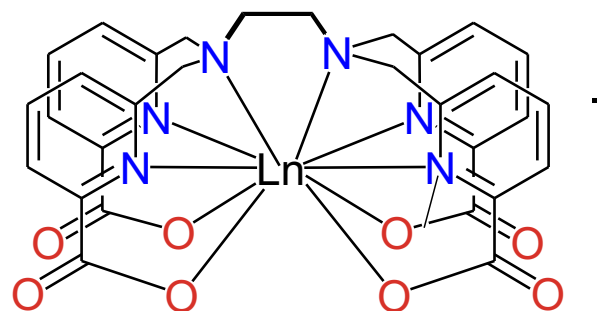
High stability in water (as required by biomedical applications) is achieved with

- ★ Polydentate ligands with negative O, N donors  
aminocarboxylate ligands, aminophenolate etc

**Thermodynamic stability** is proportional to the sum of pKas and pre-organisation



$[\text{Gd}(\text{DTPA})]\text{K}_2$   $\text{Log}K = 22.1$



$[\text{Gd}(\text{tpaen})]\text{K}$   $\text{Log}K = 15.3$

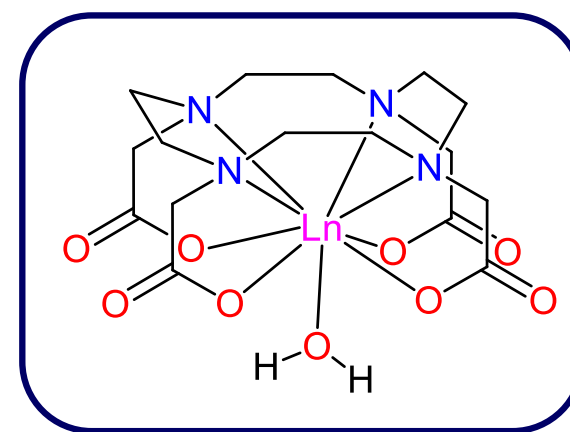
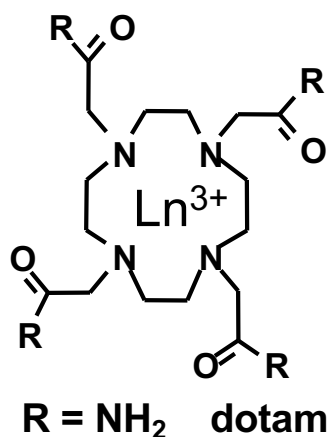
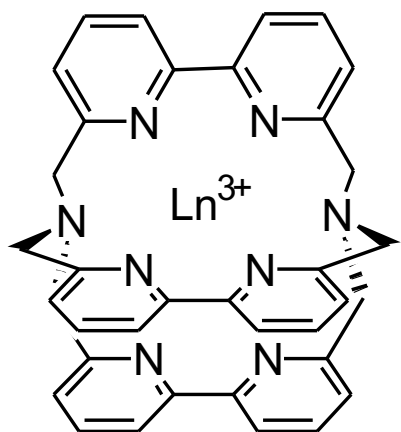
# Kinetic Stability in Water

*The crystal field of coordinated ligands does not remove the degeneracy of the 4f orbitals.*

As there is no Crystal Field Stabilisation Energy, there are often low barriers to ligand substitution.

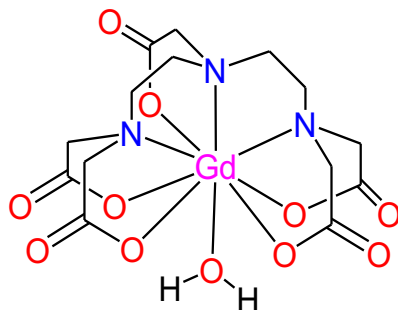
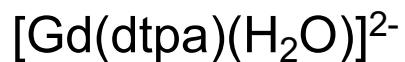
Therefore these complexes are often **kinetically labile**.

**Kinetic Stability is found with** macrocycles and cryptates ligands can form stable cationic complexes



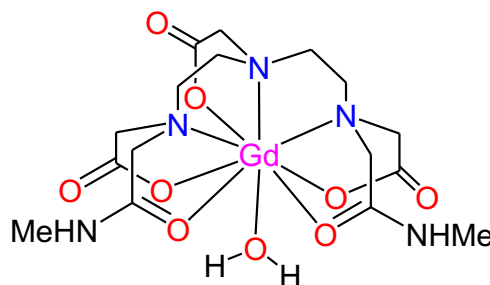
High stability  
Kinetic and thermodynamic

# Commercial MRI Contrast Agents



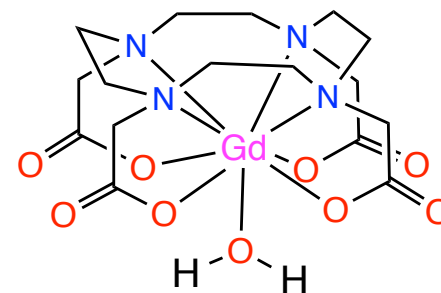
Magnevist®

$\text{Log}K = 22.1$



Omniscan®

$\text{Log}K = 16.9$



Dotarem®

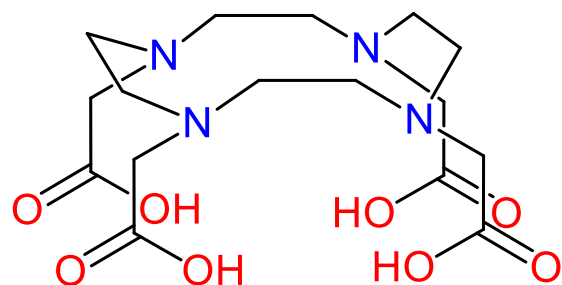
$\text{Log}K = 25.8$

☞ The ligand is crucial for the control of the stability



# Anionic Multidentate N,O-donors: Thermodynamic stability

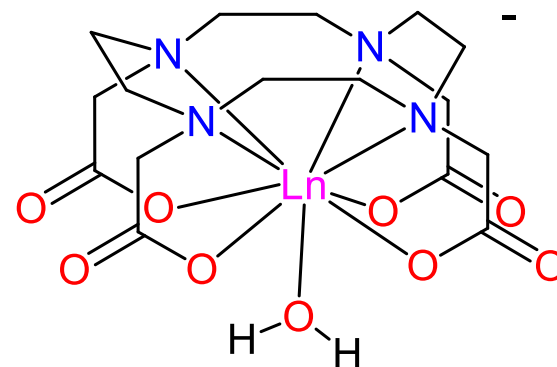
H<sub>4</sub>dota



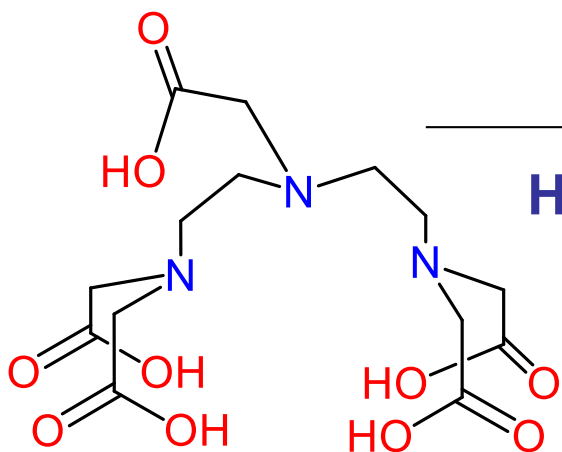
LnCl<sub>3</sub>

H<sub>2</sub>O pH 7.4

[Gd(dota)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]<sup>-</sup>



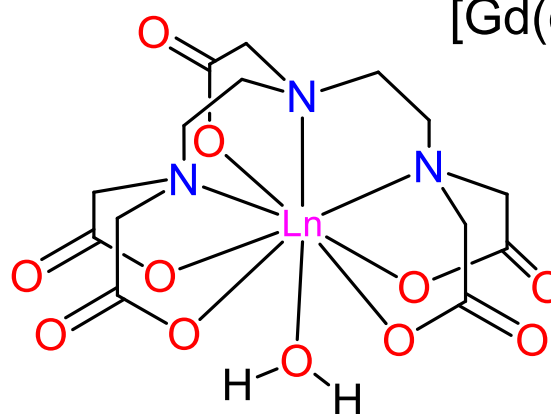
H<sub>5</sub>dtpa



LnCl<sub>3</sub>

H<sub>2</sub>O pH 7.4

[Gd(dtpa)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]<sup>2-</sup>



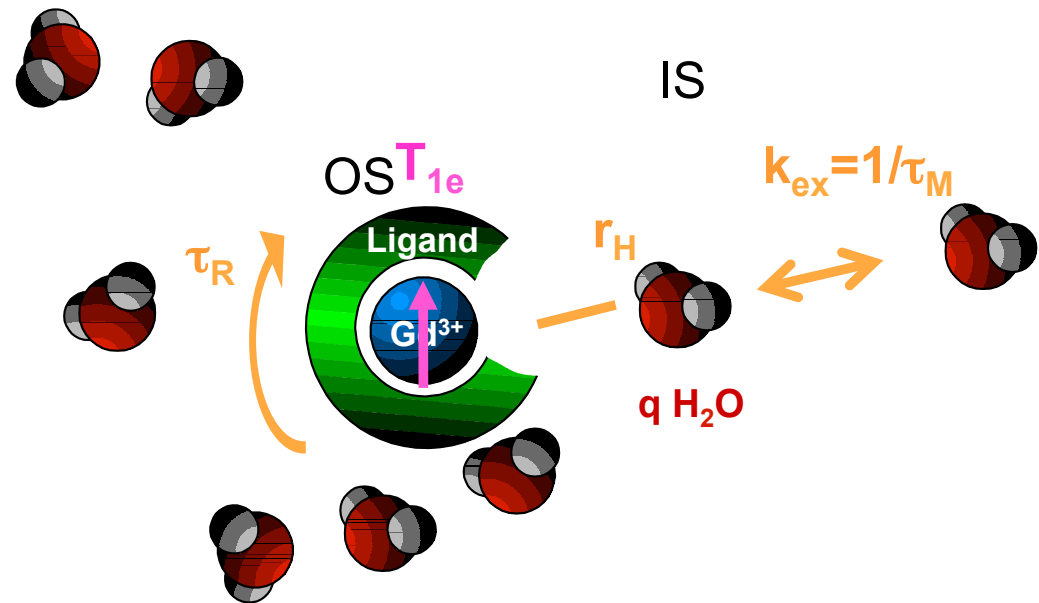
# Gd(III) Complexes as Contrast Agents

- ★ High water solubility, Thermodynamic and kinetic stabilities
- ★ Efficiency = Relaxivity  $r$  measures the ability of magnetic compounds to increase the relaxation rates of the surrounding water proton spins.

$$r_1 = \frac{1}{T_{1para}} \times \frac{1}{[GdL]} \quad (s^{-1}mM^{-1})$$

$$r = r_{IS} + r_{OS} + r_{SS}$$

$$r_{1,p}^{IS} = c \times \frac{q}{55.55} \times \frac{1}{T_{1m} + \tau_M}$$

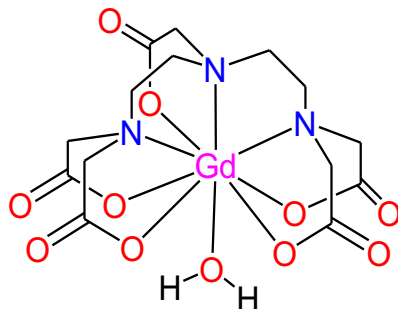
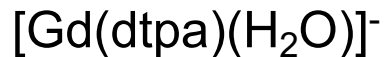


☞ To increase IS relaxivity :

- maximise  $q$  at any field
- optimise  $\tau_R$ ,  $k_{ex}$  and  $T_{1e}$  at low-medium fields

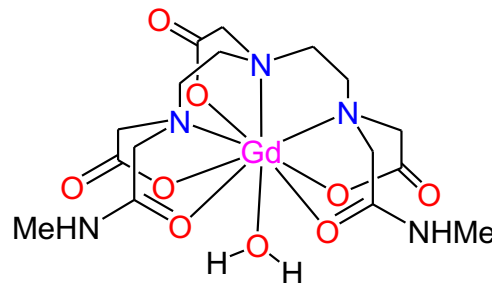
$$T_{1m} \left( \frac{1}{r_H^6}, T_{1e}, \tau_R, \tau_M \right)$$

# Commercial MRI Contrast Agents



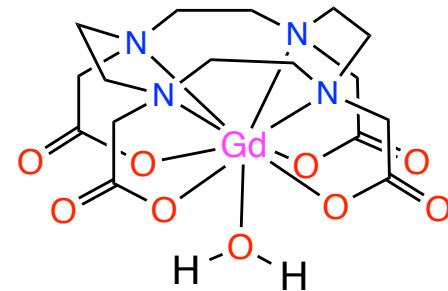
Magnevist®

$\text{Log}K = 22.1$



Omniscan®

$\text{Log}K = 16.9$



Dotarem®

$\text{Log}K = 25.8$

**Low relaxivity  $r_1 \sim 4 \text{ mM}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$**  (20 MHz – 0.5 T) High stability

☞ The ligand is crucial for the control of the complex properties  
But also to optimize relaxivity and to build responsive agents

Different parameter are optimized at different fields

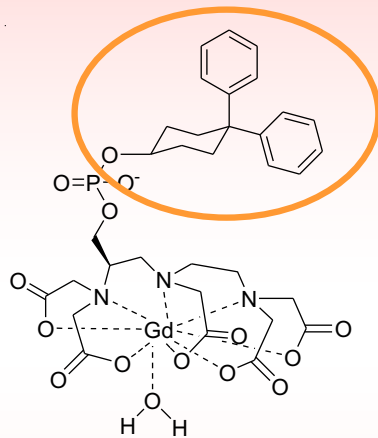
# New Generation Contrast Agents

Contrast at clinical fields ( $0.5 < B < 1.5$  T) can be increased by increasing the rotational time ➡

Macromolecular complexes

**Supramolecular adduct**

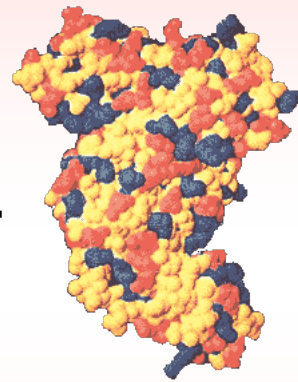
(hydrophobic interactions)



**MS-325**

$$r_1 = 5.8 \text{ mM}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$$

+

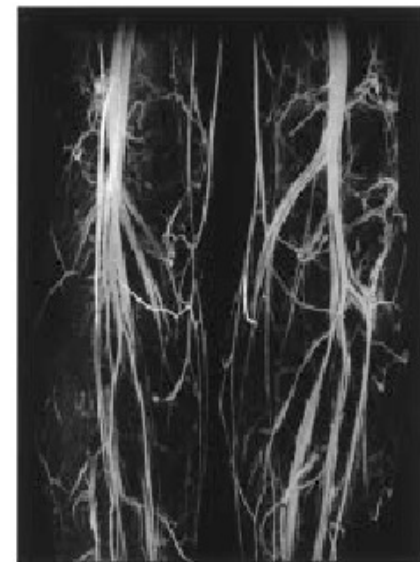


**HSA**

PM = 67 kDa  
4.5% in plasma



$$r_1 = 42 \text{ mM}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1} \text{ (0.5 T)}$$

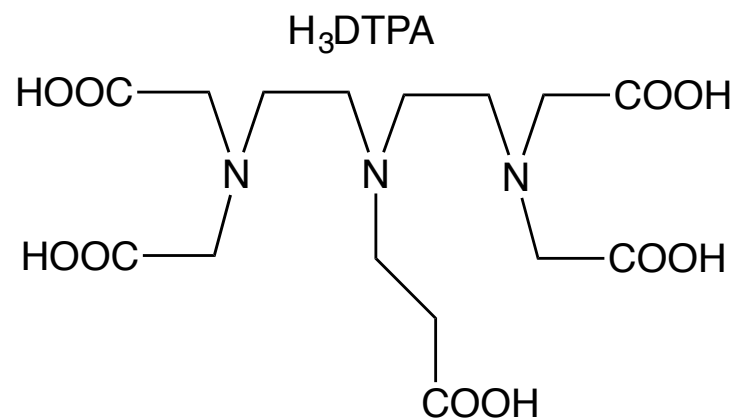
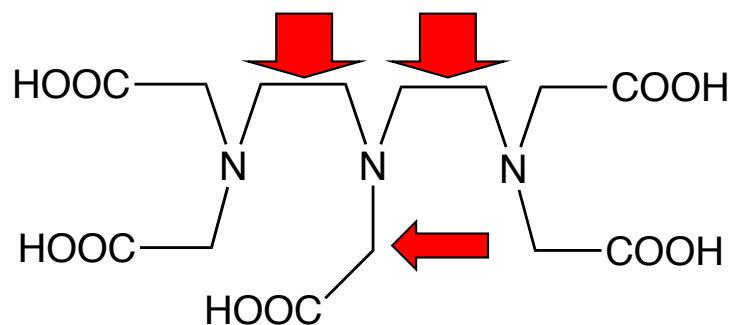


Angiography (visualizes blood vessels)

Caravan, Epix

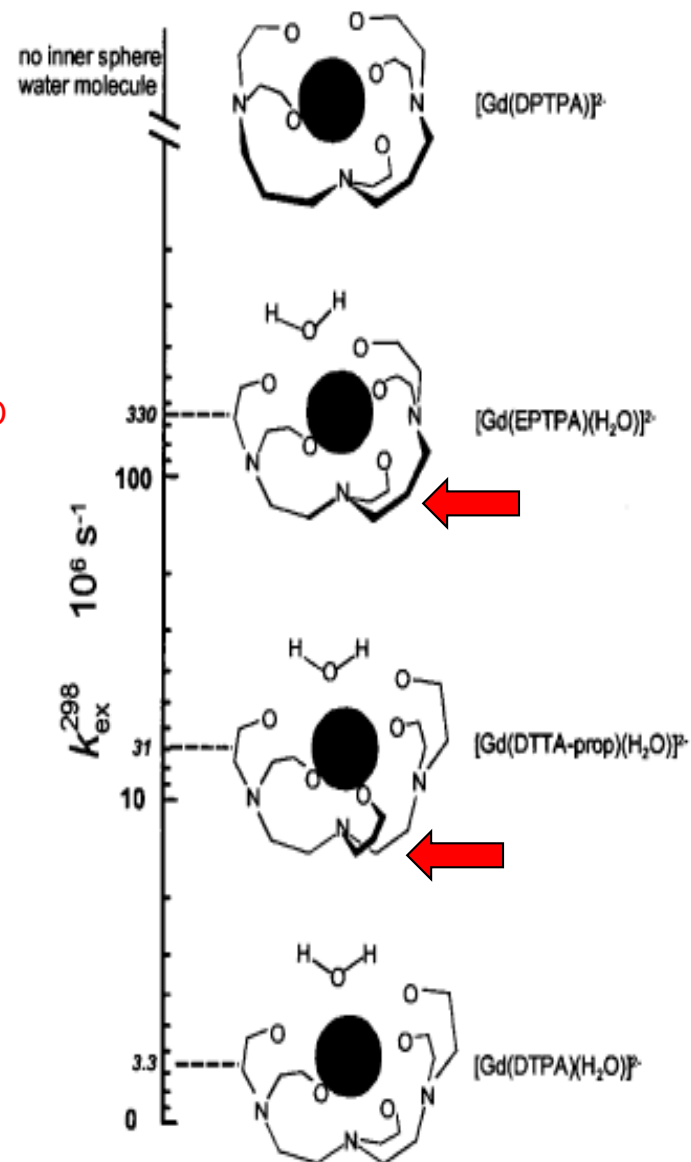
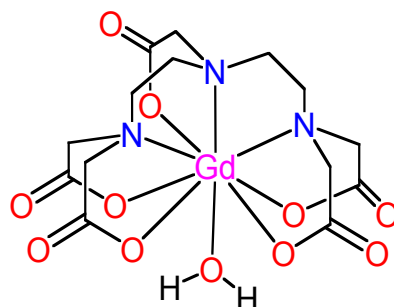
# Increasing Water Exchange Rate

☞ In a dissociative mechanism the water exchange rate is increased by steric compression



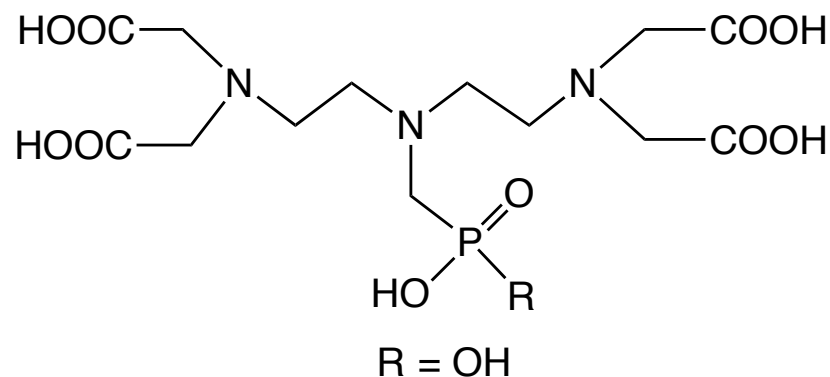
H<sub>3</sub>DTPA-prop

A. Merbach, (2003 )

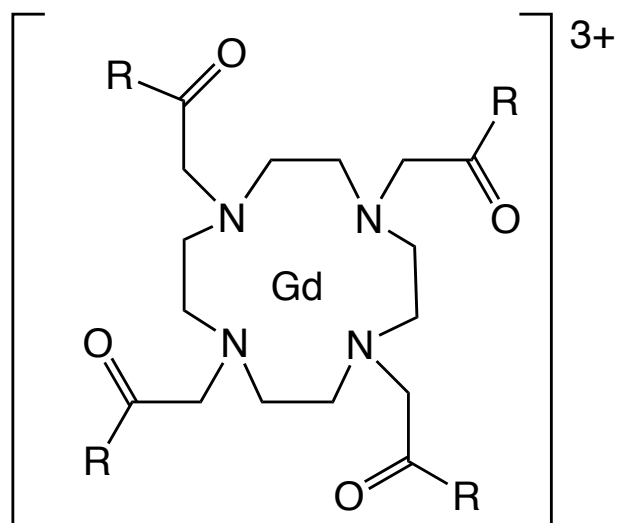


☞ Increasing water exchange rate:

- steric compression

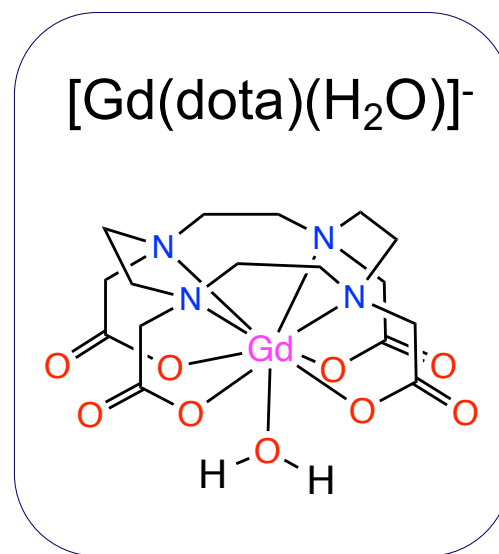


- Complex charge has also an effect



$R = NH_2$  dotam

$$k_{ex} \sim 0.053 \cdot 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$$



$$k_{ex} \sim 4 \cdot 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

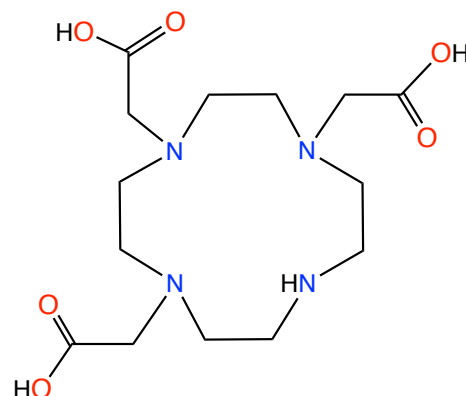
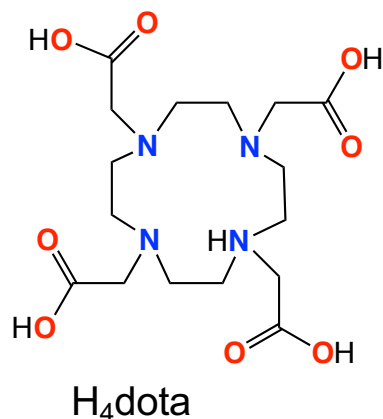
<<<

# Increasing the number of coordinated water molecules

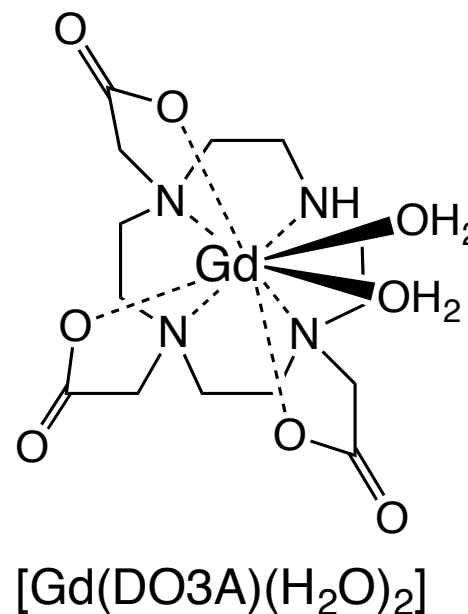
$q > 1$



Higher efficiency at all fields  
Lower stability



Heptadentate  
 $\log K_{GdL} = 21.1$   
 $q = 2$   
 $r = 6.1 \text{ mM}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$

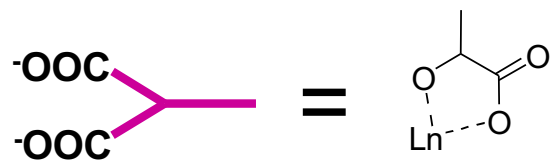
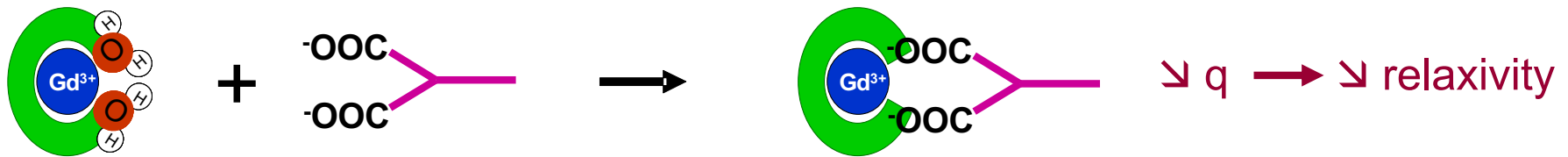


Neutral complex : water exchange is slower

In biological media anion binding displaces water and reduces efficiency

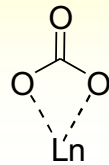
# Limitations of $\text{Gd}^{3+}$ Complexes with $q > 1$

- 1)  $\searrow$  Lower thermodynamic stability (effet chelate)
- 2) Competition with endogenous carboxylates
  - $\swarrow$  Physiologic anions
  - $\searrow$  proteins



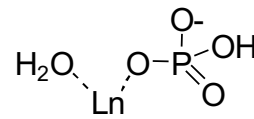
**lactate**

2.3 mM



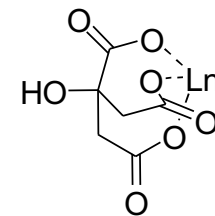
**carbonate**

30 mM



**phosphate**

0.9 mM

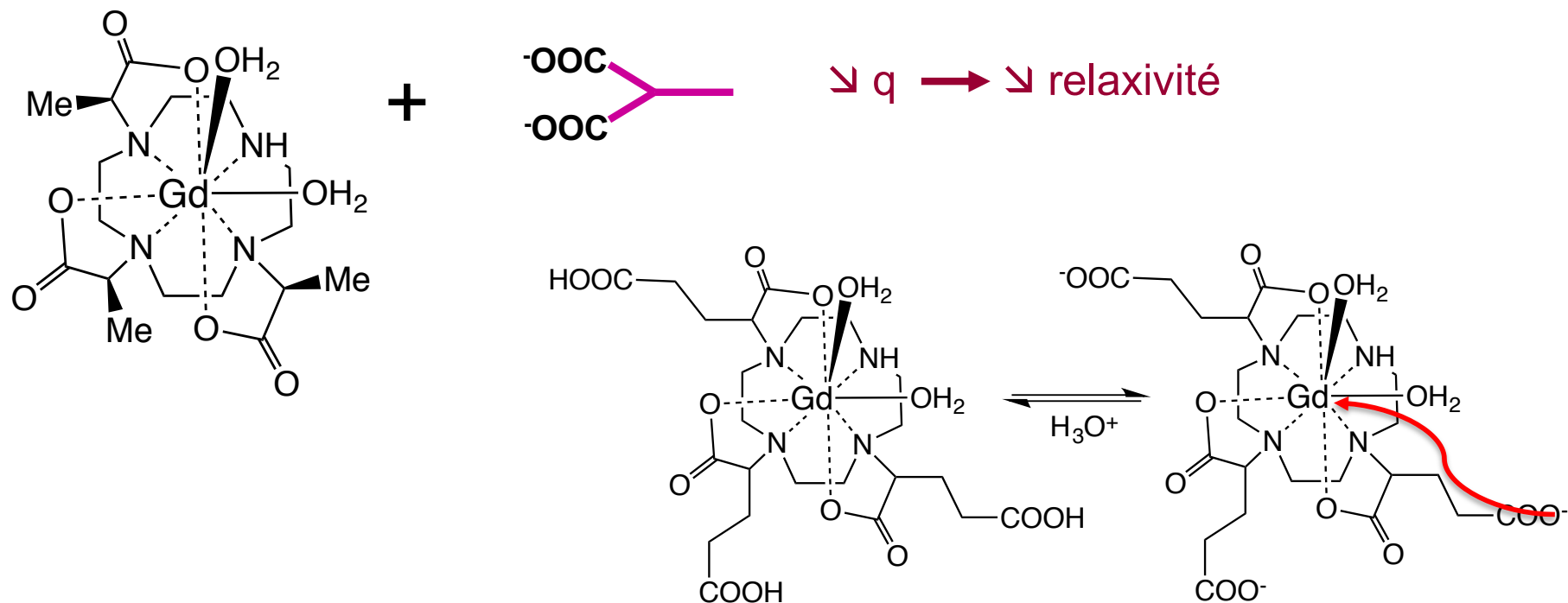


**citrate**

0.13 mM



# Increasing the number of coordinated water molecules



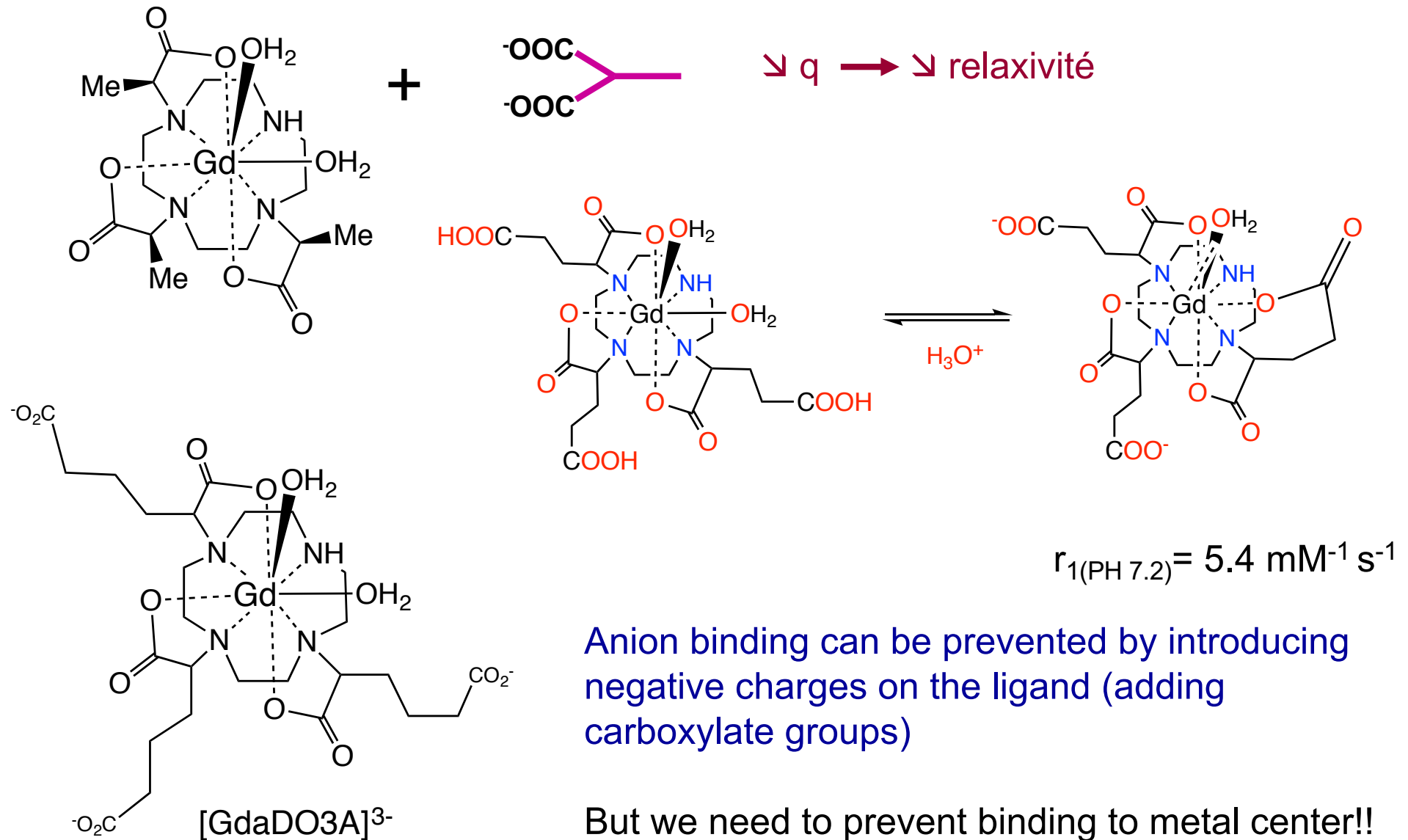
$$r_{1(\text{PH } 7.2)} = 5.4 \text{ mM}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Anion binding can be prevented by introducing negative charges on the ligand (adding carboxylate groups)

But we need to prevent binding to metal center!!

Increased charge on the ligand leads also to higher water exchange rate

# Increasing the number of coordinated water molecules



# Summary

- Spectroscopic states: small ligand field effects
- Ln(III) show narrow and low intensity absorption lines (f-f) except for f-d transitions, Ln(II) M-L mixing lead to higher intensities
- Magnetic moment, spin-orbit coupling importance
- Application of magnetic properties in Shift reagents and MRI CAs
- Importance of ligand design in the development of MRI Gd CAs
- Stability and number of water molecules very important