

## And now for something completely different...

1

## Hypermetallic molecules



## (Picture courtesy of Python M)



## An ab initio study of the alkaline earth oxides BeOBe, MgOMg, CaOCa, SrOSr, BaOBa, and RaORa.

2

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"Hypermetallic" since they have one more metal atom than they should



## PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS









Apart from BeOBe, little known experimentally.

Our interest in these molecules is three-fold:

• To make precise ab initio calculations on them in order to understand the electronic structure,

- To predict the IR and electronic spectra and to compare with the experimental spectra,
- To calculate Singlet-Triplet splittings and S-T interaction strengths in order to test these molecules as candidates for high precision spectral measurements aimed at looking for a time-variation in  $M_{\rm p}/m_{\rm e}$  and fine structure constant  $\alpha$ .



## The *ab initio* slide

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| Molecule           | Method                | Basis set   |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| BeOBe              | CASSCF⇒MRCI           | cc-pCVQZ  |
| MgOMg              | FV-CASSCF⇔MRCISD      | cc-pCVQZ  |
| CaOCa              | FV-CASSCF⇔MRCISD+RS2C | cc-pwCVQZ-DK  |
| SrOSr              | CASSCF⇒MRCISD+RS2C    | Sadlej pVTZ<br>and Stuttgart relativistic<br>small-core effective core<br>potential for Sr                              |
| BaOBa and<br>RaORa | CASSCF⇒MRCI           | cc-pCVQZ<br>and Stuttgart small-core<br>relativistic effective core<br>potential ECP46MDF and<br>ECP78MDF for Ba and Ra |

# Nuclear-motion calculations and spectral simulations with MORBID



## BeOBe, MgOMg, CaOCa, SrOSr, BaOBa, and RaORa.

7

## We find that all these MOM molecules have

A linear  $\sum_{3}^{+} \sum_{+}^{+} \sum_{+}^{+}$  ground electronic state and a fairly low lying linear  $\Sigma_{u}$  first excited electronic state.



S-T spin-orbit coupling too small for them to be good candidates for use in measuring the time dependence of the fundamental parameters.



## **BeOBe bending potential curves**





| eOBe $E(0,0)$ | calculated vibr<br>(0, 0, 0) and effe<br>onic states $\tilde{X}^{1}\Sigma$ | ational ctive rot $\tilde{c}^+$ and $\tilde{a}$ | term values<br>ational consta<br>$^{3}\Sigma^{+}$ | $G_{\text{vib}} =$<br>ants $B_{\text{eff}}$ | $E(v_1, v_2^{\ell_2}, v_3)$<br>(in cm <sup>-1</sup> ) f | $_{3}, N_{\min} =$<br>or Be <sup>16</sup> OF |
|---------------|--|---|---|---|---|--|
|               |  | 2g and a  | $\tilde{X}^{1}\Sigma$                             | t<br>g                                      | $\tilde{a}^{3}\Sigma$                                   | +<br>u                                       |
| exp           | $(v_1, v_2^{\ell_2}, v_3)$   | ) N <sub>min</sub>                              | $G_{\rm vib}$                                     | $B_{\text{eff}}$                            | $G_{\rm vib}$   | $B_{\text{eff}}$                             |
|               | $(0, 0^0, 0)$  | 0   | $0.000^{a}$                                       | 0.4744                                      | $0.000^{b}$   | 0.4734                                       |
| 110           | $(0, 1^{1e}, 0)$   | 1   | 110.903   | 0.4778                                      | 132.589   | 0.4759                                       |
| 113           | $(0, 1^{1f}, 0)$   | 1   | 110.911   | 0.4820                                      | 132.596   | 0.4793                                       |
|               | $(0, 2^0, 0)$  | 0   | 222.151   | 0.4861                                      | 270.392   | 0.4821                                       |
|               | $(0, 2^{2e, f}, 0)$  | 2   | 224.258   | 0.4858                                      | 269.909   | 0.4820                                       |
|               | $(0, 3^{1e}, 0)$   | 1   | 332.951   | 0.4876                                      | 409.431   | 0.4827                                       |
|               | $(0, 3^{1f}, 0)$   | 1   | 332.969   | 0.4965                                      | 409.445   | 0.4895                                       |
|               | $(0, 3^{3e, f}, 0)$  | 3   | 338.887   | 0.4921                                      | 410.661   | 0.4862                                       |
|               | $(0, 4^0, 0)$  | 0   | 441.633   | 0.4991                                      | 551.730   | 0.4906                                       |
|               | $(0, 4^{2e, f}, 0)$  | 2   | 444.535   | 0.4920                                      | 551.839   | 0.4903                                       |
|               | $(0, 4^{4e, f}, 0)$  | 4   | 454.322   | 0.4981                                      | 554.435   | 0.4903                                       |
| 1039          | $(1,0^0, 0)$   | 0   | 1031.774  | 0.4755                                      | 1034.584  | 0.4713                                       |
|               | $(1, 1^{1e}, 0)$   | 1   | 1148.715  | 0.4752                                      | 1170.828  | 0.4735                                       |
|               | $(1, 1^{1f}, 0)$   | 1   | 1148.723  | 0.4792                                      | 1170.834  | 0.4768                                       |
|               | $(1, 2^0, 0)$  | 0   | 1266.196  | 0.4893                                      | 1311.796  | 0.4797                                       |
|               | $(1, 2^{2e, f}, 0)$  | 2   | 1266.979  | 0.4827                                      | 1311.478  | 0.4794                                       |
| 1414          | $(0, 0^0, -1)$   | 0   | 1412.100  | 0.4710                                      | 1413.618  | 0.4698                                       |
|               | $(0, 1^{1e}, 1)$   | 1   | 1512.600  | 0.4748                                      | 1537.272  | 0.4725                                       |
|               | $(0, 1^{1f}, 1)$   | 1   | 1512.609  | 0.4792                                      | 1537.279  | 0.4760                                       |

Experiment: Merritt, Bondybey and Heaven, JPC A113, 13300 (2009)





At 300 K. All bands very weak





 $T_{\rm e}(\tilde{a}) = 671 \ {\rm cm}^{-1}$ 

The calculated vibrational term values  $G_{\rm vib} = E(v_1, v_2^{\ell_2}, v_3, N_{\rm min} = \ell_2) - E(0, 0^0, 0, 0)$  and effective rotational constants  $B_{\rm eff}$  (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) for <sup>24</sup>Mg<sup>16</sup>O<sup>24</sup>Mg in the electronic states  $\tilde{X}^{1}\Sigma_{\rm g}^{+}$  and  $\tilde{a}^{3}\Sigma_{\rm u}^{+}$ .

|                            |            | $\tilde{X}^{1}$ | $\tilde{X}^{1}\Sigma_{g}^{+}$ |               | $\Sigma_{u}^{+}$ |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| $(v_1, v_2^{\ell_2}, v_3)$ | $N_{\min}$ | $G_{\rm vib}$   | $B_{\text{eff}}$              | $G_{\rm vib}$ | $B_{\text{eff}}$ |
| $(0, 0^0, 0)$              | 0          | $0.0^{a}$       | 0.1088                        | $0.0^{b}$     | 0.1087           |
| $(0, 1^{1e}, 0)$           | 1          | 77.1            | 0.1096                        | 82.1          | 0.1094           |
| $(0, 1^{1f}, 0)$           | 1          | 77.1            | 0.1099                        | 82.1          | 0.1096           |
| $(0, 2^0, 0)$              | 0          | 153.2           | 0.1107                        | 165.5         | 0.1104           |
| $(0, 2^{2e, f}, 0)$        | 2          | 155.2           | 0.1107                        | 166.3         | 0.1103           |
| $(0, 3^{1e}, 0)$           | 1          | 229.4           | 0.1113                        | 249.4         | 0.1108           |
| $(0, 3^{1f}, 0)$           | 1          | 229.4           | 0.1119                        | 249.4         | 0.1114           |
| $(0, 3^{3e,f}, 0)$         | 3          | 234.3           | 0.1116                        | 252.2         | 0.1111           |
| $(0, 4^0, 0)$              | 0          | 305.9           | 0.1126                        | 335.4         | 0.1119           |
| $(0, 4^{2e,f}, 0)$         | 2          | 307.4           | 0.1125                        | 335.9         | 0.1118           |
| $(0, 4^{4e, f}, 0)$        | 4          | 314.2           | 0.1126                        | 339.9         | 0.1119           |
| $(1,0^0, 0)$               | 0          | 484.7           | 0.1086                        | 484.5         | 0.1085           |
| $(1, 1^{1e}, 0)$           | 1          | 568.0           | 0.1096                        | 573.5         | 0.1090           |
| $(1, 1^{1f}, 0)$           | 1          | 568.0           | 0.1090                        | 573.5         | 0.1093           |
| $(1, 2^0, 0)$              | 0          | 649.0           | 0.1103                        | 659.7         | 0.1101           |
| $(1, 2^{2e,f}, 0)$         | 2          | 651.9           | 0.1102                        | 662.5         | 0.1099           |
| $(0, 0^0, 1)$              | 0          | 915.0           | 0.1081                        | 920.8         | 0.1080           |
| $(0, 1^{1e}, 1)$           | 1          | 986.5           | 0.1089                        | 997.1         | 0.1086           |
| $(0, 1^{1f}, 1)$           | 1          | 986.5           | 0.1092                        | 997.1         | 0.1089           |

Diatomic <sup>24</sup>Mg<sup>16</sup>O 774.7 cm<sup>-1</sup>



| MgOMg         |       | Vertical excitation energies $\Delta E_{\text{vert}}$ (in cm <sup>-1</sup> ) of the low-lying singlet and triplet excited states of MgOMg, calculated at the FV-CAS(10,12)/MRCI+Q level of theory using the aug-cc-pCVQZ basis set. The calculations are carried out at the equilibrium geometry of the ground state ( $\angle$ (MgOMg) =180°; $r_{e}$ (Mg-O) = 1.8014 Å). The singlet and triplet states are averaged in the state-average CAS procedure. |                                    |  |                       |                             |  |  |  |
|---------------|-------|--|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
|               |       | Singlet State $\Phi$   | states<br>a                        | $Configuration^b$  | $\Delta E_{\rm vert}$ | $\Delta E_{\rm vert}^{c}$   | $ \langle \Phi   \mu_x   \tilde{X} \rangle ^d$ | $ \langle \Phi   \mu_y   \tilde{X} \rangle ^d$ | $ \langle \Phi   \mu_z   \tilde{X} \rangle ^d$ |
|               |       | $\tilde{X}^{1}\Sigma_{g}^{+}$  | $1  {}^{1}A_{1}$                   | $\begin{array}{l} 0.75 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^4  6\sigma_{\rm g}^2 \right\rangle \\ - \ 0.55 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^4  5\sigma_{\rm u}^2 \right\rangle \end{array}$  | 0                     | 0                           | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  |
| <b>420 nm</b> | 3.7 D | $A  {}^{1}\Sigma_{\mathrm{u}}^{+}$   | $1  {}^{1}B_2$                     | $\begin{array}{l} 0.88 \left  2\pi_{\mathbf{u}}^{4} 6\sigma_{\mathbf{g}}^{1} 5\sigma_{\mathbf{u}}^{1} \right\rangle \\ - 0.23 \left  4\sigma_{\mathbf{u}}^{1} 2\pi_{\mathbf{u}}^{4} 6\sigma_{\mathbf{g}}^{1} 5\sigma_{\mathbf{u}}^{2} \right\rangle \end{array}$ | 23789                 | 23788                       | 0.0  | 1.47   | 0.0  |
|               |       | $B^{1}\Sigma_{g}^{+}$  | $2  {}^{1}A_{1}$                   | $\begin{array}{l} 0.68 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^4  5\sigma_{\rm u}^2 \right\rangle \\ + \ 0.51 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^4  6\sigma_{\rm g}^2 \right\rangle \end{array}$  | 24269                 | 24274                       | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  |
|               |       | $\tilde{C}^{1}\Pi_{g}$   | $1 {}^{1}A_{2}$<br>$2 {}^{1}B_{2}$ | $\begin{array}{l} 0.91 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^{\rm 3}  6\sigma_{\rm g}^{\rm 2}  5\sigma_{\rm u}^{\rm 1} \right\rangle \\ +  0.16 \left  4\sigma_{\rm u}^{\rm 1}  2\pi_{\rm u}^{\rm 3}  6\sigma_{\rm g}^{\rm 2}  5\sigma_{\rm u}^{\rm 2} \right\rangle \end{array}$  | 28783                 | 28686                       | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | 0.0<br>0.0                                     |
|               |       | $\tilde{D}^{1}\Pi_{g}$   | $2 {}^{2}A_{2}$<br>$3 {}^{1}B_{2}$ | $0.89 \left  2\pi_{\mathbf{u}}^{4}  6\sigma_{\mathbf{g}}^{1}  2\pi_{\mathbf{g}}^{1} \right\rangle$   | 28629                 | 28705                       | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | 0.0<br>0.0                                     |
| 310 nm        | 4.0 D | $\tilde{E}^{1}\Pi_{u}$   | $3 {}^{1}A_{1} \\ 1 {}^{1}B_{1}$   | $\begin{array}{l} 0.81 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^{\rm 4}  5\sigma_{\rm u}^{\rm 1}  2\pi_{\rm g}^{\rm 1} \right\rangle \\ -  0.28 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^{\rm 3}  6\sigma_{\rm g}^{\rm 1} 5\sigma_{\rm u}^{\rm 2} \right\rangle \end{array}$                               | 31912                 | 31944                       | $0.0 \\ 1.58$                                  | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | $1.58 \\ 0.0$                                  |
|               |       | $\tilde{F}$ <sup>1</sup> $\Pi_{u}$   | $4  {}^{1}A_{1} \\ 2  {}^{1}B_{1}$ | $\begin{array}{l} 0.87 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^3  6\sigma_{\rm g}^1  5\sigma_{\rm u}^2 \right\rangle \\ +  0.28 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^4  5\sigma_{\rm u}^1 2\pi_{\rm g}^1 \right\rangle \end{array}$   | 33524                 | 33514                       | $0.0 \\ 0.16$                                  | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | $\begin{array}{c} 0.16 \\ 0.0 \end{array}$     |
|               |       | Triplet<br>State $\Phi$  | states<br>a                        | $Configuration^b$  | $\Delta E_{\rm vert}$ | $\Delta E_{\rm vert}^{\ c}$ | $ \langle \Phi   \mu_x   \tilde{a}  angle  ^d$ | $ \langle \Phi   \mu_y   \tilde{a}  angle  ^d$ | $ \langle \Phi   \mu_z   \tilde{a} \rangle ^d$ |
|               |       | $\tilde{a}^{3}\Sigma_{n}^{+}$  | $1^{3}B_{2}$                       | $0.93  2\pi^4 6\sigma^1_5 \sigma^1_5\rangle$   | 775                   | 791                         | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  |
| 360 nm        | 4.1 D | $\tilde{b}^{3}\Pi_{g}$   | $1 {}^{3}A_{2}$<br>$2 {}^{3}B_{2}$ | $\begin{array}{l} 0.82 \left  2\pi_{\mathbf{u}}^{4} 6\sigma_{\mathbf{g}}^{1} 2\pi_{\mathbf{g}}^{1} \right\rangle \\ - \left. 0.40 \left  2\pi_{\mathbf{u}}^{3} 6\sigma_{\mathbf{g}}^{2} 5\sigma_{\mathbf{u}}^{1} \right\rangle \end{array}$                      | 27414                 | 27411                       | $1.60 \\ 0.0$                                  | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | $0.0 \\ 1.60$                                  |
| 340 nm        | 2.9 D | $\tilde{c}^{3}\Pi_{g}$   | $2 {}^{3}A_{2}$<br>$3 {}^{3}B_{2}$ | $\begin{array}{l} 0.82 \left  2\pi_{\mathbf{u}}^{3} 6\sigma_{\mathbf{g}}^{2} 5\sigma_{\mathbf{u}}^{1} \right\rangle \\ + \left. 0.40 \left  2\pi_{\mathbf{u}}^{4} 6\sigma_{\mathbf{g}}^{1} 2\pi_{\mathbf{g}}^{1} \right\rangle \end{array}$                      | 29479                 | 29437                       | 1.13<br>0.0                                    | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | 0.0<br>1.13                                    |
|               |       | $\tilde{d}^{3}\Pi_{\mathbf{u}}$  | $1 {}^{3}A_{1}$<br>$1 {}^{3}B_{1}$ | $\begin{array}{l} 0.87 \left  2\pi_{u}^{4} 5\sigma_{u}^{1} 2\pi_{g}^{1} \right\rangle \\ + 0.28 \left  2\pi_{u}^{3} 6\sigma_{g}^{1} 5\sigma_{u}^{2} \right\rangle \end{array}$   | 31687                 | 31778                       | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | 0.0<br>0.0                                     |
|               |       | $\tilde{e}^{3}\Pi_{\mathrm{u}}$  | $2 {}^{3}A_{1}$<br>$2 {}^{3}B_{1}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 0.88 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^3  6\sigma_{\rm g}^1  5\sigma_{\rm u}^2 \right\rangle \\ -  0.27 \left  2\pi_{\rm u}^4  5\sigma_{\rm u}^1 2\pi_{\rm g}^1 \right\rangle \end{array}$   | 34272                 | 34221                       | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | 0.0<br>0.0                                     | 0.0<br>0.0                                     |



#### Band Spectra of Magnesium Oxide and Hydroxide between 4000 and 3600 Å

BY D. PESIC† AND A. G. GAYDON

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MS. received 9th October 1958

Abstract. Band systems in the extreme violet have been excited in 'vacuum' arcs in oxygen, ordinary water vapour and heavy-water vapour, and also in a flame. Wavelengths of MgOH and MgOD bands are listed. An oxide system in the same region has been studied under large dispersion but is too complicated to analyse; it is attributed to a polyatomic emitter, possibly  $Mg_2O_2$ .

1959 Proc. Phys. Soc. 73 244

From Discussion:

MqOMg

(http://iopscience.iop.org/0370-1328/73/2/313)

must therefore conclude that a polyatomic emitter is responsible, at any rate for the main second group of bands. The species which can be expected are  $MgO_2$ ,  $Mg_2O$  and  $Mg_2O_2$ . Although occurrence of these molecules in an arc at high temperature might appear unlikely (Brewer and Mastick 1951), similar molecules of the alkaline earth metals were found by a mass spectrometric method by Aldrich (1951) and Inghram and Chupka (1955).







(a) Oxy-hydrogen flame containing magnesium chloride. Medium quartz spectrograph. (b) and (c) Mg arc in O2. 1st order, 21 ft grating.
 (d) Mg arc in H2O vapour. 1st order, 21 ft grating. (e) Mg arc in D2O vapour. 1st order, 21 ft grating.
 (f) and (g) Mg arc in O2. 2nd order, 21 ft grating.
 Iron arc comparison spectra are shown below the main spectra in (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), and above in (f) and (g).

 $\tilde{A}^{1}\Sigma_{u}^{+} - \tilde{X}$  420 nm  $\tilde{E}^{1}\Pi_{u} - \tilde{X}$  310 nm

 $\tilde{b}^{3}\Pi_{g} - \tilde{a}$  360 nm  $\tilde{c}^{3}\Pi_{g} - \tilde{a}$  340 nm





JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR SPECTROSCOPY 68, 114-121 (1977)

### Infrared Spectra of Matrix-Isolated Calcium-44 Substituted Oxides

15

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The products of <sup>44</sup>Ca atom reactions with ozone and oxygen have been isolated in solid nitrogen at 15 K. An excellent wavenumber fit for four isotopic molecules confirms the diatomic CaO assignment. Calcium and oxygen isotopic data strongly support the observation of rhombic  $(CaO)_2$  and isosceles triangular CaO<sub>2</sub> and Ca<sub>2</sub>O species.

Also think that spectrum shows linear CaCaO molecule













18

 $r_3 = 2.15$  Å are represented as filled squares. A cubic spline function determined to reproduce the ab initio values is plotted as a dashed curve.

 $\Delta E \sim 2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  Thus energy shift ~  $(0.01)^2/2 \text{ cm}^{-1} = 0.00005 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 



## MOM equilibrium bond length

| S-T splitting |                              |  |               |  |               |  |  |
|---------------|------------------------------|--|---------------|--|---------------|--|--|
|               | $r_e^{\tilde{X}}/\text{\AA}$ |  | $E_{\rm CBS}$ | $_{\rm S} = \langle \Psi_{\rm elec}^{(\tilde{a})} \mid \hat{H}_{\rm SO} \mid \Psi_{\rm elec}^{(\tilde{X})} \rangle_{\rm el}$ |               |  |  |
|               |                              |  |               | $180^{\circ}$  | $140^{\circ}$ |  |  |
| BeOBe         | 1.409                        |  | 280           | 0.002  | 0.2           |  |  |
| MgOMg         | 1.801                        |  | 656           | 0.007  | 0.7           |  |  |
| CaOCa         | 1.995                        |  | 307           | 0.002  | 0.4           |  |  |
| SrOSr         | 2.150                        |  | 344           | 0.006  | 1.9           |  |  |
| BaOBa         | 2.201                        |  | 510           | 0.064  | 11.7          |  |  |
| RaORa         | 2.280                        |  | 601           | 0.265  | 51.6          |  |  |



## **BaOBa bending potential energy curves**







Figure 8. Comparison of the fluorescence spectra assigned in the present work to  $Ba_2O$  with that observed by West et al.<sup>6</sup> (upper part) in  $Ba/CO_2$  and Ba/CO flames. The spectra have been corrected for the transmission of the detection system. The middle part corresponds to the reaction  $Ba_2 + CO_2$  on argon clusters and the bottom part to the  $Ba_2 + N_2O$  reaction on nitrogen clusters.



## **Spring has arrived in Wuppertal!**



## Thank you for your attention!