Recent developments in solvation and dynamics of the lanthanide(III) ions

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Abstract - This paper presents recent developments concerning the behaviour of the trivalent lanthanide ions in solution. Counterion complexation, coordination numbers and kinetic properties are discussed. Special interest is devoted to the results obtained in aqueous and N,N-dimethylformamide solutions, where the solvent exchange reactions have been characterized at variable temperature and pressure. The coordination properties, solvent exchange rates and mechanisms are discussed in terms of electrostatic and steric factors.

INTRODUCTION

The tripositive lanthanides Ln³⁺ constitute the longest series of chemically similar metal ions. They are characterized by the progressive filling of the 4f orbitals from La³⁺ to Lu³⁺. These orbitals are shielded by the surrounding filled 5s and 5p orbitals, leading to very small crystal field splittings in the lanthanide complexes. The coordination properties of the Ln³⁺ ions thus mainly depend upon the steric nature of the ligands, as illustrated by the large variety of coordination numbers (mainly 6 to 12) observed in their complexes (refs. 1 and 2). The lanthanide contraction is another well known property of this series of ions. Their ionic radii decrease regularly along the series, due to the increase of the nuclear electric field. This observation is true whatever the coordination numbers (hereafter CN) of the ions are, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

This paper is concerned with solvation, solvent exchange and complex formation processes on Ln³⁺ (some results on the parent Y³⁺ have also been included). The characterization of dynamic processes on Ln³⁺ involves several aspects. Among these, the influence of the counterions have to be studied. For trivalent ions like Ln³⁺, it is likely that complex or ion pair formation with the counterion may occur in solution, especially in poorly coordinating solvents. The CN and the structure of the Ln³⁺ solvates has then to be discussed; as it will be seen later, this knowledge is of primary importance for the mechanistic description of the dynamic processes which are taking place on the Ln³⁺ solvates. The simplest substitution reaction is certainly solvent exchange, and a large portion of this paper will be concerned with this topic.

EVIDENCE FOR COUNTERION COORDINATION IN METHANOL AND ACetonITRILE

It appears from recent reports (refs. 3 to 5) that anion coordination often occurs in organic solvents, even with so-called "non-coordinating" anions. For example, the counterion coordination on Ln³⁺ in methanol has been studied using ¹³⁹La NMR. The chemical shift δobs measured in solutions of lanthanum compounds is very sensitive to the composition of the inner coordination sphere. Figure 2 reports the observed ¹³⁹La shifts versus concentration of several La³⁺ salts. The absolute stability constants for the anion complexation can be derived from Eqs. 1 and 2, where x is the mole

\[
\text{La}^{3+} + X^- \rightleftharpoons \text{La}X^{2+}
\]  
\[
\delta_{\text{obs}} = (1-x) \delta_{\text{La}^{3+}} + x \delta_{\text{La}X^{2+}}
\]
Fig. 1. Illustration of the lanthanide contraction for CN = 6 (Δ), 8 (○) and 9 (○). Filled symbols are for Y^3+ (ionic radii taken from diffraction data, as compiled by Shannon, ref. 2).

Fig. 2. ^139La NMR chemical shifts as a function of LaX₃ concentration in anhydrous methanol at 23°C. Solid lines are the results of fitting data.

TABLE 1. Stability and relative stability constants for the equilibria La³⁺ + X⁻ = LaX²⁺ and LaX²⁺ + Y⁻ = LaY²⁺ + X⁻ in methanol at 23°C determined by ^139La-NMR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X⁻</th>
<th>K_X</th>
<th>log K_X</th>
<th>Y⁻</th>
<th>K_YX</th>
<th>log K_YX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ClO₄⁻</td>
<td>390 ± 60</td>
<td>2.6 ± 0.2</td>
<td>Cl⁻</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF₃SO₃⁻</td>
<td>450 ± 60</td>
<td>2.7 ± 0.1</td>
<td>Br⁻</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Br⁻</td>
<td>460 ± 70</td>
<td>2.7 ± 0.2</td>
<td>ClO₄⁻</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>-0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl⁻</td>
<td>1500 ± 200</td>
<td>3.2 ± 0.1</td>
<td>CF₃SO₃⁻</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>-0.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

fraction of LaX²⁺. The K_X values are listed in Table 1 and are consistent with the relative stability constants determined by Eqs. 3 and 4 from equimolar mixtures of LaX₃ and LaY₃⁺.

\[
\text{LaX}^2+ + \text{Y}^- \rightleftharpoons \text{LaY}^2+ + \text{X}^- \quad (3)
\]

\[
\delta_{\text{obs}} = x \delta_{\text{LaX}^2+} + (1-x) \delta_{\text{LaY}^2+} \quad (4)
\]

Methanol is not the only solvent where counterion complexation takes place. In acetonitrile, Bünzli et al. (refs. 3 and 5) have shown by FT-IR measurements that perchlorate also forms inner-sphere complexes with all the lanthanide ions, even in dilute solutions. Most of the bound perchlorate ions are monodentate, but for Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺, approximately one third are bidentate. Association constants for the formation of Ln(ClO₄)²⁺ complexes in acetonitrile are reported in Table 2.
TABLE 2. Average number $n$ of associated perchlorate ions per Ln$^{3+}$ and corresponding association constants in anhydrous acetonitrile measured by FT-IR. The solutions are 0.05 M in Ln(ClO$_4$)$_3$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ln</th>
<th>$n$(± 0.08)</th>
<th>log K(± 0.3)</th>
<th>Ln</th>
<th>$n$(± 0.08)</th>
<th>log K(± 0.3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>La</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>a)</td>
<td>Tb</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pr</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>a)</td>
<td>Dy</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nd</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>a)</td>
<td>Er</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eu</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Tm</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) log K for Ln(ClO$_4$)$_2$ is too large to be determined by this technique.

SOLVATION AND SOLVENT EXCHANGE IN N,N-DIMETHYLFORMAMIDE

The Ln$^{3+}$ behaviour in N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) solutions is quite different. Conductivity measurements (ref. 6) indicate that lanthanide perchlorates dissociate as 1:3 electrolytes in that medium. The complexation tendency of perchlorate was assessed using $^{35}$Cl NMR (ref. 7). In acetonitrile important $^{35}$Cl quadrupolar line-broadening is observed, implying significant inner-sphere complexation. This is not the case for La$^{3+}$ and Lu$^{3+}$ in DMF, confirming the absence of perchlorate complexation for the whole series of Ln$^{3+}$ ions in this solvent.

The coordination in DMF solutions has been elucidated by a combination of NMR and UV-visible spectroscopies (refs. 8 and 9). In Yb(ClO$_4$)$_3$/DMF/CD$_2$Cl$_2$ solutions at 175 K, the rate of DMF exchange was sufficiently slow for the $^1$H NMR resonances of coordinated and free DMF to be well resolved. The mean coordination number was determined as 7.8 ± 0.2 by integration of these resonances. This value and that of 7.7 ± 0.2 similarly determined for Tm$^{3+}$ are indicating that Ln(DMF)$_8^{3+}$ is the largely predominant species for the heavy lanthanide ions.

Fig. 3. Solvent NMR chemical shifts recorded in lanthanide perchlorate solutions. a: DMF formyl $^1$H in pure DMF (open circles are for ambient pressure measurements; filled circles are for measurements done at 200 MPa). b: water $^{17}$O in 2.0 m H$^+$ aqueous solutions.
However for the lighter Ln$^{3+}$ ions a solvation equilibrium takes place (Eqn. 5). The $^1$H NMR

$$\text{Ln(DMF)}_{g}^{3+} + \text{DMF} \rightarrow \text{Ln(DMF)}_{t}^{3+}$$

formyl proton chemical shifts for Ce$^{3+}$, Pr$^{3+}$ and Nd$^{3+}$ (Fig. 3a) indicate an increase in coordination number above 8. The inflection point observed for these ions implies that two different paramagnetic environments contribute to the average $^1$H shift of the solvent in rapid exchange. No inflection point was observed from Tb$^{3+}$ to Yb$^{3+}$.

Anhydrous solutions of [Nd(DMF)$_3$(ClO$_4$)$_3$] in DMF exhibit temperature and pressure dependence of the $^4$I$_{1/2} \rightarrow ^2$P$_{1/2}$ absorption band in the electronic spectrum of Nd$^{3+}$ (Fig. 4a). The spectra recorded in DMF at high temperature approach those of [Nd(DMF)$_3$(ClO$_4$)$_3$] dissolved in an inert diluent (CD$_2$Cl$_2$ or CD$_3$NO$_2$). Moreover the effect of temperature and pressure on these spectra and on the $^1$H shifts is also consistent with an expected displacement in equilibrium towards the species of higher CN at low temperature and high pressure (see Ce$^{3+}$ in Fig. 3a). The quantitative interpretation of the temperature and pressure dependence of the visible spectra of Nd$^{3+}$ in DMF allowed the determination of the thermodynamic parameters for DMF addition to Nd(DMF)$_3^{3+}$ (Eqn. 5): $\Delta H^\circ = -14.9 \pm 1.3$ kJmol$^{-1}$, $\Delta S^\circ = -69.1 \pm 4.2$ JK$^{-1}$mol$^{-1}$ and $\Delta V^\circ = -9.8 \pm 1.1$ cm$^3$mol$^{-1}$. This last value, when compared to the molar volume of 72 cm$^3$mol$^{-1}$ for DMF, indicates that the formation of the nonsolvate must be accompanied by some lengthening of the other eight metal-DMF bonds.

$$\Delta \omega_r = \frac{\Delta \omega_m}{P_m} \left( \frac{T_m}{T_{2m} + 1} \right)^2 + \frac{\Delta \omega_m^2}{P_m} \Delta \omega_m$$

(7)
Solvation and dynamics of Ln(III) ions

Fig. 5. Variable temperature $^1$H NMR data (formylic proton) for [Tm(DMF)$_8$(ClO$_4$)$_3$] in DMF: (a) reduced chemical shift, and (b) transverse relaxation rate. The measurements were performed at 60 MHz (○) and 200 MHz (●).

bound solvent; $T_{2A}^0$, $T_{2A}^3$, $T_{2A}^2$, and $T_{2A}^4$ are respectively the transverse relaxation times of pure, free (or coalesced), bound and outer-sphere solvent; $\Delta \omega_m$, $\Delta \omega_m^0$ and $\Delta \omega_m^0$ are the chemical shifts (relative to that of pure solvent) of free (or coalesced), bound and outer-sphere solvent; finally $r_m$ is the mean residence time of a coordinated solvent molecule, equal to the inverse of the exchange rate constant $k$. The pressure $P$ and temperature $T$ dependences of this parameter are given (ref. 11) by Eqs. 8 and 9, where $\Delta S^\dagger$, $\Delta H^\dagger$, $\Delta V^\dagger$ and $\Delta \beta^\dagger$ are respectively the entropy, enthalpy, volume and compressibility coefficient of activation.

$$k = \frac{1}{r_m} = \frac{k_B T}{h} \exp(\Delta S^\dagger/RT - \Delta H^\dagger/RT)$$

$$\ln k = \ln k_0 - \Delta V_0^\dagger P/RT + \Delta \beta^\dagger P^2/2RT$$

A nonlinear multiparameter least squares fitting procedure can be applied to the experimental data obtained at variable temperature using Eqs. 6 to 8 and the appropriate equations describing the temperature dependence of $\Delta \omega_m$, $1/T_{2A}^3$, $1/T_{2A}^2$ and $\Delta \omega_m^0$ (ref. 9). An illustrative example is given in Fig. 5 for the exchange of DMF on Tm$^{3+}$ as studied by $^1$H NMR. The same computing procedure can be applied to the variable pressure results using Eqs. 6, 7 and 9. Figure 6 illustrates the pressure dependence of the exchange rate constants. Going through the series from Tb$^{3+}$ to Yb$^{3+}$, it can be seen (Table 3), that $\Delta H^\dagger$ increases, $\Delta S^\dagger$ changes from negative to positive and the positive value of $\Delta V^\dagger$ (indicative of a dissociative activation mode, ref. 11), increases in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ln$^{3+}$</th>
<th>$k^{200}/10^{-5}$s$^{-1}$</th>
<th>$k^{208}/10^{-5}$s$^{-1}$</th>
<th>$\Delta H^\dagger$/kJmol$^{-1}$</th>
<th>$\Delta S^\dagger$/JK$^{-1}$mol$^{-1}$</th>
<th>$\Delta V^\dagger$/cm$^3$mol$^{-1}$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tb</td>
<td>7.2 ± 0.2</td>
<td>190 ± 10</td>
<td>14.1 ± 0.4</td>
<td>-58 ± 2</td>
<td>+5.2 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dy</td>
<td>2.8 ± 0.1</td>
<td>63 ± 3</td>
<td>13.8 ± 0.4</td>
<td>-69 ± 2</td>
<td>+6.1 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ho</td>
<td>1.16 ± 0.02</td>
<td>36 ± 6</td>
<td>15.3 ± 0.8</td>
<td>-68 ± 4</td>
<td>+5.2 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Er</td>
<td>0.80 ± 0.03</td>
<td>130 ± 40</td>
<td>23.6 ± 1.8</td>
<td>-30 ± 9</td>
<td>+5.4 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tm</td>
<td>0.29 ± 0.01</td>
<td>310 ± 30</td>
<td>33.2 ± 0.5</td>
<td>+10 ± 2</td>
<td>+7.4 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yb</td>
<td>0.28 ± 0.01</td>
<td>990 ± 90</td>
<td>39.3 ± 0.6</td>
<td>+40 ± 3</td>
<td>+11.8 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
magnitude. Such variations are symptomatic of a mechanistic change and the kinetic results obtained in nitromethane as diluent (refs. 9 and 12) are very informative in this respect (Fig. 7). The exchange rate constant for Tm(DMF)$_8^{3+}$ is practically independent of the free DMF concentration. The observed first-order rate law (Eqn. 10) is consistent with a dissociative exchange mechanism where an intermediate of reduced coordination is formed (reaction scheme 11). For Tm(DMF)$_8^{3+}$

$$\frac{d[Tm(DMF)_{8}^{3+}]}{dT} = 8k = k_D$$

(10)

both Tm$^{3+}$ and Yb$^{3+}$, the positive $\Delta S^f$ are consistent with a dissociative activation mode. Moreover, $\Delta V^f$ is close to the $\Delta V^f$ value found for the dissociation reaction on Nd(DMF)$_9^{3+}$ (+9.8 cm$^3$mol$^{-1}$). DMF exchange on these ions thus takes place via a limiting dissociative $D$ mechanism.

In contrast, for Tb$^{3+}$ the observed rate constant first increases almost proportionally to DMF concentration to reach a constant level in neat DMF. This behaviour agrees with the reaction scheme 12, where the observed rate constant $k$ is related to $K_{eq}$, the equilibrium constant for the
Solvation and dynamics of Ln(III) ions

K_{os} (0.37 and 0.30 mol\(^{-1}\) kg for Er at 234 K and 244 K; 0.51 and 0.42 mol\(^{-1}\) kg for Tb at 231 and 239 K) in good agreement with the estimates from the Fuoss equation (ref. 13), which are slightly less than unity for neutral ligands. The apparent conflict in \(\Delta S^f\) and \(\Delta V^f\) from Tb\(^{3+}\) to Ho\(^{3+}\) in neat solvent can now be rationalized. The negative \(\Delta S^f\) can be explained by the decrease in degrees of freedom accompanying the formation of a nine-coordinate transition state. On the other hand, the positive \(\Delta V^f\) values result from the sum of two effects, predominantly an increase in volume caused by bond-lengthening of the leaving ligand and, to a lesser extent, of the non-exchanging ligands, and a decrease in volume due to the entrance of a ninth DMF molecule into the first coordination sphere. This is typically the description of a concerted interchange mechanism with a dissociative activation mode, namely \(I_d\). As can be seen on Fig. 7, Er\(^{3+}\) exhibits a more complicated behaviour. The total rate constant is the sum of two contributions. One is independent of the free solvent concentration and is representative of a limiting D mechanism, whereas the other one exhibits a behaviour described by Eqn. 13, representative of an interchange \(I_d\) mechanism. Both D and \(I_d\) are thus competitively taking place for Er\(^{3+}\). This is an intermediate case between the \(I_d\) mechanism for the exchange on Tb\(^{3+}\) to Ho\(^{3+}\) and the D mechanism for Tm\(^{3+}\) and Yb\(^{3+}\).

COORDINATION PROPERTIES IN WATER

The coordination of the Ln\(^{3+}\) ions in aqueous solution is certainly one of the most controversial questions of lanthanide chemistry. It is as yet still unclear whether a coordination change occurs along the series or not, despite the large number of studies devoted to that problem (ref. 14).

For hydration in the solid state the results are summarized in Table 4. A CN of nine with a tricapped trigonal prismatic geometry seems to be the rule, since all the \([Ln(H_2O)_9]^nX^n_2\) crystals were easily obtained by gentle evaporation of the corresponding aqueous solutions. Hexa- and octa-hydrated compounds can be considered as marginal cases. The hydrated perchlorate crystals are very difficult to obtain, because they spontaneously backtransform to concentrated solutions when removed from the mother liquor (ref. 15). The octahydrated chloride crystals only form in the presence of a crown ether and in low water content solvent mixtures: 6 water per Ln\(^{3+}\) (refs. 16 to 20).

In aqueous solution, one of the main hypotheses is due to Spedding and co-workers. They interpreted the non-regular change in lanthanide aquation partial molar volumes as evidence for a decrease in CN along the series (refs. 29 to 31). This change was observed in chloride (ref. 29), perchlorate (ref. 30) and nitrate (ref. 31) solutions. Spedding’s experimental partial molar volume values agree well with those calculated by Swaddle (ref. 32) using a semi-empirical model.

X-ray and neutron diffraction are more direct techniques to determine structural factors in solution and both have been used for the study of Ln\(^{3+}\) solutions. Using X-ray on LnCl\(_3\) solutions, Habenschuss and Spedding (ref. 33) found a decrease in CN from 9 to 8 along the series, thus confirming the conclusions drawn from the partial molal volumes. Narten and co-workers (ref. 34) confirmed this conclusion by neutron diffraction in NdCl\(_3\) and DyCl\(_3\) solutions. However, as pointed out by Horrocks et al. (ref. 35), the chloride complexation might be so important in the
TABLE 4. Metal-oxygen bond distances in solid lanthanide hydrates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>δ_{Ln-O} (Å)</th>
<th>δ_{Ln-ε} (Å)</th>
<th>δ_{Ln-ν} (Å)</th>
<th>δ_{Ln-ε/(δ_{Ln-ν})}</th>
<th>ref.</th>
<th>ref.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>[La(H,O)₉] Cl₃ (15-5)</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>2.619</td>
<td>2.519</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[La(H,O)₉] (CF₃SO₃)₃</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Pr(H₂O)₉] (BrO₄)₃</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>2.592</td>
<td>2.470</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Nd(H₂O)₆] (BrO₄)₃</td>
<td>2.51</td>
<td>2.516</td>
<td>2.451</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Sm(H₂O)₆] (CF₃SO₃)₃</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>2.546</td>
<td>2.402</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Lu(H₂O)₉] Cl₃ (15-5)</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2.518</td>
<td>2.368</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Lu(H₂O)₉] (CF₃SO₃)₃</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>2.525</td>
<td>2.344</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Y(H₂O)₉] Cl₃ (15-5)</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>2.474</td>
<td>2.373</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Y(H₂O)₉] (EtOSO₃)₃</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>2.526</td>
<td>2.367</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Er(H₂O)₉] Cl₃ (15-5)</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>1.06</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Er(H₂O)₉] (EtOSO₃)₃</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>2.518</td>
<td>2.321</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Yb(H₂O)₉] Cl₃ (15-5)</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Yb(H₂O)₉] (BrO₄)₃</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>2.503</td>
<td>2.291</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Gd(H₂O)₉] Cl₃ (15-5)</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>2.525</td>
<td>2.344</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Gd(H₂O)₉] (BrO₄)₃</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>2.474</td>
<td>2.373</td>
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<td>[Gd(H₂O)₉] (EtOSO₃)₃</td>
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<td>2.367</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Lu(H₂O)₉] Cl₃ (15-5)</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>[Lu(H₂O)₉] (CF₃SO₃)₃</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Lu(H₂O)₉] (EtOSO₃)₃</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.503</td>
<td>2.291</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) (15-5), (18-6) and (12-4) are the corresponding crown ether compounds.

b) Dodecahedron
c) Bicapped trigonal prism; capping water at 2.41 Å
d) Square antiprism

e) Bicapped trigonal prism; capping water at 2.372 Å
f) All the nonahydrates are tricapped trigonal prisms: capping (c) and prismatic (p) oxygens, respectively.

Concentrated (1 to 3.5 m) solutions used that a third of the Ln³⁺ ions would be present as chlorocomplexes. This eventuality was not taken into account in the interpretation of the diffraction results. Wertz and co-workers (ref. 36) were aware of this problem when interpreting the X-ray diffraction results they collected in chloride solutions of La³⁺, Nd³⁺ and Gd³⁺. They attributed a constant CN of 8 for these three ions, assuming a gradual substitution of water by chloride with increasing concentration. More recently, Johansson et al. (ref. 37) had to use a CN of 8 in order to obtain the best theoretical simulation of the X-ray data obtained in 1 to 3 m perchlorate solutions of La³⁺, Sm³⁺, Tb³⁺ and Er³⁺. However, a CN of 7 or 9 did not greatly affect the quality of the simulations. Finally, the recently obtained results (ref. 38) of a neutron scattering study leads to CN values of 8.0 for Dy³⁺ (0.3 and 1 m) and 7.8 for Yb³⁺ (1 m) in aqueous perchlorate solutions.

Interpretation of the fluorescence lifetime of the Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺ ions also allows the determination of their hydration number. The non-radiative desexcitation rate is proportional to the number of water molecules bound to the metal. Using this technique, Horrocks et al. (ref. 39) found CN of 9.6 and 9.1 in water for Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺ respectively. Sinha (ref. 40) measured lifetimes in Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺ solutions which are similar to those obtained in the corresponding [Ln(H₂O)₉](CF₃SO₃)₃ salts and concluded to an hydration number of nine for these two ions in solutions.

In DMF solutions, as discussed above, NMR peak integration allowed the direct determination of the CN of Tm³⁺ and Yb³⁺. A similar experimental procedure is unfortunately made impractical for water solutions because no totally inert diluent is known. Brucher et al. (ref. 4) did ¹H NMR measurements in Ln(ClO₄)₃/H₂O/CDCl₃ solutions at low temperature. Acetone and/or perchlorate complexation were observed and a CN value of nine was determined by the water proton peaks integration.

In a recent ¹⁷O NMR study (ref. 41) the water chemical shift measured in Ln³⁺ solutions are reported (Fig. 3b). No inflection points were detected versus reciprocal temperature for the two series Ce³⁺ to Nd³⁺ and Gd³⁺ to Yb³⁺. It is unfortunately impossible to say whether the odd dependence of Δω₈ in Sm³⁺ and Eu³⁺ solutions is due to the peculiar electronic properties of these ions (more than one electronic state populated) or to a change in coordination. Moreover only one
absorption band was detected (Fig. 4b) in the visible spectra of Nd(ClO$_4$)$_3$ aqueous solutions, contrary to DMF solutions. However Kobayashi et al. (ref. 42) have interpreted quantitatively the temperature dependence of 5d – 4f transition in terms of a Ce(H$_2$O)$_8^{5+/4+}$ equilibria. Assuming this equilibria, the effect of pressure measured in our laboratory, gives a volume of reaction $\Delta V^0 = -11 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$.

The recent results and the work in progress using neutron scattering and variable pressure UV-visible techniques are very stimulating and should lead to a much better understanding of the hydration number of the lanthanides.

**SOLVENT EXCHANGE IN WATER**

Since the pioneering work of Geier (ref. 43) who studied the murexide complexation, many complex formation reactions on Ln$^{3+}$ ions have been reported. However, discussion of their kinetic parameters always suffered from the lack of knowledge of the water exchange rates and activation parameters for these ions. Until recently, only lower exchange rate limits varying from $2.1 \times 10^7\text{ s}^{-1}$ for Tb$^{3+}$ to $0.33 \times 10^7 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for Tm$^{3+}$ had been determined by $^{17}$O NMR lineshape analysis at 1.4 Tesla (ref. 44). Advantage has now been taken of available high field spectrometers (4.7 to 9.3 Tesla) to extend the accessible time scale. By combining measured $^{17}$O NMR chemical shifts $\Delta \omega$, longitudinal $1/T_1$ and transverse $1/T_2$ relaxation rates, it has been possible to characterize the water exchange kinetics on the six heavy lanthanides from Tb$^{5+}$ to Yb$^{3+}$ using Eqs. 14 and 15 (ref. 41).

\[
(1/T_2 - 1/T_1)/P_m = (\Delta \omega_m)^2/k
\]  

\[
\Delta \omega_m/P_m = \Delta \omega_m
\]

The kinetic effect on the difference $1/T_2 - 1/T_1$ is proportional to the square of the chemical shift, and thus also to the square of the magnetic field as illustrated in Fig. 8. Table 5 gives the kinetic parameters deduced from a variable temperature and pressure study. Both the entropies and volumes of activation are clearly negative and of the same order of magnitude for all ions studied. This suggests a similar water exchange mechanism on all heavy Ln$^{3+}$ ions, characterized by an associative activation mode. The $\Delta V^\ddagger$ values, close to $-6 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$, should be regarded as the difference between a large negative contribution due the transfer to the first coordination sphere of a water molecule electrostricted in the second coordination sphere, and a positive contribution due to the difference in partial molar volume between the larger N+1 coordinated transition state and the N coordinated aquaion. The latter difference is due to the increase in the average Ln-O distance with the CN (Fig. 1). A detailed description of the mechanism of water exchange will have to await more definite results about the possible eight or nine coordination of the heavy lanthanides aquaions.

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*Fig. 8. $^{17}$O water relaxation data as a function of reciprocal temperature in a 0.3 m Ho(ClO$_4$)$_3$/1.9 m HClO$_4$ solution:*

- $1/T_1$ at 4.67 and 8.48 Tesla
- $1/T_2$ at 4.67 Tesla
- $1/T_2$ at 8.48 Tesla
TABLE 5. Kinetic parameters for water exchange on Ln(H$_2$O)$_8$$^+$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ln$^3+$</th>
<th>$k^{298}$/10$^8$s$^{-1}$</th>
<th>$\Delta H^f$/kJmol$^{-1}$</th>
<th>$\Delta S^f$/JK$^{-1}$mol$^{-1}$</th>
<th>$\Delta V^f$/cm$^3$mol$^{-1}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gd</td>
<td>11.9 ± 1.0</td>
<td>12.0 ± 1.4</td>
<td>-30.9 ± 4.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tb</td>
<td>5.58 ± 0.13</td>
<td>12.1 ± 0.5</td>
<td>-36.9 ± 1.6</td>
<td>-5.7 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dy</td>
<td>4.34 ± 0.10</td>
<td>16.6 ± 0.5</td>
<td>-24.0 ± 1.5</td>
<td>-6.0 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ho</td>
<td>2.14 ± 0.04</td>
<td>16.4 ± 0.4</td>
<td>-30.5 ± 1.3</td>
<td>-6.6 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Er</td>
<td>1.33 ± 0.02</td>
<td>18.4 ± 0.3</td>
<td>-27.8 ± 1.1</td>
<td>-6.9 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tm</td>
<td>0.91 ± 0.02</td>
<td>22.7 ± 0.6</td>
<td>-16.4 ± 1.9</td>
<td>-6.0 ± 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yb</td>
<td>0.47 ± 0.02</td>
<td>23.3 ± 0.9</td>
<td>-21.0 ± 3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) If an hydration number of nine is assumed: $k$ is multiplied by a factor 8/9, $\Delta S^f$ decreases by 1.0 JK$^{-1}$mol$^{-1}$, $\Delta H^f$ and $\Delta V^f$ do not change. b) From ref. 45 for Gd$^{3+}$ and from ref. 41 for the other lanthanides.

COMPLEX FORMATION REACTIONS IN WATER

Complex formation reactions in water can now be discussed in the light of the results obtained for water exchange. These reactions are assumed to follow reaction scheme 16 (omitting charges), where

$$\text{Ln(H}_2\text{O)}_n + L \rightleftharpoons \text{Ln(H}_2\text{O)}_{n-m}L^m + m\text{H}_2\text{O}$$  \hspace{1cm} (16)

an outer-sphere complexation takes place first, precursing the substitution step where a water molecule is replaced by the ligand entering the first coordination sphere. Only the overall complex formation rate constant $k_f$ is measurable by the usual fast techniques like T-jump, stopped-flow, etc. Assuming that the outer-sphere process is much faster than the substitution step, one can easily calculate $k_i$, the interchange rate constant, by introducing the $K_{os}$ value evaluated from Fuoss model (ref. 13) in Eqn. 17.

$$k_f = K_{os} \cdot k_i$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)

Figure 9 depicts the $k_i$ values obtained for several complex formation reactions studied by ultrasonic absorption. The concordance between $k_f$ for sulfate complexation and the water exchange rate is striking. It is unfortunately impossible to predict whether the water exchange rate will reach a maximum in the middle of the series, as for sulfate complexation, or if it will continue to increase towards the lighter members of the series. The lower limit of 10$^{-9}$ s$^{-1}$ established for the Nd$^{3+}$ ion (ref. 41) tends to support this latter assumption.

However, the similarities between the kinetic results obtained for sulfate substitution and water exchange are perhaps fortuitous. Darbani et al. (ref. 50) have criticized the hypothesis of the fast outer-sphere pre-equilibrium which justifies the use of Eqn. 17. Both inner- and outer-sphere processes may be of the same order of magnitude in the case of the very labile Ln$^{3+}$ ions, thus making the $k_i$ values reported in Fig. 9 misleading. This explains why most of the published kinetic studies only report the overall formation rate constants $k_f$. Figure 10 illustrates the results obtained for complexation with several ligands. The most striking observation is the very good agreement between the data for murexide (ref. 43), anthranilate (ref. 52) and oxalate (ref. 54). This concordance has often been explained as a proof of a similar dissociative substitution mechanism.
Solvation and dynamics of Ln(III) ions

Fig. 9. Water exchange rate constant (O, ref. 41) and interchange rate constants k₁ from ultrasonic absorption results at 298 K for aqueous Ln³⁺ ions: □ SO₄²⁻ (ref. 46); ■ Acetate (ref. 47); △ nitrate (ref. 48); ▲ nitrate (ref. 49).

Fig. 10. Rate constants k₂ for complex formation on Ln³⁺ in water. △ Nitrate by ultrasonic absorption at 298 K (ref. 50) ○ murexide by T-Jump at 285 K (ref. 43) ◇ murexide by E-Jump at 298 K (ref. 51) ● anthranilate by T-Jump at 285 K (ref. 52) ○ xylene orange by T-Jump at 298 K (ref. 53) □ oxalate by P-Jump at 298 K (ref. 54) △ methyl red by pH-Jump at 293 K (ref. 55) ■ picolinate by pH-Jump at 293 K (ref. 56).

for these reactions. However, these three ligands are multidentate and it seems more likely that the ring closure (chelation) is the rate determining step. Moreover, all the ligands used in these substitution studies except nitrate, are weak bases, and proton dissociation from the ligand may have an influence on the rate constant values.

In conclusion multinuclear NMR has shown to be a powerful technique to probe the eventual existence of counterion coordination, to detect solvation equilibria and to determine the variable temperature and pressure kinetic and activation parameters for water and DMF exchange on the lanthanide ions. Detailed mechanistic assignments are possible in DMF whereas in water more secure knowledge of hydration stereochemistry has to be awaited for.

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