

THE GROUP TENSOR FORMALISM TO DESCRIBE THE HYPERFINE SPLITTING IN ND₃

B. SARTAKOV, *General Physics Institute RAS, Vavilov str. 38, 119991 Moscow, Russia*; **J. VAN VELDHoven** and **G. MEIJER**, *FOM-Institute for Plasmaphysics Rijnhuizen, P.O. Box 1207, NL-3430 BE Nieuwegein, The Netherlands and Department of Molecular and Laser Physics, University of Nijmegen, Toernooiveld 1, NL-6525 ED Nijmegen, The Netherlands and Fritz-Haber-Institut der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Faradayweg 4-6, D-14195 Berlin, Germany*.

Currently there is a rapidly growing interest in the physics of cold molecules in general, and in the physics of cold polar gases in particular. In our laboratory, the Stark-deceleration technique has been developed, which exploits the interaction of dipolar molecules with strong time-varying electric fields to control the velocity of those molecules, allowing the creation of dense, cold samples of molecules^a. Packages of molecules can be decelerated down to arbitrarily low velocities. This can be particularly beneficial in high resolution spectroscopic studies of gas-phase molecules, since the linewidths of the measured transitions are often determined by the interaction time of the molecules with the measurement apparatus.

Recently, pure inversion spectra of the para-species of deuterated ammonia in the ground state ($J=K=1$ state) have been measured using a molecular beam microwave-UV double resonance spectrometer. A resolution of 10 kHz was achieved, allowing the hyperfine structure to be fully resolved.^b By implementing the Stark-decelerator in a future generation of this machine, we expect to be able to significantly improve the resolution in these MW spectra, down to the Hz level. In this presentation we report the symmetry group tensor formalism that we developed to describe the hyperfine splitting in the spectra of XY₃(C_{3v}) molecules. The formalism was tested and used in the simulation of the observed hyperfine splittings in the ND₃ $J=1$, $K=1$ state; the hyperfine manifold has 32 sublevels in the case of the ¹⁴ND₃ isotopomer and 22 sublevels in the case of the ¹⁵ND₃ isotopomer. The connection with the formalism commonly used to describe hyperfine splittings in NH₃ spectra^c is derived.

^aH.L. Bethlem et al., *Nature* **406**, 491 (2000)

^bJ. van Veldhoven et al., *Phys. Rev. A* **66**, 032501 (2002)

^csee i.e. S.G. Kukolich, *Phys. Rev.* **156**, 83 (1967) and references therein.