

# **Laser Spectroscopic Studies of the E $^1\Sigma^+$**

## **State of the MgO Molecule**

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**Abstract**

The  $E^1\Sigma^+$  state of  $^{24}\text{Mg}^{16}\text{O}$  has been characterized by two-color Resonance-Enhanced Two-Photon Ionization (R2PI) spectroscopy in the 36,000 – 40,000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region. Several rotationally resolved bands, assigned consistently to  $^{24}\text{Mg}^{16}\text{O}(E^1\Sigma^+ \leftarrow X^1\Sigma^+)$  vibronic transitions, have been analyzed. The effective  $B_{v'}$  ( $v' = 0 - 8$ ) constants determined exhibit an unusual variation with  $v'$ . Possible causes of this variation are discussed. The vibrational level spacings in the  $E^1\Sigma^+$  state ( $v' = 0 - 7$ ) also provide evidence for a weak homogeneous ( $\Omega = 0^+$ ) perturbation. Estimated spectroscopic constants for the  $E^1\Sigma^+$  state are reported.

## Introduction

We are currently spectroscopically characterizing “Rydberg” type states of diatomic metal oxide molecules, in preparation for single-collision reactive studies of these neutral, but “almost-ion” species with H<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>. The ground-state and the low-lying excited states of the MgO molecule have been well-characterized by optical spectroscopy and laser-magnetic-resonance studies [1-7]. Theoretical studies [8-11] have also been carried out on both the ground state and excited states of MgO up to ~50,000 cm<sup>-1</sup> in energy. The X <sup>1</sup>Σ<sup>+</sup> ground-state, although formally Mg<sup>+2</sup>O<sup>-2</sup>, in fact appears to have a substantial amount of Mg<sup>+</sup>O<sup>-</sup> “open-shell” character [8-11]. At much higher energies (36,000 – 40,000 cm<sup>-1</sup>), there are <sup>1</sup>Σ<sup>+</sup> and <sup>1</sup>Π<sub>1</sub> states which are formally “Rydberg” in character, e.g., MgO<sup>+</sup> states surrounded by diffuse electron clouds. However, Peyerimhoff [11] has found that at least for the lower-lying of these states there is “mixed” valence/Rydberg character. Singh [7] has experimentally recorded and rotationally resolved a single band at 37,683.5 cm<sup>-1</sup> to what is apparently the lowest of these “Rydberg” states, which he tentatively assigned to the (E <sup>1</sup>Σ<sup>+</sup> ← X <sup>1</sup>Σ<sup>+</sup>)MgO (0,0) transition. Antić-Jovanović, *et al.* [12], confirmed the E-X(0,0) assignment of Singh by means of <sup>24</sup>Mg<sup>16</sup>O/<sup>24</sup>Mg<sup>18</sup>O isotopic splittings in the (E <sup>1</sup>Σ<sup>+</sup> - A <sup>1</sup>Π<sub>1</sub>) transitions.

We have observed a plethora [13,14] of vibronic transitions of MgO in the 36,000 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 40,000 cm<sup>-1</sup> spectral region. They consist mainly of three types, when rotationally resolved: simple (Ω' = 0) ← (Ω'' = 0) transitions with no Q-branch; (Ω' = 1) ← (Ω'' = 0) transitions, with typical P,Q,R structure, and (Ω' = 2) ← (Ω'' = 2) transitions (P,Q,R structure, but with R(0), R(1), P(2), Q(1) lines missing). The first two sets of transitions have been shown [13] to originate from several of the well-characterized vibrational levels of the MgO(X <sup>1</sup>Σ<sup>+</sup>) ground-state [1-3], and the third set [14] from vibrational levels of the lowest-lying metastable triplet

state, MgO( $a^3\Pi_2$ ) [4-6]. Many of the spectra are beautifully well-resolved, and are “text-book” examples of these kinds of transitions. The spectra described here are of the simplest  $(\Omega' = 0) \leftarrow (\Omega'' = 0)$  type, and have been shown to be due to the  $E^1\Sigma^+ \leftarrow X^1\Sigma^+$  electronic transition of the  $^{24}\text{Mg}^{16}\text{O}$  molecule. Several rotationally-resolved vibronic bands have been consistently assigned to  $E \leftarrow X$  vibronic transitions. Vibrational spectroscopic constants  $\omega'_e$  and  $\omega_e x'_e$  for the  $E^1\Sigma^+$  state have been determined from this data. However, the rotational constants  $B_v$  show very unusual variations with  $v'$ , and the possible causes of these variations are discussed.

## Experimental

The experimental apparatus has been described in detail elsewhere [13-15]. Briefly, 532 nm radiation from a Molelectron MY-32/10 Q-switched Nd:YAG laser is focused onto the surface of a rotating pure Mg rod which is inside a 100 liter vacuum chamber [operating pressure  $\sim 5 \times 10^{-5}$  torr] and is *slightly beyond* the 2-mm exit hole of a gas source. The laser-vaporization products are entrained in a gas pulse produced by a General valve backed by 40-100 psi of helium or neon gas containing 1%  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ . Mg species from the discharge react with the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  in the gas pulse to form MgO, and the ensuing supersonic expansion cools the MgO molecules to rotational temperatures of  $\sim 5$ -15 K, depending on the expansion conditions. The beam traverses a 60 cm region through a skimmer before entering the ionization region of a one meter time-of-flight mass spectrometer. Here the MgO molecules are interrogated with the outputs of two simultaneously pumped dye lasers, which act in concert to ionize the neutral species. R2PI (Resonance Two-Photon Ionization) spectra are obtained by frequency scanning the output of one of the two dye lasers while holding the other dye laser constant in frequency, monitoring the

MgO<sup>+</sup> signal in the mass spectrum. The ultraviolet radiation used for the resonant step in the two-photon ionization process was obtained by frequency doubling (KDP or BBO crystals) of a dye laser output. Some single-dye-laser spectra were also taken where 355 nm radiation from the YAG laser which pumped the dye laser was used for the ionization step.

## Results and Discussion

Shown in Fig. 1 is a typical high-resolution  $\Sigma$ - $\Sigma$  spectrum, the E-X(0,0) band, along with a computer spectral simulation. Shown in Table 1 are the results of rotational analyses of several such bands, and their consistent assignments to E-X( $v'$ , $v''$ ) transitions. Isotopic splittings were consistent with the E-X( $v'$ , $v''$ ) assignments. For example, the measured isotopic splittings for the mass 41 and 42 isotopes for the E-X(1,0) transition were  $-5.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $-10.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively, while the calculated values from the vibrational constants of the E  $^1\Sigma^+$  and X  $^1\Sigma^+$  states were  $-5.3$  and  $-10.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. Note that the  $B_{v''}$  constants are known from earlier high resolution studies [1], and our  $B_{v''}$  values are consistent with these values (within our  $\pm 0.002 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  estimated experimental error).

It is seen immediately in Table 1 that there is a sudden, dramatic drop in  $B_{v'}$  values between  $v' = 1$  and  $v' = 2$ , and that the  $B_{v'}$  values for  $v' = 3$  to 8 are approximately constant, decreasing slightly at high  $v'$ . This is often a signature [16,17] (but see below) of a heterogeneous “ $\Lambda$ -doubling” gyroscopic (rotationally-dependent) perturbation by a *higher-lying* state with  $\Omega = 1$ . Thus the  $B'_{v'}$  values of the E  $^1\Sigma^+$  state (all levels have “e” symmetry) are “pushed down” by the rotationally-dependent perturbation, while the  $B'_{v'}$  values for one component (e) of the  $\Omega = 1$  state would be “pushed up.” We will discuss this further after we examine the data for the E  $^1\Sigma^+(v'; J' = 0)$  vibrational energies.

Shown in Table 2 are the energies,  $\Delta G_{v'+1/2}$  values and  $\Delta^2 G_{v'}$  ( $2^{\text{nd}}$  difference) values of the  $E(^1\Sigma^+, v' = 0 - 7)$  vibrational levels, calculated from the band-origins in Table 1, and the following consistent energies from this (and other) [18] work for  $v'' = 1$  to  $v'' = 4$ : 775.0, 1539.9, 2293.1, and 3036.1  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. (These energies can be characterized fairly accurately with values of  $\omega_e'' = 785.7 \pm 0.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\omega_e x_e'' = 5.33 \pm 0.30 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .) In Figure 2 is shown a Birge-Sponer plot of  $\Delta G_{v'+1/2}$  versus  $v' + 1$  for the  $E^1\Sigma^+$  state. From the slope and intercept of this plot,  $\omega_e' = 714.1 \pm 0.9 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\omega_e x_e' = 4.14 \pm 0.09 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  **[new values to be provided by Marc-Andre]** for the  $E(^1\Sigma^+)$  state of  $^{24}\text{Mg}^{16}\text{O}$ . There appear to be small oscillations of  $\Delta G_{v'+1/2}$  values about the “best-fit” Birge-Sponer straight line which are outside our estimated experimental errors, possibly indicating homogeneous ( $\Omega = 0^+/\Omega = 0^+$ ) vibrational perturbations [17]. This is much more obvious from the  $\Delta^2 G_{v'}$  ( $2^{\text{nd}}$  difference values) in Table 2, which are plotted versus  $v'$  in Fig. 3. But the general trends in the  $\Delta G_{v'+1/2}$  values are consistent with a simple “Morse-function” type shape for the  $E^1\Sigma^+$  potential curve for  $v' \leq 7$ .

We now return to our discussion of the unusual variation with  $v'$  of the  $B_{v'}$  values in Table 1. The most common “ $\Lambda$ -doubling” interaction for a  $^1\Sigma^+$  state is with a nearby bound  $^1\Pi_1$  state [16,17]. There are two known  $^1\Pi_1$  states nearby, the F  $^1\Pi_1$  and G  $^1\Pi_1$  states [13,18]. Their potential minima are indeed higher in energy than that of the  $E^1\Sigma^+$  state: 37,919  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 39,181  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively, versus 37,718  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the  $E^1\Sigma^+$  state (see Table 4). However, strong  $\Lambda$ -doubling interactions with the  $E^1\Sigma^+$  state can probably be ruled out experimentally for these two states. The  $^1\Sigma^+$  rotational states all have “e” parity, and they can only couple with the “e” levels of the  $^1\Pi_1$  rotational states. Since the Q-branches of  $^1\Pi_1 \leftarrow X^1\Sigma^+$  transitions only go to “f” levels and P,R branches only go to “e” levels [16,17], any strong  $\Lambda$ -doubling can be detected by

looking for “combination defects” [16] in Q-branch versus P,R branch transitions as  $J'$  increases (the  $\Lambda$ -doubling splitting between the  $J'$  “e” and “f” levels due to the interaction with  $^1\Sigma^+$  “e” levels is proportional to  $J(J+1)$ .) [16,17] A value of “q” can be derived, which is the difference between the “effective” B values for the “e” and “f” levels. For very high  $J'$  values in earlier data [19,20] for the F-X(0,0) and the G-X(1,0) bands (from isotopic splittings, we have shown [18] that the band tentatively assigned by Singh [20] to the G-X(0,0) band is probably the G-X(1,0) band), the combination defects were shown to be very small ( $q \leq 0.0001 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), thus making it unlikely that the F  $^1\Pi_1$  and G  $^1\Pi_1$  states are the causes of the unusual  $E(^1\Sigma^+)$  state perturbations observed here, where the sudden drop of  $B'_v$  values from  $v' = 1$  to  $v' = 2$  requires much larger (and quite unusual) “effective” q-values on the order of  $\sim 0.01 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

We thus examine other possible causes of the  $B'_v$  variation. One possibility is that the repulsive wall of *another*, lower-lying  $^1\Pi_1$  state potential curve crosses the inner limb of the  $E ^1\Sigma^+$  potential curve just above the  $E ^1\Sigma^+(v' = 2)$  eigenstate energy. Rotationally induced coupling between the repulsive  $\Omega = 1(e)$  levels and the  $\Omega = 0^+(e)$  levels should be approximately proportional [16,17] to the inverse of the energy difference,  $\Delta E$ , between the two potential curves at the  $E ^1\Sigma^+(v')$  inner turning points, for  $v' = 2$  or higher. This difference  $\Delta E$  should increase from  $v' = 2$  to  $v' = 8$  if the  $^1\Pi_1$  curve is slightly more repulsive than the inner limb of the  $E ^1\Sigma^+$  potential curve.

To provide “plausibility” evidence for this sort of tentative postulate, we assume that the  $B'_0 = 0.524 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  value is essentially unaffected by the higher-lying repulsive curve-crossing (this may not be *quantitatively* true, of course, as it could be slightly “pushed-up” in value), and we further assume that  $\alpha'_e$ , the parameter describing the “normal” decreases in  $B'_v$  values with  $v'$ ,

can be estimated rather well using the Pekeris relationship [16] for a Morse curve (since the Birge-Sponer plot in Fig. 1 indicates reasonable “Morse” type behavior, over-all):

$$B_v = B_e - \alpha_e(v + 1/2) \quad (1)$$

$$\alpha_e (\text{Morse curve}) = \frac{6[(\omega_e x_e)(B_e)^3]^{1/2}}{\omega_e} - \frac{6(B_e)^2}{\omega_e} \quad (2)$$

Shown in Table 3 are the  $B'_v$  (exptl.) values determined from the data in Table 1, as well as the  $B'_v$  (predicted) values assuming  $B'_0 = 0.524$  and  $\alpha'_e = 0.0042$  (from the Pekeris relationship, equation (2)). Also shown is the difference,  $q = B'_v$  (exptl.) –  $B'_v$  (predicted), which is the estimated “ $\Lambda$ -doubling” coupling parameter (given our assumption that  $B'_0$  is a “true” value). It can be seen that the estimated “ $q$ ” values are consistent with our postulate, in that the absolute value of  $q$  falls from  $\sim 0.018 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at  $v' = 2$  to essentially zero at  $v' = 8$ . Thus, this postulated mechanism is certainly *feasible*. On the other hand, it is not obvious from the *ab initio* calculations [11] what the repulsive  $^1\Pi_1$  state could be, and why it wouldn't also undergo obvious avoided crossings with the bound-state F  $^1\Pi_1$  and G  $^1\Pi_1$  potential curves in this energy region.

It is also possible that the cause of the perturbation is due to “ $\Omega$ -doubling” caused by similarly repulsive  $^3\Sigma_1^-$ ,  $^3\Sigma_1^+$ ,  $^3\Pi_1$ , or  $^3\Delta_1$  triplet states (all have “ $\Omega = 1$ ” levels, although the  $^3\Sigma$  states are formally “case b,” where  $\Omega$  is not really a good quantum number). The *ab initio* calculations of Peyerimhoff and co-workers do show curve crossings of the repulsive limbs of both a lower-lying  $^3\Pi$  state and a lower-lying  $^3\Sigma^-$  state near the bottom of the E  $^1\Sigma^+$  potential well, (See Fig. 8 in Ref. [11].)

These  ${}^3\Sigma_1^-$  or  ${}^3\Pi_1$  repulsive curves will also have  $\Omega = 0^+$  components (unlike  ${}^1\Pi$ ,  ${}^3\Delta$ ,  ${}^3\Sigma^+$ , or  ${}^1\Sigma^-$  states) [11,17], which could result [Ref. 17, p. 343] in spin-orbit-induced homogeneous ( $\Delta\Omega = 0$ ) couplings with the  $E\ {}^1\Sigma^+$  state. The oscillations in the Birge-Sponer plot in Fig. 2 (see Fig. 3) may be due to such couplings. Also, we had great difficulty in recording any E-X(3,v'') bands, and were finally able (using slow scans and the averaging of many spectra) to identify and make a rough rotational analysis of the E-X(3,0) band. This could be due to weak singlet-to-triplet predissociation (no rotational line-broadening) of the  $E\ {}^1\Sigma^+(v' = 3)$  vibrational state, which would lie just above the postulated “inner-wall” curve-crossing between the  $v' = 2$  and  $v' = 3$  vibrational levels.

The real problem with any “ ${}^3\Sigma_1, {}^3\Pi_1$ ” perturbation explanation of the  $B_{v'}$  variations, however, is that in pure Hund’s case “a” or “b” there should be essentially *no* L-uncoupling “ $\Lambda$ -doubling” interaction between these states and the  $E\ {}^1\Sigma^+$  state, since  $\Delta S$  must be zero [16,17], so that the interaction has to be spin-orbit-induced [16] (i.e., the  $\Omega = 1$  curves must approach Hund’s case “c” to interact strongly with the  $\Omega = 0^+$  levels “gyroscopically”). However, the spin-orbit coupling is not that large for the  $O^1$  ion ( $121\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) [17], so that the potential curves would have to be extremely close in energy on the inner limbs to generate the large  $q$  values shown in Table 3.

Finally, we consider a very unusual explanation for this unusual  $B_{v'}$  variation. The *ab initio* calculations [11] indicate that the “ $E\ {}^1\Sigma^+$  state,” because of avoided crossings with other repulsive valence state diabatic repulsive curves and other attractive Rydberg state diabatic potential curves at larger internuclear distances  $R$ , actually has an *adiabatic* potential curve which is of “triple-well” character, with secondary minima at  $R \approx 2.7\text{ \AA}$  and  $R \approx 4.5\text{ \AA}$  in addition to the absolute minimum at  $1.8\text{ \AA}$ . If the  $v' = 0$  level of the nearest “secondary

minimum” (which we shall call the H  $^1\Sigma^+$  state) is close to the E  $^1\Sigma^+(v' = 2)$  level, but the bound portions of the E and H state potential curves are separated by a wide potential maximum (as shown by the *ab initio* calculations [11]), then it is possible that there is a small, but significant, admixture of the H-state into the E-state wavefunctions, for  $v' = 2$  or greater. This admixture could decrease with  $v'$  if the resonance-energy  $\Delta E$  (which could be positive *or* negative) between vibrational eigenstate energies decreases with  $v'$  (slightly different  $\omega'_e$  and/or  $\omega_e x'_e$  values for the E and H states). Even very small admixtures ( $\leq 6\%$ ) could cause the observed changes in the  $B_{v'}$  values for the E-state, since the “long-range” H-state will have much smaller  $B_{v'}$  values, on the order of only  $\sim 0.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . On the other hand, such small admixtures might cause only small perturbations to the E  $^1\Sigma^+(v')$  vibrational energies (as observed) if the  $\omega'_e$  values for the E and H states are similar (which is likely). This is a very speculative idea, but *ab initio* or “model” theoretical studies could confirm or deny its feasibility. We currently favor this explanation. [The “H  $^1\Sigma^+$ ” (secondary minimum) state, of course, is not Franck-Condon accessible from the X  $^1\Sigma^+(v' = 0-5)$  vibrational levels, and will be difficult to characterize experimentally.]

Our final estimates of the spectroscopic constants for  $^{24}\text{Mg}^{16}\text{O}$  (E  $^1\Sigma^+$ ) are shown in Table 5.

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**Table 1.**  $^{24}\text{Mg}^{16}\text{O}(\text{E } ^1\Sigma^+ \leftarrow \text{X } ^1\Sigma^+)$  bands observed and rotationally analyzed ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).

Band	Band Origin Wavenumber ( $\pm 0.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )	$B'_v$ ( $\pm 0.003$ )	$B''_v$ ( $\pm 0.002$ )
(0,0)	37 683.6 (37 683.5) <sup>a</sup>	0.524 (0.525) <sup>a</sup>	0.572 (0.572) <sup>b</sup>
(1,0)	38 388.5 (38 388.5) <sup>a</sup>	0.520	0.572 (0.572) <sup>b</sup>
(2,0)	39 085.8	0.498	0.572 (0.572) <sup>b</sup>
(3,0)	39 776.9 <sup>c</sup>	$0.499 \pm 0.007^c$	$0.570 \pm 0.005^c$ (0.572) <sup>b</sup>
(4,1)	39 682.0	0.498	0.567 (0.567) <sup>b</sup>
(4,2)	38 917.1	0.498	0.559 (0.561) <sup>b</sup>
(5,2)	39 590.7	0.498	0.561 (0.561) <sup>b</sup>
(5,3)	38 837.5	0.497	0.554 (0.556) <sup>b</sup>
(6,3)	39 500.8	0.496	0.555 (0.556) <sup>b</sup>
(7,3)	40 156.2	0.491	0.555 (0.556) <sup>b</sup>
(7,4)	39 413.2	0.494	0.551 (0.551) <sup>b</sup>
(8,5)	39 328.7	0.489	0.544 (0.545) <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Ref. [7].<sup>b</sup> Ref. [1].<sup>c</sup> Low signal-to-noise.

**Table 2.** Energy levels of the vibrational states  $v'$  of the  $E^1\Sigma^+$  state, relative to the  $X^1\Sigma^+(v'' = 0, J'' = 0)$  state, calculated from the band origins in Table I (see text). Also shown are the  $\Delta G_{v'+1/2}$  and  $\Delta^2 G_{v'}$  (second difference) values.

$v'$	$E_{v'} (\text{cm}^{-1}) (\pm 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-1})$	$\Delta G_{v'+1/2} (\text{cm}^{-1})$	$\Delta^2 G_{v'} (\text{cm}^{-1})$
0	37 683.6		
1	38 388.5	704.9	7.6
2	39 085.8	697.3	6.2
3	39 776.9	691.1	11.0
4	40 457.0	680.1	6.7
5	41 130.6	673.6	10.3
6	41 793.9	663.3	7.9
7	42 449.3	655.4	

**Table 3.** Rotational constants  $B_v$  of the E  $^1\Sigma^+$  state. ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )

$v$	$B_v$ (exptl.)	$B_v$ (predicted) <sup>a</sup>	$q$ <sup>b</sup>
0	0.524 (0.525) <sup>c</sup>	0.524	0.00
1	0.520	0.520	0.00
2	0.498	0.516	-0.018
3	(0.499) <sup>d</sup>	0.511	(-0.012) <sup>d</sup>
4	0.498	0.507	-0.009
5	0.498	0.503	-0.005
6	0.496	0.499	-0.003
7	0.493	0.495	-0.002
8	0.489	0.490	-0.001

<sup>a</sup> Assuming  $B_0 = 0.524 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and using the Pekeris relationship (eq. 2) for a Morse curve, with  $\omega_e = 714.1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\omega_e x_e = 4.14 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , to calculate  $\alpha_e = 4.2 \times 10^{-3}$ . **May change slightly**

<sup>b</sup>  $B_v(\text{exptl.}) - B_v(\text{predicted}) = q$  (see text)

<sup>c</sup> Ref. [7].

<sup>d</sup> From low signal-to-noise data.

**Table 4.** Spectroscopic constants for selected  $^{24}\text{Mg}^{16}\text{O}$  (singlet) and  $^{24}\text{Mg}^{16}\text{O}^+$  (doublet) electronic states.

Species	Electronic State	$T_e$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\omega_e$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$B_e$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$R_e$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )
$\text{MgO}^+$	$A \ ^2\Sigma^+$ <sup>a</sup>	6 760	902	0.608	1.70
$\text{MgO}^+$	$X \ ^2\Pi$ <sup>a</sup>	0	745	0.536	1.81
$\text{MgO}$	$G \ ^1\Pi_1$ <sup>b</sup>	(39 181) <sup>g</sup>	(730) <sup>g</sup>	(0.533) <sup>g</sup>	(1.81) <sup>g</sup>
$\text{MgO}$	$F \ ^1\Pi_1$ <sup>c</sup>	37 917	709	0.560	1.77
$\text{MgO}$	$E \ ^1\Sigma^+$ <sup>d</sup>	37 718	714	0.526	1.83
$\text{MgO}$	$B \ ^1\Sigma^+$ <sup>e</sup>	19 984.0	824.1	0.5822	1.737
$\text{MgO}$	$A \ ^1\Pi_1$ <sup>f</sup>	3 558.6	664.5	0.5054	1.8643
$\text{MgO}$	$X \ ^1\Sigma^+$ <sup>f</sup>	0	785.2	0.5748	1.7482

<sup>a</sup> Ref. [10]. (*Ab initio* calculations)

<sup>b</sup> Ref. [18].

<sup>c</sup> Ref. [13].

<sup>d</sup> This work (see text).

<sup>e</sup> Ref. [6].

<sup>f</sup> Ref. [1].

<sup>g</sup> Preliminary data.

**Table 5.** Derived spectroscopic constants for  $^{24}\text{Mg}^{16}\text{O}(\text{E } ^1\Sigma^+)$  from this work. ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$  unless indicated)

$T_e$	$\omega_e$	$\omega_e x_e$	$B_e$	$\alpha_e$	$R_e$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )
37 718 ( $\pm 2$ )	714.1 ( $\pm 0.9$ )	4.14 ( $\pm 0.09$ )	$\sim 0.526^a$	$\sim 0.004^a$	$\sim 1.83^a$

**May change slightly.**

<sup>a</sup> See text

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**Figure Captions**

**Fig. 1** A high-resolution experimental spectrum of the E-X(0,0) transition (top), along with a computer simulation (bottom) with  $B''_0 = 0.572 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $B'_0 = 0.524 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and  $T = 5 \text{ K}$ .

**Fig. 2** A Birge-Sponer plot of the  $\Delta G_{v'+1/2}$  values in Table II versus  $v' + 1$ .

**Fig. 3** A plot of the  $\Delta^2 G_{v'}$  values in Table II (second differences) versus  $v'$ .

**MgO E<sup>1</sup>Σ - X<sup>1</sup>Σ (0,0)**

