## Superposition Model for the Zero-field Splitting $b_2^0$ of $Gd^{3+}$ Ions in $\alpha$ -LiIO<sub>3</sub> and LiNbO<sub>3</sub> Crystals

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Z. Naturforsch. **57a**, 749–752 (2002); received February 6, 2002

The zero-field splitting of  $Gd^{3+}$  ions in  $\alpha$ -LiIO<sub>3</sub> and LiNbO<sub>3</sub> crystals are studied by the superposition model. The zero-field splittings  $b_2^0$  for the trigonal  $Gd^{3+}$  centers in both crystals are reasonably explained and the defect structures of these  $Gd^{3+}$  centers are obtained. These defect structures are consistent with the expectation based on the electrostatic interaction models and agree qualitatively with the corresponding results obtained for similar trivalent paramagnetic (rare-earth and transition-metal) ions in  $\alpha$ -LiIO<sub>3</sub> and LiNbO<sub>3</sub> crystals.

*Keywords:* Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR); Defect Structure; Superposition Model;  $Gd^{3+}$ ;  $\alpha$ -LiIO<sub>3</sub>; LiNbO<sub>3</sub>.