Crystal-field parameters of the rare-earth pyrochlores $R_2Ti_2O_7$ ($R = \text{Tb, Dy, and Ho}$)

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In this work, we present inelastic neutron scattering experiments which probe the single ion ground states of the rare-earth pyrochlores $R_2Ti_2O_7$ ($R = \text{Tb, Dy, Ho}$). Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ are dipolar spin ices, now often described as hosts of emergent magnetic monopole excitations; the low-temperature state of Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ has features of both spin liquids and spin glasses, and strong magnetoelastic coupling. We measured the crystal-field excitations of all three compounds and obtained a unified set of crystal-field parameters. Additional measurements of a single crystal of Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ clarified the assignment of the crystal-field levels in this material and also revealed an example of a bound state between a crystal-field level and an optical phonon mode.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The counterintuitive demonstration that a system of Ising-like spins interacting ferromagnetically on the pyrochlore lattice is frustrated (in the case that the local Ising axes are the (111) directions), while the antiferromagnetic counterpart is unfrustrated [1–3], underpins the ongoing interest in the lattice is frustrated (in the case that the local Ising axes are spins interacting ferromagnetically on the pyrochlore for quantum fluctuations [44,45], spin tunneling [45,46], excited states determine transverse components important moment; the wave functions of the single ion ground and attempts to cast light on the mechanism for this exception are

In magnetic materials based on rare-earth ions, the crystal electric field (CEF) controls the single ion ground state, which determines the size and anisotropy of the magnetic moment; the wave functions of the single ion ground and excited states determine transverse components important for quantum fluctuations [44,45], spin tunneling [45,46], modification of spin interactions or anisotropies by virtual fluctuations [33,47,48], and the presence of potentially interesting higher multipole moments [22,42,43,49]; the spectrum of excited CEF levels determines the temperature dependence of all these quantities, and controls interactions with phonons for spin flipping mechanisms [50]. Hence, in a spin ice such as Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ or Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, it is essential to understand the CEF Hamiltonian in order to quantify the contribution of the magnetic moment $\mu$ to the monopole charge, to understand mechanisms by which the monopoles can hop [46], and to quantify possible quantum corrections to the classical model [45,51]. In Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, understanding of the CEF wave functions is essential for development of theories of virtual fluctuations [33], magnetoelastic interactions [27,40,52,53], or higher multipoles [29,42,43], which are all viewed as possible means to suppress long-range magnetic order.

Because the CEF parameters of a rare-earth-based magnet are so important, various determinations have been made before for all three compounds. In Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, it is known from magnetization measurements that the single ion ground states must be close to pure $|m_J = \pm 8\rangle$ and $|m_J = \pm 15/2\rangle$ doublets, respectively [54], and for Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ this was confirmed by inelastic neutron scattering [55]. The strong anisotropy, and also the activation energy for thermal spin flips ($\approx 293$ K for Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [56], and in the range 200–300 K for Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [57]) points to a very large gap to the first excited crystal-field state. However, the exact level scheme and wave functions of Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ are still not known. In the absence of neutron scattering results, CEF parameters for Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ have been obtained by point-charge scaling of the known CEF parameters of Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [58], or from a CEF analysis with simultaneous point-charge scaling of the entire $R_2Ti_2O_7$ series [59,60], procedures which provide, at best, a useful guide to the actual values.

In Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, there is considerable activity associated with the determination of the CEF parameters. Several reports concluded that the ground-state doublet was separated from the first excited state by only 15 K, and that these were dominated by $|m_J = \pm 4\rangle$ and $|m_J = \pm 5\rangle$ components respectively.
[61–64]. However, the double-peak shape of a magnetic excitation at 15.5 meV was not previously noticed, and its assignment in more recent studies has led to debate. Because of the peak shape, the single level was first interpreted as two crystal-field excitations [65]. The resulting CEF parameters reversed the dominant contributions to the wave functions of the ground and first excited states. However, it was pointed out [66] that the new parameters were inconsistent with all other proposals and the entire feature was subsequently treated as a single crystal-field level with a splitting. The reason for the splitting could not be established experimentally, though it has been proposed theoretically to be due to a type of coupled electron-phonon state [53].

By measuring the spectra of all three compounds, taking advantage of our investigation of the phonon band structure of the rare-earth titanates [67], and by investigating the double peak feature in Tb2Ti2O7 using a single crystal, we are able to clarify the assignments and propose a set of CEF parameters, which are consistent across the three compounds. This also constitutes the first direct determination of the energy levels and CEF parameters for Dy2Ti2O7. Furthermore, we identify the double peak in Tb2Ti2O7 as the signature of a crystal-field-phonon bound state (sometimes known as a vibron bound state), somewhat similar to that in CeAl2 [68] or CeCuAl3 [69].

II. EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

The samples and spectrometers used in this study have already been described elsewhere [67]. We repeat the details for completeness. Inelastic neutron time-of-flight measurements on 10-g powder samples of Ho2Ti2O7 and Tb2Ti2O7 were performed on the MERLIN spectrometer at ISIS [70]. The samples were packed in envelopes of aluminum foil which were curled up to form an annular cylinder with diameter and height of 40 mm. Subsequently, the samples were sealed into aluminum cans containing helium exchange gas, and cooled by a closed-cycle refrigerator on the instrument. Different settings with incoming neutron energies of $E_i = 30$ (only for $R = \text{Tb}$), 60 and 150 meV, and corresponding chopper frequencies of $f = 200, 400$, and 600 Hz were chosen to record data at $T = 5.50$, and 200 K for 400 μAmp hrs ($\approx$ 2.5 hours at ISIS full power) each. The instrumental background at MERLIN is very low, and no aluminum contribution was visible in the raw data, so we did not measure the empty sample can separately. The raw data were corrected for detector-efficiency using a vanadium reference sample [73]. Absorption corrections were found to be unnecessary due to the optimized transmission described above.

The assignment of optical phonons and crystal-field excitations between 8 and 20 meV in Tb2Ti2O7 was further investigated using the thermal triple-axis neutron spectrometer EIGER at the Swiss neutron spallation source SINQ. The single crystal sample was previously characterized by heat capacity, x-ray diffraction, and inelastic neutron scattering measurements. This characterization was described in Ref. [74] (in which the sample is known as EP2), where the sample was shown to have no heat capacity peak at $T \approx 0.5$ K, and the composition was estimated to be Tb2.04Ti1.96O6.08. The crystal, which has a mass of approximately 1.2 g, was fixed by aluminum wires on an aluminum holder such that the scattering plane was spanned by $(h,h,l)$ wave vectors, then mounted in a standard helium cryostat. The spectrometer was operated with fixed final neutron energy $E_f = 14.7$ meV using the $(0,0,2)$ reflection of the pyrolytic graphite (PG) monochromator and analyzer. A PG filter in the scattered beam was used to eliminate contamination by scattering of neutrons with higher-order wavelengths. Constant wave vector scans ($E$ scans) were performed in the energy transfer window $E \approx [8, 20]$ meV at Brillouin zone (BZ) center and boundary points along the three high symmetry directions to measure the $\tilde{Q}$ and temperature dependence of the components of the broad envelope centered at $E \approx 15.5$ meV. Using the $(0,0,4)$ reflection of the monochromator, $E$ scans with improved energy resolution (but 70% reduced signal) were performed at selected $\tilde{Q}$ points.

III. CRYSTAL-FIELD SPECTRA: RESULTS

Figure 1 summarizes the neutron spectra of all three rare-earth titanate pyrochlores recorded with intermediate incident
CEF excitations in Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ are particularly intense, and hence appear broad due to the cutoff of the intensity scale. Differences in the angular intensities are represented in colormaps of arbitrary scale. Dispersionless excitations with highest intensity at lowest momentum transfers $|\vec{Q}|$ are magnetic excitations from the CEF ground state to excited CEF states. Intensities at large $|\vec{Q}|$ are due to scattering by phonons. The first two CEF excitations in Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ are particularly intense, and hence appear broad due to the cutoff of the intensity scale. Differences in the angular coverage of MERLIN (a,c) and 4SEASONS (b) are responsible for the different shapes of the projection of the data in the ($|\vec{Q}|, E$) plane.

The latter is an obvious signature of scattering from phonons, and our phonon calculations [67] confirm the presence of a dispersionless transverse optic phonon (TOP) at this energy transfer in the $R_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ phonon spectrum. As we will see below, this mode has important consequences for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, but in Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ it is isolated from the CEF states and can be clearly observed as a pure phonon.

In Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, the free ion ground-state multiplet $^7F_6$ of the Tb$^{3+}$ ion splits into four $E_g$ doublets and five singlets (three $A_{1g}$ and two $A_{2g}$) in the paramagnetic state. Our measurement with $E_i = 300$ meV excludes CEF transitions at energy transfers larger than 100 meV. We clearly observed six of the expected seven transitions below 100 meV, with the energies summarized in Table I. As shown in Fig. 1(b), the first excited CEF doublet in Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ appears at an energy transfer of $E \approx 20.3$ meV. The $|\vec{Q}|$ dependence of these modes agrees exactly with the dipole form factor of the Dy$^{3+}$ ion, as illustrated in Fig. 2(a). The seventh transition is predicted to be very weak, and to lie close to the two highest observed transitions, from which we cannot resolve it. We also observe another weak dispersionless feature at $E \approx 15$ meV whose width is similar to that of a CEF excitation, but whose intensity increases with momentum transfer [see Fig. 2(b)]. The latter is an obvious signature of scattering from phonons, and our phonon calculations [67] confirm the presence of a dispersionless transverse optic phonon (TOP) at this energy transfer in the $R_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ phonon spectrum. As we will see below, this mode has important consequences for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, but in Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ it is isolated from the CEF states and can be clearly observed as a pure phonon.

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We extracted the energy transfers and relative intensities of the transitions from the $T = 5$ K data sets. The $T = 200$ K data sets serve as an additional verification of the obtained CEF Hamiltonians, in particular in the context of observed and calculated excitations between thermally excited CEF states. By integrating the inelastic powder spectrum over different ranges of momentum transfers we distinguished scattering intensities with magnetic and phononic origin. The $|\vec{Q}|$ integration of $S(|\vec{Q}|, E)$ for a dominantly magnetic signal ranged on average from $0 < |\vec{Q}| < 4$ Å$^{-1}$, and for signal...
TABLE I. Comparison of observed and calculated energies and neutron intensities of CEF excitations with given symmetry in \( R_2Ti_2O_7 \) at 5 K. For each of the three rare-earth titanates, the intensities are presented relative to the intensity of a well-resolved, intense, CEF excitation.

| \( Ho_2Ti_2O_7 \) | Symmetry | \( E_{\text{obs}} \) | \( E_{\text{LS}} \) | \( E_{\text{IM}} \) | \( I_{\text{obs}} \) | \( I_{\text{LS}} \) | \( I_{\text{IM}} \) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| \( E_g \) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 43.5 | 47.9 |
| \( A_{2g} \) | – | 20.1 | 20.8 | – | 0.16 | 0.02 |
| \( E_g \) | 21.9(2) | 21.9 | 21.9 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| \( E_g \) | 26.3(2) | 26.3 | 26.3 | 0.7(1) | 0.94 | 0.64 |
| \( A_{1g} \) | 28.3(4) | 28.2 | 27.9 | 0.1(1) | 0.20 | 0.26 |
| \( E_g \) | 61.0(3) | 60.6 | 61.0 | 5(1) | 4.61 | 5.39 |
| \( A_{1g} \) | – | 70.9 | 71.6 | – | 0.12 | 0.29 |
| \( A_{2g} \) | – | 71.1 | 72.4 | – | 0.20 | 0.14 |
| \( E_g \) | 72(1) | 73.2 | 73.0 | 0.4(2) | 0.03 | 0.07 |
| \( E_g \) | 78.7(4) | 78.8 | 78.9 | 0.5(1) | 0.57 | 0.51 |
| \( A_{1g} \) | – | 82.7 | 82.2 | – | 0.01 | 0.04 |

| \( Dy_2Ti_2O_7 \) | Symmetry | \( E_{\text{obs}} \) | \( E_{\text{LS}} \) | \( E_{\text{IM}} \) | \( I_{\text{obs}} \) | \( I_{\text{LS}} \) | \( I_{\text{IM}} \) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| \( E_u \) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | – | 8.22 | 8.46 |
| \( E_u \) | 20.9(4) | 21.1 | 21.0 | 0.12(2) | 0.09 | 0.09 |
| \( E_u \) | 30.9(4) | 31.1 | 30.6 | 0.05(2) | 0.02 | 0.03 |
| \( E_u \) | 36.0(1) | 36.0 | 36.0 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| \( E_u \) | 43.6(5) | 43.1 | 43.7 | 0.06(2) | 0.06 | 0.09 |
| \( E_u \) | 83.4(10) | 85.1 | 83.7 | 0.08(2) | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| \( E_u \) | – | 88.2 | 87.8 | – | 0.03 | 0.02 |
| \( E_u \) | 92.5(15) | 90.3 | 90.9 | 0.05(2) | 0.01 | 0.01 |

| \( Tb_2Ti_2O_7 \) | Symmetry (LS) | Symmetry (IM) | \( E_{\text{obs}} \) | \( E_{\text{LS}} \) | \( E_{\text{IM}} \) | \( I_{\text{obs}} \) | \( I_{\text{LS}} \) | \( I_{\text{IM}} \) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| \( E_g \) | \( E_g \) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | – | 0.80 | 1.42 |
| \( E_g \) | \( E_g \) | 1.5(1) | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5(2) | 2.18 | 1.49 |
| \( A_{2g} \) | \( A_{2g} \) | 10.2(2) | 10.4 | 10.2 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| \( A_{1g} \) | \( A_{1g} \) | 16.7(4) | 16.2 | 17.0 | 0.3(1) | 0.27 | 0.51 |
| \( A_{2g} \) | \( E_g \) | 42(2) | 44.1 | 38.7 | 0.01(1) | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| \( A_{1g} \) | \( A_{2g} \) | – | 45.3 | 47.9 | – | 0.21 | 0.01 |
| \( E_g \) | \( A_{1g} \) | 49(1) | 45.7 | 48.4 | 0.1(1) | 0.01 | 0.07 |
| \( E_g \) | \( E_g \) | 61(2) | 62.9 | 60.2 | 0.05(2) | 0.05 | 0.02 |
| \( A_{1g} \) | \( A_{1g} \) | – | 69.8 | 70.4 | – | 0.00 | 0.00 |

from lattice vibrations from \(|\vec{Q}| > 8 (6) \text{ \AA}^{-1}\) for data from MERLIN (4SEASONS). Features appearing in both integrated spectra and unambiguously originating from scattering by \( R_2Ti_2O_7 \) phonons were used to estimate a scaling factor between the spectra of small and large momentum transfers. The elastic line in the latter spectrum was eliminated before the scaled phonon contribution was subtracted from the low-\(|\vec{Q}|\) spectrum. Transition energies and integrated intensities were determined by fitting an asymmetric pseudo-Voigt line shape to the peaks of the phonon-subtracted spectra at \( T = 5 \text{ K} \). The parameters of the asymmetric line shape were determined from the shapes of the incoherent elastic lines, and applied to all observed magnetic peaks. With this procedure we obtained one unique set of peak shape parameters for each \( E_j \) setting of MERLIN, while the description of the line shape of 4SEASONS requires different parameters, as expected. Our experimental observations of the CEF energies and intensities relative to a well-resolved excitation are summarized in Table I for all three compounds.

Based on these observations, the six CEF parameters \( B_C^L \) (Wybourne normalization) of the rare-earth pyrochlore CEF Hamiltonian,

\[
\mathcal{H}_{\text{CEF}} = B_0^C C_0 + B_0^L C_0^L + B_1^C (C_{-3}^L - C_3^L) + B_0^C C_0^6
+ B_3^C (C_{-3}^6 - C_3^6) + B_0^C (C_{-6}^6 + C_6^6),
\]

were refined using the program SPECTRE [75] using both the \( LS \) coupling and intermediate (IM) coupling schemes. \( LS \) coupling, in which the Coulomb repulsion dominates the spin-orbit interaction (i.e., in the Russell-Saunders approximation) and the states come only from the lowest \( ^{23+1}J_L \) multiplet, is usually appropriate for rare-earth ions. If the spin-orbit interaction is dominant (which is not the case for rare-earth ions), \( j-j \) coupling would be more appropriate. Between these limits where there is no specific hierarchy for the interactions, the intermediate coupling scheme, which considers both interactions and the full \( j^n \) configuration can be appropriate. Intermediate coupling mixes contributions from higher multiplets into crystal-field wave functions, and its likely applicability can therefore also be gauged by the ratio of ground multiplet splitting and lowest excited multiplet energies. The importance of intermediate coupling
for Tb₂Ti₂O₇ has recently been justified [66], and we have obtained wave functions using both the LS-coupling and intermediate coupling schemes for all three compounds. This allows us to compare to existing parameters where LS coupling was used, and to investigate the significance of intermediate coupling for all three materials. In order to speed up the calculation, the complete basis of the rare-earth ions were truncated to the lowest 110 states in Tb₂Ti₂O₇, 96 states in Dy₂Ti₂O₇, and 97 states in Ho₂Ti₂O₇, which still span an energy range of several eV above the CEF ground state.

In a first step, we refined the CEF Hamiltonian of Tb₂Ti₂O₇, using the CEF parameters from the most recent analysis [66] as starting values. Subsequently, the obtained $B^2_0$ parameters were scaled using the point-charge relation of Hutchings [76] to serve as starting values for fits of Ho₂Ti₂O₇ and Dy₂Ti₂O₇. Excellent agreement with the inelastic neutron scattering data was reached in the intermediate coupling scheme with $\chi^2 = 1.3$ ($R = \text{Tb}$), $\chi^2 = 1.7$ ($R = \text{Dy}$), and $\chi^2 = 0.8$ ($R = \text{Ho}$), and good agreement in the LS-coupling scheme with $\chi^2 = 3.9$ ($R = \text{Tb}$), $\chi^2 = 2.2$ ($R = \text{Dy}$), and $\chi^2 = 1.5$ ($R = \text{Ho}$), where $\chi^2$ represents the standard variance. The converged $B^2_0$ values are robust against various perturbations of the starting parameters, but sensitively depend upon the experimental observations. From the best-fit parameters, the energies and relative intensities at $T = 5$ K of the CEF spectra of the three compounds are calculated and summarized in Table I. Good agreement is reached with the experimental observations, reflecting the low values of $\chi^2$ mentioned above. Figure 3 shows an example of the close agreement between calculation and experiment for Dy₂Ti₂O₇. (The calculated CEF transitions were convoluted with the instrumental peak shapes, added to the estimated nonmagnetic background and supplemented with an elastic line. For data at 200 K, a Lorentzian broadening of width 2 meV was included to simulate the thermal broadening of the excitations.) The resulting best-fit crystal-field parameters for each compound are summarized in Table II and compared with values from other sources. The wave functions of the ground-state doublets of each compound, in each coupling scheme investigated are shown in Table III.

![Graph](image-url)

**FIG. 2.** Details of the measured CEF spectrum in Dy₂Ti₂O₇. (a) $|\vec{Q}|$ dependence of the CEF excitations at $T = 5$ K. The data points represent an integrated energy band centered at the indicated energy transfer with band widths of $\pm 1$ (9) meV for $E_i = 55$ (150) meV (two of the six observed transitions are incorporated in the integration at 88 meV). The lines are fits to the dipolar form factor of Dy³⁺ ions, confirming the magnetic nature of the excitations. (b) Integration of raw data measured with $E_i = 28$ meV at low and large momentum transfers ($\Delta|\vec{Q}| = 0.4$ Å⁻¹) to distinguish scattering of magnetic and phononic origins. Inelastic scattering at low-energy transfers stems dominantly from acoustic phonons, and the sharp feature at $E \approx 15.5$ meV is due to a nearly dispersionless transverse optic phonon (TOP) [67]. The first CEF excitation appears at $E \approx 21$ meV.

![Graph](image-url)

**FIG. 3.** Comparison of the observed and calculated inelastic neutron spectra of polycrystalline Dy₂Ti₂O₇ at 5 and 200 K. The spectrum is concatenated from measurements in low-energy (LE, $E_i = 55$ meV) and high-energy (HE, $E_i = 150$ meV, multiplied by a factor of 6) settings. The theoretical spectra are calculated from the fitted CEF Hamiltonian and convoluted with the instrumental resolution. At $T = 200$ K, the excitation peaks are broadened with a normalized Lorentzian of width 2 meV to account for thermal broadening observed in the experiment.

**Table II.** Summary of the final CEF parameters $B^2_i$ (in units of meV) for all three rare-earth titanate pyrochlores and comparison with the parameters published in the present literature.

| Compound      | $B^2_0$ | $B^2_6$ | $B^2_4$ | $B^6_0$ | $B^6_6$ | $B^6_4$ |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Ho₂Ti₂O₇      | 68.2    | 275     | 83.7    | 86.8    | −62.5   | 102     |
| Reference [55]|         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Reference [60]| 61.2    | 271     | 103     | 91.5    | −74.2   | 82.2    |
| LS coupling  | 70.3    | 280     | 81.5    | 87.4    | −62.2   | 108     |
| Intermediate coupling | 78.2 | 285 | 121 | 113 | −80.8 | 106 |
| Dy₂Ti₂O₇     | 63.0    | 298     | 109     | 102     | 82.2    | 91.5    |
| Reference [60]|         |         |         |         |         |         |
| LS coupling  | 54.2    | 282     | 187     | 70.1    | 27.7    | 75.1    |
| Intermediate coupling | 67.5 | 268 | 153 | 66.7 | 77.2 | 132 |
| Tb₂Ti₂O₇     | 53.6    | 318     | 146     | 149     | −143    | 67.6    |
| Reference [62]|         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Reference [64]| 60.9    | 291     | 103     | 96.6    | −59.9   | 97.5    |
| Reference [53]|         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Reference [60]| 67.3    | 320     | 119     | 113     | −90.5   | 101     |
| Reference [65]| 144     | 268     | 162     | 171     | 349     | 799     |
| Reference [66]| 55.3    | 370     | 128     | 114     | −114    | 120     |
| LS coupling  | 55.9    | 310     | 114     | 64.6    | −84.2   | 129     |
| Intermediate coupling | 53.4 | 365 | 108 | 97.8 | −118 | 131 |
The level schemes and matrix elements for transitions amongst excited states are summarized graphically in Fig. 4.

IV. CRYSTAL-FIELD SPECTRA: DISCUSSION

Various approaches to the determination of CEF Hamiltonian and wave function parameters have been taken in these three compounds. Our aim here was to determine a consistent set of parameters for the three compounds, as well as to clarify certain issues, namely the role of the double peak at $E \approx 15.5$ meV in Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, and the exact level scheme of Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$.

The CEF scheme of Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, as determined by Rosenkrantz et al. [55] in LS coupling, has been a foundation stone in the study of spin ices. Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ also provides a firm footing for our study. As described above, the levels we observe are identical to those of Ref. [55], and when using LS coupling, as was employed in Ref. [55], the parameters we obtain are in almost exact agreement (see Table II). The ground-state doublet wave function is completely dominated by the $|^5I_8, \pm 8\rangle$ states, as previously found, and LS coupling is an excellent approximation—generalization to intermediate coupling improves the fit but makes almost no difference to the important contributions to the ground-state wave functions.

The exact energy levels of Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ have not previously been measured, and so their tabulation in Table I is in itself a result. Previous calculations uniformly predict that the first CEF transition has an energy of $E \approx 33$ meV, and the highest CEF levels in Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ were predicted to have an energy of $E \approx 95$ meV [58]. Often lower levels are most accurately deduced from bulk measurements or predictions based on other compounds, and we use inelastic neutron scattering to confirm the upper reaches of the CEF scheme. In this case, we see that the highest level occurs at $E \approx 91$ meV, almost exactly as predicted, but the lowest level is at only $E \approx 21$ meV, significantly lower than the predicted values. The predicted Hamiltonian parameters of Ref. [60] are nonetheless quite accurate, and the ground-state wave function is completely dominated by $|^5I_8, \pm 8\rangle$ states, as expected. We see that also in the case of Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, the introduction of intermediate coupling does not significantly change the main contributions to the ground-state wave functions.

The CEF scheme of Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ has been investigated several times, with recent contributions relating to the role of the double peak at $E \approx 15.5$ meV and the importance of intermediate coupling. Zhang et al. [65] interpreted the double peak as two separate CEF levels, while Princep et al. [66] interpreted it as a single peak split by an unknown mechanism and used the total intensity and energy position of the entire feature. We modified the level scheme slightly in comparison...
the parameters for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ are displayed relative to those for Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, such that if they were exactly ion independent, they would all appear at zero. The colored band is a color map of a normal distribution of width 10%. Note that a parameter of the same magnitude but opposite sign appears at $-2$ (i.e., $A_k^q$ (Dy$^{3+}$) is quite close to this situation).

Since the three compounds are so closely related, one may expect that the CEF potential should be closely comparable across the series. This may be assessed by comparing the parameters $A_k^q$, which should be ion-independent across the series. $A_k^q = \lambda_{qk} B_k^q / (r^k)$, where $\lambda_{qk}$ is a multiplicative factor specific to each $B_k^q$, and $(r^k)$ is the expectation value of the $r^k$ operator, calculated using the Dirac-Fock method (see $\tilde{f}$ values in Table V of Ref. [77]). In Fig. 5, we show $A_k^q$ for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, normalized to $A_k^q$ for Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ for each compound. There is some scatter, but generally the parameters are consistent with this hypothesis, particularly in intermediate coupling. Noticeable departures occur for $A_k^3$ (Dy$^{3+}$) in LS coupling (it is the largest parameter, possibly making the largest relative uncertainties), and $A_k^3$ (Tb$^{3+}$, Ho$^{3+}$) in both coupling schemes, which is of comparable magnitude but opposite sign to $A_k^1$ (Tb$^{3+}$, Ho$^{3+}$). It is explained in Ref. [60] that the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the rare-earth pyrochlore crystal-field Hamiltonian are not sensitive to the interchange of the sign of $B_k^1$ or $B_k^3$. This overall consistency suggests that our parameters are reasonable. A similar point was made in Ref. [66], where it was pointed out that the parameters for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ obtained there are similar to those for Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Pr$_2$Sn$_2$O$_7$ after taking account of the difference in radial moments of the $4f$ orbitals, implying similar crystal-field potentials amongst rare-earth pyrochlore oxides.

We have presented both LS-coupling and intermediate coupling parameters, in order to compare to works using either scheme. Although intermediate coupling does improve the $\chi^2$ of all the fits of the crystal-field parameters, and also seems to improve the comparison of $A_k^q$ just mentioned, we do not find it to be equally important for all three compounds. Intermediate coupling is expected to be most important for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, due to the largest ratio of ground multiplet splitting and lowest excited multiplet energies (this quantity is $\approx 0.28$, 0.23, 0.13 for $R =$ Tb, Dy, Ho, respectively). This is born out by the fact that incorporating intermediate coupling has almost no effect on the wave functions of either Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ or Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$. We suggest that LS-coupling wave functions and parameters are completely adequate for Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, but concur with Princep et al. that intermediate coupling is more appropriate for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$. The importance of intermediate coupling for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ is visible in the $\chi^2$ values for the parameter fits: for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, the introduction of intermediate coupling produces the largest improvement of $\chi^2$. This can be understood by reference to the wave functions of the excited states, which are tabulated in Table IV. In Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, the improvement in the fit is due to the more significant admixture of higher multiplet contributions in excited states on incorporation of intermediate coupling.

The insensitivity of Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ to the use of intermediate coupling is also manifested in the ground doublet magnetic moments, which are tabulated in Table IV. While they are essentially identical for the two coupling schemes in Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, there is a large difference for Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$. The intermediate coupling value of 5.3 $\mu_B$ is much more comparable with estimates derived from other CEF analyses [62,64] and consistent with magnetic field-induced moments observed in neutron diffraction studies [78]. We also report these values as useful quantities. The magnetic moment of Dy$^{3+}$ and Ho$^{3+}$ in spin ices is involved in the calculation of the monopole charge, and we advance these values as the most appropriate low temperature magnetic moments to use for this task. The magnetic moment, or, equivalently, the wave functions of the ground-state doublets are also important in detailed corrections of susceptibility data for demagnetization effects, where previously they have been approximated as pure $|m_j = \pm 1\rangle$ states [79].

Recent studies of exchange processes and tunneling in Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [45,46] have either used a mixture of experimental parameters or interpolations based on literature values for their CEF Hamiltonians, or as a guide to bounds on those quantities. The assumptions concerning the nature of the groundstate doublet made in these studies seem to be acceptable.

TABLE IV. The ground-state doublet magnetic moments in the two coupling schemes (in units of $\mu_B$ atom$^{-1}$).

|        | LS           | Intermediate |
|--------|--------------|--------------|
| Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ | 3.99         | 5.3          |
| Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ | 9.92         | 9.93         |
| Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ | 9.77         | 9.76         |
completely justified. The strength of tunneling depends on sub-leading coefficients in the wave functions, and it was noted in Ref. [45] that, in the case of Dy2Ti2O7, tunneling is weak, even in the case of the most generous bound of their studied parameters. The (even smaller) predicted values of the relevant coefficient from Ref. [60] would suggest the temperature scale at which tunneling can be important is so low as to be irrelevant to the physics of spin ice. In our analysis, the coefficient in question (i.e., for $\langle \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_y \rangle$) is effectively zero (there is no contribution to the wave function), even smaller again. Again using values from Ref. [60], the temperature scale for Ho2Ti2O7 was found to be even lower. However, knowledge of all the crystal-field energies is important, since their interaction with the phonons may well provide another relaxation channel. Now that the phonon [67] and CEF spectra are known, we will discuss such processes in a future work.

Reference [45] also suggested that current studies may be insufficiently accurate to determine very small parameters well (e.g., the coefficient of $\langle \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_y \rangle$ in the case of Ho2Ti2O7). It is difficult to quantify the accuracy of CEF parameters and wave function coefficients, either those obtained in an individual study by fitting of some particular data set, or more generally amongst parameter sets obtained from different techniques or with different interpretations. The comparison of our parameters for Ho2Ti2O7 with those of Ref. [55], as in Table II, suggests parameters obtained from neutron scattering experiments with comparable energy coverage and congruent interpretations of the excitations, are accurate within $\pm 5\% - 10\%$. Tests of the sensitivity of the fit to variation of individual parameters suggest a similar level of accuracy for the parameters within this study. As can be seen from Table II, the case of Tb2Ti2O7 is ostensibly less favorable, but it is important to remember that not all of the tabulated studies actually have the same energy range (or interpretation of the excitations). If more accurate parameters are required, it would be interesting to devise more specific tests.

V. BOUND STATE IN Tb2Ti2O7: RESULTS

To obtain our CEF parameters for Tb2Ti2O7, we assigned only the second peak of the double peak feature as a CEF level. This assignment was based on the results of separate experiments on a single crystal which we present here. Figure 6 summarizes thermal neutron TAS measurements of the energy spectrum in the range $8 \leq E \leq 20$ meV, including the CEF2 and CEF3 excitations. We find that at low temperature, the broad envelope in the excitation spectrum around CEF3 (which includes only the CEF ground state and the excitations of the CEF3 level) is effectively zero (there is no contribution to the wave function), even smaller again. The (even smaller) predicted values of the relevant coefficient from Ref. [60] would suggest the temperature scale at which tunneling can be important is so low as to be irrelevant to the physics of spin ice. In our analysis, the coefficient in question (i.e., for $\langle \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_y \rangle$) is effectively zero (there is no contribution to the wave function), even smaller again. Again using values from Ref. [60], the temperature scale for Ho2Ti2O7 was found to be even lower. However, knowledge of all the crystal-field energies is important, since their interaction with the phonons may well provide another relaxation channel. Now that the phonon [67] and CEF spectra are known, we will discuss such processes in a future work.

Reference [45] also suggested that current studies may be insufficiently accurate to determine very small parameters well (e.g., the coefficient of $\langle \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_y \rangle$ in the case of Ho2Ti2O7). It is difficult to quantify the accuracy of CEF parameters and wave function coefficients, either those obtained in an individual study by fitting of some particular data set, or more generally amongst parameter sets obtained from different techniques or with different interpretations. The comparison of our parameters for Ho2Ti2O7 with those of Ref. [55], as in Table II, suggests parameters obtained from neutron scattering experiments with comparable energy coverage and congruent interpretations of the excitations, are accurate within $\pm 5\% - 10\%$. Tests of the sensitivity of the fit to variation of individual parameters suggest a similar level of accuracy for the parameters within this study. As can be seen from Table II, the case of Tb2Ti2O7 is ostensibly less favorable, but it is important to remember that not all of the tabulated studies actually have the same energy range (or interpretation of the excitations). If more accurate parameters are required, it would be interesting to devise more specific tests.

V. BOUND STATE IN Tb2Ti2O7: RESULTS

To obtain our CEF parameters for Tb2Ti2O7, we assigned only the second peak of the double peak feature as a CEF level. This assignment was based on the results of separate experiments on a single crystal which we present here. Figure 6 summarizes thermal neutron TAS measurements of the energy spectrum in the range $8 \leq E \leq 20$ meV, including the CEF2 and CEF3 excitations. We find that at low temperature, the broad envelope in the excitation spectrum around CEF3 (which includes only the CEF ground state and the excitations of the CEF3 level) is effectively zero (there is no contribution to the wave function), even smaller again. The (even smaller) predicted values of the relevant coefficient from Ref. [60] would suggest the temperature scale at which tunneling can be important is so low as to be irrelevant to the physics of spin ice. In our analysis, the coefficient in question (i.e., for $\langle \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_y \rangle$) is effectively zero (there is no contribution to the wave function), even smaller again. Again using values from Ref. [60], the temperature scale for Ho2Ti2O7 was found to be even lower. However, knowledge of all the crystal-field energies is important, since their interaction with the phonons may well provide another relaxation channel. Now that the phonon [67] and CEF spectra are known, we will discuss such processes in a future work.

Reference [45] also suggested that current studies may be insufficiently accurate to determine very small parameters well (e.g., the coefficient of $\langle \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_y \rangle$ in the case of Ho2Ti2O7). It is difficult to quantify the accuracy of CEF parameters and wave function coefficients, either those obtained in an individual study by fitting of some particular data set, or more generally amongst parameter sets obtained from different techniques or with different interpretations. The comparison of our parameters for Ho2Ti2O7 with those of Ref. [55], as in Table II, suggests parameters obtained from neutron scattering experiments with comparable energy coverage and congruent interpretations of the excitations, are accurate within $\pm 5\% - 10\%$. Tests of the sensitivity of the fit to variation of individual parameters suggest a similar level of accuracy for the parameters within this study. As can be seen from Table II, the case of Tb2Ti2O7 is ostensibly less favorable, but it is important to remember that not all of the tabulated studies actually have the same energy range (or interpretation of the excitations). If more accurate parameters are required, it would be interesting to devise more specific tests.

V. BOUND STATE IN Tb2Ti2O7: RESULTS

To obtain our CEF parameters for Tb2Ti2O7, we assigned only the second peak of the double peak feature as a CEF level. This assignment was based on the results of separate experiments on a single crystal which we present here. Figure 6 summarizes thermal neutron TAS measurements of the energy spectrum in the range $8 \leq E \leq 20$ meV, including the CEF2 and CEF3 excitations. We find that at low temperature, the broad envelope in the excitation spectrum around CEF3 (which appears as a double peak in the powder measurements) actually contains three modes at both the BZ center and boundary [(2,2,0) and (3,3,0), respectively]. A slight spreading of the modes between the BZ center and boundary is visible, but we did not measure their dispersion in detail. As the temperature increases, the excitation at the highest-energy transfer remains well separated from the other two modes, which eventually appear to merge into one mode for temperatures above $T = 100$ K. We assign the highest mode as CEF3, and propose that the other two excitations originate from a bound state between the CEF3 excitation and the nearly dispersionless transverse optic phonon (TOP) mentioned above, forming two magnetoelastic optic modes (MEOM1 and MEOM2). (The almost exact absence of dispersion of the $E \approx 15$ meV TOP in rare-earth titanates can also be seen in our recent investigation of the phonons [67].) The observed position of CEF3 on EIGER is $17.1 \pm 0.2$ meV at (2,2,0), measured with the high resolution PG004 setting, while in the time of flight data it is $16.7 \pm 0.4$ meV. In the following, we use $E_{CEF3} = 17.0$ meV, which falls within the error bar of both measurements, and does not qualitatively change any part of the arguments.

Figure 7 summarizes the extracted temperature and wave vector dependencies of the three components of the broad envelope. All three modes follow the dipole form factor of the Tb3+ ion Fig. 7(a), establishing their magnetic character, as shown in Fig. 7(a) [the zone center (ZC) wave vectors are (2,2,0), (4,4,0), (0,0,4), (0,0,6), (2,2,2), and (3,3,3); the zone boundary (ZB) wave vectors are (3,3,0) and (1,1,8)]. Qualitatively different temperature dependencies of the intensities of the first two and the third mode indicate differences in their natures [Fig. 7(b)]. In particular, we found that the intensity of the third mode follows precisely the temperature dependence expected for the CEF3 transition in the CEF spectrum of Tb2Ti2O7 (as established by calculating the intensities as a function of temperature in SPECTRE and scaling the resulting curve to the data by a single scale factor). The temperature dependence of the other two excitations, in contrast, is best described by a level system that includes only the CEF ground state and the excitations of the envelope, as if decoupled from the rest of the CEF spectrum [i.e., $I \propto n_E \propto E/n_T$, where $n_T = \exp(-E/k_BT)/(1 + \exp(-15.1/k_BT) + \exp(-17.0/k_BT))$, with the two MEOMs represented by a single mode centered at $E = 15.1$ meV. We therefore assigned the third mode of the envelope (which is the second peak of the double peak in the powder spectrum) as the CEF3 transition of the Tb3+ ion in Tb2Ti2O7.

FIG. 6. Investigations of the bound state in Tb2Ti2O7 by triple axis spectroscopy experiments on the CEF3 transition in a single crystal. (a) Color map representation of the temperature dependence of the inelastic neutron excitation spectrum measured at the Brillouin zone center $\vec{Q} = (2,2,0)$. The extracted excitation centers (widths) are presented by the points (errorbars), (b) High-resolution scan of the broad envelope including the CEF3 transition at 1.5 K for $\vec{Q} = (2,2,0)$ and $\vec{Q} = (3,3,0)$, where the latter is the Brillouin zone boundary. We find that the envelope consists of three modes, the CEF3 transition at highest energy, and two magnetoelastic optic modes (MEOM1 and MEOM2), which derive from a bound state between the CEF3 transition and the dispersionless optical phonon at $E \approx 15$ meV.
Fig. 7. Wave vector and temperature dependencies of the components of the bound state in Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$. (a) Each of the three excitations follows the dipole form factor (solid lines) of the Tb$^{3+}$ ion. (b) The temperature dependencies disentangle the nature of the three modes: the excitation at highest energy is evidently the CEF3 transition, as its intensity follows precisely the calculated temperature dependence (solid line). The sum of the integrated intensity of the two MEOMs is related to the population of the CEF3 state in a coupled four-level system including the ground-state and the bound state (dashed lines).

VI. BOUND STATE IN Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$: DISCUSSION

We have shown that the singlet state associated with the CEF3 transition can be assigned to the highest energy mode in the envelope centered at $E \approx 15.5$ meV, and propose that the other two modes are magnetoelastic optical modes (MEOMs)—a hybrid excitation carrying both spin and lattice fluctuations. Let us first systematically exclude other possible origins of these two modes.

Firstly, these excitations cannot be either pure phonon or CEF transitions, as concluded from their incompatible wave vector and temperature dependencies respectively. Similarly, their excitation energies and temperature dependence (i.e., observable at low temperature) show they cannot originate from transitions between excited CEF states. Moreover, it can be excluded that the two MEOMs appear due to a dynamical Jahn-Teller effect (DJTE) [80], since both the CEF2 and CEF3 transitions are to singlet states, which cannot be split. We also exclude that the two modes derive from the original phonon. In the neutron cross section, no signal was observed due to its large vibrational admixture [83]. The cross section of the CEF3 transition follows the dipole form factor (solid lines) of the Tb$^{3+}$ ion. The neutron cross section of magnetovibrational scattering follows a combination of the magnetic form factor and the coherent inelastic nuclear cross section $(\vec{Q} \cdot \vec{d})/\omega_0$, resulting in a selection rule, which is identical to the one for lattice vibrations [82]. Our experimental observations therefore rule out magnetovibrational scattering, because the transverse polarization of the TOP would suppress phonon intensity at longitudinal positions such as $Q = (3,3,0)$. (Density functional theory (DFT) calculations show that the pure TOP has zero phonon intensity at the longitudinal BZ boundary $\vec{Q}$ point (3,3,0), but relatively strong signal at its transverse complement $\vec{Q} = (1,1,8)$ [67].) Additionally, no sign of similar features were observed in the isostructural H$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, with close to identical phonon band structures.

Instead, we propose that these MEOMs are microscopic consequences of the spin-lattice coupling involving the quadrupolar oscillator strength of the CEF3 transition and transverse optical phonons. Upon entering the low-temperature spin liquid regime below $T = 30$ K, Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ displays a wealth of magnetoelastic effects, whose microscopic origin is thought to lie in the mixing of CEF and phonon states, as in the formation of a magnetoelastic mode (MEM) by hybridization of the CEF1 doublet and transverse acoustic phonon (TAP) [27], for example.

While the MEM follows the dispersion of the TAP but exists only above CEF1, the TOP lies below CEF3, with which it couples, forming two magnetic modes, one of which has an intermediate energy. In agreement with the experimental observation that the intensity of the MEM is related to the population of the CEF1 doublet [27], we find that the temperature dependence of the MEOM intensities relates to the thermal population of the CEF3 singlet.

The MEOM proposal is strongly supported by analogy to the microscopically understood bound state physics in CeAl$_2$ [68] and CeCuAl$_2$ [69]. In CeAl$_2$, the result of the coupling between a phonon and a CEF quartet is the splitting of the quartet into two doublets with mixed vibrational and magnetic character, and a renormalized vibrational mode derived from the original phonon. In Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, the TOP has compatible energy and symmetry $(E)$ to interact with the quadrupolar active CEF3 transition.

Using the CEF wave functions obtained above, we find large matrix elements for quadrupolar transitions between the ground state and the CEF quartet with identical symmetry and excitation energy as the lattice vibrational modes [68]. Similarly in Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, the TOP has compatible energy and symmetry $(E)$ to interact with the quadrupolar active CEF3 transition.
From measurements with unpolarized neutrons it is difficult to disentangle a vibrational contribution to the MEOMs. Even at \( \vec{Q} = (1, 1, 8) \), where the calculation predicts a sizable phonon cross section for the original TOP, the relevant modes of the envelope appear to have magnetic character, as their intensities follow a similar temperature dependence to the MEOM at \((2, 2, 0)\) and \((3, 3, 0)\) (not shown), and lie on the magnetic form factor. Interestingly, the Raman spectrum measured with perpendicular polarization and therefore sensitive to magnetic fluctuations at the BZ center, shows a similarly broad envelope at the same energies [84]. The observed Raman spectrum, however, differs from the inelastic neutron spectrum to magnetic fluctuations at the BZ center, dominated by Tb3\(^{3+}\) ions. Although the same quadrupolar operators relevant for the CEF3 transition have large matrix elements for the CEF2 transition, no magnetoelastic effect is experimentally observed. In contrast to the lattice vibrations involved in the MEM and MEOM (transverse acoustic and transverse optic phonons, respectively), the phonon modes degenerate with the CEF2 singlet have no purely transverse character, which appears to be a necessary ingredient for the magnetoelastic coupling. We note that a similar effect has been observed in Raman scattering and neutron scattering measurements of LiR\(_4\) systems with \( R = \text{Tb} [85] \) and very recently with \( R = \text{Yb} [86] \). Given the complicated effects of applied magnetic field on the excitation spectra of Tb\(_2\)Ti\(_2\)O\(_7\) [87], we finally note that investigation of the bound state under applied magnetic field promises to be interesting.

VII. CONCLUSION

We have measured the crystal-field spectra of the three rare-earth titanates \( R_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7 \), with \( R = \text{Tb}, \text{Dy}, \text{Ho} \). We have found a consistent set of parameters for the three compounds, allowing us to accurately parametrize the crystal-field wave functions of each. These parameters agree well with other values in the literature where they can be compared. Furthermore, we have clarified the assignment of optical phonon and crystal-field excitations in Tb\(_2\)Ti\(_2\)O\(_7\) which has been recently debated. In so doing, we have discovered an example of a bound state between a transverse optical phonon and crystal-field state. Such a bound state has not previously been reported in a rare-earth oxide material such as Tb\(_2\)Ti\(_2\)O\(_7\), and adds to the catalog of unusual magnetoelastic excitations in this compound.

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### TABLE V.

Tabulated wave functions of the crystal-field states in Ho\(_2\)Ti\(_2\)O\(_7\) obtained in \( L_S \) coupling. The crystal-field energies are tabulated horizontally, the \( m_J \)-values of the ground-state multiplet vertically. Only coefficients of the wave functions \( > 10^{-3} \) are shown. For the sake of representation, the wave functions of doublet excitations are gathered into one column, of which the values without (in) parentheses correspond to the first (second) member of the doublet.

| \( m_J \) | 0.0 | 20.1 | 21.9 | 26.3 | 28.2 | 60.6 | 70.9 | 71.1 | 73.2 | 78.8 | 82.7 |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| -8      | 0.981 | -0.065 | -0.133 | 0.021 | -0.116 | 0.042 |
| -7      | ( -0.007) | (0.042) | (0.157) | (0.863) | (0.0107) | (0.466) |
| -6      | -0.065 | 0.297 | 0.323 | -0.704 | 0.555 |
| -5      | 0.154 | -0.205 | 0.470 | -0.259 | 0.664 | -0.452 |
| -4      | (0.054) | (0.643) | (0.283) | (0.319) | (0.446) | (0.450) |
| -3      | 0.704 | 0.613 | 0.107 | -0.201 |
| -2      | 0.075 | 0.729 | 0.210 | 0.242 | 0.573 | 0.180 |
| -1      | ( -0.073) | (0.083) | (0.783) | (0.166) | (0.083) | (0.584) |
| 0       | 0.810 | 0.202 | -0.550 |
| 1       | 0.073 | 0.083 | 0.783 | 0.166 | 0.083 | 0.584 |
| 2       | (0.075) | (0.729) | (0.210) | (0.242) | (0.083) | (0.083) |
| 3       | 0.704 | 0.290 | -0.613 | -0.066 | 0.201 |
| 4       | 0.054 | 0.643 | 0.283 | -0.319 | 0.446 | -0.450 |
| 5      | ( -0.154) | (0.205) | (0.470) | (0.259) | (0.664) | (0.452) |
| 6      | 0.065 | 0.297 | 0.322 | 0.704 | 0.555 |
| 7      | 0.007 | -0.042 | 0.157 | 0.863 | -0.107 | -0.466 |
| 8      | (0.981) | ( -0.065) | (0.133) | (0.021) | (0.116) | (0.042) |
APPENDIX: WAVE FUNCTIONS FOR EXCITED CRYSTAL-FIELD STATES

In this Appendix, we present tabulations of the wave functions of all the excited crystal-field states in the three compounds, in both LS-coupling and intermediate coupling schemes. The wavefunctions are tabulated in Tables V–X.

TABLE VI. Tabulated wave functions of the crystal-field states in Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ obtained in intermediate coupling. The crystal-field energies are tabulated horizontally, the $m_J$ values of the first three multiplets vertically, grouped by multiplet (the multiplets are $^5I_6$, $^5I_7$, and $^3I_6$). Only coefficients of the wave functions $> 10^{-3}$ are shown. For the sake of representation, the wave functions of doublet excitations are gathered into one column, of which the values without (in) parentheses correspond to the first (second) member of the doublet.

| $m_J$ | 0.0 | 20.8 | 21.9 | 26.3 | 27.9 | 61.0 | 71.6 | 72.4 | 73.0 | 78.9 | 82.2 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| −8    | 0.978 | (−0.019) | −0.149 | (0.026) | (−0.136) | 0.031 |
| −7    | (−0.006) | 0.031 | (0.115) | 0.853 | −0.032 | (−0.502) |
| −6    | −0.090 | 0.272 | 0.700 | −0.371 | −0.536 |
| −5    | 0.188 | (−0.200) | 0.493 | (−0.234) | (0.723) | −0.318 |
| −4    | (0.036) | 0.688 | (−0.291) | 0.310 | 0.330 | (0.482) |
| −3    | 0.701 | −0.374 | 0.090 | −0.565 | 0.201 |
| −2    | 0.027 | (0.669) | −0.355 | (0.216) | (0.579) | 0.206 |
| −1    | (−0.072) | −0.191 | (0.714) | 0.262 | −0.101 | (0.606) |
| 0     | 0.072 | (0.191) | 0.714 | (0.262) | (−0.101) | 0.606 |
| 1     | 0.027 | 0.669 | (0.355) | −0.216 | −0.579 | (−0.206) |
| 2     | 0.701 | 0.374 | 0.090 | −0.565 | −0.201 |
| 3     | 0.036 | (0.688) | 0.291 | (−0.310) | (−0.330) | −0.482 |
| 4     | (−0.188) | 0.200 | (0.493) | −0.234 | 0.723 | (−0.318) |
| 5     | 0.090 | 0.272 | −0.700 | −0.371 | −0.536 |
| 6     | 0.006 | (−0.031) | 0.115 | (0.853) | (−0.032) | −0.502 |
| 7     | (0.978) | −0.019 | (0.149) | −0.026 | 0.136 | (−0.031) |
| 8     | (−0.006) | 0.002 | (0.009) | −0.014 | 0.040 | (0.017) |
| 9     | 0.010 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.004 | (−0.022) |
| 10    | −0.019 | 0.010 | 0.001 | (0.011) | (−0.017) | 0.020 |
| 11    | (0.001) | 0.005 | (0.006) | −0.011 | −0.020 | (−0.026) |
| 12    | 0.016 | 0.022 | 0.019 | 0.018 | (0.017) | −0.040 |
| 13    | −0.006 | 0.018 | 0.002 | (−0.022) | (0.017) | −0.040 |
| 14    | (−0.006) | 0.002 | (0.009) | −0.014 | 0.040 | (0.017) |
| 15    | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.004 | (0.022) |
| 16    | −0.006 | 0.002 | 0.000 | (0.004) | (−0.009) | −0.009 |
| 17    | (0.006) | 0.002 | 0.000 | (0.004) | (−0.009) | −0.009 |
| 18    | −0.016 | 0.005 | 0.018 | 0.008 | −0.005 | (0.004) |
| 19    | −0.001 | 0.005 | 0.006 | (−0.011) | (−0.020) | −0.026 |
| 20    | (−0.019) | 0.010 | (−0.001) | −0.011 | 0.017 | (−0.020) |
| 21    | 0.010 | (0.013) | −0.005 | −0.002 | 0.002 | 0.013 | (−0.004) | 0.022 |
| 22    | −0.003 | 0.005 | 0.018 | 0.008 | −0.005 | (0.004) |
| 23    | 0.007 | (0.004) | 0.003 | (0.001) | (0.010) | 0.001 |
| 24    | (0.006) | −0.008 | 0.003 | (0.001) | (0.010) | 0.001 |
| 25    | 0.002 | 0.003 | −0.007 | 0.014 | 0.001 |
| 26    | −0.006 | 0.005 | −0.003 | (−0.006) | (−0.009) | 0.009 |
| 27    | (−0.003) | −0.001 | (0.005) | 0.010 | 0.017 | (−0.005) |
| 28    | 0.003 | (0.001) | 0.005 | (0.010) | (0.017) | −0.005 |
| 29    | (0.006) | 0.005 | (0.003) | 0.006 | 0.009 | (0.009) |
| 30    | 0.002 | 0.003 | −0.003 | −0.007 | 0.014 |
| 31    | −0.006 | 0.006 | (0.008) | (0.005) | (−0.004) |
| 32    | (−0.007) | 0.004 | 0.001 | 0.010 | (0.001) |
| 33    | −0.003 | 0.005 | −0.018 | −0.014 | (0.001) | (−0.004) |
| 34    | 0.003 | (0.001) | 0.005 | 0.010 | (0.017) | −0.005 |
| 35    | (0.006) | 0.005 | (0.003) | 0.006 | 0.009 | (0.009) |
| 36    | 0.002 | 0.003 | −0.003 | −0.007 | 0.014 | (0.001) | (−0.004) |
| 37    | −0.006 | 0.006 | (0.008) | (0.005) | (−0.004) |
| 38    | (−0.007) | 0.004 | 0.001 | 0.010 | (0.001) |
| 39    | −0.003 | 0.005 | −0.018 | −0.014 | (0.001) | (−0.004) | (−0.011) |
TABLE VII. Tabulated wave functions of the crystal-field states in Dy$_3$Ti$_2$O$_7$ obtained in LS coupling. The crystal-field energies are tabulated horizontally, the $m_J$ values of the ground-state multiplet vertically. Only coefficients of the wave functions $>10^{-3}$ are shown. For the sake of representation, the wave functions of doublet excitations are gathered into one column, of which the values without (in) parentheses correspond to the first (second) member of the doublet.

| $m_J$ | 0.0  | 0.0  | 21.1 | 31.1 | 31.1 | 36.0 | 43.1 | 85.1 | 88.2 | 90.3 | 90.3 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| −15/2 | 0.991| −0.077| −0.017| 0.104| 0.003|
| −13/2 | 0.149| 0.019| −0.017| 0.330| (−0.156)|
| −11/2 | (0.046)| (0.089)| −0.618| (−0.393)| 0.674|
| −9/2 | −0.127| 0.005| −0.413| 0.066| 0.902| 0.001|
| −7/2 | −0.387| −0.279| (0.055)| 0.763| (−0.433)|
| −5/2 | (−0.340)| (−0.056)| 0.716| (−0.188)| 0.578|
| −3/2 | 0.019| −0.025| 0.855| −0.305| 0.396| 0.137|
| −1/2 | 0.843| −0.315| (−0.264)| 0.346| (0.025)|
| 1/2 | (0.843)| (−0.315)| 0.264| (−0.346)| 0.025|
| 3/2 | 0.025| 0.019| 0.305| 0.855| 0.137| −0.396|
| 5/2 | 0.340| 0.056| (0.716)| −0.187| (−0.578)|
| 7/2 | (0.387)| (0.279)| 0.055| (0.762)| 0.433|
| 9/2 | 0.005| 0.127| 0.006| 0.413| 0.001| 0.902|
| 11/2 | 0.046| 0.089| (0.618)| 0.395| (0.674)|
| 13/2 | (0.149)| (0.901)| 0.180| (−0.330)| −0.156|
| 15/2 | 0.991| 0.017| −0.077| 0.003| −0.104|

TABLE VIII. Tabulated wave functions of the crystal-field states in Dy$_3$Ti$_2$O$_7$ obtained in intermediate coupling. The crystal-field energies are tabulated horizontally, the $m_J$ values of the first three multiplets vertically, grouped by multiplet (the multiplets are $^6H_{15/2}, ^6H_{13/2}$, and $^6H_{11/2}$). Only coefficients of the wave functions $>10^{-3}$ are shown. For the sake of representation, the wave functions of doublet excitations are gathered into one column, of which the values without (in) parentheses correspond to the first (second) member of the doublet.

| $m_J$ | 0.0  | 0.0  | 21.0 | 30.6 | 30.6 | 36.0 | 43.7 | 83.7 | 87.8 | 90.9 | 90.9 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| −15/2 | 0.996| 0.062| −0.033| 0.031| 0.007|
| −13/2 | −0.134| 0.904| (−0.308)| 0.208| (0.132)|
| −11/2 | (−0.054)| (0.167)| 0.655| −0.530| 0.499|
| −9/2 | 0.001| 0.010| −0.479| −0.006| 0.874| −0.001|
| −7/2 | −0.372| −0.288| (0.005)| 0.626| (0.618)|
| −5/2 | (−0.339)| (−0.244)| −0.632| −0.275| 0.587|
| −3/2 | −0.076| 0.003| 0.772| −0.400| 0.425| 0.225|
| −1/2 | 0.848| −0.068| (−0.256)| 0.451| (0.026)|
| 1/2 | (0.848)| (−0.068)| −0.256| −0.451| −0.026|
| 3/2 | −0.003| −0.076| 0.400| 0.772| 0.225| −0.425|
| 5/2 | 0.339| 0.244| (0.632)| (−0.275)| 0.587|
| 7/2 | (0.372)| (0.288)| −0.005| 0.626| 0.618|
| 9/2 | 0.010| −0.001| −0.006| 0.479| 0.001| 0.874|
| 11/2 | −0.054| 0.167| (0.655)| (0.530)| (−0.499)|
| 13/2 | (−0.134)| (0.904)| −0.308| −0.208| −0.132|
| 15/2 | 0.996| 0.033| 0.062| 0.007| −0.031|
| −13/2 | −0.019| 0.062| (−0.021)| 0.022| (0.019)|
| −11/2 | (−0.016)| 0.009| 0.039| −0.025| 0.033|
| −9/2 | 0.005| 0.002| −0.033| −0.011| 0.003| 0.007|
| −7/2 | −0.038| 0.027| (−0.019)| (−0.018)| (−0.034)|
| −5/2 | −0.038| 0.012| 0.070| −0.014| −0.031|
| −3/2 | 0.018| 0.003| −0.063| −0.030| 0.005| −0.032|
| −1/2 | −0.025| 0.014| (−0.039)| (−0.011)| (0.021)|
| 1/2 | 0.025| −0.014| 0.039| −0.011| 0.021|
| 3/2 | 0.003| −0.018| −0.030| 0.063| 0.032| 0.005|
| 5/2 | −0.038| 0.012| (0.070)| (0.014)| (0.031)|
| 7/2 | (−0.038)| (0.027)| −0.019| 0.018| 0.034|
| 9/2 | −0.002| 0.005| 0.011| −0.033| 0.007| −0.003|
### Table VIII. (Continued)

| $m_J$  | 0.0 | 0.0 | 21.0 | 30.6 | 36.0 | 43.7 | 83.7 | 87.8 | 90.9 | 90.9 |
|--------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 11/2   | 0.016 | -0.009 | -0.039 | 0.021 | 0.019 |
| 13/2   | 0.019 | -0.062 | 0.031 | 0.019 |
| -11/2  | -0.002 | -0.031 | 0.019 | 0.013 |
| -9/2   | 0.030 | -0.025 | -0.008 | 0.016 | 0.006 |
| -7/2   | 0.012 | -0.012 | 0.013 | -0.001 |
| -5/2   | 0.006 | -0.008 | -0.017 | -0.020 | 0.008 |
| -3/2   | -0.009 | -0.001 | 0.013 | -0.009 |
| -1/2   | 0.047 | -0.007 | -0.006 | 0.001 | 0.007 |
| 1/2    | 0.047 | -0.007 | -0.006 | 0.001 | 0.007 |
| 3/2    | 0.001 | -0.009 | 0.005 | 0.037 | -0.009 | 0.013 |
| 5/2    | -0.006 | 0.008 | (0.017) | -0.020 | 0.008 |
| 7/2    | -0.012 | (0.013) | 0.012 | -0.013 | -0.001 |
| 9/2    | -0.030 | -0.008 | -0.025 | -0.006 | 0.016 |
| 11/2   | -0.002 | -0.009 | (0.031) | -0.019 | (0.013) |

### Table IX. Tabulated wave functions of the crystal-field states in Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ obtained in LS coupling. The crystal-field energies are tabulated horizontally, the $m_J$ values of the ground-state multiplet vertically. Only coefficients of the wave functions $>10^{-3}$ are shown.

| Energy (meV) | $m_J$ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 10.4 | 16.2 | 44.1 | 44.1 | 45.3 | 45.7 | 62.9 | 62.9 | 69.8 |
|-------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| -6          | 0.352 | 0.246 | 0.300 | 0.663 | 0.640 | -0.286 | 0.061 | 0.158 |
| -5          | 0.912 | 0.688 | 0.679 | 0.120 | -0.102 | 0.982 |
| -4          | 0.176 | 0.663 | 0.631 | -0.246 | -0.297 | 0.951 | 0.006 |
| -3          | 0.119 | 0.108 | 0.155 | -0.063 | 0.100 | 0.982 |
| -2          | 0.065 | 0.061 | 0.076 | -0.032 | 0.061 | 0.978 |
| -1          | 0.117 | 0.142 | 0.688 | 0.679 | 0.963 | 0.120 | 0.163 |
| 0           | 0.967 | 0.204 | -0.087 | 0.120 | -0.163 | 0.032 |
| 1           | 0.117 | -0.142 | 0.963 | 0.120 | 0.163 | 0.032 |
| 2           | 0.065 | -0.061 | 0.032 | 0.061 | 0.978 |
| 3           | 0.912 | 0.204 | 0.688 | -0.087 | 0.120 | 0.163 |
| 4           | -0.191 | 0.955 | -0.130 | 0.152 | 0.071 | 0.047 |
| 5           | -0.025 | -0.137 | 0.022 | 0.022 | 0.023 |
| 6           | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.071 | 0.047 | 0.047 |

### Table X. Tabulated wave functions of the crystal-field states in Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ obtained in intermediate coupling. The crystal-field energies are tabulated horizontally, the $m_J$ values of the first three multiplets vertically, grouped by multiplet (the multiplets are $^7$F$_{6, 7}$, $^7$F$_{5, 4}$, and $^7$F$_{3}$). Only coefficients of the wave functions $>10^{-3}$ are shown.

| Energy (meV) | $m_J$ | 0.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 10.2 | 17.0 | 38.7 | 38.7 | 47.9 | 48.4 | 60.2 | 60.2 | 70.4 |
|-------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| -6          | 0.191 | 0.130 | 0.168 | -0.152 | -0.690 | 0.680 | -0.056 |
| -5          | 0.955 | 0.204 | -0.087 | 0.120 | -0.163 | 0.032 |
| -4          | 0.142 | 0.688 | 0.679 | 0.963 | 0.120 | 0.163 |
| -3          | 0.117 | 0.061 | -0.032 | 0.061 | 0.978 |
| -2          | 0.065 | 0.076 | 0.032 | 0.061 | 0.978 |
| -1          | 0.117 | -0.142 | 0.963 | 0.120 | 0.163 |
| 0           | 0.967 | -0.204 | 0.688 | -0.087 | 0.120 | 0.163 |
| 1           | -0.191 | 0.955 | -0.130 | 0.152 | 0.071 | 0.047 |
| 2           | -0.025 | -0.137 | 0.022 | 0.022 | 0.023 |
| 3           | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.071 | 0.047 | 0.047 |
| $m_f$ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 10.2 | 17.0 | 38.7 | 38.7 | 47.9 | 48.4 | 60.2 | 60.2 | 70.4 |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| −3    | 0.089 | 0.055 | 0.173 | 0.067 | 0.061 | 0.028 |
| −2    | 0.036 | −0.003 | 0.008 | 0.138 |
| −1    | 0.004 | 0.026 | 0.008 | 0.138 |
| 0     | 0.004 | 0.007 | 0.008 | 0.138 |
| 1     | −0.036 | −0.003 | −0.173 | 0.009 | 0.138 |
| 2     | −0.001 | −0.001 | −0.089 | 0.055 | 0.022 | 0.047 |
| 3     | −0.025 | 0.137 | 0.071 | 0.023 |
| 4     | −0.085 | −0.018 | 0.019 | 0.043 |
| 5     | 0.021 | −0.013 | −0.028 | 0.050 | 0.037 | 0.049 | 0.015 | 0.035 |
| 6     | −0.014 | 0.025 | 0.003 | 0.084 |
| 7     | 0.014 | 0.025 | 0.013 | 0.004 | 0.045 | 0.084 |
| 8     | 0.021 | 0.013 | −0.028 | 0.050 | −0.037 | −0.049 | −0.015 | −0.035 |
| 9     | −0.085 | 0.018 | 0.019 | 0.043 |

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