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# EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF TRANSITION PROBABILITIES OF NEUTRAL AND SINGLY IONIZED LANTHANIDE ATOMS 

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#### Abstract

A method of extended crossed atomic and electron beams is proposed for determination of the branching ratios for excited states. We measured the branching ratios for Gd I, Er I, Dy I, II and Sm I levels for which the lifetimes had previously been measured by different authors using various methods. Using known lifetimes of the excited levels, we found the absolute transition probabilities for 90 spectral lines of Gd I, 41 lines Er I, 35 lines Dy I, 28 lines Dy II and 156 lines Sm I in the $260-800 \mathrm{~nm}$ spectral range. The values of the transition probabilities determined in this paper are in good accordance with the results obtained by the hook method. The error of the reported transition probabilities is estimated not to exceed 25.


KEY WORDS Transition probabilities, lanthanide

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The interest in radiative constants of rare-earth element (REE) atoms and ions is due primarily to their importance in astrophysical investigations, such as those listed below.

1. Determination of REE in the Sun, where, as is well known, the REE atoms represent one of the maxima on the element distribution curve, and in a class of peculiar stars, where the relative REE abundances exceed those both in the Sun and in meteorites by four to five orders of magnitude.
2. Investigation of the processes that take place in stellar atmospheres and which are of interest for understanding the origin of the Sun and other stars.
3. Theoretical verifications of nucleosynthesis of chemical elements in astrophysical objects.

The data on lifetimes of the levels and oscillator strengths of REE atoms and ions are also important for the development of gas lasers, which have a REE vapor as an active medium. Recently, considerable interest in these atomic constants has arisen in connection with investigations of Rydberg and autoionizing states, which are important also for REE isotope separation.

The investigation of plasmas in thermonuclear devices, where REE are present as impurities, also requires a knowledge of the radiative constants of these elements. However, theoretical models for these complicated atomic systems which can in turn be improved by comparison with experimental data are being developed. Different methods are employed for measuring the spontaneous transition probabilities $A_{k i}$ and the directly related oscillator strengths $f_{i k}$ of the spectral lines (Huber and Sandeman, 1986). Most widely used are the emission, absorption, and dispersion methods; each has its own merits and drawbacks and its own range of applicability. These methods allow one to measure with an adequate accuracy the product $N_{k} A_{k i}$ or $N_{i} f_{i k}$ where $N_{k}$ and $N_{i}$ are the atomic concentrations in the appropriate initial eigenstates. To obtain the absolute values of $A_{k i}$ or $f_{i k}$ one has to measure the concentration of emitting ( $N_{k}$ ) or absorbing ( $N_{i}$ ) atoms which is not easy and constitutes the main source of errors in determination of transition probabilities and oscillator strengths.

This problem is commonly solved nowadays by using a method that does not imply measurements of atomic concentrations and uses the independently measured radiative lifetimes $\tau_{k}$ of excited states and the branching ratios $h_{k i}$.

This radiative lifetime of a level $k$ is known to be expressed via the transition probabilities by

$$
\tau_{k}=\frac{1}{\sum_{i} A_{k i}}
$$

where the summation is made over all transitions from level $k$ to lower lying levels $i$. When only a single transition from the $k$ level is possible, $\tau_{k}^{-1}=A_{k i}$. If several transitions to the lower states occur, the concept of branching ratios is introduced, defined by the relationship

$$
h_{k i}=\frac{A_{k i}}{\sum_{i} A_{k i}}=A_{k i} \tau_{k},
$$

where

$$
A_{k i}=\frac{h_{k i}}{\tau_{k}} .
$$

Obviously for any level $k, \sum_{i} h_{k i}=1$. Thus, $h_{k i}$ is a dimensionless quantity with the scale being fixed within a group of lines with a common upper level. Therefore, by measuring the relative intensities of spectral lines with a common upper level it is possible to obtain the branching factors, and by using known radiative lifetimes to determine the absolute transition probabilities $A_{k i}$.


Figure 1 Schematic diagram of the emission source: 1, electron beam; 2, water-cooled beam; 3 , substance under study; 4, atomic beam; 5, water-cooled diaphragms; 6, water-cooled panel for condensation of the particles; 7, cathode heater; 8 , cathode; 9 , control grid; 10 , focusing grid; 11 , internal electron collector; 12 , external electron collector; 13 , tungsten filaments; 14 , electron beam; 15 , removable grid for calibrating plates.

## 2 EXPERIMENT

The radiation sources commonly used in the measurements of the relative intensities of spectral lines are either electrodeless gas-discharge lamps excited by an rf electromagnetic field or by hollow cathode sources. The use of these sources usually entails certain restrictions arising from the effects of reabsorption on the relative intensities of spectral lines (Bisson et al., 1991). These reabsorption effects can be almost completely eliminated by using crossed atomic and electron beams due to the low density of the emitting medium. The crossed beam in its conventional form does not provide much information since the optical signal generated by this source is quite weak. This problem was solved by the method of extended crossed beams and successfully used until now for systematic measurements of the excitation cross-sections of atoms, molecules, and their ions by electron impact. The method of extended crossed beams, in contrast to conventional methods, a significantly increased (by two or three orders of magnitude) volume of the beam crossing, which results in a corresponding increase of the optical signal without increasing the particle densities in the beams. The experimental technique proposed (Smirnov and Sharonov, 1971) has subsequently been improved.


Figure 2 Gadolinium spectrum in the $440-444 \mathrm{~nm}$ range. Electron energy is 30 eV .

A schematic diagram of an up-to-date emission source is shown in Figure 1. The electron beam (1) from a melting electron gun heats the substance under study (3), placed in the crucible (2). The material and design of the crucible depend on the physical and technological properties of the substance studied. A water-cooled set of diaphragms (5) select from atoms or molecules evaporated from the crucible the beam (4) of $26 \times 200 \mathrm{~mm}^{2}$ cross-section square it intersects with the electron beam (14). The distance between the intersection region and the crucible is 280 mm , the beam fan angle is $\approx 40^{\circ}$, and the beam tilt relative to the horizontal plane is $25^{\circ}$. After passing the intersection region, the particles are condensed on a water-cooled panel.

The beam of slow electrons with controlled energy is produced by a low-voltage electron gun with an indirectly heated flat oxide cathode (8). The transverse beam dimensions are $13 \times 200 \mathrm{~mm}^{2}$, the total flight span being 30 mm . The internal electron collector (11) is kept at +15 V relative to the external collector (12), which entails collecting the scattered and secondary emitted electrons. The spread of the electron energy distribution measured by the stopping-potential method is 0.9 eV at an electron energy of 100 eV and, respectively, 1.0 eV at 20 eV and 200 eV (for 90 percent of electrons).

As our experimental setup was primarily designed for measuring cross-sections of low-energy inelastic collisions with heavy particles in the range, special measures
were taken to reduce the effect of the electron-beam space charge. For this purpose, in collision region along the axis of the optical system (i.e., perpendicular to the plane of Figure $126-\mu \mathrm{m}$ diameter tungsten filaments (13) spaced by $4 \times 4 \mathrm{~mm}^{2}$ were placed, serving as equipotential lines with the potential equal to that of the setup frame. These filaments permitted us to improve the equipotentiality in the collision region by more than an order of magnitude, which is of particular importance for electron energies below $10-15 \mathrm{eV}$. When measuring the branching ratios, it is expedient to employ higher electron energies ( $30-50-100 \mathrm{eV}$ ). Besides, the spectrum is scanned at a fixed electron energy so that the problem of equipotentiality in the collision region proves to be of secondary importance.

Emission of the excited atoms and molecules in the collision region normal to the atomic and electron beams was focused by a two-mirror condenser on to the entrance slit of an MDR-23 monochromator equipped with a 1200 or 600 -grooves $\mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ difraction grating. Using only reflecting optical elements in the optical system allowed us to study in the $190-850-\mathrm{nm}$ spectral range without additional adjustment of the system.

The spectral resolution employed in most experiments was $0.10-0.15 \mathrm{~nm}$, reaching in certain cases 0.05 nm . As an illustration, in Figure 2 we show the spectrum of gadolinium in the 440-444-nm range recorded at 30 eV energy of exciting electrons.

The optical detector used was a PMT (FEU-39A or FEU-79), the spectral sensitivities being independently calibrated at three laboratories. Since the difference between the results of three sets of measurements did not exceed $5-12$ percent over the whole spectral range, average values of the spectral sensitivity were used.

The spectral transmission of the optical channel (condenser, monochromator, and optical windows) was measured with two identical successively placed monochromators for two mutually orthogonal linear polarizations. The final error for the relative excitation cross-sections varied from 5 percent (for lines of moderate intensity in the $300-700 \mathrm{~nm}$ spectral range) to 15 percent (for weak lines located beyond the indicated spectral region). Metal was evaporated by the electron beam at a surface temperature of 1850 K . The atomic concentration at the beam intersection was $10^{10} \mathrm{~cm}^{-3}$. When detecting intense resonance lines, the atomic concentration was reduced to $10^{9} \mathrm{~cm}^{-3}$. We have measured the excitation cross-sections of numerous gadolinium, erbium, dysprosium, samarium atoms and singly ionized disprosium spectral lines excited by 30 eV electrons. These results will be presented in a separate publication.

The excitation cross-sections of the spectral lines are known (Peterkop, 1982) to be proportional to spontaneous transition probabilities, which allows us to measure the branching ratios for the excited levels. We used this circumstance to obtain the absolute $A_{k i}$ values for the spectral lines of Gd I, Er I, Dy I, II and Sm I, from the lifetimes of excited levels $\tau_{k}$ measured earlier by different authors using various methods. For this purpose, the data of the tables (Wysocka-Lisek, 1970; Meggers et al., 1975; Martin et al., 1978) and original papers were analyzed to elucidate all possible transitions of Gd I, Er I, Dy I, II, Sm I for which the lifetimes of the excited levels had been collected by Blagoev and Komarovskii (1994). It appeared that these levels decayed principally via transitions terminating at the ground-state

Table 1. Electronic transition probabilities of the Gd I spectral lines

| $\lambda(n m)$ | $E_{L}\left(c m^{-1}\right)$ | $E_{U}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $J_{L}$ | $J_{U}$ | $A_{k i}\left(10^{-8} s^{-1}\right)$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $K S(1992)$ | $K$ |
| 769.445 | 10222 | 23215 | 1 | 2 | 0.020 |  |
| 765.032 | 10576 | 23644 | 3 | 4 | 0.027 |  |
| 633.634 | 6786 | 22564 | 4 | 3 | 0.0094 |  |
| 614.439 | 6550 | 22821 | 3 | 4 | 0.011 |  |
| 611.407 | 1719 | 18070 | 6 | 6 | 0.050 |  |
| 610.907 | 1719 | 18084 | 6 | 5 | 0.0093 |  |
| 604.401 | 7103 | 23644 | 5 | 4 | 0.017 |  |
| 602.113 | 6786 | 23390 | 4 | 3 | 0.017 |  |
| 599.908 | 6550 | 23215 | 3 | 2 | 0.019 |  |
| 593.771 | 6378 | 23715 | 2 | 2 | 0.033 |  |
| 593.684 | 6550 | 23390 | 3 | 3 | 0.029 |  |
| 593.029 | 6786 | 23644 | 4 | 4 | 0.037 |  |
| 590.456 | 999 | 17931 | 5 | 4 | 0.018 |  |
| 585.622 | 999 | 18070 | 5 | 6 | 0.042 |  |
| 585.163 | 999 | 18084 | 5 | 5 | 0.038 |  |
| 582.397 | 215 | 17381 | 3 | 2 | 0.0075 |  |
| 579.138 | 533 | 17795 | 4 | 3 | 0.032 |  |
| 575.417 | 7480 | 24854 | 6 | 6 | 0.011 |  |
| 575.188 | 0 | 17381 | 2 | 2 | 0.0091 |  |
| 574.636 | 533 | 17931 | 4 | 4 | 0.015 |  |
| 573.598 | 7947 | 25376 | 7 | 7 | 0.011 |  |
| 573.216 | 533 | 17974 | 4 | 4 | 0.0060 |  |
| 570.942 | 999 | 18509 | 5 | 5 | 0.018 |  |
| 570.135 | 215 | 17750 | 3 | 2 | 0.027 |  |
| 569.622 | 533 | 18084 | 4 | 5 | 0.052 |  |
| 564.324 | 215 | 17931 | 3 | 4 | 0.043 |  |
| 563.225 | 0 | 17750 | 2 | 2 | 0.046 |  |
| 562.955 | 215 | 17974 | 3 | 4 | 0.016 |  |
| 561.791 | 0 | 17795 | 2 | 3 | 0.044 |  |
| 557.613 | 6786 | 24715 | 4 | 3 | 0.011 |  |
| 557.253 | 7103 | 25044 | 5 | 5 | 0.010 |  |
| 553.337 | 6976 | 25044 | 5 | 5 | 0.010 |  |
| 549.875 | 7480 | 25661 | 6 | 6 | 0.0033 |  |
| 547.572 | 6786 | 25044 | 4 | 5 | 0.0098 |  |
| 546.972 | 7103 | 25381 | 5 | 5 | 0.0059 |  |
| 538.415 | 10884 | 29451 | 4 | 5 | 0.071 |  |
| 491.012 | 6976 | 27337 | 5 | 6 | 0.012 |  |
| 464.764 | 1719 | 23229 | 6 | 6 | 0.037 | 0.034 |
| 458.129 | 999 | 22821 | 5 | 4 | 0.14 | 0.11 |
| 453.781 | 533 | 22564 | 4 | 3 | 0.25 | 0.27 |
| 451.966 | 215 | 22335 | 3 | 2 | 0.38 | 0.38 |
| 450.379 | 999 | 23196 | 5 | 5 | 0.019 | 0.010 |
| 449.713 | 999 | 23229 | 5 | 6 | 0.14 | 0.13 |
| 448.548 | 533 | 22821 | 4 | 4 | 0.018 | 0.013 |
| 447.612 | 0 | 22335 | 2 | 2 | 0.38 | 0.37 |
| 447.328 | 215 | 22564 | 3 | 3 | 0.024 | 0.013 |
| 443.063 | 0 | 22564 | 2 | 3 | 0.30 | 0.29 |
| 442.241 | 215 | 22821 | 3 | 4 | 0.31 | 0.26 |
| 441.473 | 999 | 23644 | 5 | 4 | 0.18 | 0.20 |
| 441.116 | 533 | 23196 | 4 | 5 | 0.14 | 0.12 |

Table 1. Continued

| $\lambda(n m)$ | $E_{L}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $E_{U}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $J_{L}$ | $J_{U}$ | $A_{k i}\left(10^{-8} s^{-1}\right)$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $K S(1992)$ | $K$ |
| 440.186 | 1719 | 24430 | 6 | 6 | 0.36 | 0.41 |
| 437.383 | 533 | 23390 | 4 | 3 | 0.27 | 0.29 |
| 434.662 | 215 | 23215 | 3 | 2 | 0.37 |  |
| 432.569 | 533 | 23644 | 4 | 4 | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| 432.120 | 1719 | 24854 | 6 | 6 | 0.13 | 0.14 |
| 431.384 | 215 | 23390 | 3 | 3 | 0.41 | 0.43 |
| 430.634 | 0 | 23215 | 2 | 2 | 0.35 | 0.34 |
| 428.612 | 1719 | 25044 | 6 | 5 | 0.036 |  |
| 427.417 | 0 | 23390 | 2 | 3 | 0.060 | 0.078 |
| 426.700 | 215 | 23644 | 3 | 4 | 0.059 | 0.062 |
| 426.660 | 999 | 24430 | 5 | 6 | 0.13 | 0.12 |
| 422.585 | 1719 | 25376 | 6 | 7 | 0.89 |  |
| 422.503 | 1719 | 25381 | 6 | 5 | 0.050 |  |
| 419.163 | 999 | 24850 | 5 | 4 | 0.12 | 0.14 |
| 419.078 | 999 | 24854 | 5 | 6 | 0.42 | 0.30 |
| 417.554 | 1719 | 25661 | 6 | 6 | 0.44 | 0.42 |
| 415.778 | 999 | 25044 | 5 | 5 | 0.033 | 0.036 |
| 413.416 | 533 | 24715 | 4 | 3 | 0.26 | 0.27 |
| 410.026 | 999 | 25381 | 5 | 5 | 0.16 | 0.17 |
| 408.053 | 215 | 24715 | 3 | 3 | 0.055 | 0.060 |
| 407.870 | 533 | 25044 | 4 | 5 | 0.70 | 0.59 |
| 405.822 | 215 | 24850 | 3 | 4 | 0.66 | 0.57 |
| 405.364 | 999 | 25661 | 5 | 6 | 0.63 | 0.62 |
| 404.501 | 0 | 24715 | 2 | 3 | 0.40 |  |
| 402.335 | 533 | 25381 | 4 | 5 | 0.17 |  |
| 390.565 | 1719 | 27316 | 6 | 5 | 0.14 | 0.14 |
| 379.575 | 999 | 27337 | 5 | 6 | 0.079 | 0.059 |
| 378.305 | 999 | 27425 | 5 | 4 | 0.75 | 0.94 |
| 377.126 | 533 | 27042 | 4 | 3 | 0.056 | 0.072 |
| 375.794 | 533 | 27136 | 4 | 3 | 0.45 | 0.57 |
| 373.267 | 533 | 27316 | 4 | 5 | 0.083 |  |
| 372.657 | 215 | 27042 | 3 | 3 | 0.057 | 0.044 |
| 371.748 | 533 | 27425 | 4 | 4 | 0.51 | 0.67 |
| 371.592 | 215 | 27119 | 3 | 2 | 0.13 | 0.074 |
| 371.357 | 215 | 27136 | 3 | 3 | 0.68 | 0.92 |
| 369.693 | 0 | 27042 | 2 | 3 | 0.055 | 0.042 |
| 368.413 | 0 | 27136 | 2 | 3 | 0.71 | 0.91 |
| 367.405 | 215 | 27425 | 3 | 4 | 0.24 | 0.34 |
| 360.487 | 1719 | 29451 | 6 | 5 | 0.41 | 0.59 |
| 351.365 | 999 | 29451 | 5 | 5 | 0.25 | 0.25 |

Note. References: K, Komorovskii (1991); KS, Komarovskii and Smirnov (1992).
levels as well as at the nearby levels, yielding spectral lines in the visible range. In all possible cases, we measured branching coefficients for levels with known lifetimes $\tau$ and calculated probabilities of corresponding transitions. We did not take into account possible weak transitions to levels of higher lying terms with respect to the

Table 2. Electronic transition probabilities of the Er I spectral lines

| $\lambda(n m)$ | $E_{L}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $E_{U}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $J_{L}$ | $J_{U}$ | $A_{k i}\left(10^{-8} s^{-1}\right)$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $K S(1993)$ | $K$ |
| 692.593 | 6958 | 21393 | 5 | 5 | 0.26 |  |
| 639.813 | 6958 | 22583 | 5 | 6 | 0.14 |  |
| 591.646 | 6958 | 23856 | 5 | 5 | 0.35 |  |
| 590.606 | 6958 | 23855 | 5 | 5 | 0.51 |  |
| 585.531 | 0 | 17074 | 6 | 6 | 0.24 |  |
| 582.679 | 0 | 17157 | 6 | 7 | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| 576.280 | 0 | 17348 | 6 | 5 | 0.84 | 1.1 |
| 549.172 | 6958 | 25162 | 5 | 5 | 0.57 |  |
| 533.937 | 6958 | 25682 | 5 | 5 | 0.20 |  |
| 531.189 | 5035 | 23856 | 4 | 5 | 0.21 |  |
| 520.652 | 0 | 19201 | 6 | 5 | 20 |  |
| 496.697 | 5035 | 25162 | 4 | 5 | 1.5 |  |
| 484.203 | 5035 | 25682 | 4 | 5 | 1.9 |  |
| 473.901 | 6958 | 28054 | 5 | 6 | 1.5 |  |
| 472.269 | 0 | 21168 | 6 | 7 | 1.2 |  |
| 467.316 | 0 | 21393 | 6 | 5 | 1.1 |  |
| 460.661 | 0 | 21702 | 6 | 6 | 7.7 | 7.5 |
| 442.677 | 0 | 22583 | 6 | 6 | 2.6 | 2.7 |
| 440.934 | 0 | 22673 | 6 | 5 | 5.8 | 5.7 |
| 439.742 | 10751 | 33485 | 4 | 5 | 12 |  |
| 419.070 | 0 | 23856 | 6 | 5 | 6.2 | 6.7 |
| 418.548 | 0 | 23885 | 6 | 5 | 1.1 |  |
| 415.111 | 0 | 24083 | 6 | 5 | 99 | 96 |
| 409.810 | 6958 | 31353 | 5 | 4 | 59 |  |
| 408.763 | 0 | 24457 | 6 | 6 | 27 | 30 |
| 402.051 | 6958 | 31824 | 5 | 6 | 125 |  |
| 400.796 | 0 | 24943 | 6 | 7 | 180 | 170 |
| 398.233 | 6958 | 32062 | 5 | 5 | 100 |  |
| 397.358 | 0 | 25159 | 6 | 7 | 37 | 37 |
| 397.304 | 0 | 25162 | 6 | 5 | 35 | 48 |
| 395.642 | 0 | 25268 | 6 | 6 | 3.9 | 3.8 |
| 394.442 | 5035 | 30380 | 4 | 5 | 140 |  |
| 393.701 | 0 | 25393 | 6 | 6 | 29 | 29 |
| 390.540 | 0 | 25598 | 6 | 7 | 16 | 15 |
| 389.268 | 0 | 25682 | 6 | 5 | 58 |  |
| 386.285 | 0 | 25880 | 6 | 6 | 115 | 116 |
| 381.033 | 0 | 26237 | 6 | 6 | 28 | 27 |
| 379.863 | 5035 | 31353 | 4 | 4 | 12 |  |
| 356.354 | 0 | 28054 | 6 | 6 | 3.8 | 5.2 |
| 333.156 | 0 | 30007 | 6 | 6 | 7.7 | 7.8 |
| 298.552 | 0 | 33458 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 23 |

Note. References: KS (1993), Komarovskii and Smirnov (1993); K, Komarovskii (1991).
ground-state level that can result in a small overestimation of the transition probabilities obtained. Moreover, blending of closely spaced spectral lines precluded the measurement of branching coefficients for a number of levels.

Table 3. Electronic transition probabilities of the Dy I spectral lines

| $\lambda(n m)$ | $E_{L}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $E_{U}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $J_{L}$ | $J_{U}$ | $A_{k i}\left(10^{-8} s^{-1}\right)$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $K S(1994)$ | $K$ |
| 793.498 | 4134 | 16733 | 7 | 8 | 0.0081 |  |
| 737.604 | 4134 | 17688 | 7 | 7 | 0.14 |  |
| 719.865 | 4134 | 18022 | 7 | 8 | 0.0067 |  |
| 679.030 | 4134 | 18857 | 7 | 7 | 0.060 |  |
| 625.909 | 0 | 15972 | 8 | 9 | 0.82 | 0.82 |
| 598.856 | 0 | 16694 | 8 | 7 | 0.53 | 0.46 |
| 597.449 | 0 | 16733 | 8 | 8 | 0.39 | 0.37 |
| 569.933 | 4134 | 21675 | 7 | 7 | 0.21 |  |
| 566.643 | 20194 | 37836 | 8 | 9 | 12 |  |
| 566.441 | 4134 | 21783 | 7 | 7 | 0.086 |  |
| 565.201 | 0 | 17687 | 8 | 7 | 0.37 | 0.45 |
| 563.950 | 0 | 17727 | 8 | 9 | 0.41 | 0.60 |
| 562.749 | 4134 | 21899 | 7 | 8 | 0.16 |  |
| 554.727 | 0 | 18022 | 8 | 8 | 0.26 | 0.39 |
| 537.610 | 19241 | 37836 | 9 | 9 | 10 |  |
| 530.158 | 0 | 18857 | 8 | 7 | 0.91 | 1.1 |
| 485.897 | 4134 | 24709 | 7 | 7 | 0.18 |  |
| 474.491 | 7050 | 28120 | 6 | 6 | 1.7 |  |
| 461.226 | 0 | 21675 | 8 | 7 | 8.3 | 8.9 |
| 458.936 | 0 | 21783 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 14 |
| 457.778 | 0 | 21838 | 8 | 9 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| 456.509 | 0 | 21899 | 8 | 8 | 0.67 | 0.86 |
| 422.111 | 4134 | 27817 | 7 | 8 | 150 | 150 |
| 421.809 | 4134 | 27835 | 7 | 7 | 180 | 140 |
| 421.172 | 0 | 23737 | 8 | 9 | 210 | 180 |
| 419.484 | 0 | 23832 | 8 | 8 | 85 | 76 |
| 418.682 | 0 | 23878 | 8 | 8 | 120 | 110 |
| 416.797 | 4134 | 28120 | 7 | 6 | 150 | 210 |
| 413.035 | 0 | 24204 | 8 | 8 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| 404.597 | 0 | 24709 | 8 | 7 | 180 | 170 |
| 401.382 | 0 | 24907 | 8 | 7 | 3.3 | 3.2 |
| 296.460 | 0 | 33721 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 7.1 |
| 286.270 | 0 | 34922 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 7.0 |
| 264.215 | 0 | 37836 | 8 | 9 | 14 |  |
| 262.369 | 0 | 38103 | 8 | 9 | 43 |  |

Note. References: KS(1994), Komarovskii and Smirnov (1994); K, Komarovskii (1991).

## 3 RESULTS

The values of $A_{k i}$ found for 90 spectral lines of Gd I (Komarovskii and Smirnov, 1992), 41 lines of Er I (Komarovskii and Smirnov, 1993), 35 lines of Dy I and 28 lines of Dy II (Komarovskii and Smirnov, 1994) and 156 lines of Sm I (in press) in the $260-800 \mathrm{~nm}$ range are presented in Tables $1-5$. The first five columns of the tables contain transition wavelengths $\lambda(\mathrm{nm})$, energies of lower $E_{L}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ and upper $E_{U}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ levels, and their total angular momenta $J_{L}$ and $J_{U}$. In the sixth

Table 4. Electronic transition probabilities of the Dy II spectral lines

| $\lambda(n m)$ | $E_{L}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $E_{U}\left(c m^{-1}\right)$ | $J_{L}$ | $J_{U}$ | $A_{k i}\left(10^{-8} s^{-1}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $K S(1994)$ |
| 727.357 | 15691 | 29437 | 13/2 | 15/2 | 5.1 |
| 476.005 | 4341 | 25343 | 15/2 | 17/2 | 1.3 |
| 465.477 | 4341 | 25818 | 15/2 | 17/2 | 0.80 |
| 425.634 | 828 | 24316 | 15/2 | 17/2 | 16 |
| 414.309 | 4756 | 28885 | 13/2 | 15/2 | 13 |
| 411.134 | 0 | 24316 | 17/2 | 17/2 | 82 |
| 410.330 | 828 | 25192 | 15/2 | 15/2 | 17 |
| 407.796 | 828 | 25343 | 15/2 | 17/2 | 34 |
| 407.312 | 4341 | 28885 | 15/2 | 15/2 | 9.2 |
| 405.057 | 4756 | 29437 | 13/2 | 15/2 | 20 |
| 404.632 | 4341 | 29109 | 15/2 | 15/2 | 3.9 |
| 400.045 | 828 | 25818 | 15/2 | 17/2 | 38 |
| 398.367 | 4341 | 29437 | 15/2 | 15/2 | 20 |
| 396.839 | 0 | 25192 | 17/2 | 15/2 | 42 |
| 394.468 | 0 | 25343 | 17/2 | 17/2 | 18 |
| 387.211 | 0 | 25818 | 17/2 | 17/2 | 11 |
| 378.618 | 828 | 27233 | 15/2 | 17/2 | 100 |
| 364.541 | 828 | 28252 | 15/2 | 17/2 | 48 |
| 356.315 | 828 | 28885 | 15/2 | 15/2 | 14 |
| 353.852 | 0 | 28252 | 17/2 | 17/2 | 32 |
| 353.496 | 828 | 29109 | 15/2 | 15/2 | 27 |
| 353.170 | 0 | 28307 | 17/2 | 19/2 | 140 |
| 350.681 | 828 | 29336 | 15/2 | 17/2 | 7.6 |
| 349.449 | 828 | 29437 | 15/2 | 15/2 | 24 |
| 346.097 | 0 | 28885 | 17/2 | 15/2 | 28 |
| 343.437 | 0 | 29109 | 17/2 | 15/2 | 19 |
| 340.780 | 0 | 29336 | 17/2 | 17/2 | 48 |
| 339.616 | 0 | 29437 | 17/2 | 15/2 | 9.6 |

column, the probabilities of spontaneous transitions are given. The last column shows for comparison the $A_{k i}$ values recalculated from the oscillator strength values for the Gd I, Er I, Dy I, Sm I spectral lines measured earlier by the hook method and published in Komarovskii (1991). The comparison shows that in most cases the results obtained by different methods are in good agreement. Data on oscillator strengths and transition probabilities of neutral and singly ionized atoms of the REE are available in a number of experimental and theoretical works reviewed in Komarovskii (1991). Transition probabilities for 70 elements are given in the monograph by Korliss and Bozman (1968) which contains experimental data obtained by the radiation method. Semi-empirical calculations of $g f$-values are given in the tables by Kurucz and Peytermann (1975). From numerous investigations by different authors, it follows that the results presented in (Korliss et al., 1968; Kurucz et al., 1975) are often inconsistent with the most reliable experimental data and differ from them by several times or, sometimes, by orders of magnitude. Therefore, we did not compare our experimental results with the transition probabilities given in Korliss et al. (1968) and Kurucz and Peytermann (1975). The errors in the transi-

Table 5. Electronic transition probabilities of the Sm I spectral lines

| $\lambda(n m)$ | $E_{L}\left(c m^{-1}\right)$ | $E_{U}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $J_{L}$ | $J_{U}$ | $A_{k i}\left(10^{-8} s^{-1}\right)$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $K S$ (in press) | $K$ |
| 653.396 | 812 | 16112 | 2 | 1 | 0.64 | 0.50 |
| 658.053 | 1490 | 16682 | 3 | 2 | 0.28 | 0.26 |
| 642.590 | 2273 | 17831 | 4 | 3 | 0.26 | 0.35 |
| 636.741 | 1490 | 17190 | 3 | 2 | 0.39 | 0.41 |
| 631.949 | 293 | 16112 | 1 | 1 | 0.03 |  |
| 629.597 | 812 | 16691 | 2 | 1 | 0.13 | 0.16 |
| 625.894 | 1490 | 17462 | 3 | 2 | 0.04 | 0.02 |
| 620.472 | 0 | 16112 | 0 | 1 |  | 0.01 |
| 611.779 | 1490 | 17831 | 3 | 3 | 0.21 | 0.23 |
| 610.395 | 812 | 17191 | 2 | 2 | 0.03 | 0.02 |
| 609.990 | 293 | 16682 | 1 | 2 | 0.30 | 0.26 |
| 609.655 | 293 | 16691 | 1 | 1 | 0.19 | 0.11 |
| 608.412 | 812 | 17244 | 2 | 3 | 0.45 | 0.54 |
| 602.752 | 1490 | 18076 | 3 | 2 | 0.21 | 0.18 |
| 600.418 | 812 | 17462 | 2 | 2 | 0.42 | 0.50 |
| 599.509 | 2273 | 18949 | 4 | 3 | 0.49 | 0.52 |
| 598.968 | 0 | 16691 | 0 | 1 | 0.28 | 0.26 |
| 591.636 | 293 | 17190 | 1 | 2 | 0.48 | 0.46 |
| 589.535 | 812 | 17770 | 2 | 1 | 0.40 | 0.32 |
| 587.421 | 812 | 17831 | 2 | 3 | 0.45 | 0.37 |
| 586.779 | 3125 | 20163 | 5 | 4 | 1.5 | 2.2 |
| 580.284 | 2273 | 19501 | 4 | 3 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| 579.091 | 812 | 18076 | 2 | 2 | 0.29 | 0.20 |
| 577.924 | 1490 | 18788 | 3 | 2 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| 574.119 | 812 | 18225 | 0 | 1 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| 573.295 | 4021 | 21459 | 6 | 5 | 2.7 | 3.8 |
| 572.606 | 1490 | 18949 | 3 | 3 |  | 0.02 |
| 572.019 | 293 | 17770 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| 571.145 | 2273 | 19777 | 4 | 3 | 0.45 | 0.79 |
| 568.698 | 4021 | 21600 | 6 | 5 | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| 565.986 | 812 | 18475 | 2 | 1 | 8.2 | 8.0 |
| 564.747 | 1490 | 19198 | 3 | 4 |  | 0.11 |
| 564.267 | 2273 | 19990 | 4 | 4 | 2.9 | 1.9 |
| 562.601 | 0 | 17770 | 0 | 1 | 3.9 | 2.2 |
| 562.179 | 293 | 18076 | 1 | 2 | 1.7 | 1.1 |
| 558.820 | 2273 | 20163 | 4 | 4 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| 558.183 | 2273 | 20183 | 4 | 5 |  | 0.1 |
| 557.489 | 293 | 18225 | 1 | 1 | 2.2 | 1.7 |
| 556.137 | 812 | 18788 | 2 | 2 | 0.65 | 0.54 |
| 555.040 | 1490 | 19501 | 3 | 3 | 4.3 | 6.5 |
| 551.210 | 812 | 18949 | 2 | 3 | 2.6 | 3.6 |
| 550.090 | 812 | 18986 | 2 | 1 | 0.32 | 0.37 |
| 549.821 | 293 | 18475 | 1 | 1 | 6.0 | 4.9 |
| 549.372 | 812 | 19009 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 10 |
| 548.542 | 0 | 18225 | 0 | 1 | 4.4 | 4.5 |
| 546.672 | 1490 | 19777 | 3 | 3 | 6.0 | 7.1 |
| 545.300 | 3125 | 21459 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 16 |
| 542.157 | 2273 | 20713 | 4 | 4 | 2.4 | 1.8 |
| 541.139 | 3125 | 21600 | 5 | 5 | 2.1 |  |
| 540.523 | 293 | 18788 | 1 | 2 | 5.7 | 4.9 |

Table 5. Continued

| $\lambda(n m)$ | $E_{L}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $E_{U}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $J_{L}$ | $J_{U}$ | $A_{k i}\left(10^{-8} s^{-1}\right)$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | KS(in press) | $K$ |
| 540.370 | 1490 | 19990 | 3 | 4 | 2.7 | 4.7 |
| 536.835 | 4021 | 22643 | 6 | 6 | 9.7 | 13 |
| 535.062 | 3125 | 21810 | 5 | 5 | 3.9 | 3.3 |
| 534.912 | 812 | 19501 | 2 | 3 | 2.2 | 1.0 |
| 534.807 | 293 | 18986 | 1 | 1 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| 534.126 | 293 | 19009 | 1 | 2 | 4.9 | 4.2 |
| 532.058 | 2273 | 21063 | 4 | 5 | 4.5 | 6.2 |
| 529.922 | 812 | 19677 | 2 | 2 | 0.25 | 0.28 |
| 528.291 | 4021 | 22944 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 26 |
| 527.139 | 812 | 19777 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 17 |
| 526.565 | 0 | 18986 | 0 | 1 | 1.5 | 1.1 |
| 525.191 | 3125 | 22161 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 17 |
| 521.075 | 2273 | 21459 | 4 | 5 | 1.0 | 0.7 |
| 520.059 | 1490 | 20713 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 27 |
| 518.709 | 1490 | 20763 | 3 | 2 | 1.8 | 1.2 |
| 518.552 | 812 | 20091 | 2 | 1 | 0.72 | 0.44 |
| 517.275 | 2273 | 21600 | 4 | 5 | 8.1 | 9.6 |
| 515.723 | 293 | 19677 | 1 | 2 | 2.5 | 2.0 |
| 514.582 | 2273 | 21701 | 4 | 3 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| 512.216 | 3125 | 22643 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 25 |
| 511.716 | 2273 | 21810 | 4 | 5 | 24 | 31 |
| 508.832 | 812 | 20459 | 2 | 3 | 2.6 | 2.2 |
| 504.950 | 293 | 20091 | 1 | 1 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| 504.427 | 3125 | 22944 | 5 | 6 | 18 | 28 |
| 501.088 | 812 | 20763 | 2 | 2 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| 497.595 | 0 | 20091 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 16 |
| 494.630 | 1490 | 21701 | 3 | 3 | 5.8 | 7.9 |
| 491.899 | 1490 | 21813 | 3 | 2 | 32 | 39 |
| 491.040 | 2273 | 22632 | 4 | 3 | 44 | 53 |
| 490.496 | 812 | 21194 | 2 | 1 | 23 | 24 |
| 484.831 | 2273 | 22893 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 24 |
| 484.170 | 4021 | 24669 | 6 | 5 | 87 | 140 |
| 478.588 | 812 | 21701 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 20 |
| 478.312 | 293 | 21194 | 1 | 1 | 64 | 53 |
| 477.020 | 2273 | 23231 | 4 | 3 | 4.7 |  |
| 475.072 | 2273 | 23317 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 15 |
| 472.843 | 1490 | 22632 | 3 | 3 | 49 | 57 |
| 471.707 | 0 | 21194 | 0 | 1 | 38 | 31 |
| 468.873 | 2273 | 23595 | 4 | 4 | 33 | 33 |
| 468.155 | 1490 | 22844 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 26 |
| 467.083 | 1490 | 22893 | 3 | 4 | 14 |  |
| 467.075 | 1490 | 22893 | 3 | 2 | 25 |  |
| 466.356 | 2273 | 23710 | 4 | 3 | 25 | 30 |
| 464.949 | 812 | 22314 | 2 | 1 | 61 | 66 |
| 464.540 | 293 | 21813 | 1 | 2 | 30 | 20 |
| 461.125 | 812 | 22492 | 2 | 2 | 4.4 | 6.3 |
| 459.674 | 293 | 22041 | 1 | 0 | 83 | 67 |
| 456.958 | 2273 | 24151 | 4 | 3 | 3.8 | 6.9 |
| 456.677 | 1490 | 23381 | 3 | 2 | 8.9 | 9.0 |
| 455.663 | 3125 | 25065 | 5 | 4 | 3.5 | 6.6 |

Table 5. Continued

| $\lambda(n m)$ | $E_{L}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $E_{U}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $J_{L}$ | $J_{U}$ | $A_{k i}\left(10^{-8} s^{-1}\right)$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $K S($ in press) | $K$ |
| 455.003 | 2273 | 24245 | 4 | 3 | 4.0 | 6.2 |
| 453.757 | 812 | 22844 | 2 | 2 | 2.1 | 1.9 |
| 453.244 | 1490 | 23546 | 3 | 2 | 7.3 | 8.2 |
| 452.742 | 812 | 22893 | 2 | 2 | 3.6 | 4.5 |
| 452.318 | 812 | 22914 | 2 | 1 | 21 | 16 |
| 452.255 | 1490 | 23595 | 3 | 4 | 6.1 | 6.3 |
| 450.338 | 293 | 22492 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 15 |
| 449.911 | 1490 | 23710 | 3 | 3 | 33 | 36 |
| 449.002 | 3125 | 25391 | 5 | 5 | 2.2 | 3.9 |
| 448.032 | 0 | 22314 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 24 |
| 447.750 | 3125 | 25453 | 5 | 5 | 5.7 | 7.6 |
| 445.929 | 812 | 23231 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 17 |
| 444.228 | 812 | 23317 | 2 | 3 | 24 |  |
| 443.334 | 3125 | 25676 | 5 | 5 | 4.5 |  |
| 443.308 | 293 | 22844 | 1 | 2 | 7.8 |  |
| 442.966 | 812 | 23381 | 2 | 2 | 36 | 41 |
| 442.338 | 293 | 22893 | 1 | 2 | 4.6 | 3.9 |
| 441.933 | 293 | 22914 | 1 | 1 | 61 | 55 |
| 441.158 | 1490 | 24151 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 22 |
| 440.312 | 2273 | 24978 | 4 | 5 | 36 | 42 |
| 439.734 | 812 | 23546 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 16 |
| 439.335 | 1490 | 24245 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 15 |
| 438.622 | 2273 | 25065 | 4 | 4 | 7.6 | 11 |
| 436.595 | 812 | 23710 | 2 | 3 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| 436.291 | 0 | 22914 | 0 | 1 | 49 | 43 |
| 435.082 | 1490 | 24467 | 3 | 3 | 2.6 | 3.8 |
| 433.002 | 293 | 23381 | 1 | 2 | 38 | 24 |
| 432.446 | 2273 | 25391 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 20 |
| 431.285 | 2273 | 25453 | 4 | 5 | 19 | 17 |
| 429.914 | 293 | 23546 | 1 | 2 | 5.8 | 4.8 |
| 429.674 | 4021 | 27288 | 6 | 7 | 100 | 170 |
| 428.350 | 812 | 24151 | 2 | 3 | 24 |  |
| 424.045 | 1490 | 25065 | 3 | 4 | 2.6 | 2.9 |
| 422.618 | 812 | 24467 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 13 |
| 418.333 | 1490 | 25387 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 13 |
| 399.002 | 3125 | 28181 | 3 | 4 | 43 | 66 |
| 397.466 | 2273 | 27425 | 4 | 3 | 51 | 60 |
| 395.189 | 1490 | 26787 | 3 | 3 | 51 | 32 |
| 392.522 | 812 | 26281 | 2 | 1 | 49 | 56 |
| 384.878 | 812 | 26787 | 2 | 2 |  | 8.5 |
| 384.676 | 293 | 26281 | 1 | 1 | 6.8 | 6.3 |
| 383.281 | 2273 | 28356 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 16 |
| 382.297 | 812 | 26962 | 2 | 1 | 4.6 | 8.4 |
| 380.394 | 0 | 26281 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 23 |
| 378.268 | 293 | 26721 | 1 | 2 | 5.1 | 3.1 |
| 377.333 | 293 | 26787 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 12 |
| 375.641 | 812 | 27425 | 2 | 3 | 26 | 21 |
| 374.852 | 293 | 26962 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 15 |
| 374.546 | 1490 | 28181 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 30 |
| 372.816 | 812 | 27627 | 2 | 2 | 7.5 | 6.1 |

Table 5. Continued

| $\lambda(n m)$ | $E_{L}\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $E_{U}\left(c m^{-1}\right)$ | $J_{L}$ | $J_{U}$ | $A_{k i}\left(10^{-8} s^{-1}\right)$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $K S($ in press) | $K$ |
| 372.103 | 1490 | 28356 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 18 |
| 370.785 | 0 | 26962 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 10 |
| 369.008 | 2273 | 29365 | 4 | 4 | 5.8 | 17 |
| 365.731 | 293 | 27627 | 1 | 2 | 6.1 | 4.5 |
| 362.948 | 812 | 28356 | 2 | 3 | 7.8 | 7.2 |
| 358.636 | 1490 | 29356 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 4.8 |

Note. References: KS, Komarovskii and Smirnov (in press); K, Komarovskii (1991).
tion probabilities obtained in the present paper are mainly determined by the errors in the measured excitation cross-section of the spectral lines and the lifetimes of the excited levels and also by disregarding the weak IR transitions when calculating the branching ratios. The maximum error is estimated to lie within 25 percent.

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