

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Optical spectroscopy	3
2.1. Michelson interferometer	4
2.2. Data treatment	6
2.3. Experimental setup	8
2.3.1. Spectrometers	8
2.3.2. Components of the spectrometers	10
2.3.3. The experiment	12
3. Optical response functions	15
3.1. Kramers-Kronig relation	15
3.2. Optical constants and material parameters	17
3.3. Modeling the dielectric function	19
3.3.1. The Lorentz oscillator	19
3.3.2. Properties of the Lorentz model	20
4. Symmetry and spectroscopy	23
4.1. Definitions and basic notations	23
4.2. Symmetries in quantum mechanics	26
4.3. Selection rules for optical excitations	28
4.4. Tanabe-Sugano diagrams	30
5. Transition-metal monoxides	33
5.1. Crystal structure and magnetism	33
5.2. Electron correlations in TM monoxides	35
5.2.1. Hubbard model	36
5.2.2. Mott-Hubbard vs. charge-transfer insulator	38
5.3. Magnetically induced phonon anisotropy	39
5.4. Previous experimental work	40
5.4.1. MnO	41
5.4.2. FeO	42
5.4.3. CoO	43
5.4.4. NiO	45
5.4.5. Overview	46
6. Experimental results	49
6.1. Crystal growth and sample characterization	49
6.2. MnO	55
6.2.1. Reflectivity measurements	55

6.2.2. Phonon excitations	56
6.2.3. Concluding remarks	61
6.3. FeO	63
6.3.1. Reflectivity measurements	63
6.3.2. Drude behavior and phonon excitation	64
6.3.3. Excitations within the charge transfer gap	69
6.3.4. Charge transfer gap	71
6.3.5. Concluding remarks	73
6.4. CoO	75
6.4.1. Optical properties	75
6.4.2. Phonon excitations	78
6.4.3. Electronic transitions	82
6.4.4. Specific heat	86
6.4.5. Concluding remarks	88
6.5. NiO	90
6.5.1. Reflectivity measurements	90
6.5.2. Phonon excitations	91
6.5.3. Electronic transitions	94
6.5.4. Concluding remarks	97
6.6. Discussion	99
7. Conclusion and perspective	103
A. Low energy spectrum of CoO	107
Bibliography	111
Own publications	127