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Magali Duvail, Alexandre Ruas, Laurent Venault, Philippe Moisy, Philippe Guilbaud. Molecular Dynamics Studies of Concentrated Binary Solutions of Lanthanide Salts: Structural and Exchange Dynamics. *Inorganic Chemistry*, 2010, 49 (2), pp.519-530. <10.1021/ic9017085>. <cea-00870636>

**HAL Id: cea-00870636**

**<https://cea.hal.science/cea-00870636v1>**

Submitted on 7 Oct 2013

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# Molecular Dynamics Studies of Concentrated Binary Aqueous Solutions of Lanthanide Salts: Structures and Exchange Dynamics

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*Inorg. Chem.*, 2010, 49 (2), pp 519–530

DOI: [10.1021/ic9017085](https://doi.org/10.1021/ic9017085)

Publication Date (Web): December 21, 2009

Concentrated binary aqueous solutions of lanthanide ( $\text{Nd}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ ) salts ( $\text{ClO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ , and  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) have been studied by means of classical molecular dynamics (MD) simulations with explicit polarization and UV–visible spectroscopy. Pair interaction potentials, used for the MD simulations, have been developed in order to reproduce experimental hydration properties.  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  have been chosen because of their position in the lanthanide series:  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$  being a light lanthanide and  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  a heavy one. They are respectively coordinated to nine and eight water molecules, in pure water, involving changes in their salt hydration structures. Both MD simulations and UV–visible experiments highlight the stronger affinity of nitrate anions toward  $\text{Ln}^{3+}$  compared to perchlorates and chlorides. Dissociation/association processes of  $\text{Nd}^{3+}\text{-Cl}^-$  and  $\text{Nd}^{3+}\text{-NO}_3^-$  ion pairs in aqueous solution have been analyzed using potential of mean force profile calculations. Furthermore, from MD simulations, it appears that the affinity of anions (perchlorate, chloride, and nitrate) is stronger for  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$  than  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ .

