

Spring 2012

## Luminescence studies of Europium (III) - D-glucosamine complexes in water

Triny Trinh Pham  
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31979/etd.ynu7-ejaj>

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LUMINESCENCE STUDIES OF EUROPIUM (III) – D-GLUCOSAMINE  
COMPLEXES IN WATER

A Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of Chemistry

San Jose State University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Science

by

Triny Trinh Pham

May 2012

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The Designated Thesis Committee Approves the Thesis Titled

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by

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APPROVED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

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May 2012

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## ABSTRACT

### LUMINESCENCE STUDIES OF EUROPIUM(III) – D-GLUCOSAMINE COMPLEXES IN WATER

by Triny Trinh Pham

Lanthanide complexation interactions measured by luminescence have become interesting topic in recent years. Europium is a rare earth metal and the Eu(III) ion is a hard acid; when Eu(III) and a monosaccharide ligand are present, a complex may be formed. The goal is to determine the equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  between the europium ion and a D-glucosamine ligand. At 25°C and pH ~ 7.40, a physiologically important pH, adding D-glucosamine enhanced the luminescence of 0.0025 M Eu(III). As the concentration of ligand increased, the emission intensity was also increased. The measurement of a hypersensitive peak at 614 nm indicated a complex reaction at pH ~ 7.40. The equilibrium constant of  $K_{EuL}$  was found to be 29.24. Based on the FTIR and laser experiments, the results confirmed that D-glucosamine attached to the europium ion ( $Eu^{3+}$ ) at pH ~ 7.40; there was no evidence that hydrolyzed Eu(III) was present in the complexation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely give my thanks to my research advisor, Dr. Herbert Silber, for affording me the opportunity to be part of the Silber group. Thank you for guidance, patience, and humor. My special thanks to my former colleague, Victor Maraschin. Thank you for the help with the luminescence instrument. Thanks to Mike Stephens, the instrument technician, for instructing and helping me to use the FTIR spectrometer. Thanks to Dr. Roger Terrill for providing the aqueous Zinc selenide cell for FTIR scanning. Without his help, this thesis would have never been completed. Thanks to Dr. Gilles Muller for allowing me to use the laser instrument and helping interpret the data. Thanks to Dr. Karen Singsmaster for becoming my third committee member. Thanks to Dr. Tran (Ly-Le Tran, MD, JD, Fellow, the American College of Legal Medicine) and James Boyle for editing the thesis. Special thanks to my parents, Friendly Pham and Khai Nguyen, for giving me life, love, and support. Thanks to my brothers, Tuan Pham, David Pham, Andy Pham, Viet Pham, and Kevin Pham for their encouraging me to continue my schooling. To my friends, I wish to express my gratitude for your support and inspiration.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BSA	Bovine serum albumin
$\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3^-$	Triflate or trifluoromethanesulfonate
$\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$	Triflic acid or trifluoromethanesulfonic acid
Constant EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
Equilibrium $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$	K (unitless) Europium(III) triflate
$\text{Eu}_2\text{O}_3$	Europium (III) oxide
[EuL]	Europium-Ligand concentration
FTIR	Fourier Transform Infrared
GM1	Monosialoganglioside
HCl	Hydrogen chloride (hydrochloric acid)
LASER	Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
M	Molarity (moles/L)
mg	milligram
mL	milliliter
$\text{NaClO}_4$	Sodium perchlorate
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide
Nd(III)	Neodymium
nm	nanometer ( $10^{-9}$ m)
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

$\text{NO}_3^-$	Nitrate
NSAIDs	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs
$\text{OTf}^-$	Triflate
$\text{SCN}^-$	Thiocyanate
TMJ	Temporo-mandibular Joint

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### A. Background

Luminescence, one of the most sensitive spectroscopic techniques, was first discovered by the Irish scientist George Gabriel Stokes (Stokes, 1852). Lanthanide luminescence depends on the contribution of a hypersensitive peak which responds to the environment of lanthanide metal ions. A recent study has shown that europium (III) binds to carbohydrate ligands at a pH of  $\sim 7.5$  (Leonard, et al., 2007). Lanthanide-ligand complexes may have strong pH-dependent interactions, which can be recorded at various emission wavelengths to determine the hypersensitivity of each complex sample.

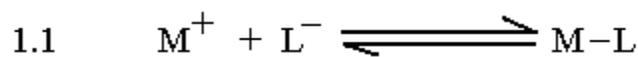
Luminescent emission can be detected at times ranging from a few nanoseconds to milliseconds (Hedinger, et al., 1998), and luminescence can be fluorescence or phosphorescence. With regard to phosphorescence, the light absorption causes electronic transitions between different multiplicity levels, and emission persists for  $10^{-3}$  - 10 s (Hamilton, 2003). When the luminescence of a europium-ligand complex is measured, four sharp peaks are detected at  $J = 1, 2, 3,$  and  $4$ , the transition peaks are assigned to the  ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_1$ ,  ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_2$ ,  ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_3$ , and  ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_4$  transitions, respectively (Leonard, et al., 2007 & Skoog, et al., 1998). Leonard et al. (2007) showed that a lanthanide complex exhibits four transitions and the hypersensitive peak has a wavelength of 615 nm. The hypersensitive peak is assigned to a  ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_2$  transition and appears at an emission wavelength of 615 nm.

## **B. Lanthanide Complexes with Luminescence**

The transition energies of lanthanide metal ions are described and illustrated in the form of an energy diagram, and (Skoog, et al., 1998 & Yang, et al., 2004) most lanthanide peaks, except for the hypersensitive peaks, are insensitive to their environment. If a complexation occurs, the hypersensitive peak increases in emission intensity as a function of increased ligand concentrations. Studies have shown that lanthanides, such as neodymium (III), erbium (III), and ytterbium (III), are sensitized when complexed and exhibit a near-infrared luminescence (Hedinger, et al., 1998). Biological experiments like fluoro-immunoassays (Bucella, et al., 2004, Sherry, et al., 1973, Atkinson, et al., 2005, Silber, et al., 2001, & Silber and Nguyen, 1998) and microscopy (Alpturk, et al., 2006 & Diaz and Berger, 2000) have been used for auto-fluorescence (Hedinger, et al., 1998). Other lanthanides that luminesce in the visible region are europium (III) and terbium (III). These lanthanide complexes can also be studied in biological assays.

## **C. Europium Complexes with Luminescence**

Monosaccharide ligands (simple sugars) react with lanthanides and have recently been studied in europium complexes (Alekseev, et al., 1998). Alptürk et al. (2006) reported that a single sugar ligand interacts with  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  at pH 7.0 and has an emission wavelength of 615 nm. During the interaction of metal (M) and ligand (L), the metal and ligand complex (ML) is formed:



$$1.2 \quad K_{eq} = \frac{[M-L]}{[M^+] \times [L^-]}$$

For the formation of a metal-ligand complex, it is important to consider the pH dependence of the luminescence intensity.  $Eu^{3+}$  luminescence spectra exhibit specific emission peaks at 590, 614, 649, and 695 nm, and many lanthanide complexes are formed below a pH of 5. Luminescence spectra indicate that the hypersensitive peak at 614 nm changes in emission intensity as ligand concentrations change. This emission intensity increases as the concentration of ligand increases at pH ~ 7.40 (Leonard, et al., 2007).

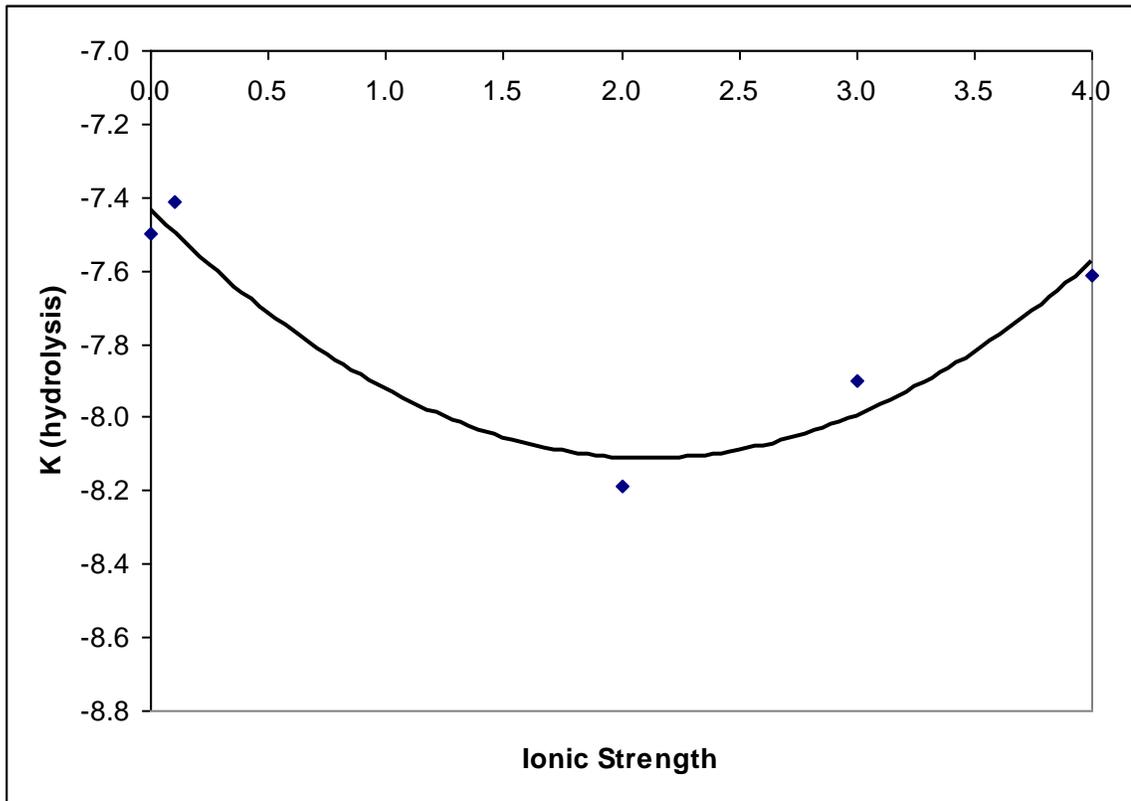
The first hydrolysis constant was studied by the Ramírez-García et al. (2003) and Bentouhami et al. (2004) as:



$$1.4 \quad K = \frac{[Eu(OH)^{2+}] \times [H^+]}{[Eu^{3+}]}$$

López-González et al. (2007) performed a recent study of the hydrolysis constant reaction. The authors showed that the hydrolysis equilibrium constant  $K_{OH}$  was obtained from the basic hydrolysis reaction (*Equation 1.4*) to form a europium ion complex.

In Figure 1, the Eu (III) hydrolysis constant is plotted as a function of ionic strength (Jimenez-Reyes, et al., 2006) From this graph,  $pK_{OH}$  at ionic strength of 0.10 Molar ( $\text{NaClO}_4$ ) is 7.41 at 25°C.



**Figure 1. Ionic strength-dependence of the europium hydrolysis constant.**

The europium stability constant is substantially influenced by ionic strength.

Ionic strength,  $I$ , is a measurement of the concentrations of all ions in a solution.

$$1.5 \quad I = \frac{1}{2} \sum (Z_i^2 + C_i)$$

where  $Z_i$  and  $C_i$  are the charges and concentrations of individual species, respectively.

#### D. pH Dependence of Europium Luminescence

Parker and Yu (2005) studied the europium-citrate complex at pH = 7.40 and emission wavelength of 616 nm. They showed that citrate reacted with europium to form a Eu(III) – citrate complex. Hedinger et al. (1998) confirmed that  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  binds to a trinuclear lanthanoid complexes of 1,3,5-triamino-1,3,5-trideoxy-cis-inositol (TACI) between the pH of 7 and 9. In the absence of a complexing ligand, the emission intensity is described as:

$$1.6 \quad I_0 = k_0 + k_{Eu} [\text{Eu}]$$

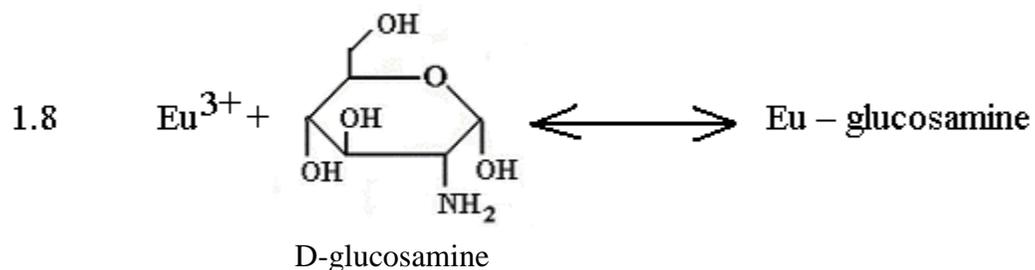
where  $k_0$  is the intensity constant due to the instrument and the solvent, and  $k_{Eu}$  is the free europium constant at low pH. Then at pH ~ 7.40, europium is hydrolyzed to:

$$1.7 \quad I = k_0 + k_{Eu} [\text{Eu}] + k_{EuOH} [\text{EuOH}]$$

where  $[\text{EuOH}^{2+}]$  can be calculated from the hydrolysis reaction (*Equation 1.3*). In *Equation 1.7*, the instrument constants,  $k_0$  and  $k_{Eu}$  are obtained from the emission intensity of a sample. The constant  $k_{EuOH}$  is used to confirm the calculation of  $K_{OH}$  from the hydrolysis reaction. However, in the absence of ligand at pH ~ 7.40, substantial  $\text{Eu}(\text{OH})_3$  may be present.

#### E. Europium - Glucosamine Reaction

At neutral pH ~ 7.40, the Europium-glucosamine interaction is detected at the hypersensitive emission peak at 614 nm. The complexation is written as:



Bonding interactions of this europium complex will be studied further using FTIR and laser excitation spectroscopy.

#### F. Research Goals

The objective of this thesis was to determine the equilibrium constant,  $K_{EuL}$ , of europium (III) and D-glucosamine at physiological pH using luminescence at a hypersensitive transition. The experiments were conducted to understand whether D-glucosamine ligand binds to free europium ( $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ ) or to europium hydroxide ( $\text{EuOH}^{2+}$ ) at pH  $\sim 7.40$ . The data demonstrated that adding ligand to europium increased the luminescence intensity. The experimental data presented describes the peak sensitivity and the lanthanide complex interaction that allows the calculation of the equilibrium constant. The Eu-glucosamine contained the amino group at C<sub>2</sub> and the hydroxyl groups at C<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>3</sub> of D-glucosamine did bind to  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ , but did not bind to  $\text{EuOH}^{2+}$  due to ionic interactions. FTIR and laser excitation measurements provide the evidence that  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  binds to D-glucosamine.

## CHAPTER 2

### Experimental Methods

#### A. Solutions Preparation

Europium oxide ( $\text{Eu}_2\text{O}_3$ ) powder was purchased from Standford Materials Corporation at Irvine, California (99.99% assay), and trifluoromethanesulfonic acid ( $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$  or triflic acid) was purchased from Alfa Aesar at Ward Hill, Massachusetts (99% assay) and utilized without further purification. A stock solution of  $5.049 \times 10^{-2}$  M  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  was manually prepared from a white solid  $\text{Eu}_2\text{O}_3$  and triflic acid in deionized water. Prior to the analyses, all necessary glassware was washed and dried in an oven. After drying, 0.880 g of  $\text{Eu}_2\text{O}_3$  powder and 1.328 ml of triflic acid were slowly dissolved in distilled water under agitation. This process was done under a fume hood because the reactions between  $\text{Eu}_2\text{O}_3$  and triflic acid give off heat. A  $9.701 \times 10^{-3}$  M ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) solution was also made to standardize the  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  solution. EDTA (3.722 g) solid was dissolved in 100 ml of deionized water. All of the above solutions were manually prepared from solid reagents at room temperature.

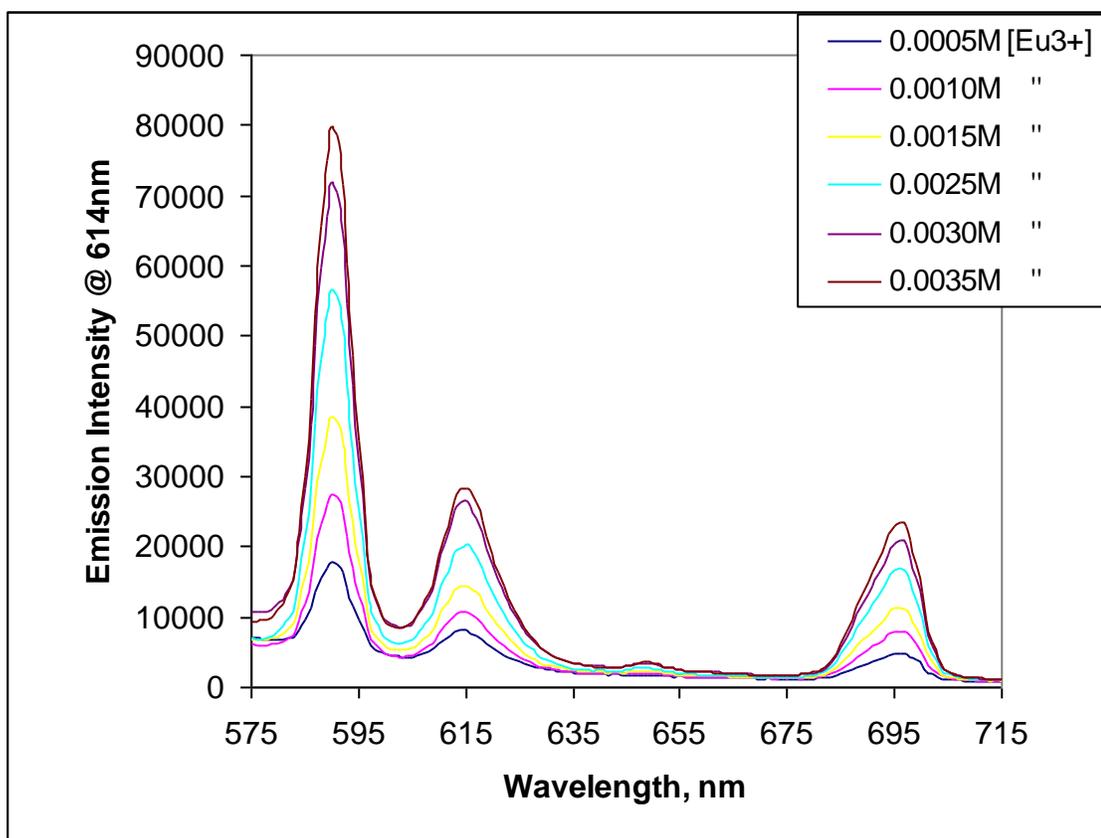
#### 1. $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ Standardization

After  $5.049 \times 10^{-2}$  M  $[\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3]$  (alternately known as  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$ ) stock solution was prepared, titration was done to standardize  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$  concentration. 0.300 mL of  $5.049 \times 10^{-2}$  M  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  was mixed with 3 drops of bromopyrogallol indicator and 1-2 g of sodium acetate and 10 mL deionized water. Titration was done using  $9.701 \times 10^{-3}$  M EDTA. When the indicator was added to the  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  solution, it turned purple. At the

endpoint of titration, the purple color had changed to pink. Approximately four to five titration trials were performed and the average net concentration was found to be  $0.050 \pm 0.001$  M.

## 2. Solutions Dilution

From the above  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  stock solution, eight different concentrations were prepared ranging from  $5.00 \times 10^{-4}$  M to  $4.00 \times 10^{-3}$  M. After eight samples were completely diluted, luminescence data were collected. Emission intensity (Figure 2) was used to prepare a calibration plot as a function of  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  concentrations.



**Figure 2. Europium-triflate ( $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$ ) solutions measured at  $\text{pH} < 5.0$  and excitation at wavelength of 318 nm and  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .**

**a. [Eu<sup>3+</sup>] and [D-glucosamine] dilutions**

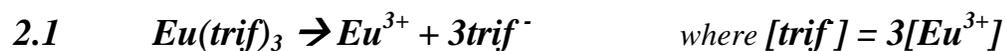
A stock [D-glucosamine] solution was made at 0.100 M, and a 2.00 M sodium perchlorate NaClO<sub>4</sub> solution was also prepared. A target concentration was selected to be 2.50 x 10<sup>-3</sup> M for Eu<sup>3+</sup> and 0.085 M for NaClO<sub>4</sub>. D-glucosamine (2.156 g) solid was diluted with deionized water to make a 0.100 M [D-glucosamine] stock solution. Multiple D-glucosamine solutions were prepared ranging from 7.60 x 10<sup>-4</sup> M to 2.50 x 10<sup>-2</sup> M. A quantity of 24.492 g NaClO<sub>4</sub> solid was diluted to make a 2.00 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> stock solution. Then 0.425 mL of a 2.00 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> solution was added to each of the solution samples to stabilize the ionic strength. Table 1 of the Appendix C shows descriptive details on solution dilution. The 5.00 x 10<sup>-2</sup> M sodium hydroxide (NaOH) solution was also made to adjust each sample to pH ~ 7.40.

**b. Dilutions of monosaccharide solutions**

Eu<sup>3+</sup> and D-glucosamine samples were measured at excitation wavelengths of 318 nm and an emission wavelength of 614 nm at 25°C. Data on other sugars such as galactose, ribose, and mannose were also collected to measure average intensity (*Equation 1.7*). A 0.100 M concentration of each sugar was diluted. The same dilution method was used to prepare each sugar solution, and 5.00 x 10<sup>-2</sup> M NaOH was used to adjust each sample to pH ~ 7.40. These diluted solutions were then ready for measurement of emission intensity. The emission wavelength was arranged between 590 and 715 nm for each luminescence measurement.

### 3. Ionic Strength

Sodium perchlorate  $\text{NaClO}_4$  was used in the  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  solution to adjust ionic strength. Since the target  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$  was  $2.50 \times 10^{-3}$  M and the total ionic strength in a  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$  solution is 0.100 M, then ionic strength,  $I$ , was calculated as:



$$2.2 \quad I = \frac{1}{2} \sum (Z_i^2 \times C_i) \quad \text{where } C_{\text{Eu}} = 0.0025 \text{ M}$$

When all constants were calculated, the ionic strength of  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  was adjusted to 0.015 M with  $\text{NaClO}_4$ . The total ionic strength was therefore 0.100 M. The details of ionic strength are described in the Appendix B.

### B. Instrument Operation

After  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  and D-glucosamine solutions were prepared, luminescence (Fluorolog®-3) parameters were correctly set and a xenon lamp was chosen for the light source. Luminescence slit widths were set to 5 nm, the excitation wavelength was set to 318 nm and the emission wavelength was set to 614 nm. When all of the parameters were selected and ready to run, numbers of data of initial solutions were collected. Table 2 showed different emission intensities under low and high pH measurements. The emission intensity of lower pH solutions were always lower than that of higher pH solutions.

Using the same scanning method, luminescence data was also collected for other sugars. The recorded emission intensities (cps) at 614 nm of all four sugars were

consistent throughout the scanning. The emission intensity was lower when the lifetime of the xenon lamp decreased; hence causing a discrepancy in data collection. To avoid this discrepancy, a lamp test scan was performed before starting to collect any luminescence data. After collecting data points of this set of initial solutions, more solutions were prepared at higher D-glucosamine concentrations. The findings are in the results and discussion chapter.

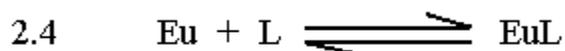
### C. Equilibrium Constants Calculations

When intensity data for all concentrations were collected, the constants ( $k$ 's) were calculated using the equation:

$$2.3 \quad I = k_o + k_{Eu}[Eu] + k_{EuOH}[EuOH] + k_{EuL}[EuL] + k_L[L] + k_{EuOHL}[EuOHL]$$

Emission intensity,  $I$ , is collected from the luminescence instrument. When intensity  $I$  is known, constant  $k_{EuL}$  would be able to obtain a value by calculating from Equation 2.3.

As D-glucosamine was a ligand added to the  $[Eu^{3+}]$  solution, the equilibrium constant of EuL complex was given by:



$$2.5 \quad K_{EuL} = \frac{[EuL]}{[Eu] \times [L]}$$

Further calculations are presented in the Appendix A.

#### **D. FTIR Spectroscopy**

Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) is a useful tool to identify functional groups of a chemical compound. When a chemical compound is observed with infrared radiation, vibrational motions can be observed (Skoog, et al., 1998). Under these circumstances, the radiation's electrical field interacts with the molecule in a way that changes the amplitude of the vibrational motions. In this study, spectra were collected between  $500\text{-}4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  using a Genesis II FTIR spectrometer, and the spectra were analyzed with WinFirst software.

A white europium trifluoromethanesulfonate ( $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$ , 98% pure) powder and D-glucosamine solid were purchased from Sigma Aldrich at St. Louis, Missouri. A ratio of 1:1 of 0.100 M  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  to 0.100 M D-glucosamine solution was prepared. The prepared stock concentrations for running FTIR were 1.00 M for  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$ , 1.00 M for D-glucosamine, and 2.00 M for  $\text{NaClO}_4$ . One ml of 1.00 M  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$ , 1 mL of 1.00 M D-glucosamine, and 0.500 mL of 2.00 M  $\text{NaClO}_4$  were transferred into a 10-mL volumetric flask, then the solution was diluted to the mark using deionized water and [NaOH] solution to raise pH to 7.40.

Separate solutions of 0.100 M D-glucosamine and 0.100 M  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  were made to run the spectra under  $25^\circ\text{C}$  for references. All solutions were measured at pH  $\sim 7.40$ . A 1 mL of 1.00 M D-glucosamine was pipetted in a 10-mL volumetric flask, and deionized water was added to the mark. One mL of 1.00 M  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  and 0.500 mL of 2.00 M  $\text{NaClO}_4$  were transferred into a 10-mL volumetric flask, then deionized water was added to the mark. A zinc selenide attenuated total reflection liquid cell was positioned in the FTIR's sample compartment to run the solutions.

## E. Laser Measurements

A laser was used to study chemical binding between Eu(III) and D-glucosamine groups. Laser excitation spectroscopy was used to induce the excitation of lanthanide ion ( $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ ) from a ground state  ${}^7\text{F}_0$  to an excited state  ${}^5\text{D}_0$  of the  $4f^6$  electron configuration (Albin, Whittle, et al., 1985). The excitation was completed by using a dye laser spectrometer, and the emission was monitored at a corresponding  ${}^5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow {}^7\text{F}_2$  energy transition at 614nm.

The procedures for 1:1 ratio sample preparation were similar to those used for the FTIR solution mixture at pH  $\sim$  7.40 and pH  $\sim$  6.0. The third  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  sample was prepared with the presence of  $\text{NaClO}_4$  at pH  $\sim$  7.40, and the fourth  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  sample were made in the absence of  $\text{NaClO}_4$  at pH  $\sim$  7.40. Four spectra were observed and the intensity recorded as a function of wavelength (nm) at 25°C.

## CHAPTER 3

### Results and Discussion

Emission intensity at high pH was formulated in *Equation 2.3*, and each constant,  $k$ , was determined separately. The constant value  $k_o$  was determined from both the instrument and solvent, whereas the constant  $k_{Eu}$  is the free europium constant. The constants  $k_o + k_{Eu}[\text{Eu}]$  were determined at a low pH in the absence of ligand. The constant  $k_L[\text{L}]$  represents the simple sugar (ligand); its value was negligible. Constant  $k_{EuOH}$  is determined from the average intensity of the four sugars, galactose, ribose, mannose, and D-glucosamine. The constant  $k_{EuL}[\text{EuL}]$  was calculated after a ligand was added to a 0.1M Eu(III) solution. Those constants were a function of instrument wavelength, slit width, and so forth and were not fundamental constants. I will discuss the details of each individual physical term calculating the equilibrium constant from *Equation 2.3*.

#### A. Luminescence Measurements

##### 1. Determination of Constants $k_o$ & $k_{Eu}$

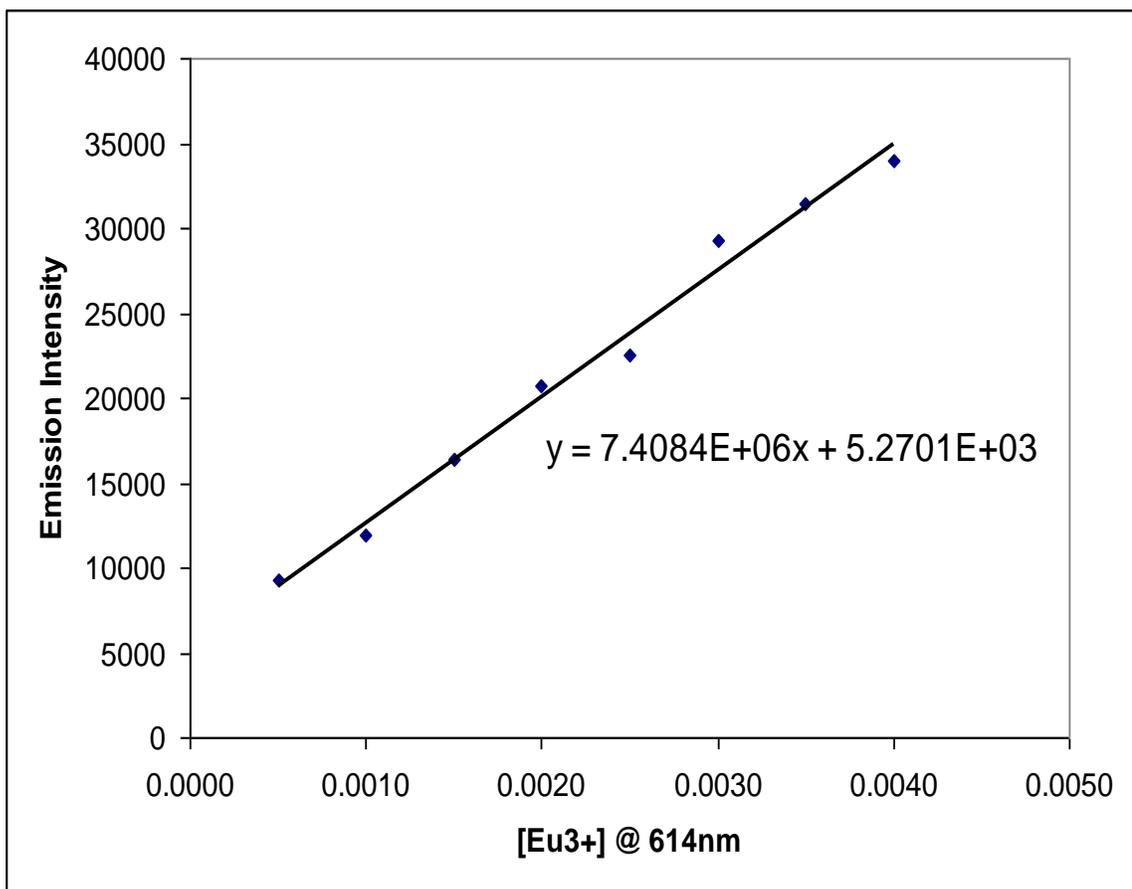
A series of  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$  perchlorate and triflate solutions was gathered and recorded at a wavelength of 614 nm at a low pH to eliminate hydrolysis. Figure 2 shows spectra of

different  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  concentrations at  $\text{pH} < 5.0$ . The spectra indicated that there was no peak shift with increasing  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$ ; as  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$  increased, the intensity increased at 614 nm. However, the luminescence was emitted at four different wavelengths: 590, 614, 649, and 695 nm. These transition peaks occurred at energy level  $J = 1, 2, 3,$  and  $4$ , respectively. The emission intensity is formulated as:

$$3.1 \quad I = k_o + k_{Eu}[\text{Eu}]$$

where constant  $k_o$  was the instrumental solvent constant, and constant  $k_{Eu}$  was the free europium constant.

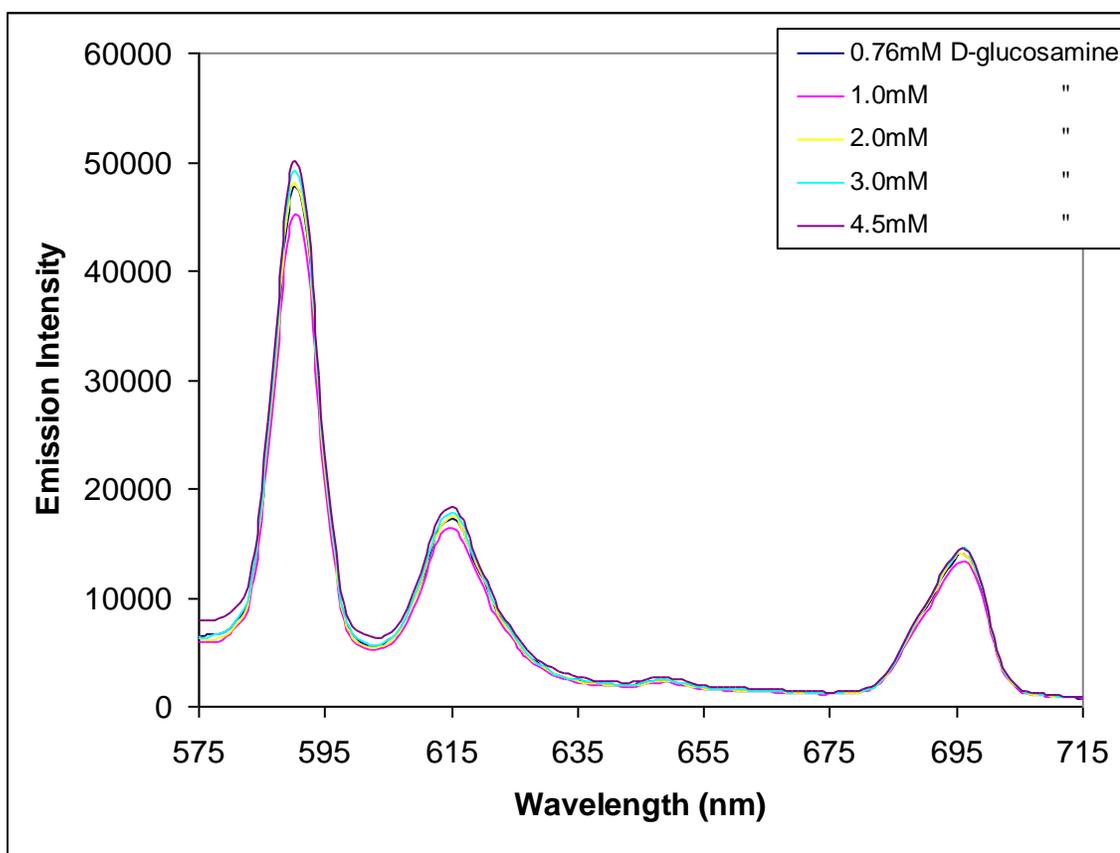
As spectral results were collected at  $\text{pH} < 5.0$ , a linear plot of emission intensity as a function of  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$  at wavelength 614 nm was obtained. Figure 3 shows a linear regression with y-intercept ( $k_o$ ) =  $5.27 \times 10^3$  and the slope ( $k_{Eu}$ ) =  $7.41 \times 10^6$ , where constant  $k_{Eu}$  was the free europium constant.



**Figure 3. Linear regression line at low pH (pH < 5.0) of Eu(trif)<sub>3</sub> at wavelength of 614 nm.**

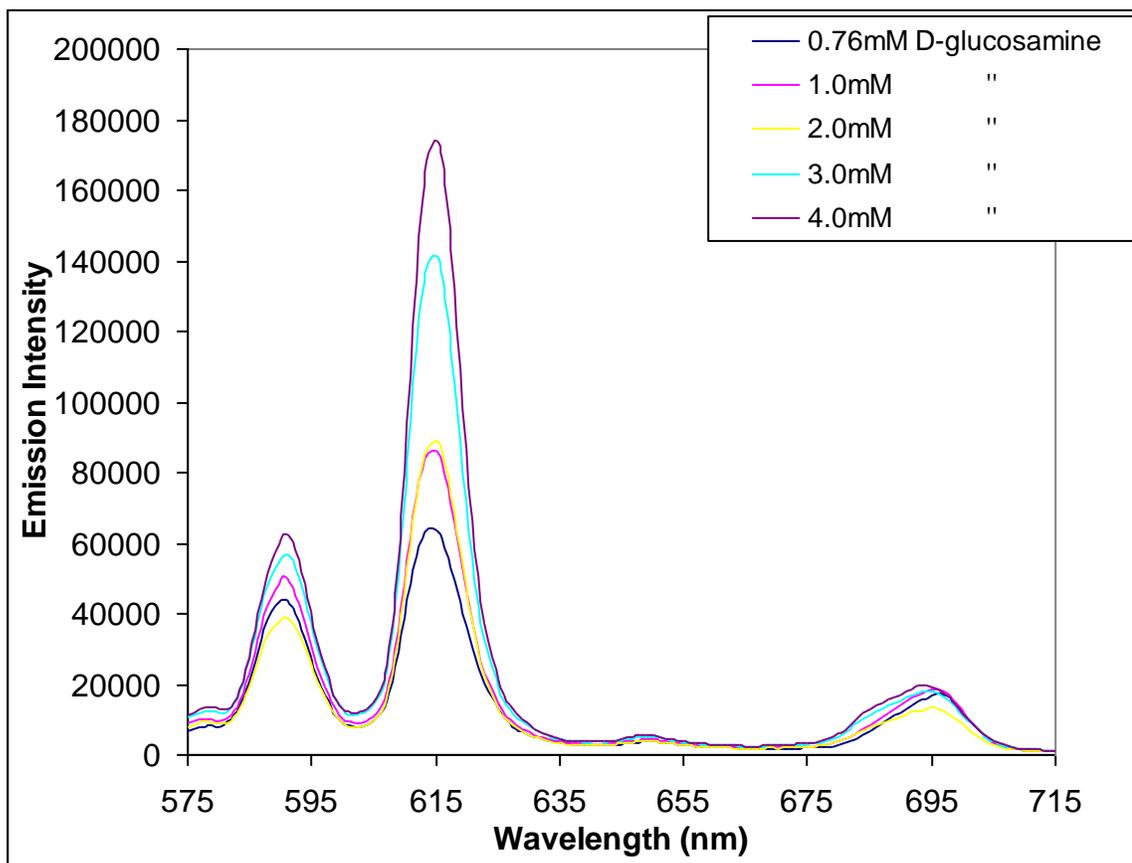
## 2. Determination of Constant $k_L$

After free  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$  was characterized, the effects of adding D-glucosamine to  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$  below pH 5 were studied. Although small differences were observed at various concentrations, they were too small to measure constant  $k_{EuL}$ . During the first set of initial solutions, [D-glucosamine] was selected to record emission intensity at pH < 5.0. Figure 4 depicts a reaction of Eu (III) – D-glucosamine complex at pH < 5.0.



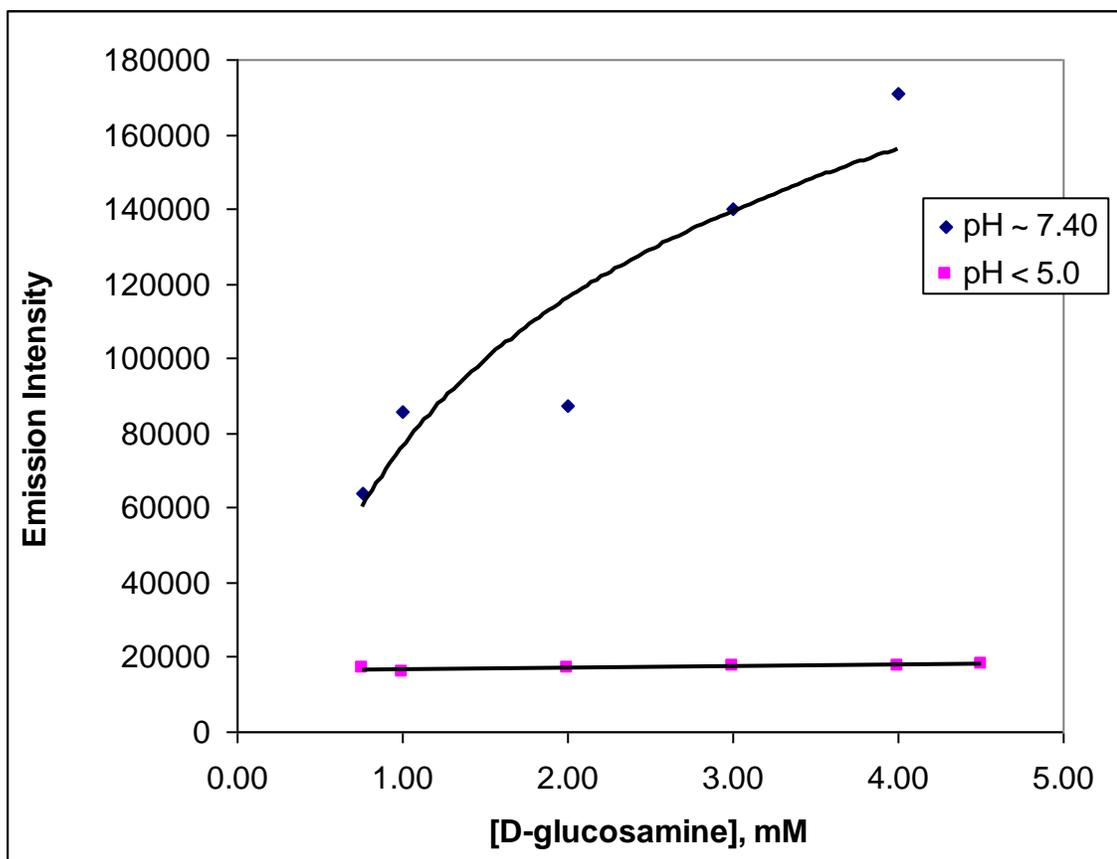
**Figure 4. Eu(III) – D-glucosamine reaction at pH < 5.0 and at constant europium concentration.**

Wavelength at 614 nm (Figure 4) showed the transition peaks are slightly changed with increasing [D-glucosamine]. These results showed that [D-glucosamine] interacts with  $[Eu^{3+}]$  at a low pH indicating a weak complexation. Luminescence spectra illustrated Eu (III) – D-glucosamine reaction at energy level  $J = 2$  transition, and consequently, this transition obtained a higher intensity when the pH was raised. When [D-glucosamine] increases at a high pH, peak intensity will increase accordingly (Figure 5).



**Figure 5. Luminescence spectra of Eu(III)-D-glucosamine complex at emission intensity as a function a wavelength at pH ~ 7.40 and 25°C.**

Additionally, when ligand was added to  $[\text{Eu}^{3+}]$  at  $\text{pH} < 5$ , the reaction was quantify. Figure 6 illustrates that constant  $k_{EuL}$  at  $\text{pH} < 5$  was very small compared to all other results.



**Figure 6. Emission intensity versus [D-glucosamine] at difference pH and at wavelength of 614 nm.**

### 3. Determination of Constant $k_{EuOH}$

A few data points of three other monosaccharide ligands were studied to measure the intensity. The experiments with the monosaccharide sugars galactose, mannose, and ribose (Table 3) were conducted under the same temperature (25°C) and pH conditions (pH ~ 7.40) as those used for D-glucosamine. Figure 7 shows four different monosaccharide ligand curves. Although the emission intensity of each sugar was different, the y-intercepts are similar.

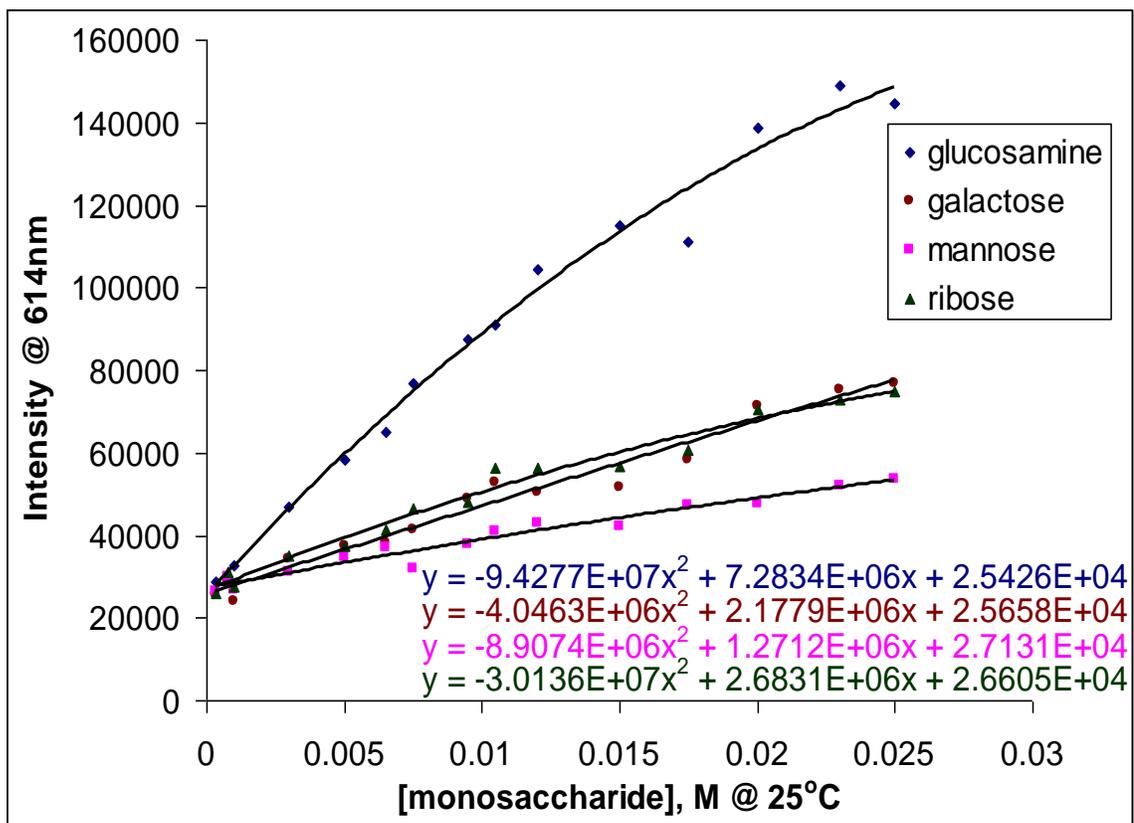


Figure 7. Observation of different monosaccharide ligands at pH ~ 7.40.

Intensities at intercept of the four sugars were similar. The average intensity at zero ligand concentration was calculated. The average intensity,  $I_o$ , of these monosaccharide ligands was determined to be  $2.62 \times 10^4$ . From this average intensity, constant  $k_{EuOH}$  could be calculated. The intensity  $I_o$  value is computed as:

$$3.2 \quad I_o = k_o + k_{Eu}[Eu] + k_{EuOH}[EuOH]$$

The constants  $k_o$  and  $k_{Eu}$  have already been determined; therefore, if intensity  $I_o$ ,  $[Eu^{3+}]$  and  $[EuOH^{2+}]$  were known, then constant  $k_{EuOH} = 1.18 \times 10^7$  could be calculated from Figure 8, where  $I_o = 2.62 \times 10^4$ ,  $k_o = 5.27 \times 10^3$  and  $k_{Eu} = 7.41 \times 10^6$ . When the hydrolysis equation was calculated, the free europium  $[Eu]$  and  $[EuOH]$  concentrations were obtained,  $[Eu] = 1.12 \times 10^{-3}$  M and  $[EuOH] = 1.06_6 \times 10^{-3}$  M. All of the calculations were described in the Appendix A. The average intensity calculated from the y-intercept was used to determine the value of the equilibrium constant,  $K_{EuL}$ .

The equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  of each europium ligand complex was calculated based on the collected data shown in Figure 7. However, steps of calculations for the three ligands were similar to that of D-glucosamine calculations. Table 4 below shows an equilibrium constant,  $K_{EuL}$  and intercept intensity for each monosaccharide ligand. The equilibrium constants for the monosaccharide sugars are smaller than the constant for the D-glucosamine ligand.

**Table 4: Equilibrium Constant,  $K_{EuL}$ , of Each Monosaccharide Ligand**

Ligand	$K_{EuL} = [EuL] / ([Eu] \times [L])$	Intensity at y-intercept
Galactose	6.35	$2.56 \times 10^4$
Mannose	5.35	$2.71 \times 10^4$
Ribose	13.32	$2.66 \times 10^4$

#### 4. Determination of the Absence of EuOHL

Before calculating constants  $k_{EuL}$  and  $k_{EuOHL}$  (Equation 2.3), the species that were present at pH ~ 7.40 would be evaluate using FTIR and excitation measurements.

##### a. FTIR Measurements

FTIR spectra was used to determine the functional groups of the Eu(III) – D-glucosamine complex at pH ~ 7.40. FTIR of the Eu(trif)<sub>3</sub> – D-glucosamine appeared to be a perfect sum of the Eu(trif)<sub>3</sub> and D-glucosamine spectra. As shown in Figure 8, three stretching bands from the functional groups CO<sub>2</sub>, NH, and C=O from Eu(trif)<sub>3</sub> were observed.

Triflic (trifluoromethanesulfonic) acid contained carbon, fluorine, sulfur, oxygen, and hydrogen. The small band at 1034 cm<sup>-1</sup> was assigned to a C-F stretch. The strong sharp band located next to C-F band at 1257 cm<sup>-1</sup> was assigned to the S=O stretch. A medium bandwidth at 2345 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicated an S-OH stretch from triflic acid. The three bands provided evidence for the presence of trifluoromethanesulfonic acid. Thus, Eu band located at 570.82 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

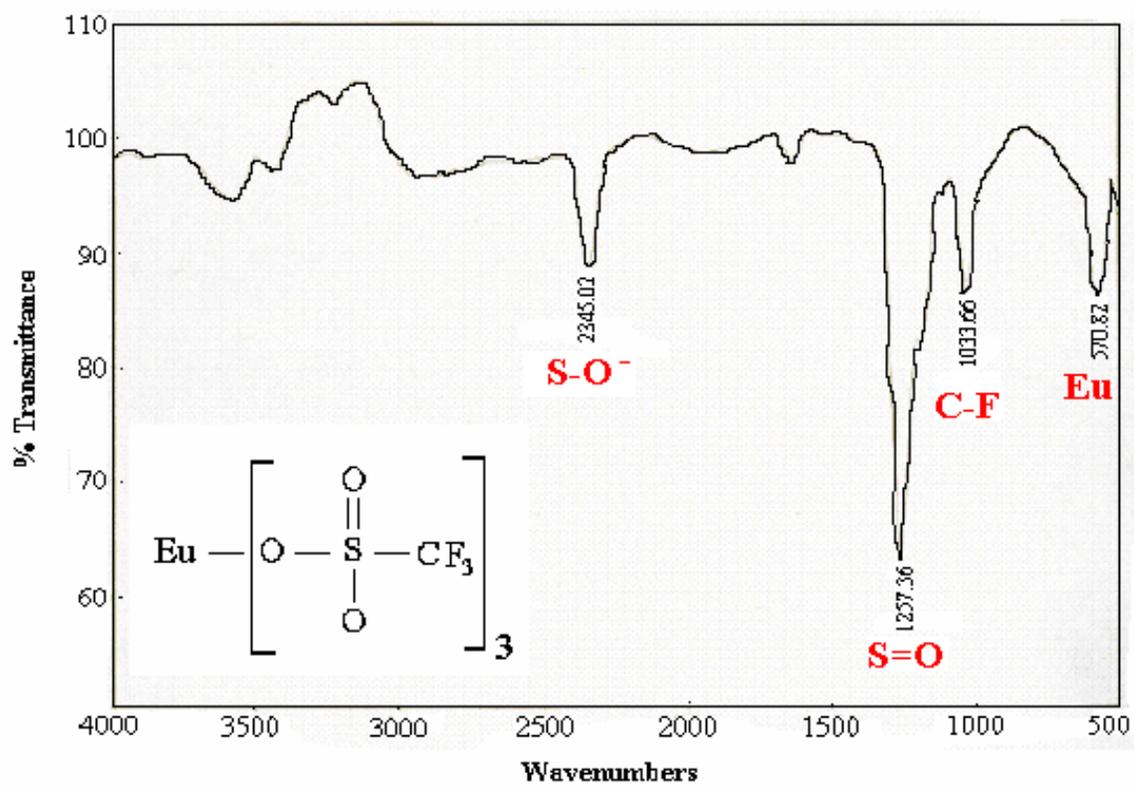
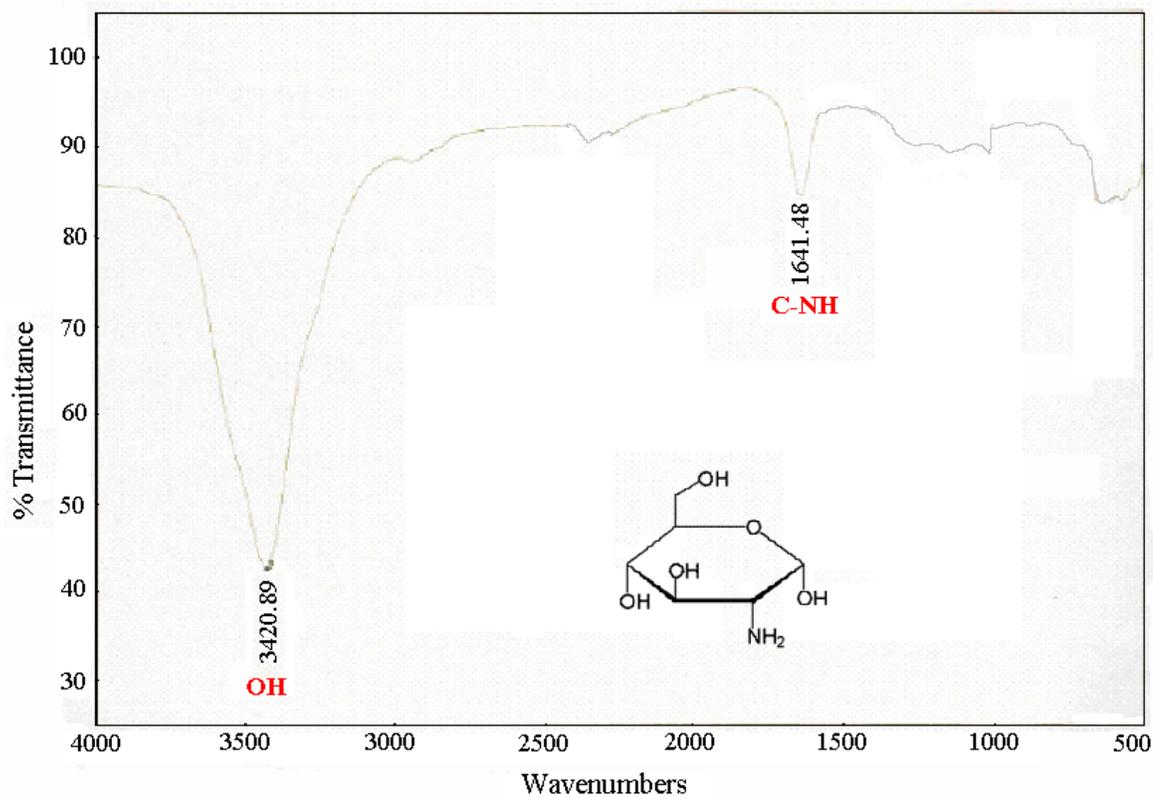


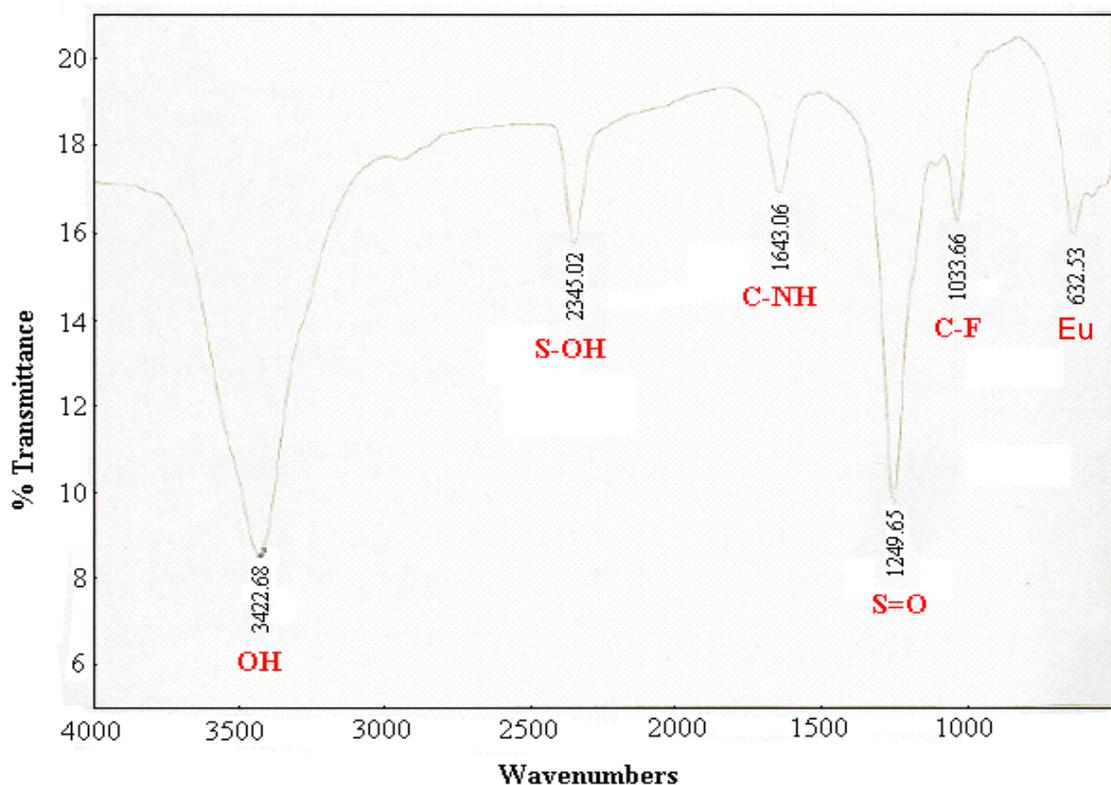
Figure 8. FTIR spectrum shows a 0.100 M Eu(trif)<sub>3</sub> at pH ~ 7.40.

The FTIR spectrum of a free D-glucosamine indicated two main bands (Figure 9). Since D-glucosamine had four hydroxyl (OH) groups attached to the cyclic pyranose ring, a strong OH band appeared at  $3420\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The medium band at  $1641\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicated a C-NH stretch.



**Figure 9. FTIR spectrum shows a 0.100 M D-glucosamine at pH ~ 7.40.**

Figure 10 shows the FTIR spectrum of D-glucosamine and  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  at a 1:1 molar ratio. A strong OH band appearing at  $3423 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  confirmed the presence of free water. Another strong and sharp band observed at  $1250 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  represented a S=O bond stretching from  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$ . Two other medium sharp bands at  $2345 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1054 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  confirmed a S-OH and a C-F bond from the  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  solution, respectively. Since europium (Eu) is a heavy metal, its transmittance corresponded to a lower frequency of  $633 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Atoms coordinated to Eu also share lower frequencies of vibration. Shifted bands confirmed there was a complex interaction between D-glucosamine and  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$ .

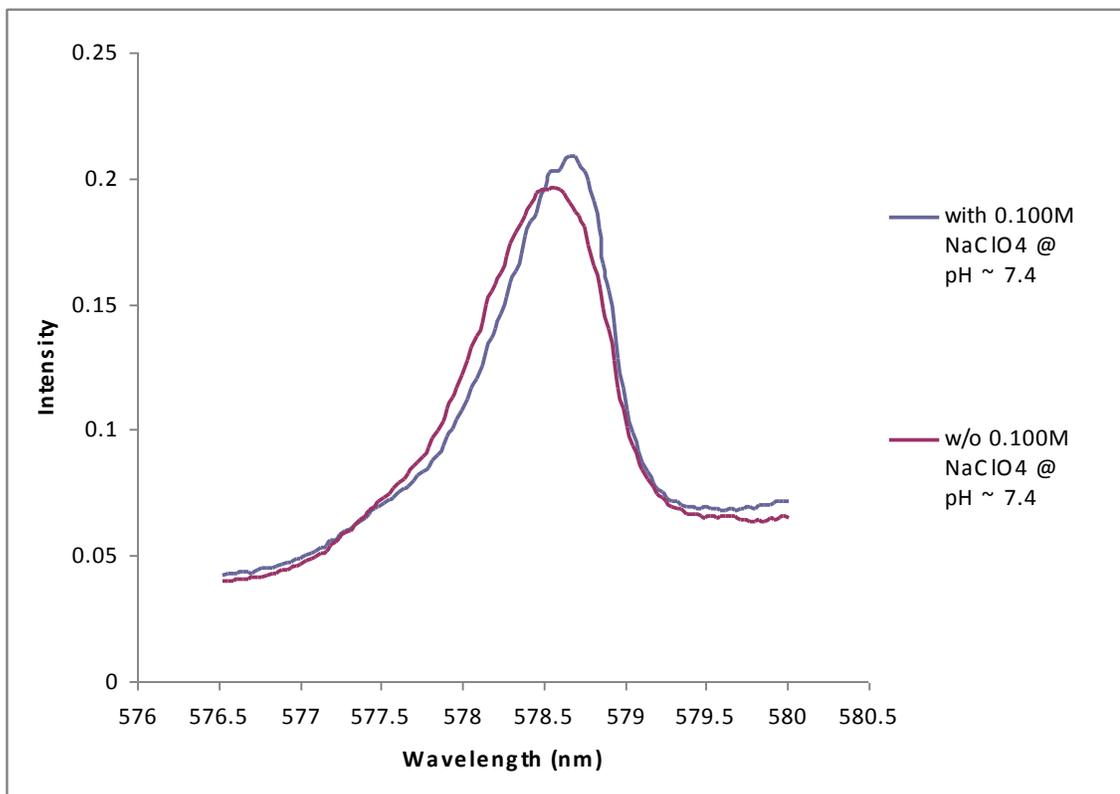


**Figure 10. FTIR spectrum of a 0.100 M  $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$  : 0.100 M D-glucosamine at pH ~ 7.40.**

The FTIR spectrum shown in Figure 10 indicated two functional groups (Eu and S=O) that shifted when the ligand D-glucosamine was added to the europium-triflic solution. The europium (Eu) band shifted from  $571\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 7) to  $633\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 10). The S = O band indicated a small shift from wavenumber  $1257\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 7) to  $1250\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 10). These band shifts were consistent with complexation but indicated a stronger interaction between triflate and Eu(III) than between D-glucosamine and Eu(III).

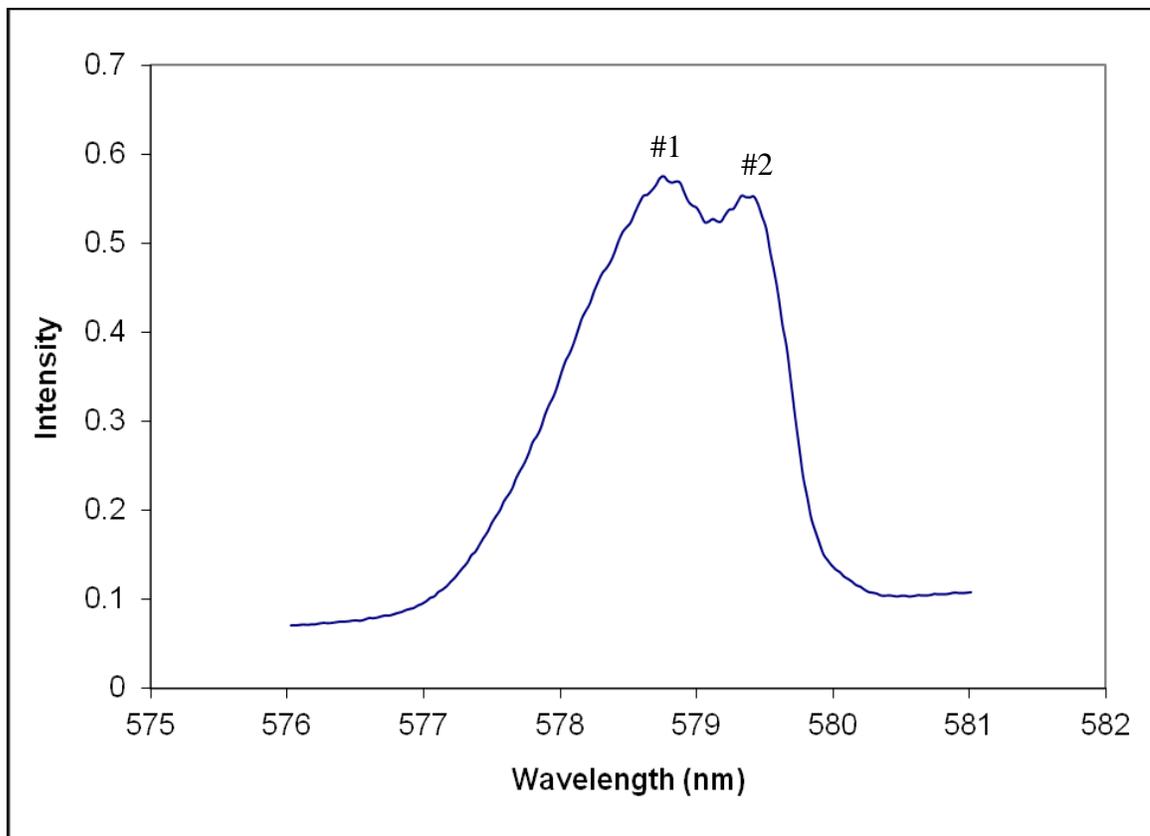
#### **b. Excitation Measurements**

Excitation spectroscopy was used to determine whether  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  or  $\text{EuOH}^{2+}$  binds to D-glucosamine. When free europium ( $\text{Eu}(\text{trif})_3$ ) in  $\text{NaClO}_4$  solution at pH  $\sim 7.40$  was measured under the dye laser excitation at  $617.5\text{ nm}$ , a single peak appeared at wavelength  $578.7\text{ nm}$  (Figure 11). Another single peak was observed at  $578.5\text{ nm}$  for Eu(III) triflate in the absence of  $\text{NaClO}_4$  solution (Figure 11). These spectral results indicated that the  $\text{NaClO}_4$  solution had little or no effect on the intensity. If  $\text{EuOH}^{2+}$  was present in the sample, a shoulder peak would be expected to appear next to the  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  peak. However, no shoulder peak was visible in the spectrum. Therefore only free europium ion ( $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ ) was detected in this solution.



**Figure 11. Excitation measurements of 0.100 M Eu(trif)<sub>3</sub> with and without 0.100 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at pH ~ 7.40.**

When D-glucosamine solution was added to free europium and NaClO<sub>4</sub> solution at pH ~ 7.40, the excitation spectrum exhibited two peaks (Figure 12).



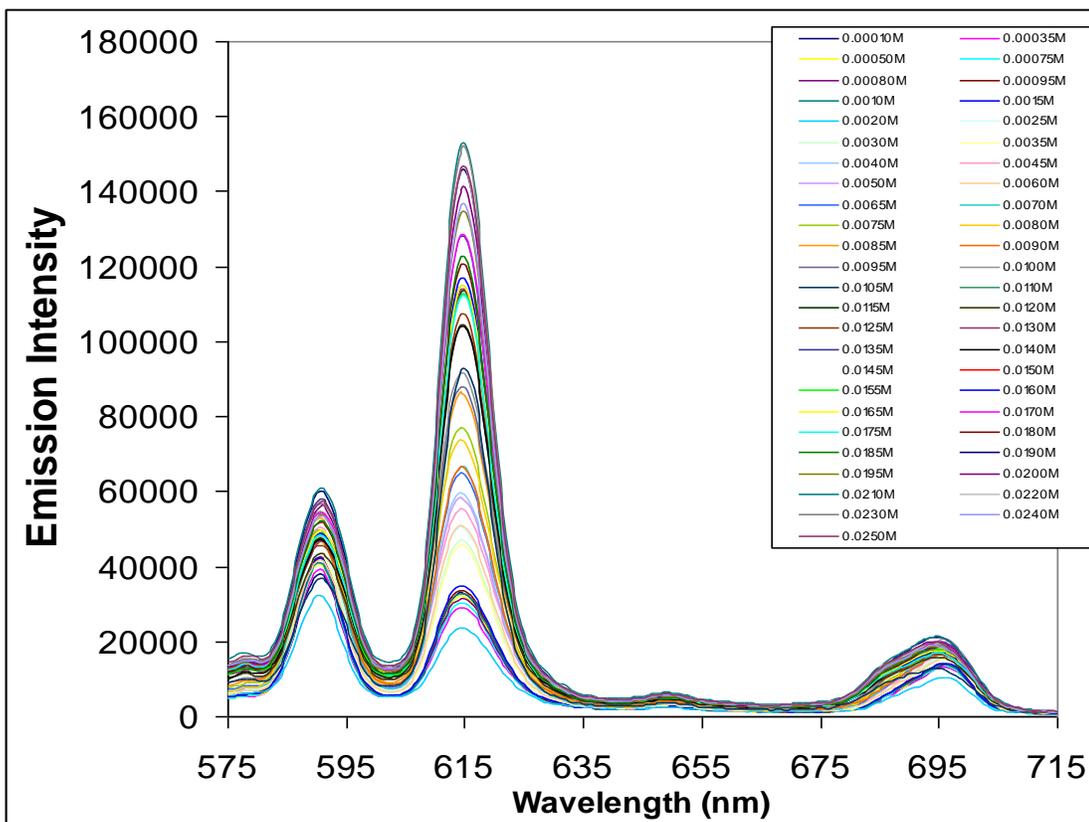
**Figure 12. Excitation measurements of 0.100 M Eu(trif)<sub>3</sub> + 0.100 M D-glucosamine with 0.100 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at pH ~ 7.40.**

No precipitate was formed in the solution while intensity was being measured. However, after several minutes of letting the solutions to settle down, a precipitate was observed. The precipitate indicated that Eu(OH)<sub>2</sub> may be forming. Peak #1 appeared at 578.8 nm, and peak # 2 appeared at 579.4 nm (Figure 12) that Eu(III) and D-glucosamine were present at pH ~ 7.40. Since the peak at 578.8 nm appeared in water at pH ~ 7.40, the peak at 579.4 nm was assigned to the D-glucosamine complex. Since no additional peak was observed that might indicate EuOH<sup>2+</sup> binding, it can be concluded that (Eu<sup>3+</sup>) bound to the D-glucosamine ligand at pH ~ 7.40.

According to the data presented by Hedinger, et al., (1998), europium complexation (Eu(III) – D-glucosamine) appeared to occur at a pH between 7 and 9, and significant  $\text{EuOH}^{2+}$  complexation occurred at pH above 9. The deprotonation of the hydroxo complex appeared at pH above 9 (Hedinger, et al., 1998).

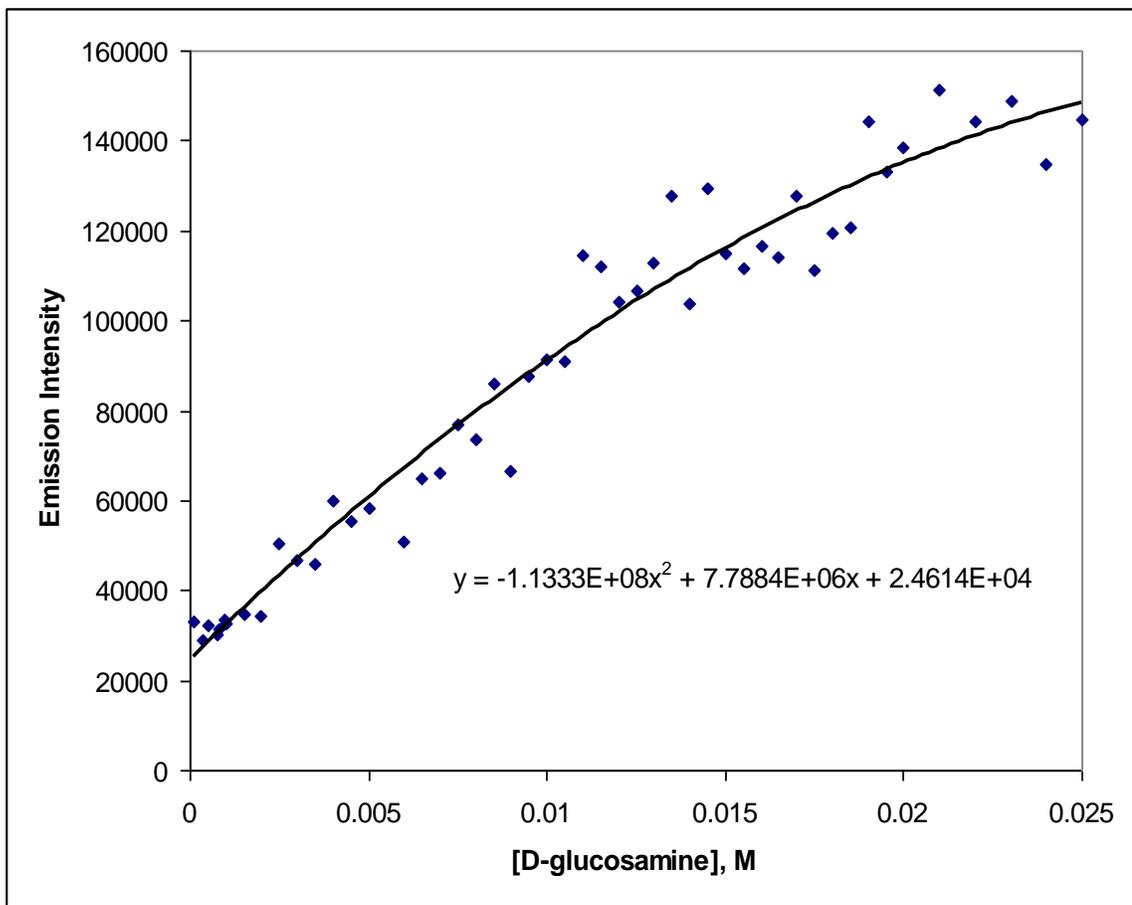
### 5. Determination of Equilibrium Constant $K_{EuL}$ & Constant $k_{EuL}$

A series of spectra with D-glucosamine concentrations were shown at pH ~ 7.40 (Figure 13).



**Figure 13. Luminescence spectra of Eu(III) – D-glucosamine excitation at wavelength 318 nm, pH ~ 7.40.**

Figure 13 and Figure 14 illustrated a polynomial function that models a reaction between Eu(III) and D-glucosamine.



**Figure 14. An Eu(III) – D-glucosamine curve function at pH ~ 7.40 and wavelength of 614 nm at  $[Eu]_t = 2.50 \times 10^{-3}$  M.**

When constants  $k_L$  and  $k_{EuOHL}$  were omitted from emission intensity measurements at pH  $\sim 7.40$  (*Equation 2.3*), the response may be expressed as:

$$3.3 \quad I_o = k_o + k_{Eu}[Eu] + k_{EuOH}[EuOH] + k_{EuL}[EuL]$$

As the value of each physical term from *Equation 3.3* has been determined, the initial emission intensity,  $I_o$ , value was equal to the sum of each of the above terms. At low pH, the constants  $k_o$  and  $k_{Eu}$  were found to be  $k_o = 5.27 \times 10^3$  and constant  $k_{Eu} = 7.41 \times 10^6$ , respectively. The free europium concentration value was calculated ( $[Eu] = 1.12 \times 10^{-3}M$ ), as described in the Appendix A. The europium hydroxide concentration was calculated ( $[EuOH] = 1.07 \times 10^{-3}M$ ) from the hydrolysis reaction as described in the Appendix A using *Equation 1.4*. The value of constant  $k_{EuOH}$  was finally calculated from *Equation 3.2*, yielding a value of  $1.18 \times 10^7$ . The emission intensity,  $I_o = 2.46 \times 10^4$  was calculated from the polynomial in Figure 14.

The calculated intensity ( $I'$ ) is computed as:

$$3.4 \quad I' = I - k_o - k_{Eu}[Eu] - k_{EuOH}[EuOH] = k_{EuL}[EuL]$$

where constant  $k_o$  and constant  $k_{Eu}$  were determined from the measurements of free europium at low pH. The determination of constant  $k_{EuOH}$  was calculated based on *Equation 3.2*. The calculated intensity ( $I'$ ) was equal to constant  $k_{EuL}[EuL]$ . Therefore, constant  $k_{EuL}$  was formulated as:

$$3.5 \quad k_{EuL} = \frac{I - k_o - k_{Eu}[Eu] - k_{EuOH}[EuOH]}{[EuL]}$$

The equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  was computed by dividing the product by the reactants as shown in *Equation 2.5* and *3.7*. A full description of the calculations for [Eu], [EuL], and [EuOH] is shown in the Appendix A. However, in order to calculate [EuL], an estimated value for the equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  was used. When the estimated equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  value was obtained, the concentration of Eu and the concentration of EuL were calculated using the equation in Appendix A.

The complexation reaction was written as the equilibrium:



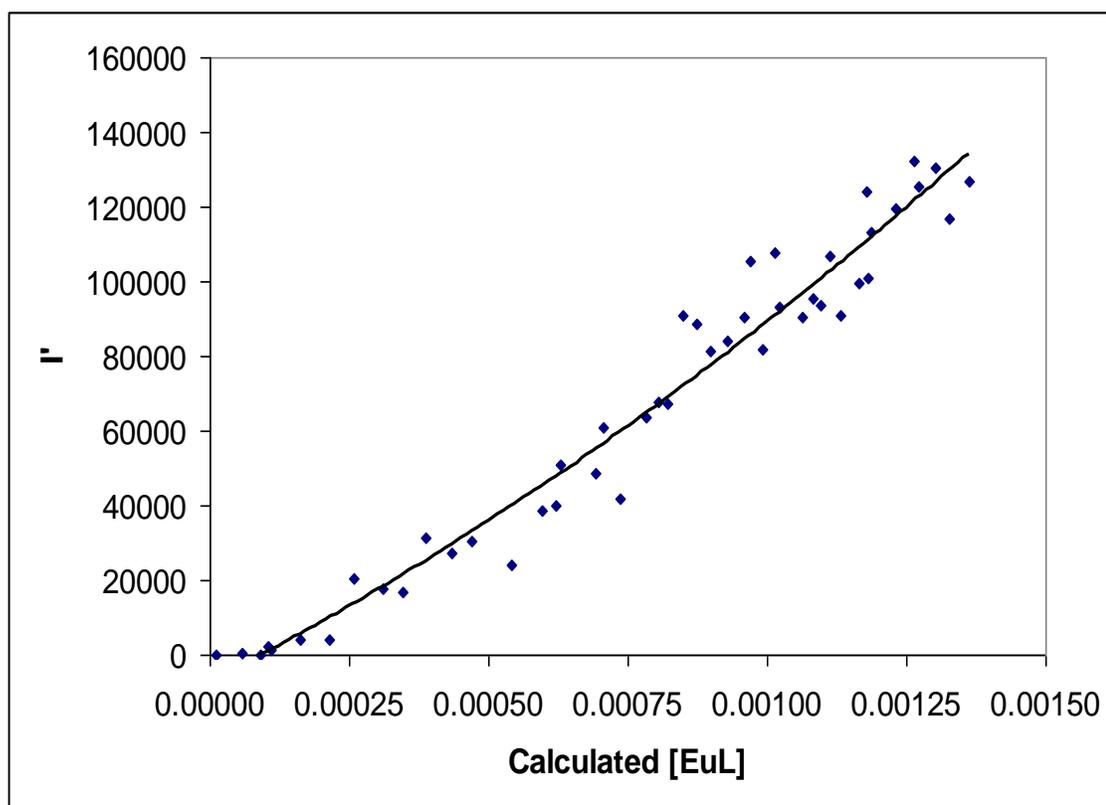
Thus the equilibrium constant,  $K_{EuL}$ , was simplified to:

$$3.7 \quad K_{EuL} = \frac{[\text{Eu(III)-D-glucosamine}]}{[\text{Eu(III)}] \times [\text{D-glucosamine}]}$$

The calculated equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  was determined using a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet based on the calculated total europium and total D-glucosamine concentrations. *Equation 1.7* was also rearranged to give a determinant equation:

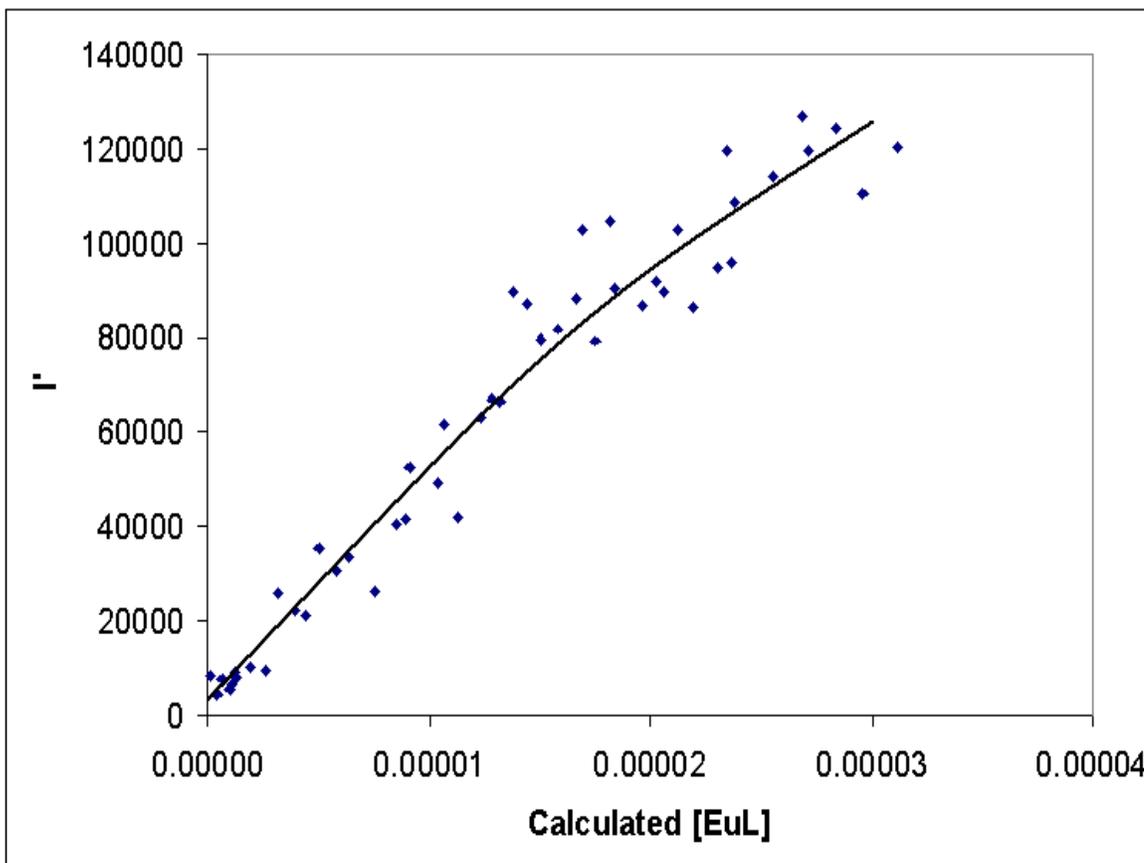
$$3.8 \quad I - k_o - k_{Eu}[Eu] - k_{EuOH}[EuOH] = k_{EuL}[EuL]$$

Equation 3.8 was a straight line with a zero intercept. Once the constant  $k_{EuOH}$  was determined, an estimated value of equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  was obtained. Calculations were performed for free complexed europium and free D-glucosamine. The plotted graph  $I - k_0 - k_{Eu}[Eu] - k_{EuOH}[EuOH]$  versus  $k_{EuL}[EuL]$  determined the linear regression line. If the estimated value of equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  was high, the result was a negative intercept, as shown in Figure 15a.



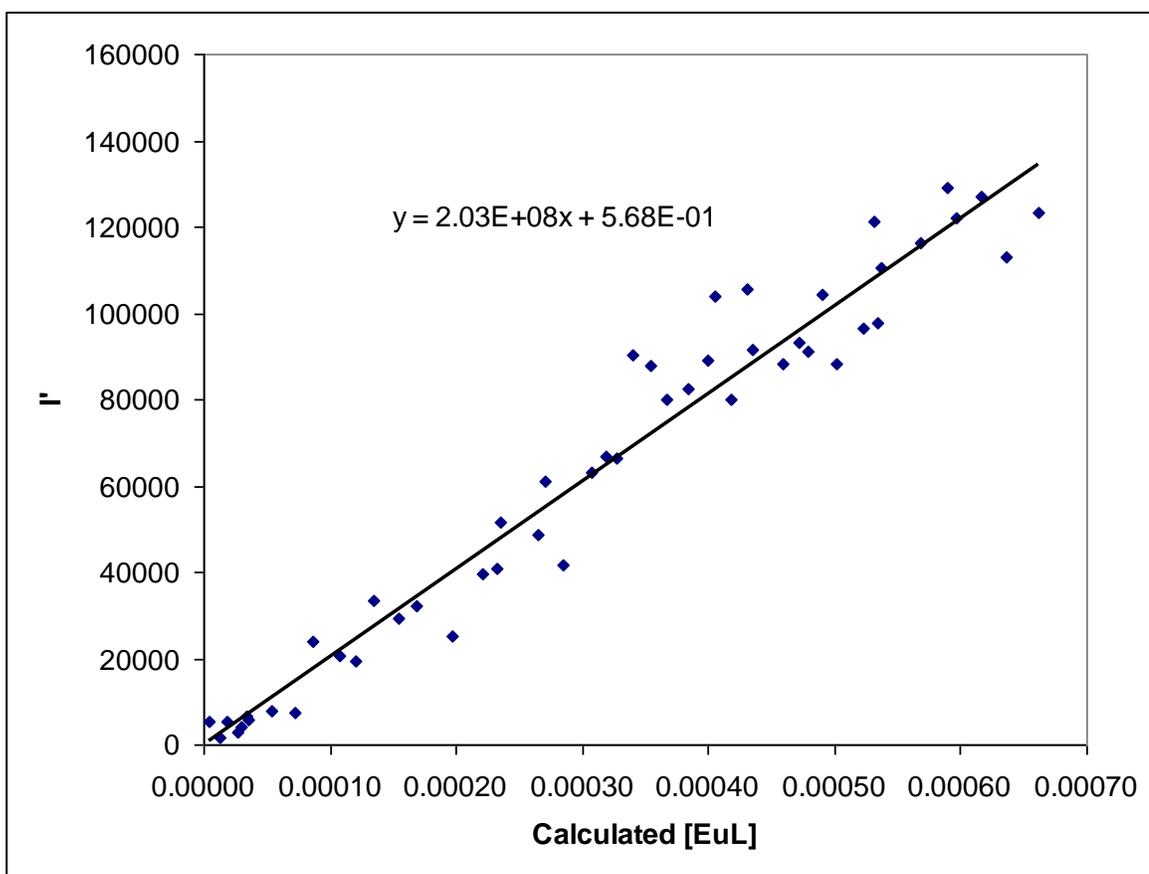
**Figure 15a. A calculated intensity ( $I'$ ) as a function of  $[EuL]$  (Eu(III) – D-glucosamine) when equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  is assumed to be 100.**

However, if the equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  was low, then the result was a positive intercept, as shown in Figure 15b.



**Figure 15b. A calculated intensity ( $I'$ ) as a function of [EuL] (Eu(III) – D-glucosamine) when equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  is assumed to be 1.**

When the best value of equilibrium constant was estimated, a good correlation between experimental data and the best straight line was an intercept at zero. The graph of the calculated intercept as a function of equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  was a curve that intersects at zero. The best equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  value was determined (Figure 15c).



**Figure 15c.** A calculated intensity ( $I'$ ) as a function of [EuL] (Eu(III) – D-glucosamine) when equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  is 29.24, the best fit of the data at 25°C.

## Chapter 4

### Conclusion

The two main goals of this research were the determination of the equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  and identification of complex formation at pH ~ 7.40 and 25 °C. The hypersensitive emission peak at 614 nm was studied and indicated a complex reaction at pH ~ 7.40. An increase of the D-glucosamine concentration resulted in an increase of the emission intensity at this wavelength. An equilibrium constant  $K_{EuL}$  of the Eu(III) – D-glucosamine complex was found to be 29.24.

Functional groups of D-glucosamine and Eu(III) were successfully observed in a solution-phase of the FTIR experiment. Laser excitation spectroscopy was used to determine if D-glucosamine bound to europium ion ( $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ ), or bound to the europium hydroxide ion ( $\text{EuOH}^{2+}$ ). Therefore, evidence concludes that [Eu(III)]:[D-glucosamine] complex indicated D-glucosamine bound to  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  at pH ~ 7.40, but there was no evidence that the complexation bound to hydrolyzed Eu (III) .

### Future Studies

The results obtained here provide insights into the binding reaction and suggested further studies on temperature dependence of Eu binding with different monosaccharide ligands. Equilibrium constants  $K_{EuL}$  can be determined at different temperatures under pH ~ 7.40.

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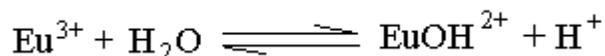
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## Appendices

### APPENDIX A

#### Instrumental Constants

1. At low pH (pH ~ 5.0)



$$K_{\text{OH}} = \frac{[\text{EuOH}^{2+}][\text{H}^+]}{[\text{Eu}^{3+}]} \quad ; \quad K_{\text{OH}} = 10^{7.41} = 3.89 \times 10^{-8}$$

$$[\text{EuOH}^{2+}] = \frac{K_{\text{OH}} [\text{Eu}^{3+}]}{[\text{H}^+]} \quad ; \quad [\text{H}^+] = 4.08 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M}$$

$$[\text{EuOH}^{2+}] = 1.07 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M} \quad ; \quad [\text{Eu}^{3+}] = 1.12 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$$

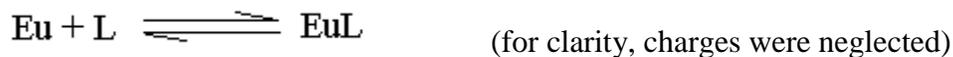
Find instrument constants,  $k_o$ ,  $k_{\text{Eu}}$ :

$$I = k_o + k_{\text{Eu}} [\text{Eu}] \quad I = 7.41 \times 10^6 X + 5.27 \times 10^3$$

$$k_{\text{Eu}} = 7.41 \times 10^6$$

$$k_o = 5.27 \times 10^3$$

2. At high pH (pH ~ 7.4)



$$K_{\text{EuL}} = \frac{[\text{EuL}]}{[\text{Eu}][\text{L}]} \quad ; \quad [\text{EuL}] = 3.15 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$$

estimated  $K_{\text{EuL}}$  value

Calculations of instrument constants,  $k_o$ ,  $k_{\text{Eu}}$ ,  $k_{\text{EuOH}}$ ,  $k_{\text{EuL}}$ :

$$I_o = k_o + k_{Eu} [Eu] + k_{EuOH} [EuOH]$$

$$k_{EuOH} = \frac{I_o - k_o - k_{Eu} [Eu]}{[EuOH]} = 1.04 \times 10^7$$

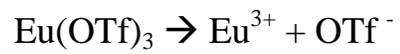
$$I' = I - k_o - k_{Eu} [Eu] - k_{EuOH} [EuOH] = k_{EuL} [EuL]$$

$$k_{EuL} = \frac{I - k_o - k_{Eu} [Eu] - k_{EuOH} [EuOH]}{[EuL]}$$

## APPENDIX B

### Ionic Strength

$$I = \frac{1}{2} \sum (Z_i^2 \times C_i)$$



$$I = \frac{1}{2} [(3^2 \times C_{\text{Eu}}) + (1^2 \times C_{\text{OTf}})] ;$$

$$I = 0.015\text{M} ;$$

$$\text{where } C_{\text{OTf}} = 3C_{\text{Eu}}$$

$$\text{where } C_{\text{Eu}} = 0.0025\text{M}$$

## APPENDIX C

### Additional Tables

**Table 1: Stock Solution Dilutions.**

Solution #	Stock Solution, 0.0505M [Eu <sup>3+</sup> ]		Stock Solution, 0.100M [D-glucosamine]		Stock Solution, 2.00M [NaClO <sub>4</sub> ]	
	[Eu <sup>3+</sup> ], M	Vol, mL	[D-glucosamine], M	Vol, mL	[NaClO <sub>4</sub> ], M	Vol, mL
1	0.0025	0.495	0.00076	0.076	0.085	0.425
2	0.0025	0.495	0.0010	0.100	0.085	0.425
3	0.0025	0.495	0.0020	0.200	0.085	0.425
4	0.0025	0.495	0.0030	0.300	0.085	0.425
5	0.0025	0.495	0.0040	0.400	0.085	0.425

**Table 2: Initial Data Points of 0.0025 M Eu(III) – D-glucosamine.**

[D-glucosamine], M	Intensity @ 614 nm at pH < 5.0	Intensity @ 614 nm at pH ~ 7.4
0.00076	16988	64086
0.0010	16139	85551
0.0020	16996	87586
0.0030	17491	139815
0.0040	17571	170695

**Table 3: Initial Data Points of 0.0025 M Eu(III) – Monosaccharide at pH ~ 7.4.**

Galactose		Mannose		Ribose	
Concentration (M)	Intensity	Concentration (M)	Intensity	Concentration (M)	Intensity
0.00035	25797	0.00035	26600	0.00035	26111
0.00075	28892	0.00075	29952	0.00075	31159
0.0010	23968	0.0010	26757	0.0010	27764
0.0030	34323	0.0030	30958	0.0030	35126
0.0050	37526	0.0050	34863	0.0050	37449
0.0065	38174	0.0065	37028	0.0065	41555
0.0075	41307	0.0075	32026	0.0075	46631
0.0095	48898	0.0095	37899	0.0095	48085
0.0105	52685	0.0105	41047	0.0105	56245
0.0120	50330	0.0120	42917	0.0120	56353
0.0150	51734	0.0150	42154	0.0150	56665
0.0175	58515	0.0175	47487	0.0175	60514
0.0200	71278	0.0200	47836	0.0200	70362
0.0230	75194	0.0230	52001	0.0230	73089
0.0250	76932	0.0250	53671	0.0250	74866

**Table 5: Data Points of 0.0025 M Eu(III)– D-glucosamine at Wavelength of 614 nm.**

Number of Scanning	[Eu] <sub>t</sub> (M)	[Ligand] <sub>t</sub> (M)	pH	Measured Intensity (cps)
1	0.0025	0.00010	7.40	32980
2	0.0025	0.00035	7.37	28914
3	0.0025	0.00050	7.35	32281
4	0.0025	0.00075	7.37	30112
5	0.0025	0.00080	7.35	31246
6	0.0025	0.00095	7.38	33670

7	0.0025	0.00100	7.38	32831
8	0.0025	0.00150	7.38	34930
9	0.0025	0.00200	7.37	34190
10	0.0025	0.00250	7.39	50624
11	0.0025	0.00300	7.36	46799
12	0.0025	0.00350	7.39	45750
13	0.0025	0.00400	7.40	59818
14	0.0025	0.00450	7.38	55221
15	0.0025	0.00500	7.39	58279
16	0.0025	0.00600	7.40	51011
17	0.0025	0.00650	7.36	64838
18	0.0025	0.00700	7.38	65997
19	0.0025	0.00750	7.43	76930
20	0.0025	0.00800	7.37	73796
21	0.0025	0.00850	7.40	86096
22	0.0025	0.00900	7.40	66561
23	0.0025	0.00950	7.37	87681
24	0.0025	0.01000	7.38	91403
25	0.0025	0.01050	7.40	90980
26	0.0025	0.01100	7.40	114611
27	0.0025	0.01150	7.40	112000
28	0.0025	0.01200	7.40	104295
29	0.0025	0.01250	7.39	106520
30	0.0025	0.01300	7.38	112797
31	0.0025	0.01350	7.40	127576
32	0.0025	0.01400	7.40	103845
33	0.0025	0.01450	7.40	129344
34	0.0025	0.01500	7.42	115031
35	0.0025	0.01550	7.39	111557

36	0.0025	0.01600	7.39	116499
37	0.0025	0.01650	7.40	114272
38	0.0025	0.01700	7.40	127590
39	0.0025	0.01750	7.40	111208
40	0.0025	0.01800	7.38	119427
41	0.0025	0.01850	7.38	120572
42	0.0025	0.01900	7.41	144093
43	0.0025	0.01950	7.42	133157
44	0.0025	0.02000	7.38	138615
45	0.0025	0.02100	7.38	151257
46	0.0025	0.02200	7.41	144205
47	0.0025	0.02300	7.41	148912
48	0.0025	0.02400	7.41	134986
49	0.0025	0.02500	7.40	144823