ThF⁺ AS A CANDIDATE FOR eEDM MEASUREMENTS

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The low-lying ${}^{3}\Delta_{1}$ state of ThF⁺ has advantageous properties for studies of the electron electric dipole moment. Calculations indicate that internal fields as high as 90 GV/cm can be generated, and there is just one isotope of ThF with significant natural abundance. Previous experiments show two low-lying electronic states of ThF⁺ spaced by 315 cm⁻¹ (JCP 136, 104305 (2012)). These are ${}^{1}\Sigma$ and ${}^{3}\Delta_{1}$, but the ordering is still in question. Experiments are in progress to determine the electronic angular momentum of the ground state. Laser excitation spectra for ThF⁺ have been recorded for transitions in the 19300-21100 cm⁻¹ range. For eEDM studies it is technically more convenient to work with lower energy transitions. Survey spectra covering the range 15000-19000 cm⁻¹ are currently being recorded. Results from these measurements will be presented and their relevance to possible eEDM studies will be discussed.