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negative explicit temperature coefficient  $(\partial E / \partial T)_V$  in terms of the large increase in the volume of the  $\text{As}_2\text{Se}_3$  chains with temperature relative to the overall volume of the crystal is given by Mott.<sup>11</sup>

The large negative pressure coefficients of the optical gap in crystalline and amorphous  $\text{As}_2\text{Se}_3$  gives reason to expect contributions to

the valence levels involved in the optical transitions from electrons of *s*-like symmetry derived from As or Se 4s atomic states. An alternative argument could relate to the anisotropy of this material independent of the symmetry of the bands. Band structure calculations which are at present under way will be of value in determining the energy levels which give rise to the optical absorption edge.

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On a regardé l'effet d'une pression hydrostatique sur le spectre d'absorption optique d'échantillons cristallins ou amorphes de  $\text{As}_2\text{Se}_3$  à 80°K et 274°K dans la limite de forts coefficients d'absorption optique (de  $10^3$  à  $10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). Dans le cas de  $\text{As}_2\text{Se}_3$  amorphe, on a évalué les contributions dépendant de la température au spectre d'absorption optique provenant de l'interaction électron-phonon ou de la dilatation du réseau.