

**Interfacial antiferromagnetic coupling and high spin polarization in metallic phthalocyanines**Junwei Tong,<sup>1</sup> Feifei Luo,<sup>1</sup> Liuxia Ruan,<sup>1</sup> Guohuai Liu,<sup>2</sup> Lianqun Zhou,<sup>3</sup> Fubo Tian,<sup>4</sup> Gaowu Qin,<sup>1</sup> and Xianmin Zhang<sup>1,\*</sup><sup>1</sup>Key Laboratory for Anisotropy and Texture of Materials (Ministry of Education), School of Material Science and Engineering, Northeastern University, Shenyang 110819, China<sup>2</sup>The State Key Lab of Rolling and Automation, Northeastern University, Shenyang 110819, China<sup>3</sup>Suzhou Institute of Biomedical, Engineering and Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Suzhou 215163, China<sup>4</sup>State Key Laboratory of Superhard Materials, College of Physics, Jilin University, Changchun 130012, China

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Exploration and understanding of the spinterface between magnetic electrodes and organic semiconductors are vital to get an insight into interfacial science and develop spintronic devices. Intrigued by the fact that the modification of chemical states may affect interfacial exchange coupling, magnetic interactions between a series of metallic phthalocyanines (*MPcs*,  $M = \text{Cr, Mn, Fe, Co}$ ) and surface oxidized Co were studied. Interestingly, these four *MPcs* are all antiferromagnetically coupled with the Co substrate via the interfacial O atomic layer, but the coupling strength strongly relies on the type of metallic ion in the *MPcs*. The physical mechanism for different exchange strengths is explored and discussed in terms of a superexchange model via O atoms. It is also noted that the adsorption energy and work function of the surface oxidized Co were sensitive to the metallic ions of *MPcs*. The valence and spin state of central *3d* metallic ions could be tuned by the surface oxidized Co. Very interestingly, high negative spin-polarized spinterfaces are obtained in these *MPcs*. The spin polarizations are up to  $-86\%$  and  $-80\%$  for CrPc and MnPc, respectively. Additionally, high spin polarization can be maintained beyond room temperature because of the very large interfacial coupling energy, demonstrating a promising application of *MPcs* in spintronic devices.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevB.103.024435](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.103.024435)**I. INTRODUCTION**

Molecules deposited on metal surfaces are currently of particular interest due to their extensive applications in physical electronics [1–5]. As one of the typical organic semiconductors, phthalocyanines (Pcs) are conjugated macrocycles with  $18\pi$  electrons, which have been widely studied in organic electronics and spintronics [2,6–13]. The adsorption of Pcs could modify the magnetic properties of both molecules and ferromagnetic (FM) substrates through interfacial coupling by forming spinterfaces [1,14–21]. The temperature dependence of spin polarization (SP) at the spinterface is strongly related to the magnitude of coupling strength [22–30] because the magnetic exchange coupling of spin in magnetic molecules with a FM substrate determines the magnetic order of paramagnetic molecules [25,31]. A weak exchange interaction cannot maintain the magnetic order of paramagnetic molecules on the FM substrate [25], which may be responsible for the low SP in the organic/FM spinterface at room temperature. Thus, seeking a strong coupling between magnetic molecules and FM substrate and understanding the inner physical mechanism are vital for developing advanced organic spintronics. It has been reported that the interactions between metallic Pc and substrate could be used to manipulate the spin state of metallic Pcs [2,4,6,32]. The easy axis of magnetization for FePc tuned by the O atomic layer as deposited on Cu(110) has been demonstrated [3,4]. The magnetic coupling between FePc and Co films could also be changed by surface oxidation

[33,34]. These studies demonstrate the interfacial interactions are very interesting in affecting the spinterface. The electronic structures of metallic Pcs (*MPcs*) are strongly dependent on their central metallic ions [35–37], which provides an effective way to investigate the interaction between *MPcs* and FM surfaces [2,6,7].

Here, intrigued by the fact that the modification of chemical states may affect the interfacial exchange coupling of molecules/FM systems, the magnetic interaction between *MPcs* ( $M = \text{Cr, Mn, Fe, Co}$ ) and Co through the interfacial O atomic layer was studied using first-principles calculations. It is noted that these four *MPcs* are all antiferromagnetically (AFM) coupled to the Co substrate through the interfacial O atomic layer. The size of the magnetic coupling strength strongly depends on the type of central atom in the *MPcs*. The physical mechanism for the different exchange strengths was explored and discussed by a superexchange model via O atoms. Furthermore, it is found that both the valence change of *3d* metal ions in *MPcs* and the work function of the surface oxidized Co are sensitive to the central atoms, meaning that the modification of the central metal atom in *MPcs* is an effective way to design a functional spinterface. Most interestingly, high negative spin-polarized spinterfaces are obtained in these *MPcs*. The SPs are up to  $-86\%$  and  $-80\%$  for CrPc and MnPc, respectively, showing a promising application of *MPcs* in spintronic devices.

**II. COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS**

First-principles calculations were performed based on the density functional theory (DFT) using the Vienna *ab*

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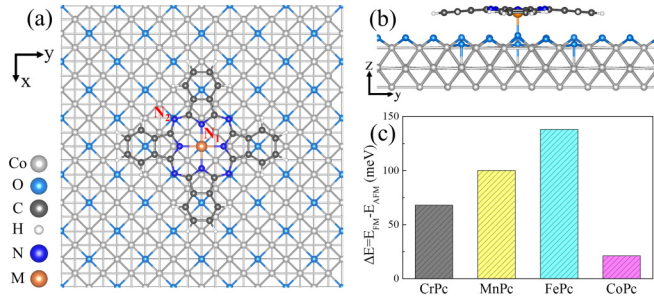


FIG. 1. (a) Top view of MPCs on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . MPCs adsorbed on the on-top-of-O position ( $M = \text{Cr}, \text{Mn}, \text{Fe},$  and  $\text{Co}$ ). (b) Side view. Orange, blue, dark gray, white, light blue, and light gray represent the central metal, N, C, H, O, and Co atoms, respectively.  $\text{N}_1$  is the direct bond to the central metal atom of MPCs rather than the  $\text{N}_2$ . The coordinate system is shown in the left of (a) and (b). (c) The energy difference for AFM and FM coupled MPCs and the Co substrate through O atoms.

*initio* Simulation Package (VASP) [38,39]. The Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof of spin-polarized generalized gradient approximation was applied for the exchange and correlation functional [40]. An effective Hubbard term (Dudarev’s method) of  $U_{\text{eff}} = 3 \text{ eV}$  was included for the  $3d$  orbitals of the metal center [2,33,34,41]. The van der Waals interactions proposed by Grimme (DFT-D2) were included in the calculations to incorporate the long-range dispersion forces in the molecule system [42]. The energy cutoff was set as 400 eV, and a  $\Gamma$ -point-only  $k$  mesh was used [33]. Except for the bottom Co layer, all atomic positions were relaxed until the forces were smaller than  $0.02 \text{ eV}/\text{\AA}$ . The postprocessing of VASP data was performed using VASPKIT code [43].

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Interfacial magnetic coupling and charge transfer

The face-centered cubic (fcc) Co was used for calculation, and the optimized lattice constant was  $3.517 \text{ \AA}$ , which agrees with previous papers [44,45]. The substrate contained 3 monolayers (MLs) of Co film. A well-characterized  $c(2 \times 2)$  superstructure of 0.5-ML atomic oxygen on top of the Co film was used to simulate the surface oxidized Co, which has been experimentally achieved on the Co(001) surface [34,46,47]. The MPCs were on top of the oxygen atom, as shown in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b). Both our calculations (see Fig. S1 in the Supplemental Material) [48] and previous papers [33,34] show this configuration was the ground state. The spin in MPCs would be coupled to the Co substrate through the oxygen atom. To study the magnetic interaction, the energies for AFM ( $E_{\text{AFM}}$ ) and FM ( $E_{\text{FM}}$ ) coupled MPCs and the Co substrate were calculated. The energy difference is defined as  $\Delta E = E_{\text{FM}} - E_{\text{AFM}}$ . Thus, the negative and positive  $\Delta E$  correspond to FM and AFM coupling, respectively [49]. As shown in Fig. 1(c), it was found that  $E_{\text{FM}}$  was larger than  $E_{\text{AFM}}$ . This indicates all these MPCs were AFM coupled to the Co substrate independent of the metallic ion. The exchange energy varies from 21 to 138 meV for different MPCs. The large change of exchange energy means the central atoms of

MPCs provide an effective way to tune the magnetic interaction between MPCs and the Co substrate.

The spin-charge densities for MnPc and MnPc adsorbed on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  are shown here to discuss the interaction between MnPc and surface oxidized Co, and a similar investigation of CrPc, FePc, and CoPc in detail can be found in the Supplemental Material (Figs. S2–S4) [48]. The isosurface spin-charge densities of AFM and FM coupled MnPc and Co are shown in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b), respectively. It was found that the surface O atoms were magnetized due to interaction with the Co substrate. The spin charge in MnPc was almost located in the Mn ion and  $\text{N}_1$  atoms. The magnetic moments of the Mn ion and  $\text{N}_1$  were AFM coupled regardless of the magnetic exchange between MnPc and the Co substrate. The spin-charge density of MnPc in the  $xy$  plane crossing the central Mn ion for the isolated MnPc molecule, AFM coupled MnPc and Co, and FM coupled MnPc and Co are shown in Figs. 2(c), 2(d), and 2(e), respectively. It is noted that the magnetic moments between the Mn ion and  $\text{N}_1$  were AFM coupled for all three MnPc cases, which means the magnetism in  $\text{N}_1$  atoms was dominated by spin in the Mn ion. However, the magnetism in  $\text{N}_2$  was independent of that in the Mn ion, which changes with altering of the magnetic states of MnPc. Due to the interaction with the substrate, it was found that the Pc ring was also magnetized by the presence of spin charge on C and H atoms. The spin charge in the Pc ring was the same for AFM and FM coupled MnPc and the Co substrate, as illustrated in Figs. 2(d) and 2(e), respectively. This denotes that the magnetism in the Pc ring was dominated by the substrate rather than by the central metal atom.

The adsorption of MPCs on the surface of  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  would lead to the charge transfer between MPCs and the  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  substrate, which may change the valence of the central metal ion and influence the magnetic coupling between MPCs and the Co substrate. To illustrate the charge transfer, the charge density difference  $\Delta\rho$  of MPCs on surface oxidized Co was plotted in Figs. 3(a) and 3(b), which was calculated by  $\Delta\rho = \rho_{\text{MPC}/\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)} - \rho_{\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)} - \rho_{\text{MPC}}$ , where  $\rho_{\text{MPC}/\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)}$ ,  $\rho_{\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)}$ , and  $\rho_{\text{MPC}}$  are the charge densities of the MPC on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ ,  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  substrate, and an isolated MPC molecule, respectively. The plane-averaged charge density difference along the  $z$  direction is shown in the left of Fig. 3(a). It was found that the charge in MPCs was depleted and accumulated at the interface, respectively. The magnitude of charge redistribution at the interface was dependent on the metallic ions of MPCs. The MnPc shows the strongest charge transfer, and CoPc shows the weakest charge transfer. The magnitudes of charge transfer for CrPc and FePc were almost the same. The isosurface charge density difference of MnPc on the surface oxidized Co is shown in the right of Fig. 3(a). The charge transfer existed on the whole MnPc. The molecular configuration of the MnPc molecule bent due to the strong interaction with the surface oxidized Co. The charge density difference in the  $xz$  plane crossing the central metal atoms of different MPCs is illustrated in Fig. 3(b). It was found that most of the charge transfer is from the central metal atoms of MPCs. All MPCs show a charge accumulation in the middle of the central metal ion and the O atom, indicating the formation of chemical bonds

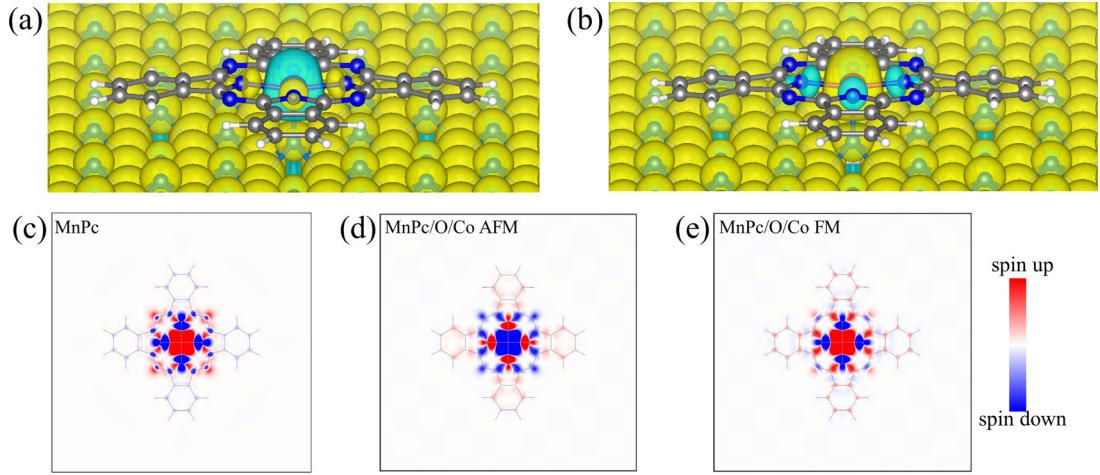


FIG. 2. Spin-charge density for MnPc and MnPc on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . (a) Isosurface spin-charge density for AFM coupled MnPc and Co; (b) FM coupled MnPc and Co. Yellow and blue denote spin-up and spin-down charges, respectively. The isosurface level was  $0.02 e/\text{\AA}^3$ . (c) Spin-charge density of MnPc in the  $xy$  plane crossing the Mn atom for the MnPc molecule; (d) AFM coupled MnPc and Co; (e) FM coupled MnPc and Co. Red and blue denote spin-up and spin-down charges, respectively.

[3]. Based on the method of Bader's charge analysis [50–52], the central Cr, Mn, Fe, and Co atoms in *MPc*s transfer 0.30, 0.13, 0.30, and 0.04 electrons, respectively, to the oxygen atoms after adsorption on surface oxidized Co. Moreover, the shapes of charge depletion and accumulation strongly

depend on the central metal ions, implying their electrons' occupation of *d* orbitals may change after adsorption of *MPc*s on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . The charge transfer between *MPc*s and surface oxidized Co would induce the formation of a dipole moment at the interface [2,53,54]. The dipole moment ( $\delta\mu$ ) could be calculated by the following formula [53]:

$$\delta\mu(z) = \int_{z_c}^{z_c+z} z' \int_0^b \int_0^a \Delta\rho(x, y, z') dx dy dz', \quad (1)$$

where  $z_c$  is the center of the vacuum region, and  $a$  and  $b$  are the unit cell lattice parameters along the  $x$  and  $y$  axes, respectively. The positive and negative values indicate dipoles oriented along  $-z$  and  $z$ , respectively. The dipole moment at the interface would change the surface work function, which influences the electron transport [53–55]. According to the Helmholtz equation, the change of the work function  $\delta\Phi$  could be estimated by the following formula [in atomic units (a.u.)] [53,56]:

$$\delta\Phi = 4\pi \frac{C}{A_0} \delta\mu, \quad (2)$$

where  $C$  is the fractional coverage and  $A_0$  the area of the surface unit cell (in units of bohr<sup>2</sup>). The left of Fig. 3(a) shows a charge transfer from the *MPc*s to the interface, resulting in the negative dipole moments. Thus, the adsorptions of *MPc*s reduced the work function of the surface oxidized Co. The plane-averaged electrostatic potential along the direction perpendicular to the interface is illustrated in Fig. 3(c), from which the work functions of the Co surface ( $\Phi_{\text{Co}}$ ) and the surface covered by MnPc ( $\Phi_{\text{MnPc}}$ ) could be obtained. The summary of the work function for the surface covered by *MPc*s is shown in Fig. 3(d). The adsorption of MnPc and CoPc on the surfaces shows the lowest and highest work functions, respectively, while the work functions for the adsorption of CrPc and FePc are very close. From Eqs. (1) and (2), the more interface charge transfers, the bigger decrease of the work function [53], agreeing with the results in the left of Fig. 3(a). In addition, the adsorption energy  $E_{\text{ads}}$  of the *MPc*s was calculated by  $E_{\text{ads}} = E_{\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)} + E_{\text{MPc}} - E_{\text{MPc}/\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)}$ ,

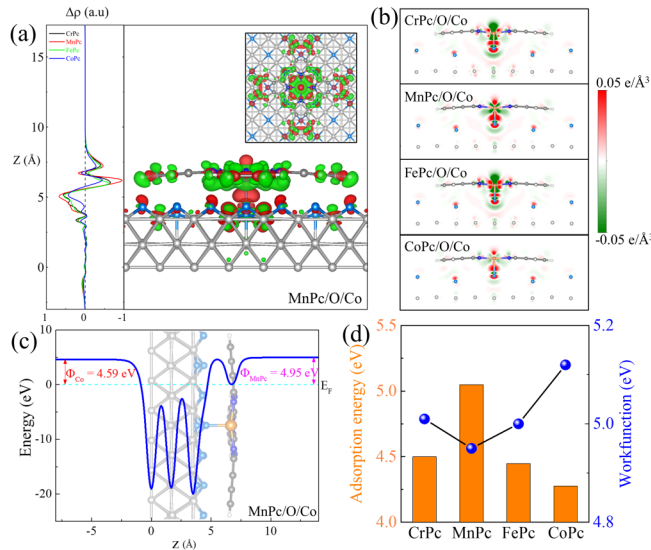


FIG. 3. (a) Left: Plane-averaged charge density difference along the direction perpendicular to the interface (the  $z$  direction). Right: Isosurface charge density difference of MnPc on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . Insert shows the top view of the charge density difference for MnPc on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . The isosurface level was  $0.02 e/\text{\AA}^3$ . Green and red regions show charge depletion and accumulation, respectively. (b) Charge density difference of *MPc*s on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  in the  $xz$  plane crossing the central metal atoms. (c) Plane-averaged electrostatic potential along the  $z$  direction for MnPc/ $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . Here,  $\Phi_{\text{Co}}$  and  $\Phi_{\text{MnPc}}$  are the work functions of the Co surface and the surface with the MnPc molecule, respectively. The background shows the corresponding structure. (d) Adsorption energy and work function of *MPc*s on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ .

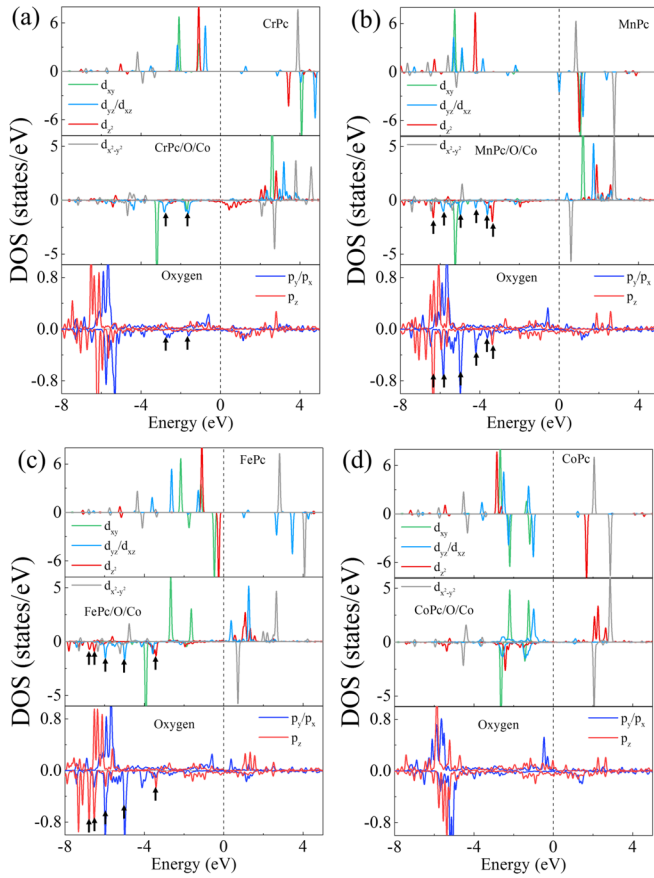


FIG. 4. Projected density of states (PDOS) of the central metal ion and O atoms. (a) Up: PDOS for central Cr  $3d$  orbitals of an isolated CrPc molecule; middle: PDOS for central Cr  $3d$  orbitals of CrPc on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ ; down: PDOS for the  $2p$  orbitals of the O atom, which is just below the Cr atom of CrPc on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . (b) MnPc. (c) FePc. (d) CoPc. The PDOS in the middle and bottom are from the AFM coupled MPcs and the Co substrate. The consistent PDOS peaks for the central metal ion and the O atom are denoted by black arrows.

where  $E_{\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)}$ ,  $E_{\text{MPc}}$ , and  $E_{\text{MPc}/\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)}$  are the energies of the  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  substrate, an isolated MPc molecule, and MPc on the  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  system, respectively. The calculated results are shown in Fig. 3(d). It is also shown that the adsorption energy of MPcs is strongly related to the central metal ion. A negative correlation of adsorption energy and work function was observed, which reflects the fact that both rely on the interface charge transfer.

### B. Mechanism of AFM coupling

The projected densities of states (PDOSs) for central metal  $3d$  orbitals of MPcs, MPcs on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ , and oxygen under  $M$  ions are shown in Fig. 4. As shown in Fig. 4(a), the sharp peaks of  $d_{z^2}$  and  $d_{yz}/d_{xz}$  orbitals of the Cr ion in an isolated CrPc molecule were broadened after CrPc adsorbed on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . This results from the strong interaction of CrPc with the surface oxidized Co, and those orbitals extend in the  $z$  direction. The crystal field of the Cr ion was changed from square planar to square pyramidal after adsorption, which changes the relative energy and electron

occupation of  $d$  orbitals [57]. The charge in the  $d_{z^2}$  orbit of the Cr ion in isolated CrPc was lost after CrPc adsorbed on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ , which was consistent with the observed charge transfer in Fig. 2(b). The PDOS of the oxygen atom (the one just below the Cr ion) is drawn at the bottom of Fig. 4(a). The PDOS peaks for  $p_y/p_x$  orbitals from the O atom are the same positions as that of  $d_{yz}/d_{xz}$  orbitals from the Cr ion, meaning a  $\pi$  bond formed between the O atom and the Cr ion, as denoted by black arrows in Fig. 4(a). Based on the superexchange mechanism, the charges in the O atom would virtually transfer to the Cr ion via the  $\pi$  bond, resulting in the energy difference for AFM and FM coupled CrPc and the Co substrate [31,41,58]. As shown in Figs. 4(b) and 4(c), the charge loss of the Mn and Fe ions was mainly from  $d_{yz}/d_{xz}$  and  $d_{z^2}$  orbitals, respectively. Both  $\pi$  and  $\sigma$  bonds formed between MnPc (FePc) and O atoms. Owing to the loss of charge, the valence state of Cr, Mn, and Fe changed from (II) in isolated MPc molecules to (III) in MPcs adsorbed on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . In contrast, as shown in Fig. 4(d), the occupation of the  $d$  orbits for the Co ion in CoPc was unchanged after adsorption on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . Thus, the valence states for the Co ion in both isolated CoPc and adsorbed CoPc were (II), agreeing with the observation in Fig. 3(b). Therefore, the different PDOSs of MPcs present the different bonds that are formed between the metal ion and O atoms, which were related to the superexchange interaction through the O atom.

Figure 5 illuminates the superexchange mechanism between MnPc (CoPc) and the Co substrate via the 3O atom. The  $3d$  orbitals of the Mn ion and their electron occupations in MnPc on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  is shown in the left part of Fig. 5(a) based on the results in Fig. 4. The formation of  $\pi[(d_{yz}/d_{xz}) - (p_y/p_x)]$  and  $\sigma(d_{z^2} - p_z)$  bonds between the Mn ion and the O atom was also illustrated. The electrons in the O atom would virtually transfer to  $3d$  orbitals of the Mn ion and the Co substrate. The spin-up  $d_{yz}/d_{xz}$  and  $d_{z^2}$  orbitals of the Mn ion were occupied. So only the spin-down electrons in the O atom could transfer to  $3d$  orbitals of the Mn ion according to the Pauli exclusion principle, as illustrated by the tilted blue arrows in Fig. 5(a) [31,59]. The density of states (DOS) of fcc Co is shown in Fig. 5, whose spin-up states were fully occupied and spin-down states dominate the Fermi surface. To allow the spin-up electrons in the O atom to transfer to the Co substrate as illustrated by the tilted brown arrows, the magnetization of Co should be antiparallel to that of the Mn ion [59]. As a result, both  $\sigma$  and  $\pi$  bonds result in the Mn ion in MnPc AFM coupled to the Co substrate. In Fig. 5(b), it is found that the  $\pi$  bonds do not contribute to the exchange between the Co ion and the oxidized surface Co substrate because both the spin-up and spin-down states of  $d_{yz}$  and  $d_{xz}$  orbitals for the central Co ion in CoPc are occupied. The  $\sigma$  bond induces the CoPc AFM coupled to the Co substrate. Compared with other MPcs, the interaction between the Co ion and the O atom was relatively weak, as shown in Fig. 3(b). Thus, the transfer integral between the Co ion and the O atom was weaker, inducing the relatively small magnetic coupling energy between CoPc and the Co substrate [31,58,59]. This agrees with the result in Fig. 1(c). The superexchange mechanism for adsorbed CrPc and FePc can be found in Fig. S5 in the Supplemental Material [48].

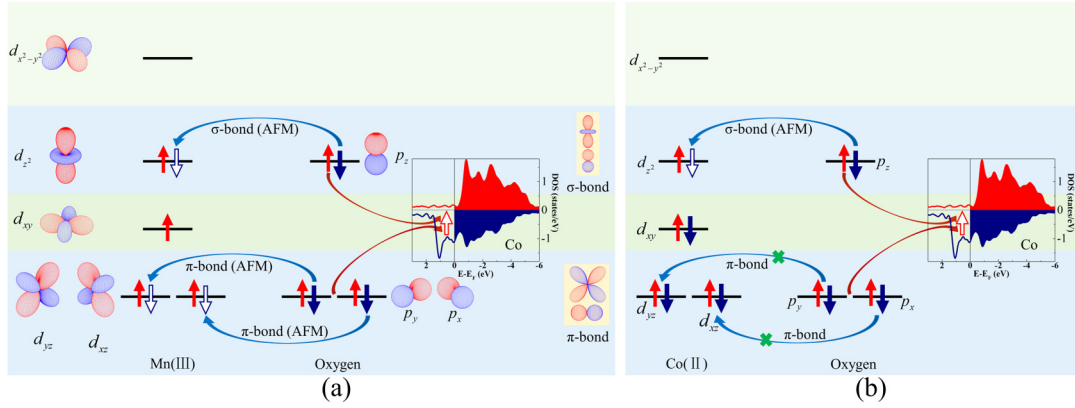


FIG. 5. The superexchange mechanism model via O atoms for MnPc and CoPc. (a) The superexchange mechanism model via O atoms for MnPc. The  $d_z$  orbital of the Mn ion and  $p_z$  orbital of the O atom could form the  $\sigma$  bond. The  $d_{yz}/d_{zx}$  orbitals and  $p_y/p_x$  orbitals would form the  $\pi$  bond. The spin-down electron virtual transfer from O atoms to the  $3d$  orbitals of the Mn ion through the  $\sigma$  and  $\pi$  bonds is indicated by the tilted blue arrows. The spin-up electron virtual transfer from O atoms to the Co substrate is indicated by the tilted brown arrows. (b) The superexchange mechanism model via O atoms for CoPc.

The  $\pi$  bonds between the Cr ion and O induce the AFM couple between the Cr ion and the Co substrate. In contrast, the contribution of  $\sigma$  bonds was FM coupled. Thus, the total exchange energy between CrPc and the Co substrate was lower than that of MnPc. The results for FePc are like those of MnPc, and the exchange energy is higher than that of CrPc.

### C. High SP for spintronic applications

The SP was one of the core factors to determine the material properties and device performance in spintronics [60–64]. The DOS of *MP*cs on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  was plotted in Fig. 6. It was found that the DOS of all adsorbed *MP*cs showed magnetic metallic behavior owing to the hybridization with the surface oxidized Co. The SP was calculated by  $\text{SP} = (D_{\text{up}} - D_{\text{down}})/(D_{\text{up}} + D_{\text{down}}) \times 100\%$ , where  $D_{\text{up}}$  and  $D_{\text{down}}$  are the spin-up and spin-down DOS at the Fermi level, respectively. The summary of SP for surface oxidized Co and *MP*cs adsorbed on the surface oxidized Co is shown

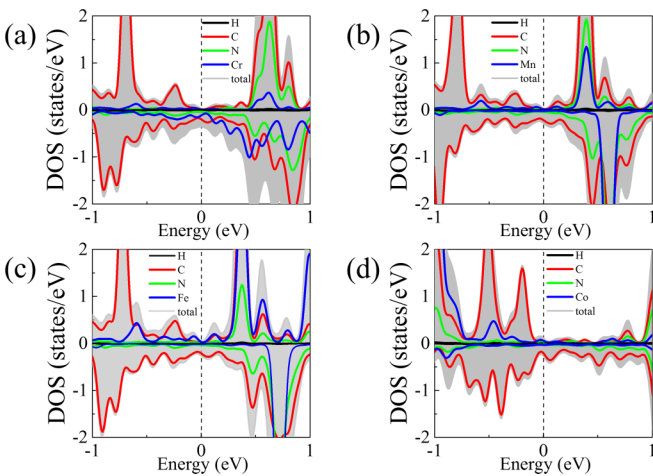


FIG. 6. Density of states (DOS) of *MP*cs after adsorbed on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$ . (a) DOS of CrPc. (b) DOS of MnPc. (c) DOS of FePc. (d) DOS of CoPc. The energy of Fermi energy was set to zero.

in Table I. It is noted that the surface oxidized Co showed a positive SP about 45%, which was from the DOS of the O atoms on  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  in Fig. S6 in the Supplemental Material [48]. Interestingly, the SPs of all adsorbed *MP*cs were negative, agreeing with that of Co [26,64]. This indicates the adsorption of *MP*cs reversed the SP of the surface oxidized Co. Most importantly, the SPs were up to  $-86\%$  and  $-80\%$  for CrPc and MnPc, respectively. Meanwhile, it was also found that the adsorbed FePc and CoPc showed the SPs are  $-72\%$  and  $-46\%$ , respectively, which means the central atoms of *MP*cs adjusted the SP by interface hybridization. Moreover, the high SPs of adsorbed *MP*cs could maintain room temperature and benefit the application of *MP*cs in spintronic devices because the magnetic coupling energy [see Fig. 1(c)] between Cr/Mn/Fe Pcs and the Co substrate was much higher than the thermal disturbance ( $k_B T \sim 25$  meV) at room temperature. In addition, the surface of  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  was achieved in experiments [34,46,47]. Particularly, it was demonstrated that the FePc is AFM coupled to the Co substrate via the O atomic layer [34], agreeing with the present results. The electric and magnetic properties of the spinterface for other *MP*cs could also be explored using some advanced setups, such as scanning tunnel spectroscopy [4], x-ray absorption spectroscopy [7,9,34], and x-ray magnetic circular dichroism [10,11,25,34].

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

This paper demonstrates that *MP*cs ( $M = \text{Cr}, \text{Mn}, \text{Fe}, \text{Co}$ ) are AFM coupled to the Co substrate through the interfacial O atomic layer, and the exchange strength strongly relies on

TABLE I. The spin polarizations (SPs) of the  $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$  surface and adsorbed *MP*cs.

	O atoms on $c(2 \times 2)\text{O}/\text{Co}(001)$	CrPc	MnPc	FePc	CoPc
SP (%)	45	$-86$	$-80$	$-72$	$-46$

the central atoms of *MP*Cs. Both work function and adsorption energy were dominated by the magnitude of charge transfer between *MP*Cs and surface oxidized Co. Additionally, the valence and electron occupations of central *3d* metal were changed by the adsorption, which was related to the exchange between *MP*Cs and the Co substrate. A superexchange model via O atoms was used to discuss the exchange between *MP*Cs and the Co substrate. The relatively high exchange energies of FePc and MnPc were due to the contribution of both  $\pi$  and  $\sigma$  bonds. As for CrPc, the offset of  $\pi$  and  $\sigma$  bonds reduced the exchange strength. The weak interaction between CoPc and the surface oxidized Co led to the weak exchange for CoPc through the  $\sigma$  bond. The SP of the spinterface was strongly related to the central metal of *MP*Cs. A high SP up to  $-86\%$  was obtained in absorbed CrPc and could maintain

room temperature due to the strong magnetic coupling, which could facilitate the application of *MP*Cs in spintronic devices. This means that the *MP*Cs could provide an effective way to adjust both electric and magnetic properties of the spinterface, which could be useful for applications of magnetic molecules in spintronics.

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There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

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