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PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 8

15 APRIL 1973

New Multiplet Structure in Photemission from MnF_2 [†]

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(Received 7 December 1972)

A high-resolution x-ray-photoelectron-spectroscopy investigation of the multiplet structure of manganese 2s and 3s levels in MnF_2 is reported. The Mn 3s results quantitatively confirm three predictions of a recent configuration-interaction calculation concerning the magnitude of the splitting, the deviation of the observed intensity ratio from the multiplicity ratio, and new structure. The first observation of multiplet splitting of the Mn 2s level is also reported and compared with calculations.

Early (XPS) studies^{1,2} of multiplet splitting in transition-metal ions established the effect but left some basic questions unanswered. In particular, for the 3s doublet in the XPS spectra of Mn^{2+} and Fe^{3+} compounds, neither the intensity ratio (2:1 rather than the multiplet ratio 7:5) nor the magnitude of the splitting was completely understood. This situation was unsatisfactory: multiplet splitting of hole states should be understood both as a problem in atomic physics and because of its application as a diagnostic tool to solid-state and chemical problems. In fact, recent studies in which multiplet splitting has been correlated with the initial-state spin^{3,4} *S* or used to derive information about covalency^{5,6} have emphasized the urgency of acquiring a truly quantitative understanding of the essential phenomenon.

Sasaki and Bagus⁷ have recently carried out a configuration-interaction calculation on Mn^{2+} that appears to explain the 2s and 3s hole-state multiplet structure observed earlier. Their results provide definite predictions about additional features of these states. In this Note we report detailed, quantitative confirmation of those predictions in the XPS spectrum of MnF_2 .

Manganous fluoride was chosen for its simplicity, its nearly complete ionicity, its large number of unpaired *d* electrons, and its extreme thermodynamic stability. Spectra were obtained from single-crystal specimens in a Hewlett-Packard 5950A ESCA spectrometer. The crystals were cleaved in an inert atmosphere and introduced directly into the spectrometer vacuum at 8×10^{-9} Torr. The 1s lines of carbon and oxygen (the two most common surface contaminants) were monitored *in situ* before and after the Mn 2s and 3s spectra were recorded. Very little carbon and no oxygen were

detected. The peak intensity ratios relative to the Mn 3p (⁷P) peak were

$$\text{Mn } 3p \text{ (}^7P\text{):O } 1s > 20 : 1,$$

$$\text{Mn } 3p \text{ (}^7P\text{):C } 1s = 9.3 : 1.$$

The simplest description of the 2s and 3s XPS spectra from Mn^{2+} ($1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^5; {}^6S$) is obtained by coupling each *s* hole state to the valence shell. Two final states may be reached by one-electron photoemission from either the 2s or the 3s shell. These final states have ⁷S and ⁵S symmetry in each case. In the ⁷S states the remaining 2s or 3s electron is coupled parallel to the *d*-shell spin $S = \frac{5}{2}$, while in the ⁵S states the two spins are antiparallel. For either the 2s or the 3s case the photoemission spectral line intensities should be the multiplet ratio ⁷S : ⁵S = 7 : 5 in this approximation, while the two components should be split by $(\frac{6}{5})G^2(sd)$, according to Van Vleck's theorem.⁸ Here $G^2(sd)$ is the appropriate *sd* Slater-exchange integral. At this level of interpretation it would seemingly be straightforward to use the observed splitting diagnostically to deduce covalent character.

More careful consideration leads to several modifications of the above model. These have been covered in detail recently by Freeman, Bagus, and Mallow,⁹ who have made calculations on MnF_6 clusters, and our discussion below leans heavily on their paper. First it should be pointed out that estimates of the ⁵S-⁷S splitting based on ground-state unrestricted Hartree-Fock (UHF) calculations may give fortuitously good agreement with experiment because two effects of opposite sign have been omitted. A more realistic hole-state calculation increases the splitting, both because

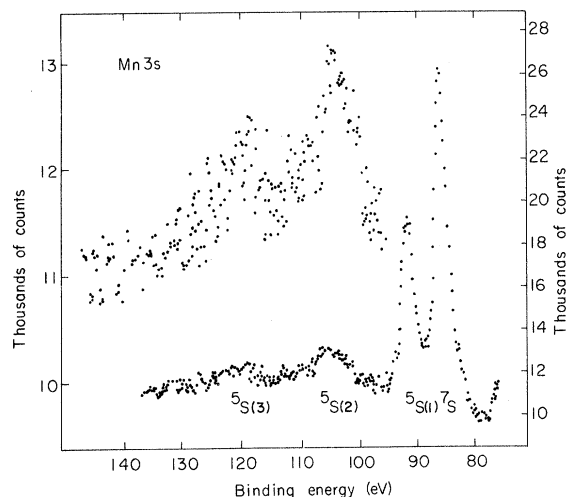


FIG. 1. Manganese 3s spectrum with the energy scale referenced to the Au $4f_{7/2}$ (84.00 ± 0.01 eV) peak. The right ordinate refers to the complete spectrum and the left ordinate refers to the expanded portion of the spectrum.

final-state passive electron), it follows that the intensity lost from the main 5S line, viz., $1 - |C_{11}|^2$, must appear at eigenenergies E_i of the states $|\psi_i\rangle$. In this way Sasaki and Bagus predicted peaks at ~ 25 and ~ 43 eV relative to the 7S peak position, with the first, more intense peak arising from two neighboring eigenstates. Our spectra (Fig. 1) confirm this prediction very nicely. We identify these satellites with the observed peaks at 20.7 and 37.8 eV below the 7S peak. Furthermore, the ratio of the intensity of the septet peak to the sum of the intensities of the quintet peaks, 1.3 ± 0.2 , compares well with the value 1.4 expected from multiplicity considerations. A detailed comparison is made in Table I. An earlier, tentative assignment of the peak at ~ 20 eV to inelastic losses¹ is not supported by the present more detailed study of line structure and satellites on MnF_2 single crystals.

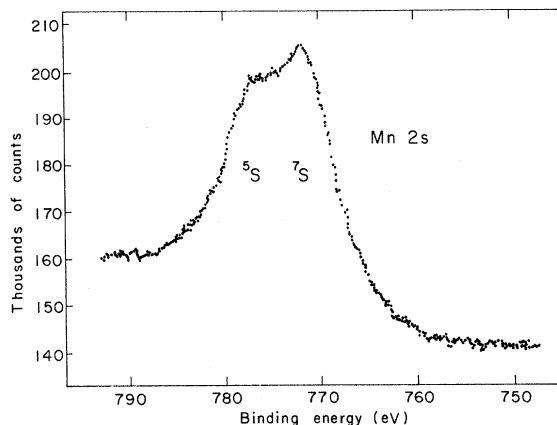


FIG. 2. Manganese 2s spectrum with the energy scale referenced to the Au $4f_{7/2}$ (84.00 ± 0.01 eV) peak.

The 2s line (Fig. 2) shows doublet structure, as expected. Both the splitting and the relative intensity are in very good agreement with the predictions of multiplet hole theory (Table I): thus the 2s-hole-state 7S - 5S splitting is not strongly reduced by correlation and the 7S : 5S ratio is very nearly the multiplicity ratio.

The hole structure for $\text{Mn}^{3+}(2s^* \text{ or } 3s^*)$ final states is now quantitatively understood; theory and experiment show good agreement in splitting, relative intensity, and satellite structure. The complexity of the 3s spectrum precludes the quantitative validity of simplistic correlations of 3s splitting with total spin or covalent character (at least without further analysis), although qualitative trends of this nature have already been observed. On the other hand, the existence of observable 3s satellite structure should prove useful in studying interactions with ligands if this structure is sensitive to ligand properties.

One of us (L.L.) would like to thank the Max-Kade Foundation for a grant. We greatly appreciate gifts of MnF_2 single crystals from Robert Feigelson and from Herbert Rinneberg.

¹Work performed under the auspices of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

*In partial fulfillment of Ph.D degree.

²On leave from University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany.

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