# Density Functional Analysis of the Spin Exchange Interactions and Charge Order Patterns in the Layered Magnetic Oxides  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  $(M = Mn, Fe, Co)$

Yuemei Zhang and Myung-Hwan Whangbo\*

Department of Chemistry, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695-8204, United States

S Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The spin and charge order phenomena of the layered magnetic oxides  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) were analyzed on the basis of density functional calculations. We evaluated the spin exchange interactions of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  by performing energy-mapping analysis based on density functional calculations to find why they undergo a three-dimensional magnetic ordering at high temperature. We estimated the relative stabilities of the checkerboard and stripe charge order patterns of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  $(M = Mn, Fe, Co)$  by optimizing their structures with density functional calculations to probe if the nature of the charge order pattern depends on whether their transition-metal ions are Jahn-Teller active.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

Transition-metal oxides based on perovskite-type structures exhibit rich physical properties associated with the charge, spin, and/or orbital order of their transition-metal cations. The layered magnetic oxides  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) are quite special because they exhibit all three types of ordering phenomena. In the  $M_2O_5$  slabs of YBa $M_2O_5$ , the  $MO_5$  square pyramids form the  $M_2O_9$  dumbbell units by sharing their apical O atoms  $(O_{an})$ , and these dumbbell units share their basal O atoms  $(O_{bs})$  to form the  $M_2O_5$  slabs parallel to the *ab*-plane. These slabs, containing a  $Ba^{2+}$  ion in every  $M_4$  cube, alternate with layers of  $Y^{3+}$  ions along the *c*-direction (Figure 1). The transition-metal ions exist as  $M^{2.5+}$ cations when their sites are equivalent in structure. This monovalence state of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  is stable at high temperatures, but lowering the temperature induces a charge order (i.e., charge disproportionation), 2  $M^{2.5+} \rightarrow M^{2+} + M^{3+}$ , leading to a mixedvalence state. Two different types of charge order occur in the  $M_2O_5$  slabs of YBa $M_2O_5$ ; YBa $Mn_2O_5$  exhibits a checkerboard charge order (CCO) of the  $M^{2+}$  and  $M^{3+}$  ions (Figure 2a),  $1-3$ whereas both YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>4</sup> and YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>5</sup> show a stripe charge order (SCO) of the  $M^{2+}$  and  $M^{3+}$  ions with the stripes running along the b-direction (Figure 2b).  $YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  is similar to  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Fe, Co) in spin order in that their magnetic ground states adopt a G-type antiferromagnetic (AFM) coupling between nearest-neighbor spins along the a-, b-, and  $c$ -directions.<sup>2-5</sup> Nevertheless, the SCO plus the G-type AFM spin order leads to zero overall moment (i.e., AFM state) for  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Fe, Co), but the CCO plus the G-type AFM spin order to a nonzero overall moment (i.e., ferrimagnetic state) for YBa $\rm Mn_2O_5.^{1,3}$  Furthermore, YBa $\rm Mn_2O_5$  is different from

 $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Fe, Co) in that the spin orientation is along the c-axis in YBa $Mn_2O_{5/2}^{(2,3)}$  but perpendicular to the c-axis in  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Fe, Co).<sup>4,5</sup>

**ICALLY PERIOD III** American Chemical Society Real Society 10643 dx. The College Society 10643 of the Chemical Society 10643 dx. Chemical Society 10643 dx. Chemical Society 10643 dx. Chemical Society 10643 dx. Chemical So Because of their interesting physical properties, the layered oxides YBa $M_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) have been examined in a number of theoretical studies based on density functional theory (DFT) calculations. $6-13$  Vidya et al.<sup>8</sup> found the ferrimagnetic state to be the ground state for  $YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ , and showed the occurrence of the orbital order associated with the CCO in terms of charge-density plots. Xiang et al.<sup>10</sup> showed that the nature of the magnetic ground state of  $YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  depends on the  $\angle$ Mn-O-Mn angle of the Mn-O-Mn bridges in the ab plane. Hap et al.<sup>11</sup> examined YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to show that the orbital order corresponds to the local distortions of the  $FeO<sub>5</sub>$  square pyramids. Vidya et al.<sup>12</sup> confirmed the ferrimagnetic ground state for YBa $Mn_2O_5$  and the G-type AFM ground states for YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and  $YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ , and analyzed the Born effective charges to assess the charge orders of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co). Using a model Hamiltonian and the assumption of the crystal field split pattern,  $(xz, yz) < xy < z<sup>2</sup> < x<sup>2</sup>-y<sup>2</sup>$ , for a MO<sub>5</sub> square pyramid with  $C_{4v}$ symmetry, Wang et al. $^{14}$  investigated the relative stabilities of the CCO and SCO in YBa $Mn_2O_5$  and YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to suggest that the CCO is favored when there is no Jahn $-T$ eller (JT) active ion, but the SCO is favored if there exist JT-active ions.

There are two aspects of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) that remain puzzling. One is that their three-dimensional (3D) magnetic ordering temperatures are high; the 3D AFM ordering

```
Published: September 26, 2011
Received: May 8, 2011
```


Figure 1. Perspective view of the crystal structure of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co), where the red, white, green, and yellow circles represent the M, O, Ba, and Y atoms, respectively.



Figure 2. (a) Three ordered spin arrangements (namely, the FM, A-type AFM, and G-type AFM arrangements) of  $YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  with the CCO pattern employed to determine the U value appropriate for the DFT+U calculations. The  $Mn^{3+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$  sites are identified by the gray and white circles, respectively, in the first diagram. The up-spin and down-spin Mn sites are indicated by cyan and white circles, respectively. The G-type AFM arrangement leads to the ferrimagnetic state. (b) The SCO pattern of YBa $M_2O_5$  (M = Fe, Co). The  $M^{3+}$  and  $M^{2+}$  sites are identified by the gray and white circles, respectively.

of YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> occurs at high temperatures (at  $T_N$  = 430 K<sup>4</sup> and 330 K<sub>2</sub><sup>5</sup> respectively), and so is the ferromagnetic ordering of YBa $Mn_2O_5$  (167 K).<sup>2</sup> This implies that the  $M-O\cdots$ O $-M$  ( $M = Mn$ , Fe, Co) spin exchange interactions between adjacent  $M_2O_5$  slabs along the c-axis is substantially strong. So far, there has been no systematic study on the spin exchange interactions of all three oxides  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co). In the neutron scattering study of YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> by Chang et al.,<sup>15</sup> the strength of the interslab  $Fe-O \cdots O-Fe$  spin exchange was estimated to be only 1% of the Fe $-O$ -Fe spin exchange within each Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub> dumbbell.<sup>15</sup> Spiel et al.<sup>13</sup> extracted a few spin exchange parameters of  $YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  from their DFT calculations to compare with the experimental values of Chang et al.,<sup>15</sup> and reported only the average of the  $Fe-O \cdots O-Fe$  and the Fe $-O$ –Fe spin exchanges along the c-direction. Thus, it is timely and important to provide a comprehensive study of the spin exchange interactions for all  $YBaM_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) on the basis of DFT calculations. The other puzzling aspect is if the nature of the charge order pattern of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  is determined by whether their  $M^{2+}$  and/or  $M^{3+}$  ions are JT-active or not. The crystal field split pattern,  $(xz, yz) < xy < z^2 < x^2 - y^2$ , employed by Wang et al.<sup>14</sup> for a MO<sub>5</sub> square pyramid with  $C_{4\nu}$  symmetry is appropriate only if the  $\angle$ O<sub>ap</sub> $-M-O_{bs}$  angles of the MO<sub>5</sub> square pyramids are close to 90°.<sup>16</sup> In YBa $M_2O_5$  ( $M = Mn$ , Fe, Co) . these angles are substantially greater than  $90^{\circ}$ ,<sup>17</sup> which lowers the ,





 $\emph{a}$  In meV per FU.  $\emph{b}$  Defined in Figure 3.  $\emph{c}$  Determined from the DFT+U calculations with  $U = 0$ , 1, and 2 eV.



Figure 3. Spin exchange paths of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ : (a)  $M = Mn$  and (b)  $M =$ Fe, Co. The  $M^{3+}$  and  $\tilde{M}^{2+}$  ions are represented by large gray and large white circles, respectively. The numbers 1, 2, 3, etc. represent the spin exchanges  $J_1$ ,  $J_2$ ,  $J_3$ , etc., respectively.

*xy* level below the  $(xz, yz)$  level, leading to the split pattern  $xy<$  $(xz, yz) < z<sup>2</sup> < x<sup>2</sup> - y<sup>2,16</sup>$  As a consequence, the high-spin Mn<sup>2+</sup> . and  $Mn^{3+}$  ions of YBa $Mn_2O_5$  are not JT-active, nor are the highspin Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions of YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Nevertheless, the CCO is found in YBa $Mn_2O_5$ , but the SCO in YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Thus, it is questionable if the model Hamiltonian study of Wang et al.<sup>14</sup> is valid. It is important to quantitatively estimate the relative stabilities of the CCO and SCO in each of  $YBaM_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) on the basis of DFT calculations.

In the present work the aforementioned two questions are investigated. We evaluate the spin exchange interactions of all three oxides  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) by performing energymapping analysis based on DFT calculations.<sup>18</sup> Then we estimate the relative stabilities of the CCO and SCO in  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) by optimizing their structures in their magnetic ground state on the basis of DFT calculations.

#### 2. DETAILS OF CALCULATIONS

Our spin-polarized density functional calculations employed the projector augmented wave method $19,20$  encoded in the Vienna ab initio  $\sin$  simulation package, $^{21}$  the generalized gradient approximation for the exchange and correlation corrections,<sup>22</sup> and the plane wave cutoff energy of 400 eV. The electron correlation associated with the M 3d states was taken care of by performing DFT plus on-site repulsion (DFT+U) calculations.<sup>23</sup> The DFT+U method is empirical in nature because one needs to determine the U value appropriate for a given magnetic system by performing a series of DFT+U calculations with several different U values.<sup>24-26</sup> For the YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M = Mn, Fe, Co) system, the most important magnetic property to reproduce by DFT+U calculations is that they all adopt the G-type AFM spin arrangement as the magnetic ground state. The U value typically used for the transition-metal elements Mn, Fe, Co, and Cu is in the vicinity of 4 eV. For  $YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ and  $YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ , the G-type AFM state is found to be the magnetic

# **Inorganic Chemistry ARTICLE**



Figure 4. Ordered spin arrangements of  $YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  employed for the extraction of the nine spin exchange parameters  $J_1-J_9$ . The up-spin and down-spin Mn sites are indicated by cyan and white circles, respectively. The  $Mn^{3+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$  sites are identified by the gray and white circles, respectively, in the first diagram.



Figure 5. Ordered spin arrangements of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Fe, Co) employed for the extraction of the nine spin exchange parameters  $J_1-J_{12}$ . The up-spin and down-spin M sites are indicated by cyan and white circles, respectively. The  $\overrightarrow{M}^{3+}$  and  $M^{2+}$  sites are identified by the gray and white circles, respectively, in the first diagram.

ground state by using  $U = 4$  eV. For YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, however, the ferrimagnetic state resulting from the G-type AFM spin coupling is not the magnetic ground state if the U value is greater than  $\sim$ 1 eV (see

Table 2. Relative Energies<sup>a</sup> of Various Ordered Spin States of  $YBaM_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co)<sup>b</sup>

M	AF1	AF2	AF3	AF4	AF5	AF <sub>6</sub>	AF7
Mn	$\Omega$	192.7	137.4	238.4	95.5	110.0	70.1
Fe	131.9	212.6	$\Omega$	325.8	183.7		315.8
Co	128.6	245.9	$\mathbf{0}$			241.7	119.5
M	AF <sub>8</sub>	AF9	AF10	AF11	AF12	AF13	AF14
Mn	138.8	147.1	9.4	137.1	139.1		
Fe	69.7	18.3	235.9	90.9	142.0		247.0
Co	123.7	240.9		108.3	204.1	225.6	245.9
M	AF15	AF16	AF17	AF18	AF19	AF20	AF21
Fe	184.8	249.2	249.1	225.0	214.2	257.0	164.4
Co	125.3	241.7		119.5	123.7	240.9	121.5
	$\alpha$ In meV per FU. $\rm{^b}$ Determined from the DFT+U calculations.						

Figure 2 and Table 1). A similar situation was found for the magnetic oxide  $Ca_3CoMnO<sub>6</sub>$ <sup>26</sup> which consists of trigonal arrangement of the  $CoMnO<sub>6</sub>$  chains made up of face-sharing  $CoO<sub>6</sub>$  trigonal prisms and  $MnO<sub>6</sub>$  octahedra; the magnetic ground state that has the  $MW$  spin arrangement of the  $Co^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{4+}$  ions is not reproduced by DFT+U calculations if the U value for Mn is greater than 1 eV. Thus, in the present DFT+U calculations, we employed  $U = 1$  eV for YBa $Mn_2O_5$  and  $U = 4$  eV for  $YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  and  $YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ .

### 3. EVALUATION OF SPIN EXCHANGE INTERACTIONS

To examine why  $YBaM_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) adopts the G-type AFM spin coupling, we evaluate the spin exchange parameters  $J_1-J_9$  for YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> defined in Figure 3a, and  $J_1-J_{12}$  for  $YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  and  $YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  defined in Figure 3b, by performing energy-mapping analysis based on DFT+U calculations. For this purpose, we first determine the relative energies of  $YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ for the ordered spin states listed in Figure 4, and those of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Fe, Co) for the ordered spin states listed in Figure 5. The relative energies of these states obtained from the DFT+U calculations are summarized in Table 2.

In extracting  $N$  spin exchange parameters, the minimum number of ordered spin states needed in the mapping analysis is  $N + 1$ , which leads one-to-one mapping between the relative energy differences and the spin exchange parameters. For cases dealing with magnetic systems containing mixed-valence magnetic ions, there can be several different sets of  $N + 1$  ordered spin states leading to slightly different values for the spin exchange parameters. In such cases, it is more reasonable to employ more ordered spin states than required for one-to-one mapping and carry out mapping analysis on the basis of least-squares fitting.<sup>27</sup>

The total spin exchange energies of the ordered spin states can be written in terms of the spin Hamiltonian,

$$
\hat{H} = -\sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \hat{S}_i \cdot \hat{S}_j \tag{1}
$$

in which  $J_{ii}$  (=  $J_1$ - $J_9$  for YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and  $J_1$ - $J_{12}$  for YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and YBa $Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ ) is the spin exchange parameter for the interaction between the spin sites i and j in  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ . In writing the expression for the total spin exchange energy of an ordered spin state, we employ the energy expressions for the ferromagmetic (FM) and AFM arrangements of a general spin dimer whose spin sites *i* and *j* possess  $N_i$  and  $N_j$  unpaired spins (hence, spins

# Table 3. Values of the Spin Exchange Parameters  $J_i^a$  of  $YBaM_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co)<sup>b</sup>





Figure 6. (a) Two  $MO<sub>5</sub>$  square pyramids associated with the  $M-O \cdots O-M$  spin exchange  $J_2$  of YBa $M_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co), where the  $M^{3+}$  and  $M^{2+}$  sites are identified by the gray and white circles, respectively. (b) Magnetic orbitals (xz and/or yz) of the two  $MO_5$ square pyramids enhancing the strength of the AFM spin exchange  $J_2$ .

 $S_i = N_i/2$  and  $S_j = N_j/2$ ), respectively.<sup>28,29</sup> Given  $J_{ij}$  as the spin exchange parameter for this spin dimer, the energies of the FM and AFM arrangements of this spin dimer ( $E_{\text{FM}}$  and  $E_{\text{AFM}}$ , respectively) are expressed as

$$
E_{\text{FM}} = +N_i N_j J_{ij}/4 = S_i S_j J_{ij}
$$
  

$$
E_{\text{AFM}} = +N_i N_j J_{ij}/4 = S_i S_j J_{ij}
$$
 (2)

(Note that  $S = 5/2$  and 2 for the high-spin  $Mn^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{3+}$  ions, respectively,  $S = 2$  and  $5/2$  for the high-spin  $Fe^{2+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}$  ions, respectively, and  $S = 3/2$  and 2 for the high-spin  $Co^{2+}$  and  $Co^{3+}$ ions, respectively, in  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ .) The total spin exchange energy  $E_{spin}$  per formula unit (FU) of an ordered spin arrangement, obtained by summing up all pairwise interactions, can be expressed as

$$
E_{\text{spin}} = \sum_{i} C_{i} J_{i} = C_{1} J_{1} + C_{2} J_{2} + C_{3} J_{3} + \dots \qquad (3)
$$

where  $C_i$  is the coefficient for the spin exchange parameter  $J_i$ . The  $C_i$ values for the various ordered spin states for  $YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  are summarized in Supporting Information, Table S1, those for  $YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  in Supporting Information, Table S2, and those for  $YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  in Supporting Information, Table S3. In mapping the relative energies of the ordered spin states determined from the DFT+U calculations onto the corresponding energies expected from the total spin exchange energies, we carry out least-squares fitting analyses. The resulting spin exchange parameters of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) are summarized in Table 3.

For YBa $Mn_2O_5$  the three strongest spin exchanges  $J_1, J_2$ , and  $J_3$ are AFM and lead to the ferrimagnetic spin arrangement, as

found experimentally.<sup>3</sup> For YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M = Fe, Co), the five strongest spin exchanges  $J_1$ ,  $J_2$ ,  $J_4$ ,  $J_5$ , and  $J_6$  are AFM and lead to the G-type AFM spin arrangement, in agreement with experiment.<sup>4,5</sup> We note that  $J_1$  and  $J_3$  of YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> as well as  $J_1$ ,  $J_4$ ,  $J_5$ , and  $J_6$  of YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M = Fe, Co) are M-O-M superexchanges with large  $\angle M-O-M$  angles. Thus, they are predicted to be strongly AFM,<sup>30</sup> as confirmed from the present calculations.

A few exchange parameters of  $YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  were deduced in the neutron scattering study of Chang et al.<sup>15</sup> (The notations of their spin exchange parameters correspond to ours as follows:  $J_1 = J_{23}^c$  $J_2 = J_{\text{direct}} J_4 = J_{22}^b, J_5 = J_{33}^b, \text{ and } J_6 = J_{23}^a$ . By using perturbation theory, Chang et al. estimated the  $J_2/J_1$  ratio to be approximately 0.01, so they neglected  $J_2$  in their analysis of the spin wave dispersion relations. However, our DFT+U calculations show that the  $J_2$  exchanges of YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> are quite strong, that is,  $J_2/J_1$  = 0.67, 0.61, and 0.16 for  $M = Mn$ , Fe, and Co, respectively. As found in numerous magnetic oxides,<sup>18,24,31</sup> these  $M-O \cdots$ <br>O-M exchanges between the dumbbells along the c-direction (Figure 6a) are strongly AFM because their  $O \cdots O$  contact distances are short [2.800 ( $\times$ 4) Å for YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 2.753 ( $\times$ 2) and 2.838 ( $\times$ 2) Å for YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and 2.796 ( $\times$ 2) and 2.829  $(\times 2)$  Å YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>]. Because of the short O  $\cdots$  O contacts and the fact the  $\angle$ O<sub>ap</sub> $-M-O_{bs}$  angles of the MO<sub>5</sub> square pyramids are greater than  $90^{\circ}$ ,<sup>17</sup> the magnetic orbitals (e.g., xz and/or yz) , of the  $MO_5$  square pyramids associated with  $J_2$  overlap substantially through their O 2p orbitals (Figure 6b) thereby making  $J_2$ strongly AFM. Consequently, the 3D AFM ordering temperatures of YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> are high (i.e.,  $T_N$  = 430 K<sup>4</sup> and 330 K $<sup>5</sup>$  respectively), and the ferrimagnetic ordering tempera-</sup> ture of YBa $Mn_2O_5$  is substantially high as well (i.e., 167 K).<sup>2</sup> Thus, neglecting  $J_2$  is not a good approximation.

By introducing another approximation,  $J_{23} = (2J_{23}^a + J_{23}^c)/3$ , Chang et al.<sup>15</sup> obtained  $J_{23}^b \approx -5.9$  meV,  $J_{22}^b \approx -3.4$  meV, and  $J_{23}$  $\approx -6.0$  meV for YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. These estimates are comparable to the corresponding numbers of our calculations (i.e.,  $-8.7, -8.8$ , and  $-6.8$  meV, respectively). In their DFT study of YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>13</sup> Spiel et al. reported that  $J_{23}^{b'} = -10.0 \text{ meV}, J_{22}^{b} = -4.3 \text{ meV}, J_{23}^{a} =$  $-4.2 \text{ meV, and } \langle f_{23}^c \rangle \equiv (f_{23}^c + J_{\text{direct}})/2 = -5.6 \text{ meV. The}$ corresponding  $J_{23}^a$  and  $\langle J_{23}^c \rangle$  values of our calculations are -4.2 and  $-9.8$  meV, respectively. Thus, the spin exchange parameters of Spiel et al. are comparable to ours.

#### 4. PREFERRED CHARGE ORDER PATTERN

We now examine the energetic difference in the charge order patterns of YBa $M_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) in their magnetic ground states by performing DFT+U calculations. For this purpose, it is necessary to determine the relative energies of the CCO and SCO patterns of each  $YBaM_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co). For  $YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ , we optimized the experimentally observed CCO structure. To obtain its hypothetical SCO structure, we started our optimization using the geometry of the experimentally observed SCO structure of YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Our calculations show that the CCO structure is lower in energy than the SCO structure by 144 meV per FU for YBa $Mn_2O_5$ . For YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and  $YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ , we optimized their experimentally observed SCO structures. To find their hypothetical CCO structures, we began our optimization using the CCO structure of  $YBaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ . The SCO structure is calculated to be more stable than the CCO structure by 133 meV per FU for  $YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ , and by 50 meV per FU for YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. All these results are consistent with the

experimental observations. The preference for the SCO over the CCO is considerably stronger for YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> than for YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (133 vs 50 meV per FU), although JT-active ions are absent in  $YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  but present in  $YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ . Therefore, the charge order patterns of YBa $M_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) are not determined by whether their transition-metal ions are JT-active or not.

### 5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In YBa $M_2O_5$  (M = Mn, Fe, Co) the interslab M $-O \cdot \cdot \cdot O - M$ spin exchanges along the c-axis are strongly AFM. This together with the strong AFM intraslab spin exchanges explains why the 3D AFM ordering in YBa $M_2O_5$  (M = Fe, Co) takes place at temperatures well above the room temperature (i.e.,  $T<sub>N</sub>$  = 430 K<sup>4</sup> and 330 K $<sub>5</sub>$ <sup>5</sup> respectively) and why the ferrimagnetic ordering</sub> temperature of YBa $Mn_2O_5$  is high (i.e., 167 K).<sup>2</sup> Our calculations show that the observed charge order patterns of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  $(M = Mn, Fe, Co)$  are not determined by whether or not their transition-metal ions are JT-active.

# **ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

**S** Supporting Information. Further details are given in Tables  $S1-S3$ . This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

# **NUTHOR INFORMATION**

#### Corresponding Author

\*E-mail: mike\_whangbo@ncsu.edu.

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The research was supported by the Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Division of Materials Sciences, U.S. Department of Energy, under Grant DE-FG02-86ER45259, and also by computing resources at the NERSC and the HPC Centers.

#### **REFERENCES**

- (1) Chapman, J. P.; Attfield, J. P.; Molgg, M.; Friend, C. M.; Beales, T. P. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1996, 35, 2482.
	- (2) McAllister, J. A.; Attfield, J. P. J. Mater. Chem. 1998, 8, 1291.
- (3) Millange, F.; Suard, E.; Caignaert, V.; Raveau, B. Mater. Res. Bull. 1999, 34, 1.
	- (4) Woodward, P. M.; Karen, P. Inorg. Chem. 2003, 42, 1121.
- (5) Vogt, T.; Woodward, P. M.; Karen, P.; Hunter, B. A.; Henning, P.; Moodenbaugh, A. R. Phys. Rev. Lett. 2000, 84, 2969.
	- (6) Wu, H. Phys. Rev. B 2000, 62, R11953.
	- (7) Kwon, S. K.; Park, J. H.; Min, B. I. Phys. Rev. B 2000, 62, R14637.
- (8) Vidya, R.; Ravindran, P.; Kjekshus, A.; Fjellv ag, H. Phys. Rev. B 2002, 65, 144422.

(9) Vidya, R.; Ravindran, P.; Vajeeston, P.; Fjellv ag, H.; Kjekshus, A. Ceram. Int. 2004, 30, 1993.

(10) Xiang, H. P.; Liu, X. J.; Wu, Z. J.; Meng, J. J. Phys. Chem. B 2006, 110, 2606.

(11) Hap, X.; Xu, Y.; Lv, M.; Zhou, D.; Wu, Z.; Meng, J. Inorg. Chem. 2008, 47, 4734.

(12) Vidya, R.; Ravindran, Knizek, K.; P.; Kjekshus, A.; Fjellv ag, H. Inorg. Chem. 2008, 47, 6608.

- (13) Spiel, C.; Blaha, P.; Schwarz, K. Phys. Rev. B 2009, 79, 115123.
- (14) Wang, J.; Zhang, W.; Xing, D. Phys. Rev. B 2002, 66, 052410.

(15) Chang, S.; Karen, P.; Hehlen, M. P.; Trouw, F. R.; McQueeney, R. J. Phys. Rev. Lett. 2007, 99, 037202.

(16) Albright, T. A.; Burdett, J. K.; Whangbo, M.-H. Orbital Interactions in Chemistry; Wiley: New York, 1985.

(17) The  $\angle$ O<sub>ap</sub> $-M-O<sub>bs</sub>$  angles of the MO<sub>5</sub> square pyramids of  $YBaM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$  are considerably greater than 90°. Namely,  $103.7^{\circ}$  ( $\times$ 4) at the  $\text{Mn}^2$ <sup>+</sup> site and 98.5° (×4) at the Mn<sup>3+</sup> site in YBa $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_5$ ;  $\frac{3}{2}$  98.7° (×2) along the *a*-axis and 101.5° ( $\times$ 2) along the *b*-axis at the Fe<sup>2+</sup> site, and 102.7° ( $\times$ 2) along the *a*-axis and 103.0° ( $\times$ 2) along the *b*-axis at the Fe<sup>3+</sup> site in YBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>4</sup> 98.1<sup>o</sup> ( $\times$ 2) along the *a*-axis and 97.9<sup>o</sup> ( $\times$ 2) along the *b*-axis at the Co<sup>2+</sup> site, and 104.9<sup>o</sup> ( $\times$ 2) along the *a*-axis and 105.5<sup>o</sup> ( $\times$ 2) along the b-axis at the Co<sup>3+</sup> site in YBaCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.<sup>5</sup>

(18) Whangbo, M.-H.; Koo, H.-J.; Dai, D. J. Solid State Chem. 2003, 176, 417.

- (19) Blöchl, P. E. Phys. Rev. B 1994, 50, 17-953.
- (20) Kresse, G.; Joubert, G. Phys. Rev. B 1999, 59, 1758.
- (21) Kresse, G.; Furthmüller, J. Comput. Mater. Sci. 1996, 6, 15. Phys. Rev. B 1996, 54, 11169.

(22) Perdew, J. P.; Burke, S.; Ernzerhof, M. Phys. Rev. Lett. 1996, 77, 3865.

(23) Dudarev, S. L.; Botton, G. A.; Savrasov, S. Y.; Humphreys, C. J.; Sutton, A. P. Phys. Rev. B 1998, 57, 1505.

(24) Kan, E. J.; Wu, F.; Lee, C.; Kang, J.; Whangbo, M.-H. Inorg. Chem. 2011, 50, 4182.

(25) Tian, C.; Wibowo, A. C.; zur Loye, H.-C.; Whangbo, M.-H. Inorg. Chem. 2011, 50, 4142.

(26) Zhang, Y.; Xiang, H. J.; Whangbo, M.-H. Phys. Rev. B 2009, 79, 054432.

(27) Xiang, H. J.; Kan, E. J.; Wei, S.-H.; Whangbo, M.-H.; Yang, J. L. Phys. Rev. B 2009, 80, 132408.

(28) Dai, D.; Whangbo, M.-H. J. Chem. Phys. 2001, 114, 2887.

(29) Dai, D.; Whangbo, M.-H. J. Chem. Phys. 2003, 118, 29.

(30) Goodenough, J. B. Magnetism and the Chemical Bond; Wiley: Cambridge, MA, 1963.

(31) Wu, F.; Kan, E. J.; Whangbo, M.-H. Inorg. Chem. 2010, 49, 3025.