

of the carbohydrate ring. A similar stereochemistry is not available for the mannoside. Clearly, more studies on this aspect of complex formation are required. Low-intensity  $^{51}\text{V}$  NMR signals were also observed at  $-506$  and  $-514$  ppm in the mannoside system. Because of the line widths of the various signals, no effort was made to quantitatively assess the spectra.

### Conclusions

The hydroxyl groups of six-membered cyclic molecules such as pyranosides and 1,2-cyclohexanediols form acyclic vanadate esters and cyclic complexes analogous to those observed earlier with ethylene glycol.<sup>13</sup> However, the geometric constraints imposed by the cyclic ligands strongly influence the equilibrium constants for formation of the various complexes and are probably responsible for the formation of some types of complexes not previously observed with ligands containing only hydroxyl groups. Esterification of axial hydroxyls by vanadate is disfavored, while formation of cyclic complexes is strongly favored for ligands with *cis* compared to those with *trans* vicinal hydroxyl groups. Although cyclic complexes were not detected with methyl  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside, such a complex was observed to form with methyl  $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside, however, with a formation constant about 60 times smaller than that for the analogous complex with methyl  $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside. This observation is in keeping with the occurrence of ring flattening associated with the replacement of a carbon of the cyclohexane ring by an oxygen. Ring flattening increases the dihedral angle between the adjacent diequatorial C-O bonds of the *trans* hydroxyls from the nominal  $60^\circ$  of the unperturbed system. The corresponding angles between the hydroxyls in the *cis* arrangement are decreased from  $60^\circ$ . The

smaller angle favors formations of a five-membered cyclic product. On this basis, it is expected that cyclic products formed from the methyl glucosides will be less favored than those from the methyl galactosides and mannosides, and this is observed.

A complex, binuclear in vanadium, but with mixed-coordination structure is formed with the methyl D-galactosides, but there is no evidence for such a complex with methyl  $\alpha$ -D-mannopyranoside, possibly because the vicinal *cis*-hydroxyls of the galactosides are sufficiently close to the 6-hydroxyl group for some interaction that is not possible with the mannoside.

It is apparent from these studies that both the types and the stabilities of the vanadate complexes formed from these ligands are very sensitive to subtle changes in ligand structure.

The formation of 5-coordinate vanadate complexes with the vicinal hydroxyls of six-membered cyclic molecules may be relevant to possible effects of vanadate on the metabolism of inositol phosphates and phosphatidyl inositol,<sup>18,19</sup> which is thought to involve, in some cases, the formation of an inositol 1,2-cyclic phosphate.<sup>20</sup> The pentacoordinate uridine vanadate complex presumably inhibits the function of ribonuclease because the complex resembles the transition state for formation and hydrolysis of the uridine 2',3'-cyclic phosphate intermediate of the enzymatic reaction. Analogous behavior might be expected for enzymes that catalyze formation or hydrolysis of inositol cyclic phosphates.

**Acknowledgment.** Thanks are gratefully extended to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (M.J.G.), the Medical Research Council of Canada (M.J.G.), and the British Columbia Heart Foundation (A.S.T.) for their financial support of this work.

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## Importance of Metal-Metal Interactions through the P-P Bonds for the Multidimensional Electrical Properties of $\text{MP}_4$ ( $\text{M} = \text{V}, \text{Cr}, \text{Mo}$ )

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The electronic structures of  $\text{MP}_4$  ( $\text{M} = \text{V}, \text{Cr}, \text{Mo}$ ) were examined by performing tight-binding band calculations on  $\text{VP}_4$ . The  $\text{MP}_4$  phase has a structure in which metal atom chains are sandwiched between  $\text{P}_4^{2-}$  layers. Despite this apparently one-dimensional character, the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands of  $\text{VP}_4$  are dispersive not only along the chain but also along the interchain and interlayer directions. Our study shows that the multidimensional nature of those bands originates from the fact that metal atom chains interact with one another through the P-P bonds of the  $\text{P}_4^{2-}$  layers. Our Fermi surface calculations reveal that  $\text{VP}_4$  is a three-dimensional metal, while  $\text{CrP}_4$  and  $\text{MoP}_4$  are semimetals.

In the past two decades, the series of transition-metal phosphides  $\text{MP}_4$  ( $\text{M} = \text{V}; \text{M} = \text{Cr}, \text{Mo}, \text{W}; \text{M} = \text{Mn}, \text{Tc}, \text{Re}; \text{M} = \text{Fe}, \text{Ru}, \text{Os}$ ) have been obtained.<sup>2</sup> The first member of the series,  $\text{VP}_4$ , contains one-dimensional chains of metal atoms parallel to the *c* axis<sup>3</sup> and shows metallic conductivity. The same structure is found for  $\text{CrP}_4$  and  $\text{MoP}_4$ , both of which exhibit metallic properties.<sup>4a</sup>  $\text{WP}_4$  is observed to be a poor metal, but its exact structure has not been determined yet.<sup>4b</sup>  $\text{MnP}_4$ ,  $\text{TcP}_4$ , and  $\text{ReP}_4$  do not form chains of metal atoms but consist of metal-metal dimers.<sup>5-8</sup> Three

different structural modifications exist for  $\text{MnP}_4$ , all of which are semiconductors and differ in the way the  $\text{Mn}_2$  dimers are connected to one another.  $\text{FeP}_4$ ,  $\text{RuP}_4$ , and  $\text{OsP}_4$  have structures with no metal-metal bonds,<sup>9-11</sup> and all of them are diamagnetic semiconductors.  $\text{MP}_4$  phases for  $\text{M} = \text{Ti}, \text{Co}, \text{Ni}$ , and  $\text{Cu}$  have not been made, whereas non-transition-metal  $\text{MP}_4$  phases are known (e.g.,  $\text{CdP}_4$ ,<sup>12</sup>  $\text{MgP}_4$ ,<sup>13</sup> and  $\text{MgAs}_4$ <sup>14</sup>).

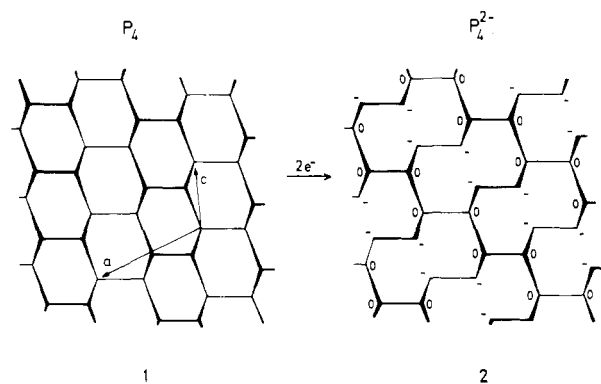
- (1) (a) Departament de Quimica Inorganica, Universitat de Barcelona. (b) Departament de Fisica, Universitat de Barcelona. (c) North Carolina State University.
- (2) For a recent review, see: Jeitschko, W.; Florke, M.; Moller, M.-H.; Ruhl, R. *Ann. Chim. Fr.* **1982**, *7*, 525.
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Despite its apparently one-dimensional (1D) structural character,  $VP_4$  does not exhibit any electronic instability such as a charge density wave (CDW) phenomenon, thereby suggesting the presence of strong interchain interactions in  $VP_4$ .<sup>15</sup> To understand this apparently puzzling problem, we examine the band electronic structure of  $VP_4$ . In the following, we first describe the crystal structure of  $VP_4$  and discuss the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands of  $VP_4$  and its associated Fermi surfaces. Then the qualitative features of these d-block bands are analyzed and the structural factors responsible for the multidimensional electrical properties of  $VP_4$  are discussed.

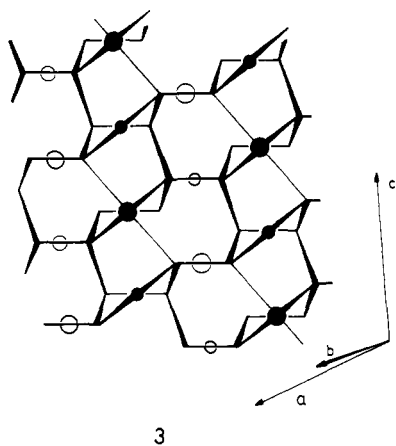
### Crystal Structure of $VP_4$

In order to understand the band electronic structure of  $VP_4$ , which determines its electrical and magnetic properties, it is necessary first to examine its crystal structure. Shown in **1** is a



hypothetical  $P_4$  layer formed by fusing  $P_6$  rings with boat conformations. This structure differs from that of black phosphorus,<sup>16,17</sup> in which the  $P_6$  rings have a chair conformation. Shown in **2** is the  $P_4^{2-}$  layer that results from the  $P_4$  layer **1** by adding two electrons and therefore breaking one P-P bond per formula unit  $P_4$ . It is the  $P_4^{2-}$  layer **2** that is found in  $VP_4$ ,  $CrP_4$ , and  $MoP_4$ . Note that the  $P_4^{2-}$  layer consists of  $P_{10}$  rings and has two kinds of phosphorus atoms (i.e.,  $P^0$  and  $P^-$ ). The  $P^0$  atoms bear one lone pair, but the  $P^-$  atoms bear two lone pairs. Therefore, toward a transition-metal ion, the  $P^0$  and  $P^-$  atoms can act as two- and four-electron donors, respectively. In  $MP_4$  ( $M = V, Cr, Mo$ ), the  $M^{2+}$  cations are sandwiched between the  $P_4^{2-}$  layers, so that layers of the  $M^{2+}$  cations and the  $P_4^{2-}$  layers alternate along the  $b$  axis.

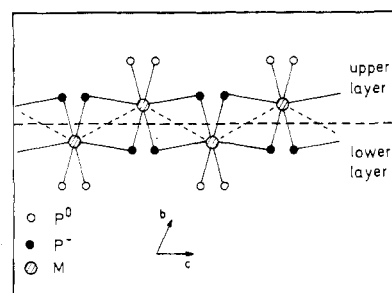
Let us now examine the occurrence of the metal chains and the coordination environment of each metal ion in  $MP_4$  ( $M = V, Cr, Mo$ ), in terms of the schematic diagram **3**. Shown in **3** is



how the  $M^{2+}$  cations are placed above and below a  $P_4^{2-}$  layer, where they form chains parallel to the  $c$  axis. The metal ions above

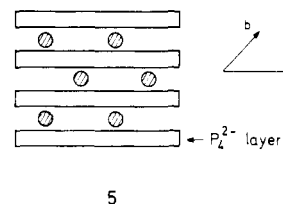
the layer are shown by filled circles. The large and small filled circles represent the metal ions bonded to four and two phosphorus atoms of the layer lying below, respectively. The metal ions below the  $P_4^{2-}$  layer are represented by empty circles. The large and small empty circles represent the metal ions bonded to two and four phosphorus atoms of the layer lying above, respectively. The metal ions of **3** lying above or below the  $P_4^{2-}$  layer complete their octahedral coordination by bonding to the phosphorus atoms of another  $P_4^{2-}$  layer that sandwiches them. The metal ions bonded to four (two) phosphorus atoms of the bottom  $P_4^{2-}$  layer require two (four) phosphorus atoms of the upper  $P_4^{2-}$  layer to complete their octahedral coordination. Thus, with respect to the bottom  $P_4^{2-}$  layer, the upper  $P_4^{2-}$  layer is shifted along the  $c$  axis.

As a result of sandwiching with two  $P_4^{2-}$  layers, each metal ion is coordinated by two  $P^-$  and two  $P^0$  atoms from the one  $P_4^{2-}$  layer and by two  $P^-$  atoms of the other  $P_4^{2-}$  layer as schematically shown in **4** for a single metal ion chain. As expected, the  $P^0$  and  $P^-$  atoms



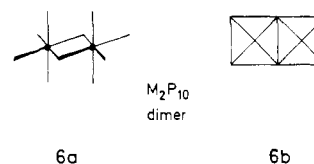
coordinate one and two metal atoms, respectively. Clearly, all the metal ions equivalent, but they do not have the same height along the  $b$  axis so that they form a zigzag chain.

Depicted in **5** is a schematic diagram that shows how the metal chains are sandwiched by the  $P_4^{2-}$  layers, where the shaded circles represent the metal atom chains viewed along the  $c$  axis. There



are two metal atoms per unit along the chain direction so that the primitive unit cell of  $VP_4$ , which is triclinic, contains two formula units,  $(VP_4)_2$ .

It is convenient to consider each metal chain of the  $MP_4$  phase ( $M = V, Cr, Mo$ ) as if it is constructed from  $MP_6$  octahedra by sharing their edges. Shown in **6a** is a perspective view of an  $M_2P_{10}$



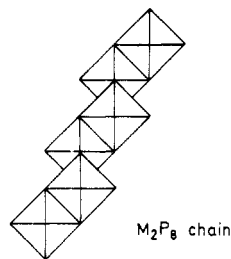
unit that results from two  $MP_6$  octahedra by sharing an edge. The  $M_2P_{10}$  dimer unit can also be represented by the projection view **6b**. When the  $M_2P_{10}$  dimer units share their edges as indicated in **7**, we obtain the  $M_2P_8$  chains that are present in the  $MP_4$  phase.

### Band Electronic Structure

In the present section we examine the electronic structure of  $VP_4$  by performing tight-binding band calculations<sup>18</sup> based upon the extended Hückel method.<sup>19</sup> The atomic parameters employed

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in our study are summarized in Table I. Since the Fermi level of  $MP_4$  ( $M = V, Cr, Mo$ ) lies within its  $t_{2g}$ -block bands, we will consider only these bands in the following.

**A.  $t_{2g}$ -Block Bands.** Figure 1 shows the dispersion relations of the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands (i.e., those bands derived primarily from the metal  $t_{2g}$ -block levels) of  $VP_4$  calculated along the  $\Gamma \rightarrow X$ ,  $\Gamma \rightarrow Y$ , and  $\Gamma \rightarrow Z$  directions. Since a unit cell consists of two formula units,  $(VP_4)_2$ , there are six  $t_{2g}$ -block bands. Note that these bands are dispersive not only along the chain direction  $\Gamma \rightarrow Z$  but also along the interchain direction  $\Gamma \rightarrow X$  and the interlayer direction  $\Gamma \rightarrow Y$ . With the formal oxidation state of  $V^{2+}$ , there are six electrons per unit cell to fill the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands. As shown in Figure 1, the Fermi level for  $VP_4$  cuts the lower three  $t_{2g}$ -block bands in nearly all directions. Therefore, it is predicted that  $VP_4$  is not a 1D but a three-dimensional (3D) metal, which is consistent with the observation<sup>15</sup> that  $VP_4$  does not exhibit a CDW phenomenon despite the presence of seemingly isolated metal atom chains. The density of states (DOS) of  $VP_4$  calculated for the energy region of the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands is shown in Figure 2. The DOS value peaks in the lower energy region of the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands, since the bottom three bands are less dispersive than the upper three (see Figure 1).

$CrP_4$  is isostructural with  $VP_4$  and is believed to be semi-metallic.<sup>4</sup> Within the rigid band scheme, the band structure of  $CrP_4$  may be simulated by Figure 1 upon adding eight d electrons to the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands. The Fermi level relevant for  $CrP_4$  cuts the upper three  $t_{2g}$ -block bands in all three directions. Thus,  $CrP_4$  is expected to be a 3D metal. Figure 2 shows that the Fermi level for  $CrP_4$  occurs near the lowest point of the DOS valley centered around  $-9$  eV. Thus,  $CrP_4$  might be a semimetal, as suggested on the basis of its electrical conductivity as a function of temperature.<sup>4</sup>

Also indicated in Figures 1 and 2 are the Fermi levels appropriate for  $MnP_4$  and  $TiP_4$  under the assumption that they have the  $VP_4$  structure. Clearly, for  $MnP_4$ , the band levels with strongly metal-metal antibonding character are filled, which is energetically unfavorable. It is of interest to note that all known phases of  $MnP_4$  (i.e., 2- $MnP_4$ , 6- $MnP_4$ , and 8- $MnP_4$ )<sup>5,6</sup> do not have the  $VP_4$  structure but a "broken-chain" structure. So far  $TiP_4$  has not been made, but it might have interesting metallic properties if it has the  $VP_4$  structure.

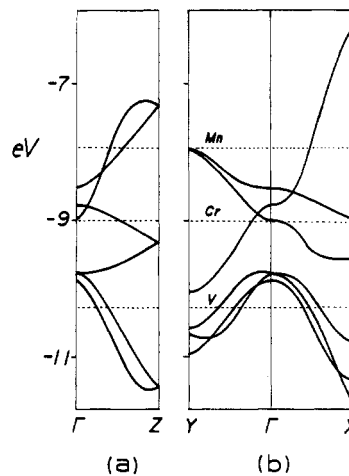
**B. Fermi Surfaces.** Figure 3 shows cross sections of the four Fermi surfaces calculated for  $VP_4$ . Figure 3a,b depicts 3D hole pockets centered around  $\Gamma$ , and Figure 3c shows a tunnelliike hole aligned along the  $\Gamma \rightarrow Z$  direction. Figure 3d reveals a cross-section view of the electron Fermi surface in which "electron tunnels" run along the  $A \rightarrow R$  and  $B \rightarrow R$  directions. Here  $A = (0.5a^*, 0, 0.5c^*)$ ,  $B = (0, 0.5b^*, 0.5c^*)$ , and  $R = (0.5a^*, 0.5b^*, 0.5c^*)$ . The two-dimensional nature of the Fermi surface of Figure 3c suggests that the electrical conductivity of  $VP_4$  would be smaller along the chain than along the interchain or interlayer direction. It would be interesting to measure the resistivity anisotropy of  $VP_4$ .

Figure 4 shows the 3D hole and electron pockets calculated for  $CrP_4$  on the basis of the  $VP_4$  band structures. The hole pocket, centered at  $\Gamma$ , has a dimension  $\sim 0.5c^* \times 0.2a^* \times 0.2b^*$ . The electron pocket, centered at  $\sim (0.45a^*, 0.25b^*, 0.15c^*)$ , has the dimension  $\sim 0.2a^* \times 0.15c^* \times 0.3b^*$ . Figure 4 clearly shows  $CrP_4$  to be a semimetal. Since  $MoP_4$  is isostructural and isoelectronic with  $CrP_4$ ,  $MoP_4$  is also expected to be a semimetal.

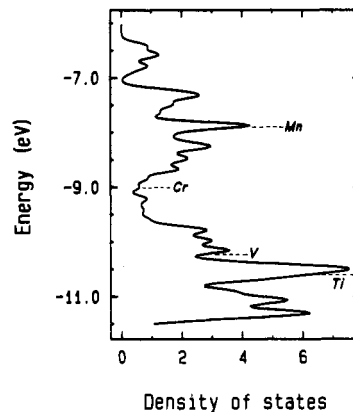
**Table I.** Atomic Parameters

atom	orbital	$H_{ii}$ , eV	$\zeta_1$	$\zeta_2$	$C_1^a$	$C_2^a$
V	4s	-8.81	1.60			
	4p	-5.52	1.60			
	3d	-11.00	4.75	1.50	0.4558	0.7516
P	3s	-18.60	1.60			
	3p	-14.00	1.60			

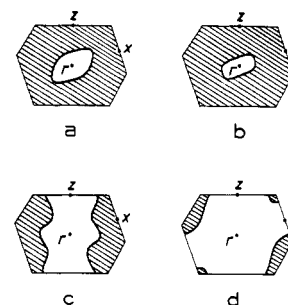
<sup>a</sup> Contraction coefficients used in the double- $\zeta$  expansion.



**Figure 1.** Dispersion relations of the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands calculated for  $VP_4$ : (a) along the chain direction; (b) along the interchain and the interlayer directions. In units of the reciprocal vectors  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$ , and  $c^*$ ,  $\Gamma = (0, 0, 0)$ ,  $X = (a^*/2, 0, 0)$ ,  $Y = (0, b^*/2, 0)$ , and  $Z = (0, 0, c^*/2)$ . The dashed lines with the symbols V, Cr, and Mn refer to the Fermi levels appropriate for  $VP_4$ ,  $CrP_4$ , and  $MnP_4$  within a rigid band approximation.



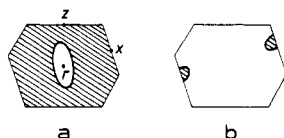
**Figure 2.** Density of states calculated for  $VP_4$  in the energy region of the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands. The Fermi levels calculated for  $TiP_4$ ,  $VP_4$ ,  $CrP_4$ , and  $MnP_4$ , within a rigid band approximation, are also indicated.



**Figure 3.** Cross sections of the four Fermi surfaces calculated for  $VP_4$ . The hole pockets in (a) and (b) are centered at  $\Gamma$ , the tunnelliike "hole" in (c) runs along the  $\Gamma \rightarrow Z$  direction, and the electron tunnels in (d) run along the  $A \rightarrow R$  and  $B \rightarrow R$  directions. Here  $A = (0.5a^*, 0, 0.5c^*)$ ,  $B = (0, 0.5b^*, 0.5c^*)$ , and  $R = (0.5a^*, 0.5b^*, 0.5c^*)$ .

#### Orbital Interactions

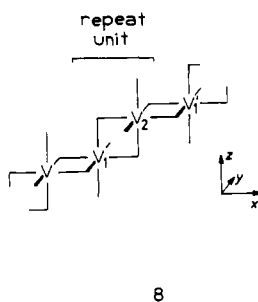
As shown in the previous section, the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands of  $VP_4$  are dispersive not only along the chain  $\Gamma \rightarrow Z$  but also along the



**Figure 4.** Fermi surfaces of  $CrP_4$  calculated on the basis of the  $VP_4$  band structure: (a) cross section of the hole pocket centered at  $\Gamma$ ; (b) projection of the electron pocket centered at  $(0.45a^*, 0.25b^*, 0.15c^*)$  on the  $\bar{X}TZ$  plane. For simplicity, the equivalent electron pocket centered at  $(-0.45a^*, -0.25b^*, -0.15c^*)$  is not shown.

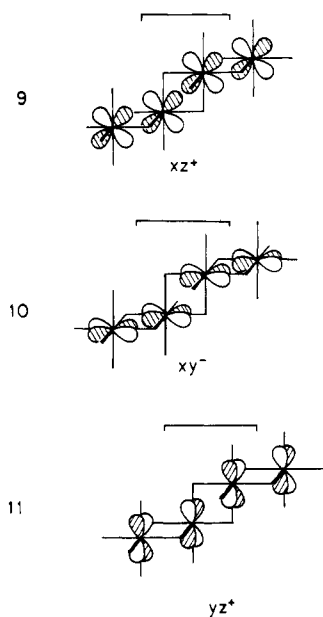
interchain ( $\Gamma \rightarrow X$ ) and the interlayer ( $\Gamma \rightarrow Y$ ) directions. We now examine how this multidimensional character of the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands is brought about on the basis of orbital interactions and the crystal structure. In the following, we first examine the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands of the  $V_2P_8$  chain **7** and then discuss the structural origin of why these bands are dispersive along the interchain and interlayer directions.

**A.  $t_{2g}$ -Block Bands of the  $V_2P_8$  Chain.** To emphasize the octahedral environment of each vanadium atom, the  $V_2P_8$  chain **7** may be represented by **8**. An ideal  $V_2P_8$  chain may be obtained

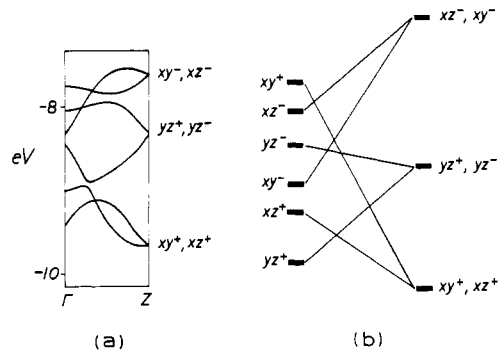


from regular  $VP_6$  octahedra with the V-P distance of 2.40 Å (i.e., the average V-P distance of  $VP_4$ ),<sup>3</sup> which leads to the V-V distance of 3.39 Å. The real  $V_2P_8$  chain found in  $VP_4$  consists of distorted  $VP_6$  octahedra, in which the V-V distance is 3.24 Å.<sup>3</sup> In our study, the real  $V_2P_8$  chain was simulated by bending the V-P-V angles of the ideal  $V_2P_8$  chain (from 90 to 84°) so as to obtain the V-V distance of 3.24 Å. Figure 5a shows the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands of the resulting  $V_2P_8$  chain, which are similar in nature to the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands of  $VP_4$  along the  $\Gamma \rightarrow Z$  direction.

As indicated in Figure 5a, the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands of the  $V_2P_8$  chain are composed of the in-phase (+) and out-of-phase (-) combinations of the metal  $d_{xy}$ ,  $d_{xz}$ , and  $d_{yz}$  orbitals. For example, the  $xz^+$ ,  $xy^-$ , and  $yz^+$  band orbitals at  $\Gamma$  are represented by **9**, **10**, and **11**, respectively. The band orbitals can be classified according



to their nodal properties ( $\sigma$ ,  $\pi$ , or  $\delta$ ) and interaction nature



**Figure 5.** Electronic structure of the  $V_2P_8$  chain: (a)  $t_{2g}$ -block band structure; (b) qualitative energy levels of the  $t_{2g}$ -block levels of the  $V_2P_8$  chain at  $\Gamma$  and  $Z$ .

**Table II.** Bonding Characteristics of the  $t_{2g}$  Crystal Orbital of the  $V_2P_8$  Chain

orbital	intracell	intercell ( $\Gamma$ point)	intercell ( $Z$ point)
$xy^+$	$\pi$	$\sigma^*$	$\sigma$
$xy^-$	$\pi^*$	$\sigma$	$\sigma^*$
$xz^+$	$\sigma$	$\pi$	$\pi$
$xz^-$	$\sigma^*$	$\pi$	$\pi^*$
$yz^+$	$\pi$	$\pi$	$\pi$
$yz^-$	$\pi^*$	$\pi^*$	$\pi$

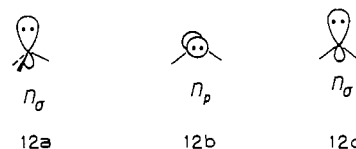
(bonding or antibonding) both within a unit cell and between nearest-neighbor unit cells. Thus, for example, the  $xz^+$  orbital (**9**) is  $\sigma$ -bonding within a unit cell but  $\pi$ -antibonding between nearest-neighbor unit cells. The  $xy^-$  orbital (**10**) is  $\pi$ -antibonding within a unit cell but  $\sigma$ -bonding between nearest-neighbor unit cells. The  $yz^+$  orbital (**11**) is  $\pi$ -bonding both within a unit cell and between nearest-neighbor unit cells. The characteristics of the six  $t_{2g}$  band orbitals at  $\Gamma$  and  $Z$  are summarized in Table II, which helps us understand the essential features of the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands  $VP_4$  in Figure 5a. Since  $\sigma$ -interactions are typically stronger than  $\pi$ -interactions, the sum of the intra- and intercell interactions would increase in strength in the order

$$(\sigma, \pi) < (\sigma, \pi^*), (\pi, \pi) < (\pi, \pi^*) < (\sigma^*, \pi), (\pi^*, \pi^*) < (\sigma^*, \pi^*) \quad (1)$$

On the basis of the above sequence, the six bands level at  $\Gamma$  are correlated with those at  $Z$ , as shown in Figure 5b. The  $t_{2g}$ -block bands of the  $V_2P_8$  chain (Figure 5a) agree well with those predicted from Figure 5b after allowing for symmetry-imposed avoided crossings. Note that the dispersion patterns of Figure 5a are similar to those of Figure 1a along the  $\Gamma \rightarrow Z$  direction. The middle band of Figure 1a is represented by  $yz$  orbitals, and metal-metal  $\pi$ -type interactions are responsible for its dispersion. The upper and lower bands of Figure 1a are more dispersive than the middle band due to their  $xy$  orbitals, which provide metal-metal  $\sigma$ -type interactions between unit cells (see **10** and Table II).

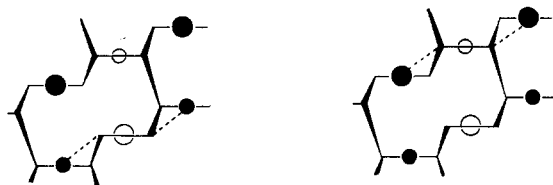
**B. Interchain and Interlayer Interactions.** Figure 1 shows that band dispersion is substantial either along the interchain direction ( $\Gamma \rightarrow X$ ) or along the interlayer direction ( $\Gamma \rightarrow Y$ ). Such interchain and interlayer interactions are responsible for the multidimensional electrical properties of  $VP_4$ . To understand the structural origin of this aspect, we examine the crystal structure of **3** in some detail.

Metal atoms of  $VP_4$  are linked along the  $a$  and  $b$  directions (i.e., interchain and interlayer directions, respectively) through the P-P units of the  $P_4^{2-}$  layers. It is the  $sp^3$  orbital (i.e.,  $n_s$  in **12a**) of



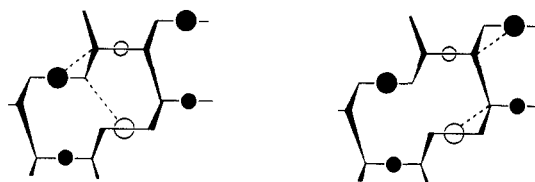
the  $P^0$  atom and the  $p$  and  $sp^2$  orbitals (i.e.,  $n_p$  and  $n'_s$  in **12b** and **12c**, respectively) of the  $P^-$  atom that provide the through-bond interactions of metal atoms via the P-P bonds. Along the  $a$

direction, metal atoms are linked by the  $P^0-P^0$  and  $P^--P^--$  linkages as shown in **13a** and **13b**, respectively. The P-P bonds around



13a

13b



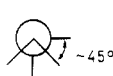
13c

13d

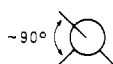
the  $P^0-P^0$  and  $P^--P^--$  linkages have gauche arrangements as indicated by the Newman projections **14b** and **14a**, respectively.



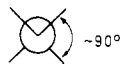
14a



14b



14c



14d

Along the  $b$  and  $(b - c/2)$  directions, metal atoms interact across the  $P_4^{2-}$  layers through the  $P^0-P^--$  and  $P^0-P^0$  bridges as shown in

**13c** and **13d**, respectively. The P-P bonds around the  $P^0-P^--$  linkage of **13c** have a gauche arrangement (**14c**), while those around the  $P^0-P^0$  linkage of **13d** have a trans arrangement (**14d**).

In **14d** two  $n_\sigma$  orbitals on the  $P^0$  centers are trans to each other, so the in-phase and out-of-phase combinations of these orbitals ( $n_+$  and  $n_-$ , respectively, shown in **15**) effectively couple metal atoms across the  $P_4^{2-}$  layers. In **14a-c** the  $n_\sigma$ ,  $n_p$ , or  $n'_\sigma$  orbitals

 $n_+$  $n_-$ 

15a

15b

of the two phosphorus centers do not have a trans arrangement. Nevertheless, the gauche arrangement allows the  $n_\sigma$ ,  $n_p$ , or  $n'_\sigma$  orbitals to form  $n_+$ - and  $n_-$ -like combinations. Since such orbitals contain  $\pi$ -like orbital components across the P-P linkages, they allow the metal  $t_{2g}$ -block levels to effectively interact through the P-P linkages.

### Concluding Remarks

The present study shows that the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands of  $VP_4$  are dispersive both along the chain direction and along the interchain and interlayer directions. This multidimensional character of the  $t_{2g}$ -block bands originates from the fact that the metal atom chains of  $VP_4$  interact through the P-P bonds of the  $P_4^{2-}$  layers. Our Fermi surface calculations suggest that the electrical conductivity of  $VP_4$  would be smaller along the chain than along the interchain or interlayer direction. Within a rigid band approximation, our study suggests that  $CrP_4$  and  $MoP_4$  are semimetals, in agreement with the available experimental data. Provided that  $TiP_4$  is made to have the  $VP_4$  structure, it would be metallic with a high density of states at the Fermi level.

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## Infrared Spectra of Matrix-Isolated $CF_3S(O)F$ and Its Photolysis Product $CF_3OSF$

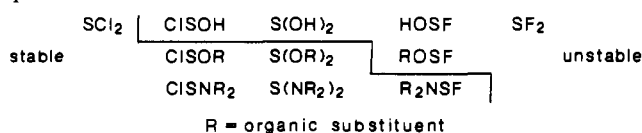
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By UV photolysis of matrix-isolated trifluoromethanesulfinyl fluoride,  $CF_3S(O)F$ , the isomer  $CF_3OSF$  is formed. Structural and bonding parameters of this first fluorosulfonyl ester are evaluated from the vibrational frequencies of the natural and the  $^{13}C$ - and  $^{18}O$ -enriched species.  $CF_3OSF$  is decomposed by prolonged UV irradiation to  $COF_2$  and  $SF_2$ . Attempts to photoisomerize  $CF_3S(O)F$  on a preparative scale lead to mixtures of  $COF_2$ ,  $SOF_2$ ,  $CF_3SSCF_3$ , and  $C_2F_6$  in the gas phase as well as in solution.

### Introduction

Sulfoxylic acid,  $H_2SO_2$ , and some of its derivatives are very unstable and therefore rarely characterized.<sup>1</sup> The following chart classifies the derivatives of sulfoxylic acid into stable and unstable species:



Of the unstable species, only  $SF_2$  has been synthesized<sup>2</sup> and fully characterized.<sup>3</sup> The fluorosulfonyl esters  $CH_3OSF$  and  $C_2H_5OSF$  had been postulated<sup>4</sup> as products of the reaction of  $(CH_3O)_2S$  with  $SSF_2$ . A reinvestigation by the same authors, however, showed that the  $^{19}F$  NMR signals of  $CH_3F$  and  $C_2H_5F$  had been misassigned to the fluorosulfonyl esters.<sup>5</sup> Thus, no

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