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Electronic structure of hexagonal tungsten trioxide: XPS, XES, and XAS studies

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Abstract

X-Ray photoelectron (XPS), emission (XES) and absorption (XAS) spectroscopy methods were used to study the electronic structure of hexagonal tungsten trioxide, h-WO₃. Its precursor, hexagonal hydrogen tungsten bronze, H_yWO₃, and the monoclinic form of tungsten trioxide, m-WO₃, were also studied. For the mentioned compounds, both the XPS valence-band and core-level spectra, as well as the O K α emission bands and the W L_{III} absorption edges were derived. It was established that, binding energies of both the W 4f and O 1s core-level electrons do not change when going from the tungsten trioxides to H_xWO₃. A high-energy shift of the inflection point of the XAS W L_{III} spectrum of the H_xWO₃ bronze, with respect to its position on the spectrum of pure metallic tungsten, was found to be close to those of the spectra of the two WO₃ forms studied. Half-widths of both the XPS valence-band spectra and the O K α bands increase somewhat in the sequence m-WO₃ \rightarrow h-WO₃ \rightarrow H,WO₃. The formation of a near-Fermi sub-band, which is absent for both the modifications of WO₃, was observed on the XPS valence-band spectrum of hexagonal H_vWO₃. The energy positions of the centers of gravity of the O K α band remain constant for all the compounds studied. \degree 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Oxide materials; Photoelectron spectroscopy; Electronic band structure

Since Gerand et al. [1] first obtained the hexagonal certain stage of the charging process near its end point. modification of tungsten trioxide, h-WO₃, due to dehydra- The electronic structure of the monoclinic form of tion of $WO_3 \cdot 1/3 \cdot H_2O$ hydrate, there has been considerable tungsten trioxide, m-WO₃, was studied either by exinterest in development of alternative routes for synthesis perimental methods or by theoretical band calculations. of h-WO₃ and in studying some properties of the com-
 X -ray photoelectron valence-band spectra of the compound pound. The hexagonal modification of tungsten trioxide is
 X -ray photoelectron valence-band spectra of t synthesized using the following substances as precursors: WO_3 were investigated by Bringans et al. [13] using $(NH_4OH)_V \cdot WO_3$ [2,3], $(NH_4)_{0.30} \cdot WO_3$ [4], $H_4 WO_3$ [5], ultraviolet photoemission spectroscopy; differ $(NH_4OH)_x \cdot WO_3$ [2,3], $(NH_4)_{0.30} \cdot WO_3$ [4], $H_x WO_3$ [5], $(NH_4)_{10}$ [H₂W₁₂O₄₂]·10H₂O [6,7], WO₃·yH₂O (y=0.8- energies (16.85, 21.22 and 40.82 eV) were used for the 1.1) [8]. Some of the above synthetic routes for obtaining excitation of the spectra. The W L_{III} absorption spectra for hexagonal WO₃ have been reviewed recently by Han et al. the mentioned modification of tungsten trioxide were $[7]$. Hexagonal tungsten trioxide is of great interest in studied in Refs. [14,15], but the O 2p-like emissio technology in particular because of its possibility to serve for m-WO₃ was obtained by Nemoshkalenko et al. [16]. A as an intercalation host of lithium. As a result, lithium complex experimental study (using X-ray photoelectron tungsten bronzes, Li_xWO₃, are synthesized. The bronzes spectroscopy (XPS), X-ray emission spectroscopy (XES) are found to be a useful cathode material for rechargeable and X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) methods) of the lithium batteries [9]. Recent electrochemical measurements monoclinic form of WO_3 , as well as of some substoichiomade by Han et al. [10] reveal discharge–charge curves metric compounds WO_x over the range $2 \le x \le 2.77$, has

were studied in Refs. [11,12]. The valence-band for mstudied in Refs. [14,15], but the O 2p-like emission band been carried out very recently in Ref. [17]. The electronic *Corresponding author. $\text{Structure of } WO_3$ in the oversimplified cubic perovskite-*E*-*mail address*: khyzhun@ipms.kiev.ua (O.Yu. Khyzhun). type structure was calculated by Kopp et al. [18] using a

^{1.} Introduction with remarkable hysteresis. In the latter work, it was also observed that very large polarization occurs abruptly at a

non-self-consistent and non-relativistic version of the in the range corresponding to the energy of the O K α band Korringa–Kohn–Rostoker (KKR) method, by Bullett [19] was found to be about 0.15 eV. An RbAP crystal (2d= trioxide, are in agreement. Bullett [19] has studied also the argon-methane counter. electronic structure of both the monoclinic and ortho- The W L_{III} absorption spectra, which reflect the energy eV the size of the semiconducting energy gap and leads to

were analogous to those described elsewhere [17]. There- was taken as reference. fore, in this paper only the main details of the experiment The hexagonal hydrogen tungsten bronze studied in the

valence states of p-symmetry of oxygen, in the studied during this separation a brown–blue sediment, hexagonal The energy resolution, ΔE_{min} , of the SARF-1 spectrometer

using a self-consistent and non-relativistic version of the 26.136 \AA) with a radius of curvature of $R \approx 500$ mm was atomic-orbital-based method, and by Hjelm et al. [20] used. An X-ray tube with a chromium anode was used as using a self-consistent and relativistic version of a full- the source of primary radiation. The operating conditions potential linear muffin-tin orbital (FP-LMTO) method. of the X-ray tube were the following: accelerating voltage, Results of the calculations [18–20] concerning the occupa-
 U_a=6 kV; anode current, *I_a*=400 mA. The O K α bands
 a a apectrometer chamber having a base of both the valence and conduction bands of cubic tungsten pressure less than 1×10^{-6} Pa. The detector was a gas-flow

rhombic modifications of WO₃. As shown in Ref. [19], the distribution of the empty W d-like states were obtained cubic→full monoclinic distortion of WO_3 increases by 0.8 using the spectrometer with scintillation recording of the eV the size of the semiconducting energy gap and leads to X -ray radiation intensity. The spectra we increasing the W d-orbital occupation. Hjelm et al. [20] the method of 'a variable field of absorption' [21,22]. A also used the FP-LMTO method to calculate the band quartz crystal with the $(13\overline{4}0)$ reflecting plane structure of the hexagonal form of tungsten trioxide, as of curvature of $R \approx 500$ mm was used. The method for well as those of two cubic hydrogen tungsten bronzes, preparing the absorber and selection of its optimum HWO₃ and H₂WO₃. To our knowledge, the electronic thickness was analogous to that used earlier [17]. A BHV- structure of the hexagonal H_xWO₃ compounds were not 23 X-ray tube with a tungsten anode operating at U_a structure of the hexagonal H_xWO₃ compounds were not 23 X-ray tube with a tungsten anode operating at U_a =14
studied either by theoretical band-structure calculations or kV and I_a =40 mA was used as the source of pri kV and $I_a=40$ mA was used as the source of primary by experimental methods. excitation. In the determination of $\ln(I_0/I)$ at each point of The purpose of the present work was to investigate the the area of energies beyond the absorption edge, the XPS valence-band spectra and the XES O 2p-like emis-
sions bands of the two different forms, hexagonal and through the absorber was not less than 5×10^5 . The number monoclinic, of WO₃, as well as of hexagonal hydrogen of pulses reflecting the X-ray quanta which passed through tungsten bronze, $H.WO₃$, which was a precursor for the second half of the holder free of the absorber tungsten bronze, H_xWO_3 , which was a precursor for the second half of the holder free of the absorber was obtaining the hexagonal form of tungsten trioxide. The $(2-7)\times10^6$. The quantum yield of the X-ray photoeffect purpose was also to compare charge states of the atoms for in the area of the oxygen K absorption edge in tungsten the studied compounds using data of the XPS core-level trioxides and hydrogen tungsten bronze could not be and XAS measurements. studied, probably as a result of the strong screening of the oxygen atoms by the tungsten atoms [15].

Measurements of the XPS valence-band and core-level **2. Experimental** spectra of the WO_3 and H_xWO_3 samples were carried out in an ion-pumped chamber of an ES-2401 spectrometer. The techniques of the present experimental investigation The chamber was evacuated to $(1-2)\times 10^{-7}$ Pa. The Mg of the electronic structure of the two modifications of WO₃ K $\alpha_{1,2}$ ($E=1253.6$ eV) excitation was used as the source of and the hexagonal hydrogen tungsten bronze, H_vWO₃, X-ray radiation. The impurity carbon 1s X-ray radiation. The impurity carbon 1s line (285.0 eV)

are reported.
The fluorescent X-ray emission O K α bands (K \rightarrow L_{ILIII} phase by hydrogen reduction to copper and hexagonal CuWO₃ phase by hydrogen reduction to copper and hexagonal transition), reflecting the energy distribution of filled $H_xWO₃$; copper was separated by dissolving in $HNO₃$, and compounds were obtained using a SARF-1 spectrometer. H_xWO₃, remained as the precipitate [5,23]. Hexagonal The energy resolution, ΔE_{min} , of the SARF-1 spectrometer tungsten trioxide, h-WO₃, was obtained by the heating of the hexagonal H_xWO_3 phase up to 400°C as described in Refs. [5,24]. The method of synthesis of the Table 1

Lattice parameters of the compounds studied

Lattice parameters of the compou H_rWO₃ specimen investigated in the present work was found to be 0.24 [25]. The lattice parameters of the samples are listed in Table 1. All the studied compounds were single-phase materials.

3. Results and discussion

As is known (see, for example, monographs [26,27]), in tungsten oxides the X-ray Mg (or Al) $K\alpha_{3,4}$ satellite excitation of W $4f_{7/2,5/2}$ electrons overlaps the structure of the XPS valence-band spectra owing to photoemission from the O 2s-like states located in the energy region near 22.5 eV binding energies (BEs) with respect to the Fermi energy, E_F . The subtraction of the W $4f_{7/2,5/2}$ core-level spectra, excited by the radiation of the Mg (Al) K α satellites, from the XPS spectra is a rather difficult problem [26,27]. Therefore, as in Ref. [17], in the present work the XPS spectra of the tungsten trioxides and hydrogen tungsten bronze were recorded within the continuous energy range up to 46 eV with respect to E_F , and then the Mg K α satellite excitation of the W 4f_{7/2,5/2} core-level spectra were subtracted using the method earlier successfully applied for XPS studies of substoichiometric tantalum carbides [28,29]. This gives the possibility of obtaining the XPS valence-band spectra including photoemission from the O 2s-like states. As an example, Fig. 1 shows the XPS spectrum of hydrogen tungsten bronze, H_xWO₃, which was a precursor for obtaining the hexagonal form of tungsten trioxide, without any corrections (solid curve 1) and after the subtraction (dashed curve 2) of the XPS W 4f core- Fig. 2. XPS spectra normalized to one and the same integral intensity of the W $4f_{7/2,5/2}$ core-level spectra for (1) m-WO₃, (2) h-WO₃, and (3) satellites. The XPS spectra shown in Fig. 2 were obtained *H_xWO₃*. for the studied compounds using the mentioned procedure. The spectra have been normalized to one and the same integral intensity of the XPS W $4f_{7/2,5/2}$ core-level spectra of the corresponding compound. The results of such valence-band spectra remains constant within the exnormalization indicate that the peak intensity of the XPS perimental error for all the compounds studied. The

 $4f_{7/2,5/2}$ core-level spectra excited by the X-ray Mg K α' , α_{3-6} satellites (dashed curve 2).

relative intensities of the O 2s-like sub-band (with respect to the intensity of the XPS valence-band spectrum of the corresponding compound) almost do not change in the sequence m-WO₃ \rightarrow h-WO₃ \rightarrow H_xWO₃. The broad structures representing the XPS O 2s-like sub-band do not allow us to detect any tendency of a shift of the sub-band maximum in the mentioned sequence of compounds. Therefore, as can be seen from Table 2, BEs of the sub-band maxima remain constant within ± 0.1 eV for all the compounds investigated.

Fig. 3 shows the O $K\alpha$ emission bands for all the compounds studied. The relative intensities of the O $K\alpha$ spectra were not measured because there was not a standard X-ray line within the range of energies corresponding to the energy of the O K α band [30,31]. This is why all the O $K\alpha$ bands shown in Fig. 3 are normalized so that the integral intensities of the spectra are equal. As can be seen from Fig. 3, the half-width of the O $K\alpha$ band is somewhat broader (by about 0.3 eV, see Table 3) in the Fig. 1. XPS spectra of hexagonal hydrogen tungsten bronze, H_xWO_3 ,
without any correction (solid curve 1) and after subtraction of the XPS W
4f_{th case} core-level spectra excited by the X-ray Mg Ko', o_{re} satellities d ing to the hexagonal planes and the atoms between the

a Half-widths are given in parentheses.

planes. When calculating the electronic structure of h- about 0.5 and 0.8 eV, respectively; cf. Tables 2 and 3). As WO₃, Hjelm et al. [20] showed that the O 2p-like states a whole, both the spectra broaden somewhat when going originating from the atoms in the hexagonal planes domi-
nate in the low-energy part of the oxygen p-like band, for all the compounds studied, the energy positions of the while the states originating from the atoms between the centers of gravity of the O K α emission bands remain planes dominate the top of the band. As a result, the width constant within ± 0.1 eV (Table 3). of the O 2p-like band should be somewhat broader in the As can be seen from Fig. 2 (curve 3), the formation of hexagonal form of tungsten trioxide than in the cubic form an additional sub-band at E_F is characteristic for the XPS (or in the monoclinic form, because the cubic \rightarrow monoclinic valence-band spectrum of the hexagonal t

ducting gap [19]). The data of the theoretical FP-LMTO band structure calculations [20] are in agreement with the present experimental results as mentioned. Furthermore, while the valence bands of both the m-WO₃ and h-WO₃ modifications are dominated by the O 2p-like states [19,20], the changes of the XPS valence-band spectra, reflecting the energy distribution of total density of states, should be similar to those observed for the O K α bands. In fact, as can be seen from Fig. 2, a half-width of the XPS valence-band spectrum increases by about 0.5 eV (Table 2) when going from m-WO₃ to h-WO₃.

As Hjelm et al. [20] noted, insertion of hydrogen atoms into the lattice of cubic WO_3 should broaden the valence band due to the oxygen states in the OH pair. It is believed that this should be true for the hexagonal WO_3 and H_xWO_3 phases as well. Therefore, one could expect broadening the O $K\alpha$ band as well as the XPS valence-band spectrum when going from h-WO₃ to the hexagonal $H_xWO₃$ com-Fig. 3. O K α emission bands of (1) m-WO₃, (2) h-WO₃, and (3) H₂WO₃. pound. As can be seen from Figs. 2 and 3, half-widths of both the XPS valence-band spectrum and the O $K\alpha$ band broaden significantly in the sequence h-WO₃ \rightarrow H_rWO₃ (by for all the compounds studied, the energy positions of the

valence-band spectrum of the hexagonal tungsten bronze, distortion of WO₃ seems to cause only an increase in both H_xWO_3 . The sub-band is absent on the XPS valence-band the W d-orbital occupation and the value of the semicon-
spectra of both the forms of WO₃ (Fig. 2, curv spectra of both the forms of WO_3 (Fig. 2, curves 1 and 2).

Table 3

Some characteristics (in eV) of the O K α emission band for the compounds studied

Energy position of the band maximum	Energy position of the center of gravity of the band	Half-width of the band
526.2	525.1	4.43
526.4	525.0	3.61
526.4	525.1	3.34
± 0.1	± 0.1	± 0.06

The formation of the similar near-Fermi sub-band was observed earlier during XPS studies of the sodium tungsten bronzes, Na_xWO₃ [32]. Höchst et al. [32] observed a non-linear increase of the relative intensity of the sub-band with increasing x in the Na_xWO₃ bronzes. According to the results of Refs. [19,32], the formation of the near-Fermi sub-band on the XPS valence-band spectra of the sodium tungsten bronzes, $Na_xWO₃$, can be explained by that, the extra sodium electrons in $Na_xWO₃$ enter the t_{2g} -like band, which is empty in tungsten trioxide. As Hjelm et al. [20] noted, for the HWO_3 , LiWO₃, and NaWO_3 compounds, the physical properties should not be too different regardless of whether hydrogen or alkali ions are intercalated into the WO_3 host. Therefore, it may well be true that the formation of the small near-Fermi sub-band on the XPS valence-band spectrum of $H_xWO₃$ (Fig. 2, curve 3) is due to the extra hydrogen electrons filling the t_{2g} -like band.

It should be noted that, as can be seen from Fig. 3 (curve 3), the formation of additional fine-structure features was not detected on the high-energy slope of the O $K\alpha$ emission band of the hexagonal hydrogen tungsten bronze studied in the present work. The above fact indicates that the O 2p-like states do not take part in the formation of the mentioned sub-band on the XPS valence-band spectrum of hexagonal $H_xWO₃$. As earlier [17], in the present work we have made attempts studying the fluorescent W $L\beta_5$ band $(L_{III} \rightarrow O_{IVV}$ transition), reflecting primarily the occupied W 5d-like states, in the hexagonal H_xWO_3 tungsten bronze. Nevertheless, our attempts were unsuccessful. After accumulation times of about 190 h, the intensity of Fig. 4. W L_{III} absorption spectra of (1) W_{met}, (2) m-WO₃, (3) h-WO₃, the W L β , band for the hexagonal H WO₂ specimen, and (4) H_xWO_3 . studied in the present work was too small to be able to discuss its fine-structure features. The method was analo-
gous to those used previously to study the W 5d-like W_{met} , BE(W 4f_{7/2})=31.4 eV [34]). gous to those used previously to study the W 5d-like emission bands of tungsten carbides and germanides [33,34]. tion spectra, as well as BEs of both the W 4f and O 1s

XPS W 4f and O 1s core-level spectra remain constant for perimental errors for all the compounds studied. These the two WO_3 forms studied. Half-widths of the spectra facts indicate that the charge states of both the tungsten increase slightly when going from the tungsten trioxides to and oxygen atoms do not change in the sequence

Fig. 4 shows the W L_{III} absorption spectra of the compounds studied. For comparison, the spectrum of pure of the W and O atoms. Charge state of the hydrogen atoms metallic tungsten is also presented. The spectra are normal- in hydrogen tungsten bronze could not be estimated ized so that intensities of their 'white' lines are equal. As because of the absence of XPS core-level spectra of can be seen from Fig. 4, the inflection point of the XAS W hydrogen. L_{III} spectra for all the studied compounds undergo a high-energy shift (from 2.9 to 3.3 eV) with respect to its position on the spectrum of pure metallic tungsten. This **4. Conclusion** indicates the displacement of the electron density from the tungsten atoms in the WO₃ and H_xWO_3 compounds Measurements of binding energies of both the XPS W 4f studied in the present work. This fact is confirmed by the and O 1s core-level electrons, as well as of high-energy XPS core-level measurements. As one can see from Table shifts of the inflection points of the W L_{III} absorption 2, in the studied compounds the XPS W $4f_{7/2}$ core-level spectra, indicate that the charge states of the tungsten and BEs increase by about 4.6 eV in comparison with the W oxygen atoms in the monoclinic and hexagonal tungsten

Positions of the inflection points of the W L_{III} absorp-As can be seen from Table 2, half-widths of both the core-level spectra (Table 2), remain constant within exand oxygen atoms do not change in the sequence mhexagonal tungsten bronze, H_xWO_3 (Table 2). WO₃ \rightarrow h-WO₃ \rightarrow H_xWO₃. Therefore, the intercalation of *Fig.* 4 shows the W L_{III} absorption spectra of the *x* bydrogen into the WO₃ host does not change charge st

and O 1s core-level electrons, as well as of high-energy

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