CONDENSED MATTER

Formal Valence, Charge Distribution, and Chemical Bond in a Compound with a High Oxidation State: KMnO₄

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KMnO₄ has unusual formal manganese oxidation state Mn^{+7} that seems puzzling: the energy of creating such ion (119 eV) is much greater than the energy of chemical bonds (up to ~10 eV). We have used the Wannier functions formalism to analyze the distribution of Mn-3*d* electrons and O-2*p* electrons for empty electronic

states in the MnO_4^- complex and have found that, while formally one has d^0 configuration for manganese ion in this compound, in reality only about one-half of the hole density described by these Wannier functions corresponding to this configuration belongs to *d*-electrons, while the other half is spread over surrounding oxygen atoms. This corresponds much more to Mn^{+7} state than to Mn^{+2} , because the calculated total number of *d*-electrons is equal to 5.25. Our analysis has also sown nearly perfect covalent type of chemical bond within

the MnO_4^- complex with negligible contribution of the ionic part.

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INTRODUCTION

Transition metals compounds with high oxidation state often reveal anomalous properties with a rich phase diagram, like for example in trivalent nickel in RNiO₃ [1] and tetravalent iron in CaFeO₃ [2]. There one observes metal—insulator transitions, charge ordering and unusual types of antiferromagnetic ordering. Charge disproportionation in charge ordered states formally corresponds to appearance of even higher oxidation states Ni⁺⁴ and Fe⁺⁴. All those anomalies are usually ascribed to significant contribution of oxygen orbitals to formally *d*-states of transition metals.

Chemically those high oxidation compounds are also very unusual. They are often unstable and can be used as strong oxidizers. The high formal metal ion charges look strange because it takes very large energy to create such ions. The most interesting example of this class is KMnO₄ where the formal valence of manganese ion is Mn⁺⁷. To make such highly charged ion one needs ~119 eV [3], while energies of chemical bonds are below ~10 eV.

In this paper we present electronic structure calculations for this compound and analyze it using the formalism of Wannier function (WF). Our conclusion is that the chemical bond in MnO_4^- complex is strongly covalent and charge transfer between *d*-states of manlarge formal oxidation state. Also, our calculations give the number of *d*-electrons on Mn ion 5.25 that is more appropriate to ionic charge +2 rather than +7. The paper is organized as follows. First, we describe the methodology used. The way of obtaining

ganese to *p*-states of oxygen is small in spite of very

describe the methodology used. The way of obtaining the atomic-centered localized Wannier wavefunctions from DFT calculation is presented, then, using these wavefunctions, expressions for ionic and covalent components of the bonding energy in crystal are derived in a general form. Then we define the transformation of basis wavefunctions to make them "natural," i.e., representing the local crystal structure symmetry of the ions. In the last part of the paper we apply presented methodology to the KMnO₄ and show how

the interactions within the MnO_4^- cluster could be described with four 2 × 2 matrices.

WANNIER FUNCTIONS

Electronic structure calculations were performed using Quantum ESPRESSO package. WFs used for our analysis are the most general and natural choice for definition a set of localized atomic orbitals as electronic states that are formally equivalent to the set of itinerant Bloch functions set. The transformation between them can be considered as unitary transformation in Hilbert functional space. The localization degree and the symmetry of such wave functions could be controlled in the projection procedure. One of the most widespread procedures is an enforcement of maximum localization of WF [4]. The second one [5], successfully used before [6, 7] for describing a plethora of compounds, is a constraint of the WF symmetry to be the same as the symmetry of pure atomic *d*-orbitals.

In the present paper the second type of projection procedure is used. WFs were generated as projections

of the pseudoatomic orbitals $|\phi_n^k\rangle = \sum_T e^{i k T |\phi_n^T\rangle}$ onto a subspace of the Bloch functions $|\Psi_{\mu}^k\rangle$ (the detailed description of WFs construction procedure within pseudopotential method is given in [8]):

$$|W_n^{\mathbf{T}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_k}} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} |W_n^{\mathbf{k}}\rangle e^{-i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{T}},\tag{1}$$

where

$$|W_{n}^{\mathbf{k}}\rangle \equiv \sum_{\mu=N_{1}}^{N_{2}} |\Psi_{\mu}^{\mathbf{k}}\rangle \langle \Psi_{\mu}^{\mathbf{k}}|\phi_{n}^{\mathbf{k}}\rangle.$$
(2)

Here, **T** is the lattice translation vector. The resulting WFs $|W_n^{\mathbf{T}}\rangle$ have symmetry of the atomic orbitals ϕ_n positioned at the unit cell defined by **T** and describe electronic states that form energy bands numbered from N_1 to N_2 .

One can redefine Hamiltonian and density matrix operators in WF basis set:

$$\widehat{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{ij} |W_i^{\mathbf{k}}\rangle H_{ij}^{\mathbf{k}} \langle W_j^{\mathbf{k}}|,$$

$$\widehat{\rho} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{ij} |W_i^{\mathbf{k}}\rangle Q_{ij}^{\mathbf{k}} \langle W_j^{\mathbf{k}}|.$$
(3)

Then electron energy E is

$$E = \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{\rho}\widehat{H}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{ij} Q_{ij}^{\mathbf{k}} H_{ji}^{\mathbf{k}}$$
$$= \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{i} Q_{ii}^{\mathbf{k}} H_{ii}^{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{ij,i\neq j} Q_{ij}^{\mathbf{k}} H_{ji}^{\mathbf{k}}.$$
(4)

To separate electron energy *E* in Eq. (4) into covalent and ionic parts is not a trivial task. While interatomic term $\sum_{k} \sum_{ij,i\neq j} Q_{ij}^{k} H_{ji}^{k} = \sum_{ij,i\neq j} E_{ij}$ is clear a covalent energy, the diagonal in atomic indexes term $\sum_{i} E_{ii} = \sum_{k} \sum_{i} Q_{ii}^{k} H_{ii}^{k}$ contains both contributions: covalent energy for all atoms type *i* in crystal and ionic part of energy. To separate them we have introduced

average energy $H_i = \sum_{k} H_{ii}^{k}$ and average occupancy $Q_i = \sum_{k} Q_{ii}^{k}$ for atom *i*. The ionic part can be defined as $E_i^{\text{ion}} = Q_i H_i$ and covalent part as $E_i^{\text{cov}} = E_{ii} - Q_i H_i$. The electron energy *E* in Eq. (4) can be written as

$$E = E^{\text{cov}} + E^{\text{ion}},$$

$$E^{\text{ion}} = \sum_{i} E_{i}^{\text{ion}} = \sum_{i} Q_{i} H_{i},$$

$$E^{\text{cov}} = \sum_{ij,i\neq j} E_{ij} + \sum_{i} E_{ii} - \sum_{i} Q_{i} H_{i}.$$
(5)

In a general case with orbital indices L = (l, m)Eq. (4) is

$$E = \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{\rho}\widehat{H}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{iL,jL'} Q_{iL,jL}^{\mathbf{k}} H_{jL',iL}^{\mathbf{k}}$$
$$= \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{iL,iL'} Q_{iL,iL'}^{\mathbf{k}} H_{iL',iL}^{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{iL,jL'} Q_{iL,jL'}^{\mathbf{k}} H_{jL',iL}^{\mathbf{k}}.$$
(6)

For binary compound AB

$$E_{\rm ion} = H_A Q_A + H_B Q_B. \tag{7}$$

Chemical bonding energy is

$$E_{\text{bond}} = E_{AB} - (E_A^{\infty} + E_B^{\infty}) \tag{8}$$

$$= E_{\rm cov} + E_{\rm ion} - (H_A^{\infty} Q_A^{\infty} + H_B^{\infty} Q_B^{\infty}).$$
(9)

The following approximation could be useful

$$H_A^{\infty} = H_A = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} H_{AA}^{\mathbf{k}},$$
$$H_B^{\infty} = H_B = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} H_{BB}^{\mathbf{k}}.$$
(10)

Then, from Eqs. (8) and (5):

$$E_{\text{bond}} = E_{\text{cov}} + E_{\text{ion}} - (H_A Q_A^{\infty} + H_B Q_B^{\infty}),$$

$$E^{\text{ion}} = E_A^{\text{ion}} + E_B^{\text{ion}} = Q_A H_A + Q_B H_B,$$
 (11)

$$E^{\text{cov}} = 2E_{AB} + E_{AA} - Q_A H_A + E_{BB} - Q_B H_B.$$

Hence bonding energy separation is:

$$E_{\text{bond}} = E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{cov}} + E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{ion}}, \qquad (12)$$

$$E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{ion}} = E_A^{\text{ion}} + E_B^{\text{ion}} - (H_A Q_A^{\infty} + H_B Q_B^{\infty})$$

$$= (Q_A - Q_A^{\infty}) H_A + (Q_B - Q_B^{\infty})) H_B, \qquad (13)$$

 $E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{cov}} = E^{\text{cov}} = 2E_{AB} + E_{AA} - Q_A H_A + E_{BB} - Q_B H_B.$

Occupation matrix and natural orbitals basis. Occupation matrix Qij in Eq. (3) has in general except atomic number indexes i, j also orbital indexes L, L' where L = (lm) is combined index with l orbital moment quantum number and its projection m. The

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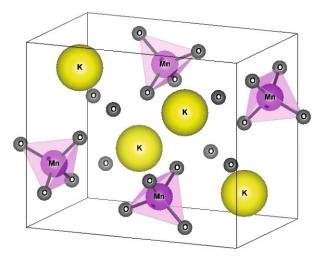


Fig. 1. (Color online) Crystal structure of $KMnO_4$ consists of MnO_4 tetrahedra and potassium atoms between them.

WF $|W_i\rangle$ is obtained in Eq. (1) by projection on Bloch functions $|\psi_k^{\alpha}\rangle$ trial atomic wave function $|\phi_i\rangle$. These atomic orbitals have in general in addition to atomic number also orbital indices $|\phi_{iL}\rangle$ and hence resulting WFs are $|W_{iL}\rangle$. So, density matrix and Hamiltonian in Eq. (3) has the following form:

$$\widehat{H} = \sum_{iL,jL'} |W_{iL}\rangle H_{iL,jL'}\langle W_{jL'}|,$$

$$\widehat{\rho} = \sum_{iL,jL'} |W_{iL}\rangle Q_{iL,jL'}\langle W_{jL'}|.$$
(14)

Hence for atomic "diagonal" term i = j one in general has nondiagonal L, L' occupation matrix $Q_{iL,iL'}$. It would be convenient to choose the "natural" atomic orbital basis set where atomic occupation matrix is diagonal. Also, it is useful to choose special linear combination of ligand-atoms orbital having the same symmetry as atomic orbital of the metallic ion. That can be done by diagonalization of the matrix

$$\widetilde{Q} = UQU^{\dagger}.$$
(15)

Here, U is unitary atomic basis transformation matrix

$$\tilde{\phi}_{iL}\rangle = \sum_{L'} U_{L,L'} |\phi_{iL'}\rangle.$$
(16)

These "natural" atomic orbitals $|\tilde{\phi}_{iL}\rangle$ have usually the form corresponding to basis functions of irreducible representation for crystal structure symmetry group.

CALCULATION RESULTS

KMnO₄ crystallizes in the orthorhombic *Pmmn* space group with unit cell parameters a = 5.93 Å, b = 7.58 Å, c = 9.23 Å [9]. In potassium permanga-

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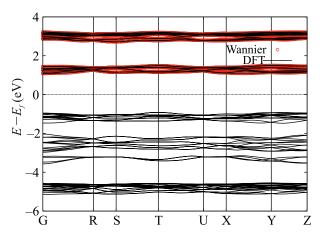


Fig. 2. (Color online) Band structure of KMnO₄.

nate, the manganese ion is surrounded by four oxygens ions with a tetrahedral environment corresponding to the T_d point group symmetry (see Fig. 1). For this symmetry five *d*-orbitals transform according to triply degenerate irreducible representation t_{2g} (orbitals xy, xz, yz) and doubly degenerate representation e_g (orbitals $3z^2 - r^2$ and $x^2 - y^2$). In contrast to the octahedral symmetry $O_h t_{2g}$ level lies higher in energy than e_g level.

Resulting energy bands dispersion (Fig. 2) and density of states (Fig. 3) show rather narrow bands in agreement with well separated MnO_4^- ions in the structure. The partial density of the states in Fig. 3 showing the contribution of manganese *d*-orbitals and oxygen *p*-orbitals to various bands clearly indicates two antibonding sets of d-p bands around 1 and 3 eV energy of e_g and t_{2g} symmetry. The corresponding bonding counterpart of the same symmetry bands can be observed at -5 eV. The set of bands between -4 and

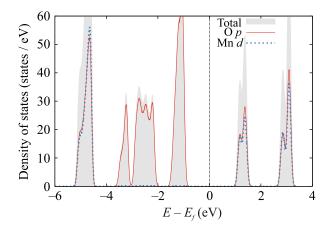


Fig. 3. (Color online) Density of states of KMnO₄.

of KMnO ₄									
	$z^2 - r^2$	zx	ZY	$x^2 - y^2$	xy				

Table 1. Contribution of atomic states to Wannier functions

Mn d	46%	45%	45%	45%	46%				
O <i>p</i>	50%	49%	48%	47%	50%				
1 aV has pure average n character and corresponds to									

-1 eV has pure oxygen *p*-character and corresponds to a non-bonding combination of *p*-orbitals that do not hybridize with metallic *d*-states.

In order to analyze spatial distribution of electronic states in this material we have calculated squared modulus of WFs for unoccupied bands (marked by red on Fig. 2). The results are presented in Fig. 4. These figures show spatial distribution of holes for various

symmetry states of MnO_4^- ion. As one can easily see, nearly half of the hole density for every WF is situated on the neighboring oxygen ions. The Table 1 shows percentage of Mn-*d* and O-*p* contributions to the WF charge representing holes in formally d^0 shell of manganese ion. It is clear that in fact more than half of each ten formally *d* holes in reality belong to the oxygen states. The total number of *d*-holes from this table gives 4.54 which corresponds to the number of *d*-electrons 5.46. That agrees well with the occupancy of manganese *d*-shell 5.25 obtained in full DFT calculations. So, while formal valency of metal in this compound is seven the occupancy of *d*-shell corresponds rather to Mn⁺² with admixture of Mn⁺.

Keeping in mind that in KMnO₄ there is an ionic

type of bonding between potassium and MnO_4^- ions, we calculated the contribution of covalent and ionic parts to the chemical bond within the MnO_4^- complex

according to Eq. (12). The obtained values

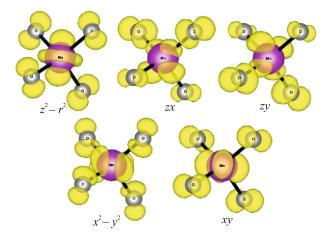


Fig. 4. (Color online) Wannier functions (isosurface of the squared moduli) with the symmetry of manganese *d*-orbitals.

 $E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{cov}} = -38.2 \text{ eV}$ and $E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{ion}} = 0.07 \text{ eV}$ confirm that MnO_4^- ion in KMnO₄ is a totally covalent complex. Below we map the picture of chemical bonding in KMnO₄ on a simple model.

DISCUSSION

Chemical bond is a basic concept of chemistry. A bond holds atoms in a molecule together by sharing their electrons on molecular orbitals obtained as a combination of hybridized atomic orbitals. In crystal there are no atomic orbitals anymore but its electrons

are described by Bloch wave functions $|\Psi_{\mu}^{k}\rangle$ that are spread over the whole crystal. WF formalism was developed in order to construct atomic-like functions centered on specific atoms and having the corresponding symmetry. This is done by unitary transformation of Bloch functions Hilbert space into new WF basis via Eqs. (1) and (2).

In the simplest case of a single bond for binary compound AB we can write rather simple Hamiltonian matrix in WF basis. It can describe both covalent and ionic parts of chemical bond. The most important parameters in our WF formalism are H_A , H_B —atomic energies (diagonal terms of the Hamiltonian) or their difference $\Delta E = H_A - H_B$ and off-diagonal Hamiltonian matrix terms $H_{AB} = t$ determining electron hopping between atoms. The first one ΔE defines the tendency to form ions from neutral atoms and the second one t forms a covalent bond between atoms. It would be useful to consider the simplest model containing those parameters and compare with it our calculation results.

Let's assume that A and B are two different atoms with one partially filled nondegenerate orbital on each ion (2 electrons total). The Hamiltonian of the system is then:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} E & t \\ t & E - \Delta E \end{pmatrix},\tag{17}$$

where *E* is the energy level of the first orbital (the higher one) and second ion has the orbital energy on ΔE lower than the first one. The hopping energy term *t* corresponds to hybridization between the orbitals. From the eigenvectors of the model Hamiltonian (Eq. (17)) one can get occupation numbers for the two atoms (A and B) orbitals (Q_1 and Q_2) and then calculate the charge transfer $Q_2 - Q_1$ from the first to the second atom. One can easily see that larger $t/\Delta E$ value give smaller charge transfer value $Q_2 - Q_1$ that characterizes ionicity and hence the chemical bond in the system will be more covalent. On the contrary if the

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value of $t/\Delta E$ parameter is small then the opposite is true and the system will be characterized by mostly ionic bond.

The ionicity can be calculated from $Q_2 - Q_1$ in the following way: $I_1 = Q_1^{inf} - Q_1$, $I_2 = -I_1$, $I_2 = ((Q_2^{inf} - Q_1^{inf}) - (Q_2 - Q_1))/2$, where Q_1^{inf} and Q_2^{inf} are occupations for the corresponding neutral atoms A and B (for our simple model $Q_1^{inf} = Q_2^{inf} = 1$).

To analyze chemical bonding in $KMnO_4$ we have redefined the basis of WFs for complex ion $(MnO_4)^-$ to make it as similar as possible to the two orbital bonding model. To achieve that, one needs for every Mn-dorbital to find a set of oxygen *p*-orbitals that hybridizes most with the specific Mn-d one.

For each MnO_4^- complex in the cell we constructed five linear combinations of the 12 O-*p* orbitals in such a way, that every such set transforms according to the same irreducible representation of the Mn-ion point group T_d as one of the Mn-*d* orbitals. Consequently, we have got the five pairs of *d*- and *p*-type orbitals that are mostly hybridized (within the pair) by symmetry. Corresponding 10 orbitals will form chemical bonding

within the MnO_4^- cluster. Additionally, we constructed another 7 linear combinations of the O-*p* orbitals that are orthogonal to the five linear combinations described above. These 7 orbitals represent the non-

bonding oxygen states of the MnO_4^- cluster.

In this way we have separated full 17-dimensional

linear space of *d*-Mn and *p*-oxygen orbitals of $MnO_4^$ ion into two orthogonal subspaces: 7-dimensional non-bonding oxygen orbital subspace and 10-dimensional subspace responsible for chemical bonding in this system. The first orbitals subspace forms a set of non-bonding bands between -4 eV and -1 eV (see Figs. 2 and 3) and the second one forms bonding bands at -5 eV and antibonding ones from 1 to 3 eV.

Those 17 orbitals were used to build 17 WFs that describe all occupied and empty energy bands, i.e., all bands within the [-6;4] eV energy interval corresponding to $(MnO_4)^-$ ion. The separation of the electron states into bonding and non-bonding subspaces is clear (Figs. 2 and 3). We have calculated within this new basis the Hamiltonian matrix and the occupation matrix (see Appendix where we have omitted not essential for our analysis non-bonding states terms). These 10 × 10 matrices, due to the presence of the rather high symmetry of the MnO_4^- tetrahedra, could be constructed by doubly degenerate 2 × 2 matrices describing interaction of the Mn- e_g states with the

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O-*p* bonding orbital and triply degenerate 2×2 matrices for the Mn-*t*2*g* states and the corresponding O-*p* bonding orbitals

$$H_{ij}^{e_g} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.59 & -2.97 \\ -2.97 & 0.9 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q_{ij}^{e_g} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.53 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 0.48 \end{pmatrix},$$
$$H_{ij}^{t_{2g}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.49 & -3.90 \\ -3.90 & 1.56 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q_{ij}^{t_{2g}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.51 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 0.5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This means that a 10×10 dimensional bonding orbital space is essentially formed by five orthogonal 2×2 dimensional subspaces. Every one of them can be described by the simple model Eq. (17). Diagonalizing those Hamiltonian matrices one obtains eigenvalues 3.72 and -2.23 for t_{2g} states and 5.48 and -2.43 for e_g states that corresponds perfectly with position of bonding and antibonding bands of Fig. 3. The corresponding occupations matrices give Q_2 and Q_1 values very close to 0.5 and their difference $Q_2 - Q_1$ is nearly zero. That means almost completely prefect covalent bond for MnO_4^- ions and practical absence of the ionic contribution to the bonding. The value of $t/\Delta E$ is equal 0.10 for e_g states and 0.02 for t_{2g} states. That agrees well with our conclusion of nearly pure covalent bond in MnO_4^- ion.

To summarize, we have calculated electronic structure for $KMnO_4$ compound with formally seven valency Mn ion and analyzed the results with WF for-

malism. We have found the chemical bond in MnO_4^- complex being nearly of perfect covalent type with practically no presence of ionic contribution. The *d*-electors charge distribution for Mn atom corresponds to charge close to +2 rather than the formal ionic charge of +7.

APPENDIX

Hamiltonian matrix for the MnO_4^- complex in the basis of 17 WF. The first 5 WFs are centered on Mn and have the symmetry of Mn-*d* orbitals. The next five WFs also have the symmetry of the Mn-*d* orbitals, but are the lineal combination of the nearest oxygen *p*-orbitals. These five WFs correspond to oxygen states that mostly hybridizes with the Mn-*d* states. The spacial distribution of the first 10 WFs is presented in Fig. A1. The last 7 WFs of the basis are the linear combinations of O-*p* orbitals that are orthogonal to all the previous basis functions. The corresponding blocks in the matrix (the first 5×5 , and another 5×5) are drawn for the eye guide.

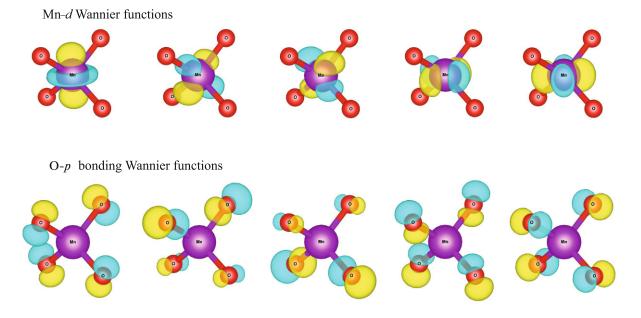


Fig. A1. (Color online) Wannier function with the symmetry of the Mn-*d* orbitals (upper panel) and the bonding O-*p* states (lower panel).

$$H_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.59 & 0. & 0. & 0. & 0. & -2.97 & 0. & 0. & -0.02 & 0. \\ 0. & 1.48 & 0. & 0. & 0. & 0. & -3.89 & 0. & 0. & -0.13 \\ 0. & 0. & 1.49 & 0. & 0. & 0. & -3.92 & 0. & 0. \\ 0. & 0. & 0. & 1.49 & 0. & -0.03 & 0. & 0. & -3.91 & 0. \\ 0. & 0. & 0. & 0. & 0.58 & 0. & 0.1 & 0. & 0. & -2.99 \\ -2.97 & 0. & 0. & -0.03 & 0. & 0.9 & 0. & 0. & 0. & 0. \\ 0. & -3.89 & 0. & 0. & 0.1 & 0. & 1.56 & 0. & 0. & 0.03 \\ 0. & 0. & -3.92 & 0. & 0. & 0. & 1.54 & -0.03 & 0. \\ -0.02 & 0. & 0. & -3.91 & 0. & 0. & 0. & -0.03 & 1.54 & 0. \\ 0. & -0.13 & 0. & 0. & -2.99 & 0. & 0.03 & 0. & 0. & 0.87 \end{pmatrix}$$

The occupation matrix Q_{ij} in the same basis:

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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