

# XMCD analysis beyond standard procedures

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**Abstract.** We show that the standard analysis procedures as sum rule application and multipole-moment analysis for XMCD spectra can fail for magnetic samples of present interest. Two examples will be given: 1) The induced magnetic moments in ultrathin films of the light 3d elements Ti, V and Cr at the interface to Fe cannot be determined by the XMCD sum rule or multipole-moment analysis at the  $L_{2,3}$  edges. This is due to correlation effects which result in the deviation of the intensity ratio (branching ratio) from its statistical value. To address this point we established a double-pole approximation within time-dependent density functional theory. 2) The analysis of the  $L_{2,3}$  XMCD of rare earth elements is not only hampered by the appearance of electric quadrupolar contributions (E2) in addition to the dipolar contributions (E1). Even after separation of the two, one determines the wrong sign of the induced 5d moment by the sum rules. This originates from the spin dependence of the transition matrix elements. To tackle these difficulties we compare the experimental spectra to *ab initio* calculations of the entire isotropic XAS and the dichroic signal.

**Keywords:** XMCD, failure sum rule and multipole moment analysis, induced magnetism, light 3d metals and rare earth metals

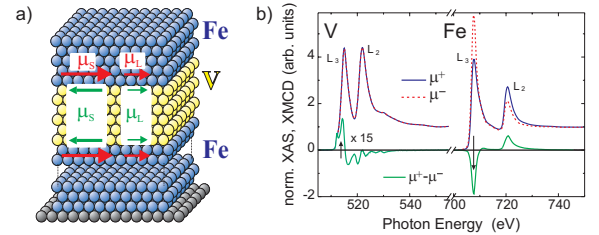
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## INTRODUCTION

About three decades after theoretical prediction of the x-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD) [1] and about two decades after the experimental realization [2] this technique (XMCD) has been demonstrated to be a unique tool for the element specific analysis of magnetic properties. By means of the so-called sum rules [3, 4] and multipole-moment analysis [5] the spin and orbital moments can be determined by analyzing the integrals of the dichroic spectra and their spectral shape, respectively. These methods became standard procedures for the analysis of XMCD data and are nowadays used by a large number scientists. However, various assumptions are made in the derivation of these analysis procedures as pointed out in the original works on the sum rule analysis and other recent works (see e.g. [6, 7, 8, 9]). As we will demonstrate in the present work this has the consequence that the standard analysis of the  $L_{2,3}$  edge XMCD fails for magnetic systems of present interest as e.g. induced moments in light 3d elements as well as the 5d magnetism in rare earth metals.

## INDUCED MAGNETISM IN LIGHT 3d METALS

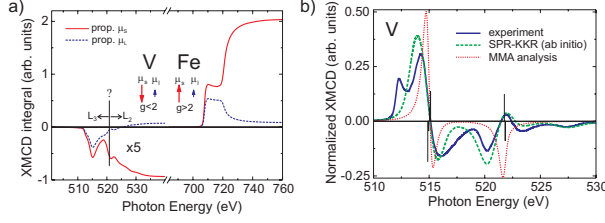
Light 3d metals like Ti and V exhibit induced magnetic moments at the interface to the 3d ferromagnets like Fe. For a detailed study of these effects we studied prototype trilayer systems as shown in Fig. 1 (a). The questions is if indeed one determines induced moments in V and what is the size and the orientation of the induced spin and orbital moments as indicated by the arrows. For



**FIGURE 1.** (a) Schematic representation of a prototype Fe/V/Fe(110) trilayer. (b) Normalized XAS for right ( $\mu^+$ ) and left ( $\mu^-$ ) circularly polarized x-rays (top) and the corresponding XMCD at the V and Fe  $L_{2,3}$  edges of a Fe/V<sub>4</sub>/Fe trilayer [10]. The V XMCD was multiplied by a factor 15 for a clearer presentation.

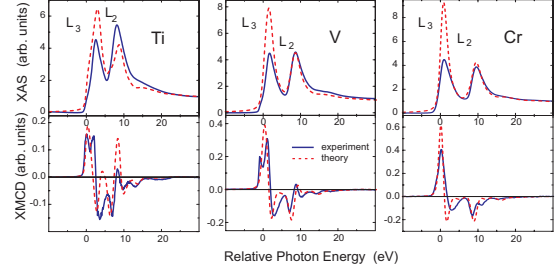
these systems the advantage of the element specificity of the XMCD is obvious as revealed in Fig. 1(b): The x-ray absorption coefficients  $\mu^+$  and  $\mu^-$  for right and left circularly polarized x-rays and the corresponding XMCD at the V and Fe  $L_{2,3}$  edges of an Fe/V<sub>4</sub>/Fe trilayer with 4

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**FIGURE 2.** a) Experimental XMCD integrals at the V and Fe  $L_{2,3}$  edges for a  $\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{V}_{0.1}$  alloy [7] which are used for the standard XMCD sum rule analysis. b) Result of the multipole-moment analysis (MMA) (dotted line) of the experimental XMCD data (solid line). The MMA results are compared to *ab initio* calculations (dashed line) [11].

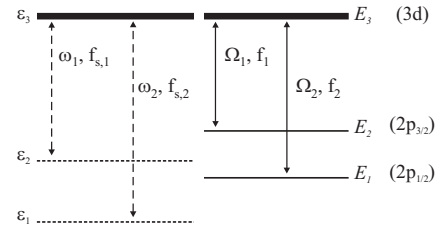
ML V thickness are presented [10]. A clear XMCD signal from the Fe buffer and a much smaller signal originating from the induced V moment can be seen. The positive XMCD signal at the V  $L_3$  edge in comparison to the negative signal at the Fe  $L_3$  edge (see arrows in Fig. 1(b)) shows that the induced moment is aligned antiparallel to Fe. However, when applying the standard analysis procedures to determine the size of the induced spin and orbital moments in V it turns out that these procedures fail. The results of the sum rule analysis and the multipole-moment analysis are shown in Fig. 2 for a  $\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{V}_{0.1}$  alloy [11]. First, we apply the integral sum rule analysis depicted in Fig. 2(a). The analysis at the Fe  $L_{2,3}$  edges provides spin and orbital moments in agreement to theoretical SPR-KKR calculations [11]. Furthermore, the Fe total moment for this alloy is in agreement with a polarized neutron study (PNS) [12]. However, the results of the sum rule analysis at the V  $L_{2,3}$  edges completely disagree with the experimental neutron investigation and the theoretical SPR-KKR calculation. It turns out that the spin moment and also the total moment as determined from the sum rules are about a factor 5 to small compared to theory ( $\mu_S(\text{sum rule}) = -0.20 \mu_B$  in contrast to  $\mu_S(\text{SPR-KKR}) = -1.01 \mu_B$ ) and the PNS measurements [11, 7]. Since the integral sum rule analysis ignores the spectral shape of the XMCD one could argue that it would be more appropriate to fit the detailed fine structure in the V XMCD with the multipole-moment analysis (MMA) [5]. To test this we compared the MMA results to *ab initio* SPR-KKR calculations by using the various parameters entering into the MMA procedure from the SPR-KKR calculation [11]. Hence, we compare theoretical results among each other. The results are presented in Fig. 2(b). First of all the *ab initio* calculation reproduces mainly all the fine structures of the experimental XMCD spectra. Interestingly, the MMA procedure resembles the asymmetry at the  $L_3$  edge. However, the procedure fails to reproduce the asymmetry at the  $L_2$  edge completely. This demonstrates that the two standard analysis procedures



**FIGURE 3.** Normalized XAS (above) and XMCD spectra (below) for the light 3d TM Ti, V, and Cr at the  $L_{2,3}$  edges: (solid lines) experimental data versus (dashed lines) *ab initio* calculations [14].

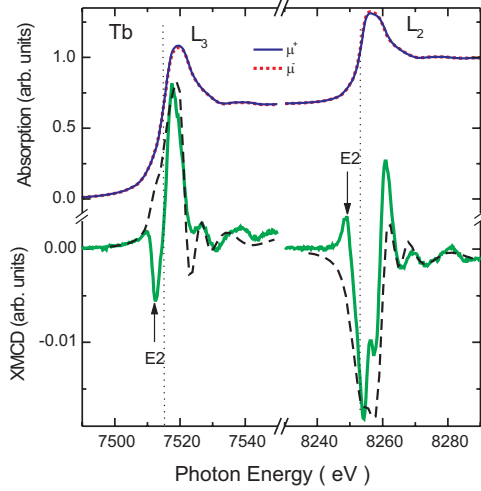
fail for this light 3d element. To overcome this difficulty we used the results for the  $\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{V}_{0.1}$  alloy as an experimental standard by adopting the SPR-KKR results for  $\mu_S$  and  $\mu_L$ . The absolute moments for the trilayer systems are then determined by scaling to this standard [11, 7]. This is possible since the spectral shape of the V XMCD of the trilayers is similar to the one of the FeV alloy.

For a more detailed understanding of the failure of the standard analysis procedures we performed a systematic investigation along the 3d series [13]. The results for the light 3d elements Ti, V and Cr are presented in Fig. 3. The same trilayer setup as depicted in Fig. 1(a) was analyzed. Hence, induced moments in Ti and V are probed, whereas uncompensated moments for the antiferromagnetic Cr are measured. The detailed analysis reveals that the lighter the 3d element is, the larger becomes the deviation of the sum rule results from the theoretical predictions [14, 7]. The question arises if this trend can be related to a systematic change in the spectra along the 3d series? Such a relation can be determined when analyzing the so-called branching ratio. This ratio is defined as  $B = A_{3/2}/(A_{3/2} + A_{1/2})$  where  $A_j$  is the area under isotropic XAS of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  subshell, i.e. the  $L_3$  and  $L_2$  white line intensities. The statistical branching ratio is calculated from the  $j = 3/2$  and  $j = 1/2$  manifolds and yields



**FIGURE 4.** Schematic illustration of the DPA model. The model describes the shifts of the excitation energies (uncorrelated  $\omega_i$  and correlated  $\Omega_i$ ) and the changes in corresponding oscillator strengths  $f_i$  in the presence of an excited core hole [15].

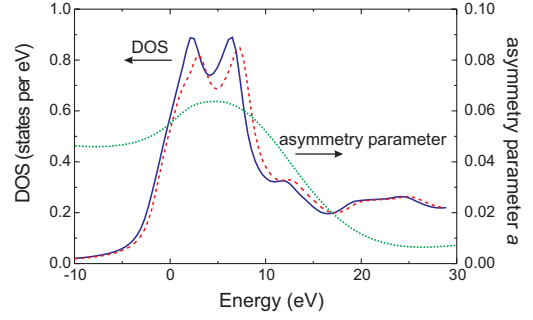




**FIGURE 6.** Normalized experimental Tb XAS (top) and XMCD spectra (bottom) at 10 K (solid lines), and theoretical XMCD spectra from FEFF8.20 (dashes). E2 labels  $2p \rightarrow 4f$  quadrupolar transitions [18].

## 5D MAGNETISM IN RARE EARTH METALS

It is clear that the magnetic properties of rare earth metals are determined by the  $4f$  levels. However, the magnetic ordering of these levels is mediated by the polarized  $5d$  band. To study the magnetism of the  $5d$  band the  $L_{2,3}$  edge XMCD appears to be well suited. However, we have shown in the past that in addition to the electric dipolar contributions (E1:  $2p \rightarrow 5d$ ) electric quadrupolar transitions (E2:  $2p \rightarrow 4f$ ) can be identified in the rare earth  $L_{2,3}$  edge XMCD [16, 7]. After separation of the two contributions we find that even the wrong sign of the  $5d$  moment is determined by means of the sum rules. This will be shown here for the  $L_{2,3}$  edge XMCD of a Tb single crystal. In Fig. 6 the absorption coefficients for right and left circularly polarized light and the corresponding XMCD are depicted. The electric quadrupolar contributions were identified by calculations using the FEFF8 code [16, 17] and are marked by the arrows. This shows that the major contribution to the dichroic signal stems from the E1 transitions to the final  $5d$  states. Surprisingly, the main contribution to the XMCD at the  $L_3$  edge is positive whereas a negative contribution is found at the  $L_2$  edge. Applying the sum rule analysis this results in a  $5d$  moment which would be aligned antiparallel to the  $4f$  moments. However, this result is completely in contradiction to standard magnetometry results. The total moment of Tb is  $9.34 \mu_B$  can be separated into a  $4f$  moment of  $9.0 \mu_B$  within an atomic picture according to Hund's rules and a  $5d$  contribution of about  $0.34 \mu_B$ . Hence, a parallel alignment of the  $4f$  and  $5d$  moments



**FIGURE 7.** Density of states for spin-up (solid) and spin-down (dashes) electrons in Tb. The asymmetry parameter  $a$  (dots) characterizes the difference from unity of the ratio between spin-up and -down matrix elements [Eq. (2)] and the zero of energy is the Fermi level  $E_F$  [18].

is expected. How can one understand that the sum rule analysis even yields the wrong sign of the  $5d$  moment? In general the XMCD signal at the  $L_3$  edge can be approximated by  $\Delta\mu \approx [\mu^\uparrow \rho^\uparrow - \mu^\downarrow \rho^\downarrow]/4$ , where  $\mu^\uparrow$  and  $\mu^\downarrow$  are the (spin-dependent) dipole matrix elements and  $\rho^\uparrow$  and  $\rho^\downarrow$  describe the spin-dependent DOS. However, in the sum rule analysis it is assumed that the dichroic signal directly reflects the difference of the spin-dependent density of states  $\Delta\mu \propto \rho^\uparrow - \rho^\downarrow$  by approximating  $\mu^\uparrow = \mu^\downarrow$ . Unfortunately, this assumption is not correct for the  $L_{2,3}$  edge XMCD of rare earth elements. The  $4f - 5d$  interaction results in an attractive exchange potential for the spin-up  $5d$  electrons and a repulsive potential for the spin-down electrons. This has the consequence that  $\mu^\uparrow > \mu^\downarrow$  [19]. To account for this difference we introduce a spin-asymmetry parameter  $a_j$  [18, 7]:

$$a_j \equiv \frac{R_{j,nl\uparrow} - R_{j,nl\downarrow}}{R_{j,nl\uparrow} + R_{j,nl\downarrow}}. \quad (3)$$

Here,  $R_{j,nl\uparrow}$  is the matrix element for majority spin and  $R_{j,nl\downarrow}$  that for the minority spin. The effect of the inequality of  $\mu^\uparrow$  and  $\mu^\downarrow$  is depicted in Fig. 7. The calculated spin-dependent DOS and the spin-asymmetry parameter using the FEFF8.2 code [17] are presented. The negative energies describe the occupied states and the positive energies characterize the unoccupied ones. We find that  $a_j$  reaches a maximum of about 0.06. Thereby the empty majority band is apparently enlarged as probed by the XMCD which results in a mostly positive XMCD contribution at the  $L_3$  edge. Hence, the wrong sign of the  $5d$  moment is determined in the sum rule analysis. To overcome this difficulty we considered the spin-asymmetry parameter in the XMCD analysis. For that purpose we established a generalized form of the integral sum rules by adding spin-dependent correction terms (for details see [18]). The corrections to the spin sum rule are large when the number of  $5d$  holes  $n_h(5d)$  are large. The reason for

the dramatic effect of the corrections (change of sign of  $5d$  moment) lies in the fact that for the  $4f$  rare metals like Tb  $n_h(5d) \approx 9$ . Applying these corrections we determine the following  $5d$  moments for the Tb spectra shown in Fig. 6:  $\mu_S(5d) = +0.37 \mu_B$ ,  $\mu_L(5d) = -0.027 \mu_B$  and therefore  $\mu_{tot}(5d) = +0.34 \mu_B$ . The positive sign for  $\mu_S$  and  $\mu_{tot}$  shows that the  $5d$  moment is aligned parallel to the  $4f$  moments which is in good agreement with other magnetometries.

## CONCLUSION

By examining two examples we have shown that the standard XMCD analysis can fail for magnetic systems of current interest. A systematic study along the 3d series revealed that the sum rule analysis as well as the multipole-moment analysis breaks down for light 3d elements. This failure could be related to the change of the branching ratio. To provide a transparent picture of the origin of this change we developed a double-pole approximation within the TDDFT framework to describe the change of  $L_{2,3}$  x-ray absorption spectra. Within this model we are able to determine the matrix elements of the unknown XC kernel. These values reveal that the shift of the spectral weight from the  $L_3$  to the  $L_2$  edge is primarily due to the reduced spin-orbit coupling. In the second example we focus on the  $5d$  magnetism of rare earth metals. We find by application of the integral sum rule analysis of the  $L_{2,3}$  edge XMCD that even the wrong sign of the  $5d$  moment is determined. This is due to the spin-dependence of the transition matrix elements. The inclusion of this effect in the analysis yields the correct  $5d$  moments in agreement with other magnetometries. Both examples reveal that only by comparison of the experimental spectra to calculations of the x-ray absorption coefficients and the corresponding dichroic spectra the magnetic ground state properties can be determined.

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