

Exciton transition and electronic structure of PbMoO_4 crystals studied by polarized light

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Polarized reflectivity spectra of PbMoO_4 crystals have been measured using synchrotron radiation up to 20 eV. The optical constants for the crystallographic axes are derived by using a Kramers-Kronig analysis. It is found that the exciton band at 3.6 eV shows a doublet structure with distinct dichroism. X-ray photoemission spectroscopy (XPS) and the calculation of the electronic structure by a discrete variational $X\alpha$ method are also carried out. The calculation shows that the valence band and the conduction band are mainly composed of the O 2p and Mo 4d states, respectively, and the Pb state contributes appreciably to the top of the valence band and the bottom of the conduction band.

The valence-band XPS spectrum of PbMoO_4 is compared with that of PbWO_4 , which reveals a remarkable difference between them. This difference reflects different magnitude of hybridization of Mo 4d or W 5d state to the valence band. The exciton transition is explained in terms of the cationic Pb 6s \rightarrow 6p excitation model taking into account the crystal-field splitting and the spin-orbit interaction of Pb 6p state. From a comparison of the doublet structure of the exciton band of PbMoO_4 and PbWO_4 , it is suggested that the electron-hole exchange interaction plays an important role for the exciton transitions in both materials.

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1 Introduction Metal tungstates and molybdates are well known as intrinsic scintillating materials [1–4]. Their luminescence properties have been extensively studied [5–9]. The electronic structures of these materials have been calculated theoretically using LAPW method [10, 11], and discrete variational $X\alpha$ (DV- $X\alpha$) method [12]. A systematic x-ray photoemission spectroscopy (XPS) has been carried out recently on some tungstates [12].

Most of metal molybdates and tungstates crystallize to the scheelite or wolframite structure [13–16]. The scheelite structure is found in the materials with large metal ions such as Pb, Ca, and Ba. On the other hand, the wolframite structure is found in the materials with small metal ions such as Zn, Mn, or Fe. The Cd compounds are on the border; CdMoO_4 is of scheelite type and CdWO_4 is of wolframite type. We have performed a series of studies on the optical properties of metal tungstates and molybdates [17–

21]. From the analyses of the remarkable dichroism found near the absorption edge, we could obtain fruitful information on the electronic structures of these anisotropic crystals. For PbWO_4 , the sharp absorption band peaking at 4.3 eV is assigned to the exciton transition from the Pb 6s state hybridized with the O 2p valence band to the Pb 6p state hybridized with the W 5d conduction band [18]. The lowest absorption band of Ca compounds is ascribed to the transition from the valence band of O 2p state to the conduction band of Mo 4d (W 5d) state, without clear excitonic structures [19]. In the case of Cd compounds, the structures at the absorption edge are attributed to the transitions from the O 2p valence band to the conduction band which is formed by the strongly hybridized Mo 4d–Cd 5s (W 5d–Cd 5s) states [21]. These experimental results are in good agreement with the results of the DV- $X\alpha$ calculation and the XPS experiment [12, 21].

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Information on the exciton states in tungstates and molybdates is deeply desired to understand the de-excitation processes after high-energy electronic excitation, since these materials are widely used for scintillation detectors. In the optical studies mentioned above, we revealed that no structures suggestive of exciton transition are found in CaMoO_4 , CaWO_4 , and CdMoO_4 , while weak exciton bands are observed in CdWO_4 and ZnWO_4 [19–21]. In contrast to these materials, PbWO_4 exhibits a pronounced exciton band with distinct dichroism [18]. We proposed that the anisotropic fine structure of the exciton band in PbWO_4 is explained in terms of the cationic $\text{Pb } 6s \rightarrow 6p$ excitation under uniaxial crystal-field along the c -axis. Similar cationic exciton transition is expected to take place in PbMoO_4 . In order to confirm the cationic exciton model and to get more detailed information on the exciton states, it would be interesting to compare the optical spectra of PbWO_4 and PbMoO_4 crystals, both having the scheelite structure. The optical spectra of PbMoO_4 have not been established as yet, although reflection measurements have been reported by a few groups [22, 23].

The PbMoO_4 crystals are tetragonal and therefore optically uniaxial. The optical axis is parallel to the crystallographic c -axis, while the a - and b -axes are equivalent to each other. In the present study, reflectivity spectra of oriented PbMoO_4 crystals are measured by using polarized synchrotron radiation. Optical constants are calculated with the help of a Kramers-Kronig analysis. The XPS spectrum is also measured to get information on the valence band and core states. The electronic structure of PbMoO_4 is calculated using the DV- $X\alpha$ method. The electronic structure and the exciton state are discussed based on the present results of PbMoO_4 and the previous studies of PbWO_4 .

2 Experiment PbMoO_4 crystals used in the present study were provided from Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) in India and also purchased from Furukawa Company in Japan. Both the crystals were grown by Czochralski technique under normal atmosphere. Details of the crystal growth of BARC samples are described in ref. [24]. The samples of $10 \times 10 \times 2 \text{ mm}^3$ were obtained from the crystals oriented by the x-ray diffraction or by means of a pair of crossed polarizers. The surfaces containing a - and c -axes were polished mechanically for the measurement of reflection. BARC samples were yellowish in color as compared to those from Furukawa, which were nearly colorless. This coloration, however, did not affect the reflectivity spectra.

Optical experiments were carried out using a 1m Seya-Namioka type monochromator at the beamline 1B in UVSOR facility of the Institute for Molecular Science in Okazaki. The samples were mounted on the copper holder in a variable temperature cryostat of He-flow type. The base pressure of the sample chamber was kept at about $1.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Pa}$. Reflectivity spectra of near normal incidence ($\sim 10^\circ$) were measured in the region of 3 to 20 eV with a typical resolution of 0.5 nm. The electric vector of the in-

cident light was parallel to the a -axis ($E//a$) or c -axis ($E//c$) of the crystals. Since the cracking along the plane perpendicular to the c -axis occurs easily in PbMoO_4 crystals under rapid temperature change [24], the samples were cooled down slowly at a rate less than 2.5 K/min for measurements at 6 K.

XPS spectra were measured using an ESCA spectrometer (ULVAC-PHI 5600). The measurements were performed for a freshly cleaved sample surface. Monochromatized x-ray ($K\alpha$: 1486.6 eV) from an Al anode was used for excitation. An electron flood gun was employed to compensate for the sample charging under x-ray irradiation. The overall resolution was about 0.5 eV under our experimental conditions. The base pressure in the sample chamber was less than $6.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ Pa}$ during the measurements.

3 Results The reflectivity spectra measured for samples of BARC and Furukawa agreed well with each other, except for slight differences in relative intensities of the structures. Figure 1 shows typical spectra of a Furukawa's sample at 6 K for the polarizations $E//a$ and $E//c$ in the 3–5 eV region. The absorption spectrum for $E//a$ at 6 K is also shown. The steps below 3.4 eV in the reflectivity spectra are due to the reflection from the rear surface, since the sample is transparent in this region. The lowest exciton band around 3.6 eV clearly shows a doublet structure for $E//a$. On the other hand, only a weak hump is seen in the 3.4–3.8 eV region for $E//c$.

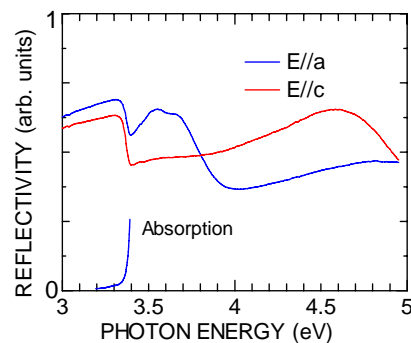


Figure 1 (online colour at: www.pss-b.com) Reflectivity spectra for $E//a$ and $E//c$ at 6 K in the exciton band region. Absorption spectrum for $E//a$ is also shown.

Because of the overlap of the reflection due to rear surface, it is difficult to obtain true spectra below fundamental absorption region. Therefore, the reflectivity R below the edge was calculated using the refractive index n and the relation $R = (n-1)^2/(n+1)^2$. The refractive indices of ordinary ray and extraordinary ray at room temperature [25] were used to calculate the reflectivity for $E//a$ and $E//c$, respectively. Each reflectivity spectrum measured above the absorption edge was connected to the calculated spectrum below the edge by multiplication with a constant factor.

The reflectivity spectra of PbMoO_4 at 6 K for $E//a$ and $E//c$ thus obtained are shown in Fig. 2 up to 20 eV. Remarkable dichroism is seen in the region below 6 eV. In the 6–10 eV region broad structures are observed for both polarizations. Main features above 4 eV reported in ref. [22] agree with those in Fig. 2.

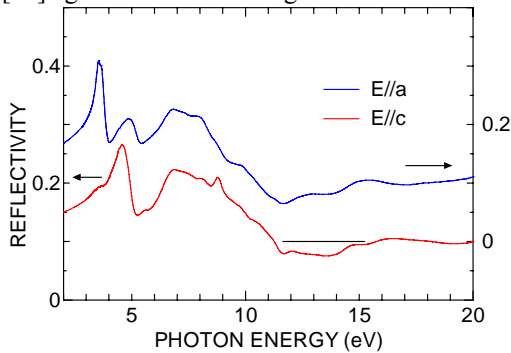


Figure 2 (online colour at: www.pss-b.com) Reflectivity spectra of PbMoO_4 at 6 K for $E//a$ and $E//c$.

Optical constants were calculated from the spectra of Fig. 2 using a Kramers-Kronig analysis. Figures 3 and 4 show the real (ϵ_1) and imaginary (ϵ_2) parts of the dielectric functions, respectively. The ϵ_2 spectra below 6 eV are also shown in an expanded scale in Fig. 5. The lowest band 1 for $E//a$ has two peaks a_1 at 3.58 eV and a_2 at 3.69 eV. On the other hand, the spectrum for $E//c$ exhibits a weak plateau in this region. A broad peak 2 is observed at 4.7 eV for $E//c$. The ϵ_2 spectra of PbWO_4 [18] are also shown in Fig. 5 for the sake of comparison.

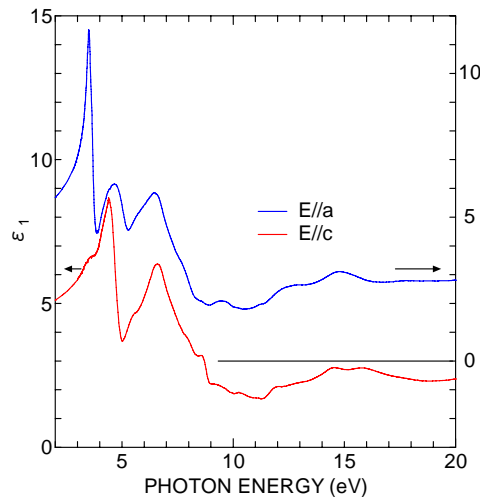


Figure 3 (online colour at: www.pss-b.com) Real part of the dielectric function of PbMoO_4 for $E//a$ and $E//c$ at 6 K.

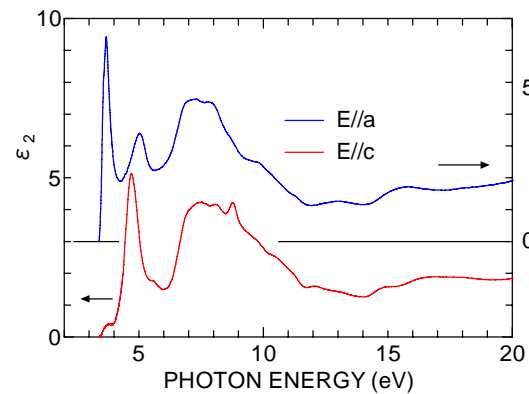


Figure 4 (online colour at: www.pss-b.com) Imaginary part of the dielectric function of PbMoO_4 for $E//a$ and $E//c$ at 6 K.

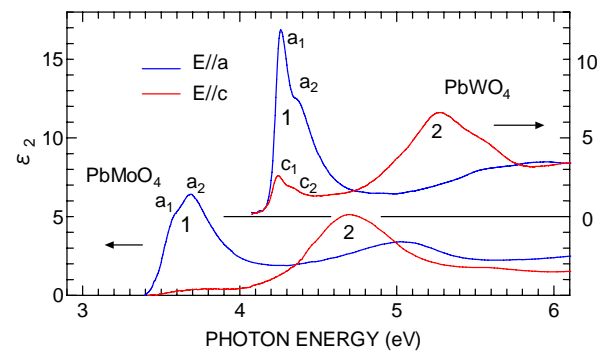


Figure 5 (online colour at: www.pss-b.com) Imaginary part of the dielectric function of PbMoO_4 for $E//a$ and $E//c$ at 6 K in the region below 6 eV. The spectra of PbWO_4 [17] are also shown for comparison.

Common features are observed between the structures in PbMoO_4 and PbWO_4 . The splitting of a_1 and a_2 in the lowest band 1 is 0.11 eV for PbMoO_4 , and 0.12 eV for PbWO_4 . The band 2 is observed at about 1 eV higher energy position for $E//c$ in both materials. On the other hand, some differences are observed in Fig. 5. The intensity of the peak a_1 is stronger than that of a_2 in PbWO_4 , and vice versa in PbMoO_4 . In PbWO_4 , peaks c_1 and c_2 are observed clearly, while no appreciable structure is seen on the weak plateau in the 3.4–4.0 eV region for $E//c$ in PbMoO_4 , although careful measurements were repeated using the samples of BARC and Furukawa. Since weak structures in reflectivity spectra are easily affected by the errors due to experimental noise and by the approximation in the Kramers-Kronig analysis, it is difficult to conclude whether any excitonic peaks exist or not for $E//c$ of PbMoO_4 . However, it is certain that the intensity of exciton absorption in this region for $E//c$ of PbMoO_4 is extremely weak compared to that of PbWO_4 .

Figure 6 shows the XPS spectrum of PbMoO_4 measured at 300 K. The binding energy is given relative to the top of the valence band. The full base width of the valence band is about 6 eV. The valence band shows two compo-

nents. There is a difference in the valence-band XPS spectra between PbMoO_4 and PbWO_4 . In Fig. 6, the peak height of the high-binding energy component at 4.2 eV is almost the same as that of the low-binding energy one at 2.3 eV. On the other hand, the high-binding energy component in PbWO_4 is considerably stronger than that of the low-binding energy one [12]. A weak peak is observed at 7.0 eV. The doublet structure around 18 eV is due to the spin-orbit split Pb 5d core state; $5d_{5/2}$ and $5d_{3/2}$. The O 2s state is considered to be superposed on the Pb $5d_{3/2}$ band at around 19 eV. The spectral shape around the doublet structure is almost the same as that of PbWO_4 [12].

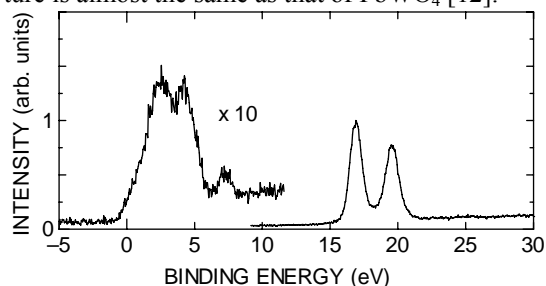


Figure 6 XPS spectrum of PbMoO_4 . The binding energy is given relative to the top of the valence band.

4 Electronic structure of PbMoO_4 by the DV- $X\alpha$ calculation

The electronic structure of PbMoO_4 and PbWO_4 has been calculated by the LAPW method [10]. The calculation suggests that the contribution of Pb states to the top of the valence band is small. This is incompatible with the experimental result on PbWO_4 , where the exciton transition due to the intra-cationic excitation in Pb ions is obviously observed [18]. Recently the electronic structure of PbMoO_4 has been carried out by a density functional theory using CASTEP code [26]. The calculation shows the optical anisotropy of the fundamental absorption edge, that is, the absorption is stronger for $E//a$ than for $E//c$. This is consistent with the present experimental result in Fig. 5. In ref. [26], however, the partial density of states (PDOS) of the constituent atoms are not presented except for O 2p state. The information on the contribution of each atom is desired to discuss the origin of the structures in the optical spectra.

In the present study, the relativistic DV- $X\alpha$ calculation was carried out for PbMoO_4 . The details of the calculation method is described in ref. [27]. Three clusters $[\text{Pb}(\text{MoO}_4)_4]^{6-}$, $[\text{Pb}_9\text{Mo}_{10}\text{O}_{68}]^{58-}$, and $[\text{Pb}_4\text{MoO}_4]^{6+}$ were chosen to compare the calculated results with the experimental results in more convincing way. The band gap energies calculated from these clusters with taking the Madelung potential into account are 4.39 eV, 3.67 eV, and 5.04 eV, respectively. The band gap energy of PbMoO_4 has not been unambiguously determined. In the case of PbWO_4 , it is estimated to be about 4.7 eV from the experiments of thermoluminescence [28] and photocurrent [29]. This reveals that the exciton binding energy for the peak a_1 in PbWO_4 is about 0.4 eV. If we assume the same value for

PbMoO_4 , the band gap energy is expected to be 4.0 eV. This value is in between the calculated band gap energies for clusters $[\text{Pb}(\text{MoO}_4)_4]^{6-}$ and $[\text{Pb}_9\text{Mo}_{10}\text{O}_{68}]^{58-}$. For reference, the calculated band gap energies by the LAPW method [10] and by the CASTEP code [26] are 2.59 eV and 4.5 eV, respectively.

In Fig. 7, we present the energy diagram and the PDOS of PbMoO_4 calculated for $[\text{Pb}(\text{MoO}_4)_4]^{6-}$ cluster for the sake of comparison with those of PbWO_4 in ref. [12], where the same cluster $[\text{Pb}(\text{WO}_4)_4]^{6-}$ was used. As shown in Fig. 7 the entire valence band is mainly built up of the O 2p state. The Pb 6s state hybridizes with the O 2p state at the top and the bottom of the valence band. In the lower part of the valence band the Mo 4d state hybridizes strongly with the O 2p state. The lower portion of the conduction band is dominated by the Mo 4d state which hybridizes with the Pb 6p and O 2p states. The partial contributions of the electronic states of Pb, O, and Mo atoms to the bottom of the conduction band are 8.2%, 26.4%, and 65.4%, respectively. The partial contributions of these atoms to the top of the valence band are 59.5%, 37.8%, and 2.7%, respectively. There are appreciable contributions of Pb state to the bottom of the conduction band and the top of the valence band, although the magnitudes are about 0.7 times as small as those in PbWO_4 (12.3% for conduction-band bottom and 84.7% for valence-band top) [12].

The Pb 5d and O 2p core states are situated at about -10 eV below the bottom of the valence band. The calculated binding energies of these core states are underestimated as compared to the XPS spectrum in Fig. 6. Similar underestimation is also found in the case of tungstates [12].

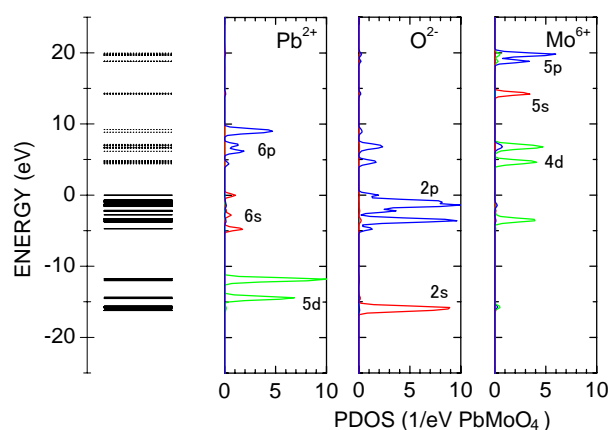


Figure 7 (online colour at: www.pss-b.com) Energy diagram and partial density of states per molecule for PbMoO_4 .

5 Discussion We first compare the XPS spectrum of PbMoO_4 in Fig. 6 with that of PbWO_4 in ref. [12]. It should be noted that the intensity of high-binding energy component in the valence band of PbMoO_4 is relatively weak compared to that of PbWO_4 . Since the photoionization cross section of Mo 4d (0.46×10^{-2} Mb) is smaller than

1 that of W 5d (0.65×10^{-2} Mb) [30], this result reveals the
 2 existence of hybridization of the Mo 4d (W 5d) state with
 3 the O 2p state in the lower portion of the valence band in
 4 PbMoO_4 (PbWO_4). The above argument is in good agree-
 5 ment with the calculation result on PDOS of both materials.
 6 As for the weak band at 7.0 eV in Fig. 6, a similar band is
 7 also observed in PbWO_4 . Two possible explanations for
 8 the origin of this band have been proposed [12]. One is that
 9 this band is attributed to the Pb 6s–O 2p bonding state
 10 which is found at -5.0 eV in Fig. 7. The other is that this
 11 band is due to the metallic Pb state produced at the sample
 12 surface during high-energy photon irradiation. The spectral
 13 shape of the doublet structure around 18 eV in Fig. 6 re-
 14 sembles that of PbWO_4 [12]. Such common feature is rea-
 15 sonable, because the doublet structure is due to the spin-
 16 orbit split Pb 5d states overlapping with the O 2p state in
 17 both materials.

18 Let us now consider the origin of band 1 and band 2 in
 19 PbMoO_4 in Fig. 5. In the previous paper [18], we proposed
 20 a model based on an intra-cationic Pb 6s \rightarrow 6p transition in
 21 order to explain the dichroism of the exciton band in
 22 PbWO_4 . There is a good similarity in the optical spectra
 23 between PbMoO_4 and PbWO_4 , as shown in Fig. 5; i.e., the
 24 lowest band 1 shows doublet structure for $E//a$ and the
 25 band 2 is observed for $E//c$. Such a similarity suggests that
 26 the exciton transition in PbMoO_4 is also explained by the
 27 same model, although the calculated contributions of Pb
 28 state to the uppermost valence band and the lowest conduc-
 29 tion band are not so large compared to those in PbWO_4 .
 30 Here we describe the model in brief. In the scheelite
 31 structure, a Pb^{2+} ion is at the site of S_4 symmetry
 32 surrounded by eight O^{2-} ions. The Pb 6p state splits into
 33 the $\Gamma_{3,4}$ level and the Γ_2 level due to the uniaxial crystal-
 34 field along the c -axis [31]. The electric dipole transitions
 35 from the ground state Γ_1 of Pb 6s state to the former and
 36 the latter levels are allowed for the polarizations $E//a$ and
 37 $E//c$, respectively. The band 1 observed for $E//a$ and the
 38 band 2 for $E//c$ in Fig. 5 are ascribed to the transitions from
 39 the top of the valence band of the Γ_1 level to the $\Gamma_{3,4}$ level
 40 and the Γ_2 level, respectively. The splitting of the peaks a_1
 41 and a_2 of the band 1 is attributed to the spin-orbit splitting
 42 of the Pb 6p state [18].

43 From the separation of band 1 and band 2, the crystal
 44 field splitting of the $\Gamma_{3,4}$ and Γ_2 states is estimated to be 1.0
 45 eV for PbMoO_4 , which is in good agreement with 0.9 eV
 46 for PbWO_4 [18]. Since the nearest neighbor Pb–O distance
 47 is nearly identical in PbMoO_4 (2.61 Å) and PbWO_4 (2.59
 48 Å), it is reasonable that the crystal field splitting is not sen-
 49 sitive to the substitution of Mo for W. The spin-orbit cou-
 50 pling constant is evaluated to be almost the same (0.10 eV)
 51 in PbMoO_4 and PbWO_4 from the splitting of the peaks a_1
 52 and a_2 . The magnitude of the spin-orbit coupling is signifi-
 53 cantly reduced from that of a free Pb^{2+} ion (1.63 eV) [32].
 54 This reduction is due to the strong hybridization of Mo 4d
 55 (W 5d) state with the Pb 6p state in the conduction band as
 56 suggested from the DV- $X\alpha$ calculations.

As far as the separation of band 1 and band 2 and the
 splitting of a_1 and a_2 are concerned, the above model ex-
 plains the observed optical spectra well. However, there
 remain two questions to be considered. The intensity of
 peak a_1 is stronger than that of a_2 in PbWO_4 , while the
 intensity ratio is inverted in PbMoO_4 . Furthermore, in the
 spectrum of PbWO_4 , small but distinct peaks c_1 and c_2 are
 observed for $E//c$, while such structures are not obvious in
 PbMoO_4 .

Here, we point out that the electron-hole exchange in-
 teraction may play an important role in the exciton transi-
 tions in tungstates and molybdates. It is well known that
 alkali halides exhibit a pronounced doublet structure
 (halogen doublet) at the fundamental absorption edge due
 to exciton transition from the valence band of halogen p
 state to the conduction band of alkali s state [33, 34]. The
 doublet structure is attributed to the spin-orbit splitting of
 the halogen p state. Onodera and Toyozawa [35] have
 shown theoretically that the intensity ratio of the halogen
 doublet sensitively depends on the electron-hole exchange
 energy, while the doublet splitting is not so sensitive. As
 mentioned before, the contributions of Pb state to the top
 of the valence band and the bottom of the conduction band
 in PbMoO_4 are about 0.7 times as small as those in PbWO_4 .
 This suggests that the wave functions of the electron and
 hole composing an exciton are localized to a lesser extent
 on a Pb ion in PbMoO_4 , resulting in smaller overlap of the
 wave functions of electron and hole. The magnitude of the
 exchange interaction in PbMoO_4 is thus expected to be
 considerably small compared to that in PbWO_4 , since the
 exchange interaction largely depends upon the overlap. If
 this speculation is correct, the difference in magnitude of
 the electron-hole exchange energy is responsible for the
 reversal of the intensity ratio of the structures a_1 and a_2
 between PbMoO_4 and PbWO_4 .

The exciton transition for $E//c$ in PbMoO_4 is very weak
 compared to that in PbWO_4 as shown in Fig. 5. The optical
 transition from the Γ_1 level to the $\Gamma_{3,4}$ level is forbidden for
 $E//c$ under the crystal field along the c -axis, as mentioned
 before. When the spin-orbit interaction and the electron-
 hole exchange interaction are taken into account, the transi-
 tion becomes partially allowed for $E//c$. It is therefore
 supposed that the intensity of the transition for $E//c$ de-
 pends on the magnitudes of the crystal-field potential, spin-
 orbit coupling constant, and electron-hole exchange energy.
 In order to explain the transition intensity of each structure
 for $E//a$ and $E//c$ of PbMoO_4 and PbWO_4 , a quantitative
 analysis using the parameters of these interactions would
 be required, but it is beyond the scope of this paper.

In the higher energy region, optical transitions from the
 O 2p state to the Mo 4d state are expected to occur, since
 the valence band is dominated by the O 2p state and the
 conduction band mainly consists of the Mo 4d state as
 shown in Fig. 7. In Fig. 4, a peak is observed at 5.1 eV for
 $E//a$, and broad structures are observed in the 7–9 eV re-
 gion for both polarizations. These structures are likely as-
 signed to the transitions from the O 2p state to the Mo 4d

state. Similar absorption bands due to the O 2p \rightarrow Mo 4d transitions are also observed in CaMoO₄ crystals [19].

It is worth noting the relaxation processes of free excitons into self-trapped states in PbMoO₄ and PbWO₄ crystals. In both materials, the excitons are created on Pb²⁺ ions, while the intrinsic luminescence arises from the radiative recombination of self-trapped excitons located on (MoO₄)²⁻ or (WO₄)²⁻ ions [5–9]. From these observations, we suppose that optically created excitons in PbMoO₄ and PbWO₄ move freely through the crystal during their lifetimes, and then self-trap on (MoO₄)²⁻ or (WO₄)²⁻ ions by inducing the Jahn-Teller distortion of the tetrahedral oxyanion molecules [9]. This situation is in clear contrast with that in other molybdates and tungstates, such as CaMoO₄ and CaWO₄ [19], where an electron-hole pair is created on a (MoO₄)²⁻ or (WO₄)²⁻ ion site, and subsequently self-traps on its site from which the intrinsic luminescence is emitted.

6 Summary We measured polarized reflectivity spectra of PbMoO₄ crystals. The optical constants for *a*- and *c*-axes were obtained. It was clarified that the exciton band has a doublet structure with remarkable dichroism. The measurement of XPS spectrum and the calculation of electronic structure by DV- $X\alpha$ method were also carried out. The present results of PbMoO₄ were compared with the previous results of PbWO₄. The difference in valence-band XPS spectrum was ascribed to different magnitude of hybridization of Mo 4d or W 5d state to the O 2p state. From the energy band calculation and the similarity of optical spectra of PbMoO₄ and PbWO₄, it was pointed out that the exciton transition is explained by the cationic excitation model. The importance of the electron-hole exchange interaction in the exciton transition was suggested from the comparison of the fine structures in the exciton bands in PbMoO₄ and PbWO₄.

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