

Accepted Manuscript

Constrained DFT+*U* approach for understanding the magnetic behaviour of ACr_2O_4
(A=Zn, Mg, Cd and Hg) compounds

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PII: S0375-9601(16)31456-6
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physleta.2017.01.002>
Reference: PLA 24272

To appear in: *Physics Letters A*

Received date: 26 October 2016
Revised date: 10 December 2016
Accepted date: 3 January 2017

Please cite this article in press as: S. Lal, S.K. Pandey, Constrained DFT+*U* approach for understanding the magnetic behaviour of ACr_2O_4 (A=Zn, Mg, Cd and Hg) compounds, *Phys. Lett. A* (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physleta.2017.01.002>

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Highlights

- Inconsistency about the nearest neighbour exchange coupling constant (theoretically predicted by Yaresko) with increasing U is studied in chromium spinels.
- Unconstrained calculations give the inconsistent sign of nearest neighbour exchange coupling constant and variation of its magnitude with increasing U especially for CdCr_2O_4 and HgCr_2O_4 for $U > 3$ eV and $U=2-6$ eV, respectively.
- The sign of nearest neighbour exchange coupling constant and variation of its magnitude with increasing U observed in constrained calculations are consistent with experimental data and inverse relation of exchange coupling constant and U , respectively.
- The present study shows the importance of constrained calculations in understanding the magnetic behaviour of these spinels.

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