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Vanadium $L_{2,3}$ XANES Experiments and First Principles Multielectron

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Calculations: Impact of Second-Nearest Neighbouring Cations on

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Vanadium-Bearing Fresnoites

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36

ABSTRACT

37

38 Transition-metal $L_{2,3}$ XANES spectra are widely used to determine coordination and valence
39 of the target ion. For decades, experimental fingerprinting, i.e., the comparison with spectra
40 obtained from known reference compounds was the way to interpret spectral features. This
41 approach was based on the common understanding that only anions in the first coordination
42 sphere would determine the near-edge structure, and crystalline references were selected
43 accordingly. Using *ab initio* charge-transfer multiplet calculations, we demonstrate that there
44 is also a significant impact on spectral features from the second-nearest neighbour cations.
45 This finding is exemplified for three fresnoite-type vanadates, namely $Ba_2VSi_2O_8$ (BVS),
46 $K_2VV_2O_8$ (KVV), and $Rb_2VV_2O_8$ (RVV). The theoretical treatment provides evidence that for
47 the three compounds studied it is not variable bond lengths or bond angles between vanadium
48 and oxygen that make the V- $L_{2,3}$ XANES spectra different, but the interaction of the target
49 vanadium ions with its neighbouring cations (Si for BVS, V for KVV & RVV) which
50 dominates. Therefore, we conclude that simple fingerprinting can result in misleading
51 interpretations when interactions with second-nearest neighbouring cations are not taken into
52 account. *Ab initio* charge-transfer multiplet calculations of spectral shapes (theoretical
53 fingerprinting) should be employed instead to get a deeper understanding of structure-spectra
54 relationships, or the choice of reference spectra should take into account second-nearest
55 neighbours. Our findings are similarly important for the interpretation of electron energy-loss
56 near-edge (ELNES) spectra.

57

INTRODUCTION

58

59

60 The spectroscopy of unoccupied states, either excited by X-rays (X-ray absorption near-edge
61 structure, XANES) or electrons (electron energy loss near-edge structure, ELNES) has been

62 gaining increasing interest due to its sensitivity towards subtle changes in the electronic
63 structure accessible at a spectral resolution below 100 meV, or more precisely 10^{-4} times the
64 excitation energy (Regier et al., 2007).

65

66 It has been known for many years that departures in coordination around the probed
67 transition-metal ion (see e.g. (Brydson et al., 1989)) do result in changes to the spectral shape
68 of transition-metal $L_{2,3}$ edges. This is because the energetic position of unoccupied 3d states is
69 sensitively influenced by the crystal-field splitting essentially caused by the anions in the first
70 coordination sphere around the probed cation (Höche et al., 2004). Another source of spectral
71 differences is the valence state. For transition metals, it is found that lowering the valence
72 causes a chemical shift towards lower photon energies or electron energy losses, respectively
73 (Leapman et al., 1982). This chemical shift is due to more effective screening of the core
74 potential for reduced species. In parallel, upon decreasing the valence of a given element, the
75 number of unoccupied states is decreased as well. For example, chemical shifts of the Ti $L_{2,3}$
76 edges towards lower energy losses have been observed by Leapman (Leapman et al., 1982),
77 while $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{TiO}_3$ was studied by Abbate *et al.* (Abbate et al., 1991) using Ti- $L_{2,3}$ XANES to
78 demonstrate the influence of altering Ti valence while keeping the Ti coordination unchanged
79 (via the substitution of strontium by lanthanum). Höche *et al.* (Höche et al., 2003b) also
80 proved this effect using ELNES spectroscopy of barium oxo titanates (III/IV)
81 $\text{Ba}_x\text{Ti}_{2x}^{3+}\text{Ti}_{8-2x}^{4+}\text{O}_{16}$. Eventually, Coulomb and exchange interactions (Zaanen et al., 1985)
82 have to be taken into account for understanding departures from the ideal L_3/L_2 intensity ratio
83 for 3d transition metals (Thole and Laan, 1988).

84

85 While the experimental assessment of transition-metal $L_{2,3}$ edges has been brought to a very
86 high level of sophistication in terms of spectral, as well as, spatial resolution, the simulation
87 of transition-metal L -edges has only recently reached a state where interpretation and

88 predictions are feasible (Ikeno et al., 2009; Ikeno et al., 2006; Ikeno et al., 2005; Kumagai et
89 al., 2008).

90

91 The apparent advantages of *ab initio* charge-transfer multiplet (CTM) calculations were
92 demonstrated for 3d metals by consideration of electronic configurations in the configuration
93 interactions. With this approach, not just qualitative but *quantitative* reproduction of ELNES
94 or XANES spectra is possible. While in earlier studies (Ikeno et al., 2011), compounds
95 hosting transition metals in single valence and coordination states have been dealt with, here,
96 we go one step further by considering three fresnoite-type vanadates, namely $\text{Ba}_2\text{VSi}_2\text{O}_8$,
97 $\text{K}_2\text{VV}_2\text{O}_8$, and $\text{Rb}_2\text{VV}_2\text{O}_8$, the last two of which host vanadium in two valence states and
98 coordinations.

99

100 The structural peculiarity of fresnoite compounds lies in the fact that this framework structure
101 hosts pentahedrally coordinated transition metals. In the case of $\text{Ba}_2\text{VSi}_2\text{O}_8$ (BVS) (Höche et
102 al., 2003a), tetravalent vanadium occurs exclusively in a square pyramid consisting of four
103 basal-plane oxygen ions with identical distances to the central vanadium ion and one apical
104 oxygen ion connected via a short double bond forming a vanadyl group (cf. Table 1).

105

106 Apart from the single-valence, single-coordination V-bearing compound BVS, we have also
107 studied two other fresnoite framework structures featuring one tetravalent vanadium position
108 in pentahedral coordination *plus* one pentavalent vanadium position in tetrahedral
109 coordination. Substitution of the Si positions in BVS by V^{5+} requires charge compensation
110 that can be accomplished by a parallel substitution of the alkaline earth metal Ba^{2+} by an
111 alkali metal, e.g., K^+ or Rb^+ . The V- $L_{2,3}$ ionization edges of $\text{K}_2\text{VV}_2\text{O}_8$ (KVV)(Galy and
112 Carpy, 1975) and $\text{Rb}_2\text{VV}_2\text{O}_8$ (RVV)(Ha-Eierdanz and Müller, 1992; Withers et al., 2004) are

113 therefore characterised by a rather complex, weighted superposition of V(d) states stemming
114 from the $V^{4+}O_5$ pyramid with electronic states related to two identical $V^{5+}O_4$ tetrahedra.

115

116 Using soft X-ray XANES data acquired at the SGM beamline of the Canadian Light Source,
117 the extent to which *ab initio* CTM calculations at the V- $L_{2,3}$ ionization edge of the two oxo
118 vanadates (IV/V) KVV and RVV can reproduce experimental data was studied.

119

120

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

121

122 About 100 grams of V_2O_5 and 76 grams of K_2CO_3 (or Rb_2CO_3) are loaded into a 250 ml Pt
123 crucible, slowly heated in air to 700 °C and held for 2 h. The powder is added in two stages
124 because of substantial foaming. The molten KVO_3 ($RbVO_3$) flux is then cooled to room
125 temperature and the Pt crucible and solidified KVO_3 ($RbVO_3$) loaded into a fused silica
126 ampoule that is necked down at the top. Using a long funnel, 9 g of VO_2 is added to the Pt
127 crucible and the entire ampoule is evacuated and sealed. The sealed ampoule is loaded into a
128 furnace, heated to 850 °C for 6 h, cooled to 700 °C over 1 h and then cooled to about 400 °C
129 at 1 °C/h, followed by furnace cooling to room temperature. The KVO_3 ($RbVO_3$) flux is then
130 removed with a combination of warm water and ultrasonic vibration. The resulting $K_2V_3O_8$ or
131 $Rb_2V_3O_8$ crystals are black rectangular plates with dimensions as large as 5 x 5 x 1 mm³.

132

133 As described elsewhere (Höche et al., 2003a), high-purity $Ba_2VSi_2O_8$ was prepared via a sol-
134 gel route. The light blue coloured powder obtained this way was ground, pressed into pellets
135 and sintered under a dry argon atmosphere at 750 °C for 16 h using a heating rate of 3 K/min.
136 The black pellets obtained were crushed, ground and pressed again. Sintering was completed
137 at 1,150 °C for 16 h under a dry argon atmosphere and resulted in grey-green pellets of
138 $Ba_2VSi_2O_8$ as confirmed by X-ray powder diffractometry.

139
140 V- $L_{2,3}$ edge XANES data of $K_2VV_2O_8$ and $Rb_2VV_2O_8$ single crystals as well as a $Ba_2VSi_2O_8$
141 polycrystal were recorded in the energy range between 510 and 529 eV at the spherical-
142 grating monochromator (SGM) beamline of the Canadian Light Source using a step width of
143 50 meV (in the hi-res mode: 20 meV) and an exit slit of 20 microns. Since the probing depth
144 of the total electron yield (TEY) data is only on the order of a few nanometers, and hence
145 superficial effects may be emphasized, fluorescence-yield (FLY) data were used throughout
146 this study. For calibration, a CO spectrum was recorded and the photon energy scale was
147 calibrated using the fifth vibrational state, known to have a value of 534.21 eV (Puttner et al.,
148 1999). The CO spectrum also indicates the resolution - it was taken with the same settings as
149 the other data. As its vibrational structure is well-resolved, the resolution is around 80 meV.

150

151 THEORETICAL METHODS

152

153 A number of theoretical methods have been used to obtain theoretical XANES/ELNES from
154 first principles, which is described in a series of review papers (Mizoguchi et al., 2010;
155 Tanaka and Mizoguchi, 2009; Tanaka et al., 2005). A supercell core-hole method on the basis
156 of density functional theory (DFT) is the most popular method. However, it cannot be used
157 for $L_{2,3}$ XANES/ELNES of 3d-transition metal (TM) elements, since widely spread multiplet
158 structures due to the localized 3d electrons dominate the spectra. The presence of a 2p-core
159 hole introduces further complexity into the spectra. Recently, a first principles method has
160 been developed to deal with the electronic correlations among 3d electrons and a 2p core-hole
161 (Ikeno et al., 2009; Ikeno et al., 2006; Ikeno et al., 2005; Kumagai et al., 2008).

162

163 This can be made by taking all Slater determinants produced from relativistic molecular
164 spinors. In the quantum chemistry terminology, this is the configuration interaction (CI)

165 calculation using molecular spinors via DFT. In addition to the TM-3d atomic spinors, ligand
166 atomic spinors sometimes play essential roles in the TM- $L_{2,3}$ XANES/ELNES. An additional
167 atomic configuration, that is, $3d^n + 3d^{n+1}\underline{L}$ for the initial state and $2p^5 3d^{n+1} + 2p^5 3d^{n+2}\underline{L}$ for the
168 final states, where \underline{L} denotes a hole on ligand spinors, should be taken into account. The
169 multiplet structures in such cases are called charge-transfer multiplet (CTM). In the present
170 study, we made a set of CTM calculations by the DFT+CI approach.

171

172 Relativistic molecular spinor calculations were carried out by solving Dirac equations
173 employing the local density approximation (LDA). Four-component relativistic molecular
174 spinors were expressed as linear combinations of atomic spinors. The numerically generated
175 four component relativistic atomic spinors (1s - 4p for V and 1s - 2p for O) were used as basis
176 functions for molecular spinors. Cluster models composed of one V ion and the coordinating
177 oxygen ions were used for the calculation. The total number of electrons in the cluster was
178 counted on the basis of the formal charges of the constituents. Therefore, the clusters were
179 VO_5^{6-} for V^{4+} , and VO_4^{3-} for V^{5+} . Charge-transferred configurations having a single ligand
180 hole were considered but configurations with two or more ligand holes were not considered in
181 the present study.

182

183 The positions of the atoms in the crystalline compounds were obtained from the experimental
184 crystal structures. To take account of the effective Madelung potential, an array of point
185 charges was placed at the external atomic sites of clusters using the method proposed by
186 Evjen (Evjen, 1932).

187

188 The number of Slater determinants for VO_5^{6-} is 23,230, namely ${}_{10}C_1 + {}_{10}C_1 \times {}_{30}C_{29} = 1,360$ for
189 initial states and ${}_6C_5 \times {}_{10}C_2 + {}_6C_5 \times {}_{10}C_3 \times {}_{30}C_{29} = 21,870$ for final states. The number for VO_4^{3-}
190 is 6,781, namely ${}_{10}C_0 + {}_{10}C_1 \times {}_{24}C_{23} = 341$ for initial states and ${}_6C_5 \times {}_{10}C_1 + {}_6C_5 \times {}_{10}C_2 \times {}_{24}C_{23} =$

191 6,540 for final states. The number of Slater determinants corresponds to the number of many
192 electron eigenvalues or multiplets.

193

194 Theoretical XANES/ELNES was obtained as the oscillator strength of the electric dipole
195 transition using the many-electron wave functions for the initial and final states. The
196 photoabsorption cross section (PACS) was obtained by broadening the oscillator strengths
197 using Lorentz functions and by multiplying by the constant $2\pi^2\hbar^2\alpha/m$, where α is the fine-
198 structure constant (=1/137.036). The other terms are of usual meaning. The full width at half-
199 maximum (FWHM) of the Lorentz function was set to 0.4 eV over the whole energy region.
200 The quadrupole and higher order transitions were ignored.

201

202 This CI method is known to systematically overestimate the absolute transition energy
203 (Ogasawara et al., 2001). This can be ascribed to the truncation of the Slater determinants. In
204 other words, this is due to disregarding the minor contribution of the electronic correlations.
205 In the present study, the transition energy was corrected by taking the energy difference
206 between molecular spinors for the Slater's transition state as a reference. More details on the
207 method are described in (Ikeno et al., 2011).

208

209

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

210

211 Single crystals of $\text{Ba}_2\text{VSi}_2\text{O}_8$ (Höche et al., 2003a), $\text{Rb}_2\text{V}^{4+}\text{V}_2^{5+}\text{O}_8$ (Withers et al., 2004), and
212 $\text{K}_2\text{V}^{4+}\text{V}_2^{5+}\text{O}_8$ (Galy and Carpy, 1975) were grown as described in the experimental section
213 and confirmed to be single-phase by standard X-ray diffraction techniques. All three
214 compounds crystallize in the fresnoite framework structure, named after the mineral fresnoite,
215 $\text{Ba}_2\text{TiSi}_2\text{O}_8$ (Alfors et al., 1965) (space group $P4bm$) (Moore and Louisnathan, 1967). In the
216 general formula $\text{A}_2\text{PT}_2\text{O}_8$ (see Fig. 1), "T" denotes a tetrahedrally coordinated ion (Si^{4+} , Ge^{4+} ,

217 or V^{5+}), "A" an alkali ion (such as K, or Rb) or an alkaline-earth ion (Ba or Sr) and "P" is Ti^{4+}
218 or V^{4+} in pentahedral coordination. The fresnoite crystal structure is comprised of corner-
219 connected " T " $_2O_7$, and " P " O_5 square pyramids arranged in sheets interspersed with layers of
220 "A" ions.

221

222 Fresnoite structures are very susceptible to the formation of incommensurate structural
223 modulations (Höche et al., 1999; Withers et al., 2002) but such modulations are neither
224 observed for $K_2VV_2O_8$, $Rb_2VV_2O_8$, nor $Ba_2VSi_2O_8$ at room temperature. In order to interpret
225 departures in their respective XANES spectra, their crystal structures in terms of bond length
226 and bond angles will be discussed in a bit more detail. While the bond lengths within the VO_5
227 pyramid of the three compounds vary by up to 10 % (for the vanadyl bonding with the apical
228 oxygen) and by up to 5 % for the bonding towards the basal oxygen (Tab. 1), the shape of the
229 VO_5 group itself is relatively unchanged (Tab. 2). Comparing bond lengths in the V_2O_7
230 groups of $K_2VV_2O_8$ and $Rb_2VV_2O_8$ (Tab. 2 and Fig. 2), it is found that bond lengths in
231 $K_2VV_2O_8$ are generally circa 5 % longer than corresponding distances in $Rb_2VV_2O_8$. Bond
232 angles of the V_2O_7 groups, however, clearly differ by less than 1 % (Tab. 3). This means that
233 structural discrepancies between $K_2VV_2O_8$ and $Rb_2VV_2O_8$ mainly concern bond lengths
234 rather than bond angles. Hence, these two samples are very well suited to experimentally
235 address the influence of bond length on the electronic structure of unoccupied states.

236

237 Experimental $V-L_{2,3}$ XANES of KVV/RVV are compared to that of BVS in Fig. 3. Peaks are
238 denoted by letters for ease of discussion and as guides for the eye. Roughly speaking, peaks
239 "A" to "E" and "a" to "e" can be attributed to the L_3 edge. The rest of the peaks are
240 attributable to L_2 edges. Although the valency and coordination number of V are clearly
241 different between KVV/RVV and BVS , there is a rough similarity in $V-L_{2,3}$ XANES among
242 these three compounds. This implies that analysis of valency and coordination number (C.N.)

243 by the experimental V- $L_{2,3}$ XANES alone (e.g., the often applied fingerprinting) is difficult.
244 Theoretical V- $L_{2,3}$ XANES spectra of the three compounds are depicted in Fig. 4. Since there
245 are two kinds of V sites i.e., V^{4+} (C.N.=5) and V^{5+} (C.N.=4) in KVV/RVV, we made *ab initio*
246 CTM calculations separately for each site. The weighted sum of two spectra by 1:2
247 corresponds to the theoretical spectra of RVV/KVV. On the other hand, the theoretical
248 spectrum for BVS was obtained only for a single V^{4+} (C.N.=5) site.

249

250 The agreement between experimental and theoretical spectra for the three compounds is quite
251 good. Small discrepancies in relative peak positions, intensities, and widths may be
252 attributable to small insufficiencies in the models for the calculations. The largest problem
253 may be the neglect of the interactions among V-3d electrons on different sites. Since the
254 calculations were made with clusters composed of only one V ion coordinated by four or five
255 oxide ions, off-site d-d exchange and correlation interactions were ignored. Only the
256 electrostatic part (Madelung potential) of the solid state effects due to embedding the cluster
257 into the crystalline environment were taken into account. This is one of the reasons why the
258 theoretical spectra are generally sharper than the experimental spectra. Nevertheless the
259 quality of the theoretical spectra is sufficient to discuss the details of the experimental spectra.

260

261 The chemical shift between the peak-maxima of V^{4+} (C.N.=5) and V^{5+} (C.N.=4) in
262 KVV/RVV is only 0.5 eV (Fig. 4). This is the reason why the energy of the peak maxima
263 cannot be clearly discriminated between RVV/KVV and BVS by experiments (Fig. 3).
264 Moreover, the general shape of the RVV/KVV/BVS spectra, all with low-energy shoulders
265 being present, i.e., “C” and “c” in the L_3 edge and “F” and “f” in the L_2 edge, looks similar at
266 first glance. In order to explain this behavior, calculations prove very helpful.

267

268 Figure 5 separately compares components of V^{4+} (C.N.=5) and V^{5+} (C.N.=4) in the three
269 compounds. The components of V^{5+} (C.N.=4) in KVV and RVV are almost identical. As
270 described earlier, the structural discrepancies in VO_4 tetrahedra between KVV and RVV
271 mainly concern bond lengths rather than bond angles. Although the bond lengths are different
272 by circa 5%, the spectra are not changed significantly.

273

274 The components of V^{4+} (C.N.=5) in KVV and RVV are almost identical, too. This may be the
275 same story as that of V^{5+} (C.N.=4): The spectrum is not sensitive to the bond-lengths. On the
276 other hand, the V^{4+} (C.N.=5) components in KVV and RVV are clearly different from that of
277 BVS (Fig. 5, bottom). The lower energy shoulder of the L_3 peak is sharper in BVS. It is the
278 same for the L_2 peak. This is interesting since BVS has the same crystalline structure as that
279 of KVV/RVV and the shapes of the VO_5 pyramids in KVV/RVV and BVS are similar except
280 for the difference in the bond length. This can be ascribed to the valency difference of cations
281 located at the tetrahedral sites: In the case of BVS, Si^{4+} is located in the tetrahedral site, while
282 this site is occupied by V^{5+} in the case of KVV/RVV. This results in a difference of the spatial
283 distribution of the Madelung potential around the V^{4+} in the VO_5 pyramid as the second-
284 nearest neighbors of V^{4+} are V^{5+} rather than Si^{4+} .

285

286 An analogous result was reported for Co- $L_{2,3}$ XANES of trivalent cobalt oxides (Kumagai et
287 al., 2008). The spectra for $LaCoO_3$ at low temperature and for $LiCoO_2$, both of which have
288 low-spin Co^{3+} ions in similar local environments exhibit clear differences in peak shape. The
289 reason was well explained by the difference in the crystal structure as modeled by the spatial
290 distribution of the Madelung potential.

291

292 Although both V^{4+} (C.N.=5) and V^{5+} (C.N.=4) components in KVV and RVV are almost
293 identical in shape, there are subtle differences in the peak positions of the V^{5+} (CN=4)

294 components. This can be ascribed to the difference in the magnitude of the Madelung
295 potential caused by the difference in the bond lengths. The tiny difference makes the spectral
296 shape of KVV and RVV slightly different after summing up the V^{4+} (C.N.=5) and V^{5+}
297 (C.N.=4) components. Both the centers of the L_3 and L_2 peaks move slightly to lower energy
298 in RVV as compared to KVV. The direction of the energy shift agrees with the observed trend
299 in the experimental spectra (Fig. 3).

300

301 Finally, limits of fingerprinting of XANES by experimental data should be pointed out.
302 Experimental fingerprinting techniques try to correlate spectral features with the
303 corresponding local structures such as the $V^{5+}O_4$ tetrahedron and $V^{4+}O_5$ pyramid. Since BVS
304 has only a single V site, spectral features such as the presence of the shoulder peaks C, D and
305 F in BVS might be mistakenly used as the fingerprints of V^{4+} (C.N.=5). However, as can be
306 clearly seen in Fig. 4, similar peaks such as C and F can be seen even in the V^{5+} (C.N.=4)
307 component of KVV/RVV. Moreover, peak C is not clearly seen in the V^{4+} (C.N.=5)
308 component of KVV/RVV. The experimental fingerprinting technique may therefore lead to an
309 incorrect interpretation. Reliable theoretical calculations are therefore essential for correct
310 assignments.

311

312 Our results prove the necessity to employ sophisticated theoretical modelling of the transition-
313 metal L edges in order to enable interpretation of the latter beyond the (at least for high
314 spectral resolution) questionable method of fingerprinting.

315

316

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

- 402 Fig. 1 Graphical representation of the fresnoite framework structure. The large cations “A”
403 (Ba in BVS, K und KVV, or Rb in RVV) are interconnecting sheets of edge-
404 connected TO_4 (Si ind BVS, V^{5+} in KVV and RVV) and PO_5 (V in BVS, V^{4+} in
405 KVV and RVV) polyhedra. There are four non-equivalent oxygen positions labeled
406 O1, O2, O3, and O4.
407
408 Fig. 2 Nomenclature of vanadium and oxygen positions found in KVV and RVV.
409 While V-1 is tetravalent and fivefold coordinated, V-2 and V-3 are pentavalent and
410 fourfold coordinated.
411
412 Fig. 3 Experimental $\text{V-L}_{2,3}$ XANES spectra of BVS (upper section) and KVV and RVV
413 (lower section). Labels given to spectral features are referenced in the text.
414
415 Fig. 4 Theoretical $\text{V-L}_{2,3}$ XANES spectra of BVS (upper section) and KVV (middle
416 section) and RVV (lower section). For KVV and RVV, individual contributions of
417 V^{4+} and V^{5+} are shown separately. Instead of the experimentally measured
418 intensity, photo-absorption cross sections (PACS) are plotted versus energy.
419
420 Fig. 5 Juxtaposition of V^{4+} (upper panel) and V^{5+} (lower panel) contributions to the
421 theoretical $\text{V-L}_{2,3}$ XANES in the three compounds BVS, KVV, and RVV.
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Table 1 Bond lengths around vanadium atoms in $K_2VV_2O_8$, $Rb_2VV_2O_8$, and $Ba_2VSi_2O_8$ (cf. Fig. 2).

Atom 1	Atom 2	Bond length [Å]		
		$K_2VV_2O_8$	$Rb_2VV_2O_8$	$Ba_2VSi_2O_8$
V-1	O-11	1.607(5)	1.522(8)	1.663(16)
V-1	O-7	1.955(2)	1.865(4)	1.967(6)
V-1	O-8	1.955(2)	1.865(4)	1.967(6)
V-1	O-9	1.955(2)	1.865(4)	1.967(6)
V-1	O-10	1.955(2)	1.865(4)	1.967(6)
V-2	O-4	1.809(1)	1.717(2)	-
V-2	O-5	1.717(2)	1.637(4)	-
V-2	O-6	1.635(4)	1.548(6)	-
V-2	O-7	1.717(2)	1.637(4)	-
V-3	O-4	1.717(2)	1.637(4)	-
V-3	O-3	1.717(2)	1.637(4)	-
V-3	O-2	1.635(4)	1.548(6)	-
V-3	O-1	1.809(1)	1.717(2)	-

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432

433 **Table 2** Bond angles in the VO₅ pyramid in K₂VV₂O₈, Rb₂VV₂O₈, and Ba₂VSi₂O₈ (cf.
434 Fig. 2).

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Atom 1	Atom 2	Atom 3	Angle [°]		
			K ₂ VV ₂ O ₈	Rb ₂ VV ₂ O ₈	Ba ₂ VSi ₂ O ₈
O-7	O-8	O-9	90.0(1)	90.0(1)	90.0(3)
O-8	O-9	O-10	90.0(1)	90.0(1)	90.0(3)
O-9	O-10	O-7	90.0(1)	90.0(1)	90.0(3)
O-10	O-7	O-8	90.0(1)	90.0(1)	90.0(3)
O-11	V-1	O-7	106.73(6)	106.99(11)	107.91(37)
O-11	V-1	O-8	106.73(6)	106.99(11)	107.91(37)
O-11	V-1	O-9	106.73(6)	106.99(11)	107.91(37)
O-11	V-1	O-10	106.73(6)	106.99(11)	107.91(37)

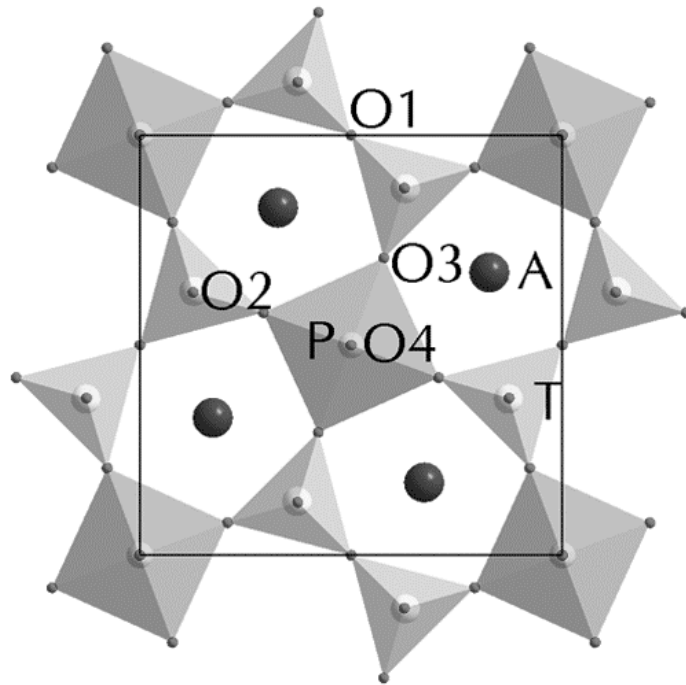
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438 **Table 3** Bond angles in the V_2O_7 group in $K_2VV_2O_8$ and $Rb_2VV_2O_8$ (cf. Fig. 2).

Atom 1	Atom 2	Atom 3	Angle [°]	
			$K_2VV_2O_8$	$Rb_2VV_2O_8$
O-1	O-2	O-4	60.72(8)	60.48(10)
O-2	O-4	O-1	58.56(6)	59.05(10)
O-4	O-1	O-2	60.72(8)	60.48(10)
O-1	O-2	O-3	59.67(7)	59.50(13)
O-2	O-3	O-1	60.66(7)	60.99(13)
O-3	O-1	O-2	59.57(7)	59.50(13)
O-2	O-3	O-4	61.56(6)	61.54(11)
O-3	O-4	O-2	58.39(5)	58.61(11)
O-4	O-2	O-3	60.05(6)	59.85(11)
O-1	O-3	O-4	61.56(6)	61.54(11)
O-3	O-4	O-1	58.39(5)	58.61(11)
O-4	O-1	O-3	60.05(6)	59.85(11)
O-4	O-5	O-7	60.72(8)	60.48(10)
O-5	O-7	O-4	60.72(8)	60.48(10)
O-7	O-4	O-5	58.56(6)	59.05(10)
O-4	O-5	O-6	60.05(6)	59.85(11)
O-5	O-6	O-4	61.56(6)	61.54(11)
O-6	O-4	O-5	58.39(5)	58.61(11)
O-5	O-6	O-7	60.66(7)	60.99(13)
O-6	O-7	O-5	59.67(7)	59.50(13)
O-7	O-5	O-6	59.67(7)	59.50(13)
O-3	O-6	O-7	61.56(6)	61.54(11)
O-6	O-7	O-3	58.39(5)	58.61(11)
O-7	O-3	O-6	60.05(6)	59.85(11)

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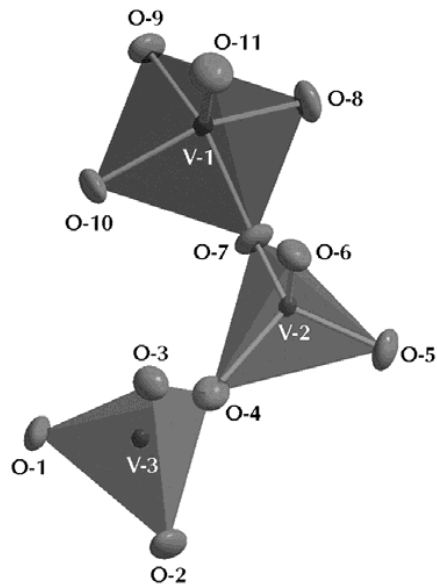
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Figure 1

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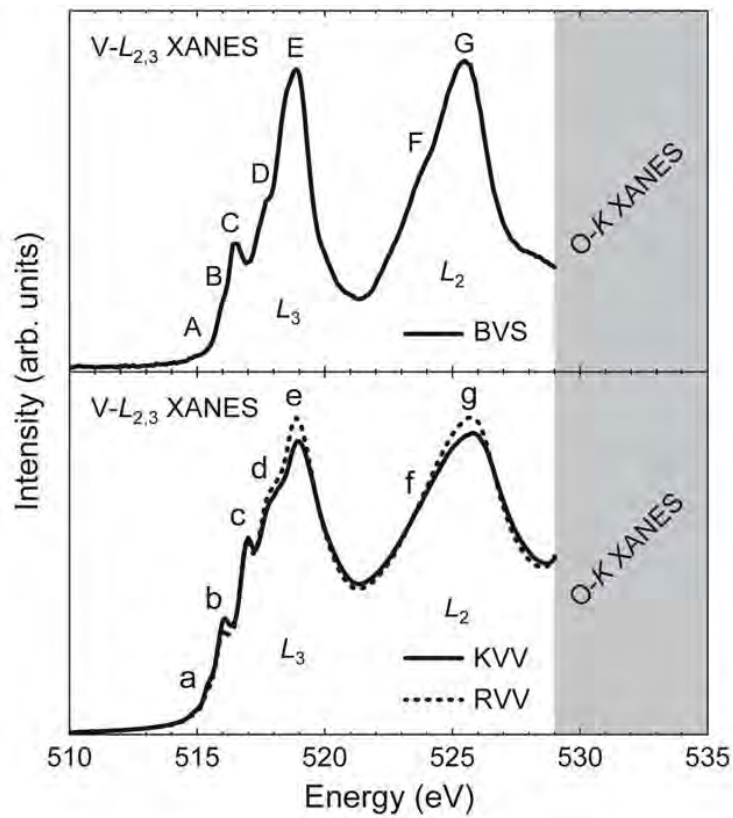
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Figure 2

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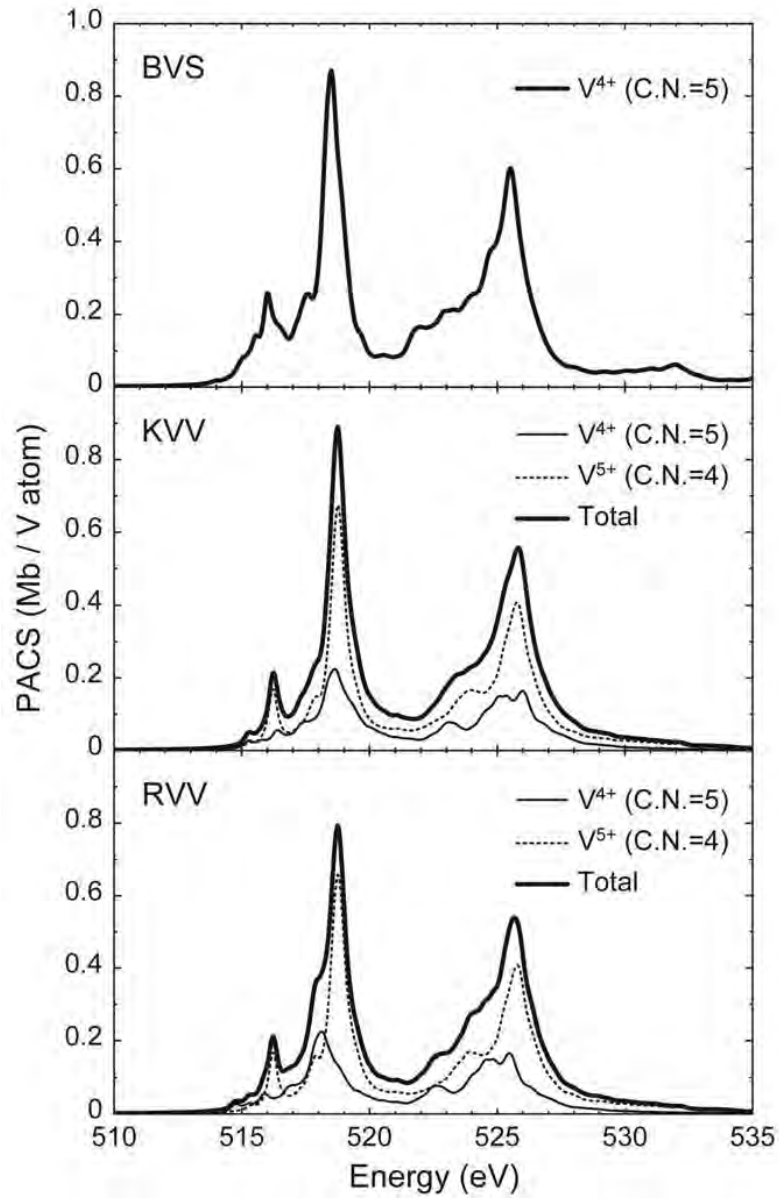
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Figure 3

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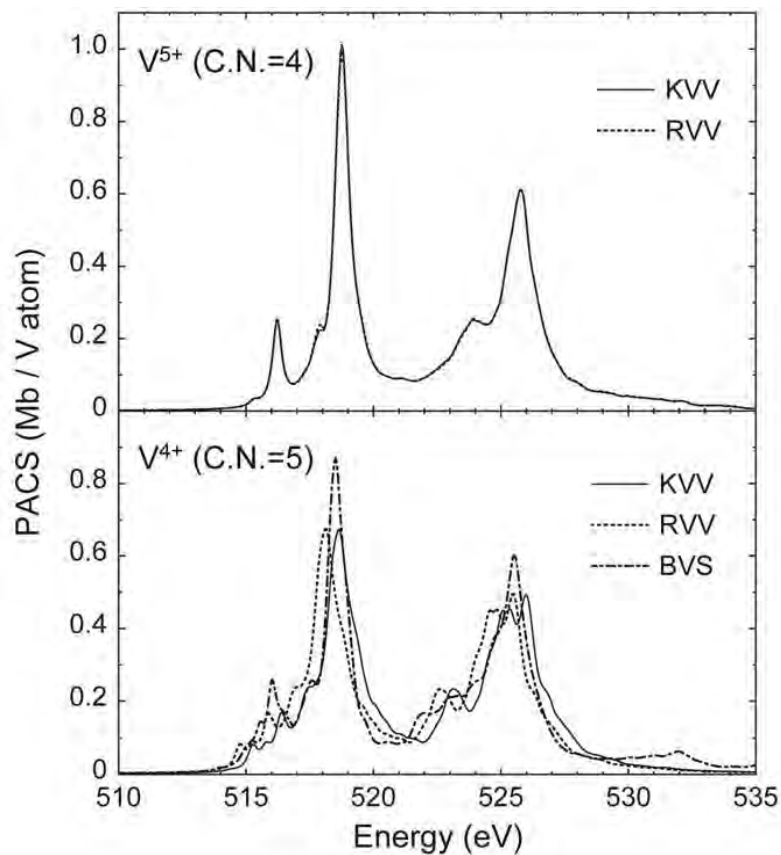
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Figure 4

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Figure 5