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Proofs to: Professor F.J. Berry
Department of Chemistry
The Open University
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA
United Kingdom

Fluorination of perovskite-related phases of composition

Frank J Berry^{a*}, Xiaolin Ren^a, Richard Heap^b Peter Slater^b and Michael F Thomas^c

^a*Department of Chemistry, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, United Kingdom*

^b*Chemistry, SBMS, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7XH, United Kingdom*

^c*Department of Physics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 3BX, United Kingdom*

* Corresponding author. E-mail address: f.j.berry@open.ac.uk

Abstract

We report here on the fluorination of the perovskite-related phases $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{Co}_y\text{O}_{3-\delta}$. The introduction of fluorine in place of oxygen is achieved through a low temperature (400°C) reaction with poly(vinylidene fluoride). X-ray powder diffraction data show that in all cases the fluorination leads to an expansion in the unit cell which is consistent with partial replacement of oxygen by fluorine and consequent reduction in the oxidation state of iron and /or cobalt. This reduction in oxidation state is confirmed by X-ray absorption- and Mössbauer- spectroscopy. The Mössbauer spectra show complex magnetically split hyperfine patterns for the fluorinated samples, reflecting the interactions between Fe^{3+} ions which are not possible in oxides containing Fe^{4+} .

Keywords: Oxide fluorides; Magnetic properties

1. Introduction

The structural properties of oxygen deficient phases of the type $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$ have attracted attention over the past half century because of the complex phase changes from orthorhombic at low values of x through rhombohedral to cubic as the stoichiometry approaches SrFeO_3 [1].

In more recent years the preparation and characterisation of inorganic oxide fluorides with perovskite-related structures has attracted significant interest [2-24]. Much of this work has focused on cuprate systems, following the report of superconductivity at 46K in $\text{Sr}_2\text{CuO}_2\text{F}_{2+x}$ [2]. In addition, the fluorination has been mainly achieved by low temperature fluorination routes which is due to the fact that the number of oxide fluorides that can be prepared by the standard high temperature solid state route is limited by the high stability of the simple fluoride starting materials. In terms of low temperature fluorination, a range of fluorinating agents have been employed including F_2 gas, NH_4F , MF_2 ($\text{M}=\text{Cu}$, Ni , Zn) and XeF_2 . More recently a new method has been identified which entails heating the precursor oxide with the polymer, poly(vinylidene fluoride) [24]. This method was used for the synthesis of $\text{Ca}_2\text{CuO}_2\text{F}_2$ and $\text{Sr}_2\text{TiO}_3\text{F}_2$ from Ca_2CuO_3 and Sr_2TiO_4 respectively, and was shown to produce high quality samples without significant $\text{CaF}_2/\text{SrF}_2$ impurities which were often formed by other low temperature fluorination methods [24]. The method has recently been extended to the fluorination of SrFeO_{3-x} to give SrFeO_2F , showing that in addition to

K_2NiF_4 type materials, the method can also be readily applied to perovskite systems [25].

In this paper we extend this work to examine the fluorination of a range of perovskite-related phases of composition $La_{1-x}Sr_xFe_{1-y}Co_yO_{3-\delta}$. We describe here the structural properties of these materials and the effects of fluorination on the cationic oxidation states and the magnetic properties.

2. Experimental

Compounds of composition $La_{1-x}Sr_xFe_{1-y}Co_yO_{3-\delta}$ were prepared by the calcination of appropriate quantities of well ground lanthanum(III) oxide, strontium(II) carbonate, iron (III) oxide and cobalt (II) oxide at 1250 °C for 24 hours in air. Fluorination was achieved by mixing the $La_{1-x}Sr_xFe_{1-y}Co_yO_{3-\delta}$ phase with poly(vinylidene fluoride) in a 1:0.75 molar ratio (precursor oxide: CH_2CF_2 monomer unit) and heating the mixture at 400 °C for 24 hours in flowing nitrogen.

X-ray powder diffraction patterns were recorded with a Siemens D5000 diffractometer using Cu $K\alpha$ radiation at 298K. Sr K-, La III-, Fe K- and Co K-edge X-ray absorption spectra were recorded at the Synchrotron Radiation Source at Daresbury Laboratory UK with an average current of 200mA at 2 GeV. The data were collected at 298 K in transmission geometry on Station 7.1 (La-, Fe- and Co-edge) and Station 9.2 (Sr-edge). The samples were examined as pressed discs. The position of the X-ray

absorption edge was defined as the energy at which the normalised absorption was 0.5, i.e., the absorption at half-height of the edge step.

The ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectra were recorded at 298K and 77K with a constant acceleration spectrometer using a ca. 25 mCi Co/Rh source. The ^{57}Fe Mössbauer chemical isomer shift data are quoted relative to metallic iron at room temperature.

3. Results and Discussions

The X-ray powder diffraction patterns recorded from materials of composition $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{Co}_y\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ and their fluorinated derivatives are shown in Figure 1. The patterns show that fluorination induces a shift in peak position to lower angles

Figure 1 about here

corresponding to an increase in unit cell size. Heating the samples subsequently in air at 400°C resulted in no further changes, consistent with the partial replacement of oxygen by fluorine rather than a simple reduction in oxygen content.

The lattice parameters recorded from the pure oxides and their fluorinated derivatives are collected in Table 1. From the data in Table 1 it can be seen that if the primitive perovskite subcells for each sample are compared, the fluorination leads to a significant increase in cell parameters. This is consistent with the

Table 1 about here

partial replacement of O^{2-} by F^- leading to a reduction in the transition metal oxidation state and consequently longer bond distances and a larger unit cell.

The X-ray absorption edge data recorded from materials of the type $La_{1-x}Sr_xFe_{1-y}Co_yO_{3-\delta}$, their fluorinated derivatives and appropriate standards are collected in Table 2. The La L_{III} - and Sr K- X-ray absorption edge positions of all the materials did not change upon fluorination and were all characteristic of La^{3+} and Sr^{2+} in compounds of the type $La_{1-x}Sr_xFe_{1-y}Co_yO_{3-\delta}$ and confirm that fluorination

Table 2 about here

has little influence on the rare earth or alkaline earth element. The Fe K-edge X-ray absorption positions in all the pure oxides were similar to those of Fe^{4+} in $SrFeO_{3-\delta}$ and moved to a lower energy characteristic of Fe^{3+} upon fluorination indicative of a decrease in the oxidation state of iron. In the compound $La_{0.1}Sr_{0.9}Fe_{0.5}Co_{0.5}O_{3-\delta}$ the Co^{3+} edge positions showed a small shift to lower energy upon fluorination. Hence the results indicate that fluorination of materials of the type $La_{1-x}Sr_xFe_{1-y}Co_yO_{3-\delta}$ is accompanied by reduction of the transition element ions and is consistent with the increase in unit cell parameters as a result of, for example, the larger size of Fe^{3+} (ca. 0.64Å) as compared to Fe^{4+} (ca. 0.58Å) [26].

The ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectra recorded from $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$, $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$, $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ and their fluorinated derivatives are illustrated in Figures 2, 3 and 4 respectively. The ^{57}Fe Mössbauer parameters are collected in Table 3.

Figures 2, 3 and 4 about here

Table 3 about here

SrFeO_{3-δ}

The spectrum recorded at 300K was best fitted to a doublet ($\delta = \text{ca. } 0.04 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $\Delta = \text{ca. } 0.12 \text{ mms}^{-1}$) characteristic of Fe^{4+} together with a further doublet with a slightly higher chemical isomer shift ($\delta = \text{ca. } 0.14 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $\Delta = \text{ca. } 0.69 \text{ mms}^{-1}$). The chemical isomer shift of the latter is intermediate between that characteristic of an Fe^{3+} species ($\delta = \text{ca. } 0.35 \text{ mms}^{-1}$) and an Fe^{4+} species ($\delta = \text{ca. } 0.04 \text{ mms}^{-1}$) and is indicative of an ion of mean charge. Such a description may imply charge sharing between neighbouring Fe^{3+} and Fe^{4+} ions with a timescale smaller than 10^{-8} seconds. The results are very similar to those previously [27] recorded from the oxygen deficient variant of Fe^{4+} -containing $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$. The spectrum also contained a quadrupole split absorption ($\delta = \text{ca. } 0.35 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $\Delta = \text{ca. } 1.26 \text{ mms}^{-1}$) characteristic of an Fe^{3+} -containing impurity phase. Ignoring the Fe^{3+} -containing impurity component, the two contributions comprising the Fe^{4+} -

containing components constitute an Fe^{4+} nature of 77% (all of component at $\delta = 0.04 \text{ mms}^{-1}$ and half of component at $\delta = 0.14 \text{ mms}^{-1}$) leading to a calculated formula of $\text{SrFeO}_{2.88}$ for $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$. The spectrum recorded at 77K showed a doublet ($\delta = \text{ca. } 0.04 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $\Delta = \text{ca. } 0.26 \text{ mms}^{-1}$) characteristic of Fe^{4+} with two sextet patterns, one ($\delta = \text{ca. } 0.27 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $2\varepsilon = \text{ca. } -0.68 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $H = 3.4 \text{ T}$) characteristic of charge sharing between the Fe^{4+} and Fe^{3+} ions and the other, ($\delta = \text{ca. } 0.47 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $2\varepsilon = \text{ca. } -1.33 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $H = 43.6 \text{ T}$) characteristic of the Fe^{3+} containing impurity phase, which was not visible in the XRD pattern, and so is presumed to be due to an amorphous impurity. The slightly more positive chemical isomer shifts recorded at 77K are consistent with the contribution resulting from the second order Doppler shift at the lower temperature.

The spectrum recorded at 300K from the fluorinated derivative was best fitted to the superposition of two sextet patterns together with a profile which can be fitted to a hyperfine field of $\text{ca. } 4.5 \text{ T}$ but all with chemical isomer shifts characteristic of Fe^{3+} . The spectrum recorded at 77K was similar with the component of smallest hyperfine field appearing as a broadened singlet. The results are consistent with fluorination inducing the reduction of Fe^{4+} in the SrFeO_3 -related phase to Fe^{3+} . The results endorse the evidence from XANES for fluorination inducing the reduction of Fe^{4+} to Fe^{3+} . The predominance of complex magnetically split hyperfine patterns recorded from the fluorinated materials reflects the interaction between Fe^{3+} ions, which are not possible in oxides containing Fe^{4+} . Given the presence of only Fe^{3+} , the results suggest a formula of SrFeO_2F for the fluorinated phase.

La_{0.1}Sr_{0.9}FeO_{3-δ}

The ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectrum recorded at 300K was composed of a doublet ($\delta = -0.02 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $\Delta = 0.26 \text{ mms}^{-1}$) characteristic of Fe^{4+} and another doublet ($\delta = 0.28 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $\Delta = 0.54 \text{ mms}^{-1}$) characteristic of the presence of a mixed $\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$ species. The oxygen deficiency of $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{FeO}_{3-\square}$ was calculated from the Mössbauer spectral components (Table 3) associating the $\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$ component with charge sharing between neighbouring Fe^{4+} and Fe^{3+} ions (see above) and represented by a mixture of half Fe^{4+} and half Fe^{3+} . Hence ca. 77% of the spectral area may be associated with Fe^{4+} giving a composition of $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{FeO}_{2.93}$. The spectrum recorded at 77K showed two magnetically split components characteristic of $\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$ and a broadened singlet component with an isomer shift characteristic of Fe^{4+} . Fluorination gave a material from which the ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectrum at 300K showed three magnetically split components, one ($\delta = 0.23 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $2\varepsilon = 0.60 \text{ mms}^{-1}$, $H = 44 \text{ T}$) characteristic of a mixture of Fe^{3+} and Fe^{4+} , whilst the other two sextet patterns corresponding to ca. 68% of the spectral area, were characteristic of Fe^{3+} . The presence of ca. 32% mixed $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{4+}$ indicates that the fluorination has not resulted in complete reduction to Fe^{3+} in this case. This may have been related to loss of the poly (vinylidene fluoride) on heating before the full fluorination had occurred.

The results demonstrate the reduction of Fe^{4+} to Fe^{3+} as a result of fluorination and the concomitant inducement of magnetic order. The spectrum recorded at 77K was amenable to similar analysis. From an analysis of the spectral areas of the two

components in the Mössbauer spectrum a composition of $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{FeO}_{2.26}\text{F}_{0.74}$ can be estimated.

$\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$

The ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectrum recorded from the compound $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ at 300K was composed of two doublets characteristic of mixed Fe^{4+} and Fe^{3+} species. At 77K the spectra showed a singlet and two magnetically split components. The oxygen deficiency of $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ was calculated from the Mössbauer spectral area assuming 50% Fe^{4+} and 50% Fe^{3+} (Table 3) and cobalt being present as Co^{3+} (XANES) and a formulation $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{2.68}$ estimated. Fluorination gave complex magnetically split spectra at 300K and 77K which both showed that more than ca. 90 % of the iron was present in the Fe^{3+} state. From the Mössbauer spectral areas a formula $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{2.12}\text{F}_{0.88}$ was estimated.

4 Conclusions

We have shown that the perovskite-related phases $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{Co}_y\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ can be successfully fluorinated by low temperature reaction with poly(vinylidene fluoride). The method leads to the partial replacement of oxygen by fluorine and a consequent reduction in the oxidation state of the transition metal. The results imply that the method is a potentially powerful means for the controlling the oxidation states of transition metal compounds, and we will be investigating this feature in more detail, in particular by varying the ratio of precursor oxide to poly(vinylidene fluoride) in the fluorination

reaction. Conventionally, such control of the transition metal oxidation state in perovskite-type materials has been achieved by cation doping (e.g. $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{FeO}_3$), while this fluorination route opens up the possibility of similar control through modifications on the anion site (e.g. $\text{SrFeO}_{2+x}\text{F}_{1-x}$). Mössbauer spectroscopy indicates that the fluorinated phases exhibit magnetic ordering above room temperature, and further studies by high temperature neutron diffraction are planned to study this feature in more detail. Further work is also required to determine the exact fluorine content. Use of a fluoride ion selective electrode has proved impractical due to solubility problems.

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Legends to Figures

Figure 1 X-ray powder diffraction patterns recorded from materials of composition $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{Co}_y\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ and their fluorinated derivatives.

Figure 2 ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectra recorded from $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$ at 300K and 77K and following fluorination and recorded at 300K and 77K.

Figure 3 ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectra recorded from $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$ at 300K and 77K and following fluorination and recorded at 300K and 77K.

Figure 4 ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectra recorded from $\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ at 300K and 77K and following fluorination and recorded at 300K and 77K.

Table 1 Lattice parameters of materials of composition $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{Co}_y\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ and their fluorinated derivatives.

Sample	lattice parameters (Å)	Primitive cell volume (Å ³)
$\text{SrFeO}_{3,\delta}$	Orth, a=5.474(1) b=5.469(1) c=7.706(1)	57.6
$\text{SrFeO}_{3,\delta}/\text{F}$	Cubic, a=3.956(1)	61.9
$\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{FeO}_{3,\delta}$	Cubic, a=3.865(1)	57.7
$\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{FeO}_{3,\delta}/\text{F}$	Orth, a=5.562(1) b=5.584(1) c=7.904(1)	61.3
$\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3,\delta}$	Cubic, a=3.854(1)	57.2
$\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3,\delta}/\text{F}$	Rhom, a=5.582(1), c=13.626(2)	61.2

Table 2 X-ray Absorption Edge Positions Recorded from the X-ray Absorption Near Edge Structure

	Edge Positions (eV) ± 0.5			
	Fe	Co	La	Sr
LaFeO ₃	7120.7		5481.5	
LaCoO ₃		7717.9	5481.5	
SrFeO _{3.8}	7121.0			16110.4
SrFeO _{3.8} /F	7119.7			16110.4
La _{0.1} Sr _{0.9} FeO _{3.8}	7121.2		5481.2	16110.3
La _{0.1} Sr _{0.9} FeO _{3.8} /F	7119.9		5481.2	16110.3
La _{0.1} Sr _{0.9} Fe _{0.5} Co _{0.5} O _{3.8}	7121.4	7717.2	5481.7	16110.1
La _{0.1} Sr _{0.9} Fe _{0.5} Co _{0.5} O _{3.8} /F	7120.5	7716.4	5481.3	16110.3

Table 3 ^{57}Fe Mössbauer parameters recorded from materials of composition $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{Co}_y\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ and their fluorinated derivatives

Compound	Temperature of Measurement K	Assignment	$\delta \pm 0.05$ /mms ⁻¹	$\Delta \text{ or } 2\epsilon \pm 0.10$ /mms ⁻¹	$H \pm 0.5$ /T	Area ± 5 %
$\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$	300	Fe^{4+}	0.04	0.12	0	44
		$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.14	0.69	0	38
		Fe^{3+}	0.35	1.26	0	18
	77	Fe^{4+}	0.04	0.26	0	47
		$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.27	-0.68	3.4	38
		Fe^{3+}	0.47	-1.33	43.6	15
$\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}/\text{F}$	300	Fe^{3+}	0.37	-0.01	52.3	45
		Fe^{3+}	0.37	-0.05	50.1	45
		Fe^{3+}	0.37	-0.01	4.5	10
	77	Fe^{3+}	0.47	0.01	56.1	43
		Fe^{3+}	0.46	-0.09	54.1	49
		Fe^{3+}	0.44	0.00	1.8	8
$\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$	300	Fe^{4+}	-0.02	0.26	0	53
		$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.28	0.54	0	47
	77	Fe^{4+}	0.05	0.26	2.0	48
		$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.34	0.35	31.0	47
		$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.40	0.40	38.2	5
$\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}/\text{F}$	300	$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.23	0.60	44.0	32
		Fe^{3+}	0.39	-0.39	52.1	43
		Fe^{3+}	0.35	-0.40	49.4	25
	77	$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.31	0.68	46.9	24
		Fe^{3+}	0.49	-0.36	55.5	46
		Fe^{3+}	0.44	-0.43	53.1	30
$\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	300	$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.11	0.16	0	52
		$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.14	0.67	0	48
	77	$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.20	0.00	0	36
		$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.20	0.15	16.3	60
		$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.20	0.24	28.0	4
$\text{La}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}/\text{F}$	300	$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.21	0.40	2.5	10
		Fe^{3+}	0.35	-0.03	51.4	59
		Fe^{3+}	0.36	-0.03	48.3	31
	77	$\text{Fe}^{4+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$	0.31	-0.50	12.8	7
		Fe^{3+}	0.47	-0.06	54.9	67
		Fe^{3+}	0.45	-0.01	52.4	26

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4