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Research Article

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Effects of 3d transition metal impurities and vacancy defects on electronic and magnetic properties of pentagonal Pd₂S₄: Competition between exchange splitting and crystal fields

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Abstract

In this paper, we first investigate the electronic properties of the two-dimensional structure of dichalcogenide Pd₂S₄. These properties strongly depend on the crystal field splitting which can change by atomic vacancies (S and Pd vacancies). The main purpose of the present paper is to create remarkable magnetic properties in the system by adding 3d transition metal atoms where the presence of Mn, Cr, and Fe creates the exchange interaction in the system as well as change in the crystal field. The created magnetic properties strongly depend on the competition between exchange interaction and crystal field to separate the levels of d orbitals. In addition, the presence of the transition metals in the structures with S and Pd vacancy has been investigated carefully. The calculations demonstrate that we can achieve an extensive range of magnetic moment up to 3.131μ_B. The maximum one is obtained in the presence of Mn and absence of sulfur while some of the doped structures does not have magnetic moment. Our results show that Pd vacancy in the presence of Cr, Mn and Fe metals increases the magnetic property of the Pd₂S₄ structure. The extensiveness and variety of the obtained properties can be used for different magnetic and non-magnetic applications.

Keyword: Pd₂S₄ monolayer, Transition-metal dichalcogenides, Vacancy defects, Crystal field, Exchange splitting

Introduction

The two-dimensional (2D) Transition-metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) are among the significant 2D structures vastly studied and analyzed recently. Most of these materials have unique 2D characteristics that have never been observed in three-dimensional structures¹⁻³. TMDs mostly form an essential group of multi-layer materials with a general formula of MX₂. In this formula, M and X represent a transition material and a chalcogenide element, respectively⁴. These materials are comprised of 2D layers. Each layer includes three chalcogenide atoms, and in the middle of each atom, there is a metal element. There also exist weak covalent bonds among them, enabling the formation of a layer. TMC structures have unique chemical and impressive physical characteristics due to their chemical bond conditions⁵.

There are numerous investigations conducted on TMC materials magnetization⁶⁻¹⁵. Most of these materials do not hold magnetic features in their initial synthesized form, despite their remarkable electronic and mechanical properties. Since many novel applications can be achieved by adding magnetic characteristics to these 2D structures, extensive studies and research are performed in this field. The regular methods to study the magnetic properties are based on the topology method, applying strain forces, vacuuming, and defect generation. In addition, one of the most significant magnetization methods is doping the material with transition elements of different periods of the periodic table. Some of the works performed in this area are noted in the following¹⁶⁻²⁸. Octa et al.¹⁷ created the T and H-phase conditions on an extensive range of TMCs and investigated the magnetization conditions on the structures. They revealed that VX₂ (where X could be O, S, Se, or Te) is magnetized at each of the two phases, while NiX₂ is not. They also demonstrated that the magnetization of ScX₂ depends on the phase type. Wang et al. studied the 2D MoS₂ material's magnetic characteristics by creating defects and vacuuming²¹. They observed that magnetizing the structure could not be achieved only by vacuuming. Therefore, they combined the vacuuming method by doping with materials like Mn, Fe, and Co and observed the magnetic properties of the system clearly. Applying strain is one of the other magnetization methods. The work by Liu et al. can be noted in this regard²². They revealed that gradual increase of strain magnetizes the 2D materials of CrSe₂ and CsTe₂ and even generates ferromagnetic and anti-ferromagnetic properties in the structures. As mentioned earlier, including defects is another 2D TMC materials' magnetization technique. Defect creation in a MX₂ structure can be a consequence of eliminating the structure's X or M atoms. Avsar et al.²³ studied the magnetization of a PtSe₂ structure by removing Se and Pt atoms. Their results revealed that a Pt vacancy increases the magnetization of the system by 1.2μB. In contrast, a Se vacancy does not produce any magnetization effects. Yandong Ma et al. investigated the MoTe₂ and MoSe₂ structures by applying defects and removing Mo atoms²⁴. Their study demonstrated that only MoSe₂ structures have spin polarization and magnetic properties. In another work, Nan Gao et al. observed that MoSe₂ structures do not acquire magnetic characteristics by applying S vacancy defects²⁵. One of the common and accessible approaches to magnetize the structures is the 2D TMC material doping method. There have been numerous studies in this field. Some of these works are noted here. The majority of dopant materials are transition metal elements of the periodic table. Zhang et al. doped the 2D metal (CrS₂) with transition elements and some alkaline earth elements like Ca and demonstrated that the dopants except vanadium manage to magnetize the structure²⁶. They deduced that the acquired magnetization of MoS₂, when doped by F, N, B, and H elements, is similar and has a value of 1.0μB, while the magnetic influence of Co, Fe, Mn, Cr, and V elements on MoS₂ are different²⁷. Alexander et al. studied the effects of doping MoS₂ materials with 3d transition metals and resulted that Fe, Mn, and Co elements provide the maximum magnetic intensities in their doped structures²⁸.

By doping ZrS₂ with transition elements and alkaline metals, Bayshan Yang et al. demonstrated that Mn and Cr elements have the greatest magnetic influence, while Ni and Ti have no role in the system's magnetization²⁹. In addition, Hashemi and his group performed a new examination on doping of the 2D structure of WSe₂ using 4d elements and proved magnetization using Zr, Nb, Mo, and Tc. However, they did not achieve any magnetic effect in materials doped by Y, Ru, Rh, and Pd elements³⁰.

Pd₂S₄ is one of the fascinating chalcogenide structures of transition elements. It is composed of a palladium atom and two sulfur atoms. This structure is a member of 2D pentagonal TM₂X₄ materials (where TM could be transition metal and X could be S, Se, or Te) despite the other transition elements' chalcogenides that are quadrangular or hexagonal. Therefore, it is one of the 2D chalcogenide materials that could be viewed as an intrinsic semiconductor³¹. It transforms easily from a semiconductor to a conductor under a particular metamorphosis (e.g., stress) and turns into sheet form from a bulk state. This transformation capability gives the material some exciting electronic and photonic characteristics. In

fact, it has unique anisotropic features with a gap energy of almost 1.2eV. In other words, Pd₂S₄ is a semiconductor from an electric conduction viewpoint and has an indirect bandgap. However, it has a 1.1eV gap in 1T-phase mode and a zero-gap in bulk mode. Moreover, the two-layer structure of Pd₂S₄ has a gap of 0.952eV³²⁻³⁵. There has also been some research on the edges of the Pd₂S₄ structure. This structure has different electric properties in nanoribbon mode compared with the bulk mode, so that exhibits a metal-like behavior in zigzag mode and semiconductor behavior in armchair mode. Although there are extensive research articles on Pd₂S₄ in the fields of electronics and magnetism, there are not sufficient thorough studies on doping these materials³⁶⁻³⁹.

In this paper, the magnetic features of Pd₂S₄ structure are studied through doping with 3d transition metals (Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and Zn) and creating a defect by removing a Pd atom and S atom. To the best of our knowledge, there is no published research article on doped Pd₂S₄ structure by 3d transition metal in the presence of Pd and S vacancies. Firstly, the spin behaviors of the orbitals of the valence bands of S and Pd atoms are analyzed. Furthermore, their behaviors at the valence and conduction bands boundary are studied without considering the doping and vacancy effects on the structure. Then, the impact of Pd and S vacancies are examined, and the achieved results are analyzed. Finally, to conduct a more comprehensive study, situations with and without vacancy are considered in the presence of 3d metals. In addition, the effects of 3d doping and defect on the gap energy value are investigated. The simultaneous evaluation of the effects of doping and defect on the material is one of the considerable aspects of this work. It is demonstrated that the doping has more influence on magnetization than the atomic vacancies. In other words, doping with some elements leads to magnetization, while doping with some other elements causes no magnetic effects. Moreover, both doping and vacancies have significant roles in reducing the gap energy and changing its type.

Methods

Our Density functional theory (DFT) calculations based on the Perdew, Burke and Ernzerhof (PBE)⁴⁰ variant of the exchange-correlation functional and the projector augmented wave (PAW) pseudopotentials,⁴¹ as implemented in Siesta⁴² has been employed. The non-relativistic version of SGGA is used for correlation-equilibrium potential and GGA is used for non-polarization mode. The set of basic states used for the valences of TM-3d, S and Pd atoms are (3s 3p 4s 3d), (3s 3p), and (4s 3d 4p 4d), respectively. To find the equilibrium point in the calculations and the accuracy in calculating the atomic force, the relaxation value reached less than 0.05 eV/Å and also the accuracy of the calculations 10⁻⁵ eV has been considered. In evaluation related to magnetic state and the relaxation, The Brillouin zone was sampled with a 40×40×1 and 14×14×1, respectively. Our supercell used with dimensions of 4 × 4 × 1 has 22 Pd atoms and 48 S atoms as one TM. The bond lengths of Pd-S and TM-S atoms after optimization are set to be 2.358Å and 2.332Å, respectively. To study the electric and magnetic characteristics of TM-doped system, the LBFGS-optimized structures were used. Besides Tolerable force and pressure are assumed to be 0.05 eV/Å and 0.2GPa, respectively.

Results

Electronic properties of monolayer Pd₂S₄

The monolayer Pd₂S₄ belongs to a simple orthorhombic crystal lattice structure with space group *Pbca* (P2₁/c) and point group (2/m). These compounds are composed of S – Pd – S – Pd – S planes where Pd – S and S – S are ionic and covalent bonds, respectively. Fig. 1 illustrates the top view (p) and side view (q) of a 2 × 2 supercell of Pd₂S₄ monolayer. As it can be seen, the positioning of palladium atoms in this structure is so that every palladium atom is in contact with four sulfur atoms. Each pentagonal ring of Pd₂S₄ includes four Pd – S bonds and an S – S bond. After optimizing the system, computations indicate that the lattice constants and bond length between a palladium atom and nearest sulfur atoms is $a = 5.4833$, $b = 5.4833$, $c = 16.3359$, and $d_{Pd-S} = 3.433$ Å. Also, the covalent bond S – S has a length of $d_{S-S} = 2.12$ Å. Concerning the crucial importance of valence electrons in establishing the electronic and magnetic properties, atomic orbitals Pd(5s⁰, 4d¹⁰) and S(3s², 3p⁴) play an essential role in structural hybridization. Fig. 1(a) shows the band structure and density of states (DOS) of orbitals in the valence band of sulfur S(3s, 3p) and palladium Pd(5s, 4d). As shown in Fig. 1(a), the d orbitals of the palladium and p orbitals of the sulfur have significant contributions in structure formation. These valence and conduction bands' orbitals exhibit a complete overlap and proper interactions. The two 3p and 4d orbitals in S and Pd atoms, respectively, have more contribution in the valence band maximum (VBM) and conduction band minimum (CBM). These orbitals are the linking bridges between ligands and metals in Pd₂S₄. Fig.1(a) also reveals that 3s orbitals in S atoms and 5s orbitals in Pd atoms have the lowest DOS in valence and conduction bands and cannot play an essential role in the electronic structure. In the following, we generally concentrate our investigation on 3p orbitals in S atoms and 4d orbitals in Pd atoms. In a straightforward and approximate embodiment, it can be stated that when the S atom takes place in a monolayer structure, it can obtain two electrons from adjacent Pd atoms due to the higher electronegativity than Pd. Because of locating next to four S atoms, the Pd atom is converted to Pd⁴⁺ after hybridization. The five orbitals d_{xy} , d_{yz} , d_{zx} , d_{z^2} , $d_{x^2-y^2}$ of the Pd atom are split under the effect of the crystal field. The 4d orbitals are greater in extent compared to 3d ones. In addition, the electronic and magnetic properties of the system are significantly dependent on how orbitals are filled close to the Fermi level. Considering the evaluations near the Fermi level, the splitting mechanism is demonstrated in Fig.1(a-e) regarding the results obtained from the DOS diagram of 4d orbitals of the Pd atom. Among five orbitals d_{xy} , d_{yz} , d_{zx} , d_{z^2} , $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig.1(c-e)) of Pd atom, d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig.1(e)) have the highest number of vacancy states. Three remaining orbitals have no DOS at energy levels higher than Fermi energy. Based on these data, how orbitals are positioned and how they are filled can be predicted regarding to the crystal field and experimental results. Five orbitals of palladium atom in the energy range of -2 to +2 eV are almost placed in four different levels. As shown in Fig.1(r), orbitals can be filled in two ways. In the first state which is high-spin configuration, all splitted d-orbitals almost have electrons.

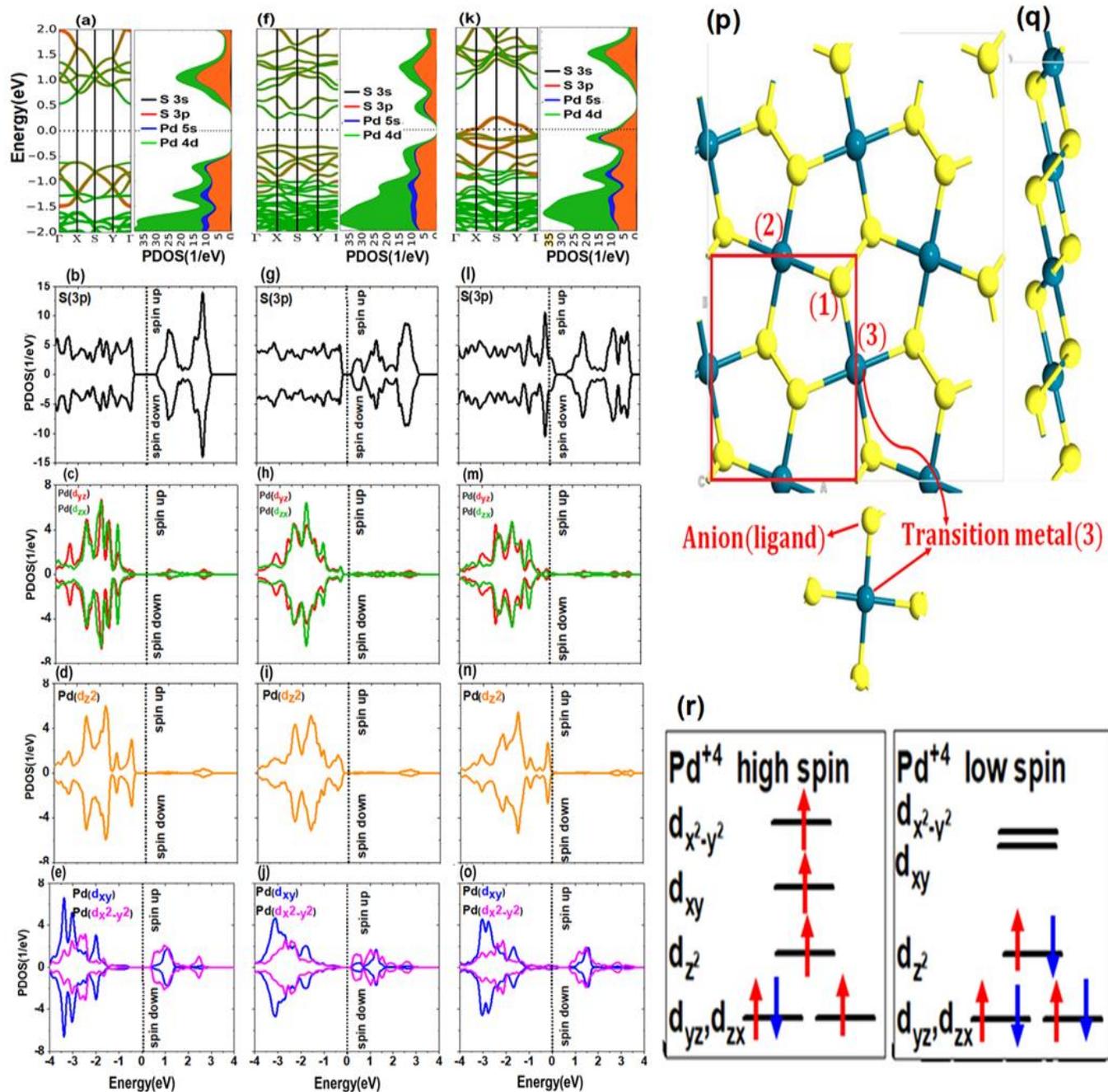


Figure 1. Band structure and density of states for 3p orbitals of S atom and 4d orbitals of Pd atom in Pd₂S₄ structure: (a-e) without vacancy defect, (f-j) arising from defects in S atoms, (k-o) arising from defects in Pd atoms, (p) top view of Pd₂S₄ structure with the position of vacancy defect for S (No. 1) and Pd (No. 2) atoms, (q) side view of Pd₂S₄ structure, and (r) electrons located in 4d orbitals of Pd⁴⁺ cation in strong and weak crystal fields.

In other state or low-spin configuration, d_{yz} and d_{zx} (Fig.1(c)) are degenerate orbitals. These are the lowest d orbitals in terms of energy level for both high and low spins states and are fully occupied by low spin states. The d_{z^2} (Fig.1(d)) orbital is also full and has an energy level higher than d_{yz} and d_{zx} (Fig.1(c)). However, d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig.1(e)) are vacant and have much higher energy levels. Being in one of these two states depends on the strength and weakness of the crystal field and the separation of d -orbital energy levels. Since the Pd^{4+} structure includes d orbitals, which are higher in energy with respect to s and p orbitals, it well overlaps with p orbitals of adjacent ligand S^{-2} in $[\text{Pd}_2\text{S}_4]^{-2}$. As a result, because of pd hybridization between metallic and ligand orbitals, a strong field is created causing d orbitals of palladium to be further split. According to Fig. 1(r), if the field is weak, the distance between d -orbital energy levels is less and more individual electrons occupy the levels, which results in the paramagnetic properties of palladium (high-spin). Also, if the field is strong, six electrons of Pd^{4+} are located pairwise in d_{yz} , d_{zx} (Fig.1(c)), and d_{z^2} (Fig.1(d)) orbitals in lower energies and higher energy orbitals (d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig.1(e))) are almost vacant (low-spin). Therefore, high and low spins of d_{yz} , d_{zx} (Fig.1(c)) and d_{z^2} (Fig.1(d)) orbitals completely neutralize each other, and the structure will have no magnetic properties. Obtained results show that Pd_2S_4 has no magnetic property, which is consistent with experimental results⁴³⁻⁴⁴. Thus, in the square planar form, the d orbitals of Pd are split so that four single electrons prefer to be paired and carry the pairing energy than transferring to higher energy orbitals which are d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig.1(e)). The p_x , p_y , and p_z (Fig.1(b)) orbitals of the S atom experience no significant change in crystal field due to their symmetric geometry and place in the same energy level. The obtained results indicate that Pd_2S_4 monolayer is a nonmagnetic semiconductor with an indirect gap energy of 1.2 eV, which does not cross any part of the Fermi level because of its quite symmetrical and identical high-spin and low-spin DOS (see Fig.1(b-e)). In the square planar structure, electrons of Pd^{4+} fill the energy levels from bottom to top. Given that six high-spin and low-spin electrons have filled three first levels, it can be concluded that no spin magnetization occurs in the pure Pd_2S_4 system. It is clear from the comparison of 4d orbitals of Pd that although d_{z^2} (Fig.1(d)) has a more considerable contribution than d orbitals in a specific valence band in the range of -1.5 eV to -0.25 eV, it has a minor contribution in the conduction band. The d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig.1(e)) orbitals of Pd devotes the highest contribution in the conduction band, but d_{yz} , d_{zx} (Fig.1(c)), and d_{z^2} (Fig.1(d)) play more critical role in the formation of valence band due to their lower energy level and higher DOS. In the following, we investigate the effect of removing S (1) nearest adjacent to the Pd atom, as shown in Fig.1(p). As can be seen, vacancy defect causes the two Pd atoms and one S atom to have a free or suspended band. After removing S, two electrons of Pd which have constrained by S become free. Therefore, these electrons can create new levels in the gap energy region and decrease the gap energy. Fig.1(f-j) displays the band structure and DOS of monolayer Pd_2S_4 with a vacancy, where the gap energy of the system decreases from 0.82 eV to 1.2 eV keeps the direct gap energy and semiconductor structure. The VBM does not change his place whereas CBM changes from Γ to X. New states, which play the role of electron acceptors and donors and provide more space for the movement of electrons, are formed in the vicinity of the Fermi level. Under the new crystal field effect, splitting d orbitals of Pd and p orbitals of S experience no major difference relative to the pure state. As shown in Fig.1(h), the pair of degenerate orbitals, d_{yz} and d_{zx} , exhibits approximately similar behavior. Also, the d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig.1(j)) orbitals have almost similar behavior, while the single orbital d_{z^2} (Fig.1(i)) is different from others. The monolayer Pd_2S_4 maintains its nonmagnetic property because the DOS diagram of high-spin

and low-spin states is symmetrical, as shown in Fig.1(g-j). A Pd atom is eliminated from the studied structure for a detailed examination of the crystal field. According to Fig.1(p), by removing the Pd atom No. 2, the geometrical symmetry of the system changes and the first four neighboring S atoms will have free bonds in the system. Hence, those four S atoms have a half-filled orbital, which the electrons of that orbitals do not involve in the bond, can play a critical role in changing the band structure. Then, new states are created within the gap energy and adjacent to the Fermi level. Also, the new crystal field does not significantly affect the splitting of d orbitals of Pd compared to the pure state. Based on Fig.1(m), the two orbitals d_{yz} and d_{zx} show almost the same behavior and are degenerate. Also, d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig.1(o)) orbitals have almost consistent diagrams, while the single orbital d_{z^2} (Fig.1(n)) is different from others. In the valence band, the role of orbitals d_{z^2} (Fig.1(n)), d_{yz} and d_{zx} (Fig.1(m)) is more than d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig.1(o)), while the inverse situation can be found in the conduction band. According to Fig. 1(i), removing a Pd atom notably affects the p_x , p_y , and p_z orbitals of the S atom so that the Fermi level is deeply shifted toward the interior of orbitals and plays a significant role in the conduction band of the structure. In this case, the system retains its nonmagnetic property, because the d orbitals of Pd atom and the p orbitals of S atom have symmetrical DOS diagrams for the high-spin and the low-spin states.

Electronic properties of monolayer Pd₂S₄ in the presence of 3d groups

To create the magnetic property in the structure, as shown in Fig. 1, one of the Pd atoms of Pd₂S₄ are substituted with the metals of 3d group in three different cases. In the first case, the doping occurs in the pure system while in other two cases, the doping is in the presence of Pd and S vacancies. To investigate the doped system, the energy of magnetic (E_{sp}) and nonmagnetic states (E_{nsp}) due to the doping is calculated and compared between the three cases. The difference between magnetic and nonmagnetic energies of the systems is determined by $\Delta E_{spin} = E_{sp} - E_{nsp}$. The obtained results for each case are presented in Table S1 of Supplementary Information (SI). The magnetic moment of the doped atom is indicated in Fig.2. By examining of the obtained results, the effects of 3d transition metals on the magnetization of Pd₂S₄ in considered cases can be divided into three groups: the first includes Mn, Cr, and Fe atoms which has the maximum values of ΔE_{spin} and magnetic moment. The second group includes V, Ti, and Co atoms with moderate values of ΔE_{spin} and magnetic moment. Finally, the third one involves Sc, Ni, Cu, and Zn atoms where ΔE_{spin} is zero. To further evaluate, a metal is selected as the representation of each group, and its properties are discussed in more details where, Mn, V, and Ni are examined as the representations of first, second, and third groups, respectively. Because of the importance of magnetic properties, the first group and Mn atoms are further investigated in this paper. The magnetization (Bohr magneton) of each metal and contributions of first and second neighbors of S and Pd in magnetization are demonstrated in Fig. 2 for three mentioned cases. The outstanding point is that the magnetization for the electrons of d-orbital cannot just be explained based on the splitting of d orbitals according to the square planar model of the pure case (see Fig. 1(r)). The reason is that the presence of 3d metals results in a strong exchange interaction besides the crystal field. The 3d orbitals of the impurity atoms have a minor spatial extension than 4d orbitals of the Pd atoms and are mainly local. Therefore, in most cases, there is a competition between these two fields to separate the 3d-orbital energy levels of the impurity, which determines the magnetic properties and moments. The first group

and its representation (i.e., Mn) are examined initially. When the Mn with the last layer atomic configuration of $3d^5 4s^2$ is substituted instead of Pd atom in the structure, it must lose the same electrons as the palladium loses (i.e., four electrons).

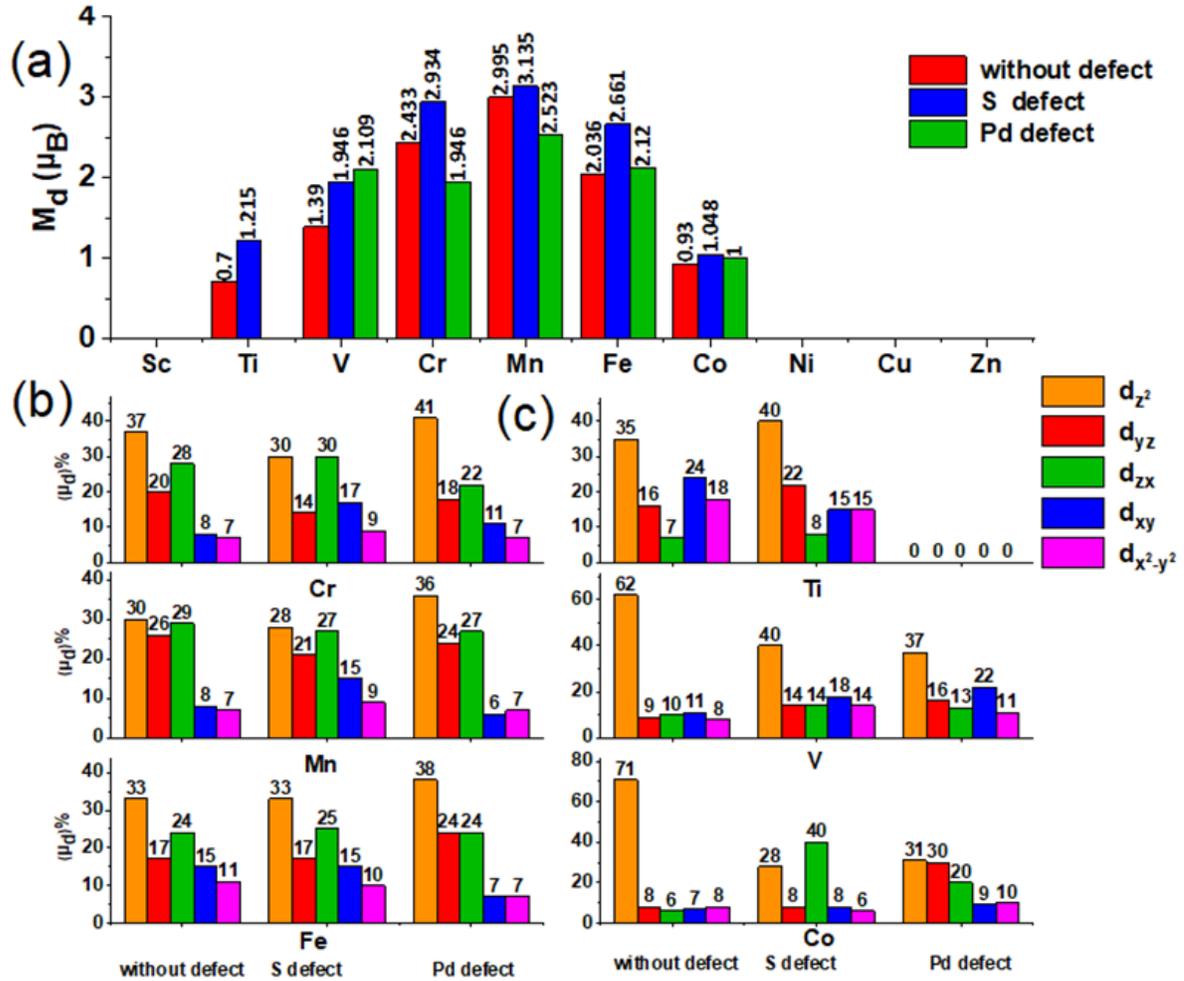


Figure 2. (a) Magnetic moment arising from doping of Pd_2S_4 structure with 3d transition metals with and without sulfur and palladium vacancies. (b) percentage of spin separation for five 3d orbitals of the first group (high magnetization) with and without vacancies. (c) percentage of spin separation for five 3d orbitals of the second group (medium magnetization) with and without vacancies.

According to Fig. 2(a), the magnetization intensity of Mn is $2.995\mu_B$ in the absence of S and Pd vacancies which is the maximum value among 3d metals impurities. High-spin and low-spin electrons of 3p orbitals of the S atom are almost symmetrical in this case and play an insignificant role in the magnetic properties of the system. Fig. 3(a-f) shows the density states of d_{yz} , d_{zx} , d_{z^2} , d_{xy} , and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbitals in the presence of Mn without vacancy defect. In this case, the system's spin separation or exchange interaction is strong. As shown in Fig. 3(d), d_{z^2} has the maximum locality and minimum bandwidth. The spin separation of d_{z^2} is considerable and has profound effects on the magnetic moment of the system. The high spin and low spin of this orbital is occupied and unoccupied respectively. Also, the difference in energy levels of the two spin states is almost 4eV. In addition to d_{z^2} (Fig. 3(d)) orbital, the two d_{yz} and d_{zx} (Fig. 3(c)) orbitals

of Mn are full in the high-spin state and vacant in the low-spin state. Hence, as shown in Fig. 2(a), regarding the portion of 3d orbitals of Mn in the magnetic moment, it is observed that three orbitals of d_{z^2} , d_{yz} , and d_{zx} involve in 30%, 26%, and 29% (in total 85%) of the obtained magnetic moment, respectively. Fig.S1 of SI presents the spin separation of these levels and deviation from the initial crystal field, schematically. According to DOS diagram in Fig. 3(e), the d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbitals have larger spatial extents. The filling pattern of high-spin and low-spin states of these two orbitals indicates that they have no considerable effect on the system magnetization. Therefore, as d_{z^2} , d_{yz} , and d_{zx} are half-filled orbitals, the intensity of the magnetization for each high-spin state of these orbitals is almost $1 \mu_B$, which is $3 \mu_B$ overall. According to Fig.S2, the contribution of 3d orbitals of Mn is effective in the band structure, and along with 3p orbitals of the S atom, it reduces the gap energy by 0.48eV. For both Mn and S atoms, the high-spin orbitals in the valence band and low-spin orbitals in the conduction band are the main contributors in points VBM and CBM. These orbitals coincide with each other and are located at the Γ point of the first Brillouin zone. Therefore, in the presence of Mn, the gap energy reduces and changes to the direct type. In the last subfigure of Fig. 3(f), the spin density difference is presented for this case. Mn doping causes electrons of the first-neighbor S atom to have an opposite spin and be antiparallel relative to Mn electrons. The level of polarization becomes negligible by getting away from the impurity atom. Therefore, in the hybrid interaction of d-p orbital, the electrons of 3p-orbital of the nearest S atom and of 3d-orbital of the Mn atom have opposite spins.

To investigate the effect of atomic vacancy on the magnetic properties of the system in the presence of TM, the sulfur atom which located in position 1 in Fig.1(p) is eliminated. As shown in Fig. 1(p), eliminating the S atom causes the TM (position No. 3), Pd (Position No.2), and S atoms (first neighbor to No.1) to have a free or suspended band. If one S atom is diminished from the structure, the Mn and Pd atoms lose one less electron relative to the previous state. Therefore, in the presence of Mn impurity, the metal cation Mn^{+3} can have more than three electrons in the 3d level. According to Fig. 2(a), the magnetization intensity of Mn without S vacancy is almost $2.995\mu_B$ and with S vacancy, it is $3.135\mu_B$, indicating a $0.14\mu_B$ increase relative to the former case. According to Fig. 3(h), the spins of 3p-orbital of the S atom are symmetrical and have no significant magnetic property. The 3d orbitals have experienced some changes, of which the increased contribution of two planar orbitals d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Fig. 3(k)) to magnetization is one the important ones. This result is obtained from comparing data of magnetic contribution in Fig. 2(a) and results presented in Fig. 2(b) for the percentage contribution of Mn orbitals to the magnetic moment. The contributions of these orbitals, respectively, are 8% and 7% in the absence of the S vacancy and 15% and 9% in the presence of vacancy. By removing the S atom, the system has lower planar symmetry relative to the pure state. Hence, the contribution of two planar orbitals d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ somewhat increases relative to the symmetric case. Based on data presented in Table S7, the gap energy is entirely disappeared, and the structure becomes conductive by removing the S atom. Here, the role of 3d and 3p orbitals is also obvious so that VBM and CBM are almost tangential to the Fermi level at point Y, as shown in Figs. S2 and S3. It should be noted that, unlike the first case, low-spin orbitals in both valence and conduction bands play crucial roles. Albeit, in the valence zone, the role of 3d orbital is of lower importance than that of 3p orbital.

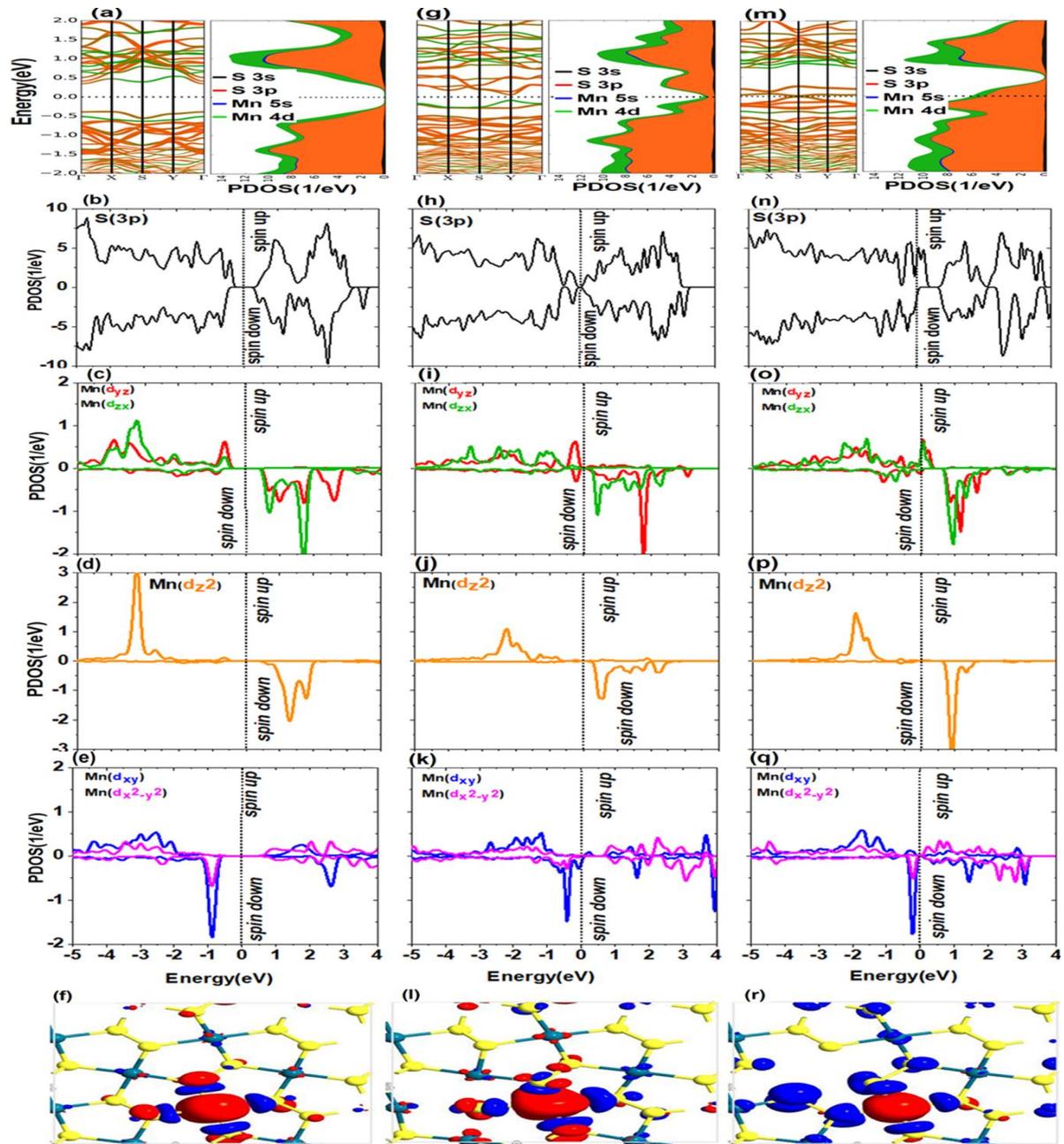


Fig. 3. (a-f) band structure and DOS of p and d orbitals and spin density difference in the presence of transition metal impurity (Mn), (g-l) in the presence of the S atom vacancy defect, and (m-r) in the presence of the Pd atom vacancy defect.

Then we investigate the effect of removing a Pd atom, position No.2 in Fig. 1(r). By removing this atom, four first-neighbor S atoms of Pd will have free bonds. The magnetic energy (ΔE_{spin}) arising from the Pd vacancy in the presence of Mn is equal to 501.11 meV as demonstrated in Table S5. In other words, the magnetic energy of Pd₂S₄ is also reduced relative to the initial and S vacancy states. The intensity of magnetization has also been mitigated by $0.472\mu_B$ relative to the case without vacancy defect. The S

atom, which is in commonly bonds with Mn and Pd atoms, should gain more electrons from Mn by removing Pd. In this case, the magnetic moment is also reduced by $0.472\mu_B$, which means that the magnetic moment of adjacent S atoms increases, as presented in Table S6. It can also be found from spin density shown in Fig. 3(r). The accurate value of this increase is presented in Tables S2 and S6 in the SI. According to Fig. 3(m), which shows the band structure in the presence of Mn impurity and Pd vacancy, and Table S7 in the SI, there is no gap energy in this case. As shown in the SI, Figs. S2 and S3, 3d orbitals of Mn atom and 3p orbitals of S atom cross the Fermi level. Regarding Fig. 3(n), the 3p orbital of S atom and d_{yz} and d_{zx} (Fig. 3(o)) orbitals of Mn play crucial roles in cancelling the 0.73 eV gap energy when only Mn atom is present as an impurity in the structure.

The last figures of Figs. 3(i) and 3(r), illustrate the difference of spin density in the presence of S and Pd vacancies, respectively, where the Mn doping in both of the cases causes the extension of polarity from the impurity atom to neighboring atoms. This polarization is more obvious when the Pd atom is removed from the system. Electrons of the 3p orbital of the nearest S atom have an opposite spin relative to electrons of the 3d orbital of the Mn atom.

In the following, the effect of adding of V element to Pd_2S_4 structure is examined, which have a moderate intensity of magnetization. When V atom with a valence configuration of $4s^23d^3$ is substituted for a Pd atom in the structure, must lose electrons as much as Pd atoms. According to Table S7 in the SI, in the presence of V atom the gap energy of doped Pd_2S_4 is 0.44 eV which is decreased nearly by 0.76eV with respect to the pure system. As shown in Fig. 4(a-e), 3d orbitals of the V atom and 3p orbitals of the S atom have an excellent hybrid in the valence and conduction bands. The contributions of low-spin and high-spin orbitals are entirely specified in valence and conduction bands, respectively. Also, VBM entirely coincides with Γ point, and CBM lies on point S in the first Brillouin zone. According to data presented in Fig. 2(a), the intensity of magnetization of V is $1.395\mu_B$ when there are no S and Pd vacancy defects. As can be seen, this value is considerably lower than the first considered group. The 3p orbital of the S atom has no contribution in the magnetization of the structure thus the DOS diagram for high-spin and low-spin states is almost symmetrical. Therefore, in this case, the major part of magnetization is due to the 3d orbital of V. Fig. 2(c) clearly indicates that exchange interaction and, consequently, splitting of high and low spins of V^{+4} are lower than Mn^{+4} . In this case, the maximum spin states separation is related to d_{z^2} (Fig. 4(d)) as about 3eV . Moreover, one of the spin states is full, and the other is entirely vacant. Thus, a major part of $1.39\mu_B$ is related to this orbital. The residual value of magnetization intensity, equivalent to $0.39\mu_B$, is attributed to other orbitals. Therefore, due to the spin splitting, the primary perception that the magnetization of V atom is equal to the missed four electrons one cannot be true. The main point in doping with V and Co (according to Fig. 2(c)) is the considerable contribution of d_{z^2} in the magnetization. In contrast to the relatively large contributions of three orbitals d_{z^2} , d_{yz} , and d_{zx} (Fig. 2) in magnetization of the first group (Fe, Mn, and Cr), the major contribution for the second group is related to d_{z^2} orbital. V and Co have 5 and 9 electrons in their last energy level, respectively. Therefore, after being involved in the Pd_2S_4 structure, they lose four electrons and will have one and five electrons in the 3d energy level. Hence, the single electron of V is placed in high-spin d_{z^2} orbital, which is why it has the most percentage of magnetization. Also, four electrons of Co with opposite spins occupy two orbitals of d_{yz} and d_{zx} , and only the remaining one electron goes to d_{z^2} orbital. There is no electron for Ti of valence shell $4s^23d^2$ after being involved in the Pd_2S_4 structure.

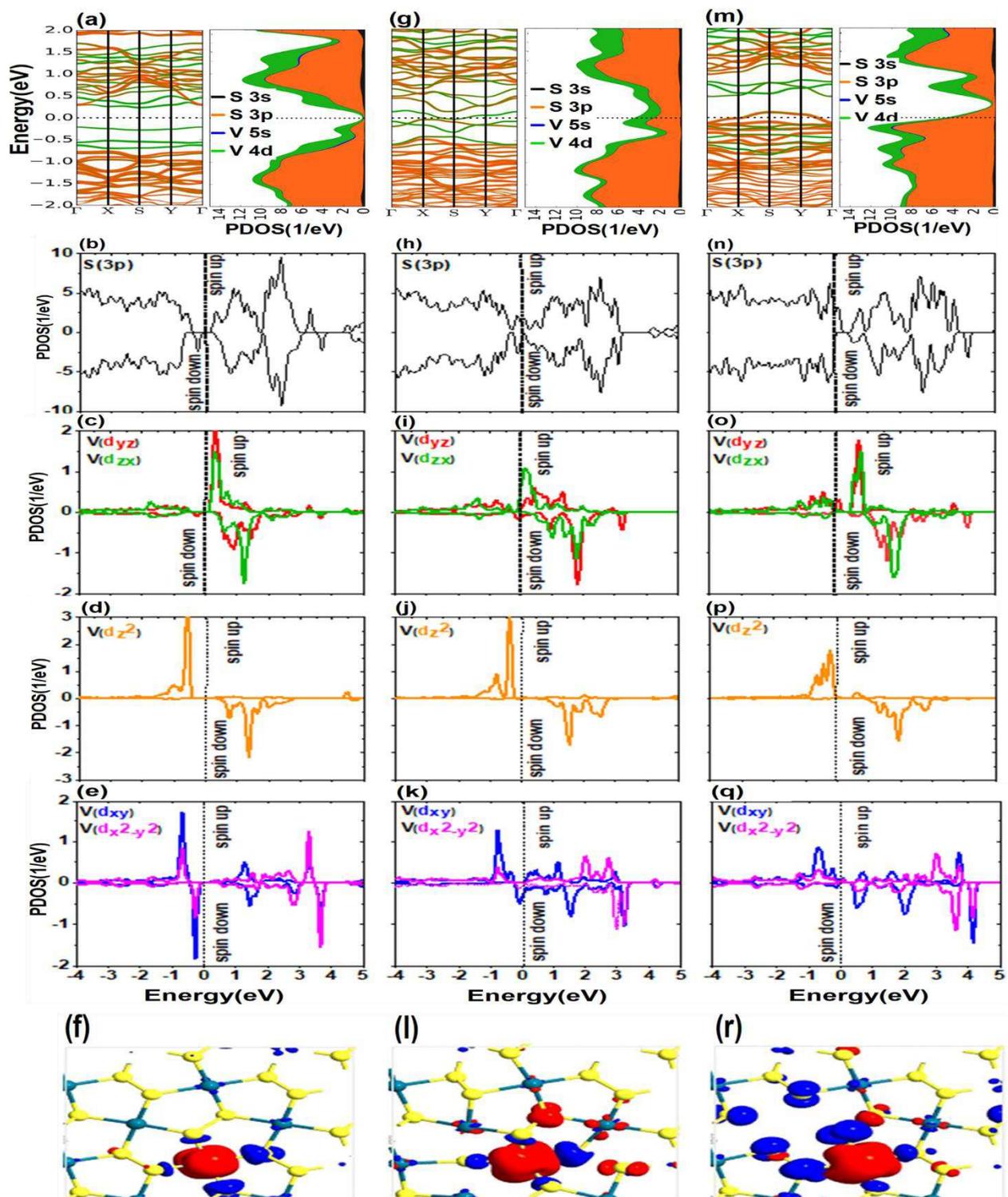


Figure 4. (a-f) band structure and DOS of p and d orbitals and spin density difference in the presence of transition metal impurity (V), (g-i) in the presence of the S atom defect, and (m-r) in the presence of the Pd atom defect.

According to Figs. S2 and S3 and Table S7 in the SI, the Pd₂S₄ structure becomes conductive because of S vacancy formation in the first neighbor of the doped structure. It can be found from Figs. S2 and S3 that Fermi level interrupts the 3d orbital of V and 3p orbital of S. Thus, 3d and 3p orbitals with high and low spins not only cross Fermi level but also interrupt each other at S point in the band structure due to the S vacancy defect. As illustrated in Fig. 4(g-i) and Tables S2 and S4 of the SI, the vacancy defect of S atom in the first neighborhood of V-doped Pd₂S₄ can increase the intensity of magnetization to 1.946μ_B compared to the no vacancy one which is 1.39μ_B, where like the previous case, 3p (Fig. 4(h)) orbitals have fairly symmetrical shapes and no magnetization. In this case, the significant contribution of d_{z²} (Fig. 4(j)) to magnetization is clear. The high spin of d_{z²} (Fig. 4(j)) stays on the valence band, while this orbital has a vacant opposite spin. Also, the energy difference of high-spin and low-spin states under the effect of exchange interaction in d_{z²} is about 2.5eV. For the remainder of magnetization, the other 3d orbitals must be considered. In the presence of vacancy defect at the first neighborhood (as shown in Fig. 2(c)), other orbitals have approximately the same contribution to magnetization. According to Table S5 in the SI, the spin energy arising from the Pd atom vacancy defect in the V-doped structure is -432.72 meV. Also, based on Fig. 2(a), the magnetic moment due to the Pd vacancy defect has increased about 0.70μ_B compared to the pure system.

Regarding Figs. 2(c) and 4(k), d_{x²-y²} and d_{xy} have made a profound difference with three other orbitals d_{z²}, d_{yz}, and d_{zx} in terms of spin separation. Therefore, the main effect of increasing the magnetic moment compared to the pure system can be due to the effect of the new crystal field on these orbitals. Figs. S2 and S3 and the magnitude of the gap energy presented in Table S7 in SI show that the structure becomes conductive because of Pd atomic vacancy so that Fermi level shifts to the within of 3p Fig. 4(m-n) and 3d Fig. 4(m,o,p,q) orbitals. In the last figures of each column of Fig. 4(f,l,r), the spin density at impurity atom (V) has been illustrated for the structure without and with vacancies. The behavior of atoms adjacent to impurity in considered cases is like the behavior of the atoms adjacent to the Mn impurity (see Fig.3). The main difference is the lower intensity of magnetization in the presence of V, which the reasons were investigated above.

When the Ni metal with valence shell of 4S²3d⁸ involves in the studied structure as the representation of the third group (Sc, Ni, Cu, and Zn), it shows no magnetic properties. The Ni atom has three more electrons than Mn, and in a straightforward comparison with the Mn atom, it is expected that these additional electrons can cover the entire magnetic moment obtained in the presence of Mn.

As indicated in Fig. 2, Ni doping does not influence the magnetic properties of the intended system. The DOS diagrams for high-spin and low-spin states are perfectly symmetrical and neutralize the magnetic effects of each other. From Fig. 5(a-f), it is observed that d_{z²} (Fig. 5(d)) d_{yz}, and d_{zx} (Fig. 5(c)) are within the valence band and wholly occupied. Therefore, electrons of Ni⁺⁴ occupy orbitals of the lowest energy pairwise with opposite spins in a pair. Hence, there occurs no magnetization in this structure, and the magnetic contribution of every component is zero. The role of Ni is similar to Pd because both of them have no spin separation and no magnetizing effect on the system. Similarly, Sc, Cu, and Zn also have symmetrical high and low spins densities and no spin separation. In this case, the required field for d orbitals splitting is the crystal field, which does not compete with exchange interaction for separating high-spin and low-spin states. Table S7 in the SI demonstrates that the gap energy variation in the presence of Ni is less than in the presence of Mn and V. According to Figs. S2 and S3 in SI, it can be stated that the structure still remains semi-conductive when Ni is introduced, and the type of gap energy remains indirect.

VBM and CBM are coincident with Γ point. The S vacancy in this structure leads to the band-gap alteration but the system is non-magnetic (see Fig. 5(h, i, j, k, l)). In Table S7 of the SI, the gap energy values arising from this defect are presented. From Figs. 5(g), Fig. S2, and Fig. S3, it is found that the band-gap is direct

and VBM and CBM coincide with X point. The structure still remains nonmagnetic (see Figs. 5(n, o, p, q, r)) by removing the Pd atom and in the absence of exchange interaction, leading to the separation of spin states. In this case, the main difference is the intersection of Fermi level by p orbitals of S and d_{yz} and d_{zx} (Fig. 5(m,o)) orbitals of Pd. The addition of free electrons because of the S atom and initial symmetry elimination can be the reason for this behavior of energy level in altering the band-gap in states with vacancy.

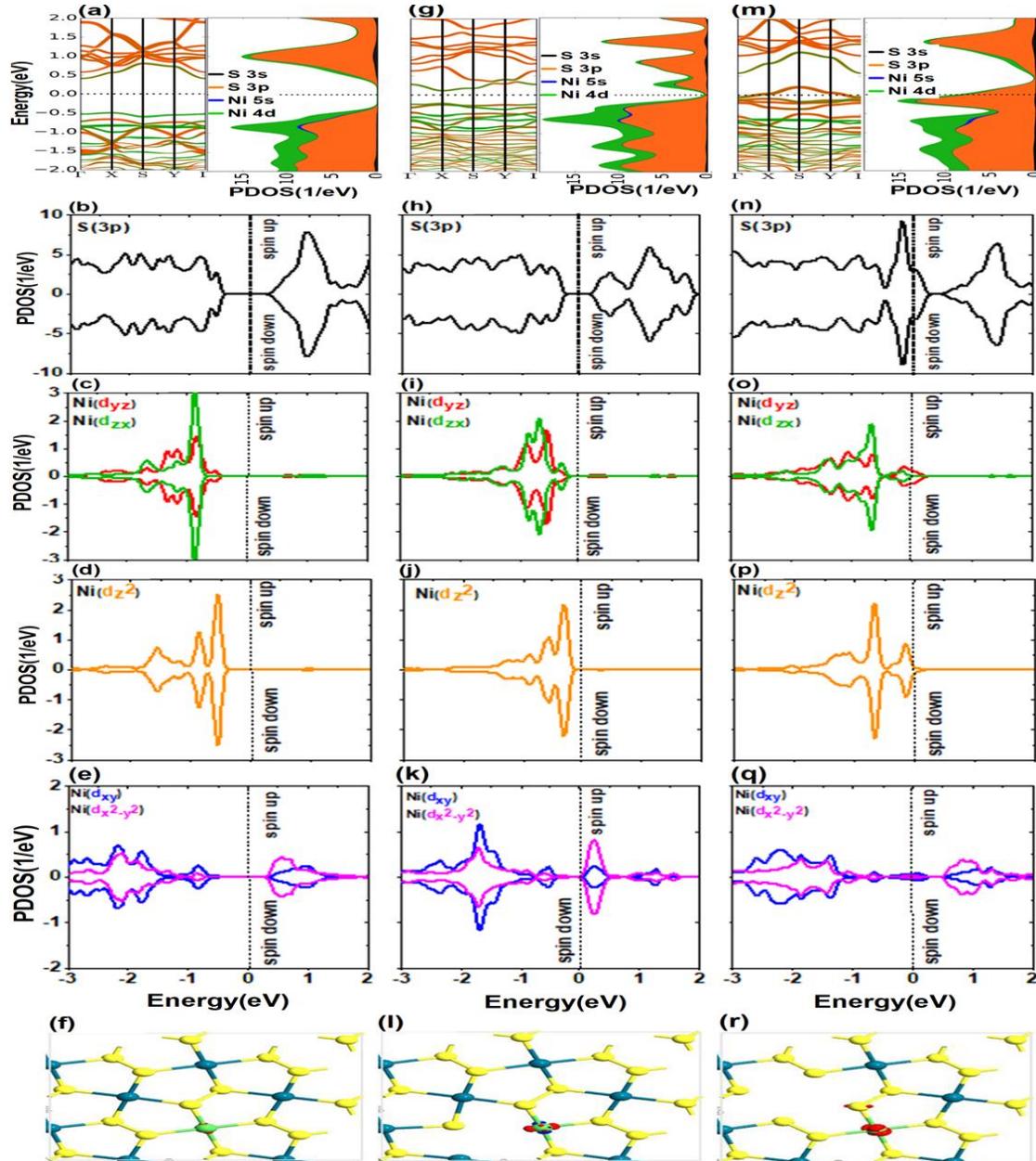


Figure 5. (a-f) bandstructure and PDOS of p and d orbitals and spin density difference in the presence of transition metal impurity (Ni), (g-i) in the presence of the S atom defect, and (m-r) in the presence of the Pd atom defect.

Conclusion

This paper studied the development of magnetic properties and the electronic properties of monolayer Pd_2S_4 under the effect of doping with 3d transition metals with/without vacancy defects of S and Pd atoms. The crystal field decreases the degeneracy of d orbitals of 3d TM, and these orbitals are split approximately based on the square planar model. The addition of exchange interaction in the presence of 3d transition metals causes the new spin separations, especially in d orbitals. The spin splitting of d_{z^2} is sometimes more considerable and effective in establishing the magnetic moment of the system where the spin energy difference of d_{z^2} between high and low spins for Mn doping is almost 4eV. This separation causes one of the spin states to be full and another one to be vacant. Calculations for all 3d TM of the periodic table indicate that doping with Mn, Cr, and Fe leads to the maximum intensity of magnetization in the structure. Some of 3d metals, such as Ti, V, and Co, cause less magnetization in the structure. Finally, doping with the 3d metals such as Sc, Ni, Cu, and Zn atoms, results in no magnetic properties in the system. By applying the S and Pd atomic vacancies which are next to the TM impurities, the system symmetry mitigates, and the number of free electrons, which are previously in a bond with other atoms, increases. Therefore, the atomic vacancies, as obtained here, has no significant effect on the magnetic properties of the system and can directly affect the electronic properties such as the gap energy.

Data availability

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article (and its Supplementary Information files).

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Author contributions

M.G. contributed to implementation of the research and the analysis of the results and performed the numerical simulations. M.G. and H.R.S. and Z.G developed the theoretical formalism, performed the

analytic calculations. M.G. and Z.G. wrote the main manuscript text. All authors discussed the results and contributed to the final manuscript. H.R.S. supervised the project.

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