

Charge redistribution at the antiferromagnetic phase transition in the SrFeAsF compound

Zhiwei Li, Yang Fang, Xiaoming Ma, Hua Pang,* and Fashen Li

Institute of Applied Magnetism, Key Lab for Magnetism and Magnetic Materials of the Ministry of Education, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, Gansu, People's Republic of China

(Received 27 June 2011; published 10 October 2011)

The relationship between spin, electron, and crystal structure has been one of the foremost issues in understanding the superconducting mechanism since the discovery of iron-based high-temperature superconductors. Here, we report Mössbauer and first-principles calculations studies of the parent compound SrFeAsF with the largest temperature gap (~ 50 K) between the structural and antiferromagnetic (AFM) transitions. Our results reveal that the structural transition has little effect on the electronic structure of the compound SrFeAsF while the development of the AFM order induces a redistribution of the charges near the Fermi level.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevB.84.134509](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.84.134509)

PACS number(s): 76.80.+y, 74.10.+v, 71.15.Mb

I. INTRODUCTION

The discovery of superconductivity (SC) in iron-based superconductors, like the cuprates, promises to be an important milestone in condensed matter physics.^{1–3} Proximity to a magnetically ordered state has been suggested to be a crucial factor for the observed high-temperature (high- T_c) SC.⁴ Another interesting feature is that the antiferromagnetic (AFM) transition is always accompanied by a structural transition either before the AFM transition or at the same temperature (see Ref. 5 and references therein). In the 122-type $AeFe_2As_2$ ($Ae = Ba, Sr, Ca, Eu$) parent compounds and the 11-type $Fe_{1+\delta}Te$ systems, the structural and AFM transitions occur simultaneously. For the rare-earth-based 1111-type $ReFeAsO$ ($Re = La, Ce, Pr, Nd$, etc.) materials and the 111-type $AFeAs$ ($A = Li, Na$) compounds, the structural transition precedes the AFM transition by about 10–20 K. Till now, the relationship between the structural and magnetic phase transition has been an open question though it has been suggested that the structural transition may be driven magnetically.⁶ But there is angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) evidence⁷ that structural and AFM transitions may share the same origin and could both be driven by the electronic structure reconstruction in NaFeAs. Actually, the nature of the AFM order itself is still under debate, with some favoring a localized picture and others supporting an itinerant nature.

To understand the interplay between structural, magnetic, and electronic properties, a microscopic investigation by Mössbauer spectroscopy^{8–13} may be very helpful. In the present work, we report detailed Mössbauer spectroscopy measurements and first-principles calculations of SrFeAsF. The SrFeAsF parent compound, which has the largest reported temperature interval (~ 50 K) between the two phase transitions,¹⁴ offers an ideal opportunity to address what happens between the structural and AFM transitions. Our results show strong evidence of charge redistribution at the AFM phase transition in the SrFeAsF compound.

II. EXPERIMENT

SrFeAsF was synthesized using a two-step solid-state reaction method, which is similar to that described earlier.¹⁵ First, SrAs/FeAs was prepared by reacting Sr/Fe flakes/powders and As powders sealed in an evacuated quartz tube at 773 K for

10 h and then at 1000 K for 20 h. The resultant precursors, SrAs, FeAs, SrF₂ and Fe powders, were mixed and thoroughly ground at a molar ratio of 1:1:1:1. All the weighing and mixing procedures were performed in a glove box with protective argon atmosphere. Then the mixture was pressed into a pellet, sealed in an evacuated quartz tube and heated up to 1273 K at a rate of 60 K/h, kept at this temperature for 40 h, and cooled down to room temperature. The product was homogenized in an agate mortar, pressed into a pellet, and sintered at 1273 K for 40 h again to obtain the final sample.

Phase purity was checked by x-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) on a Philips X'pert diffractometer with CuK_{α} radiation. Rietveld refinement of the SrFeAsF compound was performed with the GSAS package¹⁶ to obtain the lattice parameters. Transmission Mössbauer spectra (MS) at temperatures between 16 and 290 K were recorded using a conventional constant acceleration spectrometer with a γ -ray source of 25 mCi ^{57}Co in a palladium matrix moving at room temperature. The absorber was kept static in a temperature-controllable cryostat filled with helium gas. The drive velocity is calibrated with sodium nitroprusside (SNP) at room temperature and all the isomer shifts quoted in this work are relative to that of the α -Fe.

III. CALCULATION METHODS

We use the full potential linearized augmented plane wave (FP-LAPW)¹⁷ method as embodied in the WIEN2K^{18,19} code in a scalar relativistic version without spin-orbit coupling. According to the FP-LAPW method, the simulation cell is divided into spherical atomic regions with radii R_{mt} (2.30, 2.41, 2.13, and 2.30 a.u. for Sr, Fe, As, and F atoms, respectively.) and an interstitial region. The wave functions are described by atomiclike functions inside the atomic spheres, while in the interstitial region plane waves are used. The maximum angular momenta l for the expansion of the wave functions in the spherical harmonics inside the spheres is confined to $l_{max} = 10$. The cutoff parameter $R_{MT}K_{MAX}$ for limiting the number of the plane waves is set as 7.0. The magnitude of the largest vector in the Fourier expansion of the electron density (G_{max}) is set to 14.0. States lying more than 6 Ry below the Fermi level are treated as the core states. The Brillouin zone integration is done with a modified tetrahedron method using 648 special k points in the irreducible wedge.

The generalized gradient approximation (GGA) suggested by Perdew, Burke, and Ernzerhof (PBE GGA)²⁰ is employed for the exchange-correlation effects.

Once the electron (spin) densities are calculated self-consistently with high accuracy, hyperfine parameters can be deduced directly.^{21,22} The electric field gradient (EFG) tensor can be obtained from an integral over the nonspherical electron density. The most interesting principal component V_{zz} is given by $V_{zz} = \frac{1}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi d\theta \sin\theta P_2(\cos\theta) \int_0^\infty \frac{dr}{r} \rho(r)$, where P_2 is the second-order Legendre polynomial and $\rho(r)$ is the electron density. In the LAPW method, $\rho(r)$ is expressed by lattice harmonics, i.e., under an LM form, $\rho_{LM}(r) = \sum_{E_{nk} < E_F} \sum_{l,m} \sum_{l',m'} R_{lm}(r) R_{l'm'}(r) G_{LL'}^{Mmm'}$. It turns out, only the component ρ_{20} is important to V_{zz} . And when $L = 2$ and $M = 0$, only $l = l' = 1$ and $l = l' = 2$ (and to a minor extent $l = 0, l' = 2$ and $l = 1, l' = 3$) give nonzero Gaunt numbers, which correspond to p - p and d - d contributions to the EFG, respectively.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 shows the XRPD pattern of the sample, from which one can see that all the main peaks can be indexed to the SrFeAsF phase with a ZrCuSiAs-type structure. The lattice constants were determined to be $a = 4.002$ Å and $c = 8.970$ Å, which is in good agreement with previously reported values.¹⁵ Only a small amount of the SrF₂ impurity phase was detected, which is determined by the Rietveld refinement to be less than 4%. As the impurity phase (SrF₂) does not contain iron, the analyses of the MS cannot be affected and this is shown in what follows.

Mössbauer spectra recorded at indicated temperatures together with transmission integral fits are shown in Fig. 2. Clearly, the spectra change from the paramagnetic (PM) state (singlet or unresolved doublet) to the magnetically split state

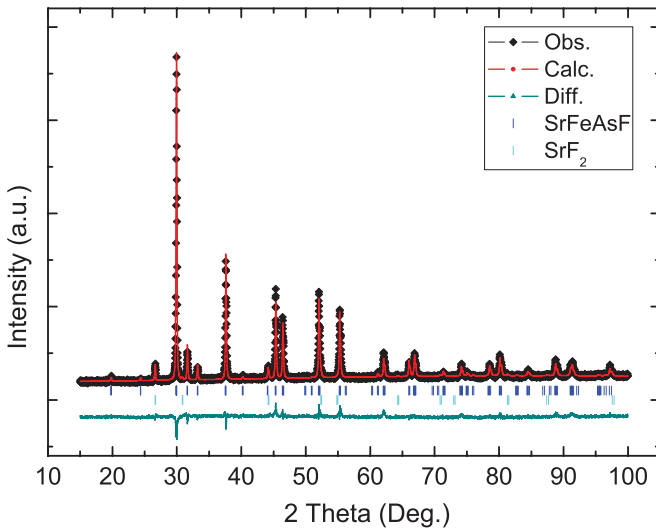


FIG. 1. (Color online) X-ray powder diffraction pattern of SrFeAsF (♦) and Rietveld fit (red solid line). Bars at bottom show the calculated bragg diffraction positions of SrFeAsF (upper row) and a small amount of SrF₂ (lower row) impurity phase (less than 4%). The olive green line is the difference between the observed and calculated patterns.

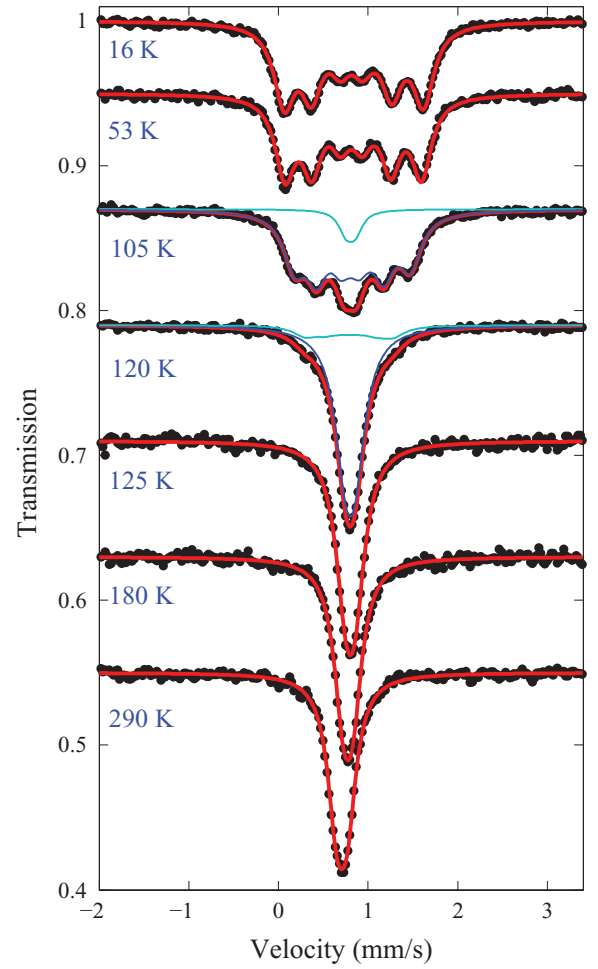


FIG. 2. (Color online) Mössbauer spectra taken at indicated temperatures of the SrFeAsF sample together with transmission integral fits (solid line).

(sextet) upon lowering of the temperature. The Hamiltonian for the hyperfine coupling in the principal axis system of the EFG can be expressed as²³

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{QM} &= \hat{\mathcal{H}}_Q + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_M \\ &= \frac{eQV_{zz}}{4I(2I-1)} [3\hat{I}_z^2 - \hat{I}^2 + \eta(\hat{I}_x^2 - \hat{I}_y^2)] \\ &\quad - g\mu_N B[(\hat{I}_x \cos\phi + \hat{I}_y \sin\phi) \sin\theta + \hat{I}_z \cos\theta], \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

where \hat{I} and $\hat{I}_x, \hat{I}_y, \hat{I}_z$ refer to the nuclear spin operator and operators of the nuclear spin projections onto the principal axes and Q denotes the quadrupole moment of the nucleus [for excited ⁵⁷Fe $Q = +0.17(1)$ b (Ref. 24)]. ϕ and θ are the azimuthal and polar angles of the hyperfine magnetic field in the EFG coordinate system, respectively. $\eta = (V_{xx} - V_{yy})/V_{zz}$ represents the asymmetry parameter of the EFG at the nucleus. In the present case, it is reasonable to assume that the EFG has axial symmetry around the c axis.¹⁰ Therefore, above the AFM transition temperature, one has a doublet with quadrupole splitting $\Delta E_Q = \frac{1}{2}|eQV_{zz}|$. Below the AFM transition temperature, due to the smallness of the quadrupole interaction in comparison with the magnetic dipole interaction, the assumption of first-order perturbation can be made.

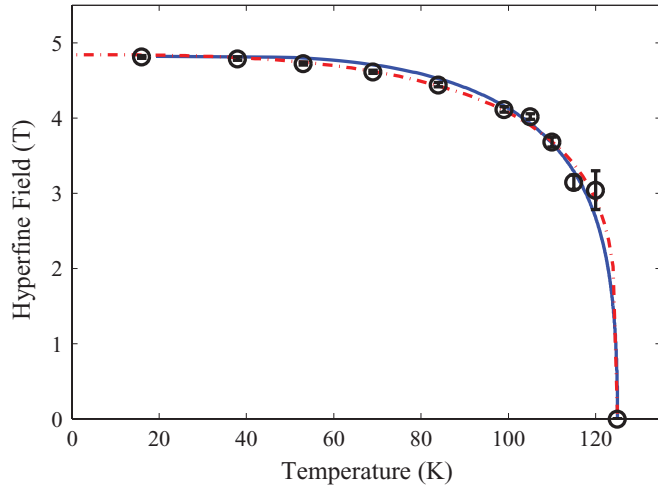


FIG. 3. (Color online) Temperature dependence of the hyperfine field, $B_{\text{hf}}(T)$, extracted from transmission integral fits of the Mössbauer spectra. The red dash-dotted line and the blue solid line are fits to the data with the power law and the Bean-Rodbell model, respectively (see text).

Hence, eigenvalues of the magnetic Hamiltonian are perturbed (shifted) by the term $\varepsilon = (-1)^{m_I+1/2}(eQV_{zz}/8)(3\cos^2\theta - 1)$.²³ Considering the established magnetic structure, $\theta = 90^\circ$, the sign of V_{zz} and the nuclear quadrupole coupling constant (NQCC), $|eQV_{zz}|$, can be obtained subsequently.

As can be seen, the spectra can be well fitted by only one doublet (sextet) above (below) the transition region, indicating that the local environment of the Fe ion is unique. This means that there is no Fe-containing impurity phase in our sample, coincident with the XRPD results. At room temperature the best fit of the spectra gives an isomer shift of $\delta = 0.44$ mm/s and a quadrupole splitting of $|\Delta E_Q| = 0.12$ mm/s, which compares well with reported values for SrFeAsF (Ref. 25) and other 1111-type iron-pnictides.^{10,11} At temperatures in the transition region (100–125 K) the MS are fitted with the superposition of a doublet and a sextet^{10,11} as usually done in the Mössbauer studies of the iron-based parent compounds.

The temperature dependence of the hyperfine field, $B_{\text{hf}}(T)$, is shown in Fig. 3. Fitting $B_{\text{hf}}(T)$ data to the usual function $B_{\text{hf}}(T) = B_{\text{hf}}(0)[1 - (T/T_N)^\alpha]^\beta$ (Ref. 14) (red dash-dotted line) leads to $B_{\text{hf}}(0) = 4.84$ T, $T_N = 125$ K, $\alpha = 2.8$, and $\beta = 0.23$. These values agree very well with those derived from fitting the upper precession frequency of the μ SR data¹⁴ and prove the two-dimensional magnetism²⁶ in the SrFeAsF compound. To find out the order of the magnetic phase transition, we fit the $B_{\text{hf}}(T)$ data according to the Bean-Rodbell model (blue solid line)^{12,27} for $J = 1/2$, $T/T_0 = (\sigma/\tanh^{-1}\sigma)(1 + \zeta\sigma^2/3)$, where T_0 is the transition temperature if the lattice is not compressible, σ is the sublattice magnetization, and ζ is a fitting parameter ($\zeta < 1$ for a second-order transition, $\zeta > 1$ for a first-order transition, and for $\zeta = 0$ the equation reduces to a Brillouin function). The fitted values for ζ , T_0 , and $B_{\text{hf}}(T)$ are found to be 0.8, 125 K, and 4.82 T, respectively. Obviously, ζ is a little smaller than 1, which is different from that obtained for CaFe_2As_2 ($\zeta = 1.35$), indicating that the AFM transition for SrFeAsF is

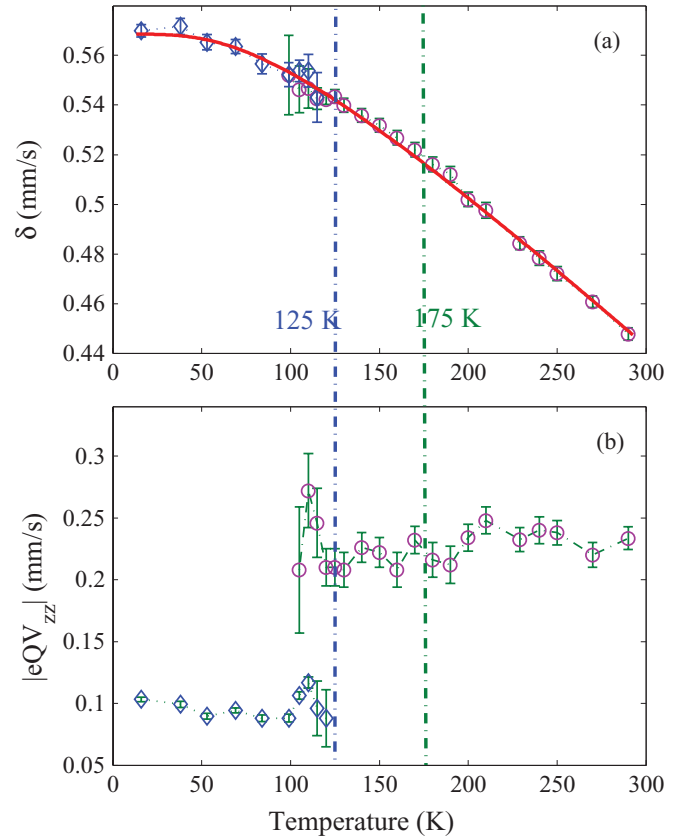


FIG. 4. (Color online) Temperature dependence of the isomer shift δ together with theoretical fits using the Debye model (a) and the nuclear quadrupole coupling constant (b) of the SrFeAsF compound. The blue diamonds (purple circles) are derived from the AFM (PM) phase. Vertical dash-dotted lines at 125 and 175 K (Ref. 14) indicate the AFM and structural transition temperatures, respectively.

more second-order-like than that for CaFe_2As_2 , which is in agreement with previous reports.^{14,25}

Temperature dependence of the isomer shift, $\delta(T)$, determined from the fits of the MS is shown in Fig. 4(a). The two vertical dash-dotted lines at 125 and 175 K (Ref. 14) indicate the AFM and structural transition temperatures, respectively. As expected, $\delta(T)$ increases gradually with decreasing temperature due to the second-order Doppler effect. And in terms of the Debye model, the Debye temperature is found to be $\Theta_D = 337$ K, which is in reasonable agreement with the temperatures determined from specific-heat measurements, $\Theta_D = 339$ K (Ref. 25), and neutron diffraction experiments, $\Theta_D = 347$ K (Ref. 28). In Fig. 4(b) we present the temperature dependence of the NQCC, $|eQV_{zz}|$, which is obtained as $2\Delta E_Q$ and $8|\varepsilon|$ for PM and AFM states, respectively.

Obviously, no abrupt changes of $\delta(T)$ and NQCC during the structural transition around ~ 175 K are found, implying a rather continuous structural transition. In terms of group theory, the space group of the low-temperature phase ($Cmma$) is a subgroup of that of the high-temperature phase ($P4/nmm$) and therefore a relatively continuous structural transition is usually the case.²⁵ Considering the small change in volume after the transition,^{25,28} it is likely that the charge density at the iron nucleus and the spatial distribution symmetry of the charges exhibit negligible changes. Therefore, one may

TABLE I. Principal component of the EFG, V_{zz} , for NM- $P4/nmm$, NM- $Cmma$, and AFM- $Cmma$ phases of the SrFeAsF compound. The experimental values for NM- $P4/nmm$ and NM- $Cmma$ phases are given as $|V_{zz}|$ (see text).

V_{zz} (10^{21} V/m ²)	NM- $P4/nmm$	NM- $Cmma$	AFM- $Cmma$
Calculation	-0.350	-0.330	-0.197
Experimentation	0.65(3)	0.64(4)	-0.27(1)

not expect distinct changes in $\delta(T)$ and NQCC near the structural transition temperature range. Interestingly, upon cooling through the AFM transition, the NQCC jumps to a much smaller value for the AFM phase while the temperature dependence of $\delta(T)$ still follows the Debye model without any evident jump. The isomer shift changes rather smoothly with decreasing temperature though the AFM transition was also observed in the GdFeAsO compound¹¹ in contrast to that for the 122-type CaFe_2As_2 material where a small jump was detected.¹² This could be understood as due to some charge redistribution effect, which changes the EFG at the iron nucleus but has little effect on the absolute charge density at the iron nucleus. In fact, charge redistribution effect have also been observed in 122-type AeFe_2As_2 (Ref. 29) and 111-type NaFeAs (Ref. 7) systems and high- T_c cuprates materials.^{30,31}

To get a better understanding of the charge redistribution effect, we calculate the EFG and the electronic properties of the SrFeAsF compound. For tetragonal ($P4/nmm$) SrFeAsF, the experimental lattice parameters and internal atomic positions ($a = b = 3.9930$ Å, $c = 8.9546$ Å, $Z_{\text{Sr}} = 0.1583$, $Z_{\text{As}} = 0.3485$) are adopted.¹⁴ For orthorhombic ($Cmma$) SrFeAsF, the experimental values ($a = 5.6155$ Å, $b = 5.6602$ Å, $c = 8.9173$ Å, $Z_{\text{Sr}} = 0.1584$, $Z_{\text{As}} = 0.3475$) are employed.¹⁴ The AFM phase of SrFeAsF is also set up according to experimental reports; that is, the spin direction is opposite between two adjacent FeAs layers and opposite along the longer Fe-Fe direction within the FeAs layers.²⁸

First, we have calculated the EFG principal component V_{zz} for nonmagnetic- $P4/nmm$ (NM- $P4/nmm$), NM- $Cmma$, and AFM- $Cmma$ phases of the SrFeAsF parent compound. The experimental and numerical results are shown in Table I. The sign of V_{zz} for NM- $P4/nmm$ and NM- $Cmma$ phases cannot be determined experimentally and the absolute values are given. For the magnetically split AFM state, the sign of V_{zz} can be established directly in this case to be negative, which agrees well with first-principles calculations. This is different with other iron-based superconductors, where the sign of V_{zz} is obtained to be positive.¹⁰⁻¹² The reason for this difference certainly deserves future investigations. As can be seen, if we consider the absolute values of V_{zz} , the calculated results match reasonably well with the experimental results. The $|V_{zz}|$ values are almost the same for NM- $P4/nmm$ phase and the NM- $Cmma$ phase. While the $|V_{zz}|$ value for the AFM- $Cmma$ phase is significantly smaller than the value for the other two phases. Generally, the EFG is sensitive to structural changes and is taken as a good probe for structural transitions. Our observations, however, indicate that the structural transition from the $P4/nmm$ phase to the $Cmma$ phase in SrFeAsF has no obvious effect on the EFG, but the introduction of

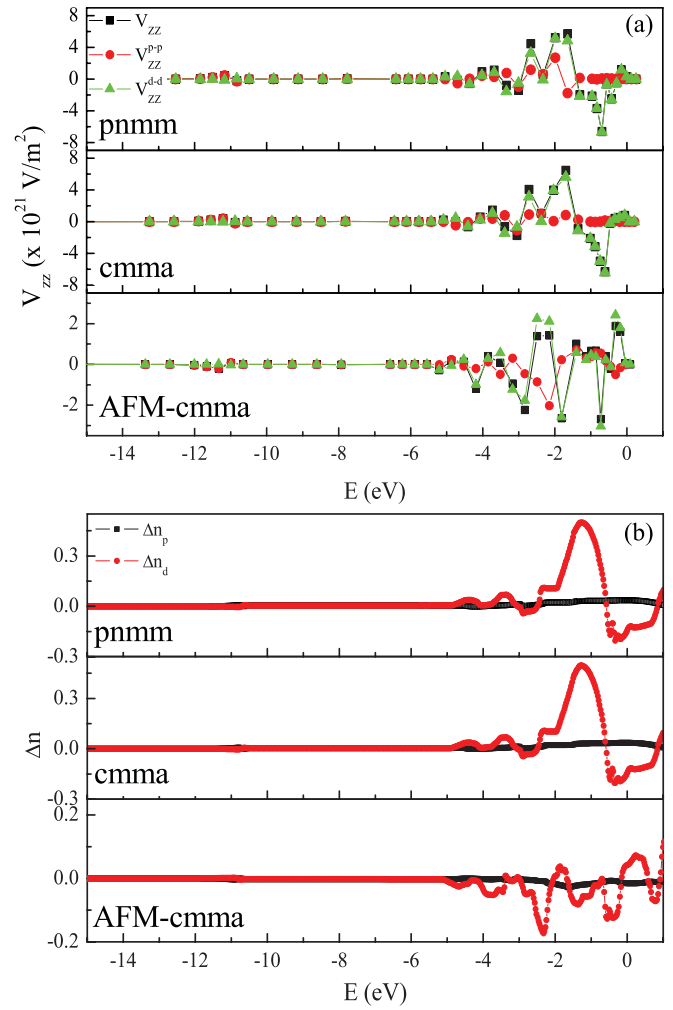


FIG. 5. (Color online) Evolutions of V_{zz}^{p-p} , V_{zz}^{d-d} , and V_{zz} (a) and evolutions of Δn_p and Δn_d (b) with the state of energy (see text).

long-range magnetic order unambiguously reduces the $|V_{zz}|$ value of SrFeAsF.

In order to further understand the V_{zz} , the evolutions of V_{zz}^{p-p} , V_{zz}^{d-d} , and V_{zz} with the state of energy are investigated minutely and the results are shown in Fig. 5(a). For all three structures, V_{zz}^{p-p} , V_{zz}^{d-d} , and V_{zz} are nearly zero until around -5 eV starting from the lower-energy side, after which V_{zz}^{p-p} and V_{zz}^{d-d} vibrate strongly until the Fermi energy is reached. Obviously, the V_{zz} of all systems are dominated by the valence electrons near the Fermi surface. And the similarity in the evolution of V_{zz} with energy is quite distinct for the two NM systems, which explains the experimental observation quite well. It is found that, though both p - p interaction and d - d interaction contribute to the V_{zz} , the contribution from V_{zz}^{d-d} dominates.

According to the above definition, the EFG is decided by the nonspherical electron density $\rho_{20}(\mathbf{r})$, as well as by the radial dependence $1/r^3$ of the anisotropic charge density. We calculated the nonspherical numbers of p and d charges inside the \mathbf{R}_{MT} of the Fe atom, denoted as Δn_p and Δn_d , respectively. Δn_p and Δn_d quantify the deviations of the charge distribution from spherical symmetry and are calculated as $\Delta n_p = (n_{p_x} + n_{p_y})/2 - n_{p_z}$ and $\Delta n_d = (n_{d_{xy}} + n_{d_{x^2-y^2}})/2 - (n_{d_{xz}} + n_{d_{yz}})/2$.³² The evolutions of Δn_p and Δn_d with the state of energy

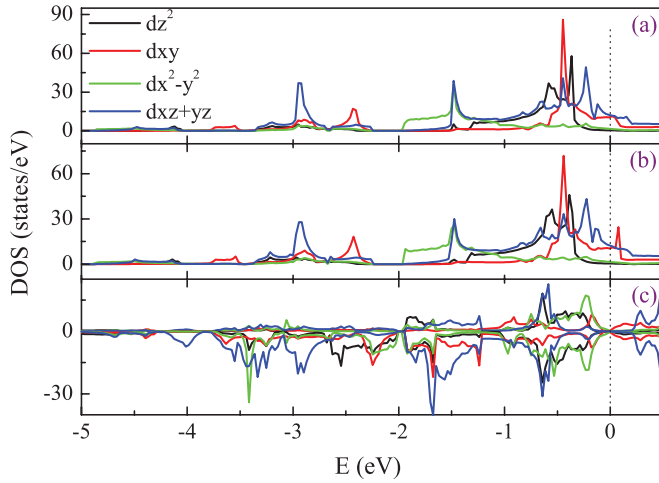


FIG. 6. (Color online) Density of states of the iron atom. (a) NM- $P4/nmm$, (b) NM- $Cmma$, and (c) AFM- $Cmma$ as described in the text.

are shown in Fig. 5(b). Obviously, the fluctuation of Δn_d is much more pronounced than that of Δn_p , indicating stronger anisotropic spatial distribution of Fe $3d$ electrons compared with that of the Fe $3p$ electrons. This can be explained by the strong hybridization between Fe $3p$ and As $4s$ orbits, which reduces the spatial anisotropy of the Fe $3p$ charges. The decrease of Δn_d in the AFM phase can be understood from the calculated density of states (DOS) of the iron atom for the three structures. As shown in Fig. 6, the partial DOS of Fe $3d$ suborbitals for the two NM phases almost has the same graphics features in the energy range from -5.0 eV to the Fermi level. Though there exist some differences above the Fermi level, the discrepancies do not affect the EFG. The differences in the DOS of the AFM state are quite distinct. Obviously, the d_{xy} , d_{xz} , and d_{yz} orbitals control the symmetry

of the Fermi surface in NM phases, yet the DOS is much reduced in the AFM phase, resulting in much a smaller Fermi surface.³³ Besides, the gravity centers of all five d orbitals are closer to each other in energy, yielding more isotropic spatial distribution of d electrons. This will reduce the anisotropy of charge density of d electrons, hence resulting in a smaller EFG, proving the above observation.

The fact that V_{zz} of the three systems is dominated by d - d interactions is the key point to understand the sudden drop in the EFG of the MS observations. It is well known that the magnetic moment of the AFM- $Cmma$ phase mainly comes from the spin polarization of Fe $3d$ electrons. Due to the exchange splitting of the $3d$ band, the chemical potential of $3d$ electrons would decrease in a magnetic phase. Consequently, there should be a redistribution of electrons between sp and d bands. The charge redistribution due to spin polarization of Fe $3d$ electrons may have at least two effects on the electronic structure of the AFM phase. First, the charge will transfer from Sr-F layers to Fe-As layers. Second, the $3d$ electrons will redistribute among the $3d$ suborbitals.

The calculated electron density differences of the NM- $Cmma$ phase and the AFM- $Cmma$ phase prove our suggestions. Figure 7(a) displays the electron density difference $\Delta\rho$ for the two phases in the plane defined by the Fe atom and the two nearest As neighbors. The direction of the nearest Fe atoms is along the crystalline b axis. The profile of the density difference along the b axis is also shown in Fig. 7(c), where a positive number denotes increased density after magnetization and a negative number denotes the decreased density. As can be seen, the most distinct increase in charge density happens at the iron sites, indicating the electron charges tend to accumulate at the iron sites after the emergence of magnetic ordering. We also calculated the electron density difference of the yz plane with As and Sr atoms. As shown in Figs. 7(b) and 7(d), the electrons distributed in the region between two adjacent Fe-As layers decrease after magnetic ordering,

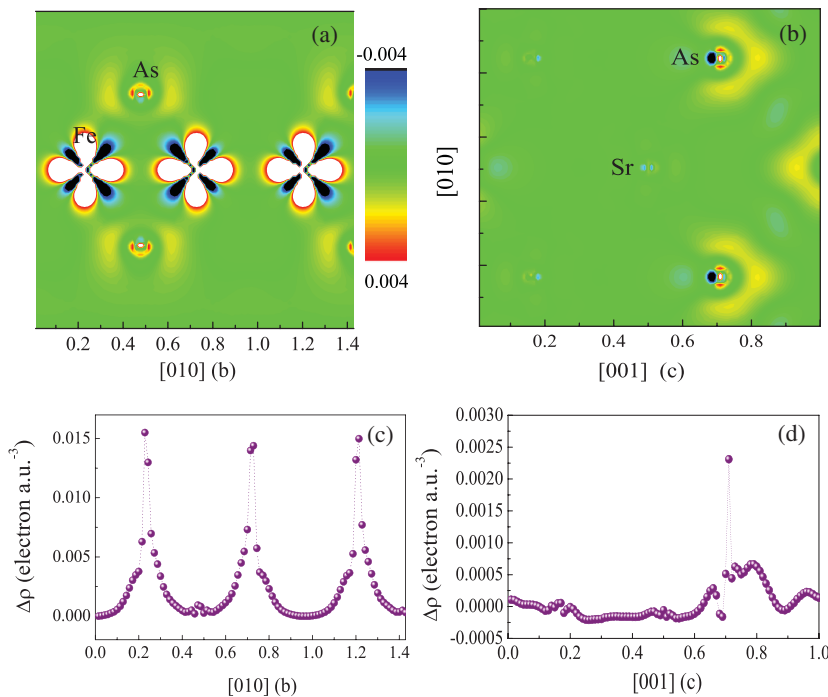


FIG. 7. (Color online) The difference in electron density distribution between the NM- $Cmma$ phase and the AFM- $Cmma$ phase of the SrFeAsF compound in the Fe-As plane (a) and the Sr-As plane (b) and the profiles of the density difference along the $[010]$ direction (c) and the $[001]$ direction (d) of the crystal.

which means the electrons tend to flow from Sr-F layers to Fe-As layers accompanying the emergence of magnetic ordering.

Moreover, it is found that the density difference distribution around the iron site clearly has spatial characters of $3d$ orbitals, suggesting the redistribution of the electrons among the $3d$ orbitals. From the calculated occupation number of each orbital, it is found that electrons move from d_{z^2} , d_{xz} , and d_{yz} orbitals to d_{xy} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbitals when the system goes into the magnetic state. Indeed, the electron density projected on the Fe-As plane increases along the b axis after magnetization, as shown in Fig. 7(a). While the electron density along the direction of the As-Fe bond decreases. This observation highly suggests that magnetization will enhance the localization of the $3d$ electrons, hence the correlation among $3d$ electrons.

Actually, magnetization-induced charge redistribution is common in terms of thermodynamics. But it is not easy to observe experimentally in iron-based superconductors^{7,29} due to the interference of the structural phase transition, which happens close to the magnetic phase transition and may have magnetic origin.⁶ Luckily, in the SrFeAsF compound, the large temperature interval between the structural and magnetic phase transitions (~ 50 K) makes it possible to exclude the disturbance in electronic redistribution due to the structural phase transition. For the SrFeAsF compound, Fe $3d$ electrons contribute to the EFG as well as to the magnetism. And the EFG is sensitive to the spatial distribution of charges near the iron nucleus; accordingly, the charge redistribution around the iron site, due to the appearance of long-range magnetic order,

can be detected by the EFG. These findings may also hold for other iron-pnictides and may shed light on understanding the fascinating physics of these materials.

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In summary, we have studied the SrFeAsF parent compound by Mössbauer spectroscopy and first-principles calculations. Our results about the structural and AFM transitions are in good agreement with previous reports. The temperature dependence of the isomer shift has no anomalies during the two phase transitions, indicating no abrupt changes of the absolute charge density at the iron nucleus. Additionally, the structural transition has little effect on the main component of the EFG, V_{zz} , while during the AFM phase transition V_{zz} jumps to a much smaller value in the low-temperature AFM state. Our first-principles calculations reveal that the contribution to the EFG mainly comes from the electrons close to the Fermi level. These observations could be well understood by the magnetically induced redistribution of the charges near the Fermi level, which changes the electron distribution symmetry (hence the EFG) but has little effect on the absolute charge density at the iron nucleus during the AFM transition.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant No. 10975066.

*hfang@lzu.edu.cn

¹Y. Kamihara, T. Watanabe, M. Hirano, and H. Hosono, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **130**, 3296 (2008).

²J. Paglione and R. L. Greene, *Nat. Phys.* **6**, 645 (2010).

³H. H. Wen and S. Li, *Annu. Rev. Condens. Matter Phys.* **2**, 121 (2011).

⁴M. D. Lumsden and A. D. Christianson, *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **22**, 203203 (2010).

⁵D. C. Johnston, *Adv. Phys.* **59**, 803 (2010).

⁶C. Fang, H. Yao, W. F. Tsai, J. P. Hu, and S. A. Kivelson, *Phys. Rev. B* **77**, 224509 (2008).

⁷C. He, Y. Zhang, B. P. Xie, X. F. Wang, L. X. Yang, B. Zhou, F. Chen, M. Arita, K. Shimada, H. Namatame, M. Taniguchi, X. H. Chen, J. P. Hu, and D. L. Feng, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **105**, 117002 (2010).

⁸A. Blachowski, K. Ruebenbauer, J. Zukrowski, K. Rogacki, Z. Bukowski, and J. Karpinski, *Phys. Rev. B* **83**, 134410 (2011).

⁹M. Rotter, M. Tegel, I. Schellenberg, F. M. Schappacher, R. Pöttgen, J. Deisenhofer, A. Günther, F. Schrettle, A. Loidl, and D. Johrendt, *New J. Phys.* **11**, 025014 (2009).

¹⁰D. R. Sánchez, M. Alzamora, J. Munevar, N. L. Wang, G. F. Cheng, and E. B. Saitovitch, *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **21**, 455701 (2009).

¹¹P. Wang, Z. M. Stadnik, C. Wang, G. Cao, and Z. Xu, *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **22**, 145701 (2010).

¹²Z. Li, X. Ma, H. Pang, and F. Li, *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **23**, 255701 (2011).

¹³I. Nowik and I. Felner, *Physica C* **469**, 485 (2009).

¹⁴P. J. Baker, I. Franke, T. Lancaster, S. J. Blundell, L. Kerslake, and S. J. Clarke, *Phys. Rev. B* **79**, 060402(R) (2009).

¹⁵F. Han, X. Zhu, G. Mu, P. Cheng, and H. H. Wen, *Phys. Rev. B* **78**, 180503(R) (2008).

¹⁶A. C. Larson and R. B. Von Dreele, General Structure Analysis System (GSAS), Los Alamos National Laboratory Report LAUR 86-748, 2004.

¹⁷E. Wimmer, H. Krakauer, M. Weinert, and A. J. Freeman, *Phys. Rev. B* **24**, 864 (1981).

¹⁸P. Blaha, K. Schwarz, P. Sorantin, and S. B. Trickey, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **59**, 399 (1990).

¹⁹P. Blaha, K. Schwarz, G. Madsen, D. Kvasnicka, and J. Luitz, WIEN2K (K. Schwarz, Technische Universität Wien, Austria), 2001 [<http://www.wien2k.at>].

²⁰J. P. Perdew, K. Burke, and M. Ernzerhof, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **77**, 3865 (1996).

²¹P. Blaha, K. Schwarz, and P. Herzig, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **54**, 1192 (1985).

²²C. Spiel, P. Blaha, and K. Schwarz, *Phys. Rev. B* **79**, 115123 (2009).

²³Y. L. Chen and D. P. Yang, Mössbauer effect in Lattice dynamics: Experimental techniques and applications (Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 2007), p. 56.

²⁴U. D. Wdowik and K. Ruebenbauer, *Phys. Rev. B* **76**, 155118 (2007).

²⁵M. Tegel, S. Johansson, V. Weiss, I. Schellenberg, W. Hermes, R. Pöttgen, and D. Johrendt, *Europhys. Lett.* **84**, 67007 (2008).

- ²⁶A. Taroni, S. T. Bramwell, and P. C. W. Holdsworth, *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **20**, 275233 (2008).
- ²⁷C. P. Bean and D. S. Rodbell, *Phys. Rev.* **126**, 104 (1962).
- ²⁸Y. Xiao, Y. Su, R. Mittal, T. Chatterji, T. Hansen, S. Price, C. M. N. Kumar, J. Persson, S. Matsuishi, Y. Inoue, H. Hosono, and Th. Brueckel, *Phys. Rev. B* **81**, 094523 (2010).
- ²⁹M. Yi, D. H. Lu, J. G. Analytis, J. H. Chu, S. K. Mo, R. H. He, M. Hashimoto, R. G. Moore, I. I. Mazin, D. J. Singh, Z. Hussain, I. R. Fisher, and Z. X. Shen, *Phys. Rev. B* **80**, 174510 (2009).
- ³⁰Y. C. Jean, C. S. Sundar, A. Bharathi, J. Kyle, H. Nakanishi, P. K. Tseng, P. H. Hor, R. L. Meng, Z. J. Huang, C. W. Chu, Z. Z. Wang, P. E. A. Turchi, R. H. Howell, A. L. Wachs, and M. J. Fluss, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **64**, 1593 (1990).
- ³¹D. I. Khomskii and F. V. Kusmartsev, *Phys. Rev. B* **46**, 14245 (1992).
- ³²K. Schwarz, C. Ambrosch-Draxl, and P. Blaha, *Phys. Rev. B* **42**, 2051 (1990).
- ³³I. R. Shein and A. L. Ivanovskii, *JETP Lett.* **88**, 683 (2008).