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► **To cite this version:**

H. Takatsu, O. Hernandez, W. Yoshimune, C. Prestipino, T. Yamamoto, et al.. Cubic lead perovskite PbMoO_3 with anomalous metallic behavior. *Physical Review B*, 2017, 95 (15), pp.155105. 10.1103/PhysRevB.95.155105 . hal-01544452

HAL Id: hal-01544452

<https://univ-rennes.hal.science/hal-01544452v1>

Submitted on 5 Feb 2018

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Cubic lead perovskite PbMoO_3 with anomalous metallic behavior

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(Dated: February 5, 2018)

A previously unreported Pb-based perovskite PbMoO_3 is obtained by high-pressure and high-temperature synthesis. This material crystallizes in the $Pm\bar{3}m$ cubic structure at room temperature, making it distinct from typical Pb-based perovskite oxides with a structural distortion. PbMoO_3 exhibits a metallic behavior down to 0.1 K with an unusual T -sub linear dependence of the electrical resistivity. Moreover, a large specific heat is observed at low temperatures accompanied by a peak in C_P/T^3 around 10 K, in marked contrast to the isostructural metallic system SrMoO_3 . These transport and thermal properties for PbMoO_3 , taking into account anomalously large Pb atomic displacements detected through diffraction experiments, are attributed to a low-energy vibrational mode, associated with incoherent off-centering of lone pair Pb^{2+} cations. We discuss the unusual behavior of the electrical resistivity in terms of a polaron-like conduction, mediated by the strong coupling between conduction electrons and optical phonons of the local low-energy vibrational mode.

PACS numbers: 72.15.-v, 72.80.Ga, 75.40.Cx, 61.05.cf

I. INTRODUCTION

Insulating oxides with a stereochemically active lone pair of Pb^{2+} and Bi^{3+} cations have been the subject of long-standing interest due to large remnant polarization and high temperature structural/electronic transitions, as found in $\text{Pb}(\text{Zr},\text{Ti})\text{O}_3$ with a coherent displacement of Zr/Ti atoms^{1,2}. A surge of interest in multiferroics over the last decade has led to numerous studies of BiFeO_3 ³ targeting applications in ferroelectric non-volatile memory devices with high working temperature. More recently, there has been a growing attention in ferroelectric-like structural distortion or transition in metallic compounds⁴⁻⁸. This is because unprecedented behaviors can appear distinct from conventional metals, such as an enhanced thermoelectric property in $(\text{Mo},\text{Nb})\text{Te}_2$ ⁶ and possible odd-parity superconductivity proposed in $\text{Cd}_2\text{Re}_2\text{O}_7$ and doped SrTiO_3 heterostructures⁷.

The concept of introducing polar distortion in a metallic phase has been recently demonstrated in a material of the LiNbO_3 -structure type, LiOsO_3 ⁸. It is discussed that large thermal vibration or incoherent disorder of Li and O ions allows cooperative order upon cooling. A ferroelectric-type structural phase transition occurs at $T_s = 140$ K, where the metallic conduction associated with Os half-filled t_{2g} states is retained across T_s . In this context, compounds with stereochemically active lone-pair electrons can be considered as an alternative path for designing ferroelectric-like metal or a new class of metal, since the lone pair electrons may promote a certain structural distortion^{9,10}. However, the research seeking for novel properties from metallic materials with Pb^{2+} or Bi^{3+} cations is rather limited¹¹⁻¹³.

In this paper, we report the synthesis of a Pb-based perovskite PbMoO_3 crystallizing in the cubic structure, despite the presence of Pb^{2+} cations. While this material shows an or-

thorhombic distortion with coherent octahedral tiltings at low temperature, it retains a metallic behavior down to 0.1 K. We found an unusual temperature dependence of the electrical resistivity ρ and a large specific heat C_P accompanied by a peak in C_P/T^3 . These unusual behaviors are likely originated from a low-energy vibrational mode induced by the incoherent off-centering of lone pair Pb^{2+} cations as suggested from structural refinements. The weak T dependence of ρ is presumably understood in terms of incoherent transport driven by the formation of the polaron-like conduction.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

Polycrystalline samples of $\text{Pb}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MoO}_3$ ($x = 0.0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75$), were synthesized by a high-pressure and high-temperature technique. Stoichiometric mixtures of PbO , SrO , and MoO_2 were reacted at 1000 °C and 7 GPa for 30 min using a multianvil press. SrMoO_3 ($x = 1$) was synthesized by heating SrMoO_4 (prepared by a solid-state reaction) at 1000 °C for 12 h in H_2/Ar flow as reported in Ref. 14.

X-ray powder-diffraction (XRD) experiments were performed with $\text{Cu } K\alpha$ radiation at room temperature (RT). For an additional structural study of PbMoO_3 , synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction (SXRD) experiments were performed at RT on the BL02B2 beam line at SPring-8. The wavelength of the incident beam was $\lambda = 0.42089$ Å. Neutron diffraction experiments of PbMoO_3 were performed at RT and 5 K using the high resolution powder diffractometer BT-1 at the NIST center for Neutron Research. Incident neutrons of wavelength $\lambda = 1.5398$ Å monochromated by vertical-focused $\text{Cu } (311)$ monochromator was used. The structural refinements were performed using the FullProf and RIETAN-FP softwares^{15,16}.

The $x = 0$ sample was also characterized using transmission electron microscopy (TEM). The data were acquired on an aberration-corrected FEI Titan 80-300 microscope at 300 kV. The chemical composition was analyzed by an energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS). The valence was checked by the X-ray absorption near edge structure (XANES) spectroscopy at the Mo K -edge. The spectra of PbMoO_3 , SrMoO_3 , MoO_2 and MoO_3 were measured at RT on the BL01B1 beamline at SPring-8. The XANES spectra were recorded in a transmittance mode, using Si (111) and Si (311) double crystal monochromator.

The specific heat (C_p) and dc magnetic susceptibility (M/H) were measured, respectively, with a commercial calorimeter (Quantum Design, PPMS) and a SQUID magnetometer (Quantum Design, MPMS). The electrical resistivity ρ was measured by means of a standard four-probe method using rectangular samples cut out from pellets. Gold wires were attached to samples with silver paste, and the samples were then cooled down to 0.1 K using an adiabatic demagnetization refrigerator installed in PPMS. Note that the density of the polycrystalline sample pellet is 8.7 g/cm^3 for PbMoO_3 , 7.4 g/cm^3 for $\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{MoO}_3$, and 5.4 g/cm^3 for SrMoO_3 . These values correspond to 89–97% of the calculated ones estimated from the RT crystal structures, suggesting that the difference in density provides only small effect on the absolute values of ρ in these compounds.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 shows the powder SXRD pattern of PbMoO_3 recorded at RT. Observed peaks are indexed in a cubic unit cell, without any splitting and shoulder indicating symmetry lowering (see, for example, 211 and 321 reflections in Figs. 1(b) and 1(c)). This result demonstrates the absence of any distortions from the cubic symmetry at RT. The Rietveld refinement assuming the ideal cubic perovskite (space group: $Pm\bar{3}m$) converged resulting in the lattice parameter of $a = 3.999(1) \text{ \AA}$ and R factors of $R_{\text{wp}} = 3.85\%$, $R_e = 3.03\%$, $R_p = 2.99\%$, and $R_B = 3.51\%$. The goodness-of-fit parameter, $S = R_{\text{wp}}/R_e$, was $S = 1.27$, indicating excellent quality of the fitting. The solid solution $\text{Pb}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MoO}_3$ was successfully obtained in the entire x range, with the lattice constant decreasing linearly with increasing x (Fig. 1 of the Supplemental Material [17]). These results ensure a continuous change in the A -site composition. Refining the occupancy factor of each atomic site did not improve the overall fit, indicating the stoichiometric composition of the title compound at least for the heavy atoms on the A and B sites. The Mo K -edge XANES spectra of PbMoO_3 (Fig. 2), measured together with other Mo compounds, indicate that the formal valence in PbMoO_3 is Mo^{4+} (thus yielding Pb^{2+}), which is consistent with the result of bond valence sum calculations based on the RT structure, giving $\text{Mo}^{4.08+}$ and $\text{Pb}^{1.74+}$. EDS experiments verified the compositional ratio between Pb and Mo, for example, $\text{Pb}/\text{Mo} = 1.01(6)$ for the $x = 0$ sample.

Interestingly, a large atomic displacement parameter (ADP) of Pb was obtained (isotropic root-mean-square displacement

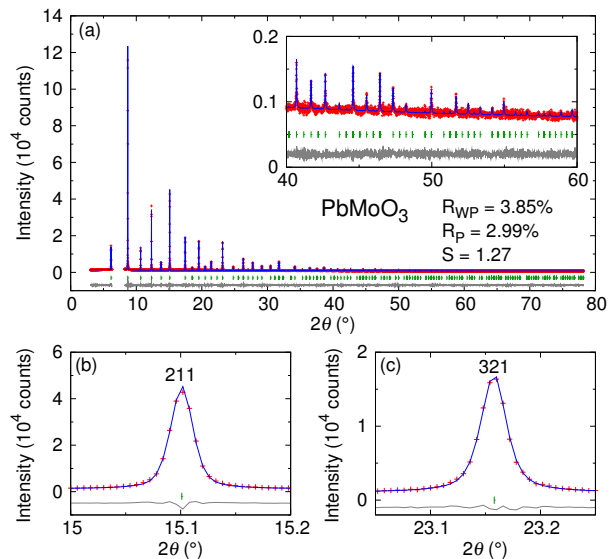


FIG. 1. (Color online) (a) Synchrotron patterns of PbMoO_3 measured at RT, demonstrating the cubic perovskite structure ($Pm\bar{3}m$). The inset shows the enlarged plot in a high angle region. (b) and (c) are 211 and 321 reflections, respectively, representative peaks with $h \neq k$, $\neq l$, and $l \neq 0$, showing the absence of splitting and shoulder associated with any tetragonal or other symmetry lowering distortions. Observed and refined data are shown by cross and solid curves, and vertical bars represent positions of the Bragg reflections. The difference between the experimental and theoretical data is plotted by the dashed curves at the bottom. Excluded regions in (a) include contributions from small amount of impurities such as PbMoO_4 .

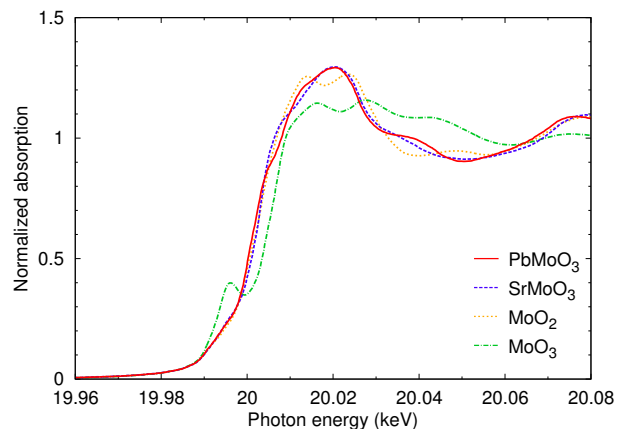


FIG. 2. (Color online) Mo K shell XANES spectra of PbMoO_3 (solid line), SrMoO_3 (dashed line), MoO_2 (dotted line), and MoO_3 (dashed dotted line).

of $0.15(1) \text{ \AA}$), suggesting unusually large thermal vibration of Pb ions and/or random displacements of Pb away from the ideal position. Given the presence of stereochemically active $6s$ electrons of Pb^{2+} , the obtained cubic structure in PbMoO_3 is unusual and contrasts markedly with other reported Pb-based perovskites with a distortion from the cubic

TABLE I. Structure parameters for PbMoO_3 refined by Rietveld analysis of the synchrotron X-ray and neutron diffraction data. For each model, the Mo atom was positioned at the origin. U_{iso} represents the isotropic atomic displacement parameter. Numbers in parentheses indicate one standard deviation in the value.

	X-ray (RT)	neutron (RT)	neutron (5 K)
Cell parameters and positions			
Space group	$Pm\bar{3}m$	$Pm\bar{3}m$	$Imma$
a (Å)	3.999(3)	3.9986(1)	5.6348(2)
b (Å)			7.9680(3)
c (Å)			5.6508(2)
Pb x	0.5	0.5	0.0
Pb y	0.5	0.5	0.25
Pb z	0.5	0.5	0.5008(17)
O1 x	0.5	0.5	0.0
O1 y	0.0	0.0	0.25
O1 z	0.0	0.0	0.0259(12)
O2 x			0.25
O2 y			-0.0128(5)
O2 z			0.25
U_{iso} (10^{-2}Å^2)			
Pb	2.08(6)	2.58(5)	1.2(2)
Mo	0.30(6)	0.64(4)	0.36(4)
O1	0.8(3)	0.99(6)	0.6(2)
O2			0.42(8)

symmetry¹³. In order to gain more insight into the RT crystal structure for PbMoO_3 , we performed TEM experiments. As shown in Figs. 3(a)–(c), electron diffraction patterns can be consistently indexed on the cubic perovskite structure with the $Pm\bar{3}m$ symmetry. They do not contain any extra reflections or diffuse intensities associated with long or short range ordered structure deformations due to the Pb off-center displacements. Also, high-angle-annular-dark-field scanning-transmission-electron microscopy (HAADF-STEM) images in Figs. 3(d)–(f) do not show any notable discrepancy from the ideal cubic perovskite structure. No anomaly associated with Pb disorder is observed in any principle directions of the cubic structure, [100], [110], and [111]. These results suggest that the Pb off-center displacements, if present, are random at RT, and the local cooperative structure related to correlated disorder¹⁸ or the formation of polar nano region for relaxor phenomena of Pb-based complex perovskites^{19–21} is absent.

Rietveld refinement of the RT neutron diffraction data gave a consistent result compared to the SXRD data, confirming the full occupancy of the anionic site, while at $T = 5$ K we found a orthorhombic distortion with additional peaks corresponding to a $\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{2} \times 2$ cell (Fig. 2 of the Supplemental Material [17]): a preliminary SXRD experiment shows the structural phase transition appears at $T_s \approx 200$ K. This superstructure is presumably related to a structural transition as observed in SrMoO_3 below 125 K involving the softening

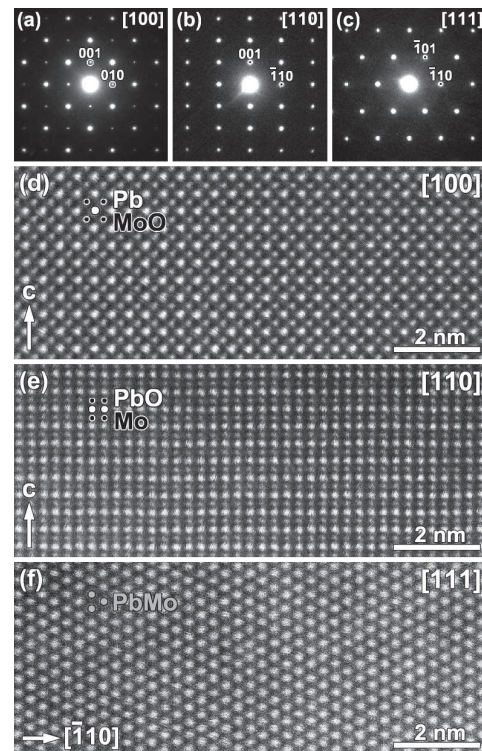


FIG. 3. (a)–(c) Electron diffraction patterns and (d)–(f) high resolution HAADF-STEM images of PbMoO_3 taken at RT along the [100], [110], and [111] axes. The intensity I in the HAADF-STEM images is proportional to the average atomic number, Z , of the projected atomic column and scales as $I \sim Z^n$ ($n = 1.6 - 1.9$).

of a R_{25} phonon mode that results in MoO_6 octahedral tilting²². Indeed, a successful structural refinement at 5 K was conducted assuming a low-temperature structural phase analogous to SrMoO_3 (space group: $Imma$): details are given in Tables I and the Supplemental Material [17]. It is notable that, unlike SrMoO_3 , the displacement parameter of the Pb site is still quite large even at 5 K (root-mean-square displacement of 0.15 Å along the a axis and ~ 0.08 Å along the b and c axes), suggesting a strong “statically” remaining incoherent Pb off-centering. It is worth underlining that the difference in U_{iso} with T for Pb between RT and 5 K is at least three times higher than that for Mo in PbMoO_3 or for Sr in SrMoO_3 ²², additionally revealing an unusual thermal behavior possibly related to the dynamic component of lead disorder. We will discuss the effect of the Pb off-centering on physical properties in the next section. As will be shown below, the absence of any anomalies related to the structural transition in C_P , M/H and ρ may be related to the associated subtle octahedral tilt of about 4° along the a axis.

It is expected that the off-centered Pb^{2+} derived from lone pair electrons in PbMoO_3 may provide essential influence on physical properties. In fact, C_P/T of PbMoO_3 is much larger than that of SrMoO_3 below 150 K. Moreover, the C_P/T^3 vs. T plot for PbMoO_3 clearly exhibits a peak centered at about 10 K, which is however absent in SrMoO_3 (see the inset of

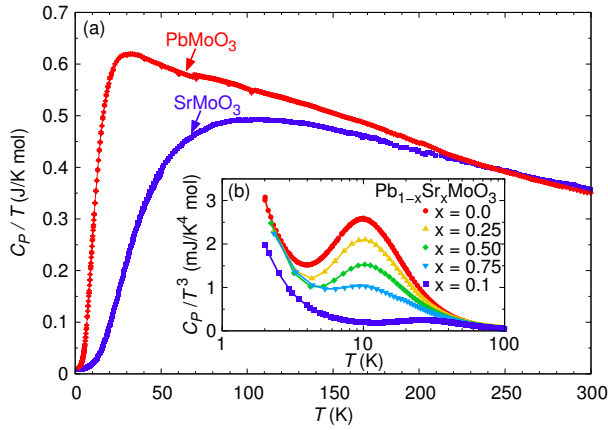


FIG. 4. (Color online) Temperature dependence of C_p/T for powder samples of PbMoO_3 and SrMoO_3 . Large difference of C_p/T emerges below 150 K, suggesting the contribution of a low-energy vibrational mode in PbMoO_3 . The inset represents the C_p/T^3 vs T plot for $\text{Pb}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MoO}_3$.

Fig. 4). This low-temperature peak cannot be explained in terms of the structural phase transition of PbMoO_3 and the simple Debye law with $C_p(T) \propto T^3$, and hence implies a significant contribution of a low-energy vibrational mode to the specific heat^{23,24}. It is also seen that Sr-for-Pb substitution does not alter the C_p/T^3 peak position (temperature), while reducing only its intensity. It can thus be deduced that this peak originates from the incoherent displacement of Pb ions by the 6s lone-pair electrons, revealed by the large ADP of Pb, since conventional disorder is known to shift the peak temperature^{25–27}. The C_p/T^3 peak for PbMoO_3 can be roughly reproduced by the Einstein specific heat with an Einstein temperature $\Theta_E \approx 50$ K which corresponds to the value estimated from the ADP value of Pb at RT¹⁷. An upturn of C_p/T^3 observed in $\text{Pb}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MoO}_3$ systems below 5 K is ascribed to the electronic specific heat γT , and we obtained $\gamma = 9.2(1)$ mJ/K²-mol for PbMoO_3 and $\gamma = 7.6(1)$ mJ/K²-mol for SrMoO_3 , the latter being in agreement with the previous estimation^{28,29}. The Wilson ratio $R_W \equiv \pi^2 k_B^2 \chi_0 / (3\mu_B^2 \gamma)$ is obtained as 1.8 and 2.2 for PbMoO_3 and SrMoO_3 , respectively, using the Pauli paramagnetic susceptibility χ_0 after diamagnetic correction for PbMoO_3 and χ_0 from the report on SrMoO_3 ^{17,28}. The values of R_W for both compounds are close to 2 as expected in Fermi liquids within the strong correlation limit³⁰.

Temperature dependence of the electrical resistivity $\rho(T)$ of PbMoO_3 (Fig. 5) shows a metallic behavior down to 0.1 K (apart from a tiny contribution of the superconductivity (SC) from the Pb impurity below 7 K). This SC contribution can be removed by applying a magnetic field of 0.5 T, which is above the critical field of the SC transition of Pb. The resulting $\rho(T)$ is almost identical with the zero-field data, implying that the magnetoresistance is negligible. Interestingly, $\rho(T)$ of PbMoO_3 exhibits an unusual T -sub linear dependence in a wide temperature range below 100 K, where the fitting with $\rho(T) = A + BT^\alpha$ to the data yielded $\alpha \approx 0.5$ (the inset of Fig. 5). Moreover, the resistive change in tempera-

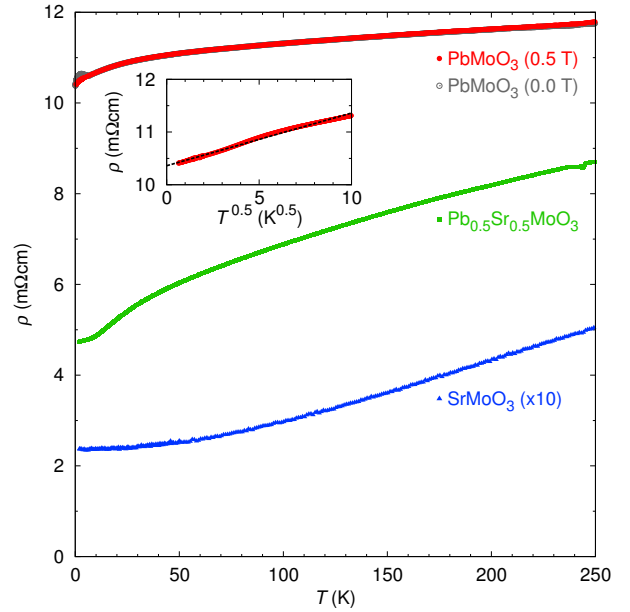


FIG. 5. (Color online) Temperature dependence of ρ for PbMoO_3 , $\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{MoO}_3$, and SrMoO_3 . Here the data for SrMoO_3 are multiplied by 10 for clarity. A tiny difference of the data at 0 and 0.5 T below 7 K for PbMoO_3 is attributed to small amount of a Pb impurity which is less than 0.1% examined from diffraction and magnetic susceptibility experiments. Other signatures of SC transition or spin density wave have not been observed down to 0.1 K in PbMoO_3 . The inset shows the low-temperature behavior of ρ plotted as a function of $T^{0.5}$ for PbMoO_3 .

ture is rather small, with a residual resistivity ratio $\text{RRR} = \rho(300 \text{ K})/\rho(0.1 \text{ K}) = 1.1$. These features are distinct from $\rho(T)$ of typical non-magnetic metals, where $\rho(T) \propto T$ or $\propto T^5$ due to the electron-phonon scattering with the weak electron-phonon coupling^{31,32} and/or $\rho(T) \propto T^2$ due to the electron-electron scattering are observed at low temperature^{33,34}. Note that SrMoO_3 shows $\rho(T) \propto T^2$ below 140 K (the main panel of Fig. 5) owing to the enhanced electron-electron correlation²⁹. We also observed that $\rho(T) \propto T^2$ is recovered by substituting Pb ions by Sr ions at low temperatures for the $x = 0.5$ sample. Therefore, it appears that incoherent off-centered Pb^{2+} ions disturb the electrical conduction. It is known that a weak coupling between optical phonons and conduction electrons gives rise to a T -super linear dependence with $\rho(T) \propto T^n$ ($n \geq 1$)^{32,35}. It is thus possible that the observed polaron-like incoherent transport is mediated by strong coupling between conduction electrons and optical phonons of the local low-energy vibrational mode for PbMoO_3 , as proposed theoretically by Millis *et al.*³⁶ It was suggested that $\rho(T) \propto T^{0.5}$ can appear in the critical regime around the crossover from Fermi liquid to polaron behaviors.

IV. CONCLUSION

To summarize, we have synthesized a novel lead perovskite PbMoO_3 using a high-pressure and high-temperature reaction. This lead-based compound represents a rare case with the $Pm\bar{3}m$ cubic structure at room temperature, despite the presence of Pb^{2+} cations with lone pair electrons. We observed an unusual T -sub linear dependence in $\rho(T)$ as well as large specific heat at low temperatures, which could be explained in terms of a low-energy vibrational mode mediated by the incoherent off-centering of Pb^{2+} cations as experimentally indicated by anomalously large Pb atomic displacements. Furthermore, the weak T dependence of $\rho(T)$ implies a polaron-like conduction, mediated by the strong trapping of conduc-

tion electrons by local phonon vibration.

Note added. Recently, we became aware of the work on $\text{Pb}_2\text{Cr}_{1+x}\text{Mo}_{1-x}\text{O}_6$ reporting a synthesis for $x = -1, -2/3, -1/3, 0, 1/3$ ($x = -1$ means PbMoO_3), yet with no structural refinement (thus no indication of Pb off-centering) or detailed physical properties³⁷.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work was supported by CREST and JSPS KAKENHI Grants No. 25249090, No. 24248016, No. 26106514, and No. 26400336. The synchrotron radiation experiments, performed at the BL02B2 of SPring-8, were supported by the approval of the Japan Synchrotron Radiation Research Institute (JASRI) (Proposal No. 2014B1360).

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Supplemental Material: Cubic lead perovskite PbMoO_3 with anomalous metallic behavior

I. ABSTRACT

In this supplemental material, we describe the synthesis of solid solutions of $\text{Pb}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MoO}_3$ ($x = 0.0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1.0$) with these powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) data. We also show the result of neutron diffraction measurements and the analysis of the specific heat C_p as well as the result of magnetic susceptibility M/H for the $x = 0$ sample of PbMoO_3 .

II. SYNTHESIS OF $\text{Pb}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MOO}_3$

Samples of $\text{Pb}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MoO}_3$ were obtained by the same method for the synthesis of PbMoO_3 . XRD patterns of these samples obtained through a laboratory X-ray machine at room temperature (RT) represent the same pattern of PbMoO_3 (Fig. S1), indicating that the samples crystallize into the cubic structure in the entire x range. The estimated lattice parameters linearly decrease with increasing x (the inset of Fig. S1), which ensures the stoichiometric mixture of the samples. It is observed that impurity peaks such as PbMoO_4 and Pb appear in the XRD patterns, however those concentrations are estimated to be small enough ($< 1\%$).

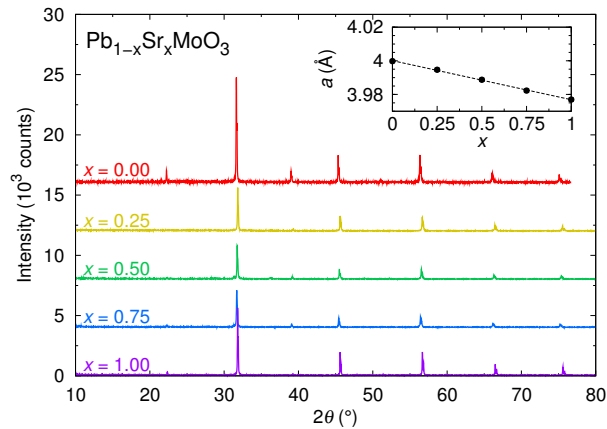


FIG. S1. (Color online) XRD patterns of $\text{Pb}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MoO}_3$ ($x = 0.0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1.0$) at RT. Inset is the lattice parameter a plotted as a function of x .

Neutron diffraction measurements on the $x = 0$ sample at 5 K show an additional peak or splitting of peaks from the $Pm\bar{3}m$ cubic symmetry observed at RT (e.g., around 70° in Fig. S2). These peaks are not magnetic in the origin, because magnetic susceptibility experiments did not show any signature of magnetic phase transition. We therefore analyzed the low-temperature crystal structure, assuming the $Imma$ structure which is the orthorhombic space group (SG) of the highest symmetry: this choice is reasonable because other orthorhombic SGs of lower symmetry, fulfilling the observed I -centering, such as $Immm$, $Ibam$, $Ibca$, $Imm2$, $Iba2$, $Ima2$, $I222$, and $I2_12_12_1$ are incompatible with the extinction conditions. We also reexamined the RT $Pm\bar{3}m$ structural model of the synchrotron XRD analysis by the Rietveld refinement against neutron data. The resulting curves are shown in Fig. S2, and the obtained structural parameters are presented in Table I of the main text. The R factors of the Rietveld refinement are $R_{wp} = 16.3\%$, $R_e = 17.8\%$, $R_p = 19.2\%$, $R_B = 2.28\%$ for RT, and $R_{wp} = 15.9\%$, $R_e = 16.9\%$, $R_p = 16.2\%$, $R_B = 2.56\%$ for 5 K. The goodness-of-fit parameter, $S = R_{wp}/R_e$, was $S = 0.915$ and 0.940 for RT and 5 K, indicating excellent quality of fittings.

The key feature of the low temperature $Imma$ structure in PbMoO_3 lies in the elongated shape of the Pb anisotropic displacement parameters along the a axis that corresponds to the $[101]$ direction of the high temperature cubic unit cell (Fig. S3). This result is also supported by using difference Fourier syntheses and maximum entropy method (MEM) calculations. These analyses clarify that the Pb nuclear density is homogeneously elongated along the a axis without any maximum density on each side of the $4c$ Wyckoff site.

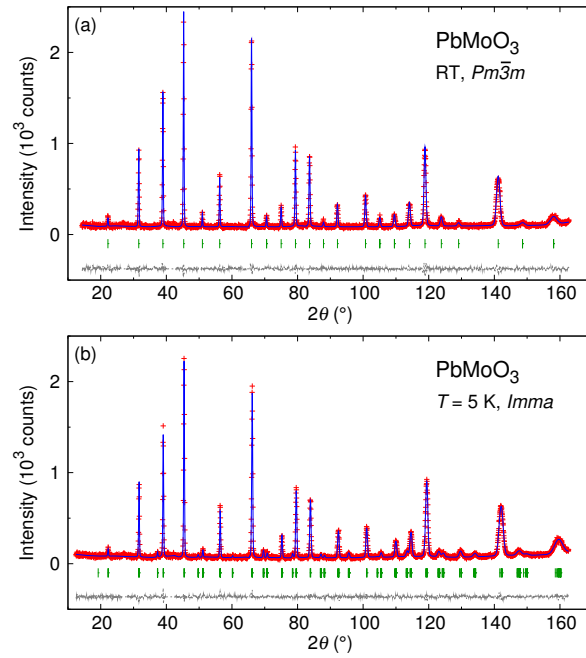


FIG. S2. (Color online) Neutron diffraction patterns of PbMoO₃ measured at (a) RT and (b) 5 K. Observed and refined data are shown by cross and solid curves, respectively, and vertical bars represent positions of the Bragg reflections. The difference between the experimental and theoretical data is plotted by the dashed curves at the bottom.

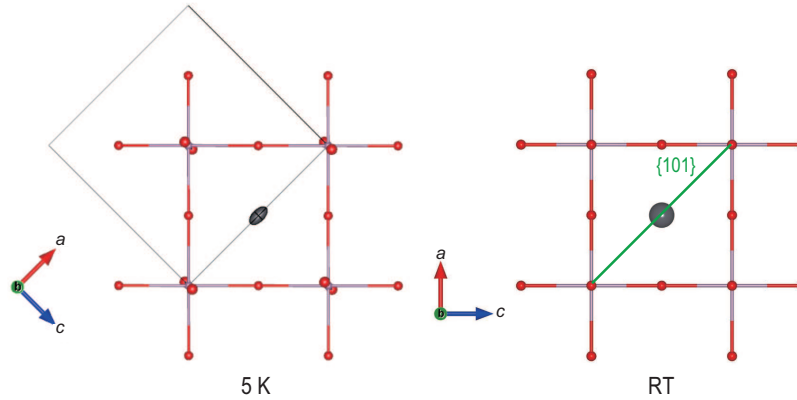


FIG. S3. (Color online) Crystal structures of PbMoO₃ at 5 K (left) and RT (right), featuring the Pb environment. Gray ellipsoid or sphere represent the Pb ion drawn with the anisotropic displacement parameters. Red and purple spheres represent O and Mo ions, respectively. A square lattice, shown by gray lines in the left, represents the unit cell of the $Imma$ structure.

III. ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC HEAT

In order to analyze the anomalous behavior of the $C_p(T)/T^3$ peak observed in PbMoO₃, we have fitted the data as follows.

The phonon contribution to the low temperature specific heat, $C_{ph}(T)$, can be modeled as a sum of Debye and Einstein terms^{S1,S2}, $C_{D,i}(T)$ and $C_{E,j}(T)$ [$i = 1, 2, \dots; j = 1, 2, \dots$], i.e.,

$$C_{ph}(T) = \sum_i f_{D,i} C_{D,i}(T) + \sum_j f_{E,j} C_{E,j}(T), \quad (S1)$$

where $f_{D,i}$ and $f_{E,j}$ are fitting parameters representing the number of the Debye and Einstein modes for the i - and j -th contributions. The sum of these coefficients represents the total number of lattice dynamical modes in the unit cell, i.e.,

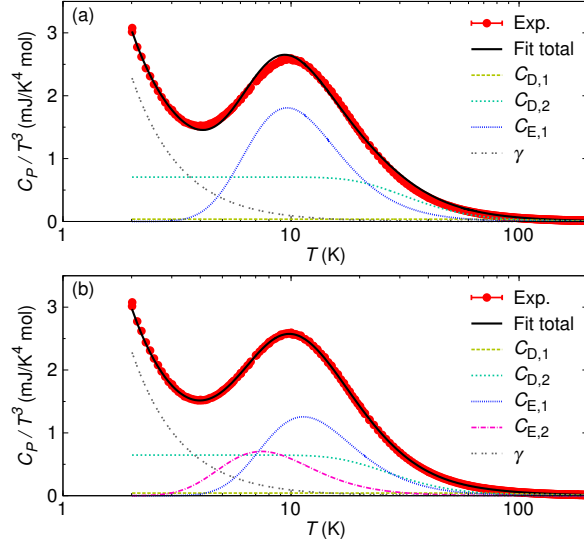


FIG. S4. (Color online) Results of fitting of the specific heat data shown in the inset of Fig. 4 of the main text. In (a), two Debye and one Einstein terms were used for the fitting with Eq. (S4), while in (b), two Debye and two Einstein terms were used.

TABLE I. Parameters obtained by fitting of the specific heat data for PbMoO_3 . Here, the Debye and Einstein modes of Eq. (S1) are represented as D_i ($i = 1, 2$) and E_j ($j = 1, 2$), respectively.

Two Debye and one Einstein model [Fig. S4(a)]		
Mode	$\theta_{D,i}, \theta_{E,j}$ (K)	$f_{D,i}, f_{E,j}$
D1	560	9.92
D2	154	3.99
E1	47.4	1.09
Two Debye and two Einstein model [Fig. S4(b)]		
Mode	$\theta_{D,i}, \theta_{E,j}$ (K)	$f_{D,i}, f_{E,j}$
D1	560	11.4
D2	129	2.15
E1	55.9	1.23
E2	36.9	0.19

$\sum_i f_{D,i} + \sum_j f_{E,j} = 15$ for PbMoO_3 . $C_{D,i}(T)$ and $C_{E,j}(T)$ represent the contribution of Debye phonons and Einstein phonons to the specific heat, expressed as

$$C_{D,i}(T) = 3R \left(\frac{T}{\theta_{D,i}} \right)^3 \int_0^{\theta_{D,i}/T} \frac{e^x x^4 dx}{(e^x - 1)^2}, \quad (\text{S2})$$

$$C_{E,j}(T) = R \frac{e^{\theta_{E,j}/T}}{(e^{\theta_{E,j}/T} - 1)^2} \left(\frac{\theta_{E,j}}{T} \right)^2, \quad (\text{S3})$$

where R is the gas constant, and $\theta_{D,i}$ and $\theta_{E,j}$ are fitting parameters representing Debye and Einstein temperatures, respectively. We tentatively used these formulations for the specific heat analysis for PbMoO_3 , in reference to other systems^{S3–S7,S23,S24}.

The least-squares fitting was carried out using the data between 2 and 100 K, and the relation

$$C_P(T) = \gamma T + C_{\text{ph}}(T), \quad (\text{S4})$$

with taking into account the electronic specific heat constant $\gamma = 9.2(1)$ mJ/K⁴ mol for PbMoO_3 . In the primary fit, we considered two Debye and one Einstein modes ($i = 2, j = 1$) and obtained reasonable fitting results reproducing experimental features as

shown in Fig S4(a). It is seen that the C_p/T^3 peak is reproduced by the Einstein specific heat with $\Theta_{E,1} \approx 50$ K. This value agrees well with the estimation of the Einstein temperature $\Theta_E = 58$ K from the isotropic atomic displacement parameter U_{iso} of Pb at RT for the relation between U_{iso} and Θ_E^{S8} , i.e., $U_{\text{iso}} = h^2 T / 4\pi m k_B \Theta_E^2$, where h and k_B are the Planck and Boltzmann constants, respectively, and m is the atomic mass. This implies the close relation between the local vibrational mode mediated by incoherent off-centered Pb^{2+} cations and large low-temperature specific heat featured by the C_p/T^3 peak at about 10 K. The obtained fitting parameters are listed in Table I. Note that the high-temperature part from one Debye contribution with $\Theta_{D,1} = 560$ K provides a reasonable value for high-temperature mode in oxides which mainly contributes to the data for $T > 100$ K. It is worth noting that the model with two Debye and two Einstein modes can slightly improve the fitting as shown in Fig. S4(b), and the obtained fitting parameters are listed in Table I. This result suggests that a low-energy optical mode of PbMoO_3 is weakly dispersive.

IV. MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY OF PbMoO_3

The temperature dependence of M/H of PbMoO_3 measured at $H = 1000$ Oe does not show any signature of the phase transition and hysteresis between zero-field cooling and field cooling runs (Fig. S5). A tiny diamagnetic signal accompanied by the superconducting transition of Pb impurities was observed in low field below 7 K, however its amount is less than 1% in our samples. Note that in particular, the estimated impurity amount for the sample used in the resistivity measurements is less than 0.1%. In accordance with a slight enhancement of Pauli paramagnetic susceptibility, M/H of PbMoO_3 is T -independent in a wide temperature range above 20 K, while the Curie-type increase below 20 K corresponds to small amount (about 0.1%) of free impurity spins. The Pauli paramagnetic susceptibility is estimated as $\chi_0 = 2.2 \times 10^{-4}$ emu/mol after the correction of the diamagnetic susceptibility of $\chi_{\text{dia}} = -8.1 \times 10^{-5}$ emu/mol. This value of χ_0 is similar to the value reported in SrMoO_3 ^{S9-S11}.

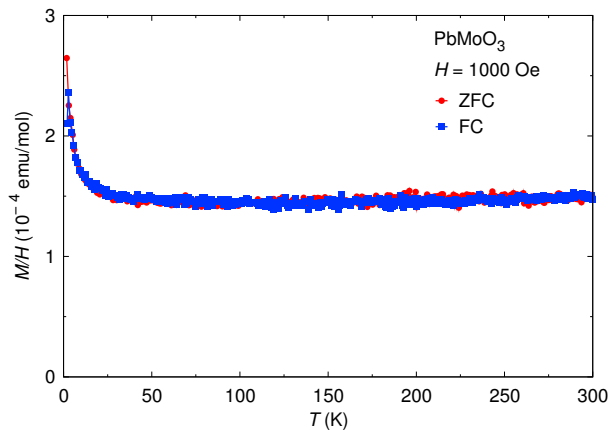


FIG. S5. (Color online) Temperature dependence of the magnetic susceptibility M/H of the polycrystalline sample of PbMoO_3 at $H = 1000$ Oe. Note, $1 \text{ emu} = 10^{-3} \text{ A m}^2$.

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