

Thermophysical measurements on transition-metal tungstates

III. Heat capacity of antiferromagnetic manganese tungstate^a

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Three anomalies were found during measurements of the heat capacity of manganese tungstate from 4 to 350 K by adiabatic calorimetry; a small peak at (6.8 ± 0.1) K, and two large sharp peaks at (12.57 ± 0.05) K and (13.36 ± 0.05) K. The excess entropy associated with the antiferromagnetic transition was estimated by means of calculations which utilized the heat capacity of zinc tungstate to approximate contributions from lattice vibrations and was found in good accord with the value $R \ln 6$. The results between 5 and 11.5 K obey a power law: $C_{\text{mag}} = AT^{1.73}$. The double anomaly is discussed in terms of the super-exchange properties of MnWO_4 . Selected thermal functions, C_p° , S° , and $-\{G^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)\}/T$ are respectively 27.40, 31.66, and 16.10 cal_{th} K⁻¹ mol⁻¹ at $T = 298.15$ K.

1. Introduction

Manganese tungstate (MnWO_4) is a member of the isostructural series of first-row (Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, and Zn) transition-metal tungstates of which those members of the series with incomplete 3d shells display antiferromagnetic behavior. To supplement the thermophysical properties of the members of the series reported previously,^(1–3) the heat capacity of the antiferromagnetic-to-paramagnetic phase transition in MnWO_4 is discussed in the present work.

The crystal structures of the MnWO_4 compounds are of the NiWO_4 -type,⁽⁴⁾ space group $P2_1/C(C_{2h}^4)$; the lattice parameters increase irregularly along the series.⁽⁵⁾ The structure is monoclinic, with two formula units per unit cell and is characterized by zigzag chains of metal-filled oxygen octahedra aligned along the *c*-axis. The crystal structure of the NiWO_4 -type tungstates is shown in figure 1; but the magnetic structure of MnWO_4 is unique among these tungstates. Ferrous, cobalt, and nickel

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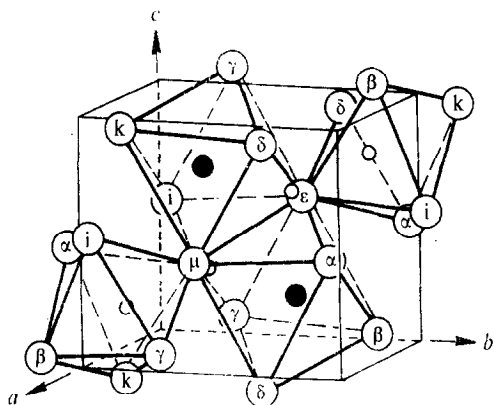


FIGURE 1. Crystallographic unit cell of the NiWO_4 -type tungstates. Solid circles are metal atoms, small open circles are tungsten atoms, and large open circles are oxygen atoms. After Ülkü.⁽⁶⁾

tungstates possess a common magnetic structure in which the magnetic moments are ferromagnetically aligned within the chains in the ac -plane and antiferromagnetically coupled to adjacent layers.^(6,7) The magnetic unit cell for these compounds is double the crystallographic unit cell along the a -axis (see figure 2). However, for MnWO_4 the magnetic unit cell consists of 16 crystallographic unit cells, for Dachs, Weitzel, and Stoll⁽⁸⁾ concluded that the magnetic unit cell of MnWO_4 is

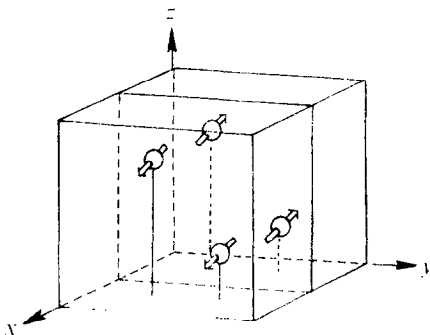


FIGURE 2. Magnetic structure of ferrous, nickel, and cobalt tungstates. After Ülkü.⁽⁶⁾

twice as large in the b - and c -directions and four times larger in the a -direction as for the other members. The magnetic space group is A_2/a . Two neighboring crystallographic unit cells in the a -direction contain all magnetic structural information (see figure 3). The magnetic structure has been analyzed by Dachs⁽⁹⁾ who attributes the structure to a strong antiferromagnetic coupling along the c -axis, *i.e.* along the chains. Magnetic-susceptibility measurements by several investigators⁽¹⁰⁻¹²⁾ indicated antiferromagnetic behavior with a Néel temperature near 15 K and a magnetic moment consistent with an $s = 5/2$ magnetic ion.

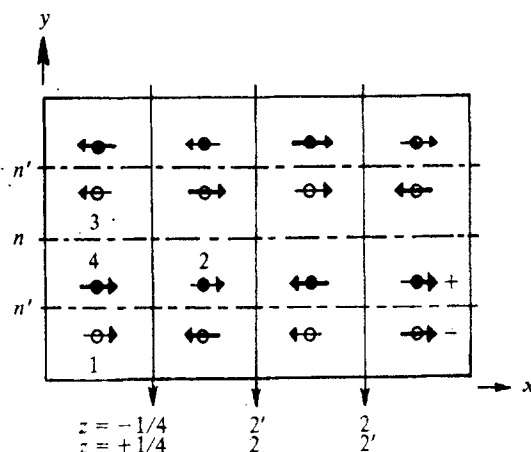


FIGURE 3. Magnetic structure of manganese tungstate.⁽⁸⁾ Only half the magnetic cell is shown. The second half lies over the layer shown with spin moments in antiparallel array. The x -axis shown does not coincide with the crystallographic x -axis. After Dachs.⁽⁹⁾

2. Experimental

SAMPLE PREPARATION AND CHARACTERIZATION

The powder sample of MnWO_4 purchased from Rocky Mountain Research had a claimed purity of 99 mass per cent. The dark-brown material was initially amorphous but after compression into a pellet and firing in air at 1370 K for 1 d, sharp X-ray reflexions were obtained. The calorimetric sample was prepared by pressing a pellet, scraping the top and bottom, and firing in a platinum crucible for 5 d at 1300 K. The outer surface was scraped off after firing and the pellet broken into fragments small enough to fit into the calorimeter. X-Ray diffraction analyses showed no impurity lines. The lattice parameters derived for this sample are in good agreement with those found by other investigators (see table 1).⁽¹³⁻¹⁵⁾ The details of the X-ray analysis are reported in a supplementary document.⁽¹⁶⁾

TABLE 1. Derived lattice parameters of manganese tungstate

a/nm	b/nm	c/nm	β	Reference
0.485 ± 0.001	0.577 ± 0.001	0.498 ± 0.001	90.88°	Broch ⁽¹³⁾
0.4829 ± 0.0004	0.5759 ± 0.0004	0.4998 ± 0.0004	91.16°	Swanson <i>et al.</i> ⁽¹⁴⁾
0.4834 ± 0.0004	0.5758 ± 0.0004	0.4999 ± 0.0004	91.18°	Sasaki ⁽¹⁵⁾
0.4829 ± 0.0001	0.5758 ± 0.0001	0.4996 ± 0.0001	$(91.15 \pm 0.02)^\circ$	Sleight ⁽⁶⁾
0.4832 ± 0.0003	0.5758 ± 0.0003	0.4997 ± 0.0002	$(91.16 \pm 0.04)^\circ$	This research Guinier, Cu $K\alpha$

Commercial chemical analyses⁽¹⁷⁾ involved decomposition of the sample in an acid mixture and the determination of the mass percentage of manganese by EDTA titration with Erichrome-T as indicator. The tungsten content was determined

colorimetrically by the procedure of Gottschalk.⁽¹⁸⁾ The analyses showed (100.3 ± 0.4) and (100.0 ± 0.3) per cent of the theoretical manganese and tungsten content. An atomic absorption analysis for iron revealed a mass fraction of 4×10^{-5} .

HEAT-CAPACITY MEASUREMENTS

Heat-capacity measurements were made in the Mark II adiabatic cryostat.⁽¹⁹⁾ The calorimeter, laboratory designation W-52, was a gold-plated OFHC-copper can of internal volume 59.11 cm³. A sample of 84.883 g was loaded into the calorimeter along with 61 Torr of helium exchange gas.† A molar mass of 302.7856 g mol⁻¹ was used in converting the results to molar quantities. The density of 7.23 g cm⁻³ used in buoyancy corrections was taken from Swanson *et al.*⁽¹⁴⁾ The results were taken against the IPTS-48 temperature scale.

Results and discussion

THERMOPHYSICAL FUNCTIONS

The heat capacities of MnWO₄ are given in table 2 in chronological sequence so that temperature increments usually can be approximately deduced from the adjacent mean temperatures. Series of points for which no temperature increments are given

TABLE 2. Heat capacity of manganese tungstate
(cal_{th} = 4.184 J)

$\frac{T}{\text{K}}$	$\frac{C_p}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}}$	$\frac{T}{\text{K}}$	$\frac{C_p}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}}$	$\frac{T}{\text{K}}$	$\frac{C_p}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}}$	$\frac{T}{\text{K}}$	$\frac{C_p}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}}$
Mark II Cryostat							
Series I		Series II		Series III		60.37	5.747
66.11	6.613	200.05	21.69	See below		66.39	6.647
73.24	7.655	220.35	23.15				
81.839	8.941	230.49	23.80	Series IV		Series V to X	
90.99	10.26	240.52	24.42	21.33	1.115	See below	
100.40	11.50	250.88	25.02	23.46	1.225		
109.89	12.73	261.55	25.60	25.77	1.380	Series XI	
119.84	13.97	272.05	26.17	28.23	1.586	184.66	20.48
130.31	15.20	282.53	26.70	30.95	1.842	194.76	21.29
141.03	16.39	292.99	27.18	34.03	2.176	204.59	22.03
151.45	17.47	303.32	27.62	37.41	2.568	214.18	22.73
161.41	18.44	313.53	28.05	41.21	3.033		
171.24	19.35	323.63	28.44	45.53	3.601		
181.14	20.19	333.63	28.82	50.24	4.260		
191.18	21.09	343.54	29.18	55.10	4.952		
$\frac{T}{\text{K}}$	$\frac{\Delta T}{\text{K}}$	$\frac{\langle C_p \rangle}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}}$ ^a	$\frac{C_p}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}}$ ^b	$\frac{T}{\text{K}}$	$\frac{\Delta T}{\text{K}}$	$\frac{\langle C_p \rangle}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}}$ ^a	$\frac{C_p}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}}$ ^b
Series III				5.353	0.59	0.987	0.972
4.478	0.08	0.695	0.691	5.958	0.62	1.189	1.200
4.789	0.54	0.787	0.788	6.497	0.46	1.607	1.545

† Throughout this paper Torr = (101.325/760) kPa; cal_{th} = 4.184 J.

TABLE 2—continued

T K	ΔT K	$\langle C_p \rangle$ cal _{th} K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	^a	C_p cal _{th} K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	^b	T K	ΔT K	$\langle C_p \rangle$ cal _{th} K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	^a	C_p cal _{th} K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	^b
Series III (cont.)						15.67	0.25	1.123		1.129	
7.049	0.65	1.821		1.801		16.07	0.57	1.104		1.095	
7.793	0.84	1.822		1.834		16.54	0.38	1.071		1.071	
8.570	0.71	2.156		2.145		16.95	0.45	1.059		1.063	
9.269	0.69	2.503		2.470		17.38	0.43	1.073		1.052	
9.990	0.76	2.902		2.834		17.80	0.44	1.042		1.042	
10.80	0.86	3.309		3.250							
11.69	0.92	3.751		3.751							
12.57	0.83	4.131		4.300							
13.69	1.40	2.401		1.780		4.995	0.47	0.855		0.851	
15.09	1.40	1.228		1.216		5.429	0.40	1.011		0.997	
16.95	2.31	1.070		1.068		5.808	0.36	1.123		1.140	
19.20	2.19	1.051		1.051		Enthalpy detn. B					
21.33	2.08	1.116		1.116		Enthalpy detn. C					
23.46	2.18	1.227		1.227		22.22	1.81	1.157		1.157	
Series V						Series VIII					
4.962	0.45	0.916		0.839		4.701	0.57	0.769		0.756	
5.491	0.61	1.010		1.020		5.220	0.46	0.948		0.924	
6.041	0.49	1.238		1.241		5.648	0.40	1.116		1.080	
Enthalpy detn. A						6.028	0.36	1.214		1.232	
22.11	1.99	1.151		1.151		6.306	0.19	1.300		1.391	
Series VI						6.488	0.17	1.551		1.532	
6.356	0.49	1.442		1.422		6.654	0.16	1.731		1.733	
6.778	0.35	2.047		—		6.798	0.13	2.158		—	
7.154	0.40	1.770		1.770		6.935	0.15	1.897		1.899	
7.550	0.40	1.792		1.790		7.084	0.15	1.743		1.786	
7.941	0.38	1.881		1.886		7.234	0.15	1.811		1.762	
Series VII						7.382	0.15	1.786		1.753	
Series IX						Series X					
10.25	0.47	3.226		2.970		5.89	0.73	1.191		1.175	
10.72	0.47	3.198		3.216		6.60	0.70	1.719		1.667	
11.18	0.44	3.434		3.460		7.57	1.22	1.818		1.772	
11.60	0.41	3.705		3.697		9.07	1.79	2.419		2.383	
11.90	0.20	3.895		3.920		10.82	1.71	3.312		3.268	
12.11	0.21	4.196		4.115		11.88	0.41	3.885		3.896	
12.31	0.20	4.467		4.420		12.18	0.21	4.225		4.225	
12.51	0.20	4.690		—		12.39	0.19	4.550		4.562	
12.75	0.27	3.737		3.737		12.56	0.15	4.587		—	
13.01	0.25	3.773		3.773		12.72	0.16	3.709		3.707	
13.24	0.22	4.088		4.080		12.89	0.19	3.717		3.717	
13.52	0.34	2.591		2.180		13.08	0.19	3.874		3.852	
13.86	0.33	1.607		1.645		13.27	0.19	4.128		4.126	
14.11	0.20	1.478		1.502		13.47	0.22	2.877		2.645	
14.32	0.21	1.446		1.425		13.72	0.28	1.761		1.761	
14.53	0.22	1.337		1.356		13.97	0.22	1.566		1.572	
14.75	0.23	1.267		1.294		14.18	0.20	1.482		1.476	
14.97	0.24	1.216		1.240		14.39	0.21	1.399		1.402	
15.20	0.23	1.272		1.194		14.60	0.22	1.338		1.338	
15.43	0.25	1.158		1.158		12.89	0.36	1.260		1.260	

^a The symbol $\langle C_p \rangle$ represents a mean value of the heat capacity as calculated directly from finite $\Delta H/\Delta T$ without curvature correction.

^b The symbol C_p in columns adjacent to $\langle C_p \rangle$ represents the value of the heat capacity read from the smoothed curve at temperature T . Elsewhere in the table it represents C_p analytically corrected for curvature.

have had slight adjustment made for curvature. The enthalpy determinations have been summarized in table 3.

The molar experimental heat capacities in non-transition regions were curvature corrected and fitted to polynomials in reduced temperature by the method of least squares and integrated to yield values of the thermodynamic functions at selected

TABLE 3. Enthalpy determinations for manganese tungstate, Mark II cryostat
($\text{cal}_{\text{th}} = 4.184 \text{ J}$)

Designation	T_1 K	T_2 K	$\frac{H(T_1) - H(T_2)}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{ mol}^{-1}}$	$\frac{H(8.5 \text{ K}) - H(6 \text{ K})}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{ mol}^{-1}}$
I. 6.8 K peak				
B (Series VIII)	5.99	8.75	4.92	4.37
Series VI	6.11	8.13	3.56	4.45
Series IX	6.21	7.46	2.15	4.41
Series X	6.26	8.17	3.42	4.41
				Mean: (4.41 ± 0.55)
Designation	T_1 K	T_2 K	$\frac{H(T_1) - H(T_2)}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{ mol}^{-1}}$	$\frac{H(20 \text{ K}) - H(8 \text{ K})}{\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{ mol}^{-1}}$
II. Double peak				
A	6.29	21.13	29.43	25.16
C	8.75	21.31	25.05	25.16
Series III	8.21	20.29	25.07	25.17
Series VIII	10.02	18.02	18.55	25.23
Series X	8.17	15.07	19.65	25.30
				Mean: (25.21 ± 0.13)

temperature intervals. Within the transition region the thermal functions are based upon numerical integration of heat capacity points mapped on to large-scale plots. Values thus obtained are presented in table 4. Entropy and enthalpy increments below the lowest temperatures of measurement were obtained by extrapolation. They are given in parentheses at the lowest temperature. The procedure involved fitting the heat capacity from 4 to 11.5 K with an exponential curve which was then extrapolated down to $T \rightarrow 0$ and integrated. This extrapolated entropy is about 1 per cent of the total entropy at 298.15 K and as will be seen later, about 8 per cent of the total magnetic entropy.

EVALUATION OF MAGNETIC ENTROPY

The experimentally measured heat capacity consists of contributions from the lattice vibrations as well as from the magnetic interactions. An estimate of the lattice contributions is, therefore, necessary to resolve the magnetic heat capacity.

The heat capacity of ZnWO_4 ⁽²⁾ serves as an approximation to the lattice contribution for MnWO_4 . The zinc compound is isostructural and from the melting temperature together with the Lindemann relation, would seem to possess chemical

TABLE 4. Thermal functions of manganese tungstate
($\text{cal}_{\text{th}} = 4.184 \text{ J}$)

T K	C_p $\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$	$S^\circ(T) - S^\circ(0)$ $\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$	$H^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)$ $\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{mol}^{-1}$	$-\{C^\circ(T) - H^\circ(0)\}/T$ $\text{cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$
5	0.850	(0.496) ^a	(1.57) ^a	—
10	2.840	1.692	10.74	—
15	1.232	3.180	27.22	—
20	1.075	3.491	32.61	—
25	1.326	3.660	36.35	—
30	1.749	3.789	44.705	2.299
35	2.284	4.097	54.76	2.533
40	2.884	4.441	67.66	2.750
45	3.530	4.818	83.68	2.958
50	4.218	5.225	103.03	3.164
60	5.692	6.123	152.51	3.581
70	7.183	7.113	216.91	4.014
80	8.675	8.169	296.16	4.467
90	10.110	9.275	390.19	4.939
100	11.463	10.410	498.11	5.429
110	12.754	11.564	619.2	5.935
120	13.988	12.727	753.0	6.452
130	15.16	13.893	898.8	6.980
140	16.27	15.06	1056.0	7.515
150	17.32	16.22	1224.0	8.057
160	18.31	17.37	1402.2	8.603
170	19.23	18.50	1590.0	9.152
180	20.10	19.63	1786.7	9.703
190	20.92	20.74	1991.8	10.254
200	21.69	21.83	2204.9	10.806
210	22.42	22.91	2425.5	11.356
220	23.11	23.97	2653.2	11.906
230	23.77	25.01	2887.6	12.453
240	24.39	26.03	3128.4	12.997
250	24.98	27.04	3375.3	13.539
260	25.53	28.03	3627.9	14.077
270	26.06	29.00	3885.9	14.612
280	26.56	29.96	4149.0	15.14
290	27.03	30.90	4417.0	15.67
300	27.48	31.83	4689.6	16.19
310	27.90	32.73	4966.6	16.71
320	28.31	33.63	5248	17.23
330	28.69	34.50	5533	17.74
340	29.05	35.36	5821	18.24
350	29.40	36.21	6114	18.74
273.15	26.22	29.31	3968.2	14.780
298.15	27.40	31.66	4638.8	16.10

^a Based on $C = 0.05 \text{ cal}_{\text{th}} \text{K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1} (T/\text{K})^{1.723}$ see text.

bond strengths similar to those found in the manganese tungstate. Experimentally, the trends of the heat capacities are very similar; the zinc tungstate has a heat capacity only several tenths of a per cent larger than that of the manganese compound between 150 and 350 K.

The Θ_{Debye} 's were calculated for both the ZnWO_4 and MnWO_4 results and the ratios $\Theta(\text{MnWO}_4)/\Theta(\text{ZnWO}_4)$ plotted as a function of temperature. From 120 to 350 K, this ratio is linear and nearly unity. The ratio rises as the temperature drops below 120 K and then drops sharply near 65 K as the magnetic heat capacity affects $\Theta(\text{MnWO}_4)$. Harmonic theory predicts $\Theta(\text{MnWO}_4)/\Theta(\text{ZnWO}_4) \approx (M_{\text{Zn}}/M_{\text{Mn}})^{1/2} = 1.091$ in which M 's represent atomic masses; this value was chosen as the low-temperature limit of the ratio and the curve interpolated smoothly between the low-temperature limit and the experimental ratios above 65 K. The interpolated $\Theta(\text{MnWO}_4)$'s were then calculated from the ratio curve and the experimentally known $\Theta(\text{ZnWO}_4)$'s. The thus defined lattice heat capacities of MnWO_4 were then calculated.

The ionic (rather than the formula) masses were used since the valence force field calculations of Lesne and Caillet⁽²⁰⁾ showed that Mn^{2+} ions are but loosely coupled to the rigid oxygen tungsten matrix. Hence, at low temperatures the first-row metals are vibrating independently of the tungstens. Such behavior has been seen in the studies of iron impurities in metal host lattices.⁽²¹⁾ When the magnetic entropy was calculated using a lower limit for the Θ -ratios based upon the formula masses, only 85 per cent of the expected magnetic entropy appeared. For these reasons the ionic masses were used.

The low-temperature heat capacities for MnWO_4 are presented in figure 4. A small peak appears at (6.80 ± 0.1) K; the main peak is bifurcated with twin peaks appearing at (12.57 ± 0.05) K and (13.36 ± 0.05) K. The low-temperature values for zinc

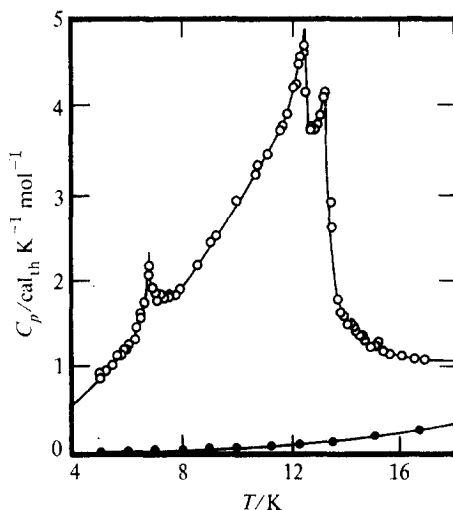


FIGURE 4. The heat-capacity anomaly in MnWO_4 . Comparison with results for ZnWO_4 . \circ , MnWO_4 ; \bullet , ZnWO_4 .

tungstate are also shown. The curve drawn through the ZnWO_4 results represents the estimated lattice contribution of MnWO_4 as calculated above.

The magnetic heat capacity is the difference between the total and estimated lattice heat capacities. The magnetic enthalpy and entropy were calculated by integration of the heat capacity as $44.4 \text{ cal}_{\text{th}} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ and $3.60 \text{ cal}_{\text{th}} \text{ K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$, respectively. The magnetic entropy shown in figure 5 as a function of temperature is within 1 per cent

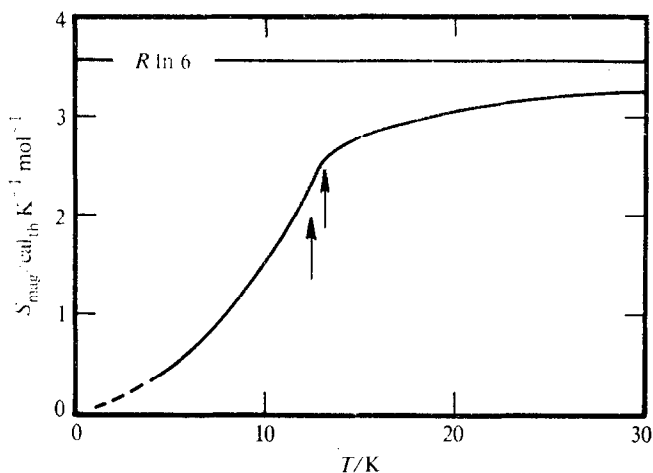


FIGURE 5. The magnetic entropy of MnWO_4 . The arrows indicate the heat-capacity peaks identified as Néel temperatures of 12.57 and 13.36 K.

of the expected spin-only value of $R \ln 6 = 3.56 \text{ cal}_{\text{th}} \text{ K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ for an $s = 5/2$ system. The discrepancy is well within the uncertainty occasioned in the lattice estimate and the heat capacity extrapolated below 4 K. Short-range ordering accounts for 28 per cent of the entropy above the 13.36 K peak.

To estimate the entropy increment below 4 K the magnetic heat capacity from 4 to 11.5 K (excluding the region near the 6.8 K peak) was fit to a power-law dependence $C_{\text{mag}} = A(T/K)^B$, with $A = 0.052 \text{ cal}_{\text{th}} \text{ K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$, $B = 1.734$ (see figure 6). This power-law dependence was extrapolated to $T \rightarrow 0$ and the entropy increment calculated. The entropy below 4 K amounts to about 8 per cent of the total magnetic entropy. The coefficient B is much closer to the value $3/2$ expected for ferromagnetic spin waves than for the cubic dependence of an antiferromagnetic substance such as NiWO_4 or CoWO_4 .⁽³⁾ However, since no theoretical work has been reported for the magnetic spectra of such a complex spin system, no interpretation can be given for B .

From figure 6 it will be seen also that the small peak at 6.80 K is but a small increment to the main power-law dependence and contributes only $0.01 \text{ cal}_{\text{th}} \text{ K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ to the magnetic entropy. These reasons, together with the observation that no anomaly is seen in the susceptibilities^(10, 12) near 7 K, argue against interpreting the heat-capacity peak at 6.8 K as a magnetic transition.

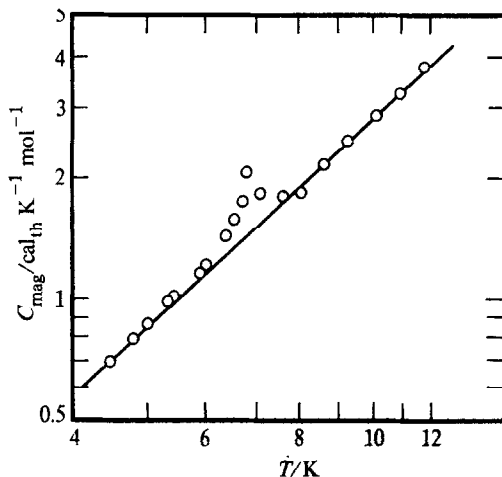


FIGURE 6. Exponential fit to heat capacity below 11.5 K. The solid line represents the equation referred to in the text.

MULTIPLE TRANSITIONS IN MANGANESE TUNGSTATE

Can the double peak in MnWO_4 be attributed to characteristics of the particular sample measured or is this behavior a property of manganese tungstate? Magnetic transitions can be affected by defects of the material such as strains, non-crystallinity, random impurities, lattice defects, grain growth, *etc.* These defects tend to lower and broaden the heat capacity peak. Hence, if the peak at 13.36 K is the "true" Néel temperature, the 12.57 K peak might be the maximum affected by imperfections. But this lower peak is as sharp as and even higher than the 13.36 K peak, leading to the conclusion that it has not been lowered by imperfections. Weitzel's discoveries^(12, 22) on the properties of $(\text{Mn}, \text{Fe})\text{WO}_4$ lead to the suspicion that the high-temperature peak was displaced upwards in temperature due to the formation of FeWO_4 -type magnetic order within the sample. From Weitzel's data,⁽¹²⁾ a shift in the Néel temperature of 0.79 K would require a composition of $(\text{Mn}_{0.93}\text{Fe}_{0.07})\text{WO}_4$. The spectroscopic determination for iron revealed a mass fraction of only 4×10^{-5} of iron in the sample, more than a thousand times below the required level. Hence, the double anomaly in MnWO_4 is considered to be characteristic of the compound.

Multiple transitions have previously been seen in the low-temperature heat-capacity studies by Murray⁽²³⁾ in MnCl_2 in which twin peaks were found at 1.81 and 1.96 K. Neutron-diffraction experiments⁽²⁴⁾ revealed MnCl_2 changes from a lowest temperature antiferromagnetic phase AFM-I to a higher antiferromagnetic phase AFM-II at 1.81 K and then becomes paramagnetic at 1.96 K.

The tungstates have important similarities to the dichloride. Both structures consist of metals occupying octahedral holes in closest-packed lattices of anions.⁽²⁵⁾ In such structures the nearest-neighbor M—M exchange is with an anion at 90° . The problem of exchange in the tungstates was first treated by Van Uitert *et al.*⁽¹⁰⁾ For 90° superexchange Goodenough⁽²⁶⁾ has predicted ferromagnetic coupling for

Fe^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Ni^{2+} , and antiferromagnetic coupling for Mn^{2+} . Such ferromagnetic alignment is observed in the iron, cobalt, and nickel dichlorides. The spins are arranged in ferromagnetic layers with adjacent layers aligned antiferromagnetically.⁽²⁷⁾ As discussed in the introduction, this is also the spin arrangement of the Fe, Co, and Ni tungstates. In MnCl_2 , the spins do not order ferromagnetically within each layer but display a more complicated arrangement,⁽²⁴⁾ similar to that for MnWO_4 . Moreover, recent work⁽²⁸⁾ has revealed the presence of multiple low-temperature magnetic phases in MnBr_2 , which shares closest packing and 90° -*nn* superexchange with MnCl_2 .

Since the MnWO_4 shares 90° superexchange properties with MnCl_2 and MnBr_2 , the twin-peaks near 13 K in the low-temperature heat capacity of MnWO_4 are considered to be indicative of several magnetic changes of state.

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