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Molecular orbital polarization in $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{Sb}_2\text{O}$: a scenario to metal-to-metal phase transition without spontaneous symmetry breaking
HEUNG-SIK KIM, HAE-YOUNG KEE, Univ of Toronto — We suggest a scenario of partial Fermi surface (FS) gapping related to metal-to-metal phase transition without a spontaneous symmetry breaking. This theory is applied to $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{Sb}_2\text{O}$, where the density polarization of spin-orbital entangled molecular orbitals occurs due to spin-orbit coupling. This is further enhanced by electronic correlations of Ti d-orbitals. Sharp increase of the polarization happens above a critical electronic interaction strength which then gaps out a part of FS made of d-orbitals, while the rest of FS associated with Sb p-orbitals remain almost intact. Experimental implications to test our proposal are also discussed.

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