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Authors
Koehler, WC
Mook, HA
Fisk, Z
et al.

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Abstract: Neutron diffraction study of the magnetic structures of HoB₄

W. C. Koehler and H. A. Mook

Solid State Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory,* Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Z. Fisk and M. B. Maple

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California 92037

Magnetic susceptibility, specific heat, and resistivity measurements by Fisk et al. have revealed two ordering transitions in HoB₄ at temperatures near 7.1 and 5.7 K. Moreover, the macroscopic measurements indicate that the higher temperature transition is of second order, the lower one of first order. Neutron diffraction measurements on polycrystalline and on single crystal specimens have confirmed these results. The magnetic scattering data have so far resisted a complete interpretation; the following conclusions can, however, be drawn. The magnetic structure in the high temperature phase has a strong oscillatory component, the wave vector of which is equal to (±0.021, ±0.021, 0.425) in units of the reciprocal lattice vectors. The magnetic moments are parallel, in sheets normal to the tetragonal c-axis, to one of the four equivalent [100] reciprocal lattice directions. In the low-temperature phase there is a large component of the moments arranged in the simple colinear structure that has been reported for ErB₄ and DyB₄ by W. Schafer et al. In both temperature ranges there are additional, unexplained, magnetically scattered intensities. The magnetic phase diagram has been studied in applied fields up to 6.4 T and at temperatures down to 1.8 K. Polarization analysis and classical polarized beam techniques have been applied to the single crystals in selected field and temperature ranges.

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Abstract: Quadrupolar interactions and structural instabilities in PrAg₁₋ₓCuₓ

J. A. Gotaas and J. S. Kouvel

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60680

T. O. Brun

Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439

J. W. Cable

Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

In order to elucidate the unusually strong quadrupole-quadrupole interactions discovered earlier in PrAg¹, magnetic and neutron diffraction studies are being made of the pseudobinary compounds PrAg₁₋ₓCuₓ. For PrAg₂ₓCuₓ, which, like PrAg, has a cubic CsCl-type structure, analysis of high-field magnetization data above the antiferromagnetic Neel point (TN ~ 9 K) shows that the effective biquadratic (quadrupolar) coupling is about twice as strong as in PrAg, whereas the average bilinear exchange coupling is slightly weaker. PrAg₂ₓCuₓ, which has a CsCl-type structure at room temperature, was found to transform to an orthorhombic FeB-type structure (similar to that of PrCu) when it is cooled below ~150 K. Detailed comparison of the two structures of PrAg₂ₓCuₓ indicates that the instability of the CsCl-type structure probably stems from the softening of certain zone-boundary phonons, which presumably grows as x increases towards 0.5. Such phonons would account for strong effective quadrupolar interactions of negative (antiferro) sign, precisely of the type seen in PrAg and PrAg₂ₓCuₓ.

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