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Investigations into the Magnetic and Crystal Field Excitations of the Orthorhombically Distorted Perovskites TbVO₃ and CeVO₃

Inelastic neutron scattering experiments have been performed on a series of vanadates, in particular TbVO₃ and CeVO₃, to categorise the crystal field and magnetic excitations. The vanadates possess a configuration with corner sharing, distorted VO₆ octahedra (space group Pbnm) with a collinear C-type antiferromagnetic structure occurring below Néel temperatures of $T_N = 110$ K and 124 K respectively [1-4]. Data from neutron scattering experiments reveal a hitherto unobserved shift of crystal field excitation energy in TbVO₃ and CeVO₃. Point-charge model calculations have confirmed this shift by theoretically calculating the crystal field excitation spectrum. We propose that the mechanism behind the effect is the onset of local magnetism caused by the ordering of the vanadium sublattice at the magnetic phase transition. This magnetic exchange field from the vanadium ions polarises the spins of the rare-earth ions located at the centre of the unit cell. This results in a Zeeman-like splitting of crystal field energy levels. As a result, crystal field transition energies demonstrate a linear shift as a function of internal magnetic field strength.

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Topic

Physics

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