# MRS BULLETIN

### December 1999

## A Publication of the Materials Research Society

Volume 24, Number 12 ISSN: 0883-7694 CODEN: MRSBEA

## NEUTRON SCATTERING IN MATERIALS RESEARCH

14 Neutron Scattering in Materials Research

T.E. Mason and A.D. Taylor, Guest Editors

17 Diagnosing Engineering Problems with Neutrons

P.J. Withers and T.M. Holden

24 Neutron Diffraction from Novel Materials

P.G. Radaelli and J.D. Jorgensen

29 Neutrons as a Probe of Magnetization on Atomic to Mesoscopic Scales

G. Aeppli and S.M. Hayden

34 Neutron-Scattering Measurements of "Soft Matter"

P. Lindner and G. Wignall

40 Neutron Scattering in Structural Biology and Biomolecular Materials

J.K. Blasie and P. Timmins

## **MRS NEWS**

48 Treasurer's Report

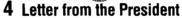
**50** MRS Featured Volunteer

## **ABSTRACTS**

54 Abstracts for January 2000 Journal of Materials Research

## **DEPARTMENTS**

3 Editorial



5 Research/Researchers

12 Washington News

13 Resources

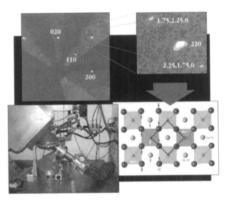
51 Education Exchange

**52** Historical Note

53 Library

60 Classified

**64** Advertisers in This Issue



ON THE COVER: Single-crystal neutrondiffraction data and the structure solution obtained for the charge-ordered phase of LaSr<sub>2</sub>Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>. **Bottom left**: The single-crystal neutron diffractometer (SCD) located at the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center. This instrument uses a Laue geometry that differentiates between different neutron wavelengths, using the time-of-flight technique. The sample is placed in a vacuum chamber (red sphere at center of image) and is attached to a displex refrigerator for cooling. Diffracted neutrons are measured in a 20 cm x 20 cm area detector that is placed in a shielded box (painted silver) above and to the left of the sample vacuum chamber. Top left: At a single setting of a single-crystal sample, the SCD can measure scattering from a volume of reciprocal space. By combining different settings, maps of reciprocal space can be constructed, as has been done for the layered manganite LaSr<sub>2</sub>Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>. This technique is especially useful in measuring diffuse scattering or searching for scattering phenomena throughout reciprocal space. **Top right:** In LaSr<sub>2</sub>Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, the localization of electrons in alternate Mn sites resulted in weak superlattice reflections with propagation vector  $\mathbf{q} = (h+1/4, k-1/4, l)$  at 160 K. Examples of these weak superlattice reflections (approximately 0.7% of the parent reflection) are clearly seen around the (220) reflection. **Bottom right:** By measuring approximately 700 weak superlattice reflections, the structure of LaSr<sub>2</sub>Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> was determined. In this material, two Mn sites were discovered: one site (blue) where there is a pronounced in-plane distortion of the MnO<sub>6</sub> octahedron that signifies additional charge (Mn<sup>3+</sup>), and the other (pink), which shows a significantly smaller distortion, suggesting less charge (Mn4+). Images courtesy of D.N. Argyriou. For more information on neutron scattering, see the technical theme that begins on page 14.

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MRS Bulletin (ISSN: 0883-7694) is published 12 times a year by the Materials Research Society, 506 a year by the Materials Research Society, 506 Keystone Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086-7573. Periodical postage paid at Warrendale, PA and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to MRS Bulletin in care of the Materials Research Society, at the address listed; phone 724-779-3003; fax 724-779-8313. Printed in the U.S.A.

Additional copies of articles in MRS Bulletin may be made at \$2.50 per article. This fee can be paid to the Materials Research Society through the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 27 Congress Street, Salem, MA 01970.

Membership in MRS is \$80 annually for regular members, \$25 for students. Dues include an allocation of \$29 (\$17 for students) to a subscription to MRS Bulletin. Individual member subscriptions are for personal use only. Non-member subscription rates are \$155 for one calendar year (12 issues) within the U.S.A. and \$215 elsewhere. Single copies may be purchased for \$16 each. Send subscription orders to Subscription Department, Materials Research Society, 506 Keystone Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086-757 Requests from subscribers for missing journal issues will be honored without charge only if received within six months of the issue's actual date of publication; otherwise, the issue may be

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MRS Bulletin is included in Current Contents\*/Engineering, Computing, and Technology; Current Contents\*/Physical, Chemical, and Earth Sciences, the SciSearch\* online database, Research Alert\*, Science Citation Index®, and the Materials Science Citation Index™. Back volumes of MRS Bulletin are available in 16 mm microfilm, 35 mm microfilm, or 105 mm microfiche through University Microfilms Inc., 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

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