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Mössbauer study of antiferromagnetic CuFeO₂

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Abstract

We have studied the magnetic spin structure of antiferromagnetic $CuFeO_2$ by X-ray diffraction (XRD) and Mössbauer spectroscopy. Its crystal structure determined by XRD analysis was a rhombohedral structure (space group R-3m) and lattice constants a_0 and c_0 were 3.0333 and 17.1595 Å, respectively. In spite of 4-Fe sublattices in a delafossite $CuFeO_2$, its Mössbauer spectra were analyzed with 1-set (6-Lorentzian lines) below 10 K due to the collinear-commensurate spin structure, but the spectra were fitted with 4-sextet above 10 K due to the incommensurate spin structure. This phenomenon was attributed to the spin–lattice relaxation effect. Magnetic Néel temperature was also determined at 18 K, which corresponded to the high-spin Fe^{3+} valance state. On the other hand, $CuFe_{0.98}Al_{0.02}O_2$ powder with a noncollinear spin structure was fitted with 4-sextet at 4.2 K.

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