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「京都大学化学連携研究教育拠点」 化学研究所・固体化学セミナー

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演題: Orbitally-driven superstructures and spin gaps in spinels and other oxides

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Orbital degrees of freedom often lead to specific types of orbital and spin ordering. Complicated and interesting superstructures are observed in particular in B-sublattice of spinels. This is connected with the geometric frustration of this lattice and with the interconnection of edge-sharing MO₆ octahedra, which is especially important for transition metals with partially-filled t_{2g} levels. In some such systems (MgTi₂O4, CuIr₂S₄, AlV₂O₄) there appears strange superstructures with the formation of spin gap states. In other cases (ZnV_2O_4) structural transitions, apparently connected with orbital ordering, are followed by long-range magnetic ordering. Last but not least, the famous Verwey transition in magnetite Fe_3O_4 leads to a very complicated structural pattern, accompanied by the appearance of ferroelectricity. In this talk I will discuss all these examples, paying main attention to an interplay of charge, spin and orbital degrees of freedom. In particular, for MgTi₂O₄, and CuIr₂S₄ we proposed the picture of orbitally-driven Peierls state [1], which can be also relevant for several other materials, such as $NaTiO_2$, $La_4Ru_2O_{10}$ [2] and some others. Orbital ordering can also give rise to a spontaneous formation of Haldane chains in a three-dimensional systems like pyrochlore Tl₂Ru₂O₇ [4]. Finally, I propose the model of charge and orbital ordering in magnetite [4], which uses the idea of an interplay of site- and bond-centered ordering [5] and which seems to explain both the structural data and the presence of ferroelectricity in Fe₃O₄ below Verwey transition.

[1] D.I.Khomskii and T.Mizokawa, Phys.Rev.Lett. 94, 156402 (2005);

[2] Hua Wu et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 96, 256402 (2006)

[3] Seongsu Lee et al., Nature Mater. 5, 471 (2006)

[4] D.I.Khomskii, unpublished;

[5] D.V.Efremov, J.van den Brink and D.I.Khomskii, Nature Mater. 3, 853 (2004)

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