Spin and charge stripes in trilayer nickelates

Daniel Phelan\textsuperscript{a}, J. Zhang\textsuperscript{a,b}, Y.S. Chen\textsuperscript{c}, D.M. Pajerowski\textsuperscript{d}, H. Zheng\textsuperscript{a}, A.S. Botana\textsuperscript{a}, L. Harriger\textsuperscript{a}, J. Rodriguez-Rivera\textsuperscript{a}, J.P.C. Ruff\textsuperscript{f}, N.J. Schreiber\textsuperscript{a}, B. Wang\textsuperscript{a}, M.R. Norman\textsuperscript{a}, S. Rosenkranz\textsuperscript{a}, J. F. Mitchell\textsuperscript{a}

\textsuperscript{a}Materials Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory, dphelan@anl.gov
\textsuperscript{b}Materials Science and Technology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
\textsuperscript{c}ChemMatCARS, The University of Chicago
\textsuperscript{d}Quantum Condensed Matter Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
\textsuperscript{e}NIST Center for Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology
\textsuperscript{f}CHESS, Cornell University
\textsuperscript{g}Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Cornell University

Highly orbitally polarized trilayer nickelates represent a potential platform for searching for high-$T_c$ superconductivity \cite{1}. La$_4$Ni$_3$O$_8$, which has square-planar coordinated nickel, is one such material. It undergoes a semiconductor-insulator transition on cooling at $T_{SI} \sim 105$ K, which is accompanied by formation of charge stripes evidenced by X-ray scattering measurements \cite{2}. These stripes will be discussed along with our recent finding that the ground state is magnetic and consists of antiferromagnetic spin stripes that are commensurate with the charge stripes \cite{3}. The magnetic stripes are modeled as occurring within uncorrelated trilayers. Comparison of the charge and spin stripe order parameters reveals that, in contrast to single-layer nickelates and most transition metal oxides, the orders both appear at $T_{SI}$, suggesting a strong coupling between the two.

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References

