

# LOCAL PROBE STUDIES NEAR THE CHARGE ORDER AND MAGNETIC TRANSITIONS IN $\text{Pr}_{1-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{MnO}_3$

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The  $\text{Pr}_{1-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{MnO}_3$  displays a variety of phase transitions associated with the spin, lattice, charge and orbital degrees of freedom [1],[2].  $\text{PrMnO}_3$  and  $\text{CaMnO}_3$  are antiferromagnetic, and low doped ( $x < 0.32$ ) samples are ferromagnetic below  $T_c \sim 130\text{K}$ . For  $0.32 < x < 0.90$  the system presents a robust Charge Order state (CO) for temperatures below  $T_{CO} \sim 150\text{-}235\text{K}$  and an antiferromagnetic insulator state below  $T_N \sim 100\text{-}180\text{K}$ . Detailed real-space atomic-scale information is necessary to achieve better understanding of such order/disorder effects.

$^{111}\text{mCd}$ / $^{111}\text{Cd}$  Perturbed Angular Correlation (PAC) studies were used to infer about atomic-scale distortions in the temperature range  $10\text{-}600\text{K}$  encompassing the charge, orbital and magnetic ordering transitions. The electrical-field gradient (EFG) generated by the charge distribution around the probe shows strong anomalies when the system undergoes the charge-order transition. In particular, the principal component of the EFG ( $V_{zz}$ ) presents a sharp discontinuity at the CO transition.

[1] Y. Tomioka et al. Phys. Rev. B 53, 1689 (1996)

[2] M. S. Reis et al., Phys. Rev. B 71, 144413 (2005)

**Author:** AMARAL, Vitor (Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal)

**Co-authors:** LIMA LOPES, Armandina Maria (Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal); RITA, E. (ITN, Sacavém, Portugal); CORREIA, J. G. (ITN, Sacavém, Portugal); ARAÚJO, J. P. (Universidade do Porto, Portugal); REIS, M. S. (Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal); TAVARES, P. B. (UTAD, Vila Real, Portugal); MENDONÇA, T. M. (Universidade do Porto, Portugal); TOKURA, Y. (University of Tokyo, Japan); TOMIOKA, Y. (JRCAT, Tsukuba, Japan)

**Presenter:** AMARAL, Vitor (Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal)

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