Neutron diffraction study on magnetic structures in a La_{1.37}Sr_{1.63}Mn₂O₇ single crystal under hydrostatic pressures of up to 0.8 GPa

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Magnetic structures in La_{1.37}Sr_{1.63}Mn₂O₇ single crystal under hydrostatic pressures of up to 0.8 GPa are investigated by neutron diffraction measurements to determine the magnetic phase diagram under hydrostatic pressure. The ground state is found to be a ferromagnetic (FM_{uniaxial}) structure under hydrostatic pressures of up to 0.8 GPa, in which the magnetic moments of Mn ions are parallel to the *c* axis. Under hydrostatic pressures of P < 0.75 GPa, the FM_{uniaxial} structure changes to a canted antiferromagnetic (CAFM) structure at approximately 70 K and the CAFM structure directly changes to a paramagnetic (PM) structure at approximately 120 K. Under hydrostatic pressures of 0.75 GPa $\leq P \leq 0.8$ GPa, the FM_{uniaxial} structure changes to a CAFM structure at approximately 70 K, and the CAFM structure changes to a PM structure at approximately 120 K via an antiferromagnetic (AFM_{planar}) structure at approximately 95 K in which the magnetic moment lies in the *ab* plane. The relationship between the magnetic structure and the distortion of the MnO₆ octahedra is also discussed.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The layered perovskite manganites $La_{2-2x}Sr_{1+2x}Mn_2O_7$ consist of a stacking of magnetic MnO₆ octahedra double layers and nonmagnetic (La, Sr) O monolayers having a rock-salt structure along the c axis.¹ These materials have attracted much interest because they exhibit fascinating phenomena such as a metal-insulator transition and colossal magnetoresistance which are closely related to their magnetic structure. The magnetic structure is induced by an anisotropic crystal structure and strong interplay between the charge, spin, and orbital degree of freedom of the Mn 3d electrons.^{2–17} Such correlation between the orbital degree of freedom and the magnetic structure is also of interest from the perspective of orbitronics. In a previous study, Kubota et al. investigated the relationship between the magnetic structure and the distortion of MnO₆ octahedra in La_{2-2x}Sr_{1+2x}Mn₂O₇ ($0.3 \le x \le 0.5$) at 10 K by powder neutron diffraction measurement. They found that, as the concentration x increases, the magnetic structure changes from a ferromagnetic structure to an antiferromagnetic structure and the MnO₆ octahedra shrinks relatively along the c axis. From these results, they speculated that the change in the magnetic structure as the concentration x changes is due to shrinkage of the MnO_6 octahedra along the c axis caused by an increase in the occupancy of the x^2-y^2 orbital relative to the $3z^2 - r^2$ orbital.

To confirm the relationship between the magnetic structure and the distortion of the MnO₆ octahedra, it is desirable to conduct experiments where the concentration x does not change. Application of hydrostatic pressure is one such method in which the hydrostatic pressure changes the distortion of the MnO₆ octahedra without changing the concentration x.¹⁸ However, there have been few studies on the magnetic structure in La_{2-2x}Sr_{1+2x}Mn₂O₇ under hydrostatic pressure.

In this study, we therefore investigate the magnetic structures in a single-crystalline $La_{1.37}Sr_{1.63}Mn_2O_7$ (x = 0.315) under hydrostatic pressures up to 0.8 GPa by neutron diffraction measurement and discuss the relationship between magnetic structure and distortion of the MnO₆ octahedra.

II. EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

Single-crystalline $La_{2-2x}Sr_{1+2x}Mn_2O_7$ was grown using the floating-zone method. Details of the growth conditions are given elsewhere.¹⁹ The composition of the single crystal was determined to be x = 0.315 by using an inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometer. Part of the single crystal was crushed into powder for x-ray measurement at room temperature, confirming that the grown single crystal consisted of a single phase (space group *I4/mmm*). The magnetic ordering temperature was found by susceptibility measurements to be 112 K, which is almost identical to the value reported previously.^{16,17}

Neutron diffraction measurements to determine the magnetic structure were performed under ambient pressure and hydrostatic pressures of P = 0.4, 0.6, 0.7, 0.75, and 0.8 GPa. Neutron diffraction measurements of the single-crystalline specimen were performed using a triple-axis spectrometer at JRR-3M in JAEA. A nonpolarized beam with collimation series of 80'-80'-80'-80' was used. The single-crystalline specimen was put in a 4K-GM refrigerator for the measurements under ambient pressure. For the measurements under hydrostatic pressure, the single-crystalline specimen and a single-crystalline NaCl reference specimen were encapsulated in a Cu-Be hydrostatic pressure cell and this cell was placed in a cryostat. The pressure-transmitting medium was a mixture of fluorinates (FC70:FC77 = 1:1) and the value of the pressure was estimated from the lattice parameter of the NaCl single crystal. The elastic scattering from (h0l) reflections was measured by ω -2 θ scan in the temperature range of 4 K $\leq T \leq$ 160 K. Since the Bravais lattice is body-centered-tetragonal in the present system, reflections at h + k + l = 2n (for integer *n*) arise from both nuclear and magnetic reflections from ferromagnetic structures. Consequently, the integrated intensity of magnetic



FIG. 1. Typical fitting result at 0.8 GPa for determining parameters A and B. The detected nuclear intensity at paramagnetic temperature (160 K) is fitted to the calculated nuclear intensity. In the figure, the dots and solid line represent the detected nuclear intensities and the calculated nuclear intensity, respectively.

reflections at h + k + l = 2n is obtained by subtracting the integrated intensity of the paramagnetic phase at 160 K, at which point the integrated intensity arises from only the nuclear reflections. Reflections at h + k + l = 2n + 1 arise from only magnetic reflections from antiferromagnetic structures.

The single-crystalline specimen used in the present study did not have a measured mosaic structure. Consequently, we had to correct the detected intensity $I_{detected}$ to account for the extinction effect. The relation between the corrected intensity $I_{corrected}$ and the detected intensity $I_{detected}$ is given by²⁰

$$I_{\text{corrected}} = \frac{I_{\text{detected}}}{A(1 - B \cdot I_{\text{detected}})},\tag{1}$$

where A and B are parameters. These parameters were determined by fitting the detected nuclear intensity at paramagnetic temperature (160 K) to the calculated nuclear intensity. A typical fitting result for 0.8 GPa is shown in Fig. 1. The detailed derivation of $I_{\text{corrected}}$ is described later. These values under ambient pressure and hydrostatic pressures of P = 0.4, 0.6, 0.7, 0.75, and 0.8 GPa were determined by a preliminary experiment (see Table I).

III. RESULTS

Figure 2 shows the corrected intensities obtained under ambient pressure. In the ground state (T = 4 K), reflections

TABLE I. Parameters A and B under different hydrostatic pressures.

Pressure (GPa)	Α	В
Ambient pressure	5.0	0.7×10^{-4}
0.4	1.5	$0.7 imes 10^{-4}$
0.6	1.5	1.5×10^{-4}
0.7	0.2	$0.1 imes 10^{-4}$
0.75	0.2	$0.1 imes 10^{-4}$
0.8	1.1	$1.0 imes 10^{-4}$



FIG. 2. Temperature dependence of the integrated intensities of typical peak positions under ambient pressure. (a) Peak positions at h + k + l = 2n arise from both nuclear reflections and magnetic reflections from ferromagnetic structures: solid squares (004), solid circles (101), solid triangles (006), solid inverted triangles (103), solid diamonds (105), and solid stars (107). (b) Peak positions at h + k + l = 2n + 1 arise from magnetic reflections from antiferromagnetic structures: open squares (005), open circles (104), and open triangles (106).

exist from h + k + l = 2n, while those from h + k + l =2n + 1 are missing. This means that the ground state is a ferromagnetic structure. As seen in the figure, however, 00l reflections from h + k + l = 2n are missing, which is discussed in Sec. IV. At T < 70 K, the magnetic structure is ferromagnetic because the reflections from h + k + l = 2nexist while those from h + k + l = 2n + 1 are missing. At 70 K $\leq T < 120$ K, the reflections from h + k + l = 2n and h + k + l = 2n + 1 both exist. This means that the magnetic structure is complicated, exhibiting both ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic characteristics, as described in Sec. IV. Figure 3 shows the corrected intensities obtained under a hydrostatic pressure of 0.6 GPa. The temperature dependence of intensities is the same as that under ambient pressure except that the 00*l* reflections from h + k + l = 2n are missing at 70 K $\leq T <$ 90 K. Thus, the magnetic structure is ferromagnetic at T < 70 K and becomes complicated and exhibits both ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic characteristics at 70 K $\leq T < 120$ K.

Figure 4 shows the corrected intensities obtained under a hydrostatic pressure of 0.8 GPa. At 60 K $\leq T < 95$ K, the temperature dependence of intensities is the same as that under P = 0.6 GPa, while the temperature dependence of intensities is different from that under P = 0.6 GPa at 95 K $\leq T < 120$ K. At 95 K $\leq T < 120$ K, the magnetic



FIG. 3. Temperature dependence of the integrated intensities of typical peak positions under hydrostatic pressure of P = 0.6 GPa. (a) Peak positions at h + k + l = 2n: solid squares (004), solid circles (101), solid triangles (006), and solid inverted triangles (105). (b) Peak positions at h + k + l = 2n + 1: open squares (100), open circles (007), and open triangles (106).

structure is antiferromagnetic because the reflections from h + k + l = 2n are missing while those from h + k + l = 2n + 1 exist.

The hydrostatic pressure dependence of the magnetic structure in La_{1.37}Sr_{1.63}Mn₂O₇ obtained from the results under ambient pressure and under hydrostatic pressures of P = 0.4, 0.6, 0.7, 0.75, and 0.8 GPa are shown in Fig. 5 with the complicated magnetic structure described earlier referred to as a CAFM (canted-antiferromagnetic) structure as will be discussed in detail later.

IV. DISCUSSION

In this section, we analyze the magnetic structures under ambient pressure and hydrostatic pressures of P = 0.4, 0.6, 0.7,0.75, and 0.8 GPa as follows. The total scattering cross-section $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}$ is given by²¹

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{d\sigma_{\text{nuc.}}}{d\Omega} + \frac{d\sigma_{\text{mag.}}}{d\Omega},$$
(2)

where $\frac{d\sigma_{\text{nuc.}}}{d\Omega}$ is the nuclear scattering cross section and $\frac{d\sigma_{\text{mag.}}}{d\Omega}$ is the magnetic scattering cross section. $\frac{d\sigma_{\text{nuc.}}}{d\Omega}$ is given by

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{nuc.}}}{d\Omega} = N \frac{(2\pi)^3}{v_0} \left[\sum_{j=1}^n \langle b \rangle_j \exp(i \, \boldsymbol{Q} \cdot \boldsymbol{R}_j) \right]^2 \sum_{\tau} \delta(\boldsymbol{Q} - \boldsymbol{\tau}),$$
(3)



FIG. 4. Temperature dependence of the integrated intensities of typical peak positions under hydrostatic pressure of P = 0.8 GPa. (a) Peak positions at h + k + l = 2n: solid squares (101), solid circles (105), solid triangles (008), and solid inverted triangles (0012). (b) Peak positions of h + k + l = 2n + 1: open squares (100), open circles (104), open triangles (007), and open inverted triangles (106).

where *N* is the number of unit cells in the crystal, v_0 is the volume of the unit cell, *n* is the number of atoms in the unit cell (n = 24), $\langle b \rangle_j$ is the average atomic scattering amplitude, Q is the scattering vector, R_j is the position vector from the origin to the *j*th atom in the unit cell, δ is the Dirac δ function, and τ is the reciprocal lattice vector.



FIG. 5. (Color online) Magnetic phase diagram of $La_{1.37}Sr_{1.63}Mn_2O_7$ under hydrostatic pressures of up to 0.8 GPa: solid squares, FM_{uniaxial} structure; solid circles, CAFM-I structure; solid triangles, CAFM-II structure; solid diamonds, AFM_{planar} structure; and open squares, paramagnetic (PM) structure. The phase boundary between AFM and CAFM structures is not yet clear. Further work is required.



FIG. 6. (Color online) Schematic view of a magnetic structure model. Magnetic moment in the double layers is aligned in the same direction; θ represents the angle between the *c* axis and $M_{0,0,\pm Z_{Mn}}$ [Z_{Mn} is the *z* coordinate (*c* axis) for a Mn ion] and is assumed to be the same as the angle between the *c* axis and $M_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{Mn}}$; χ represents the angle between $M_{0,0,\pm Z_{Mn}}$ and $M_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{Mn}}$.

We assume that the unit cell of the magnetic structure is the same as that of the crystal structure, giving

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{mag.}}}{d\Omega} = N \frac{(2\pi)^3}{v_0} \left[\sum_{j=1}^{n_m} p \boldsymbol{q}_j \exp(i \, \boldsymbol{Q} \cdot \boldsymbol{R}_j) \right]^2 \sum_{\tau} \delta(\boldsymbol{Q} - \tau),$$
(4)

$$p = \left(\frac{\gamma e^2}{mc^2}\right) \cdot M \cdot f_{\rm Mn}(\boldsymbol{Q}), \tag{5}$$

and

$$\boldsymbol{q}_{j} = \hat{\boldsymbol{M}}_{j} - (\hat{\boldsymbol{M}}_{j} \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{Q}}) \hat{\boldsymbol{Q}}, \qquad (6)$$

where n_m is the number of magnetic atoms in the unit cell $(n_m = 4)$, p is the magnetic scattering amplitude, q_j is the q factor of the *j*th Mn ion, γ is the gyromagnetic ratio, e is the charge of an electron, m is the mass of an electron, c is the speed of light, M is the absolute value of the magnetic moment, $f_{Mn}(Q)$ is the magnetic form factor, \hat{M}_j is the unit vector of M_j , which is the magnetic moment of the *j*th Mn ion, and \hat{Q} is the unit vector of Q. Substituting Eqs. (5) and



FIG. 7. Typical fitting results for (a)–(c) ambient pressure, (d)–(f) 0.6 GPa, and (g)–(i) 0.8 GPa for determining M, θ , and χ .

(6) into the magnetic structure factor in Eq. (4), we obtain

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n_m} p \boldsymbol{q}_j \exp(i \boldsymbol{Q} \cdot \boldsymbol{R}_j)$$

= 0.269 × 10⁻¹² f_{Mn}(\mathcal{Q}) · M · $\sum_{j=1}^{n_m} \boldsymbol{q}_j \exp(i \boldsymbol{Q} \cdot \boldsymbol{R}_j)$, (7)

where we assume the magnetic structure model shown in Fig. 6 in which the magnetic moments in the double layers are aligned in the same direction, θ represents the angle between the *c* axis and $M_{0,0,\pm Z_{Mn}}$ [Z_{Mn} is the *z* coordinate (*c* axis) for the Mn ions], which is assumed to be the same as the angle between the *c* axis and $M_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{Mn}}$, and χ represents the angle between $M_{0,0,\pm Z_{Mn}}$ and $M_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{Mn}}$ and is expressed by

$$\chi = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{M_{0,0,\pm Z_{\rm Mn}} \cdot M_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{\rm Mn}}}{M^2}\right).$$
 (8)

In the above situation, Eq. (7) can be expressed by

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n_m} p \boldsymbol{q}_j \exp(i \, \boldsymbol{Q} \cdot \boldsymbol{R}_j)$$

= 5.38 × 10⁻¹³ f_{Mn}(\boldsymbol{Q}) · $M \cdot (\boldsymbol{q}_{0,0,\pm Z_{Mn}} + \boldsymbol{q}_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{Mn}})$
· cos(2 $\pi Z_{Mn}l$), (9)

where $q_{0,0,\pm Z_{Mn}}$ and $q_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{Mn}}$ are the q factors for $M_{0,0,\pm Z_{Mn}}$ and $M_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{Mn}}$, respectively. Assuming the magnetic domains are equivalent, we have

$$\left[\sum_{j=1}^{n_m} p\boldsymbol{q}_j \exp(i\boldsymbol{Q}\cdot\boldsymbol{R}_j)\right]^2$$

= $[5.38 \times 10^{-13} f_{\mathrm{Mn}}(\boldsymbol{Q}) \cdot \boldsymbol{M} \cdot \cos(2\pi Z_{\mathrm{Mn}}l)]^2$
 $\cdot \left[1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\frac{h^2 + k^2}{a^2}\sin^2\theta + \frac{l^2}{c^2}\cos^2\theta\right)d_{hkl}^2\right].$ (10)

Substituting Eq. (10) into Eq. (4), we obtain the magnetic scattering cross section,

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{mag.}}}{d\Omega} = N \frac{(2\pi)^3}{v_0} [5.38 \times 10^{-13} f_{\text{Mn}}(\mathbf{Q}) \cdot \mathbf{M} \cdot \cos(2\pi Z_{\text{Mn}}l)]^2 \\ \cdot \left[1 - \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{h^2 + k^2}{a^2} \sin^2 \theta + \frac{l^2}{c^2} \cos^2 \theta \right) d_{hkl}^2 \right].$$
(11)

Considering the Lorentz factor gives the following calculated magnetic peak intensity $I_0(Q)$:

$$I_{0}(\boldsymbol{Q}) = \frac{d\sigma_{\text{mag.}}}{d\Omega} \cdot \frac{1}{\sin 2\Theta}$$

= $N \frac{(2\pi)^{3}}{v_{0}} [5.38 \times 10^{-13} f_{\text{Mn}}(\boldsymbol{Q}) \cdot \boldsymbol{M} \cdot \cos(2\pi Z_{\text{Mn}} l)]^{2}$
 $\cdot \left[1 - \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{h^{2} + k^{2}}{a^{2}} \sin^{2}\theta + \frac{l^{2}}{c^{2}} \cos^{2}\theta \right) d_{hkl}^{2} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{\sin 2\Theta},$
(12)

where $1/\sin 2\Theta$ is the Lorentz factor.

Under the above assumptions, the magnetic structure is governed by the parameters M, θ , and χ . The parameters M, θ , and χ are determined by fitting the calculated peak intensities



FIG. 8. Hydrostatic pressure dependence of (a) M, (b) θ , and (c) χ .

to the experimental values $I_{\text{corrected}}$. Typical fitting results are shown in Fig. 7 and the obtained parameters are summarized in Figs. 8(a)-8(c).

As Fig. 8 shows, with increasing hydrostatic pressure, *M* increases slightly at 4 K $\leq T < 120$ K, θ is almost constant at 4 K $\leq T < 120$ K, and χ is almost constant at *T* < 85 K and drastically increases at 85 K $\leq T < 120$ K. These results indicate that the hydrostatic pressure has a particularly strong effect on the value of χ in the exited states. Using the obtained values of *M*, θ , and χ , we can construct the magnetic phase diagram of La_{1.37}Sr_{1.63}Mn₂O₇ under hydrostatic pressure with the results as shown in Fig. 5. The ground state (*T* = 4 K) is the FM_{uniaxial} structure in the pressure



CAFM-III [$\theta \neq 0, \chi = 2 \theta$]

FIG. 9. (Color online) Schematic view of the canted magnetic structures. θ represents the angle between the *c* axis and $M_{0,0,\pm Z_{Mn}}$ and the angle between the *c* axis and $M_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{Mn}}$ [Z_{Mn} is the *z* coordinate (*c* axis) for a Mn ion], and χ represents the angle between $M_{0,0,\pm Z_{Mn}}$ and $M_{1/2,1/2,1/2\pm Z_{Mn}}$.

range examined where the magnetic moment is parallel to the *c* axis. Under hydrostatic pressures of P < 0.75 GPa, the FM_{uniaxial} structure changes to a canted antiferromagnetic (CAFM) structure at approximately 70 K and the CAFM structure directly changes to a paramagnetic (PM) structure at approximately 120 K. Under hydrostatic pressures of 0.75 GPa $\leq P \leq 0.8$ GPa, the FM_{uniaxial} structure changes to a CAFM structure at approximately 70 K, and the CAFM structure changes to a PM structure at approximately 120 K via an antiferromagnetic (AFM_{planar}) structure at approximately 95 K, where the magnetic moment lies in the *ab* plane. The AFM structure (in the ground state of x = 0.48) reported by Kubota *et al.*, in which the magnetic moments were antiparallel to each other in the double layers.

Incidentally, the CAFM structure can be classified into three groups by the values of θ and χ , as shown in Fig. 9. The CAFM-I structure has magnetic moments with $\theta \neq 0^{\circ}$ and $\chi \neq 180^{\circ}$, the CAFM-II structure has magnetic moments in the *ab* plane with $\chi \neq 180^{\circ}$, and the CAFM-III structure has magnetic moments in a plane perpendicular to the *ab* plane with $\chi = 2\theta$. In the excited states above 60 K, as the hydrostatic pressure increases, the CAFM-I and CAFM-II structures with $\chi \neq 180^{\circ}$ change to the CAFM-III and AFM_{planar} structures with $\chi = 180^{\circ}$, respectively.

The CAFM structure obtained in the present study does not arise because of magnetic phase separation or a helical magnetic structure (core skyrmion). The reason is that if we assume magnetic phase separation, the magnetic moment of the Mn ion [typical value of 4.10 (μ_B/Mn ion) at 80 K, 0.8 GPa] becomes much larger than the spontaneous magnetization obtained from the *M*-*H* curve [typical value of 3.23 (μ_B/Mn ion) at 80 K, 0.8 GPa], which is shown in Fig. 10. Furthermore, there are no peaks found by scanning the *hkl* from 001 to 002. This suggests that there is no helical magnetic structure along the *c* axis. Therefore, the CAFM structure in the present study is an appropriate structure for explaining the experimental peak intensities of the magnetic reflections.





FIG. 10. (Color online) Temperature dependence of M under P = 0.8 GPa. Black circles, red squares, and blue triangles represent the magnetic moments of phase separation, a CAFM structure, and spontaneous magnetization, respectively.

The present result indicates that hydrostatic pressure enhances the antiferromagnetic interaction between neighboring double layers. This change seems to be closely related to the distortion of the MnO₆ octahedra. Argyriou et al. reported that the MnO₆ octahedra in La_{1.2}Sr_{1.8}Mn₂O₇ (x = 0.4) shrink slightly along the c axis at 100 K due to the increase in hydrostatic pressure.¹⁸ This causes an increase in the occupancy of the $x^2 - y^2$ orbital relative to the $3z^2 - r^2$ orbital, which influences on the competition between the ferromagnetic interaction and the antiferromagnetic interaction via the variation in transfer integral along the c axis. On the other hand, it seems that the ground state does not change under the application of hydrostatic pressures of up to 0.8 GPa. The reason is not clear, but this suggests the magnetic structure depends not only on the stability of the crystal field energy but also on other interactions, such as a magnetic dipole-dipole interactions.

V. SUMMARY

We have studied magnetic structures in La_{1.37}Sr_{1.63}Mn₂O₇ under hydrostatic pressures of up to 0.8 GPa by neutron diffraction measurement and have determined the magnetic phase diagram. As shown in the phase diagram, we have concluded that the ground state remains the FM_{uniaxial} structure at up to 0.8 GPa, whereas the CAFM-I and CAFM-II structures with $\chi \neq 180^{\circ}$ in the excited states change to the CAFM-III and AFM_{planar} structures with $\chi = 180^{\circ}$, respectively, with increasing hydrostatic pressure. This means that hydrostatic pressure enhances the antiferromagnetic interaction between neighboring double layers.

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