Magnetic properties of the itinerant A-type antiferromagnet CaCo₂P₂ studied by ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P nuclear magnetic resonance

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⁵⁹Co and ³¹P nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) measurements in external magnetic and zero magnetic fields have been performed to investigate the magnetic properties of the A-type antiferromagnetic (AFM) CaCo₂P₂. NMR data, especially the nuclear spin lattice relaxation rates $1/T_1$ exhibiting a clear peak, provide clear evidence for the AFM transition at a Néel temperature of $T_N \sim 110$ K. The magnetic fluctuations in the paramagnetic state were found to be three-dimensional ferromagnetic, suggesting ferromagnetic interaction between Co spins in the *ab* plane characterizes the spin correlations in the paramagnetic state. In the AFM state below T_N , we have observed ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR signals under zero magnetic field. From ⁵⁹Co NMR data, the ordered magnetic moments of Co are found to be in *ab* plane and are estimated to be 0.35 μ_B at 4.2 K. Furthermore, the external field dependence of ⁵⁹Co NMR spectrum in the AFM state suggests a very weak magnetic anisotropy of the Co ions and also provides microscopic evidence of canting the Co-ordered moments along the external magnetic field directions. The magnetic state of the Co ions in CaCo₂P₂ is well explained by the local-moment picture in the AFM state, although the system is metallic, as seen by $1/T_1T = \text{constant behavior}$.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Since the discovery of high T_c superconductivity (SC) in iron pnictides [1], the interplay between spin fluctuations and the unconventional nature of SC has received wide interest. In most of the iron pnictide superconductors, by lowering temperature, the crystal structure changes from high-temperature tetragonal (C_4 symmetry) to low-temperature orthorhombic $(C_2 \text{ symmetry})$ at, or just above, a system-dependent Néel temperature $T_{\rm N}$, below which long-range stripe-type antiferromagnetic (AFM) order emerges [2-4]. SC in these compounds emerges upon suppression of both the structural (or nematic) and magnetic transitions by carrier doping and/or the application of pressure. The interplay between SC and AFM spin fluctuations and nematic fluctuations is still an open question. In addition, ferromagnetic (FM) correlations were also pointed out to play an important role in the iron-based superconductors [2,5-8].

Recently, new magnetic states with C_4 symmetry have attracted much attention [9]. The so-called charge-spin density wave (CSDW) has been demonstrated to be realized in Sr_{1-x}Na_xFe₂As₂ [10], and likely occurs in Ba(Fe_{1-x}Mn_x)₂As₂, Ba_{1-x}Na_xFe₂As₂, and Ba_{1-x}K_xFe₂As₂ as well [11–17]. In addition, a new magnetic state called "hedgehog" spin vortex crystal with C_4 symmetry has been identified in the electron-doped 1144-type iron pnictide superconductors CaK(Fe_{1-x}M_x)₄As₄ (M = Co or Ni) [18–20]. In contrast, nonmagnetic state has been observed in the collapsed tetragonal phase with C_4 symmetry in such as CaFe₂As₂ [21–24] where AFM fluctuations are also revealed to be completely suppressed [25–27].

Such discoveries naturally triggered the investigation of the magnetic properties of a wide variety of other layered pnictides. Among them, the Co compounds have been found to show a rich variety of magnetic properties with different crystal structure. Tetragonal SrCo_2P_2 with C_4 symmetry shows no magnetic ordering and is an exchange-enhanced Pauli paramagnet with dominantly FM interactions [28–32]. A metamagnetic transition from the Pauli paramagnetic (PM) to the FM state at a high magnetic field of 60 T has been reported [30]. LaCo₂P₂ with the tetragonal structure is known to be an itinerant ferromagnet with a Curie temperature of $T_{\rm C} = 130$ K and a saturated Co moment of 0.4 $\mu_{\rm B}$ [33–35].

In $CaCo_2P_2$ with the collapsed tetragonal structure, on the other hand, an A-type AFM state has been reported below a Néel temperature of 110 K, in which the Co moments are ferromagnetically aligned in the *ab* plane and the moments adjacent along the c axis are aligned antiferromagnetically [32,36]. This is in contrast to the nonmagnetic state in the case of the Fe pnictides with the collapsed tetragonal structure. From the neutron diffraction (ND) measurements on powder samples of CaCo₂P₂, the ordered Co moments are estimated to be 0.32 $\mu_{\rm B}$ [36]. The magnetic susceptibility increases by lowering temperature and exhibits a small kink at T_N [35,37]. Even below T_N , the magnetic susceptibility keeps increasing and shows a broad maximum at $T^* \sim 32-36 \,\mathrm{K}$ whose origin is not well understood yet [35,37]. Teruya et al. suggested that the anomaly at T^* is intrinsic and relates to the metamagneticlike behavior observed in the magnetization data [35].

In this paper, we report a comprehensive study of ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) measurements in

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external and zero magnetic fields in the PM and the AFM states of CaCo₂P₂. NMR shift and nuclear spin-lattice relaxation time data clearly show the dominant FM spin fluctuations in the PM state, which is consistent with the previous ³¹P NMR measurements up to 200 K reported by Imai et al. [32]. Our experimental data up to 300 K clearly evidence that the FM fluctuations are isotropic and three-dimensional (3D) in nature. Observation of ⁵⁹Co NMR signals in zero magnetic field is direct evidence of the AFM ordering below $T_{\rm N} = 110$ K. The Co-ordered moments are revealed to be in the *ab* plane and are estimated to be 0.35 $\mu_{\rm B}$, consistent with the ND measurements [36]. No obvious change in the magnitude of the Co-ordered moments at T^* indicates that the relative orientations of Co-ordered moments between the layers change. The metamagnetic behavior observed in magnetization data is also explained by the small change in the canting angle of the Co-ordered moments.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

A single crystal of CaCo₂P₂ was grown by Sn-flux method. Details of the sample preparation are described elsewhere [35]. NMR measurements were performed on ³¹P (I = 1/2, $\gamma_n/2\pi = 17.235$ MHz/T) and ⁵⁹Co (I = 7/2, $\gamma_n/2\pi = 10.03$ MHz/T) by using a homemade phase-coherent spinecho pulse spectrometer. The ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P-NMR spectra were obtained by sweeping external magnetic field H at fixed frequencies while NMR spectra in zero or small magnetic fields were measured in steps of frequency by measuring the intensity of the Hahn spin echo. The ³¹P spin-lattice relaxation rates $1/T_1$ were measured by saturation recovery method. The nuclear magnetization recovery was found to follow a single exponential function at the measured temperature region.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. ⁵⁹Co NMR in the paramagnetic state

Figures 1(a) and 1(b) show the temperature (*T*) dependence of field-swept ⁵⁹Co-NMR spectra for magnetic fields parallel to the *c* axis ($H \parallel c$) and to the *ab* plane ($H \parallel ab$), respectively. The typical spectrum for a nucleus with spin I = 7/2 with Zeeman and quadrupolar interactions can be described by a nuclear spin Hamiltonian [38]

$$\mathcal{H} = -\gamma_{\rm n}\hbar(1+K)\mathbf{H}\cdot\mathbf{I} + \frac{h\nu_{\rm Q}}{6}(3I_Z^2 - I^2),\qquad(1)$$

where *H* is external field, *h* is Planck's constant and *K* represents the NMR shift. The nuclear quadrupole frequency for I = 7/2 nuclei is given by $v_Q = eQV_{ZZ}/14h$, where *Q* is the nuclear quadrupole moment and V_{ZZ} is the electric field gradient (EFG) at the nuclear site. In first order perturbation theory, when the Zeeman interaction is much greater than the quadrupole interaction, one has the nuclear energy level for I = 7/2

$$E_m = -\gamma_n \hbar (1+K) Hm - \frac{h\nu_Q}{12} (3\cos^2\theta - 1) \left(3m^2 - \frac{63}{4}\right),$$
(2)

where θ is the angle between the external magnetic field and the principal axis of the EFG. Thus ⁵⁹Co NMR

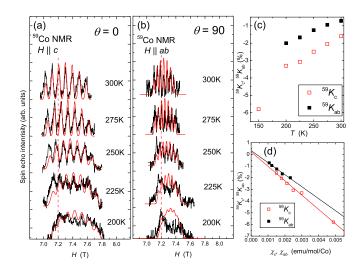


FIG. 1. Field-swept ⁵⁹Co-NMR spectra at a frequency of f = 72.2 MHz at various temperatures for magnetic fields (a) $H \parallel c$ axis and (b) $H \parallel ab$ plane. The red solid curves are simulated spectra with a nearly temperature independent of $v_Q = 0.9$ MHz. The vertical dashed red lines correspond to the Lamor magnetic field. (c) T dependence of the ⁵⁹Co-NMR shifts ⁵⁹K_{ab} and ⁵⁹K_c above T_N . (d) $K - \chi$ plots for $H \parallel ab$ plane (black) and $H \parallel c$ axis (red), where we used χ data reported in Ref. [35]. The solid lines are fitting results.

spectrum is composed of a central transition line and three pairs of satellite lines shifted from the central transition line by $\pm \frac{1}{2}\nu_Q(3\cos^2\theta - 1)$ (for the transitions of $m = 3/2 \leftrightarrow$ $1/2 \text{ and } -3/2 \leftrightarrow -1/2), \pm v_0(3\cos^2\theta - 1) \text{ (for } m = 5/2 \leftrightarrow$ 3/2 and $-5/2 \leftrightarrow -3/2$), and $\pm \frac{3}{2}\nu_0(3\cos^2\theta - 1)$ (for m = $7/2 \leftrightarrow 5/2$ and $-7/2 \leftrightarrow -5/2$). It is noted that the spacing between the lines of the spectrum for $\theta = 0$ is twice that for $\theta = \pi/2$, producing the spectrum for $\theta = 0$ almost two times wider than for $\theta = \pi/2$. The observed ⁵⁹Co NMR spectra show the clear seven distinct lines above 250 K as expected, and were well reproduced by simulated spectra (red lines) from the simple Hamiltonian with $\nu_{\rm Q} = 0.9 \,\text{MHz}$, which is found to be independent of temperature at least above \sim 200 K. From the spectrum analysis where θ is found to be 0 and $\pi/2$ for $H \parallel c$ and $H \parallel ab$, respectively, it is clear that the principal axis of the EFG at the Co site is along the c axis. This is consistent with the local tetragonal symmetry (4mm)of the Co ions in the crystal.

As shown in Fig. 1, with decreasing temperatures, each line becomes broader due to inhomogeneous magnetic broadening and the spectra show no clear feature of the quadrupolar split lines below ~200 K. At the same time, nuclear spin-spin relaxation time T_2 becomes shorter at low temperatures. Those make NMR spectrum measurements difficult below ~200 K. It is noted that the two-peak structure observed at 225 K for $H \parallel ab$ is due to the shorter T_2 of the central transition lines than the satellite lines, making the difference in the signal intensity between the experimental and the simulated results around the center of the spectra. Similar double peak structure has been observed in ⁵¹V NMR spectra in the AFM compound YVO₃ [39] and also in the kagome staircase compound Ni₃V₂O₈ [40].

Figure 1(c) shows the T dependence of the 59 Co-NMR shift for $H \parallel ab$ plane (⁵⁹ K_{ab}) and $H \parallel c$ axis (⁵⁹ K_c) determined from the simulated spectra, where both ${}^{59}K_{ab}$ and ${}^{59}K_c$ decrease on lowering temperature. The NMR shift consists of temperature-dependent spin shift $K_s(T)$ and T-independent orbital shift K_0 ; $K(T) = K_s(T) + K_0$ where $K_s(T)$ is proportional to the spin part of magnetic susceptibility $\chi_s(T)$ via hyperfine coupling constant A, $K_s(T) = \frac{A\chi_s(T)}{N_A}$. Here N_A is Avogadro's number. The hyperfine coupling constants are estimated to be $A_{ab}^{Co} = (-57.6 \pm 4.2) \text{ kOe}/\mu_B/\text{Co}$ and $A_c^{Co} =$ (-68.9 ± 3.5) kOe/ $\mu_{\rm B}$ /Co from the slopes of the so-called $K-\chi$ plot shown in Fig. 1(d). These values are smaller than a typical value $A = -105 \text{ kOe}/\mu_{\text{B}}$ for 3d electron core polarization [41]. Similar reductions in the hyperfine coupling constant have been observed in several Co compounds [6,42-44]. As discussed in Refs. [42-44], the small values could be due to anisotropic and positive orbital and/or dipolar hyperfine coupling contributions which cancel a part of the negative core polarization hyperfine field. K_0 are estimated to be ${}^{59}K_{0,ab} = 0.33 \%$ and ${}^{59}K_{0,c} = 0.21 \%$, for $H \parallel ab$ and $H \parallel c$, respectively.

B. ³¹P NMR spectrum

Typical field-swept ³¹P-NMR spectra at a frequency of f = 113 MHz at several temperatures for $H \parallel ab$ plane (black lines) and $H \parallel c$ axis (red lines) are shown in Fig. 2(a). Although the NMR line is relatively sharp at high temperatures, the spectra broaden with decreasing temperatures and become asymmetric. Since ³¹P nucleus has I = 1/2, the asymmetry of the line cannot be due to quadrupole interaction. In addition, we used a single crystal for our measurements. Therefore, the asymmetric shape indicates the distribution of the local internal field at the P sites, suggesting the inhomogeneity of Co magnetic moments.

As shown in Fig. 2(b), the values of full-width at half maximum (FWHM) of the spectra for both magnetic field directions increase with decreasing temperature, but both FWHMs are nearly constant below $T_{\rm N}$. Similar results have been reported previously [32]. Those results indicate that the inhomogeneity of the Co magnetic moments does not show any increase although the magnetic susceptibility keeps increasing down to $T^* \sim 32-36$ K.

Figure 2(c) represents the *T* dependence of NMR shift for both magnetic fields $H \parallel ab$ plane (${}^{31}K_{ab}$) and $H \parallel c$ axis (${}^{31}K_c$). Here we determine the NMR shifts from the peak position of the spectrum. With decreasing temperature, both NMR shifts increase and show kinks at T_N . To check the magnetic field dependence of the NMR shift in the PM state, we have measured ${}^{31}K_{ab}$ and ${}^{31}K_c$ around 1 T using a resonance frequency of f = 17.235 MHz. No obvious magnetic field dependence of the NMR shift in the PM state has been observed within our experimental uncertainty, as shown in Fig. 2(c). Similar to the case of 59 Co NMR shift, from $K \cdot \chi$ plot analysis, the hyperfine coupling constants at the P site surrounded by four Co ions are estimated to be $A_{ab}^{P} = (5.33 \pm 0.30) \text{ kOe}/\mu_{B}/\text{Co}$ and $A_c^{P} = (3.53 \pm 0.17) \text{ kOe}/\mu_{B}/\text{Co}$ for $H \parallel ab$ and $H \parallel c$, respectively [see Fig. 2(d)]. These values are consistent with the previous report [32]. The orbital shifts

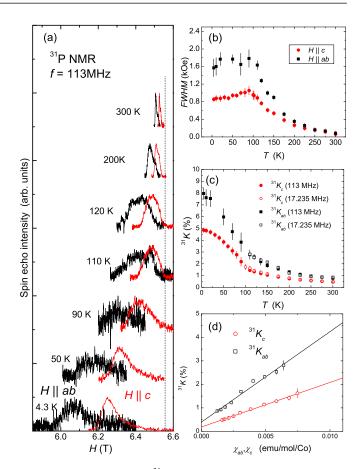


FIG. 2. (a) Field-swept ³¹P-NMR spectra at a frequency of f = 113 MHz at various temperatures for magnetic fields parallel to the c axis (red) and to the ab plane (black). The vertical dashed black line represents the zero-shift position (³¹K = 0). (b) T dependence of FWHM for $H \parallel c$ and $H \parallel ab$. (c) T dependence of the ³¹P-NMR shifts ³¹ K_{ab} (black) and ³¹ K_c (red) at f = 113 MHz (closed symbols) and 17.235 MHz (open symbols). (d) K- χ plots for $H \parallel ab$ plane (black) and $H \parallel c$ axis (red) above T_N . Here we used K data measured at 17.235 MHz and χ data from Ref. [35]. The solid lines are fitting results.

are estimated to be ${}^{31}K_{0,ab} = (0.41 \pm 0.06) \%$ and ${}^{31}K_{0,c} = (0.18 \pm 0.02) \%$, respectively.

C. Magnetic fluctuations in the paramagnetic state

To investigate the magnetic fluctuations in CaCo₂P₂, we have measured the ³¹P spin-lattice relaxation rate $(1/T_1)$ at the peak position of the spectra for both magnetic field directions. Figure 3 shows the temperature dependence of $1/T_1$, where $1/T_1$ increases with decreasing temperature from 300 K to T_N and exhibits a clear peak corresponding to the AFM ordering at $T_N = 110$ K. In the AFM state, $1/T_1$ for both magnetic field directions is proportional to T, consistent with the metallic state shown by electrical resistivity measurements [35].

Based on the T_1 and the spin part of the Knight shift (K_s) data, we discuss the magnetic fluctuations in the PM state. First, we tentatively employ the modified Korringa ratio analysis, similar to ACo_2As_2 (A = Sr, Ba) [6] and iron pnictide superconductors [7]. In Fermi liquid picture, $1/T_1T$ and K_s are determined by the density of states at the Fermi energy

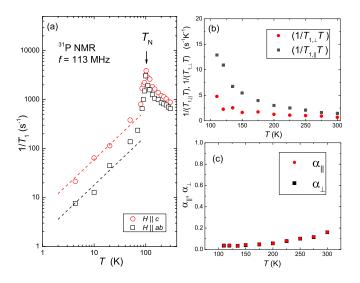


FIG. 3. (a) *T* dependence of $1/T_1$ for both magnetic field $H \parallel c$ (open circles) and $H \parallel ab$ (open squares). The dotted lines represent $1/T_1 \propto T$ behavior observed in the AFM state. (b) *T* dependence of $1/(T_{1,\perp}T)$ for fluctuations in the *ab* plane (black) and $1/(T_{1,\parallel}T)$ along the *c* axis. (c) *T* dependence of the parameter α_{\perp} for spin correlations in the *ab* plane (black) and α_{\parallel} along the *c* axis.

 $\mathcal{D}(E_{\rm F})$. The T_1 has relation with $K_{\rm s}$ that can be described as $T_1 T K_s^2 = (\hbar/4\pi k_B)(\gamma_e/\gamma_n)^2 \equiv S$. Here γ_e is electronic gyromagnetic ratio. The Korringa ratio $\alpha \equiv S/T_1TK_s$ between an experimental value of $T_1TK_s^2$ and the noninteracting electron system S can reveal information about electron correlations in materials [45,46]. For uncorrelated electrons, we have $\alpha \sim 1$. However, enhancement of $\chi \ (q \neq 0)$ increases $1/T_1T$ but has little or no effect on K_s , which probes only the uniform χ (q = 0). Thus $\alpha > 1$ for AFM correlations and $\alpha < 1$ for FM correlations. Since $1/T_1T$ probes magnetic fluctuations perpendicular to the magnetic field [46], it is natural to consider the Korringa ratio $1/(T_{1,\perp}TK_{s,ab}^2)$, where $1/(T_{1,\perp}T) = 1/(T_1T)_{H||c}$, when examining the character of magnetic fluctuations in the *ab* plane. We also consider the Korringa ratio $1/(T_{1,||}TK_{s,c}^2)$ for magnetic fluctuations along the c axis. Here, $1/(T_{1,\parallel}T)$ is estimated from $2/(T_1T)_{H\parallel ab}$ – $1/(T_1T)_{H||c}$. The temperature dependences of $1/(T_{1,\perp}T)$ and $1/(T_{1,\parallel}T)$ above T_N are shown in Fig. 3(b). The calculated α_{\parallel} and α_{\perp} are shown in Fig. 3(c). α_{\parallel} and α_{\perp} decrease from ~ 0.2 at 300 K to less than 0.05 around 110 K, indicating dominant FM spin correlations between Co spins in the compound. Furthermore, no clear difference between α_{\parallel} and α_{\perp} suggests that the FM fluctuations are nearly isotropic. The lowest values of α_{\parallel} and α_{\perp} are almost comparable, or slightly smaller than those in BaCo₂As₂ and SrCo₂As₂ in which FM fluctuations have been reported [6,47].

It should be noted that, however, the Korringa analysis usually applies for PM materials where electron-electron interaction is weak. Since CaCo₂P₂ exhibits an AFM order in contrast to SrCo₂As₂ and BaCo₂As₂, we also analyze NMR data based on self-consistent renormalization (SCR) theory, as Imai *et al.* have performed [32]. As shown above, the magnetic fluctuations are governed by FM spin correlations. In this case, according to SCR theory for weak itinerant ferromagnets, $1/T_1T$ is proportional to K_8 or to $K_8^{3/2}$ for

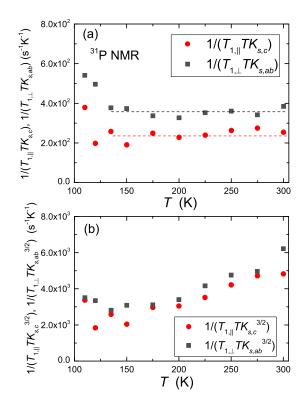


FIG. 4. (a) T dependence of $1/(T_{1,\parallel}TK_{s,c})$ (red) and $1/(T_{1,\perp}TK_{s,ab})$ (black). The broken lines are guides for the eye. (b) T dependence of $1/(T_{1,\parallel}TK_{s,c}^{3/2})$ (red) and $1/(T_{1,\perp}TK_{s,ab}^{3/2})$ (black).

3D or two-dimensional (2D) ferrromagnetic spin fluctuations, respectively [48,49]. Figures 4(a) and 4(b) show the *T* dependence of $1/(T_1TK_s)$ and $1/(T_1TK_s^{3/2})$ for the two directions, respectively. Both $1/(T_{1,\parallel}TK_{s,c})$ and $1/(T_{1,\perp}TK_{s,ab})$ are nearly constant in the temperature region of 150–300 K and show increases below ~150 K, while both $1/(T_{1,\parallel}TK_{s,c}^{3/2})$ and $1/(T_{1,\perp}TK_{s,ab}^{3/2})$ increase with increasing temperature above 150 K. This clearly indicates that the FM spin fluctuations are characterized by 3D in nature. The deviation from the 3D FM behavior below 150 K may suggest a change in dimensionality of the FM spin correlations from 3D to 2D as can be inferred from the nearly constant behavior below ~ 150 K shown in Fig. 4(b), or is due to an additional contribution from AFM fluctuations close to the *A*-type AFM ordering temperature $T_N = 110$ K.

D. ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P zero-field NMR in the antiferromagnetic state

Figure 5 shows ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR spectra in the AFMordered state under zero magnetic field at several temperatures up to 50 K. We could not measure the spectra at higher temperatures close to T_N due to the reduction of the signal intensity, which probably originates from shortenings of T_2 . The spectra consist of two broad peaks around 20 MHz and 24 MHz at 4.2 K. Although the peak around 24 MHz is weak, it is clearly distinguishable and can be observed more clearly at higher temperatures such as 10 K–30 K as shown in Fig. 5. The broad peak around 20 MHz is assigned to ⁵⁹Co zero-field NMR (ZF-NMR), which does not show any clear

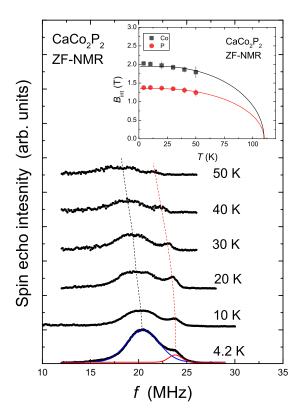


FIG. 5. *T* dependence of ZF-NMR spectrum. At 4.2 K, the blue and red curves represent the ⁵⁹Co ZF-NMR and ³¹P ZF-NMR spectra, respectively. The inset shows the *T* dependence of the internal magnetic induction $|B_{int}|$ of the ⁵⁹Co site (black) and the ³¹P site (red).

quadrupolare splitting due to the inhomogeneous magnetic broadening as has been observed in the PM state. The weak signal around 24 MHz is attributed to ³¹P ZF-NMR, as discussed below. The large difference in the signal intensities for the two signals is due to the measurement condition which optimizes the signal intensity for ⁵⁹Co ZF-NMR. Since the ZF-NMR spectrum originates from the Co-ordered magnetic moments, the observation of the ZF-NMR signals is again direct evidence of the magnetic ordered state below T_N .

From the spectrum, the internal magnetic induction $|B_{int}^{Co}|$ for ⁵⁹Co is estimated to be 2.0 T at 4.2 K. B_{int}^{Co} is proportional to $A_{hf}\langle\mu\rangle$, where A_{hf} is the hyperfine coupling constant and $\langle\mu\rangle$ is the ordered Co magnetic moment. Using $B_{int}^{Co} = -2.0$ T, where the negative sign is reasonably assumed and $A_{ab}^{Co} = (-57.6 \pm 4.2) \text{ kOe}/\mu_{\rm B}/\text{Co}, \langle\mu\rangle$ is estimated to be 0.35 $\mu_{\rm B}$, which is in good agreement with 0.32 $\mu_{\rm B}$ reported by the ND measurement [36] and slightly smaller than 0.4 $\mu_{\rm B}$ from μ SR measurements [50]. Here we used the hyperfine coupling constant for the *ab* plane direction since the Co moments are in the *ab* plane as will be shown below.

In the case of ³¹P ZF-NMR, the internal magnetic induction $|B_{int}^{P}|$ for ³¹P is estimated to be 1.4 T at 4.2 K. From $A_{ab}^{P} = (5.33 \pm 0.30) \text{ kOe}/\mu_{B}/\text{Co}, \langle \mu \rangle$ is estimated to be 0.65 μ_{B} , which is much greater than the reported values and also the estimated value from the Co NMR data. At present, the reason for the estimated large value from ³¹P NMR results is not clear, but it may suggest that the A_{ab}^{P} in the AFM

state is slightly greater than that in the PM state. This would be possible if one considers the effects of the next-nearestneighbor (NNN) Co spins which are assumed to produce a negative hyperfine field at the P site. Since in the AFM state, the direction of NNN Co spins is antiparallel to that of the nearest-neighbor (NN) Co spins, one expects a positive hyperfine field at the P sites from the NNN Co spins, which increases the positive hyperfine field produced by the NN Co spins. Assuming $\langle \mu \rangle = 0.32 \,\mu_{\rm B}$ (Ref. [36]), we thus estimate a ~25% additional contribution of the hyperfine field from the NNN Co spins to the total hyperfine field at the P site.

The temperature dependences of $|B_{int}^{Co}|$ and $|B_{int}^{P}|$ are shown in the inset of Fig. 5, where both show smooth decreases with increasing temperature without any anomalies around $T^* \sim 32-36$ K where the magnetic susceptibility shows a maximum. This indicates that the reduction of χ below T^* is not due to a change in the magnitude of the Co-ordered moments at T^* . The temperature dependences of $|B_{int}^{Co}|$ and $|B_{int}^{P}|$ are well reproduced by a Brillouin function which was calculated based on the Weiss molecular field model with S = 3/2 for Co²⁺, $T_N = 110$ K, $|B_{int}^{Co}| = 2.0$ T, and $B_{int}^{P} =$ 1.4 T at T = 4.2 K [solid curves in the inset of Fig. 5]. These results indicate that the magnetic state of the Co ions is well explained by the local-moment picture although the system is metallic as determined from electrical resistivity measurements [35] and also from $1/T_1T =$ const behavior in the AFM state.

E. ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR in the antiferromagnetic state

Now we show the external field dependence of ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR spectra in the AFM state at 4.2 K. Figures 6(a) and 6(b) show frequency-swept ⁵⁹Co NMR and ³¹P NMR spectrum, respectively, measured under several external magnetic fields with the two different directions $H \parallel c$ and $H \parallel ab$. In AFM state, one expects a splitting of NMR line when external magnetic field is applied along magnetic easy axis, while only shifting of NMR line without splitting is expected when His applied perpendicular to the magnetic easy axis, for Hsmaller than magnetocrystalline anisotropy field. On the other hand, when H is greater than magnetocrystalline anisotropy field, magnetic moments change the direction perpendicular to H, known as spin flop. As shown in Fig. 6(a), no splitting of the ⁵⁹Co NMR line is observed less than $\sim 0.1 \text{ T}$ for the two magnetic field directions. This indicates that the magnetic anisotropy field of the Co magnetic moments is less 0.1 T and the application of magnetic field makes a spin flop very easily. In fact, as shown in the inset of Fig. 7, the magnetization vs external magnetic field plot exhibits very similar behavior for both magnetic field directions, suggesting the very weak magnetic anisotropy, although metamagneticlike behaviors are observed around 2.1 T and 5.1 T for $H \parallel c$ and around 1.6 T and 5.1 T for $H \perp c$.

Figure 7 shows the external field dependence of resonance frequencies (f_{res}) for frequency-swept ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR spectra determined from the peak position of each spectrum. We also measured magnetic field-swept ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR spectra at several constant resonance frequencies above around 2 T [see Figs. 6(c) and 6(d)] whose results are also plotted in Fig. 7. The f_{res} s are nearly constant below

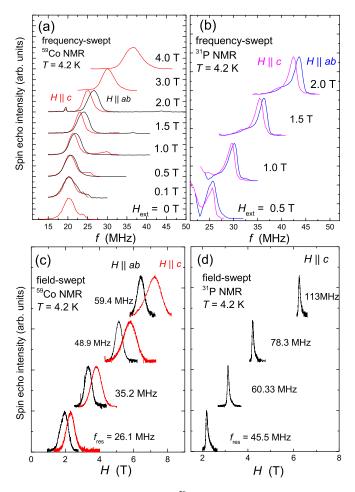


FIG. 6. (a) Frequency-swept ⁵⁹Co-NMR spectra at T = 4.2 K under several magnetic fields parallel to the *c* axis (red) and to the *ab* plane (black). (b) Similar frequency-swept ³¹P-NMR spectra under magnetic fields at T = 4.2 K [*H* || *c* axis (pink) and *H* || *ab* plane (blue)]. It is noted that the signals below ~23 MHz for $H_{\text{ext}} = 0.5$ T originate from ⁵⁹Co NMR. (c) Field-swept ⁵⁹Co-NMR spectra for $H \parallel c$ axis (red) and $H \parallel ab$ plane (black). (d) Field-swept ³¹P-NMR spectra for $H \parallel c$ axis.

1 T and increase gradually with increasing *H*. The resonance frequency is proportional to an effective field (H_{eff}) which is the vector sum of the internal magnetic induction $\mathbf{B}_{\text{int}}^{\text{Co}}$ and the external field **H**, i.e., $|\mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}}| = |\mathbf{B}_{\text{int}}^{\text{Co}} + \mathbf{H}|$. Therefore, the resonance frequency f_{res} is expressed as

$$f_{\rm res} = \frac{\gamma_{\rm n}}{2\pi} H_{\rm eff} = \frac{\gamma_{\rm n}}{2\pi} \sqrt{H^2 + B_{\rm int}^2 + 2HB_{\rm int}\sin\theta'}.$$
 (3)

Here θ' is the canting angle of the Co-ordered moment from the perpendicular direction with respect to the external magnetic field [see Fig. 8(b)], which can be expressed as $\theta' = \sin^{-1}(M/M_s)$ where M_s is the saturation of magnetization.

From the magnetization curves from Ref. [35] shown in the inset of Fig. 7, we calculated the external field dependence of $\sin\theta' = M/M_s$ for $H \parallel c$ and $H \parallel ab$, where we used $M_s = 0.32 \,\mu_B$ [36]. Using $B_{\rm int}^{\rm Co} = -2.0$ T, one can calculate the external field dependence of the resonance frequency. The black and red solid lines representing the calculated H dependence of $f_{\rm res}$ for ⁵⁹Co NMR under the two magnetic

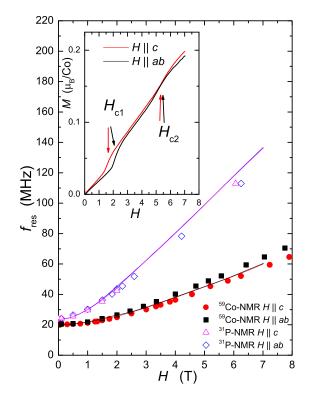


FIG. 7. *H* dependence of resonance frequency ($f_{\rm res}$) for both nuclei ⁵⁹Co (closed symbols) and ³¹P (open symbols). $f_{\rm res}$ s are mainly determined from the frequency-swept NMR spectra and the *H*-swept NMR spectra below and above ~3 T, respectively. The black (red) and the blue (pink) curves are calculated results for ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR for $H \parallel ab$ ($H \parallel c$), respectively. The two curves for each nucleus are nearly same. Inset: Magnetization curves at 2 K for both magnetic field directions from Ref. [35]. Note that metamagneticlike behaviors are observed at $H_{c1} \sim 2.1 \text{ T} (1.6 \text{ T})$ and $H_{c2} \sim 5.1 \text{ T} (5.1 \text{ T})$ for $H \parallel c$ ($H \parallel ab$).

field directions reproduce experimental results relatively well. Here we assumed the internal magnetic induction is isotropic for simplicity since the ⁵⁹Co hyperfine coupling constant estimated above is nearly isotropic. No clear anomalies due to the metamagneticlike behavior around 2 T are observed in the external field dependence of the resonance frequencies for not only experimental results but also in the calculated one. Assuming the metamagneticlike behavior originates from a change in the direction of the magnetization (or the Coordered moments), the changes are estimated to be $\sim 5^{\circ}$ along the magnetic field direction from the magnetization data, which cannot be detected within our experimental uncertainty. Similar to the ⁵⁹Co NMR, the external field dependence of resonance frequency for ³¹P NMR can be reasonably reproduced by Eq. (3) using $B_{int}^{P} = 1.4 \text{ T}$ obtained from ³¹P ZF-NMR as shown by the blue and pink curves.

Figure 8(a) shows the *H* dependence of FWHM of ⁵⁹Co NMR spectra for $H \parallel c$ and $H \parallel ab$. The filled and open symbols represent the results from the frequency-swept and field-swept ⁵⁹Co-NMR spectra, respectively. In the case of the field-swept NMR spectrum, the plotted values are reduced by a factor of 1.4 to match the results from the frequency-swept NMR measurement. This is due to the fact that the field-swept

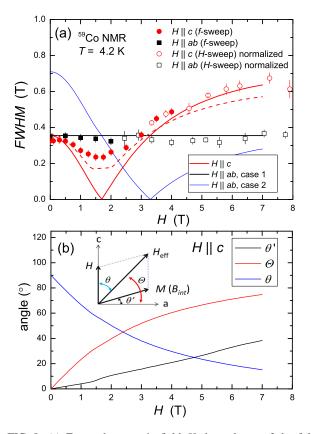


FIG. 8. (a) External magnetic field *H* dependence of the fullwidth at half maximum (FWHM) of the field-swept ⁵⁹Co-NMR spectrum for magnetic fields $H \parallel c$ axis (red) and $H \parallel ab$ plane (black). The curves are calculated results (see text). (b) *H* dependence of angles θ' , Θ and θ for the case of $H \parallel c$ axis. Here we used the magnetization data measured at T = 2 K. Inset: Schematic view of the angles θ' , Θ , and θ . Note that the direction of B_{int} for Co is antiparallel to that of the magnetization *M* while that for P is parallel to the *M*.

NMR spectrum measurements give rise to greater FWHM than those of the frequency-swept NMR spectra because the slope of $f_{\rm res}$ vs H is less than the value of $\gamma_n/2\pi$. It is noted that one cannot estimate the FWHM of the ⁵⁹Co-NMR spectrum at low magnetic fields less than ~1 T by sweeping magnetic field. Although the values of FWHM from the fieldswept NMR spectra are slightly greater, the intrinsic behavior of the H dependence of FWHM is not affected, as actually be seen in the $H \parallel c$ data in the magnetic field region of H = 2-4 T, where both data sets exhibit the same magnetic field dependence.

As shown in Fig. 8(a), FWHM ~0.36 T is nearly independent of H for $H \parallel ab$. On the other hand, in the case of $H \parallel c$, with increasing H the FWHM decreases gradually and shows a local minimum around 1.6 T and then starts to increase. No change in the FWHM for $H \parallel ab$ indicates that the degree of the inhomogeneous magnetic broadening is independent of H. Therefore, it is clear that the characteristic behavior of FWHM for $H \parallel c$ is not due to the magnetic broadening effect. Here we attribute it to the effects of quadrupole splitting of the spectrum. As described in Sec. III A, the FWHM depends on θ as FWHM $\propto |3\cos^2\theta - 1|$, where θ is the angle between the principal axis of the EFG and the quantization axis of nuclear spin (H_{eff}). When *H* is applied along the *c* axis (i.e., parallel to the principal axis of the EFG) in the AFM state, the angle θ changes by the application of magnetic field [see Fig. 8(b)]. When *H* is very small compared with B_{int} , θ is close to 90°. With increasing *H*, θ decreases and becomes close to 54.7° where FWHM is expected to be a minimum. With further increase of *H*, θ will be decreased and eventually becomes close to zero, resulting in spectrum twice broader compared with that for $\theta = 90^\circ$. This scenario, the change in θ with *H*, qualitatively explains the *H* dependence of FWHM.

To analyze the experimental results more quantitatively, we have calculated the H dependence of FWHM. In the case of $H \parallel c$, utilizing θ' estimated from the magnetization data, one can easily calculate the H dependence of Θ which is the angle between the direction of H_{eff} and the *ab* plane, and thus also the angle θ between the *c* axis and H_{eff} corresponding to the quantization axis for nuclear spin. The calculated Hdependences of Θ , θ , and θ' for $H \parallel c$ are shown in Fig. 8(b) for T = 2 K. We simply assumed that the FWHM can be written as FWHM = $a|3\cos^2\theta - 1|$. The solid red curve in Fig. 8(a) shows the calculated result with a = 0.36 T, which reproduces the experimental data well, although one can see the deviation around 1.5 T. The deviation can be due to inhomogeneous magnetic broadening of each line and also a misalignment between the H and the c axis since the simple model does not take such effects into consideration. In fact, if we take the magnetic broadening of each line (0.1 T) and the misalignment of 5°, one can reproduce the results a little bit better as shown by the red dashed line. In the case of $H \parallel ab$, the nearly constant FWHM ~ 0.36 T can be also well reproduced with a = 0.36 T and $\theta = 90^{\circ}$, as shown by the solid black line (case 1) in Fig. 8. This indicates that $H_{\rm eff}$ is always in the *ab* plane, keeping $\theta = 90^{\circ}$, and the spin flip occurs in the *ab* plane. If one assumes that the Co-ordered moments flip to the c-axis direction when H is applied in the *ab* plane, the FWHM should depend on *H* as shown by the solid blue curve (case 2), which clearly contradicts with the experimental results. Thus, these results indicate the ab plane is the magnetic easy plane. As the *ab*-plane magnetization starts to increase from nearly zero H, similar to the case of the *c*-axis magnetization as shown in the inset of Fig. 7, the in-plane magnetic anisotropy is considered to be also very weak. To study the details of the characteristic properties of the magnetic anisotropy in CaCo₂P₂, it is important and highly required to measure the magnetization for both magnetic field directions in detail at low magnetic fields below 0.1 T. This is the future project. The FWHM (~ 0.36 T) of the ⁵⁹Co ZF-NMR corresponds to the case for $\theta = 90^{\circ}$. This evidences that the Co-ordered moments are in the *ab* plane at zero magnetic field, again consistent with the ND results [36].

F. Magnetic phase diagram

Figure 9 summarizes the magnetic phase diagram of CaCo₂P₂ for $H \parallel ab$, based on the present ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR studies and also the previous magnetization measurements [35]. Under zero magnetic field, the system is the A-type AFM state below $T_{\rm N} = 110$ K, where the Co-ordered moments are in the ab plane.

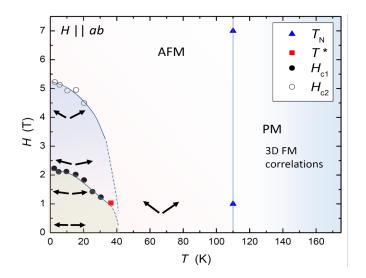


FIG. 9. External magnetic field *H*-temperature magnetic phase diagram for $H \parallel ab$ plane. H_{c1} , H_{c2} , and T^* are from Ref. [35].

When *H* is applied in the *ab* plane, the Co-ordered moments flop immediately to make the perpendicular configuration between it and *H*, and then cant along the *H* direction with increasing *H*, producing the linear increase of the magnetization with increasing *H* as actually observed (see Fig. 6). When *H* reaches H_{c1} , the canting angle θ' jumps by ~5 degree at H_{c1} at 2 K, producing the metamagnetic behavior in the magnetization curve. With further increasing *H*, the θ' keeps increasing with a small jump at H_{c2} with a change of the canting angle less than ~4 degree at 2 K.

In the case of $H \parallel c$, with increasing H the canting angle θ' increases, similar to the case of $H \parallel ab$ although no spin flop occurs because of the perpendicular configuration between the Co-ordered moments and H at the initial condition. With further increase of H, the canting angle jumps slightly at H_{c1} and H_{c2} similar to the case of $H \parallel ab$, producing again the metamagnetic behavior in the magnetization curve. The changes in θ' are close to \sim 4 degree for each jump. The similar slopes in the magnetization curves for H parallel and perpendicular to the c axis indicate that the in-plane and out-of-plane magnetic anisotropies are nearly the same.

Finally, we would like to comment on the reduction of the magnetic susceptibility below T^* . It is evidenced that, from the temperature dependence of B_{int} , there is no significant change in the magnitude of the Co-ordered moment below T^* . Therefore, the reduction of the magnetic susceptibility below T^* cannot be due to a reduction of the Co-ordered moments. In addition, we do not observe any anomaly around T^* in the temperature dependence of ⁵⁹Co T_1 under zero magnetic field (not shown), suggesting no obvious phase transition at T^* . Our interpretation is that the canting angle decreases below T^* . This corresponds to a reduction of the relative angle of the

ferromagnetically ordered Co moments between the adjacent Co layers, making a decrease in the magnetic susceptibility as has been observed at T^* in CaCo₂P₂.

IV. SUMMARY

We have reported a comprehensive study of ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR measurements in external magnetic field and zero magnetic field in the PM and the AFM states in the A-type AFM CaCo₂P₂ with a Néel temperature of $T_N \sim 110$ K. The AFM transition has been confirmed from NMR data, especially, the relaxation rates $1/T_1$ exhibiting a clear peak at at T_N . The magnetic fluctuations in the PM state were found to be 3D FM from the analysis of NMR data, suggesting FM interaction between Co spins in the *ab* plane characterize the spin correlations in the PM state. In the AFM state below $T_{\rm N}$, we have observed ⁵⁹Co and ³¹P NMR signals under zero magnetic field. The analysis of ⁵⁹Co ZF-NMR spectrum and also the external field dependence of FWHM of ⁵⁹Co NMR spectrum, the Co-ordered moments are found to be in the *ab* plane and are estimated to be 0.35 $\mu_{\rm B}$ at 4.2 K. The behaviors of spin canting of the Co-ordered moments produced by the application of external magnetic field have been clearly observed from a microscopic point of view based on the H dependence of FWHM. Furthermore, the external field dependence of ⁵⁹Co NMR spectrum in the AFM state suggests a very weak magnetic anisotropy of the Co ions. The magnetic state of the Co ions in CaCo₂P₂ is well explained by the local-moment picture in the AFM state without showing any anomalies at $T^* = 32-36$ K, where magnetic susceptibility exhibits a maximum. This indicates that the magnitude of the Co-ordered moments does not change at T^* . We attributed the reduction of χ below T^* to the decrease in the canting angle of the Co ordered moments. The scenario also reasonably explains the metamagneticlike behavior observed in the magnetization curves. At present, however, the origin of the change in the canting angle at T^* and also H_{c1} and H_{c2} is not clear. Further studies, especially theoretical works, are highly required to shed light on the peculiar magnetic properties of $CaCo_2P_2$.

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