

# Magnetic Structure and Magnetocaloric Properties of LaMn<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub>

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The extensive set of ternary intermetallic RMn<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub> compounds (R = rare earth, T = transitional metal, X = Ge or Si) have been investigated extensively in the past few decades due to their interesting range of physical properties [e.g. 1-3]. Recently, significant attention has been paid to the magnetocaloric effect (MCE) of RMn<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub> compounds for their potential application in magnetic refrigeration. Their MCE properties are important as RMn<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub> compounds enable a wide range of structural and magnetic behaviours and related transitions to be controlled via substitution of R, Mn, and X atoms on the 2a, 4d, and 4e sites respectively [e.g. 4-7].

We have carried out a detailed investigation of the LaMn<sub>2</sub>Ge<sub>2</sub> compound using neutron diffraction and magnetic measurements, focusing on the magnetic behaviour of the Mn-sublattice. With decreasing temperature, the magnetic state changes from paramagnetism to incommensurate canted antiferromagnetism AF<sub>c</sub> at T<sub>N</sub> ~ 360 K and then gives way to incommensurate canted ferromagnetism F<sub>mi</sub> below T<sub>C</sub> ~ 323 K. No obvious magnetoelastic coupling were detected from refinement of the variable neutron diffraction patterns (5 K - 450 K) while detailed analyses of magnetic data indicate that the magnetic phase transition is second order. Under magnetic field changes of 2 T and 8 T, the maximum values of the magnetic entropy change (-ΔT<sub>ASM</sub> max) around T<sub>C</sub> reach 1.65 J/kg K and 4.42 J/kg K, respectively.

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## Speakers Gender

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## Level of Expertise

Expert

## Do you wish to take part in the poster slam

No

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