## Abstract Submitted for the MAR08 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Magnetic phase separation in  $LaMn_{1-x}Fe_xO_{3+y}^{-1}$  O.F. DE LIMA, Instituto de Fisica Gleb Wataghin, UNICAMP, Campinas, J.A.H. COAQUIRA, R.L. DE ALMEIDA, L.B. DE CARVALHO, S.K. MALIK, Centro Internacional de Fisica da Materia Condensada, UnB, Brasilia — We have investigated the  $LaMn_{1-x}Fe_xO_{3+y}$  system in the whole range of  $0 \le x \le 1$ , for polycrystalline samples prepared by solid state reaction in air. All samples show orthorhombic structure (space group Pnma). For x=0 the oxygen excess, estimated to be  $v \sim 0.1$ , produces vacancies in the La and Mn sites and generates a fraction around 20% of  $Mn^{4+}$  ions  $(3t_{2g})$  and 80% of the usual Mn<sup>3+</sup> ions  $(3t_{2g}, 1e_g)$ , with possible double exchange interaction between them. The Fe-doping in this system is known to produce only stable  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ions  $(3t_{2q}, 2e_q)$ . We find an evolution from a fairly strong ferromagnetic (FM) behavior, with saturation magnetization (T=2K)  $m_S \sim 4 \mu_B$  and Curie temperature  $T_c \sim 160$  K, for x=0, to an antiferromagnetic (AFM) behavior, with  $T_N=790$  K, for x=1. For intermediate Fe contents a mixed phase scenario occurs, with a gradual decrease (increase) of the FM (AFM) phase, accompanied by a systematic transition broadening for 0.2 < x < 0.7. A calculation based on the expected exchange interaction among the various magnetic-ion types, accounts very well for the  $m_S$  dependence on Fe doping.

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