Abstract Submitted
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Discovery of a novel smectic-C* liquid crystal phase with six-layer periodicity\(^1\) SHUN WANG, LIDONG PAN, University of Minnesota, RONALD PINDAK, NSLS, BNL, ZENGQIANG LIU, St. Cloud State University, TINH NGUYEN, Centre de Recherche Paul Pascal, CNRS, Universite Bordeaux I, CHENG-CHER HUANG, University of Minnesota — We report the discovery of a new SmC\(^*\)\(_{d6}\) liquid crystal phase with six-layer periodicity by resonant x-ray diffraction. Upon cooling, the new phase appears between the SmC\(^*\)\(_{a}\) phase having a helical structure and the SmC\(^*\)\(_{d4}\) phase with four-layer periodicity. This SmC\(^*\)\(_{d6}\) phase was identified in two mixtures which have an unusual reversed SmC\(^*\)\(_{d4}\)-SmC\(^*\) phase sequence. The SmC\(^*\)\(_{d6}\) phase shows a distorted clock structure. The existence of phases having liquid-like in-plane ordering with a “long-range” lock-in periodicity (now being extended to six layers) is one of the long-lasting questions in condensed matter. Major efforts are required to address the physical origin of long-range interactions and novel physical properties of the SmC\(^*\)\(_{d6}\) phase.

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