Synthesis, Crystal Structure, and Magnetism of the New UIr$_4$Al$_{15}$ Compound

PAUL TOBASH, FILIP RONNING, JOE THOMPSON, ERIC BAUER, Los Alamos National Laboratory — We report on single-crystals of a new compound grown from Al flux, UIr$_4$Al$_{15}$, crystallizing in the NdRh$_4$Al$_{15.4}$ type structure in the tetragonal space group $P4_2/nmc$ (No. 137) with unit cell parameters $a = 9.0239(6)$ Å and $c = 15.513(2)$ Å. The crystal structure of the compound was established from single-crystal X-ray diffraction and was found to be void of any crystallographic disorder. The U atoms center a polyhedron with the coordination number of each U atom being 20. The physical properties of UIr$_4$Al$_{15}$ were measured which included magnetic susceptibility, specific heat, and electrical resistivity. The compound was found to undergo long-range antiferromagnetic order at $T_N = 20$ K with a Sommerfeld coefficient extrapolated in the antiferromagnetically ordered state of ca. 42 mJ/mol-K$^2$. The physical properties suggest that UIr$_4$Al$_{15}$ may be an itinerant antiferromagnet. The compound belongs to a series of isostructural compounds, and preliminary results indicate that Th, La, Ce, Pr, Sm, Yb, and Lu analogues can be synthesized under identical conditions.

Paul Tobash
Los Alamos National Laboratory

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