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Competition between Spin Nematic and Spin Density Wave Orders in Spatially Anisotropic Frustrated Magnets in Magnetic Fields

MASAHIRO SATO, Department of Physics and Mathematics, Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan, TOSHIYA HIKIHARA, Faculty of Engineering, Gunma University, Japan, TSUTOMU MOMOI, Condensed Matter Theory Laboratory, RIKEN, Japan — Magnetic multipolar order including spin nematic order is one of the current topics in frustrated magnetism. Recently, frustrated spin chains with ferromagnetic nearest-neighbor coupling J_1 and antiferromagnetic next-nearest-neighbor one J_2 have been theoretically shown to exhibit multipolar quasi long-range orders in the wide region of J_1/J_2 as an external magnetic field is applied. In addition, it is known that several kinds of quasi one-dimensional cuprates can be described by this J_1 - J_2 spin chain. Particularly, a recent experiment shows that LiCuVO_4 , one of the cuprates, possesses a new phase near saturation and it is expected to be a spin nematic ordered phase. Motivated by these results, we have completed the field-temperature phase diagram for spatially anisotropic magnets consisting of weakly coupled J_1 - J_2 spin chains, by making use of accurate results of the single J_1 - J_2 spin chain. The phase diagram contains spin nematic and spin-density-wave ordered phases, and these two orders compete with each other. We will discuss some universal features of the phase diagram and the relevance of our result to LiCuVO_4 .

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