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Temperature-dependent Raman studies of the magneto dielectric vanadates: $Ni_3V_2O_8$, $Co_3V_2O_8$, and $K_2V_3O_8^1$ M. KIM, Y. GIM, S.L. COOPER, Department of Physics and Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, 61801, USA, R.J. CAVA, Department of Chemistry, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544 — The kagome staircase compounds, $Ni_3V_2O_8$ and $Co_3V_2O_8$, are known to exhibit dielectric anomalies at the magnetic transitions; and inhomogenously mixed-valent $K_2V_3O_8$ has been shown to have a strong dependence of the dielectric constant on applied magnetic field. However, while strong spin-lattice coupling is generally associated with the complex phases and phenomena in these materials, there has been little microscopic information about this coupling. In this talk, we present temperature-dependent Raman scattering studies of Ni₃V₂O₈, Co₃V₂O₈, and K₂V₃O₈ that allow us to investigate the microscopic connection between the strong spin-lattice coupling and the magnetodielectric effects in these materials.

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