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Optical and Raman Study of α -RuCl $_3$ LUKE SANDILANDS, ANJAN REIJNDERS, YAO TIAN, KEMP PLUMB, JENNIFER SEARS, VIJAY VENKATARAMAN, HAE-YOUNG KEE, YOUNG-JUNE KIM, University of Toronto, KENNETH BURCH, Boston College — We report on the optical and Raman spectroscopy of the layered honeycomb magnet α -RuCl $_3$. Anomalies in the phonon spectrum reveal a structural phase transition near 150K and we also also observe a series of Ru d-d excitations in the range 0.1 to 3.5 eV . We compare our measurements with LDA calculations of the electronic structure and discuss the possibility of J_{eff} physics in this compound.

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