

Abstract Submitted
for the MAR15 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Unconventional electronic state in half-frustrated $\text{Ca}_2\text{Os}_2\text{O}_7$
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BOOTHROYD, University of Oxford — In 5d transition metal oxides (5d TMOs),
the combination of strong spin-orbit coupling and electronic correlation can lead to
unusual ground states. Orthorhombic calcium osmate is a “half frustrated” com-
pound with a strange phase transition at 327 K, enhancing its resistivity by an order
of magnitude. We have investigated the concomitant magnetic ordering process by
neutron powder diffraction and single crystal resonant x-ray diffraction. Our results
reveal a complex reordering process, likely induced by magnetic frustration. Similar
coupling of magnetic order and electronic transport has been observed in other
families of 5d TMOs. Given the itinerant character of these materials, one cannot
explain such behaviour in a Mott-Hubbard scenario. We hope that $\text{Ca}_2\text{Os}_2\text{O}_7$
will serve as a model system to help understand this peculiar interplay of spin-orbit
coupling, correlation and frustration.

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Date submitted: 14 Nov 2014

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