

(SP-03)

Structure and magnetic properties of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CoO}_3$

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Polycrystalline $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CoO}_3$ ($x = 0.15, 0.25$ and 0.30) samples were synthesized by standard solid-state reaction. The x-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements were performed at each step to monitor the progress of reaction. The ferromagnetic transition temperature (T_c) were obtained from the ac susceptibility measurement, and the temperature dependence of magnetization was measured by using a superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) magnetometer. The neutron powder diffraction experiment were also carried out at the high-resolution neutron diffractometer ST2 of HANARO (Daejeon, Korea), covering an angular range of $5^\circ < 2\theta < 155^\circ$ with an incident neutron wavelength $\lambda = 1.835 \text{ \AA}$. The X-ray patterns after the sintering confirm that the samples are in single phase and have the expected lattice parameter ($a = 5.45 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 13.18 \text{ \AA}$ for $x = 0.25$). From the temperature dependence of inverse magnetic susceptibility $1/\chi$, the Curie temperatures are found to be 147, 217 and 232 K for $x = 0.15, 0.25$ and 0.3 , respectively. As temperature decreases, evolution of the low-energy peaks is clearly observed in the neutron-diffraction patterns, which implies the existence of anti-ferromagnetic phase. By considering that the ferromagnetic transitions were clearly observed in the magnetic-susceptibility and the SQUID results for all the specimens, it is thought that the anti-ferromagnetic and the ferromagnetic states coexist at low temperatures.