



Contribution ID: 27

Type: **Poster**

Using applied magnetic fields to induce unconventional magnetic order in the frustrated quantum magnet, clinoatacamite, Cu₂Cl(OH)₃

The natural mineral clinoatacamite, [Cu₂Cl(OH)₃], exhibits low-temperature, frustrated magnetic behaviour where competing interactions are responsible for novel magnetic properties. Attempts to establish the magnetic phases in this material have been undertaken and an unconventional applied field ($H \parallel b$) phase diagram has been revealed [1]. Two critical transition temperatures at zero field have been identified with long range antiferromagnetic (AFM) order for $T_1 < 6\text{K}$, and paramagnetic behaviour for $T_2 > 18\text{K}$. In-field magnetisation data collected between 6-18K reveal three distinct phases for $H \parallel b$ which are not completely understood. Until now, the phase diagram of clinoatacamite has not been probed for $H \parallel a$ or $H \parallel c$. We will present neutron scattering measurements of single crystal clinoatacamite in applied fields up to 10T. With these measurements we have mapped out the phase diagram of the antiferromagnetic structure for $H \parallel a^*$.

I will be conducting TOF experiments in future to determine accurate exchange interactions in this frustrated material.

Session

Magnetism

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Session Classification: Magnetism