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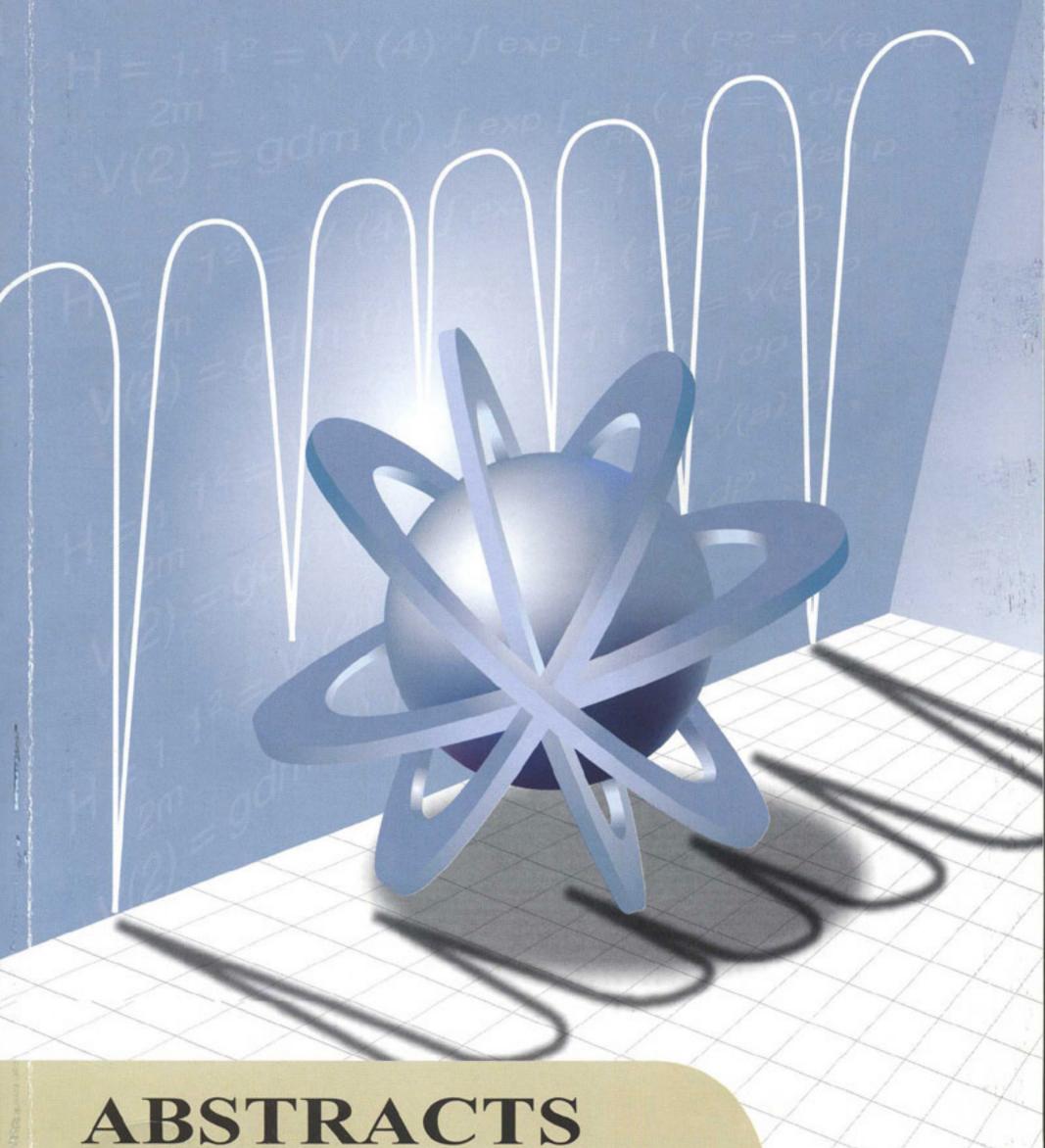


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## Mössbauer and neutron diffraction studies on Co-Al ferrite

Chul Sung Kim<sup>a</sup> and Sam Jin Kim<sup>a</sup>

"Department of Physics, Kookmin University, Seoul, 136-702, Korea cskim@phys.kookmin.ac.kr

Al substituted  $CoAl_xFe_{1-x}O_4$  (x=0.1, 0.2, 0.3, and 0.5) have been studied with x-ray and neutron diffraction, Mössbauer spectroscopy and magnetization measurements. Neutron diffraction at 10 K for  $CoAl_{0.1}Fe_{1.9}O_4$  revealed a cubic spinel structure of ferrimagnetic long range ordering, with magnetic moments of  $Fe^{3+}(A)(-4.18 \,\mu_B)$ ,  $Fe^{3+}(B)(4.81 \,\mu_B)$ ,  $Co^{2+}(B)(2.99 \,\mu_B)$ , respectively. Mössbauer data were collected in the temperature range of 14-850 K. The temperature dependence of the magnetic hyperfine field in  $^{57}Fe$  nuclei at the tetrahedral (A) and octahedral (B) sites was analyzed based on the Néel theory of magnetism. For the sample  $CoAl_{0.1}Fe_{1.9}O_4$ , the intersublattice A-B interaction and intrasublattice A-A superexchange interaction were antiferromagnetic with strengths of  $J_{A-B} = -23.3 \, k_B$  and  $J_{A-A} = -17.6 \, k_B$ , respectively, while the intrasublattice B-B superexchange interaction was found to be ferromagnetic with a strength of  $J_{B-B} = 5.5 \, k_B$ . With increasing Al substitution the A-B and B-B interaction decreased but the A-A interaction increased.

It is interpreted that the reduction of magnetic moment in Fe<sup>3+</sup>(A) and a noticeable strength of the A-A interaction are closely related to the covalency effects.