

Magnetic structure and spin-flop transition in the A-site columnar-ordered quadruple perovskite TmMn_3O_6

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We present the magnetic structure of TmMn_3O_6 , solved via neutron powder diffraction. We demonstrate that long-range magnetic order develops below 74 K, and at 28 K a spin-flop transition occurs driven by *f-d* exchange and rare-earth single-ion anisotropy. In both magnetic phases, the magnetic structure may be described as a collinear ferrimagnet, contrary to conventional theories of magnetic order in the manganite perovskites. Instead, we show that these magnetic structures can be understood to arise due to ferro-orbital order, the *A*, *A'*, and *A''* site point symmetry, *mm2*, and the dominance of *A-B* exchange over both *A-A* and *B-B* exchange, which together are unique to the $RMn_3\text{O}_6$ perovskites.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The ordering of charges, orbitals, and spins in the perovskite manganites (general chemical formula $AB\text{O}_3$, $B=\text{Mn}$) gives rise to a multitude of different electronic phases [1]. For example, the $RMn\text{O}_3$ simple perovskite manganites (R denotes rare earth or yttrium) and their derivatives are known to support ferromagnetism [2,3], collinear antiferromagnetism [4], and complex noncollinear magnetic structures [5], which can couple to charge and structural degrees of freedom giving rise to technologically important material properties such as metal-to-insulator transitions [6], multiferroicity [7], and colossal magnetoresistance [8]. The variety of magnetic structures found in the simple perovskite manganites are primarily established via magnetic interactions between the *d* electrons of *B*-site manganese ions (*B-B* exchange), and they are understood in terms of the Goodenough-Kanamori-Anderson rules [9]. In addition, low-temperature magnetic phase transitions, such as spin reorientation transitions [10–12], can occur due to lower energy *f-d* (*A-B* exchange) and *f-f* (*A-A* exchange) interactions if a magnetic rare-earth ion is present.

Equally, the $AMn_7\text{O}_{12}$ quadruple perovskite family (general chemical formula $AA'\text{B}_4\text{O}_{12}$, $A'=B=\text{Mn}$) supports charge, orbital, and spin long-range order [13–15] and host properties of low-field magnetoresistance [16] and multiferroicity [17,18]. However, compared to the simple perovskites, the introduction of manganese onto the *A*-site sublattice via a pattern of large $a^+a^+a^+$ octahedral tilts (in Glazer notation [19]) has a profound effect on the magnetic exchange

interactions. First, the average *A-A* and *A-B* exchange interactions can be greatly enhanced due to the inclusion of *3d* transition-metal ions onto the perovskite *A* sites, as well as creating new exchange pathways for geometric frustration. Second, the *B-B* exchange interaction can be diminished as a result of the severe octahedral tilting [20]. It has been shown that such complexity leads to members of this family adopting rather unique magnetic ground states, for example when incommensurate magneto-orbital coupling gives rise to a constant moment magnetic helix but with a modulated spin helicity [21,22], classic *pseudo-CE*-type magnetic structures that develop an incommensurate spin rotation [23], and commensurate ferrimagnetism that supplants conventional *B*-site antiferromagnetism [20].

The newly synthesized $RMn_3\text{O}_6$ series ($R=\text{Gd-Tm}$ and Y have been synthesized to date [24]) belong to the wider family of triple *A*-site columnar-ordered quadruple perovskites of stoichiometry $A_2A'A''B_4\text{O}_{12}$. Here, the triple order of *A*-site cations affords a new paradigm in the study of magnetism and structure-property relationships in the perovskite manganites. As in the $AMn_7\text{O}_{12}$ quadruple perovskites, *B-B* exchange is likely to be suppressed due to large octahedral tilts, but so too are *A-A* exchange interactions due to a fundamentally different bonding geometry. Hence, novel magnetic ground states are expected to arise, primarily established by *A-B* exchange interactions, and selectively tuned by choice of *A*, *A'*, and *A''* cations (N.B. “*A-A*” and “*A-B*” denote average exchange interactions involving all *A*, *A'*, and *A''* ions).

The crystal structure of $RMn_3\text{O}_6$ has orthorhombic symmetry with space group *Pmmn* and a large $a^+a^+c^-$ tilting pattern (in Glazer notation [19]), which gives *B-O-B* bond angles between $\sim 135^\circ$ and 150° [24], and accommodates the triple *A*-site order by which half (*A*) are occupied by R^{3+} , a

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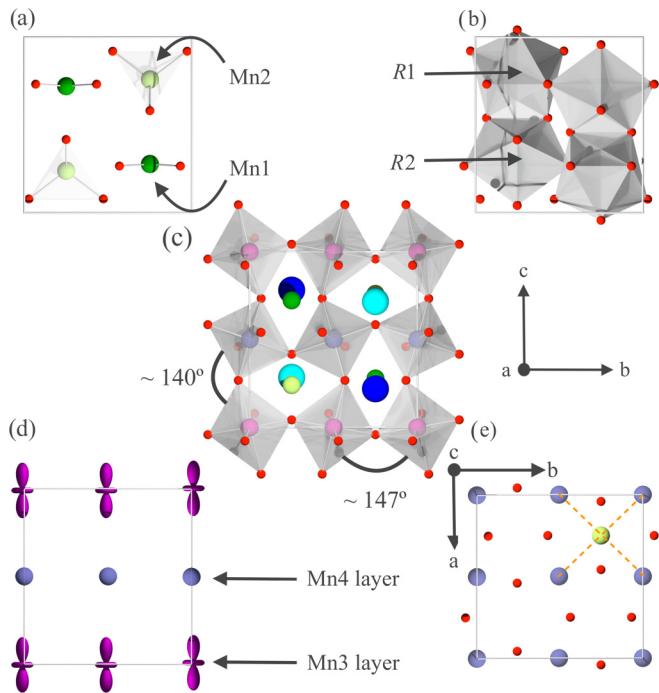


FIG. 1. The crystal structure of RMn_3O_6 in the $Pmmn$ space group. (a)–(d) A projection of the crystal structure as seen from the a axis. (a) The $Mn1$ (A') and $Mn2$ (A'') sites in their square planar and tetrahedral oxygen coordinations, respectively. (b) The 10-fold-coordinates R (A) sites. (c) The unit cell with MnO_6 octahedra drawn to illustrate the $a^+a^+c^-$ tilting pattern. (d) The $Mn3$ and $Mn4$ ions (B sites) with the occupied $d_{3z^2-r^2}$ orbitals drawn in purple. (e) A section of the crystal structure as viewed from the c axis showing a plane of $Mn4$ ions and a single $Mn2$ site. The orange dashed lines represent the A - B exchange interactions, which are equivalent by the $mm2$ symmetry of the $Mn2$ site.

quarter (A') by Mn^{3+} , labeled $Mn1$, and the remaining quarter (A'') by Mn^{2+} , labeled $Mn2$. R ions occupy two 10-fold-coordinated, symmetry-inequivalent sites labeled $R1$ and $R2$ [shown in Fig. 1(b)], which form columns along c . The Mn A' and A'' sites form c -axis chains alternating between square planar and tetrahedral oxygen coordinations, as shown in Fig. 1(a). This difference in the coordination environment of the $Mn1$ and $Mn2$ ions requires them to have +3 and +2 oxidation states, respectively. Furthermore, the formation of alternating square planar and tetrahedral coordinations removes nearest-neighbor magnetic superexchange pathways between manganese A' and A'' sites, thus suppressing A - A exchange interactions. The B sites are equally occupied by alternating layers of Mn in the +3 and +3.5 oxidation states [24], which we label $Mn3$ and $Mn4$, respectively. The isochARGE layers are stacked along the c axis, as shown in Fig. 1(d), which gives rise to an unusual form of ferro-orbital order, where the half-occupied $Mn3$ $d_{3z^2-r^2}$ orbitals are all aligned approximately parallel to c [25], mediated by the cooperative Jahn-Teller effect.

In this paper, we show that below $T_c = 74$ K $TmMn_3O_6$ develops long-range ferrimagnetic order of the A' , A'' , and B -site Mn spins. Upon further cooling, the system undergoes a spin-flop transition at $T_{\text{flop}} = 28$ K where all Mn spins

spontaneously rotate by 90° from parallel to the c axis to parallel to the b axis, concomitant with the development of a polarized moment on the Tm ions—similar to the low-temperature spin reorientation transition observed in the columnar-ordered double perovskite $MnNdMnSbO_6$ [26] and the superconducting Nd_2CuO_4 cuprates [27]. Through model spin Hamiltonian calculations of the Tm sublattice that include a point-charge approximation of the Tm crystal electric field, we show that the spin reorientation transition is driven by f - d exchange and an Ising-like single-ion anisotropy of Tm . Remarkably, in both magnetically ordered phases of $TmMn_3O_6$, the ferrimagnetic structure is in contradiction with theoretical predictions based on the Goodenough-Kanamori-Anderson rules. Instead, we show that these magnetic structures can be understood to arise due to the ferro-orbital order, A , A' , and A'' site symmetry, and the dominance of A - B exchange over both A - A and B - B exchange, which taken together are unique to the RMn_3O_6 perovskites. The paper is organized as follows. We present the experimental details in Sec. II; the results of neutron powder diffraction data analysis, crystal electric field, and single-ion anisotropy calculations in Sec. III; a discussion on the formation and thermal evolution of the $TmMn_3O_6$ magnetic structures in Sec. IV; and we summarize our conclusions in Sec. V.

II. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Polycrystalline samples with nominal composition $Tm_{0.91}Mn_{3.09}O_6$ (hereafter referred to as $TmMn_3O_6$) were prepared from stoichiometric mixtures of Mn_2O_3 and Tm_2O_3 (99.9%). Single-phase Mn_2O_3 was prepared from commercial MnO_2 (99.99%) by heating in air at 923 K for 24 h. The mixtures were placed in Pt capsules and treated at 6 GPa and ~ 1670 K for 2 h (the time required to heat the sample to the desired temperature was 10 min) in a belt-type high-pressure apparatus. After the heat treatments, the samples were quenched to room temperature, the pressure was slowly released, and a black pellet of loosely packed powder was obtained. The temperature of the high-pressure apparatus was controlled by the heating power with a calibrated relationship between power and temperature. We emphasize that a sample with nominal composition $TmMn_3O_6$ contained a large amount of $Tm_{1-x}Mn_xMnO_3$ impurity (approximately 28 wt. %). Shifting the nominal composition to $Tm_{0.91}Mn_{3.09}O_6$ was found to significantly reduce the impurity content.

DC magnetization measurements were performed using a SQUID magnetometer (Quantum Design, MPMS-XL-7T) between 2 and 400 K in different applied fields under both zero-field-cooled (ZFC) and field-cooled on cooling (FCC) conditions.

Neutron diffraction measurements were performed using WISH [28], a time of flight diffractometer at ISIS. A 1.5 g powder sample of $TmMn_3O_6$ was loaded into a 6-mm diameter vanadium can and mounted within a 4He cryostat. The sample was cooled to 1.5 K, and diffraction data with good counting statistics were collected upon warming at 5 K intervals, except between 70 and 80 K, where measurements were taken every 2 K. Data were also collected with high counting statistics within each magnetic phase including the

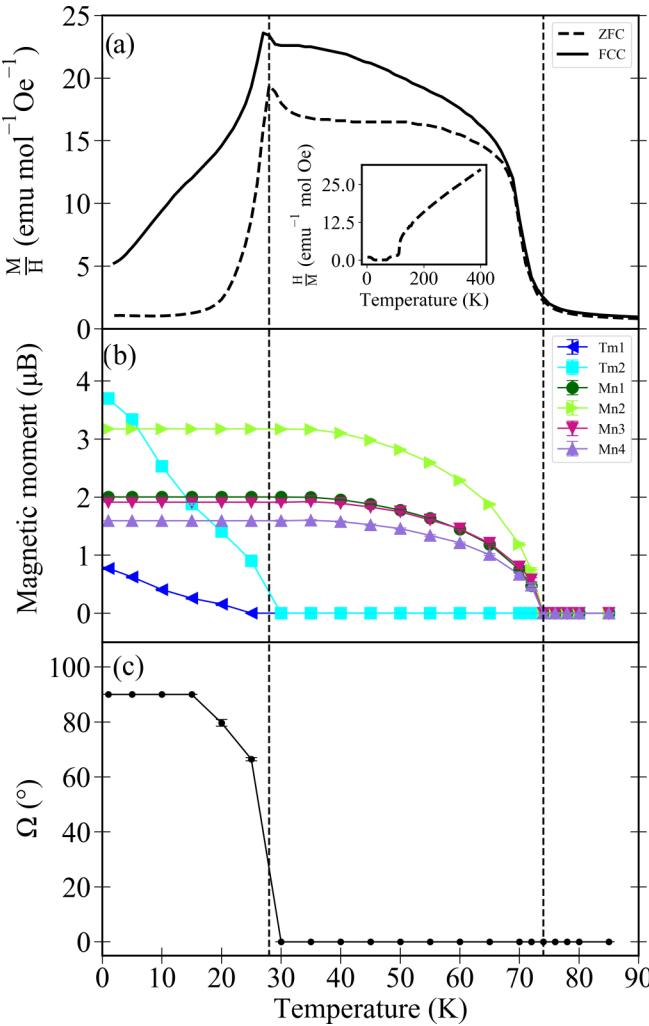


FIG. 2. Temperature dependence of (a) ZFC and FCC magnetization measurements under an applied DC field of 100 Oe, and (b) single-ion moment magnitudes given for each of the magnetic sublattices. N.B. refined standard errors are smaller than the data points. (c) The direction of magnetization, where Ω is the angle that describes a rotation from the c axis to the b axis. The black dashed lines are drawn at $T_c = 74$ K and at $T_{\text{flop}} = 28$ K. The inset in (a) shows the temperature dependence of H/M up to 400 K.

paramagnetic phase for reference (85, 40, and 1.5 K). Symmetry analysis was performed using the ISOTROPY software suite [29], and the diffraction data were fit using FULLPROF [30].

III. RESULTS

A. Crystal and magnetic structures

Variable temperature ZFC and FCC DC magnetization measurements are shown in Fig. 2(a), and they are consistent with previously reported AC magnetic susceptibility data [24]. Two magnetic phase transitions were observed: one at 74 K, below which a rapid increase in the susceptibility indicates the presence of ferromagnetic sublattices, and a second at 28 K, marked by a cusplike increase in the susceptibility, followed by a gradual decrease that persists down to the lowest

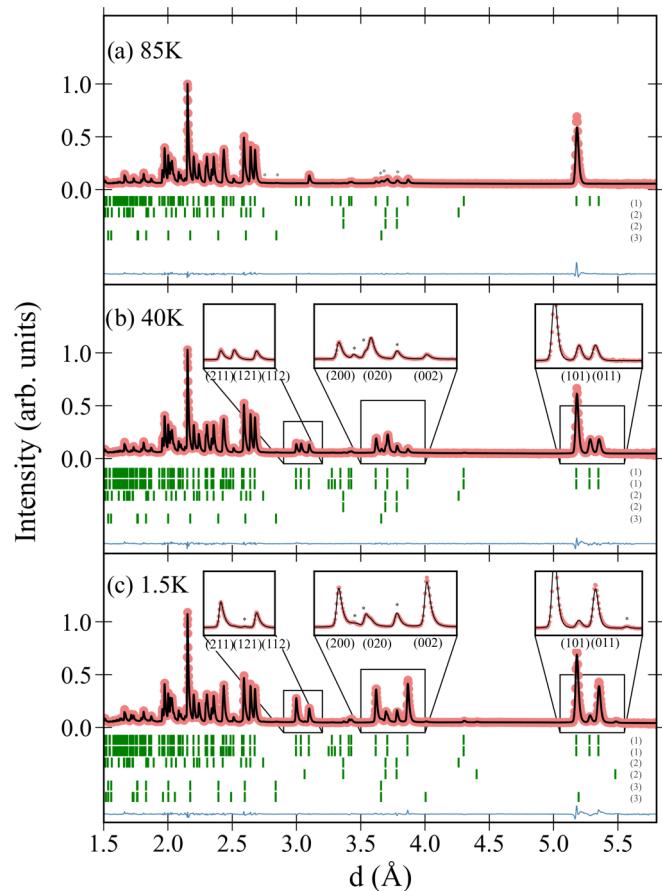


FIG. 3. Neutron powder diffraction data taken on WISH at temperatures of (a) 85 K, (b) 40 K, and (c) 1.5 K. The refinement is given by the black line and the raw data by the red circles; peaks labeled with an asterisk are from the impurity phases. The green tick marks indicate, from top to bottom, the nuclear and magnetic reflections from TmMn_3O_6 , labeled (1), the TmMnO_3 -related impurity, labeled (2), and the MnCO_3 impurity, labeled (3).

temperatures measured. This behavior can be fully understood in light of the magnetic structures determined by neutron powder diffraction, and it will be discussed at the end of this section.

A $Pmmn$ crystal structure model based upon the published structure of DyMn_3O_6 [24] was refined against neutron powder diffraction data measured in the paramagnetic phase at 85 K [Fig. 3(a)]. The occupation of all atomic sites was set to 1, but Mn was free to substitute Tm—as expected for the $RMn_3\text{O}_6$ phases [31]. An excellent fit was achieved ($R = 3.32\%$, $wR = 2.68\%$, and $R_{\text{Bragg}} = 4.57\%$), and the refined crystal structure parameters are given in Table I. Also tabulated are the cation bond valence sums, calculated using bond lengths given in Tables III and IV of Appendix A, which correspond well to the cited oxidation states. Approximately 15% of the Tm sites were found to be randomly substituted by Mn, giving the chemical formula $\text{Tm}_{0.85}\text{Mn}_{3.15}\text{O}_6$. Five weak diffraction peaks, labeled by asterisks in Fig. 3(a), could not be accounted for using the $Pmmn$ crystal structure model of TmMn_3O_6 . Instead, they were found to originate in two impurity phases, a TmMnO_3 -related phase [8.1(7) wt. %] and

TABLE I. Crystal structure parameters of TmMn_3O_6 ($Z = 4$, space group $Pmmn$) refined at 85 K. The lattice parameters were determined to be $a = 7.229\ 44(7)$ Å, $b = 7.410\ 79(7)$ Å, and $c = 7.725\ 80(9)$ Å. Both Tm1 and Tm2 sites were found to have an occupation of 15% Mn and 85% Tm. The occupations of all other atomic sites were fixed to 1. Excellent reliability parameters of $R = 3.32\%$, $wR = 2.68\%$, and $R_{\text{Bragg}} = 4.57\%$ were achieved in the refinement. Bond valence sums (BVS) were calculated using the bond valence parameters, $R_0(\text{Tm}^{3+}) = 2.00(1)$, $R_0(\text{Mn}^{2+}) = 1.79(5)$, $R_0(\text{Mn}^{3+}) = 1.76(5)$ and $B = 0.37$ [32].

Atom	Site	Sym.	x	y	z	U_{iso} (Å 2)	BVS ($ e $)
Tm1	2a	$mm2$	0.25	0.25	0.7844(5)	0.0082(7)	2.975(9)
Tm2	2a	$mm2$	0.25	0.25	0.2859(5)	0.0082(7)	2.947(9)
Mn1	2b	$mm2$	0.75	0.25	0.7227(7)	0.0098(9)	2.72(4)
Mn2	2b	$mm2$	0.75	0.25	0.2375(7)	0.0098(9)	1.97(3)
Mn3	4c	$\bar{1}$	0	0	0	0.008(1)	3.20(4)
Mn4	4d	$\bar{1}$	0	0	0.5	0.006(1)	3.73(5)
O1	8g	1	0.4355(2)	−0.0681(2)	0.2671(2)	0.0127(4)	
O2	4f	.m.	0.0582(3)	0.25	0.0451(3)	0.0129(6)	
O3	4e	m..	0.25	0.5281(3)	0.9202(3)	0.0087(6)	
O4	4f	.m.	0.5403(3)	0.25	0.4177(3)	0.0147(7)	
O5	4e	m..	0.25	0.4307(3)	0.5408(3)	0.0109(6)	

MnCO_3 [0.5(1) wt. %]. The TmMnO_3 -related impurity phase was determined to have composition $\text{Tm}_{0.59}\text{Mn}_{0.41}\text{MnO}_3$.

Below $T_c = 74$ K, four new diffraction peaks appeared, which could be indexed as (011), (101), (121), and (211) with respect to the parent, $Pmmn$ crystal structure refined above, concomitant with changes in the sample's magnetization and hence magnetic in origin. The intensities of the (002), (020), and (200) diffraction peaks, already present in the paramagnetic phase, were observed to grow below 74 K. These additional diffraction intensities were also determined to be magnetic, as their temperature dependence was the same as the first family of purely magnetic intensities listed above. All observed magnetic diffraction intensities are uniquely consistent with a $\mathbf{k} = (0, 0, 0)$, Γ -point magnetic propagation vector.

The magnetic Γ -point representation for the relevant Wyckoff positions decomposes into seven irreducible representations, as given in Table V of Appendix B (Miller and Love notation is used throughout). Magnetic structure models constructed from linear combinations of the tabulated symmetry-adapted basis functions (Table V) were systematically tested against neutron powder diffraction data measured at 40 K. Between 74 and 28 K a magnetic structure involving A' , A'' and B manganese moments, which transformed by the Γ_2^+ representation, was uniquely consistent with the diffraction data. Specifically, a model in which all moments were aligned parallel to z (c axis), with the Mn1, Mn3, and Mn4 sublattices ferromagnetically aligned, and with the Mn2 sublattice moments antialigned (a net ferrimagnetic structure), Fig. 4(b), had the best fit to the 40 K data shown in Fig. 3(b) ($R = 3.90\%$, $wR = 3.09\%$, and $R_{\text{Mag}} = 4.90\%$). The refined moment magnitudes are given in Table II. The fit was found to be insensitive to simultaneously interchanging the Mn1 and Mn2 moments and the Mn3 and Mn4 moments, and we present the model most consistent with the respective oxidation states. It is noteworthy that the magnetic structure factor of the Mn B sites is exactly zero for the (h11) and (1k1) reflections, which therefore only have magnetic scattering contributions from the Mn A' and A'' sites.

Upon cooling below 28 K, the magnetic diffraction peaks undergo an approximately discontinuous change in their relative intensities. For example, the magnetic contribution to the (020) peak disappears, a large (002) magnetic intensity appears, and the (200) magnetic peak remains approximately the same. Given that the magnetic neutron diffraction intensity is proportional to the component of the spin perpendicular to the scattering vector, these changes are qualitatively consistent with a 90° flop of magnetic moments from the c axis to the b axis. Indeed, testing each of the irreducible representations against the neutron powder diffraction data conclusively revealed that the magnetic structure below $T_{\text{flop}} = 28$ K transformed by Γ_4^+ . This single irreducible representation solution for the low-temperature magnetic structure comprises the same ferrimagnetic structure found above T_{flop} , but with moments aligned parallel to y (b axis) instead of z (c axis), as shown in Fig. 4(a). To accurately fit the 1.5 K diffraction data shown in Fig. 3(c) ($R = 3.82\%$, $wR = 3.53\%$, $R_{\text{Mag}} = 5.37\%$), it was necessary to include a finite,

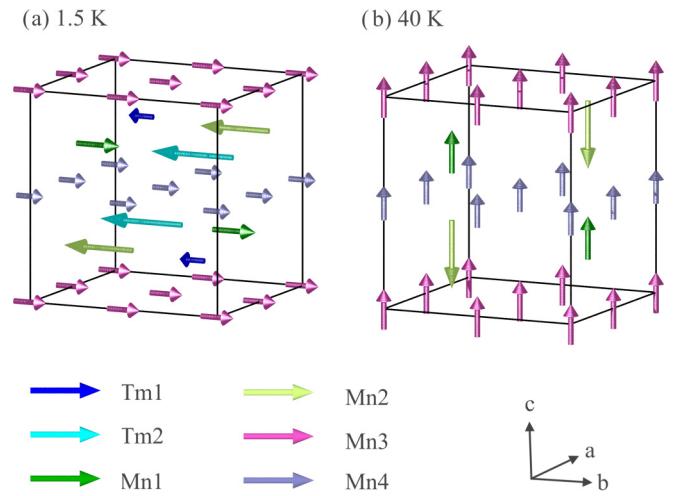


FIG. 4. The refined magnetic structure of TmMn_3O_6 at (a) 1.5 K and (b) 40 K. The crystallographic unit cell is drawn in black.

TABLE II. Magnetic moments of TmMn_3O_6 refined at 1.5 and 40 K. Symmetry-equivalent atoms have the same magnetic moment.

Atom	1.5 K $m y$ (μ_B)	40 K $m z$ (μ_B)
Tm1	-0.77(2)	0
Tm2	-3.70(3)	0
Mn1	2.003(9)	1.957(9)
Mn2	-3.17(1)	-3.10(1)
Mn3	1.91(1)	1.89(1)
Mn4	1.59(1)	1.58(1)

symmetry-allowed moment on the Tm1 and Tm2 sublattices, both aligned antiparallel to the net magnetization. We note that the Tm site magnetic moments discussed throughout refer to the average magnetic moment of the A sites occupied by 85% Tm and 15% Mn. The thulium contribution to the diffraction pattern is particularly apparent at d -spacings of 1.70–1.72 Å. Here the magnetic form factor of manganese is greatly reduced, and thus the observed growth in magnetic intensity below T_{flop} is principally representative of the evolution of magnetic moments on the Tm1 and Tm2 ions. The moment magnitudes for all symmetry-inequivalent cations refined at 1.5 K are given in Table II. Again, the ratios between the Mn1:Mn2 moments and the Mn3:Mn4 moments were chosen to be consistent with their oxidation states (these ratios were fixed in the variable temperature data analysis presented below). We note that the Tm1 and Tm2 moments were found to be significantly smaller than their theoretical free ion values ($7\mu_B$), which is consistent with a polarized singlet ground state as discussed in Sec. III C.

As shown in Table V of Appendix B, both the Γ_2^+ and Γ_4^+ irreducible representations allow for a canted magnetic structure of the B sites, i.e., the orthogonal superposition of antiferromagnetism onto the nominally ferromagnetic sublattice. However, the inclusion of these additional degrees of freedom into the refined magnetic structure model did not improve the fit to the neutron powder diffraction data, thus the collinear ferrimagnetic structures can be considered minimal models of TmMn_3O_6 .

Both impurity phases adopt long-range magnetic order at low temperatures. Tm-deficient TmMnO_3 undergoes two magnetic phase transitions at 110 and 15 K [33], and MnCO_3 magnetically orders below 34.5 K [34]. The Tm-poor TmMnO_3 magnetic structures are yet to be fully determined, so the respective intensities were fit using the Le Bail method. The MnCO_3 magnetic diffraction peaks were fit using a G-type antiferromagnetic structure that well reproduced the diffraction intensities.

The temperature dependence of all symmetry-inequivalent moment magnitudes was evaluated by fitting the above magnetic structure models to variable temperature neutron powder diffraction data, and it is plotted in Fig. 2(b). Critical behavior is observed at T_c that is consistent with a second-order phase transition. To reliably extract the Tm moment dependences, the magnitudes of the Mn moments were assumed to remain constant below 30 K. Figure 2(c) shows the direction of the net magnetization (moment axis) as a function of temperature, where Ω describes a rotation from the c axis toward the b axis. Ω was allowed to freely vary close to the spin-flop

reorientation transition, but it was fixed to the directions of the single irreducible representation magnetic structures deep into their respective phases.

Finally in this section, we revisit the ZFC and FCC DC M/H measurements shown in Fig. 2(a), and we demonstrate that they are in full agreement with the results of the neutron powder diffraction data analysis. One can consider three primary contributions to the temperature dependence of M/H : (i) changes in the magnetic susceptibility of the manganese ions, which is peaked at the two phase transitions [24]; (ii) the Van-Vleck magnetic susceptibility of the thulium ions, which is small at all temperatures; and (iii) the saturated magnetization, domain effects, and powder averaging. Having ZFC to the lowest measured temperature, both manganese and thulium susceptibilities are small, and approximately equal populations of ferrimagnetic domains cancel the sample's net magnetization. As T_{flop} is approached upon warming, the coercive field reduces [24], allowing for an increasing imbalance in ferrimagnetic domains induced by the small measuring field, giving rise to an increase in the sample's net magnetization that is further enhanced by the reduction in the Tm1 and Tm2 moments aligned antiparallel to the net magnetization. At the spin-flop transition, the system becomes magnetically isotropic and the susceptibility is peaked, giving rise to a cusp in the powder-averaged magnetization. Upon further warming, the sample maintains a net magnetization, which decreases as T_c is approached, in accordance with the temperature dependence of the ordered magnetic moments [Fig. 2(b)]. Above T_c the susceptibility follows a Curie-Weiss-like dependence of a paramagnet as shown in the inset of Fig. 2(a). We note that the contribution of the 8.1 wt. % TmMnO_3 related impurity phase to the magnetic susceptibility, as characterized in Ref. [33], is negligible.

B. Thulium crystal electric field

Tm^{3+} has electronic configuration $[\text{Xe}] 4f^{12}$, and Hund's rules give $S = 1$, $L = 5$, and $J = 6$ for the lowest-energy 13-fold multiplet of states. Tm^{3+} is a non-Kramers ion, and its local crystal electric field (CEF) that transforms by the Abelian point group $mm2$ (C_{2v}) can lift in full the multiplet degeneracy of the free ion. The CEF Hamiltonian for a single Tm ion can be written

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{cef}} = \sum_n \sum_{m=-n}^n B_n^m O_n^m, \quad (1)$$

where O_n^m are the Stevens operator equivalents tabulated in Ref. [35], and B_n^m are the CEF parameters. For point group $mm2$, only terms with $n = 2, 4$, and 6 , and m a positive even integer, are nonzero by symmetry, giving 9 CEF parameters to be determined. The CEF parameters can be written as the product of three terms,

$$B_n^m = A_n^m \langle r^n \rangle \Theta_n, \quad (2)$$

where $\langle r^n \rangle$ is the expectation value of the n th power of the radial distance of the $\text{Tm}^{3+} 4f$ electrons, given in Ref. [36], and Θ_n are the Stevens factors, given in Ref. [35]. A_n^m is the material-specific part that describes the local CEF. Here, we estimate all nine unknown values of A_n^m by a point charge

model of the form

$$A_n^m = \frac{-|e|^2}{(2n+1)\epsilon_0} C_n^m \sum_i \frac{q_i}{r_i^{n+1}} Z_n^m(\theta_i, \phi_i), \quad (3)$$

where the summation is taken over i nearest-neighbor anions; q_i , r_i , θ_i , and ϕ_i are the charge in units e and the position in spherical coordinates of the i th anion; Z_n^m is a tesselar harmonic; C_n^m is the numerical factor occurring in Z_n^m ; and ϵ_0 is the permittivity of free space.

The CEF parameters, B_n^m , were calculated for Tm1 and Tm2 using atomic fractional coordinates and lattice parameters determined at 1.5 K. The obtained values are given in Table VI in Appendix C. Similar magnitudes were obtained for the CEF parameters of the two Tm sites, but the signs of B_2^2 , B_4^2 , B_6^2 , and B_6^6 are opposite, which can be understood based on the presence of a 4_2 screw pseudosymmetry relating the two Tm sites. The eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of Eq. (1) are given in Table VII. As expected, the Tm^{3+} multiplets are split into 13 singlet states.

C. Thulium single-ion anisotropy

The 0 K singlet ground state is nonmagnetic. However, there does exist an instability toward a polarized magnetic state when under a magnetic field, \mathbf{B} [37]. The polarizing field may originate in f - d magnetic exchange interactions between Tm and the Mn sublattice, the dipolar field of the Mn sublattice, or an externally applied magnetic field. The dipolar field of Mn can be ruled out, as it gives moment directions inconsistent with the experimentally determined magnetic structure. We therefore extend the single-ion Hamiltonian,

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_{cef} + g_J \mu_B \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{B}_{fd}, \quad (4)$$

where \mathbf{B}_{fd} represents an effective f - d exchange field. The sum of expectation values, $\langle J_x \rangle$, $\langle J_y \rangle$, and $\langle J_z \rangle$, for all eigenstates weighted by the Boltzmann distribution ($T = 10$ K), was evaluated for numerous magnetic-field directions covering a full hemisphere, and in the limit of small \mathbf{B}_{fd} . A strong Ising-like single-ion anisotropy (SIA) was found for both Tm ions, with the Ising directions of Tm1 and Tm2 parallel to the crystallographic a and b axes, respectively, as illustrated by the stereographic projections shown in Fig. 5. We note that the 90° rotation of the Ising axis from Tm1 to Tm2

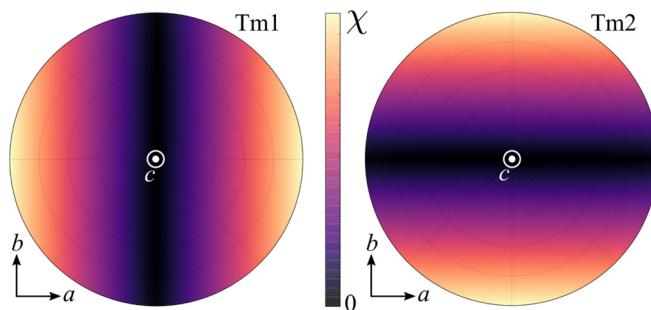


FIG. 5. Stereographic projections of the Tm1 and Tm2 magnetic susceptibility calculated in the limit of small applied magnetic fields. The CEF-induced Ising-like single-ion anisotropy of Tm1 and Tm2 lies parallel to a and b , respectively.

is consistent with the tetragonal 4_2 screw pseudosymmetry discussed above.

The magnetic moments of the Mn B -site sublattice, which provides the uniaxial polarizing field for both Tm ions via f - d exchange, were found to be aligned parallel to the b axis in the ground state. In this case, one would expect a large moment to be induced on Tm2, and a very small moment to be induced on Tm1. The former is fully consistent with our neutron powder diffraction results. However, the sizable magnetic moment of Tm1 found perpendicular to its Ising axis cannot be explained by f - d exchange alone, at least from the results of our calculations. We suggest that either the larger Tm1 moment could naturally occur due to finite, ferromagnetic f - f exchange interactions, or because the magnitude of the SIA has been overestimated.

Finally in this section, we note that the point-charge model used above does not fully describe the true crystal electric field as it omits orbital considerations. However, one can show that such a model is sufficient to robustly determine the Tm single-ion anisotropy in $TmMn_3O_6$. The sign of B_2^0 determines the single-ion anisotropy to be Ising-like parallel to z (negative), or easy plane perpendicular to z (positive). In the latter case, large B_2^2 then imposes Ising-like anisotropy in the xy plane, the direction of which is determined by the sign of B_2^2 (negative makes it parallel to x and positive parallel to y). Given the dominance of these terms (Table VI) in our approximation of the CEF, any perturbation away from this model will not affect the qualitative determination of the Ising-like SIA and its direction.

IV. DISCUSSION

First, we consider the role of B - B exchange interactions. The Jahn-Teller active, octahedral oxygen coordinations of the B -site Mn^{3+} ions (Mn3) are elongated along z , lifting the degeneracy of the e_g states and giving preferential electronic occupation of the $d_{3z^2-r^2}$ orbitals—a ferro-orbital order. Thus for Mn3 ions, all 3d orbitals are half-occupied except for the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbital, which is empty. In comparison, the B -site $Mn^{3.5+}$ octahedra (Mn4) do not have a strong Jahn-Teller distortion, and they can be considered to have singly occupied t_{2g} orbitals and a fractional electronic occupation of the e_g orbitals. According to the Goodenough-Kanamori-Anderson (GKA) rules, if exchange is mediated between 180° cation-anion-cation bonds that have $p\sigma$ and $p\pi$ superexchange, which can be considered an approximation of the bonds in the Mn3 and Mn4 layers, then one expects the exchange interactions to be antiferromagnetic. The GKA rules further predict that the exchange interaction between Mn3 and Mn4 layers, which is mediated by $\sim 180^\circ$ cation-anion-cation interactions between half-occupied and empty e_g states through $p\sigma$ superexchange, will be ferromagnetic. The result is a so-called C-type antiferromagnetic structure, in contradiction with the experimentally determined ferromagnetic B -site sublattice.

As a direct consequence of the $mm2$ point symmetry of the A , A' , and A'' sites, all four nearest neighbor A - B exchange interactions must be equivalent [see Fig. 1(e)], and hence can only lower the energy of the system if ferromagnetism resides in the B -site layers. On the contrary, the antiferromagnetic order favored by B - B exchange exactly frustrates the A - B

exchange. Given the experimentally determined ferrimagnetic structure, it is apparent that in TmMn_3O_6 , A - B exchange dominates B - B exchange—an unexpected scenario that is emerging in the study of quadruple perovskites [20], where large deviations from 180° B -O- B bond angles significantly weaken the respective superexchange interactions (in TmMn_3O_6 these bond angles are $\sim 140^\circ$, as given in Table IV of Appendix A). One might expect that the $RMn_3\text{O}_6$ system could be tuned from ferrimagnetic to antiferromagnetic by modifying the critical balance between A - B and B - B exchange. In the absence of significant A - A exchange, the stability of these two magnetic structures does not, in principle, depend upon long-range magnetic order of the A , A' , or A'' ions. Rather the presence of magnetic impurities on the A sites, i.e., 15% Mn on the nominally Tm sites, can effect the net A - B exchange interaction. Hence this tuning can be achieved at the local level, where individual spins contribute on average to a net A - B exchange interaction.

We now consider the microscopic origin of the spin-flop transition. Above T_{flop} the direction of the magnetic moments is determined by the average Mn single-ion anisotropy, which is likely dominated by the electronic configuration of the Jahn-Teller active Mn³⁺ ions placing the moments along c [38]. However, the c axis is a magnetically hard axis for both Tm1 and Tm2, whose Ising-like SIA was calculated to be along the a and b axes, respectively (Sec. III C). Hence, as the system temperature reaches the energy scale of the f - d exchange field [39,40], it becomes energetically favorable for the manganese magnetic moments to flop into the ab plane such that the Tm ions adopt a polarized magnetic moment (at the expense of the weaker manganese SIA). The magnitudes of the polarized Tm moments, and the global in-plane magnetization direction, are then determined, respectively, by the absolute and relative magnitude of the f - d exchange field at the Tm1 and Tm2 sites. In TmMn_3O_6 the Tm2 moment dominates below T_{flop} , imposing its b axis SIA on the system. Hence we conclude that the f - d exchange field in TmMn_3O_6 is significantly larger at the Tm2 site than at the Tm1 site. In this regard, it is interesting to consider the 4_2 screw pseudosymmetry discussed in the theoretical sections above. If the 4_2 screw is present, the Tm sites still have $mm2$ point symmetry, but their crystal electric field and single-ion anisotropy become equivalent, related by a 90° rotation in the ab plane. In this case, one can show that a spin-flop transition will still occur, but the Tm sites adopt orthogonally polarized moments with Mn moments bisecting the two. In TmMn_3O_6 the 4_2 screw symmetry is broken by charge and orbital order [24], and it is exactly this charge and orbital order that gives rise to significantly different nearest-neighbor Tm-O-Mn bonding conditions for Tm1 and Tm2, resulting in different f - d exchange fields at the two sites, and hence allowing a collinear ground-state ferrimagnetic structure.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In TmMn_3O_6 , all A' , A'' , and B -site manganese ions develop a collinear ferrimagnetic structure below 74 K, with moments orientated along the c axis. Remarkably, the ferrimagnetic order is in contradiction to that predicted

by Goodenough-Kanamori-Anderson rules, whereby ferroorbital order favors C-type antiferromagnetism instead. In TmMn_3O_6 , the average A - B exchange, together with the $mm2$ A , A' , and A'' -site symmetry, wins over B - B exchange and gives rise to ferrimagnetism. This offers the possibility of tuning the magnetic structure of $RMn_3\text{O}_6$ oxides from ferrimagnetic to antiferromagnetic through a modification of the competition between A - B and B - B exchange, for instance through doping of the A , A' , or A'' sites. Below 28 K, the Mn moments flop through a spin-reorientation transition, retaining the higher-temperature ferrimagnetic structure but with moments aligned along the b axis, and with a finite moment developing on both Tm sublattices aligned antiparallel to the net Mn magnetization. Point charge calculations show that the Tm1 and Tm2 sublattices can adopt a polarized magnetic moment lying within the ab plane, induced by a uniaxial f - d exchange field created by the ordered Mn B -site sublattice, which motivates the spin-flop transition at low temperature. The magnetic behavior of TmMn_3O_6 is strikingly similar to that of the rare-earth orthoferrites ($R\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_3$), which crystallize in the orthorhombic $Pnma$ space group, and feature spin reorientation transitions driven by the single-ion anisotropy of the rare-earth ions. It is therefore not far to imagine that the novel $RMn_3\text{O}_6$ compounds, such as the rare-earth orthoferrites, may feature laser [41], temperature [42], and/or applied magnetic field [43], spin-reorientation transitions for applications in spintronics, and also possibly magnonics [44].

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APPENDIX A: SELECTED BOND LENGTHS AND ANGLES FOR TmMn_3O_6

We give selected cation-anion bond lengths for the A , A' , A'' cations in Table III and selected cation-anion bond lengths and cation-anion-cation bond angles for the B -site cations in Table IV.

APPENDIX B: IRREDUCIBLE REPRESENTATIONS AND THEIR SYMMETRY-ADAPTED BASIS FUNCTIONS

We give the basis functions of the Γ -point irreducible representations used to describe the TmMn_3O_6 magnetic structures (Table V). The symmetry analysis was performed using the ISOTROPY suite [29].

APPENDIX C: THULIUM CEF PARAMETERS, EIGENVALUES, AND EIGENSTATES

We give the CEF parameters for Tm1 and Tm2, calculated using the point charge model described in the main text (Table VI), and the eigenstates and respective energy eigenvalues for the 13-fold manifold of states (Table VII).

TABLE III. Bond lengths for the A , A' , and A'' sites refined at 85 K for TmMn_3O_6 in the $Pmmn$ space group.

Tm1-O1 (×4)	2.672(2) Å	Tm2-O1 (×4)	2.716(2) Å	Mn1-O1 (×4)	1.903(2) Å
Tm1-O2 (×2)	2.445(4) Å	Tm2-O2 (×2)	2.320(4) Å		
Tm1-O3 (×2)	2.313(3) Å	Tm2-O4 (×2)	2.333(3) Å	Mn2-O3 (×2)	2.047(4) Å
Tm1-O5 (×2)	2.310(4) Å	Tm2-O5 (×2)	2.381(4) Å	Mn2-O4 (×2)	2.058(5) Å

TABLE IV. Bond lengths and selected bond angles for the B sites refined at 85 K for TmMn_3O_6 in the $Pmmn$ space group.

Mn3-O1 (×2)	2.1748(2) Å	Mn4-O1 (×2)	1.9259(2) Å	Mn3-O2-Mn3 (×2)	147.1(1)°
Mn3-O2 (×2)	1.9316(7) Å	Mn4-O4 (×2)	1.9803(9) Å	Mn3-O3-Mn3 (×2)	140.4(1)°
Mn3-O3 (×2)	1.9209(8) Å	Mn4-O5 (×2)	1.9052(8) Å	Mn3-O1-Mn4 (×2)	140.7(8)°
				Mn4-O4-Mn4 (×2)	138.6(1)°
				Mn4-O5-Mn4 (×2)	143.1(1)°

TABLE V. Basis functions of the seven one-dimensional Γ -point irreducible representations that appear in the decomposition of the full magnetic representation for the relevant Wyckoff positions of TmMn_3O_6 . The + and - symbols denote the relative sign of the magnetic moment components, x , y , and z , on every sublattice of symmetry-equivalent atoms. The symbols in bold highlight the magnetic moment components used to fit the magnetic structures in Sec. III, Γ_2^+ for the first magnetic phase and Γ_4^+ for the second magnetic phase ($T < T_{\text{flop}}$). The moment components of the symmetry-equivalent atoms have the same magnitude. The relative signs and magnitudes of orthogonal components, or of moments on inequivalent atomic sublattices, are not determined by symmetry. The absence of a + or - sign indicates that that component is zero by symmetry.

Atom	Frac. coords.	Γ_1^+			Γ_2^+			Γ_3^+			Γ_4^+			Γ_1^-			Γ_3^-			Γ_4^-			
		x	y	z																			
Tm1	0.25, 0.25, z				+	+					+				+		+		+		+		+
	0.75, 0.75, $-z$				+	+					+				-		-		-		-		-
Tm2	0.25, 0.25, z				+	+					+				+		+		+		+		+
	0.75, 0.75, $-z$				+	+					+				-		-		-		-		-
Mn1	0.75, 0.25, z				+	+					+				+		+		+		+		+
	0.25, 0.75, $-z$				+	+					+				-		-		-		-		-
Mn2	0.75, 0.25, z				+	+					+				+		+		+		+		+
	0.25, 0.75, $-z$				+	+					+				-		-		-		-		-
Mn3	0.5, 0, 0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	0, 0.5, 0	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	0, 0, 0	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	0.5, 0.5, 0	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-
Mn4	0, 0.5, 0.5	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	0.5, 0, 0.5	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-
	0.5, 0.5, 0.5	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	0, 0, 0.5	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-

TABLE VI. CEF parameters for Tm1 and Tm2, evaluated by the point charge model, and given in units of μeV .

Atom	B_2^0	B_2^2	B_4^0	B_4^2	B_4^4	B_6^0	B_6^2	B_6^4	B_6^6
Tm1	1250	-915	-0.445	-3.70	2.53	0.00299	-0.0185	-0.0522	0.0495
Tm2	1252	741	-0.391	3.12	3.12	0.00353	0.0254	-0.0521	-0.0468

TABLE VII. Energy and eigenfunctions of the 13 singlet states of both Tm ions, as calculated using the CEF Hamiltonian.

Atom	Energy (meV)	Eigenfunction
Tm1		
	0	0.005 $ 6, \pm 6\rangle + 0.056 6, \pm 4\rangle + 0.390 6, \pm 2\rangle + 0.831 6, 0\rangle$
	0.20	$0.018 6, \pm 5\rangle + 0.167 6, \pm 3\rangle + 0.687 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	22.90	$\mp 0.076 6, \pm 5\rangle \mp 0.405 6, \pm 3\rangle \mp 0.574 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	24.52	$\mp 0.027 6, \pm 6\rangle \mp 0.211 6, \pm 4\rangle \mp 0.674 6, \pm 2\rangle$
	46.79	$-0.040 6, \pm 6\rangle - 0.262 6, \pm 4\rangle - 0.535 6, \pm 2\rangle + 0.537 6, 0\rangle$
	55.42	$0.176 6, \pm 5\rangle + 0.665 6, \pm 3\rangle - 0.166 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	63.20	$\mp 0.156 6, \pm 5\rangle \mp 0.554 6, \pm 3\rangle \pm 0.411 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	84.42	$\pm 0.118 6, \pm 6\rangle \pm 0.664 6, \pm 4\rangle \mp 0.212 6, \pm 2\rangle$
	84.88	$0.113 6, \pm 6\rangle + 0.643 6, \pm 4\rangle - 0.250 6, \pm 2\rangle + 0.147 6, 0\rangle$
	116.24	$\pm 0.685 6, \pm 5\rangle \mp 0.171 6, \pm 3\rangle \pm 0.030 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	116.40	$0.685 6, \pm 5\rangle - 0.175 6, \pm 3\rangle + 0.024 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	153.17	$0.697 6, \pm 6\rangle - 0.120 6, \pm 4\rangle + 0.007 6, \pm 2\rangle + 0.001 6, 0\rangle$
	153.18	$\mp 0.697 6, \pm 6\rangle \pm 0.121 6, \pm 4\rangle \mp 0.010 6, \pm 2\rangle$
Tm2		
	0	$-0.002 6, \pm 6\rangle + 0.032 6, \pm 4\rangle - 0.357 6, \pm 2\rangle + 0.862 6, 0\rangle$
	0.32	$\pm 0.009 6, \pm 5\rangle \mp 0.130 6, \pm 3\rangle \pm 0.695 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	19.49	$0.057 6, \pm 5\rangle - 0.363 6, \pm 3\rangle + 0.604 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	21.65	$\pm 0.021 6, \pm 6\rangle \mp 0.176 6, \pm 4\rangle \pm 0.685 6, \pm 2\rangle$
	40.91	$0.029 6, \pm 6\rangle - 0.215 6, \pm 4\rangle + 0.576 6, \pm 2\rangle + 0.493 6, 0\rangle$
	50.91	$\pm 0.146 6, \pm 5\rangle \mp 0.680 6, \pm 3\rangle \mp 0.129 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	56.45	$-0.131 6, \pm 5\rangle + 0.590 6, \pm 3\rangle + 0.367 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	78.69	$\mp 0.100 6, \pm 6\rangle \pm 0.677 6, \pm 4\rangle \pm 0.177 6, \pm 2\rangle$
	78.84	$-0.097 6, \pm 6\rangle + 0.665 6, \pm 4\rangle + 0.203 6, \pm 2\rangle + 0.118 6, 0\rangle$
	110.48	$0.693 6, \pm 5\rangle + 0.141 6, \pm 3\rangle + 0.020 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	110.60	$\mp 0.692 6, \pm 5\rangle \mp 0.145 6, \pm 3\rangle \mp 0.018 6, \pm 1\rangle$
	149.07	$0.700 6, \pm 6\rangle + 0.102 6, \pm 4\rangle + 0.003 6, \pm 2\rangle - 0.002 6, 0\rangle$
	149.08	$\pm 0.700 6, \pm 6\rangle \pm 0.102 6, \pm 4\rangle \pm 0.005 6, \pm 2\rangle$

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