Coherent X-ray scattering of charge order dynamics and phase separation in titanates

Shi, B.

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I am reading an adventure novel recently. From its plot, I found quite some similarities with my PhD. To obtain a physics PhD is somewhat like surviving in the wild, if you are not Bear Grylls, then you definitely need to be lucky to get a lot of help from others. Many unforeseen obstacles and challenges, are ready to bewilder you along the path, not even mentioning the unknowns that you are pursuing. With the countless synchrotron days and nights, I became a beamline geek and a programming maniac. On a more positive aspect, as a reward, I acquired a physicist’s mindset, which allows me to treat puzzles and unknowns in terms of mathematical models supported by facts, causality, logic and philosophy. I have been working in industry for two years now. This way of thinking continuously helps me out along the maze of finding root causes of complicated issues. It is now an absolute pleasure and honor to think back, when all the 'pains' become memorable 'invaluable’ experiences.

Among those great helps I got during my PhD, firstly, I would like to express my great gratitudes to both of my daily supervisor dr. Jeroen Goedkoop and my promoter prof. dr. Mark Golden. Thank you so much for admitting and guiding me through this fantastic research field. Jeroen, you are a knowledgeable experimental physicist and an cello artist, who certainly pursues perfection. You taught me so much on condensed matter physics and diffraction theory. In those years, you were still active at the beamlines, where I learned with your great patience to carry out proper diffraction experiments. During the 4 years, you also helped me a lot on my personal life. Thank you Jeroen for all of these, and a special thanks to you for the hard works that we spend towards this thesis. Mark, you are such a cool professor of van der Waals-Zeeman institute with the spot-on humors and attractive personality. I still remembered our first appointment, when you explained me the current understanding of superconductivity on an A4 paper. That was so vivid and impressive. Through the years, you often emphasized and discussed with me the 'big picture' of physics beyond techniques, which helped me immensely. Thank you so much for your guidances and great efforts on me.

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