

## **Magnetic-field induced isotropic to nematic liquid crystal phase transition**

T.B. Ostapenko<sup>a</sup>, D.B. Wiant<sup>b</sup>, S.N. Sprunt<sup>a</sup>, A. Jáklí<sup>c</sup>, J.T. Gleeson<sup>a</sup>

*a Dept of Physics, Kent State University, Kent, OH, 44242, USA*

*b Dept of Radiation Oncology, Wake Forest Univ. School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC 27157 USA*

*c Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University, Kent, OH, 44242, USA*

We report on measurements of magnetic field induced nematic order in the bent-core liquid crystal 4-chlororesorcinol bis[4-(4-n-dodecyloxybenzoyloxy)benzoate]. Using the 31 Tesla solenoid at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, we have observed, at temperatures less than one degree above the clearing point, a first-order transition to the nematic phase. The critical magnetic field at which this occurs increases with temperature. We discuss these results within the context of both Maier-Saupe and Landau-deGennes mean field models for the nematic-isotropic transition. The implications of possible tetrahedral order are also discussed. To our knowledge, this is the first observation of such a magnetic field-induced transition in a thermotropic liquid crystal; the reasons for which this behavior is now attainable are discussed.

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