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Unusual Evolution of the Magnetic Interactions versus Structural Distortions in RMnO$_3$ Perovskites

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We report the refinement of x-ray powder diffraction together with magnetic and thermal conductivity measurements made on the entire family of RMnO$_3$ perovskites prepared by melt growth or under high-pressure. Analysis of the data has identified the origin of the transition from type-A to type-C magnetic order as a competition between t-orbital and e-orbital spin-spin interactions within each Mn-O-Mn bond in the (001) planes; the e-orbital interactions decreasing with decreasing R$^{3+}$-ion size.

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