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Intertwined electronic states of matter: emergent order in frustrated antiferromagnets

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Physics Colloquium, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA, 24 October 2017





Collaborators





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M. H. Christensen (Minnesota)

Experimental collaborators:



P. C. Canfield (lowa) & his group

- Condensed matter physics investigates states of matter = phases
 - Liquids, Solids: different translational symmetry







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- Condensed matter physics investigates states of matter = phases
 - Liquids, Solids: different translational symmetry







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- Condensed matter physics investigates states of matter = phases
 - Liquids, solids: crystals, quasi-crystals, amorphous matter, liquid crystals

Graphene: 2D crystal



order

Herbertsmithite: Kagome lattice



Quasicrystal: Au-Al-Yb

5-fold symmetry

[1] Wikipedia; [2] M. R. Norman, RMP **88**, 041002 (2016); [3] P. M. Chaikin, T. C. Lubensky "Principles of Condensed Matter Physics"; [4] K. Deguchi *et al.*, Nat Mat. **11**, 1013 (2012).

Liquid crystals: nematic orientational

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- Condensed matter physics investigates states of matter = phases
 - Liquids, solids: crystals, quasi-crystals, amorphous matter, liquid crystals
 - Magnetic order: ferromagnetic, antiferro, spin-density waves, skyrmions
 - Paramagnets: low dimensional magnets, (quantum) spin liquids

Ferromagnets





Antiferromagnets Fe₂O₃

Skyrmions: topological spin structure



Quantum spin liquids





[1] Wikipedia; [2] ScienceDaily.com; [3] ETH Zuerich Website

ZnCu₃(OH)₆Cl₂

Herbertsmithite

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 - Liquids, solids: crystals, quasi-crystals, amorphous matter, liquid crystals
 - Magnetic order: ferromagnetic, antiferro, spin-density waves, skyrmions
 - Paramagnets: trivial, (quantum) spin liquids
 - Electronic order: superconductivity, charge density waves
 - Topological order: topo. insulators, Weyl semimetals, skyrmions, toric code



[1] M. Z. Hasan, C. L. Kane, RMP 82 3045 (2010); N. P. Armitage et al., arXiv:1705:01111 (2017).

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States of matter: emergent order

- Condensed matter physics investigates states of matter = phases
 - Liquids, solids: crystals, quasi-crystals, amorphous matter, liquid crystals
 - Magnetic order: ferromagnetic, antiferro, spin-density waves, skyrmions
 - Paramagnets: trivial, (quantum) spin liquids
 - Electronic order: superconductivity, charge density waves
 - Topological order: quantum (spin) Hall, Weyl semimetals, toric code

In all these examples:

Order occurs in elementary degrees of freedom: charge, spin.

Topic of this talk: Order can also

Order can also occur **in composite objects** such as higher order correlation functions (of charge and spin).

Emergent order

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How to describe matter: Theory of Everything

In contrast to particle physicist, we have a "Theory of Everything":

$$H = T_e + V_{ee} + T_i + V_{ii} + V_{ei} + H_{SO} + H_{hyper} + H_{rel} + H_{ext}$$

Electrons:
$$T_e + V_{ee} = -\sum_j \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla_j^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq k} \frac{e^2}{|r_j - r_k|}$$

lons: $T_i + V_{ii} = -\sum_J \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_J} \nabla_J^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{J \neq K} \frac{Z_J Z_K e^2}{|R_J - R_K|}$

Fauna studies, botany, ecology

Fox squirrel

$V \qquad \sum Z_J e^2$

Electron-ion interaction:

$$V_{ei} = -\sum_{j,J} \frac{1}{|r_j - R_J|}$$

Quarks & Atoms gluons

Coarse graining

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Many-body systems: Exponential wall

- Quantum many-body wavefunction $\Psi(r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_N)$
- Number of states grows exponentially:

 $B = q^{3N}, q \ge 3$

Example: $\{|1,1\rangle, |1,2\rangle, |2,1\rangle, |2,2\rangle\}$ Bits needed to even record it.

 $\implies q = 3, N = 1000, B = 10^{1500} \gg 10^{80}$

Largely exceeds number of baryons in the universe!

Van Vleck catastrophy: the many-electron wavefunction may not even be a legitimate scientific concept when $N \ge 1000$.

- Numerical techniques based on density (DFT)
- Effective models (at different scales)
- Emergence of new phenomena at larger scales, renormalization group

[1] W. Kohn (Nobel lecture).

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J. H. Van Vleck



W. Kohn



How do we build effective models: magnetism

- Two electrons in different orbitals of same ion
 - Electronic spin: orbital and spin wavefunction $\Psi(r_1,r_2,s_1,s_2) = \Phi(r_1,r_2)\chi(s_1,s_2)$
 - Coulomb repulsion
 - Pauli exclusion principle (Fermi statistics)



How do we build effective models: magnetism

- Two electrons localized around nearby ions
 - Coulomb repulsion small
 - Maximizing kinetic energy via delocalization (Heisenberg uncertainty principle)
 - Pauli exclusion principle



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Magnetism and phase transitions

• Ising spin model (discrete spins) $J > 0, S_i^z = \pm 1$

Mean-field solution: $\sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} S_i^z S_j^z \to Nzm^2 + zm \sum_i S_i^z + \dots$

Self-consistency equation for the magnetization:

$$m = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{S^z = \pm 1} S^z e^{-\beta H[S^z]} = \frac{e^{\beta J z m} - e^{-\beta J z m}}{e^{\beta J z m} + e^{-\beta J z m}} = \tanh \beta J z m$$

 \implies Non-zero solution below $T_c = zJ$

Phase transition from paramagnetic to magnetic state at T_c .

• Exact solution available in 1D (Ising) and 2D (Onsager): $T_c(1D) = 0, T_c(2D) = 2J/(\ln(1 + \sqrt{2})) = 2.27 J$

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Magnetic frustration

But, things can become much more interesting



- Ground state degeneracy
- Quantum disordered states: spin liquids (talk in a few weeks by my colleague Rebecca Flint)

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Rebecca Flint (ISU)

Herbertsmithite

Order and phases of iron based superconductors (SCs)



BaFe₂As₂ crystal



Phase diagram of **iron based superconductor** $Ba(Fe_{1-x}Co_x)_2As_2$ (Canfield lab at Iowa State University)

[1] S. Nandi et al., PRL 104, 057006 (2010); [2] P. C. Canfield, S. L. Budko, Annu. Rev. Cond. Mat. 1, 27 (2010).

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EMERGENT ORDER IN IRON BASED SUPERCONDUCTORS

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Elementary order in iron based SC



[1] S. Nandi et al., PRL 104, 057006 (2010); [2] D. Johnston, Adv. Phys. 59, 803 (2010); [3] N. Ni et al., PRB 78, 214515 (2008).

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Emergent order in iron based SC



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Elementary and emergent order in iron based SC



Phase diagram of iron based superconductor

Mutual impact of intertwined phases

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Broken symmetry classification

- Classify phases by broken symmetries (Landau paradigm)
- Order parameter $\phi \neq 0$ non-zero in symmetry broken phase
- Phase transitions = spontaneous change of symmetry



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Spontaneous symmetry breaking at phase transition

- Expand free energy *F* close to phase transition in small $\phi(x) \propto M(x)$.
- Symmetry dictates form of expansion: w = 0 due to time-reversal (TR)



$$\phi = (a - b)/(a + b)$$



$$F = \frac{1}{2} \int d^{d}x \{ c [\nabla \phi]^{2} + r_{0}\phi^{2} - w\phi^{3} + u\phi^{4} \}$$

r₀ changes sign at $T = T_{c}$: $r_{0} = a(T - T_{c})$

Spontaneous symmetry breaking



$T > T_c : \langle \phi \rangle = 0$ $T < T_c : \langle \phi \rangle \neq 0$ $\phi \rightarrow -\phi$

TR symmetry broken

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Free energy for iron based superconductors

- Tetragonal crystal lattice, FeAs-planes with Fe square lattices
- Magnetic fluctuations occur at two wavevectors: $Q_X = (\pi, 0), Q_Y = (0, \pi)$



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Free energy for iron based superconductors

- Tetragonal crystal lattice, FeAs-planes with Fe square lattices
- Magnetic fluctuations occur at two wavevectors: $Q_X = (\pi, 0), Q_Y = (0, \pi)$



Bandstructure of FeSCs



Magnetic order parameter (OP)

$$oldsymbol{M}(oldsymbol{x}) = oldsymbol{M}_X \cos(oldsymbol{Q}_X \cdot oldsymbol{x}) + = oldsymbol{M}_Y \cos(oldsymbol{Q}_Y \cdot oldsymbol{x})$$

[1] J. Paglione and R. Greene Nature Physics 6, 645 (2010);
[2] R. M. Fernandes *et al.*, PRB 85, 024534 (2012).

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Free energy for iron based superconductors

- Tetragonal crystal lattice, FeAs-planes with Fe square lattices
- Magnetic fluctuations occur at two wavevectors:

Free energy of iron based superconductors consistent with tetragonal and spin rotational symmetry

$$F = \int_{q} \chi_{q}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{M}_{X}^{2} + \boldsymbol{M}_{Y}^{2}) + \frac{u}{2} \int_{x} (\boldsymbol{M}_{X}^{2} + \boldsymbol{M}_{Y}^{2})^{2} - \frac{g}{2} \int_{x} (\boldsymbol{M}_{X}^{2} - \boldsymbol{M}_{Y}^{2})^{2} + 2w \int_{x} (\boldsymbol{M}_{X} \cdot \boldsymbol{M}_{Y})^{2}$$

Magnetic ground state minimizes free energy: depends on parameters *u*, *g*, *w*.

[1] R. M. Fernandes et al., PRB 85, 024534 (2012).

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Three different types of magnetic order



Stripe spin-density wave (SSDW)

- M_1 or $M_2 \neq 0$. Breaks
 - 0(3) spin rotation symmetry
 - $C_4 \rightarrow C_2$ crystal symmetry

[1] R. M. Fernandes *et* al., PRB **93**, 014511 (2016). [2] M. H. Christensen, PPO, B. M. Andersen, R. M. Fernandes, (to be submitted, 2017).

Three different types of magnetic order



- Stripe spin-density wave (SSDW)
 - M_1 or $M_2 \neq 0$. Breaks
 - O(3) spin rotation symmetry
 - $C_4 \rightarrow C_2$ crystal symmetry
- Charge-spin density wave (CSDW)
 - M_1 and $M_2 \neq 0$, $M_1 \parallel M_2$. Breaks
 - *0*(3) spin rotation symmetry
 - Z₂ translational symmetry

[1] R. M. Fernandes *et al.*, PRB **93**, 014511 (2016). [2] M. H. Christensen, PPO, B. M. Andersen, R. M. Fernandes, (to be submitted, 2017).



Three different types of magnetic order



- Stripe spin-density wave (SSDW)
 - M_1 or $M_2 \neq 0$. Breaks
 - 0(3) spin rotation symmetry
 - $C_4 \rightarrow C_2$ crystal symmetry
- Charge-spin density wave (CSDW)
 - M_1 and $M_2 \neq 0$, $M_1 \parallel M_2$. Breaks
 - 0(3) spin rotation symmetry
 - Z₂ translational symmetry
- Spin-vortex crystal (SVC)
 - M_1 and $M_2 \neq 0$, $M_1 \perp M_2$. Breaks
 - *0*(3) spin rotation symmetry
 - O(2) spin rotation symmetry

[1] R. M. Fernandes *et* al., PRB **93**, 014511 (2016). [2] M. H. Christensen, PPO, B. M. Andersen, R. M. Fernandes, (to be submitted, 2017).

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Different materials described by different parameters *u*, *g*, *w*



[1] S. Nandi et al., PRL 104, 057006 (2010); [2] A. E. Boehmer et al., Nat. Comm. 6, 7911 (2015).

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Controlling and melting magnetic order

Two important questions arise:

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- How is symmetry restored as magnetic order melts?
- How can we control phases?



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Controlling and melting magnetic order

- How is symmetry restored as magnetic order melts?
 - One-step or two-step process?



Symmetry restored *via* two-steps: T_N < T_S

- Spin rotation symmetry O(3) restored at T_N
- Tetragonal symmetry C₄ restored at T_S

Intermediate nematic phase

- No magnetic order
- Only discrete Z_2 order $(C_4 \rightarrow C_2)$
- Structural change has electronic origin



[1] R. M. Fernandes et al., PRB 85, 024534 (2012);

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Emergent orders exist for all three magnetic phases

Stripe magnetic order



Nematic Z₂ order

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$$\phi_{
m nem} = \langle {oldsymbol M}_1^2 - {oldsymbol M}_2^2
angle$$

- x and y-bonds inequivalent
- Orthorhombic: only C₂ rotation symmetry
- Melts via (separate) 1st or 2nd order transition
- Realized in Ba(Fe_{1-x}Co_x)₂As₂

[1] R. M. Fernandes *et al.*, PRB **85**, 024534 (2012); [2] R.M. Fernandes *et al.*, PRB **93**, 014511 (2016); [3] M. H. Christensen, PPO, B. M. Andersen, R. M. Fernandes, (to be submitted, 2017).



Emergent orders exist for all three magnetic phases

Charge-spin density wave order (CSDW)



Charge-density wave Z₂ **order**

 $\phi_{\rm CDW} = \langle \boldsymbol{M}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{M}_2 \rangle$

- 2 types of sites inequivalent
- Tetragonal: C₄-symmetric
- Realized in Ba_{1-x}K_xFe₂As₂



[1] R. M. Fernandes *et al.*, PRB **85**, 024534 (2012); [2] R.M. Fernandes *et al.*, PRB **93**, 014511 (2016); [3] M. H. Christensen, PPO, B. M. Andersen, R. M. Fernandes, (to be submitted, 2017).

Emergent orders exist for all three magnetic phases

Spin-vortex crystal order (SVC)

Melting of O(3)



 $\phi_{
m SVDW} = \langle \boldsymbol{M}_1 imes \boldsymbol{M}_2
angle$

- Tetragonal: *C*₄ symmetric
- *O*₂ order without SOC
- Z₂ order if moments are fixed to certain plane
- Generates staggered electric field on plaquettes



How to realize?

[1] R. M. Fernandes *et al.*, PRB **85**, 024534 (2012); [2] R.M. Fernandes *et al.*, PRB **93**, 014511 (2016); [3] M. H. Christensen, PPO, B. M. Andersen, R. M. Fernandes, (to be submitted, 2017).

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Controlling magnetic order

How can we control phases?

- Doping, pressure, magnetic field
- Other possibilities

Coupling to emergent order parameter

- Apply external strain σ to cause orthorhombic distortion
- Acts as "conjugate field" for emergent order parameter φ_{nematic}
- $\Delta F = \sigma \phi_{nematic}$
- Transition temperature T_N to stripe order increases (27K in example)



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CaKFe₄As₄: coupling to SVDW emergent order

Ca

Fe

As

Task: generate Spin Vortex Crystal magnetic order?



- Realize conjugate field to emergent SVDW order
- Two inequivalent As sites
- Breaks glide plane symmetry
- Lowers SVC magnetic state to be ground state



P. C. Canfield



William Meier

CaFe₂As₂

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CaKFe₄As₄

Ca

As₂

Fe

As1

Κ

CaKFe₄As₄: coupling to SVDW emergent order

- Crystal structure generates conjugate field for emergent SVDW
- Lowers SVC magnetic state
- First time SVC phase is experimentally realized!



W. R. Meier, ..., PPO, ..., P. C. Canfield, arXiv:1706.01067 (2017).

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Ca

As₂

Fe

As1

Κ

EMERGENT ORDER IN MICROSCOPIC SPIN MODELS

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Microscopic spin model: J1-J2 model

J1-J2 model: application to iron based SC



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Why do thermal phase transitions occur?

- Equilibrium state is minimum of free energy F = E TS
- Competition between internal energy E and entropy S

Example: One-dimensional **Ising model** describing interacting spins Hamiltonian: J > 0, ferromagnetic nearest-neighbor interaction $H = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} S_i S_j \quad , S_i = \pm 1$

At T = 0: ground state is all spins aligned (minimal energy E)

Why do thermal phase transitions occur?

- Equilibrium state shows minimum of free energy F = E TS
- Competition between internal energy E and entropy S

Example: One-dimensional Ising model

$$H = -J\sum_{\langle i,j\rangle} S_i S_j \quad , S_i = \pm 1$$



At finite T > 0: **Defects** can be thermally excited. Question: how many?

Landau-Peierls argument: calculate free energy of free defect

E = 2J $S \simeq k_B \log N$ $F \simeq 2J - k_B T \log N \xrightarrow[N \to \infty]{} -\infty$

Free energy reduced by generating defects. Proliferation of defects destroys order at T>0.

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R. Peierls (1907 – 1995)

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Order in two-dimensional Ising spin models



- Low T: Defect raises free energy
- High T: Defect lowers free energy

Defects proliferate above critical T_c: Phase transition (Ising universality).

[1] L. Onsager Phys. Rev. II 85, 808 (1944).

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Continuous spin models in two dimensions

- Continuous spins with N components $S = (\cos(\theta_0 + \theta_x), \sin(\theta_0 + \theta_x))$
- Hamiltonian for N=2 planar spins

$$H = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

 $\frac{J}{}$

Ferromagnetic order at zero temperature for both classical and quantum spins (no frustration)

T=0 ground state (FM ordered)

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Continuous spin models in two dimensions

Long-wavelength Hamiltonian (gradient energy)

$$H = \frac{J}{2} \int d^2 x (\nabla \theta_x)^2 = \frac{J}{2} \int \frac{d^2 q}{(2\pi)^2} q^2 |\theta_q|^2$$

Thermal fluctuations reduce magnetization:

$$\langle \cos \theta_x \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \operatorname{Re} \int \mathcal{D}\theta_x e^{-\frac{J}{T} \int_x (\nabla \theta)^2 + i \int_x \theta_x} = e^{-\frac{1}{2} \langle \theta_x^2 \rangle}$$



Debye-Waller factor infrared divergent:

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle \theta_x^2 \rangle = \frac{T}{4\pi J} \int_{1/L}^{1/a} \frac{dq}{q} \propto \ln \frac{L}{a} \to \infty \text{ for } L \to \infty$$

Thermal fluctuations melt order at any finite T!

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Continuous spin models in two dimensions

Long-wavelength Hamiltonian (gradient energy)

$$H = \frac{J}{2} \int d^2 x (\nabla \theta_x)^2 = \frac{J}{2} \int \frac{d^2 q}{(2\pi)^2} q^2 |\theta_q|^2$$

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Debye-Waller factor infrared divergent:

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle \theta_x^2 \rangle = \frac{T}{4\pi J} \int_0^{1/a} \frac{dq}{q} \to \infty$$

Hohenberg-Mermin-Wagner theorem: No symmetry breaking of continuous degrees of freedom in $d \le 2$ at any finite temperature.

Emergent (discrete) order?

[1] N. D. Mermin, H. Wagner, PRL 17, 1133 (1966); P. C. Hohenberg, PR 158, 383 (1967).

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T > 0 state:

magnetization vanishes



 θ_i



J_1 - J_2 -Heisenberg model on square lattice

J₁-J₂-Heisenberg model on square lattice

$$H = J_1 \sum_{\langle i,j
angle} oldsymbol{S}_i \cdot oldsymbol{S}_j + J_2 \sum_{\langle \langle i,j
angle
angle} oldsymbol{S}_i \cdot oldsymbol{S}_j$$



 At T > 0: Finite spin correlation length (Hohenberg-Mermin-Wagner theorem)

$$\xi(T) \sim a_0 e^{2\pi J S^2/T}$$



 $J_2 > J_1$

[1] J. Villain, J. Phys. Fr 38, 385 (1977); [2] C. L. Henley, PRL 62, 2056 (1989); [3] P. Chandra, P. Coleman,
A. I. Larkin, PRL 64, 88 (1990); [4] C. Weber *et al.*, PRL 91, 177202 (2003);

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Order from disorder

Fluctuation free energy [1] due to "order from disorder"



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$$F = -E(T)[1 + \cos^2 \theta] \text{ minimized for } \theta = 0, \pi$$
with $E(T) = \frac{J_1 S^2}{2J_2} \left(\gamma_Q \frac{1}{S} + \gamma_T \frac{T}{J_2 S^2}\right)$

Spins tend to align the fluctuating Weiss' field of the neighbors to their easy plane [3].

Emergent discrete Ising \mathbb{Z}_2 order parameter

$$m_{\alpha} \sim S_1 \cdot S_2 = \pm 1$$

[1] P. Chandra et al., PRL 64, 88 (1990); [2] J. Villain, J. Phys. Fr :
[3] C. L. Henley, PRL 62, 2056 (1989)

 $\begin{array}{c} J_2 \\ J_2 \\ J_3 \\ J_4 \\ J_4 \\ J_4 \\ Q = (0,\pi) \end{array}$



 $m_{\alpha} = -1$ $Q = (\pi, 0)$

Emergent Ising order parameter in J₁-J₂-model



[1] P. Chandra, P. Coleman, A. I. Larkin, PRL **64**, 88 (1990); [2] C. Weber *et al.*, PRL **91**, 177202 (2003); [3] R. M. Fernandes *et al.*, PRL **105**, 157003 (2010);

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Z₂ order drives structural transition

Phase diagram:



[1] R. M. Fernandes et al., PRL 105, 157003 (2010); [2] H. Luetkens, et al., Wat. Sat A. Bes (2000) V3ER Sandi Yet al., PRL 104, 0570 Department of Physics and Astronomy

2D Heisenberg windmill antiferromagnet







- Honeycomb + triangular lattice sites
- Heisenberg spins $\boldsymbol{S}_t(r_j), \boldsymbol{S}_A(r_j), \boldsymbol{S}_B(r_j)$
- Antiferromagnetic nearest-neighbor coupling

$$H = H_{tt} + H_{AB} + H_{tA} + H_{tB}$$
$$H_{ab} = J_{ab} \sum_{j=1}^{N_L} \sum_{\delta_{ab}} \boldsymbol{S}_a(r_j) \cdot \boldsymbol{S}_b(r_j + \delta_{ab})$$



Windmill in Strangnaes (Sweden)

$$a,b\in\{t,A,B\}$$

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Ground state of classical spins at small J_{th}



Weak inter-sublattice coupling

 $J_{th} \ll J_{tt}, J_{hh}$



120 degree state on triangular lattice

 \Rightarrow O(3)/O(2) order parameter n(x)

 \Rightarrow SO(3) order parameter $t(m{x}) = ig(m{t}_1, \ m{t}_2, \ m{t}_3ig)$

Classically at T=0 decoupled even for $J_{th} > 0$

[1] B. Jeevanesan, PPO, PRB 90, 144435 (2014).

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Fluctuation coupling "order from disorder"



$$J_{th} = 0.4\bar{J}$$
$$\bar{J} = \sqrt{J_{tt}J_{hh}}$$
$$T = 1, S = 1$$

- Fluctuations couple spins on different sublattices
- Spins tend to align perpendicular to fluctuation Weiss field

$$S_c = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2 x \left(\gamma \cos^2 \beta \right)$$

Coplanar:
$$\gamma = (J_{th}/\bar{J})^2 A_{\gamma} (J_{tt}/J_{hh}, \bar{J}/T)$$



[1] C. L. Henley, PRL 62, 2056 (1989)

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Fluctuation coupling "order from disorder"



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$$\bar{J} = \sqrt{J_{tt}J_{hh}}$$
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[1] C. L. Henley, PRL 62, 2056 (1989)

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Fluctuation coupling "order from disorder"



- Fluctuations couple spins on different sublattices
- Spins tend to align perpendicular to fluctuation Weiss field

$$S_c = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2x \left(\gamma \cos^2 \beta + \lambda \sin^6 \beta \sin^2 \left(3\alpha \right) \right)$$

Coplanar:
$$\gamma \propto (J_{th}/\bar{J})^2$$
 Z₆: $\lambda \propto (J_{th}/\bar{J})^6$

[1] C. L. Henley, PRL 62, 2056 (1989)

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 t_3

 t_2

Phase diagram of windmill antiferromagnet



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Classical Monte-Carlo simulation: phase diagram



 Proof of Polykov's conjecture that critical phase can exist in Heisenberg system (due to topological vacuum degeneracy).

[1] B. Jeevanesan, P. Chandra, P. Coleman, PPO, Phys. Rev. Lett. **115**, 177201 (2015).

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Long-wavelength covariant action

 Long-wavelength action of 2d spin system takes form of (Euclidean) string theory [1]

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2x \ g_{ij}[X(x)] \partial_\mu X^i(x) \partial_\mu X^j(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \int d^2x \sin^2(3\alpha)$$



3 Euler angles and relative phase



Magnetization X = displacement of string in D=4 (compact) dimensions

[1] D. Friedan, PRL 45, 1057 (1980)

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Magnetism as string theory

Action of 2D spin system takes form of (Euclidean) string theory [1]

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2x \ g_{ij}[X(x)] \partial_\mu X^i(x) \partial_\mu X^j(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \int d^2x \sin^2(3\alpha)$$

• Spin stiffnesses define metric tensor $X(\tau, x) = (\phi, \theta, \psi, \alpha)$

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} g^{SO(3)} & \mathcal{K}^T \\ \mathcal{K} & I_{\alpha} \end{pmatrix}$$
 SO(3) stiffnesses I_1, I_2, I_3
U(1) phase α is coupled to non-Abelian sector U(1) stiffness

Geometric curvature of manifold (Riemann tensor) determined by spin stiffnesses.

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Magnetism and gravity: RG flow = Ricci flow

- Action is covariant with stiffness metric tensor
- Covariance is preserved during RG scaling [1]
- **RG flow of the metric is given by the Ricci flow** [1,2] (two loops)



Integrating out fast momenta

 RG flow of the metric is given by the Ricci flow (two loops) [1,2]

$$\frac{dg_{ij}}{dl} = -\frac{1}{2\pi}R_{ij} - \frac{1}{8\pi^2}R_i^{klm}R_{jklm}$$

Ricci and Riemann tensor determined by g_{ij}



[1] D. Friedan, PRL 45, 1057 (1980); [2] R. S. Hamilton, J. Differential Geom. 17, 255 (1982)

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Compactification and magnetism

$$\frac{dg_{ij}}{dl} = -\frac{1}{2\pi}R_{ij} - \frac{1}{8\pi^2}R_i^{\ klm}R_{jklm}$$

- One-dimensionsal U(1) part of manifold decouples from 3D non-Abelian SO(3) part
- Ricci scalar grows like

$$\begin{split} R &= R^{SO(3)} - \frac{1}{2\pi I'_{\alpha}} \beta_{\alpha} \\ R^{SO(3)} &\sim 1/\bar{I} & \beta_{\alpha} = \frac{(I_1 - I_2)^2 r^2}{4\pi I_1 I_2} \end{split}$$



SO(3) part curles up

U(1) becomes flat

Toy model for compactification

[1] M. Gell-Mann and B. Zwiebach, Phys. Lett. B **141**, 333 (1984);
[2] L. Randall and R. Sundrum, PRL **83**, 4690 (1999)

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Experimental proof of Poincare conjecture

- Poincare conjecture (1904), proven by Perelman in 2006
- "Every simply connected, closed 3-manifold is homeomorphic to a 3-sphere"
- Two-loop perturbative Ricci flow experiences singularities (false Landau poles). Not present in exact Ricci flow.
- Use classical magnet to simulate exact Ricci flow.
 Experimental proof of Poincare conjecture.
- Protocol:
 - Suitable magnet realizes given metric
 - Cool system
 - Measure spin correlation functions at various temperatures
 - Extract metric tensor
 - Obtain "surgery-free" generalized Ricci flow of manifold





G. Perelman (2006) H. Poincare



[1] P. Coleman, A. Tsvelik (private communication)

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Summary

- Emergent order leads to rich physical phenomena
- Occurs in various strongly correlated materials
- Iron-based SC
 - Explain origin of structural orthorhombic transition
 - Control magnetic phases via coupling to EO
- Magnetism and gravity: exact Ricci flow
- Magnetic toy model for compactification

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 $U(1) \times SO(3)$ J_{tt} J_{th} J_{th} U(1) U(1)

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