Trends in molecular magnetism: a personal perspective

Jürgen Schnack

Department of Physics – University of Bielefeld – Germany
http://obelix.physik.uni-bielefeld.de/~schnack/

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Contents for you today

1. Single Molecule Magnets
2. Antiferromagnetic Molecules
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4. Coherence Phenomena
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If you are missing your topic, please call my lawyer!
Single Molecule Magnets
Magnetic Molecules may possess a large ground state spin, e.g. $S = 10$ for Mn$_{12}$ or Fe$_8$;

Ground state spin can be stabilized by anisotropy (easy axis).
Single Molecule Magnets (SMM): large ground state moment; anisotropy barrier dominates at low $T$.

$$H \approx DS_z^2$$

- Metastable magnetization and hysteresis;
- But also magnetization tunneling due to non-commuting terms, e.g. $E, B_x, B_y$.  

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[Mn$^{\text{III}}$O$_2$(Et-sao)$_6$(O$_2$CPh(Me$_2$))$_2$(EtOH)$_6$]:

- $S = 12$ ground state with $D = -0.43$ cm$^{-1}$
- $U_{\text{eff}} = 86.4$ K and a blocking temperature of about 4.5 K.
- A record molecule from the group of Euan Brechin (Edinburgh).


**Single Molecule Magnets IV**

- “Magnitude of the anisotropy barrier is mainly determined by the strength of the spin-orbit coupling and cannot be engineered by independently optimizing $D$ and $S$. ”(1)

- “From this point of view systems with larger energy barriers should be obtained in the case of perfect alignment of the Jahn-Teller axes . . . However, the challenge here will be the control of the ferromagnetic exchange.”(1)

- “. . . the widely considered design rule to increase $S$ is not as efficient as suggested by $H \approx DS^2$,. . . the increase is on the order of unity and not $S^2$. ”(2)

- “For obtaining better SMMs, it hence seems most promising to work on the local ZFS tensors $D_i$ or to work in a limit where the Heisenberg term is not dominant (i.e., to break the strong-exchange limit).”(2)

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Single Molecule Magnets V

Rational design of strict $C_3$ symmetry:

- Idea of Thorsten Glaser: $C_3$ symmetric alignment of local easy axes (easy axis ≡ Jahn-Teller axis);

- Various ions could be used so far, e.g. Mn$_6$Cr (1), Mn$_6$Fe (2), …

- Problem: exchange interaction sometimes antiferromagnetic.

Single Molecule Magnets VI – Theory

\[ H(\vec{B}) = -\sum_{i,j} J_{ij} \vec{s}(i) \cdot \vec{s}(j) + \sum_i d_i (\vec{e}_i \cdot \vec{s}(i))^2 + \mu_B \vec{B} \cdot \sum_i^N g_i \cdot \vec{s}(i) \]

- \[ [H, \vec{S}^2] \neq 0, \ [H, \vec{S}_z] \neq 0; \]
- You have to diagonalize \( H(\vec{B}) \) for every field (direction and strength)!
  \( \Rightarrow \) Orientational average.
- If you are lucky, point group symmetries still exist. Use them!
- Easy: \( \dim(\mathcal{H}) < 30,000 \); possible: \( 30,000 < \dim(\mathcal{H}) < 140,000 \)

What can be achieved? $\text{Mn}_3\text{Cr}$:

- Assume $C_3$ symmetry;
- Two couplings: $J_1$ to central Cr, $J_2$ between Mn; Mn: $s=5/2$, $g=2.0$; Cr: $s=3/2$, $g=1.95$
- Model Mn anisotropy by local axis $\vec{e}(\vartheta, \phi)$. Due to $C_3$ symmetry $\vartheta_{\text{Mn}1} = \vartheta_{\text{Mn}2} = \vartheta_{\text{Mn}3}$. Only relative $\phi = 120^\circ$ determined.
- Model Cr anisotropy by local axis $\vec{e}(\vartheta, \phi)$. Due to $C_3$ symmetry $\vartheta_{\text{Cr}} = 0, \phi_{\text{Cr}} = 0$.
- Result: $J_1 = -0.29\text{ cm}^{-1}$, $J_2 = -0.08\text{ cm}^{-1}$, $d_{\text{Mn}} = -1.21\text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\vartheta_{\text{Mn}} = 22^\circ$, $d_{\text{Cr}} = +0.17\text{ cm}^{-1}$.
Antiferromagnetic Molecules
Antiferromagnetic Molecules I – Rings

- To date: many AF rings synthesized, e.g. Fe$_6$, Fe$_{10}$, Fe$_{12}$, ..., Cr$_8$, ...

- Theory: Exact diagonalization; Rotational band model; QMC; Classical
Antiferromagnetic Molecules II – Trend A

Investigation of spin dynamics and coherent tunnelling

- Tunneling of the Neel vector at low temperatures (1,2,3);
- Tunneling in doped af rings (4).

Synthesis of odd or heterometallic or coupled af spin rings

- Odd membered rings very rare; one reason: steric hindrance (1);

- Heterometallic rings derived from homometallic, especially from Cr$_8$ (2);

- Coupling of heterometallic rings for quantum computing (3).

(1) O. Cador et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Edit. 43, 5196 (2004); H. C. Yao et al., Chem. Commun. 1745 (2006);
Antiferromagnetic Molecules IV – Trend C

Soliton dynamics

- Theoretical realization of classical solitons on af Heisenberg spin rings (1)

- Do quantum solitons exist and if, how do they look like? (2)

Antiferromagnetic Molecules V – Trend D

Extending theorems of Lieb, Schultz, and Mattis

- For odd $N$ and half integer $s$, i.e. $s = 1/2, 3/2, 5/2, \ldots$ we find that (1)
  - the ground state has total spin $S = 1/2$;
  - the ground state energy is fourfold degenerate.

- Reason: In addition to the (trivial) degeneracy due to $M = \pm 1/2$, a degeneracy with respect to $k$ appears (2)

For all rings: \[ k \equiv \pm a \left\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \right\rfloor \mod N \, , \quad a = Ns - M \, , \quad (4) \]

(2) $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$: largest integer, smaller or equal
Antiferromagnetic Molecules VI – Frustration Effects

Learn about antiferromagnets from molecules

- Archetypical frustrated molecules: cuboctahedra, icosahedra, icosidodecahedra, truncated tetrahedra (1);

- Cuboctahedra and icosidodecahedra share properties with kagome lattice (2);

- Phase transition at $T = 0$ for icosahedron (3);

- Enhanced magnetocaloric effect (4).

(1) A. Müller et al., Chem. Phys. Chem. 2, 517 (2001); meanwhile Fe$_{30}$, Cr$_{30}$, V$_{30}$, see U. Kortz et al., Coor. Chem. Rev. (2009), accepted.
Molecules on Surfaces
Molecules on Surfaces I

Early attempts by Paul Müller

- Cu$_{20}$ on Highly Orientated Pyrolytic Graphite (HOPG) (1);
- Scanning tunnelling microscopy (STM) (2);
- Scanning tunnelling spectroscopy (STS) (2);
- Current induced tunnelling spectroscopy (CITS) (2).

Molecules on Surfaces II

Rings on surfaces

- Sulfur-functionalized clusters Cr\textsubscript{7}Ni on gold (1);
- Deposited from the liquid phase on Au(111);
- Scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) and X-ray photoemission spectroscopy (XPS);
- “The stoichiometric behavior of the core level intensities, which are the direct fingerprint of the ring, confirms that the ring integrity is preserved.”(1)

Molecules on Surfaces III

Spin-polarized measurements

- Cobalt-phthalocyanine molecules on cobalt islands (1);
- Spin-polarized STM and STS;
- Transport through polarized Co islands;
- Identification of ferromagnetic molecule-lead exchange interaction (1)

“Backslash” on molecule

- How much of the deposited molecule survives?
- Study of a Mn$_6$ cluster grafted on a Polyoxometalate (POM) (1);
- Intra-molecular interactions change compared to free molecule (1).

Molecules on Surfaces V

Carbon nanotube squid

- Use of single-walled carbon nanotube (CNT) Josephson junctions;
- Discrete quantum dot (QD) energy level structure controlled by gates (1);
- CNT-SQUIDs sensitive local magnetometers to study the magnetization reversal of individual magnetic particles (1).

from (1)

Coherence Phenomena
Coherence Phenomena I

Quantum computing

• Chemical realization through coupled molecules with switchable coupling;
• Original ideas, see e.g. (2);
• Molecular transistors; transport in weak or strong coupling regime (3).
• Needed: long coherence times.

from (1)

Coherence Phenomena II

Spin relaxation times

- EPR/NMR, Hahn echo techniques, $T_1$, $T_2$ times;
- Decoherence due to e.g. nuclei, phonons, dipolar interaction;
- Deuteration improves coherence times considerably;
- $\mu$s (!) can be reached. (1)

from (1)

Forschergruppe 945
Forschergruppe 945

Members

- Chemistry: Thorsten Glaser, Achim Müller, Peter Jutzi, Norbert Mitzel (Bielefeld);
- Physics: Andreas Hütten, Ulrich Heinzmann, Günter Reiss, Jürgen Schnack, Christian Schröder (Bielefeld);
- Physics: Paul Müller, Konstantin Petukhov (Erlangen).

http://www.for945.uni-bielefeld.de/
Forschergruppe 945

Research program

- Synthesis and Characterization of Nanomagnets: AF molecules, SMM, core-shell particles;
- Theoretical modeling;
- Deposition and investigation on surfaces.

http://www.for945.uni-bielefeld.de/
I would like to apologize for not mentioning . . .

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- Chain magnets;
- Spin-crossover systems;
- YOU;
- . . .
Thank you very much for your attention.
German Molecular Magnetism Web

www.molmag.de

Highlights. Tutorials. Who is who. DFG SPP 1137