Frustration effects in magnetic molecules

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In late 20th century people coming from transport theory, general relativity, nuclear physics, and Zener diodes were triggered by a “magnetic” enthusiast.
Meanwhile a big collaboration has been established

- K. Bärwinkels, H.-J. Schmidt, M. Allalen, M. Brüger, D. Mentrup, M. Exler, P. Hage, F. Hesmer, F. Ouchni, P. Shechelokovskyy (Uni Osnabrück);
- M. Luban, R. Modler, P. Kögerler, D. Vaknin, … (Ames Lab, Iowa, USA);
- Chr. Schröder (FH Bielefeld & Ames Lab, Iowa, USA);
- H. Nojiri (Tohoku University, Japan);
- R.E.P. Winpenny (Man U); L. Cronin (University of Glasgow);
- J. Richter, J. Schulenburg, R. Schmidt (Uni Magdeburg);
- S. Blügel, A. Postnikov (FZ Jülich); A. Honecker (Uni Braunschweig).
- E. Rentschler (Uni Mainz); U. Kortz (IUB).


1. Extension of Lieb, Schultz, and Mattis: \( k \)-rule for odd rings

2. Rotational bands in antiferromagnets

3. Giant magnetization jumps in frustrated antiferromagnets

4. Magnetization plateaus and susceptibility minima

5. Metamagnetic phase transition

6. A special triangular molecule-based spin tube

7. Enhanced magnetocaloric effect

... and various general results could be achieved
The beauty of magnetic molecules I

Macro molecules (polyoxometalates etc.): consist of constituents like Hydrogen (H), Carbon (C), Oxygen (O), and diamagnetic ions (e.g. Mo) as well as paramagnetic ions like Iron (Fe), Chromium (Cr), Copper (Cu), Nickel (Ni), Vanadium (V) or Manganese (Mn);

Pure organic magnetic molecules: magnetic coupling between high spin units (e.g. free radicals);

Single spin quantum number $1/2 \leq s \leq 7/2$;

Intermolecular interaction relatively small, therefore measurements reflect the thermal behaviour of a single molecule.
The beauty of magnetic molecules II

- Dimers (Fe$_2$), tetrahedra (Cr$_4$), cubes (Cr$_8$);
- Rings, especially iron rings (Fe$_6$, Fe$_8$, Fe$_{10}$, ...);
- Complex structures (Mn$_{12}$) – drosophila of molecular magnetism;
- “Soccer balls”, more precisely icosidodecahedra (Fe$_{30}$) and other macro molecules;
- Chain like and planar structures of interlinked magnetic molecules, e.g. triangular Cu chain:

The beauty of magnetic molecules III

\( \{ \text{Mo}_{72}\text{Fe}_{30} \} \) – our favorite molecule

- Giant magnetic Keplerate molecule;
- Structure: Fe - yellow, Mo - blue, O - red;
- Antiferromagnetic interaction mediated by O-Mo-O bridges (1).

- Classical ground state of \( \{ \text{Mo}_{72}\text{Fe}_{30} \} \): three sublattice structure, coplanar spins (2);
- Quantum mechanical ground state \( S = 0 \) can only be approximated, dimension of Hilbert space \( (2s + 1)^N \approx 10^{23} \).

The beauty of magnetic molecules IV
Why magnetic molecules?

- Interacting spin system largely decoupled from remaining degrees of freedom;
- Transition few-spin system $\Rightarrow$ many-spin system, contribution to understanding of bulk magnetism;
- Transition quantum spin system ($s = 1/2$) $\Rightarrow$ classical spin system ($s_{\text{Fe}} = 5/2$, $s_{\text{Gd}} = 7/2$);
- Easy to produce, single crystals with $>10^{17}$ identical molecules can be synthesized and practically completely characterized;
- Speculative applications: magnetic storage devices, magnets in biological systems, light-induced nano switches, displays, catalysts, qubits for quantum computers.
Model Hamiltonian – Heisenberg-Model

\[ H \sim = - \sum_{i,j} J_{ij} \vec{s}(i) \cdot \vec{s}(j) + g \mu_B B \sum_{i} s_z(i) \]

Heisenberg \hspace{5cm} \text{Zeeman}

The Heisenberg Hamilton operator together with a Zeeman term are used for the following considerations.

\( J < 0 \): antiferromagnetic coupling.

Very often additional terms – dipolar, anisotropic – are utterly negligible. If needed they can be cast in the form \( \sum_{i,j} \vec{s}(i) \cdot \vec{D}_{ij} \cdot \vec{s}(j) \).
Extension of Lieb, Schultz, and Mattis I

$k$–rule for even rings

- Goal: general properties of the magnetic spectrum depending on the structure, e.g. ground state quantum numbers.


- For AF Heisenberg rings of even $N$ thus the momentum quantum number $k$ is known for relative ground states of subsapces $\mathcal{H}(M)$.

- Translational (shift) operator $\tilde{T}$ moves ring by one site: $[\tilde{H}, \tilde{T}] = 0$,

  Eigenvalues of $\tilde{T}$: $\exp\{-i2\pi k_\nu/N\}$, $k_\nu = 0, \ldots, N - 1$.  

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Extension of Lieb, Schultz, and Mattis II

$k$–rule for odd rings

- An extended $k$-rule can be inferred from numerical investigations which yields the $k$ quantum number for relative ground states of subspaces $\mathcal{H}(M)$ for even as well as odd spin rings

$$k \equiv \pm a \left\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \right\rfloor \mod N, \quad a = N s - M$$

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Rotational bands in antiferromagnets I

- Often minimal energies $E_{\text{min}}(S)$ form a rotational band: Landé interval rule (1);

- Most pronounced for bipartite systems (2,3),
  good approximation for more general systems;


Rotational bands in antiferromagnets II

Approximate Hamiltonian for \{\text{Mo}_{72}\text{Fe}_{30}\}

\[
\hat{H} = -2J \sum_{(u<v)} \vec{S}(u) \cdot \vec{S}(v) \approx -\frac{D \, J}{N} \left[ \sum_{j=1}^{N_{SL}} \vec{S}_{\sim j}^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{N_{SL}} \vec{S}_{\sim j} \right] = \hat{H}^{\text{eff}}
\]

\(\vec{S}_{\sim j}\) sublattice spins; \(D = 6\); good description of magnetization.

INS shows broad peak at band separation, thermal behavior understood; dependence on external field currently investigated.

Giant magnetization jumps in frustrated antiferromagnets I
\{Mo_{72}Fe_{30}\}

- $E_{\text{min}}(S)$ linear in $S$ for high $S$ instead of being quadratic (1);
- Heisenberg model: property depends only on the structure but not on $s$ (2);
- Alternative formulation: independent localized magnons (3);

Giant magnetization jumps in frustrated antiferromagnets II

Localized Magnons

- $|\text{localized magnon}\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|1\rangle - |2\rangle + |3\rangle - |4\rangle)$

- $|1\rangle \sim s^{-}(1)|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow \text{ etc.}$

- $H|1\rangle = J\{ |1\rangle + 1/2(|2\rangle + |4\rangle + |5\rangle + |8\rangle)\}$
  $H|2\rangle = J\{ |2\rangle + 1/2(|1\rangle + |3\rangle + |5\rangle + |6\rangle)\}$
  $H|3\rangle = J\{ |3\rangle + 1/2(|2\rangle + |4\rangle + |7\rangle + |6\rangle)\}$
  $H|4\rangle = J\{ |4\rangle + 1/2(|1\rangle + |3\rangle + |7\rangle + |8\rangle)\}$

- $\sim H|\text{localized magnon}\rangle \propto |\text{localized magnon}\rangle$

- Triangles trap the localized magnon, amplitudes cancel at outer vertices.
Giant magnetization jumps in frustrated antiferromagnets III
Kagome Lattice

- Non-interacting one-magnon states can be placed on various lattices, e.g., the kagome lattice;
- Each state of \( n \) independent magnons is the ground state in the Hilbert subspace with \( M = N s - n \);
- Linear dependence of \( E_{\text{min}} \) on \( M \) \( \Rightarrow \) magnetization jump;
- Maximal number of independent magnons: \( N/9 \);
- Jump is a macroscopic quantum effect!

Magnetization plateaus and susceptibility minima

- Octahedron, Cuboctahedron, Icosidodecahedron – little (polytope) brothers of the kagome lattice with increasing frustration.
- Cuboctahedron & Icosidodecahedron realized as magnetic molecules.
- Cuboctahedron & Icosidodecahedron feature plateaus, e.g. at $\mathcal{M}_{\text{sat}}/3$ and independent magnons.
- Susceptibility shows a pronounced dip at $B_{\text{sat}}/3$ (classical calculations and quantum calculations for the cuboctahedron).
- Experimentally verified with $\{\text{Mo}_{72}\text{Fe}_{30}\}$.

Metamagnetic phase transition I

- Normally hysteretic behavior of SMM is an outcome of magnetic anisotropy.
- The classical AF Heisenberg Icosahedron exhibits a pronounced hysteresis loop.
- It shows a first order phase transition at $T = 0$ as function of $B$.
- The minimal energies are realized by two families of spin configurations.
- The overall minimal energy curve is not convex $\Rightarrow$ magnetization jump.

Metamagnetic phase transition II

- Quantum analog:
  Non-convex minimal energy levels
  \( \Rightarrow \) magnetization jump of \( \Delta M > 1 \).

- Lanczos diagonalization for various \( s \).

- True jump of \( \Delta M = 2 \) for \( s = 4 \).

- Polynomial fit in \( 1/s \) yields the classically observed transition field.


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A frustrated triangular Cu chain

- \([\text{CuCl}_2\text{tachH}]_3\text{Cl}]\text{Cl}_2\), tach = \textit{cis,trans}-1,3,5-triamino-cyclohexane (1)

- One-dimensional stack of antiprisms of af coupled equilateral copper(II) triangles: three-leg ladder with frustrated rung boundary condition.

- Intra-triangle couplings \(J_1\) – grey lines, inter-triangle couplings \(J_2\) – black lines.

• Intra-triangle exchange $J_1$: bridging chloro ligand and hydrogen bonds; Cu-Cu distance is 4.46 Å.

• Inter-triangle exchange $J_2$: hydrogen-bonded Cu-Cl···H-N-Cu super-exchange; Cu-Cu distance is 6.82 Å.

• Conjecture: weakly coupled triangles, i.e. $|J_2| \ll |J_1|$
  $\Rightarrow$ independent triangles at high $T$; effective spin-1/2 chain at low $T$: wrong!

Triangular Cu chain: magnetization

- Weakly coupled triangles would result in pronounced plateau at $1/3$ of the saturation magnetization.

- High-field magnetization measurement shows, however, no plateau.

- Solution: isotropic Heisenberg model with antiferromagnetic exchange parameters $J_1 = -0.9$ K and $J_2 = -1.95$ K and $g = 2.095$ (average of small $g$-anisotropy).

- Deviations at high field: $g$-anisotropy and staggered field; deviations at low field: singlet-triplet gap overestimated in finite systems.
• Singlet-triplet gap $\Delta_{0-1} \gtrsim 0.4 \pm 0.05 \text{ K}$; singlet-singlet gap $\Delta_{0-0} \approx 6 \text{ K}$

• Ground state non-degenerate (1), whereas twofold degenerate for weakly coupled triangles (2).

Enhanced magnetocaloric effect I
Basics

- Discovered in pure iron by E. Warburg in 1881.
- Heating or cooling in a varying magnetic field.
- Typical rates: $0.5 \ldots 2 \text{ K/T (adiabatic temperature change)}$.
- Giant magnetocaloric effect: $3 \ldots 4 \text{ K/T e.g. in } \text{Gd}_5(\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x})_4 \text{ alloys } (x \leq 0.5)$.
- MCE especially large: due to condensation of a macroscopic number of soft modes (Zhitomirsky), due to condensation of independent magnons (Zhitomirsky, Honecker, Richter), close to quantum critical points (Rosch).
Enhanced magnetocaloric effect II
Simple af $s = 1/2$ dimer

- Singlet-triplet level crossing causes a "quantum phase transition" at $T = 0$ as a function of $B$.
- $M(T = 0, B)$ and $S(T = 0, B)$ not analytic as function of $B$.
- $C(T, B)$ varies strongly as function of $B$ for low $T$. 
Enhanced magnetocaloric effect III

Entropy of \( s = 1/2 \) dimer

\[ S(T = 0, B) \neq 0 \text{ at level crossing due to degeneracy} \]

Enhanced magnetocaloric effect IV
Isentrops of af $s = 1/2$ dimer

Magnetocaloric effect:
(a) reduced,
(b) the same,
(c) enhanced,
(d) opposite

when compared to an ideal paramagnet.

Case (d) does not occur for a paramagnet.
Enhanced magnetocaloric effect V
Two molecular spin systems

- Graphics: isentrops of the frustrated cuboctahedron and a $N = 12$ ring molecule;

- Cuboctahedron features independent magnons and extraordinarily high jump to saturation;

- Degeneracy and $(T = 0)$–entropy at saturation field higher for the cuboctahedron;

- Adiabatic (de-) magnetization more efficient for the frustrated spin system.
Summary

Frustration can lead to exotic behavior.

And, the end is not in sight, . . .
... , however, this talk is at its end!

Thank you very much for your attention.
Information

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