Quantum signatures of a molecular nanomagnet in direct magnetocaloric measurements

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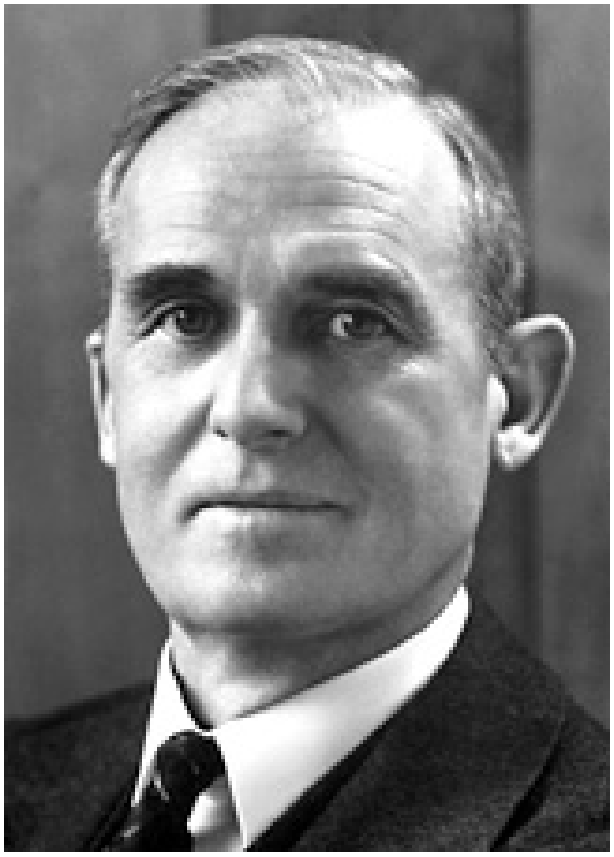
Enhanced magnetocaloric effect

Sub-Kelvin cooling: Nobel prize 1949



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1949 was awarded to William F. Giauque *for his contributions in the field of chemical thermodynamics, particularly concerning the behaviour of substances at extremely low temperatures*.

Sub-Kelvin cooling: Nobel prize 1949

Attainment of Temperatures Below 1° Absolute by Demagnetization of $Gd_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 8H_2O$

We have recently carried out some preliminary experiments on the adiabatic demagnetization of $Gd_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 8H_2O$ at the temperatures of liquid helium. As previously predicted by one of us, a large fractional lowering of the absolute temperature was obtained.

An iron-free solenoid producing a field of about 8000 gauss was used for all the measurements. The amount of $Gd_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 8H_2O$ was 61 g. The observations were checked by many repetitions of the cooling. The temperatures were measured by means of the inductance of a coil surrounding the gadolinium sulfate. The coil was immersed in liquid helium and isolated from the gadolinium by means of an evacuated space. The thermometer was in excellent agreement with the temperature of liquid helium as indicated by its vapor pressure down to 1.5°K.

On March 19, starting at a temperature of about 3.4°K, the material cooled to 0.53°K. On April 8, starting at about 2°, a temperature of 0.34°K was reached. On April 9, starting at about 1.5°, a temperature of 0.25°K was attained.

It is apparent that it will be possible to obtain much lower temperatures, especially when successive demagnetizations are utilized.

W. F. GIAUQUE
D. P. MACDOUGALL

Department of Chemistry,
University of California,
Berkeley, California,
April 12, 1933.

W. F. Giauque and D. MacDougall, Phys. Rev. **43**, 768 (1933).

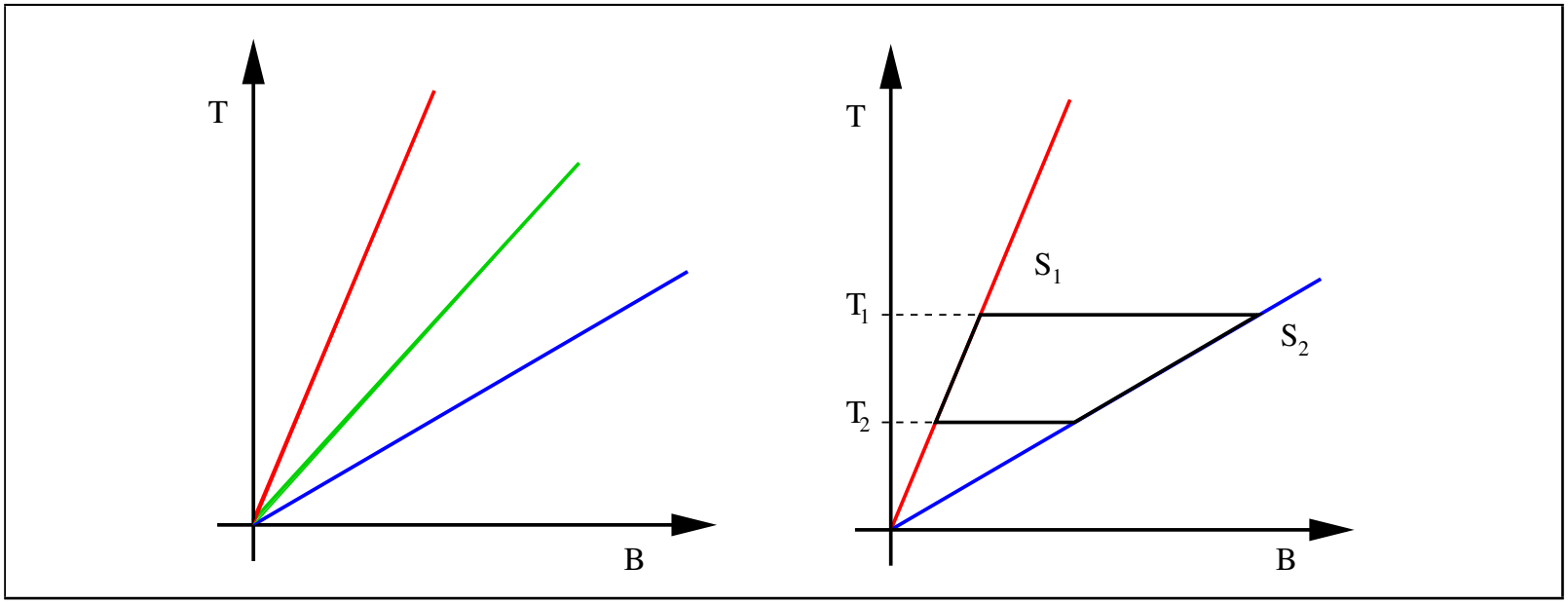
Magnetocaloric effect – cooling rate

$$\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial B}\right)_S = -\frac{T}{C}\left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial B}\right)_T$$

MCE especially large at large isothermal entropy changes, i.e. at phase transitions (1), close to quantum critical points (2), or due to the condensation of independent magnons (3).

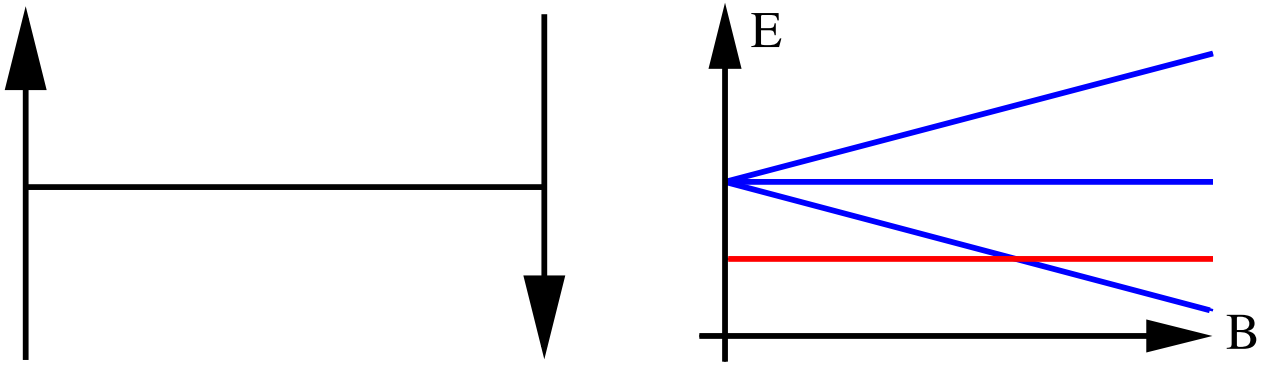
(1) V.K. Pecharsky, K.A. Gschneidner, Jr., A. O. Pecharsky, and A. M. Tishin, Phys. Rev. B **64**, 144406 (2001).
(2) Lijun Zhu, M. Garst, A. Rosch, and Qimiao Si, Phys. Rev. Lett. **91**, 066404 (2003).
B. Wolf, Y. Tsui, D. Jaiswal-Nagar, U. Tutsch, A. Honecker, K. Removic-Langer, G. Hofmann, A. Prokofiev, W. Assmus, G. Donath, M. Lang, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences **108**, 6862 (2011).
(3) M.E. Zhitomirsky, A. Honecker, J. Stat. Mech.: Theor. Exp. **2004**, P07012 (2004).

Magnetocaloric effect – Paramagnets



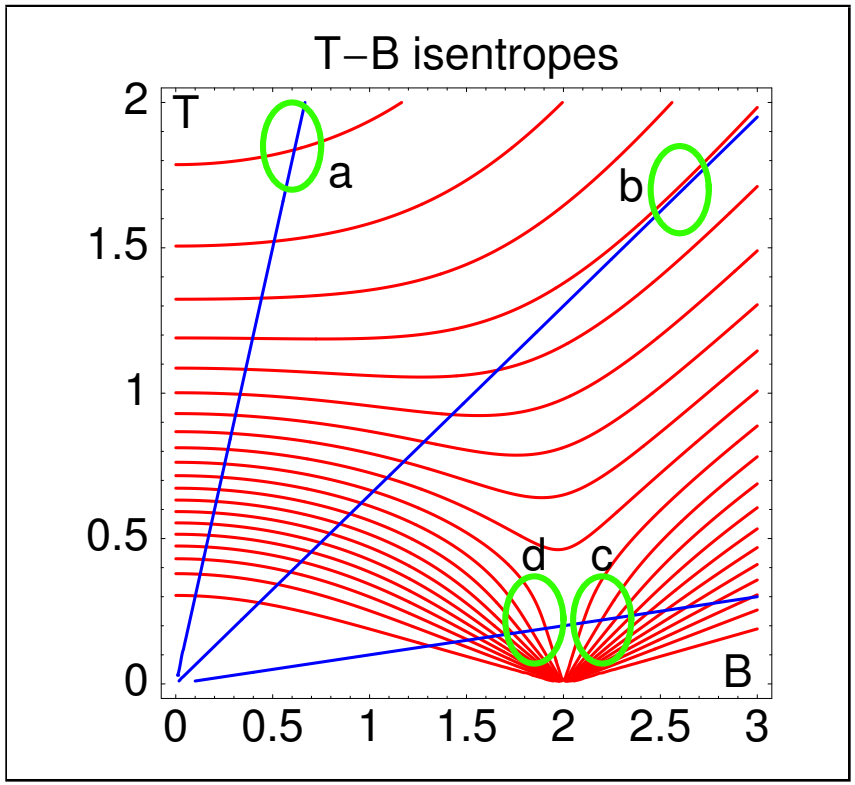
- Ideal paramagnet: $S(T,B) = f(B/T)$, i.e. $S = const \Rightarrow T \propto B$.
- At low T pronounced effects of dipolar interaction prevent further effective cooling.

Magnetocaloric effect – af $s = 1/2$ dimer



- Singlet-triplet level crossing causes a peak of S at $T \approx 0$ as function of B.
- $M(T = 0, B)$ and $S(T = 0, B)$ not analytic as function of B.
- $M(T = 0, B)$ jumps at B_c; $\quad S(T = 0, B_c) = k_B \ln 2$, otherwise zero.

Magnetocaloric effect – af $s = 1/2$ dimer



blue lines: ideal paramagnet, red curves: af dimer

Magnetocaloric effect:

(a) reduced,

(b) the same,

(c) enhanced,

(d) opposite

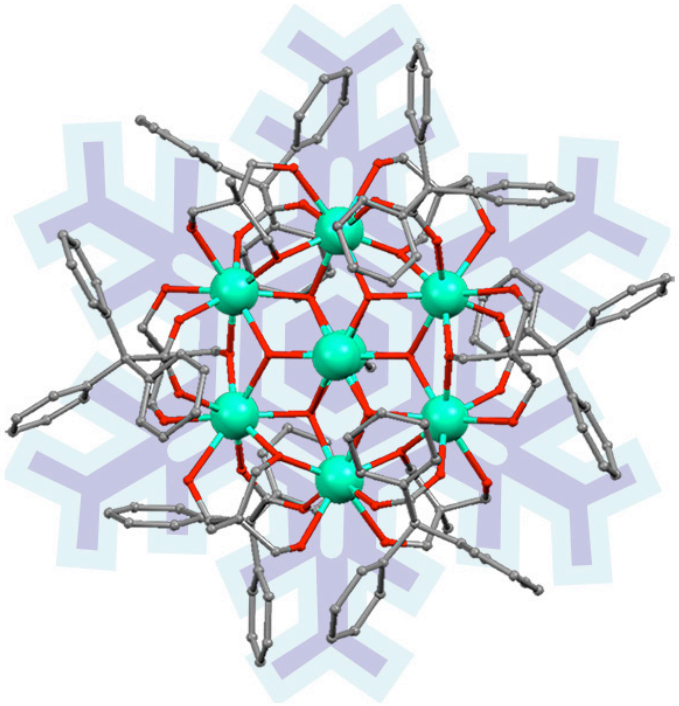
when compared to an ideal paramagnet.

Case (d) does not occur for a paramagnet.

Nice ideas,

but can one measure it?

Gd$_7$ – Basics

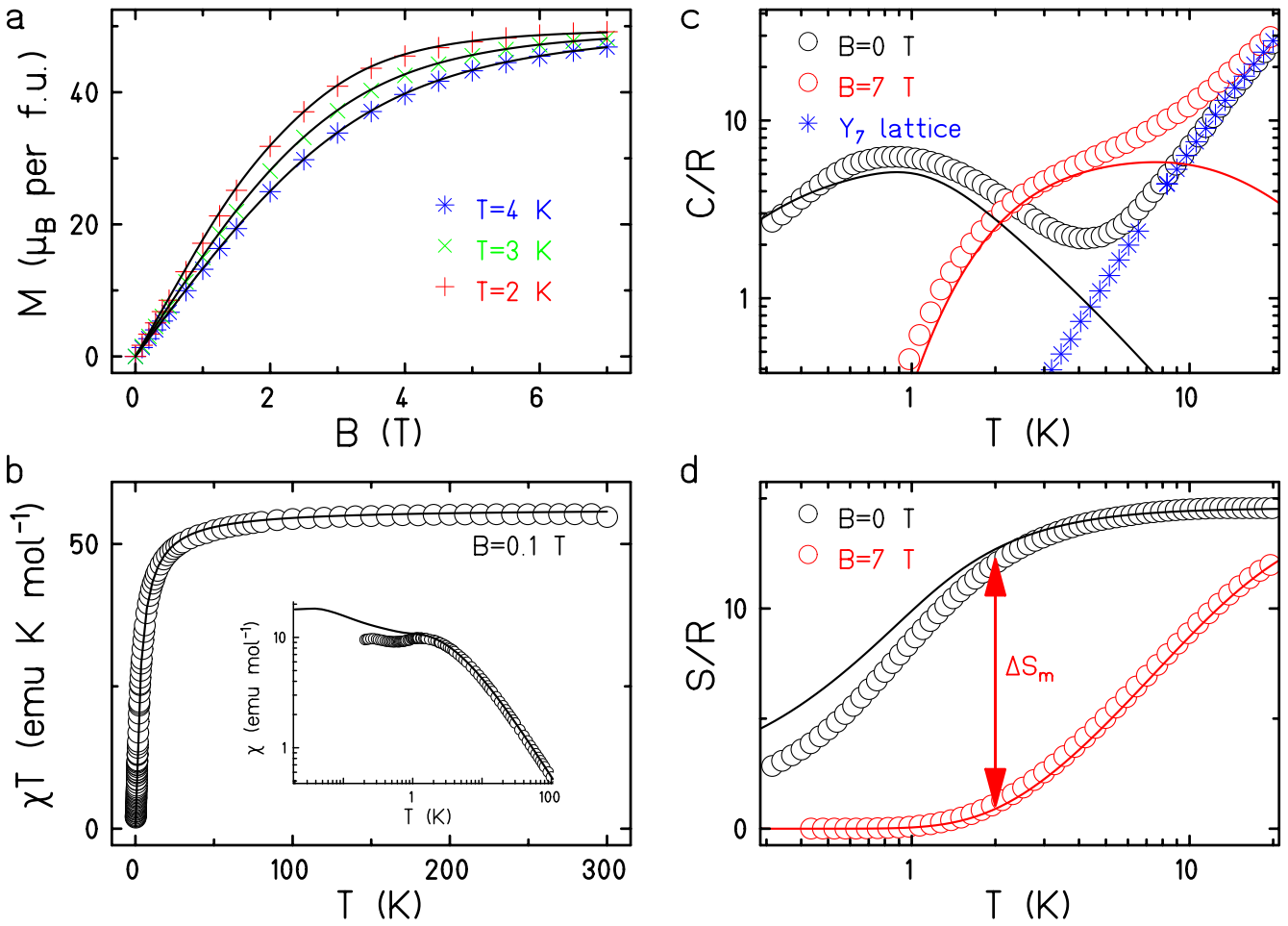


- Often magnetocaloric observables not directly measured, but inferred from Maxwell's relations.
- First real cooling experiment with a molecule.
- $\underset{\sim}{H} = -2 \sum_{i<j} J_{ij}\, \underset{\sim}{\vec{s}}_i \cdot \underset{\sim}{\vec{s}}_j + g\, \mu_B\, B \sum_i^N \underset{\sim}{s}_i^z$

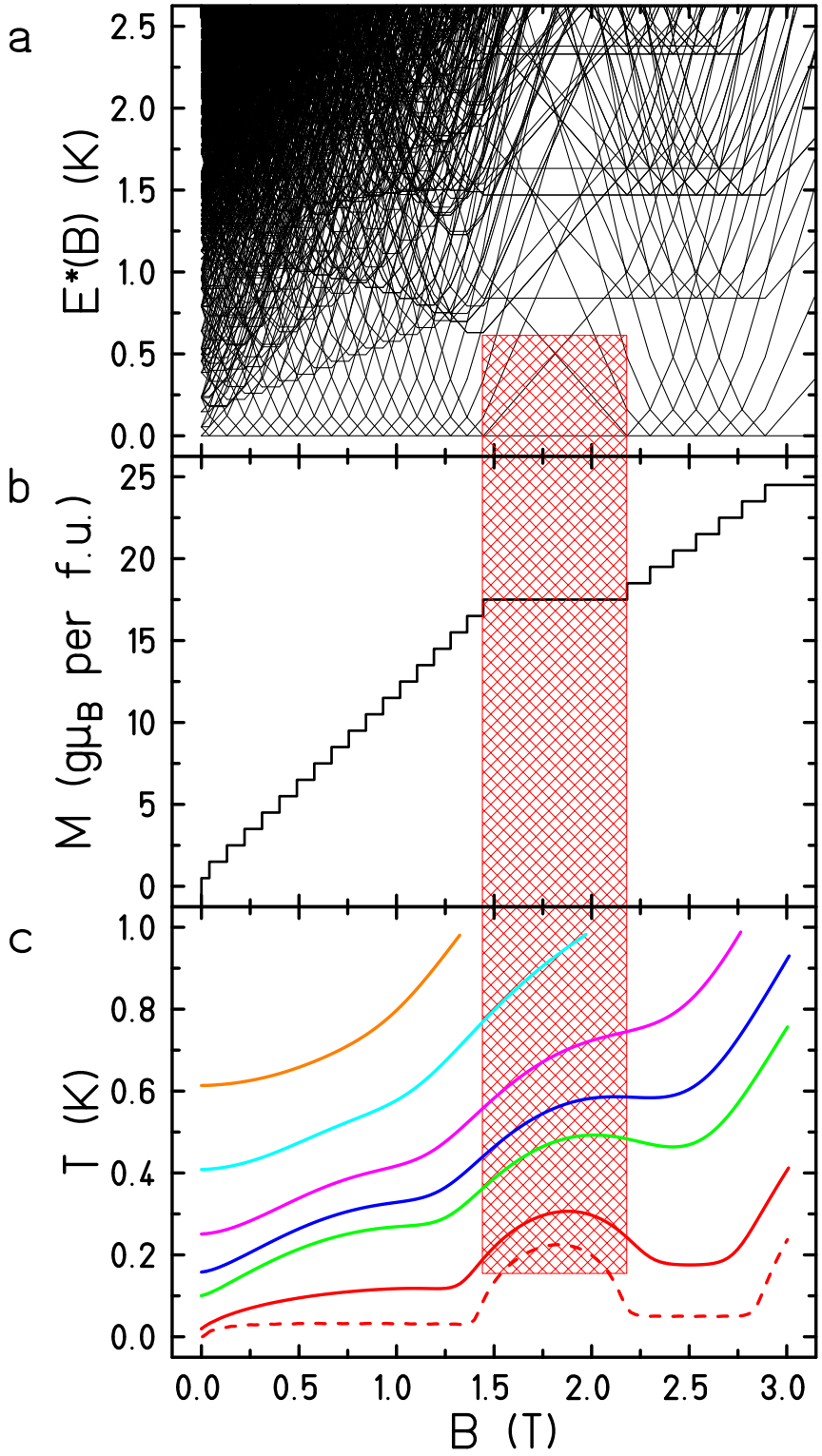
  $J_1 = -0.090(5)$ K, $J_2 = -0.080(5)$ K and $g = 2.02$.
- Very good agreement down to the lowest temperatures.

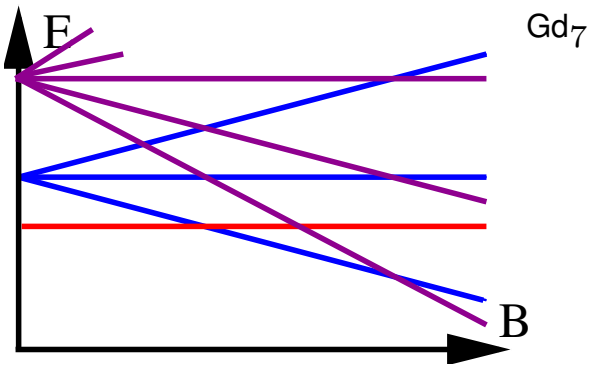
J. W. Sharples, D. Collison, E. J. L. McInnes, J. Schnack, E. Palacios, M. Evangelisti, Nat. Commun. **5**, 5321 (2014).

Gd$_7$ – experiment & theory

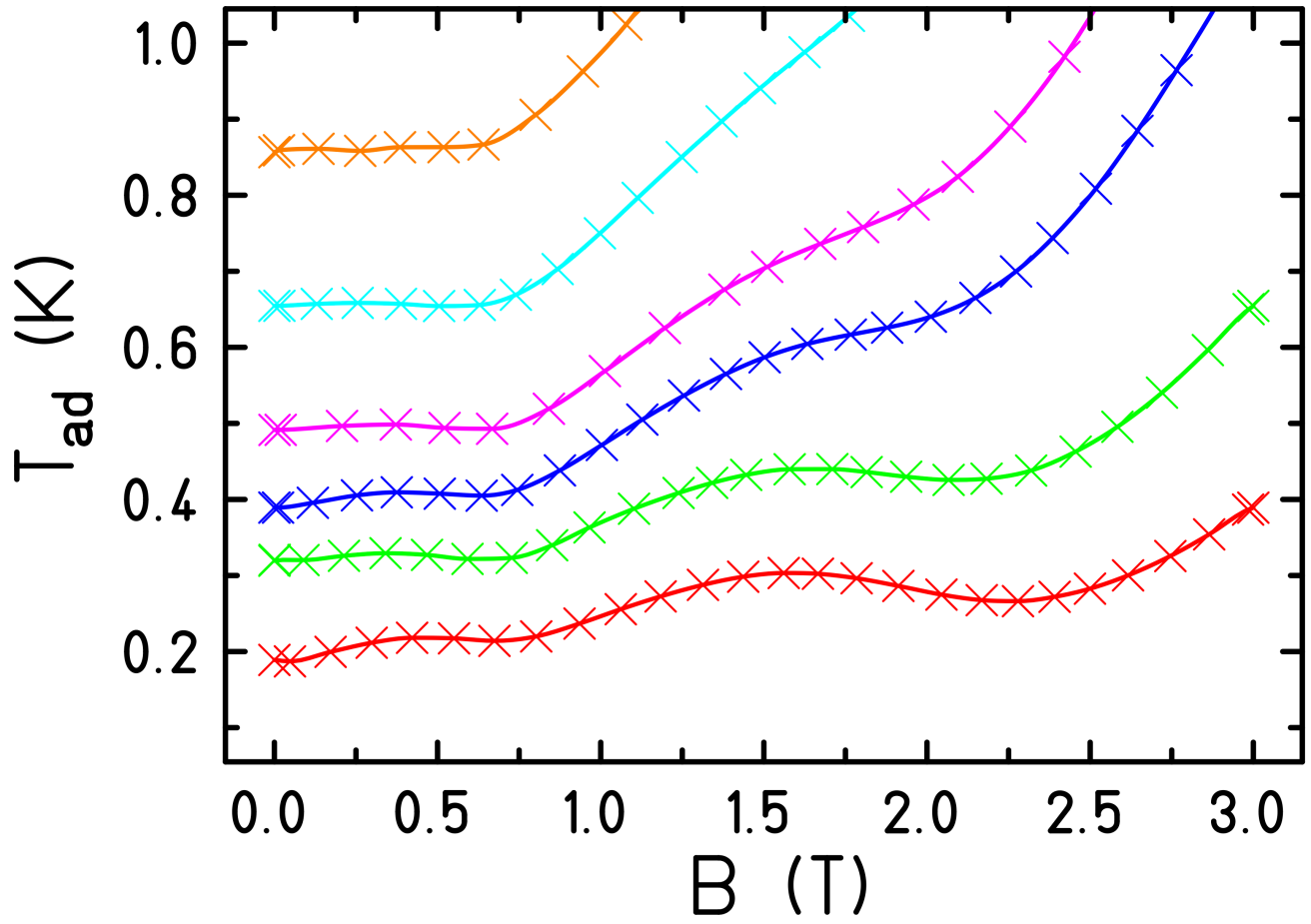


J. W. Sharples, D. Collison, E. J. L. McInnes, J. Schnack, E. Palacios, M. Evangelisti, Nat. Commun. **5**, 5321 (2014).


a
b
c
E*(B) (K)
M (gμB per f.u.)
T (K)
B (T)
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
0
5
10
15
20
25
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8

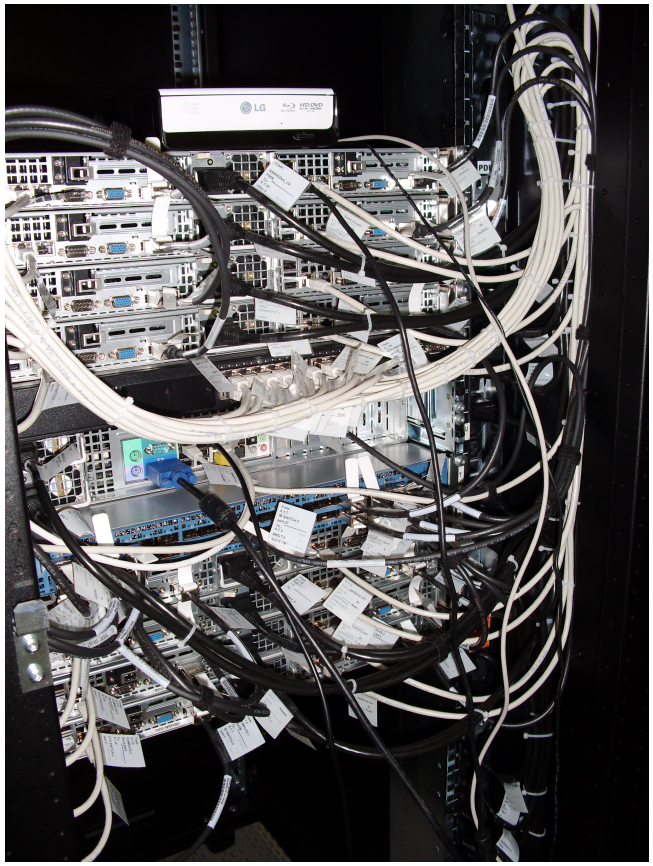

E
B
Gd7

Gd$_7$ – Experimental cooling



J. W. Sharples, D. Collison, E. J. L. McInnes, J. Schnack, E. Palacios, M. Evangelisti, Nat. Commun. **5**, 5321 (2014).

Summary



- Magnetocalorics good for sub-Kelvin cooling.
- Magnetocalorics also good for investigating the low-lying level structure (similar to C).
- Finite-temperature Lanczos is a very good approximate method for Hilbert space dimensions smaller than 10^{10}.

(1) J. Schnack and O. Wendland, Eur. Phys. J. B **78**, 535-541 (2010)
(2) O. Hanebaum, J. Schnack, Eur. Phys. J. B **87**, 194 (2014)

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Thank you very much for your attention.

The end.

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