

# Triple-q order and spin vestigial states in $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{TeO}_6$

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Niccolò Francini



Wilhelm Krüger

**Experiments (Peking U):**

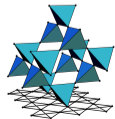
Wenjie Chen

Xianghong Jin

Yuan Li



Würzburg-Dresden Cluster of Excellence

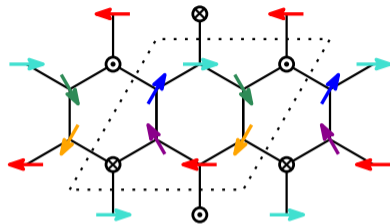


SFB 1143

# Outline

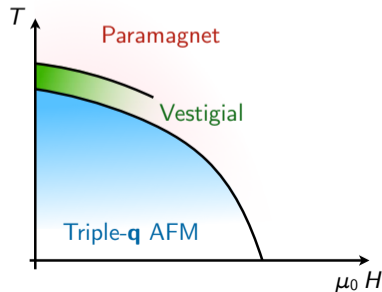
**Message #1:**  $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{TeO}_6$  features triple- $\mathbf{q}$  AFM order at low temperatures

[Krüger, Chen, Jin, Li, LJ, PRL '23]

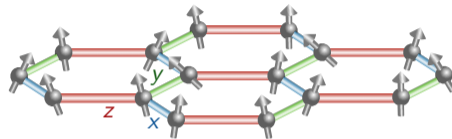
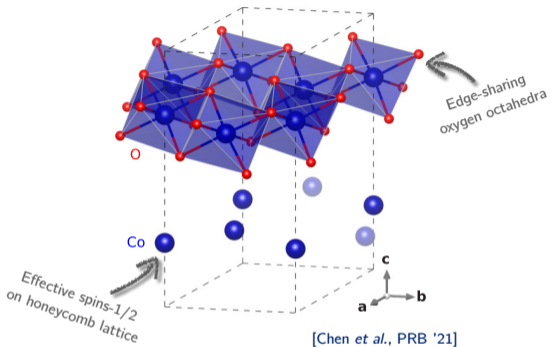


**Message #2:** Triple- $\mathbf{q}$  order can melt in two stages

[Francini, LJ, arXiv:2311.08475]



# Magnetic Mott insulator $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{TeO}_6$



Effective spin-1/2 model:

$$\mathcal{H} = K \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} S_i^\gamma S_j^\gamma + \dots$$

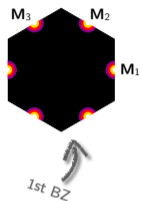
Non-Kitaev terms

[Liu, Khaliullin, PRB '18]  
[Sano, Kato, Motome, PRB '18]

→ Talk by P. Mukharjee

# Multi-q vs single-q order: Bragg peaks

Static spin structure factor:

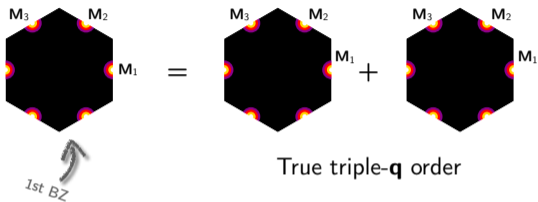


... e.g., from neutron diffraction

[Chen *et al.*, PRB '21]

# Multi-q vs single-q order: Bragg peaks

Static spin structure factor:

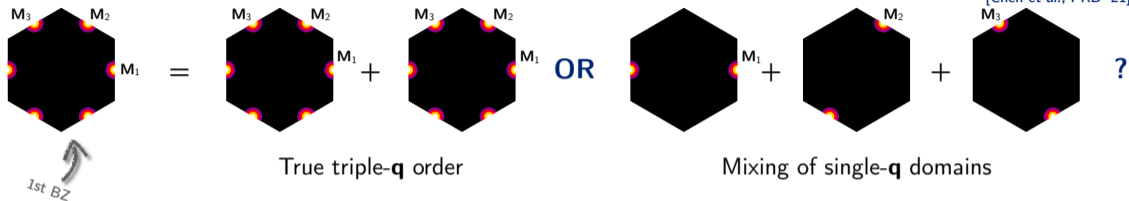


... e.g., from neutron diffraction

[Chen *et al.*, PRB '21]

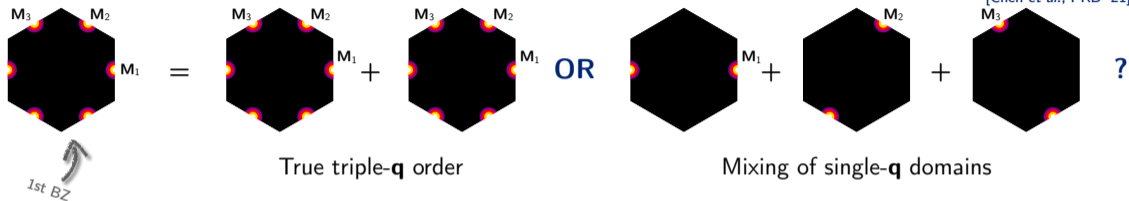
# Multi-q vs single-q order: Bragg peaks

Static spin structure factor:

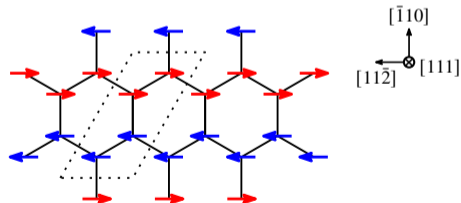


# Multi-q vs single-q order: Bragg peaks

Static spin structure factor:



Real space:



$\alpha$ -RuCl<sub>3</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>, ...

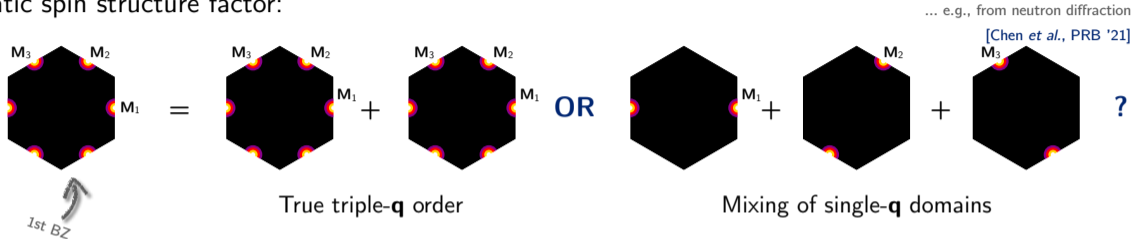
[Choi *et al.*, PRL '12]

[Johnson *et al.*, PRB '15]

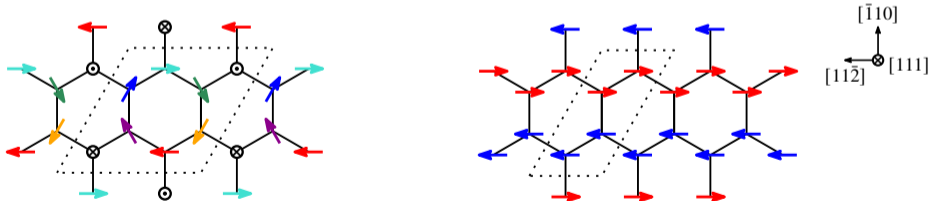
[Balz *et al.*, PRB '21]

# Multi-q vs single-q order: Bragg peaks

Static spin structure factor:



Real space:



Kitaev-Heisenberg in field: [LJ, Andrade, Vojta, PRL '16]

Bilinear-Biquadratic Kitaev-Heisenberg: [Pohle, Shannon, Motome, PRB '23]

→ Talk by R. Pohle

$\alpha$ -RuCl<sub>3</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>, ...

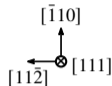
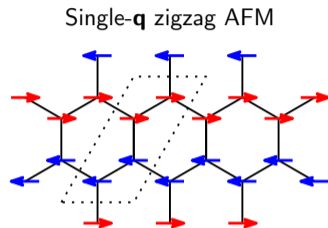
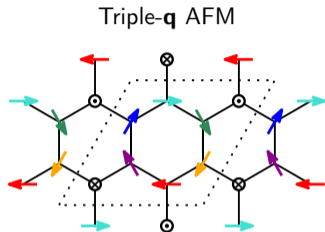
[Choi *et al.*, PRL '12]

[Johnson *et al.*, PRB '15]

[Balz *et al.*, PRB '21]



# Multi-q vs single-q order: Symmetries



Time reversal:



Spin-lattice rotation  $C_3^*$ :



Translation  $T_{a_1}$ :

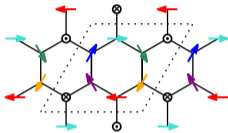


Translation  $T_{a_2}$ :

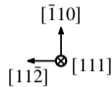
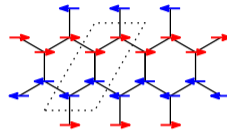


# Multi-q vs single-q order: Magnetic excitation spectrum

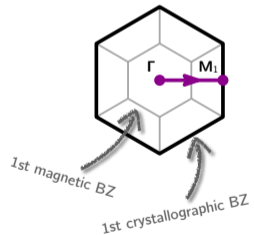
Triple-q AFM



Single-q zigzag AFM

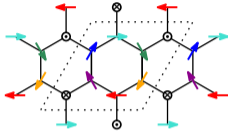


Brillouin zone path:

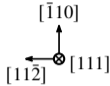
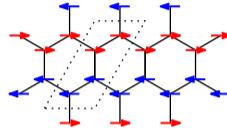


# Multi-q vs single-q order: Magnetic excitation spectrum

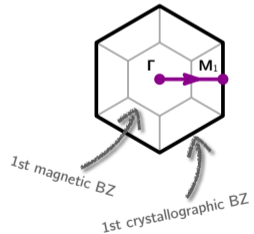
Triple-q AFM



Single-q zigzag AFM



Brillouin zone path:

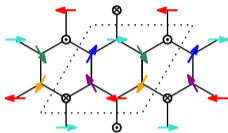


**Spectrum necessarily symmetric**

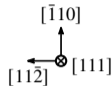
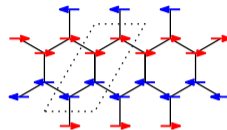
... independent of modeling

# Multi-q vs single-q order: Magnetic excitation spectrum

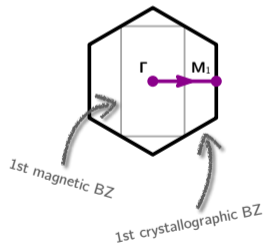
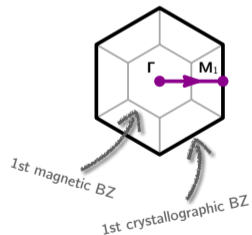
Triple-q AFM



Single-q zigzag AFM



Brillouin zone path:

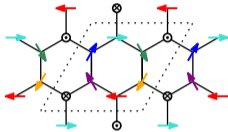


**Spectrum necessarily symmetric**

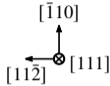
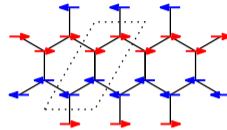
... independent of modeling

# Multi-q vs single-q order: Magnetic excitation spectrum

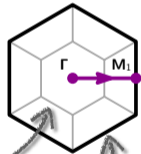
Triple-q AFM



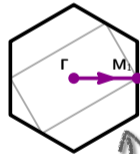
Single-q zigzag AFM



Brillouin zone path:



1st magnetic BZ  
1st crystallographic BZ



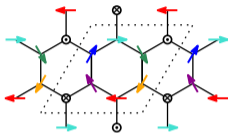
1st crystallographic BZ

**Spectrum necessarily symmetric**

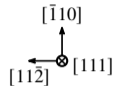
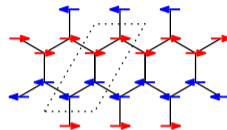
... independent of modeling

# Multi-q vs single-q order: Magnetic excitation spectrum

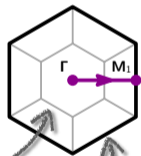
Triple-q AFM



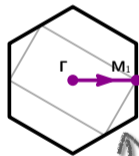
Single-q zigzag AFM



Brillouin zone path:



1st magnetic BZ  
1st crystallographic BZ



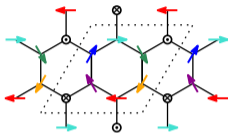
1st crystallographic BZ

**Spectrum necessarily symmetric**

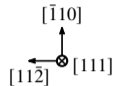
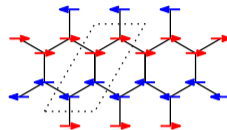
... independent of modeling

# Multi-q vs single-q order: Magnetic excitation spectrum

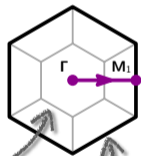
Triple-q AFM



Single-q zigzag AFM



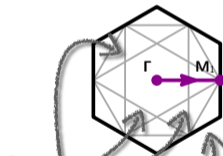
Brillouin zone path:



1st magnetic BZ  
1st crystallographic BZ

**Spectrum necessarily symmetric**

... independent of modeling



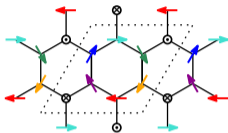
1st magnetic BZs  
1st crystallographic BZ

**Spectrum generically asymmetric**

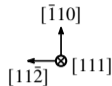
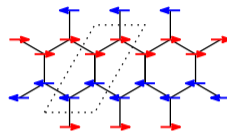
... unless fine-tuned

# Multi-q vs single-q order: Magnetic excitation spectrum

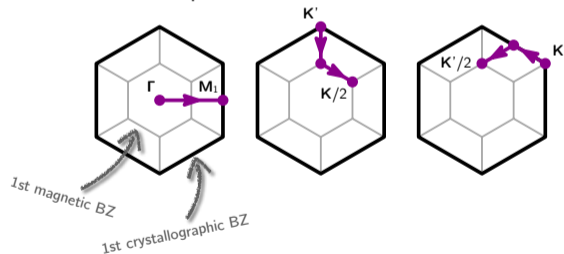
Triple-q AFM



Single-q zigzag AFM

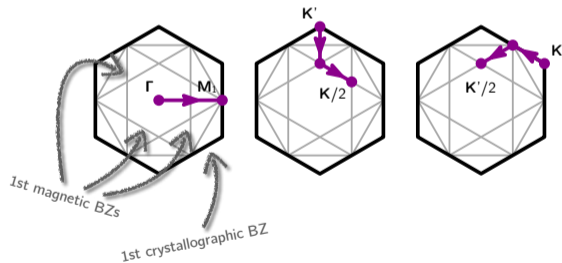


Brillouin zone path:



**Spectrum necessarily symmetric**

... independent of modeling

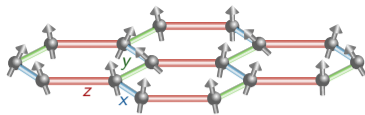


**Spectrum generically asymmetric**

... unless fine-tuned



## Example: HKΓΓ' model @ hidden SU(2) point



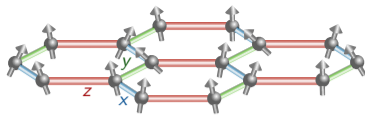
Hamiltonian:

$$\mathcal{H}_0 = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} \left[ J_1 \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + K_1 S_i^\gamma S_j^\gamma + \Gamma_1 (S_i^\alpha S_j^\beta + S_i^\beta S_j^\alpha) + \Gamma'_1 (S_i^\gamma S_j^\alpha + S_i^\alpha S_j^\gamma + S_i^\gamma S_j^\beta + S_i^\beta S_j^\gamma) \right]$$

... with  $(J_1, K_1, \Gamma_1, \Gamma'_1) = (-1/9, -2/3, 8/9, -4/9) A$

[Chaloupka, Khaliullin, PRB '15]

## Example: HKΓΓ' model @ hidden SU(2) point



Hamiltonian:

$$\mathcal{H}_0 = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} \left[ J_1 \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + K_1 S_i^\gamma S_j^\gamma + \Gamma_1 (S_i^\alpha S_j^\beta + S_i^\beta S_j^\alpha) + \Gamma'_1 (S_i^\gamma S_j^\alpha + S_i^\alpha S_j^\gamma + S_i^\gamma S_j^\beta + S_i^\beta S_j^\gamma) \right]$$

... with  $(J_1, K_1, \Gamma_1, \Gamma'_1) = (-1/9, -2/3, 8/9, -4/9) A$

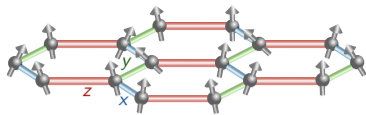
[Chaloupka, Khaliullin, PRB '15]

Hidden SU(2) symmetry:

$$\mathbf{S}_i \mapsto \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_i = T_{14} \mathbf{S}_i : \quad \mathcal{H}_0 \mapsto \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_0 = A \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_i \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_j$$

Local rotation

# Example: HKΓΓ' model @ hidden SU(2) point



Hamiltonian:

$$\mathcal{H}_0 = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} \left[ J_1 \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + K_1 S_i^\gamma S_j^\gamma + \Gamma_1 (S_i^\alpha S_j^\beta + S_i^\beta S_j^\alpha) + \Gamma'_1 (S_i^\gamma S_j^\alpha + S_i^\alpha S_j^\gamma + S_i^\gamma S_j^\beta + S_i^\beta S_j^\gamma) \right]$$

... with  $(J_1, K_1, \Gamma_1, \Gamma'_1) = (-1/9, -2/3, 8/9, -4/9) A$   
 [Chaloupka, Khaliullin, PRB '15]

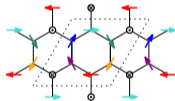
Hidden SU(2) symmetry:

$$\mathbf{S}_i \mapsto \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_i = T_{14} \mathbf{S}_i : \quad \mathcal{H}_0 \mapsto \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_0 = A \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_i \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_j$$

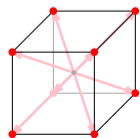
Local rotation

Ground state manifold:

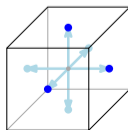
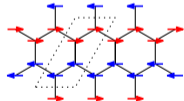
$\mathbf{S}_i$  :



$\tilde{\mathbf{S}}_i$  :

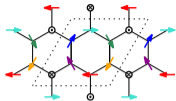


4 diagonals

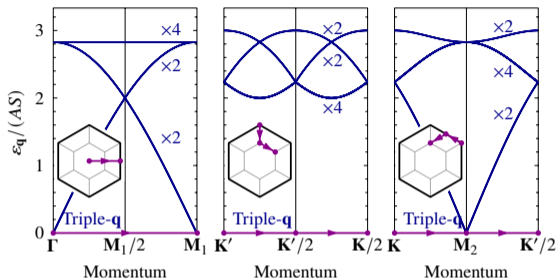


3 cubic axes

# Magnon spectrum @ hidden SU(2) point

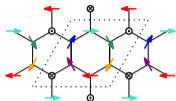


Triple- $\mathbf{q}$  AFM

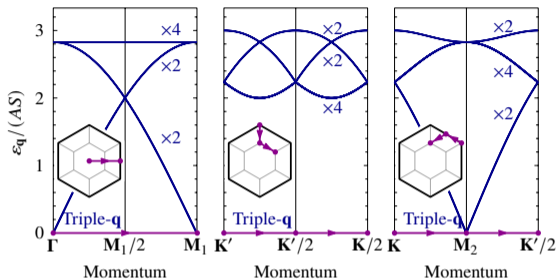


... fully symmetric

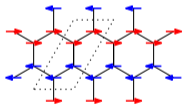
# Magnon spectrum @ hidden SU(2) point



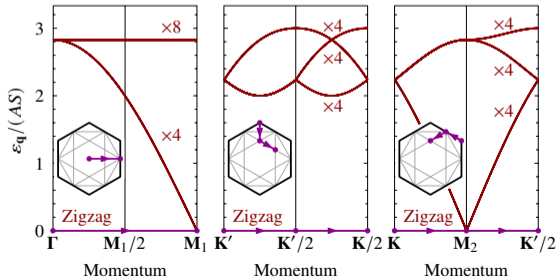
Triple- $q$  AFM



... fully symmetric

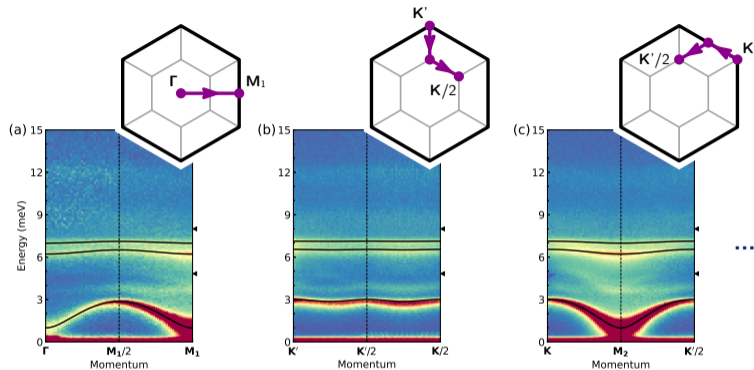


Zigzag AFM



... at least some bands asymmetric

# $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{TeO}_6$ : Inelastic neutron scattering

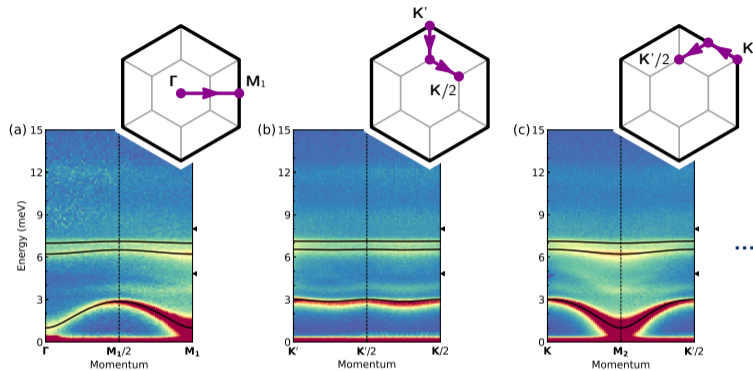


... perfectly symmetric magnon bands

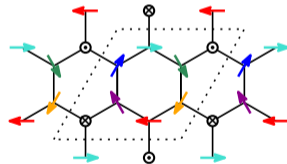
[Krüger, Chen, Jin, Li, LJ, PRL '23]

→ Poster by W. Krüger

# $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{TeO}_6$ : Inelastic neutron scattering



... perfectly symmetric magnon bands



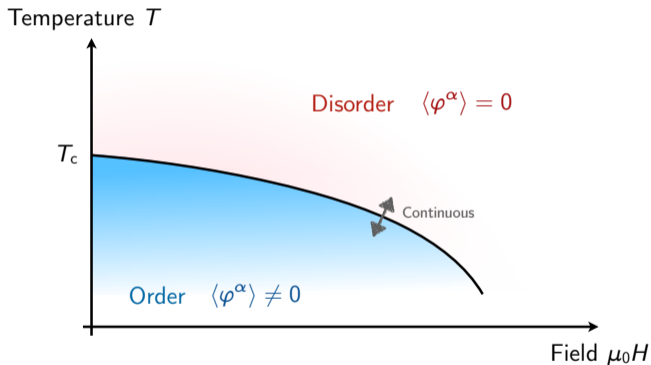
**Message #1:**  $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{TeO}_6$  features triple- $\mathbf{q}$  AFM order at low temperatures

[Krüger, Chen, Jin, Li, LJ, PRL '23]

→ Poster by W. Krüger

# Finite-temperature phase diagram: Simple system

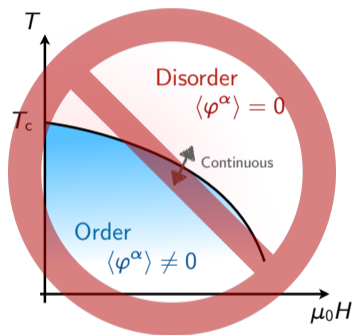
... order parameter has only 1 component  
or breaks only 1 symmetry





# Finite-temperature phase diagram: Multicomponent system

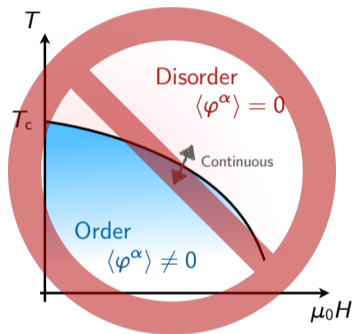
... order parameter has  $> 1$  component  
and breaks  $> 1$  symmetry



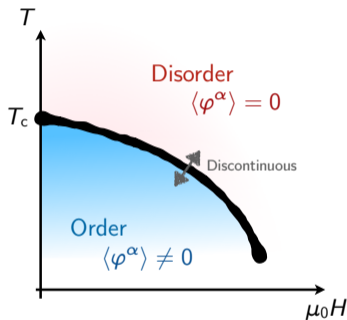
Single continuous **X**

# Finite-temperature phase diagram: Multicomponent system

... order parameter has  $> 1$  component  
and breaks  $> 1$  symmetry



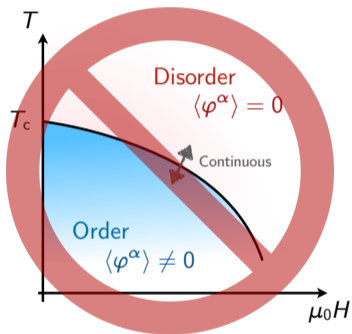
Single continuous ❌



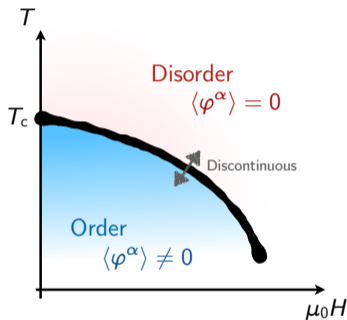
First order ✅

# Finite-temperature phase diagram: Multicomponent system

... order parameter has > 1 component  
and breaks > 1 symmetry

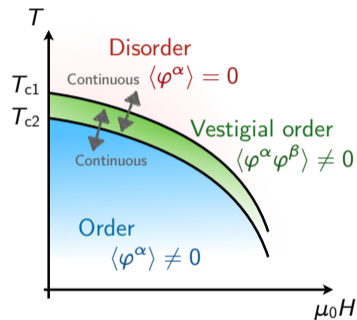


Single continuous ❌



First order ✅

OR



Two-stage melting ✅

[Fernandes, Orth, Schmalian, ARCOMP '19]

# HKΓΓ' model with ring perturbation

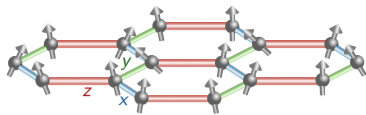
Hamiltonian:

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 + \mathcal{H}_\square$$

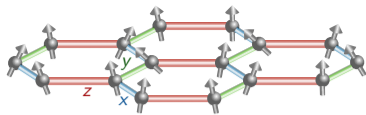
Bilinear exchange:

$$\mathcal{H}_0 = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} \left[ J_1 \mathbf{s}_i \cdot \mathbf{s}_j + K_1 S_i^\gamma S_j^\gamma + \Gamma_1 (S_i^\alpha S_j^\beta + S_i^\beta S_j^\alpha) + \Gamma'_1 (S_i^\gamma S_j^\alpha + S_i^\alpha S_j^\gamma + S_i^\gamma S_j^\beta + S_i^\beta S_j^\gamma) \right]$$

... with  $(J_1, K_1, \Gamma_1, \Gamma'_1) = (-1/9, -2/3, 8/9, -4/9) A$



# HKΓΓ' model with ring perturbation



Hamiltonian:

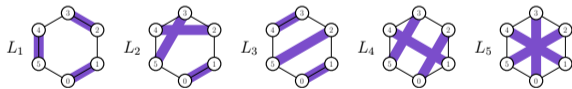
$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 + \mathcal{H}_\square$$

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... with  $(J_1, K_1, \Gamma_1, \Gamma'_1) = (-1/9, -2/3, 8/9, -4/9) A$

Ring exchange:



$$\mathcal{H}_\square = J_\square \sum_{\langle ijklmn \rangle} L_{ijklmn} (\mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j) (\mathbf{S}_k \cdot \mathbf{S}_l) (\mathbf{S}_m \cdot \mathbf{S}_n)$$

... with  $L_1 = 1/3, L_2 = -1, L_3 = 1/2, L_4 = 1/2, L_5 = -1/6$   
 from strong-coupling expansion of honeycomb-lattice Hubbard model  
[\[Yang, Albuquerque, Capponi, Läuchli, Schmidt, NJP '12\]](#)

# Observables

Dual magnetization:

$$\tilde{M} = \langle |\tilde{\mathbf{M}}| \rangle \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{M}} := \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (-1)^i T_{14}^\top \mathbf{S}_i = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(1, 1, 1), & \text{for triple-}\mathbf{q} \text{ order} \\ (0, 0, 1), & \text{for z-zigzag order} \end{cases}$$



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Composite order parameter:

$$(Q_{e_g}, Q_{t_{2g}}) = (\langle |\mathbf{Q}_{e_g}| \rangle, \langle |\mathbf{Q}_{t_{2g}}| \rangle) \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbf{Q}_{e_g} &:= \frac{1}{2}(2\tilde{M}_z^2 - \tilde{M}_x^2 - \tilde{M}_y^2, \sqrt{3}[\tilde{M}_x^2 - \tilde{M}_y^2]) \\ \mathbf{Q}_{t_{2g}} &:= \sqrt{3}(\tilde{M}_y \tilde{M}_z, \tilde{M}_z \tilde{M}_y, \tilde{M}_x \tilde{M}_y) \end{aligned}$$

... 5 irreducible components of rank-2 tensor

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$$= \begin{cases} (0, 1), & \text{for triple-}\mathbf{q} \text{ order} \\ (1, 0), & \text{for z-zigzag order} \end{cases}$$

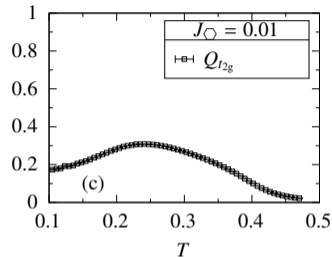
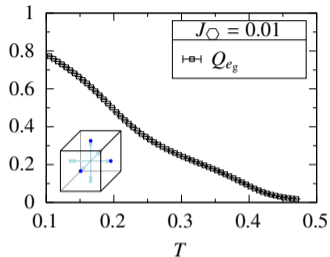
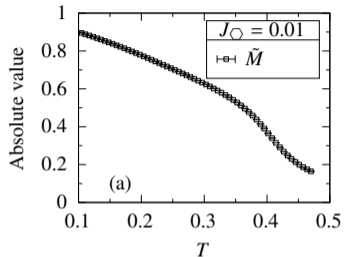
... 5 irreducible components of rank-2 tensor

... measurable in finite-size simulations

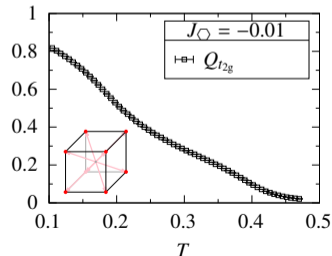
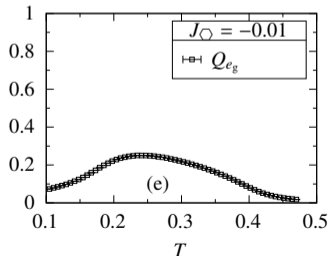
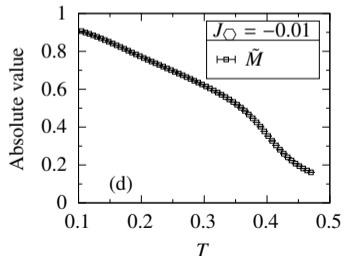


# Classical Monte Carlo simulations ( $L = 32$ )

$J_{\square} > 0$ :

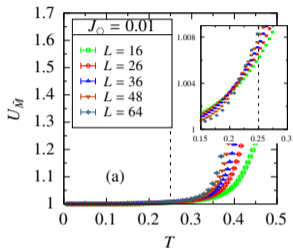


$J_{\square} < 0$ :

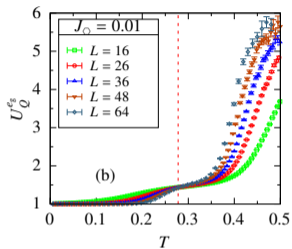


# Critical temperatures

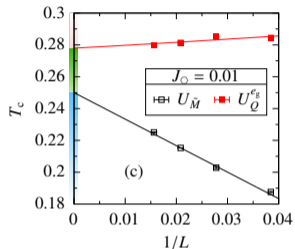
Primary Binder cumulant



Composite Binder cumulant



Crossing points



$T$

Paramagnet

Vestigial order

Antiferromagnet

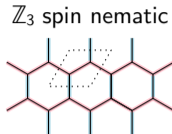
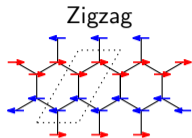


$$U_{\tilde{M}} = \frac{\langle \tilde{M}^4 \rangle}{\langle \tilde{M}^2 \rangle^2}$$

$$U_Q^{eg} = \frac{\langle Q_{eg}^4 \rangle}{\langle Q_{eg}^2 \rangle^2}$$

# Two-stage melting

$$J_{\square} > 0 :$$



Paramagnet

Rotation:

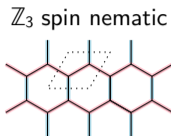
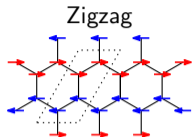


Time reversal:



# Two-stage melting

$J_{\square} > 0$ :



Paramagnet

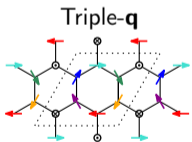
Rotation:



Time reversal:

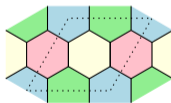


$J_{\square} < 0$ :



$\mathbb{Z}_4$  spin current density wave

Paramagnet



Rotation:



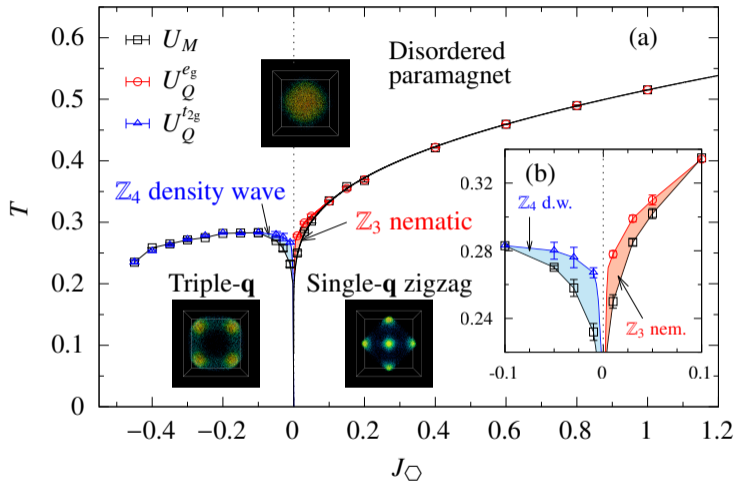
Time reversal:



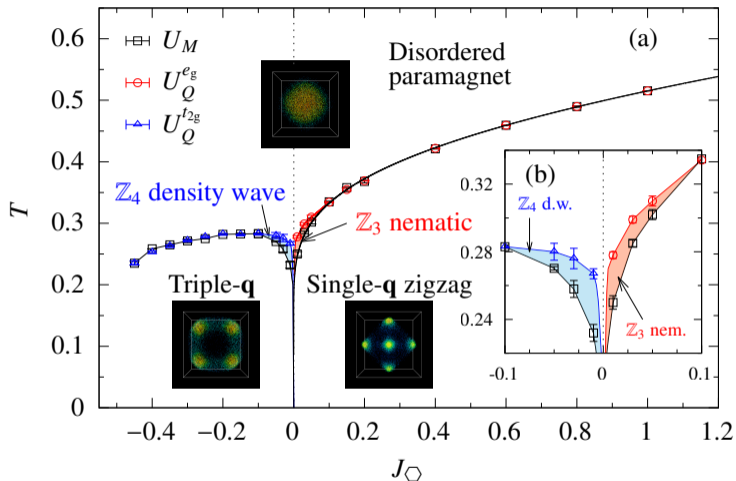
Translation:



# Phase diagram: HKΓ' model



# Phase diagram: HKΓ' model



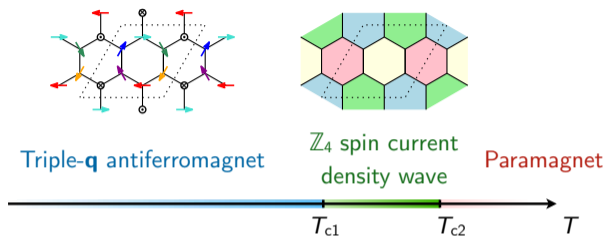
**Message #2:** Triple- $q$  order can melt in two stages

... same is true for zigzag order

[Francini, LJ, arXiv:2311.08475]

# Phase diagram: $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{TeO}_6$

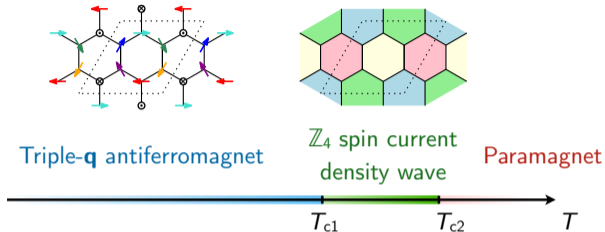
Theory:



[Francini, LJ, arXiv:2311.08475]

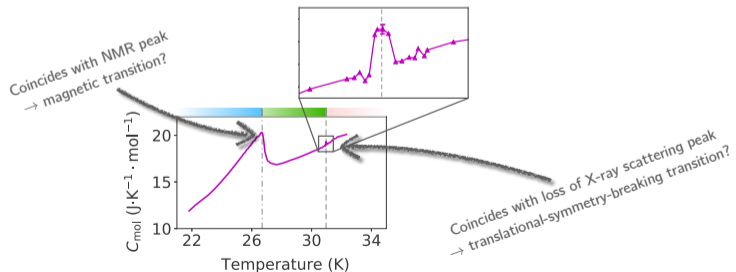
# Phase diagram: $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{TeO}_6$

Theory:



[Francini, LJ, arXiv:2311.08475]

Experiment:



[Chen *et al.*, PRB '21]



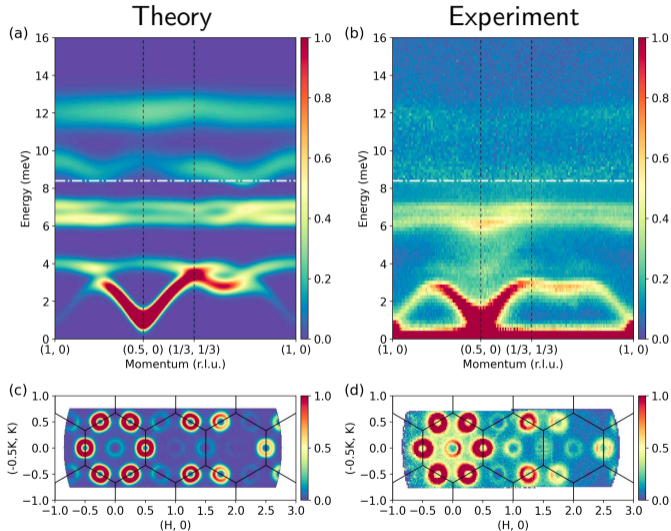


# $\text{Na}_2\text{Co}_2\text{TeO}_6$ : Magnon excitation spectrum

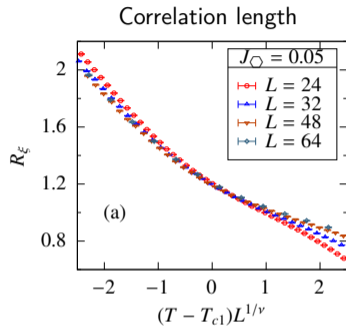
$$(J, K, \Gamma, \Gamma') = (1.2, -8.3, 1.9, -2.3, 0.5) \text{ meV}$$

$$(J_3, J_2^A, J_2^B) = (1.5, 0.32, -0.24) \text{ eV}$$

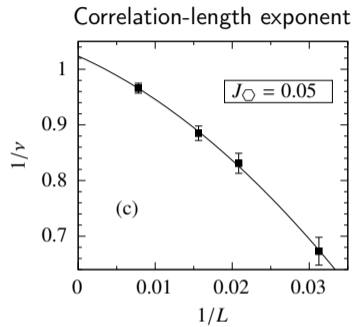
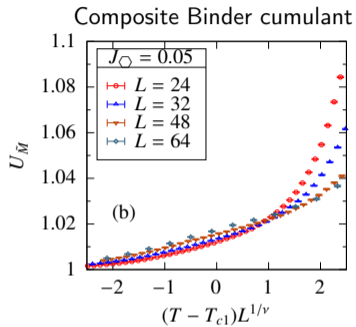
+ nonbilinear exchange



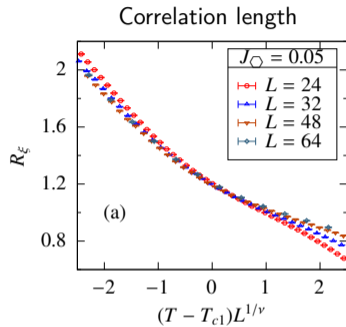
# Critical scaling @ $T_{c1}$ (primary-to-vestigial)



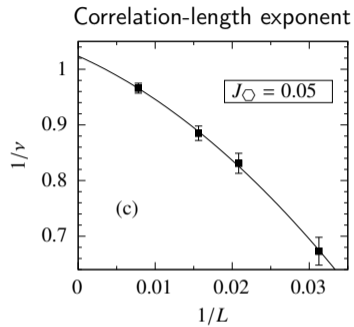
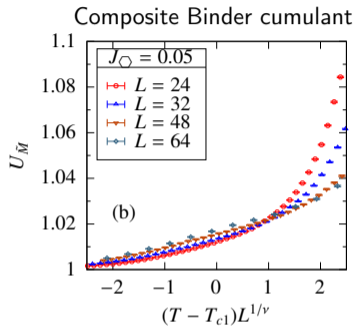
$$R_\xi = \xi/L$$



# Critical scaling @ $T_{c1}$ (primary-to-vestigial)



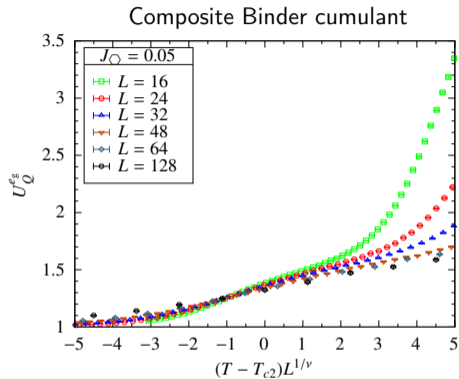
$$R_\xi = \xi/L$$



→ 2D Ising universality

... consistent with  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  time reversal symmetry breaking

# Critical scaling @ $T_{c2}$ (vestigial-to-paramagnet)

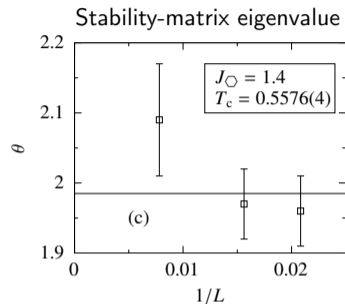
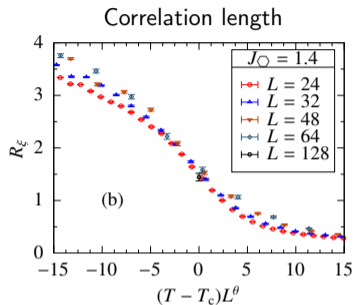
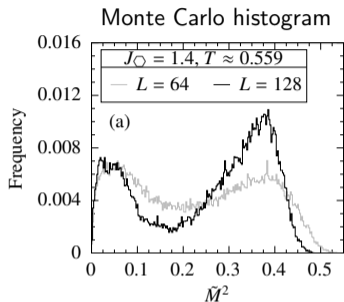


with  $1/\nu = 6/5$

→ 2D three-state Potts universality

... consistent with  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  symmetry breaking

# Phase coexistence @ primary-to-disorder transition

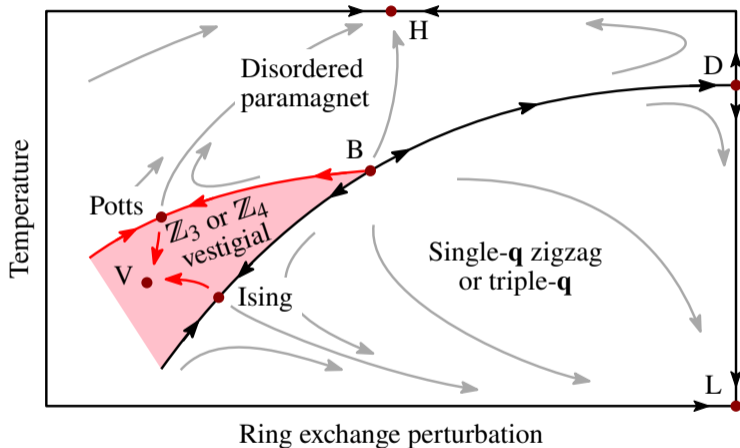


$$\theta = 1.99(3) = d$$

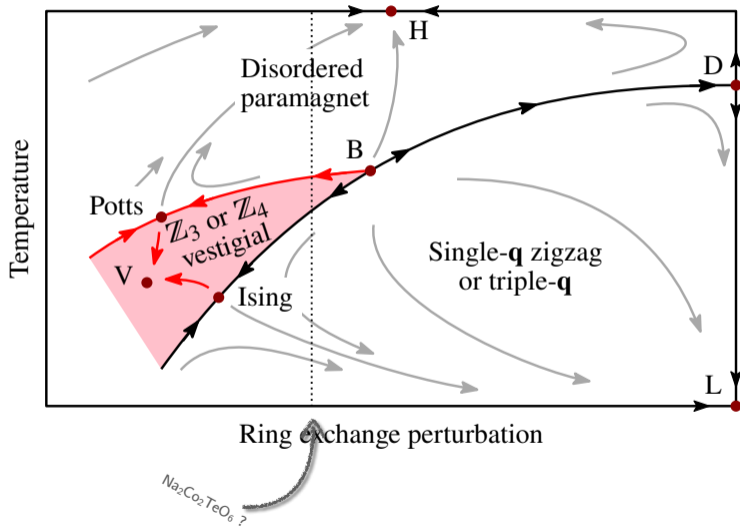
... spatial dimension

→ First-order transition from discontinuity fixed point

# Schematic RG flow



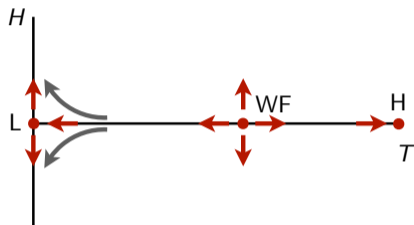
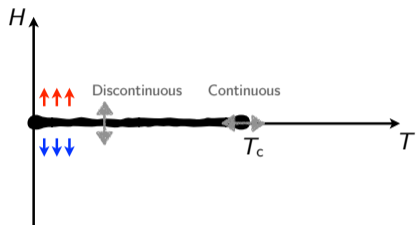
# Schematic RG flow





# Digression: Discontinuity fixed point

Ising model in longitudinal field:



Flow linearization (relevant direction):

$$\beta_H = -\theta H + \mathcal{O}(H^2) \quad \text{with} \quad \theta = d = 2$$

Formal limit of continuous transition:

$$\begin{aligned} U &\propto |t|^{1-\alpha} \\ M &\propto (-t)^\beta \quad (t < 0) \end{aligned} \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{aligned} \alpha &\rightarrow 1 \\ \beta &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad 1/\nu \rightarrow d = 2$$

# High-spin $d^7$ Mott insulators

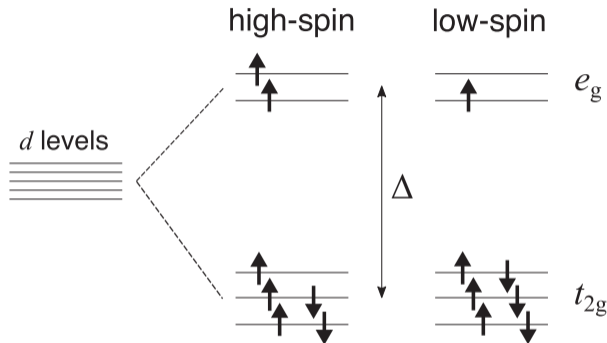


FIG. 1. Atomic  $d$  levels splitting into two groups under the octahedral CEF  $\Delta$ :  $e_g$  levels at a higher energy and  $t_{2g}$  levels at a lower energy. The  $d^7$  electron configuration can take either high-spin (middle) or low-spin state (right), depending on the strength of Coulomb interactions and  $\Delta$ .