



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE  
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

# Quantum Magnetism - Neutrons in the Quasi-particle Zoo

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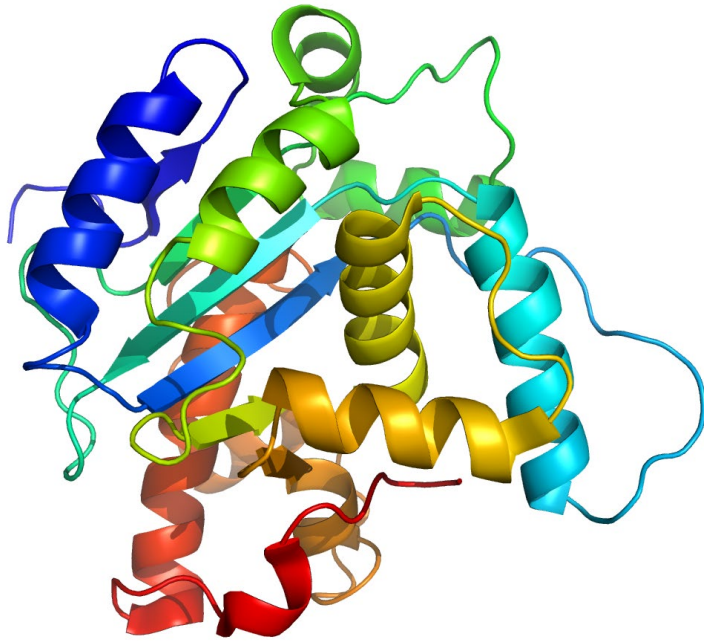


# Outline

- Quantum Magnetism
  - Arena for many-body physics and novel electronic materials
  - Models – Materials – Measurements
- Neutron scattering
  - Basics, uniqueness, and a bright future
  - The quasi-particle zoo
- Selected examples
  - Multi-spinons in one-dimensional chains
  - Spin-wave anomaly and quest for pairing in 2D

# Complexity of many-body systems

- Structure of a protein



- Pop2p-subunit Jonstrup et al (2007)
- Mega-Dalton:  
~1'000'000 atoms  
~3'000'000 numbers needed  
to describe the structure

- Ground state of a magnet

$$\mathcal{H} = J \sum \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

1 spin: trivial

2 spins: singlet state  $|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$

4 spins: back-of-the-envelope calc.

$$= -2|\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - 2|\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\rangle + |\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle + |\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\rangle + |\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$$

16 spins: 10 seconds on computer (4GB)

40 spins: World record: 1'099'511'627'776  
coefficients needed to describe a state

**Classical: 3N    Quantum: 2<sup>N</sup>**

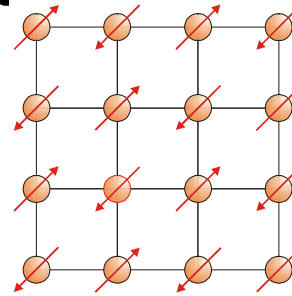
10<sup>23</sup> spins:

1D: analytic solution (Bethe 1931)

2D: antiferromagnet (Néel 1932) or

fluctuating singlets? (Anderson 1973, 1987)

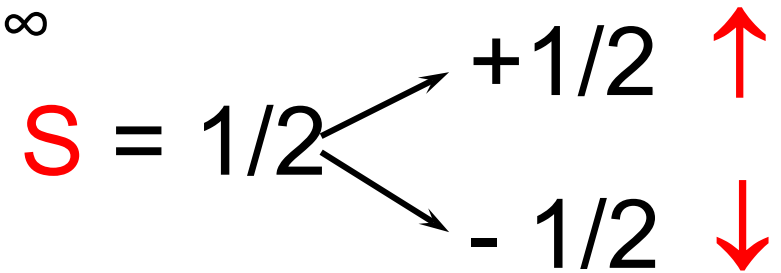
10<sup>23</sup> ± some electrons: High-T<sub>c</sub> superconductivity  
– THE enigma of modern solid state physics



# Spin – the *drosophila* of quantum physics

Spin: an atomic scale magnetic moment

- **Quantization:**  $S=0, 1/2, 1, 3/2, \dots, \infty$



- **Superposition:**  $|\psi\rangle = \alpha|\uparrow\rangle + \beta|\downarrow\rangle$   
likelihood of up:  $\rho(\uparrow) = |\langle\uparrow|\psi\rangle|^2 = \alpha^2$

- **Quantum fluctuations**

average moment  $\langle S^z \rangle = 0$

imagine that spins fluctuate in ‘imaginary time’

- **Quantum correlations**

$$|\psi\rangle = ( |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle ) / \sqrt{2}$$

e.g. two spins ‘entangled’  
this is why  $\propto 2^N$ , not  $\propto N$

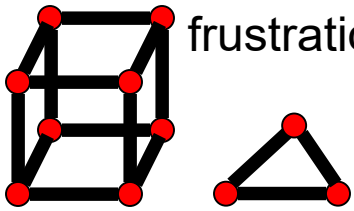


# Quantum Magnetism – materials as quantum simulators

## 1) Model and Materials

Spin, interactions

dimension  
frustration



The



## 2) Theoretical methods

analytic approximations  
numerical simulations

of many body physics

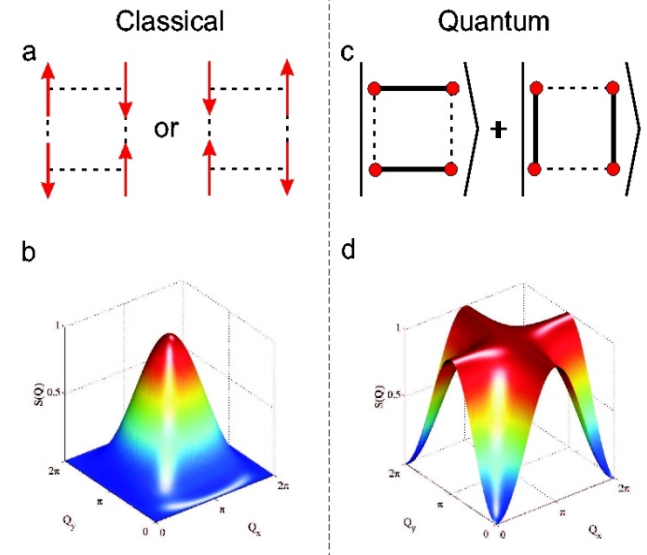
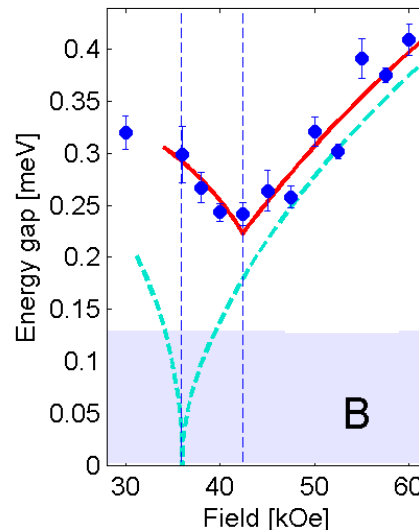
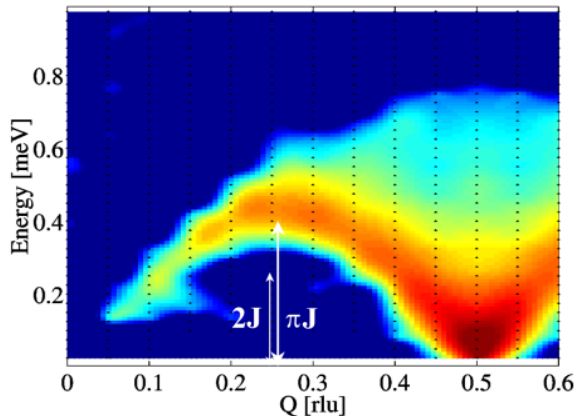
## 3) Experimental tools:

Bulk probes

Neutron scattering

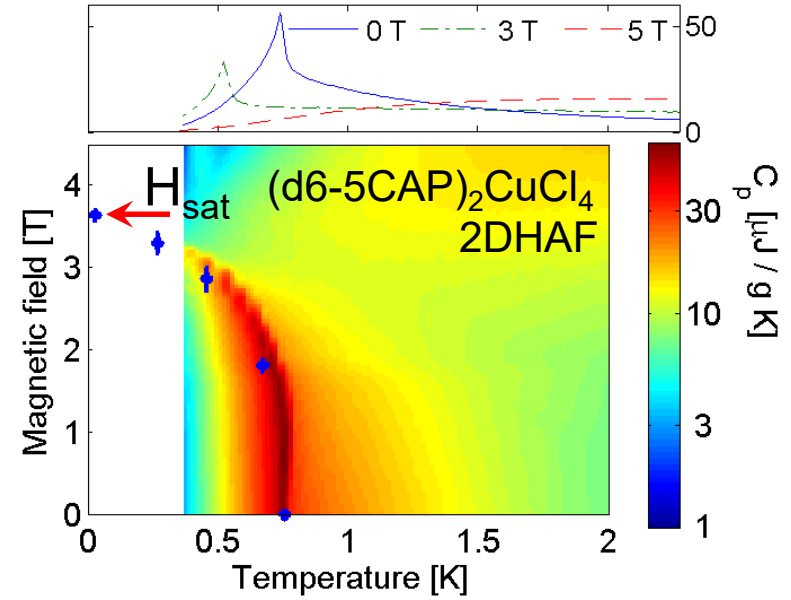
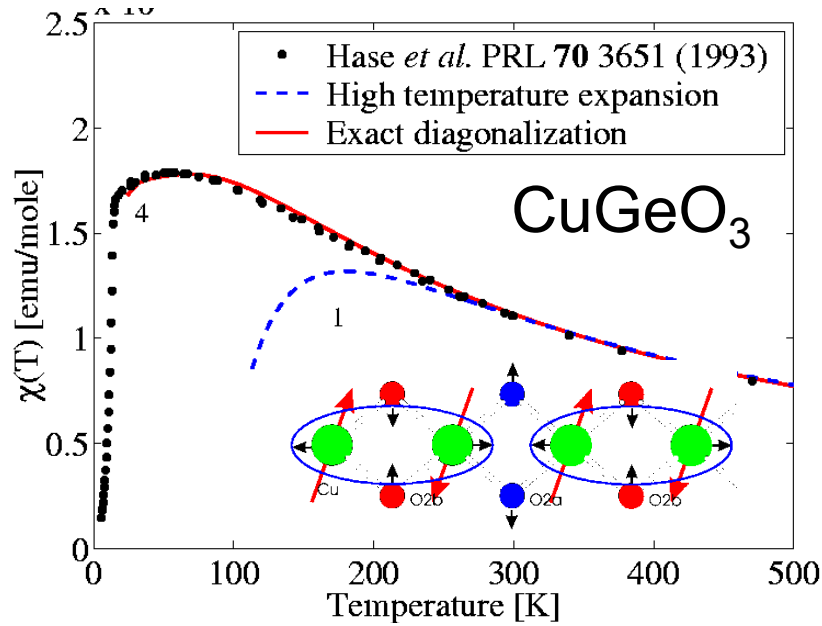
## Phenomena:

Order, phase transitions,  
quantum fluctuations,  
collective excitations,  
entanglement ...

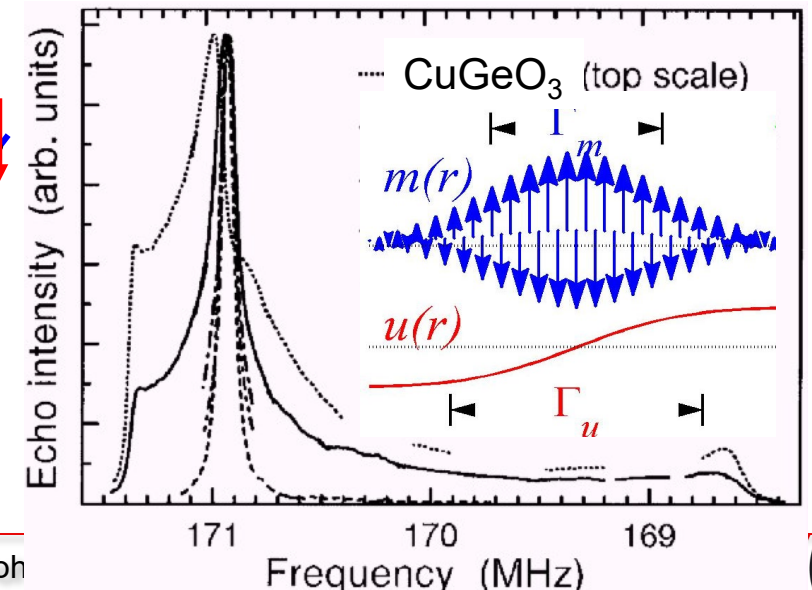
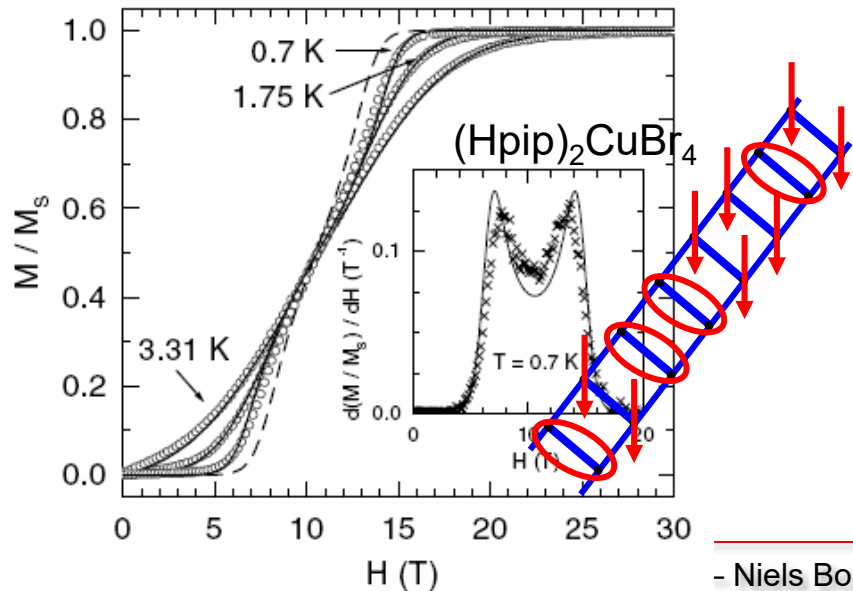


# Magnetic measurements

Susceptibility



Magnetization



Specific heat

NMR,  $\mu$ SR etc.



- Niels Boh



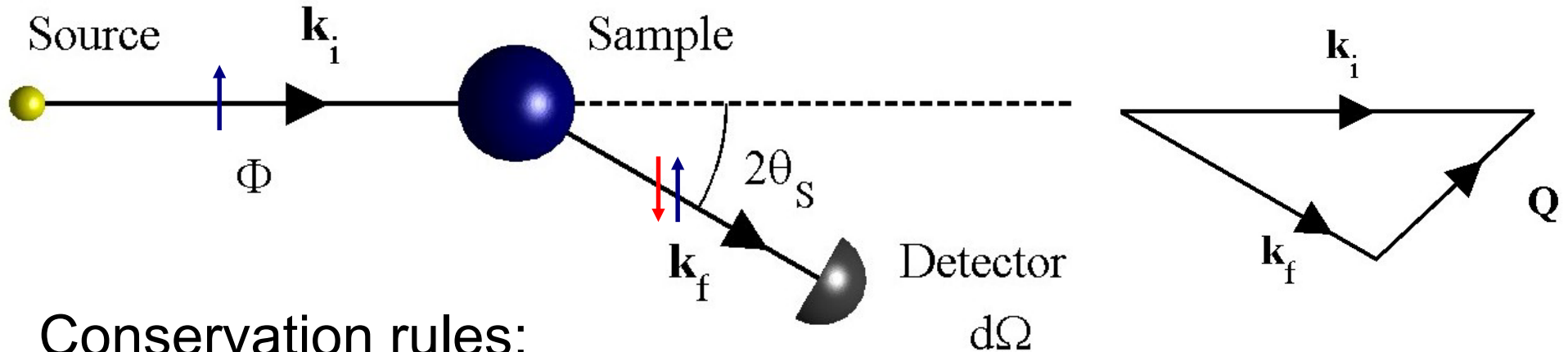


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# A unique tool: Neutron scattering

scattering and conservation rules



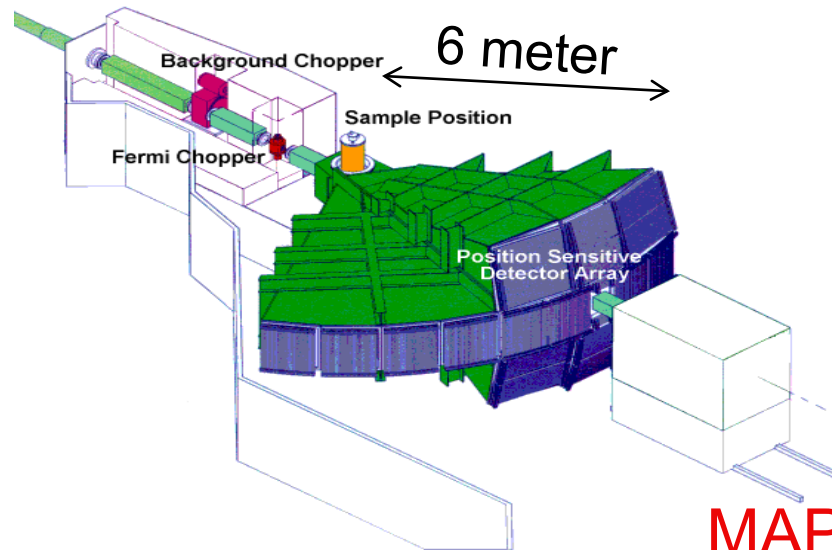
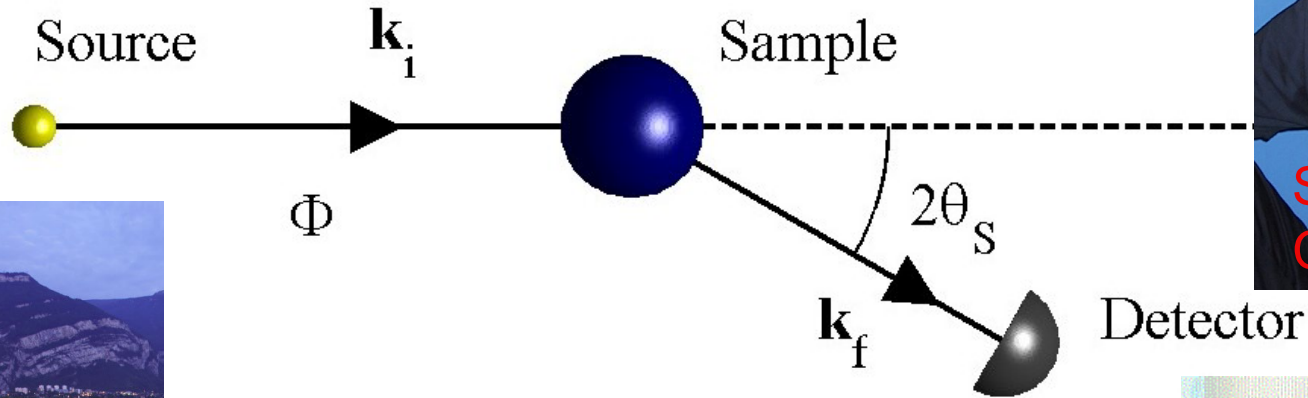
Conservation rules:

	Sample	=	Neutron
Momentum	$\hbar\mathbf{Q}$	=	$\hbar\mathbf{k}_i - \hbar\mathbf{k}_f$
Energy	$\hbar\omega$	=	$E_i - E_f = \hbar(k_i^2 - k_f^2)/2m_n$
Spin	$\Delta S$	=	$\sigma_i - \sigma_f$

$\Rightarrow$  We can control and measure these quantities !



# Large scale instruments and facilities



MAPS 16m<sup>2</sup> detector bank

# Neutron scattering – an intense future

- 1<sup>st</sup> generation facilities:
  - General purpose research reactors
- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation facilities:
  - Dedicated to neutron scattering:
  - ILL, France, FRM2 Munich, SINQ CH, ISIS, UK etc.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> generation facilities:
  - SNS, US 1.4b\$, commissioned 2006
  - J-Parc, Japan 150b¥, commissioned 2008
  - ESS, Sweden 2b€, start 2013, commission 2023
  - China Spallation, start 2011\*, commission 2018
- 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation gains of 10-1000 times !
  - Faster experiments, smaller samples, better data
  - Time resolved physics, new fields of science
  - New instrument concepts

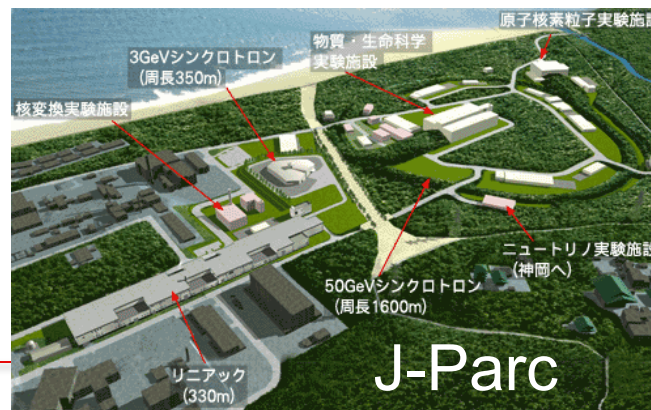
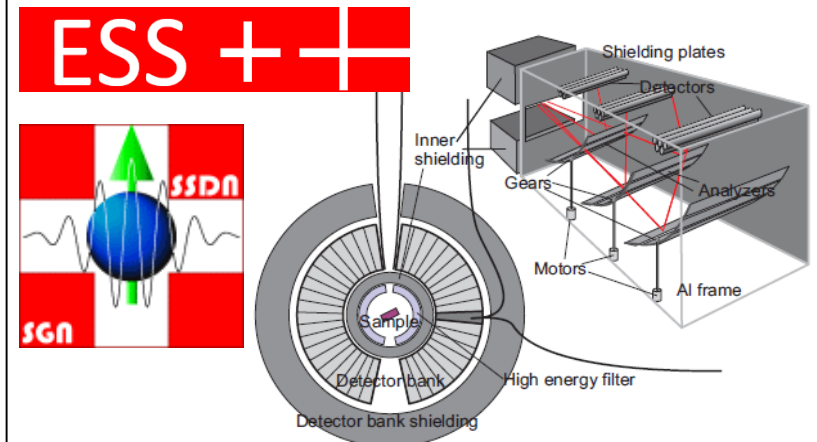
European Spallation Source (ESS), Lund

Denmark is co-host nation

Switzerland contributes 3.4%

⇒ CH-DK collaboration on instruments

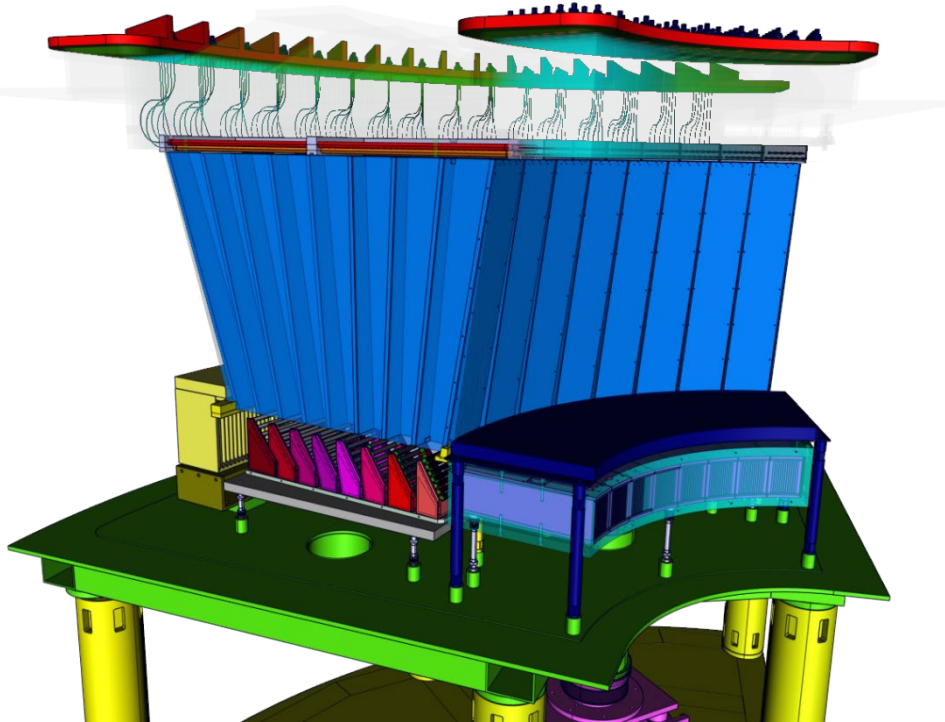
⇒ BiFrost:  $10^2$  -  $10^4$  over current best





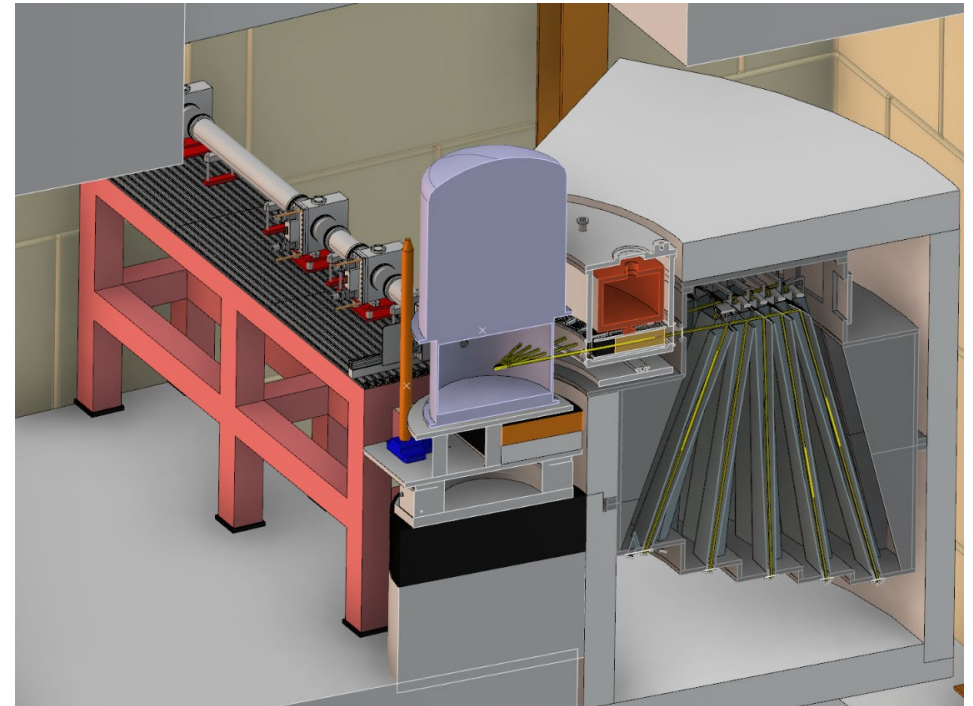
# CAMEA

- Multi-TAS
- At Swiss Spallation Neutron Source
- End 2018: first measurements
- First of a new instrument type



# BiFrost

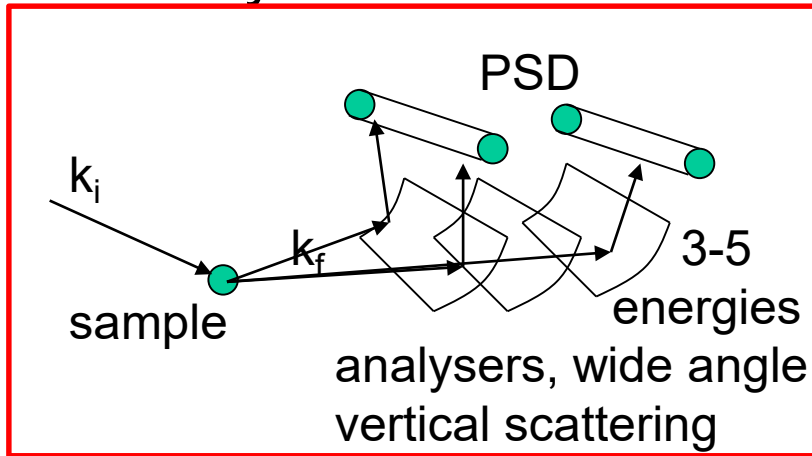
- Indirect-TOF
- Scheduled among 1<sup>st</sup> instruments at ESS
- 202? first neutrons
- Spectroscopy from 1mm<sup>3</sup> samples
- Continuous parametric studies



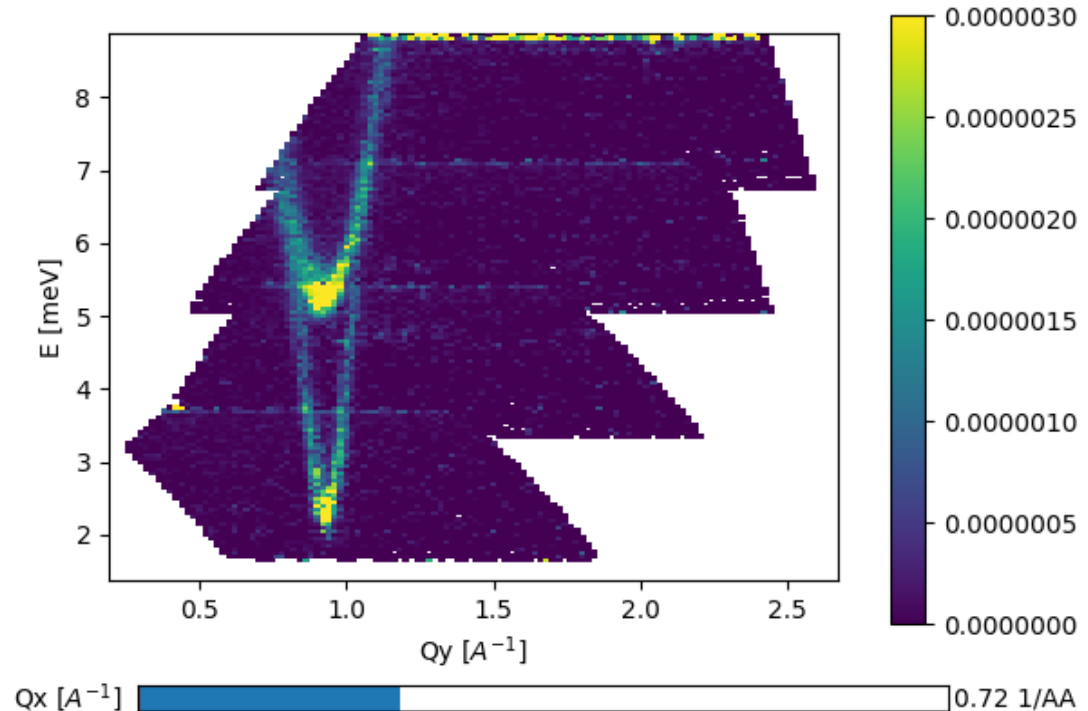
# CAMEA - Continuous Angle Multiple Energy Analysis

Measure 100 times more neutrons

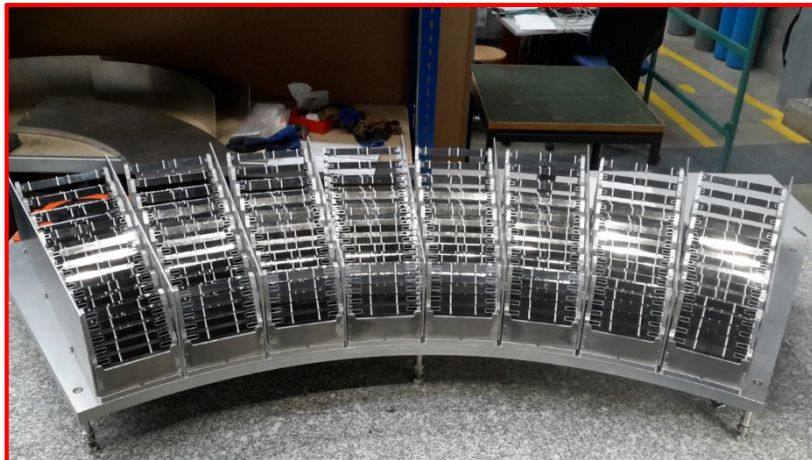
~2002 my first sketch



First measurements last week :

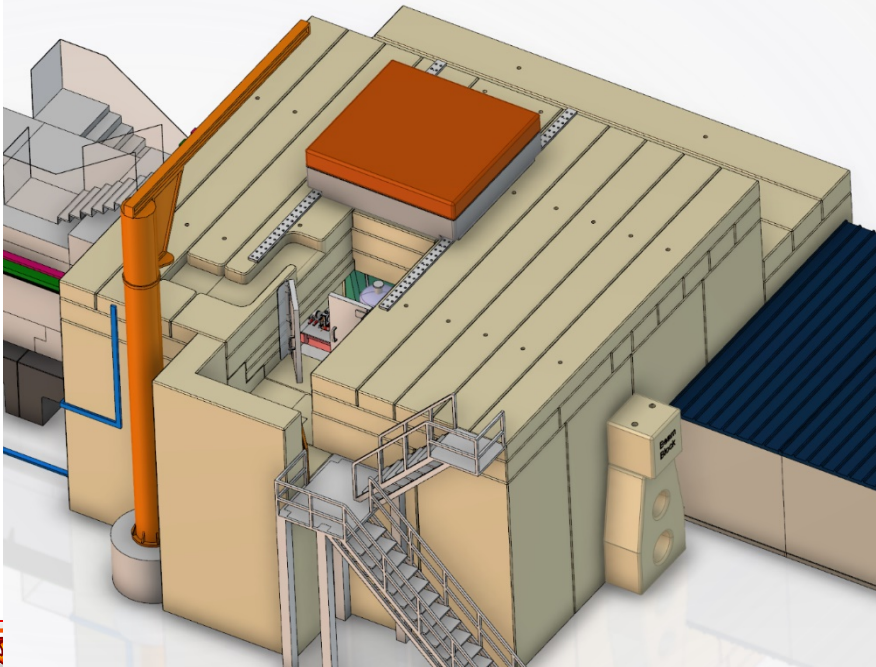
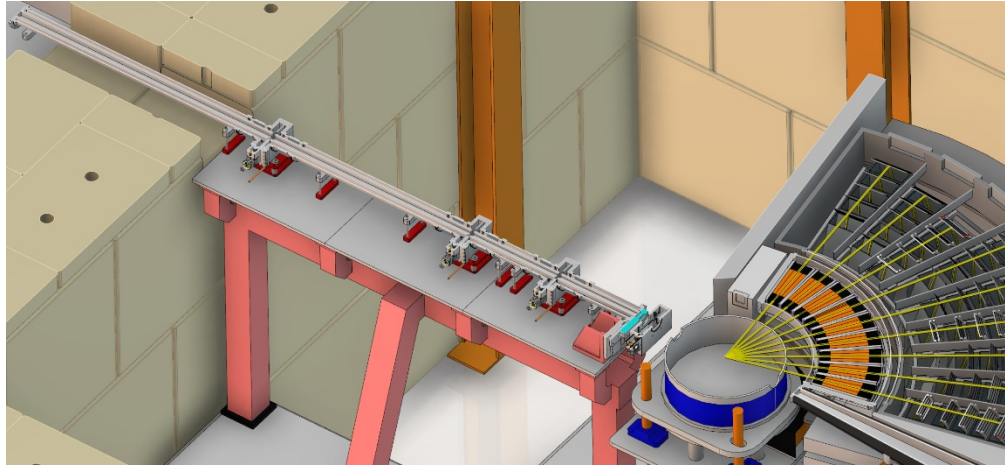


2018 first instrument



DK Team members: Kim Lefmann, Jakob Lass, Jonas O Birk, Mads Bertelsen, Martin Olsen, Rebekka Frøystad og Asla Husgard

# BiFrost @ ESS



## Quick Facts

Sector	West
Beam Port	W04
Class	Spectrometry
Commissioning/Operation	2022/2023
Moderator	Cold
Length	162 m
2 $\theta$ -Range [deg.]	7-135
Analyzer energies [meV]	2.7, 3.2, 3.8, 4.4 and 5.0
2 $\theta$ -Coverage (2 settings)	90 degrees
$\Delta E$ -Range	-3 – 55 meV
Divergence range (FWHM)	0.4 – 1.5 deg.
2 $\theta$ resolution	0.7 – 1.2 deg.

### High flux mode [2.3 – 4.0 Å]

Flux [n/s/cm <sup>2</sup> ]	$1 \cdot 10^{10}$
Elastic line resolution @ $E_f = 5.0$ meV	190 $\mu$ eV
Resolution at $\Delta E = 5$ meV [ $E_f = 5$ meV]	450 $\mu$ eV

### High resolution mode [2.3 – 4.0 Å]

Flux [n/s/cm <sup>2</sup> ]	$6 \cdot 10^8$
Elastic line resolution @ $E_f = 5.0$ meV (prismatic)	50 $\mu$ eV
Resolution at $\Delta E = 5$ meV [ $E_f = 3.8$ meV] (prismatic)	50 $\mu$ eV





# Neutron scattering cross-section – the power of simplicity

Fermi's golden rule for transition probability

$$\left( \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE_f} \right)_{\lambda_i \rightarrow \lambda_f} = \frac{k_f}{k_i} \left( \frac{m_n}{2\pi\hbar^2} \right)^2 \underline{|\langle \mathbf{k}_f \lambda_f | V | \mathbf{k}_i \lambda_i \rangle|^2} \delta(E_{\lambda_i} - E_{\lambda_f} + \hbar\omega)$$

From initial state  $i$  to final state  $f$  of neutron  $\mathbf{k}$  and sample  $\lambda$

Neutrons treated as plane waves:

$$|\mathbf{k}s_n\rangle = V^{-1/2} \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_n) |s_n\rangle$$

Energy conservation  $\Rightarrow$  integral rep.:

$$\delta(\hbar\omega + E_i - E_f) = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(\hbar\omega + E_i - E_f)t/\hbar} dt$$

Fourier transform in  
- space/momentum  
- time/energy



# Magnetic neutron scattering

$$|\langle \mathbf{k}_f \lambda_f | V | \mathbf{k}_i \lambda_i \rangle|^2$$

## Dipole interaction – electron spin and orbit moment

$$V_{\text{mag}}(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} 2\gamma\mu_N\mu_B \boldsymbol{\sigma}_n \cdot \left( \nabla \times \left( \frac{\mathbf{s} \times \hat{\mathbf{R}}}{|\mathbf{R}|^2} \right) + \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\mathbf{p} \times \hat{\mathbf{R}}}{|\mathbf{R}|^2} \right)$$

$$\left( \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE_f} \right)_{\text{mag}} = \frac{(\gamma r_0)^2 k_f}{2\pi\hbar k_i} \sum_{\alpha\beta} (\delta_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{Q}_\alpha \hat{Q}_\beta) |gF_R(Q)|^2 \sum_{RR'} \int dt e^{iQ(R-R') - i\omega t} \langle S_R^\alpha(0) S_{R'}^\beta(t) \rangle$$

cross-section     
 pre factor     
 dipole factor     
 magnetic form factor     
 Fourier transform     
 spin-spin correlation function

# Dynamic structure factor

Spin-spin correlation function

$$S^{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}, \omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{RR'} \int dt e^{i\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{R}-\mathbf{R}')-i\omega t} \langle S_R^\alpha(0) S_{R'}^\beta(t) \rangle$$

Dynamic structure factor

Theory !

$$\left( \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE_f} \right)_{\text{mag}} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{k_f}{k_i} p^2 \exp(-2W) \sum_{\alpha\beta} (\delta_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{\mathbf{Q}}_\alpha \hat{\mathbf{Q}}_\beta) S^{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}, \omega)$$

Fluctuation dissipation theorem  $\Rightarrow$  gen. susceptibility

$$S(\mathbf{Q}, \omega) = [n(\omega) + 1] \chi''(\mathbf{Q}, \omega) = \frac{\chi''(\mathbf{Q}, \omega)}{1 - \exp(-\hbar\omega/k_B T)}$$

intrinsic dynamics

$\Leftrightarrow$

response to perturbation

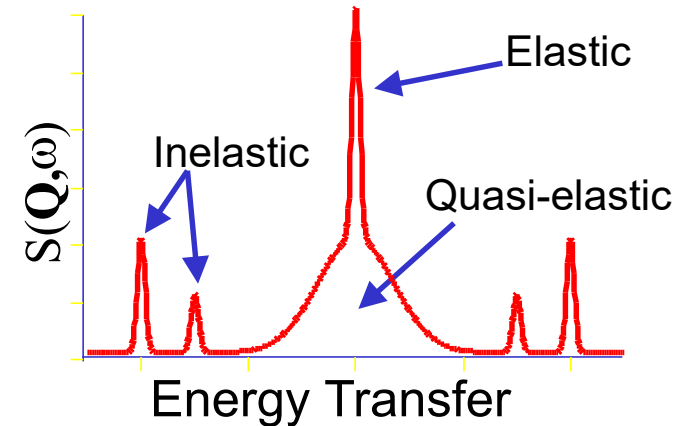
# Structure factors – time and energy

- Dynamic structure factor: inelastic

$$S(\mathbf{Q}, \omega) \propto \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-i\omega(t-t')} \langle S_{\mathbf{r}'}(t) S_{\mathbf{r}}(t') \rangle$$

– periodic:  $\sin(\omega_0 t) \Rightarrow$  peak:  $\delta(\omega_0 - \omega)$

decay:  $\exp(-t/\tau) \Rightarrow$  Lorentzian:  $1/(1+\omega^2\tau^2)$



- Static structure factor: elastic

$$S(\mathbf{Q}, \omega = 0) \propto \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \langle S_{\mathbf{r}'}(t) S_{\mathbf{r}}(t') \rangle \simeq \langle S_{\mathbf{r}'}(t) S_{\mathbf{r}}(\infty) \rangle$$

– Bragg peaks at  $\omega = 0$

- Instantaneous structure factor - integrate over energy

$$S(\mathbf{Q}) = \int d\omega S(\mathbf{Q}, \omega) \propto \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \delta(t - t') \langle S_{\mathbf{r}'}(t) S_{\mathbf{r}}(t') \rangle = \langle S_{\mathbf{r}'}(t) S_{\mathbf{r}}(t) \rangle$$

– Finite time/length scale of correlations



# Inelastic magnetic scattering: Lets take the scenic route...

Between long range ordered states

Selected examples

– the zoo :

- Spin-flip, singlet-triplet, dispersive triplets
- 1D spin chain  
– spinons vs spin waves
- 2D HAF zone boundary anomaly  
– as instability of spin waves ?  
– the smoking gun of RVB ?



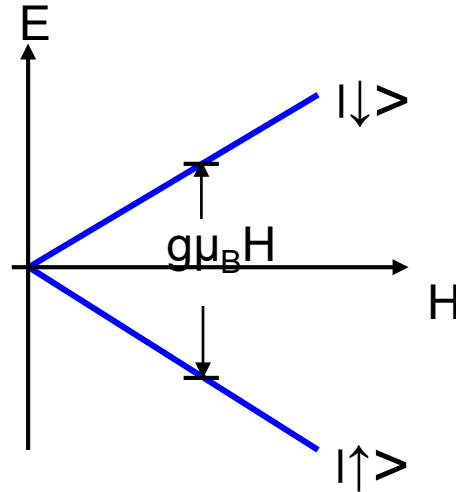
... and spin liquids

# paramagnetic spins $S=1/2$

- Two states  $|\uparrow\rangle, |\downarrow\rangle$ , can be magnetized
- Zeemann-split energy of the levels
- A gap for transitions

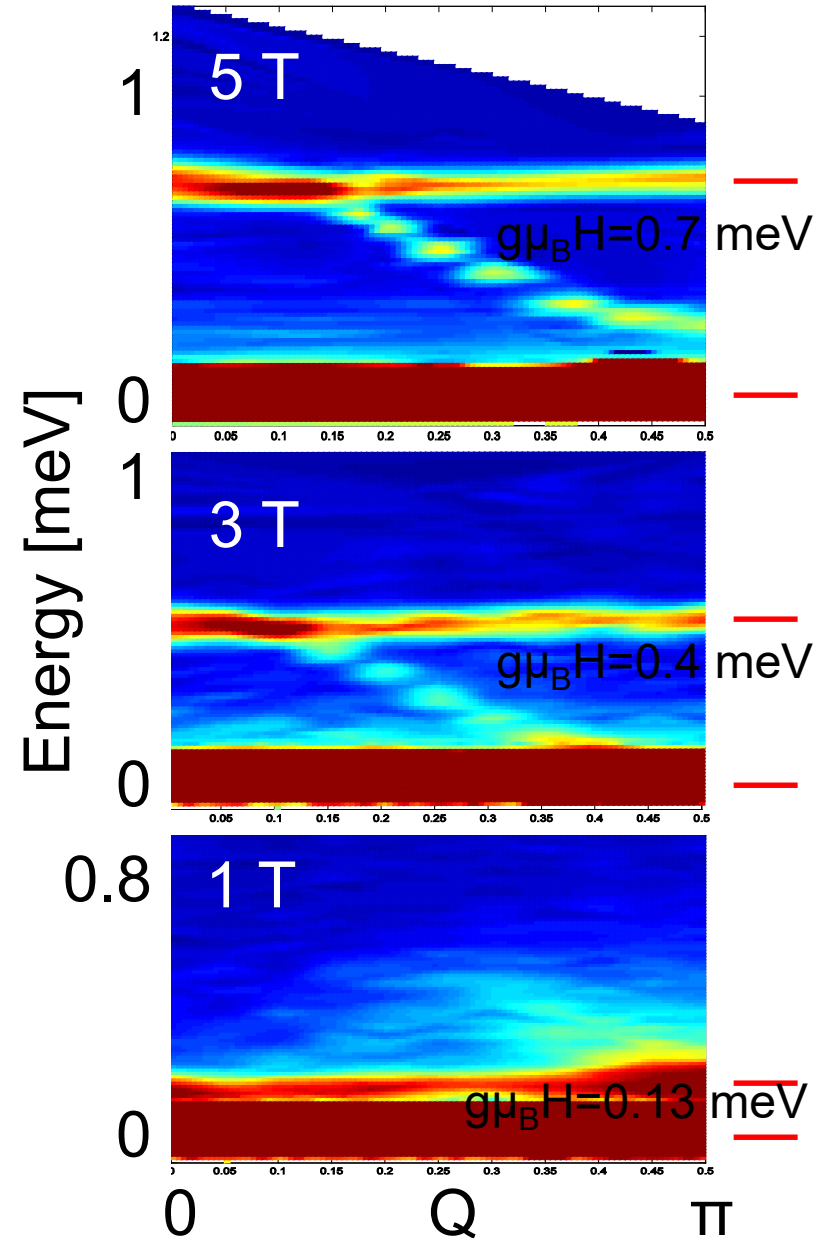


$\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{D}_2\text{O}$

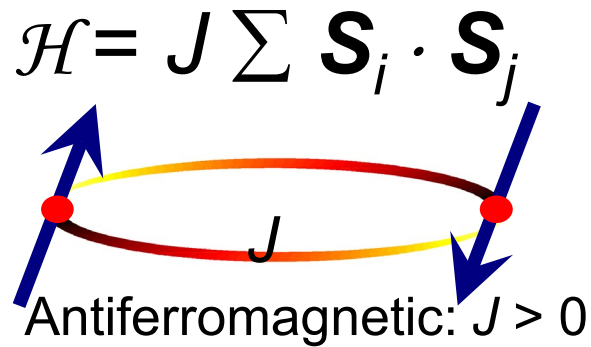


- Local excitation  
⇒ no Q-dependence

## Spin-flip excitation

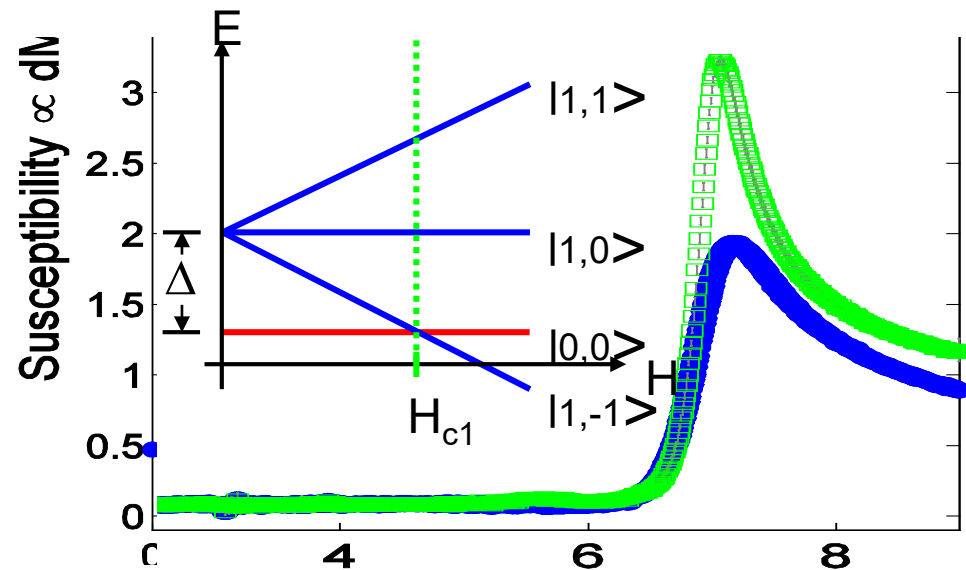
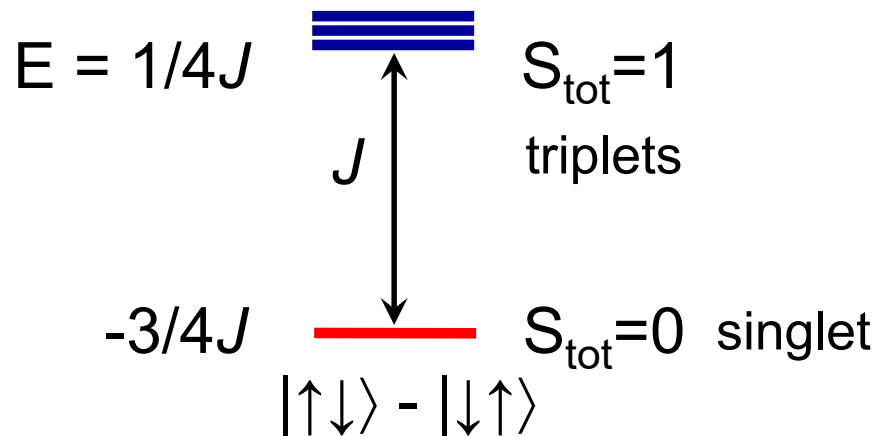


# Take two – the spin pair



No magnetization or susceptibility up to critical field

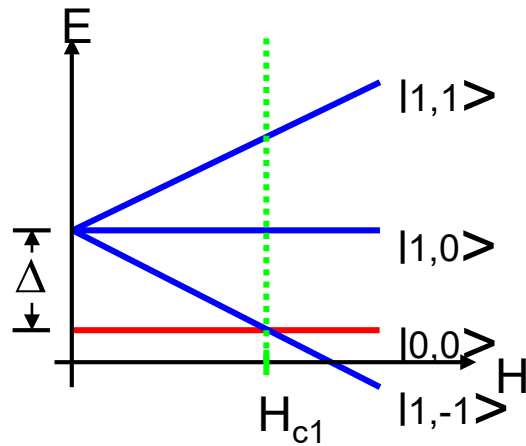
$|\uparrow\uparrow\rangle, |\downarrow\downarrow\rangle, |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$



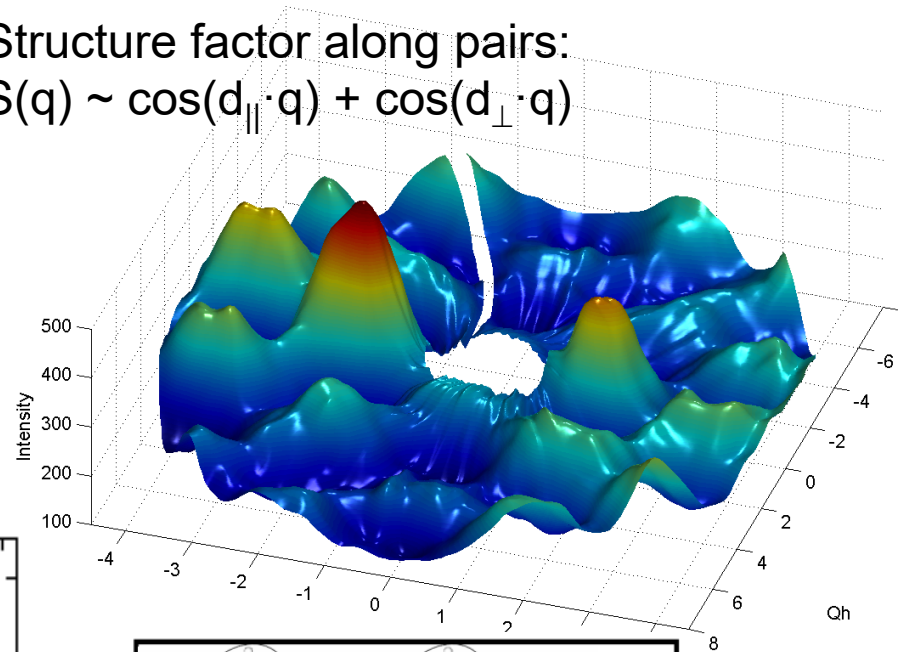
Singlet ground state:  $\langle S^z_1 \rangle = \langle S^z_2 \rangle = 0$



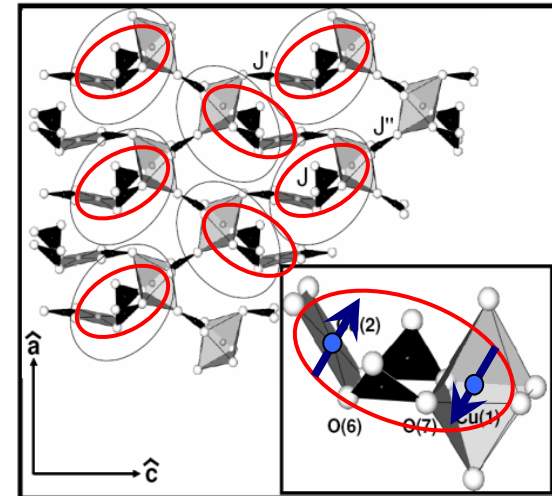
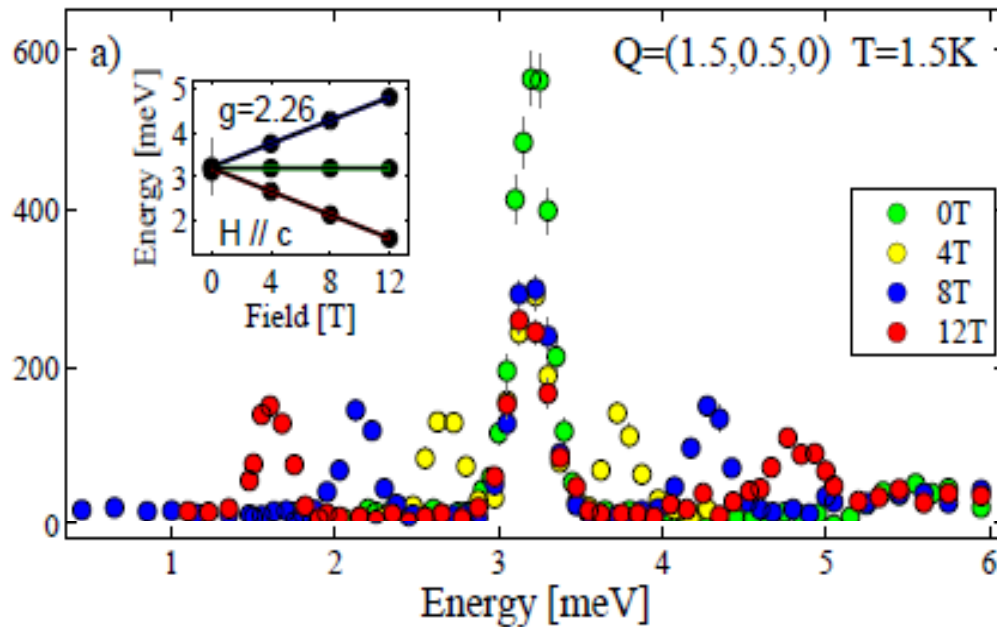
# Take two – the spin pair



Structure factor along pairs:  
 $S(q) \sim \cos(d_{\parallel} \cdot q) + \cos(d_{\perp} \cdot q)$



$\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}(\text{BO}_3)_2$   
 Rüegg, HMR, Demmel et al.



$\text{SrCu}_2(\text{BO}_3)_2$   
 Zayed, Rüegg, HMR et al.

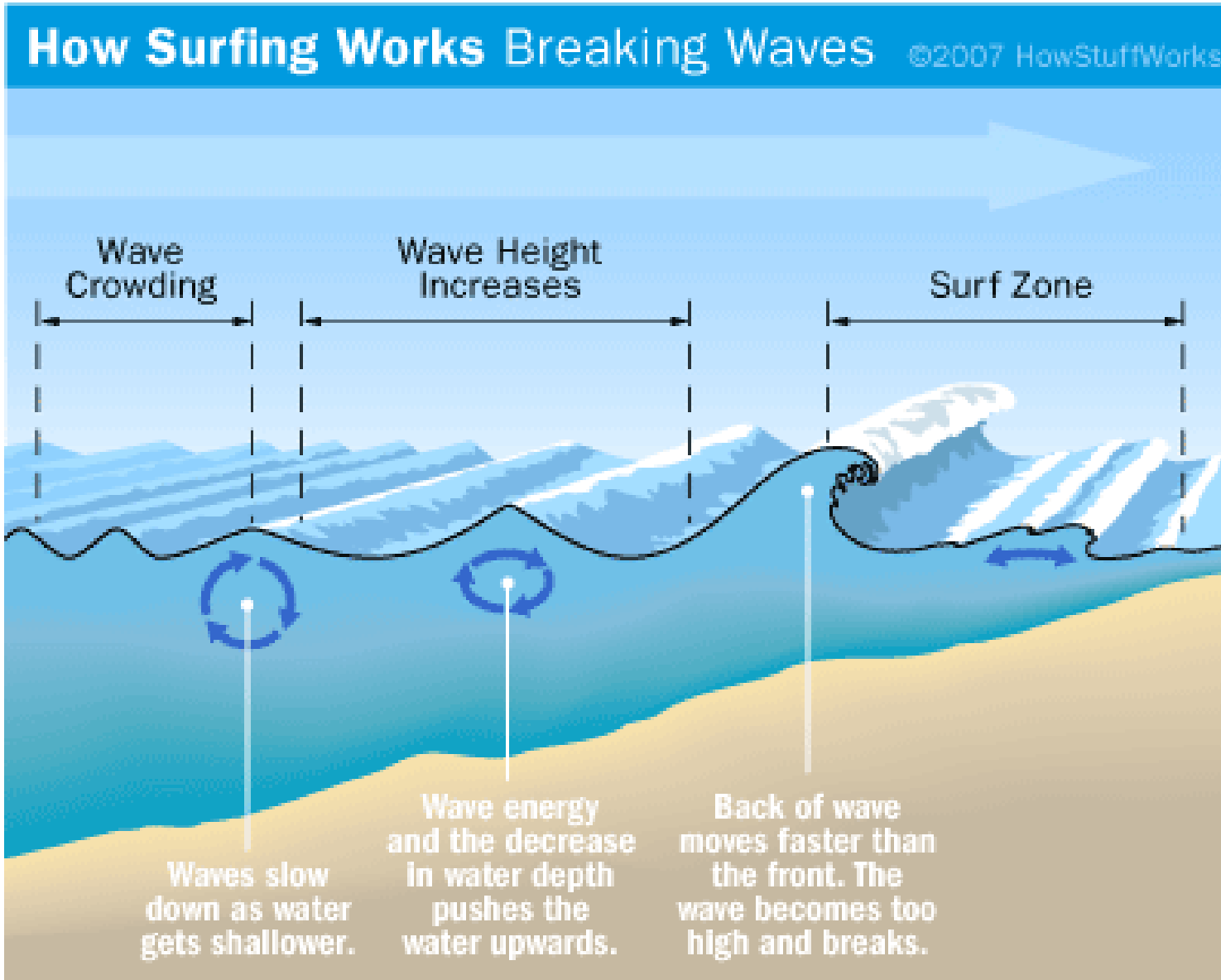
# The Heisenberg model

- Seem innocently simple. 1 and 2 spins were trivial.

$$\mathcal{H} = J \sum_{\langle i, j \rangle} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

- for extended systems, do we understand it well enough ?

# When do we understand ? What is a theory ?



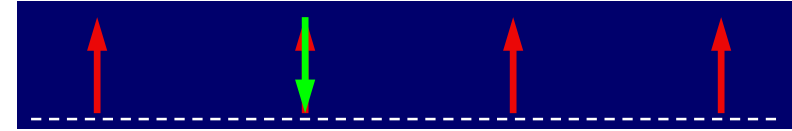
- Model
- Solution
- Picture
- Waves are collective excitations of water
- Energy travels far while water only moves locally
- “Quasi-particles” are collective excitations in the atomic limit



# Ferromagnets are easy, exact solution:

$$H = -\sum_{r,r'} J_{rr'} \mathbf{S}_r \cdot \mathbf{S}_{r'} = -J \sum_{\langle r,r'=r+d \rangle} S_r^z S_{r'}^z + \frac{1}{2}(S_r^+ S_{r'}^- + S_r^- S_{r'}^+)$$

↑ nearest neighbour ↑



Ordered ground state, all spin up:  $H|g\rangle = E_g|g\rangle$ ,  $E_g = -zNS^2J$

Single spin flip not eigenstate:  $|r\rangle = (2S)^{-1/2} S_r^- |g\rangle$ ,  $S_r^- S_{r'}^+ |r\rangle = 2S|r'\rangle$

$$H|r\rangle = (-zNS^2J + 2zSJ)|r\rangle - 2SJ \sum_d |r+d\rangle$$

flipped spin moves to neighbors

Periodic linear combination:  $|k\rangle = N^{-1/2} \sum_r e^{ikr} |r\rangle$

plane wave

Is eigenstate:  $H|k\rangle = E_g + E_k |k\rangle$ ,  $E_k = SJ \sum_d 1 - e^{ikd}$

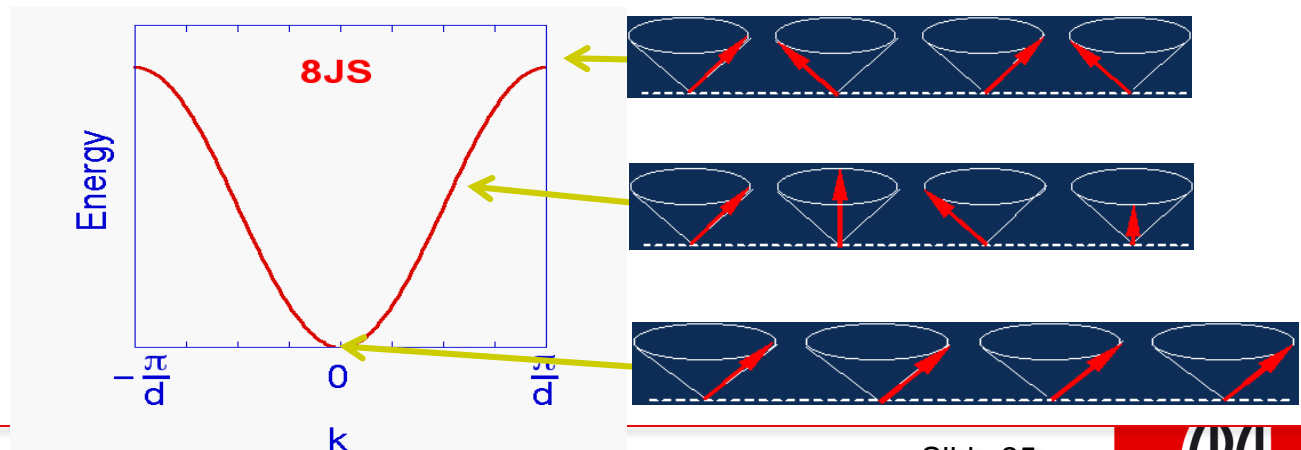
dispersion =  $2SJ (1 - \cos(kd))$  in 1D

Time evolution:  $|k(t)\rangle = e^{iHt} |k\rangle = e^{iE_k t} |k\rangle$

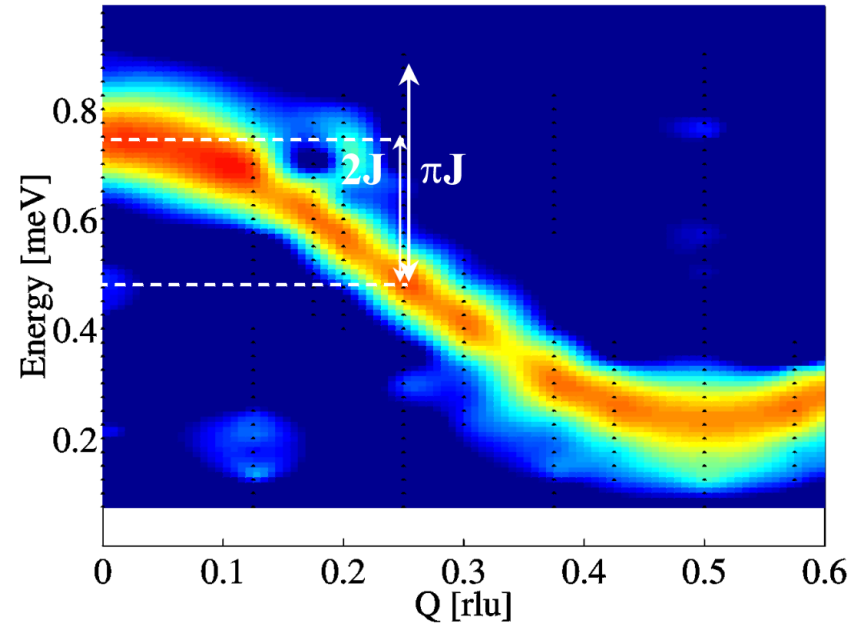
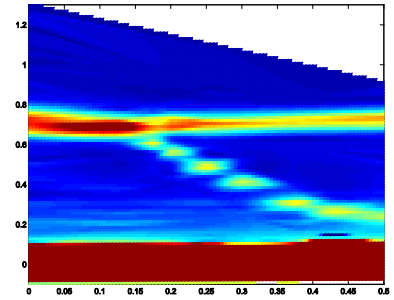
sliding wave

Dispersion:  
relation between  
time- and space-  
modulation period

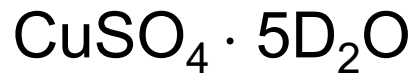
Same result in classical  
calculation  $\Rightarrow$  precession:



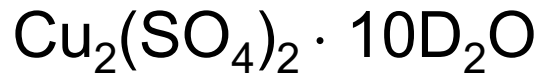
# Spin waves in a “ferromagnet”



$$\text{dispersion} = 2SJ (1 - \cos(kd))$$



=



=

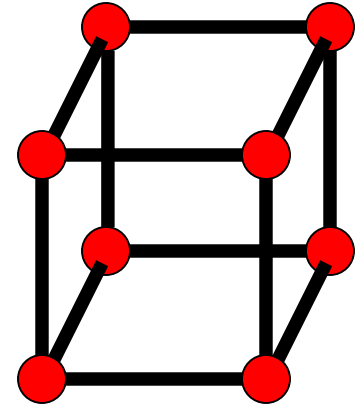
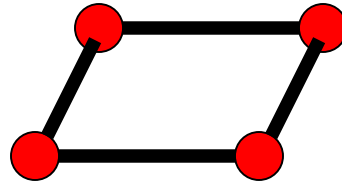
1 Cu  $S=1/2$  uncoupled

1 Cu  $S=1/2$  chain

Actually it is an antiferromagnet polarized by 5T field

# Quantum antiferromagnets are tricky

Fluctuations stronger for fewer neighbours



1D: Ground state 'quantum disordered' spin liquid of  $S=1/2$  spinons. Bethe ansatz 'solves' the model

2D: Ground state ordered at  $T=0$        $\langle S \rangle = 60\%$  of  $1/2$   
(although not rigorously proven).

3D: Ground state long range ordered, weak quantum-effects

# Quasi-particle zoo in one-dimension

## Electronic states of matter:

Metal / Semiconductor / Insulator } Single particle picture

Superconductors: Cooper-pairs  
fractional Quantum Hall effect: fractional charges } Correlated electron states

## Magnetic states and excitations:

Magnetic order  
spin-wave magnon excitations } semiclassical  
single particle picture

Quantum 'disordered' states (quantum spin liquids)  
Multi-magnon excitations  
Fractionalized excitations } collective quantum states

Possibly simplest example: 1D Heisenberg chain

Analytic solution by Bethe in 1931: 'domain wall quantum soup'

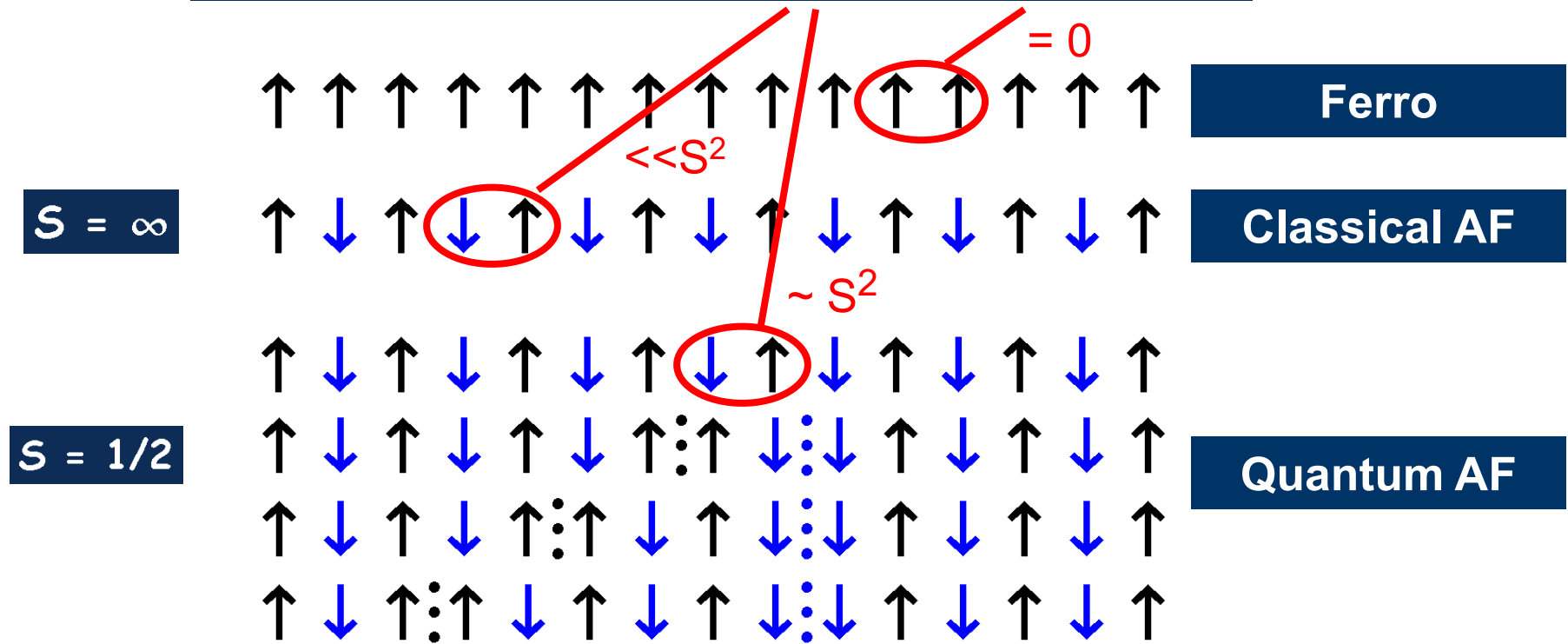


# Outline

- Quantum Magnetism
  - Arena for many-body physics and novel electronic materials
  - Models-Materials-Measurements
- Neutron scattering
  - Basics, uniqueness, and a bright future
  - The quasi-particle zoo
- Selected examples
  - Multi-spinons in one-dimensional antiferromagnetic chains
  - Spin-wave anomaly and quest for pairing in 2D

# antiferromagnetic spin chain

$$\mathcal{H} = J \sum S_n^z S_{n+1}^z + \frac{1}{2} (S_n^+ S_{n+1}^- + S_n^- S_{n+1}^+)$$

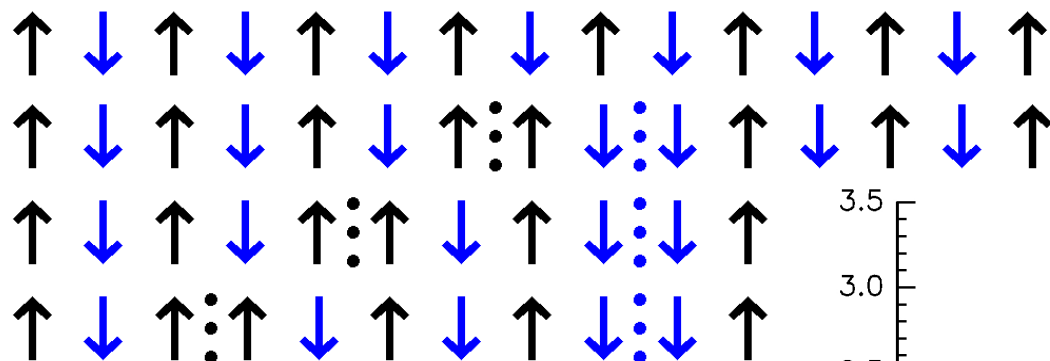


Ground state (Bethe 1931) – a soup of domain walls

# Spinon excitations

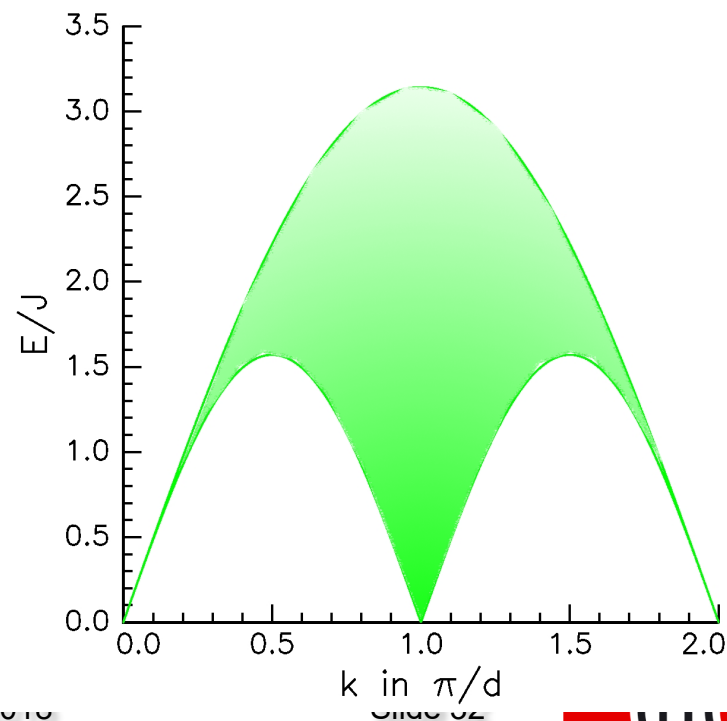
Elementary excitations:

- “Spinons”: spin  $S = 1/2$  domain walls with respect to local AF ‘order’
- Need 2 spinons to form  $S=1$  excitation we can see with neutrons



Energy:  $E(q) = E(k_1) + E(k_2)$   
 Momentum:  $q = k_1 + k_2$   
 Spin:  $S = 1/2 \pm 1/2$

Continuum of scattering  $\Rightarrow$



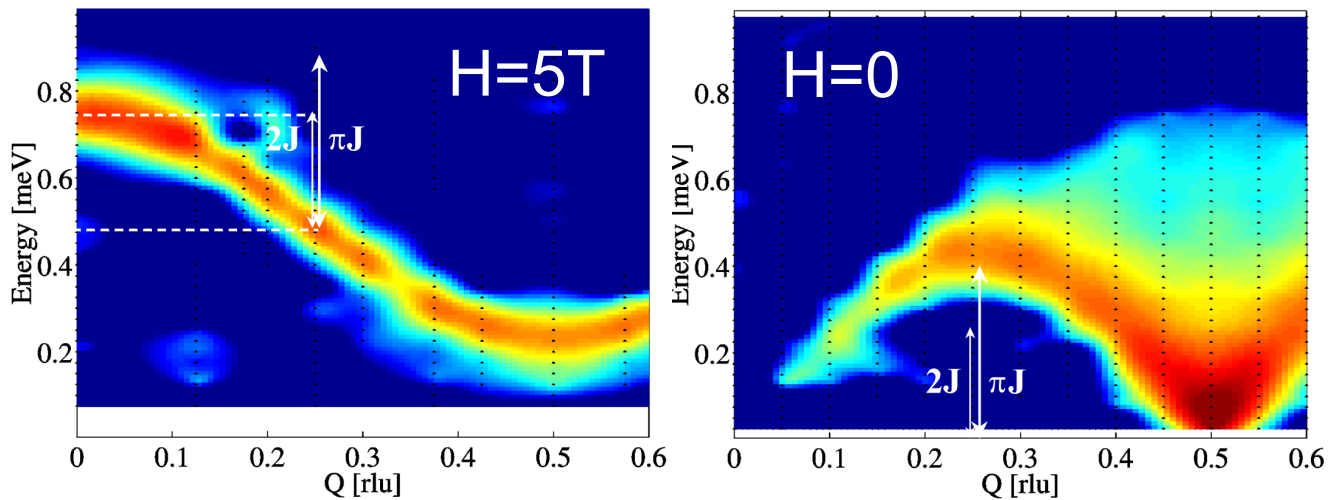
# The *antiferromagnetic* spin chain

FM: ordered ground state (in 5T mag. field)

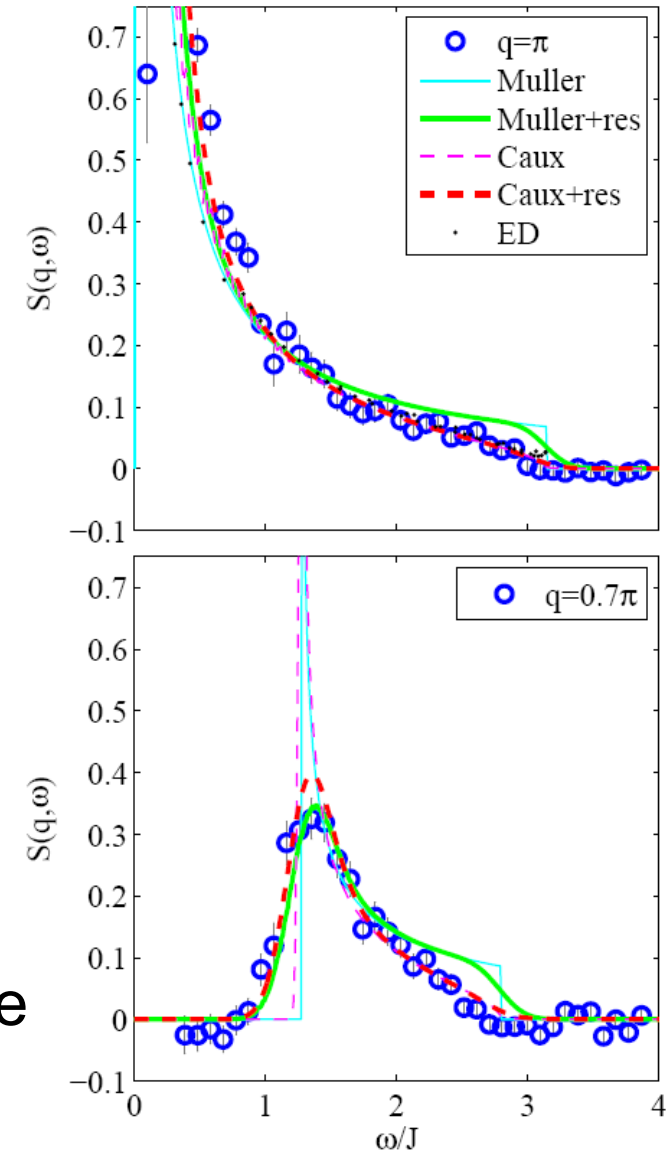
- semiclassical spin-wave excitations

AFM: quantum disordered ground state

- Staggered and singlet correlations
- Spinon excitations



- Algebraic Bethe ansatz for inelastic lineshape
- Beyond Müller-conjecture  $\Rightarrow$

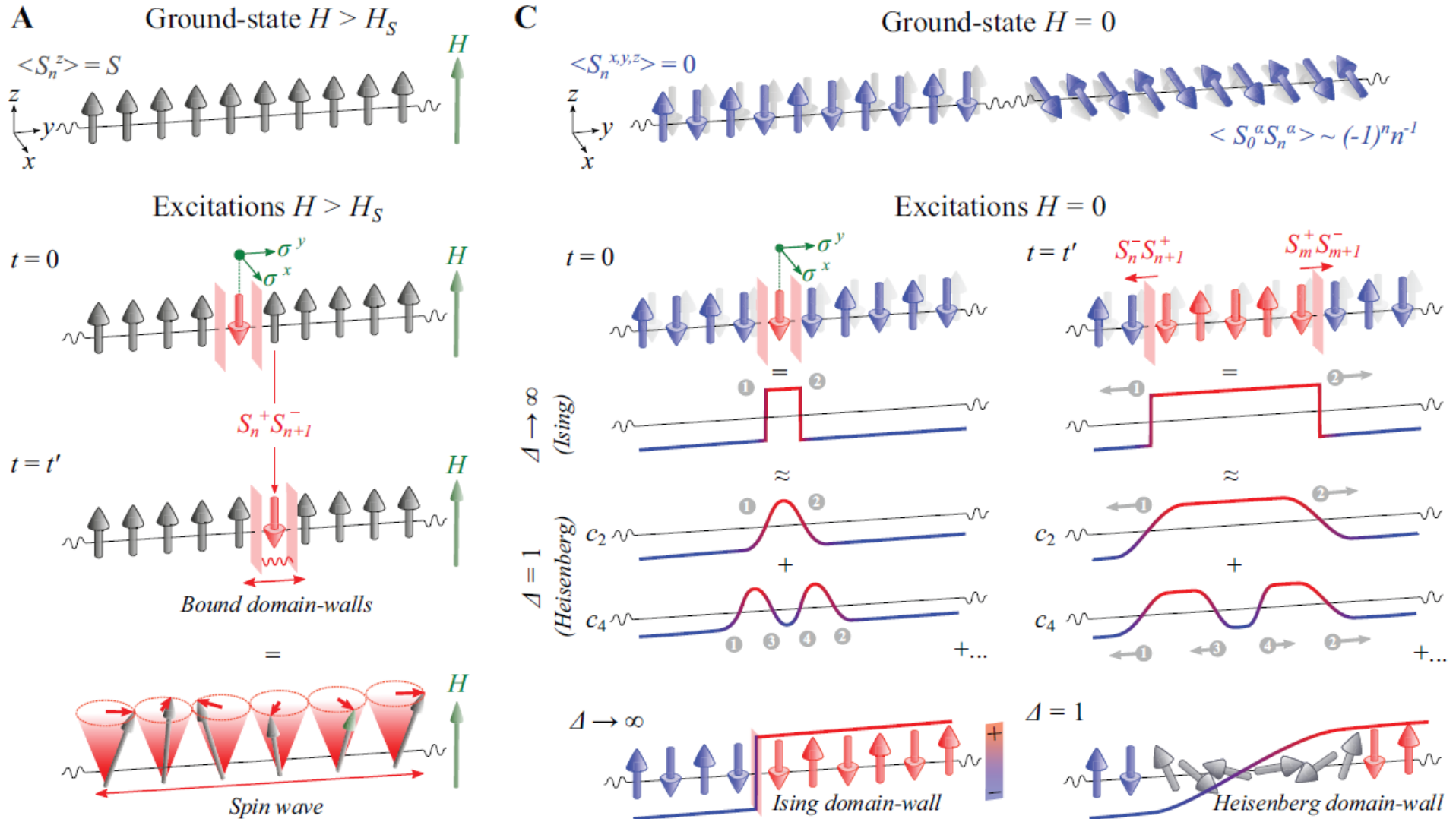


Mourigal *et al.* Nat Phys **9**, 435 (2013)

# Spinons – our cartoon for excitations in 1D spin chain

## Spin waves

## Spinons: 2- and 4 spinon states ?





# Detecting 4-spinon states?

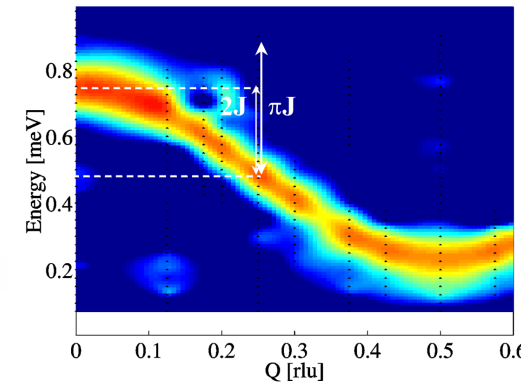
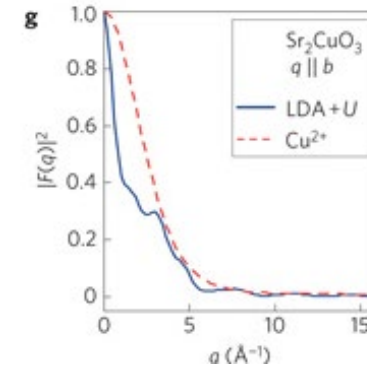
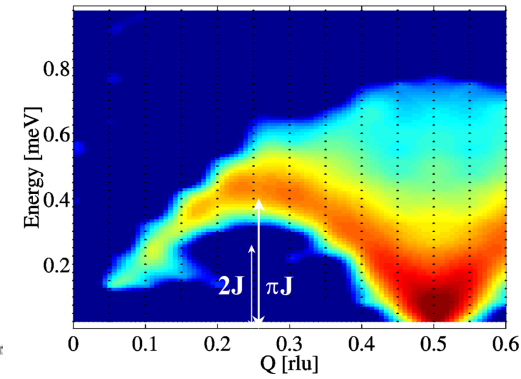
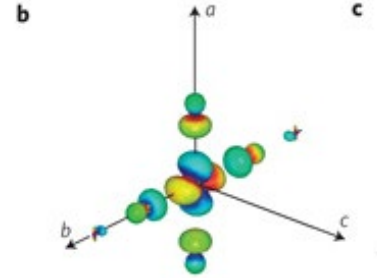
Neutrons see spinon continuum

But, 2- and 4-spinon almost identical line-shape

Only way to distinguish is absolute amplitude

Previous attempts uncertainty in form factor

Trick: Normalise to ferromagnetic spin-waves



Intensity = instrument-stuff \* cross-section

$$\left( \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE_f} \right)_{\text{mag}}$$

cross-section

$$= \frac{(\gamma r_0)^2 k_f}{2\pi\hbar k_i}$$

pre factor

$$\sum_{\alpha\beta} (\delta_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{Q}_\alpha \hat{Q}_\beta) |gF_R(Q)|^2$$

dipole factor

$$|gF_R(Q)|^2$$

magnetic form factor

$$\sum_{RR'} \int dt e^{iQ(R-R') - i\omega t}$$

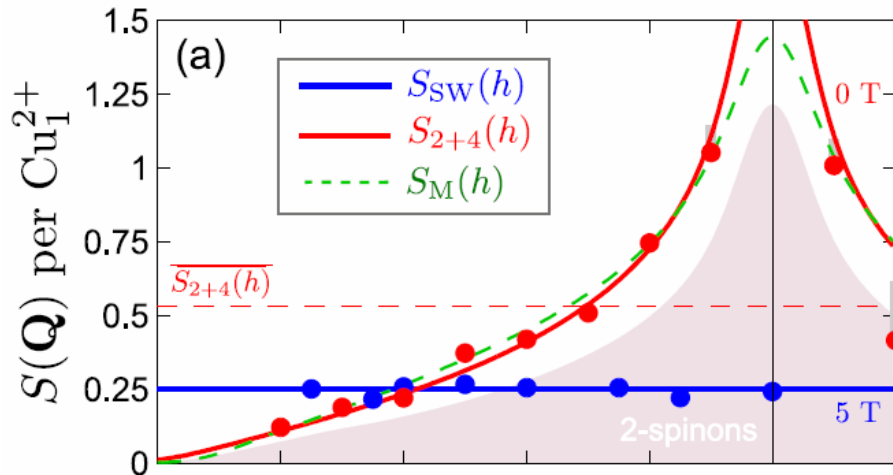
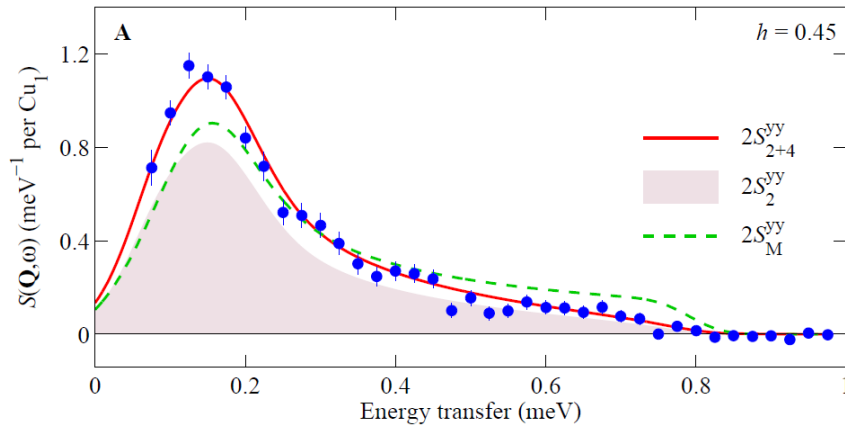
Fourier transform

$$\langle S_R^\alpha(0) S_{R'}^\beta(t) \rangle$$

spin-spin correlation function

# 4- spinon states:

- 2-spinons 72.9%, 4-spinons 25+-1%, 6-spinon ?



- Normalising to FM intensity, we account for 99% of the sum rule
- Comparing to Caux et al, this corresponds to 73% 2-spinon
- Physical picture  $\Rightarrow$  dominant states have one “dispersing” spinon and  $n-1$  around zero energy (in a string of Bethe numbers – a bit complicated)
- Possible combinatorial arguments?

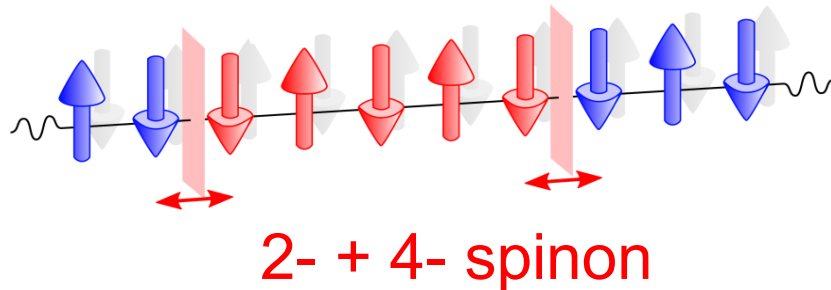
Interestingly:  $2^{(n/2)}/(n-1)!$   
 $\Rightarrow [73.1\%, 24.4\%, 2.4\%, 0.1\% \dots]$

Mourigal *et al.* Nat Phys **9**, 435 (2013)

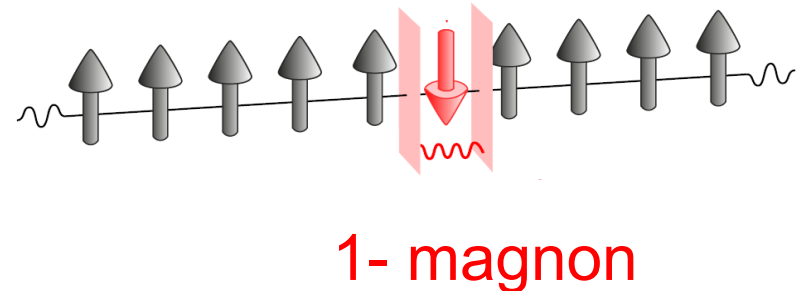


# Intermediate fields – a teaser

□  $H = 0$  (Spinon vacuum)



□  $H > H_s$  (Magnon vacuum)



□  $0 < H < H_s$  (finite spinon population)

$$S^{+-} \neq S^{-+}$$

► What are the excitations in intermediate field ?

□ Psinons  $\psi$  and anti-psinons  $\psi^*$

[Karch *et al.*, PRB 1997]

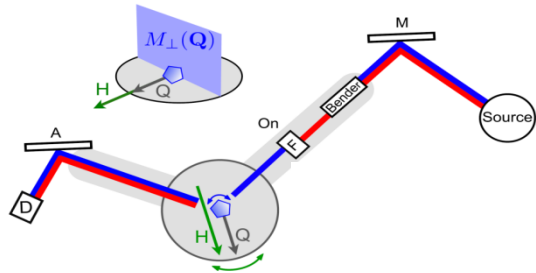
□ + « String solutions »

[Caux *et al.*, PRL 2005; Kohno, PRL 2009]

# Polarised neutron scattering



# Several new quasi-particles observed



$$\sigma_{x0} \propto \mathcal{S}^{-+} + \sigma_{\text{si}}$$

$$\sigma_{\bar{x}0} \propto \mathcal{S}^{+-} + \sigma_{\text{si}}$$

- more expt planned

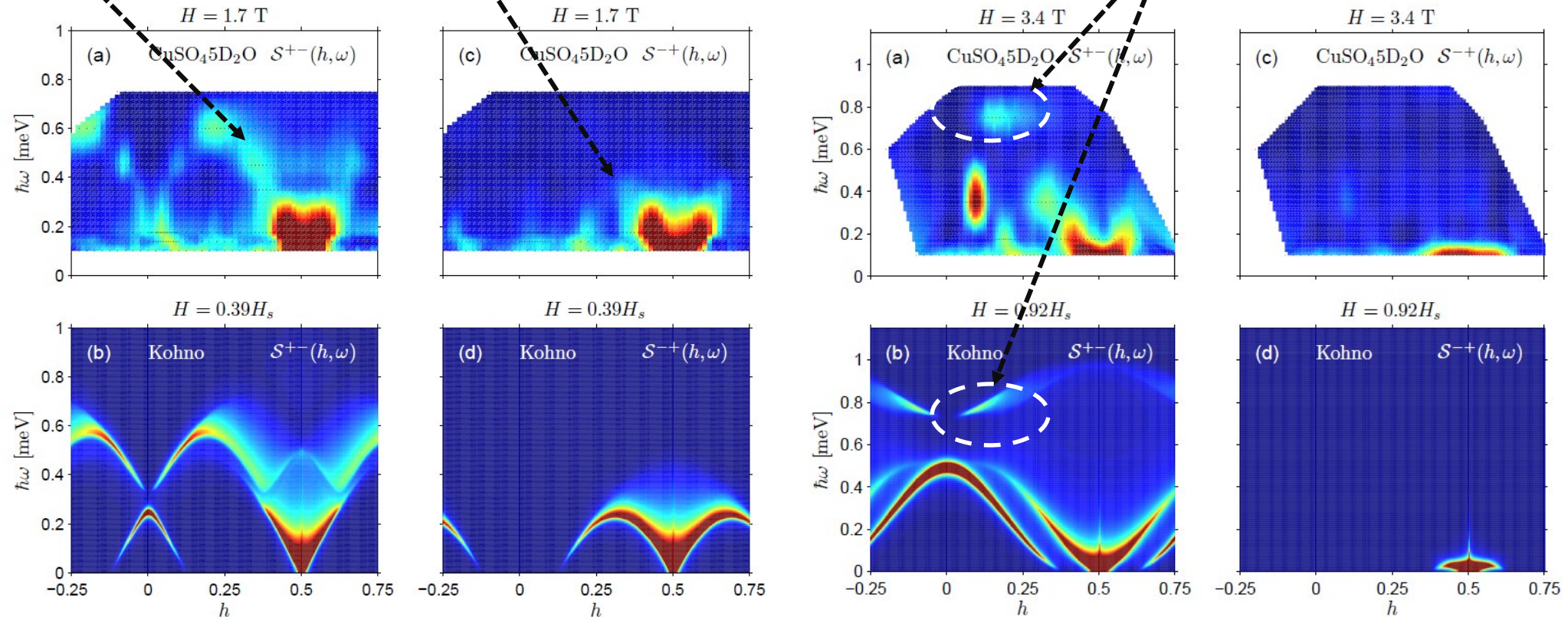
- picture of these new excitations ?

$\sigma_2$  (2-string) ?

[Kohno, PRL 2009]

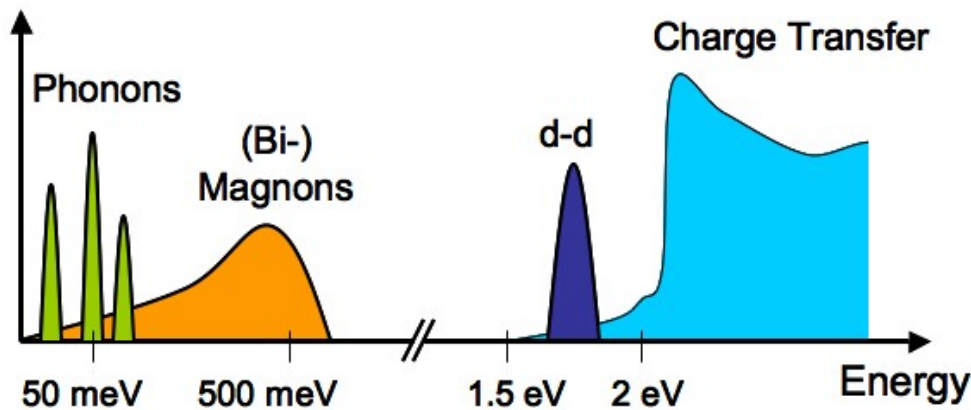
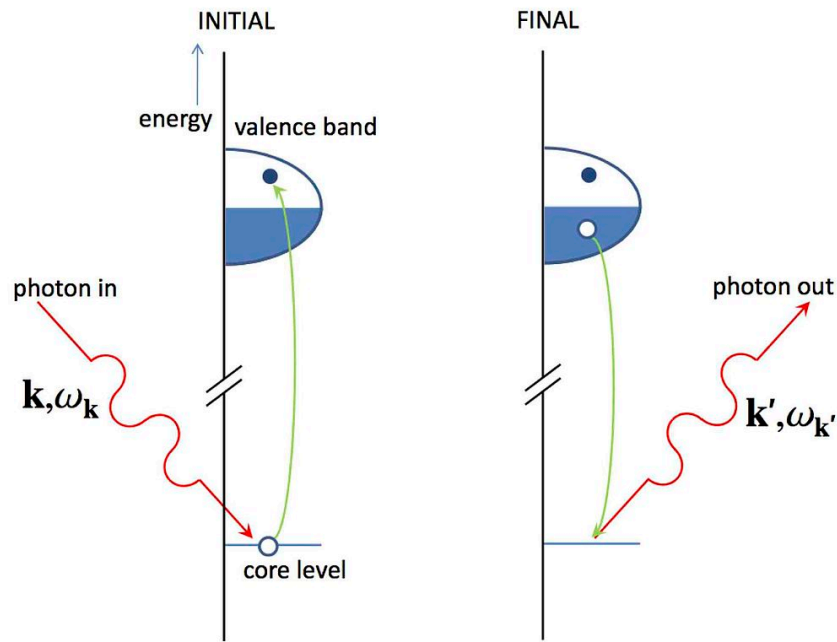
$\psi\psi^*$  in  $\mathcal{S}^{+-}$

$\psi\psi$  in  $\mathcal{S}^{-+}$

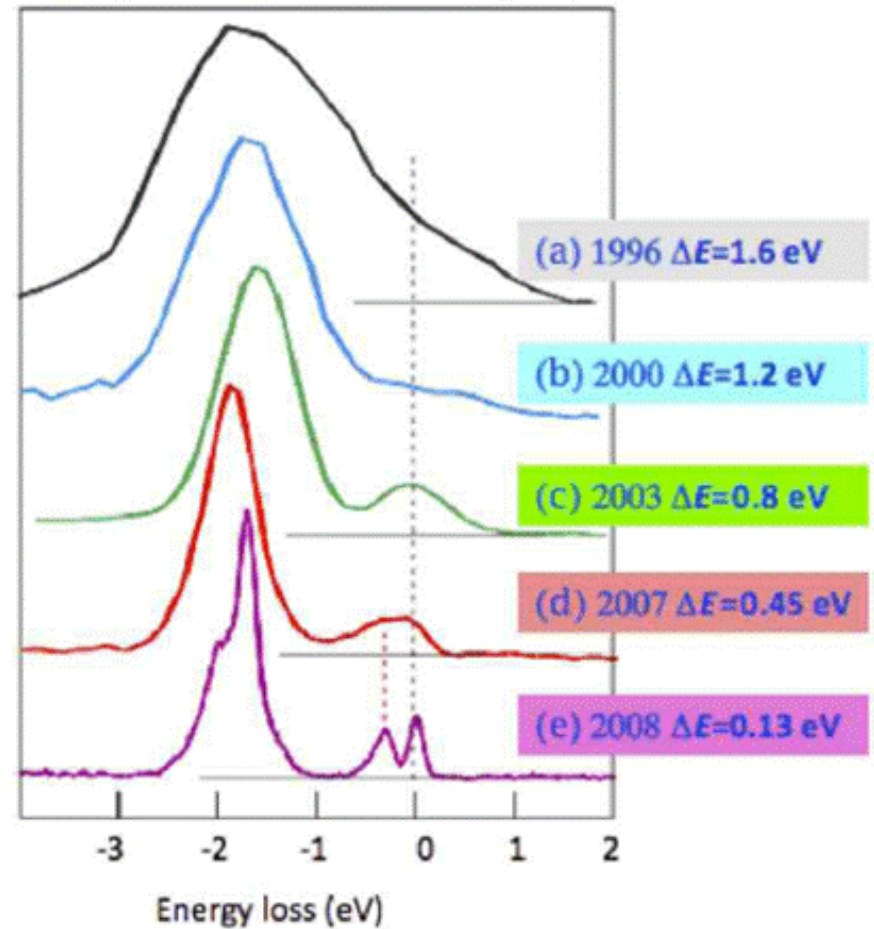




# Resonant Inelastic X-ray scattering



RIXS spectra of  $\text{La}_2\text{CuO}_4$  at Cu  $L_3$ -edge



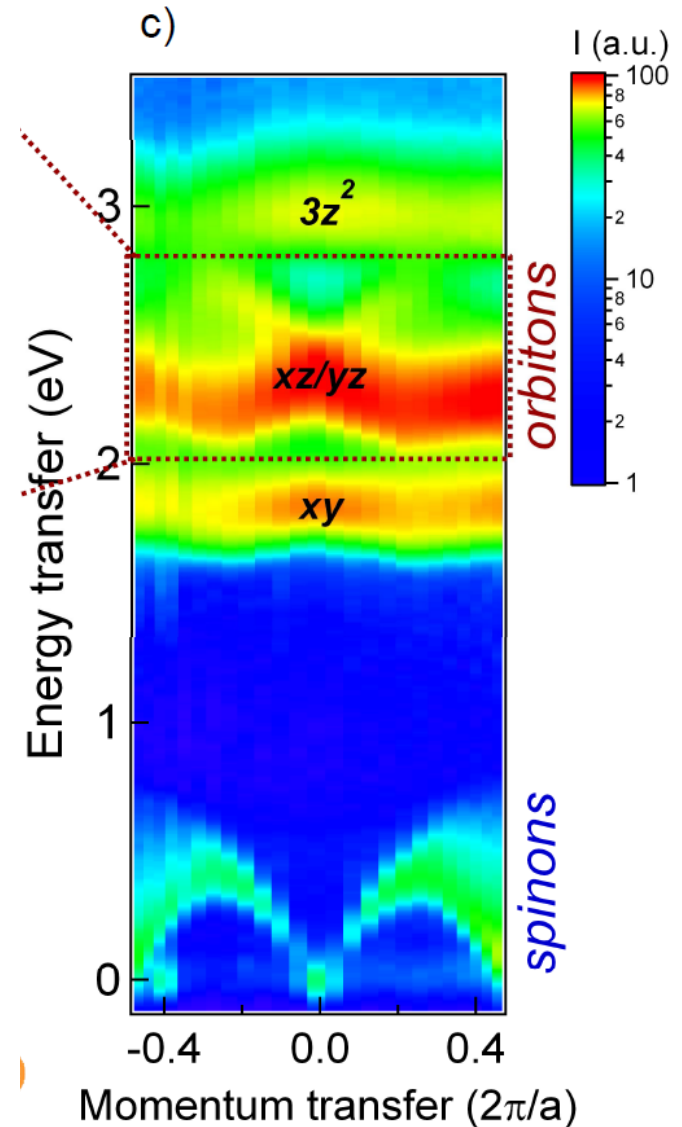
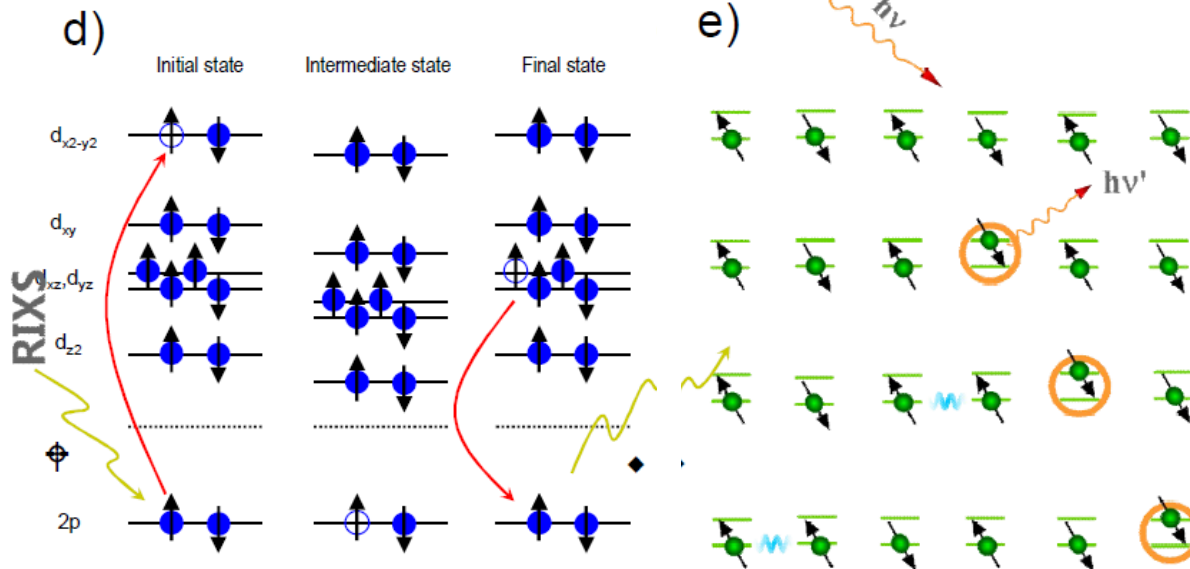
New measure of  
magnetic excitations



# RIXS and new correlation functions

$\text{Sr}_2\text{CuO}_3$  Much higher energy scale

- Resonant Inelastic X-ray scattering
  - Sees both magnetic and orbital excitations
  - Dispersive ‘orbitons’
  - Spinon-orbiton separation



J. Schlappa *et al.*, Nature **485**, 82 (2012)

# Quasi-particle zoo

## Electronic states of matter:

Metal / Semiconductor / Insulator } Single particle picture

Superconductors: Cooper-pairs  
fractional Quantum Hall effect: fractional charges } Correlated electron states

## Magnetic states and excitations:

Magnetic order  
spin-wave magnon excitations } semiclassical  
single particle picture

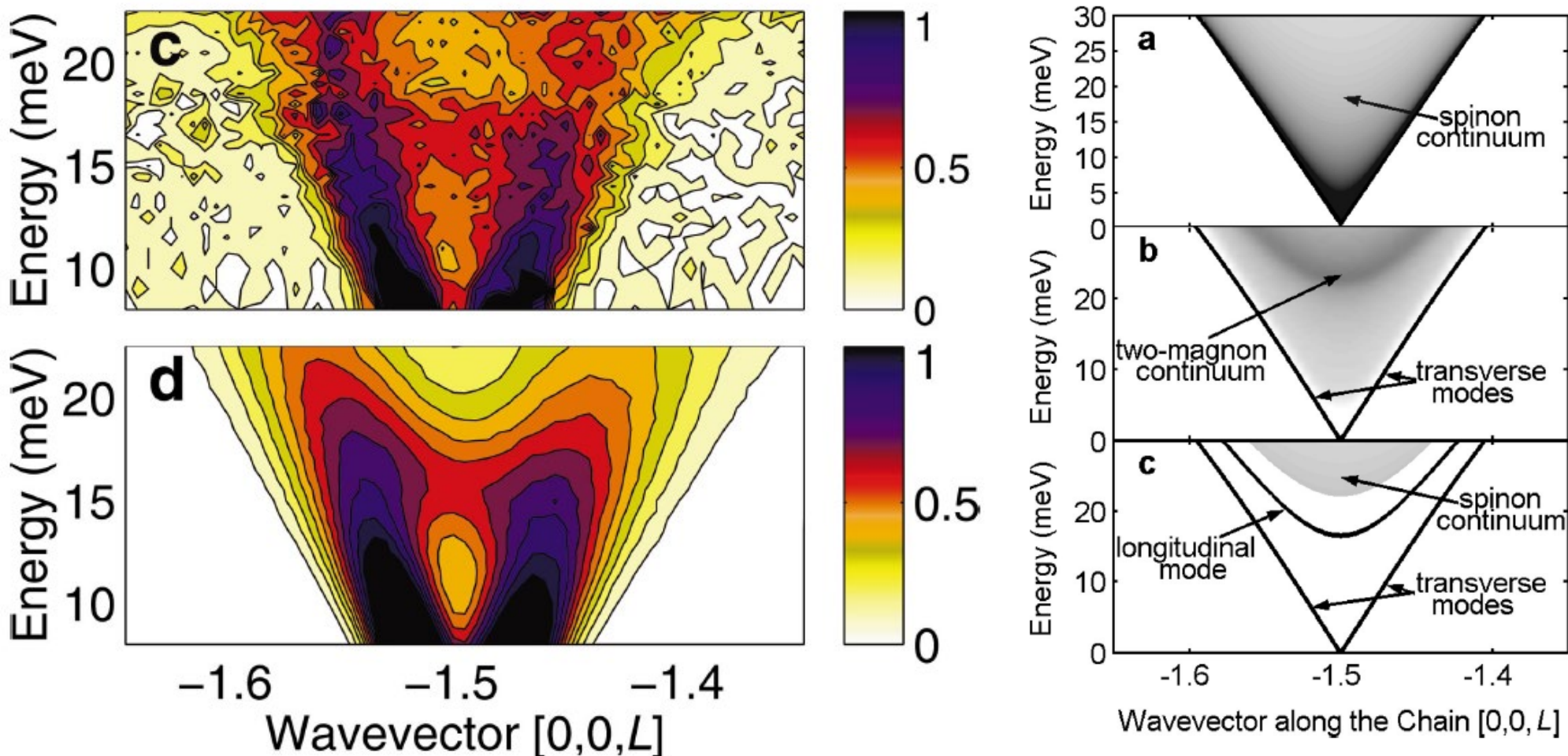
Quantum 'disordered' states (quantum spin liquids)  
Multi-magnon excitations  
Fractionalized excitations } collective quantum states

Possibly simplest example: 1D Heisenberg chain

Analytic solution by Bethe in 1931: 'domain wall quantum soup'

# Quantum heritage in ordered state

Can we have both 'classical' and 'quantum excitations'?



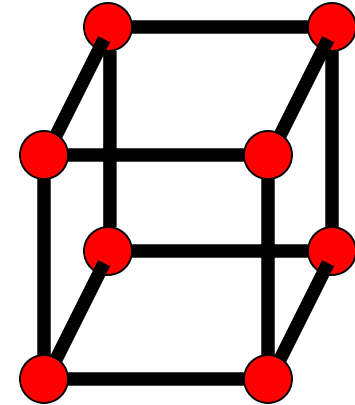
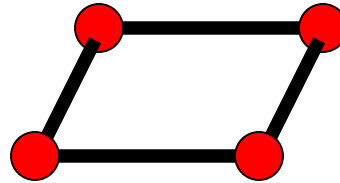
Longitudinal mode below  $T_n$  in AFM chain:  $\text{KCuF}_3$  Lake, Tenant et al. PRB **71** 134412 (2005)

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  - Multi-spinons in one-dimensional chains ✓ (1931-2015)
  - Spin-wave anomaly and quest for pairing in 2D

# The 2D borderline

Fluctuations stronger for fewer neighbours



1D: Ground state 'quantum disordered' spin liquid of  $S=1/2$  spinons. Bethe ansatz 'solves' the model

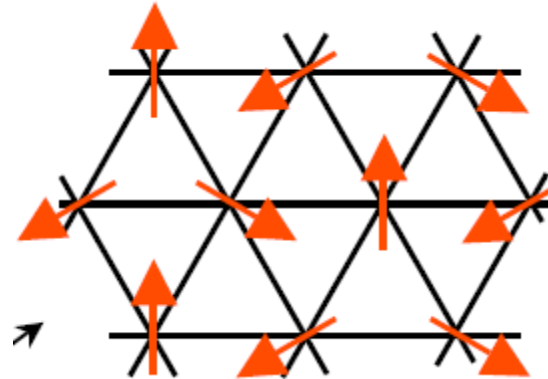
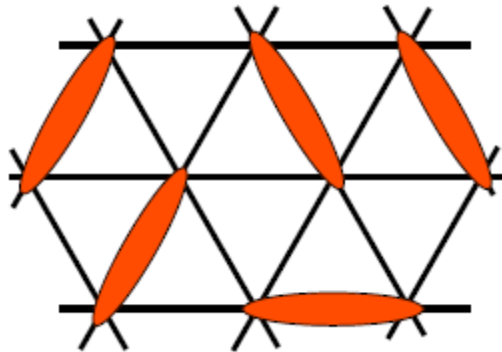
**2D: Ground state ordered** at  $T=0$        $\langle S \rangle = 60\%$  of  $1/2$   
(although not rigorously proven).

3D: Ground state long range ordered, very weak Q-effects



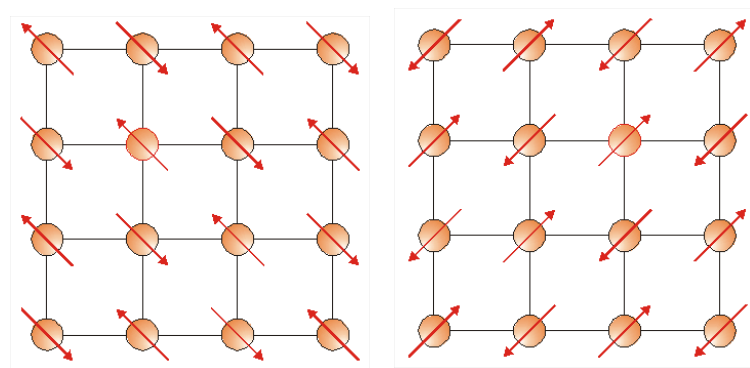
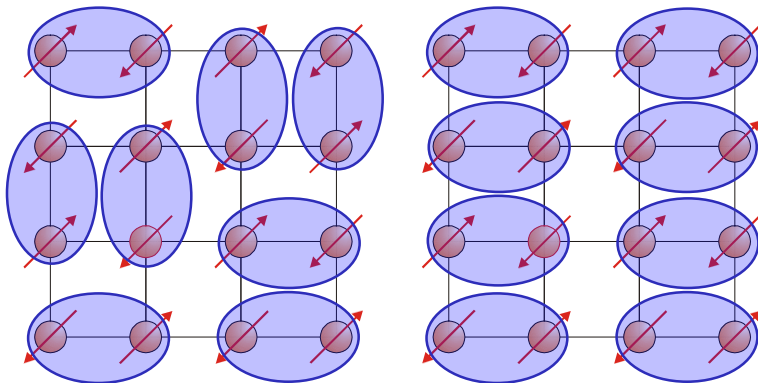
# Valence Bonds and Anderson

- 1973: Anderson suggests RVB on triangular lattice



But - actually long range order

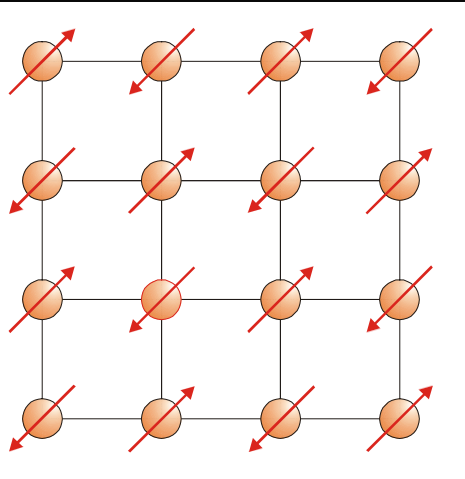
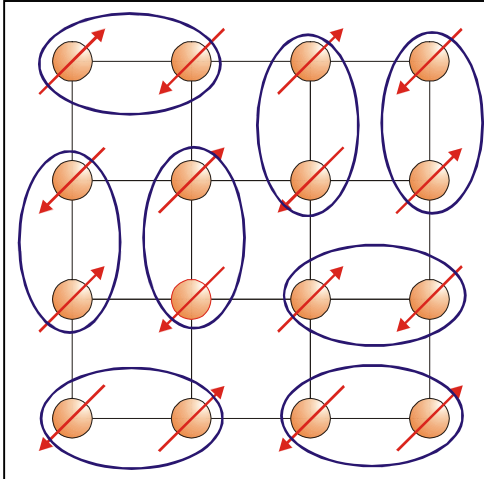
- 1987: Anderson suggests RVB on square lattice (as precursor and glue for High-Tc Superconductivity)



But - actually long range Neel order

# Quantum Magnetism in Flatland

## 2D Heisenberg antiferromagnet on a square lattice

<p>Louis Neel : Long-range 'Néel' Order</p>		<p>v. s.</p>		<p>Phil Anderson: Spin-liquid Resonating Valence Bond (RVB)</p>
$\langle S \rangle = 1/2$				$\langle S \rangle = 0$

2D: **ordered**, but only **60%** of full moment, and only at  $T=0$



Spin-waves

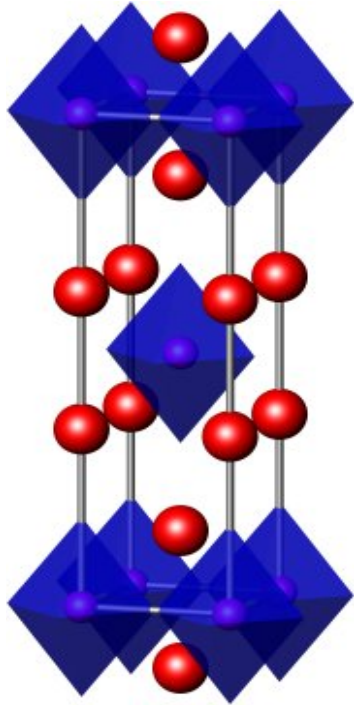
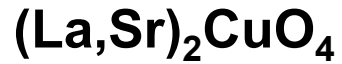
Quantum fluctuations

- Are there other types of 'correlations' ?
  - Resonating valence bonds (RVB)

} Investigate excitations with neutron scattering

# Physical realisations

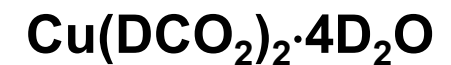
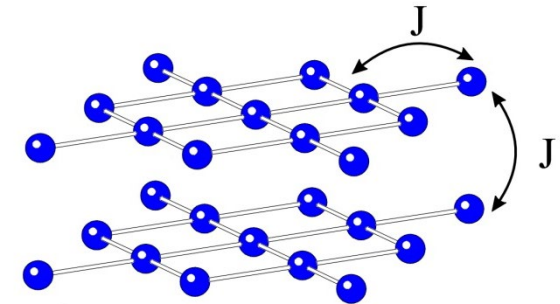
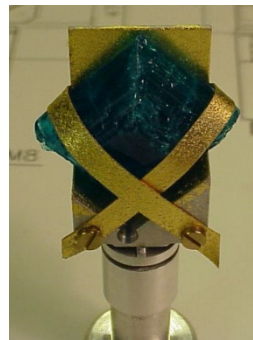
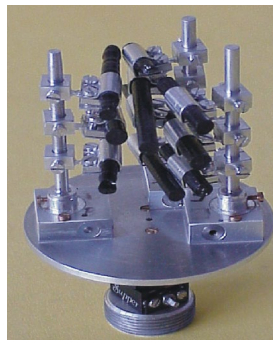
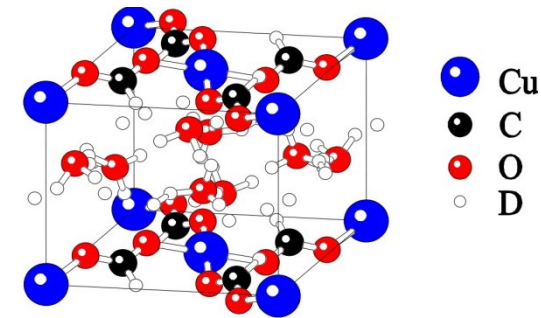
- Representation of model: No/small extra terms, anisotropy gaps etc.
- Energy scale: Zone boundary, resolution, temperature, field  $H_s$



$\text{CuO}_2$  planes

	$\text{La}_2\text{CuO}_4$	CFTD	CAPCuBr	CAPCuCl
$J$ [K]	1500	73.3	8.5	1.2
$J'/J$	$5 \times 10^{-5}$	$4 \times 10^{-5}$	$\sim 0.1$	$\sim 0.1$
$T_N$ [K]	325	16.4	5.1	0.64
$H_s$ [T]	4500	220	24	3.4

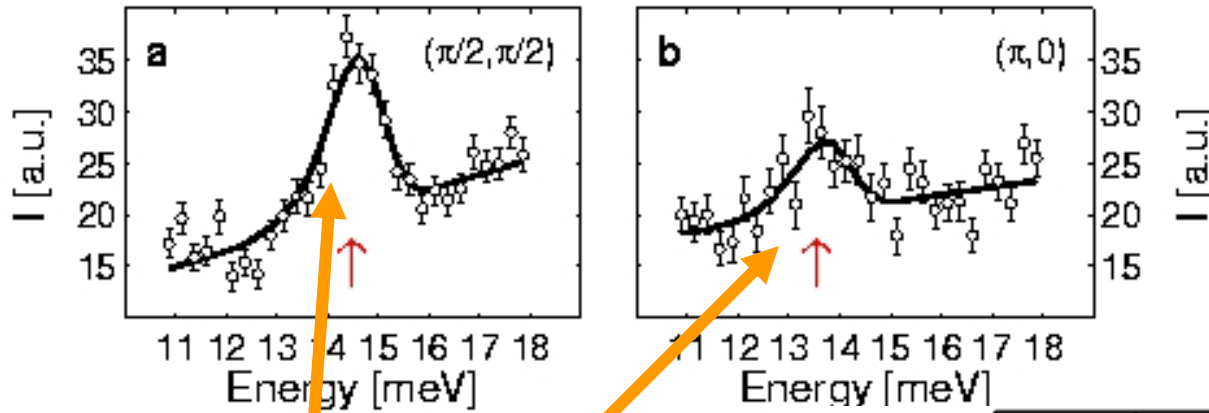
## Copper Formate Tetra-Deuterate



+ CuPzClO Tsyruhin & Kenzelmann

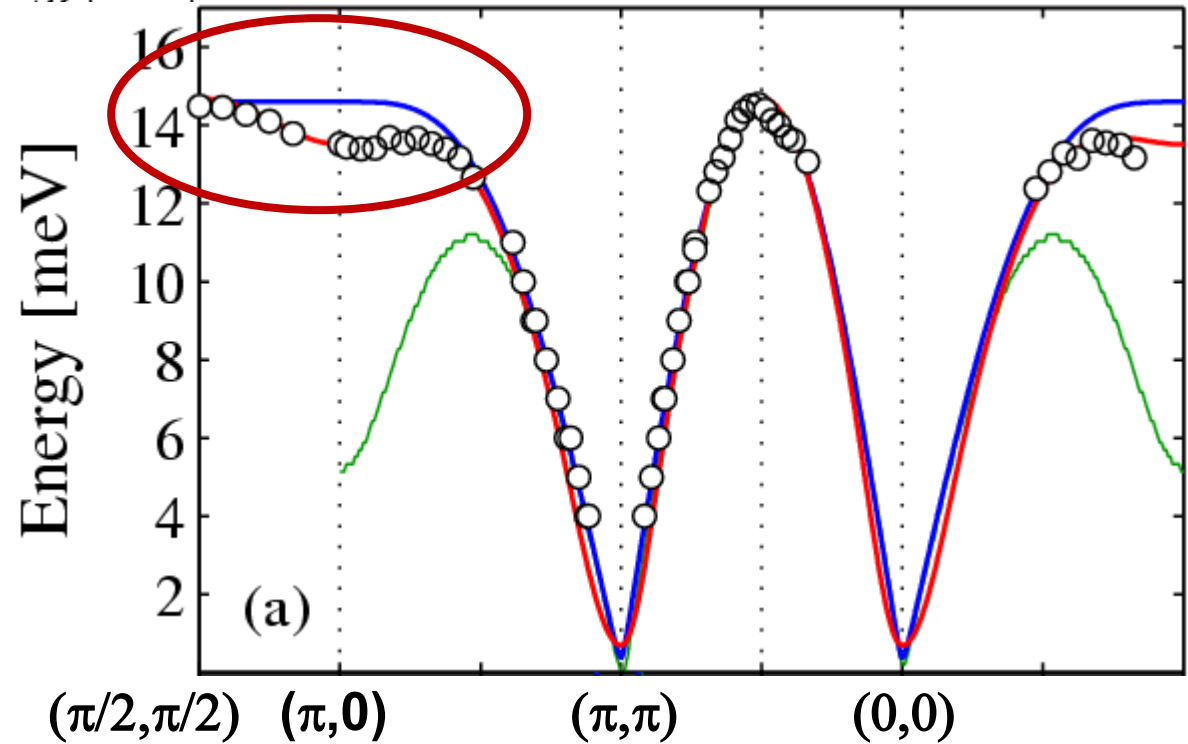
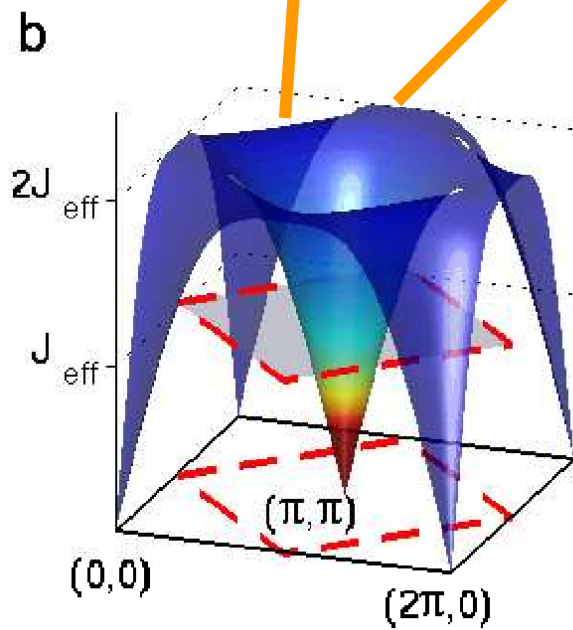
# 2D ordered $\Rightarrow$ spin-waves – problem solved ?

## Surprise: zone boundary anomaly!



Zone boundary dispersion:  
 $7 \pm 1$  % lower energy at  $(\pi, 0)$   
than  $(\pi/2, \pi/2)$

A quantum effect



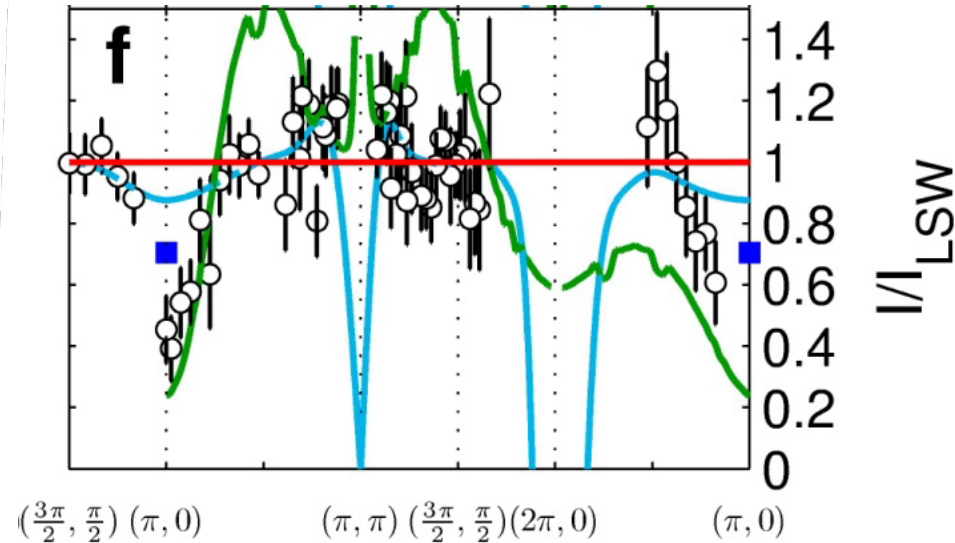
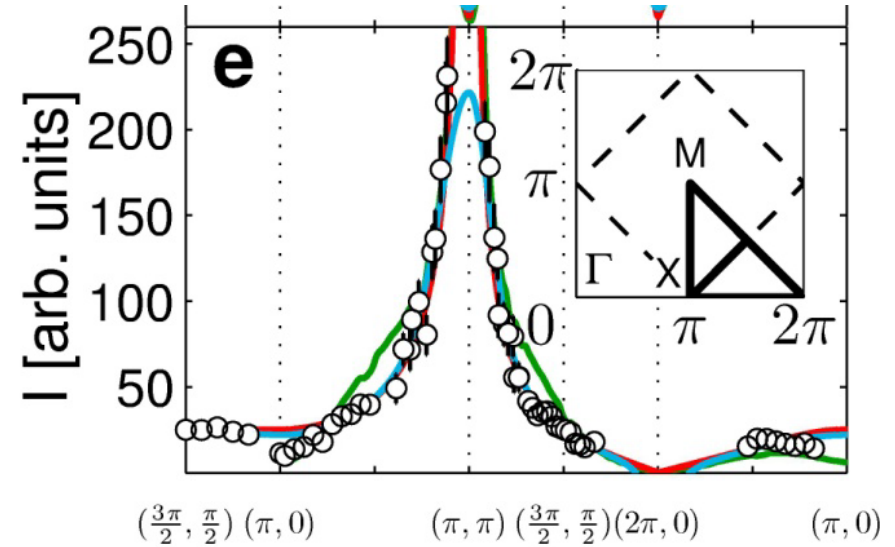
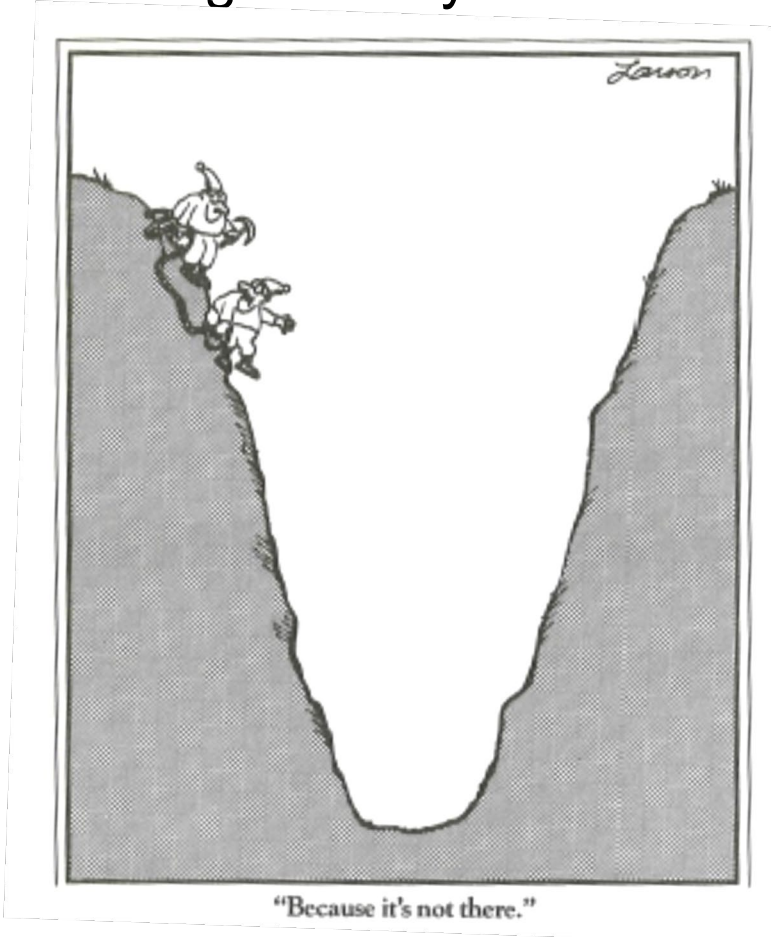


# Magnon intensities

Giant 50% intensity effect at  $(\pi, 0)$

Remember SW already 51% reduced

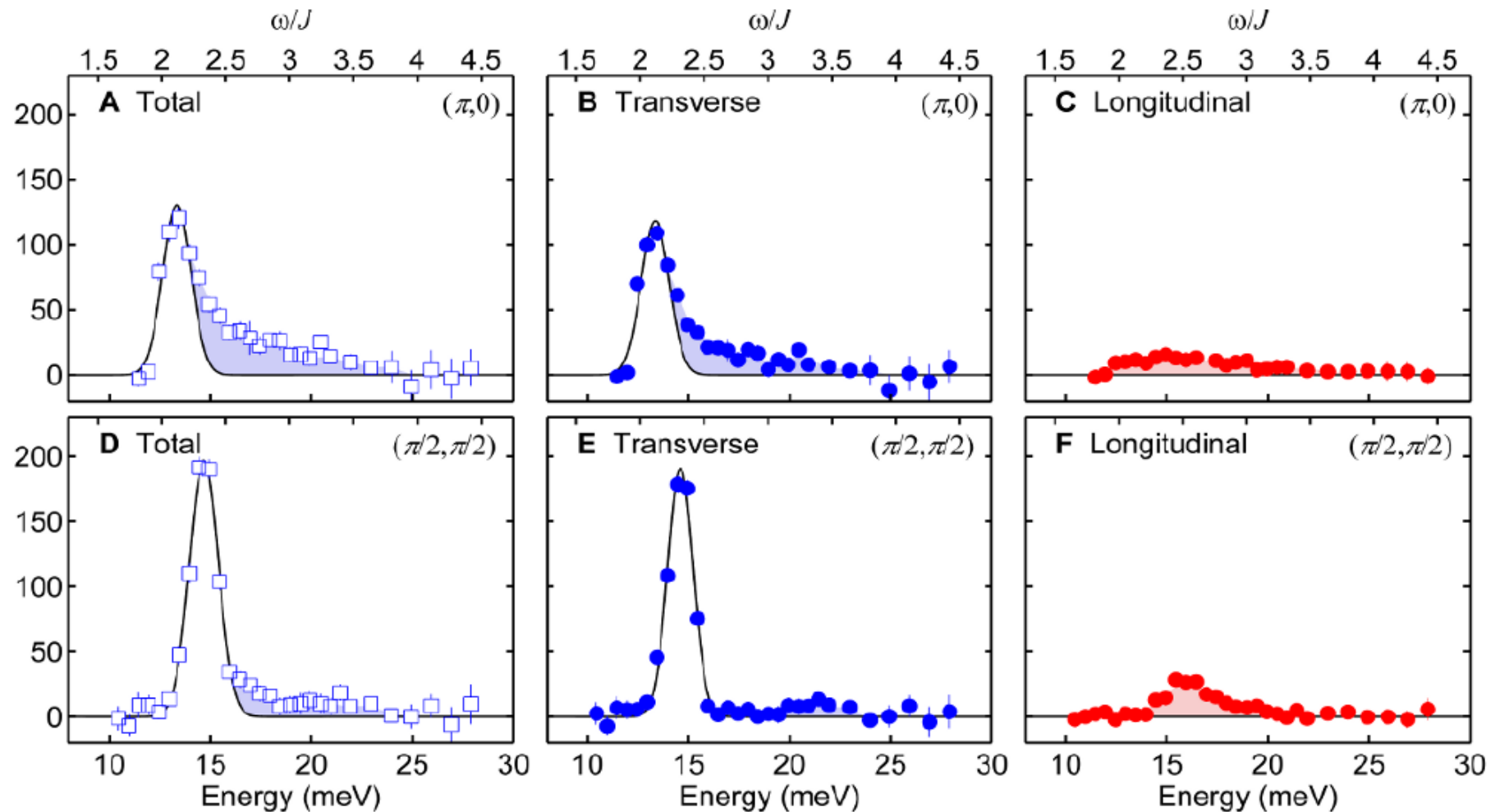
⇒ A tale of missing intensity !



Christensen PNAS **104** 15264 (2007)



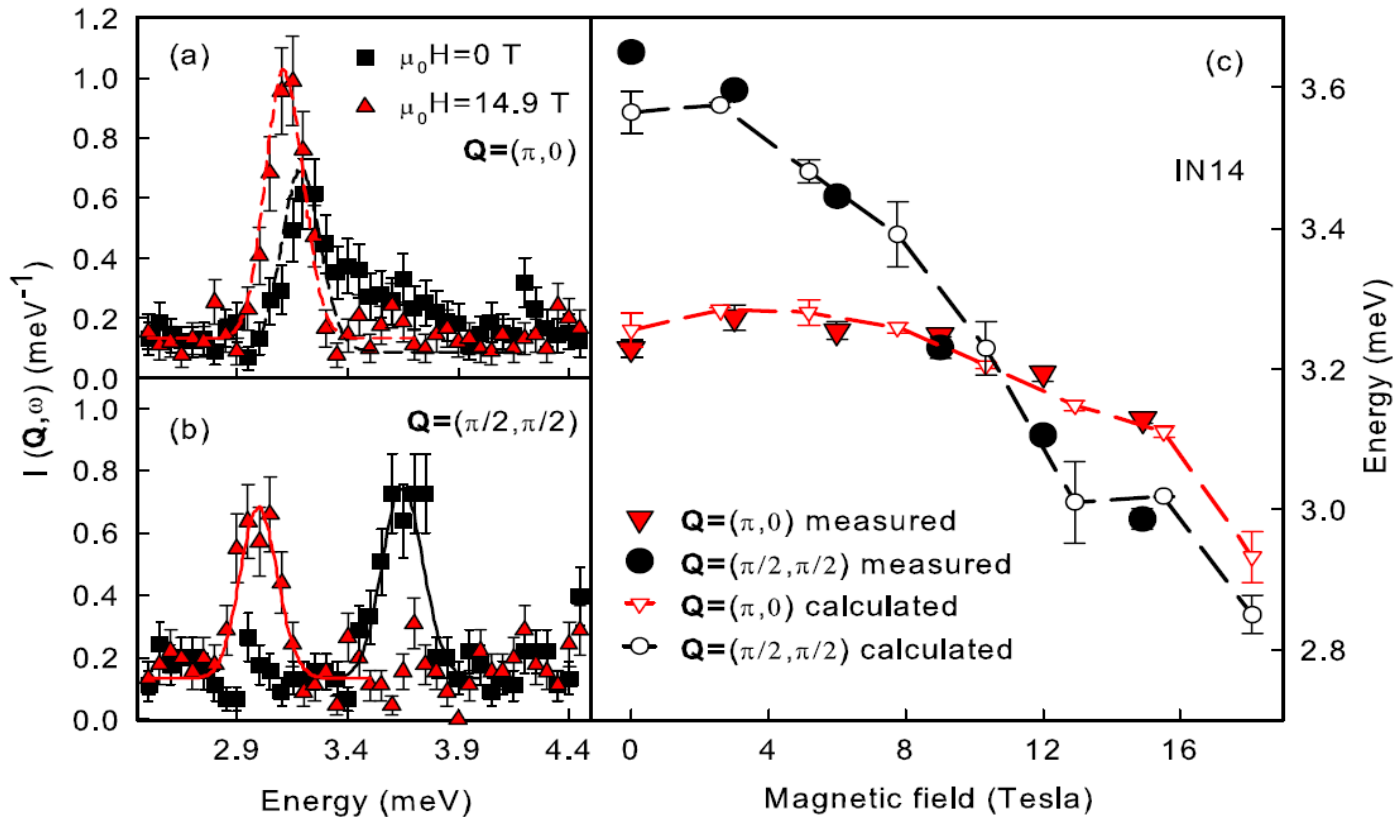
# Polarised neutrons: Line-shapes at the Zone Boundary



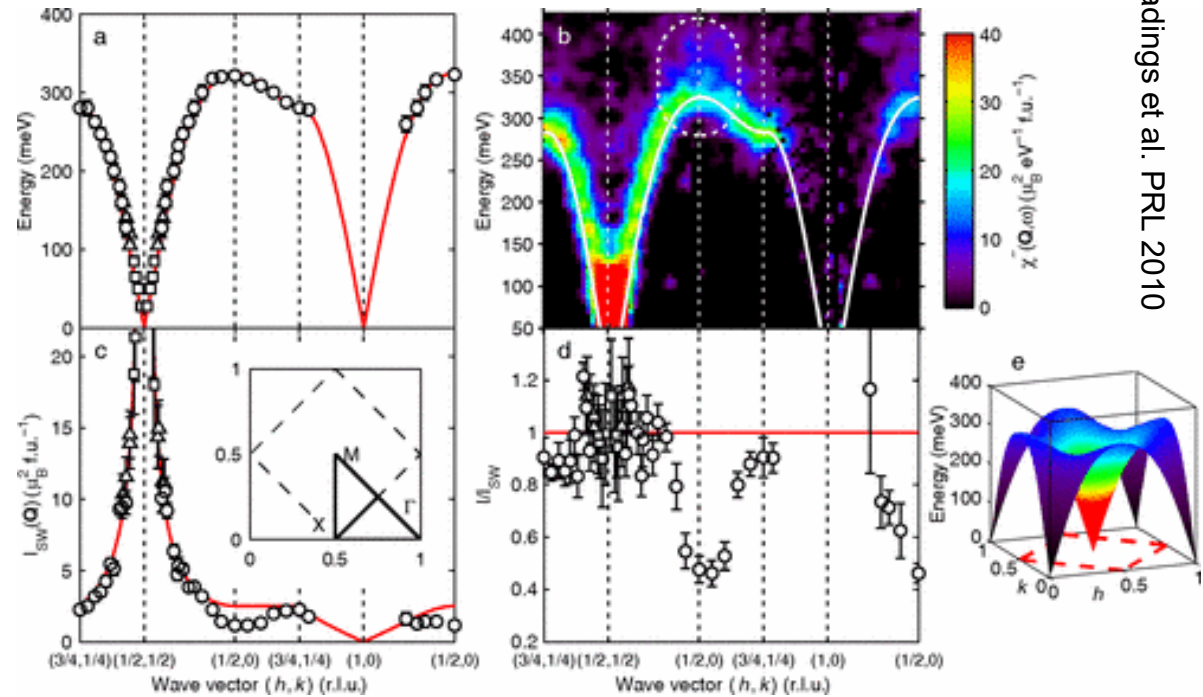
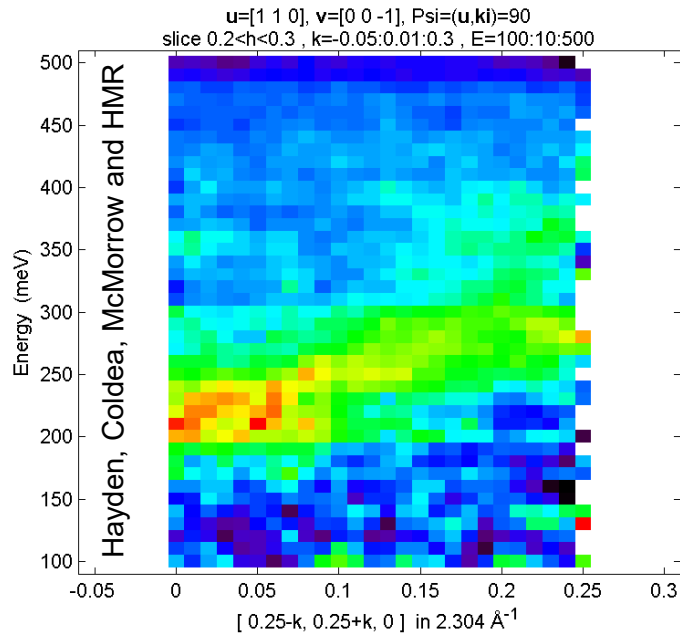
Both longitudinal and transverse continuum

# Same phenomenon in all $S=1/2$ square lattice AFMs

- $\text{Cu}(\text{pz})_2(\text{ClO}_4)_2$  ZB with diagonal  $J_{\text{nnn}}$



# quantum anomaly also in cuprates !

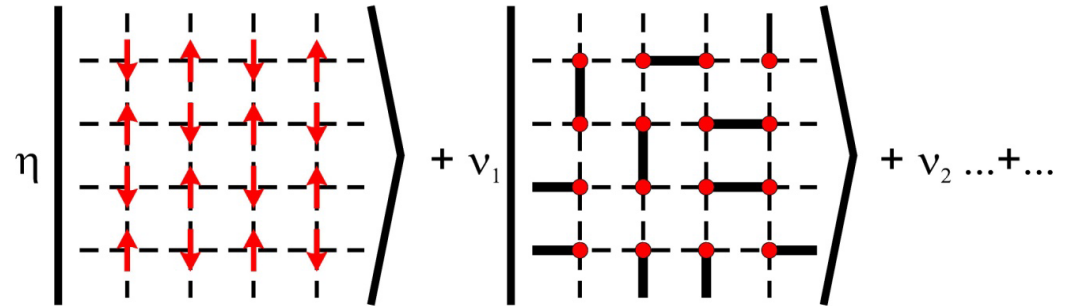


Headings et al. PRL 2010

Cuprates have different ZB dispersion due to further neighbor exchange interactions – also known as Hubbard heritage

# simple experimentalist's picture:

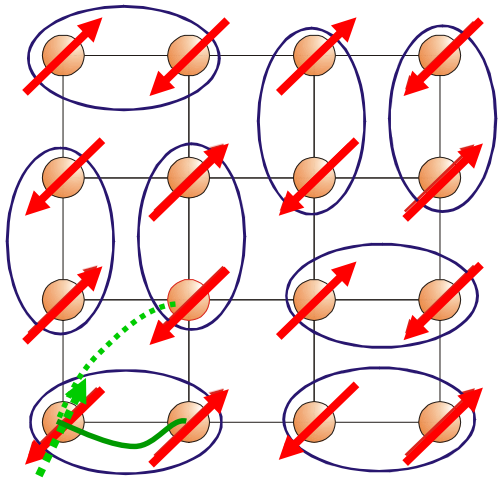
The missing 40% Neel order partly resides in n.n. singlet correlations



Consider the plaquette: 4 spins  $\Rightarrow 2^4 = 16$  states – around state is RVB

$$|S_1\rangle + |S_2\rangle = (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle_1 - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle_1) \times (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle_2 - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle_2) + (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle_1 - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle_1) \times (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle_2 - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle_2)$$

Hypothesis: ZB effect because superposed on Neel order there are VB correlations  
Along  $(\pi,0)$  n.n. singlet correlations impede propagating spin waves



Bond energies:

- Classical spins  $E_b = -JS^2 = -0.25J$
- Best estimates  $E_b \approx -0.34J$

Dimers:

- $E_{\text{triplet}} = +0.25J$
- $E_{\text{singlet}} = -0.75J$
- Average for uncorrelated bonds  $= 0$

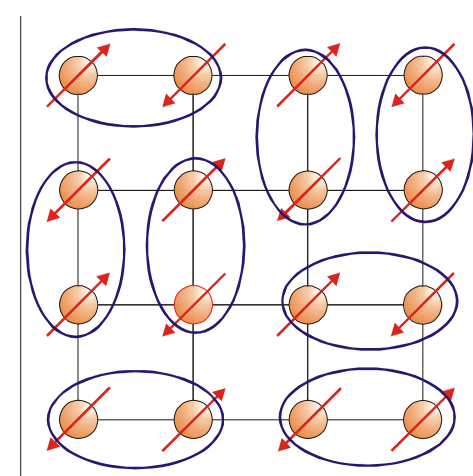
Need a theory to support or discard this postulate!

# RVB + Neel ?

Starting from RVB?  $\langle S \rangle = 0$  !

Insert magnetization by hand  $\Rightarrow$   $\pi$ -flux state

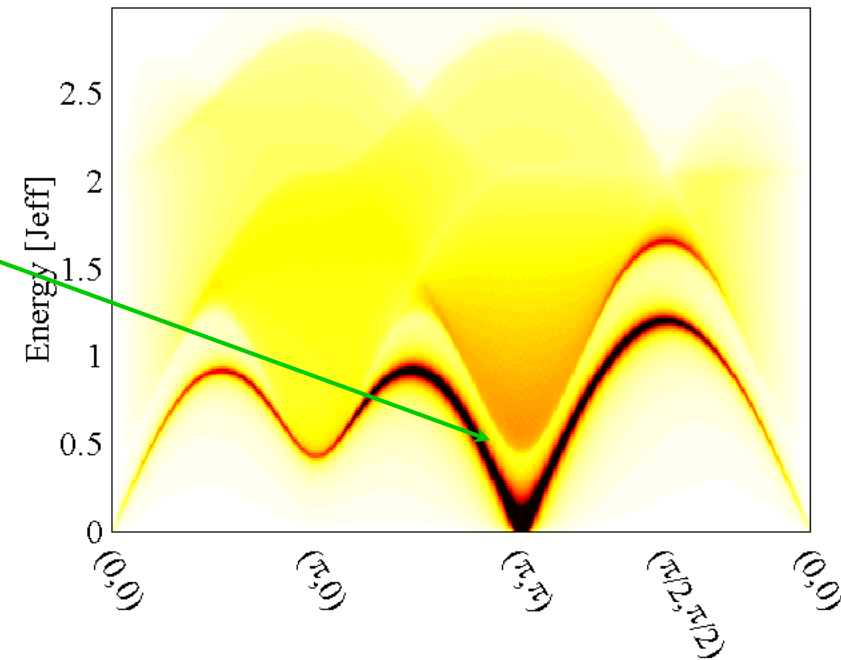
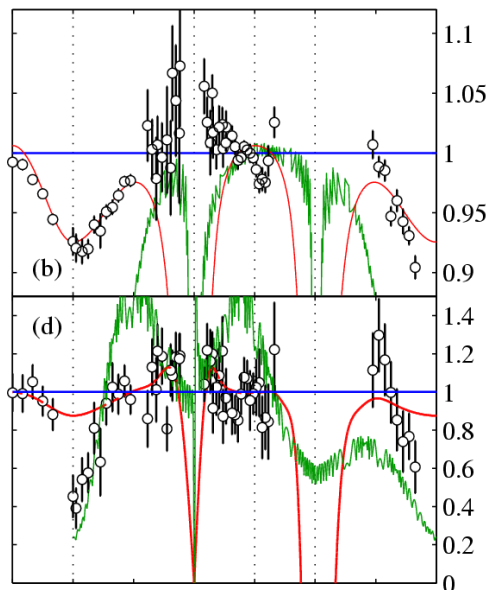
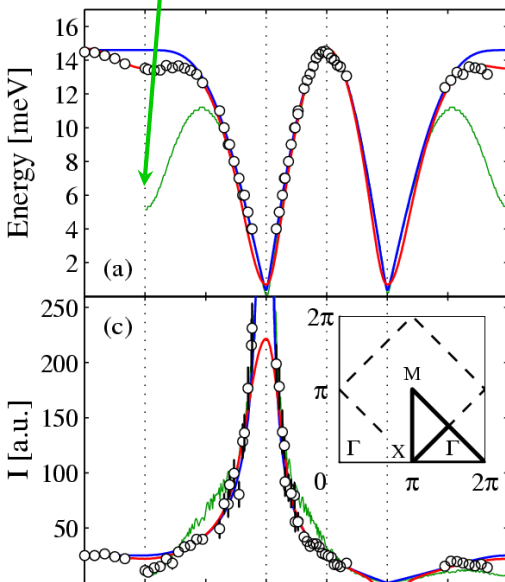
right trend, but too much:



ZB dispersion at  $(\pi, 0)$

but, Gap at  $(\pi, \pi)$

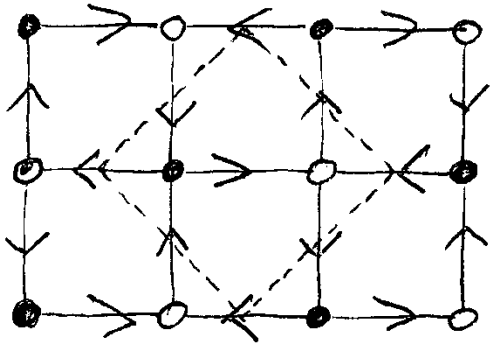
Need better theory



Anderson Science **235** 1196 (1987)  
 Hsu PRB **41** 11379 (1990); Ho, Ogota,  
 Muthumukar & Anderson PRL (2001),  
 Syljuasen *et al.* PRL **88** 207207 (2002)

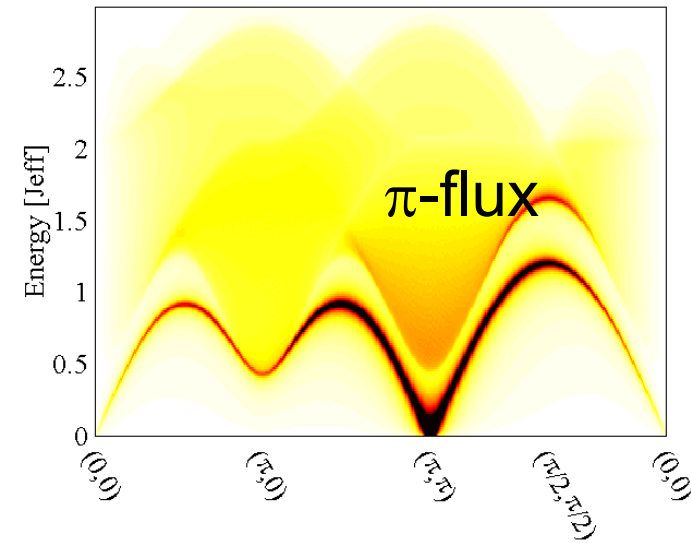


# Staggered flux phases



- **RVB-like theory**

Anderson Science **235** 1196 (1987)  
 Hsu PRB **41** 11379 (1990); Ho, Ogota,  
 Muthumukar & Anderson PRL (2001),  
 Syljuasen *et al.* PRL **88** 207207 (2002)



Work in Fermionic space

$$\mathcal{H} = J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

$$= -\frac{J}{2} \left( \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle, \sigma, \sigma'} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} c_{j\sigma'}^\dagger c_{i\sigma'} - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

D. Ivanov  
 B. Dalla Piazza

Allow Neel + staggered flux (SF  $\cong$  RVB)

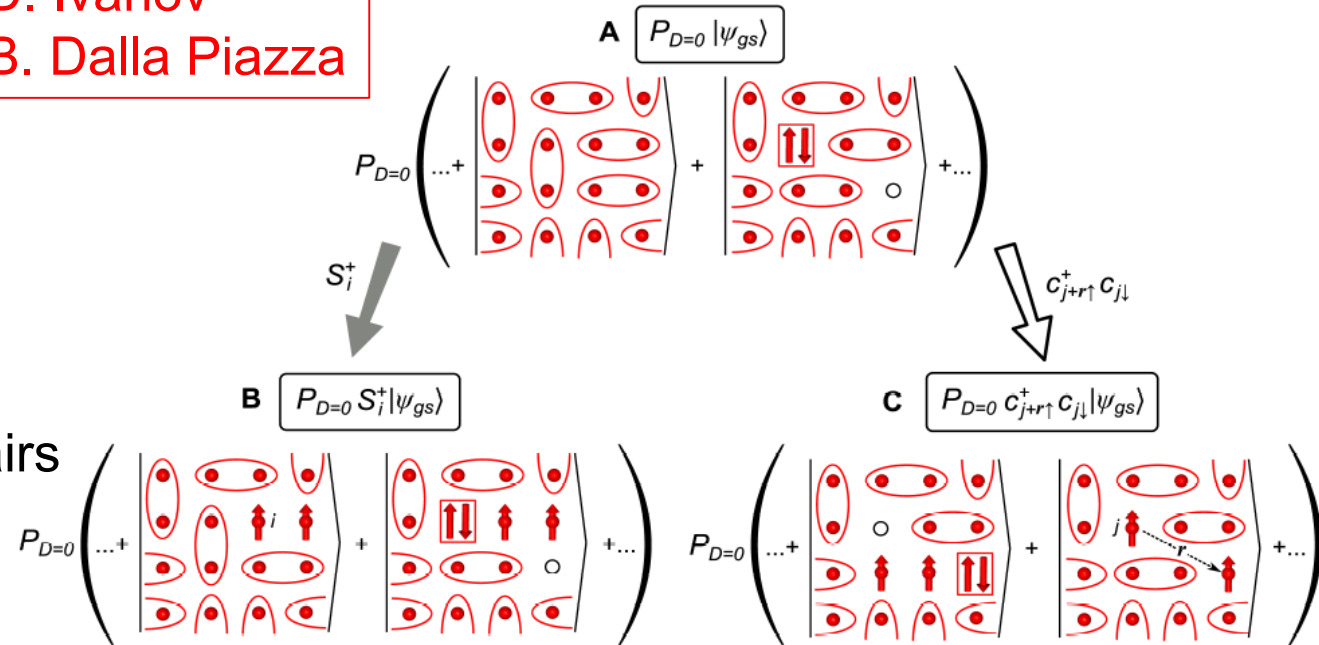
Project our double occupancy

$$|\text{SF} + \text{N}\rangle = P_{D=0} |\psi_{\text{GS}}\rangle$$

Excitations as particle-hole pairs

$$|\mathbf{q}, n\rangle_t = \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \text{MBZ}} \phi_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{q}}^n |\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}\rangle_t$$

$$|\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}\rangle_t = P_{D=0} \gamma_{\mathbf{k}\uparrow}^\dagger \gamma_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}\downarrow} |\psi_{\text{SF}(+\text{N})}\rangle$$



# 7m CPU hours later ....

## Monte Rosa at Swiss National Supercomputing Center



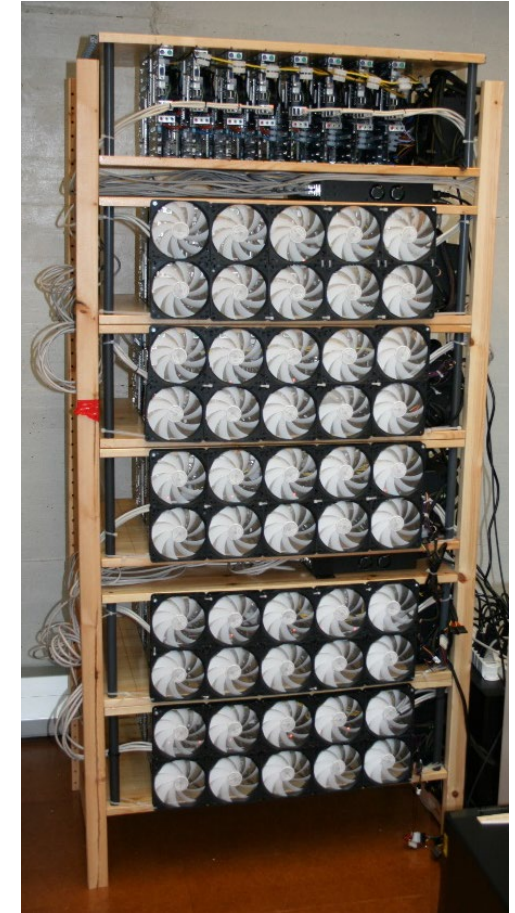
Significance of the proposed research (Please, explain how the proposed work compares and extends the existing body of research and identify weaknesses, if any)

The case for further studies of the Heisenberg model is not strong. The scientific questions have mostly been answered around 1990. Although this might be a good student project, I do not think it is cutting edge research; the model is probably too simplified to explain superconductivity.

Soundness of research methods and tools (Please comment on strengths and weaknesses of the proposed research scheme and its shortcomings, if any)

Rather than doing VMC, this research should be done with exact methods (since there is no sign problem here). Using variational methods, one always wonders how much bias there will be. I would say it is not worth the investment in human and computer time. See for example Phys. Rev. B 40, 2737 (1989), citations, later references, and recent work of Sandvig on

## Quantum Wolf Cluster at LQM



### Key figures:

96 nodes, 384 CPUs

9.6 Tflops, 4.8 kW

312 CHF/ node

Open for collaborations

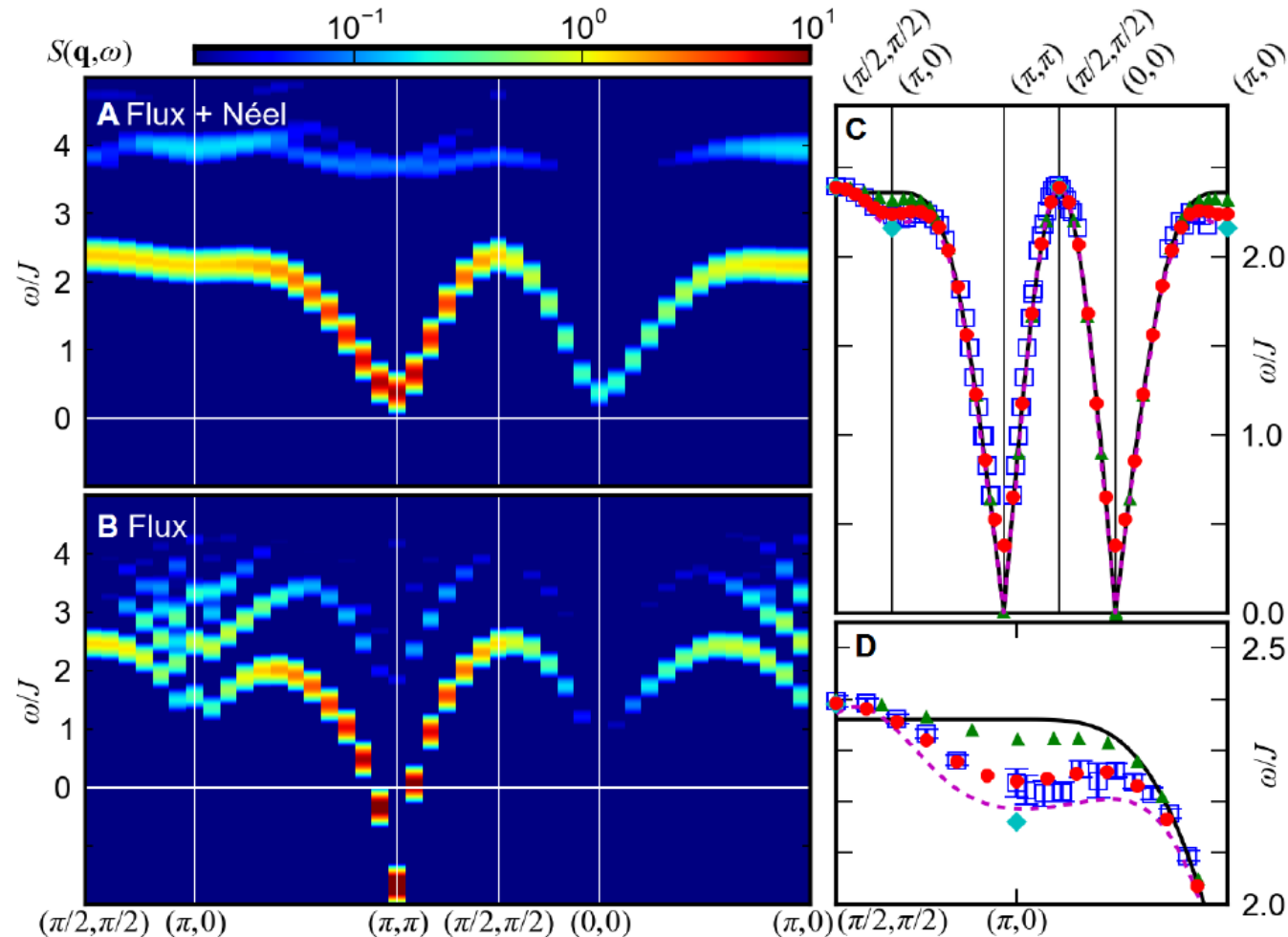
# Not perfect, but captures the features:

Spinon description recovers spin wave dispersion for most Q

Best match of ZB dispersion.  
Beats 3<sup>rd</sup> order SWT

Con: must switch off Neel to get continuum

Pro: when do,  
we get continuum  
around  $(\pi,0)$   
as in experiment



# Measure spinon-spinon separation

Define separated spinon state

$$|\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}\rangle_t = \sum_{\mathbf{R}} e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{R}} c_{\mathbf{R}+\mathbf{r}\uparrow}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{R}\downarrow} |\psi_{\text{SF}}\rangle$$

Calculate overlap with our excitations

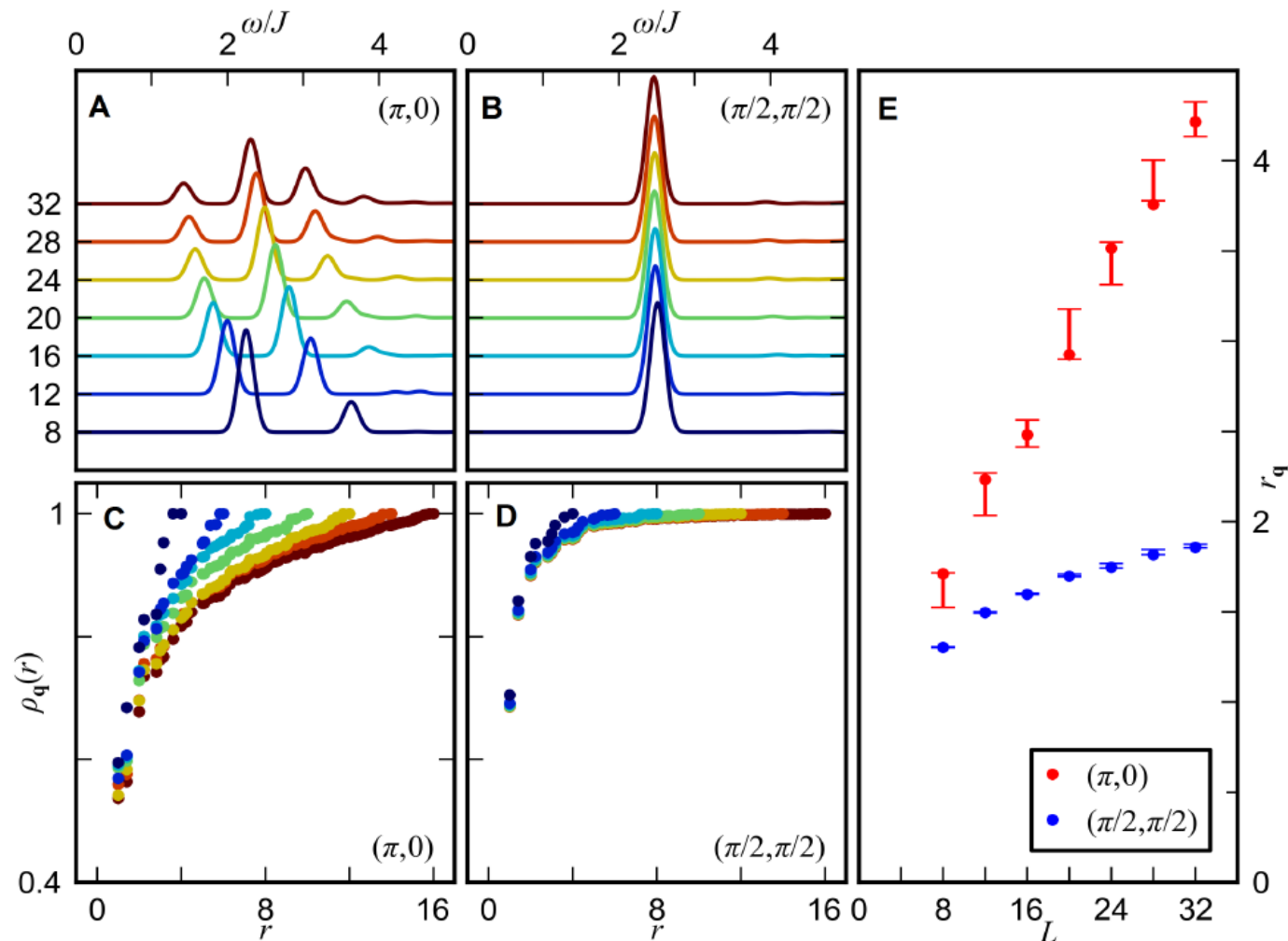
$$\tilde{\rho}_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_n |{}_t\langle \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r} | \mathbf{q}, n \rangle_t \langle \mathbf{q}, n | \mathbf{q}, 0 \rangle_t|^2$$

$(\pi/2, \pi/2)$  converge and has short spinon separation

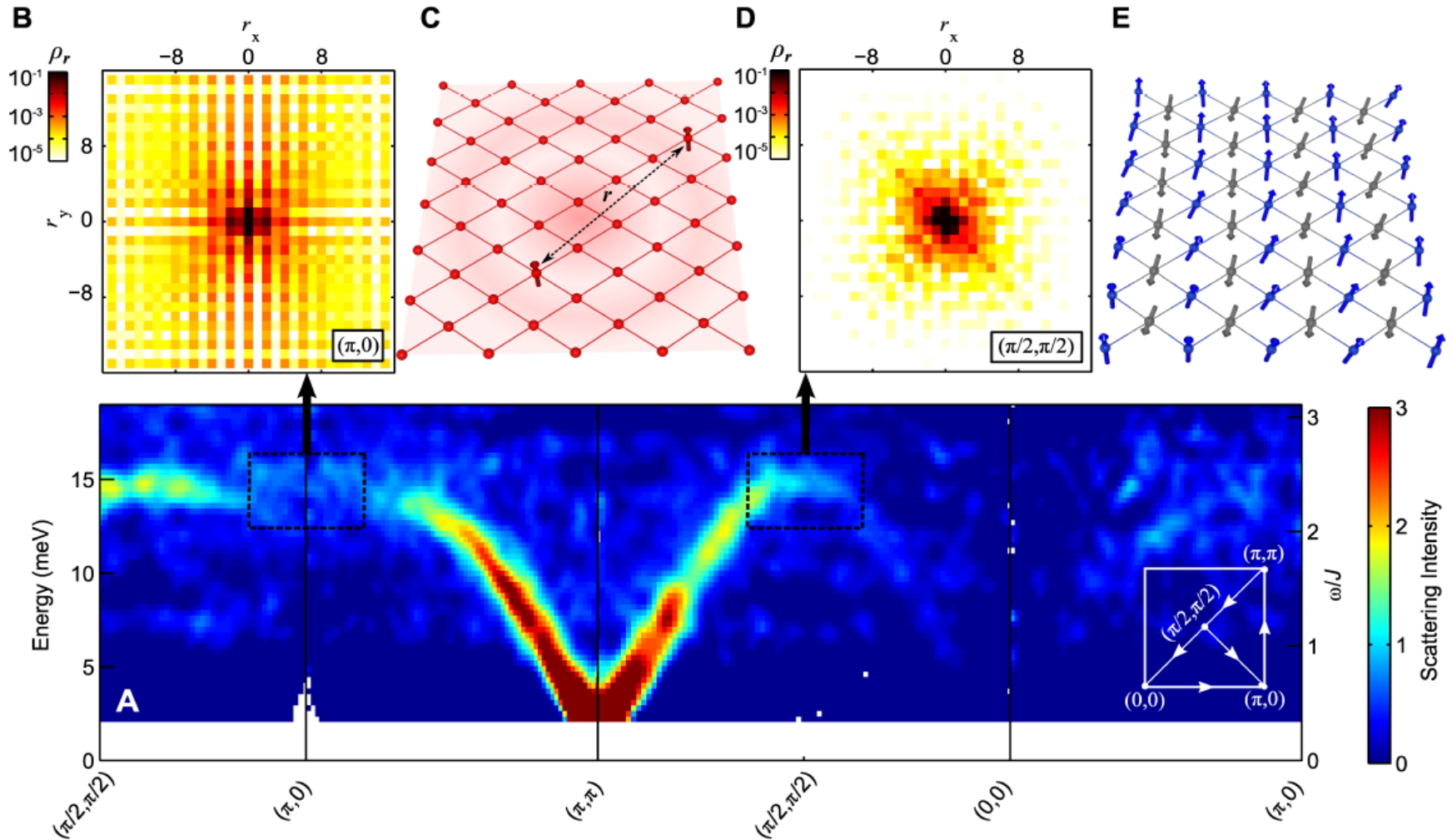
$\Rightarrow$  spin-waves

$(\pi, 0)$  grow linear with system size

$\Rightarrow$  spinons deconfine !



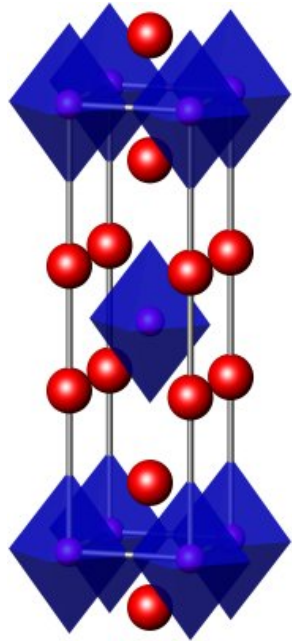
# Spinons in 2D square lattice !



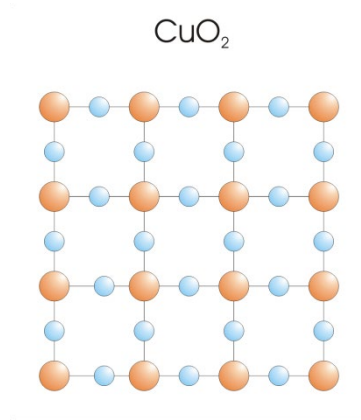
B. Dalla Piazza, M. Mourigal, D. Ivanov et al. Nat. Phys. **11**, 62 (2014)



# RVB in 2D magnet – so *what* ?



## Cuprate superconductors Bednorz and Müller (1986)



THE RESONATING VALENCE BOND STATE IN LA<sub>2</sub>CUO<sub>4</sub> AND SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

ANDERSON PW  
SCIENCE

235 (4793): 1196-1198 MAR 6 1987

Language: English [Cited References: 27](#) [Times Cited: 3823](#)

1987

Rather Vague B...

2009

Quantitative efforts



J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 16 (2004) R755–R769

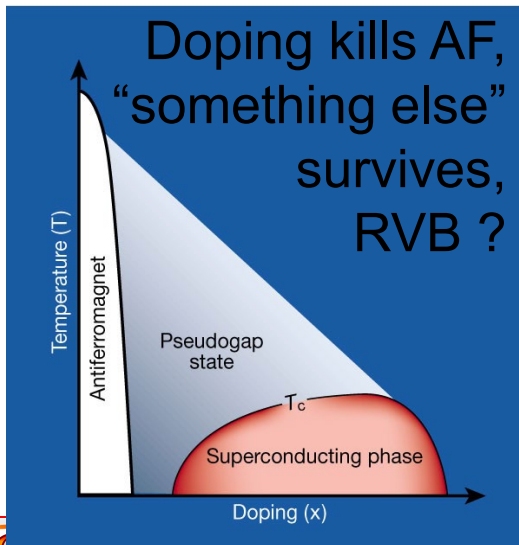
PII: S0953-8984(04)80644-1

TOPICAL REVIEW

The physics behind high-temperature superconducting cuprates: the ‘plain vanilla’ version of RVB

P W Anderson<sup>1</sup>, P A Lee<sup>2</sup>, M Randeria<sup>3</sup>, T M Rice<sup>4</sup>, N Trivedi<sup>3</sup> and F C Zhang<sup>5,6</sup>

Is ZB anomaly the smoking gun of RVB ?



# Conclusion

- Quantum magnets as quantum simulators for exotic ground states and excitations
  - Order, quantum spin-liquid, valence bond states etc
  - Spin-flips, triplons, spin-waves, spinons,
- Neutron spectroscopy allow detailed testing / guiding of theory
- 1D  $S=1/2$  antiferromagnetic chain host fractional spinons
  - we can quantify 2-spinon and 4-spinon excitations
- 2D  $S=1/2$  square lattice HAF is so simple we should understand it
  - Coexistence of magnetic order and quantum fluctuations
  - Fractional excitations can exist in un-frustrated 2D models
  - Implications: role in high- $T_c$  superconductivity?