

# Fractionalization and its experimental consequences in spin liquids

Gang Chen  
Fudan University, Shanghai, China



# Outline

## 1. Signatures of fractionalization in U(1) spin liquid?

**GC** PRB 94,205107 (2016)

**GC** PRB 96,085136 (2017)

**GC** arxiv1706.04333(2017)

## 2. Spin quantum number fractionalization in YbMgGaO<sub>4</sub>? Is it spinon Fermi surface spin liquid?

YD Li, XQ Wang, **GC**<sup>\*</sup>,

PRB 94, 035107 (2016)

YD Li, XQ Wang, **GC**<sup>\*</sup>,

PRB 94, 201114 (2016)

YD Li, Y Shen, YS Li, J Zhao, **GC**<sup>\*</sup>,

arXiv 1608.06445

YD Li, YM Lu, **GC**<sup>\*</sup>,

PRB 96, 054445 (2017)

YD Li, **GC**<sup>\*</sup>,

PRB 96, 075105 (2017)

YS Li, **GC**<sup>\*</sup>, ..., QM Zhang<sup>\*</sup>,

PRL 115, 167203 (2015)

Y Shen, YD Li, ..., **GC**<sup>\*</sup>, J Zhao<sup>\*</sup>,

Nature, 540, 559 (2016)

Y Shen, YD Li, ..., **GC**<sup>\*</sup>, J Zhao<sup>\*</sup>,

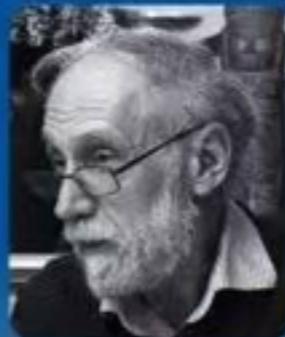
arXiv 1708.06655

# The odd number “2”

**数学大师公众报告**

**Sir Michael Atiyah**  
菲尔兹奖、阿贝尔奖得主，阿蒂亚-辛格指标定理创立人  
*The Odd Number 2  
(and its sister 3)*  
2017年4月1日15:00-16:00

**Alain Connes**  
菲尔兹奖得主，非交换几何创始人  
*The Music of Shapes*  
2017年4月1日16:30-17:30



14:30 复旦大学荣誉教授聘书颁发仪式  
主持:上海市数学会理事长 陈晓漫

**地点:复旦大学光华楼东辅楼202报告厅**

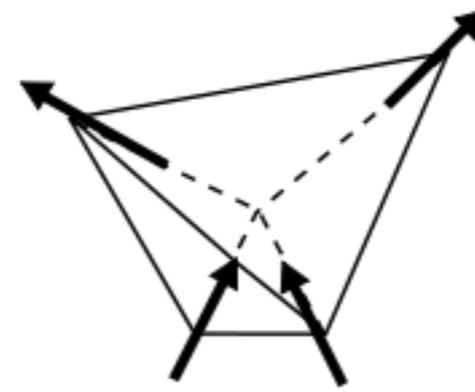
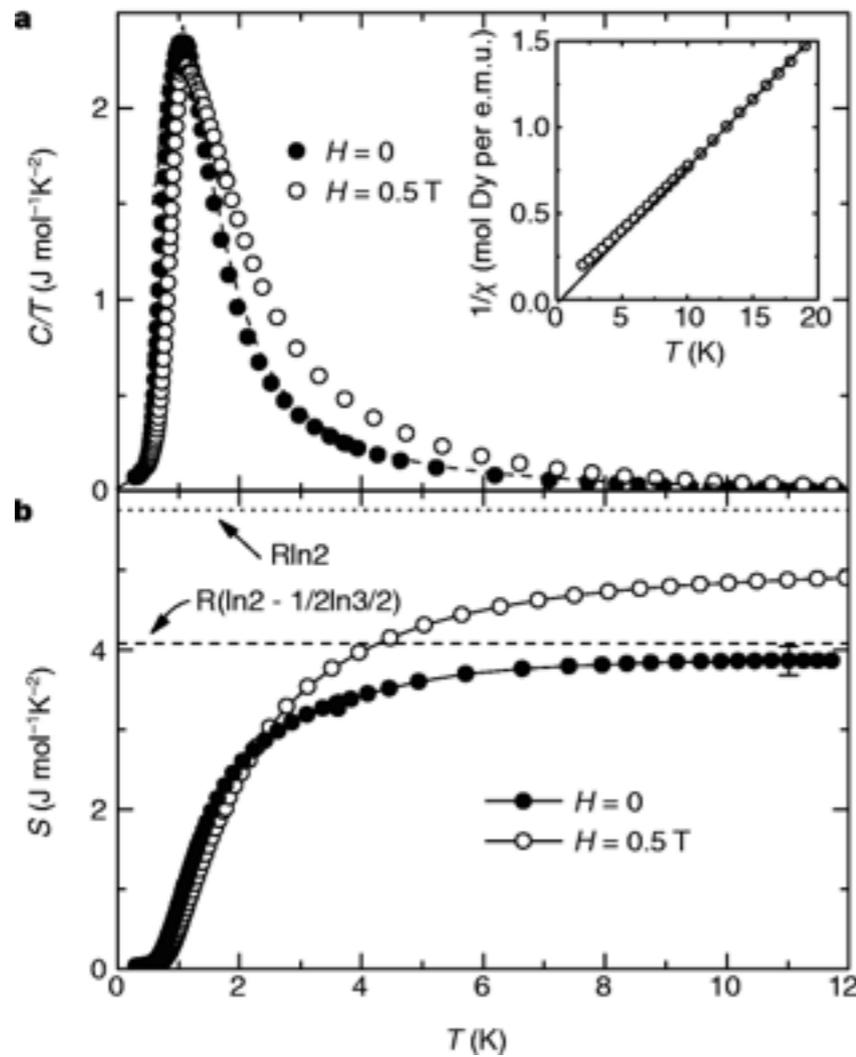
主办:上海市数学会  
上海数学中心  
复旦大学高等研究院  
复旦大学数学科学学 和乐数学



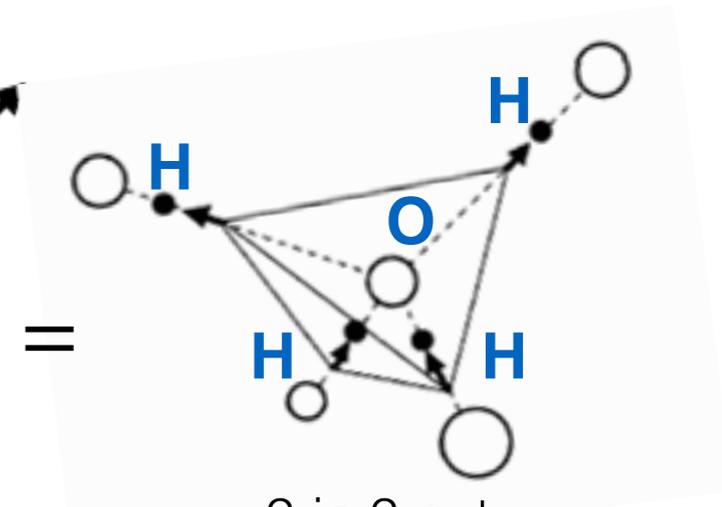
Chenjie Wang  
(PI, Canada -> City University of Hong Kong, China)

# Spin ice

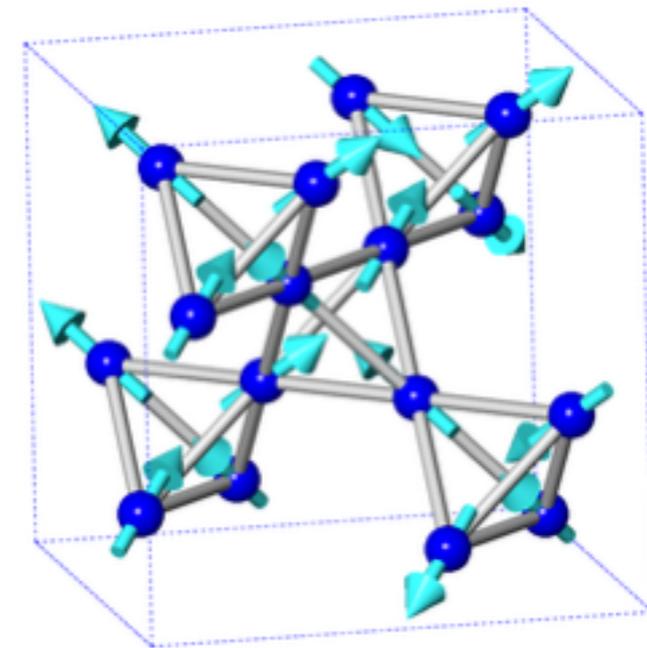
## Dy<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>



2-in 2-out  
spin ice rule



2-in 2-out  
water ice rule



Pauling entropy in spin ice,  
Ramirez, etc, Science 1999

# Lattice gauge theory for U(1) spin liquid

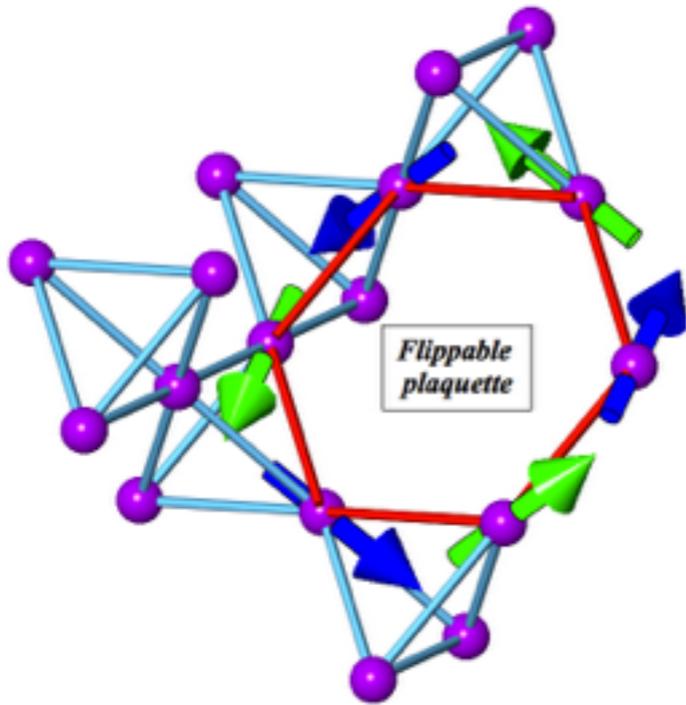


Figure from Michel Gingras

Lattice gauge theory  
on the diamond lattice

inserting spinon matter (Savary Balents 2012)

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{XXZ}} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{zz} S_i^z S_j^z - J_{\perp} (S_i^+ S_j^- + S_i^- S_j^+),$$

3rd order degenerate perturbation  
(Hermele, Fisher, Balents 2004)



$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{12J_{\perp}^3}{J_{zz}^2} \sum_{\text{Hex}_p} (S_i^+ S_j^- S_k^+ S_l^- S_m^+ S_n^- + h.c.),$$



$$K = 24J_{\perp}^3 / J_{zz}^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} &\simeq S_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^z \\ e^{iA_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}} &\simeq S_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^{\pm} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{LGT}} = -K \sum_{\text{Hex}_d} \cos(\text{curl } A) + U \sum_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} (E_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} - \frac{\eta_{\mathbf{r}}}{2})^2$$

$$H = \sum_{\mathbf{r} \in \text{I,II}} \frac{J_{zz}}{2} Q_{\mathbf{r}}^2 - J_{\pm} \left\{ \sum_{\mathbf{r} \in \text{I}} \sum_{\mu, \nu \neq \mu} \Phi_{\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^{\dagger} \Phi_{\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{e}_{\nu}} S_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^{-} S_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{e}_{\nu}}^{+} + \sum_{\mathbf{r} \in \text{II}} \sum_{\mu, \nu \neq \mu} \Phi_{\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^{\dagger} \Phi_{\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{e}_{\nu}} S_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^{+} S_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{e}_{\nu}}^{-} \right\}$$

# One could think more realistically, ...

- Kramers' doublet

$$H = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \{ J_{zz} \mathbf{S}_i^z \mathbf{S}_j^z - J_{\pm} (\mathbf{S}_i^+ \mathbf{S}_j^- + \mathbf{S}_i^- \mathbf{S}_j^+) \\ + J_{\pm\pm} (\gamma_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i^+ \mathbf{S}_j^+ + \gamma_{ij}^* \mathbf{S}_i^- \mathbf{S}_j^-) \\ + J_{z\pm} [\mathbf{S}_i^z (\zeta_{ij} \mathbf{S}_j^+ + \zeta_{ij}^* \mathbf{S}_j^-) + i \leftrightarrow j] \},$$

S. H. Curnoe, PRB (2008).

Savary, **Balents**, PRL 2012

- Non-Kramers' doublet

$$H = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \{ J_{zz} \mathbf{S}_i^z \mathbf{S}_j^z - J_{\pm} (\mathbf{S}_i^+ \mathbf{S}_j^- + \mathbf{S}_i^- \mathbf{S}_j^+) \\ + J_{\pm\pm} (\gamma_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i^+ \mathbf{S}_j^+ + \gamma_{ij}^* \mathbf{S}_i^- \mathbf{S}_j^-) \}$$

S. Onoda, etc, 2009

SB Lee, Onoda, **Balents**, 2012

- Dipole-octupole doublet

$$H = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_x S_i^x S_j^x + J_y S_i^y S_j^y + J_z S_i^z S_j^z \\ + J_{xz} (S_i^x S_j^z + S_i^z S_j^x).$$

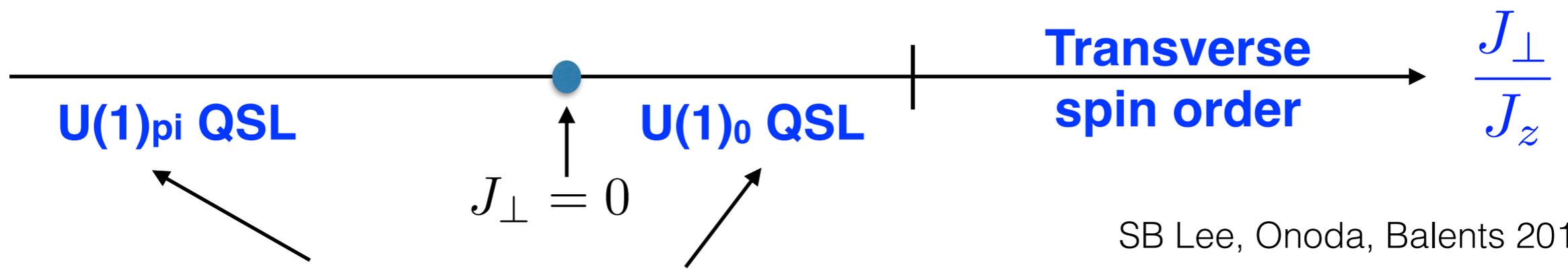
Nd<sub>2</sub>Ir<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, Nd<sub>2</sub>Sn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, Nd<sub>2</sub>Zr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, Ce<sub>2</sub>Sn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>

no sign problem for QMC on any lattice.

It supports nontrivial phases

Y-P Huang, **GC**, M Hermele, PRL 2014

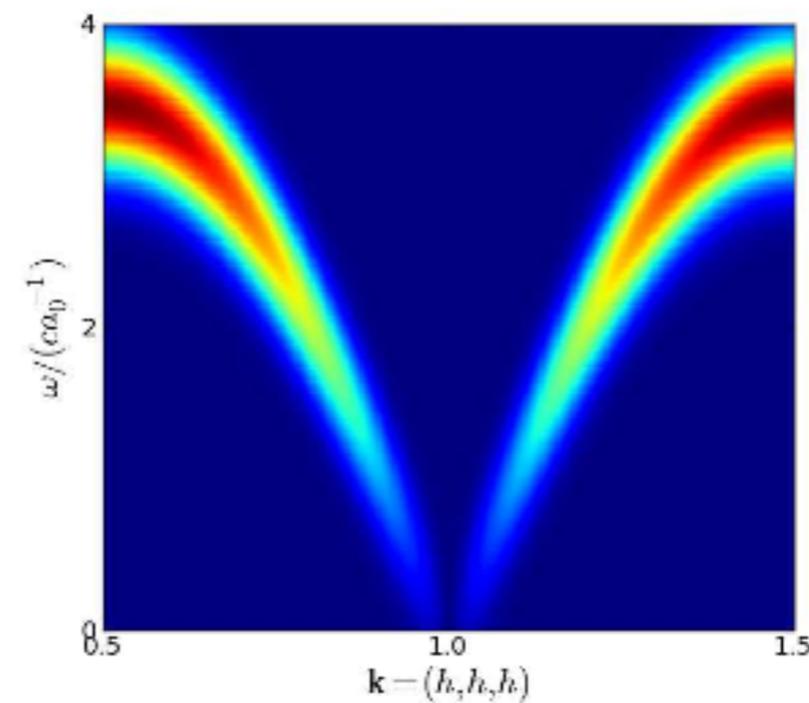
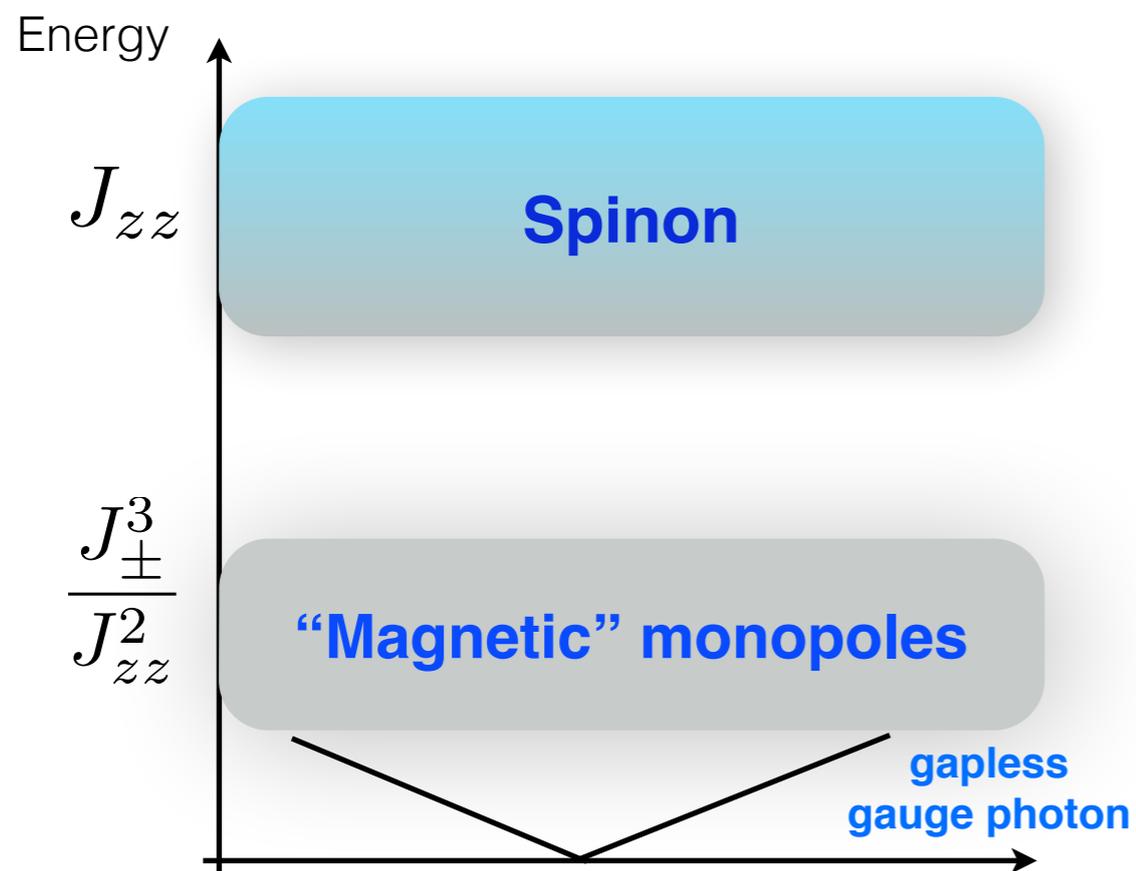
Y-D LI, **GC**, PRB 2017



SB Lee, Onoda, Balents 2012

Related by unitary transformation (Hermele, Fisher, Balents 2004)

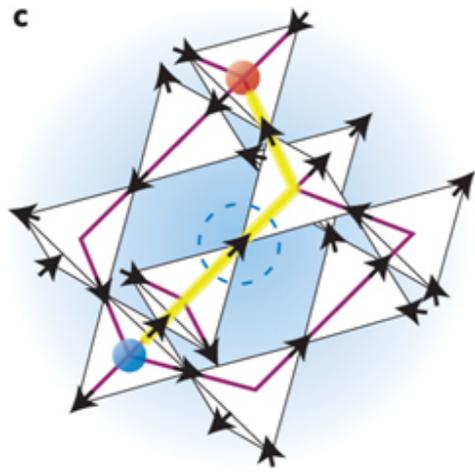
Besides the quantitative differences, are there sharp distinctions between the  $U(1)_{\pi}$  QSL on the left and the  $U(1)_0$  QSL on the right?



$$I(\omega) \sim \omega$$

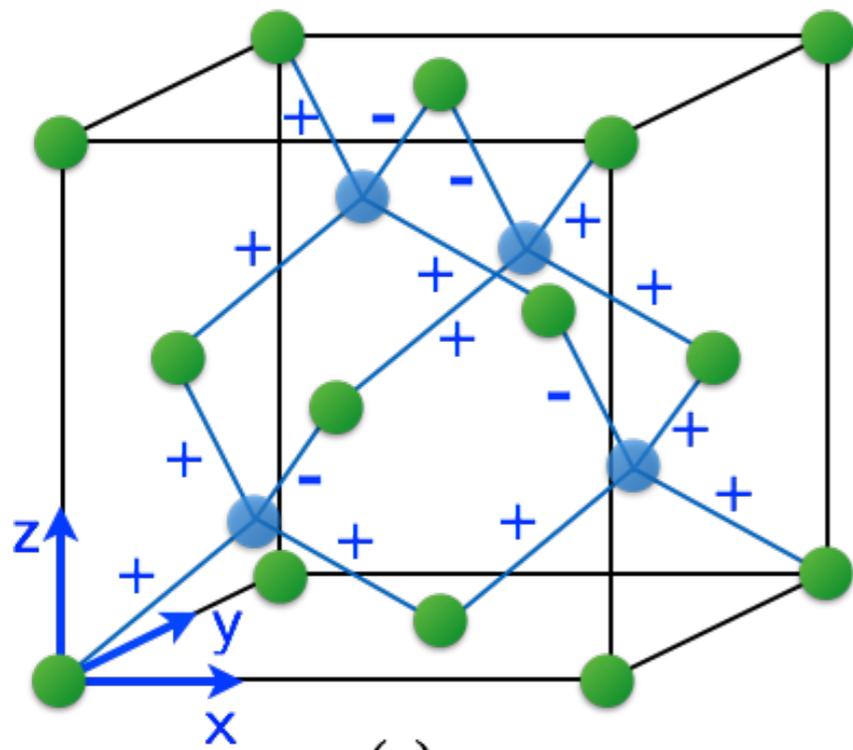
Nic Shannon, et al 2012,  
Savary, Balents, 2012

low energy scale  
suppressed intensity

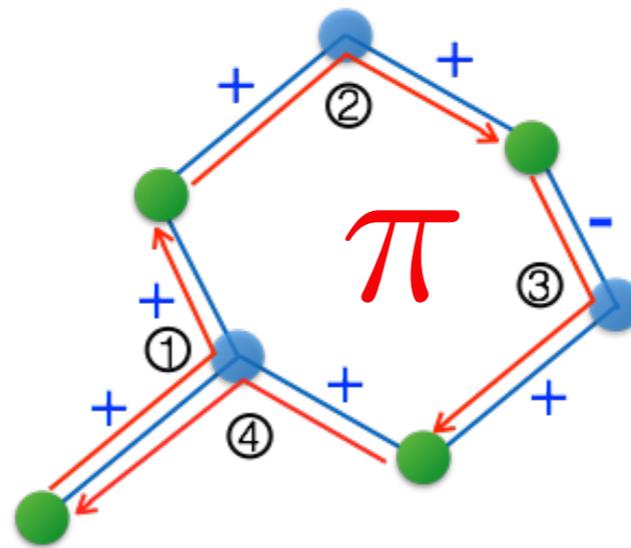


# Pi flux and the spinon translation

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{LGT}} = -K \sum_{\text{Hex}_d} \cos(\text{curl } A) + U \sum_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} (E_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} - \frac{\eta_{\mathbf{r}}}{2})^2$$



(a)



(b)

If  $K < 0$ ,  $\text{curl } A = \pi$

If  $K > 0$ ,  $\text{curl } A = 0$

$$T_{\mu}^s T_{\nu}^s (T_{\mu}^s)^{-1} (T_{\nu}^s)^{-1} = \pm 1$$

$$H = \sum_{\mathbf{r} \in \text{I,II}} \frac{J_{zz}}{2} Q_{\mathbf{r}}^2 - J_{\pm} \left\{ \sum_{\mathbf{r} \in \text{I}} \sum_{\mu, \nu \neq \mu} \Phi_{\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^{\dagger} \Phi_{\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{e}_{\nu}} S_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^{-} S_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{e}_{\nu}}^{+} + \sum_{\mathbf{r} \in \text{II}} \sum_{\mu, \nu \neq \mu} \Phi_{\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^{\dagger} \Phi_{\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{e}_{\nu}} S_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^{+} S_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{e}_{\nu}}^{-} \right\}$$

Savary, Balents, 2012

Aharonov-Bohm flux experienced by spinon via the 4 translation is identical to the flux in the hexagon.

# Pi flux means crystal symmetry fractionalization

with definitive momentum quantum number

It is like symmetry breaking

$$T_{\mu}^s T_{\nu}^s = -T_{\nu}^s T_{\mu}^s$$

2-spinon scattering state in an inelastic neutron scattering measurement

$$|a\rangle \equiv |\mathbf{q}_a; z_a\rangle,$$

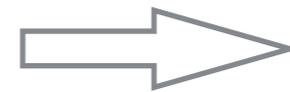
construct another 3 equal-energy states by translating one spinon by 3 lattice vector

$$|b\rangle = T_1^s(1)|a\rangle, \quad |c\rangle = T_2^s(1)|a\rangle, \quad |d\rangle = T_3^s(1)|a\rangle$$

$$T_1|b\rangle = T_1^s(1)T_1^s(2)T_1^s(1)|a\rangle = +T_1^s(1)[T_1|a\rangle],$$

$$T_2|b\rangle = T_2^s(1)T_2^s(2)T_1^s(1)|a\rangle = -T_1^s(1)[T_2|a\rangle],$$

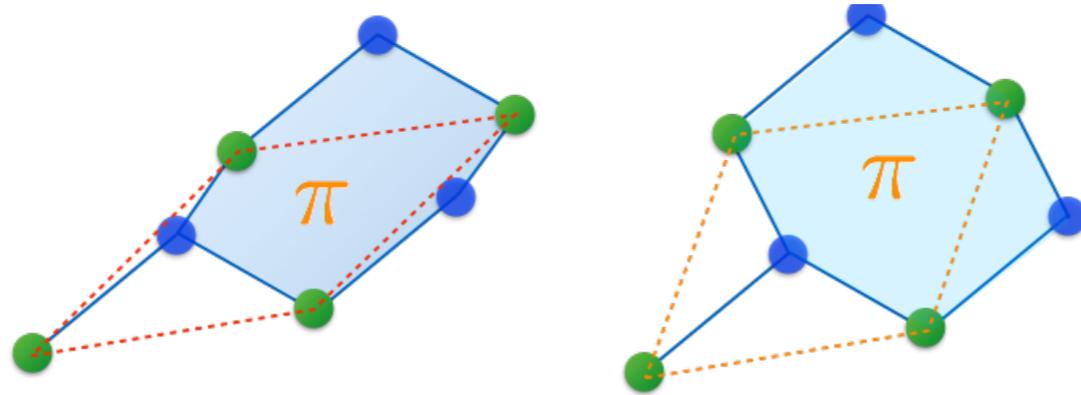
$$T_3|b\rangle = T_3^s(1)T_3^s(2)T_1^s(1)|a\rangle = -T_1^s(1)[T_3|a\rangle],$$



$$\mathbf{q}_b - \mathbf{q}_a = 2\pi(100)$$

Xiao-Gang Wen, 2001, 2002, Essin, Hermele, 2014  
Gang Chen, 1704.02734

# Spectral periodicity of the spinon continuum



Lower edge of 2-spinon continuum  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}) = \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q} + 2\pi(100)) = \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q} + 2\pi(010))$   
 $= \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q} + 2\pi(001)),$

Upper edge of 2-spinon continuum  $\mathcal{U}(\mathbf{q}) = \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{q} + 2\pi(100)) = \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{q} + 2\pi(010))$   
 $= \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{q} + 2\pi(001)).$

**But elastic neutron scattering will NOT see extra Bragg peak.**

# Calculation to demonstrate the above prediction

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{XXZ}} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{zz} S_i^z S_j^z - J_{\perp} (S_i^+ S_j^- + S_i^- S_j^+),$$

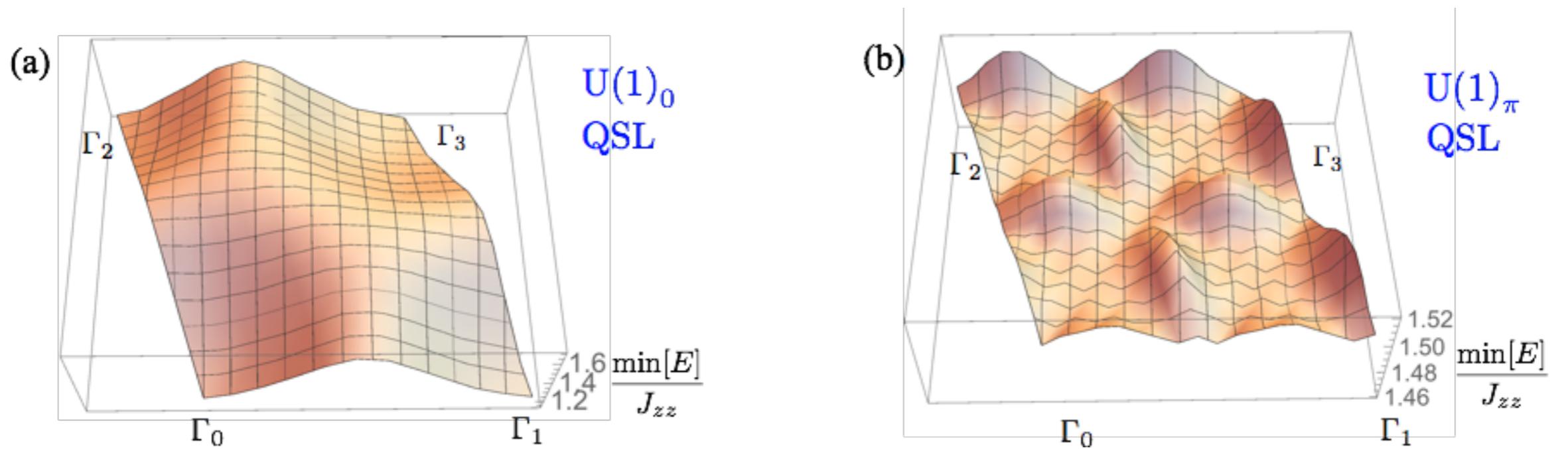
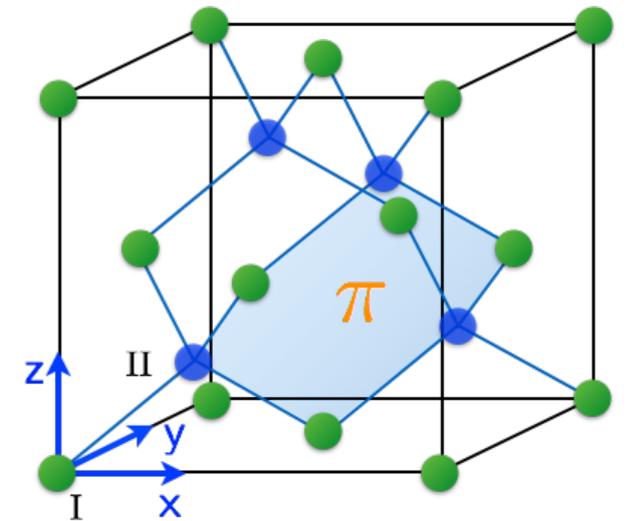
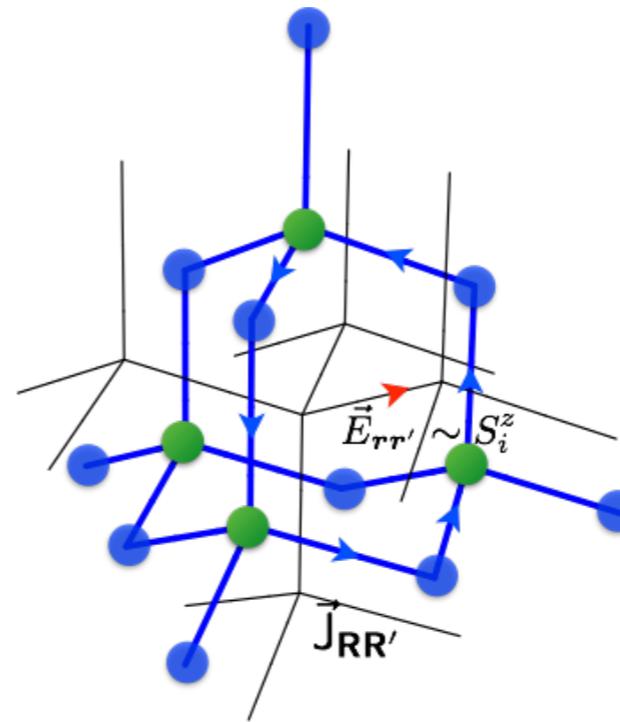
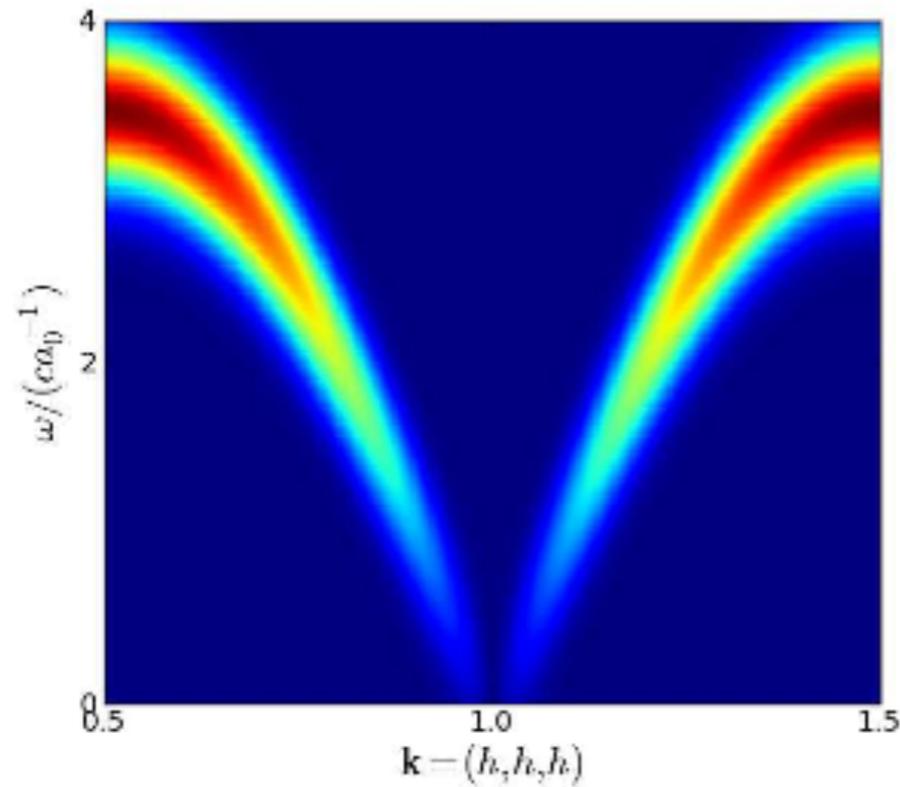


FIG. 3. (Color online.) The lower excitation edge of the spinon continuum in  $U(1)_0$  and  $U(1)_\pi$  QSLs. Here,  $\Gamma_0\Gamma_1 = 2\pi(\bar{1}11)$ ,  $\Gamma_0\Gamma_2 = 2\pi(1\bar{1}1)$ . We set  $J_{\perp} = 0.12J_{zz}$  for  $U(1)_0$  QSL in (a) and  $J_{\perp} = -J_{zz}/3$  for  $U(1)_\pi$  QSL in (b).

**Lower excitation edge of spinon continuum  
within the gauge MFT calculation**

# How to observe the “magnetic monopole”?



$S_z \sim E$  (emergent electric field)

$$\text{Im}[E_{-\mathbf{k}, -\omega}^\alpha E_{\mathbf{k}, \omega}^\beta] \propto \left[ \delta_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{k_\alpha k_\beta}{\mathbf{k}^2} \right] \omega \delta(\omega - v|\mathbf{k}|),$$

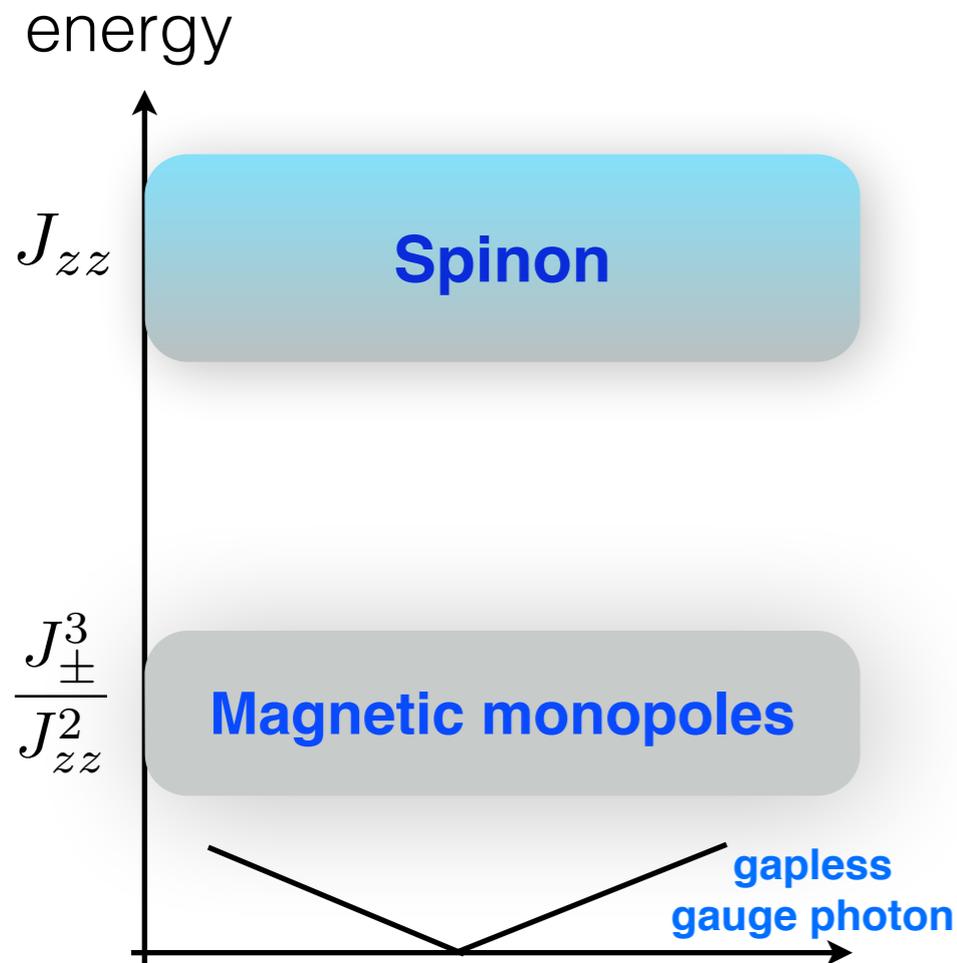
Low energy theory

Electromagnetic duality

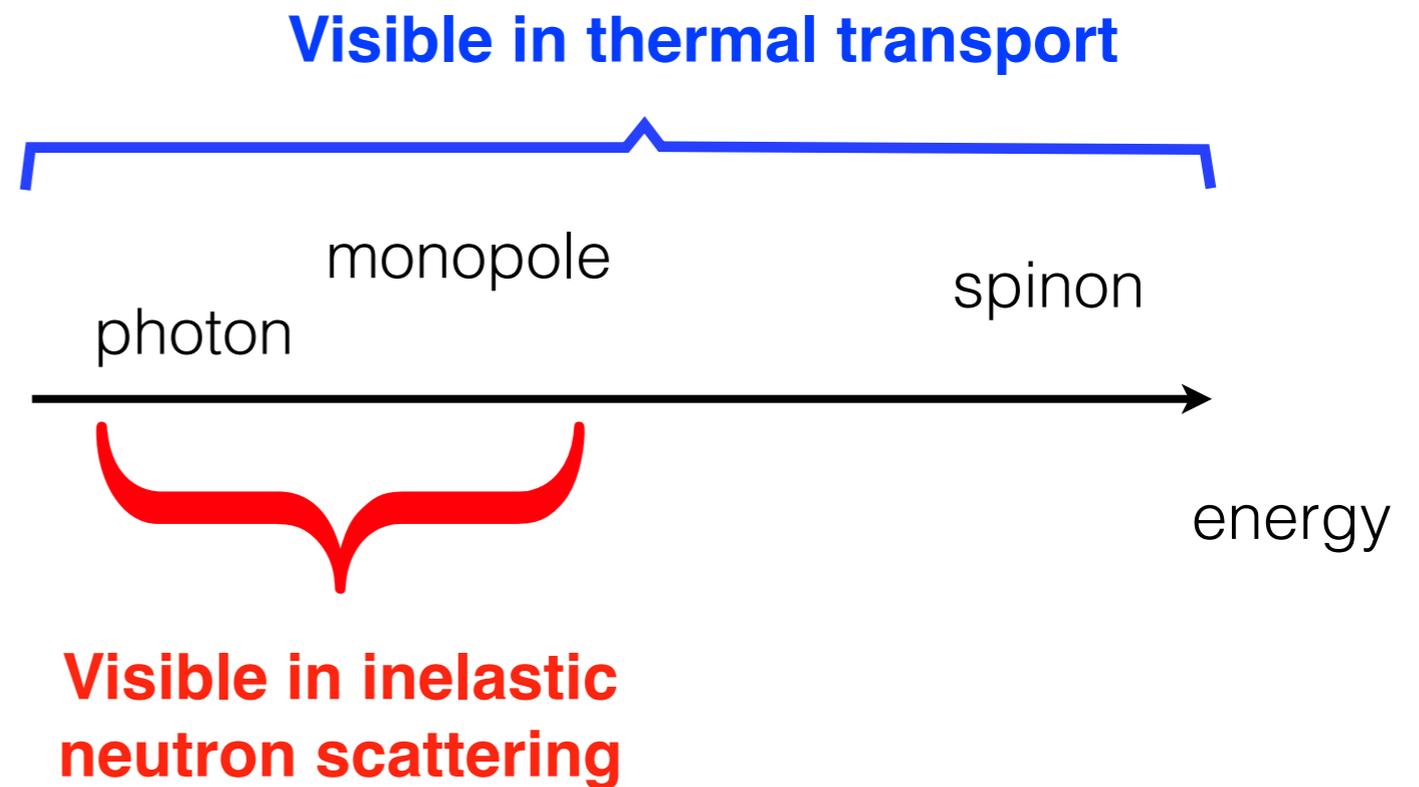
Electric loop current  $\rightarrow$  Magnetic field  
Magnetic loop current  $\rightarrow$  Electric field

at higher energy, detect monopole continuum

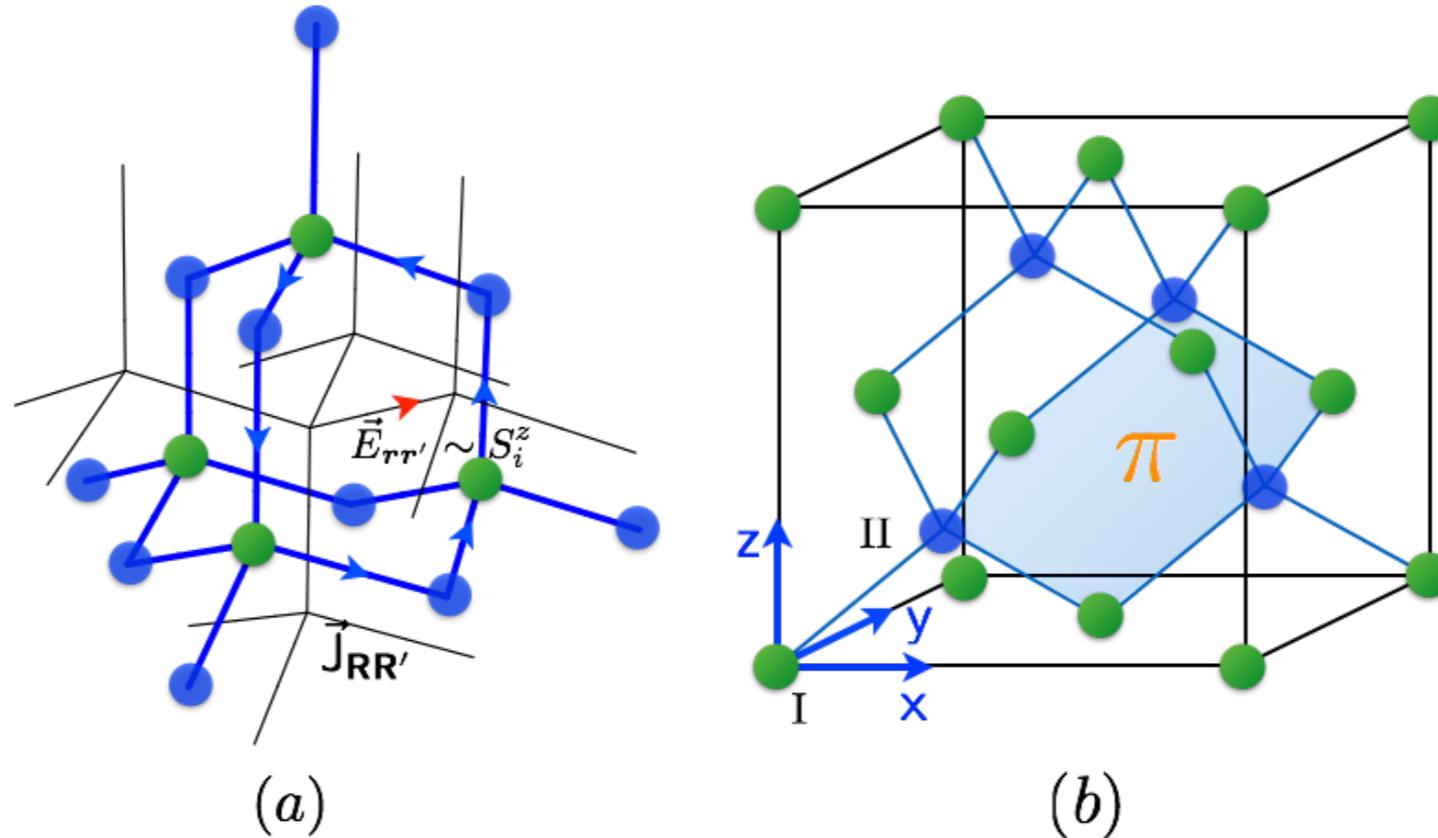
Suggestion 1: combine thermal transport with inelastic neutron



For **non-Kramers doublets** such as Pr ion in  $\text{Pr}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$  and Tb ion in  $\text{Tb}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$



## Suggestion 2: effect of the external magnetic field



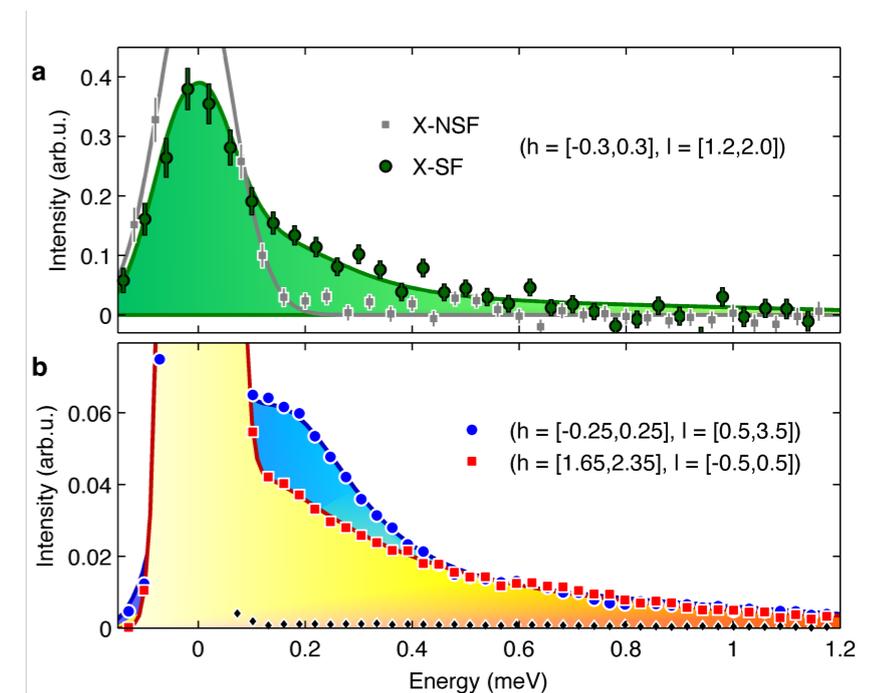
$$H_{Zeeman} = \vec{B} \cdot \sum_i S_i^z \hat{z}_i$$

The weak magnetic field polarizes  $S_z$  slightly, and thus modifies the background electric field distribution. This further modulates monopole band structure, creating “**Hofstadter**” monopole band, which may be detectable in inelastic neutron.

# Summary 1

1. We point out the existence of “magnetic monopole continuum” in the U(1) quantum spin liquid, and monopole is purely **quantum origin**.
2. We point out that the “magnetic monopole” always experiences a  $\pi$  flux, and thus supports enhanced spectral periodicity with **folded Brillouin zone, while** spinons most of the time experience  $\pi$  flux.

In fact, continuum has been observed in  $\text{Pr}_2\text{Hf}_2\text{O}_7$  ( R. Sibille, et al, arXiv 1706.03604).



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**GC** arxiv1706.04333(2017)

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YD Li, Y Shen, YS Li, J Zhao, **GC\***, arXiv 1608.06445

YD Li, YM Lu, **GC\***, PRB 96, 054445 (2017)

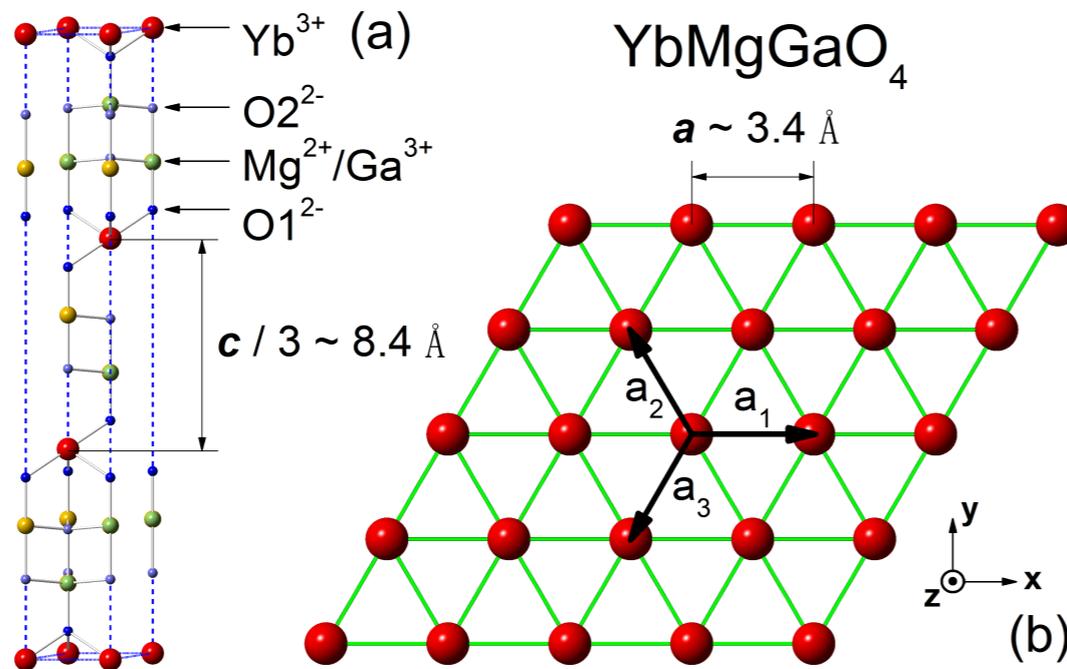
YD Li, **GC\***, PRB 96, 075105 (2017)

YS Li, **GC\***, ..., QM Zhang\*, PRL 115, 167203 (2015)

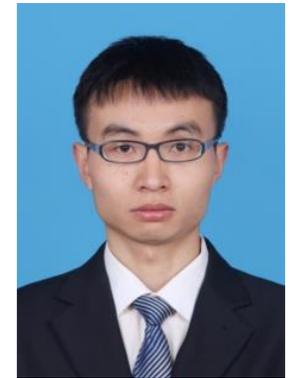
Y Shen, YD Li, ..., **GC\***, J Zhao\*, Nature, 540, 559 (2016)

Y Shen, YD Li, ..., **GC\***, J Zhao\*, arXiv 1708.06655

# A rare-earth triangular lattice quantum spin liquid: **YbMgGaO<sub>4</sub>**



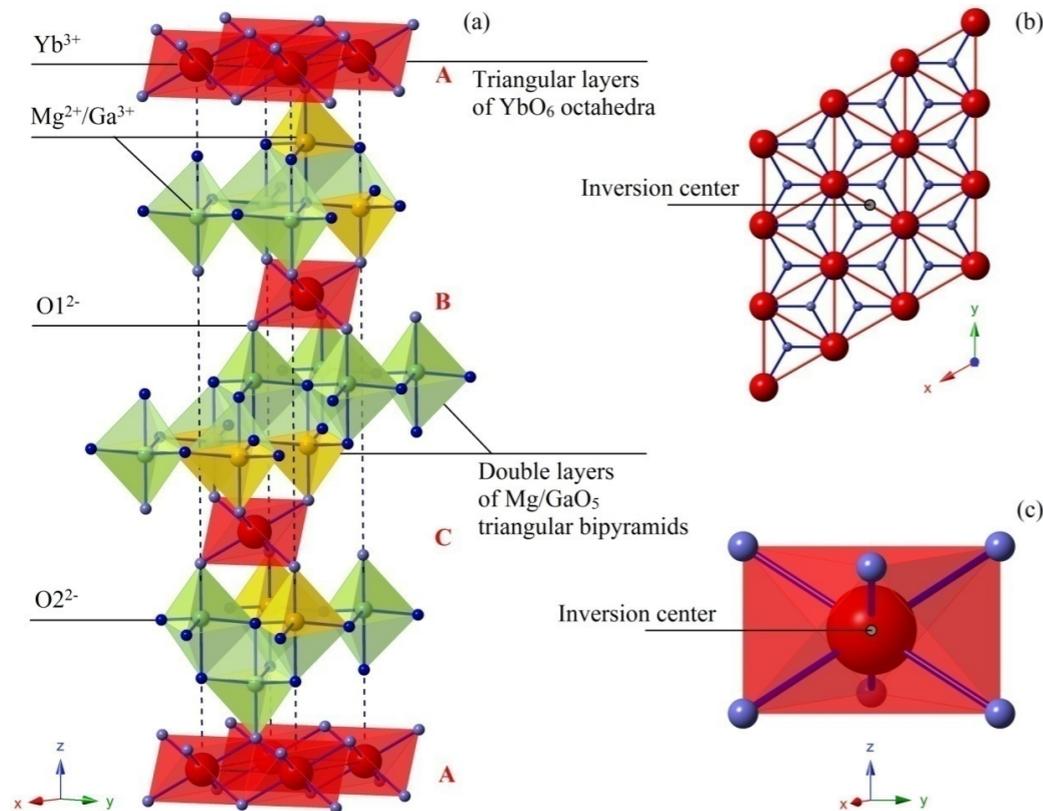
Qingming Zhang  
(Renmin)



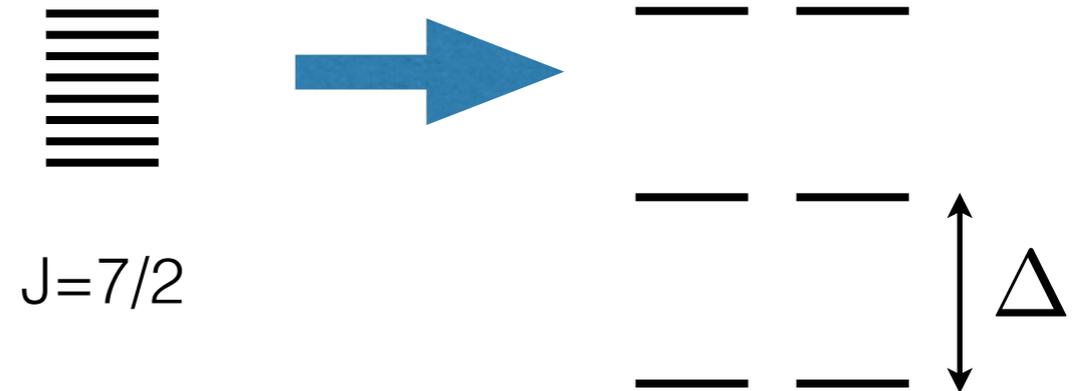
Yuesheng Li  
(Renmin)

- Hastings-Oshikawa-Lieb-Shultz-Mattis theorem.
- Recent extension to spin-orbit coupled insulators (Watanabe, Po, Vishwanath, Zaletel, PNAS 2015).
- This is likely the **first strong spin-orbit coupled QSL with odd electron filling** and effective spin-1/2.
- It is the first clear observation of  $T^{2/3}$  heat capacity. (needs comment.)
- Inelastic neutron scattering is consistent with spinon Fermi surface results.
- I think it is a spinon Fermi surface U(1) QSL.

# The microscopics



Yb<sup>3+</sup> ion: 4f<sup>13</sup> has  $J=7/2$  due to SOC.



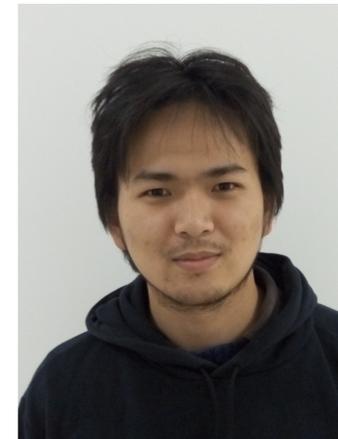
YS Li, ...QM Zhang, Srep 2015

YS Li, **GC**, ..., QM Zhang, PRL 2015  
 YD Li, XQ Wang, **GC**, arXiv1512, PRB 2016

At  $T \ll \Delta$ , the only active DOF is the ground state doublet that gives rise to an effective spin-1/2.

# Modeling

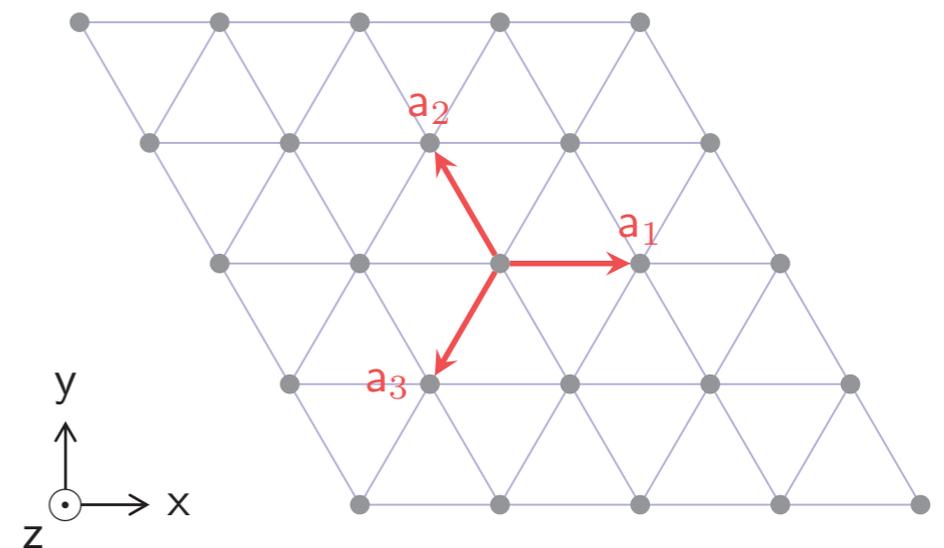
4f electron is very localized, and dipolar interactions weak.



**Yao-Dong Li**  
(Fudan -> here)

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} [J_{zz} S_i^z S_j^z + J_{\pm} (S_i^+ S_j^- + S_i^- S_j^+) + J_{\pm\pm} (\gamma_{ij} S_i^+ S_j^+ + \gamma_{ij}^* S_i^- S_j^-) - \frac{iJ_{z\pm}}{2} (\gamma_{ij}^* S_i^+ S_j^z - \gamma_{ij} S_i^- S_j^z + \langle i \leftrightarrow j \rangle)], \quad (1)$$

where  $S_i^{\pm} = S_i^x \pm iS_i^y$ , and the phase factor  $\gamma_{ij} = 1, e^{i2\pi/3}, e^{-i2\pi/3}$  for the bond  $ij$  along the  $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{a}_3$  direction (see Fig. 1), respectively. This generic Hamil-



anisotropic both in spin space and in real space !

YD Li, XQ Wang, GC, arXiv1512, PRB 2016  
YD Li, Y Shen, YS Li, J Zhao, GC\*, arXiv 1608.06445

DMRG: Chernyshev, White, 2017  
Jize Zhao, XQ Wang, 2017

# Polarized neutron scattering

## Strong exchange anisotropy in $\text{YbMgGaO}_4$ from polarized neutron diffraction

Sándor Tóth,<sup>1,\*</sup> Katharina Rolfs,<sup>2</sup> Andrew R. Wildes,<sup>3</sup> and Christian Rüegg<sup>1,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory for Neutron Scattering and Imaging,

Paul Scherrer Institute, 5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory for Scientific Developments and Novel Materials,

Paul Scherrer Institute, 5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland

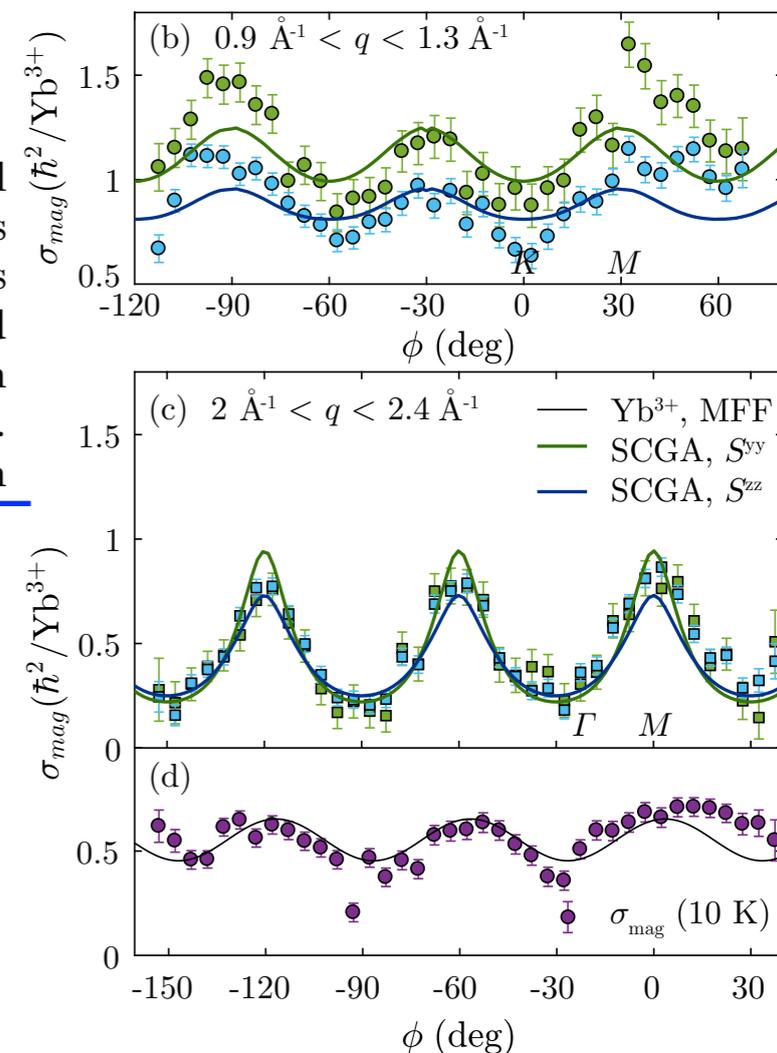
<sup>3</sup>Institut Max von Laue-Paul Langevin, 38042 Grenoble 9, France

<sup>4</sup>Department of Quantum Matter Physics, University of Geneva, 1211 Genève, Switzerland

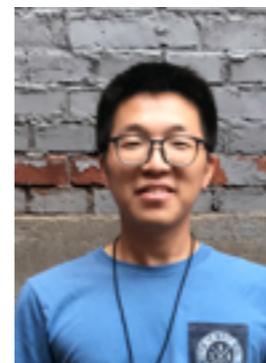
(Dated: May 17, 2017)

We measured the magnetic correlations in the triangular lattice spin-liquid candidate material  $\text{YbMgGaO}_4$  via polarized neutron diffraction. The extracted in-plane and out-of-plane components of the magnetic structure factor show clear anisotropy. We found that short-range correlations persist at the lowest measured temperature of 52 mK and neutron scattering intensity is centered at the  $M$  middle-point of the hexagonal Brillouin-zone edge. Moreover, we found pronounced spin anisotropy, with different correlation lengths for the in-plane and out-of-plane spin components. When comparing to a self-consistent Gaussian approximation, our data clearly support a model with only first-neighbor coupling and strongly anisotropic exchanges.

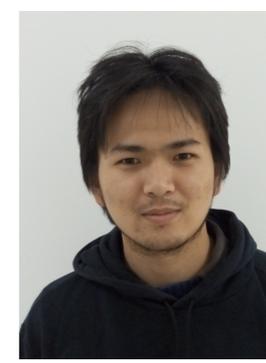
arXiv 1705.05699



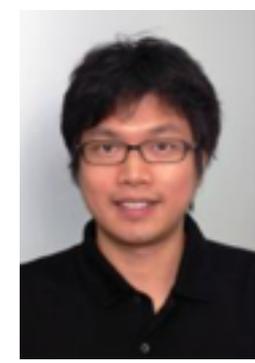
# Inelastic neutron scattering



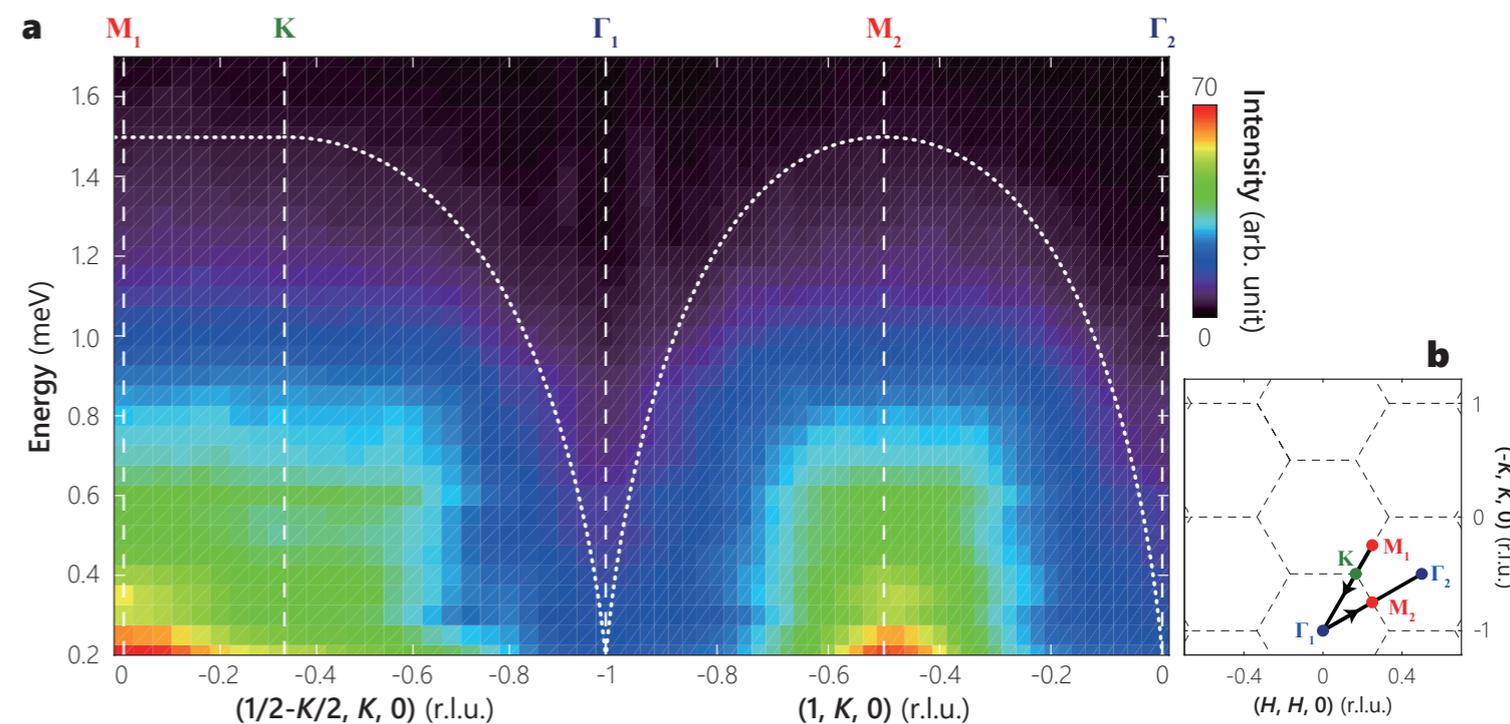
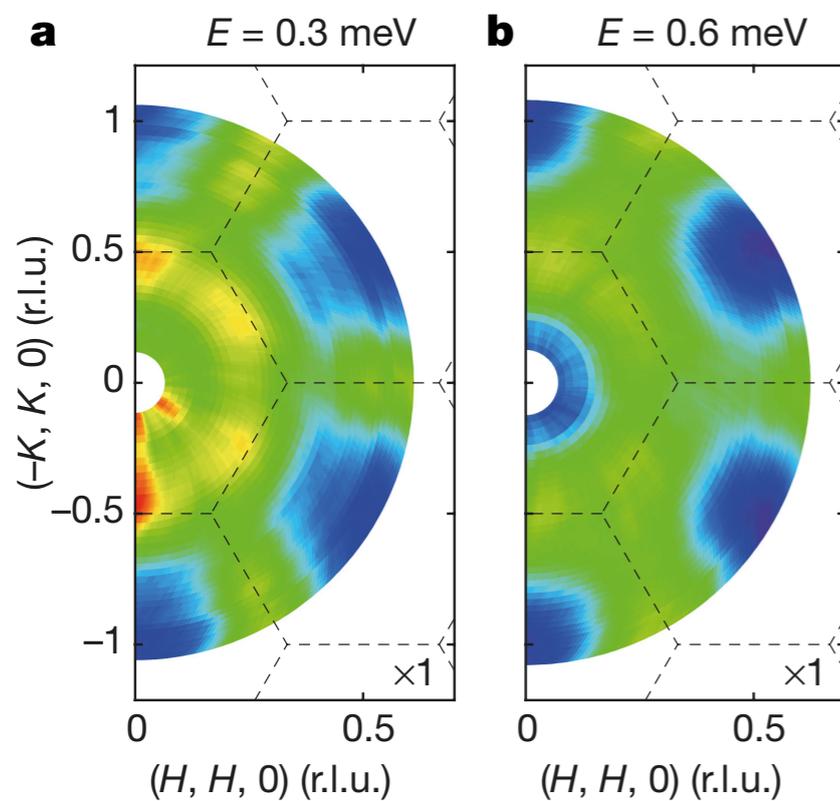
Yao Shen  
(Fudan)



Yao-Dong Li  
(Fudan->here)



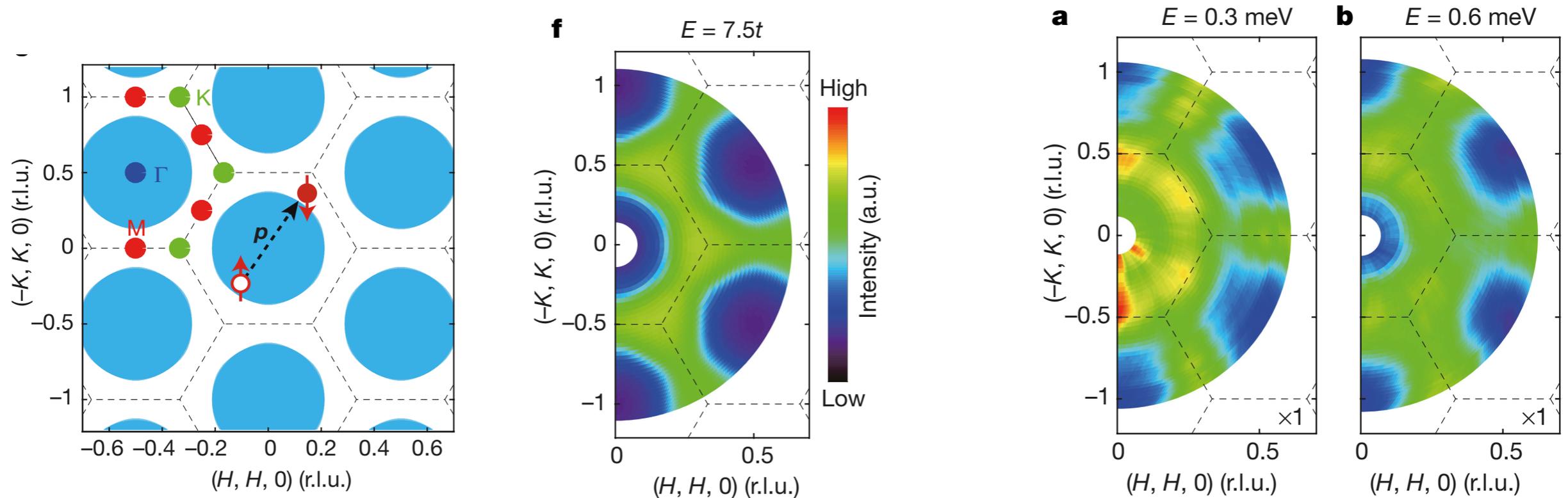
Jun Zhao  
(Fudan)



Y Shen, YD Li ...GC\*, J Zhao\* **Nature** 2016

consistent neutron results from Martin Mourigal's group, Nature Physics

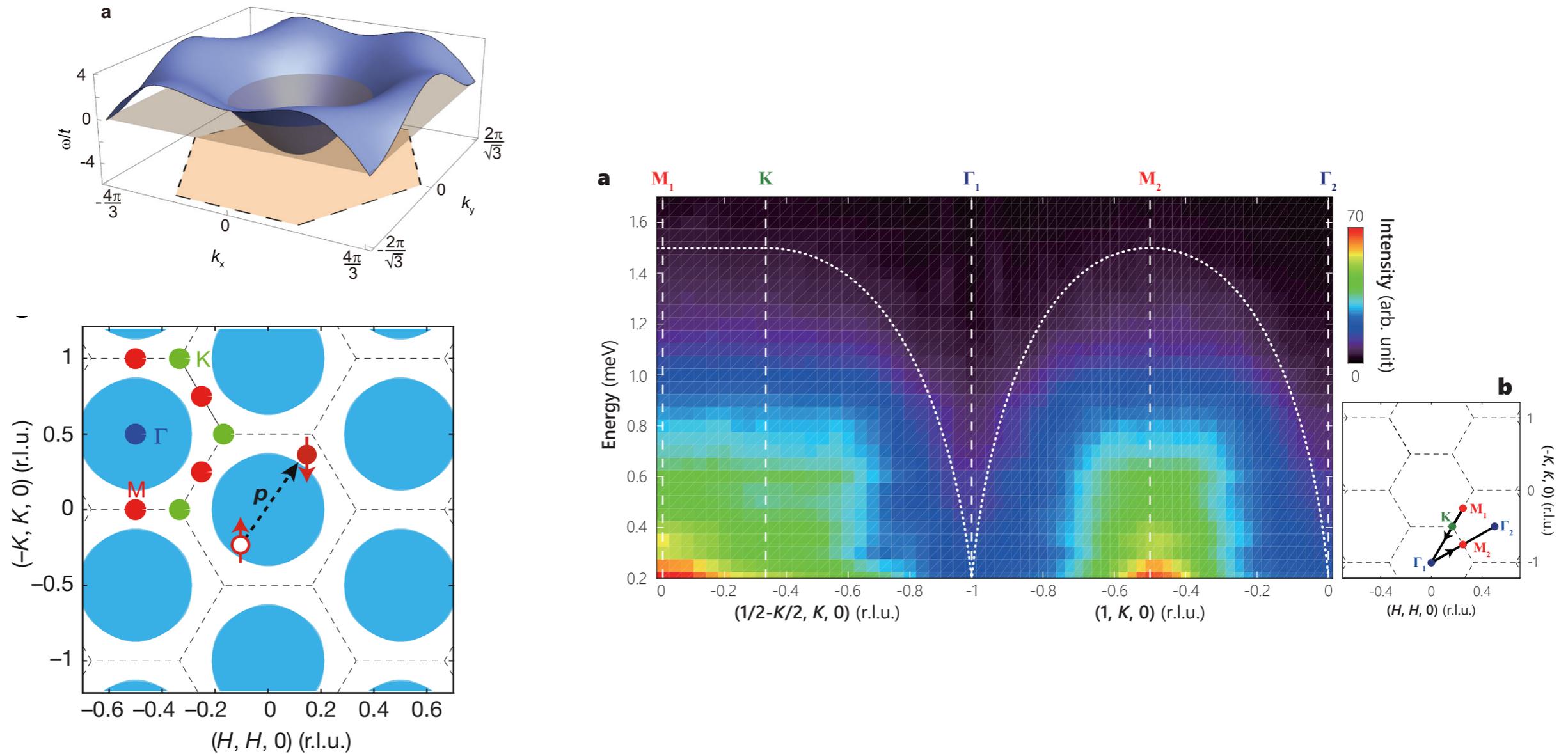
# Spinon Fermi surface state



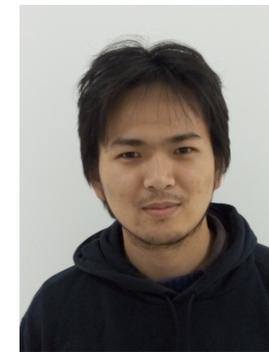
$$\mathbf{S}_r = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha, \beta} f_{r\alpha}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_{r\beta}, \quad H_{\text{MFT}} = -t \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (f_{i\alpha}^\dagger f_{j\alpha} + \text{h.c.}) - \mu \sum_i f_{i\alpha}^\dagger f_{i\alpha}$$

Prediction from the 0 flux uniform spinon hopping

# Particle-hole continuum of the spinon Fermi surface



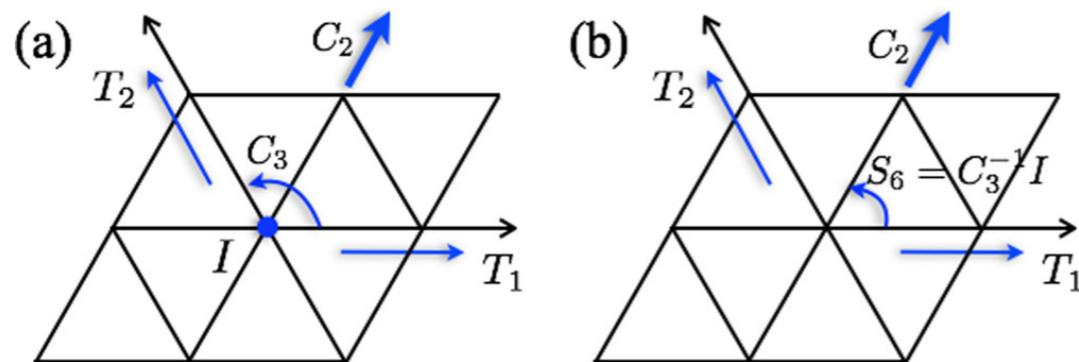
# More assurance from projective symmetry group analysis



Yao-Dong Li  
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Yuan-Ming Lu  
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$$T_1^{-1} T_2 T_1 T_2^{-1} = T_1^{-1} T_2^{-1} T_1 T_2 = 1,$$

$$C_2^{-1} T_1 C_2 T_2^{-1} = C_2^{-1} T_2 C_2 T_1^{-1} = 1,$$

$$S_6^{-1} T_1 S_6 T_2 = S_6^{-1} T_2 S_6 T_2^{-1} T_1^{-1} = 1,$$

$$(C_2)^2 = (S_6)^6 = (S_6 C_2)^2 = 1.$$

YD Li, XQ Wang, **GC**,  
arXiv1512, PRB 2016

YD Li, YM Lu, GC,  
arXiv **1612.03447**, PRB

$$\mathbf{S}_r = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha, \beta} f_{r\alpha}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_{r\beta},$$

$$\Psi_r = (f_{r\uparrow}, f_{r\downarrow}, f_{r\downarrow}, -f_{r\uparrow})^T$$

$$\mathbf{S}_r = \frac{1}{4} \Psi_r^\dagger (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \otimes I_{2 \times 2}) \Psi_r,$$

$$\mathbf{G}_r = \frac{1}{4} \Psi_r^\dagger (I_{2 \times 2} \otimes \boldsymbol{\sigma}) \Psi_r,$$

$$[S_r^\mu, G_r^\nu] = 0.$$

The spin transformation and gauge transformation commute with each other.

XG Wen PRB 2002

# Reduction and simplification: classification mean field states

Mean-field model

$$H_{\text{MF}} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')} [\Psi_{\mathbf{r}}^\dagger u_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} \Psi_{\mathbf{r}'} + h.c.],$$

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{r}} = (f_{\mathbf{r}\uparrow}, f_{\mathbf{r}\downarrow}^\dagger, f_{\mathbf{r}\downarrow}, -f_{\mathbf{r}\uparrow}^\dagger)^T$$

symmetry transformation  $\mathcal{O}$

$$u_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} = \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}\dagger} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}}^\dagger u_{\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r})\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r}')} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r}')}^{\mathcal{O}}.$$

spin rotation

gauge rotation

group relation  $\mathcal{O}_1 \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_3 \mathcal{O}_4 = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_1} \mathcal{G}_{\mathbf{r}}^{\mathcal{O}_1} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_2} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_3 \mathcal{O}_4(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}_2} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_3} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_3 \mathcal{O}_4(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}_3} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_4} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_4(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}_4} \\ &= \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_1} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_2} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_3} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_4} \mathcal{G}_{\mathbf{r}}^{\mathcal{O}_1} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_3 \mathcal{O}_4(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}_2} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_3 \mathcal{O}_4(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}_3} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_4(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}_4} \\ &\in \text{IGG}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_1} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_2} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_3} \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_4} = \pm I_{4 \times 4}, \quad \{\pm I_{4 \times 4}\} \subset \text{IGG}$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mathbf{r}}^{\mathcal{O}_1} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_3 \mathcal{O}_4(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}_2} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_3 \mathcal{O}_4(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}_3} \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_4(\mathbf{r})}^{\mathcal{O}_4} \in \text{IGG}$$

# Projective symmetry group classification

| U(1) QSL | $W_r^{T_1}$      | $W_r^{T_2}$             | $W_r^{C_2}$                | $W_r^{C_6}$                                   |
|----------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| U1A00    | $I_{2 \times 2}$ | $I_{2 \times 2}$        | $I_{2 \times 2}$           | $I_{2 \times 2}$                              |
| U1A10    | $I_{2 \times 2}$ | $I_{2 \times 2}$        | $i\sigma^y$                | $I_{2 \times 2}$                              |
| U1A01    | $I_{2 \times 2}$ | $I_{2 \times 2}$        | $I_{2 \times 2}$           | $i\sigma^y$                                   |
| U1A11    | $I_{2 \times 2}$ | $I_{2 \times 2}$        | $i\sigma^y$                | $i\sigma^y$                                   |
| U1B00    | $I_{2 \times 2}$ | $(-1)^x I_{2 \times 2}$ | $(-1)^{xy} I_{2 \times 2}$ | $(-1)^{xy - \frac{y(y-1)}{2}} I_{2 \times 2}$ |
| U1B10    | $I_{2 \times 2}$ | $(-1)^x I_{2 \times 2}$ | $i\sigma^y (-1)^{xy}$      | $(-1)^{xy - \frac{y(y-1)}{2}} I_{2 \times 2}$ |
| U1B01    | $I_{2 \times 2}$ | $(-1)^x I_{2 \times 2}$ | $(-1)^{xy} I_{2 \times 2}$ | $i\sigma^y (-1)^{xy - \frac{y(y-1)}{2}}$      |
| U1B11    | $I_{2 \times 2}$ | $(-1)^x I_{2 \times 2}$ | $i\sigma^y (-1)^{xy}$      | $i\sigma^y (-1)^{xy - \frac{y(y-1)}{2}}$      |

TABLE III. The transformation for the spinons under four U1A PSGs that are labeled by  $U1An_{C_2}n_{S_6}$ .

| U(1) PSGs | $T_1$  | $T_2$  | $C_2$   | $S_6$   |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|
| U1A00     | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow f_{(x+1,y),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow f_{(x+1,y),\downarrow}$ | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow f_{(x,y+1),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow f_{(x,y+1),\downarrow}$ | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow e^{i\frac{\pi}{6}} f_{(y,x),\downarrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow e^{i\frac{5\pi}{6}} f_{(y,x),\uparrow}$   | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow e^{-i\frac{\pi}{3}} f_{(x-y,x),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow e^{+i\frac{\pi}{3}} f_{(x-y,x),\downarrow}$                  |
| U1A10     | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow f_{(x+1,y),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow f_{(x+1,y),\downarrow}$ | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow f_{(x,y+1),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow f_{(x,y+1),\downarrow}$ | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow e^{i\frac{\pi}{6}} f_{(y,x),\uparrow}^\dagger$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow e^{-i\frac{\pi}{6}} f_{(y,x),\downarrow}^\dagger$                         | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow e^{-i\frac{\pi}{3}} f_{(x-y,x),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow e^{+i\frac{\pi}{3}} f_{(x-y,x),\downarrow}$                  |
| U1A01     | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow f_{(x+1,y),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow f_{(x+1,y),\downarrow}$ | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow f_{(x,y+1),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow f_{(x,y+1),\downarrow}$ | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow e^{i\frac{\pi}{6}} f_{(y,x),\downarrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow e^{i\frac{5\pi}{6}} f_{(y,x),\uparrow}$   | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow -e^{-i\frac{\pi}{3}} f_{(x-y,x),\downarrow}^\dagger$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow e^{+i\frac{\pi}{3}} f_{(x-y,x),\uparrow}^\dagger$ |
| U1A11     | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow f_{(x+1,y),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow f_{(x+1,y),\downarrow}$ | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow f_{(x,y+1),\uparrow}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow f_{(x,y+1),\downarrow}$ | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow e^{i\frac{\pi}{6}} f_{(y,x),\uparrow}^{\downarrow\dagger}$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow e^{-i\frac{\pi}{6}} f_{(y,x),\downarrow}^{\downarrow\dagger}$ | $f_{(x,y),\uparrow} \rightarrow -e^{-i\frac{\pi}{3}} f_{(x-y,x),\downarrow}^\dagger$<br>$f_{(x,y),\downarrow} \rightarrow e^{+i\frac{\pi}{3}} f_{(x-y,x),\uparrow}^\dagger$ |

# Spectroscopic constraints

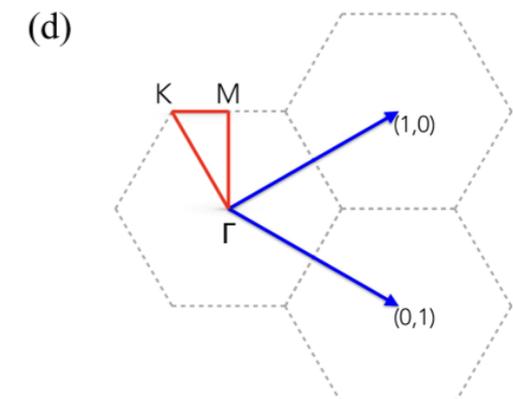
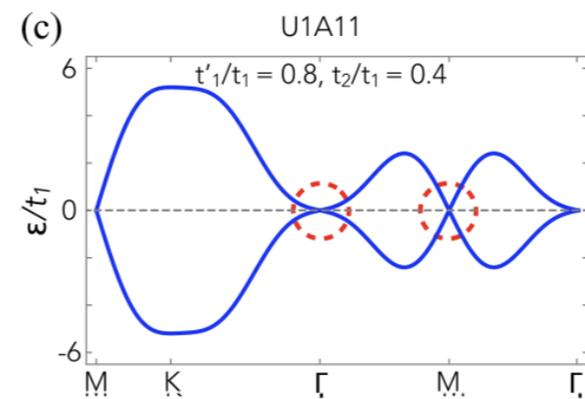
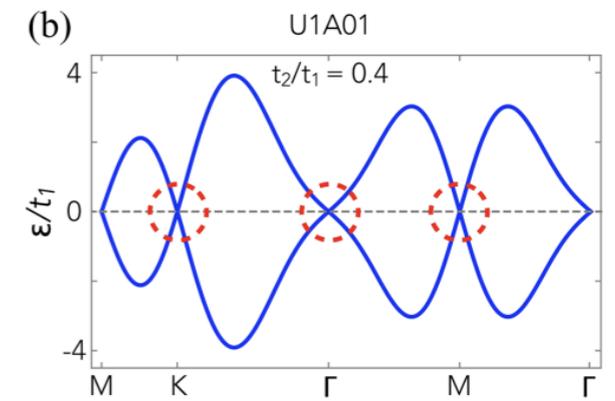
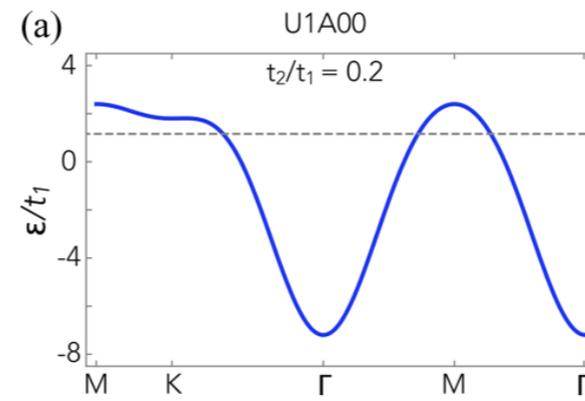


Yao-Dong Li

We use PSG to predict the corresponding spectrum.

$$H_{\text{MF}} = - \sum_{(\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}')} \sum_{\alpha\beta} [t_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}',\alpha\beta} f_{\mathbf{r}\alpha}^\dagger f_{\mathbf{r}'\beta} + h.c.],$$

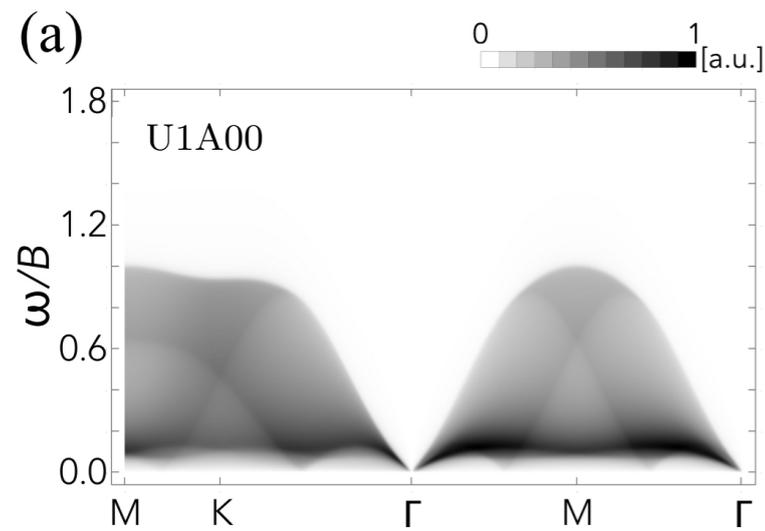
| U(1) QSL | $W_{\mathbf{r}}^{T_1}$ | $W_{\mathbf{r}}^{T_2}$ | $W_{\mathbf{r}}^{C_2}$ | $W_{\mathbf{r}}^{C_6}$ |
|----------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| U1A00    | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $I_{2 \times 2}$       |
| U1A10    | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $i\sigma^y$            | $I_{2 \times 2}$       |
| U1A01    | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $i\sigma^y$            |
| U1A11    | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $I_{2 \times 2}$       | $i\sigma^y$            | $i\sigma^y$            |



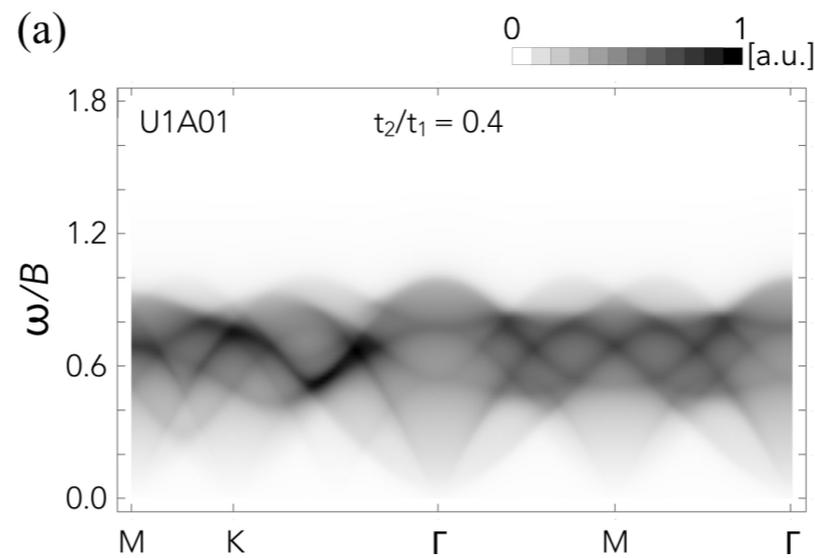
The U1A00 state is the spinon Fermi surface state that we proposed in Shen, et al, Nature.

VMC study has been done by Balents' group

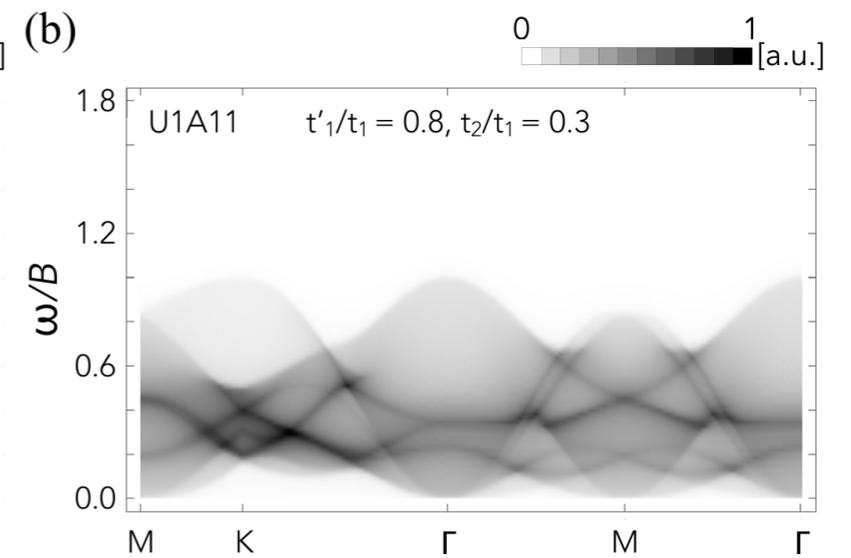
# Dynamic spin structure factor



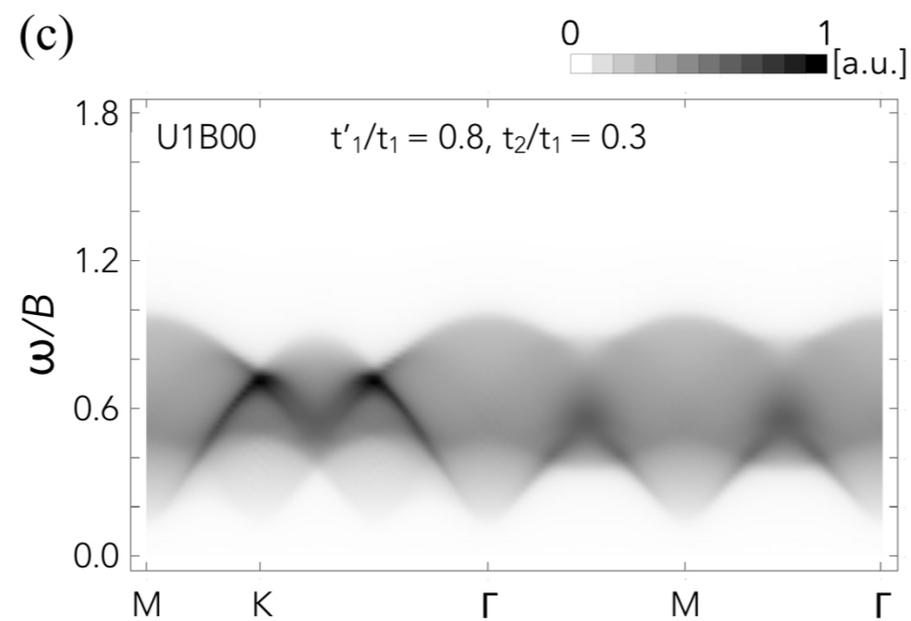
U1A00



U1A01

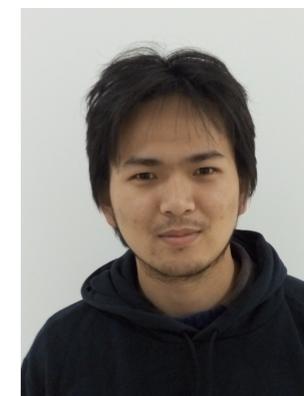


U1A11



U1B state

# Explore the weak field regime



Yao-Dong Li  
(Fudan)

Continuing the recent proposal of the spinon Fermi surface U(1) spin liquid state for  $\text{YbMgGaO}_4$  in Yao-Dong Li, *et al*, arXiv:1612.03447 and Yao Shen, *et al*, Nature 2016, we explore the experimental consequences of the external magnetic fields on this exotic state. Specifically, we focus on the *weak field regime* where the spin liquid state is preserved and the fractionalized spinon excitations remain to be a good description of the magnetic excitations. From the spin-1/2 nature of the spinon excitation, we predict the unique features of spinon continuum when the magnetic field is applied to the system. Due to the small energy scale of the rare-earth magnets, our proposal for the spectral weight shifts in the magnetic fields can be immediately tested by inelastic neutron scattering experiments. Several other experimental aspects about the spinon Fermi surface and spinon excitations are discussed and proposed. Our work provides a new way to examine the fractionalized spinon excitation and the candidate spin liquid states in the rare-earth magnets like  $\text{YbMgGaO}_4$ .

**Reasonable, Feasible, and Predictable**

isotope effect in BCS superconductor

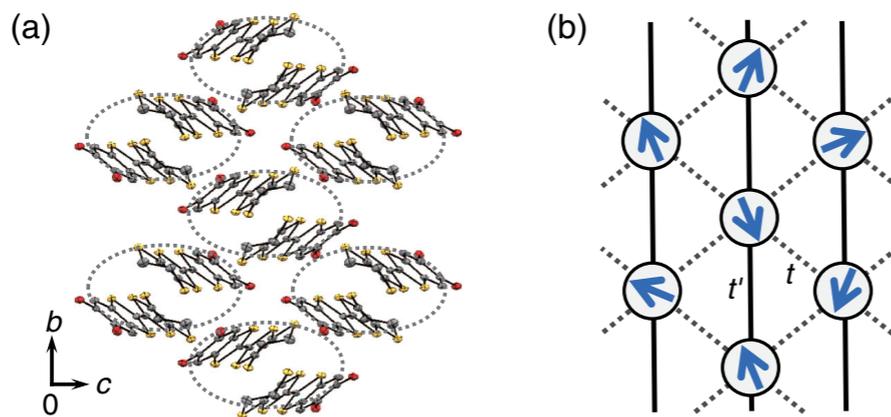
YD Li, [GC](#), arXiv: **1703.01876**  
[PhysRevB, 96, 075105](#)

ESR response in a field by Oleg Starykh's group, 2017

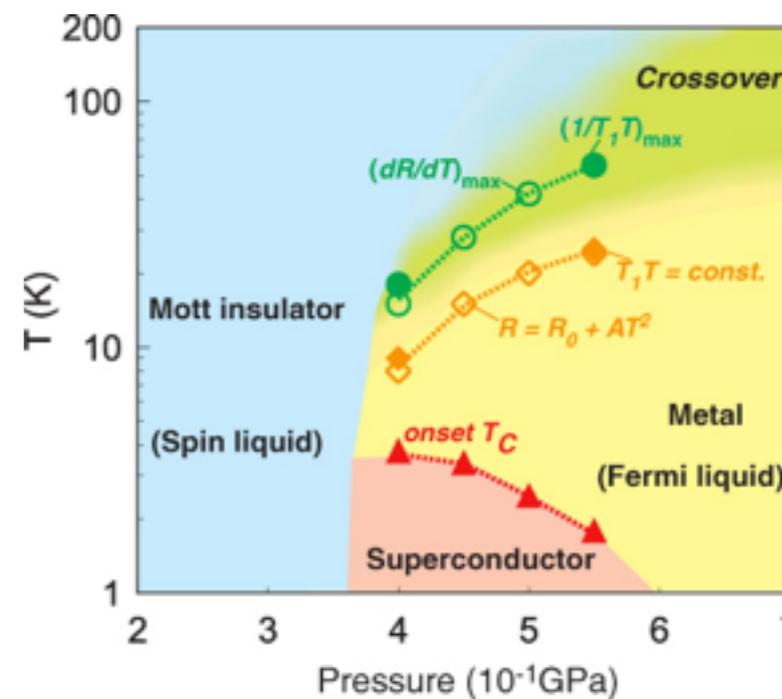
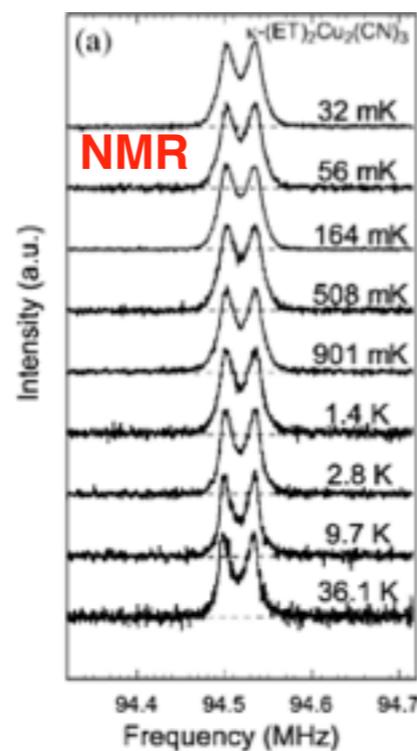
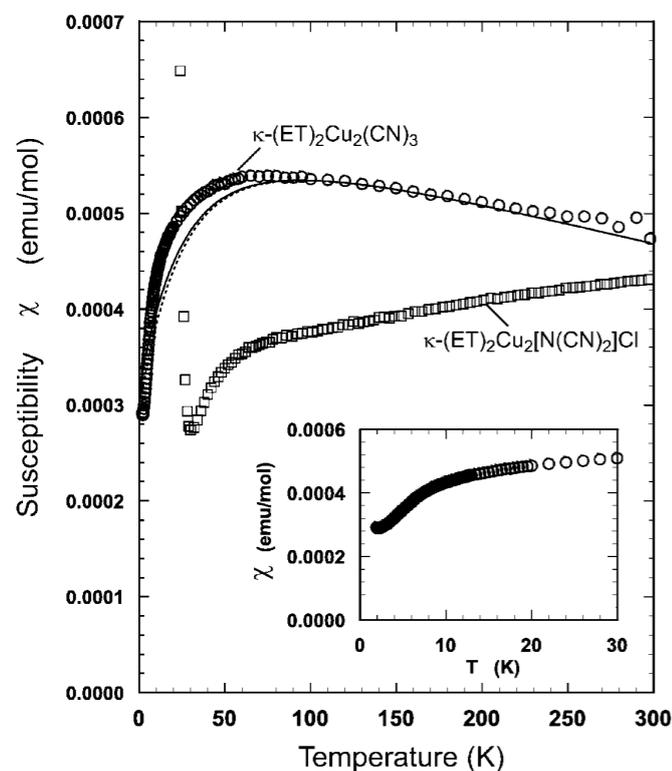
# Organic spin liquids?



Kanoda



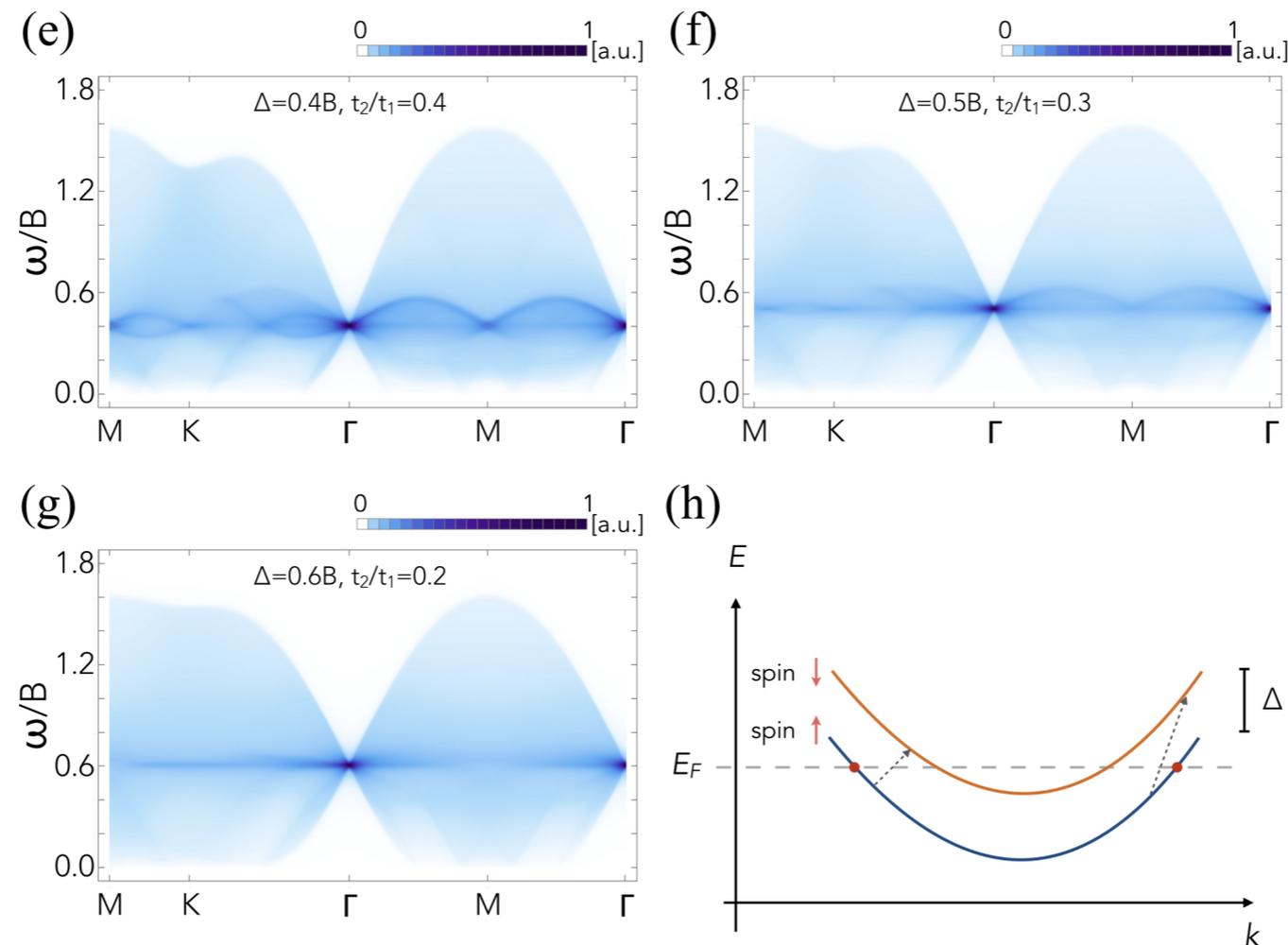
$\kappa$ -(BEDT-TTF)<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>2</sub>(CN)<sub>3</sub>,  
 EtMe<sub>3</sub>Sb[Pd(dmit)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>,  
 $\kappa$ -H<sub>3</sub>(Cat-EDT-TTF)<sub>2</sub> **a new one!**



- \* No magnetic order down to 32mK
- \* Constant spin susceptibility at zero temperature

Other experiments: transport, heat capacity, optical absorption, etc, Unfortunately, **no neutron scattering** so far.

# Prediction for dynamic spin structure factor



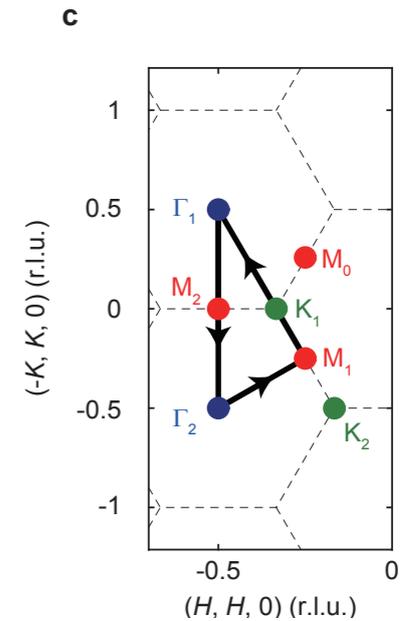
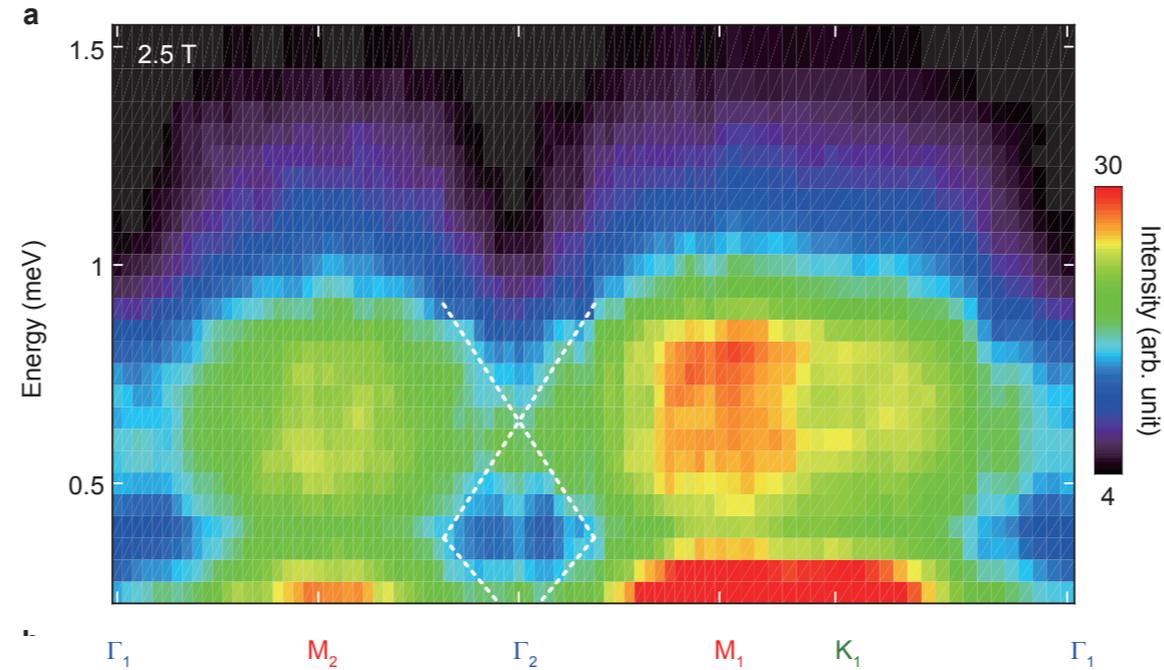
We predict:

1. The system remains gapless and spinon continuum persists
2. spectral weight shifts
3. the spectral crossing at Gamma point
4. the presence of lower and upper excitation edges

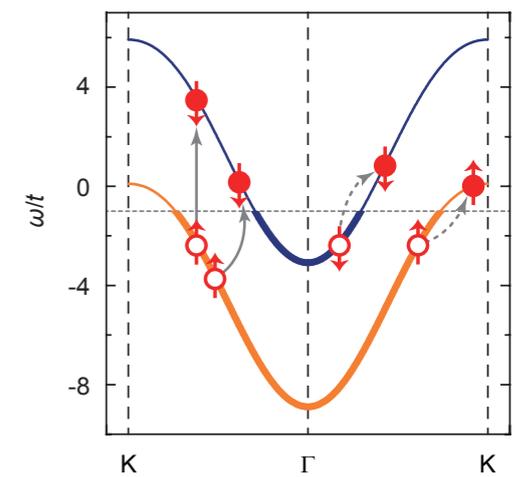
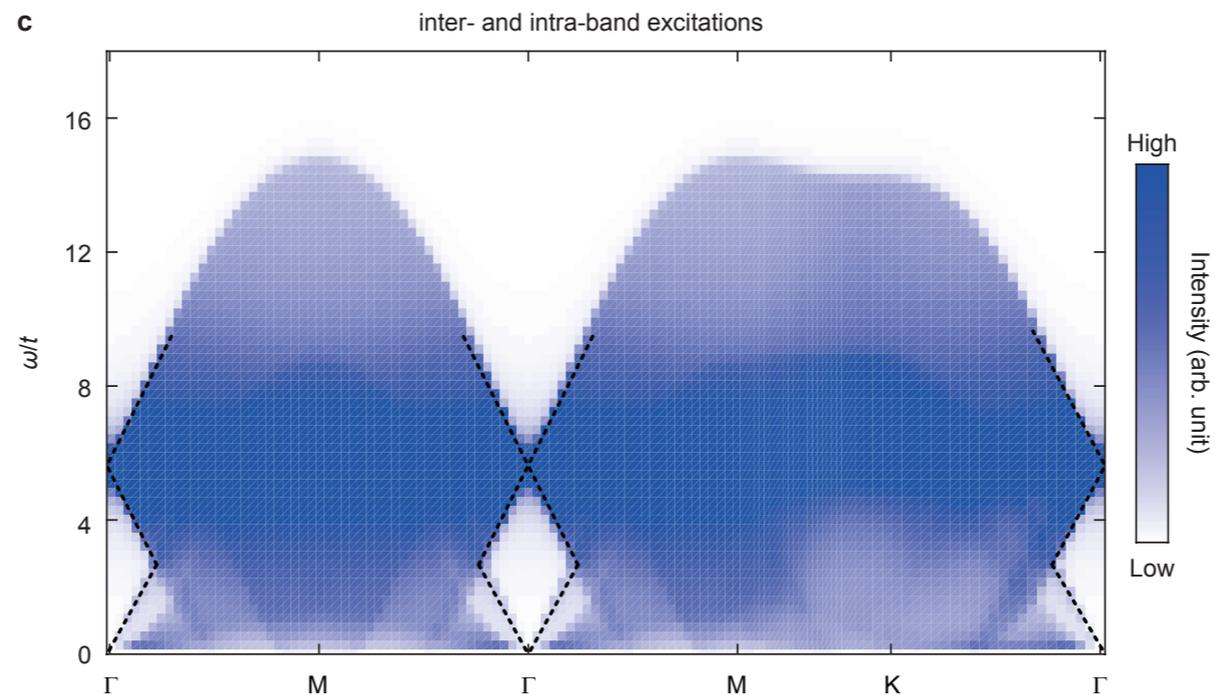
Very different from magnon in the field !!

# Excitation continuum in weakly magnetized YbMgGaO4

Experiment:  
 Y Shen, YD Li, ..., GC\*, J Zhao\*  
 arXiv: 1708.06655



Theoretical results for  
 the experimental parameter



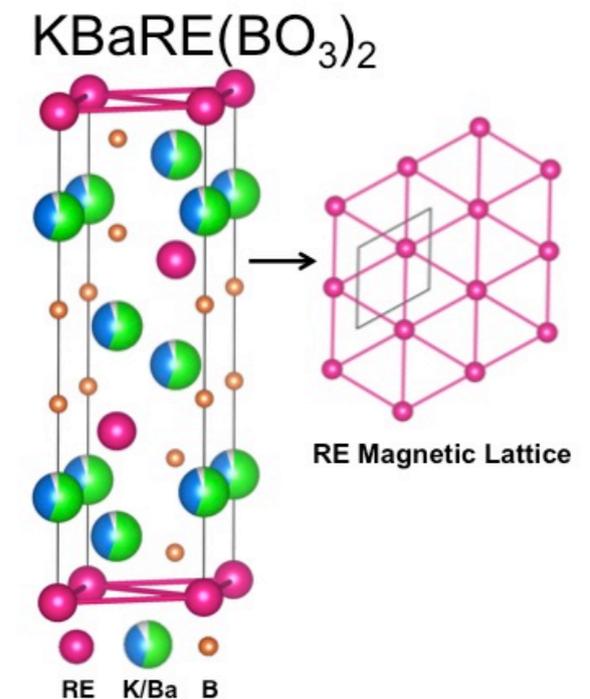
# Finally, lots of isostructural materials

| Compound                          | Magnetic ion                                 | Space group                  | Local moment        | $\Theta_{CW}$ (K) | Magnetic transition | Frustration para. $f$ | Refs. |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| YbMgGaO <sub>4</sub>              | Yb <sup>3+</sup> (4 <i>f</i> <sup>13</sup> ) | R $\bar{3}m$                 | Kramers doublet     | -4                | PM down to 60 mK    | $f > 66$              | [4]   |
| CeCd <sub>3</sub> P <sub>3</sub>  | Ce <sup>3+</sup> (4 <i>f</i> <sup>1</sup> )  | P6 <sub>3</sub> / <i>mmc</i> | Kramers doublet     | -60               | PM down to 0.48 K   | $f > 200$             | [5]   |
| CeZn <sub>3</sub> P <sub>3</sub>  | Ce <sup>3+</sup> (4 <i>f</i> <sup>1</sup> )  | P6 <sub>3</sub> / <i>mmc</i> | Kramers doublet     | -6.6              | AFM order at 0.8 K  | $f = 8.2$             | [7]   |
| CeZn <sub>3</sub> As <sub>3</sub> | Ce <sup>3+</sup> (4 <i>f</i> <sup>1</sup> )  | P6 <sub>3</sub> / <i>mmc</i> | Kramers doublet     | -62               | Unknown             | Unknown               | [8]   |
| PrZn <sub>3</sub> As <sub>3</sub> | Pr <sup>3+</sup> (4 <i>f</i> <sup>2</sup> )  | P6 <sub>3</sub> / <i>mmc</i> | Non-Kramers doublet | -18               | Unknown             | Unknown               | [8]   |
| NdZn <sub>3</sub> As <sub>3</sub> | Nd <sup>3+</sup> (4 <i>f</i> <sup>3</sup> )  | P6 <sub>3</sub> / <i>mmc</i> | Kramers doublet     | -11               | Unknown             | Unknown               | [8]   |

YD Li, XQ Wang, GC\*, PRB 94, 035107 (2016)

Magnetism in the KBaRE(BO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (RE=Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) series: materials with a triangular rare earth lattice

M. B. Sanders, F. A. Cevallos, R. J. Cava  
 Department of Chemistry, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544



# Summary

1. We propose  $\text{YbMgGaO}_4$  to be a spin-orbit-coupled spin liquid.
2. The signature of spin fractionalization has been discovered and interpreted as spinons.
3. Predictions have been made for the weakly magnetized regime. It can be immediately tested by inelastic neutron. It has been **confirmed** in Jun Zhao's recent experiment.