Origin of Dzialoshinsky-Moriya interactions

$$H_{\rm DM} = \mathbf{D}_{12}.(\mathbf{S}_1 \times \mathbf{S}_2)$$

-Antisymmetric interaction: ≠ 0 only if there is no center of symmetry between sites 1 and 2

$$-\overrightarrow{D}_{12} = -\overrightarrow{D}_{21}$$

- Produces a canting of the spins





-If M is an inversion center: D=0

-If the plane perpendicular to 1-2 (containing M) is a mirror plane, D is in this plane

-If 1 plane containing 1 and 2 is a mirror plane, D is perpendicular to this plane

(+ other rules related to the existence of rotation axis)



Example: Fe jarosite

2nd rule can be applied

Crystal field splitting around each Fe ion:



But x, y and z axis are different for each Fe site!

Superexchange:



D.M. interactions: involve spin-orbit interactions



Site 1

site 2





 $\Gamma \sim \lambda^2 \frac{t_1 t_2}{\lambda^2 \mu}$

To next order in λ , anisotropic exchange: $\sum_{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta} (S_1^{\alpha} S_2^{\beta} + S_2^{\alpha} S_1^{\beta})$

D/J $\approx \lambda/\Delta$ $\Gamma/J \approx (\lambda/\Delta)^2$

Small interactions, play an important role in multiferroics

Observed in many oxydes of TM ions: Fe2O3, CoCO3, Weak ferromagnetism, canting angle \approx D/J