Exchange and ordering in magnetic materials

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1-Origin of exchange

2- Exchange in insulators: superexchange and Goodenough-Kanamori rules

3- Exchange in metals: RKKY, double exchange, band magnetism

4- Magnetic ordering: different types of orderings, role of dimensionality, classical vs quantum spins







# Various types of ordered magnetic structures:





Fe	rromagnets	Antife
	Т <sub>с</sub>	
Fe	1043 K	
Co	1394 K	NIO
Ni	631 K	
Gd	293 K	

Antiferromagnets T<sub>N</sub> CoO 293K NiO 523K

Type of magnetic order depends on the interactions

Various microscopic mecanisms for <u>exchange interactions</u> in solids:

- -Localized / itinerant spin systems
- -Short / long range
- -Ferro or antiferro

$$H = -\sum_{ij} J_{ij} \, \overrightarrow{S_{\iota}} \, . \, \overrightarrow{S_{j}}$$

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<u>Origin of exchange interactions:</u> – electrostatic interactions – Pauli principle

Interatomic exchange: Hydrogen molecule

Exchange interactions are due to Coulomb repulsion of electrons

Hamiltonian of 2 H nuclei (A, B) + 2 electrons (1,2):

 $H = H_0(r_1 - R_a) + H_0(r_2 - R_B) + H_{int}$  $H_0 = p^2/2m + U(r)$ 



H<sub>int</sub>: Coulomb interaction

2 possibilities for the total electronic spin: S=0 or S=1

Wave function of the 2 electrons:  $\Psi(1,2) = \varphi(\vec{r}_1,\vec{r}_2)\chi(\sigma_1,\sigma_2)$  $\varphi(\vec{r}_1,\vec{r}_2)$ : orbital part  $\chi(\sigma_1,\sigma_2)$ : spin part

<u>Pauli principle</u>: wave function  $\Psi(1,2)$  should be antisymmetric

 $\Psi(1,2) = - \Psi(2,1)$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  either  $\phi$  symmetric,  $\chi$  antisymmetric or  $\phi$  antisymmetric,  $\chi$  symmetric

Spin wave-functions:

Singlet state: antisymmetric:  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$  S=0 Triplet state: symmetric (S=1)  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle), |\uparrow\uparrow\rangle, |\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$  S<sub>z</sub>= 0, ±1

Energy difference comes from the orbital part  $\langle \phi | H_{int} | \phi \rangle$  (no spin in the hamiltonian!)

 $H = H_0(r_1 - R_a) + H_0(r_2 - R_B) + H_{int}$ 



- Eigenfunctions of total hamiltonian
- Symmetric wave function: (associated with S=0)  $\varphi_S(r_1, r_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\psi_A(r_1)\psi_B(r_2) + \psi_A(r_2)\psi_B(r_1))$
- Antisymmetric wave function (associated with S=1)

$$\varphi_A(r_1, r_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \psi_A(r_1) \psi_B(r_2) - \psi_A(r_2) \psi_B(r_1) \right)$$

 $\Delta E_A \neq \Delta E_S \Rightarrow$  singlet and triplet have different energies 6

#### If S=1, wave function is antisymmetric in real space



# If S=O, wave function is symmetric in real space



Charge distribution is different  $\Rightarrow$  electrostatic energy is different Effective interaction between the 2 spins:

$$\Delta E = \Delta E_A - \Delta E_S = \Delta E(S=1) - \Delta E(S=0)$$

⇒ 
$$J_{12}\vec{S}_1.\vec{S}_2 = -\frac{J_{12}}{2}(\vec{S}_1 + \vec{S}_2)^2 + J_{12}S(S+1)$$
 and  $J_{12} = \Delta E$ 

 $J_{12} < 0$  for  $H_2$  molecule: ground state is singlet S=0

In H<sub>2</sub> molecule: <u>direct exchange</u> due to overlap between 2 atomic orbitals

In solids: direct exchange is also present:

$$J_{12} \propto \int dr_1 dr_2 \Phi_1(r_1) \Phi_2(r_2) V(r_{12}) \Phi_1(r_2) \Phi_2(r_1) \qquad (\Rightarrow J_{\rm D})$$

But indirect mecanisms are usually larger: -Superexchange (short range, ferro or AF) -RKKY (long range, oscillating sign) -Double exchange (ferro) -Itinerant magnetic systems

Exchange results always from competition between kinetic energy (delocalization) and Coulomb repulsion Hybridization (d-d, f-spd, d-sp...) is necessary 8

# Calculation of exchange using with Wannier functions (R. Skomski)



2 electrons wave function with  $S_z=0$  ( $\uparrow\downarrow$  pair)

$$\begin{split} \Psi(\mathbf{r},\,\mathbf{r}') &= c_{\mathrm{I}}\phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r})\phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r}') + c_{\mathrm{II}}\phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r})\phi_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathbf{r}') + c_{\mathrm{III}}\phi_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathbf{r})\phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r}') + c_{\mathrm{IV}}\phi_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathbf{r})\phi_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathbf{r}') \\ E\Psi &= \mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{o}}(\mathbf{r})\Psi + \mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{o}}(\mathbf{r}')\Psi + V_{\mathrm{C}}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}')\Psi \end{split}$$

 $H_0$ : 1-electron hamiltonian  $H_o(r) = -\hbar^2 \nabla^2 / 2m + V_o(r) + V_o(|r-R|)$ 

V<sub>c</sub> : Coulomb interactions

 $\Psi(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = c_{\mathrm{I}}\phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r})\phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r}') + c_{\mathrm{II}}\phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r})\phi_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathbf{r}') + c_{\mathrm{III}}\phi_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathbf{r})\phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r}') + c_{\mathrm{IV}}\phi_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathbf{r})\phi_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathbf{r}')$ 

#### **Coulomb integral:**

$$U = \int \int \phi_{\mathrm{L}}^{*}(\mathbf{r}) \phi_{\mathrm{L}}^{*}(\mathbf{r}') V_{\mathrm{C}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r}) \phi_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r}') \, \mathrm{d}V \, \mathrm{d}V'$$
$$= \int \int n_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r}) V_{\mathrm{C}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') n_{\mathrm{L}}(\mathbf{r}') \, \mathrm{d}V \, \mathrm{d}V'$$

(Coulomb energy of 2 electrons on the same atom)

# **Exchange integral**

$$J_{\rm D} = \int \int \phi_{\rm L}^*(\mathbf{r}) \phi_{\rm R}^*(\mathbf{r}') V_{\rm C}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \phi_{\rm R}(\mathbf{r}) \phi_{\rm L}(\mathbf{r}') \, \mathrm{d}V \, \mathrm{d}V'$$

$$\mathsf{H} = 2E_{o} + \begin{pmatrix} U & t & t & J_{D} \\ t & 0 & J_{D} & t \\ t & J_{D} & 0 & t \\ J_{D} & t & t & U \end{pmatrix}$$

**E**<sub>0</sub>: atomic energy

t: hopping integral

#### Solutions for the eigenstates

$$\begin{aligned} |1\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |LR\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |RL\rangle \\ |2\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |LL\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |RR\rangle \\ |3\rangle &= \frac{\sin \chi}{\sqrt{2}} (|LL\rangle + |RR\rangle) + \frac{\cos \chi}{\sqrt{2}} (|LR\rangle + |RL\rangle) \\ |4\rangle &= \frac{\cos \chi}{\sqrt{2}} (|LL\rangle + |RR\rangle) - \frac{\sin \chi}{\sqrt{2}} (|LR\rangle + |RL\rangle) \end{aligned}$$

$$E_{1} = 2E_{o} - J_{D}$$

$$E_{2} = 2E_{o} + U - J_{D}$$

$$E_{3} = 2E_{o} + \frac{U}{2} + J_{D} - \sqrt{4t^{2} + \frac{U^{2}}{4}}$$

$$E_{4} = 2E_{o} + \frac{U}{2} + J_{D} + \sqrt{4t^{2} + \frac{U^{2}}{4}}$$



#### **Ground state for J**<sub>D</sub>**>0**:

- Small t/U: state 1 (S<sub>z</sub>=0, S=1)
- Large t/U: state 3 (S<sub>z</sub>=0, S=0)

#### **Exchange:**

$$\frac{1}{2}(E_1 - E_3) = J_D + \frac{U}{4} - \sqrt{t^2 + \frac{U^2}{16}}$$

### Exchange:

$$\frac{1}{2}(E_1 - E_3) = J_D + \frac{U}{4} - \sqrt{t^2 + \frac{U^2}{16}}$$

2 contributions:

- J<sub>D</sub> (direct exchange)

- contribution of the kinetic energy t

At small t/U 
$$J = J_D - \frac{2t^2}{U}$$

J<sub>D</sub> can be >0 or <0, kinetic term is antiferromagnetic (superechange)

Exchange results always from competition between kinetic energy (delocalization) and Coulomb repulsion Hybridization (d-d, f-spd, d-sp...) is necessary

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<u>Superexchange</u>: in many materials (oxydes), magnetic atoms are separated by non-magnetic ions (oxygen)

⇒ Indirect interactions through Oxygen



➔

MnO: Mn<sup>2+</sup> are separated by O<sup>2-</sup>

3d wave functions hybridize with p wave function of O<sup>2-</sup>

In the antiferromagnetic configuration, electrons of atoms A and B can both hybridize with 1 p-electron of O<sup>2-</sup>: gain of kinetic energy

energy depends on the relative spin orientation

# Superexchange: due to hybridization



<u>Hybridization</u>:  $p_z$  wave function is mixed with  $d_{z2}$  orbitals

-If A and B antiparallel,  $p_{z\,\uparrow}$  hybridize with A  $p_{z\,\downarrow}$  hybridize with B

– If A and B parallel:  $p_{z\,\uparrow}\,$  hybridize with A and B, but no hybridization for  $p_{z\,\downarrow}$ 

Energy difference of the 2 configurations:

$$\Delta E = E_{\uparrow\uparrow} - E_{\uparrow\downarrow} \alpha \frac{b^4}{\varepsilon_d - \varepsilon_p}$$
 where *b* is the hybridization

An effective model :

- -1 orbital atoms with Coulomb repulsion
  - When 2 electrons in the same orbital: energy U
- 2 atoms with 1 electron

Α

- Effective hopping between A and B t<sub>AB</sub>

Β



- 2<sup>nd</sup> order perturbation in t<sub>AB</sub>:  

$$\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \Rightarrow \Delta E = 0$$
  
 $\uparrow \quad \downarrow \quad \Rightarrow \Delta E = -2t_{AB}^2/U$ 

energy depends on the relative spin orientation

Effective Heisenberg interaction: 
$$J_{AB} = -2 \frac{t_{AB}^2}{U}$$

Sign and value of superexchange depends on:

- The angle M O M
- The d orbitals involved in the bond

Some examples (Goodenough-Kanamori rules):





<sup>1</sup>2g

Fig. 42. Three possible 180° cation-anion-cation interactions between octahedral-site cations. (The  $p\pi$  orbitals are not indicated in the diagrams for cases 2 and 3.)

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d<sup>5</sup>: Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup> ; d<sup>3</sup>: Cr<sup>3+</sup>, V<sup>2+</sup>
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#### Goodenough: Magnetism and the chemical bond (1963)

<u>Caracteristics of superexchange</u> :

-Short range interaction: A and B should be connected by O ion

-Can be ferro or antiferromagnetic: usually AF, but not always

-depends on - orbital occupation (nb of 3d-electrons, e<sub>g</sub> or t<sub>2g</sub> character)

- A-O-B angle
- Very common in oxides or sulfides

<u>Goodenough-Kanamori rules: empirical but most of the</u> <u>time correct</u>

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# Double exchange in 3d metals

Metallic systems are often mixed valence: example of manganites: La<sub>1-x</sub>Ca<sub>x</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub>: coexistence of Mn<sup>4+</sup> (3 electrons, S=3/2) and Mn<sup>3+</sup> (4 electrons, S=2, localized spin 3/2 + 1 conduction electron in e<sub>a</sub> band<sup>)</sup>



Ferromagnetic interaction due to local Hund's coupling –  $J_H S_i S_i$ . For large  $J_H : E_F - E_{AF} \propto - t$  (hopping energy) Toy model: 2 spins + conduction electron



# Phase diagram of manganites





### Neighboring ions:

- -2 Mn<sup>3+</sup> ions: superexchange (AF)
- -2 Mn<sup>4+</sup> ions: superexchange (AF)
- Mn<sup>3+</sup> Mn<sup>4+</sup>: double exchange (F)

Competition between: superexchange, double exchange (+ Jahn-Teller effect)

# RKKY interactions (rare earths):

-In rare earth, 4 f states are localized  $\Rightarrow$  no overlap with neighboring sites

-4f states hybridize with conduction band (6s, 5d)  $\Rightarrow$  long range interactions



Interaction between 2 RE ions at distance R: transmitted by conduction electrons



# Microscopic mecanism:

-Local interaction J between 4f spin  $S_i$  and conduction electron spin density s(r):  $- J(R_i-r)S_i.s(r)$ 

-J(R<sub>i</sub>-r) is local: Jδ(R<sub>i</sub>-r)



-Field acting on the itinerant spin  $s(R_i)$ :  $h_i \alpha JS_i$ 

- Induced polarization of conduction - electrons at all sites:  $m_j = \chi_{ij} h_i$ -where  $\chi_{ij}$  is the generalized (non-local) susceptibility

-Effective field at site j on spin  $S_j : h_j \alpha Jm_j = J^2 \chi_{ij} S_i$ 

-Interaction energy between  $S_i$  and  $S_i$ :

 $\mathsf{E}_{ij} \ \alpha \ \mathsf{J}^2 \mathsf{X}_{ij} \mathsf{S}_i . \mathsf{S}_j = \mathsf{J}(\mathsf{R}_i - \mathsf{R}_j) \mathsf{S}_i . \mathsf{S}_j$ 

Exchange interaction between 2 rare earth ions:

$$J(R_i - R_j) \approx J^2 \rho(E_F) \frac{cos(2k_F(R_i - R_j)}{(R_i - R_j)^3}$$

J = local exchange  $\rho(E_F)$ = conduction electron density of states



- Interaction is long range (  $\approx 1/R^3$ )
- caracteristic length ≈ 1/2k<sub>F</sub>
- Oscillating interaction

$$J(r) \propto rac{-xcosx+sinx}{x^4}$$
 ,  $x = 2k_F r$ 

#### <u>Magnetic structures of rare-earth metals:</u>

$$J(R_i - R_j) \approx J^2 \rho(E_F) \frac{\cos(2k_F(R_i - R_j))}{(R_i - R_j)^3}$$

Large variety of structures: Ferro, AF, helicoidal....

Long range + oscillating

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{In 3D systems:} & \mathsf{J}(r) \propto \frac{\cos(2k_F r)}{r^3} \\ \text{in 2D:} & \mathsf{J}(r) \propto \frac{\sin(2k_F r)}{r^2} \\ \text{in 1D:} & \mathsf{J}(r) \propto \frac{\cos(2k_F r)}{r} \end{array}$$

# Oscillatory exchange between 2 ferromagnetic layers separated by a non magnetic layer



2 ferromagnetic layers F1 and F2 at distance D

Sign of coupling is an oscillating function of D:





#### Exchange interaction in 3d itinerant magnetic systems



In 3d: <u>overlap of 3d wave functions</u> of nearest neighbors atoms: metallic systems

⇒ <u>magnetic</u> and <u>kinetic</u> energy are of the same order: itinerant magnetism

Itinerant spin systems: magnetic moment is due to electrons in <u>partially filled bands (</u>3d band of transition metals)

metal	order	<i>т</i> (µ <sub>в</sub> )
Cr	af	0.6
Mn	af	1.0
Fe	ferro	2.2
Co	ferro	1.7
Ni	ferri	0.6



### Magnetism of 3d metals: due to itinerant caracter of 3 d electrons





d electrons form a narrow band (few eV)

# Susceptibility of band electrons: Magnetic field B splits the $\downarrow$ and $\uparrow$ spin bands: $H_Z = -\vec{M}.\vec{B}$ $\longrightarrow \delta \varepsilon = \mu_B B$

Induced magnetization:  $M = \mu_B (N_{\uparrow} - N_{\downarrow}) = 2 \mu_B \rho(E_F) \, \delta \epsilon$ 



Decrease of magnetic energy:  $E_M = U n_{\uparrow} n_{\downarrow} = U \frac{N^2}{4} - U \rho (E_F)^2 (\delta \epsilon)^2$ 

Increase of <u>kinetic energy</u>:  $\Delta E_{c} = \rho(E_{F})(\delta \varepsilon)^{2}$ 

<u>Zeeman energy</u>:  $E_Z = -\vec{M} \cdot \vec{B} = -2\mu_B \rho(E_F) B \delta \epsilon$ 

$$\Delta E_{total} = \left(\frac{M}{2\mu_B}\right)^2 \rho(E_F) \left(1 - U\rho(E_F)\right) - MB$$

Resulting magnetic moment:  $M = \frac{2\mu_B^2 \rho(E_F)}{1 - U\rho(E_F)}B$ 

Susceptibility:  $\chi = \frac{\chi_{Pauli}}{1 - Uo(E_{r})}$ 

Susceptibility is enhanced by the Stoner factor S =  $1 - U\rho(E_F)$ 

Paramagnetic state becomes unstable when  $U\rho(E_{F}) > 1$ 

- large U
- or large density of states at the

Fermi level

Stoner criterion is satisfied only for the 3d elements



U

Itinerant ferromagnetism:

When the Stoner criterion is satisfied  $U\rho(E_F) > 1$  , ferromagnetism can be stabilized

Origin of magnetism: Coulomb interaction U

Strong / weak ferromagnets





 <u>Magnetism of impurities in metals</u>: (i.e. Fe, Co, Ni in no-magnetic metals AI, Cu, Ag....)

- Impurity is magnetic if Stoner criterion is satisfied locally:  $U\rho_i(E_F) > 1$ - $\rho_i(E_F)$  depends on surroundings



Magnetic moment of Fe in a 30 layers film

Magnetic moment of Pd in Fe/Pd multilayers

-Magnetism can be enhanced or supressed near a surface or interface (coordination, crystal field, electronic structure....different near surface)

Magnetic moments for itinerant systems strongly depend on their <u>environment and interactions</u>:

Magnetic moment of Fe determined by atomic rules:  $m_0 = g_J \mu_B J$ ,  $m_{eff} = g_J \mu_B (J(J+1))^{1/2}$ 

Fe<sup>3+</sup>:  $3d^5$  L=0, S=5/2, J=5/2,  $g_J$ = 2 ,  $m_0 = 5\mu_B$  ,  $m_{eff} = 5.9$ Fe<sup>2+</sup>:  $3d^6$ , L=2, S=2, J=4,  $g_J$ =3/2 ,  $m_0 = 6\mu B$  ,  $m_{eff} = 6.7$ 

# Fe-compounds:

- FeO (Fe<sup>2+</sup>):  $m_{eff} = 5.33 \rightarrow partial quenching of orbital moment (if total quenching, spin only magnetism <math>\rightarrow m_{eff} = 4.9$ ) (AF)
- $\gamma Fe_2O_3$  (Fe<sup>3+</sup>):  $m_0 = 5 \mu_B$  (ferrimagnetic)
- a-Fe (metal):  $m_0=2.2 \mu_B$  (ferromagnet)
- $YFe_2$  (metal):  $m_0=1.45 \mu_B$  (ferromagnet)
- $YFe_2Si_2$  : Fe is non-magnetic (enhanced paramagnet)
- $FeS_2$  : diamagnetic
- Fe surface:  $m_0=2.8 \mu_B$

#### Rare earth-transition metal compounds

2 magnetic sublattices:

M-M interactions: 'band magnetism'

M-R interactions: through d-electrons (3d-5d)

- **R-R interactions: RKKY**
- $\Rightarrow$  complex magnetic ordering:
  - non colinear
  - incommensurate
  - frustration

⇒ large variety of properties (possibility of large anisotropy , large Magnetization, and strong interactions)



#### Other interactions between magnetic moments:

- Anisotropic exchange  $J_{ij}^{\alpha\beta}S_i^{\alpha}S_j^{\beta}$  due to spin-orbit coupling  $(J_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} = J_{ij}^{\beta\alpha})$
- Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interacions:  $\overrightarrow{D_{ij}}$  ( $\overrightarrow{S_i} \times \overrightarrow{S_j}$ )
  - Due to spin-orbit coupling
  - Present when no inversion center
  - favors non-colinear structure





The largest interaction is the Heisenberg exchange, other interactions are usually perturbations

$$H = -\sum_{ij} J_{ij} \, \overrightarrow{S_{\iota}} \, . \, \overrightarrow{S_{j}}$$