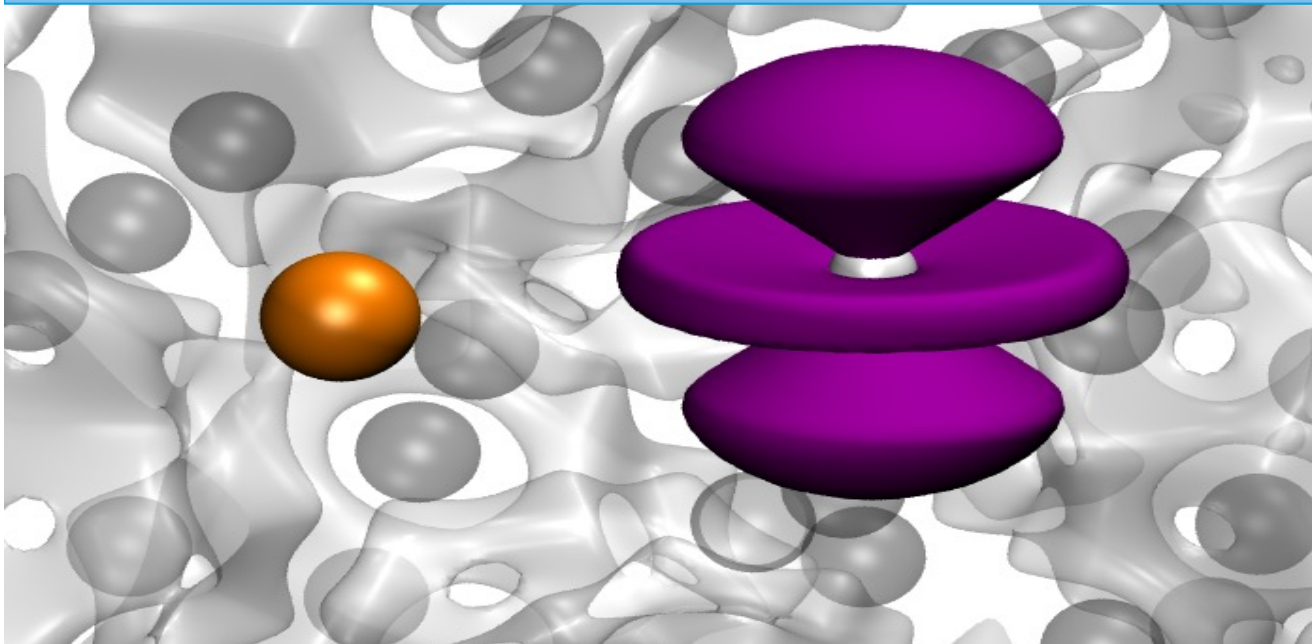


1. Atomic magnetism

2. Exchange interactions, magnetic order and structure

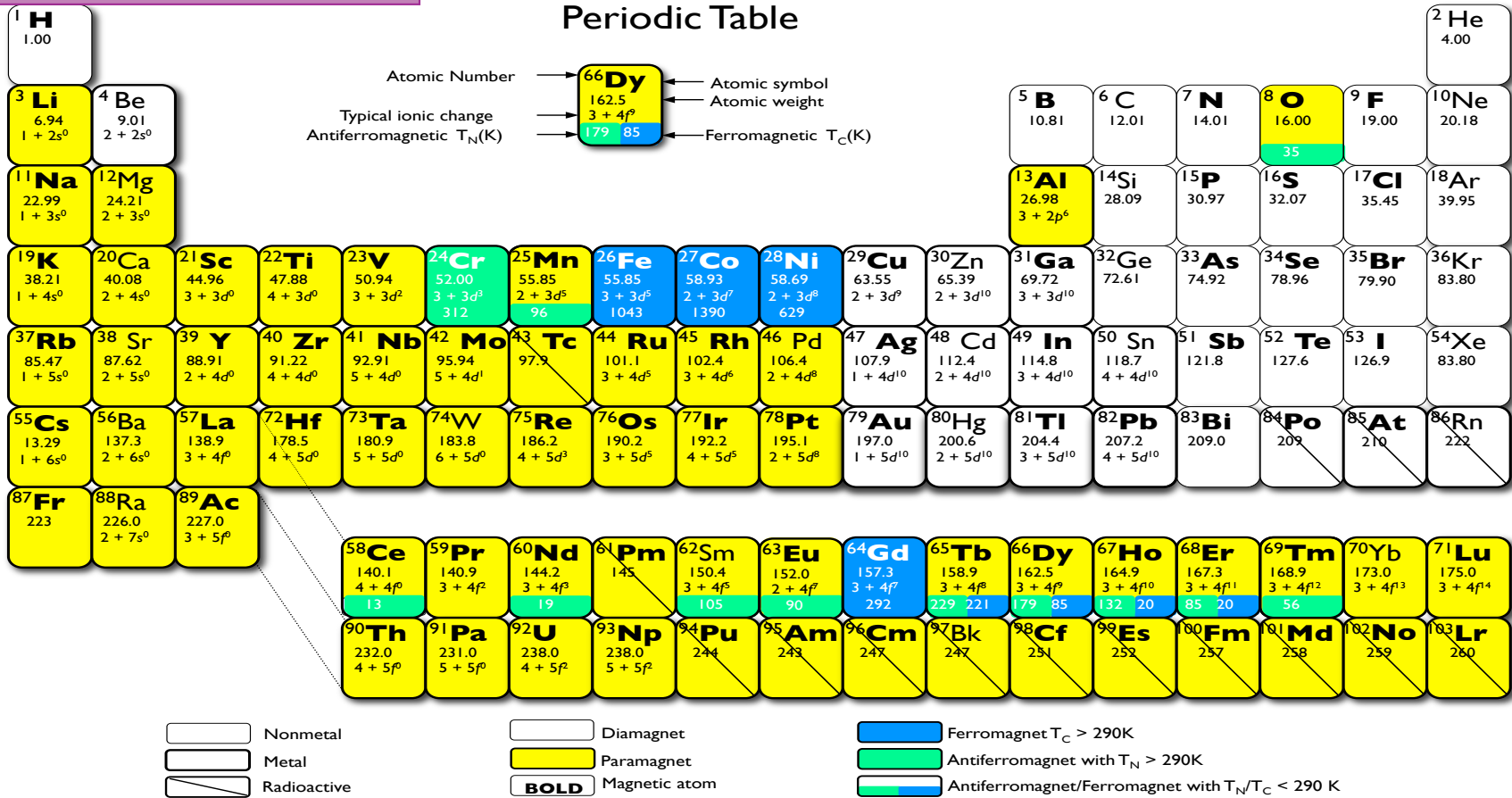


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Julie Staunton  
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***European School of  
Magnetism 2024***



**Most atoms are magnetic in ground state  
 In condensed matter magnetic order is more elusive**

# Challenge for modelling materials' properties

In atoms, molecules and solids, many ( $10^2 - 10^{24}$ ) interacting electrons and nuclei. Modelling must account for

- Kinetic energies of electrons (and nuclei)
- Electromagnetic interactions
- Indistinguishability of identical electrons, each with spin  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$   
---- > antisymmetric many electron wavefunctions

(Pauli Exclusion Principle PEP)

$$\Psi(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_j, \dots) = - \Psi(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_j, \dots, x_i, \dots)$$

# Atomic Magnetism - topics

- Electron on the H-atom – revision of angular momentum in QM
- Charged particle in a magnetic field **B**
- H-atom in constant B, orbital and spin moments,

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \frac{e}{2m} \mathbf{L}, \boldsymbol{\mu} = \frac{ge}{2m} \mathbf{S}, \text{ Total } \boldsymbol{\mu}_J = \frac{e}{2m} (\mathbf{L} + g \mathbf{S})$$

- Many electrons in atoms, wavefunctions in terms of antisymmetrised products of 1 – electron functions
- Hund's Rules
- Zeeman effect  $\rightarrow$  paramagnetism, susceptibility  $\chi$ , (diamagnetism, crystal fields)

# Electron in a H-atom

- One electron and a symmetric potential, (e.g. H-atom)

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) + V(r) \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

with stationary states

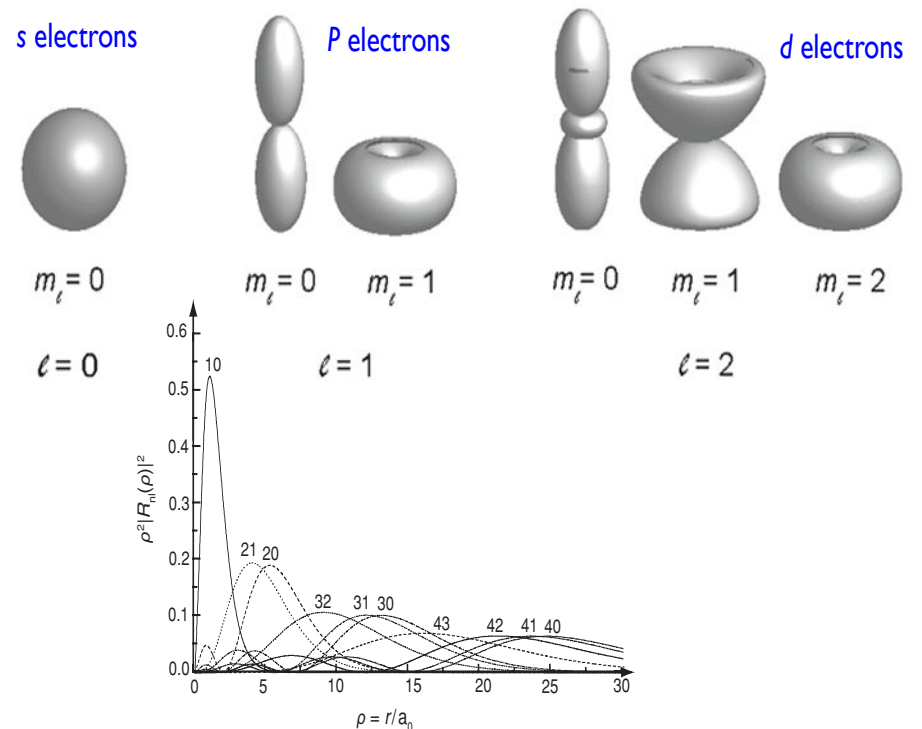
$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \Phi_{n,l,m}(r, \theta, \phi) u_{\sigma} e^{-iE_n t/\hbar}$$

where

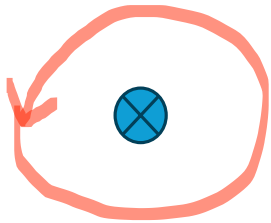
$$\Phi_{n,l,m}(r, \theta, \phi) = R_{nl}(r) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

and principal,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , angular momentum,  $l = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$  and  $m = -l, -l+1, \dots, l$  and spin,  $\sigma = \uparrow, \downarrow$ , quantum numbers.

- H-atom:  $V(r) = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$ ,  $E_n = -\frac{13.6}{n^2}$  eV.



# Charged particle in a magnetic field



Classical picture: with magnetic  $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$  and electric fields  $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t}$ , the Hamiltonian is

$$H = \frac{1}{2m}(\mathbf{p} - q\mathbf{A})^2 + qV$$

with particle's motion set by

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = q(\mathbf{E} + (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})).$$

Quantum:  $\hat{H}\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = i\hbar\frac{\partial\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t}$  and  $\mathbf{p} \rightarrow -i\hbar\nabla$ .

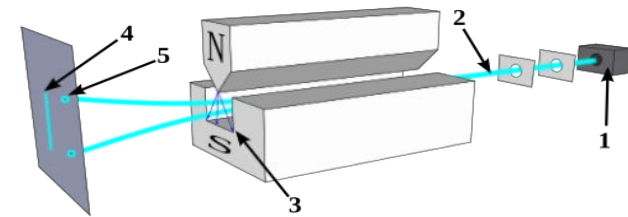
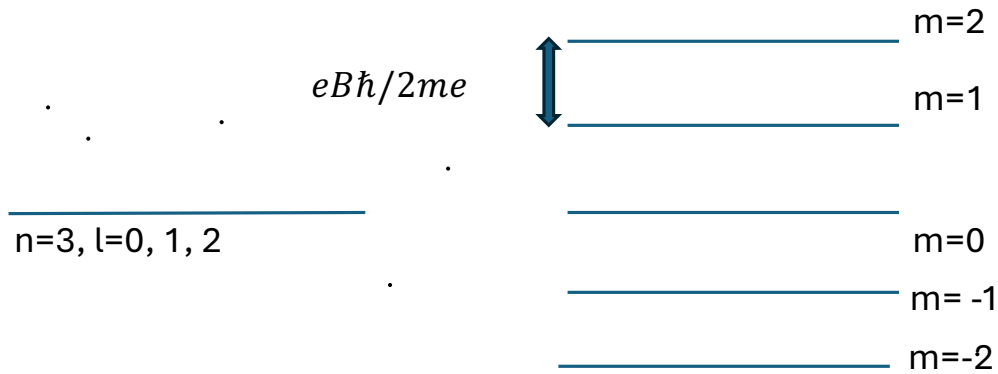
In a constant magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$ ,  $\mathbf{A} = -\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{B})$  and the Schrodinger Eq. is

$$\left( -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2 - \frac{q}{2m}\mathbf{B} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{L}} + \frac{q^2(\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{B})^2}{8m} + qV \right) \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = i\hbar\frac{\partial\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t}.$$

The angular momentum  $\hat{\mathbf{L}} = (\mathbf{r} \times \hat{\mathbf{p}})$  where the components follow  $[\hat{L}_x\hat{L}_y - \hat{L}_y\hat{L}_x] = i\hbar\hat{L}_z$  etc. leads to an magnetic moment  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \frac{q}{2m}\hat{\mathbf{L}}$

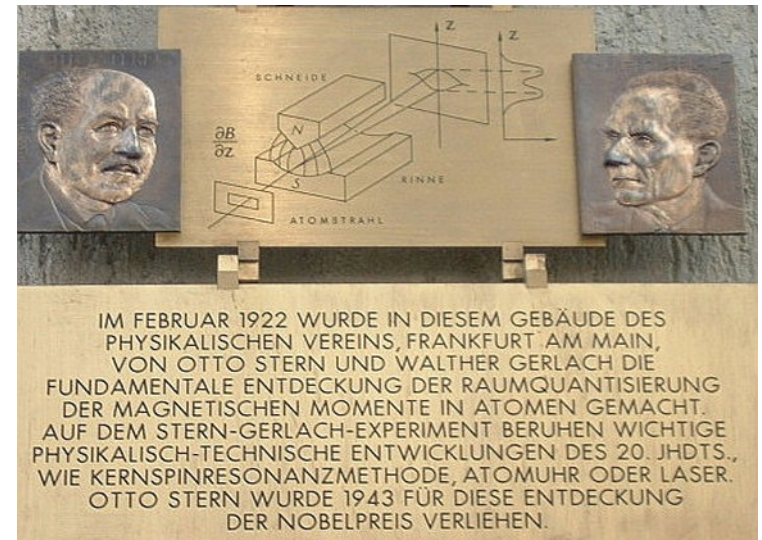
In a weak magnetic field (Zeeman Effect) the degeneracy of the energy levels of the electron in a hydrogen atom are broken and become  $E_n + m\frac{e\hbar B}{2m_e}$ .

So, in a weak magnetic fields spectral lines split



but splitting is further doubled  
(Stern Gerlach experiment)

→ electrons' intrinsic spin  $1/2 \hbar$   
and spin magnetic moment,  $\mu_s$ .



## Spin, spin moments, Pauli matrices...

- An electron has spin  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$  with spin magnetic moment,  $\frac{ge\hbar}{4m} \boldsymbol{\sigma} = \mu_B \boldsymbol{\sigma}$   
Interaction with magnetic field -  $\mu_B \mathbf{B} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ , eigenvalues  $\pm \mu_B B$
- Spin properties captured by 2 X 2 matrices: Pauli spin matrices,  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z)$ . Spin angular momentum  $\mathbf{S} = \frac{1}{2}\hbar \boldsymbol{\sigma}$

Pauli-Schrodinger Eq. (omitting diamagnetic term)

$$\left( \frac{1}{2m} \hat{\mathbf{p}}^2 + \frac{e}{2m} \mathbf{B} \cdot (\hat{\mathbf{L}} + g\hat{\mathbf{S}}) - eV(r) \right) \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t}.$$

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}, t) \\ \Psi_{\downarrow}(\mathbf{r}, t) \end{pmatrix},$$

Relativistic QM, Dirac Eq. --- spin arises naturally and leading relativistic corrections include spin-orbit coupling  $\Lambda(r) \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S}$



# Atomic Magnetism - topics

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- Many electrons in atoms, wavefunctions in terms of antisymmetrised products of 1 – electron functions
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# Many electrons in atoms – spin and exchange

- Helium atom,  $Z = 2$ , to illustrate.  
Kinetic energy of 1st electron, its attraction to doubly charged nucleus, kinetic energy of 2nd electron, its attraction to nucleus, repulsion between the two electrons.

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|}$$

$$\hat{H}\Psi_\lambda = E_\lambda\Psi_\lambda, \Psi_\lambda(\mathbf{r}_1, \sigma_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \sigma_2) = -\Psi_\lambda(\mathbf{r}_2, \sigma_2, \mathbf{r}_1, \sigma_1).$$

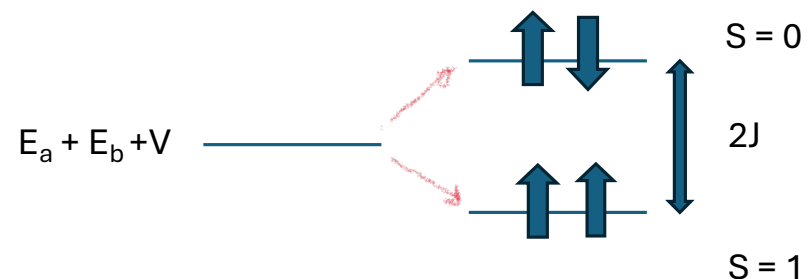
- Neglect e-e interaction and  $\Psi_\lambda(\mathbf{r}_1, \sigma_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \sigma_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\phi_a(\mathbf{r}_1)u_{1,\sigma}\phi_b(\mathbf{r}_2)u_{2,\sigma'} - \phi_a(\mathbf{r}_2)u_{2,\sigma}\phi_b(\mathbf{r}_1)u_{1,\sigma'})$  where  $a = (n, l, m)$ ,  $b = (n', l', m')$ ,  $\sigma, \sigma' = \uparrow, \downarrow$  and  $\phi_{a(b)}$  are one-electron hydrogenic functions for  $Z = 2$ .

- Show that e-e interaction breaks degeneracy to split states into two sets: a triplet with spin  $S = 1, (\uparrow\uparrow)$  and a singlet with spin  $S = 0, (\uparrow\downarrow)$  and energies  $E_a + E_b + (V - J)$  and  $E_a + E_b + (V + J)$  respectively.
- Coulomb integral

$$V = \int \int |\phi_a(\mathbf{r}_1)|^2 V_{ee}(|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|) |\phi_b(\mathbf{r}_2)|^2 d\mathbf{r}_1 d\mathbf{r}_2$$

and Exchange integral

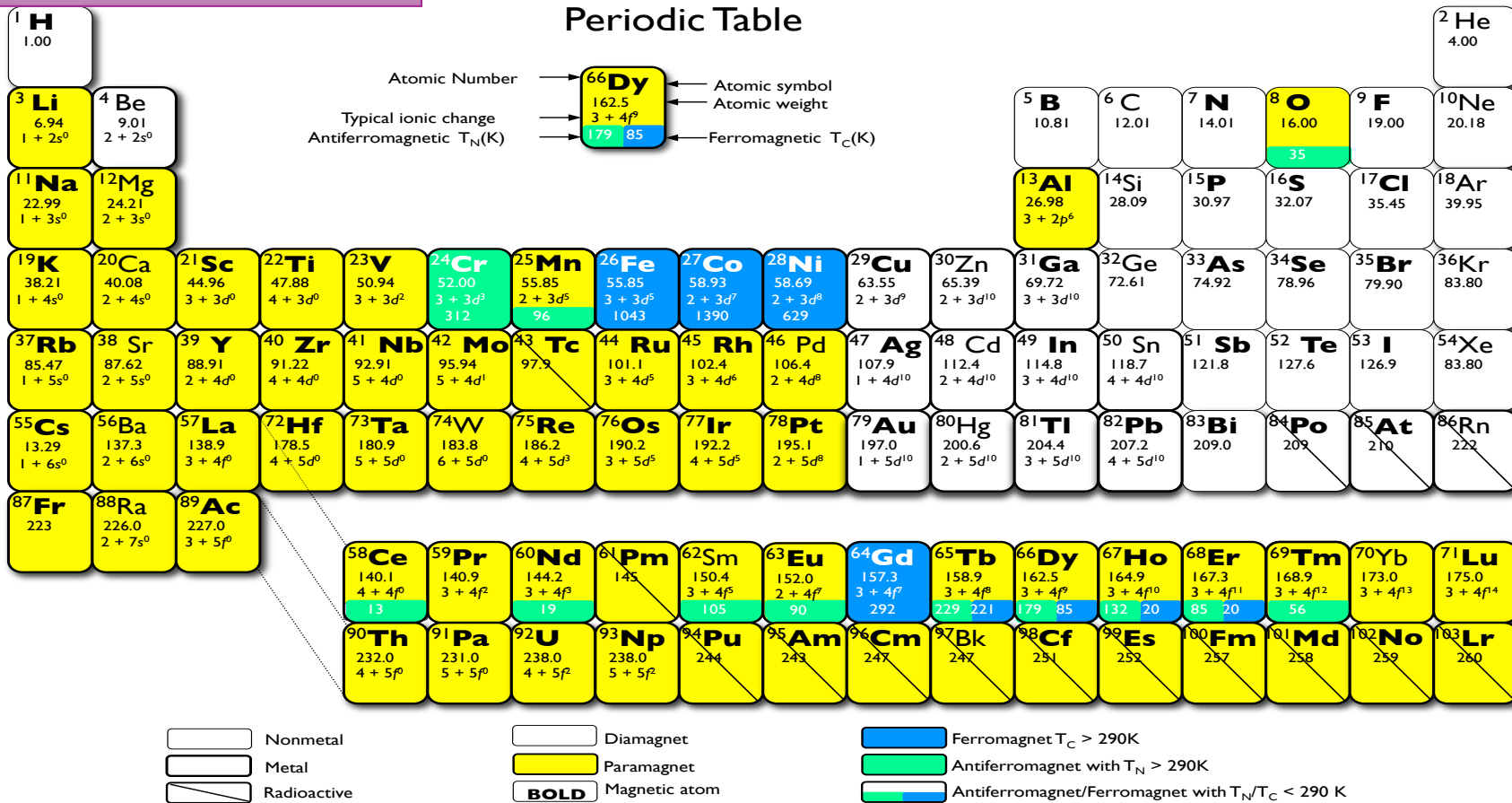
$$J = \int \int \phi_a^*(\mathbf{r}_1)\phi_b(\mathbf{r}_1)V_{ee}(|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|)\phi_b^*(\mathbf{r}_2)\phi_a(\mathbf{r}_2)d\mathbf{r}_1 d\mathbf{r}_2$$



# Many electrons in atoms

- 2 electrons in same spatial state occupy different spin states ( $S=0$ ), electrons with 'parallel' spins ( $S=1$ ) tend to avoid each other --- spin correlation. Magnetic properties of matter.
- Many electron wavefunctions as Slater determinants of 1-electron wavefunctions.
- Each electron in effective potential set up by nucleus and other electrons,  $l$  degeneracy broken.
- Products of states labelled as  $1s^2, 2s^2, 2p^6, \dots$
- **Hunds' Rules**

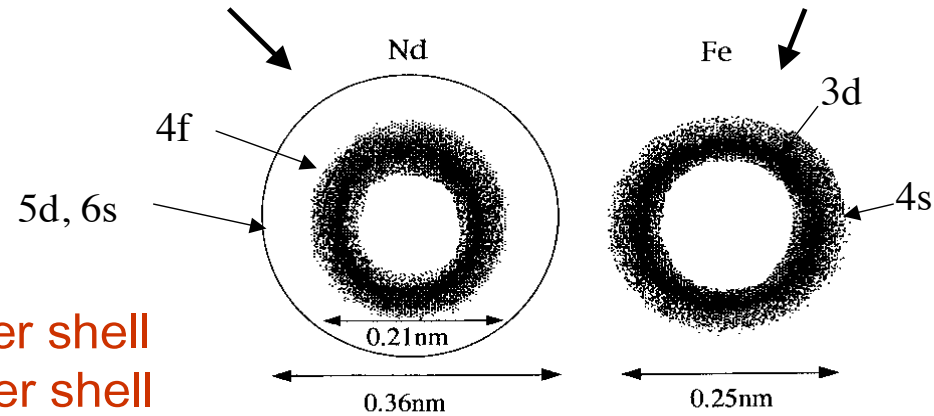
	$n$	$l$	$m_l$	$m_s$	No of states
<b>1s</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>2</b>
<b>2s</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>2</b>
<b>2p</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0, <math>\pm 1</math></b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>6</b>
<b>3s</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>2</b>
<b>3p</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0, <math>\pm 1</math></b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>6</b>
<b>3d</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0, <math>\pm 1, \pm 2</math></b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>10</b>
<b>4s</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>2</b>
<b>4p</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0, <math>\pm 1</math></b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>6</b>
<b>4d</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0, <math>\pm 1, \pm 2</math></b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>10</b>
<b>4f</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0, <math>\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3</math></b>	$\pm 1/2$	<b>14</b>



**Most atoms are magnetic in ground state  
 In condensed matter magnetic order is more elusive**

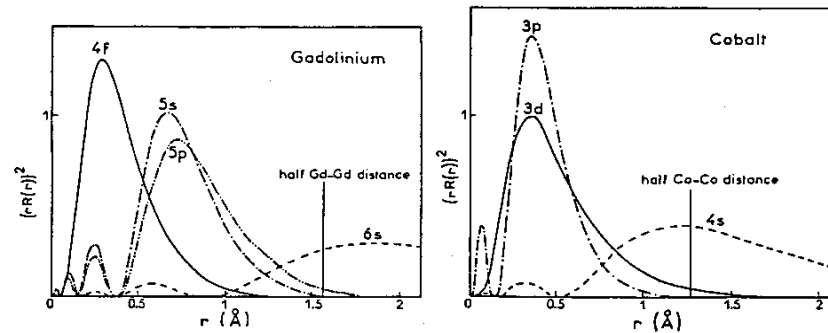
# The 2 main series of magnetic elements

Rare-earth element      Transition-metal element



4f electrons : inner shell  
3d electrons : outer shell

leads to very different behaviours



# Hunds' Rules

First add orbital **L** and spin **S** momenta of the electrons

Then couple them to give total  **$\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S}$**

$$J^2 \rightarrow j(j+1) \hbar^2, \quad J_z \rightarrow m_j \hbar, \quad m_j = -J, -J+1, \dots, J$$

$$J = |L + S|, |L + S - 1|, \dots, |L - S|$$

Different J-states are termed *multiplets*  $^{2S+1}X_J$

X = S, P, D, F, G, ... for L = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, ...

Total magnetic moment  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_J = -\frac{e}{2m} (\mathbf{L} + g\mathbf{S}) = -g_J \frac{e}{2m} \mathbf{J}$

where  $g_J = 3/2 + (S(S+1) - L(L+1))/2J(J+1)$

Hunds' Rules:

To determine ground state of many electron atom/ion

**1. Maximise S**

**2. Maximise L** consistent with S

**3. Couple L and S to form J**

- Shell < half full,  $J = |L - S|$
- Shell > half full,  $J = L + S$

## Examples

Co<sup>2+</sup> ion (Co Z = 27)

1s<sup>2</sup>, 2s<sup>2</sup>, 2p<sup>6</sup>, 3s<sup>2</sup>, 3p<sup>6</sup>, 3d<sup>7</sup>, (4s<sup>2</sup>)

m	-2	-1	0	1	2
	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
	↓	↓	.	.	.

Maximising S = 3/2

Maximising L = 3

J = L + S = 9/2

<sup>4</sup>F<sub>9/2</sub>

Try Mn<sup>2+</sup> (Mn Z=25) and Ho<sup>3+</sup> (Ho Z=67) ions

Sm<sup>3+</sup> ion (Sm Z = 62)

[Xe], 4f<sup>5</sup>, (6s<sup>2</sup>, 5d<sup>1</sup>)

m	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
	.	.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Maximising S = 5/2

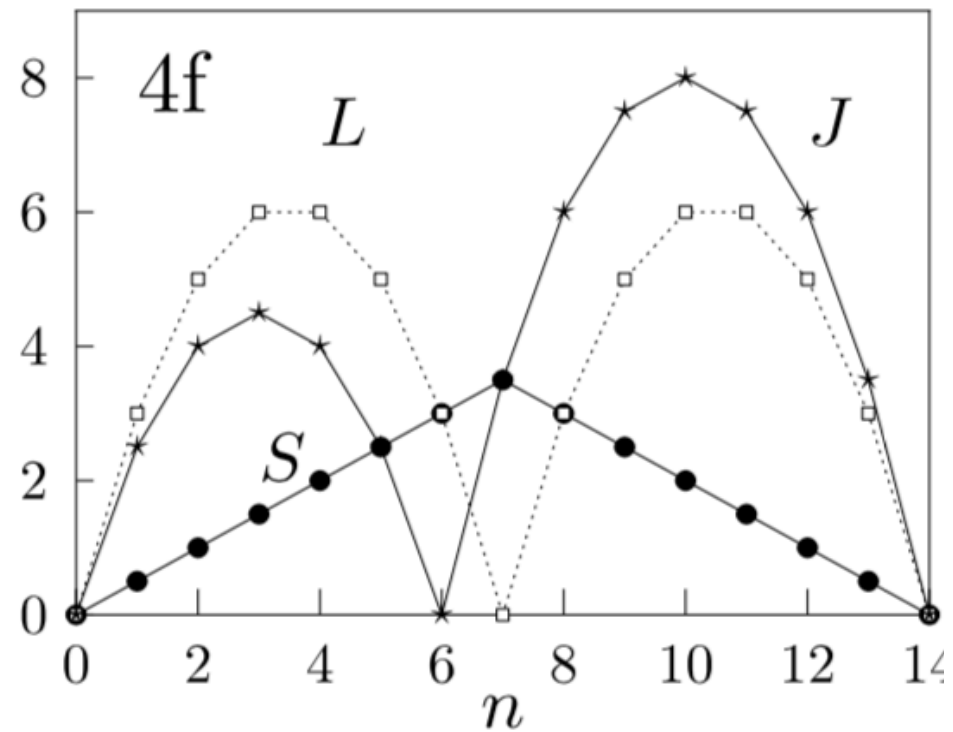
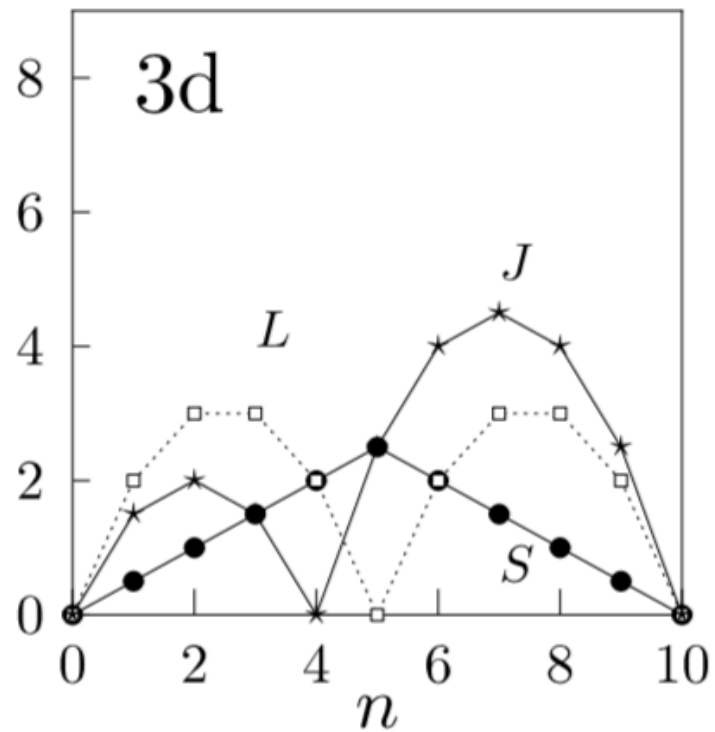
Maximising L = 5

J = |L - S| = 5/2

<sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub>

Mn<sup>2+</sup>: S=5/2, L=0, J= 5/2, <sup>6</sup>S<sub>5/2</sub>.

Ho<sup>3+</sup>: S=2, L=6, J=8, <sup>5</sup>I<sub>8</sub>



S. J. Blundell, Magnetism in Condensed Matter (OUP, 2001)



# Atomic Magnetism - topics

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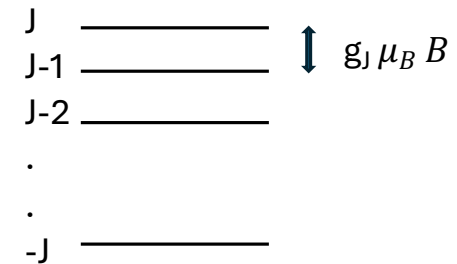
# Zeeman effect, $\chi$ , paramagnetism

- What is the change to magnetization  $M$  to  $N$  atoms in volume  $V$  by applying a magnetic field  $B$ ?
- Energy levels are split into  $2J+1$
- Partition function  $Z$ , Free Energy, magnetisation  $M$

$$Z = \sum_i e^{-E_i/k_B T} = \sum_{m_J=-J}^{m_J=J} e^{\frac{-m_J g_J \mu_B B}{k_B T}}.$$

$$F = -(N/V) k_B T \ln Z,$$

$$M = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial B}$$



Paramagnetism weak, positive, T-dependent  
(stronger than T-independent diamagnetism).

$$\chi = \frac{M}{H} = \frac{\mu_0 M}{B} = (N/V) \frac{\mu_{eff}^2}{3k_B T}$$

$$\mu_{eff} = g_J \mu_B \sqrt{J(J+1)}$$

Workings, saturation magnetization,  $M_s$ , Brillouin function  $B_J(y)$ ...

$$Z = \sum_i e^{-E_i/k_B T} = \sum_{m_J=-J}^{m_J=J} e^{\frac{-m_J g_J \mu_B B}{k_B T}}.$$

$$F = -(N/V) k_B T \ln Z,$$

$$M = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial B}$$

$$M = M_S \mathcal{B}_J \left( \frac{J g_J \mu_B B}{k_B T} \right)$$

$$M_S = (N/V) g_J \mu_B J$$

$$\mathcal{B}_J(y) = \frac{(2J+1)}{2J} \coth \left( \frac{(2J+1)}{2J} y \right) - \frac{1}{2J} \coth \left( \frac{y}{2J} \right)$$

$$J \rightarrow \infty, \mathcal{B}(y) = \coth(y) - \frac{1}{y}.$$

$$J = \frac{1}{2}, \mathcal{B}_{1/2}(y) = \tanh(y)$$

$$y \rightarrow 0, \mathcal{B}_J(y) = \frac{(J+1)y}{3J}$$

$$\chi = \frac{M}{H} = \frac{\mu_0 M}{B} = (N/V) \frac{\mu_{eff}^2}{3k_B T}$$


$$\mu_{eff} = g_J \mu_B \sqrt{J(J+1)}$$

## Supporting material

- S. J Blundell, “*Magnetism in Condensed Matter*”, O. U. P. (2001).
- N. W. Ashcroft and N. D. Mermin, “*Solid State Physics*”, Cengage, (2021).
- J. M. D. Coey, ”*Magnetism and Magnetic Materials*”, C. U. P. (2010).
- J. Kübler, “*Theory of Itinerant Electron Magnetism*”, O. U. P. , (2021)

Lecture notes from past ESMs by e.g.

S. Blundell, J. M. D. Coey, D. Givord, I. Mertig, W. Wulfhekel,.....

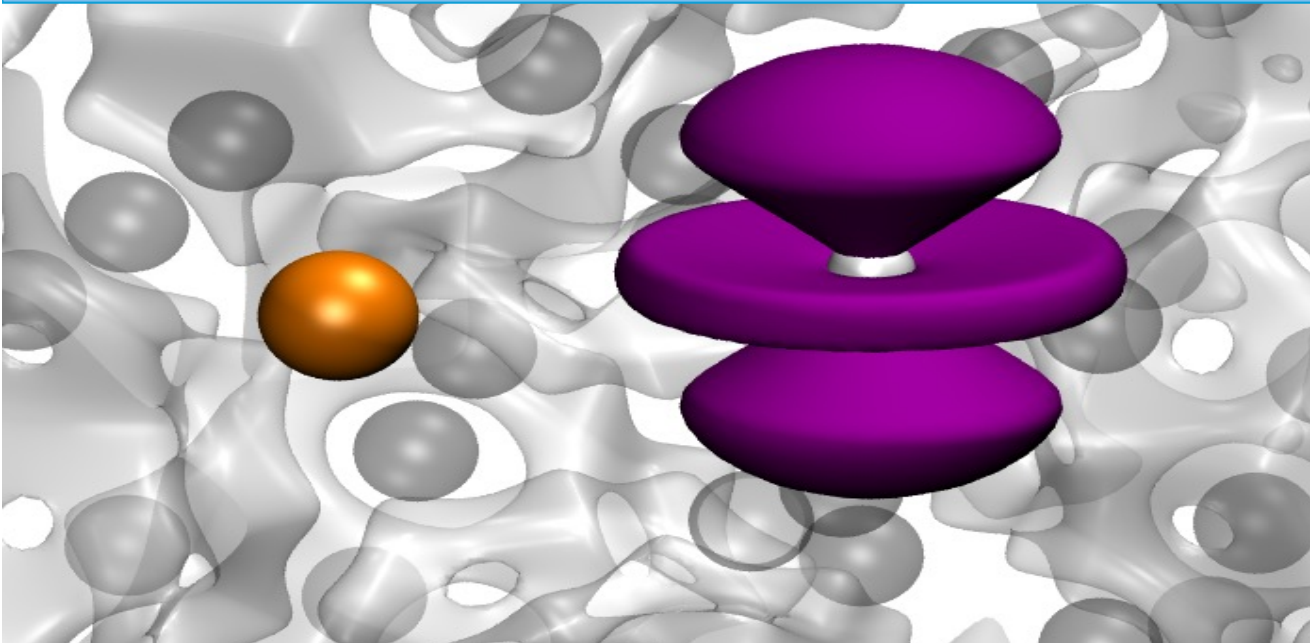


1. Atomic magnetism

2. Exchange interactions, magnetic order and structure



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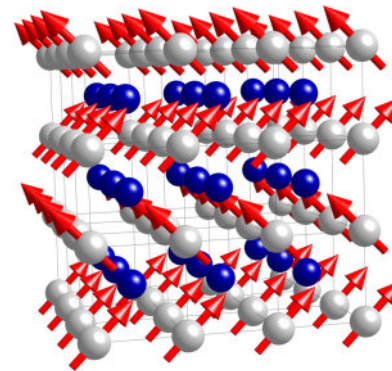


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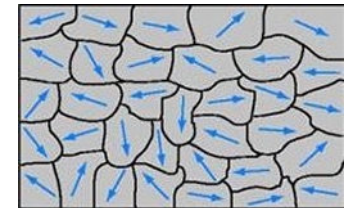
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Magnetism 2024***

# Exchange interactions, magnetic order and structure - topics

- Dipolar interactions between moments,  $\mu_i$ 's
- Exchange interactions
  - Direct exchange
  - Superexchange
  - Indirect exchange
- Itinerant electrons ---  $\mu_i$ 's ?



- “Spin” models for magnetism over longer length scales - mean field approximation
- Magnetic order,  $T_C$ ,  $T_N$ . Magnetic phases



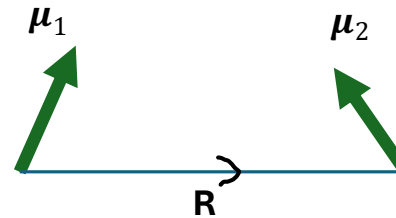
## Dipolar Interactions

$$E_{\text{dd}} \sim (\boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}_2 - 3(\boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \cdot \mathbf{R})(\boldsymbol{\mu}_2 \cdot \mathbf{R}))/R^3$$

$$E_{\text{dd}} \sim 10^{-5} \text{ eV}$$

Dipoles order at v. low T but magnetic ordering temperatures can be much higher e.g  
T<sub>c</sub> of Fe ~ 1000K, Gd ~ 290K, Nd<sub>2</sub>Fe<sub>14</sub>B ~ 700K  
T<sub>N</sub> of antiferromagnetic MnO ~ 120K.

**Need another physical mechanism**



Spin and Exchange effects from many electrons spread over several atoms are principal causes of magnetic order in condensed matter

# Challenge for modelling materials' properties

- Kinetic energies of electrons (and nuclei)
- Electromagnetic interactions
- Indistinguishability of identical electrons, each with spin  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$

---- > antisymmetric many electron wavefunctions (PEP)

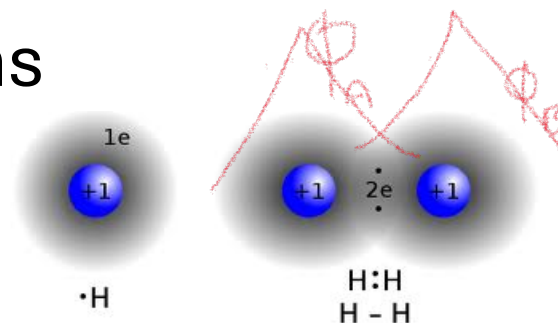
$$\Psi(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_j, \dots) = -\Psi(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_j, \dots, x_i, \dots)$$

- Many electron states in terms of products of 1-electron states in effective potentials (HF, DFT, etc.)
- Exchange and spin effects



# Exchange interactions

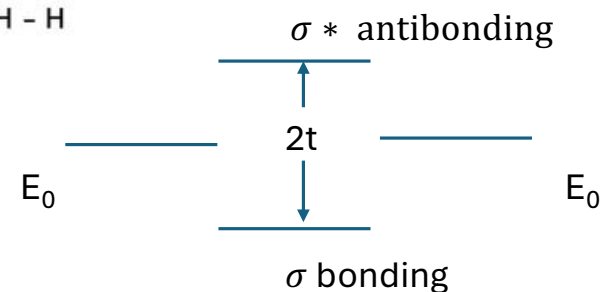
Hydrogen molecule illustration



$H_2^+$  ion first, **single electron**

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V_A + V_B, \quad \hat{H}_A = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V_A, \quad \hat{H}_A \phi_A(\mathbf{r}) = E_0 \phi_A(\mathbf{r}).$$

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}) = c_A \phi_A(\mathbf{r}) + c_B \phi_B(\mathbf{r}), \quad t = \int \phi_B^*(\mathbf{r}) \hat{H} \phi_A(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}, \quad S = \int \phi_B^*(\mathbf{r}) \phi_A(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$



**2 electrons** in the  $H_2$  molecule



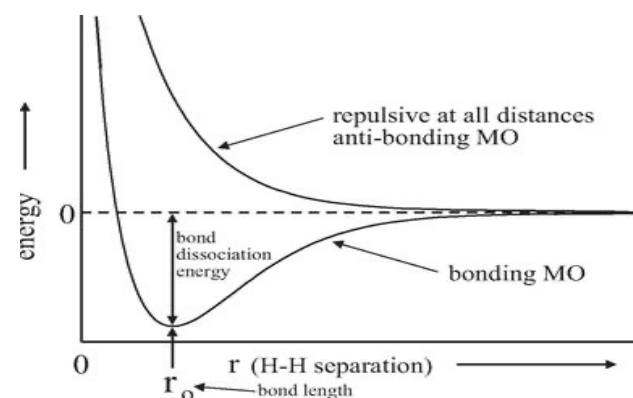
$S=1$ , both electrons in antisymmetric anti-bonding state



$E_0$



$S=0$ , both electrons in symmetric bonding state



## Direct exchange

General aspect of 2 electrons –

spins combine to form either an  $S = 0$  singlet state ( $\uparrow\downarrow$ )

or an  $S = 1$  triplet state ( $\uparrow\uparrow$ ).

Difference in energy - exchange  $2J$ ,

$$J = \int \int \phi_a^*(\mathbf{r}_1) \phi_b(\mathbf{r}_1) V_{ee}(|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|) \phi_b^*(\mathbf{r}_2) \phi_a(\mathbf{r}_2) d\mathbf{r}_1 d\mathbf{r}_2$$

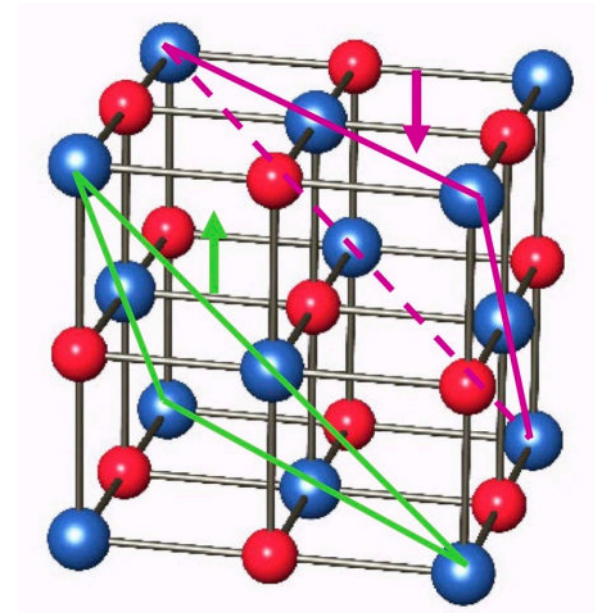
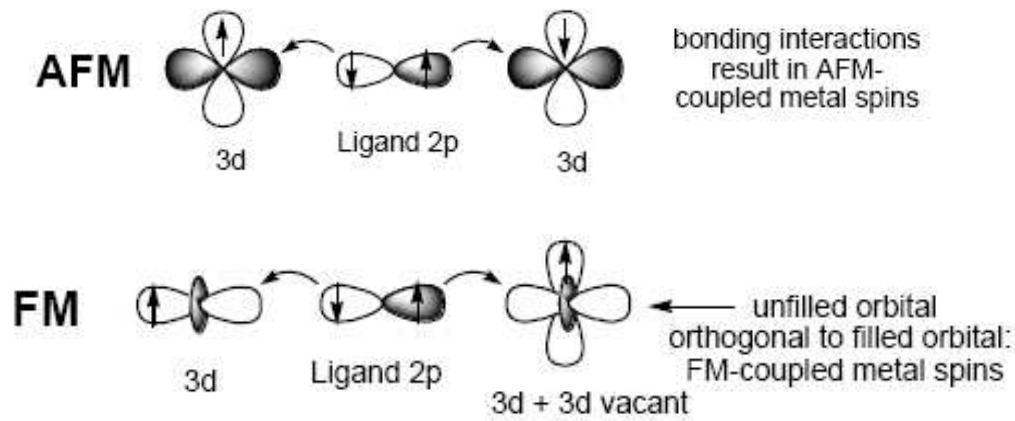
Motivates Heisenberg model

$$H = - \sum J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

between pairs of spins

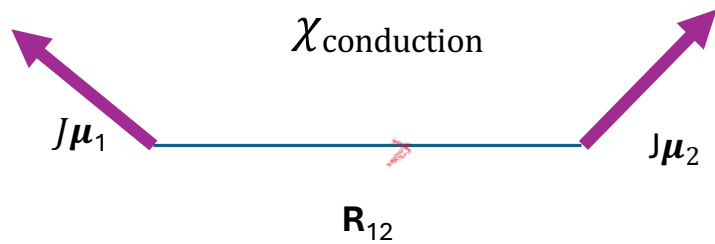
Important when metal atoms like Fe, Mn, Co, Ni are close together

# Superexchange

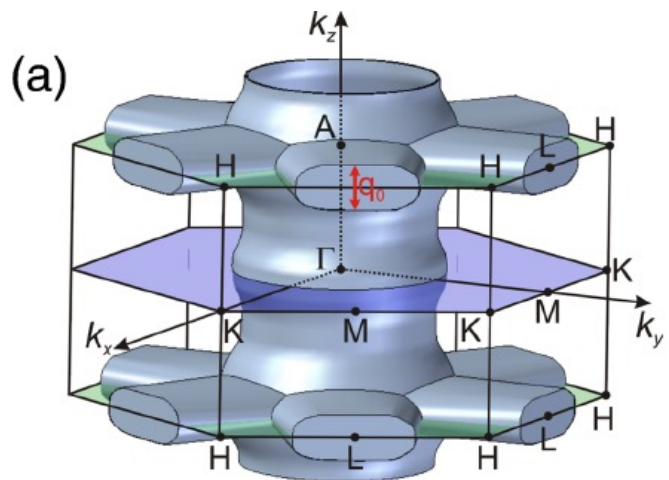


Most often antiferromagnetic, prevalent in transition metal oxides MnO etc.

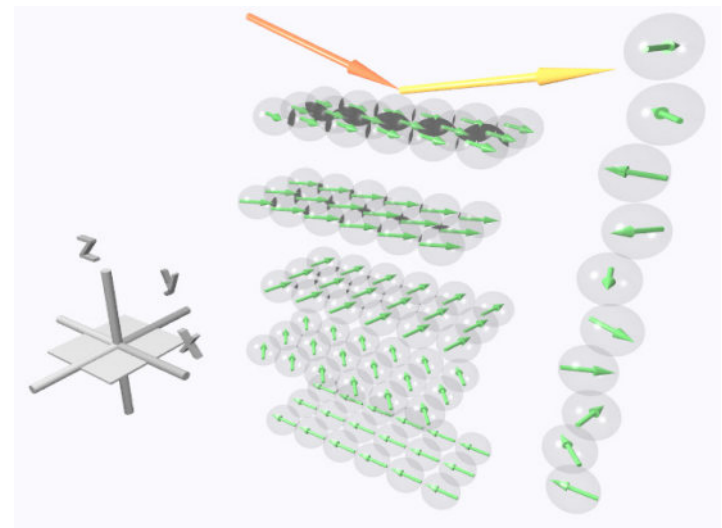
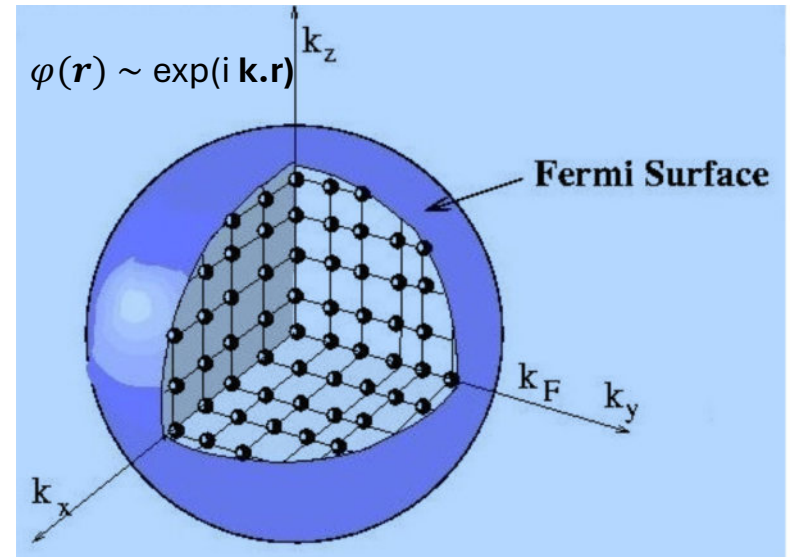
# Indirect exchange



$$J_{\text{RKKY}} \sim J^2 \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}_2 \chi_{\text{cond}}(R_{12}) \propto \frac{\cos(2 k_F R_{12})}{R_{12}^3}$$



Interaction between 2 partially-filled f-shells in lanthanides via their effect on the **conduction electrons**,  
 $[\text{Xe}] 4f^n 6s^2 5d^1$



# Exchange interactions, magnetic order and structure - topics

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# Itinerant and localised electrons

Rare earths in solids are described in terms of both localised atomic orbitals (partially filled f-shells) and delocalised Bloch waves of the conduction electrons

## **Localisation**

Degree of electron localisation causes magnetism in solids or not.

- Simple metals and semi-conductors – non-magnetic
- Rare earth atoms have atomically localised magnetic moments
- Transition metals have partially filled d-shells, weakly localised electrons subject to itinerant exchange interactions.

Stoner model paradigm (rigorously with DFT)

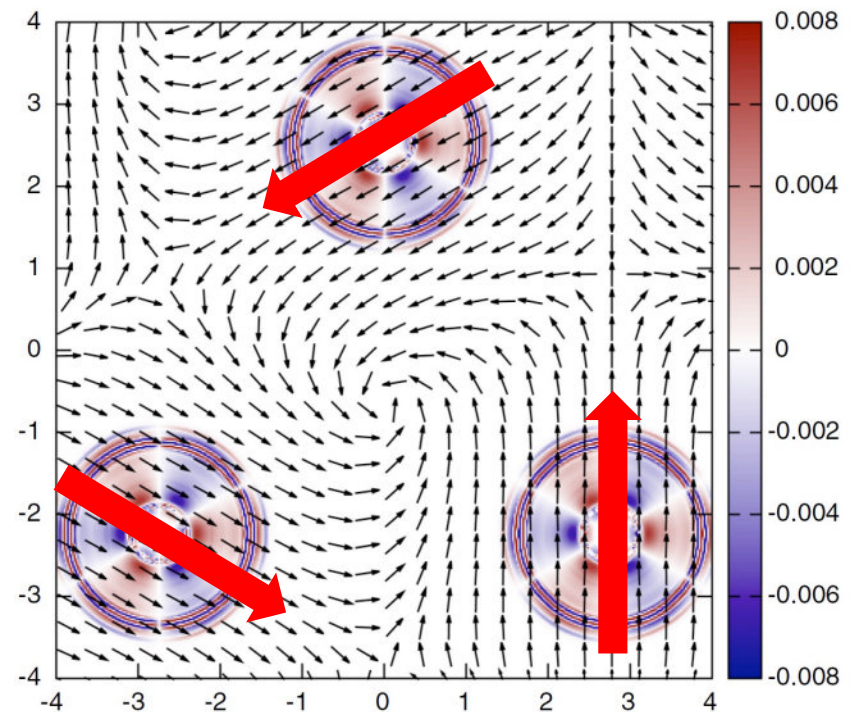
# Itinerant electrons and the Stoner model

$$\left( \frac{1}{2m} \hat{\mathbf{p}}^2 + \frac{ge}{2m} \mathbf{B}^{eff}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}} + V^{eff}(\mathbf{r}) \right) \Phi_n(\mathbf{r}) = E_n \Phi_n(\mathbf{r}),$$

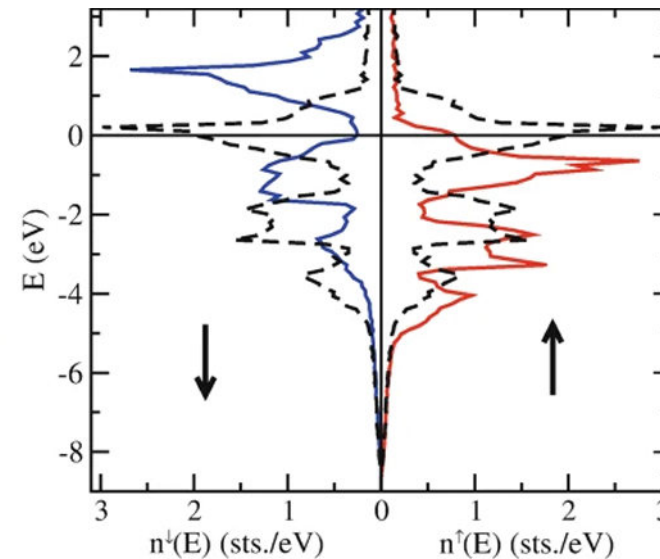
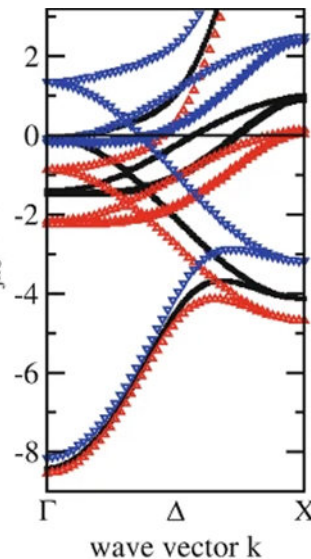
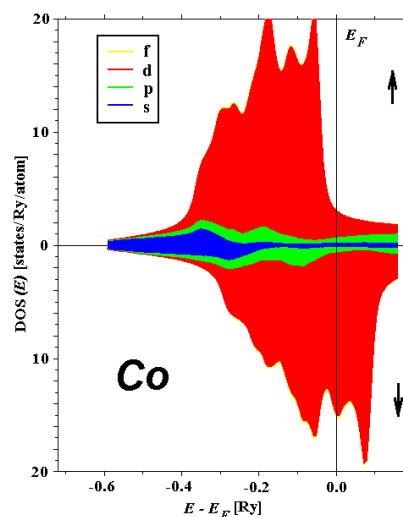
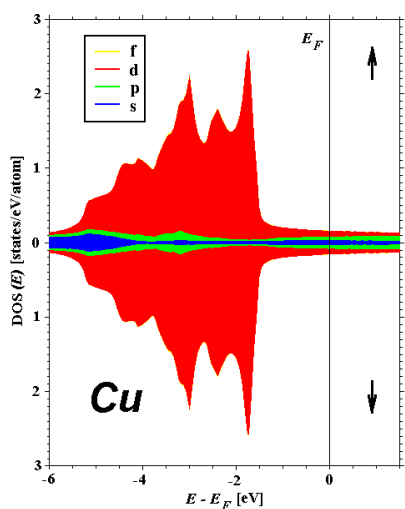
$$n(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_n \Phi_n^*(\mathbf{r}) \Phi_n(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_n \Phi_n^*(\mathbf{r}) \hat{\mathbf{S}} \Phi_n(\mathbf{r})$$

$V_{eff}$  and  $B_{eff}$  depend on charge and spin densities  $n(\mathbf{r})$  and  $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{r})$ . A ferromagnetic metal sustains a finite spin density  $\mathbf{M}$  and the electronic band structure is spin-polarised.

Local magnetic moments are identified in regions around the atoms. These are the ‘spins’ for describing magnetic order in itinerant electron magnets with orientations  $\{\mathbf{e}_i\}$



# Spin-polarised density of states of the electrons

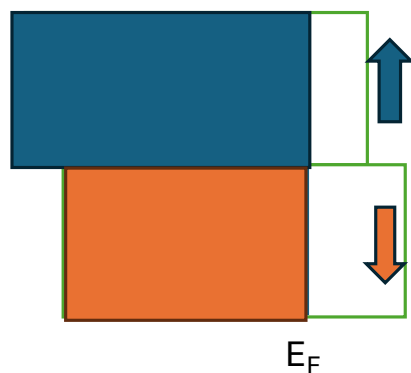


$D(E)$ , d.o.s.

$$D^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}(E) = D(E \pm |M|/2)$$

$$M = N^{\uparrow} - N^{\downarrow}$$

Ferromag. if  $(|D(E_F)|) > 1$   
Stoner criterion



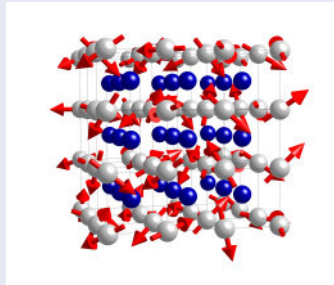
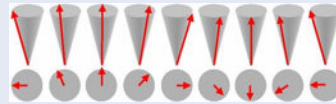
b.c.c. **Fe** non-magnetic and  
ferromagnetic bands and density of states



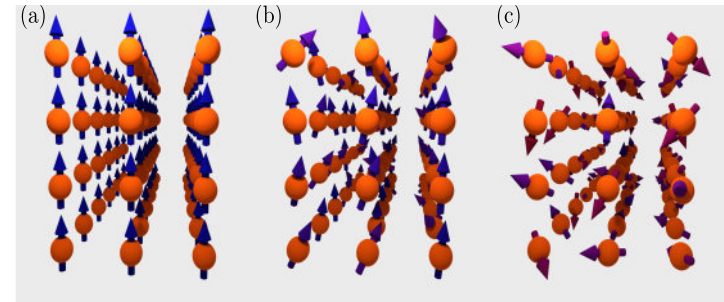
# Fluctuating local moments and itinerant electrons

Slow nuclei vibrations about nearly fixed crystal lattice positions surrounded by electron glue with fast and slow fluctuations . . .

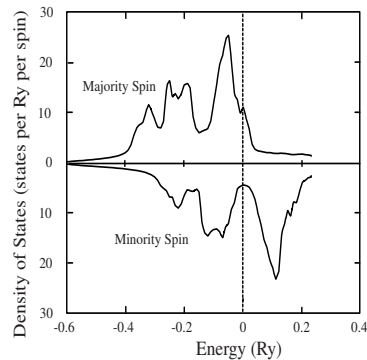
Spin waves at low T coalesce into 'local moments' at higher T -



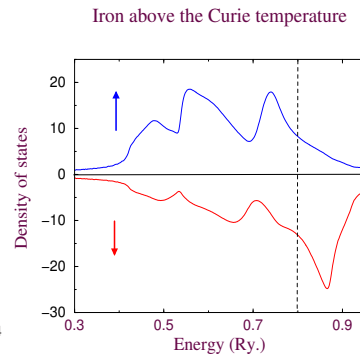
local polarisation of electronic spin density around an atom changes orientation slowly on time scale of other electronic behaviours,  $\{\hat{e}_i\}$ . Energies  $\mathcal{H}\{\hat{e}_i\}$ .



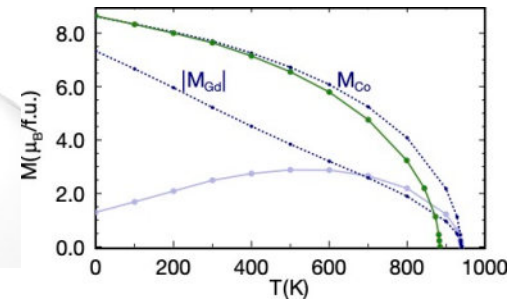
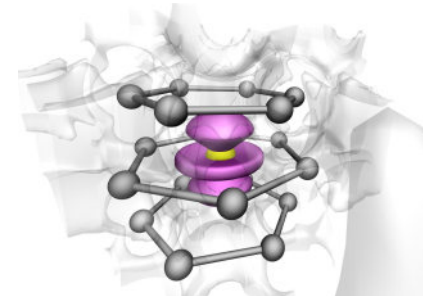
'Spins' from collective behaviour of the electrons for further atomistic modelling



Magnetic phase diagrams from first principles electronic



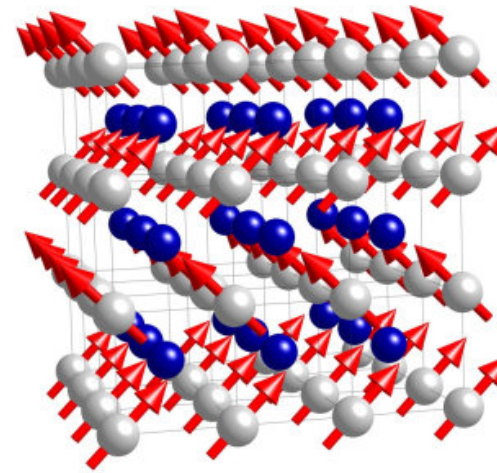
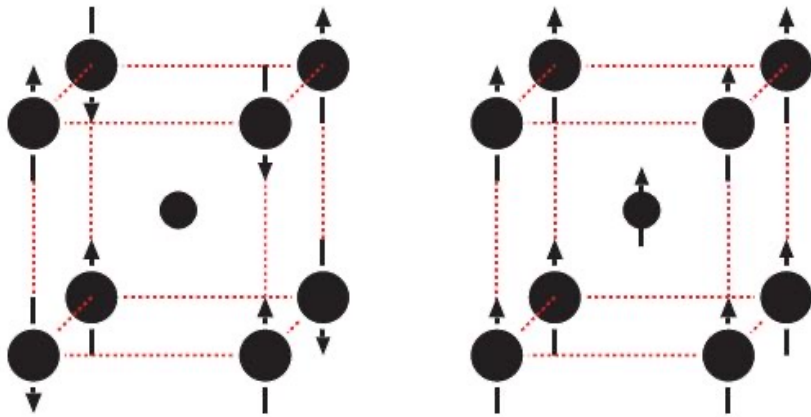
## Localised and itinerant magnetism



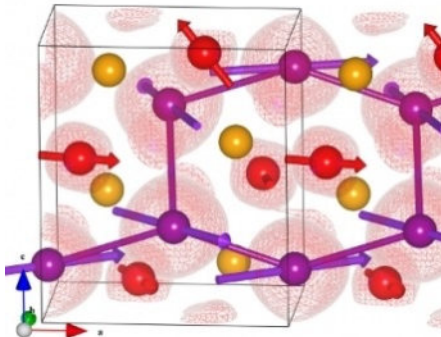
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# Spin models, magnetic ordering and structure



$$\hat{H}\{\mathbf{S}_i\}$$



$$\hat{H} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_i \sum_j J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + \dots + g\mu_B \sum_i \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

# Mean field approximation

A very useful inequality,  
the Feynman – Peierls' Inequality

$$F \leq F_0 + \langle \hat{H} - \hat{H}_0 \rangle_0 = \mathcal{F}, \quad \hat{H}_0 = \sum_i \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{h}_i.$$

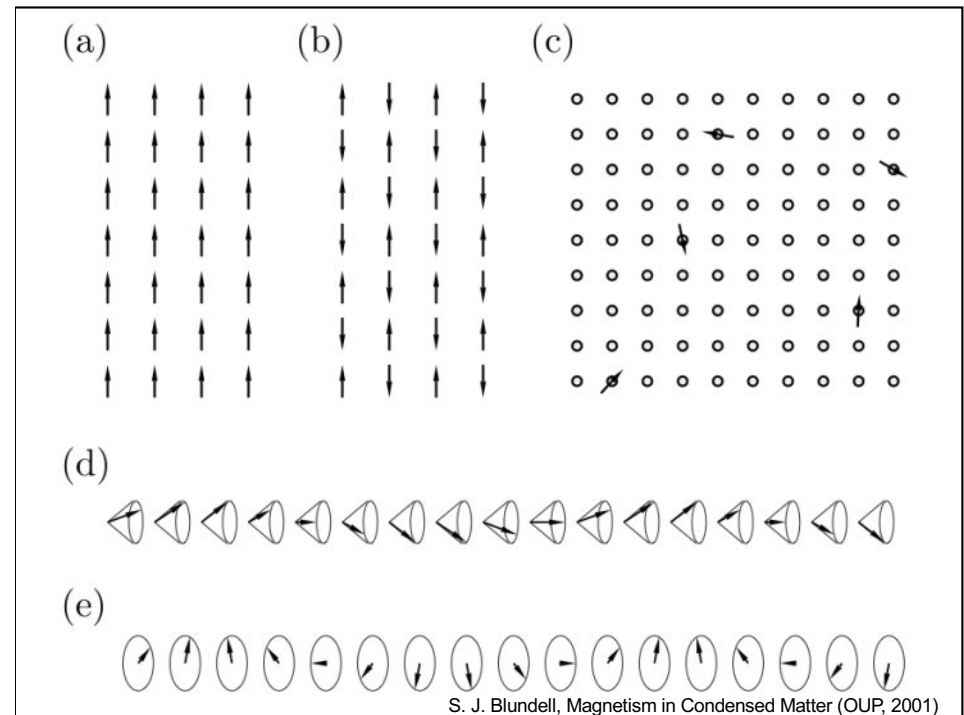
$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \mathbf{h}_i} = 0 \cdots \mathbf{h}_i = \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \mathbf{m}_i}, \quad \mathbf{m}_i = \langle \mathbf{S}_i \rangle_0, \quad \Omega = \langle \hat{H} \rangle_0.$$

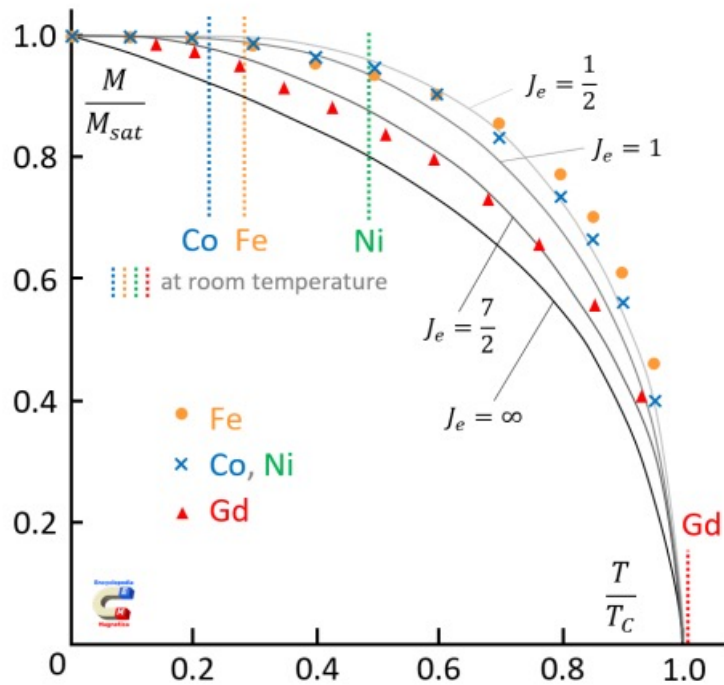
$$\mathbf{h}_i = g\mu_B \mathbf{B} - \sum_j J_{ij} \mathbf{m}_j + \cdots, \quad \mathbf{m}_i = \mathcal{B}_S \left( \frac{S h_i}{k_B T} \right) \frac{\mathbf{h}_i}{|\mathbf{h}_i|}.$$

Weiss field Brillouin function again

For ferromagnetic order,  $m_1 = m_2 = m_3 \dots = m$ ,  
antiferromagnetic, e.g.  $m_1 = -m_2 = m_3 = -m_4 \dots$

$$\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{R}) = m_Q (\cos(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{R}) \sin a, \sin(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{R}) \sin a, \cos a)$$



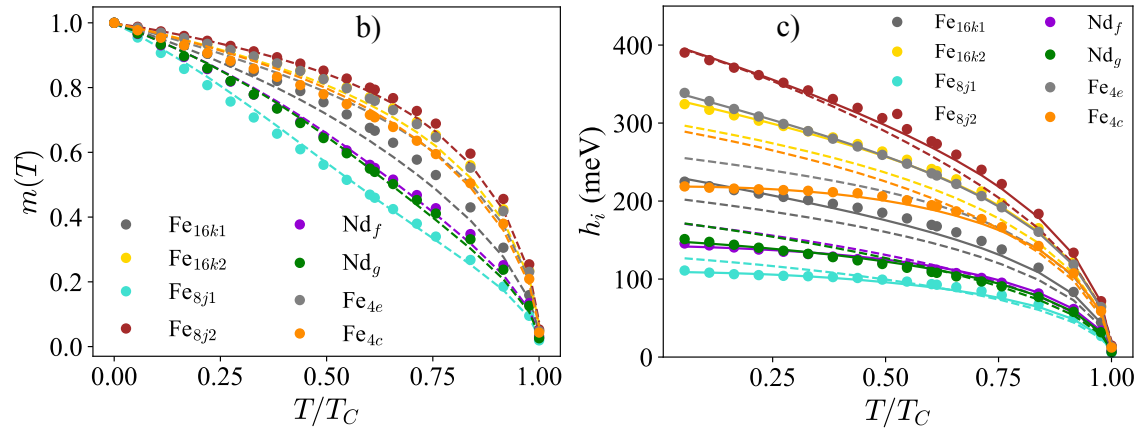


$$k_B T_C = \frac{(S + 1)J(0)}{3S},$$

$$J(\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_j J_{ij} \cos(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{R}_{ij})$$

$$k_B T_N = \frac{(S + 1)J(\mathbf{Q}_{max})}{3S}$$

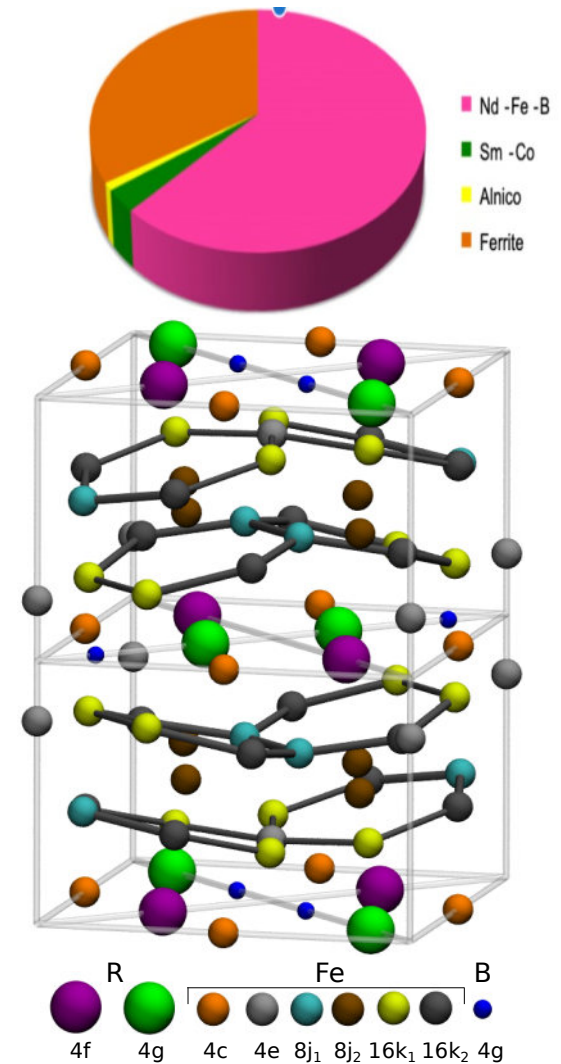
## Example of Nd<sub>2</sub>Fe<sub>14</sub>B – the ubiquitous magnet



J. Bouaziz et al. PRB 107, L020401, (2023).

$$\bar{\Omega} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} \mathcal{J}_{ij} \mathbf{m}_i \cdot \mathbf{m}_j - \frac{1}{4} \sum_i \mathcal{B}_I (\mathbf{m}_i \cdot \mathbf{M})^2$$

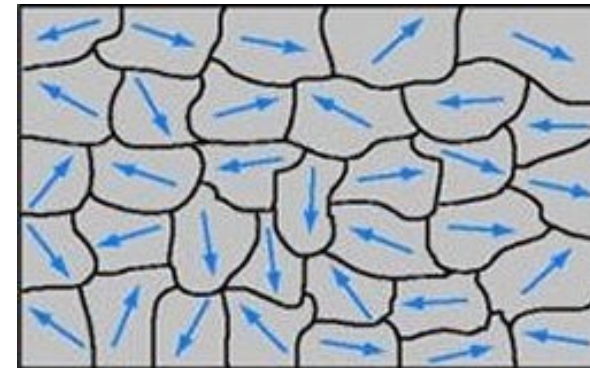
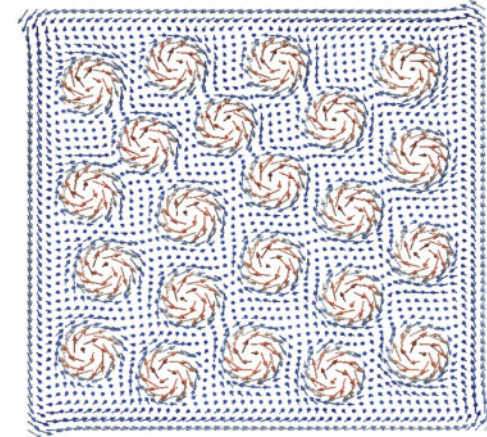
Pairwise exchange  $J_{ij}$  and higher order  $B_I$  parameters produced for further atomistic spin modelling.





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## Supporting material

- S. J Blundell, “*Magnetism in Condensed Matter*”, O. U. P. (2001).
- N. W. Ashcroft and N. D. Mermin, “*Solid State Physics*”, Cengage, (2021).
- J. M. D. Coey, ”*Magnetism and Magnetic Materials*”, C. U. P. (2010).
- J. Kübler, “*Theory of Itinerant Electron Magnetism*”, O. U. P. , (2021)

Lecture notes from past ESMs by e.g.

S. Blundell, J. M. D. Coey, D. Givord, I. Mertig, W. Wulfhekel,.....