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DQMP Flat Club – 2D Magnets Christian Rüegg :: Director :: PSI



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- Introduction: Physics, Materials and Experiments
- Dirac Magnons in CrBr₃ and their Damping
- Strong Spin-lattice Coupling in LiCrO₂
- Quantum Criticality and Dynamics in 2D
- SrCu₂(BO₃)₂ Out-of-Equilibrium Magnons

- S. Nikitin et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 127201 (2022).
- S. Toth et al., Nature Comm. 7, 13547 (2016).
- S. Allenspach et al., Phys. Rev. Lett./Res. (2020/21).
- F. Giorgianni et al., Phys. Rev. B 107, 184440 (2023).

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2D Materials – Magnetism of a single layer

In-situ sputtering of metallic thin films on the neutron reflectometer AMOR (SINQ)

- Focusing guide based on elliptic Selene principle, sample size 2x20 mm² (now 1 mm²)
- Polarized neutron beam, sensitivity: 1 layer
- Counting time: 30 m per layer (0.5 m in the future)





Sputtering chamber:

- Fe and other metals
- rotating gun
- in-situ sample positioning



Collaboration:

P. Böni, TU Munich; J. Mannhart, Univ. Augsburg; J. Stahn, PSI







Experimental challenges? What information is missing from experiments?







PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT **INS-ToF Data: Constant-Energy Slices and LSWT** 2 2 LSWT (e Perfect quantitative agreement (-k/2, k, 0) (r.l.u.) 2.0 2.0 1.5 between INS and LSWT Clear intensity at the Dirac point 1 Intensity winding around K-point 0.5 ×10⁻³ 5 E = [4-5] meV INS E = [6-6.5] meV 0 0 INS Intensity (arb. u.) 0.5 1.5 2.5 0.5 1.5 2.5 1 2 1 2 2 2 3 (-*k*/2, *k*, 0) (r.l.u.) 1.5 2 1 ூருற 0.5 00 100 200 300 [9-10] meV E = [7-8] meV 0 0.5 Angle from (h, 0, 0) (degree) 1.5 2.5 2 1.5 2 2.5 1 (h, 0, 0) (r.l.u.) (h, 0, 0) (r.l.u.) $I = I_0 [1 \pm \cos(\alpha - \alpha_0)]$ Page 11







Dirac Magnons in CrBr₃

- CrBr₃ is a perfect realization of a quasi-two-dimensional honeycomb FM with Heisenberg exchange interactions
- Magnons show no gap at th K-point, and the previous report on the topological gap was most likely based on inaccurate data analysis of the TOF INS data
- The Dirac magnons at the K-point show clear winding of spectral intensity, predicted for nodal quasiparticles
- The linewidth and the dispersion bandwidth scale with *T*², in agreement with theory
- The measured Q-dependence of the linewidth and magnon renormalization lacks the predicted Van-Hove-like peaks indicating to the need for more sophisticated theoretical analysis
 - S. Nikitin et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 127201 (2022).



Phonon Spectral Weight and Winding in Graphite

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 131, 246601 (2023)

Phonon Topology and Winding of Spectral Weight in Graphite

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The topology of electronic and phonon band structures of graphene is well studied and known to exhibit a Dirac cone at the K point of the Brillouin zone. Here, we applied inelastic x-ray scattering (IXS) along with *ab initio* calculations to investigate phonon topology in graphite, the 3D analog of graphene. We identified a pair of modes that form a very weakly gapped linear anticrossing at the K point that can be essentially viewed as a Dirac cone approximant. The IXS intensity in the vicinity of the quasi-Dirac point reveals a harmonic modulation of the phonon spectral weight above and below the Dirac energy, which was previously proposed as an experimental fingerprint of the nontrivial topology. We illustrate how the topological winding of IXS intensity can be understood in terms of atomic displacements and highlight that the intensity winding is not in fact sensitive in telling quasi- and true Dirac points apart.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.131.246601







2D Triangular Lattice - Electromagnons

Strong coupling of magnetism and structure probed with meV resolution by nonresonant inelastic X-ray scattering

Interplay of magnetism and structural properties are believed to be a key ingredient for technological applications of materials e.g. in multiferroics.



Electromagnon dispersion probed by inelastic X-ray scattering in LiCrO₂. S. Toth, B. Wehinger, K. Rolfs, U. Stuhr, H. Takatsu, K. Kimura, T. Kimura, H.M. Ronnow, Ch. Rüegg, Nature Comm. **7**, 13547 (2016).



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Interplay of magnetism and structural properties are believed to be a key ingredient for technological applications of materials e.g. in multiferroics.

- Direct exchange in LiCrO₂
- Strong mixing of matrix elements up to 30% possible
- Resolution of 1 meV to probe magnetism on ultrasmall samples (hard X-ray IXS)
- Can be applied to many systems to probe both oneand multi-magnon processes, magnetoelastic coupling, etc.



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