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**Workshop on
Novel States and Phase Transitions in Highly Correlated Matter**

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Spin and charge frustration in Spinel oxides

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These are preliminary lecture notes, intended only for distribution to participants

ICTP Trieste, 2004

Spin and Charge Frustration in Spinel Oxides

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Exotic phases produced by geometrical frustration on pyrochlore lattice

1. Introduction

2. Spin frustration in $\text{Zn}(\text{Cd})\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_4$

spin JT phase and its magnetic field control

¹ magnetization plateau state with **3-1** spin ordering

3. Charge frustration in AlV_2O_4

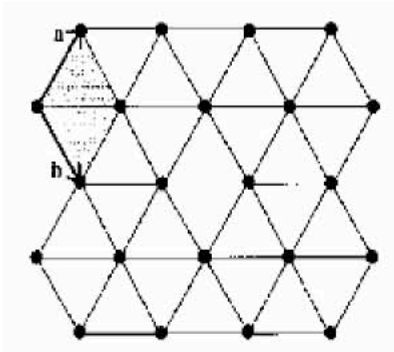
3-1 charge ordering (valence skipping)

4. Charge & Spin Liquid State

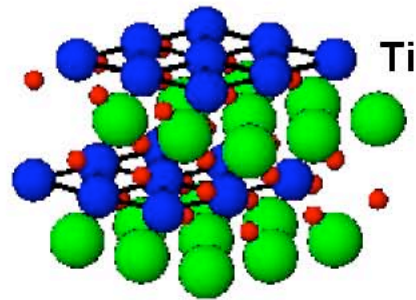
Heavy Fermion Oxides LiV_2O_4

close proximity to **3-1** charge ordering

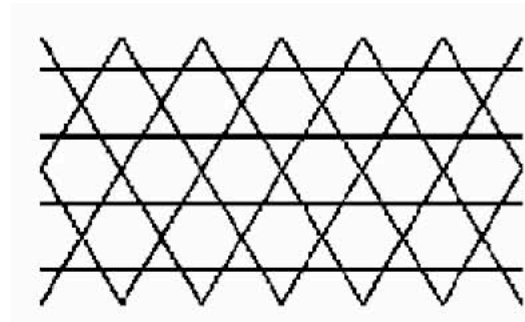
Geometrically Frustrated Lattices



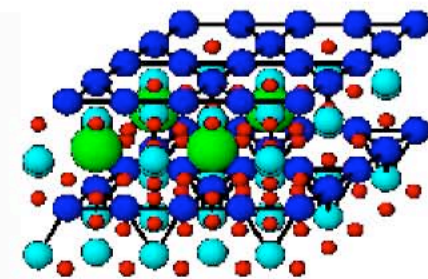
2D Triangular lattice NaTiO_2 , LiVO_2 ,
 LiNiO_2 , Na_xCoO_2



Ti

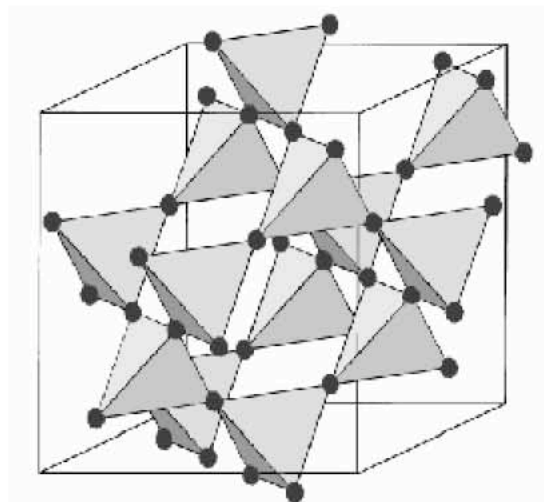


2D Kagome lattice

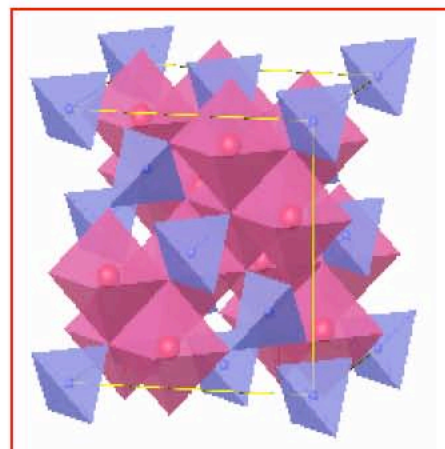


Cr

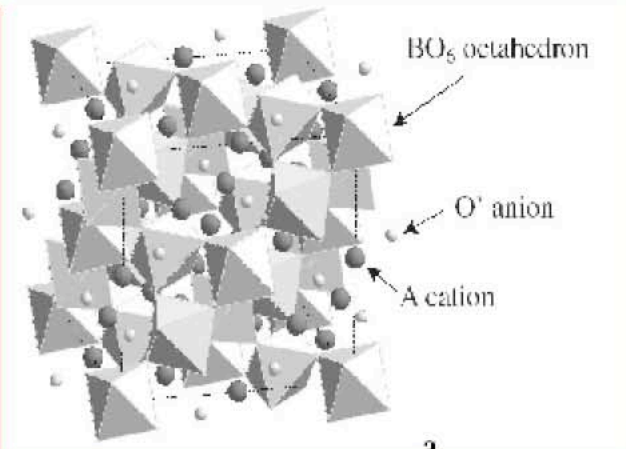
$\text{SrCr}_9\text{Ga}_3\text{O}_{19}$



3D Pyrochlore lattice



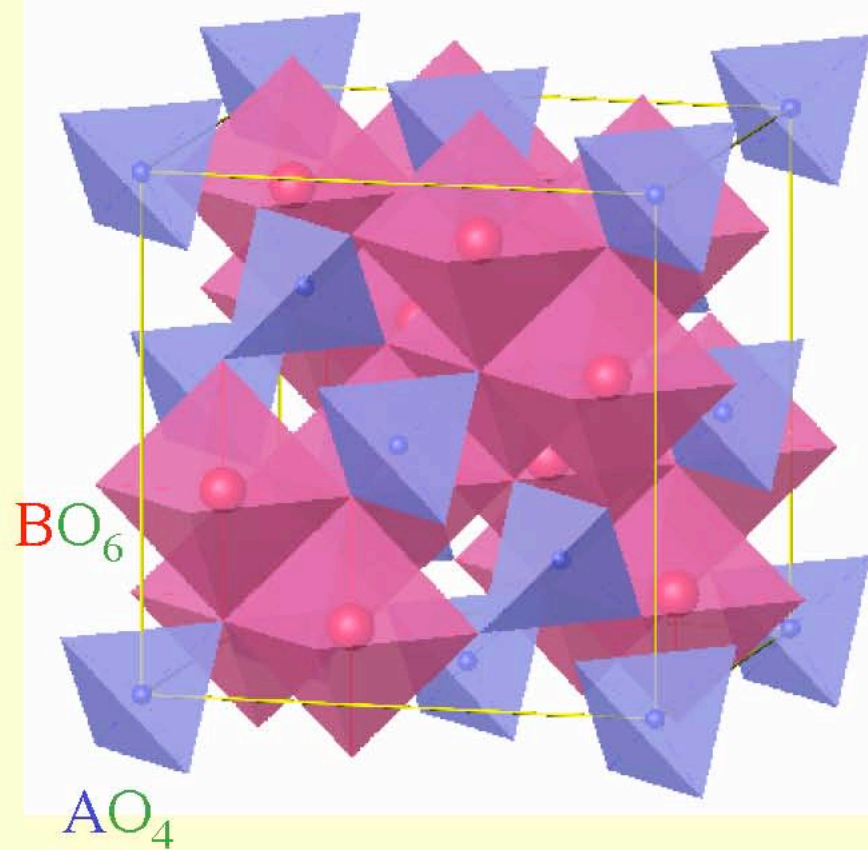
Spinel (AB_2O_4)
 $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4 = \text{FeFe}_2\text{O}_4$



Pyrochlore ($\text{A}_2\text{B}_2\text{O}_7$)
 $\text{Y}_2\text{Mo}_2\text{O}_7$

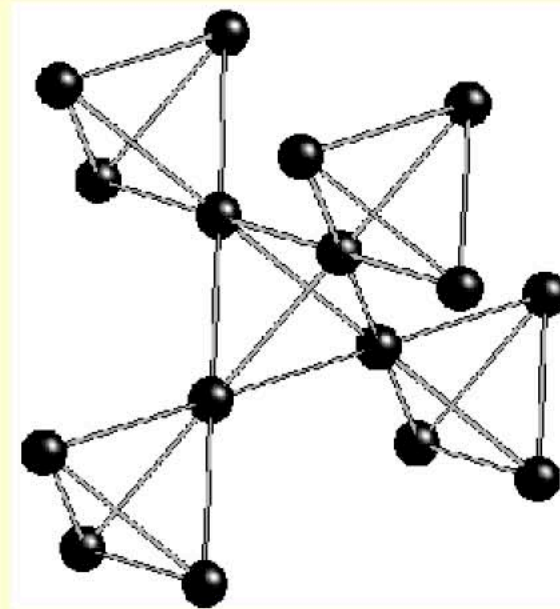
Spinel Structure: AB_2O_4

(cubic: $Fd3m$)



“B-sublattice”

corner-shared tetrahedra



“Pyrochlore” Lattice

What do we expect ?

Spin Frustration (when AF)

- Strongly degenerate low lying spin excitations

Prevents long range order **3D spin liquid**

Charge Frustration (when mixed valent)

Verway problem



- Strongly degenerate low lying charge excitations

Prevents long range order **charge liquid**

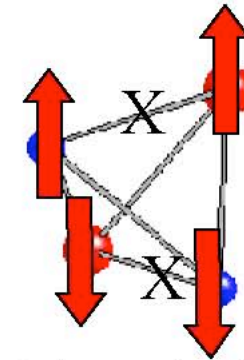
Orbital Frustration?

Exotic Phase (transition) ?

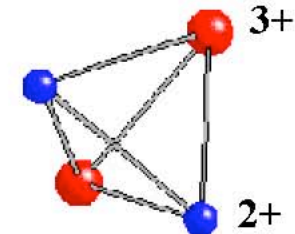
- Nature always tries to reduce the degeneracy

couple with lattice, orbital, itinerant carriers

Anderson 1956

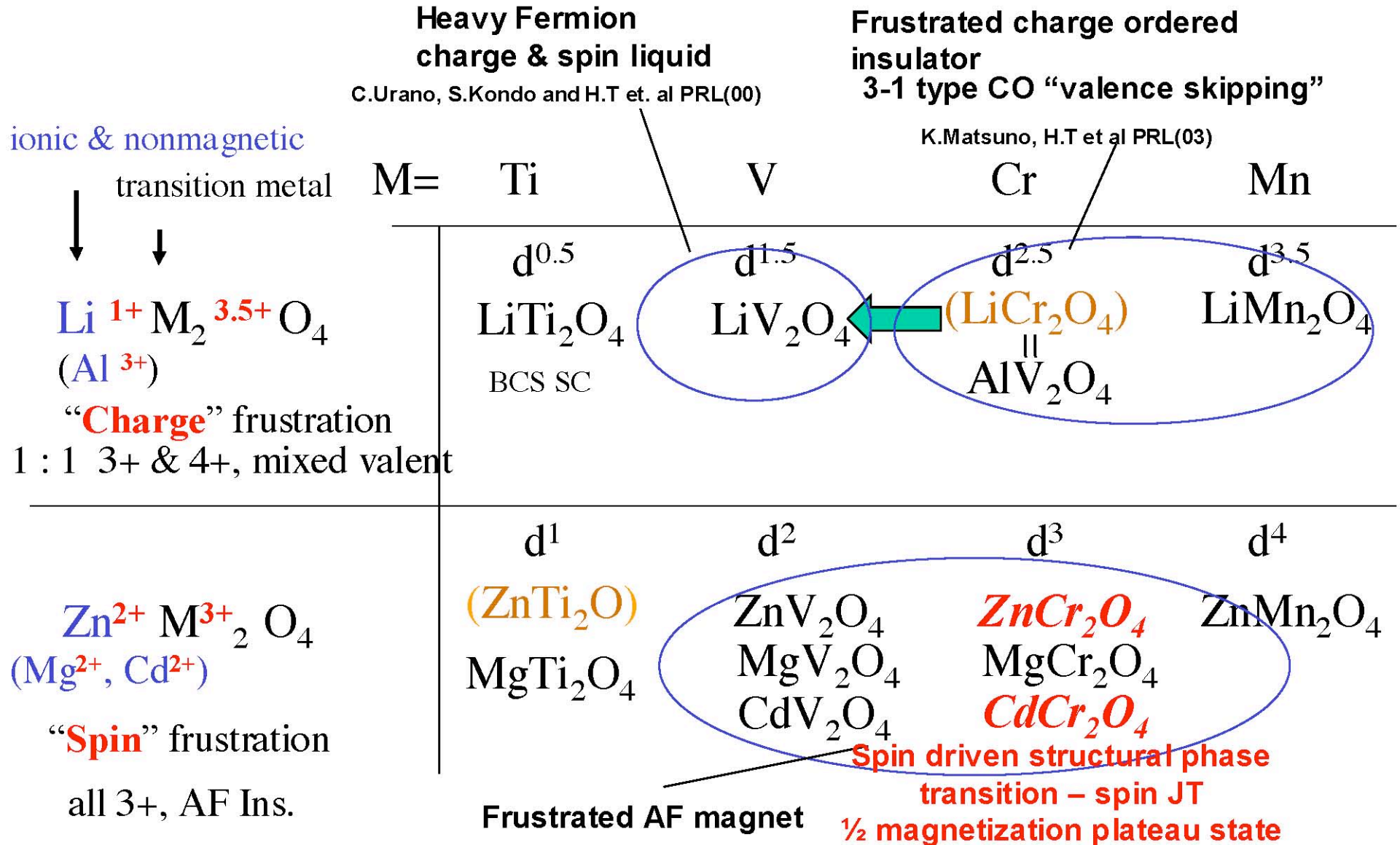


$S=0$ / tetrahedron



charge / tetrahedron = const
Anderson condition

Guide map of “simple” spinel oxides



S=3/2 pyrochlore Heisenberg AF without orbital degrees of freedom: CdCr₂O₄ and ZnCr₂O₄



$\theta_{CW} = -90\text{K}, T_N = 7\text{K}$

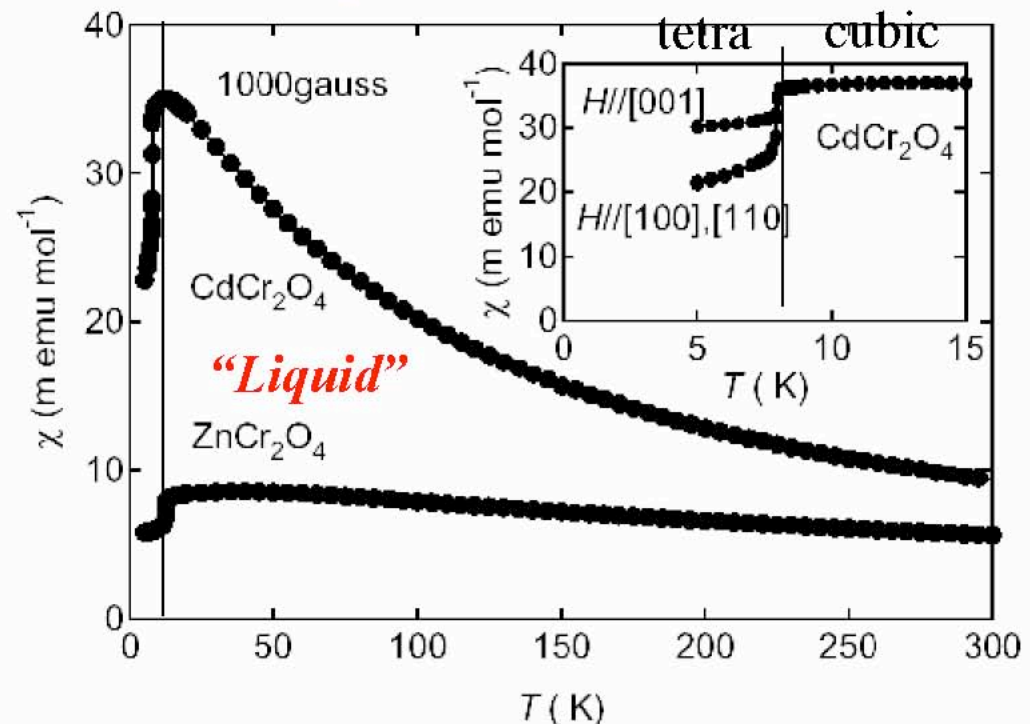
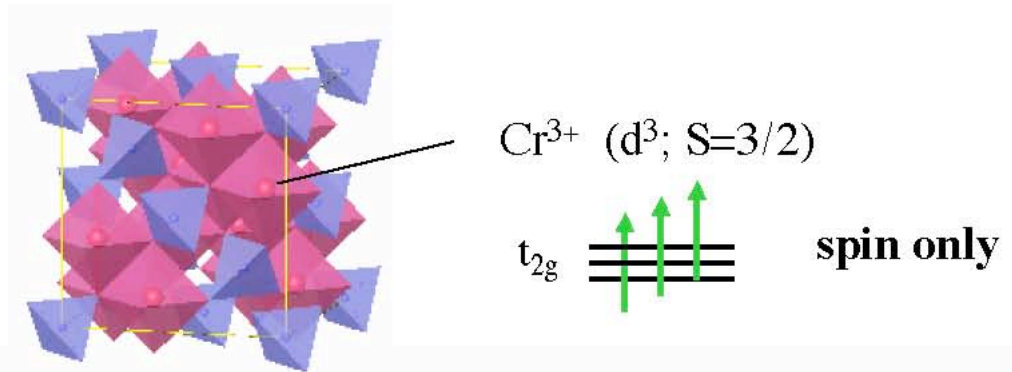
$T_N / |\theta_{CW}| = 0.08$



$\theta_{CW} = -350\text{K}, T_N = 13\text{K}$

$T_N / |\theta_{CW}| = 0.04$

Geometrical frustration evident



Hexagonal spin cluster formation in the spin liquid phase above $T_S = T_N$

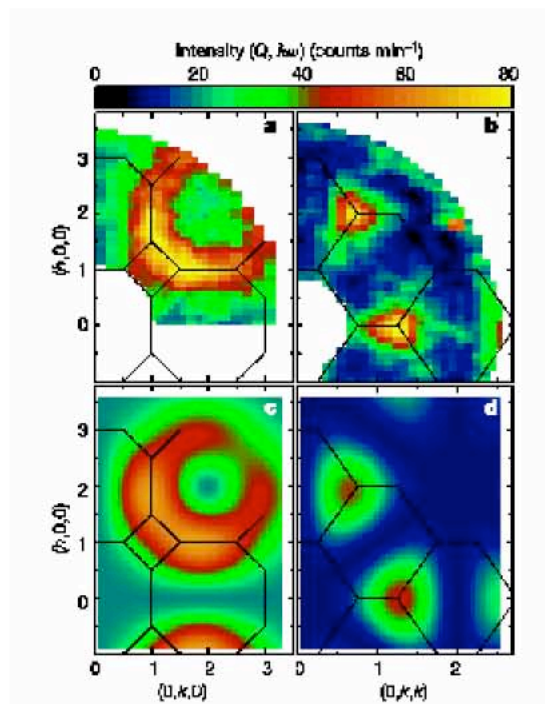
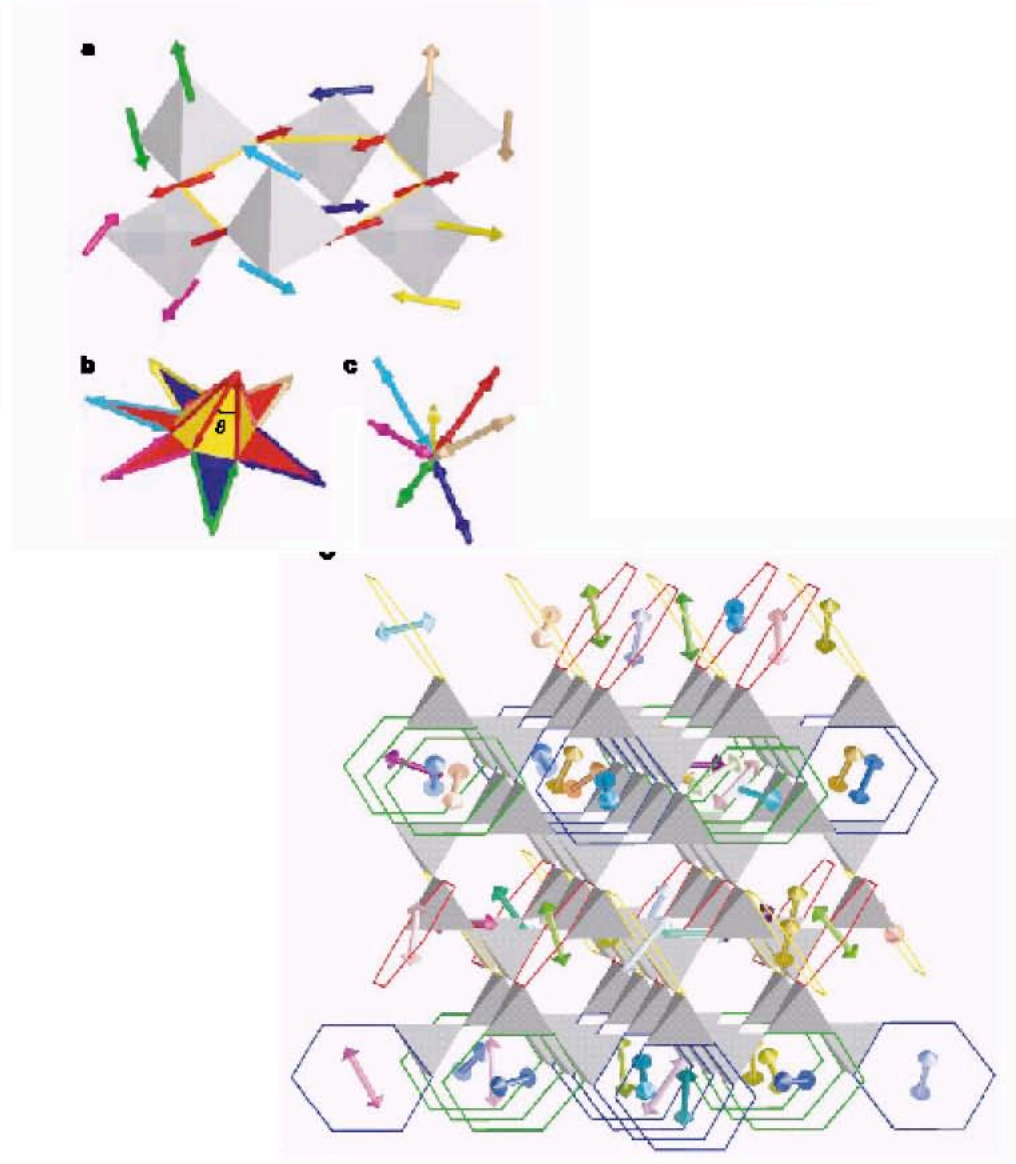
Emergent excitations in a geometrically frustrated magnet

S.-H. Lee^{*}, G. Broholm^{*†}, W. Ratcliff[‡], G. Gasparovic[‡], Q. Huang^{*},
T. H. Kim^{‡§} & S.-W. Cheong[‡]

^{*} NIST Center for Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, USA

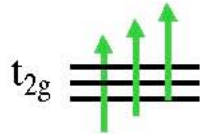
[†] Department of Physics and Astronomy, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218, USA

[‡] Department of Physics and Astronomy, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, USA



Spin JT transition in CdCr_2O_4 and ZnCr_2O_4 spinels

Cr^{3+} (d^3 ; $S=3/2$)



$T_N = T_S = 7\text{K} \ll \theta_{\text{CW}}$

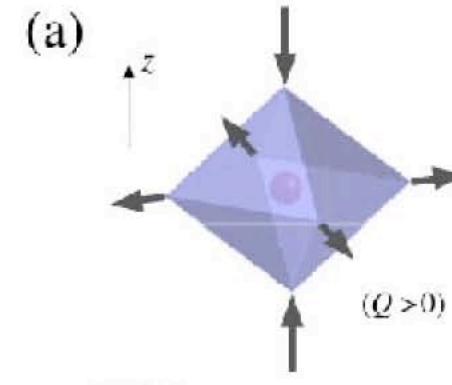
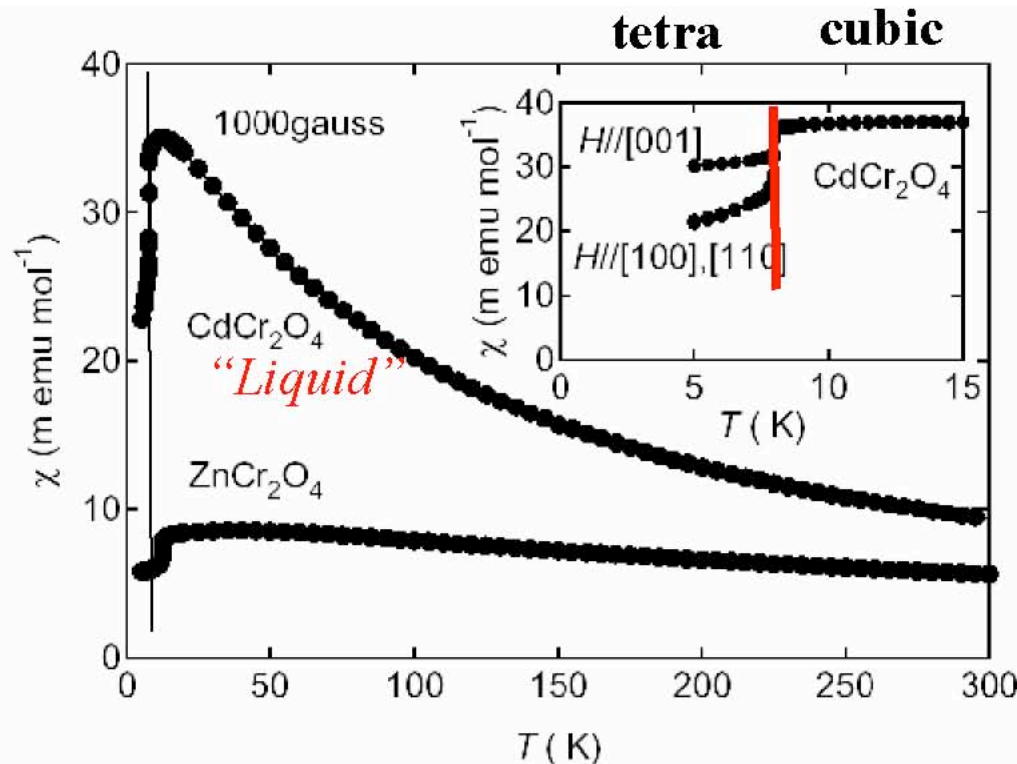


$T_N = T_S = 13\text{K} \ll \theta_{\text{CW}}$

AF ordering (easy plane type & complicated **non-collinear**)

accompanied with 1st order

Cubic to Tetragonal transition



no orbital degree of freedom

Spin- JT transition

remove "spin degeneracy" by lattice distortion

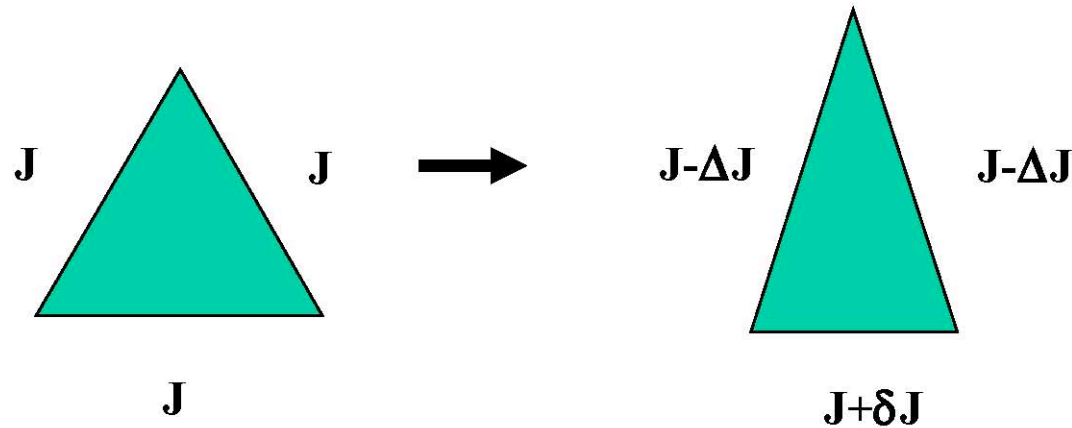
Yamashita and K.Ueda, PRL(01)
O.Tchernyshyov PRL &PRB (02)

Spin Jahn-Teller transition

Yamashita and K.Ueda, PRL(01)

O.Tchernyshyov PRL & PRB (02)

remove “spin degeneracy” instead of orbital degeneracy by lattice distortion

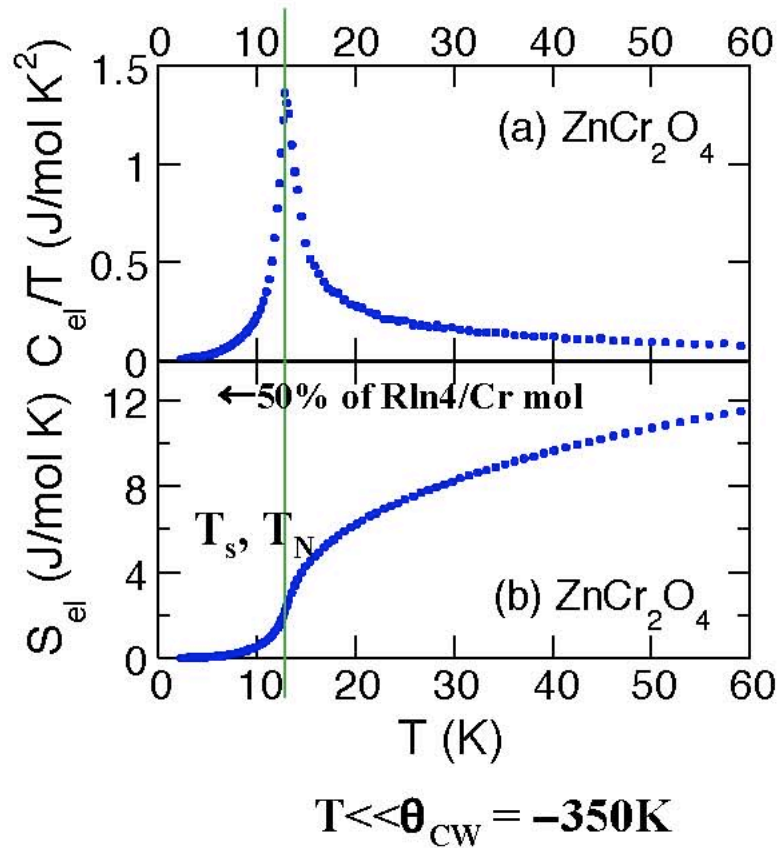


exchange-striction driven ordering

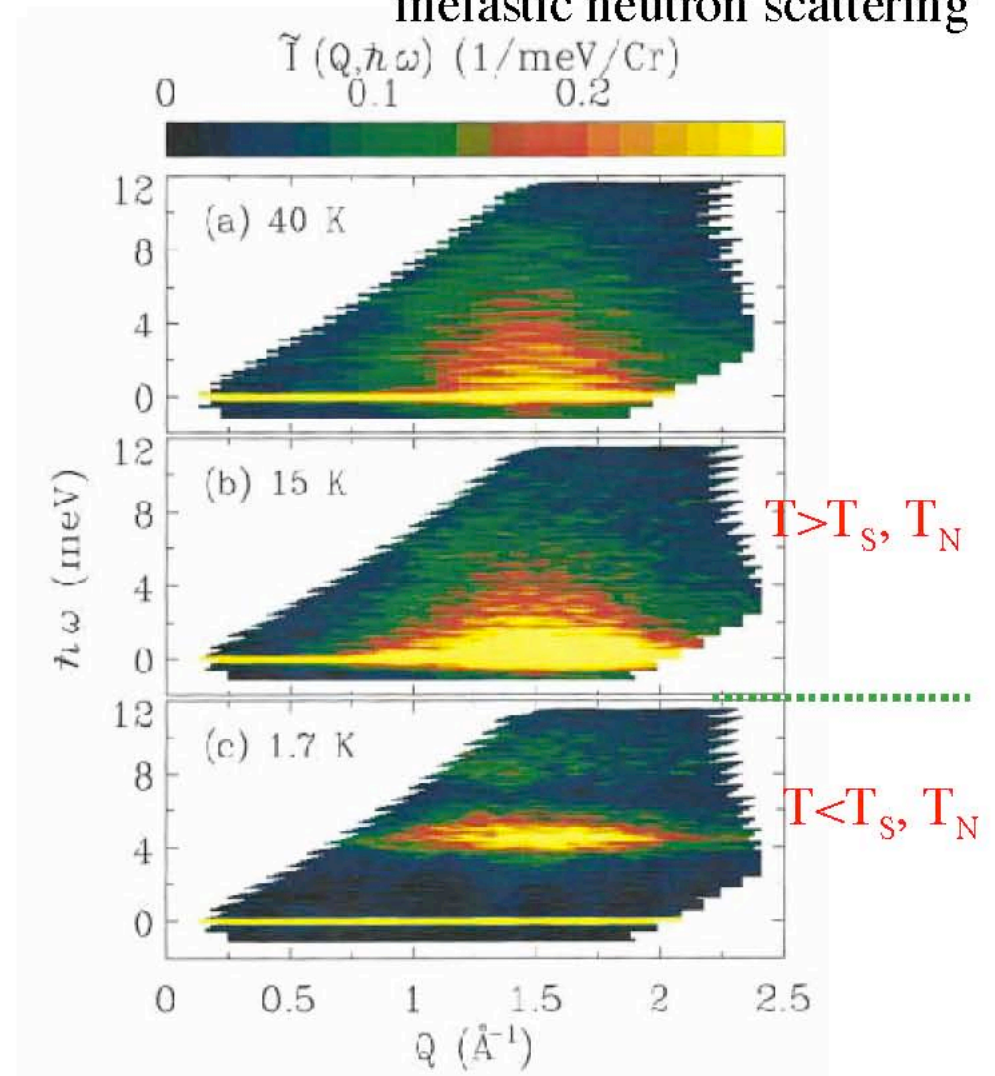
3D analogue of spin Peierls transition

Gigantic entropy quenched at T_S ($\ll \Theta_{CW}$)
- support for spin JT

S. -H. Lee, C. Broholm, *et al.* PRL 84, 3718 (2000).



inelastic neutron scattering



Complicated lattice distortion below T_N - support for spin-JT

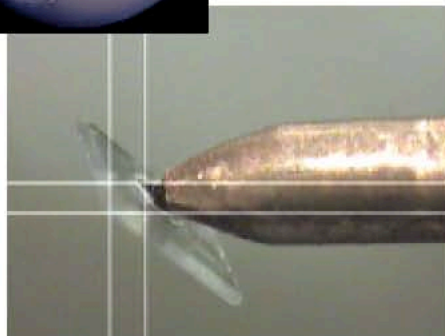
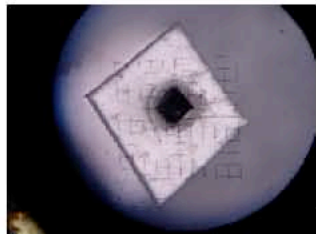
In spin JT phase, AF-bond shorter F-bond longer

O.Tchernyshyov PRL (03)

Lattice distortion should be compatible with non-colinear Neel state with $2 \times 2 \times 2$ magnetic unit cell

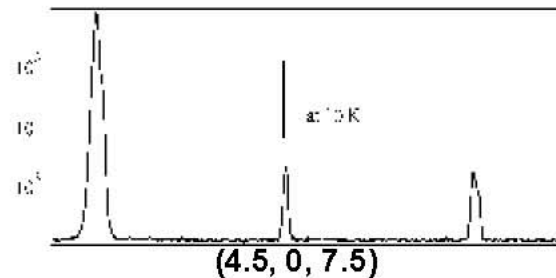
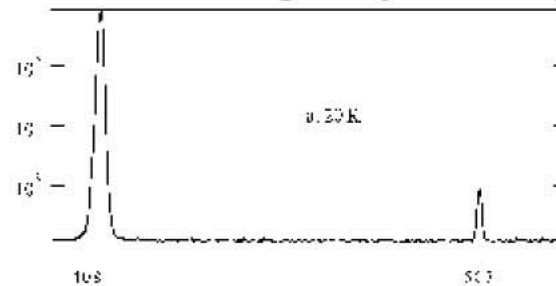
Low T structure more complicated than the simple elongation of cubic $\langle 001 \rangle$ (orbital JT)

→ Revisit to low-T crystal structure of ZnCr_2O_4



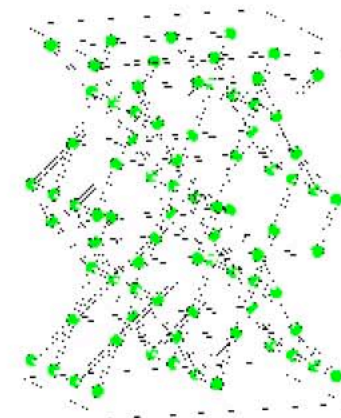
Domains removed by applying uniaxial pressure

ZnCr_2O_4 single crystal x-ray



2x2x2 superlattice

$I_{4\bar{m}2}$



Tetra

$T < T_N$

more fun out of CdCr₂O₄
- magnetic field control of frustration

- When spins aligned by H, frustration will be reduced

field induced structural phase transition? eventually cubic ?

-Magnetization plateau state as observed in other frustrated magnets?

Crystallization of spin excitations

Perhaps, the ordering coupled strongly with lattice

Magnetic field control of frustration

- M-H curve of CdCr_2O_4 at 1.8 K

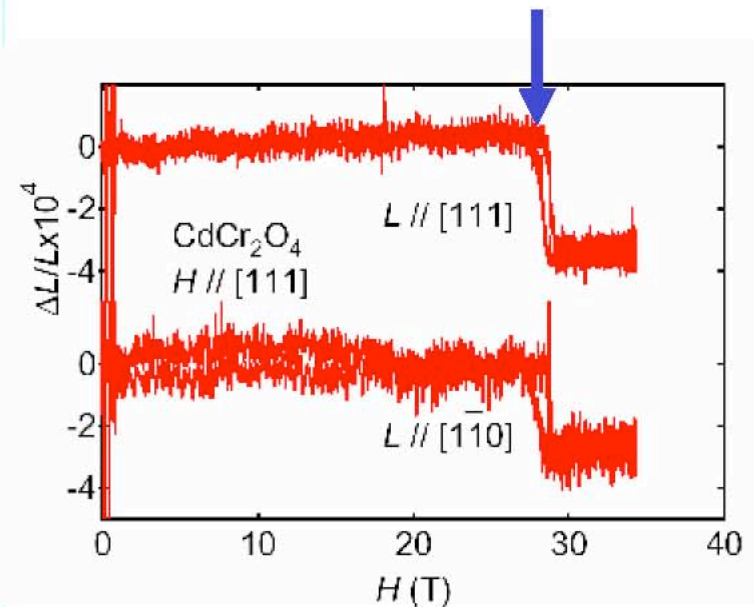
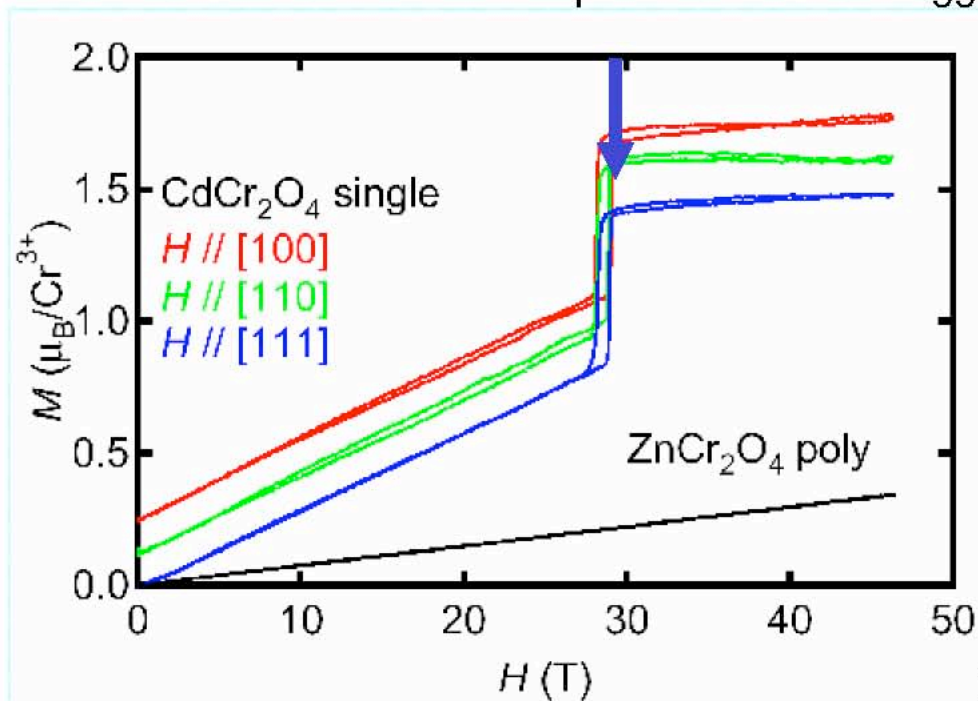
- metamagnetic transition to a plateau state at 28 T (first order)

plateau at $M=1.5\mu_B$, *stable* over at least 20T

no anisotropy (*Heisenberg*)

- magnetostriction as large as $\sim 10^{-3}$ though spin-orbit negligible

Magnetostriction normally of the order of 10^{-5} even with spin-orbit
structural phase transition suggested from ESR



indicative of strong spin – lattice coupling

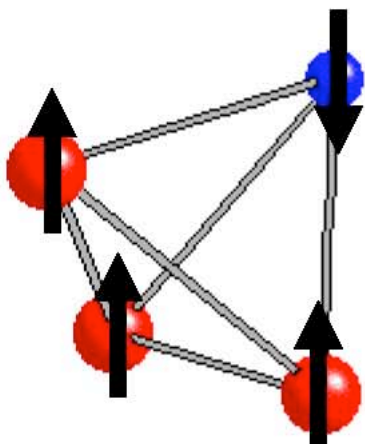
Magnetostriction comparable magnitude with
to tetragonal distortion

1/2 magnetization plateau in CdCr₂O₄

ferrimagnetic state with 3 up-1 down spin configuration

Plateau state

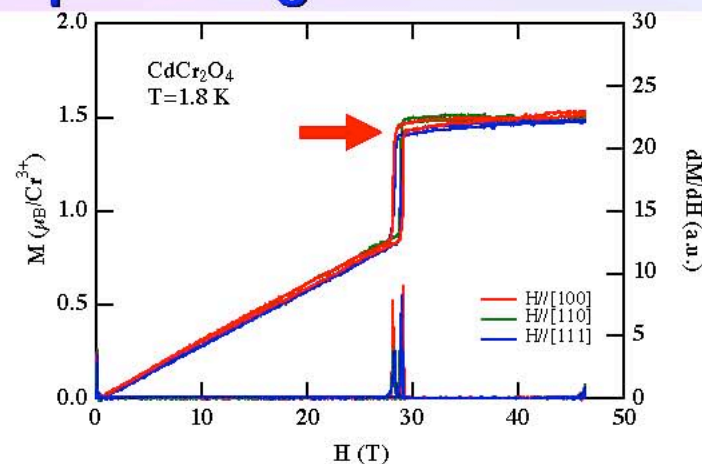
$$M = 1.5\mu_B = 1/2 \times 3\mu_B \text{ (full moment of Cr}^{3+} \text{ S}=3/2)$$



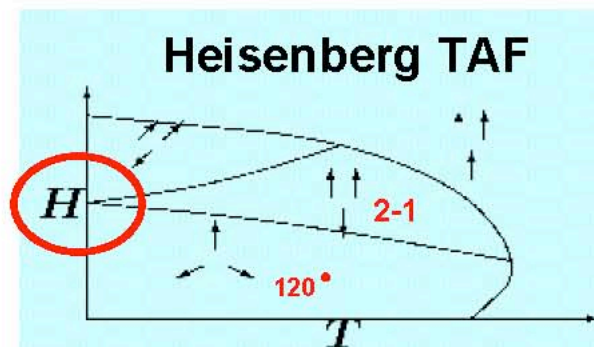
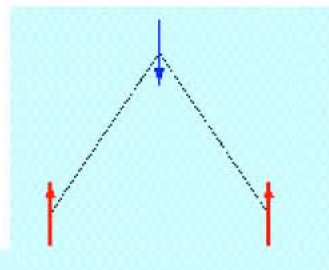
$$3\uparrow - 1\downarrow = 2\uparrow$$

$$2/(1+3) = 1/2$$

three-up & one-down in each tetrahedron



3D analogue of 1/3 plateau in 2D triangular Heisenberg antiferromagnets



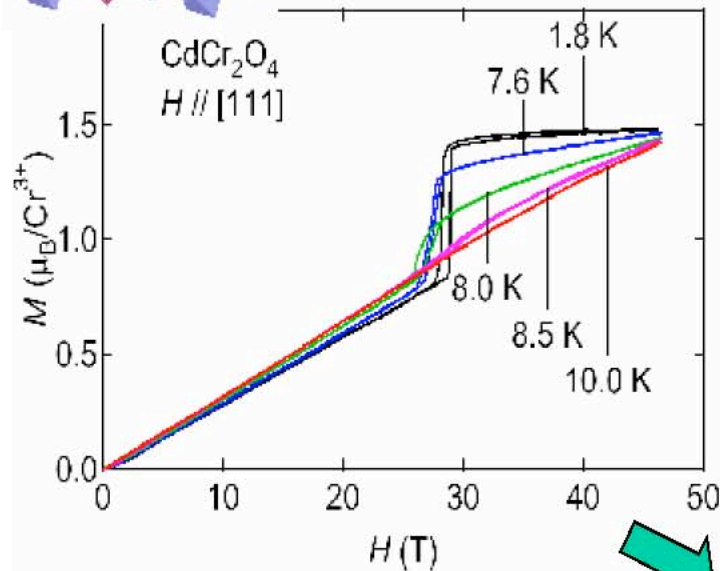
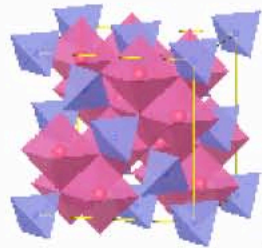
2 up & 1 down
(2-1)/3=1/3

C₆Eu

S. Miyashita, JPSJ (1986)

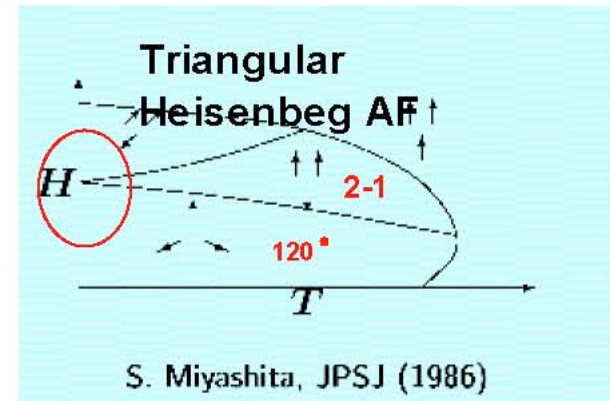
A.Chubukov (1991)

H-T phase diagram of CdCr₂O₄



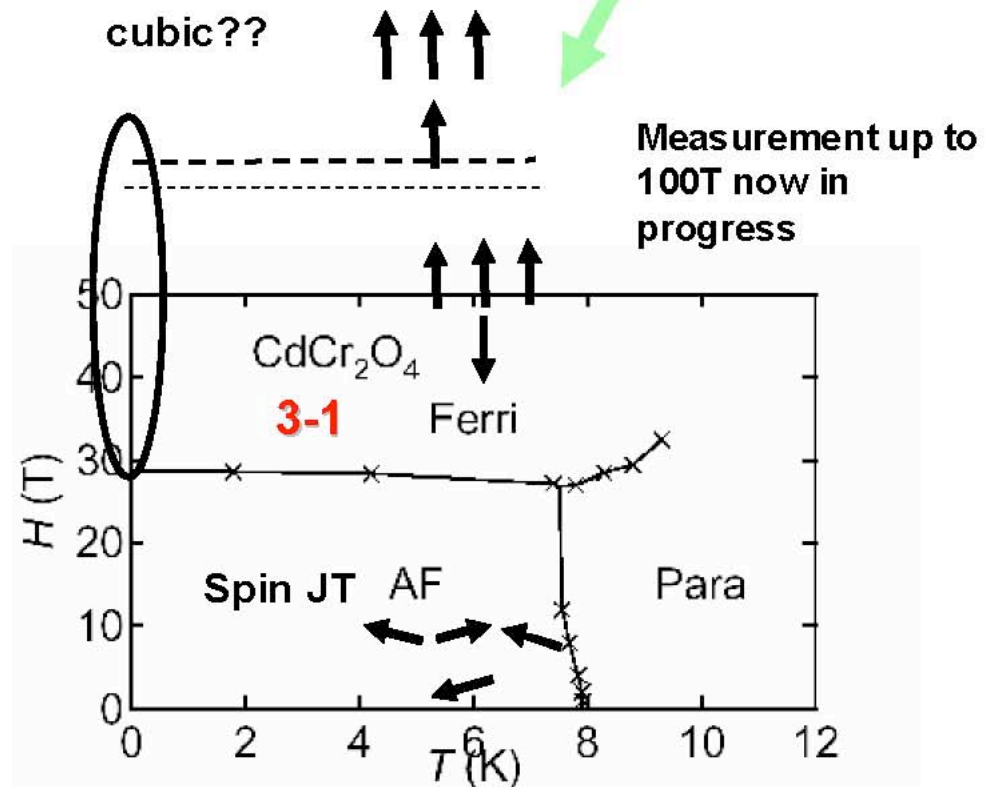
Stability of 1/2 plateau state over 20 T remarkable

coupling with lattice plays an important role



S. Miyashita, JPSJ (1986)

A.Chubukov (1991)



Need for spin-lattice coupling to get stable plateau

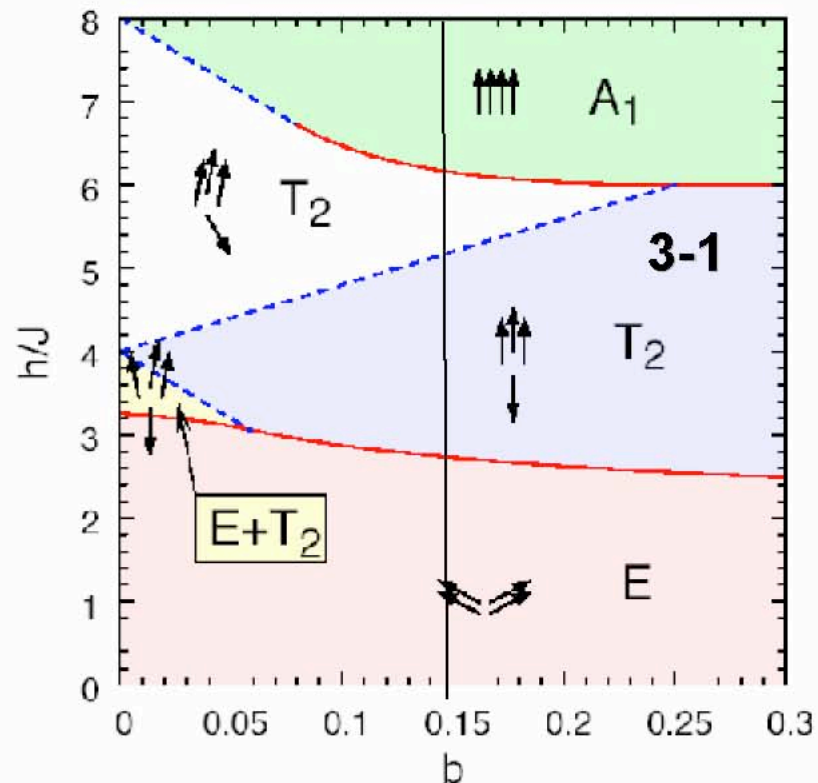
Heisenberg pyrochlore AF

K.Penc, N.Shannon and
H.Shiba, submitted

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} J [S_i S_j - b(S_i S_j)^2] - h \sum_i S_i .$$

biquadratic term represents spin-lattice coupling

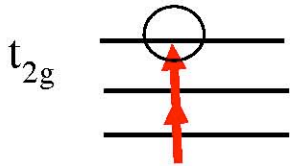
b: dimensionless coupling constant



ZnV_2O_4 , CdV_2O_4 $S=1$ pyrochlore AF

V^{3+} (d^2 , $S=1$)

$T_{st} = 50K$
 $> T_N = 40K$
 $\theta_{CW} = -420K$



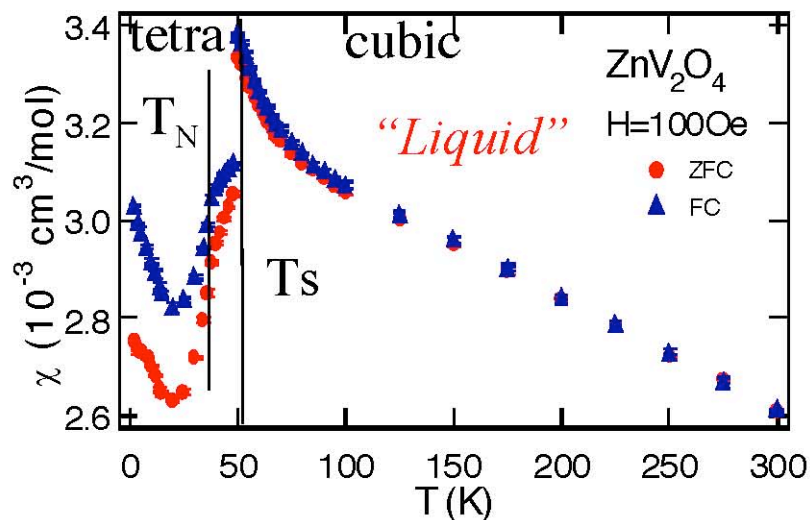
$T_N / |\theta_{CW}| = 0.095$

More fun out of $CdCr_2O_4$

Additional ingredient:
orbital degrees of freedom

Cubic-Tetragonal phase
transition occurs first

$T_N \neq T_S$

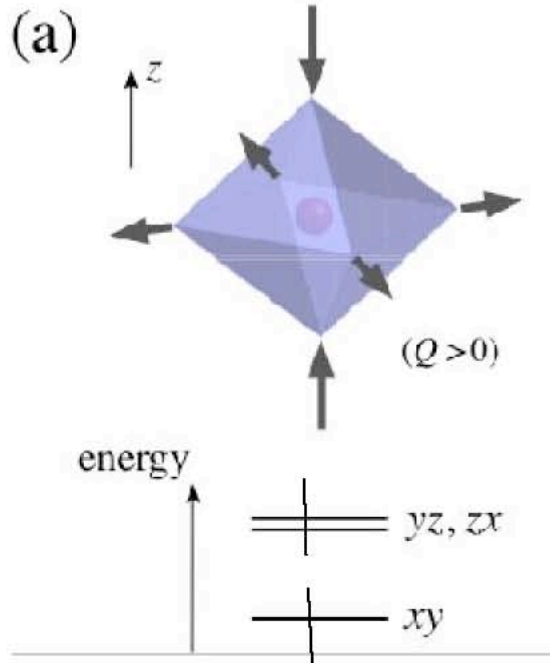


*Suppression of spin frustration by
orbital ordering → AF ordering*

Simple orbital JT at Ts?? no

Stabilization of AF ordering by orbital ordering in ZnV_2O_4

$T < T_s$



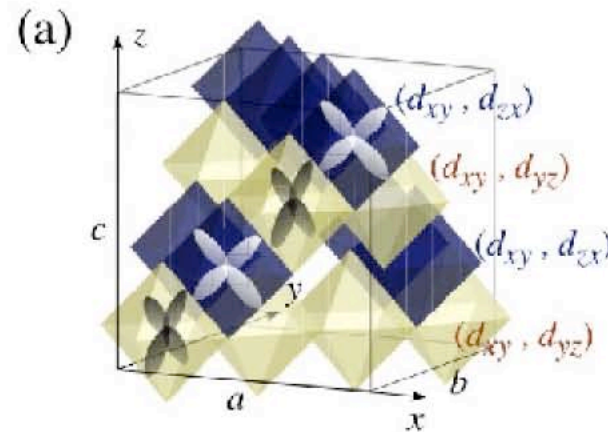
compression along c-axis

Not simple JT

Orbital degeneracy remains

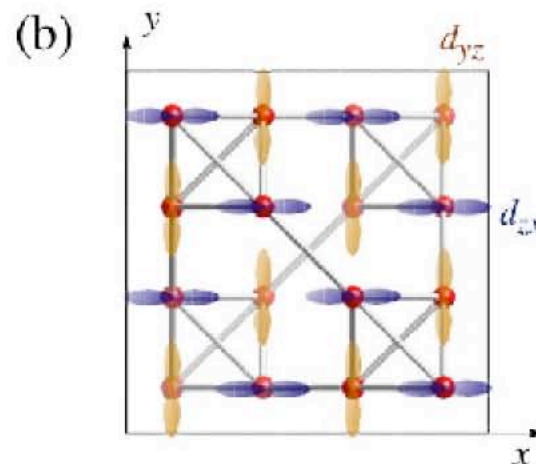
d_{yz}, d_{zx} orbital ordering

→ anisotropic spin coupling, stabilizing AF
gain magnetic E



Motome

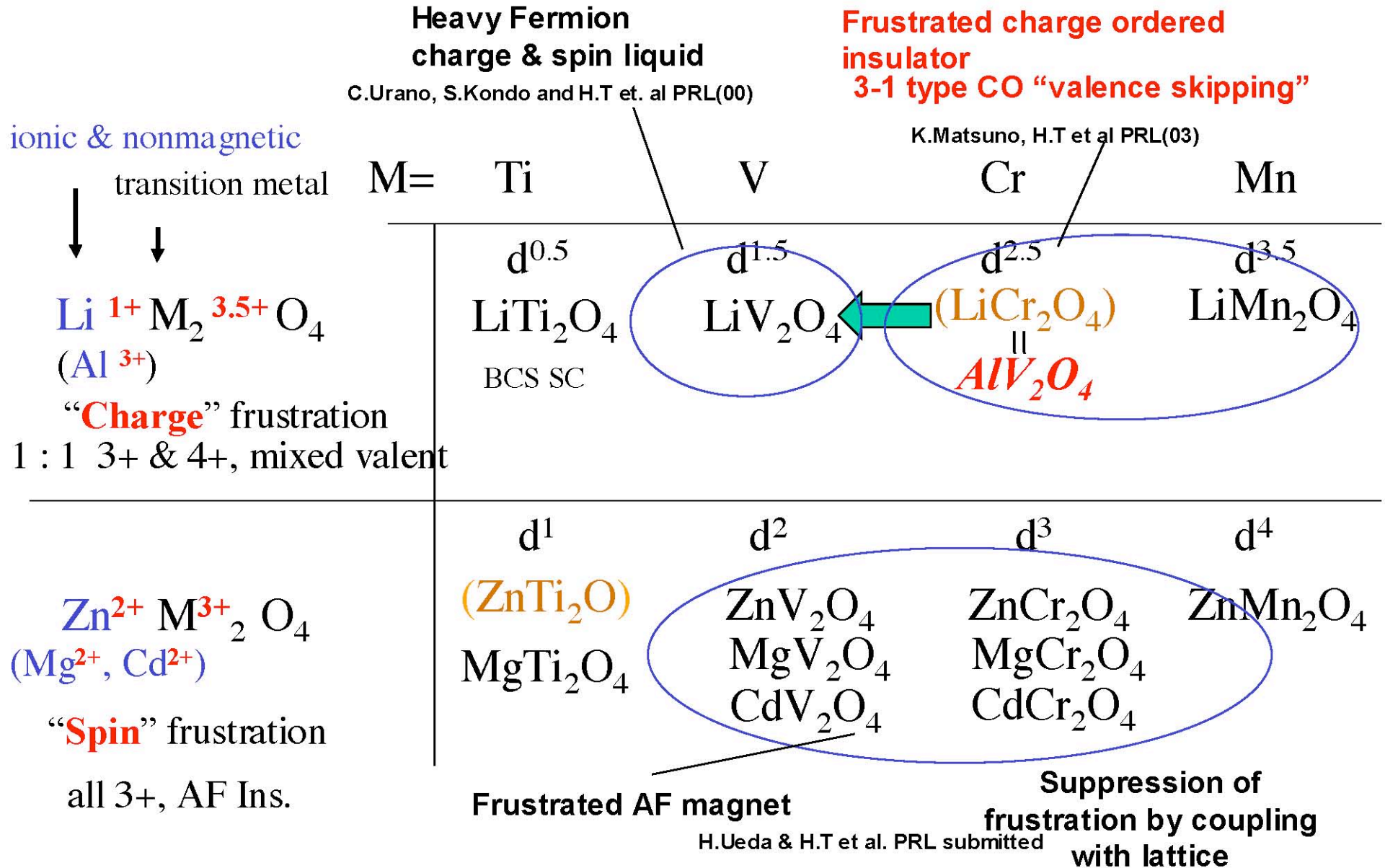
Recent structural analysis support for the Motome picture



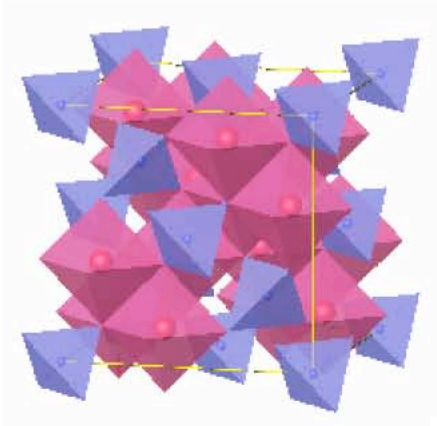
$LiVO_2$ (triangular)

orbital ordering & formation of spin singlet

Guide map of “simple” spinel oxides



Charge frustration on pyrochlore lattice



Mixed valent At first glance,
with 1:1 mixture of $\text{V}^{2+}(\text{d}^3, s=3/2)$ & $\text{V}^{3+}(\text{d}^2, s=1)$

Verway problem?

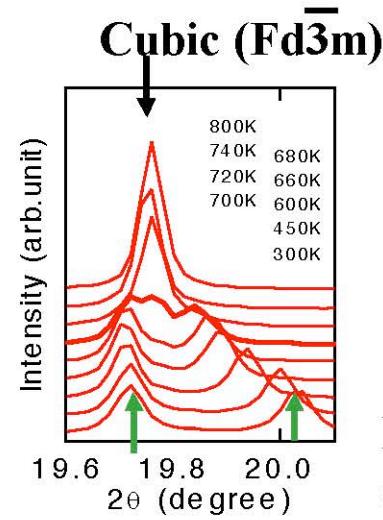
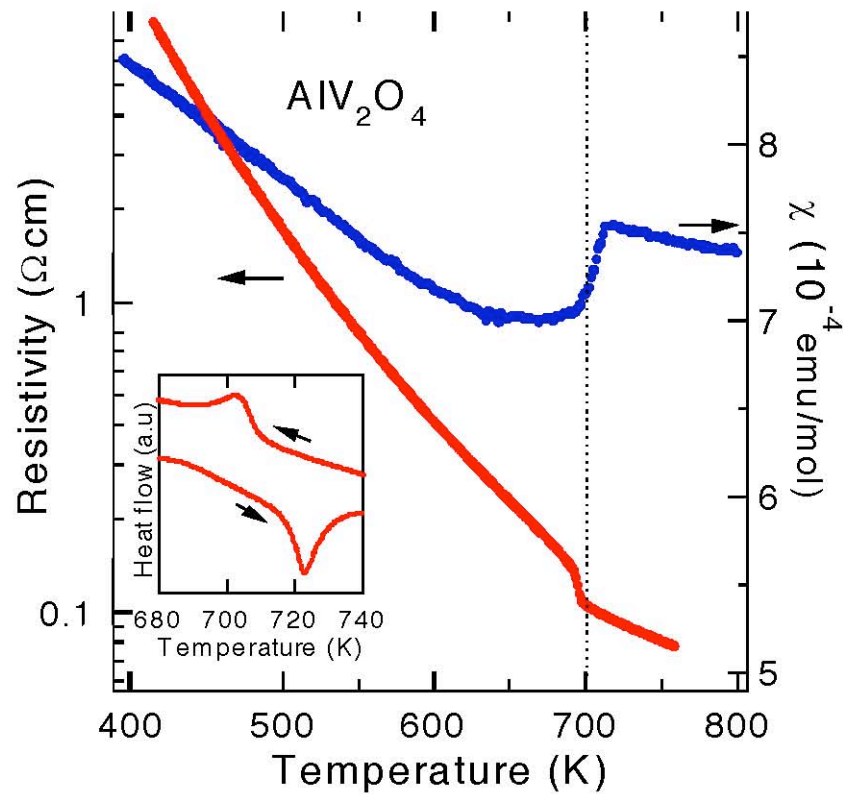
CO(OO) hard to achieve due to frustration – Fe_3O_4

Unexpectedly, very stable CO observed

Overcoming the frustration (degeneracy) by having
valence skipping configuration, V^{2+} - V^{4+} , with 3:1 ratio

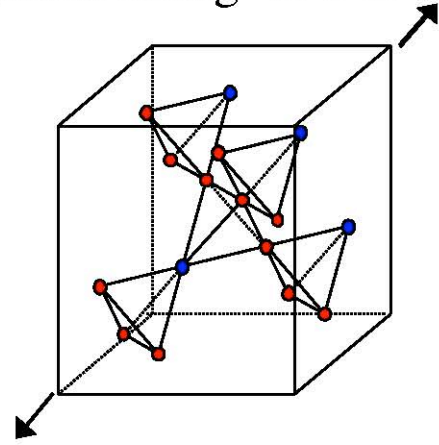
**One of the first pyrochlore systems with
CO pattern identified**

700 K anomaly in χ & ρ accompanied with structural phase transition from Cubic to Rhombhedral



Matsuno et al.
 JPSJ (01), PRL (93)

elongation along $\langle 111 \rangle$

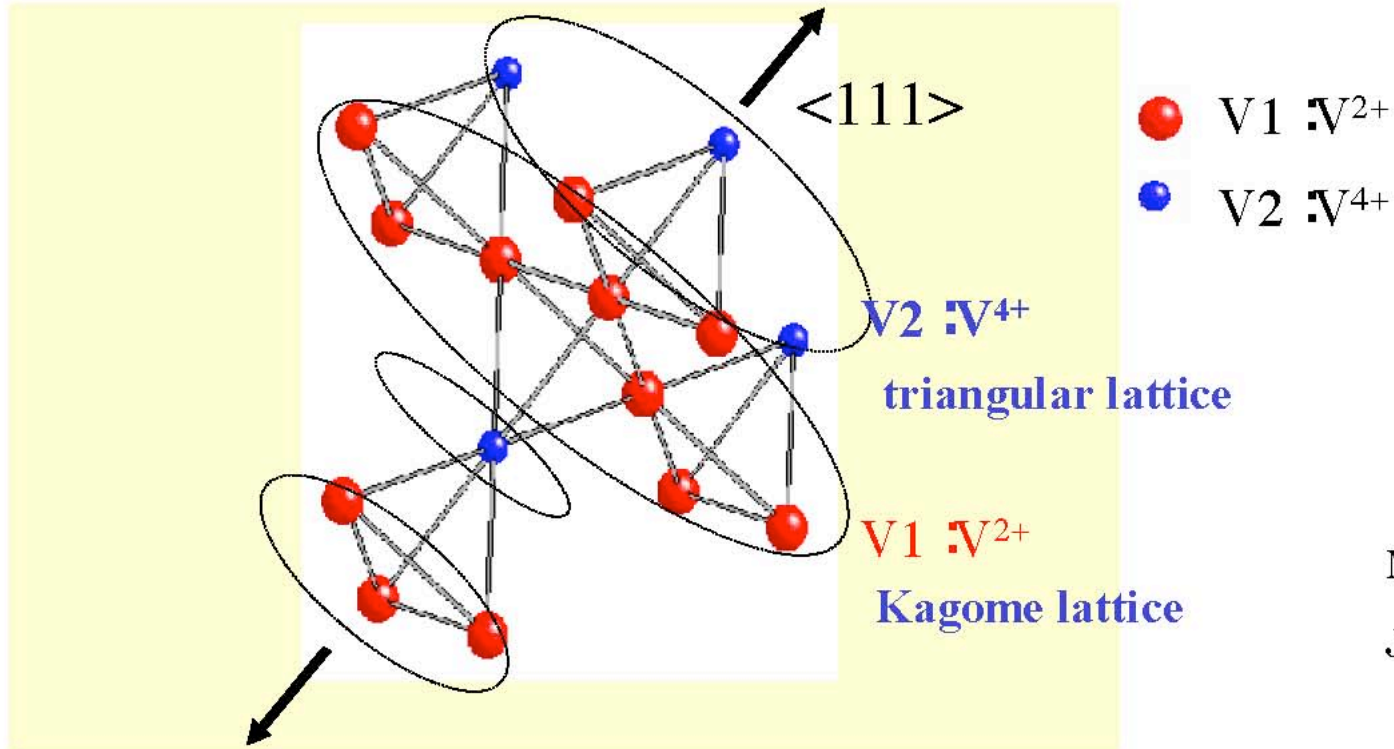


- Resistivity **insulating** even above RT
 Charge ordered? '

3-1 charge ordering ($V^{2+} - V^{4+}$) below 700 K in AlV_2O_4

Rhombohedral phase - elongated along $\langle 111 \rangle$

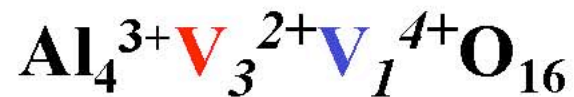
$V1, V2$ inequivalent ($V1:V2=3:1$)



Matsuno et al.

JPSJ (01), PRL (93)

- Not compatible with 1:1 $2+, 3+$
- Valence skipping configuration, 3:1 $2+ (V1), 4+ (V2)$

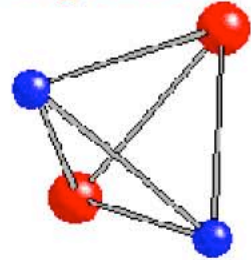


$(2.5 - \delta (V1), 2.5 + 3\delta (V2), \delta = 0.5 \text{ ionic limit})$

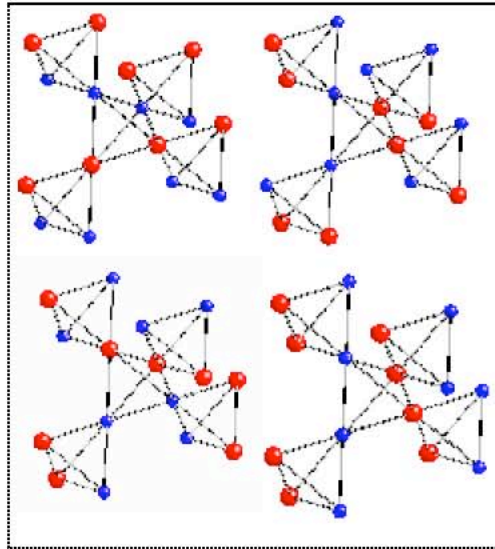
Geometrical frustration & charge ordering

1-1 order : Fe_3O_4 (Verway)

strongly degenerate due to geometry



1:1 2+ & 3+

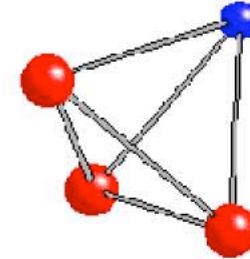


Fe_3O_4 (1-1 order)

T_{CO} : 120K orbital
ordering?

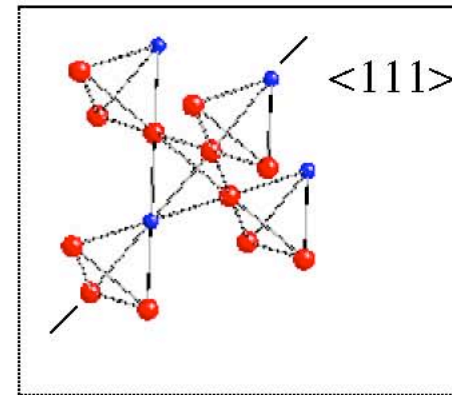
3-1 order : AlV_2O_4 Anderson(56)

degeneracy suppressed
unique to charge frustration!



3:1 2+ & 4+

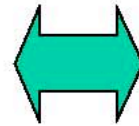
Valence skipping



& coupled with Rhomb distortion

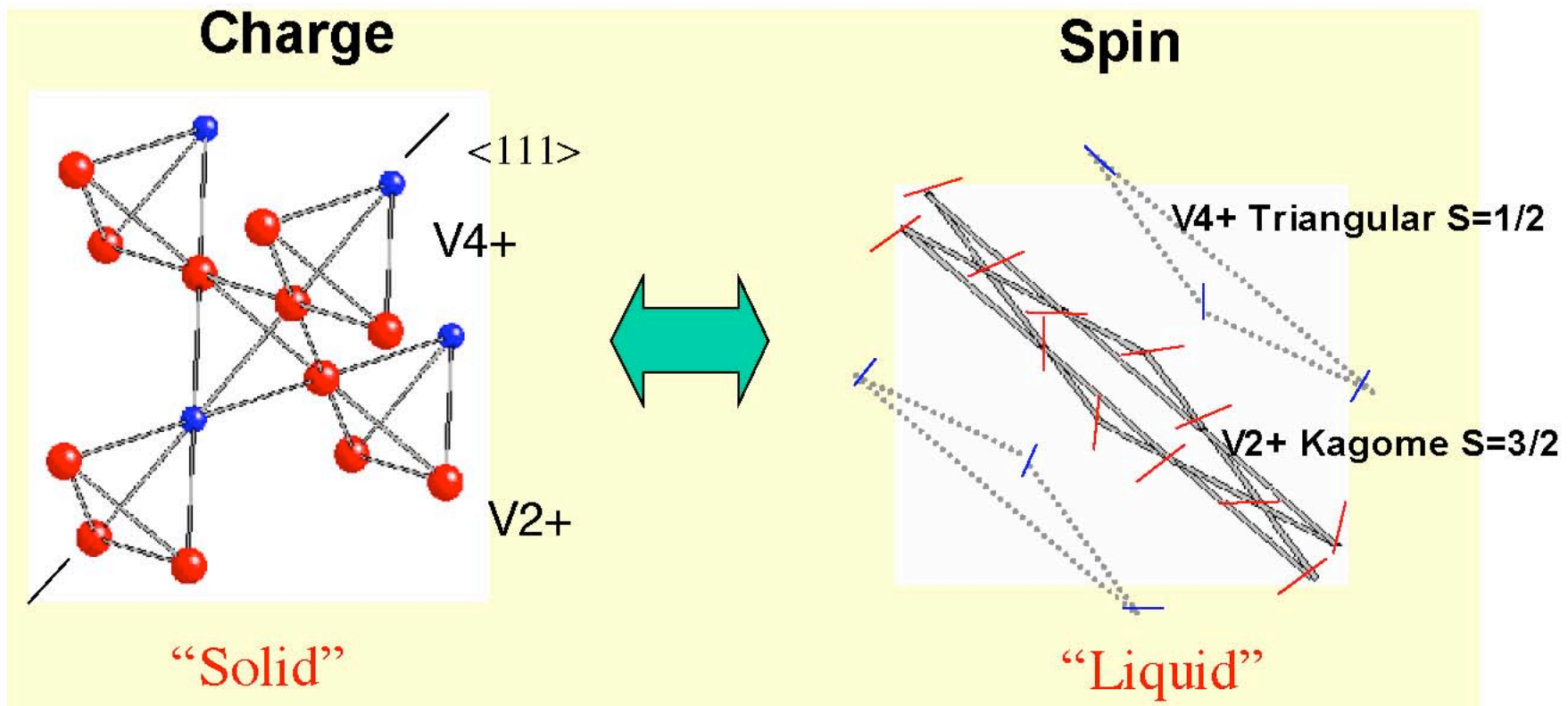
AlV_2O_4 (3-1 order)

T_{CO} : 700K **Stable!**



<

Charge ordering in geometrically frustrated AIV_2O_4 — Contrast between spin & charge



3-1 order at 700 K

flexible

No long range order detected

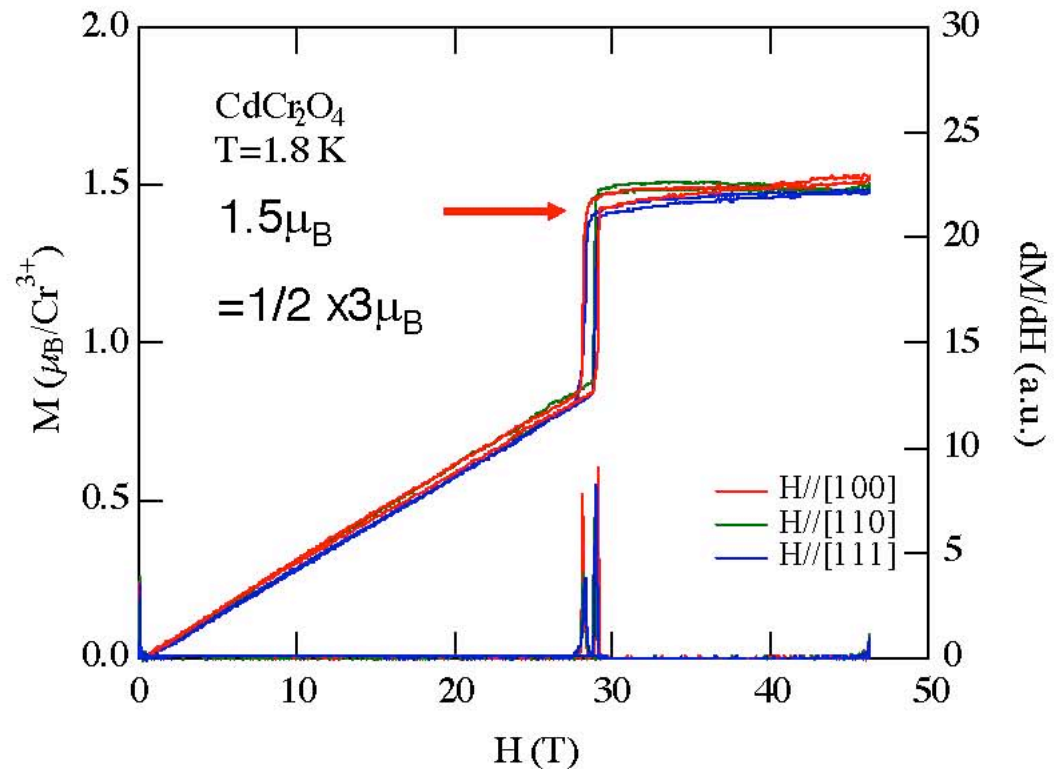
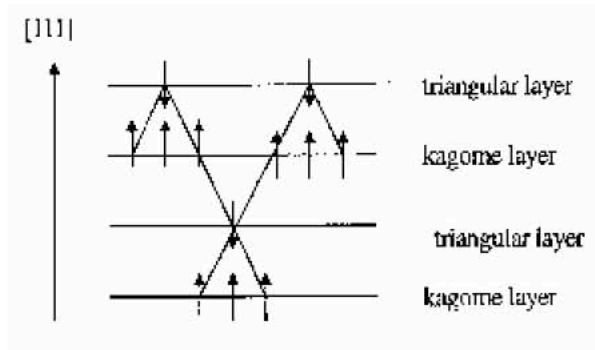
Not flexible always 1:1 up & down

1/2 magnetization plateau in CdCr_2O_4 – spin version of 3-1 ordering in AlV_2O_4

3-1 spin ordering in CdCr_2O_4 three-up & one-down

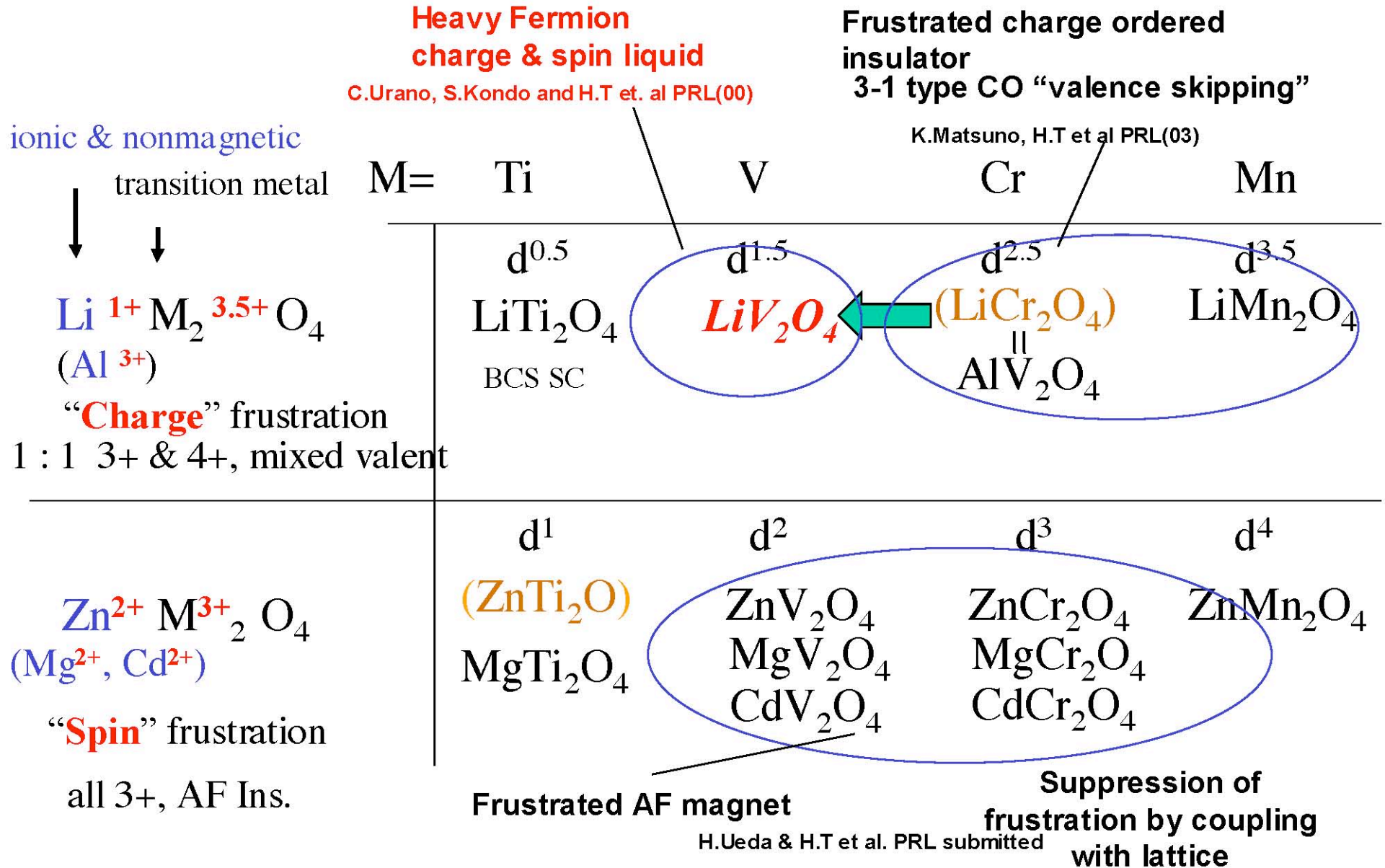
$$3\uparrow - 1\downarrow = 2\uparrow$$

$$2/(1+3) = 1/2$$



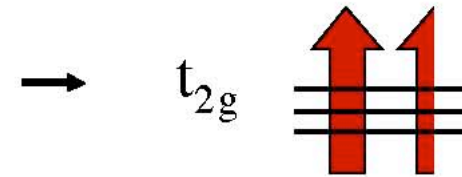
couple with Rhombedral distortion ??

Guide map of “simple” spinel oxides



Verway system without charge ordering –heavy fermion oxide LiV_2O_4

- $\text{V}^{3.5+}$ mixed valent 1:1 V^{3+} & V^{4+}
 $3d^{1.5}$ 1.5 electron /V



- Situation analogous to AlV_2O_4

But, at glance, do nothing to suppress the degeneracy

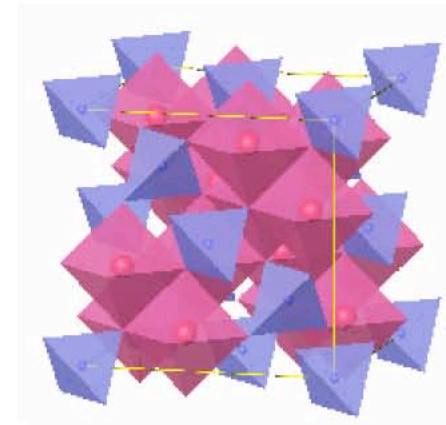
- Cubic to 4K - All V crystallographically equivalent

No charge ordering

- No magnetic ordering to 20mK

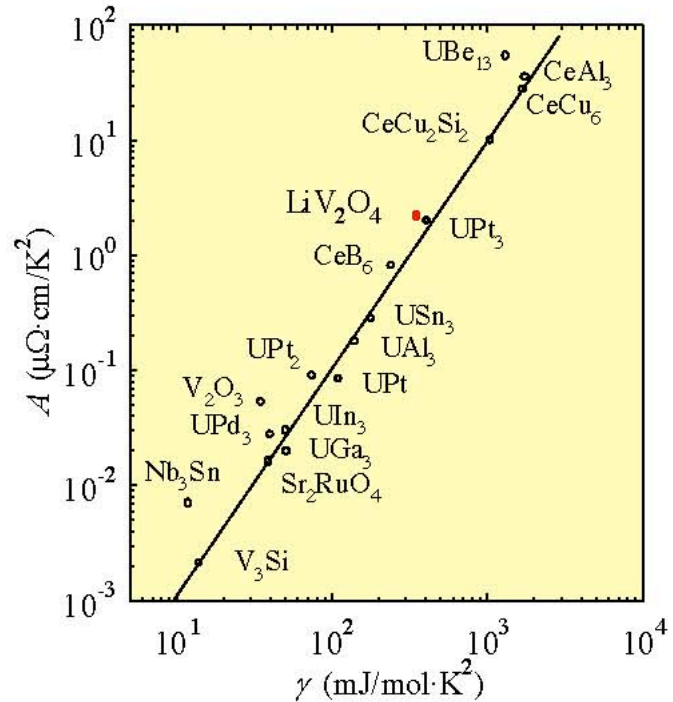
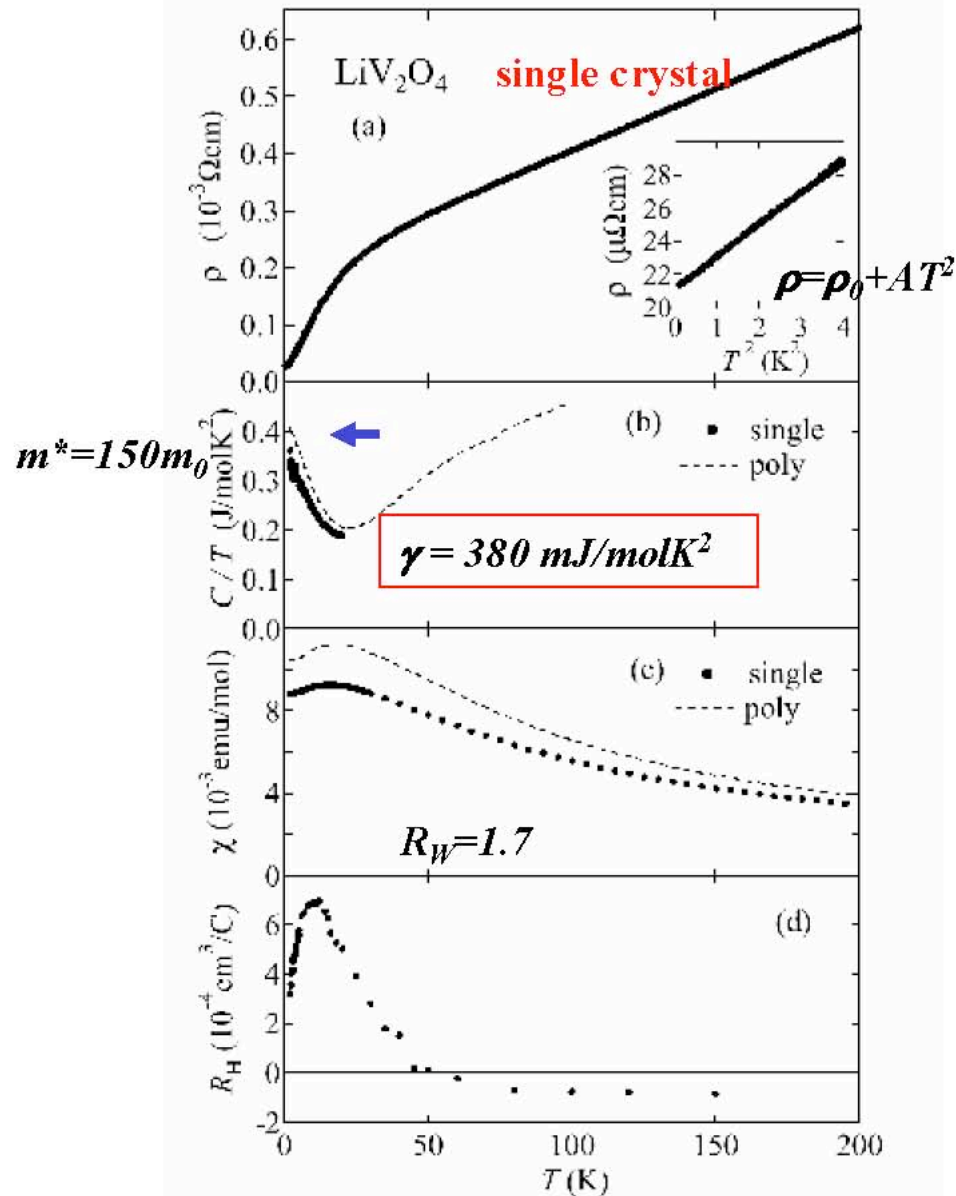
———— The first heavy fermion oxides

S.Kondo et al.



Heavy Fermion oxide LiV_2O_4

C. Urano, H.T et al PRL 85, 1052 (00)
 H.T et al. Mat.Sci. Eng. B63, 147 (99)



$T^* = 20-30 \text{ K}$

Origin of the heavy quasiparticle mass?

Only t_{2g} electrons involved

-Kondo Scenario?
1.5 d-electron

LDA+U (Anisimov *et al.*)
0.5 e_g (itinerant)+ 1 a_{1g} (localized)
trigonal field splitting

-Geometrical frustration?

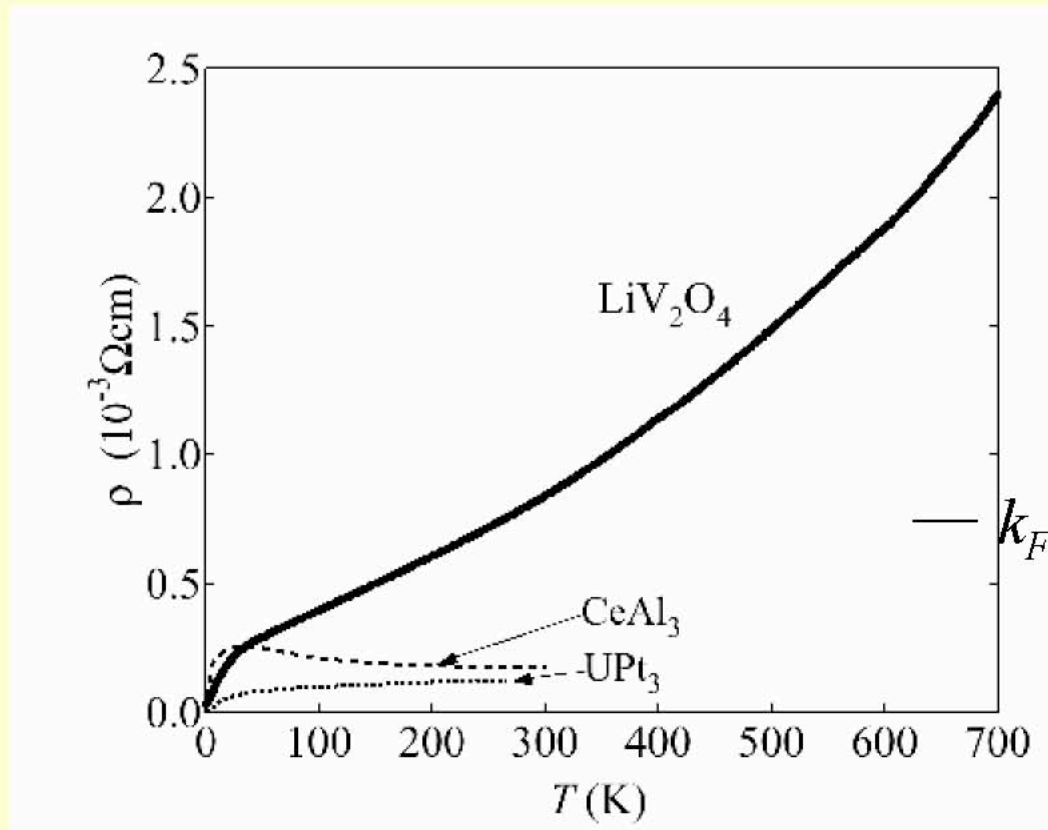
A. George
P. Coleman
P. Fulde

A Fermi liquid critically close to charge ordered insulating state but without magnetic ordering, which is realized by charge & spin frustration

HF state in LiV_2O_4 is located at the critical vicinity to CO state,

“Bad metal” behavior in LiV_2O_4

analogous to TMOs near Mott(CO) transition,
indicative of close proximity to CO

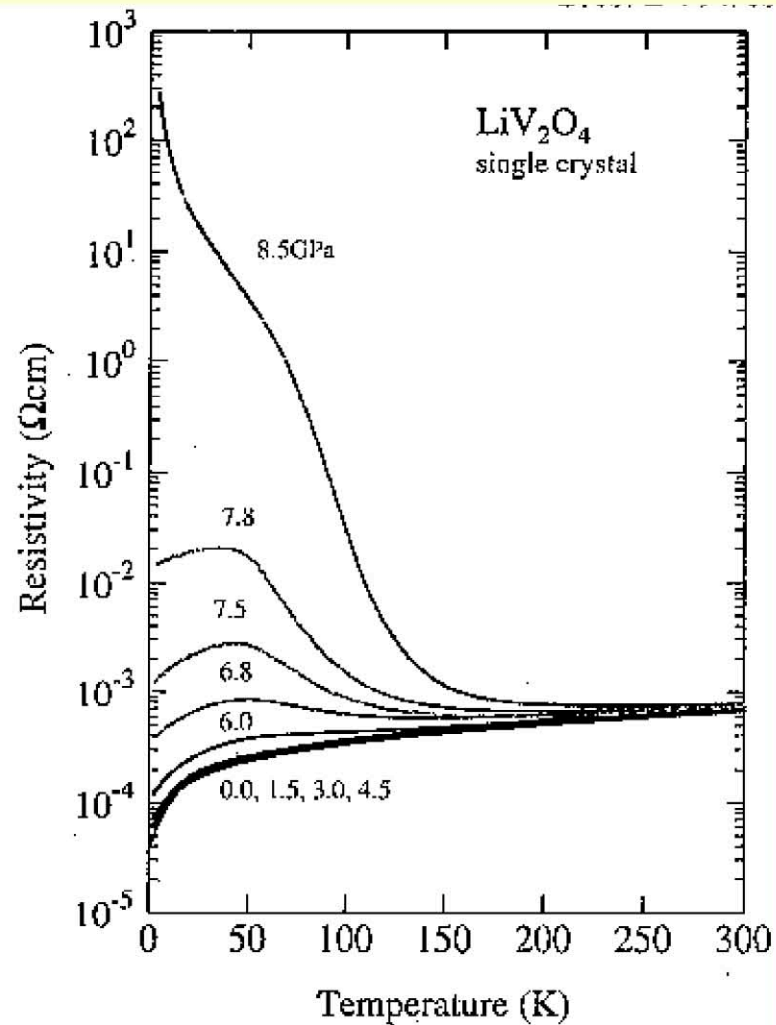


**Distinct from
conventional HFs**

absence of
resistivity saturation

— $k_F l = 1$
Metallic behavior above IR
limit

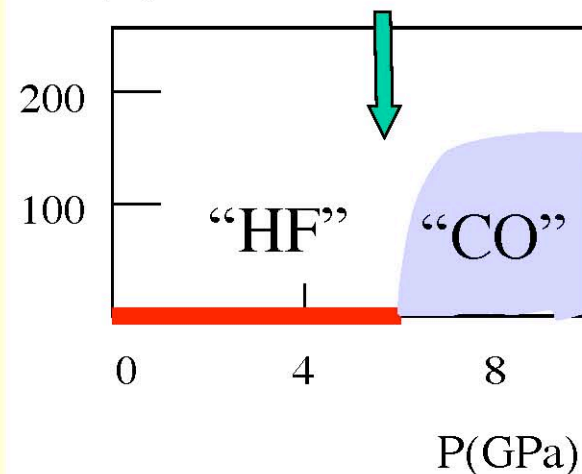
Switching from HF metal to Charge Ordered Insulator – HF is a melted COI



Pressure induced metal-insulator transition

Very likely CO transition because of the mixed valent nature (formally 1:1 V³⁺, V⁴⁺)

T(K) *Geometrical frustration*

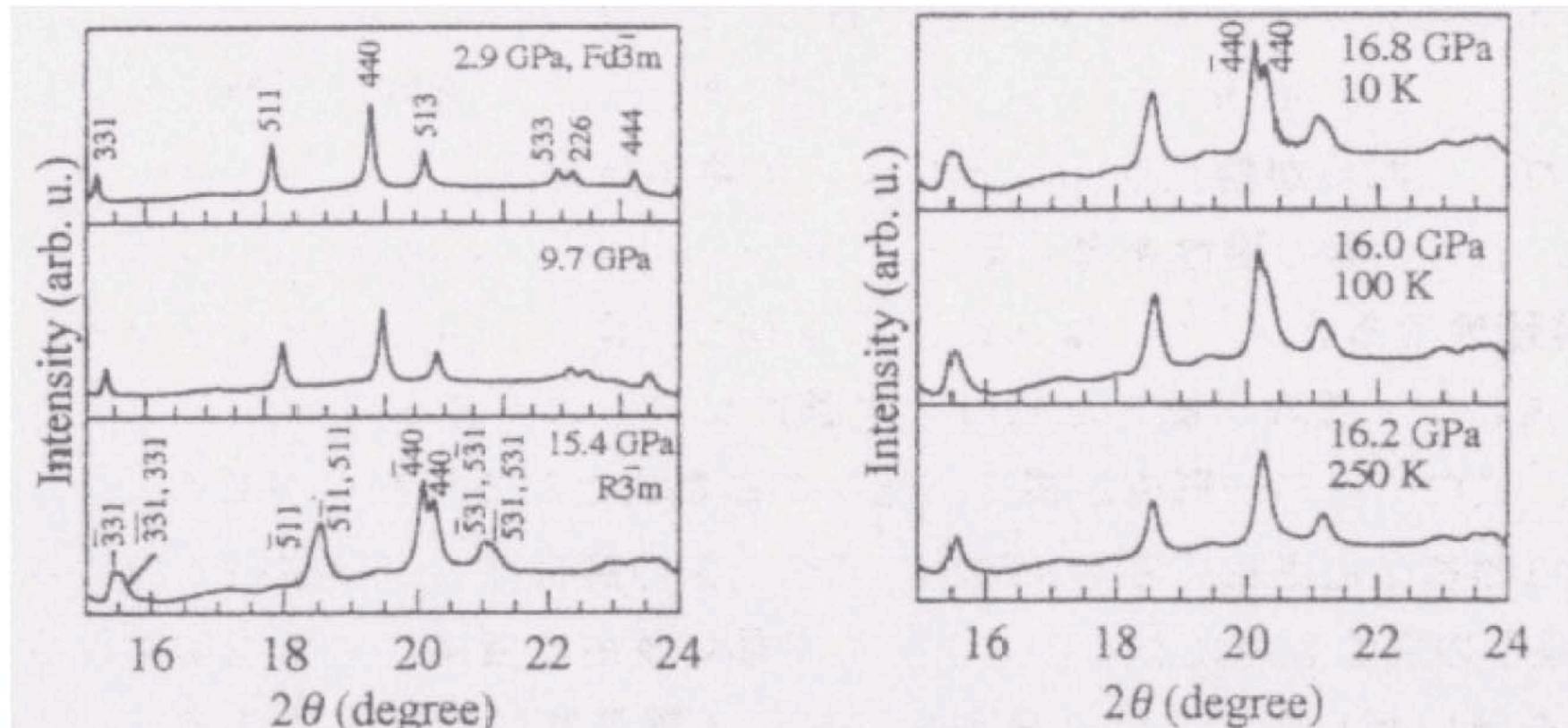


charge liquid critically close to COI but no magnetic ordering due to spin frustration

Pressure induced Cubic-Rhombhedral transition

Osaka G

*HP Ins phase, possibly the same CO pattern as AlV_2O_4
 $V4+-V2+$ or $V3+-V5+$?*



Summary

Geometrical frustration dominates the physics of spinel oxides



Lift charge degeneracy: 3-1 ordering, a text book example of CO on the spinel (pyrochlore) lattice



**Lift spin degeneracy: Spin JT system
spin version of 3-1 ordering realized in magnetic fields as a magnetization plateau**

3-1 ordering, a common way to suppress frustration



heavy fermion ground state realized in the presence of CO instability (3-1 ordering??)

HF formation is linked with the physics of CO on the frustrated lattice

Summary

Geometrical frustration dominates the physics of spinel oxides



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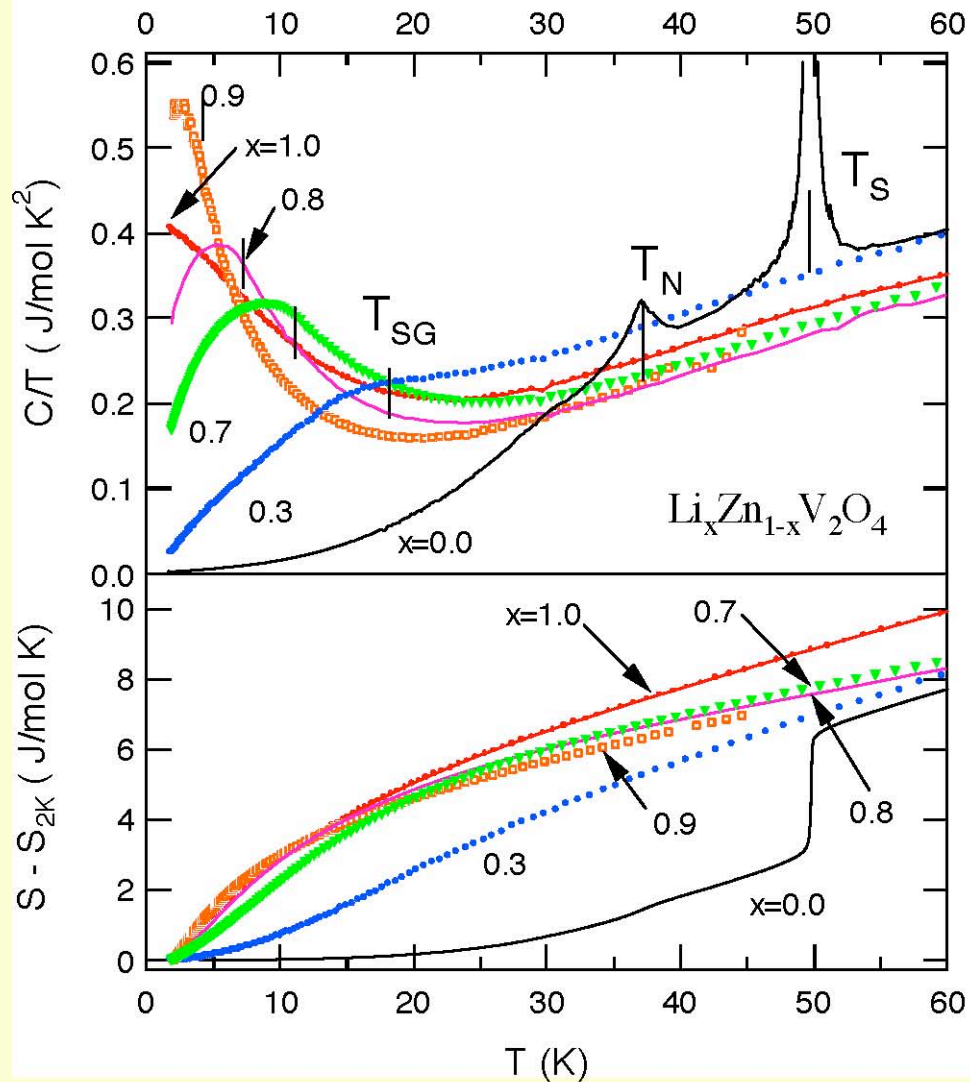
3-1 ordering, a common way to suppress frustration



heavy fermion ground state realized in the presence of CO instability (3-1 ordering??)

HF formation is linked with the physics of CO on the frustrated lattice

Evolution of $C(T)$ from frustrated magnet to HF



x -independent large entropy $S(50\text{K}) \sim 50\% R \ln 3/V$

Critically close to CO Ins.
(charge frustration)

But can not quench spin
degree of freedom due to spin
frustration

Hole Doping

