

# Probing spin-phonon coupling in antiferromagnetic oxides

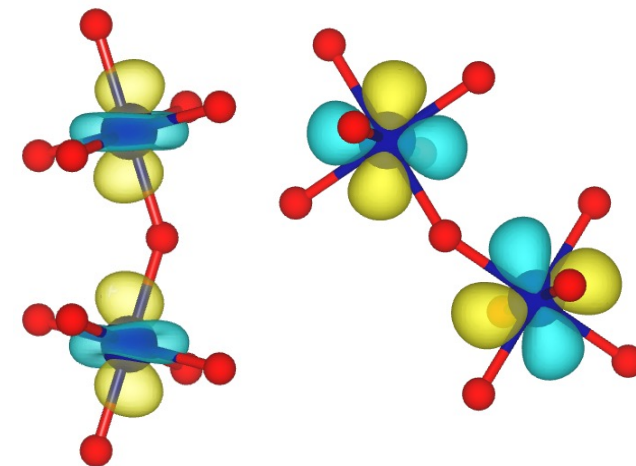
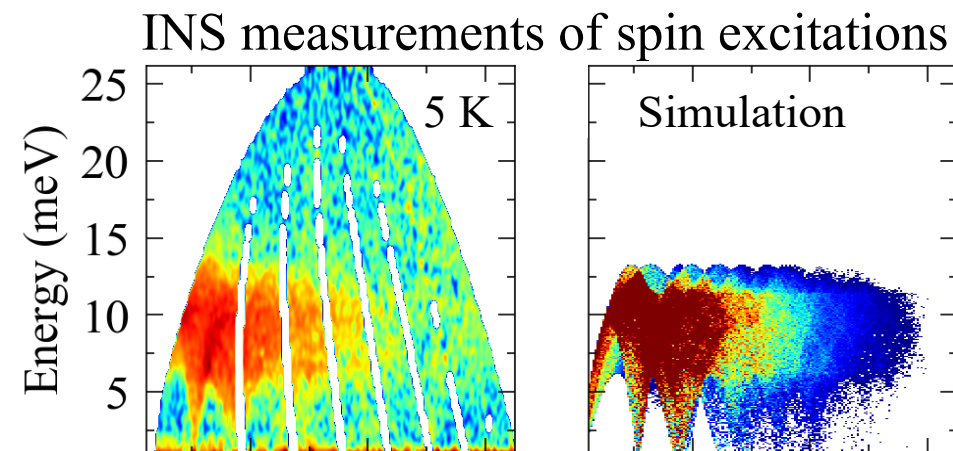
Dipanshu Bansal

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IIT Bombay

[dipanshu@iitb.ac.in](mailto:dipanshu@iitb.ac.in)

<https://sites.google.com/view/spectroscopy-iitb/>



1. A.P. Roy, Jayakrishnan SS, ..., and D. Bansal. “Evidence of strong orbital-selective spin-orbital-phonon coupling in  $\text{CrVO}_4$ .” PRL, Vol. 132, 026701, 2024.
2. Jayakrishnan SS and D. Bansal. “Effect of spin-phonon coupling on phonons and magnons in the antiferromagnet  $\text{NiO}$ .” PRB, Vol. 111, 104306, 2025.
3. Jayakrishnan SS and D. Bansal. “Coherent phonon excitation induced evolution of spin dynamics and spin-phonon coupling in yttrium orthochromite.” PRB, Vol. 112, 214419, 2025.

<https://sites.google.com/view/spectroscopy-iitb/>

# Transient evolution of spin-phonon coupling

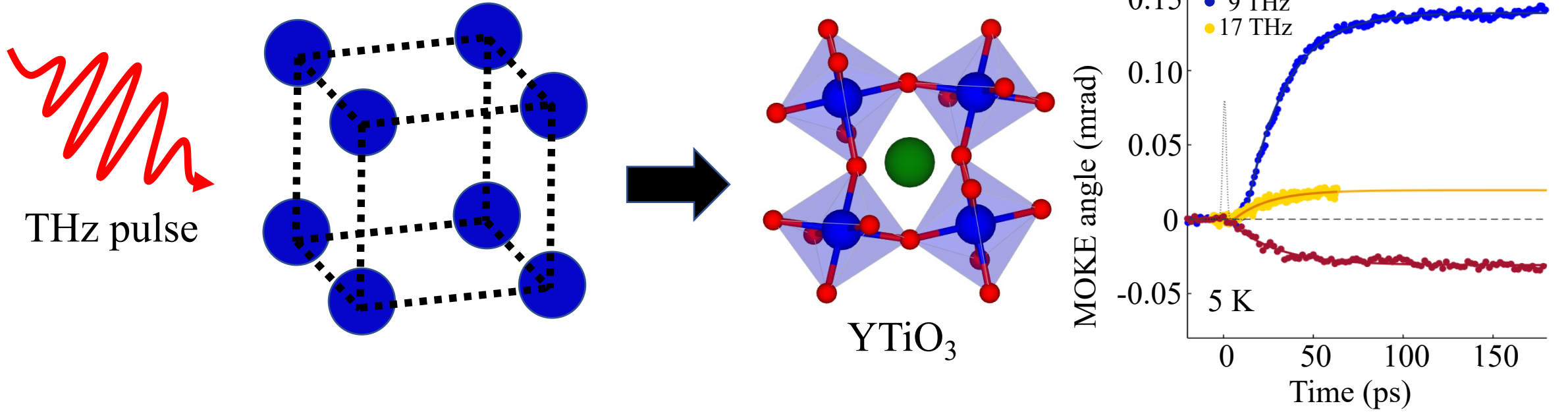
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<sup>1</sup>Disa, *et al.*, Nature 617.7959 (2023): 73-78

<sup>2</sup>Disa, *et al.*, Nature 16.9 (2020): 937-941

<sup>3</sup>Ilyas, *et al.*, Nature 636.8043 (2024): 609-614

# Transient evolution of spin-phonon coupling Strengthening of FM order in $\text{YTiO}_3$ <sup>1</sup>

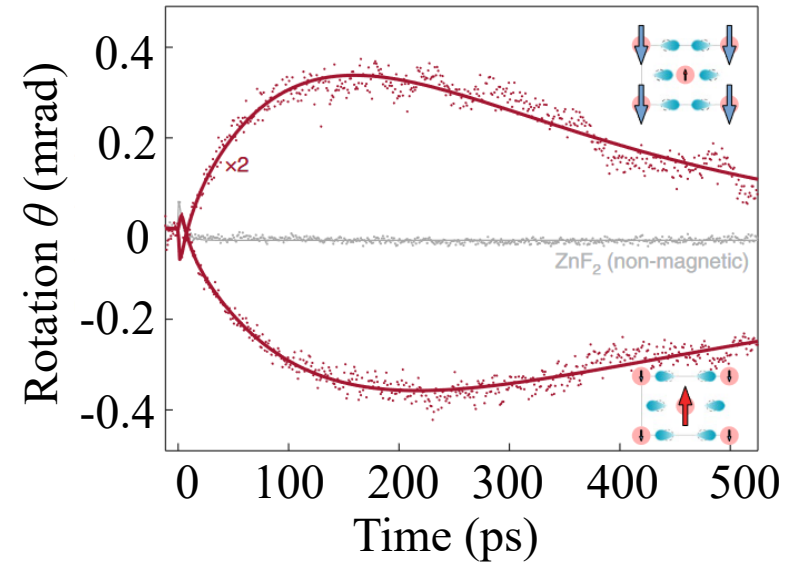
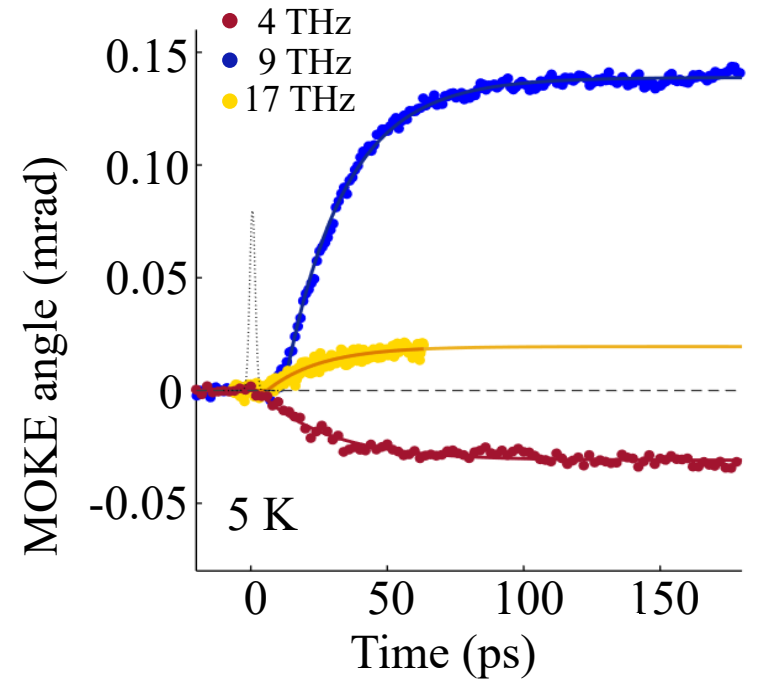
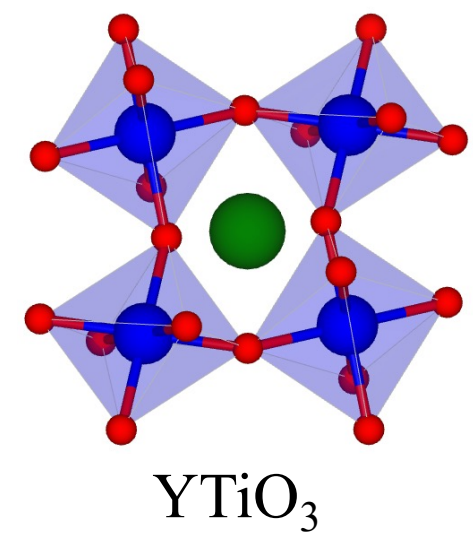
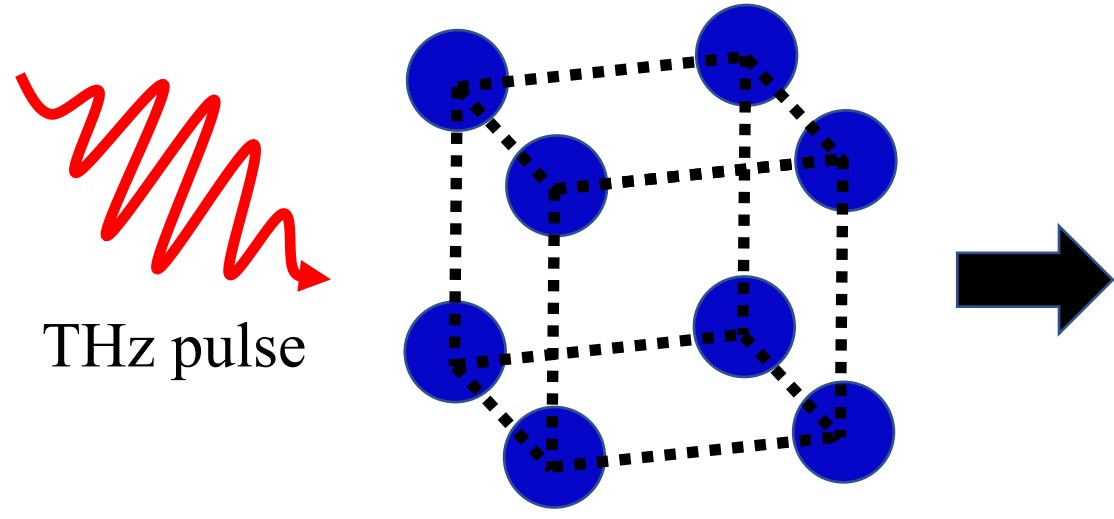


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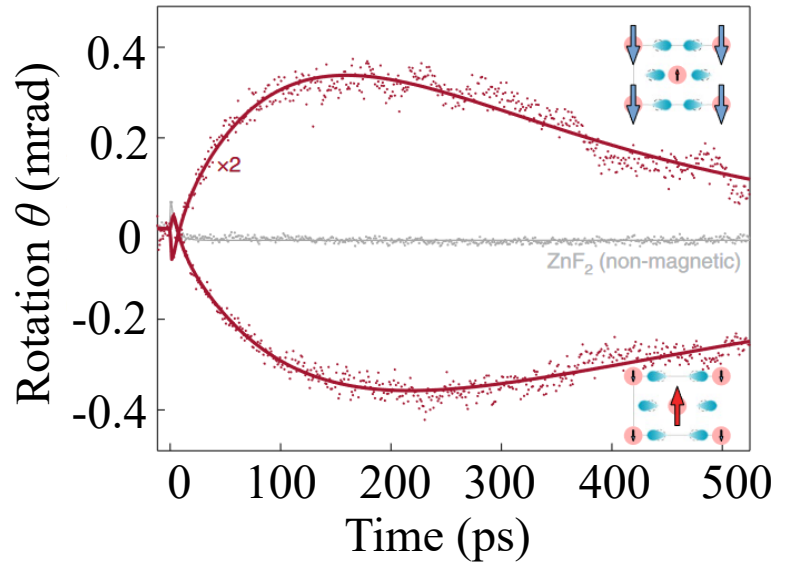
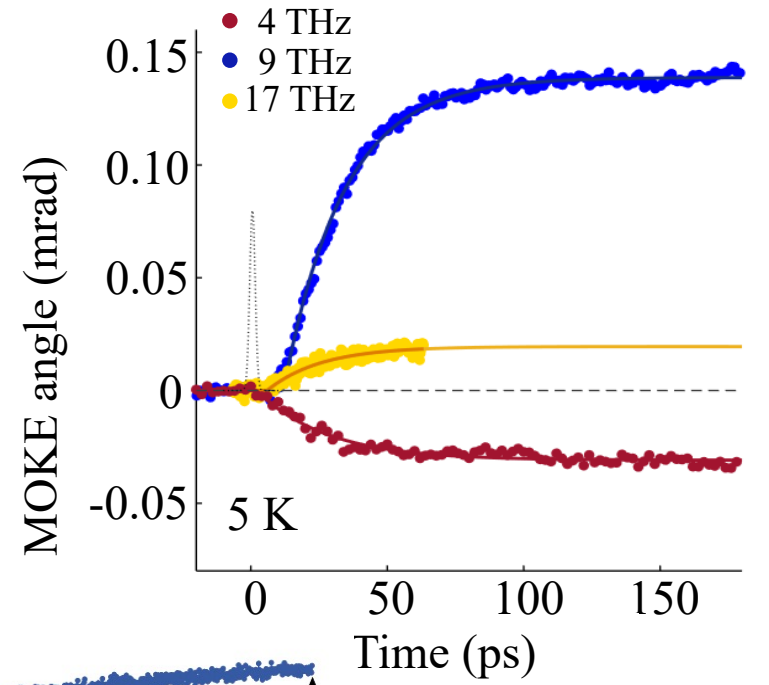
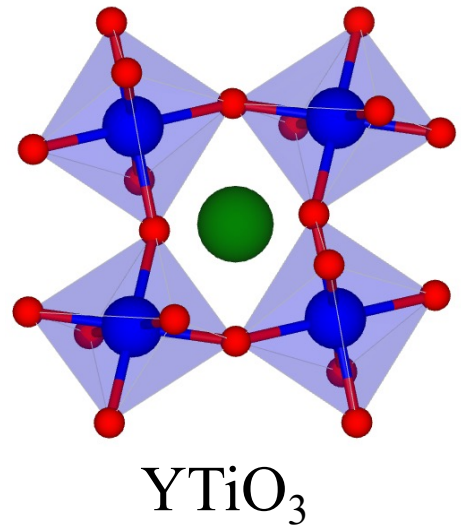
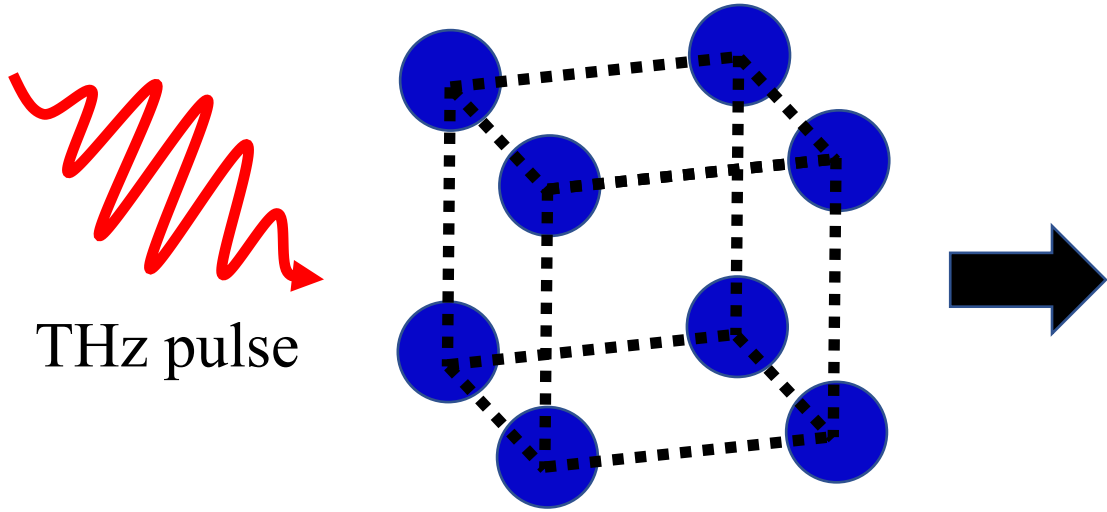
# Transient evolution of spin-phonon coupling Strengthening of FM order in $\text{YTiO}_3$ <sup>1</sup>



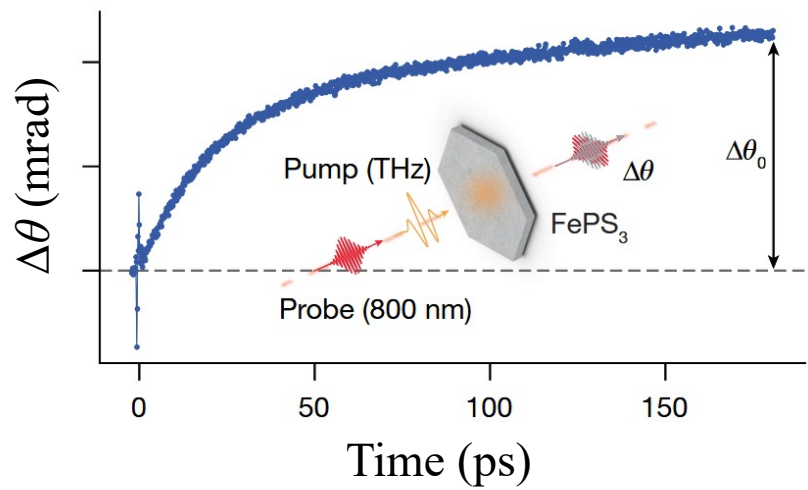
AFM to FM in  $\text{CoF}_2$ <sup>2</sup>

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# Transient evolution of spin-phonon coupling Strengthening of FM order in $\text{YTiO}_3$ <sup>1</sup>



AFM to FM in  $\text{CoF}_2$ <sup>2</sup>



Magnetization in  $\text{FePS}_3$ <sup>3</sup>

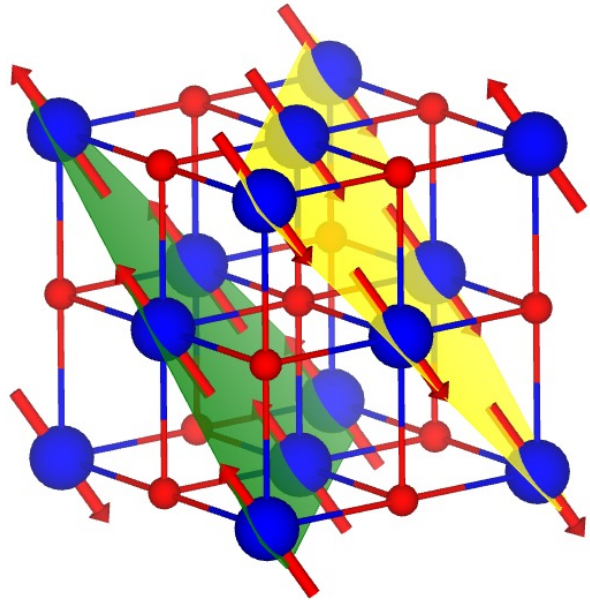
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# Nickel Oxide

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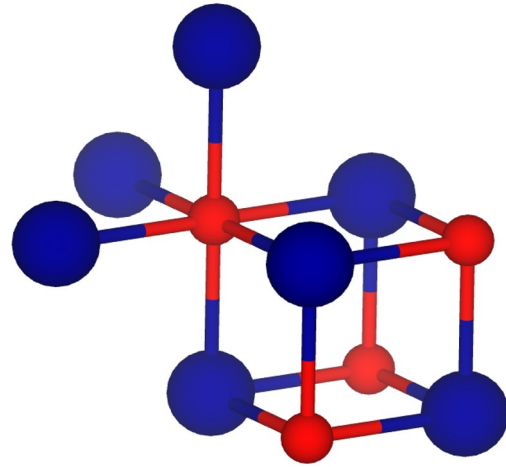
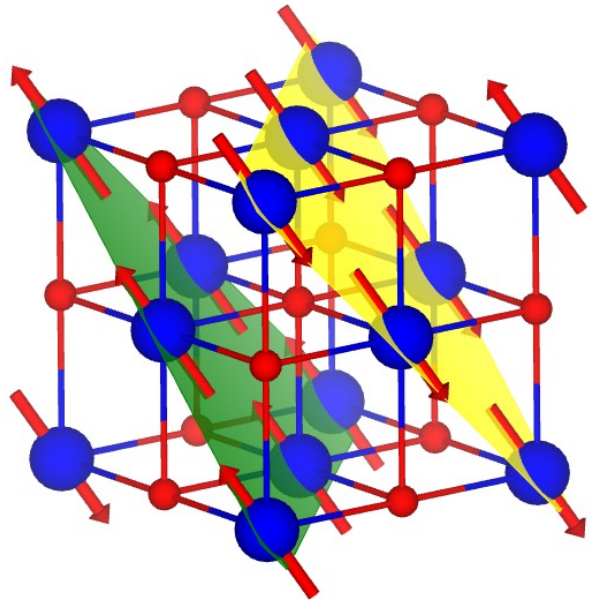
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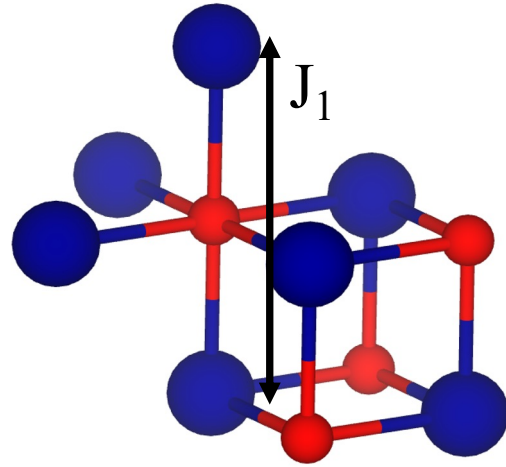
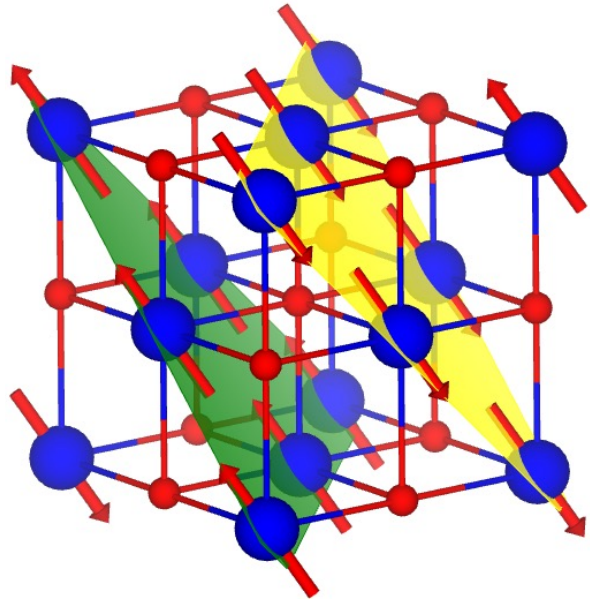
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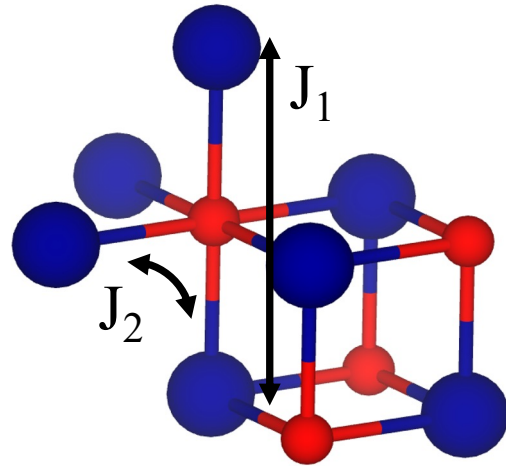
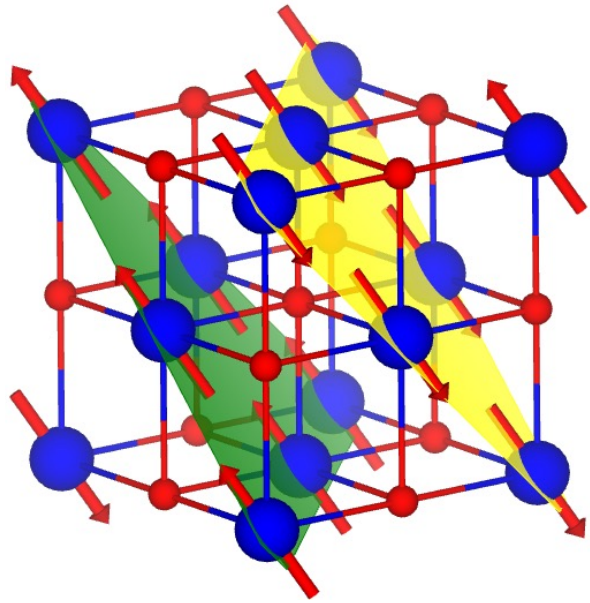
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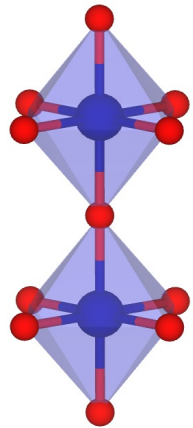
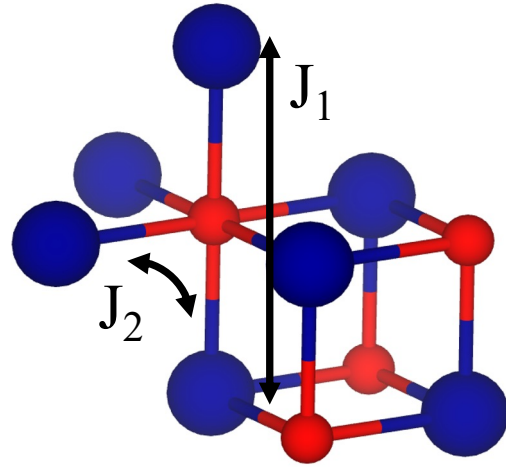
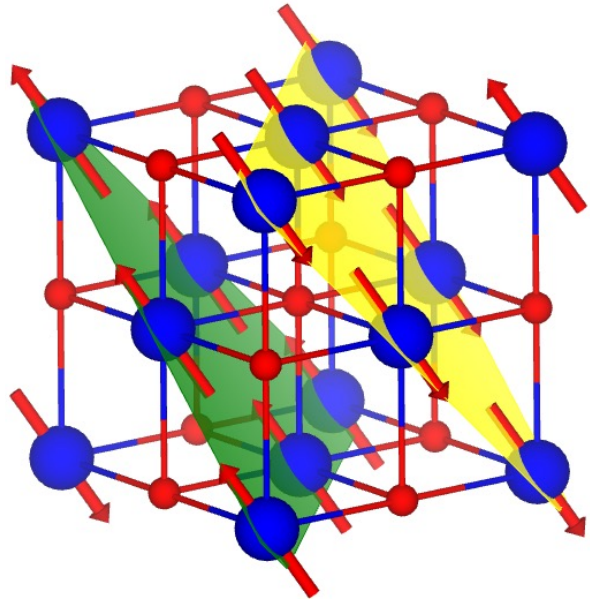
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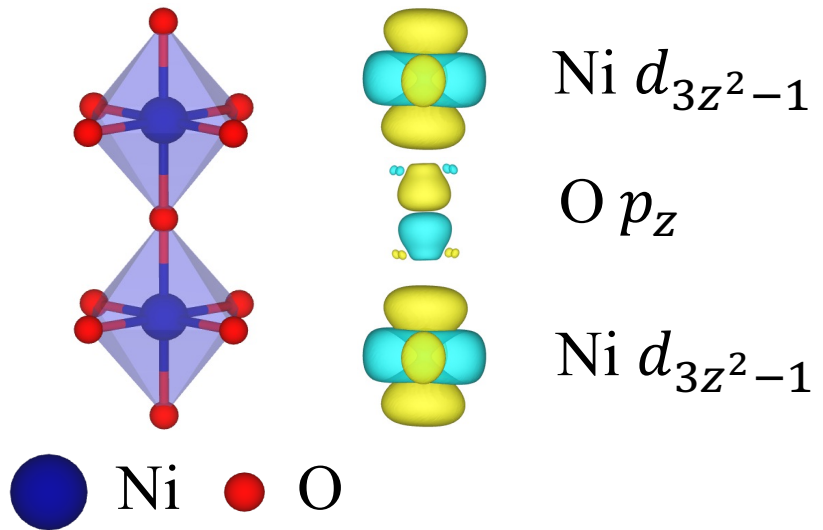
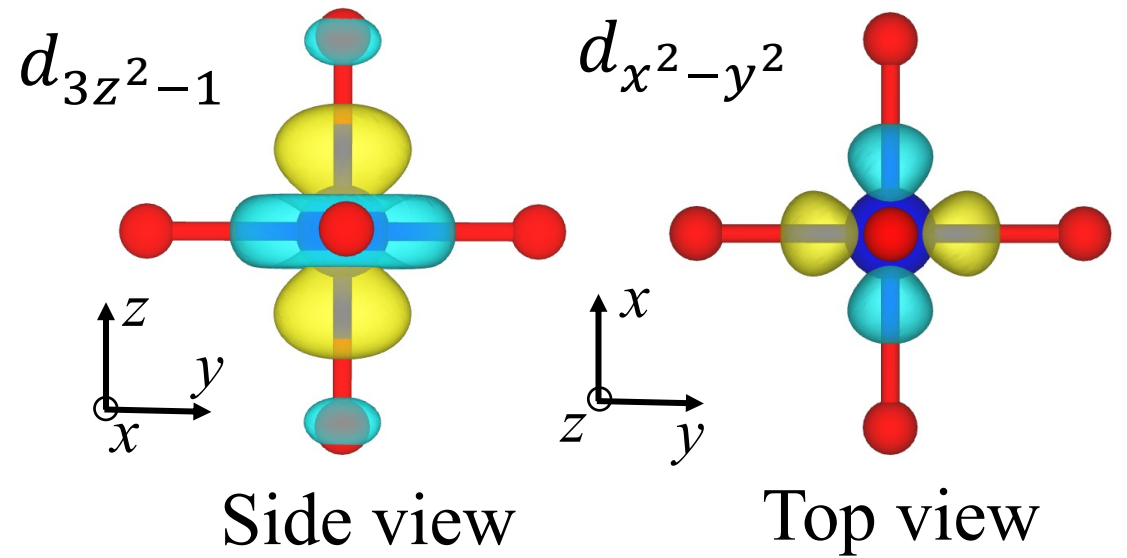
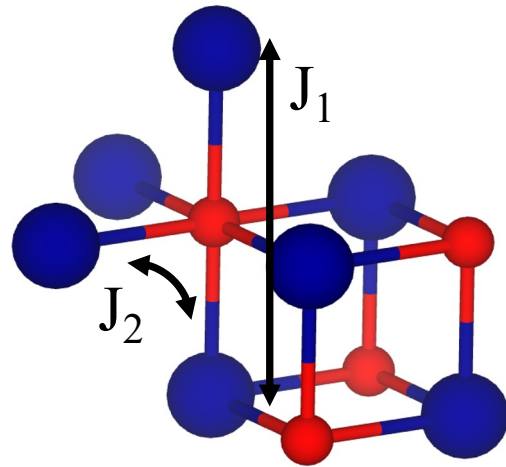
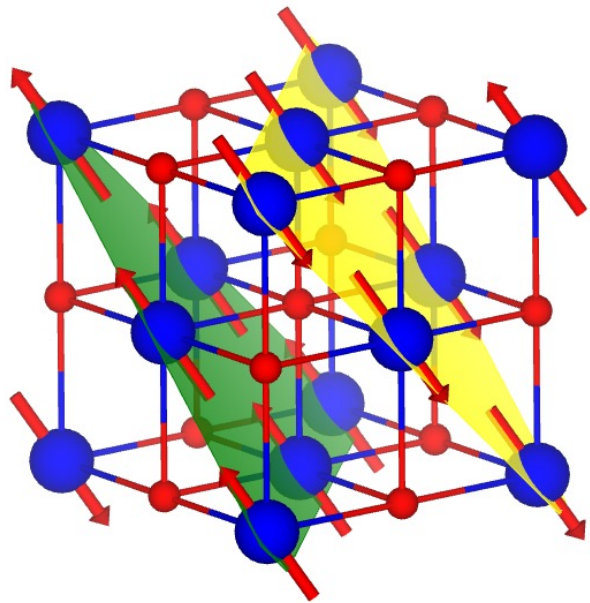


● Ni ● O

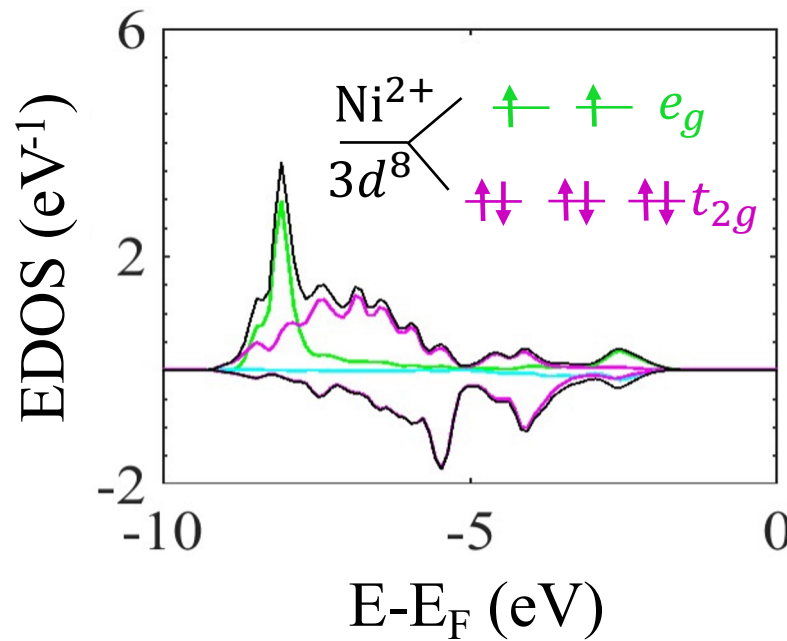
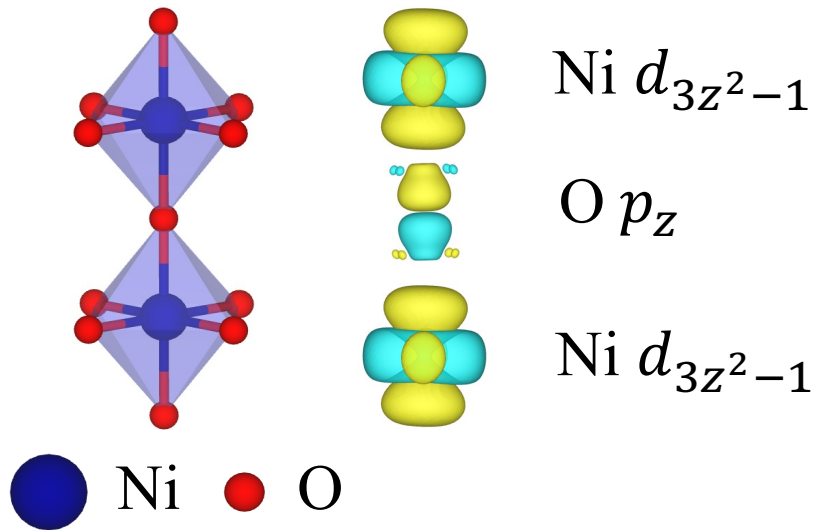
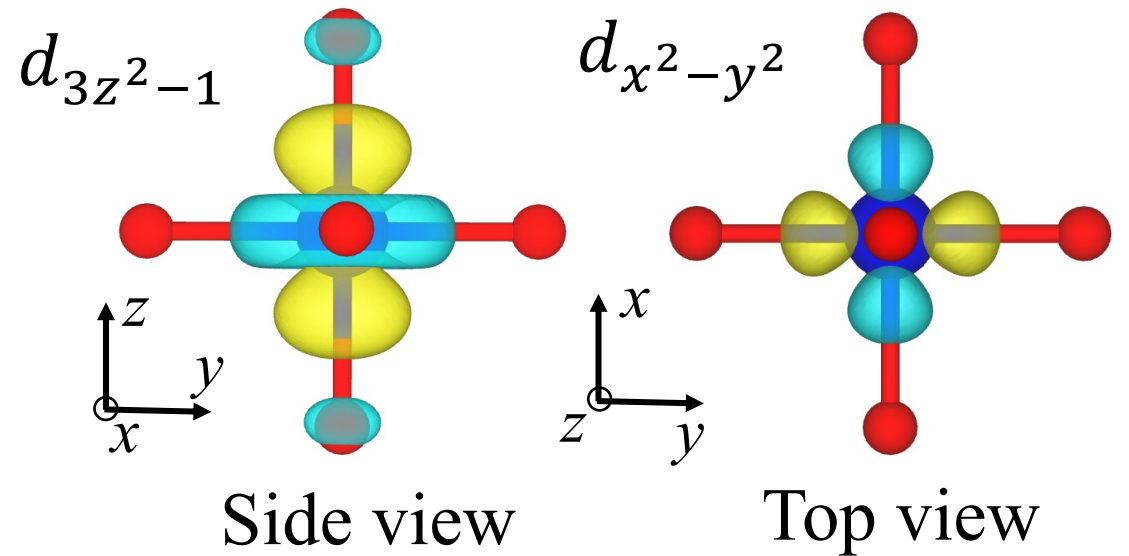
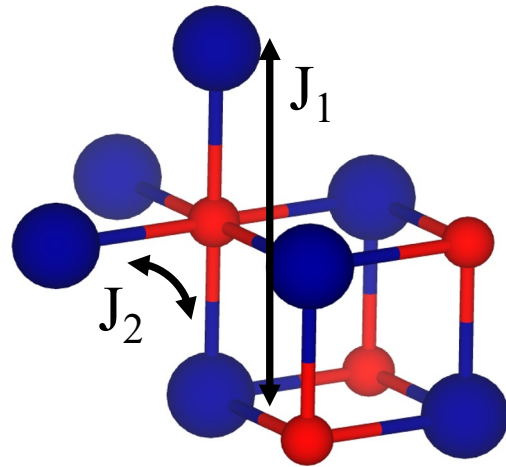
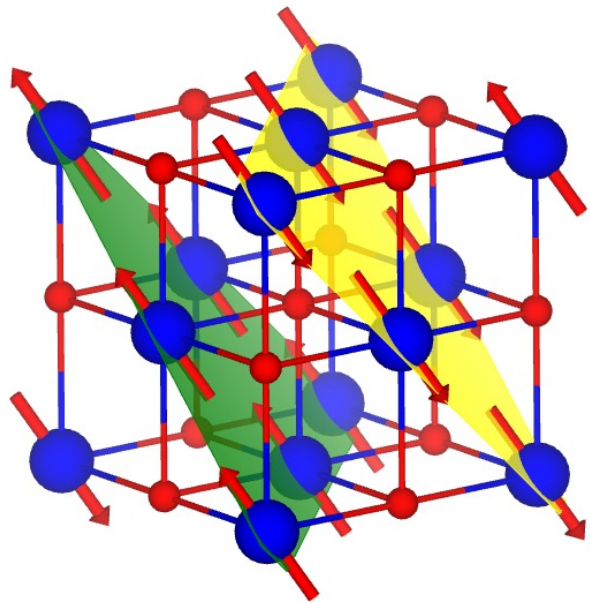
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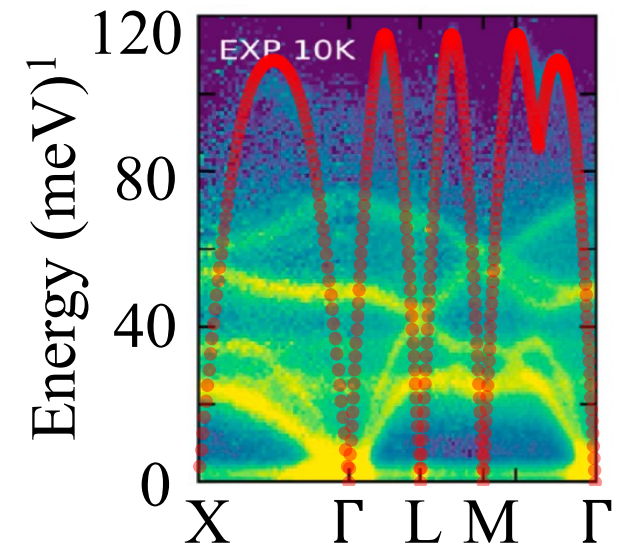
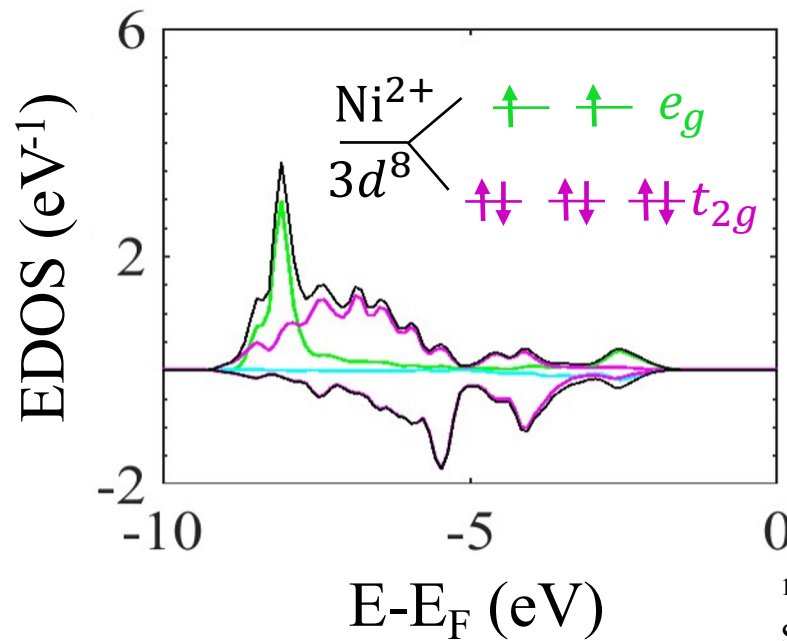
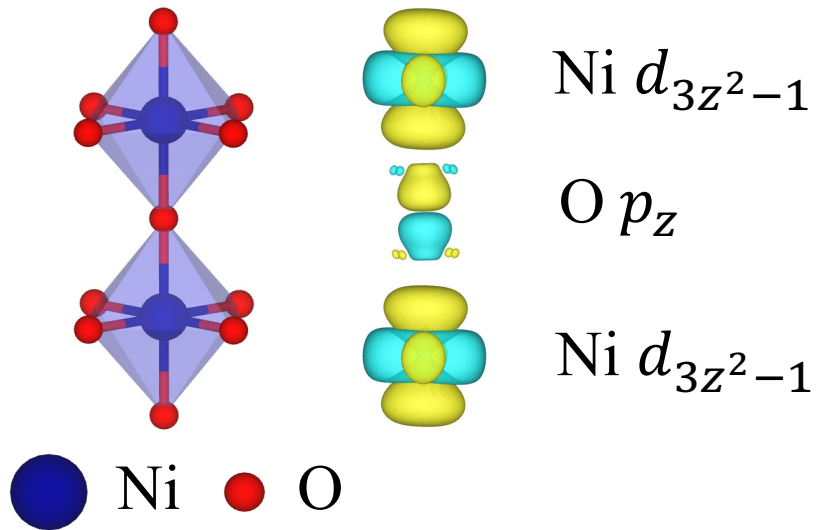
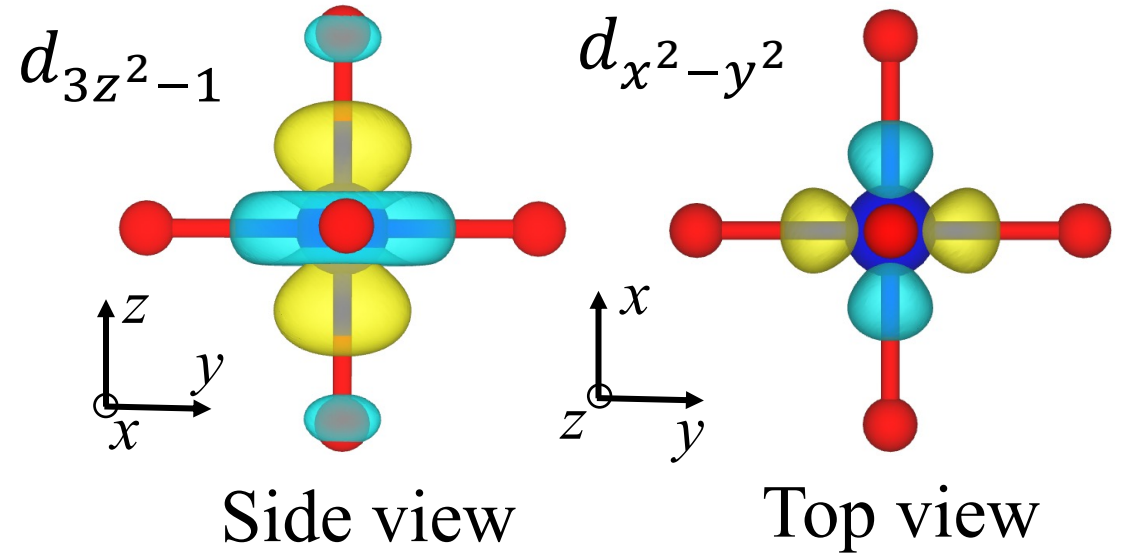
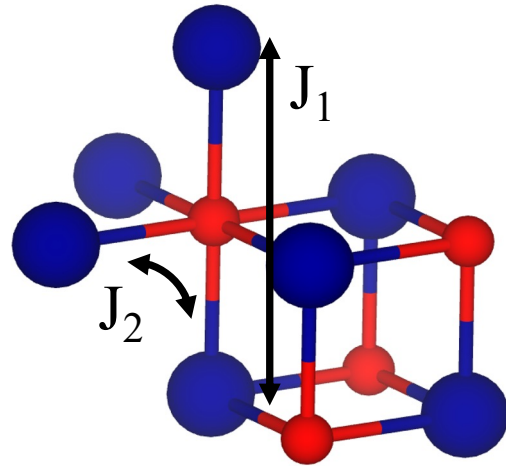
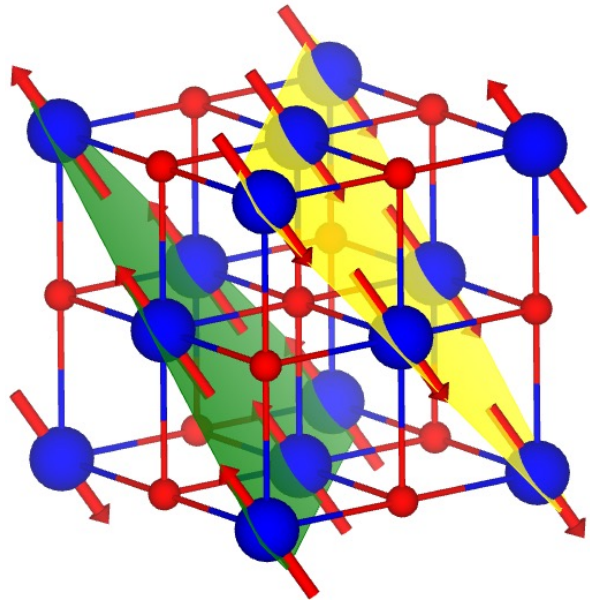
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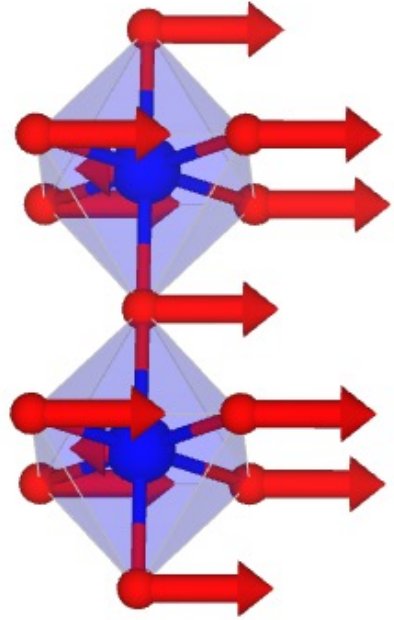


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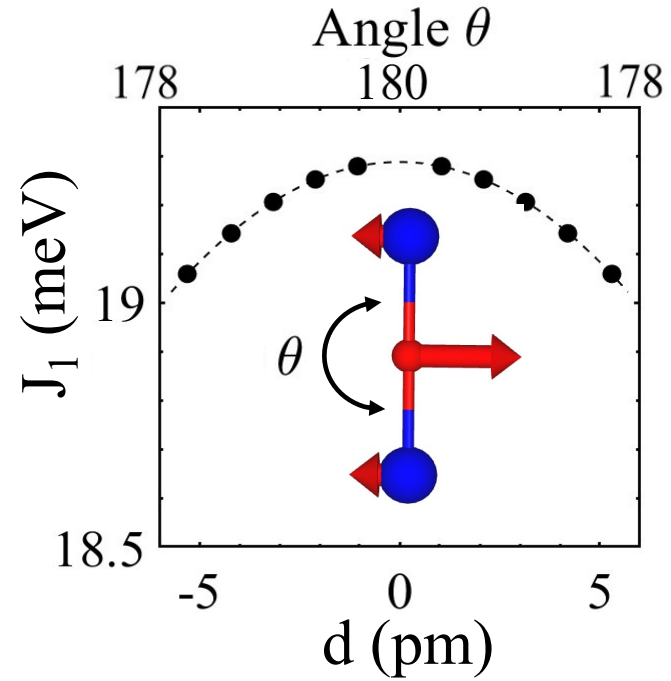
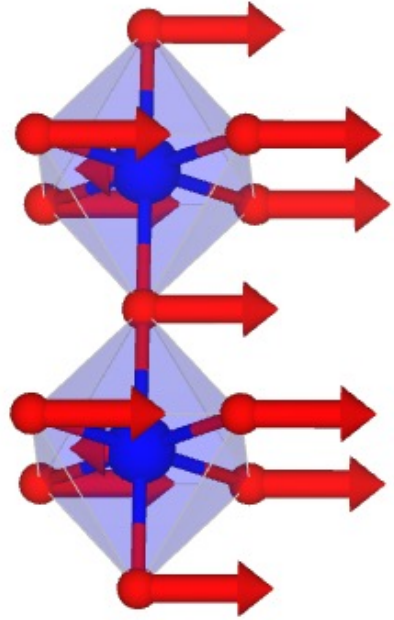


<sup>1</sup>Sun, *Materials Today Physics* 35, 101094 (2023)  
 SS, *PRB* 111, 104306 (2025)

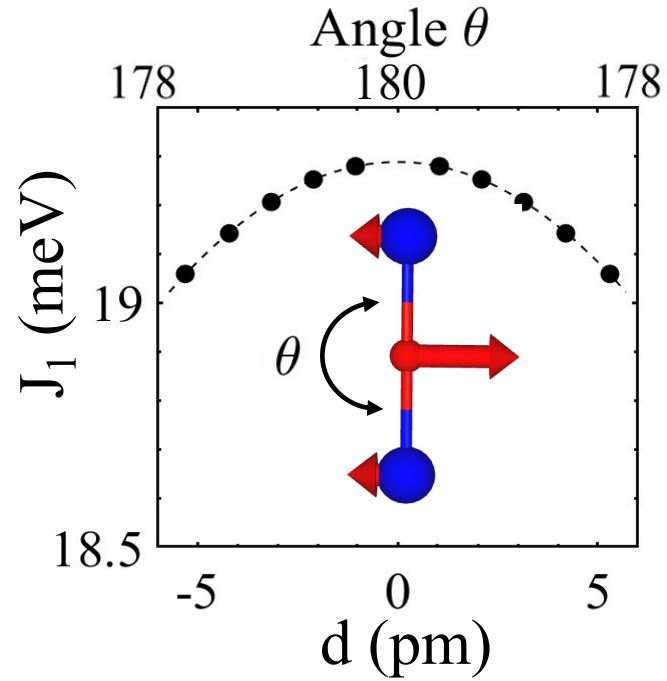
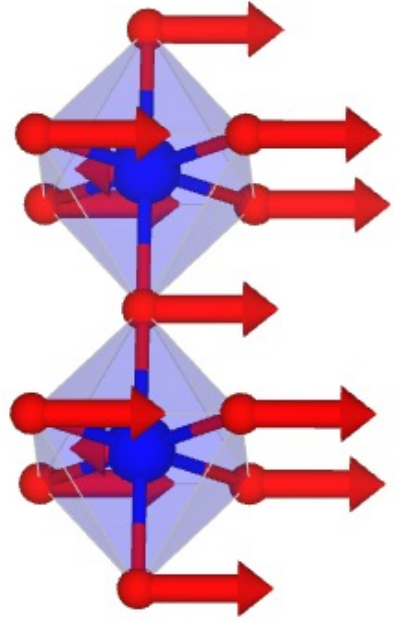
# Spin wave renormalization for TO mode perturbation



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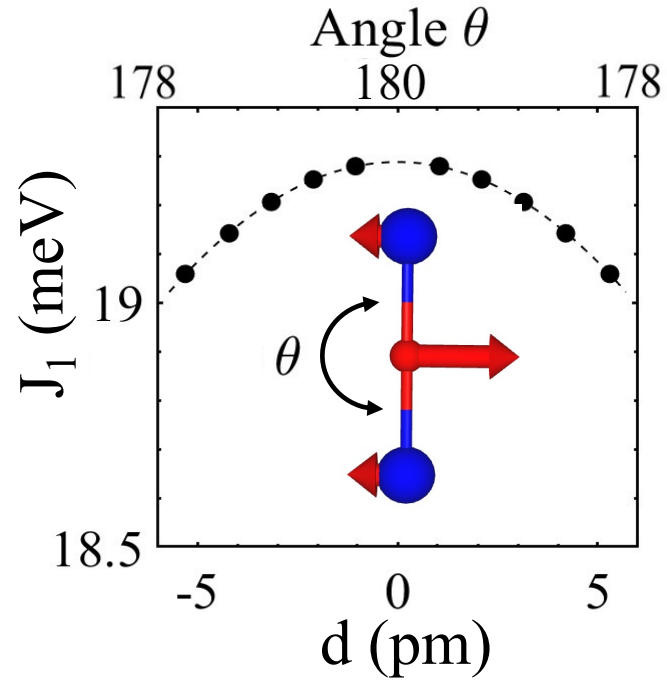
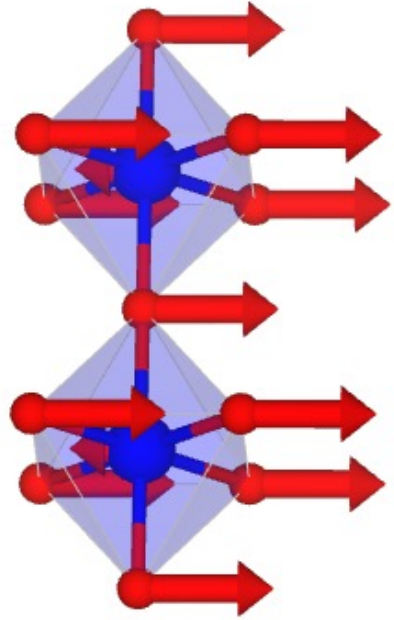


Quadratic  
dependency with  
perturbation

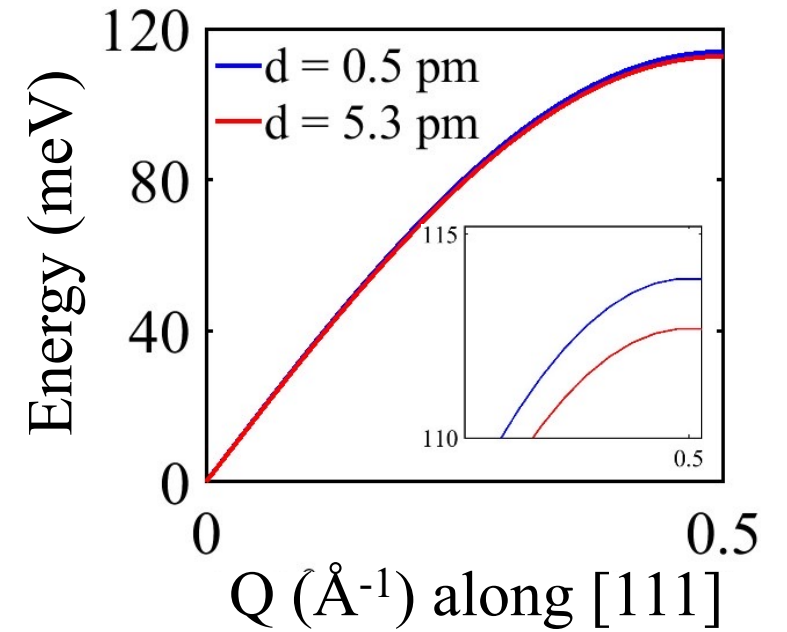
$$J_{ij} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{E_F} d\epsilon \sum_{mm'm''m'''} \text{Im}(\Delta_i^{mm'} G_{ij,\downarrow}^{mm'} \Delta_j^{m''m'''} G_{ji,\uparrow}^{m''m'''})$$

PRB **91**, 224405, 2015

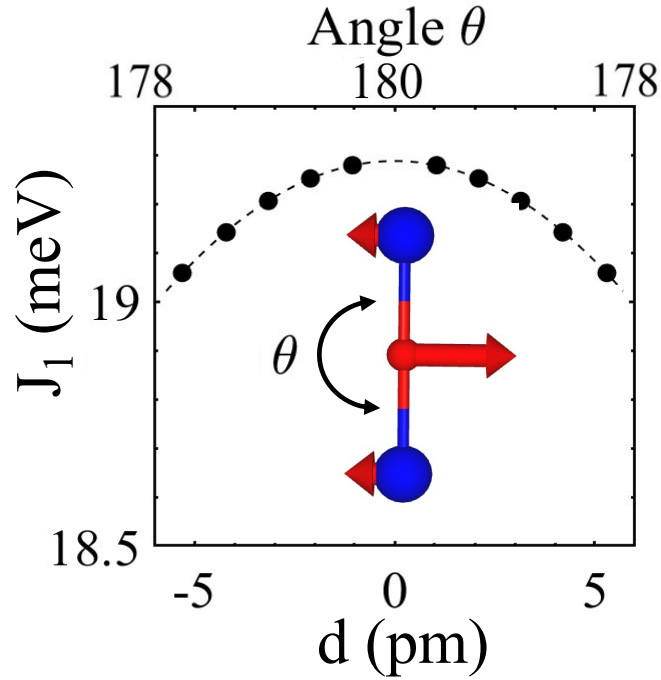
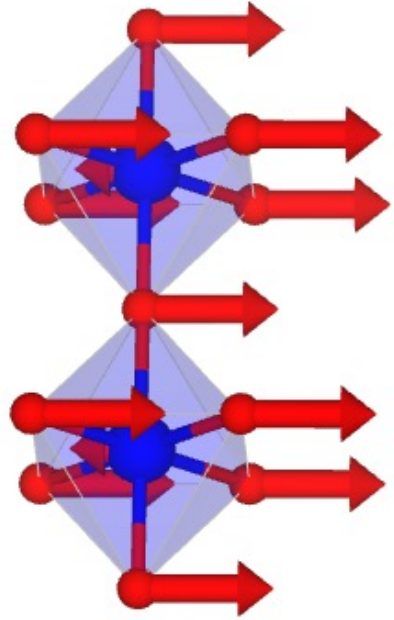
# Spin wave renormalization for TO mode perturbation



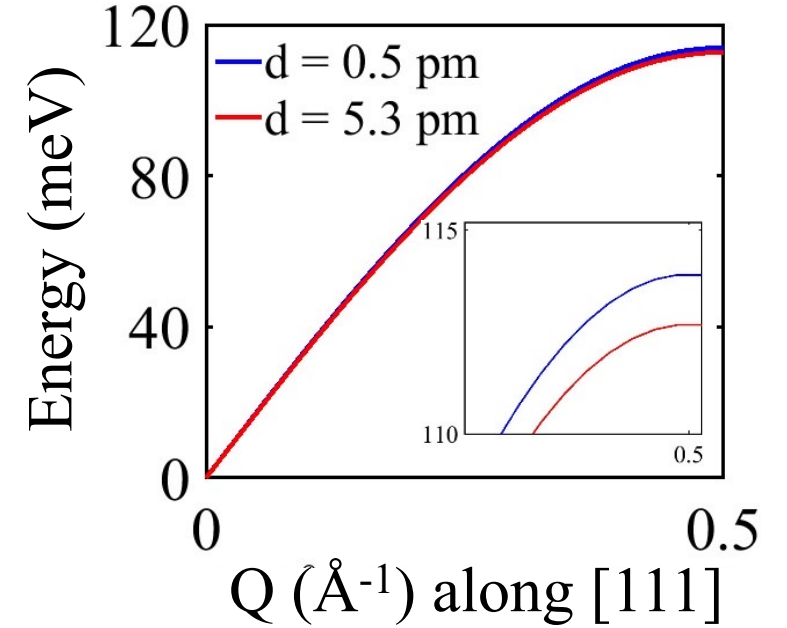
Quadratic  
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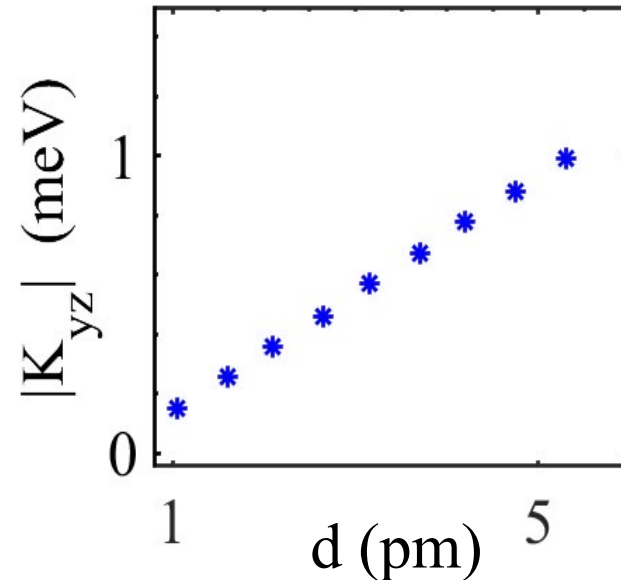
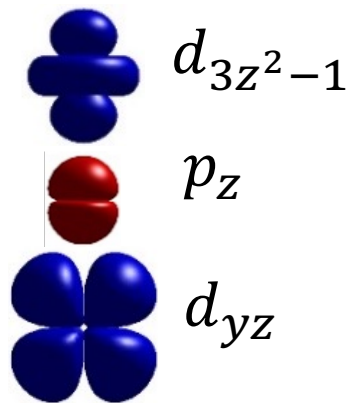
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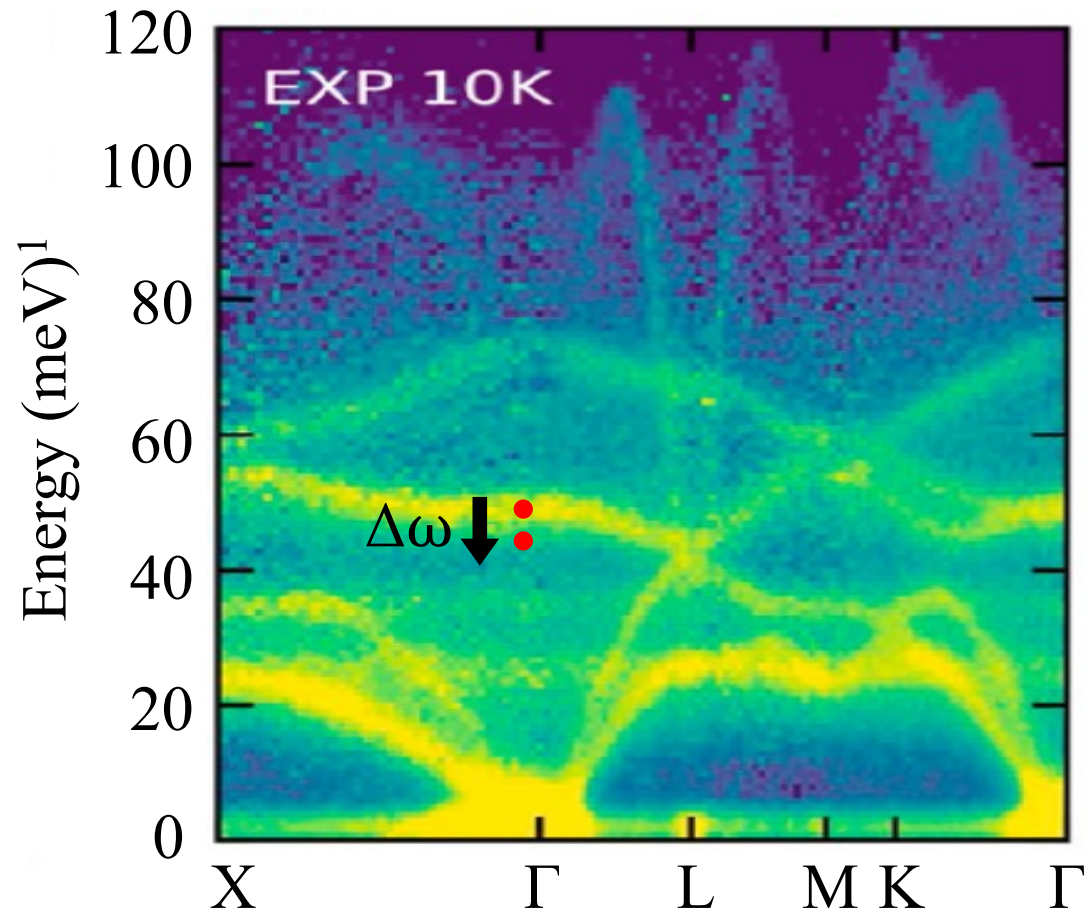


Off-diagonal interaction  
terms



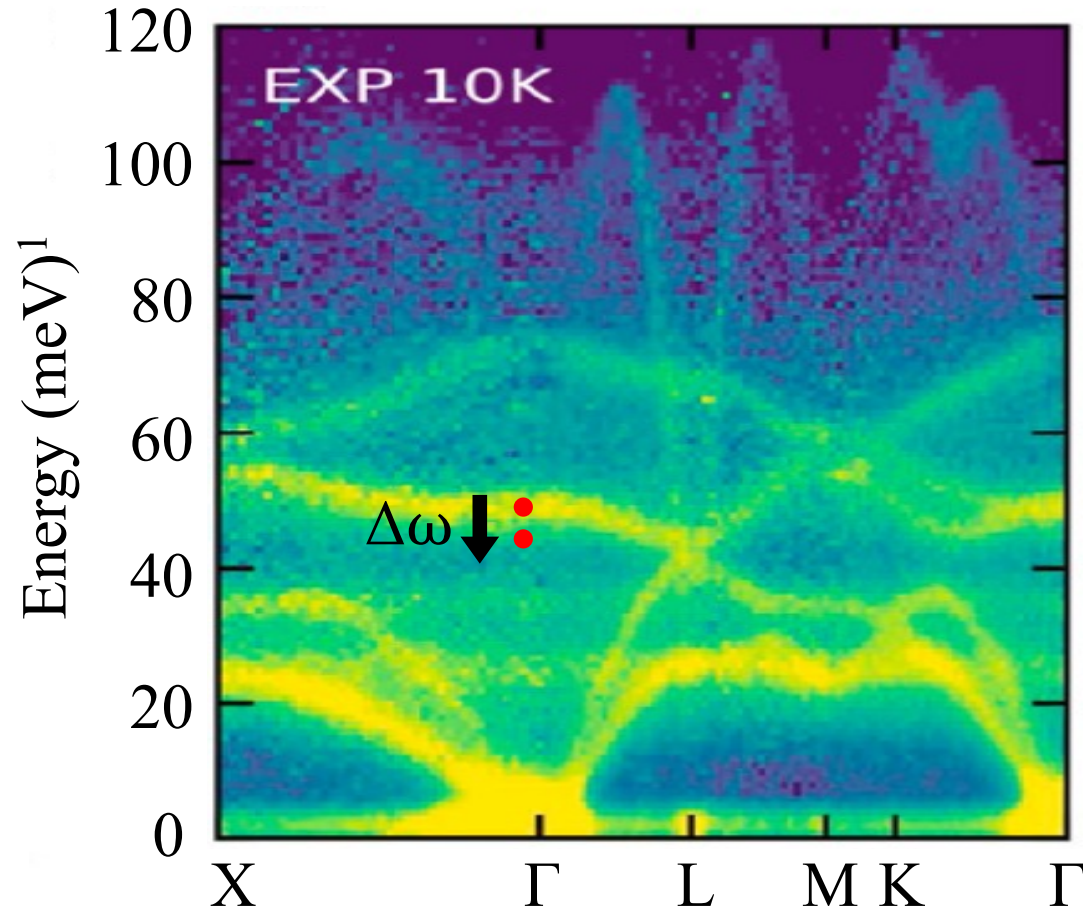
# Phonon renormalization in NiO

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Sun, *Materials Today Physics* 35, 101094 (2023)

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Coupled spin-lattice Hamiltonian

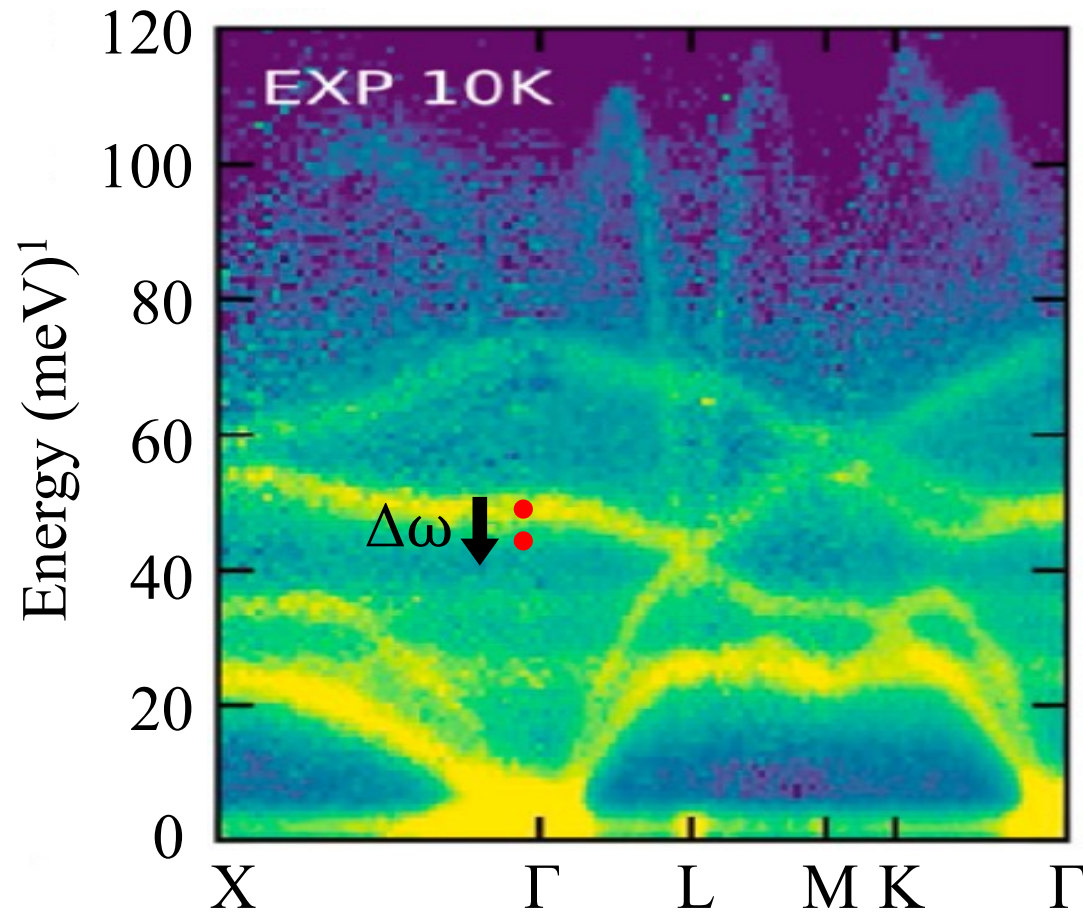
$$\hat{H}_{\text{SLD}} = \hat{H}_S + \hat{H}_L + \hat{H}_{\text{SL}} + \hat{H}_{\text{LS}}$$

$$\Delta\omega = \frac{2.09}{m_r \omega} \frac{\partial^2 J_{ij}}{\partial d^2} m_i m_j$$

Phonon shift due to magnon renormalization

$$\Delta\omega = 0.4 \text{ meV (3 cm}^{-1}\text{)}$$

# Phonon renormalization in NiO



Sun, *Materials Today Physics* 35, 101094 (2023)

Coupled spin-lattice Hamiltonian

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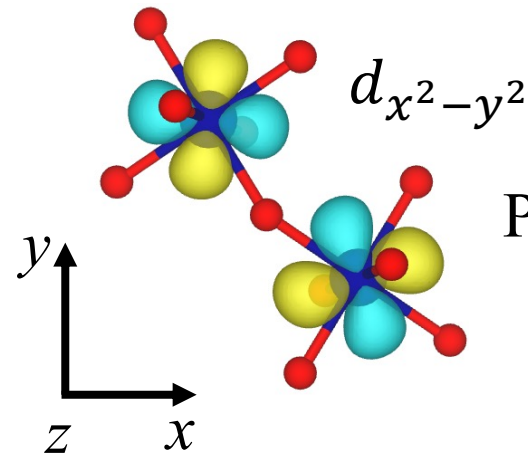
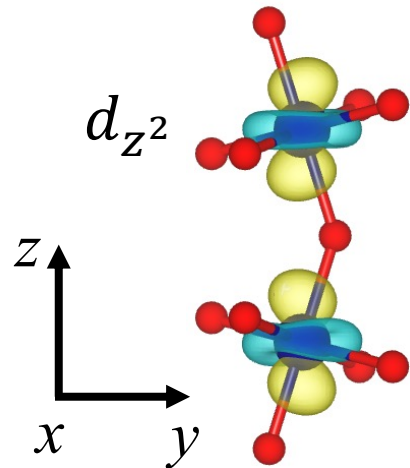
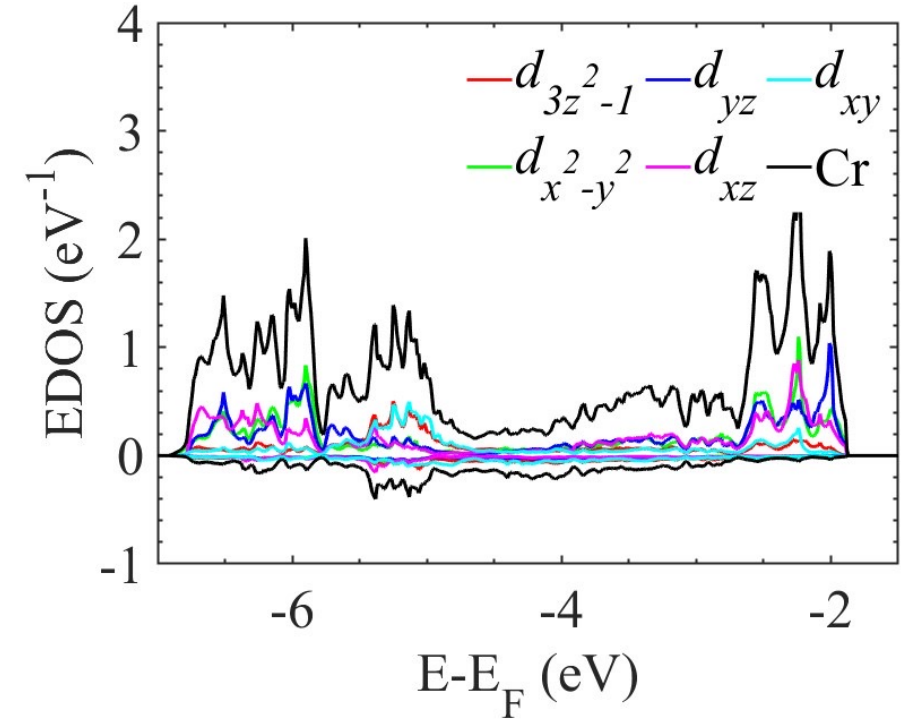
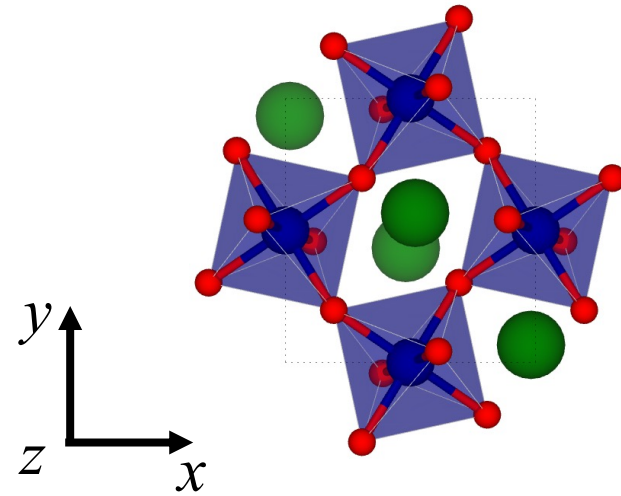
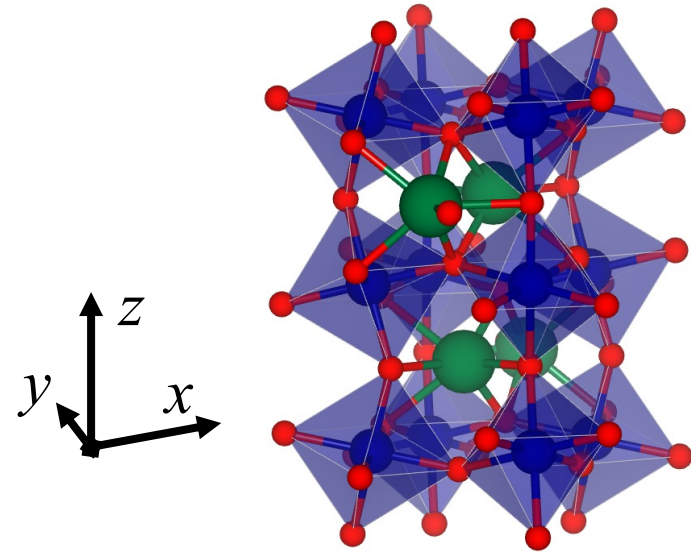
Phonon shift due to magnon renormalization

$$\Delta\omega = 0.4 \text{ meV (3 cm}^{-1}\text{)}$$

Summary

- Exchange interaction changes by 0.3 meV.
- Spin wave changes by 1 meV.
- Phonon changes by 0.4 meV.

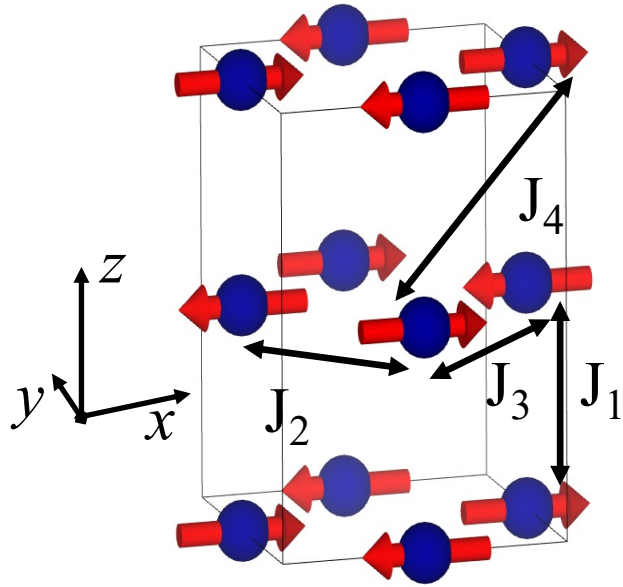
# Yttrium orthochromite ( $\text{YCrO}_3$ )



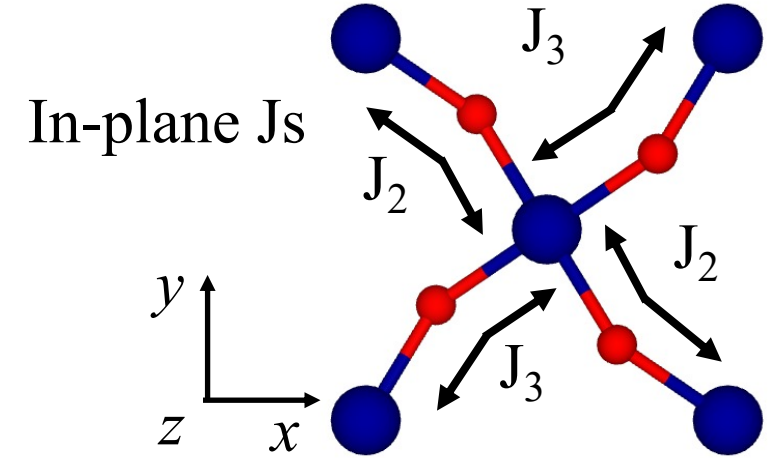
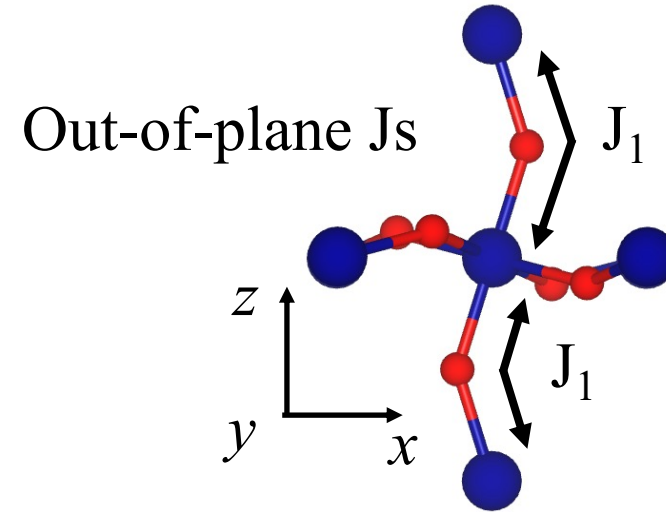
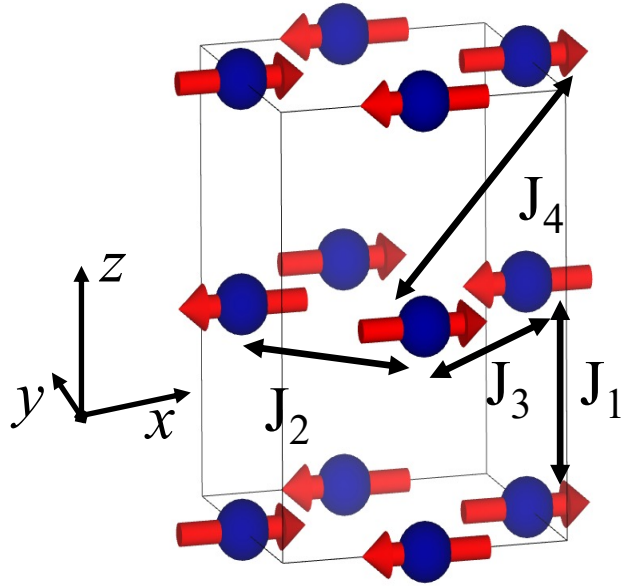
Partial orbital occupancies for Cr d orbitals

# Exchange interaction in unperturbed YCrO<sub>3</sub>

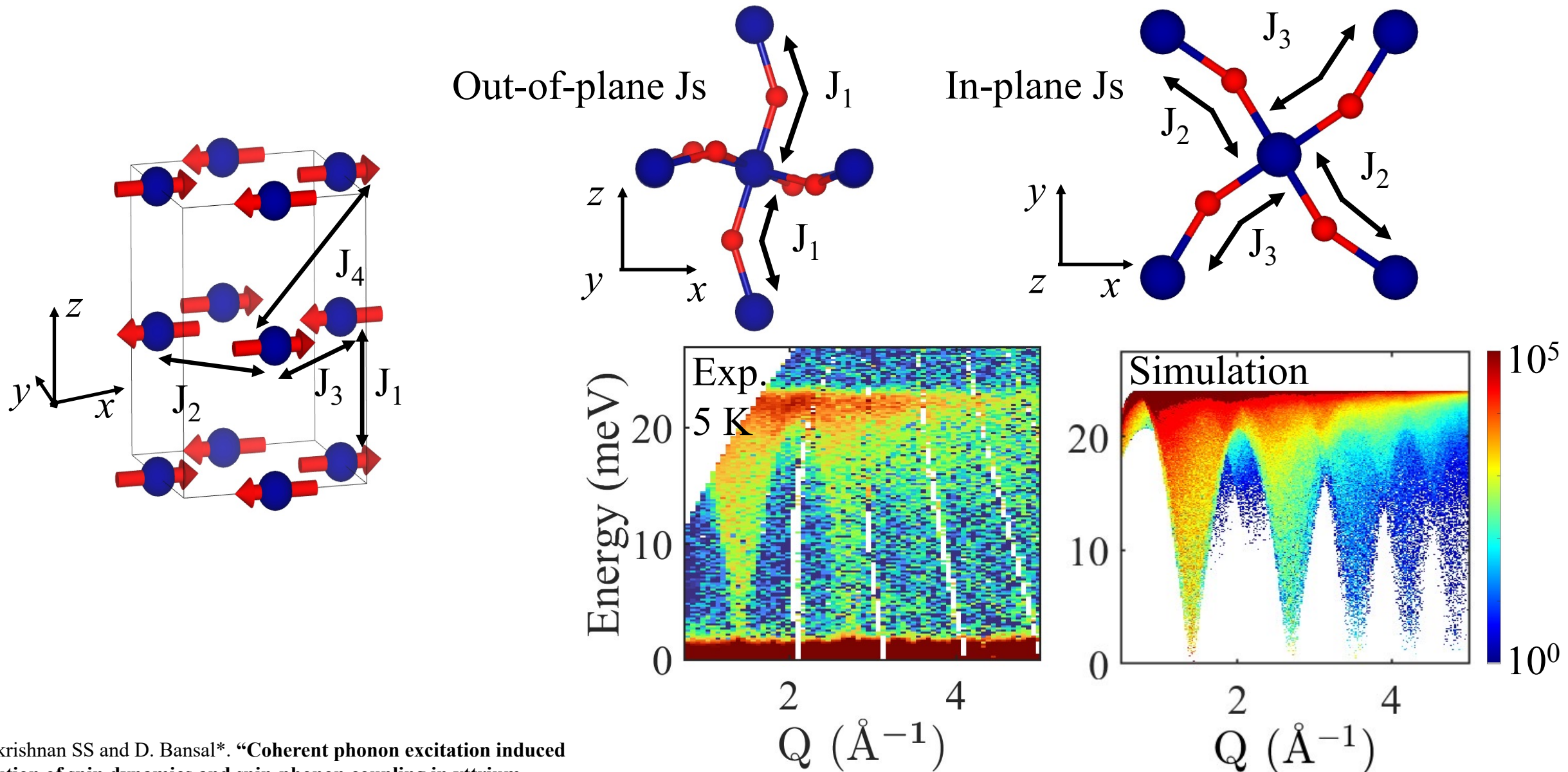
# Exchange interaction in unperturbed $\text{YCrO}_3$



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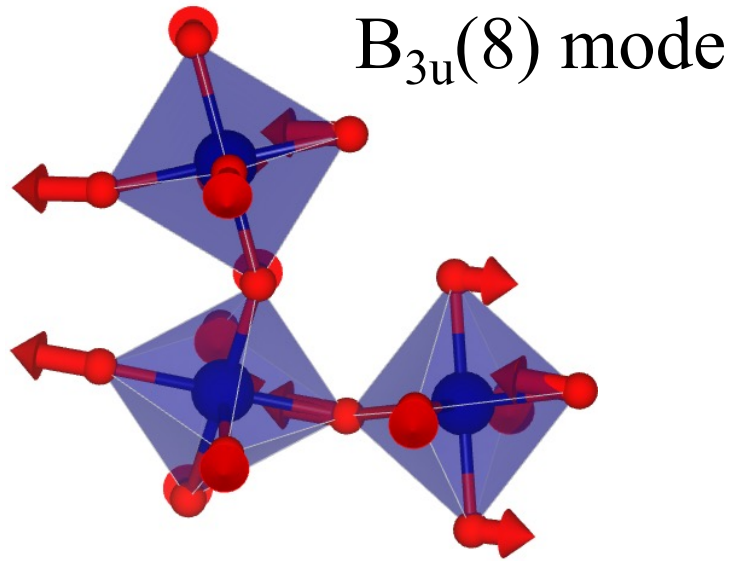


# Exchange interaction in unperturbed $\text{YCrO}_3$

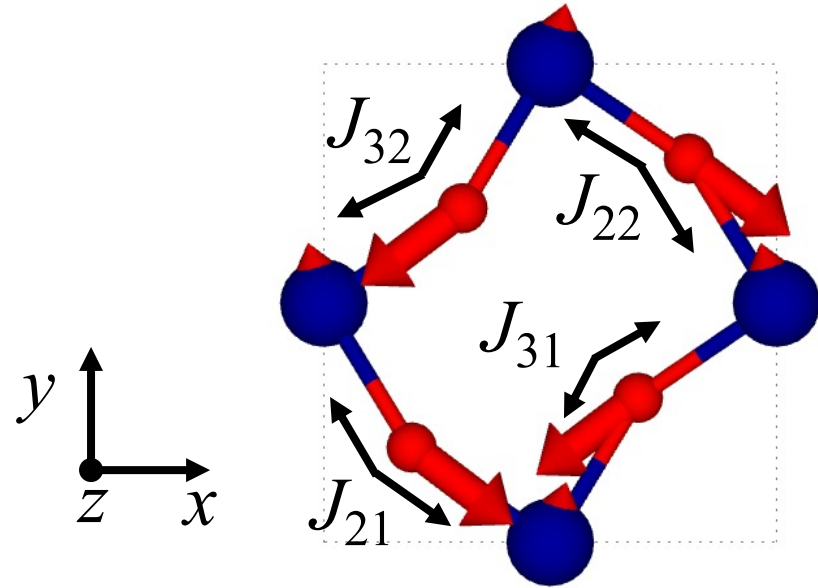
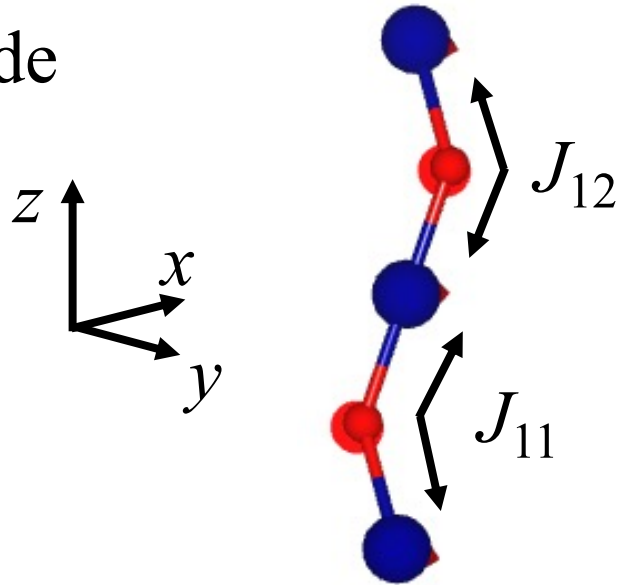
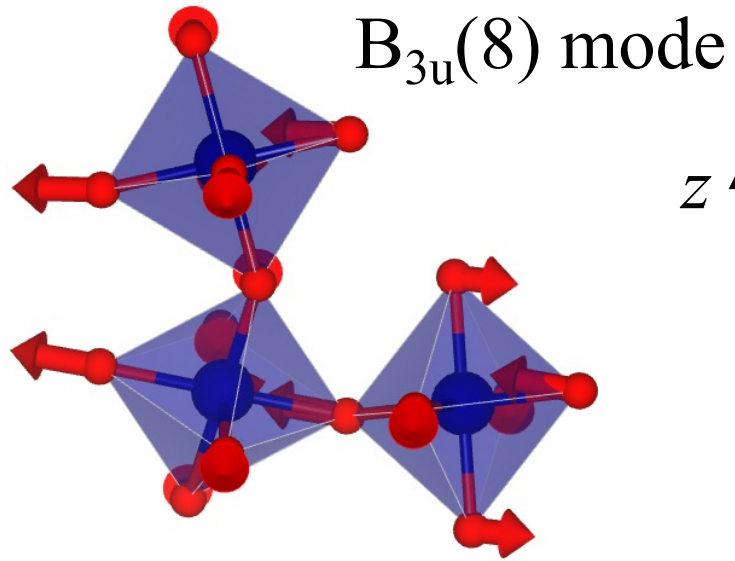


# Spin wave renormalization in $\text{YCrO}_3$

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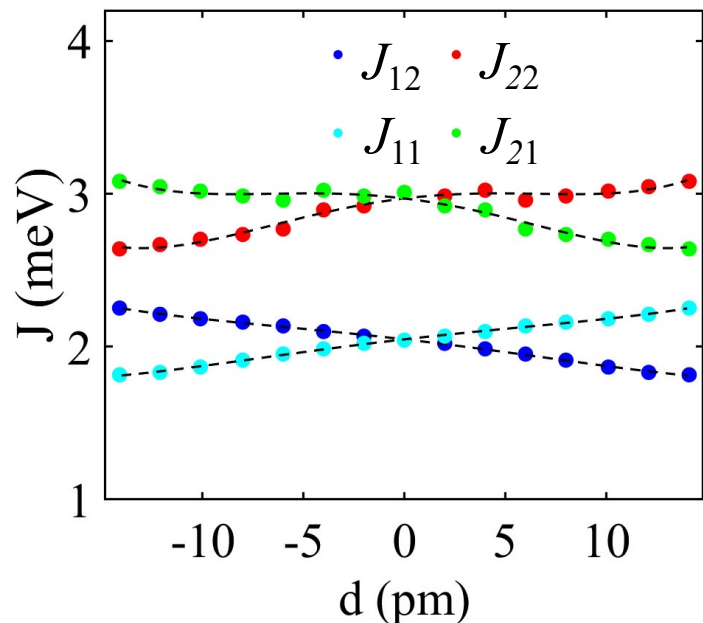
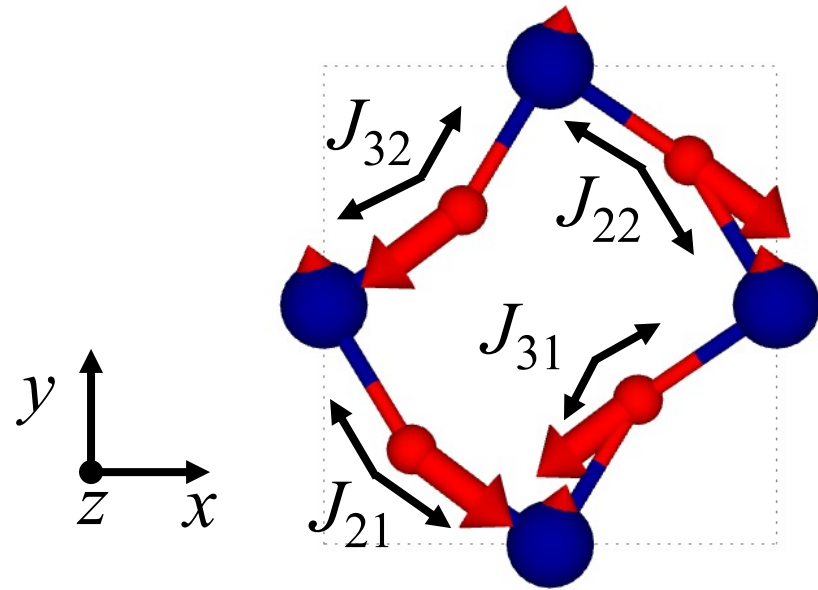
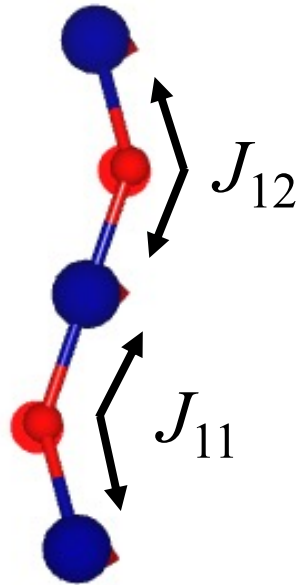
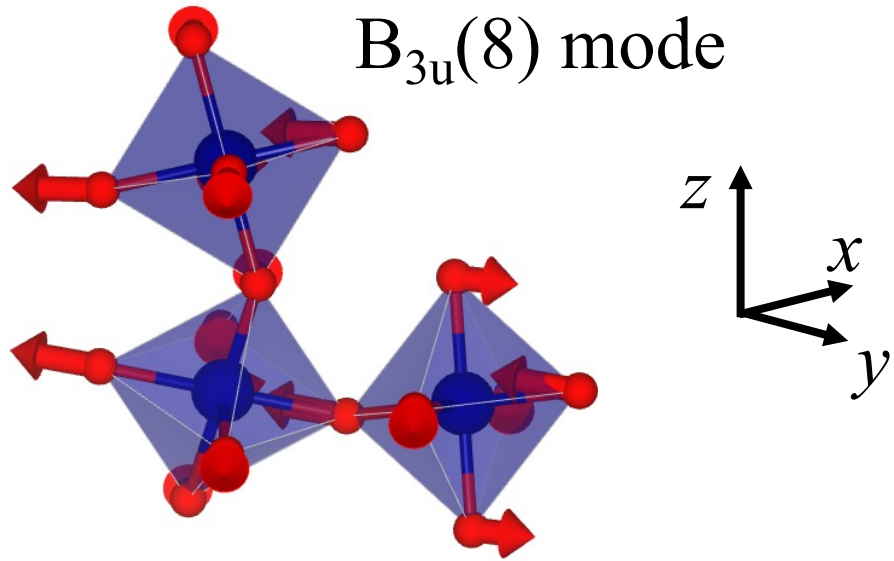


# Spin wave renormalization in $\text{YCrO}_3$

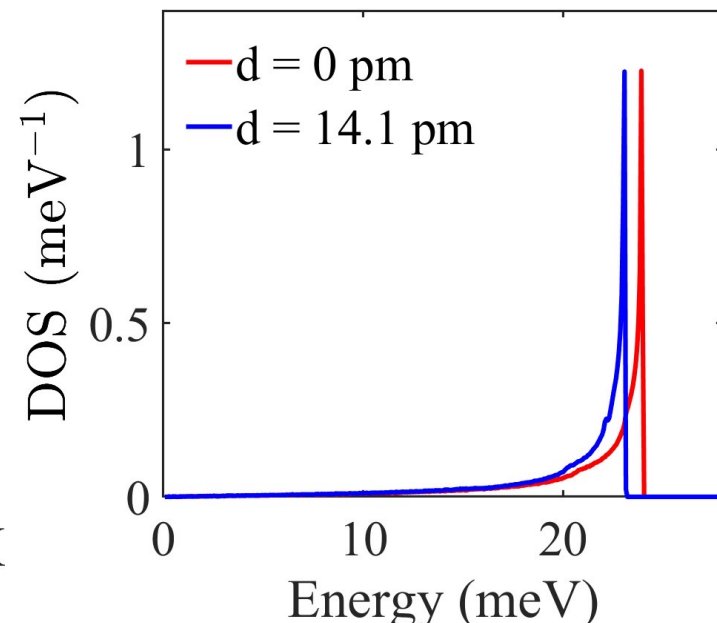
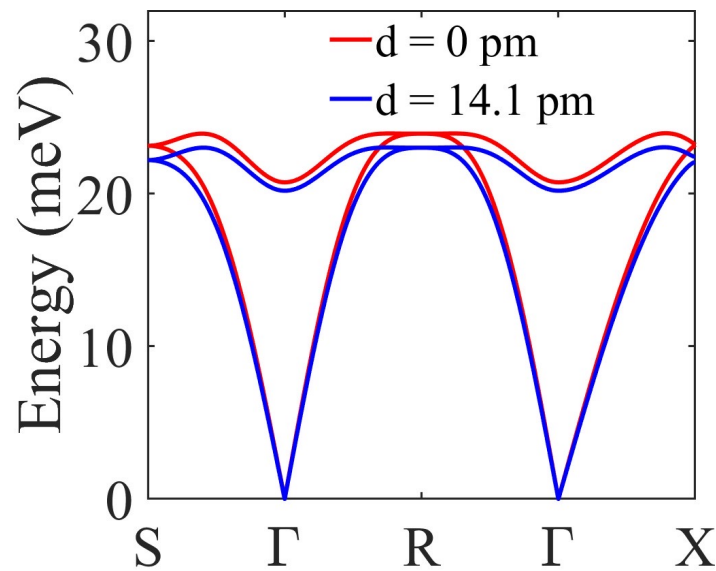
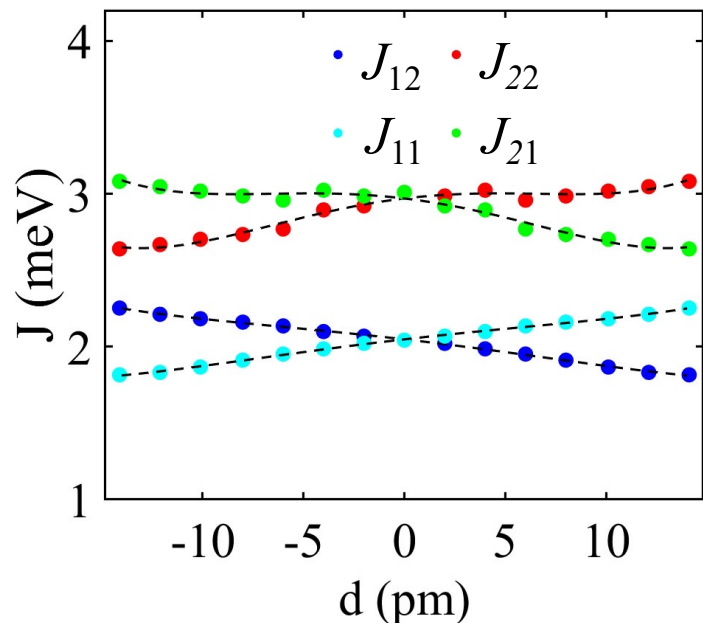
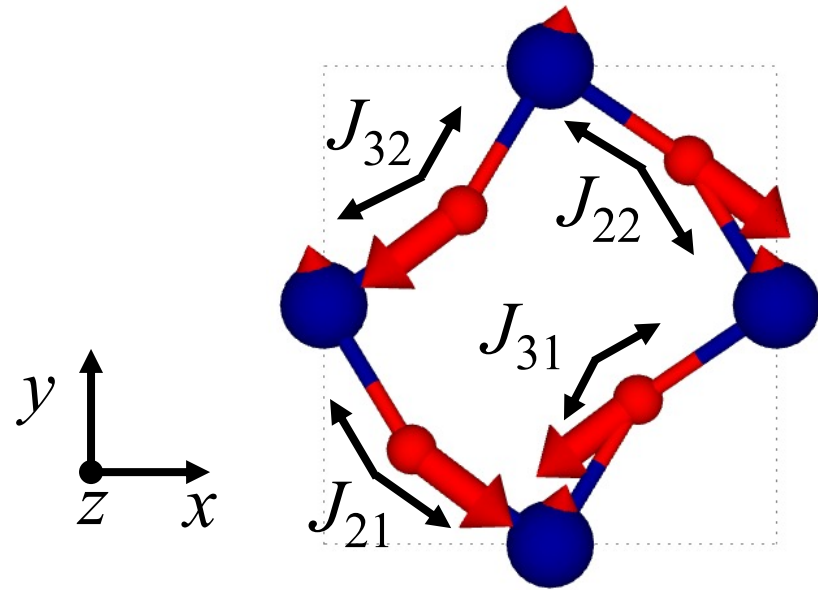
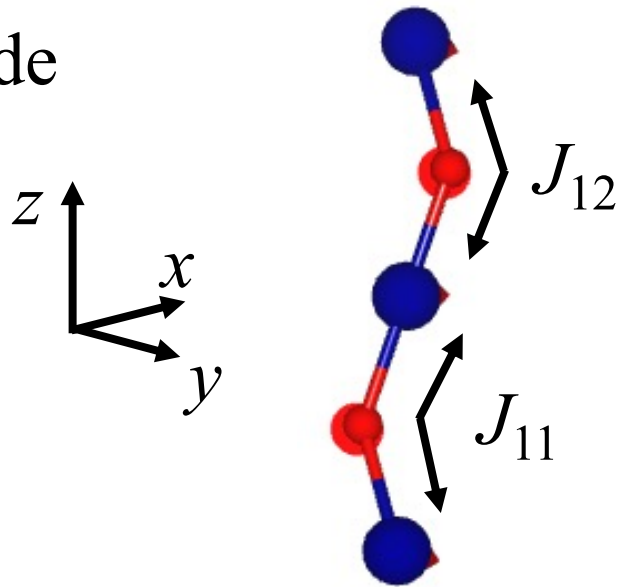
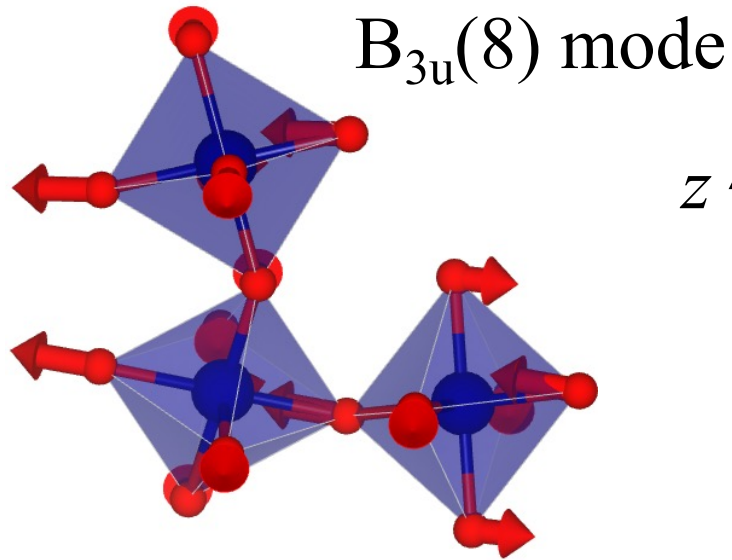


# Spin wave renormalization in $\text{YCrO}_3$

$B_{3u}(8)$  mode



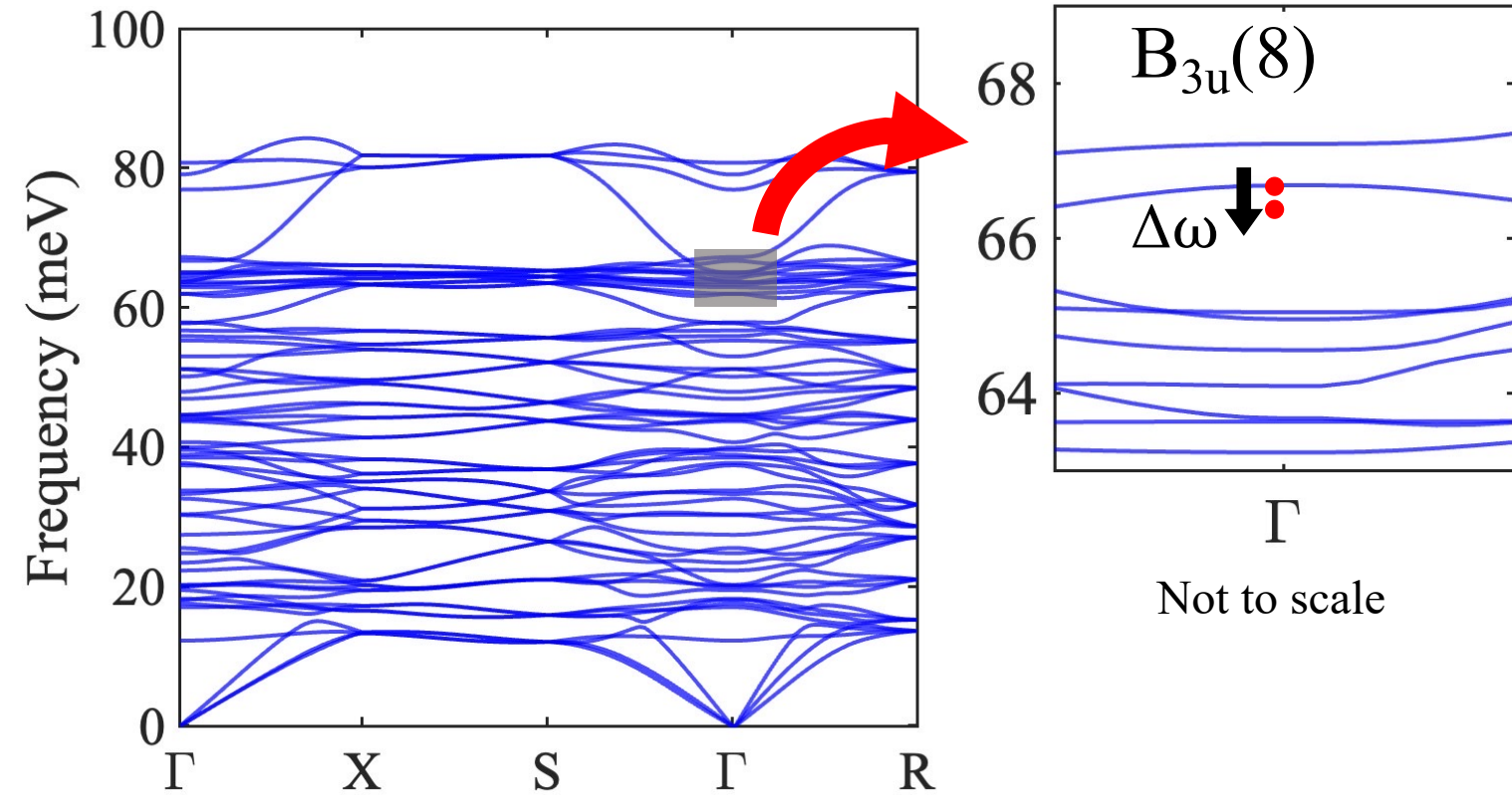
# Spin wave renormalization in $\text{YCrO}_3$



# Phonon renormalization in $\text{YCrO}_3$

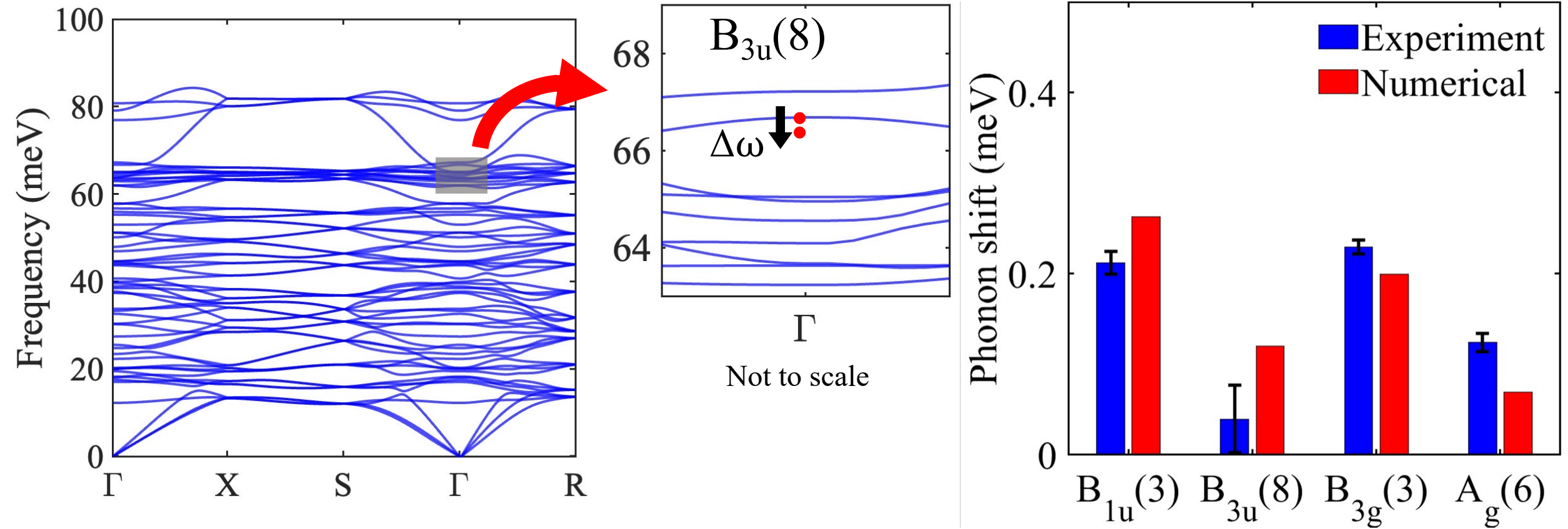
Jayakrishnan SS and D. Bansal\*. **“Coherent phonon excitation induced evolution of spin dynamics and spin-phonon coupling in yttrium orthochromite.”** Physical Review B, 112, 214419, 2025.

# Phonon renormalization in $\text{YCrO}_3$



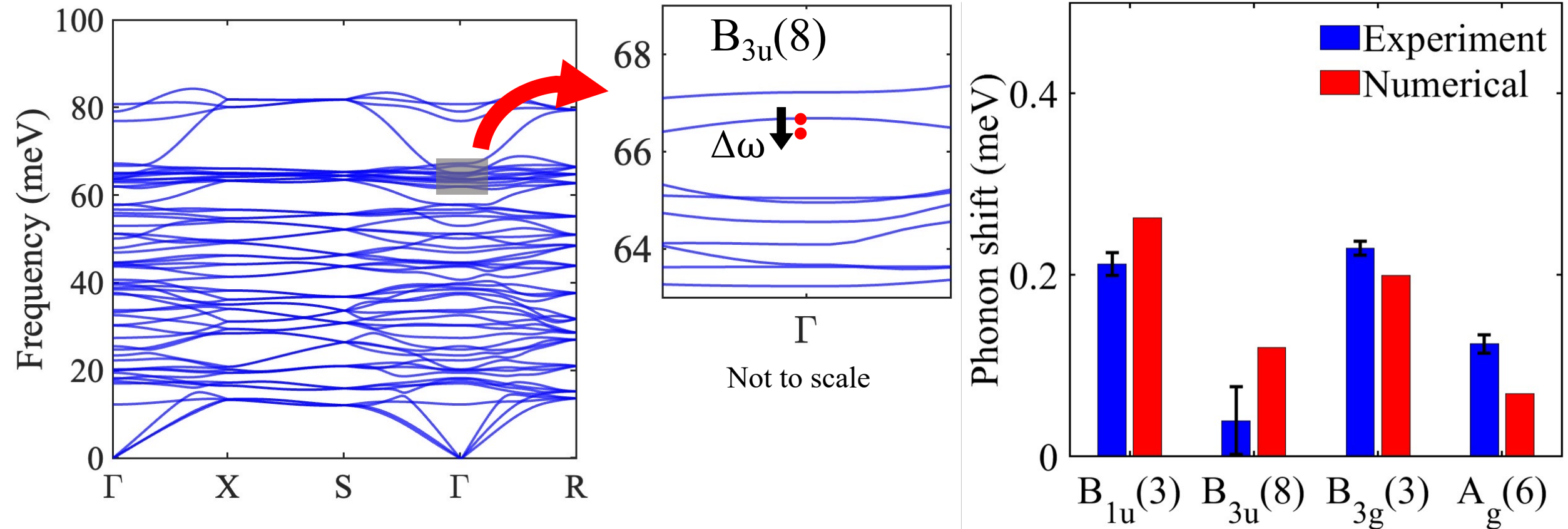
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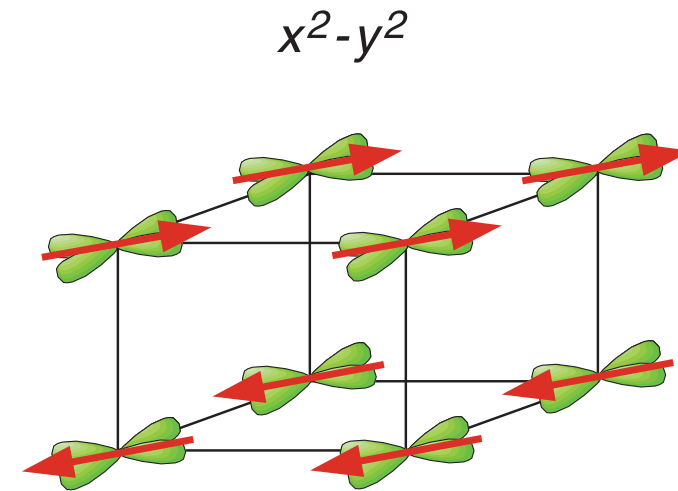
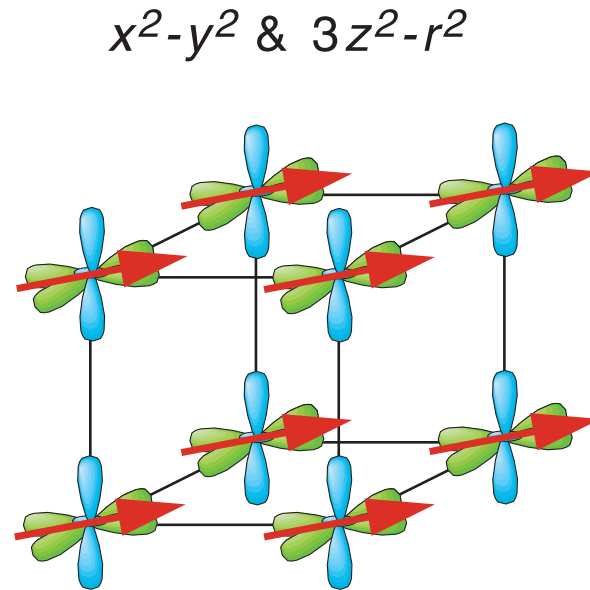
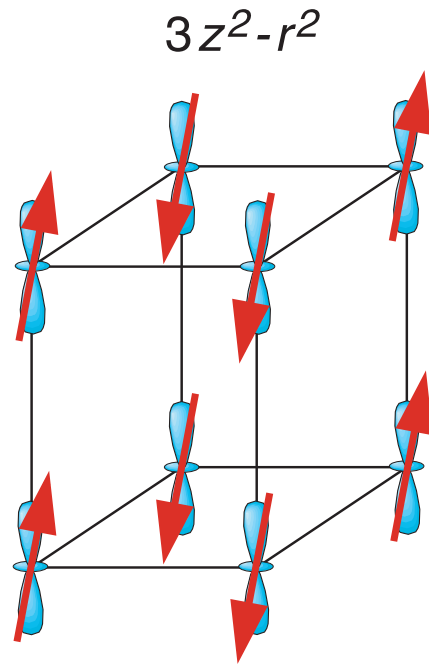
# Phonon renormalization in $\text{YCrO}_3$



- Exchange interaction changes by 0.1 to 0.6 meV.
- Spin wave changes by 0.5 to 1.5 meV.
- Phonon changes by 0.1 to 0.25 meV.

# Kugel-Khomskii-type interaction

- Coupling of orbital degree of freedom with a spin exchange
  - responsible for colossal magnetoresistance, enhanced magnetoelectric response, and photoinduced high-temperature magnetism



# Kugel-Khomskii-type interaction induced enhanced magnetoelectric response

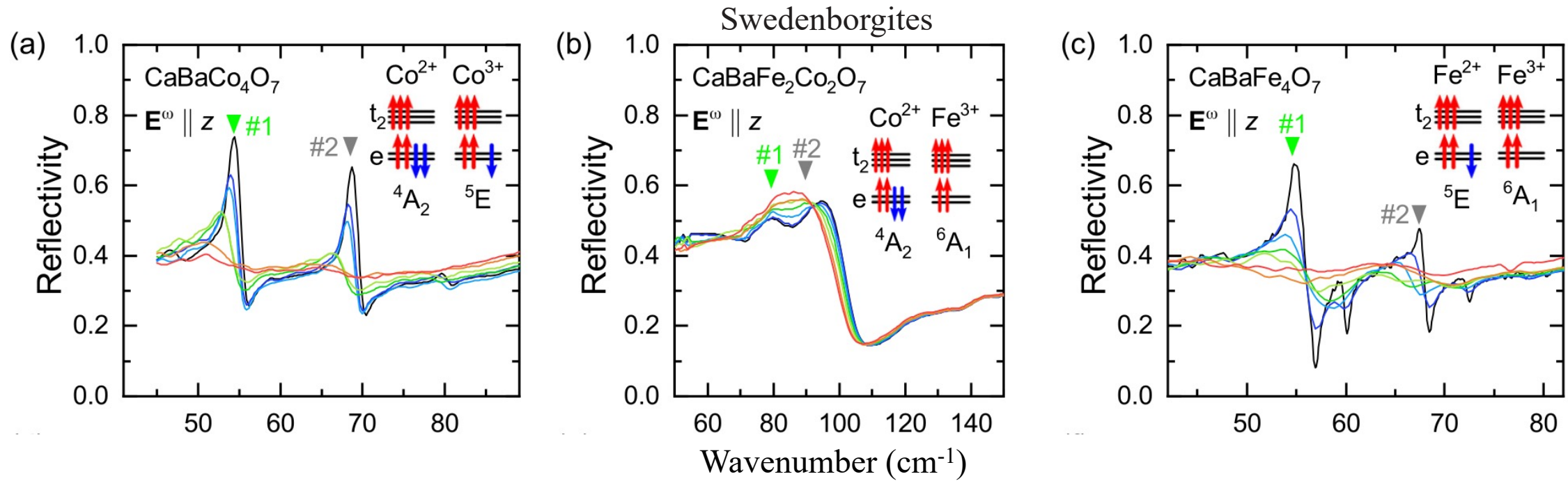
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## Spin-Lattice and Magnetoelectric Couplings Enhanced by Orbital Degrees of Freedom in Polar Multiferroic Semiconductors

Vilmos Kocsis, Yusuke Tokunaga, Toomas Rõõm, Urmas Nagel, Jun Fujioka, Yasujiro Taguchi, Yoshinori Tokura, and Sándor Bordács

Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 036801 – Published 18 January 2023

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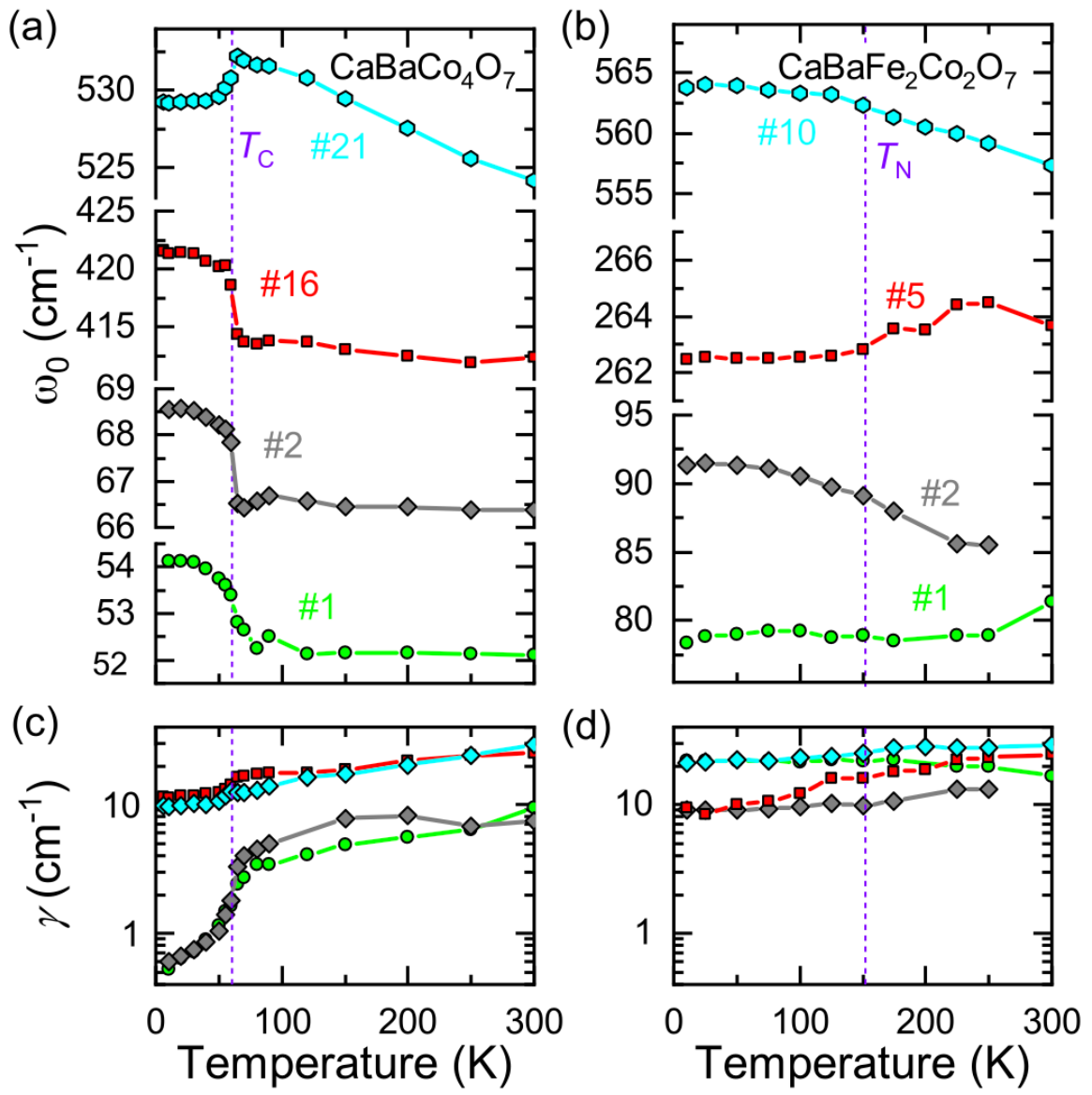
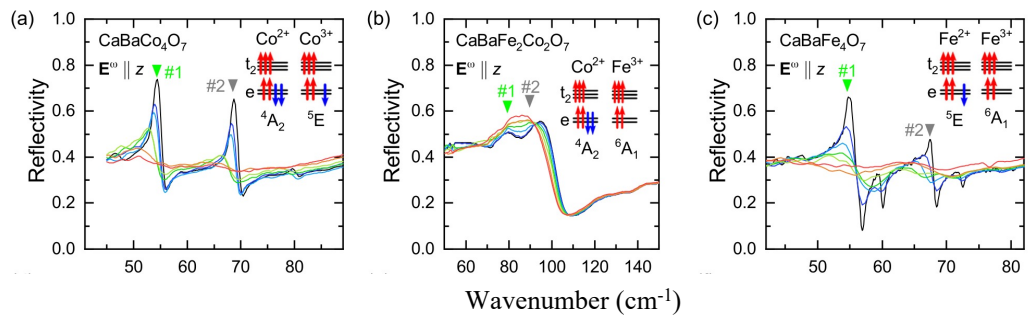


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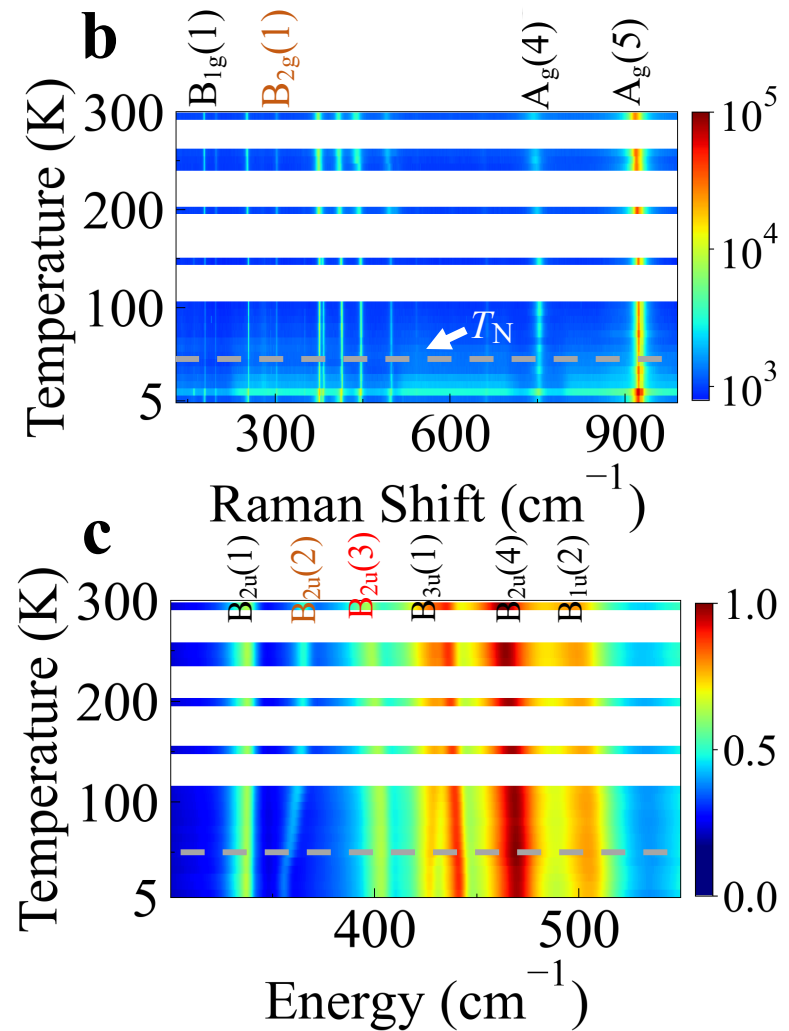
# Kugel-Khomskii-type interaction: Effect on phonon lifetimes



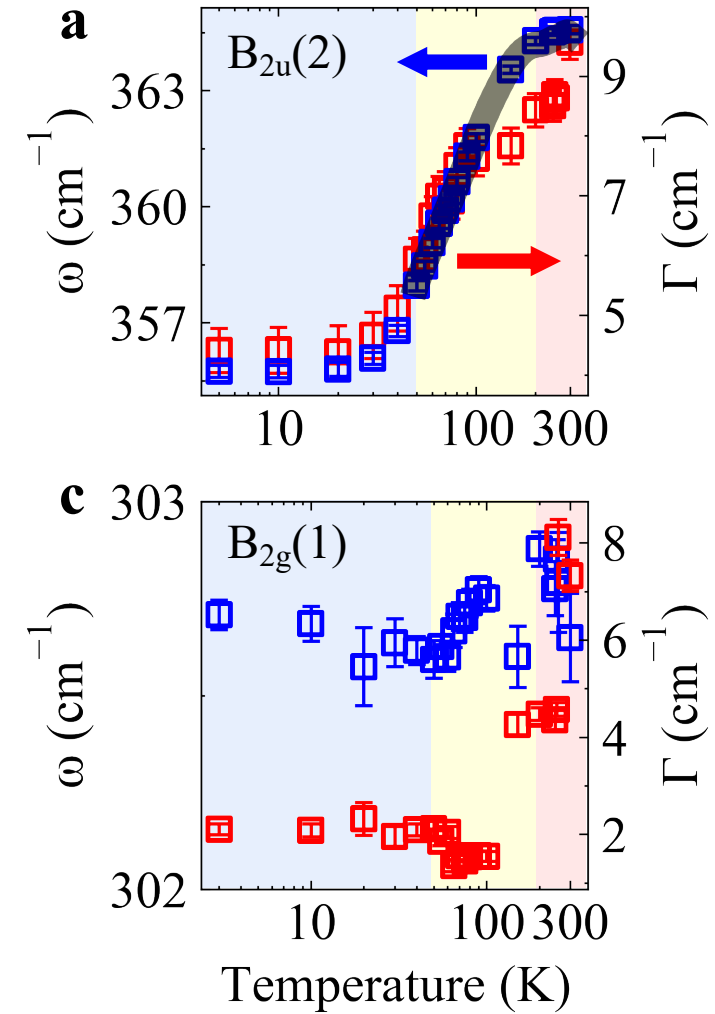
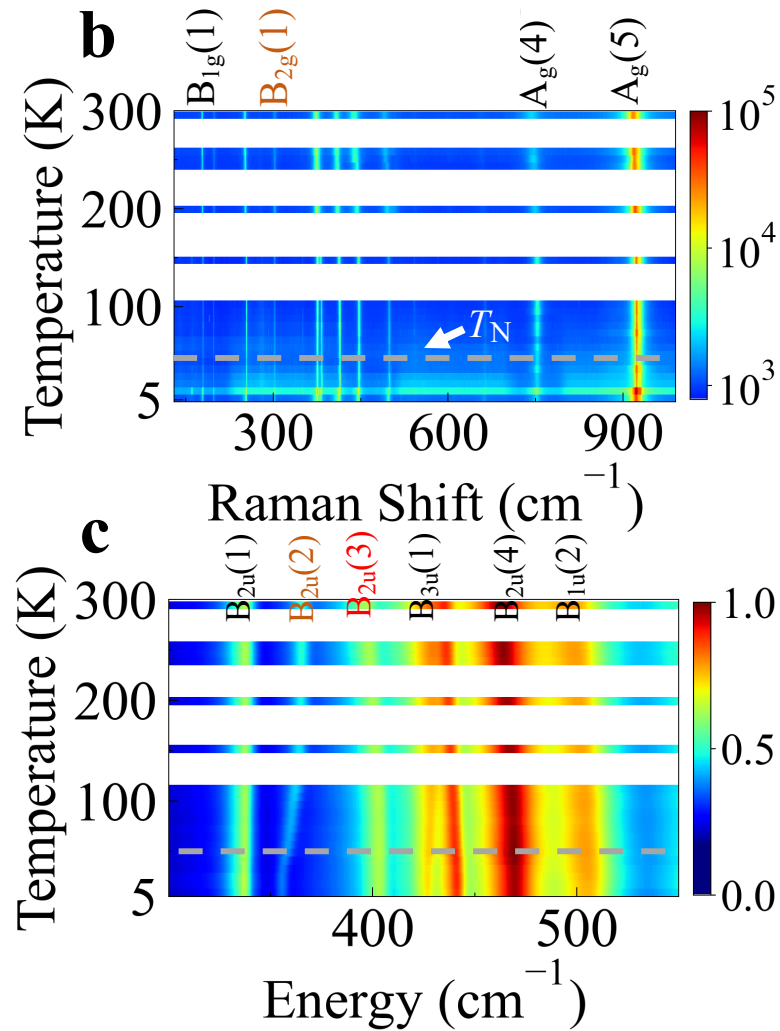
# Evidence of Kugel-Khomskii-type interaction in $\text{CrVO}_4$ at $4T_N$

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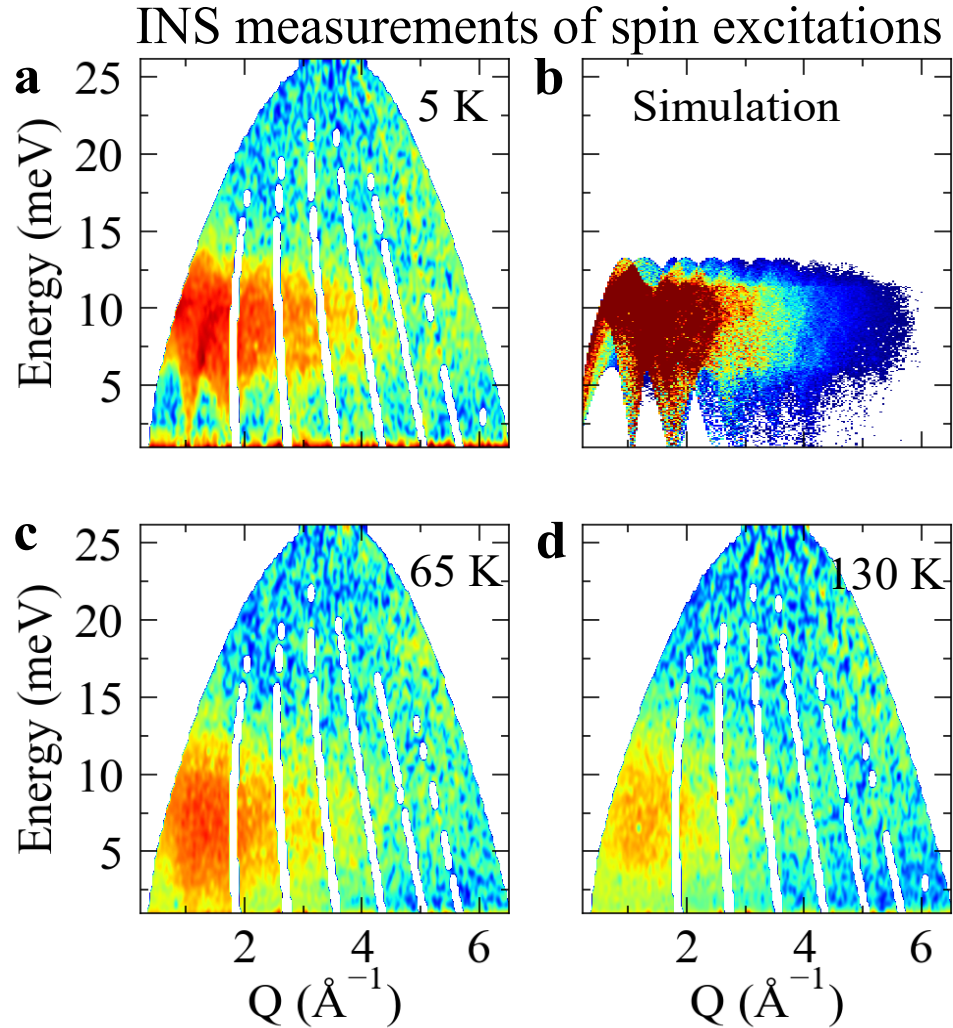
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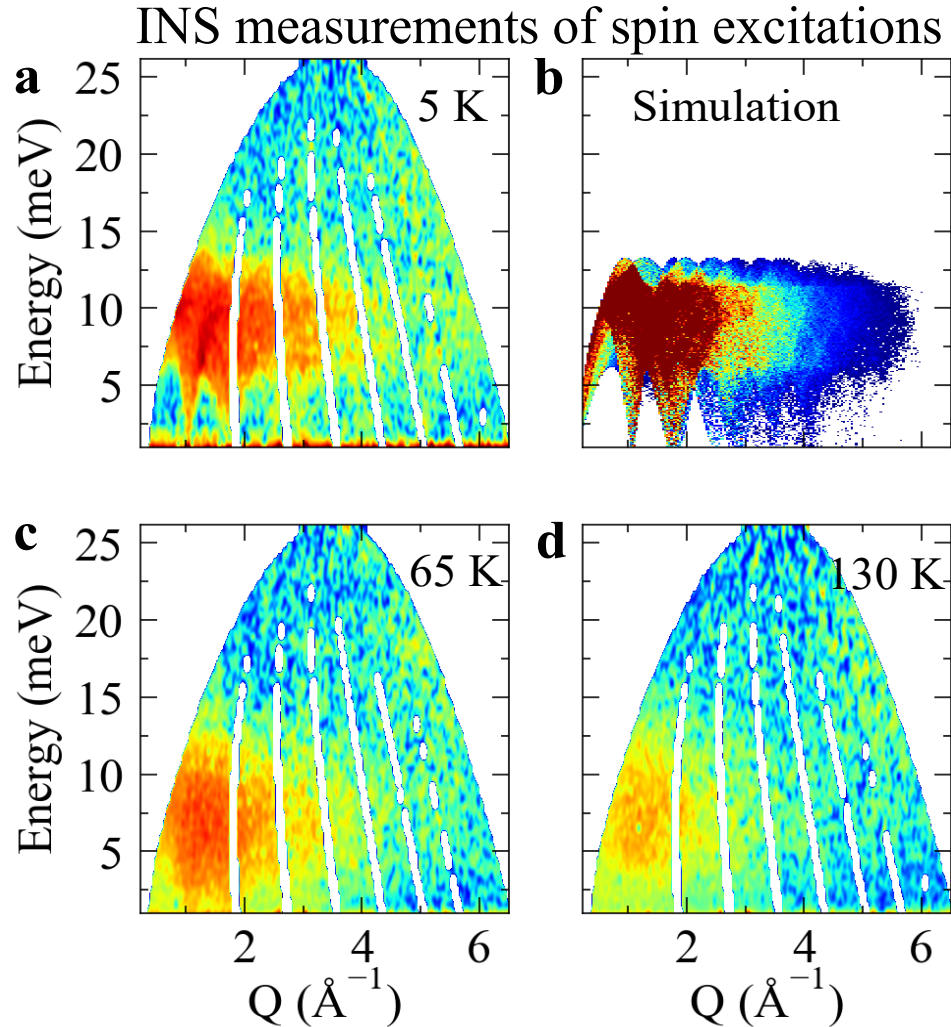
# Evidence of Kugel-Khomskii-type interaction in $\text{CrVO}_4$ at $4T_N$



# Evidence of Kugel-Khomskii-type interaction in $\text{CrVO}_4$ at $4T_N$ : But Why?

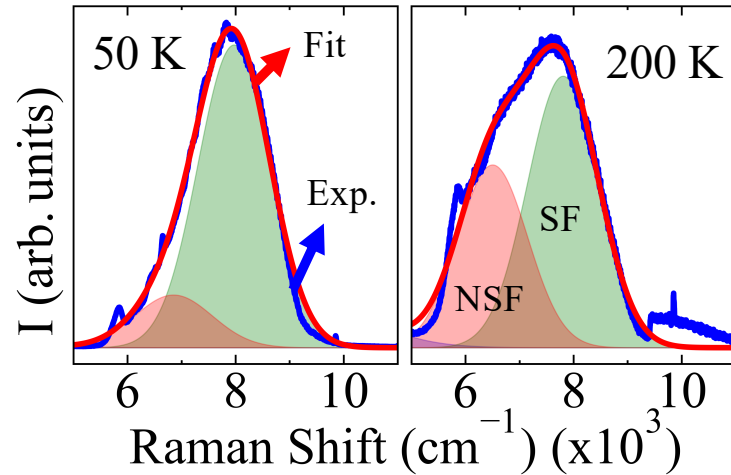


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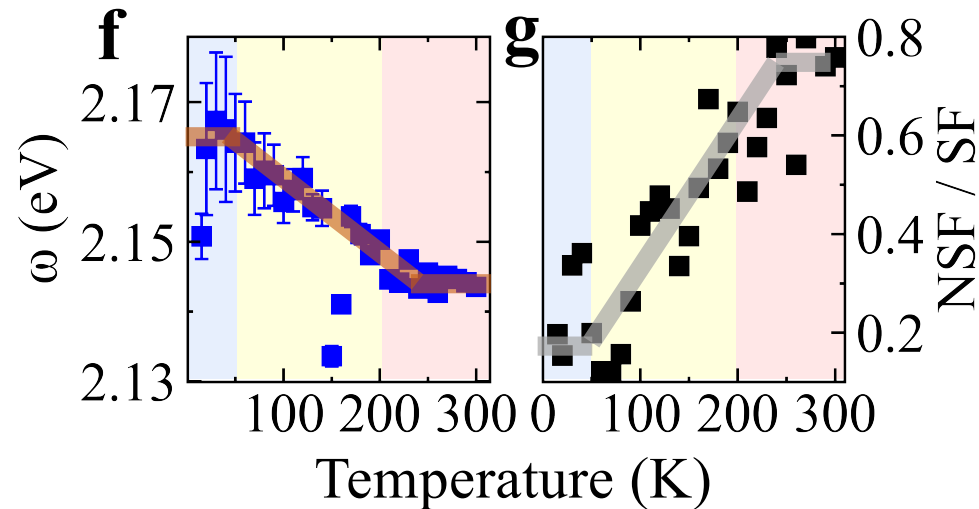


Short-range spin correlations could not be the reason for anomalies seen at  $4T_N$  as they start right above  $T_N$

# Evidence of Kugel-Khomskii-type interaction in $\text{CrVO}_4$ at $4T_N$ : But Why?



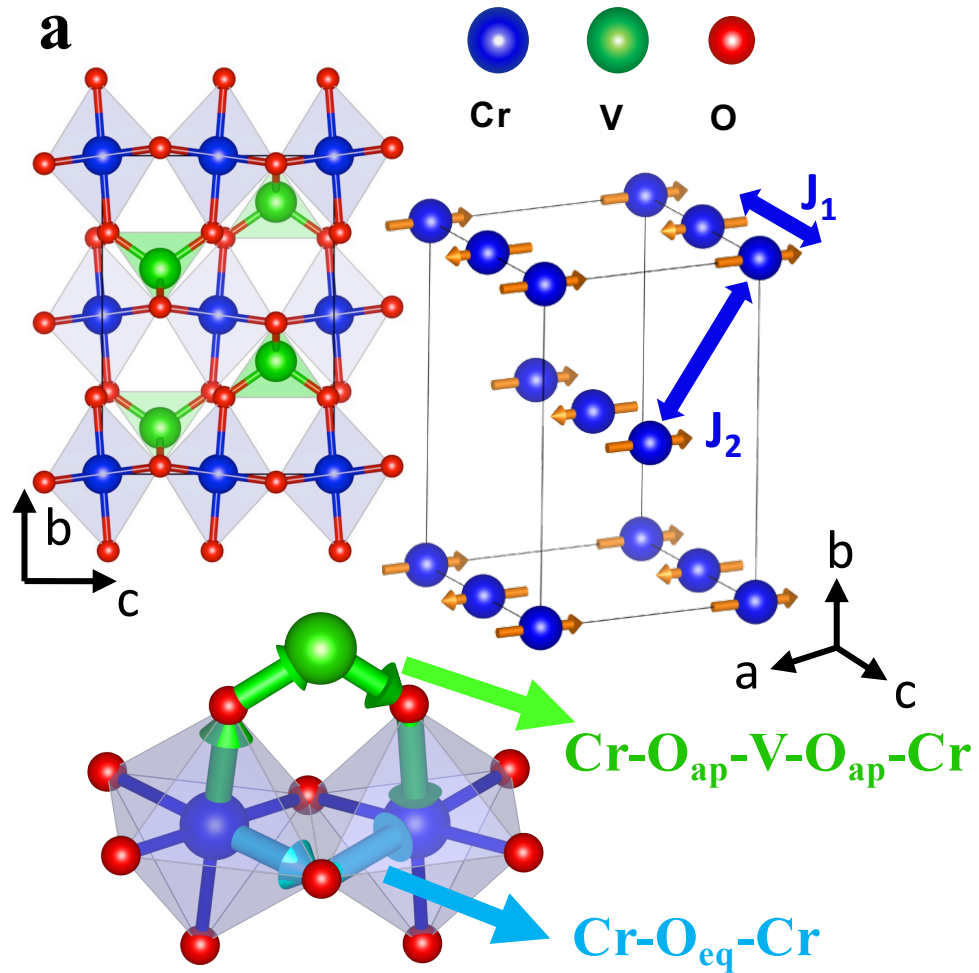
But Short-range spin correlations initiate orbital polarization (facilitate exchange interactions, particularly  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  and  $d_{3z^2-1}$ ), and the continuous orbital fluctuations decrease



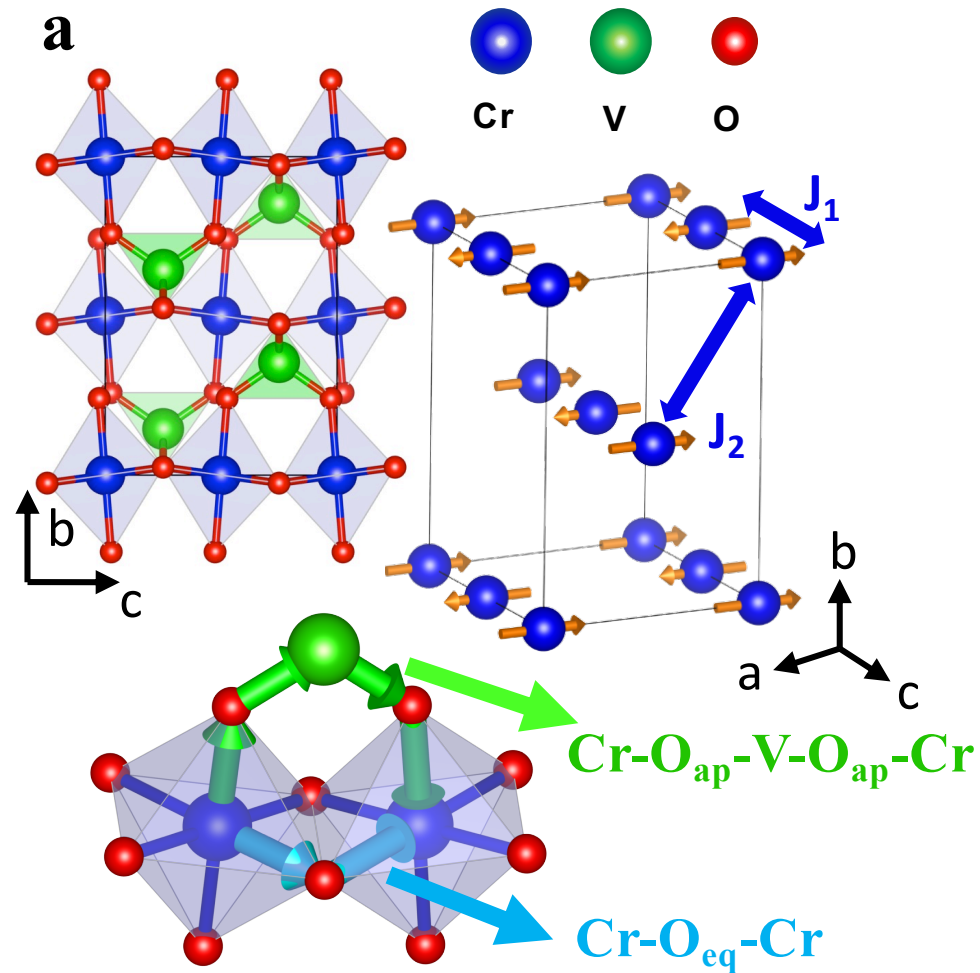
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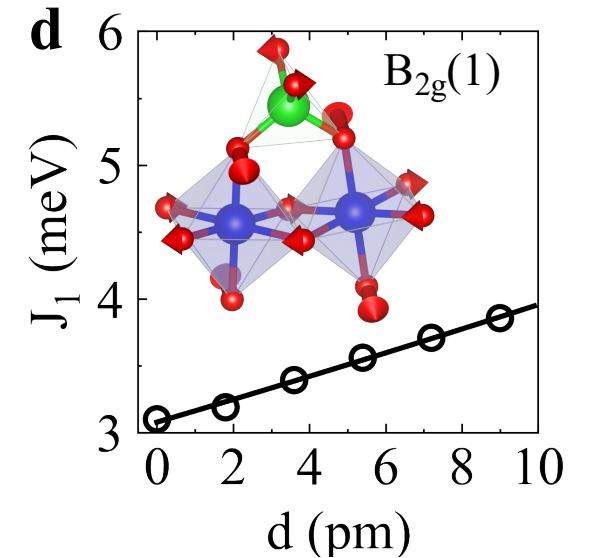
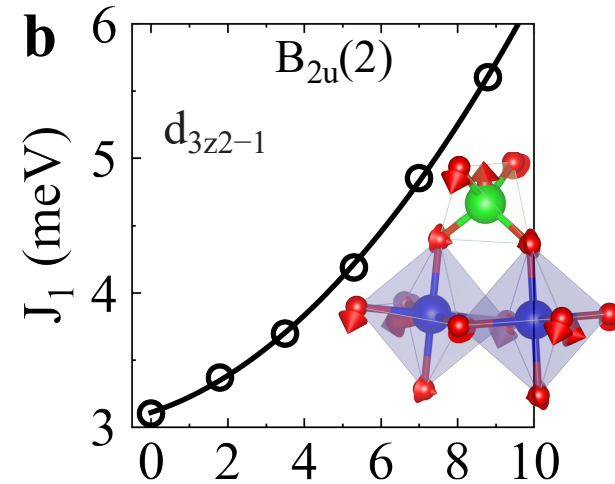
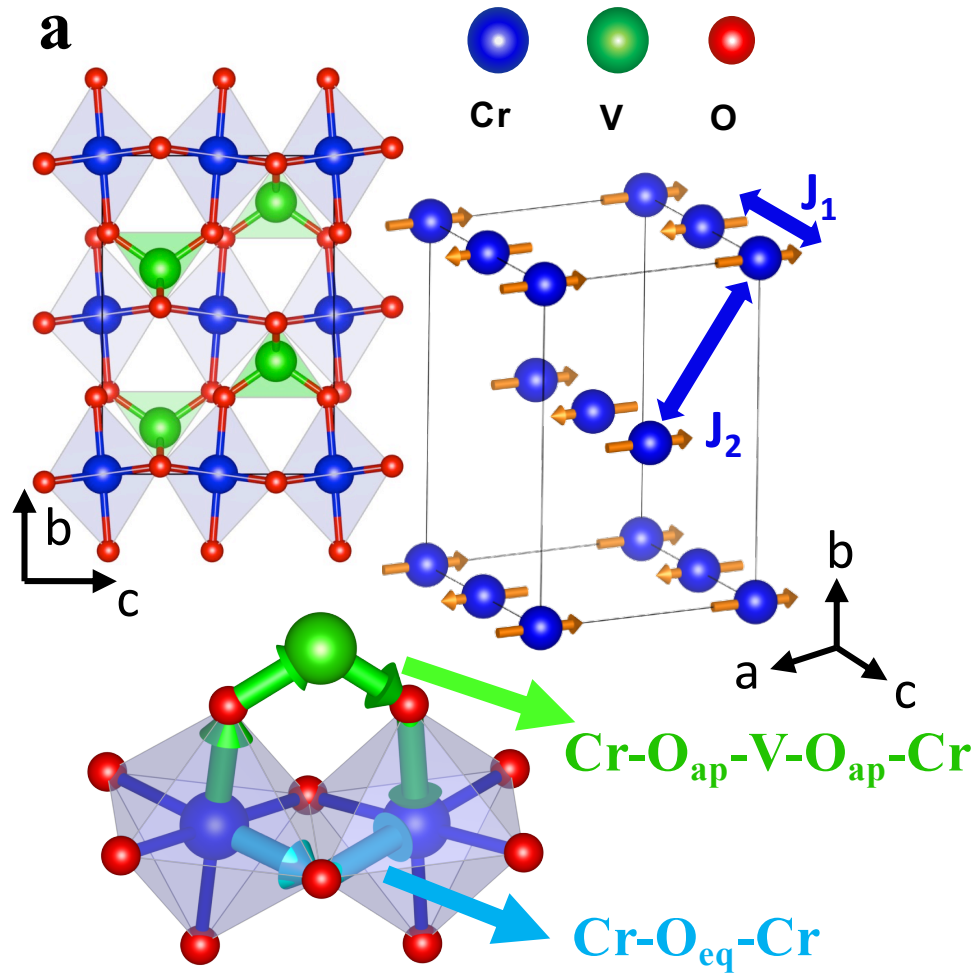


# Evidence of Kugel-Khomskii-type interaction in $\text{CrVO}_4$ at $4T_N$ : But Why?



$$J_{ij} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{E_F} d\epsilon \sum_{mm'm''m'''} \text{Im}(\Delta_i^{mm'} G_{ij,\downarrow}^{mm'} \Delta_j^{m''m'''} G_{ji,\uparrow}^{m''m'''})$$

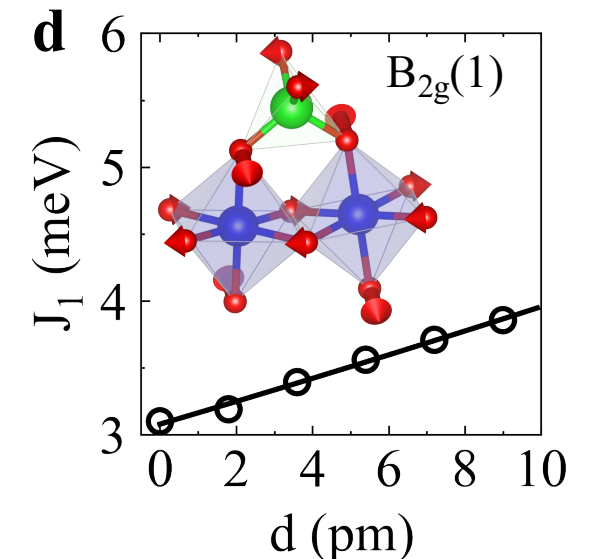
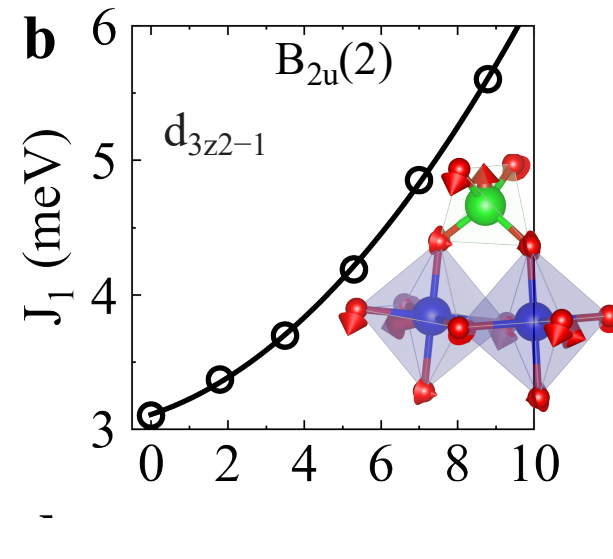
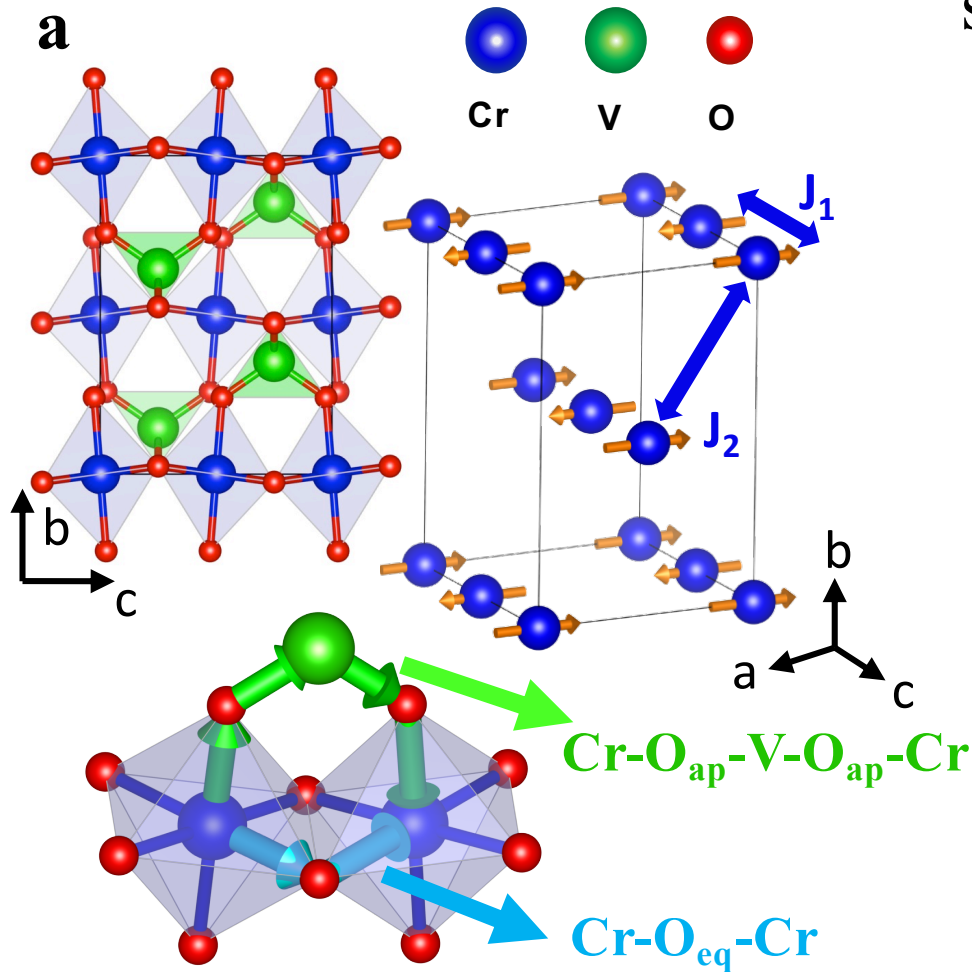
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# Evidence of Kugel-Khomskii-type interaction in $\text{CrVO}_4$ at $4T_N$ : But Why?

Due to extremely strong orbital-dependent spin-phonon coupling ( $d^2J/du^2 \sim 432 \text{ meV/\text{Å}^2}$ )

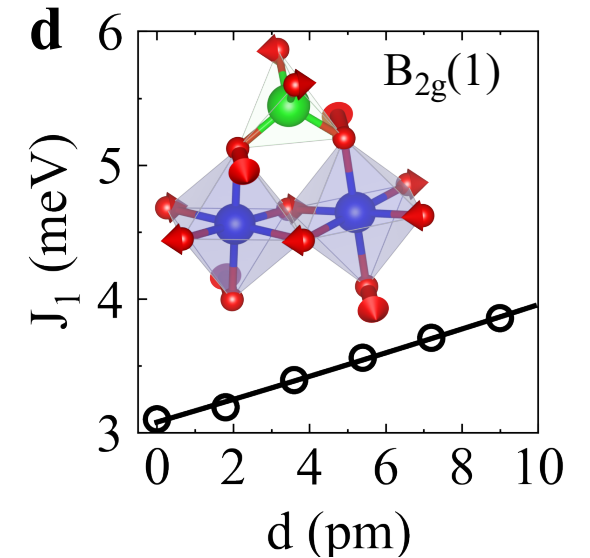
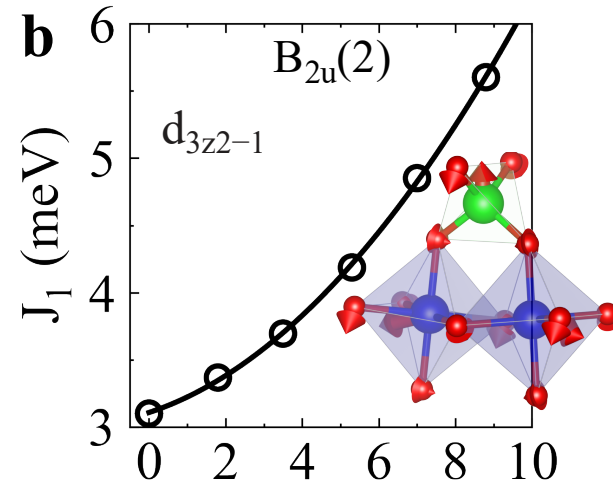
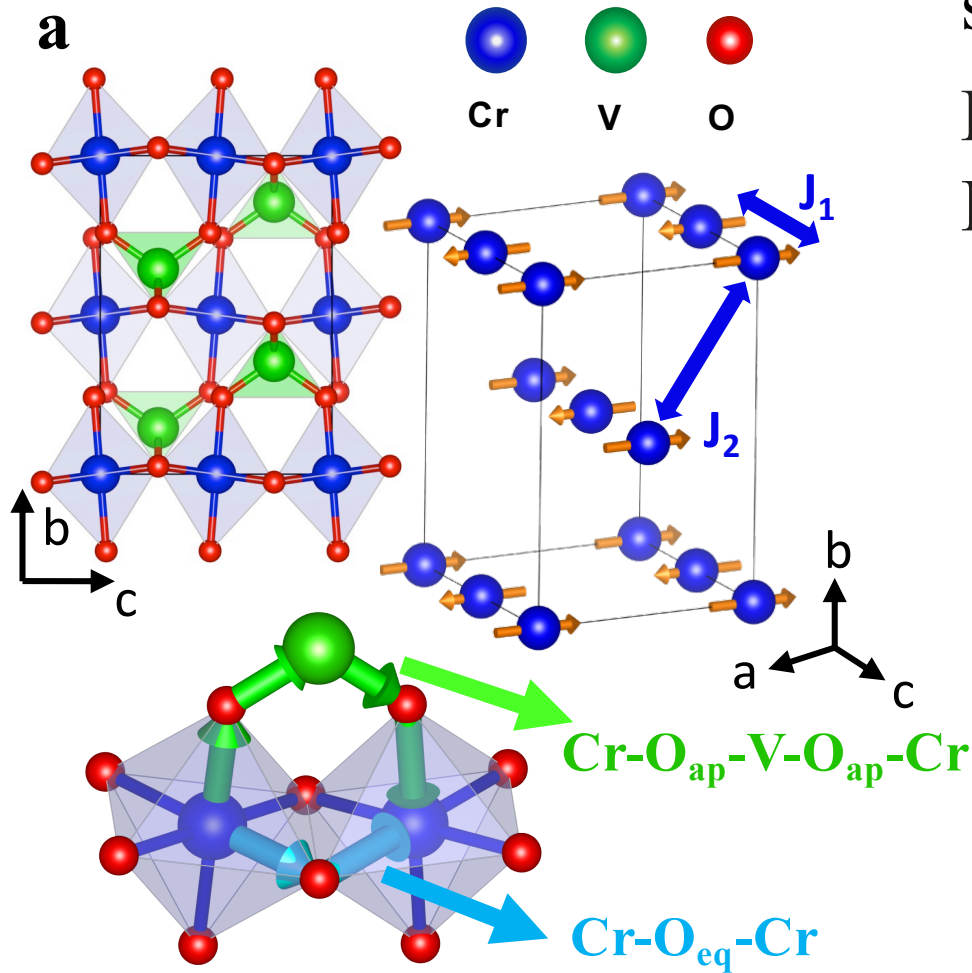


$$J_{ij} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{E_F} d\epsilon \sum_{mm'm''m'''} \text{Im}(\Delta_i^{mm'} G_{ij,\downarrow}^{mm'} \Delta_j^{m''m'''} G_{ji,\uparrow}^{m''m'''})$$

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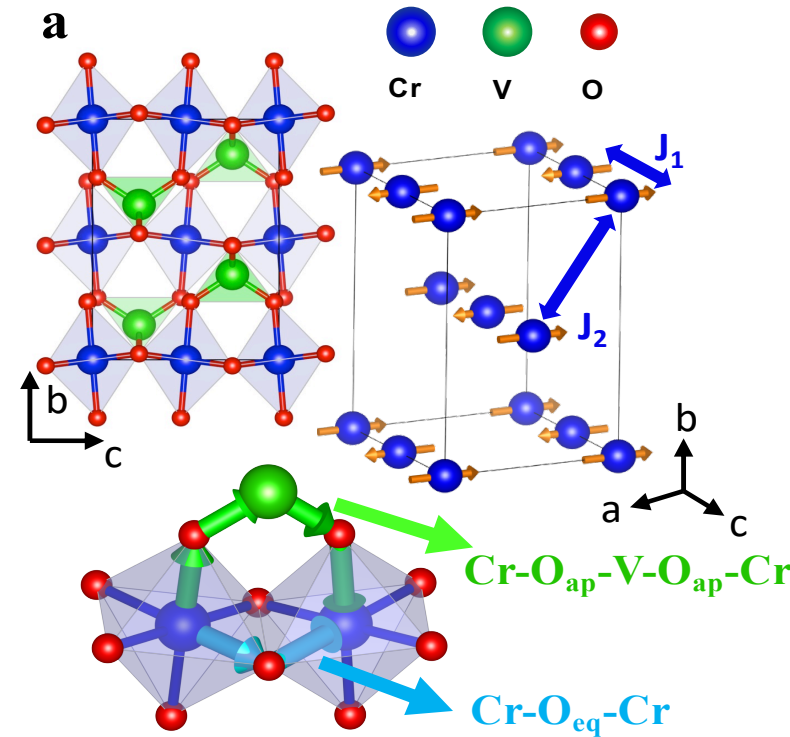
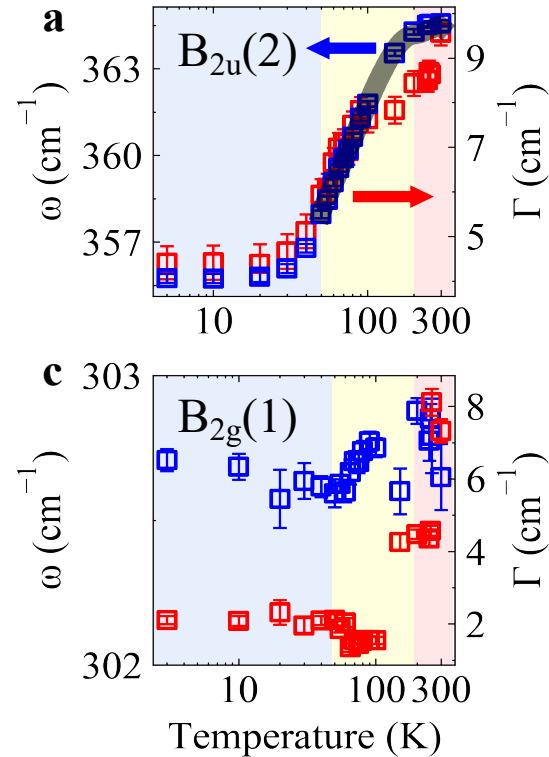
For  $\text{PrMnO}_3$ ,  $\text{NdMnO}_3$ ,  $\text{SmMnO}_3$  and  $\text{LaMnO}_3$  ranges between 175 to  $220 \text{ meV/\text{Å}^2}$



$$J_{ij} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{E_F} d\epsilon \sum_{mm'm''m'''} \text{Im}(\Delta_i^{mm'} G_{ij,\downarrow}^{mm'} \Delta_j^{m''m'''} G_{ji,\uparrow}^{m''m'''})$$

# In a nutshell

- Extremely strong Orbital-Selective Spin-Orbital-Phonon Coupling (two exchange pathways) – controls anomaly in phonon energy
- Continuous orbital fluctuations of the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  orbitals are suppressed at  $4T_N$  on cooling – controls anomaly in phonon linewidth



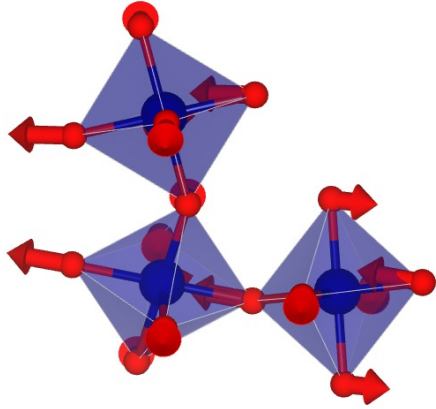
# In a nutshell

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- Transient evolution of spin-phonon coupling

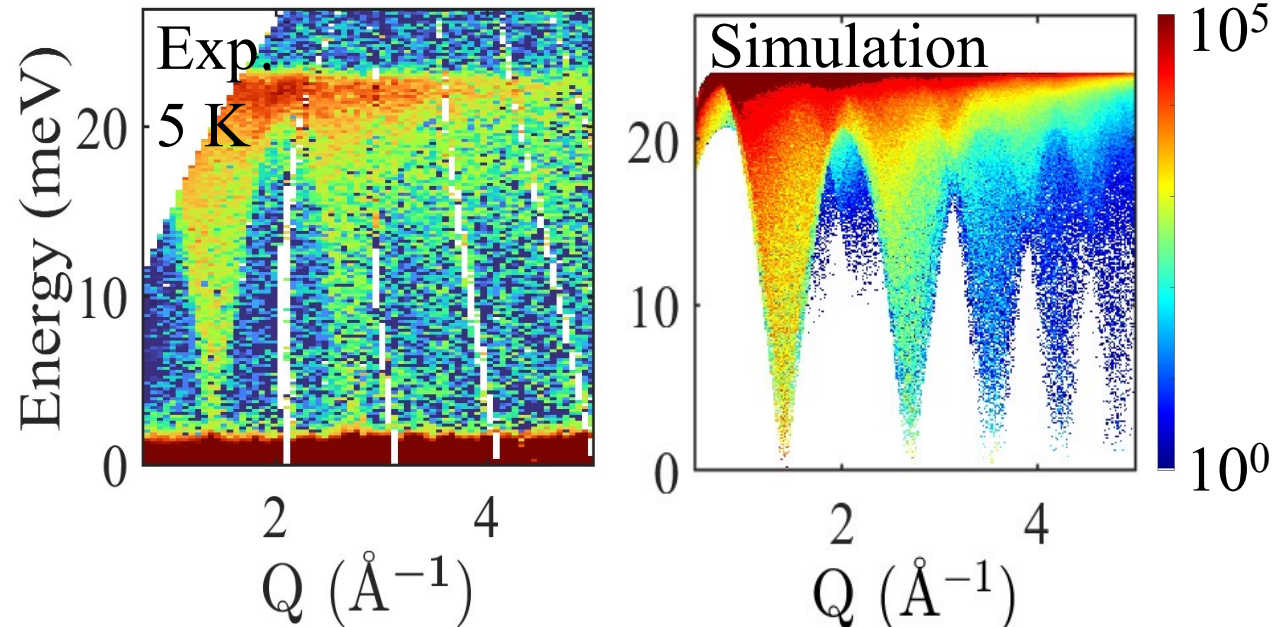
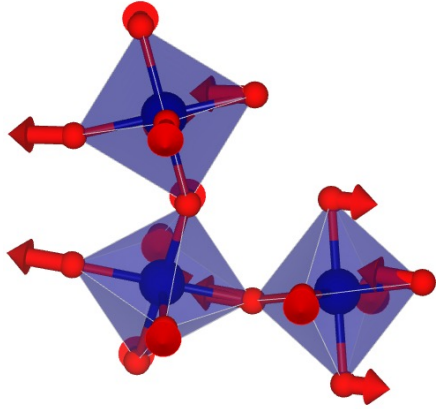
# In a nutshell

- Transient evolution of spin-phonon coupling



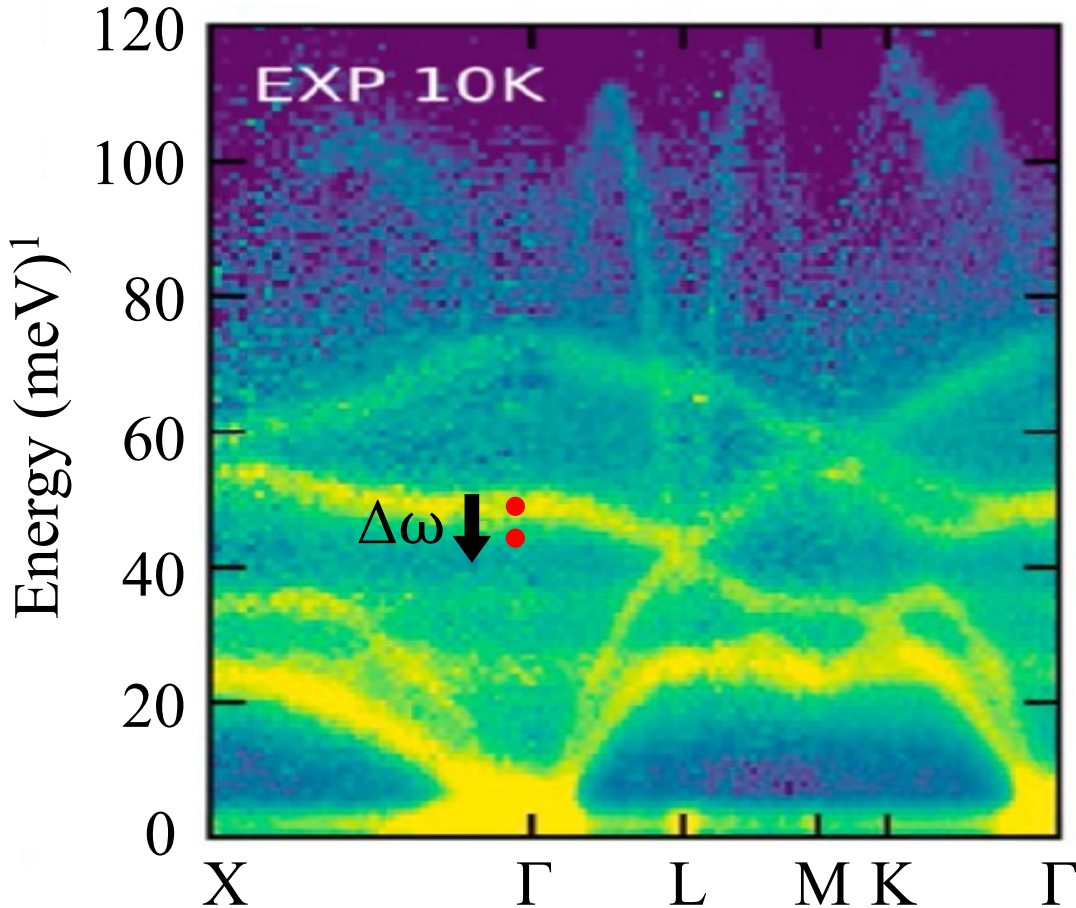
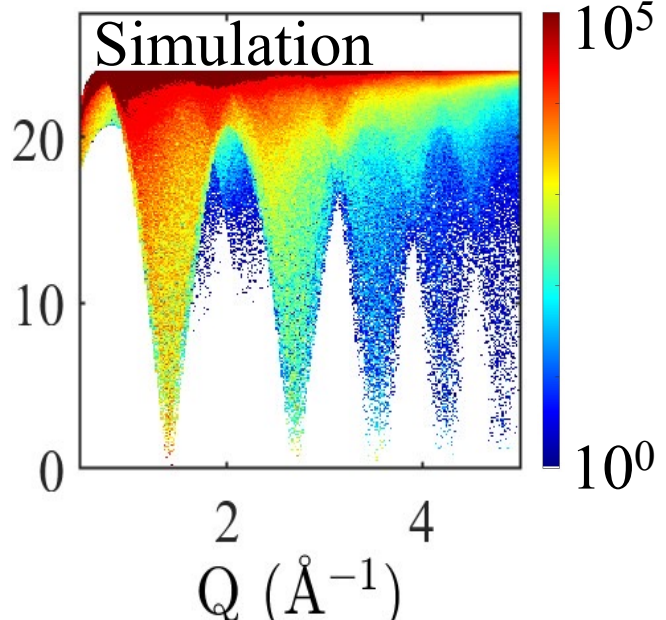
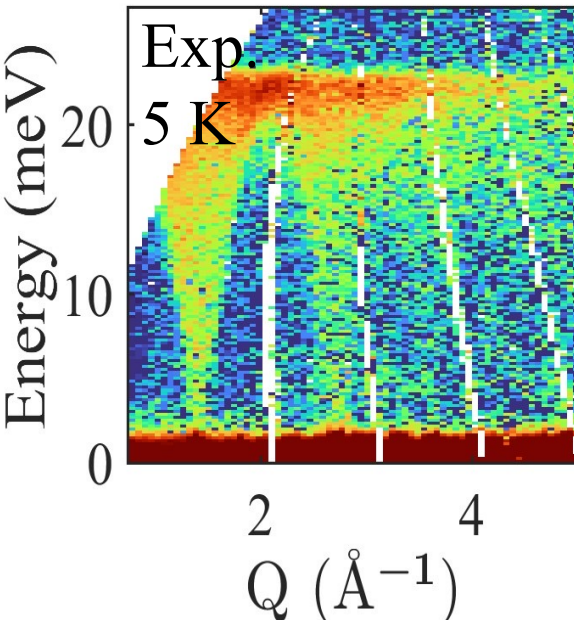
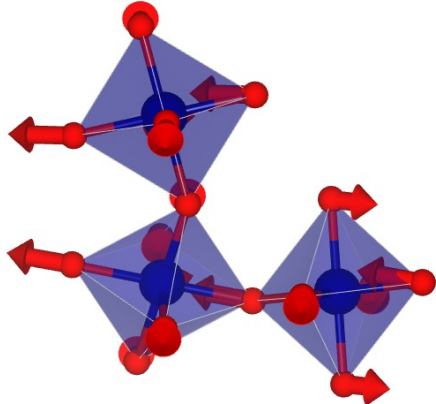
# In a nutshell

- Transient evolution of spin-phonon coupling



# In a nutshell

- Transient evolution of spin-phonon coupling



Sun, *Materials Today Physics* 35, 101094 (2023)

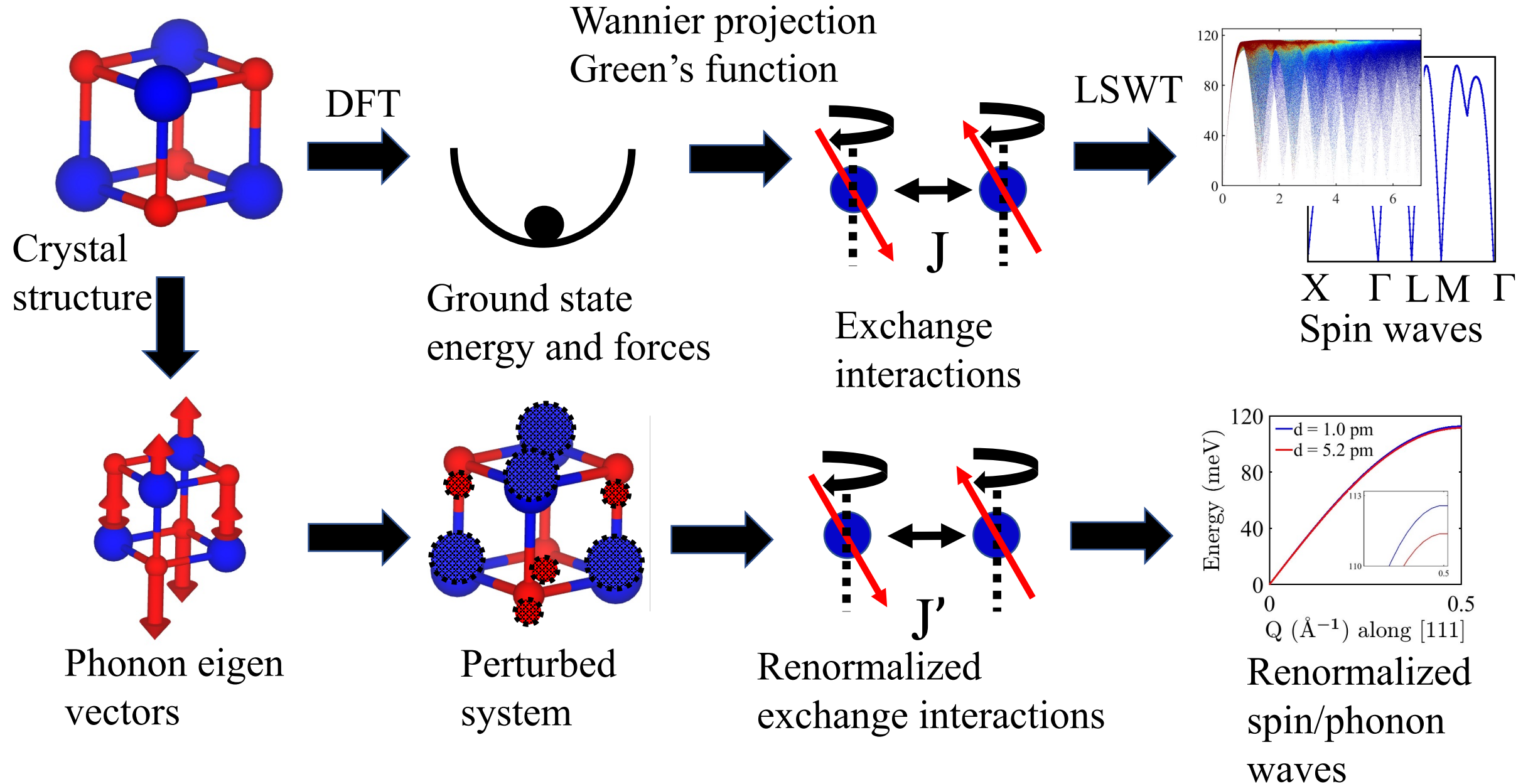
Jayakrishnan SS and D. Bansal. “Coherent phonon excitation induced evolution of spin dynamics and spin-phonon coupling in YCrO<sub>3</sub>.” PRB, 112, 214419, 2025.

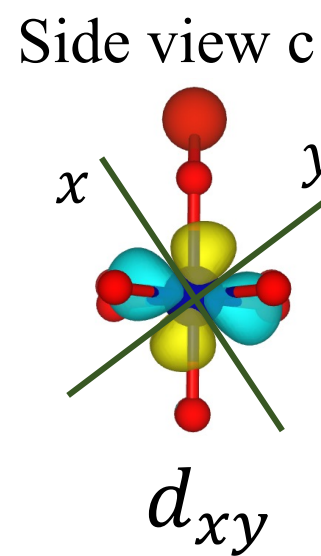
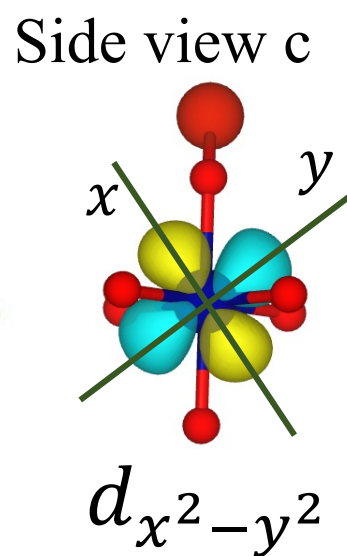
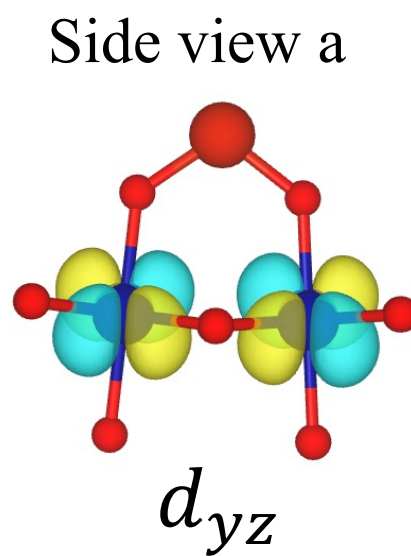
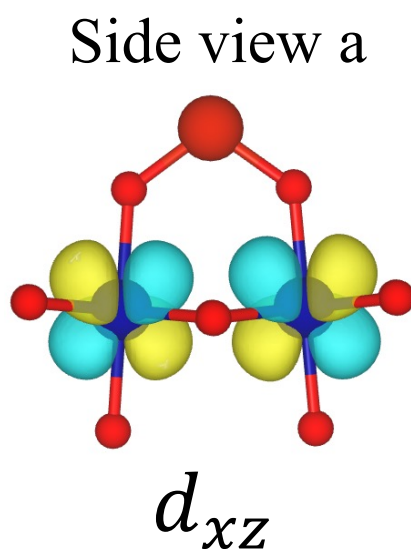
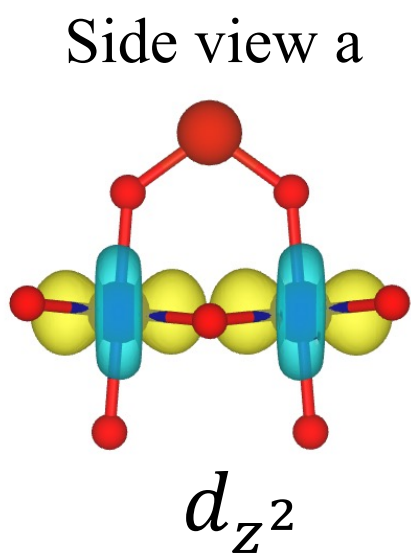
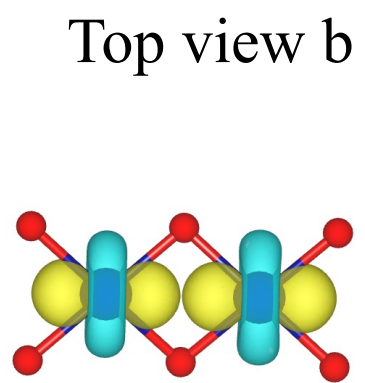
Jayakrishnan SS and D. Bansal. “Effect of spin-phonon coupling on phonons and magnons in the antiferromagnet NiO.” PRB, Vol. 111, 104306, 2025.

$$\begin{aligned}
H_L &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k,l>k} \phi_{kl}^{\mu\nu} u_k^\mu u_l^\nu, & H_{LS} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k,l>k} \phi_{kl}^{\mu\nu} u_k^\mu u_l^\nu + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k,k>l,i} \frac{\partial \phi_{kl}^{\mu\nu}}{\partial m_i^\alpha} m_i^\alpha u_k^\mu u_l^\nu \\
& & & + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\substack{k,l>k \\ i,j>i}} \frac{\partial^2 \phi_{kl}^{\mu\nu}}{\partial m_i^\alpha \partial m_j^\beta} m_i^\alpha m_j^\beta u_k^\mu u_l^\nu, & H_{SL} &= \sum_{i,j>i} J_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} m_i^\alpha m_j^\beta + \sum_{i,j>i,k} \frac{\partial J_{ij}^{\alpha\beta}}{\partial u_k^\mu} u_k^\mu m_i^\alpha m_j^\beta \\
H_S &= \sum_{i,j>i} \mathcal{J}_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} m_i^\alpha m_j^\beta. & & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{k,l>k \\ i,j>i}} \frac{\partial^2 J_{ij}^{\alpha\beta}}{\partial u_k^\mu \partial u_l^\nu} u_k^\mu u_l^\nu m_i^\alpha m_j^\beta.
\end{aligned}$$

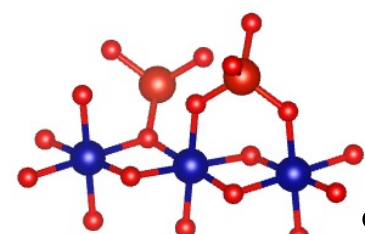
$$\begin{aligned}
H_{SLD} &= \sum_{i,j>i} J_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} m_i^\alpha m_j^\beta + \sum_{i,j>i,k} J_f u_k^\mu m_i^\alpha m_j^\beta \\
&+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{k,l>k \\ i,j>i}} J_s u_k^\mu u_l^\nu m_i^\alpha m_j^\beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k,l>k} \phi_{kl}^{\mu\nu} u_k^\mu u_l^\nu.
\end{aligned}$$

# Methodology





Top view b

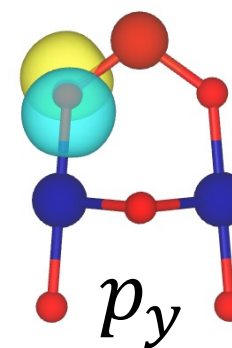
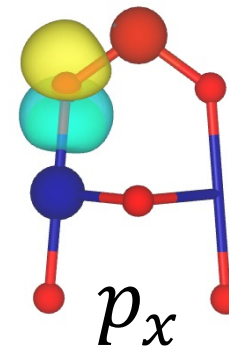
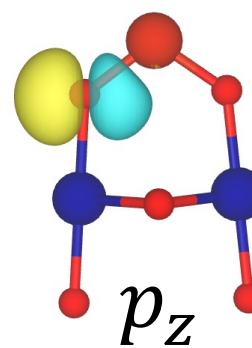


Side view c

b  
a c

Side view a

Apical O  
(side view a)



Equatorial O  
(top view b)

