

# Orbital orders and orbital order driven quantum criticality

Zohar Nussinov



C. D. Batista, LANL [arXiv:cond-mat/0410599](#) (PRB)

M. Biskup, L. Chayes, UCLA; J. van den Brink, Dresden  
[arXiv:cond-mat/0309691](#) (Comm Math Phys) ;  
[0309692](#) (EPL)

E. Fradkin, UIUC [arXiv:cond-mat/0410720](#) (PRB)

G. Ortiz, E. Cobanera, Indiana [arXiv:cond-mat/0702377](#),  
[0801.4391](#), [0812.4309](#), [0907.0733](#)  
(Annals of Physics, EPL, PRB); PNAS 2009

# Conclusions (new results)

- Orbital systems can order by **thermal** “order out of disorder” **fluctuations** even in their classical limit (no  $(1/S)$  zero point quantum fluctuations are necessary).
- Similar to charge and spin driven quantum critical behavior, it is theoretically possible to have **orbital order driven quantum critical** behavior. (Prediction.)
- Orbital systems can exhibit topological order and **dimensional reductions** due to their unusual symmetries (*exact or approximate*).
- A new approach to dualities.
- **Orbital nematic orders** (from symmetry selection rules) and related selection rules
- **Orbital Larmor effects** are predicted- periodic changes in the orbital state under the application of uniaxial strain.

1. What are orbital orders?

2. Models for orbital order

*“Order by disorder” in orbital systems*

3. Orbital order driven quantum criticality and glassiness

*Exact solutions as a theoretical proof of concept*

4. Symmetries and topological order

*Low dimensional gauge like symmetries and dimensional reductions; experimentally testable selection rules*

1. What are orbital orders? (old)

2. Models for orbital order (old)

*“Order by disorder” in orbital systems (thermal fluctuations) (new)*

3. Orbital order driven quantum criticality and glassiness

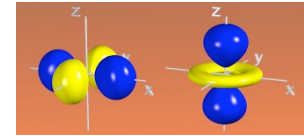
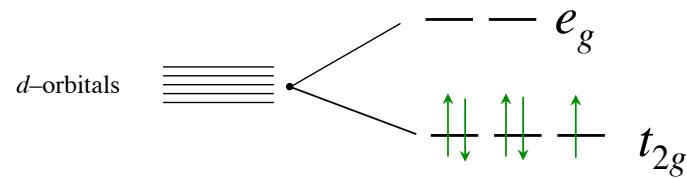
*Exact solutions as a theoretical proof of concept (new)*

4. Symmetries and topological order

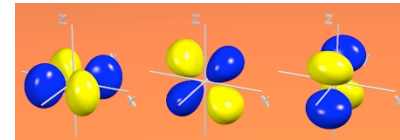
*Low dimensional gauge like symmetries and dimensional reductions; experimentally testable selection rules (new)*

# Transition Metal Compounds

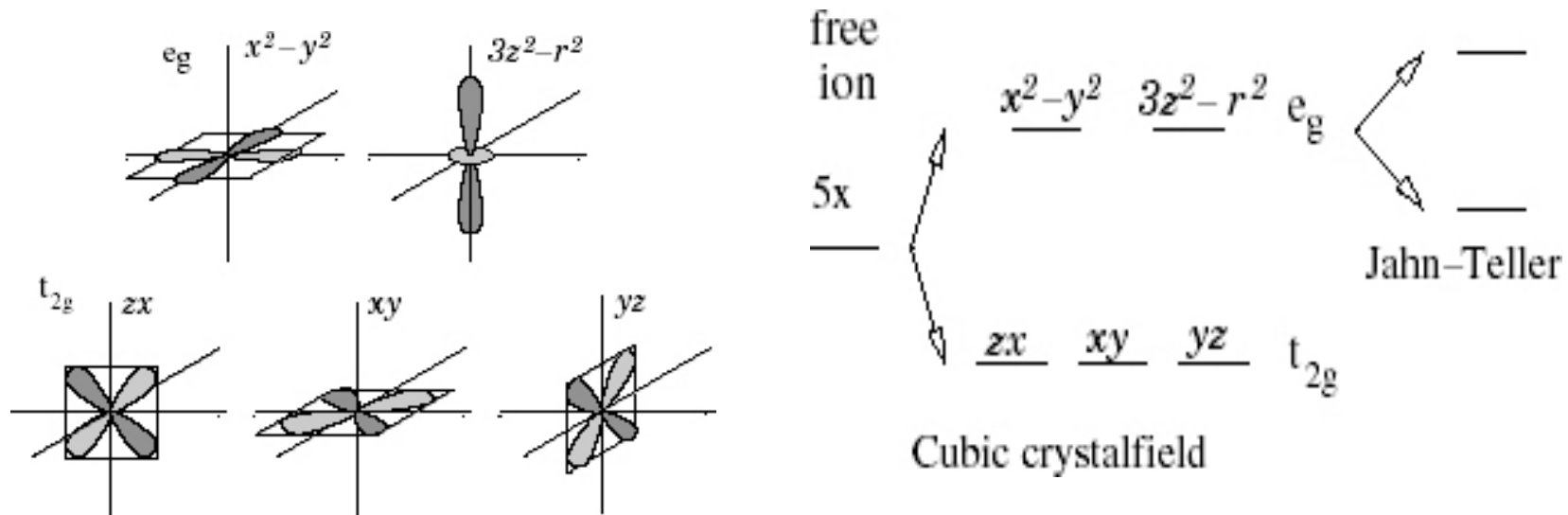
- Levels in  $3d$  shell split by crystal field.



- Single itinerant electron @ each site with multiple *orbital* degrees of freedom.



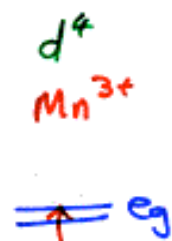
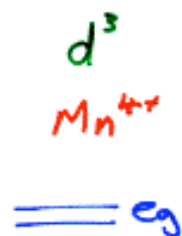
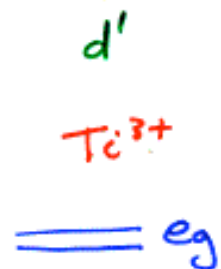
# The 3d orbitals



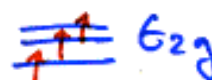
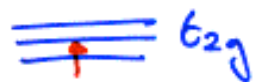
The five 3d orbital states share the same radial Function. Their angular dependence:

$$|x^2 - y^2\rangle = \left( \frac{Y_2^2 + Y_2^{-2}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \quad |3z^2 - r^2\rangle = Y_2^0$$

$$|xy\rangle = \left( \frac{Y_2^{-2} - Y_2^2}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \quad |yz\rangle = \left( \frac{Y_2^{-1} + Y_2^1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \quad |zx\rangle = \left( \frac{Y_2^{-1} - Y_2^1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$



$x^2 - y^2$   
 $3z^2 - r^2$



$xy$ ,  
 $y^2 - x^2$ ,  
 $zx$

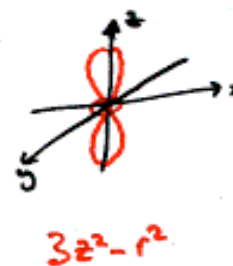
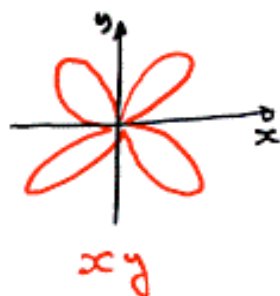
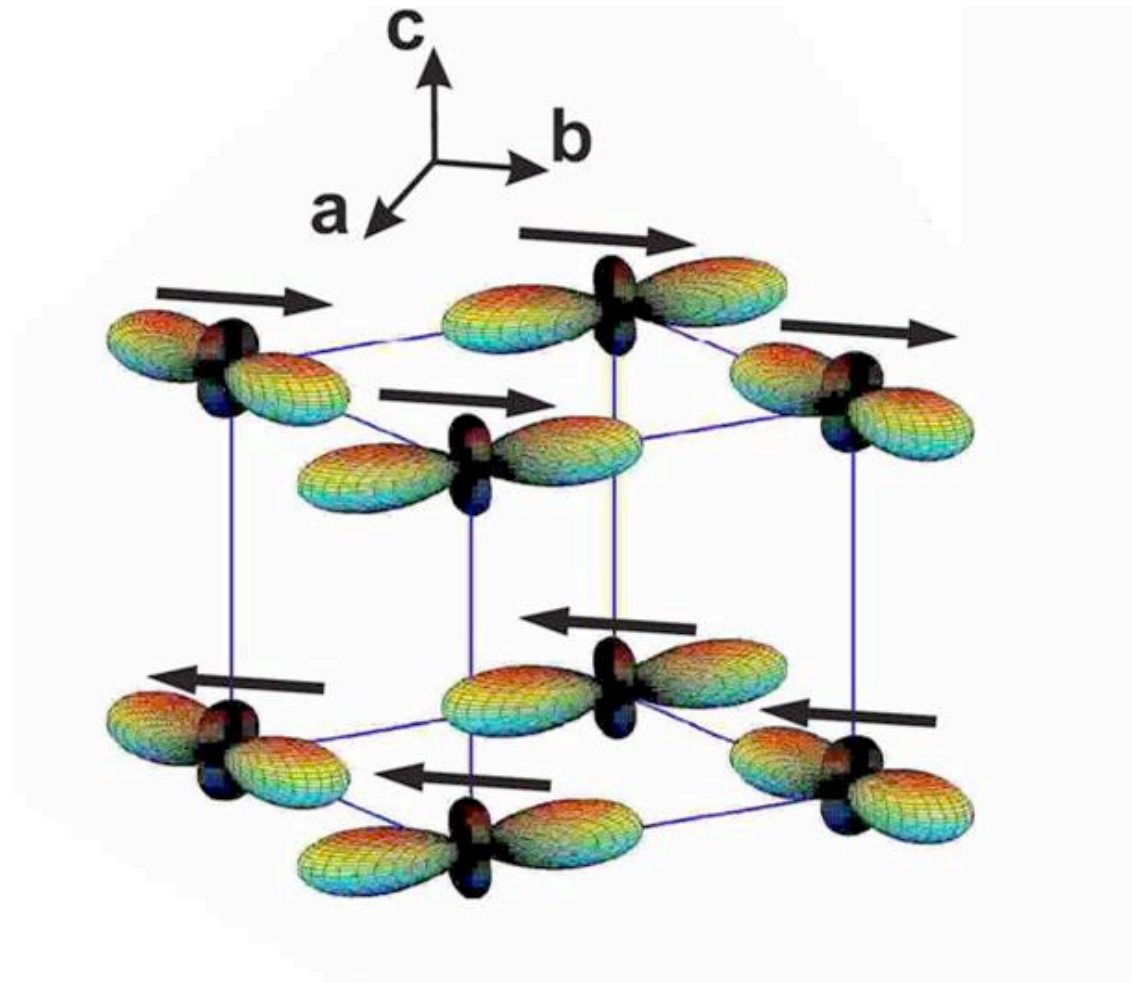
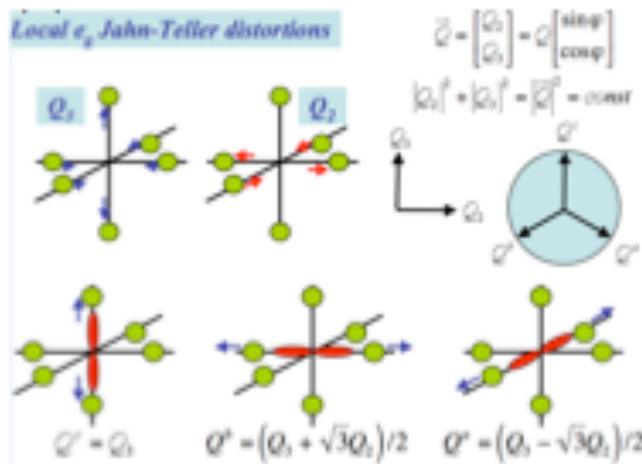


Illustration by R. Hill





$\text{LaMnO}_3$



$$|x^2 - y^2\rangle = |S = -m = 1/2\rangle \equiv |\downarrow\rangle; \quad |3z^2 - r^2\rangle = |\uparrow\rangle$$

$$|xy\rangle = |S = 1, m = 0\rangle; |yz\rangle = 2^{-1/2}(|11\rangle + |1-1\rangle);$$

$$|zx\rangle = -i2^{-1/2}(|11\rangle - |1-1\rangle)$$

The Hilbert space of the  $e_g$  orbitals is spanned by two states. The associated Jahn-Teller distortions can be expressed as vectors on a two dimensional unit disk (linear combinations of the two independent distortions  $Q_{2,3}$ ). An effective pseudo-spin  $S=1/2$  (or  $CP_1$ ) representation. There is an angle of 120 degrees between the three different cubic lattice symmetry related orbitals.

Similarly, the three  $t_{2g}$  orbitals can be represented by an effective  $S=1$  representation. (In a Bloch sphere representation, there is an angle of 90 degrees between different point group symmetry related distortions.)

1. What are orbital orders? (old)

2. Models for orbital order (old)

*“Order by disorder” in orbital systems (thermal fluctuations) (new)*

3. Orbital order driven quantum criticality and glassiness

*Exact solutions as a theoretical proof of concept (new)*

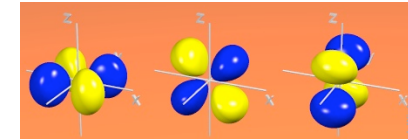
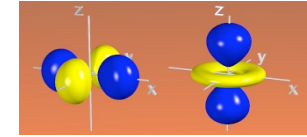
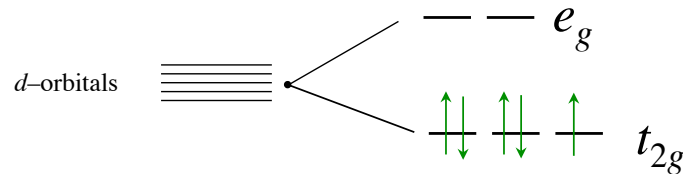
4. Symmetries and topological order

*Low dimensional gauge like symmetries and dimensional reductions; experimentally testable selection rules (new)*

*Unlike spins, orbitals live in real space.  
The orbital interactions  
are not isotropic. Reduced symmetry  
and frustration.*

# Transition Metal Compounds

- Levels in 3d shell split by crystal field.



- Single itinerant electron @ each site with multiple *orbital* degrees of freedom.

Super-exchange approximation (and neglect of strain-field induced interactions among orbitals):

$$H = \sum_{\langle r, r' \rangle} H_{\text{orb}}^{r, r'} (\mathbf{s}_r \cdot \mathbf{s}_{r'} + \frac{1}{4})$$

$$H_{\text{orb}}^{r, r'} = J[4\hat{\pi}_r^\alpha \hat{\pi}_{r'}^\alpha - 2\hat{\pi}_r^\alpha - 2\hat{\pi}_{r'}^\alpha + 1]$$

$\hat{\pi}_r^\alpha$  = direction of bond  $r - r'$

[Kugel–Khomskii Hamiltonian]

120°-model ( $e_g$ -compounds)

$\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{LiVO}_2$ ,  $\text{LaVO}_3$ ,  $\text{LaMnO}_3$ , ...

$$\hat{\pi}_r^x = \frac{1}{4}(-\sigma_r^z + \sqrt{3}\sigma_r^x) \quad \hat{\pi}_r^y = \frac{1}{4}(\sigma_r^z - \sqrt{3}\sigma_r^x)$$

$$\hat{\pi}_r^z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_r^z$$

orbital compass-model ( $t_{2g}$ -compounds)

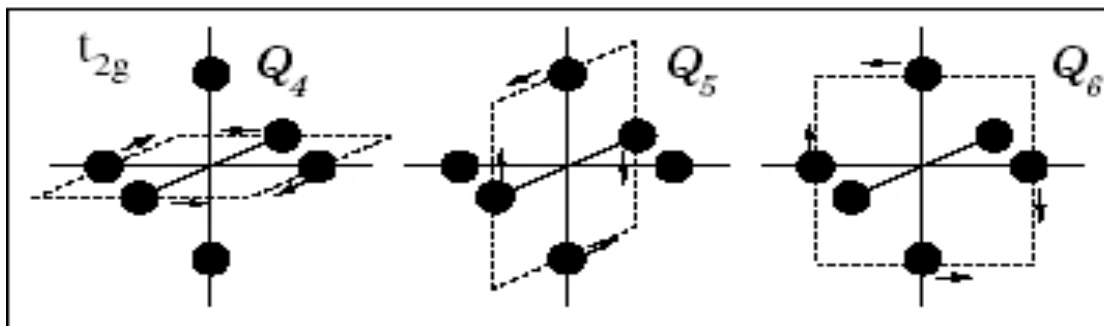
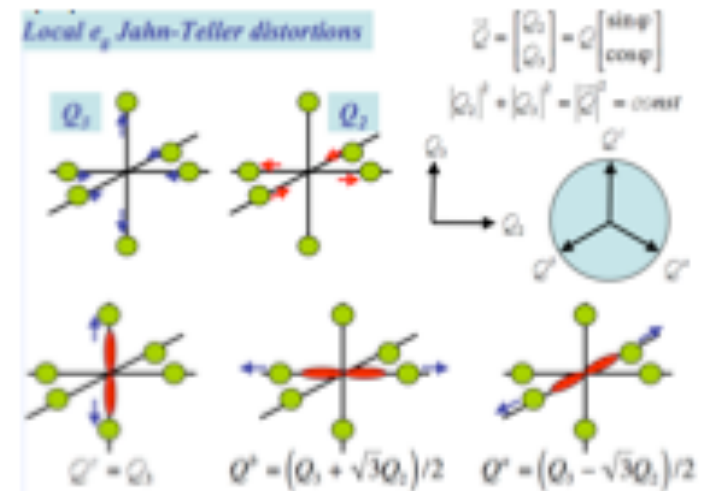
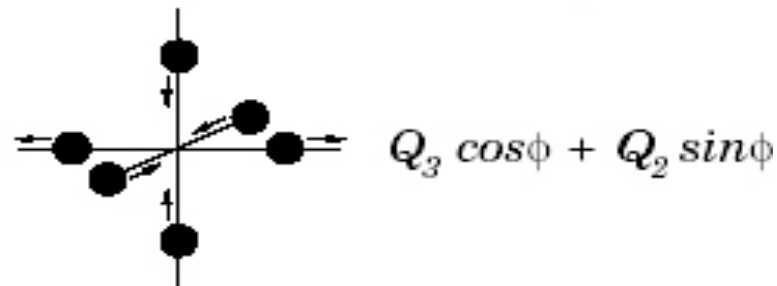
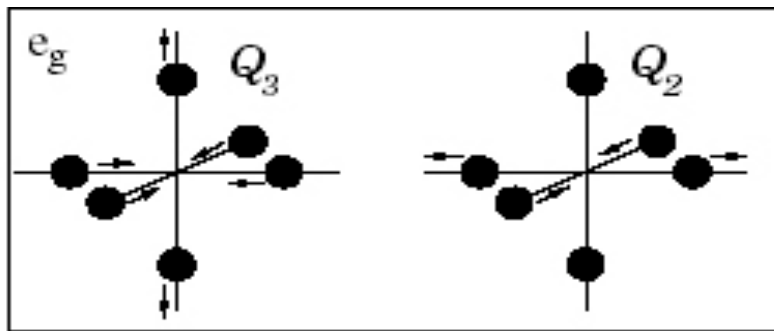
$\text{LaTiO}_3$ , ...

$$\hat{\pi}_r^x = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_r^x \quad \hat{\pi}_r^y = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_r^y$$

$$\hat{\pi}_r^z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_r^z$$

# Jahn-Teller distortions

The distortions preferred by different orbital states:



The JT distortions can be denoted in terms of the spinor representation of the orbital states

## *The orbital only interactions*

The orbital component of the orbital dependent super-exchange as well as the direct Jahn-Teller orbital only interactions have a similar form:

$$H_{orb} = J \sum_{\alpha} \sum_r \pi_r^{\alpha} \pi_{r+e_{\alpha}}^{\alpha}$$

- Orbital only approximation: Neglect spin degrees of freedom.

### 120° Hamiltonian:

$$H = J \sum_r (S_r^{[a]} S_{r+e_x}^{[a]} + S_r^{[b]} S_{r+e_y}^{[b]} + S_r^{[c]} S_{r+e_z}^{[c]})$$

$\vec{S}_r$  an XY-spin

$$S_r^{[a]} = \vec{S}_r \cdot \hat{a}$$

similarly for  $S_r^{[b]}$  &  $S_r^{[c]}$ ,

$\hat{a}$ ,  $\hat{b}$  and  $\hat{c}$

unit vectors spaced @ 120°.

### Orbital compass Hamiltonian:

$$H = J \sum_r (S_r^{[x]} S_{r+e_x}^{[x]} + S_r^{[y]} S_{r+e_y}^{[y]} + S_r^{[z]} S_{r+e_z}^{[z]})$$

$$\vec{S}_r = (S_r^{[x]}, S_r^{[y]}, S_r^{[z]})$$

– usual Heisenberg spins.



## The 120 degree model

$$\vec{S}_r \in \mathcal{S}_1, \text{ write } \vec{S}_r = (S_r^{[x]}, S_r^{[y]}). \quad S_r^{[a]} = \vec{S}_r \cdot \hat{a}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} H &= J \sum_{r \in \Lambda_L} (S_r^{[a]} S_{r+e_x}^{[a]} + S_r^{[b]} S_{r+e_y}^{[b]} + S_r^{[c]} S_{r+e_z}^{[c]}) \\ &= -\frac{J}{2} \sum_{r \in \Lambda_L} \left( (S_r^{[a]} - S_{r+e_x}^{[a]})^2 + (S_r^{[b]} - S_{r+e_y}^{[b]})^2 + (S_r^{[c]} - S_{r+e_z}^{[c]})^2 \right) + \text{constant}. \end{aligned}$$

Attractive couplings (ferromagnetic).

Couples in  $x$ -direction with projection along  $a$ -component.

Couples in  $y$ -direction with  $b$ -component.

Couples in  $z$ -direction with  $c$ -component

Clear: Any constant spin-field is a classical ground state. Ditto for the orbital compass model.

•  $U(1)$  symmetry emerges in the ground state sector of the large  $S$  theory\*

Naïve spin-wave theory is a complete disaster

$$G(k, \omega = 0) \propto \frac{\Delta_a + \Delta_b + \Delta_c}{\Delta_a \Delta_b + \Delta_a \Delta_c + \Delta_b \Delta_c}$$

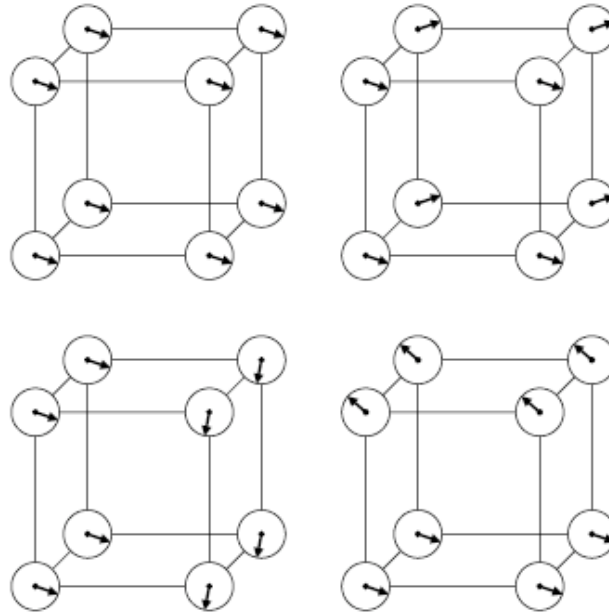
Fix  $k_z$

$$G(k, \omega = 0) \propto \frac{1}{\Delta_a + \Delta_b}$$

Very IR divergent.

# Lower Dimensional Symmetries

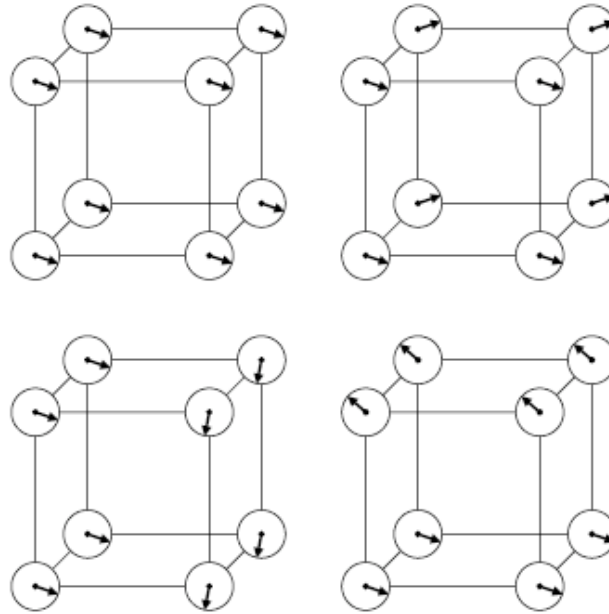
Z. Nussinov, M. Biskup,  
L. Chayes, and J. v. d. Brink  
0309692 (EPL)



Ising-type discrete emergent  
symmetries  
of the classical 120 degree  
model

# Lower Dimensional Symmetries

$L \times L \times L$   
lattice



Reflect all orbital  
pseudo-spins in  
entire planes.

Additional discrete degeneracy factor of  
 $2^{3L}$   
for the ground states

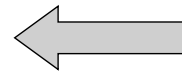
# Order out of disorder-

In the physics literature since the early 80's

J. Villain, R. Bidaux, J. P. Carton and R. Conte, *Order as an Effect of Disorder*, J. Phys. (Paris) **41** (1980), no.11, 1263–1272.

E. F. Shender, *Antiferromagnetic Garnets with Fluctuationally Interacting Sublattices*, Sov. Phys. JETP **56** (1982) 178–184 .

C. L. Henley, *Ordering Due to Disorder in a Frustrated Vector Antiferromagnet*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **62** (1989) 2056–2059.



Really clarified matters; put things on a firm foundation in a general context.

Plus infinitely many papers (mostly quantum) in which specific calculations done.  
Earlier orbital order work focused on zero point  $1/S$  fluctuations.

***Our result:*** *orbital order is robust and persists for infinite  $S$ . Zero point quantum fluctuations are not needed to account for the observed orbital order.*

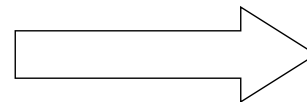
1) Weighting of various ground states

must take into account more than just energetics:

- Fluctuations of spins will contribute to overall statistical weight.

2) These (spin–fluctuation) degrees of freedom will themselves organize into spin–wave like modes.

- Can be calculated (or estimated).



# Spin wave free energy calculation

Expand about the uniform state:  $\theta_r = \theta^*$

$$\vartheta_r \equiv \theta_r - \theta^* \quad H_{SW} = \frac{J}{2} \sum_{r,\alpha} q_\gamma(\theta^*) (\vartheta_r - \vartheta_{r+e_\alpha})^2$$

$$q_c(\theta^*) = \sin^2 \theta^*, \quad q_{a,b}(\theta^*) = \sin^2(\theta^* \pm \frac{2\pi}{3})$$

$$\log Z(\theta^*) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k \neq 0} \log \left( \sum_{\alpha} \beta J q_{\alpha}(\theta^*) \Delta(k_{\alpha}) \right)$$

$$\Delta(k_{\alpha}) = 2 - 2 \cos k_{\alpha}$$

---

The free energy has strict minima at  $\theta^* = n\pi / 3$

Six uniform ground states:  $S_r = \pm S e_{\alpha}$

Stratified states:  $\theta_r = (-1)^x \theta^*$

$$F(\theta^*) = \int_{k \in B.Z.} \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \log \det(\beta J \Pi_k)$$

$$\Pi_k = \begin{pmatrix} q_1 \Delta_1 + q_+ \Delta_+ & q_- \Delta_- \\ q_- \Delta_- & q_1 \Delta_1^* + q_+ \Delta_+^* \end{pmatrix}$$

$$q_\alpha \equiv q_\alpha(\theta^*) \quad \Delta_\alpha \equiv \Delta_\alpha(k)$$

$$\Delta_\alpha^* = \Delta_\alpha(k + \pi e_\alpha)$$

$$q_\pm = \frac{1}{2}(q_2 \pm q_3)$$

$$\Delta_\pm = \Delta_2 \pm \Delta_3$$

$$F(\theta^*) > F(0), \quad \theta^* \neq 0, \pi$$

Low free energy states are not stratified.

## Finite temperature order

Reflection Positivity (chessboard estimates):  $P_\beta(A) \leq \left( \frac{z_\beta(A)}{z_\beta} \right)^{B^3}$

Using Reflection Positivity along with a Peierls argument, we readily established that at sufficiently low temperatures, one of the six low free energy states is spontaneously chosen.

Interesting feature: Limiting behavior of model as  $T$  goes to zero is *not* the same as the behavior of the model @  $T = 0$ .



# Nematic orbital order

For the  $t_{2g}$  orbital compass type models, uniform order cannot appear. By symmetry considerations, it is established that  $\langle S_r \rangle = 0$ . Instead, an “orbital nematic order” (e.g.,  $\langle (S_r^x S_{r+e_x}^x - S_r^y S_{r+e_y}^y) \rangle \neq 0$  in the 2D orbital compass) can be proven to onset at sufficiently low yet finite temperatures.

1. What are orbital orders? (old)

2. Models for orbital order (old)

*“Order by disorder” in orbital systems (thermal fluctuations) (new)*

3. Orbital order driven quantum criticality and glassiness

*Exact solutions as a theoretical proof of concept (new)*

4. Symmetries and topological order

*Low dimensional gauge like symmetries and dimensional reductions; experimentally testable selection rules (new)*

# Orbital order driven quantum criticality

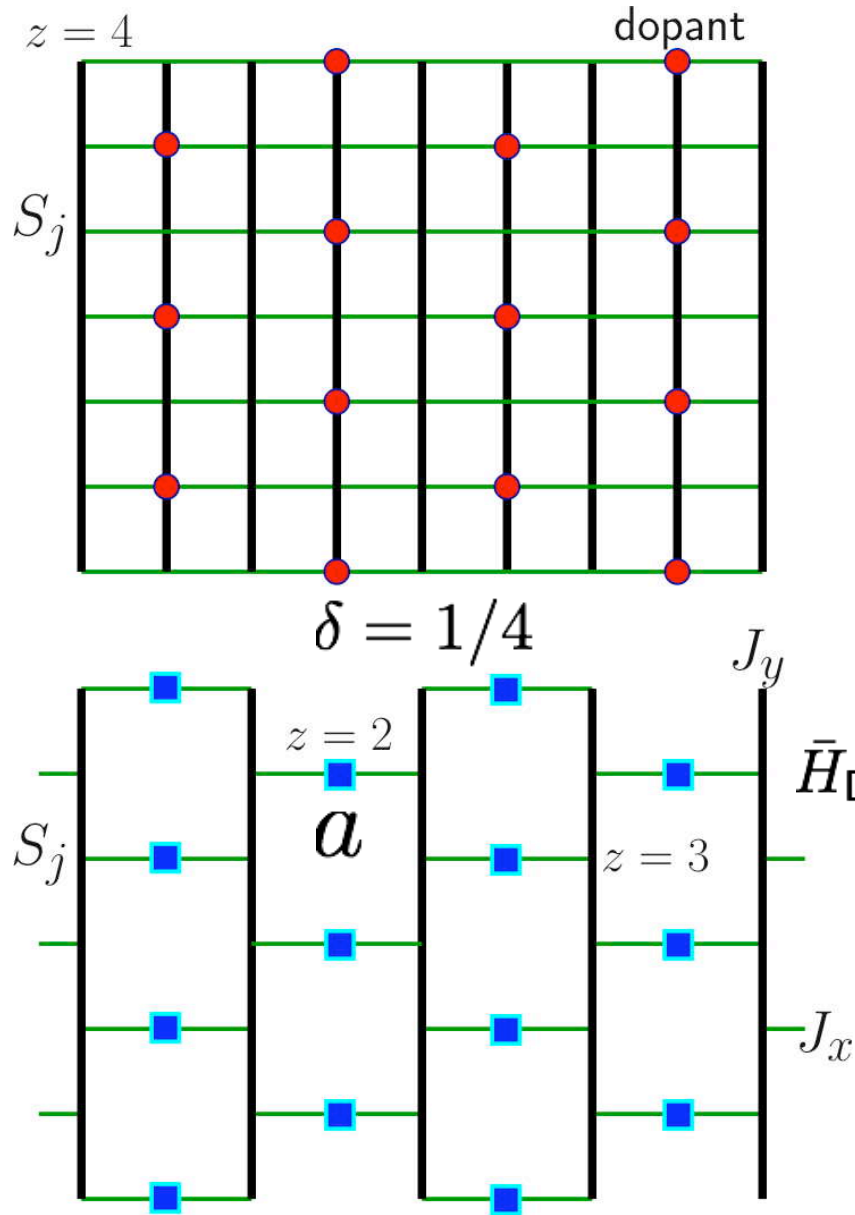
**Fact:** Quantum criticality can be associated with charge and spin driven orders. The transition metal oxides exhibit a rich interplay of charge/superconducting, spin, and orbital orders.

**Question:** Can there be an entirely new family of “orbital order driven quantum critical points”?

**Answer:** This is not forbidden and may occur theoretically. Indeed, in some simple yet exactly solvable models, there are orbital order driven quantum critical points (driven in the Hamiltonians by doping/dilution and/or uni-axial pressure).

Orbital analogues of quantum spin glasses are similarly found. For these models, the associated CFTs are standard.

# Diluted Orbital Compass Model and Criticality



$$H_{\text{OCM}} = - \sum_j J_\mu \sigma_j^\mu \sigma_{j+\hat{e}_\mu}^\mu$$

After doping: New gauge symmetry

$$\hat{O}_a = \sigma_a^x, \quad [H_{\text{DOCM}}, \hat{O}_a] = 0$$

$$\bar{H}_{\text{DOCM}} \equiv \hat{P}_\ell H_{\text{DOCM}} \hat{P}_\ell$$

$$\hat{P}_\ell = \prod_{a=1}^{N/3} \left( \frac{\mathbb{1} + \eta_a \sigma_a^x}{2} \right) \quad \eta_a = \pm 1$$

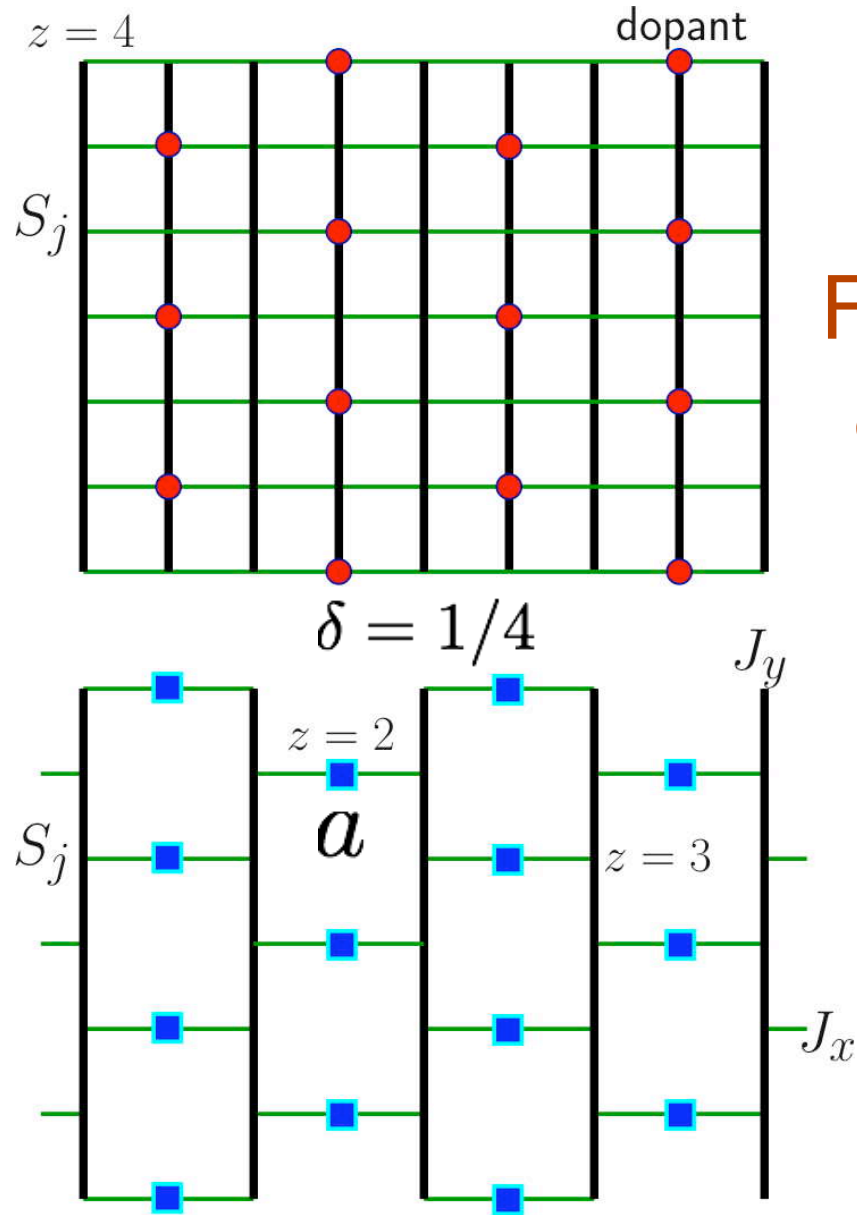
$$\bar{H}_{\text{DOCM}} = - \sum_b \left( J_x \eta_a \sigma_b^x + J_y \sigma_b^y \sigma_{b+\hat{e}_y}^y \right)$$

$$\mathcal{Z} = \text{tr}_{\mathcal{H}} e^{-\beta H_{\text{DOCM}}} = 2^{N/3} \mathcal{Z}_{\text{TFIM}}$$

**Quantum critical**

(Ca<sub>3</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>)

# Diluted Orbital Compass Model and Criticality



$$H_{\text{OCM}} = - \sum_j J_\mu \sigma_j^\mu \sigma_{j+\hat{e}_\mu}^\mu$$

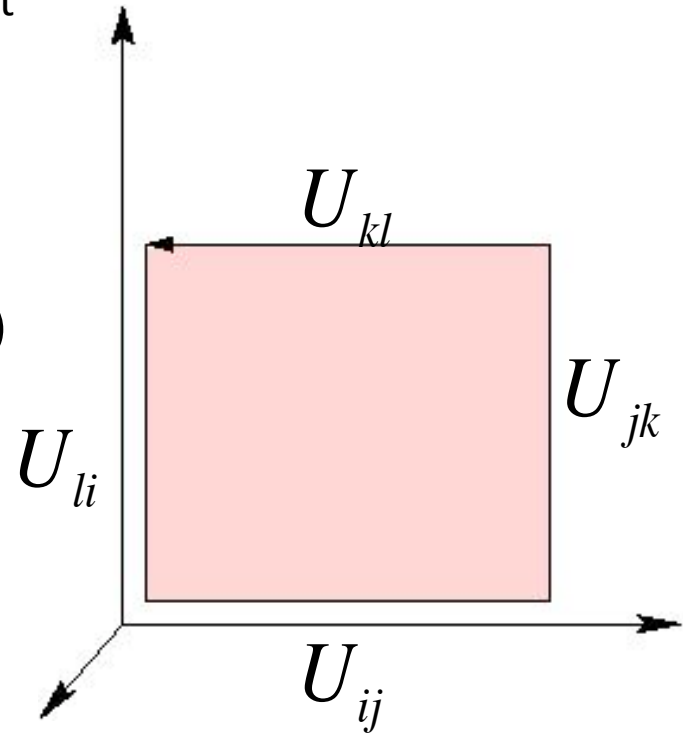
After doping: New gauge symmetry

For a system with random exchange couplings  $J_\mu$ , replicating the same steps mutatis mutandis leads to the Random Transverse Field Ising Model. Pressure plays the role of a transverse field.

Intermezzo: using the same idea, we can solve many other models using “Bond Algebras” ([Z. Nussinov and G. Ortiz, 0812.4309](#)) and derive a new exact self duality ([E. Cobanera, G. Ortiz, and Z. Nussinov 0907.0733](#)) for  $Z_N$  gauge theories in 3+1 dimensions (earlier conjectured not be self-dual). With ‘t Hooft ideas in mind, numerous authors studied of Wilson’s action for Lattice Gauge Field Theories

$$S = -\frac{1}{g^2} \left( \sum \text{Re}(\text{Tr}(U_{ij} U_{jk} U_{kl} U_{li} - 1)) \right)$$

restricting the fields to  $N$ th roots of unity ( $Z_N$ ).



Specifically, the dual coupling is given by

$$K_N\left(\frac{1}{2g^2}\right) \equiv K \qquad 4g_c^2 K_N\left(\frac{1}{2g_c^2}\right) = 1$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial F_N(K)}{\partial K} = \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2g^2} \left(1 - \cos \frac{2\pi}{N}\right)\right]$$

$$F_N(K) \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} e^{2K \cos\left(\frac{2\pi n}{N}\right)} .$$

Exact lattice relation! No Villain type nor any other approximation.

E. Cobanera, G. Ortiz, and Z. Nussinov 0907.0733

## The “Orbital Larmor Effect”

Pressure effects:

$$H_P = \gamma \sum_j P_v \sigma_j^v$$

$$\frac{d\vec{\sigma}_i}{dt} = \gamma \vec{\sigma}_i \times \vec{P}_i$$

$$\vec{P}_i = P_{i,v} e_v$$

Prediction: In the presence of uniaxial pressure, the orbital state will change periodically in time.



1. What are orbital orders? (old)

2. Models for orbital order (old)

*“Order by disorder” in orbital systems (thermal fluctuations) (new)*

3. Orbital order driven quantum criticality and glassiness

*Exact solutions as a theoretical proof of concept (new)*

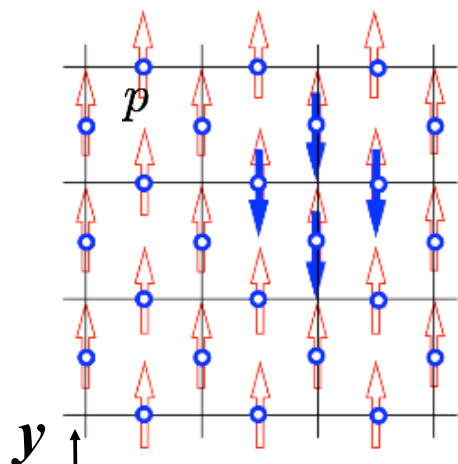
4. Symmetries and topological order

*Low dimensional gauge like symmetries and dimensional reductions; experimentally testable selection rules (new)*

# Gauge-Like-Symmetries $D = 2$

$d = 0$  (Ising Gauge Theory)

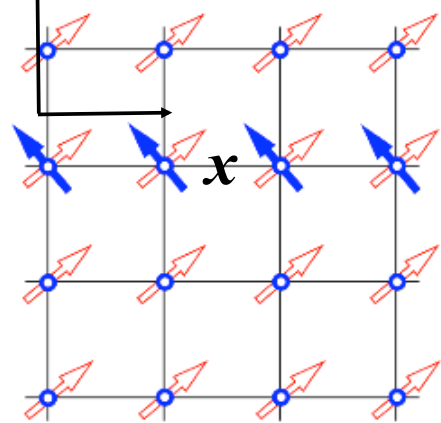
$$H = -K \sum_p \sigma_{ij}^z \sigma_{jk}^z \sigma_{kl}^z \sigma_{li}^z \quad G_i = \prod_{s \in \text{nn}} \sigma_{is}^x$$



$d = 1$  (Orbital Compass Model)

$$H = - \sum_i [J_x \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+\hat{e}_x}^x + J_z \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+\hat{e}_y}^z]$$

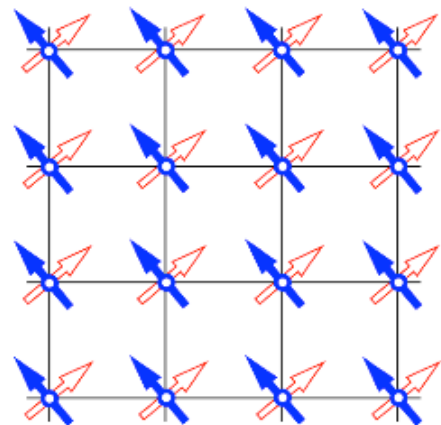
$$O^x = \prod_{j \in C_x} i \sigma_j^x \quad O^z = \prod_{j \in C_y} i \sigma_j^z$$



$d = D = 2$  (XY model)

$$H = -J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} [\sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_j^y]$$

$$U(\theta) = \prod_j \exp[-(i/2)\theta \sigma_j^z]$$



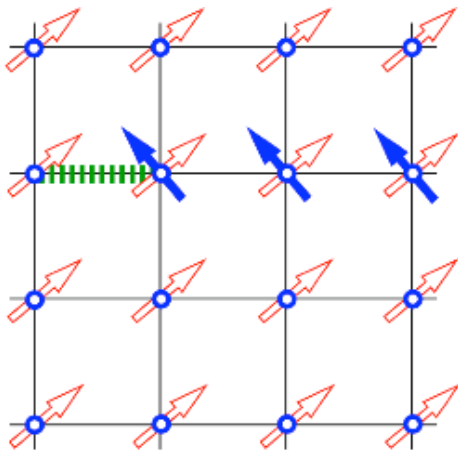
# $d$ -GLSs and Topological Phases

There is a connection between Topological Phases and the group generators of  $d$ -GLSs and its Topological defects

$d = 1$  ( $D=2$  Orbital Compass Model)  $C_x$ : closed path

$$O^x = e^{i\frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{j \in C_x} \sigma_j^x} = \mathcal{P} e^{i \oint_{C_x} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{s}}$$

Symmetries are linking operators:  $O^\mu |g_\alpha\rangle = |g_\beta\rangle$



Topological defect:  $C_+$ : open path

$$D^x = e^{i\frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{j \in C_+} \sigma_j^x} = \mathcal{P} e^{i \int_{C_+} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{s}}$$

Defect-Antidefect pair creation

Z. Nussinov and G. Ortiz, PNAS (2009)

# Lower dimensional bounds

$D$ -dim system with Hamiltonian  $H_D$  and  $d$ -GLS group  $\mathcal{G}_d$

The absolute value of the average of any quasi-local quantity  $f$  which is not invariant under  $d$ -GLS  $\mathcal{G}_d$  is bounded from above by the absolute value of the mean of the same quantity when this quasi-local quantity is computed with a  $d$ -dim  $H_d$  that is globally invariant under  $\mathcal{G}_d$  and preserves the range of the interactions in the original  $D$ -dim system

$$\phi_i = \begin{cases} \eta_i & \text{if } i \in \mathcal{C}_j \\ \psi_i & \text{if } i \notin \mathcal{C}_j \end{cases}$$

$$|\langle f(\phi_i) \rangle_{H_D}| \leq |\langle f(\eta_i) \rangle_{H_d}|$$

**Dimensional reduction**

C. D. Batista, Z. Nussinov (cond-mat/0410599)

# To Break or not to Break

Can we spontaneously break a  $d$ -GLS in a  $D$ -dim system ?

From the Generalized Elitzur's Theorem: (finite-range and strength interactions)  
For non- $\mathcal{G}_d$ -invariant quantities

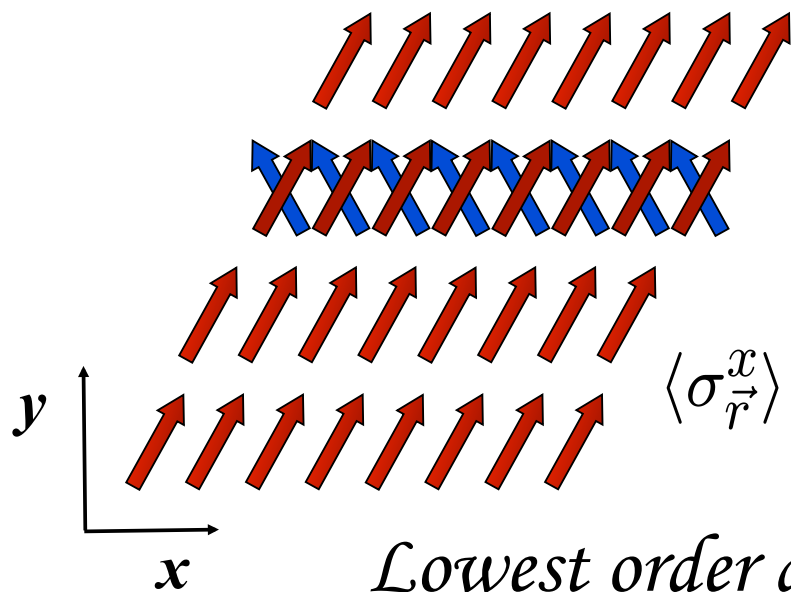
- $d=0$  SSB is forbidden
- $d=1$  SSB is forbidden
- $d=2$  (continuous) SSB is forbidden  
 $d=2$  (discrete) SSB may be broken
- $d=2$  (continuous with a gap) SSB is forbidden even at  $T=0$

Transitions and crossovers are signaled by symmetry-invariant string/brane or Wilson-like loops

# Example of application

## *Orbital Compass Model*

$$H = J \sum_{\vec{r}} (\sigma_{\vec{r}+\hat{e}_x}^x \sigma_{\vec{r}}^x + \sigma_{\vec{r}+\hat{e}_y}^y \sigma_{\vec{r}}^y)$$



*Rotation by  $\pi$   
around the y-axis*



$$\langle \sigma_{\vec{r}}^x \rangle = \langle \sigma_{\vec{r}}^y \rangle = \langle \sigma_{\vec{r}}^z \rangle = 0 \text{ for } T > 0$$

*Lowest order allowed order parameter:*

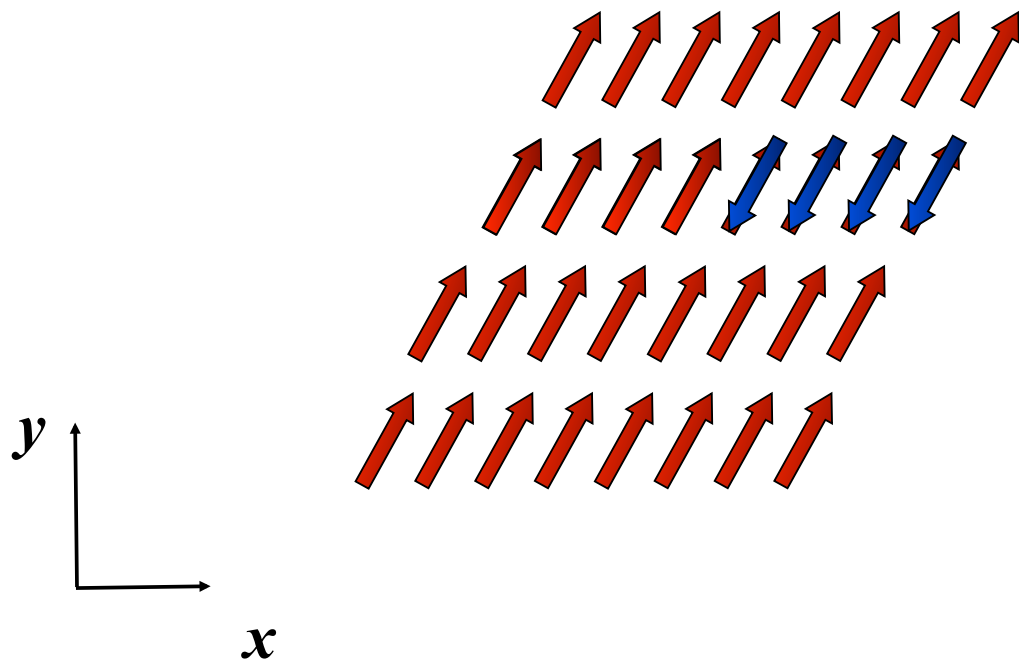
*Nematic:*

$$\langle \sigma_{\vec{r}+\hat{e}_x}^x \sigma_{\vec{r}}^x - \sigma_{\vec{r}+\hat{e}_y}^y \sigma_{\vec{r}}^y \rangle$$

# Intuitive Physical Picture

## *Orbital Compass Model*

$$H = J \sum_{\vec{r}} (\sigma_{\vec{r}}^x \sigma_{\vec{r}+\hat{e}_x}^x + \sigma_{\vec{r}}^y \sigma_{\vec{r}+\hat{e}_y}^y)$$



*2D Orbital Compass Model dual to  $p+ip$  superconducting array.* Z. Nussinov and E. Fradkin, cond-mat/0410720



# Stability and Protection of symmetries

What happens when the  $d$ -GLSs  $\mathcal{G}_d$   
are not exact symmetries of the full  $H$ ?

(i.e., effect of perturbations)

Emergent Symmetries



Case I: (Exact result) Continuous  $d < 2$  emergent symmetry  
in a gapped system, results unchanged

Case II: Numerous systems with exact discrete  $d$ -GLSs  
are adiabatically connected to states where  
 $d$ -GLSs are emergent; results unchanged



# Holographic Entropy

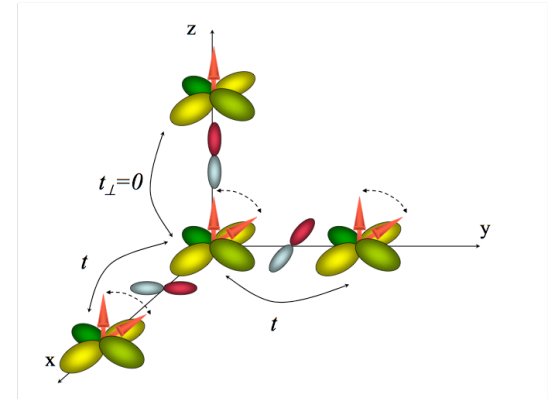
For independent d-GLSs  
with  $d=1$ , degeneracy  
is exponential in the surface area of the  
system.

# Symmetry based selection rules

- Kugel-Khomskii Hamiltonian  $H_{KK}$  for  $t_{2g}$  systems

A continuous symmetry

(A. B. Harris et al., PRL 91, 087206 (2003))



$$O_P^\gamma \equiv [\exp(i\vec{S}_P^\gamma \cdot \vec{\theta}_P^\gamma) / \hbar]$$

$$[H_{KK}, O_P^\gamma] = 0, \quad \vec{S}_P^\gamma = \sum_{r \in P} \vec{S}_r^\gamma$$

But a continuous d=2 symmetry cannot be broken, no long range order.

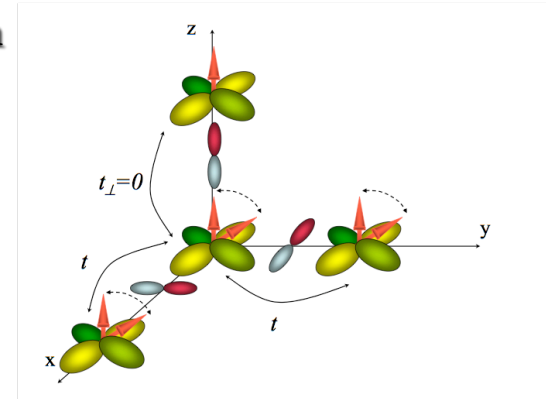
# Symmetry based selection rules



Kugel-Khomskii Hamiltonian  
 $H_{KK}$  for  $t_{2g}$  systems.

For a system in  $|xy\rangle$  state,

$$I(k_x, k_y, z, \omega) = \int dk_z e^{ik_z z} S(\vec{k}, \omega)$$



vanishes for non-zero  $z$ . This is so

as if two spins do not lie in the same plane (and thus

have a separation along the direction orthonormal to the planes of  $z=0$ ), the two point correlator is not invariant under a continuous  $d=2$  symmetry.

Other int. must be present to account for spin order. Similar considerations apply for  $|xz\rangle$  and  $|yz\rangle$  order. In general, if the KK interactions are dominant

$$[I(k_a, k_b, c, \omega) + I(k_b, k_c, a, \omega) + I(k_c, k_a, b, \omega)]$$

with  $a, b, c$  orthogonal axis is the largest when  $a, b$ , and  $c$  are along the crystalline axis. Nematic type parameters:

$$[2I(k_a, k_b, c, \omega) - I(k_b, k_c, a, \omega) - I(k_c, k_a, b, \omega)]$$

# Conclusions (new results)

- Orbital systems can order by **thermal** “order out of disorder” **fluctuations** even in their classical limit (no  $(1/S)$  zero point quantum fluctuations are necessary).
- Similar to charge and spin driven quantum critical behavior, it is theoretically possible to have **orbital order driven quantum critical** behavior. (Prediction.)
- Orbital systems can exhibit topological order and **dimensional reductions** due to their unusual symmetries (*exact or approximate*).
- A new approach to dualities.
- **Orbital nematic orders** (from symmetry selection rules) and related selection rules
- **Orbital Larmor effects** are predicted- periodic changes in the orbital state under the application of uniaxial strain.