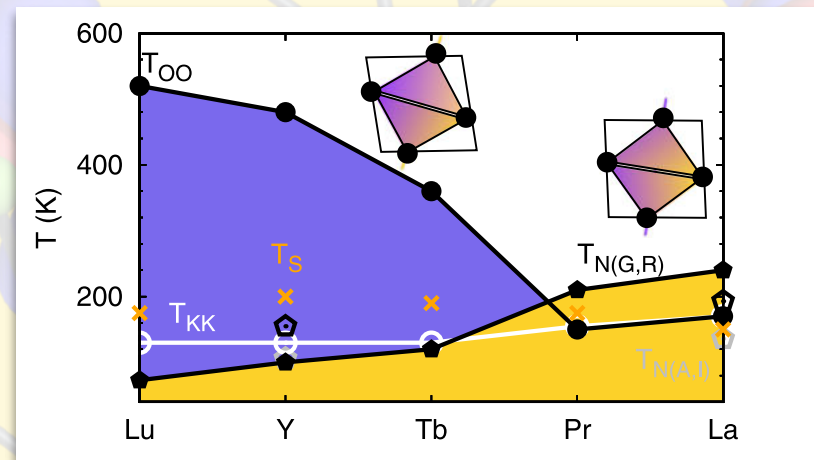


# Kugel-Khomsenskii materials: flipping the order of transitions



Eva Pavarini

Forschungszentrum Jülich  
Peter Grünberg Institute

# spontaneous ordering of orbitals

## Crystal structure and magnetic properties of substances with orbital degeneracy

K. I. Kugel' and D. I. Khomskii

*P. N. Lebedev Physics Institute*

(Submitted November 13, 1972)

Zh. Eksp. Teor. Fiz. **64**, 1429-1439 (April 1973)



Exchange interaction in magnetic substances containing ions with orbital degeneracy is considered. It is shown that, among with spin ordering, superexchange also results in cooperative ordering of Jahn-Teller ion orbitals, which, generally speaking, occurs at a higher temperature and is accompanied by distortion of the lattice (which is a secondary effect here). Concrete studies are performed for substances with a perovskite structure ( $\text{KCuF}_3$ ,  $\text{LaMnO}_3$ ,  $\text{MnF}_3$ ). The effective spin Hamiltonian is obtained for these substances and the properties of the ground state are investigated. The orbital and magnetic structures obtained in this way without taking into account interaction with the lattice are in accord with the structures observed experimentally. The approach employed also permits one to explain the strong anisotropy of the magnetic properties of these compounds and to obtain a reasonable estimate for the critical temperatures.



strong Coulomb repulsion (the Hubbard  $U$ )

+ orbitals degrees of freedom

= orbital super-exchange

# orbital ordering and orbital physics

## CORRELATED ELECTRON SYSTEMS REVIEW Orbital Physics in Transition-Metal Oxides

Y. Tokura<sup>1,2</sup> and N. Nagaosa<sup>1</sup>

An electron in a solid, that is, bound to or nearly localized on the atomic site, has three attributes: charge, spin, and orbital. The orbital represents the shape of the electron cloud in solid. In transition-metal oxides with anisotropic-shaped d-orbital electrons, the Coulomb interaction between the electrons (strong electron correlation effect) is of importance for understanding their metal-insulator transitions and other properties such as high-temperature superconductivity and colossal magnetoresistance. The orbital degree of freedom occasionally plays a significant role in these phenomena, and its correlation and/or ordering transition causes a variety of phenomena through strong coupling of charge, spin, and lattice dynamics. An overview is given here of "orbital physics," which will be a key concept for the science and technology of correlated electrons.

## Electronic reconstruction at an interface between a Mott insulator and a band insulator

PRL 99, 156401 (2007)

Satoshi Okamoto & Andrew J. Millis

Department of Physics, Columbia University 538  
New York 10027, USA

Surface science is an important and well-developed area of materials science involving the study of the interface between a solid and a vacuum.

103, 067205 (2009)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

## Magnetically Hidden Order of Kramers Doublets in $\text{Sr}_2\text{VO}_4$

George Jackeli\* and Giniyat Khaliullin

Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung, Heisenbergstrasse 1, D-70569 Stuttgart, Germany  
(Received 10 June 2009; published 7 August 2009)

We formulate and study an effective Hamiltonian for low-energy Kramers doublets of  $d^1$  ions on a square lattice. We find that the system exhibits a magnetically hidden order in which the expectation values of the local spin and orbital moments both vanish. The order parameter responsible for a time-reversal symmetry breaking has a composite nature and is a spin-orbital analog of a magnetic octupole. We argue that such a hidden order is realized in the layered perovskite  $\text{Sr}_2\text{VO}_4$ .

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.103.067205

PACS numbers: 75.30.Et, 71.70.Ej, 75.10.Jm

TRANSITION METAL OXIDES

## Ferroelectricity driven by orbital order

The discovery that the rotation of the orbital arrangement in manganites induces ferroelectricity exposes an intriguing phase transition that could serve as a blueprint for novel applications.

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Heisenbergstr. 1, 70569 Stuttgart, Germany  
e-mail: B.Keimer@kf.mpg.de

Transition metal oxides have fascinated scientists since the 1950s, when the newly developed technique of neutron diffraction was used to show that the compound  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Ca}_{0.5}\text{MnO}_3$  exhibits a rich variety of structural and magnetic phases as the Ca concentration is tuned<sup>1</sup>. The fascination has increased in the wake of the discovery of high-temperature superconductivity in a chemically similar compound,



**Figure 1** Possible arrangements of  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  d-orbitals on a square lattice. The patterns are two-dimensional versions of orbitally ordered states actually observed in manganese oxides. The corresponding magnetic states are indicated by yellow arrows.

VOLUME 85, NUMBER 18

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

30 OCTOBER 2000

## Orbital Liquid in Three-Dimensional Mott Insulator: $\text{LaTiO}_3$

G. Khaliullin<sup>1,2</sup> and S. Maekawa<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung, Heisenbergstrasse 1, D-70569 Stuttgart, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University, Sendai 980-8577, Japan

(Received 5 June 2000)

of spin and orbital states in Mott insulator  $\text{LaTiO}_3$ . The spin-orbital superexchange ( $t_{2g}$ ) ions in cubic crystal suffers from a pathological degeneracy of orbital states. Quantum effects remove this degeneracy and result in the formation of the coherent orbital moment of  $t_{2g}$  level is fully quenched. We find a finite gap for orbital ordered state of local degrees of freedom on unfrustrated, simple cubic lattice is a liquid state naturally explains observed anomalies of  $\text{LaTiO}_3$ .

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

## Superexchange Interaction in Orbitally Fluctuating $\text{RVO}_3$

J.-S. Zhou and J. B. Goodenough

Texas Materials Institute, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712, USA

J.-Q. Yan

Ames Laboratory, Ames, Iowa 50011, USA

Y. Ren

Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA

(Received 18 May 2007; published 8 October 2007)

by Z. Nussinov - Cited by 80 - Related articles

resonant X-ray scattering techniques in which the 3d orbital order is detected by its effect on excited 4p states [8]. The case for orbital ordering has been

ECS Journal of Solid State Science and Technology, 2022 11 054004

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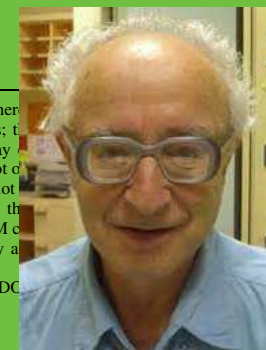
## Review—Orbital Physics: Glorious Past, Bright Future

D. I. Khomskii<sup>✉</sup>

II. Physikalisches Institut, Universität zu Köln, 50937 Köln, Germany

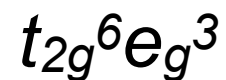
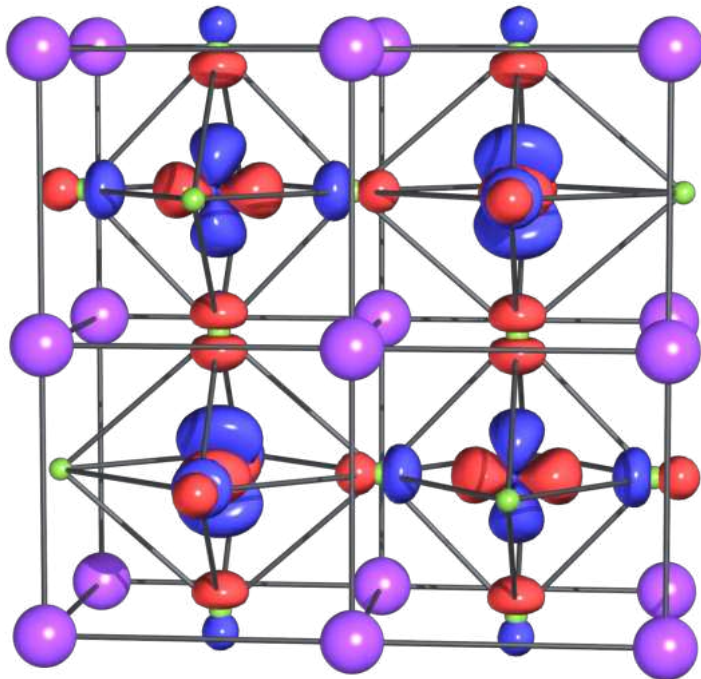
Transition metal (TM) compounds present a very big class of materials with quite diverse properties. There are systems with insulator–metal transitions among them; most magnetic systems are TM compounds; there are superconductors among them. Their very rich properties are largely determined by the strong interplay of freedom: charge; spin; orbital; lattice. Orbital effects play a very important role in these systems—and not only of this field, initiated by Goodenough almost 70 years ago, turned out to be very fruitful and produced a lot of this short review I discuss the basics of orbital physics and summarize the main achievements in the field. Goodenough played a pivotal role, and which are nowadays widely used to explain many properties of TM compounds. Part of the text I discuss novel developments and perspectives in orbital physics, which is still a very active and constantly producing new surprises.

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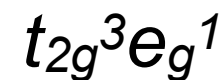
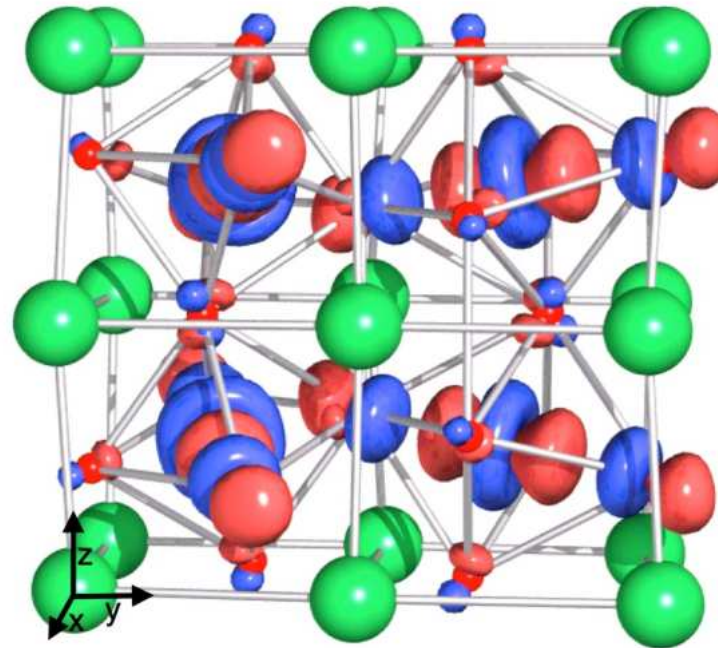


# the secondary effect

co-operative Jahn-Teller-like distortion



G-type OO



C-type OO

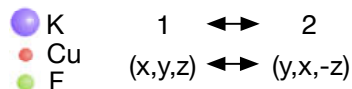
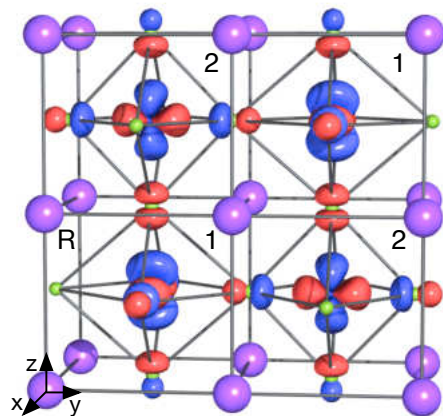
# but there is the Jahn-Teller theorem

## Crystal Distortion in Magnetic Compounds

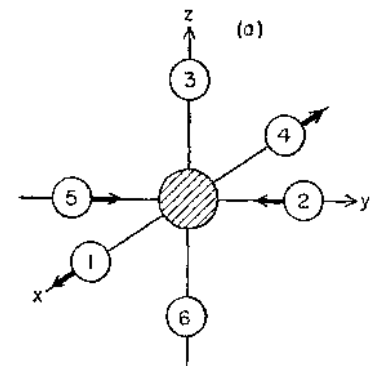
JUNJIRO KANAMORI\*

*Institute for the Study of Metals, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois*

The crystal distortion which arises from the Jahn-Teller effect is discussed in several examples. In the case of compounds containing  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  at octahedral sites, the lowest orbital level of these ions is doubly degenerate in the undistorted structure, and there is no spin-orbit coupling in this level. It is shown that, introducing a fictitious spin to specify the degenerate orbital states, we can discuss the problem by analogy with the magnetic problems. The “ferromagnetic” and “antiferromagnetic” distortions are discussed in detail. The transition from the distorted to the undistorted structure is of the first kind for the former and of the second kind for the latter. Higher approximations are discussed briefly. In compounds like  $\text{FeO}$ ,  $\text{CoO}$ , and  $\text{CuCr}_2\text{O}_4$ , the lowest orbital level is triply degenerate, and the spin-orbit coupling is present in this level. In this case the distortion is dependent on the magnitude of the spin-orbit coupling relative to the strength of the Jahn-Teller effect term. The distortion at absolute zero temperature and its temperature dependence are discussed.



$$\begin{array}{c}
 E_0 + \Delta/2 \\
 \hline
 \Delta_{CF} \\
 \hline
 E_0 - \Delta/2
 \end{array}
 \quad e_g \text{ states}$$



$$|\theta\rangle = \sin \frac{\theta}{2} |3z^2 - 1\rangle + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} |x^2 - y^2\rangle$$

# a small CF splitting can be enough!

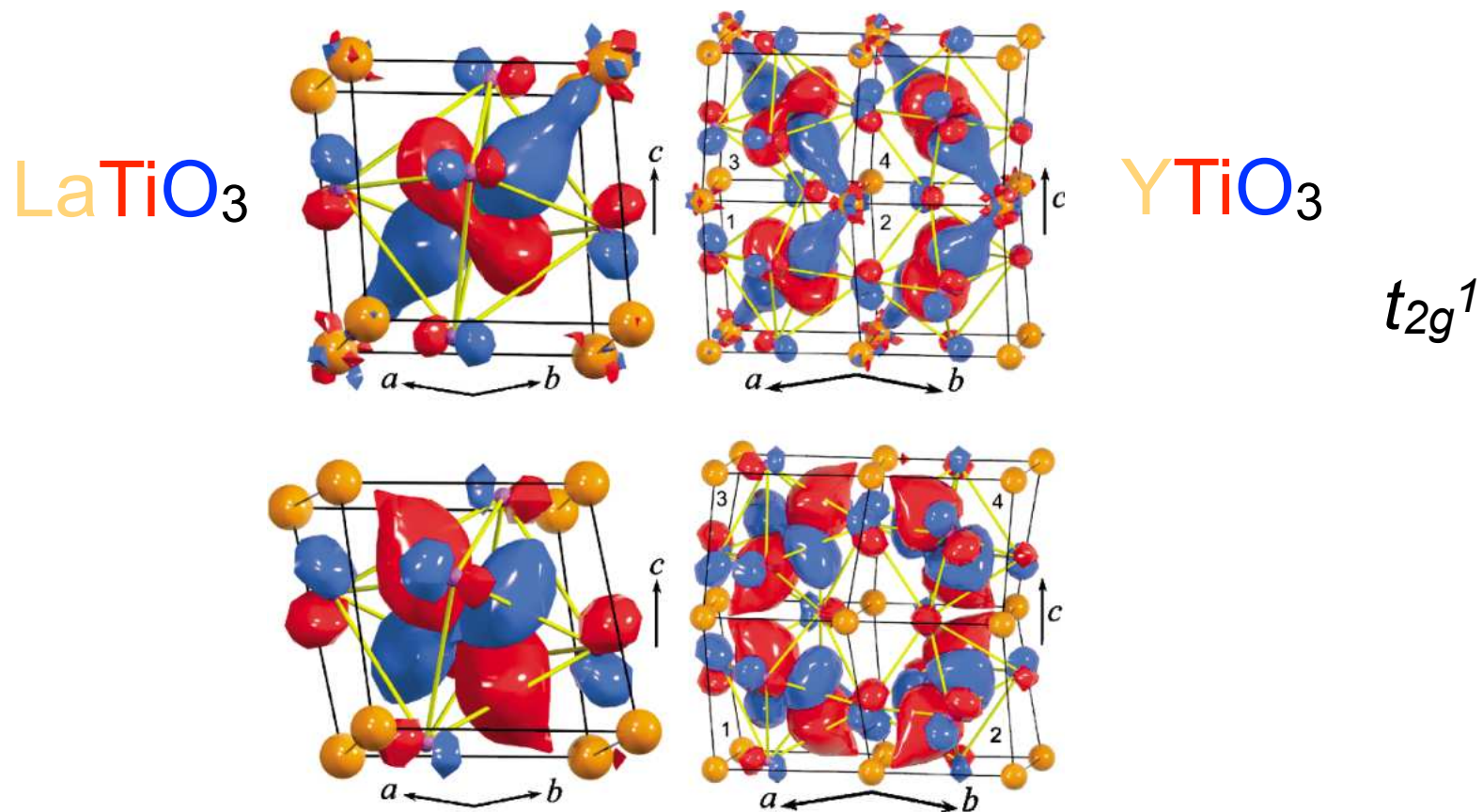
VOLUME 92, NUMBER 17

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
30 APRIL 2004

## Mott Transition and Suppression of Orbital Fluctuations in Orthorhombic $3d^1$ Perovskites

E. Pavarini,<sup>1</sup> S. Biermann,<sup>2</sup> A. Poteryaev,<sup>3</sup> A. I. Lichtenstein,<sup>3</sup> A. Georges,<sup>2</sup> and O. K. Andersen<sup>4</sup>



CF=200-300 meV

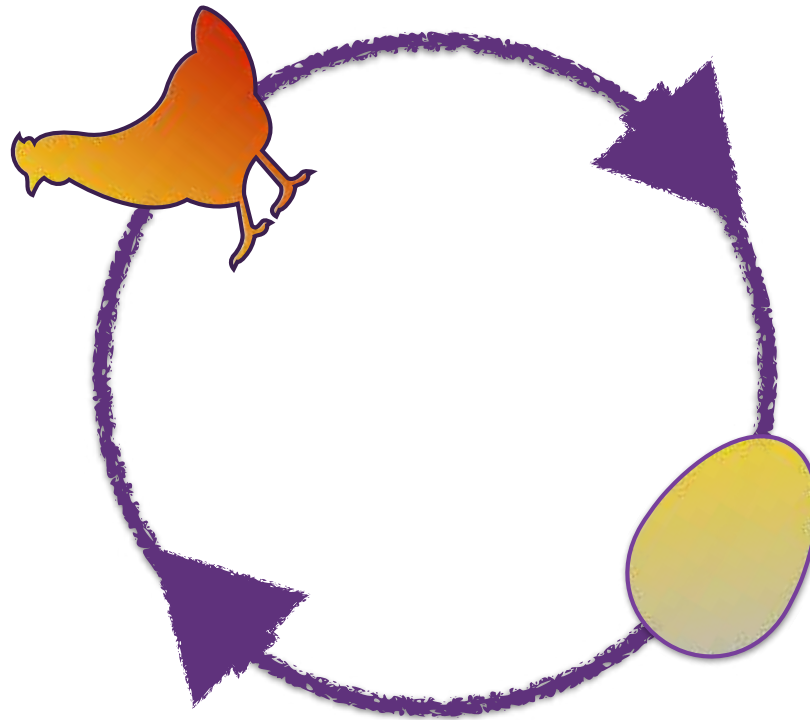
LDA+DMFT 770 K

# Kugel-Khomskii materials ?

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a chicken-and-egg problem

distortions

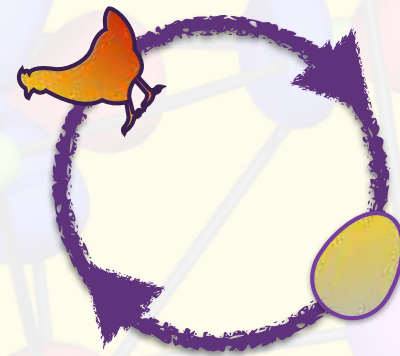


orbital ordering

**(i) are there true Kugel-Khomskii materials ?**

**and how do we identify them?**

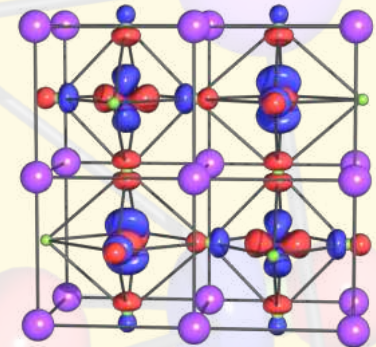
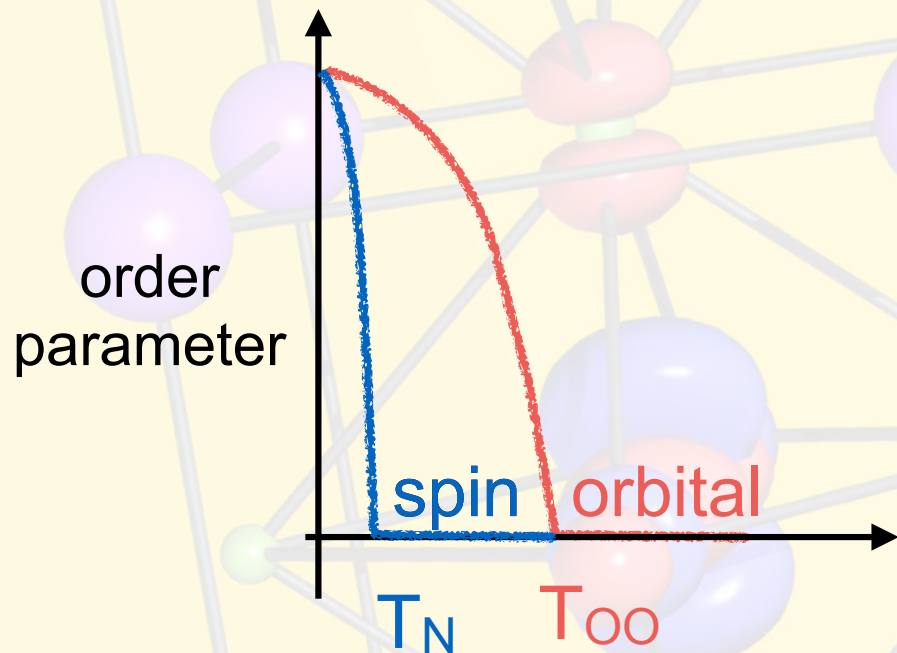
a chicken-and-egg problem



## (ii) why $T_{OO} > T_N$ ?

can one flip the transitions?

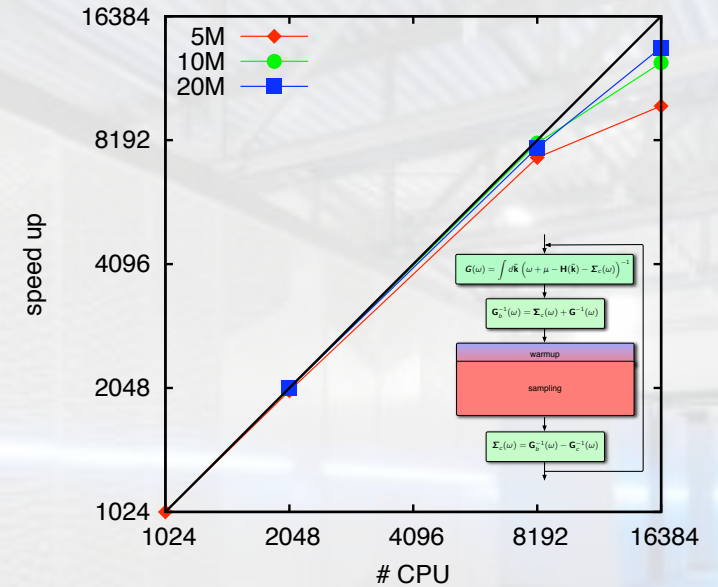
- $T_{OO} > T_N$



$T_N \sim 40 \text{ K}$      $T_{OO} \sim 1400 \text{ K}$

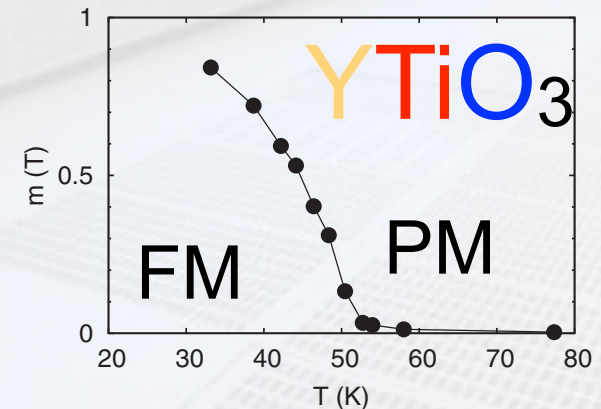
# cDMFT/QMC on JURECA

$$\begin{aligned}
 H = & - \sum_{ii'} \sum_{mm'} \sum_{\sigma} t_{mm'}^{ii'} c_{im\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{i'm'\sigma} \\
 & + U \sum_{im} n_{im\uparrow} n_{im\downarrow} \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{im \neq m' \sigma \sigma'} (U - 2J - J\delta_{\sigma\sigma'}) n_{im\sigma} n_{im'\sigma'} \\
 & - J \sum_{m \neq m'} (c_{m\uparrow}^{\dagger} c_{m'\downarrow}^{\dagger} c_{m'\uparrow} c_{m\downarrow} + c_{m\uparrow}^{\dagger} c_{m\downarrow}^{\dagger} c_{m'\uparrow} c_{m'\downarrow})
 \end{aligned}$$



## DMFT and cDMFT generalized QMC solvers:

- ♦ CT-HYB: A. Flesch, E. Gorelov, E. Koch and E. Pavarini  
Phys. Rev. B **87**, 195141 (2013)
- ♦ CT-INT: E. Gorelov et al, PRL 104, 226410 (2010)
- ♦ CT-INT+SO: G. Zhang, E. Gorelov, E. Sarvestani, and E. Pavarini,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 106402 (2016)



# solution of chicken and egg problem

PRL **101**, 266405 (2008)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
31 DECEMBER 2008

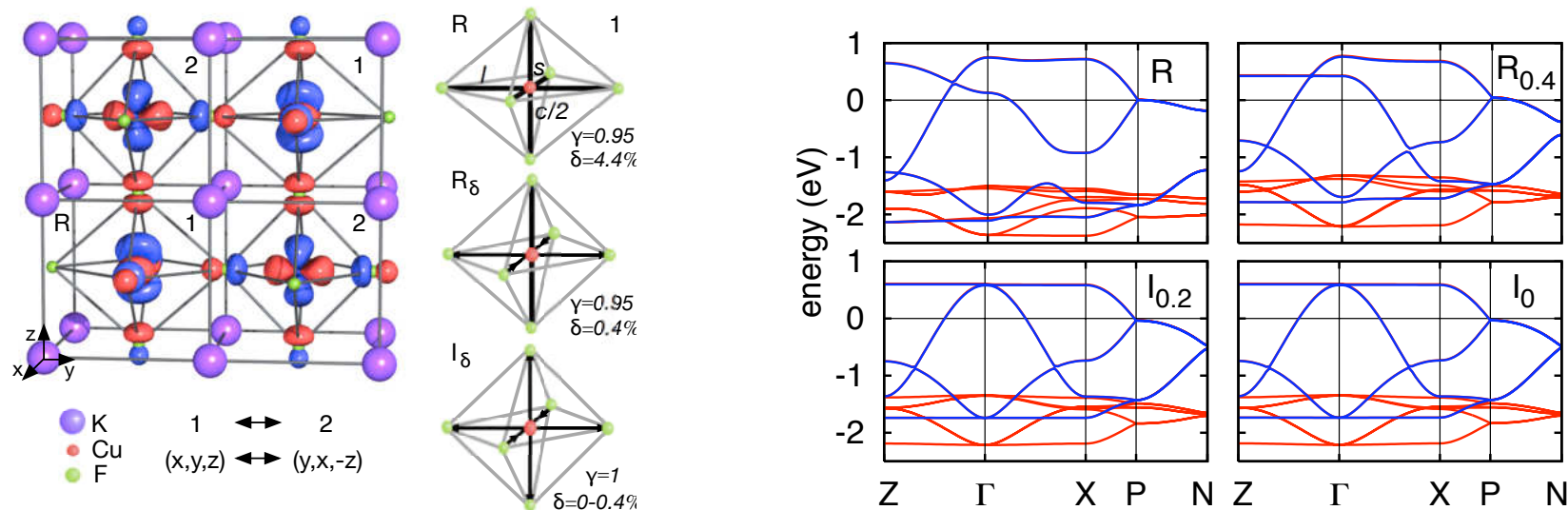
## Mechanism for Orbital Ordering in $\text{KCuF}_3$

E. Pavarini,<sup>1</sup> E. Koch,<sup>1</sup> and A. I. Lichtenstein<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut für Festkörperforschung and Institute for Advanced Simulation, Forschungszentrum Jülich, 52425 Jülich, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of Hamburg, Jungiusstrasse 9, 20355 Hamburg, Germany

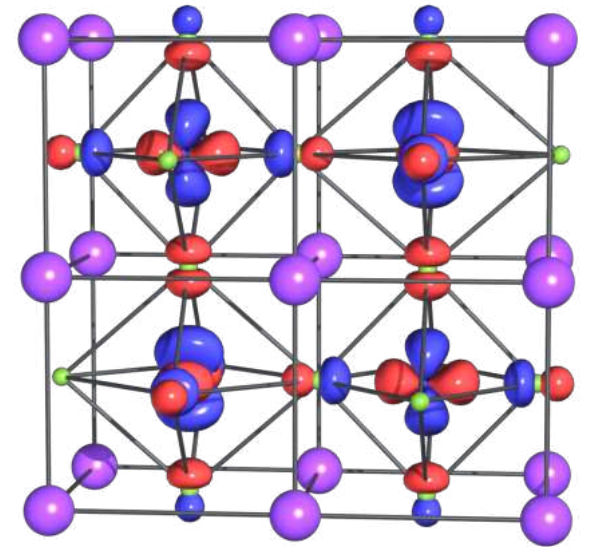
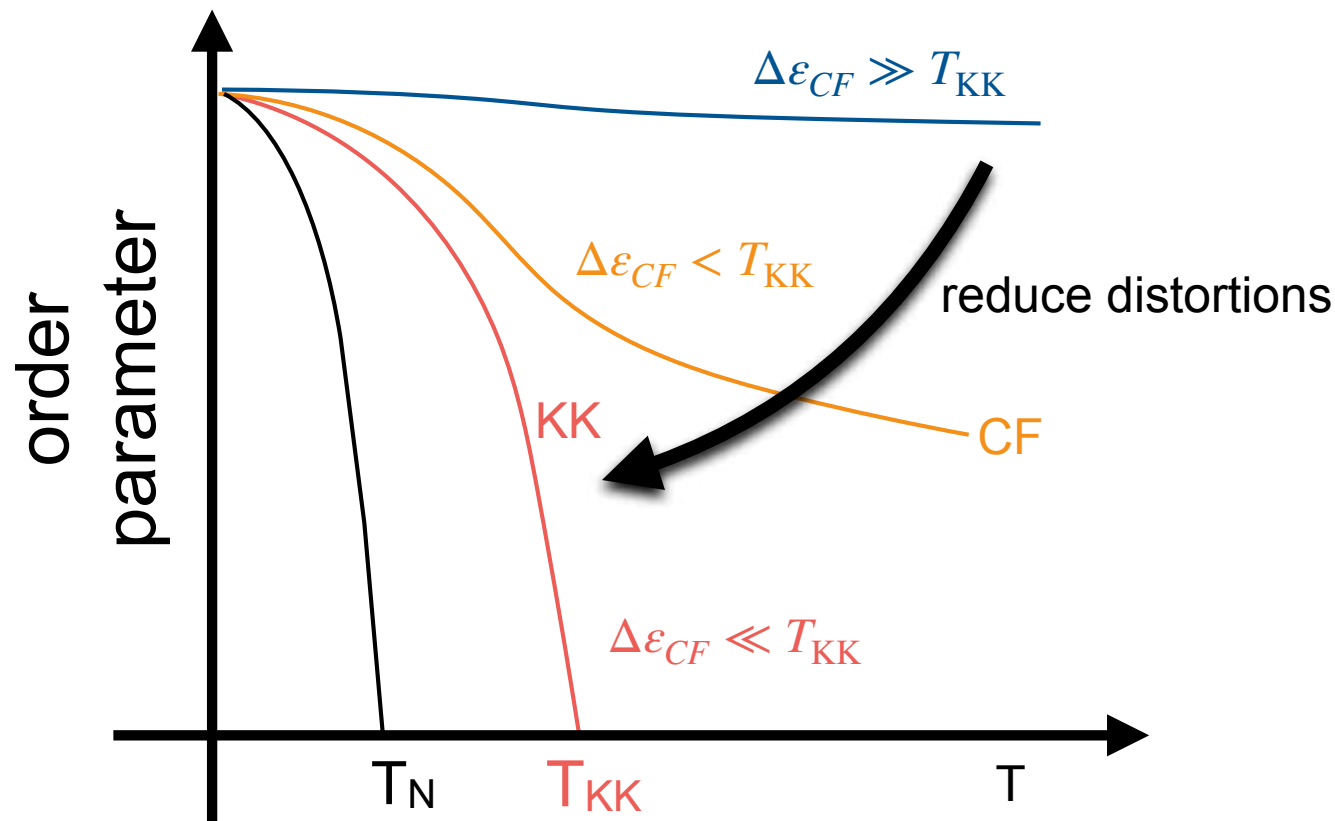
(Received 18 August 2008; published 31 December 2008)



to single out KK effects:

- (i) progressively reduce distortion (hence CF splitting)
- (ii) calculate order parameter vs temperature

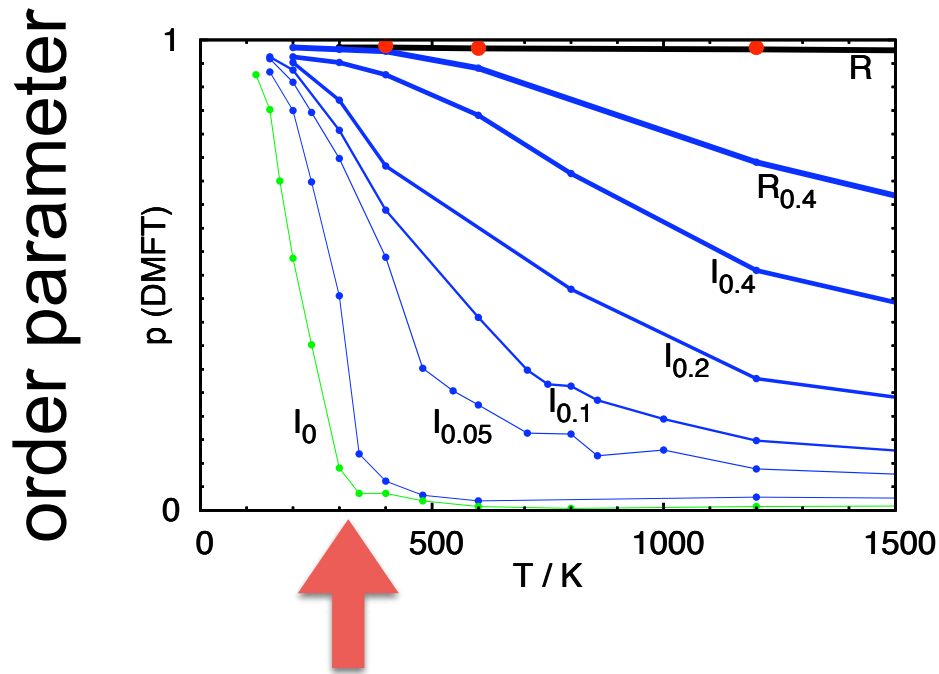
# order parameter vs temperature



if KK is the mechanism:  $T_{OO} \sim T_{KK}$

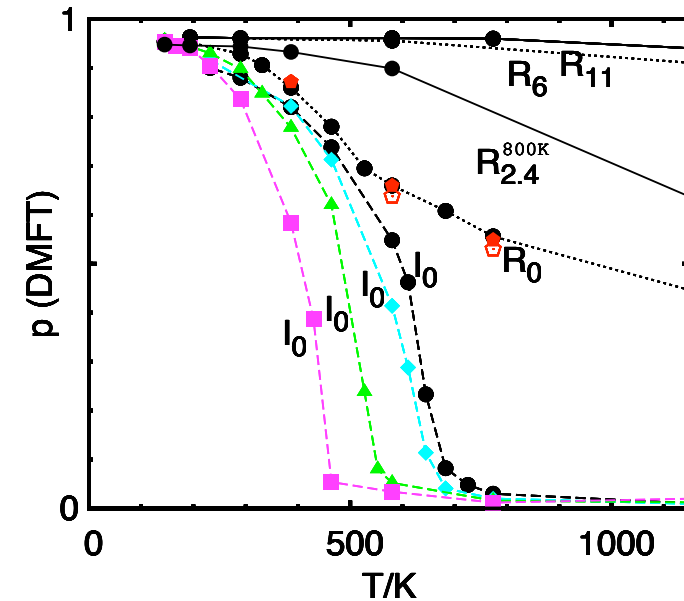
**KCuF<sub>3</sub>**      $T_N \sim 40 \text{ K}$       $T_{OO} \sim 1400 \text{ K}$

# KK SE large but not sufficient alone



Phys. Rev. Lett. **101**, 266405 (2008)

$$T_{KK} \sim 350 \text{ K} \ll T_{OO} \sim 1400 \text{ K}$$



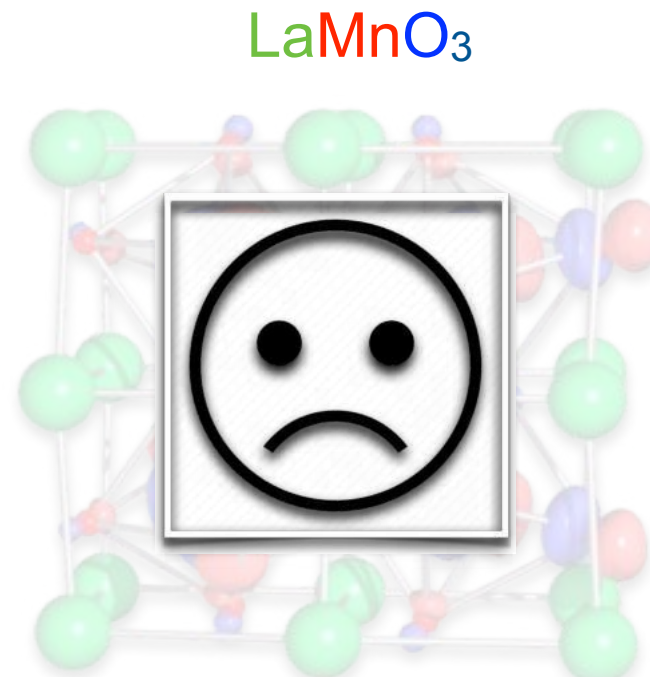
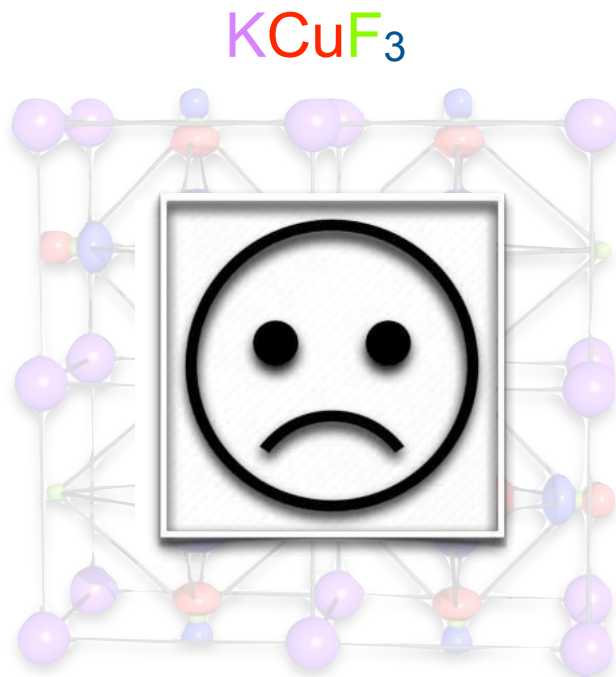
Phys. Rev. Lett. **104**, 086402 (2010)

$$T_{KK} \sim 600 \text{ K} \ll T_{OO} \sim 1200 \text{ K}$$

# so far for $e_g$ systems...

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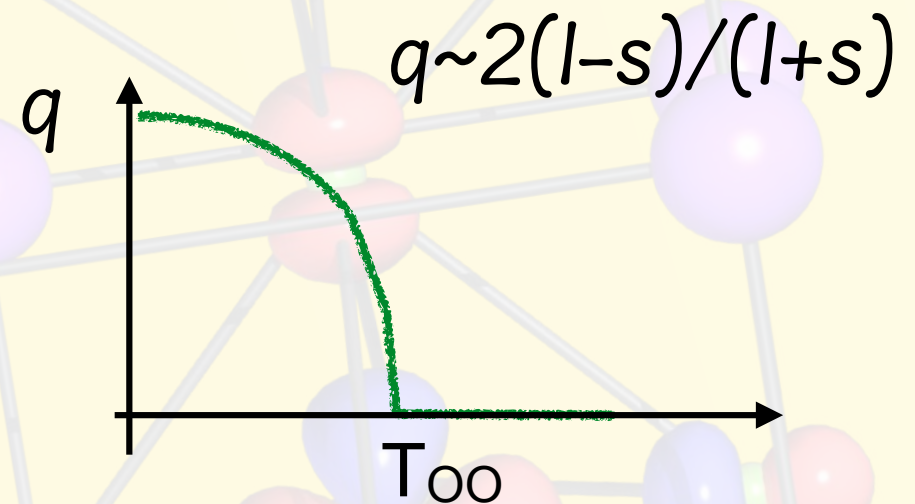
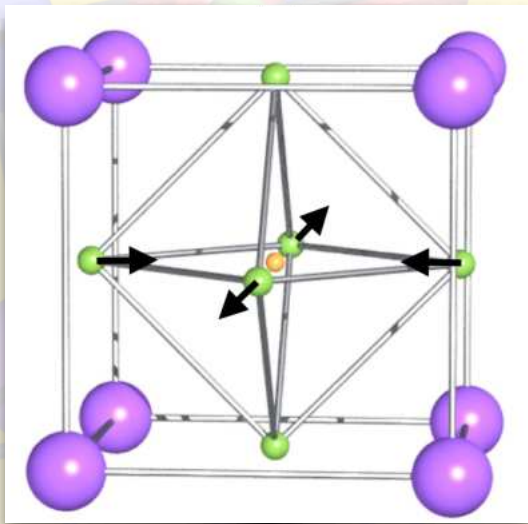
KK super-exchange large but not sufficient to explain ordering at high temperature



(and many more systems)

# KCuF<sub>3</sub> not a true KK material

... but also not a true Jahn-Teller system!



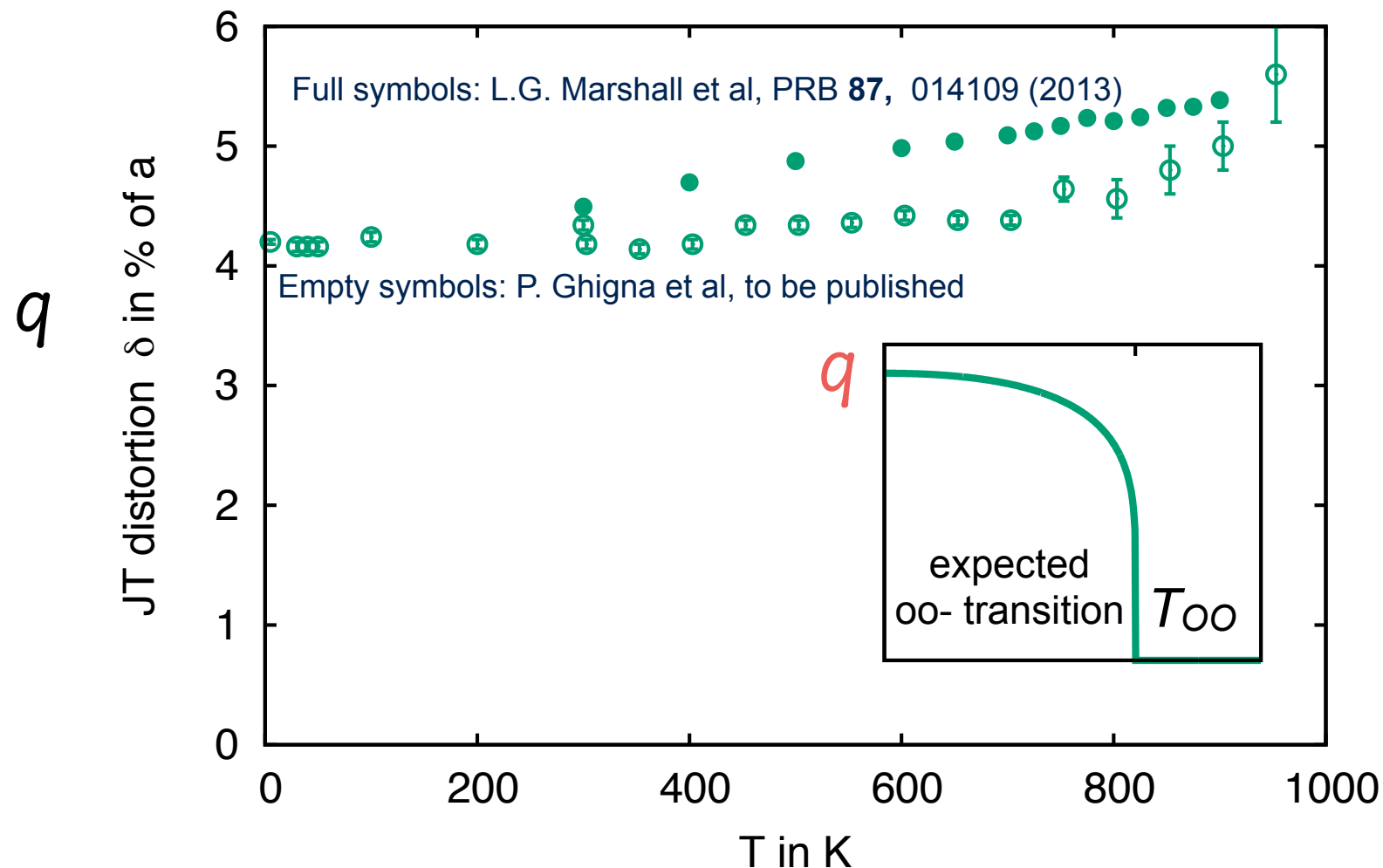
$l$  = long CuF bond

$s$  = short CuF bond

# experiments: $q$ increases with temperature

theory reproduce this behavior

PRB **96**, 054107 (2017)

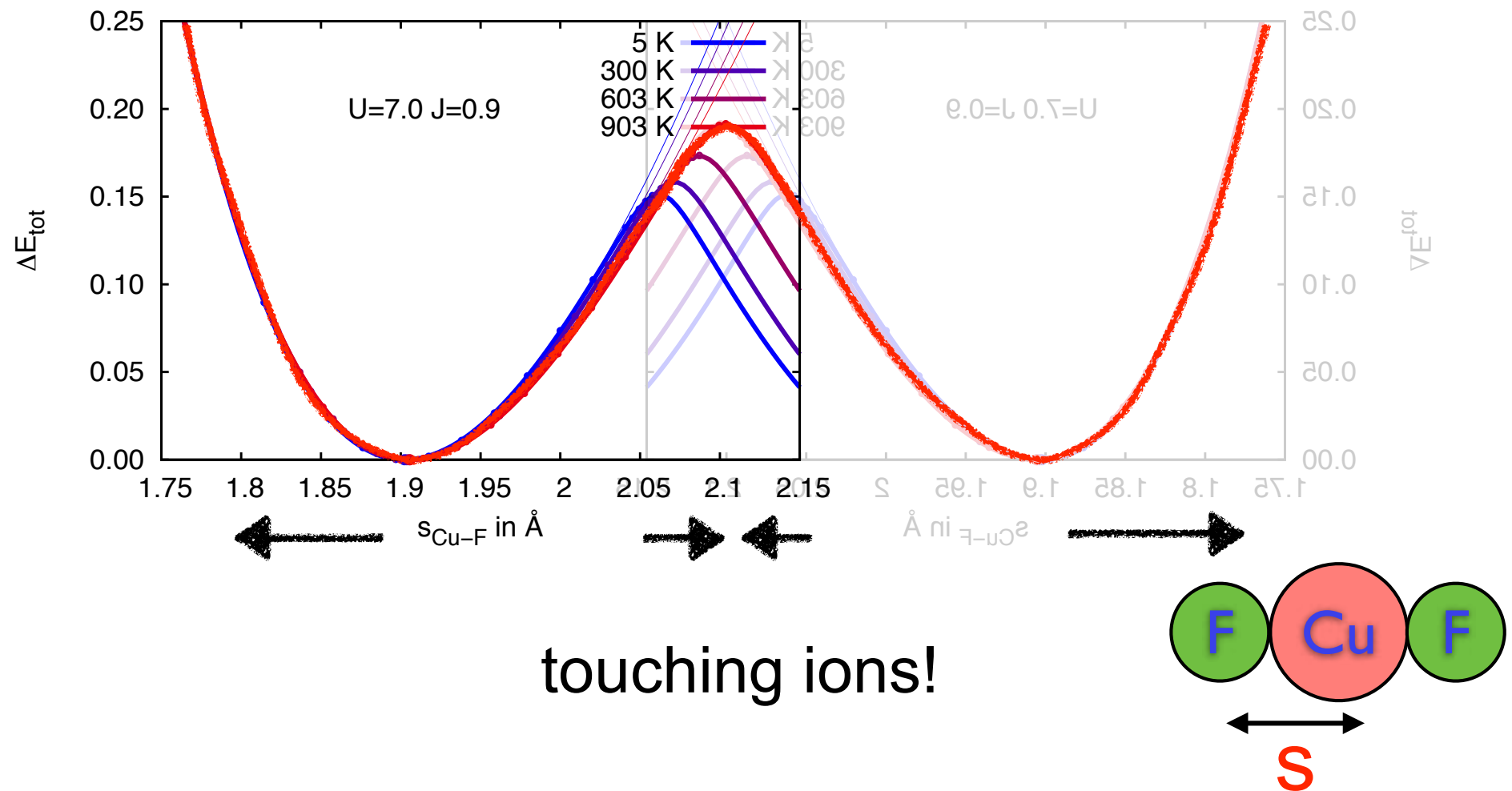


# the $T$ -dependence is via the lattice constant!

PHYSICAL REVIEW B **96**, 054107 (2017)

## Thermally assisted ordering in Mott insulators

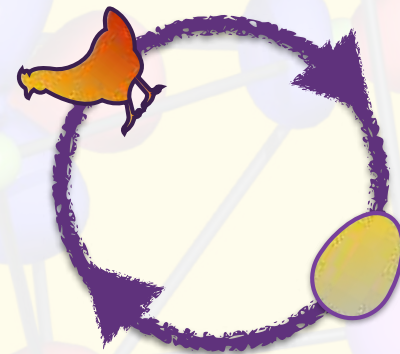
Hunter Sims,<sup>1</sup> Eva Pavarini,<sup>2,3</sup> and Erik Koch<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>



**(i) are there true Kugel-Khomskii materials ?**

**and how do we identify them?**

a chicken-and-egg problem



A faint, stylized molecular structure is visible in the background, consisting of a network of purple and red spheres connected by thin grey lines, set against a light yellow background with a subtle grid pattern.

# let us change perspective

focus on electronic effects only

candidates:  $t_{2g}$  systems

larger orbital degeneracy, smaller electron-lattice  
coupling, smaller crystal-field coupling

# augment DMFT with general SE Hamiltonians

PHYSICAL REVIEW B **102**, 035113 (2020)

## Origin of orbital ordering in $\text{YTiO}_3$ and $\text{LaTiO}_3$

Xue-Jing Zhang, Erik Koch, and Eva Pavarini

*Institute for Advanced Simulation, Forschungszentrum Jülich, 52425 Jülich, Germany*



(Received 14 April 2020; accepted 15 June 2020; published 6 July 2020)

The origin of orbital order in correlated transition-metal compounds is strongly debated. For the paradigmatic  $e_g$  systems  $\text{KCuF}_3$  and  $\text{LaMnO}_3$ , it has been shown that the electronic Kugel'-Khomskii mechanism alone is not sufficient to drive the orbital-ordering transition up to the high temperatures at which it is experimentally observed. In the case of  $t_{2g}$  compounds, however, the role played by the superexchange interaction remains unclear. Here we investigate this question for two representative systems, the  $3d$   $t_{2g}^1$  Mott insulators  $\text{LaTiO}_3$  and  $\text{YTiO}_3$ . We show that the Kugel'-Khomskii superexchange transition temperature  $T_{\text{KK}}$  is unexpectedly large, comparable to the value for the  $e_g^3$  fluoride  $\text{KCuF}_3$ . By deriving the general form of the orbital superexchange

PHYSICAL REVIEW B **105**, 115104 (2022)

## General superexchange Hamiltonians for magnetic and orbital physics in $e_g$ and $t_{2g}$ systems

Xue-Jing Zhang,<sup>1</sup> Erik Koch,<sup>1,2</sup> and Eva Pavarini<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Institute for Advanced Simulation, Forschungszentrum Jülich, 52425 Jülich, Germany*

<sup>2</sup>*JARA High-Performance Computing, 52062 Aachen, Germany.*



(Received 6 December 2021; accepted 16 February 2022; published 3 March 2022)

Material-specific super-exchange Hamiltonians are the key to studying spin and orbital physics in strongly correlated materials. Recently, via an irreducible-tensor operator representation, we derived the orbital superexchange Hamiltonian for  $t_{2g}^1$  perovskites and successfully used it, in combination with many-body approaches, to explain orbital physics in these systems. Here, we generalize our method to  $e_g^n$  and  $t_{2g}^n$  systems at arbitrary integer filling  $n$ , including both spin and orbital interactions. The approach is suitable for numerical implementations

# multipolar super-exchange expansion

$$\hat{H}_{\text{SE}}^{i,j} = \sum_{qq'} \sum_{\nu\nu'} \sum_{rr'} \sum_{\mu\mu'} \hat{\tau}_i^{r\mu;q\nu} D_{r\mu,r'\mu'}^{ij;q\nu} \hat{\tau}_j^{r'\mu';q\nu}$$

r: orbital rank      q: spin rank

orbital monopolar ( $r=r'=0$ )

orbital multipolar ( $r+r'>1$ )

$$\hat{H}_{\text{SE}}^{i,j} = \hat{H}_{C_{ij}} + \hat{H}_{O_i O_j} + \hat{H}_{S_i S_j} + \hat{H}_{S_i S_j O_i O_j}$$

spin monopolar ( $q=q'=0$ )

spin dipolar ( $q=q'=1$ )

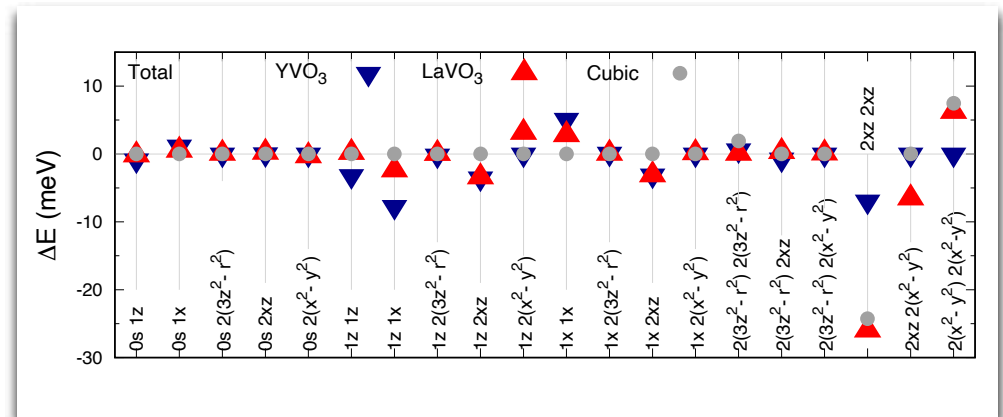
# irreducible tensor decomposition

$$\hat{H}_{\text{SE}}^{i,j} = \sum_{qq'} \sum_{\nu\nu'} \sum_{rr'} \sum_{\mu\mu'} \hat{\tau}_i^{r\mu;q\nu} D_{r\mu,r'\mu'}^{ij;q\nu} \hat{\tau}_j^{r'\mu';q\nu}$$

$r \mu$	$r' \mu'$	$t_{2g}^1$	$t_{2g}^2$	$D_{r\mu,r'\mu'}^{ij} \times U/2$
0 s	0 s	$-\mathcal{W}_0$	$-\mathcal{V}_0$	$(t_{xz,xz}^2 + t_{yz,yz}^2 + t_{xy,xy}^2)$
0 s	1 z	$-\mathcal{W}_1$	$-\mathcal{V}_1$	$(t_{xz,xz}^2 - t_{yz,yz}^2)$
0 s	2 z <sup>2</sup>	$-\mathcal{W}_1$	$-\mathcal{V}_1$	$(t_{xz,xz}^2 + t_{yz,yz}^2 - 2t_{xy,xy}^2)$
1 z	1 z	$+\mathcal{W}_2$	$+\mathcal{V}_2$	$(t_{xz,xz}^2 + t_{yz,yz}^2)$
1 z	2 z <sup>2</sup>	$+\mathcal{W}_2$	$+\mathcal{V}_2$	$(t_{xz,xz}^2 - t_{yz,yz}^2)$
2 z <sup>2</sup>	2 z <sup>2</sup>	$+\mathcal{W}_2$	$+\mathcal{V}_2$	$(t_{xz,xz}^2 + t_{yz,yz}^2 + 4t_{xy,xy}^2)$
1 x	1 x	$+\mathcal{W}_2$	$+\mathcal{V}_2$	$(t_{xz,xz} + t_{yz,yz})M_{xy,xy}$
2 xz	2 xz	$+\mathcal{W}_2$	$+\mathcal{V}_2$	$(t_{xz,xz} + t_{yz,yz})M_{xy,xy}$
1 x	2 xz	$+\mathcal{W}_2$	$+\mathcal{V}_2$	$(t_{xz,xz} - t_{yz,yz})M_{xy,xy}$
2 x <sup>2</sup> -y <sup>2</sup>	2 x <sup>2</sup> -y <sup>2</sup>	$+\mathcal{W}_2$	$+\mathcal{V}_2$	$2t_{xz,xz}t_{yz,yz}$
1 y	1 y	$+\mathcal{W}_3$	$+\mathcal{V}_3$	$(t_{xz,xz} + t_{yz,yz})M_{xy,xy}$
2 yz	2 yz	$+\mathcal{W}_3$	$+\mathcal{V}_3$	$(t_{xz,xz} + t_{yz,yz})M_{xy,xy}$
2 xy	2 xy	$+\mathcal{W}_3$	$+\mathcal{V}_3$	$2t_{xz,xz}t_{yz,yz}$
1 y	2 yz	$+\mathcal{W}_3$	$+\mathcal{V}_3$	$(t_{xz,xz} - t_{yz,yz})M_{xy,xy}$

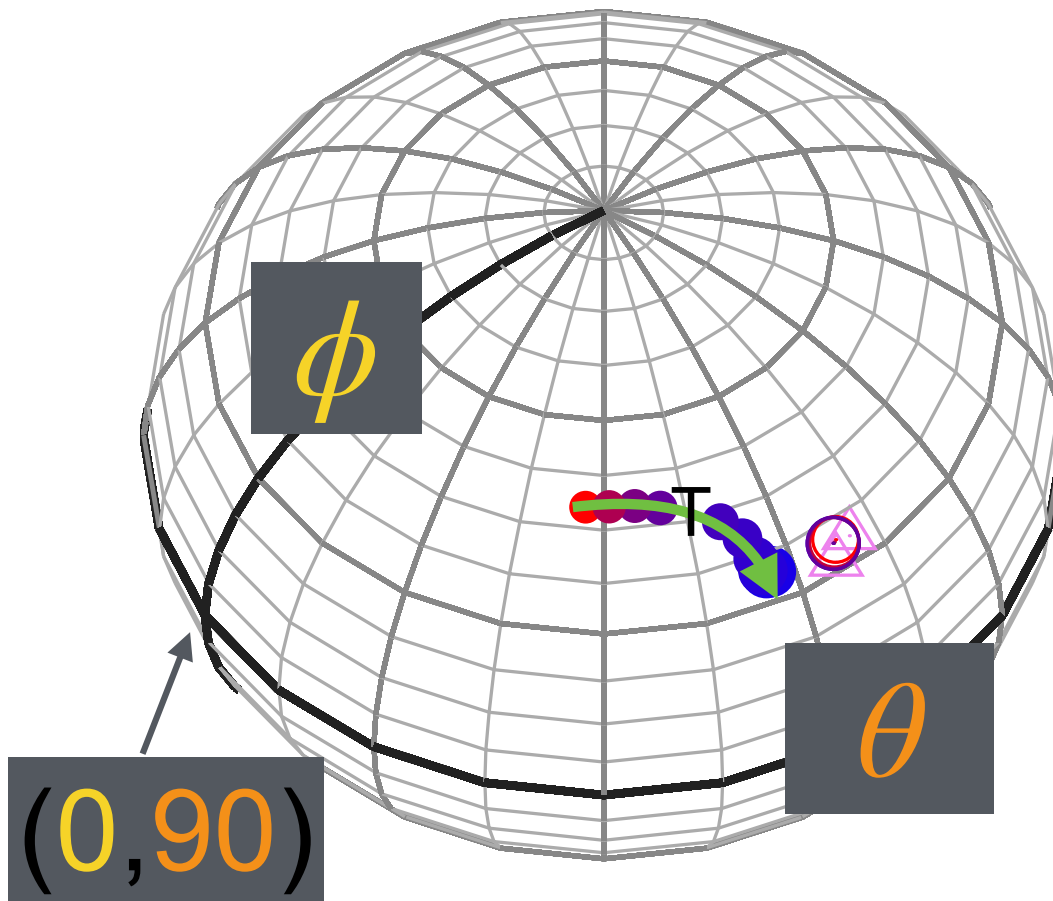
$\mathcal{W}_0 = f_{-3} + \frac{5}{3}f_{-1} + \frac{1}{3}f_2 = \frac{w_1 + 4w_2}{3}$	$\mathcal{V}_0 = \frac{8}{9}f_{-3} + \frac{10}{9}f_0 + \frac{2}{3}f_2 = \frac{4(v_1 + v_2)}{3}$
$\mathcal{W}_1 = \frac{3}{8}f_{-3} + \frac{11}{24}f_{-1} + \frac{1}{6}f_2 = \frac{w_1 + w_2}{2}$	$\mathcal{V}_1 = -\frac{1}{3}f_{-3} + \frac{1}{3}f_0 + \frac{1}{2}f_2 = \frac{2v_1 - v_2}{2}$
$\mathcal{W}_2 = \frac{3}{4}f_{-3} - \frac{1}{12}f_{-1} - \frac{1}{6}f_2 = \frac{2w_2 - w_1}{2}$	$\mathcal{V}_2 = \frac{2}{3}f_{-3} + \frac{1}{12}f_0 - \frac{1}{4}f_2 = \frac{2v_2 - v_1}{2}$
$\mathcal{W}_3 = \frac{3}{4}f_{-3} - \frac{5}{12}f_{-1} + \frac{1}{6}f_2 = \frac{w_1 + w_2}{3}$	$\mathcal{V}_3 = \frac{2}{3}f_{-3} - \frac{5}{12}f_0 + \frac{1}{4}f_2 = \frac{v_1 + v_2}{4}$
$\tilde{\mathcal{W}}_0 = \frac{1}{3}f_{-3} - \frac{5}{9}f_{-1} - \frac{1}{9}f_2$	$\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_0 = \frac{4}{9}f_{-3} - \frac{10}{9}f_0 - \frac{2}{3}f_2$
$\tilde{\mathcal{W}}_1 = \frac{1}{8}f_{-3} - \frac{11}{24}f_{-1} - \frac{1}{6}f_2$	$\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_1 = -\frac{1}{6}f_{-3} - \frac{1}{3}f_0 - \frac{1}{2}f_2$
$\tilde{\mathcal{W}}_2 = \frac{1}{4}f_{-3} + \frac{1}{12}f_{-1} + \frac{1}{6}f_2$	$\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_2 = \frac{1}{3}f_{-3} - \frac{1}{12}f_0 + \frac{1}{4}f_2$
$\tilde{\mathcal{W}}_3 = \frac{1}{4}f_{-3} + \frac{5}{12}f_{-1} - \frac{1}{6}f_2$	$\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_3 = \frac{1}{3}f_{-3} + \frac{5}{12}f_0 - \frac{1}{4}f_2$



analytic & numerical

# representation of orbital

$$\begin{aligned} |\theta, \phi\rangle &= -|\pi - \theta, \phi \pm \pi\rangle \\ &= \sin \theta \cos \phi |xz\rangle + \cos \theta |xy\rangle + \sin \theta \sin \phi |yz\rangle \end{aligned}$$



empty: with CF  
*no  $T$  depends  
if CF dominates*

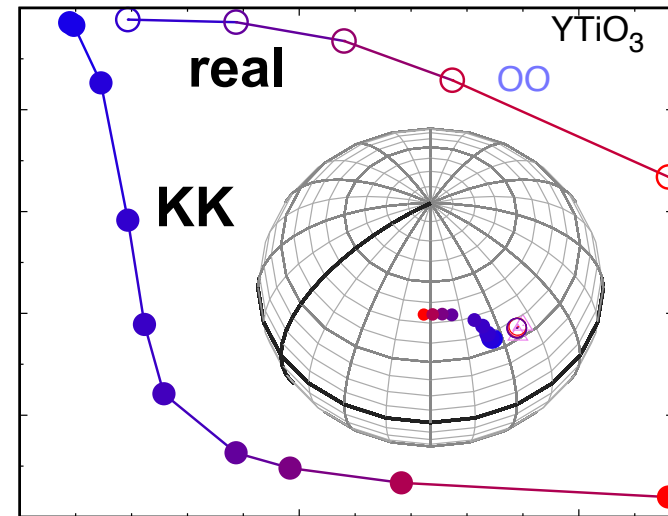
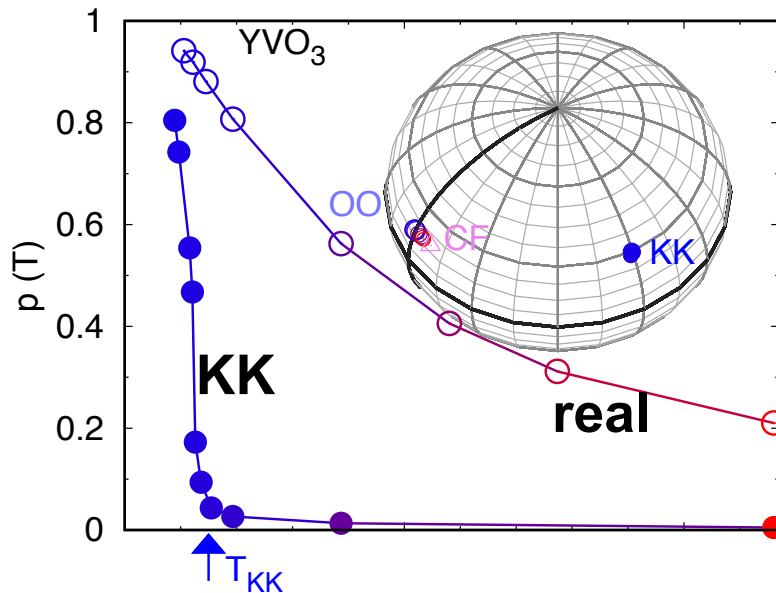


full: only KK SE  
*orbital rapidly  
changes at  $T_{KK}$*

# $t_{2g}^2$ : $T_{KK} \sim 200$ K but also smaller CF

$R_I$  small  
 $t_{2g}^2$

YVO<sub>3</sub>

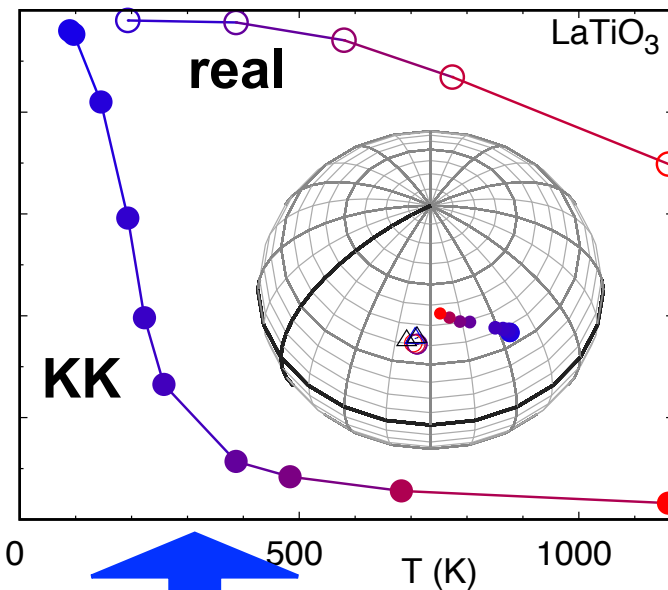
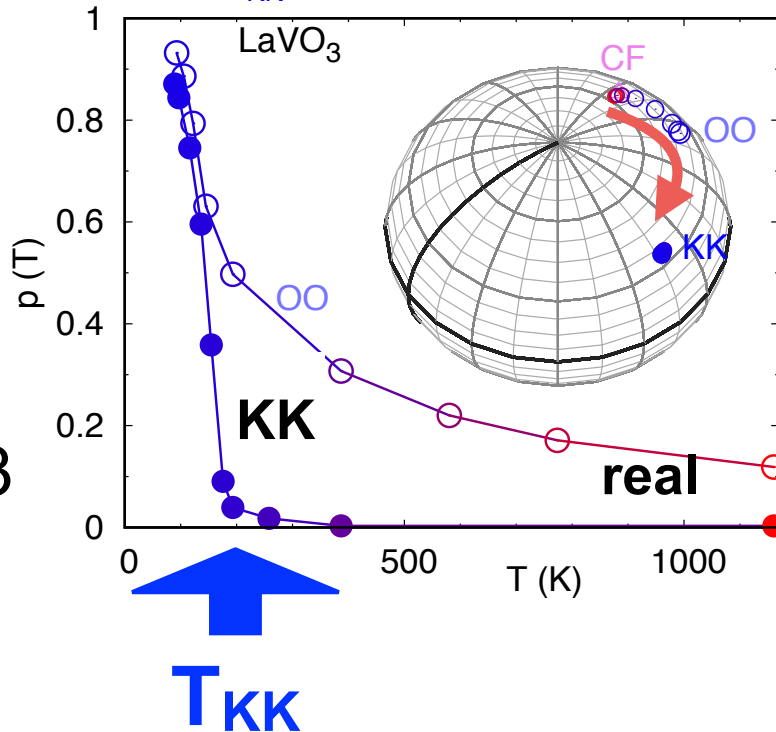


$t_{2g}^1$

$R_I$  large

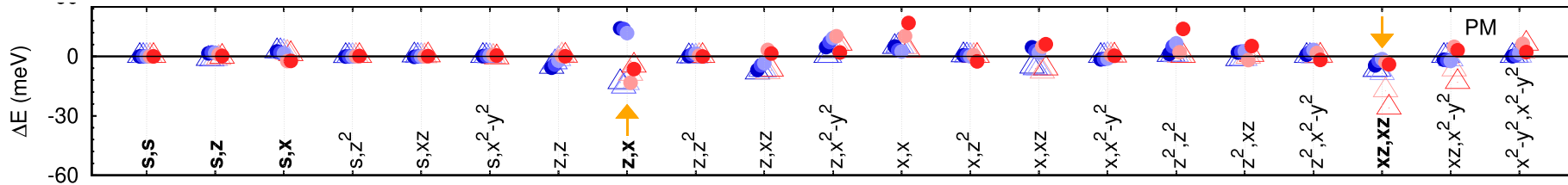
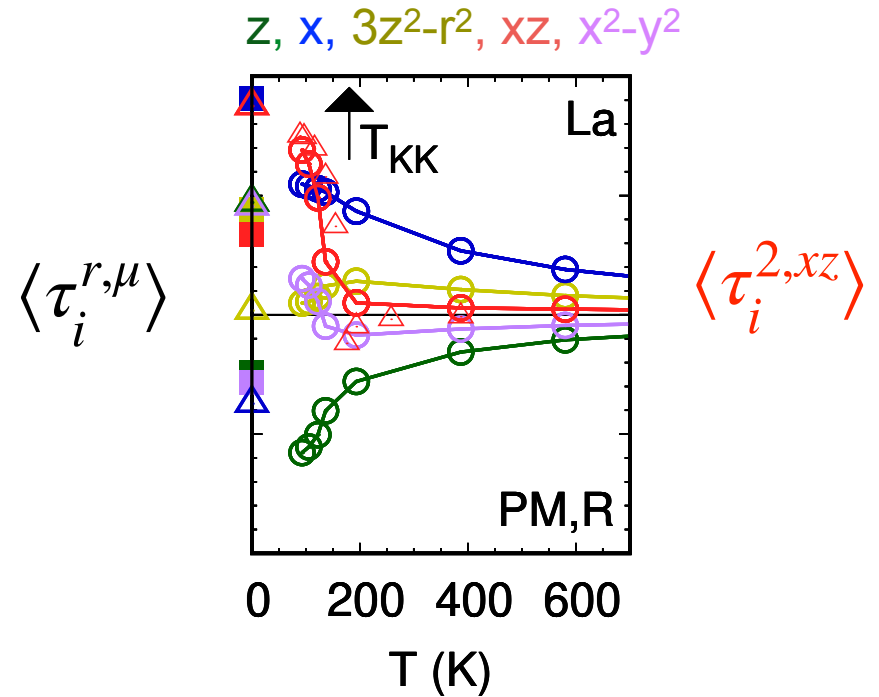
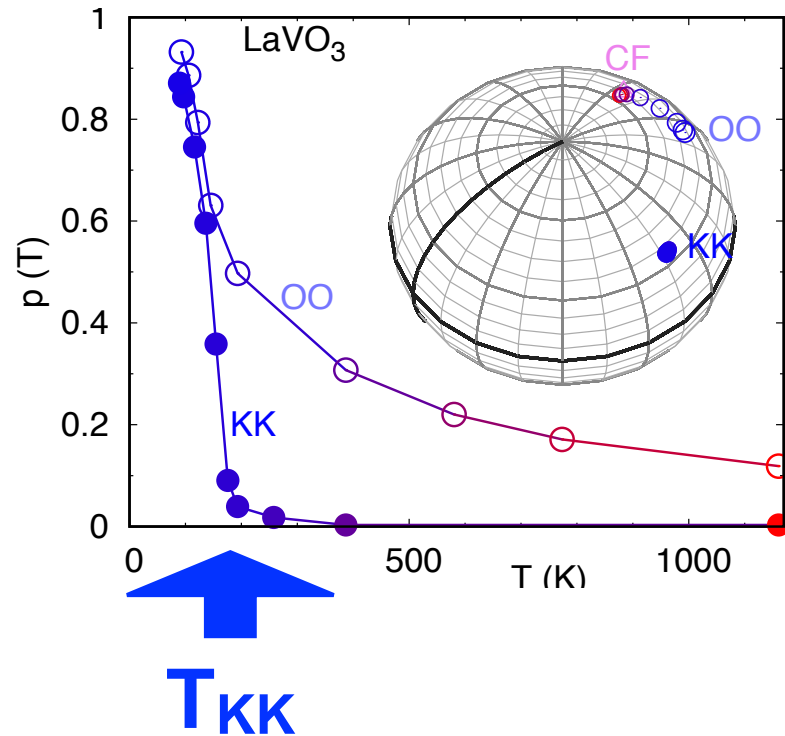
$t_{2g}^2$

LaVO<sub>3</sub>



$t_{2g}^1$

# orbital channels decomposition



Lu Y Tb Pr La



# $RVO_3$ , $t_{2g}^2$ : a unique series

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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
12 OCTOBER 2007

## Superexchange Interaction in Orbitally Fluctuating $RVO_3$

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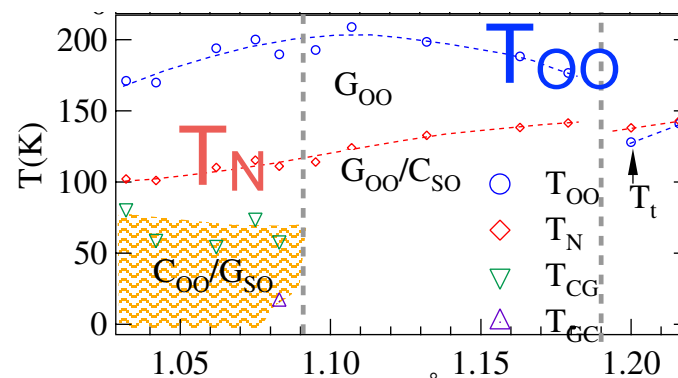
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(Received 18 May 2007; published 8 October 2007)



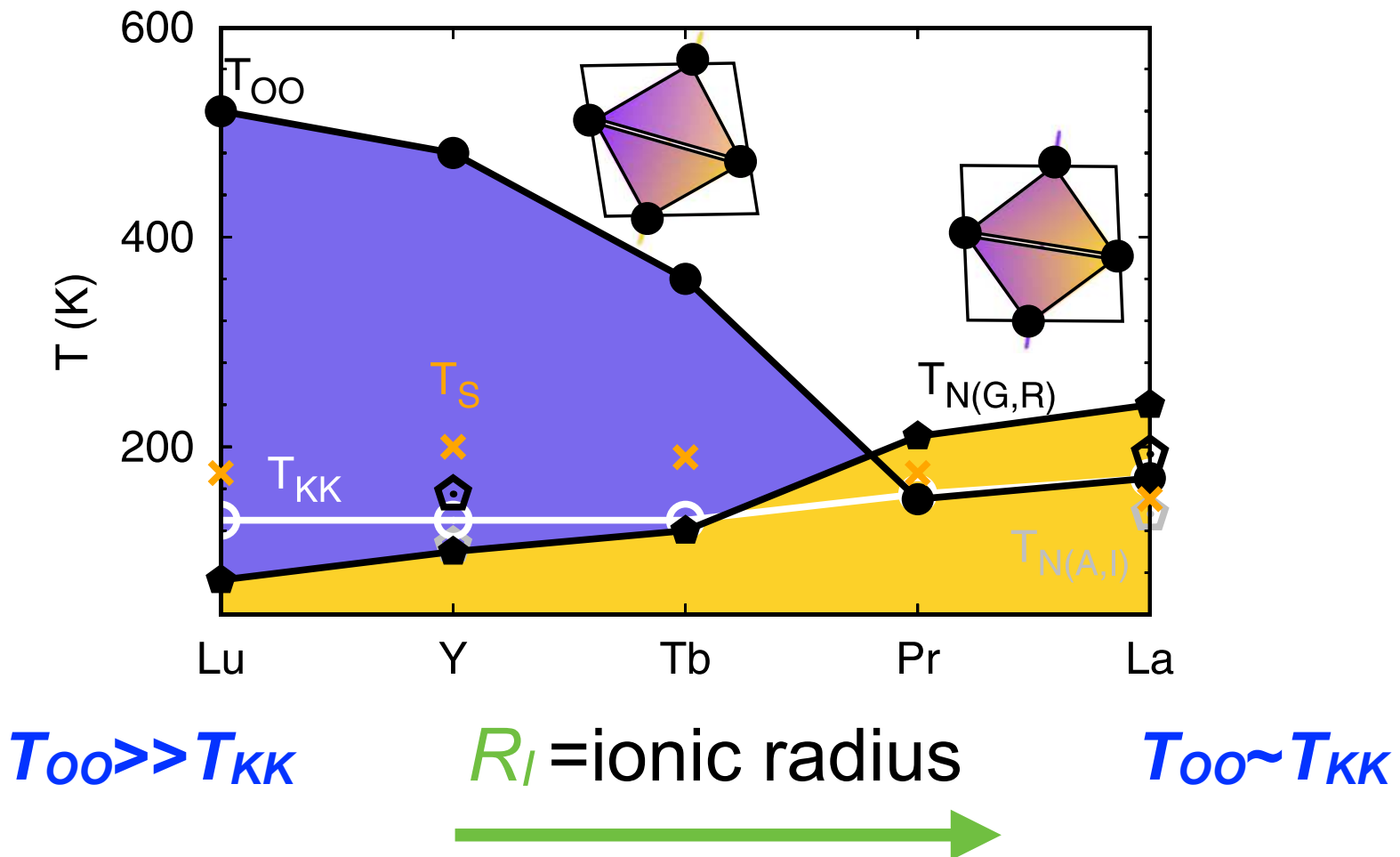
$LaVO_3$

$R_I$  = ionic radius  
→

*inversion of  $T_N$  and  $T_{OO}$*

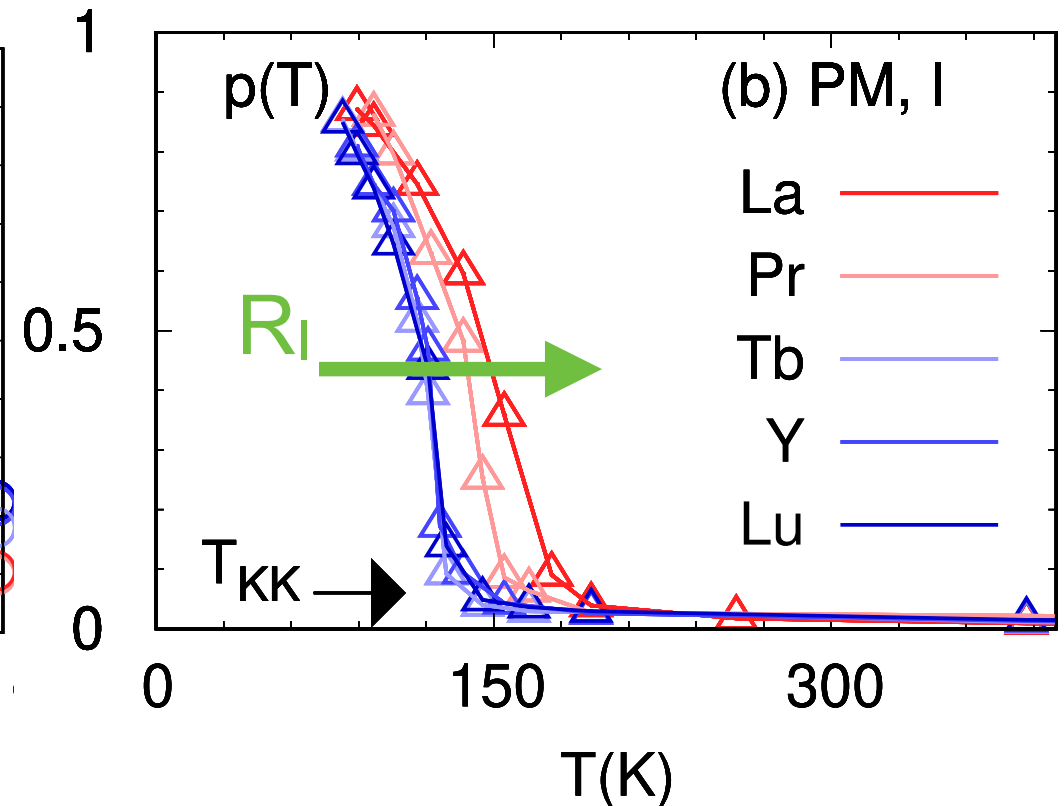
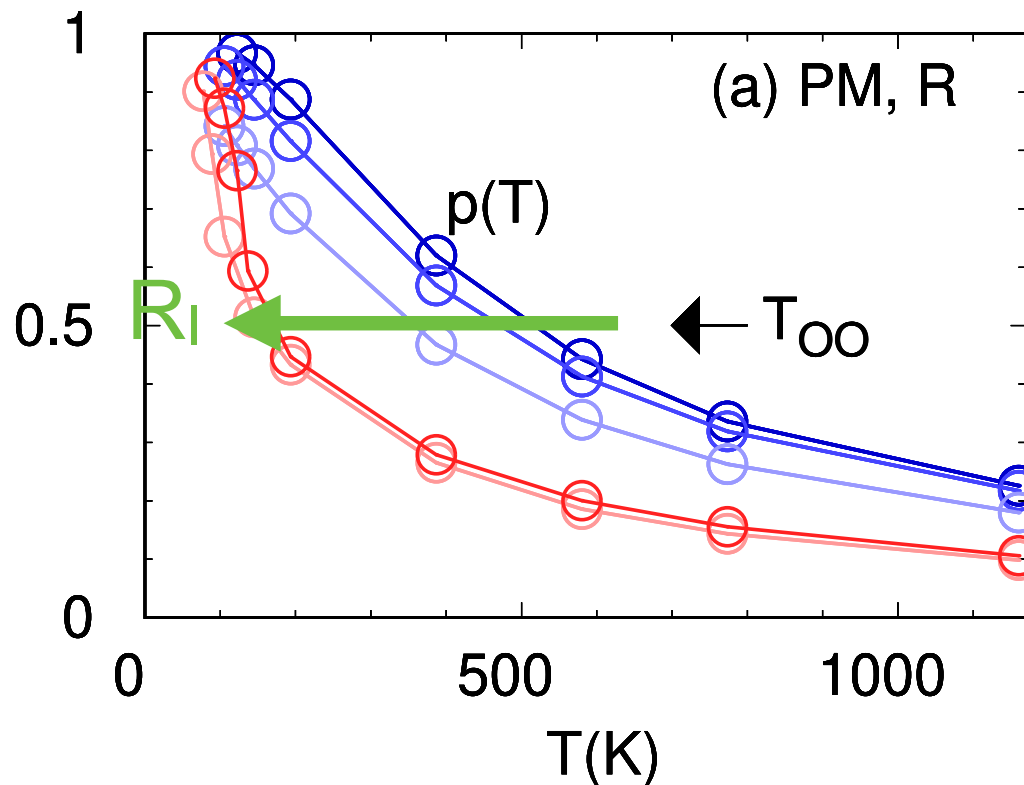
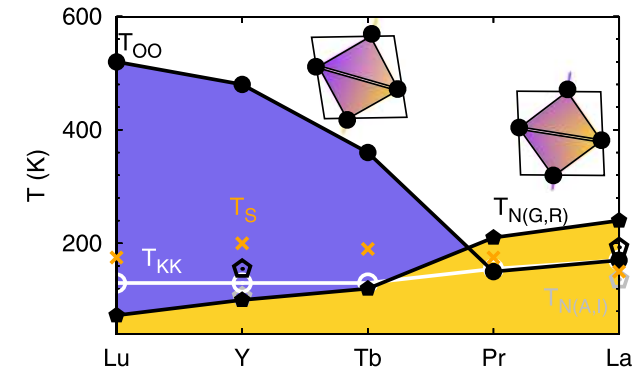
# can we explain the inversion?

yes! theoretical phase diagram:



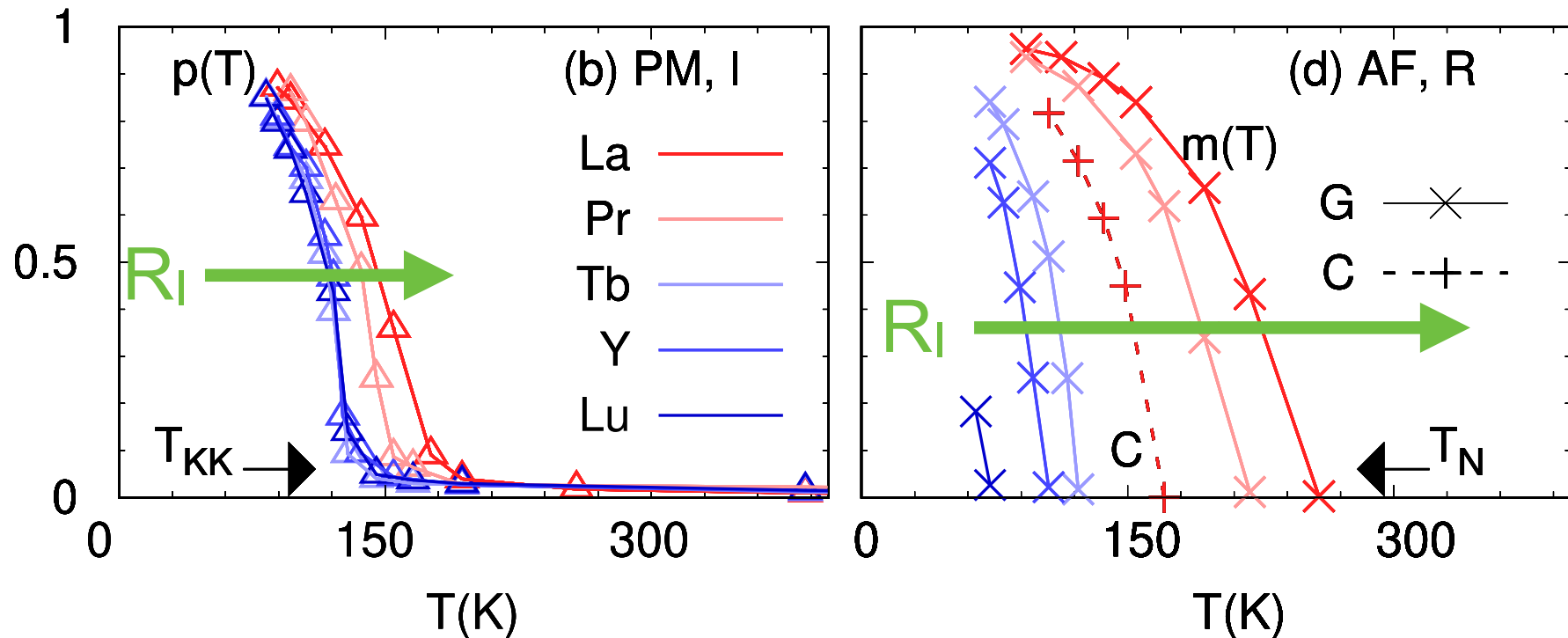
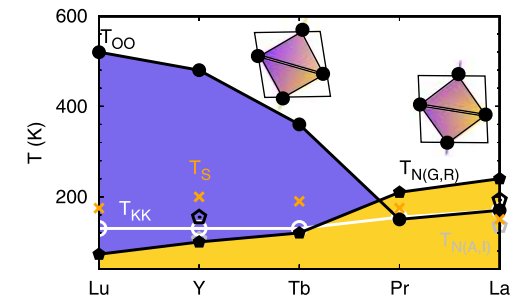
# $T_{00}$ : evolution with $R_I$

$$T_{00} \gg T_{KK} \xrightarrow{R_I} T_{00} \sim T_{KK}$$



# $T_{KK}$ and $T_N$ : evolution with $R_I$

$$T_{00} \gg T_{KK} \xrightarrow{R_I} T_{00} \sim T_{KK}$$



$$T_N < T_{KK} \xrightarrow{R_I} T_N \sim T_{KK}$$

# wonderful, *but*, why?

$$\hat{H}_{\text{SE}}^{i,j} = \sum_{qq'} \sum_{\nu\nu'} \sum_{rr'} \sum_{\mu\mu'} \hat{\tau}_i^{r\mu;q\nu} D_{r\mu,r'\mu'}^{ij;q\nu} \hat{\tau}_j^{r'\mu';q\nu}$$

r: orbital rank      q: spin rank

orbital monopolar (r=r'=0)

orbital multipolar (r+r'>1)

$$\hat{H}_{\text{SE}}^{i,j} = \hat{H}_{C_{ij}} + \hat{H}_{O_i O_j} + \hat{H}_{S_i S_j} + \hat{H}_{S_i S_j O_i O_j}$$

spin monopolar (q=q'=0)      spin dipolar (q=q'=1)

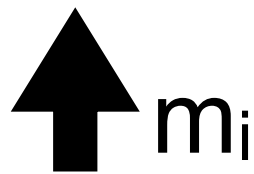
$S_i S_j$  term main contribution to  $T_N$ !

$S_i S_j O_i O_j$  term does the rest

# spin-orbit $S_i S_j O_i O_j$ channels

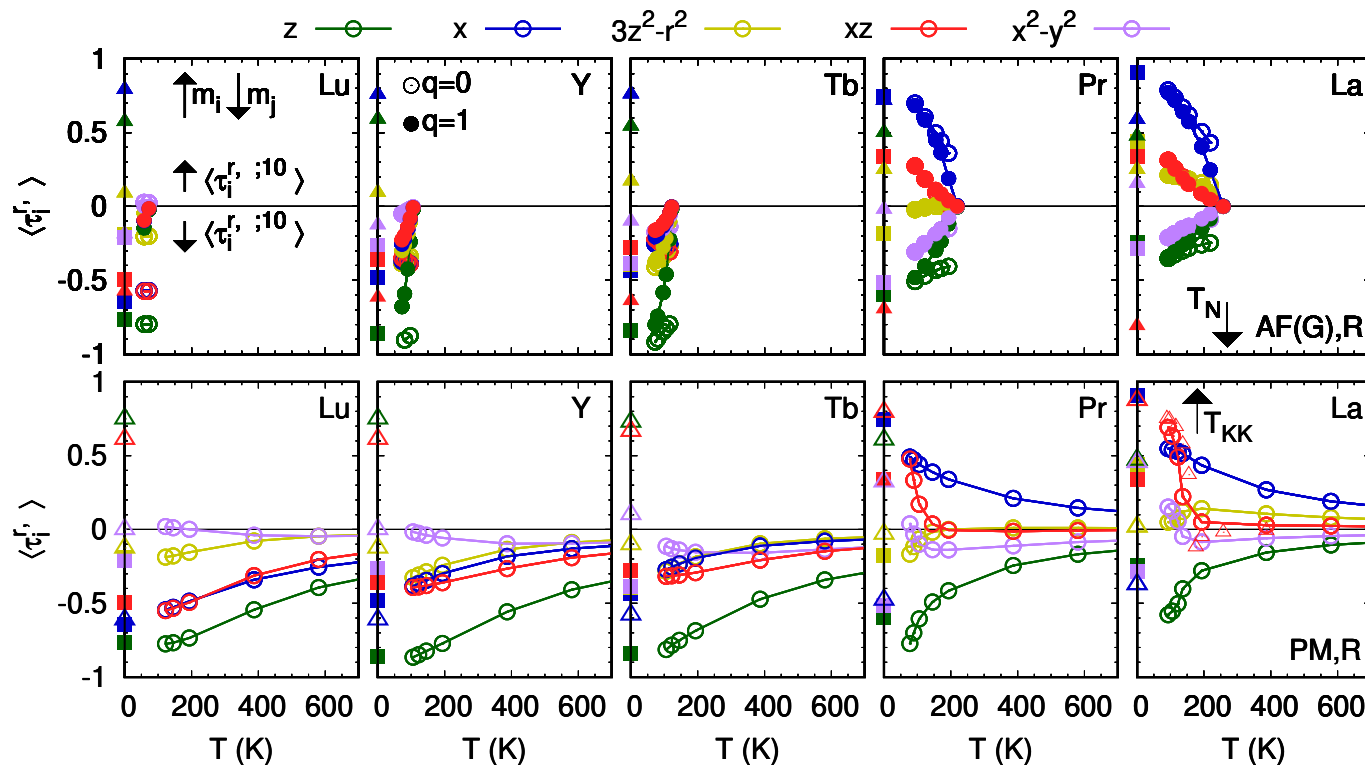
○  $q=0$  spin monopolar      ●  $q=1$  spin dipolar

$r=s, z, x, 3z^2-r^2, xz, x^2-y^2$



AF

PM



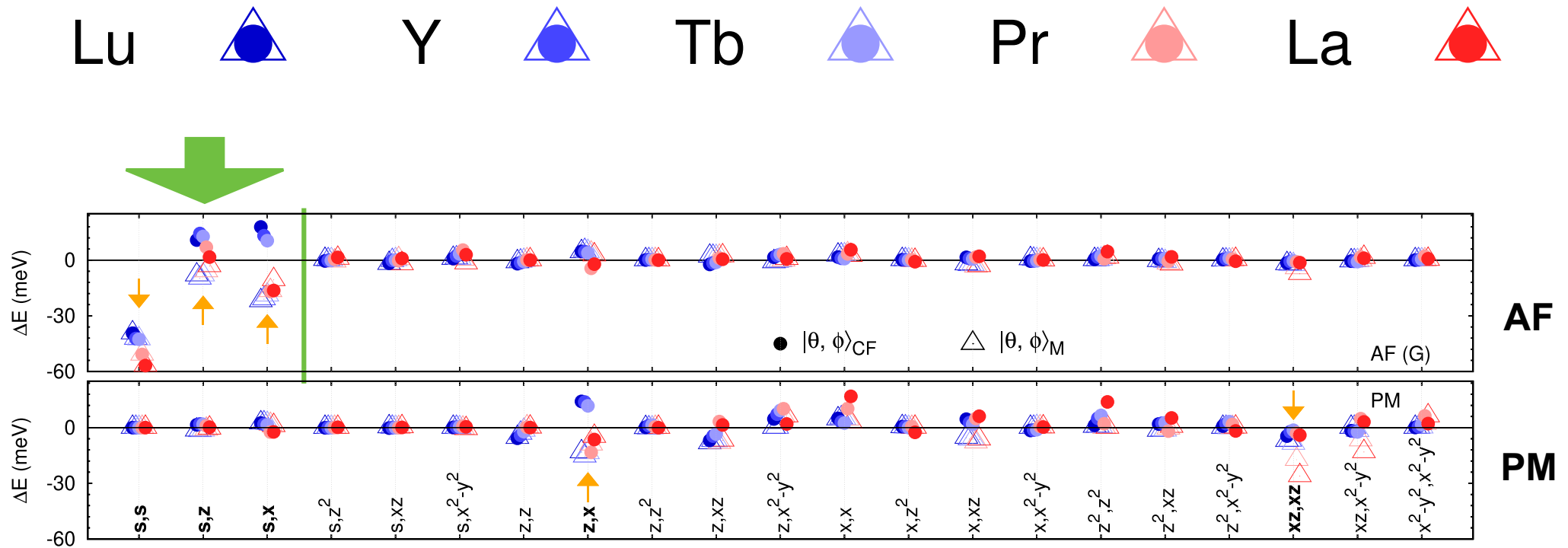
$r+r' > 1$   
cancellation!

$xz-xz$

$R_i$

strong spin-orbital entanglement

# idealized magnetic state



AF: orbital “Zeeman” term dominate

# conclusions

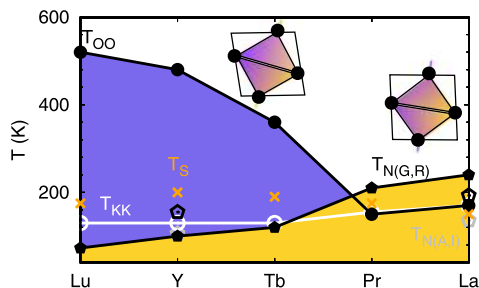
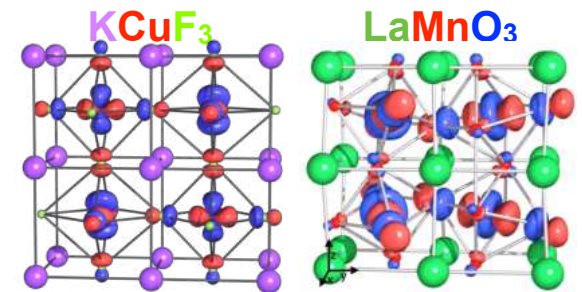
## (i) are there true Kugel-Khomskii materials ?



Yes !  $t_{2g}$  systems better than  $e_g$   
signatures are electronic

## (ii) why (usually) $T_{OO} > T_N$ ?

in most systems  $T_{OO} \gg T_{KK}$



but if  $T_{KK} \sim T_{OO}$ ,  $T_N$  and  $T_{KK} \sim T_{OO}$  can be flipped  
G-type magnetic ordering is better

Erik Koch,  
Alexander Lichtenstein,  
Andreas Flesch,  
Hunter Sims,  
Evgeni Gorelov,  
Guoren Zhang,  
Xue-Jing Zhang,  
Amit Chauhan



thank you!