

# Neutron and x-ray spectroscopy

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## **outline**

1. self-contained introduction
  - neutron scattering and spectroscopy
  - x-ray scattering and spectroscopy
2. application to correlated-electron materials
  - bulk
  - interfaces



# Neutron and x-ray spectroscopy

## outline

1. weak correlations: Pb, Nb
2. intermediate correlations:  $\text{Sr}_2\text{RuO}_4$
3. strong correlations:  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6+x}$
4. orbital degeneracy:  $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{MnO}_3$  (Y,La) $\text{TiO}_3$
5. oxide heterostructures

# Neutron and x-ray spectroscopy

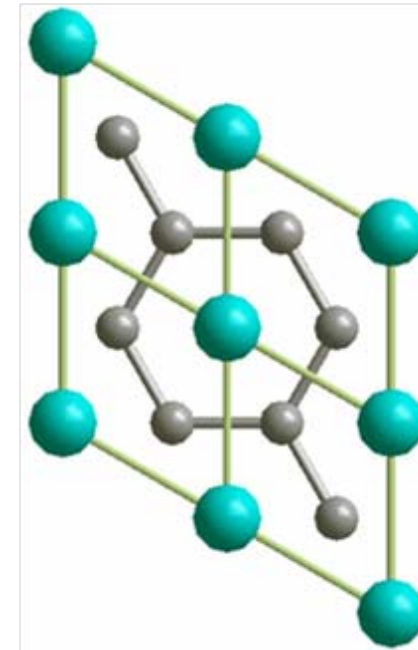
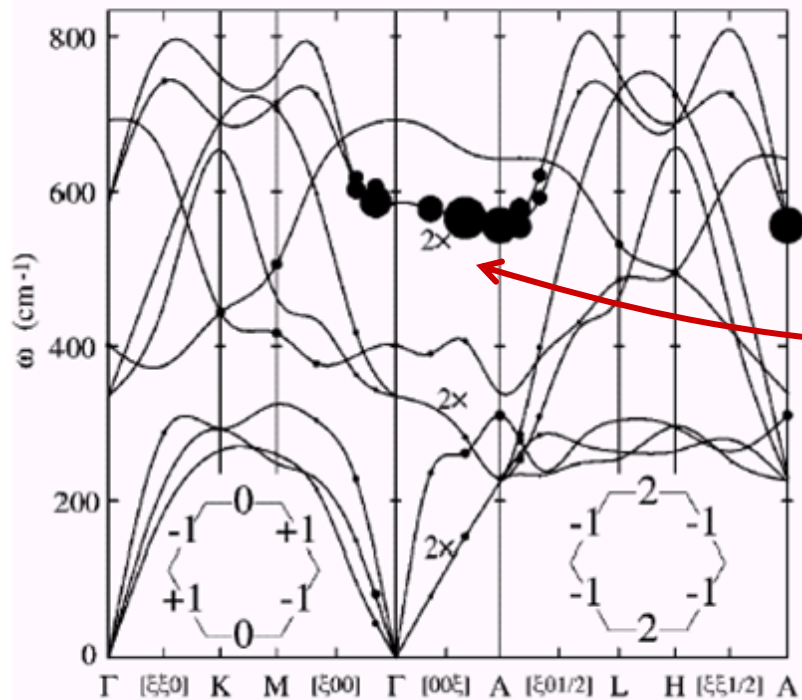
## outline

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# Electron-phonon interaction

electron-phonon interaction in simple metals predicted by ab-initio LDA

## example $\text{MgB}_2$



strong coupling  
short phonon lifetime

*Kong et al., PRB 2001*

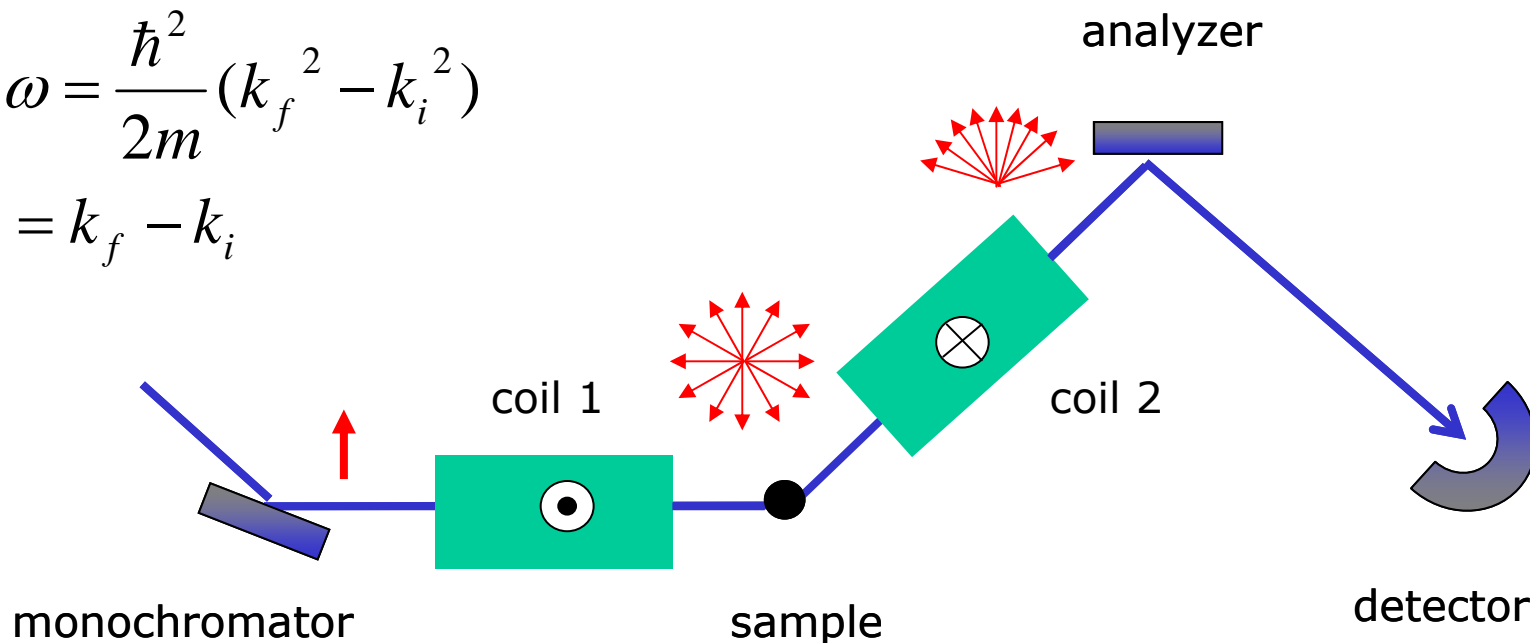
**typical phonon linewidth: 1-100  $\mu\text{eV}$**



# Neutron spectroscopy

$$\hbar\omega = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m}(k_f^2 - k_i^2)$$

$$q = k_f - k_i$$



triple axis spectrometer:

excitation energy  $\sim 1-100$  meV  
 energy resolution  $\sim 0.1-10$  meV

triple axis – spin echo spectrometer:

excitation energy  $\sim 1-100$  meV  
 energy resolution  $\sim 1 - 100$   $\mu$ eV

**3 orders of magnitude gain in energy resolution**  
**→ possible to resolve excitation lifetimes in solids**

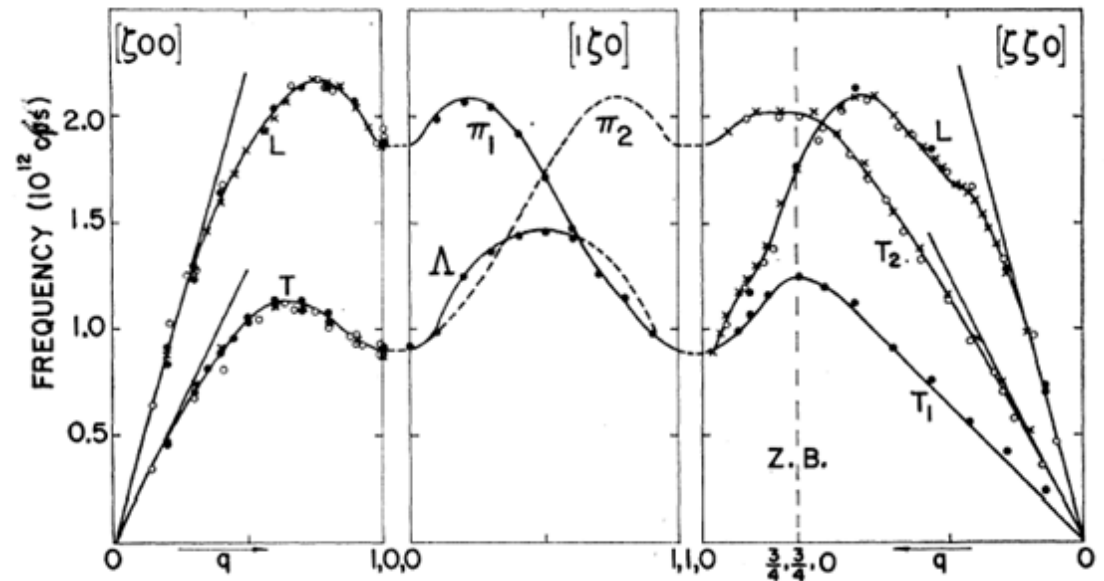
# TRISP Spectrometer at FRM-II



# Electron-phonon interaction in Pb

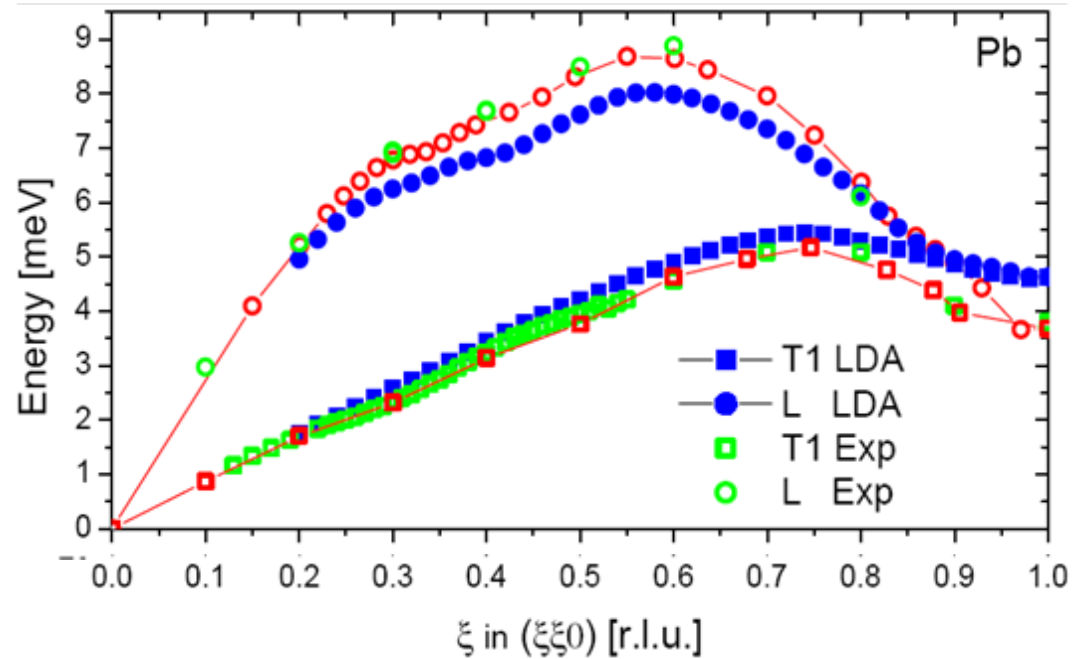
## phonon dispersions

*Brockhouse et al., PR 1963*



## ab-initio lattice dynamics

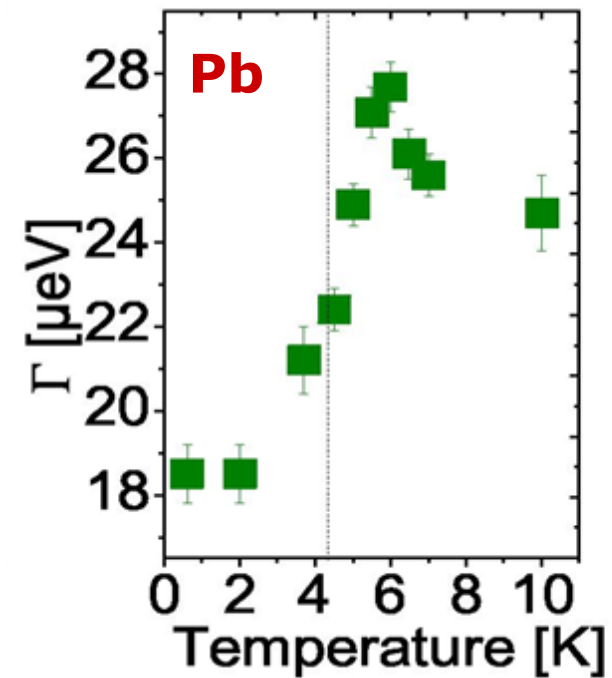
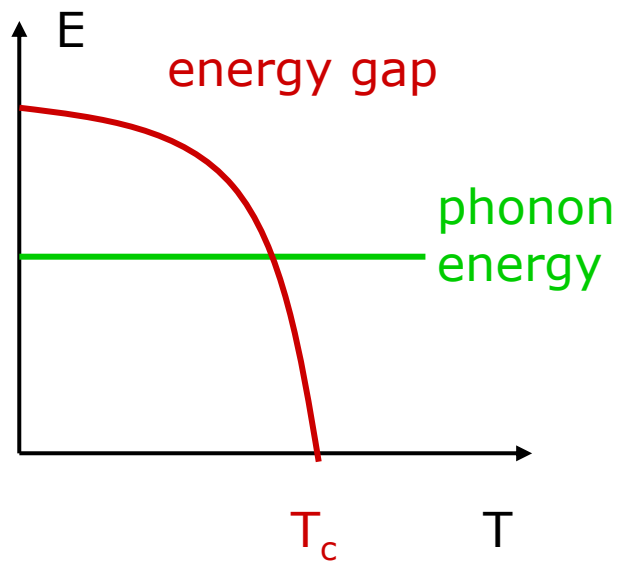
*L. Boeri, MPI-FKF*





# Electron-phonon interaction in Pb

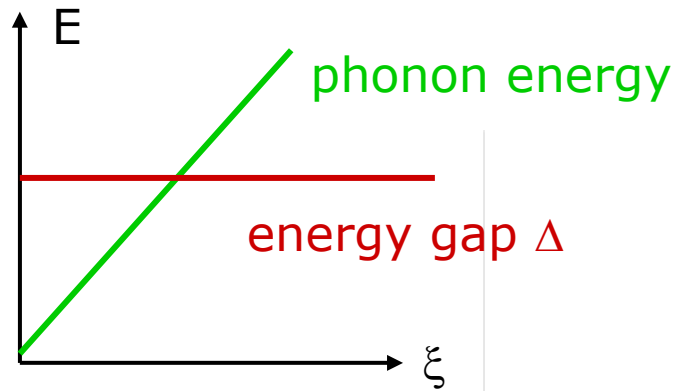
lifetime renormalization below superconducting  $T_c = 7.2$  K



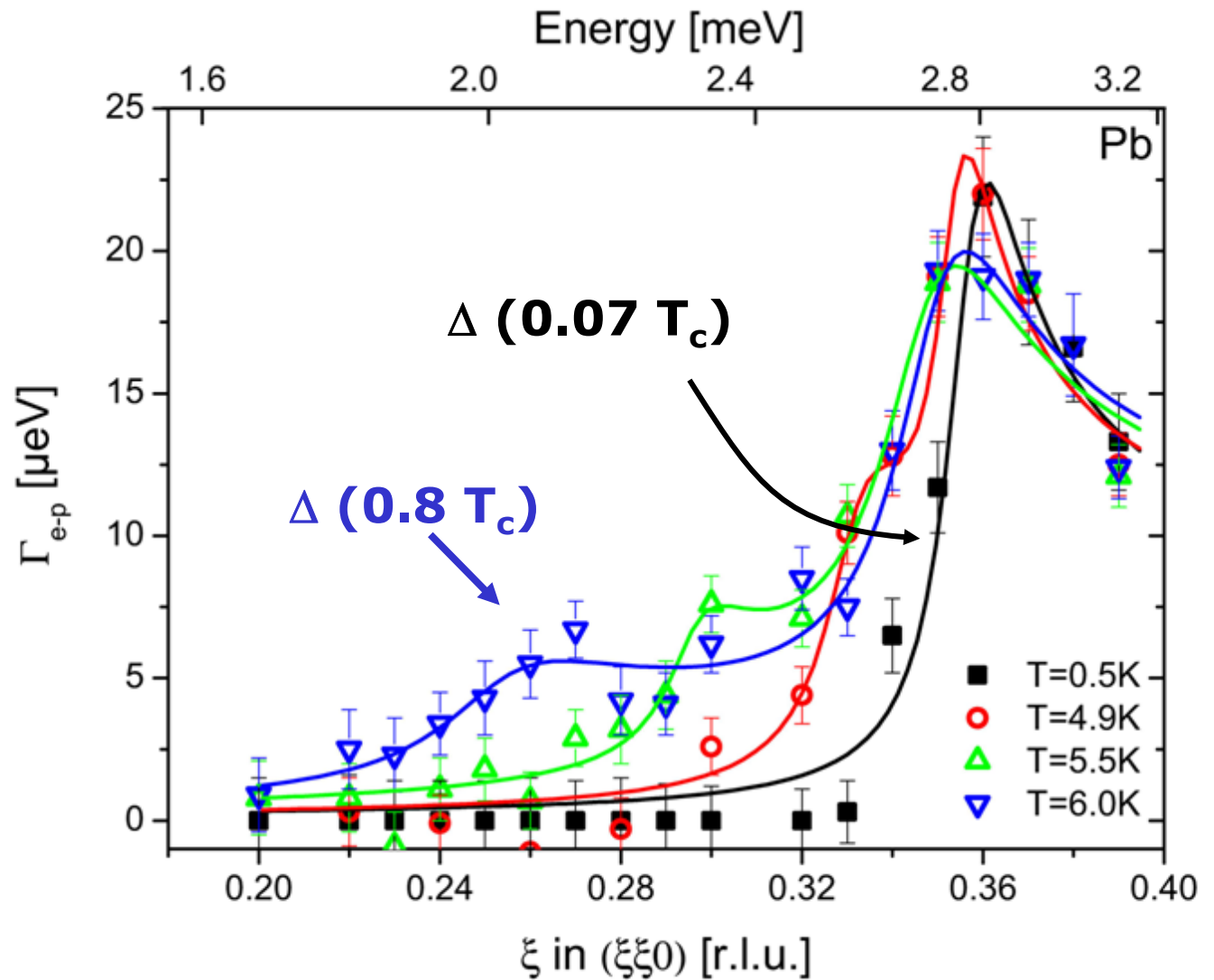
*Keller et al., PRL 2006*



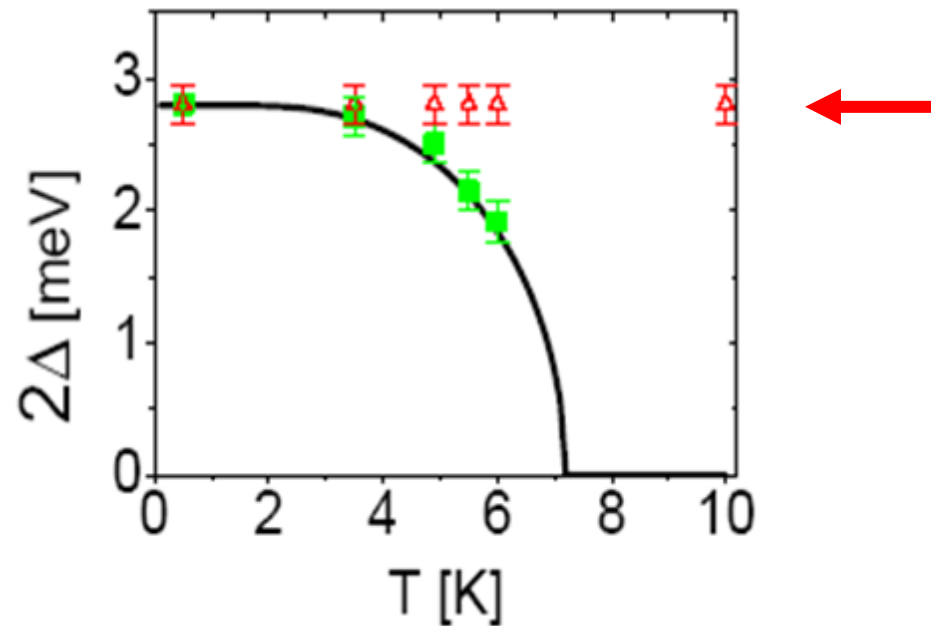
# Electron-phonon interaction in Pb



*Aynajian et al.  
Science 2008*



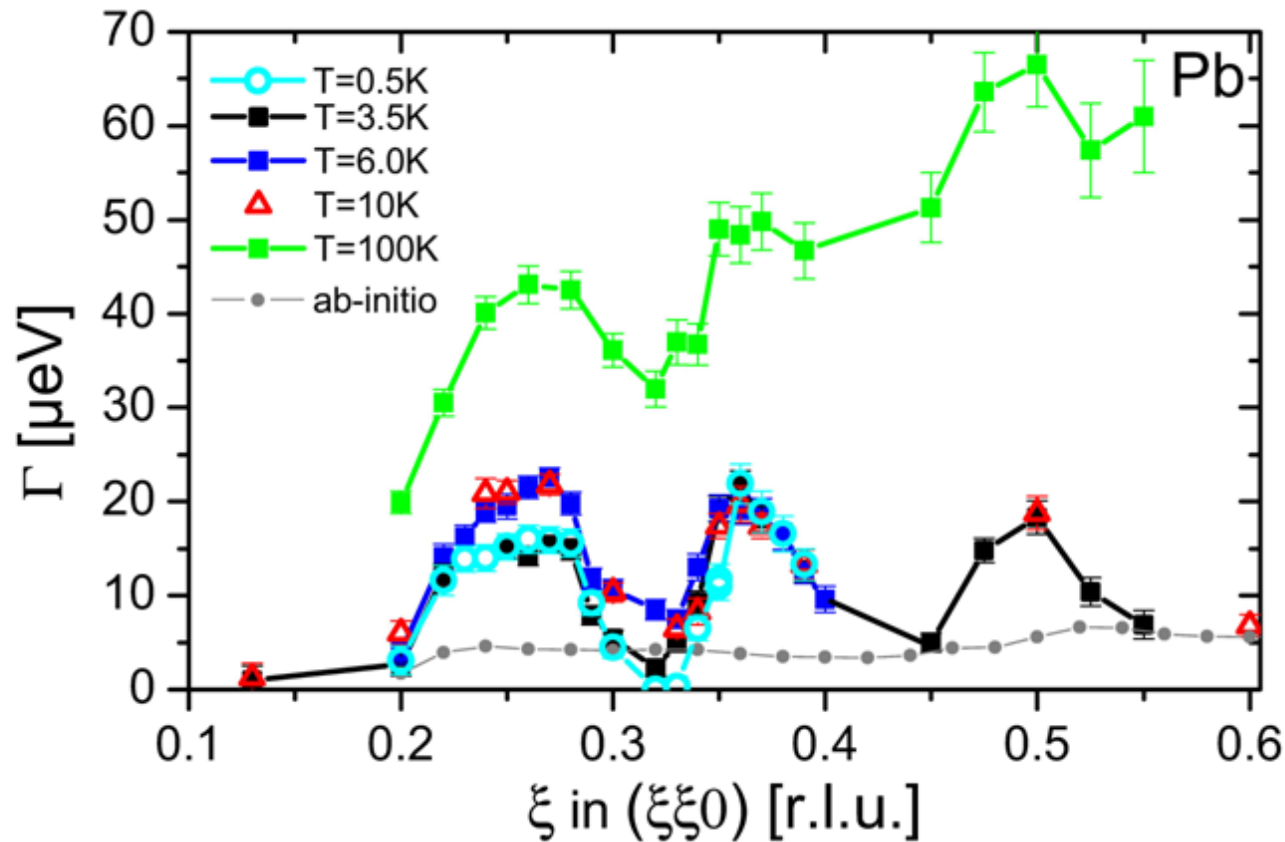
# Electron-phonon interaction in Pb



**superconducting energy gap**

merges with second linewidth maximum at low T

# Electron-phonon interaction in Pb



*Aynajian et al.  
Science 2008*

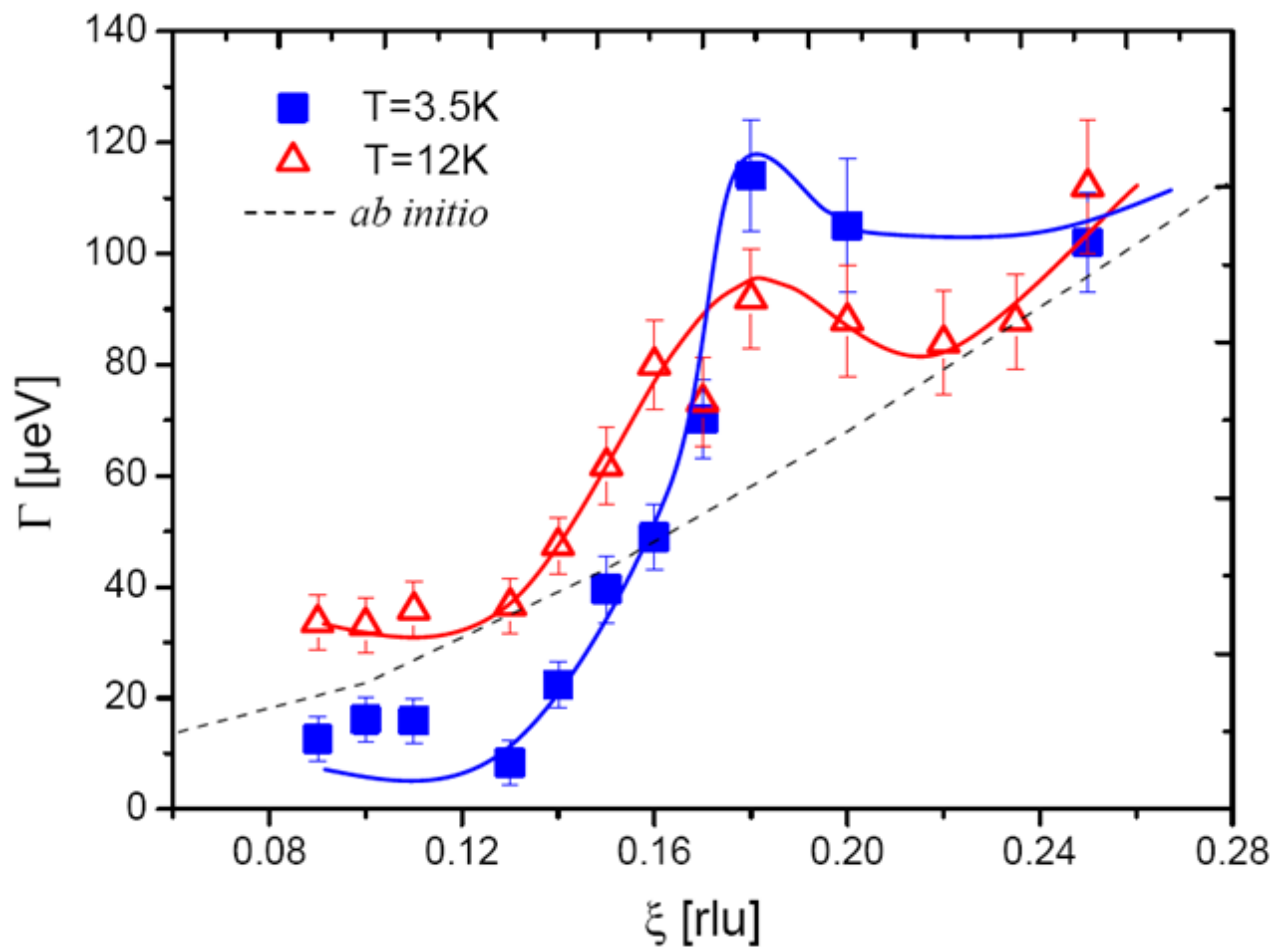
**series of linewidth maxima** persists up to  $T \gg T_c$

most likely origin: Kohn anomalies

**but** not predicted in TA branch by ab-initio LDA calculations

# Accident ?

niobium



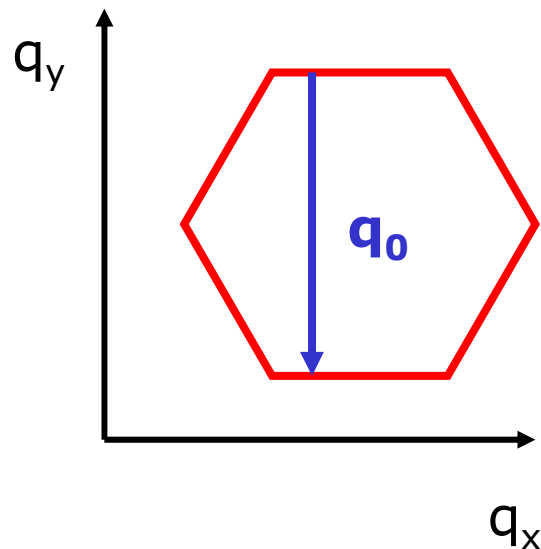
*Aynajian et al.  
Science 2008*

**no!** same effect observed in Nb  
also rules out spin-orbit coupling as origin

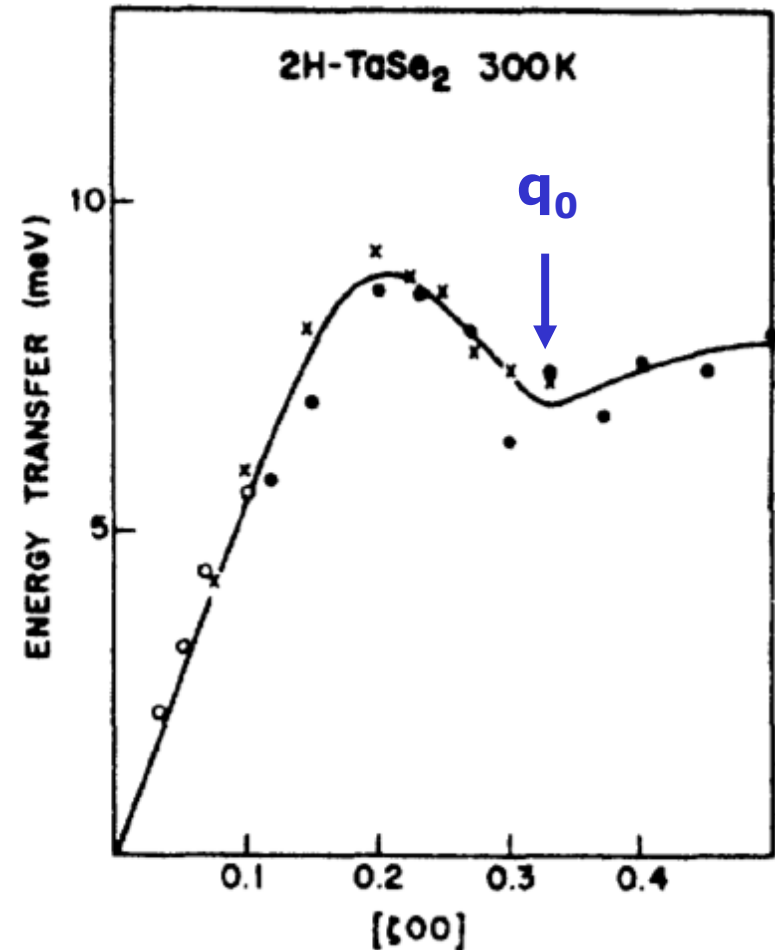
# Origin: Kohn anomaly?

## acoustic phonons in TaS<sub>2</sub>

quasi-2D metal



Kohn anomaly precursor to  
*charge-density-wave formation*  
at  $T = 122$  K

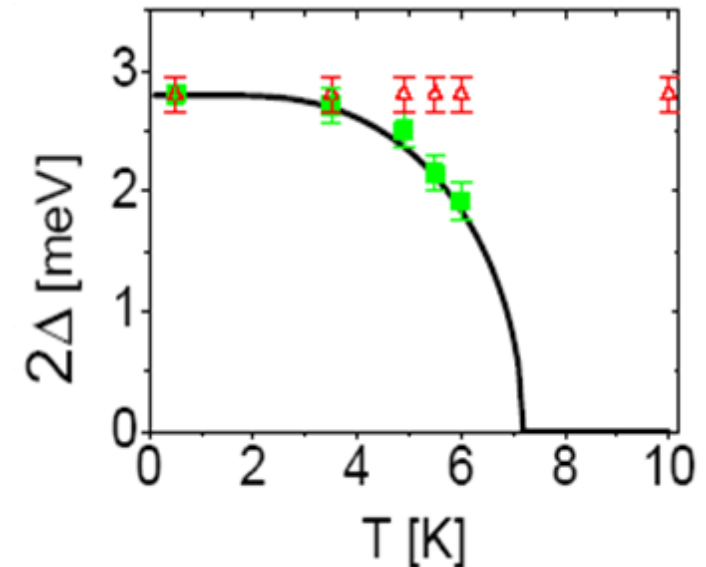


*Moncton et al., PRB 1977*

# Electron-phonon interaction in Pb and Nb

## scenario

- many-body effects beyond LDA:  
spin/charge density wave fluctuations
- dynamical nesting → Kohn anomalies
- interference between SDW/CDW and superconducting fluctuations  
limits growth of superconducting energy gap
- not anticipated by theory



**calculations needed !**

# Neutron and x-ray spectroscopy

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4. orbital degeneracy:  $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{MnO}_3$  (Y,La) $\text{TiO}_3$
5. oxide heterostructures



# Inelastic magnetic neutron scattering

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE} = (\gamma r_0)^2 \frac{k_f}{k_i} N |F(\mathbf{Q})|^2 e^{-2W} \sum_{\alpha\beta} (\delta_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{Q}_\alpha \hat{Q}_\beta) S^{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}, \omega)$$

$$S^{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}, \omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int \sum_l e^{i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{r}_l} \langle S_0^\alpha(0) S_l^\beta(t) \rangle e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

## fluctuation-dissipation theorem

$$S^{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}, \omega) = \frac{1}{\pi(g\mu_B)^2} \frac{1}{1 - e^{-\hbar\omega\beta}} \chi''_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}, \omega)$$

$\chi''(\mathbf{Q}, \omega) = \text{Tr} [\chi''_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}, \omega)]/3$  dynamical magnetic susceptibility  
response to time- and position-dependent magnetic field

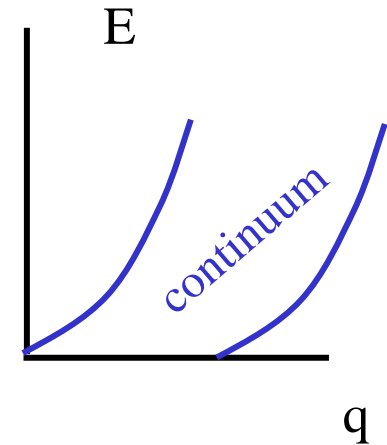
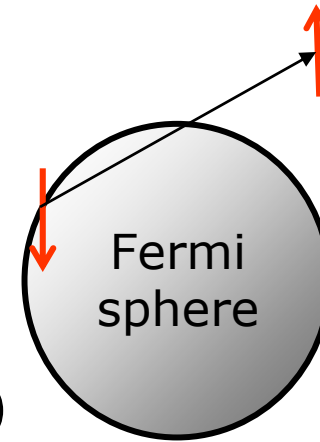
$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE} = 2(\gamma r_0)^2 \frac{k_f}{k_i} N |F(\mathbf{Q})|^2 e^{-2W} \frac{1}{\pi(g\mu_B)^2} \frac{1}{1 - e^{-\hbar\omega\beta}} \chi''(\mathbf{Q}, \omega)$$



# Stoner model

susceptibility of electron band

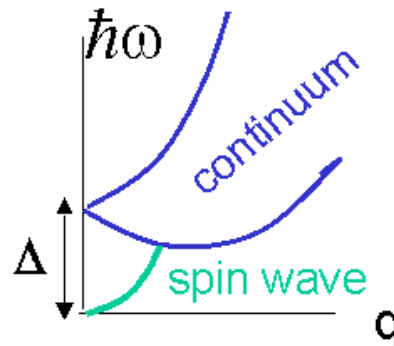
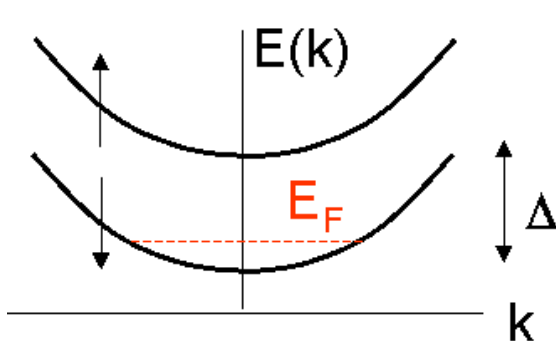
$$\chi_0(q, \omega) = \sum_k \frac{f(E_{k+q\uparrow}) - f(E_{k\downarrow})}{\hbar\omega - (E_{k+q} - E_k - \Delta) + i\varepsilon}$$



enhanced by electronic correlations (RPA)

$$\chi(q, \omega) = \frac{\chi_0(q, \omega)}{1 - J(q)\chi_0(q, \omega)}$$

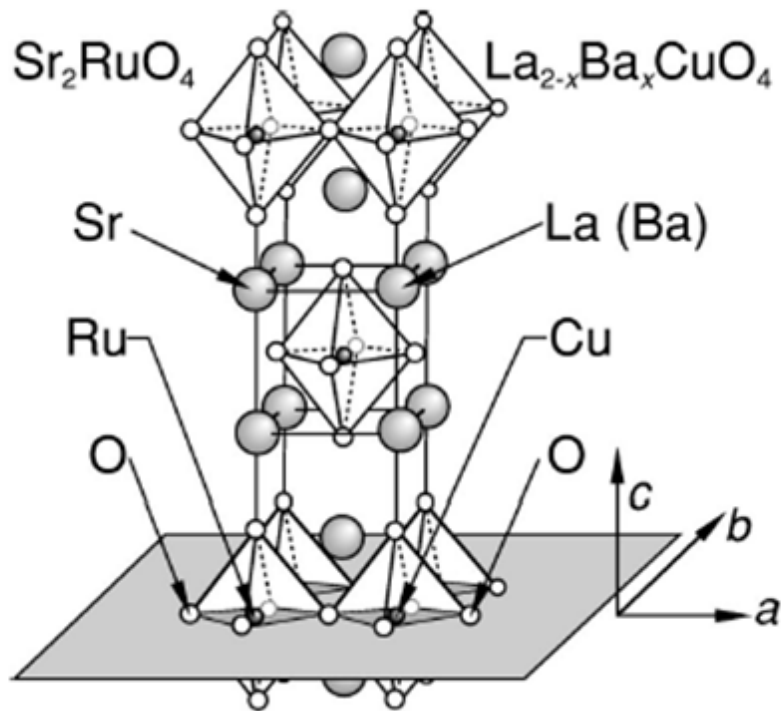
$J(q)$  peaked at  $q=0$ , sufficiently strong  $\rightarrow$  ferromagnetism



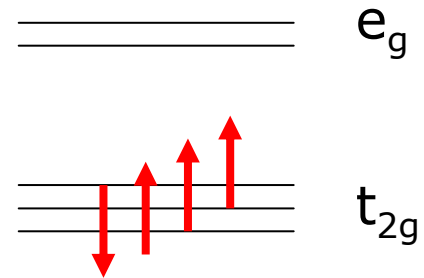
e.g. Fe, Ni

# Sr<sub>2</sub>RuO<sub>4</sub>

layered structure  
isostructural to layered cuprates

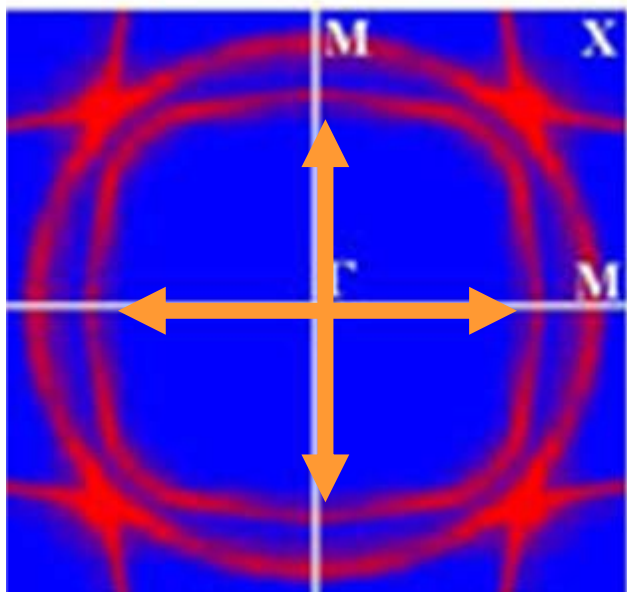


electron configuration 3d<sup>4</sup>  
electrons in t<sub>2g</sub> orbitals

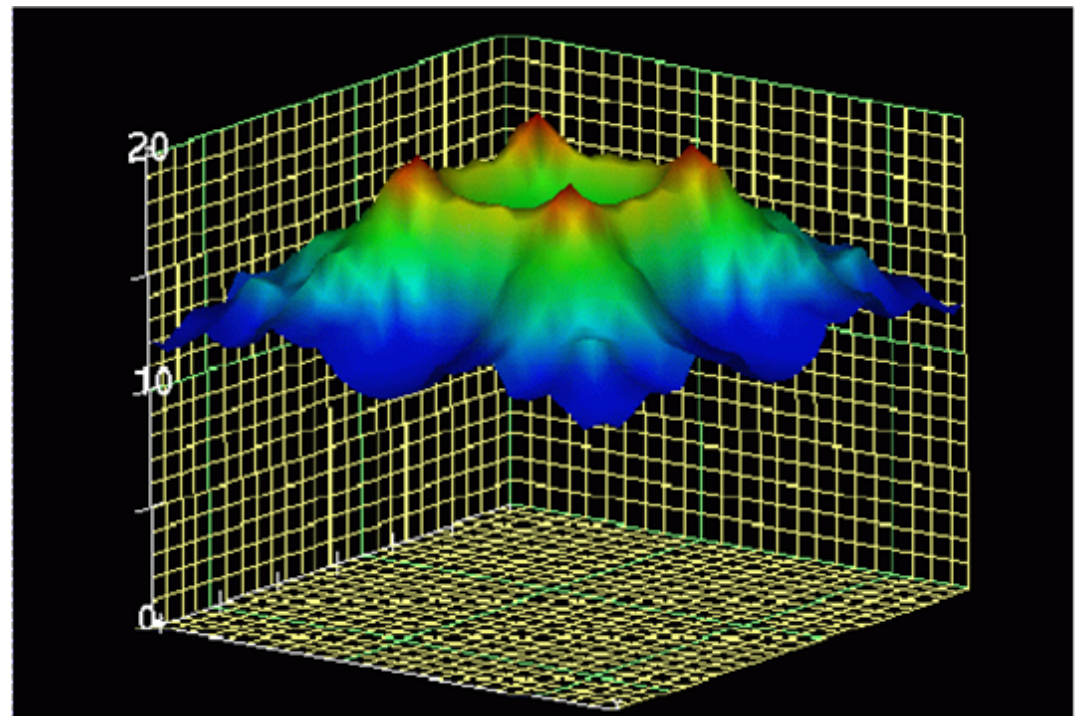


# Sr<sub>2</sub>RuO<sub>4</sub> spin excitations

**ARPES Fermi surface**  
strongly nested



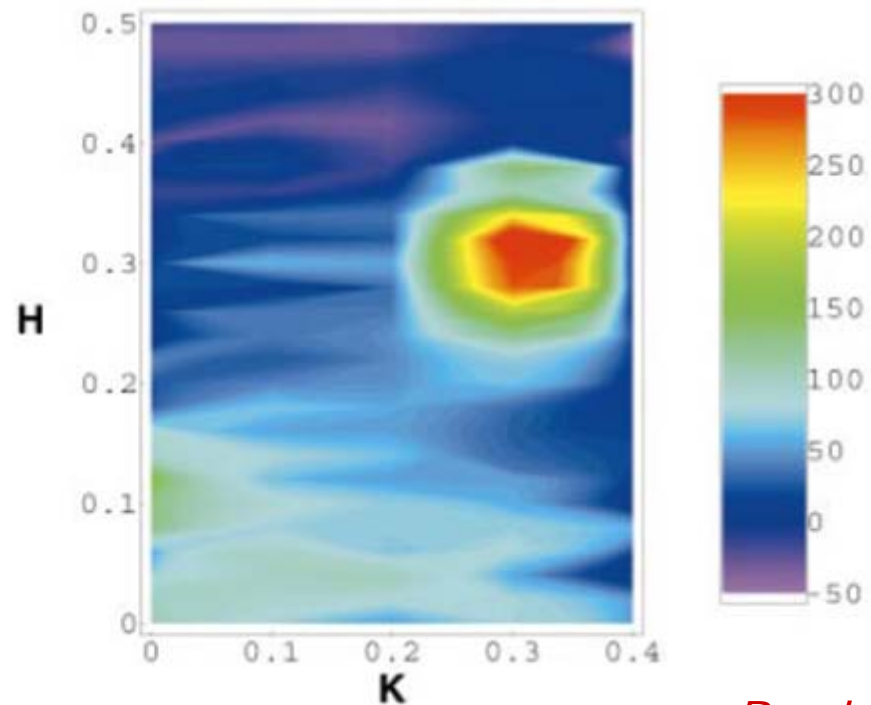
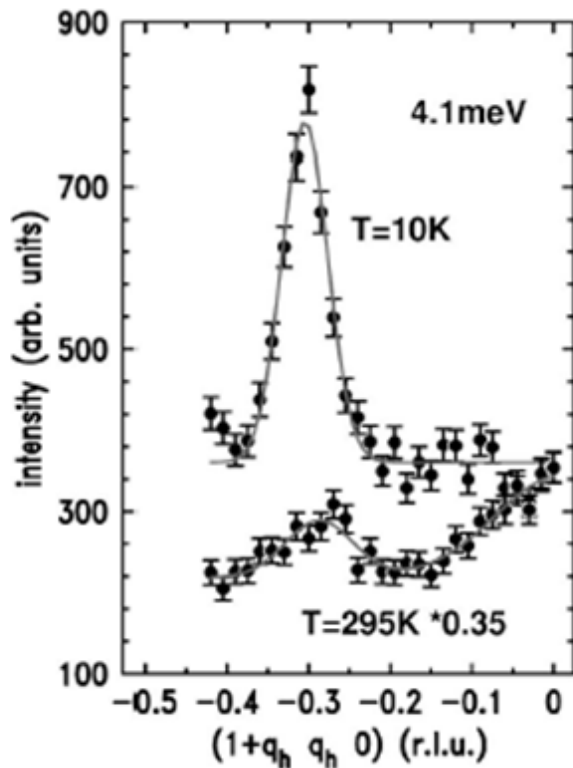
**band susceptibility**



*Mazin et al., PRL 1999*

# Sr<sub>2</sub>RuO<sub>4</sub> spin excitations

## inelastic magnetic neutron scattering



*Braden et al.,  
PRB 2002*

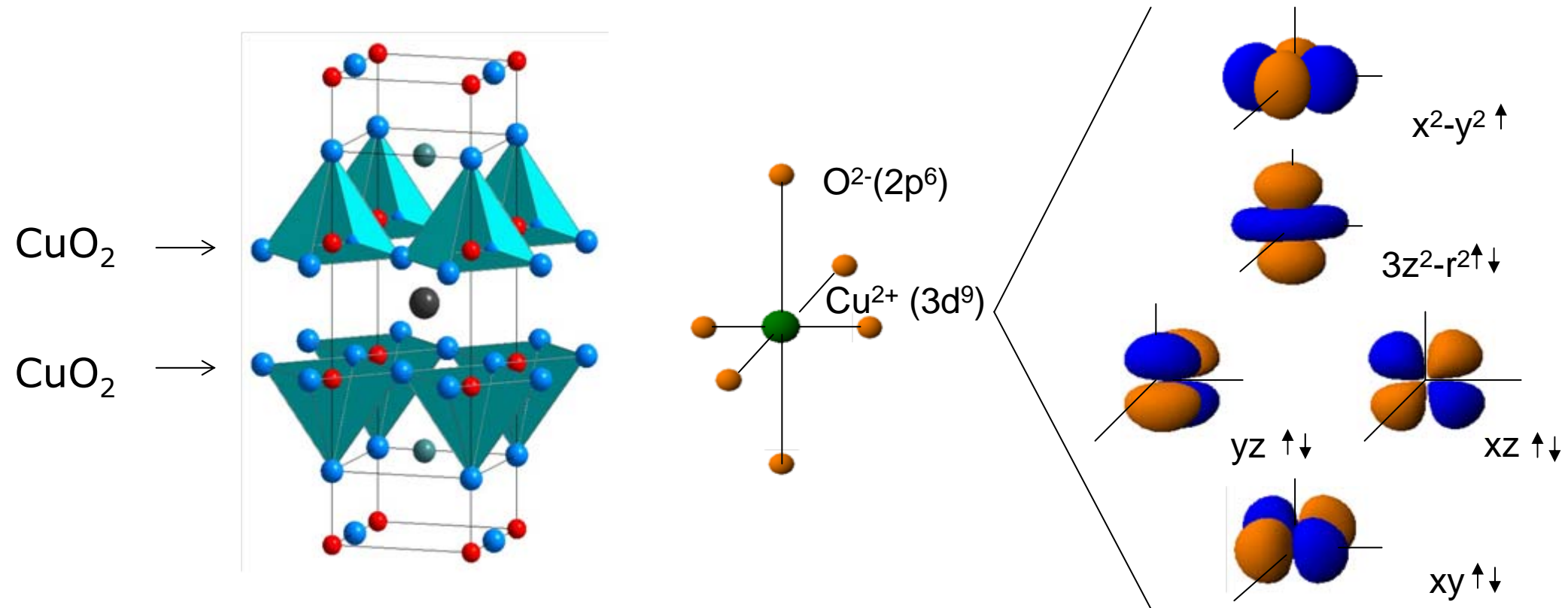
signal explained by “bare” band susceptibility  
no apparent role in driving p-wave superconductivity

# Neutron and x-ray spectroscopy

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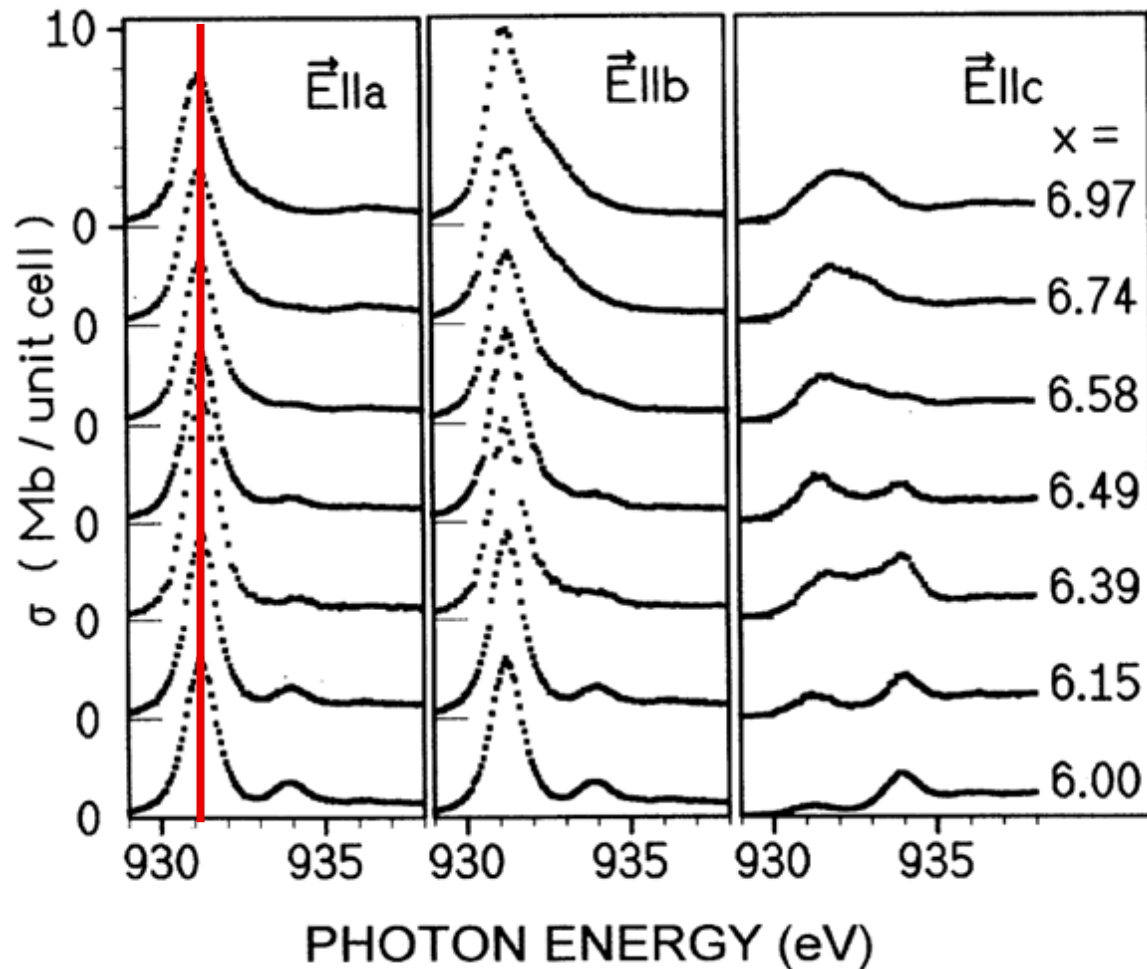
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# YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6+x</sub>



- two-dimensional electronic structure
- no orbital degeneracy

# YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6+x</sub> x-ray linear dichroism

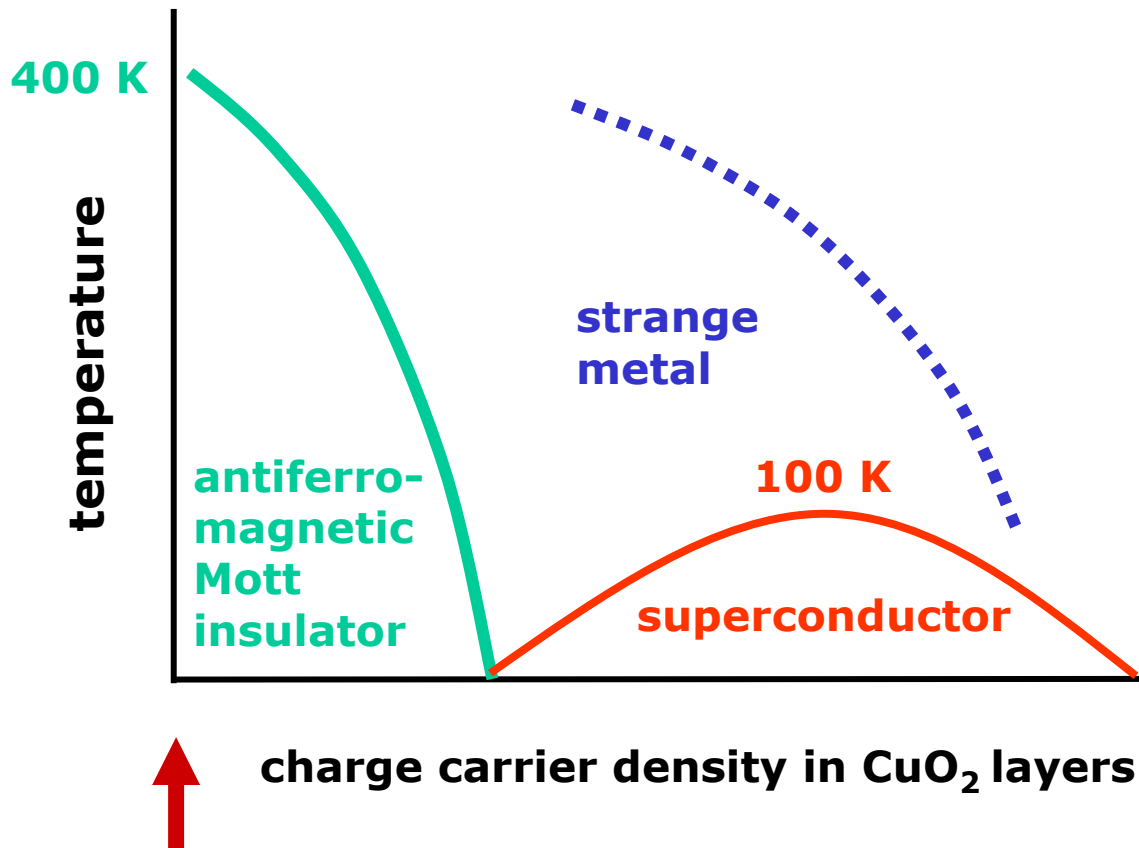


- absorption cross section much greater for  $E \parallel ab$ -plane  $\rightarrow x^2-y^2$  orbital partially occupied
- peak position independent of doping (Zhang-Rice singlet state)

*Nücker et al., PRB 1995*







# Inelastic magnetic neutron scattering

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE} = (\gamma r_0)^2 \frac{k_f}{k_i} N |F(\mathbf{Q})|^2 e^{-2W} \sum_{\alpha\beta} (\delta_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{Q}_\alpha \hat{Q}_\beta) S^{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}, \omega)$$

polarization factor

$$S^{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}, \omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int \sum_l e^{i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{r}_l} \langle S_0^\alpha(0) S_l^\beta(t) \rangle e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

spin-spin correlation function

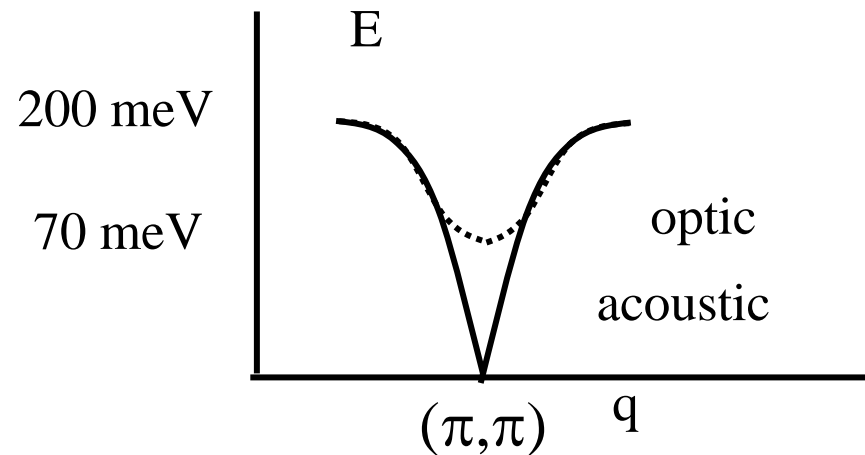
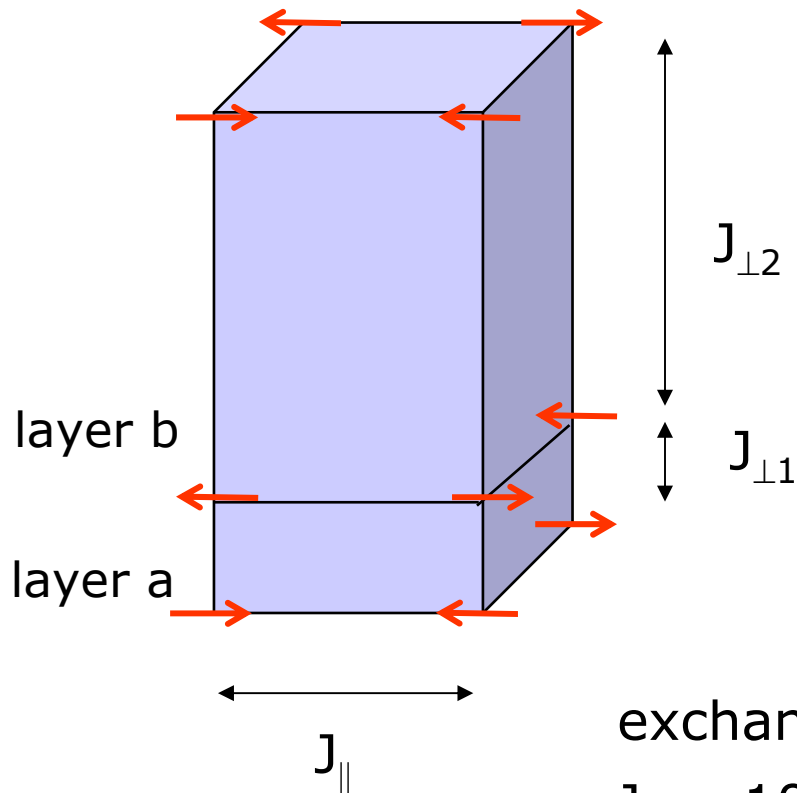
## Heisenberg antiferromagnet, magnon creation

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE} = (\gamma r_0)^2 \frac{k_f}{k_i} |F(\mathbf{Q})|^2 e^{-2W} \frac{(2\pi)^3}{4Nv_0} \{1 + (\hat{Q}\hat{\eta})^2\} \times$$

$$\sum_{a=0,1} \sum_{q, K_m} \langle n_{q,a} + 1 \rangle \delta(\omega_{q,a} - \omega) \delta(\mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{q} - \mathbf{K}_m)$$

# YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub> magnons

$$H = \sum_{ij} (J_{\parallel} \mathbf{S}_i^{(a,b)} \cdot \mathbf{S}_j^{(a,b)}) + \sum_i (J_{\perp 1} \mathbf{S}_i^{(a)} \cdot \mathbf{S}_i^{(b)} + J_{\perp 2} \mathbf{S}_i^{(b)} \cdot \mathbf{S}_i^{(a)})$$



exchange parameters from magnon dispersions

$$J_{\parallel} \sim 100 \text{ meV}$$

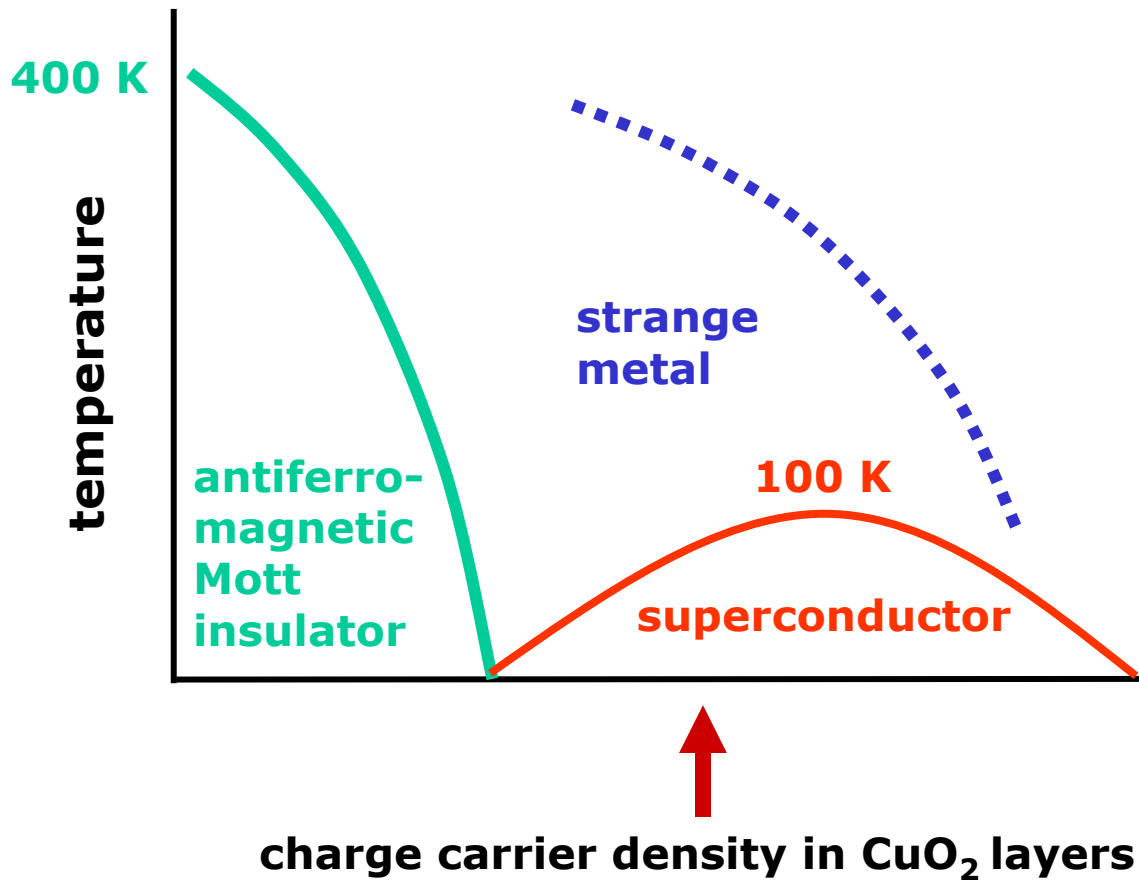
$$J_{\perp 1} \sim 10 \text{ meV}$$

$$J_{\perp 2} \sim 0.01 \text{ meV}$$

*Tranquada et al., PRB 1989*

*Reznik et al., PRB 1996*

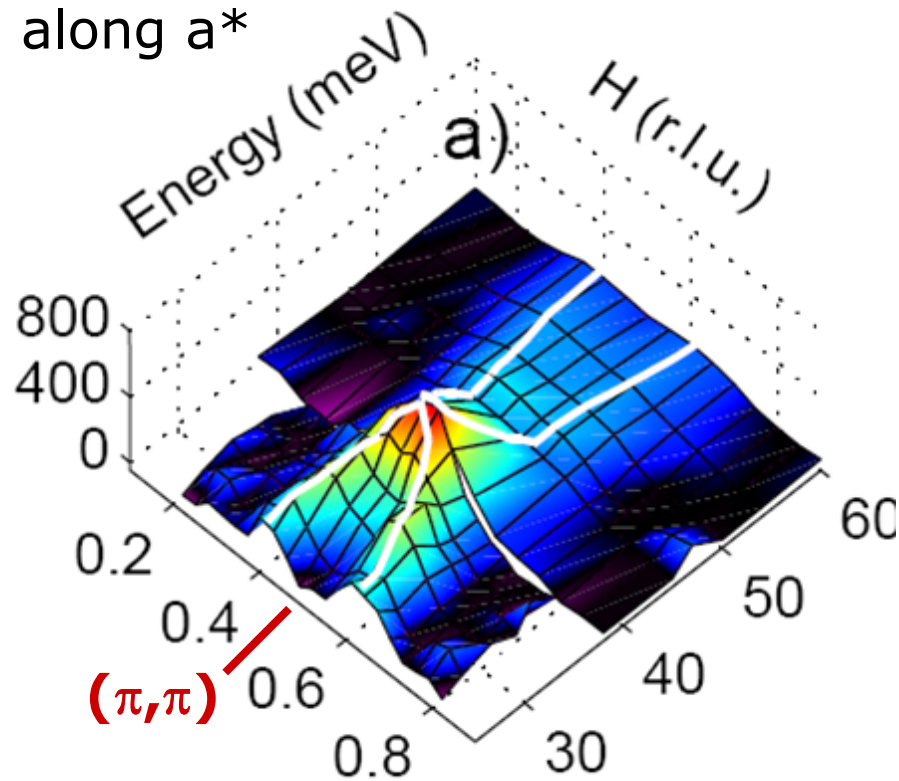




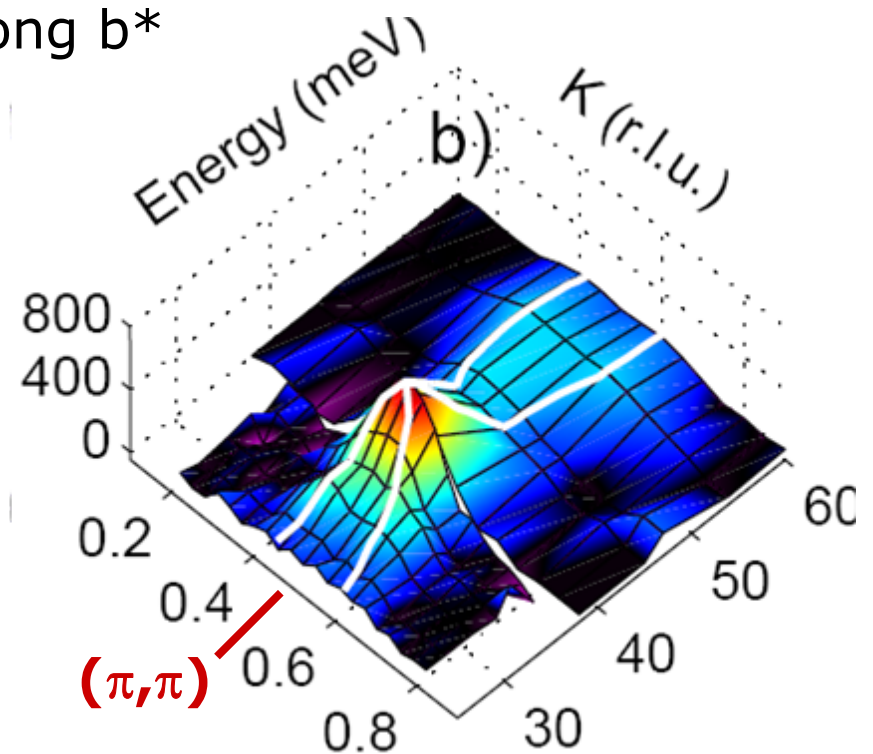
# YBCO<sub>6.6</sub> spin dynamics

untwinned YBCO<sub>6.6</sub> ( $T_c = 61\text{K}$ )

along  $a^*$



along  $b^*$

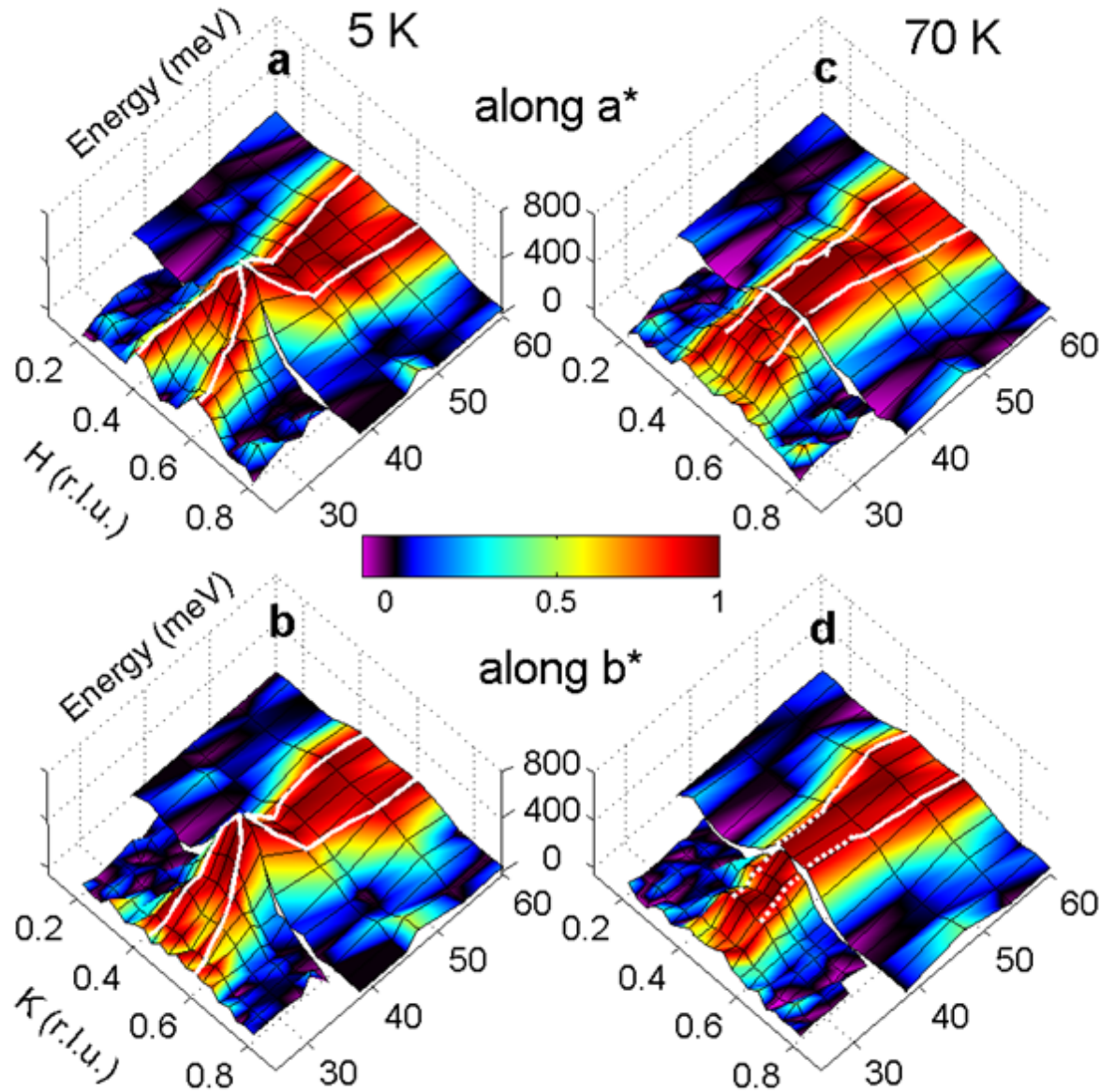


**two-dimensional "hour glass" dispersion**  
also seen in YBCO<sub>7</sub> and other high- $T_c$  cuprates

*Hinkov et al.*  
*Nature* 2004  
*Nature Phys.* 2007



# YBCO<sub>6.6</sub> spin dynamics



$$T < T_c$$

“hour glass” dispersion

$$T > T_c$$

“hour glass” replaced by  
“vertical” dispersion

very large in-plane anisotropy

*Hinkov et al.,  
Nature Phys. 2007*



# Band susceptibility in superconducting state

coherence factor    Fermi factor

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_0(q, \omega) = \sum_k \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{\varepsilon_k \varepsilon_{k+q} + \Delta_k \Delta_{k+q}}{E_k E_{k+q}} \right) \frac{f(E_{k+q}) - f(E_k)}{\omega - (E_{k+q} - E_k) + i\delta} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 - \frac{\varepsilon_k \varepsilon_{k+q} + \Delta_k \Delta_{k+q}}{E_k E_{k+q}} \right) \frac{1 - f(E_{k+q}) - f(E_k)}{\omega + (E_{k+q} + E_k) + i\delta} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 - \frac{\varepsilon_k \varepsilon_{k+q} + \Delta_k \Delta_{k+q}}{E_k E_{k+q}} \right) \frac{f(E_{k+q}) + f(E_k) - 1}{\omega - (E_{k+q} + E_k) + i\delta} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

scattering of  
thermally excited pairs

pair annihilation

pair creation

$\varepsilon_k$     band dispersion, measured from  $E_F$

$$E_k = \sqrt{\varepsilon_k^2 + \Delta_k^2}$$

**yields only broad features, inconsistent with experiment**

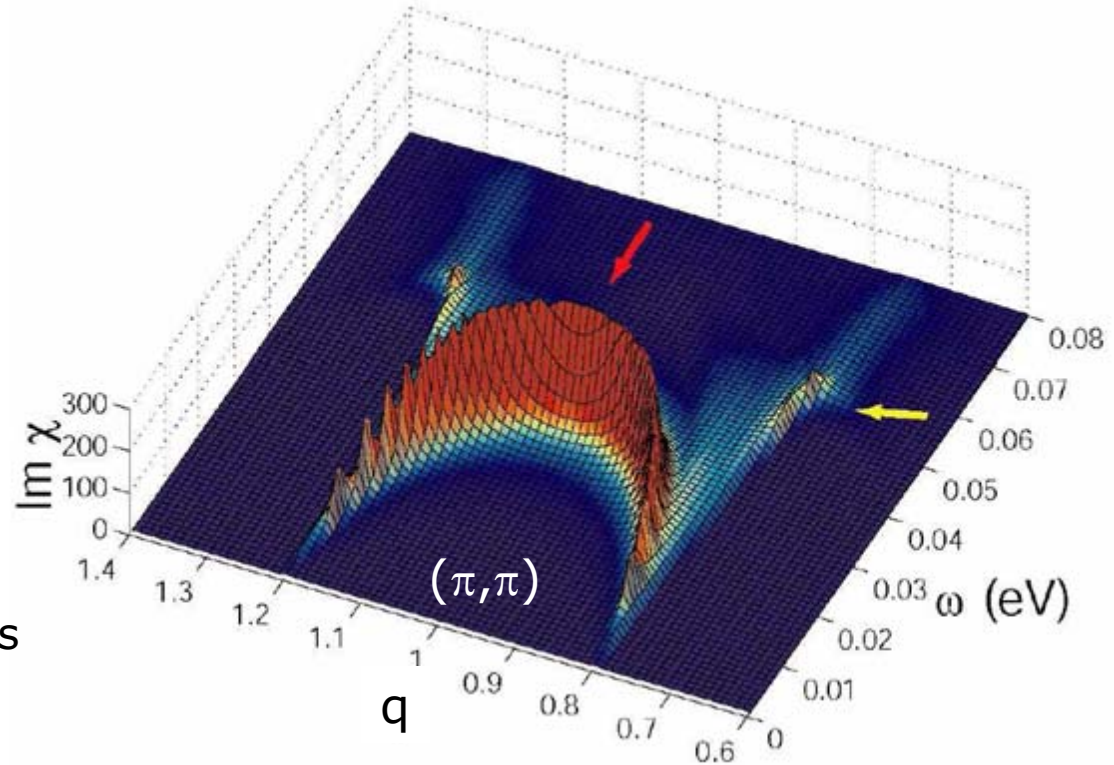
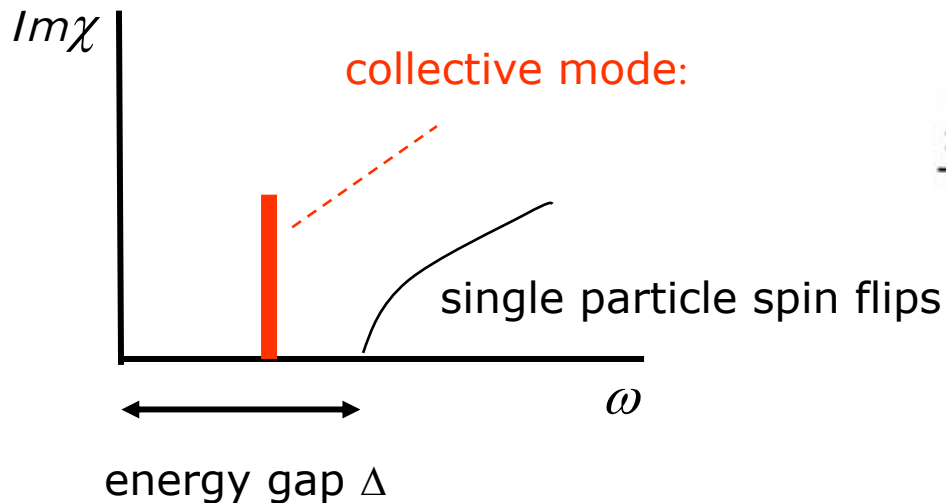




# Spin exciton model

## simplest formalism: RPA

$$\chi(q, \omega) = \frac{\chi_0(q, \omega)}{1 - J(q) \chi_0(q, \omega)}$$

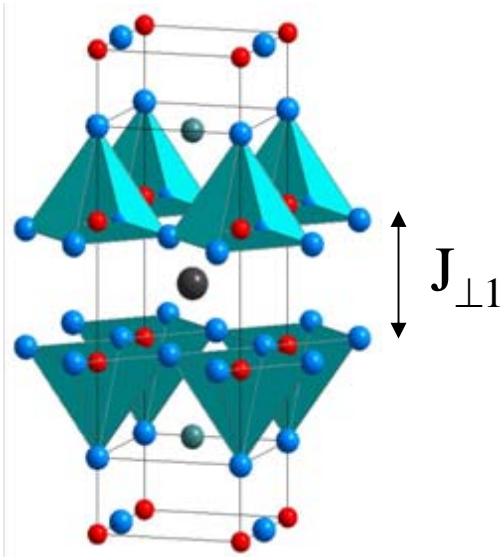


- "hour glass" reproduced
- upper cutoff of neutron spectrum direct measure of **bulk**  $\Delta(q)$
- agrees well with other probes of  $\Delta(q)$

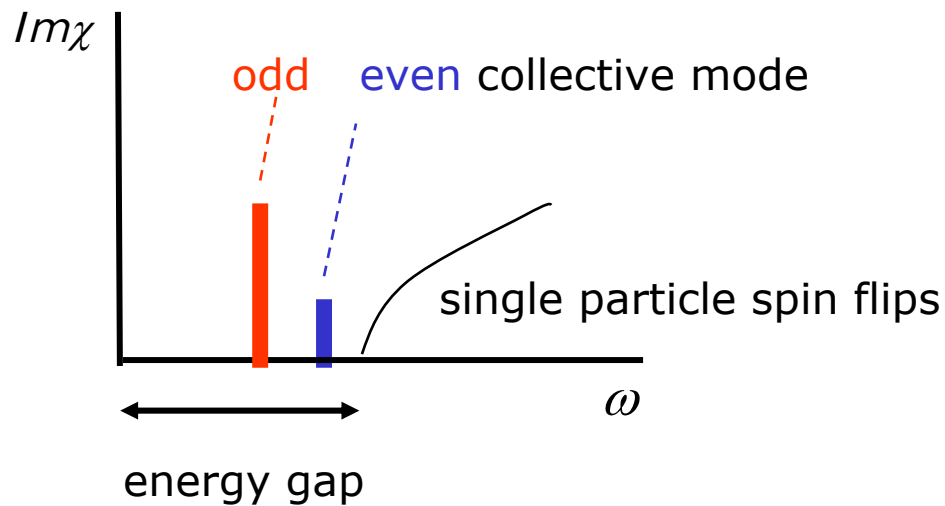
*Eremin et al., PRL 2005*  
*see also: many other RPA calculations*



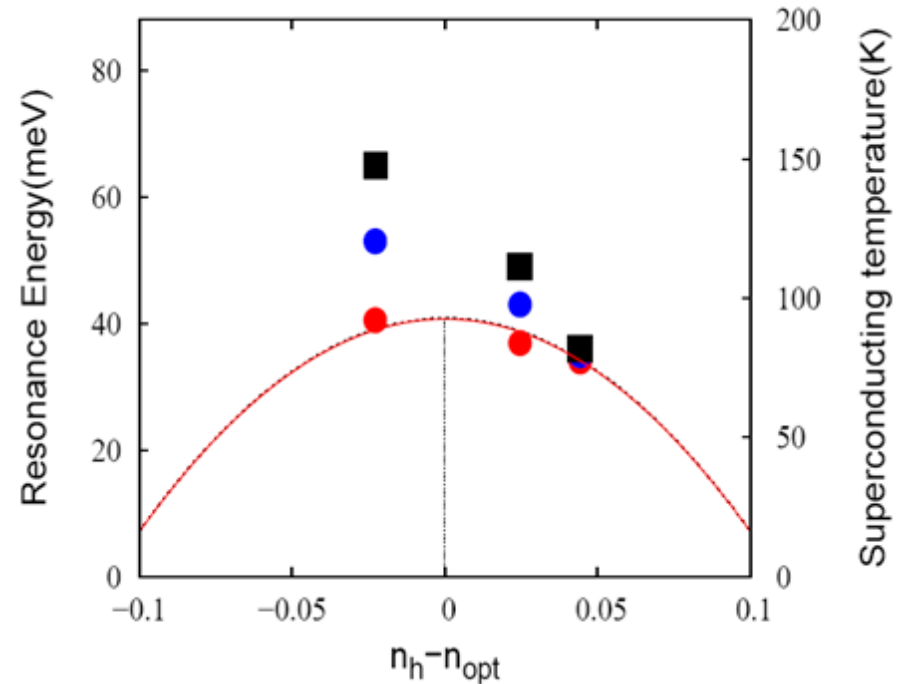
# Spin exciton model



interlayer exchange interaction



*Pailhes et al., PRL 2003, PRL 2006*



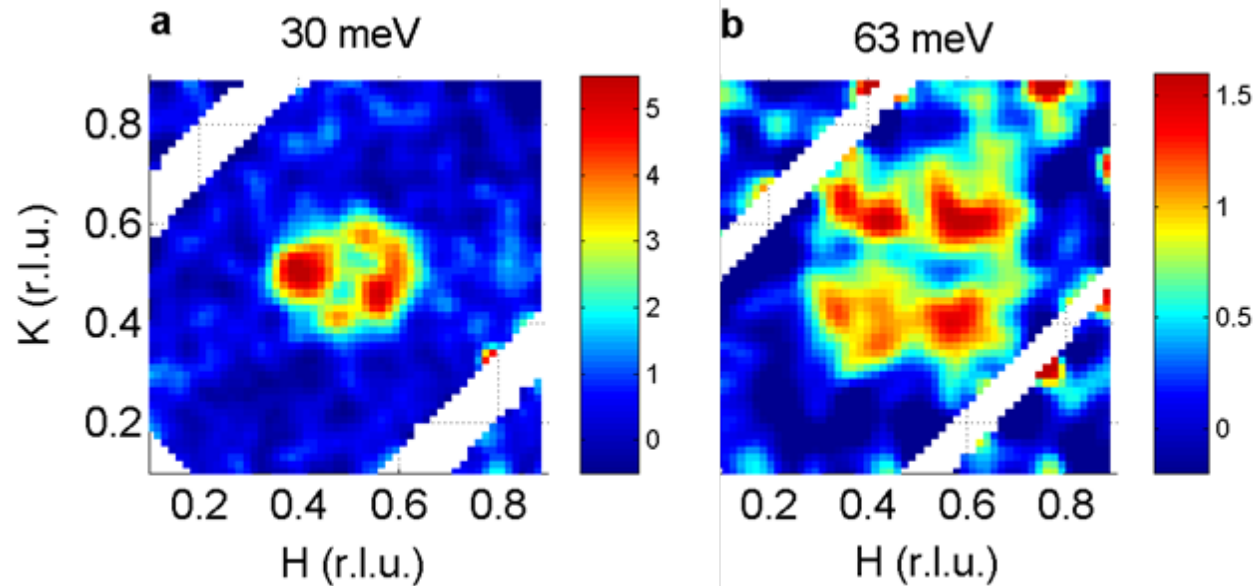
- odd
- even
- gap estimated based on RPA

$$\frac{\omega_c - E_r^{odd}}{\omega_c - E_r^{even}} = \frac{W_{odd}(q_{AF})}{W_{even}(q_{AF})}$$

$$W_{e,o} = \int \chi''(q_{AF}, \omega) d\omega$$

# Spin dynamics in superconducting state

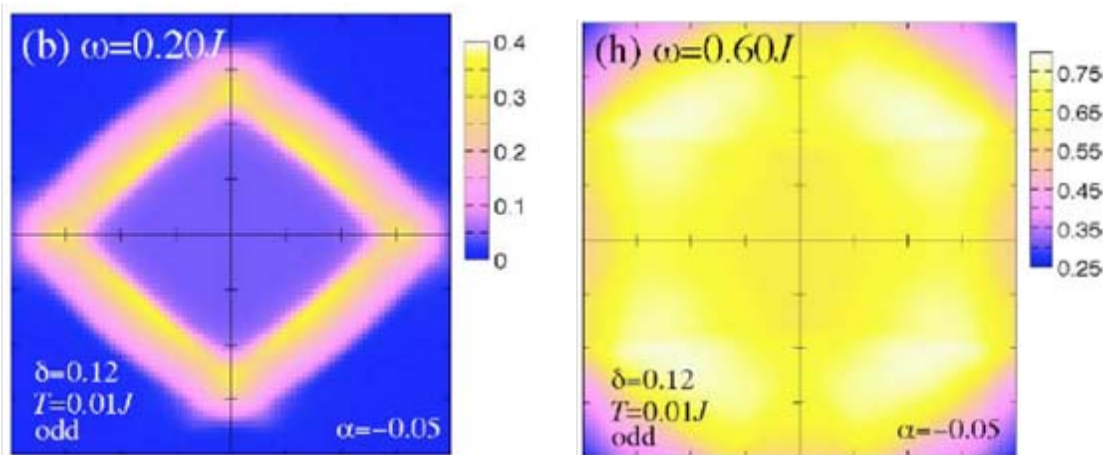
## neutron intensity maps



square at high energies  
ellipse at low energies

*Hinkov et al., Nature Phys. 2007*  
*see also: Mook et al., Nature 2000*  
*Hayden et al., Nature 2004*

## RPA calculation

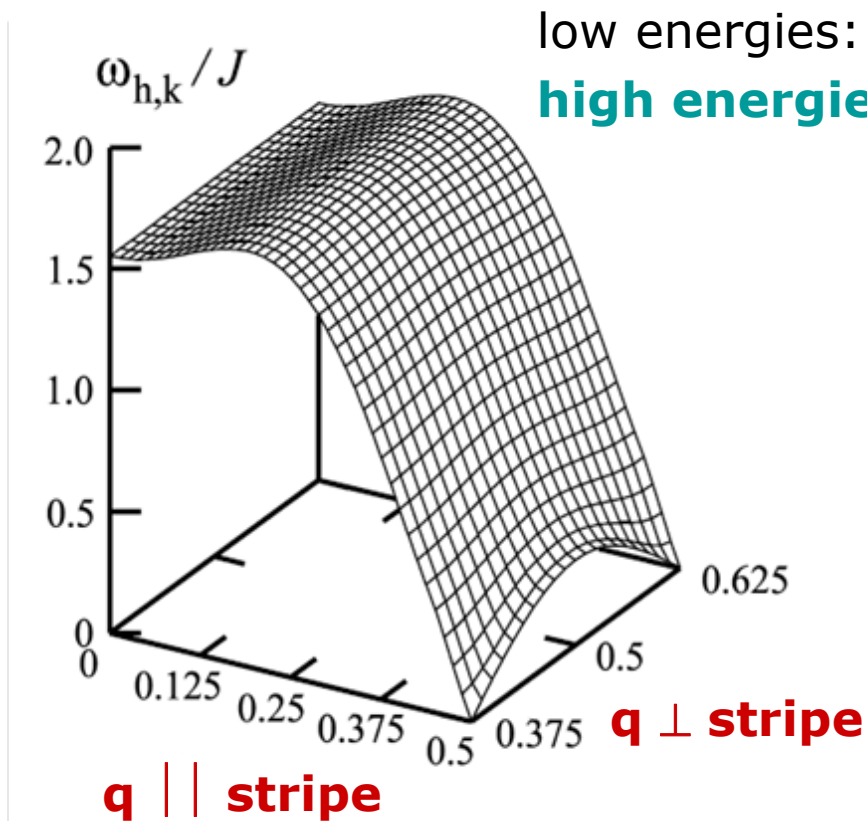


parameters from ARPES & LDA  
overall behavior  
consistent with experiment  
**but:** hard to reproduce spectral  
weight anisotropy at low E

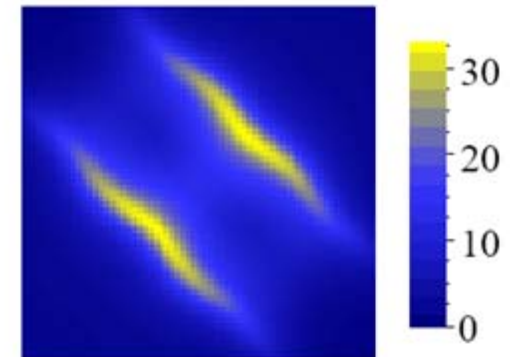
*Yamase & Metzner, PRB 2006*

# Static stripes ?

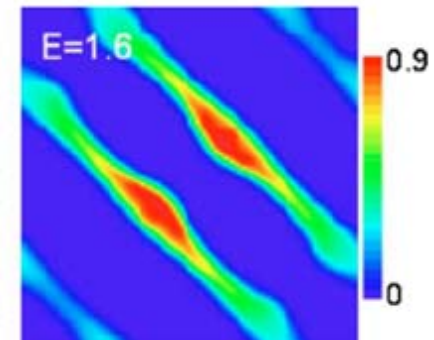
## generic magnetic dispersion



## predicted intensity maps at high energies



*Vojta & Ulbricht, PRL 2004*



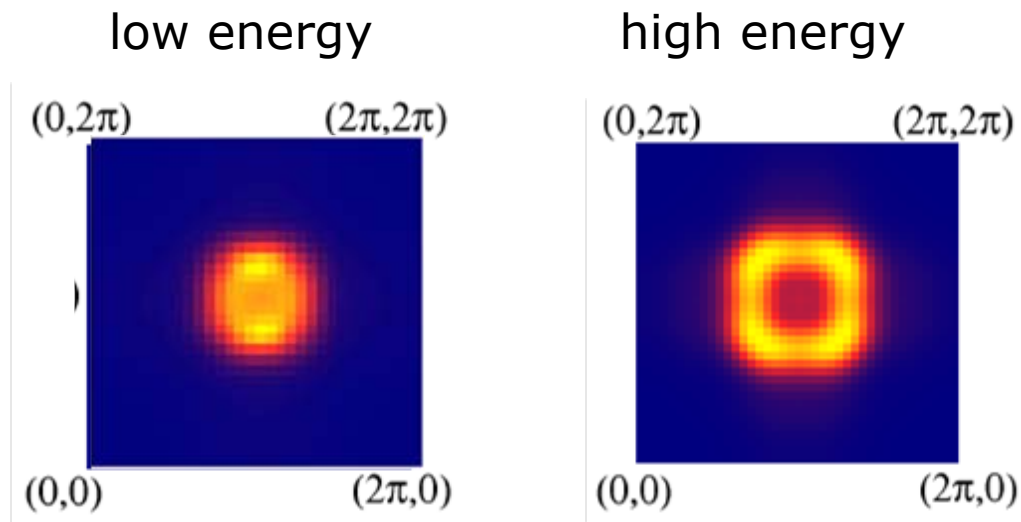
*Yao et al., PRB 2006 ... etc.*

streaks at high energy predicted for untwinned samples

**inconsistent with square pattern observed in  $\text{YBCO}_{6.6}$**

# Fluctuating stripes ?

## calculations incorporating directional stripe fluctuations



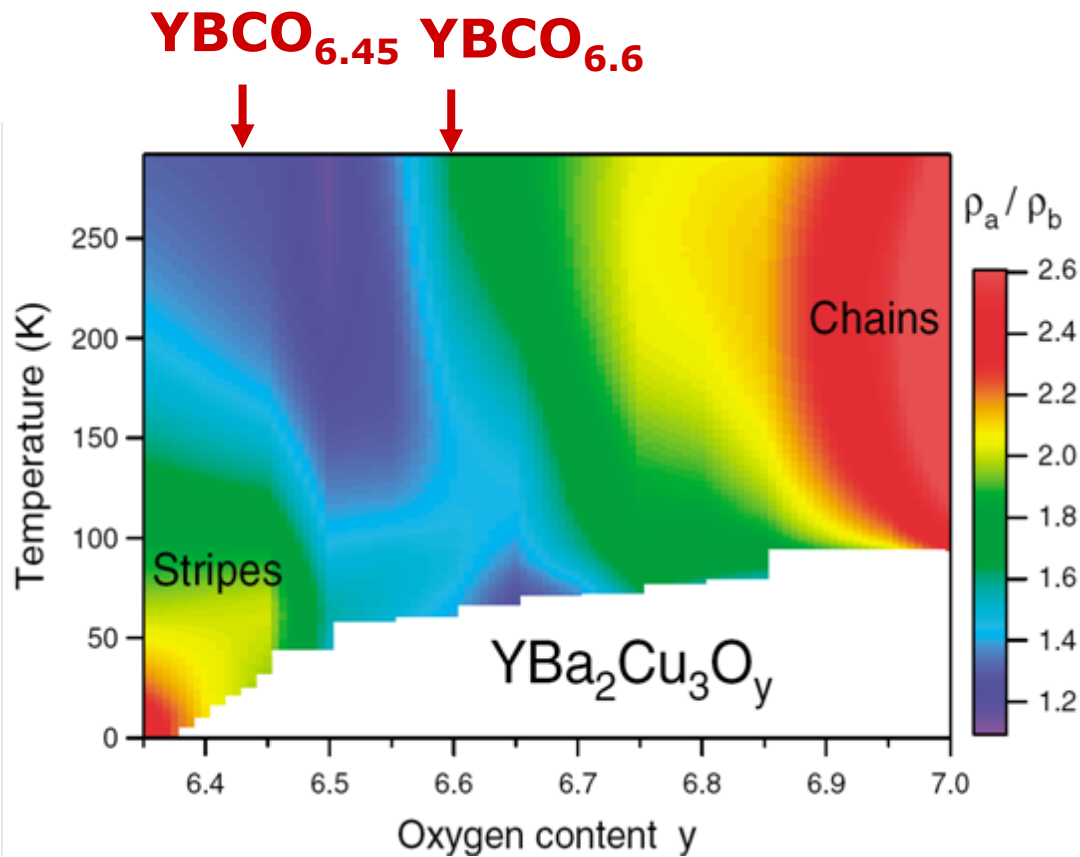
*Vojta et al., PRL 2006*

can reproduce large anisotropy at low energies, square at high energies

**but:** too many free parameters  
effect of superconductivity not described

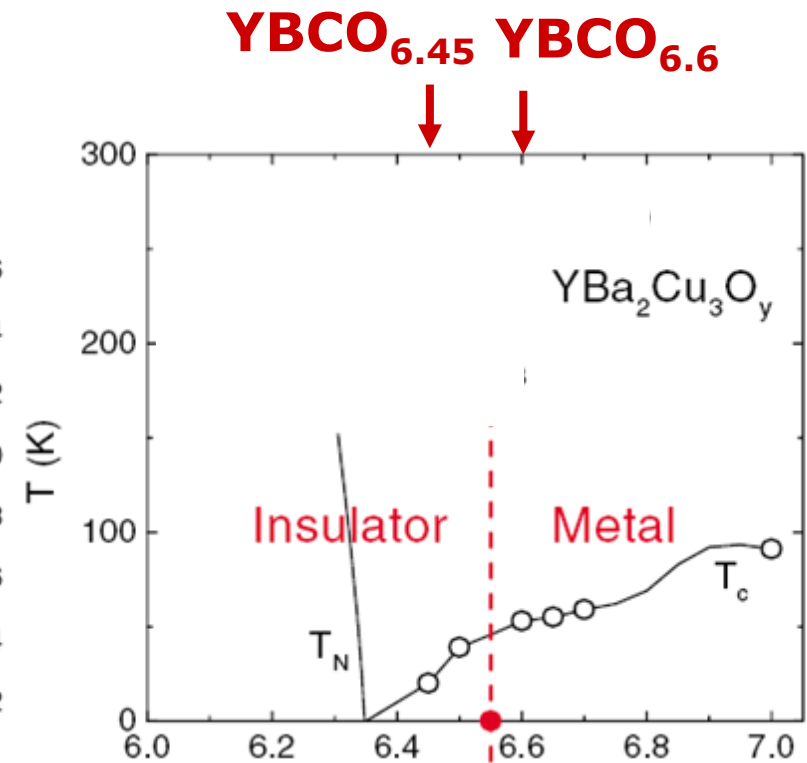
# YBCO<sub>6+x</sub> transport properties

## in-plane resistivity anisotropy



*Ando et al., PRL 2002*

## high-field phase diagram



*Sun et al., PRL 2005*

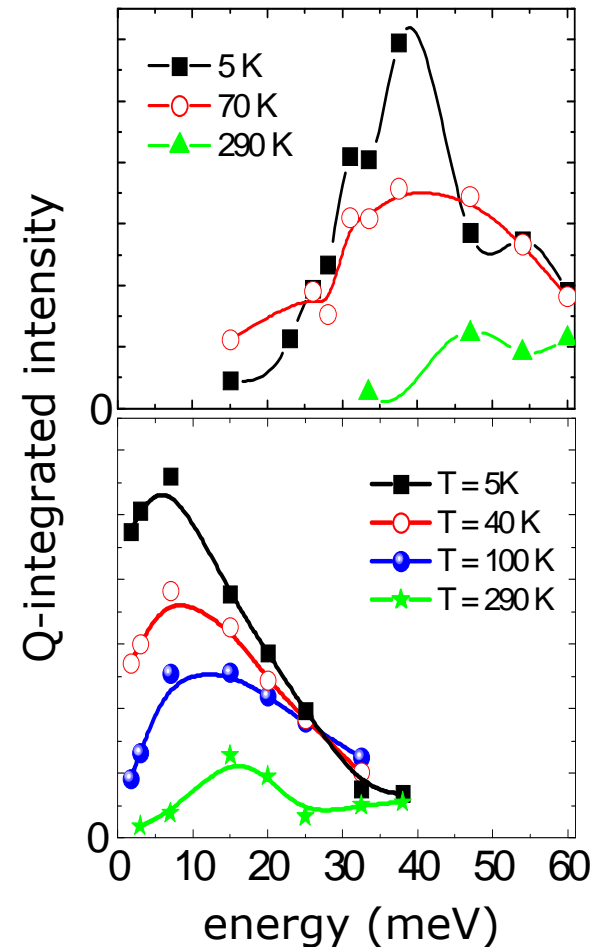
# Comparison: $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6.45}$ and $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6.6}$

## $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6.6}$ ( $T_c = 61$ K)

- large spin gap
- qualitative difference between superconducting and normal states

## $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6.45}$ ( $T_c = 35$ K)

- small or absent spin gap
- spectrum evolves smoothly through  $T_c$



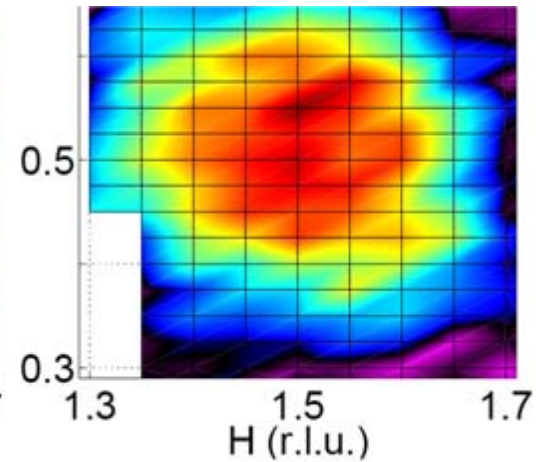
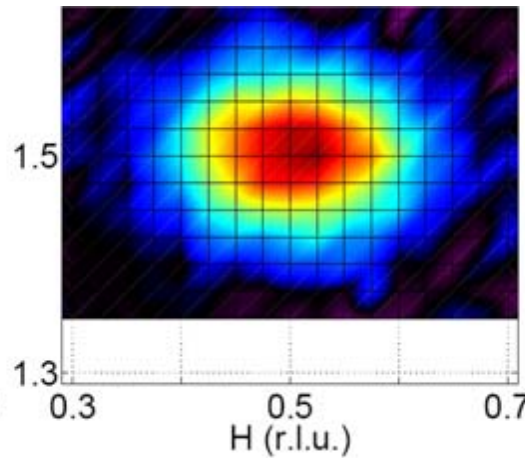
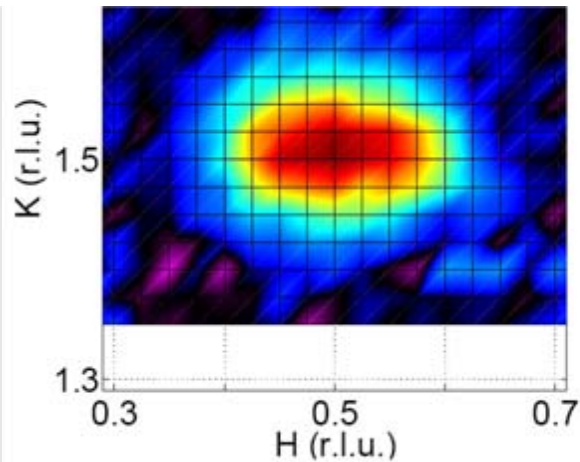


# YBCO<sub>6.45</sub> constant-energy cuts

3 meV

7 meV

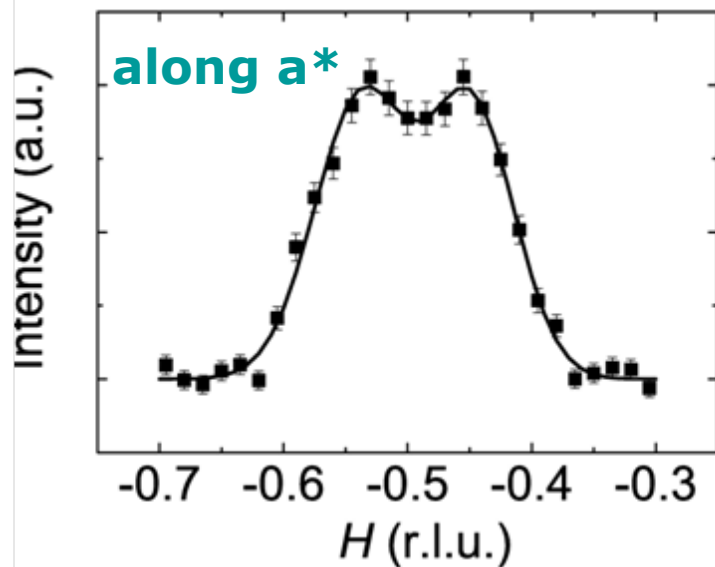
50 meV



**E = 3 meV, T = 5 K**

**E > 15 meV** isotropic

**E < 15 meV** large anisotropy



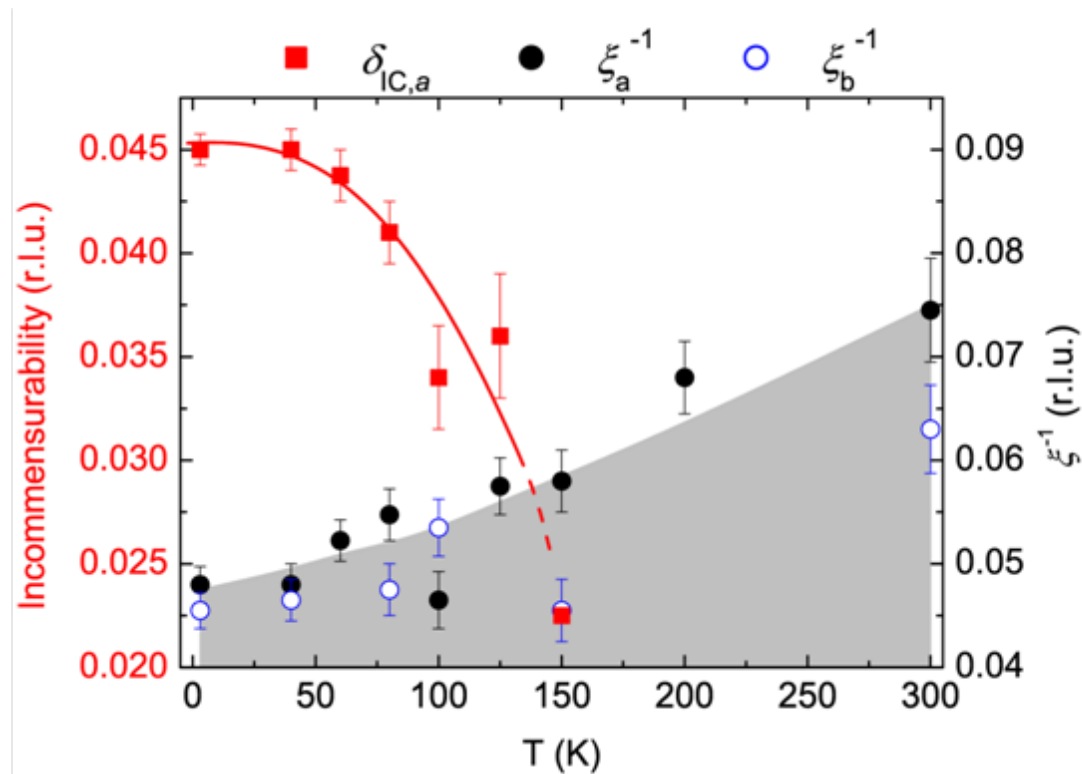
incommensurate along a\*

commensurate along b\*

→ **one-dimensional geometry**

*Hinkov et al., Science 2008*

# Phase transition



*Hinkov et al.  
Science 2008*

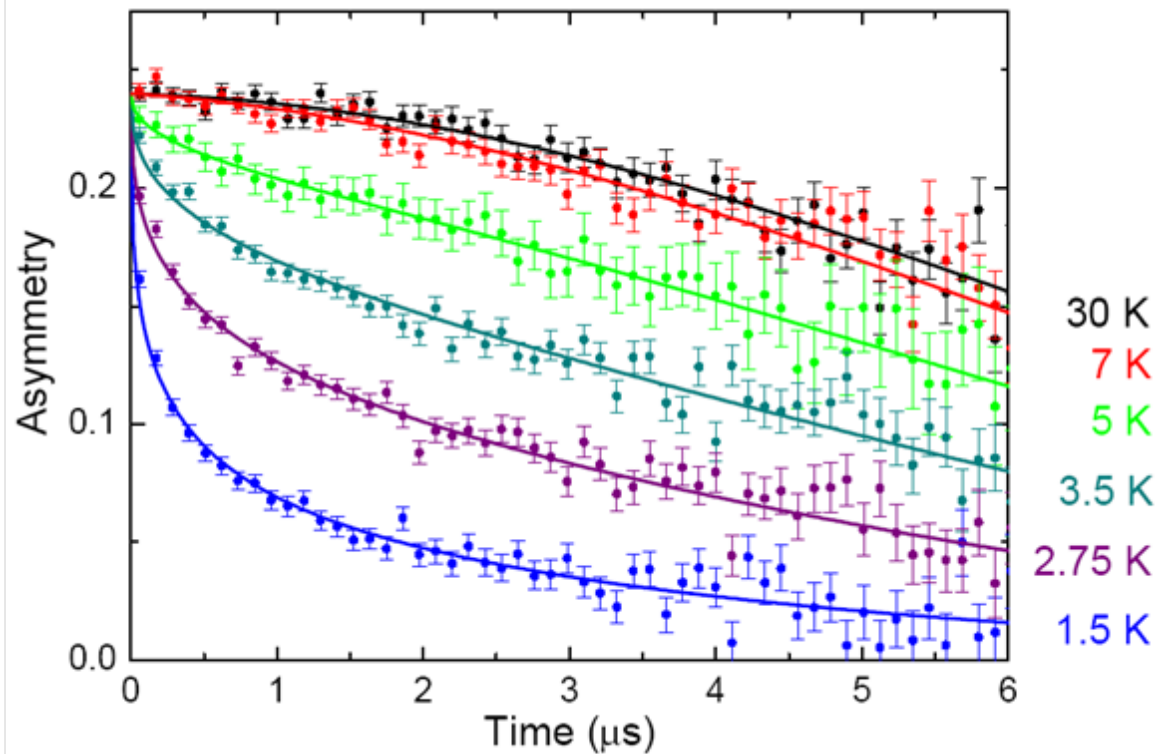
**phase transition** at  $\sim 150$  K

spin system spontaneously develops 1D incommensurate modulation

weak structural in-plane anisotropy selects unique incommensurate domain



# Magnetic order ?



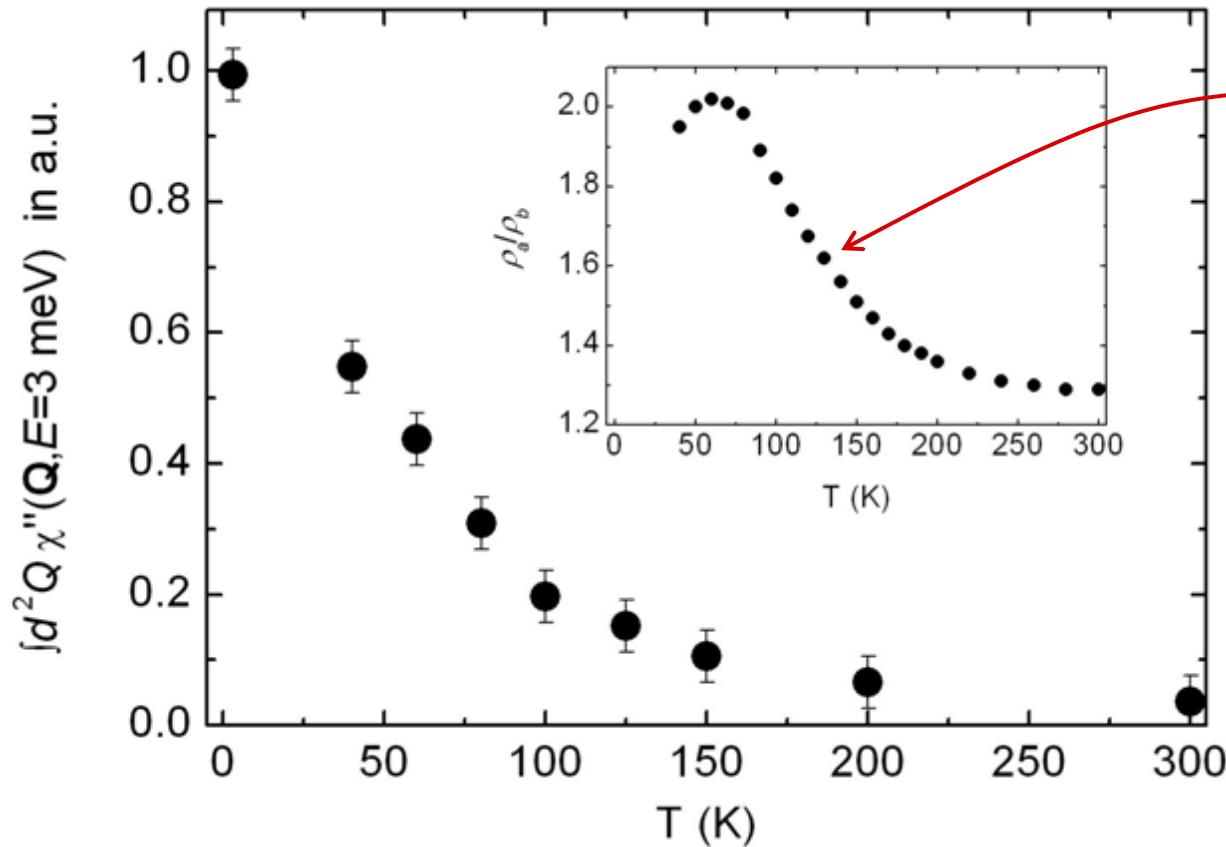
## muon spin relaxation

$E \sim 1 \mu\text{eV}$

slow electronic spin relaxation for  $T \leq 10 \text{ K}$

static magnetic order **for  $T \leq 2 \text{ K}$**

# Nematic order ?



*data from  
Ando et al., PRL 2002*

*Hinkov et al.  
Science 2008*

**$T \leq 150$  K:** pronounced increase of

- intensity of low-energy, 1D incommensurate spin fluctuations
- resistivity anisotropy → **isotropic-nematic transition**

broadened by disorder, finite energy, finite field

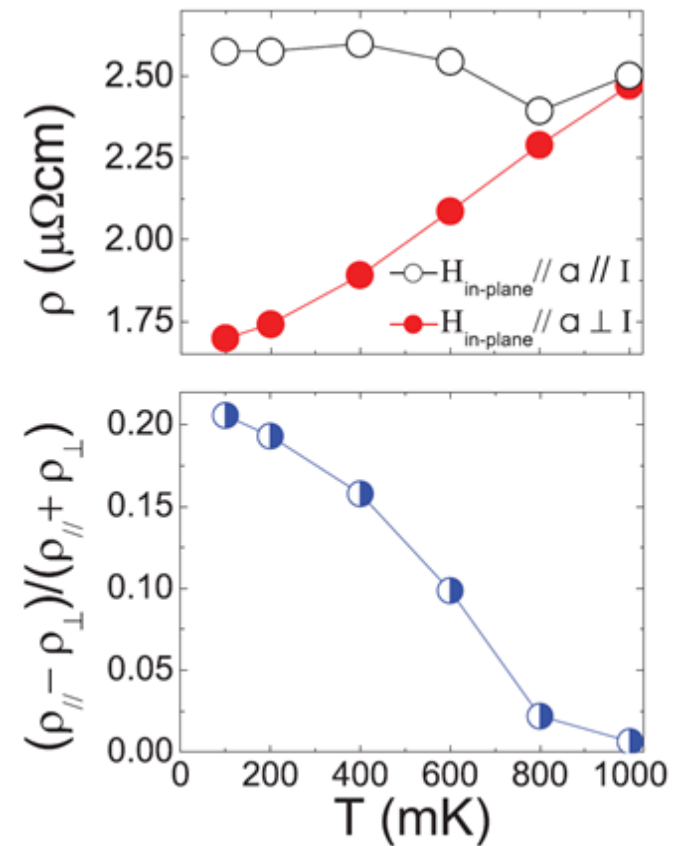
nematic transition **two orders-of-magnitude** higher than onset of magnetic order

# Analogies

1. **nematic liquid-crystal** in weak electric field

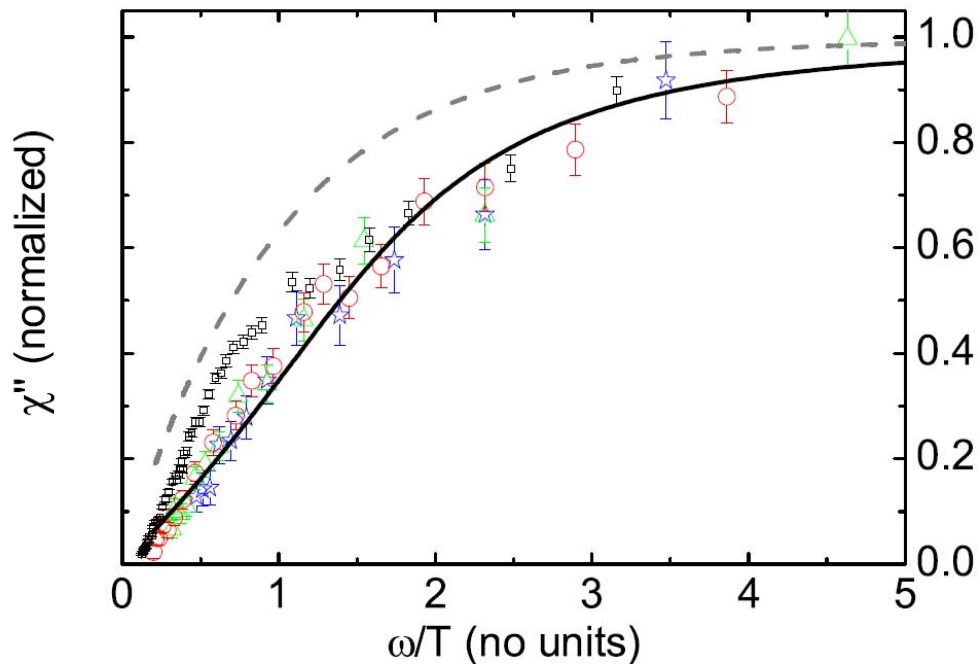
2. **“electronic nematic phase”** in  $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$   
in-plane component of H aligns nematic director

*Borzi et al., Science 2007*

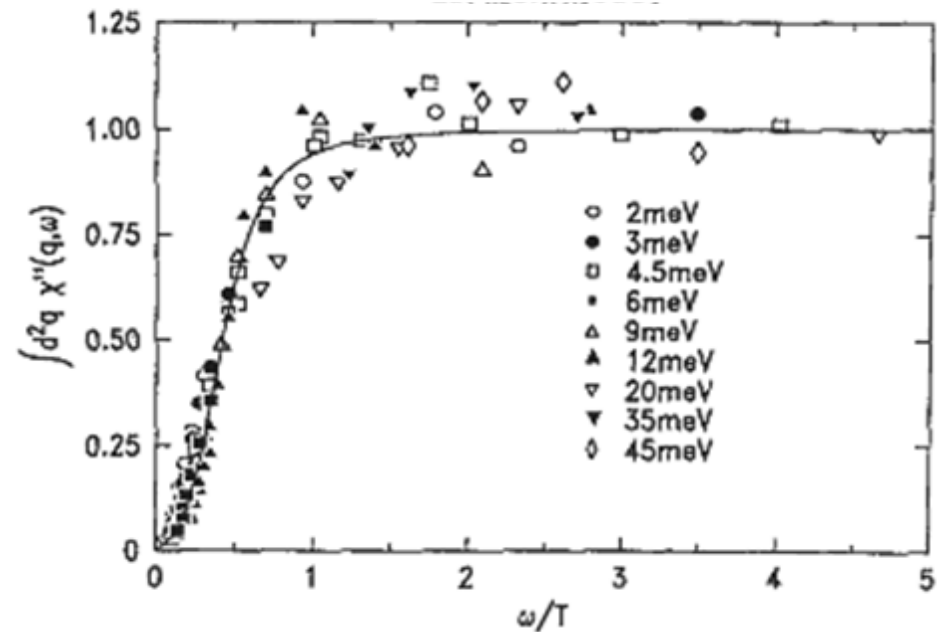


# Dynamical scaling

□ 3meV, ○ 5 meV, △ 8 meV, ☆ 12meV, ◇ 32.5 meV  
 ▷ 50 meV, —  $\text{atan}(a_1x+a_3x^3)$ , - - -  $1-\exp(-\omega/T)$



**YBCO<sub>6.45</sub>**



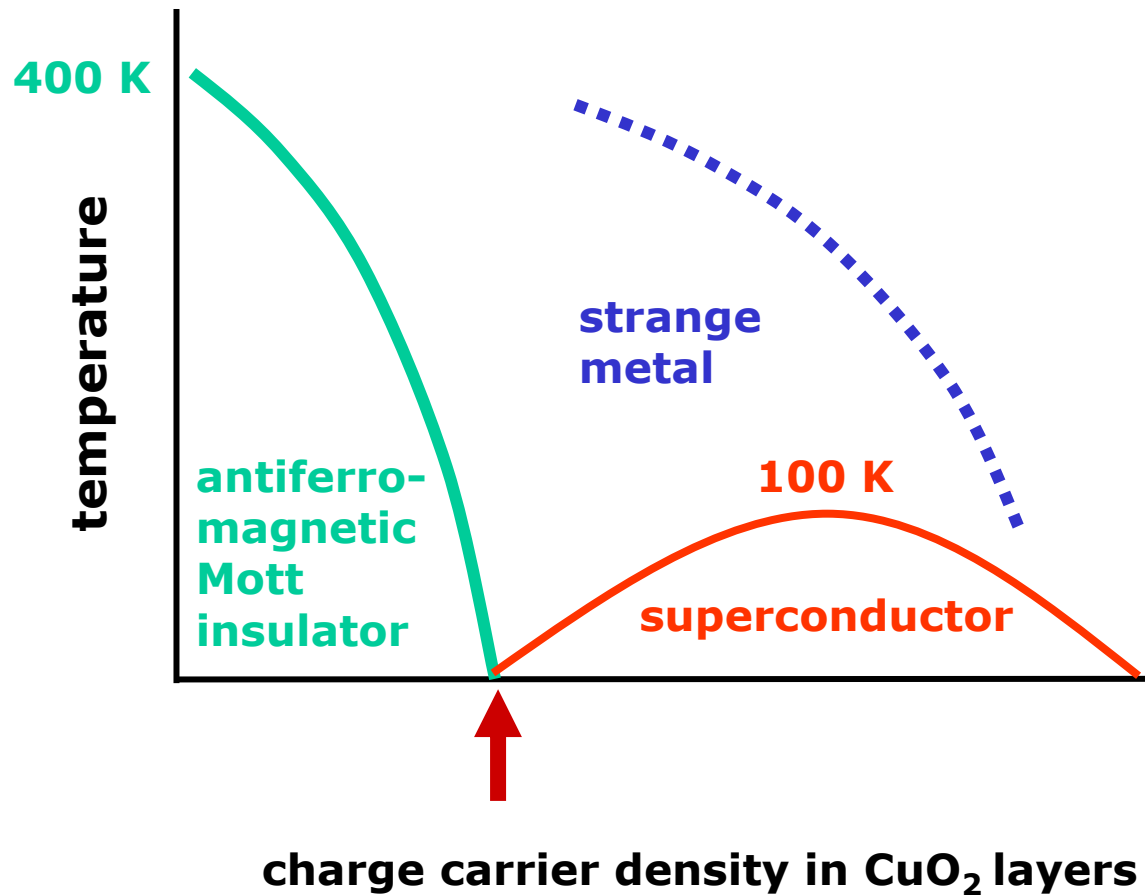
**La<sub>1.96</sub>Sr<sub>0.04</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub>**

*Keimer et al.  
PRB 1992*

**signature of proximity to quantum phase transition**

$$\chi(q, \omega) \propto T^{-(2-\eta)/z} F\left(\frac{q - Q_{AF}}{T^{1/z}}, \frac{\hbar\omega}{k_B T}\right)$$





**additional ordered phases near Mott insulator**

# Electronic liquid crystals

## electronic nematic phase

- fourfold rotational symmetry spontaneously broken
- translational symmetry unbroken

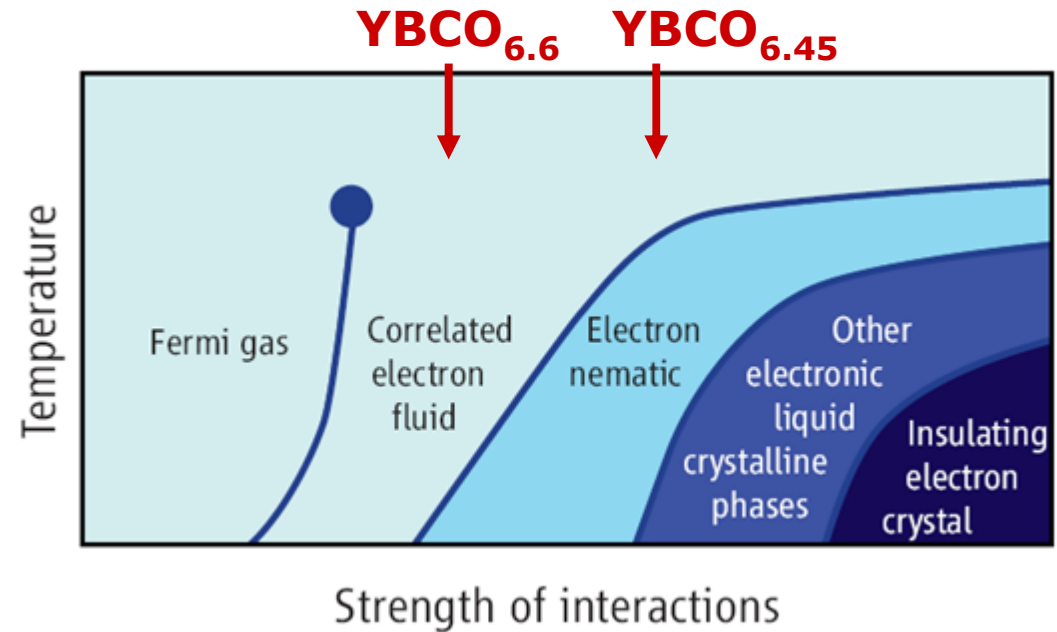
## Pomeranchuk instability

renormalization group calculations

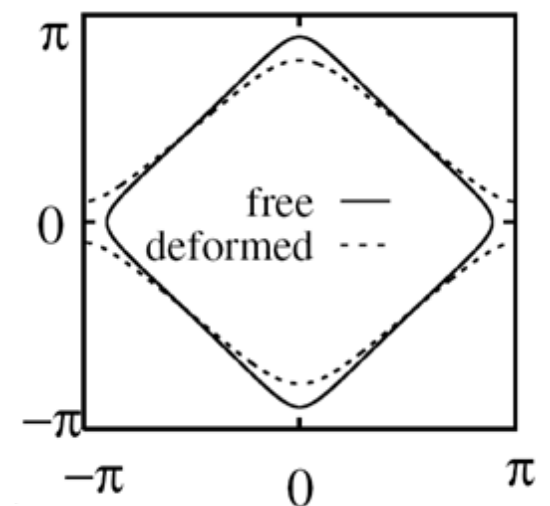
→ spontaneous formation of open Fermi surface

*Halboth & Metzner, PRL 2000*

*Yamase & Kohno, JPSJ 2000*



*Kivelson et al., Nature 1998*



# Neutron and x-ray spectroscopy

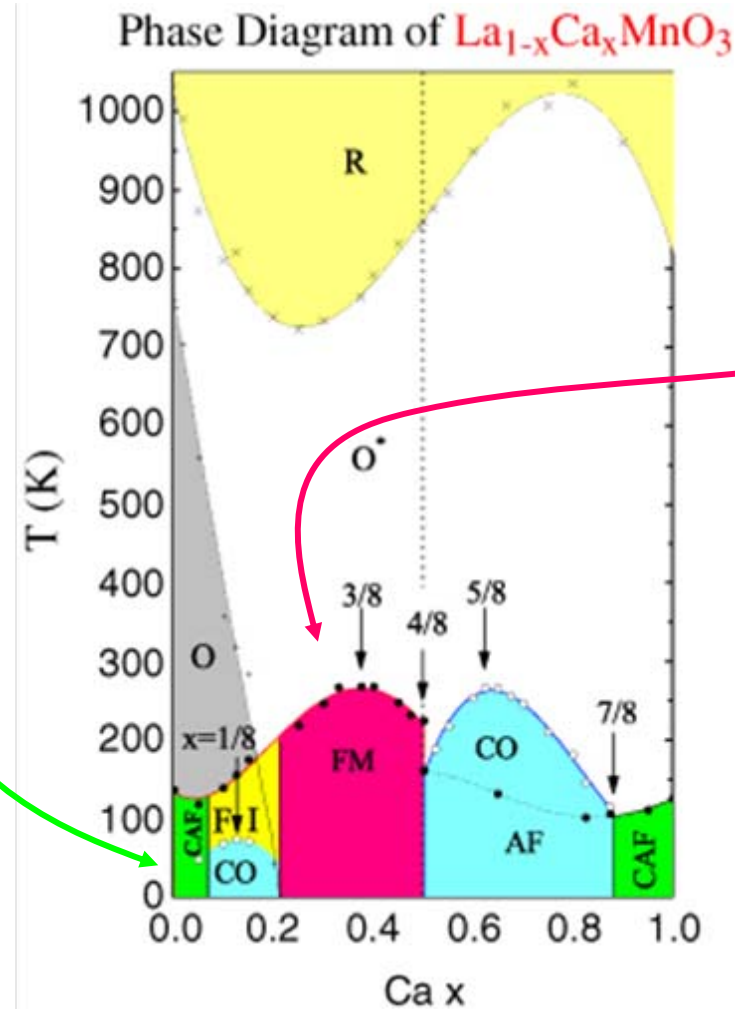
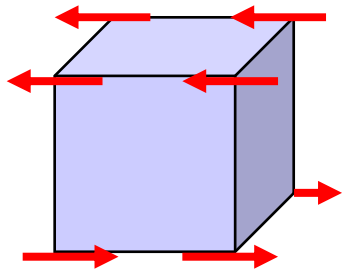
## outline

1. weak correlations: Pb, Nb
2. intermediate correlations:  $\text{Sr}_2\text{RuO}_4$
3. strong correlations:  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6+x}$
4. orbital degeneracy:  $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{MnO}_3$  (Y,La) $\text{TiO}_3$
5. oxide heterostructures

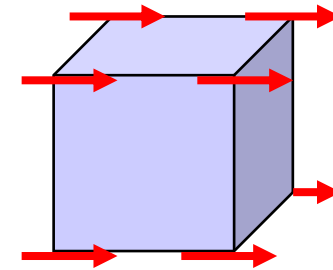
# Example: manganates

## phase diagram

$\text{LaMnO}_3$   
antiferromagnetic  
Mott insulator



$\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Ca}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_3$   
ferromagnetic metal





# Elastic neutron scattering from $\text{LaMnO}_3$

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 100, NUMBER 2

OCTOBER 15, 1955

## Neutron Diffraction Study of the Magnetic Properties of the Series of Perovskite-Type Compounds $[(1-x)\text{La}, x\text{Ca}]\text{MnO}_3$

E. O. WOLLAN AND W. C. KOEHLER  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee  
(Received May 9, 1955)

**nuclear Bragg reflections**

extract lattice structure & lattice parameters

**magnetic Bragg reflections for  $T < T_N$**

extract magnetic structure

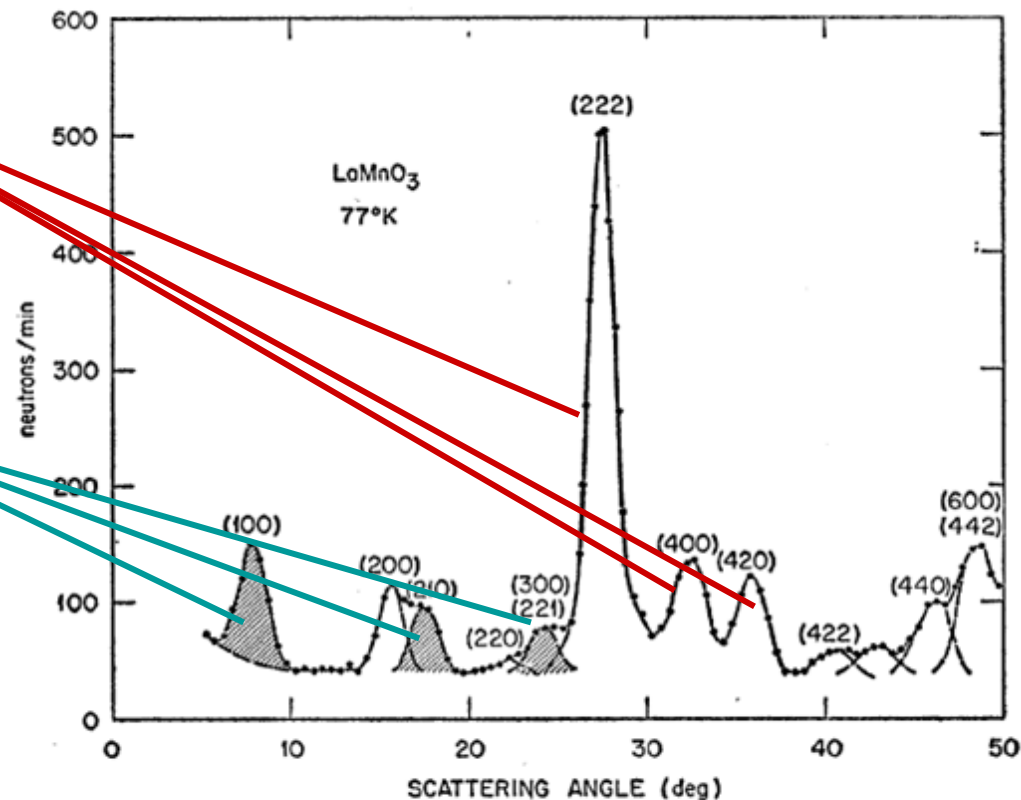
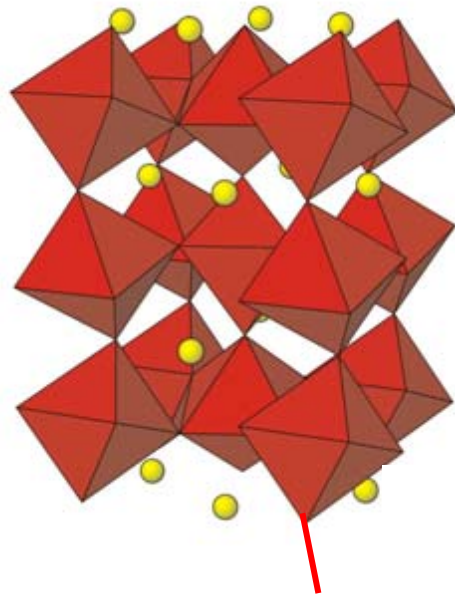


FIG. 2. Diffraction pattern for  $\text{LaMnO}_3$  No. 1 at  $77^\circ\text{K}$ .



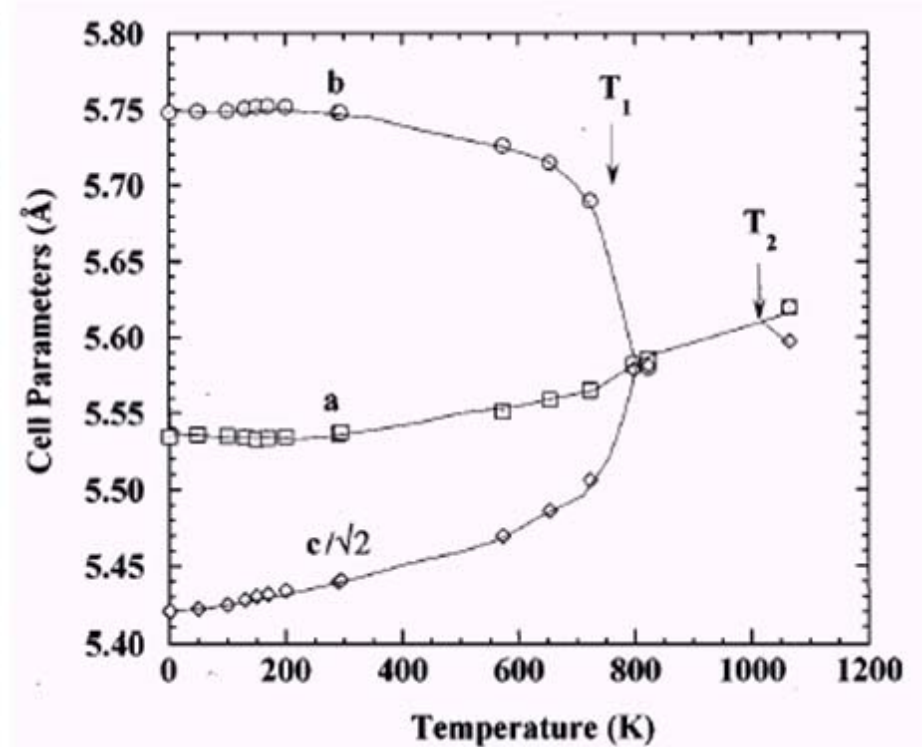
# LaMnO<sub>3</sub> lattice structure

from neutron/x-ray diffraction



MnO<sub>6</sub> octahedra

octahedra distorted below  $\sim 800$ K



Rodriguez-Carvajal et al.,  
PRB 1998



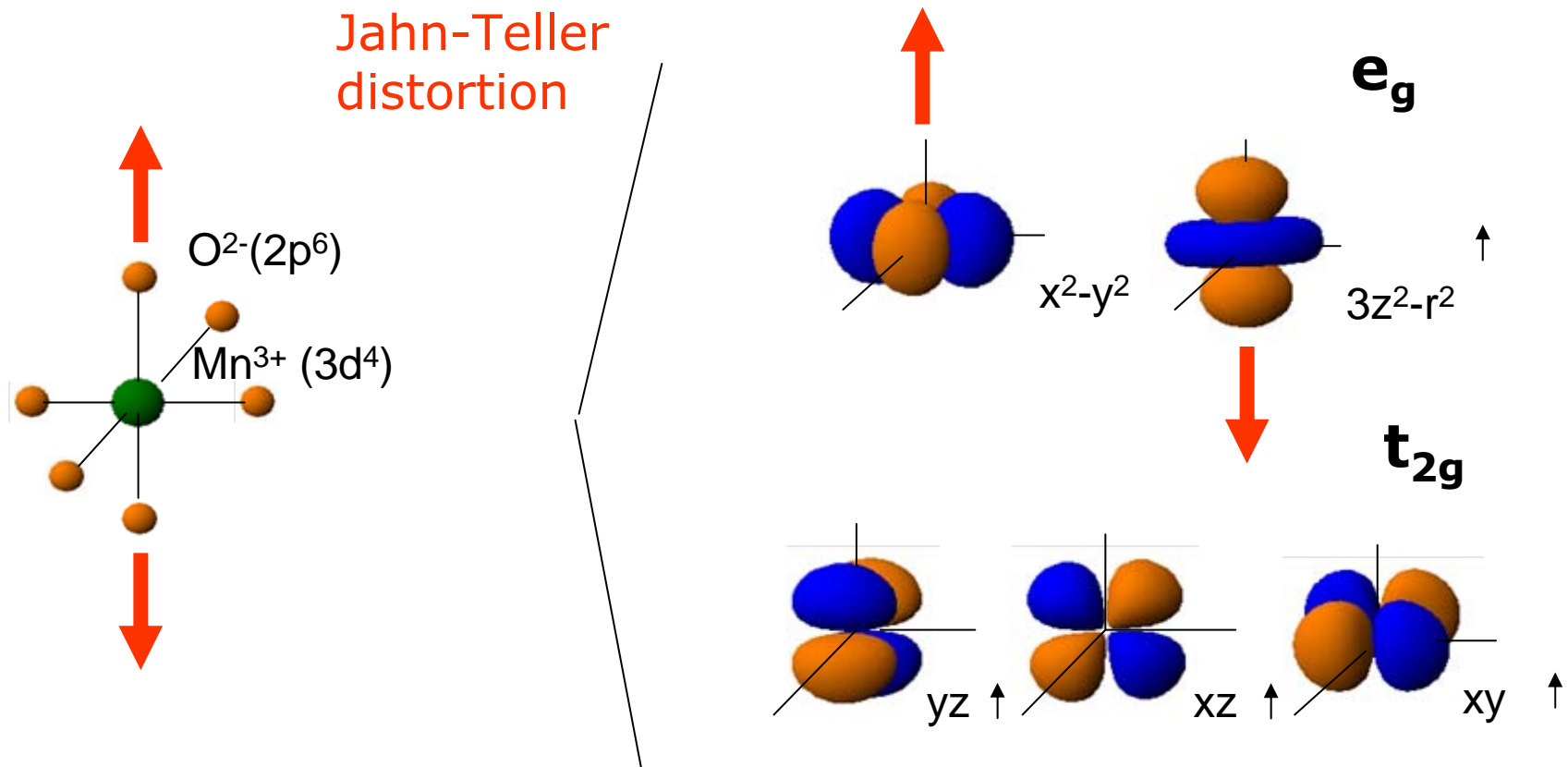
# LaMnO<sub>3</sub> lattice structure

Theory of the Role of Covalence in the Perovskite-Type Manganites [La, M(II)]MnO<sub>3</sub>†

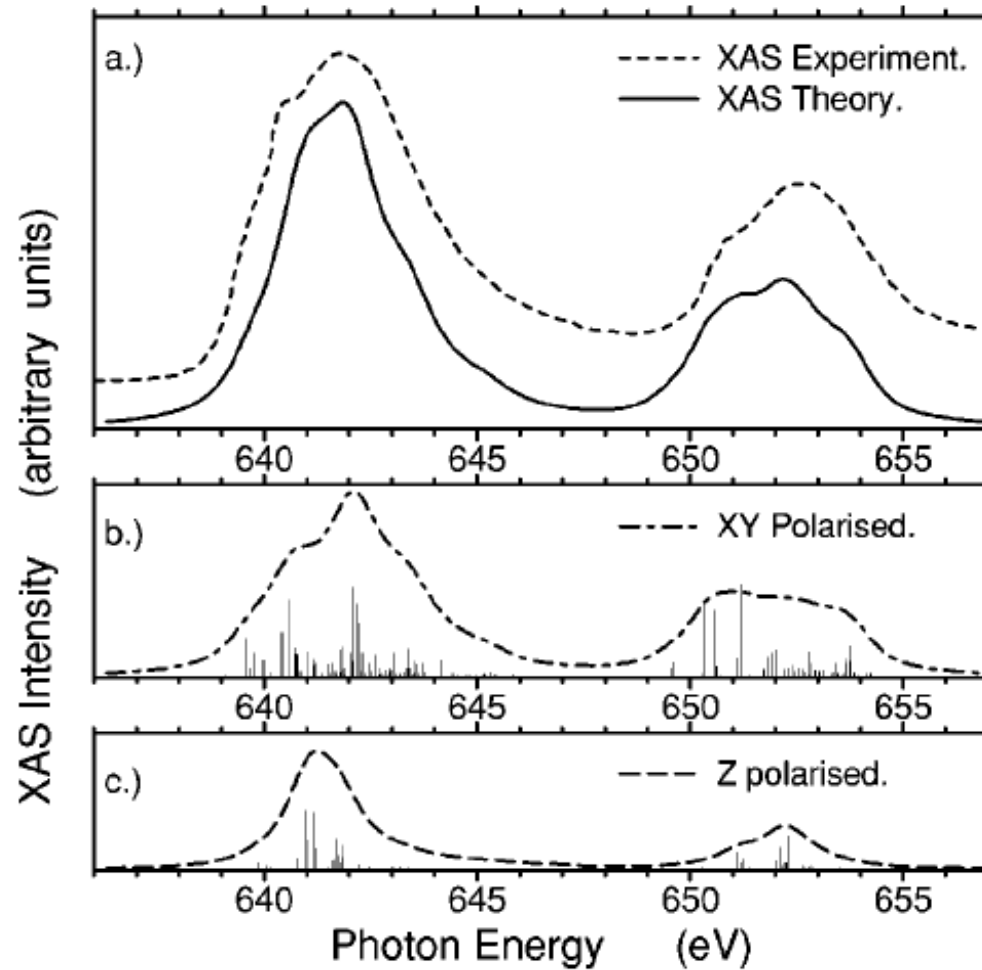
JOHN B. GOODENOUGH

Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lexington, Massachusetts

(Received May 16, 1955)



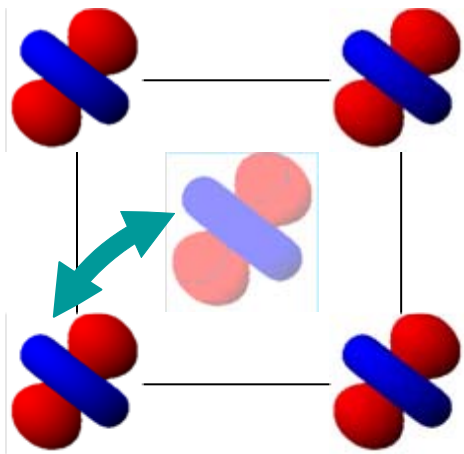
# LaMnO<sub>3</sub> x-ray linear dichroism



*Castleton & Altarelli, PRB 2002*

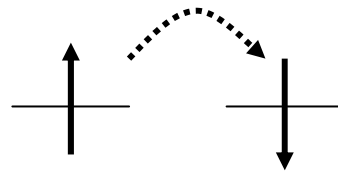


# LaMnO<sub>3</sub> orbital & spin order

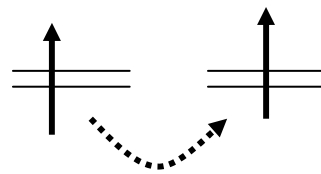


$T < T_0$ : **orbital order**  
locks in exchange  
interactions

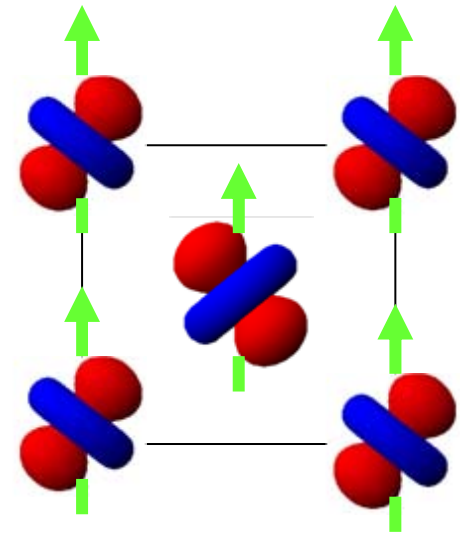
## superexchange rules



identical orbitals:  
strong, antiferromagnetic

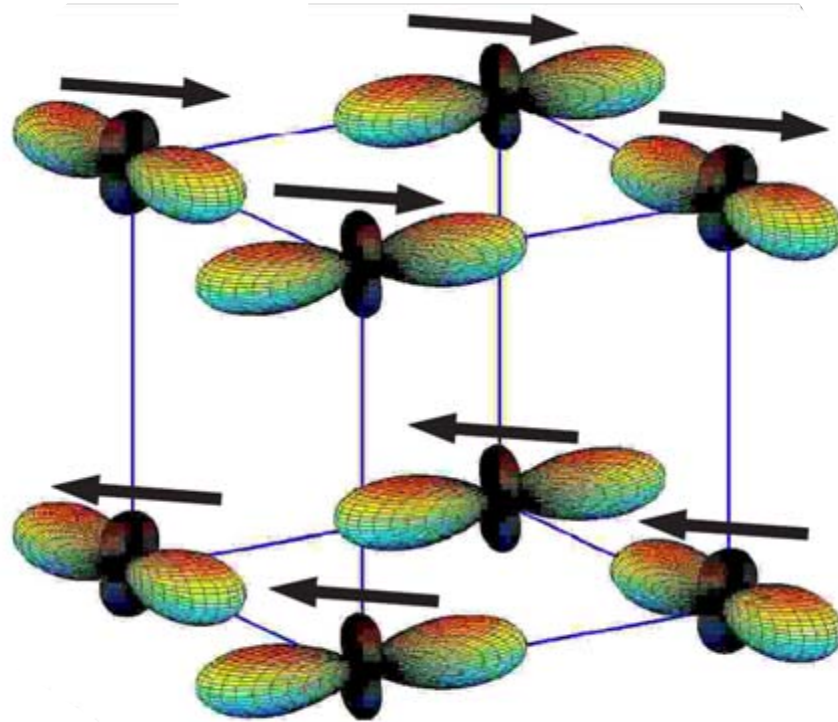


orthogonal orbitals:  
weak, ferromagnetic

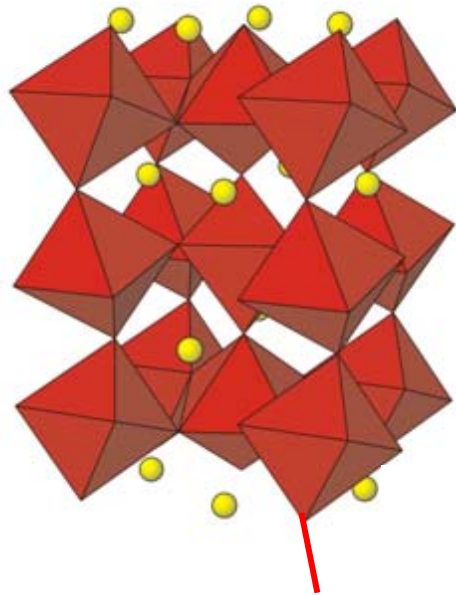


$T < T_N \ll T_0$ :  
**spin order**

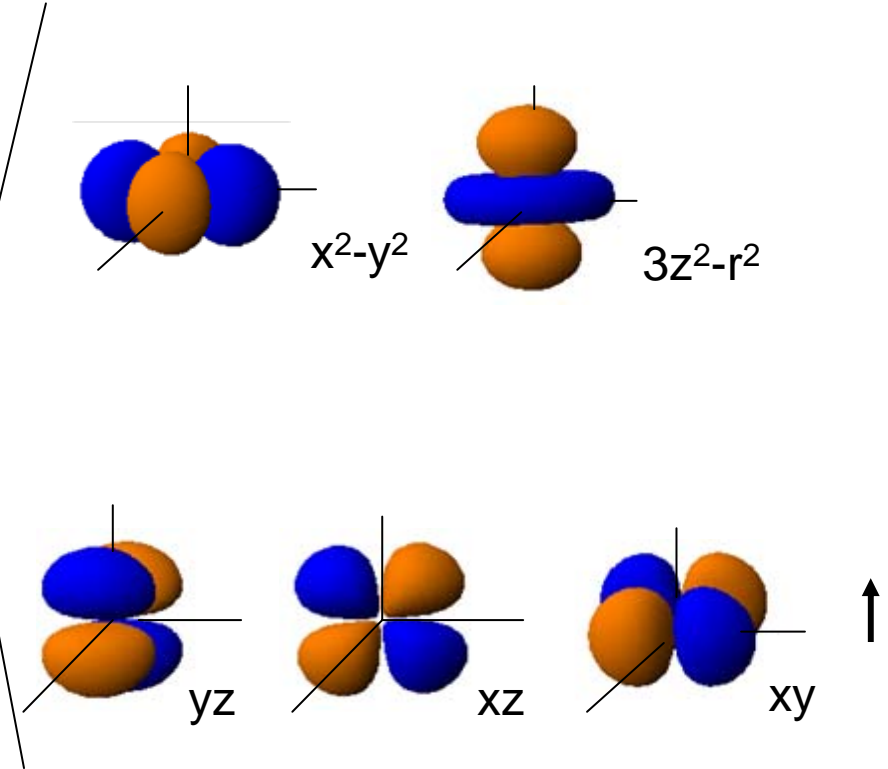
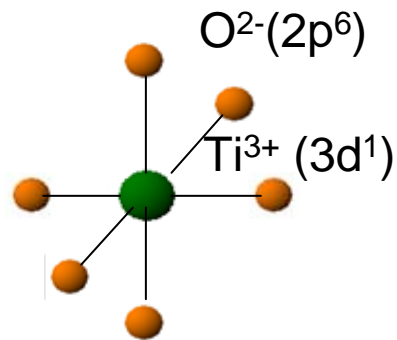
# LaMnO<sub>3</sub> orbital & spin order



# (La,Y)TiO<sub>3</sub> structure



TiO<sub>6</sub> octahedra



## one electron in $t_{2g}$ orbitals

- larger orbital degeneracy
- weaker lattice coupling

than in  $e_g$  systems



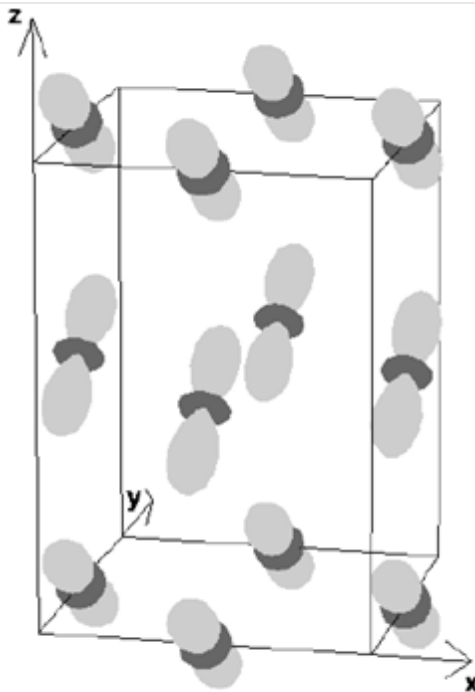
# (La,Y)TiO<sub>3</sub> spin & orbital order

## LaTiO<sub>3</sub>

G-type antiferromagnet

orbital order according to electronic structure calculations:

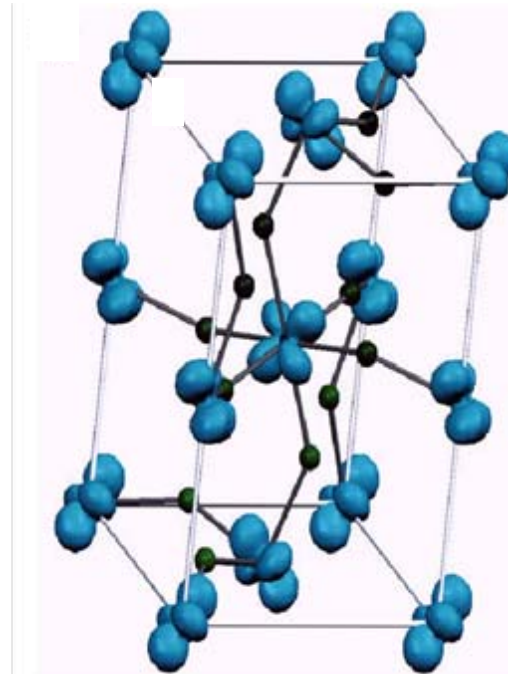
dumbbell  
orbitals



## YTiO<sub>3</sub>

ferromagnet

planar  
orbitals



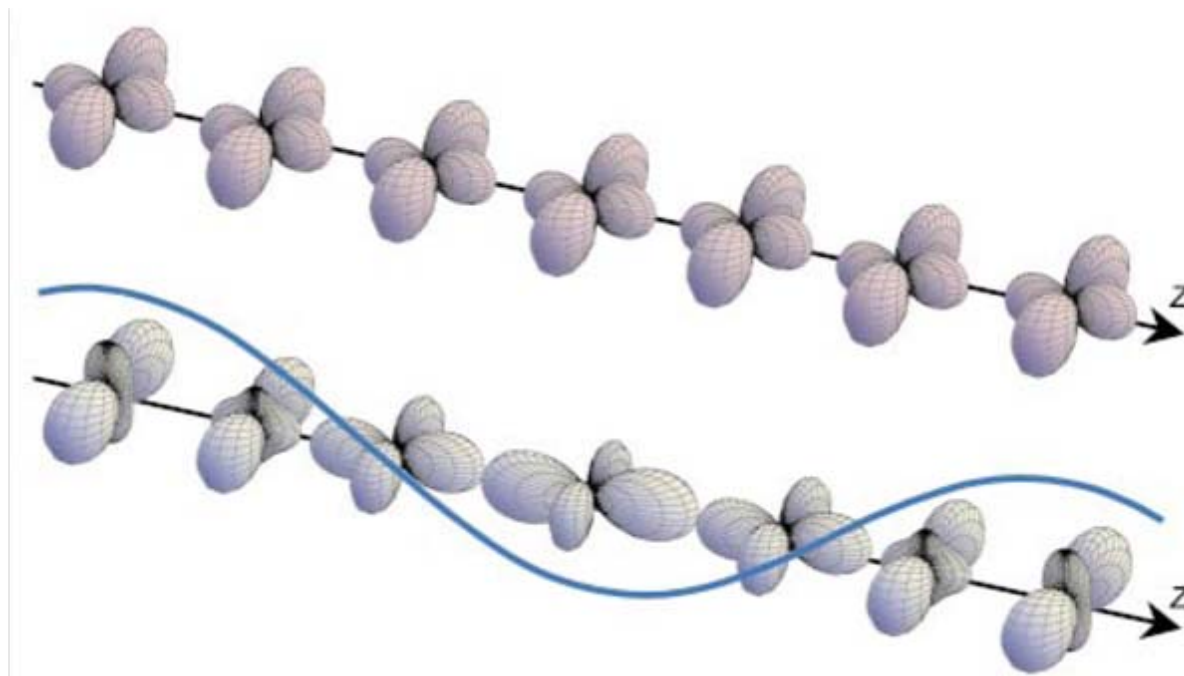
no orbital ordering transitions observed up to at least 700 K

→ orbital degeneracy lifted by lattice distortions?

→ orbital fluctuations?



# Orbital excitations



ground state

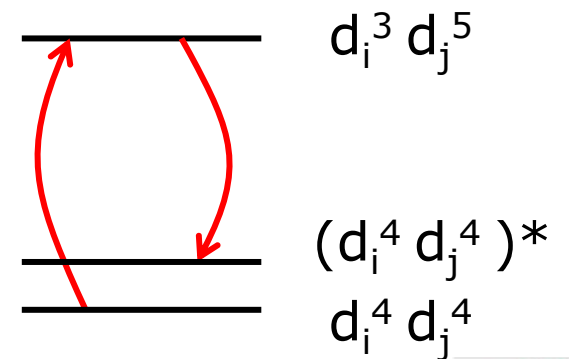
orbital excitation

## Raman scattering

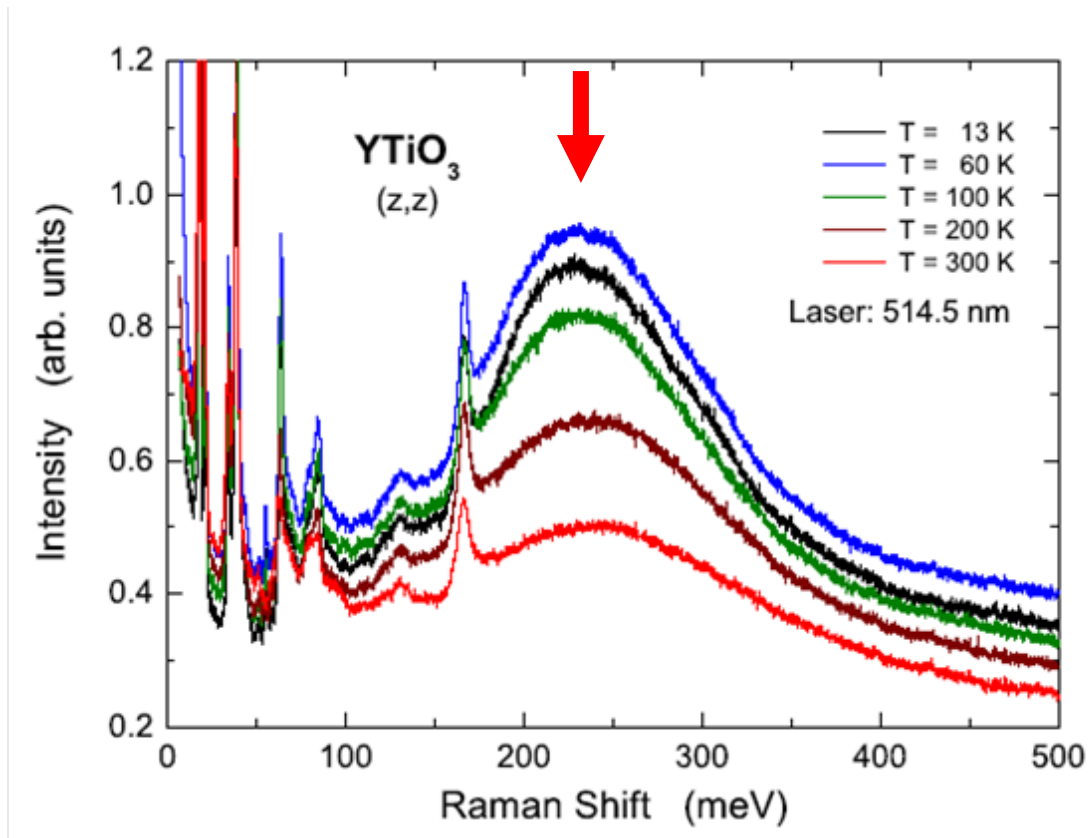
photon energy tuned to intersite transitions

excitation in final state:

- phonon
- magnon
- orbiton?



# Raman scattering from orbitons

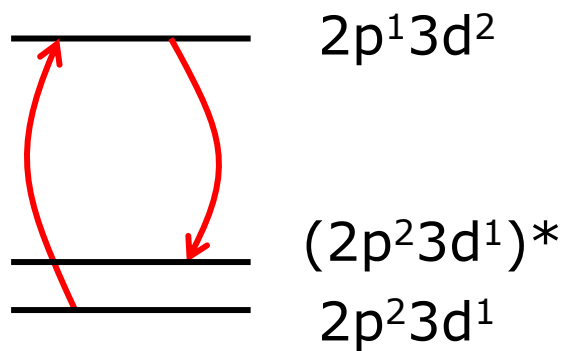


*Ulrich et al.  
PRL 2006*

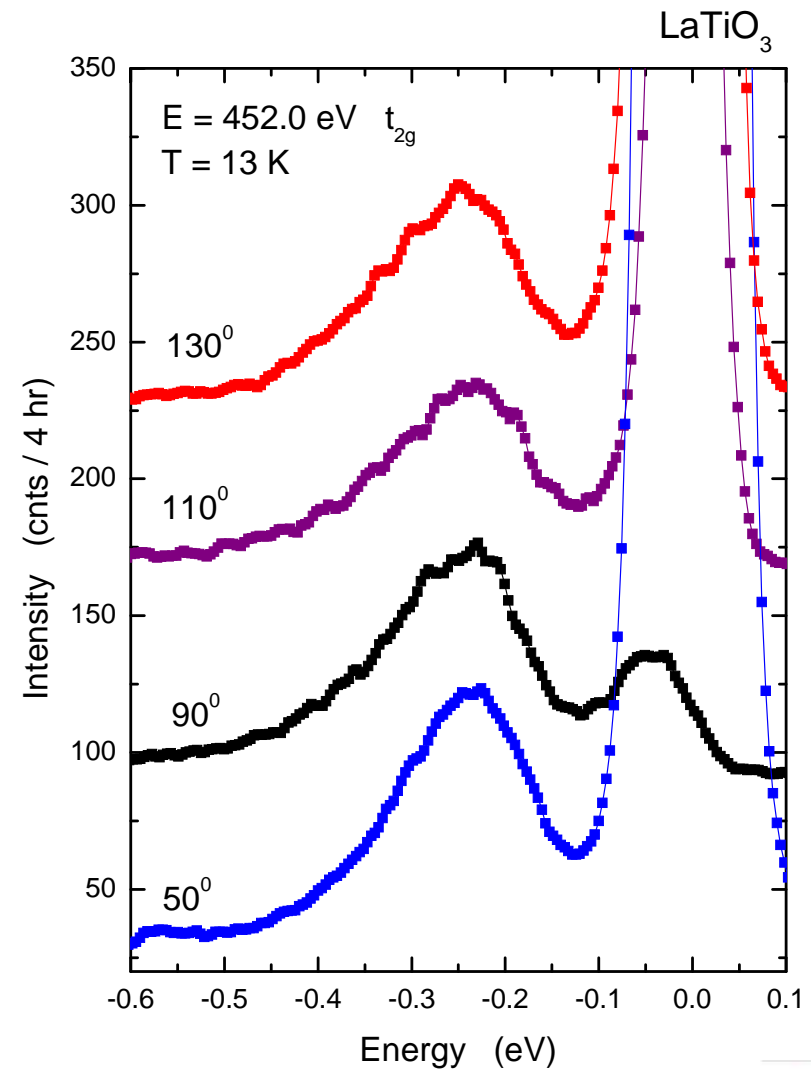
- peak above 2-magnon, 2-phonon ranges
  - below charge excitations known from IR spectra
- **orbital excitation**

# Resonant inelastic x-ray scattering

photon energy tuned to  
*intra-atomic* absorption edge



larger photon momentum than Raman  
→ **dispersion of orbital excitations**



*Ulrich et al., PRB 2008  
and unpublished*

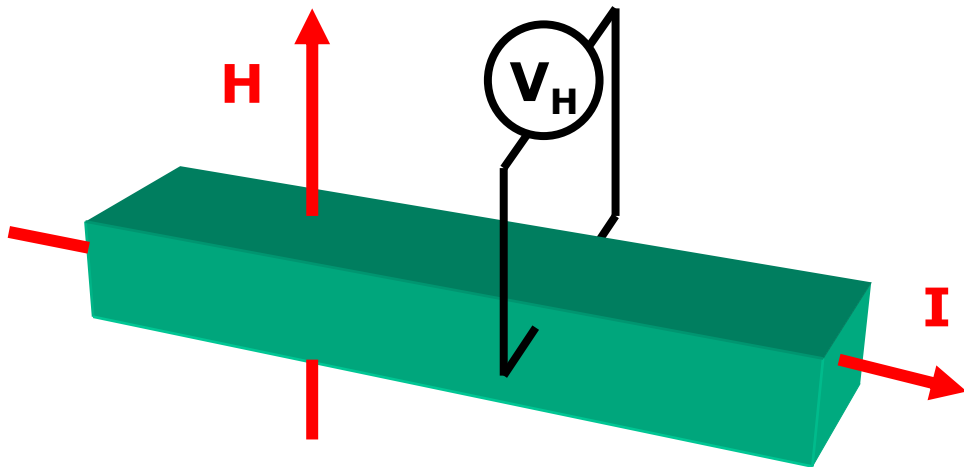


# Neutron and x-ray spectroscopy

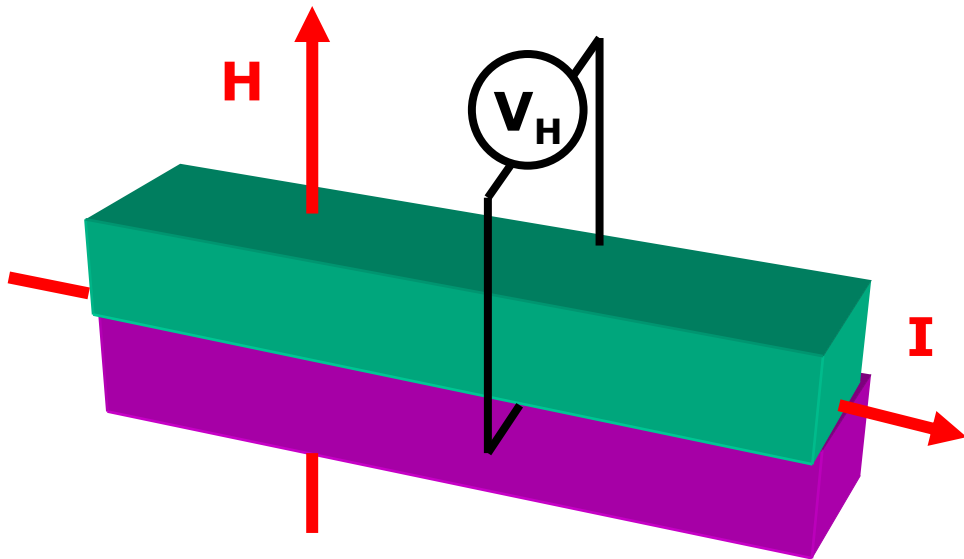
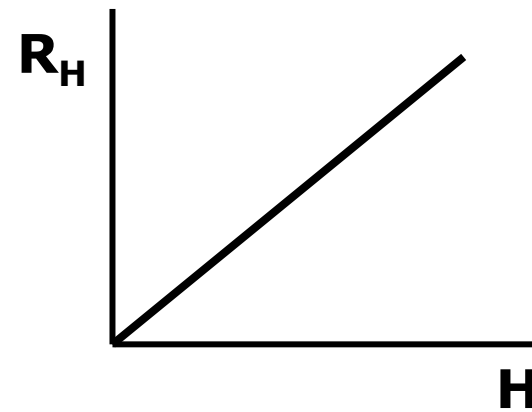
## outline

1. weak correlations: Pb, Nb
2. intermediate correlations:  $\text{Sr}_2\text{RuO}_4$
3. strong correlations:  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6+x}$
4. orbital degeneracy:  $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{MnO}_3$  (Y,La) $\text{TiO}_3$
5. oxide heterostructures

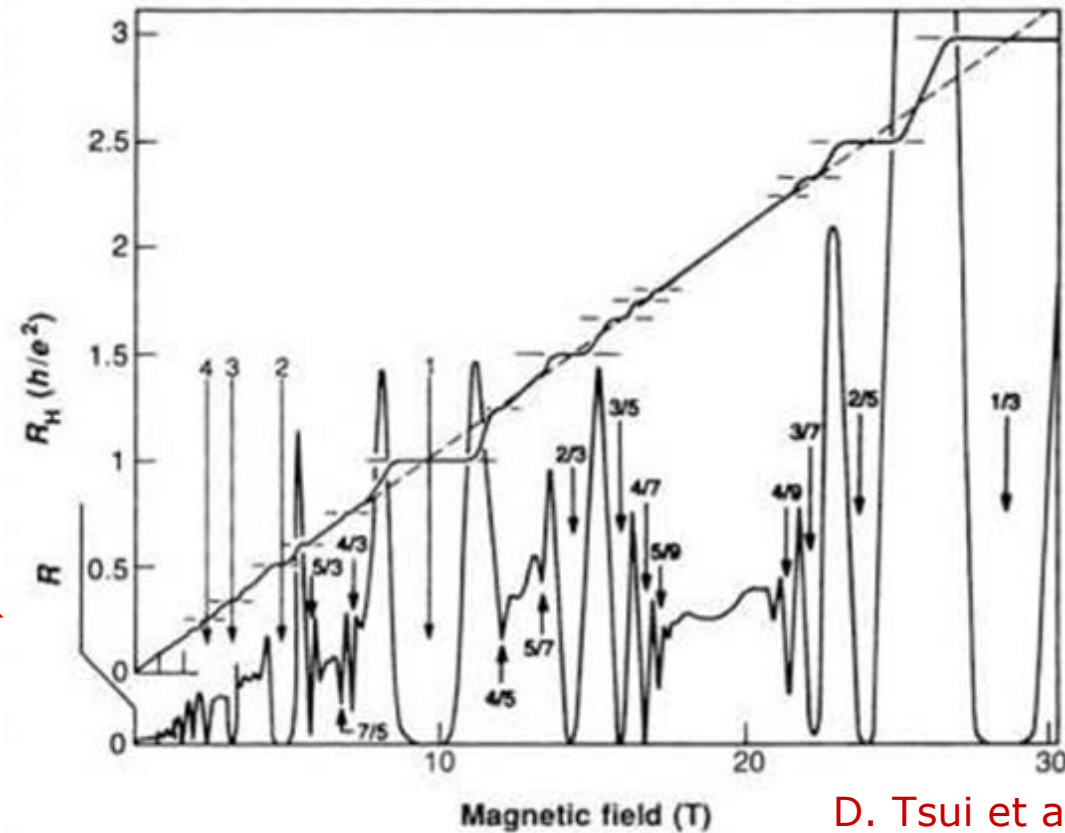
# New physics at interfaces



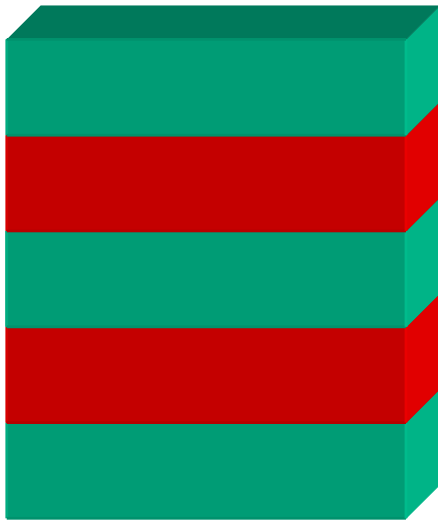
doped semiconductor



semiconductor heterostructure



# YBCO-LCMO interface

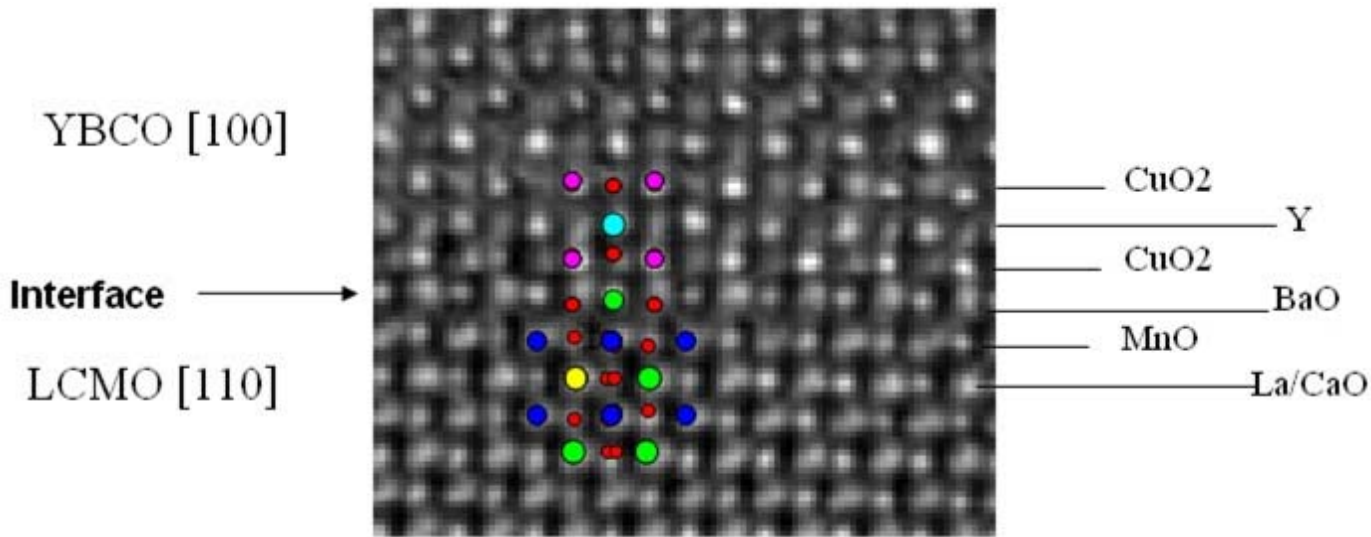


**$\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$  (YBCO): high- $T_c$  superconductor**

**$\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Ca}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_3$  (LCMO): metallic ferromagnet**

antagonistic order parameters at interface

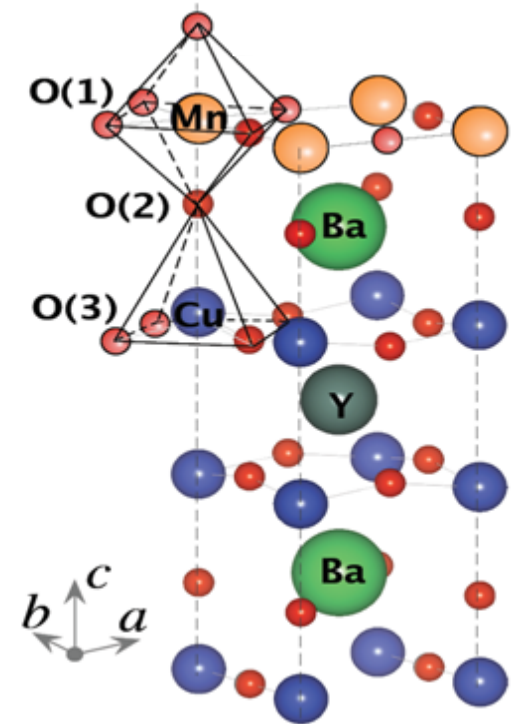
# YBCO-LCMO interface



*Z. Zhang, U. Kaiser*

- different magnetic environment
- different valence state
- different crystal field
- different covalent bonding
- different stoichiometry (oxygen vacancies/interstitials) ...

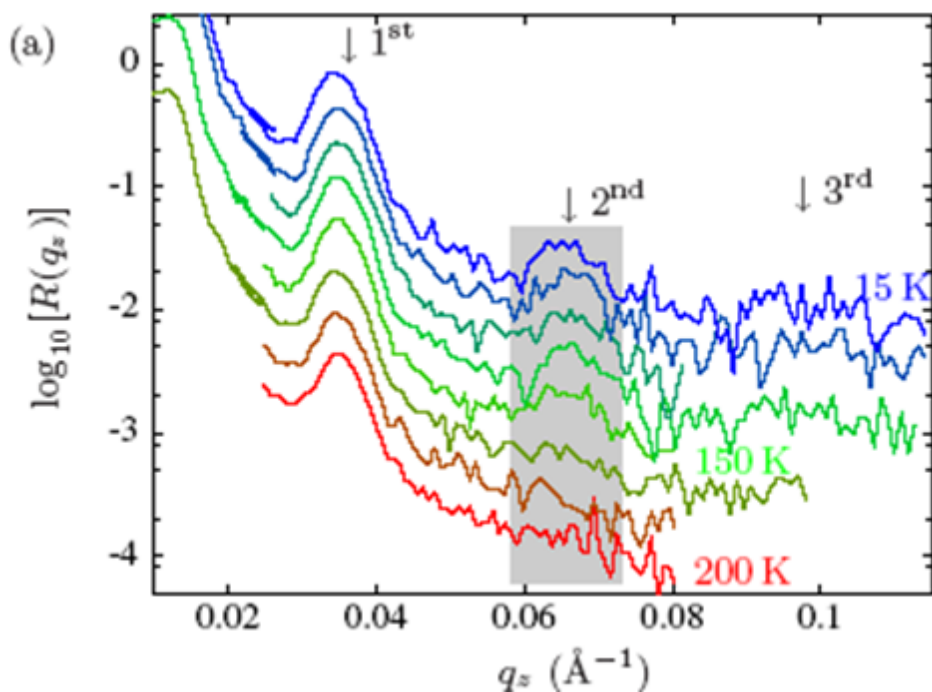
**can superconductivity be modified/created at interfaces?**



# YBCO-LCMO superlattices

## neutron reflectivity

→ Bragg reflections due to structural and magnetic periodicity

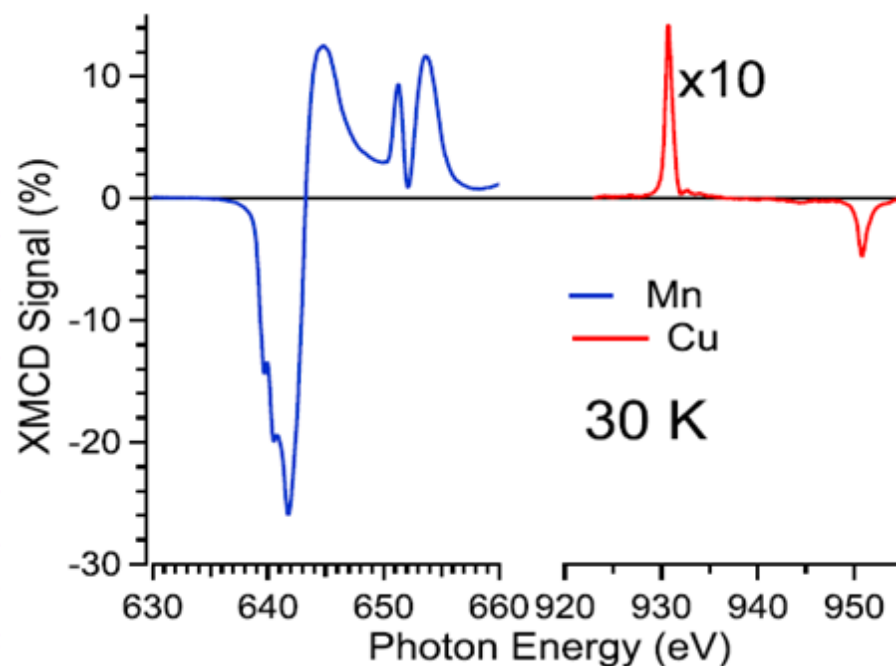


*Stahn et al., PRB 2005*

## magnetic circular dichroism

at L- absorption edges

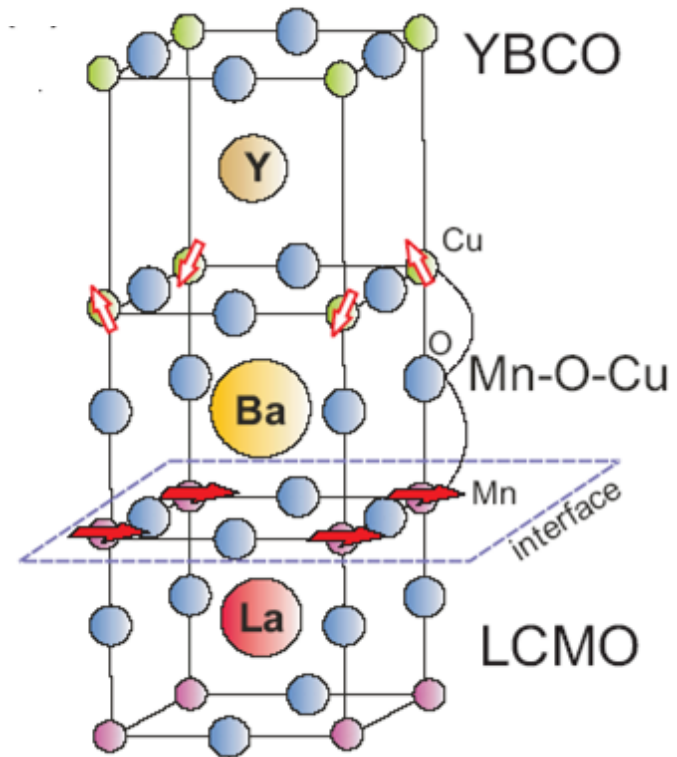
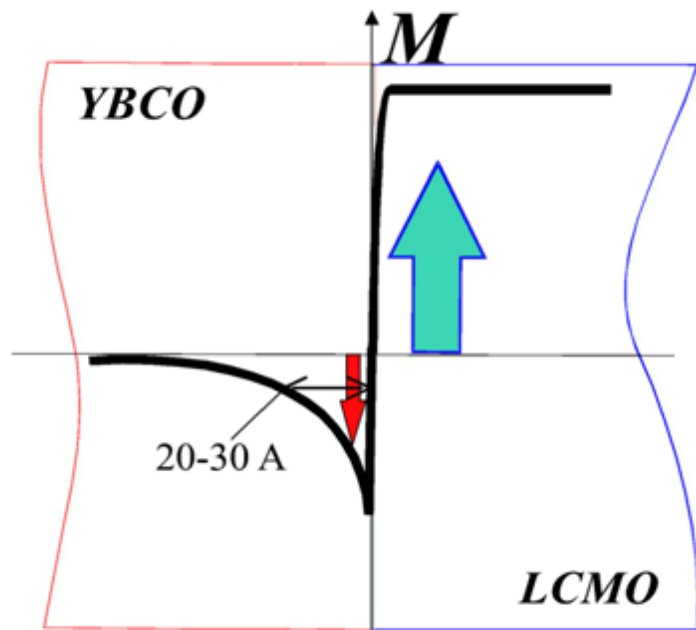
→ element-specific magnetization



- ferromagnetic polarization of Cu in YBCO
- direction antiparallel to Mn



# Spin polarization at interface

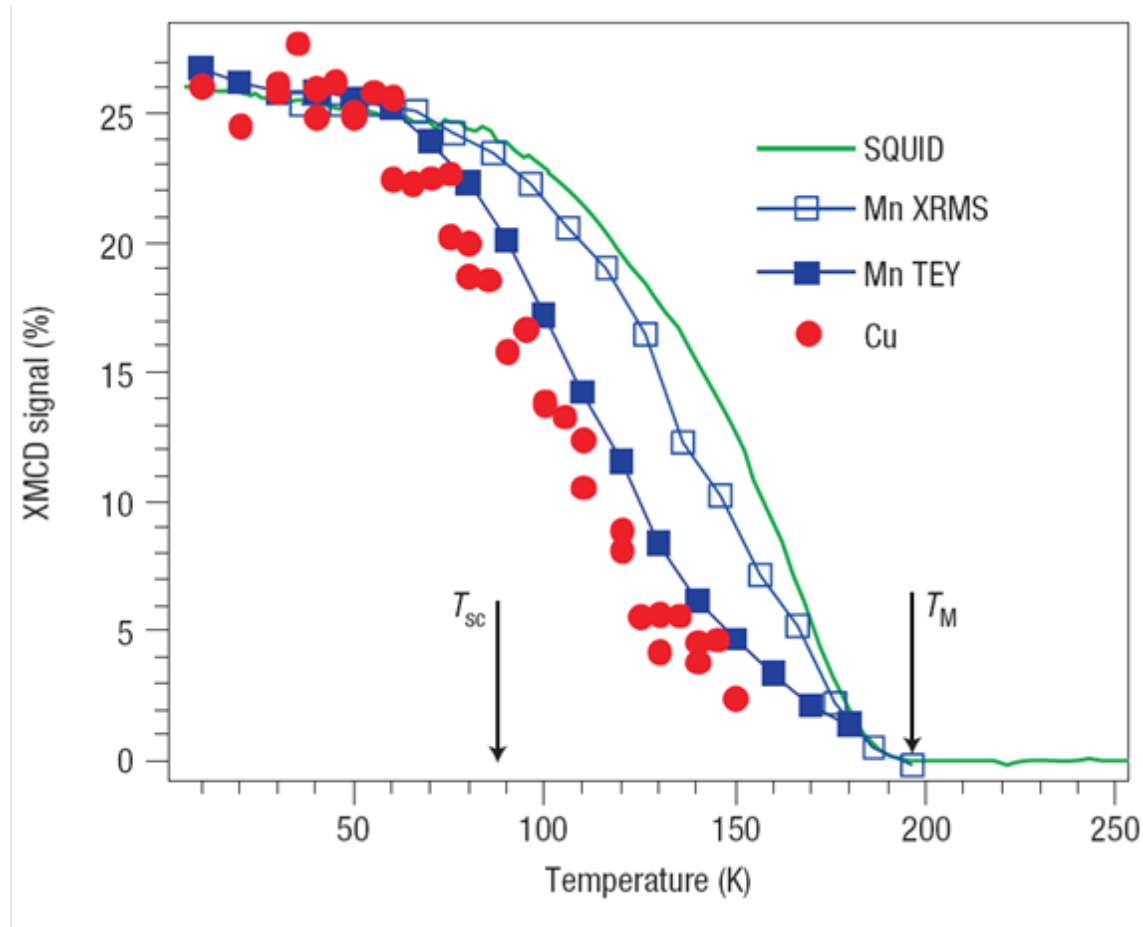


magnetization profile

superexchange across interface

*Chakhalian et al., Nature Phys. 2006*

# Temperature dependence of spin polarization

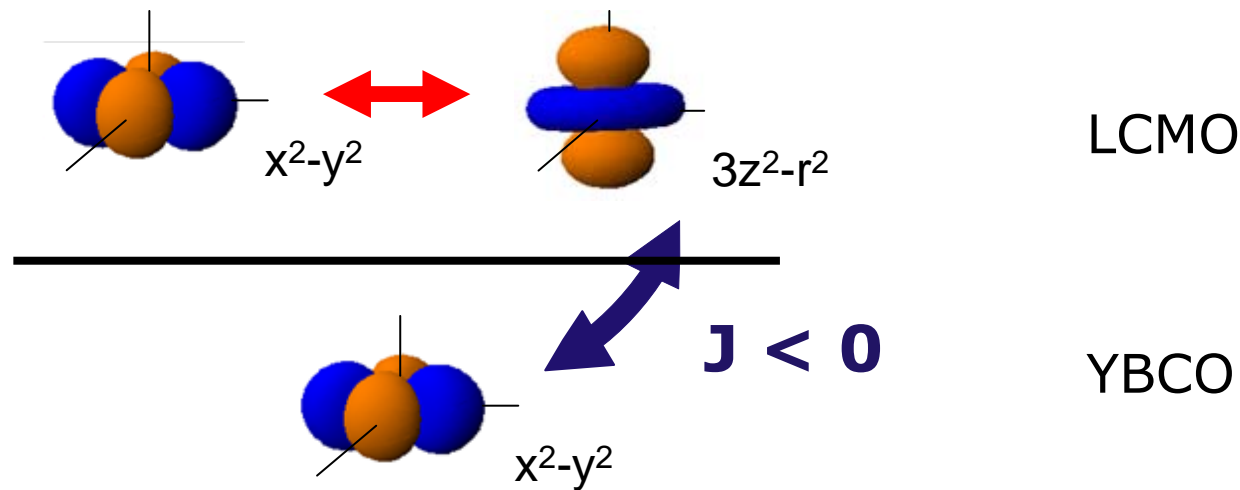


Cu magnetization closely follows Mn moment

→ **large antiferromagnetic Cu-Mn exchange interaction**

# Exchange coupling across interface

assume bulk orbital occupancy is maintained at interface

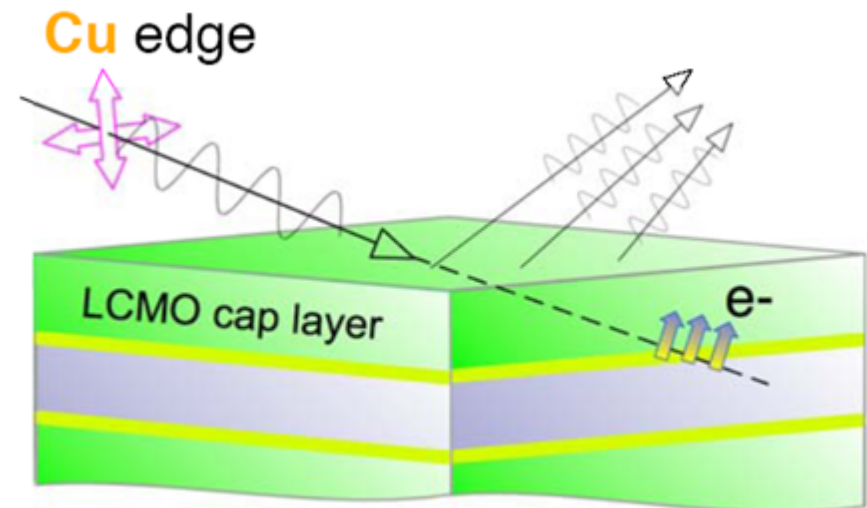
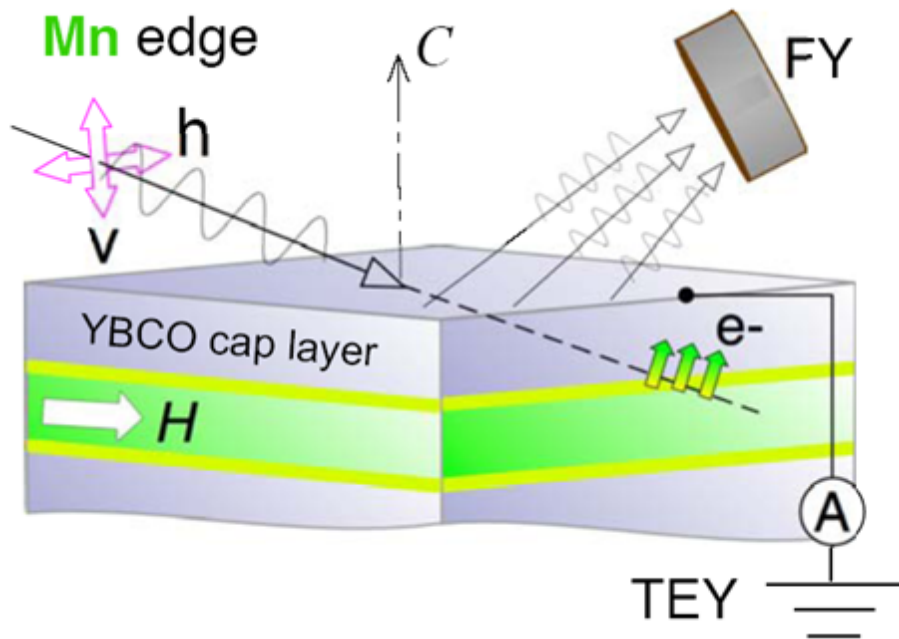


→ **weak ferromagnetic exchange** across interface  
expected from superexchange rules

inconsistent with experiment → **orbital reconstruction ?**

# X-ray linear dichroism

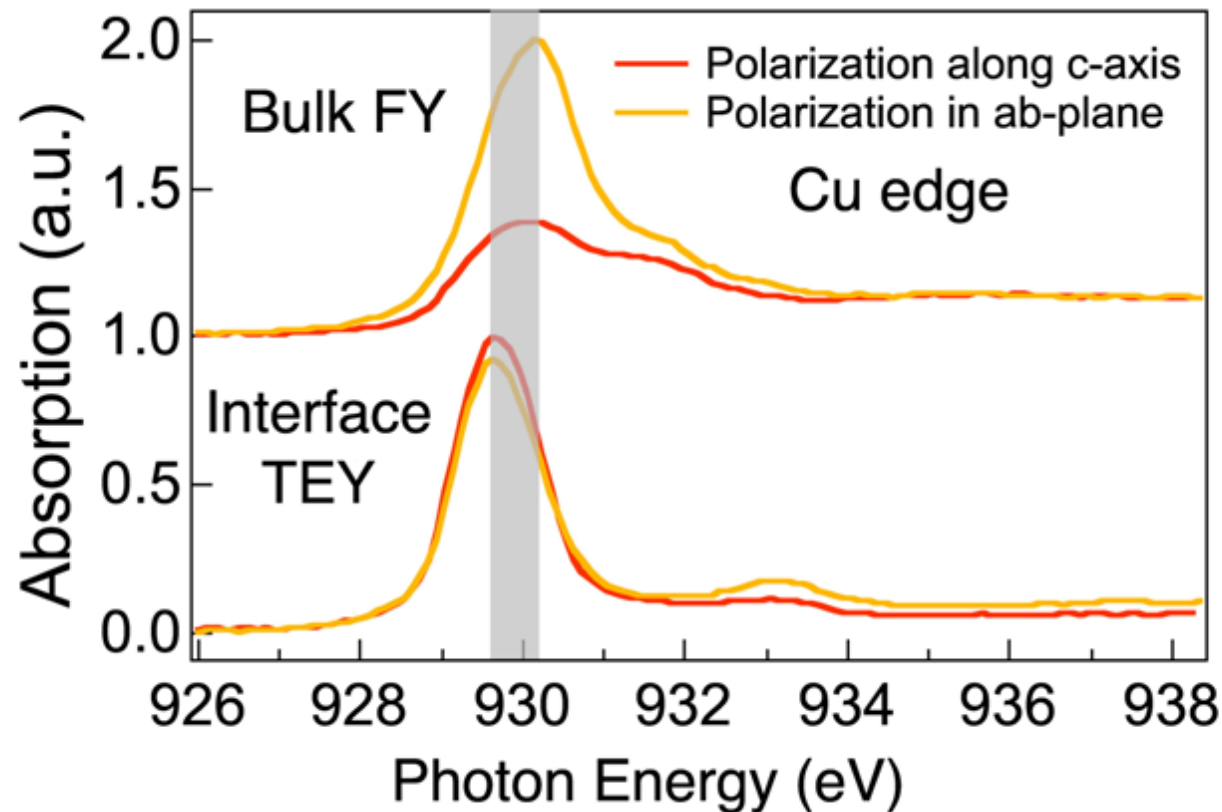
interface sensitivity through “cap layers”



**FY** bulk sensitive

**TEY** low electron escape depth  $\rightarrow$  probes first interface

# Orbitals at interface



*Chakhalian et al.  
Science 2007*

**FY** matches data on bulk YBCO

**TEY shifted** →  $\sim 0.2$  electrons / Cu ion transferred across interface  
not subject to Zhang-Rice singlet formation

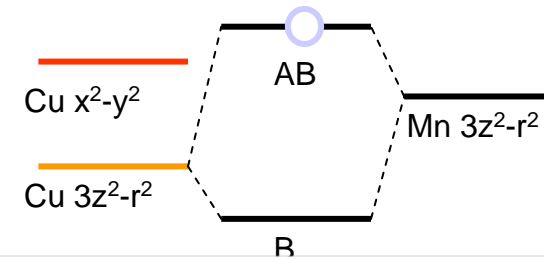
**almost isotropic** → partial occupation of Cu  $3z^2-r^2$  orbital  
**orbital reconstruction**



# Cluster calculations

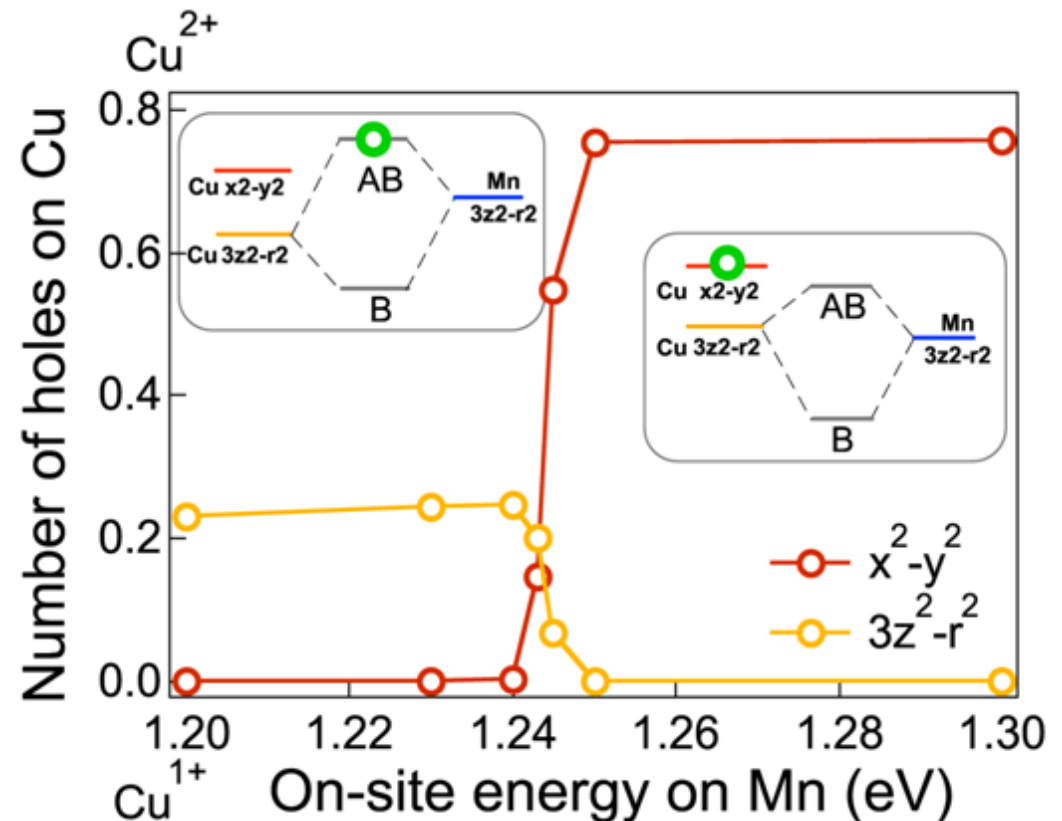
## possible origins

- different crystal fields at interface — unlikely
- covalent bonding ?

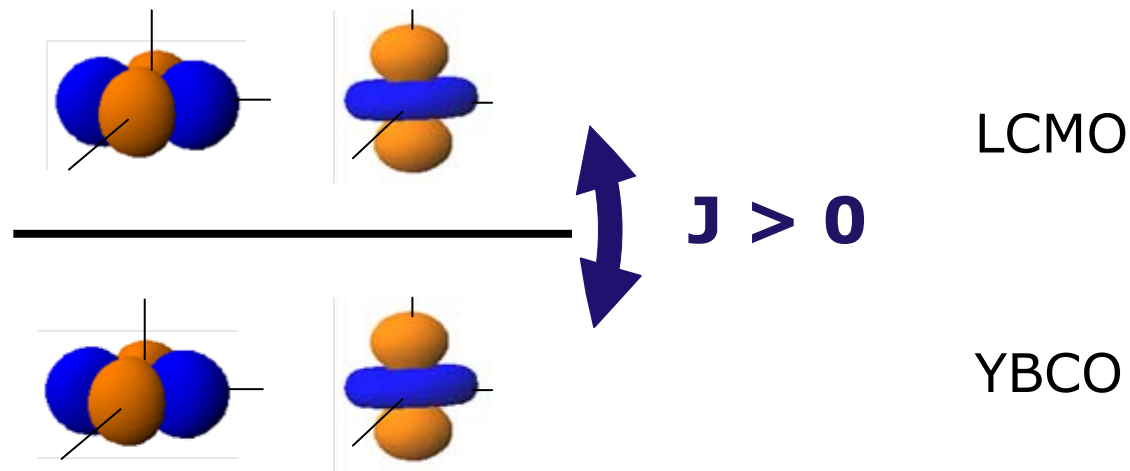


## exact-diagonalization calculations on small clusters

→ covalent bonding realistic



# Exchange coupling across orbitally reconstructed interface



Cu  $3z^2-r^2$  orbital partially occupied

→ **strong antiferromagnetic exchange across interface**

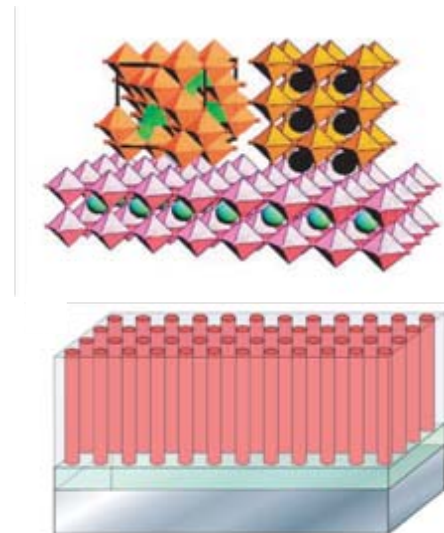
→ **reduced in-plane antiferromagnetic correlations**

combination explains large ferromagnetic susceptibility,  
suppression of metallicity and superconductivity of YBCO near interface

# Oxide heterostructure research program

- understand and manipulate orbital and spin polarization at interfaces
- create dense correlated-electron systems with **controlled** interactions
- new quantum phases?  $\leftrightarrow$  FQHE in semiconductors
- lateral (nano)-structuring

CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanopillars in BaTiO<sub>3</sub> matrix  
*Zheng et al., Science 2004*

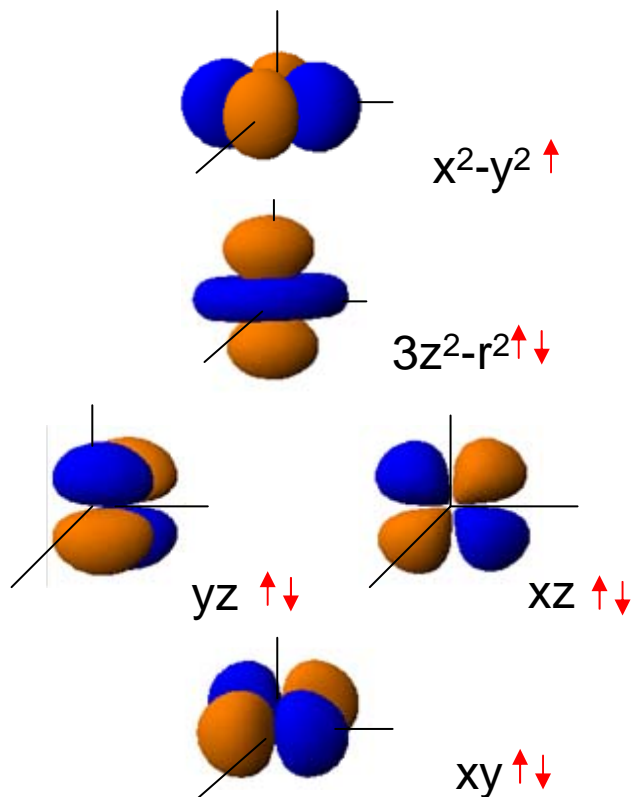
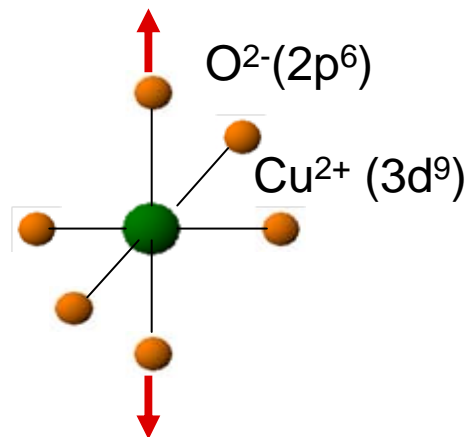




# La<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> & LaNiO<sub>3</sub> electronic structure

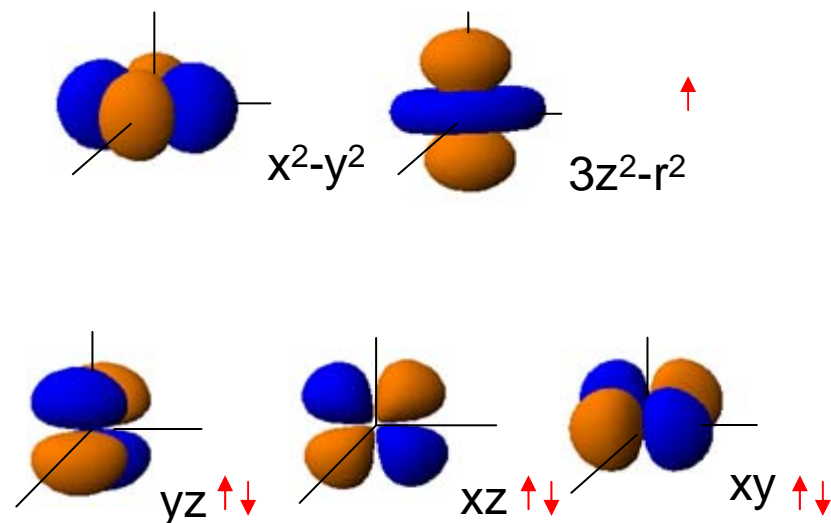
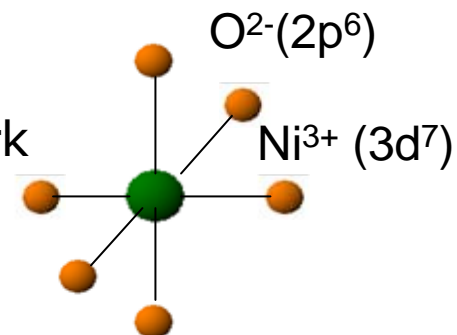
## La<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub>

- spin-1/2
- 2D bond network
- orbitally non-degenerate
- Mott insulator



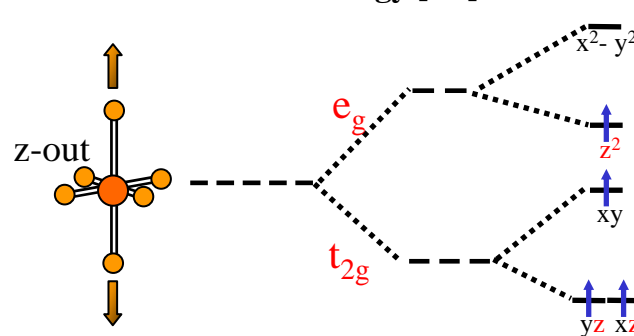
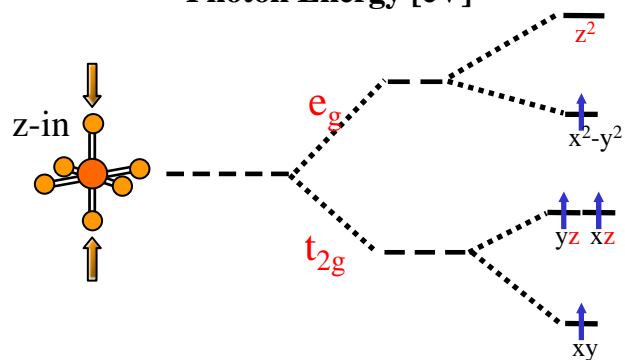
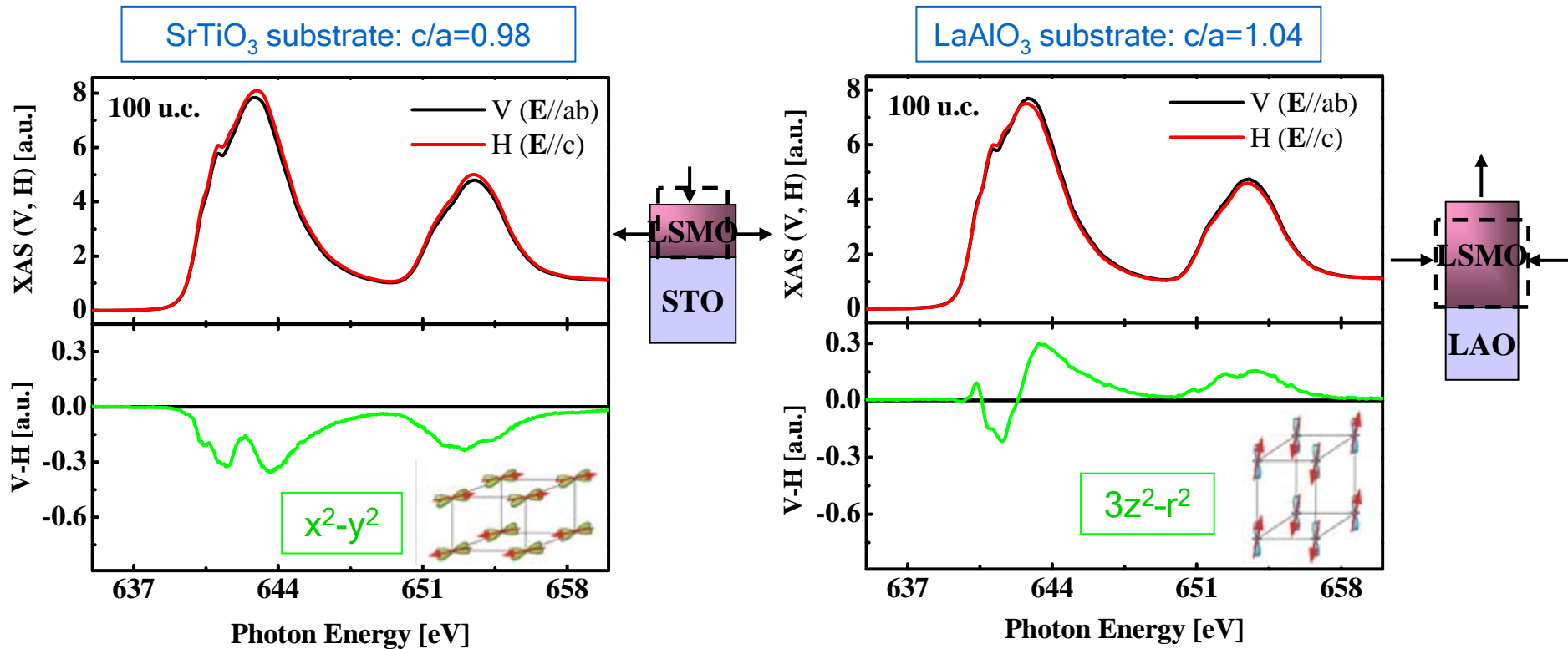
## LaNiO<sub>3</sub>

- spin-1/2
- 3D bond network
- orbitally degenerate
- metal



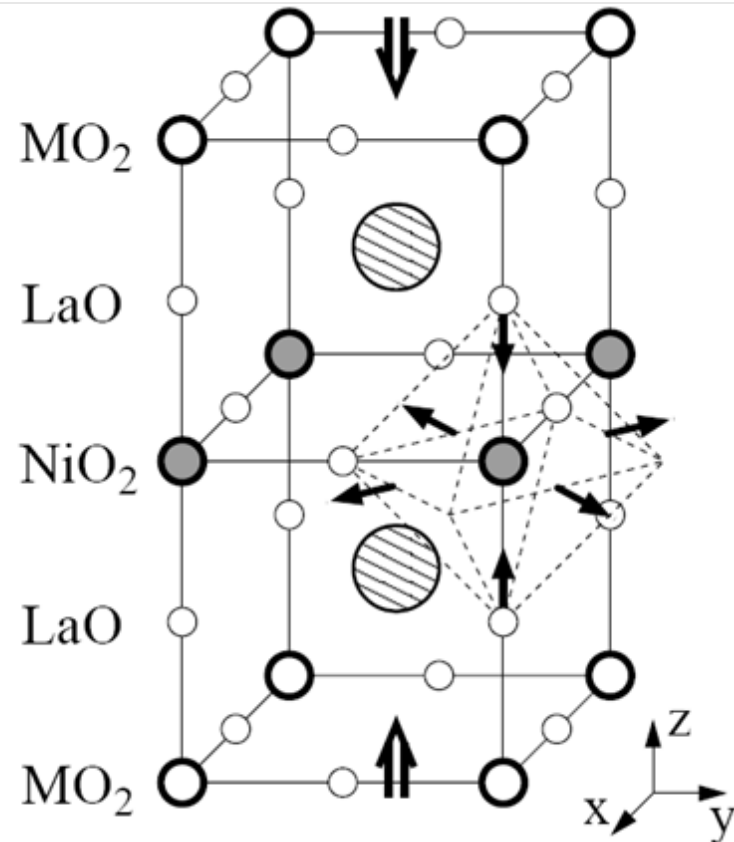
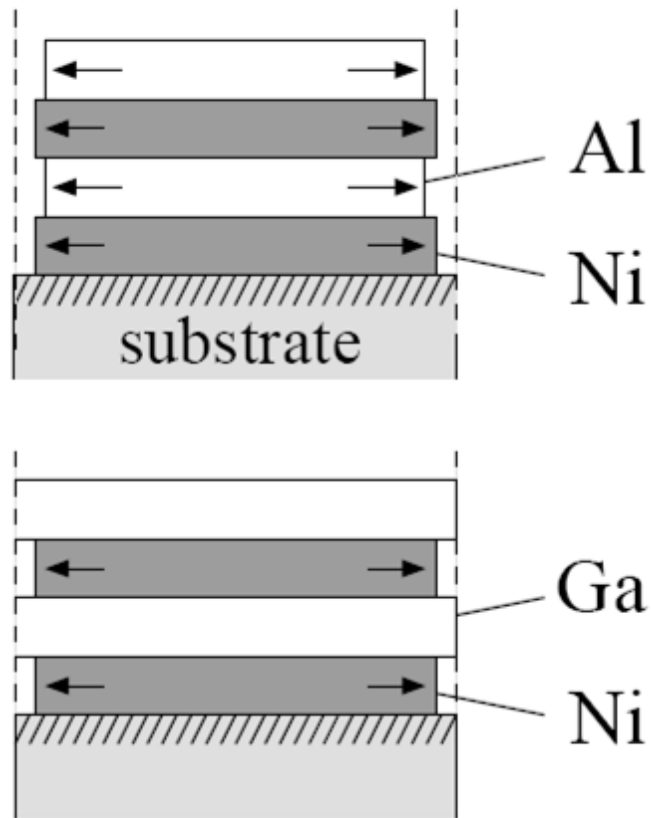
# Strain-induced orbital polarization

## X-ray linear dichroism in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ thin films



Aruta et al., Phys. Rev. B 2006

# LaNiO<sub>3</sub>-LaMO<sub>3</sub> superlattices



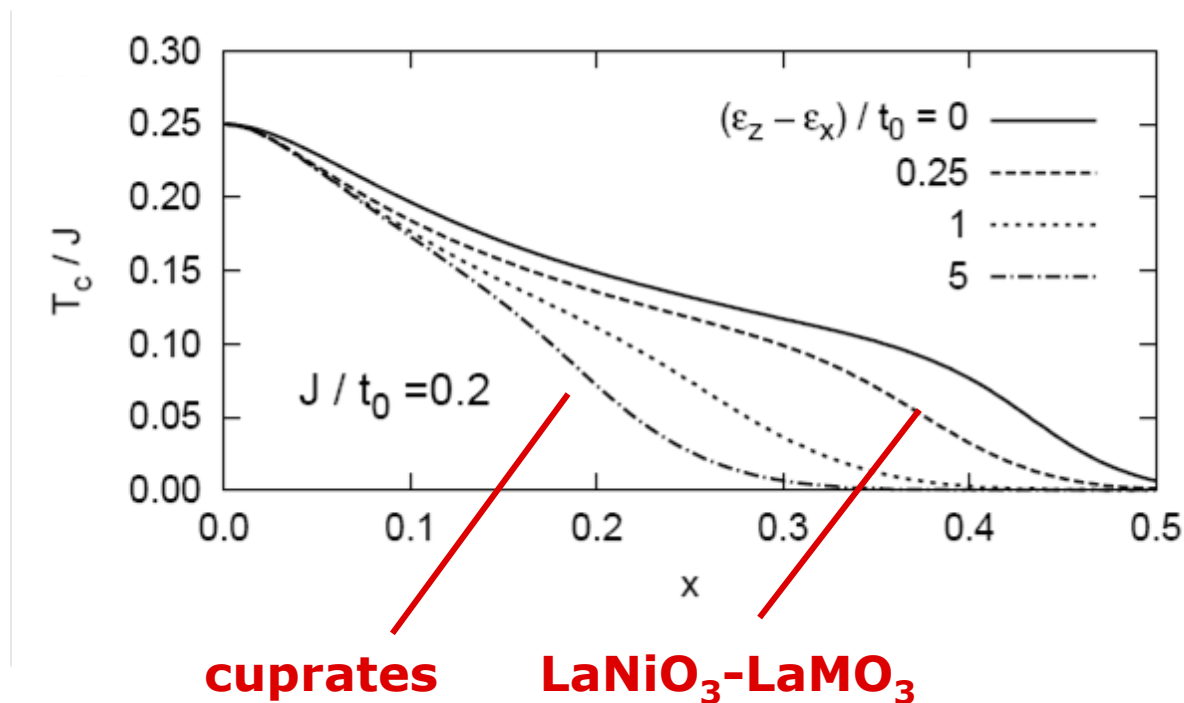
*Chaloupka & Khaliullin, PRL 2008*

- 2D electronic structure
- $x^2-y^2$  orbital favored

→ cuprate Hamiltonian?

# LaNiO<sub>3</sub>-LaMO<sub>3</sub> superconductivity?

mean-field superconducting transition temperature

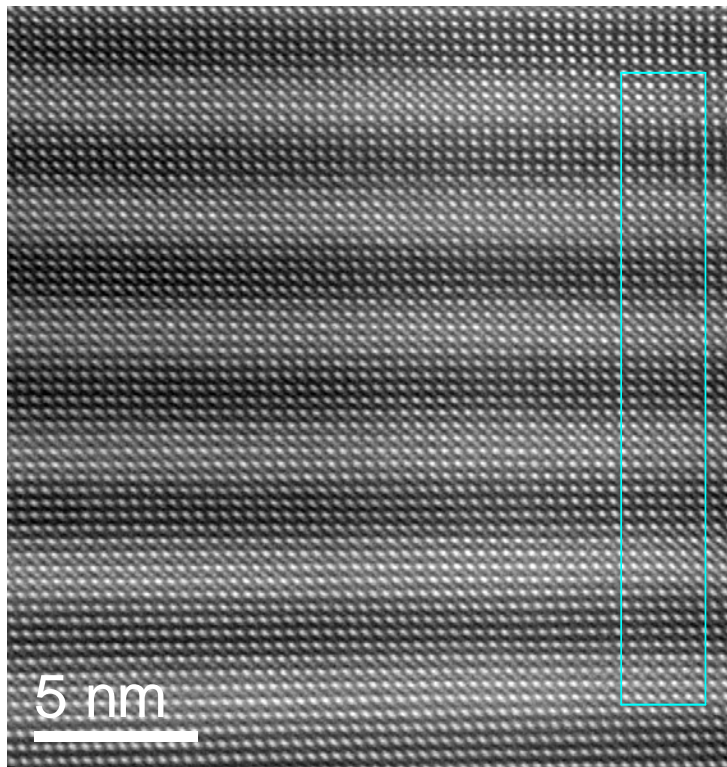


*Chaloupka & Khaliullin, PRL 2008*

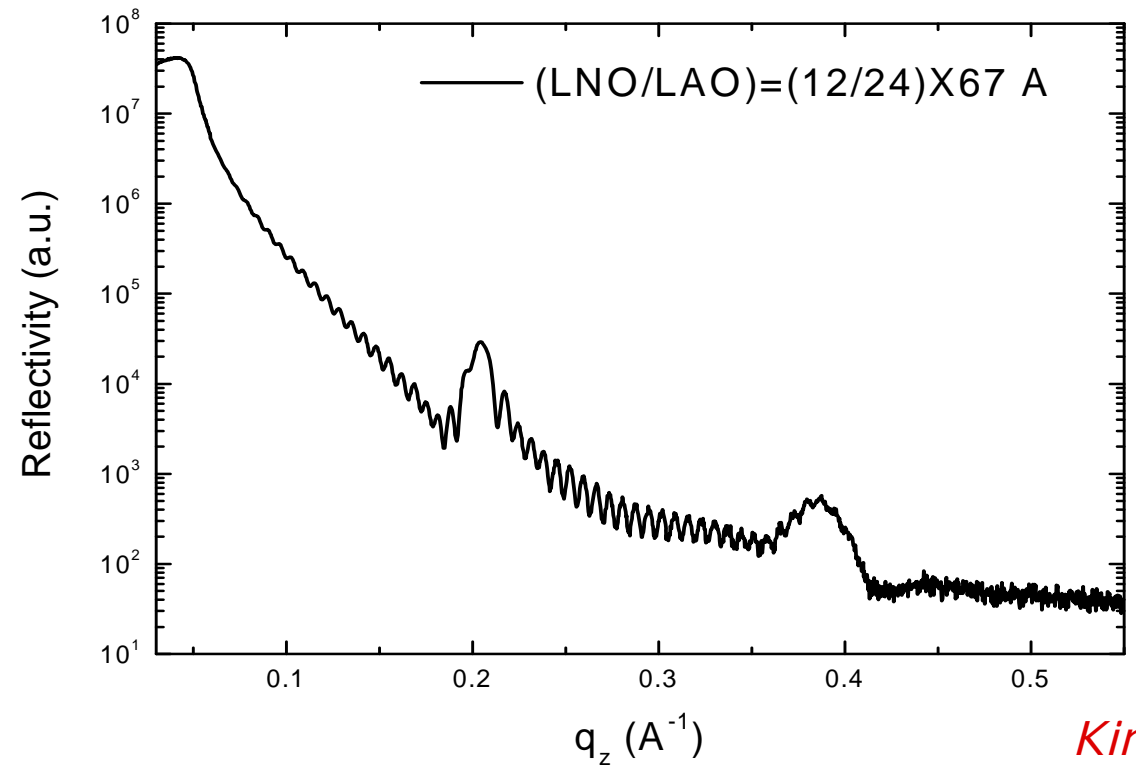


# LaNiO<sub>3</sub>-LaAlO<sub>3</sub> structure

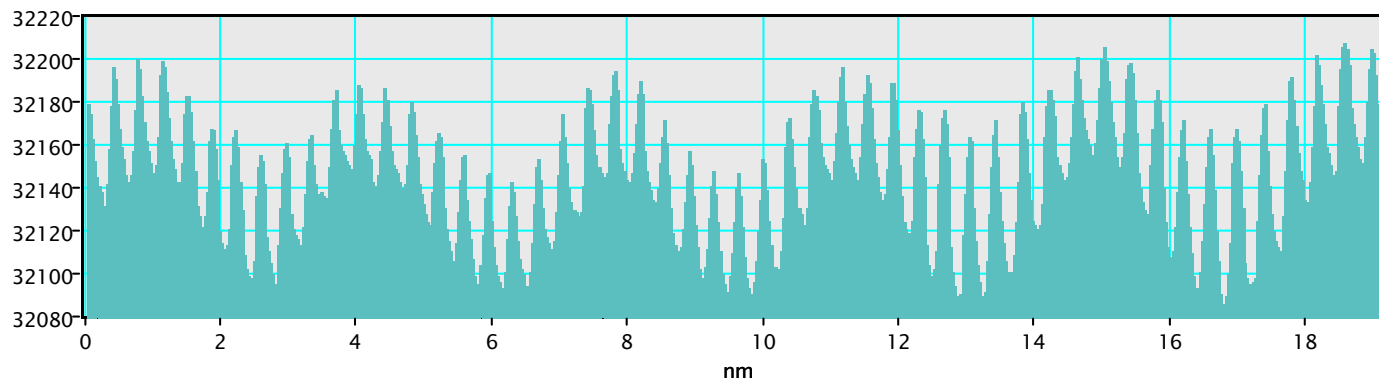
TEM



nonresonant x-ray reflectivity



Kim

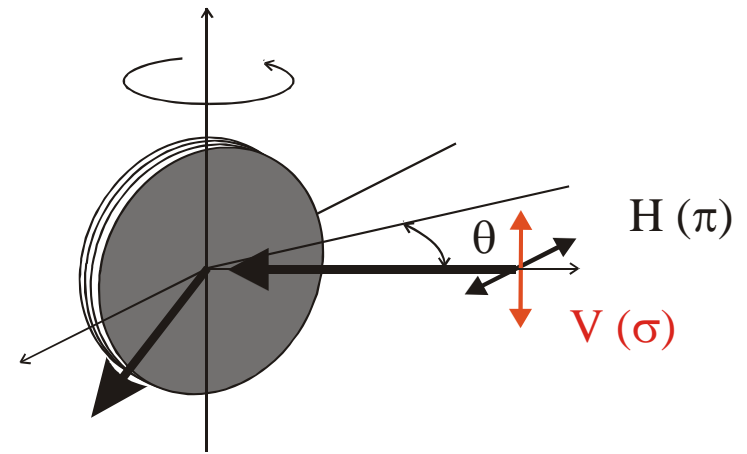
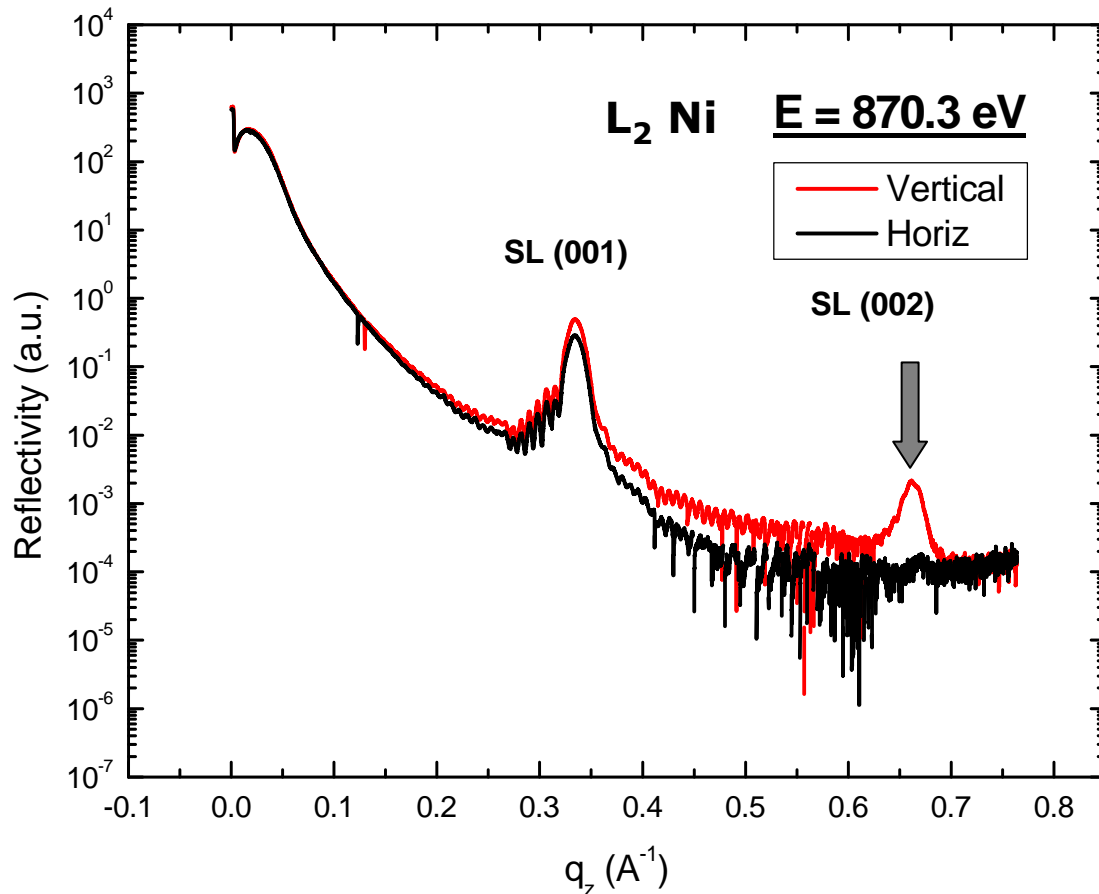


Zhang, Kaiser,  
van Aken



für Festkörperforschung

# LaNiO<sub>3</sub>-LaAlO<sub>3</sub> soft x-ray reflectivity



*see also*

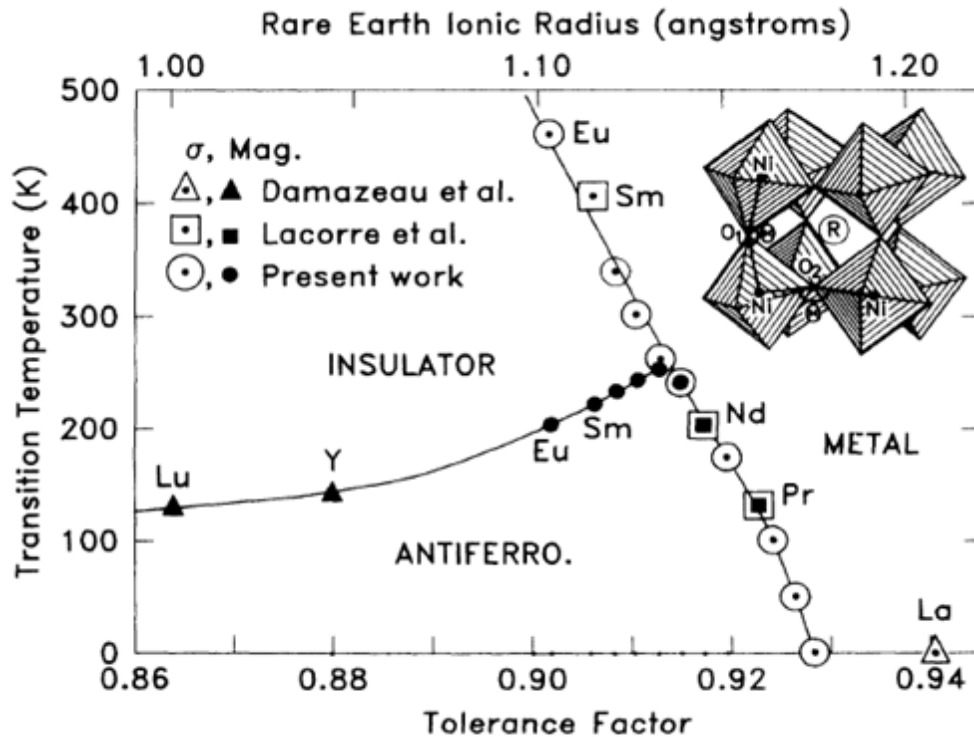
*Stahn et al., PRB 2005*

*Smadici et al., PRL 2007*

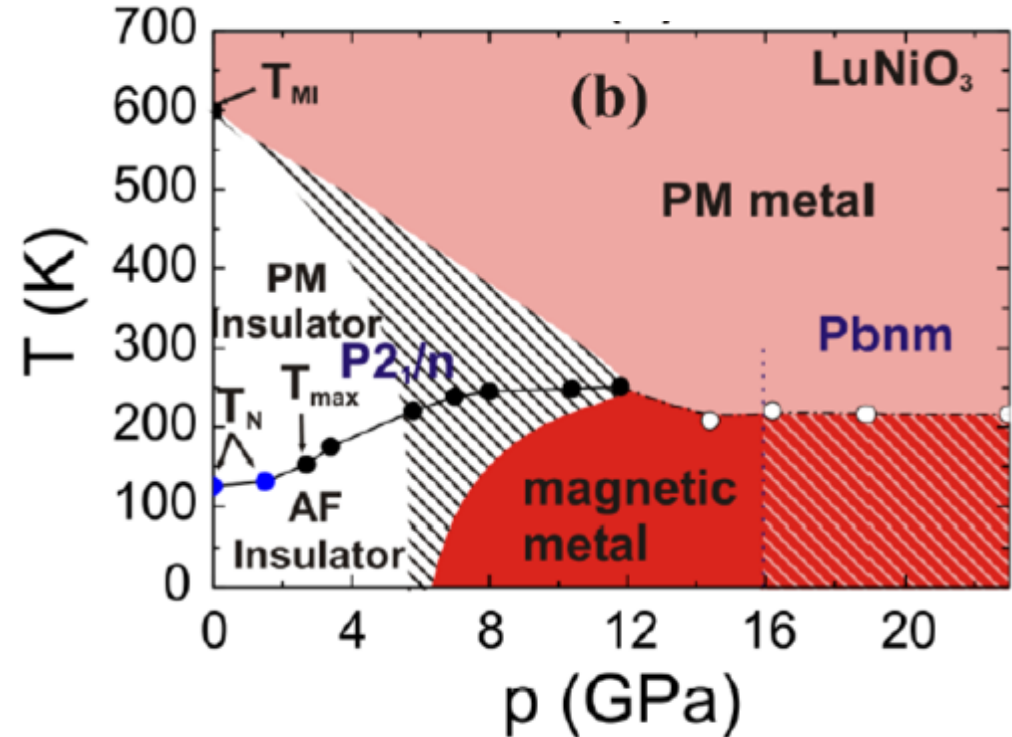
“forbidden” superlattice peak

- charge distribution of valence electrons  $\neq$  atomic structure
- signature of interface-induced charge order

# RNiO<sub>3</sub> phase diagrams



*Torrance et al., PRB 1992*



*Mazin et al., PRL 2007*

competing instabilities in bulk nickelates: • antiferromagnetism  
• charge order



# Conclusions

## YBCO-LCMO superlattices

- orbital and magnetic polarization at interface
- interface-induced antiferromagnetic insulating state (?)

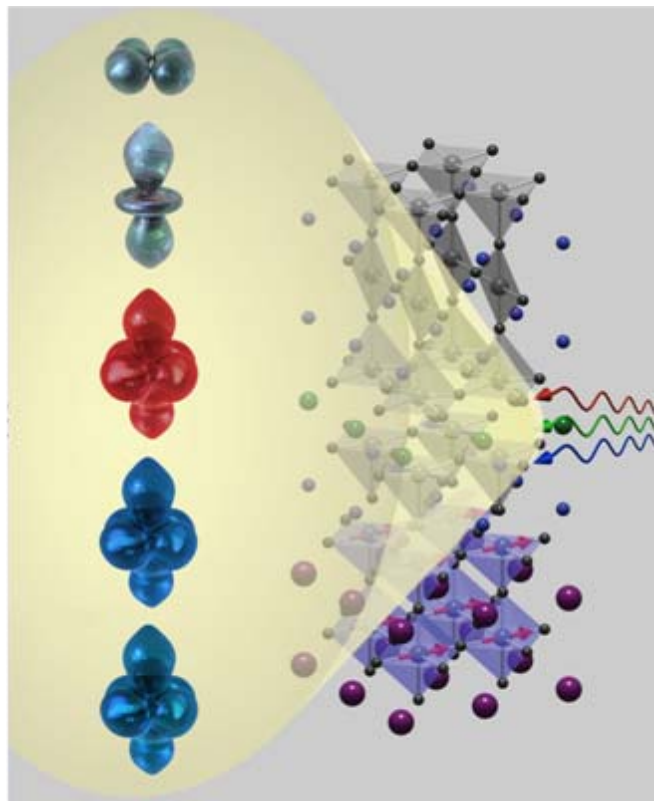
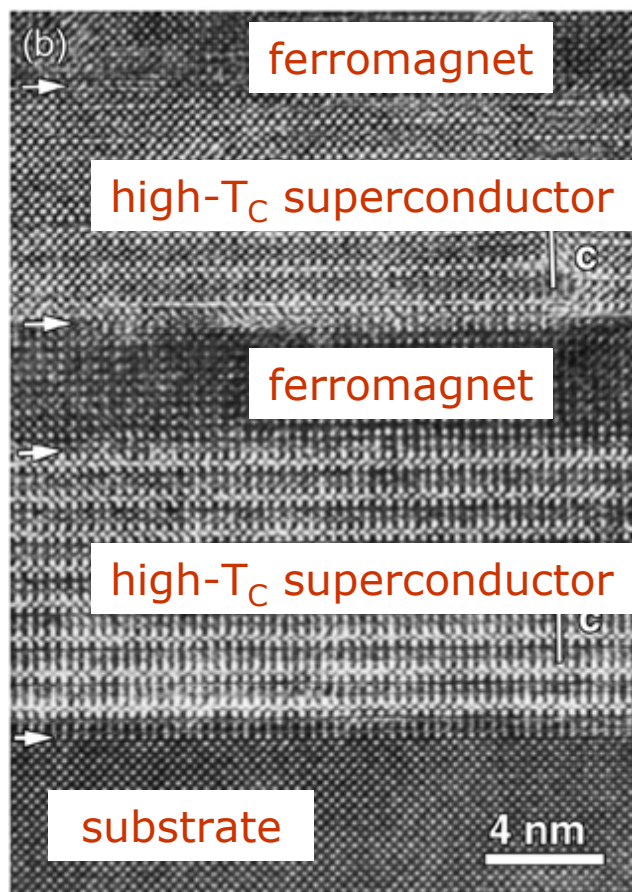
## LaNiO<sub>3</sub>-LaAlO<sub>3</sub> superlattices

- interface-induced charge-ordering instability (not present in bulk)

**Can high-temperature superconductivity be generated by suppressing competing instability?**



# Oxide heterostructure toolkit



**structure**

TEM, XRD

**magnetization**

neutrons, XMCD

**orbital occupation**

XLD, RXS

**charge transport**

FTIR