1975

Static Properties of Dilute Ferri- and Antiferromagnets

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Abstract
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Disciplines
Materials Science and Engineering | Physics

Comments
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Citation: AIP Conference Proceedings 24, 99 (1975); doi: 10.1063/1.30300
View online: http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.30300
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STATIC PROPERTIES OF DILUTE FERRI- AND ANTIFERROMAGNETS

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ABSTRACT

We report microscopic calculations of the static magnetic and spin-wave properties of dilute antiferromagnets (e.g., FeMn, \( \text{Fe}_2\text{Mn}_3 \)) and of dilute ferrimagnetic garnets. The results are valid at low temperatures but are not restricted to low concentration of dilutents.

MACROSCOPIC THEORY

The energies of long wavelength spin waves can be expressed in terms of static quantities which can then be calculated either analytically or by Monte Carlo simulation. For ferromagnets, for example, the relation

\[ \omega(q) = 2\gamma(A/M)q^2 = Dq^2, \]

where \( A \) is the exchange stiffness, \( M \) is the magnetization per unit volume, and \( \gamma \) is the gyromagnetic ratio, can be derived from hydrodynamic arguments, irrespective of the microscopic details of the system. The result derived for dilute ferromagnets in Ref. 3 by a microscopic calculation is a special case of Eq. (1).

The hydrodynamic result for antiferromagnets is

\[ \omega(q) = \gamma(2A/\chi^2)^{1/2} = C_1q, \]

where \( \chi^2 \) is the susceptibility in the plane perpendicular to the staggered magnetization.

Spin excitations in ferrimagnets with oppositely oriented sublattice magnetizations, \( M_A \) and \( M_B \), can also be treated by a classical continuum theory. The details of the calculation will be described later in a fuller paper. The main result is

\[ \chi_A^2(\omega/\gamma)^2 + (M_A - M_B)\omega/\gamma - 2Aq^2 = 0. \]

Here \( \chi_A^2 \) is a generalized perpendicular susceptibility, defined as the response, disregarding overall rotations of the magnetization, to magnetic fields, \( H_A \) and \( H_B \), applied to the two sublattices, with the ratio of \( H_A \) to \( H_B \) such that no net torque results. Equation (3) has two roots given by

\[ \omega(q) = \sqrt{\omega_{\text{opt}}^2/2 + 2\gamma^2Aq^2/\chi^2} \]

\[ \pm \omega_{\text{opt}}/\sqrt{2}, \]

where \( \omega_{\text{opt}} = \sqrt{M_A - M_B}/\chi_A \)

is the frequency of the simplest optical mode at \( q = 0 \). When \( \omega_{\text{opt}} \) is large, the smaller root reduces to the quadratic form of Eq. (1) with \( M = M_A - M_B \). At compensation, \( \omega_{\text{opt}} = 0 \), and Eq. (4) reduces, as it must, to the linear antiferromagnetic result of Eq. (2). Near compensation, the dispersion relation has both quadratic and linear parts:

\[ \omega(q) > 2\gamma(A/M)q^2 \quad \text{if } q < q^* \]

\[ \sim \gamma(2A/\chi^2)^{1/2}q - 1/2 \omega_{\text{opt}} \quad \text{if } q > q^*, \]

where \( q^* = M/(2A\chi^2)^{1/2} \).

MICROSCOPIC CALCULATION

The second step of the treatment is the calculation of the macroscopic quantities \( A \) and \( \chi^2 \) from the microscopic Hamiltonian, \( H \), describing the randomly diluted magnet. We take \( H \) to be

\[ H = \sum_{i,j} \frac{1}{2} J_{ij} \overline{S}_i^z \overline{S}_j^z, \]

where \( i \) and \( j \) are summed only over magnetically occupied sites and \( \overline{S}_i \) is treated classically. We have used direct computer simulation, solving for the linear response of samples of 5000 or more spins to an applied field (for \( \chi^2 \)) or to a weak spatial variation in the direction of magnetization (for \( A \)). Exact expressions at low dilution were obtained for all the simple lattices studied, in order to check the simulations.

To find \( A \), we calculate the energy, \( E \), needed to rotate the direction of magnetization through an angle \( \theta (\theta < 1) \) over a distance \( L \). Minimizing the total energy leads to the condition

\[ \sum_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} J_{ij} \overline{S}_i^2 \theta_i \theta_j = 0, \]

from which the equilibrium angle of the \( i \)th spin, \( \theta_i \), can be found. Then \( A \) is found from the relation

\[ E = 1/2 \sum_i J_{ij} \overline{S}_i^2 \theta_i \theta_j = A_0^2 \overline{V} L^2, \]

where \( \overline{V} \) is the volume. Equation (7) is Kirchoff's law for a network of conductances in which we identify the \( \theta_i \) as voltages and the \( J_{ij} \) as conductances. With this identification, equation (7) sums the power dissipation, \( IV \), in each conductance. Thus, apart from units, \( A \) is the macroscopic conductivity of the equivalent disordered network.

The determination of \( \chi^2 \) is similar. If the sublattice magnetizations are exactly equal, we may write the conditions on the equilibrium angular deflections in the presence of a perpendicular field, \( H \), as

\[ 2\gamma J_{ij} \theta_i \theta_j \overline{S}_i \overline{S}_j = (\gamma \hbar \mathbf{S}) \mathbf{H}. \]

Then \( \chi_A^2 \) is determined by the analog of Eq. (8):

\[ E = -1/2 \gamma \hbar \mathbf{S} \sum_i \theta_i \overline{S}_i \mathbf{H} = -1/2 \gamma \hbar \overline{V} A \chi_A^2. \]

The above derivations are not limited to nearest neighbor interactions, but require only that the Neel state be a good approximation to the true ground state. Then the sublattice magnetization is proportional to the fraction of sites in the "infinite" occupied cluster. (For ferromagnetic Bravais lattices \( M(x)/M(0) \) is equal to the percolation probability, \( p(x) \).)

Our results for the simple cubic lattice are shown in Fig. 1. For \( x < x_c \), we find \( p(x) \propto (x-x_c)^{0.1} \), \( A(x) \propto (x-x_c)^{0.2} \), and \( \chi^2 \) appears to diverge as \( (x-x_c)^{0.6} \). The divergence is cut off close to \( x_c \) in our calculations by effects of finite sample size. We attribute the divergence in \( \chi^2 \) to the occurrence of large regions of incompletely compensated magnetization. Fig. 1 shows that the effect of disorder on \( D \) and \( C \) is very similar. However, \( D(x)/D(0) \) and \( C(x)/C(0) \) have different slopes near \( x = 0 \), so they cannot be exactly equal.

Since \( T_c(x) \) is readily measured, many authors have sought to establish an empirical relation between \( 2T_c(x)/T_c(0) \) and either \( dD(x)/D(0) \) or \( dA(x)/A(0) \).
For small \( x \) the result for the sc lattice is

\[
d(x) = 1 - 1.53x, \quad a(x) = 1 - 2.53x.
\]

High temperature series calculations of \( T_c(x) \) give \( t(x) = 1 - 1.37x \) for the sc lattice. The coefficients obtained for other 3D lattices are within 0.1 of these values. Clearly \( t \) and \( a \) are unrelated, while the equality between \( t \) and \( d \) is at best qualitative.

SUBSTITUTED GARNETS

We have performed similar calculations for substituted garnets. Second neighbor interactions are small but nonnegligible in the garnets. In YIG, for example, van der Ziel et al. find \( J_{dd} = 20 \text{cm}^{-1} \), \( J_{dd} = 2 \text{cm}^{-1} \), and \( J_{dd} = 0 \). However, for moderate doping or for substitution primarily into the majority sublattice, we find that the nearest neighbor approximation is accurate, as is shown by the two calculations of \( A \) in Fig. 2. Well above the percolation threshold, our results for a garnet with composition \( \left[ \text{Y}_3-x \text{Ca}_x \right] \text{Fe}_2 \left[ \text{Fe}_{3-x} \text{Si}_x \right] \text{O}_{12} \) may be summarized by the relation

\[
A(x,y)/A(0,0) = 1 - 1.28x - 1.45y + 1.5xy.
\]

In the absence of low-temperature measurements of \( A \) on substituted garnets, we compare Eq. (11) with the recent room-temperature measurements of Henry and Heinz.\textsuperscript{6} For this comparison we use the RPA result,

\[
A(T)/A(0) = 4 <S_d^> / 25,
\]

where \( <S_d^> \) denotes a thermal average. To obtain the theory points in Fig. 3, we estimated the compositions not stated in Ref. 6 by comparison with the measurements of Geller et al., and calculated \( <S_d^> \) and \( <S_d^> \) in a mean field approximation, with \( J_{dd} \) adjusted to give the observed ordering temperature, \( T_c \). Agreement with experiment, as shown in Fig. 3, is excellent, but...
due to the approximations made, it is hardly definitive.

For the dilute garnets, it is clear that $T(x)$ cannot be directly related to $D(x)$. Several authors have suggested that $t(x)=a(x)$. In Fig. 4, we test this relation by comparing the observed $T$'s to the quantity $a(x)$ for three families of dilute YIG. In no case is there qualitative agreement. In all cases, $a(x)$ decreases more rapidly than $t$.

The generalized susceptibility needed to discuss the low-lying modes of Eq. (4) was calculated for Si-doped YIG. The resulting optical mode frequency, which should be experimentally observable, is plotted in Fig. 5.

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