



# Frustrated Magnets with Pyrochlores Structure.

*Arsen Gukasov*

*Laboratoire Léon Brillouin  
CEA-CNRS, Saclay, France*



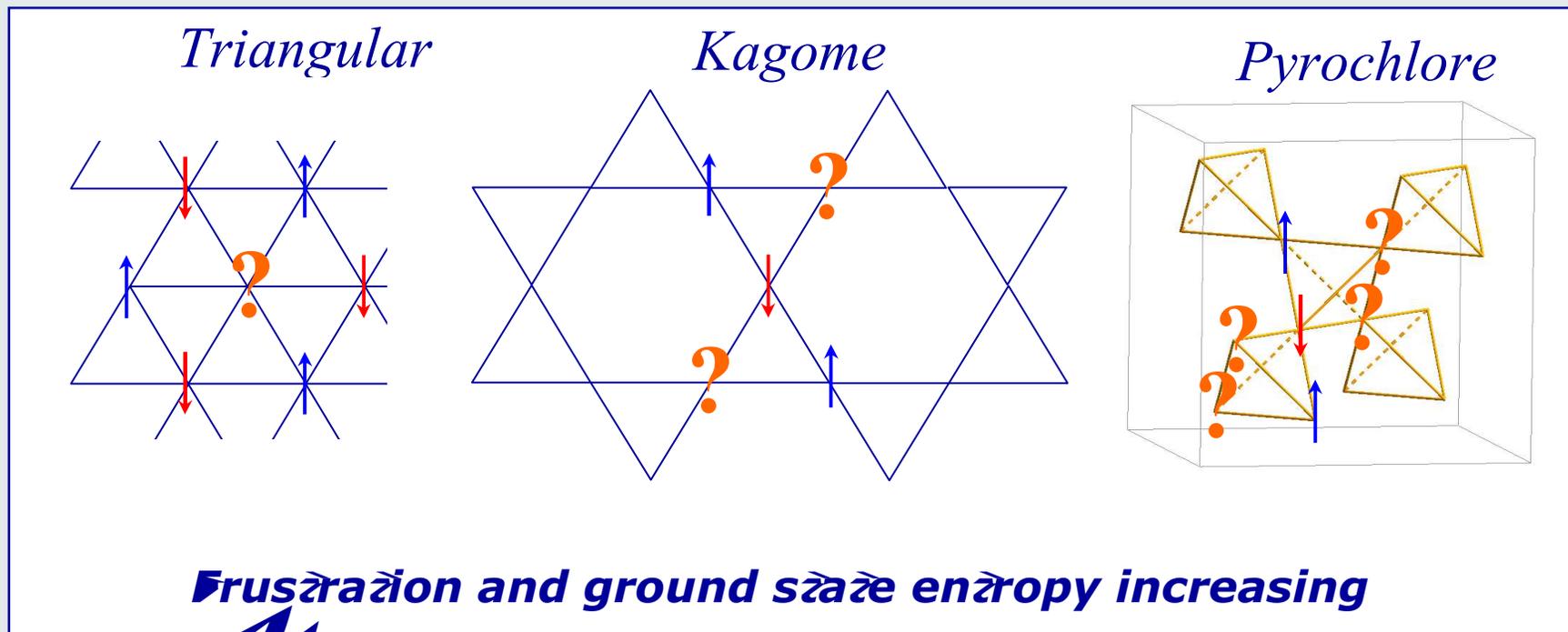
# OUTLINE

- Frustrated magnets
- Local anisotropy and Site Susceptibility Tensor
- Polarized neutron diffraction (PND)
- *Longitudinal and Transverse susceptibilities in cubic pyrochlores*
- *Ising versus XY anisotropy in  $R_2Ti_2O_7$  (R=Ho, Tb, Er and Yb) as seen by PND*

# Geometrically frustrated magnets

Frustration: first neighbour interactions can not be satisfied simultaneously

High sensitivity to perturbations: pressure, magnetic field

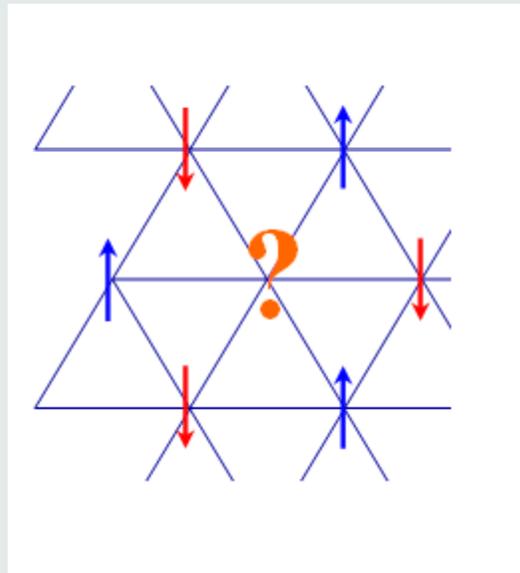


A. D. Ramirez *Nature* 1999

S. T. Bramwell *Science* 2001

# 2D Geometrically frustrated magnets

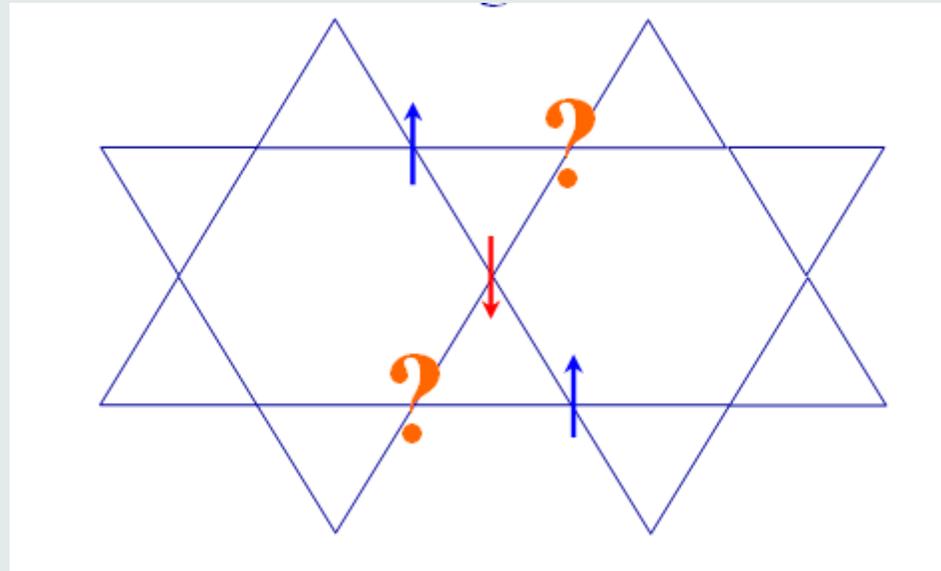
## Triangular lattice



NNN-exchange can lift the SG degeneracy

# 2D Geometrically frustrated magnets

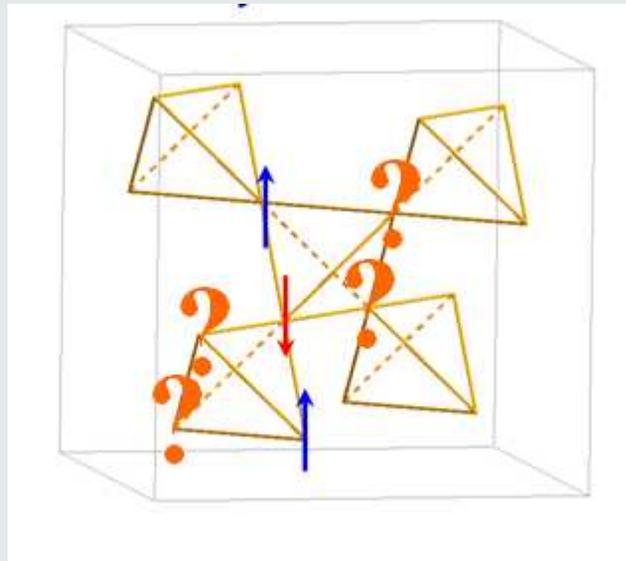
## Kagome lattice



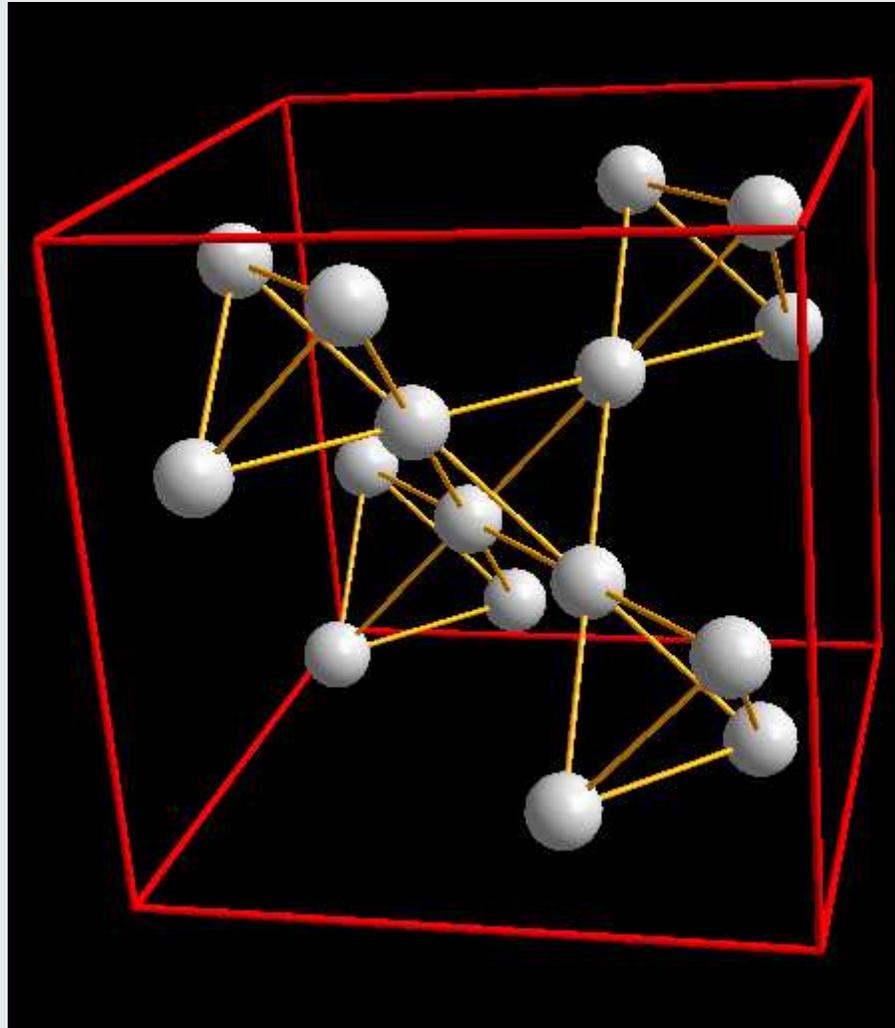
Less Next Nearest Neighbour more frustration

# 3D Geometrically frustrated magnets

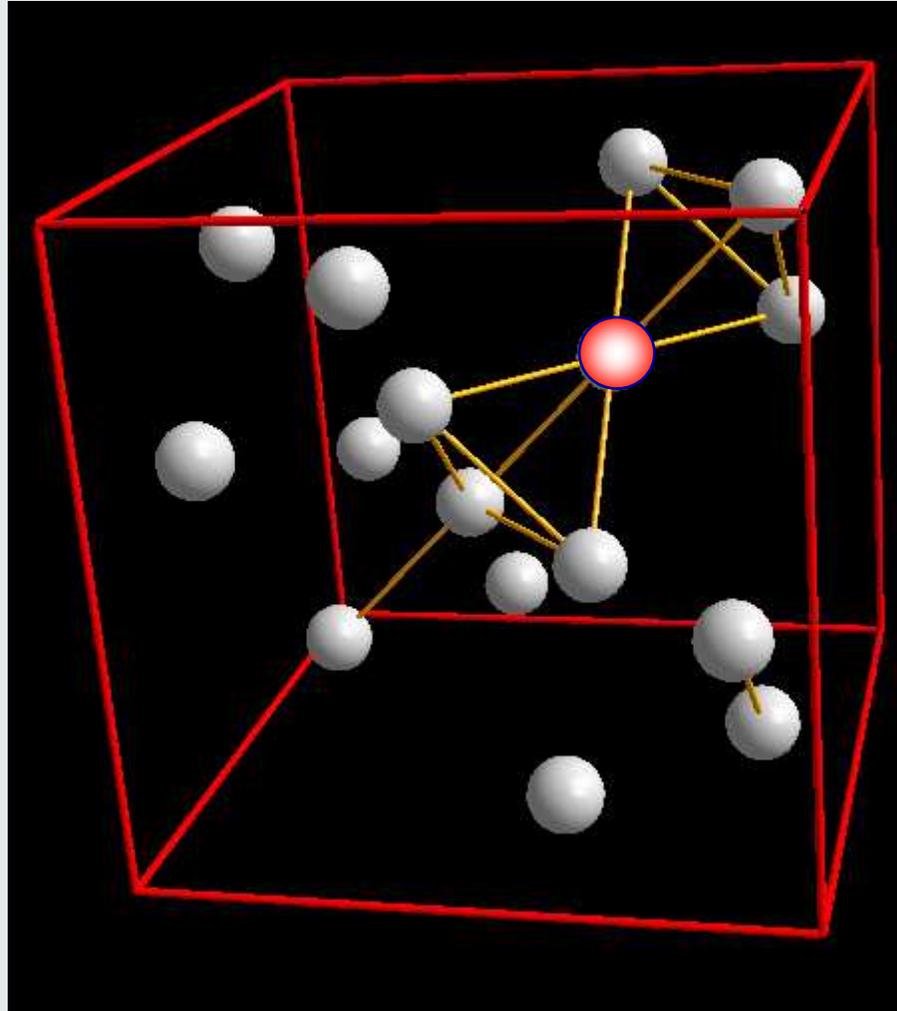
## Pyrochlore lattice



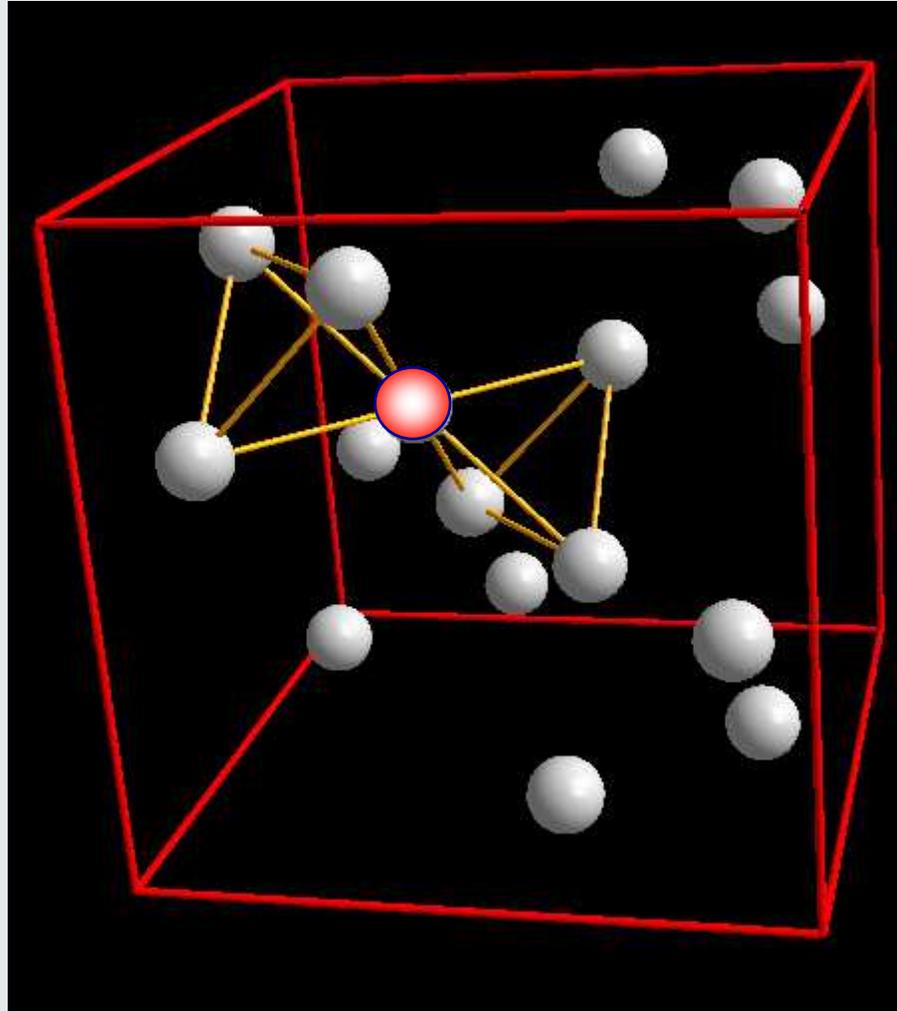
# Symmetry of R Site in $R_2T_2O_7$



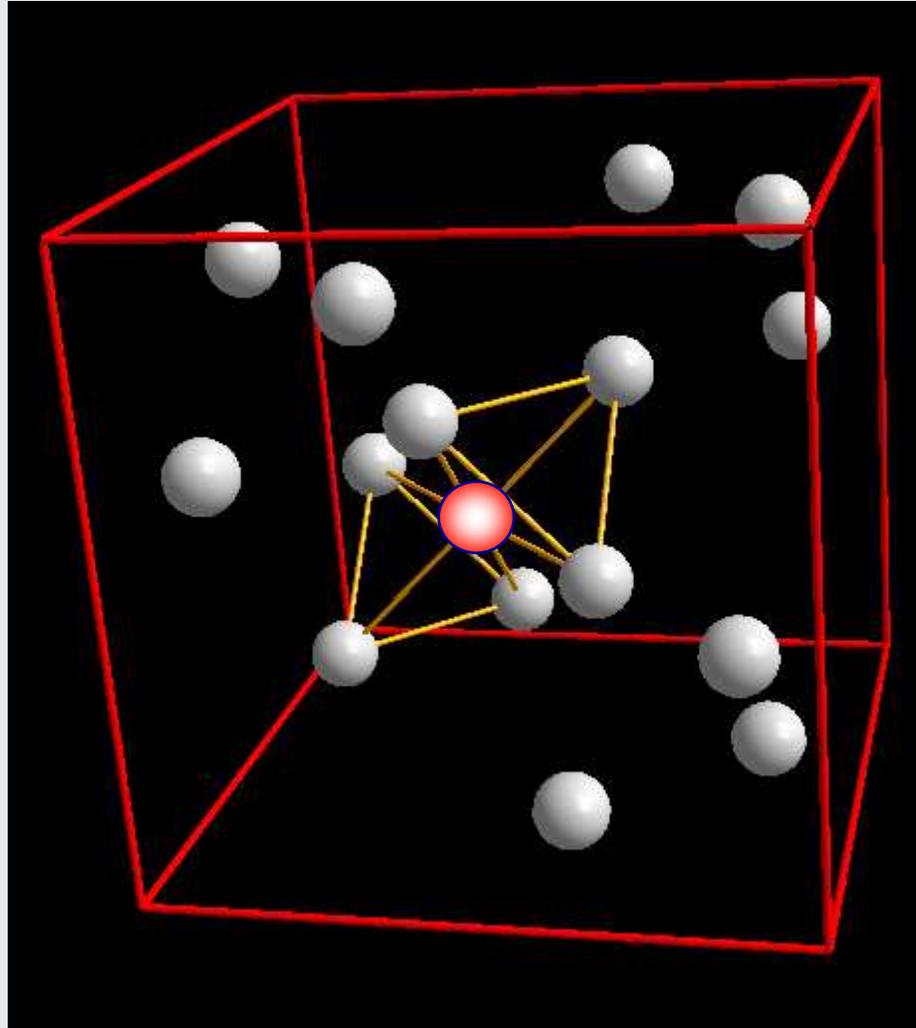
# Symmetry of R Site in $R_2T_2O_7$



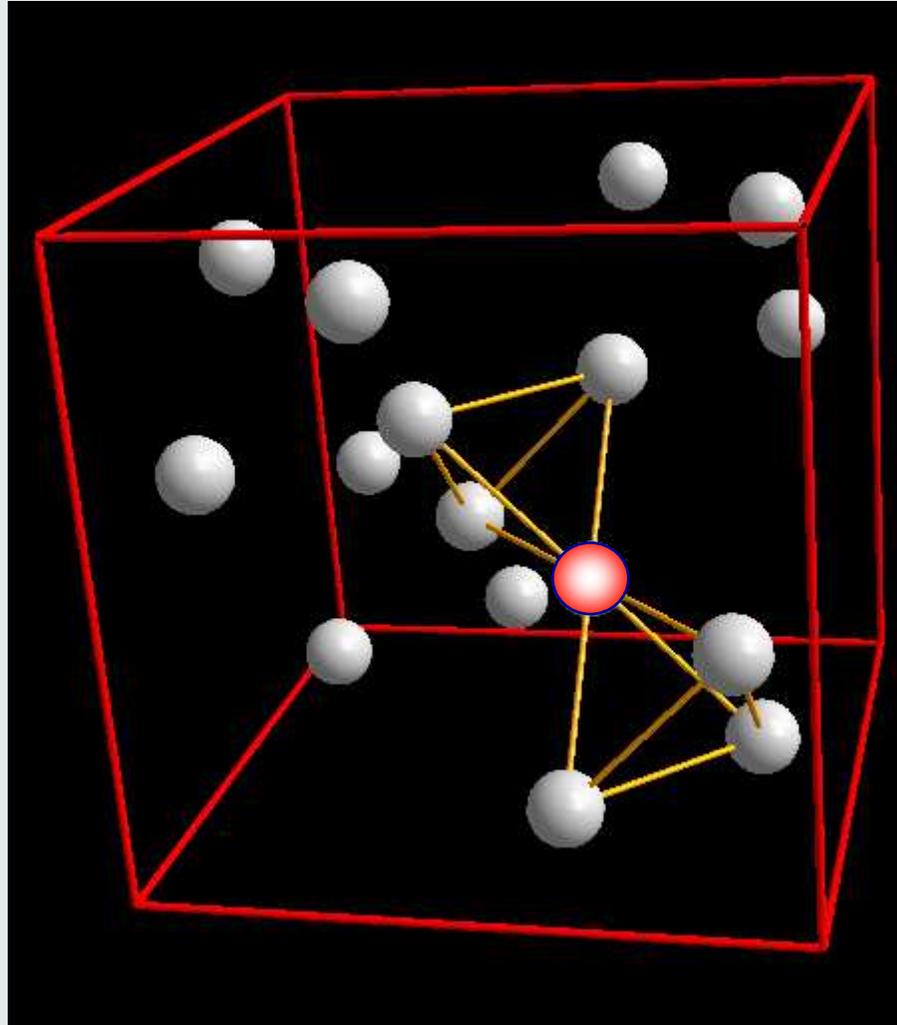
# Symmetry of R Site in $R_2T_2O_7$



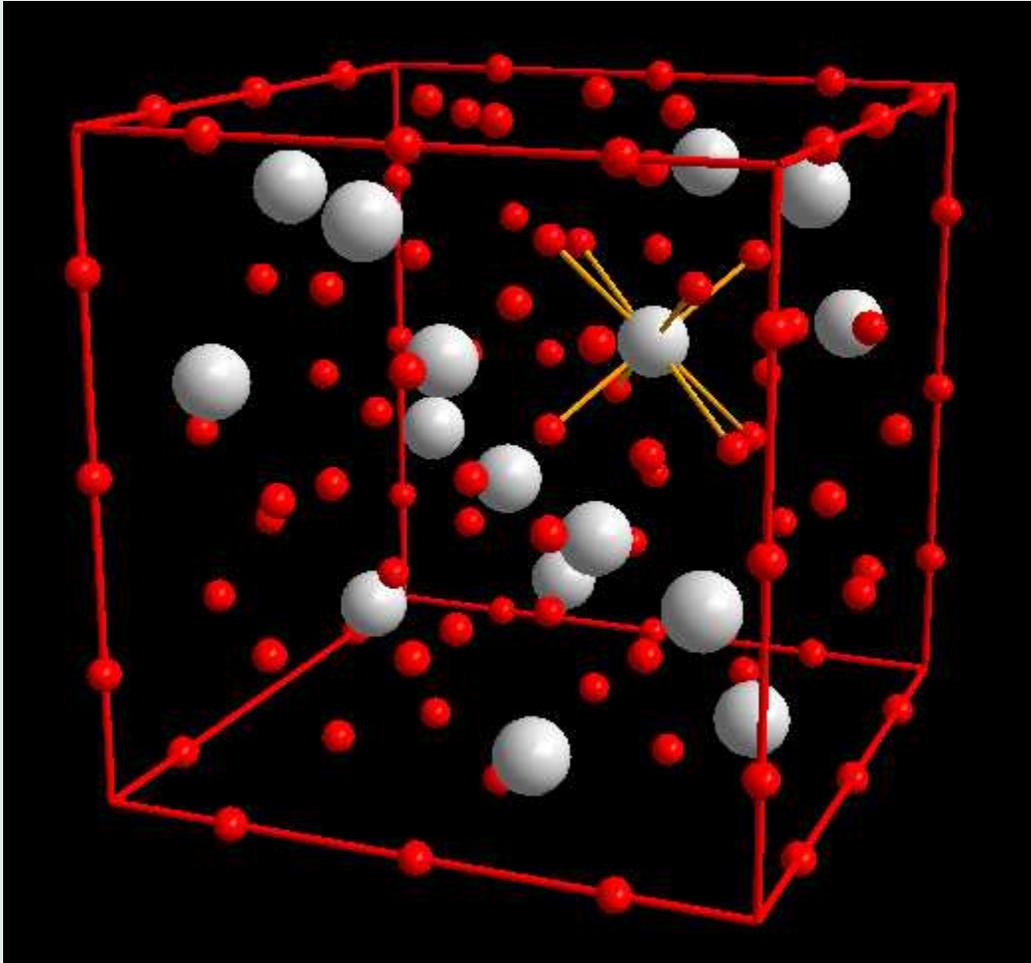
# Symmetry of R Site in $R_2T_2O_7$



# Symmetry of R Site in $R_2T_2O_7$



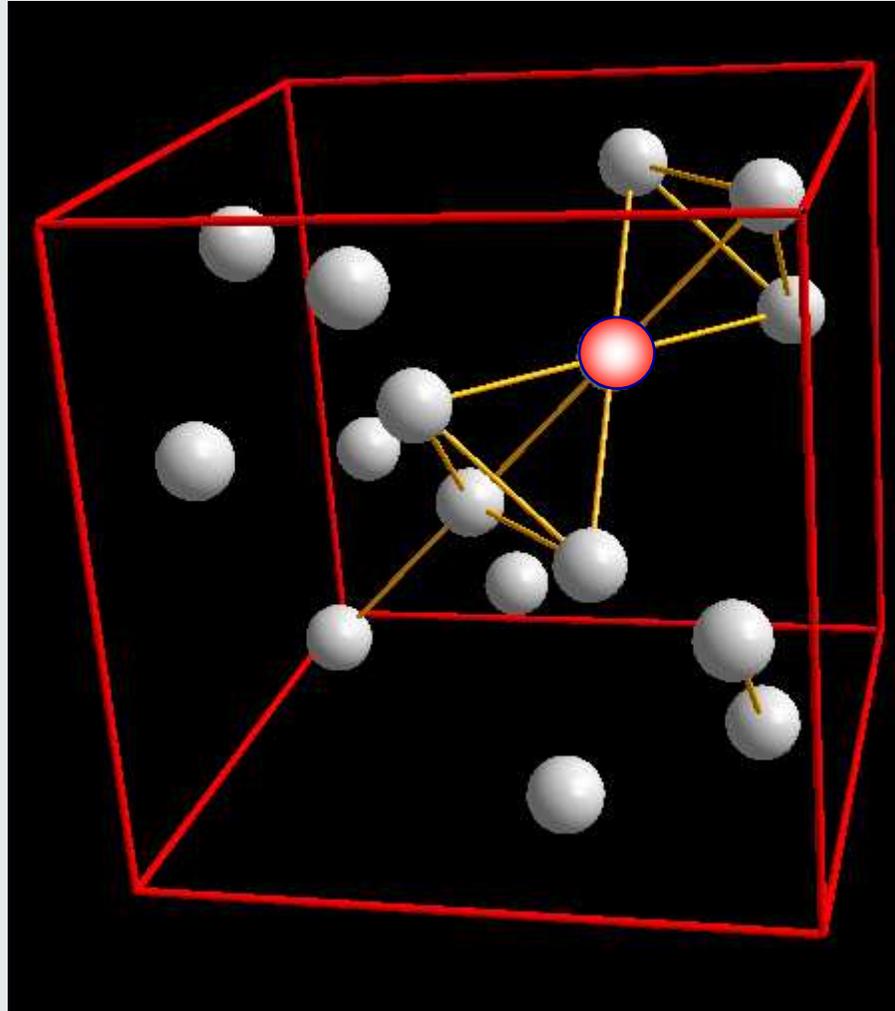
# Symmetry of R Site in $R_2T_2O_7$



***2x Tb-O1 2.19 Å***

***6 x Tb-O2 2.51 Å***

# Symmetry of R Site in $R_2T_2O_7$



*Tb-O1* 2.19 Å

*Tb-O2* 2.51 Å

# Orbital $L$ , Spin $S$ and Total $J$ moments in 4f

Due to Strong  $L$ - $S$  coupling  $J$  is a good quantum number

		L	S	J	$g_J$	$g_{J^2}$	$C_2$ dip	saturated ion		
								magnet.	spin	electron
Ce <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>1</sup>	3	1/2	5/2	6/7	2.14	1.600	0	0	0
Pr <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>2</sup>	5	1	4	4/5	3.20	1.644	P	0	0
Nd <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>3</sup>	6	3/2	9/2	8/11	3.27	1.803	P	0	0
Pm <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>4</sup>	6	2	4	3/5	2.4	2.263	P	P	P
Sm <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>5</sup>	5	5/2	5/2	2/7	0.71	5.422	0	P	P
Eu <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>6</sup>	3	3	0	no moment		-			
Gd <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>7</sup>	0	7/2	7/2	2	7.0	0			
Tb <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>8</sup>	3	3	6	3/2	9.0	0.370		P	0
Dy <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>9</sup>	5	5/2	15/2	4/3	10.0	0.533	P	P	0
Ho <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>10</sup>	6	2	8	5/4	10.0	0.613	P	P	0
Er <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>11</sup>	6	3/2	15/2	6/5	9.0	0.652	P	0	P
Tm <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>12</sup>	5	1	6	7/6	7.0	0.667	0	0	P
Yb <sup>3+</sup>	f <sup>13</sup>	3	1/2	7/2	8/7	4.0	0.667	0	0	P

# Pyrochlore compounds $R_2T_2O_7$

		R-R interaction	
		Ferro	Antiferro
R anisotropy	Ising	<p><b>Dy<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub></b></p> <p><b>Ho<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub></b></p>	<p><b>Not frustrated</b></p> <p><b>Long Range Order</b></p>
	Heisenberg	<p><b>Not frustrated</b></p> <p><b>Long Range Order</b></p>	<p><b>Tb<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub></b></p> <p><b>Frustrated</b></p> <p><b>Short Range Order</b></p> <p><b>Spin Liquid</b></p>

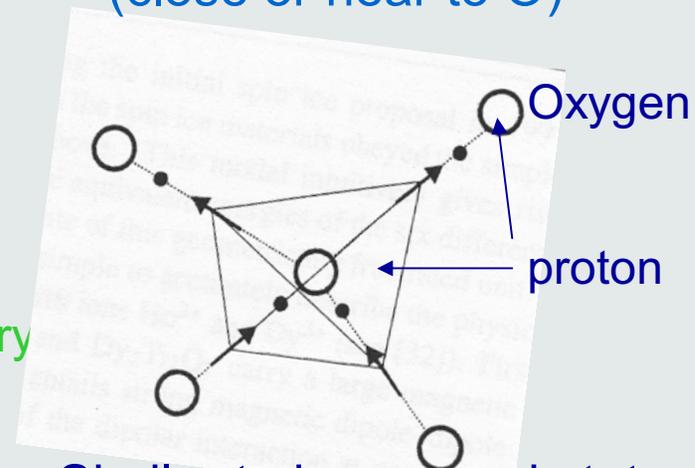
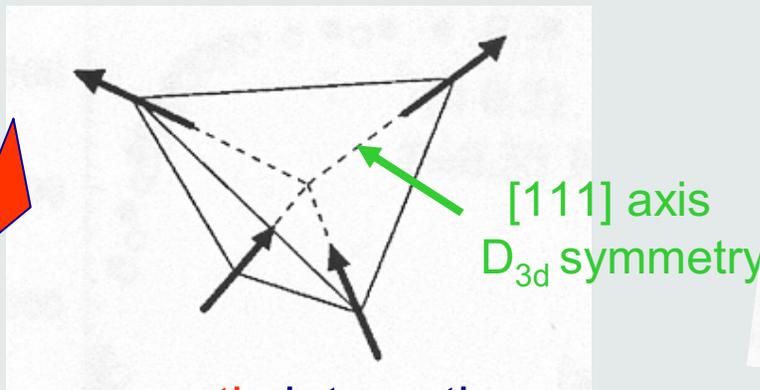
# Ising ferromagnet (exchange + dipole): the pyrochlore « spin ice », a frustrated system

M.Harris, Nature **399** (1999) 311 & A.P.Ramirez *et al*, Nature **399** (1999) 333

Ising spins, constrained  
to lie along (111) directions  
(« in » or « out »)



Ice protons, constrained  
to be on the (111) ligands  
(close or near to O)



If **ferromagnetic** interactions,  
the ground configuration is  
« two in – two out » spins

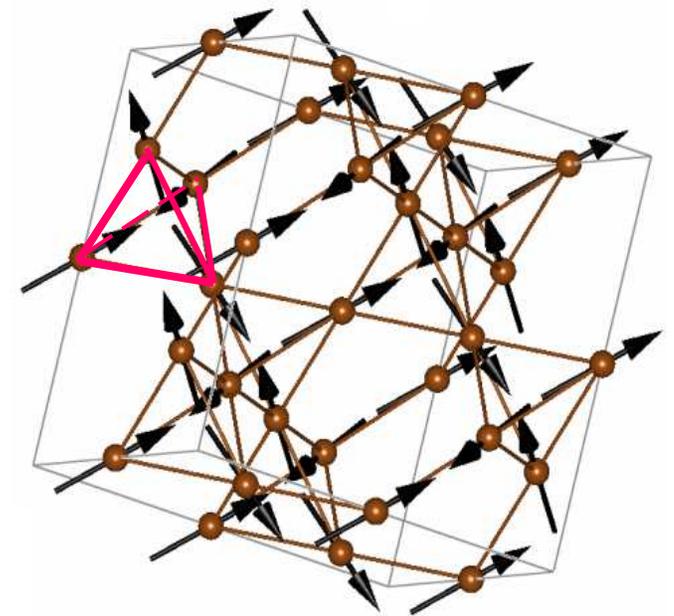
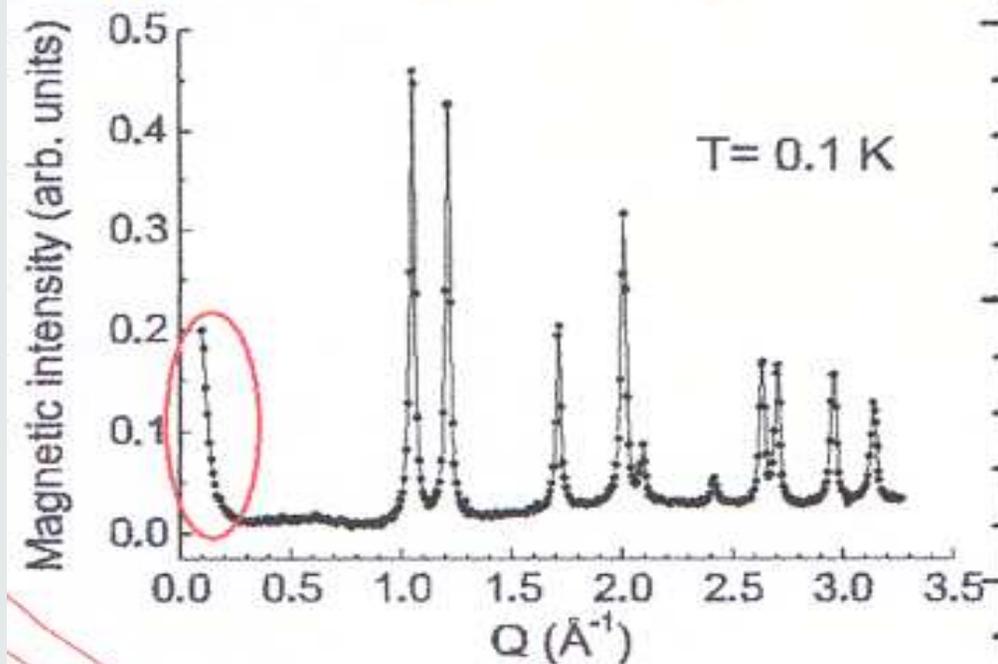


Similar to ice ground state:  
« two close – two far » protons  
with zero point entropy

« Spin ice » (e.g.  $\text{Dy}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ , with Ising ion  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ ):  
large GS degeneracy and no LRO

# Tb<sub>2</sub>Sn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (quasi-Ising F) - T<sub>c</sub> = 0.87K

## Magnetic diffraction



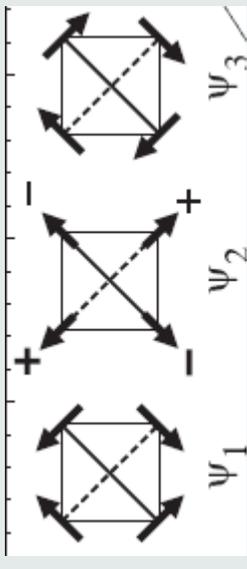
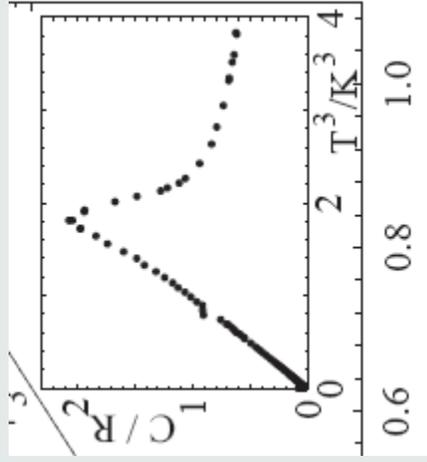
L<sub>c</sub> ≅ 20nm

I. Mirebeau *et al.*, PRL **94** (2005) 2464

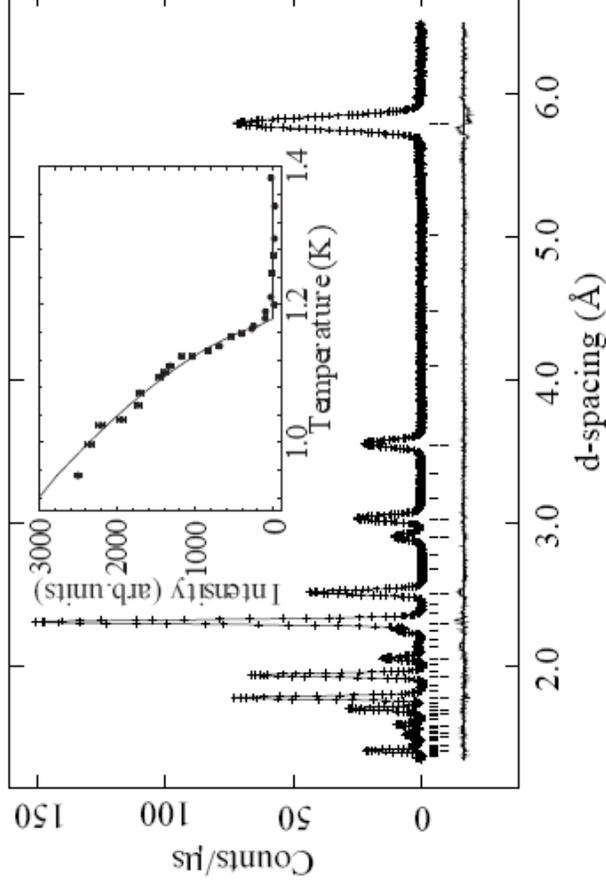
- presence of q=0 scattering below 0.9K ⇒ ferro. correlations
- « ordered spin-ice »: quasi-« two in – two out » with LRO
- saturated Tb<sup>3+</sup> moment: m(Tb) = 5.9(1)μ<sub>B</sub>

# $\text{Er}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ : Evidence of Quantum Order by Disorder in a Frustrated Antiferromagnet

J. D. M. Champion<sup>1,2,3</sup>, M. J. Harris<sup>2</sup>, P. C. W. Holdsworth<sup>3</sup>, A. S. Wills<sup>4</sup>, G. Balakrishnan<sup>5</sup>,

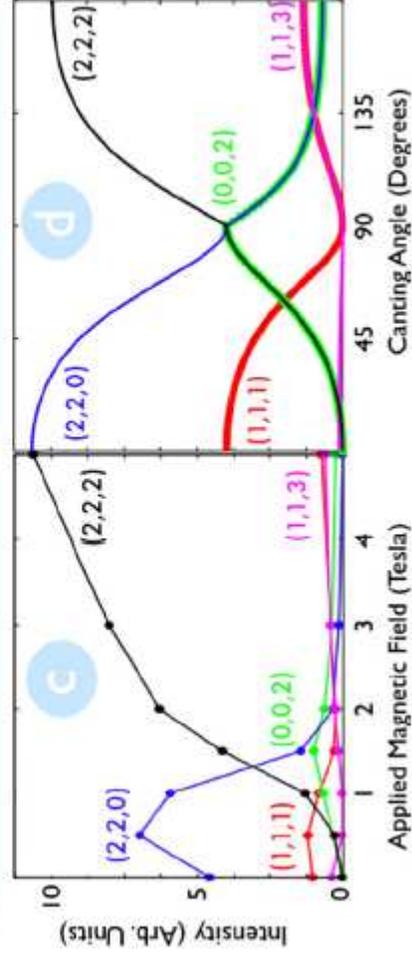
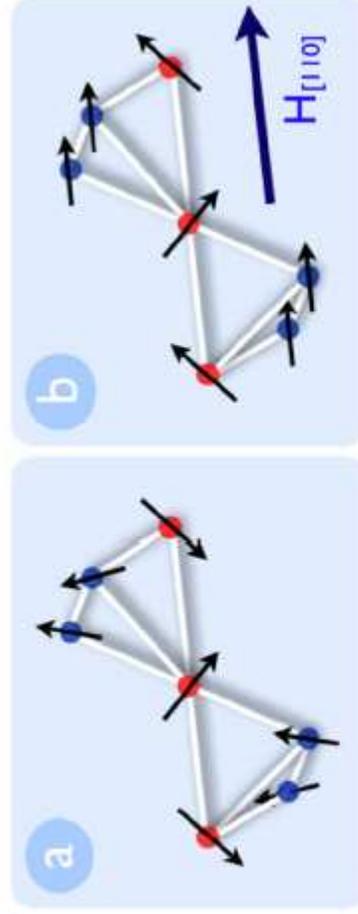


2



## Spin Waves and Quantum Criticality in the Frustrated XY Pyrochlore Antiferromagnet $\text{Er}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$

J. P. C. Ruff,<sup>1</sup> J. P. Clancy,<sup>1</sup> A. Bourque,<sup>2</sup> M. A. White,<sup>2</sup> M. Ramazanoglu,<sup>1</sup> J. S. Gardner,<sup>3,4</sup> Y. Qiu,<sup>3,5</sup> J. R. D. Copley,<sup>3</sup> M. B. Johnson,<sup>2</sup> H. A. Dabkowska,<sup>1</sup> and B. D. Gaulin<sup>1,6</sup>



$$H = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j - D \sum_i (\vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{d}_i)^2$$

# SPIN ICE structure

*H Cao, A Gukasov / Mirebeau, PRL , 100, 22,227602, 2008*

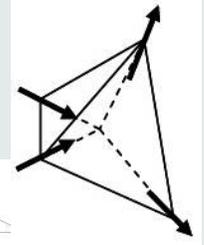
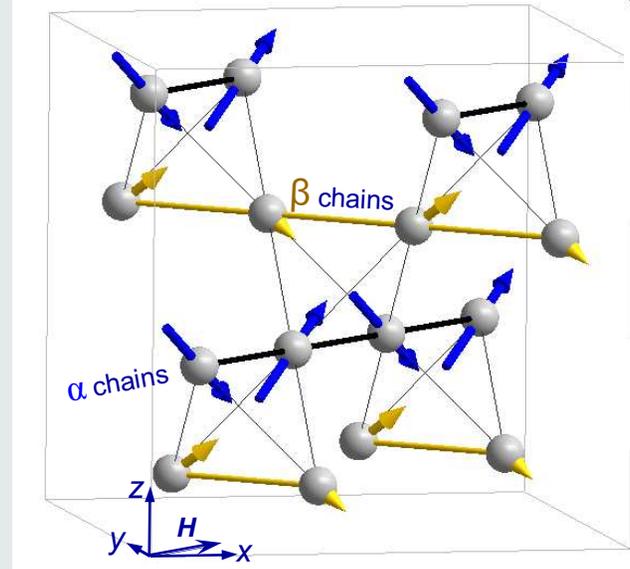
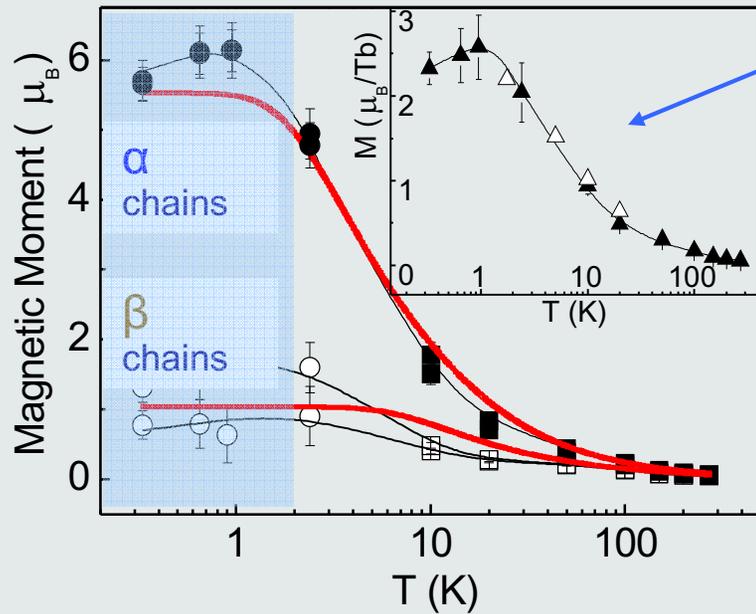
Low field and temperatures ( $H \leq 1$  T, 200 mK)

$H // 110$

- ❖  $\alpha$  chains:
  - ❖  $\beta$  chains
- local  $\langle 111 \rangle$  easy axis
- close to  $H$  ( $36^\circ$ )
- perp. to  $H$  ( $90^\circ$ )

Very different moments

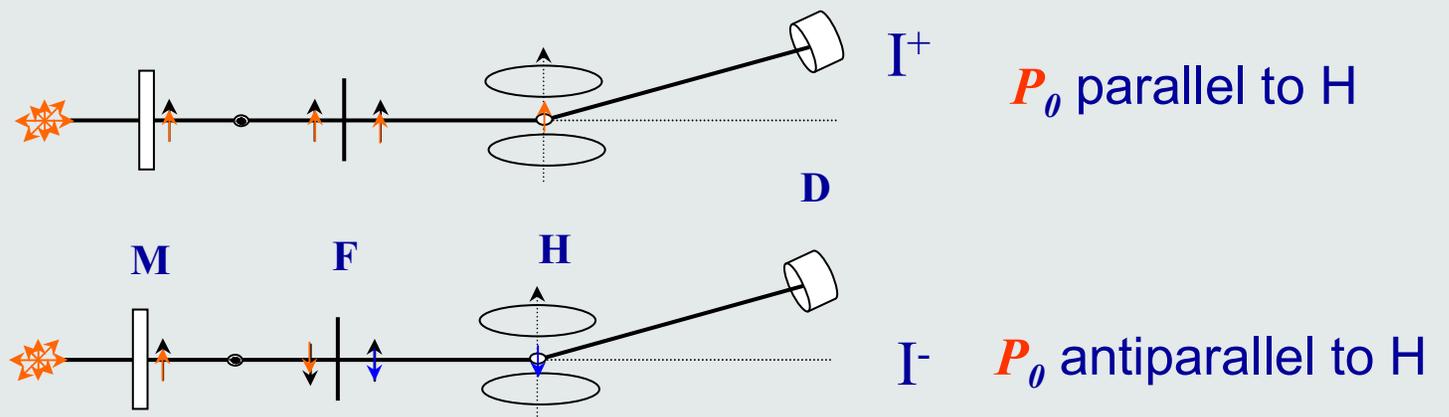
Magnetization



Red lines: CF calculations

$H = 1$  T &  $T = 200$  m K  
Close to spin ice

# POLARIZED NEUTRON DIFFRACTION



$$I^+ \propto (F_N + F_M)^2$$

$$I^- \propto (F_N - F_M)^2$$

$$I^\pm \propto F_N^2 \pm 2F_N(P_0^* F_M) + F_M^2$$

# FLIPPING RATIO MEASUREMENTS

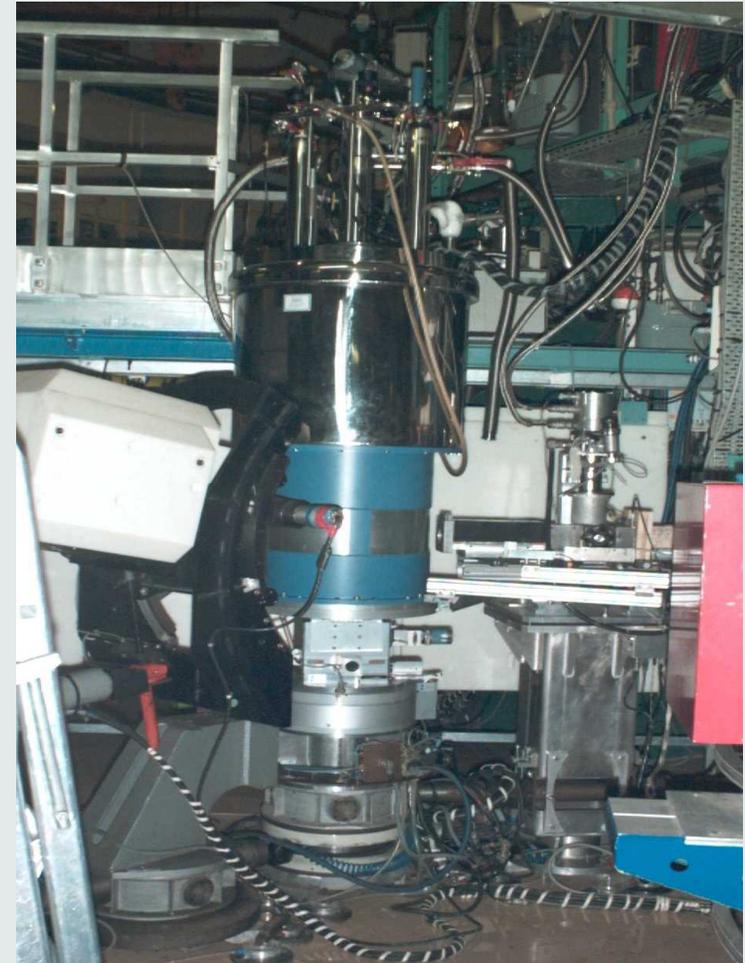
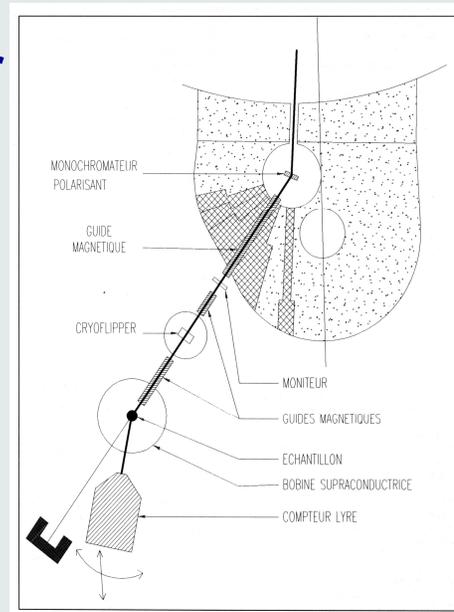
$$I^+ \propto (F_N + F_M)^2 \quad \Gamma \propto (F_N - F_M)^2$$

$$R = I^+ / I^- = (F_N + F_M)^2 / (F_N - F_M)^2$$

$$R = (1 + \gamma)^2 / (1 - \gamma)^2 \quad F_M(q) = \gamma * F_N(q)$$

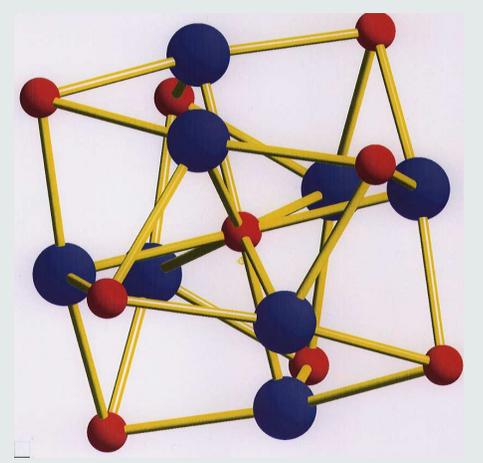
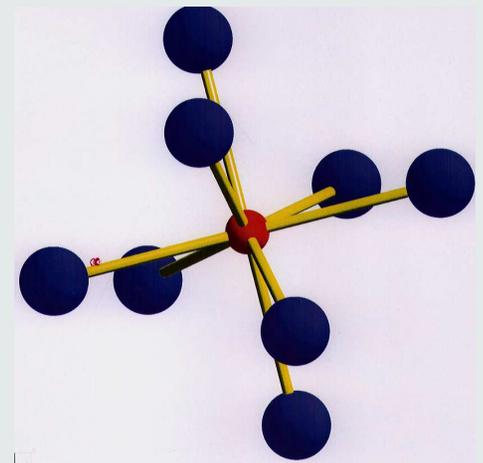
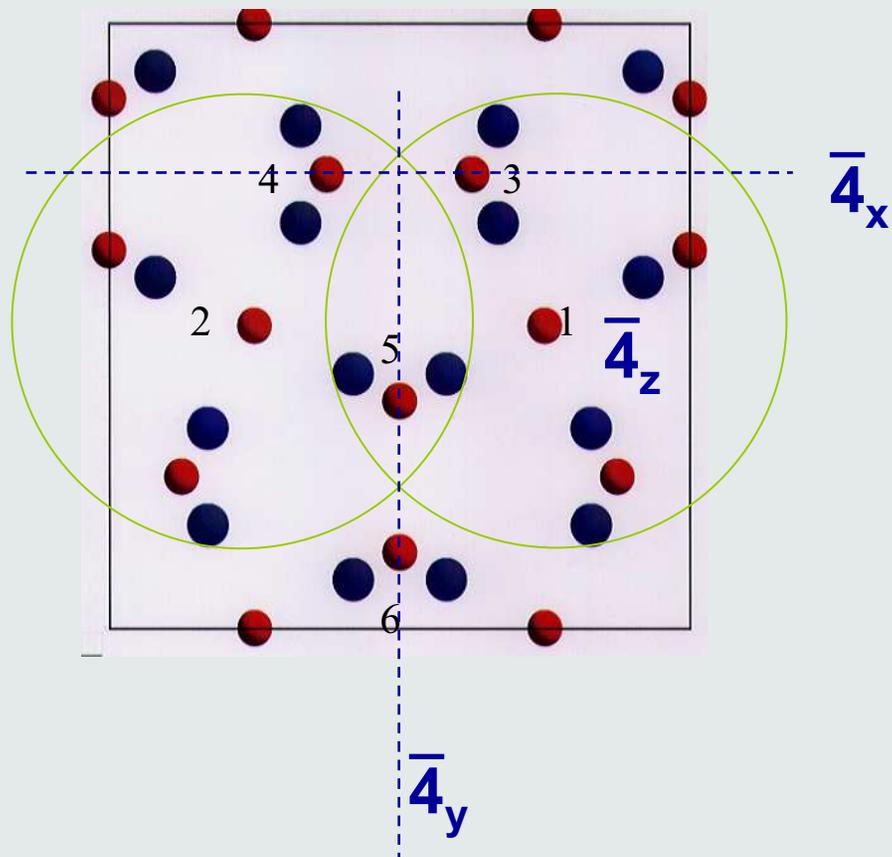
# 5C1 DIFFRACTOMETER (LLB)

- 0.84 Å
- Heussler 50x50 mm<sup>2</sup> in transmission
- Cryoflipper
- Asymmetric 7.8 T magnet
- $-5^\circ < \nu < 20^\circ$
- lifting counter



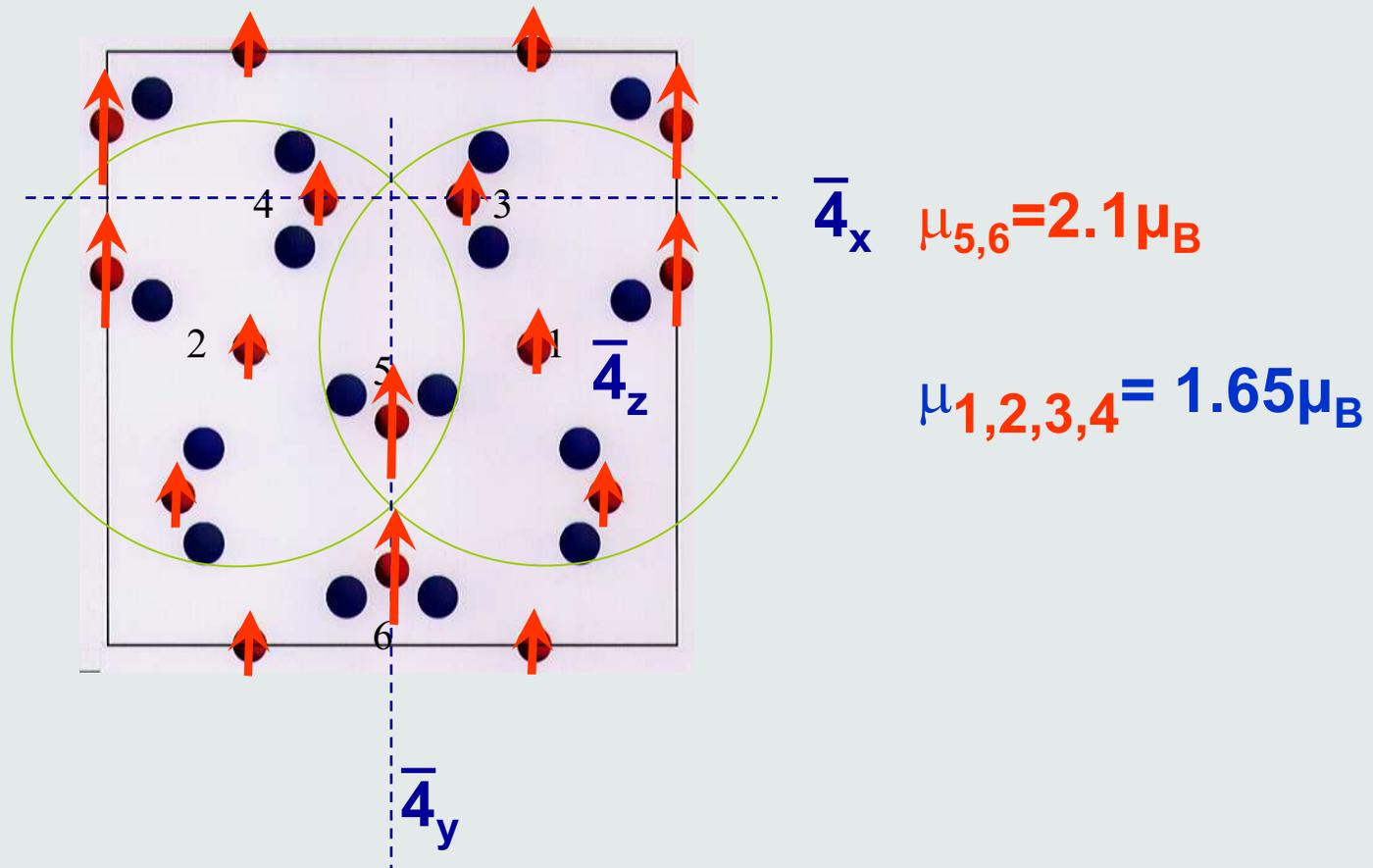
# $U_3P_4$ ( $Th_3P_4$ STRUCTURE I-43d)

A. Gukasov P. Wisniewski and Z. Henkie J. Phys. C, 1998



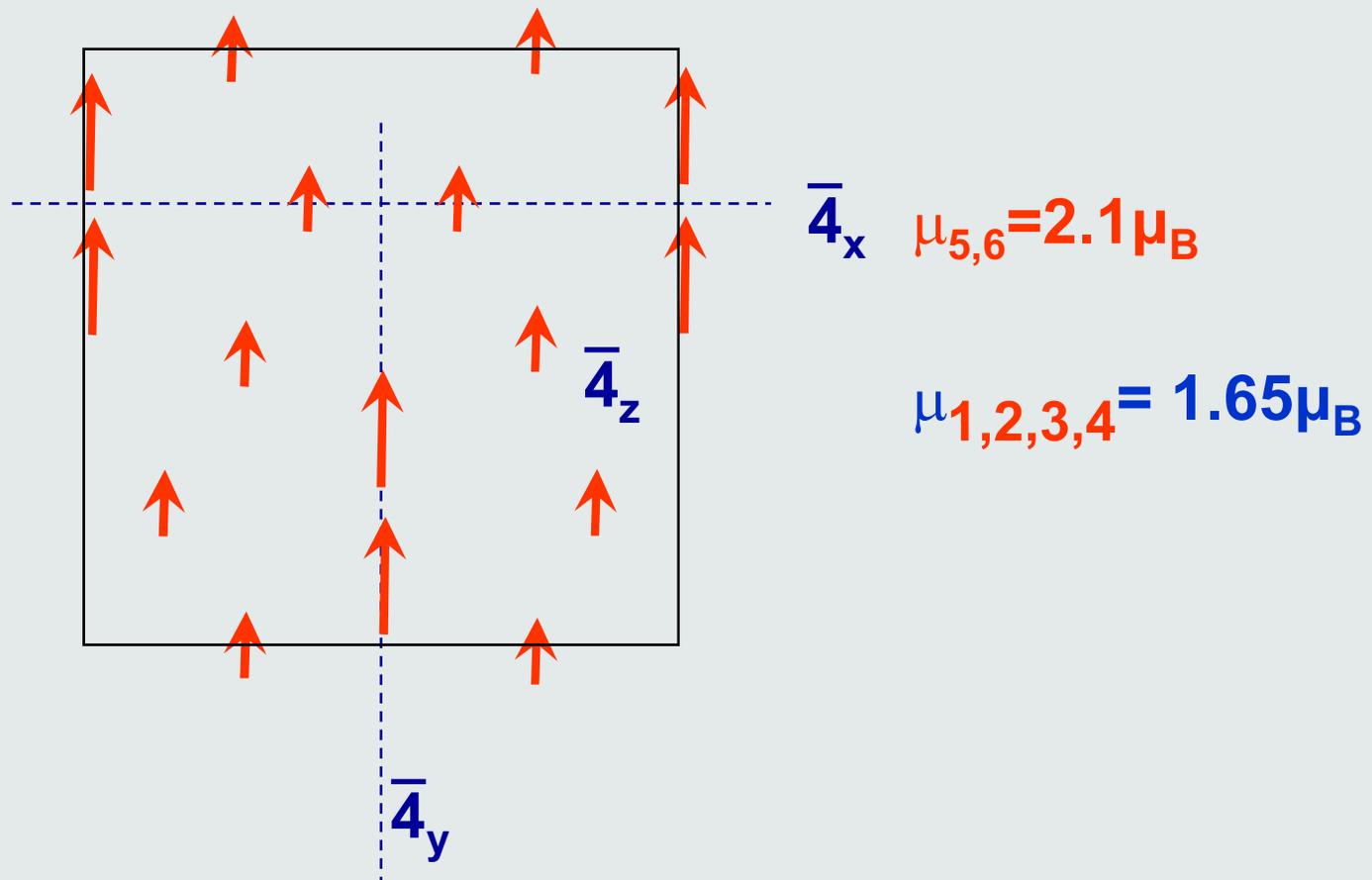
# $U_3P_4$ ( $Th_3P_4$ STRUCTURE I-43d)

*A Gukasov, P Wisniewski and Z Henkie. J of Phys, Cond Matt. 8, 10589,1996*



# $U_3P_4$ ( $Th_3P_4$ STRUCTURE I-43d)

*A Gukasov, P Wisniewski and Z Henkie. J of Phys, Cond Matt. 8, 10589,1996*



# LOCAL ANISOTROPY OF SUSCEPTIBILITY IN CRYSTALS WITH $\text{Th}_3\text{P}_4$ STRUCTURE

*J. X. Boucherle et al. Physica B, 281-282, 139-140, 2000*

*A Gukasov and P J Brown, J Phys C, 14, 8831, 2002*

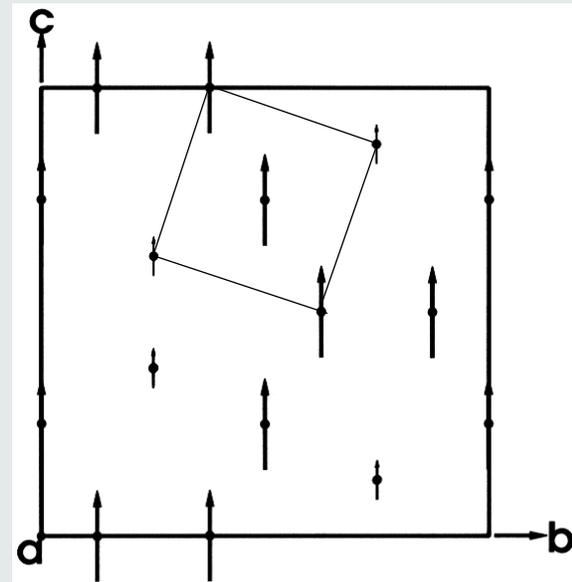
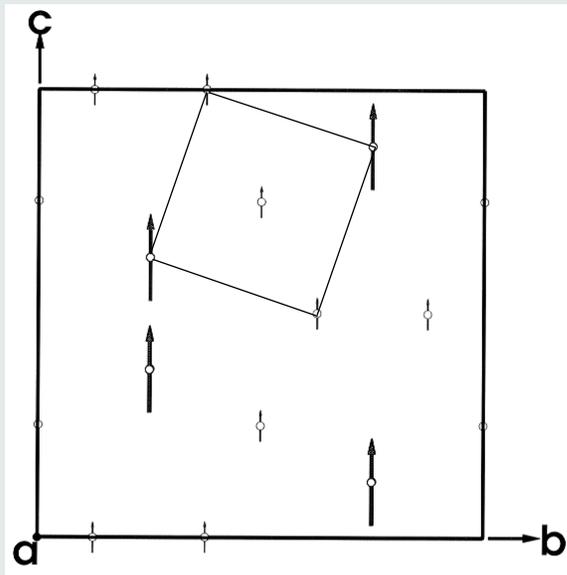
$H \parallel (0\ 0\ 1)$  5T

$\text{Sm}_3\text{Te}_4$  D3, ILL

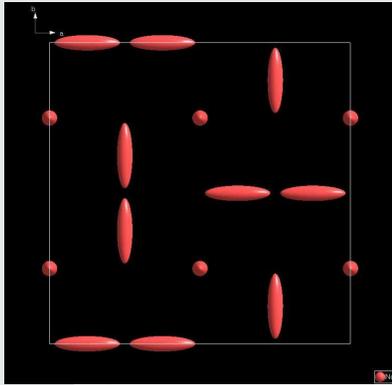
$\text{Nd}_{3-x}\text{S}_4$  5C1, LLB

$\mu_{1,2} = 0.083\mu_B$   $\mu_{3,4,5,6} = 0.033\mu_B$

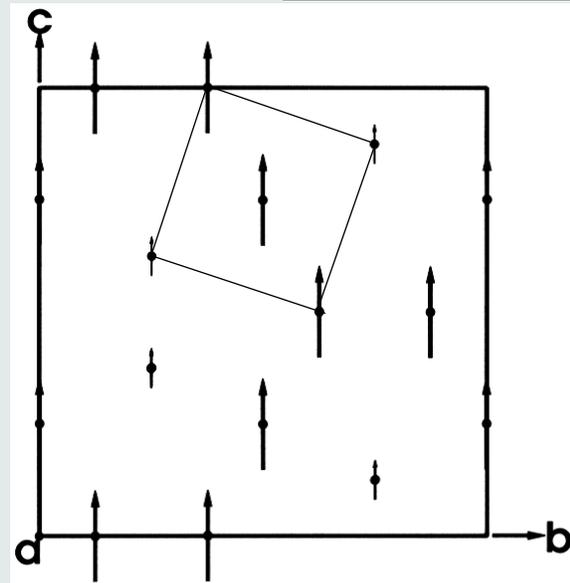
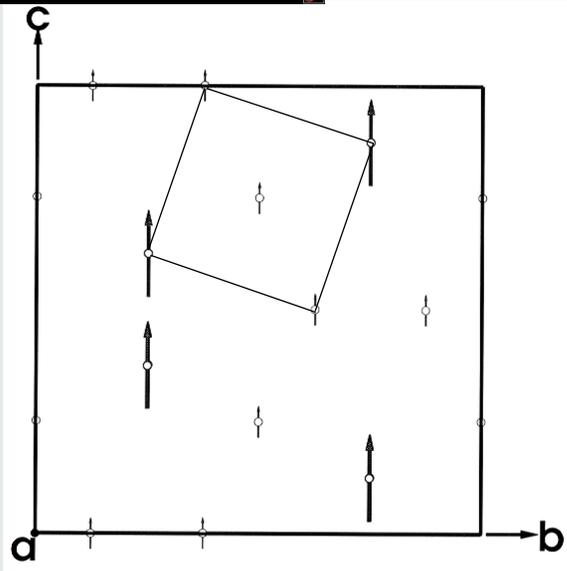
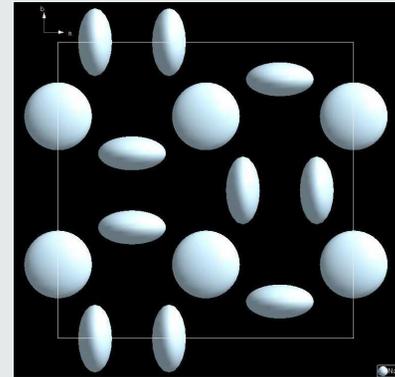
$\mu_{12} = 0.62\mu_B$   $\mu_{3,4,5,6} = 1.44\mu_B$



# LOCAL ANISOTROPY OF SUSCEPTIBILITY IN CRYSTALS WITH $\text{Th}_3\text{P}_4$ STRUCTURE



*A Gukasov and P J Brown,  
J Phys C, 14, 8831, 2002*



## ANISOTROPIC SUSCEPTIBILITIES

$$\chi_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \chi_{11} & \chi_{12} & \chi_{13} \\ & \chi_{22} & \chi_{23} \\ & & \chi_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

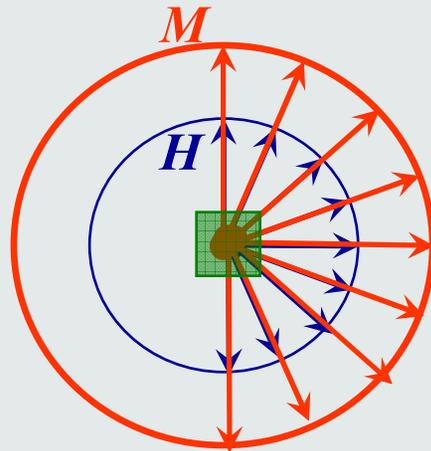
Bulk magnetisation  $M_i(\mathbf{r}) = \chi_{ij} H_j$

The number of independent components of  $\chi_{ij}$  is determined by the crystal symmetry class:

cubic groups	1 parameter
all uniaxial groups	2 parameters
Orthorhombic	3 ...
Monoclinic	4 ...
Triclinic	6

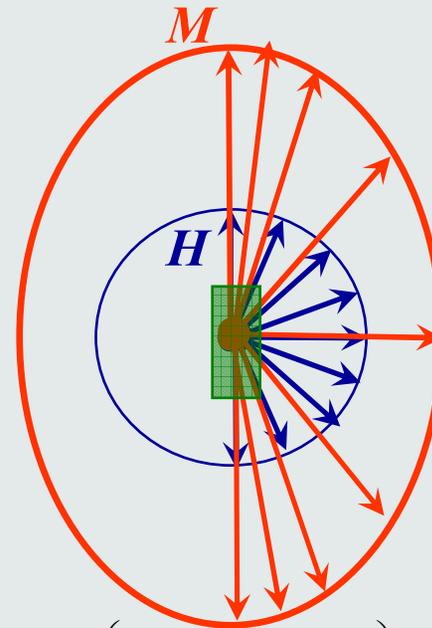
# ANISOTROPIC BULK SUSCEPTIBILITY

**CUBIC**,  $\chi_{11} = \chi_{22} = \chi_{33}$



$$\chi_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \chi_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \chi_{11} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \chi_{11} \end{pmatrix}$$

**UNIAXIAL**  $\chi_{11} = \chi_{22} < \chi_{33}$



$$\chi_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \chi_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \chi_{11} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \chi_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

# ANISOTROPIC SITE SUSCEPTIBILITIES

*A Gukasov and P J Brown, J Phys C, 14, 8831, 2002*

## Bulk magnetisation

$$M_i = \sum M_i^a = \sum \chi_{ij}^a H_j$$

$$M_i^b = \sum R_g(t) \chi_{ij}^a R_g(t)^{-1} H_j$$

$R_g(t)$  is the symmetry operator  $r_b = R_g(t) r_a$

$$M_i = \sum_g R(t) \chi_{ij}^a R(t)^{-1} H_j$$

## REFINEMENT OF ANISOTROPIC SUSCEPTIBILITIES

$$I^{\pm} \propto N^2 \pm 2 P_{0z} N M_z + M_z^2$$

$$M_i = \sum_a \chi^a_{ij} H_j$$

$$I^{\pm} \propto N^2 \pm 2F_N(P_0^* \sum \chi^a_{ij} H_j) + |\sum \chi^a_{ij} H_j|^2$$


$$R = I^+ / I^- \quad \text{CHILSQ (CCSL)}$$

A Gukasov and P J Brown, *J Phys C*, 14, 8831, 2002

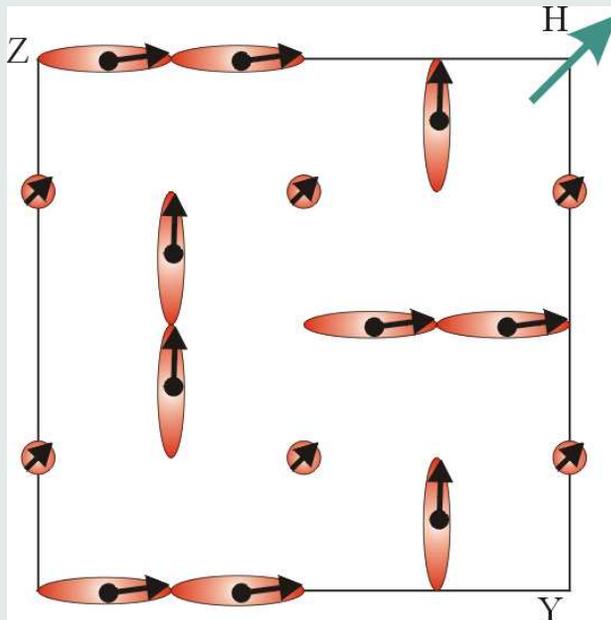
# ANISOTROPIC SUSCEPTIBILITY PARAMETERS (ASPs)

$$\chi_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \chi_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \chi_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \chi_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

*A Gukasov and P J Brown, J Phys C, 14, 8831, 2002*

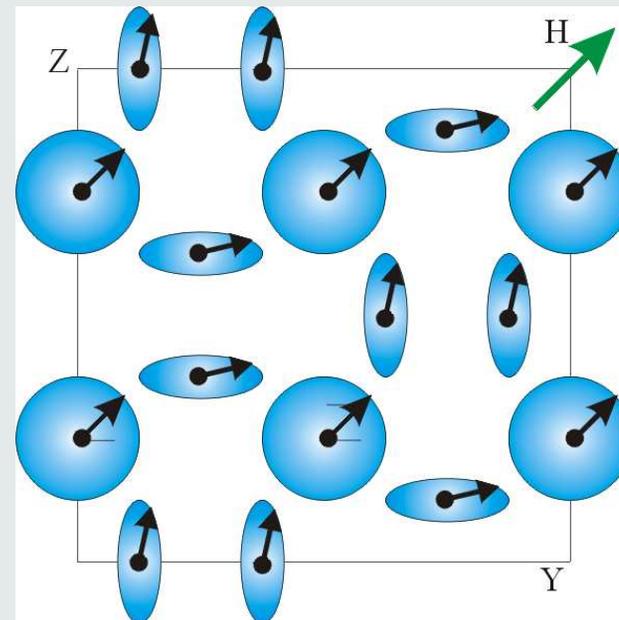
**Prolate  $\text{Sm}_3\text{Te}_4$**

$$\chi_{11} < \chi_{33}$$

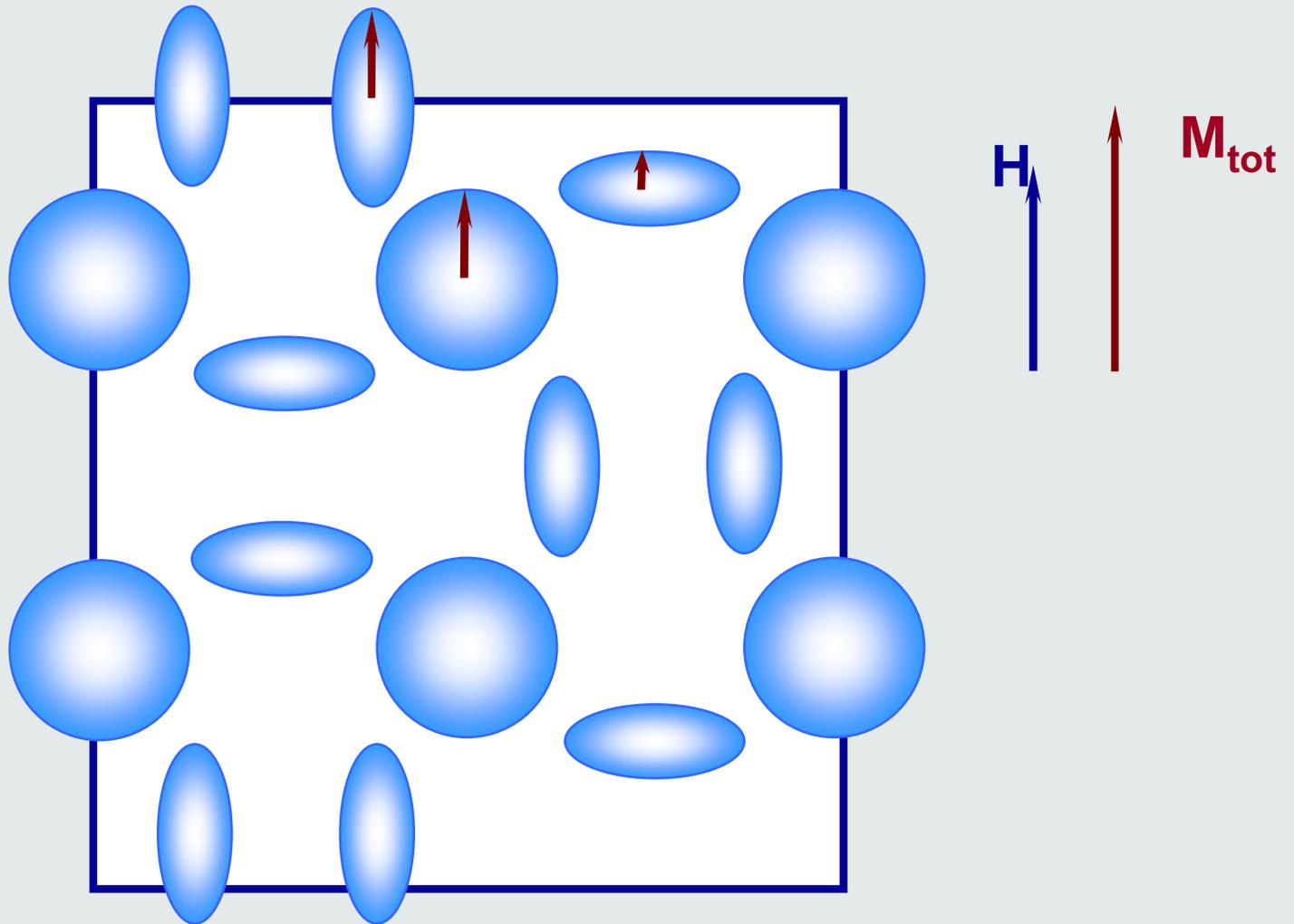


**Oblate  $\text{Nd}_{3-x}\text{S}_4$**

$$\chi_{11} > \chi_{33}$$

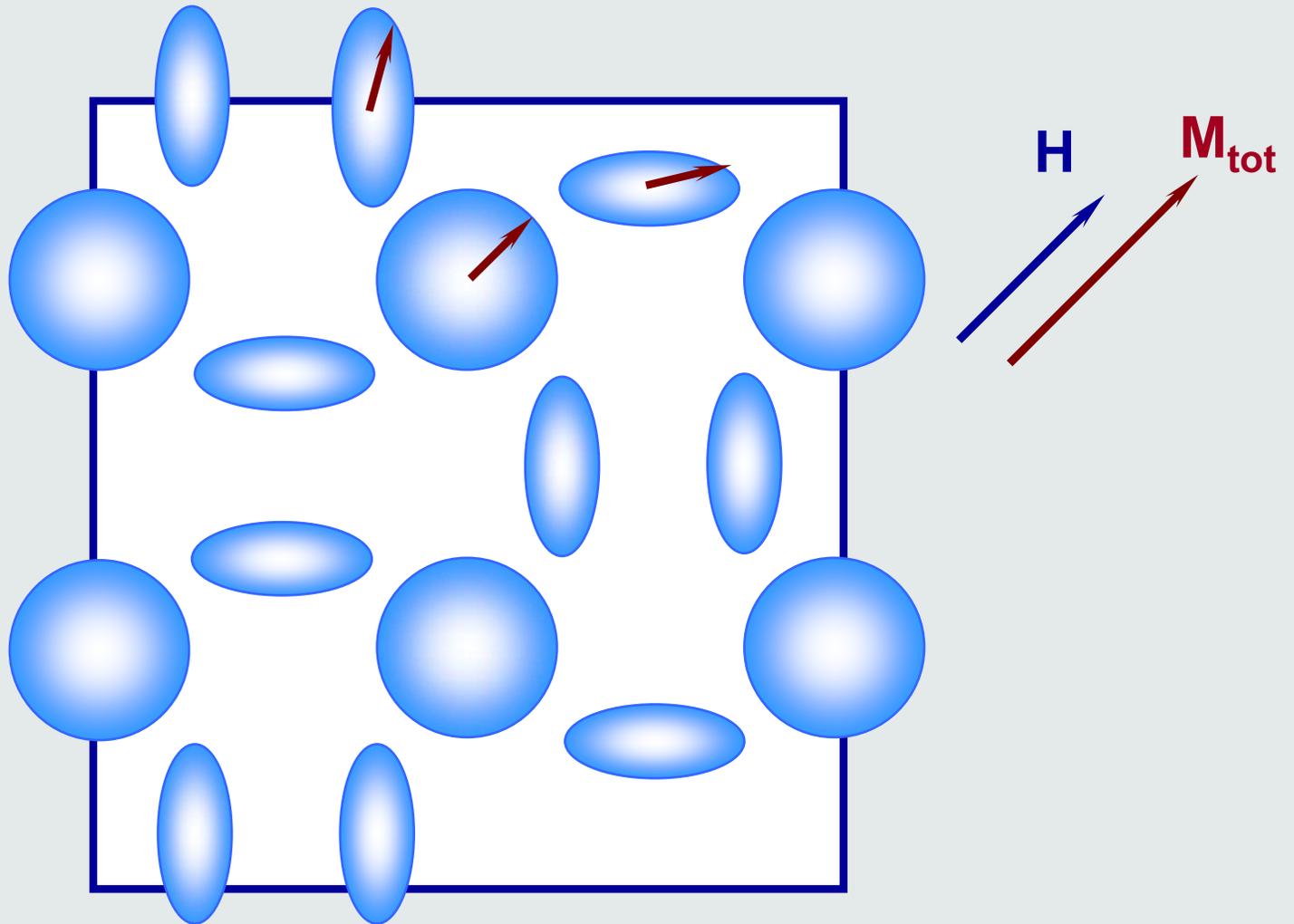


# OBLATE MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS IN $\text{Nd}_{3-x}\text{S}_4$



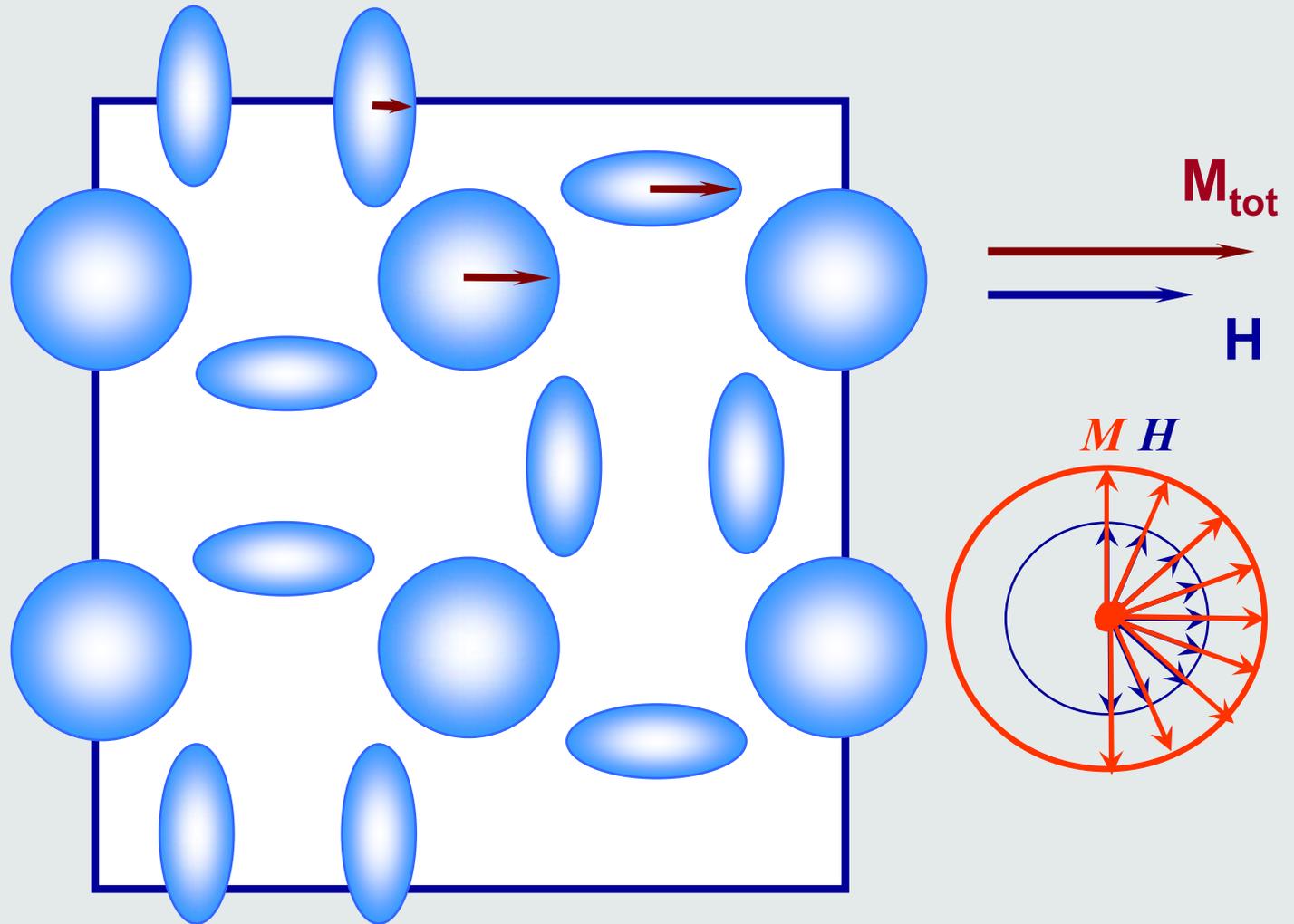
*A Gukasov and P J Brown, J Phys C, 14, 8831, 2002*

# OBLATE MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS IN $\text{Nd}_{3-x}\text{S}_4$



A Gukasov and P J Brown, *J Phys C*, 14, 8831, 2002

# OBLATE MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS IN $\text{Nd}_{3-x}\text{S}_4$



A Gukasov and P J Brown, *J Phys C*, 14, 8831, 2002

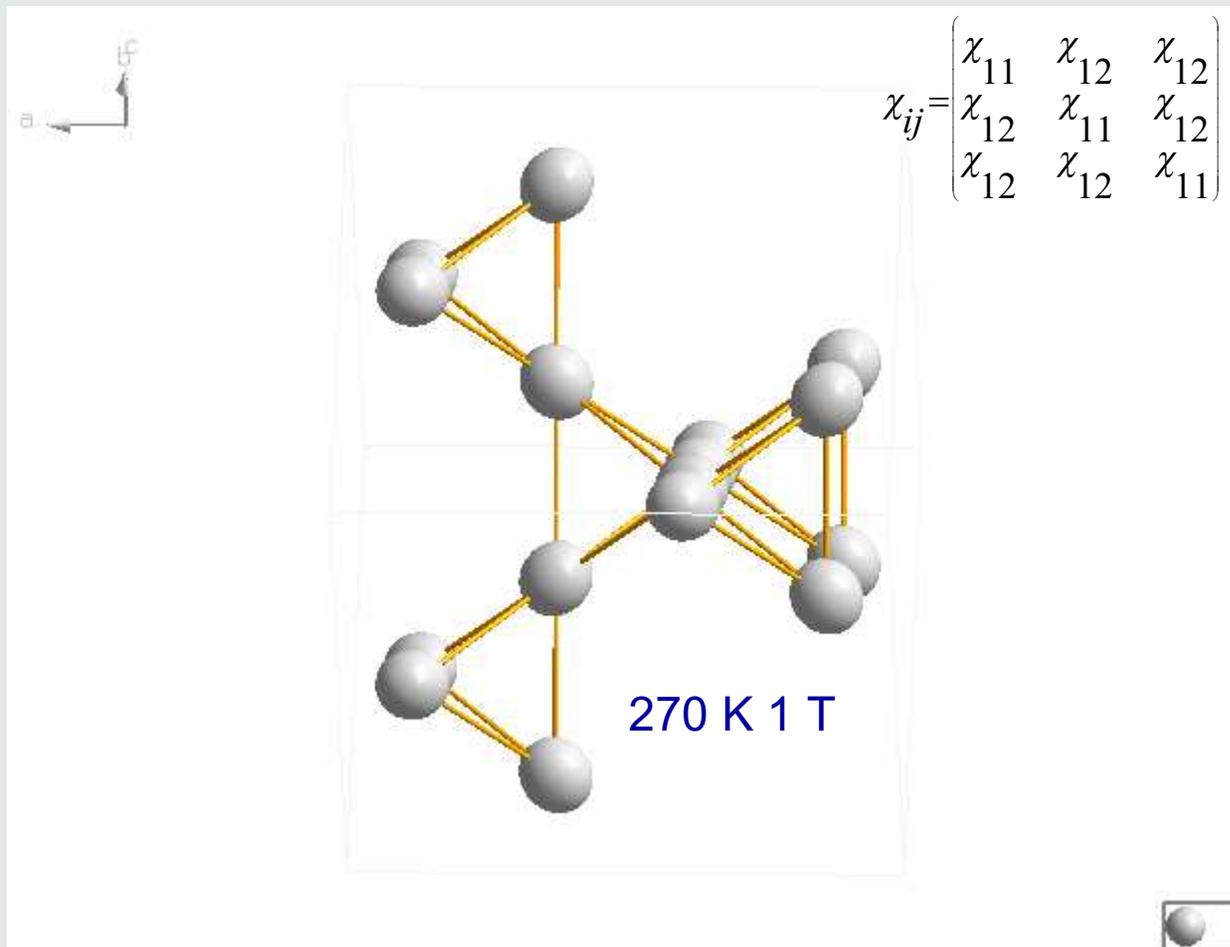
# ATOMIC DISPLACEMENT PARAMETERS ( $u_{ij}$ ) AND

## ATOMIC SUSCEPTIBILITY PARAMETERS ( $\chi_{ij}$ )

- $u_{ij}$  are probes of the shape of elastic potential well
- $u_{ij}$  give information about atomic vibration, dynamics, disorder ...
- $\chi_{ij}$  are probes of magnetic interaction
- symmetry constraints of  $\chi_{ij}$  the same as of  $u_{ij}$
- Anomalous  $\chi_{ij}$  indicate strong local anisotropy
- and a possible channel of ordering

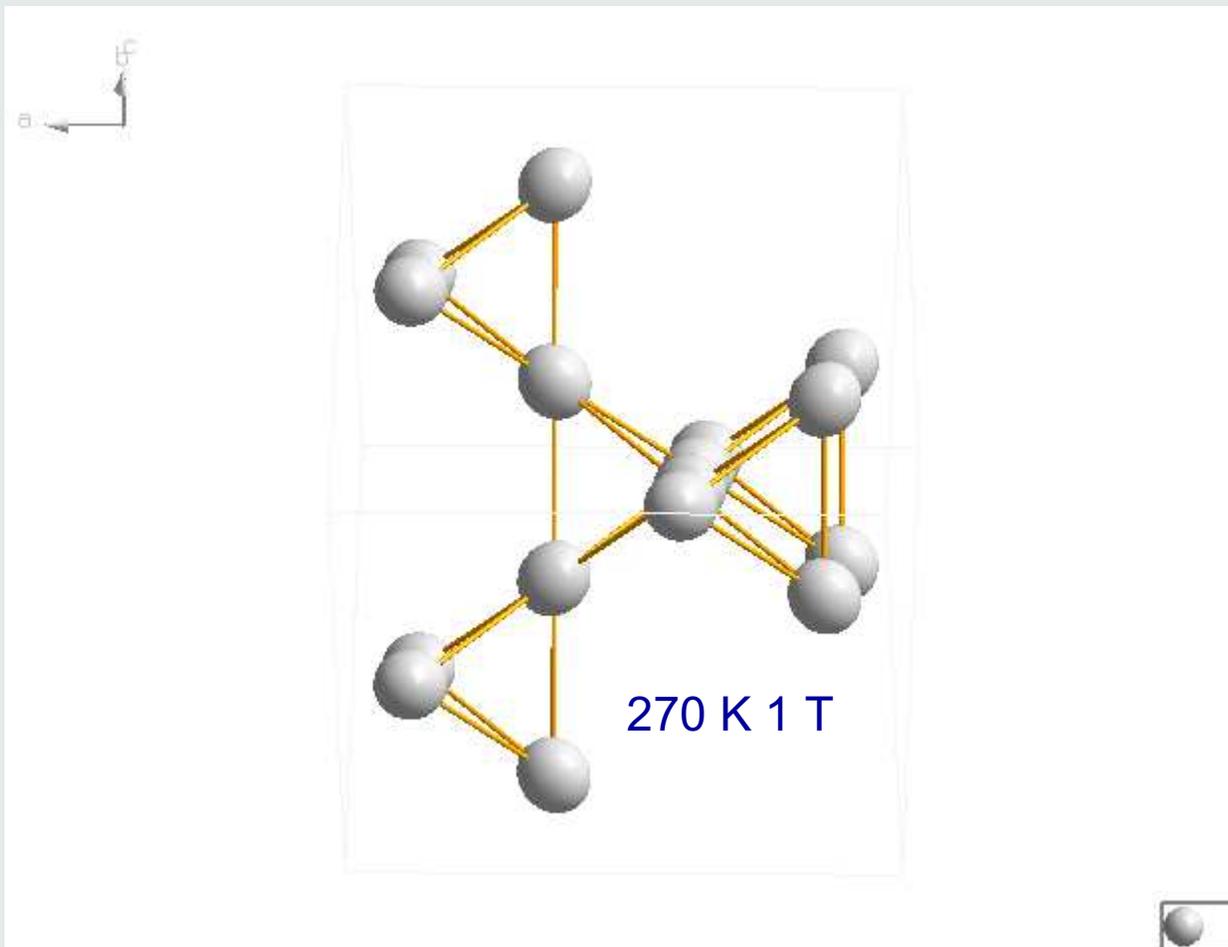
# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” IN $Tb_2Ti_2O_7$

102  $\mu_B$  gives  $\chi_{11}=0.056 \mu_B/T$  and  $\chi_{12}=0.002 \mu_B$



# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” IN Tb<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>

102  $\mu_B$  gives  $\chi_{11} = 0.056 \mu_B/T$  and  $\chi_{12} = 0.002 \mu_B$

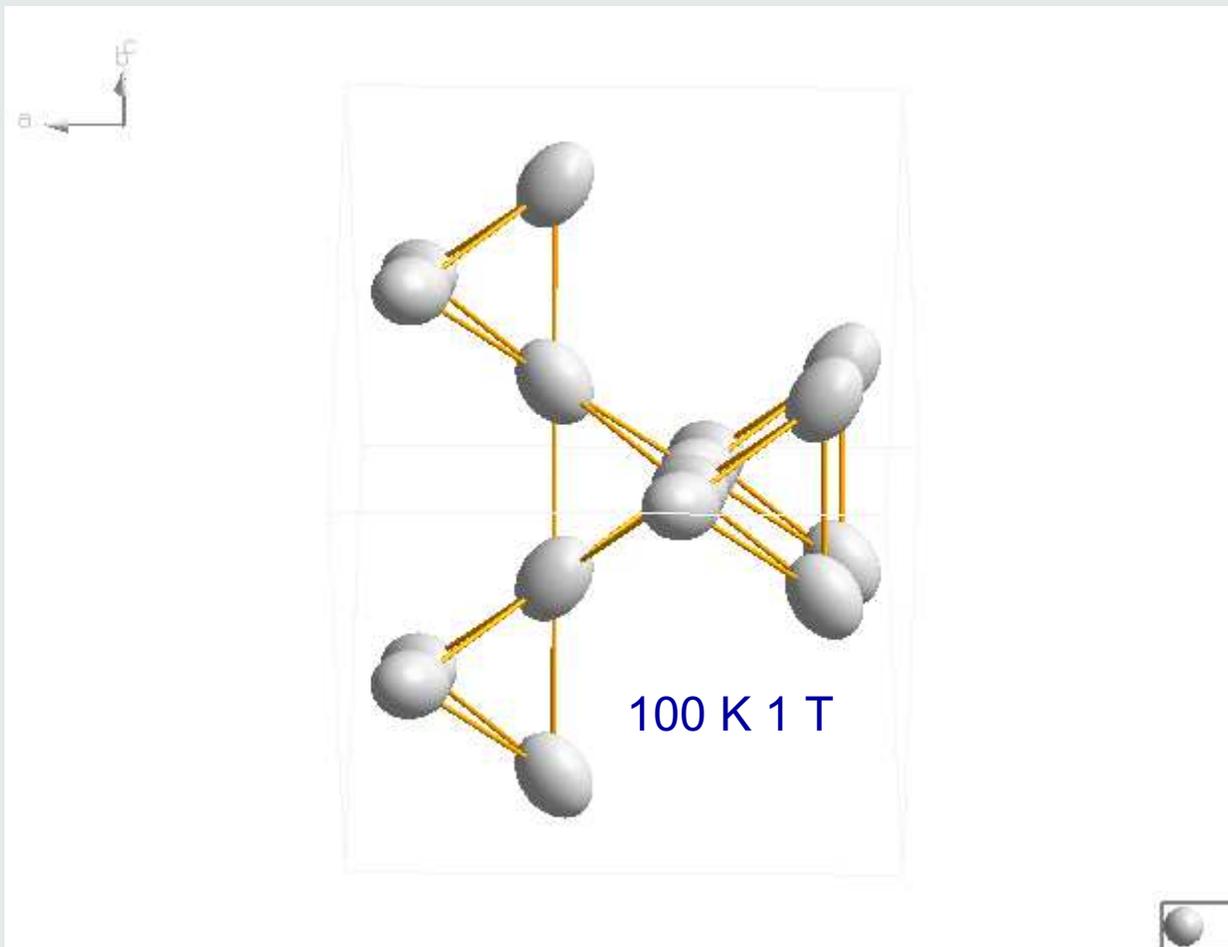


$$\chi_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \beta \\ \beta & \alpha & \beta \\ \beta & \beta & \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\chi_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

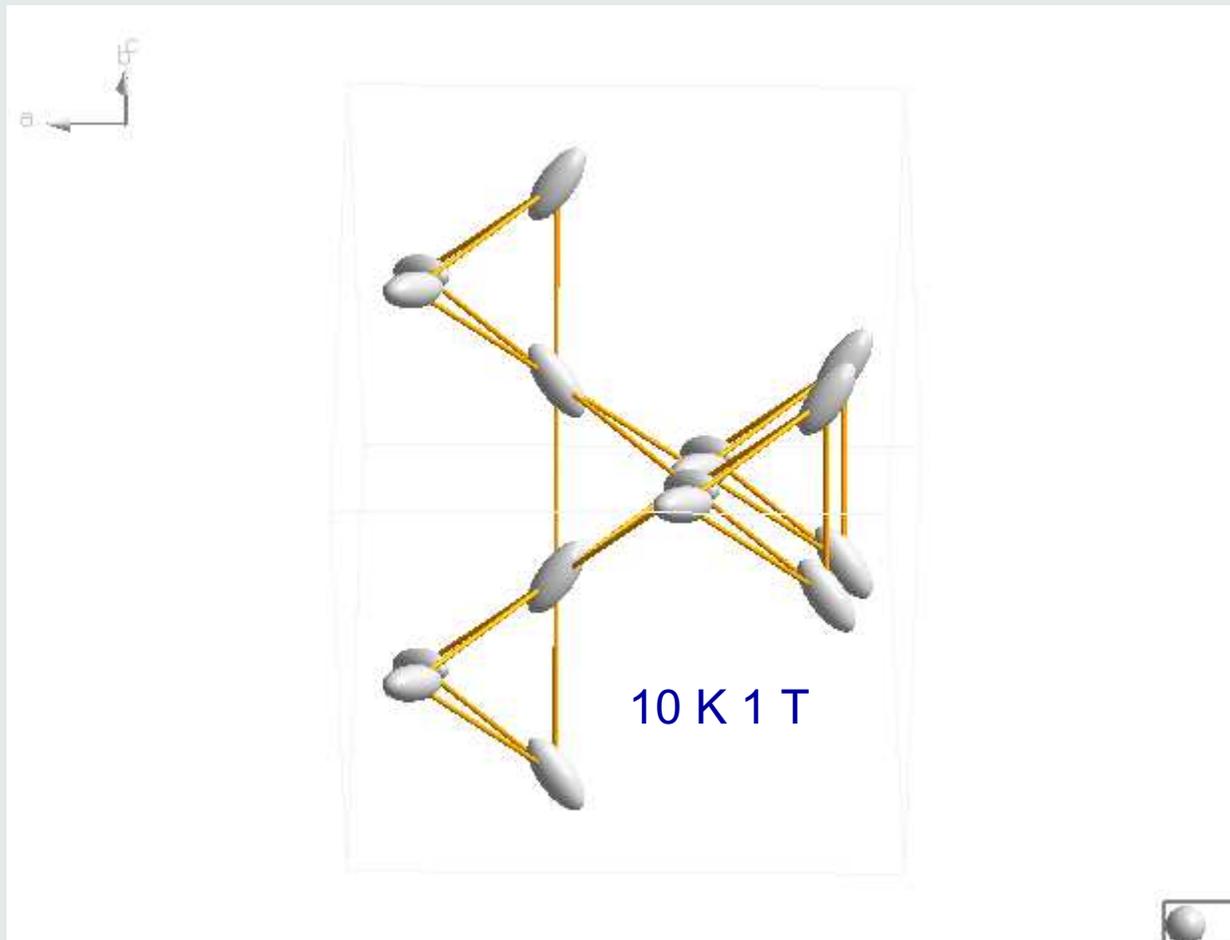
# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” IN Tb<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>

196 FR gives  $\chi_{11} = 0.17 \mu_B/T$  and  $\chi_{12} = 0.04 \mu_B/T$   
Ellipsoids are multiplied by  $T$  to compensate Curie-Weiss behavior



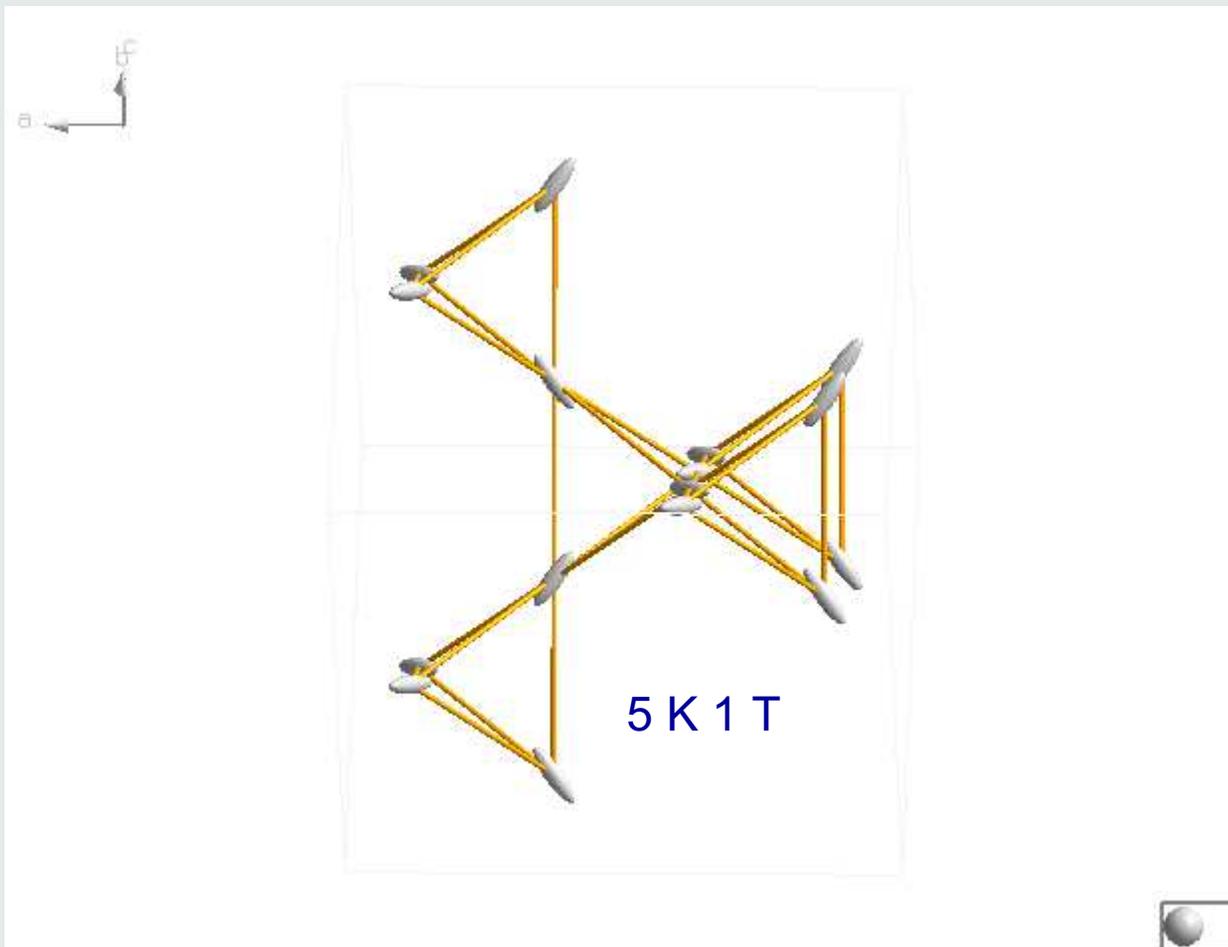
# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” IN Tb<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>

423 FR gives  $\chi_1 = 0.94 \mu_B/T$  and  $\chi_{12} = 0.53 \mu_B/T$   
Ellipsoids are multiplied by  $T$  to compensate Curie-Weiss behavior



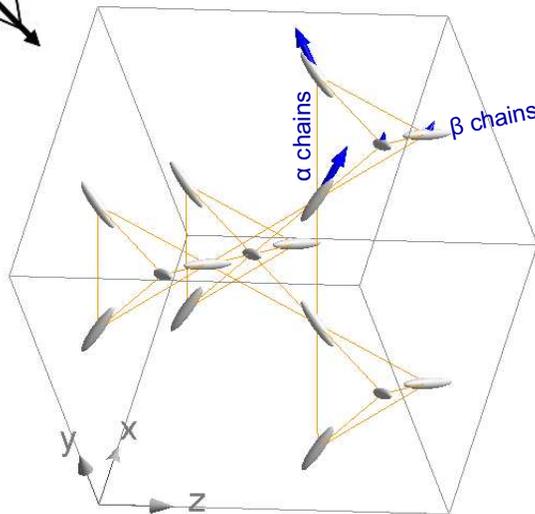
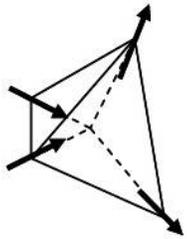
# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” IN $Tb_2Ti_2O_7$

196 K gives  $\chi_1 = 0.98(2) \mu_B/T$  and  $\chi_2 = 0.76(1) \mu_B/T$ ,  $\chi^2 = 2.9$ .  
Ellipsoids are multiplied by  $T$  to compensate Curie-Weiss behavior

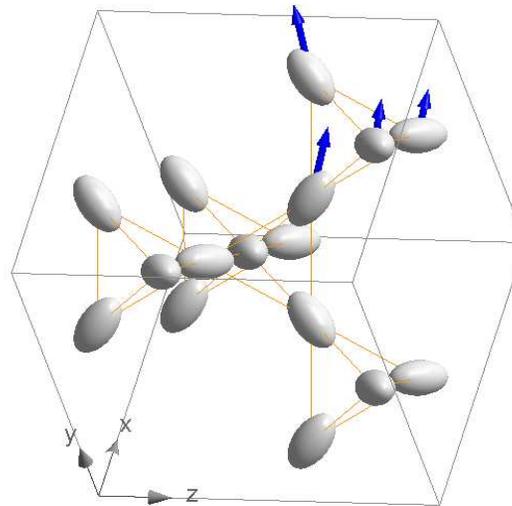


# FROM HEISENBERG TO ISING BEHAVIOR

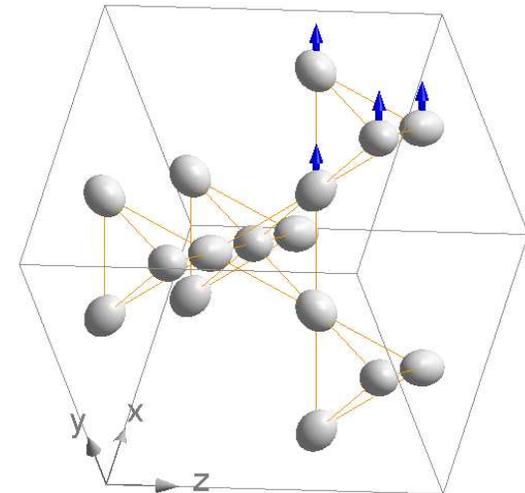
$H // 110$



10 K

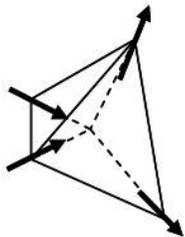


100 K



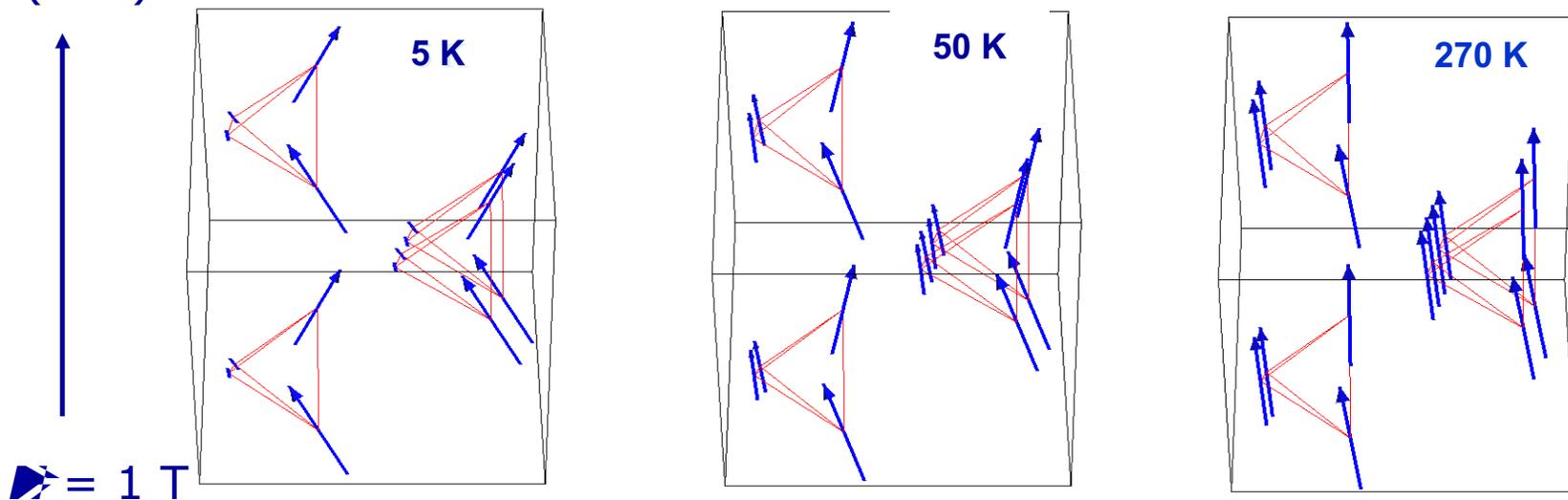
270 K

# (BAD) SPIN ICE (k=0)



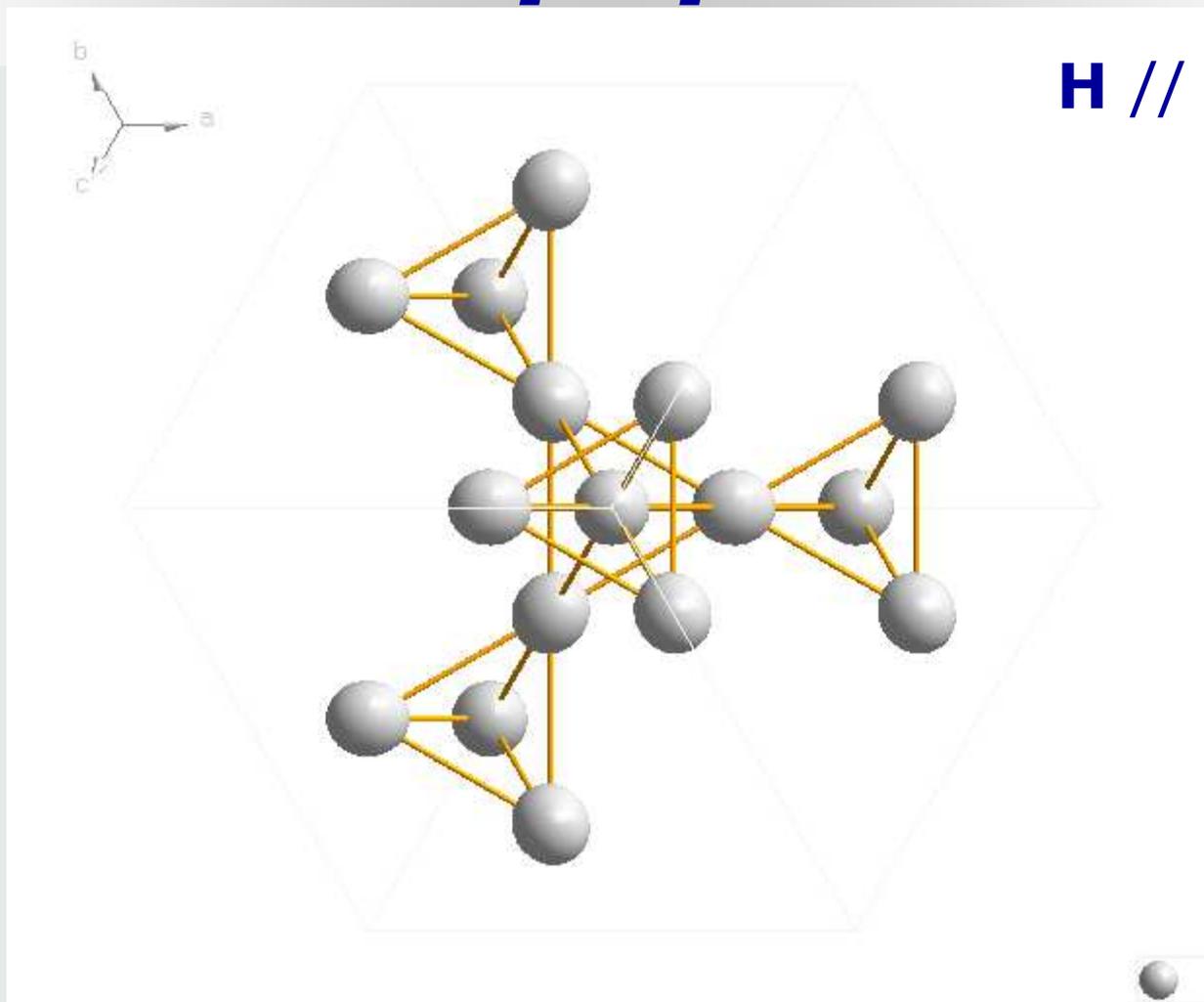
$\mathbf{H} // 110$

(110)



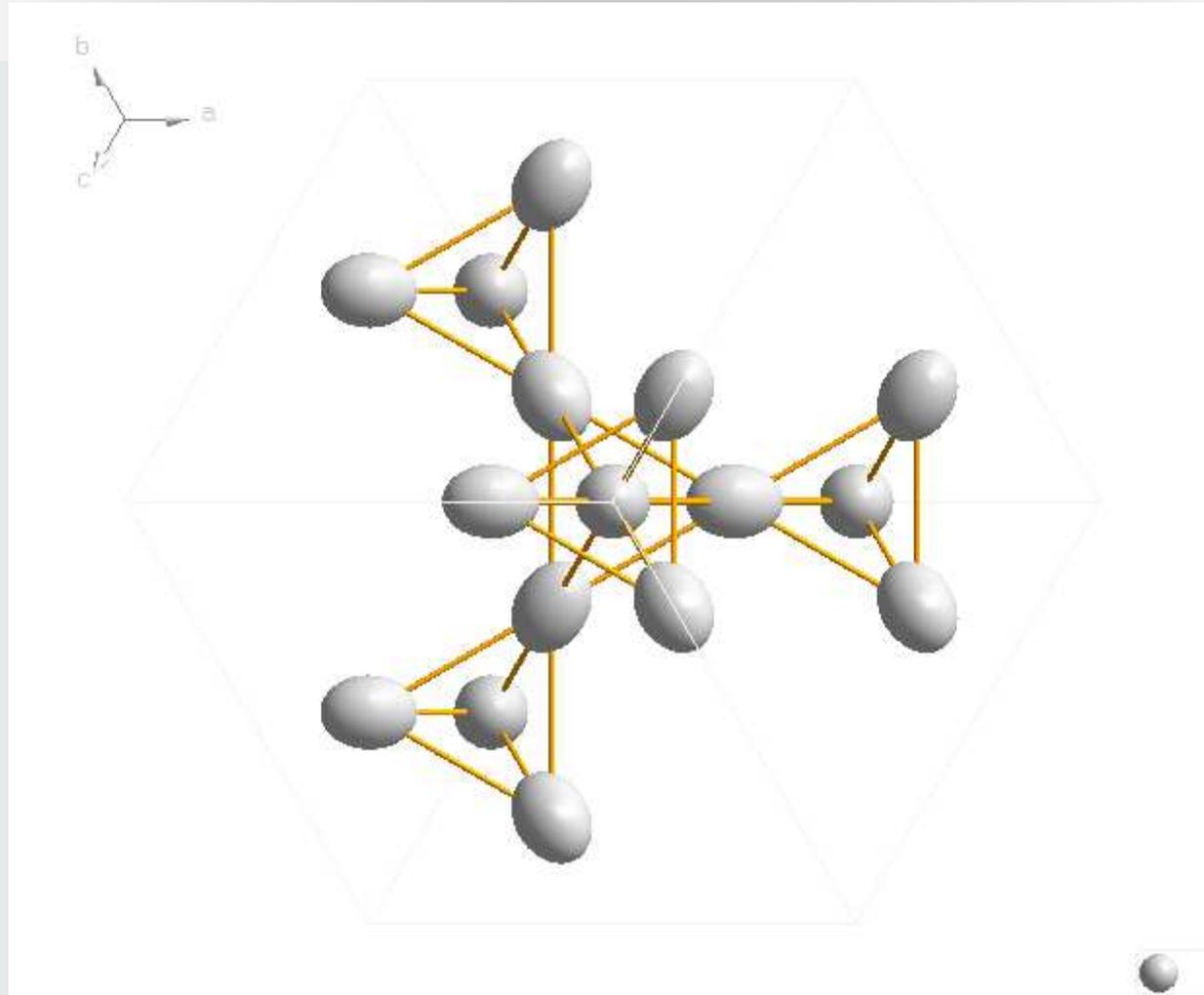
Moments are frustrated by  $T \gg$  compensate Curie-Weiss behavior

# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” $H \parallel [111]$



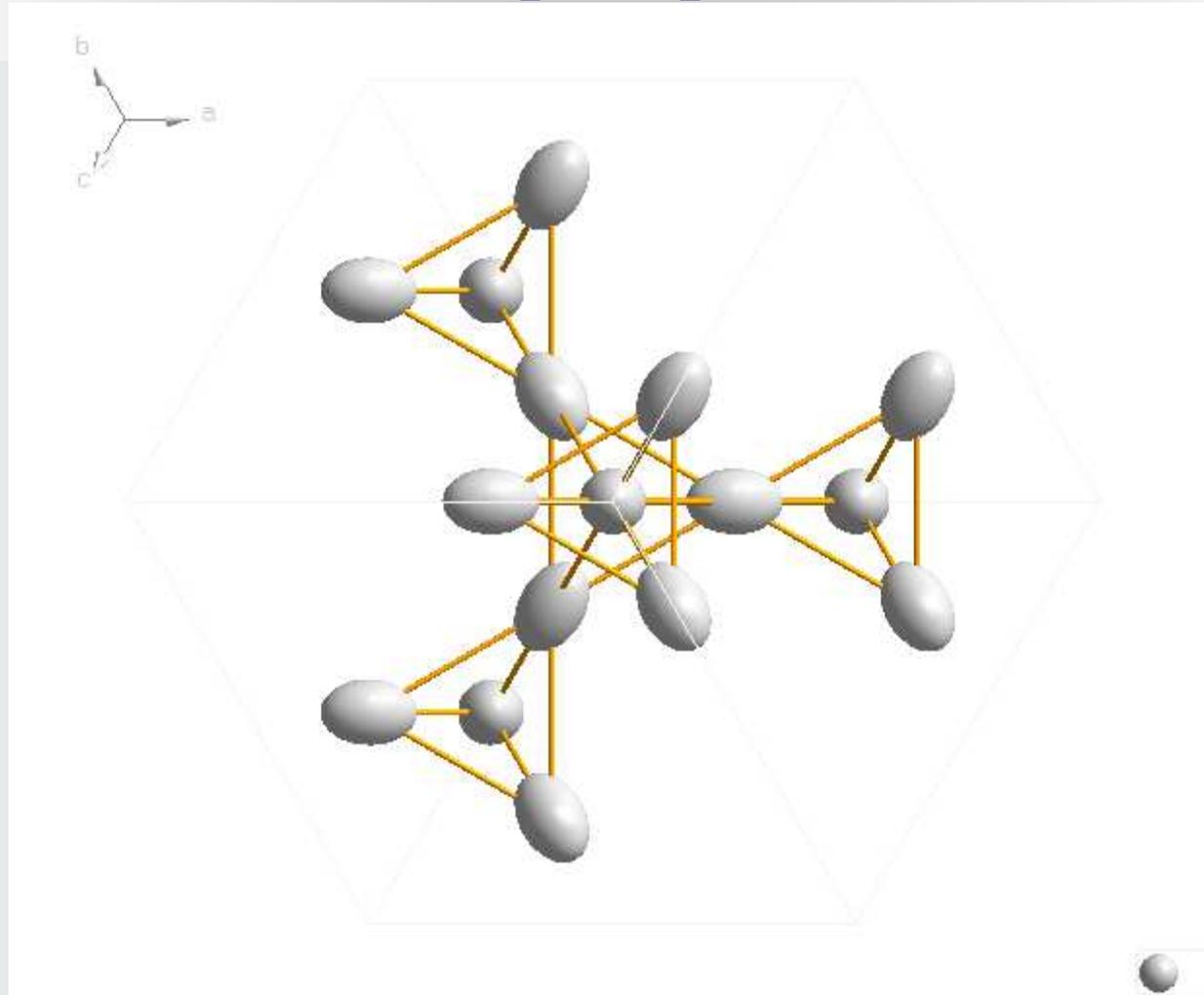
270 K 1 T, 100 FR

# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” $H \parallel [111]$



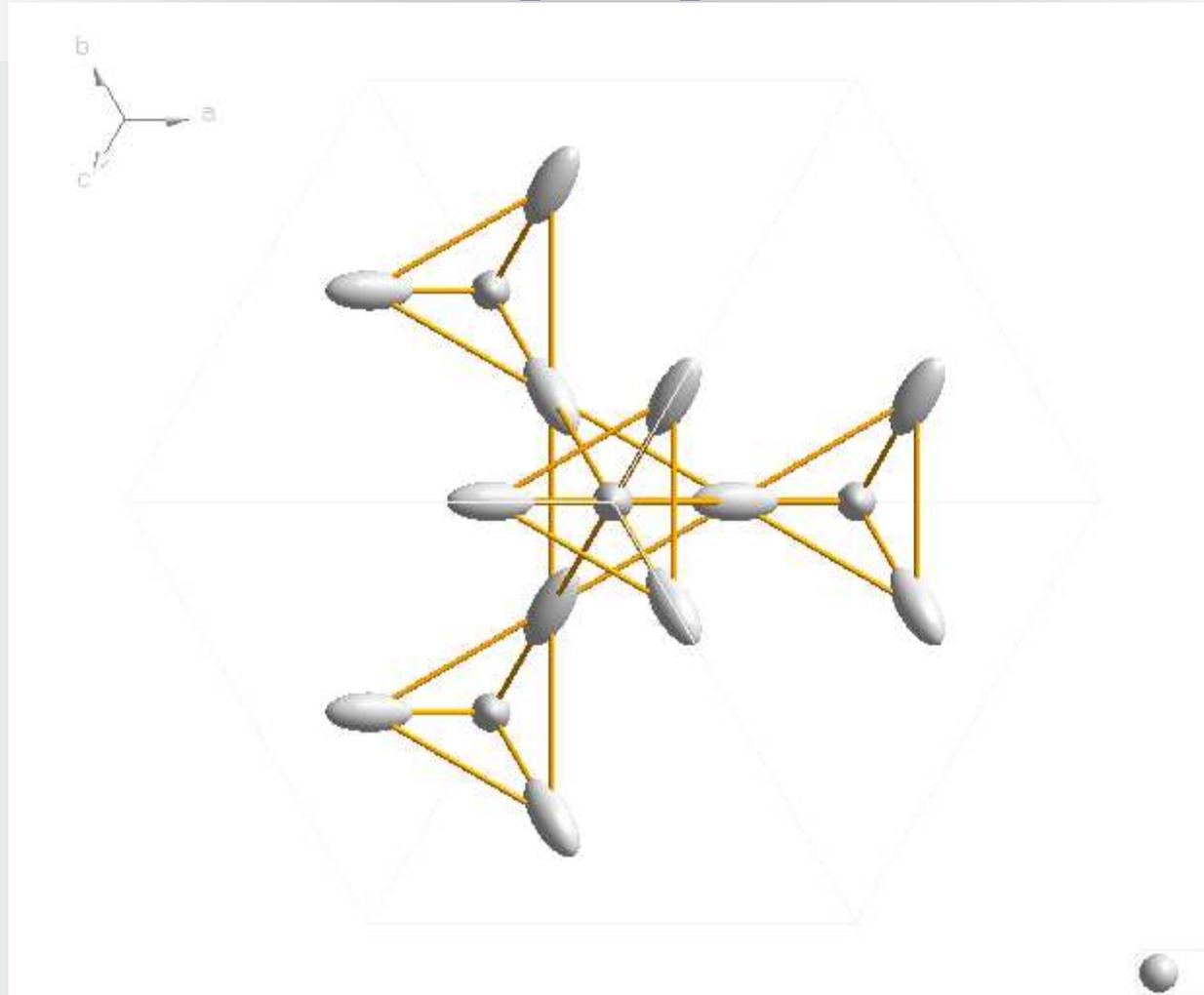
100 K 1 T, 100 FR

# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” $H \parallel [111]$



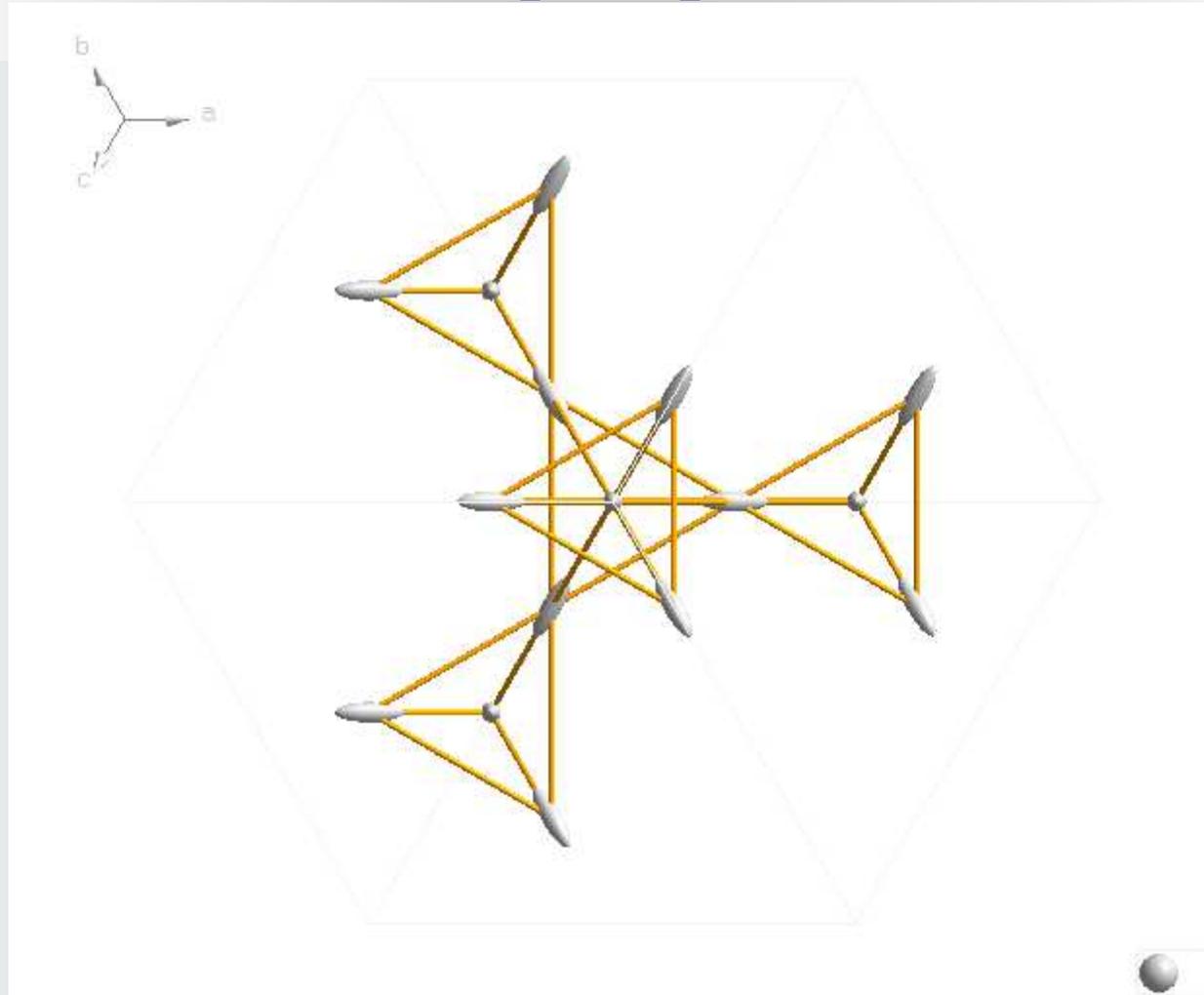
50 K 1 T, 100 FR

# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” $H \parallel [111]$



10 K 1 T, 150 FR

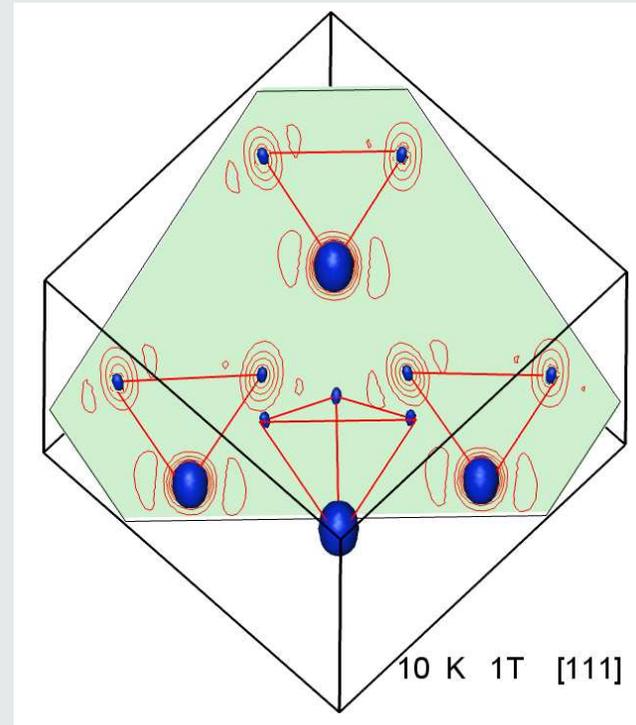
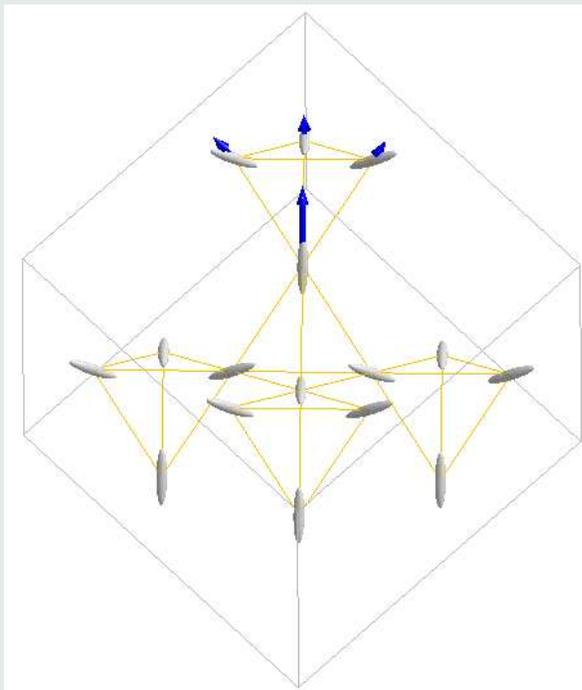
# VISUALIZATION OF ASP BY “MAGNETIC ELLIPSOIDS” $H \parallel [111]$



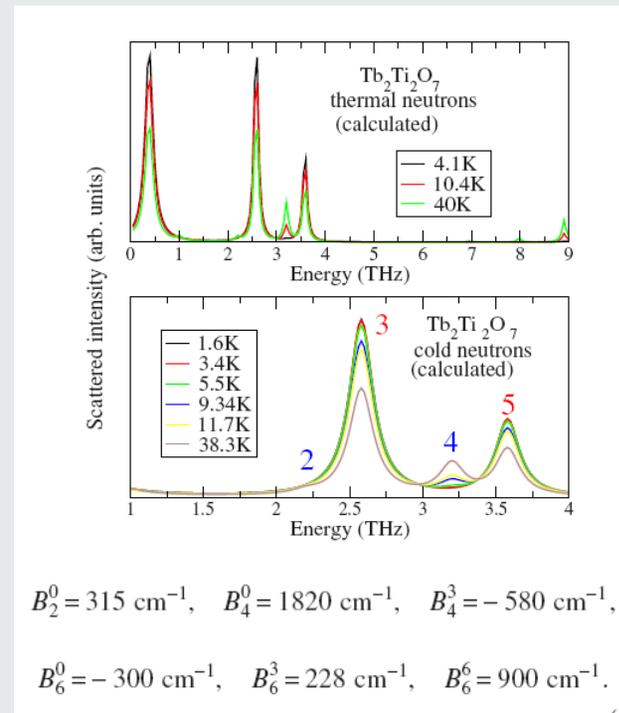
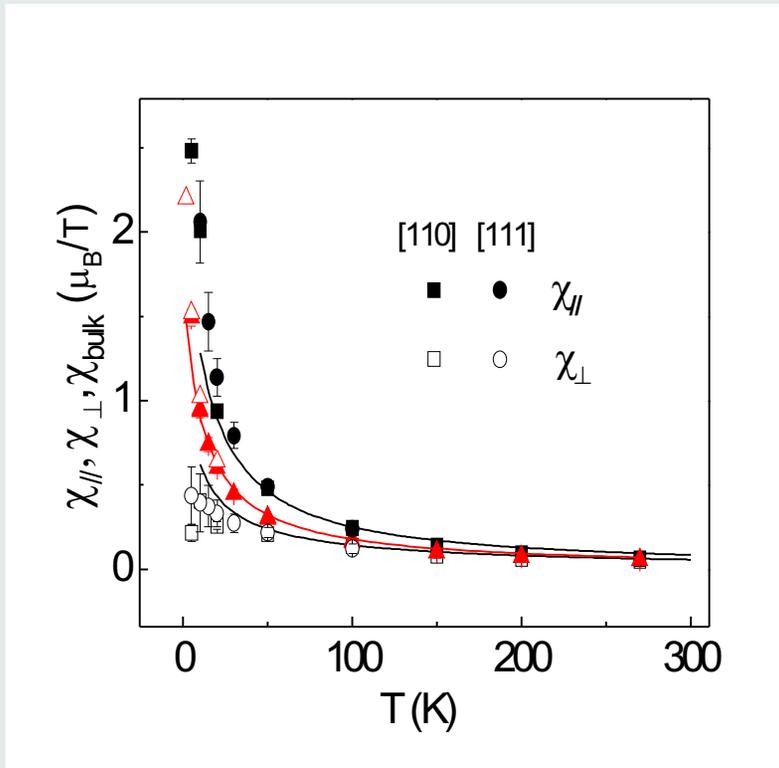
5 K 1 T, 150 FR

# (BAD) “One-in three-out” spin ice

$\mathbf{H} // 111$



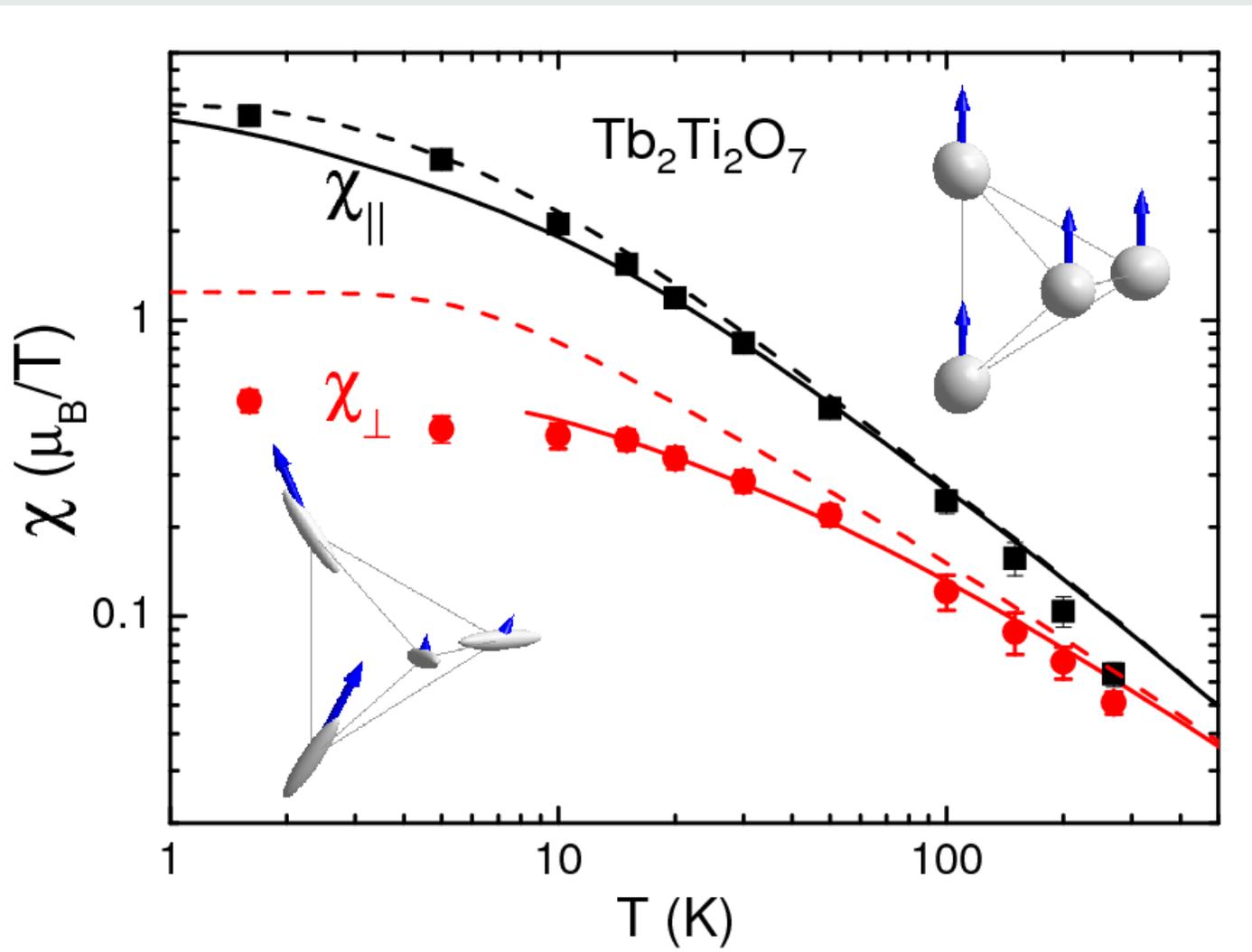
# CF calculation of susceptibility tensor



Lines show fit using CF parameters from inelastic neutrons for  $Tb_2Ti_2O_7$ .  
 I. Mirebeau, M. Hennion and P. Bonville . Phys Rev. B 184436, 2007

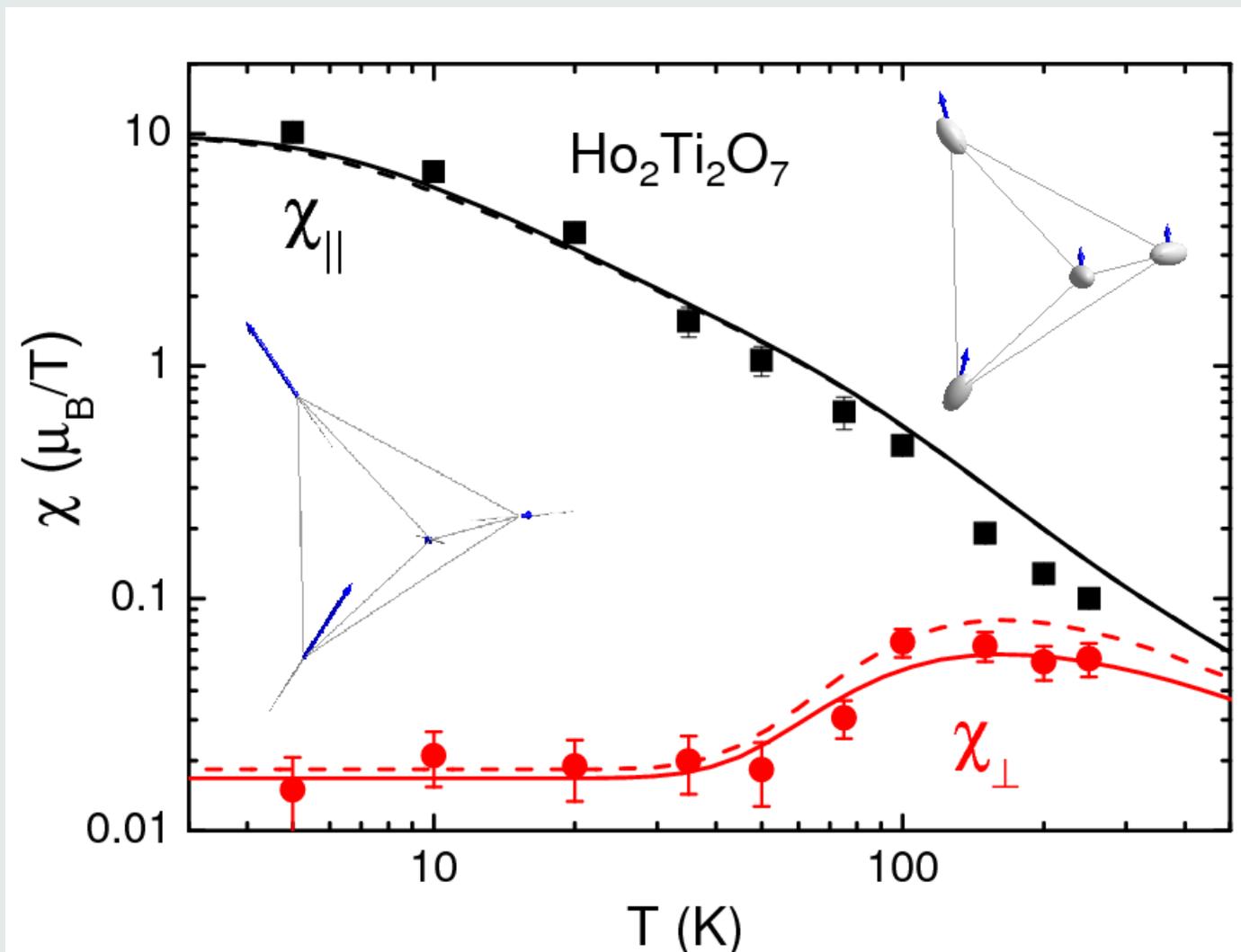
# Quasi-Ising Type, Spin Liquid

Lines shows fit using CF parameters from inelastic neutrons for  $\text{Tb}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ .  
I. Mirebeau, M. Hennion and P. Bonville . *Phys Rev. B* 184436, 2007



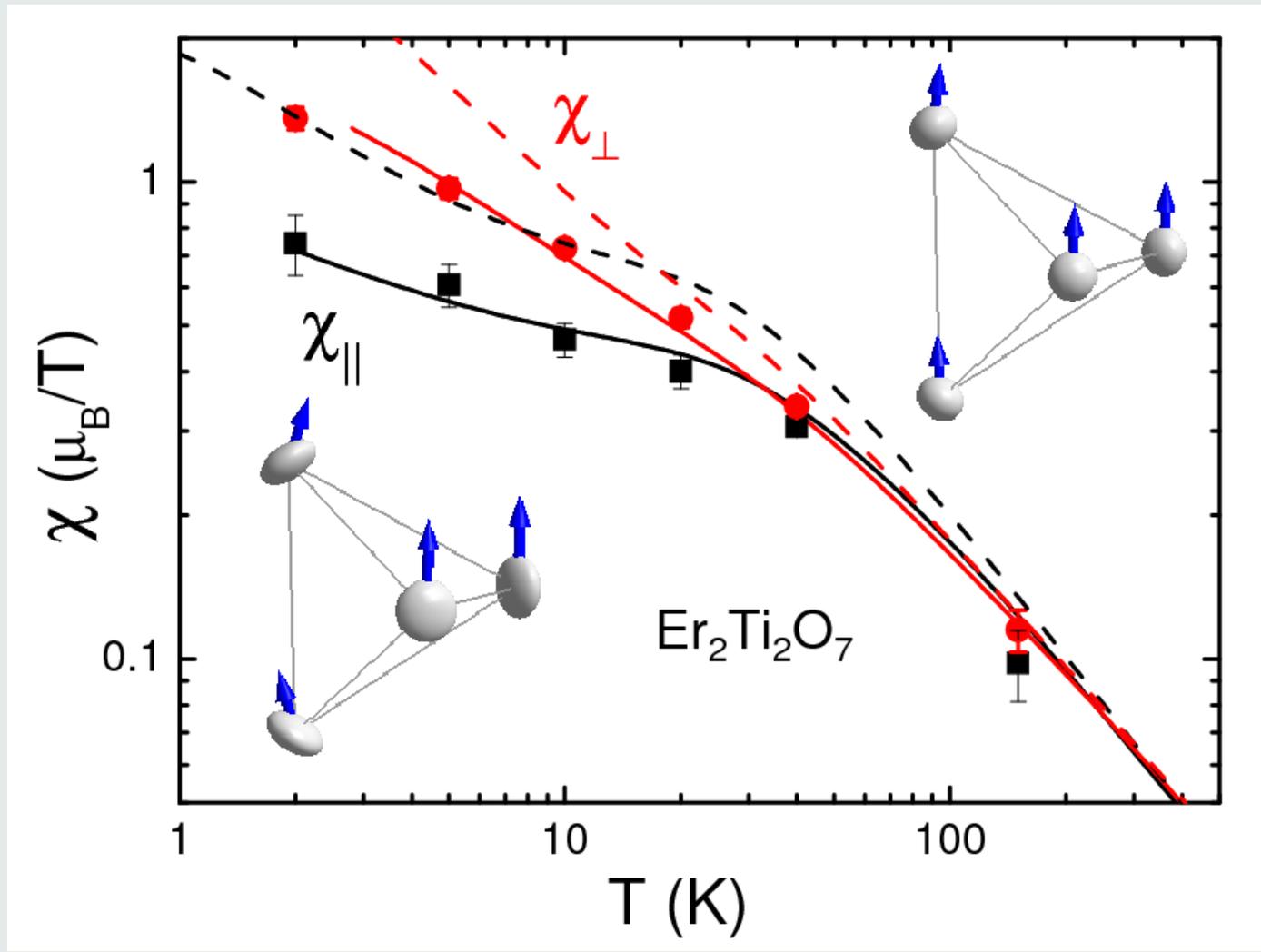
# Ising Type (Spin Ice)

*Lines shows fit using CF parameters from inelastic neutron data*



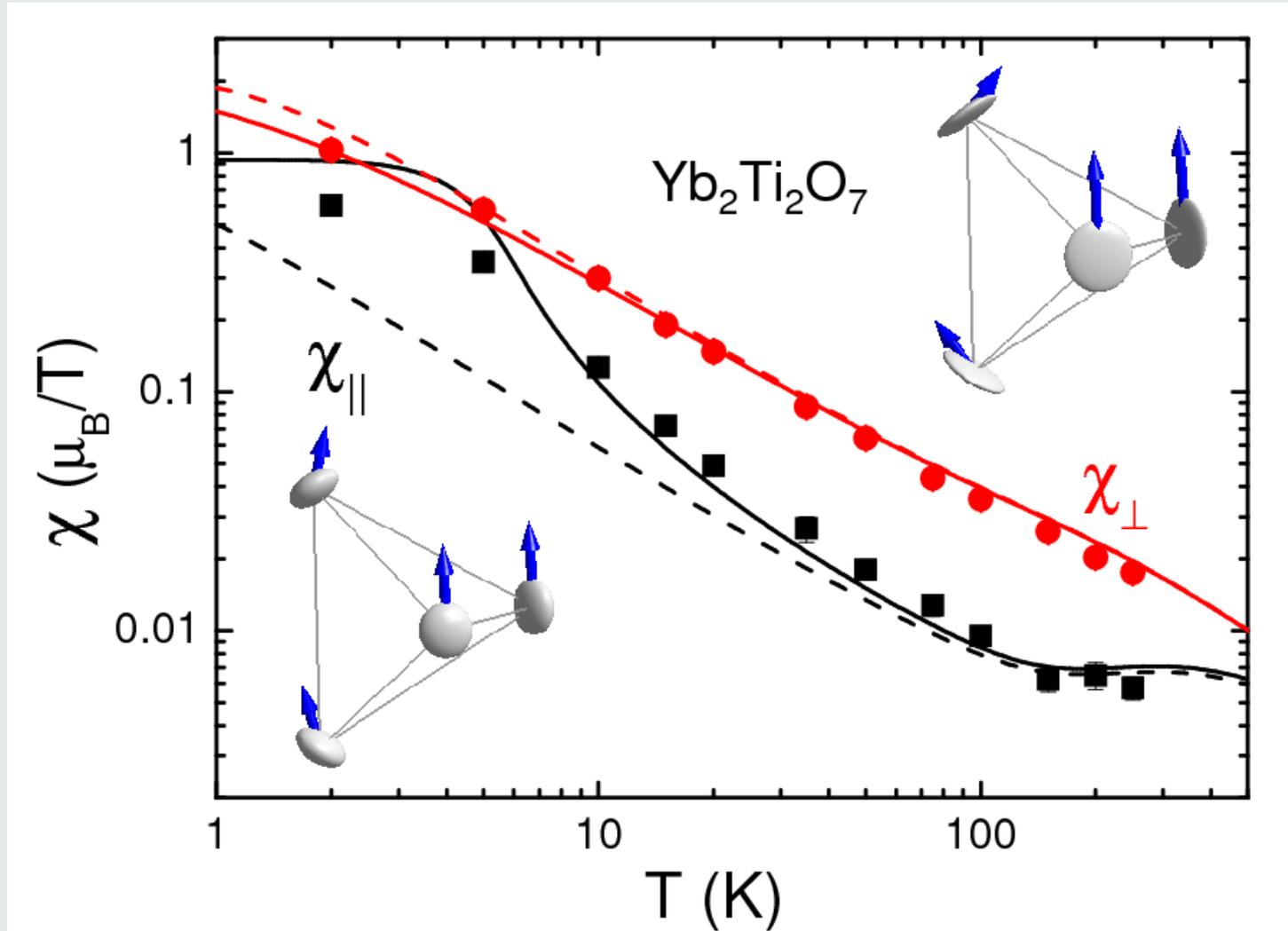
# XY Type 3D-Antiferromagnet

*Lines show fit using CF parameters extrapolated from Ho<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> and Tb<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>*

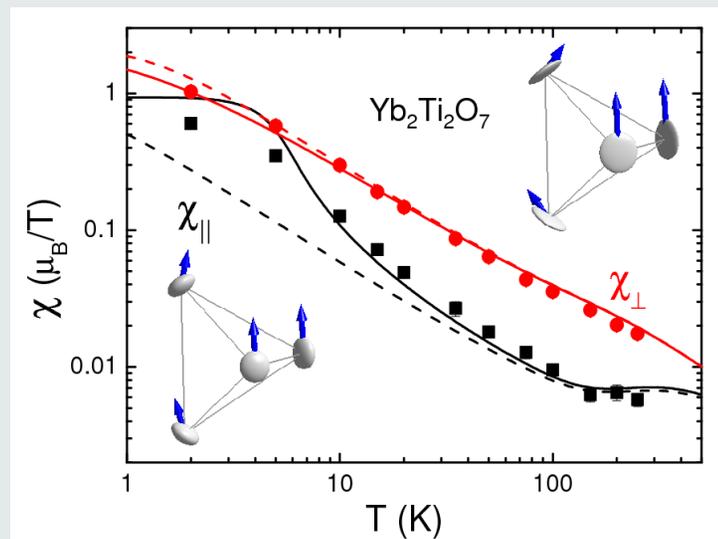
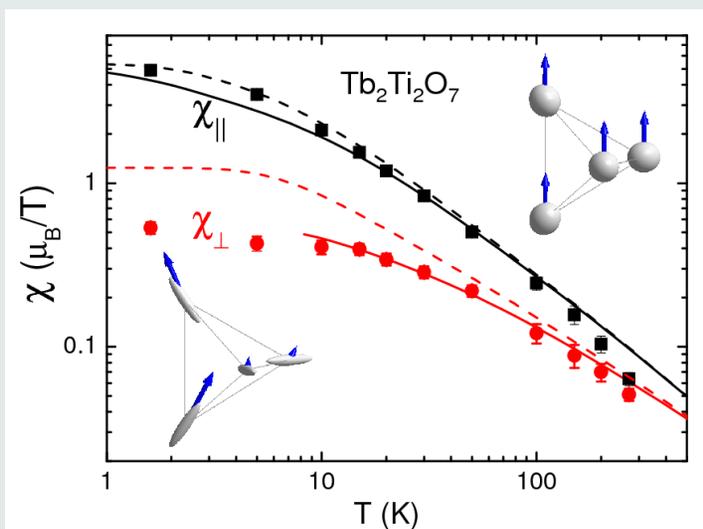
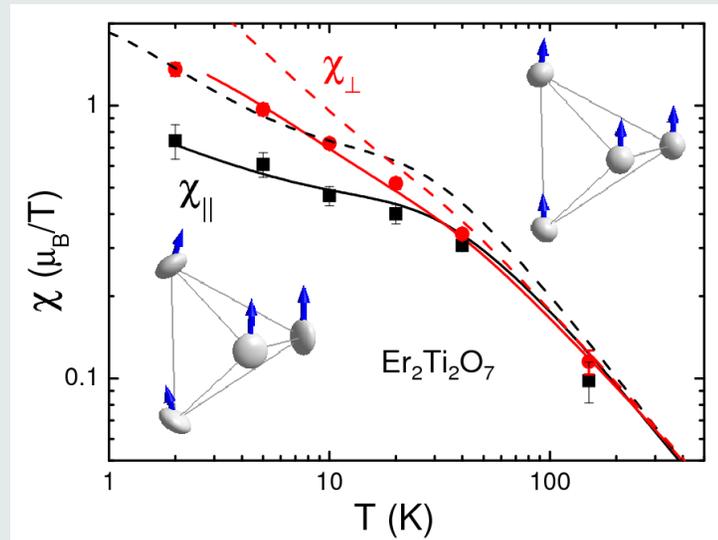
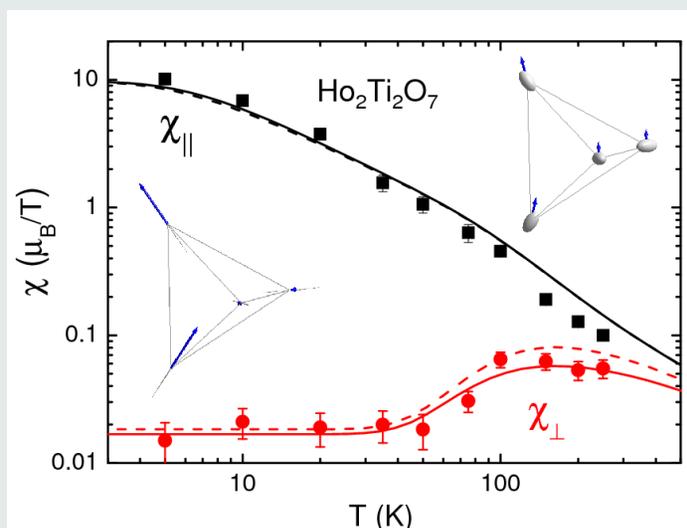


# XY Type ???

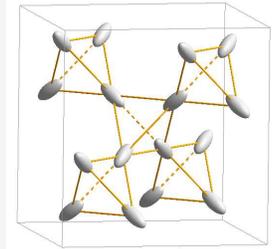
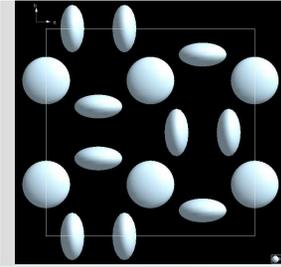
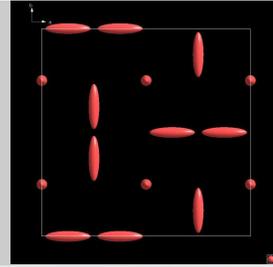
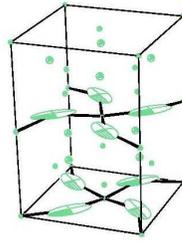
*Lines shows fit using  $L=3, S=1/2$  model*



# Ising and XY(?) pyrochlores



# SUMMARY



## $\chi_{ij}$ tensor

- gives universal description of large T and H range with 2 parameters for any field direction
- evidence Heisenberg- Ising or XY evolution
- Can be calculated using CF parameters
- Reconstruction of the noncollinear density ?
  - *H. Cao, A. Gukasov, I. Mirbeau and P. Bonville ,PRL , 100, 22,227602, 2008*
  - *Physica B PNCMI 2008 Proceeding*
  - *J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 145 012021, 2008*

Diamond - TbMnO3\_250k

File Edit View Structure Picture Build Objects Move Tools Window Help

TbMnO3\_50k  
TbMnO3\_75k  
TbMnO3\_100k  
TbMnO3\_150k  
TbMnO3\_200k  
TbMnO3\_250k

TbMnO3\_50k > Structure 1 > 50k  
TbMnO3\_75k > Structure 1 > 50k  
TbMnO3\_100k > Structure 1 > 50k  
TbMnO3\_150k > Structure 1 > 50k  
TbMnO3\_200k > Structure 1 > 50k  
TbMnO3\_250k > Structure 1 > 50k

NUM

Current angles of rotation are (deg): x: -90.000, y: 0.000, z: 0.000 (hd = 0, 1, 0)

demarter

10:19

Laboratoire  
Léon B.

**Diamond - TbMnO3\_250k**

File Edit View Structure Picture Build Objects Move Tools Window Help

The image displays six panels showing the crystal structure of TbMnO<sub>3</sub> at various temperatures, arranged in a 3x3 grid. Each panel shows a unit cell with Tb (pink), Mn (red), and O (white) atoms. A yellow line connects two Mn atoms, and a purple line connects two Tb atoms. The structure evolves from a high-symmetry state at 250k to a low-symmetry state at 50k.

- Top Row:**
  - TbMnO3\_200k:** Shows a unit cell with Tb (pink), Mn (red), and O (white) atoms. A yellow line connects two Mn atoms, and a purple line connects two Tb atoms.
  - TbMnO3\_250k:** Shows a unit cell with Tb (pink), Mn (red), and O (white) atoms. A yellow line connects two Mn atoms, and a purple line connects two Tb atoms.
- Middle Row:**
  - TbMnO3\_100k:** Shows a unit cell with Tb (pink), Mn (red), and O (white) atoms. A yellow line connects two Mn atoms, and a purple line connects two Tb atoms.
  - TbMnO3\_150k:** Shows a unit cell with Tb (pink), Mn (red), and O (white) atoms. A yellow line connects two Mn atoms, and a purple line connects two Tb atoms.
- Bottom Row:**
  - TbMnO3\_50k:** Shows a unit cell with Tb (pink), Mn (red), and O (white) atoms. A yellow line connects two Mn atoms, and a purple line connects two Tb atoms.
  - TbMnO3\_75k:** Shows a unit cell with Tb (pink), Mn (red), and O (white) atoms. A yellow line connects two Mn atoms, and a purple line connects two Tb atoms.

For Help, press F1

demarrer

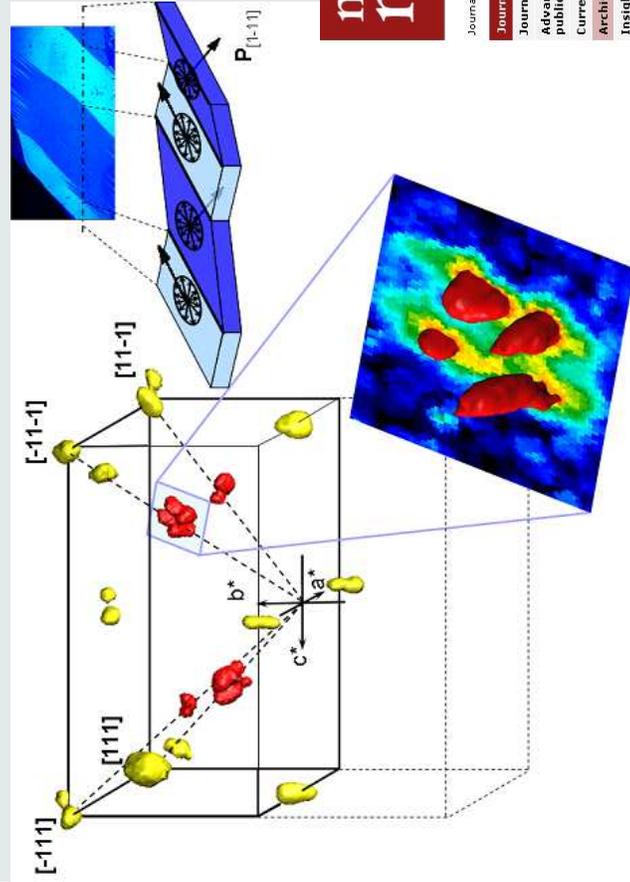
NUM 10:17

# Electric-Field-Induced Spin Flop in BiFeO<sub>3</sub> Single Crystals at Room Temperature

D. Lebeugle,<sup>1</sup> D. Colson,<sup>1</sup> A. Forget,<sup>1</sup> M. Viret,<sup>1</sup> A. M. Bataille,<sup>2</sup> and A. Gukasov<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Service de Physique de l'Etat Condensé, DSM/IRAMIS, CEA Saclay, F-91191 Gif-Sur-Yvette, France*

<sup>2</sup>*Laboratoire Leon Brillouin, DSM/IRAMIS, CEA Saclay, F-91191 Gif-Sur-Yvette, France*  
(Received 24 January 2008; published 2 June 2008)



## nature materials

Full text access provided to CEA Saclay by DSM/IRAMIS

Journal home > Archive > Research Highlights > Full Text

- Journal content
- Journal home
- Advance online publication
- Current issue
- Archive
- Insight
- Focuses
- Press releases
- Journal information
- Guide to authors
- Online submission
- For referees
- Pricing
- Contact the Journal
- Subscribe
- Help
- About this site
- NGC services

### Research Highlights

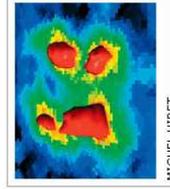
*Nature Materials* 7, 517 (2008)  
doi:10.1038/nmat2217

### Looking, seeing, sensing A COUPLING, INDEED

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 100, 227602 (2008)

One of the most intensively studied multiferroic materials is BiFeO<sub>3</sub>, mostly because it shows room-temperature multiferroic coupling with a large spontaneous electric polarization. Although the material has been known to be magnetoelectric since the 1960s, actual evidence of multiferroic coupling in bulk material has been missing, mainly owing to the lack of suitable high-quality crystals. Having achieved the growth of high-quality BiFeO<sub>3</sub> crystals, Delphine Lebeugle and co-workers now report on a neutron diffraction study into the coupling between magnetic and ferroelectric properties of BiFeO<sub>3</sub>. They find that although the material has no linear magnetoelectric effect, the antiferromagnetic moments form a low-pitch spiral that creates an efficient multiferroic coupling. However, a more efficient switching of magnetic properties can be achieved not through a direct multiferroic coupling but if the antiferromagnetic moments of BiFeO<sub>3</sub> are used to switch the magnetic moments of a ferromagnet through the exchange interaction at the interface between the two materials. Therefore, an electric field applied to BiFeO<sub>3</sub> indirectly switches the ferromagnetic state of the adjacent layer, as has been demonstrated recently.

top



MICHEL VIRET

Subscribe to Nature Materials  
Subscribe

This issue  
Table of contents  
Previous article  
Next article

Article tools  
Download PDF  
Send to a friend  
Export citation  
Rights and permissions  
Order commercial reprints  
Save this link

Article navigation  
Seeing the matrix  
Look very carefully  
A coupling, indeed