

Title: Lightning review on emergent quantum electrodynamics in quantum spin ice

Date: Jun 07, 2017 10:30 AM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/17060032>

Abstract: We aim to provide a concise review on theoretical background on emergent quantum electrodynamics in pyrochlore quantum spin ice. We first introduce elementary excitations in quantum spin ice using a simple model and then extend the discussion to more realistic systems. Implications to experiments are also discussed.

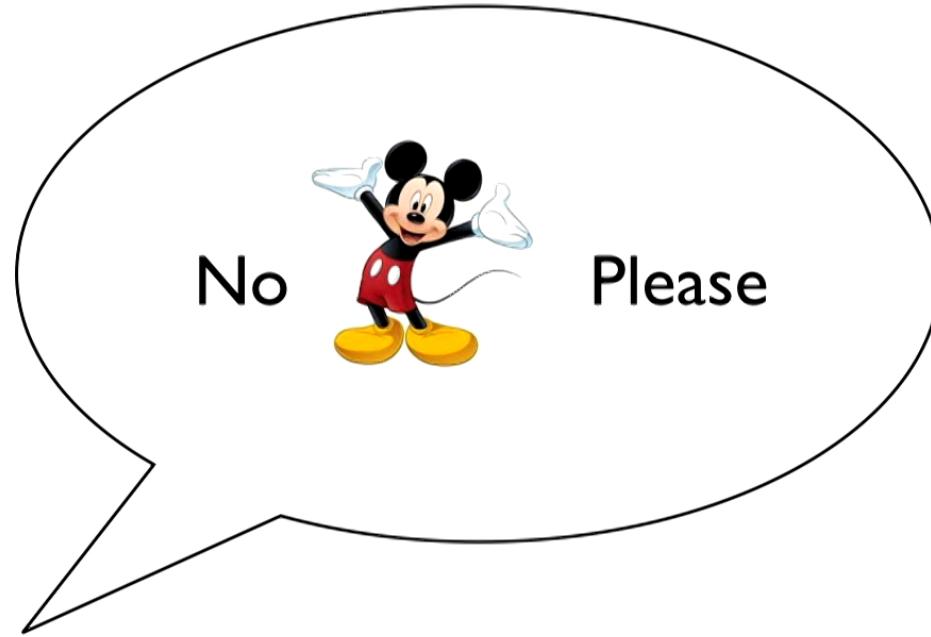
# **Lightning Review of Emergent Electrodynamics in Quantum Spin Ice**

**Yong Baek Kim**  
**University of Toronto**

**Quantum Spin Ice Conference**  
**Perimeter Institute, June 7, 2017**



**CIFAR**  
CANADIAN  
INSTITUTE  
FOR  
ADVANCED  
RESEARCH



# Outline

I. Classical Spin Ice: Electrostatics

II. Quantum Spin Ice: Quantum Electrodynamics  
XXZ Model

III. Electromagnetic Duality

IV. Excitations

V. Signatures in experiments

VI. Numerics

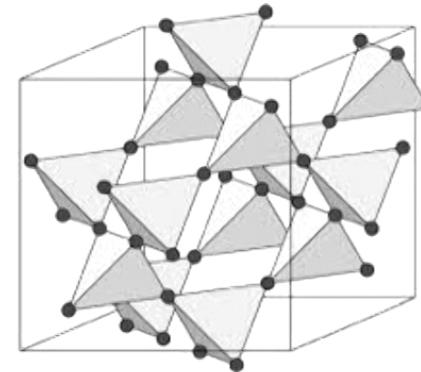
VII. Realistic Model

## Minimal Model: Quantum Spin Ice

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_I + \mathcal{H}'$$

$$\mathcal{H}_I = \frac{J_z}{2} \sum_t (S_t^z)^2 \quad S_t^z = \sum_{i \in t} S_i^z$$

$$\mathcal{H}' = -\frac{J_\perp}{2} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (S_i^+ S_j^- + h.c.)$$

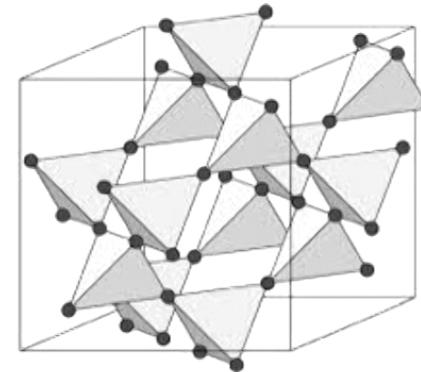


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## Electrostatics for Classical Spin Ice

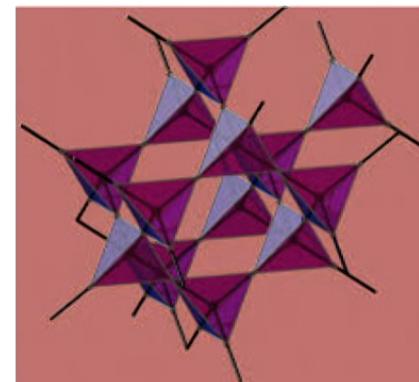
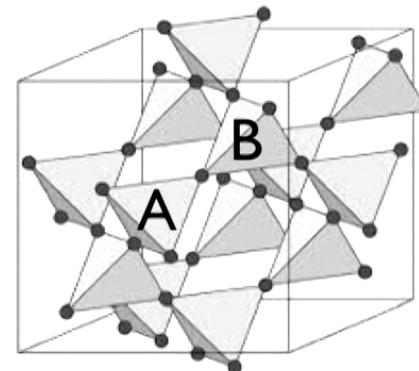
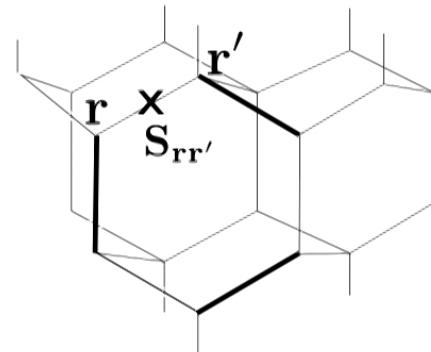
$$\mathcal{H}_I = \frac{J_z}{2} \sum_t (S_t^z)^2 \quad S_t^z = \sum_{i \in t} S_i^z$$

**i** sites on pyrochlore lattice

**r** sites on diamond lattice

$$S_i = S_{rr'}$$

**rr'** link connecting two  
diamond lattice sites



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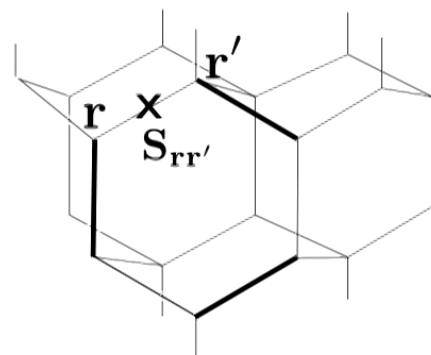
$\mathbf{rr}'$  link connecting two  
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oriented vector field

$$e_{\mathbf{rr}'} = \pm S_{\mathbf{rr}'}^z$$

$$\pm \quad \mathbf{r} \in A/B$$

$$e_{\mathbf{rr}'} = -e_{\mathbf{r}'\mathbf{r}}$$



## Electrostatics for Classical Spin Ice

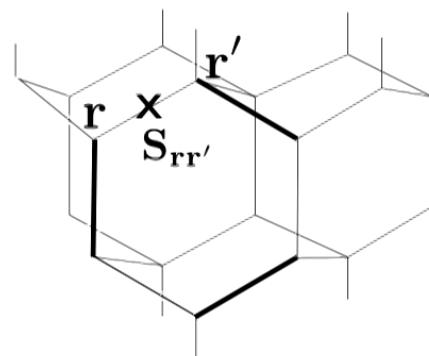
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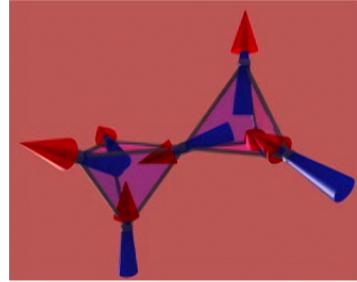
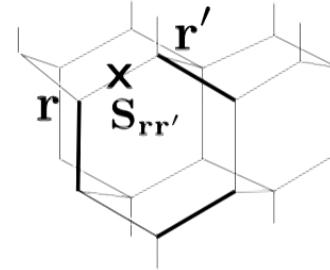
$$(\text{div } e)_{\mathbf{r}} = 0$$

classical spin ice  
ground state

## Electrostatics for Classical Spin Ice

$$e_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} = \pm S_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^z \quad \pm \mathbf{r} \in A/B$$

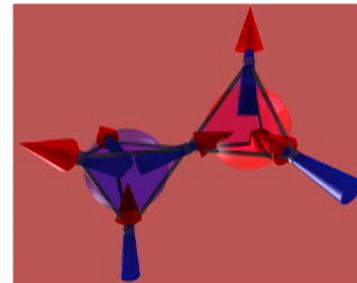
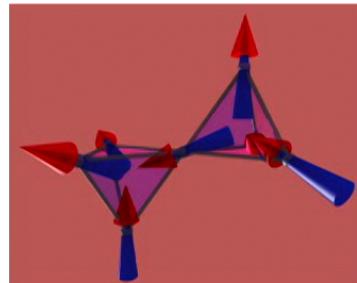
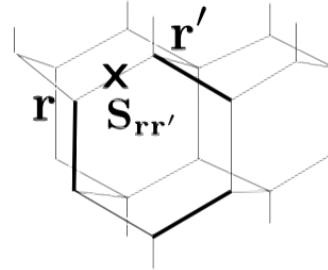
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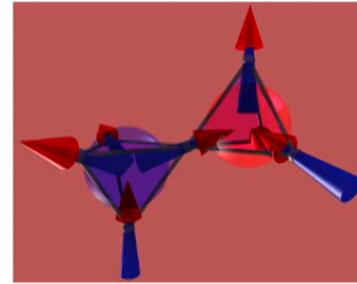
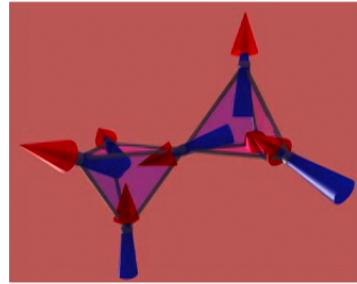
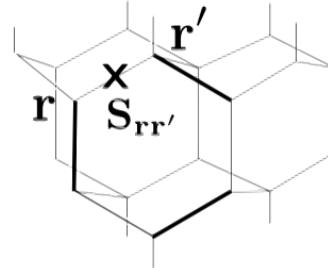


electric monopole-  
antimonopole pair  
(magnetic monopole  
if we use  
 $e_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} \rightarrow b_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}$ )

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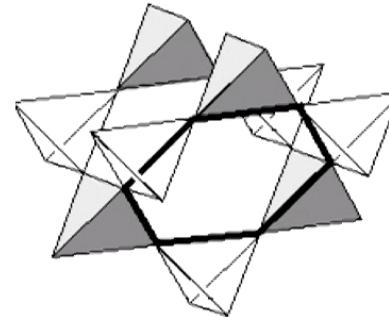
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## Quantum Spin Ice

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Hermele, Balents, Fisher (2003)

# Quantum Spin Ice

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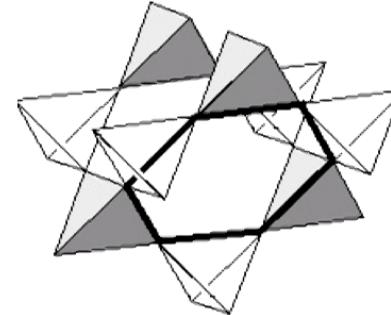
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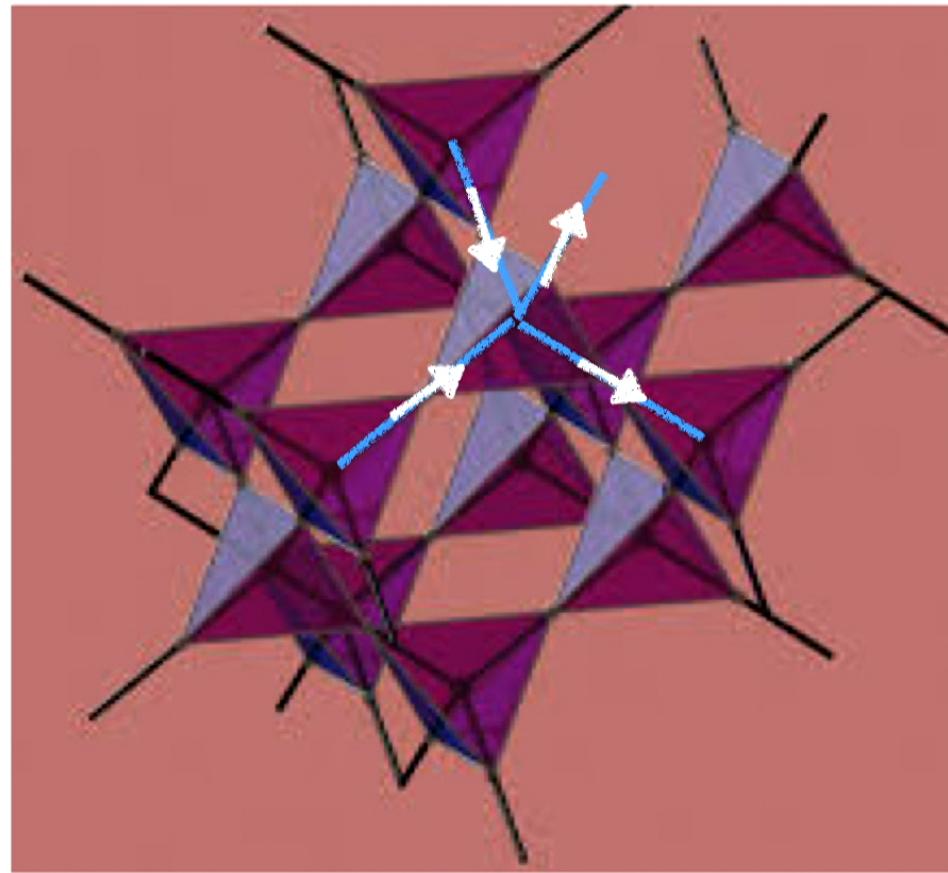
$J_z \gg J_\perp$     degenerate perturbation theory

$$\mathcal{H}_{eff} = -J_{ring} \sum_{\bigcirc} (S_1^+ S_2^- S_3^+ S_4^- S_5^+ S_6^- + h.c.)$$

$$J_{ring} = 12J_\perp^3/J_z^2$$



Hermele, Balents, Fisher (2003)

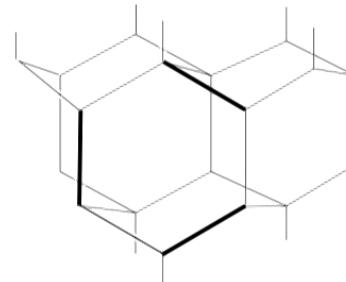


## Connection to Quantum Dimer Model

$$\mathcal{H}_p = -J_{ring} \sum_{\square} (S_1^+ S_2^- S_3^+ S_4^- S_5^+ S_6^- + h.c.)$$

dimer kinetic energy  
on diamond lattice

two dimers touch each site on diamond lattice  
[2-in/2-out on pyrochlore lattice]



“flippable” hexagon

Hermele, Balents, Fisher (2003)

## Connection to Quantum Dimer Model

$$\mathcal{H}_p = -J_{ring} \sum_{\textcircled{O}} (S_1^+ S_2^- S_3^+ S_4^- S_5^+ S_6^- + h.c.) \quad \text{dimer kinetic energy}$$

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two dimers touch each site on diamond lattice  
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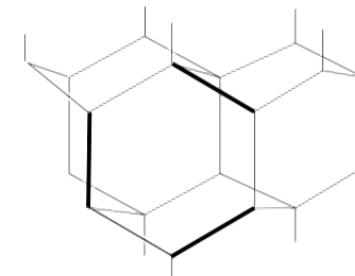
add dimer potential term by hand

$$\mathcal{H}_V = VN_f$$

exactly solvable point: RK model

$$V = J_{ring}$$

Spin liquid: equal superposition of  
all dimer configurations



“flippable” hexagon

All in  $J_z \gg J_{\perp}$  limit !

Hermele, Balents, Fisher (2003)

# Quantum Electrodynamics

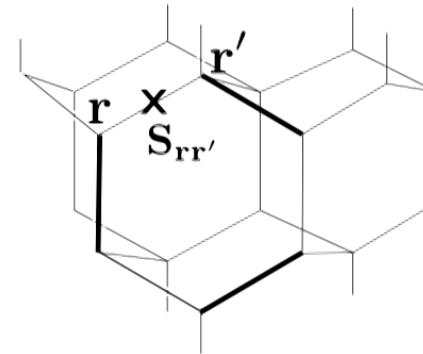
**Quantum rotor variables**  $n_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} \in \mathbb{Z}$   $\phi_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} \in [-\pi, \pi)$

$$[\phi_{\mathbf{r}i}, n_{\mathbf{r}'j}] = i\delta_{ij}\delta_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}$$

$$S_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^z = n_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} - 1/2 \quad n_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} = 0, 1$$

$$S_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^+ = e^{i\phi_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}}$$

**hard core boson mapping**



# Quantum Electrodynamics

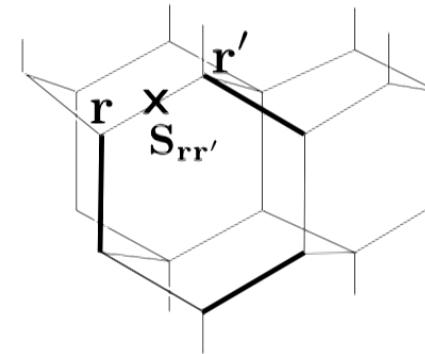
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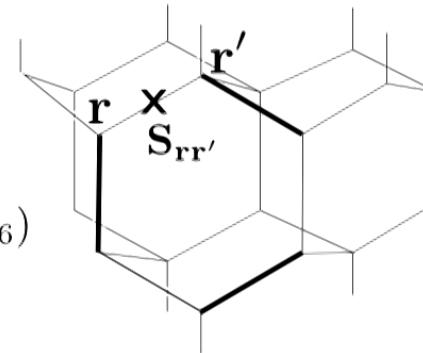
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**hard core boson mapping**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_p &= \frac{U}{2} \sum_{\langle \mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}' \rangle} (n_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} - 1/2)^2 \\ &\quad - K \sum_{\bigcirc} \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2 + \phi_3 - \phi_4 + \phi_5 - \phi_6) \end{aligned}$$

$U/K \rightarrow \infty$  **hard core boson limit**

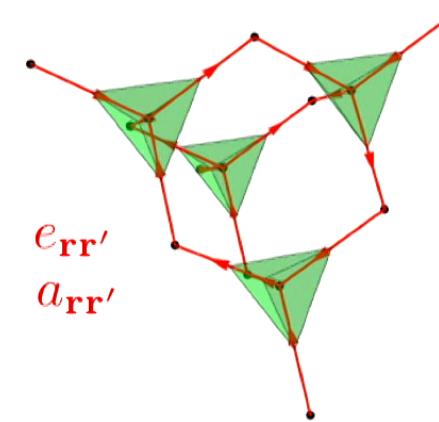


## Quantum Electrodynamics

$$S_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^z = n_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} - 1/2 \quad e_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} = \pm(n_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} - 1/2)$$

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$a_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} = \pm\phi_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}$       electric field:  
 $[a_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}, e_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}] = i$       half-integer values !



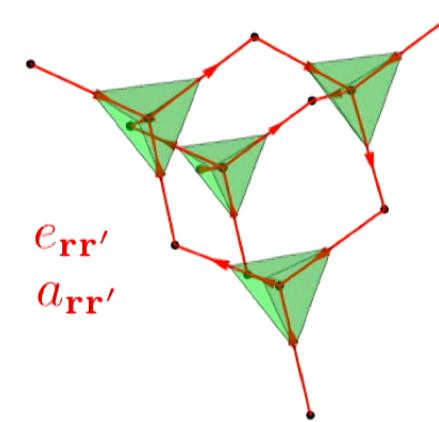
defined in “direct”  
diamond lattice

## Quantum Electrodynamics

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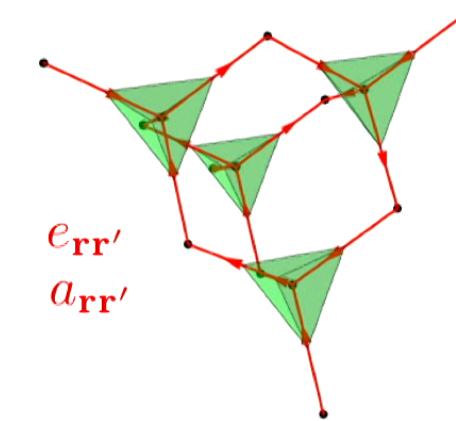
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$$\mathcal{H}_p = \frac{U}{2} \sum_{\langle \mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}' \rangle} e_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^2 - K \sum_{\bigcirc} \cos \left( \sum_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}' \in \bigcirc} a_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} \right)$$



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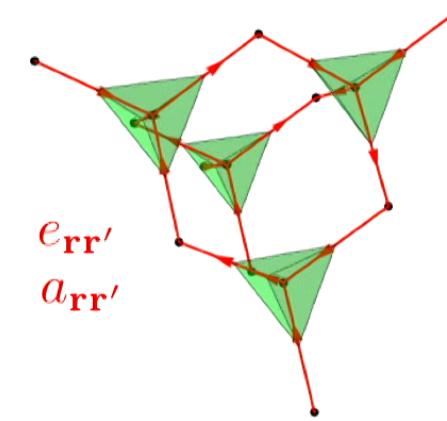
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$$(\text{curl } a)_{\bigcirc} = \sum_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}' \in \bigcirc} a_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}$$

$$(\text{div } e)_{\mathbf{r}} = \sum_{\mathbf{r}' \leftarrow \mathbf{r}} e_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} = \pm S_t^z$$

$$a_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} \rightarrow a_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} + \chi_{\mathbf{r}'} - \chi_{\mathbf{r}}$$

**gauge invariance**



**defined in “direct” diamond lattice**

# Quantum Electrodynamics

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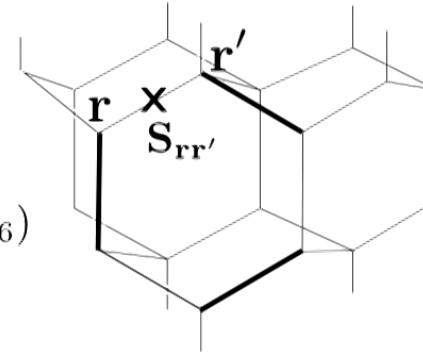
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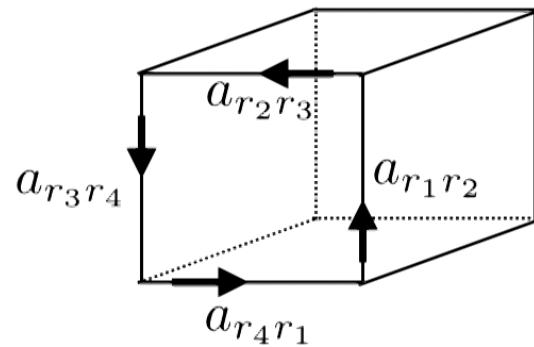
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**hard core boson mapping**

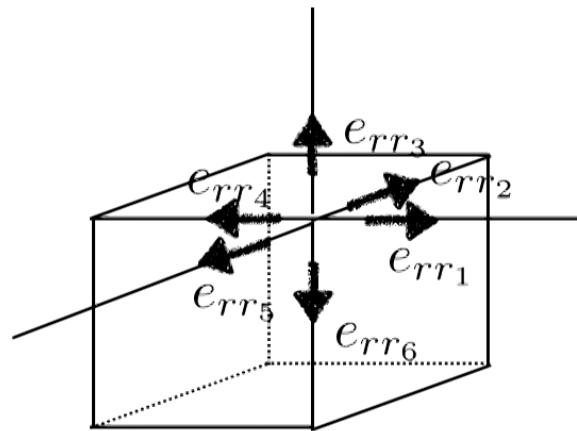
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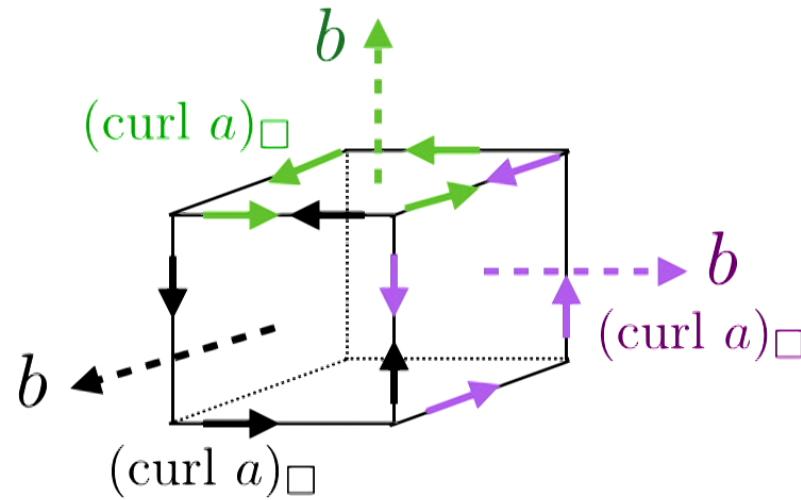




$$(\text{curl } a)_{\square} \sim \sum_{rr' \in \square} a_{rr'}$$



$$(\text{div } e)_r \sim \sum_{r' \leftarrow r} e_{rr'}$$



$$b_{rr'} \sim (\text{curl } a)_{\square}$$

$rr'$  link connecting centers  $r$  and  $r'$  of two nearby cubes

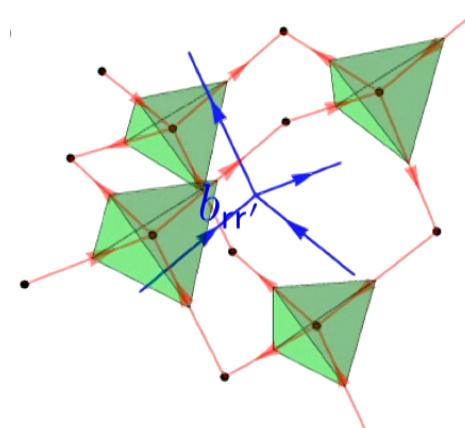
$r$  defines the **dual cubic lattice**

$rr'$  links penetrate the centers of square surfaces

## What about “magnetic” field ?

$$\pi b_{rr'} = (\text{curl } a)_{\bigcirc} \quad r \text{ “dual” diamond lattice sites}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_p = \frac{U}{2} \sum_{\langle rr' \rangle} e_{rr'}^2 - K \sum_{\bigcirc} \cos((\text{curl } a)_{\bigcirc})$$



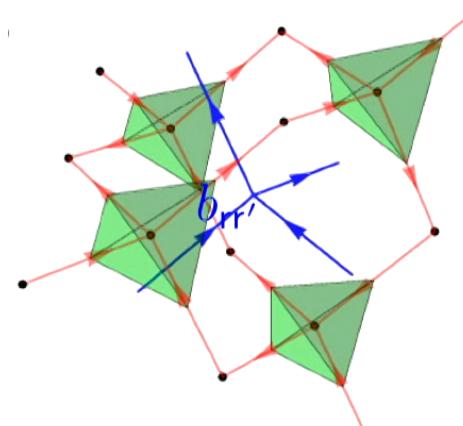
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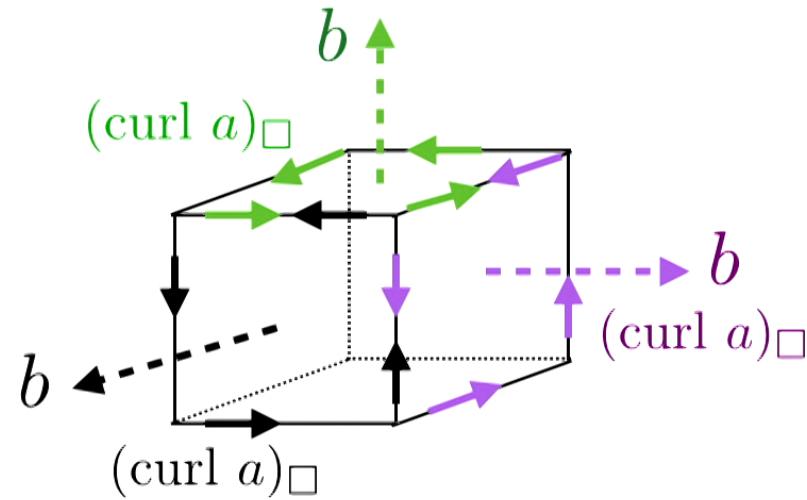
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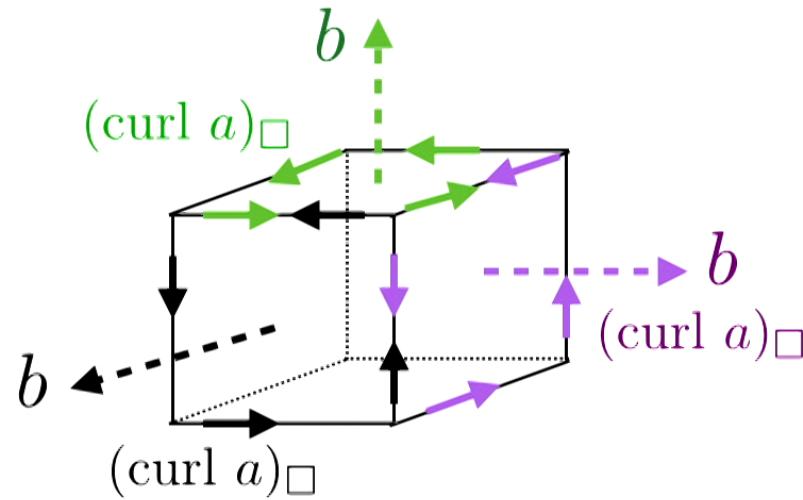
$$b \rightarrow b + 2 \quad b_{rr'} \in [-1, 1)$$

$$(\text{div } b)_r = ?$$





$$b \sim (\text{curl } a) \square \quad (\text{div } b)_{\text{cube}} \sim \sum_{\square} (\text{curl } a) \square$$



$$b \sim (\text{curl } a)_{\square} \quad (\text{div } b)_{\text{cube}} \sim \sum_{\square} (\text{curl } a)_{\square}$$

This is naively zero as all “a” would cancel out

But “b” $\rightarrow$ “b+2” and the net sum is generally  
an even integer

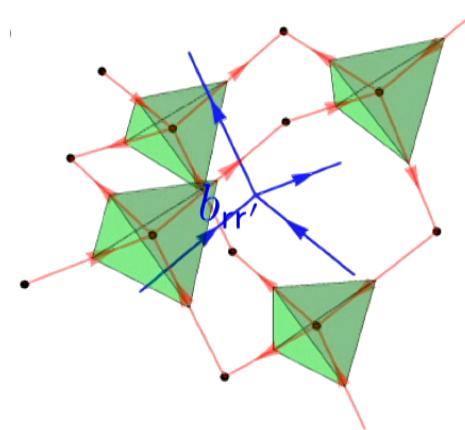
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$$b \rightarrow b + 2 \quad b_{rr'} \in [-1, 1)$$

$$(\text{div } b)_r = 2n_r \quad n_r = 0, \pm 1$$



gauge theory is compact = periodic in “magnetic” flux

“magnetic charge” is quantized

“magnetic” monopole is allowed

## Confinement ?

$$\mathcal{H}_p = \frac{U}{2} \sum_{\langle \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}' \rangle} e_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'}^2 - K \sum_{\bigcirclearrowleft} \cos((\operatorname{curl} a)_{\bigcirclearrowleft})$$

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if  $U/K$  is small      electric charge is deconfined  
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if  $U/K \rightarrow \infty$ .

If  $e_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'} = \pm n_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'}$

the vacuum (ground state)       $e = 0$       confinement !  
would have been trivial

## Confinement ?

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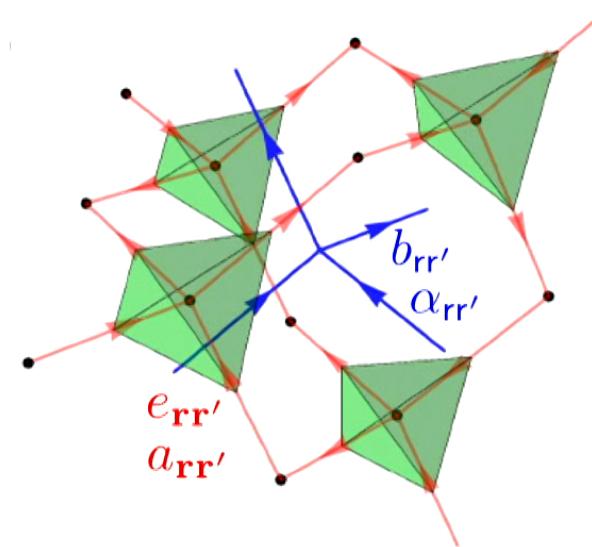
$e_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'} = \pm(n_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'} - 1/2)$      $e = \pm 1/2$  frustrated vacuum  
quantum spin ice      Non-trivial problem !

# Electromagnetic Duality

dual vector potential     $\alpha_{rr'} \in \pi\mathbb{Z}$      $[b, \alpha] = i$

$$\boxed{\pi b_{rr'} = (\text{curl } a)_{\bigcirc}} \quad b \rightarrow b + 2$$

$$(\text{div } b)_r = 2n_r \quad n_r = 0, \pm 1$$



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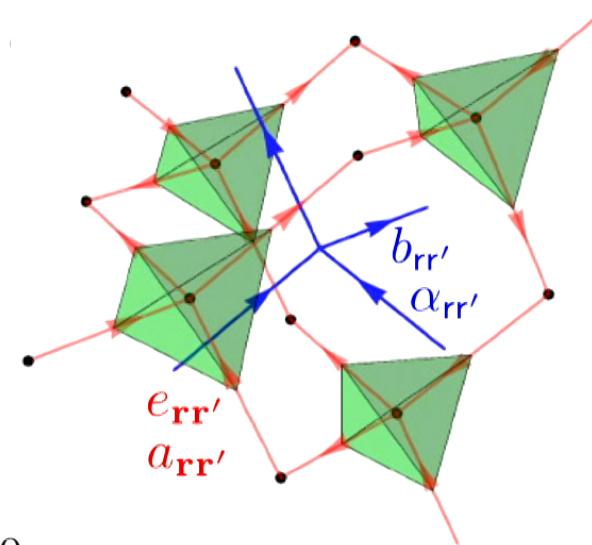
$$(\text{div } b)_r = 2n_r \quad n_r = 0, \pm 1$$

$$\boxed{\pi(e_{rr'} - e_{rr'}^0) = (\text{curl } \alpha)_{\bigcirc^*}}$$

$$e_{rr'}^0 = \pm 1/2 \quad e_{rr'} \in \mathbb{Z} + 1/2$$

$$\text{div } e = \text{div}(e^0 + \text{curl } \alpha/\pi) = 0$$

$$[a_{rr'}, e_{rr'}] = i$$



## Electromagnetic Duality

$$\mathcal{H}_p = \frac{U}{2} \sum_{\langle \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}' \rangle} e_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'}^2 - K \sum_{\bigcirc} \cos((\operatorname{curl} a)_{\bigcirc}) \quad [a_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'}, e_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'}] = i$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{dual} = \frac{U}{2\pi^2} \sum_{\bigcirc^*} ((\operatorname{curl} \alpha)_{\bigcirc^*} + \pi e_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'}^0)^2 - K \sum_{\langle \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}' \rangle} \cos(\pi b_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'}) \quad [b, \alpha] = i$$

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$$\text{div } b \in 2\mathbb{Z} \quad \pi b_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'} = (\text{curl } a)_{\bigcirc}$$

$$\text{div } e = 0 \quad \pi(e_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'} - e_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'}^0) = (\text{curl } \alpha)_{\bigcirc^*} \quad e_{\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}'}^0 = \pm 1/2$$

## Coulomb Phase (deconfined phase)

dual vector potential       $\pi e = \text{curl } \tilde{\alpha}$

$$\cos(\pi b) \approx 1 - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2 b^2 \quad \text{small fluctuations}$$

$$\mathcal{H}^0 = \frac{\mathcal{K}}{2} \sum_{\langle rr' \rangle} \tilde{b}_{rr'}^2 + \frac{\mathcal{U}}{2} \sum_{\bigcirc^*} (\text{curl } \tilde{\alpha})^2$$

electric (magnetic) charges are interacting each other via  $1/r$

## Excitations

electric monopoles (or “magnetic monopole”):  
spinons

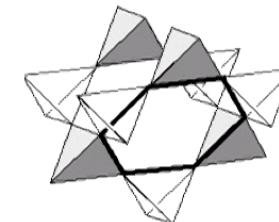
$$2\Delta_{\text{spinon}} \sim J_z$$

magnetic monopoles (or “electric monopole”)

$$\Delta_{\text{mon}} \sim J_{\pm}^3 / J_z^2$$

$$S_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^{+} = e^{i\phi_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}}$$

$$\pi b_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'} = (\text{curl } a)_{\square} \sim \phi_1 - \phi_2 + \phi_3 - \phi_4 + \phi_5 - \phi_6$$



## Excitations

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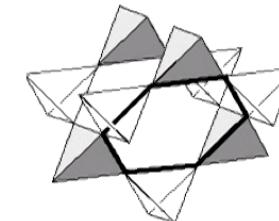
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emergent photons  $\omega(\mathbf{k}) \approx c|\mathbf{k}|$   $C(T) \propto \frac{1}{c^3} T^3$

$$c \propto \sqrt{U K} a_0 / \hbar$$

## Spin Structure Factor

$$\langle S_i^z(\mathbf{r})S_j^z(\mathbf{r}') \rangle = (\mathbf{u}_i)_k(\mathbf{u}_j)_l \mathcal{C}_{kl}^e(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{ij}^e(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') = \langle e_i(\mathbf{r})e_j(\mathbf{r}') \rangle \quad \text{Hermele, Balents, Fisher (2003)}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{ij}^e(\mathbf{r}) \propto \frac{K}{cr^4} \left( 2\frac{r_i r_j}{r^2} - \delta_{ij} \right) \quad c \propto \sqrt{U K} a_0 / \hbar$$

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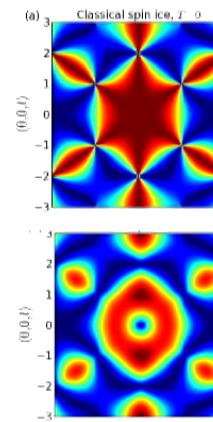
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classical and quantum pinch point

$$\langle S_\mu(-\mathbf{k})S_\nu(\mathbf{k}) \rangle_{\text{classical}} \propto \left( \delta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{k_\mu k_\nu}{k^2} \right)$$

$$\langle S_\mu(-\mathbf{k})S_\nu(\mathbf{k}) \rangle_{\text{quantum}} \propto k \left( \delta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{k_\mu k_\nu}{k^2} \right)$$

Nic Shannon (2011,2012)



## Quantum Monte Carlo (SSE)

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_I + \mathcal{H}'$$

$$\mathcal{H}_I = \frac{J_z}{2} \sum_t (S_t^z)^2 \quad \mathcal{H}' = -\frac{J_\perp}{2} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (S_i^+ S_j^- + h.c.)$$

Banerjee,  
Isakov,  
Damle,  
YBK  
(2007)

## Quantum Monte Carlo (SSE)

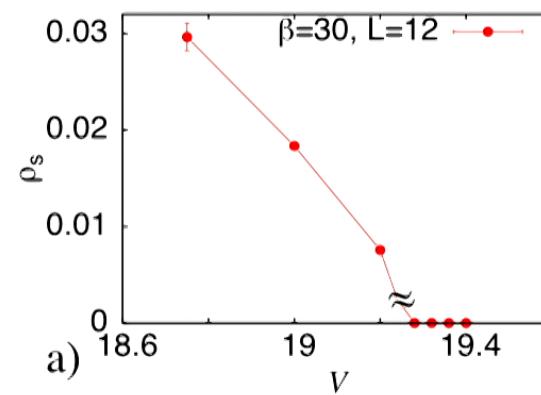
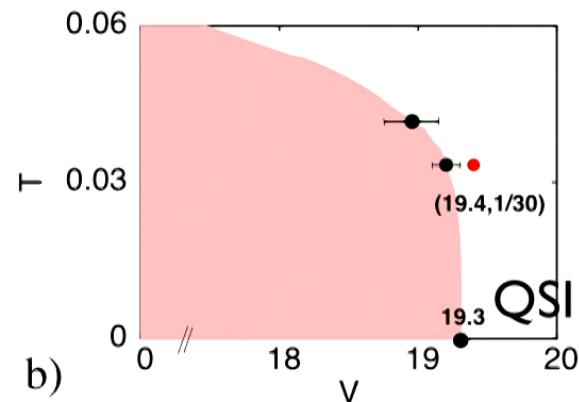
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$$\mathcal{H}_{boson} = -t \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (b_i^\dagger b_j + b_j^\dagger b_i) + V \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \left( n_i - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( n_j - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

$$S_i^z = n_i - 1/2 \quad J_z = V \quad J_{\perp} = -2t$$

Banerjee,  
Isakov,  
Damle,  
YBK  
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## Quantum Electrodynamics

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{\gamma}{2} \sum_{\langle \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}' \rangle} e_{rr'}^2 + \frac{\kappa}{2} \sum_{\bigcirc} (\Delta_{rr'} \times a_{rr'})^2$$

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\beta \sqrt{\kappa \gamma}} d\tilde{\tau} \left[ \sum_{\langle rr' \rangle} (\partial_{\tilde{\tau}} \tilde{a}_{rr'} - \Delta_{rr'} \tilde{a}_{\tau})^2 + \sum_{\bigcirc} (\Delta_{rr'} \times \tilde{a}_{rr'})^2 \right]$$

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$$C^{\alpha\alpha'}(\mathbf{q}, \tau = 0) = \langle n_{\alpha}(\mathbf{q}) n_{\alpha'}(-\mathbf{q}) \rangle \quad \text{equal time}$$
$$S^{\alpha\alpha'}(\mathbf{q}, \omega_n = 0) = \int_0^{\beta} d\tau C^{\alpha\alpha'}(\mathbf{q}, \tau) \quad \text{static}$$

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$S^{\alpha\alpha'}(\mathbf{q}, \omega_n = 0) = \int_0^{\beta} d\tau C^{\alpha\alpha'}(\mathbf{q}, \tau)$  **static**

$C(q) \sim S_{\text{equal}}(\mathbf{q}) = \int d\omega S(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$  **inelastic contribution**

$S(q) \sim S_{\text{static}}(\mathbf{q}) = S(\mathbf{q}, \omega = 0)$  **elastic scattering**

## Quantum Electrodynamics

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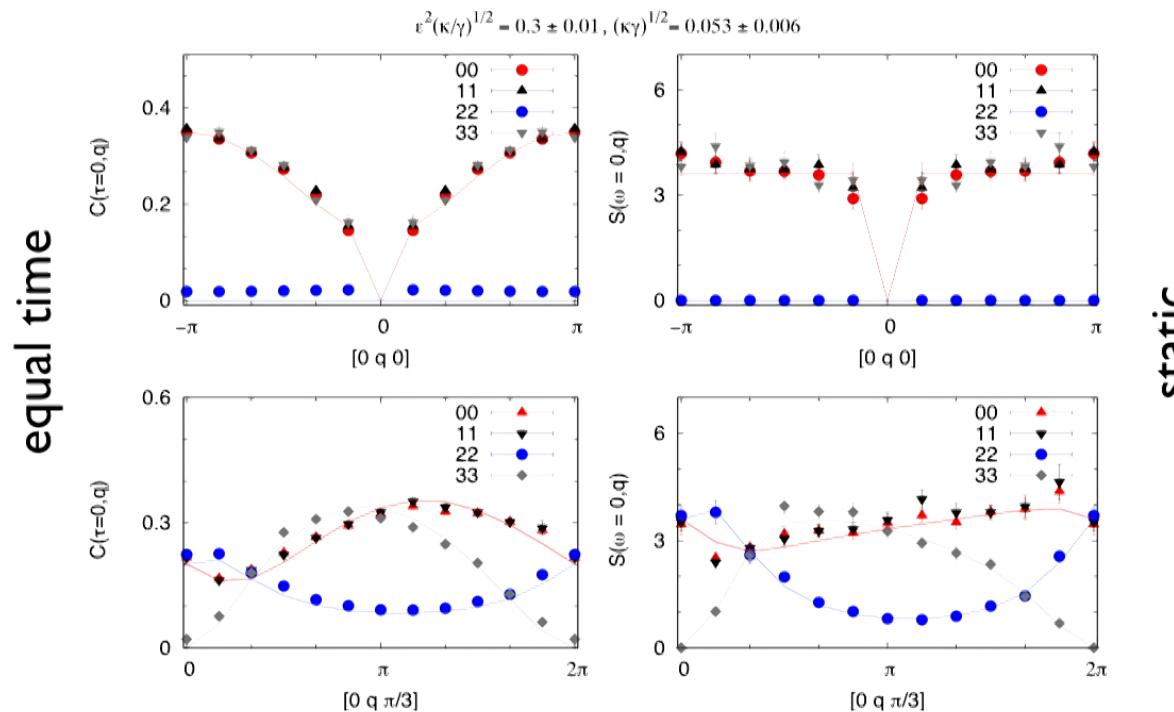
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$$C(\tau = 0, \mathbf{q}) = \epsilon^2 \sqrt{v} f_{eq}(\beta\sqrt{\kappa\gamma}, \mathbf{q})$$

$$S(\omega = 0, \mathbf{q}) = \epsilon^2 \frac{\sqrt{v}}{\sqrt{\kappa\gamma}} f_{st}(\mathbf{q})$$

Analytic expression  
of lattice correlators

Fit equal time correlator in different lattice directions, then using the same parameters, fit static correlator !



## Quantum-Classical Crossover

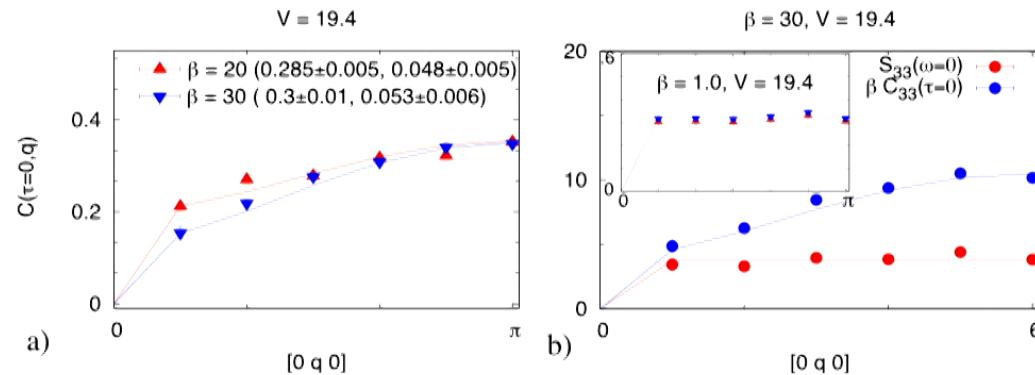


FIG. 4: (color online). a) The same values of  $\sqrt{\kappa\gamma}$  and  $\epsilon^2\sqrt{\kappa/\gamma}$  fit data at different temperatures for fixed  $V/t$ . b)  $S^{\alpha\alpha}(\mathbf{q}, \omega_n = 0)$  and  $\beta C^{\alpha\alpha}(\mathbf{q}, \tau = 0)$  for  $V = 19.4$  are essentially equal at  $\beta = 1$ , but not at  $\beta = 30$ .

# Quantum Dimer Model

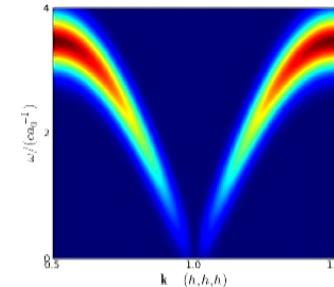
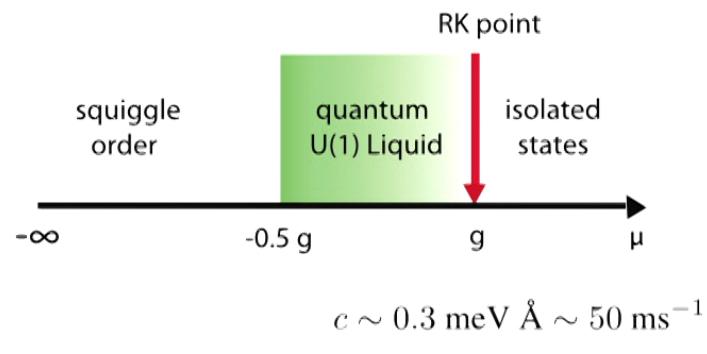
$$\mathcal{H}_\mu = \mathcal{H}_{\text{tunneling}} + \delta\mathcal{H}_\mu$$

Nic Shannon (2011,2012)

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{tunnelling}} = -g \sum_{\circlearrowleft} [|\circlearrowleft\rangle\langle\circlearrowleft| + |\circlearrowright\rangle\langle\circlearrowright|]$$

$$\delta\mathcal{H}_\mu = \mu \sum_{\circlearrowleft} [|\circlearrowleft\rangle\langle\circlearrowleft| + |\circlearrowright\rangle\langle\circlearrowright|] \quad g = \mu \quad \text{RK point}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_p = -J_{ring} \sum_{\circlearrowleft} (S_1^+ S_2^- S_3^+ S_4^- S_5^+ S_6^- + h.c.) \quad J_z \gg J_\perp$$

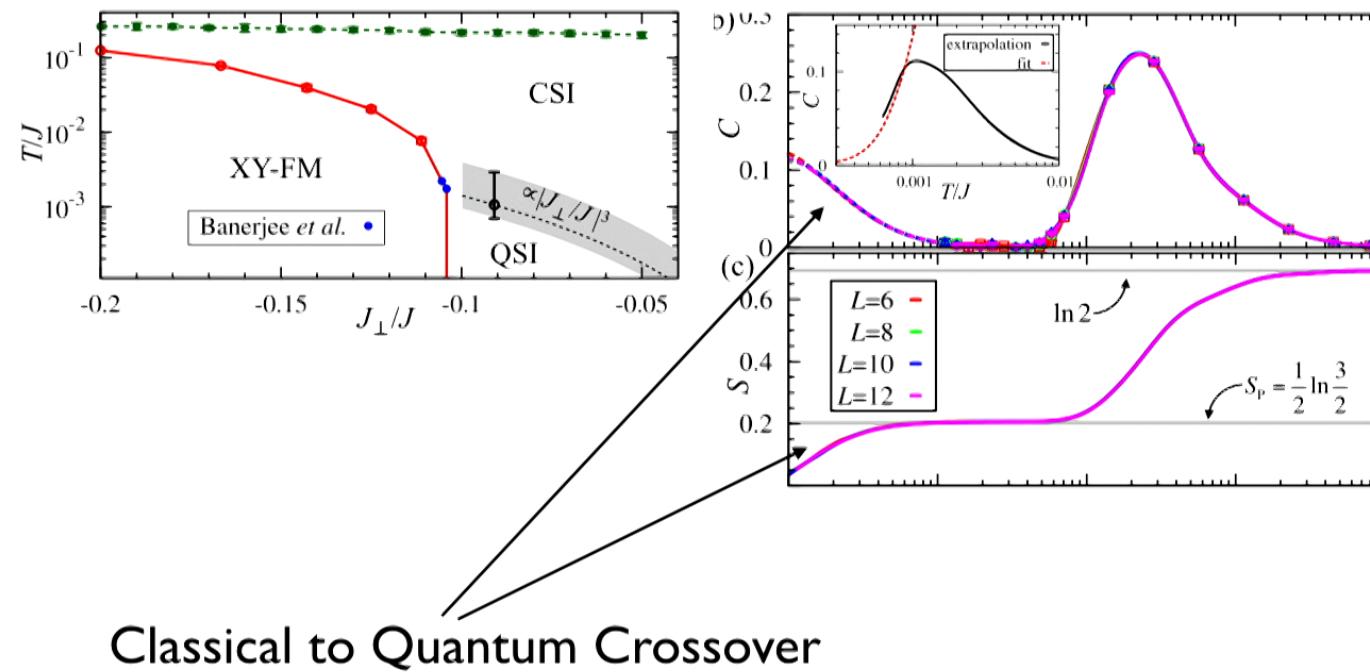


$$c = (0.6 \pm 0.1) g a_0 \hbar^{-1}$$

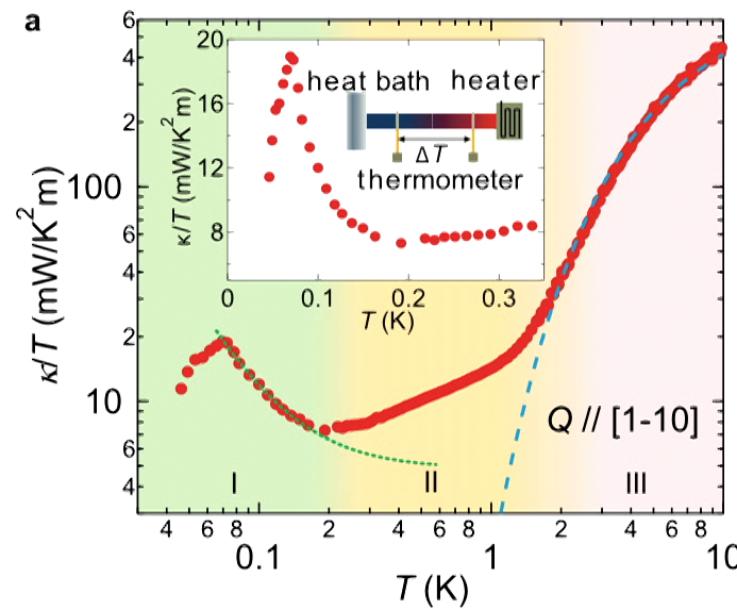
$$c = (1.8 \pm 0.2) g a_0 \hbar^{-1}$$

# Numerical evidence of quantum melting of spin ice: quantum-classical crossover

Yasuyuki Kato<sup>1,2</sup> and Shigeki Onoda<sup>1,3</sup>



## thermal conductivity (Yuji Matsuda)



magnetic monopoles (“electric monopoles”) ?  
photons ?

## Realistic Model

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{H}_{S=1/2} = & \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \left\{ J_{zz} S_i^z S_j^z - J_{\pm} (S_i^+ S_j^- + S_i^- S_j^+) \right. \\ & + J_{\pm\pm} [\gamma_{ij} S_i^+ S_j^+ + \gamma_{ij}^* S_i^- S_j^-] \\ & \left. + J_{z\pm} [S_i^z (\zeta_{ij} S_j^+ + \zeta_{ij}^* S_j^-) + i \leftrightarrow j] \right\}\end{aligned}$$

$$J_{\pm\pm} = 0$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{tunnelling}} = -g \sum_{\bigcirc} [S_1^+ S_2^- S_3^+ S_4^- S_5^+ S_6^- + h.c.] \quad g = \frac{12 J_{\pm}^3}{J_{zz}^2}$$

$$\boxed{\mathcal{H}_{J_3} = -J_3 \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_3} S_i^z S_j^z \quad J_3 = \frac{3 J_{z\pm}^2}{J_{zz}} > 0}$$

Benton, Sikora, Shannon (2012)

## Gauge Mean Field Theory (gMFT)

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{\mathbf{r}}^{\dagger} &= e^{i\varphi_{\mathbf{r}}} & [\varphi_{\mathbf{r}}, Q_{\mathbf{r}}] &= i && \text{"spinons" on the} \\ \Phi_{\mathbf{r}} &= e^{-i\varphi_{\mathbf{r}}} & |\Phi_{\mathbf{r}}| &= 1 && \text{diamond lattice}\end{aligned}$$

$$Q_{\mathbf{r}} = \eta_{\mathbf{r}} \sum_{\mu} s_{\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r} + \eta_{\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^z \quad \text{constraint} \quad \text{I/II, with } \eta_{\mathbf{r}} = \pm 1$$

Introduce spinons explicitly using a constraint

$$S_{\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^+ = \Phi_{\mathbf{r}}^{\dagger} s_{\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^+ \Phi_{\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_{\mu}}$$

$$S_{\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^z = s_{\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_{\mu}}^z$$

$$s_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^z = E_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}$$

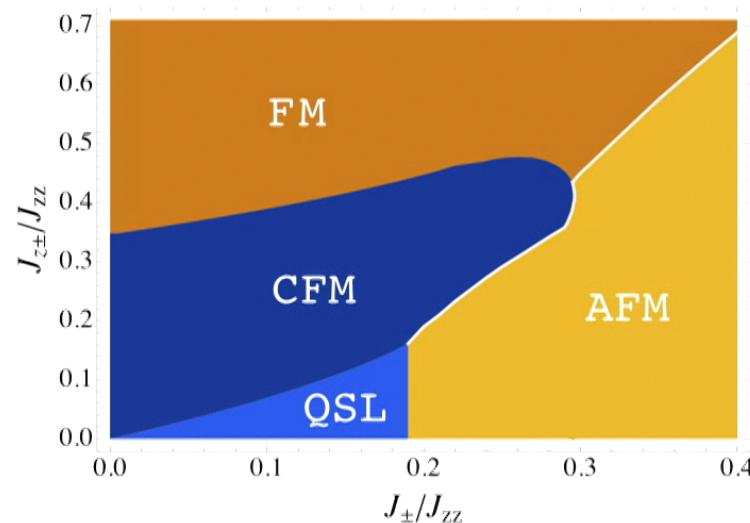
$$s_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}^{\pm} = e^{\pm i A_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}'}}$$

Savary, Balents

$\langle \Phi \rangle$	$\langle s^z \rangle$	$\langle s^\pm \rangle$	phase
0	0	$\neq 0$	QSL
0	$\neq 0$	$\neq 0$	CFM
$\neq 0$	$\neq 0$	$\neq 0$	FM
$\neq 0$	0	$\neq 0$	AFM

**No confinement**  
 $\langle s^\pm \rangle = \langle e^{\pm iA} \rangle \neq 0$

condensation of  
“Higgs” field(s)



## Some Comments

This mean-field theory ignores the fluctuations of magnetic monopoles

Misses out confinement physics

Finite monopole density at finite temperature screens long-range interaction

Strictly speaking, the  $U(1)$  spin liquid (Coulomb phase) is well-defined only at  $T=0$

Subtle ... in finite temperature mean-field theory