

Tuning antiferromagnetic quantum criticality in the cuprates by a magnetic field

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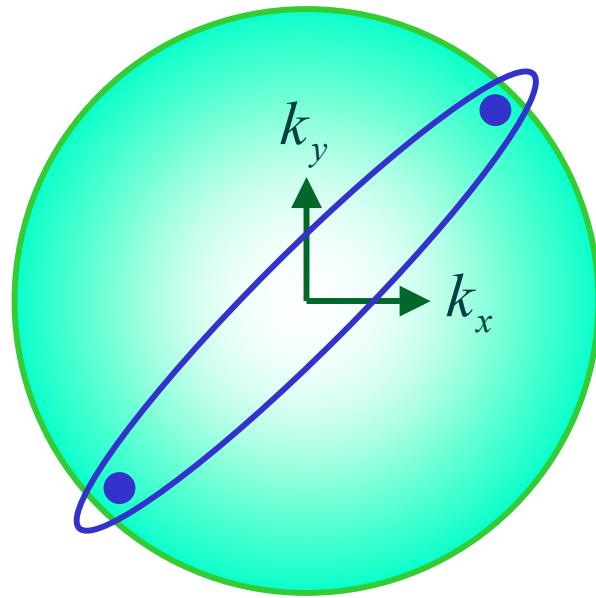


Talk online at
<http://pantheon.yale.edu/~subir>
(Search for “Sachdev” on Google)



Central message on theory of cuprate superconductivity

BCS superconductor obtained by the Cooper instability of a metallic Fermi liquid



Pair wavefunction

$$\Psi = (k_x^2 - k_y^2)(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$$

$$\langle \vec{S} \rangle = 0$$

Some low temperature properties of the cuprate superconductors appear to be qualitatively similar to those predicted by BCS theory.

Central message on theory of cuprate superconductivity (contd)

Superconductivity in a doped Mott insulator

When superconductivity is disrupted at low temperatures, BCS theory predicts that the Fermi surface will reappear.

Instead, we obtain states characterized by
competing order parameters.

Theory and experiments indicate that the most likely competing orders are spin and “charge” density waves.

Superconductivity can be suppressed globally by a strong magnetic field or large current flow.

Competing orders are also revealed when superconductivity is suppressed locally, near impurities or around vortices.

S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. B* **45**, 389 (1992); N. Nagaosa and P.A. Lee, *Phys. Rev. B* **45**, 966 (1992);
D.P. Arovas, A. J. Berlinsky, C. Kallin, and S.-C. Zhang *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **79**, 2871 (1997);
K. Park and S. Sachdev *Phys. Rev. B* **64**, 184510 (2001).

Outline

- I. Introduction to theory of competing orders and quantum criticality
 - A. Quantum Ising Chain.
 - B. Coupled Ladder Antiferromagnet.
- II. Spin density wave (SDW) order in LSCO
 - A. Quantum criticality at finite temperature.
 - B. Tuning order and transitions by a magnetic field.
- III. Connections with “charge” order
 - STM experiments on $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$
- IV. Microstructure of “charge” order:
Theories of magnetic transitions predict bond-centered modulation of exchange and pairing energies with even periods.
- V. Conclusions

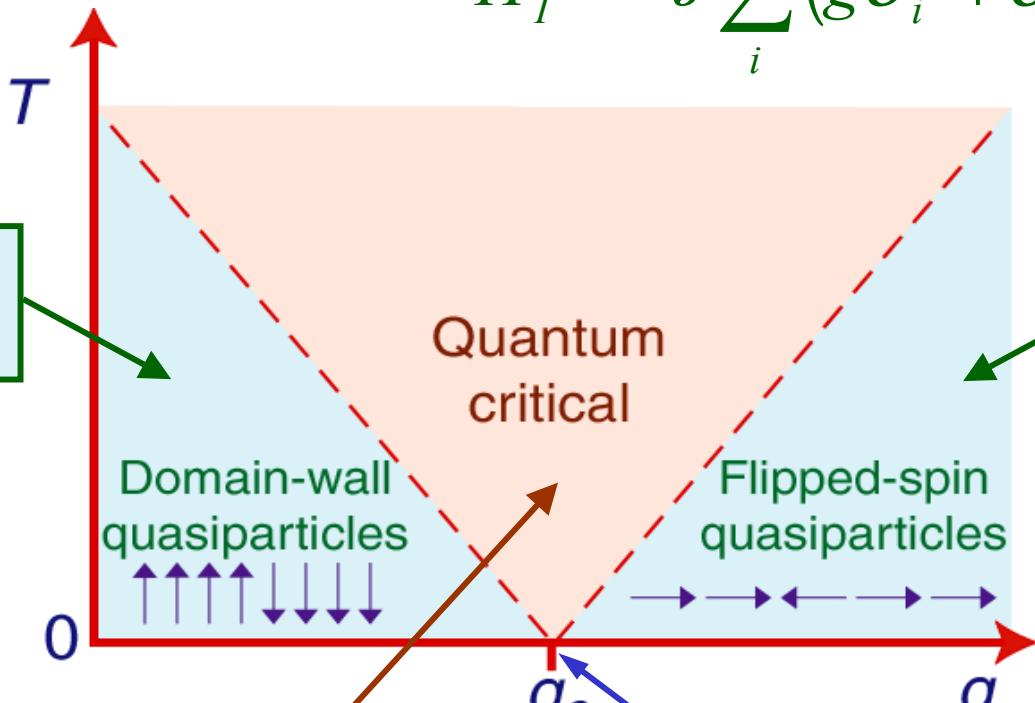
I.A Quantum Ising Chain

$$H_I = -J \sum_i (g\sigma_i^x + \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z)$$

Quasiclassical dynamics

Quasiclassical dynamics

$$\begin{aligned} \chi(\omega) &= \frac{i}{\hbar} \sum_k \int_0^\infty dt \langle [\sigma_j^z(t), \sigma_k^z(0)] \rangle e^{i\omega t} \\ &= \frac{A}{T^{7/4} (1 - i\omega/\Gamma_R + \dots)} \\ \Gamma_R &= \left(2 \tan \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \frac{k_B T}{\hbar} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} |\rightarrow\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\rangle + |\downarrow\rangle) \\ |\leftarrow\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\rangle - |\downarrow\rangle) \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle \sigma_j^z \sigma_k^z \rangle \sim \frac{1}{|j-k|^{1/4}}$$

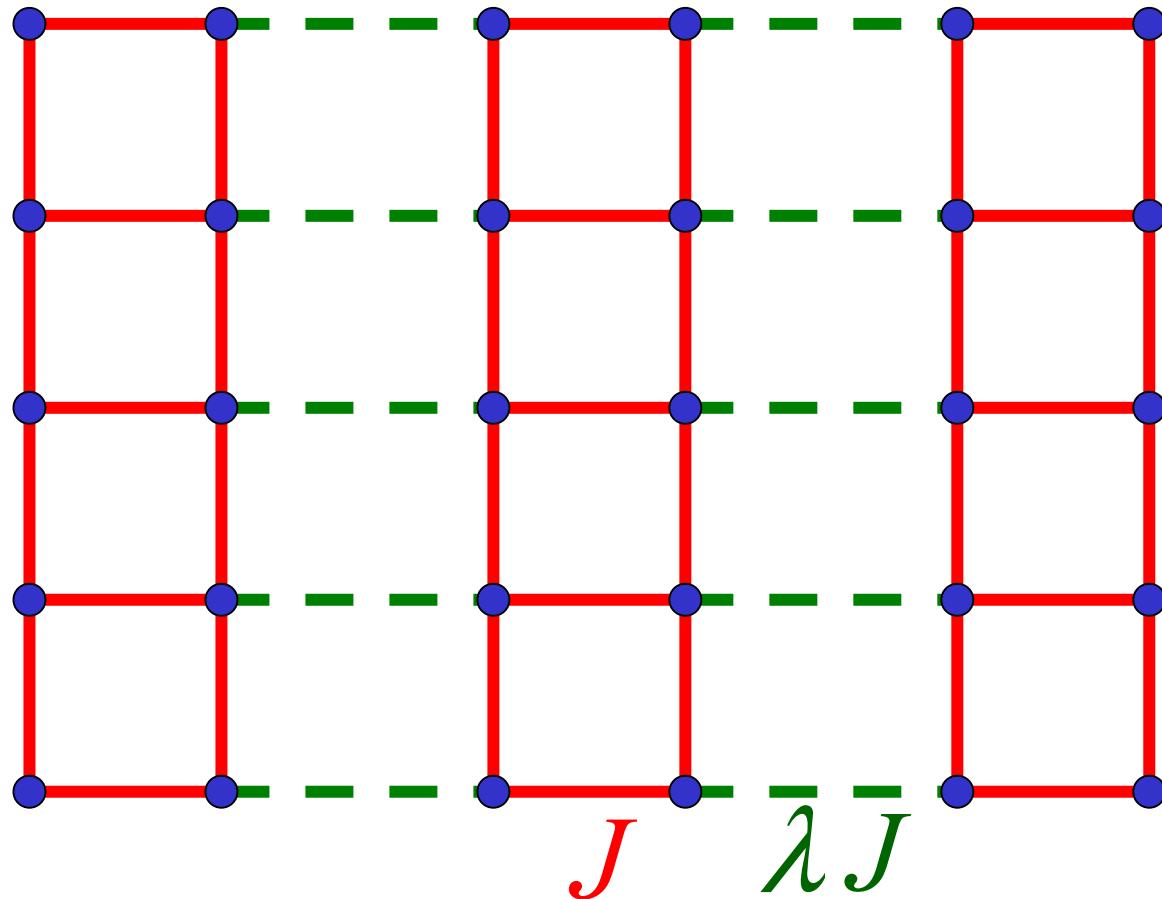
P. Pfeuty *Annals of Physics*, **57**, 79 (1970)

S. Sachdev and J. Ye, Phys. Rev. Lett. **69**, 2411 (1992).
 S. Sachdev and A.P. Young, Phys. Rev. Lett. **78**, 2220 (1997).

I.B Coupled Ladder Antiferromagnet

N. Katoh and M. Imada, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **63**, 4529 (1994).
J. Tworzydlo, O. Y. Osman, C. N. A. van Duin, J. Zaanen,
Phys. Rev. B **59**, 115 (1999).

$S=1/2$ spins on coupled 2-leg ladders



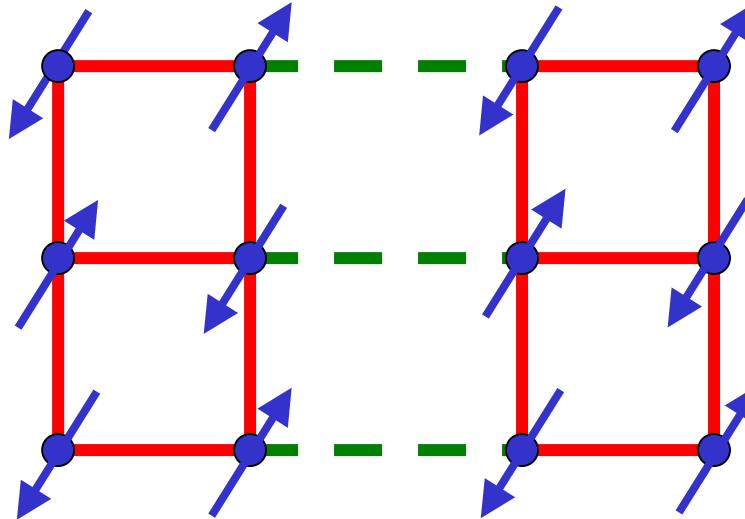
$$H = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{ij} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

$$0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$$

λ close to 1

Square lattice antiferromagnet

Experimental realization: La_2CuO_4



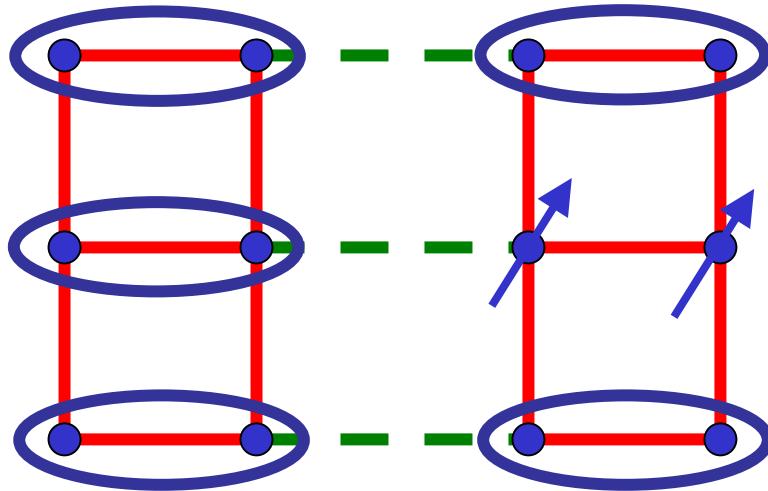
Ground state has long-range
magnetic (Neel) order

$$\langle \vec{S}_i \rangle = (-1)^{i_x + i_y} N_0 \neq 0$$

Excitations: 2 spin waves

λ close to 0

Weakly coupled ladders



$$\text{Oval} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$$

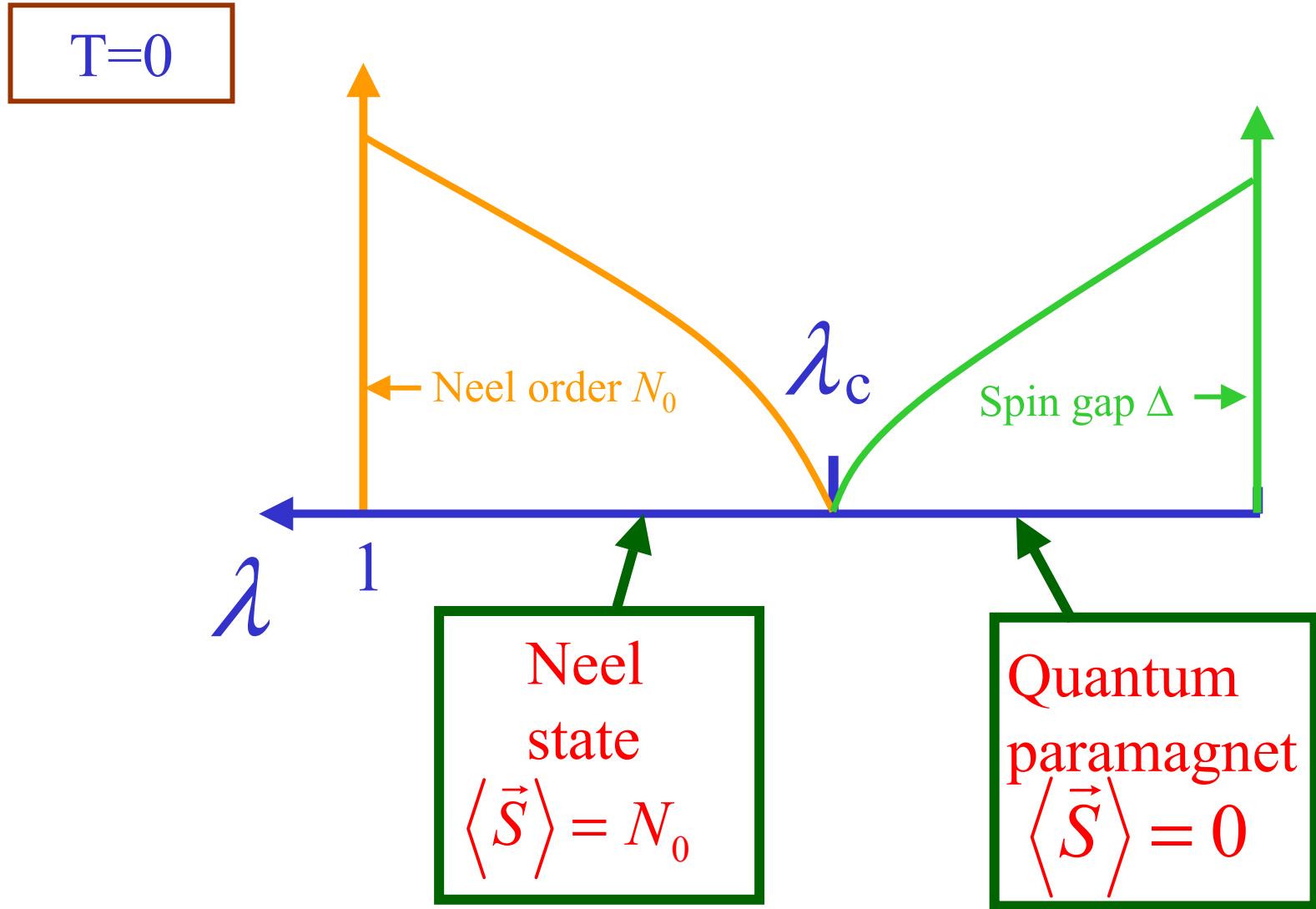
Paramagnetic ground state

$$\langle \vec{S}_i \rangle = 0$$

Excitation: $S=1$ *exciton* (spin collective mode)

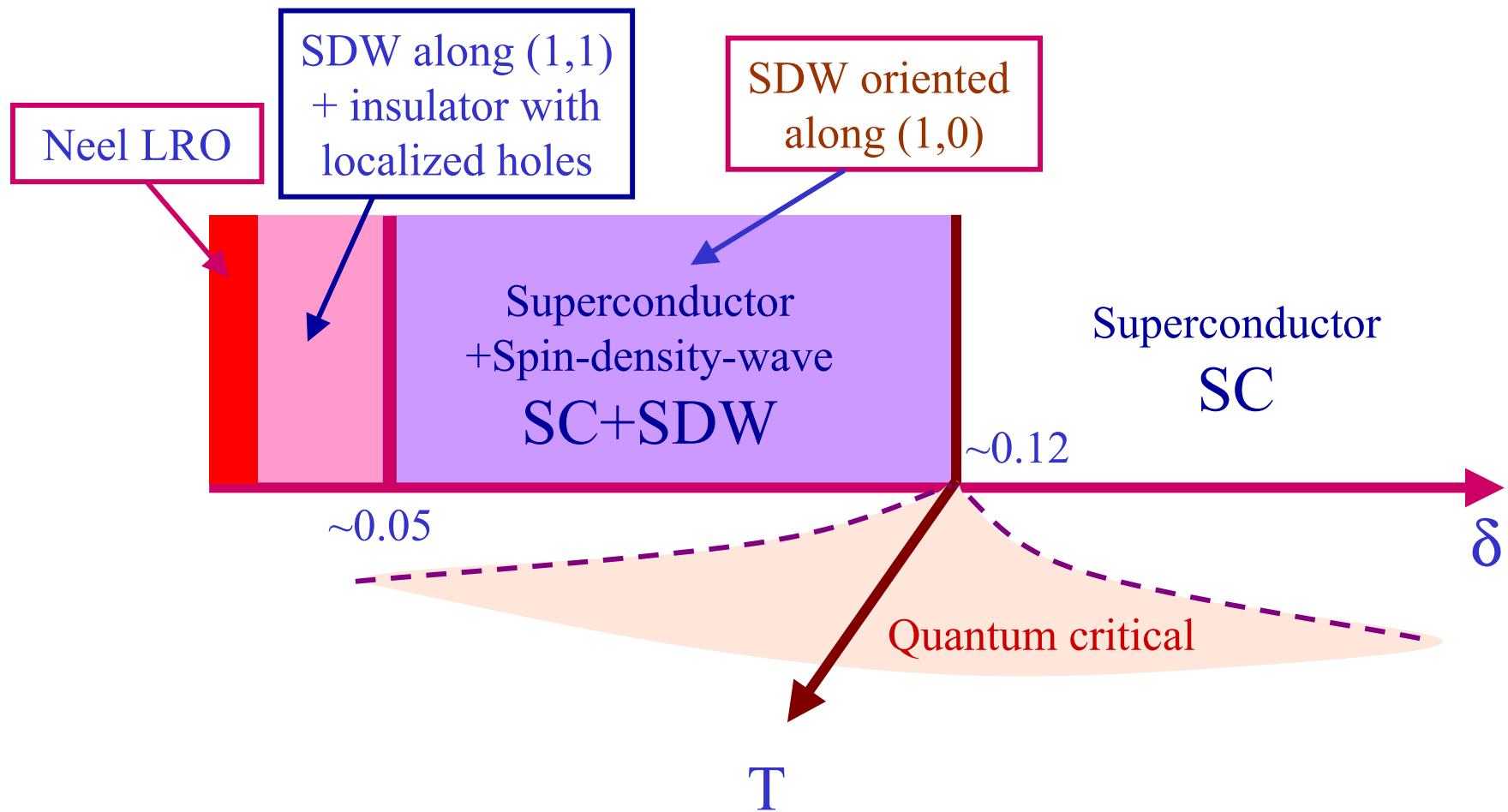
Energy dispersion away from
antiferromagnetic wavevector

$$\varepsilon = \Delta + \frac{c^2 k^2}{2\Delta}$$



Theory for a system with strong interactions: describe both phases by expanding in the deviation from the quantum critical point between them.

II.A Phase diagram of LSCO at zero temperature measured by neutron scattering



B. Keimer *et al.* Phys. Rev. B **46**, 14034 (1992).

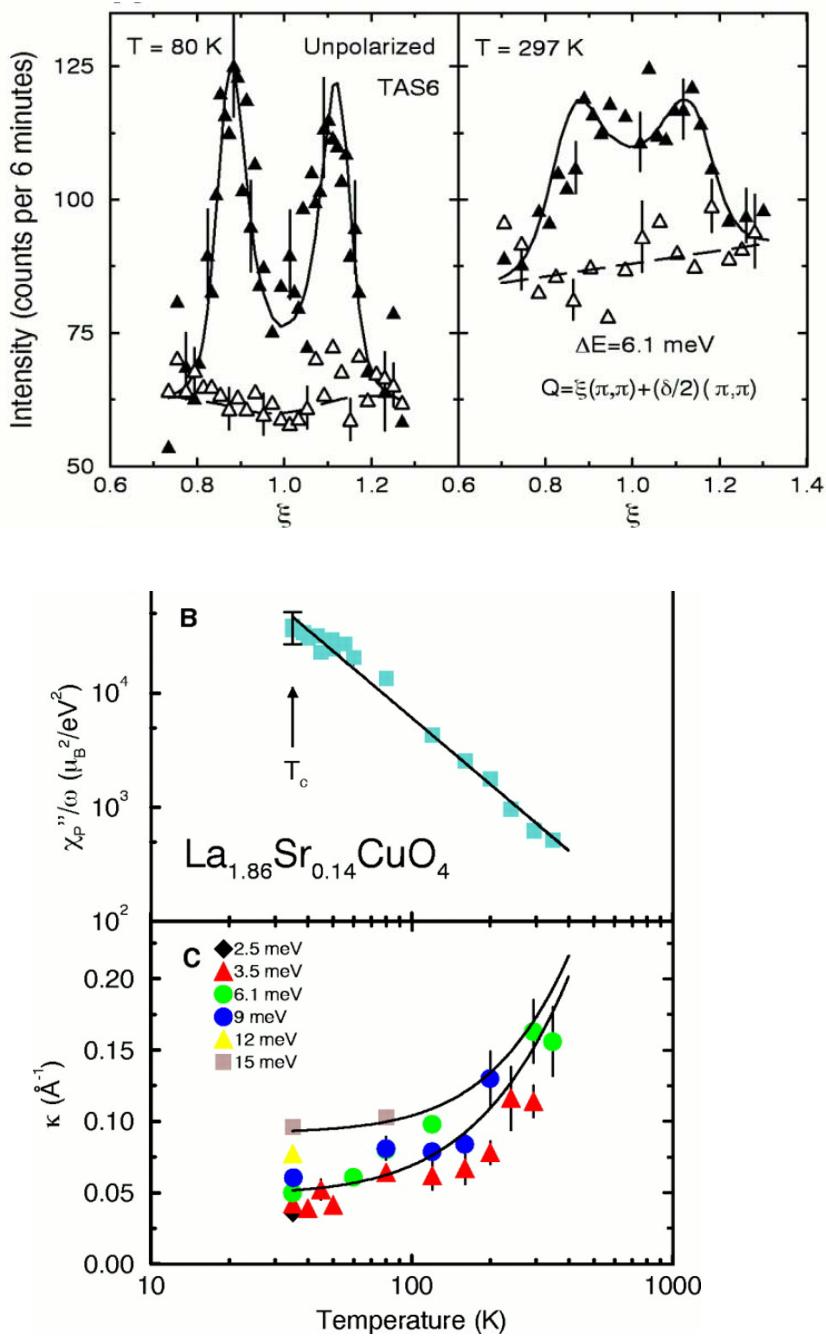
S. Wakimoto, G. Shirane *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **60**, R769 (1999).

G. Aeppli, T.E. Mason, S.M. Hayden, H.A. Mook, J. Kulda, Science **278**, 1432 (1997).

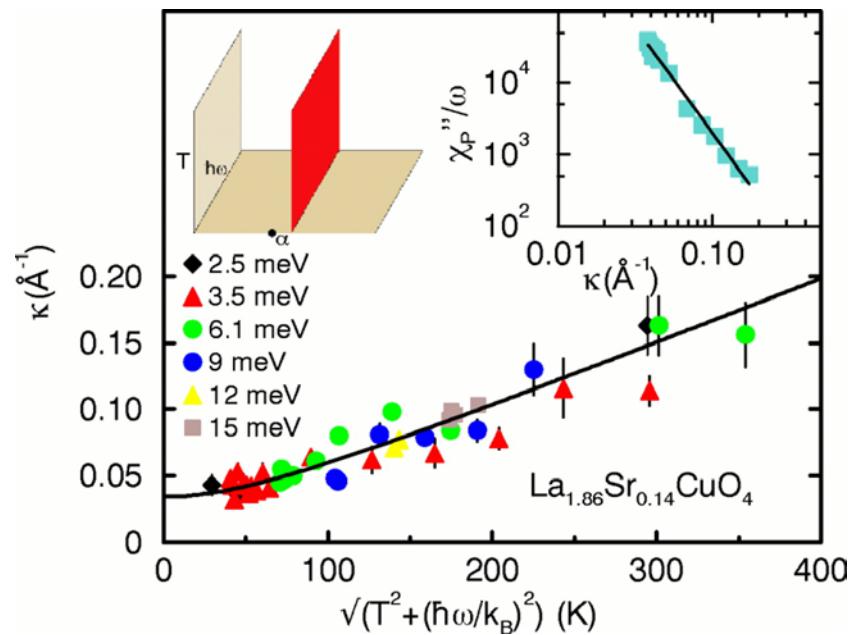
Y. S. Lee, R. J. Birgeneau, M. A. Kastner *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **60**, 3643 (1999).

J. E. Sonier *et al.*, cond-mat/0108479.

C. Panagopoulos, B. D. Rainford, J. L. Tallon, T. Xiang, J. R. Cooper, and C. A. Scott, preprint.

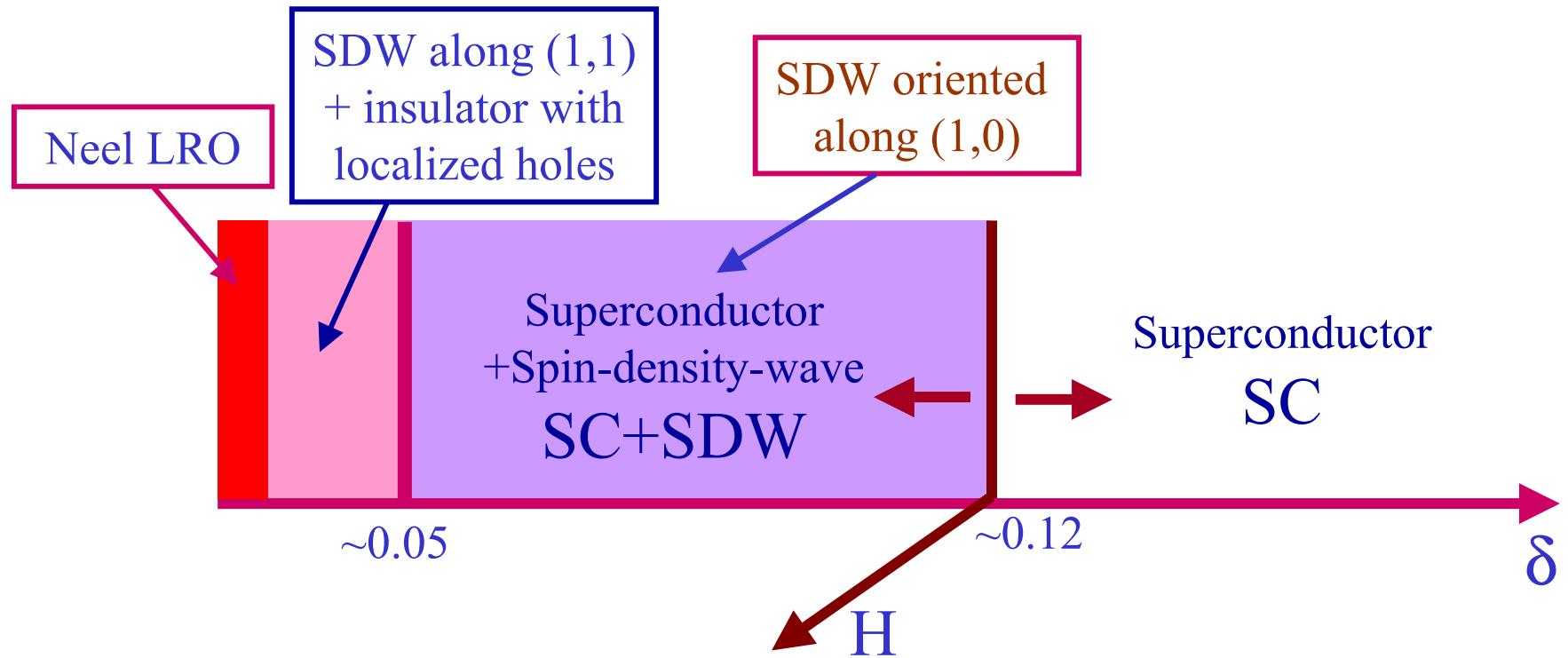


Neutron scattering measurements
of dynamic spin correlations in
 $\text{La}_{1.86}\text{Sr}_{0.14}\text{CuO}_4$ at $\mathbf{Q} \approx (\frac{3\pi}{4}, \pi)$:
 T and ω dependent divergence
scaling as a function of $\hbar\omega/k_B T$



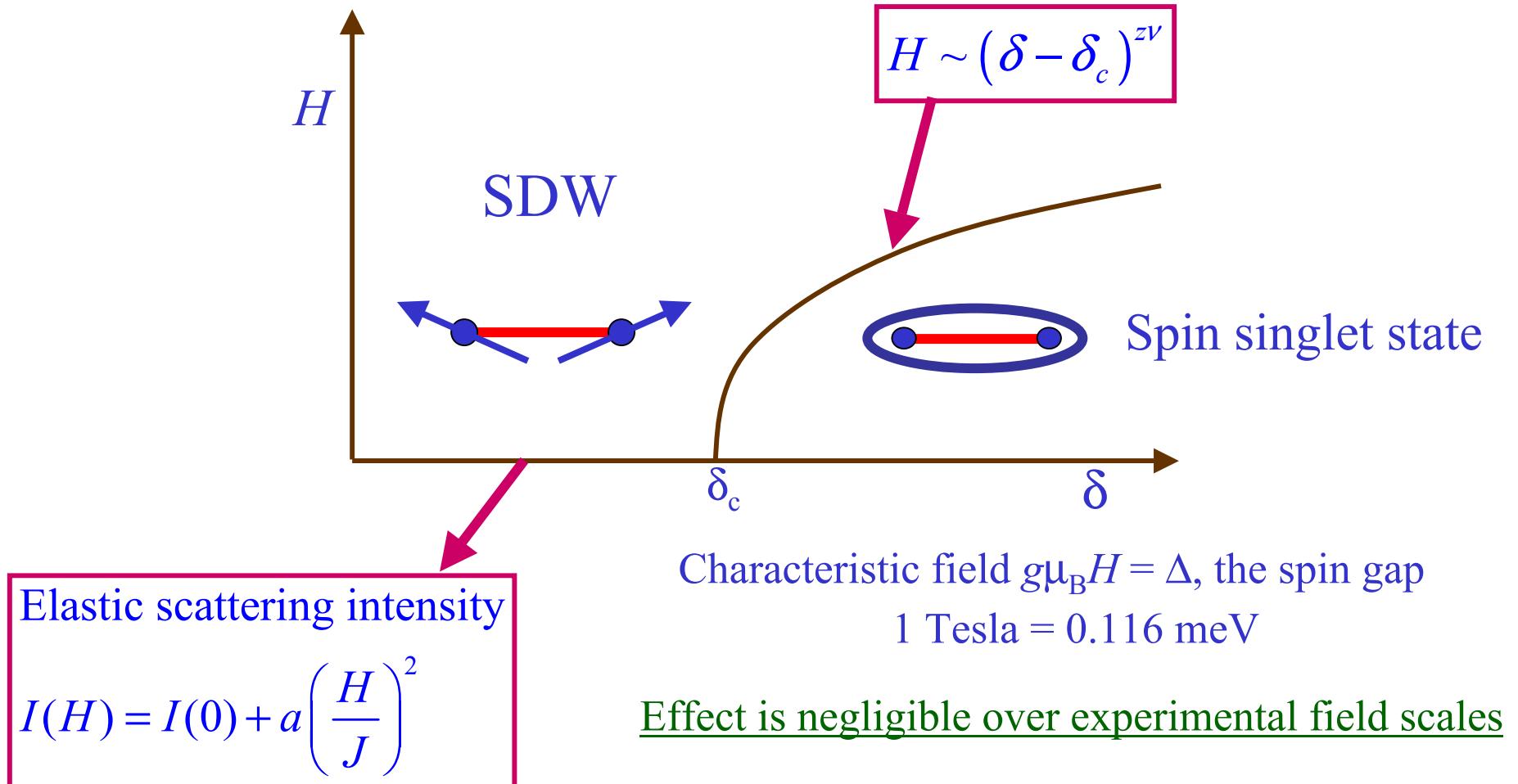
G. Aeppli, T.E. Mason, S.M. Hayden,
H.A. Mook, and J. Kulda,
Science **278**, 1432 (1998).

II.B Phase diagram of LSCO at zero temperature measured by neutron scattering

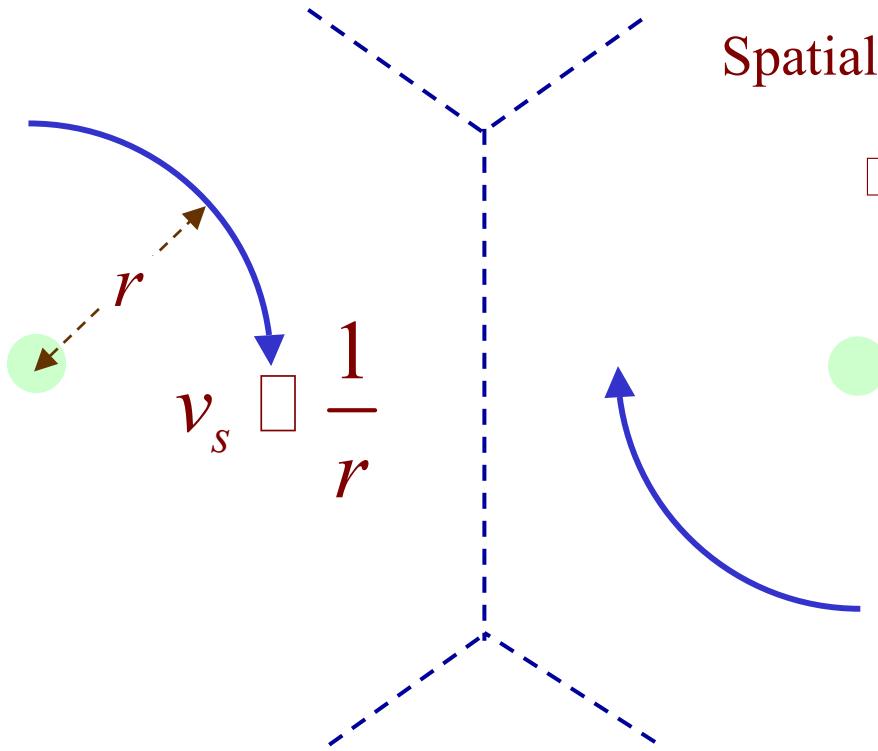


- B. Keimer *et al.* Phys. Rev. B **46**, 14034 (1992).
S. Wakimoto, G. Shirane *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **60**, R769 (1999).
G. Aeppli, T.E. Mason, S.M. Hayden, H.A. Mook, J. Kulda, Science **278**, 1432 (1997).
Y. S. Lee, R. J. Birgeneau, M. A. Kastner *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **60**, 3643 (1999).
J. E. Sonier *et al.*, cond-mat/0108479.
C. Panagopoulos, B. D. Rainford, J. L. Tallon, T. Xiang, J. R. Cooper, and C. A. Scott, preprint.

Effect of the Zeeman term: precession of SDW order about the magnetic field



Dominant effect: uniform softening of spin excitations by superflow kinetic energy



Spatially averaged superflow kinetic energy

$$\langle v_s^2 \rangle = \frac{H}{H_{c2}} \ln \frac{3H_{c2}}{H}$$

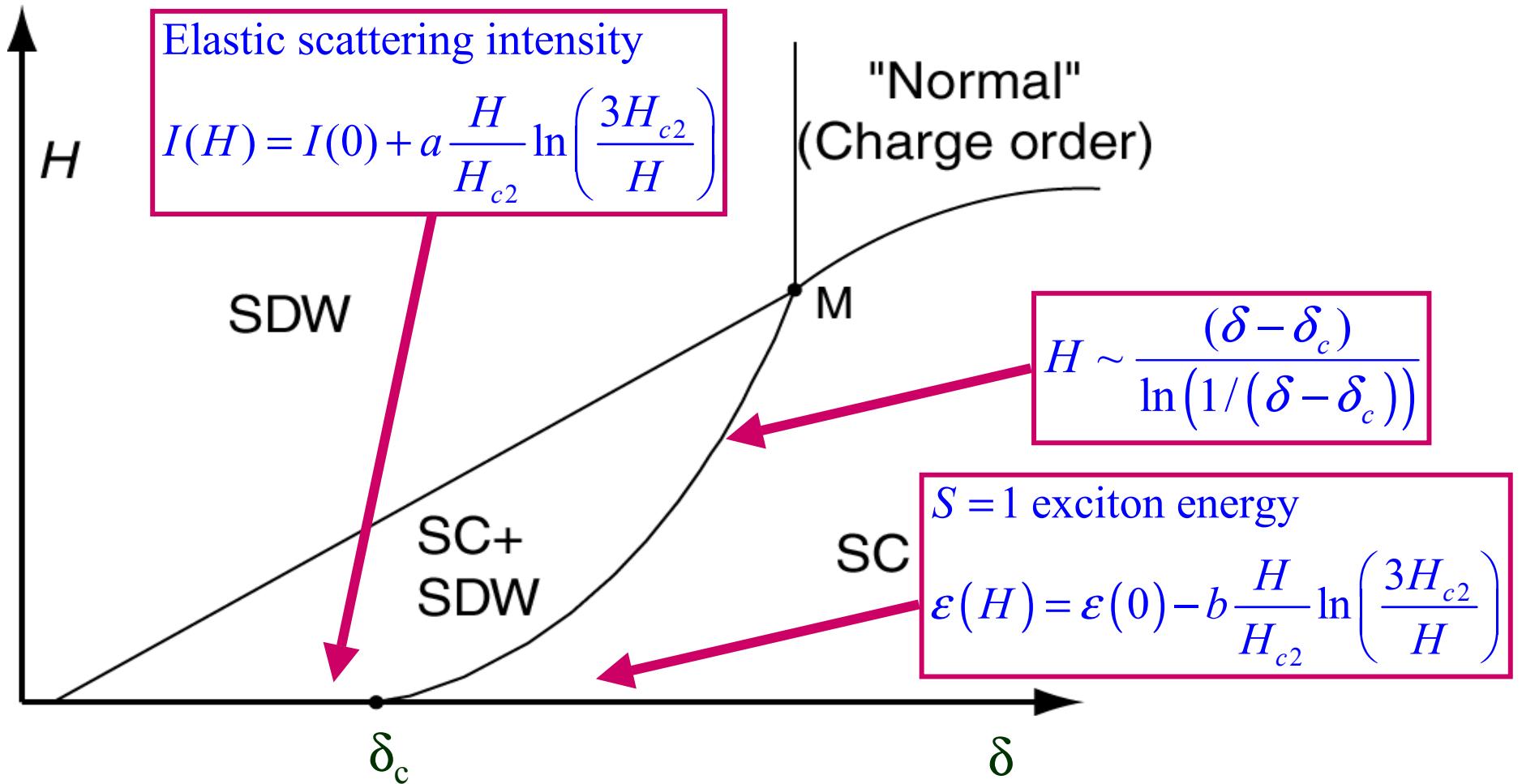
The presence of the field replaces δ by

$$\delta_{\text{eff}}(H) = \delta - C \frac{H}{H_{c2}} \ln \left(\frac{3H_{c2}}{H} \right)$$

Competing order is enhanced in a “halo” around each vortex

Main results

$T=0$

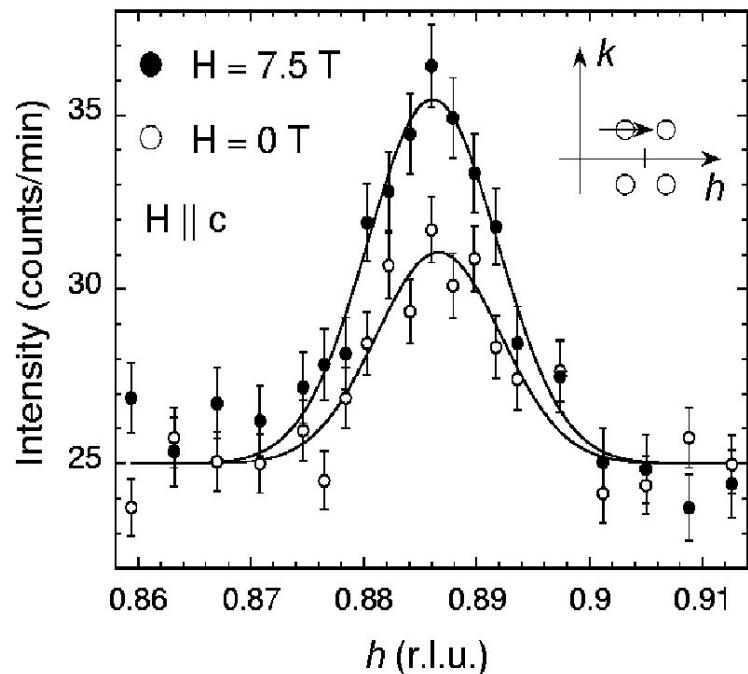


E. Demler, S. Sachdev, and Y. Zhang, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **87**, 067202 (2001).

Neutron scattering measurements of static spin correlations of the superconductor+spin-density-wave (SC+SDW) in a magnetic field

Elastic neutron scattering off $\text{La}_2\text{CuO}_{4+y}$

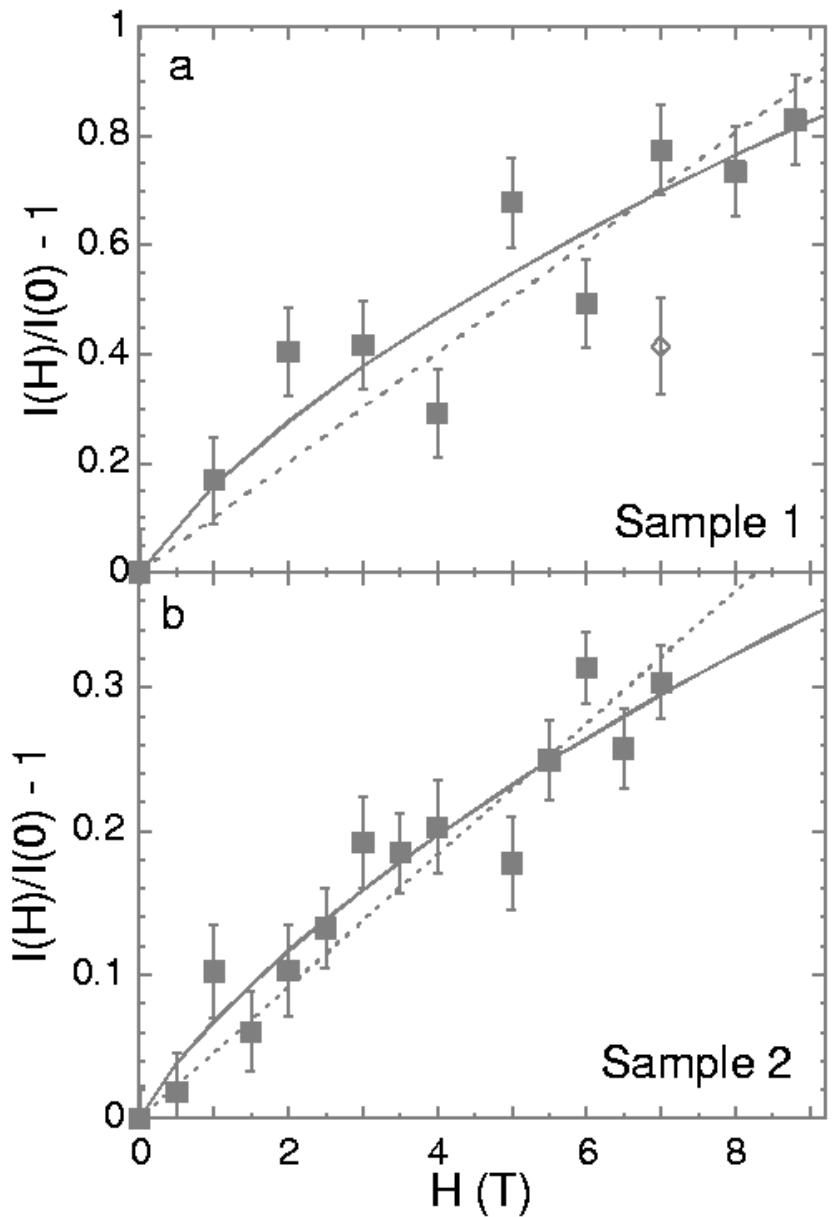
B. Khaykovich, Y. S. Lee, S. Wakimoto,
 K. J. Thomas, M. A. Kastner,
 and R.J. Birgeneau, cond-mat/0112505.



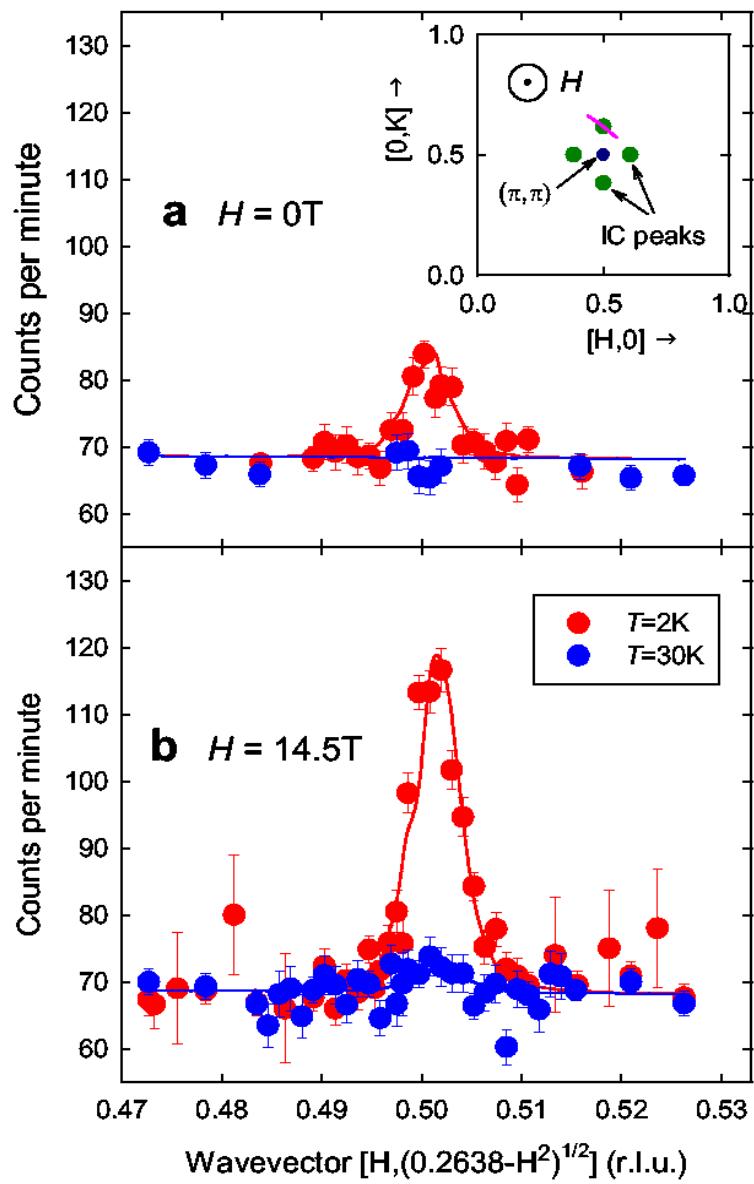
Solid line --- fit to :
$$\frac{I(H)}{I(0)} = 1 + a \frac{H}{H_{c2}} \ln \left(\frac{3.0 H_{c2}}{H} \right)$$

a is the only fitting parameter

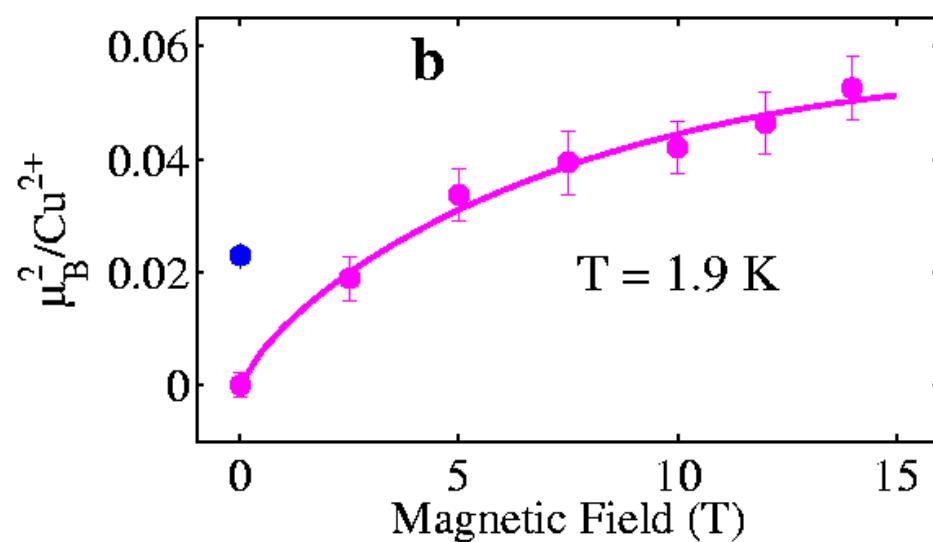
Best fit value - $a = 2.4$ with $H_{c2} = 60 \text{ T}$



Neutron scattering of $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CuO}_4$ at $x=0.1$



B. Lake, H. M. Rønnow, N. B. Christensen, G. Aeppli, K. Lefmann, D. F. McMorrow, P. Vorderwisch, P. Smeibidl, N. Mangkorntong, T. Sasagawa, M. Nohara, H. Takagi, T. E. Mason, *Nature*, **415**, 299 (2002).



Solid line - fit to : $I(H) = a \frac{H}{H_{c2}} \ln\left(\frac{H_{c2}}{H}\right)$

III. Connections with “charge” order

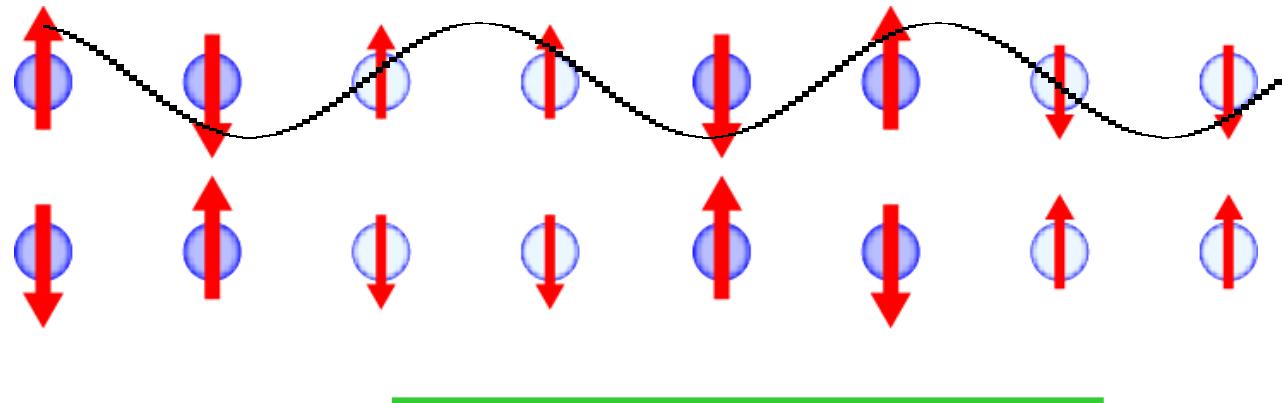
Spin density wave order parameter for general ordering wavevector

$$S_\alpha(\mathbf{r}) = \Phi_\alpha(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{r}} + \text{c.c.}$$

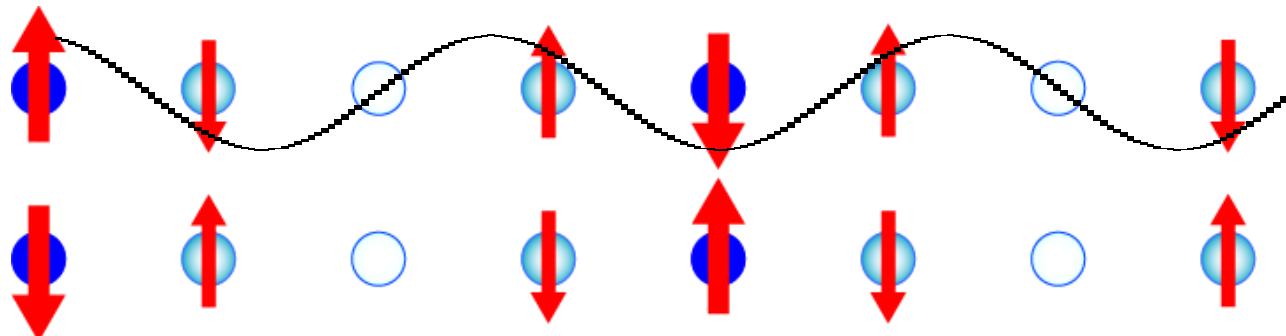
$\Phi_\alpha(\mathbf{r})$ is a *complex* field and $\mathbf{K} = (3\pi/4, \pi)$

Spin density wave is *longitudinal* (and not spiral):

$$\boxed{\Phi_\alpha = e^{i\theta} n_\alpha}$$



Bond-centered



Site-centered

A longitudinal spin density wave necessarily has an accompanying modulation in the site charge densities, exchange and pairing energy per link etc. at half the wavelength of the SDW

“Charge” order: periodic modulation in local observables invariant under spin rotations and time-reversal.

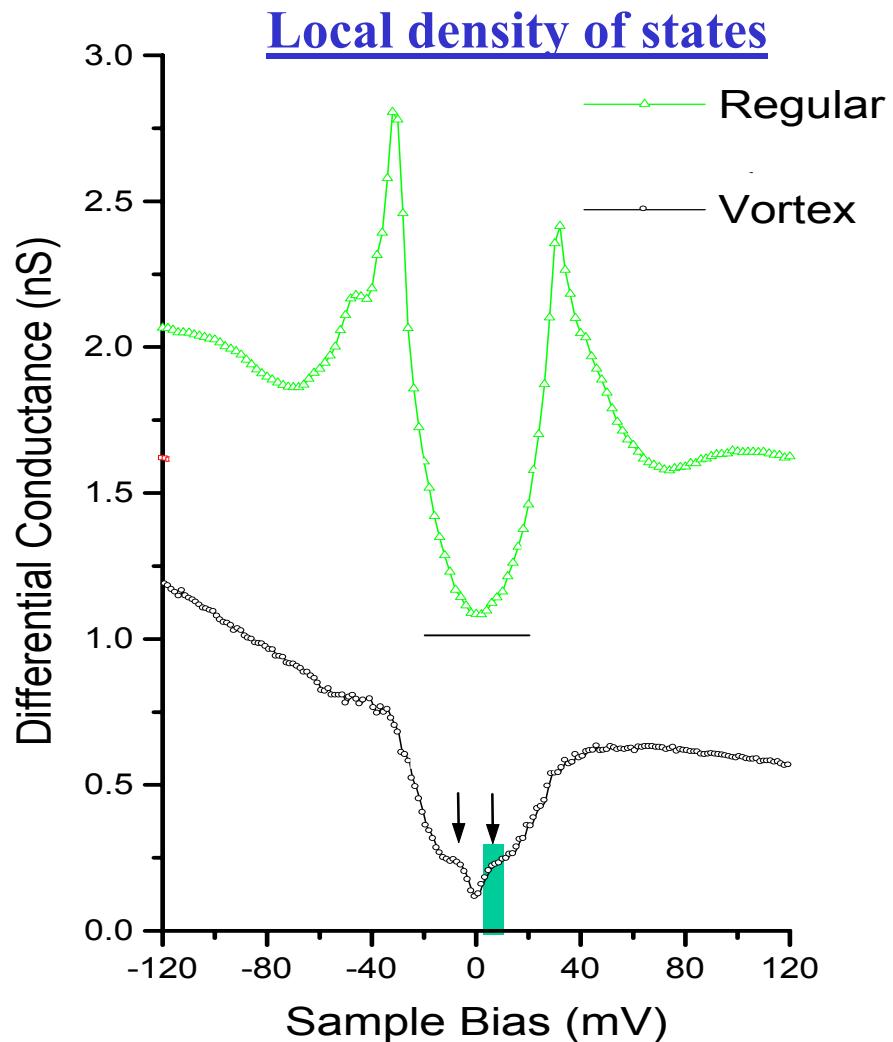
$$\text{Order parameter} \sim \sum_{\alpha} \Phi_{\alpha}^2(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\delta\rho(\mathbf{r}) \propto S_{\alpha}^2(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\alpha} \Phi_{\alpha}^2(\mathbf{r}) e^{i2\mathbf{K}\cdot\mathbf{r}} + \text{c.c.}$$

- J. Zaanen and O. Gunnarsson, *Phys. Rev. B* **40**, 7391 (1989).
H. Schulz, *J. de Physique* **50**, 2833 (1989).
O. Zachar, S. A. Kivelson, and V. J. Emery, *Phys. Rev. B* **57**, 1422 (1998).

STM around vortices induced by a magnetic field in the superconducting state

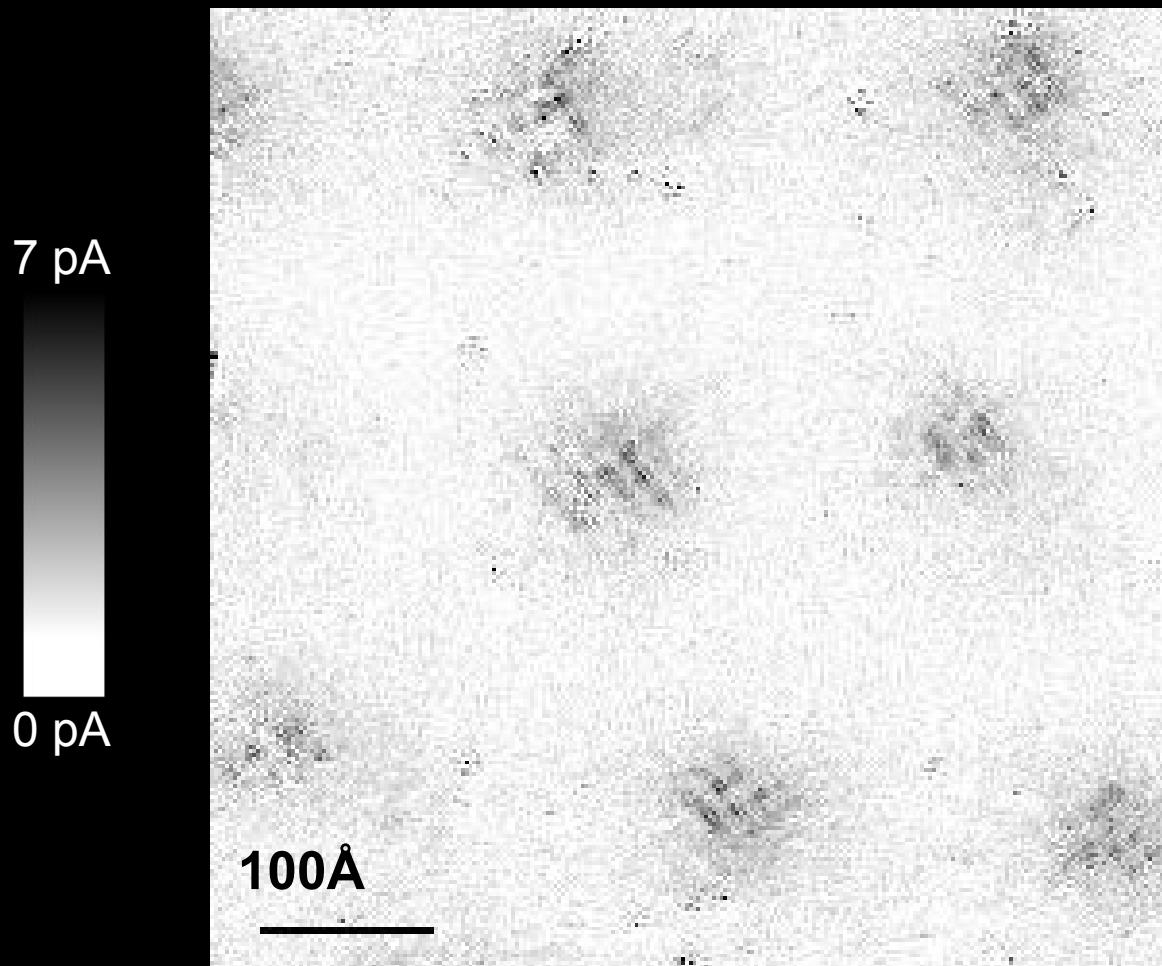
J. E. Hoffman, E. W. Hudson, K. M. Lang, V. Madhavan, S. H. Pan,
H. Eisaki, S. Uchida, and J. C. Davis, *Science* **295**, 466 (2002).



1 Å spatial resolution
image of integrated
LDOS of
 $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$
(1 meV to 12 meV)
at B=5 Tesla.

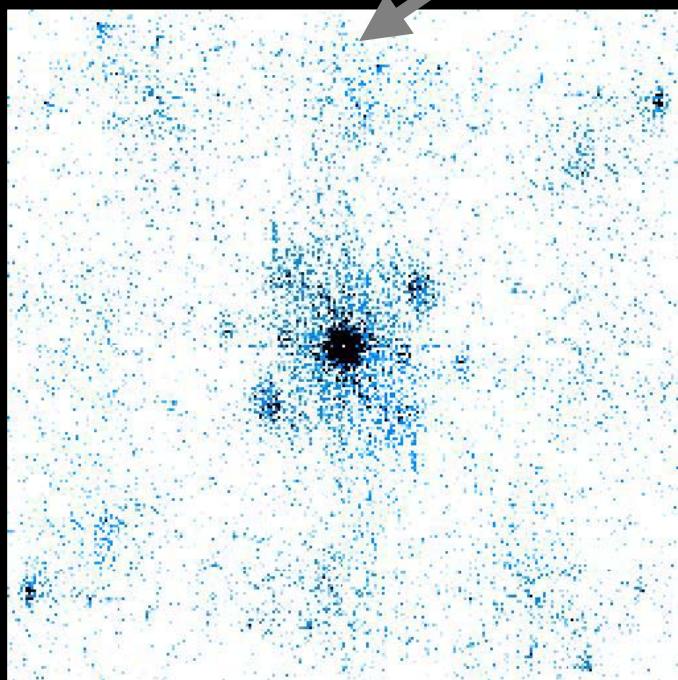
S.H. Pan *et al.* *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **85**, 1536 (2000).

Vortex-induced LDOS of $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$ integrated from 1meV to 12meV

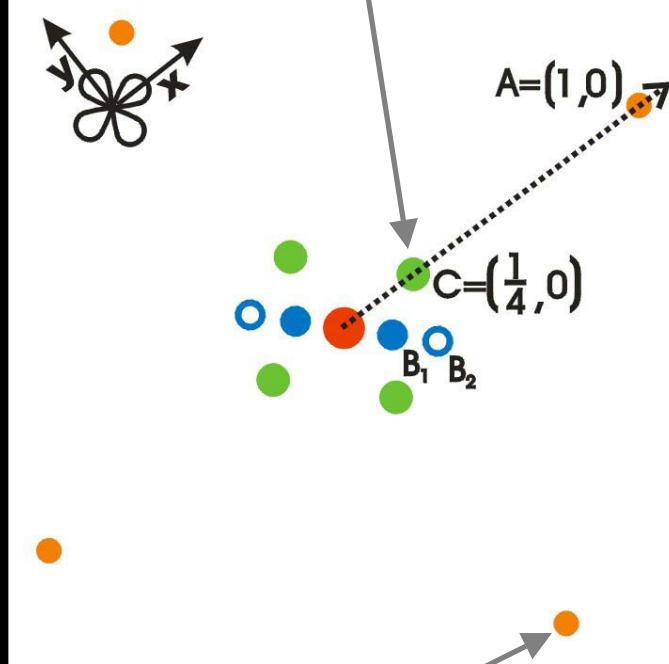


J. Hoffman E. W. Hudson, K. M. Lang, V. Madhavan,
S. H. Pan, H. Eisaki, S. Uchida, and J. C. Davis,
Science 295, 466 (2002).

Fourier Transform of Vortex-Induced LDOS map



K-space locations of vortex induced LDOS



K-space locations of Bi and Cu atoms

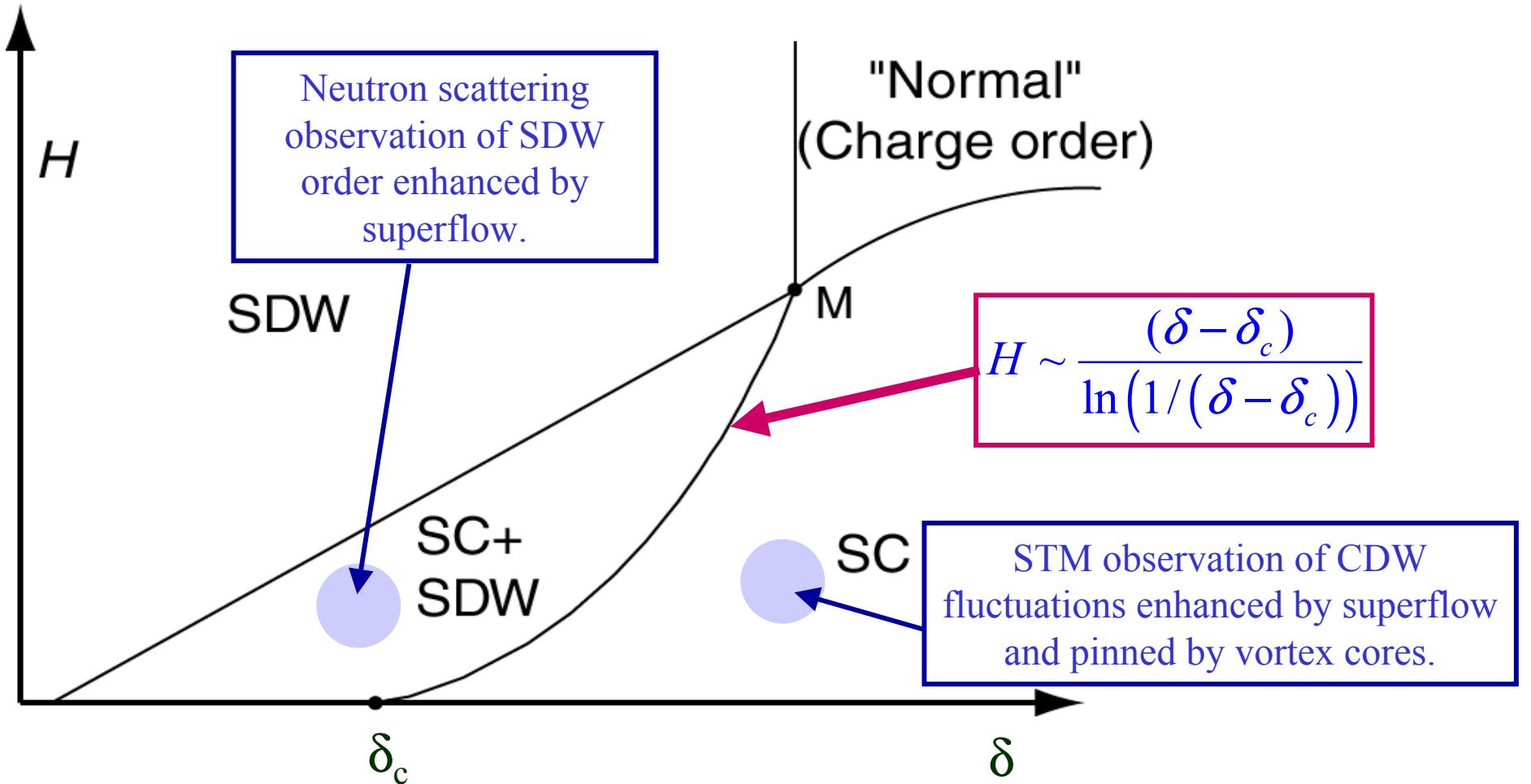
Distances in k -space have units of $2\pi/a_0$
 $a_0=3.83 \text{ \AA}$ is Cu-Cu distance

J. Hoffman et al. *Science*, **295**, 466 (2002).

Summary of theory and experiments

(extreme Type II superconductivity)

$T=0$



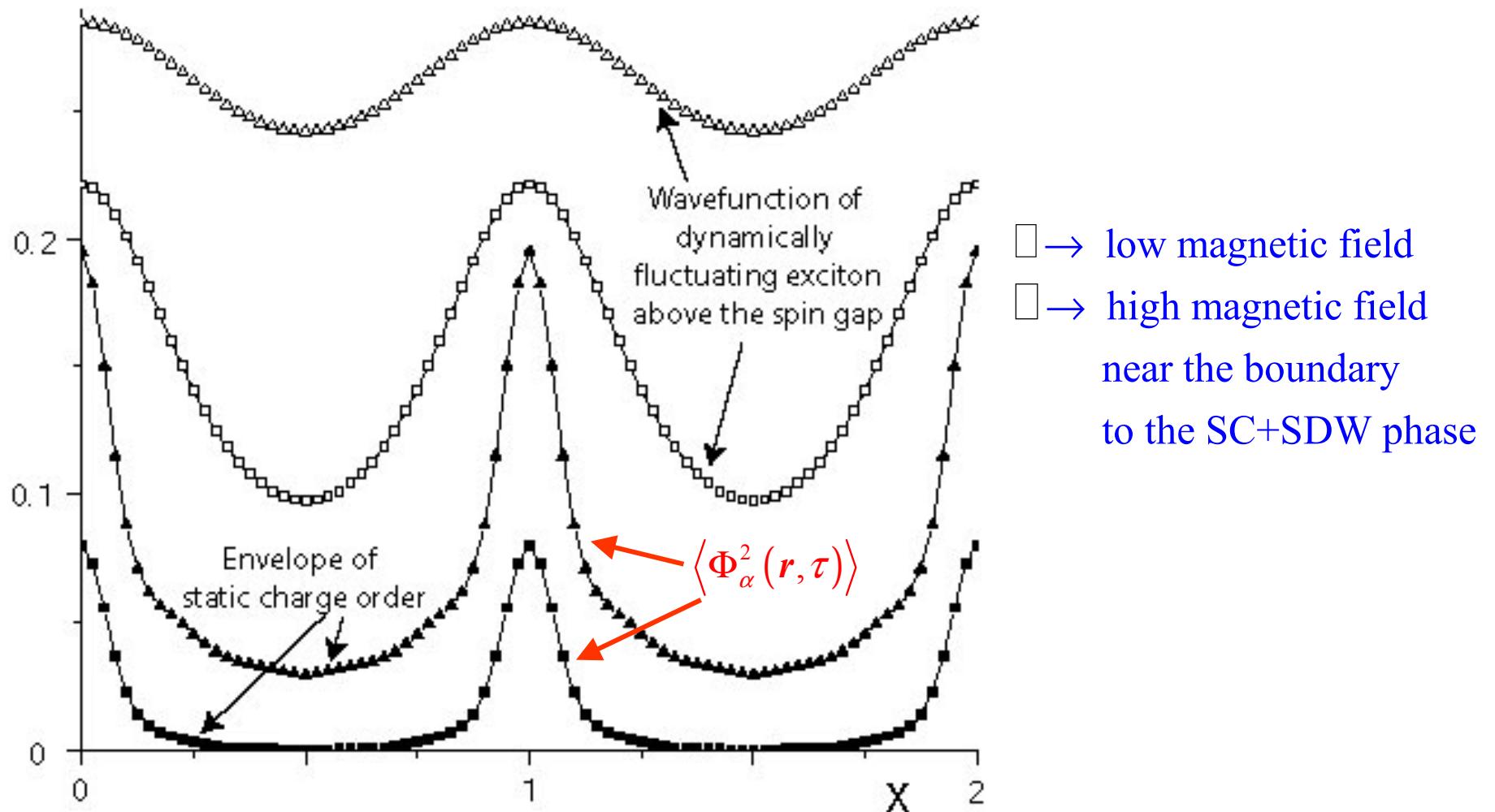
E. Demler, S. Sachdev, and Y. Zhang, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **87**, 067202 (2001).

Quantitative connection between the two experiments ?

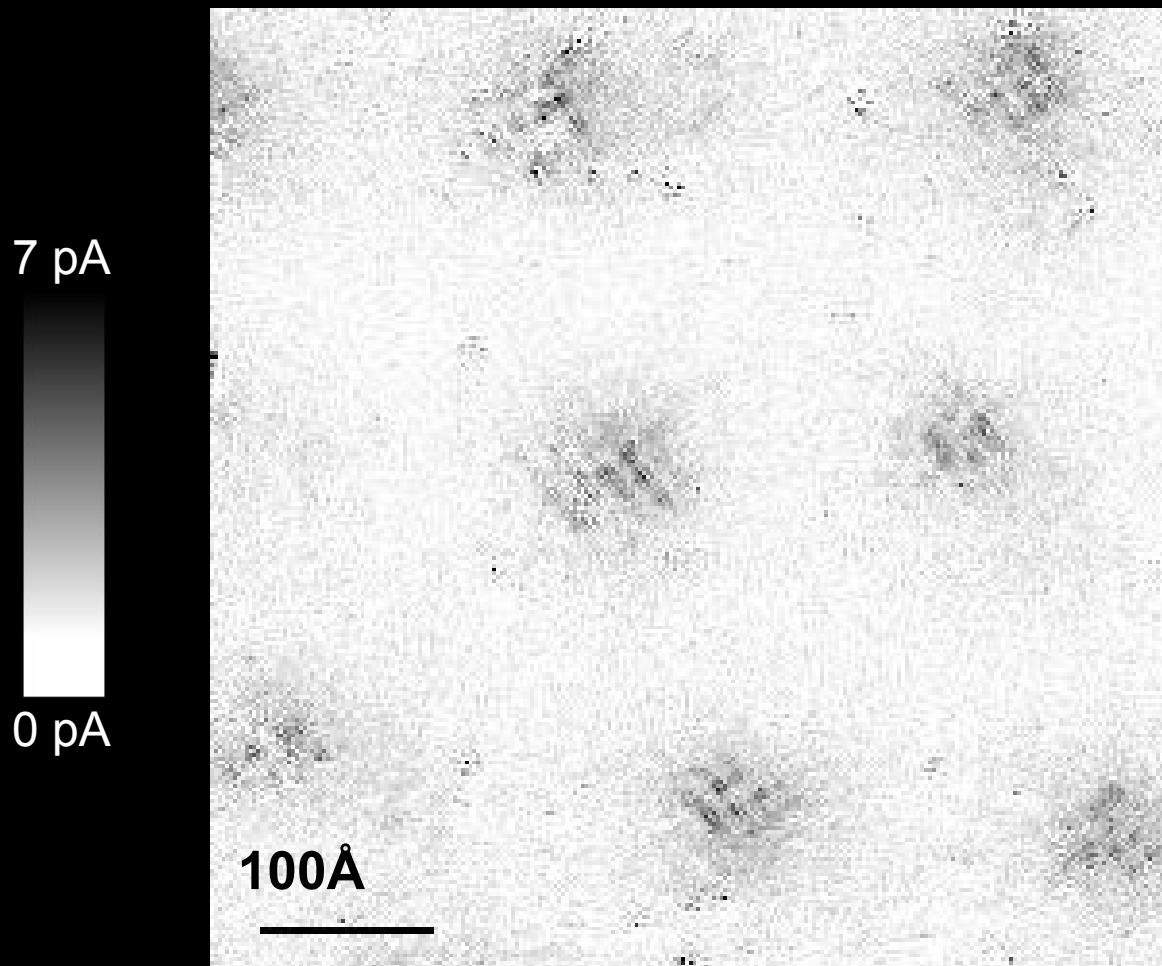
Pinning of CDW order by vortex cores in SC phase

Y. Zhang, E. Demler, and S. Sachdev, cond-mat/0112343.

$$\langle \Phi_\alpha^2(r, \tau) \rangle \propto \zeta \int d\tau_1 \langle \Phi_\alpha(r, \tau) \Phi_\alpha^*(r_v, \tau_1) \rangle^2$$

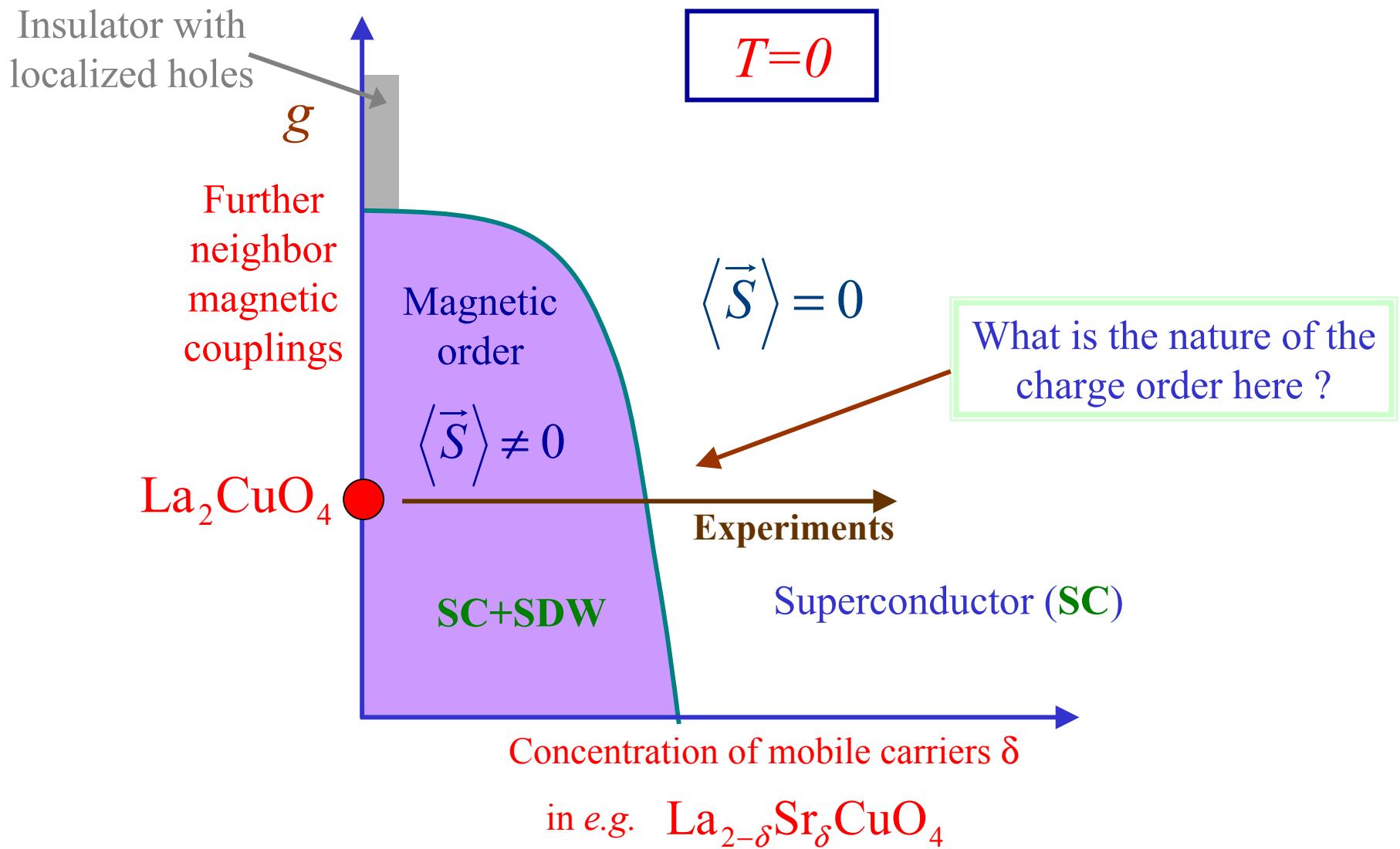


Vortex-induced LDOS of $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$ integrated from 1meV to 12meV



J. Hoffman E. W. Hudson, K. M. Lang, V. Madhavan,
S. H. Pan, H. Eisaki, S. Uchida, and J. C. Davis,
Science 295, 466 (2002).

IV. Microstructure of the charge order: magnetic transitions in Mott insulators and superconductors

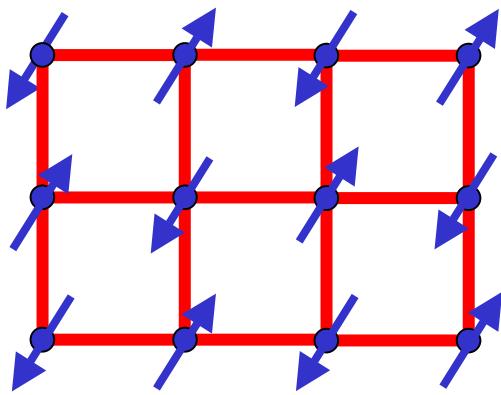


S. Sachdev and J. Ye, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **69**, 2411 (1992).

A.V. Chubukov, S. Sachdev, and J. Ye, *Phys. Rev. B* **49**, 11919 (1994)

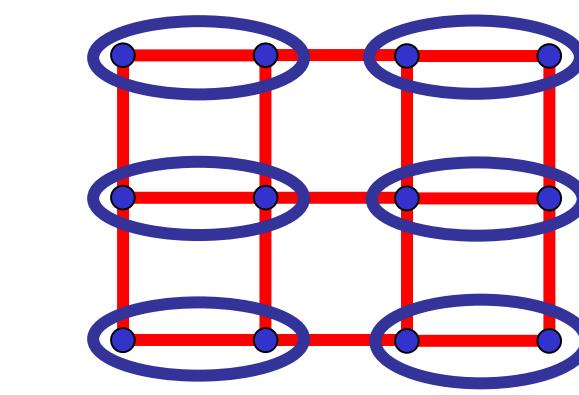
Square lattice with first(J_1) and second (J_2) neighbor exchange interactions (say)

$$H = \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$



Neel state

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$



Spin-Peierls (or plaquette) state
“Bond-centered charge stripe order”

$$g = J_2 / J_1$$

Studies on the 2D pyrochlore lattice agree with related predictions of theory:

J.-B. Fouet, M. Mambrini, P. Sindzingre, C. Lhuillier, cond-mat/0108070.

R. Moessner, Oleg Tchernyshyov, S.L. Sondhi, cond-mat/0106286.

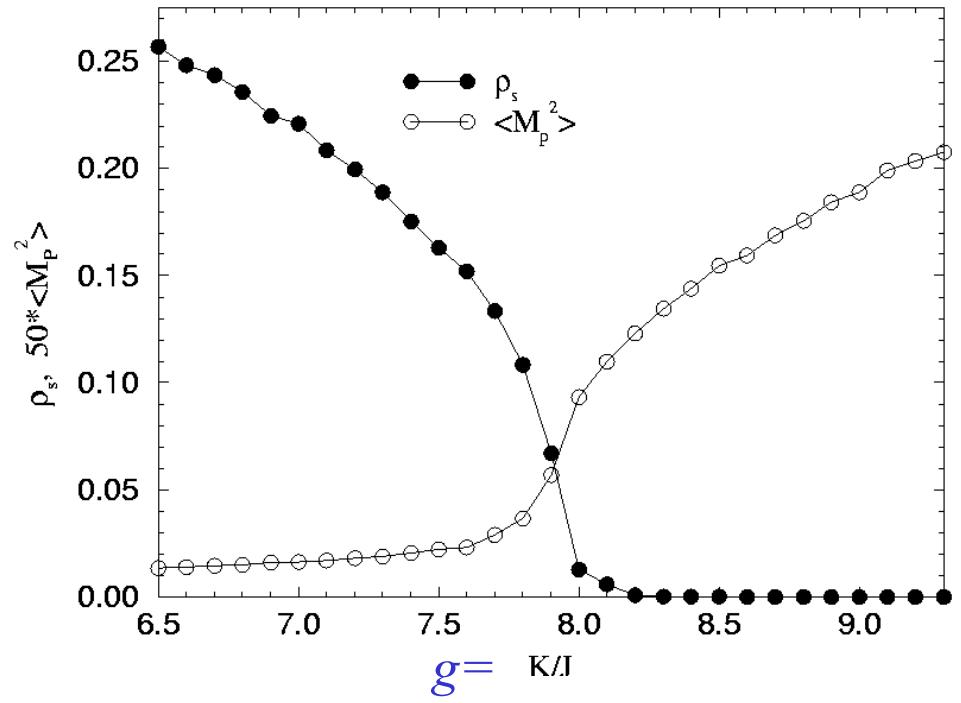
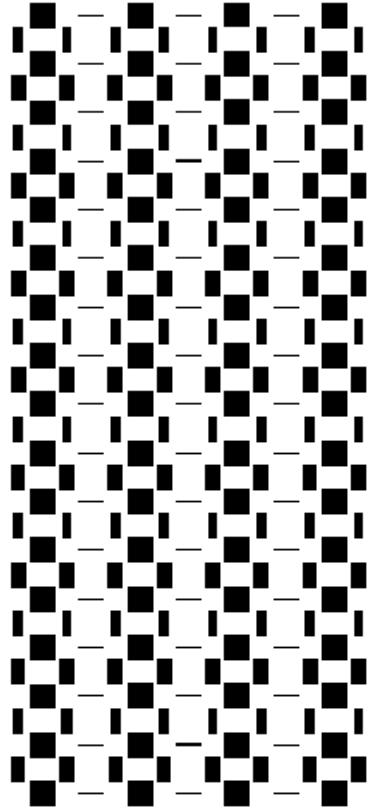
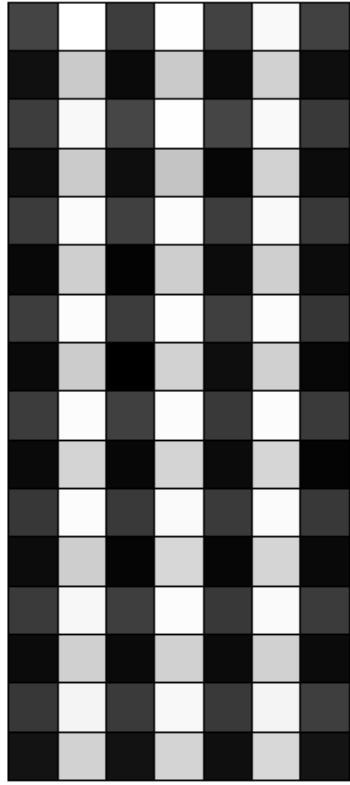
N. Read and S. Sachdev,
Phys. Rev. Lett. **62**, 1694
(1989).

O. P. Sushkov, J. Oitmaa,
and Z. Weihong, *Phys.
Rev. B* **63**, 104420 (2001).

M.S.L. du Croo de Jongh,
J.M.J. van Leeuwen,
W. van Saarloos, *Phys.
Rev. B* **62**, 14844 (2000).

See however L. Capriotti,
F. Becca, A. Parola,
S. Sorella,
cond-mat/0107204 .

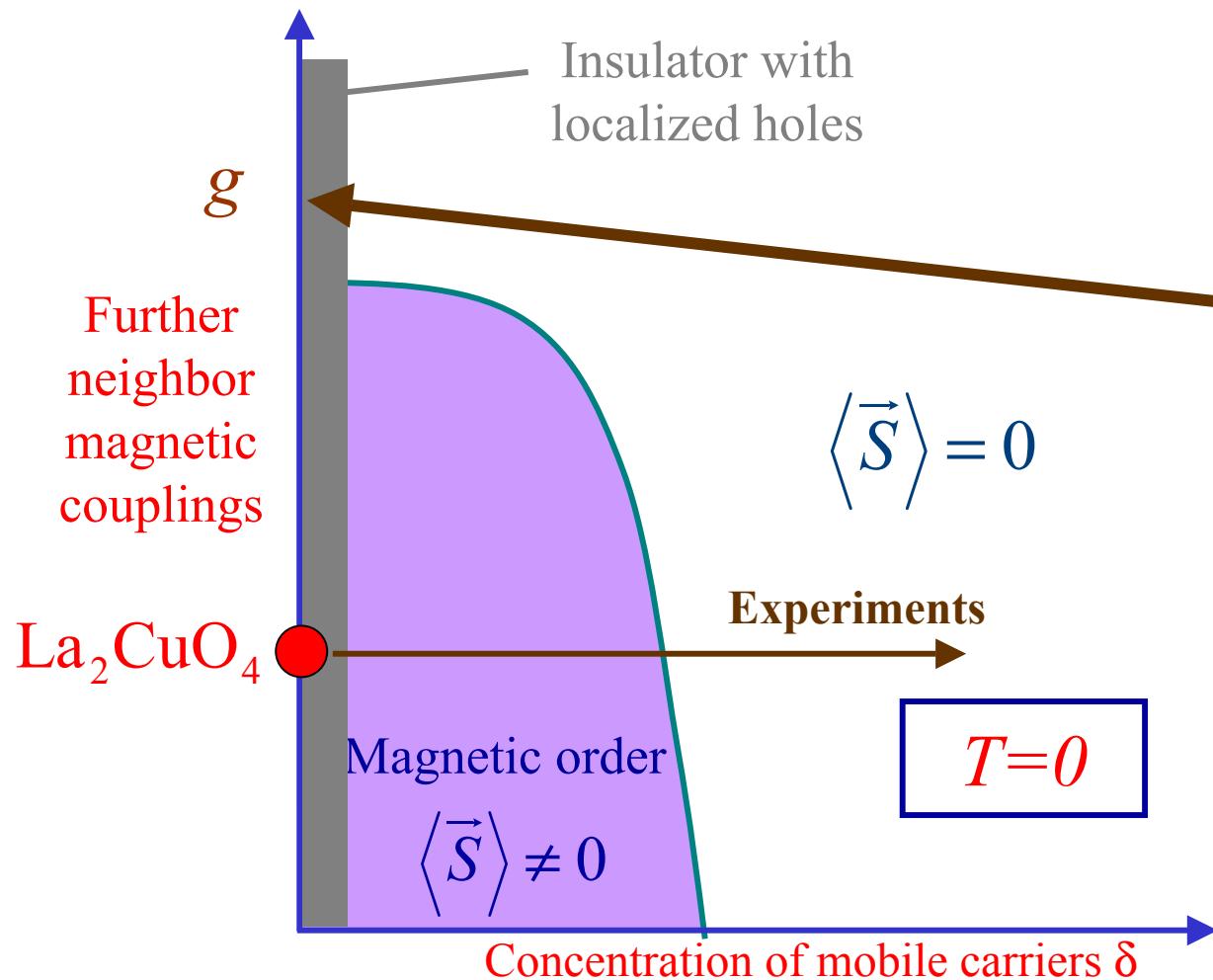
Bond-centered stripe order in a frustrated S=1/2 XY magnet



$$H = -2J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \left(S_i^x S_j^x + S_i^y S_j^y \right) - K \sum_{\langle i j k l \rangle \subset \square} \left(S_i^+ S_j^- S_k^+ S_l^- + S_i^- S_j^+ S_k^- S_l^+ \right)$$

A. W. Sandvik, S. Daul, R. R. P. Singh, and D. J. Scalapino, cond-mat/0205270

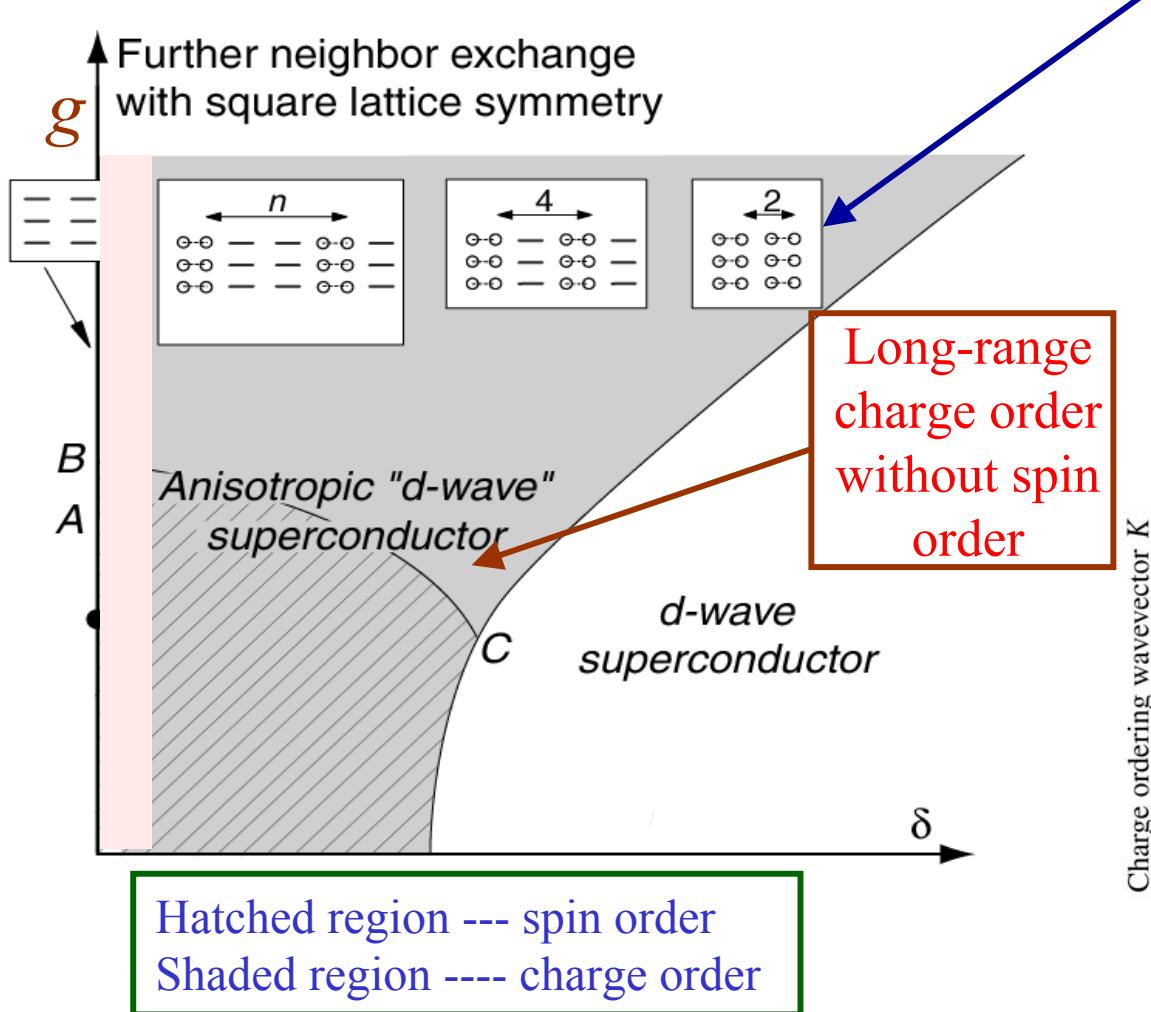
Framework for spin/charge order in cuprate superconductors



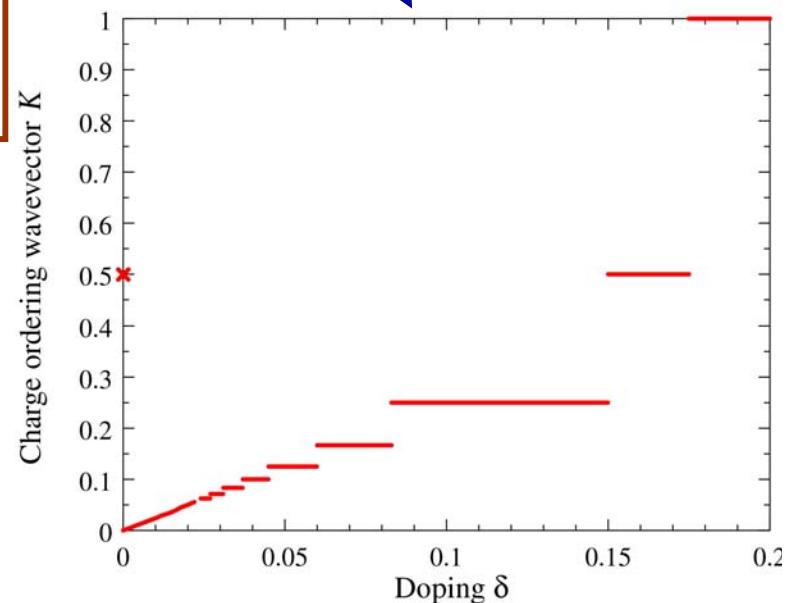
Confined, paramagnetic Mott insulator has

1. Stable $S=1$ spin exciton.
2. Broken translational symmetry:- bond-centered charge order.
3. $S=1/2$ moments near non-magnetic impurities

III. Charge order in the superconductor.



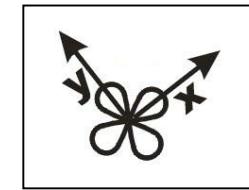
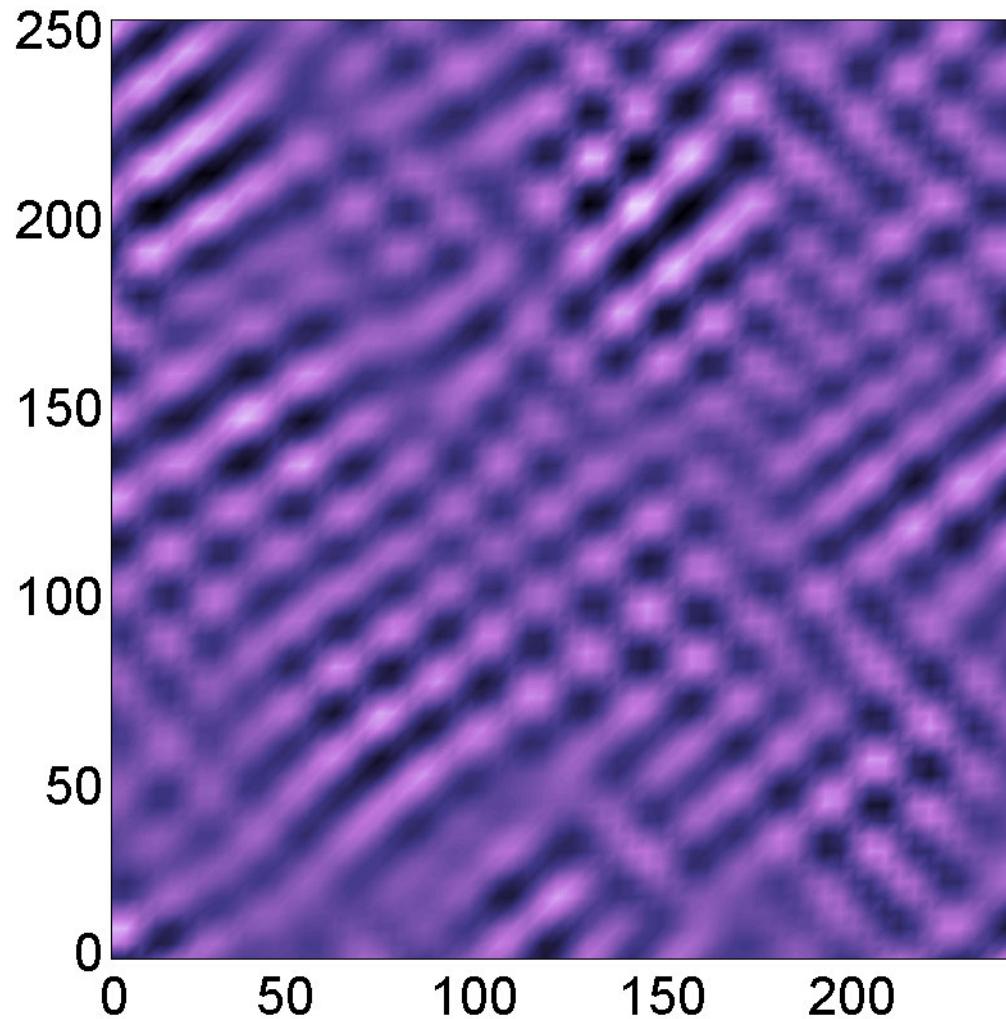
“Large N ” theory in region with preserved spin rotation symmetry
S. Sachdev and N. Read, *Int. J. Mod. Phys. B* **5**, 219 (1991).
M. Vojta and S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **83**, 3916 (1999).
M. Vojta, Y. Zhang, and S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. B* **62**, 6721 (2000).



See also J. Zaanen, *Physica C* **217**, 317 (1999),
S. Kivelson, E. Fradkin and V. Emery, *Nature* **393**, 550 (1998),
S. White and D. Scalapino, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **80**, 1272 (1998).
C. Castellani, C. Di Castro, and M. Grilli, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **75**, 4650 (1995).

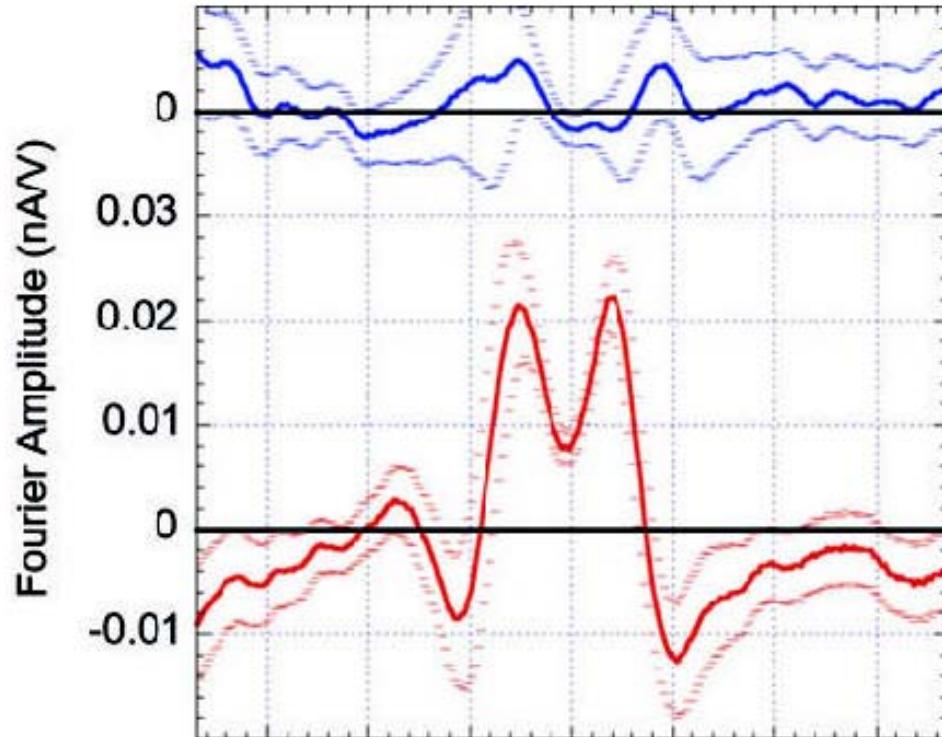
Charge order is bond-centered and has an even period.

IV. STM image of pinned charge order in $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$ in zero magnetic field



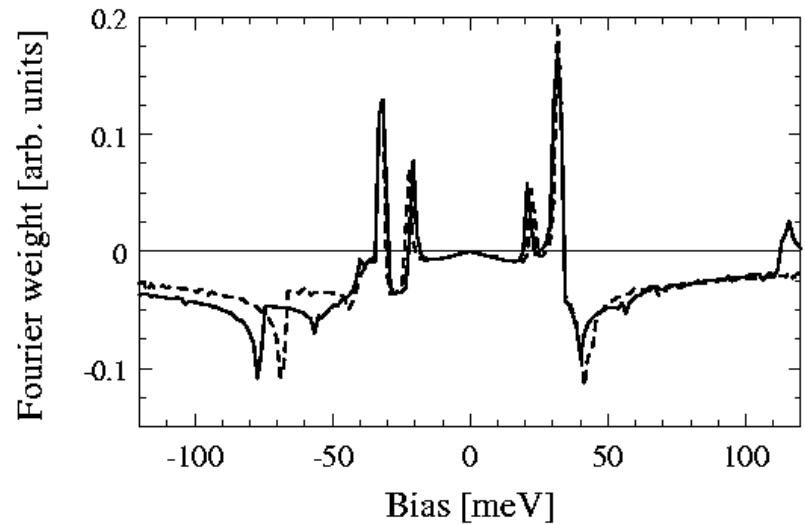
Charge order period
= 4 lattice spacings

Spectral properties of the STM signal are sensitive to the microstructure of the charge order



Measured energy dependence of the Fourier component of the density of states which modulates with a period of 4 lattice spacings

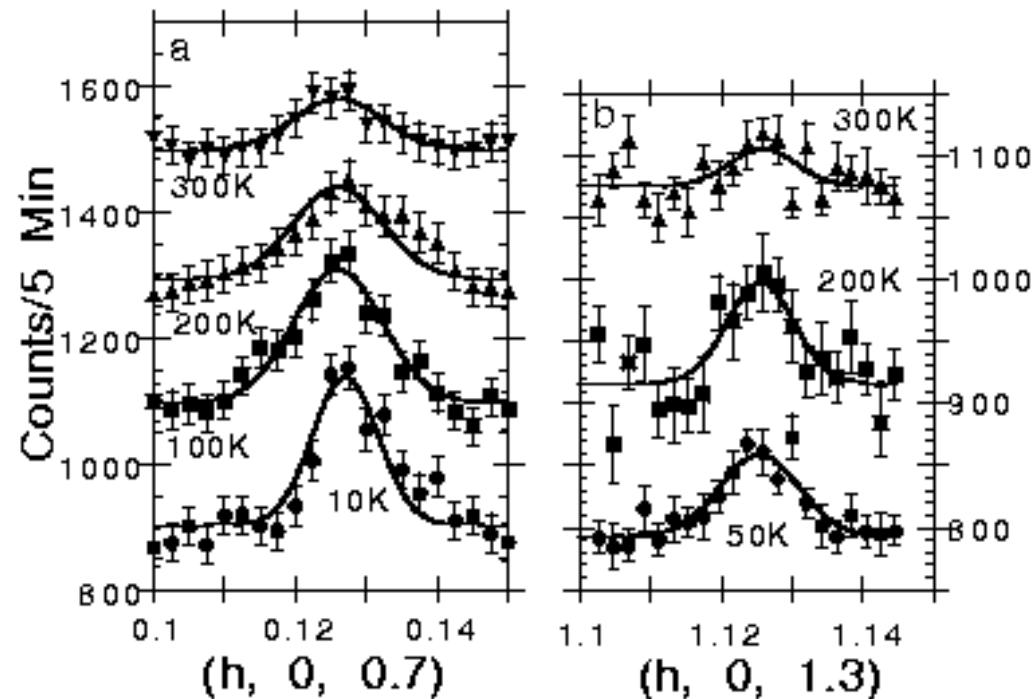
C. Howald, H. Eisaki, N. Kaneko, and A. Kapitulnik, cond-mat/0201546



Theoretical modeling shows that this spectrum is best obtained by a modulation of bond variables, such as the exchange, kinetic or pairing energies.

M. Vojta, cond-mat/0204284.
D. Podolsky, E. Demler, K. Damle, and B.I. Halperin, cond-mat/0204011

IV. Neutron scattering observation of static charge order in $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6.35}$ (spin correlations are dynamic)

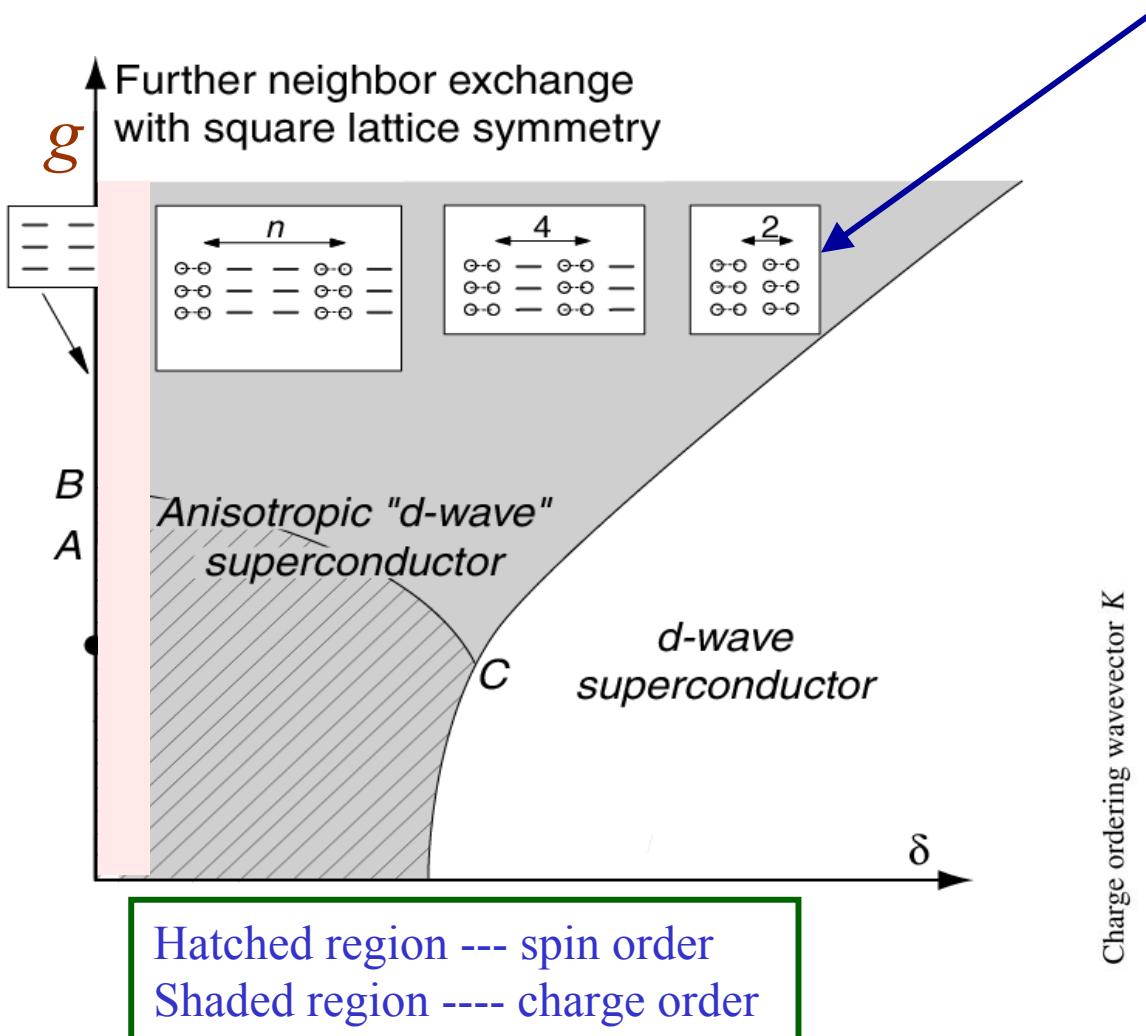


Charge order period
= 8 lattice spacings

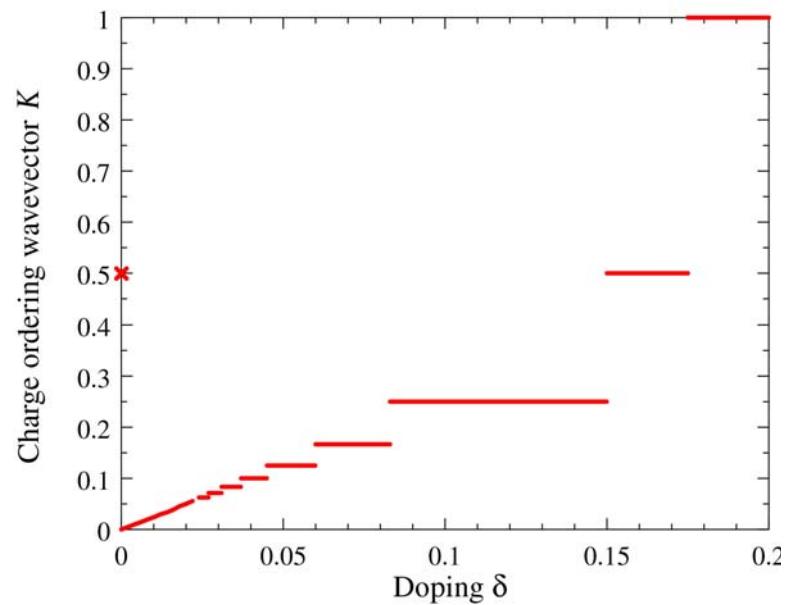
FIG. 1. Measurements of the charge order for YBCO6.35. (a) Measurements obtained at a small momentum transfer so the results are not affected by impurity powder lines. Powder lines were also avoided around the $(1.125, 0, 1.3)$ t.l.u. position shown in (b). The lines are Gaussian fits to the data. In (a) 200 and (b) 100 additional counts were added onto successive scans so the data could be presented on the same plot. The scattering broadens at higher temperatures.

H. A. Mook, Pengcheng Dai, and F. Dogan
Phys. Rev. Lett. **88**, 097004 (2002).

Charge order in the superconductor



“Large N ” theory in region with preserved spin rotation symmetry
 S. Sachdev and N. Read, *Int. J. Mod. Phys. B* **5**, 219 (1991).
 M. Vojta and S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **83**, 3916 (1999).
 M. Vojta, Y. Zhang, and S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. B* **62**, 6721 (2000).



See also J. Zaanen, *Physica C* **217**, 317 (1999),
 S. Kivelson, E. Fradkin and V. Emery, *Nature* **393**, 550 (1998),
 S. White and D. Scalapino, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **80**, 1272 (1998).
 C. Castellani, C. Di Castro, and M. Grilli, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **75**, 4650 (1995).

Conclusions

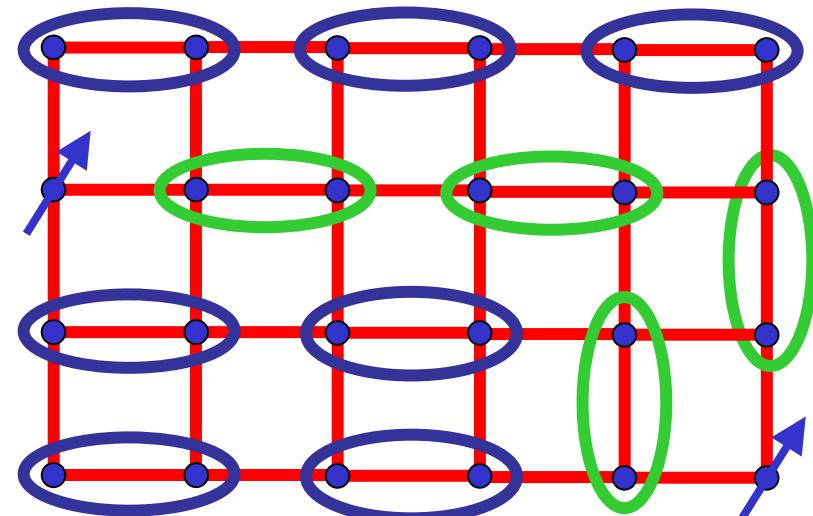
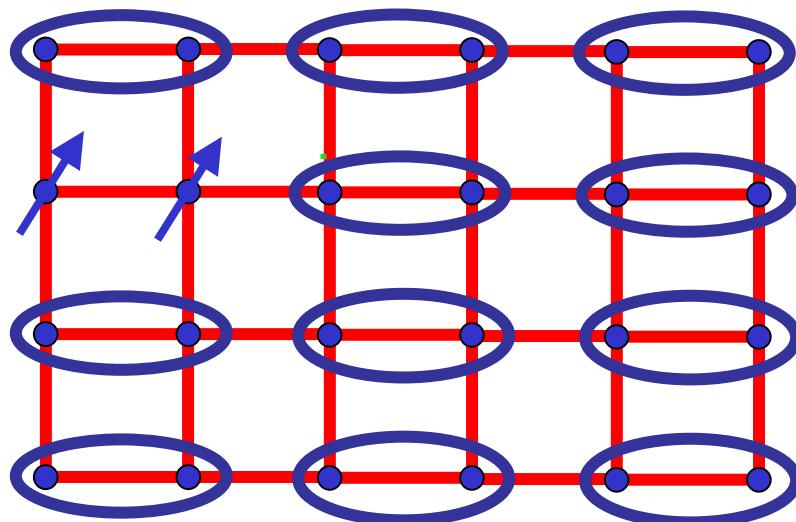
- I. Cuprate superconductivity is associated with doping Mott insulators with charge carriers
- II. The correct paramagnetic Mott insulator has charge-order and confinement of spinons
- III. Mott insulator reveals itself vortices and near impurities. Predicted effects seen recently in STM and NMR experiments.
- IV. Semi-quantitative predictions for neutron scattering measurements of spin-density-wave order in superconductors; theory also establishes connection to STM experiments.
- V. Future experiments should search for SC+SDW to SC quantum transition driven by a magnetic field.
- VI. Major open question: how does understanding of low temperature order parameters help explain anomalous behavior at high temperatures ?

Properties of paramagnet with bond-charge-order

Stable $S=1$ spin exciton

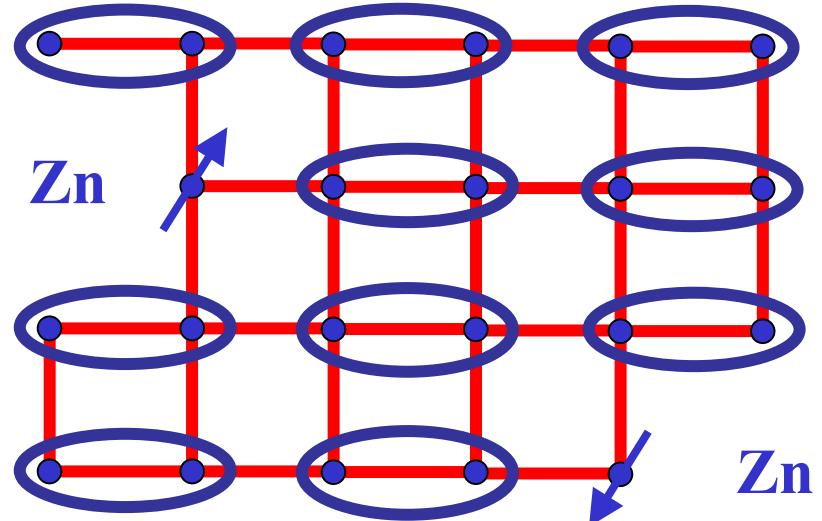
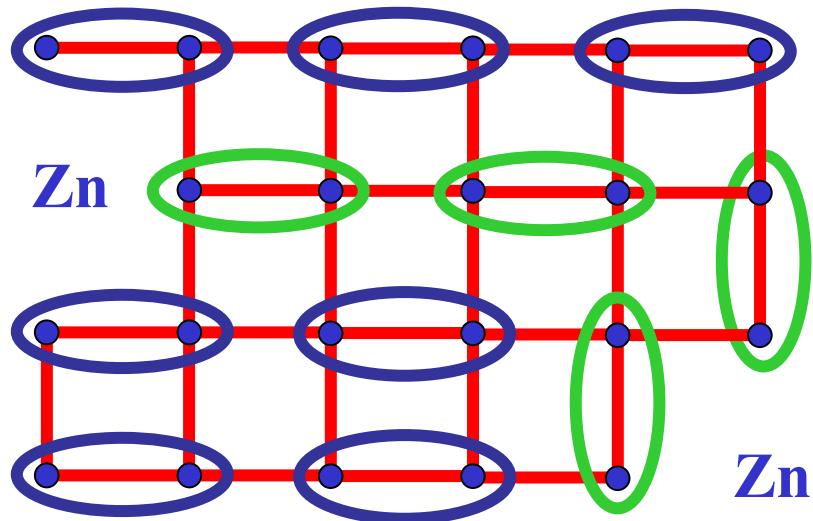
$$\varepsilon_k = \Delta + \frac{c_x^2 k_x^2 + c_y^2 k_y^2}{2\Delta}$$

$\Delta \rightarrow$ Spin gap



$S=1/2$ spinons are *confined*
by a linear potential.

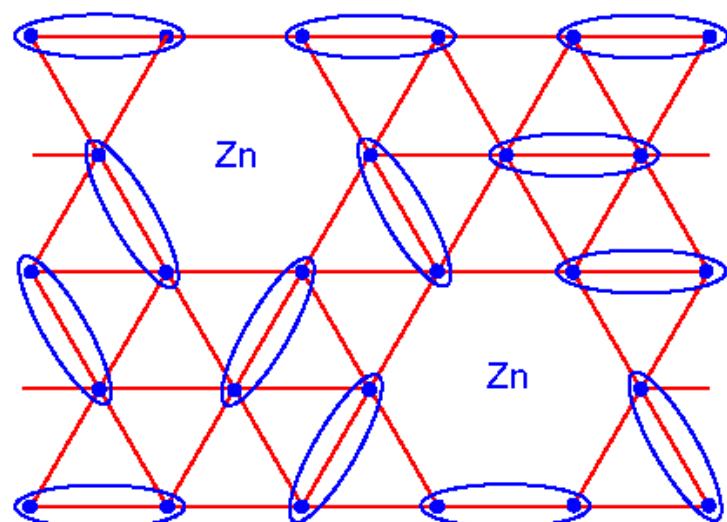
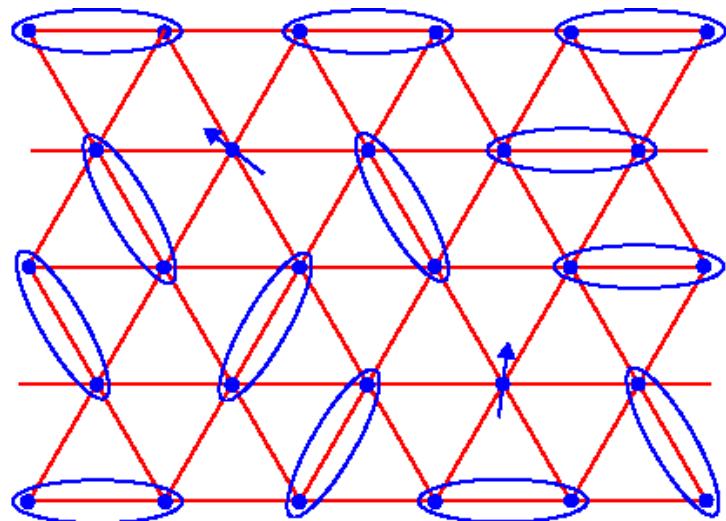
Effect of static non-magnetic impurities (Zn or Li)



Spinon confinement implies that free $S=1/2$
moments form near each impurity

$$\chi_{\text{impurity}}(T \rightarrow 0) = \frac{S(S+1)}{3k_B T}$$

Impurities in paramagnets with spinon deconfinement



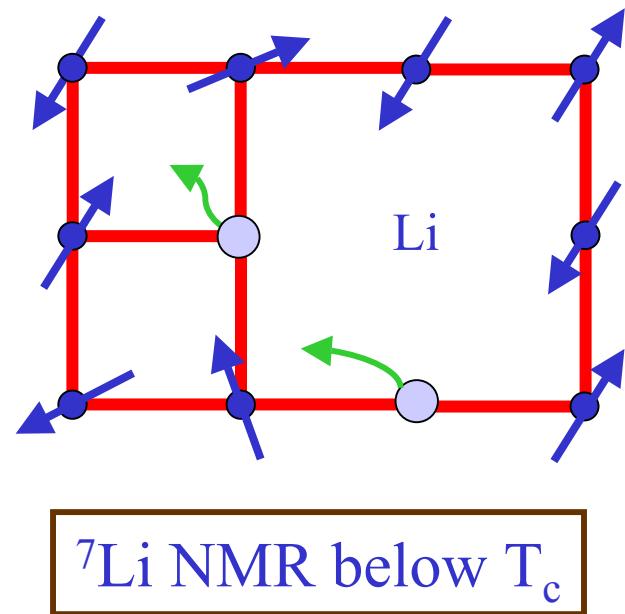
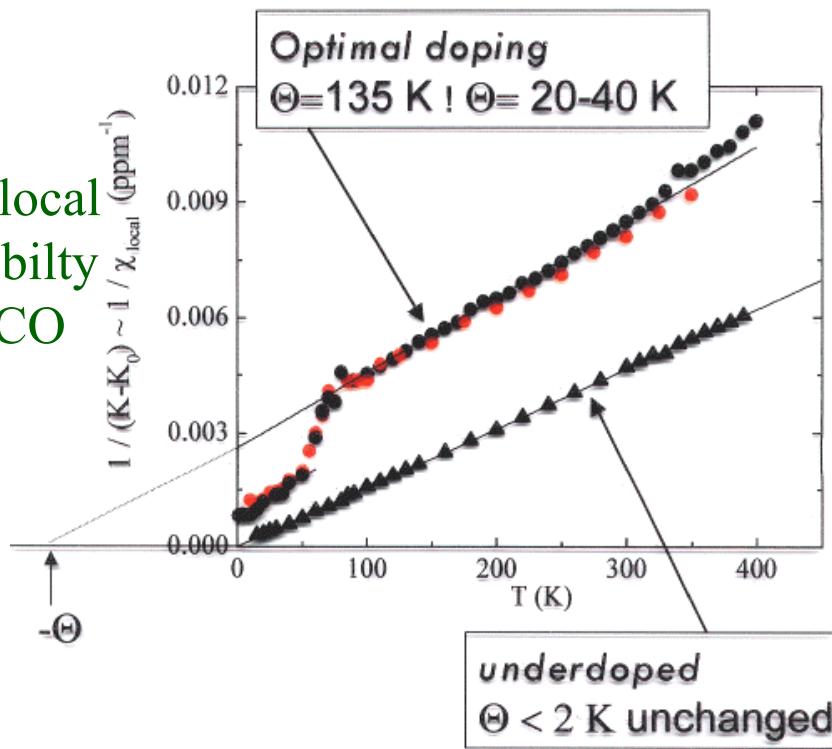
Free $S=1/2$ moments need not be present
near the impurities

“Spin Liquid” or
“RVB”

- P. Fazekas and P.W. Anderson, *Phil Mag* **30**, 23 (1974).
S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. B* **45**, 12377 (1992).
G. Misguich and C. Lhuillier, cond-mat/0002170.
R. Moessner and S.L. Sondhi, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **86**, 1881 (2001).

III.B Spatially resolved NMR of Zn/Li impurities in the superconducting state

Inverse local susceptibility in YBCO



J. Bobroff, H. Alloul, W.A. MacFarlane, P. Mendels, N. Blanchard, G. Collin, and J.-F. Marucco, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **86**, 4116 (2001).

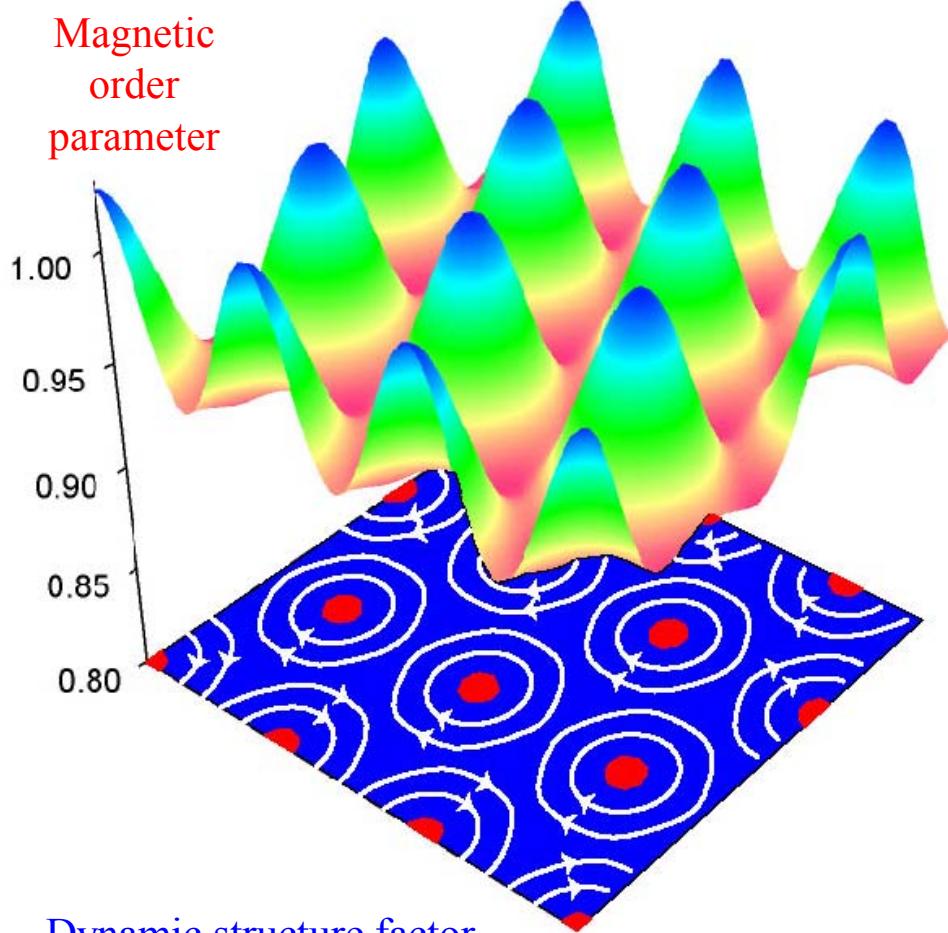
Measured $\chi_{\text{impurity}}(T \rightarrow 0) = \frac{S(S+1)}{3k_B T}$ with $S = 1/2$ in underdoped sample.

This behavior does not emerge out of BCS theory.

A.M Finkelstein, V.E. Kataev, E.F. Kukovitskii, G.B. Teitel'baum, *Physica C* **168**, 370 (1990).

Structure of long-range SDW order in SC+SDW phase

E. Demler, S. Sachdev, and Y. Zhang, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **87**, 067202 (2001).



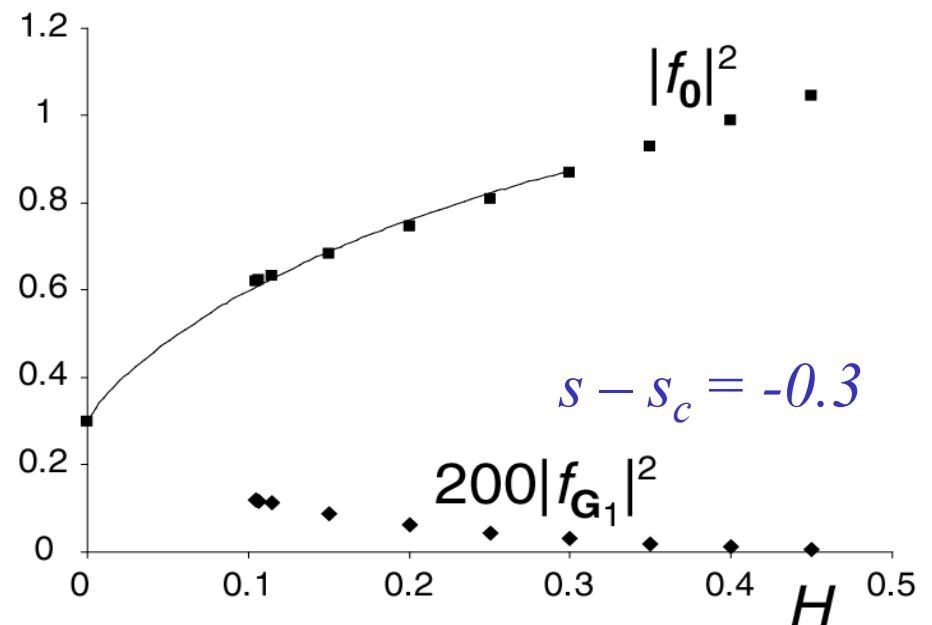
Dynamic structure factor

$$S(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = (2\pi)^3 \delta(\omega) \sum_{\mathbf{G}} |f_{\mathbf{G}}|^2 \delta(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{G}) + \dots$$

\mathbf{G} → reciprocal lattice vectors of vortex lattice.

\mathbf{k} measures deviation from SDW ordering wavevector \mathbf{K}

$$\delta |f_0|^2 \propto H \ln(1/H)$$



D. P. Arovas, A. J. Berlinsky, C. Kallin, and S.-C. Zhang, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **79**, 2871 (1997) discussed static magnetism within the vortex cores in the SC phase. Their model implies a $\sim H$ dependence of the intensity

III. Magnetic ordering transitions in the insulator

$$H = \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

Action for quantum spin fluctuations in spacetime

Discretize spacetime into a cubic lattice with Néel order orientation \mathbf{n}_a

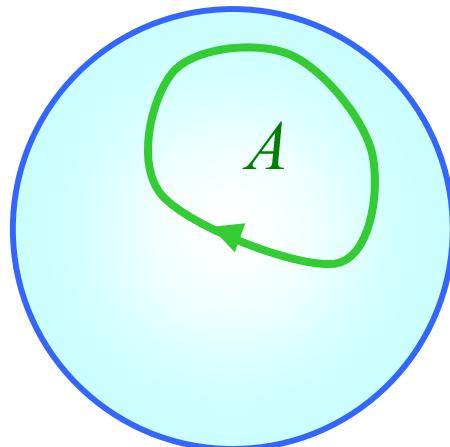
$$Z = \prod_a \int d\mathbf{n}_a \delta(\mathbf{n}_a^2 - 1) \exp\left(\frac{1}{g} \sum_{a,\mu} \mathbf{n}_a \cdot \mathbf{n}_{a+\mu}\right) \quad a \rightarrow \text{cubic lattice sites}; \quad \mu \rightarrow x, y, \tau;$$

S. Chakravarty, B.I. Halperin, and D.R. Nelson, *Phys. Rev. B* **39**, 2344 (1989).

Quantum path integral for two-dimensional quantum antiferromagnet

\Leftrightarrow Partition function of a classical three-dimensional ferromagnet
at a “temperature” g

Missing: Spin Berry Phases



$$e^{iSA}$$

Berry phases profoundly modify
paramagnetic states with $\langle \mathbf{n}_a \rangle = \langle \vec{S} \rangle = 0$

Computations with Berry phases fully reproduce known states in one dimension: Bethe and Majumdar-Ghosh states for $S=1/2$, and Haldane states for $S=1$

K. Park and S. Sachdev, cond-mat/0108214

Field theory of paramagnetic (“quantum disordered”) phase

Discretize spacetime into a cubic lattice:

$$Z = \prod_a \int d\mathbf{n}_a \delta(\mathbf{n}_a^2 - 1) \exp\left(\frac{1}{g} \sum_{a,\mu} \mathbf{n}_a \cdot \mathbf{n}_{a+\mu} - \frac{i}{2} \sum_a \eta_a A_{a\tau}\right)$$

$\eta_a \rightarrow \pm 1$ on two square sublattices ; $\mathbf{n}_a \sim \eta_a \vec{S}_a$ → Neel order parameter;

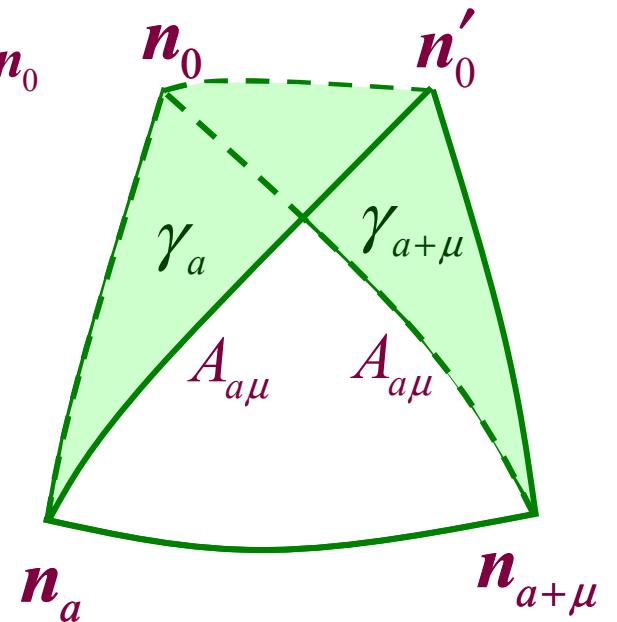
$A_{a\mu}$ → oriented area of spherical triangle

formed by \mathbf{n}_a , $\mathbf{n}_{a+\mu}$, and an arbitrary reference point \mathbf{n}_0

Change in choice of \mathbf{n}_0 is like a “gauge transformation”

$$A_{a\mu} \rightarrow A_{a\mu} - \gamma_{a+\mu} + \gamma_a$$

(γ_a is the oriented area of the spherical triangle formed by \mathbf{n}_a and the two choices for \mathbf{n}_0).



The area of the triangle is uncertain modulo 4π , and the action is invariant under

$$A_{a\mu} \rightarrow A_{a\mu} + 4\pi$$

These principles strongly constrain the effective action for $A_{a\mu}$

Simplest large g effective action for the $A_{a\mu}$

$$Z = \prod_{a,\mu} \int dA_{a\mu} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2e^2} \sum_{\square} \cos \left(\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \Delta_\nu A_{a\lambda} \right) - \frac{i}{2} \sum_a \eta_a A_{a\tau} \right)$$

with $e^2 \sim g^2$

This is compact QED in 2+1 dimensions with Berry phases.

This theory can be reliably analyzed by a duality mapping.

The gauge theory is always in a *confining* phase:

There is an energy gap and the ground state has
spontaneous bond order.

N. Read and S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **62**, 1694 (1989).
S. Sachdev and R. Jalabert, *Mod. Phys. Lett. B* **4**, 1043 (1990).
K. Park and S. Sachdev, cond-mat/0108214