Paramagnetism, spin 1/2



Curie law





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Ferromagnetism

Below a critical temperature (called the Curie temperature) a magnetization spontaneously appears in a ferromagnet even in the absence of a magnetic field.

Iron, nickel, and cobalt are ferromagnetic.

Ferromagnetism overcomes the magnetic dipole-dipole interactions. Is arises from the Coulomb interactions of the electrons. The energy that is gained when the spins align is called the exchange energy.

Schrödinger equation for two particles

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y_1^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z_1^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_2^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y_2^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z_2^2}\right)\psi + V_1(\vec{r_1})\psi + V_2(\vec{r_2})\psi + V_{1,2}(\vec{r_1}, \vec{r_2})\psi = E\psi$$

 $\psi(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2) = \psi_1(\vec{r}_1)\psi_2(\vec{r}_2)$ is a solution to the noninteracting Hamiltonian, $V_{1,2} = 0$

$$\psi_{A}\left(\vec{r}_{1},\vec{r}_{2}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\psi_{1}(\vec{r}_{1})\psi_{2}(\vec{r}_{2}) - \psi_{1}(\vec{r}_{2})\psi_{2}(\vec{r}_{1})\right) \begin{pmatrix}\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\\\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow+\downarrow\uparrow\right)\\\downarrow\downarrow\end{pmatrix}$$
$$\psi_{S}\left(\vec{r}_{1},\vec{r}_{2}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\psi_{1}(\vec{r}_{1})\psi_{2}(\vec{r}_{2}) + \psi_{1}(\vec{r}_{2})\psi_{2}(\vec{r}_{1})\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\uparrow\downarrow-\downarrow\uparrow\right)$$

Exchange (Austauschwechselwirking)

$$\psi_{A}(\vec{r}_{1},\vec{r}_{2}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\psi_{1}(\vec{r}_{1})\psi_{2}(\vec{r}_{2}) - \psi_{1}(\vec{r}_{2})\psi_{2}(\vec{r}_{1}))$$

 $\left\langle \psi_{A} \left| H \left| \psi_{A} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left[\left\langle \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{1}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{2}}) \right| H \left| \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{1}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{2}}) \right\rangle - \left\langle \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{1}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{2}}) \right| H \left| \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{2}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{1}}) \right\rangle - \left\langle \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{2}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{1}}) \right| H \left| \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{1}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{2}}) \right\rangle + \left\langle \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{2}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{1}}) \right| H \left| \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{2}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{1}}) \right\rangle \right]$

$$\psi_{S}\left(\vec{r}_{1},\vec{r}_{2}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\psi_{1}(\vec{r}_{1})\psi_{2}(\vec{r}_{2}) + \psi_{1}(\vec{r}_{2})\psi_{2}(\vec{r}_{1})\right)$$

 $\left\langle \psi_{s} \left| H \right| \psi_{s} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left[\left\langle \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{1}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{2}}) \right| H \left| \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{1}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{2}}) \right\rangle + \left\langle \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{1}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{2}}) \right| H \left| \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{2}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{1}}) \right\rangle + \left\langle \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{2}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{1}}) \right| H \left| \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{1}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{2}}) \right\rangle + \left\langle \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{2}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{1}}) \right| H \left| \psi_{1}(\vec{r_{2}}) \psi_{2}(\vec{r_{1}}) \right\rangle \right]$

The difference in energy between the ψ_A and ψ_S is twice the **exchange energy**.

Exchange

The exchange energy can only be defined when you speak of multi-electron wavefunctions. It is the difference in energy between the symmetric solution and the antisymmetric solution. There is only a difference when the electron-electron term is included. Coulomb repulsion determines the exchange energy.

In ferromagnets, the antisymmetric state has a lower energy. Thus the state with parallel spins has lower energy.

In antiferromagnets, the symmetric state has a lower energy. Neighboring spins are antiparallel.

Mean field theory (Molekularfeldtheorie)

 $H = -\sum_{i,j} J_{i,j} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j - g \mu_B B \sum_i \vec{S}_i$ Exchange energy Heisenberg Hamiltonian Mean field approximation $H_{MF} = \sum_{i} \vec{S}_{i} \cdot \left(\sum_{\delta} J_{i,\delta} \left\langle \vec{S} \right\rangle + g \mu_{B} \vec{B} \right)$ Looks like a magnetic δ sums over the neighbors of spin *i* field B_{MF} $\vec{B}_{MF} = \frac{1}{g \,\mu_{P}} \sum_{s} J_{i,\delta} \left\langle \vec{S} \right\rangle$ magnetization $\longrightarrow \vec{M} = g \mu_B \frac{N}{V} \langle \vec{S} \rangle$

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Mean field theory

$$\vec{B}_{MF} = \frac{V}{Ng^2 \mu_B^2} z J \vec{M}$$

z is the number of nearest neighbors

In mean field, the energy of the spins is

$$E = \pm \frac{1}{2} g \mu_B (B_{MF} + B_a)$$

We calculated the populations of the spins in the paramagnetism section

Spin populations



Mean field theory

$$M = \frac{1}{2}g\mu_B \frac{N}{V} \tanh\left(\frac{g\mu_B \left(B_{MF} + B_a\right)}{2k_B T}\right)$$

For zero applied field

$$M = M_s \tanh\left(\frac{T_c}{T}\frac{M}{M_s}\right)$$

$$M_s = \frac{N}{2V} g \mu_B$$
 and $T_c = \frac{z}{4k_B} J$

 M_s = saturation magnetization T_c = Curie temperature

Mean field theory



Experimental points for Ni.

Ferromagnetism

Material Curie temp. (K)

Co	1388	
Fe	1043	
FeOFe ₂ O ₃	858	
$NiOFe_2O_3$	858	
$CuOFe_2O_3$	728	
$MgOFe_2O_3$	713	
MnBi	630	
Ni	627	
MnSb	587	
MnOFe ₂ O ₃	573	
$Y_3Fe_5O_{12}$	560	
CrO ₂	386	
MnAs	318	
Gd	292	
Dy	88	
EuO	69	Electrical insulator
Nd ₂ Fe ₁₄ B	353	$M_{s} = 10 M_{s}(\text{Fe})$
Sm ₂ Co ₁₇	700	rare earth magnets

Curie - Weiss law

$$M = \frac{1}{2}g\mu_B \frac{N}{V} \tanh\left(\frac{g\mu_B \left(B_{MF} + B_a\right)}{2k_B T}\right)$$

$$\vec{B}_{MF} = \frac{V}{Ng^2 \mu_B^2} z J \vec{M}$$

Above T_c we can expand the hyperbolic tangent

 $tanh(x) \approx x$ for $x \ll 1$

$$M \approx \frac{1}{4} g^2 \mu_B^2 \frac{N}{V k_B T} \left(\frac{V}{N g^2 \mu_B^2} z J M + B_a \right)$$

Solve for
$$M$$

$$M \approx \frac{g^2 \mu_B^2 N}{4V k_B} \frac{B_a}{T - T_c} \qquad T_c = \frac{z}{4k_B} J$$
Curie Weiss Law
$$\chi = \frac{dM}{dH} \approx \frac{C}{T - T_c}$$

Critical fluctuations near T_c

Ferromagnets are paramagnetic above T_c



Critical fluctuations near T_c .