Explorations into Molecular Magnetism

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Our big focus is using computers to predict properties of nanomaterials, e.g. quantum dots











You could fit 3,000,000 end-to-end across the width of your thumb





Photovoltaics and Spintronics



Ginger Research Lab, UW Chemistry



Kamat, et al. JACS, 2008



Scientific American, June 2002



Sargent, et al. ACS Nano, 2010

Diluted Magnetic Semiconductors (DMS)





✓ magnetization✓ additional absorption features

These magnetic dopants interact strongly with certain other dopants that may lead to



New superconductors

High-temp ferromagnets

Incredibly small hard drives

Super-fast processors

The problem is no one really knows how this works.

I use **quantum chemistry** to simulate these materials on supercomputing clusters

Hartree-Fock is a computational method for studying electrons in molecules

Instead of studying many electrons at once, we look at each electron individually moving in the field of the other electrons.

"Molecule"



"Molecule"



The function that describes how the electron moves in the "mean field" of the other electrons is its orbital.

Hartree Fock theory is the basis of Molecular Orbital theory!



Less formally, Hartree Fock is the Google Maps of chemistry



All the cars are smeared out into "traffic density"

All the electrons are smeared out into "electron density"

But what sort of interactions should we consider?

Quantum chemists try to solve $\hat{H}\Psi=E\Psi$

- *H* the Hamiltonian describes interactions between electrons
 - the wavefunction describes the molecule
 - is the energy of the system

This is the **Schrodinger Equation** (and is in general impossible to solve)







\hat{H} = electron kinetic energy + nuclei kinetic energy



= electron kinetic energy + nuclei kinetic energy + nuclear-repulsion





= electron kinetic energy + nuclei kinetic energy + nuclear-repulsion + electron-nuclear attraction





= electron kinetic energy + nuclei kinetic energy + nuclear-repulsion + electron-nuclear attraction + electron-electron repulsion



What's missing?

Spin doesn't show up in our Hamiltonian.

However, we need spin to describe magnetism.

The origin of spin is actually really weird.



If we want to include spin, we actually have to think about how our equations change as we approach the **speed of light**.



Einstein says our equations shouldn't change when we approach the speed of light

Chemistry shouldn't change whether we do it here or at 290,000,000 m/s

Mathematically, if require chemistry to be the same regardless of how fast we are moving...

Spin shows up in our Hamiltonian

Interactions between spins show up

We get the proper description for magnetism in molecules.

Actually doing this, however, is a very hard problem.

There are many types of spin interactions

new physics





A table from the back of "Theoretical Foundations of Electron Spin Resonance" (John Harriman)

These are just some of the spin interactions we might consider

	Description	Operator	Coef	
Term			Atomic units	
1.3	Electron-electron Darwin term	$\sum_{j \le k} (-\pi \delta(\mathbf{r}_{jk}))$	$\alpha^2 \delta_0 a_0^3$	
1.4	Electron-electron orbital interaction	$\sum_{j < k} \left[+ \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\nabla_j \cdot \nabla_k}{r_{jk}} - \frac{(\mathbf{r}_{jk} \cdot \nabla_j)(\mathbf{r}_{jk} \cdot \nabla_k)}{r_{jk}^3} \right) \right]$	$\alpha^2 \mathscr{E}_0 a_0^3$	
1.5	Electron-electron orbital interaction	$\sum_{j < k} \left[+ \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{r_{jk}^3} (\mathbf{r}_{jk} \cdot \nabla_k - \mathbf{r}_{jk} \cdot \nabla_j) \right]$	$\alpha^2 \mathscr{E}_0 a_0^3$	
1.6	Electron-electron orbital interaction	$\sum_{j < k} [\pi \delta(\mathbf{r}_{jk})(\mathbf{r}_{jk} \cdot \nabla_j - \mathbf{r}_{jk} \cdot \nabla_k)]$	$\alpha^2 \mathscr{E}_0 a_0^3$	
Terms d	epending on spin but not field			
(Electron	n spin)			
2.1	Spin-orbit interaction	$\sum_{j,v} \left(-\frac{g'}{4} Z_v i \frac{k_0^2(\mathbf{r}_{jv})}{r_{jk}^3} \mathbf{S}_j \cdot (\mathbf{r}_{jv} \times \nabla_j) \right)$	$\alpha^2 \mathscr{E}_0 a_0^3$	
2.2	Spin-other-orbit interaction	$\sum_{j,k} \frac{i}{r_{jk}^3} \mathbf{S}_j \cdot [(\mathbf{r}_{kj}) \times \nabla_k]$	$\alpha^2 \delta a_0^3$	
2.3	Electron-electron spin-orbit interaction	$\sum_{j,k}^{\prime} \left(\frac{g'}{4} \frac{i}{r_{jk}^3} \mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{r}_{jk} \times \nabla_j \right)$	$\chi^2 \mathscr{E}_0 a_0^3$	
2.4	Spin-spin dipolar interaction	$\sum_{i,j,k} \left(\frac{\mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_k}{r_{ik}^3} - \frac{(\mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{r}_{jk})(\mathbf{S}_k \cdot \mathbf{r}_{jk})}{r_{ik}^5} \right)$	$\alpha^2 \mathscr{E}_0 a_0^3$	
2.5 Nuclear sp	Spin-spin contact interaction in)	$\sum_{j < k} \left(-\frac{1}{3} \mathbf{S}_{j} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{k} \delta(\mathbf{r}_{jk}) \right)$ $= \left[q_{v} q_{v} \left[\mathbf{I}_{v} \cdot \mathbf{I}_{v} - c \left(\mathbf{I}_{v} \cdot \mathbf{R}_{vv} \right) (\mathbf{I}_{v} \cdot \mathbf{R}_{vv}) \right] \right]$	$(m)^2$	
6 Ni	clear dipole-dipole interaction	$\sum_{v < v'} \frac{g_{v \neq v'}}{4} \left[\frac{r_{v \neq v}}{R_{vv'}} - 3 \frac{r_{v \neq v}}{R_{vv'}} \right]$	$\left(\overline{M_{P}}\right) \propto \delta_{0}a_{0}^{2}$	
Nuc	clear quadrupole interaction	$\sum_{j,v} \left[\frac{Q_v}{2I_v(2I_v - 1)} \right] \left[\frac{I_v^2}{r_{jv}^3} - 3 \frac{(\mathbf{r}_{jv} \cdot \mathbf{I}_v)^2}{r_{jv}^5} \right]$	&ao	
Orbi	tal hyperfine interaction	$\sum_{j,v} \frac{-g_v}{2} k_0(r_{jv}) \frac{i}{r_{jv}^3} (\mathbf{r}_{jv} \times \nabla_j) \cdot \mathbf{I}_v$	$\left(\frac{m}{M_{\rm P}}\right) \alpha^2 \mathscr{E}_0 a_0^3$	
Orbita	I hyperfine correction	$\sum_{j,v} \frac{g_v}{4} k_0^3(r_{jv}) \nabla_j^2 \frac{i}{r_{jv}^3} (\mathbf{r}_{jv} \times \nabla_j) \cdot \mathbf{l}_v$	$\left(\frac{m}{M_{\rm P}}\right) \alpha^2 \mathscr{E}_0 a_0^5$	
Electro	n coupled nuclear spin-spin interaction	$\sum_{j} \sum_{v,v'} \frac{g_v g_{v'}}{8} \frac{k_0(r_{vj})}{r_{jv}^3 r_{jv'}^3} \times [(\mathbf{I}_v \cdot \mathbf{I}_{v'})(\mathbf{r}_{jv} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{jv'}) - (\mathbf{I}_v \cdot \mathbf{r}_{jv})(\mathbf{I}_{v'} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{jv})]$	$\left(\frac{m}{M_{\rm P}}\right)^2 \alpha^4 \delta a_0^4$	
and nucle	ear spins)			
Dipolar h	yperfine interaction	$\sum_{j,v} \left(-\frac{gg_v}{4} k_0(r_{jv}) \left[\frac{\mathbf{S}_{jv} \cdot \mathbf{I}_v}{r_{jv}^3} - 3 \frac{(\mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{r}_{jv})(\mathbf{I}_v \cdot \mathbf{r}_{jv})}{r_{jv}^5} \right] \right)$	$\left(\frac{m}{M_{\rm P}}\right) = \left(\frac{m}{M_{\rm P}}\right) \alpha^2 \delta$	
	stoot hyperfine interaction	$\sum \frac{2\pi}{2} g' g_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{S}_{j} \cdot \mathbf{I}_{\mathbf{v}} \delta(\mathbf{r}_{j\mathbf{v}})$	$\left(\frac{m}{m}\right)\alpha$	

TABLE F-1 (continued)

All magnetic materials have unpaired electrons.

How the spins order determines the type of magnet (at OK).

Ferromagnetic $\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow$ Antiferromagnetic $\uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow$ Ferrimagnetic $\uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow$

All these states are collinear.

Spins point either up or down.

Heating up a magnet past its critical temperature gives us a disordered state

Paramagnetic

<>>></>

Is it possible to obtain a disordered state at absolute zero?



Take a three site lattice



Add two electrons. (Assume anti-ferromagnetism favored).



Now, add the third electron. No spin orientation simultaneously favors all anti-ferromagnetic exchange interactions



Most electronic structure methods cannot capture non-collinearity!

Generating non-collinear magnetism by spin frustration with transition metals



Generating non-collinear magnetism by spin frustration with transition metals



Lock metal trimer into triangle

Stability of the complex generalized Hartree-Fock equations

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These molecules are great for testing out ideas about magnetism because they have many competing magnetic interactions



This understanding helps us understand more complicated interactions in quantum dots.

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Ab initio non-relativistic spin dynamics

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Here we tried to model spin waves.



...and watch it go!

(movie)

Initial Spin-Flipped State







20 fs is to 1 s as 1 s is to one million years









All these tools give us complementary information to interpret and explain what we see in the chemistry lab.



May, Joseph W., Ryan J. McMorris, and Xiaosong Li. "Ferromagnetism in p-Type Manganese-Doped Zinc Oxide Quantum Dots." The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters 3.10 (2012): 1374-1380.



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Theoretical Characterization of Conduction-Band Electrons in Photodoped and Aluminum-Doped Zinc Oxide (AZO) Quantum Dots

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Give the quantum dots an extra electron by doping with aluminum...



Quantum dot gets 'atomic' orbitals ("Super-orbitals")



The "extra" electron carries a spin. It *should* interact with magnetic centers.

We think it may make a good room-temperature magnet



The "extra" electron carries a spin. It *should* interact with magnetic centers.

We think it may make a good room-temperature magnet



Part of the fun is seeing if it will!