Two-magnon instabilities and other surprises in magnetized quantum antiferromagnets



#### **Oleg Starykh** University of Utah



#### Andrey Chubukov, U Wisconsin



*Conference on Field Theory Methods in Low-Dimensional Strongly Correlated Quantum Systems*, August 25-29, 2014, ICTP, Trieste, Italy

# Outline

- Emergent Ising orders a very brief history
- UUD magnetization plateau and its instabilities
- High-field phase diagram of a triangular antiferromagnet

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 6

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each triangle is indicated.

#### 6 FEBRUARY 1984

#### **Discrete-Symmetry Breaking and Novel Critical Phenomena in** an Antiferromagnetic Planar (XY) Model in Two Dimensions

D. H. Lee, J. D. Joannopoulos, and J. W. Negele Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

and

#### D. P. Landau

Department of Physics, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602

Order parameters: continuous 
$$\vec{\psi} = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_{\parallel} \\ \psi_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \exp(-i\vec{q} \cdot \vec{R}_i) \vec{s}_i$$
 and discrete spin chirality  $\chi = \sum_{\text{triangle}} \vec{S}_i \times \vec{S}_j$ 

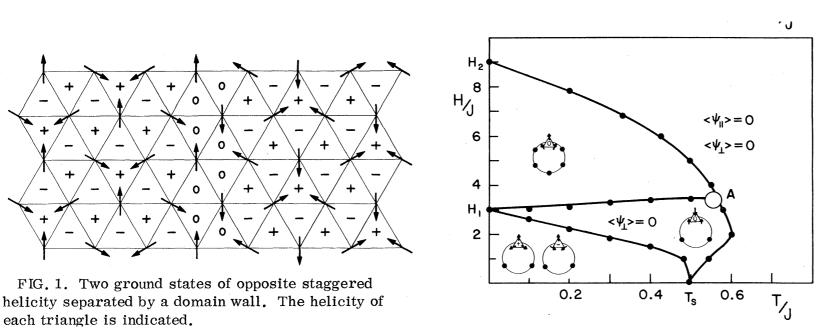
Two possibilities:

- single transition: both spins and chiralities order,
- two separate transitions: **Ising** (chirality) transition is followed by the **BKT** (spins)

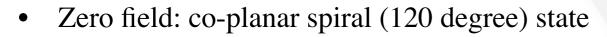


The underlying triangular lattice and the associated degeneracy play a crucial role in this physics."

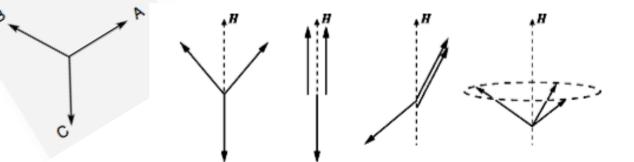
[unfortunately, incorrect identification of spin configurations]



### Classical isotropic triangular AFM in magnetic field



Magnetic field: accidental degeneracy ullet



co-planar supersolid non-coplana 120° state superfluid

- $H = J \sum_{i,j} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j \sum_i \vec{h} \cdot \vec{S}_i$  $H = \frac{1}{2} J \sum_{\Delta} \left( \sum_{i \in \Delta} \vec{S}_i \frac{\vec{h}}{3J} \right)^2$ all states with  $\vec{S}_{i1} + \vec{S}_{i2} + \vec{S}_{i3} = \frac{\vec{h}}{3J}$  form the lowest-energy manifold
- Accidental degeneracy ۲
  - O(2) spins: 3 angles, 2 equations => 1 continuous angle undetermined
  - O(3) spins: 6 angles, 3 equations => 2 continuous angles (upto global U(1) rotation about **h**)

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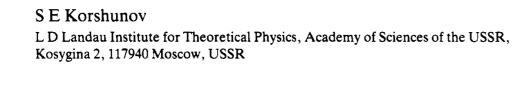
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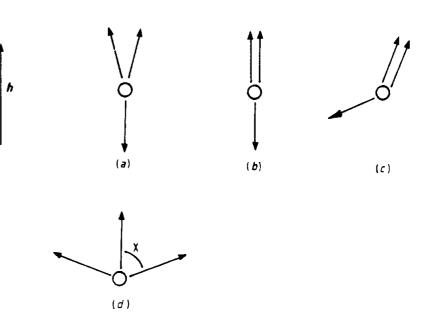
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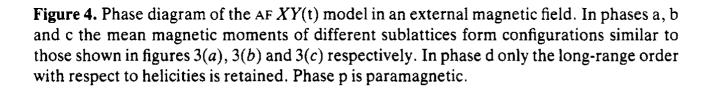
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**Figure 3.** Configuration of spins of the three sublattices with the minimal spin wave free energy: (a),  $0 < h < h_{c1}$ ; (b),  $h = h_{c1}$ ; (c),  $h_{c1} < h < h_{c2}$ ; (d), in the case of the opposite sign of the anisotropic part of the free energy.

Order of helicities (chiralities) only



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#### Phase diagram of the Heisenberg (XXX) model in the field

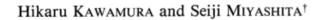
Journal of the Physical Society of Japan Vol. 53, No. 12, December, 1984, pp. 4138-4154

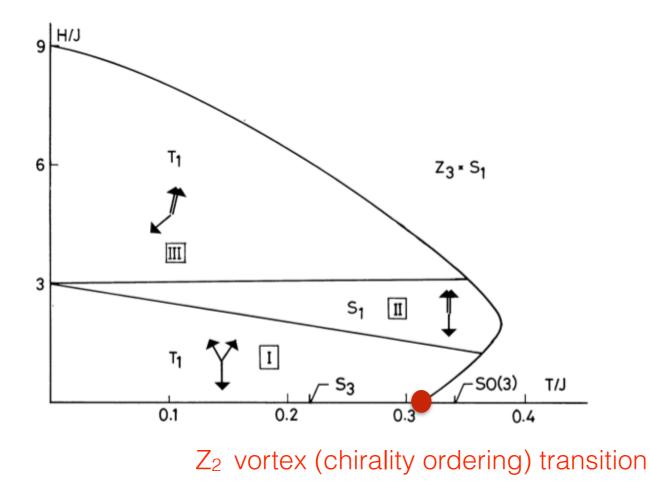
> Phase Transition of the Two-Dimensional Heisenberg Antiferromagnet on the Triangular Lattice

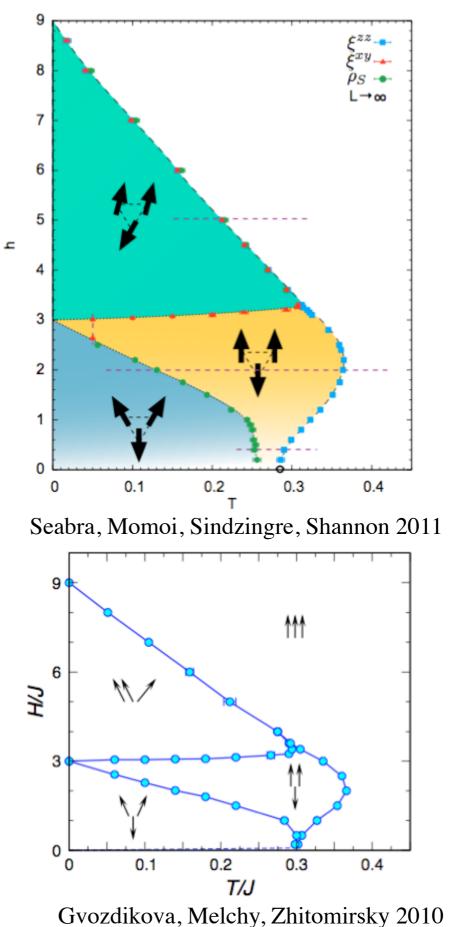
> > Hikaru KAWAMURA and Seiji MIYASHITA<sup>†</sup>

Journal of the Physical Society of Japan Vol. 54, No. 12, December, 1985, pp. 4530-4538

#### Phase Transition of the Heisenberg Antiferromagnet on the Triangular Lattice in a Magnetic Field







### Emergent Ising order parameters

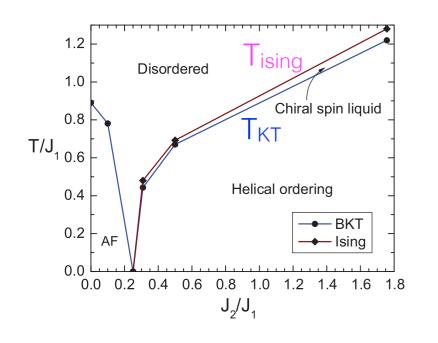
PHYSICAL REVIEW B 85, 174404 (2012)

#### Chiral spin liquid in two-dimensional XY helimagnets

A. O. Sorokin<sup>1,\*</sup> and A. V. Syromyatnikov<sup>1,2,†</sup>

$$H = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} (J_1 \cos(\varphi_{\mathbf{x}} - \varphi_{\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{a}}) + J_2 \cos(\varphi_{\mathbf{x}} - \varphi_{\mathbf{x}+2\mathbf{a}}) - J_b \cos(\varphi_{\mathbf{x}} - \varphi_{\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{b}})),$$

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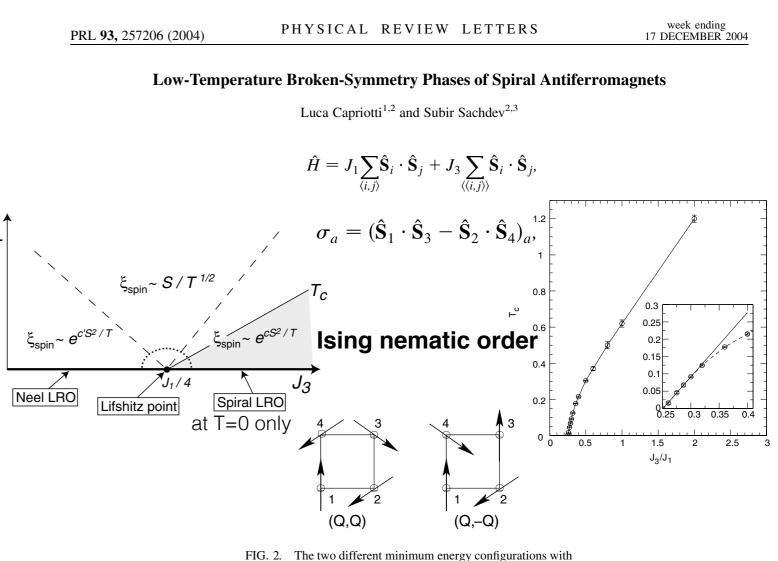


FIG. 2. The two different minimum energy configurations with magnetic wave vectors  $\vec{Q} = (Q, Q)$  and  $\vec{Q}^* = (Q, -Q)$  with  $Q = 2\pi/3$ , corresponding to  $J_3/J_1 = 0.5$ .

### Ising nematic in collinear spin system

VOLUME 64, NUMBER 1

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

1 JANUARY 1990

#### Ising Transition in Frustrated Heisenberg Models

P. Chandra

Corporate Research Science Laboratories, Exxon Research and Engineering Company, Annandale, New Jersey 08801

P. Coleman and A. I. Larkin<sup>(a)</sup> Serin Physics Laboratory, Rutgers University, P.O. Box 849, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

$$\sigma = \vec{N}_1 \cdot \vec{N}_2 = \pm 1$$

VOLUME 91, NUMBER 17

#### PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 24 OCTOBER 2003

#### Ising Transition Driven by Frustration in a 2D Classical Model with Continuous Symmetry

Cédric Weber,<sup>1,2</sup> Luca Capriotti,<sup>3</sup> Grégoire Misguich,<sup>4</sup> Federico Becca,<sup>5</sup> Maged Elhajal,<sup>1</sup> and Frédéric Mila<sup>1</sup>

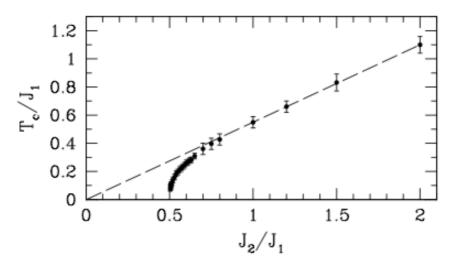
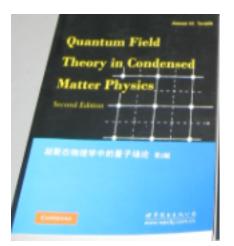
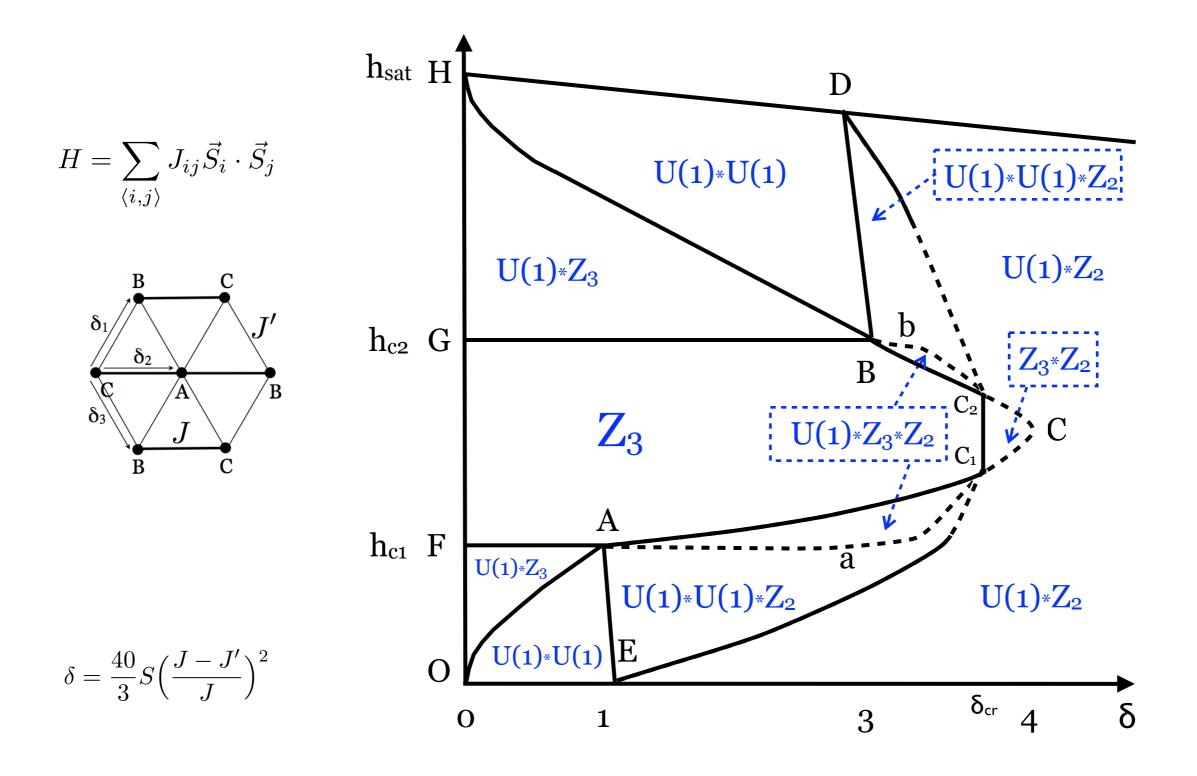


FIG. 4. Monte Carlo results for the critical temperature  $T_c$  as a function of the frustrating ratio  $J_2/J_1$ . The line is an extrapolation of the large  $J_2$  data down to  $J_2 = 0$  (see text).

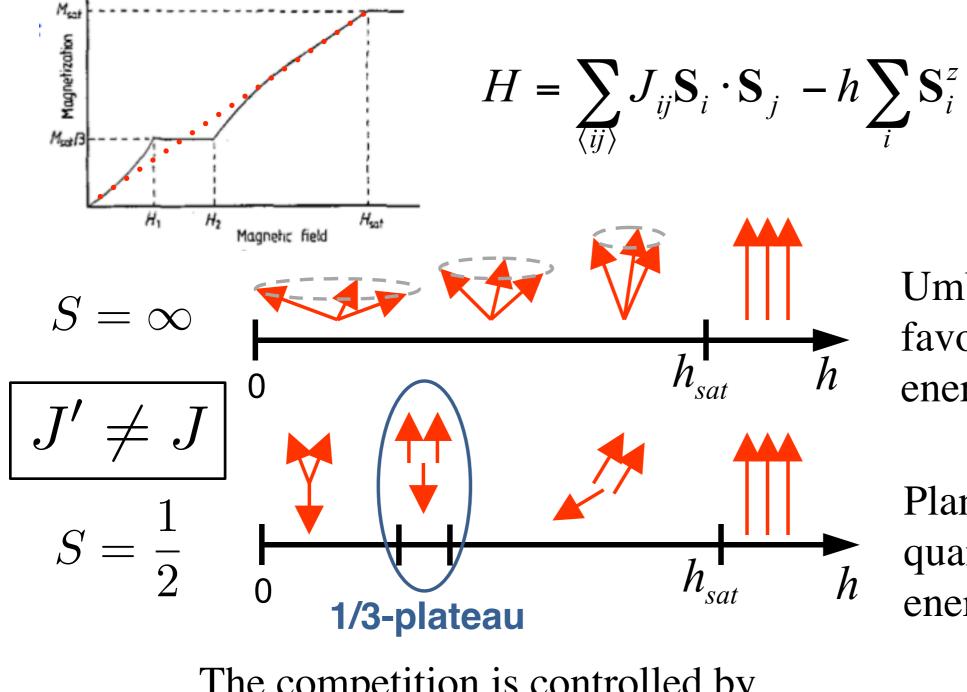


#### THIS TALK:

Emergent Ising orders in quantum two-dimensional triangular antiferromagnet at T=0



# Spatially anisotropic model: classical vs quantum



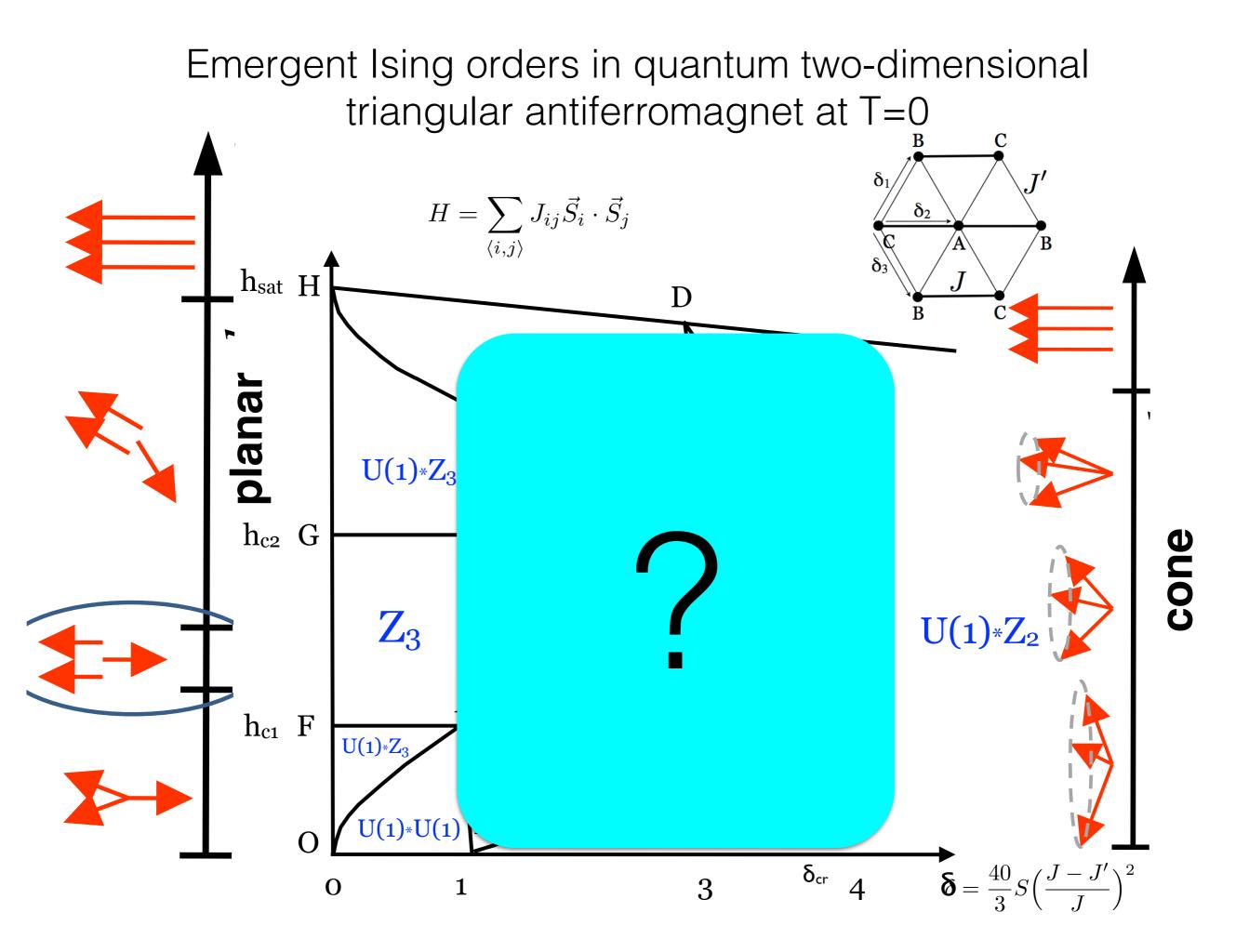
 $J \xrightarrow{J'}$ 

Umbrella state: favored classically; energy gain (J-J')<sup>2</sup>/J

Planar states: favored by quantum fluctuations; energy gain J/S

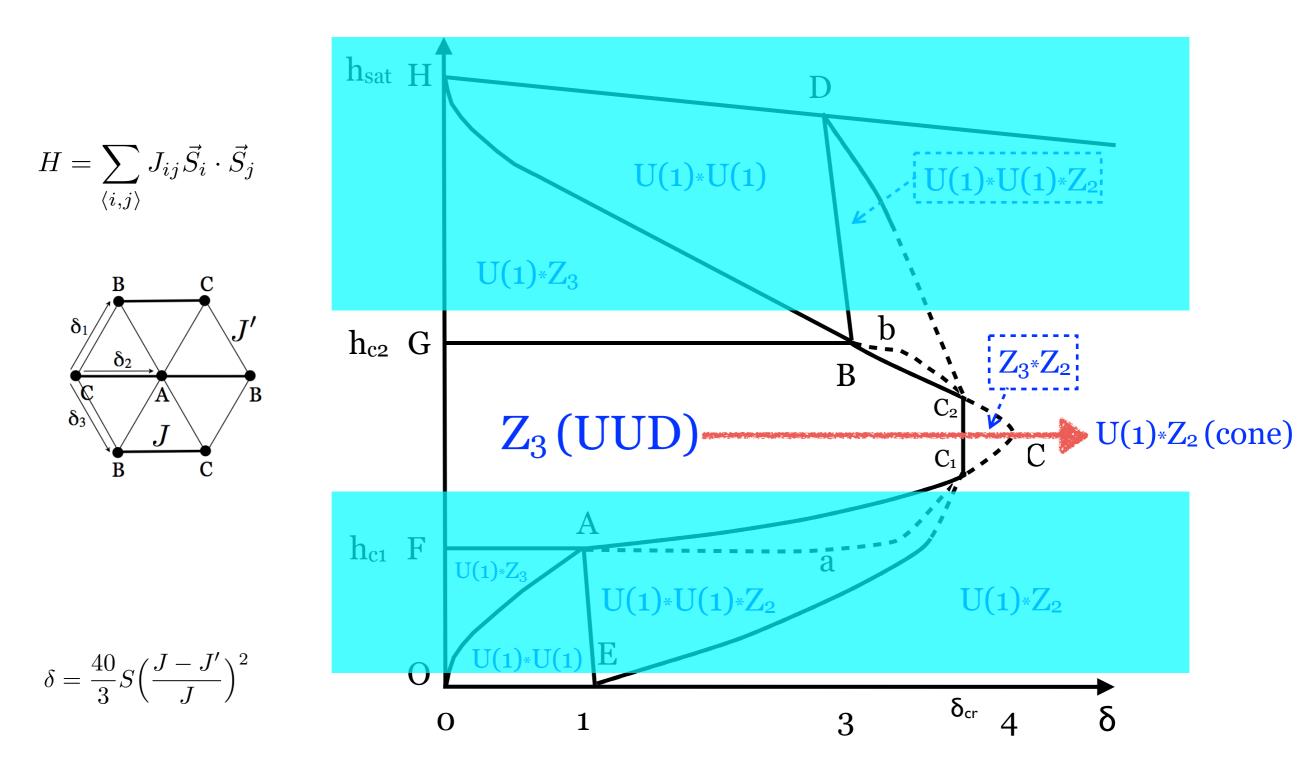
The competition is controlled by dimensionless parameter

$$\delta = S(J - J')^2 / J^2$$

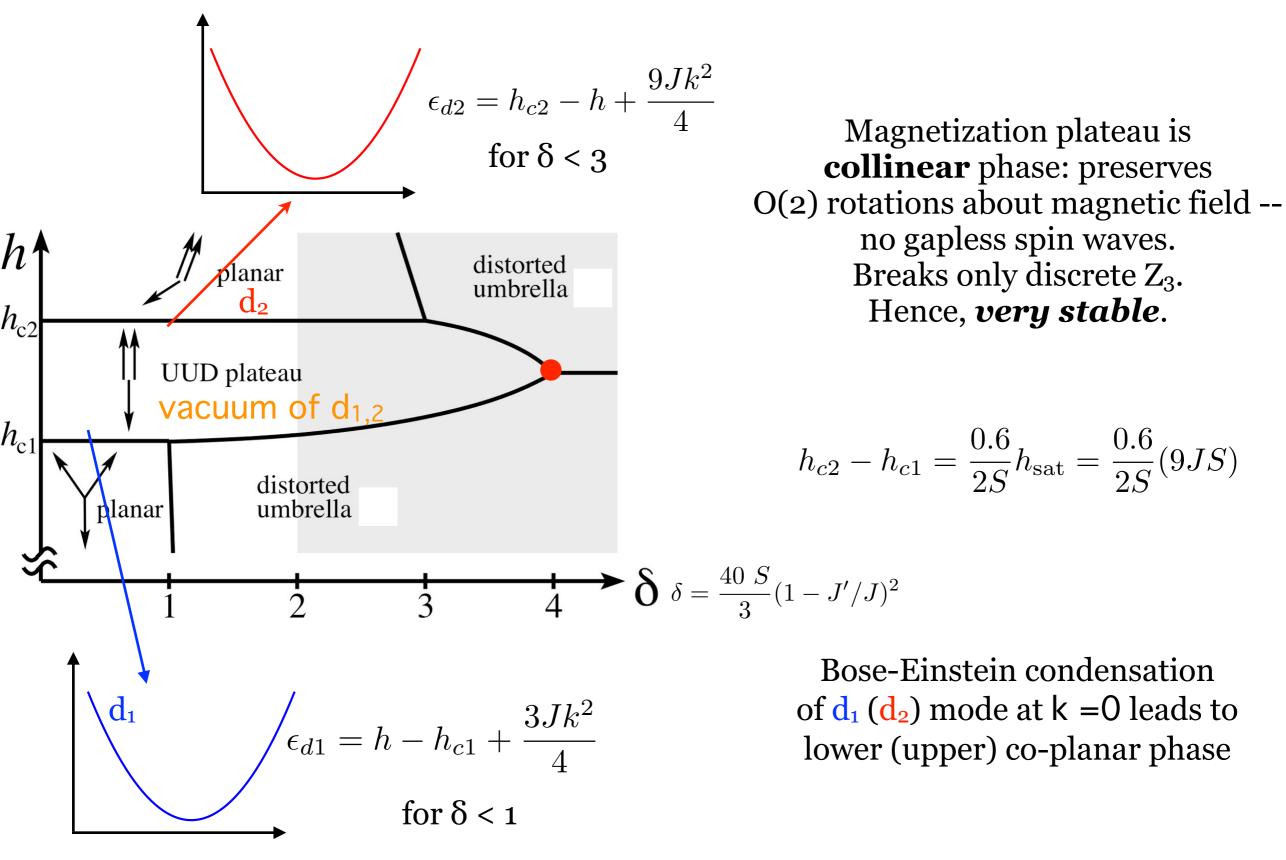


UUD-to-cone phase transition

 $Z_3 \to U(1) \times Z_2 \text{ or } Z_3 \to \text{smth else} \to U(1) \times Z_2?$ 

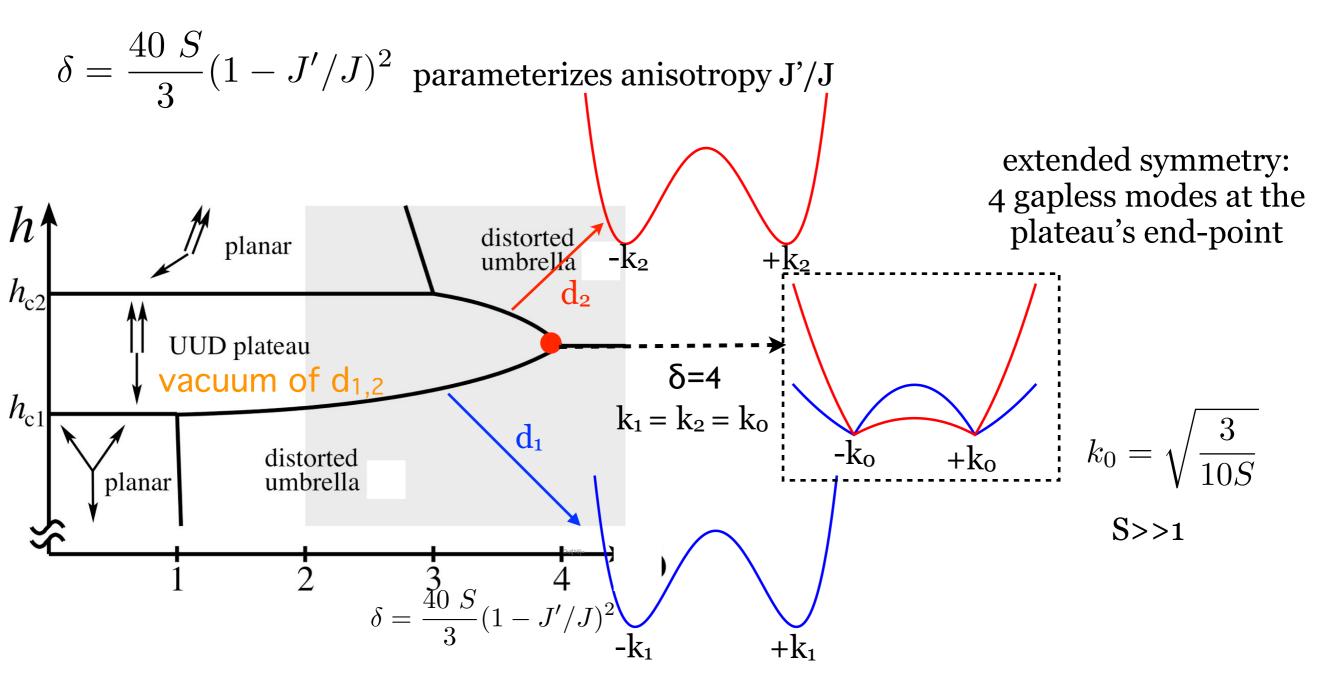


### Low-energy excitation spectra



Alicea, Chubukov, OS PRL 2009

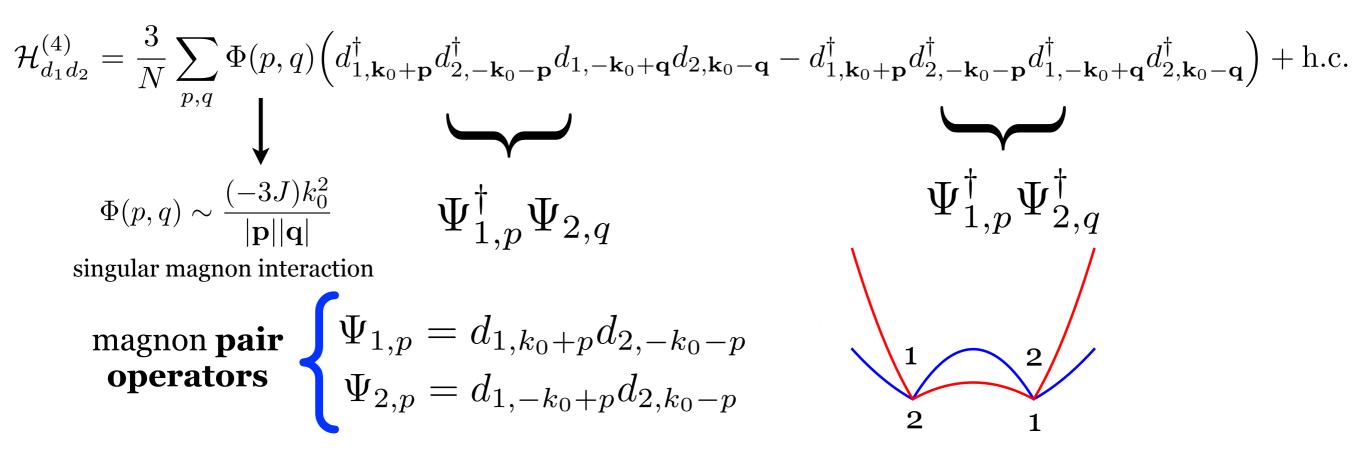
### Low-energy excitation spectra near the plateau's end-point



Magnetization plateau is **collinear** phase: preserves O(2) rotations about magnetic field -no gapless spin waves. Breaks only discrete Z<sub>3</sub>.

Alicea, Chubukov, OS PRL 2009

### Bosonization of 2d interacting magnons



Obey canonical Bose commutation relations in the UUD ground state

$$[\Psi_{1,\mathbf{p}},\Psi_{2,\mathbf{q}}] = \delta_{1,2}\delta_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}} \left(1 + d_{1,\mathbf{k}_{0}+\mathbf{p}}^{\dagger}d_{1,\mathbf{k}_{0}+\mathbf{p}} + d_{2,\mathbf{k}_{0}+\mathbf{p}}^{\dagger}d_{2,\mathbf{k}_{0}+\mathbf{p}}\right) \to \delta_{1,2}\delta_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$$

In the UUD ground state  $\langle d_1^{\dagger} d_1 \rangle_{\text{uud}} = \langle d_2^{\dagger} d_2 \rangle_{\text{uud}} = 0$ 

**★** Interacting magnon Hamiltonian in terms of  $\mathbf{d}_{1,2}$  bosons = non-interacting Hamiltonian in terms of  $\Psi_{1,2}$  magnon pairs

#### Chubukov, OS PRL 2013

### Two-magnon instability

### Magnon pairs $\Psi_{1,2}$ condense *before* single magnons $d_{1,2}$

Equations of motion for  $\Psi$  - Hamiltonian  $\langle \Psi_{1,\mathbf{p}}^{\dagger} - \Psi_{1,\mathbf{p}} \rangle = \frac{6Jf_p^2}{\Omega_p} \frac{3}{N} \sum_q f_q^2 \langle \Psi_{2,\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger} - \Psi_{2,\mathbf{q}} \rangle$  $\langle \Psi_{2,\mathbf{p}}^{\dagger} - \Psi_{2,\mathbf{p}} \rangle = \frac{6Jf_p^2}{\Omega_p} \frac{3}{N} \sum_q f_q^2 \langle \Psi_{1,\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger} - \Psi_{1,\mathbf{q}} \rangle$ 

`Superconducting' solution with *imaginary* order parameter

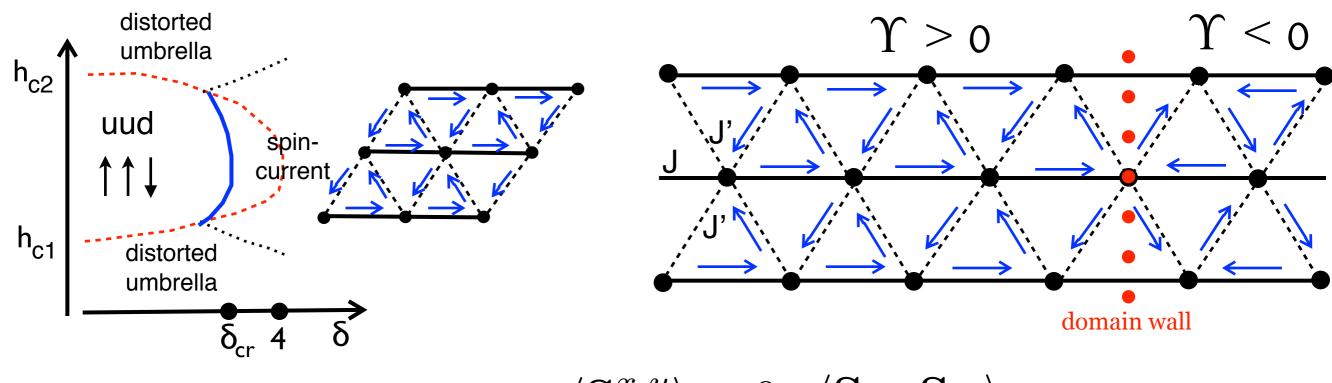
$$\langle \Psi_{1,p} \rangle = \langle \Psi_{2,p} \rangle \sim i \frac{\Upsilon}{\mathbf{p}^2}$$

Instability = softening of twomagnon mode @  $\delta_{cr}$  = 4 - O(1/S<sup>2</sup>)

$$1 = \frac{1}{S} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{p} \frac{k_0}{\sqrt{|\mathbf{p}|^2 + (1 - \delta/4)k_0^2}}$$
$$\langle d_1 \rangle = \langle d_2 \rangle = 0$$

**no** single particle condensate

### Two-magnon condensate = Spin-current nematic state



no transverse magnetic order

 $\langle \mathbf{S}_{r}^{x,y} \rangle = 0 \quad \langle \mathbf{S}_{r} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{r'} \rangle$  is not affected

Finite scalar (and vector) chiralities. Sign of  $\Upsilon$  determines sense of spin-current circulation

$$\langle \hat{z} \cdot \mathbf{S}_A \times \mathbf{S}_C \rangle = \langle \hat{z} \cdot \mathbf{S}_C \times \mathbf{S}_B \rangle = \langle \hat{z} \cdot \mathbf{S}_B \times \mathbf{S}_A \rangle \propto \Upsilon$$

**Spontaneously broken Z<sub>2</sub> -- spatial inversion** [in addition to broken Z<sub>3</sub> inherited from the UUD state]

#### Leads to spontaneous generation of Dzyaloshisnkii-Moriya interaction

Chubukov, OS PRL 2013

#### Spontaneous generation of Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction

spin currents appear due to **spontaneously generated DM** (similar to Lauchli et al (PRL 2005) for Heis.+ring exchange model; also 'chiral Mott insulator', Dhar et al, PRB 2013; Zaletel et al, 2013 )

#### Incommensurate Spin Correlations in Spin-1/2 Frustrated Two-Leg Heisenberg Ladders

Alexander A. Nersesyan,<sup>1</sup> Alexander O. Gogolin,<sup>2</sup> and Fabian H.L. Eßler<sup>3</sup>

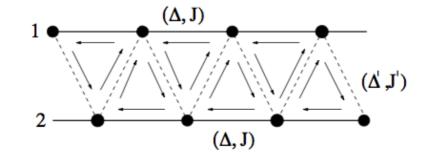


FIG. 3. Structure of the spin currents in the spin nematic phase.

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 87, 174501 (2013)

#### Chiral Mott insulator with staggered loop currents in the fully frustrated Bose-Hubbard model

Arya Dhar,<sup>1</sup> Tapan Mishra,<sup>2</sup> Maheswar Maji,<sup>3</sup> R. V. Pai,<sup>4</sup> Subroto Mukerjee,<sup>3,5</sup> and Arun Paramekanti<sup>2,3,6,7</sup>

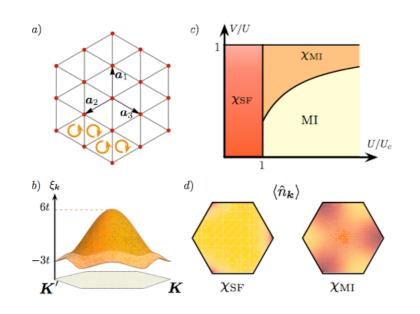


FIG. 1. Bosons on the Frustrated Triangular Lattice. (a) Lattice, coordinate system and sample current pattern in the  $\chi$ MI; (b) single-particle dispersion  $\xi_k$ , with minima at the K, K' points of the BZ; (c) Variational mean-field phase diagram showing  $\chi$ SF,  $\chi$ MI and MI phases tuned by the on site repulsion U and nearest neighbor repulsion V; (d) Momentum distribution  $\langle \hat{n}_k \rangle$  for the chiral phases.

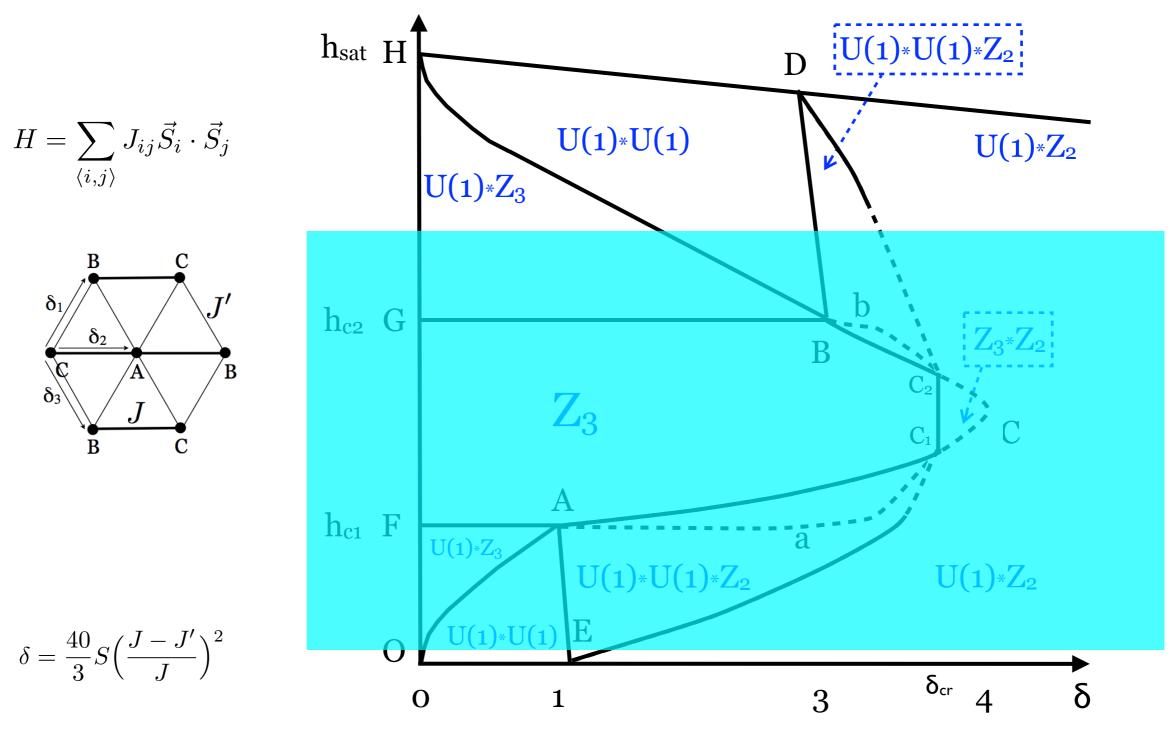
PHYSICAL REVIEW B 89, 155142 (2014)

#### Chiral bosonic Mott insulator on the frustrated triangular lattice

Michael P. Zaletel,<sup>1</sup> S. A. Parameswaran,<sup>1,2</sup> Andreas Rüegg,<sup>1,3</sup> and Ehud Altman<sup>1,4</sup>

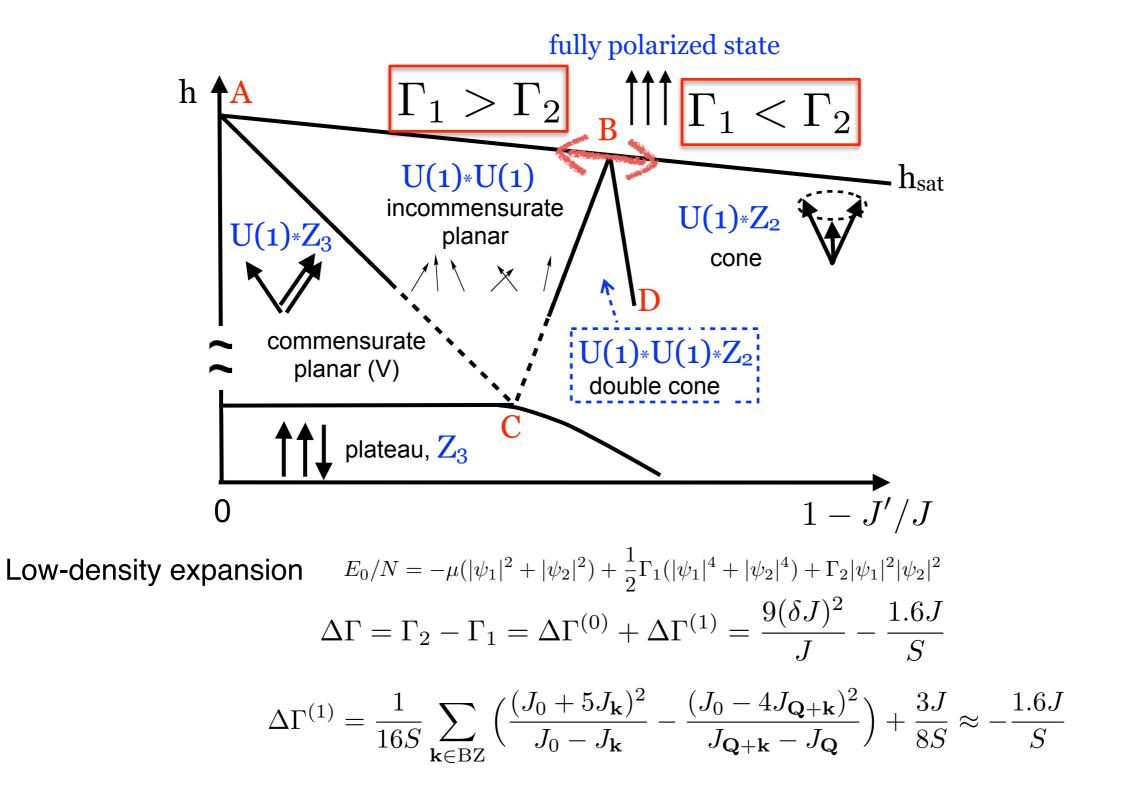
gapped single particles; but spontaneously broken time-reversal = spontaneous circulating currents

#### Phases of a triangular-lattice antiferromagnet near saturation

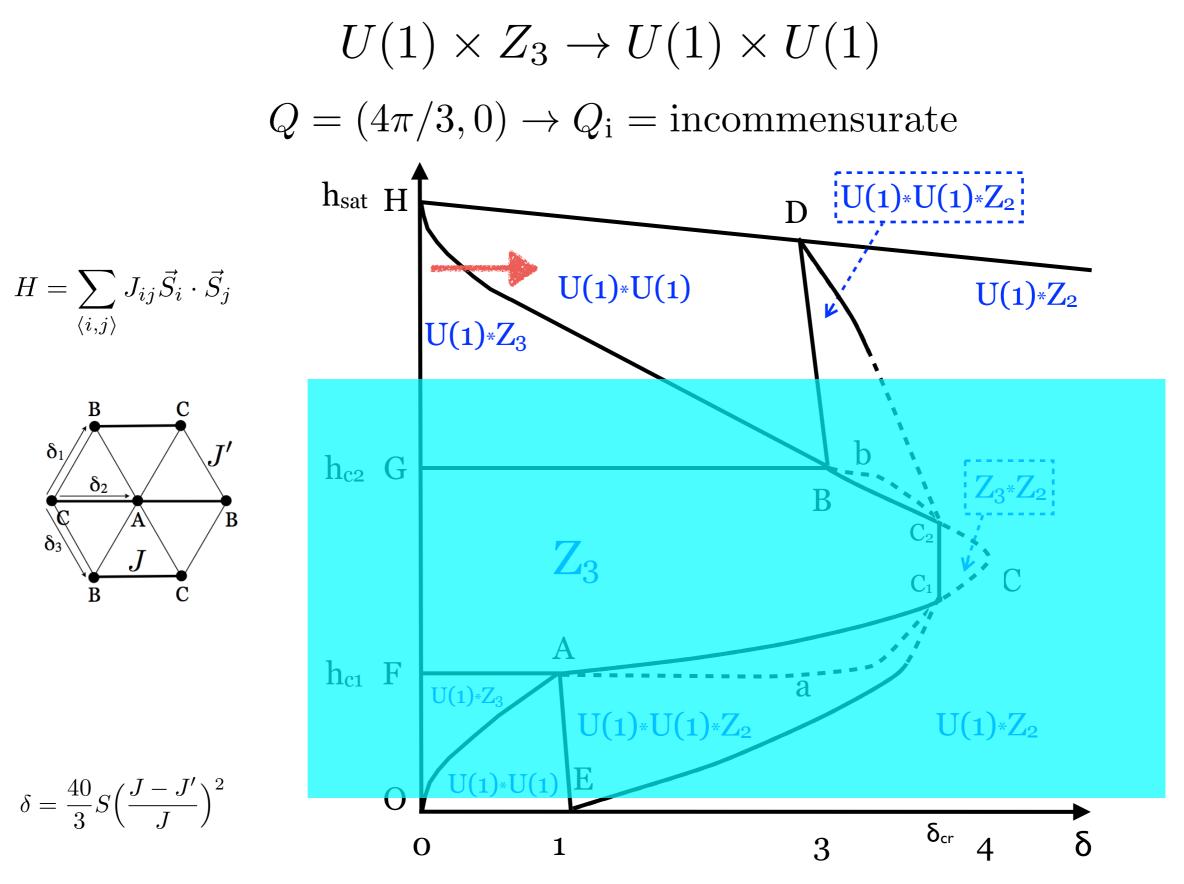


OS, Jin Wen, Andrey Chubukov, PRL 2014

#### High-field phases: from **cone** to **incommensurate planar** at $h = h_{sat}$

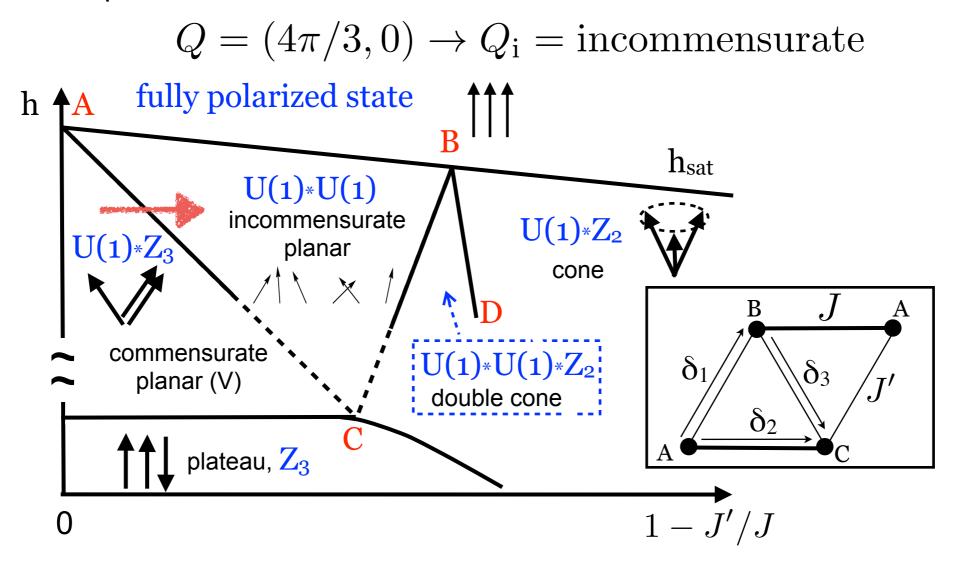


Phases of a triangular-lattice antiferromagnet near saturation



OS, Jin Wen, Andrey Chubukov, PRL 2014

High-field phases: commensurate-incommensurate transition



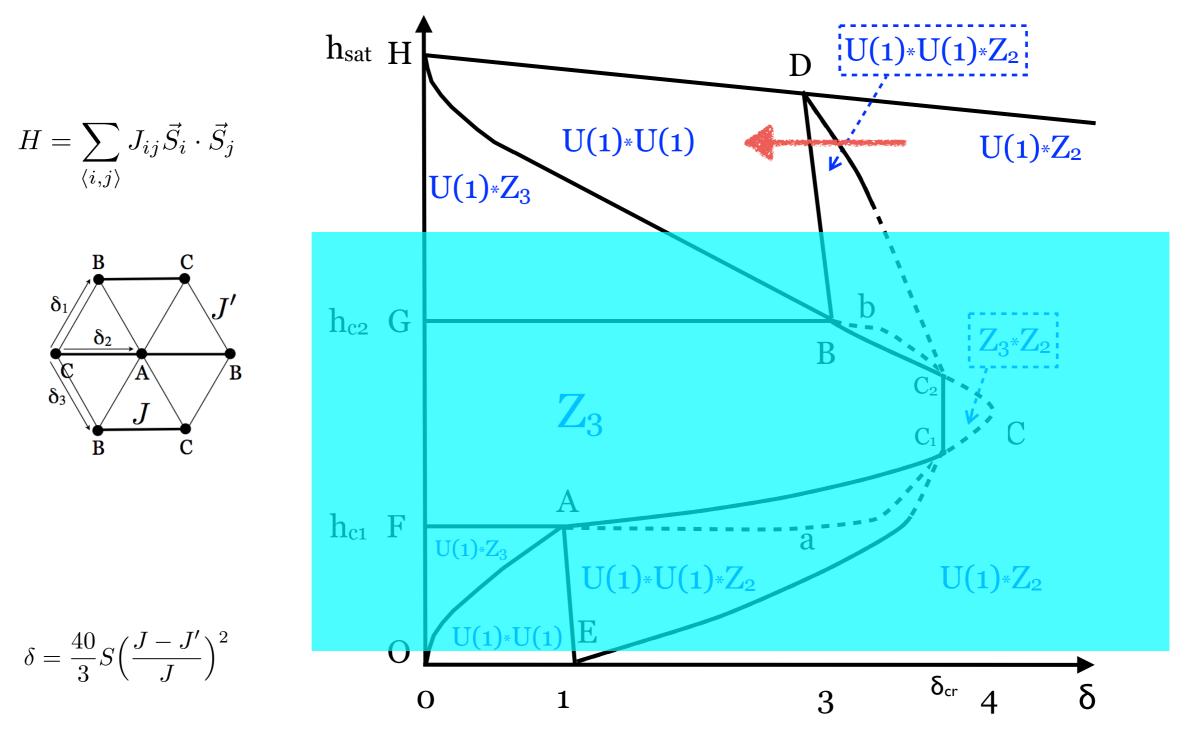
Low-density expansion -> classical sine-Gordon model of the (relative) phase fluctuations

$$E_{0}/N = -\mu(|\psi_{1}|^{2} + |\psi_{2}|^{2}) + \frac{1}{2}\Gamma_{1}(|\psi_{1}|^{4} + |\psi_{2}|^{4}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}_{\theta} = \frac{3JS^{2}\mu}{4h_{\text{sat}}}(\partial_{x}\theta)^{2} + \underbrace{\sqrt{3}\delta JS^{2}\mu}_{h_{\text{sat}}}\partial_{x}\theta + S\underbrace{\left(\Gamma_{3}S^{2}\right)}_{4}\underbrace{\mu^{3}}_{h_{\text{sat}}}\cos[6\theta] + \Gamma_{2}|\psi_{1}|^{2}|\psi_{2}|^{2} + \Gamma_{3}((\bar{\psi}_{1}\psi_{2})^{3} + \text{h.c.})...$$

$$e^{i3\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{r}} = 1 \qquad \text{first calculation of } \Gamma_{3} = \frac{3}{32S^{2}}\sum_{\mathbf{k}\in\text{BZ}}\left(\frac{(5J_{\mathbf{k}}+J_{0})(5J_{\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{k}}+J_{0})J_{\mathbf{Q}-\mathbf{k}}}{(J_{0}-J_{\mathbf{k}})(J_{0}-J_{\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{k}})} - \frac{(5J_{\mathbf{k}}+J_{0})(J_{\mathbf{k}}+J_{0})}{2(J_{0}-J_{\mathbf{k}})}\right) + \frac{3J_{0}}{64S^{2}}\approx -\frac{0.69J}{S^{2}}$$

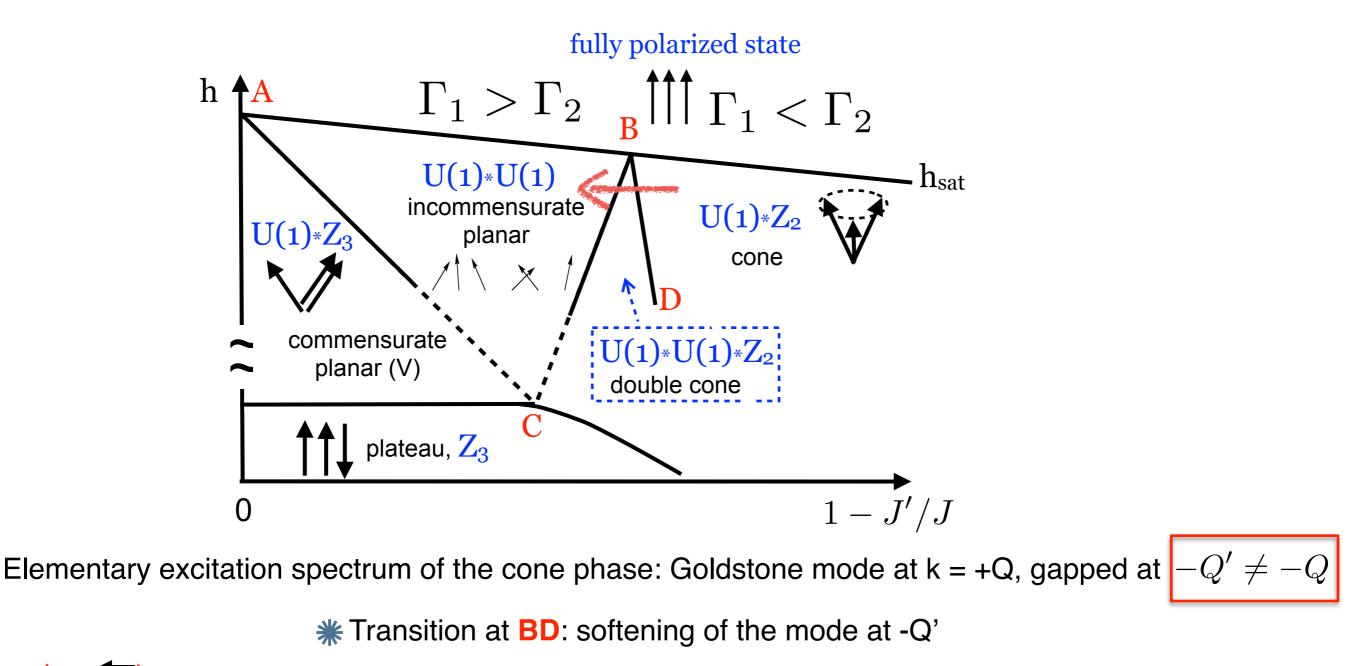
Phases of a triangular-lattice antiferromagnet near saturation

 $U(1) \times U(1) \to U(1) \times Z_2 \text{ or } U(1) \times U(1) \to \text{smth else} \to U(1) \times Z_2?$ 



OS, Jin Wen, Andrey Chubukov, PRL 2014

#### High-field phases: from cone to incommensurate planar at finite density



$$Q' = Q + \frac{1.45(h_{\text{sat}} - h)}{h_{\text{sat}}\sqrt{S}}$$

High-field phases, XXZ model: commensuratecommensurate transitions

$$H_{\text{XXZ}} = \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} J(S_i^x S_j^x + S_i^y S_j^y) + J_z S_i^z S_j^z - h \sum_j S_j^z$$

$$\stackrel{\text{h}}{\overset{\text{A}}{\overset{\text{B}}{\overset{\text{fully polarized state}}{\overset{\text{U(1)} \times Z_3}{\overset{\text{U(1)} \times Z_3}{\overset{\text{U(1)} \times Z_3}{\overset{\text{U(1)} \times Z_3}{\overset{\text{U(1)} \times Z_2}{\overset{\text{cone}}{\overset{\text{cone}}{\overset{\text{cone}}{\overset{\text{cone}}{\overset{\text{C}}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}{\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}{\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}{\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}{\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}{\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{\text{C}}}\overset{$$

Solid-Solid transition due to the sign change of  $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$ 

 $\Lambda$ 

OS, Jin Wen, Andrey Chubukov, PRL 2014

### Conclusions

## **Emergent Ising orders**

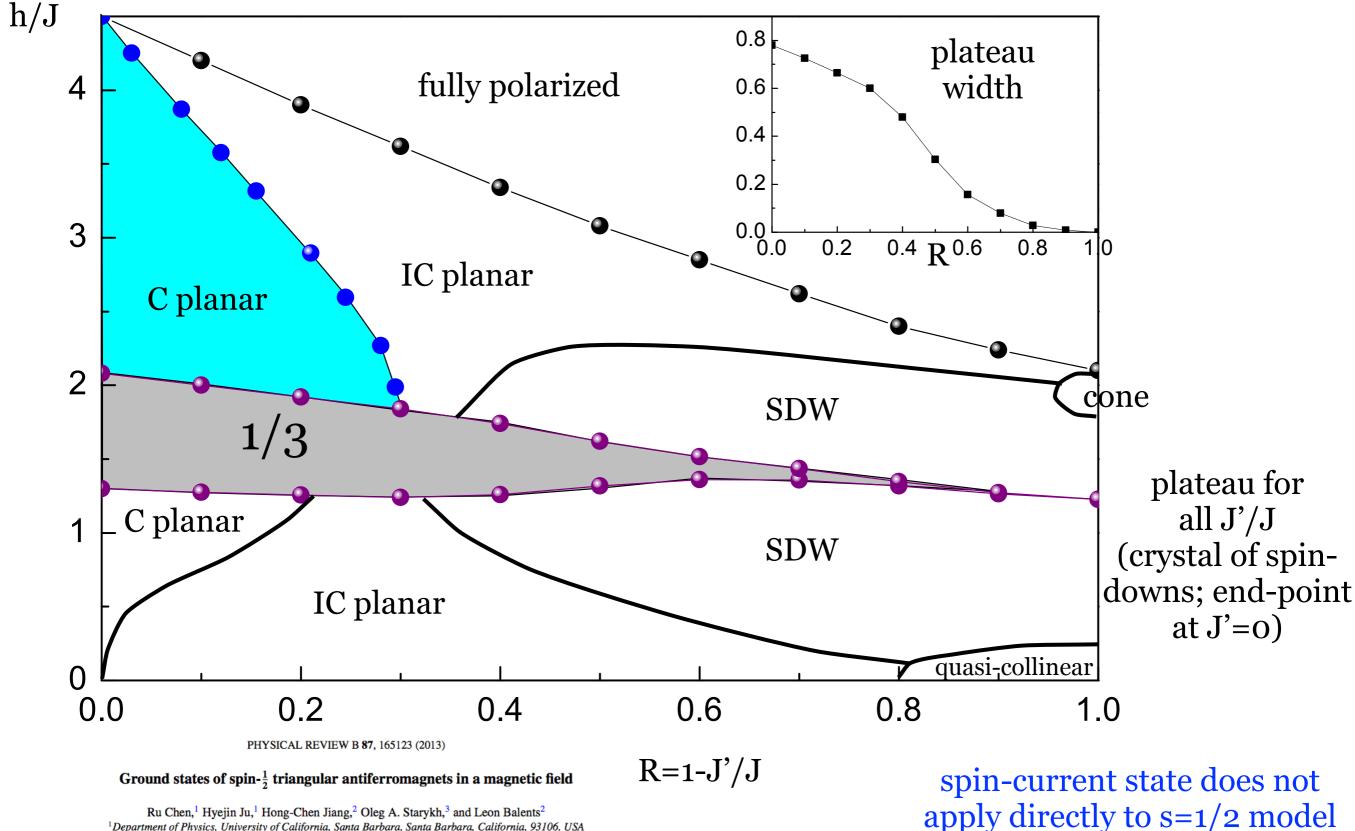
### Two-dimensional chiral spin-current phase Z<sub>3\*</sub>Z<sub>2</sub>

# High-field phases of triangular antiferromagnet $U(1)*U(1)*Z_2$

"An exceedingly simple model leads to a surprising richness of phases and critical behavior. The underlying triangular lattice and the associated degeneracy play a crucial role in this physics."



#### *two-dimensional* Schematic phase diagram for spin-1/2 triangular lattice AFM



Ru Chen,<sup>1</sup> Hyejin Ju,<sup>1</sup> Hong-Chen Jiang,<sup>2</sup> Oleg A. Starykh,<sup>3</sup> and Leon Balents<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California, 93106, USA <sup>2</sup>Kavli Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California, 93106, USA <sup>3</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112, USA

#### Compare with:

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 87, 060407(R) (2013)

#### Quantum stabilization of classically unstable plateau structures

Tommaso Coletta,<sup>1</sup> M. E. Zhitomirsky,<sup>2</sup> and Frédéric Mila<sup>1</sup>

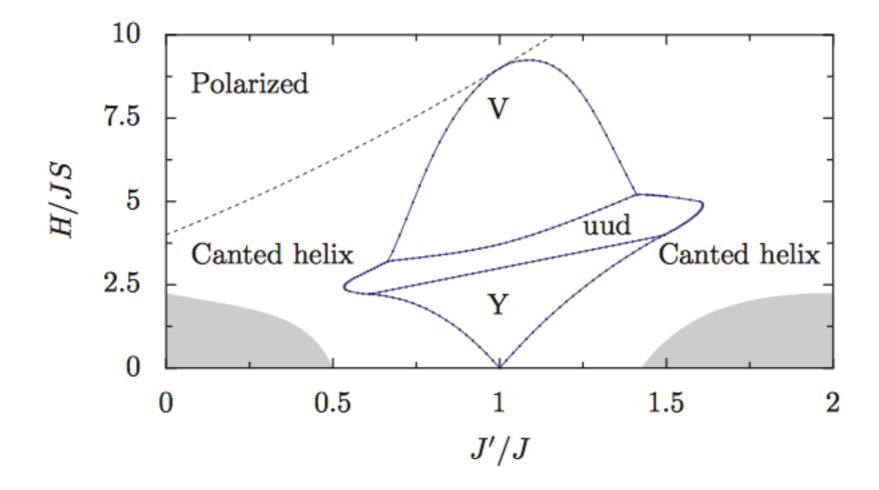
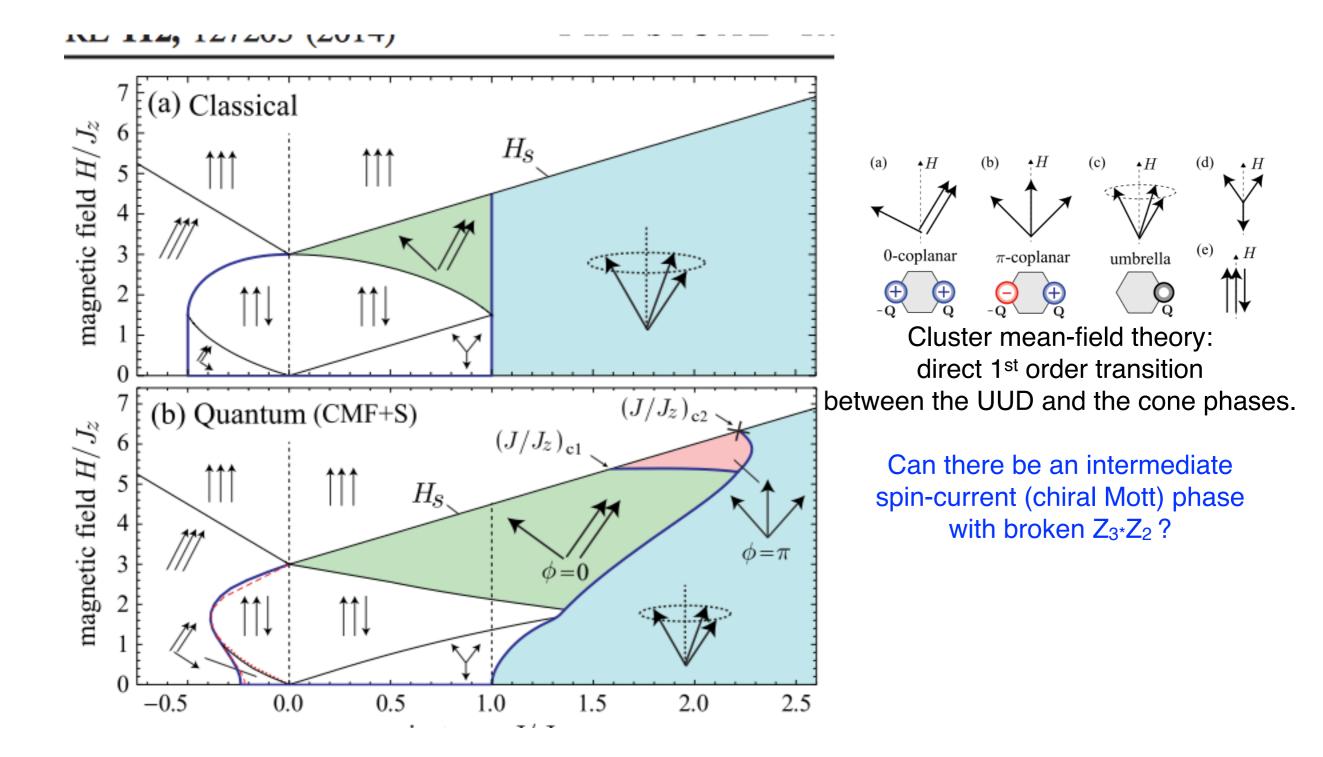


FIG. 4. (Color online) Phase diagram of the spin-1/2 anisotropic triangular lattice in magnetic field. Y and V regions denote three-sublattice planar states. The dashed line is the classical saturation field. The gray shading denotes regions where phases other than the canted helical states may be expected.

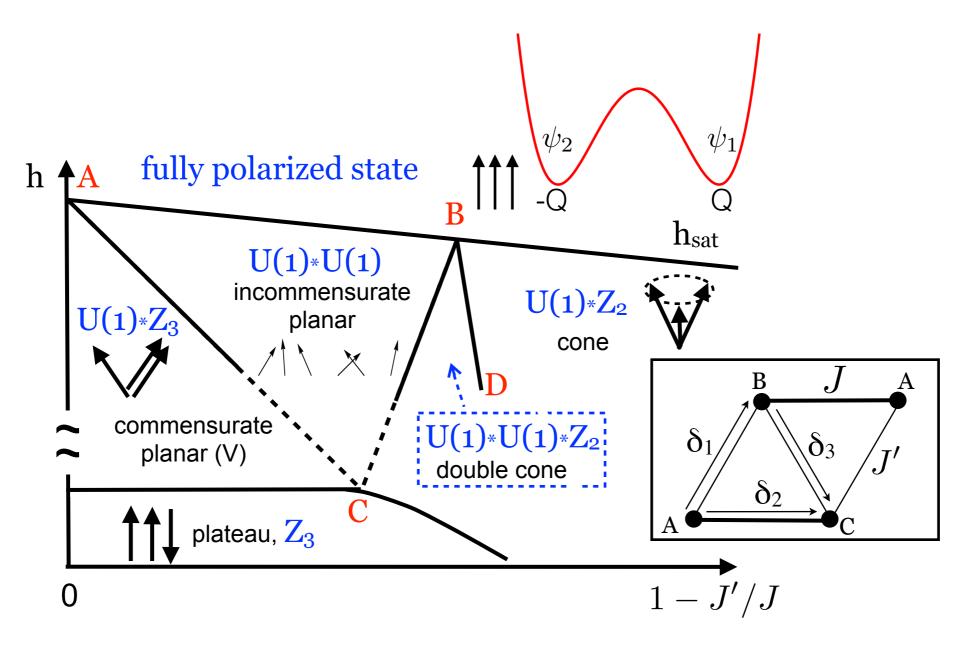
week ending 28 MARCH 2014

Quantum Phase Diagram of the Triangular-Lattice XXZ Model in a Magnetic Field

Daisuke Yamamoto,<sup>1</sup> Giacomo Marmorini,<sup>1,2</sup> and Ippei Danshita<sup>3</sup>



## High-field phases, J-J' model



OS, Jin Wen, Andrey Chubukov, PRL 2014