Magnetoelastic interactions in the two-dimensional magnetic material MnPS₃

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Summary

It belongs to the **family of magnetic van der Waals** systems **cousins** and **siblings** of the graphene and the dichalcogenides.

Can be exfoliated to study 2D magnetism in single-layers, bilayers, three-layer. Promising playground for fundamental physics studies and applications.

This work: MnPS₃

Experiments

Raman experiments versus T revealing magnetoelastic interactions

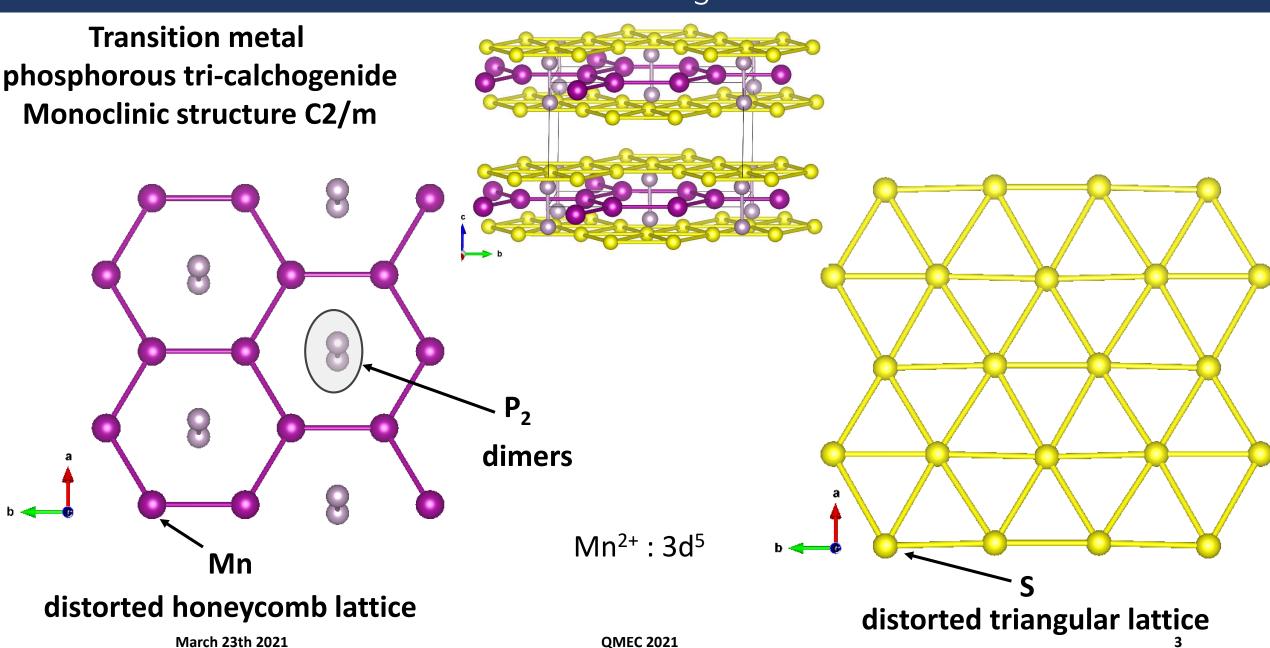
Theory

DFT calculations of the exchange interactions
DFT calculations of the Raman modes

Discussion

Interpretation: putting all together

MnPS₃



Magnetic ground state of MnPS₃

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 $Mn^{2+}: 3d^5$

S = 5/2 - L = 0

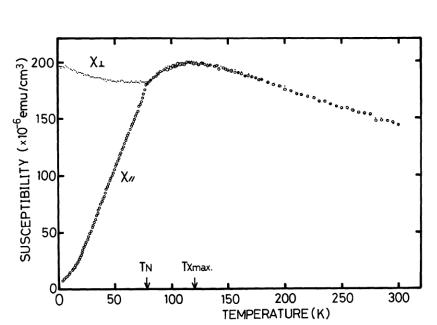
Magnetic Properties of Layered Compound MnPS₃

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In-plane AFM order FM order along c $T_N = 78 \text{ K}$ Easy axis along c

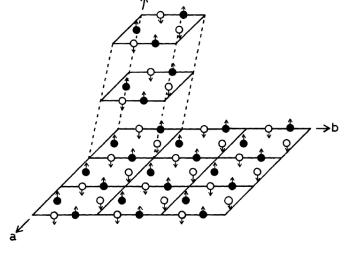
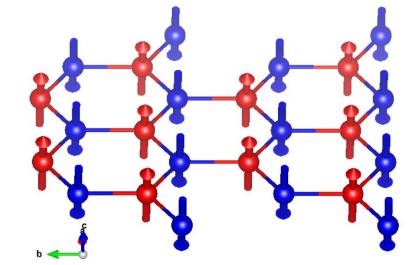


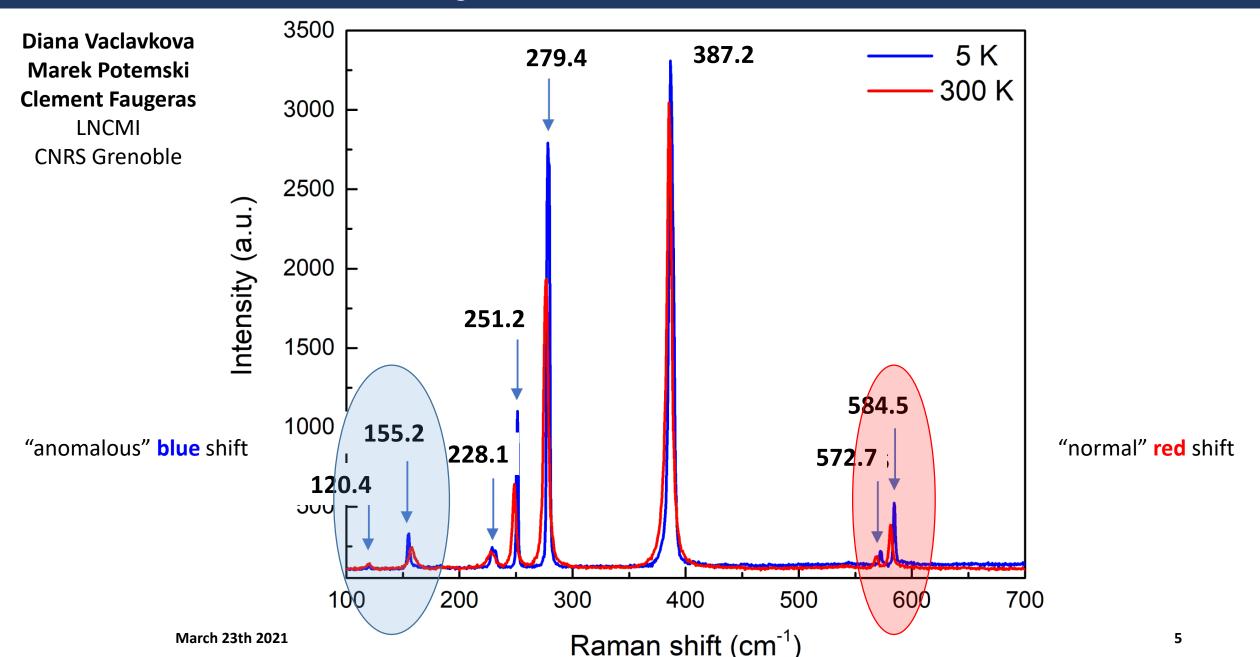
Fig. 2. Magnetic structure of MnPS. Close and open circles denote up- and down-moments respectively.



2D long range order and anisotropy due to a single ion anisotropy and/or dipolar interactions.

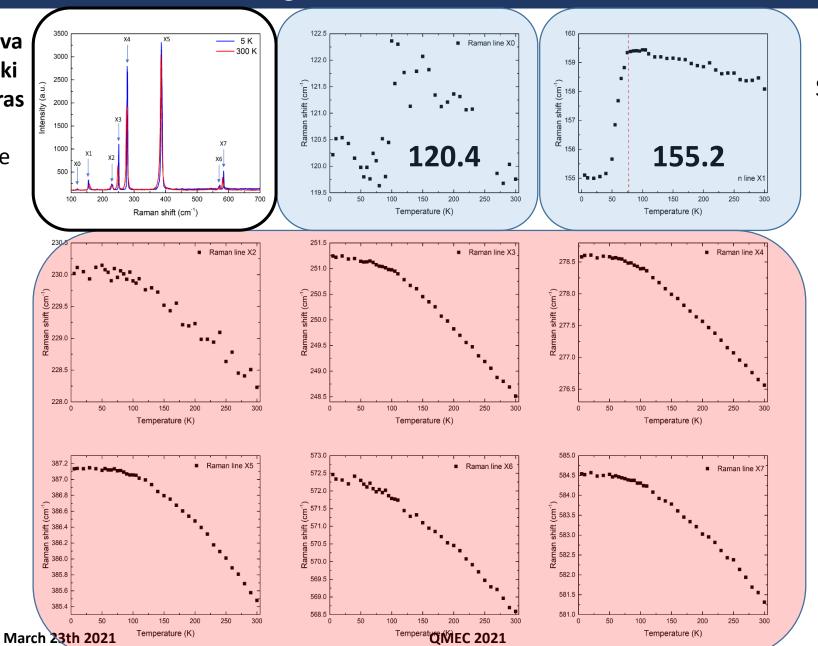
Fig. 4. Temperature dependence of magnetic susceptibility of MnPS₃ for two directions, parallel (χ_{\parallel}) and perpendicular (χ_{\perp}) to the z-axis.

MnPS₃: Raman spectroscopy



MnPS₃: Raman spectroscopy

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Blue shift of 5cm⁻¹ at T_N
Sensitive to the magnetic order.

Magnetoelastic interaction

Normal
Red shift
Softening of the modes
with temperature

Effective exchange interactions

 $\widehat{H} = \widehat{H}_0 + \sum_{i>j} J_{ij} \widehat{S}_i . \widehat{S}_j$

Interactions classified by the Mn-Mn distance

Inter-layer

J5: 6.792 Å

J6: 6.796 Å

J3: 6.076 Å

Intra-layer

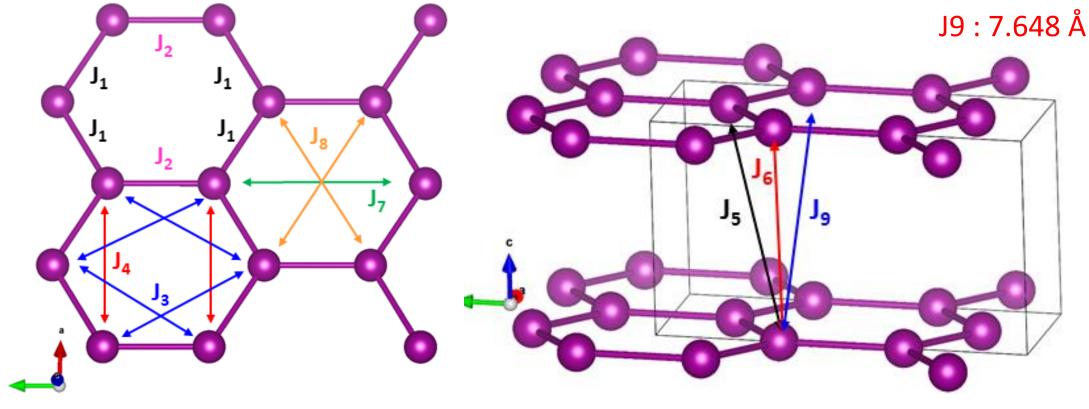
J1: 3.500 Å

J2: 3.524 Å

J4: 6.077 Å

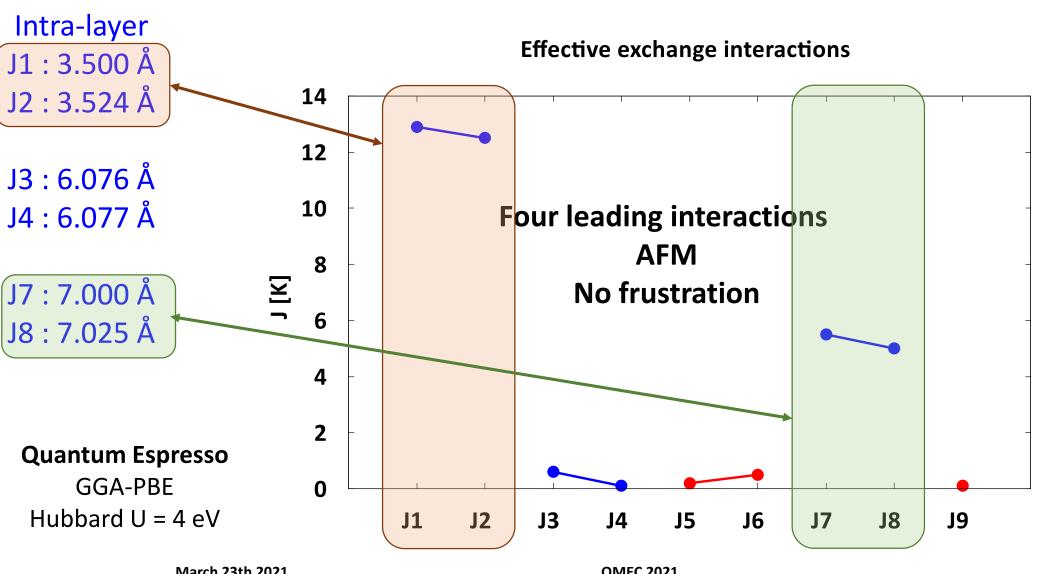
J7: 7.000 Å

J8: 7.025 Å



Effective exchange interactions

Exchange interactions calculated using a broken-symmetry formalism within DFT.



Inter-layer

J5: 6.792 Å

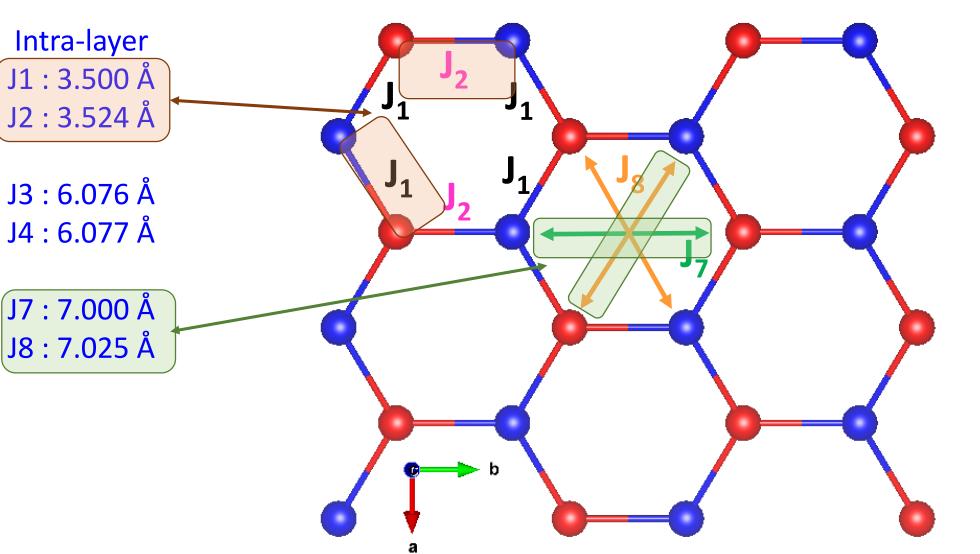
J6: 6.796 Å

J9: 7.648 Å

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Effective exchange interactions

Interactions classified by the Mn-Mn distance: 9 different interactions up to 7.647 A



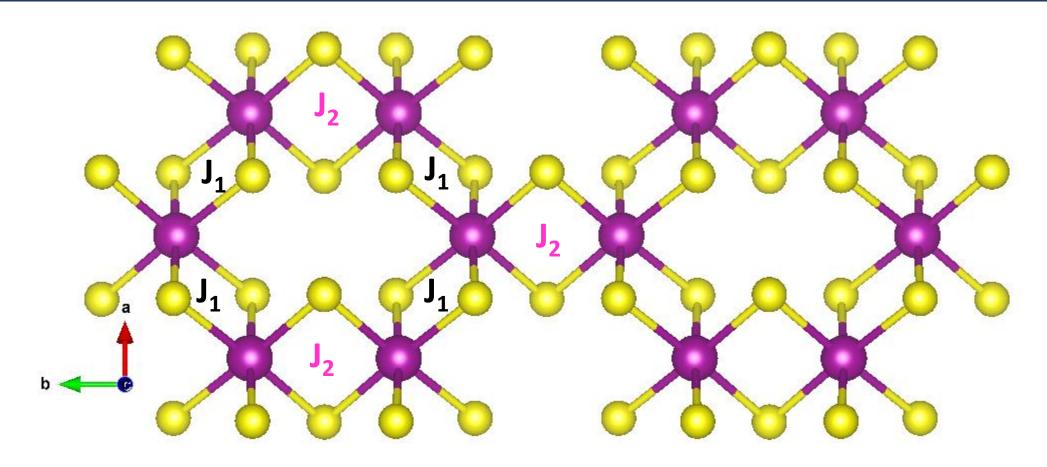
Inter-layer

J5: 6.792 Å

J6: 6.796 Å

J9: 7.648 Å

Super exchange path



J1 = 12.9 K Mn-Mn distance : 3.500 Å

J2 = 12.5 K Mn-Mn distance : 3.524 Å

Mn-S-Mn angle: 83.5627 deg.

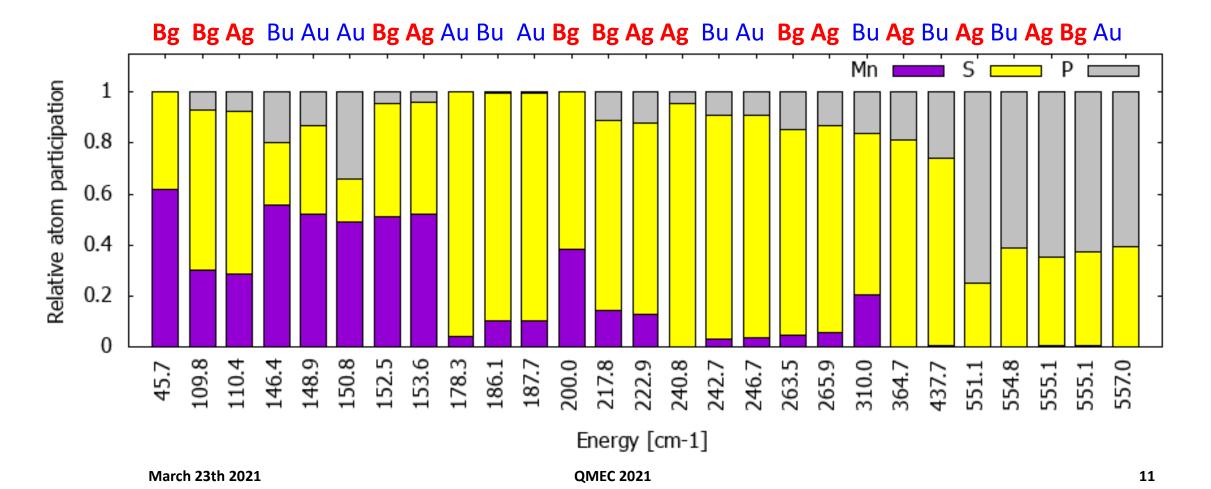
Mn-S-Mn angle: 84.4573 deg.

Calculation of the phonon modes

Phonon modes calculated at the Γ point in the 10 atoms C2/m monoclinic cell

Group analysis : Γ_{tot} : 8 A_g + 6 A_u + 7 B_g + 9 B_u = 30 Only Ag and Bg are Raman active

Quantum Espresso
GGA-PBE
Hubbard U = 4 eV

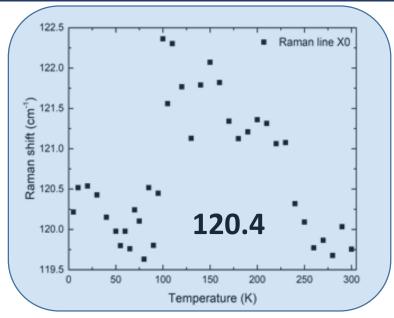


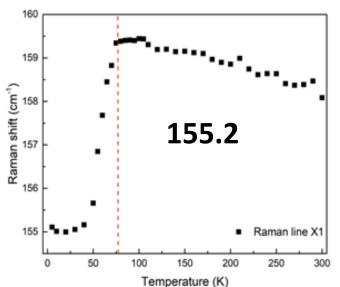
Raman spectroscopy

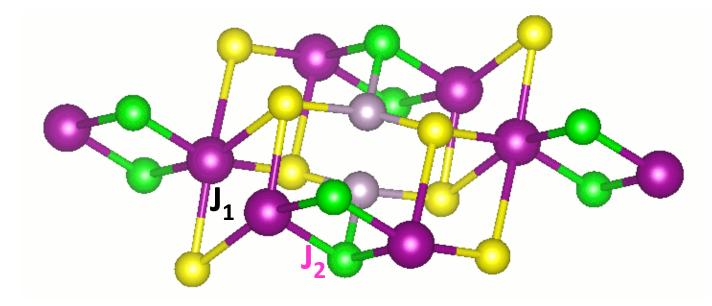
Table 2. Comparison between the calculated Raman active modes versus experimentally observed phonon modes (see figure 2 and Supplementary Material figure **S1**).

Calculations		Experiments	
Symmetry	Energy (cm ⁻¹)	Energy (cm ⁻¹)	Feature
Bg	45.7		
Bg Ag	109.8 110.4	120.2	X1
Bg Ag	152.5 153.6	155.1	X2
Bg	200.0		
Bg Ag	217.8 222.9	228.1 231.9	Х3
Ag	240.8	251.2	X4
Bg Ag	263.5 265.9	278.6	X5
Ag	364.7	387.1	X6
Ag	551.1	572.5	X7
Ag Bg	555.1 555.1	584.5	X8

The two experimental modes sensitive to the magnetic order correspond to two pairs of almost degenerate modes.



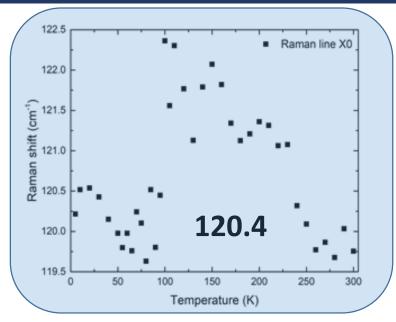


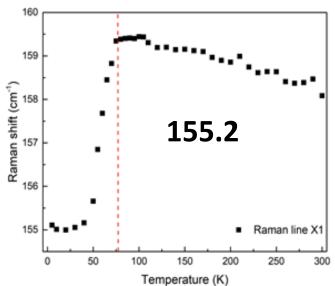


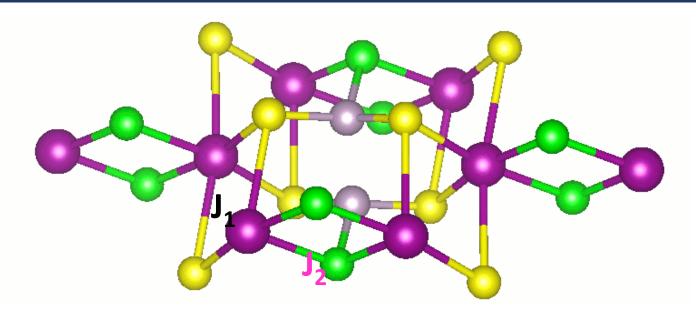
Bg mode 109.8 cm⁻¹

Movement changes the angle associated with J1.

Almost rigid rotation of the structure associated with J2

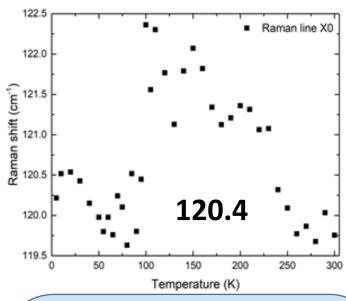


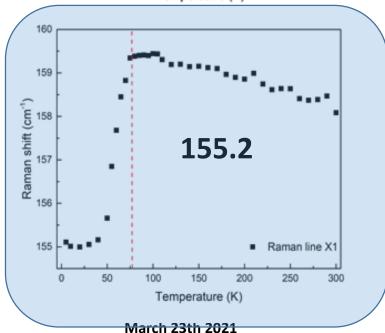


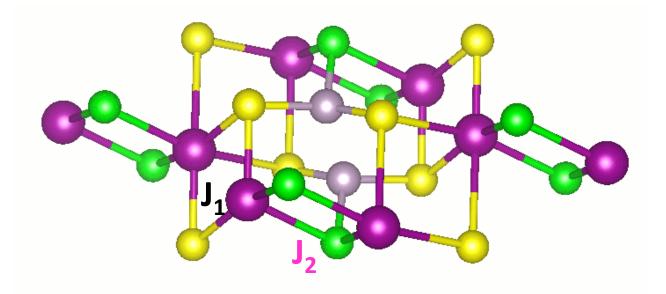


Ag mode 110.4 cm⁻¹

Movement changes the angle associated with J1 and J2.





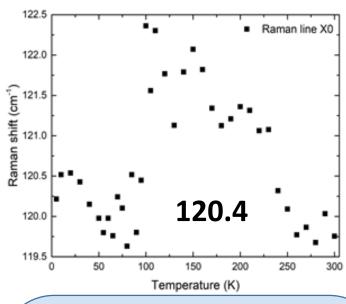


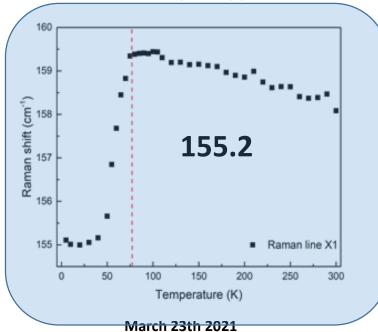
Bg mode 152.5 cm⁻¹

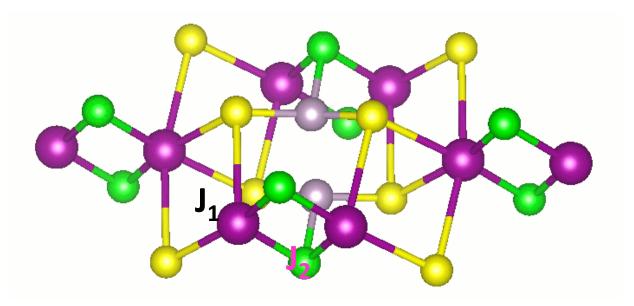
Movement changes the angle associated with J1.

Almost rigid rotation of the structure associated with J2

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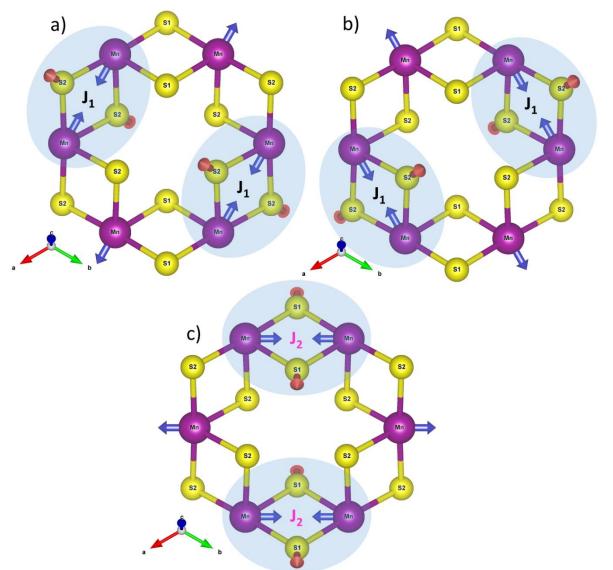
Ag mode 153.6 cm⁻¹

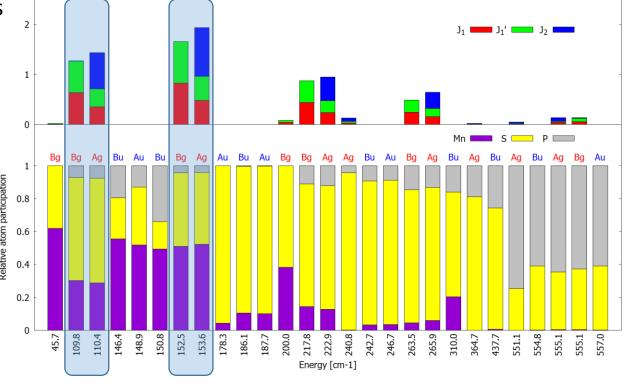
Movement changes the angle associated with J1 and J2.

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Projection in modes associated with the super exchange angles

Virtual phonons modes, each one affecting one pair of angles





Four pairs of modes have significant projections to the virtual modes.

The projections are larger for the two modes at 120 and 155 cm⁻¹ which are sensitive to the magnetic order.

Conclusion

In systems with a few leading AFM interactions, due to thermal excitations the atoms associated to the super-exchange paths will like to move to decrease the corresponding effective exchange interaction J

The Raman modes associated with these angles are sensitive to this effect and can give information about the magnetic transitions.

Collaborations

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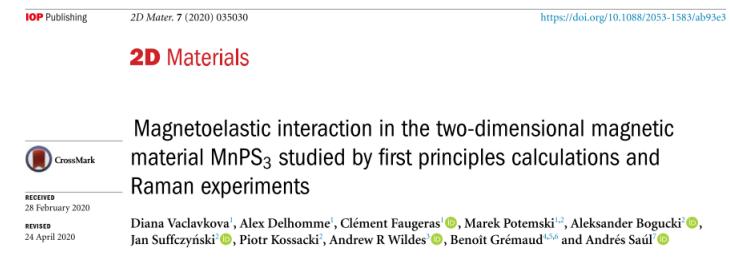
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