Determination of Exchange Parameters from Magnetic Susceptibility

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April 16, 2017

Abstract

We report a novel practical method to determine exchange parameters by using experimental susceptibility data in a relatively narrow temperature region and a low order high-temperature-expansion equation. This method is applied to a square lattice and a CaV$_4$O$_9$-type lattice, and its accuracy is discussed.

Keywords: magnetic susceptibility, exchange parameter, high temperature expansion, Heisenberg model, square lattice, CaV$_4$O$_9$

When we describe magnetic properties of a matter by a Heisenberg model, we must determine exchange parameters in the model to fit the matter. It is sometimes performed by the high temperature expansion (HTE) of the susceptibility of the Heisenberg model and by the comparison of it to the experimental data. However, meaningful experimental data are often restricted in a low temperature region because of, e.g., the temperature dependence of the lattice constant or structure. Further it becomes hard to calculate high order terms of the HTE because of striking increase of the number of diagrams if the model includes many exchange parameters. In some of such cases, an ordinary method of the direct fitting may not estimate exchange parameters with sufficient accuracy.

In this article, we report a novel practical method to determine exchange parameters by using experimental susceptibility data in a relatively narrow temperature region and a low order HTE equation. The essence of this method is that we construct an experimental formula for the experimental susceptibility
data in a power series of $1/T$ and then compare the coefficients of this formula to those of the HTE equation derived from the assumed Heisenberg model.

We denote the experimental data for the magnetic susceptibility by $\chi^{\text{EXP}}(T)$ and the experimental formula in a power series of $1/T$ by $\chi(T)$. To make expansion coefficients dimensionless we use $x = T_0/T$ as the expansion parameter, where $T_0$ is a constant temperature chosen arbitrarily. Then $\chi(T)$ is written as

$$\chi(T) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \chi^{(n)}(T),$$

$$\chi^{(n)}(T) = \frac{C}{T} \sum_{m=0}^{n} A_m x^m,$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where $C$ is Curie constant determined by experiments. The zeroth expansion coefficient is set as $A_0 = 1$ and the others ($A_m$’s for $m \geq 1$) are fitting parameters to be determined.

Using the same coefficients $A_m$’s, we define the following quantity:

$$\phi_m(x) = A_m + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} A_{m+l} x^l$$ \hspace{1cm} (2)

for each $m$. In the high temperature limit, it reduces to a coefficient as

$$\phi_m(0) = A_m.$$ \hspace{1cm} (3)

This quantity $\phi_m(x)$ is also defined by the recursion equation:

$$\phi_0(x) = \frac{T}{C} \chi(T),$$

$$\phi_m(x) = (\phi_{m-1}(x) - A_{m-1}) \frac{1}{x}$$ \hspace{1cm} (4)

for positive integer $m$.

The experimental data corresponding to $\phi_m(x)$ is similarly defined in the same recursive transformation:

$$\phi_0^{\text{EXP}}(x) = \frac{T}{C} \chi^{\text{EXP}}(T),$$

$$\phi_m^{\text{EXP}}(x) = (\phi_{m-1}^{\text{EXP}}(x) - A_{m-1}) \frac{1}{x}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (5)

The quantity $\phi_m^{\text{EXP}}$ is actually determined only when $A_{m-1}$ is known. It is also noticed that $\phi_m^{\text{EXP}}$ is defined only at experimental data points in $\{x\}$; e. g. it is not defined at very high temperatures ($x \sim 0$). $\phi_m$ must fit $\phi_m^{\text{EXP}}$, since $\chi$ is constructed to fit $\chi^{\text{EXP}}$ and $\phi_m$ is produced by the same transformation as $\phi_m^{\text{EXP}}$.

In the following, we inductively determine $\{A_m\}$ together with $\{\phi_m^{\text{EXP}}(x)\}$. For $m = 0$, $\phi_0^{\text{EXP}}(x)$ is defined by eq. (5) and $A_0 = 1$ is a definition. Assuming
that $\phi_{m-1}(x)$ and $A_{m-1}$ are known, we construct $\phi_{m}^{EXP}(x)$ and $A_{m}$. $\phi_{m}^{EXP}(x)$ is simply given by eq. (5). To determine $A_{m}$, we consider the high temperature limit ($x \to 0$) for $\phi_{m}^{EXP}(x)$ which corresponds to eq. (3) for $\phi_{m}(x)$. Since $\phi_{m}^{EXP}(x)$ does not have data points in the vicinity of $x=0$, we extrapolate the graph of $\phi_{m}^{EXP}(x)$ to $x=0$ by using a polynomial fitting function:

$$f_{m}(x) = \sum_{l=0}^{L} a_{ml} x^{l},$$

where coefficients $a_{ml}$'s ($l = 0, \ldots, L$) are fitting parameters to be determined for each $m$. The order $L$ of the polynomial is empirically chosen as 8 to 10 and is inspected with some examples as mentioned later. $A_{m}$ is then determined by $A_{m} \simeq f_{m}(0) = a_{m0}$ corresponding to eq. (3). Thus we have completed the inductive definition and have constructed an experimental HTE formula (1b).

On the other hand, we start from a Heisenberg Hamiltonian $H$ which is assumed to describe the magnetic properties of the material. The assumed Hamiltonian includes a set of exchange parameters $\{J_{i}\}$. For this Hamiltonian, we calculate the theoretical HTE formula

$$\chi_{HTE}(T) = \frac{C}{T} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} F_{m} x^{m}$$

by the standard diagrammatic method. The expansion coefficients $F_{m}$'s are functions of the set of exchange parameters $\{J_{i}\}$.

Lastly we compare the theoretical HTE formula (6) to the experimental formula (3). If the assumed Hamiltonian exactly describes the material, both the coefficients must be the same. Hence we can determine the exchange parameters by solving the set of equations $\{F_{m}(\{J_{i}\}) = A_{m}\}$. In real cases, however, the model Hamiltonian may not perfectly describe the matter and the experimental data may include some errors. We usually must be satisfied with a set $\{J_{i}\}$ which gives approximate matching between $\{F_{m}\}$ and $\{A_{m}\}$.

We inspect the method mentioned above for the Heisenberg model in a simple square lattice. Only an exchange parameter $J$ is between nearest neighbor spins. As data for susceptibility, we use the result of Quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) simulation by Troyer et al. instead of data of a real experiment. We choose the expansion parameter as $x = 1/T$ in the unit of $T_{0} = 1$ and use 12 QMC data points in $0.05 \leq T \leq 1.5$. The data is for $J = 1$ and $C = 0.25$.

Following the above procedure, we obtained coefficients of HTE as $A_{1} = -0.994$, $A_{2} = 0.483$ and $A_{3} = -0.135$ for $L = 8$. These values are little changed when the order $L$ of the fitting function changes from 6 to 10. We show $\phi_{m}^{EXP}(x)$ along with $f_{m}(x)$ for $m = 1$ to 3 in Fig. 1.

The corresponding theoretical coefficients are calculated as $F_{1} = -J$, $F_{2} = J^{2}/2$ and $F_{3} = -J^{3}/6$. In this one-parameter case, equation $F_{1}(J) = A_{1}$ is sufficient to determine $J$. The solution is $J = 0.994$, which is close to the
Figure 1: Transformed QMC data $\phi_m^{EXP}(x)$ (circle) and fitting function $f_m(x)$ (line) with $m = 1$ to 3 for a square lattice.

exact value $J = 1$. We estimate the accuracy of $A_m$ by the deviation $d_m = 2|(A_m - F_m(1))/(A_m + F_m(1))|$. It is given as $d_m = 0.006$, 0.017 and 0.070 for $m = 1$, 2 and 3, respectively. This result, i. e. this method, is fairly accurate despite the small number of the data points.

We also carried out the same analysis by restricting the temperature region as $0.05 \leq T \leq 0.9$, which includes only 9 data points. This region is below the maximum point of $\chi^{EXP}(T)$ and is rather a low temperature region. The present method gives $A_1 = -1.019$, $A_2 = 0.541$ and $A_3 = -0.185$ for $L = 8$. The corresponding deviations are $d_m = 0.019$, 0.079 and 0.327 for $m = 1, 2$ and 3, respectively. This estimation is practically sufficient to determine $J$ from $A_1$.

Next we apply our method to a Heisenberg model on a lattice which is a simplified two-dimensional model used for CaV$_4$O$_9$. This model includes two exchange parameters, $J_0$ for the plaquette link and $J_1$ for the dimer link. Theoretical coefficients are obtained as $F_1(J_0,J_1) = -(2J_0 + J_1)/4$ and $F_2(J_0,J_1) = (4J_0 - J_1)J_1/16$. Instead of experimental data, we use QMC data [2] and apply our method to determine $J_0$ and $J_1$. We used 15 QMC data points in $0.075 \leq T \leq 1.5$ and the data are for $C = 0.25$ in the unit of $T_0 = 1$. We examine two typical cases of $J_0/J_1 = 1.0$ and $J_0/J_1 = 0.5$. The system has no spin gap in the former case, while it has in the latter.

For the data of $(J_0, J_1) = (1, 1)$, our method produces coefficients, $A_1 = -0.750$ and $A_2 = 0.166$. The fitting was done by the 8th order polynomial ($L = 8$), $f_m$'s. The corresponding exact values are $F_1 = -0.750$ and $F_2 = 0.188$, and the deviations are $d_1 = 0.00$ and $d_2 = 0.12$. The complete matching between $A_1$ and $F_1$ over 3 digits are occasional, since the last digit changes if we change $L$ from 8 to 9 or 10. We calculated the exchange parameters as $(J_0, J_1) = (0.83, 1.34)$ or $(1.17, 0.66)$ by solving $F_1(J_0, J_1) = A_1$ and $F_2(J_0, J_1) = A_2$.

Similarly we applied our method for the data of $(J_0, J_1) = (0.5, 1)$. We obtained HTE coefficients as $A_1 = -0.500$ and $A_2 = 0.052$. The corresponding exact values are $F_1 = -0.500$ and $F_2 = 0.063$, and the deviations are $d_1 = 0.00$ and $d_2 = 0.19$. The obtained exchange parameters are $(J_0, J_1) = (0.46, 1.08)$.

The estimation gives better result for a square lattice than for a CaV$_4$O$_9$ lattice. A reason may be small HTE coefficients included in the latter lattice. Such small coefficients seems to appear, when the coordination number is small so that the spin fluctuation is strong. Large fluctuation is also a cause of the spin-gap formation. The present method is applicable to gapful systems as well as gapless systems as long as we only need coefficients of low orders.

We thank K. Kubo for useful discussion on high temperature expansion of Heisenberg models. One of us (K. T.) carried out this work partially in Department of Physics of Nagoya University as a Guest Associate Professor.
This work is partially supported by the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Japan. The computation in this work was carried out partially by using facilities of the Supercomputer Center, Institute for Solid State Physics, University of Tokyo.

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