Energetic selection of ordered states in a model of the 
Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ frustrated pyrochlore XY antiferromagnet

P A McClarty$^1$, S H Curnoe$^2$ and M J P Gingras$^{1,3}$

$^1$ Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1, Canada.
$^2$ Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s, NL, A1B 3X7, Canada.
$^3$ Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z8, Canada.
E-mail: gingras@gandalf.uwaterloo.ca, curnoe@mun.ca

Abstract. We consider the possibility that the discrete long-range ordered states of Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ are selected energetically at the mean field level as an alternative scenario that suggests selection via thermal fluctuations. We show that nearest neighbour exchange interactions alone are not sufficient for this purpose, but that anisotropies arising from excited single ion crystal field states in Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, together with appropriate anisotropic exchange interactions, can produce the required long range order. However, the effect of the single ion anisotropies is rather weak so we expect thermal or quantum fluctuations, in some guise, to be ultimately important in this material. We reproduce recent experimental results for the variation of magnetic Bragg peak intensities as a function of magnetic field.

1. Introduction

Frustration is a common feature of magnetic interactions on a pyrochlore lattice. It often has the consequence of introducing a large degree of degeneracy into the ground state. This might be relieved by weaker interactions with the result that long-range order sets in at temperatures much smaller than the overall energy scale set by the interactions which, itself, is typically correlated with the Curie-Weiss temperature. Fluctuations alone can relieve the energetic degeneracy (e.g. [1, 2]) by a mechanism called order-by-disorder or even select states that do not lie within the ground state manifold [3, 4]. The suppression of the transition temperature compared to the characteristic energy scale of the interactions can result in quantum fluctuations being more important than thermal fluctuations in dictating the ordering. Another possibility is that the degeneracy is not relieved in spite of weaker interactions or fluctuations so that spin liquids or states with unconventional long-range order emerge (see, for example [5, 6, 7]).

The diversity of theoretical possibilities that arises as a consequence of magnetic frustration is paralleled by experiments which have brought many unusual materials to light. Even among the heavy rare earth titanate pyrochlore magnets, one can find materials that have no conventional long-range order at the lowest temperatures explored - the spin ices Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and Dy$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [8], and the cooperative paramagnets Tb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [9] and Yb$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [10], and materials which do exhibit conventional long-range order, but which are puzzling in their own right: Gd$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [11] and Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [12, 13, 14].
In this article, we consider the latter material. Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, which has a Curie-Weiss temperature $\theta_{\text{CW}} \approx -15.9$ K [15], undergoes a zero-field transition at about 1.2 K into a phase with ordering wavevector $\mathbf{q} = 0$ [12, 13]. The magnetic structure has been characterized through an analysis of spherical neutron polarimetry data [13]. There are six domains which can be represented by showing the spin configuration on a single tetrahedron. Figure 1 represents the spin orientation on a tetrahedral primitive unit cell for a $\mathbf{q} = 0$ ordered state; two others are obtained by discrete global rotations and the remainder are time reverses of the first three. Henceforth, we refer to these as $\psi_2$ states to conform to the notation used in [12] and [13]; these states transform according to the magnetic two dimensional irreducible representation $E_g$ based on the octahedral point group $O_h$ of the pyrochlore lattice for which the spins are oriented perpendicular to the local $\langle 111 \rangle$ directions. The crystal field is responsible for the local $xy$ anisotropy, but the occurrence of discrete ordered states is not presently understood [2, 12].

An inelastic neutron scattering scan for scattering along the $\mathbf{q} = [22L]$ direction has revealed a gapless or almost gapless mode in zero field at $\mathbf{q} = [220]$ [14]. As a magnetic field $\mathbf{H}$ along $[110]$ increases from zero, one finds that the spectrum is gapped for fields around $|\mathbf{H}| \approx 0.5$T and for strong fields $|\mathbf{H}| \approx 5.0$T but that there is a regime in between where it is apparently gapless. It has been suggested, on this basis that there is a field-driven quantum phase transition in this material [14].

In connection with Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, an easy plane model, with classical spins constrained to lie in the local $\langle 111 \rangle$ planes and interacting via isotropic exchange [2, 12], has been studied. Energetically, this model has an extensive ground state degeneracy but Monte Carlo simulations show that there is a thermally-driven order-by-disorder transition to the $\psi_2$ states. However, it is known that this cannot be the complete solution to the problem of $\psi_2$ selection in Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [2, 12]. First of all, experimentally, the zero field transition is known to be continuous, whereas the simulations reveal a strong first order transition. Another problem is that the Er$^{3+}$ ions have a dipole moment that breaks the degeneracy associated with the isotropic exchange, leading to a different $\mathbf{q} = 0$ ordering to that seen in Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [16]. Finally, the heat capacity in the low temperature phase varies as $T^3$ whereas the model predicts a linear variation with temperature.

This paper investigates the conditions under which the selection of $\psi_2$ states as ground states may be determined energetically and at the mean field level in the real compound. We reason as follows: regardless of the mechanism behind the observed ordering, a six-fold anisotropy must be present in the real system to select the discrete set of states. Whether this anisotropy is generated “energetically”, “entropically” or “dynamically” via quantum fluctuations is most likely not a meaningful question from an experimental point of view because, in all likelihood, the experimental observables determined for a material exhibiting true order-by-disorder could be mimicked by an appropriate choice of interactions that uniquely select the ordered states. Given that the only known order-by-disorder mechanism is problematic and that energetic selection can be studied, for example, within mean field theory, we adopt the latter approach. The question is then whether such interactions could be natural in Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ in the sense that they could be justified within a microscopic model. We investigate this issue in the following.
2. Selection by exchange interactions

In this section, we look at the problem of whether the most general nearest neighbour interactions, expressed in terms of the Er$^{3+}$ angular momenta on a pyrochlore, can break the local XY spin rotation symmetry down to the observed ordered states of Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ without any single ion anisotropies. We show that, in fact, these interactions are not sufficient to select the required states. We start from the nearest neighbour exchange interactions allowed by symmetry on a pyrochlore lattice which can be found in [17] and which we present here, in Table 1, with respect to four sets of local axes - one for each sublattice. The sum of the terms in each of the four columns of the Table is a linear combination of bilinear operators that is invariant under the point group of the pyrochlore lattice $O_h$. We denote the four invariants by $X_p$ for $p = 1, \ldots, 4$. The isotropic exchange interaction, nearest neighbour dipole-dipole interaction, $J \cdot J - 3(J_i \cdot \hat{r}_{ij})(J_j \cdot \hat{r}_{ij})$, where $\hat{r}_{ij}$ are unit vectors connecting nearest neighbours, and the Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya (DM) interaction, $D \cdot (J_i \times J_j)$ [18, 19], can be written as linear combinations of these invariants. For example, isotropic exchange $\sum_{(i,j)} J_i \cdot J_j = \sum_{p=1}^4 X_p$. Ordinarily the dipole-dipole interaction is long-ranged; because we cut it off beyond nearest neighbours, which is not unreasonable for modelling a zero moment $q = 0$ ordering, we refer to it as the pseudo-dipole interaction.

We can express these exchange interactions in terms of bilinears that are the products of basis vectors of the point group. For Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$, the irreducible representation that goes critical at the transition temperature is the two dimensional irreducible representation $E_g$ [12] which has orthogonal basis vectors that we denote by $J_{E_+}$ and $J_{E_-}$ from which the order parameter can be constructed. These basis vectors are written explicitly in terms of $J^p$ components in equation A.1 in the Appendix. One can show that these basis vectors appear in the symmetry allowed exchange interactions $X_p$ only in the combination $J_{E_+} J_{E_-}$ (see Appendix). The crucial point of the argument is that this exchange term does not distinguish any directions in the easy planes of the four sublattices so, in the thermodynamic limit, one would expect a continuous symmetry breaking provided the coefficient of $J_{E_+} J_{E_-}$ in the Hamiltonian is negative. This situation is captured by a Landau theory based on the $E_g$ irreducible representation to quartic order in the order parameter. The order parameter for Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ is the expectation value of $\alpha_{E_+} J_{E_+} + \alpha_{E_-} J_{E_-}$ for $\alpha_{E_+} = \alpha_{E_-} = 1$ and then five other values related to the first by symmetry. These are minima of a Landau theory to sixth order in the invariants of $E_g$ (see, for example, [20]).

The conclusion of this section is that nearest neighbour exchange interactions allowed by symmetry on a pyrochlore cannot, in the absence of single ion anisotropies, break the symmetry uniquely down to the $\psi_2$ states. In the next section, we explore a mechanism for the generation of sixth order terms in the Landau theory for Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$.

3. Inclusion of in-plane anisotropies

We mentioned in Section 1 that, with isotropic exchange interactions, the pyrochlore with XY anisotropy has an extensive ground state degeneracy [2], and that the discrete $\psi_2$ states belong to this continuous set of ground states. Then, the inclusion of a six-fold anisotropy, with minima along the spin directions of the $\psi_2$ states, must break the degeneracy exclusively down to the six $\psi_2$ domains observed in Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$. Single ion anisotropies were omitted in the symmetry arguments of Section 2. With classical spins, the relevant single ion anisotropy is $J^0_+ + J^0_- \sim \cos(6\phi)$, where $\phi$ is an angle in the local $\langle 111 \rangle$ plane. This is proportional to the Racah operator $O_2^0$ which appears in the crystal field Hamiltonian [21]. So, although the lowest crystal field doublet has almost perfect XY degeneracy, one might expect that the mixing of excited crystal field levels into the ground state induced by the interactions between the angular momenta could perhaps introduce a six-fold anisotropy of the correct modulation to break the symmetry energetically. This would fulfil the requirement that the Hamiltonian be
the correct modulation, we have studied a microscopic Hamiltonian $H$ present if the symmetry is broken in the ground state. However, as we point out below, one well-motivated from a microscopic point of view. We note, however, that recent inelastic neutron scattering experiments on Eu$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [14] do not resolve a gap to spin excitations which should be present if the symmetry is broken in the ground state. However, as we point out below, one would expect this gap, if it exists, to be small.

To investigate whether the excited crystal field levels can introduce a six-fold anisotropy with the correct modulation, we have studied a microscopic Hamiltonian $H = H_{\text{cf}} + H_{\text{ex}}$ where

$$H_{\text{cf}} = \sum_i B^a_0 O^a_{0,i} + B^b_0 O^b_{0,i} + B^a_1 O^a_{1,i} + B^b_1 O^b_{1,i} + B^a_2 O^a_{2,i} + B^b_2 O^b_{2,i}$$

$$H_{\text{ex}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mu, \nu} \sum_{a, b} \sum_{\rho, \omega} J^{a \beta}_{\alpha \beta}(\mathbf{R}_\mu) J^b_{\alpha \beta}(\mathbf{R}_\nu) J^\beta_{\alpha \beta}(\mathbf{R}_\rho).$$

The Greek indices are angular momentum components, $a$ and $b$ are sublattice indices (ranging from 1 to 4) and $\mathbf{R}_\mu$ is a primitive lattice vector with $\mathbf{R}_{\mu \nu} = \mathbf{R}_\mu - \mathbf{R}_\nu$, index $i$ runs over all magnetic ions. The crystal field parameters $B^\mu_m$ are rescaled from those of Ho$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ [21], and the choice of nearest neighbour exchange couplings $\omega_p$ is guided by the requirement that, in the phase diagrams to be presented below, the order of magnitude of the couplings should be consistent with the experimental Curie-Weiss temperature [15] which we have fitted by computing the uniform susceptibility in the random phase approximation (RPA) [22], and in the paramagnetic phase, from the Hamiltonian given above. We rewrite $H_{\text{ex}}$ on a single tetrahedron as $\sum_{p=1}^4 \omega_p X_p$, hence constraining the elements of $J^{a \beta}_{\alpha \beta}$.

To proceed, we carry out a mean-field decoupling of $J^a_{\alpha}(\mu) J^b_{\beta}(\nu)$ by writing it as

$$J^a_{\alpha}(\mu) J^b_{\beta}(\nu) + J^b_{\alpha}(\nu) J^a_{\beta}(\mu) - \langle J^a_{\alpha}(\mu) \rangle \langle J^b_{\beta}(\nu) \rangle + \langle J^b_{\alpha}(\mu) \rangle \langle J^a_{\beta}(\nu) \rangle - \langle J^b_{\alpha}(\nu) \rangle \langle J^a_{\beta}(\mu) \rangle$$

and omitting the last term which quantifies the fluctuations. The angled brackets indicate a thermal average $\langle A \rangle \equiv \frac{1}{T} \text{Tr} \left\{ A e^{-\beta H} \right\}$, and we have abbreviated $J^a_{\alpha}(\mathbf{R}_\mu)$ by $J^a_{\alpha}(\mu)$.

The original interacting problem is reduced to a single ion problem

$$H_{\text{MF}} = H_{\text{cf}} + \sum_{\mu, \alpha} \left( J^a_{\alpha}(\mu) - \frac{1}{2} \langle J^a_{\alpha}(\mu) \rangle \right) h^a_{\alpha}(\mu)$$

where $h^a_{\alpha}$ is an effective magnetic field of the form $h^a_{\alpha}(\mu) \equiv \sum_{\nu, \beta} J^{a \beta}_{\alpha \beta}(\mathbf{R}_{\mu \nu}) \langle J^b_{\beta}(\nu) \rangle$.

### Table 1

Exchange interactions over a single tetrahedron expressed in terms of local coordinates for each magnetic ion. The coordinate system is described in the Appendix. Invariant $X_p$ (for each $p$) is the sum over terms in its column. Term $J_i \cdot J_j$ for given $i$ and $j$ is the sum over terms in its row. $\epsilon = \exp(2\pi i/3)$. h.c. stands for Hermitian conjugate.

| Term | $X_1$ | $X_2$ | $X_3$ | $X_4$ |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| $J_1 \cdot J_2$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_2^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_2^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_2^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_2^+ + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $J_1 \cdot J_3$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_3^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_3^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_3^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_3^+ + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $J_1 \cdot J_4$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_1^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $J_2 \cdot J_3$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_2^+ J_3^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_2^+ J_3^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_2^+ J_3^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_2^+ J_3^+ + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $J_2 \cdot J_4$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_2^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_2^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_2^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_2^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $J_3 \cdot J_4$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_3^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_3^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_3^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} J_3^+ J_4^+ + \text{h.c.}$ |
Mean field solutions for a cubic unit cell and examination of the RPA susceptibility show that, for the parameters we have explored, the ordering wavevector is $q = 0$. So, for a qualitative investigation, we can, at this time, restrict our attention to a single tetrahedron.

Starting from random choices for the twelve expectation values $\langle J_α^a \rangle$, the Hamiltonian is iterated to self-consistency for different couplings. We have found that the six $\psi_2$ domains are solutions to the mean field equations for some regions of parameter space. Figures 2 and 3 show phase diagrams including each showing such a region - isotropic exchange and pseudo-dipole interactions, and isotropic exchange with DM interactions respectively. The self-consistent solutions are indicated on the phase diagrams. As expected, we find the $q = 0$ states reported in [16] with isotropic exchange and positive pseudo-dipole coupling. Though the physical dipole-dipole coupling is positive, we find the Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ ordered states only when the pseudo-dipole coupling is negative in this case. We find the same $\psi_2$ states with positive DM coupling and isotropic exchange for $J < J_{DM}$ (see Fig. 3). We have also found couplings $\chi_1 > 0$ and $\chi_2 < 0$, given in the Appendix, such that $\psi_2$ order occurs for the positive pseudo-dipole coupling of $D = 0.02$ K appropriate to Er$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$[12].

**Figure 2.** Phase diagram for isotropic exchange $J$ and pseudo-dipole $D$ couplings. Three different $q = 0$ phases arise as indicated. From bottom to top, there a configuration with a net moment, then the $\psi_2$ state, and then the state reported in [16].

**Figure 3.** Phase diagram for isotropic exchange $J$ and Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interactions $J_{DM}$. From bottom to top, there is a state familiar for dipole interactions [16], then the $\psi_2$ state and then a $\psi_3$ state [12].

The progress of iterations of the mean field equations to self-consistency sheds some light on the robustness of the energetic selection mechanism. Figure 4 shows the free energy per site plotted against the number of iterations when the couplings are such that the $\psi_2$ states are selected. The first few iterations have been cut off to see the scale of the trend. An accompanying plot, Figure 5, shows the variation in the angle of $\langle J \rangle$ in the local $\langle 111 \rangle$ plane. The spins settle into their respective $xy$ planes within a few iterations but around $O(10^4)$ iterations are required for the spins to converge to the $\psi_2$ angles. The variation in the free energy across this interval is $O(10^{-6})$ K. This is in marked contrast to the case of isotropic exchange and positive pseudo-dipole coupling where the convergence is complete within $O(10^3)$ iterations corresponding to energetic selection without any need for single ion anisotropies within the local $xy$ planes coming from excited crystal field levels.

This result can be understood in terms of a mean field treatment of the quantum corrections to the Hamiltonian obtained by projecting onto the space spanned by the ground state crystal field doublet (see, for instance, [23]). Such corrections are computed perturbatively in powers of $J/\Delta$.
where $J$ is the characteristic energy scale of the exchange, which is about 0.1 K for $\text{Er}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$, and $\Delta \sim 10^2$ K is the scale of the crystal field splitting [12]. These terms involve admixing with excited crystal field states which are responsible for bringing the six-fold anisotropy into the mean field solutions. The smallness of $J/\Delta$ and the fact that six-fold anisotropy cannot be generated to lowest order in the perturbative corrections implies that the selection of $\psi_2$ states is very weak within the mechanism considered here.

4. Bragg scattering in a magnetic field

We have studied the effect on the elastic neutron scattering pattern of a magnetic field applied to the material in its low temperature ordered state. Following experiments by Ruff and co-workers [14] in which the intensities of five Bragg peaks were measured as the field strength was varied, we have applied a field in the crystallographic [110] direction. A Zeeman term $H_Z = -\mu_B g \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{H}$ was added to $H_{\text{MF}}$ (Equation 4). The field was increased incrementally starting from one zero field $\psi_2$ domain and the self-consistent solution was found for each field. Figure 6 is the mean field result and Figure 7 are the experimental intensities taken from [14]. In the experimental range $|\mathbf{H}| = 0$ T to $|\mathbf{H}| = 5$ T, there is good qualitative agreement between the two sets of intensities for the chosen couplings. The maximum $|\mathbf{H}| = 5$ T is sufficiently small that the spins remain in their respective $xy$ planes. The change in the spin configuration coincides with the picture presented in [14] that has spins along chains in the field direction maintaining antiferromagnetic correlations before rotating together into the field direction. Most of the spin rotation happens in a narrow band around 1.5 T in both the experiment and in the theory. However, one can change the band of fields for which this sharp feature is seen by varying the couplings (of course, with the condition that the $\psi_2$ states are the $\mathbf{H} = 0$ ordered states).

5. Discussion

We have asked in this article whether models for $\text{Er}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ can be written down that are microscopically well-motivated and which energetically select the experimentally observed $\psi_2$ states. This approach stands in contrast to earlier investigations that focus on fluctuation-induced ordering [2, 12]. We have found that there are indeed such models with crystal field terms and suitable symmetry-allowed bilinear interactions between the nearest neighbour angular momenta. We have shown that models with only bilinear interactions cannot select the required states. The same is true for local $\langle 111 \rangle$ plane $xy$ models with these bilinear interactions. The introduction of crystal field terms does allow for $\psi_2$ states to be selected for certain regions in the space of couplings - the interaction-induced admixing of the ground doublet with excited crystal field levels being the source of the necessary six-fold anisotropy. However, because the energy scale of the crystal field splitting is very much greater than the characteristic scale of the
interactions, the selection of these discrete ground states is extremely weak. Even if the exchange interactions were such that \( \psi_2 \) long-range ordering would occur, one would expect the transition temperature \( T_c \) to be very much smaller than the experimental \( T_c \) provided that an order-by-disorder mechanism does not select the \( \psi_2 \) states. In view of these results, and the problems with the isotropic exchange order-by-disorder mechanism that were outlined in the Introduction, we tentatively conclude that neither of these proposals is sufficient on its own. It is conceivable, instead, that they complement one another - that the microscopic model might weakly select the \( \psi_2 \) states and that fluctuations have the effect of raising the transition temperature. One may ask whether order-by-disorder could operate with a continuous transition rather than a strongly first order transition in these circumstances. It might also be that quantum fluctuations must be considered to find the correct answer to this question as suggested in \([12]\).

One success of our mean field theory approach is that we have been able to reproduce the experimental variation of the magnetic Bragg peaks intensities in a magnetic field in the \([110]\) direction. Provided we choose the interactions correctly, in the range of fields where the Bragg intensities change most sharply, the theory matches the experimental field strength. The theory does not reproduce the upturn in intensities between 0 T and 0.5 T however; the mean field theory selects two domains out of the six in very weak fields (\(|H| \ll 0.5 \text{ T}\)). Two interpretations for this upturn have been suggested in the literature: the first is that it is due to the selection of preferred domains \([12]\). The second interpretation comes from the observation that a broad component to the scattering is suppressed for weak fields and that this coincides with the upturn in the main scattering component to conserve the intensity. It has been suggested that quantum fluctuations are responsible for the broader scattering peaks and that these are suppressed rapidly in weak fields \([14]\). Such an effect may lend weight to an investigation into zero field ordering in \( \text{Er}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7 \) induced by quantum effects.

5.1. Acknowledgments
We would like to acknowledge support from the NSERC and the CRC program (Tier 1, MJPG).

Appendix
The basis of four magnetic ions with respect to face centred cubic system is \( r_1 = \frac{a}{4}(0, 0, 0) \), \( r_2 = \frac{a}{4}(1, 1, 0) \), \( r_3 = \frac{a}{4}(1, 0, 1) \) and \( r_4 = \frac{a}{4}(0, 1, 1) \) where \( a \) is the edge length of the cubic unit cell. The local coordinate system is chosen with local z axes in the \((111)\) directions. The \( x \) axes are chosen as follows \( x_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(1, 1, -2) \), \( x_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-1, -1, -2) \), \( x_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-1, 1, 2) \) and \( x_4 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(1, -1, 2) \) and the axes are right-handed.

The basis vectors for the different irreducible representations of \( O_h \) are given below. The four

\begin{figure}[h!]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure6.png}
\caption{Bragg peak intensities from mean field theory with isotropic exchange \( J = 0.1 \) K and dipole-dipole coupling \( D = -0.02 \) K. \( T = 0.3 \) K.}
\end{figure}

\begin{figure}[h!]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure7.png}
\caption{Experimental magnetic Bragg peak intensities for \( \text{Er}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7 \) in a \([1, 1, 0]\) field taken from \([14]\).}
\end{figure}
local \( z \) components of the angular momenta are decomposed into \( A_2 \oplus T_1 \) and the remaining components are \( E \oplus T_1 \oplus T_2 \).

\[
\begin{align*}
J_{E_+} &= J_+^x + J_+^y + J_+^z + J_+^T \\
J_{A_2} &= J_2^x + J_2^y + J_3^x + J_3^z \\
J_{T_{1,1}}^x &= J_1^- + J_2^- + J_3^- + J_4^- \\
J_{T_{1,1}}^z &= J_1^+ + J_2^- + J_3^- + J_4^- \\
J_{T_{1,2}}^x &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon(J_1^- - J_2^- - J_3^+ + J_4^+) + \text{h.c.} \\
J_{T_{1,2}}^z &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon(J_1^+ - J_2^+ + J_3^- - J_4^+) + \text{h.c.} \\
J_{T_{2}}^x &= \frac{i}{2} \epsilon(J_1^- - J_2^+ - J_3^+ + J_4^+) + \text{h.c.} \\
J_{T_{2}}^z &= \frac{i}{2} \epsilon(J_1^+ - J_2^- + J_3^- - J_4^+) + \text{h.c.}
\end{align*}
\]

The appearances of the \( T_1 \) irreducible representation have labels to distinguish them: \( T_{1,1} \) and \( T_{1,2} \). The phase \( \epsilon = \exp(2\pi i/3) \). The exchange invariants, given in Table 1, can be written in terms of these basis vectors as follows

\[
\begin{align*}
X_1 &= -\frac{1}{8} J_{T_{2}}^z + \frac{1}{24} J_{T_{1,1}}^z \\
X_2 &= -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} J_{T_{1,1}} \cdot J_{T_{1,2}} \\
X_3 &= \frac{1}{6} J_{T_{1,2}}^z - \frac{1}{6} J_{T_{2}}^z \\
X_4 &= -\frac{1}{8} J_{E_+} J_{E_-} + \frac{1}{24} J_{T_{1,2}}^z + \frac{1}{24} J_{T_{2}}^z
\end{align*}
\]

so, as stated in Section 2, the only appearance of the basis vectors of the two dimensional irreducible representation \( E_2 \), which control the symmetry breaking to the \( \psi_2 \) states, is in the combination \( J_{E_+} J_{E_-} \) which does not lead uniquely to the \( \psi_2 \) states, as outlined in Section 2.

In Section 3, we make reference to invariants \( \{ \chi \} \), which are linear combinations of those in Table 1, \( \chi_1 \equiv 2X_1 + \frac{1}{2} X_2 + \frac{1}{2} X_3 + 2X_4 \) and \( \chi_2 \equiv -X_1 + \frac{1}{2} X_2 + \frac{1}{2} X_3 - X_4 \), which have the property that \( \chi_1 + \chi_2 \) is the isotropic exchange on a tetrahedron.

References

[1] Bramwell S T, Gingras M J P, Reimers J N 1994 J. Appl. Phys. 75 5523
[2] Champion J D M and Holdsworth P C W 2004 J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 16 S665
[3] Pinettes C, Canals B and Lacroix C 2002 Phys. Rev. B 66 024422
[4] Chern G-W, Moessner R and Tchernyshyov O 2008 Preprint arXiv:0803.2332 (to appear in Phys. Rev. B)
[5] Moessner R and Chalker J T 1998 Phys. Rev. Lett. 80 2929
[6] Hermle M, Fisher M P A and Balents L 2004 Phys. Rev. B 69 064404
[7] Henley C L 2005 Phys. Rev. B 71 014424
[8] Bramwell S T and Gingras M J P 2001 Science 294 1495
[9] Enjalran M et al. 2004 J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 16 S673
[10] Hodges J A et al. 2001 Can. J. Phys. 79 1373
[11] Bonville P et al. 2003 J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 15 7777
[12] Champion J D M et al. 2003 Phys. Rev. B 68 020401(R)
[13] Poole A, Wills A S and Lelievre-Berna E 2007 J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 19 452201
[14] Ruff J P C et al. 2008 Phys. Rev. Lett. 101 147205
[15] S. T. Bramwell et al. 2000 J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 12 483
[16] Palmer S E and Chalker J T 2000 Phys. Rev. B 62 488
[17] Curnoe S H 2008 Phys. Rev. B 78 094418
[18] Elhajal M, Canals B and Lacroix C 2004 J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 16 S917
[19] Elhajal M et al. 2005 Phys. Rev. B 71 094420
[20] Sergienko I A and Curnoe S H 2003 J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. 72 1607
[21] Rosenkranz S et al. 2000 J. Appl. Phys. 87 5914
[22] Jensen J and Mackintosh A R 1991 Rare Earth Magnetism (Oxford University Press)
[23] Molavian H, Gingras M J P and Canals B 2007 Phys. Rev. Lett. 98 157204