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Quantum Disorder and Excitations in One-Dimensional Molecule-Based Magnets

The search for states of matter such as quantum spin-liquids involves the characterization of disordered magnetic ground states, and spinons or topological excitations, along with signatures of entanglement [1]. Examples of these features are also found in one-dimensional spin chains. Here we describe our recent μ SR work on such systems built from metal centres linked by molecules.

We discuss examples of linear, staggered and chiral spin-chain materials, and related systems based on dimers. Measurements are supported by electronic-structure calculations that reveal not only muon sites, but also the underlying interactions at play. We review results on linear and staggered $s = 1/2$ chains where the propagation of spinon excitations are probed [2] and on new materials derived from the same structural motifs [3]. Our main topic is new results on the unusual $s = 1/2$ chiral-chain material $[\text{Cu}(\text{pym})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]\text{SiF}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, whose spinons appear diffusive, and which undergoes a subtle field-induced transition from quantum disorder to magnetic order in applied fields above 3 T [4,5]. The extension of this work to topologically non-trivial $s = 1$ systems is also discussed [3].

- [1] T. Lancaster et al., Contemp. Phys. **64**, 127 (2023).
- [2] B.M. Huddart et al., Phys. Rev. B **103** (6), L060405 (2021).
- [3] S. Vaidya et al., Phys. Rev. B **111**, 014421 (2025).
- [4] J. Liu et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **122**, 057207 (2019).
- [5] R. Scatena et al., in preparation (2025).

Email

tom.lancaster@durham.ac.uk

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Supervisors Name

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Supervisors Email

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Primary author: LANCASTER, Tom (Durham University)

Co-authors: HERNANDEZ-MELIAN, Alberto (University of Southampton); Dr HUDDART, Benjamin (University of Oxford); PRATT, Francis (ISIS); Prof. MANSON, Jamie (Eastern Washington); BLUNDELL, Stephen (University of Oxford); GUGUCHIA, Zurab (PSI Center for Neutron and Muon Sciences, Switzerland)

Presenter: LANCASTER, Tom (Durham University)

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