

THE SAGA OF $\text{BaCo}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2$

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A honeycomb compound $\text{BaCo}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2$ has been studied since 1970s, where using inelastic neutron scattering it was shown to exhibit a spiral state [1]. Recently, $\text{BaCo}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2$ was also put in spotlight due to recent interest in cobalt-based honeycomb materials [2]. They were proposed to host Kitaev exchange model [3], an exactly solvable model that has Majorana excitations with topological properties [4]. Recent INS also showed that $\text{BaCo}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2$ has unique double-zigzag ground state [5] and a plateau in the magnetization process [1,2].

We have performed an extensive search through a eight-parameter phase space of the Kitaev-Heisenberg model and showed that third-neighbor anisotropic Kitaev-type interaction is the one necessary for stabilization of double-zigzag, which we also confirmed by DMRG calculations [6]. We have also calculated field phase diagram for the minimal model that stabilizes double-zigzag ground state and establish a parameter regime where experimentally observed sequence of magnetic phase transitions is realized [7].

References

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