

Francisite: a candidate “antiferroelectric” multiferroic

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Francisite: mais ce n'est pas français...

$\text{CuBi}(\text{SeO}_3)_2\text{O}_2\text{Cl}$... or simply **CBSCI**



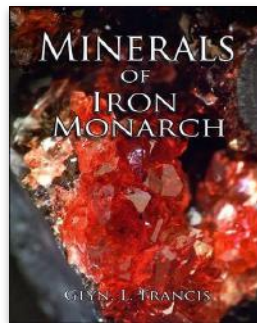
Iron monarch (open cut mine), Iron Knob, South Australia



Original ore specimen submitted by Glyn Francis in 1987.

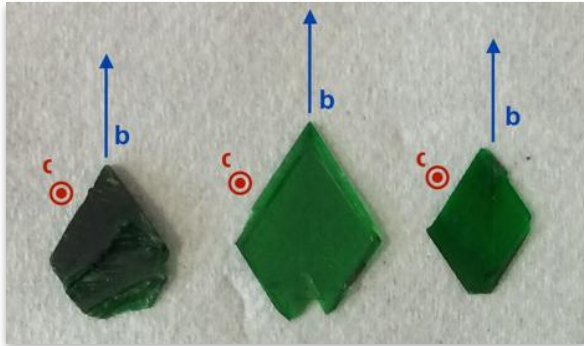
Previously unidentified $\text{CuBi}(\text{SeO}_3)_2\text{O}_2\text{Cl}$ compound is first characterised in 1990 [A. Pring *et al.* *Am. Mineral.* 75: 1421 (1990)].

“...named in recognition of Glyn Francis’ contribution to the understanding and preservation of the minerals of the Iron Monarch ore body.” - A Pring *et al.* 1990



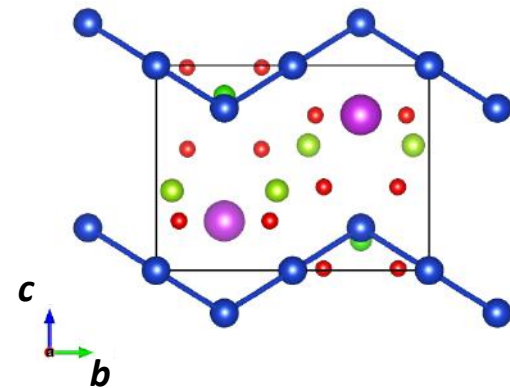
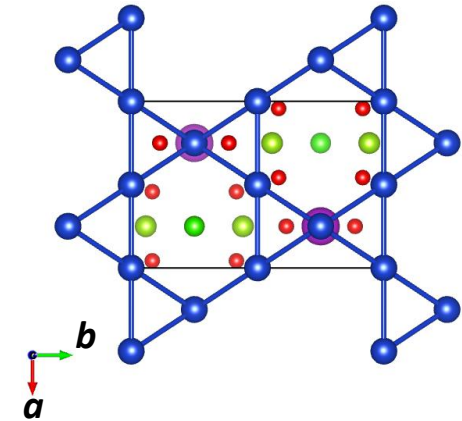
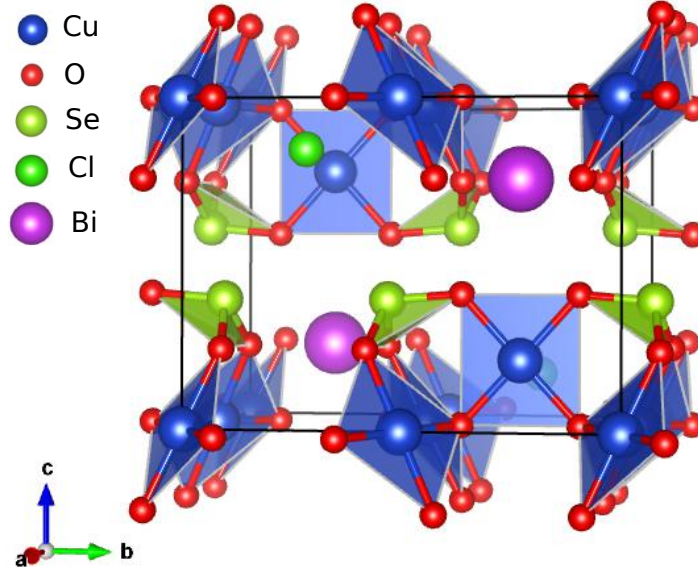
Francisite: $\text{CuBi}(\text{SeO}_3)_2\text{O}_2\text{Cl}\dots$ or simply CBSCI

Single crystal samples



~10 mm

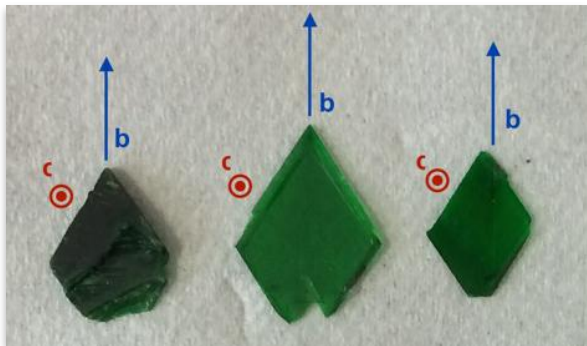
$\text{Cu}_3\text{Bi}(\text{SeO}_3)_2\text{O}_2\text{Cl}$



- Orthorhombic ***Pmmn*** space group (centrosymmetric).
[A. Pring *et al.* Am. Mineral 1990]
- CuO_4 square plackets produce **buckled Cu^{2+} kagome lattice** layered along *c*.
- Layers are separated by SeO_3 triangular pyramids and Bi atoms.
- Cl atoms confined within centres of hexagonal tunnels.

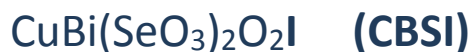
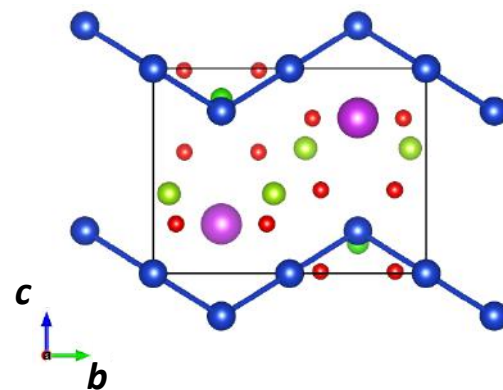
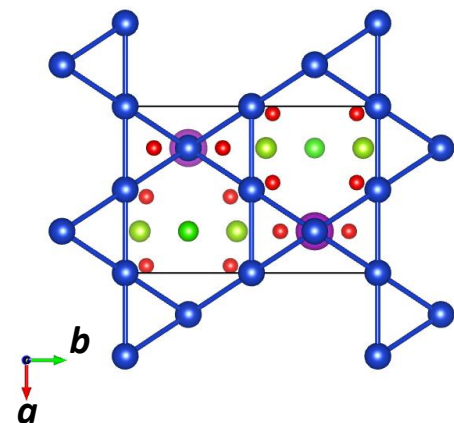
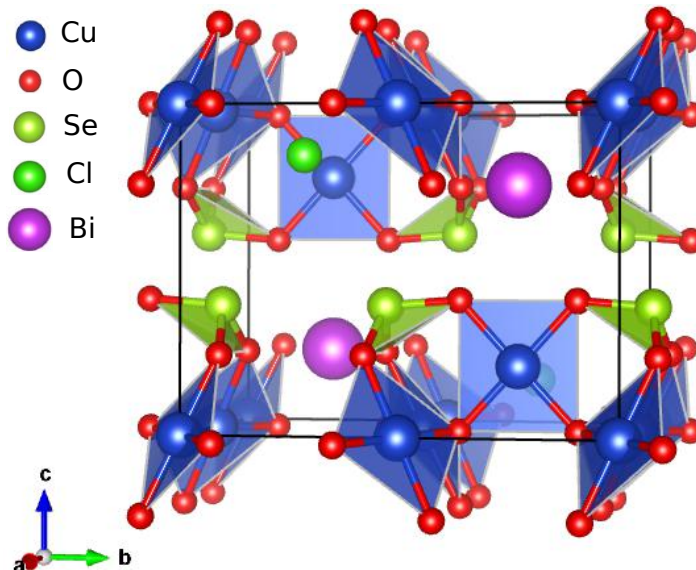
Francisite: $\text{CuBi}(\text{SeO}_3)_2\text{O}_2\text{Cl}\dots$ or simply CBSCI

Single crystal samples

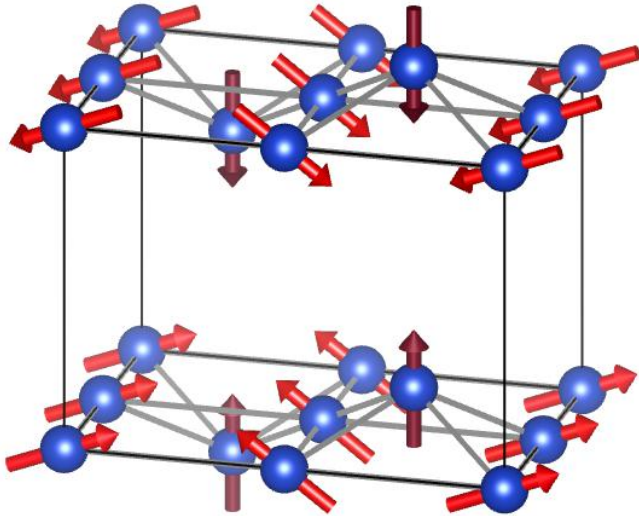


~10 mm

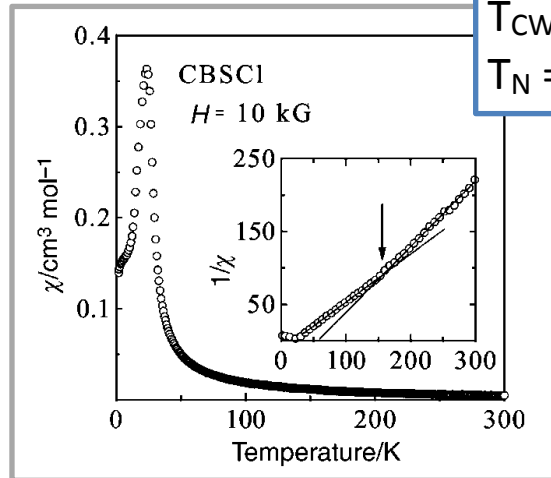
$\text{Cu}_3\text{Bi}(\text{SeO}_3)_2\text{O}_2\text{Cl}$



Magnetic frustration/order

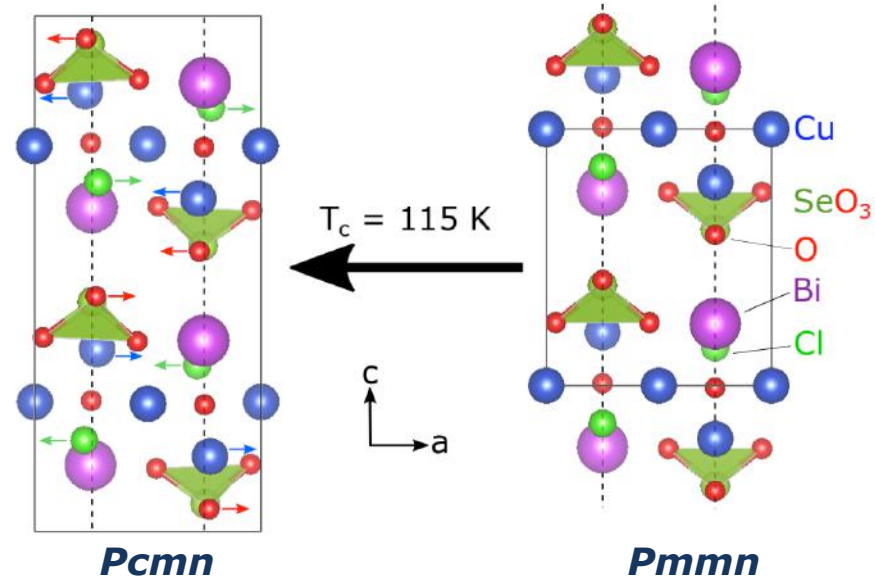


Magnetic susceptibility

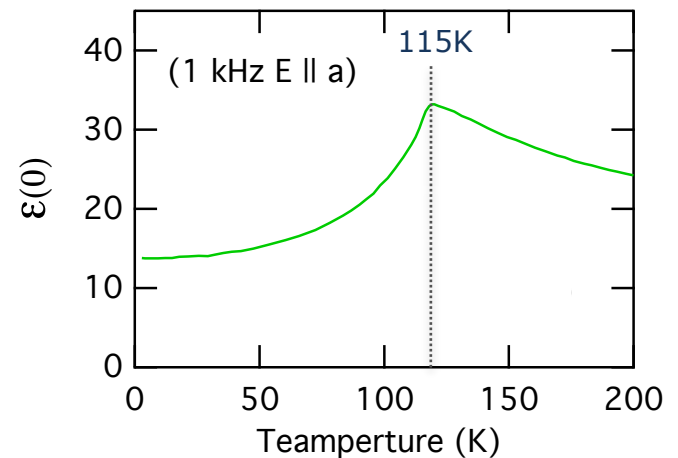


Millet J. Mater. Chem. 11 (2001)

Antipolar distortion



dielectric constant



Theory of Antiferroelectric Crystals

C. KITTEL

Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, California

(Received January 10, 1951)

Soft-mode spectroscopy: Experimental studies of structural phase transitions*

J. F. SCOTT

Department of Physics, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80302

Reviews of Modern Physics, Vol. 46, No. 1, January 1974

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 94, 014107 (2016)

Theory of antiferroelectric phase transitions

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effective field of each sub lattice

$$F_a = E + \beta_1 P_a - \beta_2 P_b; \quad F_b = E + \beta_1 P_b - \beta_2 P_a.$$

free energy

$$A(P_a, P_b, T) = A_0 + f(P_a^2 + P_b^2) + gP_a P_b + h(P_a^4 + P_b^4).$$

"...in general one cannot characterize a crystal at one temperature as antiferroelectric by any set of experimental measurements at that temperature."

"...antiferroelectricity is an ill defined, almost useless concept."

$$P_{\text{total}} = 0$$

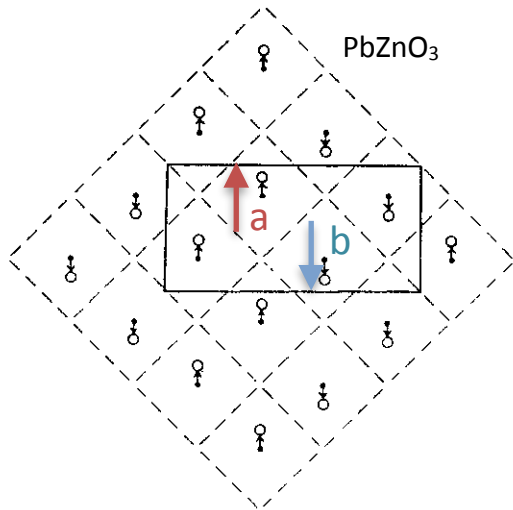
How do you define a sub lattice polarisation?

No macroscopic order parameter

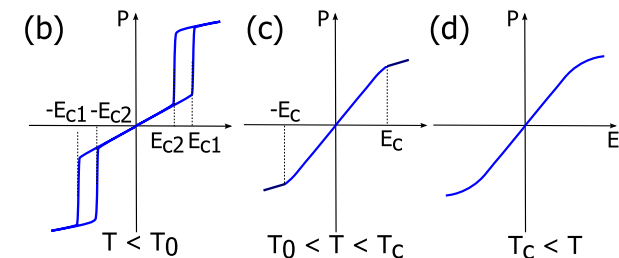
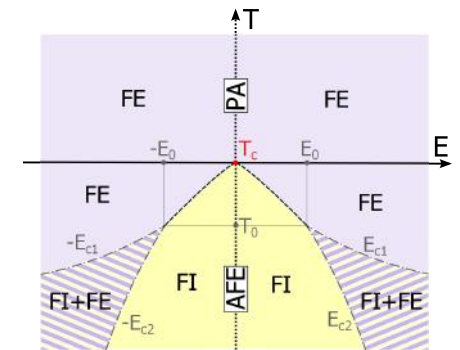
No broken symmetries!

$$\phi(\eta, P, T) = \phi_0(T) + \frac{\alpha}{2}\eta^2 + \frac{\beta}{4}\eta^4 + \frac{\gamma}{6}\eta^6 + \frac{P^2}{2\chi_0} + \frac{\delta}{2}\eta^2 P^2 - EP,$$

- local polar point group symmetry as order parameter.
- Displacive AFE characterised by **soft antipolar phonon mode**



Sawaguchi Phys. Rev. **83** (1951)



Antiferroelectric signatures

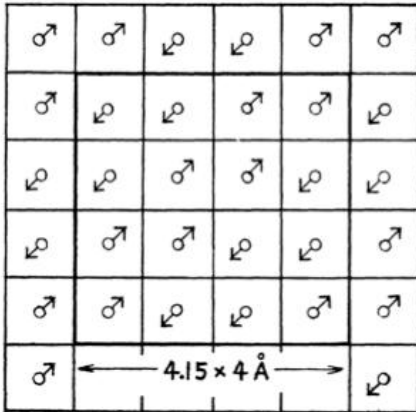


FIG. 11. A model of the atomic arrangement of PbZrO_3 , (001) plane. Although the true symmetry may be orthorhombic, we choose here tetragonal axes. An arrow shows the displacement of a heavy ion (probably a Pb ion).

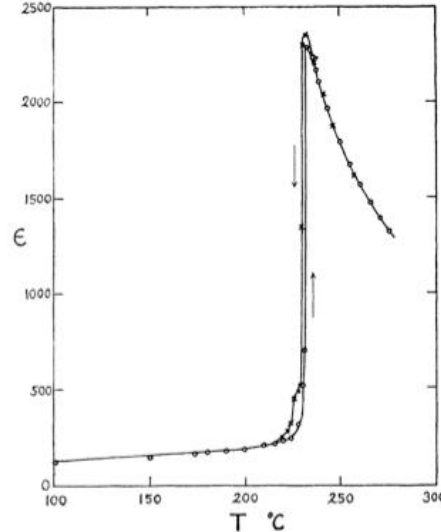
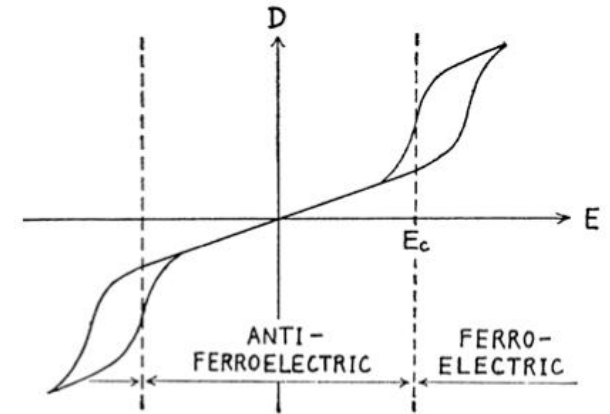


FIG. 2. Dielectric constant of lead zirconate at varying temperatures.



Tentative explanation of the anomalous hysteresis loops of PbZrO_3 at 30 kv/cm.

- Antipolar atomic displacements
- Phase transition between two non-polar phases
- Dielectric anomaly at the transition
- Polar phase induced by electric field

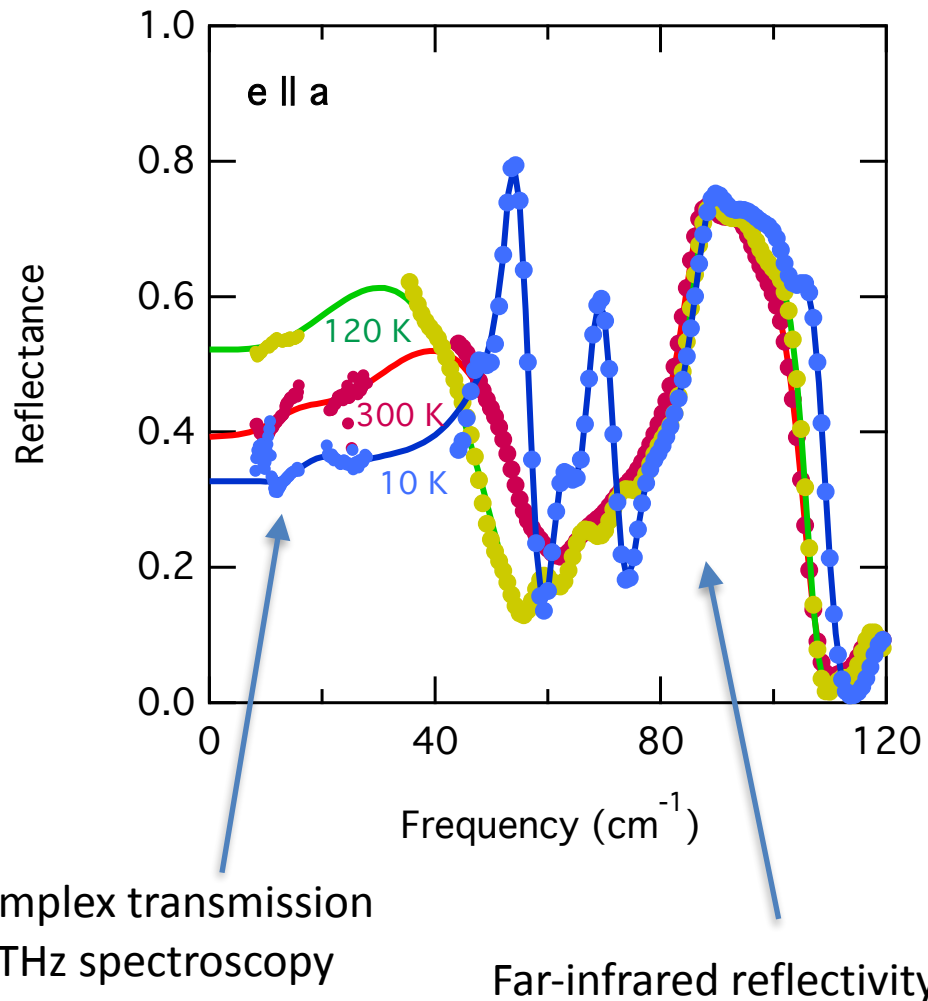
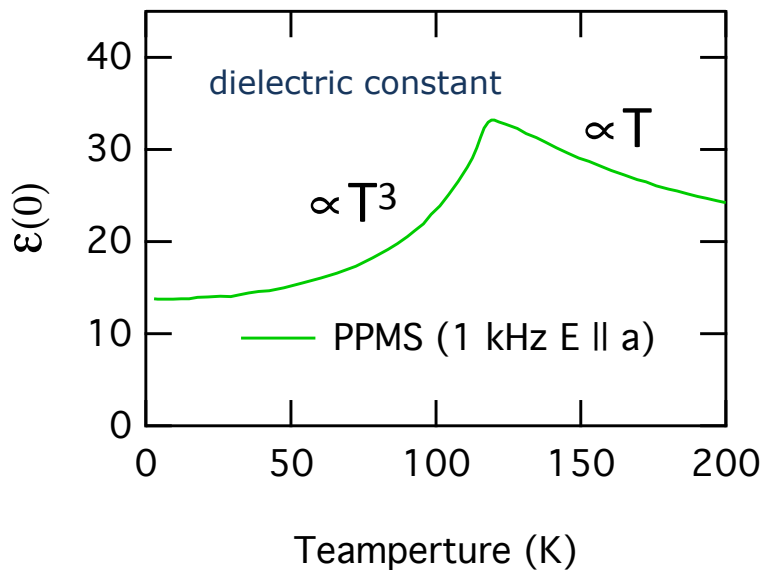
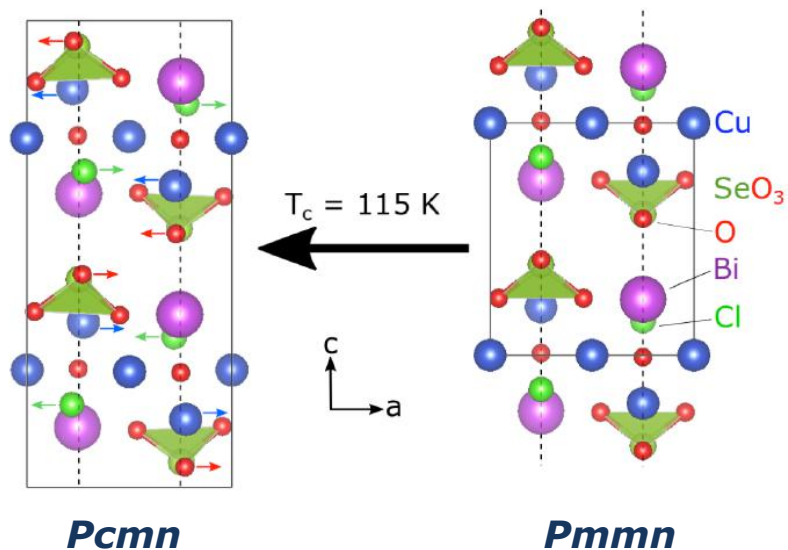
Uses

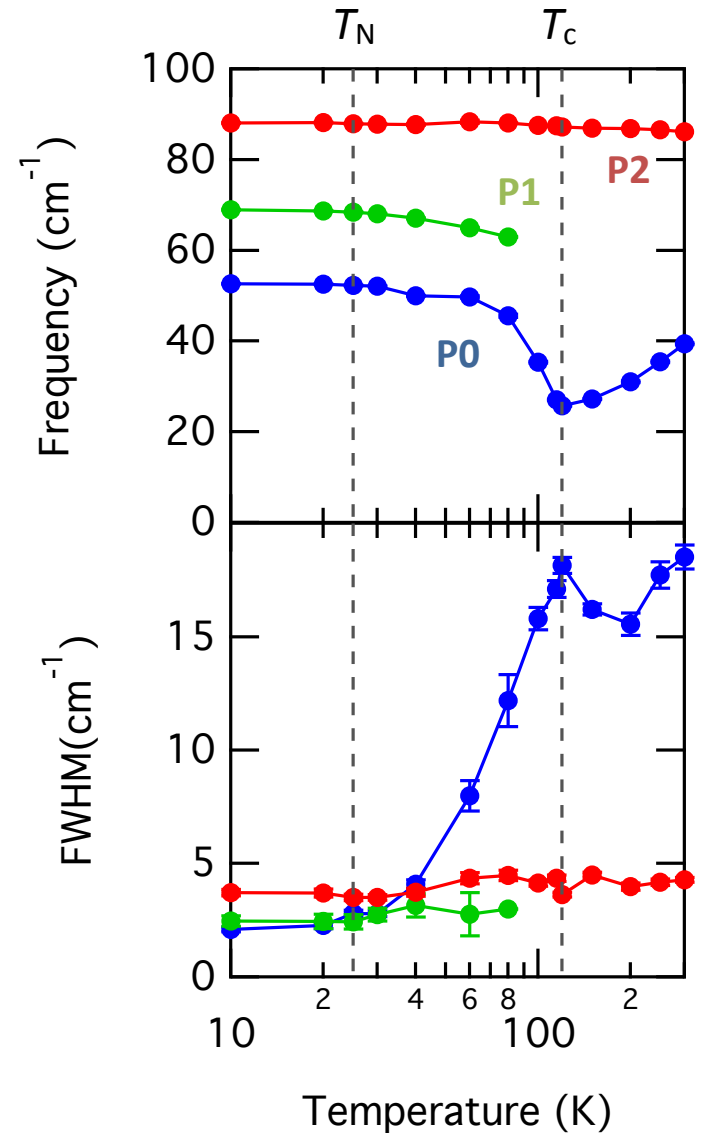
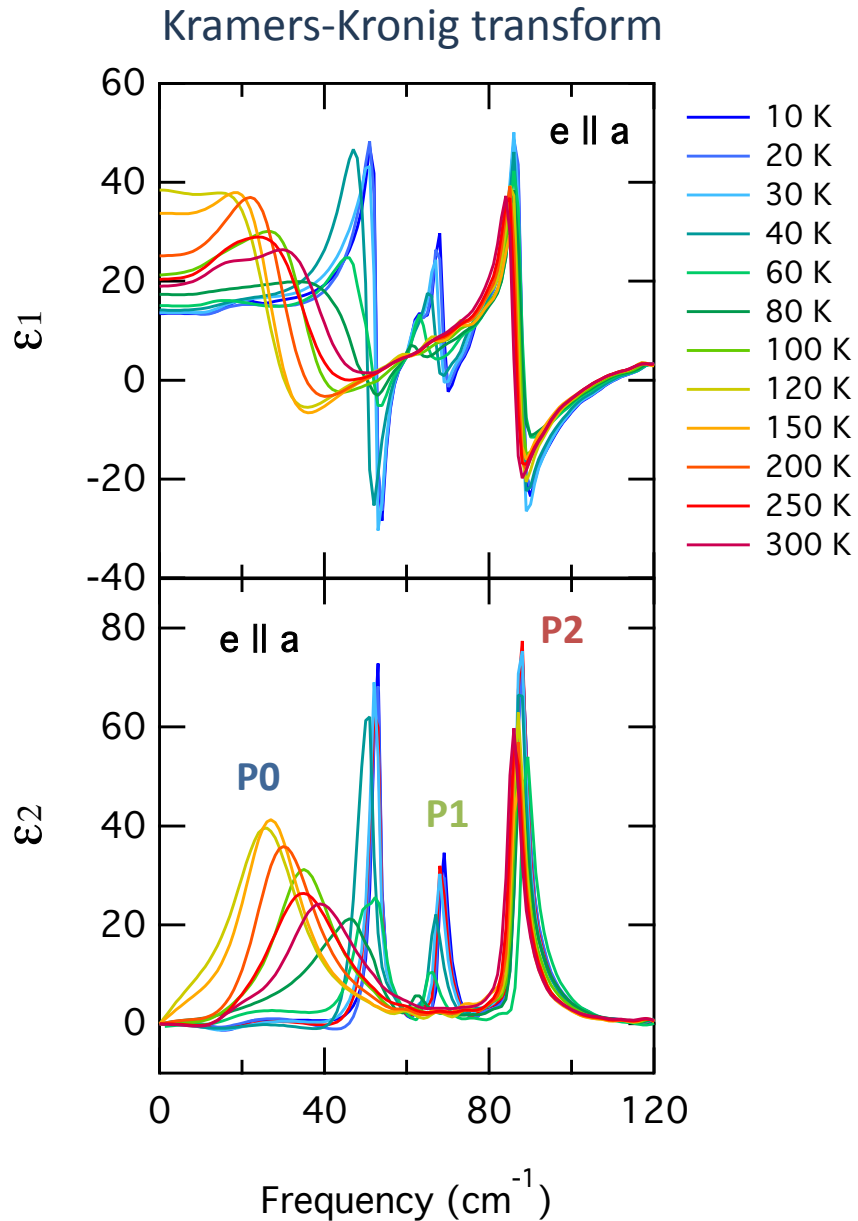
- Energy storage
- Electrocalorics
- Large strain actuators
- (Multistate) memories

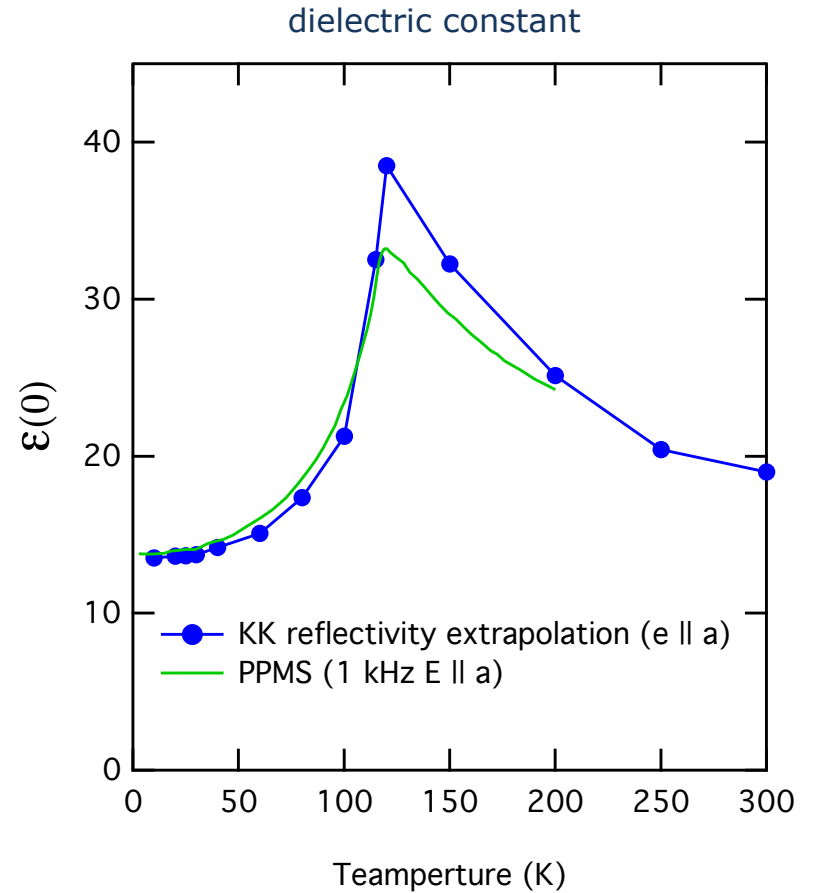
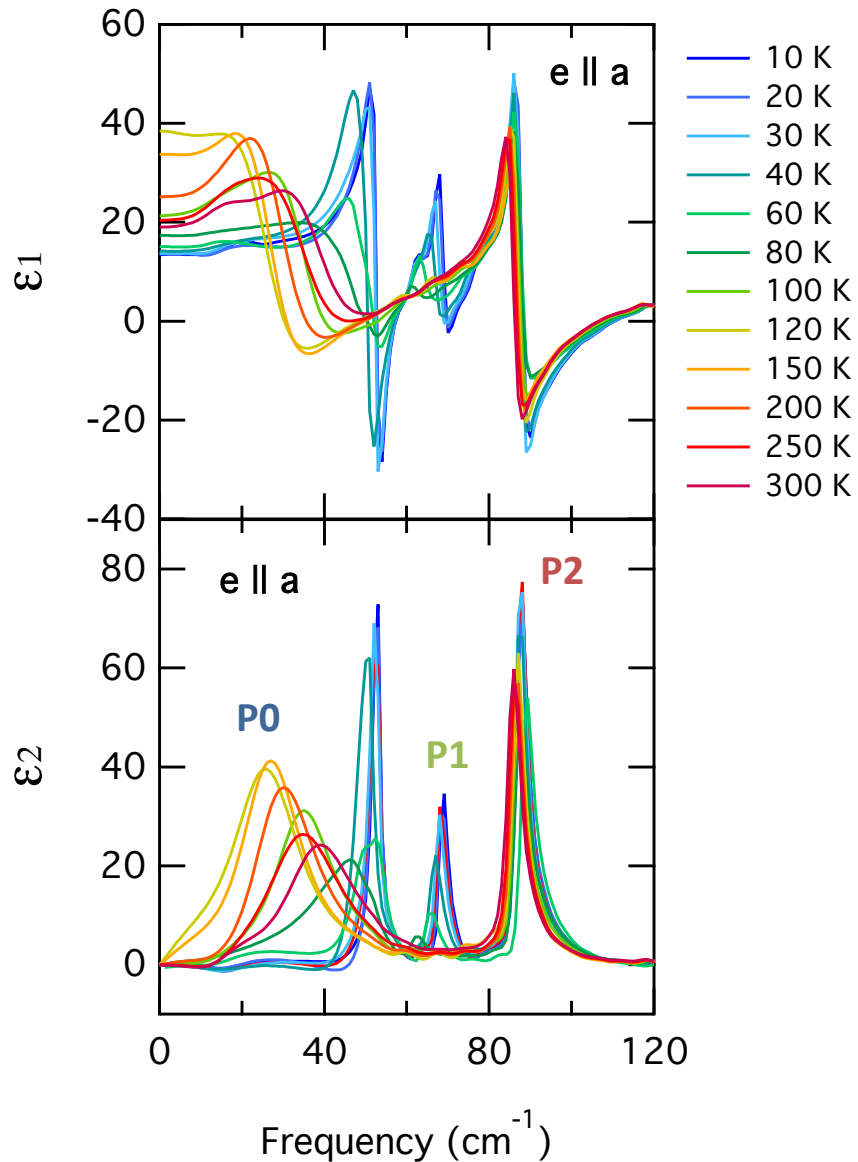
Issues

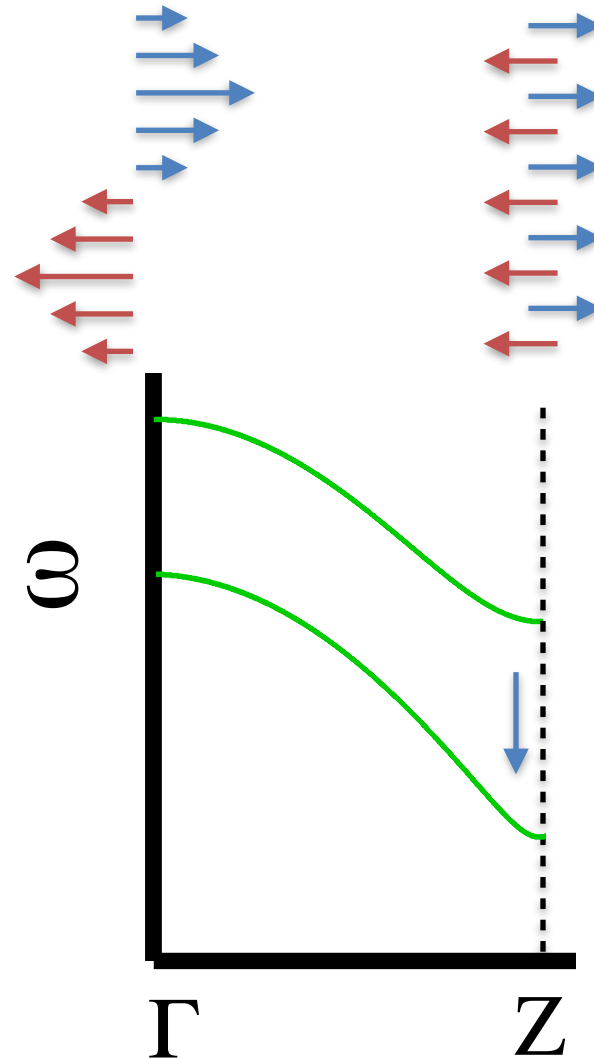
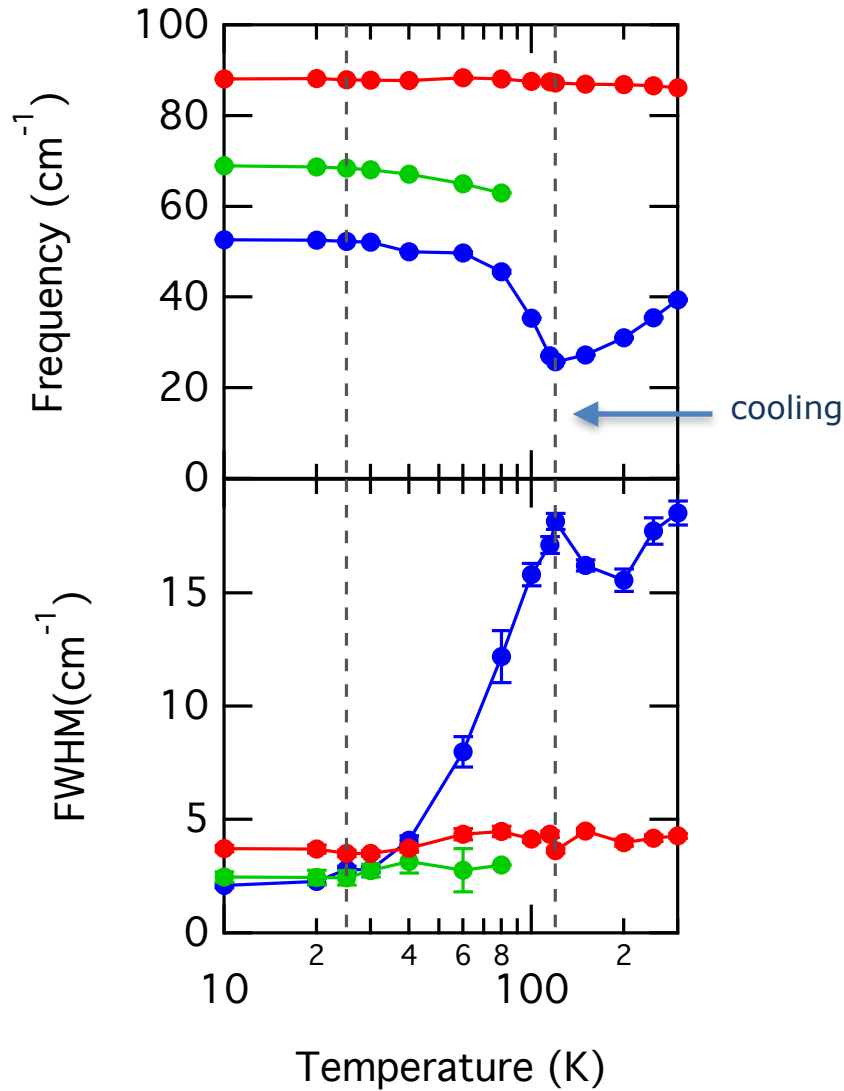
- Ambiguities of the double loop.
- What is a sublattice polarisation ?
- Absence of a symmetry criterion.
- Antiferroelectricity in PbZrO_3 is a complex model.

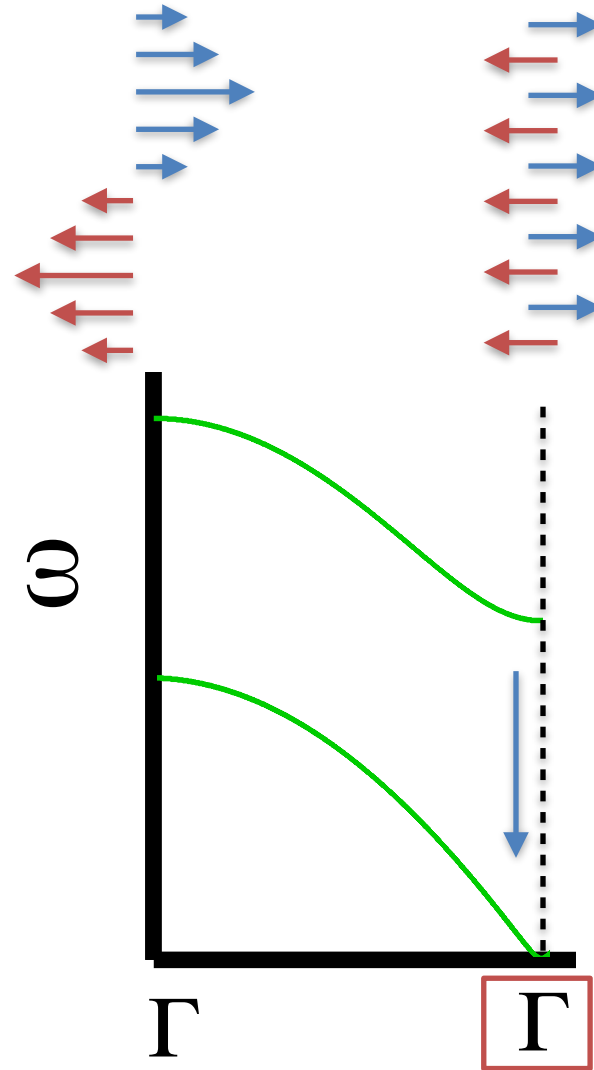
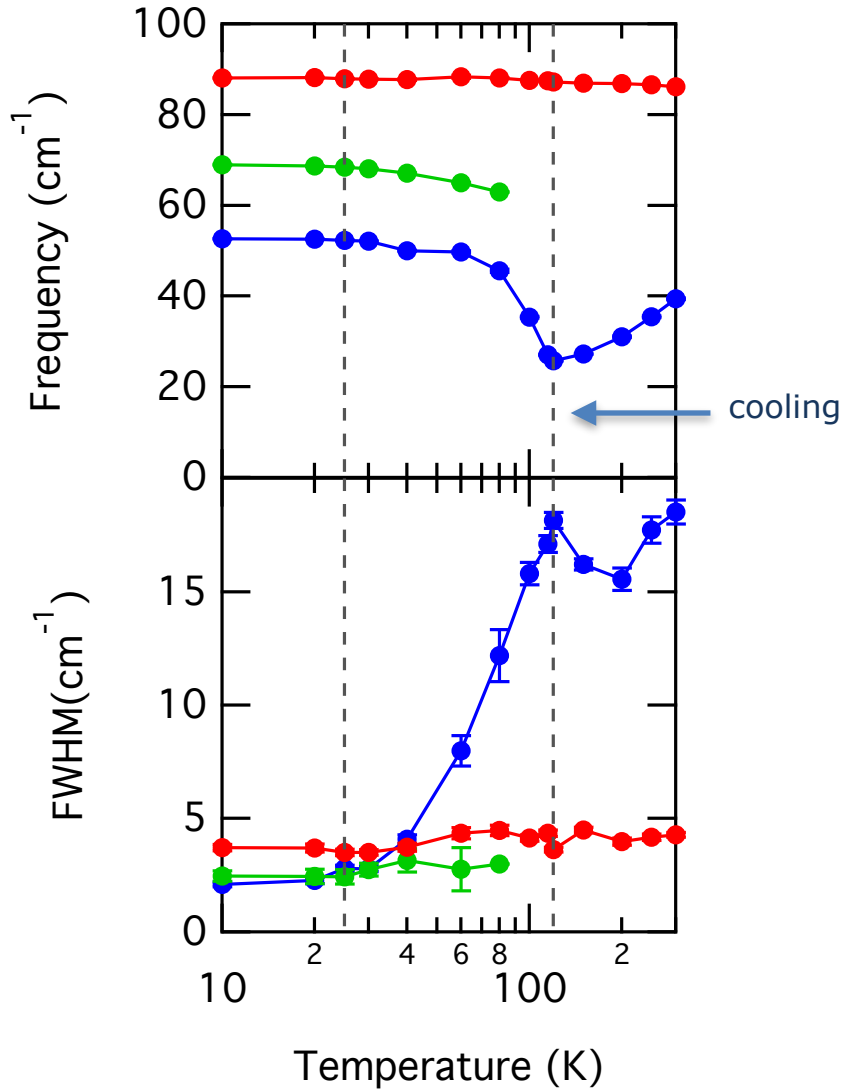
Antipolar distortion

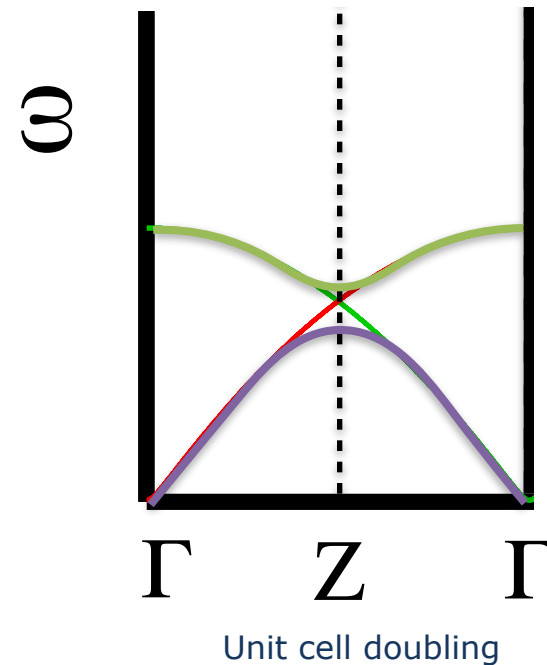
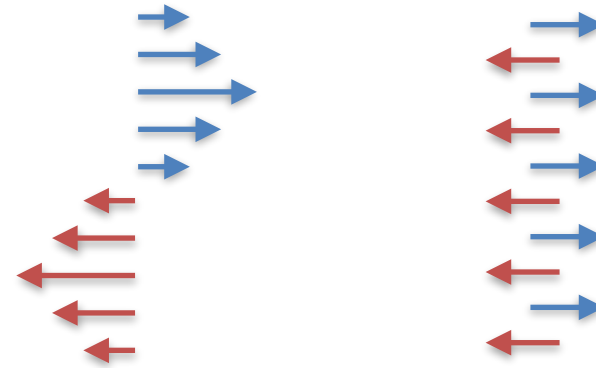
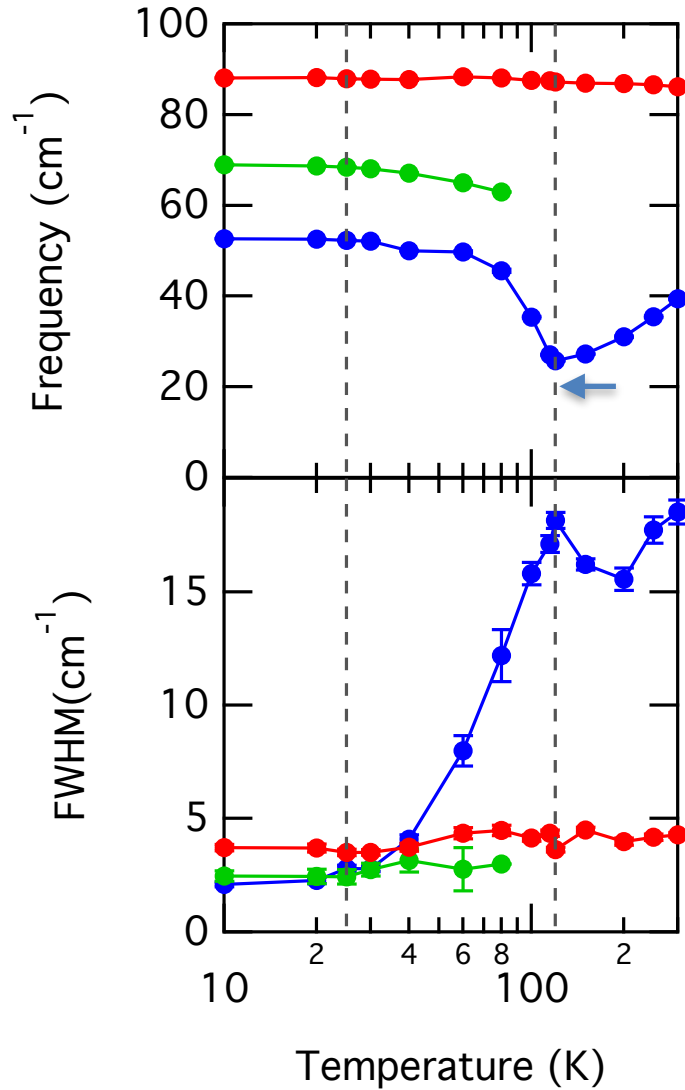


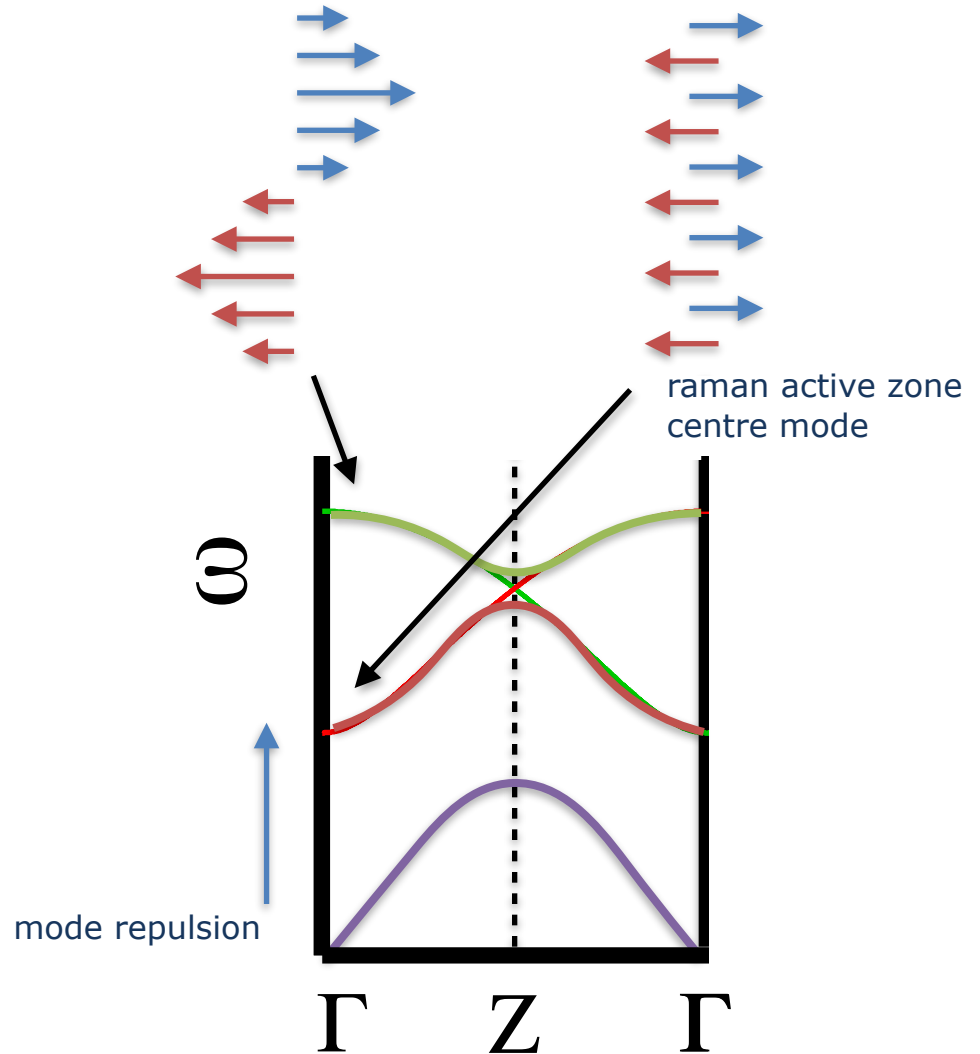
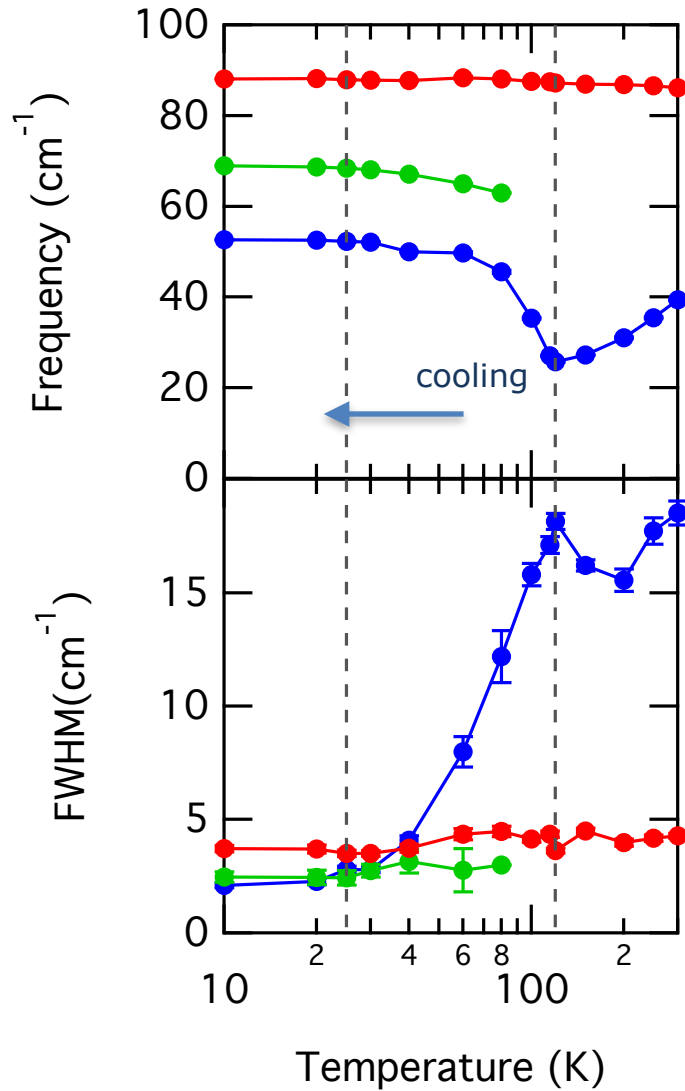


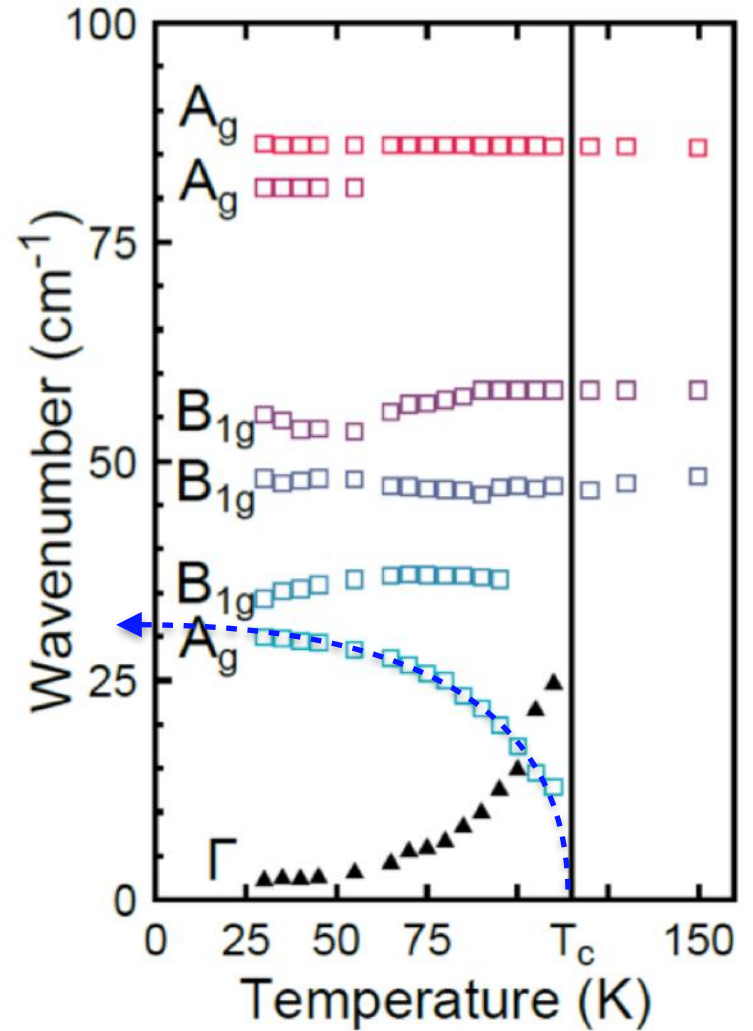
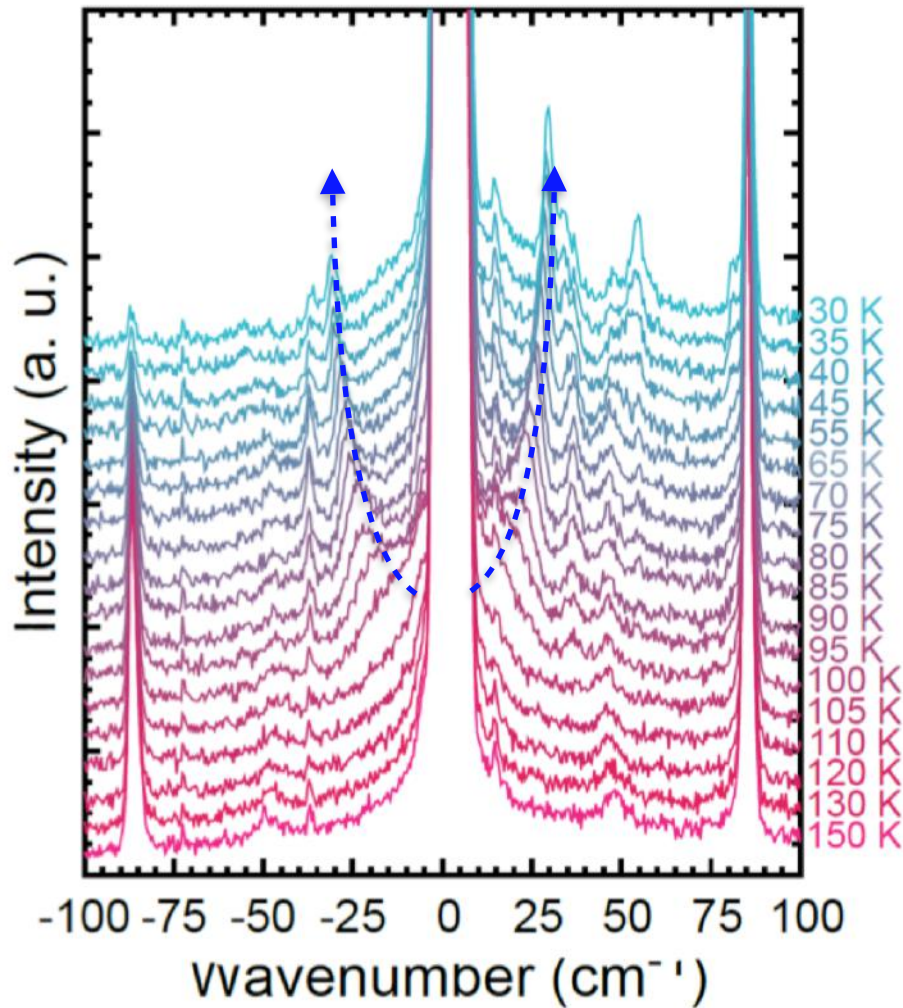




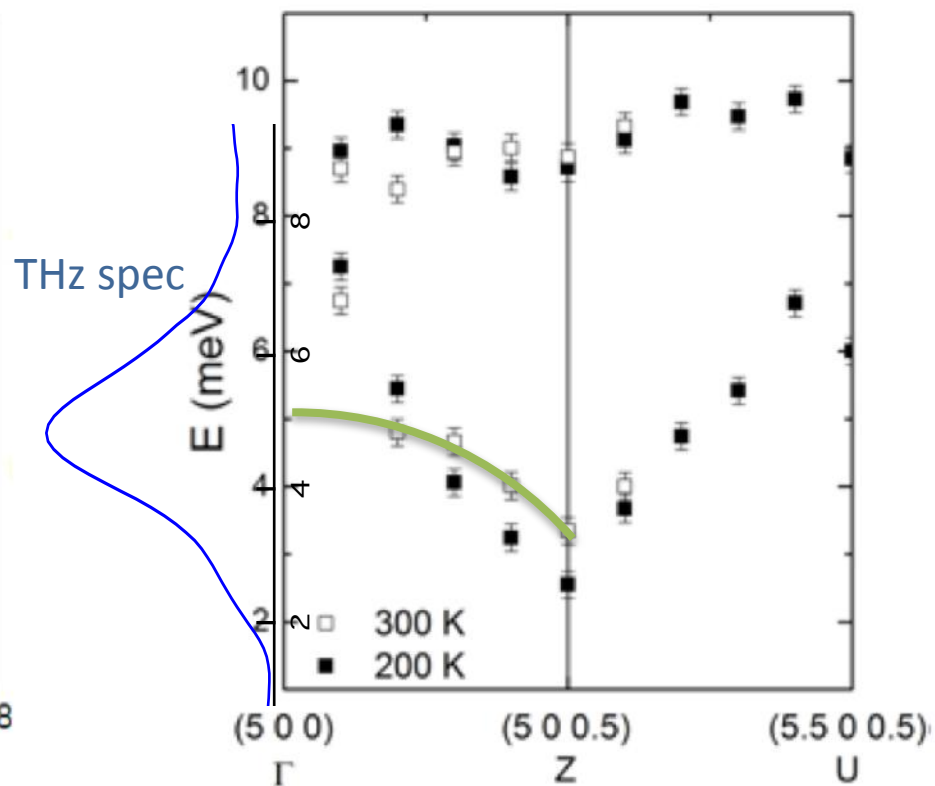
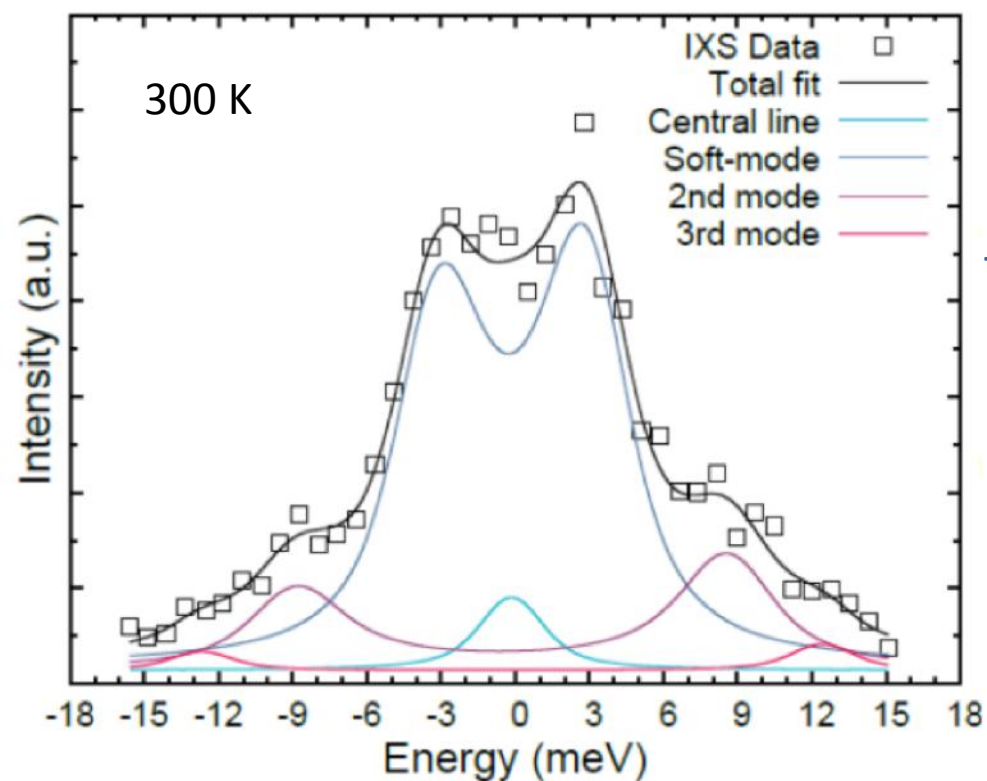




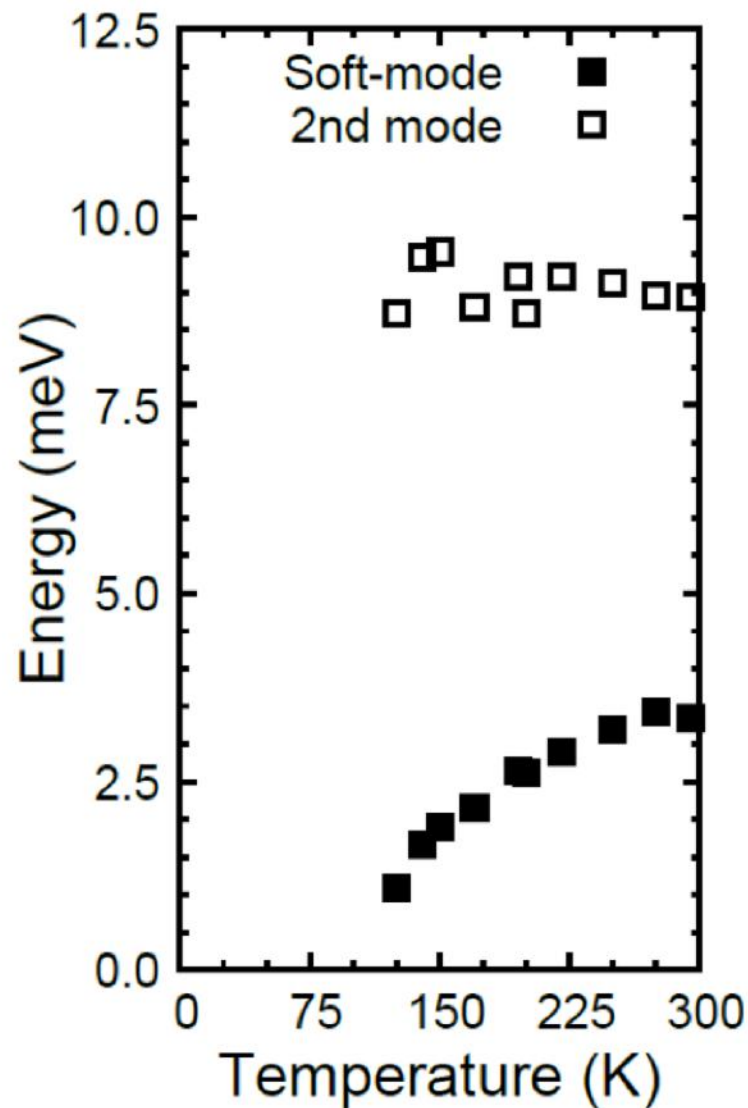
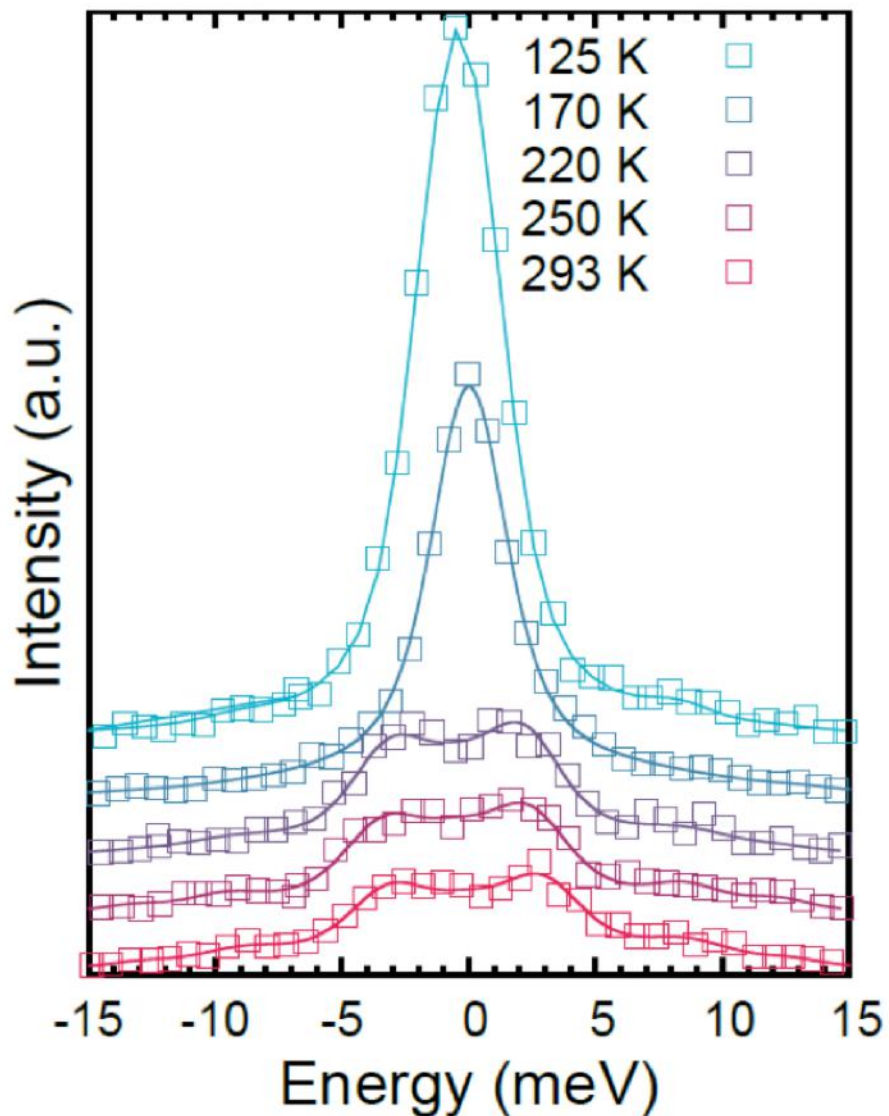


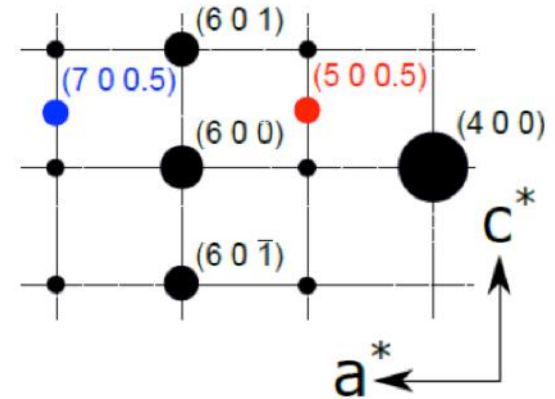
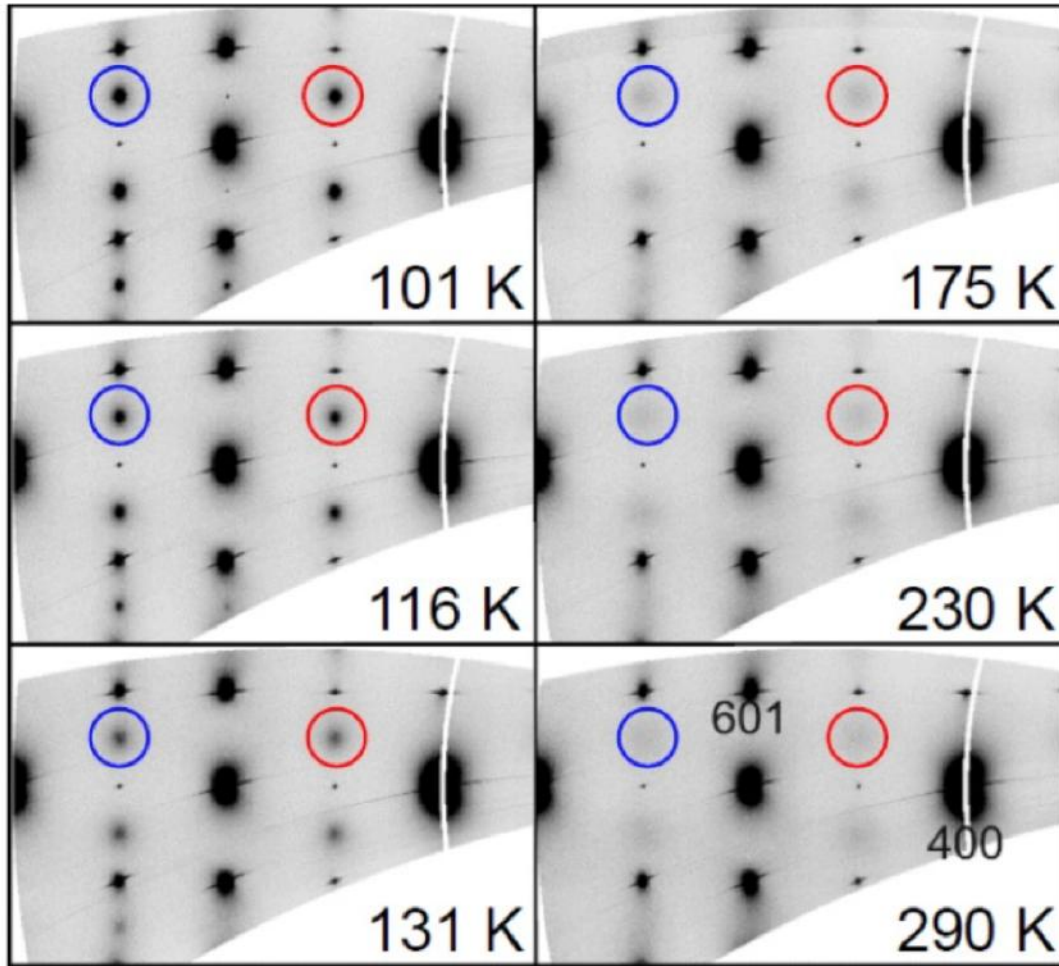


Z point (5 0 0.5)



Z point (5 0 0.5)



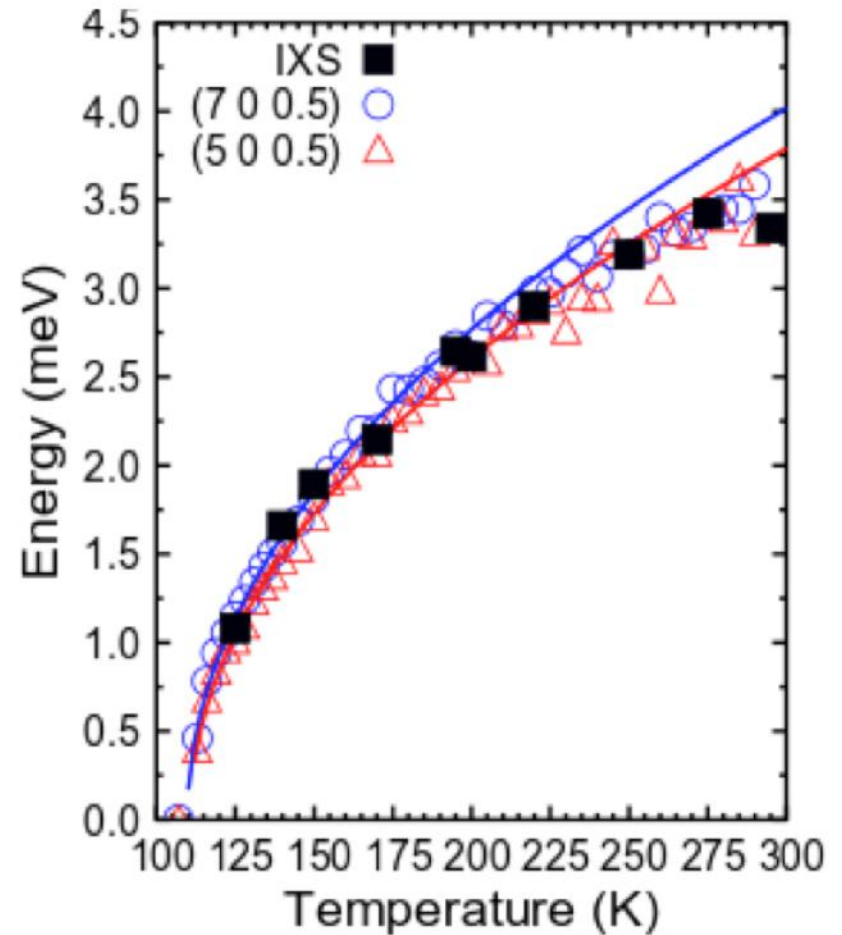
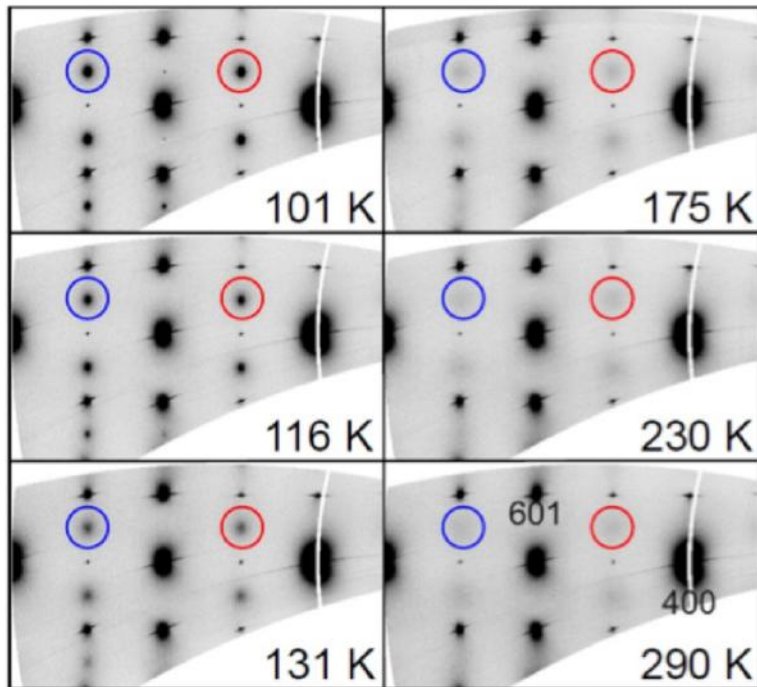
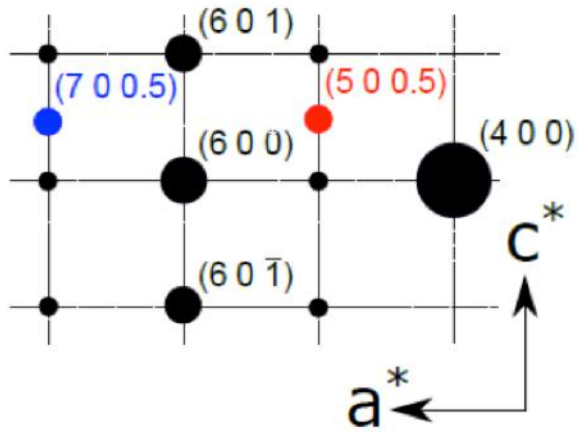


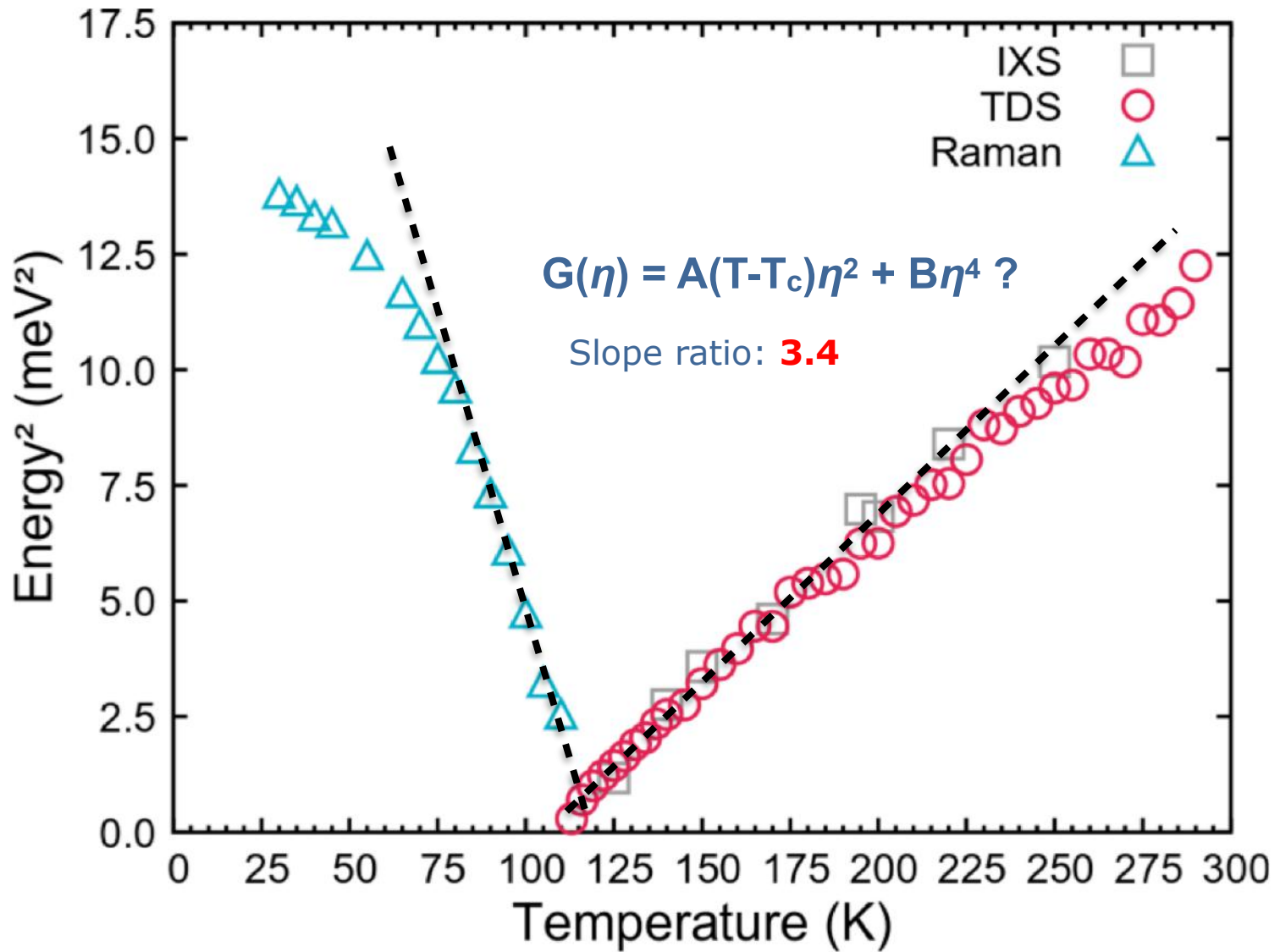
$$I_{\text{TDS}}(\vec{Q}) \approx \frac{1}{\omega(\vec{q})} \coth\left(\frac{\hbar\omega(\vec{q})}{2k_{\text{B}}T}\right) f(\vec{Q})^2$$

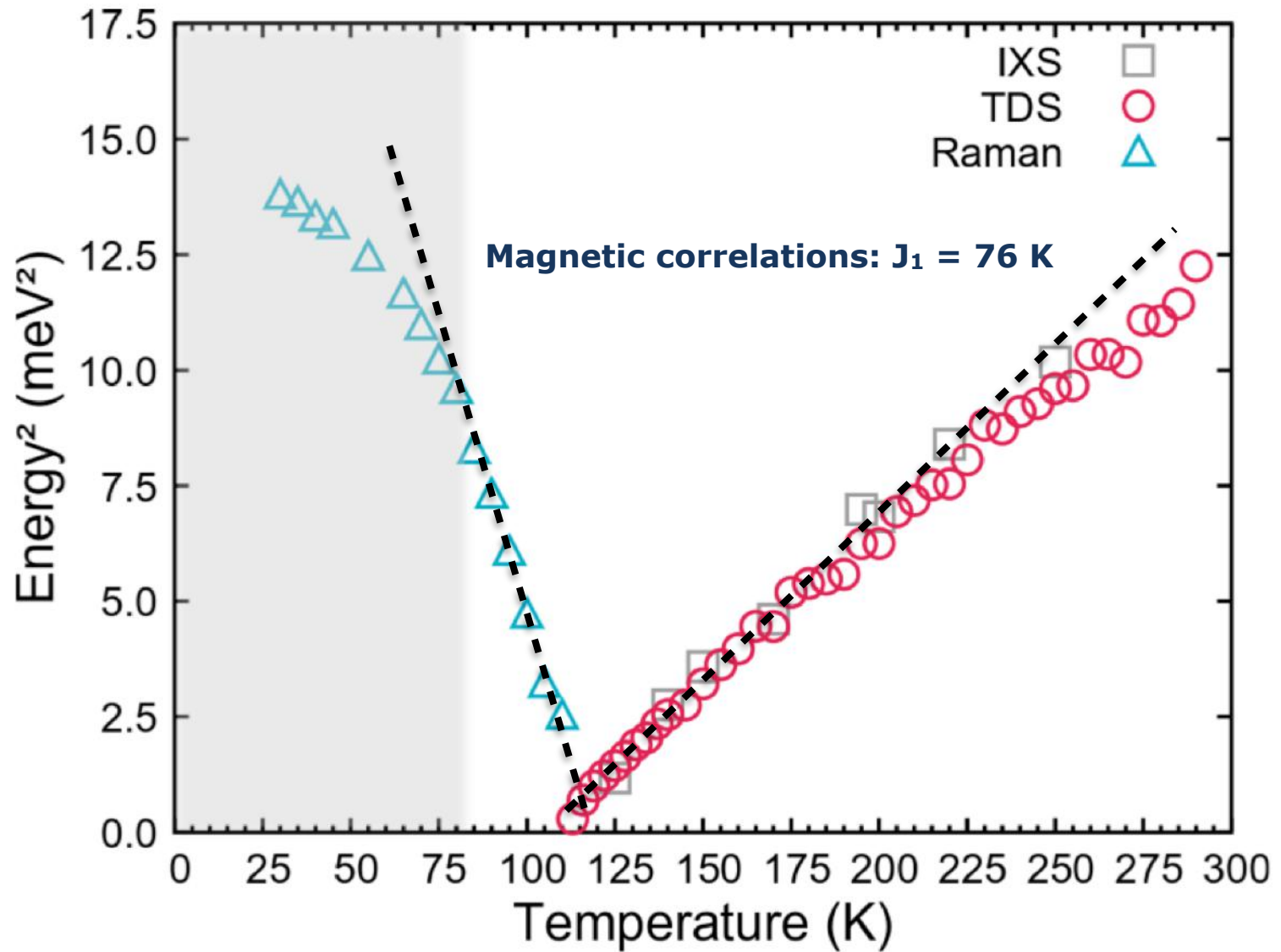


Soft-mode frequency

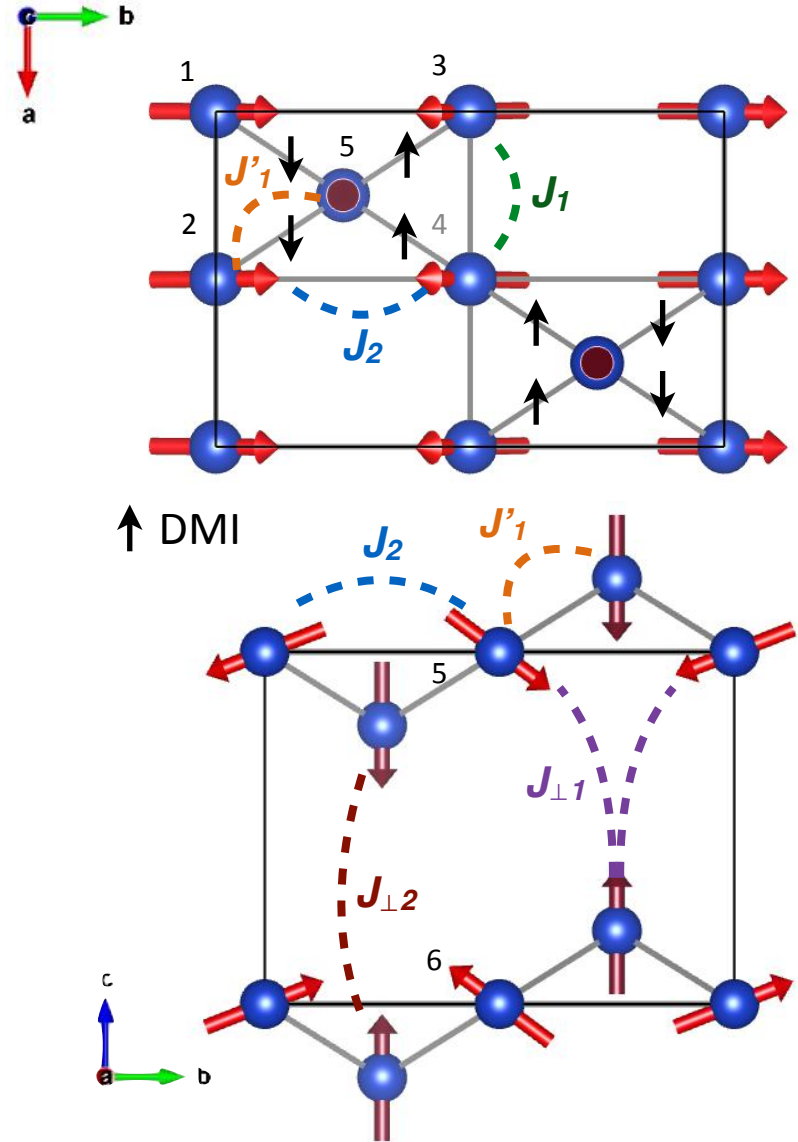
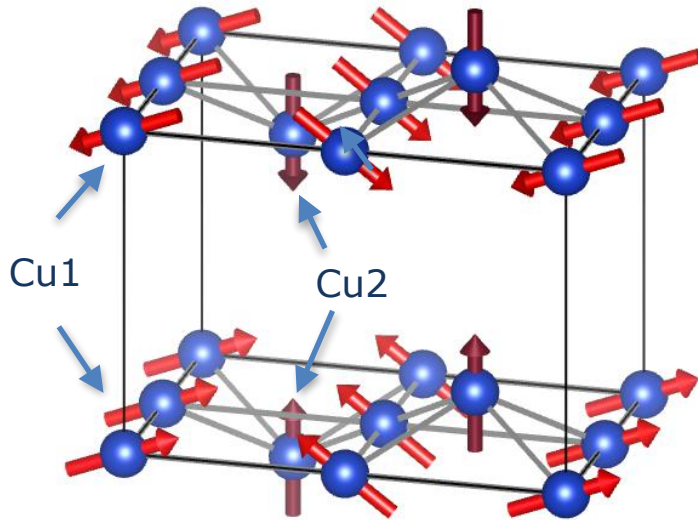
Elastic Thermal Diffuse X-ray Scattering (TDS)







Two $S = 1/2$ Cu^{2+} sites: Cu1 at $(0,0,0)$
 4c and Cu2 at $(1/4, 1/4, z)$ 2c.



$$H = J_1 \sum_{\substack{i=1,3 \\ j=2,4}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + J'_1 \sum_{\substack{i=1-4 \\ j=5}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + J_2 \sum_{\substack{i=1,2 \\ j=3,4}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

$$+ J_{\perp 1} \sum_{\substack{i=1-4 \\ j=6}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + J_{\perp 2} \sum_{\substack{i=5 \\ j=6}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + D \cdot \sum_{\substack{i=1-4 \\ j=5}} \mathbf{S}_i \times \mathbf{S}_j,$$

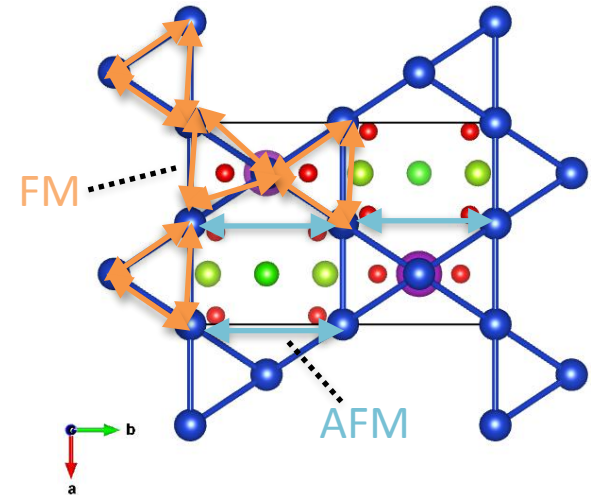
$S = 1/2$ antiferromagnetic kagome lattice is the archetype of quantum spin liquids.

Francisite represents **kagome system beyond nearest neighbour antiferromagnets:**

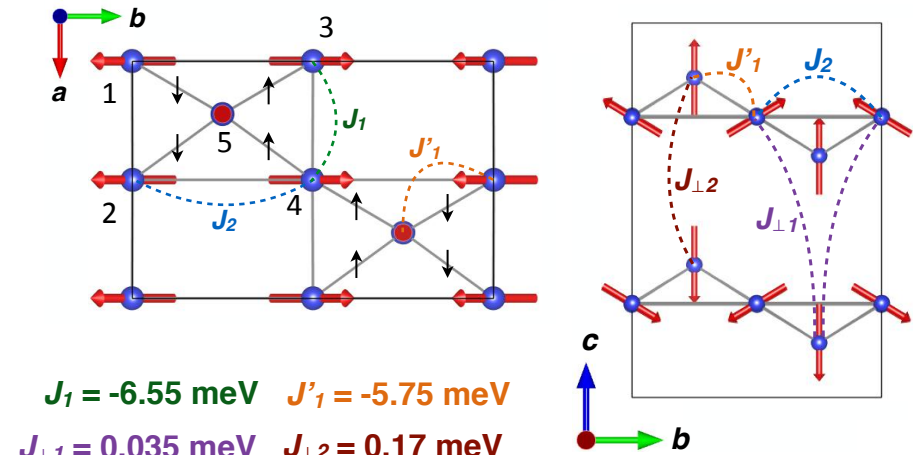
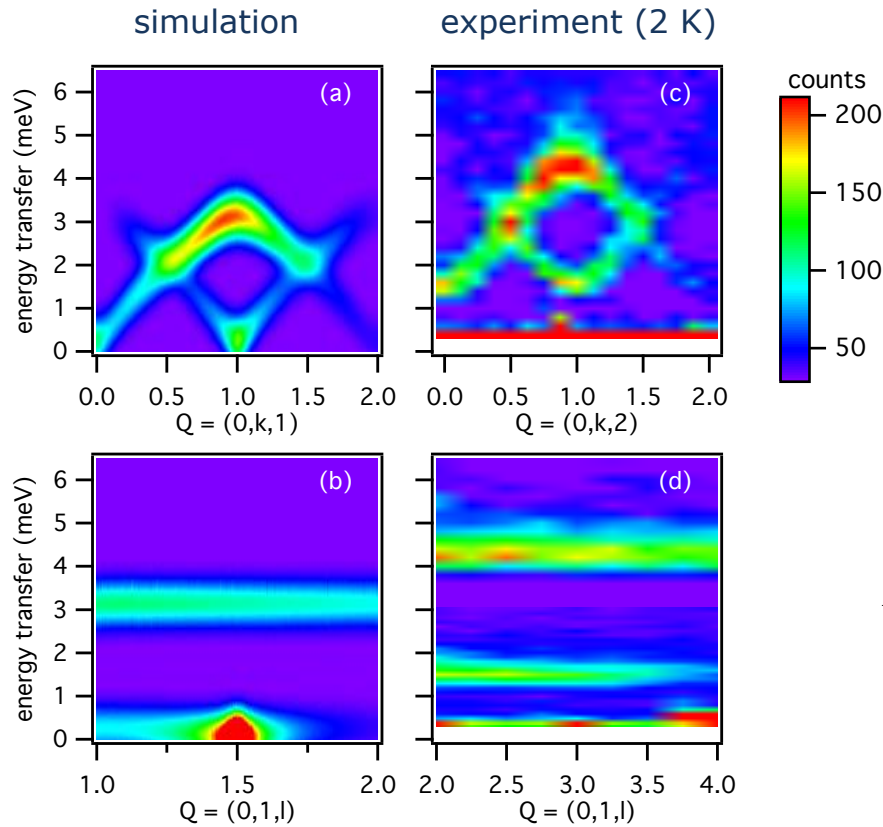
- Nearest neighbour ferromagnetic interactions.
- Competing antiferromagnetic interactions across hexagonal voids.

May support novel phases:

- Non-coplanar spin correlation and spin liquid states
 - e.g. Kapellasite [B. Fåk PRL 2012]
- magnetically induced ferroelectricity:
 - e.g. multiferroic $\text{KCl}_3\text{As}_2\text{O}_7(\text{OD})_3$ [G. L. Nilsen PRB(R) 2014]



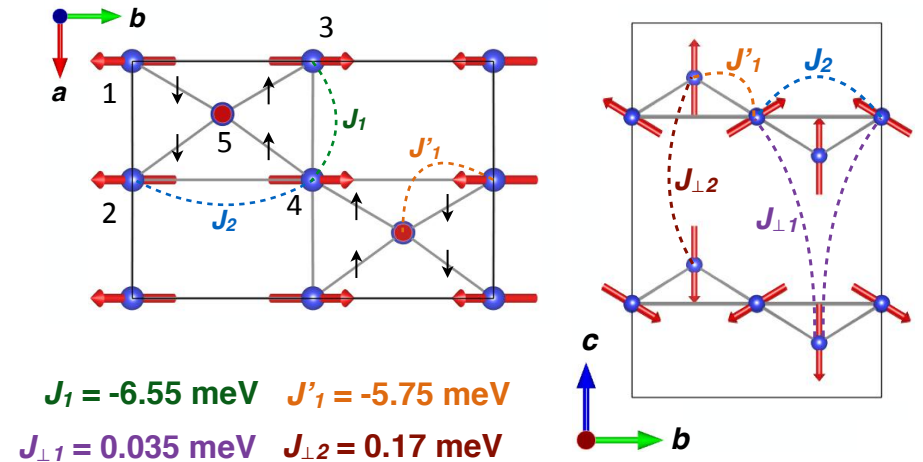
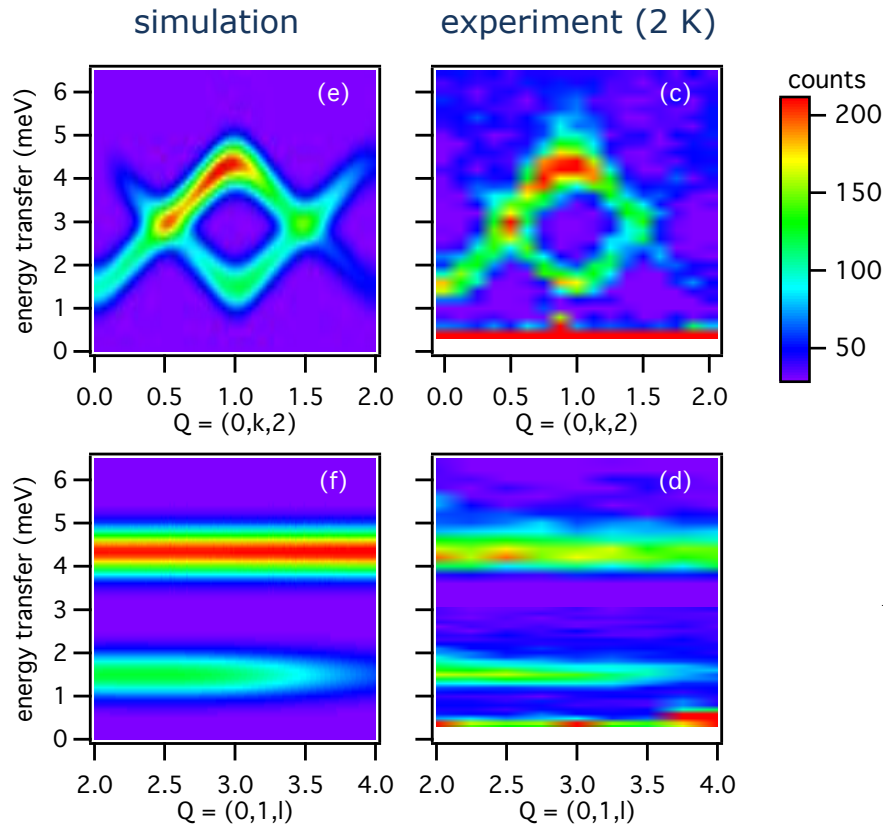
Q = (0 k 2) map comparison with simulation



$J_1 = -6.55 \text{ meV}$ $J'_1 = -5.75 \text{ meV}$
 $J_{\perp 1} = 0.035 \text{ meV}$ $J_{\perp 2} = 0.17 \text{ meV}$
 $J_2 = 4.9 \text{ meV}$ $D_x = 1.04 \text{ meV}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 H = & J_1 \sum_{\substack{i=1,3 \\ j=2,4}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + J'_1 \sum_{\substack{i=1-4 \\ j=5}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + J_2 \sum_{\substack{i=1,2 \\ j=3,4}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j \\
 & + J_{\perp 1} \sum_{\substack{i=1-4 \\ j=6}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + J_{\perp 2} \sum_{\substack{i=5 \\ j=6}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + D \cdot \sum_{i=1-4} \mathbf{S}_i \times \mathbf{S}_j
 \end{aligned}$$

- Dispersion shape and extinction along k reproduced well in simulations using proposed Hamiltonian.
- No dispersion along l confirms very weak interlayer coupling and “global” spin gap.
- **Simulation does not reproduce spin gap.**



$J_1 = -6.55 \text{ meV}$ $J'_1 = -5.75 \text{ meV}$
 $J_{\perp 1} = 0.035 \text{ meV}$ $J_{\perp 2} = 0.17 \text{ meV}$
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 & + J_{\perp 1} \sum_{\substack{i=1-4 \\ j=6}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + J_{\perp 2} \sum_{\substack{i=5 \\ j=6}} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + D \cdot \sum_{j=5} \mathbf{S}_i \times \mathbf{S}_j
 \end{aligned}$$

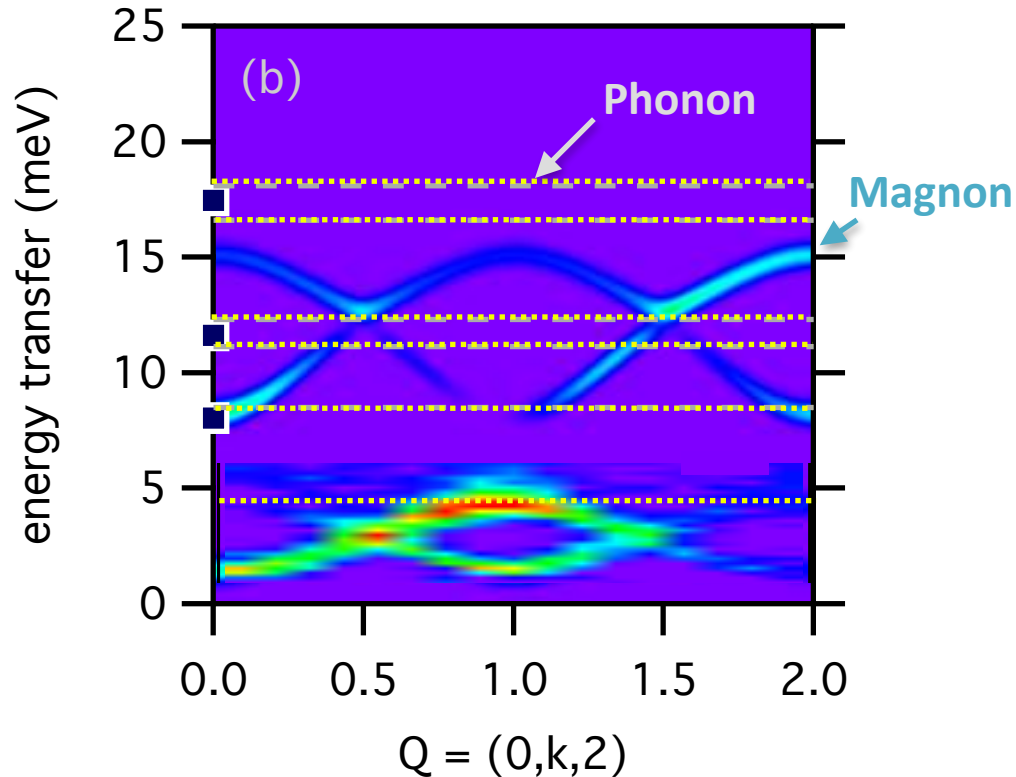
$$+ \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \Gamma_{i,j} \cdot \mathbf{S}_j,$$

$$\Gamma_{5,2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.10 & 0.08 & 0.00 \\ 0.08 & 0.00 & 0.04 \\ 0.00 & 0.04 & 0.00 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{in meV})$$

$$\Gamma_{1,2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.00 \\ 0.00 & 0.05 & 0.12 \\ 0.00 & 0.12 & 0.05 \end{pmatrix},$$

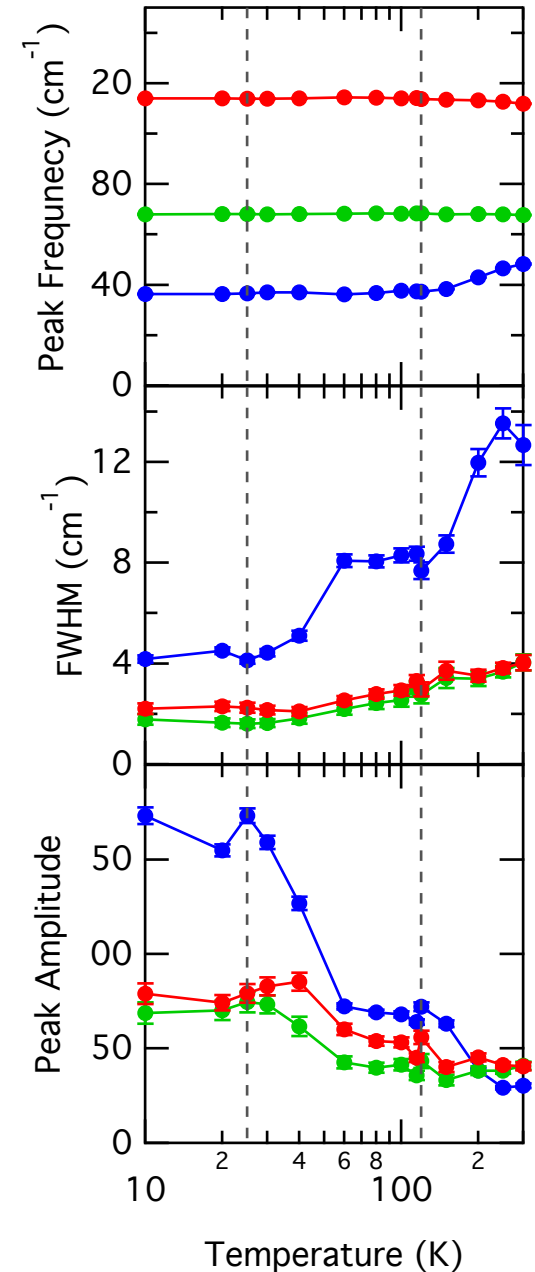
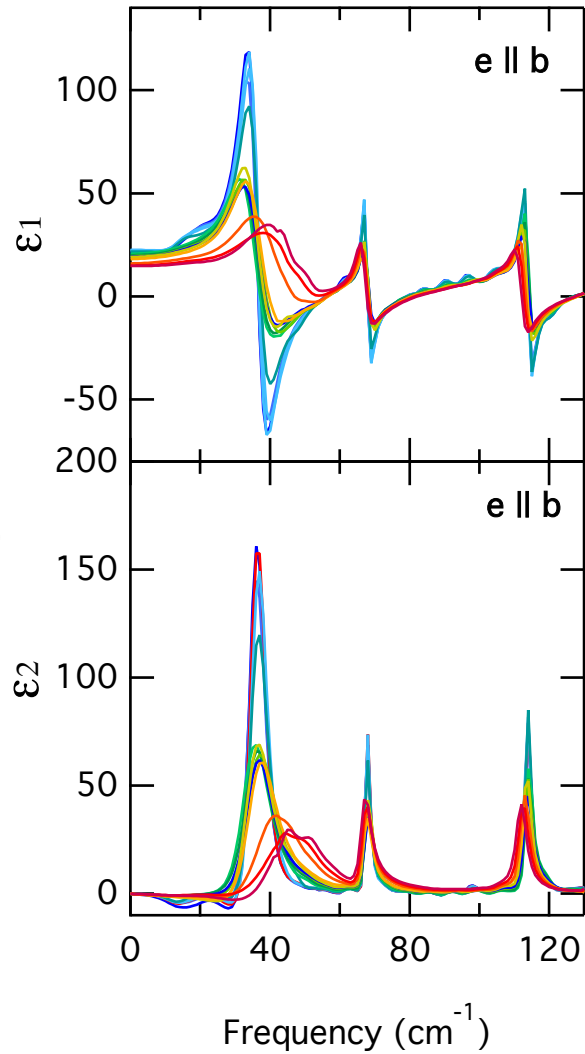
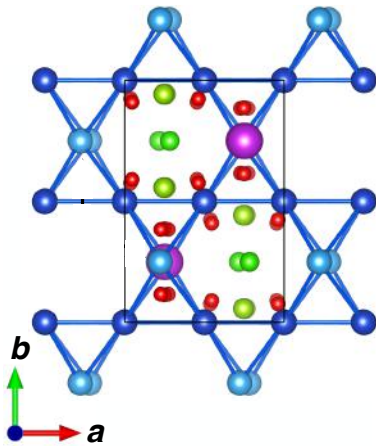
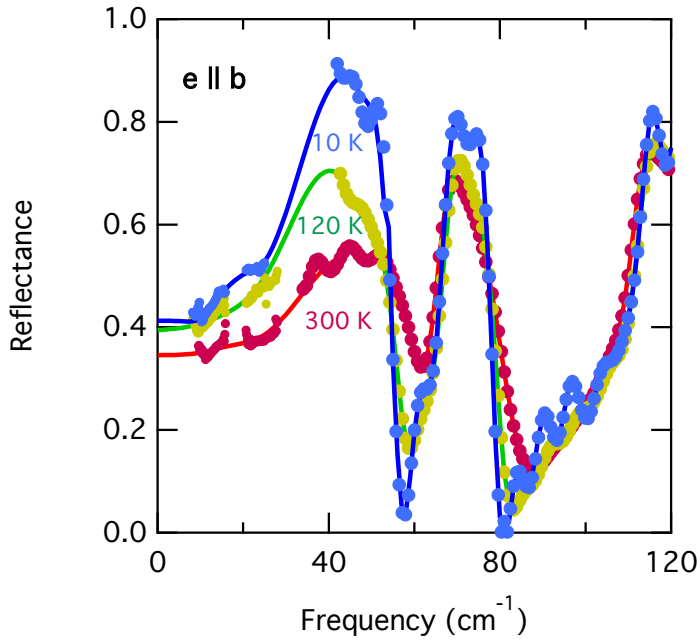
$$\Gamma_{4,2} = \begin{pmatrix} -0.7 & 0.0 & 0.0 \\ 0.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 \\ 0.0 & 0.0 & -1.7 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- A spin gap is induced by incorporating an anisotropic exchange between Cu1 sites along y .
- Modification of J_2 produces correct canting of Cu2 spins as refined by neutron diffraction.

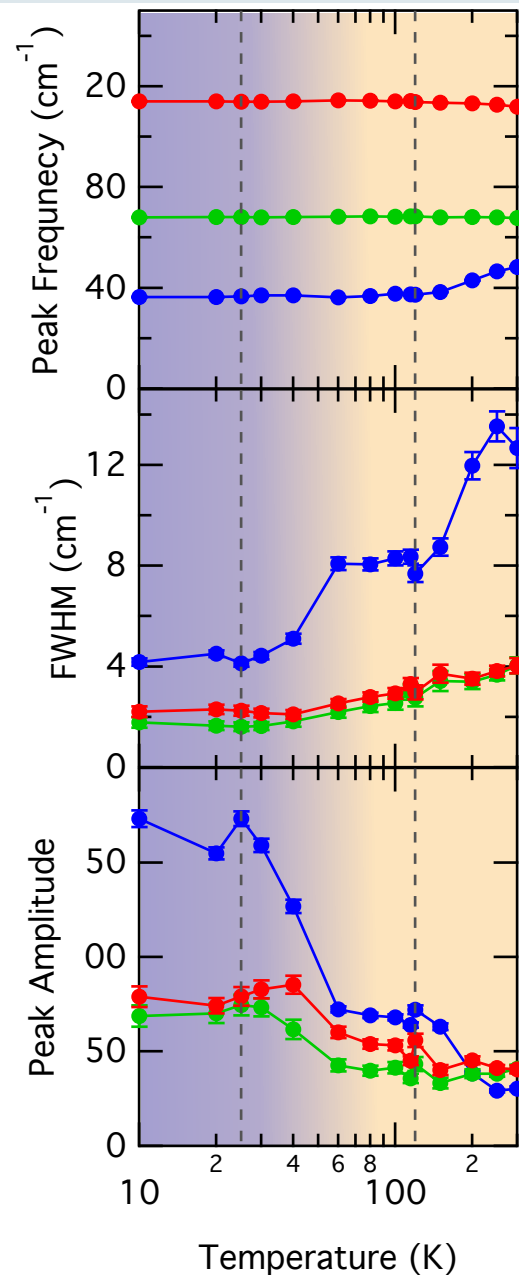
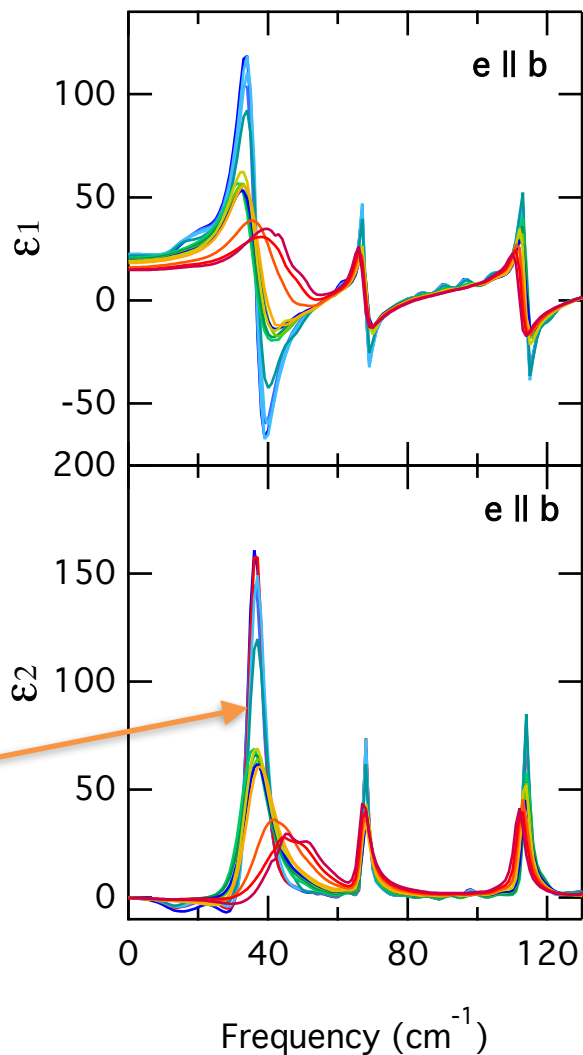
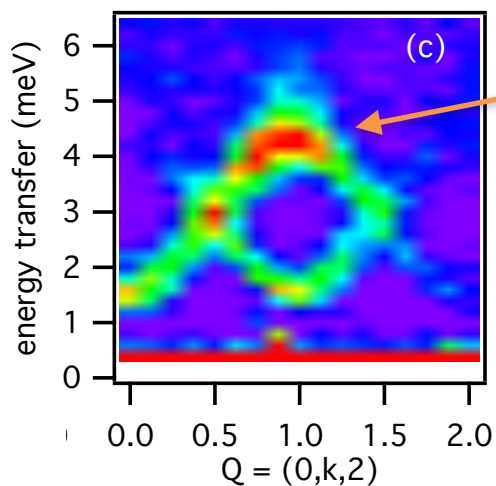
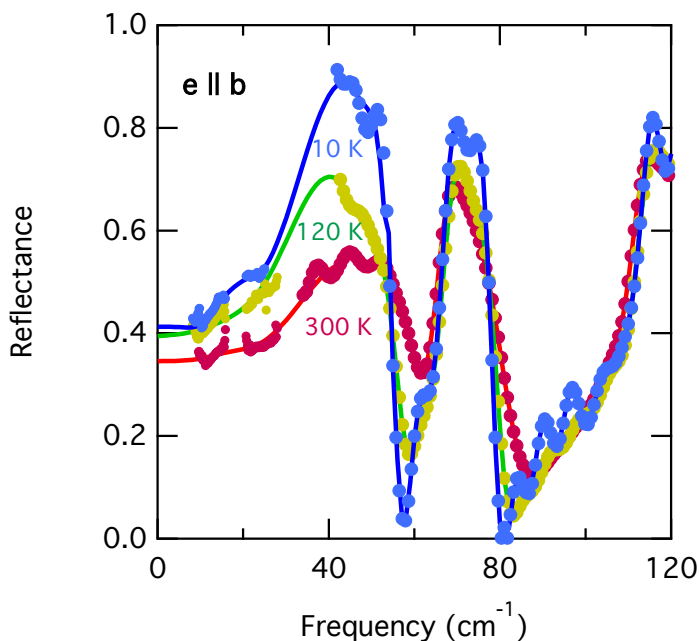


- Overlapping magnon and phonon bands: Possibility for magnon phonon hybridisation.
- Spin-lattice coupling could promote the required anisotropy in the refined magnetic Hamiltonian.
- Polarised inelastic neutron scattering required to reveal signatures of such hybridisation.

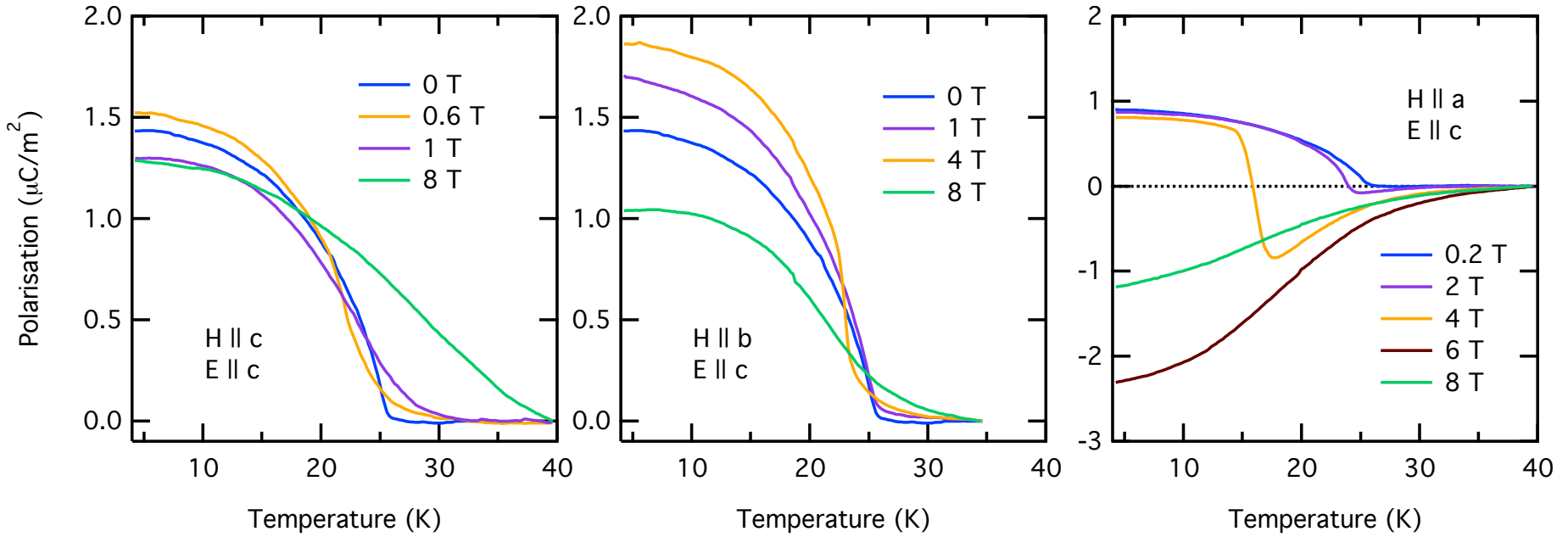
Soft phonon dynamics in **b** direction



Soft phonon dynamics in **b** direction



polarisation as a function of magnetic field



- magnetic point group: $mm'm$ supports magneto electric coupling but **does not predict spontaneous polarisation at 0 T**.
- Field dependence is consistent with the of diagonal terms in the ME tensor.
- Presence at 0 T could be explained by magneto electric coupling due to stray fields generated at defects.
- Effect of antiferroelectric order?

$$\alpha^{ME} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \alpha_{13}^{ME} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha_{31}^{ME} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

maximised with $H \times E$

Concluding remarks

- Francisite displays a **novel frustrated magnetic** state:
 - ▶ Buckled kagome lattice with nn FM and nnn AFM interactions.
 - ▶ Touching soft magnon bands, dispersionless along Γ (quasi 2-D).
 - ▶ Spin gap requiring anisotropic exchange modification to Hamiltonian.
 - ▶ Supports spontaneous polarisation below $T_N = 25$ K.
- Identification of $Pmmn \rightarrow Pcmn$ transition driven by **antipolar soft mode**:
 - ▶ candidate displacive “antiferroelectric”
 - ▶ Evidence of spin-lattice coupling.
 - ▶ Significance of magnetic/antiferroelectric order in domain of multiferroics?
- Still much of the phase space to be explored with many possible substitutions in the chemical formula.

