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(G*) The case for a U(1)π Quantum Spin Liquid Ground State in the Dipole-Octupole Pyrochlore Ce2Zr2O7

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The Ce3+ pseudospin-½ degrees of freedom in the pyrochlore magnet Ce2Zr2O7 are known to possess dipole-octupole character, making it a candidate for novel quantum spin liquid ground states at low temperatures. We've measured the heat capacity of Ce2Zr2O7 and fit the result to a quantum numerical linked cluster (NLC) calculation that allows estimates for the terms in the near-neighbour XYZ Hamiltonian expected for such dipole-octupole pyrochlore systems. Fits of the same theory to the temperature dependence of the magnetic susceptibility and unpolarized neutron scattering complement this analysis to produce robust estimates of the near-neighbour exchange parameters. A comparison between the resulting best fit NLC calculation and new polarized neutron diffraction results shows agreement, as well as discrepancies which are attributed to interactions beyond near-neighbours, such as zone-boundary diffuse scattering in the non-spin flip channel. We conclude that Ce2Zr2O7 realizes a U(1)π quantum spin liquid state at low temperatures, and one that resides near the boundary between dipolar and octupolar character.

Primary authors: SMITH, Evan (Department of Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University); BENTON, Owen (Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems); YAHNE, Danielle (Department of Physics, Colorado State University); PLACKE, Benedikt (Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems); ROBIN, Schäfer (Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems); GAUDET, Jonathan (Department of Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University); DUDEMAINE, Jeremi (Département de Physique, Université de Montréal and Regroupement Québécois sur les Matériaux de Pointe (RQMP)); FITTERMAN, Avner (Département de Physique, Université de Montréal and Regroupement Québécois sur les Matériaux de Pointe (RQMP)); BEARE, James (Department of Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University); WILDES, Andrew (Institut Laue-Langevin); BHATTACHARYA, Suvam (Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS, Laboratoiré de Physique des Solides); DELAZZER, Tim (Department of Physics, Colorado State University); BUHARIWALLA, Connor (Department of Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University); BUTCH, Nicholas (Center for Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology); MOVSHOVICH, Roman (Los Alamos National Lab); GARRETT, Jim (Brockhouse Institute for Materials Research, McMaster University); MARJERRISON, Casey (Brockhouse Institute for Materials Research, McMaster University); CLANCY, Pat (Brockhouse Institute for Materials Research, McMaster University and Department of Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University); KERMARREC, Edwin (Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS, Laboratoiré de Physique des Solides); LUKE, Graeme (Brockhouse Institute for Materials Research, McMaster University and Department of Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University); BIANCHI, Andrea (Département de Physique, Université de Montréal and Regroupement Québécois sur les Matériaux de Pointe (RQMP)); ROSS, Kate (Department of Physics, Colorado State University and Canadian Institute for Advanced Research); GAULIN, Bruce (Brockhouse Institute for Materials Research, McMaster University and Department of Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University and Canadian Institute for Advanced Research)

Presenter: SMITH, Evan (Department of Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University)

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