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Composite Ising Lattices with Unequal Spins*

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The phase-transition problem of two-component composite Ising lattices with unequal spins in zero magnetic field is solved within the Bragg-Williams approximation.

We shall generalize our previous treatment of composite Ising lattices¹ to the case where spins of different components of the composite may have different magnitudes. We shall restrict ourselves to the two-component case with zero external field, although the method can easily be generalized to three or more components cases. Unless other-

wise specified, we shall follow the notations of I.

Consider a two-component lattice with interaction constants $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3$; structure parameters u_1, u_2, u_3, v_1, v_2 ; and spin magnitudes s_1, s_2 . With zero external field, the partition function of this lattice is equal to the partition function of a lattice with same structure, but different interaction

constants $\epsilon'_1, \epsilon'_2, \epsilon'_3$ and spin magnitudes $s'_1 = s'_2 = 1$, and

$$\epsilon'_1 = \epsilon_1 s_1^2, \quad \epsilon'_2 = \epsilon_2 s_2^2, \quad \epsilon'_3 = \epsilon_3 s_1 s_2. \quad (1)$$

So with this transformation and the results of I, we can easily write down the equations for composite Ising lattices with unequal spins. The magnetization per site is given by

$$M/N = 2v_1 s_1 L_1 + 2v_2 s_2 L_2, \quad (2)$$

$$\text{with } 2L_1 = \tanh \left[4\beta\gamma\epsilon'_1 L_1 \left(\frac{u_1}{v_1} \right) + 2\beta\gamma\epsilon'_3 L_2 \left(\frac{u_3}{v_1} \right) \right], \quad (3)$$

$$2L_2 = \tanh \left[4\beta\gamma\epsilon'_2 L_2 \left(\frac{u_2}{v_2} \right) + 2\beta\gamma\epsilon'_3 L_1 \left(\frac{u_3}{v_2} \right) \right].$$

A concrete example is given in Fig. 1, with $v_1 = v_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $u_1 = u_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $u_3 = \frac{1}{8}$, $k_B T_{c1} = \gamma\epsilon_1$; the solid line represents the solution of Eq. (2) for $s_1 = 1$, $s_2 = 2$, $\epsilon_2 = \frac{1}{8}\epsilon_1$, and $\epsilon_3 = (\epsilon_1\epsilon_2)^{1/2}$. The dashed lines represent magnetization curves of corresponding single-component systems. As conjectured in I, we see that the composite system has a higher value of M/N in the temperature range $0.42 < T/T_{c1} < 0.63$.

On the experimental side, there is no evidence of definite correlation between coupling strength and spin magnitude in ferromagnetic insulators,² hence the above phenomena are not entirely unrealistic, although this is by no means an easy experiment.³

For two-component systems, one can easily establish that $2u_1 + u_3 = v_1$ (or equivalently $2u_2 + u_3 = v_2$). As a special case, this implies that if $v_1 = v_2$, then $u_1 = u_2$ and vice versa. This is, in general, not true for lattices with more than two components. As a counter example, consider a unit cell of three components $A B B C A C$. Here $v_1 = v_2 = v_3$, but u 's are not identical.

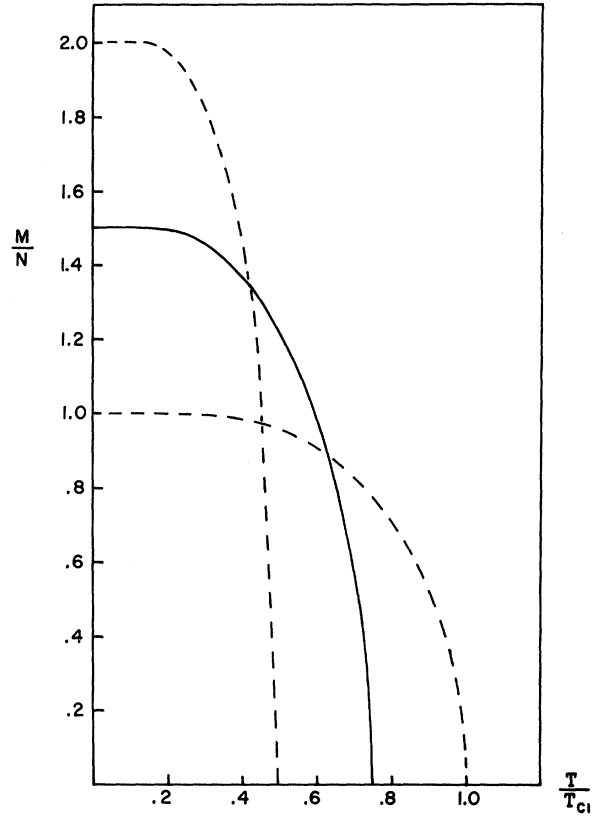


FIG. 1. Magnetization curves of composite Ising lattice with unequal spins. $v_1 = v_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $u_1 = u_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $u_3 = \frac{1}{8}$, $k_B T_{c1} = \gamma\epsilon_1$. Solid line represents the case of $s_1 = 1$, $s_2 = 2$, $\epsilon_2 = \frac{1}{8}\epsilon_1$, and $\epsilon_3 = (\epsilon_1\epsilon_2)^{1/2}$. The dashed lines represent magnetization curves of corresponding single-component systems.

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²For example, CrO_2 has $T_c = 400^\circ\text{K}$ and $2\mu_B$ (Bohr mag-

neton) per Cr^{4+} ion for saturation magnetization. CrBr_3 has $T_c = 37^\circ\text{K}$ and $3\mu_B$ per Cr^{3+} ion for saturation magnetization. For a summary of experimental results, see *Magnetism III*, edited by G. T. Rado and H. Suhl (Academic, New York, 1963), Chap. 2.

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