



The Henryk Niewodniczański  
Institute of Nuclear Physics  
Polish Academy of Sciences



# Przejście Verweya w magnetycie - dynamika sieci i fluktuacje krytyczne

Przemysław Piekarz

*Zakład Komputerowych Badań Materiałów  
Instytut Fizyki Jądrowej PAN*



# Collaboration

**K. Parlinski**

*Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków*

**A. M. Oleś**

*Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Kraków*

**A. Kozłowski, T. Kołodziej, W. Tabiś, Z. Kąkol, A. Tarnawski, M. Zając,  
B. Handke, J. Przewoźnik, T. Ślęzak, J. Korecki**  
*AGH University of Science and Technology, Kraków*

**D. Legut**

*IT4Innovations, National Supercomputing Center, Ostrava*

**A. Bosak, M. Krisch, A. I. Chumakov**  
*The European Synchrotron, ESRF, Grenoble*

**M. Hoesch**

*Diamond Light Source, Harwell*

**S. Borroni, A. Mann, F. Carbone**  
*École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lousanne*

**J. Lorenzana**

*University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Rome*

**E. Baldini, C. A. Belvin, N. Gedik**

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA*

# Magnetic susceptibility

## Die anfängliche Suszeptibilität von Eisen und Magnetit in Abhängigkeit von der Temperatur

—  
VON DER  
EIDGENÖSSISCHEN TECHNISCHEN HOCHSCHULE  
IN ZÜRICH

ZUR ERLANGUNG DER WÜRDE EINES  
DOKTORS DER TECHNISCHEN WISSENSCHAFTEN  
GENEHMIGTE PROMOTIONSARBEIT

VORGELEGT VON  
**KARL RENGER**  
DIPL. MASCH.-ING.  
AUS BÖHM.-KAMNITZ (ÖSTERREICH)

REFERENT:  
**HERR PROF. DR P. WEISS**  
KORREFERENT:  
**HERR PROF. DR A. EINSTEIN**

—  
ZÜRICH 1913  
Buch- und Kunstdruckerei Jean Frey

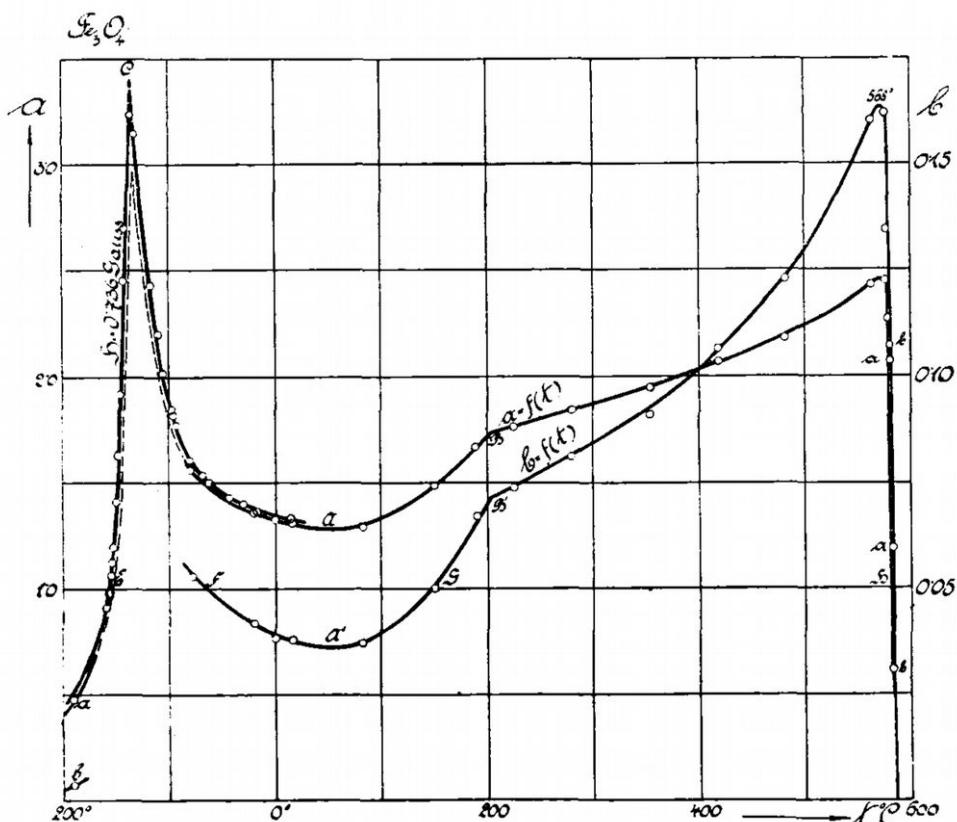
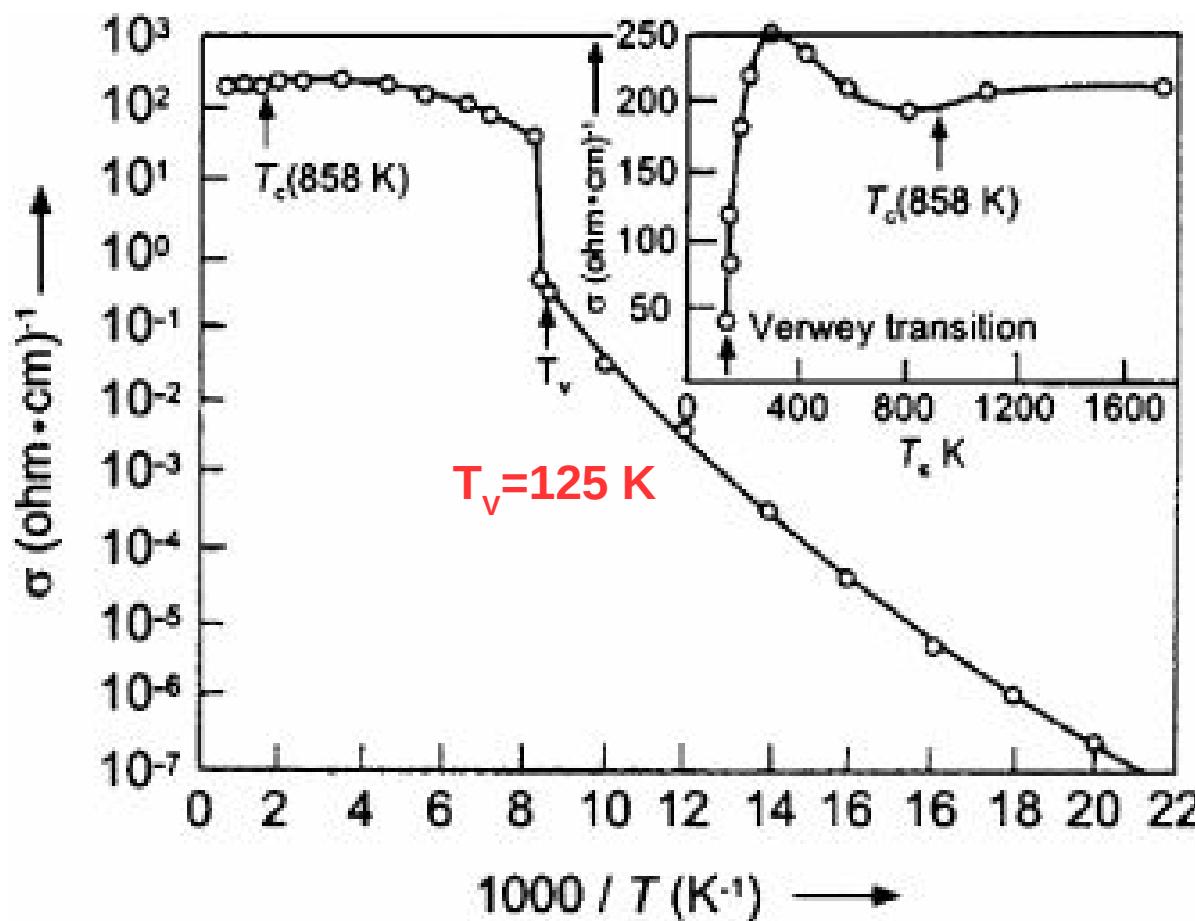


Fig. 14

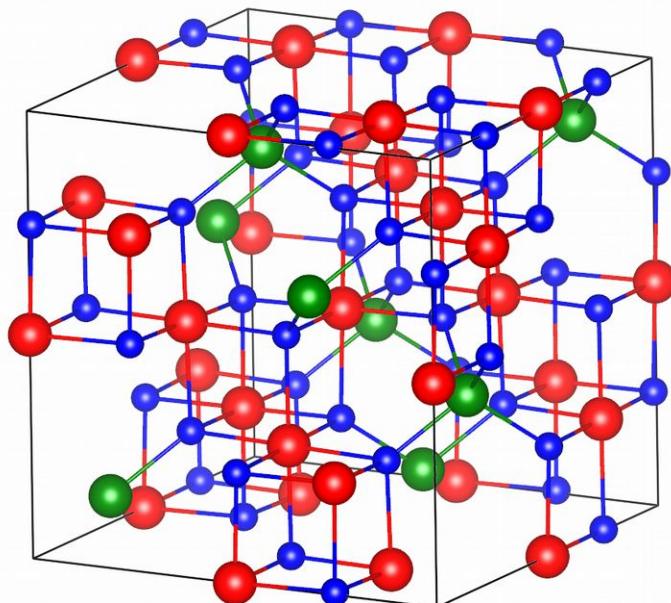
# Verwey transition in magnetite $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$

E. J. W. Verwey, Nature 144, 327 (1939)

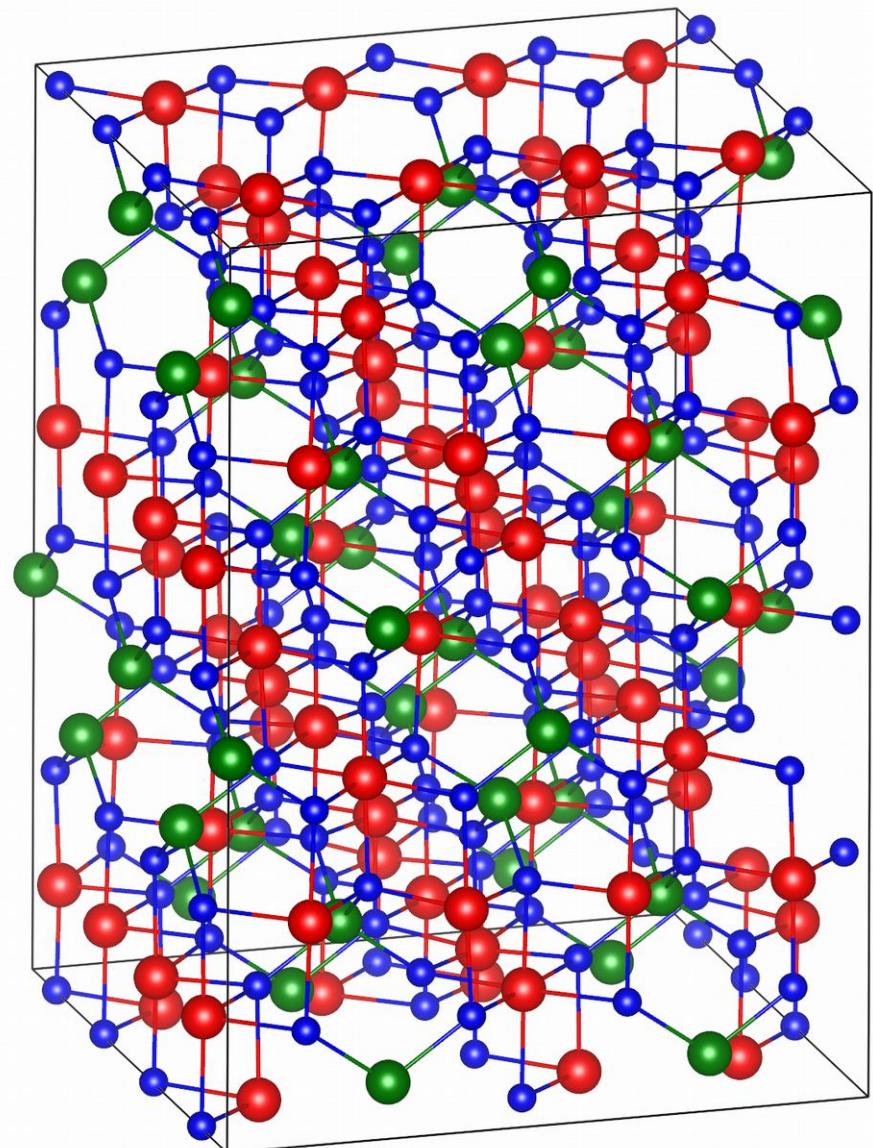


# Structural phase transition

Fd-3m  $T > T_v = 125$  K



Cc  $T < T_v = 125$  K

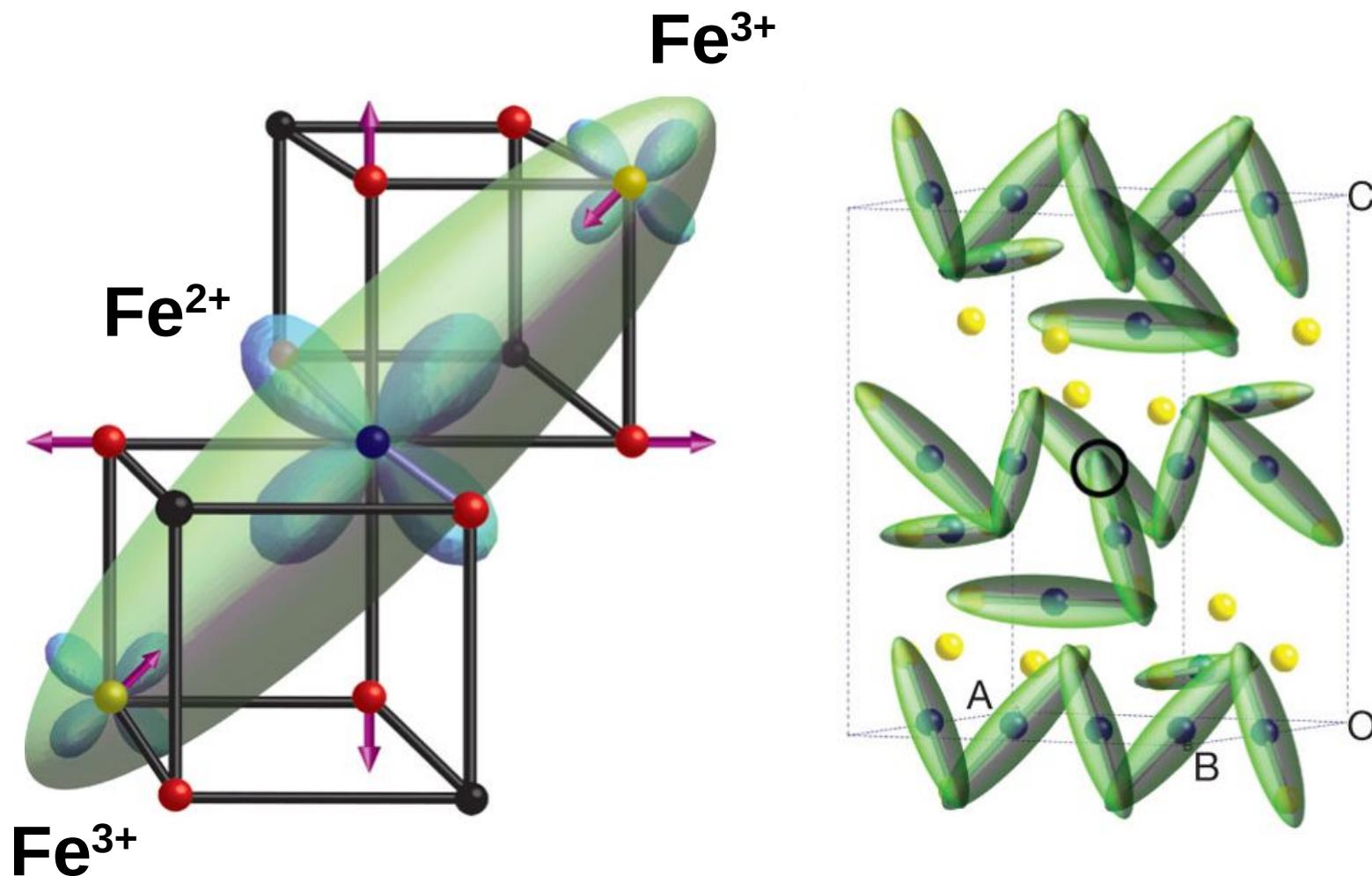


Fe(A)<sup>3+</sup> - tetrahedral position

Fe(B)<sup>2.5+</sup> - octahedral position

O - oxygen

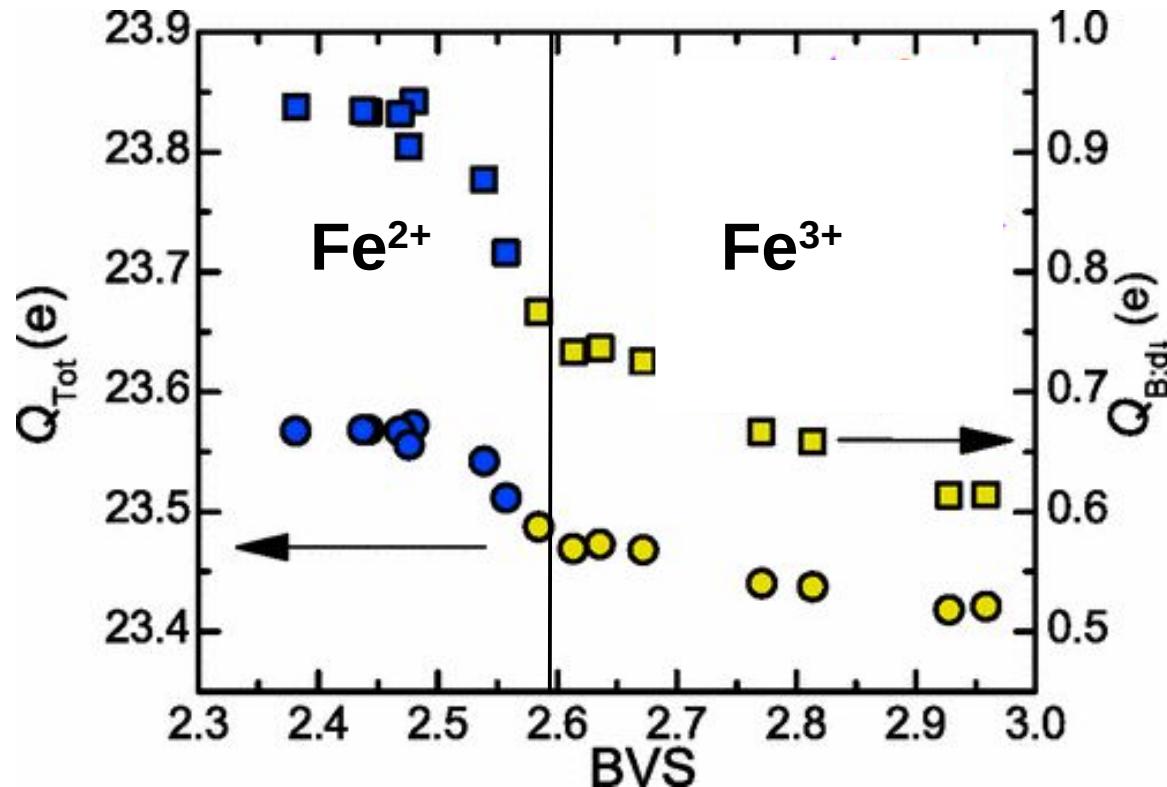
# Trimerons



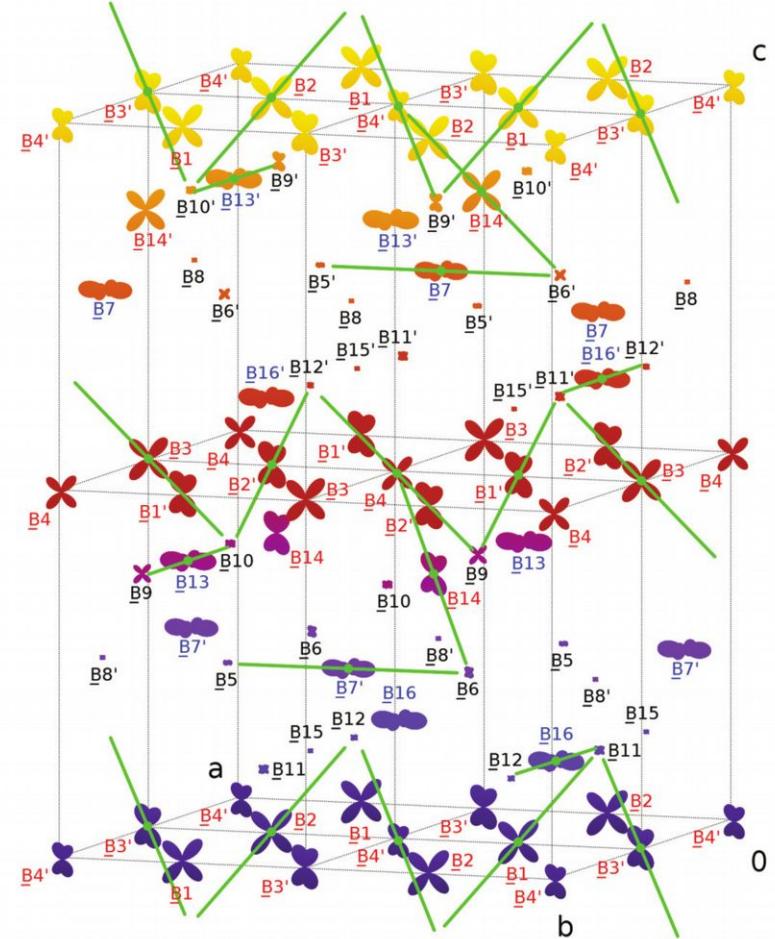
M. R. Senn, J. P. Wright, and J. P. Attfield, Nature 481, 173 (2012)

# Charge-orbital order

Fe(B) – 16 different crystallographic sites (charges) in Cc



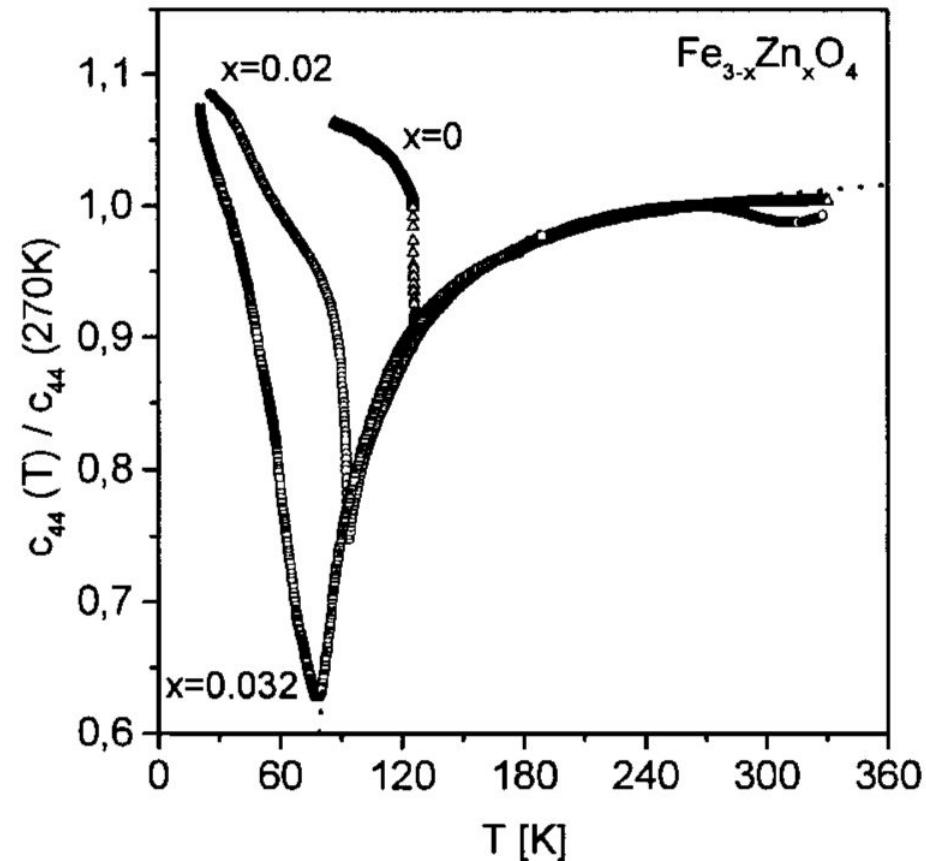
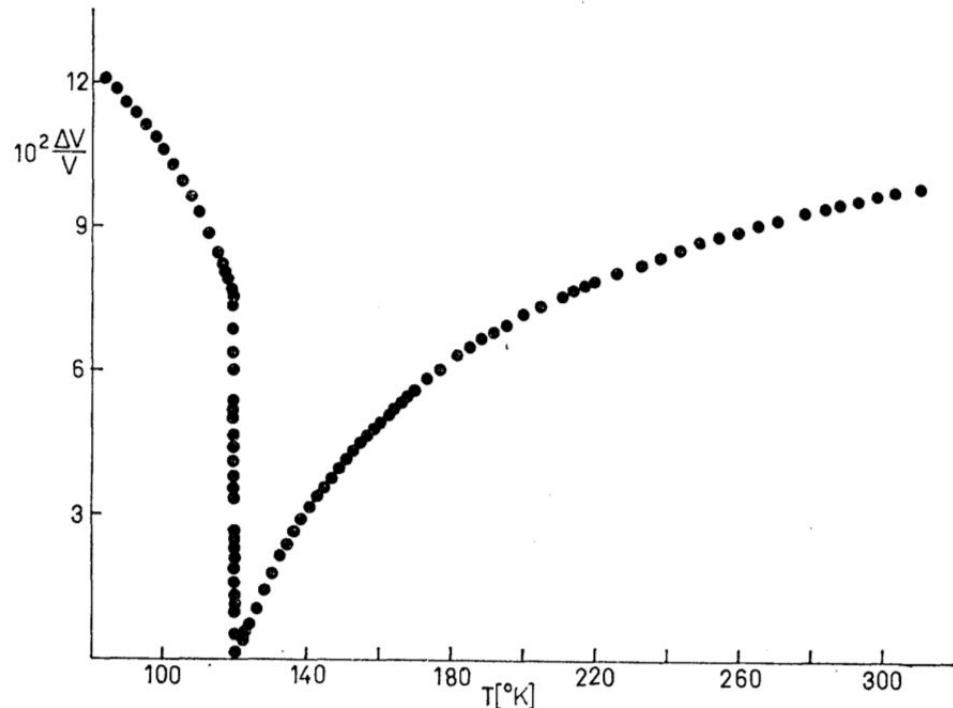
M. S. Senn et al., Phys. Rev. B 85, 125119 (2012)



R. Reznicek et al., Phys. Rev. B 91, 125134 (2015)

# Critical softening of $c_{44}$ above $T_v$

T. J. Moran and B. Luthi, Phys. Rev. 187, 710 (1969)

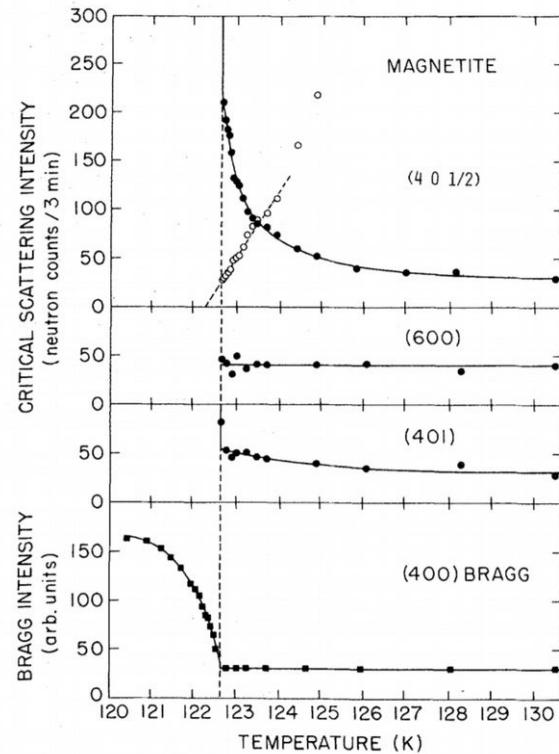


H. Schwenk, S. Bareiter, C. Hinkel, B. Luthi, Z. Kakol,  
A. Koslowski, and J. M. Honig, Eur. Phys. J. B 13, 491 (2000)

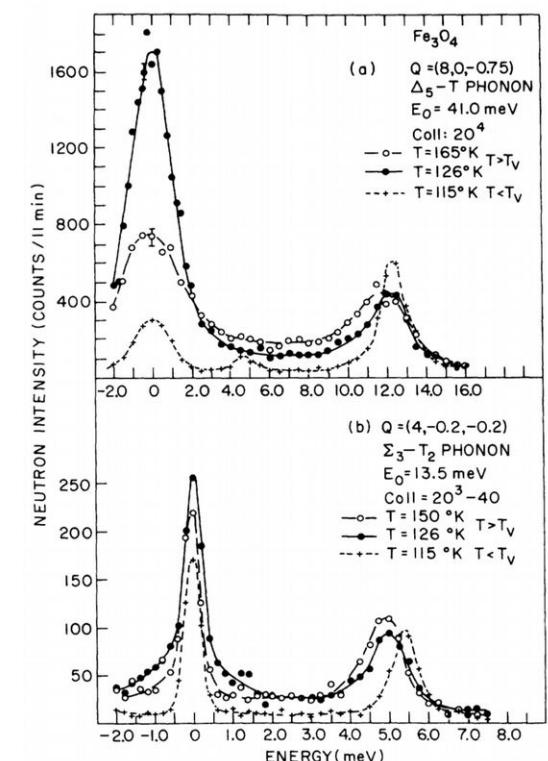
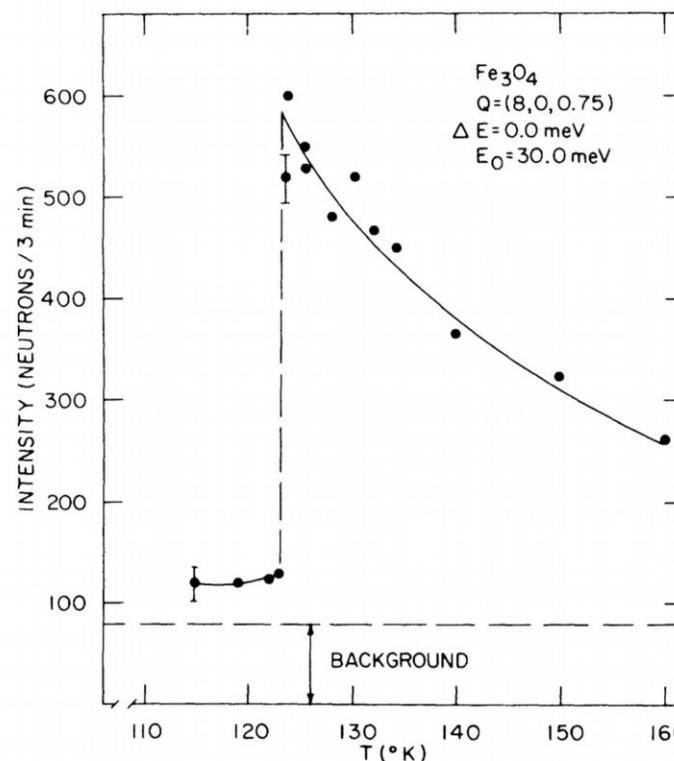
The critical behavior of elastic constant  $c_{44}$  was explained in terms of bilinear coupling of the elastic strain to a fluctuation mode of the charge ordering field of  $T_{2g}$  symmetry

# Critical neutron scattering above $T_v$

Diffuse scattering at the same wave vectors as the superlattice reflections of the monoclinic phase



Diffuse scattering at incommensurate  $q$  vectors is observed in broad temperature range

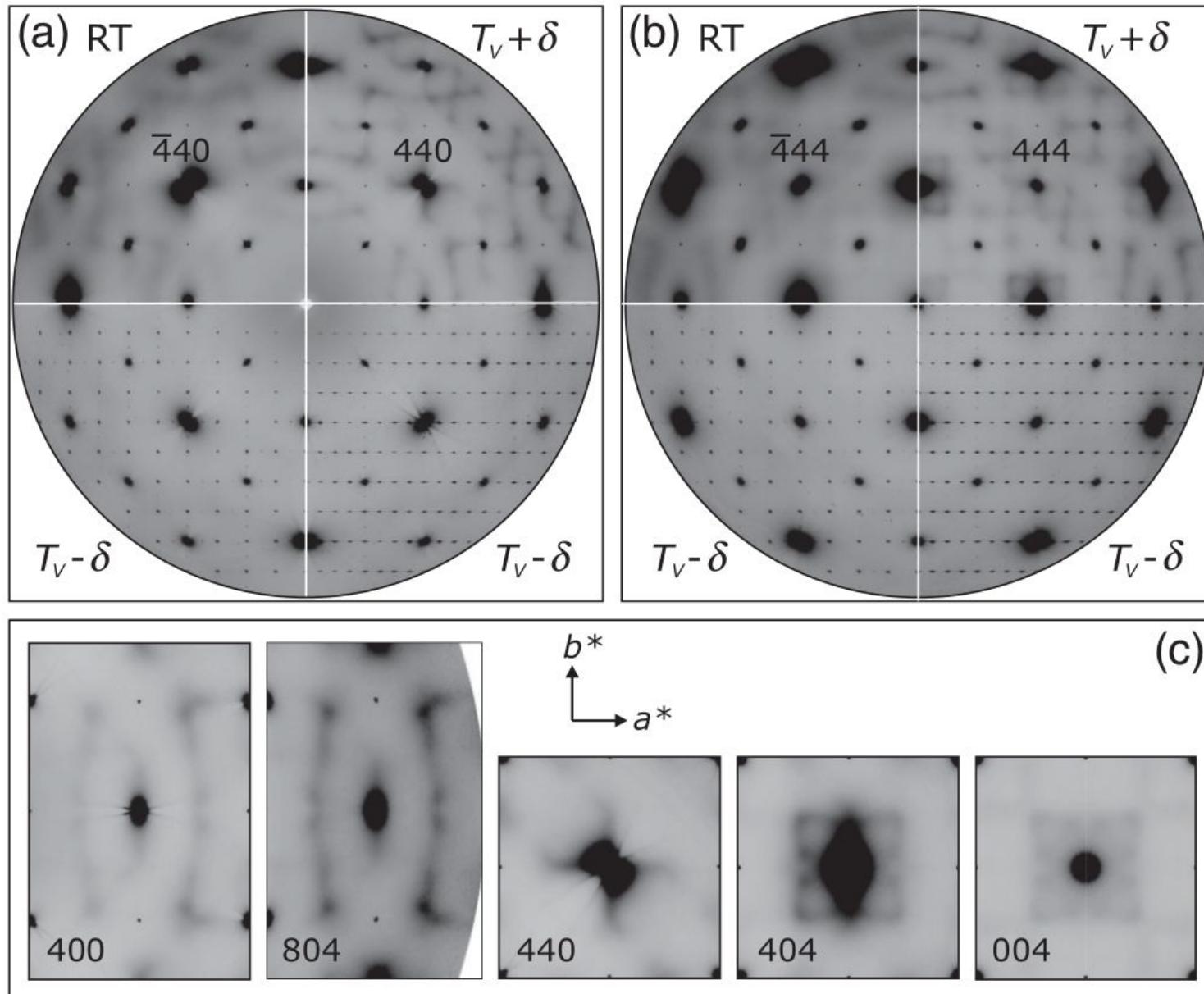


Y. Fujii, G. Shirane, and Y. Yamada,  
Phys. Rev. B 11, 2036 (1975)

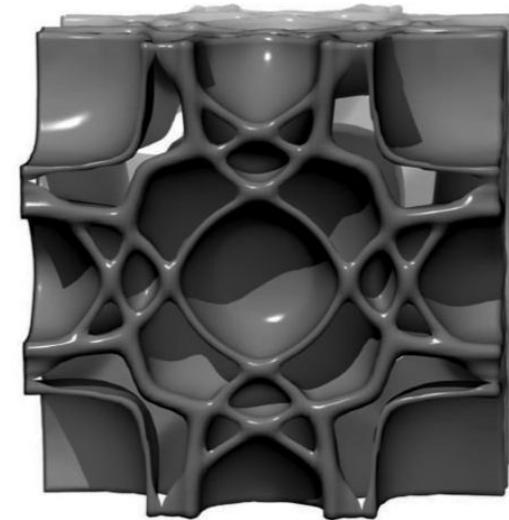
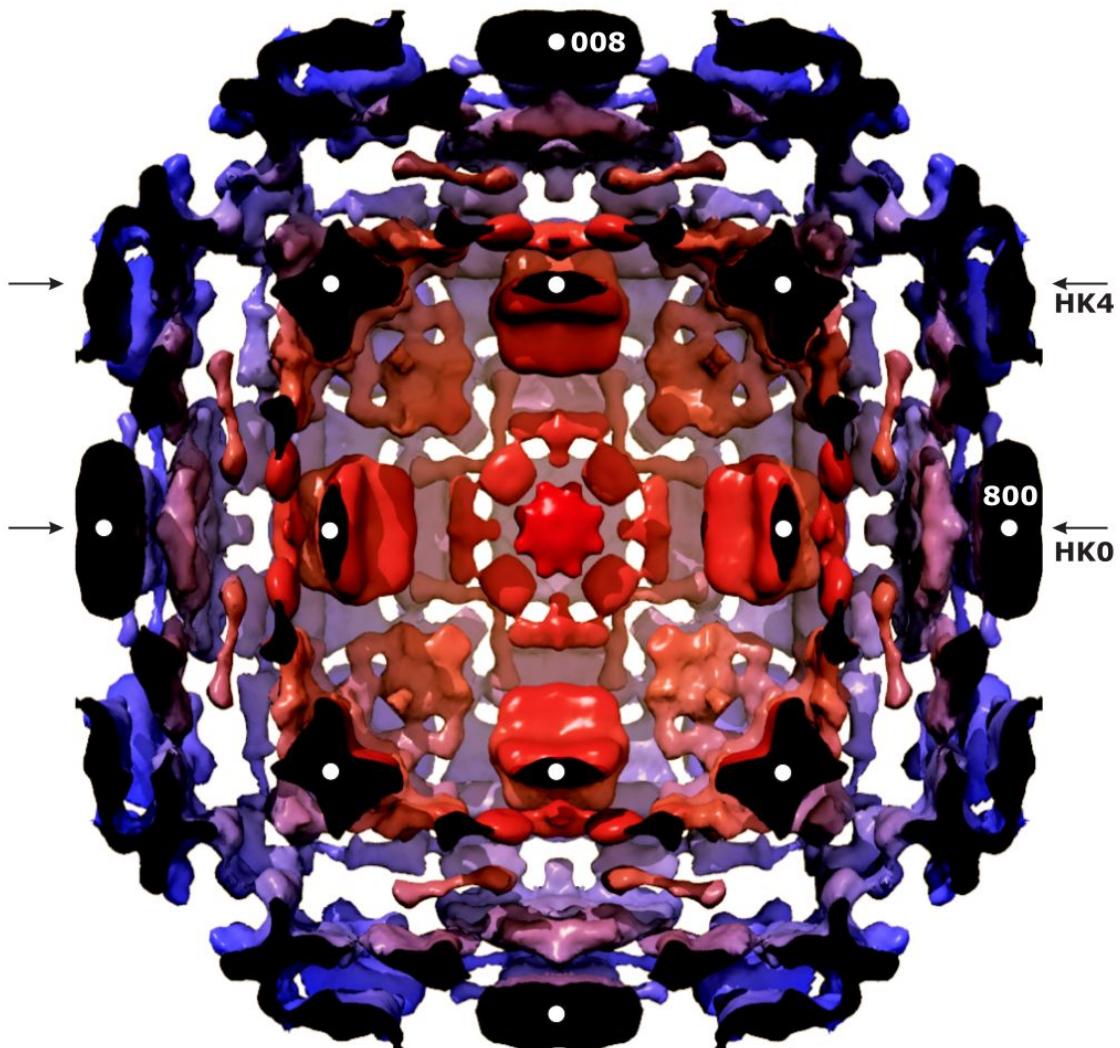
S. M. Shapiro, M. Izumi, and G. Shirane,  
Phys. Rev. B 14, 200 (1976)

**Neutron diffuse scattering centered at zero energy (central peak)  
is coupled with transverse acoustic (TA) phonons**

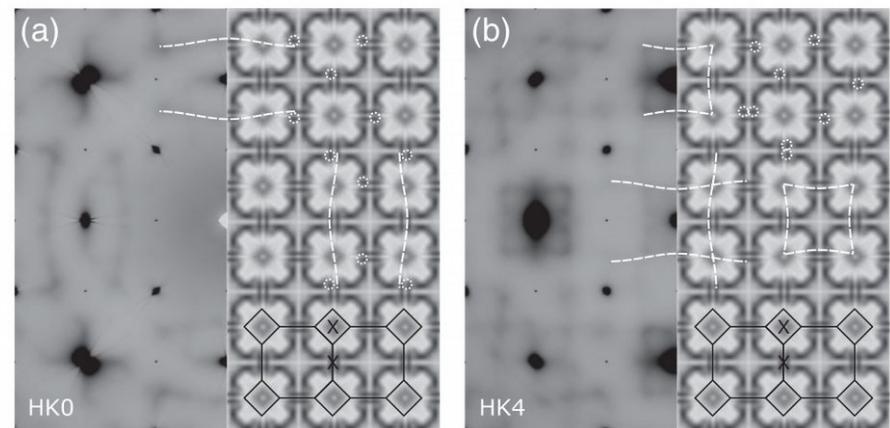
# X-ray diffuse scattering (ID28, ESRF)



# X-ray diffuse scattering (ID28, ESRF)



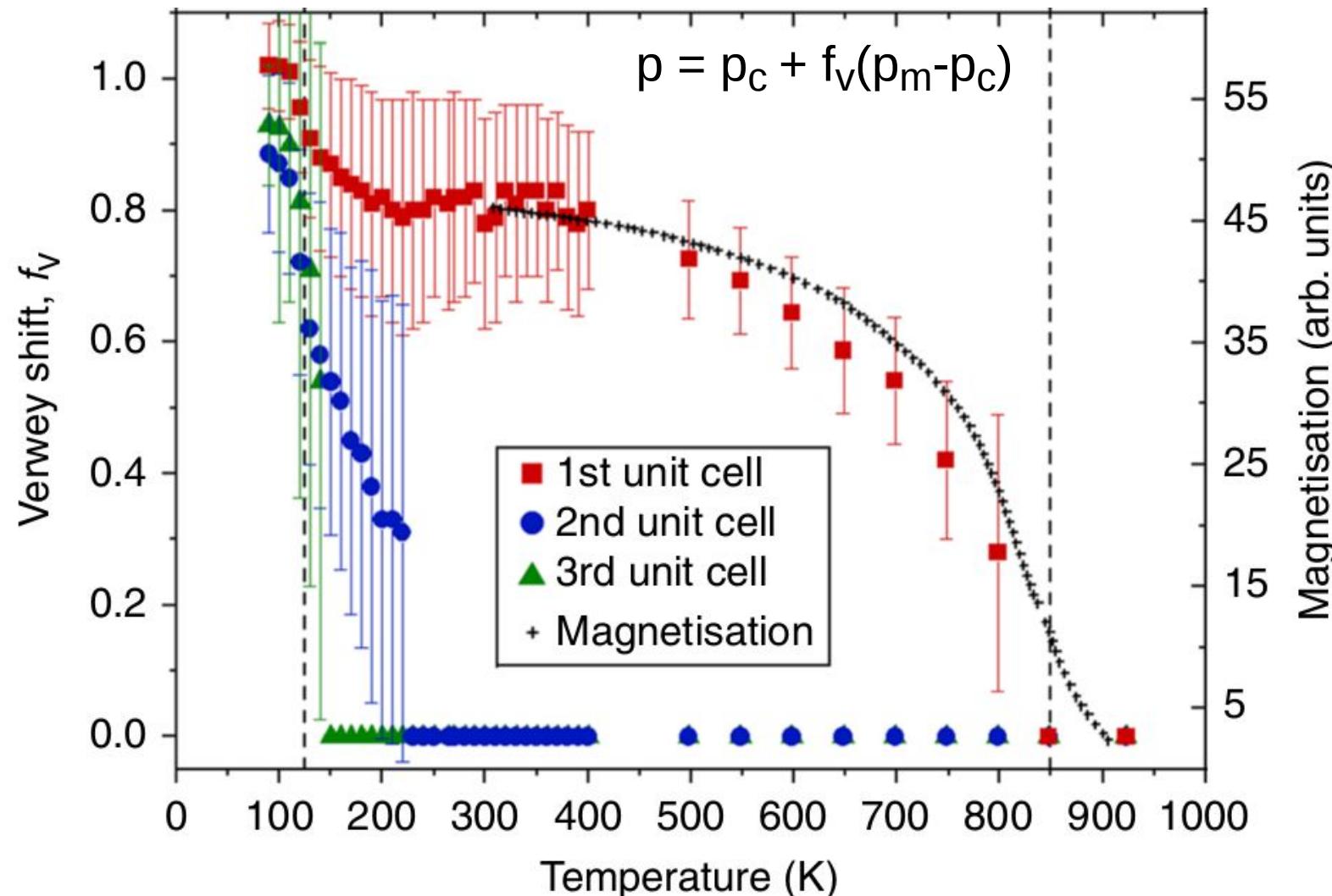
$$q = 2k_F$$



A. Bosak, D. Chernyshov, M. Hoesch, P. Piekarz, M. Le Tacon, M. Krisch,  
A. Kozłowski, A. M. Oleś, and K. Parlinski, Phys. Rev. X 4, 011040 (2014)

# Short-range fluctuations up to $T_c$

The structural fluctuations responsible for the Verwey transition emerge with the long-range magnetic order below the Curie transition and scale with the magnetisation



G. Perversi, E. Pachoud, J. Cumby, J. M. Hudspeth, J. P. Wright, S. A.J. Kimber and J. P. Attfield, Nature Communications 10, 2857 (2019)

# Lattice dynamics

K. Parlinski, Z. Q. Li, and Y. Kawazoe, Phys. Rev. Lett. 78, 4063 (1997)

- crystal structure optimization (DFT, VASP)

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \min \quad F_i(\mu) = 0$$

- Hellmann-Feynman forces

$$F_i(\mu) = - dE_{\text{tot}} / du_i(\mu)$$

- force constants matrix (Phonon)

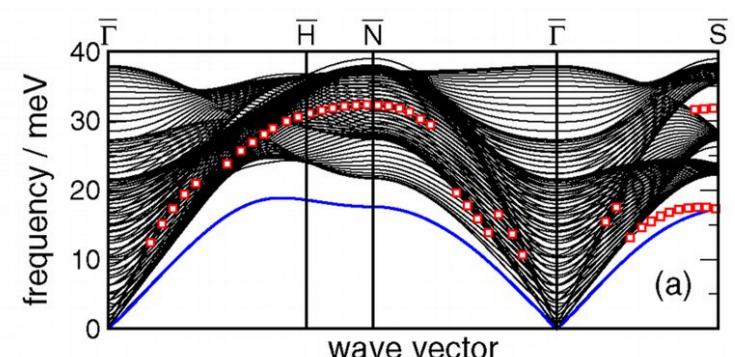
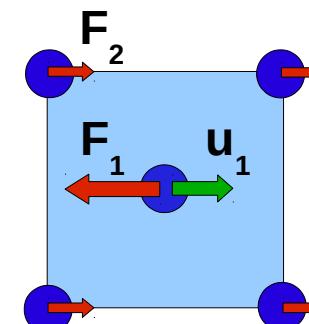
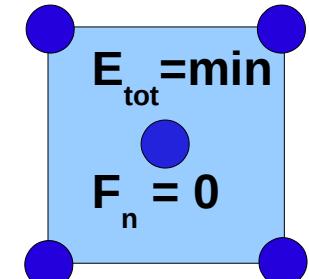
$$F_i(\mu) = - \sum_{ij} \Phi_{ij}(\mu, v) u_j(v)$$

- dynamical matrix  $\Phi(\mu, v) \Rightarrow D(k, \mu, v)$

- dispersion curves, polarisation vectors, DOS

$$D(k, \mu, v) e(k, j) = \omega^2(k, j) e(k, j)$$

Method has been applied to bulk crystals, surfaces, nanostructures, disordered systems

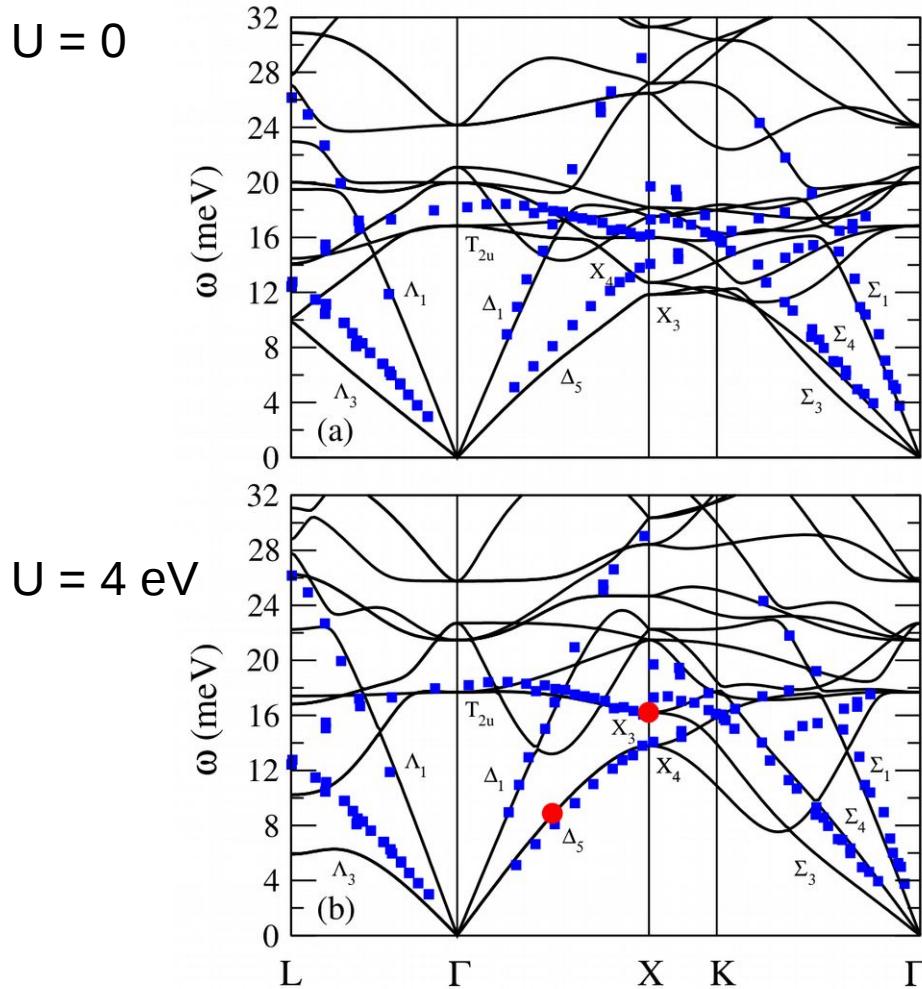


Phonon dispersions at Fe(110) surface

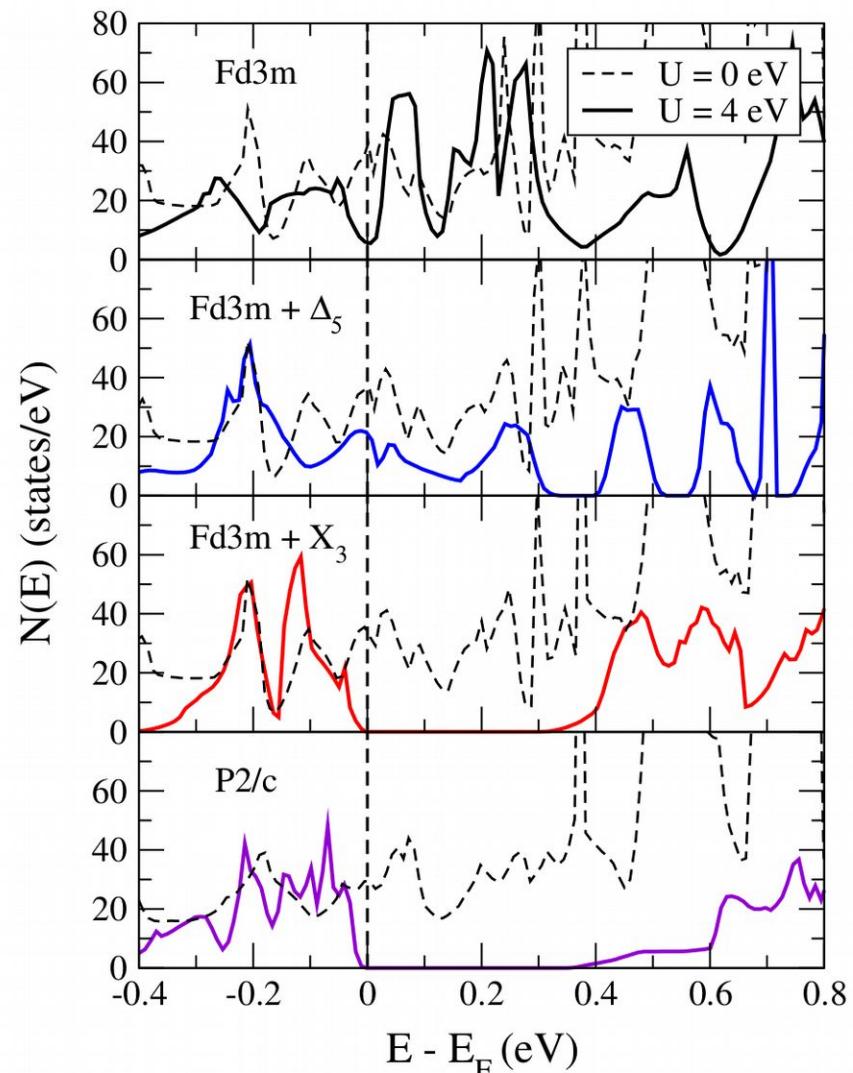
# Phonons in magnetite

P. Piekarz, K. Parlinski, A. M. Oleś, Phys. Rev. Lett. 97, 156402 (2006),  
 Phys. Rev. B 76, 165124 (2007)

DFT, VASP, LDA+U,  $U = 4 \text{ eV}$ ,  $J = 0.8 \text{ eV}$

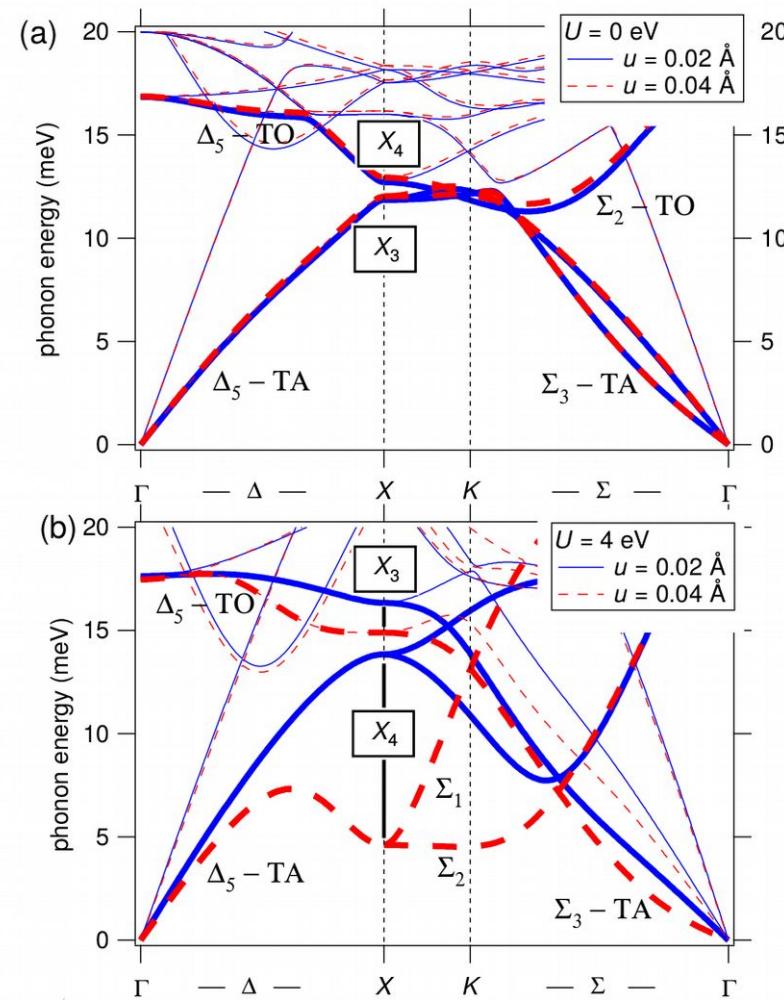
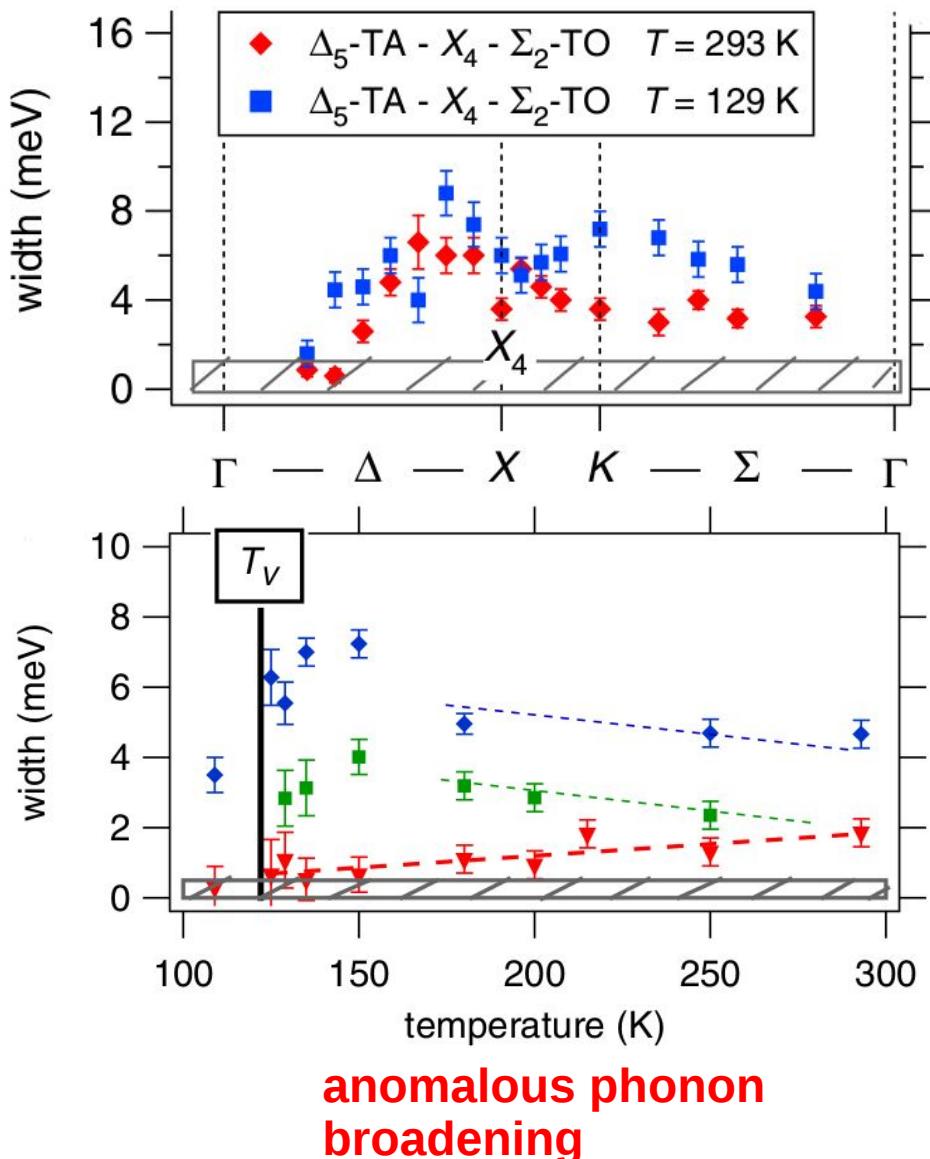


Fd-3m  $\rightarrow$   $X_3 + \Delta_5 \rightarrow$  P2/c



INS E. J. Samuelsen and O. Steinsvoll,  
 Phys. Status Solidi B 61, 615 (1974)

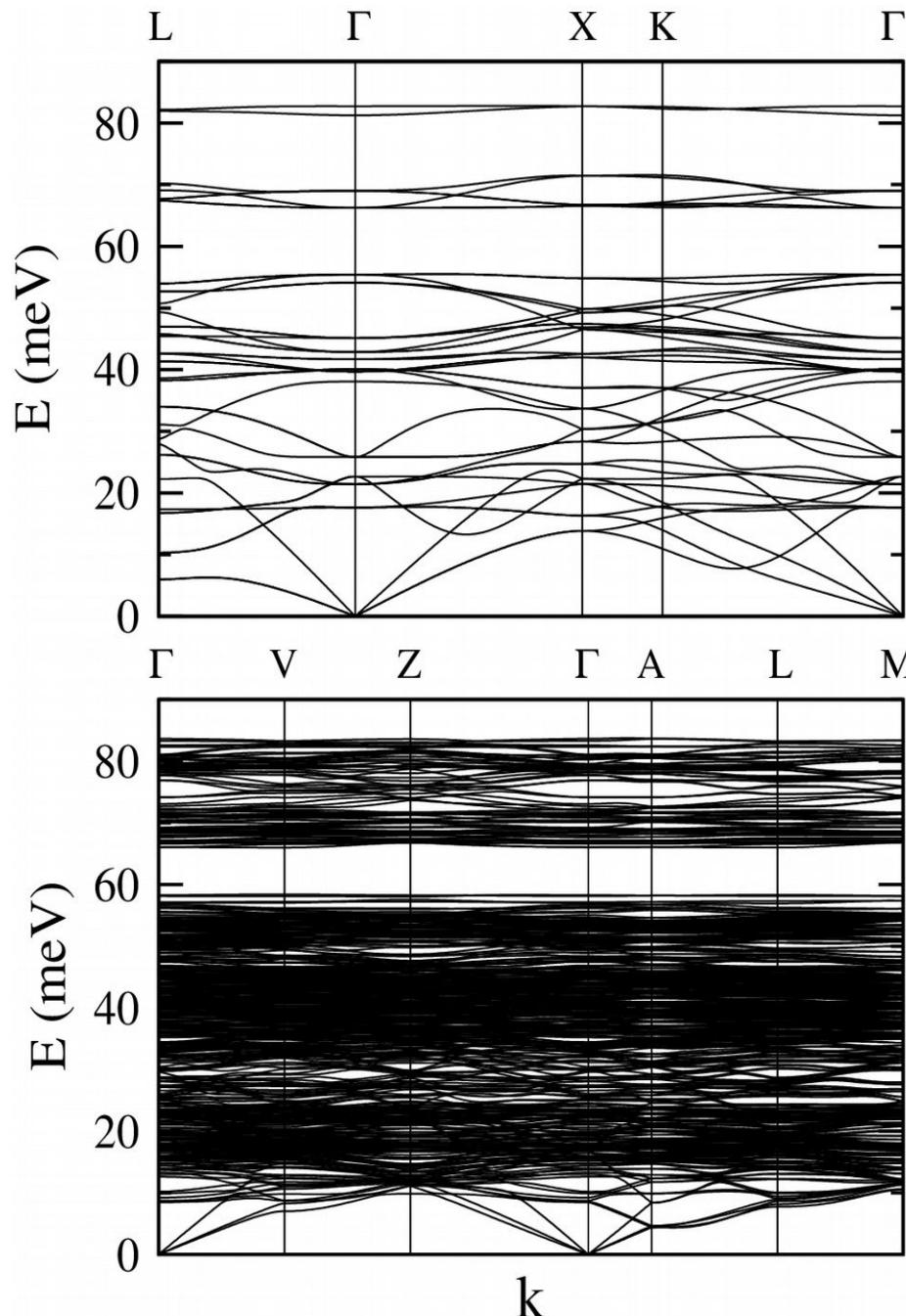
# Inelastic X-ray scattering (ID28, ESRF)



**strong anharmonicity induced by electron-phonon coupling**

M. Hoesch, P. Piekarz, A. Bosak, M. Le Tacon, M. Krisch, A. Kozłowski, A. M. Oleś, K. Parlinski, Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 207204 (2013)

# Dispersion relations in Cc structure



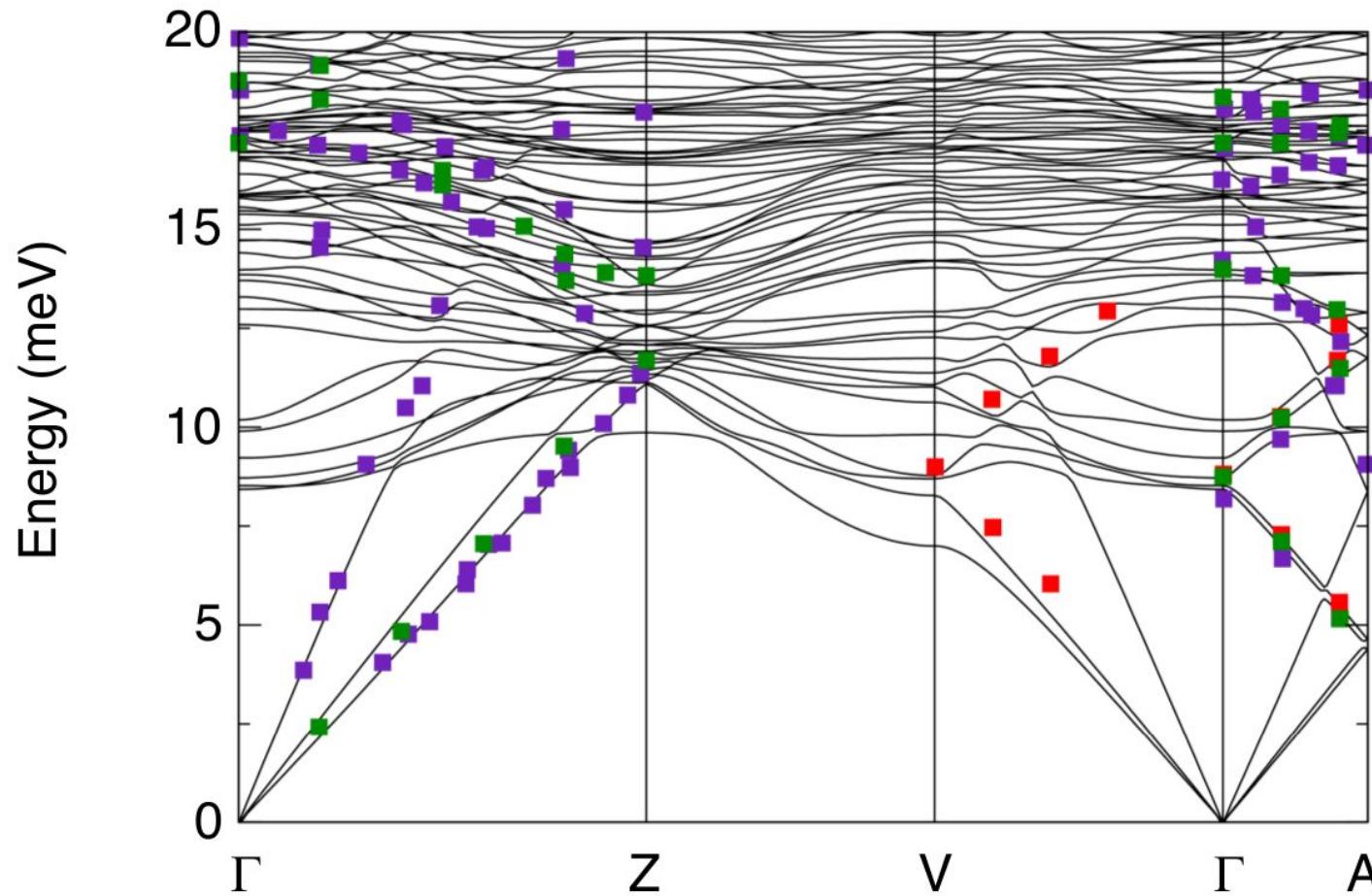
**Fd-3m**

56 atoms in supercell  
14 atoms in primitive cell  
42 phonon dispersions

**Cc**

224 atoms in supercell  
112 atoms in primitive cell  
336 phonon dispersions

# Dispersion relations in Cc structure

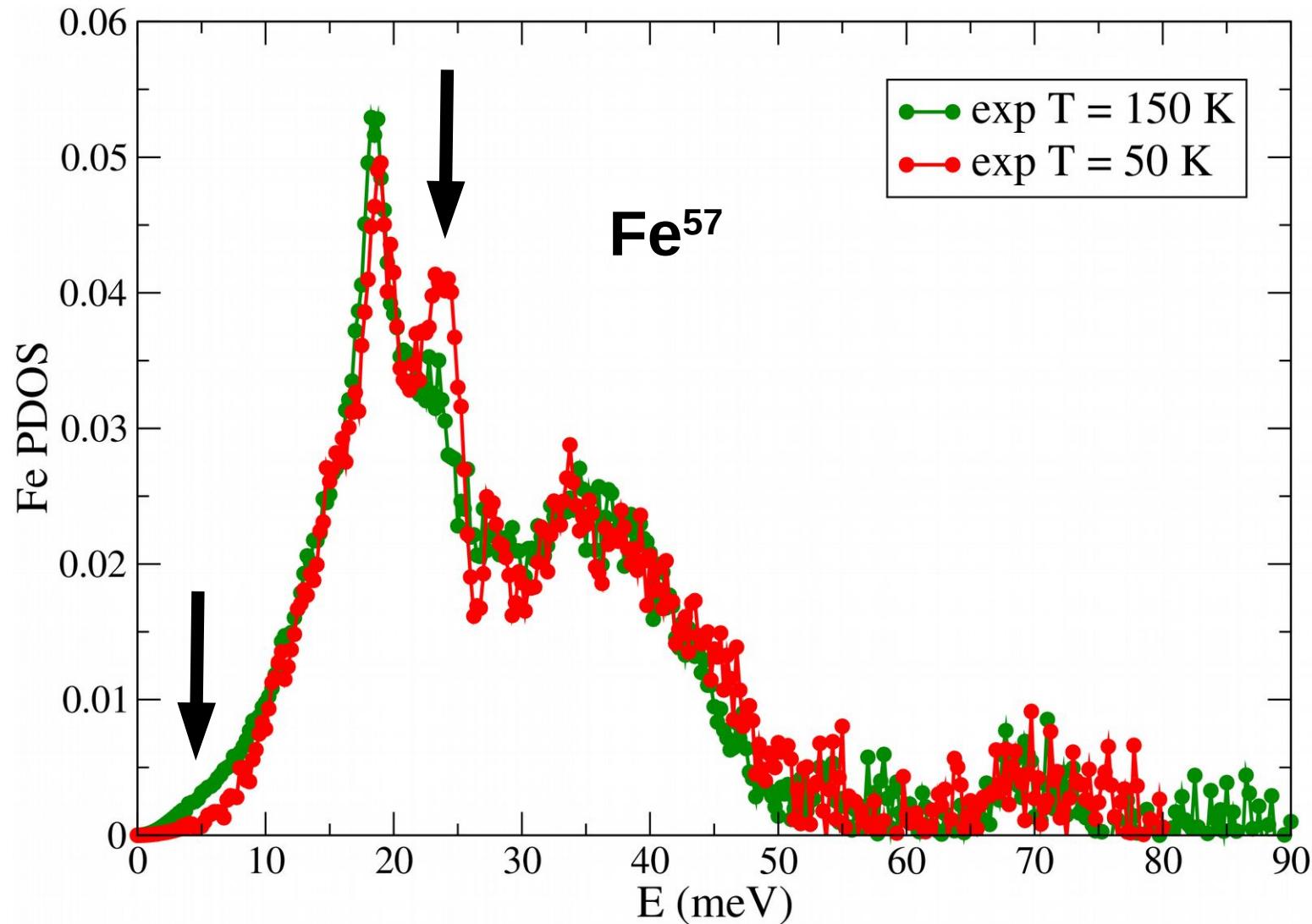


INS  $T > T_V$  (violet) E. J. Samuelsen and O. Steinsvoll, Phys. Status Solidi B 61, 615 (1974)

INS  $T < T_V$  (red) S. Borroni, et al., New J. Phys. 19, 103013 (2017)

IXS  $T > T_V$  (green) M. Hoesch, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 207204 (2013)

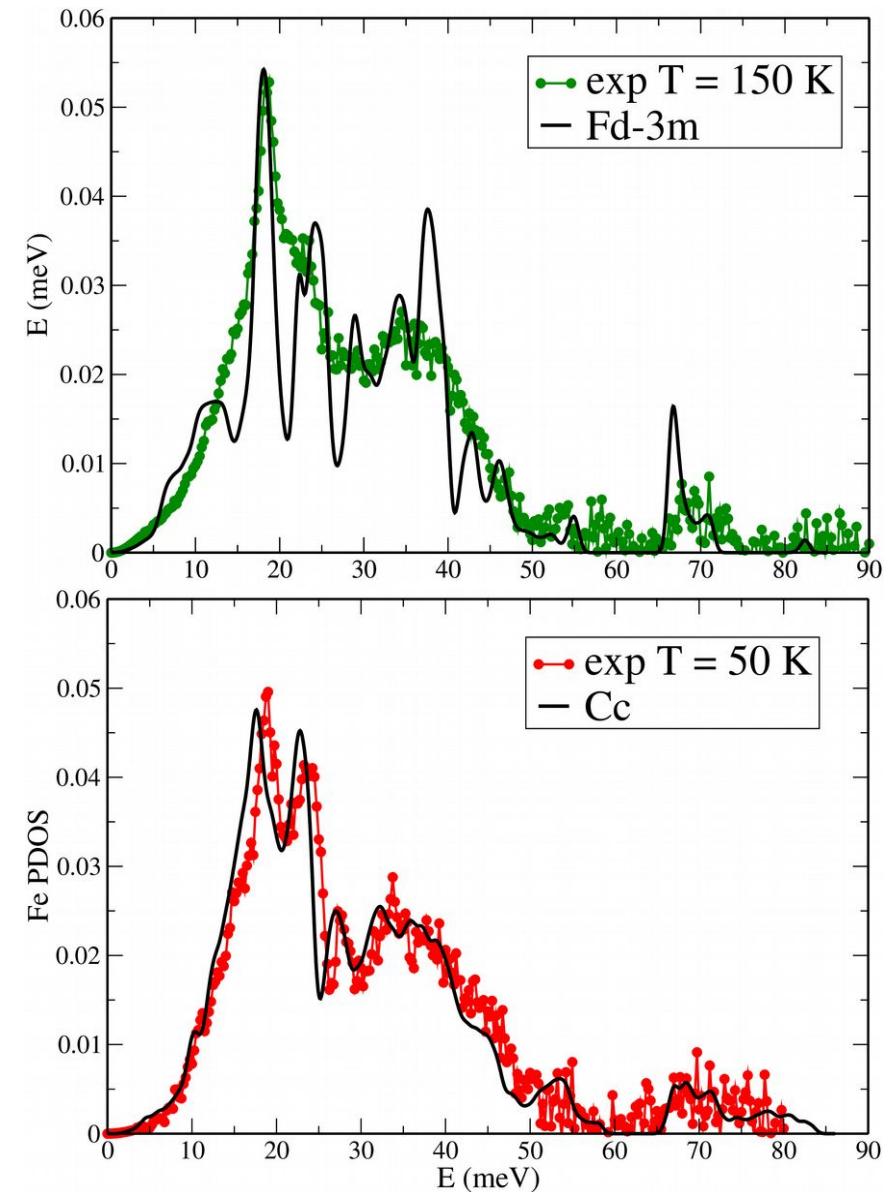
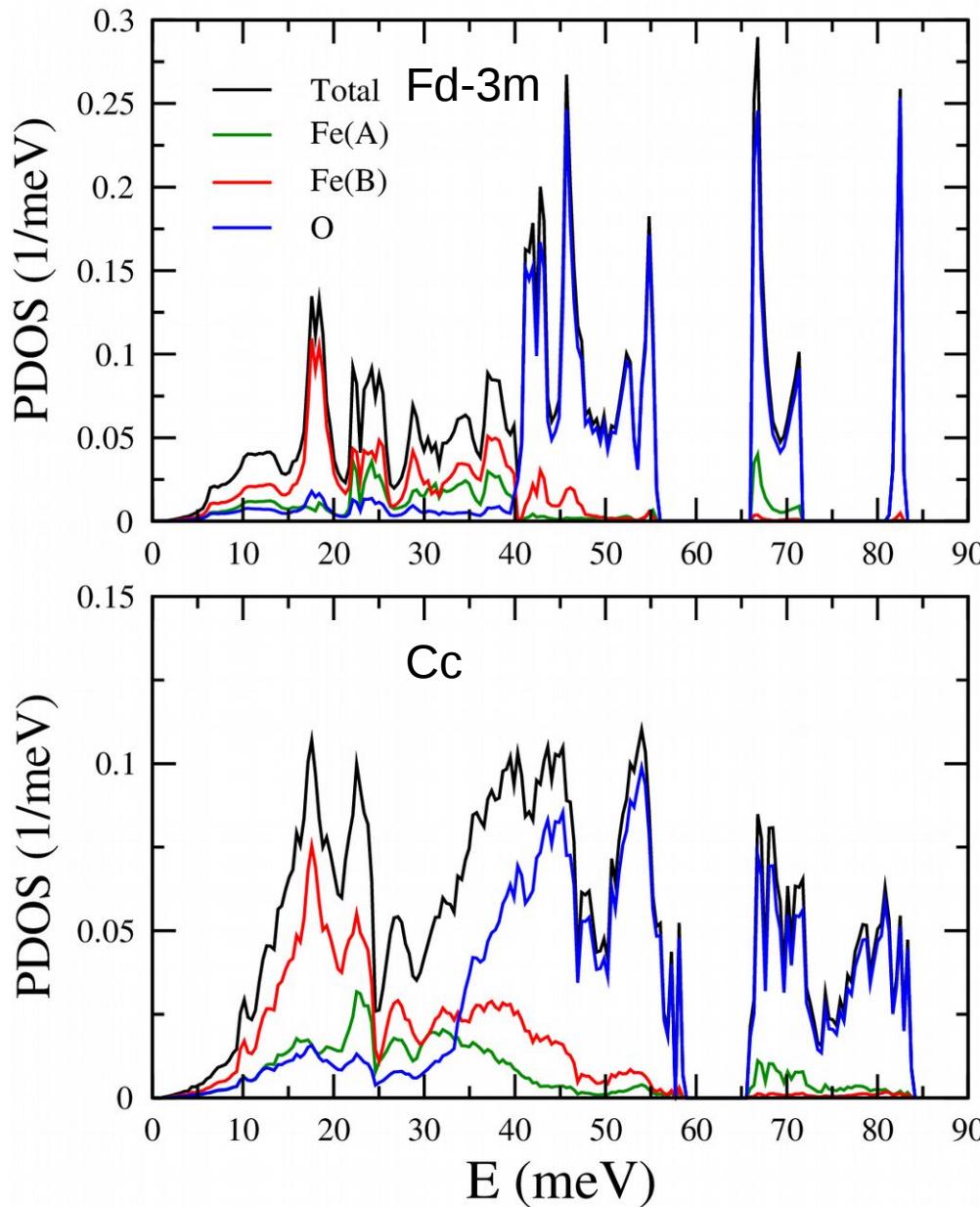
# Nuclear inelastic scattering (ID18, ESRF)



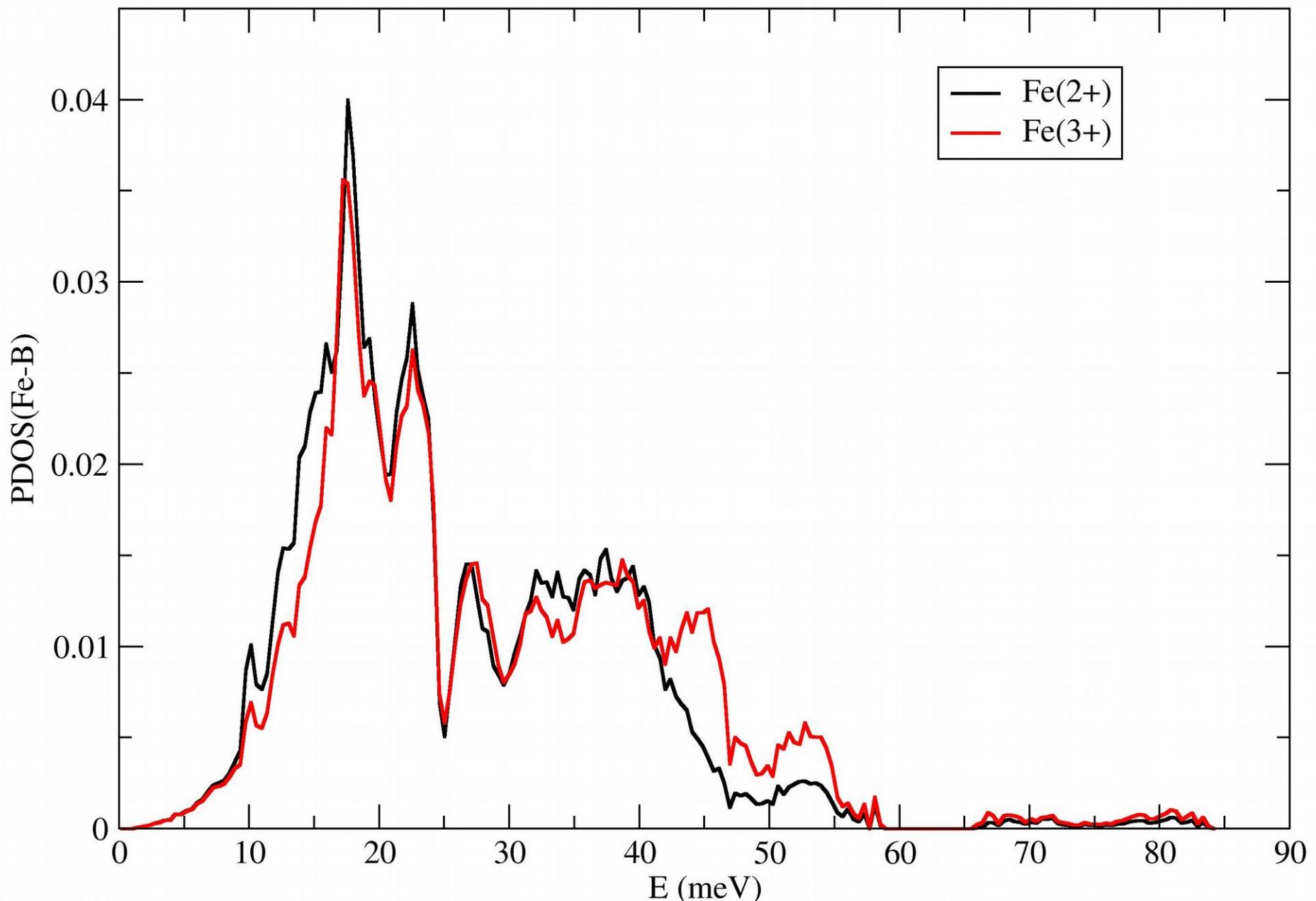
B. Handke, A. Kozłowski, K. Parlinski, J. Przewoźnik, T. Ślęzak, A. I. Chumakov, L. Niesen, Z. Kąkol, and J. Korecki, Phys. Rev. B 71, 144301 (2005)

T. Kołodziej, A. Kozłowski, P. Piekarz, W. Tabiś, Z. Kąkol, M. Zając, Z. Tarnawski, J. M. Honig, A. M. Oleś, K. Parlinski, Phys. Rev. B 85, 104301 (2012)

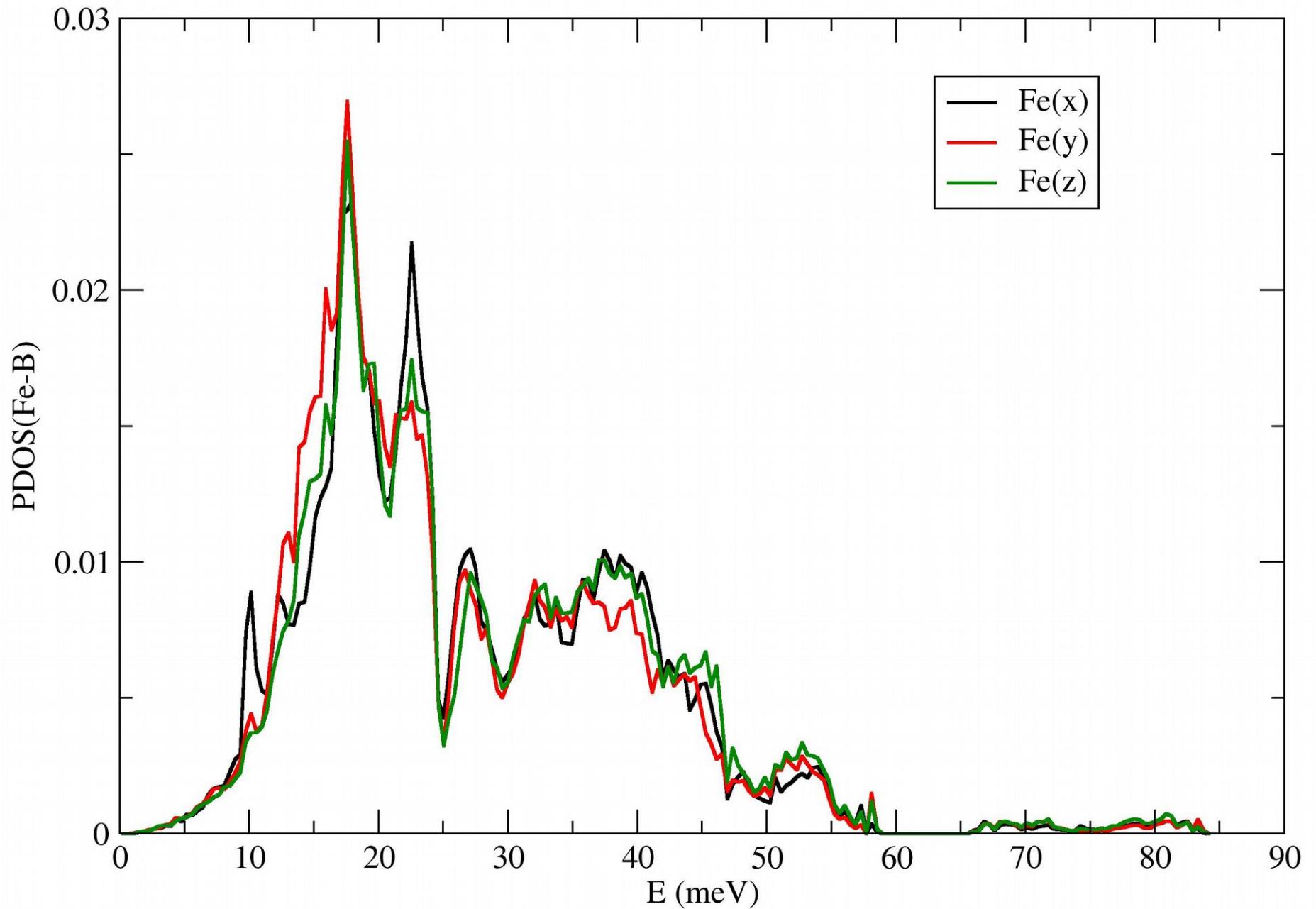
# Phonon Fe DOS Fd-3m vs Cc



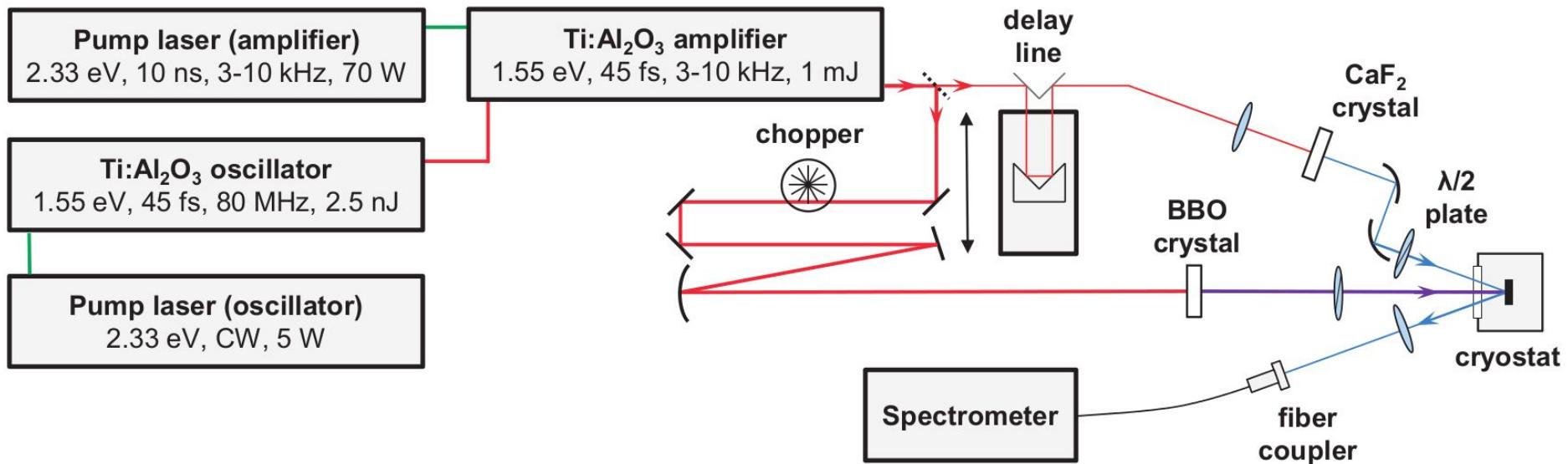
# Phonon Fe DOS Cc Fe<sup>2+</sup> vs Fe<sup>3+</sup>



# Phonon Fe DOS Cc x, y, z



# Pump-probe experiment (EPFL)



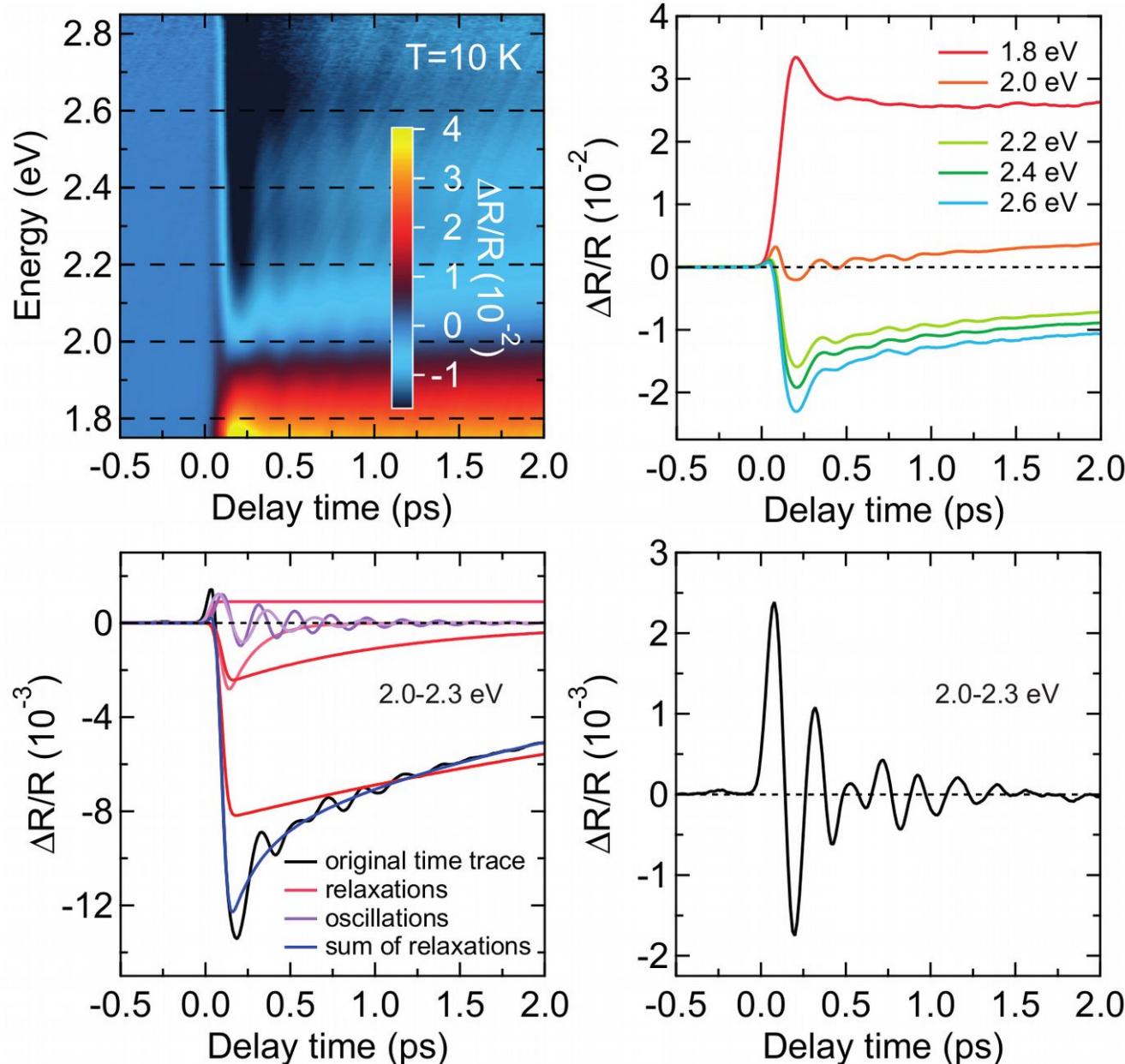
## The pump-probe ultrafast spectroscopy scheme.

A sequence of laser pulses, the pump pulses, is sent to the sample. To measure the consequent response, delayed replica of the pump pulses, the probe pulses, are also sent to the sample, in a small spot wherein the intensity of the pump pulses is homogeneous. The repetition rate and the fluence, i.e. the energy per unit area, of the pump pulses are chosen so that the sample returns to equilibrium between consecutive pump pulses. Therefore, for a given time delay between pump and probe pulses, all probe pulses measure an identical state of the sample. After enough statistics on the probe pulses is collected, the time delay between pump and probe pulses is changed, to progressively construct a sequence of data points, representative of the dynamics upon impulsive photoexcitation.

Simone Borroni, Ph.D. Thesis, "New Insights into the Verwey Transition in Magnetite" (2018)

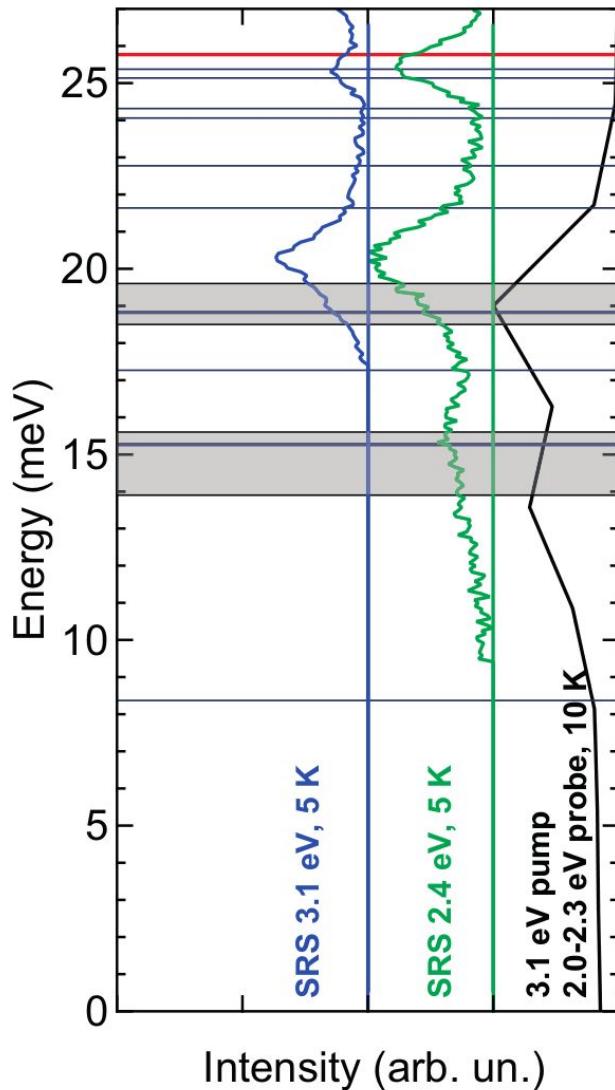
# Pump-probe experiment (EPFL)

Differential reflectivity as a function of pump-probe delay time and probe photon energy



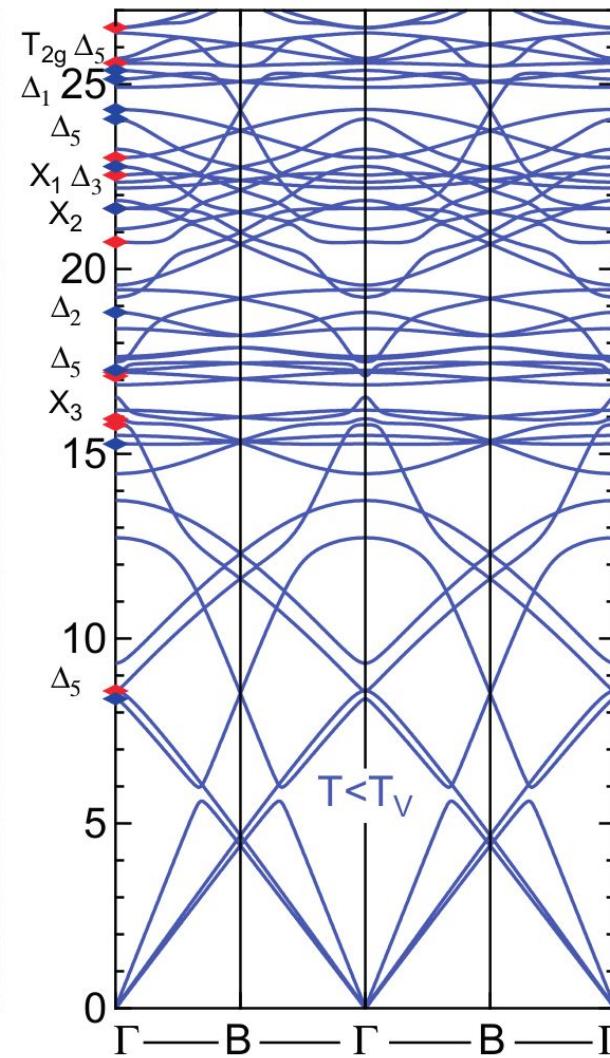
# Raman modes

Spontaneous Raman spectra (SRS)  
and coherent pump-probe response

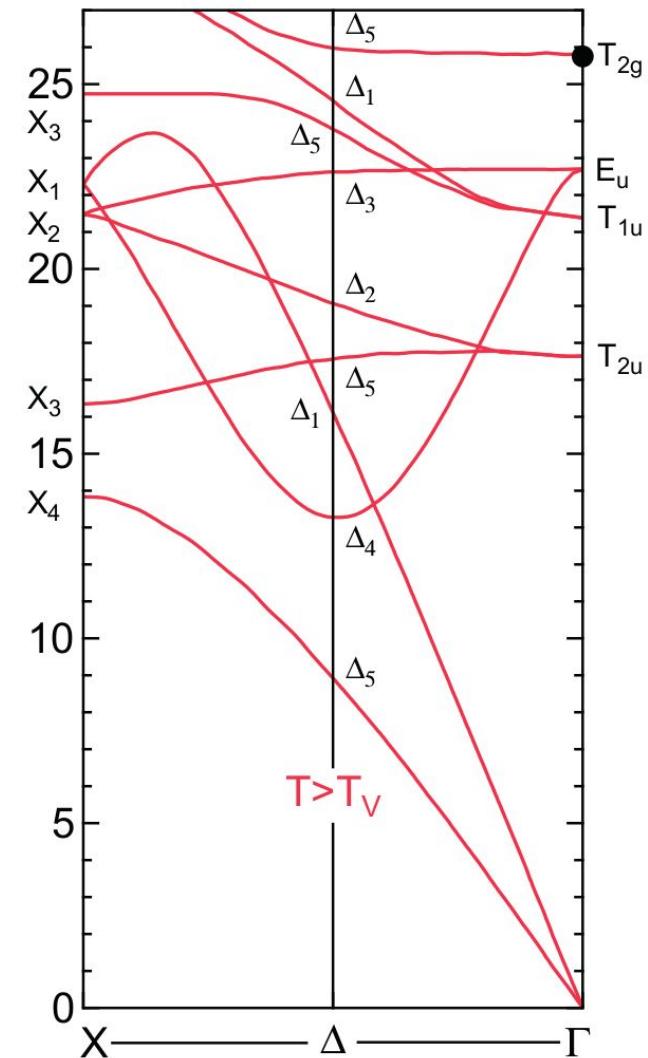


Ab initio DFT calculations

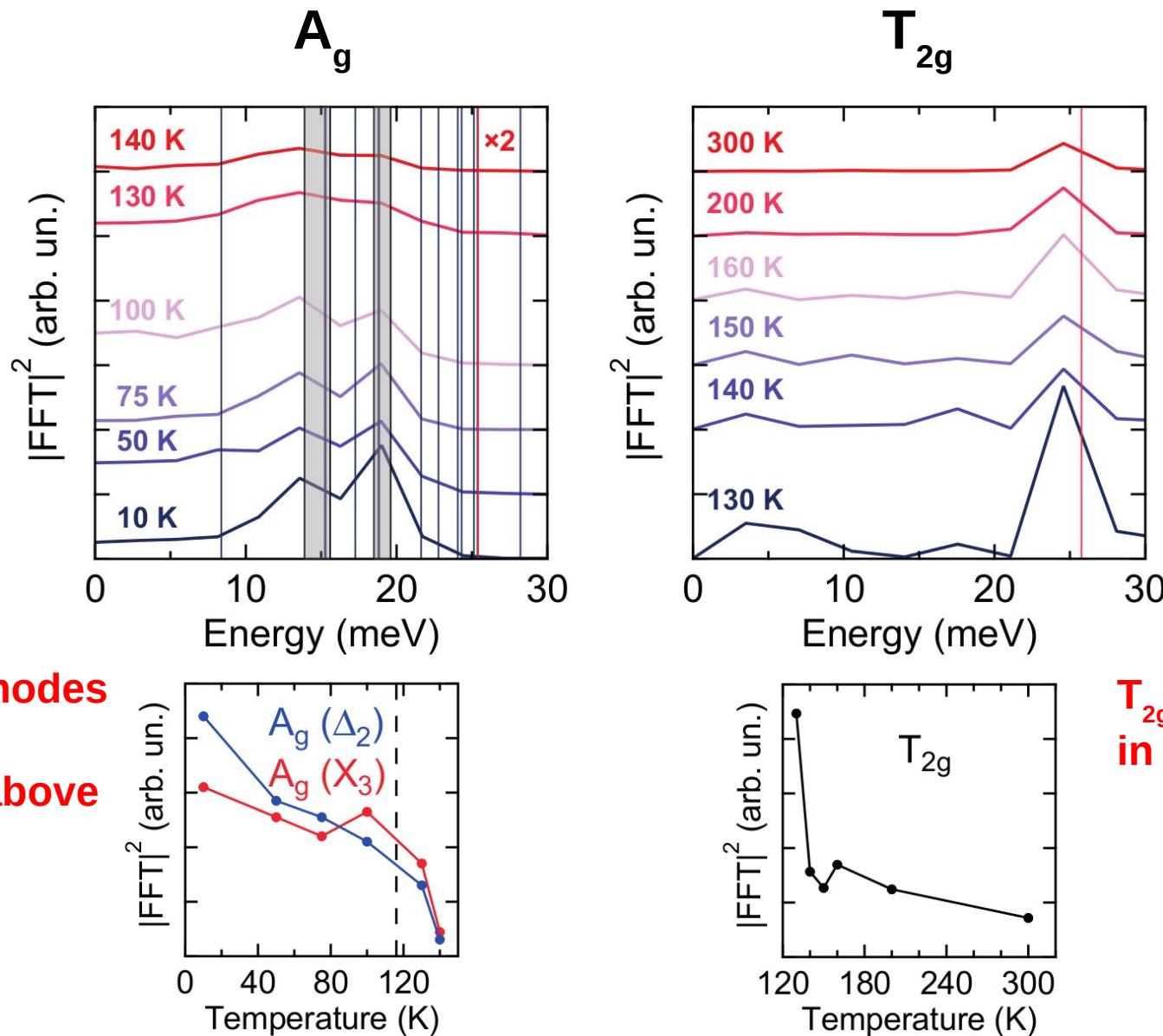
P2/c



Fd-3m



# Raman modes



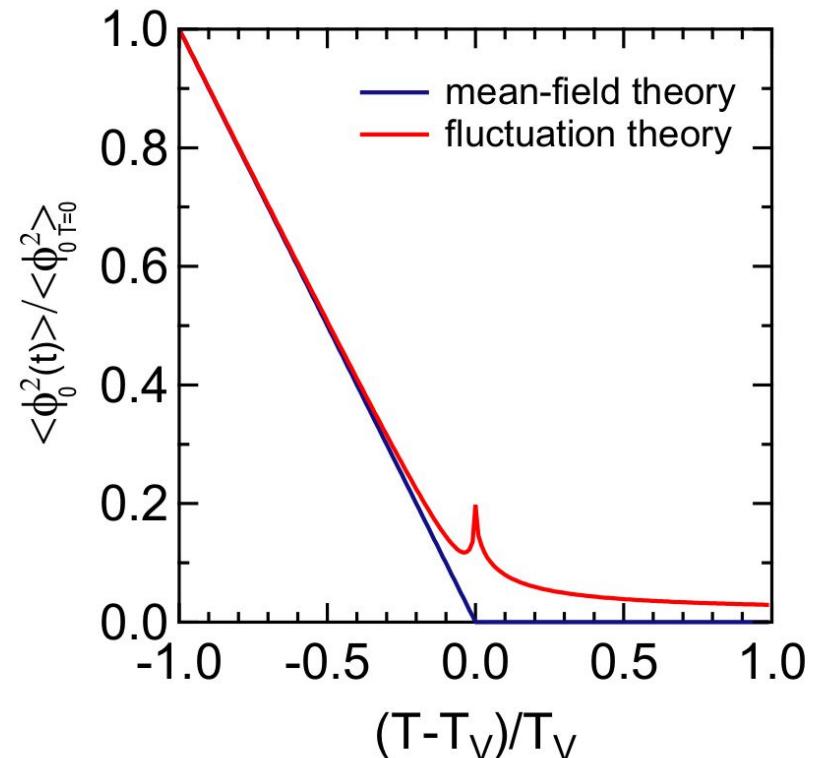
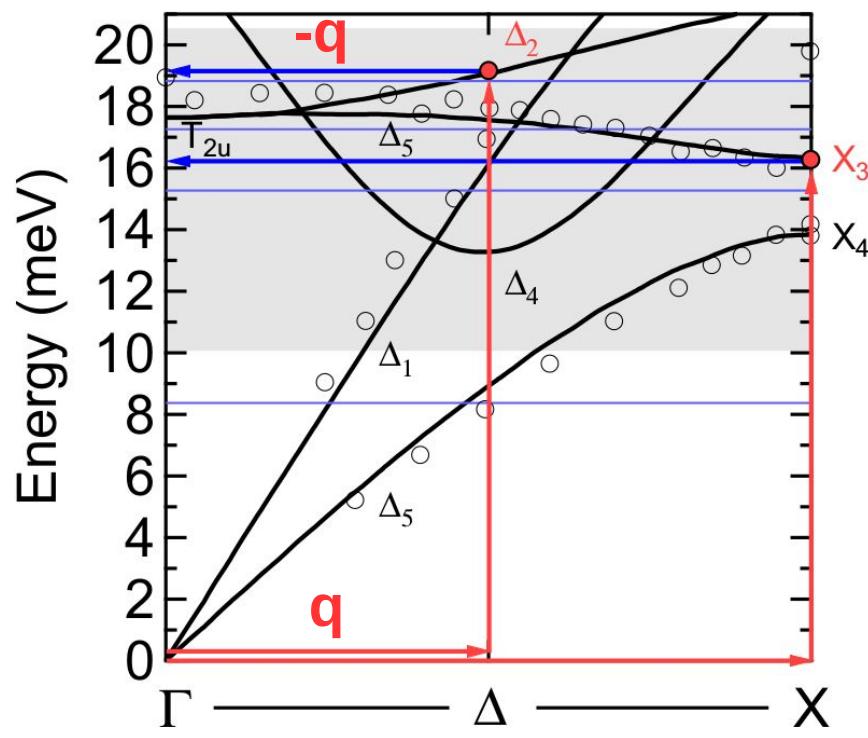
Forbidden  $A_g$  modes  
in cubic phase  
are observed above  
the Verwey  
temperature

$T_{2g}$  mode allowed  
in cubic phase

# Raman modes

A second-order Raman process takes place, in which an electronic mode of wave vector  $q$  is excited together with a phonon mode of wave vector  $-q$ , so that the total wave vector is conserved

The coupling between lattice vibrations at finite momentum and fluctuations of the electronic ordering field above the Verwey transition in magnetite

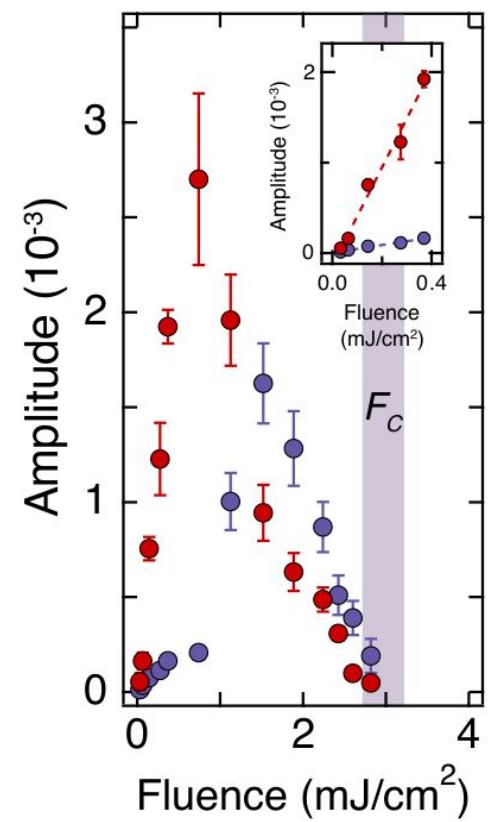
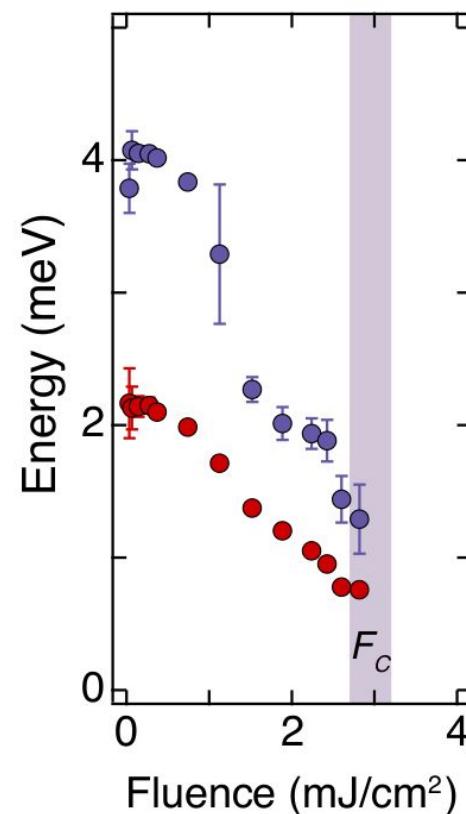
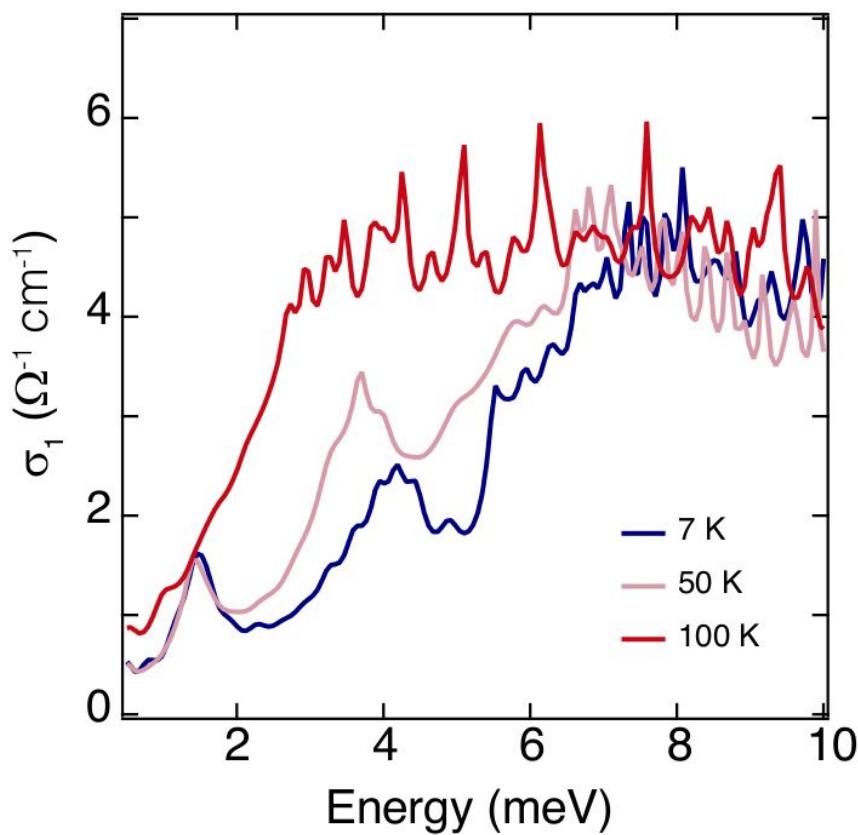


S. Borroni, E. Baldini, V. M. Katukuri, A. Mann, K. Parlinski, D. Legut, C. Arrell, F. van Mourik, J. Teyssier, A. Kozlowski, P. Piekarz, O. V. Yazyev, A. M. Oleś, J. Lorenzana, and F. Carbone, Phys. Rev. B 96, 104308 (2017)

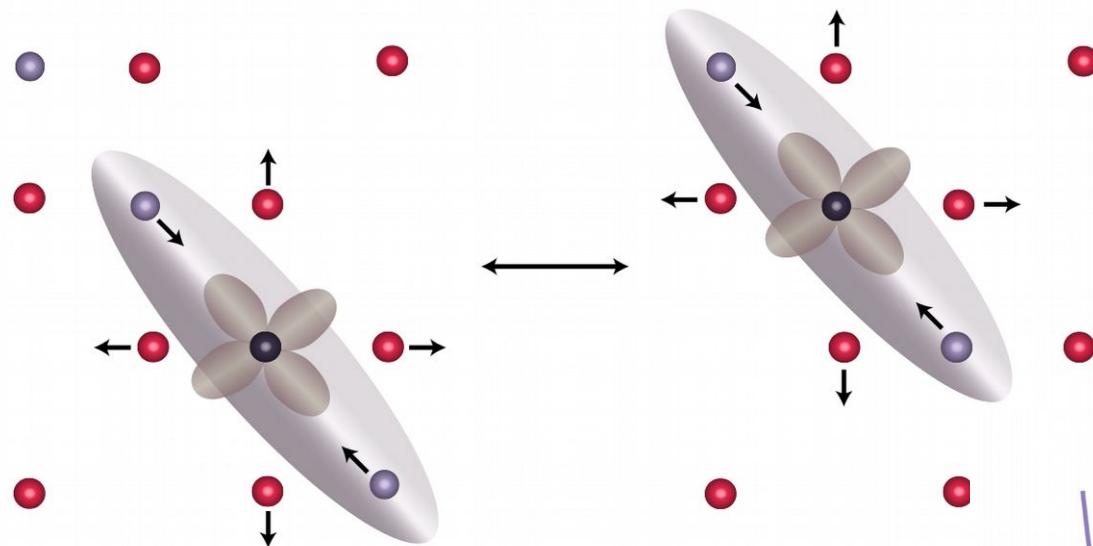
# Low-energy charge fluctuations (MIT)

Spectroscopic signatures of the low-energy electronic excitations of the charge-orbital order (trimeron network) using terahertz light. By driving these modes coherently with an ultrashort laser pulse, we reveal their critical softening and hence demonstrate their direct involvement in the Verwey transition

These findings represent the first observation of soft modes in magnetite and shed new light on the cooperative mechanism at the origin of its exotic ground state

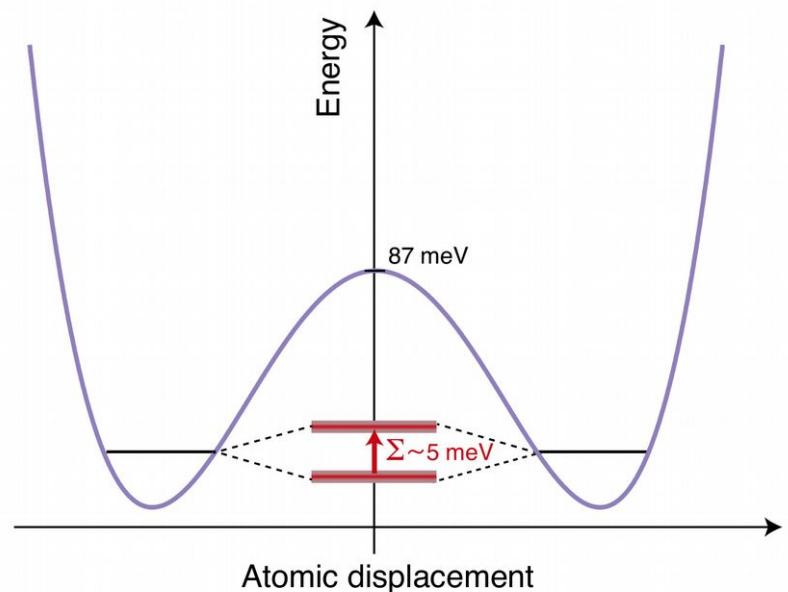


# Low-energy charge fluctuations (MIT)



$$\Sigma = 2t = 2t_0 e^{-E_p/E_{ph}} \sim 5 \text{ meV}$$

$$t_0 = 0.2 \text{ eV}, E_p = 87 \text{ meV}, E_{ph} \sim 20 \text{ meV}$$



E. Baldini, C. A. Belvin, M. Rodriguez-Vega, I. O. Ozel, D. Legut, A. Kozłowski, A. M. Oleś, K. Parlinski, P. Piekarz, J. Lorenzana, G. A. Fiete, and N. Gedik, accepted in Nature Physics  
arXiv:2001.07815v1

# Conclusions

- DFT studies revealed strong electron-phonon coupling, which opens the gap and induces monoclinic distortion
- Inelastic X-ray scattering found anomalous phonon broadening above  $T_v$  indicating anharmonic behaviour due to electron-phonon coupling
- X-ray diffuse scattering revealed new features at incommensurate q-points and short-range order in a wide range of temperatures
- Calculated phonon dispersion curves and phonon density fo states for the Cc structure show very good agreement with the experimental data
- Forbidden phonon modes (below 25 meV) can be induced above  $T_v$  due to coupling with the critical fluctuations of the charge order
- New low-energy modes showing critical softening below  $T_v$  were discovered by optical conductivity and “pump-probe” experiments

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