



Joint French-Swedish school on X-rays and Neutrons techniques for
the study of functional materials for energy


13-17 May 2019 Lund (Sweden)

Multiferroics, Magnetoelectrics

.... with a symmetry zest and a neutron scattering slice

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- 
- A silver metal tray with rounded corners. In the center is a white ceramic plate. To the left of the plate is a silver fork, and to the right is a butter knife with a light-colored handle. The background is white.
- What are Multiferroïcs?
 - Motivations
 - How to design multiferroïcs?
 - Role of symmetry
 - Examples

- What are Multiferroics?

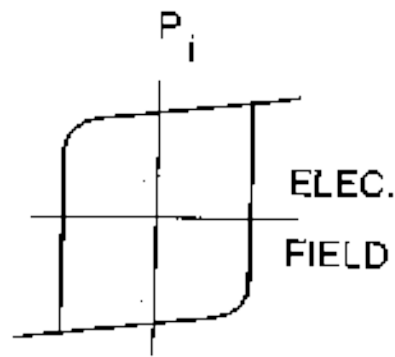
.... Definitions, classification



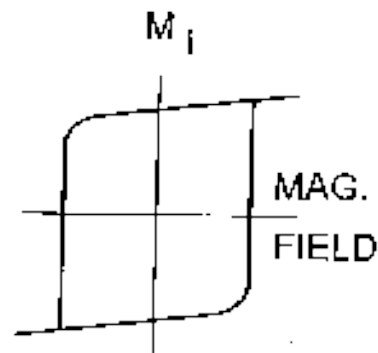
Ferroics

“Materials that show switchable properties under an external stimulus”

Aizu, K. (1970). *Phys. Rev. B*, **2**, 754–772

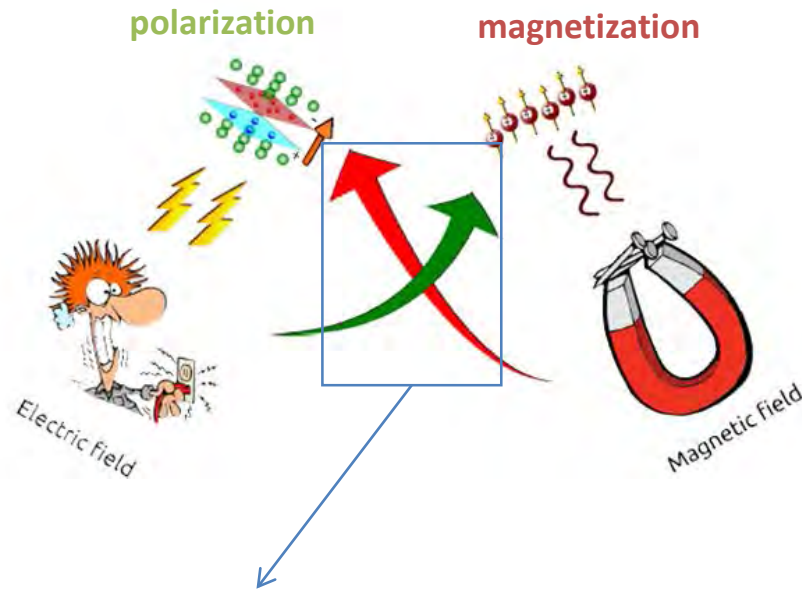


FERROELECTRIC



FERROMAGNETIC

Magnetolectrics



Linear Magneto-Electric (ME) effect

Control of the **Polarization** by a **Magnetic Field**

$$P_i = \alpha_{ij} H_j$$

Control of **Magnetization** by an **Electric Field**

$$M_i = \alpha_{ij} E_j$$

where α_{ij} is the ME tensor

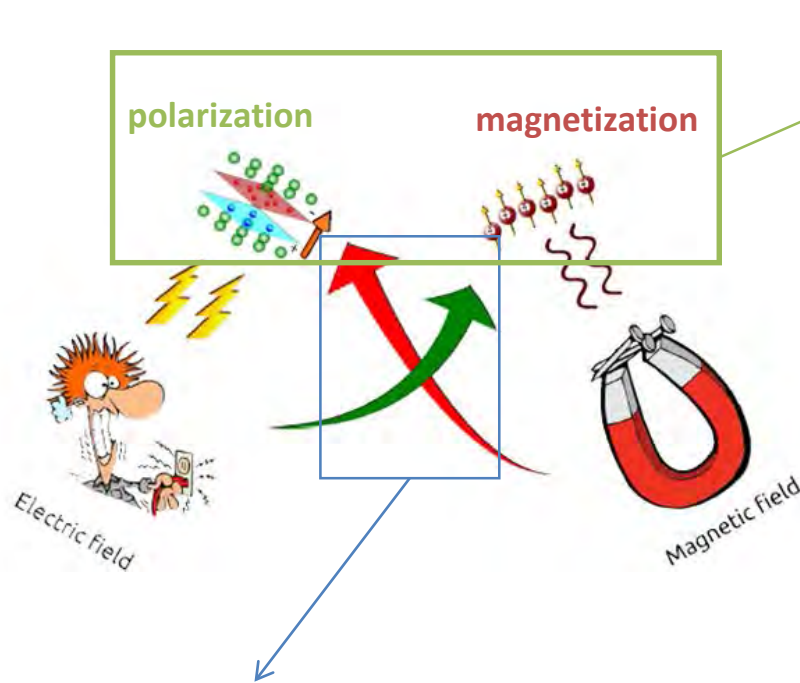
Landau et Lifshitz (1957), Rado (1961)

C'est la
dissymétrie qui
créé le
phénomène
(P. Curie, 1894)



Symmetry restriction: break of space inversion and time reversal

Magnetolectrics vs Multiferroics



Multiferroics

Magnetic and electric orders combined in the same phase.

Type I

Magnetism and ferroelectricity have different origin

Linear Magneto-electric (ME) effect

Control of the **Polarization** by a **Magnetic Field**

$$P_i = \alpha_{ij} H_j$$

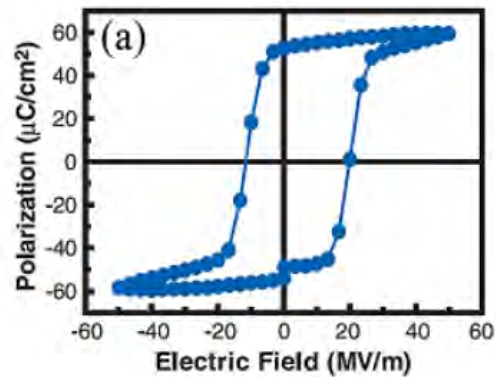
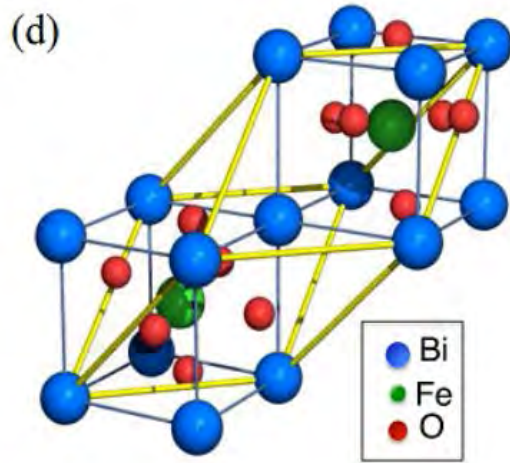
Control of **Magnetization** by an **Electric Field**

$$M_i = \alpha_{ij} E_j$$

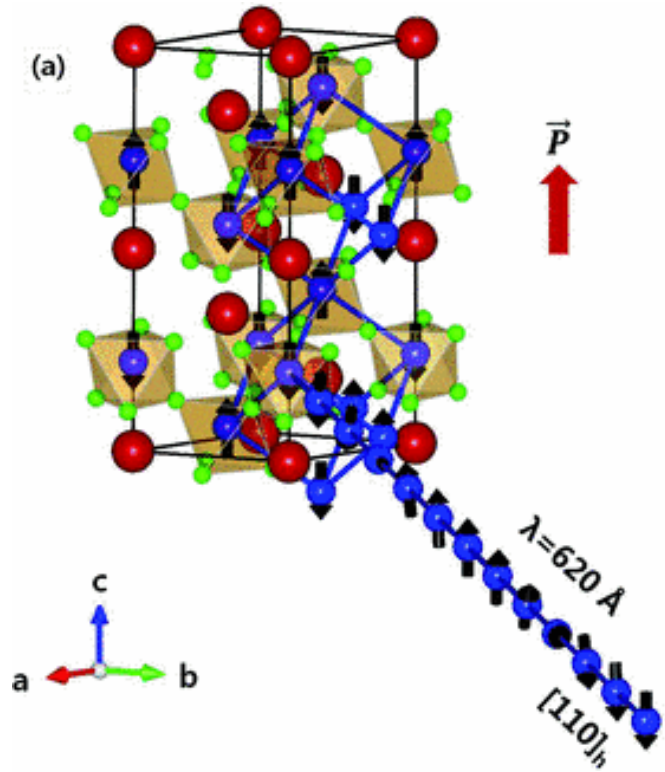
where α_{ij} is the ME tensor

Landau et Lifshitz (1957), Rado (1961)

The Type I star: BiFeO_3



$T_C \sim 1103 \text{ K}$, polar: $R3c$, $P=80\mu\text{C}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$

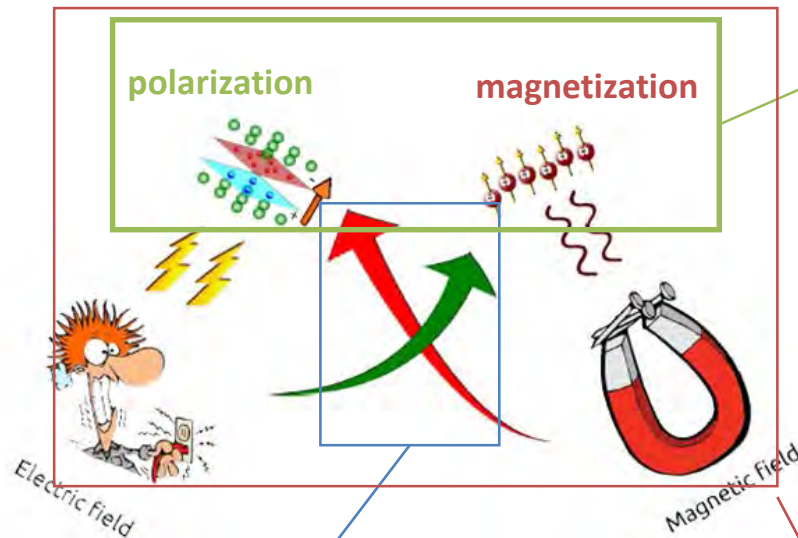


Sanghyun Lee et al Phys. Rev. B 88, 060103 (2013)

$T_N = 653 \text{ K}$, G-type antiferromagnetic alignment plus the spiral spin canting

→ Large polarization but antiferromagnetic and ME coupling weak...

Magnetolectrics vs Multiferroics



Multiferroics

Magnetic and electric orders combined in the same phase.

Type I

Magnetism and ferroelectricity have different origin
→ *Weak coupling*

Type II: Magnetolectric Multiferroics

Magnetism induce ferroelectricity
→ *Strong coupling*

Linear Magneto-electric (ME) effect

Control of the **Polarization** by a **Magnetic Field**

$$P_i = \alpha_{ij}H_j$$

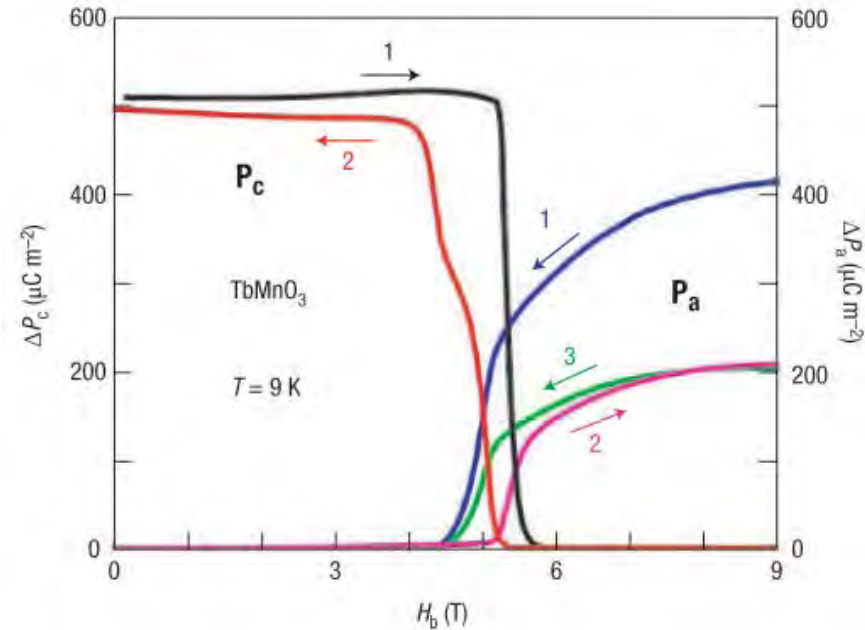
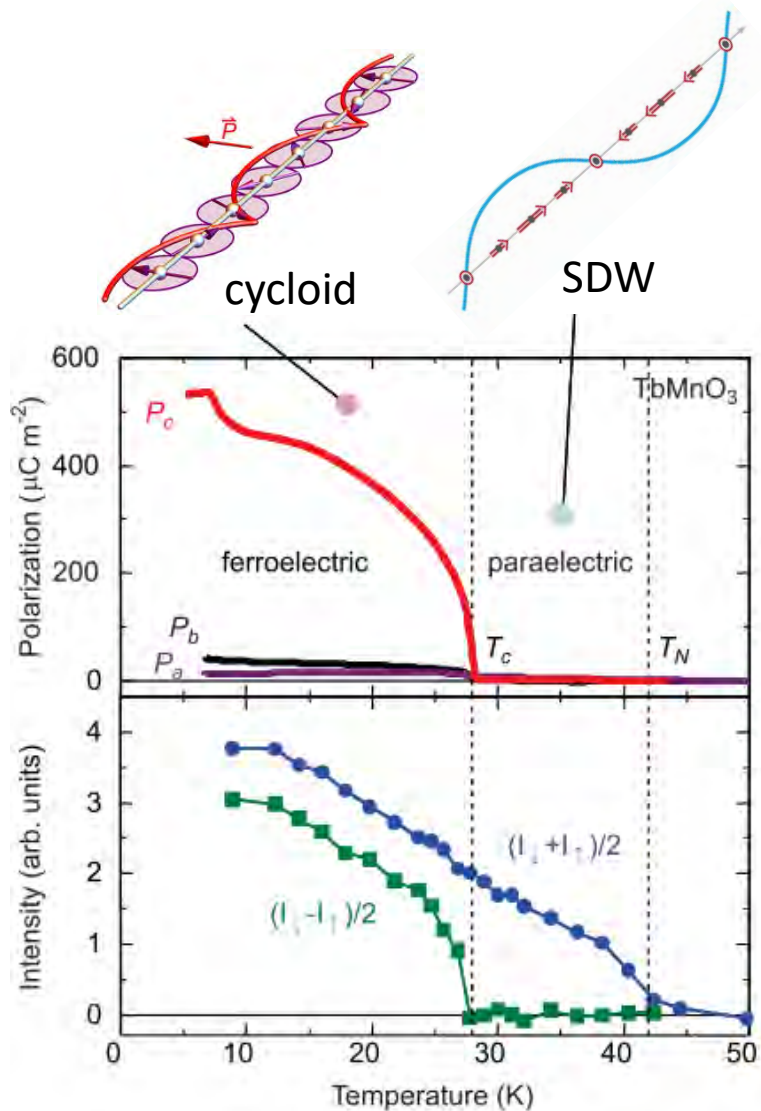
Control of **Magnetization** by an **Electric Field**

$$M_i = \alpha_{ij}E_j$$

where α_{ij} is the ME tensor

Landau et Lifshitz (1957), Rado (1961)

Archetypal multiferroic of spin origin: TbMnO_3



Weak ferroelectricity appears at the magnetic ordering transition (cycloid) $T_N = T_c = 27\text{K}$

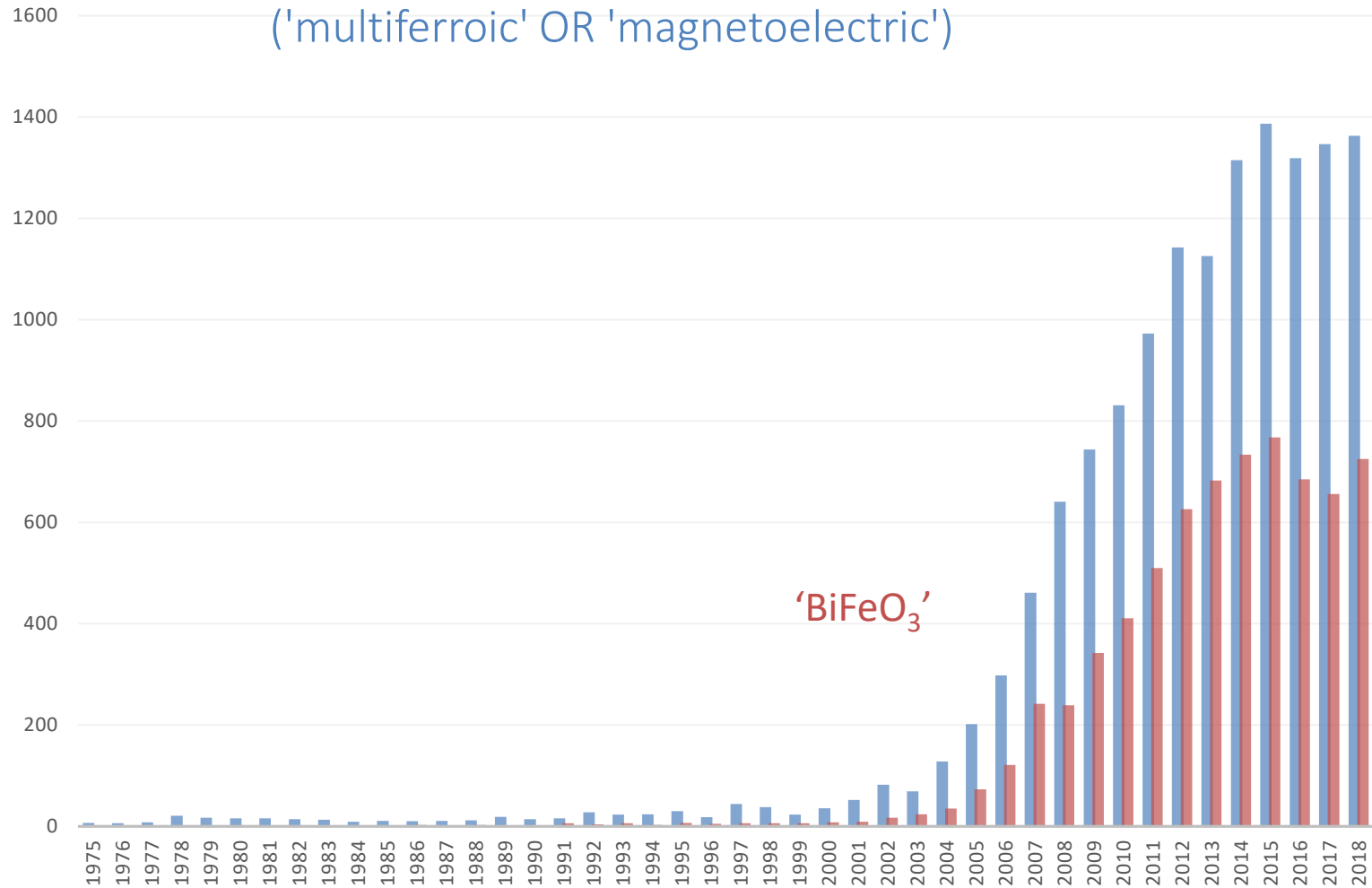
Strong coupling

- Motivations



Strong scientific interest

Web of Science showing 14,401 records for TOPIC:
(*'multiferroic'* OR *'magnetoelectric'*)



Two fold interest

Technological:

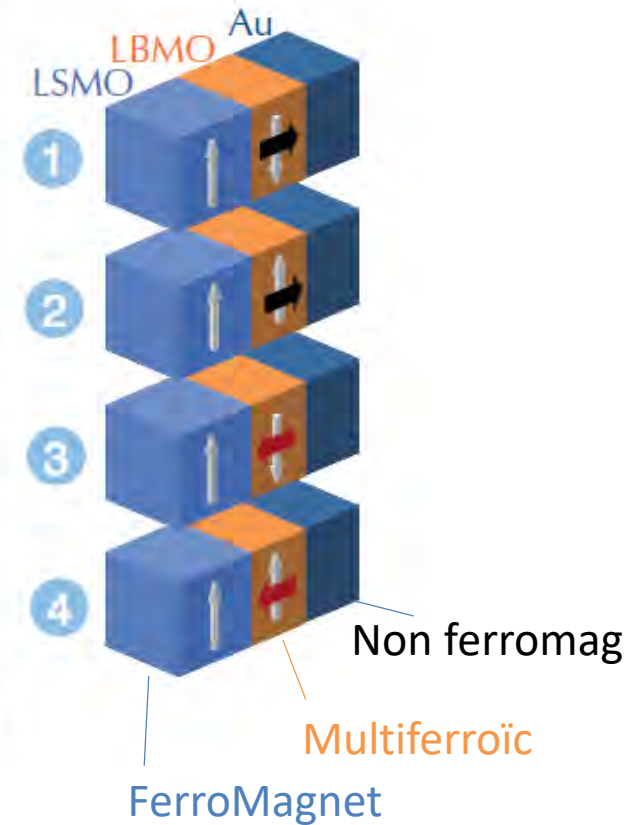
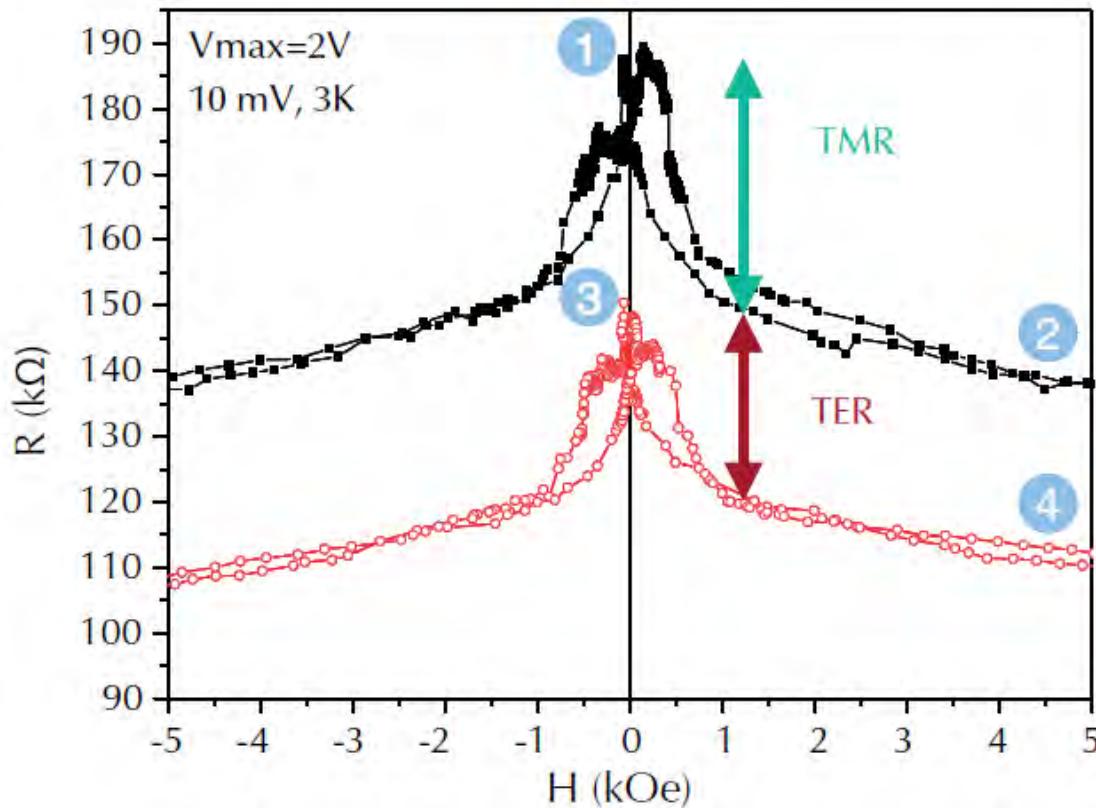
Application: density, speed, energy cost in devices

Two types of devices:

- Magnetic and ferroelectric ordering without coupling (Type I) :
→ 4 states devices
- Magnetoelectric coupling (type II) : handling of a magnetization by an electric field
→ spintronic based memory devices

Four logic states devices

Tunnel junctions with multiferroic barriers: : 4 resistive states (2-magnetic and 2-electric)



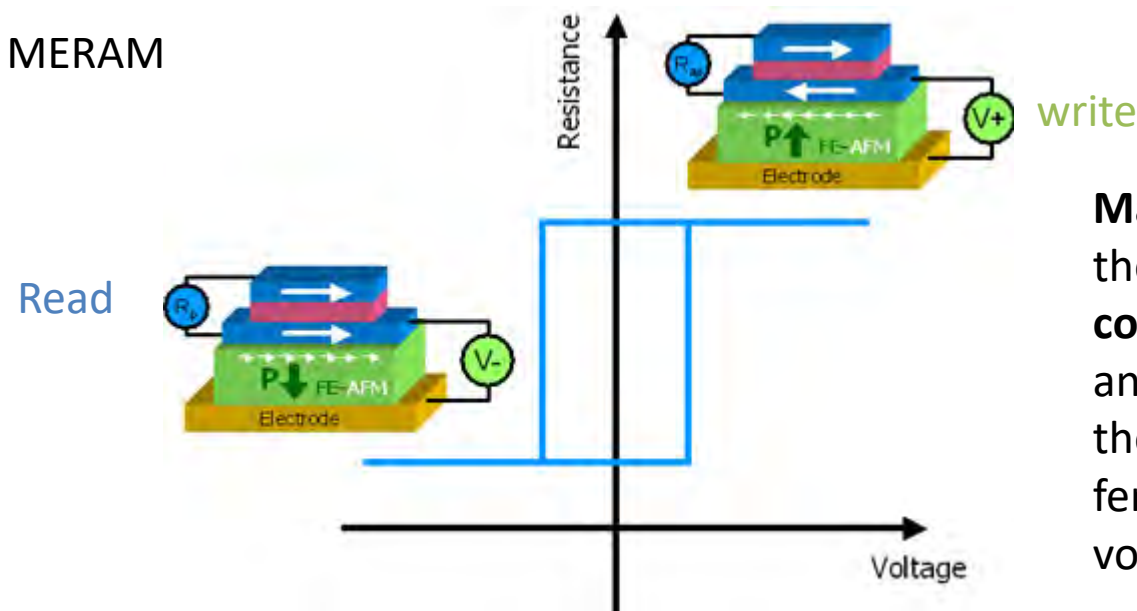
TMR: Tunnel Magneto Resistance
TER: Tunnel Electroresistance Effect

→ Increase density

Gajek M., Nat Mater. 2007

Magnetolectric devices: handling of a magnetization by an electric field

MagnetoElectric Random Access Memories (MERAMs): non-volatile magnetic storage bits that are switched by an electric field



Magnetolectric coupling with the interfacial **exchange coupling** between a **multiferroic** and a **ferromagnetic** to switch the magnetization of the ferromagnetic layer by using a voltage.

Advantages of:

- ferroelectric memories: low energy consumption
- magnetic memories: non-volatility

Two fold interest

Technological:

Application: density, speed, energy cost in devices



Nanomaterials and nanotechnologies for the products of the future

Stimulating industrial renewal



Metallic and inorganic materials and related processes

Micro and nanotechnologies for information and communication processing



Physics of condensed and diluted matter

Two fold interest

Technological:

Application: density, speed, energy cost in devices



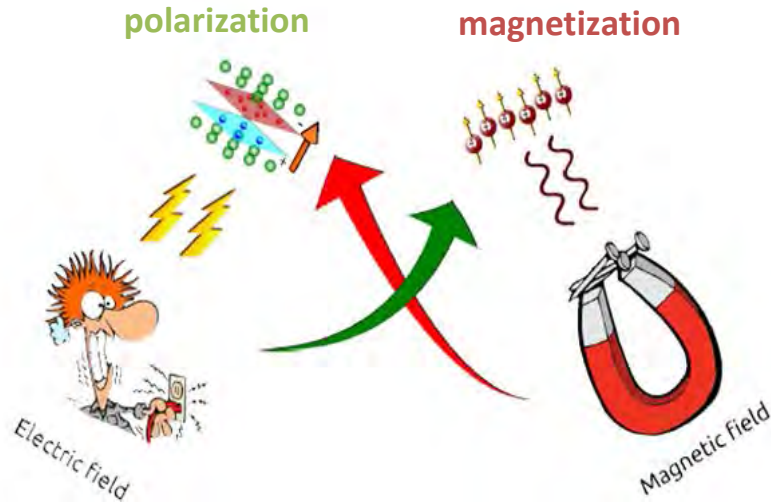
Physics is like sex: sure, it may give
some practical results, but that's not
why we do it.

— *Richard P. Feynman* —

Fundamental:

- What are the microscopic mechanism responsible for magneto-electric coupling?
- How to design new magnetoelectrics materials?

How to combine and or couple magnetic and ferroelectric properties in a same phase?



- ✓ (Ferro-)Magnetism
Exchange interaction of localized magnetic moment: TM $3d^n$, RE $4f^n$

? Ferroelectricity

Classical recipe: Empty d shell (Ti^{4+} in $BaTiO_3$)

“ d^0 vs d^n problem”

N. A. Hill, J. Phys. Chem. B 104, 6694 (2000)

Type I

- Stereochemically active lone pair ($6s^2$ in Bi^{3+} , $BiFeO_3$)
- Charge ordering ($LuFe_2O_4$)
- Geometric ferroelectricity ($h-YMnO_3$)

Type II

- Spin-driven ferroelectricity ($TbMnO_3$, YMn_2O_5)
 - spiral magnetic structure
 - collinear magnetic structure

Multiferroic family tree

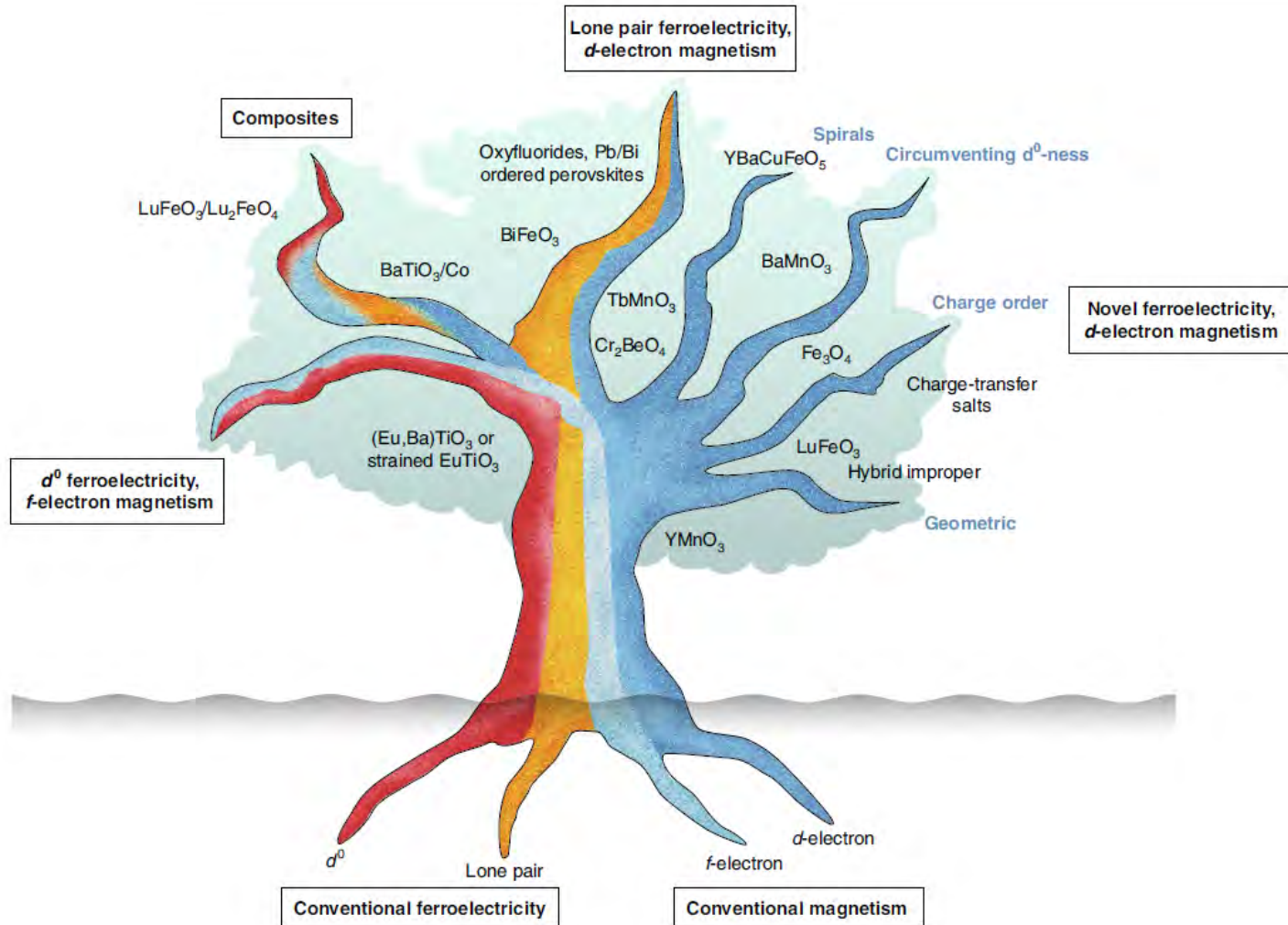
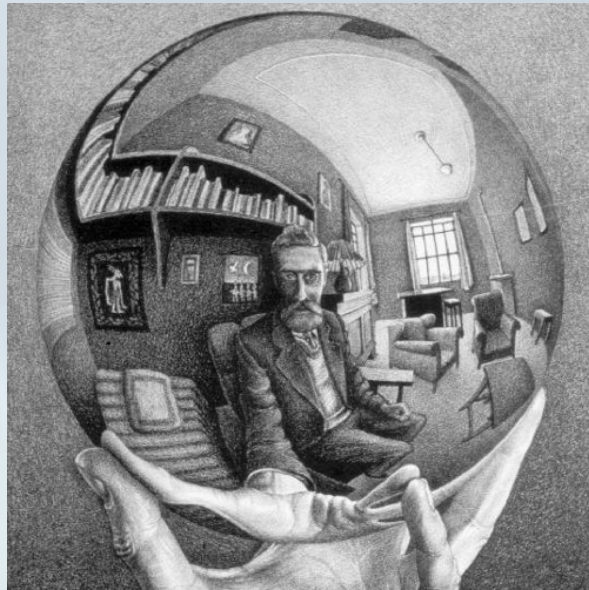


Fig. 1 | The multiferroic family tree. Multiferroicity, arising from the combined interplay of magnetic and ferroelectric mechanisms, can result from several different sources. Here, we outline different combinations of these 'root' mechanisms and how they are responsible for different types of multiferroic materials. This visualization shows the combinations of magnetic and ferroelectric mechanisms that occur in existing multiferroics, and also suggests less-explored options that may prove fruitful in the future.

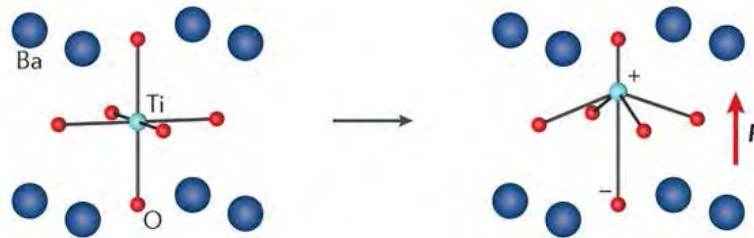
- Role of symmetry



Role of symmetry

- Control existence of polarization

breaking of spatial inversion symmetry is the requirement for ferroelectricity and polarization.

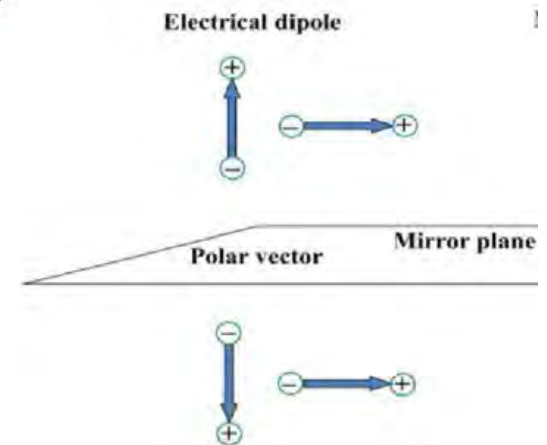


- Control the orientation of the polarization

For a mirror, polarization only in the mirror plane

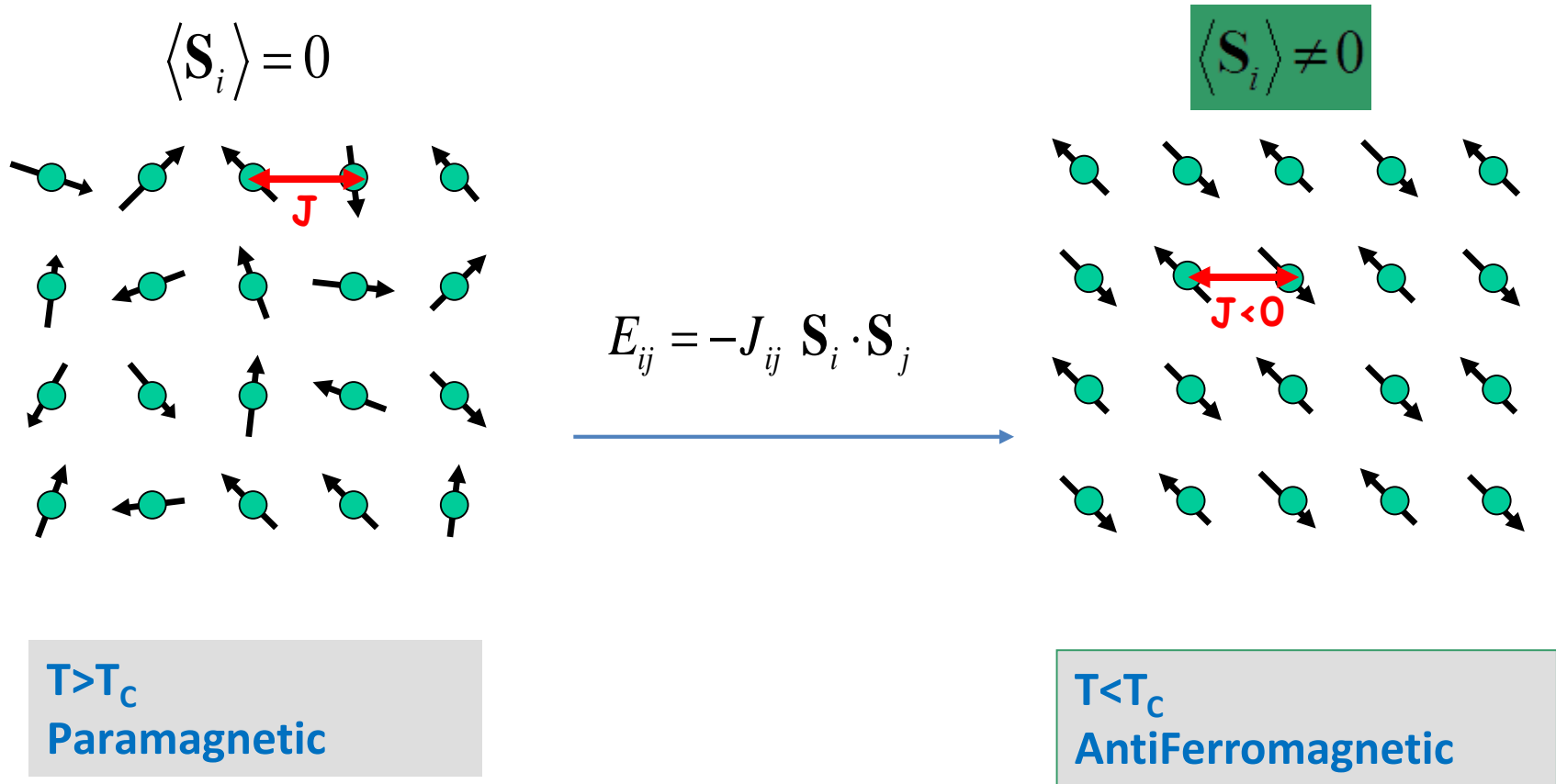
- Allow MagnetoElectric coupling

P and M must belong to the same Irrep



(Neutron) diffraction is an essential probe to determine the correct (magnetic) symmetry

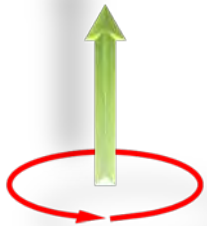
Magnetic ordering



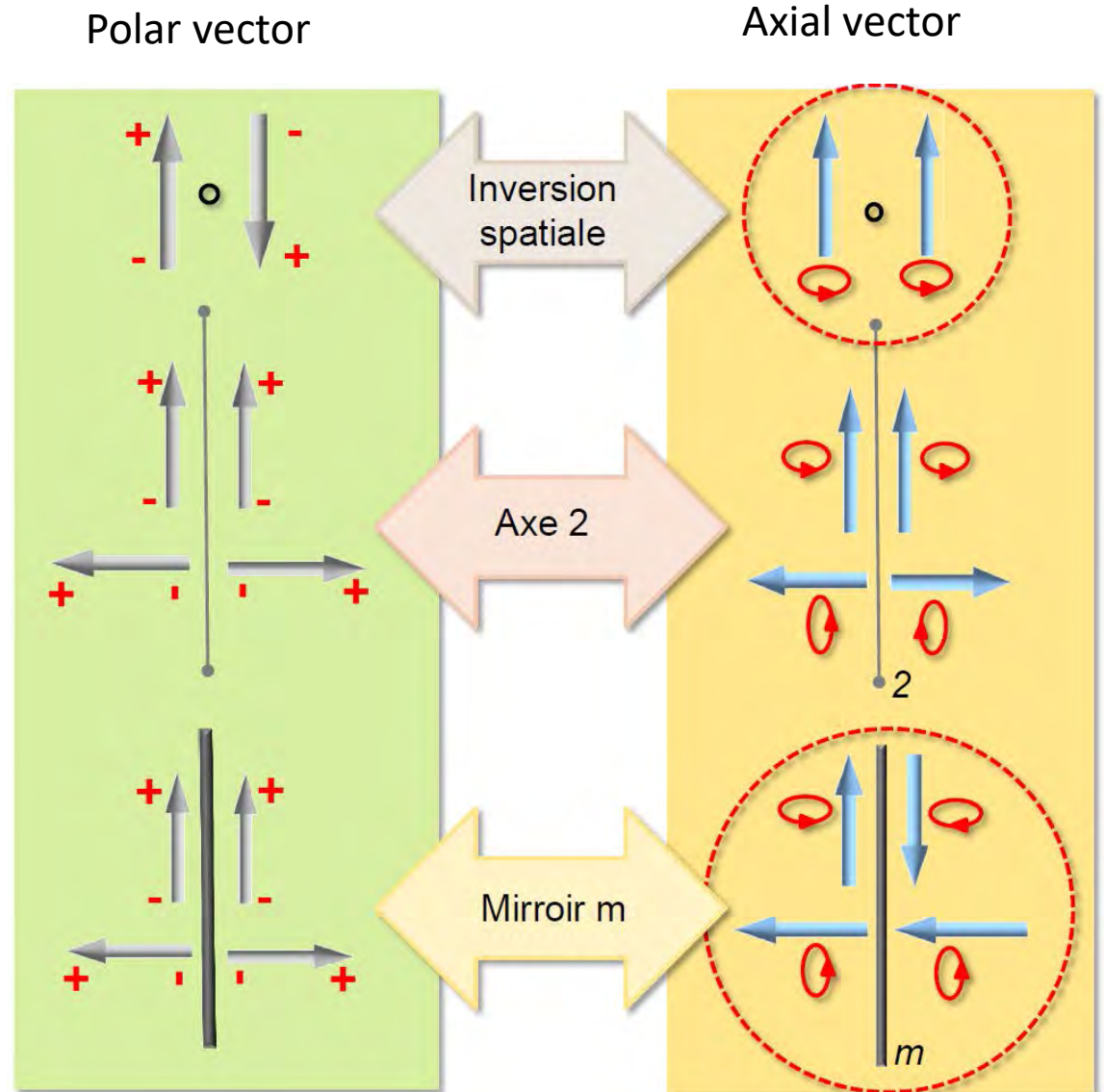
Magnetic ordering is a symmetry-breaking process

A bit of magnetic symmetry

Magnetic moment is an axial vector

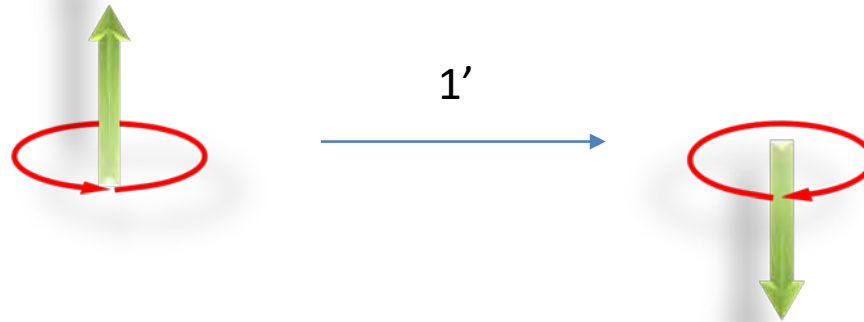


Current loop

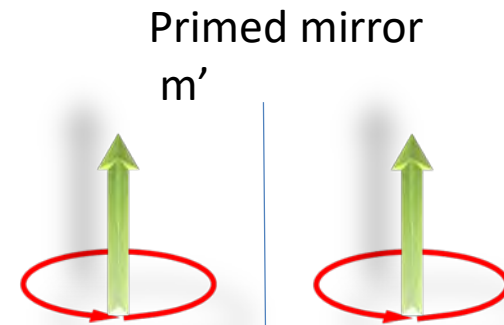
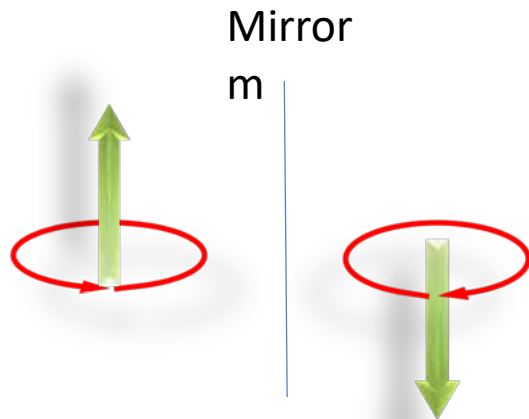


Magnetic symmetry

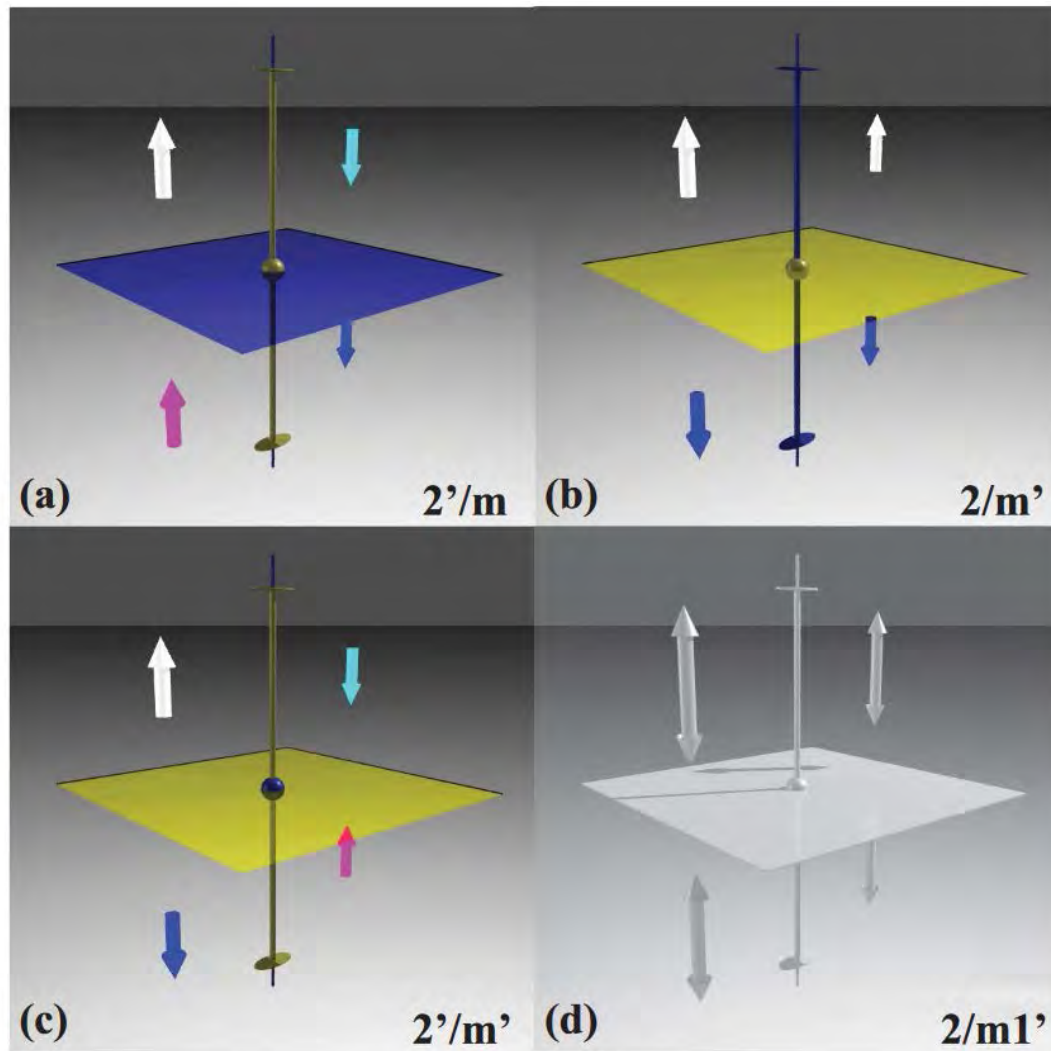
New symmetry operator =
 $1'$ time reversal: flip
magnetic moment



$1'$ can be combined with any other sym. operator



Magnetic point group



Representation of the operations of the magnetic point groups derived from $2/m$ on an axial vector
(from Marc De Graef)

32 crystallographic point groups \rightarrow 122 magnetic point groups

Symmetry analysis is crucial

- Allows the prediction of electrical properties: polarization direction
- "Recipe" to examine phase transitions (structural and magnetic) and determine possible Magnetic Space Group

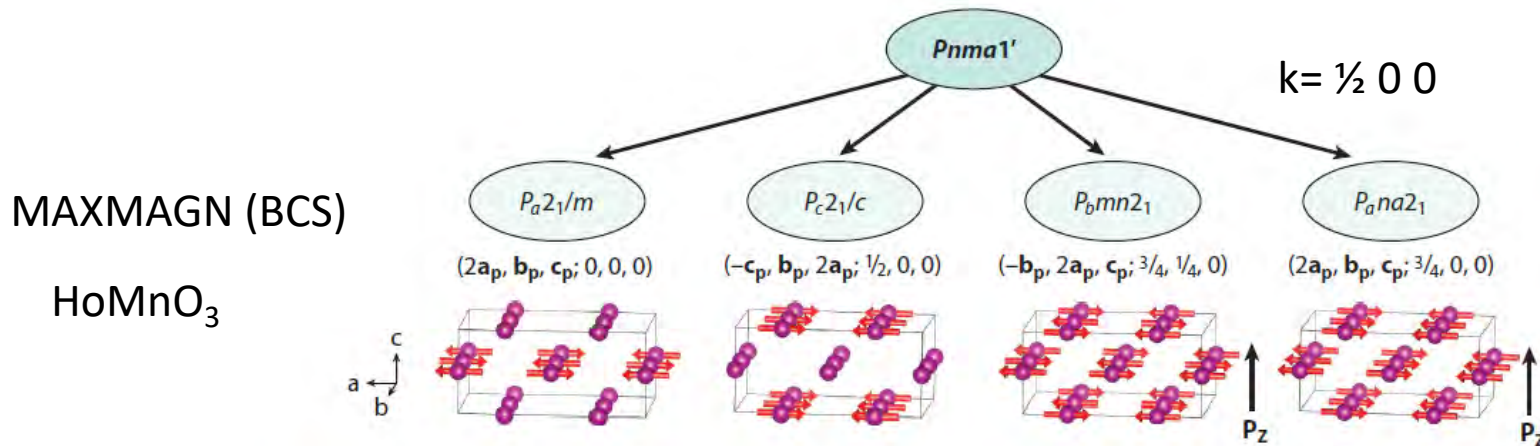


Figure 3

The four possible distinct magnetic orderings of maximal symmetry with propagation vector $\mathbf{k} = (1/2, 0, 0)$ for the Mn site in orthomanganites, as obtained with MAXMAGN, assuming that the spins are aligned along the a direction. The magnetic space group label associated with the magnetic symmetry of each structure is shown, together with the transformation (from the parent $Pnma1'$ basis) to its standard setting. The index of the four subgroups is four. The magnetic unit cell used in all figures is $(2a_p, b_p, c_p; 0, 0, 0)$. The direction (with arbitrary sense) of the possible magnetically induced electric polarization P_z , when it is symmetry allowed, is indicated. The P_bmn2_1 ordering is the one observed in HoMnO₃ (22, 49). Abbreviation: P_z , possible magnetically induced electric polarization.

New Symmetry-Based Computational Tools for Magnetic crystallography:

- Bilbao Crystallographic Server: Magnetic Symmetry and Applications
- Isodistort

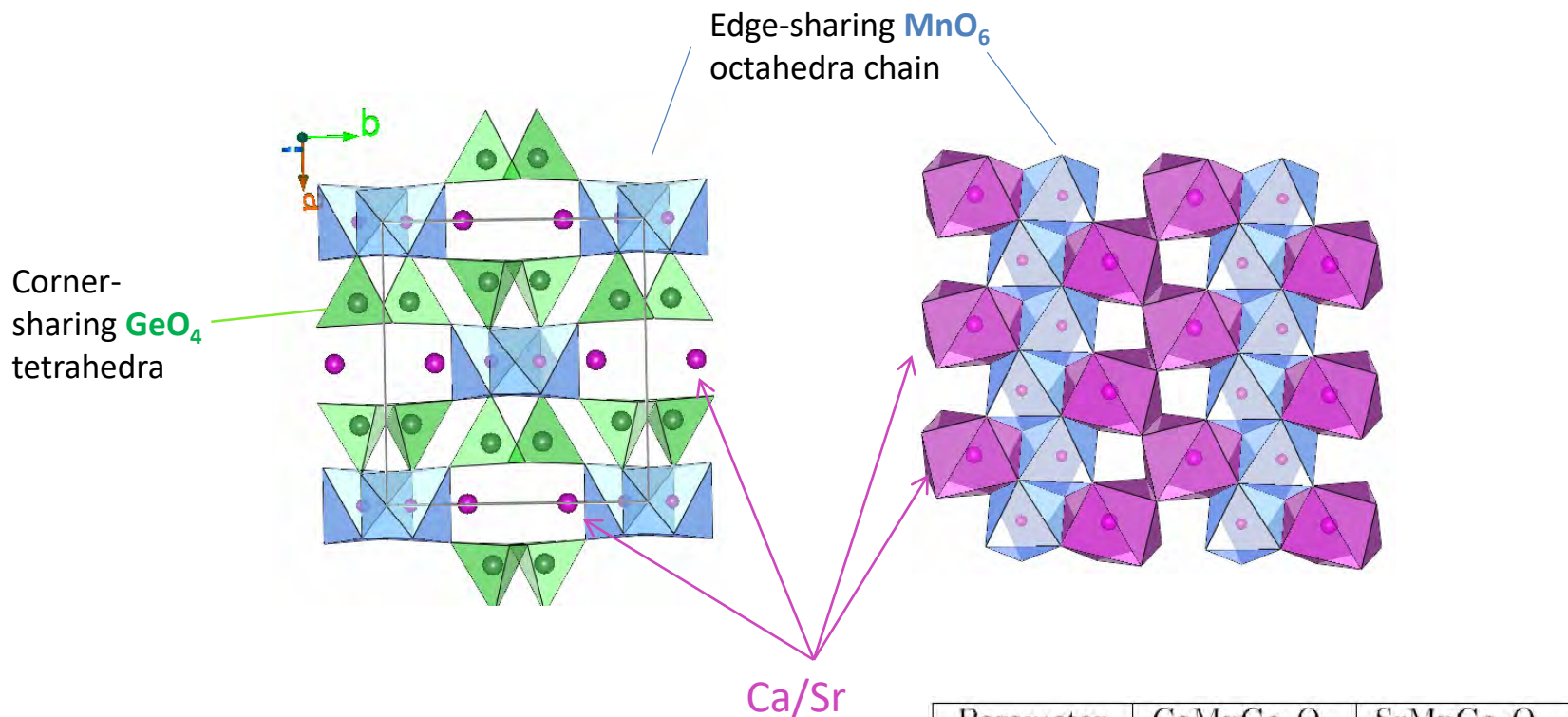
- Examples



©Monty Python

“Finally Monsieur, a wafer-thin mint”

Magnetolectric and Multiferroic pyroxene CaMnGe₂O₆ vs SrMnGe₂O₆



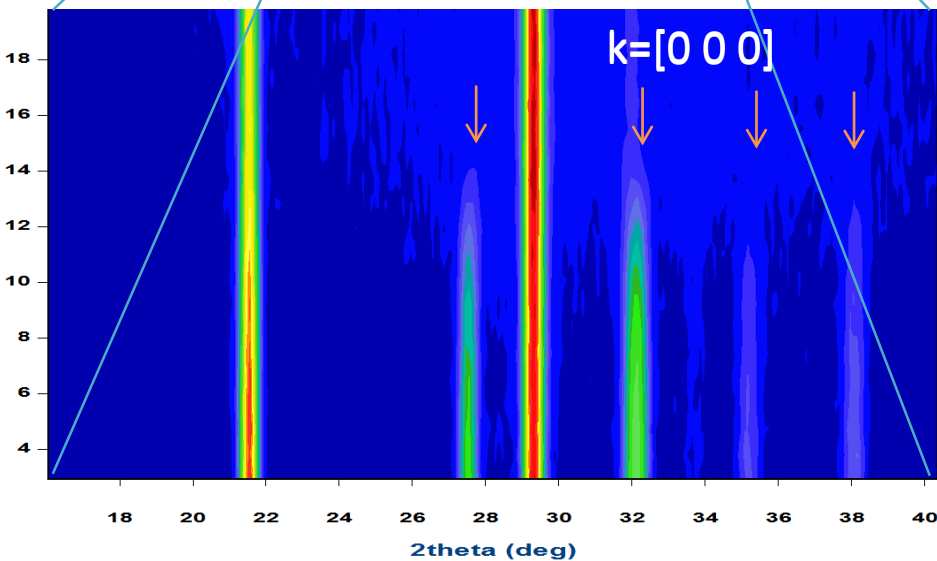
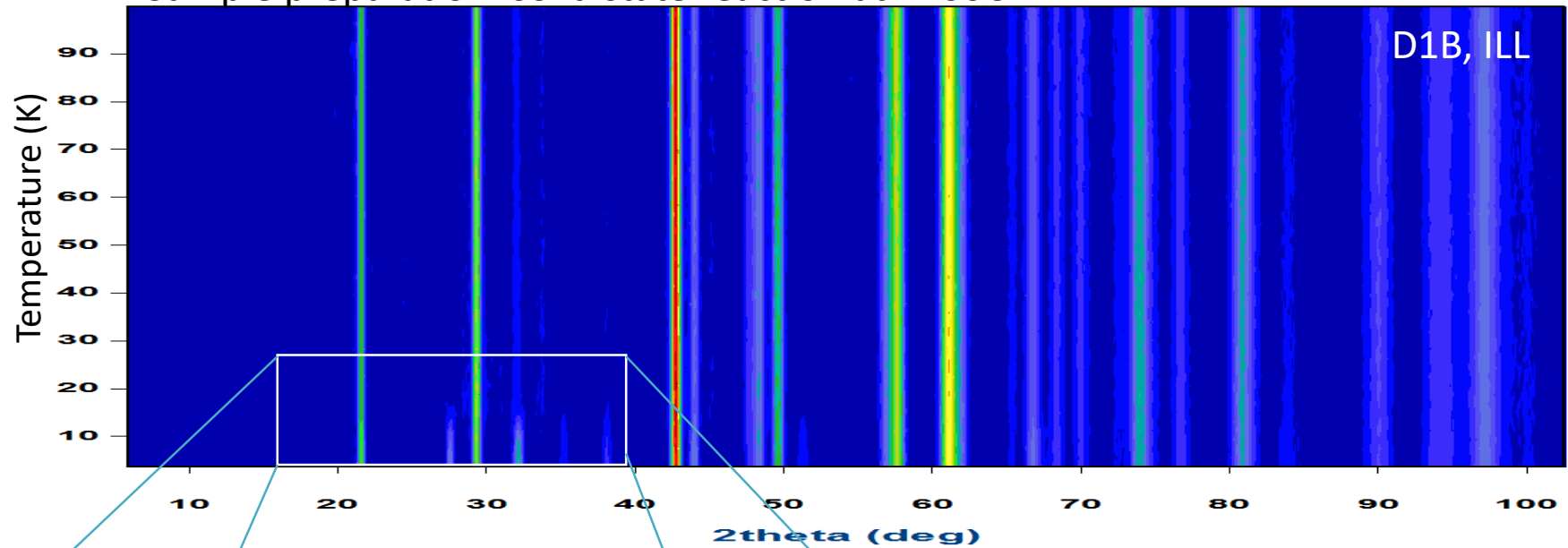
Similar crystalline structure: C2/c

Small structural changes but drastic changes on magnetic structures stabilized...

Parameter	CaMnGe ₂ O ₆	SrMnGe ₂ O ₆
a	10.2794(3)	10.3511(6)
b	9.1756(3)	9.4204(5)
c	5.4714(2)	5.5093(3)
β	104.244(2)	104.700(2)
M-M(J)	3.249(8)	3.282(8)
M-M(J1)	5.918(7)	5.975(7)
M-M(J2)	6.889(1)	7.00(1)
M-O1-M($^\circ$)	94.0(4)	97.5(2)

CaMnGe₂O₆: Neutron Diffraction

Sample preparation: solid state reaction at 1200C



- Long-range magnetic ordering $T_N=15\text{K}$
- Magnetic propagation vector: $k=[0,0,0]$

CaMnGe₂O₆: magnetic structure

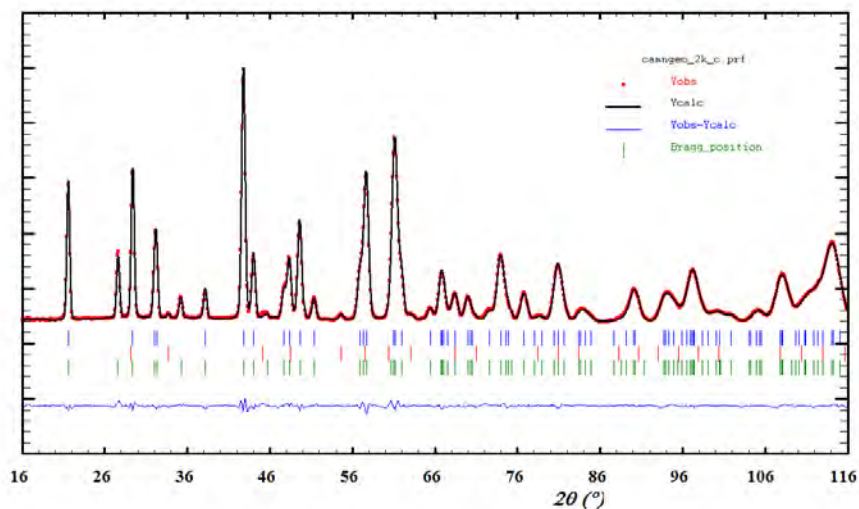
Representation analysis for Mn²⁺ in 4e site:

4e_1(0,y,0.25), 4e_2:(0,-y,0.75)

#IrReps	Basis Function	Magn. S.G.
Γ_1	(0,F _y ,0)	C2/c
Γ_2	(0,A _y ,0)	C2/c'
Γ_3	(F _x ,0,F _z)	C2'/c'
Γ_4	(A _x ,0,A _z)	C2'/c

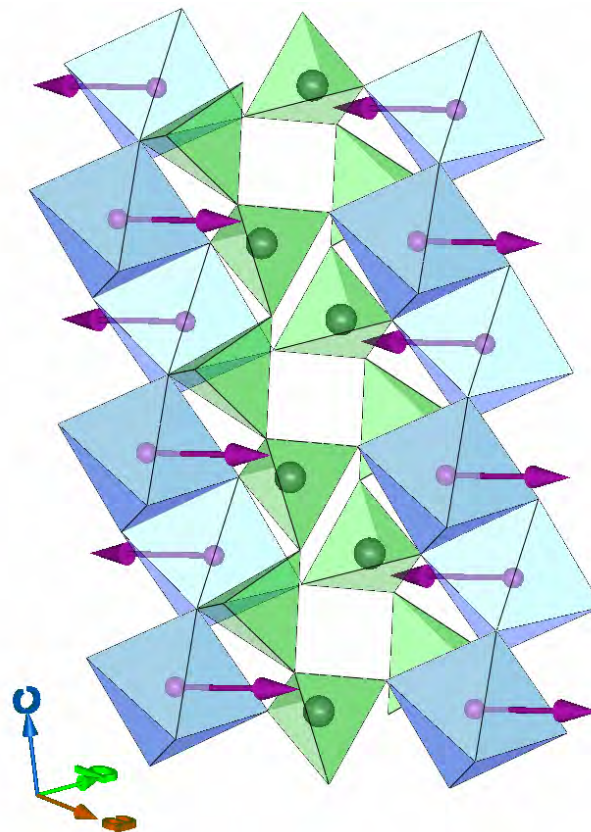
F=(++), A=(- -)

Γ_4 , @2K: m(a) m(b) m(c) Mtot
4.30 0.00 1.14 4.17 μ_B



-k=[0,0,0] → preserve C-centering ie interchain FM

- Γ_4 : intrachain AFM



→ C2'/c : allows for linear ME effect

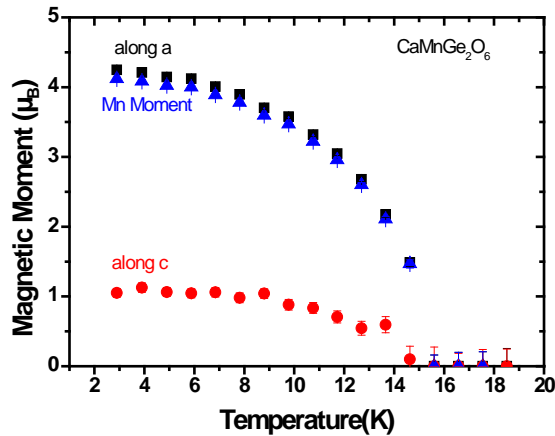
Linear ME effect in $\text{CaMnGe}_2\text{O}_6$

Magnetic space group: $\text{C2}'/\text{c}$ allows for **linear ME**

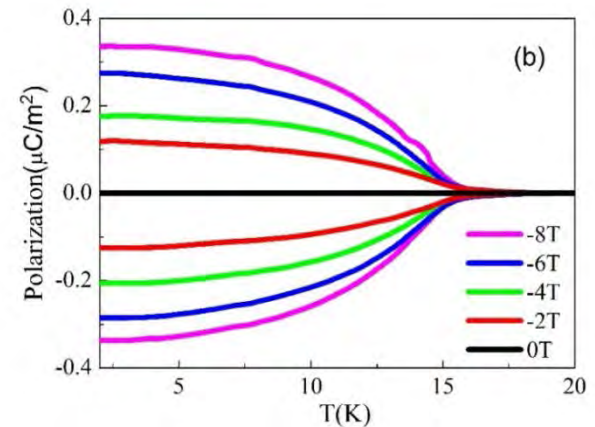
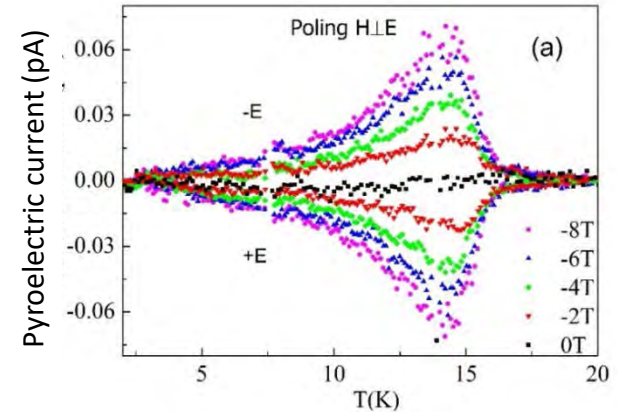
$$P_i = \alpha_{ij}H_j$$

- The form of tensor for linear ME effect:

$$\alpha_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \alpha_{12} & 0 \\ \alpha_{21} & 0 & \alpha_{23} \\ 0 & \alpha_{32} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

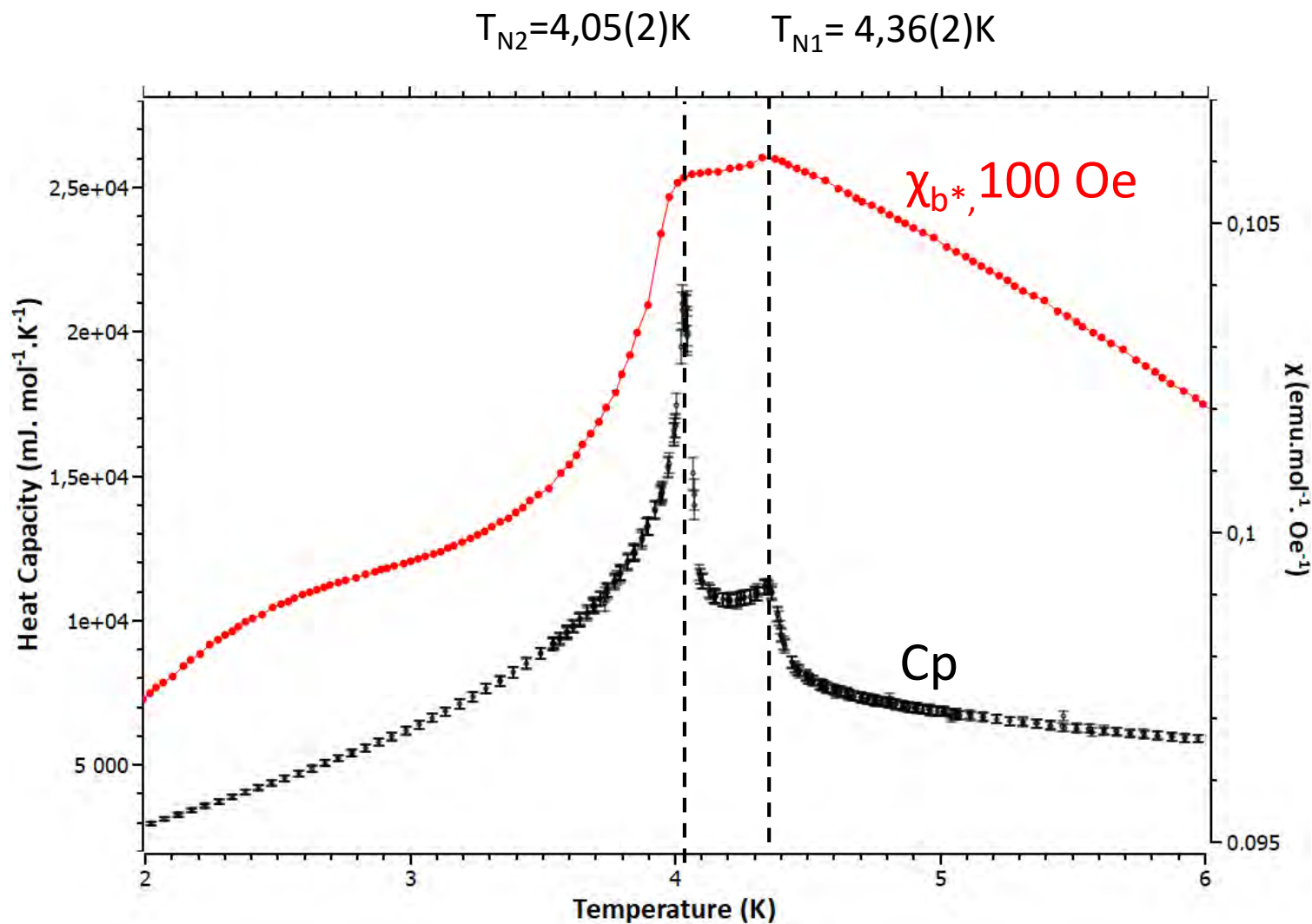


Pyroelectric current measurement:
ME annealing E \perp H (pressed pellet)



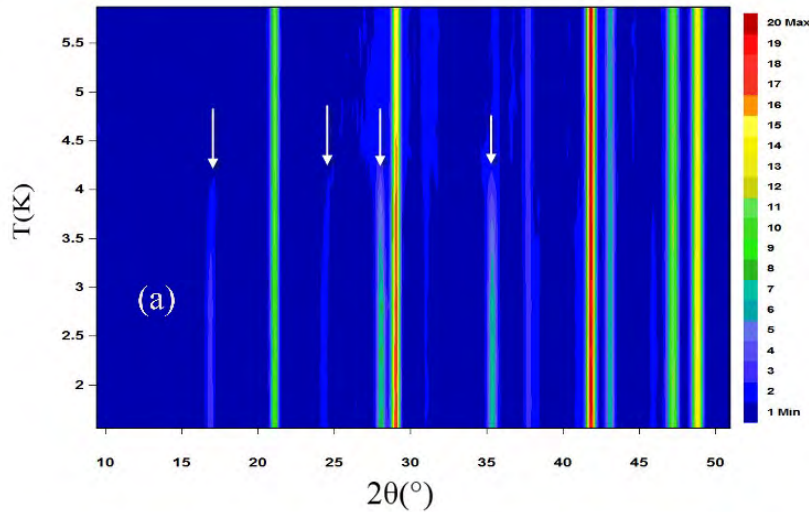
No electrical polarization in the absence of an applied magnetic field!

SrMnGe₂O₆: magnetic properties

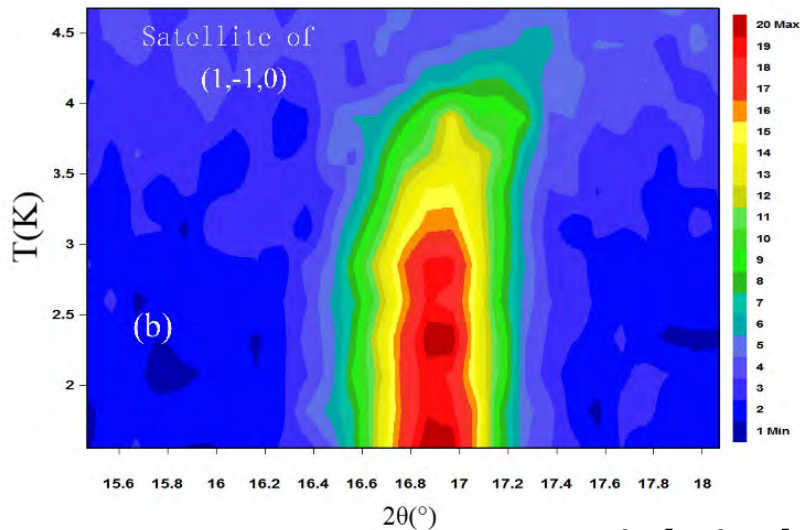
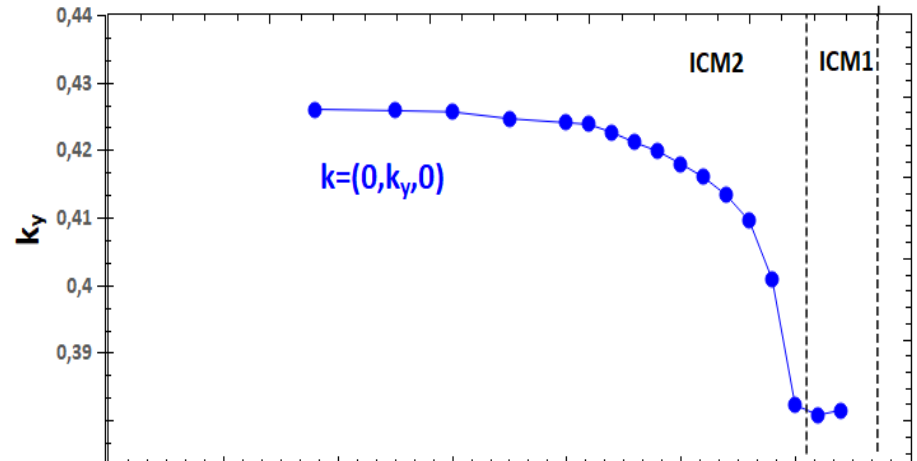


SrMnGe₂O₆: incommensurate magnetic structures

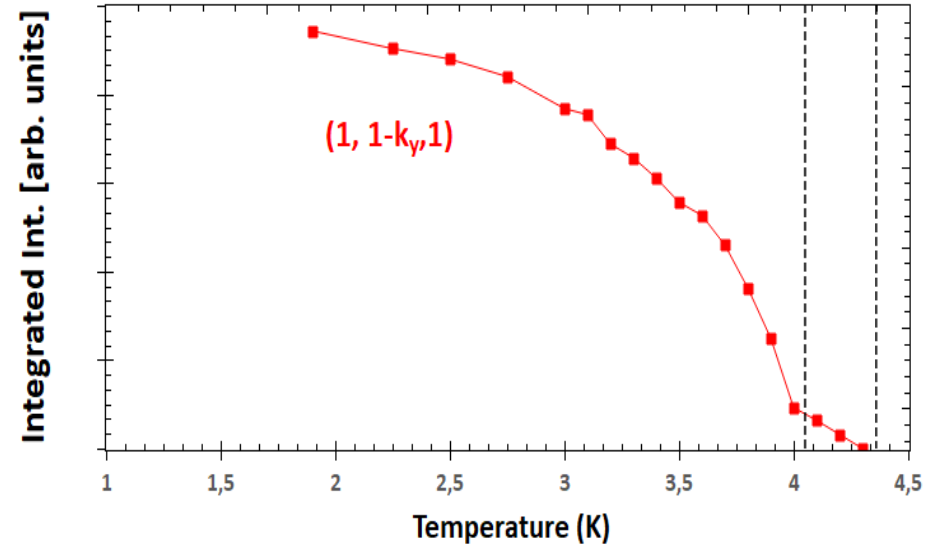
ND on powder: D1B @ ILL



ND on single crystal: D23 @ ILL



Magnetic Propagation Vector $\mathbf{k}=[0 \ k_y \ 0]$



SrMnGe₂O₆: IMC 1

@4.1K, $k_y = 0.381$

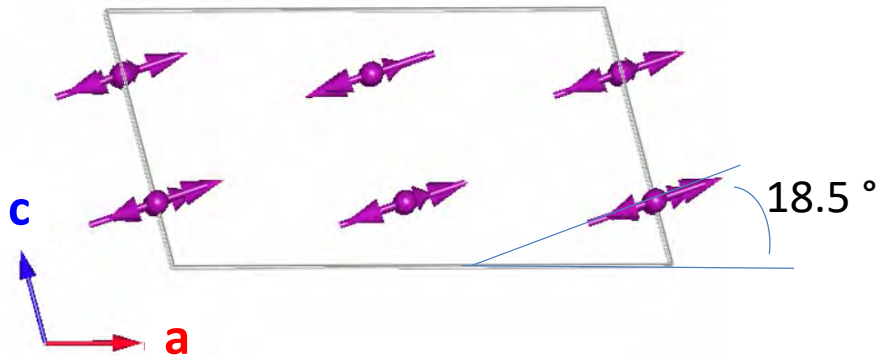
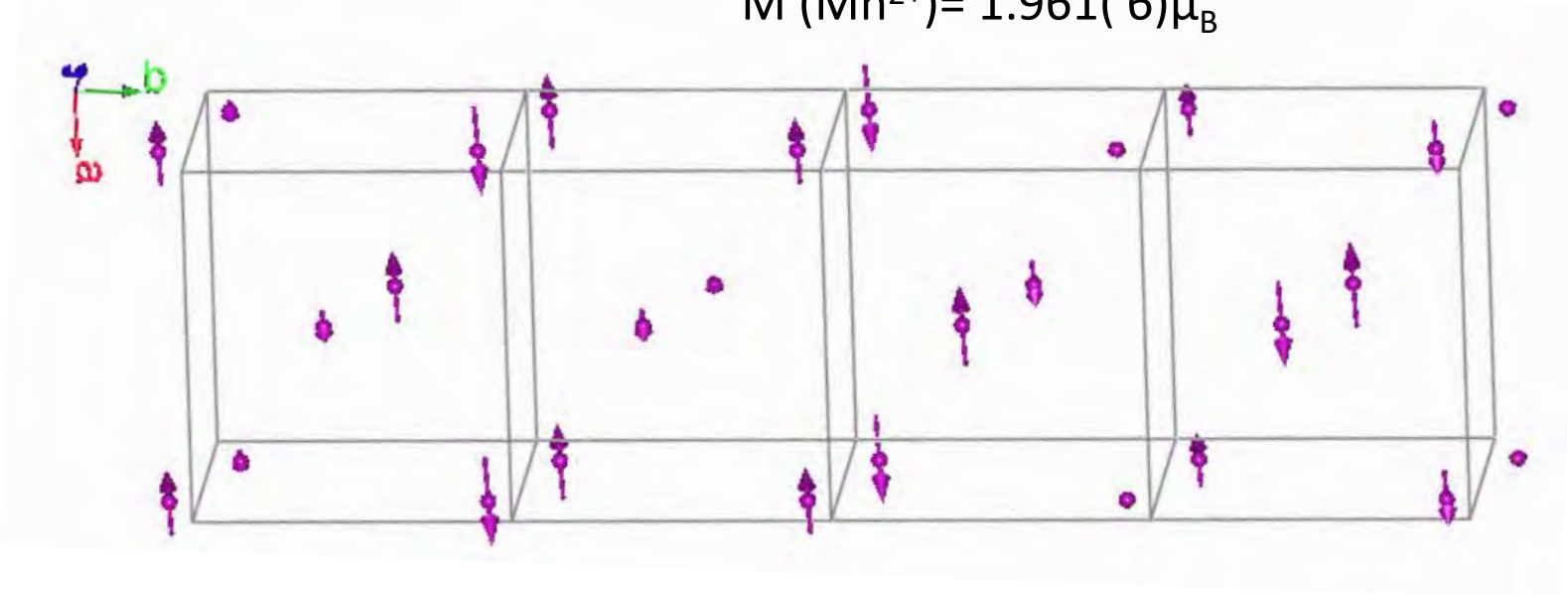
290 reflections

RF -factor : 11.02%

Sinusoidally modulated structure

Moments in the (a,c) plane

$M(\text{Mn}^{2+}) = 1.961(6)\mu_B$



IR: mLD2

P (a,0) 15.1.7.3.m86.? B2/b1'(0,0,g)s0s

Centrosymmetric Magnetic Point group:
2/m1'

SrMnGe₂O₆: IMC 2

@2.0K, $k_y = 0.485$

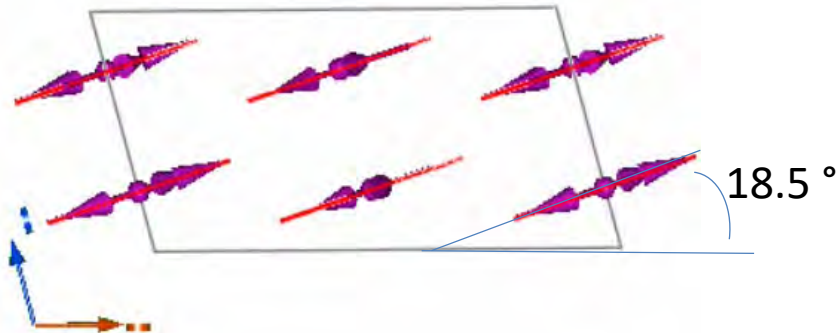
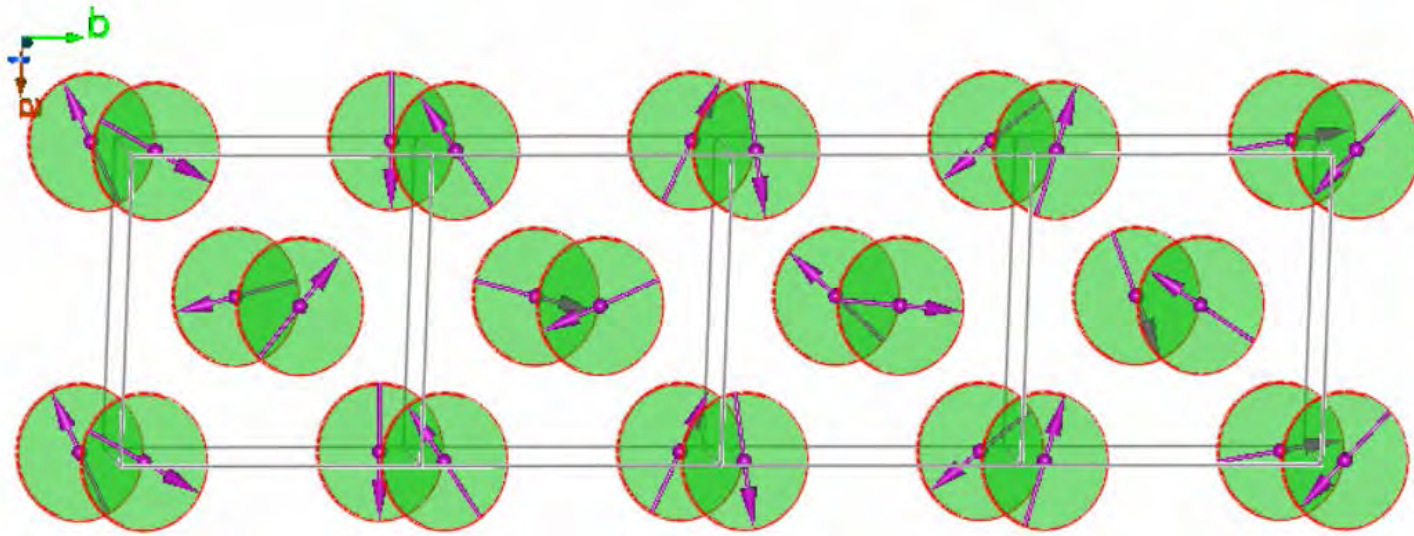
290 reflections

RF -factor : 3.54%

Elliptical cycloid

Moments in the (a,c) plane

$M(\text{Mn}^{2+}) = 4.08(2)\mu_B$



2 IR: mLD1 and mLD2

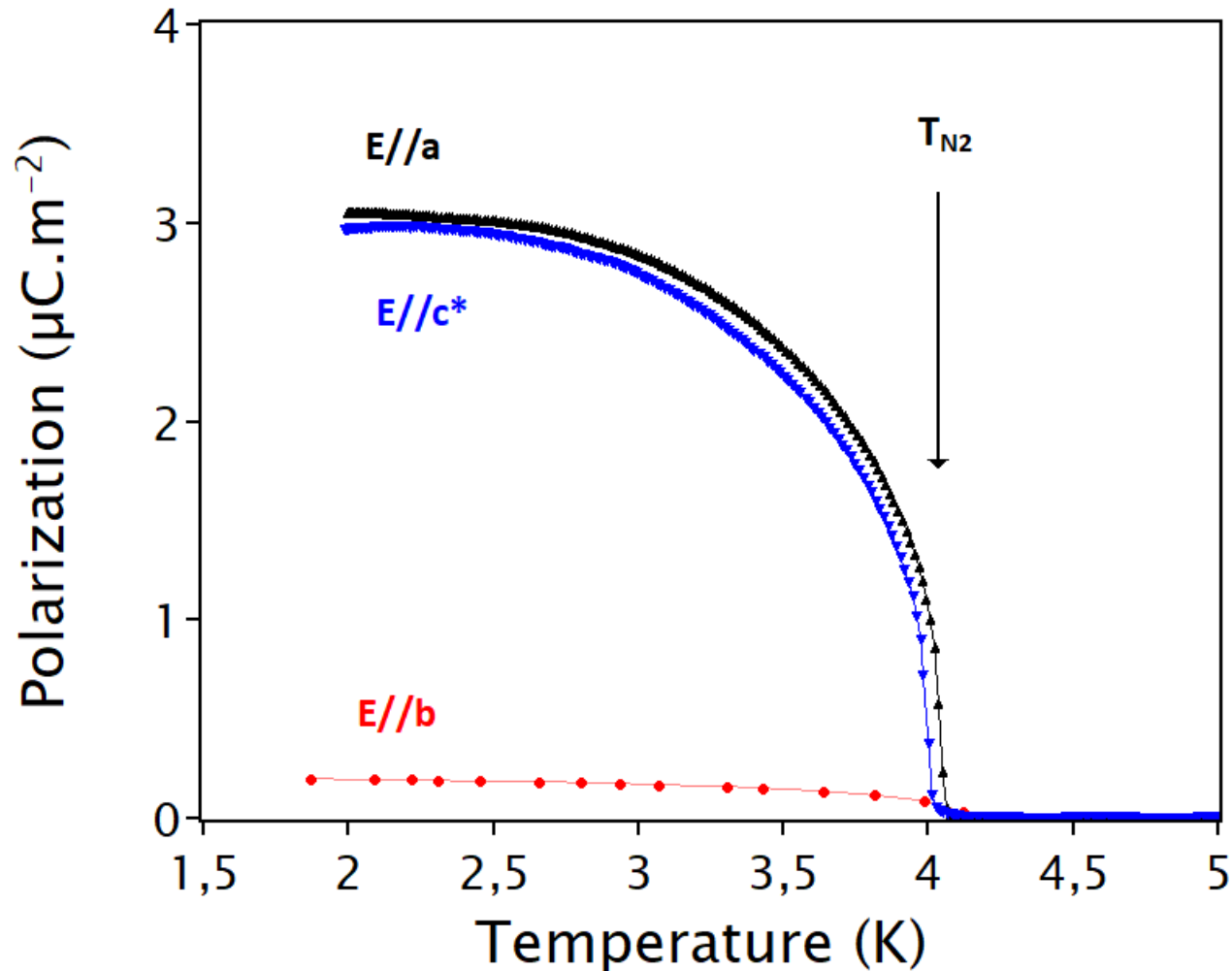
P-P (a,0|0,b) 9.1.7.2.m38.? Bb1'(0,0,g)0s

Polar Magnetic Point group: **m1'**

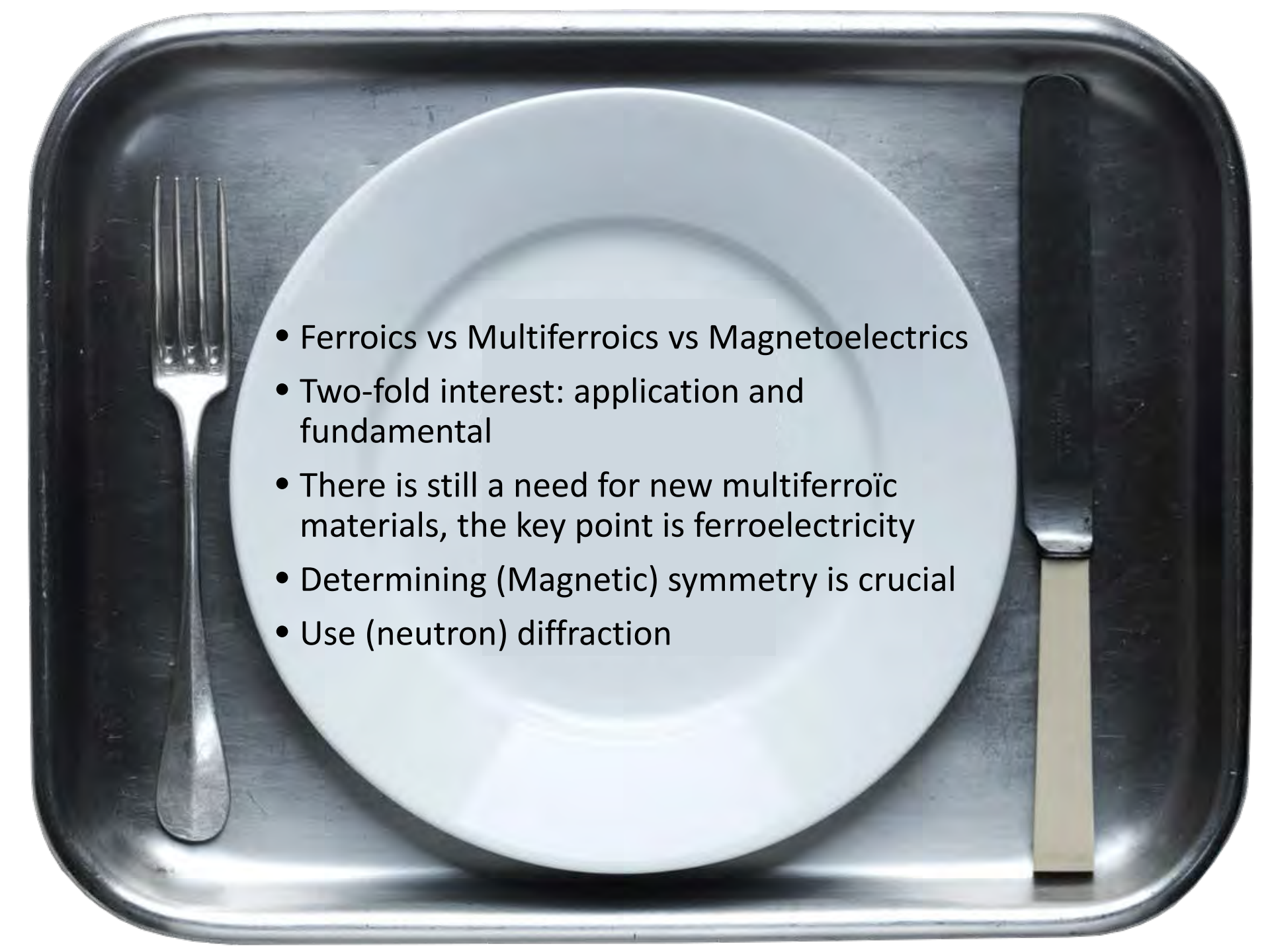
→ **P** allowed in the (a,c) plane

SrMnGe₂O₆: ferroelectricity driven by the magnetic order

Pyroelectric current measurement, $E = 500 \text{ kV.m}^{-1}$



In agreement with the determined polar magnetic structure below T_{N2}

- 
- A black metal tray with rounded corners, containing a white ceramic plate in the center. To the left of the plate is a silver fork, and to the right is a butter knife with a light-colored handle. The tray is set against a white background.
- Ferroics vs Multiferroics vs Magnetoelectrics
 - Two-fold interest: application and fundamental
 - There is still a need for new multiferroic materials, the key point is ferroelectricity
 - Determining (Magnetic) symmetry is crucial
 - Use (neutron) diffraction

A top-down view of a silver metal tray with rounded corners. In the center of the tray is a white ceramic plate. To the left of the plate is a silver fork, and to the right is a butter knife with a light-colored handle. The text "Thank you!" is printed in a black, sans-serif font in the middle of the white plate.

Thank you!