Adiabatic preparation of a Heisenberg antiferromagnet using an optical superlattice

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Main ideas

• Experimental proposal

Adiabaticity conditions

- for the total lattice
- for a sublattice

• Effect of holes and harmonic trap

• recent experimental realization of **fermionic Hubbard model** in optical lattice [*Schneider et al.*, Science'08; *Jördens et al.*, Nature'08]



• limit of strong interactions $U \gg t$: t-J model





$$\hat{H} = -t \sum_{\langle l,m \rangle,\sigma} (\tilde{c}_{l,\sigma}^{\dagger} \tilde{c}_{m,\sigma} + \tilde{c}_{m,\sigma}^{\dagger} \tilde{c}_{l,\sigma}) + J \sum_{\langle l,m \rangle} (\vec{S}_{l} \cdot \vec{S}_{m} - \frac{\hat{n}_{l} \hat{n}_{m}}{4})$$



taken from [Schneider et al., Science'08]





1. band insulating ground state |BI> [Schneider et al., Science'08]



2. dimerized ground state [*Trotzky et al.*, PRL'10]



3. quantum Heisenberg antiferromagnet $|AFM\rangle$





Advantage over direct preparation of Mott insulator: Band insulator has less entropy! Adiabaticity conditions for the total lattice

experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization

$$M_{\text{stag}}^2 = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{l,m=1}^{N} (-1)^{l+m} \langle \vec{S}_l \cdot \vec{S}_m \rangle : m^2(T) := M_{\text{stag}}^2(T) / M_{\text{stag},\text{AFM}}^2$$



experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization





• Landau-Zener formula: $T \propto 1/\Delta^2$

• 1D: gap closes at end of protocol [Matsumoto et al., PRB'01]

 $\Delta \propto 1/N \rightarrow T \propto N^2$

• experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization



• experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization



high magnetization in short ramping time

Adiabaticity conditions for a sublattice

Adiabaticity on sublattice

• experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization

$$M_{\text{stag}}^2 = \frac{1}{L^2} \sum_{l,m=1}^{L} (-1)^{l+m} \langle \vec{S}_l \cdot \vec{S}_m \rangle : m^2(T) := M_{\text{stag}}^2(T) / M_{\text{stag,AFM}}^2$$

1D



Adiabaticity on sublattice

experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization





• effective local gap: $\Delta \propto 1/L \rightarrow T \propto L^2$

Adiabaticity on sublattice

experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization





• effective local gap: $\Delta \propto 1/L \rightarrow T \propto L^2$

high magnetization in short ramping time on small part

$$\hat{H} = -t \sum_{\langle l,m \rangle,\sigma} (\tilde{c}_{l,\sigma}^{\dagger} \tilde{c}_{m,\sigma} + \tilde{c}_{m,\sigma}^{\dagger} \tilde{c}_{l,\sigma}) + \hat{H}_{\rm spin}$$





1D

$$\hat{H} = -t \sum_{\langle l,m \rangle,\sigma} (\tilde{c}_{l,\sigma}^{\dagger} \tilde{c}_{m,\sigma} + \tilde{c}_{m,\sigma}^{\dagger} \tilde{c}_{l,\sigma}) + \hat{H}_{\rm spin}$$



hole spreads as free particle: velocity v = 2t

$$\hat{H} = -t \sum_{\langle l,m \rangle,\sigma} (\tilde{c}_{l,\sigma}^{\dagger} \tilde{c}_{m,\sigma} + \tilde{c}_{m,\sigma}^{\dagger} \tilde{c}_{l,\sigma}) + \hat{H}_{\rm spin}$$





• energy increase: $\Delta E_{\rm spin} \approx |\langle \vec{S}_l \cdot \vec{S}_{l+1} \rangle|$





• experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization

$$M_{\text{stag}}^2 = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{l,m=1}^{N} (-1)^{l+m} \langle \vec{S}_l \cdot \vec{S}_m \rangle : m^2(T) := M_{\text{stag}}^2(T) / M_{\text{stag},\text{AFM}}^2$$







1D





drastic magnetization reduction







• experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization

$$M_{\text{stag}}^2 = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{l,m=1}^{N} (-1)^{l+m} \langle \vec{S}_l \cdot \vec{S}_m \rangle : m^2(T) := M_{\text{stag}}^2(T) / M_{\text{stag},\text{AFM}}^2$$



experimental observable: squared staggered magnetization

 $M_{\text{stag}}^2 = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{l,m=1}^{N} (-1)^{l+m} \langle \vec{S}_l \cdot \vec{S}_m \rangle : m^2(T) := M_{\text{stag}}^2(T) / M_{\text{stag},\text{AFM}}^2$

1D







1D



• feasible timescales











• details: [M. Lubasch, V. Murg, U. Schneider, J. I. Cirac, M.-C. Bañuls, PRL 107, 165301 (2011)]