

Talk online: [sachdev.physics.harvard.edu](https://sachdev.physics.harvard.edu)

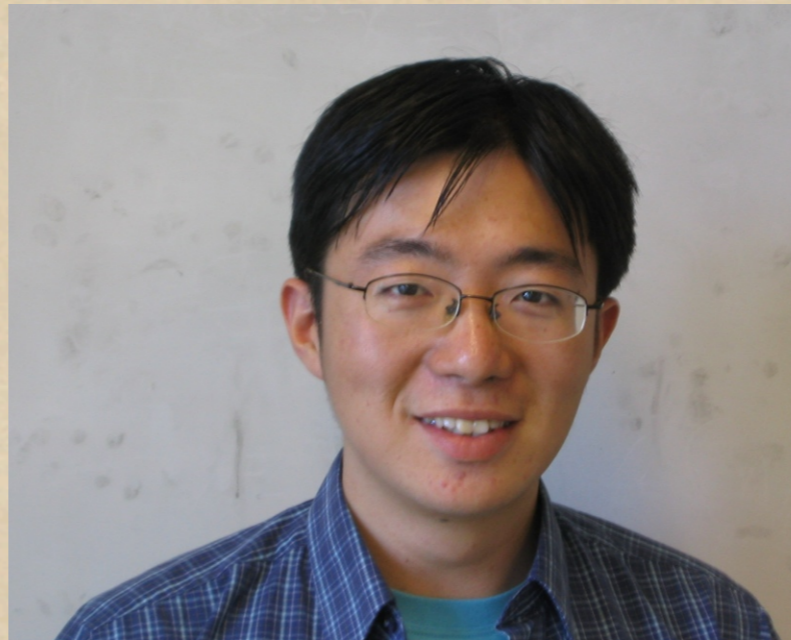
Quantum field theories  
for antiferromagnets,  
and for black holes



Condensed matter  
theorists



Markus Mueller  
Geneva



Cenke Xu  
Harvard



Yang Qi  
Harvard

# Outline

## 1. Landau-Ginzburg criticality

*Coupled-dimer antiferromagnets*

## 2. Ground states of the triangular lattice antiferromagnet

*Experiments on  $X[\text{Pd}(\text{dmit})_2]_2$*

## 3. Spinons, visons, and Berry phases

*Quantum field theories for two-dimensional antiferromagnets*

## 4. Quantum criticality and black holes

*The AdS/CFT correspondence*

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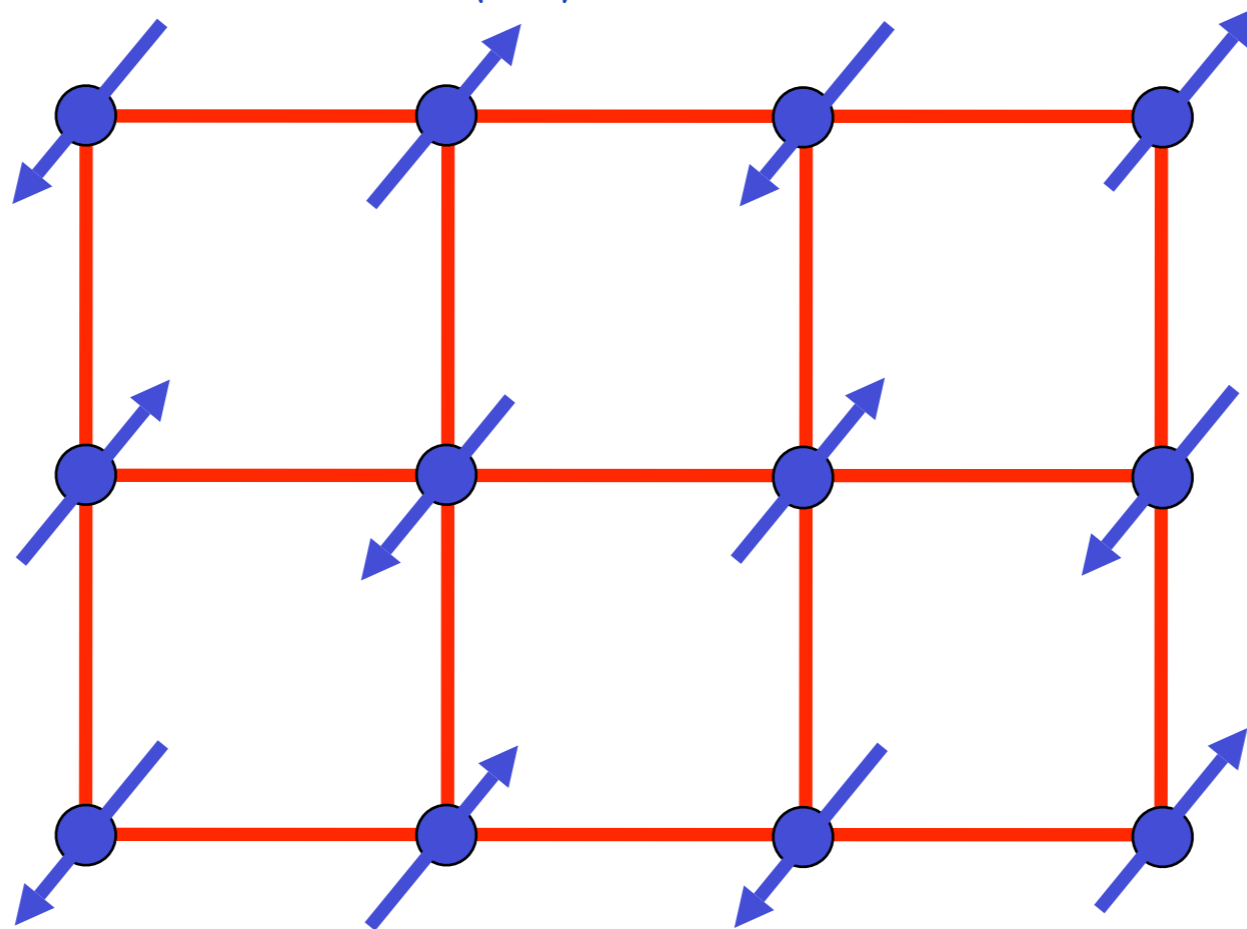
*Quantum field theories for two-dimensional antiferromagnets*

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*The AdS/CFT correspondence*

# Square lattice antiferromagnet

$$H = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{ij} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$



Ground state has long-range Néel order

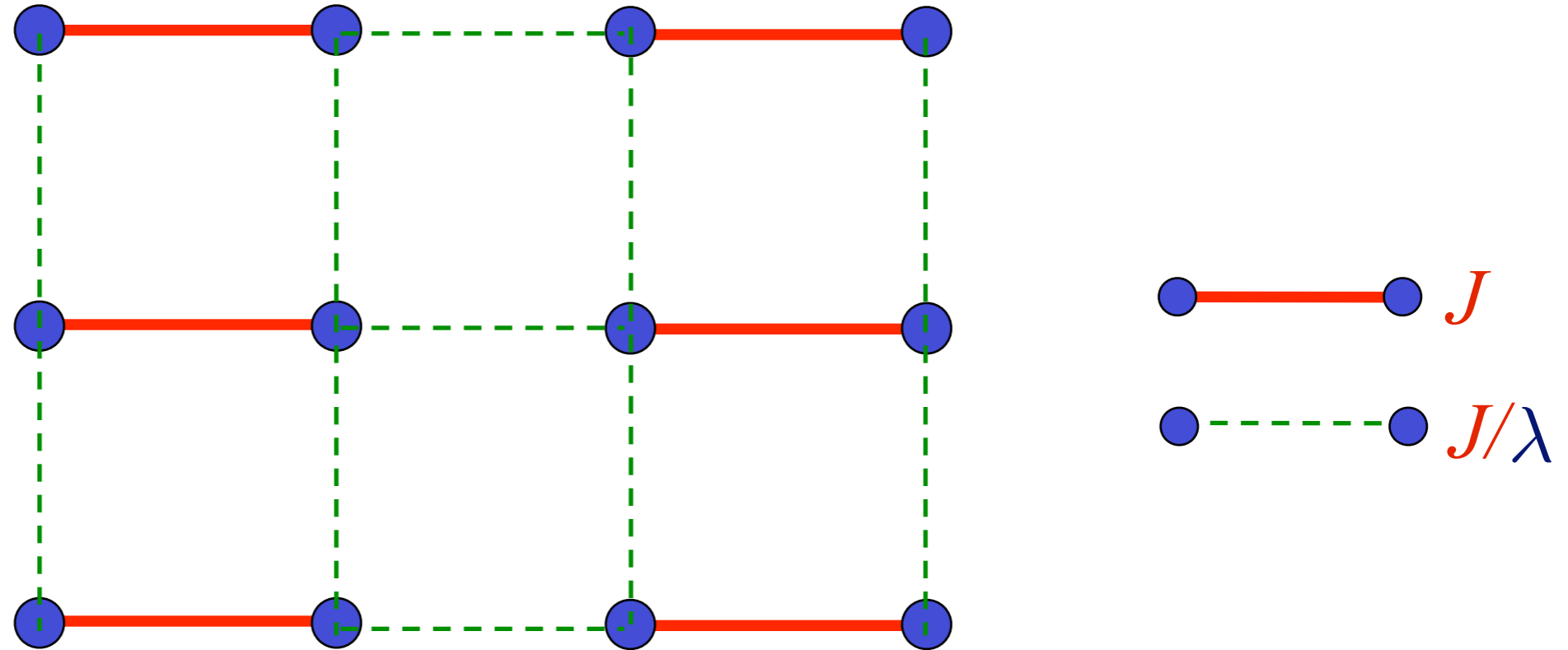
Order parameter is a single vector field  $\vec{\varphi} = \eta_i \vec{S}_i$

$\eta_i = \pm 1$  on two sublattices

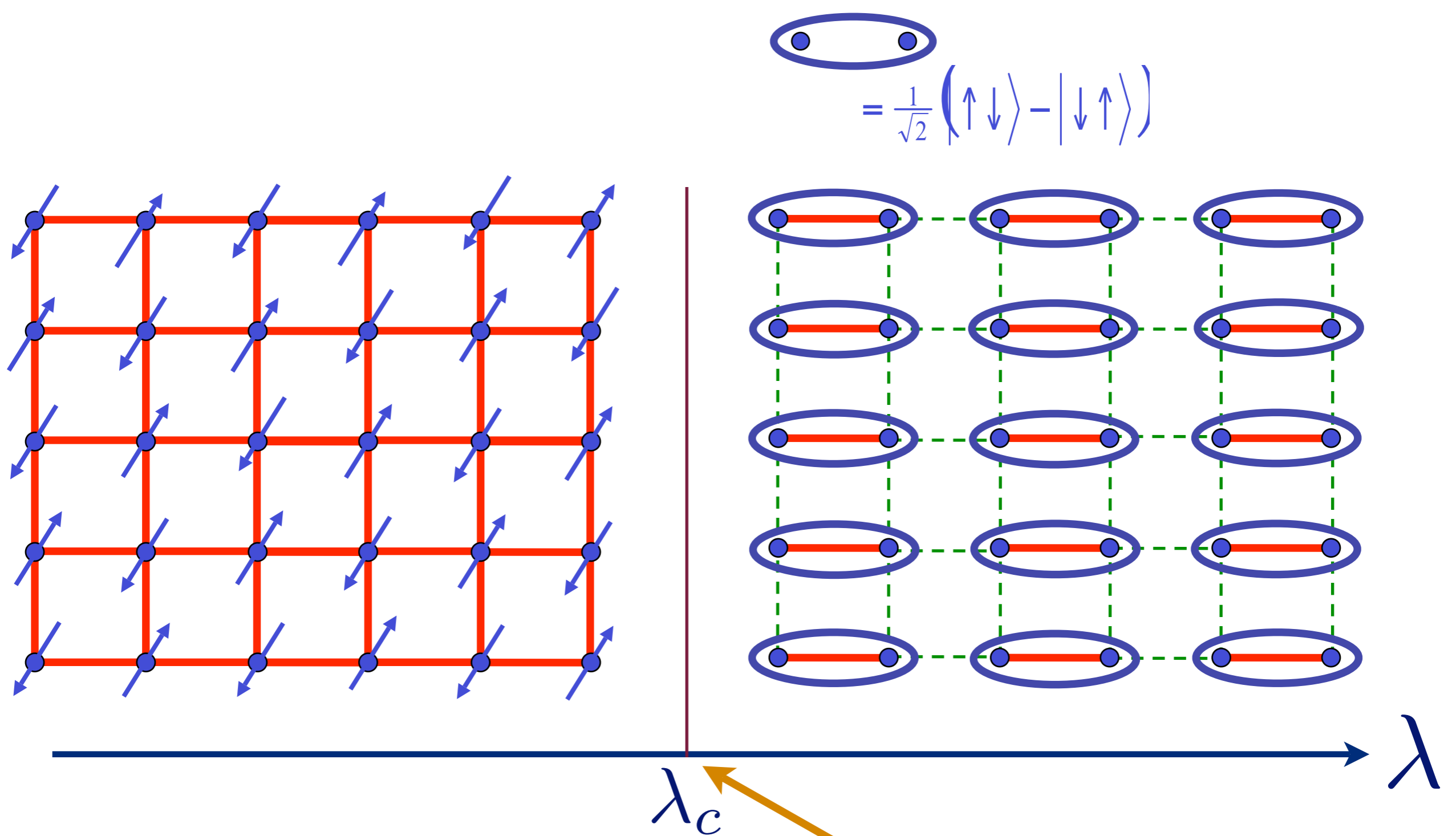
$\langle \vec{\varphi} \rangle \neq 0$  in Néel state.

# Square lattice antiferromagnet

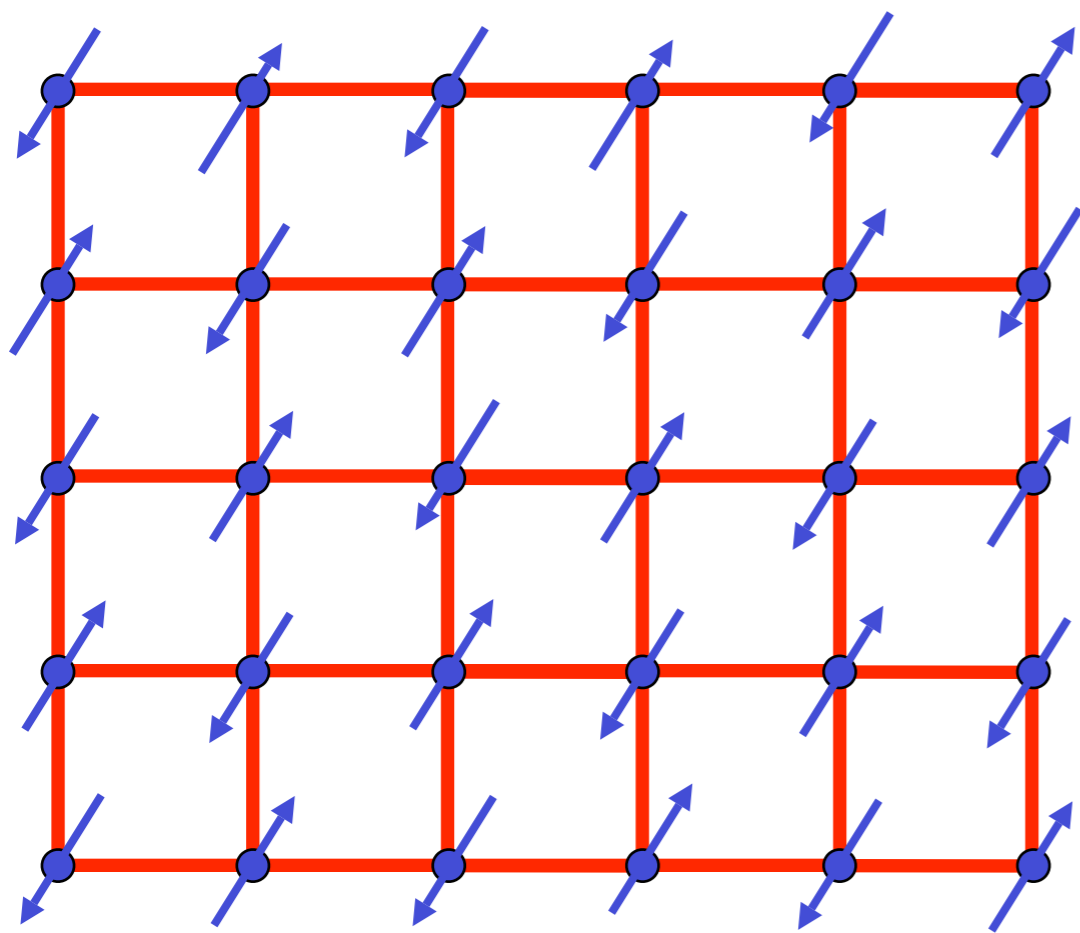
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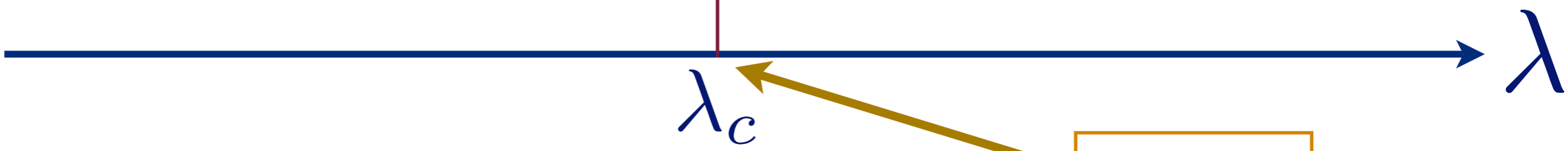
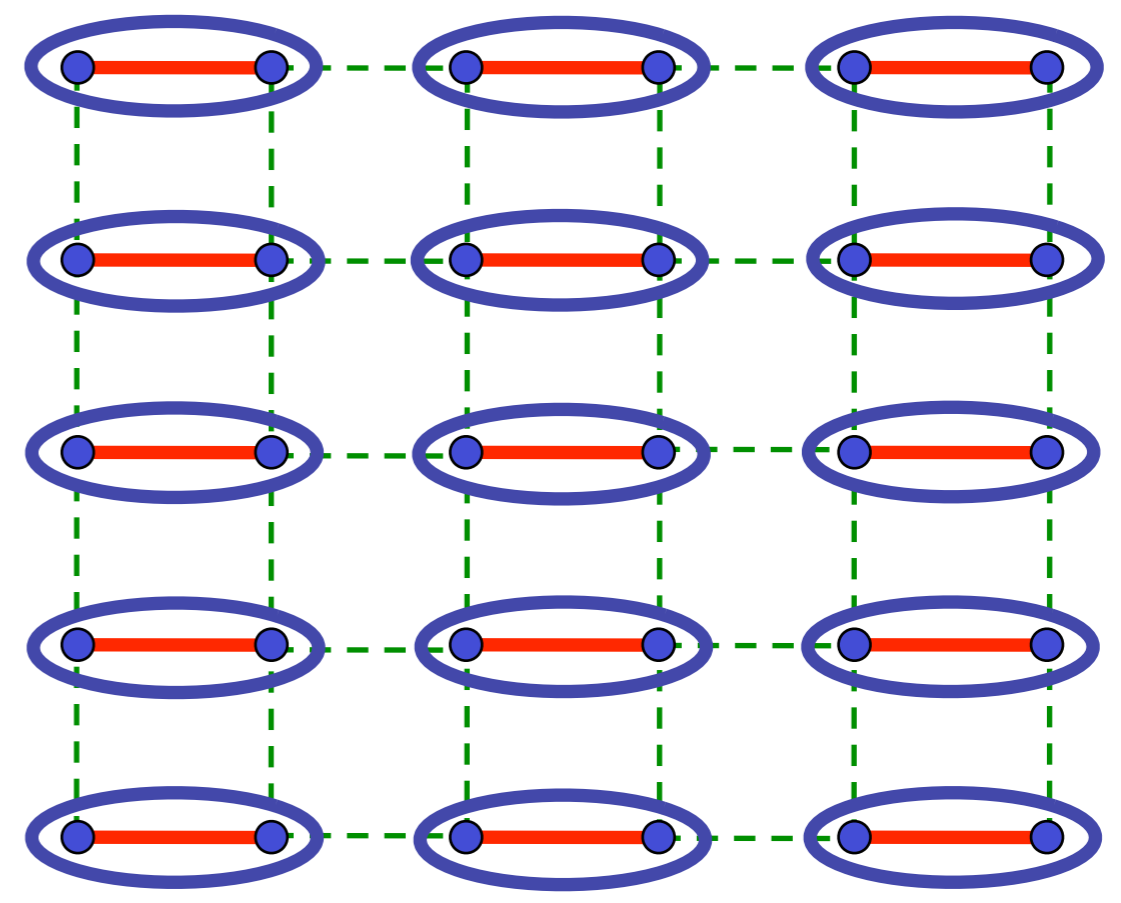
Weaken some bonds to induce spin entanglement in a new quantum phase



Quantum critical point with non-local entanglement in spin wavefunction



$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Diagram of two blue dots in a blue oval} \\
 & = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)
 \end{aligned}$$



$O(3)$  order parameter  $\vec{\varphi}$

CFT3

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^2r d\tau \left[ (\partial_\tau \varphi)^2 + c^2 (\nabla_r \vec{\varphi})^2 + s \vec{\varphi}^2 + u (\vec{\varphi}^2)^2 \right]$$



# Quantum Monte Carlo - critical exponents

Table IV: Fit results for the critical exponents  $\nu$ ,  $\beta/\nu$ , and  $\eta$ . We summarize results including a variation of the critical point within its error bar. For the ladder model (top group of values) fit results and quality of fits are also given at the previous best estimate of  $\alpha_c$ . The bottom group are results for the plaquette model. Numbers in [...] brackets denote the  $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$  For comparison relevant reference values for the 3D  $O(3)$  universality class are given in the last line.

$\alpha_c$	$\nu^a$	$\beta/\nu^b$	$\eta^c$
1.9096 $-\sigma$	0.712(4) [1.8]	0.516(2) [0.5]	0.026(2) [0.2]
1.9096	0.711(4) [1.8]	0.518(2) [1.1]	0.029(5) [0.8]
1.9096 $+\sigma$	0.710(4) [1.8]	0.519(3) [2.5]	0.032(7) [1.4]
1.9107 <sup>d</sup>	0.709(3) [1.7]	0.525(8) [15.3]	0.051(10) [12]
1.8230 $-\sigma$	0.708(4) [0.99]	0.515(2) [0.84]	0.025(4) [0.15]
1.8230	0.706(4) [1.04]	0.516(2) [0.40]	0.028(3) [0.31]
1.8230 $+\sigma$	0.706(4) [1.10]	0.517(2) [1.6]	0.031(5) [0.80]
Ref. 49	0.7112(5)	0.518(1)	0.0375(5)

<sup>a</sup> $L > 12$ .

<sup>b</sup> $L > 16$ .

<sup>c</sup> $L > 20$ .

<sup>d</sup>Previous best estimate of Ref. 19.

S. Wenzel and W. Janke, arXiv:0808.1418

M. Troyer, M. Imada, and K. Ueda, *J. Phys. Soc. Japan* (1997)

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Field-theoretic  
RG of CFT3  
E.Vicari *et al.*

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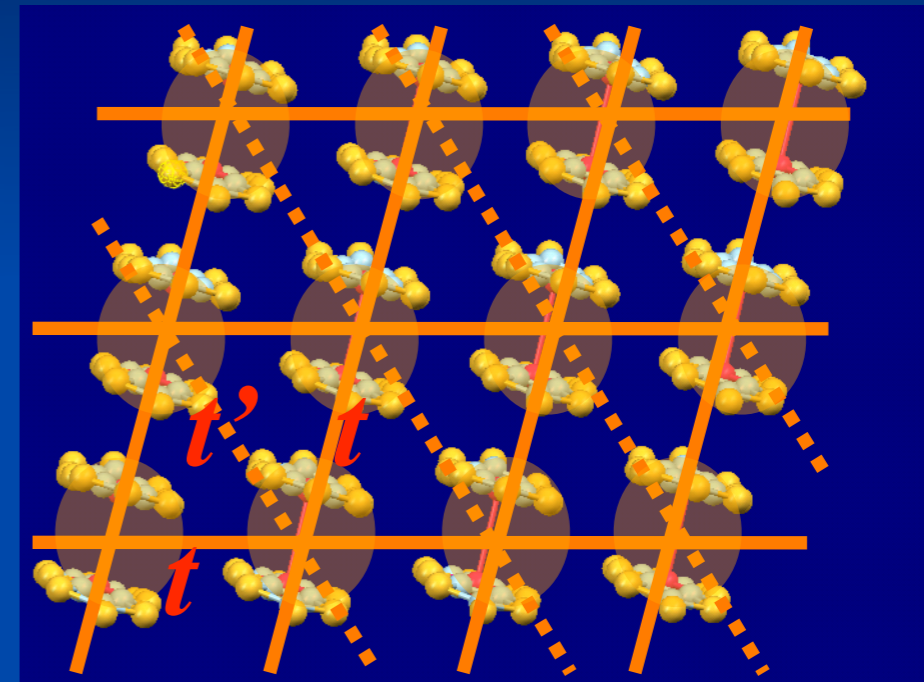
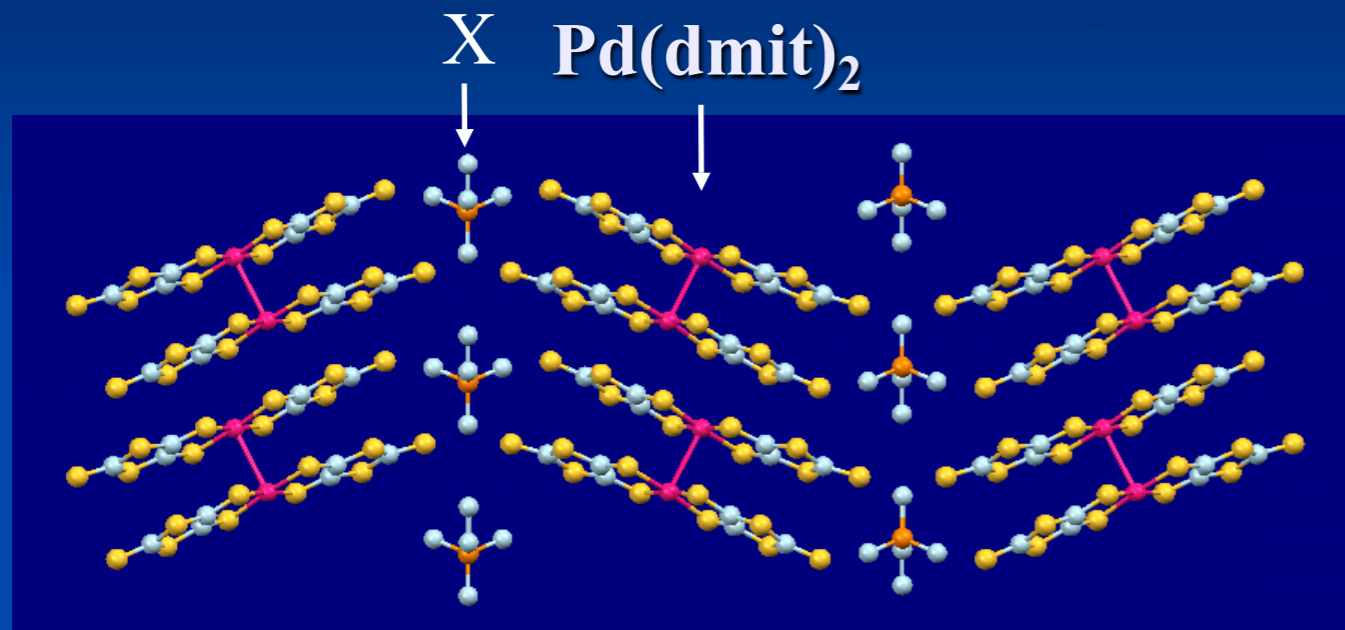
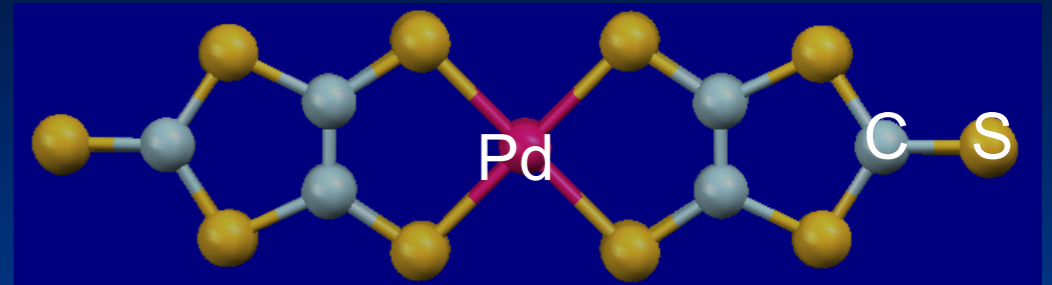
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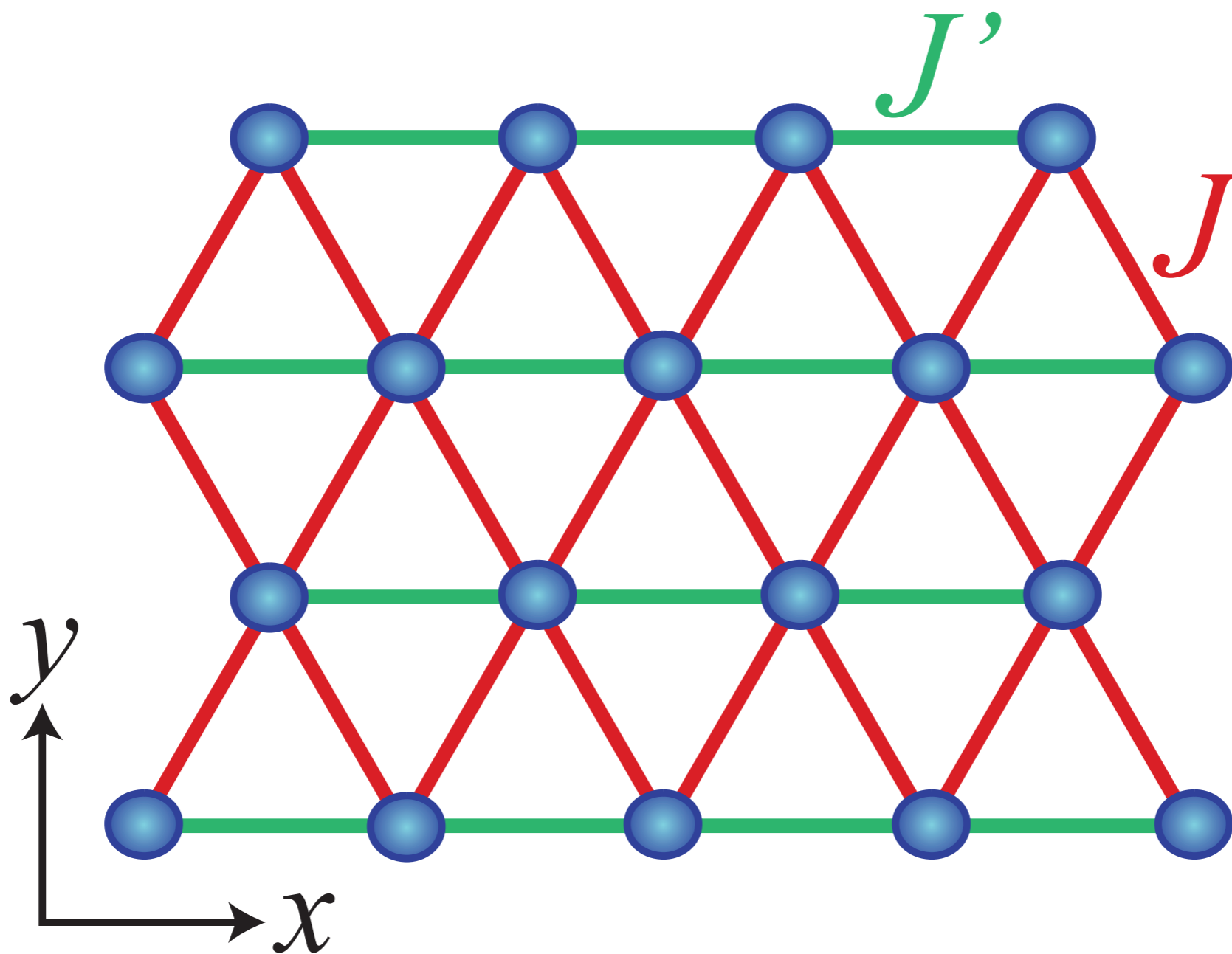
Half-filled band  $\rightarrow$  Mott insulator with spin  $S = 1/2$

Triangular lattice of  $[\text{Pd}(\text{dmit})_2]_2$

$\rightarrow$  frustrated quantum spin system

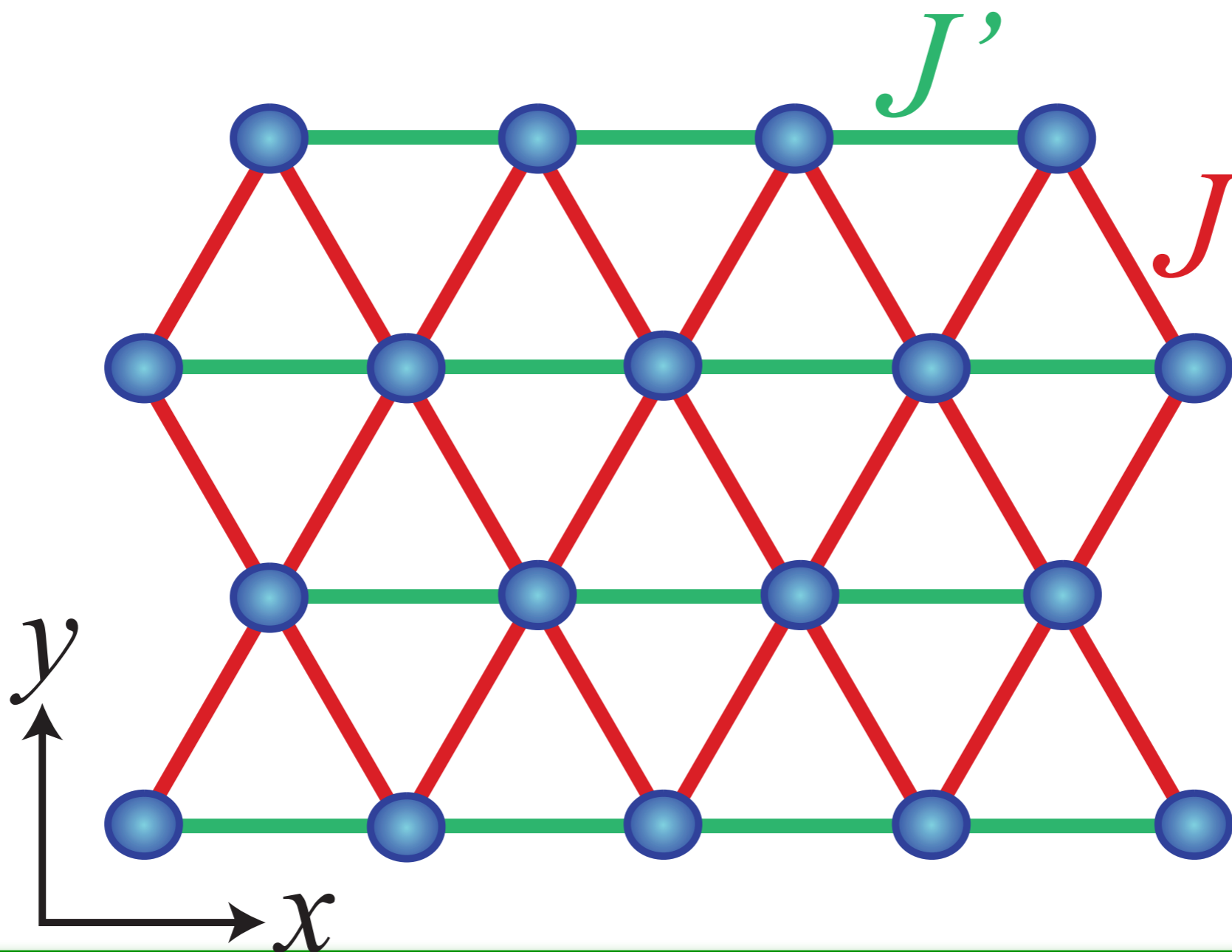
$$H = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{ij} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j + \dots$$

$\vec{S}_i \Rightarrow$  spin operator with  $S = 1/2$



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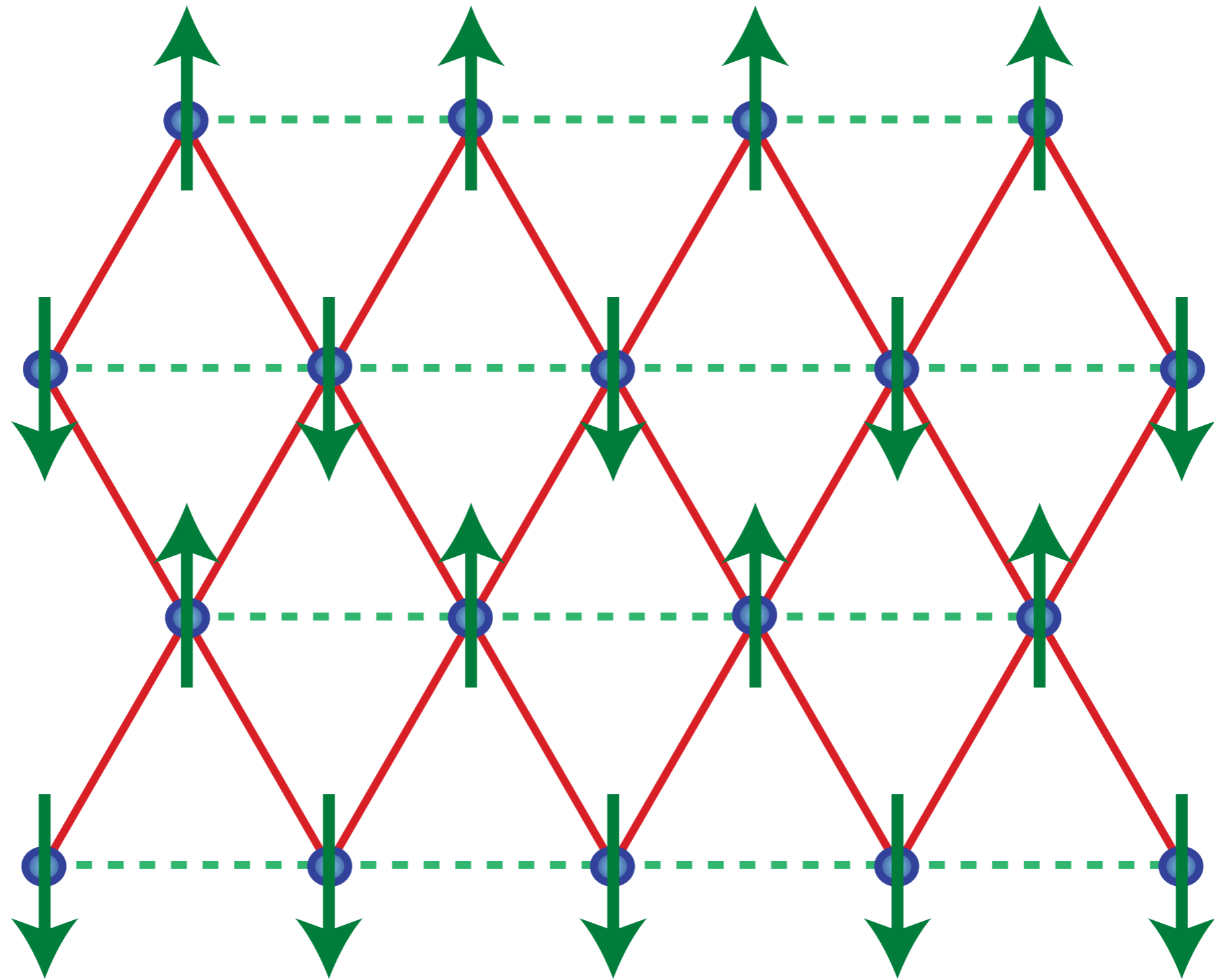
$\vec{S}_i \Rightarrow$  spin operator with  $S = 1/2$



What is the ground state as a function of  $J'/J$  ?

# Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

Broken spin rotation symmetry



Neel ground state for small  $J'/J$

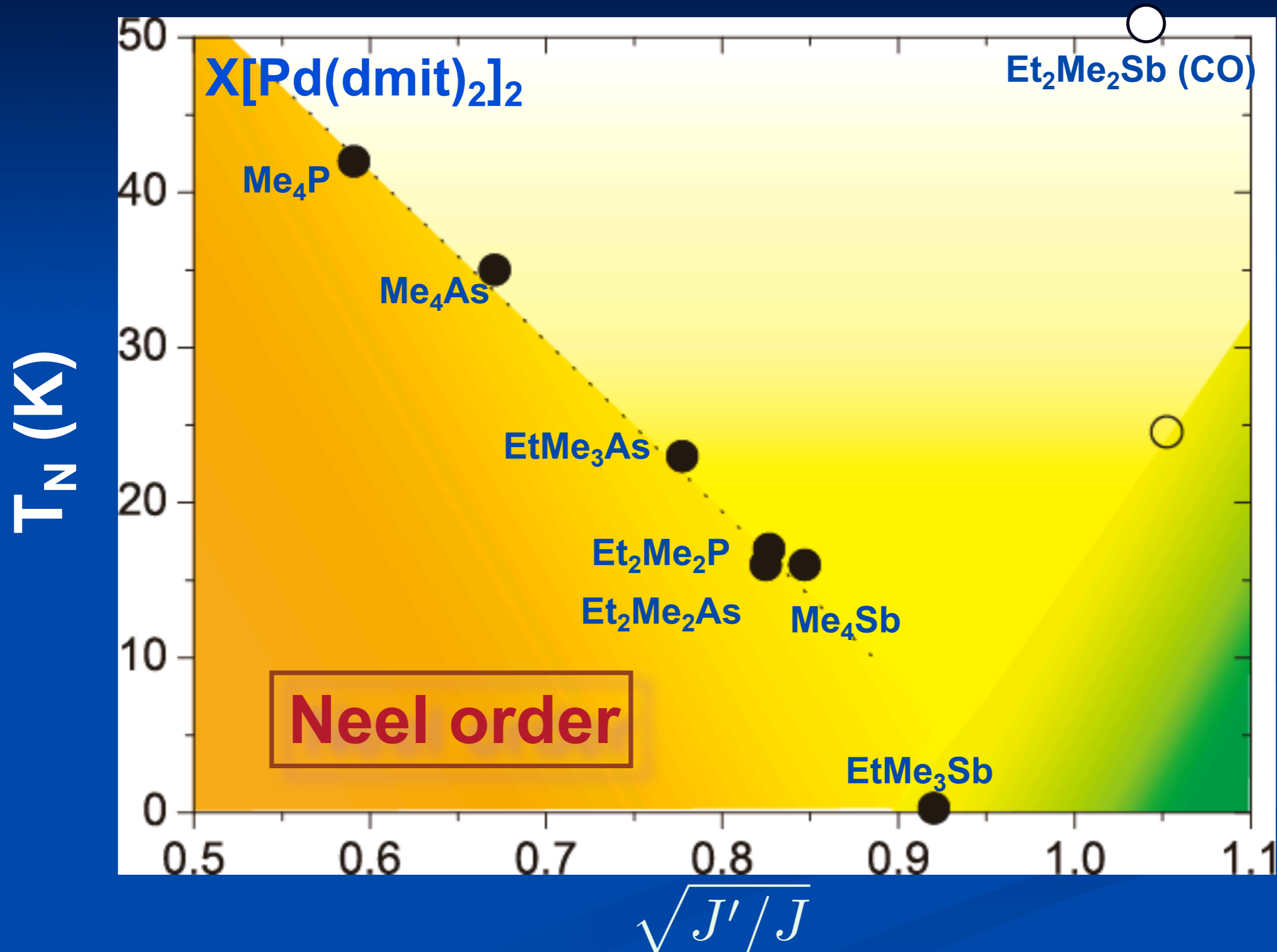


## Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

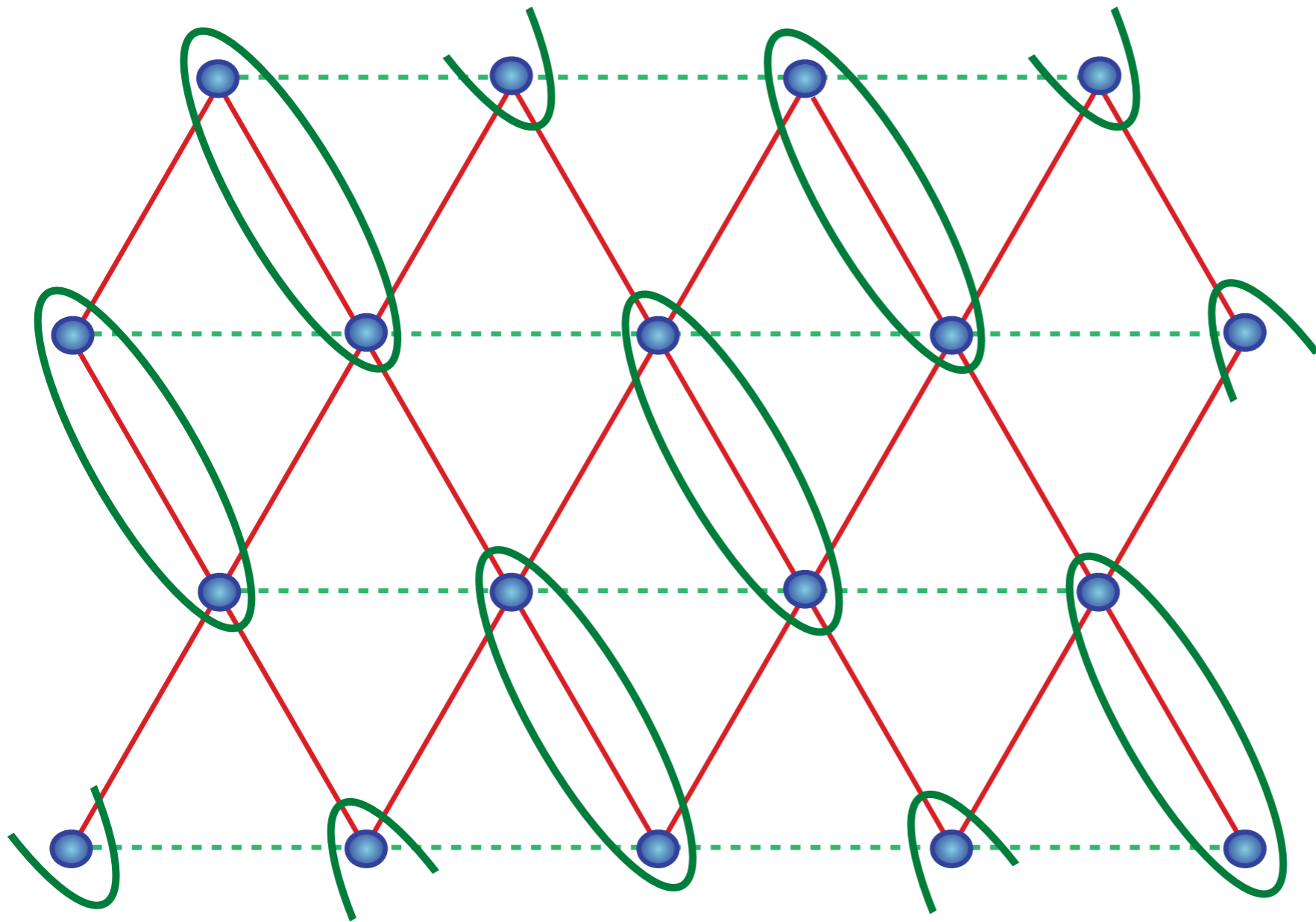
Possible ground states as a function of  $J'/J$

- Néel antiferromagnetic LRO

# Magnetic Criticality



# Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

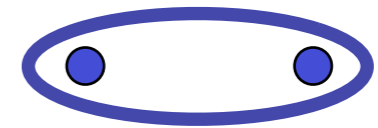
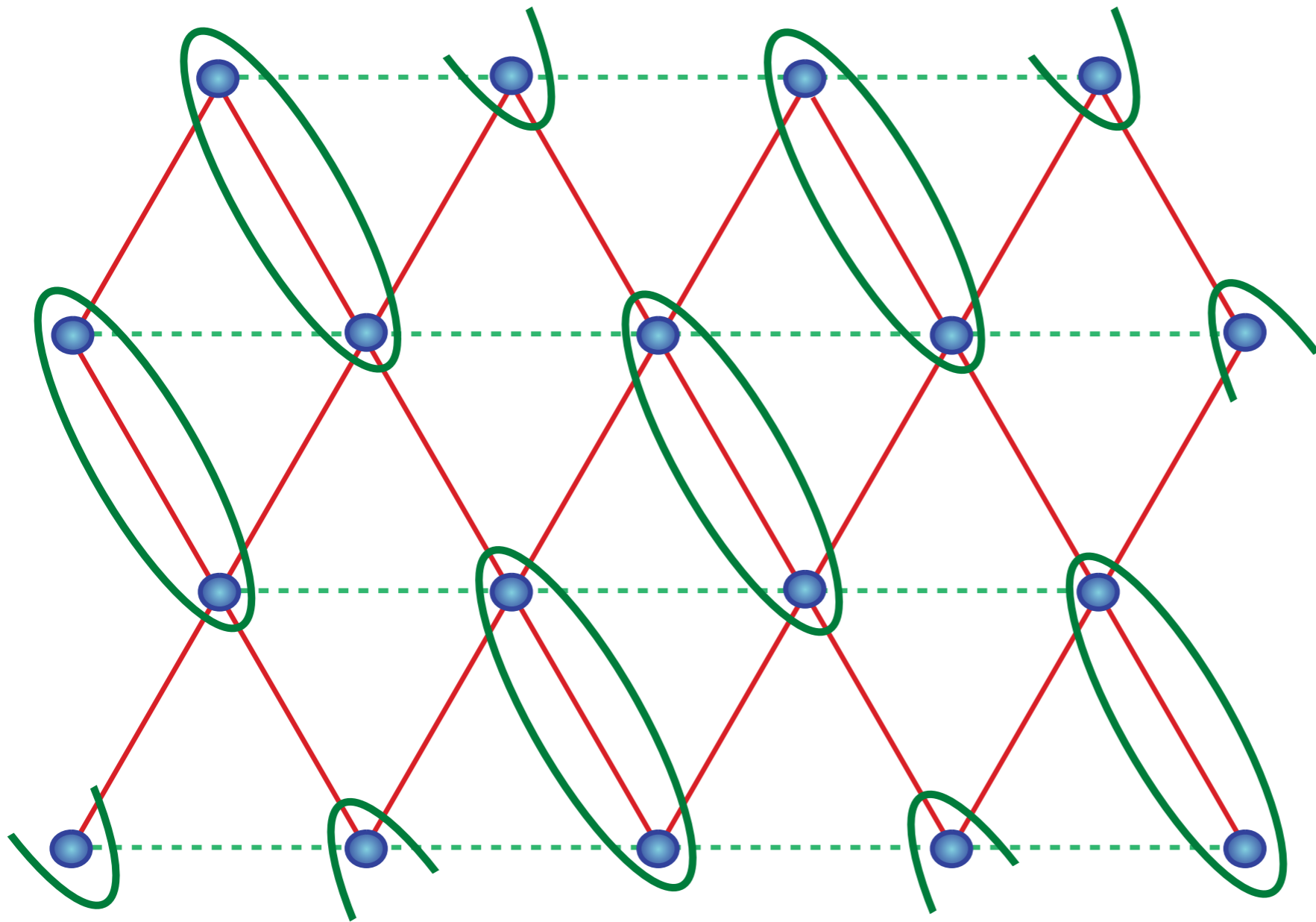


$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram of two spheres in an oval} \\ = \frac{(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)}{\sqrt{2}} \end{array}$$

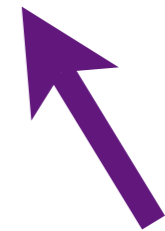
Possible ground state for intermediate  $J'/J$

# Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

Broken lattice space group symmetry



$$= \frac{(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)}{\sqrt{2}}$$

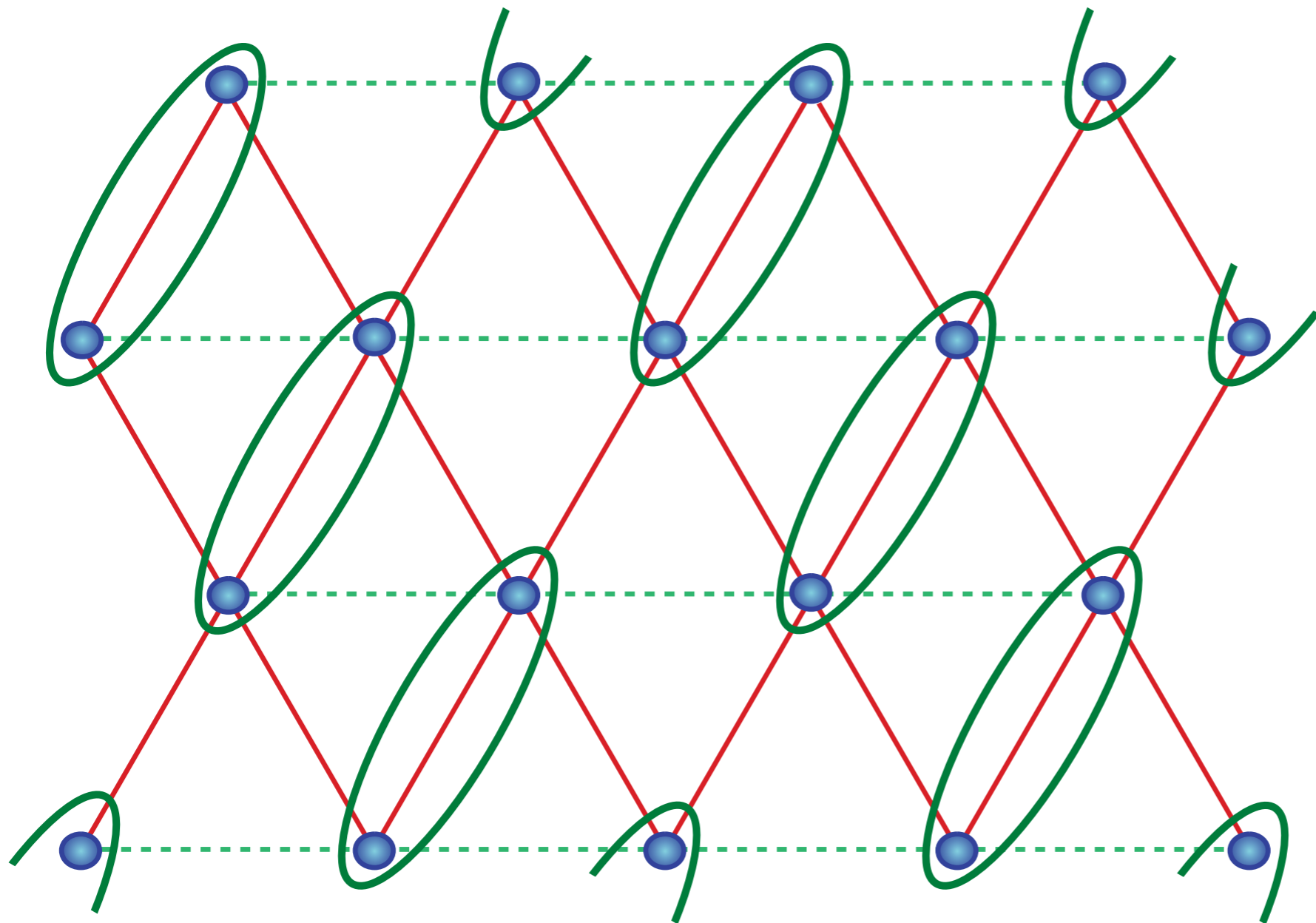


## Valence bond solid (VBS)

Possible ground state for intermediate  $J'/J$

# Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

Broken lattice space group symmetry



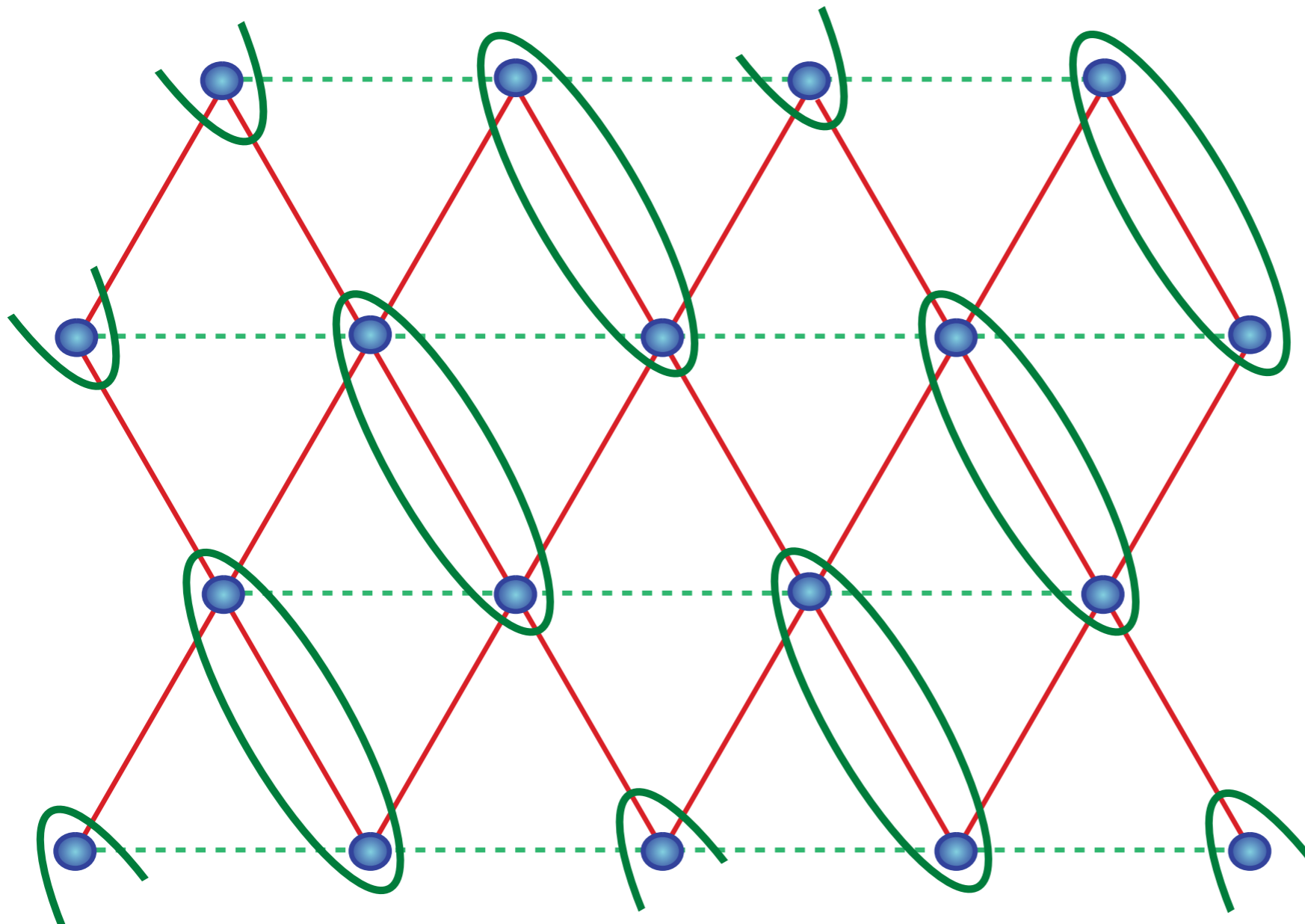
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Oval with two dots} \\ = \frac{(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)}{\sqrt{2}} \end{array}$$

Valence bond solid (VBS)

Possible ground state for intermediate  $J'/J$

# Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

Broken lattice space group symmetry



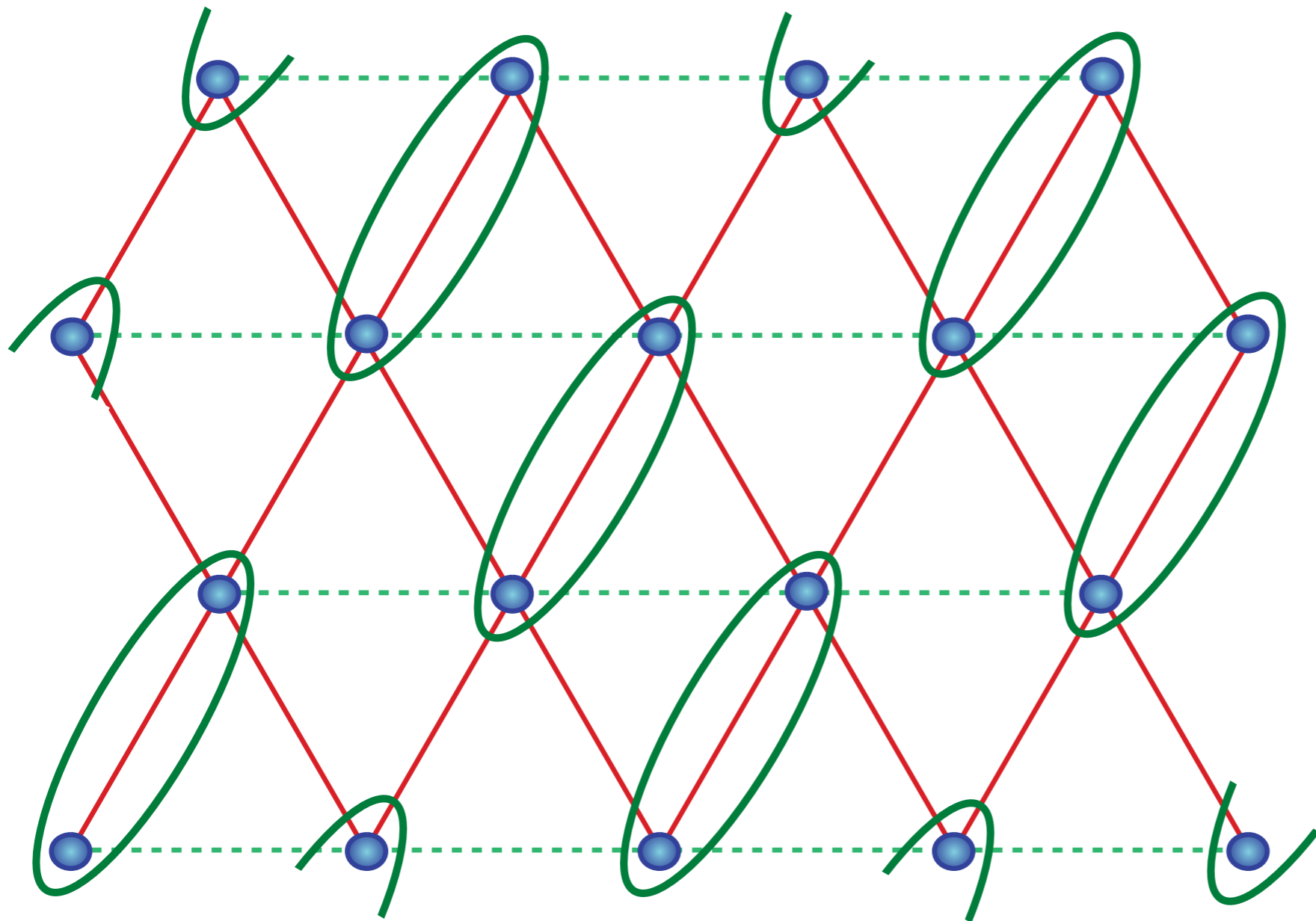
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram of two sites in a blue oval} \\ = \frac{(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)}{\sqrt{2}} \end{array}$$

Valence bond solid (VBS)

Possible ground state for intermediate  $J'/J$

# Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

Broken lattice space group symmetry



$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram of two atoms in a dimer} \\ = \frac{(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)}{\sqrt{2}} \end{array}$$



## Valence bond solid (VBS)

Possible ground state for intermediate  $J'/J$

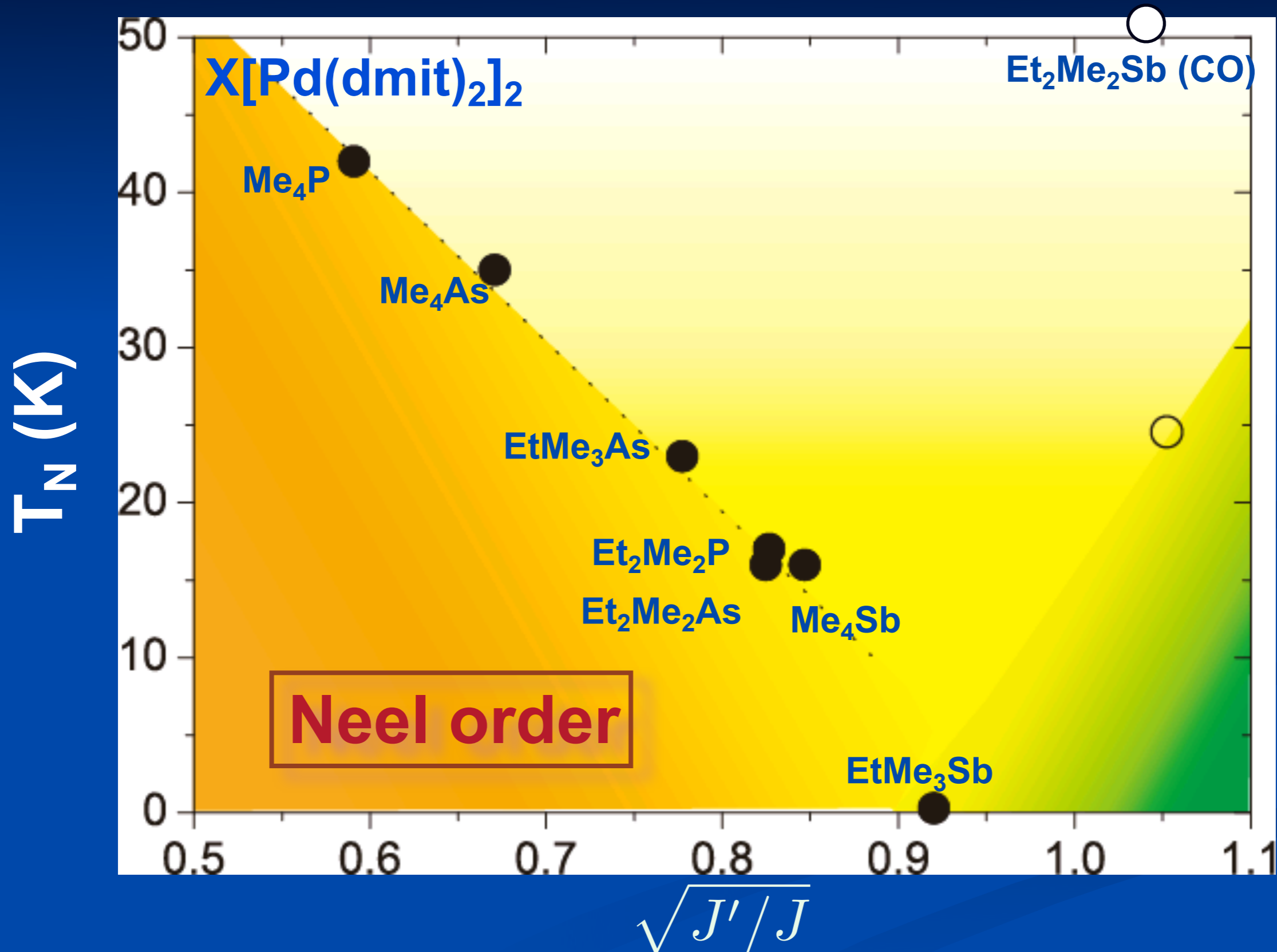
## Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

Possible ground states as a function of  $J'/J$

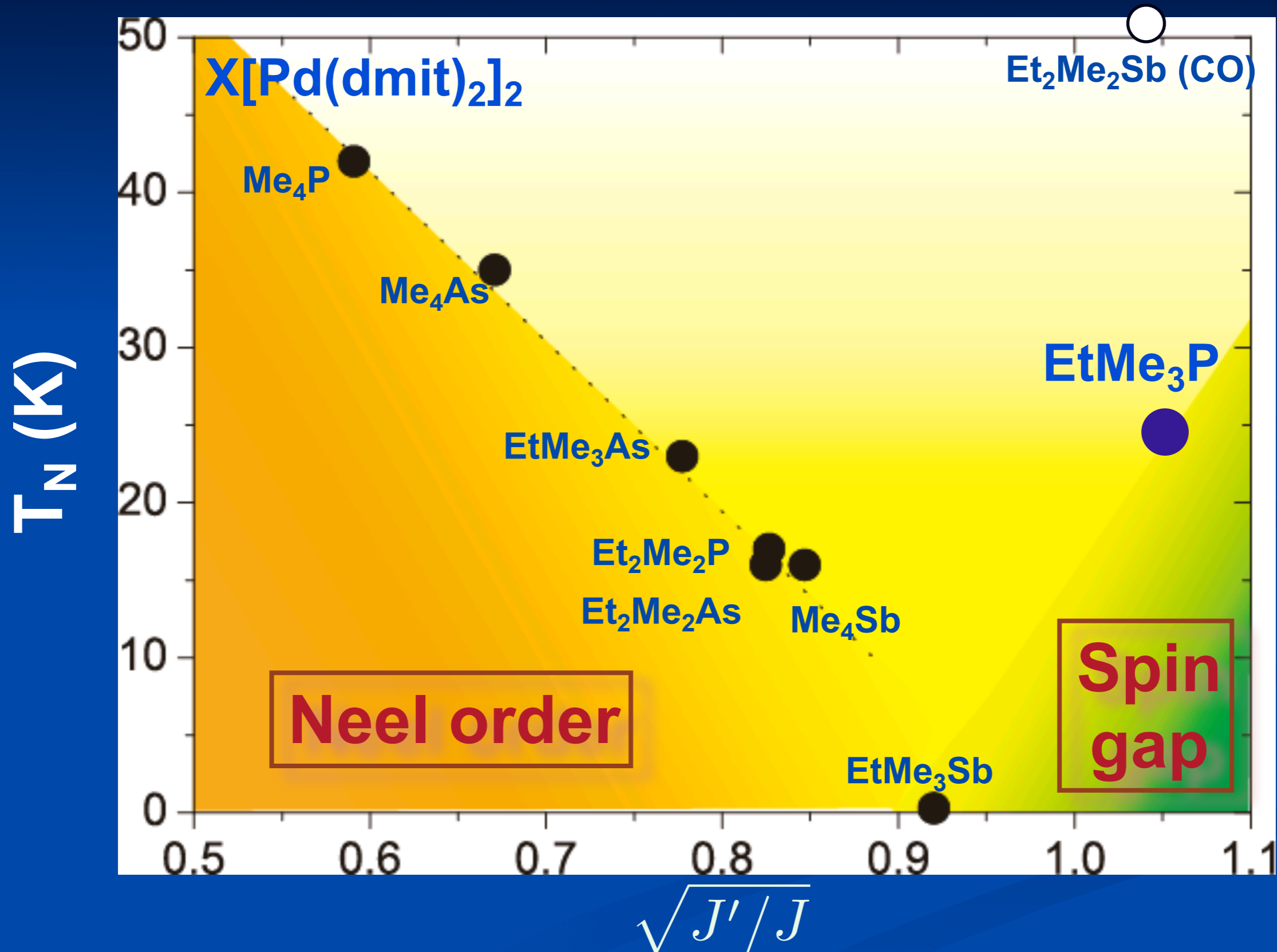
- Néel antiferromagnetic LRO
- Valence bond solid



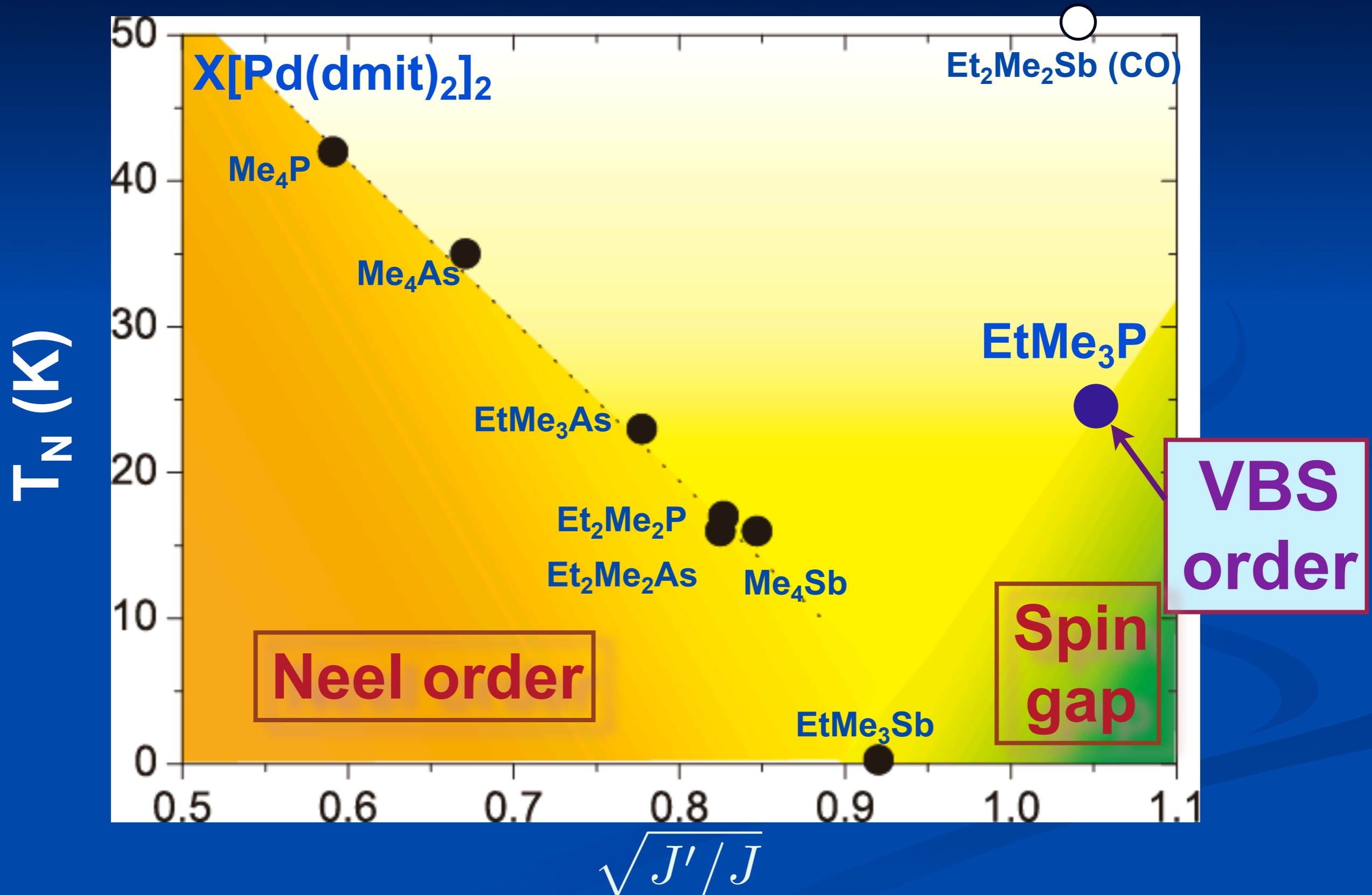
# Magnetic Criticality



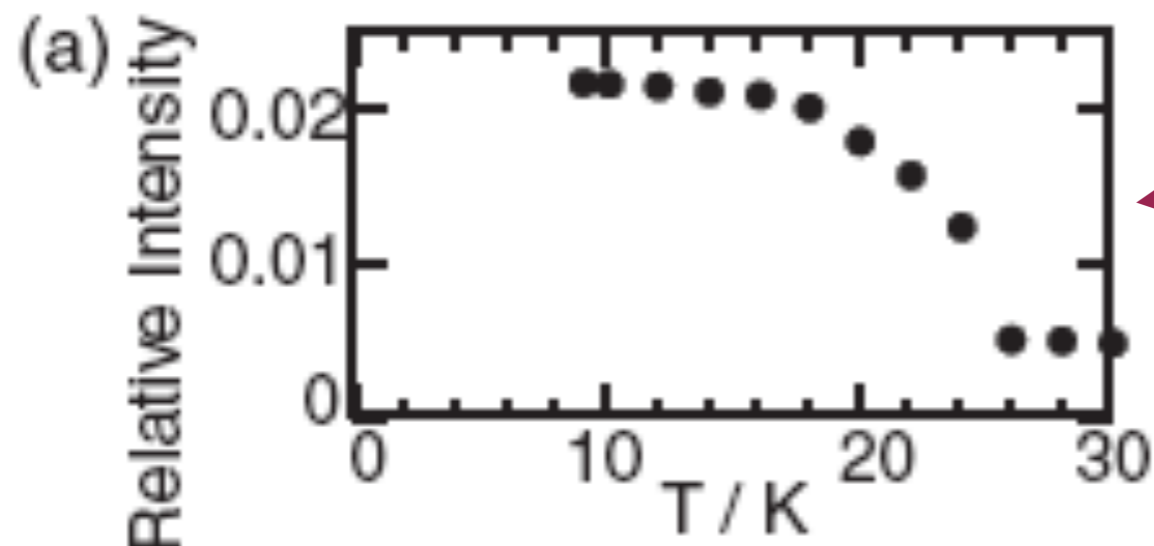
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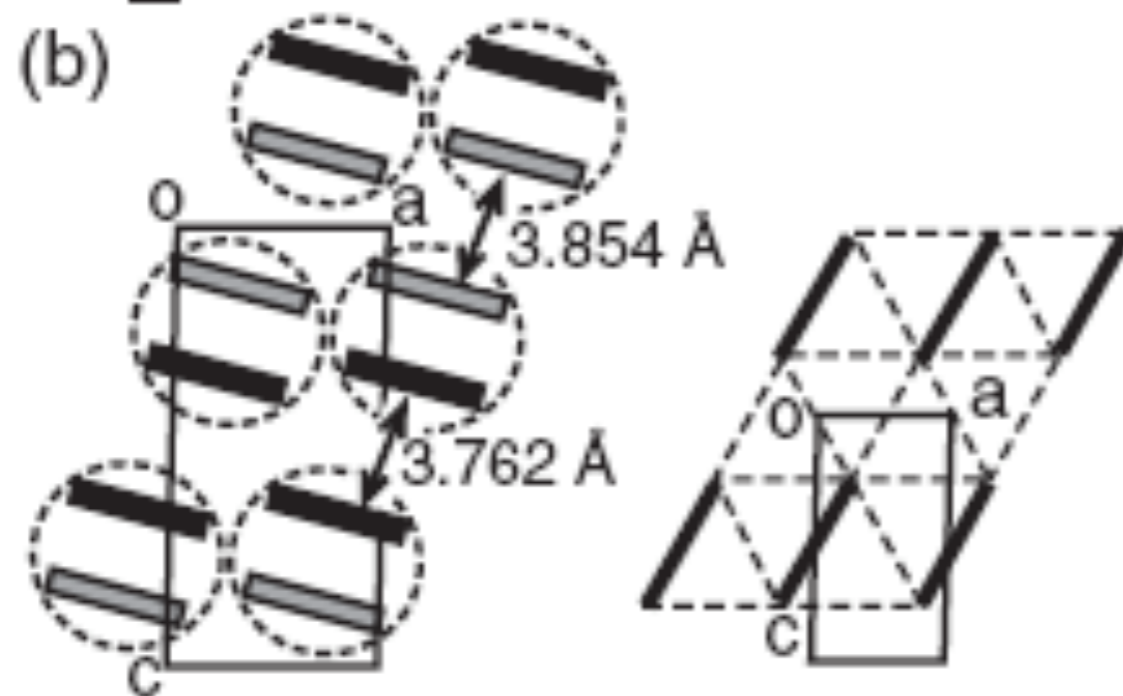
# Magnetic Criticality



# Observation of a valence bond solid (VBS) in $\text{ETMe}_3\text{P}[\text{Pd}(\text{dmit})_2]_2$



X-ray scattering

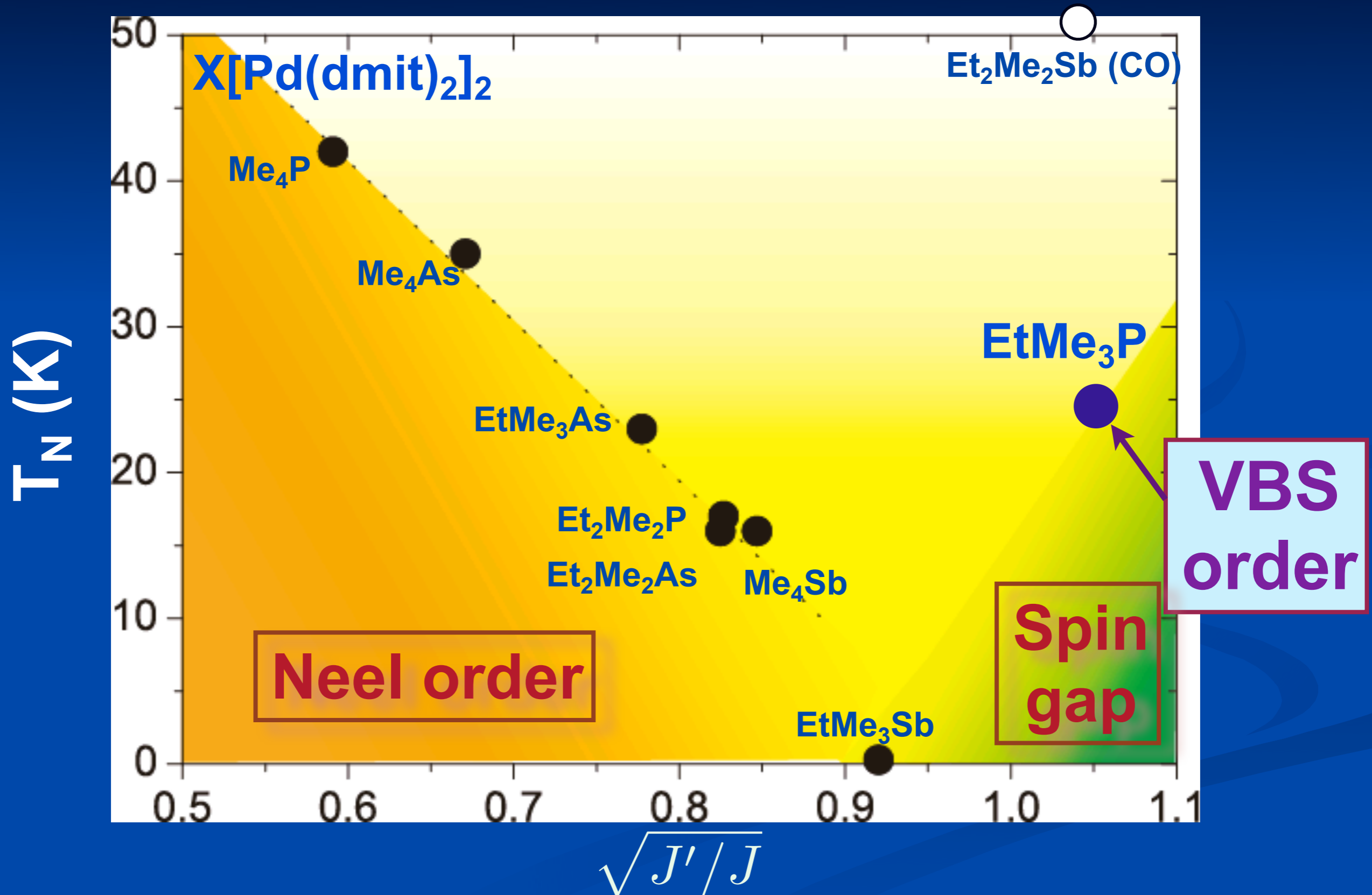


Spin gap  $\sim 40$  K  
 $J \sim 250$  K

M. Tamura, A. Nakao and R. Kato, *J. Phys. Soc. Japan* **75**, 093701 (2006)

Y. Shimizu, H. Akimoto, H. Tsujii, A. Tajima, and R. Kato, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **99**, 256403 (2007)

# Magnetic Criticality

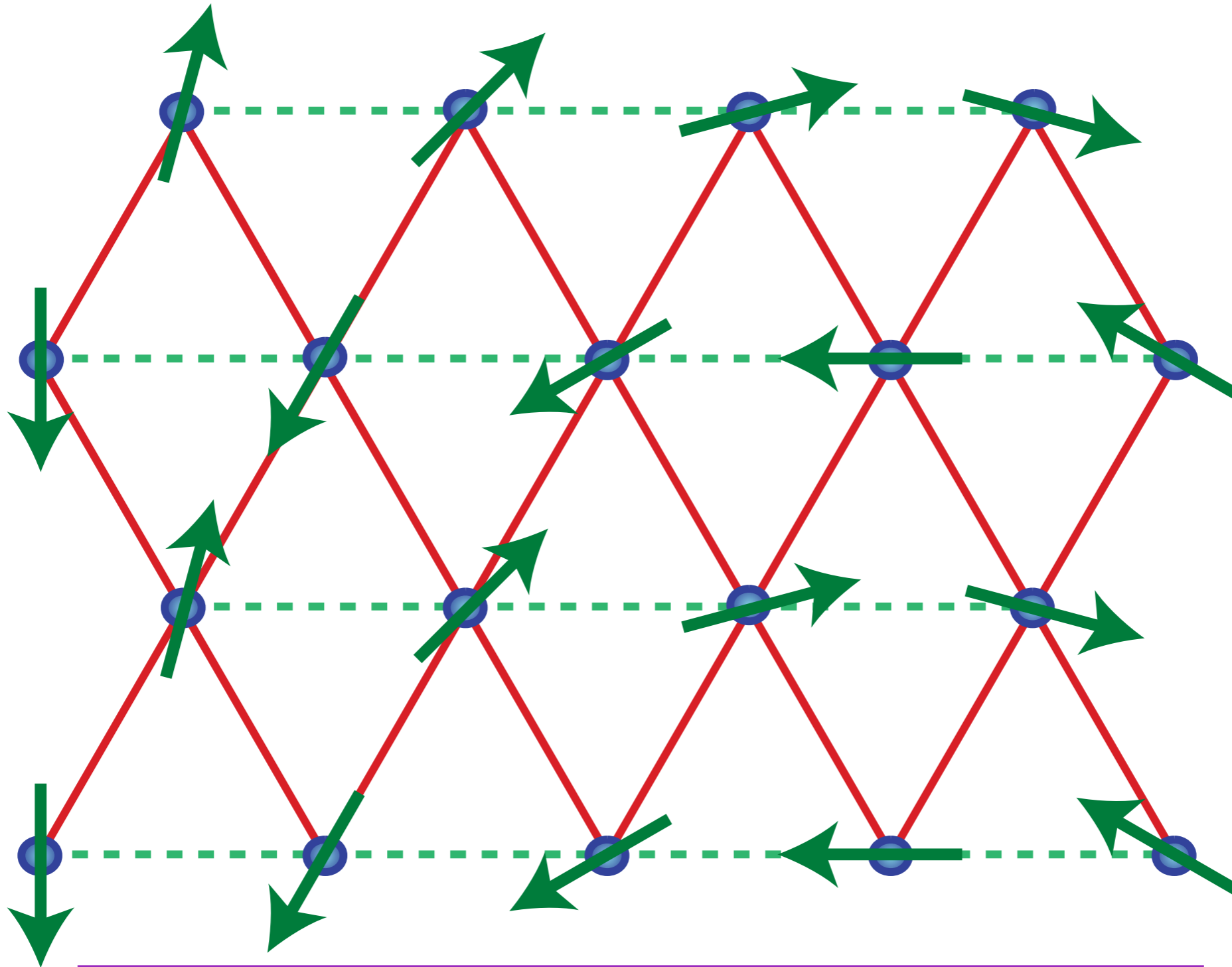


## Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

Possible ground states as a function of  $J'/J$

- Néel antiferromagnetic LRO
- Valence bond solid

# Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet



Classical ground state for large  $J'/J$

Found in  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CuCl}_4$

## Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

Possible ground states as a function of  $J'/J$

- Néel antiferromagnetic LRO
- Valence bond solid
- Spiral LRO



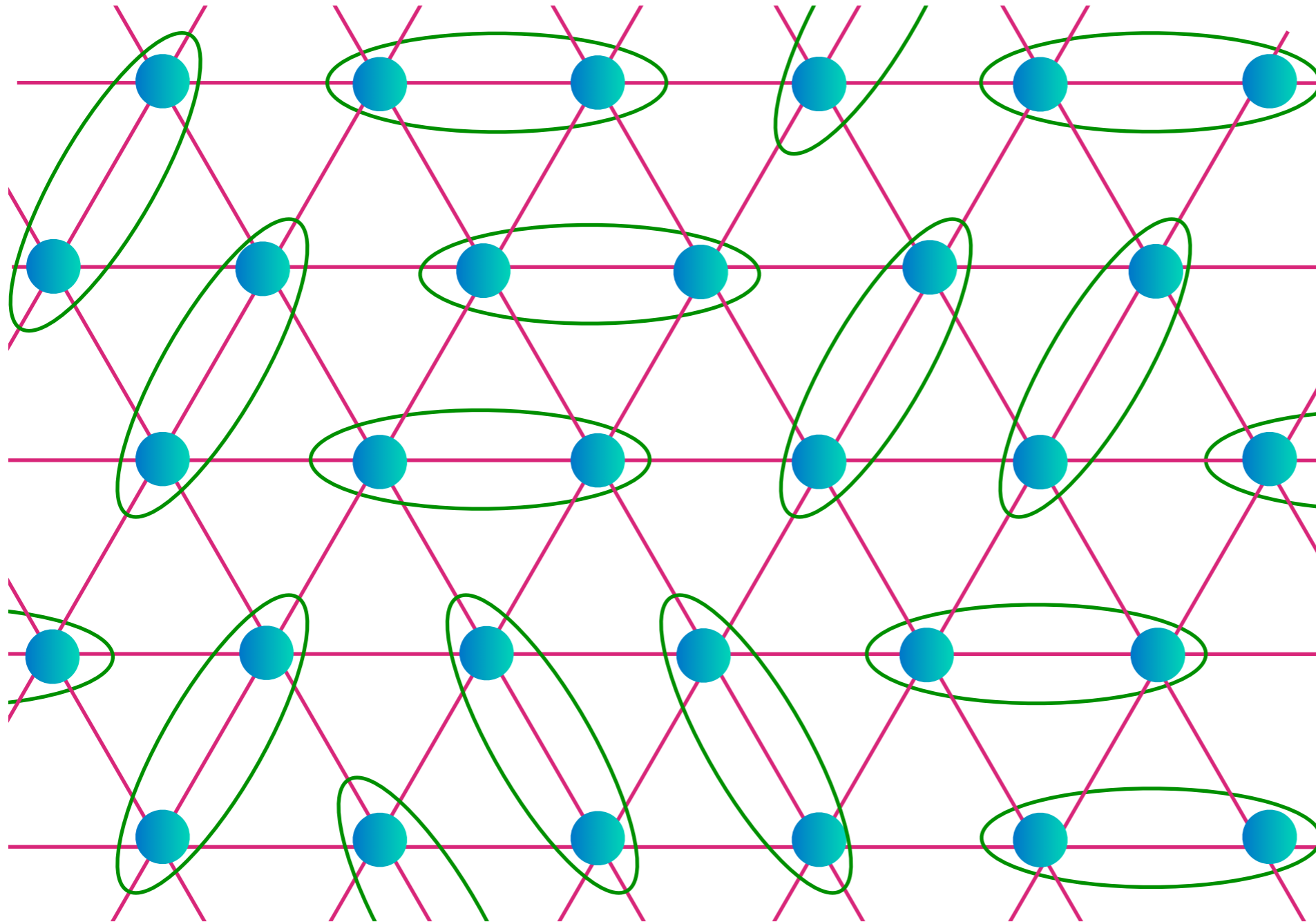
## Anisotropic triangular lattice antiferromagnet

### Possible ground states as a function of $J'/J$

- Néel antiferromagnetic LRO
- Valence bond solid
- Spiral LRO
- $Z_2$  spin liquid: preserves all symmetries of Hamiltonian

# Triangular lattice antiferromagnet

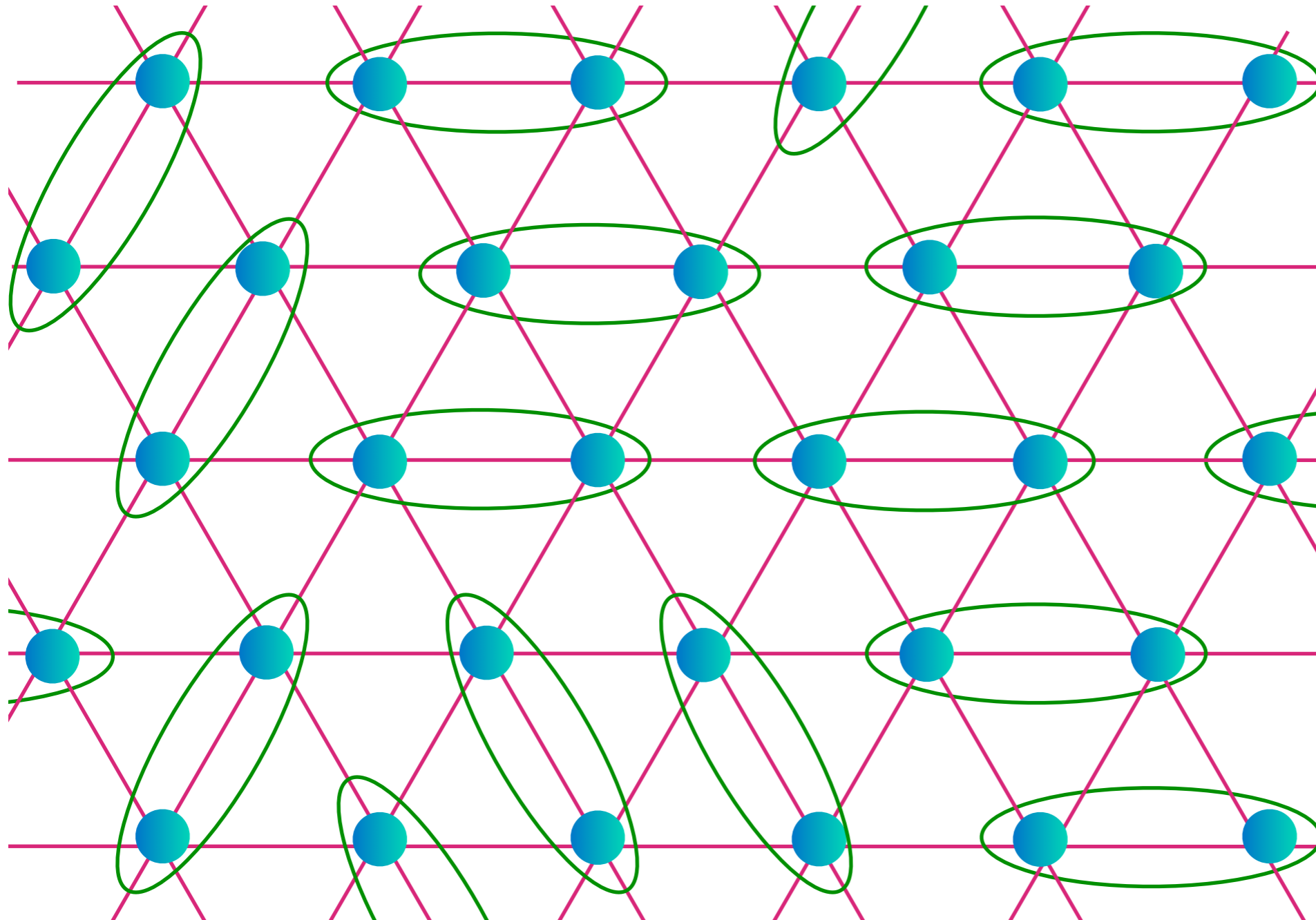
Spin liquid obtained in a generalized spin model with  $S=1/2$  per unit cell



$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$$

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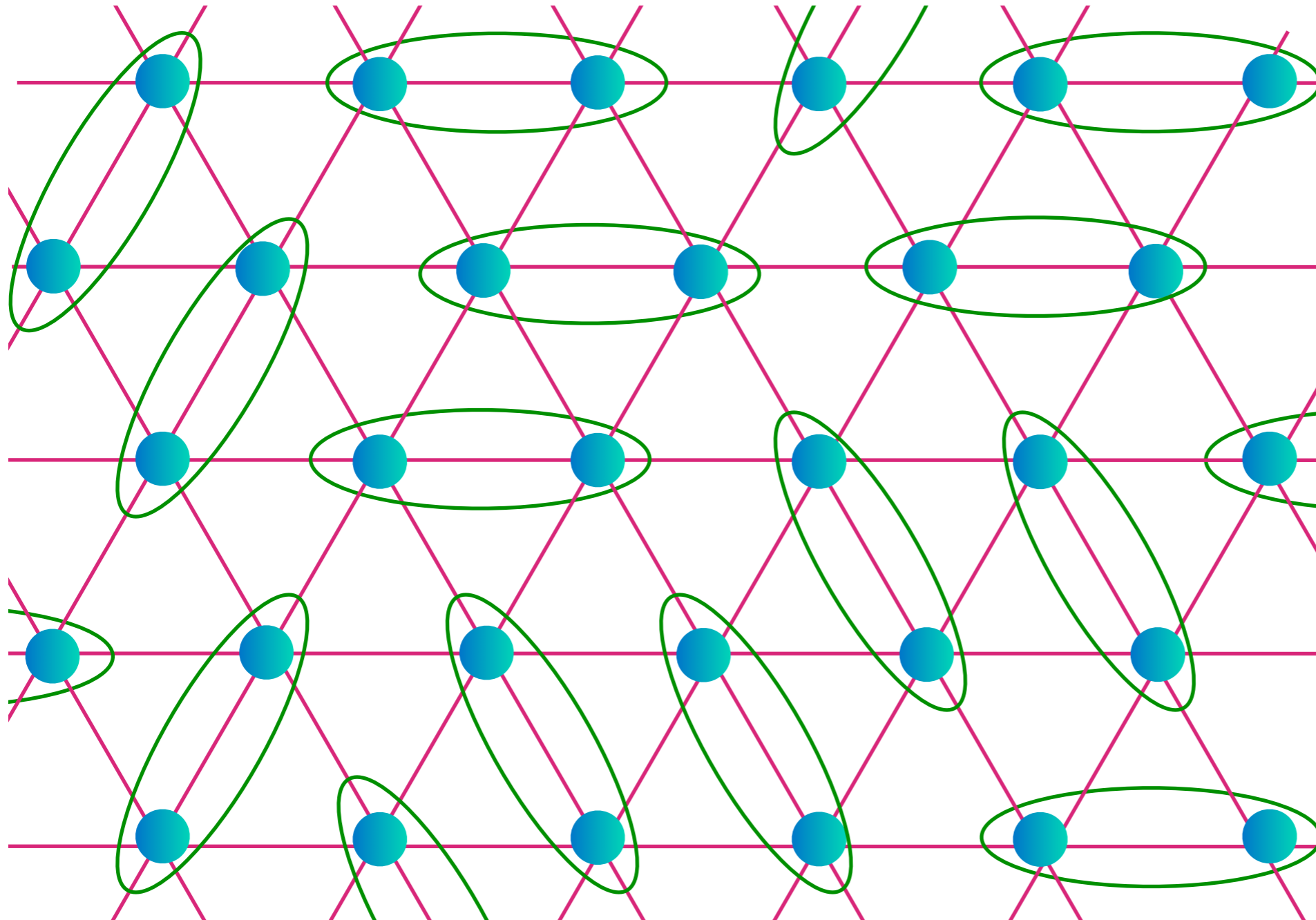


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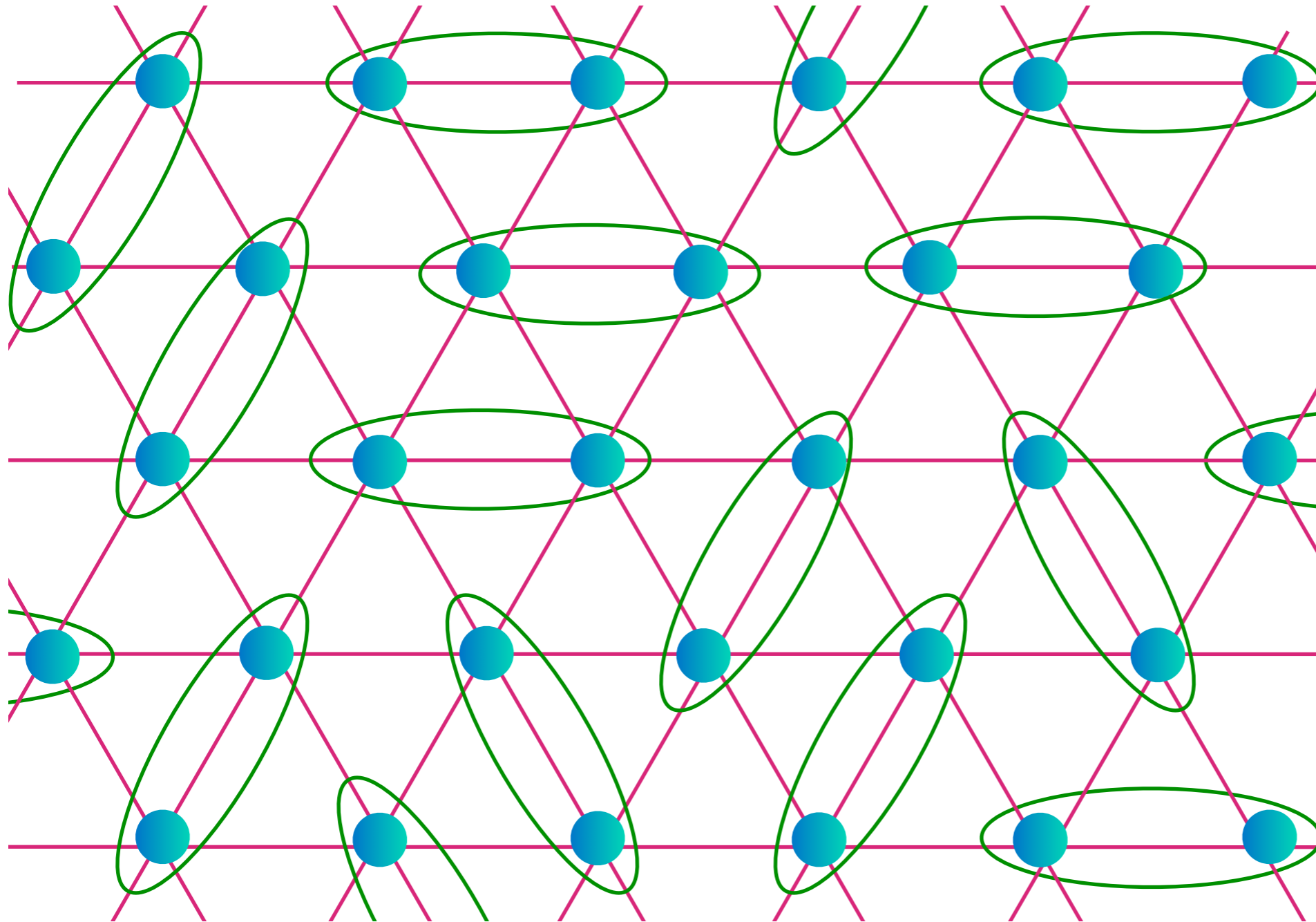
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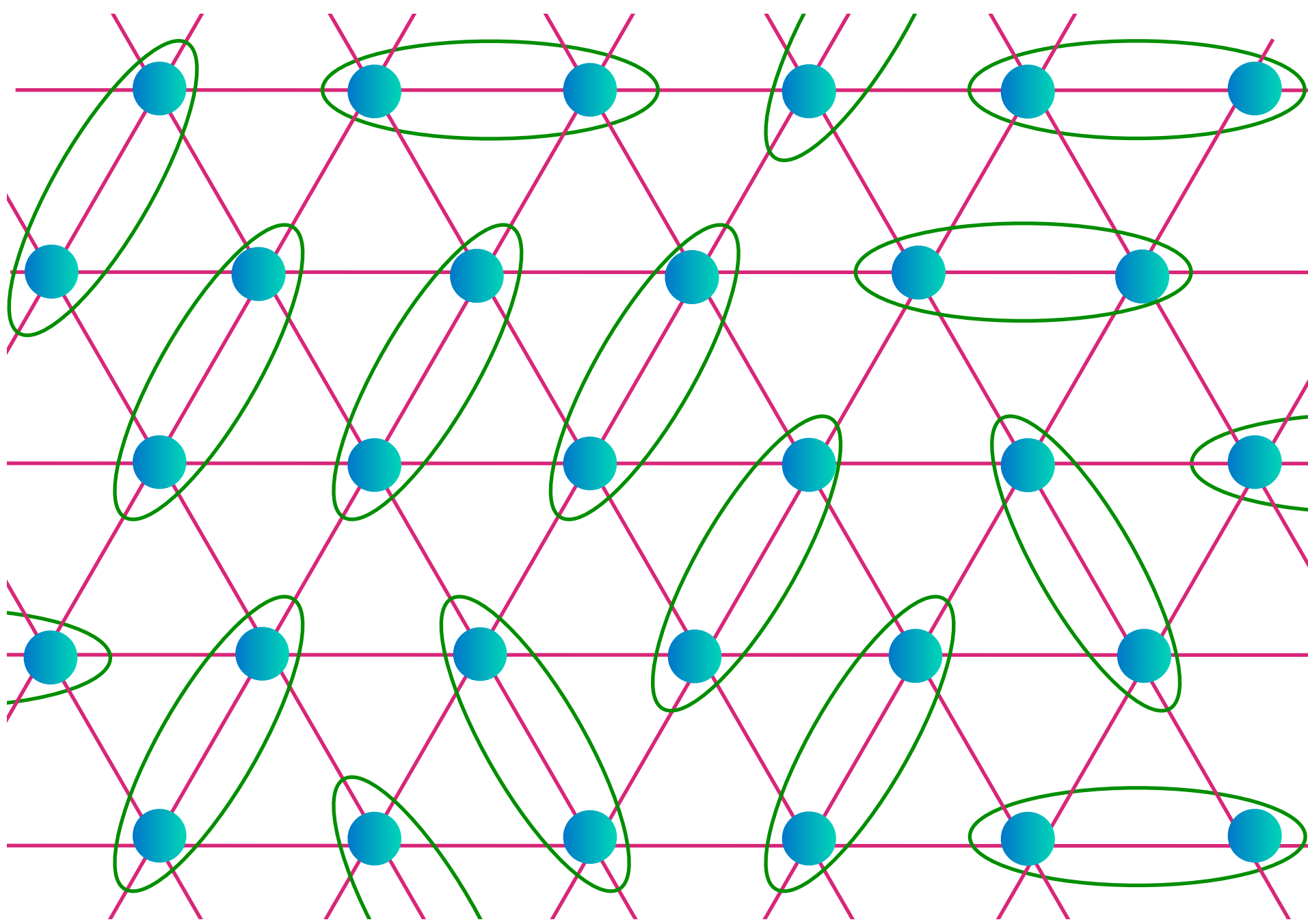
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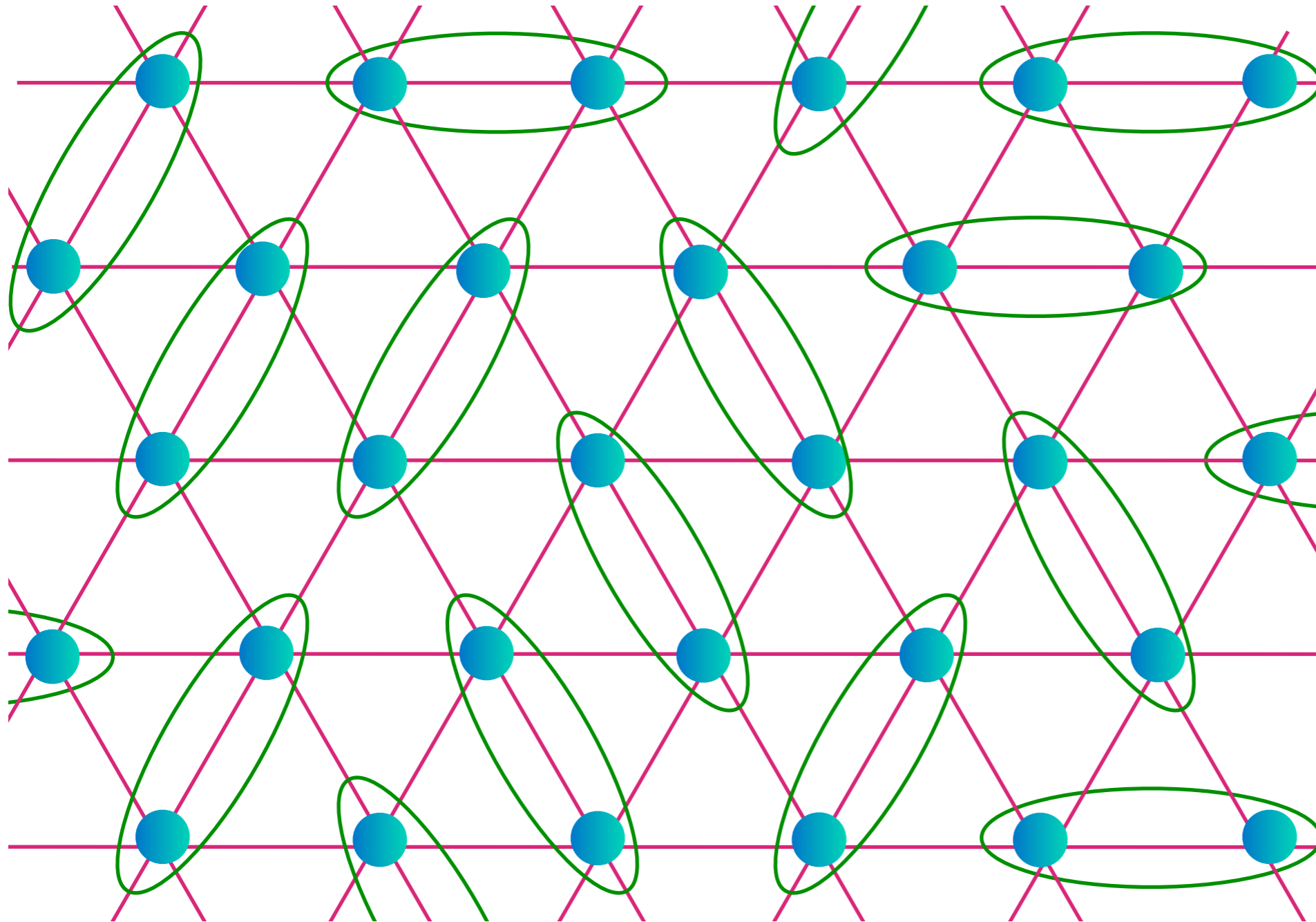
The diagram shows a triangular lattice of blue spheres representing spins. Green ovals are drawn around pairs of sites, illustrating the spin liquid state. The ovals are arranged in a pattern that is not a simple checkerboard, reflecting the topological nature of the spin liquid.

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$$

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- Néel antiferromagnetic LRO
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- $Z_2$  spin liquid: preserves all symmetries of Hamiltonian



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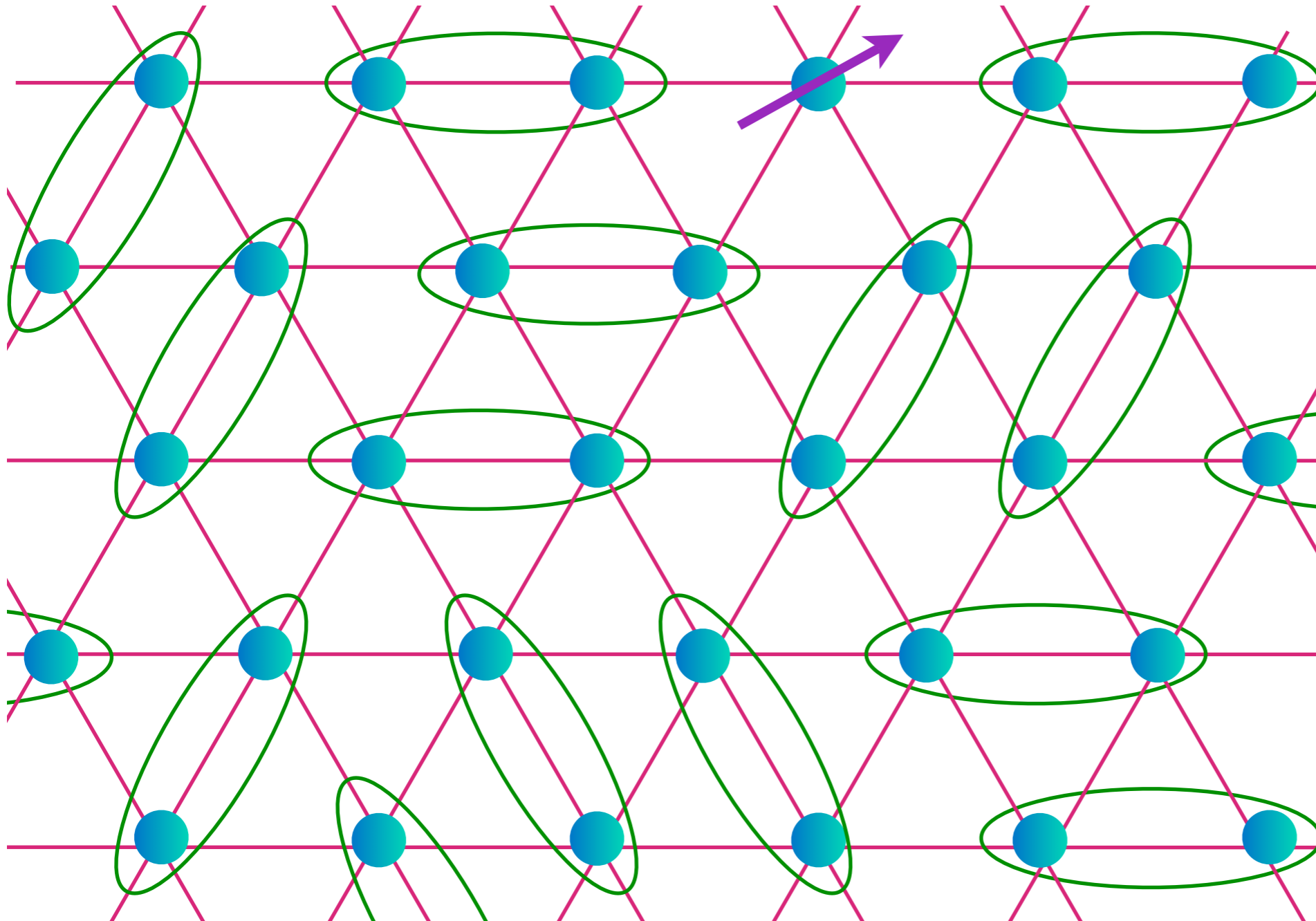
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# Excitations of the $Z_2$ Spin liquid

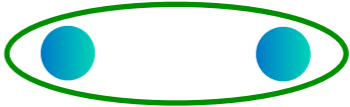
A spinon

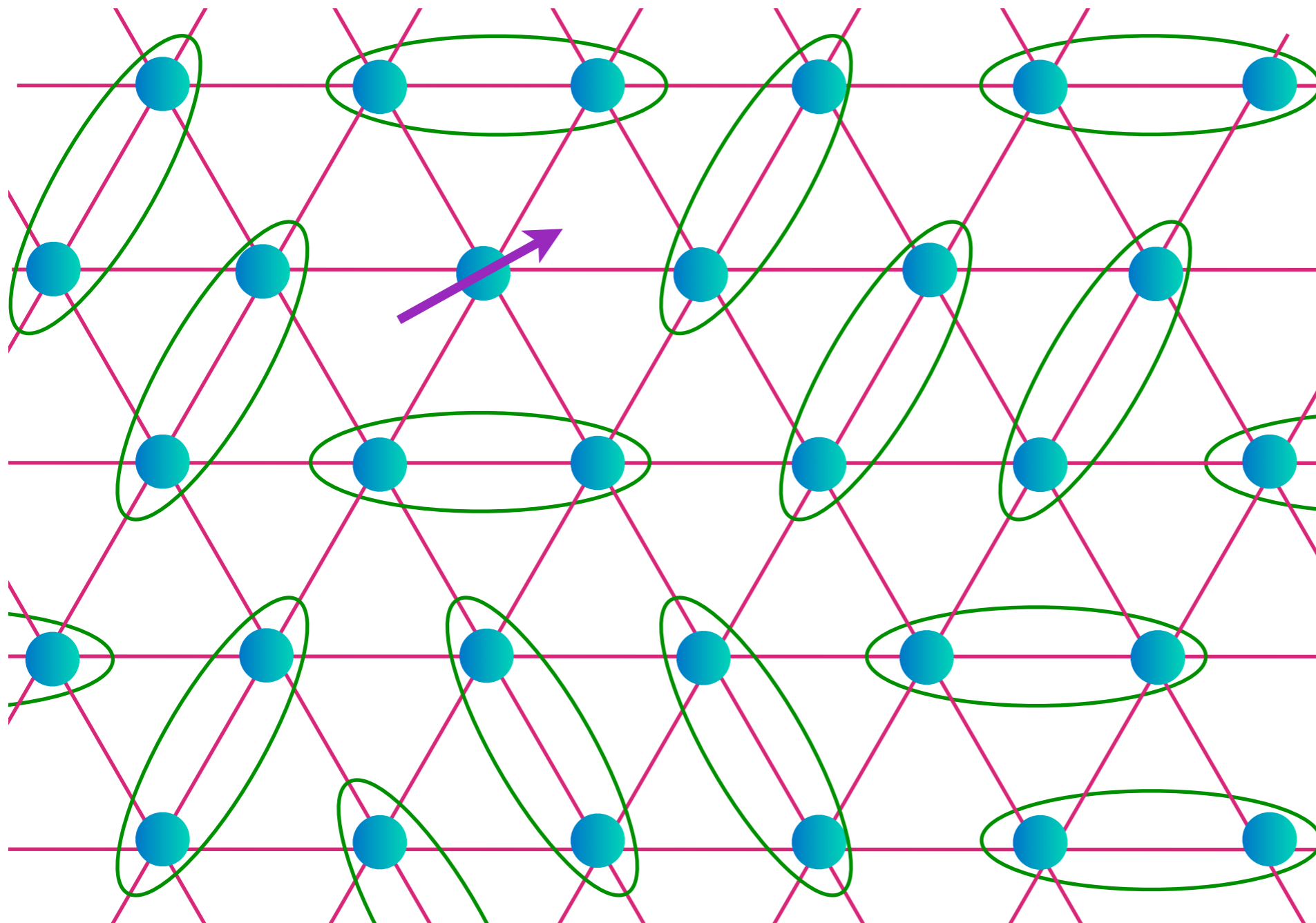

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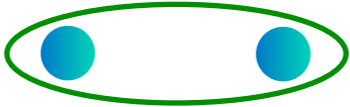
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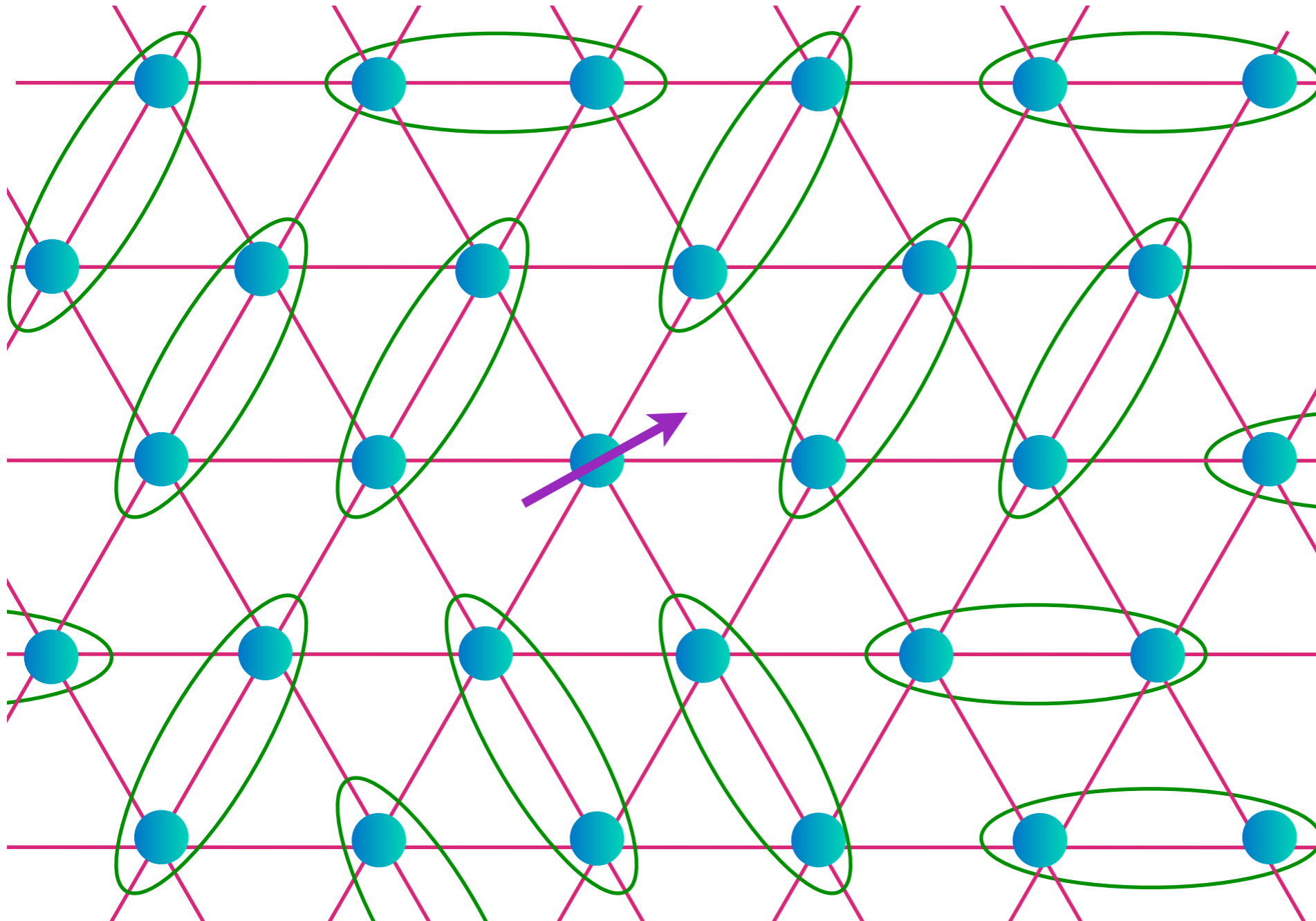

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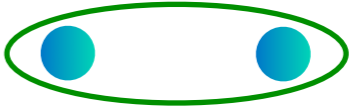
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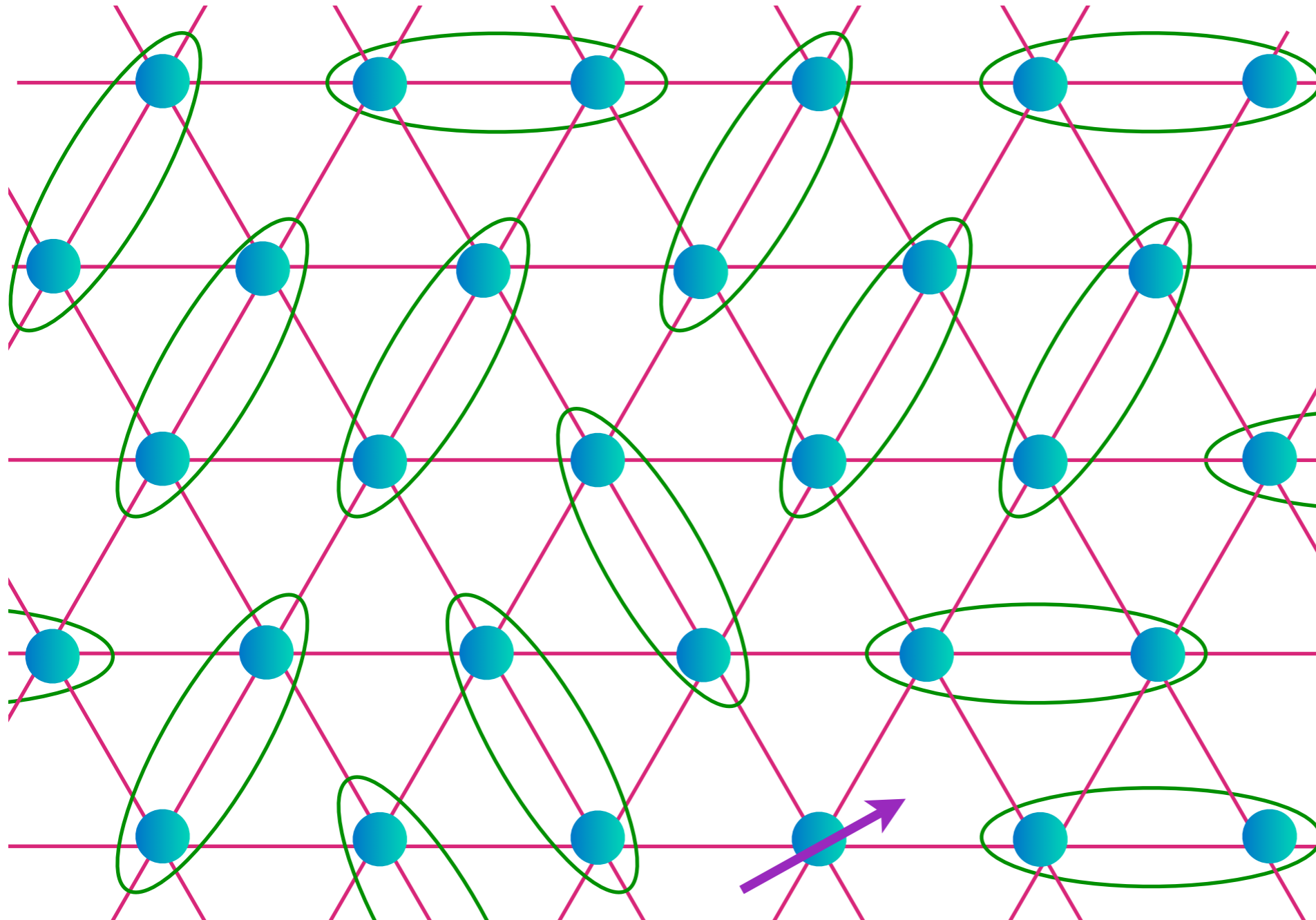

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# Excitations of the $Z_2$ Spin liquid

A spinon


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# Excitations of the $Z_2$ Spin liquid

## A spinon

The spinon annihilation operator is a spinor  $z_\alpha$ , where  $\alpha = \uparrow, \downarrow$ .

The Néel order parameter,  $\vec{\varphi}$  is a composite of the spinons:

$$\vec{\varphi} = z_{i\alpha}^\dagger \vec{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} z_{i\beta}$$

where  $\vec{\sigma}$  are Pauli matrices

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$$\vec{\varphi} = z_{i\alpha}^\dagger \vec{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} z_{i\beta}$$

where  $\vec{\sigma}$  are Pauli matrices

The theory for quantum phase transitions is expressed in terms of fluctuations of  $z_\alpha$ , and *not* the order parameter  $\vec{\varphi}$ .

Effective theory for  $z_\alpha$  must be invariant under the U(1) gauge transformation

$$z_{i\alpha} \rightarrow e^{i\theta} z_{i\alpha}$$



# Excitations of the $Z_2$ Spin liquid

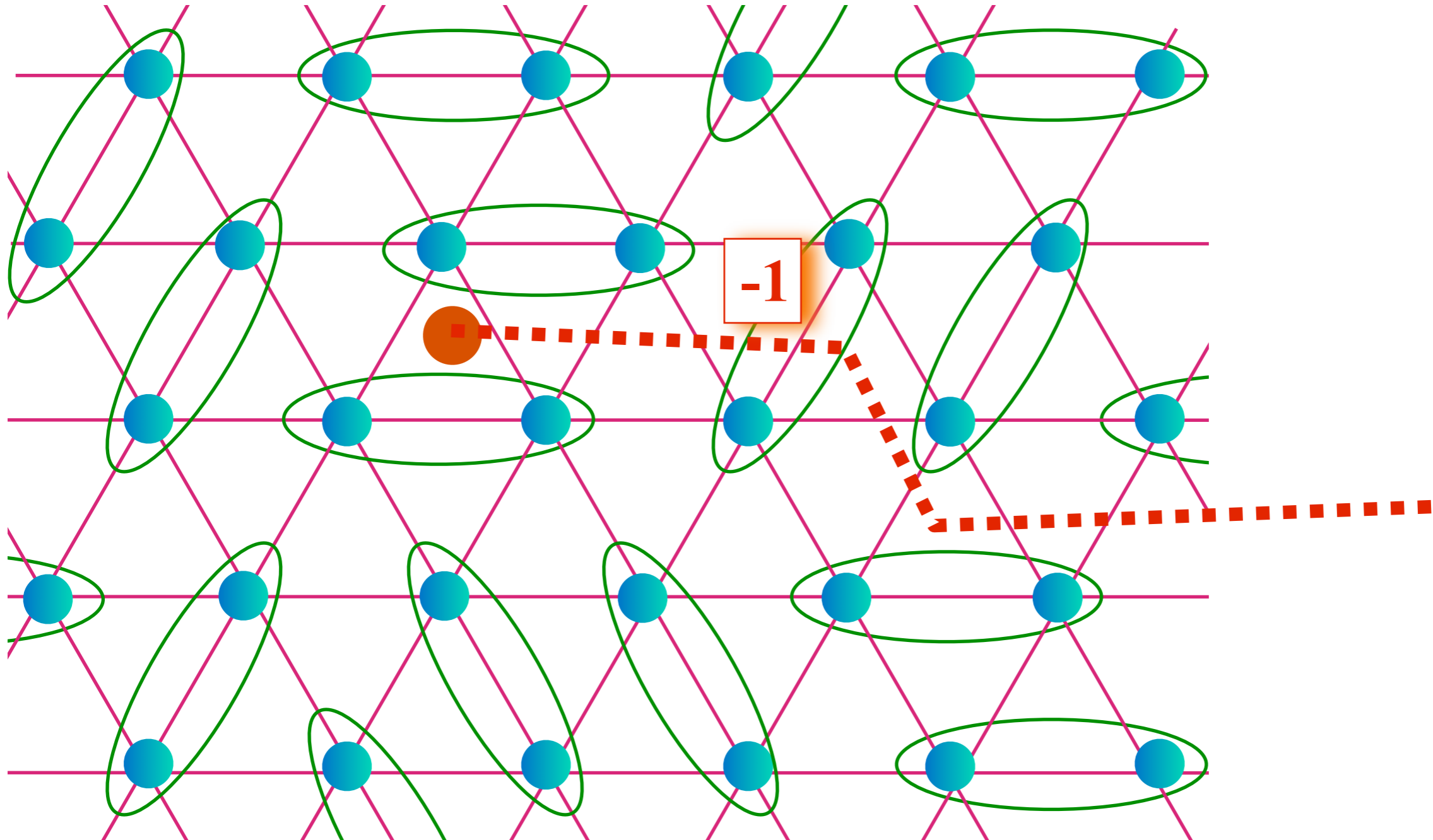
## A vison

- A characteristic property of a  $Z_2$  spin liquid is the presence of a spinon pair condensate
- A vison is an Abrikosov vortex in the pair condensate of spinons
- Visions are the dark matter of spin liquids: they likely carry most of the energy, but are very hard to detect because they do not carry charge or spin.

# Excitations of the $Z_2$ Spin liquid


A vison

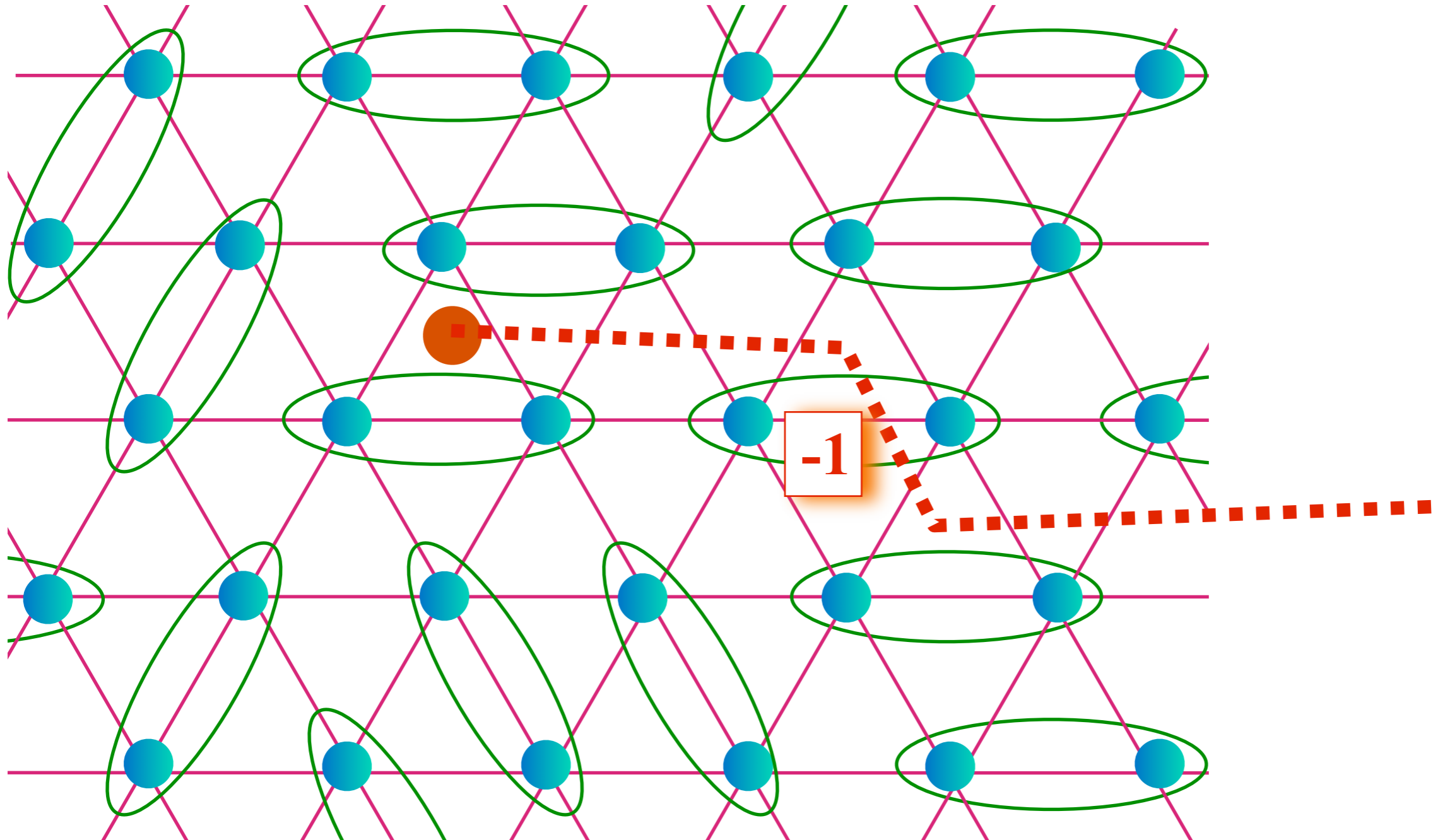
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$$



# Excitations of the $Z_2$ Spin liquid

A vison

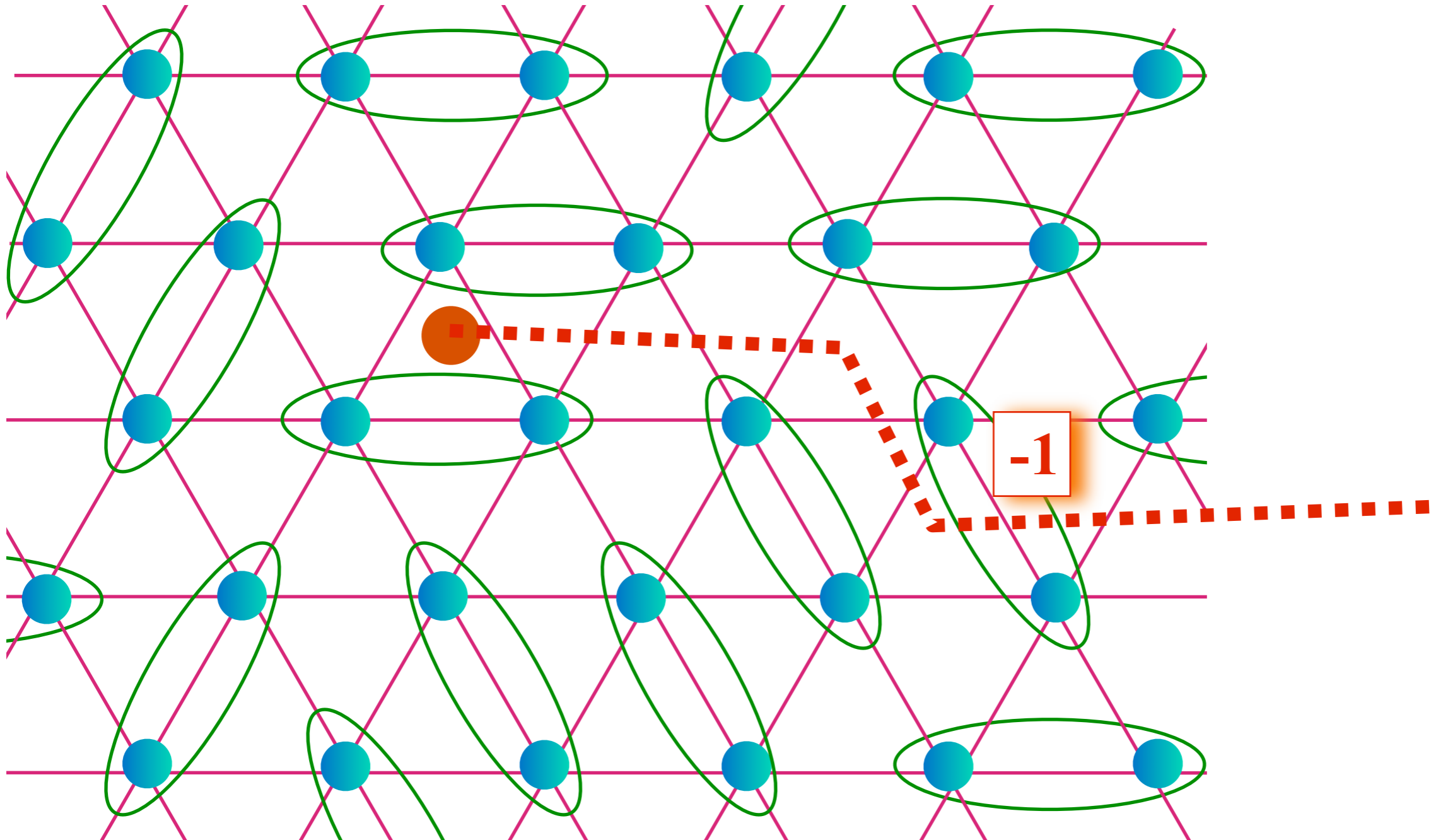

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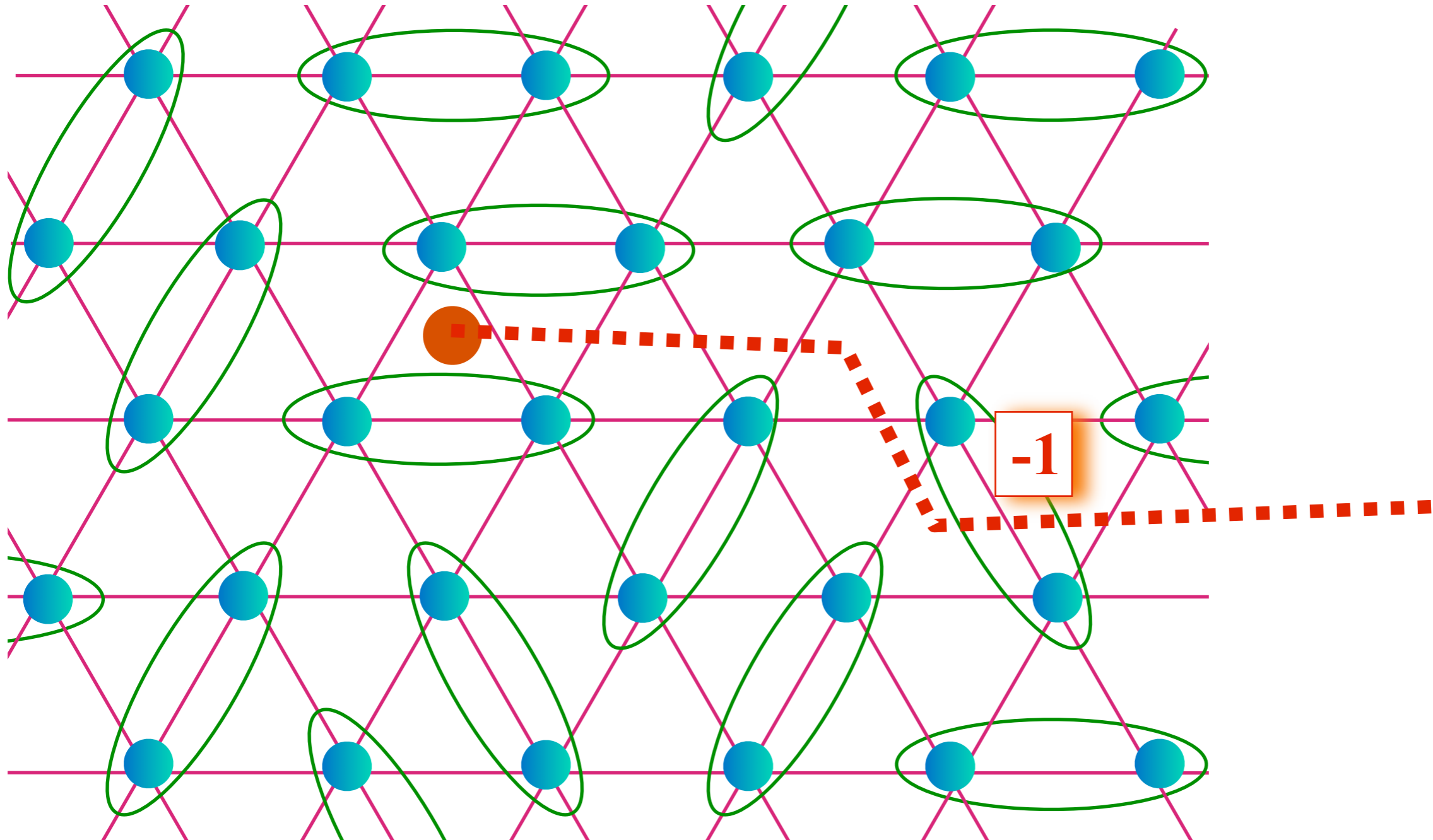
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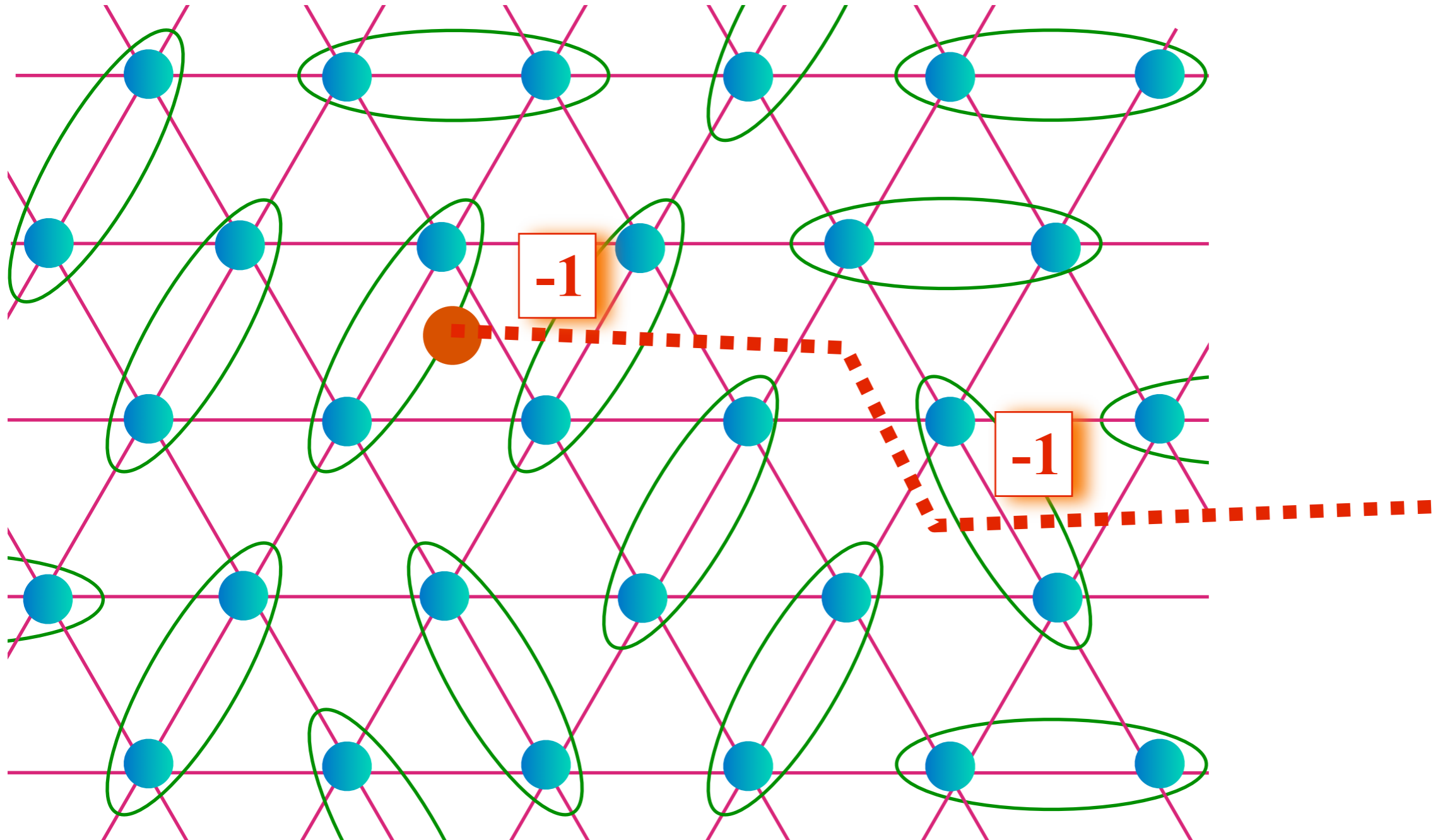
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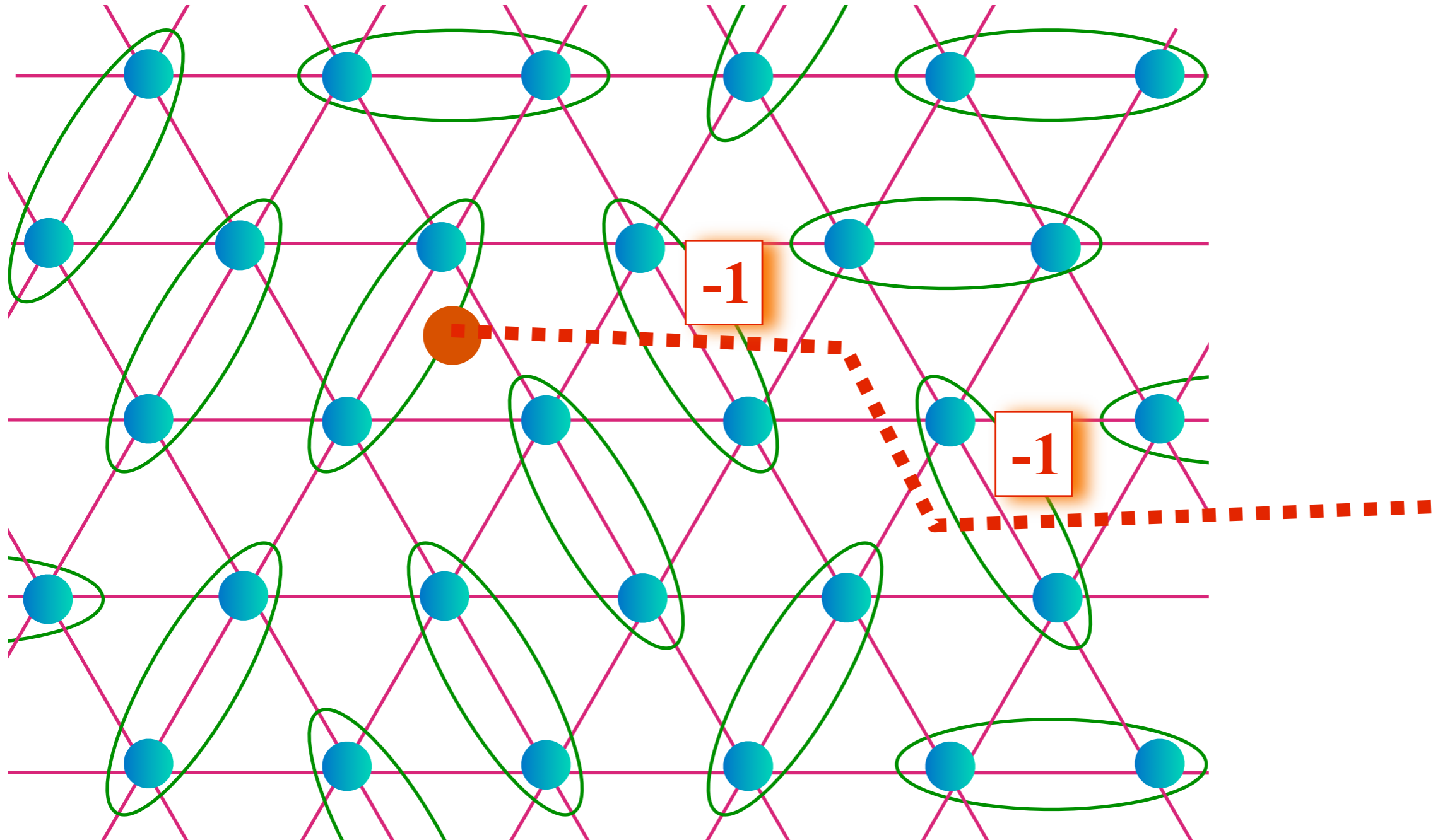
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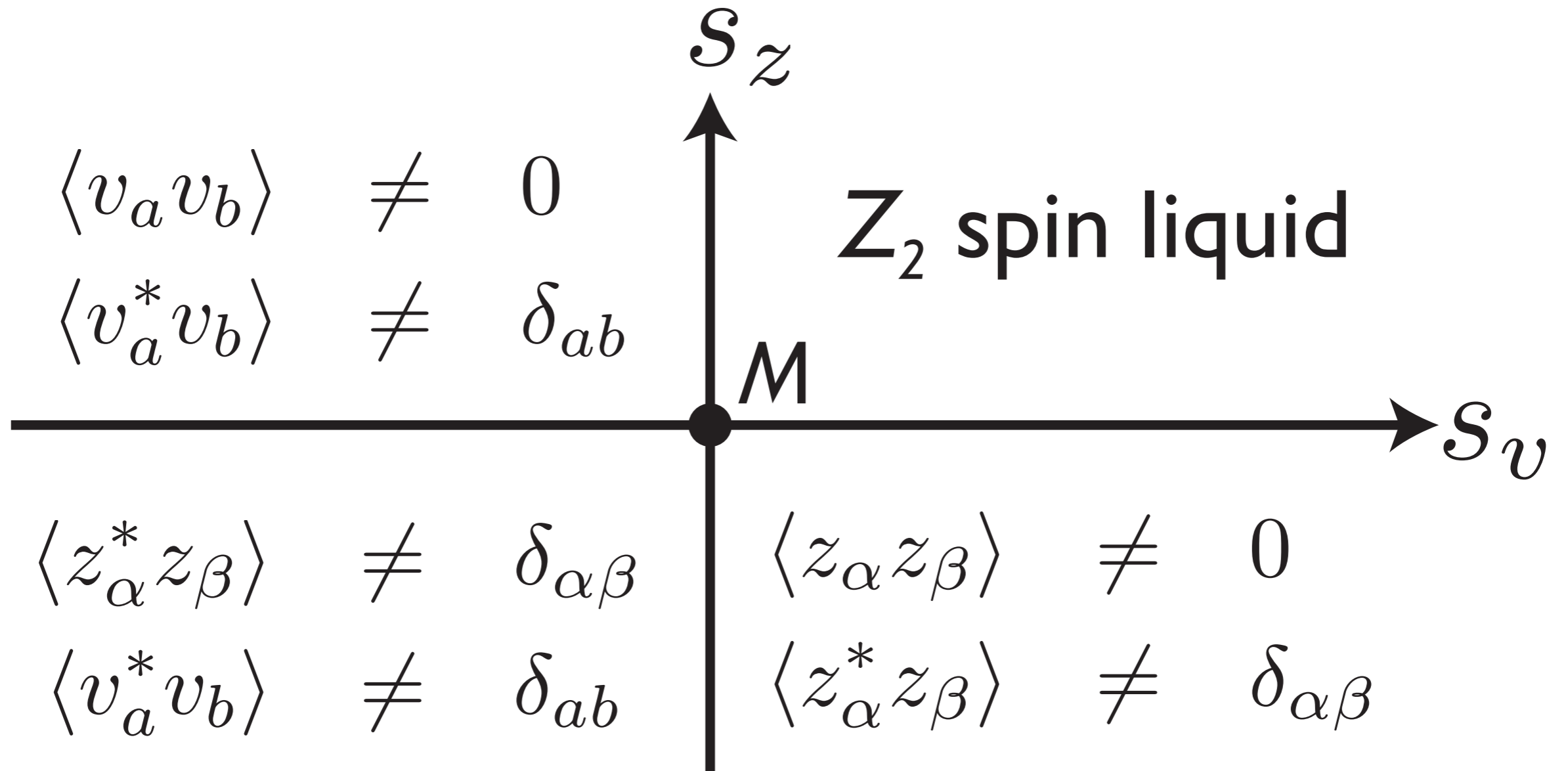
# Mutual Chern-Simons Theory

Express theory in terms of the physical excitations of the  $Z_2$  spin liquid: the spinons,  $z_\alpha$ , and the visons. After accounting for Berry phase effects, the visons can be described by complex fields  $v_a$ , which transforms non-trivially under the square lattice space group operations.

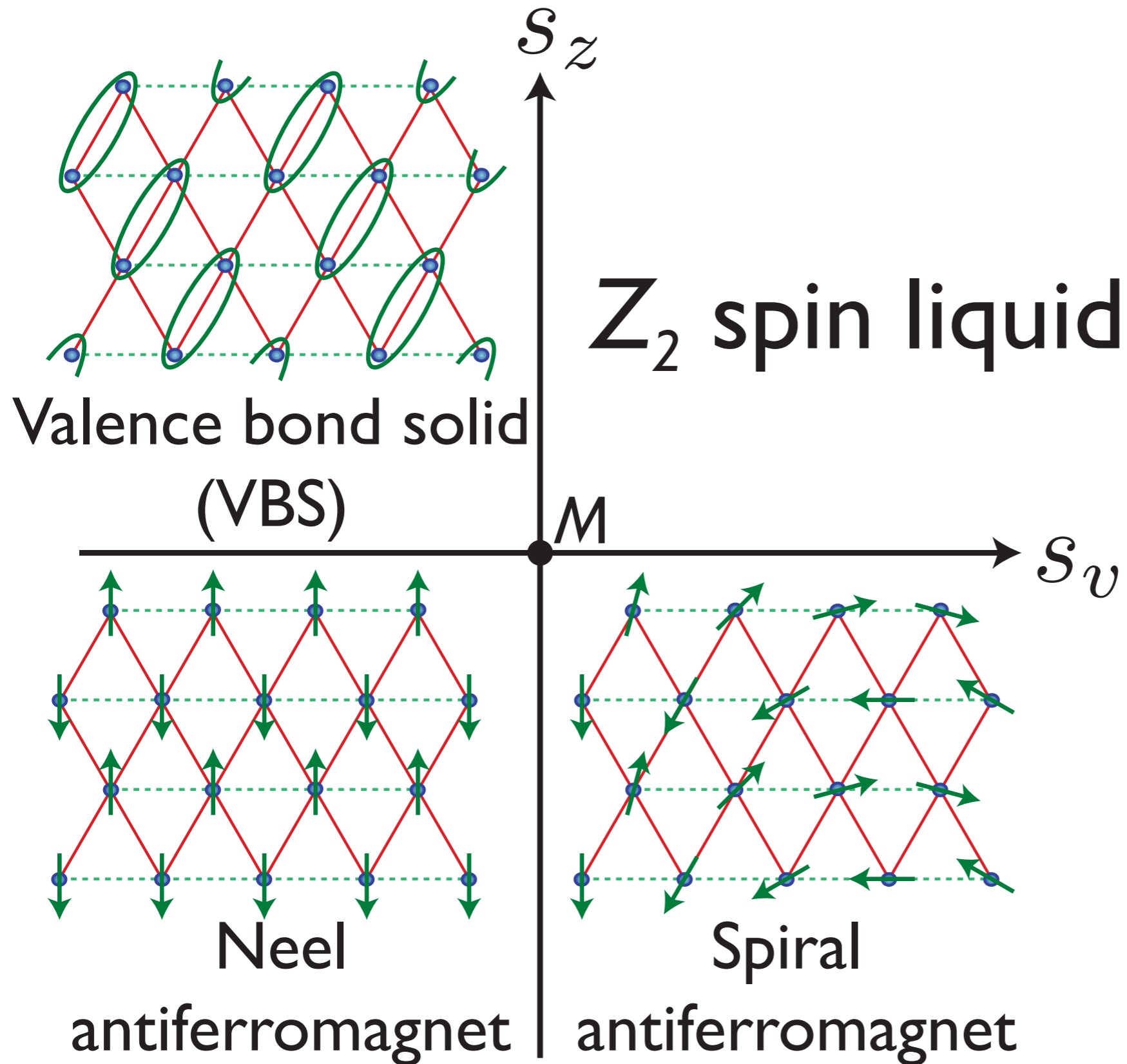
A related Berry phase is the phase of  $-1$  acquired by a spinon encircling a vortex. This is implemented in the following “mutual Chern-Simons” theory at  $k = 2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} &= \sum_{\alpha=1}^2 \left\{ |(\partial_\mu - ia_\mu)z_\alpha|^2 + s_z |z_\alpha|^2 + u_z (|z_\alpha|^2)^2 \right\} \\ &+ \sum_{a=1}^{N_v} \left\{ |(\partial_\mu - ib_\mu)v_a|^2 + s_v |v_a|^2 + u_v (|v_a|^2)^2 \right\} \\ &+ \frac{ik}{2\pi} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} a_\mu \partial_\nu b_\lambda + \dots\end{aligned}$$





# Theoretical global phase diagram

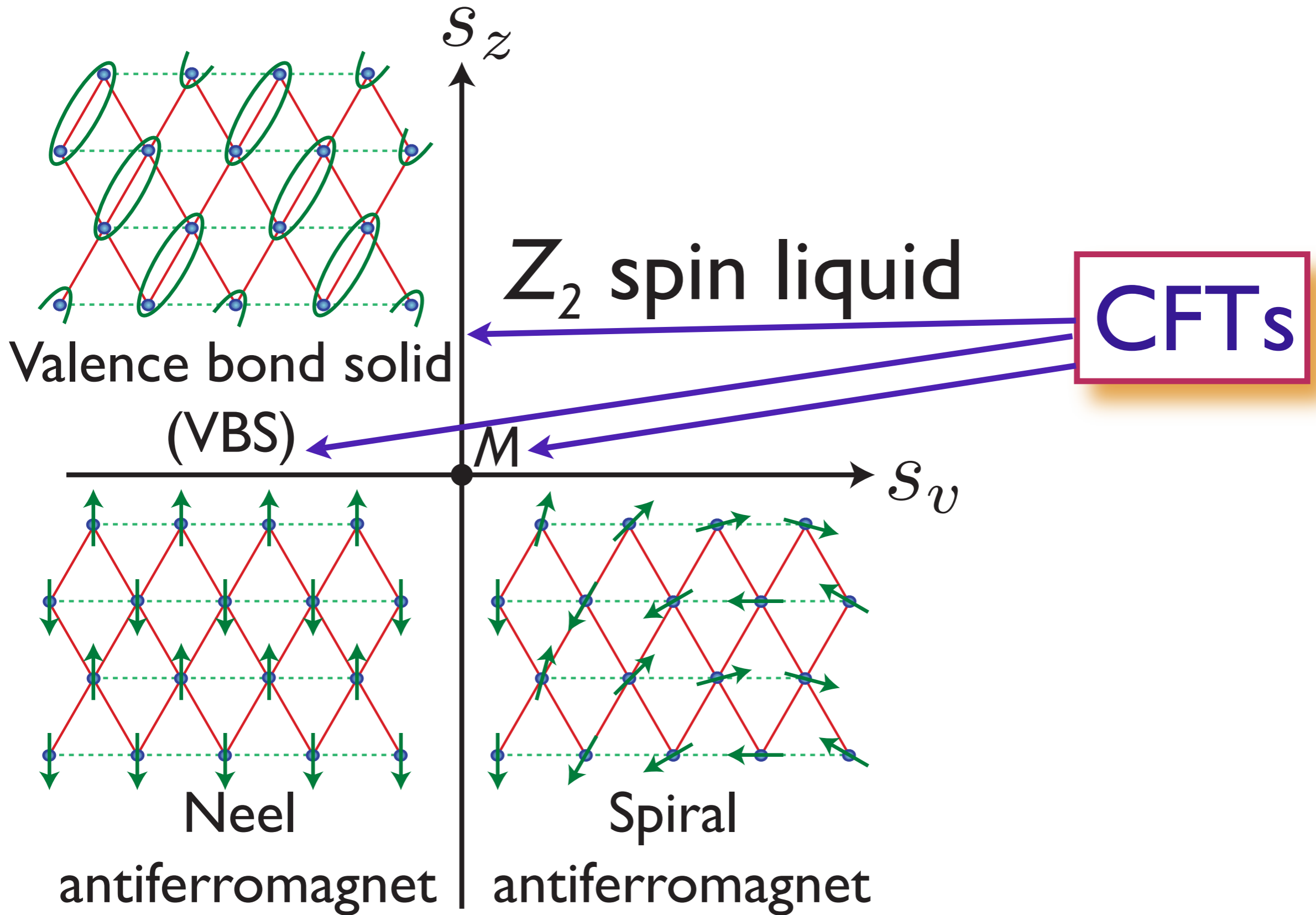


N. Read and S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **66**, 1773 (1991)

T. Senthil, A. Vishwanath, L. Balents, S. Sachdev and M.P.A. Fisher, *Science* **303**, 1490 (2004).

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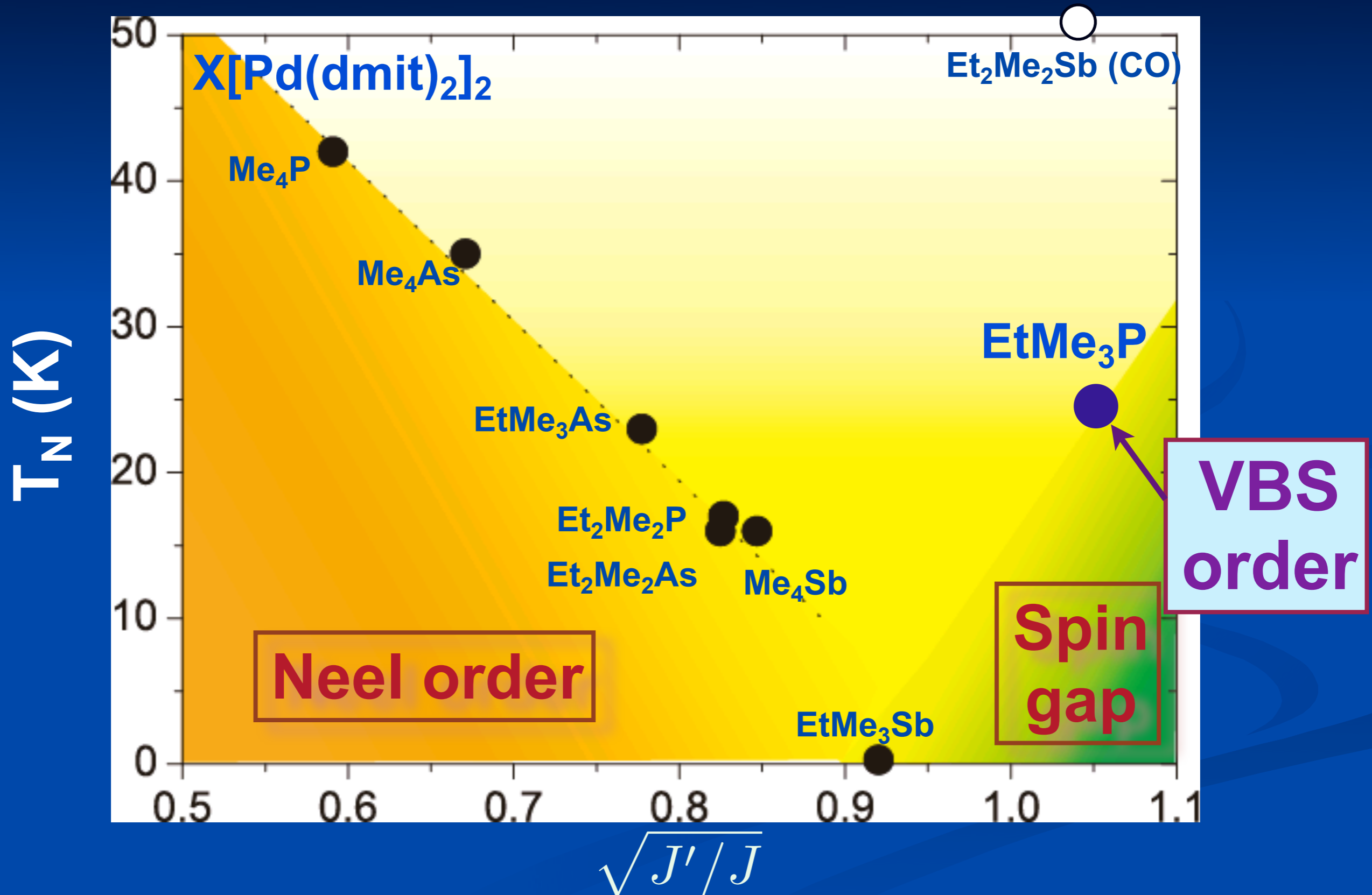


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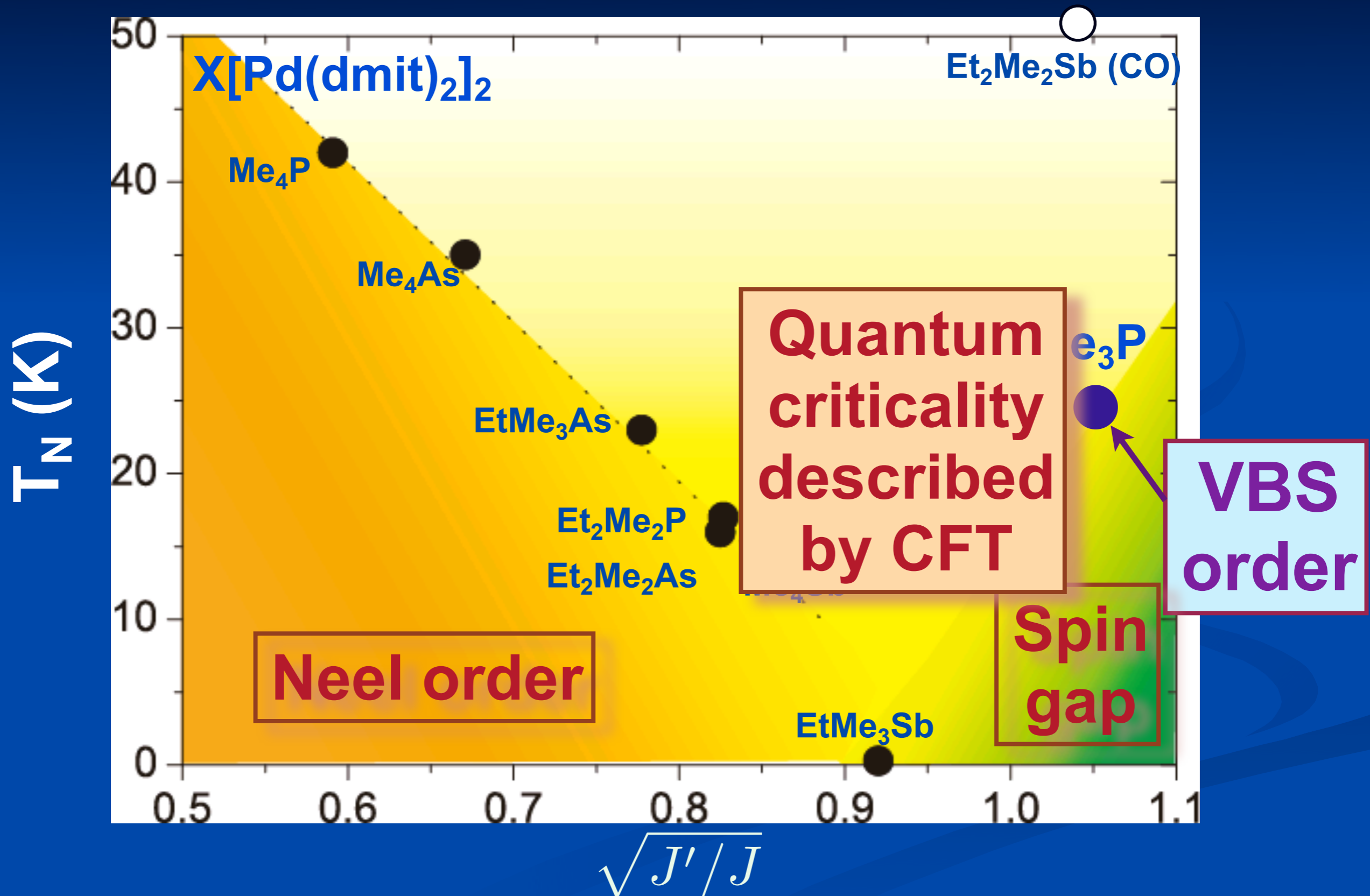
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# Magnetic Criticality



# Magnetic Criticality



# From quantum antiferromagnets to string theory

A direct generalization of the CFT of the multicritical point M ( $s_z = s_v = 0$ ) to  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supersymmetry and the  $U(N)$  gauge group was shown by O. Aharony, O. Bergman, D. L. Jafferis, J. Maldacena, JHEP **0810**, 091 (2008) to be dual to a theory of quantum gravity (M theory) on  $AdS_4 \times S_7 / Z_k$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \sum_{\alpha=1}^2 \left\{ |(\partial_\mu - ia_\mu)z_\alpha|^2 + s_z |z_\alpha|^2 + u_z (|z_\alpha|^2)^2 \right\} \\ &+ \sum_{a=1}^{N_v} \left\{ |(\partial_\mu - ib_\mu)v_a|^2 + s_v |v_a|^2 + u_v (|v_a|^2)^2 \right\} \\ &+ \frac{ik}{2\pi} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} a_\mu \partial_\nu b_\lambda + \dots \end{aligned}$$

# Outline

## 1. Landau-Ginzburg criticality

*Coupled-dimer antiferromagnets*

## 2. Ground states of the triangular lattice antiferromagnet

*Experiments on  $X[\text{Pd}(\text{dmit})_2]_2$*

## 3. Spinons, visons, and Berry phases

*Quantum field theories for two-dimensional antiferromagnets*

## 4. Quantum criticality and black holes

*The AdS/CFT correspondence*

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# Black Holes

Objects so massive that light is gravitationally bound to them.

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The region inside the black hole **horizon** is causally disconnected from the rest of the universe.

$$\text{Horizon radius } R = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

# Black Hole Thermodynamics

Bekenstein and Hawking discovered astonishing connections between the Einstein theory of black holes and the laws of thermodynamics

Entropy of a black hole  $S = \frac{k_B A}{4\ell_P^2}$

where  $A$  is the area of the horizon, and

$\ell_P = \sqrt{\frac{G\hbar}{c^3}}$  is the Planck length.

The Second Law:  $dA \geq 0$

# Black Hole Thermodynamics

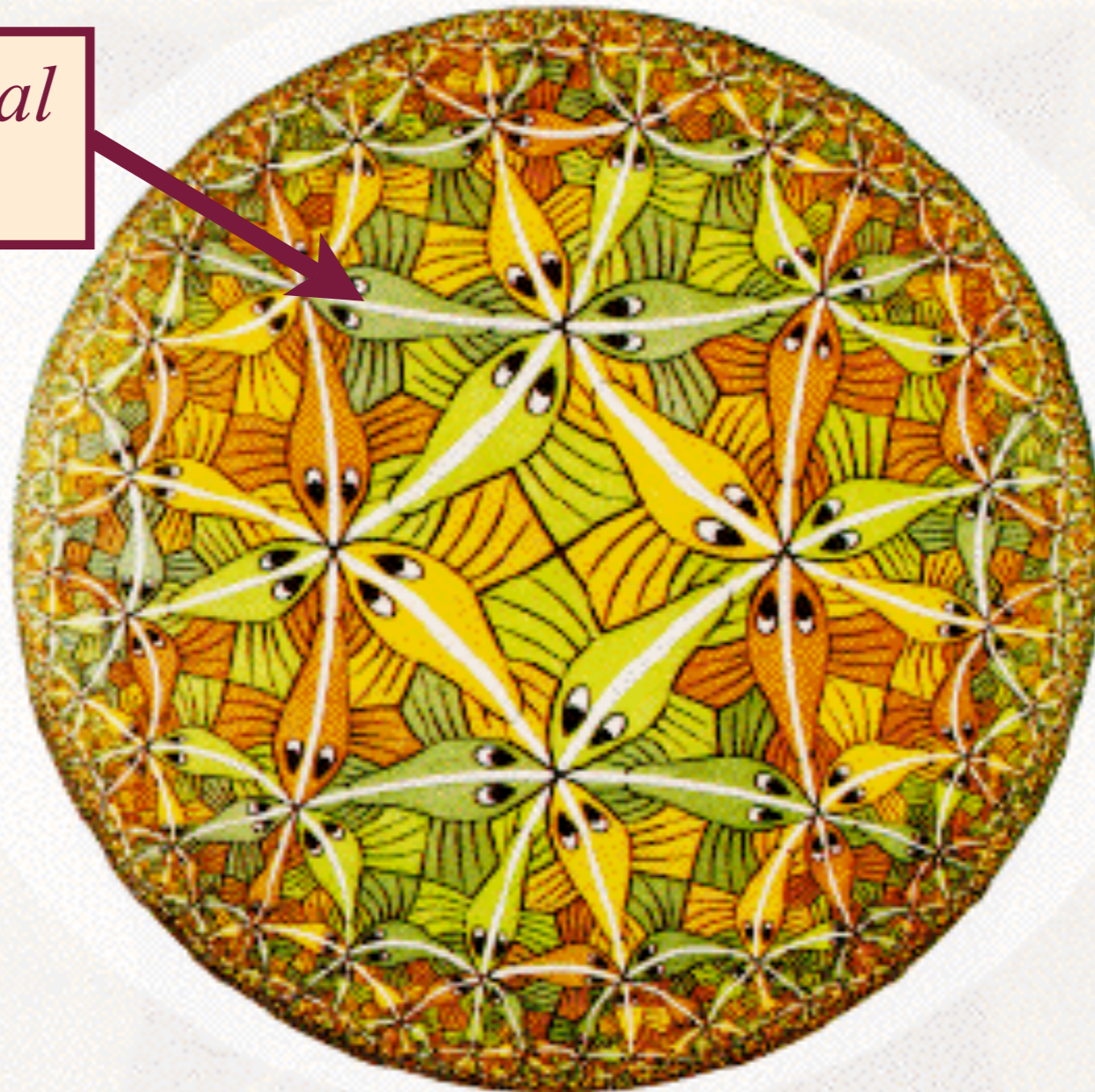
Bekenstein and Hawking discovered astonishing connections between the Einstein theory of black holes and the laws of thermodynamics

Horizon temperature:  $4\pi k_B T = \frac{\hbar^2}{2M\ell_P^2}$

# AdS/CFT correspondence

The quantum theory of a black hole in a 3+1-dimensional negatively curved AdS universe is holographically represented by a CFT (the theory of a quantum critical point) in 2+1 dimensions

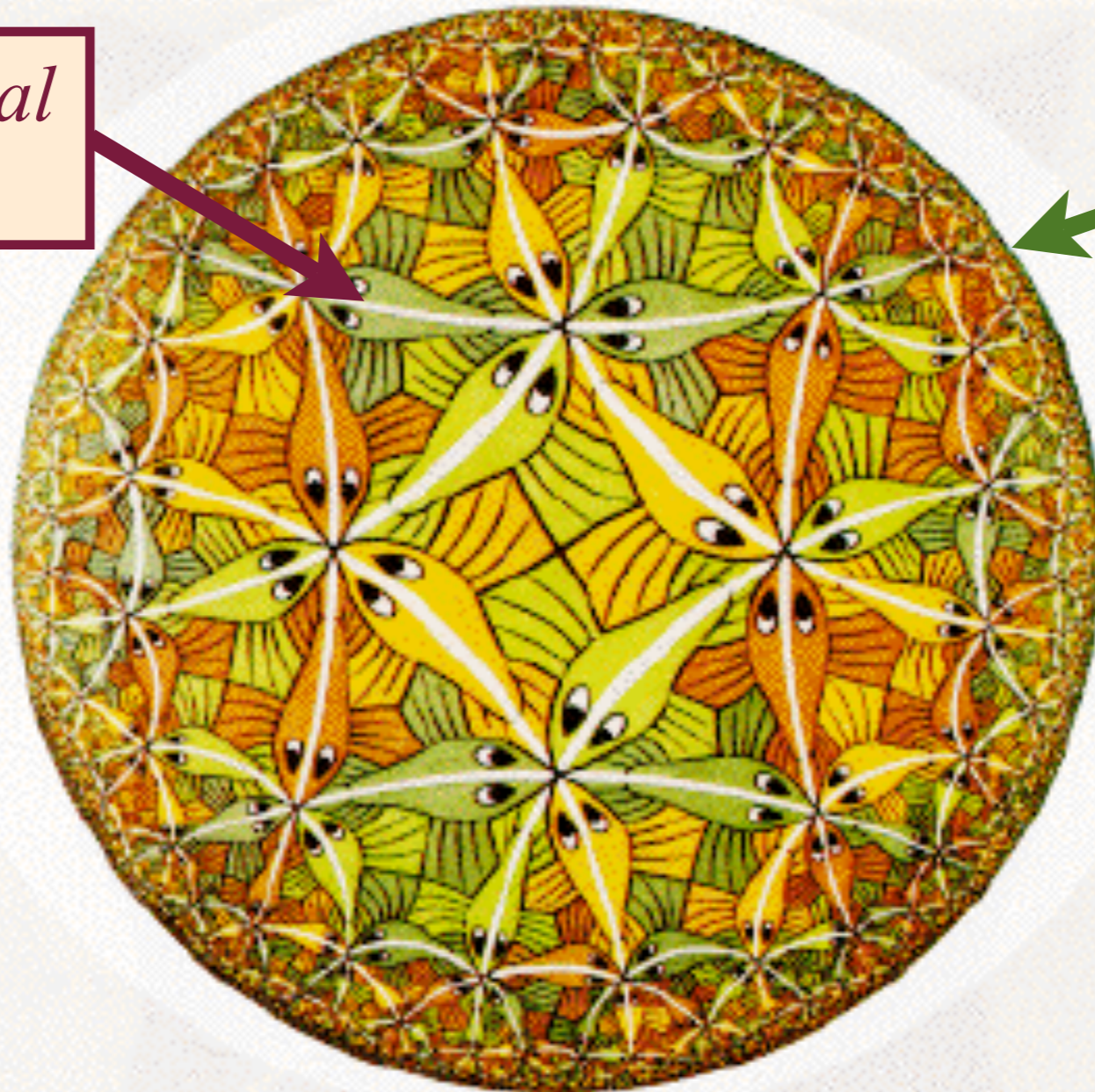
*3+1 dimensional  
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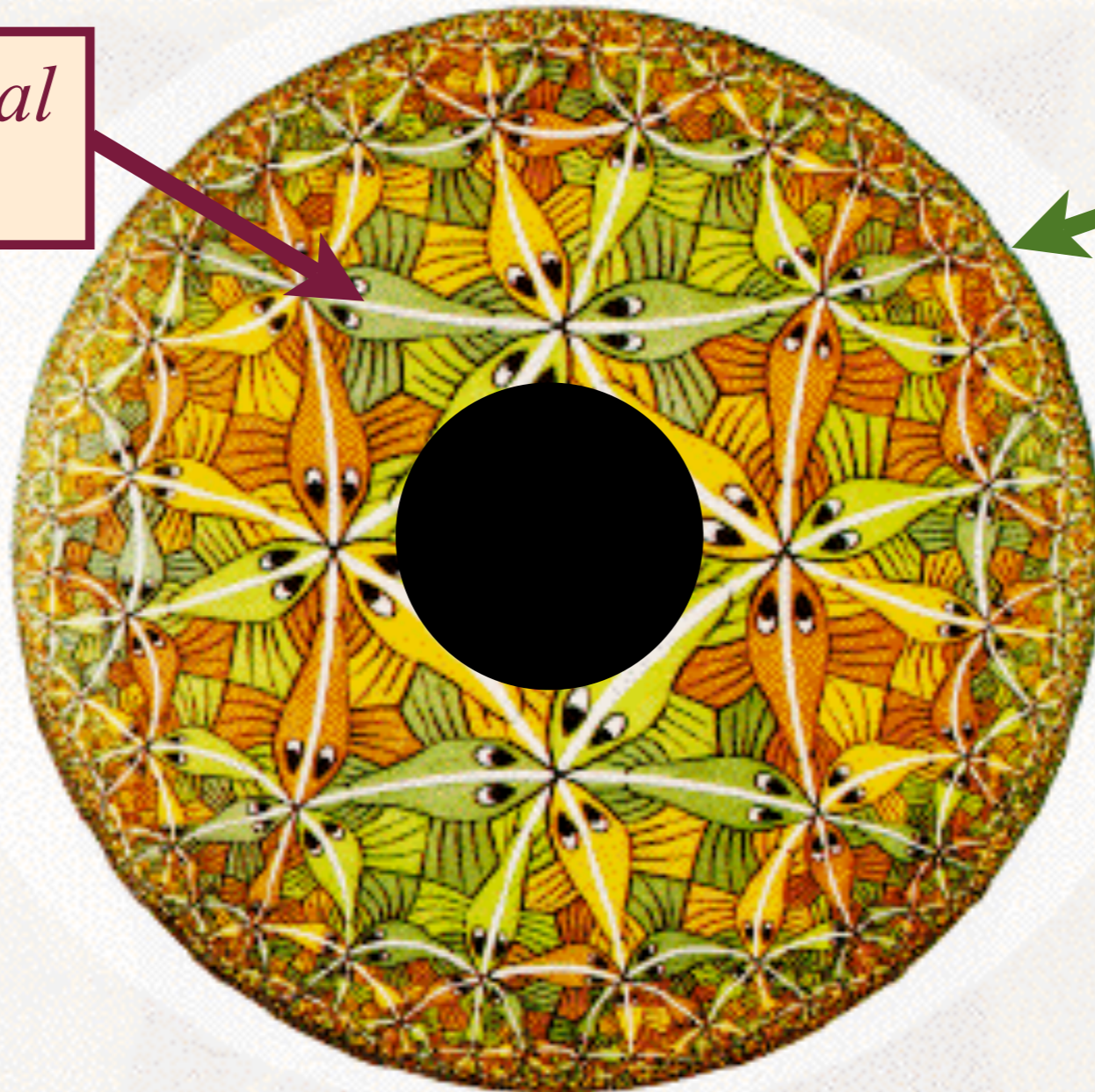


A 2+1  
dimensional  
system at its  
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critical point

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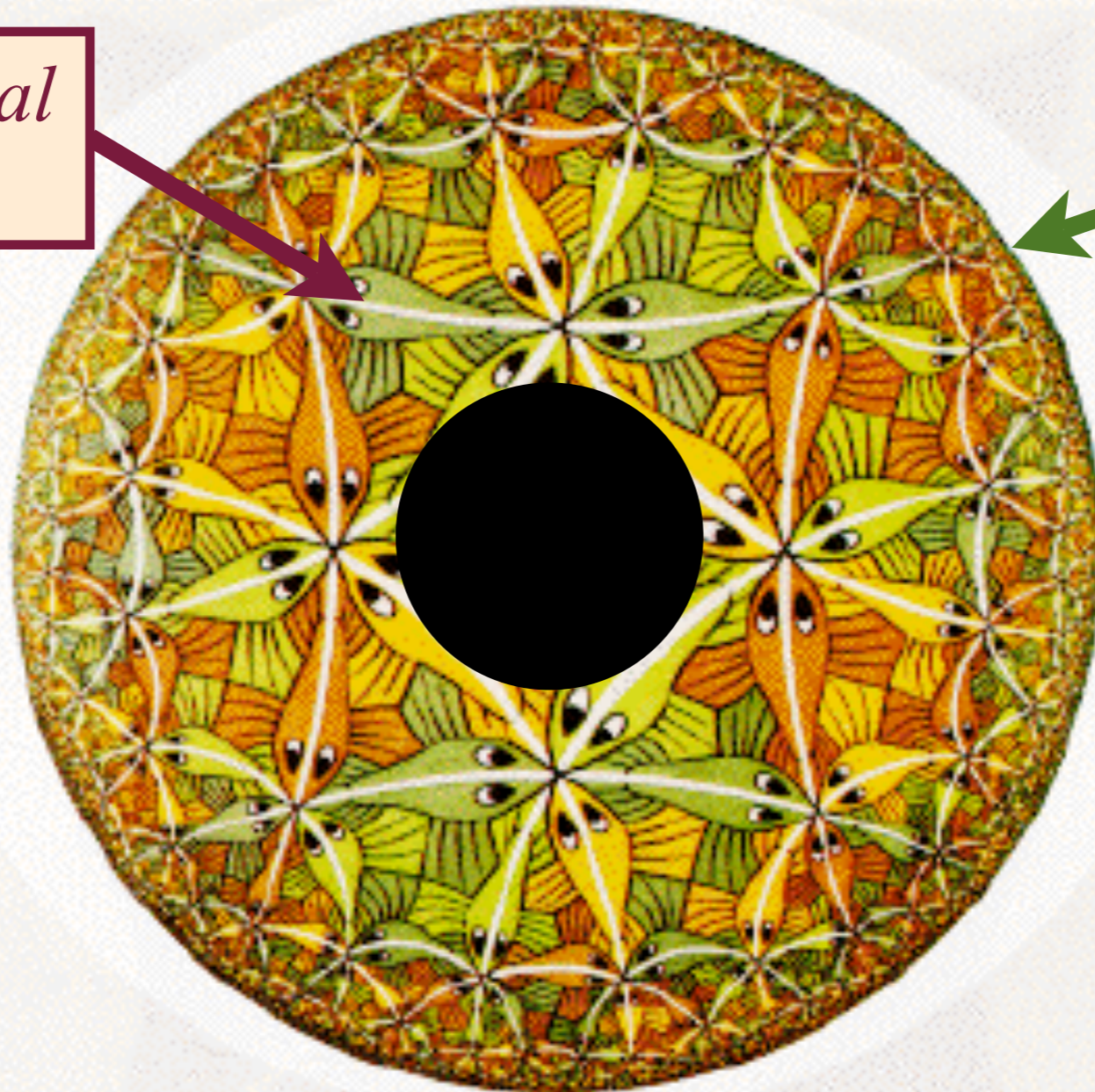
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Black hole  
temperature  
=  
temperature  
of quantum  
criticality



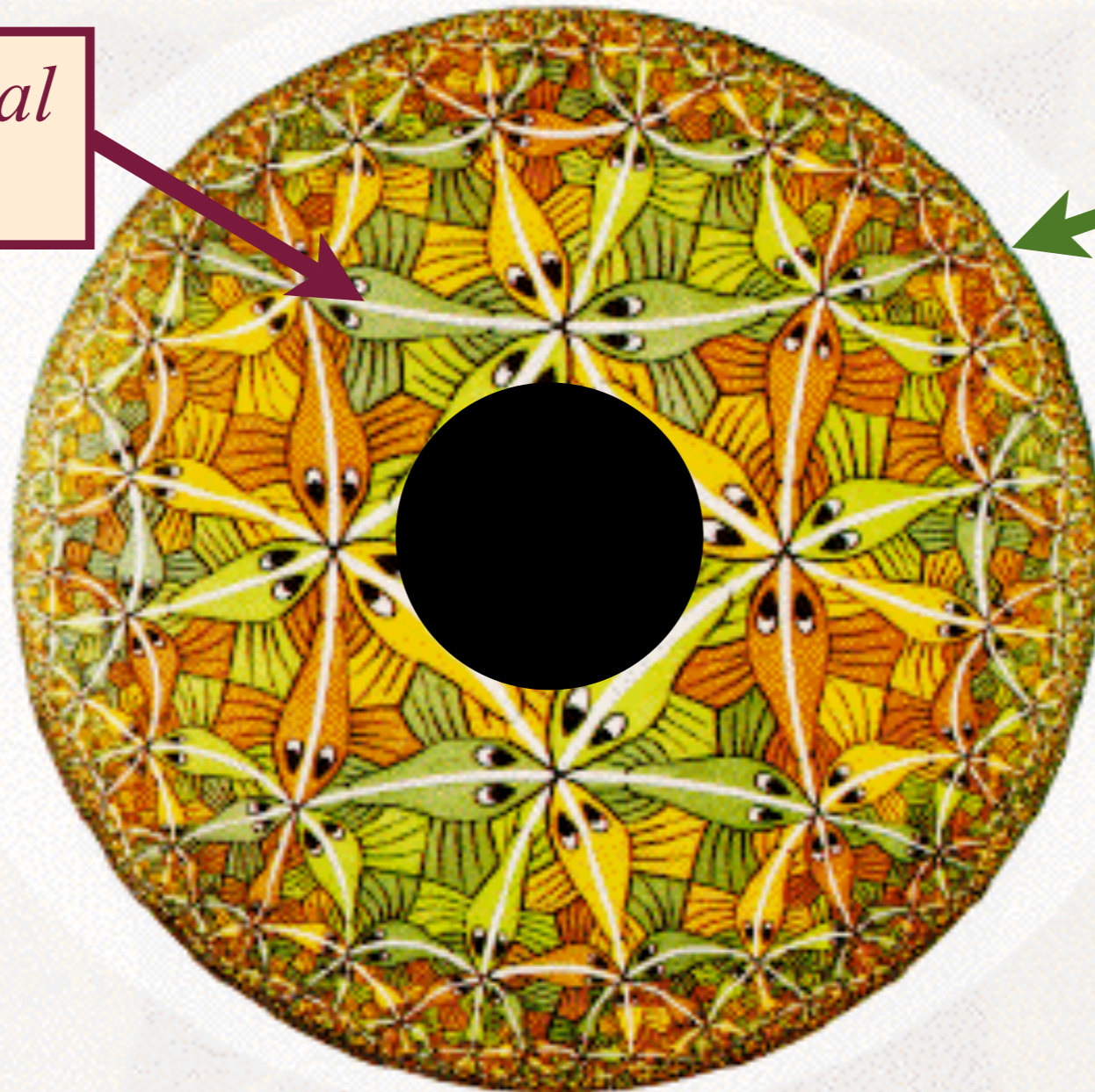
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Black hole  
entropy =  
entropy of  
quantum  
criticality



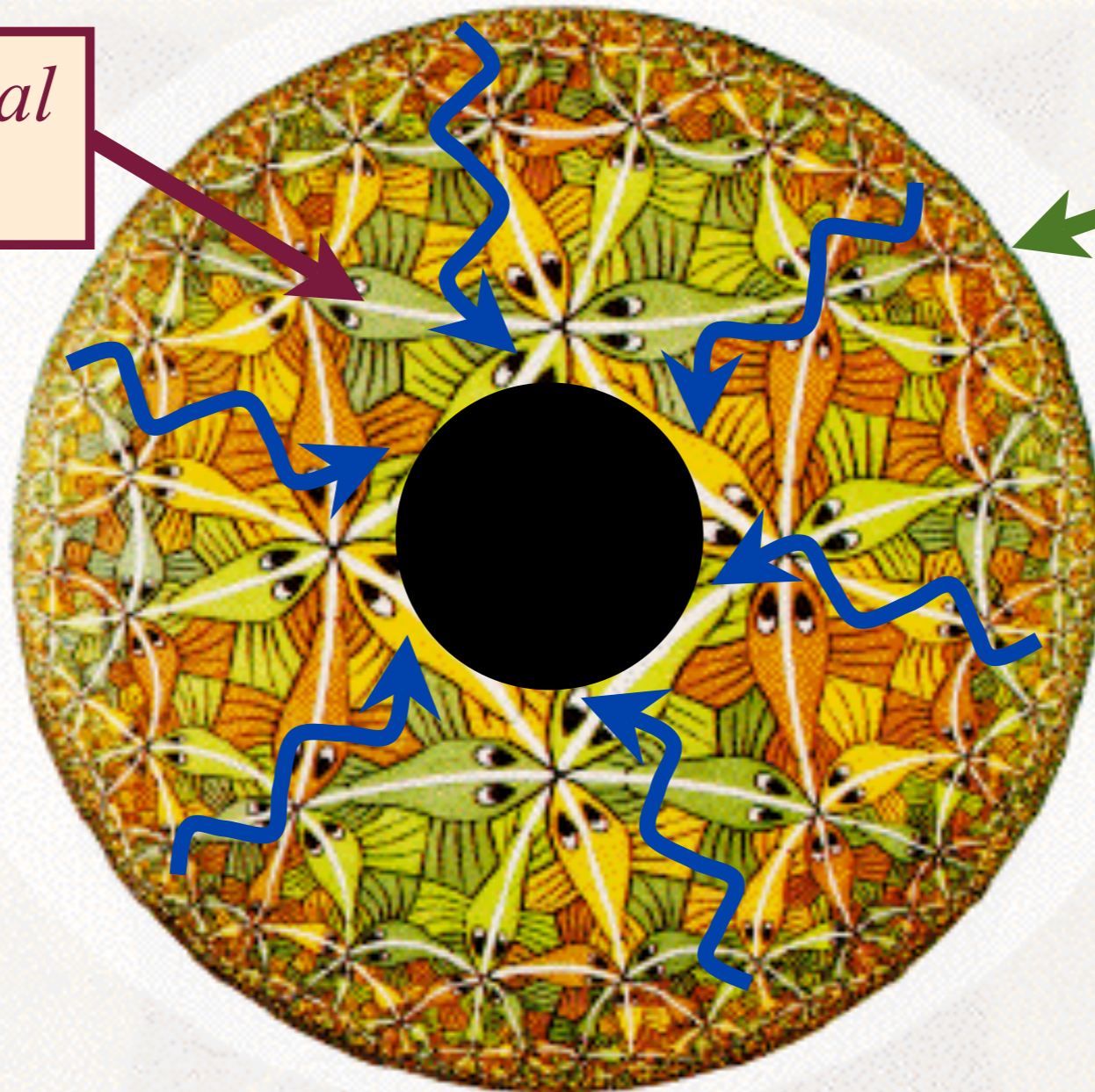
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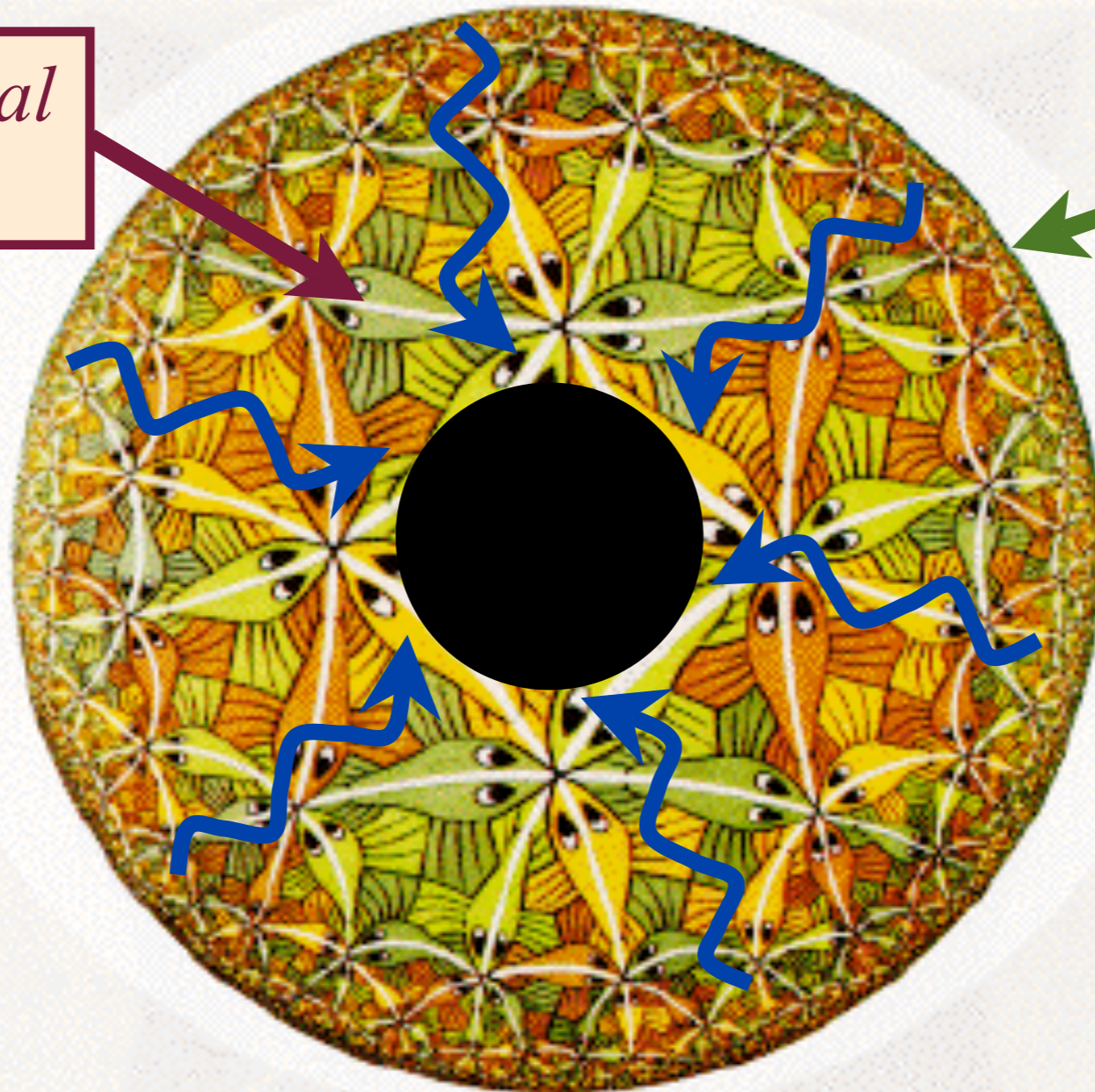
Quantum  
critical  
dynamics =  
waves in  
curved  
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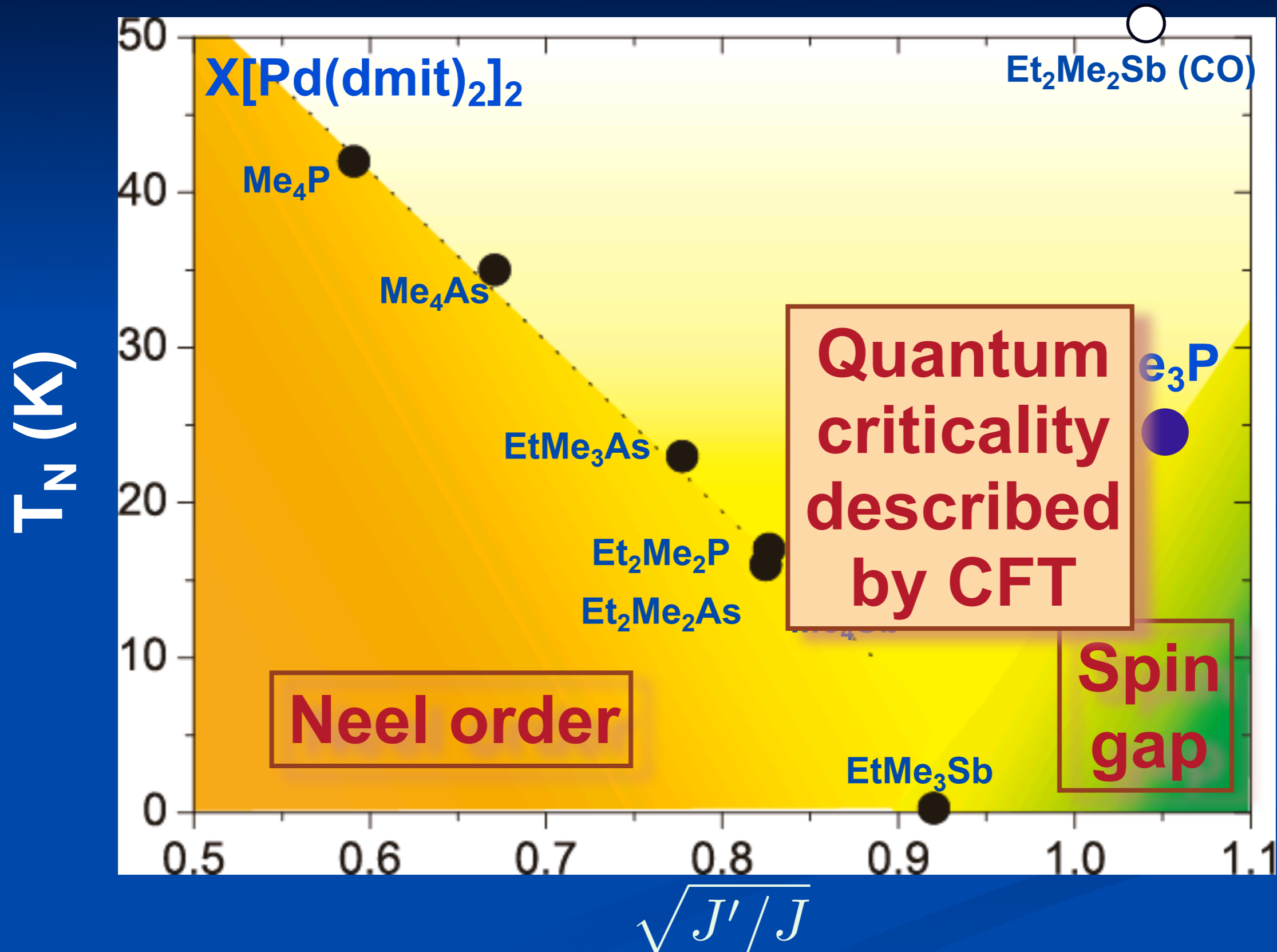
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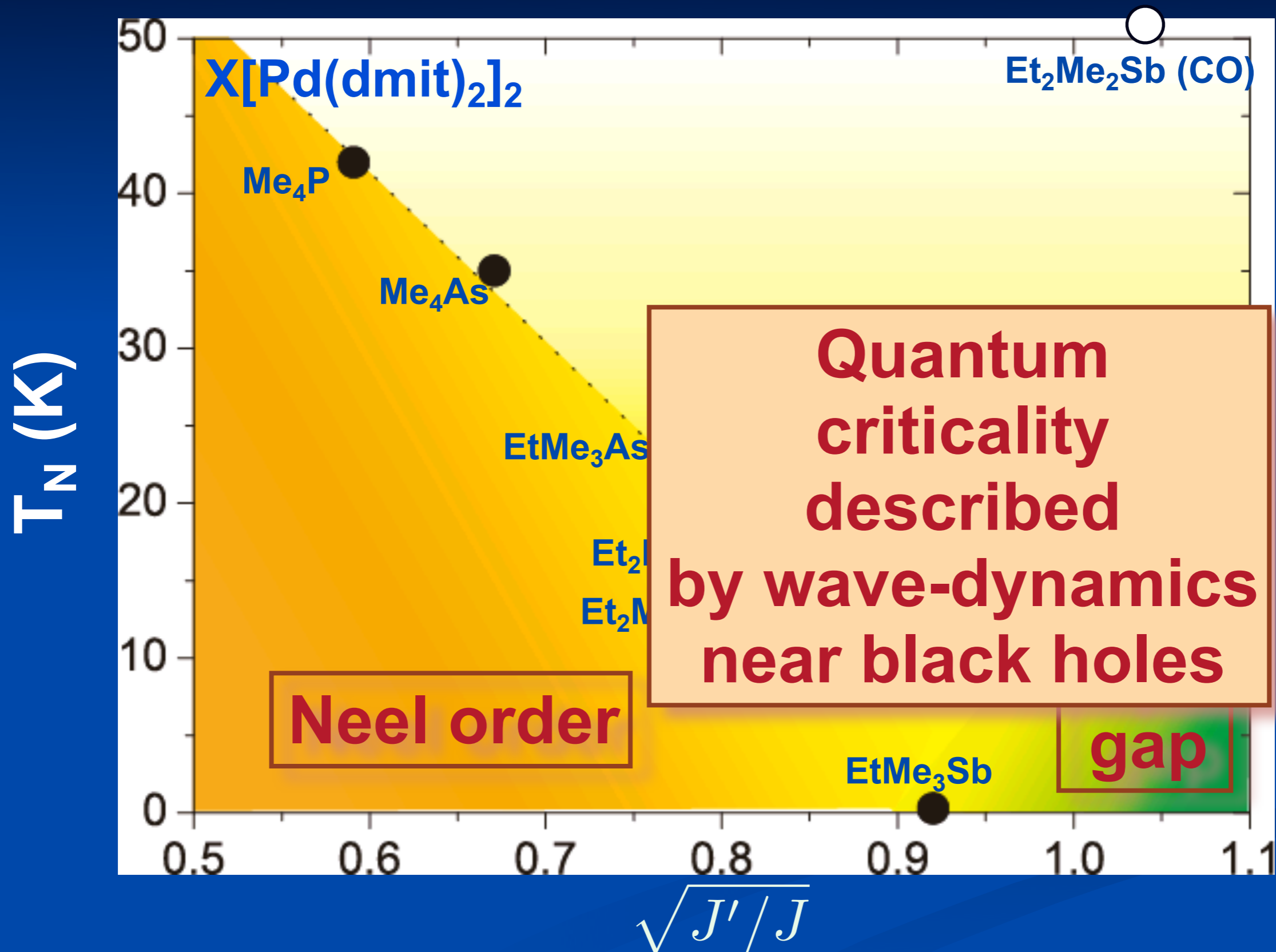
Quantum  
criticality in  
2+1  
dimensions

Friction of  
quantum  
criticality =  
waves  
falling into  
black hole

# Magnetic Criticality



# Magnetic Criticality



# Conclusions

- Berry phases lead to new field theories for transitions in antiferromagnets which are not part of the Landau-Ginzburg classification
- Exact solutions via black hole mapping have yielded first exact results for transport co-efficients in interacting many-body systems in dimension  $d > 1$ , and were valuable in determining general structure of transport in the quantum critical region