Spin mediated energy transport in 1D spin systems

H.R. Ott,
Laboratorium für Festkörperphysik, ETH Zürich,
8093 Zürich, Switzerland

The magnetic excitation spectra of spin chains are known to be characteristically different for \( S = \frac{1}{2} \) and \( S = 1 \) systems. On theoretical grounds, also the characteristics of spin- and energy transport properties of these systems are expected to be different. For chains with a Heisenberg type antiferromagnetic (HAFM) coupling between the \( S = \frac{1}{2} \) spins, the energy transport is expected to be ballistic, resulting in, e.g., an infinite thermal conductivity under ideal conditions. Less clear is the situation for \( S = 1 \), HAFM spin chains, but it has been argued that in this case, the spin mediated energy transport is diffusive. Recent results of measurements of the thermal conductivities of \( S = \frac{1}{2} \), as well as \( S = 1 \) model compounds with spin chain type structural elements will be presented and discussed. The results suggest that both the spin- and the energy transport are characteristically different in these two types of spin chain systems.