

### Calculation of the Spin Correlation Functions:

In expanding the summation over  $j, j-1$  in eq. 3 and in using eq. 6 of the main manuscript the intensity  $I_j(T)$  is written:

$$I_j(T) = \left( \Pi_{j,j}^b \right)^2 \left[ \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{6} \langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j \rangle + \frac{i}{4S_j} \langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot [\mathbf{s}_j \times \mathbf{s}_j] \rangle - \frac{1}{2S_j(2S_j-1)} \langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{Q}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j \rangle \\ & - \frac{1}{6} \langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_{j-1} \rangle - \frac{i}{4S_j} \langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot [\mathbf{s}_j \times \mathbf{s}_{j-1}] \rangle + \frac{1}{2S_j(2S_j-1)} \langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{Q}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_{j-1} \rangle \end{aligned} \right] \quad (S1)$$

+ same expression where  $\mathbf{s}_j$  and  $\mathbf{s}_{j-1}$  are permuted.

Some of the spin correlation functions appearing in eq. S1 have been determined by Seiden.<sup>S1</sup> Here, we restrict ourselves to recall their expression, taking into account the fact that  $\mathbf{S}_{Mn}$  is treated as a vector of length  $\sqrt{S_{Mn}(S_{Mn}+1)}$ .

$$\langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j \rangle = s_{Cu}(s_{Cu}+1) \quad (S2)$$

$\mathbf{s}_j \times \mathbf{s}_j = i\mathbf{s}_j$ , therefore

$$\langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot [\mathbf{s}_j \times \mathbf{s}_j] \rangle = i \langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j \rangle = -i \Lambda s_{Cu} \sqrt{S_{Mn}(S_{Mn}+1)} \quad (S3)$$

Using the commutation rules of the spin operators  $S_{jx}, S_{jy}, S_{jz}$  and the definition of the operator  $\mathbf{Q}_j$  in eq. 4 of the main manuscript, we can write:

$$\langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{Q}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j \rangle = \langle (\mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_j)(\mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j) \rangle - \frac{1}{3} S_{Mn}(S_{Mn}+1) s_{Cu}(s_{Cu}+1) + \frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j \rangle \quad (S4)$$

The specific properties of the spin operator  $\mathbf{s}_j$  allow to write:<sup>S2</sup>

$$\langle (\mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_j)(\mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j) \rangle = s_{\text{Cu}}^2 S_{\text{Mn}} (S_{\text{Mn}} + 1) - s_{\text{Cu}} \langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j \rangle \quad (\text{S5})$$

Replacing  $s_{\text{Cu}}$  by its value 1/2 results in:

$$\langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{Q}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_j \rangle = 0 \quad (\text{S6})$$

$$\langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_{j-1} \rangle = \Lambda^2 s_{\text{Cu}}^2 \quad (\text{S7})$$

In eq. S1, the second term obtained when  $\mathbf{s}_{j-1}$  and  $\mathbf{s}_j$  are permuted is strictly identical to the first one because the manganese ions are located on an inversion center. The two- and four-body correlation functions are identical. It can be demonstrated that:

$$\langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot [\mathbf{s}_j \times \mathbf{s}_{j-1}] \rangle = \langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot [\mathbf{s}_{j-1} \times \mathbf{s}_j] \rangle = -\langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot [\mathbf{s}_j \times \mathbf{s}_{j-1}] \rangle = 0 \quad (\text{S8})$$

Using the same procedure than in eq. S5, we can write:

$$\langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{Q}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_{j-1} \rangle = \langle (\mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_j)(\mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_{j-1}) \rangle - \frac{1}{3} S_{\text{Mn}} (S_{\text{Mn}} + 1) \langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_{j-1} \rangle - \frac{i}{2} \langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot [\mathbf{s}_j \times \mathbf{s}_{j-1}] \rangle \quad (\text{S9})$$

Making the following approximation:

$$\langle (\mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_j)(\mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_{j-1}) \rangle \approx \langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{S}_j \rangle \langle \mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_{j-1} \rangle = \Lambda^2 s_{\text{Cu}}^2 S_{\text{Mn}} (S_{\text{Mn}} + 1) \quad (\text{S10})$$

results in:

$$\langle \mathbf{s}_j \cdot \mathbf{Q}_j \cdot \mathbf{s}_{j-1} \rangle = \frac{S_{\text{Mn}}(2S_{\text{Mn}} - 1)}{3} \Lambda^2 S_{\text{Cu}}^2 \quad (\text{S11})$$

Introducing eq. S2, S3, S6, S7, S8, S11 in eq. S1 leads to eq. 7 of the main manuscript.

(S1) Seiden, J. *J. Phys. Lett.* **1983**, *44*, L947.

(S2) Cohen-Tanoudji, C.; Diu, B.; Laloë, F. *Mécanique Quantique*; Hermann: Paris, 1977.