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Probing and controlling quantum magnetism with ultra-cold atoms

ANA MARIA REY, ITAMP

By loading spinor atoms in optical lattices it is now possible to experimentally implement quantum spin models. These systems allow the investigation of quantum magnetism in strongly correlated systems within a controlled environment. In this talk we will describe a novel approach to prepare, detect and control super-exchange interactions in ultra-cold spinor atoms in optical superlattices [1]. Recently this approach was used for the first experimental realization of super-exchange interactions in ultra-cold atoms [2]. The many-body dynamics arising from the coherent coupling between singlet-triplet pairs in adjacent double-wells will be also discussed. In particular, we will describe how it can lead to the formation of frustrated spin states with a high degree of multi-particle entanglement. Finally, we will present an extension of this approach to prepare and detect d-wave pairing in an array of coupled plaquettes.

[1] A. M. Rey, V. Gritsev,I. Bloch, E. Demler, and M. D. Lukin, PRL 99, 140601 (2007).

[2] S. Trotzky, P. Cheinet, S. Folling, M. Feld, U. Schnorrberger, A.M. Rey, A. Polkovnikov, E. Demler, M. D. Lukin, and I. Bloch., submitted for publication.