

Abstract Submitted  
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**Absence of nematic ordering transition in a diamond lattice:  
Application to FeSc<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>**<sup>1</sup> CHANDAN SETTY, ZHIDONG LEONG, SHUYI  
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TEAM — Recent neutron scattering observations by Plumb et al [1] reveal that  
the ground state of FeSc<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> is magnetic with two distinct Fe environments, instead  
of a quantum spin liquid as had been previously thought. Starting with the rele-  
vant O(N)-symmetric vector model of FeSc<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>, we study how the discrete (Z<sub>2</sub>) and  
continuous rotational symmetries are successively broken, yielding nematic and or-  
dered phases. At high temperatures, we find that the nematic order parameter falls  
as  $T^{-\gamma}$  ( $\gamma > 0$ ), and therefore, FeSc<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> is highly susceptible to the  
breaking of Ising symmetries, and explains the two distinct Fe environments that is  
present even at high temperatures, as seen by Mossbauer and far infrared optical  
spectroscopy. [1] K. Plumb, J. Morey, J. Rodriguez-Rivera, H. Wu, A. Podlesnyak,  
T. McQueen, and C. Broholm, arXiv preprint arXiv:1603.08033 (2016)

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