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OPEN Elastocaloric-effect-induced adiabatic magnetization in paramagnetic salts due to the mutual interactions

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The temperature change under adiabatic stress, i.e., the elastocaloric effect, is a well-understood phenomenon and of particular interest due to its potential application in alternative ways for refrigeration. Here, we demonstrate that in the regime of low-temperatures (a few mK) real paramagnets can be magnetized when compressed adiabatically without applied magnetic field. Such adiabatic magnetization is a genuine many-body problem, stemming from the inherent dipolar mutual interactions between adjacent magnetic moments. We showcase experimental setups to carry out adiabatic magnetization and thus to access such a subtle effect. Perspectives of further investigations by controlling the mutual interactions in Bose–Einstein condensates in magnetic insulators and dipolar spin-ice systems via the adiabatic increase of temperature are also presented. Yet, we discuss the connection between the elastic Grüneisen parameter and the shift on the critical temperature of second-order phase transitions under adiabatic stress, as well as its connection with the Ehrenfest relation.

The understanding of the behavior of magnetic excitations in solids continues to be a topic of broad interest. Indeed, the interplay between magnetism and superconductivity^{1,2}, a proper description and the search for materials aiming to maximize the magnetocaloric effect^{3,4}, magnetic-field-induced quantum phase transitions^{5–7}, and exotic excitations like magnetic skyrmions^{8,9} are currently fertile fields of research. It has been almost a century since paramagnetic salts have been employed for cooling in the adiabatic demagnetization process¹⁰. It is wellknown that the intrinsic mutual interactions between adjacent magnetic moments are the limiting factor in the attainment of lower temperatures, typically a few mK, using this process^{7,10}. Essentially, such mutual interactions generate an effective local magnetic field Bloc that prevents further demagnetization for magnetic fields lower than Bloc and, as a consequence, the system cannot be cooled below such a temperature. The many-body effects emerging from the mutual interactions show up when both the thermal and the magnetic dipolar energy^{10,11} become comparable. Recently, we have reported on the influence of such many-body effects in preventing the realization of a genuine zero-field quantum phase transition in real paramagnets⁷. Also, we have reported on the possibility of performing adiabatic magnetization⁷ by only manipulating the mutual interactions between spins. At this point, it is worth mentioning that the adiabatic magnetization here discussed is achieved without an external magnetic field and thus it differs from the known adiabatic magnetization usually reported in the literature concerning the so-called inverse magnetocaloric effect^{12,13}. Essentially, the idea consists in increasing the temperature adiabatically^{10,14}, so that the system is magnetized in order to maintain the entropy constant⁷. This is particularly true based on the fact that in an adiabatic process the total entropy should be held constant, while the entropy associated with the various excitations involved can be either decreased or increased¹⁵. Also, considering the reversibility of an adiabatic process, the adiabatic magnetization can be restarted as long as the system lies in a temperature range, in which the magnetic excitations associated with the mutual interactions are relevant. Here, we discuss the basic concepts of Thermodynamics associated with the adiabatic temperature increase, as well as experimental setups for the realization of elastocaloric-effect-induced adiabatic magnetization in paramagnetic salts. Yet, we discuss the possibility of exploring many-body effects in other magnetic systems via the adiabatic increase of temperature.

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Temperature change due to an adiabatic compression

Based on concepts of Thermodynamics, the temperature of a system can be increased, without heat exchange with the surroundings, via adiabatic compression^{10,16}. In such a case, upon applying pressure the volume v varies quasi-statically. Next, we derive the expression for temperature change due to an adiabatic pressurization. We start recalling the first law of Thermodynamics^{16,17}:

$$dQ = dU + dW,\tag{1}$$

where dQ is the infinitesimal heat variation, dU the infinitesimal internal energy variation, and dW the infinitesimal work performed on the system upon applying external pressure. In a quasi-static process, the internal energy variation dU can be written as¹⁷:

$$dU = \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial T}\right)_{v} dT,\tag{2}$$

where *T* is the temperature. The term $\left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial T}\right)_{\nu}$ in Eq. (2) can be recognized as the heat capacity at constant volume c_{ν}^{17} and thus:

$$dU = c_v dT. ag{3}$$

The infinitesimal work dW performed on the system is given by $dW = -pdv^{10,16,17}$, where *p* is the applied pressure. Employing the relation for an adiabatic process $p = -\left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial v}\right)_S^{17}$, where *S* is the entropy, the infinitesimal work dW can be written as follows:

$$dW = -pdv = \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial v}\right)_{S} dv = \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial S}\right)_{v} \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial v}\right)_{T} dv.$$
(4)

The term $\left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial S}\right)_{\nu} = T$ in Eq. (4) is the canonical definition of temperature¹⁰. Also, employing the Maxwell-relation $\left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial \nu}\right)_T = \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial T}\right)_{\nu}^{17}$, Eq. (4) becomes:

$$dW = T\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T}\right)_{\nu} d\nu.$$
⁽⁵⁾

Replacing Eqs. (3) and (5) into Eq. (1):

$$dQ = c_{\nu}dT + T\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T}\right)_{\nu}d\nu.$$
(6)

Recalling that $dQ = TdS^{10,16,17}$ we write^{17,18}:

$$TdS = c_v dT + T \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T}\right)_v dv,\tag{7}$$

Since dQ = TdS an adiabatic compression at a fixed *T* means that dQ = 0 and thus implying that *S* must remain constant (dS = 0) during this process. Therefore, Eq. (7) becomes:

$$c_{\nu}dT = -T\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T}\right)_{\nu}d\nu.$$
(8)

Employing the relation¹⁷:

$$\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T}\right)_{\nu} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \nu}\right)_{p} \left(\frac{\partial \nu}{\partial p}\right)_{T} = -1 \Rightarrow \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T}\right)_{\nu} = -\frac{1}{\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \nu}\right)_{p} \left(\frac{\partial \nu}{\partial p}\right)_{T}}$$
(9)

and using the Thermodynamic relations for the isothermal compressibility $\kappa_T = -\frac{1}{\nu} \left(\frac{\partial \nu}{\partial p}\right)_T^{17}$ and the volumetric thermal expansion $\beta = \frac{1}{\nu} \left(\frac{\partial \nu}{\partial T}\right)_p^{17}$, Eq. (9) becomes:

$$\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T}\right)_{\nu} = \frac{\beta}{\kappa_T}.$$
(10)

Thus, replacing Eq. (10) into (8) we have:

$$c_{\nu}dT = -\frac{T\beta}{\kappa_T}d\nu$$

Resulting thus in the key expression:

$$dT_S = -\frac{T\beta}{c_{\nu}\kappa_T}d\nu,\tag{11}$$

where dT_S refers to the infinitesimal temperature variation in an adiabatic compression. Equation 11 indicates that upon adiabatically compressing a solid, its volume is reduced (dv < 0) and thus the temperature is increased adiabatically ($dT_S > 0$) starting in a certain *T*. The temperature increase due to an adiabatic volume change here discussed is isentropic and thus a reversible adiabatic process. The very same mathematical analysis as in Eq. (11) can be performed upon analysing the increase of temperature due to an adiabatic increase of pressure. Now, we make use of the following thermodynamic relation¹⁴:

$$dS(T,p) = \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial T}\right)_p dT + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial p}\right)_T dp.$$
 (12)

The derivative on the first term of the right side of Eq. (12) is $(\partial S/\partial T)_p = c_p/T$, where c_p is the heat capacity at constant pressure. Also, employing the Maxwell-relation $(\partial S/\partial p)_T = -(\partial \nu/\partial T)_p^{17}$ Eq. (12) becomes:

$$dS = \frac{c_p}{T} dT - \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial T}\right)_p dp.$$
(13)

Considering a reversible adiabatic process [dS(T, p) = 0], Eq. (13) reads:

$$\frac{c_p}{T}dT_S = \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial T}\right)_p dp_S,\tag{14}$$

where dp_S is the adiabatic pressure change. Thus, we achieve:

$$dT_S = \frac{\beta \nu T}{c_p} dp_S. \tag{15}$$

Essentially, Eq. (15) is similar to Eq. (11). Both Eqs. (11) and (15) can be employed to either describe an adiabatic compression (dv < 0, dp > 0) or expansion (dv > 0, dp < 0). However, in this work we have focused on the case of an adiabatic increase of temperature ($dT_S > 0$), i.e., an adiabatic compression. Note that in Eq. (15) the adiabatic temperature increase is written in terms of an infinitesimal adiabatic pressure change dp_S . Thus, in the light of Eq. (15) the temperature is increased due to an adiabatic application of pressure. At this point, we recall that the cooling of a system using pressure as the tuning parameter is the so-called barocaloric effect. The physical parameter that quantifies the barocaloric effect is the Grüneisen parameter $\Gamma_p = 1/T(\partial T/\partial p)S^{19}$. Interestingly enough, by manipulating Eq. (15) we obtain:

$$\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial p}\right)_{S} = \frac{\beta v T}{c_{p}}.$$
(16)

Multiplying both sides of Eq. (16) by 1/T, gives us:

$$\frac{\beta\nu}{c_p} = \frac{1}{T} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial p}\right)_S = \Gamma_p. \tag{17}$$

Note that Eq. (17) embodies naturally the definition of Γ_p^{19} . Experimentally, one of the ways of increasing the temperature adiabatically upon pressurization is by employing an adiabatic application of stress, which is discussed in the next Section.

Uniaxial stress application

Another way of promoting an adiabatic increase of temperature lies in the application of an uniaxial stress under adiabatic conditions¹⁸. The entropy variation in an adiabatic process with respect to the temperature and applied stress σ is given by¹⁸:

$$dS = \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial T}\right)_{\sigma} dT + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial \sigma_{ij}}\right)_{T,\sigma} d\sigma_{ij} = 0, \tag{18}$$

where σ_{ij} represents the Voigt's abbreviated notation²⁰ for the stress components, the index *i* corresponds to the plane normal on which the stress is applied and *j* the direction of the applied stress²¹. Experimentally, the application of uniaxial stress on the specimen may be accompanied by an undesired strain gradient due to the bending of the sample²². Thus, in order to avoid such a strain gradient, a symmetric mounting of the stress application setup is required, as discussed in Ref.²². Essentially, the symmetric mounting lies in attaching a rigid cap foil on top of the sample's edges, to ensure that both lower and upper surfaces of the sample's edges are firmly secured and thus a homogeneous stress application is attainable^{18,22}, cf. Fig. 1. In our analysis, we consider that all stress components are kept constant except for one of the normal stresses since we are interested in the case of an uniaxial applied stress, cf. Fig. 1. Thus, considering that $(\partial S/\partial \sigma_{ij})_{T,\sigma} = \alpha_{ij}$, where α_{ij} is the thermal expansion coefficient in the Voigt's abbreviation, and $(\partial S/\partial T)_{\sigma} = c_{\sigma}/T$, where c_{σ} is the heat capacity at constant stress. Thus, rewriting Eq. (18) we achieve:

$$dT_S = -\frac{T}{c_\sigma} \alpha_{ij} d\sigma_{ij}.$$
 (19)



Figure 1. Uniaxial stress application in a solid. Schematic representation of the 9 stress components: 3 normal stresses ($\sigma_{x,-x}, \sigma_{y,-y}$, and $\sigma_{z,-z}$) and 6 shear stresses ($\sigma_{xy}, \sigma_{xz}, \sigma_{yx}, \sigma_{yz}, \sigma_{zx}$, and σ_{zy}). All the stress components can be represented in the Voigt's abbreviated notation σ_{ij}^{20} , as discussed in more details in the main text. The dashed lines indicate the length variation ΔL_x when an uniaxial compressive stress $\sigma_{x,-x}$ is applied. Figure based on Ref.²¹. The application of uniaxial stress can be used for the adiabatic magnetization of a paramagnetic salt, cf. depicted in Fig. 2 and discussed in the main text.

Since we focus on the case of an adiabatic compression, $d\sigma_{ij}$ is recognized as the compressive stress, which is conventionally negative²¹. Thus, dT_S in Eq. (19) is positive meaning an adiabatic increase in temperature under an adiabatic uniaxial compressible stress. Thus, Eq. (19) can be rewritten as follows:

$$\frac{1}{T} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \sigma_{ij}} \right)_{S} = \frac{\alpha_{ij}}{c_{\sigma}} = \Gamma_{ec}.$$
(20)

Following discussions in our previous work¹⁹, we define Γ_{ec} as the elastic Grüneisen parameter, which quantifies the temperature change due to an adiabatic uniaxial strain application. A key aspect regarding Eq. (19) refers to the experimental difficulties posed in achieving adiabatic conditions. In this regard, the oscillating strain technique can be employed, cf. depicted in Fig. 3. Using this technique, the strain frequency should be tuned in a time-scale lower than the thermal relaxation time of the system¹⁸. Thus, the system is strained more quickly than it exchanges heat with its surroundings and thus an adiabatic strain on the specimen can be attained. At this point, we consider that the entropy variation dS also depends on the magnetization change dM and thus we write:

$$dS(T,M,\sigma) = \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial T}\right)_{M,\sigma} dT + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial M}\right)_{T,\sigma} dM + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial \sigma_{ij}}\right)_{T,M} d\sigma_{ij}.$$
(21)

Because of a reversible adiabatic process $dS(T, M, \sigma) = 0$ and thus:

$$-\left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial M}\right)_{T,\sigma} dM = \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial T}\right)_{M,\sigma} dT + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial \sigma_{ij}}\right)_{T,M} d\sigma_{ij}.$$
 (22)

Employing the Maxwell relation $\left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial M}\right)_T = -\left(\frac{\partial B}{\partial T}\right)_S^{17}$, Eq. (22) becomes:

$$\left(\frac{\partial B}{\partial T}\right)_{S} dM = \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial T}\right)_{M,\sigma_{ij}} dT + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial \sigma}\right)_{T,M} d\sigma_{ij}.$$
(23)

Equation 23 embodies the principle of the adiabatic magnetization under the application of uniaxial stress. In order to hold the entropy constant when the temperature is increased adiabatically, there has to be a variation of the magnetization dM to compensate the entropy change associated with both dT_S and $d\sigma_{ij}$, as well as a change of the magnetic field *B* in respect to the adiabatic temperature variation. It is clear that *B* should be recognized as B_{loc} , since there is no external magnetic field acting on the system. Essentially, an adiabatic application of σ_{ij} in a paramagnetic system implies in an adiabatic temperature increase and to hold *S* constant, the system is spontaneously magnetized adiabatically by dM. Note that we have considered that a paramagnetic insulator presents a finite magnetization in the absence of an external magnetic field when $T \rightarrow 0$ K due to the intrinsic presence of B_{loc} , being thus its ground-state a ferromagnetic phase, cf. discussions presented in Ref.⁷. Therefore, the infinitesimal magnetization dM in Eq. (23) is due to the magnetic energy increase associated with the mutual interactions in order to keep the entropy constant as a response to an adiabatic increase of temperature. Based on such discussions, it is tempting to infer the concept of positive and negative temperatures^{10,23,24} in terms of adiabatic deformations. However, the requirements for such are not fulfilled²⁴.

The Grüneisen parameter and strain-dependent second-order phase transitions

As discussed by us in Ref.¹⁹, the Grüneisen parameter is enhanced close to any critical point due to the intrinsic entropy accumulation near it and, as previously discussed, the elastic Grüneisen parameter quantifies the elastocaloric effect. As discussed in the next, the elastic Grüneisen parameter incorporates the shift in the critical temperature T_c of a second-order phase transition due to the application of stress. Under adiabatic conditions, such a shift in T_c occurs because the temperature variation of the specimen due to the elastocaloric effect has to compensate the entropy change associated with the strain¹⁸. We make use of the expression for the entropy variation of an infinitesimal strain $d\varepsilon$ under adiabatic conditions (dS = 0) close to a second-order phase transition¹⁸:

$$dS = -\frac{c_{\sigma}^{(CT)}}{T} \left(\frac{dT_{c}}{d\varepsilon}\right)_{T} d\varepsilon + \frac{c_{\sigma}}{T} dT = 0,$$
(24)

where $c_{\sigma}^{(cr)}$ is the critical contribution to the heat capacity at constant stress. The first term on the right side of Eq. (24) associates the entropy change due to $(dT_c/d\varepsilon)_T$ and the second term accounts for the entropy variation due to the elastocaloric effect of the specimen¹⁸. Rearranging Eq. (24), we have¹⁸:

$$\left(\frac{dT}{d\varepsilon}\right)_{S} = \frac{c_{\sigma}^{(cr)}}{c_{\sigma}} \left(\frac{dT_{c}}{d\varepsilon}\right)_{T}.$$
(25)

Equation 25 relates the elastocaloric effect to the corresponding shift in T_c^{18} . Note that Γ_{ec} can be determined in terms of $d\varepsilon$ upon multiplying both sides of Eq. (25) by 1/T. Since Eq. (25) accounts for the critical contribution to the heat capacity near T_c , it is associated with the critical contribution to the elastic Grüneisen parameter Γ_{ec}^{cr} , namely:

$$\Gamma_{ec}^{cr} = \frac{1}{T} \left(\frac{dT}{d\varepsilon} \right)_{S} = \frac{1}{T} \frac{c_{\sigma}^{(cr)}}{c_{\sigma}} \left(\frac{dT_{c}}{d\varepsilon} \right)_{T}.$$
(26)

Interestingly, Γ_{cc}^{cr} quantifies the shift in T_c in the vicinity of a second-order phase transition due to an adiabatic strain. If $(dT/d\varepsilon)_S > 0$ in Eq. (26) implies that the temperature of the system is adiabatically increased in response to the strain, which is the case of an adiabatic compressible stress ($\sigma_{ij} < 0$), cf. Eq. (19). Thus, $(dT_c/d\varepsilon)_T$ is also positive, i.e., T_c is shifted to higher temperatures in response to the adiabatic strain. Based on similar arguments, if $(dT/d\varepsilon)_S < 0$ in Eq. (26), T_c is shifted to lower temperatures. It is well-known that $c_{\sigma}^{(cr)}$ is enhanced close to T_c and thus, based on Eq. (26), Γ_{ec}^{er} is enhanced as well. Hence, a pronounced elastocaloric effect is expected close to a second-order phase transition. This is in perfect agreement with our recent work about giant caloric effects close to critical points, cf. discussed in Ref.¹⁹. Next, we discuss the connection between the Grüneisen parameter in the vicinity of T_c and the celebrated Ehrenfest relation²⁵. Note that close to T_c , Eq. (19) can be easily rewritten in terms of the thermal expansion and heat capacity jumps, $\Delta \alpha_{ij}$ and Δc_{σ} , which correspond to the difference between critical and ordinary contributions to the thermal expansion coefficient and heat capacity, respectively. Hence, we have:

$$dT_c = -T_c \frac{\Delta \alpha_{ij}}{\Delta c_\sigma} d\sigma_{ij}.$$
(27)

Rearranging Eq. (27), we achieve^{26,27}:

$$\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}T_{\mathrm{c}}}{\mathrm{d}\sigma_{\mathrm{ij}}}\right)_{\mathrm{S}} = -T_{\mathrm{c}}\frac{\Delta\alpha_{\mathrm{ij}}}{\Delta c_{\sigma}},\tag{28}$$

which has some resemblance with the Ehrenfest relation²⁵. Equation 28 indicates the T_c variation under adiabatic stress. More specifically, Eq. (28) takes into account the critical contribution to the elastic Grüneisen parameter Γ_{er}^{cr} , which reads:

$$\Gamma_{ec}^{cr} = \frac{1}{T_c} \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}T_c}{\mathrm{d}\sigma_{ij}} \right)_{\mathrm{S}} = -\frac{\Delta\alpha_{ij}}{\Delta c_{\sigma}}.$$
(29)

In this case, Γ_{ec}^{cr} quantifies the shift in T_c under the application of an adiabatic stress analogously to the shift in T_c under application of pressure in the well-known Ehrenfest relation. Although Eq. (29) has already been reported in Refs.^{26,27}, its connection with the Grüneisen parameter is still lacking. It is worth mentioning that such an analysis can be extended to other cases, such as the magneto-caloric and the electro-caloric effects, namely^{67,19}:

$$\Gamma_{mag}^{cr} = \frac{1}{T_c} \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}T_c}{\mathrm{d}B} \right)_S = -\frac{\Delta \alpha_B}{\Delta c_B},\tag{30}$$

and

$$\Gamma_{ece}^{cr} = \frac{1}{T_c} \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}T_c}{\mathrm{d}E} \right)_S = -\frac{\Delta\alpha_E}{\Delta c_E},\tag{31}$$

where Γ_{ece}^{cr} are the critical contributions to the magneto-caloric and electro-caloric Grüneisen parameters, and E is the electric field. Thus, in an analogy with the canonical Ehrenfest relation, Eqs. (29), (30), and

(31) quantify the T_c shift of a second-order phase transition under the adiabatic application of stress, magnetic field, or electric field, respectively.

Adiabatic magnetization by only manipulating the mutual interactions between spins

The magnetic interactions between adjacent magnetic moments in a real paramagnet lead to a finite effective local magnetic field B_{loc} , which is usually about 0.01 T considering an average distance between magnetic moments of 5Å⁷. By cooling the paramagnetic system down to temperatures, in the range in which the energy associated with the magnetic interactions are relevant (usually T < 6 mK)⁷, many-body effects set in. In such a temperature range it is possible to increase the temperature adiabatically, cf. previous discussions. Essentially, in order to keep the entropy constant there has to be an increase of the local field to compensate such temperature increase⁷, i.e., the system is magnetized. For the sake of completeness, we recall some relevant results reported by us in Ref.⁷. The microscopic treatment of the mutual interactions requires a many-body approach, which can be described by the Hamiltonian^{7,28,29}:

$$H = -J' \sum_{(ij)} \vec{S}_i^{z_i} \cdot \vec{S}_j^{z_j} + Dr_{nn}^3 \sum_{i>j} \frac{\vec{S}_i^{z_i} \cdot \vec{S}_j^{z_j}}{|\vec{r}_{ij}|^3} - \frac{3(\vec{S}_i^{z_i} \cdot \vec{r}_{ij})(\vec{S}_j^{z_j} \cdot \vec{r}_{ij})}{|\vec{r}_{ij}|^5},$$
(32)

where J' is the magnetic coupling constant, \tilde{S} is the spin vector oriented along the local z_i Ising < 111 > axis, i and j refer to the two sites of the lattice, \vec{r} is the position vector, $D = (\mu_0 \mu^2)/(4\pi r_{nn}^3)$, μ_0 is the vacuum permeability, μ the magnetic moment, and r_{nn} is the distance between nearest-neighbor spins. The second term of the Hamiltonian (Eq. 32) embodies the magnetic energy associated with the interaction between a single magnetic moment and its nearest neighbors. The Hamiltonian of Eq. (32) is key in understanding the adiabatic magnetization here discussed, since it takes into account the microscopic character of the mutual interactions responsible to give rise to B_{loc} . It turns out that when the temperature is increased adiabatically, the mutual interactions are altered in order to increase the magnetic energy and to keep the entropy constant. In our analysis, we employ a simple mean-field-type (molecular-field) approach to treat the mutual interactions, which is discussed in the next. At this point, the understanding of the adiabatic magnetization requires a treatment in terms of the uncertainty principle. In order to keep the entropy constant during the adiabatic magnetization process, the magnetic energy U_{mag} of the paramagnetic system has to be changed, which is given by³⁰:

$$U_{mag} = -\frac{m_J}{\sqrt{J(J+1)}} \mu B_{loc} = -\mu B_{loc} \cos \phi, \tag{33}$$

where m_J is the is the magnetic quantum number, J the total angular momentum quantum number, and ϕ is the angle between μ and B_{loc} . Employing U_{mag} , the energy uncertainty ΔE can be calculated by the expression¹⁰:

$$\Delta E = U_{mag} - E, \tag{34}$$

where *E* is the average magnetic energy. Plugging Eq. (33) into Eq. (34) and $E = \mu_B B_{loc} N \tanh\left(\frac{\mu_B B_{loc}}{k_B T}\right)^{10}$, where *N* is the number of particles, we have⁷:

$$\Delta E = \mu_B B_{loc} \left[N \tanh\left(\frac{\mu_B B_{loc}}{k_B T}\right) - \cos\phi \right]. \tag{35}$$

In Eq. (35), ΔE is minimized when $\cos \phi \rightarrow 1^7$. Since the adiabatic magnetization is performed during a quasistatic process, this means that the uncertainty in time Δt should be maximized, while ΔE is minimized. The condition for ΔE to be minimized lies in varying the total angular momentum projection⁷. This is attainable by increasing only the *z*-axis projection of the total angular momentum vector \vec{J} . The consequence of the enhancement of the \vec{J} projection in the *z*-axis is that the magnetic energy is decreased and thus the system is magnetized⁷, meaning that the angle ϕ between μ and B_{loc} is lowered. In summary, the genesis of the increment ΔB_{loc} in the adiabatic magnetization process is given by the increase of the \vec{J} projection in the *z*-direction. This is one of the key results reported in Ref.⁷. In general terms, in the adiabatic magnetization process (Fig. 2) of the mutual interactions, the temperature is adiabatically increased from T_1 to T_2 and thus we can write⁷:

$$T_2 = T_1 \frac{\sqrt{B_{loc}^2 + \Delta B_{loc}^2}}{B_{loc}},$$
(36)

where μ_B is the Bohr magneton, k_B is the Boltzmann constant, and ΔB_{loc} is the magnetic field increment that will emerge into the system to compensate the adiabatic increase of temperature. The term ΔB_{loc} refers to the adiabatic magnetization by only manipulating the mutual interactions of the system upon adiabatically increasing its temperature. Then, ΔB_{loc} can be determined by the simple expression⁷:

$$\Delta B_{loc} = B_{loc} \sqrt{\frac{T_2^2}{T_1^2} - 1}.$$
(37)

2



Figure 2. Schematic representation of the steps for performing the adiabatic magnetization of a paramagnetic specimen⁷. (**A**) A sample with volume *v* is inserted inside a coil, which is attached to an ampere meter, into an adiabatic chamber and the temperature is decreased to $T_1 = 2$ mK, being the sample under pressure p_1 , with entropy S_1 , and magnetization M_1 . External magnetic fields are absent and thus the resulting magnetic field $B_r = B_{loc}$ due to the intrinsic mutual interactions between adjacent magnetic moments (represented by the red arrows). The dashed lines represent a zoom of the paramagnetic sample inside the coil and the spins inside the sample. (**B**) A quasi-static pressure, more specifically the stress as depicted in Fig. 3, is applied so that the volume is reduced by a factor Δv , leading thus to an adiabatic increase of the sample temperature to $T_2 = 2.1$ mK. The sample is now under a pressure ($p_1 + \Delta p$) and it is magnetized by a factor ΔM in order to hold the entropy S_1 constant. Since the magnetization of the sample is increased (minimization of the energy, cf. discussions in

the main text), the spins are slightly vertically aligned since now the resulting field is $B_r \simeq \sqrt{B_{loc}^2 + \Delta B_{loc}^2}$. (C) During the time interval Δt from process A to B (quasi-static applied pressure, i.e., stress cf. Fig. 3), the magnetic field is increased from B_{loc} to $\sqrt{B_{loc}^2 + \Delta B_{loc}^2}$ and thus the magnetic flux is changed over Δt inducing an electromotive force, which in turn is associated with a finite electrical current, which can be measured by the ampere meter. Some parts of this figure were created employing templates available in Ref.³¹.

Experimental realization of the adiabatic magnetization

In order to carry out the adiabatic magnetization of a paramagnetic system, it must be isolated from the surrounding in a low-temperature condition (T < 6 mK) and pressure, which experimentally can be the stress, cf. illustrated in Fig. 3, must be quasi-statically applied to increase its temperature adiabatically. Upon increasing the stress as shown in Fig. 3, in such a quasi-static process, the temperature will be increased adiabatically and then the paramagnetic system will be magnetized by a term ΔB_{loc} , as previously discussed, in order to keep the entropy constant⁷.



Figure 3. Schematic representation of the adiabatic magnetization process in a paramagnetic salt employing an experimental setup for the application of uniaxial stress. The sample is attached to both movable and fixed plates by using epoxy. A nano-SQUID tip sensor is placed close to the sample. Lead zirconate titanate (PZT) piezoelectric stacks are attached to the movable plate. In (a) there is no applied A.C. voltage V and thus no deformation of the PZT stacks takes place. In (b) an A.C. voltage $V \neq 0$ is applied to the PZT stacks at a given frequency *f* making the PZT stacks to deform. Hence, the sample is uniaxially compressed leading to a variation of its length *L* by ΔL . The adiabatic regime can be achieved upon tuning *f*. The employed frequency should be higher than the inverse relaxation time τ^{-1} of the system, since τ represents the time scale of the heat exchange between the sample and its surroundings, cf. Ref.¹⁸. In this process, the temperature of the system is adiabatically increased and thus an adiabatic magnetization of the sample takes place, which is detected by the attached nano-SQUID tip sensor. Figure prepared based on Refs.^{18,22,37}. More details in the main text.

SQUID

Another possible way of measuring ΔB_{loc} would be employing a nano-SQUID on a tip³², which presents outstanding sensitivity to measure the magnetic field generated by a single magnetic moment. In the present case, we are interested in measuring the local field during the adiabatic magnetization process. Essentially, the presence of a magnetic flux Φ through the SQUID affects its corresponding superconducting electrical current. Such magnetic flux depends on the magnetic field acting on the SQUID and the surface area S' of the superconducting loop. The magnetic flux Φ through the SQUID is given by³³:

$$\Phi = \int_{S'} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{S'} = n \left(\frac{h}{2e}\right),\tag{38}$$

where *n* is an integer number, *h* is Planck's constant, and *e* the fundamental electron charge. The factor (h/2e) is the quantum of magnetic flux Φ_0 and it dictates the SQUID's sensitivity. Considering the conditions of the adiabatic temperature increase from T_1 to T_2 (cf. Fig. 2) for the realization of the adiabatic magnetization, we estimate $\Delta B_{loc} \approx 3.2 \text{ mT}^7$. In the particular case of a nano-SQUID on a tip³², given the fact that Φ depends on S', the sensitivity for detecting magnetic fields is compromised by the nanometer size of such a device. However, the

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spatial resolution of the device is improved and its sensitivity to magnetic dipoles increased, i.e., the nano-SQUID on a tip is extremely sensitive to small magnetic moments³², enabling thus the detection of ΔB_{loc} generated from the adiabatic magnetization process in a paramagnetic system. Given the high-sensitivity of the SQUID's critical current to both temperature and magnetic field, the nano-SQUID on a tip is also a very accurate scanning cryogenic thermal sensor^{34–36}. Thus, employing such a device, a very sensitive thermal imaging of energy dissipation of nanoscale processes can be carried out^{34–36}. Hence, the thermal mapping of the adiabatic heating during the adiabatic magnetization can be carried out employing the oscillating strain experimental setup proposed in Ref.¹⁸ with an attached nano-SQUID on tip³², cf. depicted in Fig. 3. The relevant parameters involving the use of a nano-SQUID on a tip for measuring the adiabatic magnetization here discussed, such as the width of the measured signal for a particular frequency of the PZT stacks A.C. voltage, shall depend on the particular physical properties of the investigated system.

Adiabatic increase of temperature in interacting systems

The adiabatic increase of temperature upon applying pressure (stress, as depicted in Fig. 3) can lead to other investigations in the frame of many-body systems. There is a subtle difference between applying pressure/stress (Fig. 3) to a system and then sweeping its temperature non-adiabatically with the case of increasing its temperature adiabatically upon applying external pressure/stress (Fig. 3). When adiabatic pressurization takes place in an interacting system, it will rearrange itself as a whole due to the many-body effects in order to hold the entropy constant, which obviously is not the case for non-adiabatic conditions. Thus, employing adiabatic temperature changes, the many-body character of various interacting systems can be explored in an unprecedented way. This is particular true for Bose–Einstein condensates (BEC) in magnetic insulators³⁸ and dipolar spin-ice²⁹ systems, just to mention a few examples. In the specific case of the BEC in a magnetic insulator reported in Ref.³⁸, the adiabatic increase of temperature in such a system will change the energy ε of a triplon (Eq. 2 of Ref.³⁸) and, as a consequence, the density of triplons will be altered due to the so-called Zeeman term $-g\mu_B BS^2$ in the triplon energy, where g is the gyromagnetic ratio, S^z is the spin projection in the z direction, and z is the direction of the external magnetic field. Considering that the resulting magnetic field of the system depends on both the external applied magnetic field and Bloc inherent to this particular system, the adiabatic increase of temperature will change B_{loc} , which in turn will change the density of triplons as well. Note that in this particular case, both an external magnetic field and B_{loc} are considered⁷, which is not the case for the adiabatic magnetization due to the mutual interactions discussed previously. Hence, the adiabatic increase of temperature can be seen as an alternative way for investigating the system's interactions and its phase diagram. This is a simple example of an investigation of the many-body character in interacting systems that can be carried out by employing an adiabatic increase of temperature. Yet, we point out that a similar case of the adiabatic magnetization for the Brillouin-like paramagnet, performed in the temperature range below which is associated with the relevance of the magnetic dipolar mutual interactions, can be carried out for the case of electric dipoles. More specifically, when considering the temperature regime where the interactions between electric dipoles are relevant, the Langevin equation³⁹ can be employed following the approach reported in Ref.⁷ to demonstrate that when the temperature is adiabatically increased, a spontaneous adiabatic electric polarization of the system takes place, analogously to the adiabatic magnetization.

Conclusions

We have revisited the basic concepts associated with the increase of temperature under adiabatic application of hydrostatic pressure and uniaxial stress. Experimentally, the attainable mechanism to increase the temperature adiabatically is the application of stress. Following our previous work⁷, we have proposed experimental setups for detecting the magnetic response under adiabatic conditions. Furthermore, we have proposed an alternative way for exploring various exotic phases of matter, like BEC in magnetic insulators and spin-ice, upon changing the temperature adiabatically. Yet, we have discussed that the elastic Grüneisen parameter quantifies the shift in the critical temperature T_c of a second-order phase transition under an adiabatic strain, as well as its connection with the Ehrenfest relation.

Methods

All the figures presented in this work were created employing the software Adobe Illustrator Version CC 2017 and a few templates available in Ref.³¹ were used in the creation of the figures.

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Author contributions

L.S. and I.F.M. carried out the calculations and L.S. generated the figures. L.S. and M.deS. wrote the paper with contributions from A.C.S. and I.F.M. All authors revised the manuscript. M.deS. conceived and supervised the Project.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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