

# Imaging topological defects in a non-collinear antiferromagnet

Aurore Finco

Laboratoire Charles Coulomb  
Team Solid-State Quantum Technologies (S2QT)

CNRS and Université de Montpellier, Montpellier, France



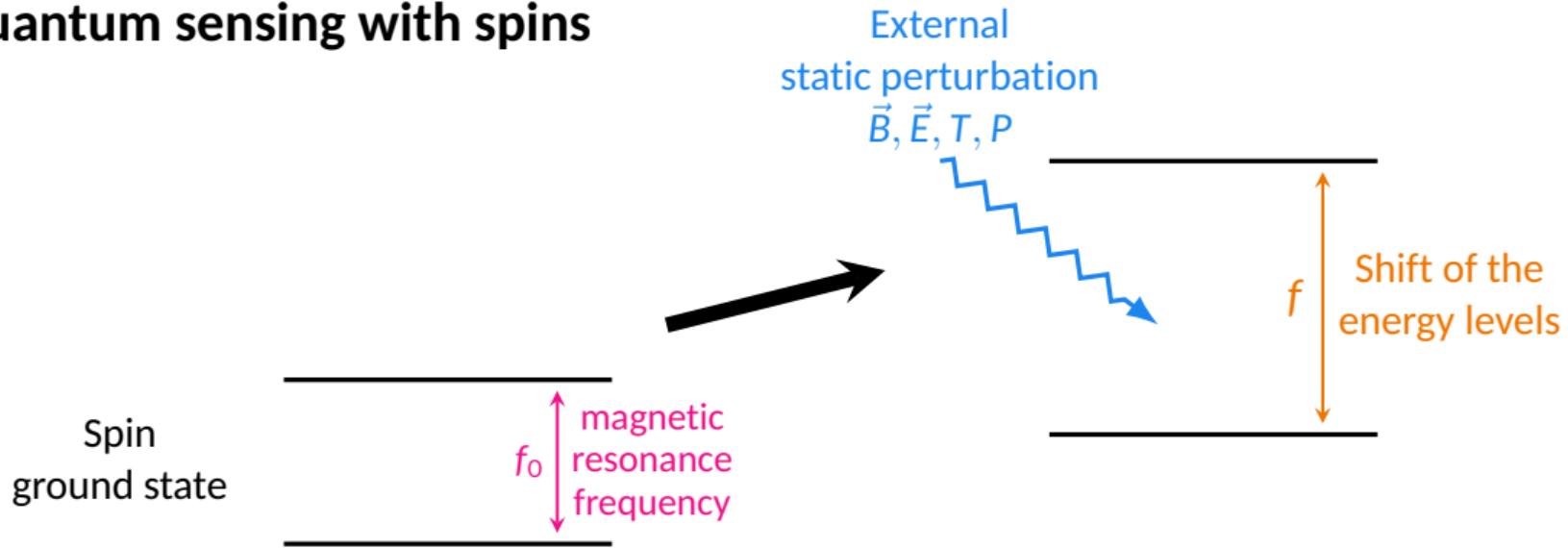
JEMS 2022, July 28<sup>th</sup>

slides available at <https://magimag.eu>

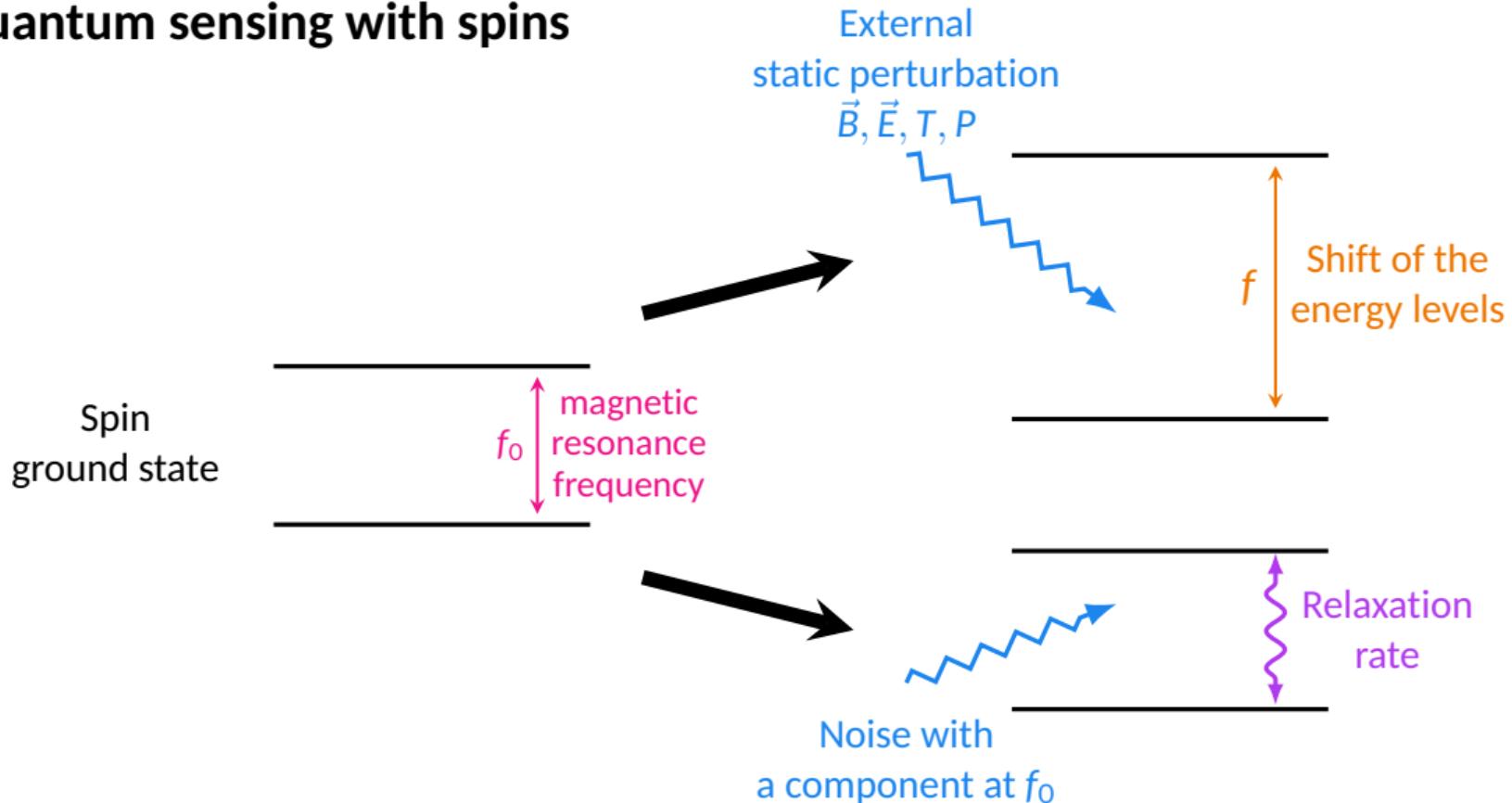
# Quantum sensing with spins



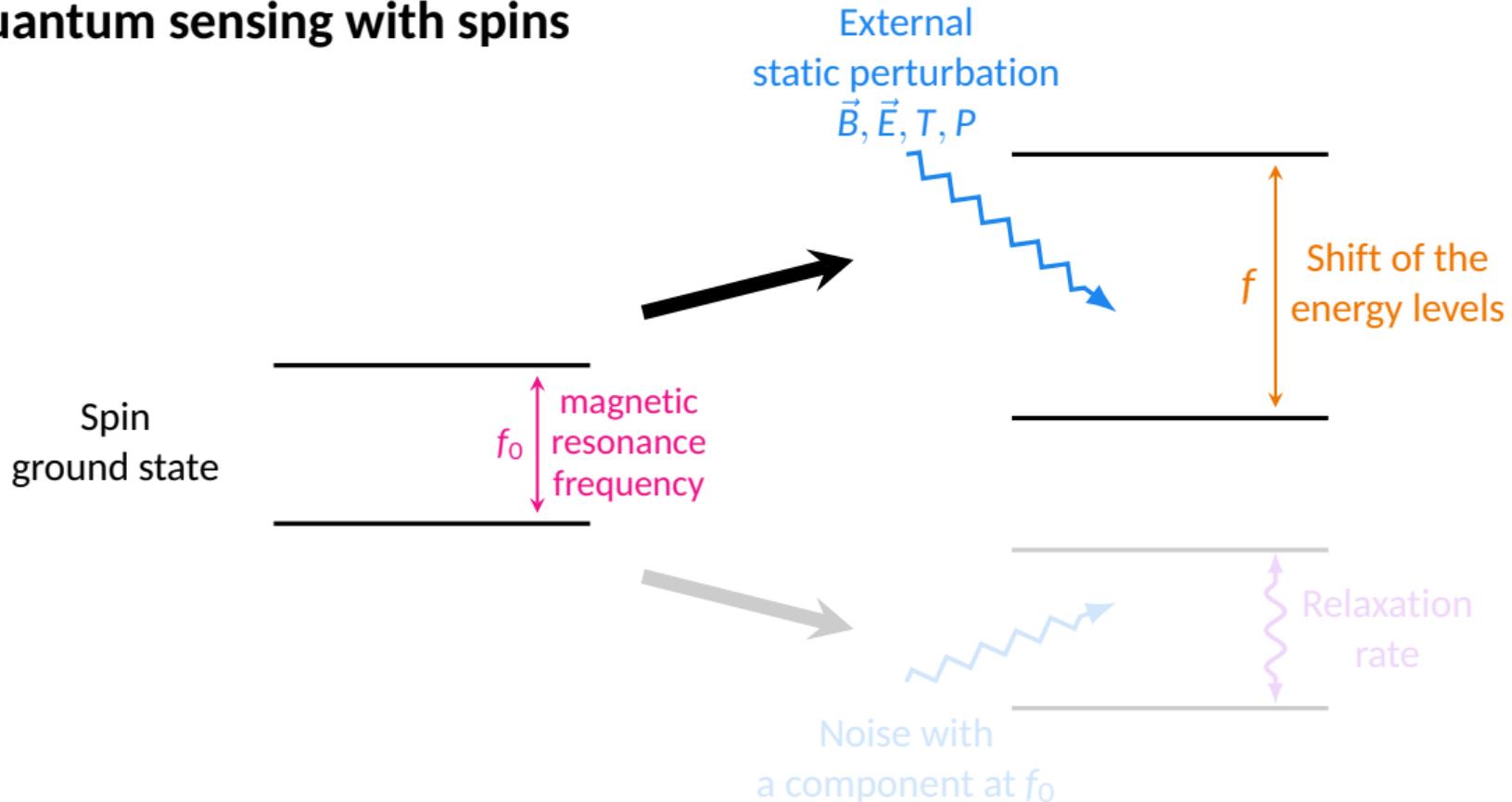
# Quantum sensing with spins



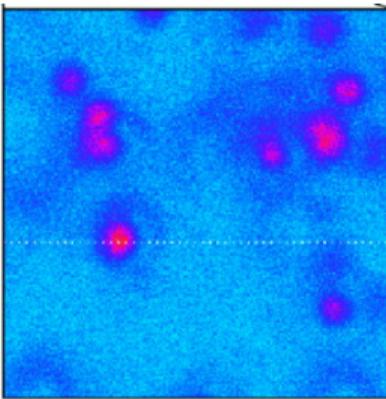
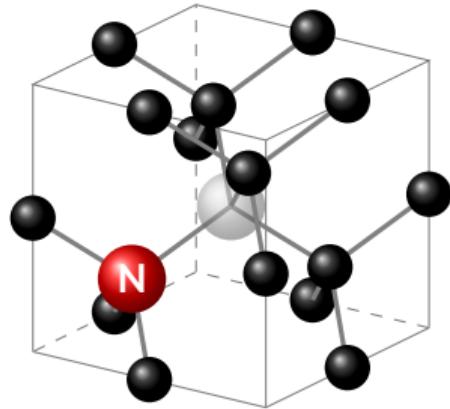
# Quantum sensing with spins



# Quantum sensing with spins



# Our quantum sensor: the NV center in diamond



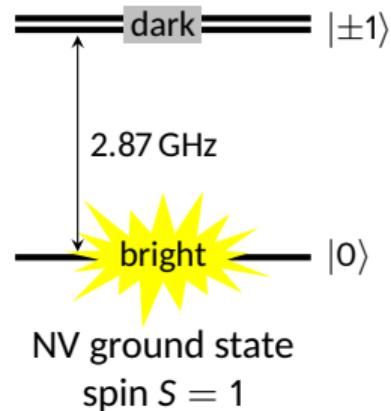
Nitrogen-Vacancy defect

- Photostable defect
- Spin  $S=1$
- Individual defects can be isolated/implanted
- Ambient conditions

 A. Gruber et al. *Science* 276 (1997), 2012

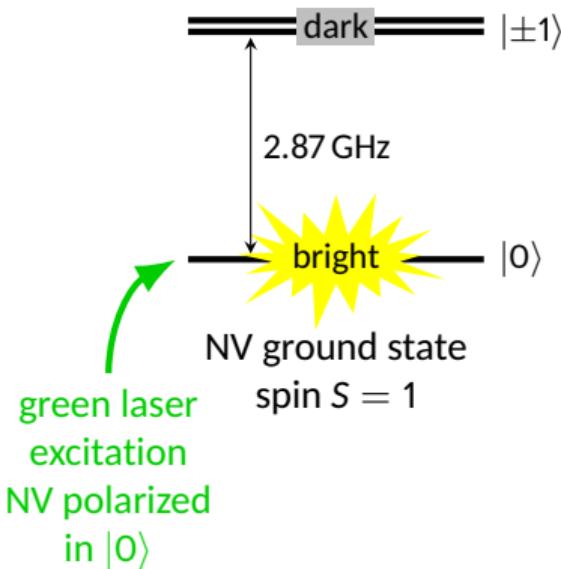
# Principle of the magnetic field measurement

Spin-dependent  
fluorescence

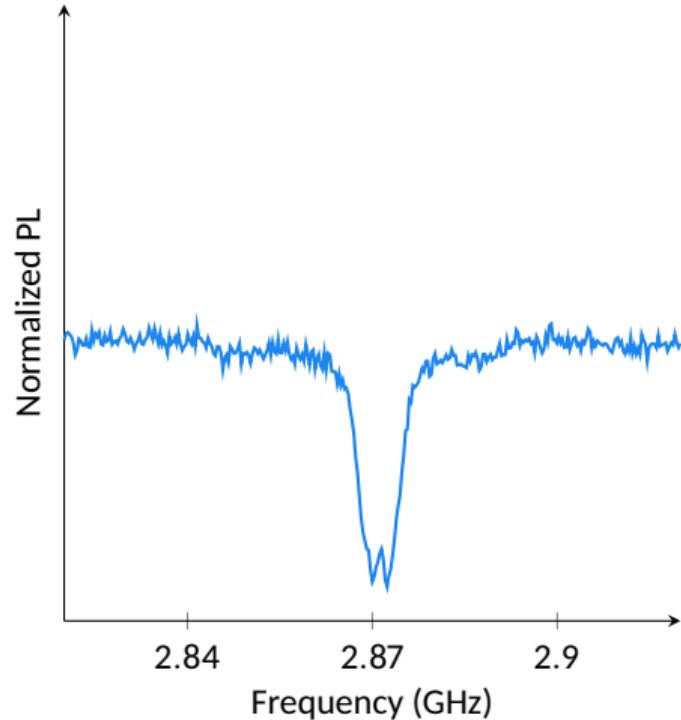
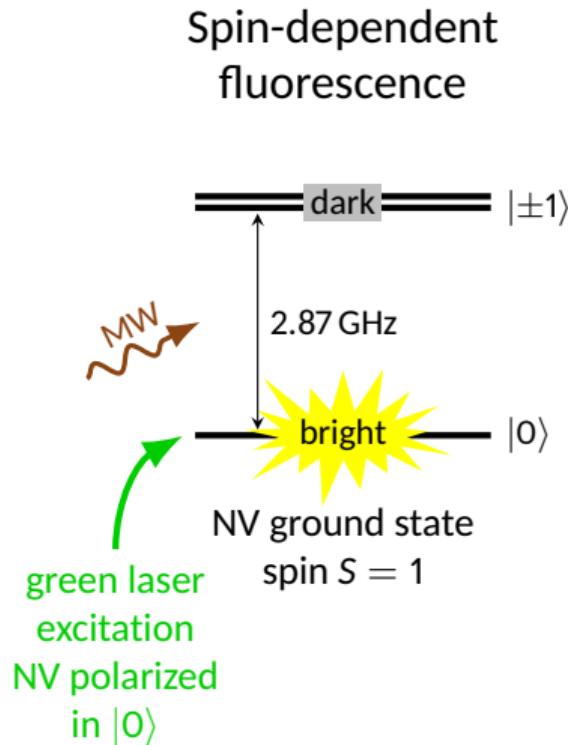


# Principle of the magnetic field measurement

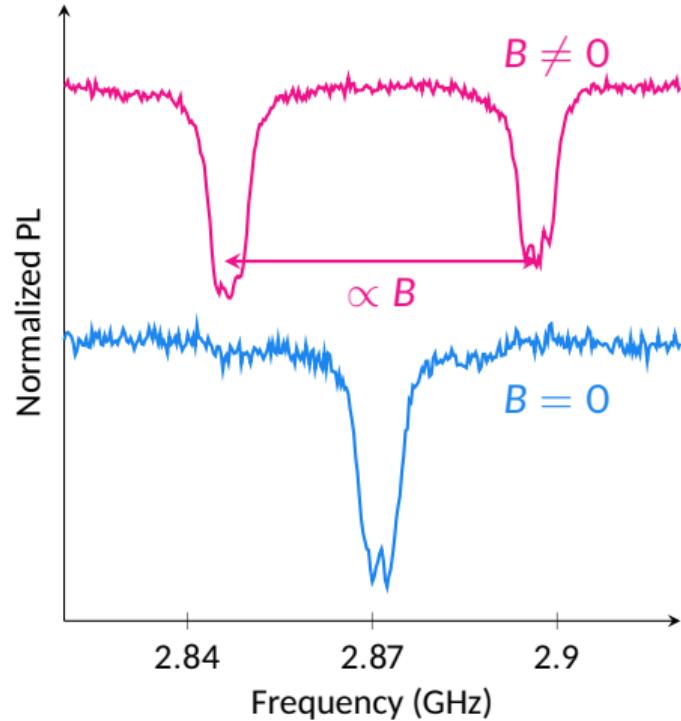
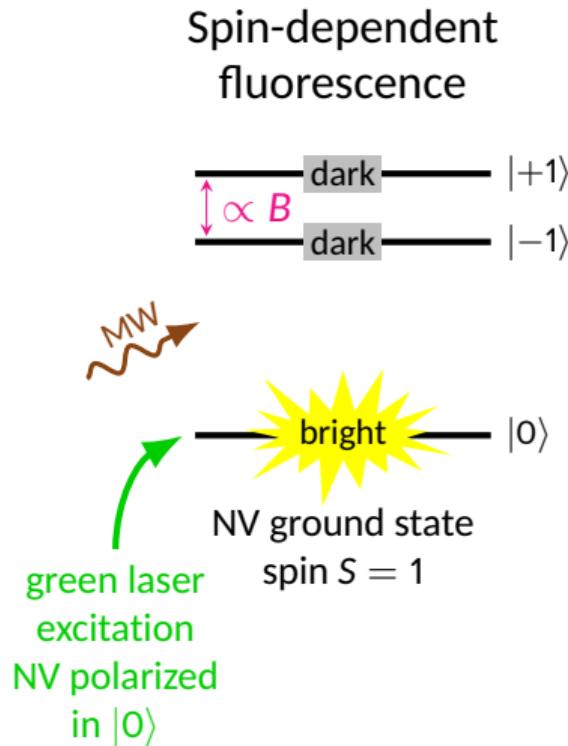
Spin-dependent  
fluorescence



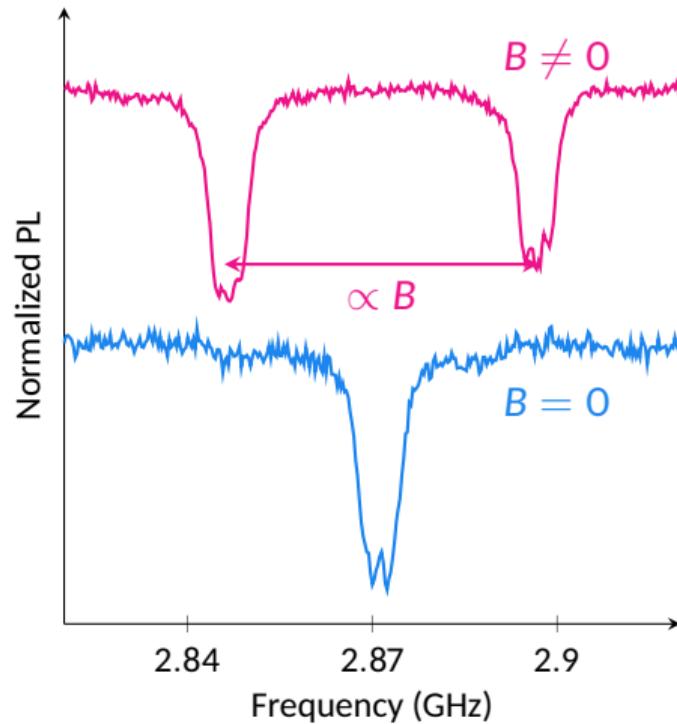
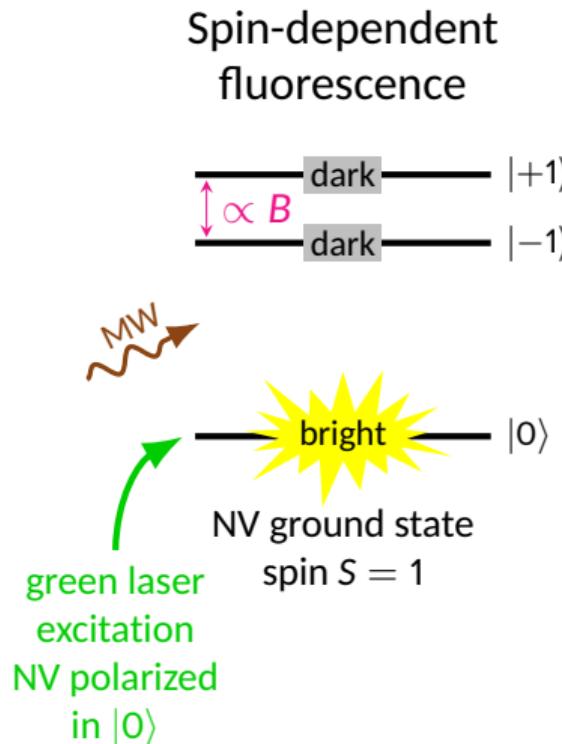
# Principle of the magnetic field measurement



# Principle of the magnetic field measurement



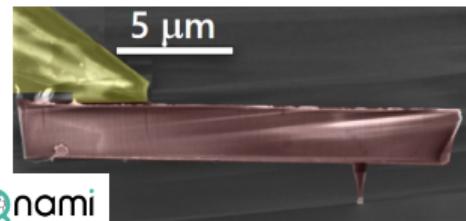
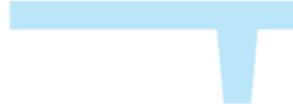
# Principle of the magnetic field measurement



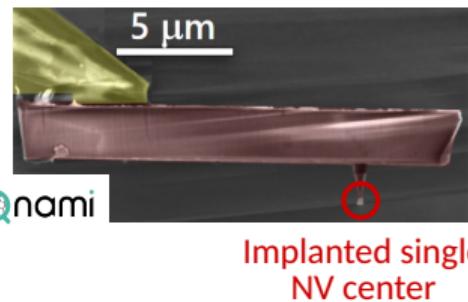
Sensibility: a few  $\mu\text{T}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$

# The scanning NV microscope setup

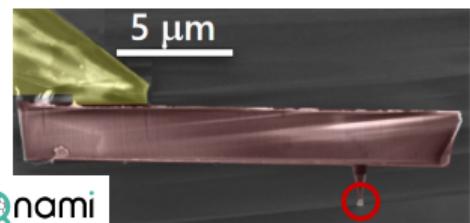
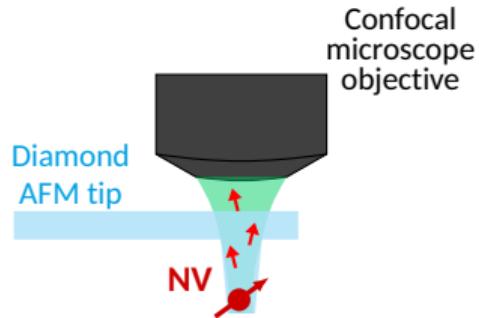
Diamond  
AFM tip



# The scanning NV microscope setup

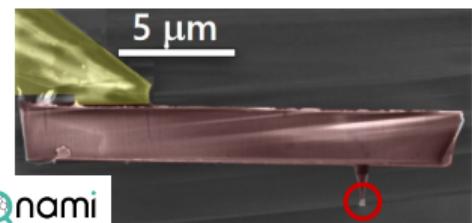
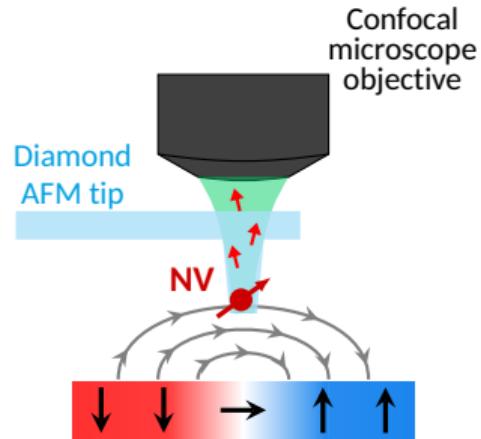


# The scanning NV microscope setup



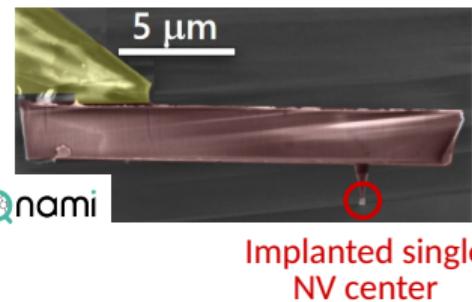
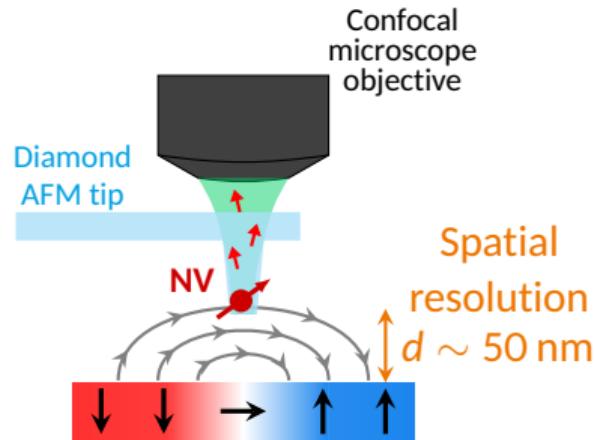
Implanted single  
NV center

# The scanning NV microscope setup



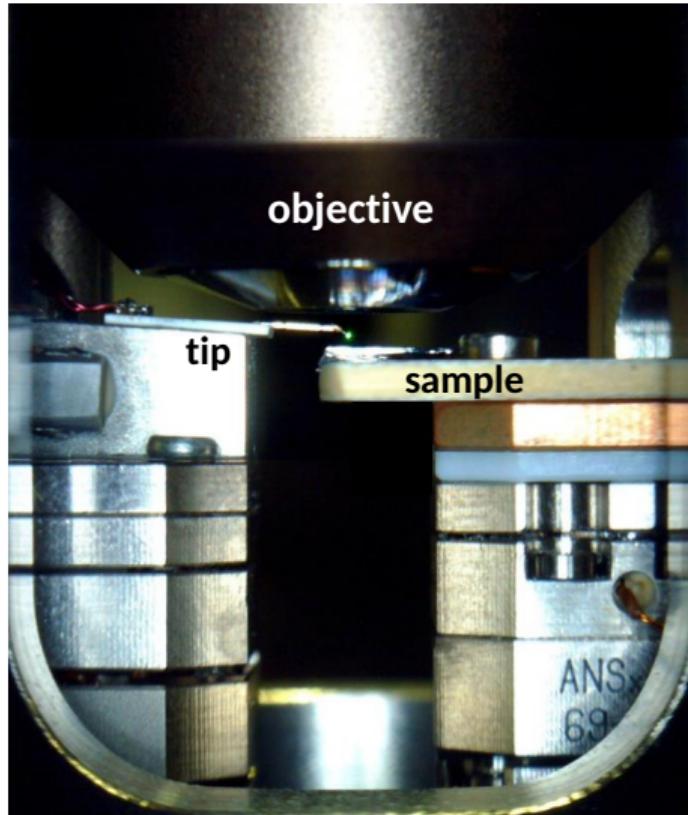
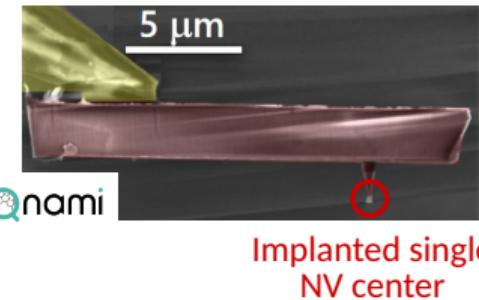
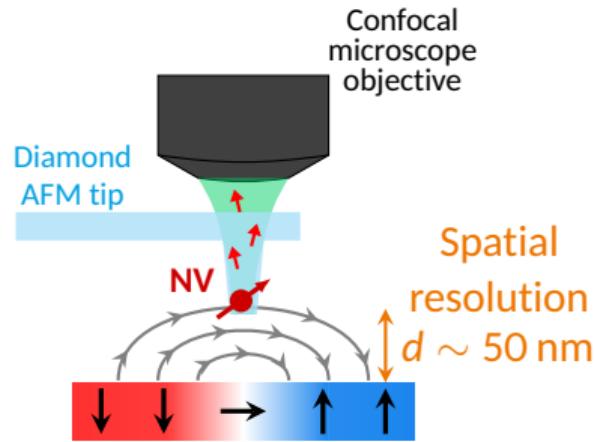
Implanted single  
NV center

# The scanning NV microscope setup



P. Maletinsky et al. *Nat. Nano.* 7 (2012), 320

# The scanning NV microscope setup



# Application to nanoscale magnetic texture imaging

Quantitative

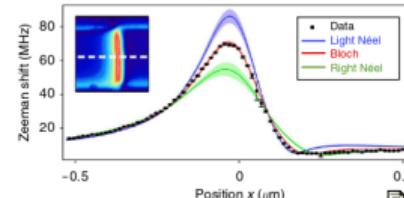
Non-perturbative

Highly sensitive

# Application to nanoscale magnetic texture imaging

## Determination of domain wall chirality

Quantitative



J.-P. Tetienne et al. *Nat Commun.* 6 (2015), 6733

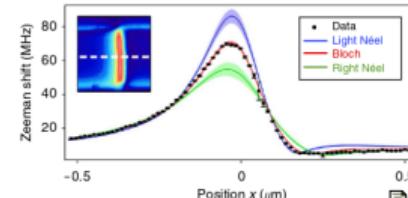
Non-perturbative

Highly sensitive

# Application to nanoscale magnetic texture imaging

Quantitative

## Determination of domain wall chirality

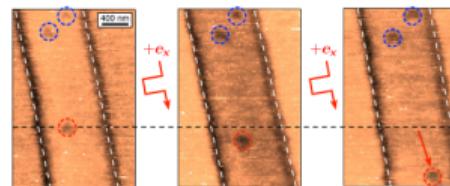


J.-P. Tetienne et al. *Nat Commun.* 6 (2015), 6733

Non-perturbative

Highly sensitive

## Imaging of current-induced skyrmion movement

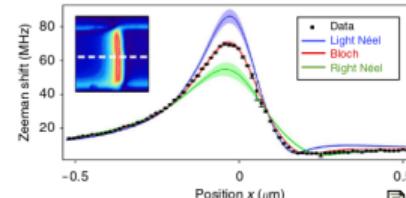


W. Akhtar et al. *Phys. Rev. Appl.* 11 (2019), 034066

# Application to nanoscale magnetic texture imaging

Quantitative

## Determination of domain wall chirality

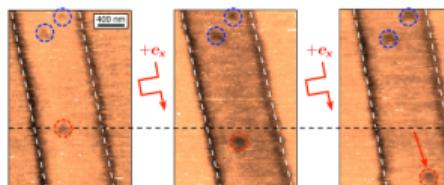


J.-P. Tetienne et al. *Nat Commun.* 6 (2015), 6733

Non-perturbative

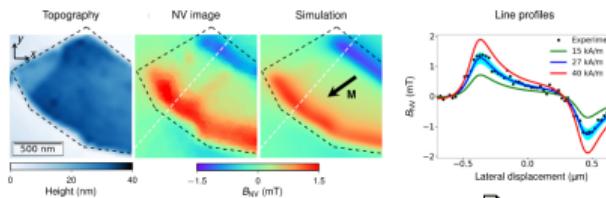
Highly sensitive

## Imaging of current-induced skyrmion movement



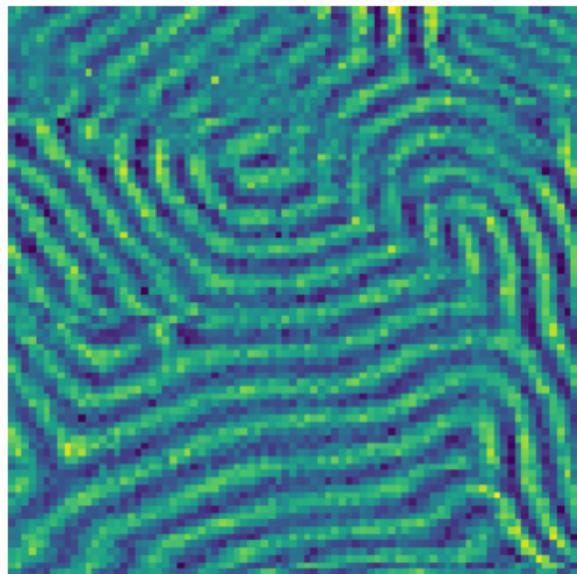
W. Akhtar et al. *Phys. Rev. Appl.* 11 (2019), 034066

## Quantitative characterization of 2D ferromagnets



F. Fabre et al. *Phys. Rev. Mat.* 5 (2021), 034008

# Topological defects in BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

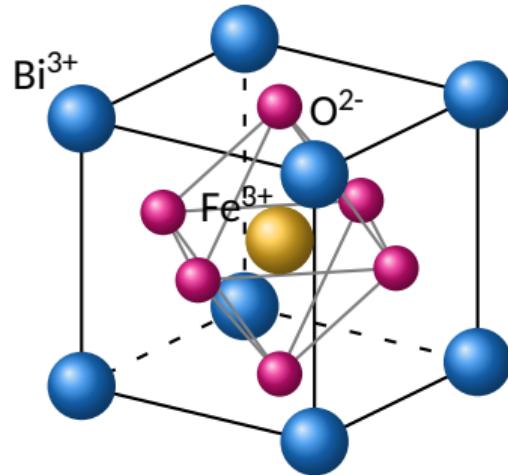


Antiferromagnetic multiferroic  
bismuth ferrite

 A. Finco *et al.* [Phys. Rev. Lett. 128 \(2022\), 187201](#)

# Bismuth ferrite, a room-temperature multiferroic

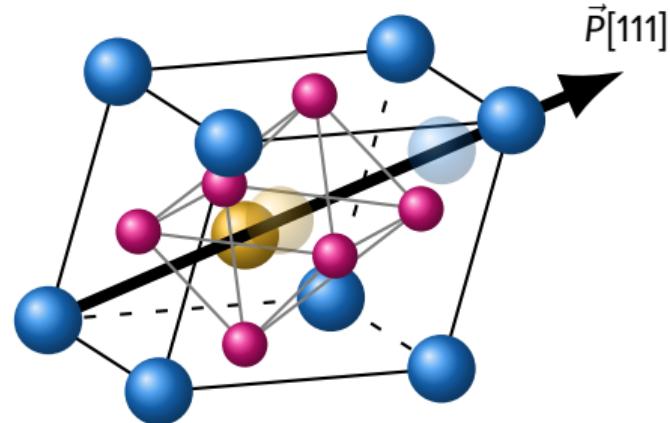
## Electric polarization



Paraelectric phase ( $T > 1100$  K)

# Bismuth ferrite, a room-temperature multiferroic

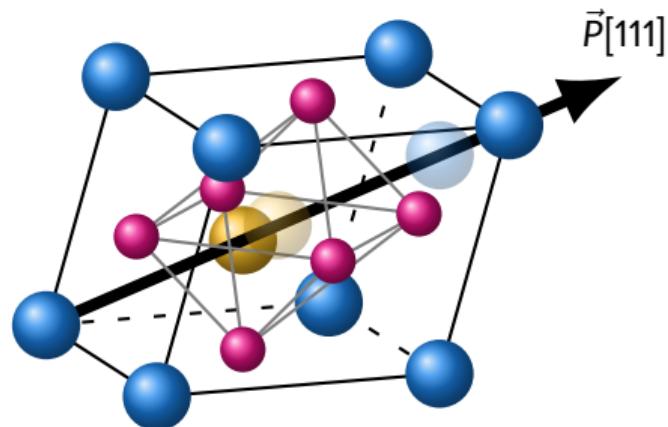
Electric polarization



Ferroelectric phase ( $T < 1100$  K)

# Bismuth ferrite, a room-temperature multiferroic

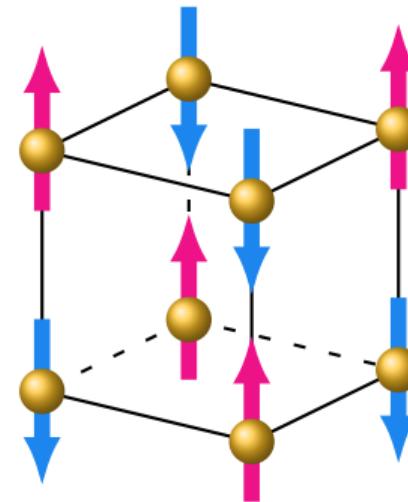
Electric polarization



Ferroelectric phase ( $T < 1100$  K)

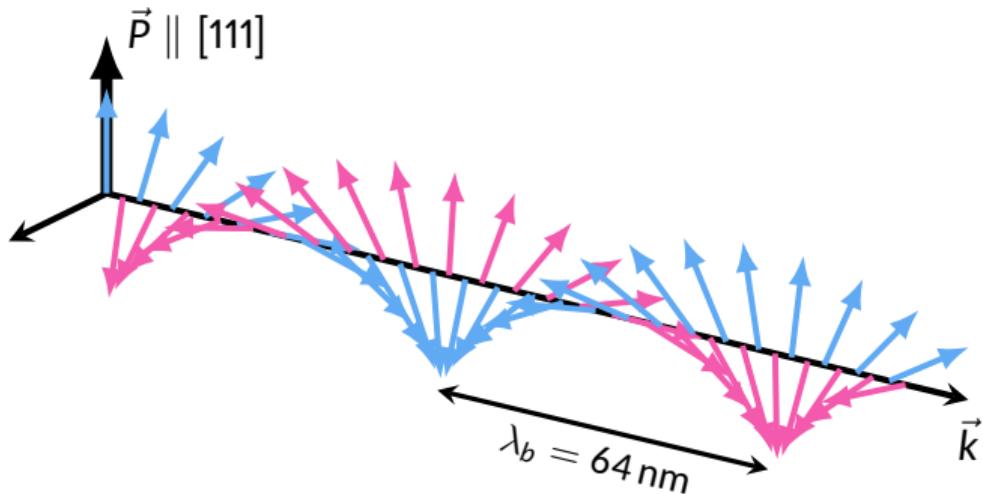
G. Catalan et al. *Adv. Mater.* 21 (2009), 2463–2485

Magnetism



G-type antiferromagnetic  
phase ( $T_N = 643$  K)

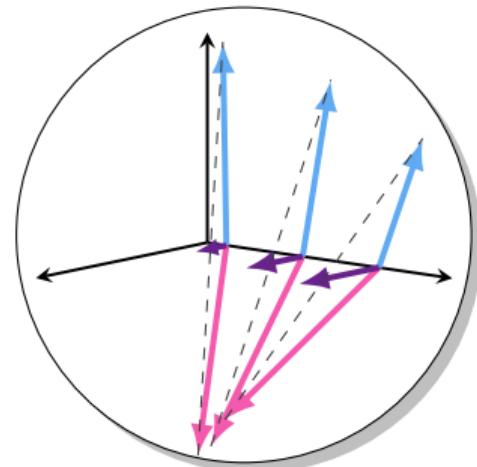
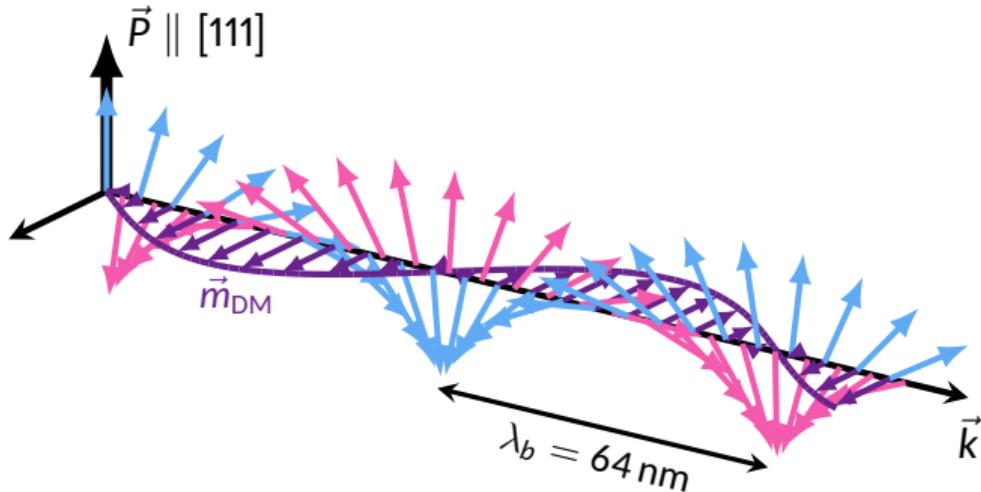
# The effects of magnetoelectric coupling in BiFeO<sub>3</sub>



Fully compensated cycloid

→ **No stray field!**

# The effects of magnetoelectric coupling in BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

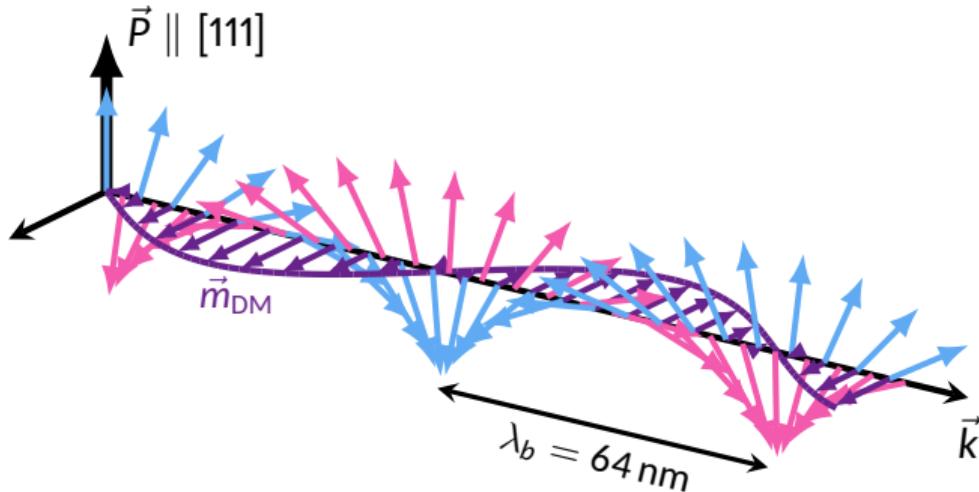


Spin density wave

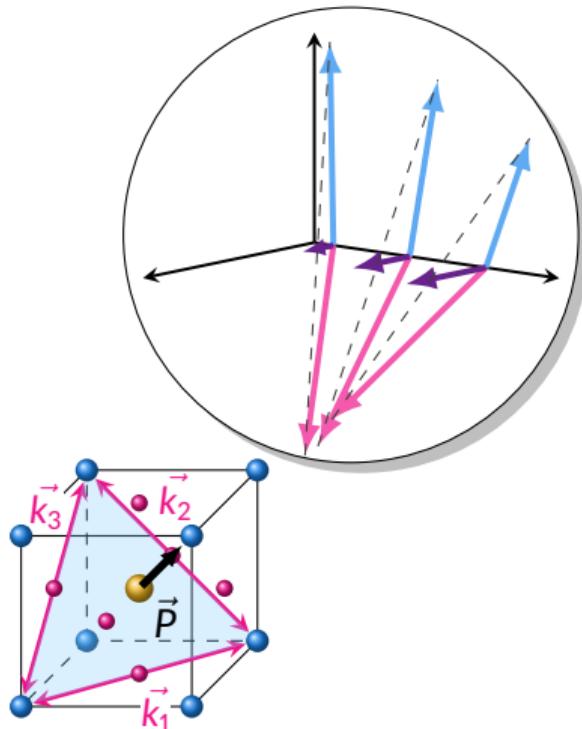
Weak uncompensated moment

→ Small stray field

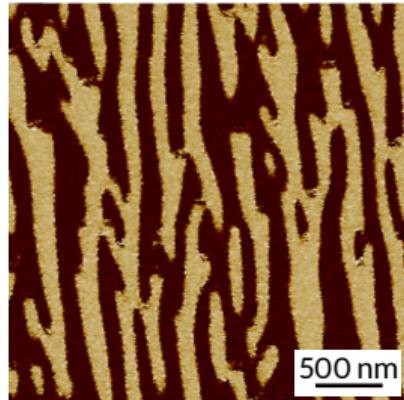
# The effects of magnetoelectric coupling in BiFeO<sub>3</sub>



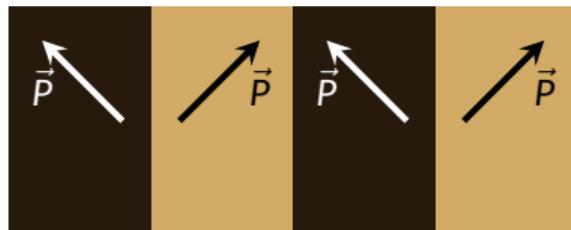
Spin density wave  
Weak uncompensated moment  
→ Small stray field



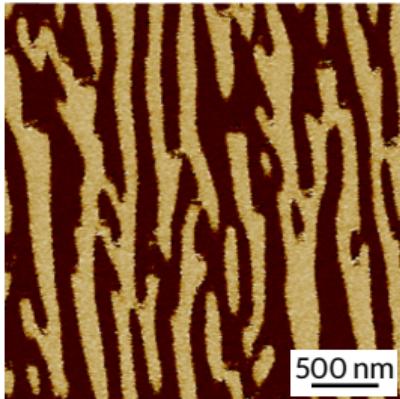
# The cycloid in a low strained BiFeO<sub>3</sub> thin film



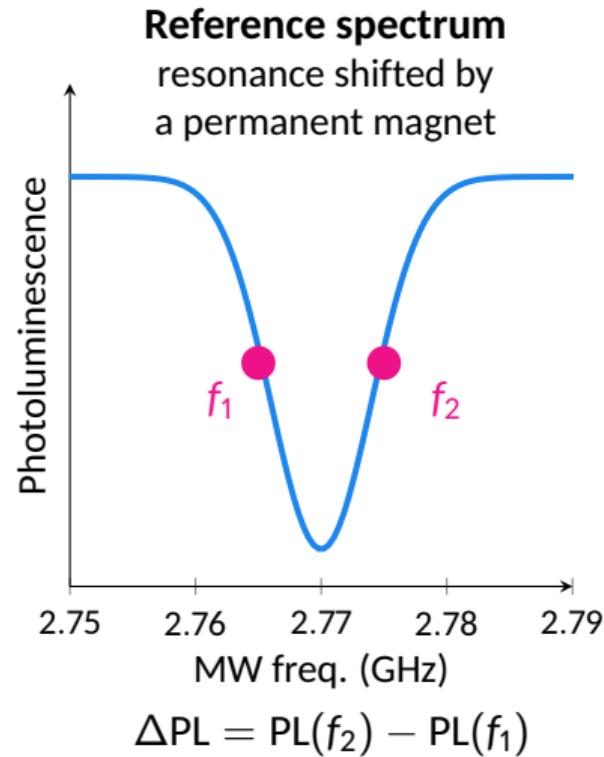
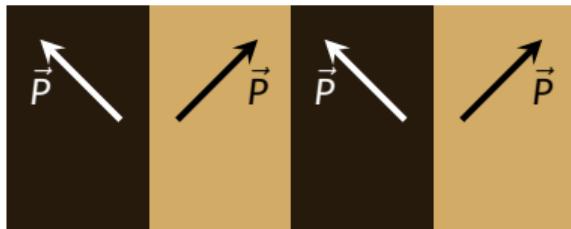
PFM image  
ferroelectric domains



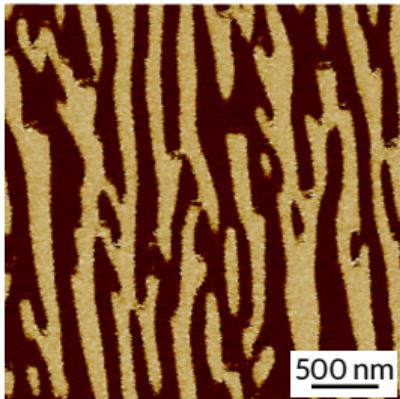
# The cycloid in a low strained BiFeO<sub>3</sub> thin film



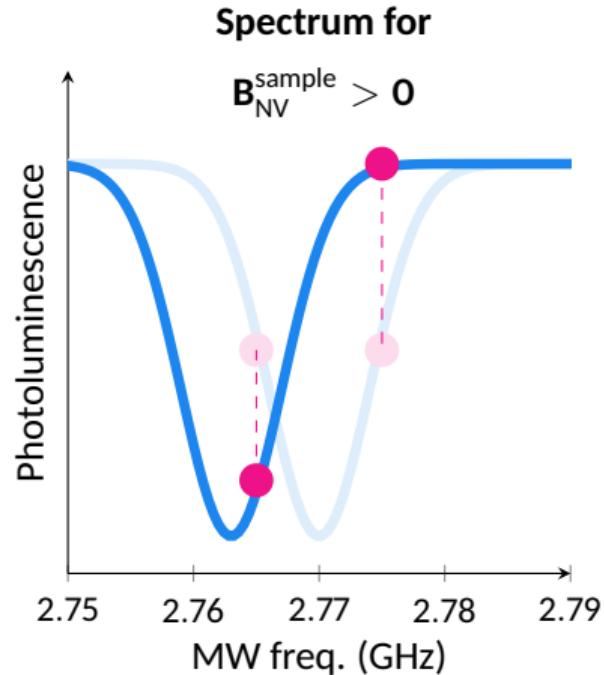
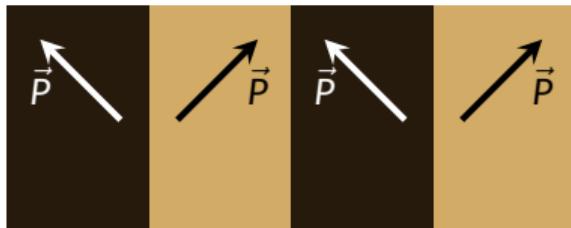
PFM image  
ferroelectric domains



# The cycloid in a low strained BiFeO<sub>3</sub> thin film



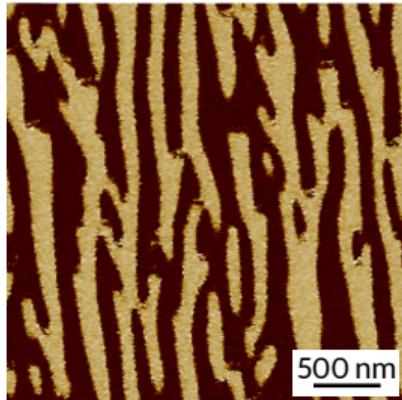
PFM image  
ferroelectric domains



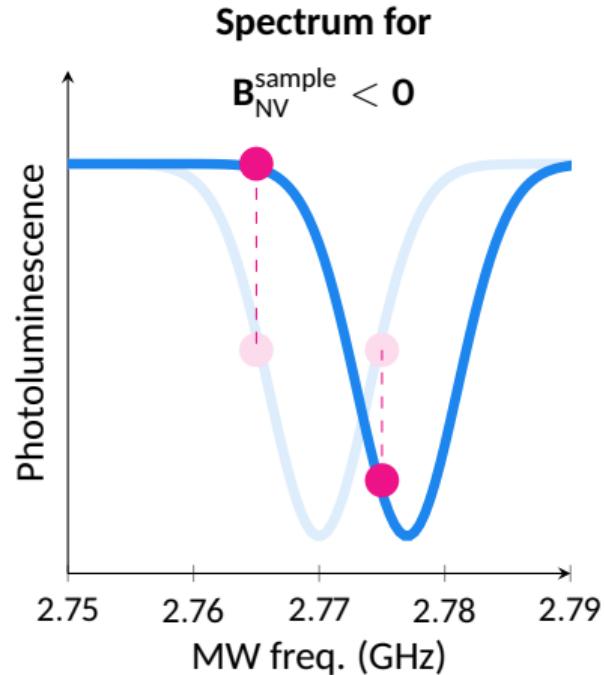
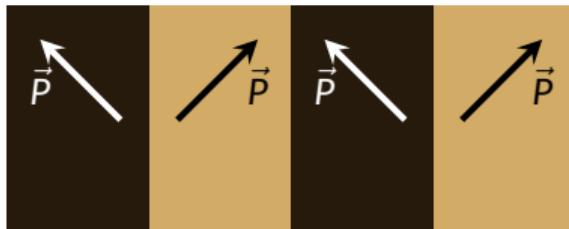
$$\Delta PL = PL(f_2) - PL(f_1)$$

$$\Delta PL > 0$$

# The cycloid in a low strained BiFeO<sub>3</sub> thin film



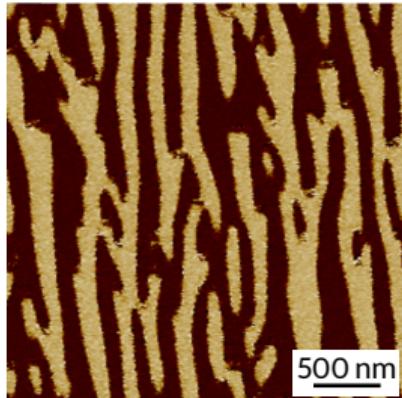
PFM image  
ferroelectric domains



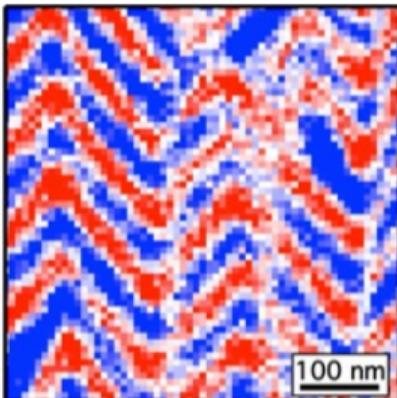
$$\Delta PL = PL(f_2) - PL(f_1)$$

$$\Delta PL < 0$$

# The cycloid in a low strained BiFeO<sub>3</sub> thin film

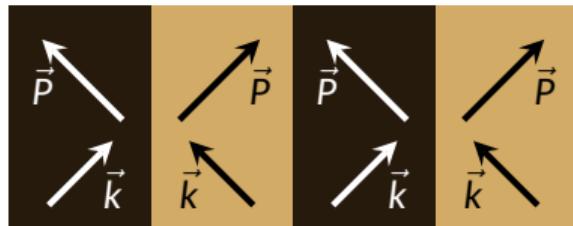


PFM image  
ferroelectric domains

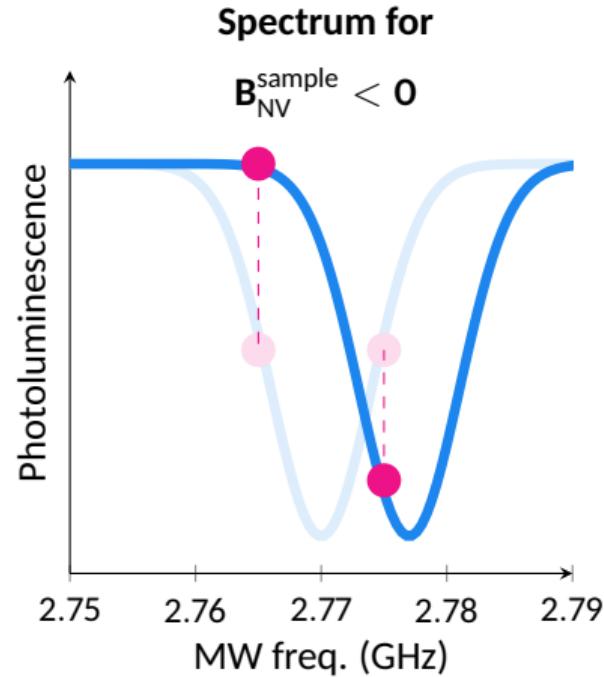


NV image  
cycloid

iso-B  
signal  
norm.  
1  
0  
-1



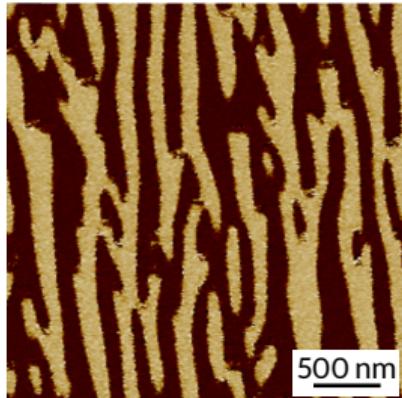
$\vec{k}_1$  wavevector



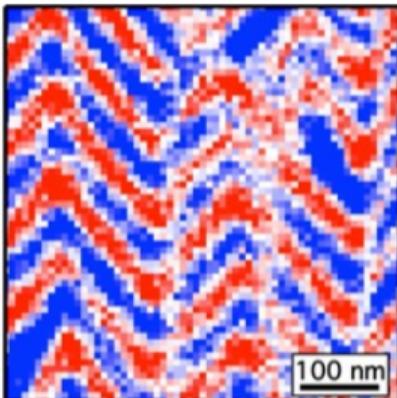
$$\Delta PL = PL(f_2) - PL(f_1)$$

$$\Delta PL < 0$$

# The cycloid in a low strained BiFeO<sub>3</sub> thin film

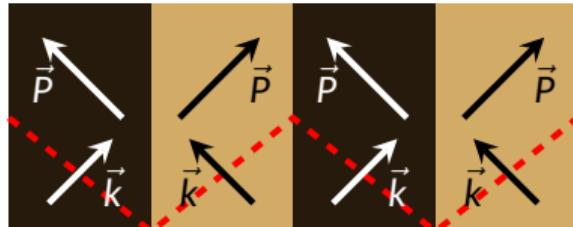


PFM image  
ferroelectric domains

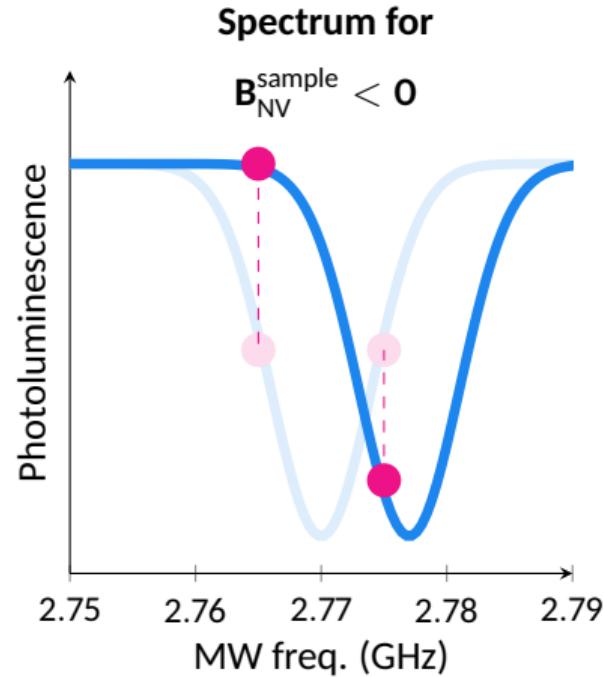


NV image  
cycloid

iso-B  
signal  
norm.  
1  
0  
-1



$\vec{k}_1$  wavevector



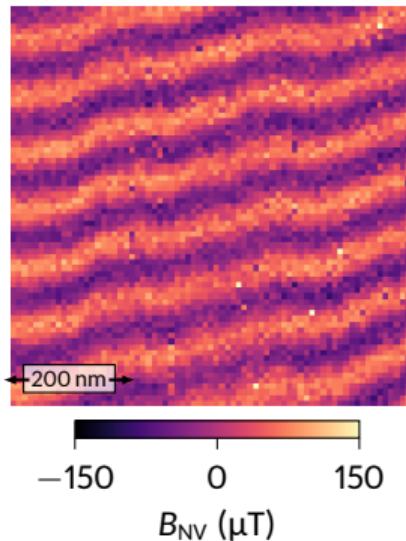
$$\Delta PL = PL(f_2) - PL(f_1)$$

$$\Delta PL < 0$$

# Quantitative analysis of the cycloid in bulk single crystal

Collaborations: UMR CNRS/Thales, Palaiseau (V. Garcia, S. Fusil)

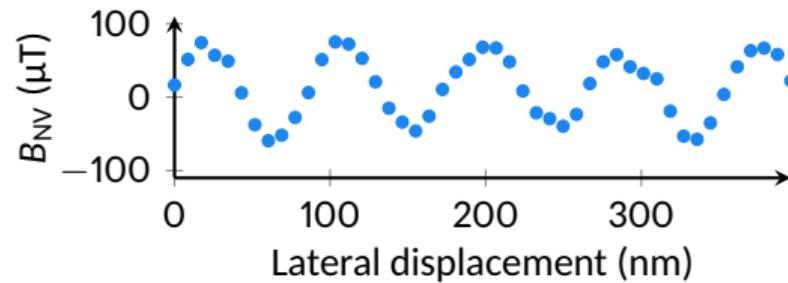
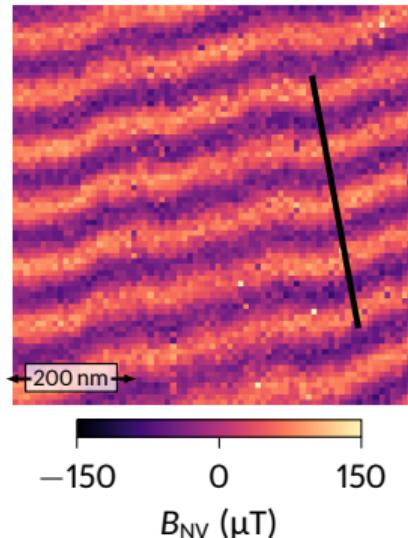
CEA SPEC, Gif-sur-Yvette (J.-Y. Chauleau, M. Viret)



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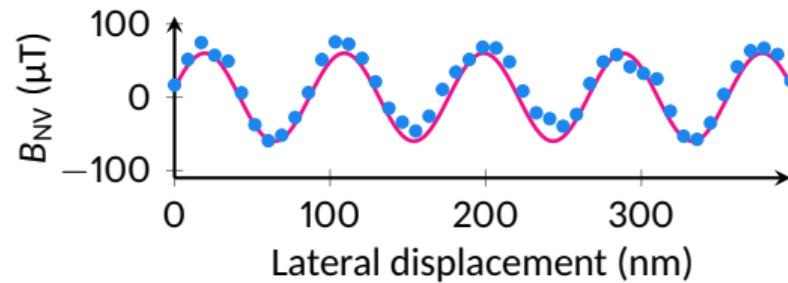
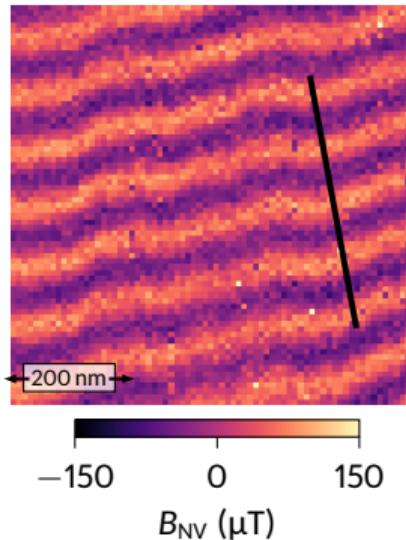
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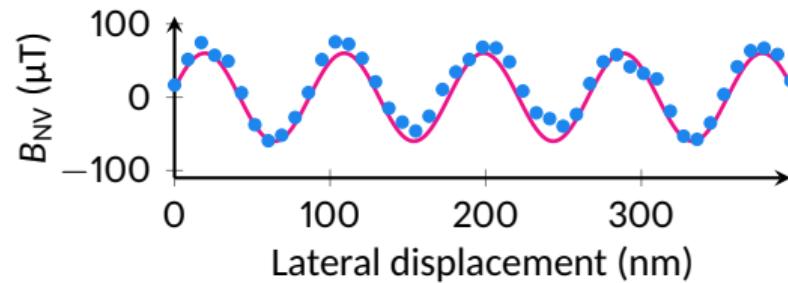
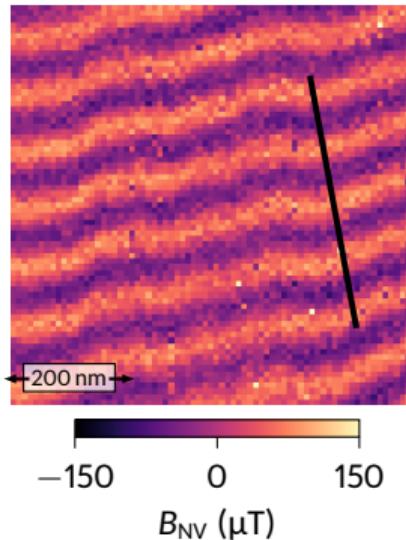


$$\begin{cases} B_x = 0 \\ B_y = -\frac{A}{\sqrt{2}} (\text{Re}\{S\} - \text{Im}\{S\}) \\ B_z = \sqrt{2} A \text{Re}\{S\} \end{cases} \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{cases} A = \frac{\mu_0 m_{\text{DM}}}{\sqrt{3} a^3} \sinh\left(\frac{ka}{2\sqrt{2}}\right) \\ S = e^{-kz/\sqrt{2}} e^{ik(y-z)/\sqrt{2}} \frac{1 - e^{-kt(1+i)/\sqrt{2}}}{1 - e^{-ka(1+i)/\sqrt{2}}} \end{cases}$$

# Quantitative analysis of the cycloid in bulk single crystal

Collaborations: UMR CNRS/Thales, Palaiseau (V. Garcia, S. Fusil)

CEA SPEC, Gif-sur-Yvette (J.-Y. Chauleau, M. Viret)



$$m_{\text{DM}} = 0.09 \pm 0.03 \mu_B$$

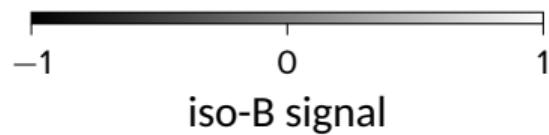
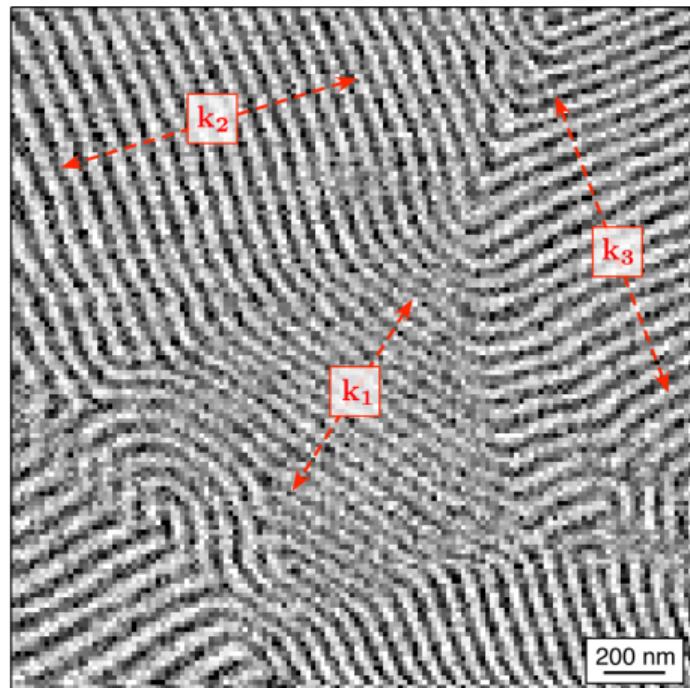
M. Ramazanoglu et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 107 (2011), 207206

$$\begin{cases} B_x = 0 \\ B_y = -\frac{A}{\sqrt{2}} (\text{Re}\{S\} - \text{Im}\{S\}) \\ B_z = \sqrt{2} A \text{Re}\{S\} \end{cases}$$

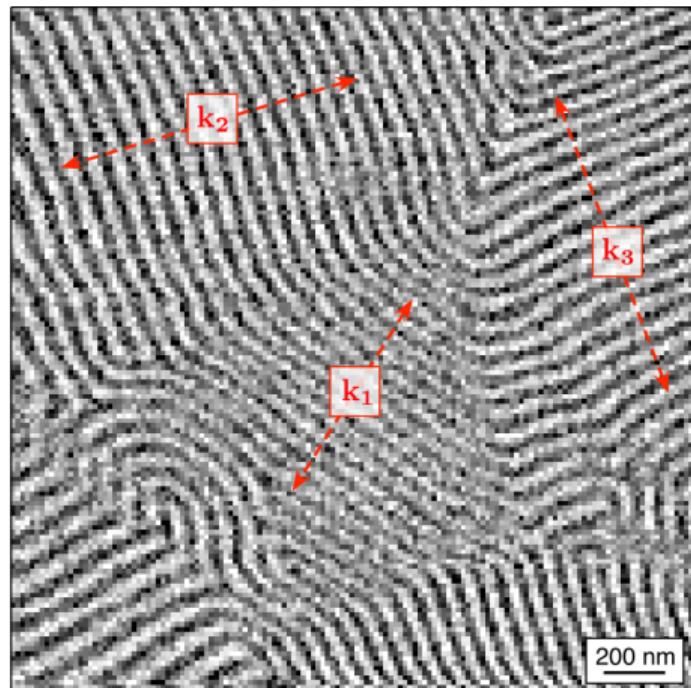
with

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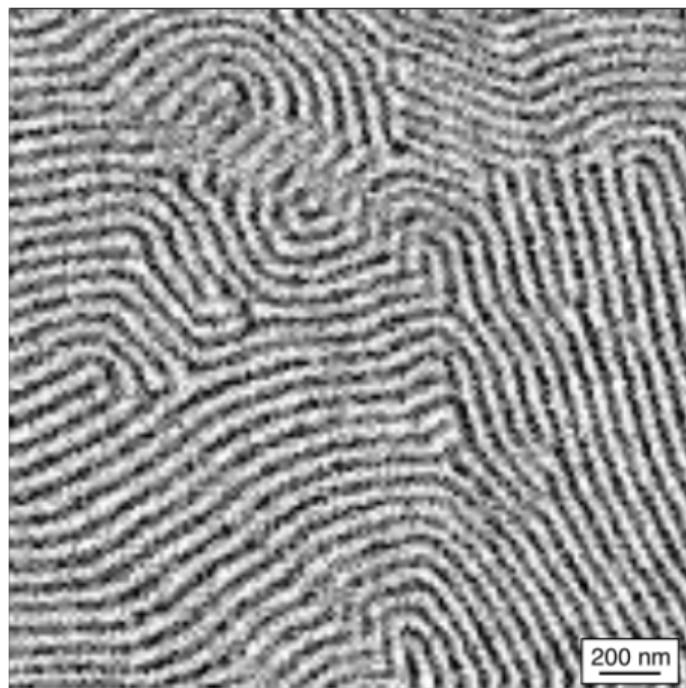
# Rotation of the cycloid propagation direction measured in real space...



# Rotation of the cycloid propagation direction measured in real space...



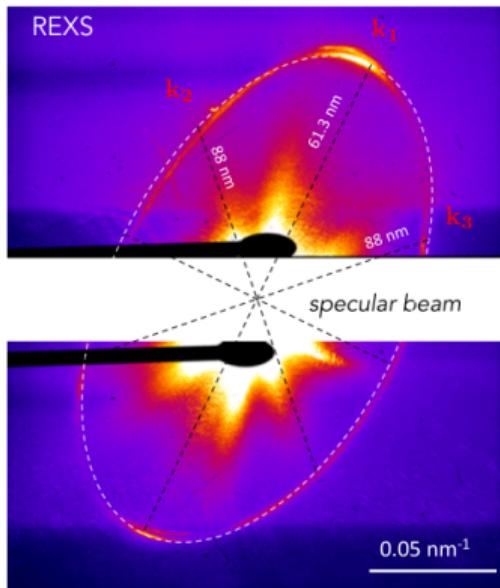
iso-B signal



iso-B signal

# ... and in reciprocal space

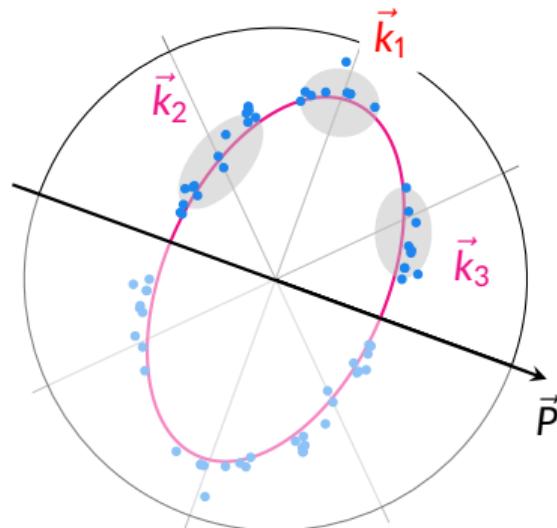
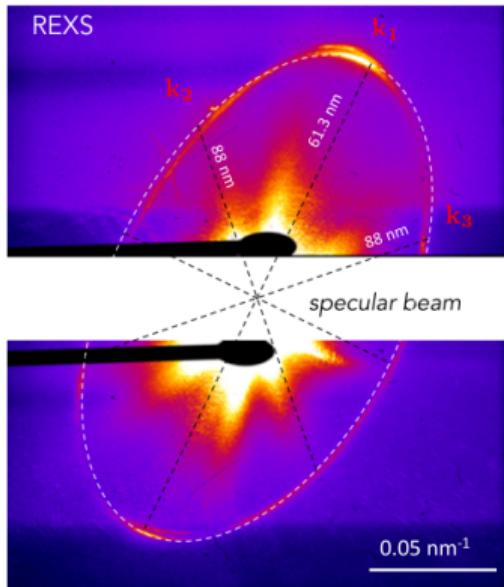
Resonant X-ray scattering



# ... and in reciprocal space

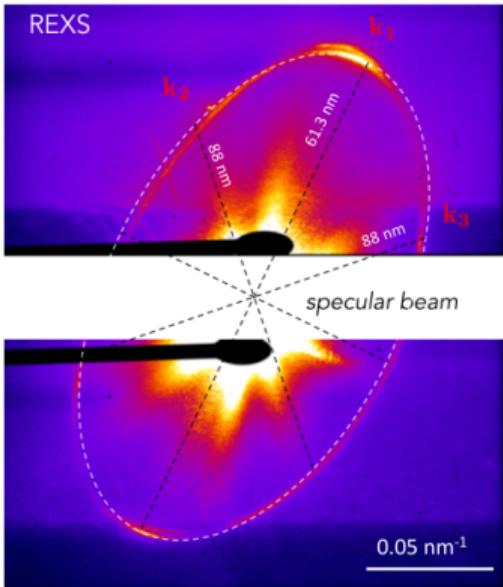
Polar plot of  $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$  vs  $\vec{k}$  direction

Resonant X-ray scattering

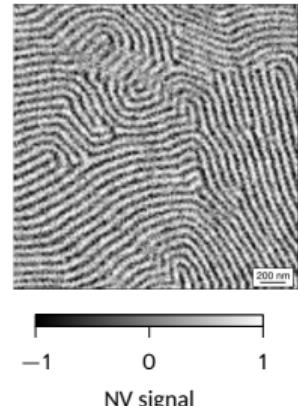
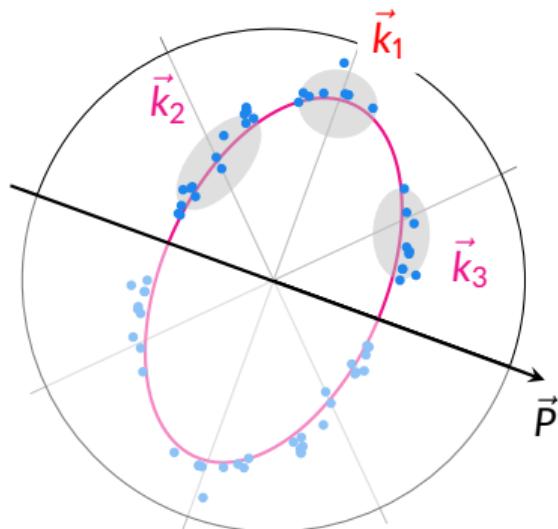


# ... and in reciprocal space

Resonant X-ray scattering

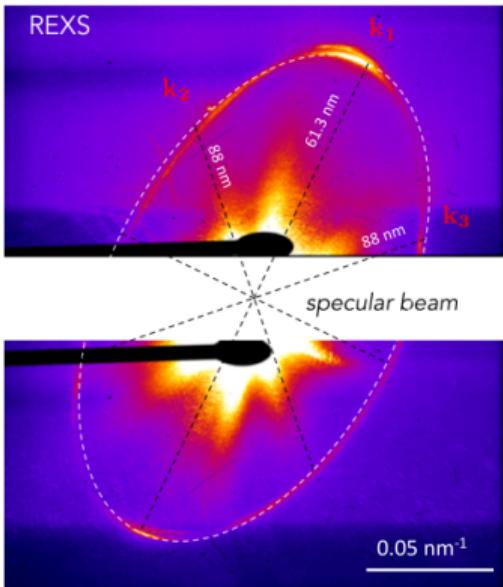


Polar plot of  $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$  vs  $\vec{k}$  direction

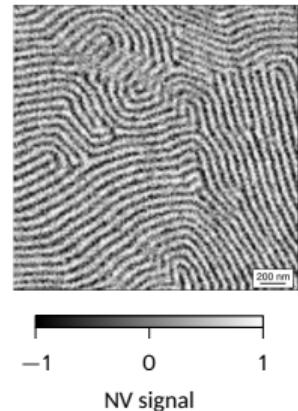
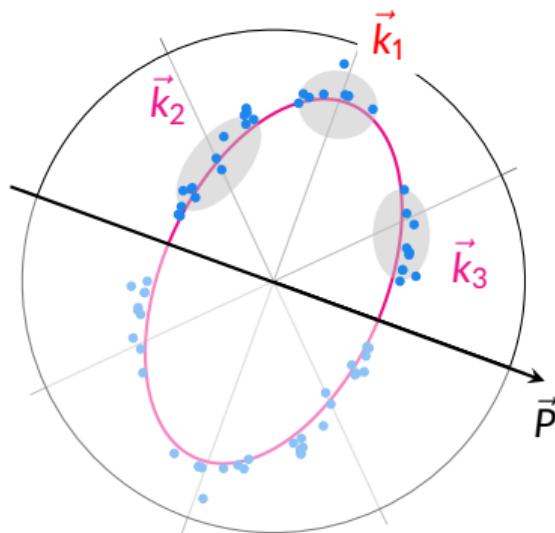


# ... and in reciprocal space

Resonant X-ray scattering



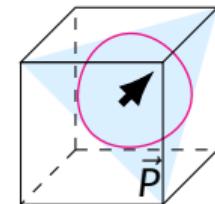
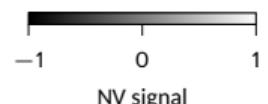
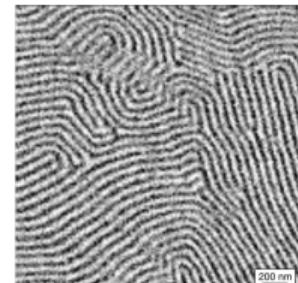
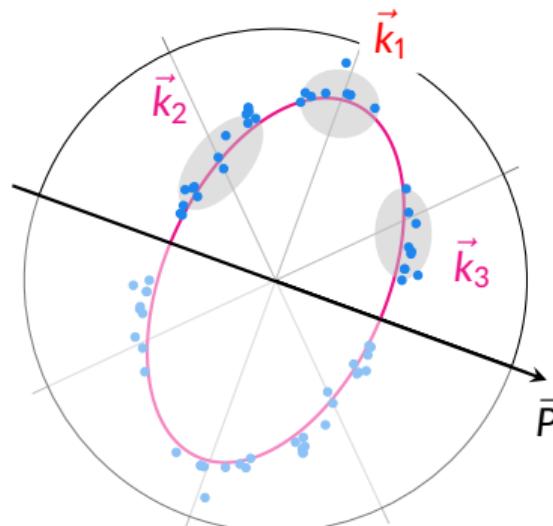
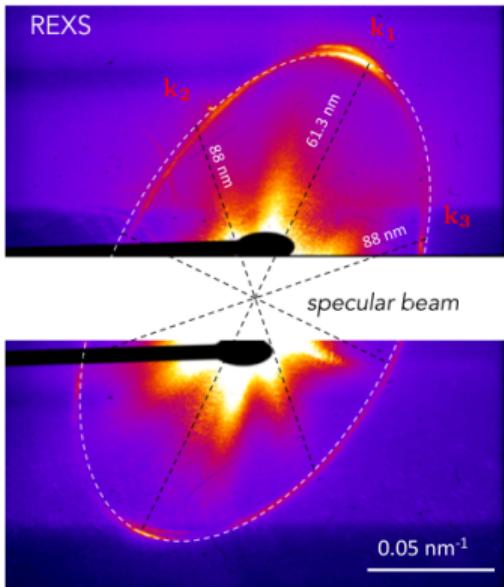
Polar plot of  $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$  vs  $\vec{k}$  direction



... and in reciprocal space

Polar plot of  $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$  vs  $\vec{k}$  direction

Resonant X-ray scattering



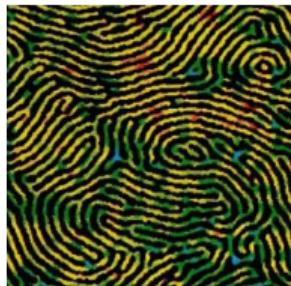
Surface effect? Only  $\vec{k}_1$  seen by neutrons

D. Lebeugle et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 100 (2008), 227602

# Universal patterns in lamellar systems

Block copolymer

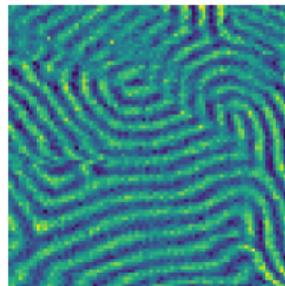
Period 40 nm



T. A. Witten. *Phys. Today* 43 (1990), 21

BiFeO<sub>3</sub> magnetic cycloid

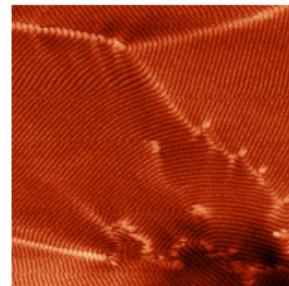
Period 64 nm



A. Finco et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 128 (2022), 187201

FeGe magnetic helix

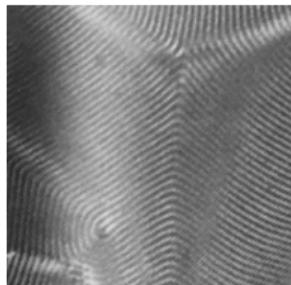
Period 70 nm



P. Schönherr et al. *Nat. Phys.* 14 (2018), 465

Liquid crystals

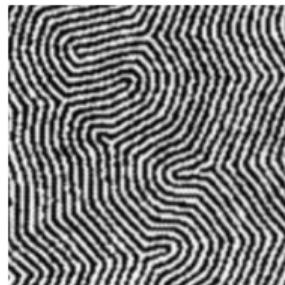
Period 800 nm



Y. Bouligand. *Dislocations in solids* (1983), Chap. 23

Ferrimagnetic garnet

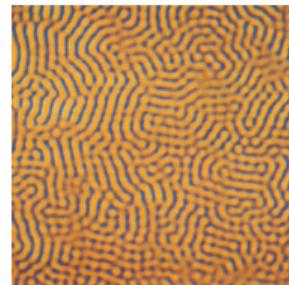
Period 8  $\mu\text{m}$



M. Seul et al. *Phys. Rev. A* 46 (1992), 7519

Fluid diffusion

Period 250  $\mu\text{m}$



Q. Ouyang et al. *Chaos* 1 (1991), 411

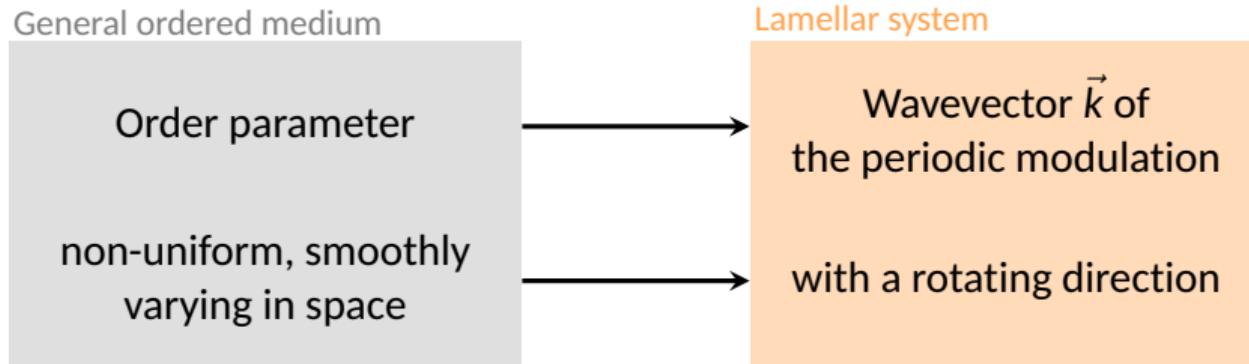
# Topological defects in lamellar systems

General ordered medium

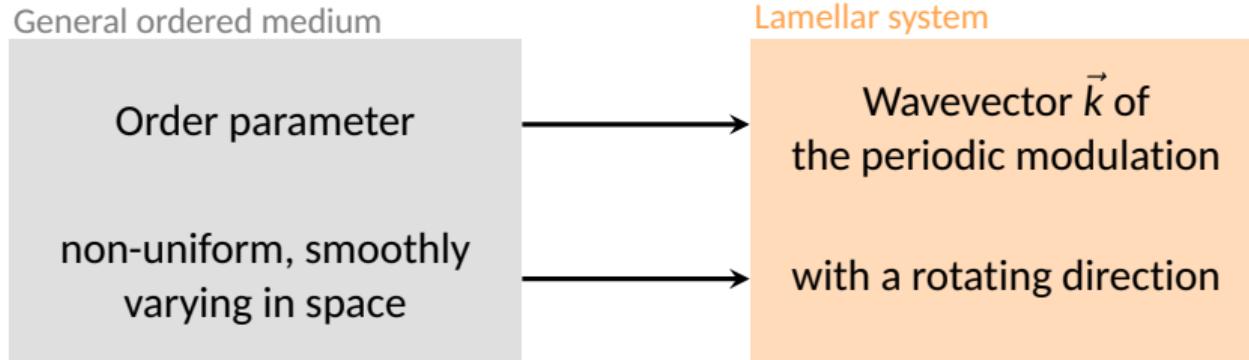
Order parameter

non-uniform, smoothly  
varying in space

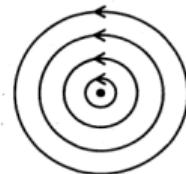
# Topological defects in lamellar systems



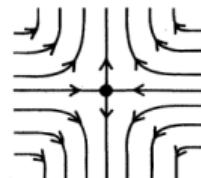
# Topological defects in lamellar systems



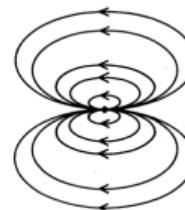
except at singular regions of lower dimensionality → topological defects



disclination  
winding number = 1

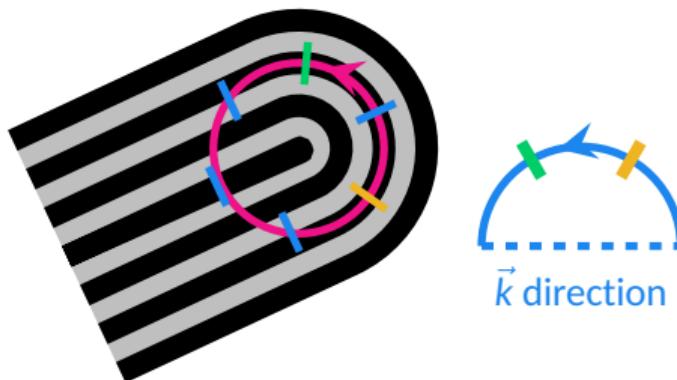
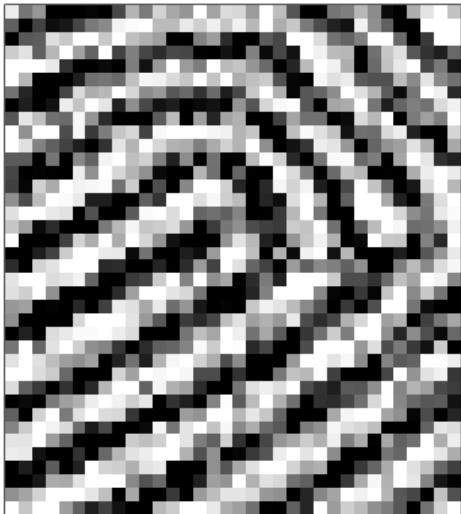


disclination  
winding number = -1



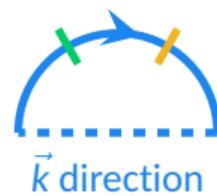
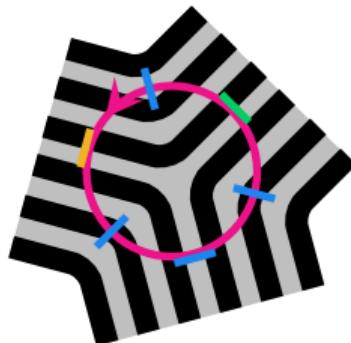
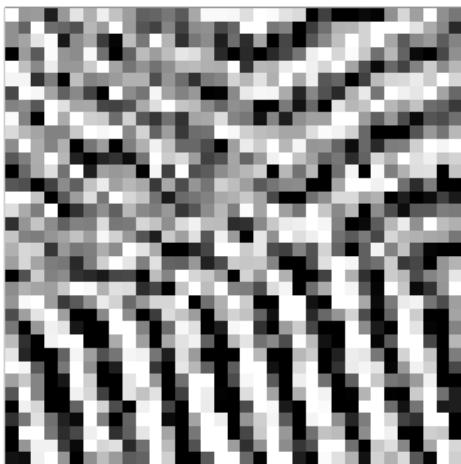
disclination  
winding number = 2

## $+\pi$ -disclination



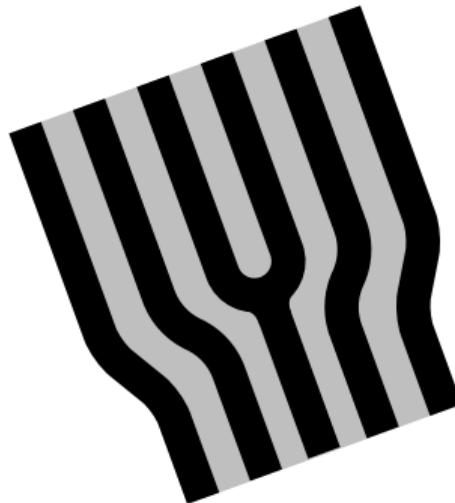
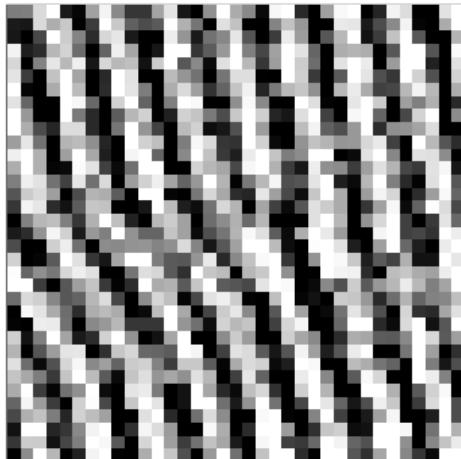
winding number  $+1/2$

## $-\pi$ -disclination



winding number  $-1/2$

# Edge dislocation

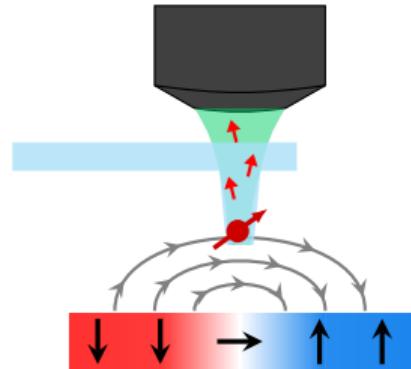


Combination of  
 $+\pi$ - and  $-\pi$ -disclinations

winding number 0

# Summary

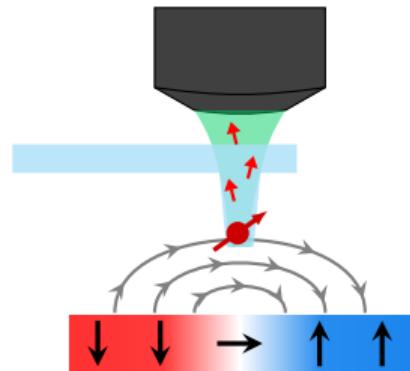
## NV center magnetometry



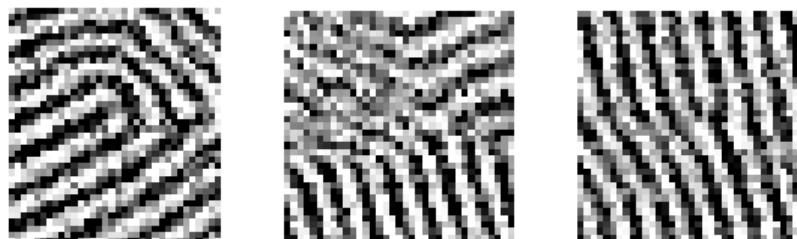
- highly sensitive
- nanoscale
- quantitative
- non-perturbative

# Summary

## NV center magnetometry



## Topological defects in multiferroic BiFeO<sub>3</sub>



- highly sensitive
- nanoscale
- quantitative
- non-perturbative

Towards electric control?

A. Finco et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 128 (2022), 187201

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Anne Forget, Dorothée Colson, Jean-Yves Chauleau, Michel Viret

## Synchrotron Soleil

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