

Exploring spin waves and complex magnetic textures with scanning NV microscopy

Aurore Finco

Laboratoire Charles Coulomb

Team Solid-State Quantum Technologies (S2QT)

CNRS and Université de Montpellier, Montpellier, France



SQLM Workshop, September 24th, Kaiserslautern

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

The team



<https://solidstatequantumtech-l2c.fr/>



Quantum sensing

Isabelle Robert-Philip
Vincent Jacques

Scanning NV

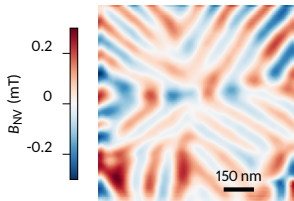
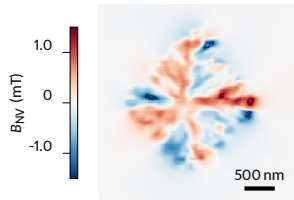
Elias Sfeir
Carolyn Schrader
Roméo Beignon
Elijah Wane

V_B^- in hBN

Tristan Clua-Provost
Jessica Tournaud

Outline

Whirling magnetic textures

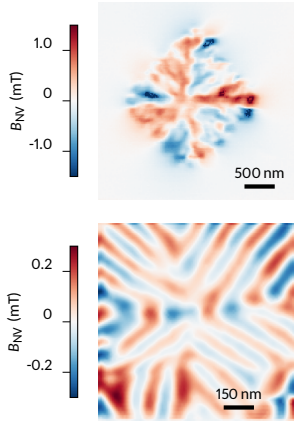


 E. Sfeir et al. [arXiv:2507.03454](https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.03454) (2025)

 A. Chaudron et al. *Nat. Mater.* 23 (2024), 905

Outline

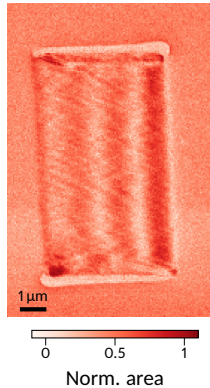
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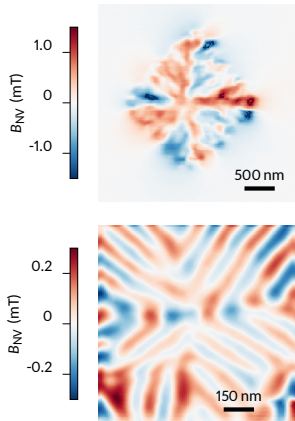
Imaging of spin waves



R. Beignon et al. *in preparation* (2025)

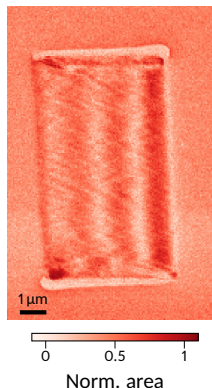
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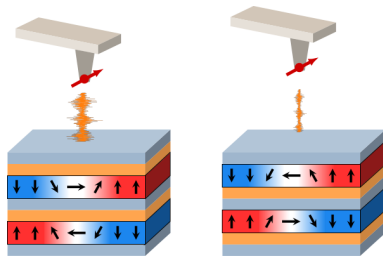
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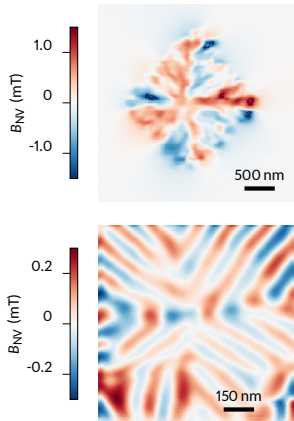
Spin wave noise to probe magnetic handedness



A. Finco et al. *arXiv:2502.03166* (2025)

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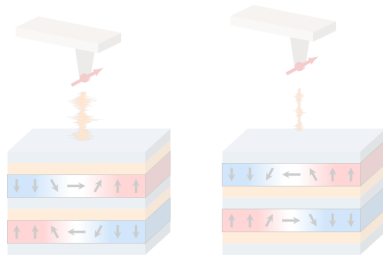
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Effect of confinement in Fe_5GeTe_2 ?

11.8 nm-thick film grown by MBE
with 3 nm-thick Al capping

 M. Ribeiro *et al.* *npj 2D Mater. Appl.* 6 (2022), 10



Jules Courtin, Céline Vergnaud
Matthieu Jamet, Frédéric Bonell

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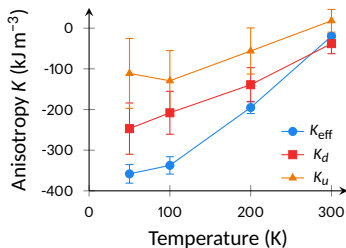
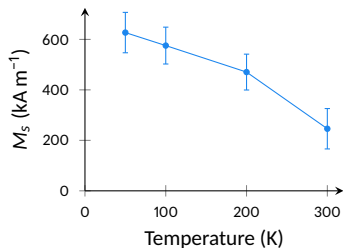
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Macroscopic characterization



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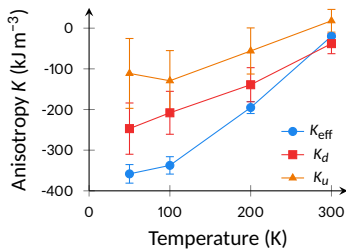
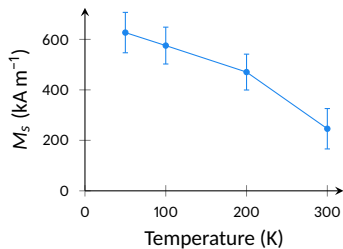
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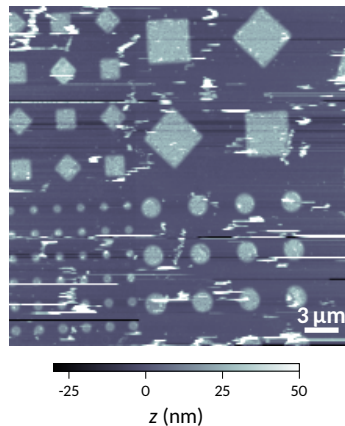


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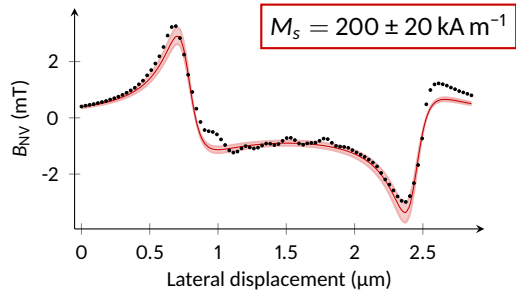
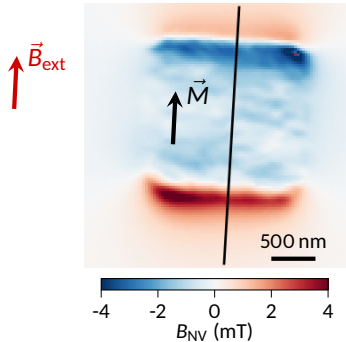
Macroscopic characterization



AFM scan

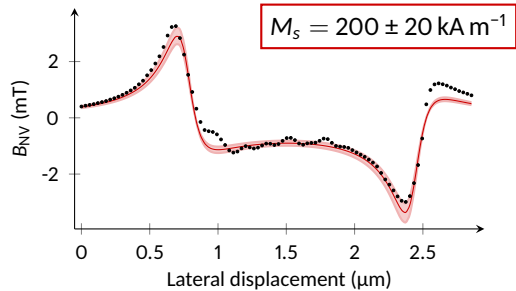
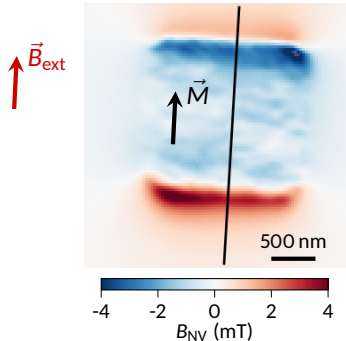


Measurement of the saturation magnetization



E. Sfeir et al. [arXiv:2507.03454](https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.03454) (2025)

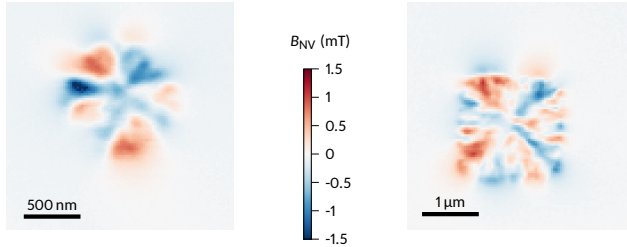
Measurement of the saturation magnetization



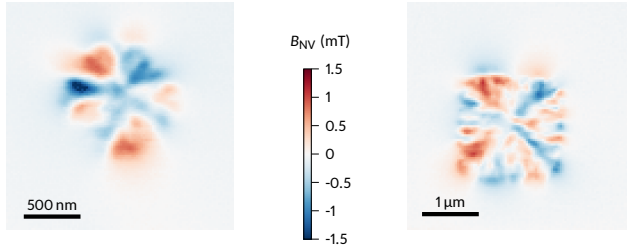
No effect of confinement on $M_s \rightarrow$ no change of T_C

E. Sfeir et al. [arXiv:2507.03454](https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.03454) (2025)

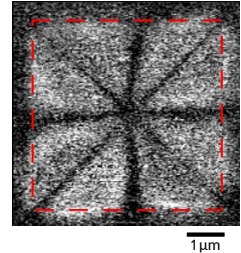
Vortices in micro-squares



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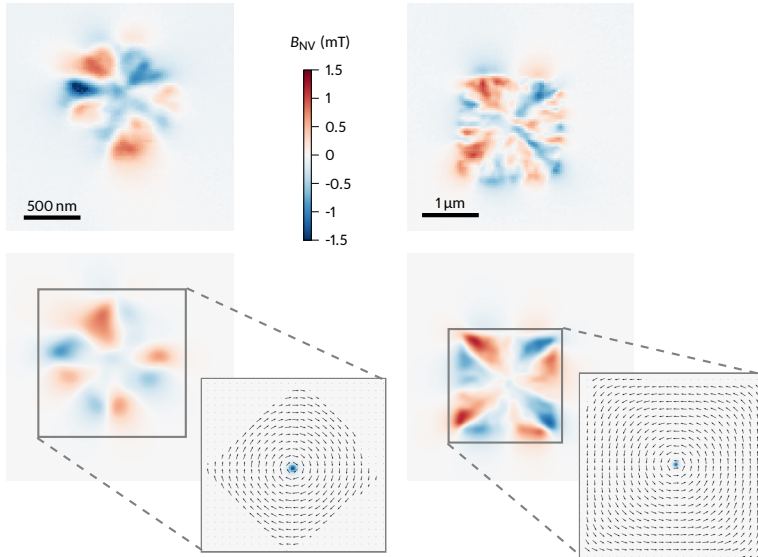


Early NV data on vortices in Py

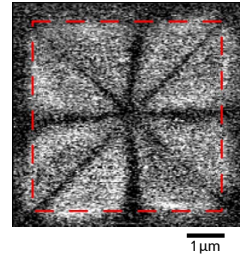


 L. Rondin et al. *Nat. Commun.* 4 (2013), 2279

Vortices in micro-squares



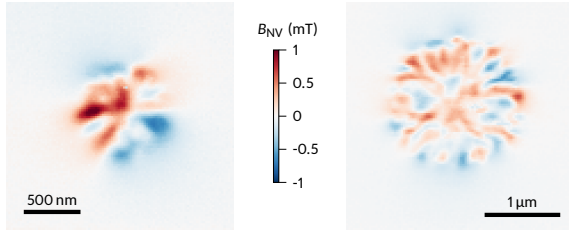
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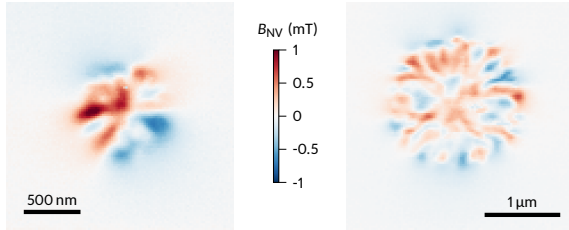
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Micromagnetic simulations
including M_s disorder

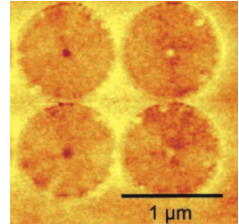
What about discs?



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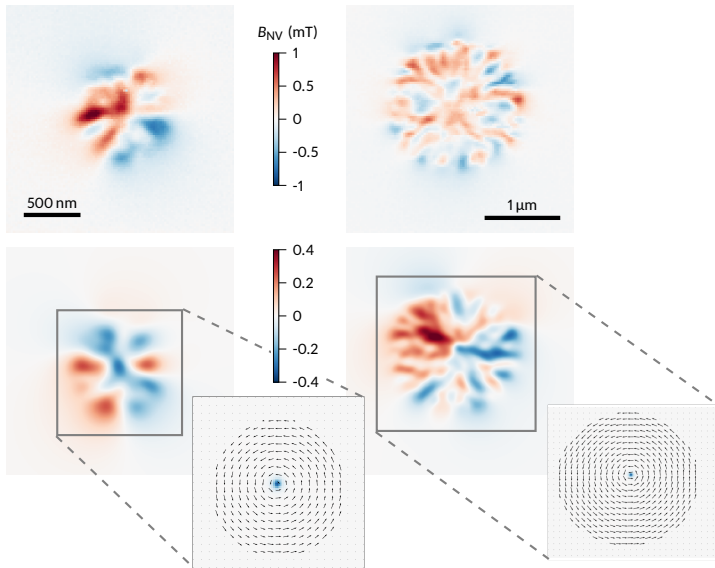


MFM data on vortices in Py

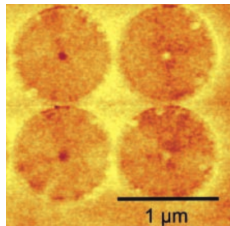


 T. Shinjo et al. *Science* 289 (2000), 930

What about discs?



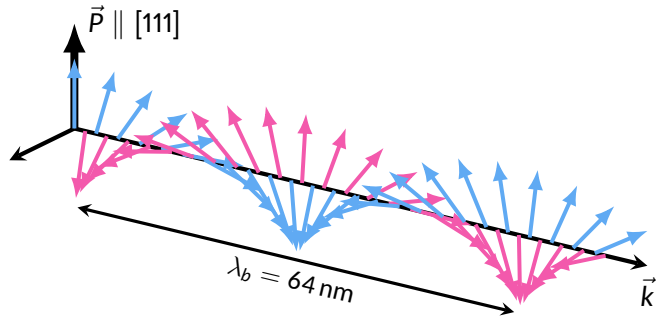
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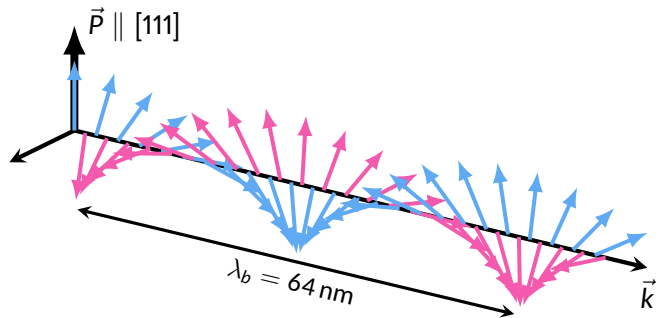
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Micromagnetic simulations
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The room-temperature multiferroic BiFeO_3



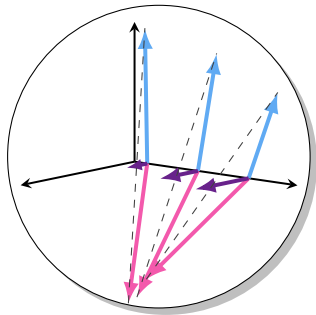
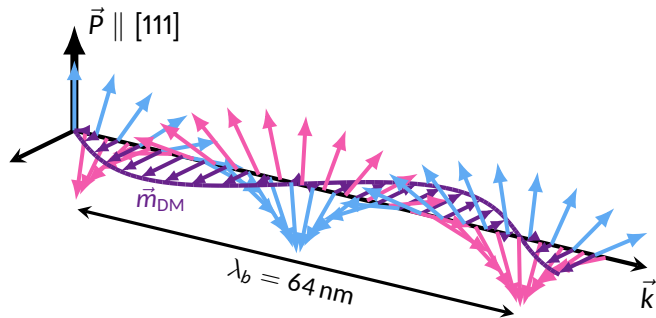
The room-temperature multiferroic BiFeO_3



Fully compensated cycloid

→ **No stray field!**

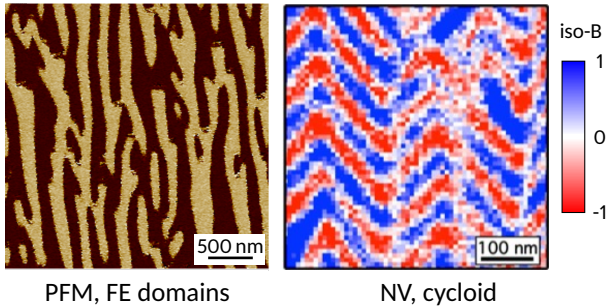
The room-temperature multiferroic BiFeO_3



Spin density wave
Weak uncompensated moment
→ **Small stray field**

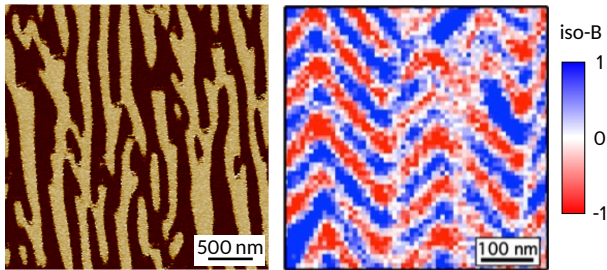
 M. Ramazanoglu et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 107 (2011), 207206

Imaging antiferromagnetic BiFeO_3 thin films



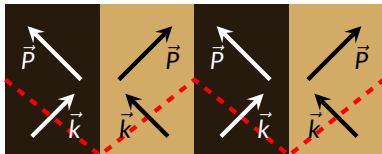
V. Garcia, S. Fusil
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PFM, FE domains

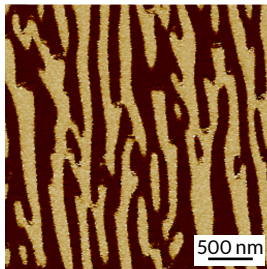
NV, cycloid



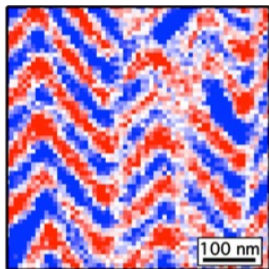
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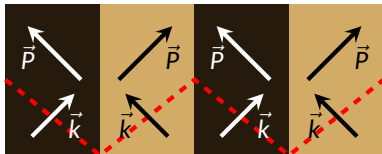
Substrate DyScO_3 , strain -0.35%



PFM, FE domains

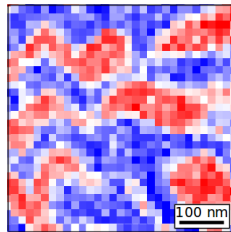
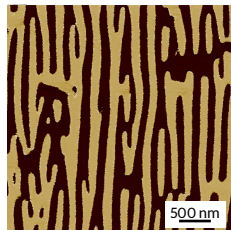


NV, cycloid

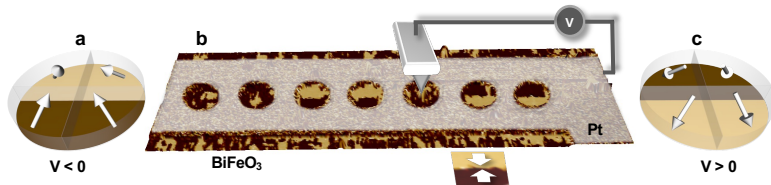


V. Garcia, S. Fusil
K. Bouzehouane
J. Fischer

Substrate SmScO_3 , strain +0.5%



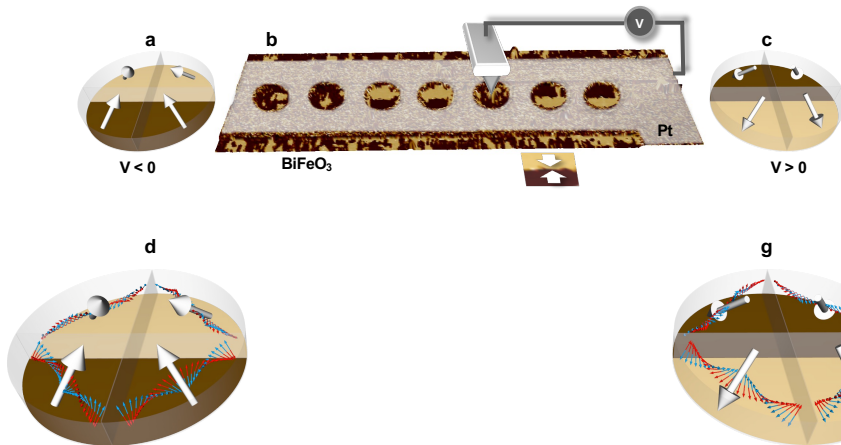
Towards topological textures



 **laboratoire
Albert Fert**

V. Garcia, S. Fusil
K. Bouzehouane
A. Chaudron

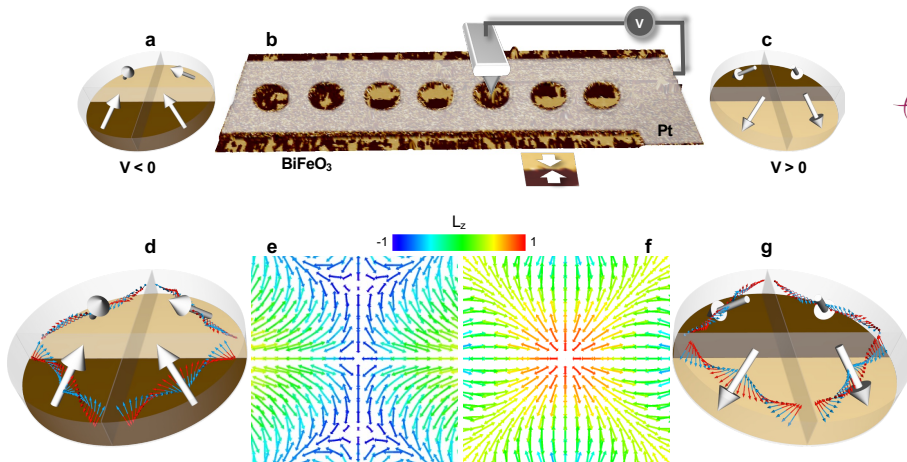
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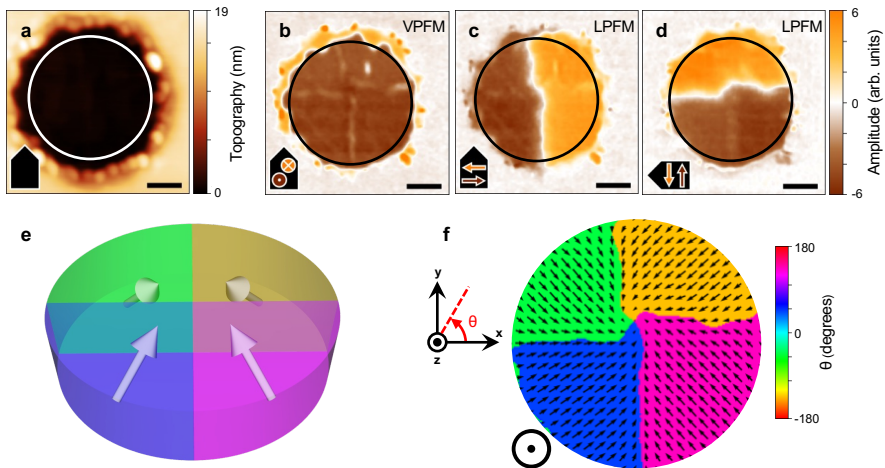
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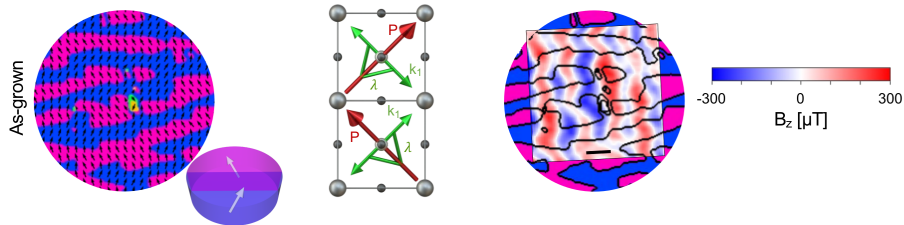
J-Y. Chauleau
M. Viret
Li Zixin

A. Chaudron et al. *Nat. Mater.* 23 (2024), 905

Center ferroelectric domains imaged with PFM

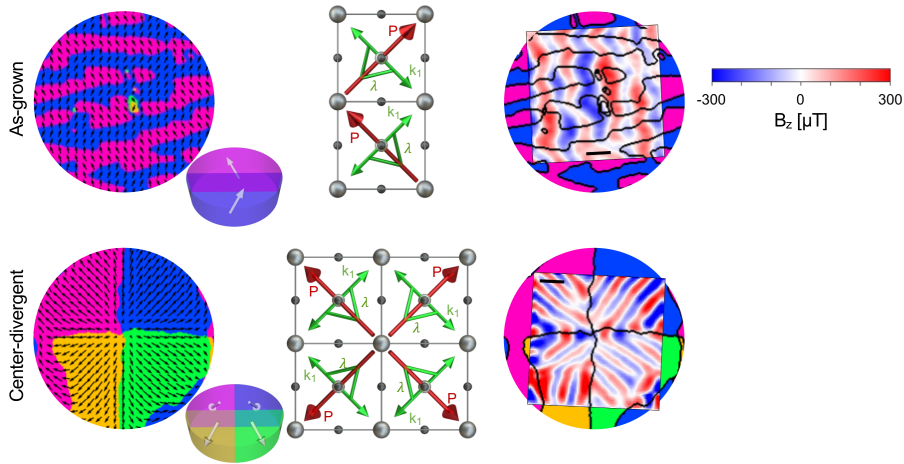


Flux closure of spin cycloids (low strain)



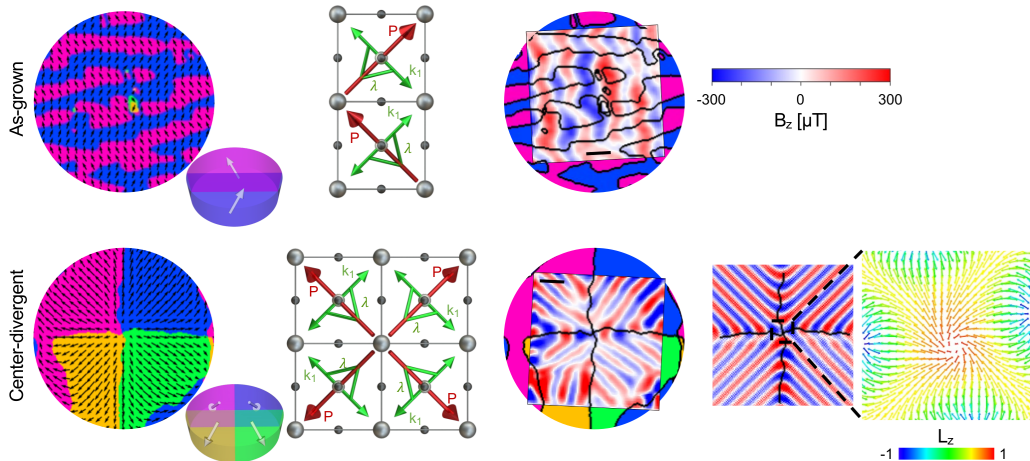
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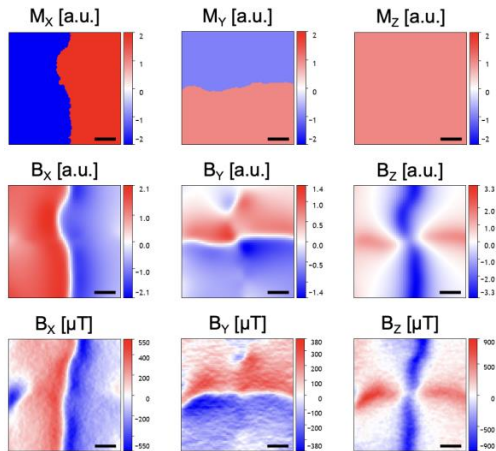
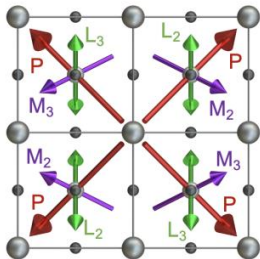
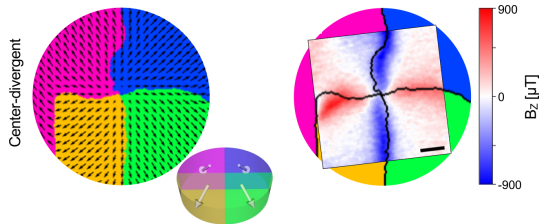
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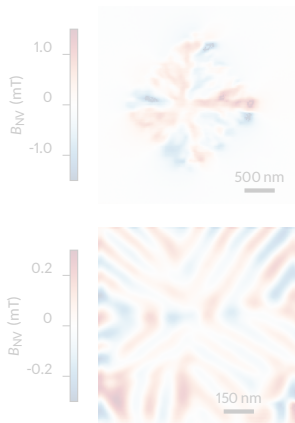
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Antiferromagnetic quadrants



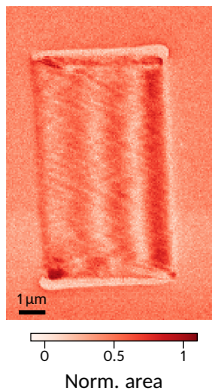
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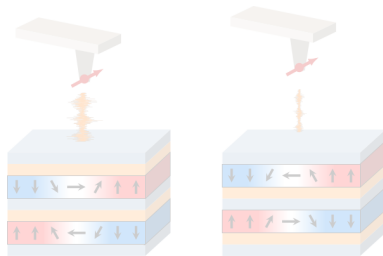
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Imaging of spin waves



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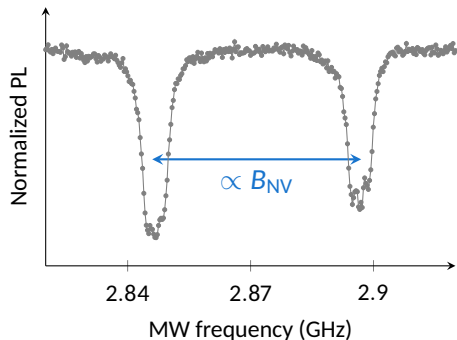
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Imaging of spin waves with NV microscopy

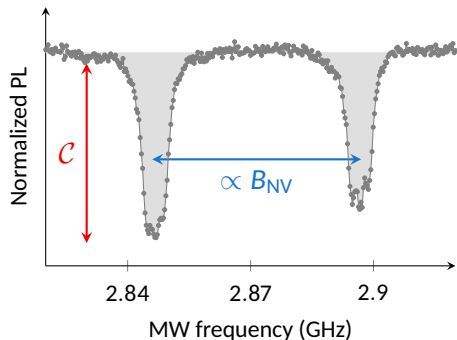
The stray field from **resonant** spin waves can drive the NV spin transition



Shift $\rightarrow$ Static stray field

Imaging of spin waves with NV microscopy

The stray field from **resonant** spin waves can drive the NV spin transition

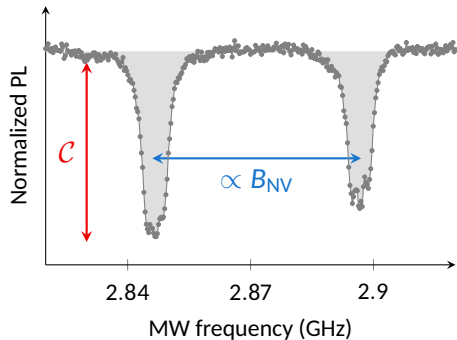


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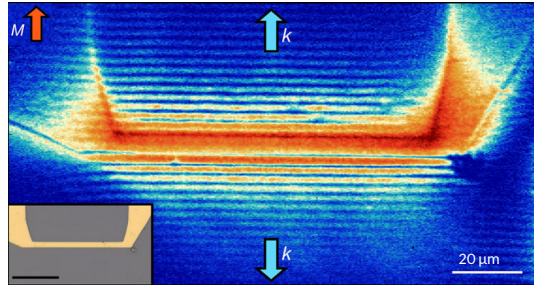
Contrast $\mathcal{C}$ or area $\rightarrow$ MW power

Imaging of spin waves with NV microscopy

The stray field from **resonant** spin waves can drive the NV spin transition



Pioneering work: van der Sar lab (TU Delft)



I. Bertelli et al. *Adv. Qu. Tech.* 4 (2021), 2100094

Shift $\rightarrow$ Static stray field

Contrast $\mathcal{C}$ or area $\rightarrow$ MW power

Experiments on Py microstructures

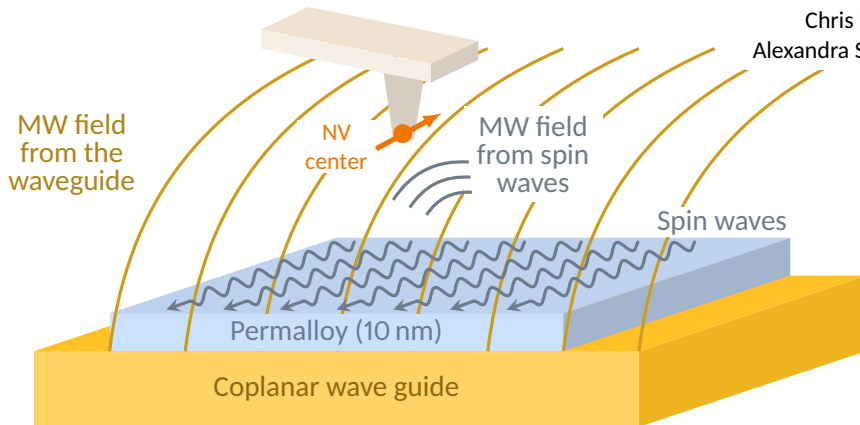
Interference between the microwave field from the antenna
and the microwave field from the excited spin waves



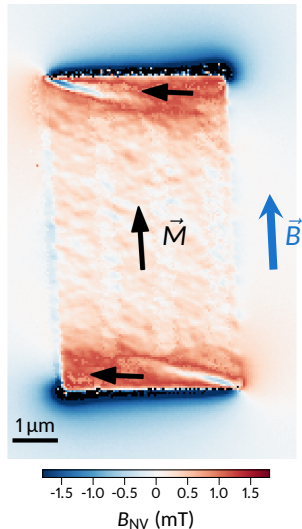
**Martin-Luther-Universität
Halle-Wittenberg**

Chris Körner, Rouven Dreyer

Alexandra Schrader, Georg Woltersdorf

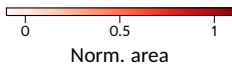
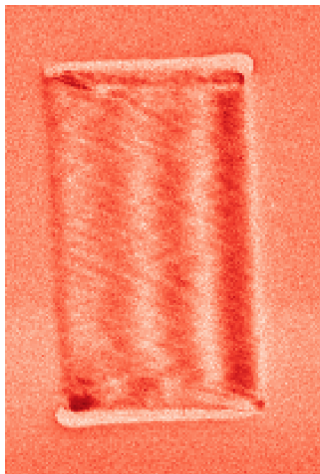
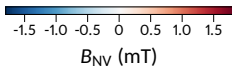
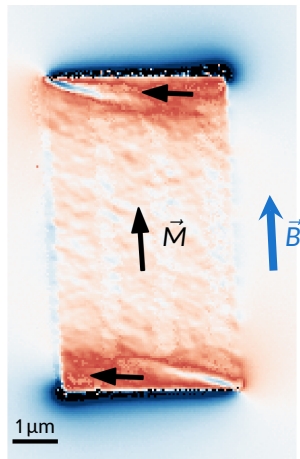


Imaging propagating spin waves



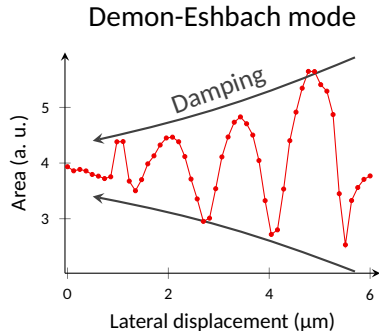
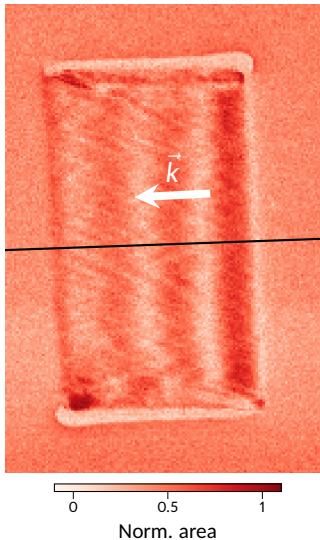
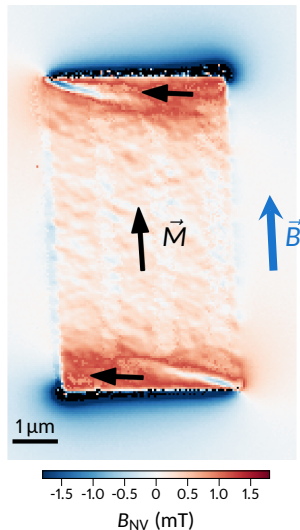
Excitation at 2.87 GHz
 $B = 1.4\text{ mT}$

Imaging propagating spin waves



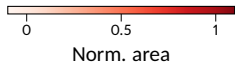
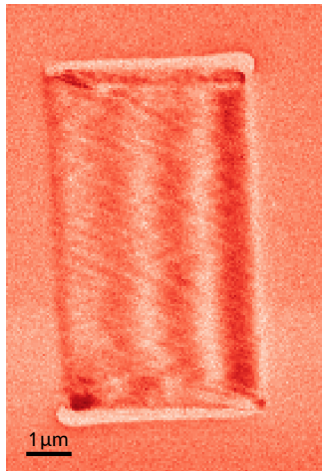
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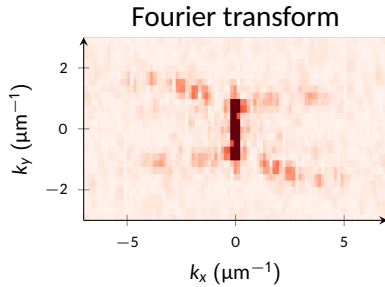
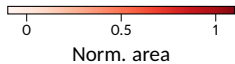
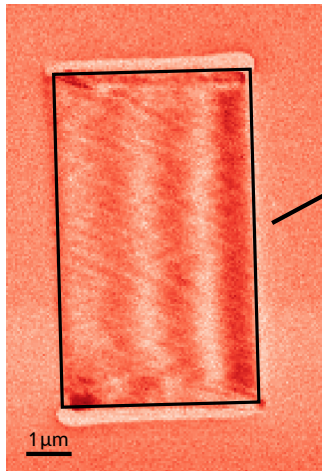


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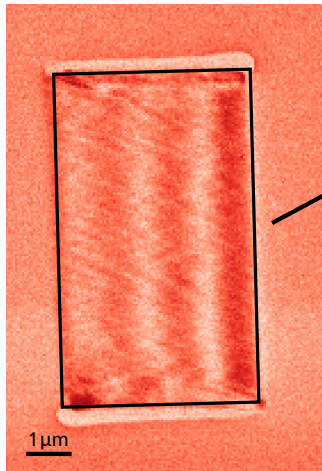
Is this really noise?



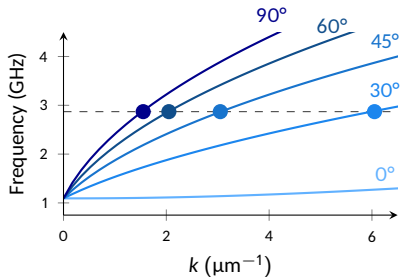
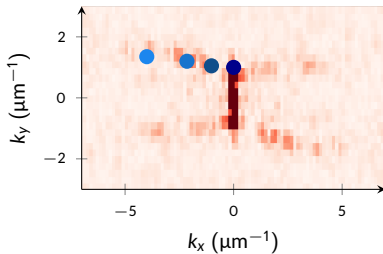
Is this really noise?



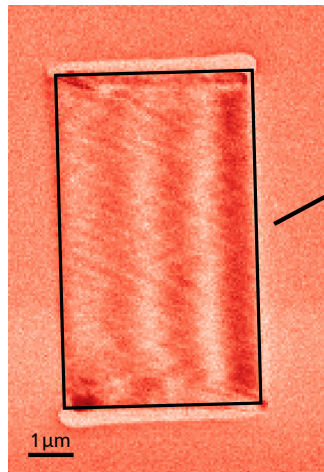
Is this really noise?



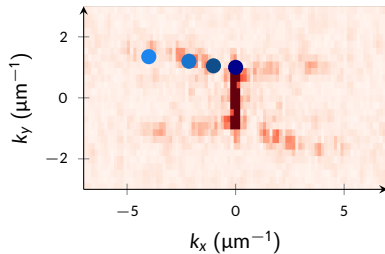
Fourier transform



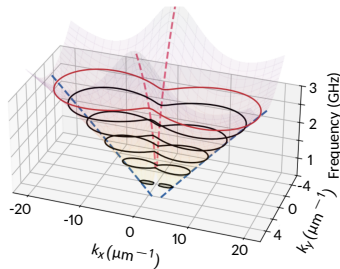
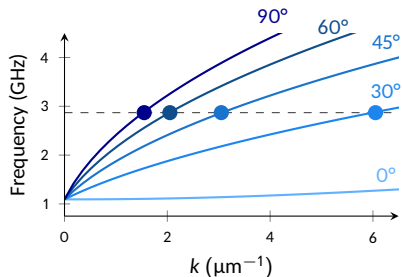
Is this really noise?



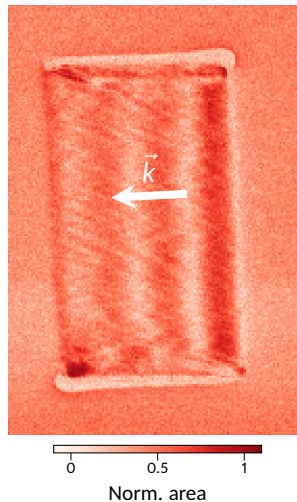
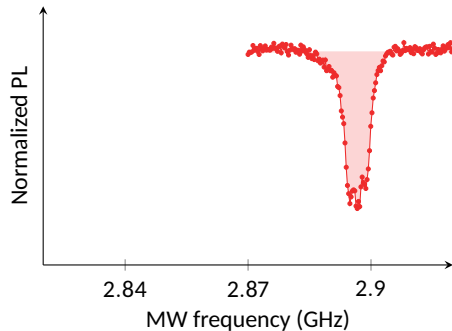
Fourier transform



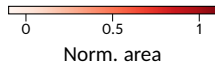
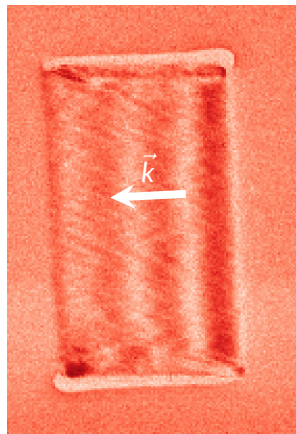
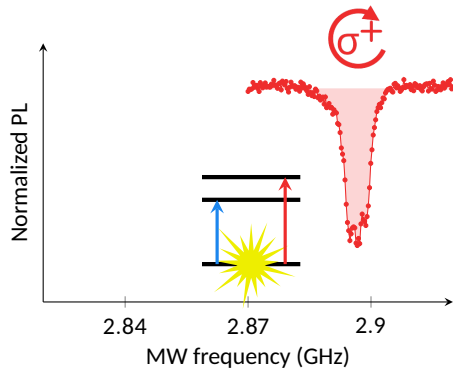
Iso-frequency
curve



Selection of the propagation direction



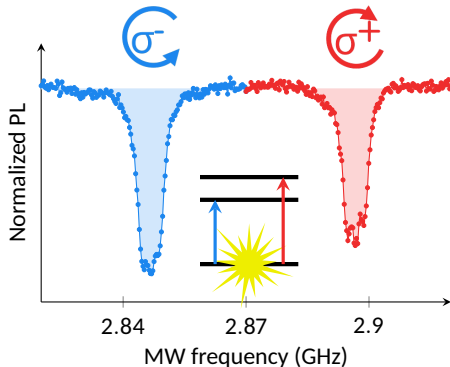
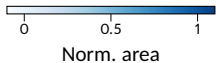
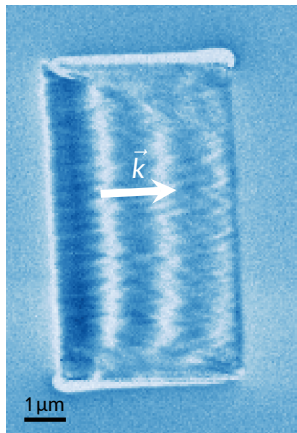
Selection of the propagation direction



I. Bertelli et al. *Sci. Adv.* 6 (2020), eabd3556

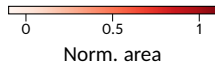
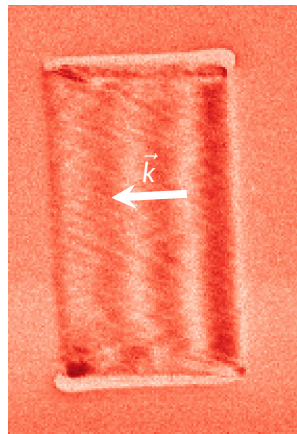
R. Beignon et al. *in preparation* (2025)

Selection of the propagation direction



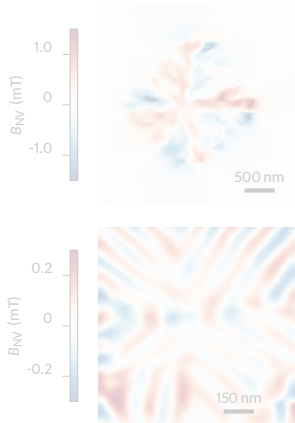
 I. Bertelli et al. *Sci. Adv.* 6 (2020), eabd3556

 R. Beignon et al. *in preparation* (2025)



Outline

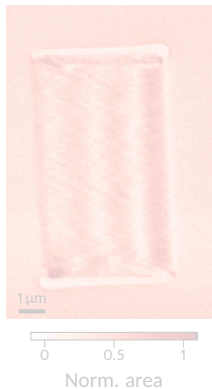
Whirling magnetic textures



E. Sfeir et al. *arXiv:2507.03454* (2025)

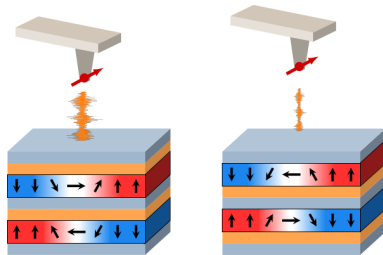
A. Chaudron et al. *Nat. Mater.* 23 (2024), 905

Imaging of spin waves



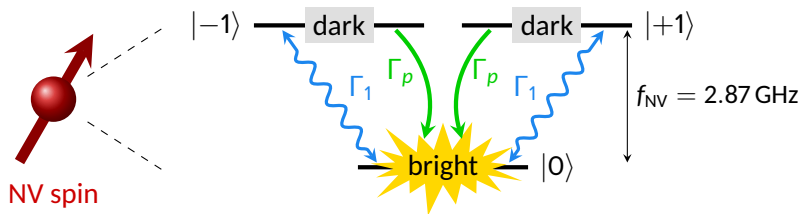
R. Beignon et al. *in preparation* (2025)

Spin wave noise to probe magnetic handedness



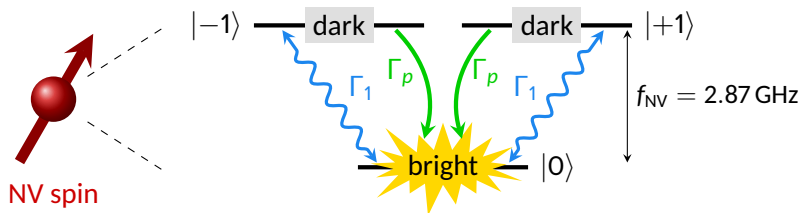
A. Finco et al. *arXiv:2502.03166* (2025)

Effect of magnetic noise on the photoluminescence

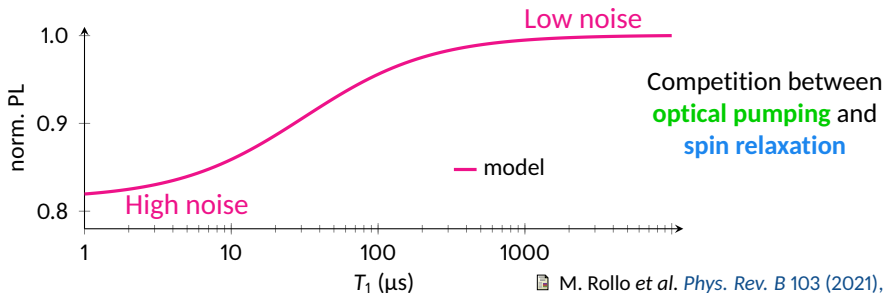


Relaxation rate $\Gamma_1 \propto S_{B_\perp}(f_{\text{NV}})$ magnetic field spectral density at the resonance frequency f_{NV}

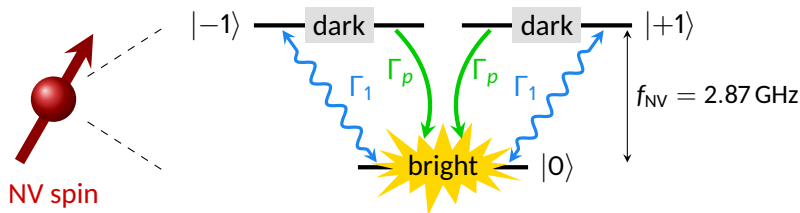
Effect of magnetic noise on the photoluminescence



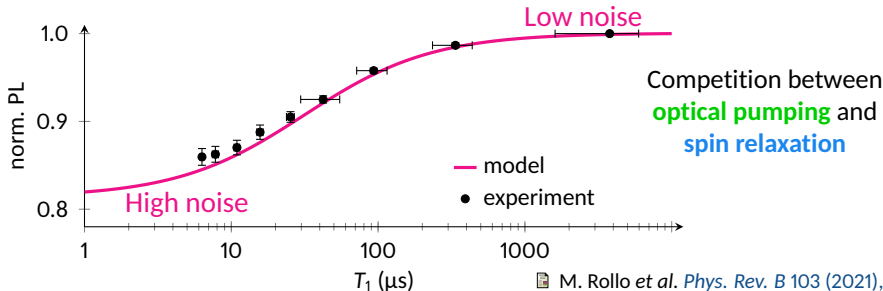
Relaxation rate $\Gamma_1 \propto S_{B_\perp}(f_{NV})$ magnetic field spectral density at the resonance frequency f_{NV}



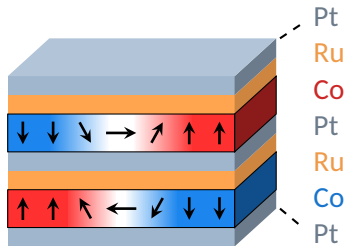
Effect of magnetic noise on the photoluminescence



Relaxation rate $\Gamma_1 \propto S_{B_{\perp}}(f_{\text{NV}})$ magnetic field spectral density at the resonance frequency f_{NV}

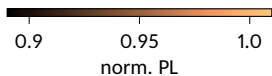
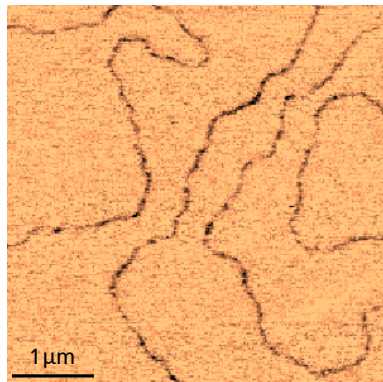


Antiferromagnetic domain walls probed with noise



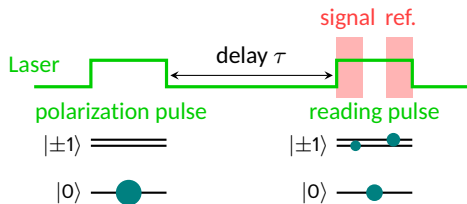
W. Legrand et al. *Nat. Mater.* 19 (2020), 34

V. T. Pham et al. *Science* 384 (2024), 307

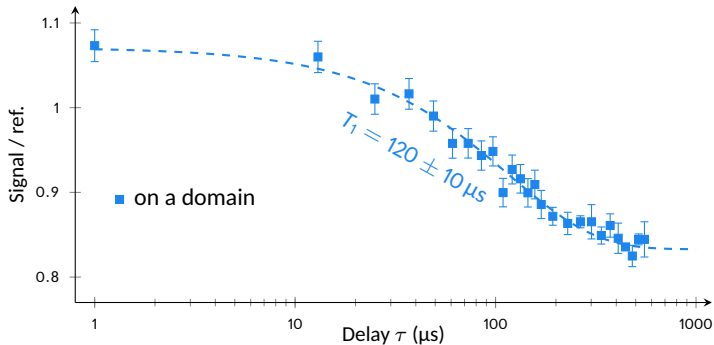
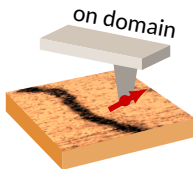
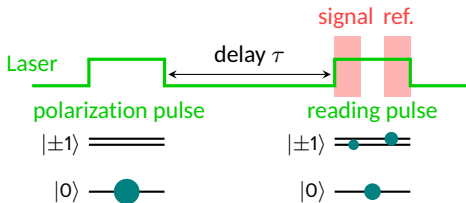


A. Finco et al. *Nat. Commun.* 12 (2021), 767

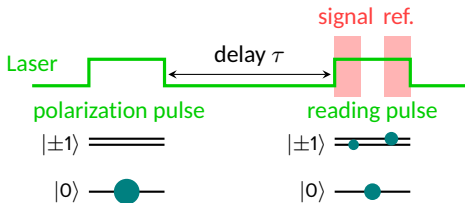
Local variation of the relaxation time



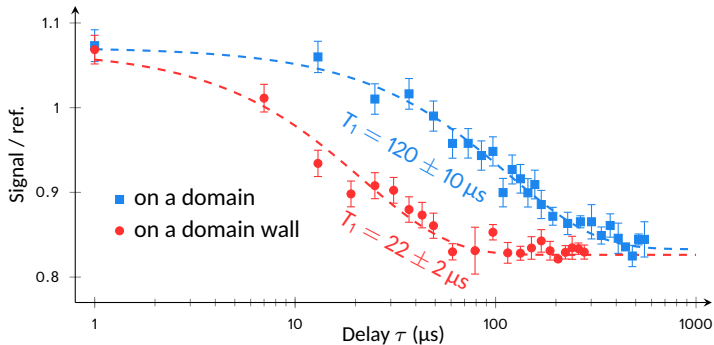
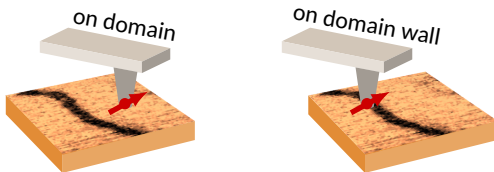
Local variation of the relaxation time



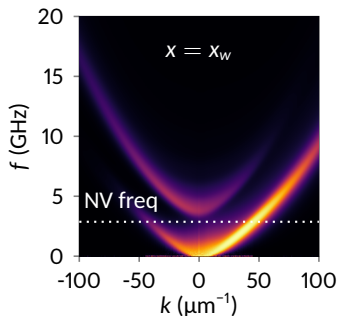
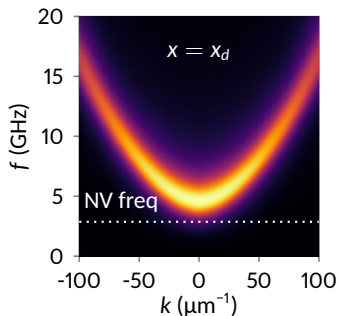
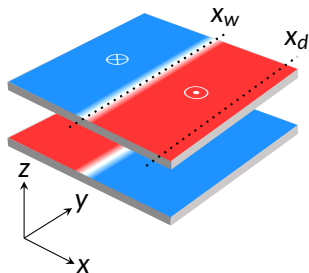
Local variation of the relaxation time



→ Enhancement of the spin relaxation at walls



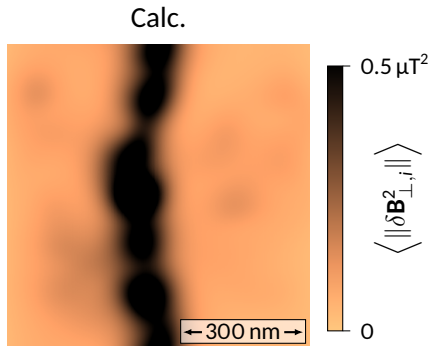
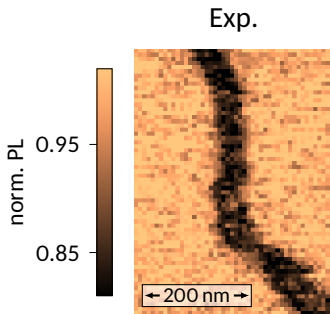
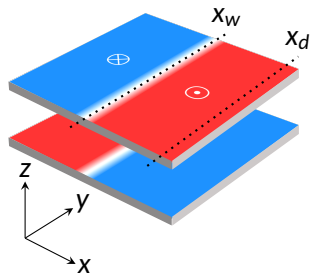
Origin of the noise: spin waves



In-plane magnetized region + no spin wave gap in the domain walls

→ Modes in the walls generating stray field at the NV frequency

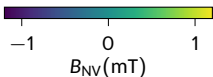
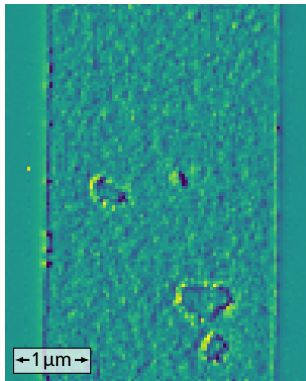
Origin of the noise: spin waves



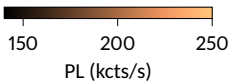
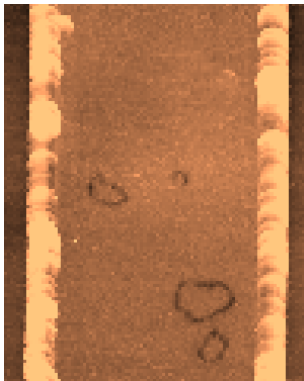
In-plane magnetized region + no spin wave gap in the domain walls
→ Modes in the walls generating stray field at the NV frequency

After applying magnetic field

NV stray field map

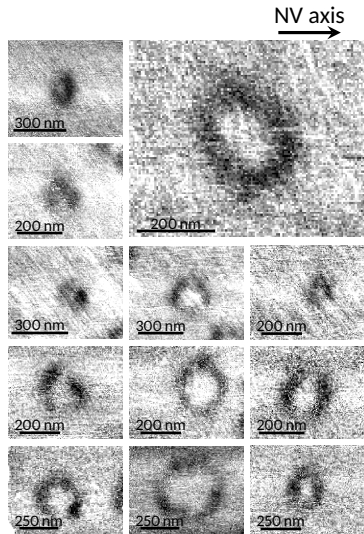


Noise (PL) map

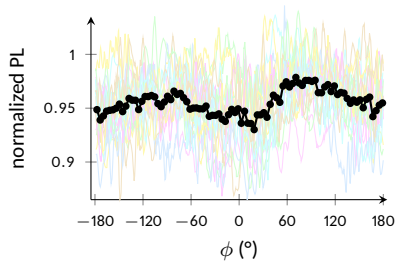
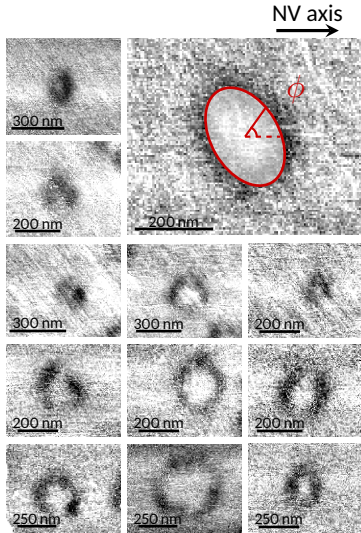


- Oop field of about 150 mT applied for nucleation
- Skyrmions and big bubbles pinned

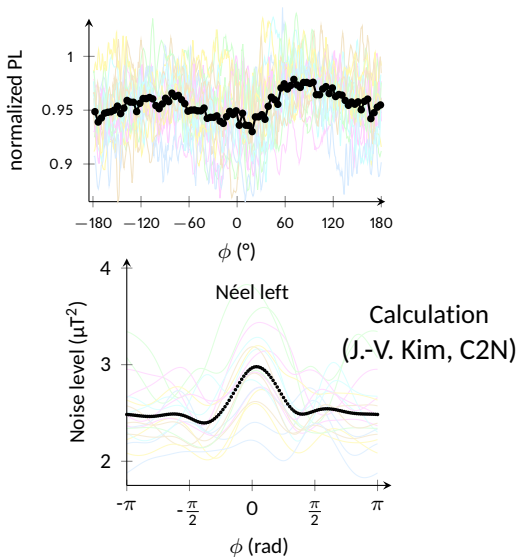
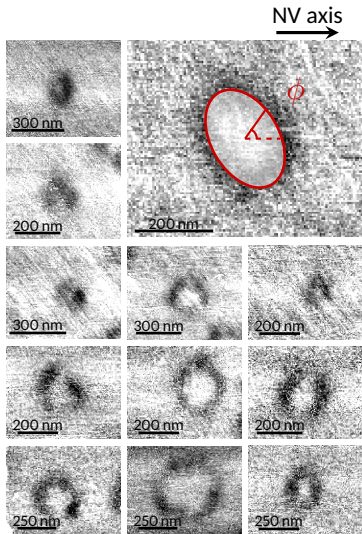
Statistics on Néel left (CCW) skyrmions



Statistics on Néel left (CCW) skyrmions

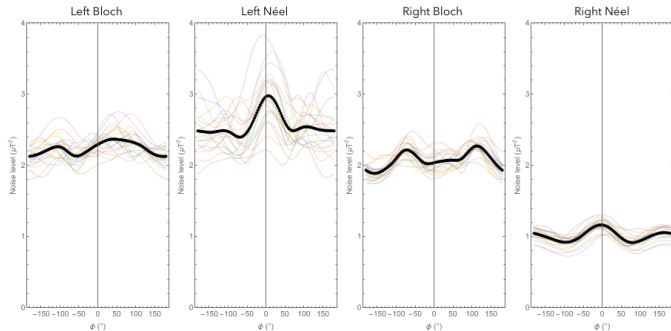


Statistics on Néel left (CCW) skyrmions

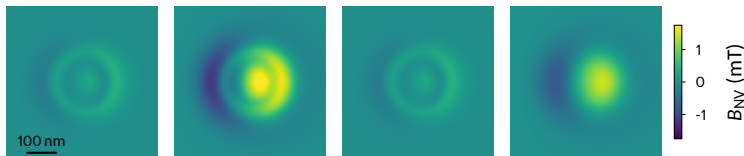


Expected pattern on other skyrmion types

Simulated noise distribution along the contour



Simulated stray field maps



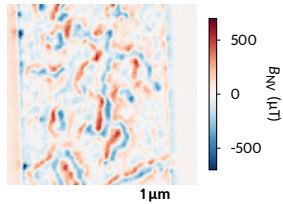
- The pattern allows us to identify Néel skyrmions
- Strong difference in noise amplitude expected between Néel left and Néel right skyrmions...
- ... while the stray field maps are very similar!

Experiment: looking at both sides of the film

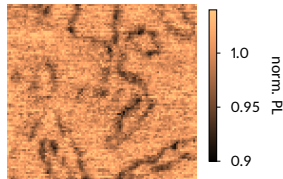
Initial stack: Néel left

TaOx 3 nm
Ru 0.6 nm
Co 1.5 nm
Pt 0.5 nm
Ru 0.8 nm
Co 1.5 nm
Pt 3 nm
Ta

Magnetic field map



Noise map



Samples: J. Urrestarazu,
R. Guedas, O. Boulle

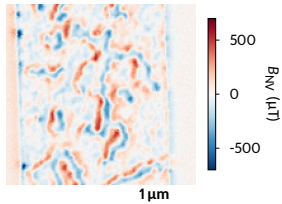
Experiment: looking at both sides of the film

Initial stack: Néel left

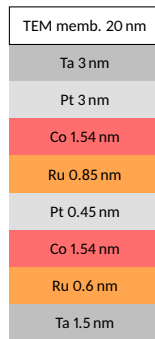
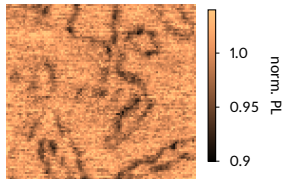
Inverted stack: Néel right



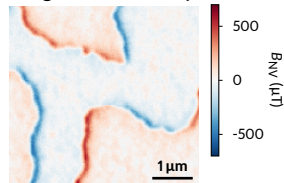
Magnetic field map



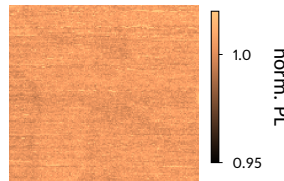
Noise map



Magnetic field map



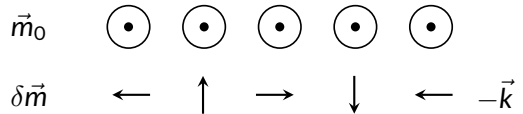
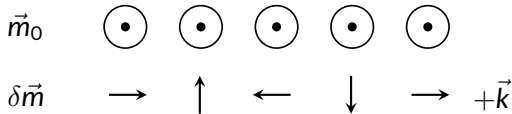
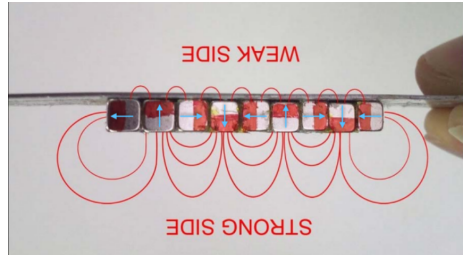
Noise map



Samples: J. Urrestarazu,
R. Guedas, O. Boulle

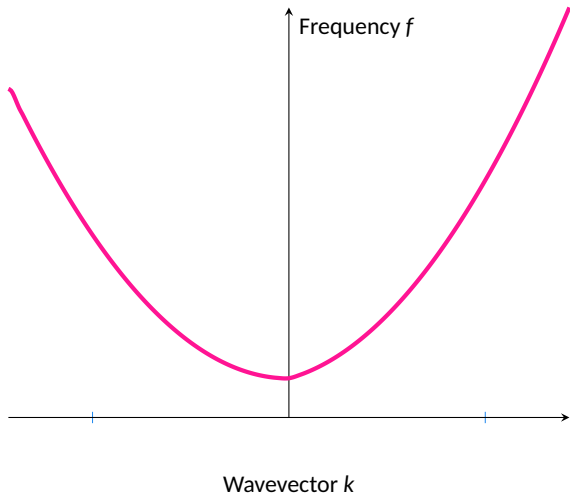
1st ingredient : Spin waves = fridge magnets

Halbach arrays



2nd ingredient: Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction

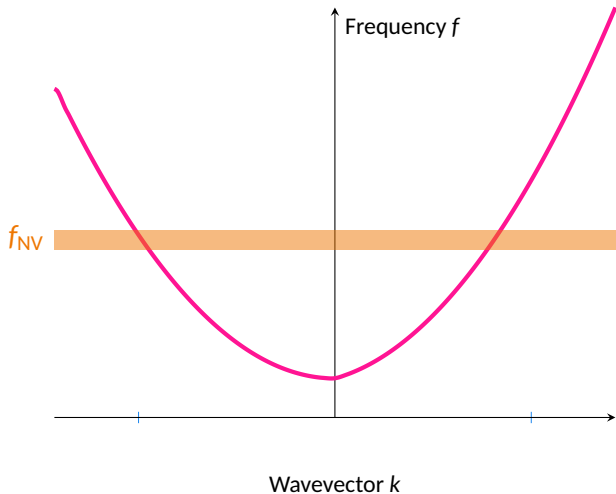
1. DMI induces
non-reciprocity in
the SW dispersion



2nd ingredient: Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction

1. DMI induces non-reciprocity in the SW dispersion

2. The NV probe is filtering SW at f_{NV}

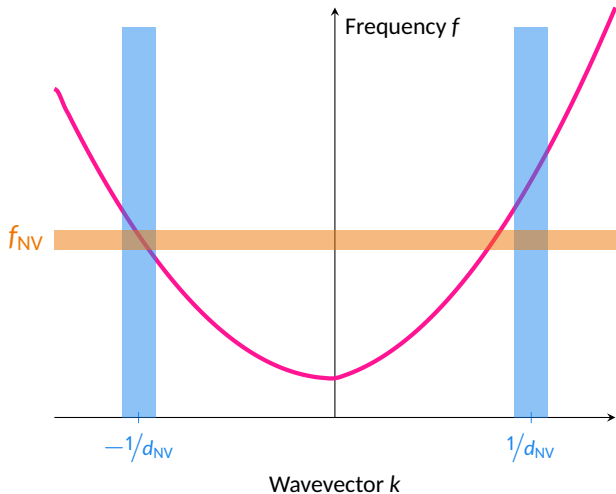


2nd ingredient: Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction

1. DMI induces non-reciprocity in the SW dispersion

2. The NV probe is filtering SW at f_{NV}

3. The NV probe is filtering SW at $\pm 1/d_{\text{NV}}$



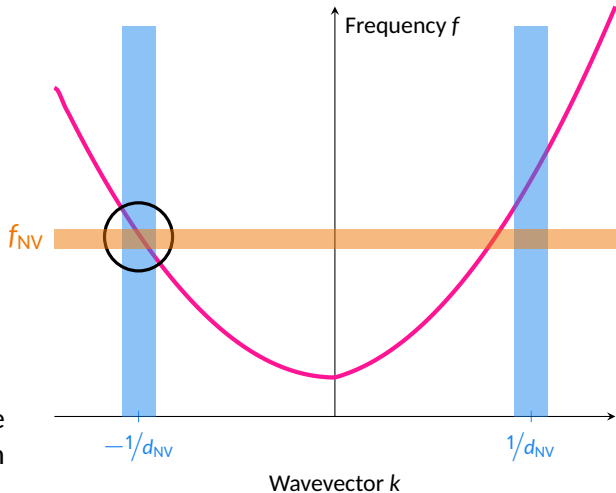
2nd ingredient: Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction

1. DMI induces non-reciprocity in the SW dispersion

2. The NV probe is filtering SW at f_{NV}

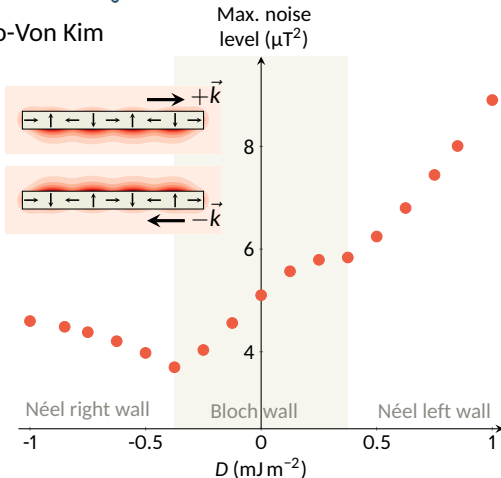
3. The NV probe is filtering SW at $\pm 1/d_{\text{NV}}$

→ The NV center is more sensitive to a k direction than the other



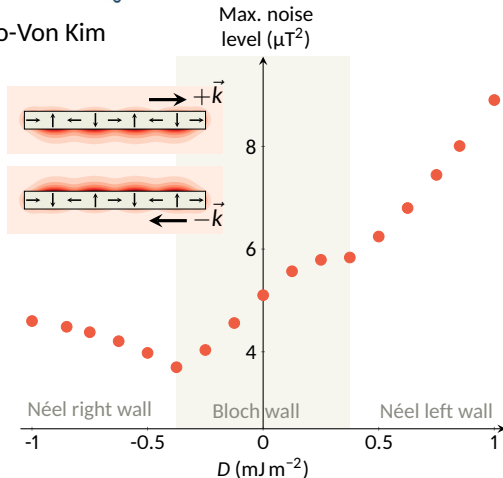
In a single ferromagnetic layer

Joo-Von Kim

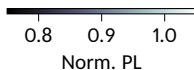
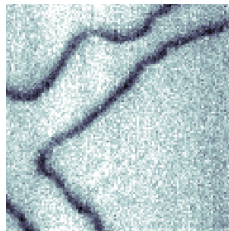


In a single ferromagnetic layer

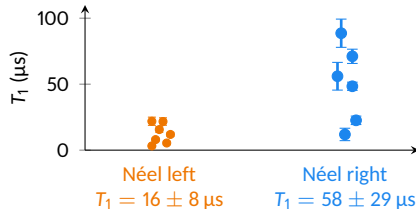
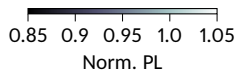
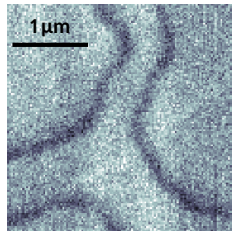
Joo-Von Kim



Néel left side

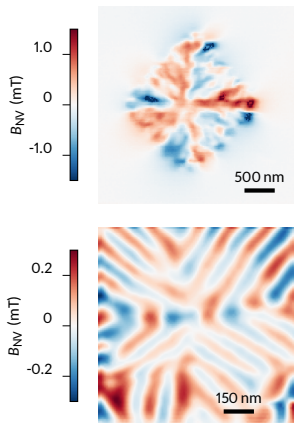


Néel right side



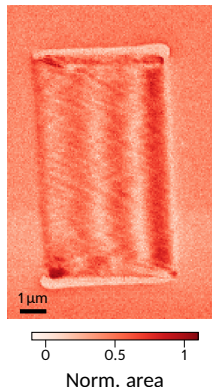
Summary

Whirling magnetic textures



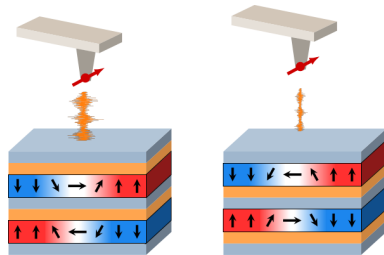
E. Sfeir et al. [arXiv:2507.03454](#) (2025)
A. Chaudron et al. *Nat. Mater.* 23 (2024), 905

Imaging of spin waves



R. Beignon et al. *in preparation* (2025)

Spin wave noise to probe magnetic handedness



A. Finco et al. [arXiv:2502.03166](#) (2025)

Acknowledgments



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Alexandra Schrader, Georg Woltersdorf



Joo-Von Kim



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Frédéric Bonell
Joseba Urrestarazu, Rodrigo Guedas
Olivier Boulle



Arthur Chaudron, Karim Bouzehouane
Stéphane Fusil, Vincent Garcia