Imaging magnetic textures with a quantum microscope

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slides available at https://magimag.eu

Domain wall



Domain wall

Spin spiral



Domain wall

Spin spiral



Skyrmion



Domain wall

Spin spiral

↑ →*7***↑** →*7*

Skyrmion







Biskyrmion

Skyrmion tube



Intermediate skyrmion







Chiral bobber



Higher-order skyrmion







Hopfion

B. Göbel et al. Phys. Rep. 895 (2021)





Bimeron

... in various hosting materials

Metallic multilayers



Well-controlled sputter growth High tunability

Antiferromagnets



Robustness Large switching speed

Multiferroics

Electric control of the magnetic state

 $\vec{\mathsf{P}} \leftrightarrow$

van der Waals heterostructures



Stacking of magnetic and non-magnetic layers with different properties

To study these magnetic objects and materials, we need **imaging techniques**.

Challenges:

- Nanoscale objects
- Low net magnetic moment
- Lack of stability under ambient conditions

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Requirements:

- Nanoscale spatial resolution
- Very high sensitivity
- Broad range of working conditions
- Table top

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Techniques available:

- Magnetic force microscopy
- Scanning transmission X-ray microscopy
- Lorentz transmission electron microscopy
- Spin polarized scanning tunneling microscopy
- Scanning NV-center microscopy

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Techniques available:

- Magnetic force microscopy \rightarrow not sensitive enough for antiferromagnets
- Scanning transmission X-ray microscopy \rightarrow synchrotron, samples on membranes
- Lorentz transmission electron microscopy → samples on membranes
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Scanning NV center microscopy

Principle: Combine a scanning probe microscope with a tiny quantum sensor



B. M. Chernobrod et al. J. Appl. Phys. 97 (2004), 014903

- Atomic force microcope for spatial resolution
- High sensitivity to perturbations of the quantum system
- Sensor: point defect in a semiconductor

Scanning NV center microscopy

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NV center in diamond

Outline

Principle of scanning NV microscopy



Some examples





Topological defects in a multiferroic



Outline

Principle of scanning NV microscopy



Some examples





Topological defects in a multiferroic







- Optical manipulation and reading
- Ambient conditions



Nitrogen-Vacancy defect in diamond

- Optical manipulation and reading
- Ambient conditions

Spin-dependent fluorescence





Nitrogen-Vacancy defect in diamond

- Optical manipulation and reading
- Ambient conditions

Spin-dependent fluorescence dark = $|\pm 1\rangle$ 2.87 GHz 0 NV ground state spin S = 1green laser excitation NV polarized in $|0\rangle$



- Optical manipulation and reading
- Ambient conditions





- Optical manipulation and reading
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- Optical manipulation and reading
- Ambient conditions



Collaboration: C2N, Palaiseau (T. Devolder)



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Diamond AFM tip





Implanted single NV center





Implanted single NV center





Implanted single NV center





Implanted single NV center





Implanted single NV center



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Topological defects in a multiferroic



Collaboration: Institut Néel, Grenoble (A. Purbawati, J. Coraux, N. Rougemaille)

CrTe₂ 2D ferromagnet at room temperature with in-plane magnetization



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

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

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

Domain wall



0.85 0.9 0.95 1.0 PL norm. A. Finco et al. Nat. Commun. 12 (2021), 767

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Principle of scanning NV microscopy



Some examples





Topological defects in a multiferroic



Bismuth ferrite, a room-temperature multiferroic

Electric polarization



Paraelectric phase (T>1100 K)

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

Bismuth ferrite, a room-temperature multiferroic

Electric polarization



Ferroelectric phase (T<1100 K)

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

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Magnetism

The effects of magnetoelectric coupling in BiFeO₃



The effects of magnetoelectric coupling in BiFeO₃



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

The effects of magnetoelectric coupling in BiFeO₃



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Imaging the cycloidal modulation in a bulk BiFeO₃ crystal

Collaborations: UMR CNRS/Thales, Palaiseau (V. Garcia, S. Fusil) CEA SPEC, Gif-sur-Yvette (J.-Y. Chauleau, M. Viret)

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

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

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Resonant X-ray scattering

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

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

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

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

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 \rightarrow topological defects

disclination winding number = 1

disclination winding number = -1

N. D. Mermin. Rev. Mod. Phys. 51 (1979), 591

Universal patterns in lamellar systems

Block copolymer

Period 40 nm

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

Liquid crystals Period 800 nm

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

BiFeO₃ magnetic cycloid Period 64 nm

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

Ferrimagnetic garnet

Period 8 µm

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

FeGe magnetic helix Period 70 nm

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

Fluid diffusion Period 250 μm

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

Identification of these topological defects in BiFeO₃

 $+\pi$ -disclination

 $-\pi$ -disclination

Edge dislocation

Identification of these topological defects in BiFeO₃

 $+\pi$ -disclination

Edge dislocation

Perspective: electrical control?

Summary

NV center magnetometry

- highly sensitive
- nanoscale
- quantitative
- non-perturbative
- versatile

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