# Topological effects in nanomagnetism: from perpendicular recording to monopoles

#### Hans-Benjamin Braun



**Sf** 



for Theoretical Studies



IEEE Summer School, CBPF, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 10, 2014

#### The past 50 years of magnetic data storage



# Evolution of storage density 2014: 1.0 Tb/in<sup>2</sup> bit area (25 nm)<sup>2</sup> 2025: 0.15 Pb/in<sup>2</sup> bit area (2 nm)<sup>2</sup> !!!



#### Magnetic nanostructures: quantum vs classical/thermal behaviour



P. Gambardella et al. Nature ('02) Y.S. Jung et al. Nano Lett. ('10)

15nm

Kubetzka et al. PRB ('03)

#### quantum

classical

"...It's in this no-man's land between quantum and classical physics that a wide array of "emergent" phenomena reveal themselves..."

## **Theoretical descriptions of magnetism**



# Overview

I. Topological defects in magnetism (domain walls, vortices, skyrmions, merons, hedgehogs)

II. Superparamagnetism and limits of magnetic data storage

III. Quantization of micromagnetics: emergent chirality and spin currents in quantum spin chains

IV. Dipolar interactions in nanomagnetic arrays - emergent Dirac monopoles and Dirac strings

# Why Topology?

• Within the framework of 'micromagnetics', one considers a continuous magnetization field M(x,t)

• Magnetic data storage: Are there magnetization configurations that are particularly stable?

• May two magnetization configurations be easily transformed into each other (bit stability)?

## What is homotopy about?



source: Wikipedia

# **Topology - nontrivial mappings**



Topologically nontrivial mappings exist between spheres of equal dimension

Winding numbers are `fingerprints' of equivalence classes of configurations which are deformable into each other

# **Topological singular point defects**

(vs. soliton type topological defects)



# **Topological point defect - domain wall**



#### 'Zoology' of singular topological defects



## Smooth solitary defect in 1D: 2 π domain wall



#### Smooth solitary defect in 2D: Skyrmion

 $\pi_2(S^2) = \mathbb{Z} \qquad \qquad w = \frac{1}{4\pi} \iint dx \, dy \, \mathbf{m} \cdot (\partial_x \mathbf{m} \times \partial_y \mathbf{m}) = \mathbf{1}$ 

#### Smooth solitary defect in 2D: Skyrmion

Rössler, Bogdanov, Pfleiderer, Nature ('06) Mühlbauer et al., Science ('09) Romming et al., Science ('13) Tokura & Nagaosa, Nat. Nano. ('13) Fert, Cros et al.

$$w = \frac{1}{4\pi} \iint dx \, dy \, \mathbf{m} \cdot (\partial_x \mathbf{m} \times \partial_y \mathbf{m}) = \mathbf{1}$$

Hans-Benjamin Braun — IEEE Summer School, Rio de Janeiro — August 10, 2014

 $\pi_2(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}$ 

# Meron (`vortex' with core)



#### `half' hedgehog (skyrmion)

# Meron (`vortex' with core)

often simply termed "vortices"

#### meron w=1/2

# Skyrmion creation via hedgehogmonopoles

skyrmion number w=2

# space (or time)

skyrmion number

W=1

#### anti-hedgehog (anti-monopole)

after P. Milde et al. Science 340, 1076 ('13)

#### How to get rid of a skyrmion

#### "Falling through the mesh of the lattice"

# Summary

Topological defects are robust (e.g.Parkin's racetrack memory) **but** with the following `caveats':

Winding ('skyrmion') number may be changed:

- i) via singular 'hedgehog' monopole topological point defects
- ii) via lattice effects (numerical work, e.g.Hertel et al., Sheka et al., Thiaville et al.)
- iii) at sample boundaries

Can quantum fluctuations restore smoothness of magnetisation field (cf. part III)?

#### From topology back to nanomagnets

#### quasi 1D nanowires



 $K_e$ ,  $K_h$  are effective anisotropy constants `*local approximation*' (includes leading order demag effects) HBB, PRL ('93) Aharoni JAP ('96); HBB, JAP('99) Kohn, Slastikov ('05)

# Topological stability of π domain walls - chirality



## **Storage & logic using domain walls**

#### R. Cowburn

#### S. Parkin

#### **Domain wall logic**



Allwood et al., Science ('05)

#### **Magnetic ratchet**



#### **Racetrack memory**



Parkin et al., Science ('08)

Lavrijsen, Cowburn et al., Nature ('13)

#### **Pairs of solitons**



# Finite temperature generalization of micromagnetics

LL or LLG equations form basis of micromagnetism, **but** both are at variance with fluctuation-dissipation theorem (i.e. damping, but no noise!)

**unable** to describe superparamagnetism and related phenomena (important for data storage)

Remedy: introduce fluctuating fields

$$\mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{eff}} 
ightarrow \mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{eff}} + oldsymbol{\zeta}$$

$$\zeta_i(\mathbf{x}, t)\zeta_j(\mathbf{0}, 0) = g_{ij}D_0\delta_{ij}\delta(t)\delta(\mathbf{x})$$
$$D_0 = 2\alpha k_B T / \gamma M_0$$

Heff

 $\mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}} = -\delta E / \delta \mathbf{M}$ 

$$\partial_t \mathbf{M} = -\gamma \mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}) + \frac{\alpha}{M_0} \mathbf{M} \times \partial_t \mathbf{M}$$
$$(1 + \alpha^2) \partial_t \mathbf{M} = -\gamma \mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}) - \frac{\alpha \gamma}{M_0} \mathbf{M} \times [\mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}} + \boldsymbol{\zeta})]$$

Finite temperature generalization of micromagnetics

#### **Consequences:**

Superparamagnetism in single domain clusters (Néel-Brown); Nucleation of domain walls in nanowires (HBB '93, Adv Phys '12)

# II.Superparamagnetism & limits of magnetic data storage

Nanowires: superparamagnetism via soliton-antisoliton nucleation & perpendicular magnetic recording

Energy barriers and Arrhenius prefactors

# Crossover between Néel-Brown mechanism and soliton nucleation



#### Soliton-antisoliton pairs and thermal energy barriers



#### Switching rates for soliton-antisoliton nucleation





#### **Application: 'Perpendicular Magnetic Recording' (PMR)**

#### TOPICAL REVIEW

![](_page_30_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### cf. J. Coker's lecture (this School!)

transition length  $\ell_{\rm T}$ , maintaining thermal stability (that is KV) requires that the anisotropy K has to be scaled according to  $K \propto 1/D^2$ . However, if the medium thickness is equal to  $\ell_T$ , Hans-Benjamin Braun — IEEE Summer School, Rio de Janeiro — August 10, 2014

grain size. As long as the medium thickness is less than the

## **Theoretical descriptions of magnetism**

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **III.Quantization of micromagnetics**

Semiclassical quantization of micromagnetics, Berry phase and topology

How to derive excitations of anisotropic XYZ-Heisenberg spin chains from micromagnetics

#### Soliton-soliton pairs in nanowires

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

expts: Kubetzka, Pietzsch, Bode, Wiesendanger (PRB '03)

theory: HBB (PRB '94)

![](_page_33_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

exact solutions: HBB & Brodbeck, PRL ('93), J. Eves et al. ('10)

#### Are breathers observable ?

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)
## Importance of quantum effects



 $\begin{array}{ll} 0\leq heta\leq \pi & m_s=-s,\ldots,s \ 0\leq \phi<2\pi & {f discrete} \ \end{array}$ Hans-Benjamin Braun — IEEE Summer School, Rio de Janeiro — August 10, 2014

## **Quantized breathers**



### **Spin momentum and solitons**



### Relative wave vector of solitons with opposite chirality is $\pi$ !

# Quantum fluctuations, point defects & emergence of chirality

### **Fe-nanowires**

quantum spin-chains



Kubetzka et al. PRB ('03)

 $|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\cdots\downarrow\downarrow\cdots\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle$   $|\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\cdots\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow\cdots\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$   $|\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\cdots\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$ Ising domain wall point defects

### CsCoBr<sub>3</sub> - a quasi 1D Heisenberg-Ising chain



## **Chirality and Solitons**



magnon decays into 2 solitons

### quantum fluctuations (XY-term)



## Are the two bandminima equivalent?



### How neutrons couple to solitons







### **Polarized neutrons and chirality**





$$k' = k + q - \pi$$

Chirality is hidden !!

## Institute Laue Langevin Grenoble

Hans-Benjamin Braun – IEEE Summer School, Rio de Janeiro – August 10, 2014

ESR

### Chirality and spin-currents in CsCoBr<sub>3</sub>

theory





First detection of (chargeless) spin currents due to solitons:

HBB et al. Nature Phys. 1, 159 ('05)



## **Theoretical descriptions of magnetism**

semiclassical quantization 'tunnelling'

> quantum magnetism

spin-chains strongly correlated electrons

classical magnetism

"micromagnetics" (T=0)

nanoscale experiments

# IV. Dipolar interactions in nanomagnetic arrays

Emergent `monopoles' & `Dirac strings' in pyrochlore spin ice

Emergent `monopoles' and Dirac string avalanches in artificial spin ice - nanolithographic arrays of nanomagnets

## Magnetic Monopoles -Can they exist as emergent quasiparticles?



### 'Dirac' string

Hans-Benjamin Braun — IEEE Summer School, Rio de Janeiro — August 10, 2014

S

Ν

## **Pyrochlore spin-ice**



## Why `spin-ice' ?







## Monopoles and (unquantized) Dirac strings as excitations out of spin ice ground state

### **Neutron scattering expts:**

Morris et al, Science ('09) Kadowaki et al. ('09) Fennell et al. ('09)

 $T \lesssim 1 \mathrm{K}!$ 

# Low T and reciprocal space - can one do better?

# Artificial spin ice - dipolar coupled array of isolated nanoislands



Wang et al. Nature ('06)

### Isolated nanoislands as macrospins

# Magnetic moments in (artificial) spin ice



## **Dumbbell picture**



# Monopole métion and string formation

1



## Islands on a kagome lattice

with L. Heyderman, F. Nolting, R. Hügli, G.Duff

PEEM image (SLS)



**SEM** image

### contrast depends on orientation

## Initial saturation H<-0.82 H

### **PEEM** image

Charge map.

 $\Delta Q$  map

## **H=0.85 H** E. Mengotti *et al.*, Nature Phys. **7**, 68 (2011)

### **PEEM** image



### charge map



 $\frac{\Delta Q}{\rho_{m}(\mathbf{r})} = \int d^{2}r' f_{G}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \rho_{Q}(\mathbf{r}') \qquad \qquad \Delta Q \qquad \underset{\text{total charge}}{\text{map}}$ 

## H=0.92 H<sub>C</sub> PEEM image



### charge map



 $\Delta Q$  map

### XMCD-PEEM Images taken at Swiss Light Source

## **Dirac strings and monopoles**

### Simulations

### **PEEM** images

E. Mengotti et al., Nature Phys. 7, 68 (2011)



## Low Disorder (simulations)

R. Hügli et al., Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A 370, 5767 (2012)

σ=0.025





## Avalanches and dimensional reduction due to frustration



conventional: 2D avalanches in 2D system (Sethna, Dahmen et al.)

Random Field Ising Model (RFIM)



Here: 1D avalanches in 2D system 'dimensional reduction due to frustration'

### Random field Ising model vs artificial kagome spin ice



(power law scaling)

#### avalanche statistics



## **Control of monopole dynamics experiments & simulations**



R. Hügli *et al.*, Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A 370, 5767 (2012)
## Acknowledgements

UCD:

Remo Hügli Gerard Duff Naoise Grisewood Leonard English B. O'Conchuir (now U. Cambridge)

P. Böni (TUM) B. Roessli (PSI) J. Kulda (ILL) K. Krämer(Bern)



And Die winder 67 And Die winder 67 Plasma power-up Trapped in spin ice



E. Mengotti (ABB) L. Heyderman (ETH) F. Nolting (PSI) A. Fraile Rodriguez (Barcelona)



