# Topological effects in nanomagnetism: from perpendicular recording to monopoles

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**Sf** 



for Theoretical Studies



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#### 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.

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

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

# 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**

![](_page_22_Figure_4.jpeg)

Allwood et al., Science ('05)

#### **Magnetic ratchet**

![](_page_22_Figure_7.jpeg)

#### **Racetrack memory**

![](_page_22_Picture_9.jpeg)

Parkin et al., Science ('08)

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

#### **Pairs of solitons**

![](_page_23_Figure_1.jpeg)

# 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

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

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

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Switching rates for soliton-antisoliton nucleation

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### **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 !!

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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

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



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