



Magnetism with a twist - Topology and zoology of skyrmions

Laboratory for Quantum Magnetism (LQM)

Switzerland

Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne

Outline

- Skyrmions and Topology in magnetism
- Room temperature skyrmion host Co_{10-x}Zn_{10-y}Mn_{x+y}
 - Room temperature skyrmions
 - Meta-stability
 - "Square skyrmion" lattice
 - Skyrmions in zero field at room temperature
- Magnetoelectric skyrmion host Cu₂OSeO₃
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 - SANS
 - Theory
 - Direct observation (LTEM)
 - Lattice defects and melting, hexatic phase?





Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya helices H = $-\Sigma J_{ij}S_i \cdot S_j + D_{ij} \cdot (S_i \times S_j)$

J favors parallel spins J>0 Ferromagnet J<0 Antiferromagnet



D favor perpendicular spins

J & D: twist spins by angle tan Θ = D/J Helix with period Q = $2\pi a$ J/D



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Symmetry

- D_{ij} allowed on bonds without inversion symmetry
- Comes from spin-orbit interaction, 1-10% of J
- Mostly $\Sigma D_{ij} = 0$ per unit cell.
- Chiral crystal structures $\Sigma D_{ij} \equiv D \neq 0$
- So "ferromagnets" with chiral structure unstable towards long-period helical structure







Helical, conical and "A-phase"

Magnetic Ordering in Nearly Ferromagnetic Antiferromagnetic Helices

Bente LEBECH 1993

Department of Solid State Physics, Risø National Laboratory, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark

Abstract

The cubic polymorph of FeGe and MnSi belong to a class of magnetic intermetallic compounds with the B20 crystal structure (P2₁3). Materials with this crystal structure lack inversion symmetry; they have chirality and are capable of supporting

5. Conclusion

The present paper has considered various aspects of the magnetic phase diagram of cubic FeGe and MnSi and correlated the results of neutron small-angle scattering data to the existing theoretical treatments of Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya helices. The neutron scattering data agree reasonably well with the predictions of the present day theories. However, in the neutron diffraction data for both FeGe and MnSi there are indications that the magnetically ordered structure could be a single domain multi-q structure rather than a multi-q single domain structure. If the ordered structure is a multi-q structure, it may be necessary to revise the theoretical description outlined above.





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3Q structure



$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{r}) \approx \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{f}} + \sum_{i=1}^{3} \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{Q}_{i}}^{h}(\mathbf{r} + \Delta \mathbf{r}_{i}) \qquad (3)$$

where $\mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{Q}_{i}}^{h}(\mathbf{r}) = A[\mathbf{n}_{i1}\cos(\mathbf{Q}_{i}\mathbf{r}) + \mathbf{n}_{i2}\sin(\mathbf{Q}_{i})\mathbf{r}]$





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2016 EPS CMD Europhysics Prize

The Condensed Matter Division of the European Physical Society is proud to announce the award of the 2016 European Physical Society Condensed Matter Division Europhysics Prize to:

Peter Böni, Aleksandr N. Bogdanov, Christian Pfleiderer, Achim Rosch and Ashvin Vishwanath

"for the theoretical prediction, the experimental discovery and the theoretical analysis of a magnetic skyrmion phase in MnSi, a new state of matter."



Thermodynamically stable magnetic vortex states in magnetic crystals

A. Bogdanov *, A. Hubert

Institut für Werkstoffwissenschaften VI der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Martensstr. 7, D 91058 Erlangen, Germany

Received 14 February 1994

Fig. 1. Schematic view of a sample with a vortex lattice. In the cross-section a Néel-like rotation is indicated (see Section 2.5).

"spin vortices" as local solitonic solution to continuum model

 $\mathcal{H}_{JDh} = J(\nabla \mathbf{S})^2 + D\mathbf{S} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{S}) - \mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{S}$

Skyrmion lattice of individual skyrmions \iff 3-Q magnetic structure

Magnetic skyrmions: non-trivial topology in real-space

Tony Skyrme Nucl. Phys. **31** 556 (1962)

•Skyrmion \rightarrow a local excitation of a smooth mesonic field

- •Excitations interpreted to be baryon *particles*
- •Characterised by a *topological charge*.
- •Skyrmion excitation in the solid state: Liquid crystals, QHE, BEC, <u>magnets</u>

Topologically non-trivial (countable objects) Closed particle-like state (physical stability)

In the original sense

P. Milde et al., Scienceliste010076 (201

The hairy ball theorem

 "you can't comb a hairy ball flat without creating a cowlick"

Topology concern non-local properties !

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2016

Photo: A. Mahmoud David J. Thouless Prize share: 1/2

Photo: A. Mahmoud F. Duncan M. Haldane Prize share: 1/4

Photo: A. Mahmoud J. Michael Kosterlitz Prize share: 1/4

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2016 was awarded with one half to David J. Thouless, and the other half to F. Duncan M. Haldane and J. Michael Kosterlitz *"for theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter"*.

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Topological phase transitions

Topological phases of matter

Skyrmions and magnetic bubbles

• In plate-geometry bubbles are stabilized by dipole fields

Skyrmions on the track

Albert Fert, Vincent Cros and João Sampaio

Magnetic skyrmions are nanoscale spin configurations that hold promise as information carriers in ultradense memory and logic devices owing to the extremely low spin-polarized currents needed to move them.

- Skyrmions move in small currents
- Race-track memory...

simulation

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Many phenomena, large interest, growing list of materials

Material	SG	Ordering Temp	Helimag. Period	Transport property	Skyrmion motion	SkL Dimensi on	References
MnSi	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 3	30 K	18 nm	Metallic	<i>j_c</i> ~10 ⁶ A.m ⁻² ∆T	2D	S. Mühlbauer <i>et al.</i> , Science 323 , 915 (2009) F. Jonietz <i>et al.</i> , Science 330 , 1648 (2010) M. Mochizuki <i>et al.</i> , Nat. Mater. 13 , 241 (2014)
FeGe	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 3	280 K	70 nm	Metallic	<i>j_c</i> <10 ⁶ A.m ^{−2}	2D	X.Z. Yu <i>et al.</i> , Nat. Mater. 10 , 106 (2010) X.Z. Yu <i>et al.</i> , Nat. Comm. 3 , 988 (2012)
Fe _{1-x} Co _x Si	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 3	11 – 36 K	40-230 nm	Metal / semi- conductor		2D	W. Münzer <i>et al.</i> , PRB 81 , 041203(R) (2010) X.Z. Yu <i>et al.</i> , Nature 465 , 901 (2010)
Mn _{1-x} Fe _x Si	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 3	7-16.5 K	10-12 nm	Metallic		2D	S.V. Grigoriev <i>et al.,</i> PRB 79, 144417 (2009)
Mn _{1-x} Fe _x Ge	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 3	150-220 K	5 - 220 nm	Metallic		2D	K. Shibata <i>et al.,</i> Nature Nano. 8, 723 (2013)
Co _x Zn _y Mn _z	P4 ₁ 32	140-480K	110-190nm	Metallic		2D	Y. Tokunaga <i>et al.,</i> Nat. Com. 6, 7638 (2015)
GaV_4S_8	C _{3v}	13 K	22nm Neel type	Semi- conductor		2D anisotrop	I. Kezsmarki <i>et al.</i> , Nat Mat 14, 1116 (2015)
Cu ₂ OSeO ₃	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 3	58 K	50 nm	Insulating Magneto- electric	∆T <i>E</i> <10 ⁵ V/m	2D	S. Seki <i>et al.</i> , Science 336, 198 (2012) T. Adams <i>et al.</i> , PRL 108 , 237204 (2012) M. Mochizuki <i>et al</i> ., Nat Mat 13 , 241 (2014)
MnGe	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 3	170 K	3 nm	Metallic		3D?	N. Kanazawa <i>et al</i> ., PRL 106 , 156603 (2011) N. Kanazawa <i>et al</i> ., PRB 86 , 134425 (2012)

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tľtl

LIQM

Small-angle neutron scattering (SANS)

D33 @ ILL

Large period $\lambda = 2d\sin\theta$ structures (~3 to 500 nm) \rightarrow low $q \rightarrow$ SANS

- Length of instrument: 4-40 m
- Scattering angle: ~1-5°
- Low **q**: 0.002 to 0.3 Å⁻¹.
- Non-destructive bulk probe
- Neutron spin polarisation analysis

Small-angle neutron scattering (SANS)

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OPEN

A new class of chiral materials hosting magnetic skyrmions beyond room temperature

Y. Tokunaga^{1,†}, X.Z. Yu¹, J.S. White², H.M. Rønnow^{1,3}, D. Morikawa¹, Y. Taguchi¹ & Y. Tokura^{1,4}

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Robust metastable skyrmions and their triangular -square lattice structural transition in a hightemperature chiral magnet

K. Karube, J. S. White, N. Reynolds, J. L. Gavilano, H. Oike, A. Kikkawa, F. Kagawa, Y. Tokunaga, H. M. Rønnow, Y. Tokura & Y. Taguchi

Affiliations | Contributions | Corresponding author

Topological protection + D/J(T) => long skyrmions

Number of skyrmions: 10

(b) Square SkX + Helical

(c) Nematic-like square texture of elongated skyrmions

- Consequence:
 - Relationship helical domains / elongated skyrmions
 - Edges of helical domains carry half-skyrmions = merons
 - Crossing phase transition can pump skyrmions

 $2\pi/$

Confirmation from real-space imaging

D. Morikawa et al., Nano Letters, Just Accepted Manuscript (2017)

Metastable skyrmions deform upon cooling

6K

SANS measurement : Room-T zero-H SkX quenched at RIKEN

Skyrmion types

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Skyrmion hosting insulator Cu₂OSeO₃

Crystal structure, *P*2₁3, no inversion symmetry

Cubic unit cell contain 16 Cu²⁺ S=1/2 4 tetrahedra forming "3-up-1-down" S=1 Total S=4 per unit cell No inversion => net DMI per unit cell

'Generic' magnetic phase diagram + SkL phase

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Magneto-electric Cu₂OSeO₃

S. Seki et al., Science 336, 198 (2012)

<u>Question – what is the E-field effect on the Skyrmion lattice in insulators?</u>

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Small Angle Neutron Scattering with E-field

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E-field rotates the skyrmion lattice

J. White et al, J. Phys. Cond. Mat 24, 432201 (2012), PRL113, 107203 (2014)

Need perturbation treatment for E-field effect

E-field cants the magnetic moments to distort the helices

$$\mathcal{H} = J(\nabla \mathbf{S})^2 + D\mathbf{S} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{S}) - hS_z + \mathcal{H}_{PE} + \mathcal{H}_A^{(4)} + \mathcal{H}_A^{(6)}$$

First-order correction to the theory \rightarrow treat the *E*-field as a perturbation.

Obtain the new groundstate under applied *E*-field:

$$|n\rangle = |n^{0}\rangle + \sum_{m} \frac{|m^{0}\rangle\langle m^{0}|\mathcal{H}_{PE}|n^{0}\rangle}{\epsilon^{(n)} - \epsilon^{(m)}} \implies |0\rangle' = |0\rangle + \frac{|1\rangle\langle 1|\mathcal{H}_{PE}|0\rangle}{-Dq} + \frac{|2\rangle\langle 2|\mathcal{H}_{PE}|0\rangle}{-2Dq}$$

$$S^{x}(q) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}i\hat{q}_{y} - \frac{\alpha E}{4Dq_{0}}i\left(2\hat{q}_{x}^{3} - \hat{q}_{x}\hat{q}_{y}^{2} - \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{4}\hat{q}_{x}^{2}\hat{q}_{y} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\hat{q}_{y}\right)$$

$$S^{y}(q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}i\hat{q}_{x} - \frac{\alpha E}{4Dq_{0}}i\left(-2\hat{q}_{y}^{3} - \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{4}\hat{q}_{x}\hat{q}_{y}^{2} + \hat{q}_{x}^{2}\hat{q}_{y} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\hat{q}_{x}\right)$$

$$s^{z}(q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{\alpha E}{4Dq_{0}}i\left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\hat{q}_{y}^{2} + \hat{q}_{x}\hat{q}_{y} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\hat{q}_{x}\right)$$

$$s^{z}(q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{\alpha E}{4Dq_{0}}i\left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\hat{q}_{y}^{2} + \hat{q}_{x}\hat{q}_{y} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\hat{q}_{x}\right)$$

$$F = 0$$

$$\beta = 0.3$$

$$F = 0$$

$$\beta = 0.3$$

$$Bonnow - Skymions ETZ 2019$$

$$Side 43$$

SANS: write and erase skyrmion lattice with E-field

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Theory of phase diagram with E-field

2nd order perturbation theory

$$\Delta W_1(E) = -\frac{\alpha (2m^2 + 3\mu^2) M_s^2 a^3}{4} E - \frac{189 \alpha^2 \mu^2 M_s^2 a^3}{64 D k_0} E^2, \qquad (4.48)$$

$$\Delta W_2(E) = \frac{9\alpha A \mu^4 M_s^2 a^3}{32 D k_0} E \left[\frac{11}{4} - 3\sqrt{2} \frac{\mu}{m} + \frac{\mu^2}{m^2} + \frac{9}{8} (\cos 6\phi_0 + 2\sqrt{2} \sin 6\phi_0) \right], \qquad (4.49)$$

$$\Delta W_3(E) = \frac{27\alpha^2 A \mu^4 M_s^2 a^3}{1024 D^2 k_0^2} E^2 \times \left(f_0 + f_1 \cos 6\phi_0 + f_2 \sin 6\phi_0 \right). \qquad (4.50)$$

- Landau-Ginzburg approach with improved treatment of Gaussian fluctuations
- Use experimental Hc(T) to place Landau-Ginzburg phase ٠ diagram on absolute T-scale:

breakdown

56

Good agreement with experiment

A. Kruchkov et al Sci Rep 8 10466 (2018); White et al PRApp 10, 014021 (2018)

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Introduction to Lorenz Transmission Electron Microscopy (LTEM)

cryo-TEM configuration

Liquid helium holder

SEM image of the sample region

Cu₂OSeO₃: Lorentz microscopy

- Large sample \Rightarrow 100000 skyrmions resolved
- Allows quantitative analyses, such as delauney triangulation

Magnetic contrast Lorentz transmission electron microscopy with in-situ electric fields

electric connections

Positive E-field creates skyrmions

$\Delta Energy = -P \cdot E$

Counting skyrmions in mixed phase

Previous algorithm gets confused

- Use orientational map Inspired by finger-print algorithms
- Rau & Schunck 1989

T LQM

$$V_{x}(u,v) = \sum_{i=u-\frac{W}{2}}^{u+\frac{W}{2}} \sum_{j=v-\frac{W}{2}}^{v+\frac{W}{2}} 2\partial_{x}(i,j) \,\partial_{y}(i,j)$$
$$V_{y}(u,v) = \sum_{i=u-\frac{W}{2}}^{u+\frac{W}{2}} \sum_{j=v-\frac{W}{2}}^{v+\frac{W}{2}} \left(\partial_{x}^{2}(i,j)\partial_{y}^{2}(i,j)\right)$$
$$\theta(u,v) = \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{V_{y}(u,v)}{V_{x}(u,v)}\right)$$

Inspect frame by hand (worst case) Skyrmion counts: Hand inspection 90 Algorithm: 132 Missed: 37 Extra: 79 So we count skyrmions with an offset

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Defects and angles

Defects classifiable – eg a 5-7 or a 5-8-5 defect
 – "loss" of row along 2 directions

- Defects creates far-stretching rotations

The KTHNY theory predicts a constant $G_6(r)$ close to 1 in the solid phase. When entering the hexatic phase, $G_6(r)$ should decay algebraically $G_6(r) \propto r^{-\eta_6}$. The algebraic decay is slow and there is no characteristic length scale, thus the hexatic phase shows quasi-long range orientational correlations. A critical value of $\eta_6 \rightarrow 1/4$ is predicted by the KTHNY theory approaching the hexatic to liquid phase transition. In the liquid phase, exponential decay $G_6(r) \propto e^{-r/\xi_6}$, where ξ_6 is the orientational correlational correlational correlation length, is expected.

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Magnetic field

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- Skyrmions are fun !

Opportunities at EPFL Institute of Physics:

1 Professorship Condensed Matter Physics (expt) 2 Professorships QST (expt+theory) <u>https://professeurs.epfl.ch/page-158250-en.html</u>

1 Postdoc positionNeutron spectroscopy1 Instrument scientist position(CAMEA)

2 Postdoc positions2 PhD positions

LQM

Coupled order and dynamics (ERC SyG HERO)

Fellowships from PhD, Pdoc to Indep. Group Leader

