

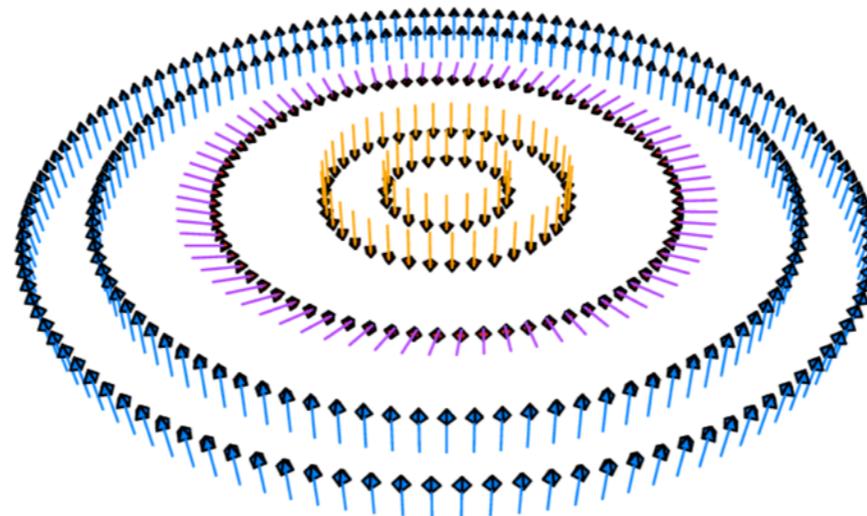
Room temperature chiral skyrmions and skyrmion dynamics in nanostructures



Christoforos Moutafis

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Saturday July 2016, 10:30
@ SOCSIS 2016
Spetses, Greece

<https://skymionics.wordpress.com/>

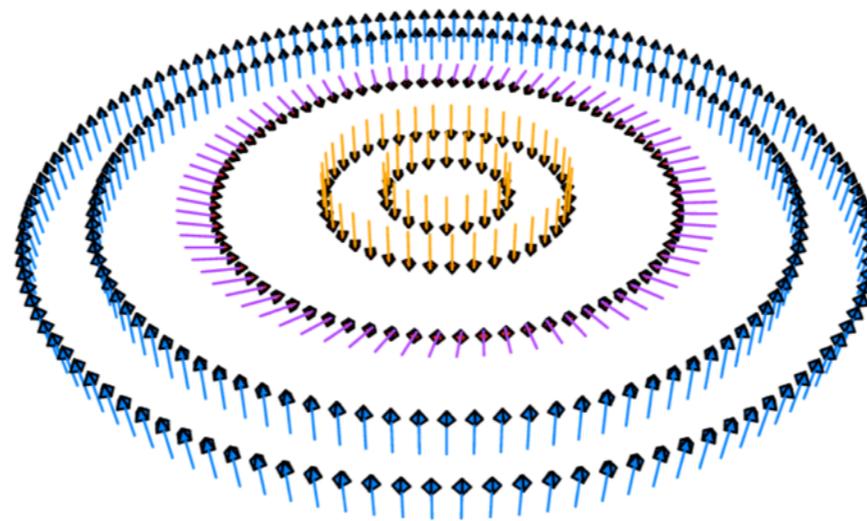
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Room temperature chiral skyrmions and skyrmion dynamics in nanostructures



- Dr. J. Raabe, Swiss Light Source, Paul Scherrer Institute.
- Dr. R. Lavrisjen, Prof. H. J. M. Swagten lab, Technical University Eindhoven, Netherlands.
- Prof. M. Kläui lab, Institute of Physics, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany.
- Prof. S. Eisebitt, Institut für Optik und Atomare Physik, TU Berlin, Germany & Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin, Germany.
- Dr. M. Weigand, BESSY, HZB, Germany.
- Dr. V. Cros and Prof. A. Fert lab, CNRS/Thales, France.



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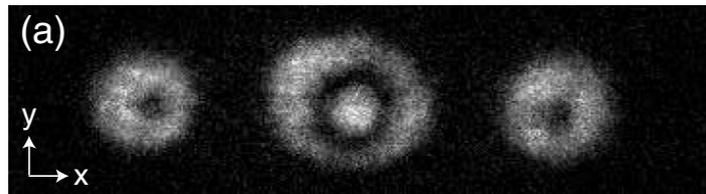


CCN

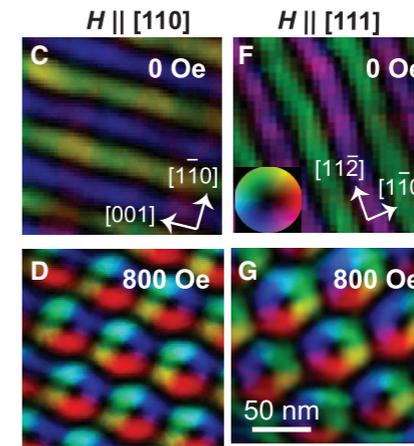
CRETE CENTER FOR
QUANTUM COMPLEXITY
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The Omnipresent Skyrmion



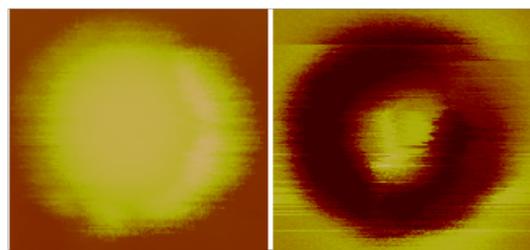
AF Spinor Bose-Einstein condensates
J. Choi et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 108, 035301 (2012)



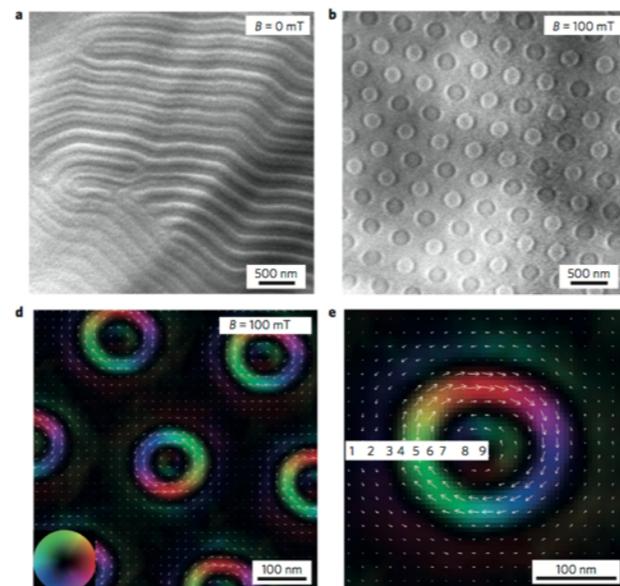
Multiferroics
(Cu_2OSeO_3)
S. Seki, et al.,
Science 336,
198 (2012)

Skyrmions in Ferromagnets

Dipolar-stabilised Skyrmions

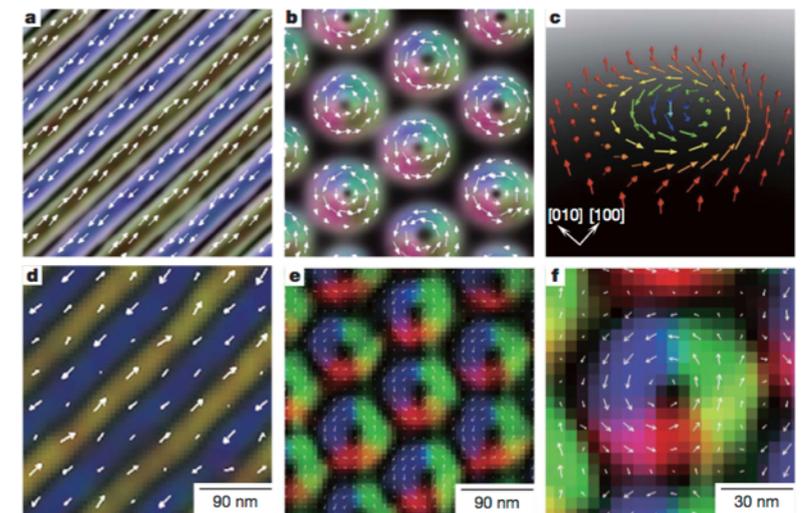


C. Moutafis, et al.
Phys. Rev. B 76, 104426 (2007)



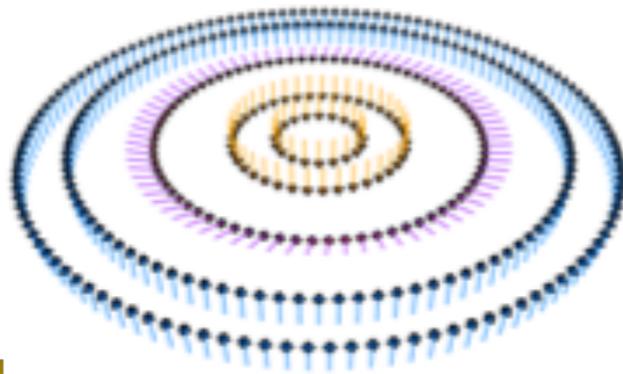
Sc-doped hexagonal barium ferrite
X. Yu, et al. PNAS 109, 8856 (2012)

Dzyaloshinskii–Moriya (DMI) stabilised Skyrmions: chiral Magnets

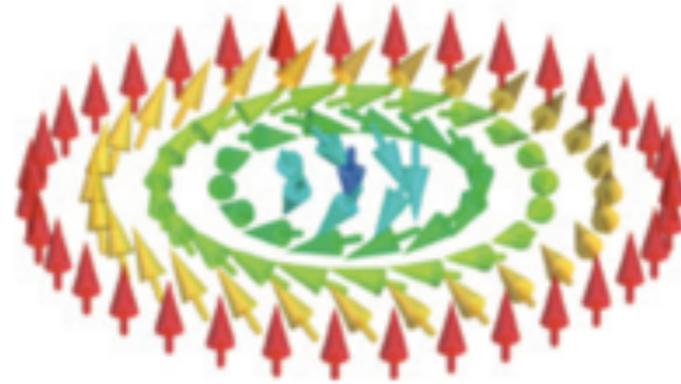


Helical Magnet, $\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{Si}$
X. Yu, et al., Nature 465, 901 (2010)

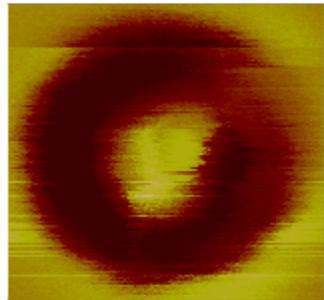
The Skyrmion Topology



Skyrmion bubble



chiral Skyrmions



- "Skyrmion": topology of the mapping between real space and the unit sphere [1,2]
- Various energy mechanisms for skyrmions, e.g. : i) dipolar, ii) DMi [2]
- Skyrmion number unity $|\mathbf{N}| = 1$ -> **Skyrmion Topology**
- Instances of Topological Solitons in PMA magnets: **topologically protected**

Magnetisation Dynamics is directly **linked** to Topology [1]

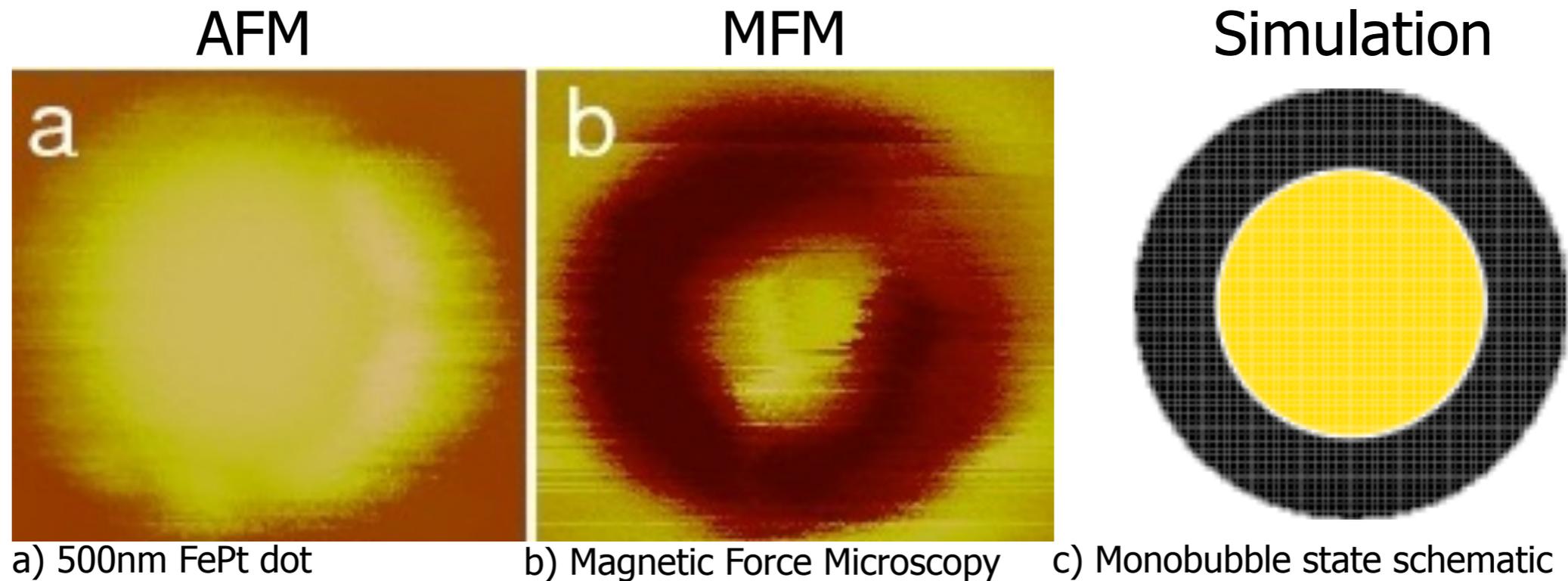
[1] R. Rajaraman, Solitons and instantons (**Elsevier, 1982**)

[2] N. Nagaosa, Y. Tokura, Topological properties and dynamics of magnetic skyrmions, **Nat. Nanotech. 8, 899 (2013)**

[3] A. Fert, et al. **Nature Nanotech. 8, 152 (2013)**



Isolated Bubbles in Confined Geometries



- **Monobubble** state: nanoscale bubble in the center of the dot [3]
- **Stable** at **remanence**; no bias-field

[1] A. P. Malozemoff and J. C. Slonczewski, Magnetic Domain Walls in Bubble Materials, **Academic Press (1979)**

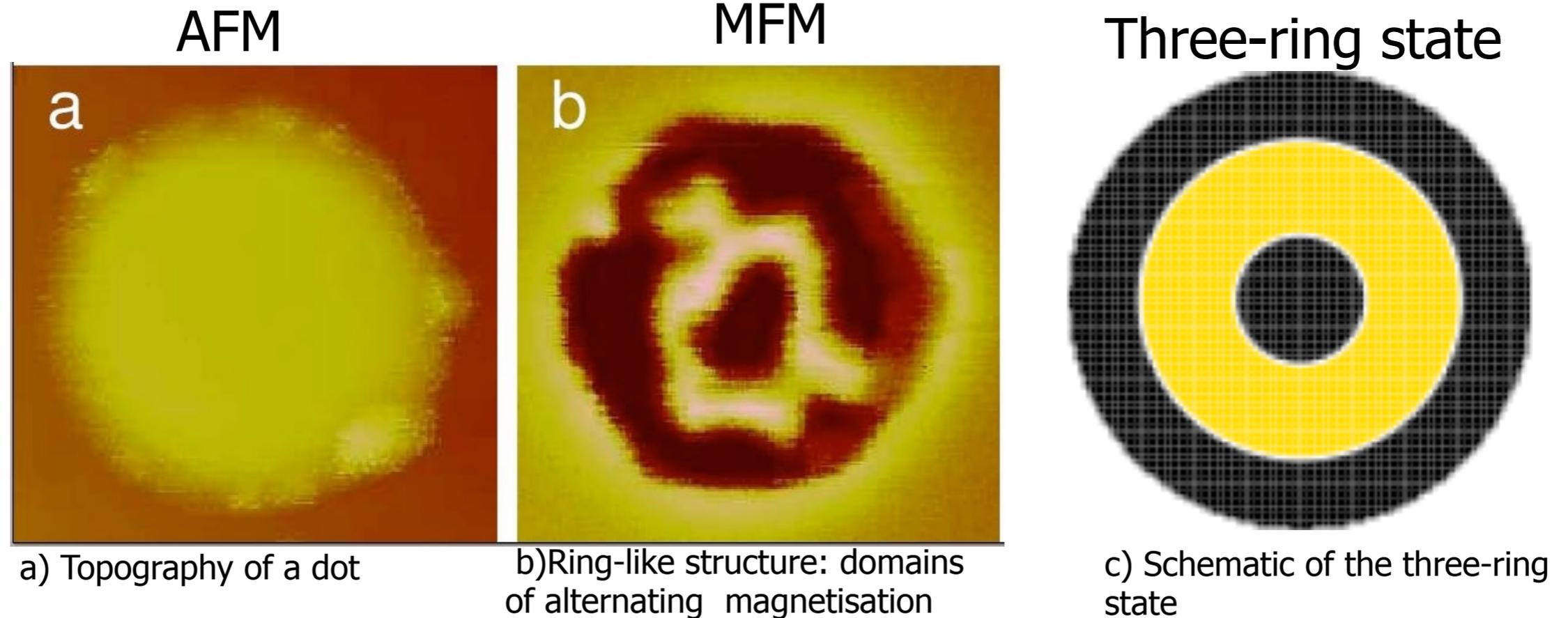
[2] M. Hehn et al., Nanoscale Magnetic Domains in Mesoscopic Magnets, **Science (1996)**

[3] C. Moutafis, S. Komineas, et al., Magnetic bubbles in FePt nanodots with perp. anis., **Phys. Rev. B 76, 104426 (2007)**



The Three-Ring state

$$D = 1 \mu\text{m}$$

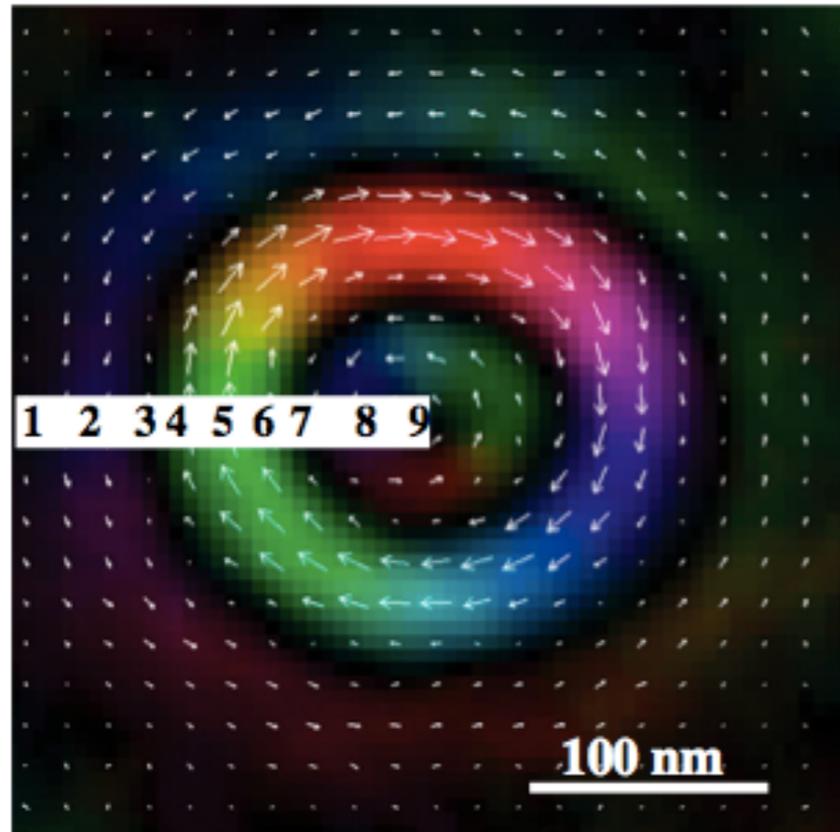


- Symmetric-like domain structures possible; tridomain ring structures observed
- **Stable at remanence**; no bias-field
- These can be interpreted as higher order bubble states

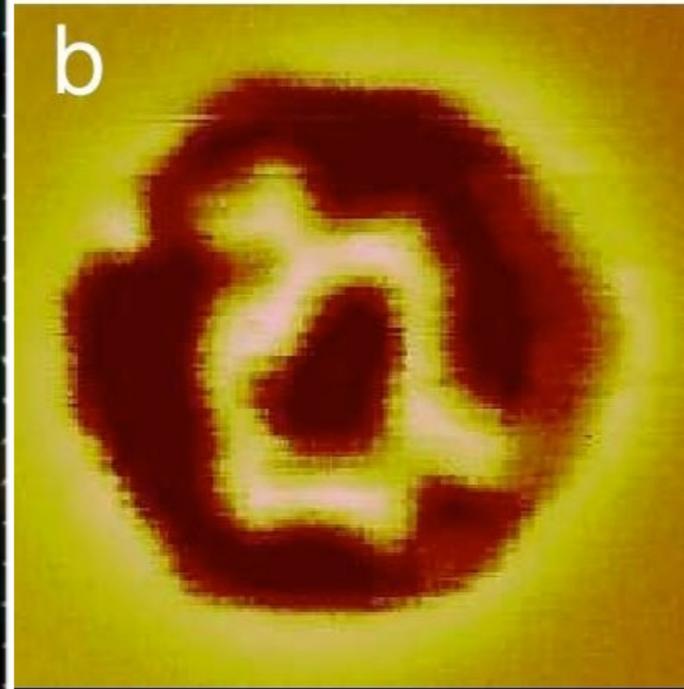


The Three-Ring state

$$D = 1 \mu\text{m}$$

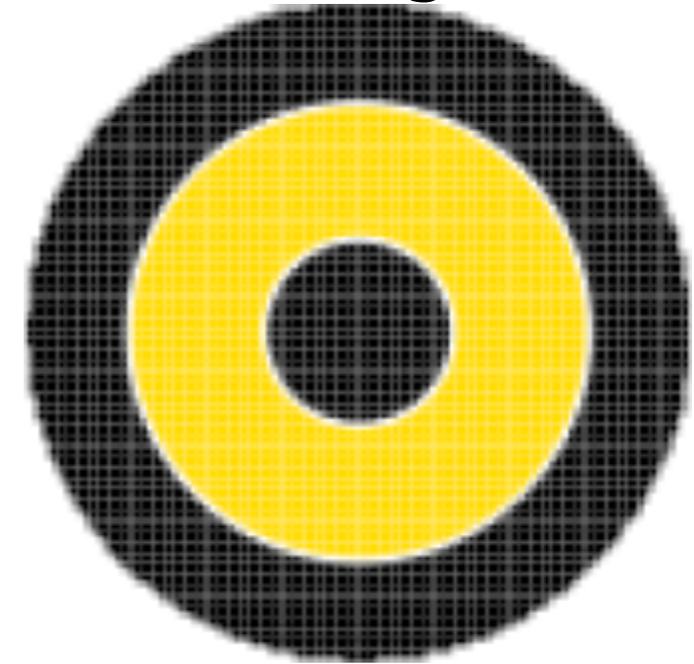


MFM



b) Ring-like structure: domains of alternating magnetisation

Three-ring state



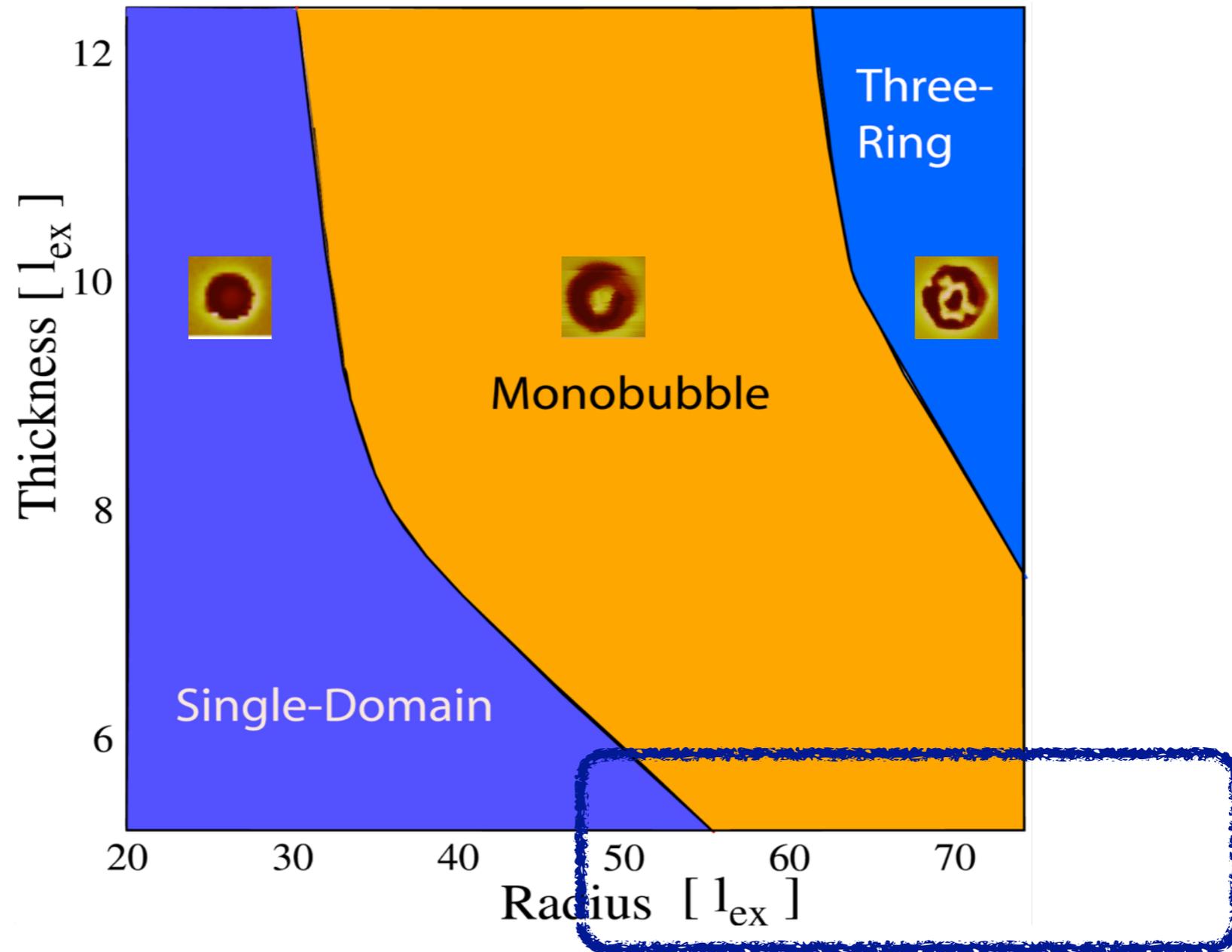
c) Schematic of the three-ring state

- Symmetric-like domain structures possible; tridomain ring structures observed
- **Stable at remanence**; no bias-field
- These can be interpreted as higher order bubble states

Phase diagram in parameter-space



We explore numerically the effects of thickness in dots of varying diameters



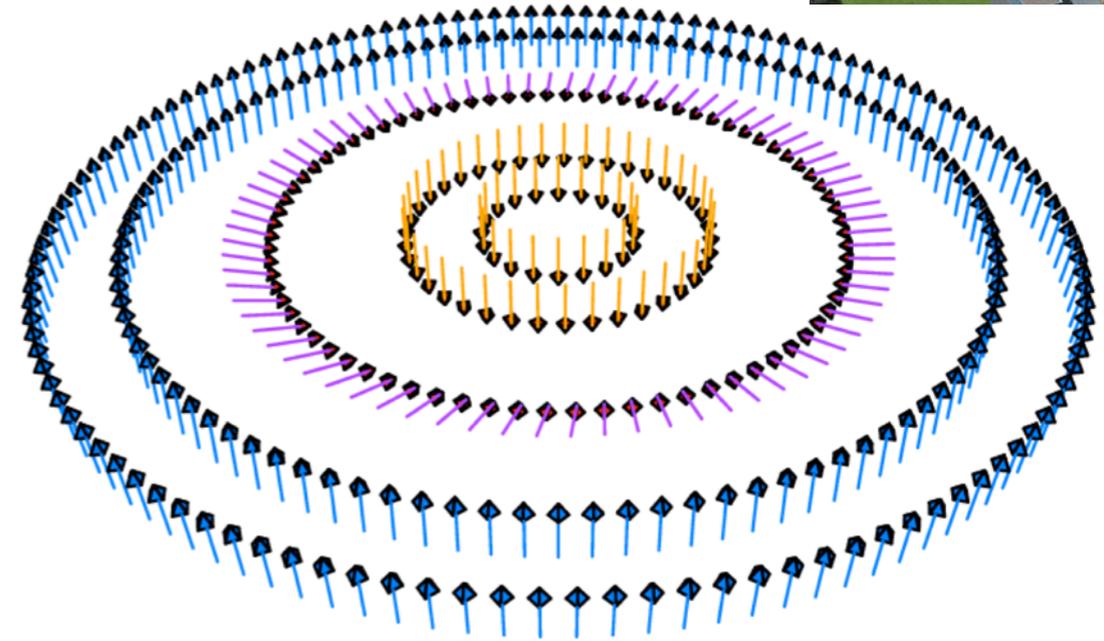
> The lines correspond to radii R_{c1} and R_{c2} as a function of thickness

The critical radius depends strongly on thickness, especially for ultrathin films

Topological considerations



Complexity of multidomain states can be quantified by a topological invariant [1,2].



Skymion number (\propto Thiele's Gyrovector)

$$\mathcal{N} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int n d^2x, \quad n = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu} (\partial_\nu \mathbf{m} \times \partial_\mu \mathbf{m}) \cdot \mathbf{m}$$

- **Monobubble** state has Skymion number (topological charge) $N=\pm 1$
- Manifestations of Skymions in the ferromagnet: Skymion bubble.

Magnetisation dynamics is directly **linked** to topology [1].
Different **dynamics** is expected
for states with different Skymion number (e.g. $N=0$ and $N=1$)

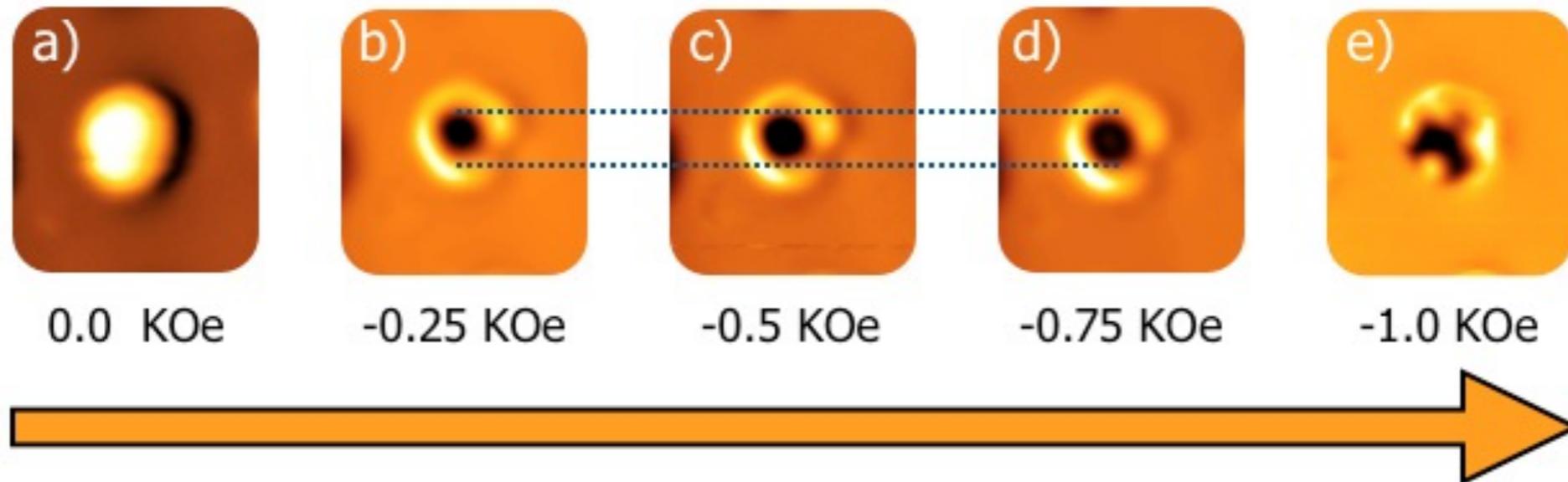
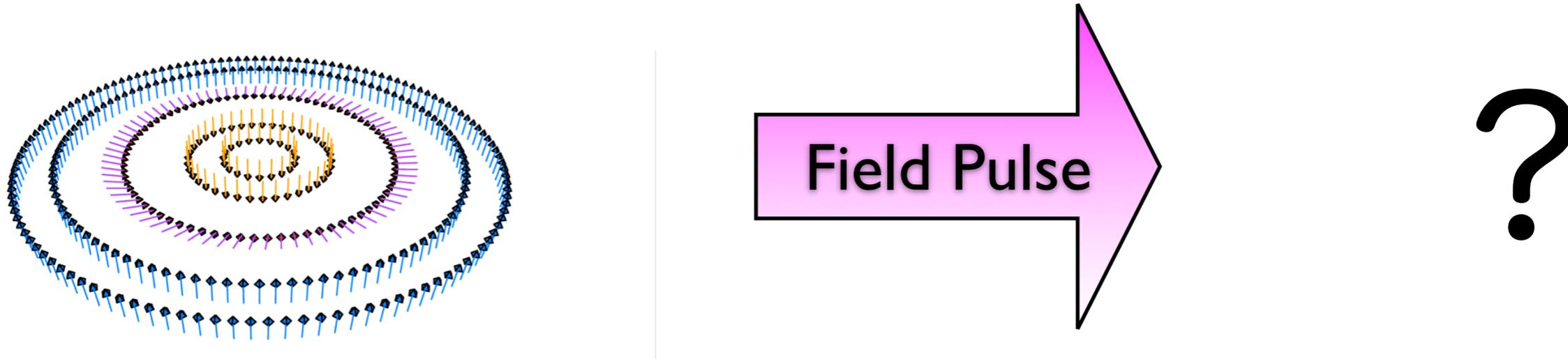
[1] A.A. Thiele, Steady-state motion of magnetic domains, Phys. Rev. Lett. 30, 230 (1973)

[2] N. Nagaosa, Y. Tokura, Topological properties and dynamics of magnetic skyrmions, Nature Nanotech. 8, 899 (2013)

Dynamics



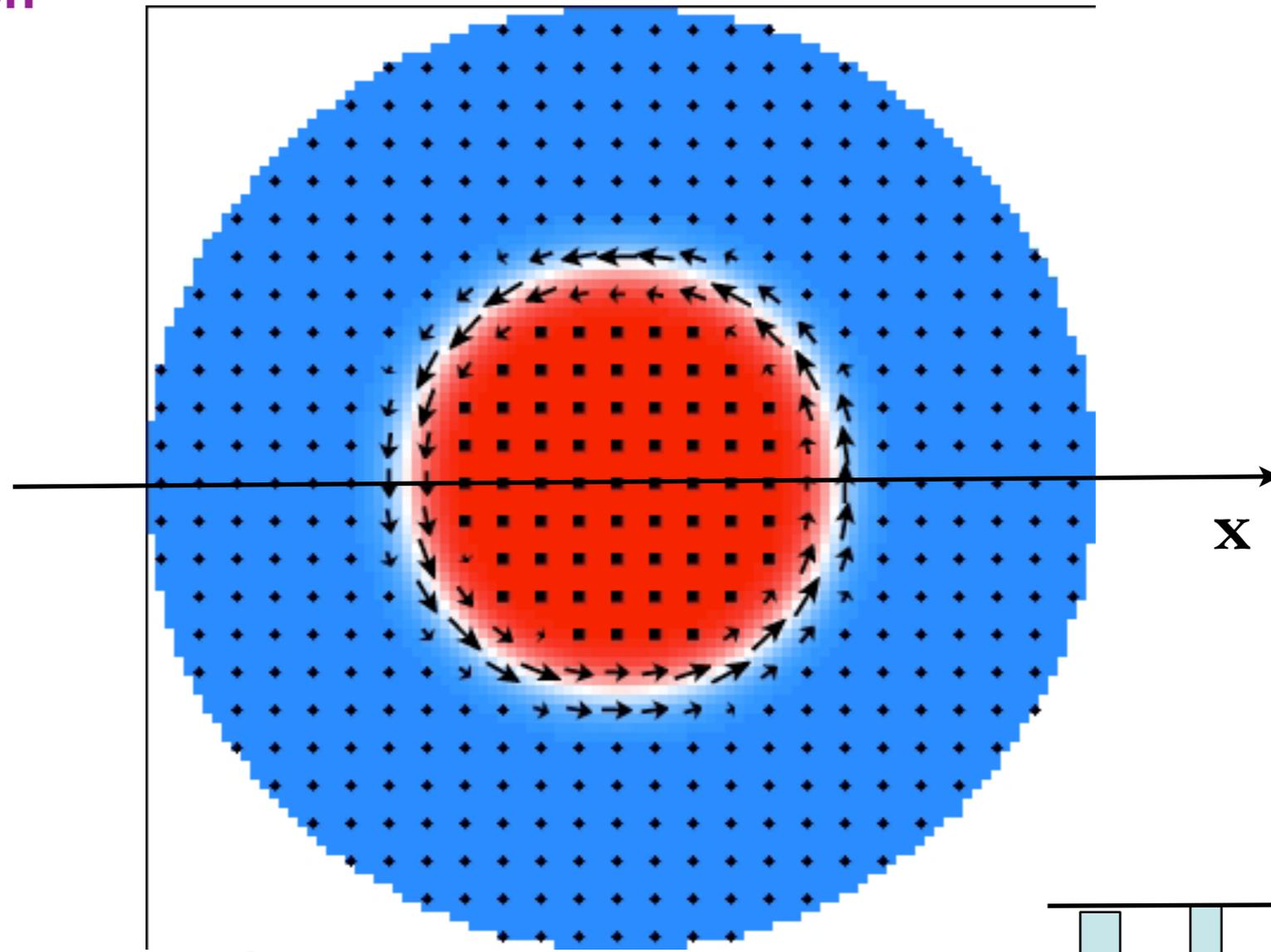
Interested in the dynamic response of such skyrmionic structures in a finite geometry:



Gyrotropic Motion

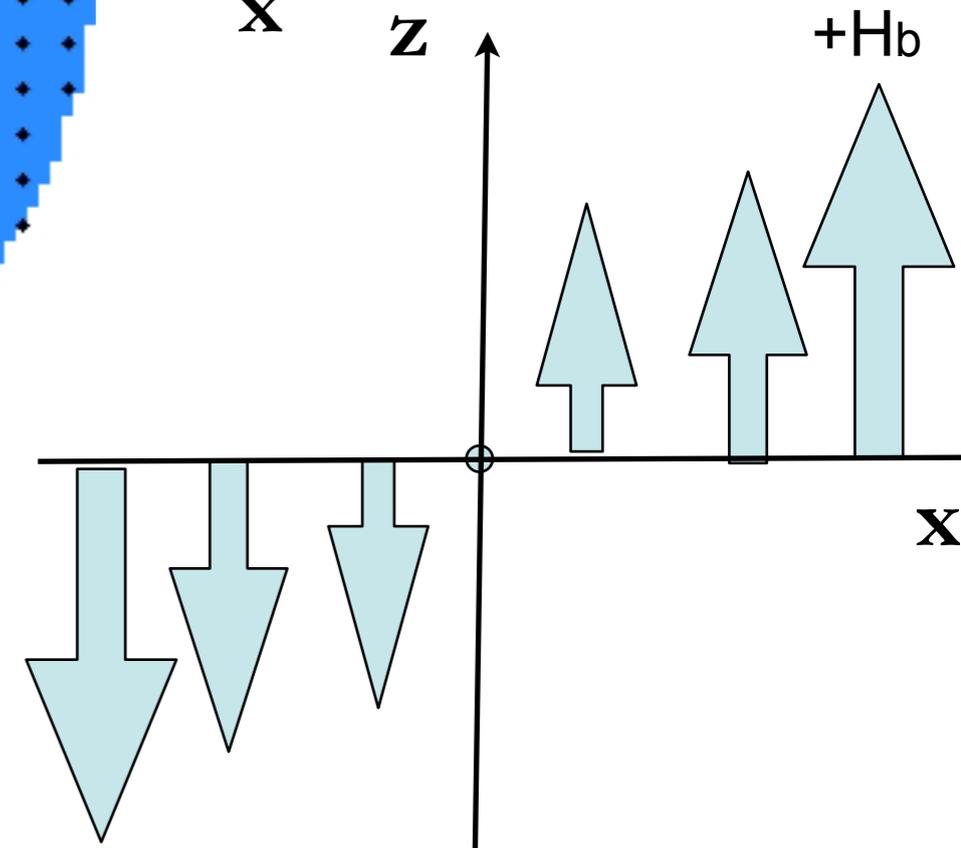


Simulation



Period: ~1 ns
f = 1 GHz

$H_{ext} = [-0.05M_s, 0.05M_s]$
Field strength $g = -0.0025$
 $t = 44.5\tau_0$ (200 ps)



Note details of DW do **not** change considerably. Bubble size changes.

- [1] C. Moutafis, S. Komineas, J. A. C. Bland, Phys. Rev. B vol. 79, 224429 (2009).
- [2] DMi: M. Mochizuki, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2012): Simulations of CW & CCW modes in a DMi system.
- [3] DMi: Y. Onose, et al., Y. Tokura, Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 037603 (2012). Observation of CCW mode.

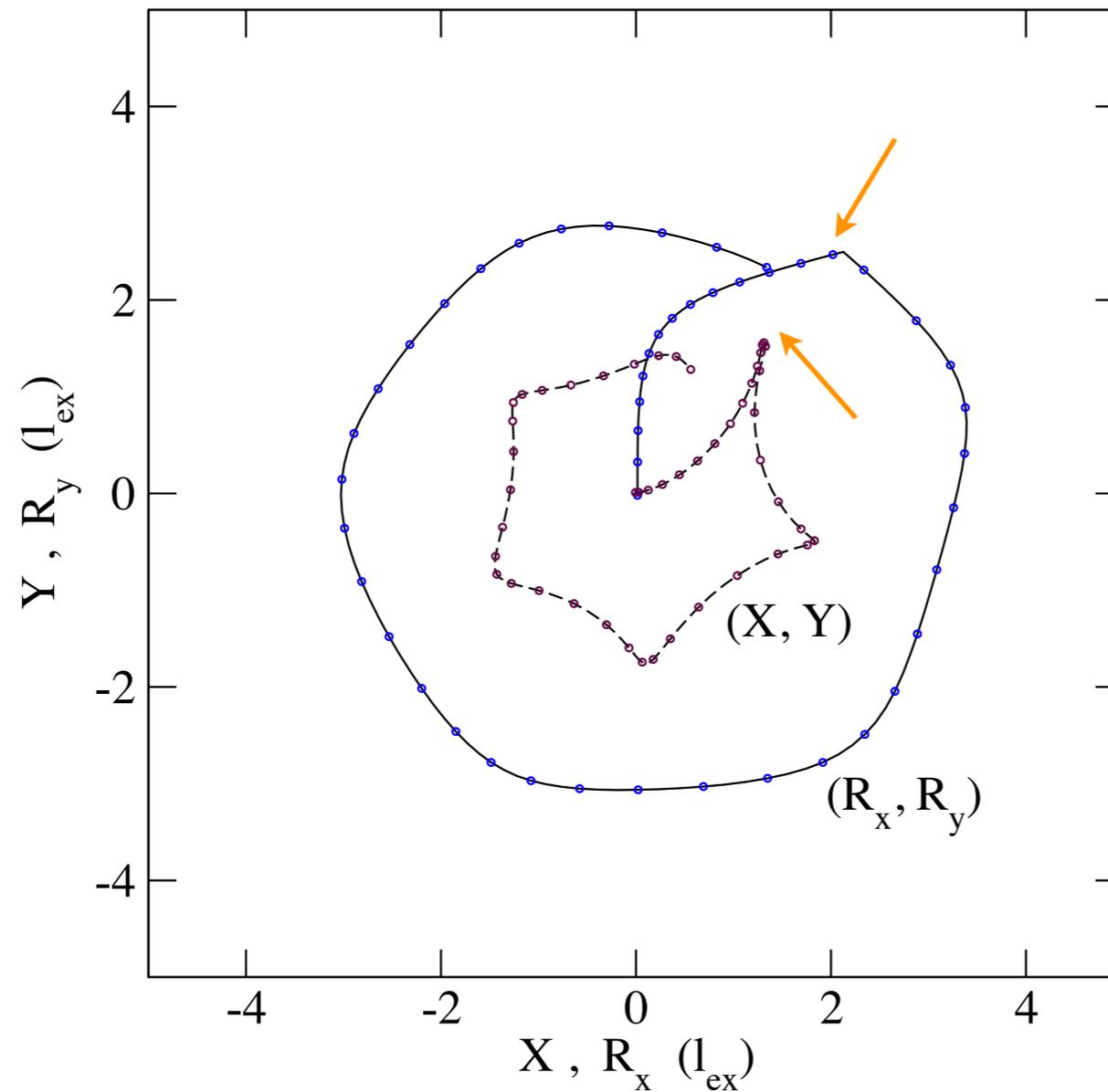
Measures of Bubble Position



In order to show the bubble's orbit and measure the effect of the field:

<p>Moments of the magnetization</p>	$X = \frac{\int x (M_z - 1) dV}{\int (M_z - 1) dV}, \quad Y = \frac{\int y (M_z - 1) dV}{\int (M_z - 1) dV}$
<p>Moments of the topological density</p>	$R_x = \frac{\int x n dV}{\int n dV}, \quad R_y = \frac{\int y n dV}{\int n dV}$ <p>where n is the topological density $n = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu} (\partial_\nu m \times \partial_\mu m) \cdot m$</p>

N=1 Bubble's Gyrotropic Motion



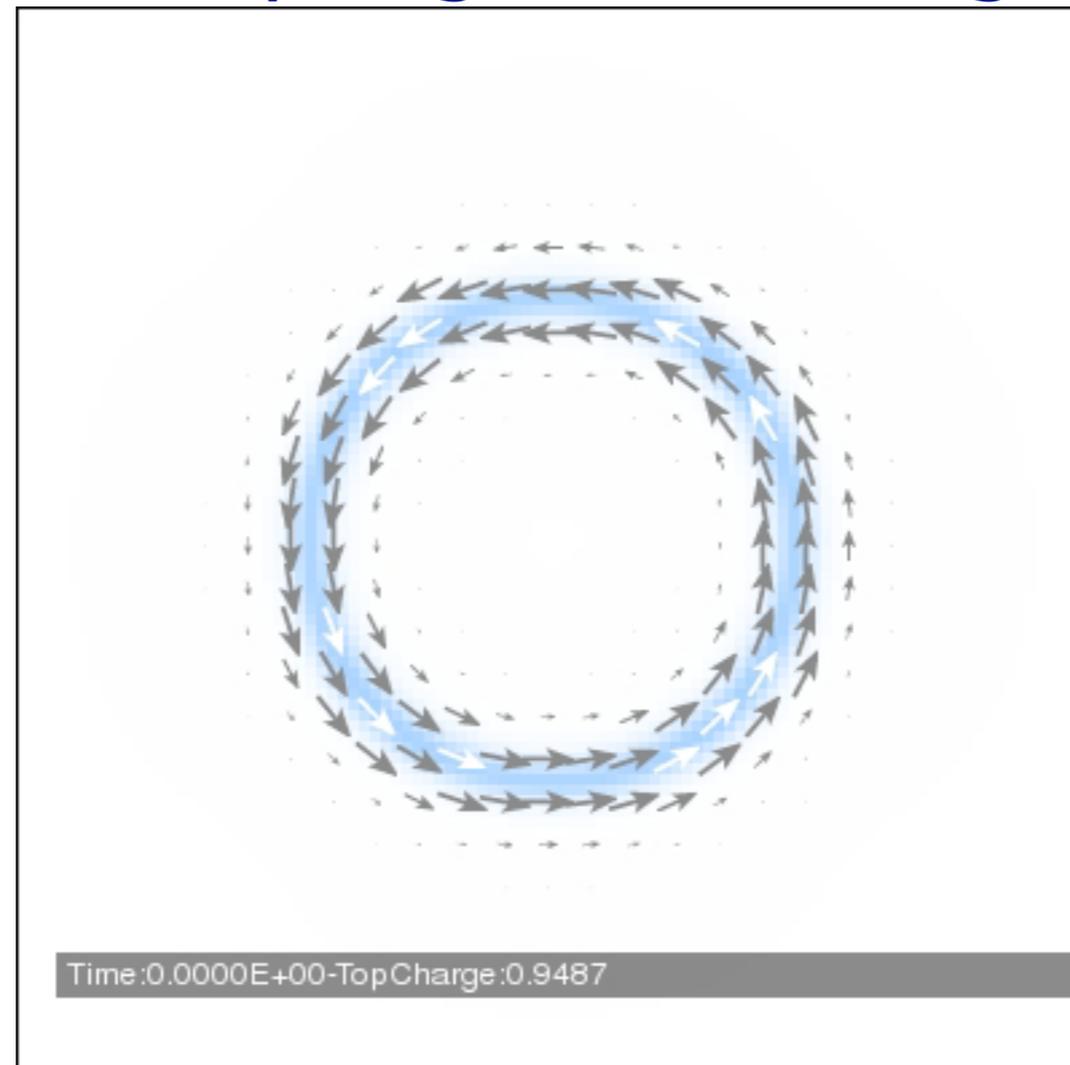
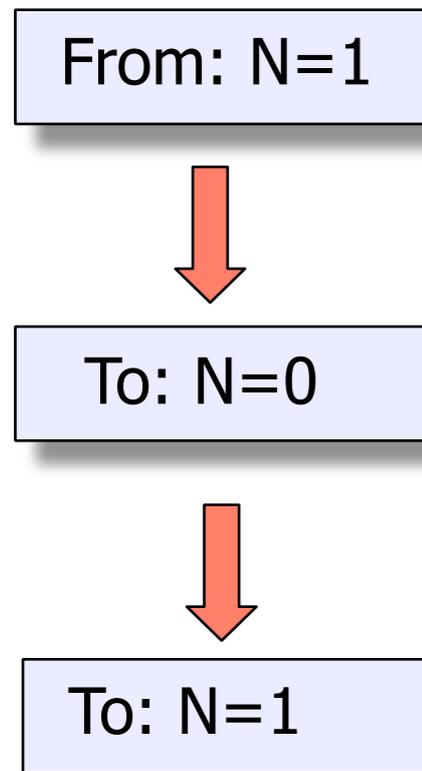
Period: ~ 1 ns
f = 1 GHz

- (X, Y) the guiding center of the center of magnetisation
- (R_x, R_y) the guiding center of the associated topological moments [1]
- N different to unity would exhibit non-regular trajectory

Dynamics: bubble under field gradient Topological switching



Simulation

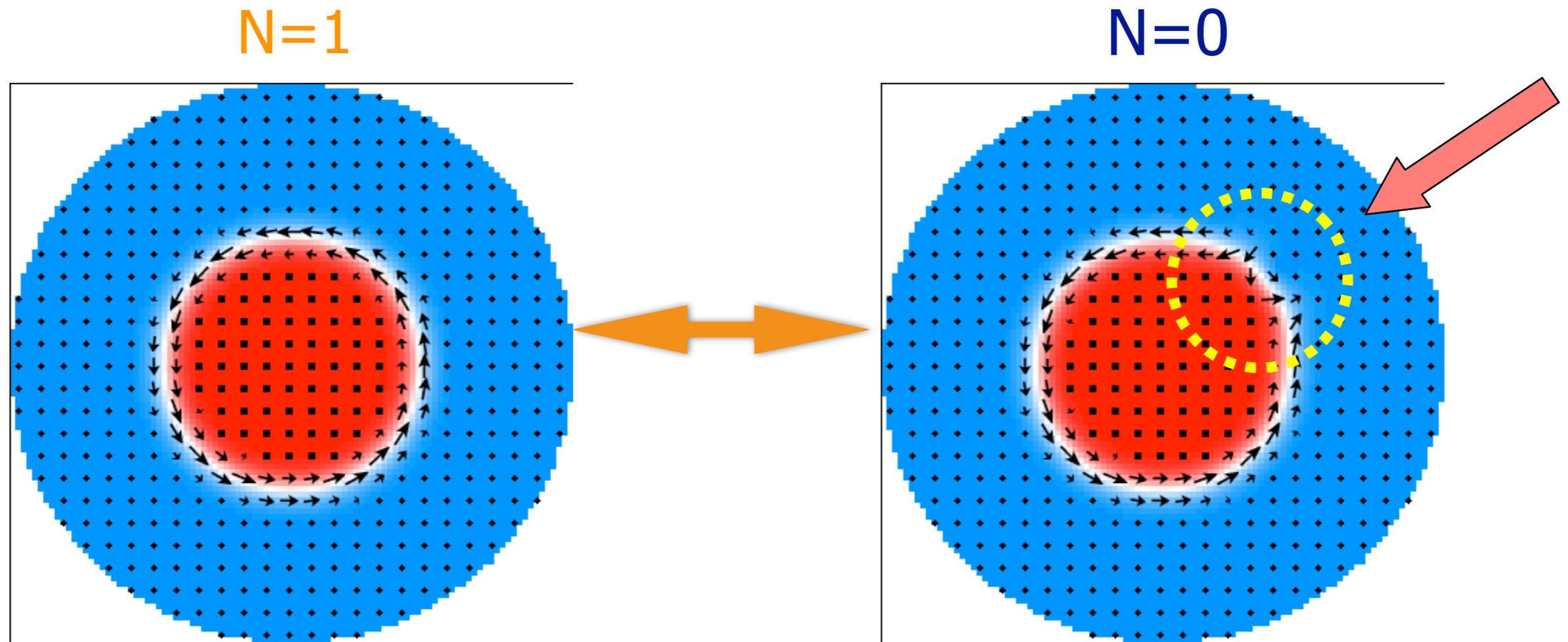


Different dynamics

- * Larger field gradient ($\tau=45$ ps)
- * Switch off and allow the system to evolve freely
- * Large gradients of magnetisation along the domain wall

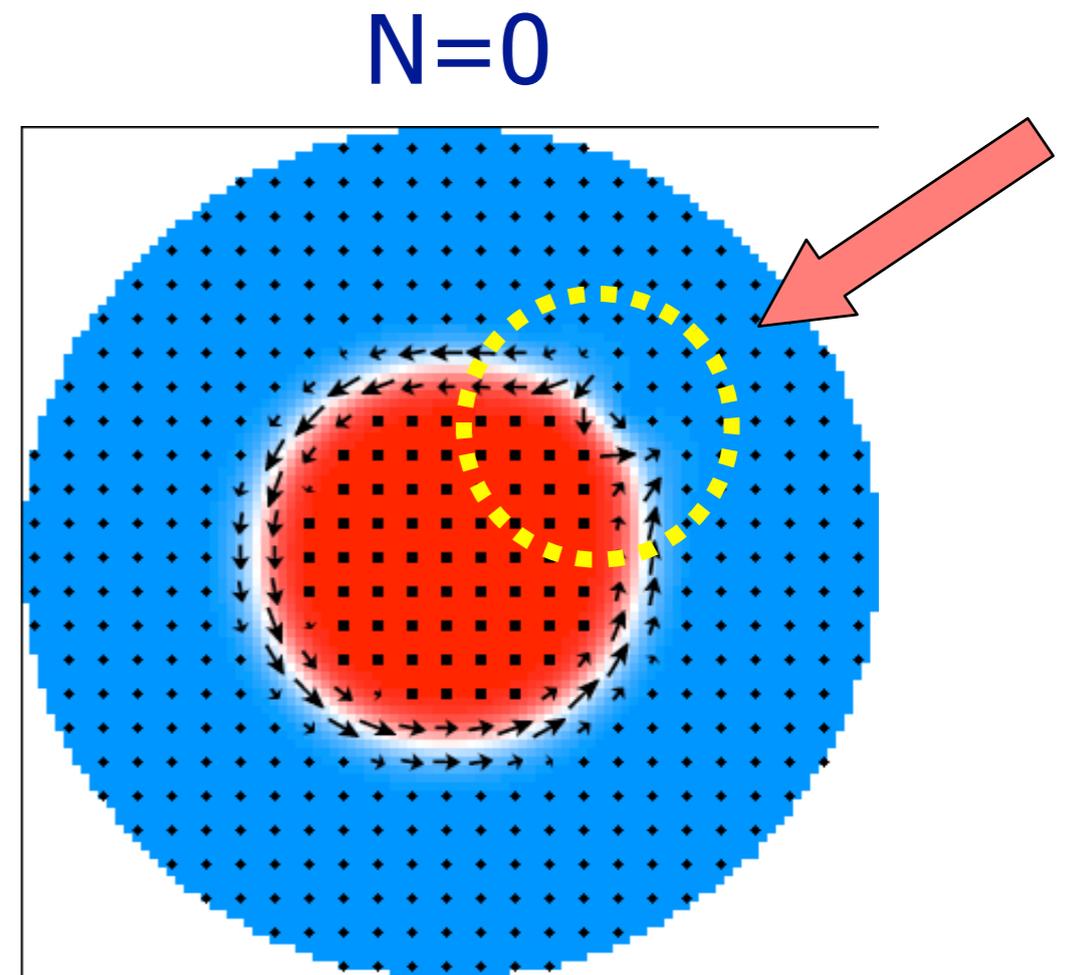
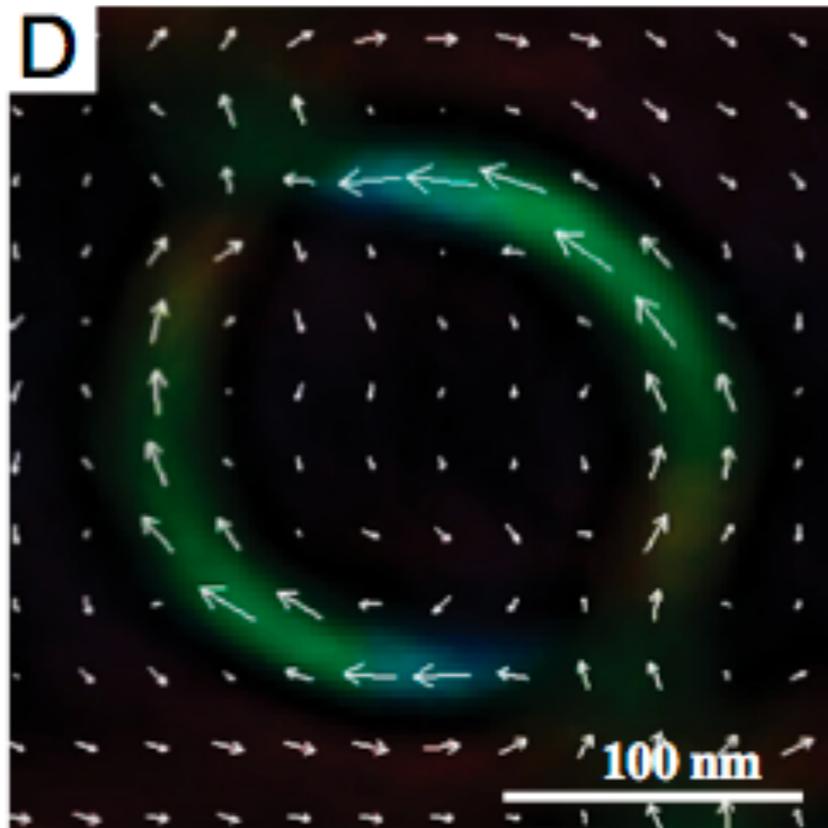
At $t = 385$ ps, a burst of spin waves \rightarrow the Skyrmion number changes!
It switches to a "bubble" with different topological charge in less than 1 nanosecond

Topological Switching



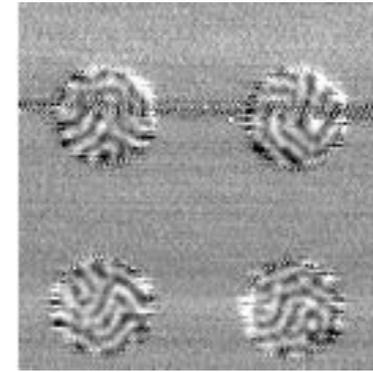
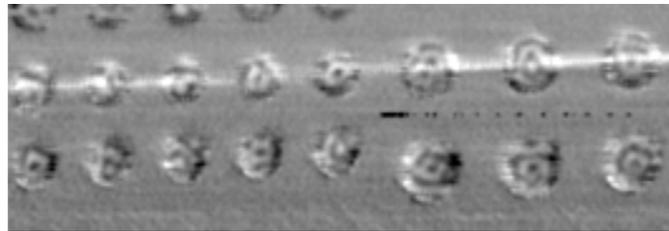
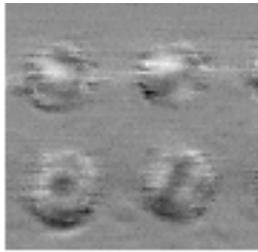
- Fast switching to a topologically trivial state. And back.
- Nucleation of a pair of VBLs
- Isolated states of various topological complexities can be stable/metastable

Topological Switching



- Fast switching to a topologically trivial state. And back.
- Nucleation of a pair of VBLs
- Isolated states of various topological complexities can be stable/metastable
- Different dynamics

CoB/Pt Phase diagram: getting the desired states



100 nm 200 nm 300 nm 400 nm 500 nm 600 nm 700 nm

- **X-rays (XMCD)** magnetic imaging

- Pump-and-probe **STXM** & **Soft X-ray Holography** (PoILux, SLS, UE46-MAXYMUS & UE52SGM, BESSY)

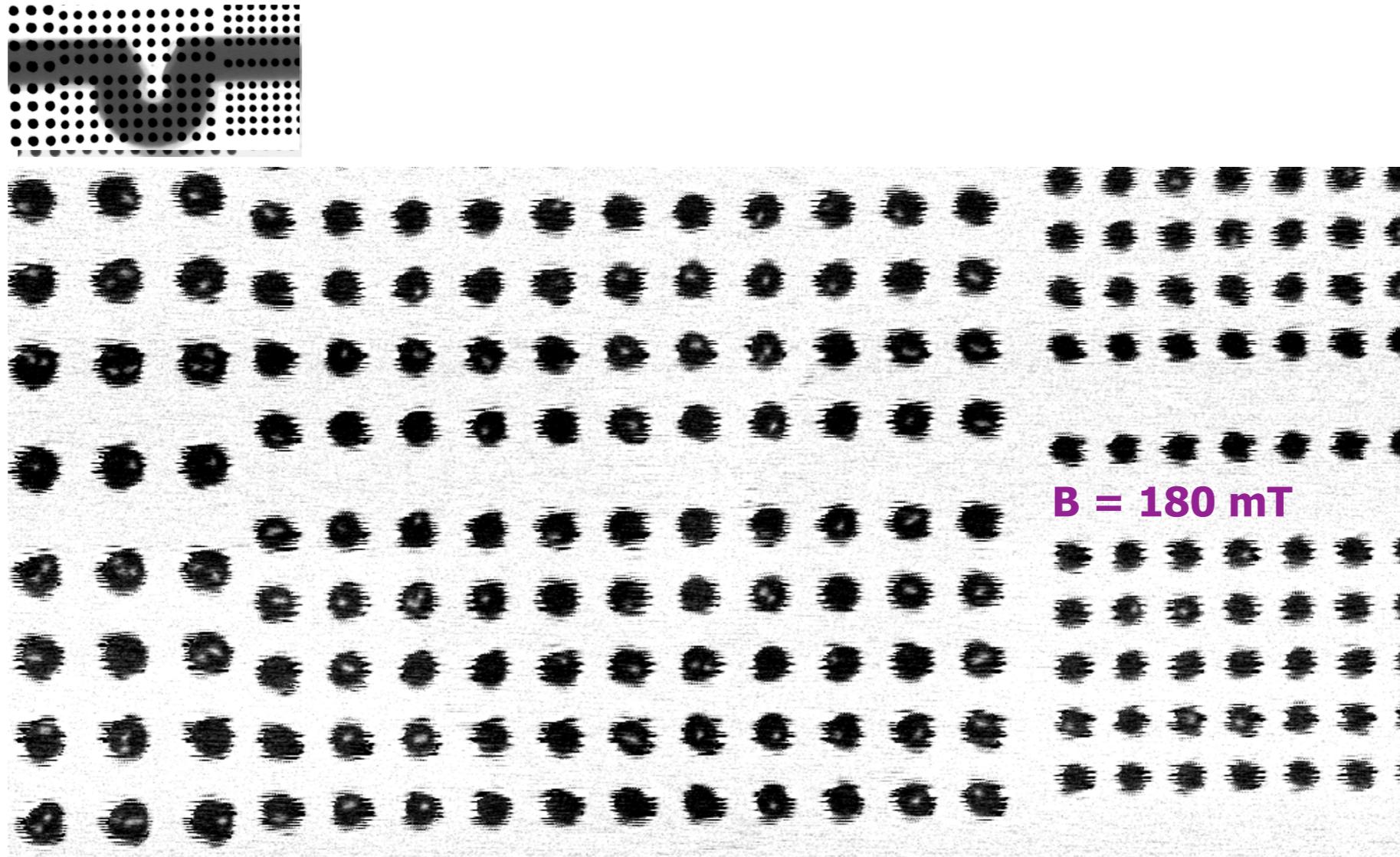
- Dots of amorphous **CoB/Pt** multilayers (Pt(2)/[CoB(0.4)/Pt(0.7)]x29/CoB(0.4)/Pt(2))

- From single domain, to **bubbles**, to **concentric ring** domains to film-like multidomains.

[1] "Magnetic states in low-pinning high-anisotropy material nanostructures suitable for dynamic imaging"
F. Büttner, **C. Moutafis**, et al., **Phys. Rev. B** **87**, 134422 (2013).

[2] "Reduced domain wall pinning in ultra thin Pt/Co_{100-x}B_x/Pt with perpendicular magnetic anisotropy"
R. Lavrijsen, et al. , **Appl. Phys. Lett.** **96**, 022501 (2010).

CoB/Pt Phase diagram: Stripes, Bubbles, Skyrmions



- **X-rays (XMCD)** magnetic imaging
- Dots of amorphous **CoB/Pt** multilayers (Pt(2)/[CoB(0.4)/Pt(0.7)]x29/CoB(0.4)/Pt(2))
- "Symmetric" multilayer?

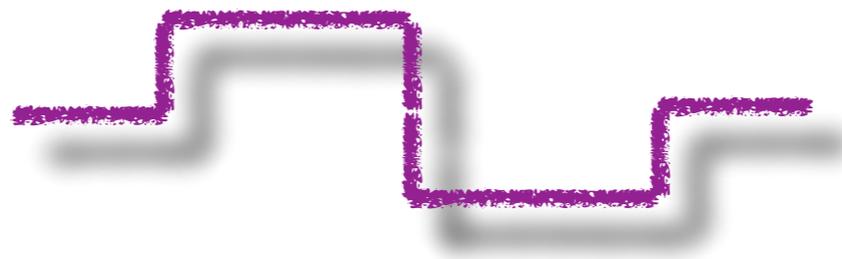
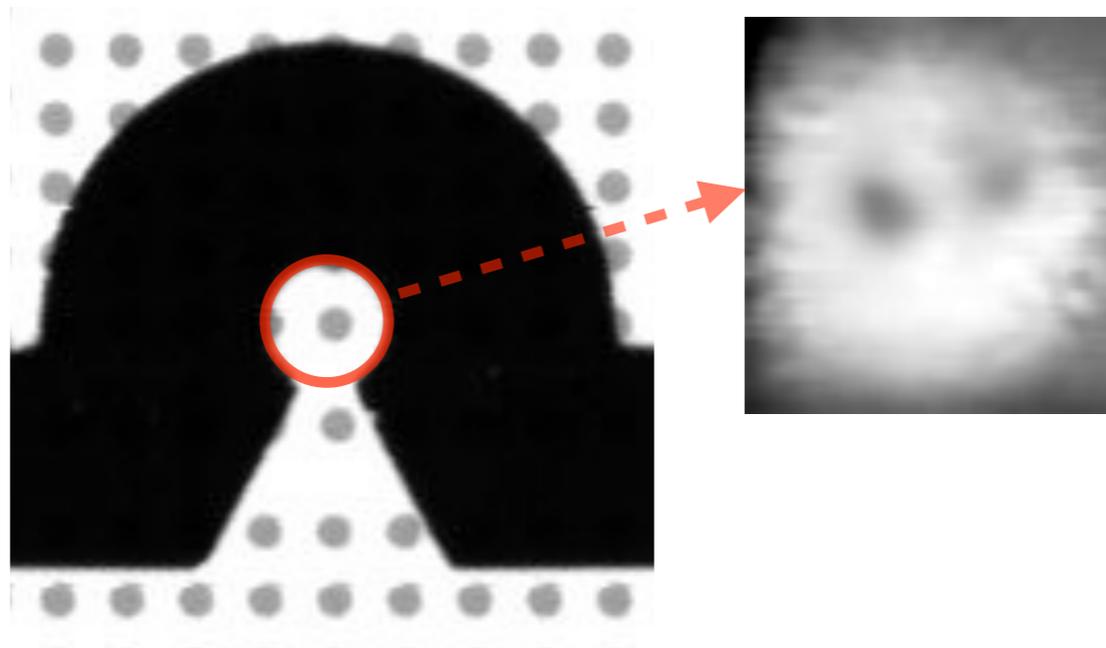
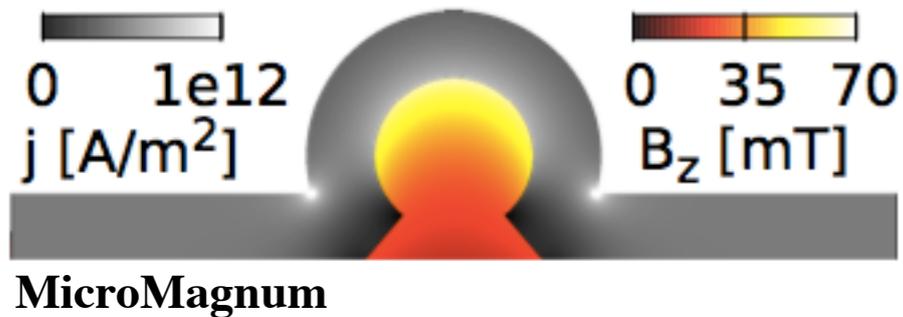
[1] "Magnetic states in low-pinning high-anisotropy material nanostructures suitable for dynamic imaging"
F. Büttner, **C. Moutafis**, et al., **Phys. Rev. B** **87**, 134422 (2013).

[2] "Dynamics & inertia of skyrmionic spin structures",
F. Büttner, **C. Moutafis**, et al., **Nature Physics** **11**, 225–228 (2015).

Dynamics: Excitations / Set-up



500 nm CoB/Pt dot
in a microcoil

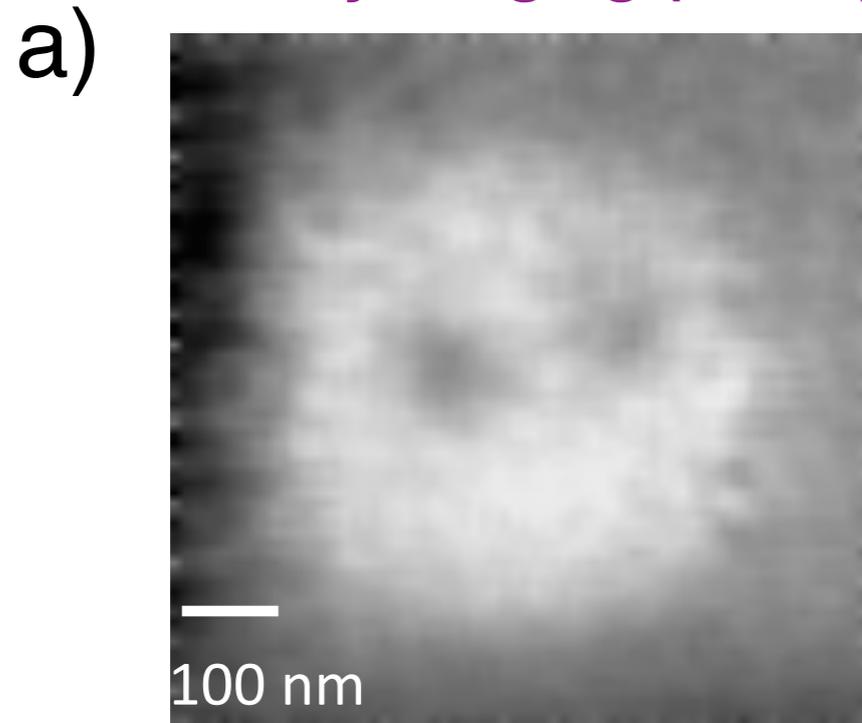


- 500 nm diameter dot [Ta(2)/Pt(2)/[CoB(0.35)/Pt(0.7)]x39/CoB(0.35)/Pt(2)].
- 90 mT in-situ magnetic field results in two **confined bubbles**.
- We pass a 3 ns bi-polar **current pulse** (1.5 ns in each polarity).
- Dynamical imaging of the bubbles' response, during the pulse, imaged every 125 ps.

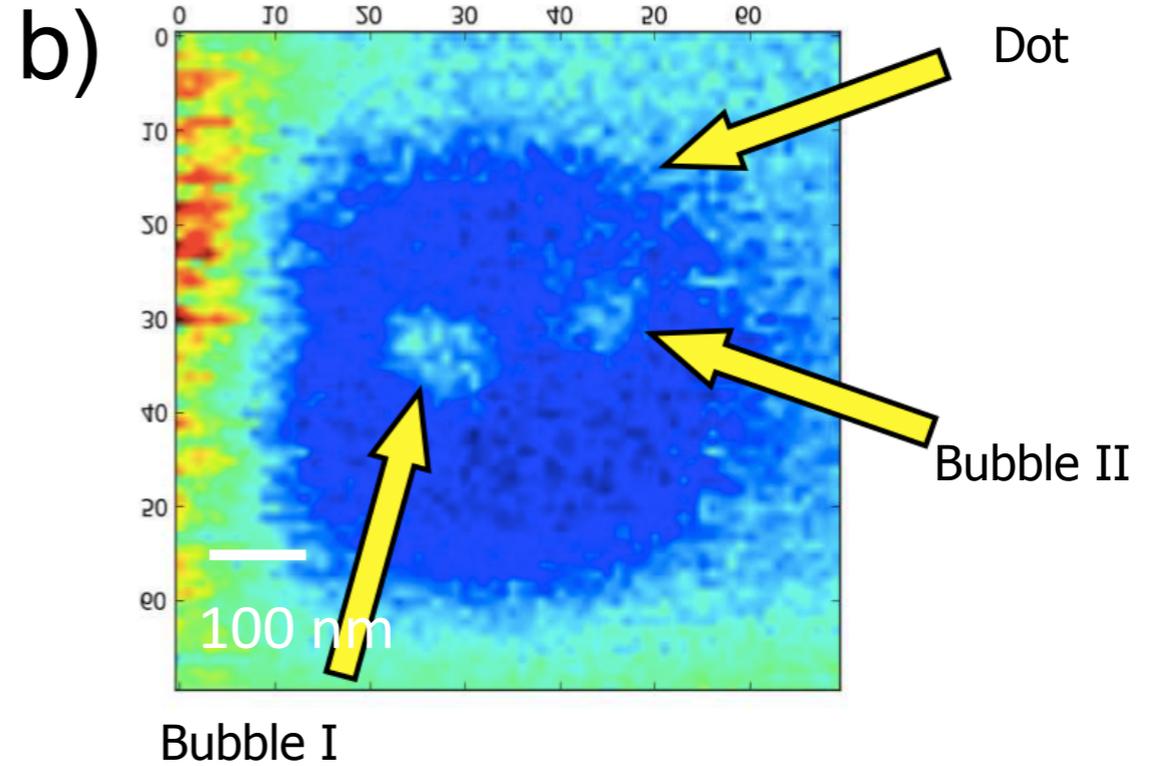
Expansion and Shrinking of two bubbles on the pulse



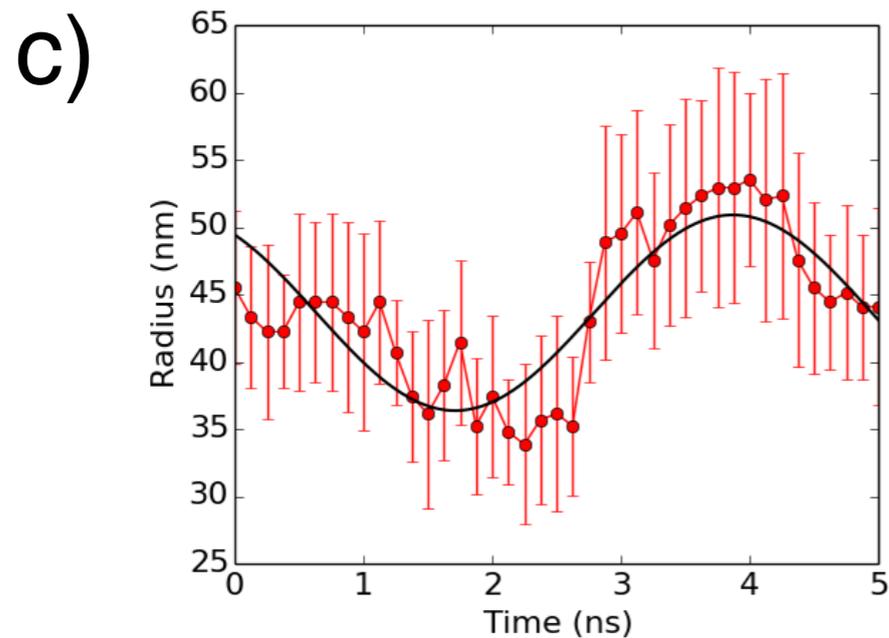
X-ray imaging (STXM)



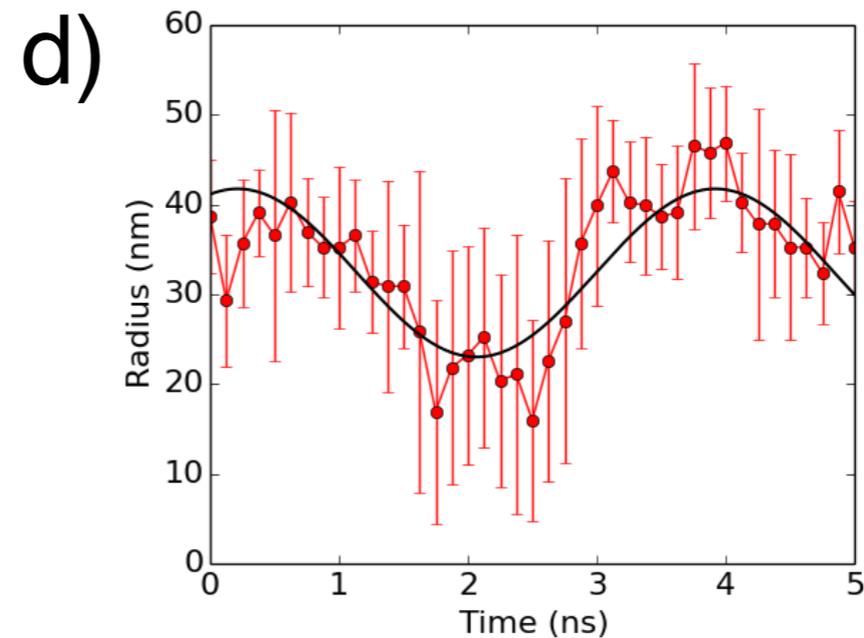
STXM



Evolution over time



Bubble I



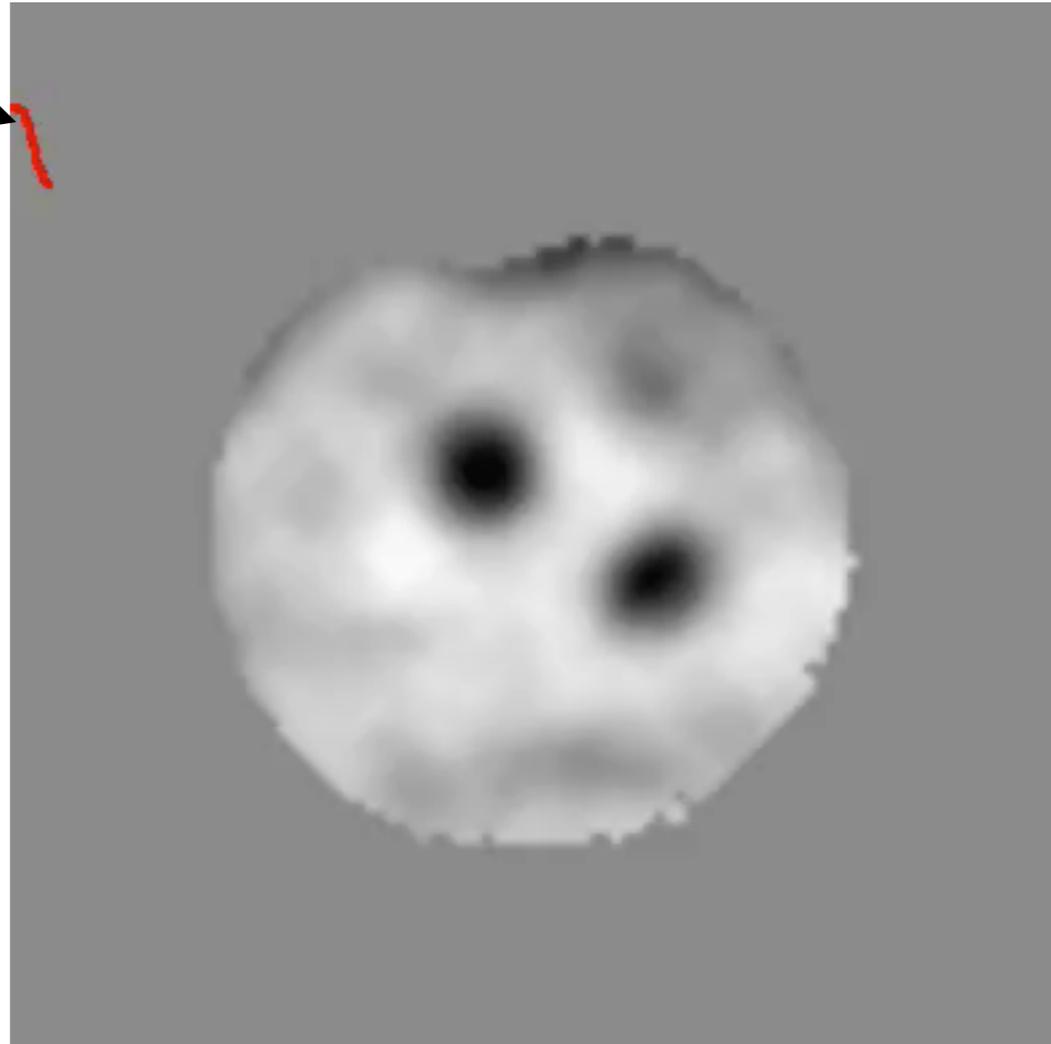
Bubble II

Bubble Gyrotropic motion?



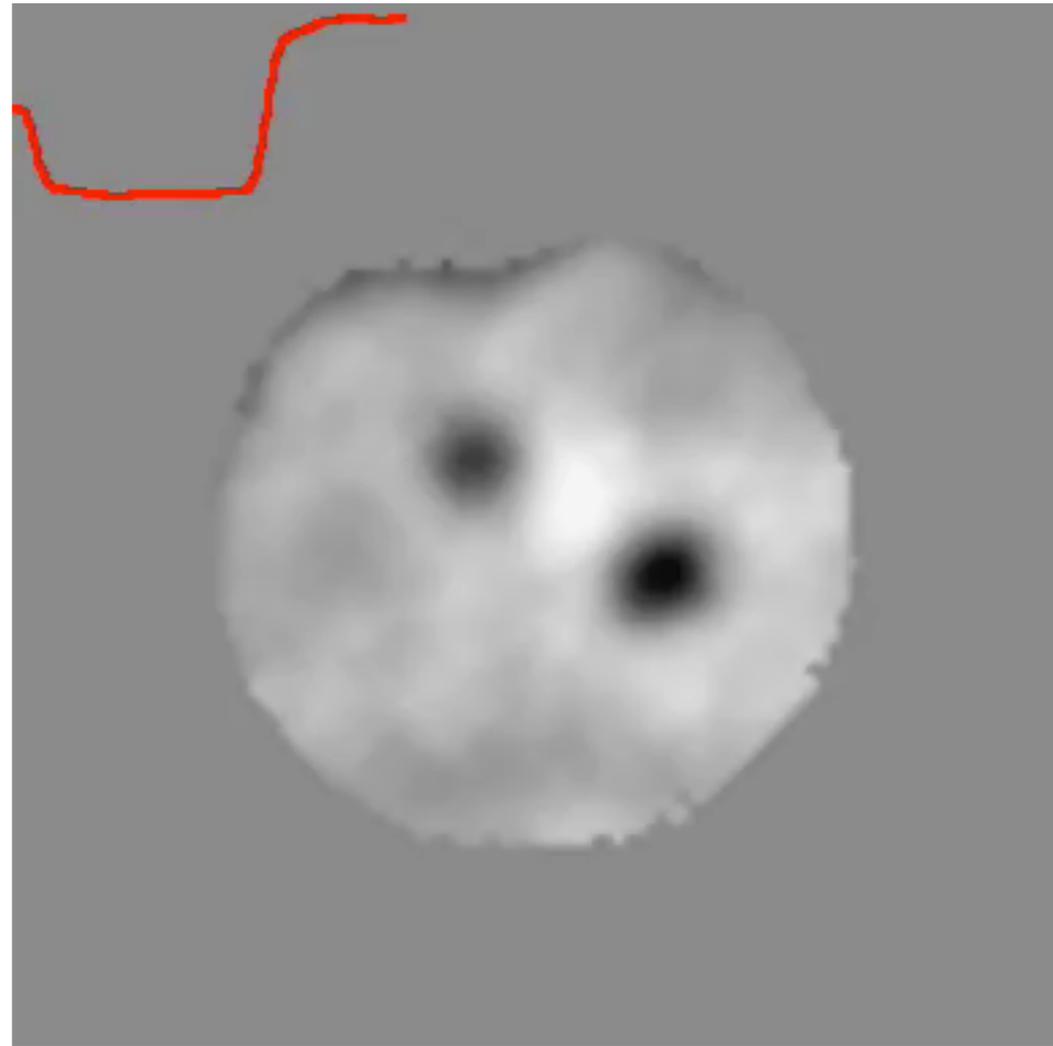
X-ray imaging (Holography)

Bipolar pulse



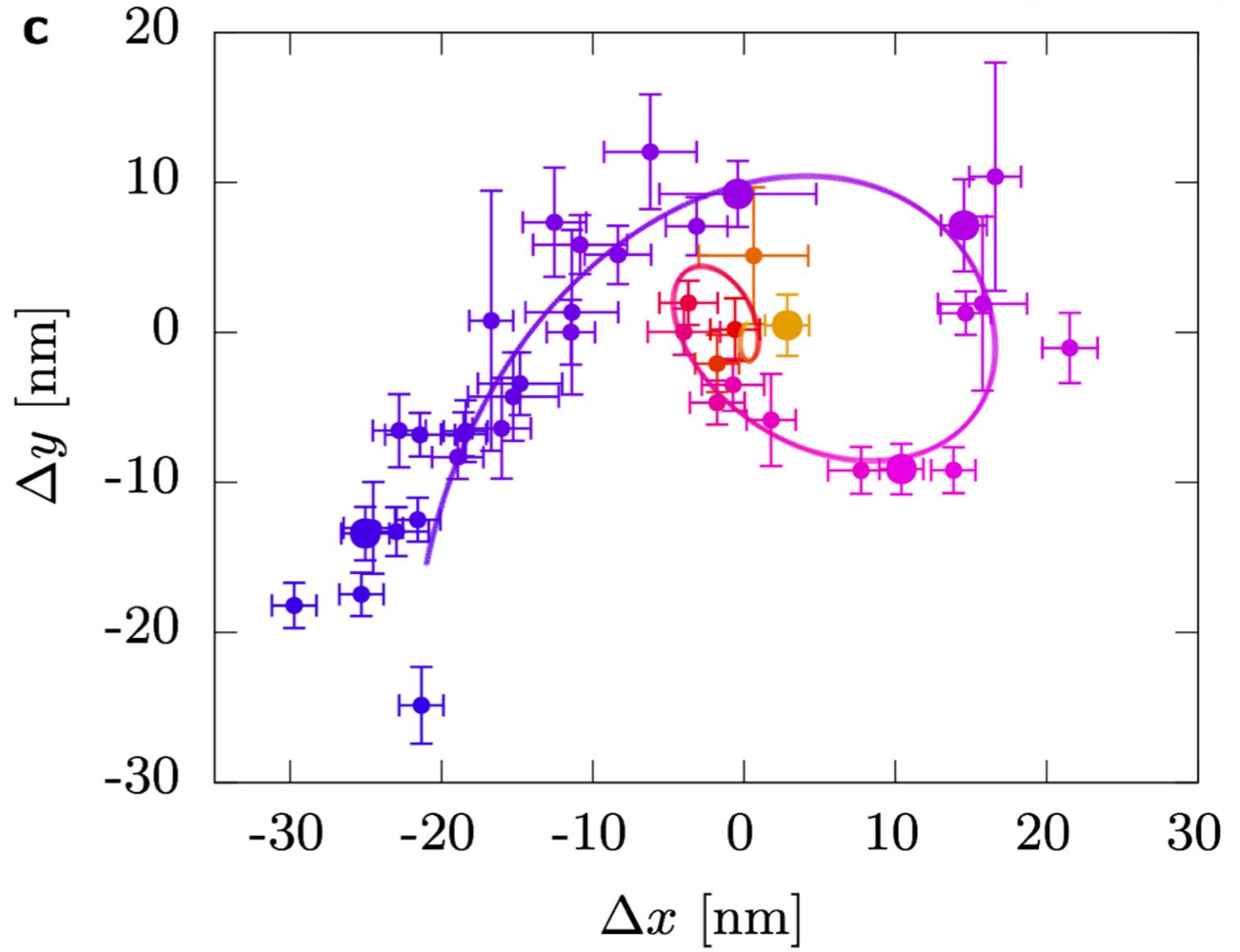
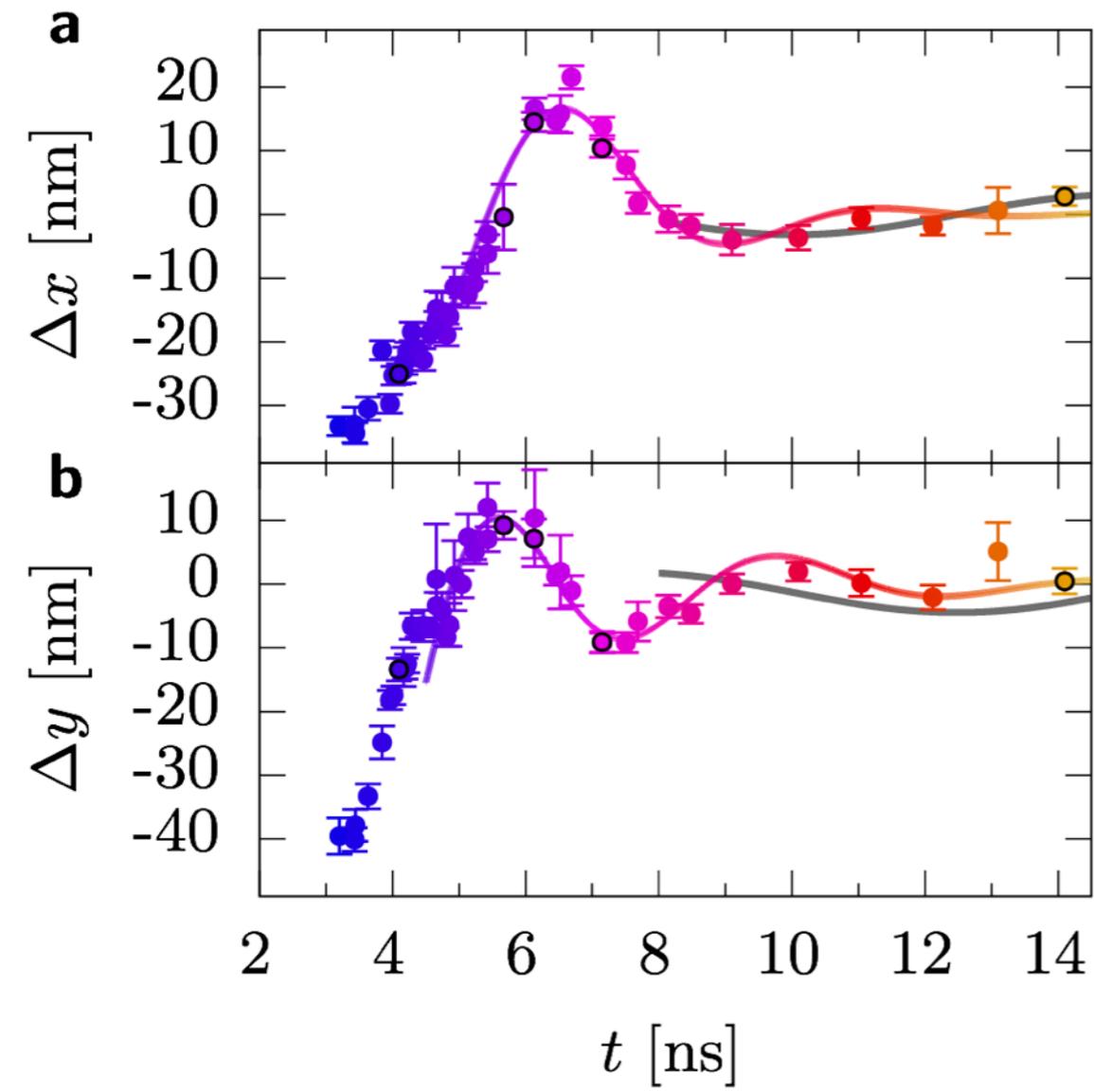
- 550 nm diameter dot (Pt(2)/[CoB(0.4)/Pt(0.7)]x29/CoB(0.4)/Pt(2))
- External bias field (120 mT) sustains the magnetic configuration
- We pass a 6 ns bi-polar current pulse (3 ns in each polarity)

Bubble Gyrotropic motion

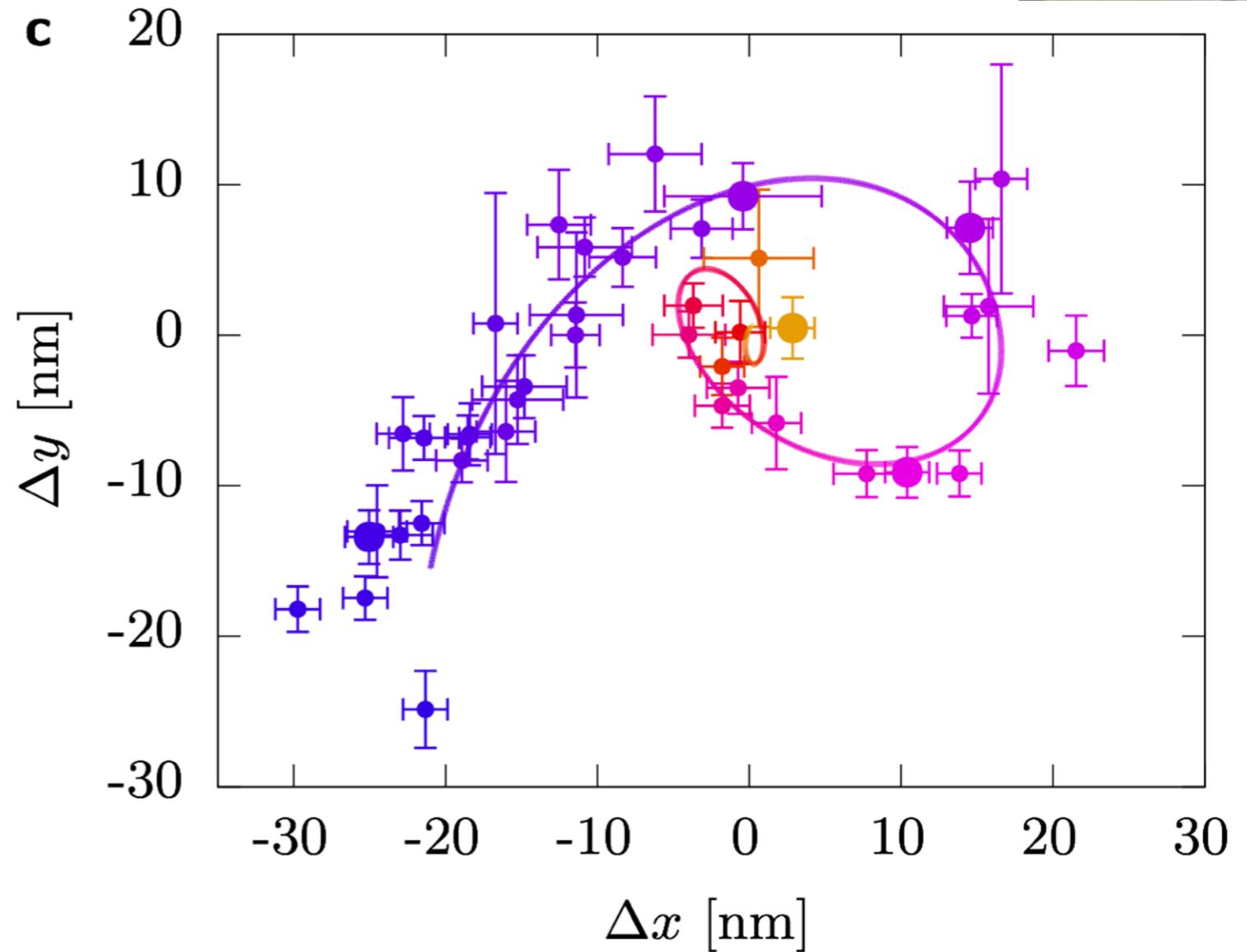
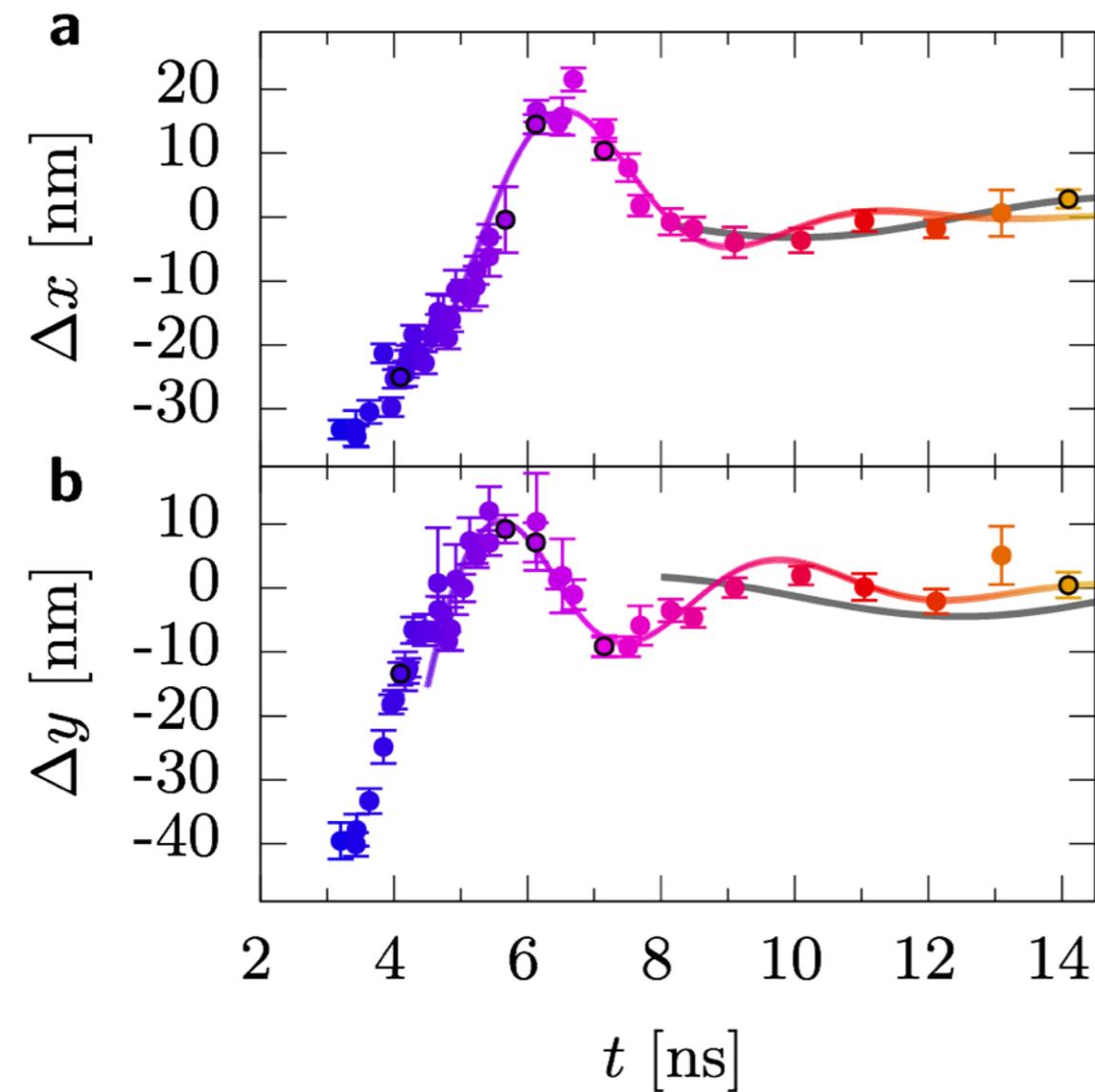


- Pulse finishes, relaxation process, center of bubble's magnetisation back to original point

Gyrotropic motion



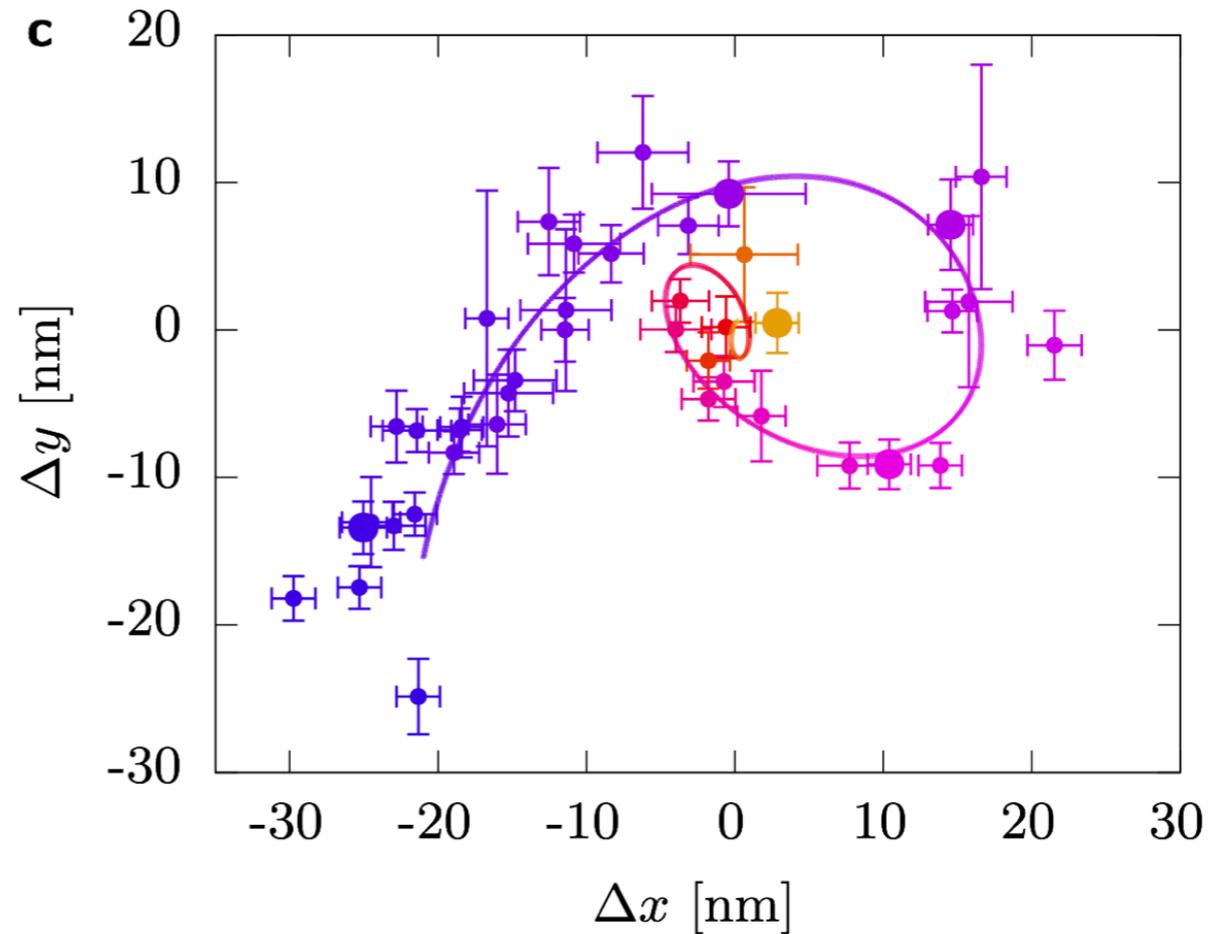
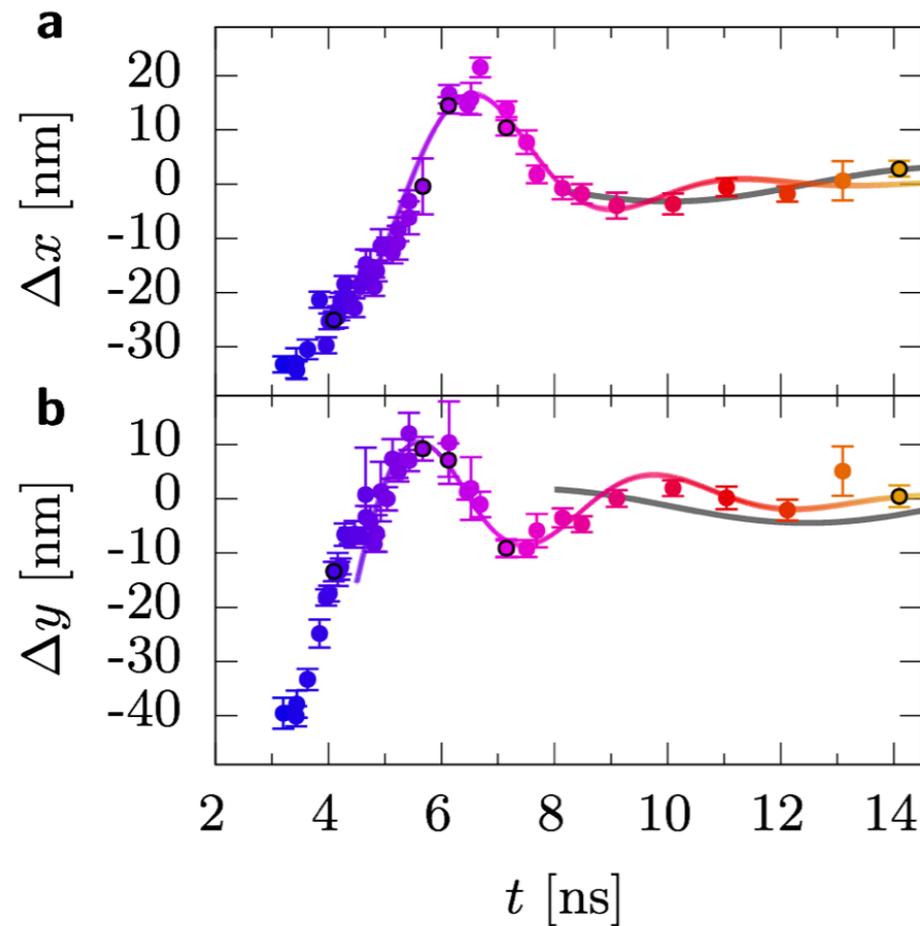
Gyrotropic motion



- Damped gyrotropic motion (GHz regime), in line with predictions [1]
- We can conclude it is the N=1 bubble [1,2]
- First direct experimental observation of gigahertz dynamics of a skyrmionic spin structure

[1] "Dynamics & switching processes for magnetic bubbles in nanoelements",
C. Moutafis, et al., **Phys. Rev. B vol. 79, 224429 (2009)**

[2] "Dynamics & inertia of skyrmionic spin structures",
F. Büttner, C. Moutafis, et al., **Nature Physics 11, 225–228 (2015)**



$$-M\ddot{\mathbf{R}} + \mathbf{G} \times \dot{\mathbf{R}} + \mathbf{D} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{R}} - \partial_{\mathbf{R}}U = 0$$

- Fit from model accurately described observed trajectory [1,2].
- Model implies a **mass** for the N=1 bubble.
- $M > 8 \times 10^{-22}$ Kg / Areal mass density of 2.0×10^{-7} Kg m⁻². Governs the displacement [3].
- Reflects its extended size and deformability.

[1] "Dynamics & switching processes...", C. Moutafis, S. Komineas, J. A. C. Bland, Phys. Rev. B vol. 79, 224429 (2009)

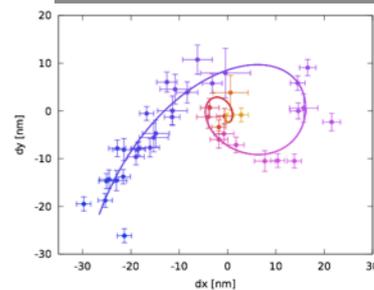
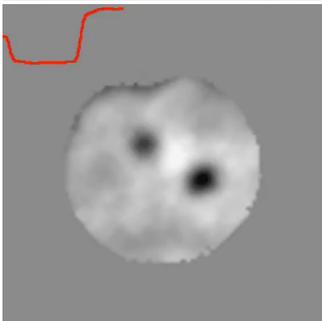
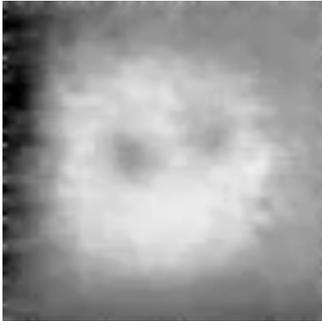
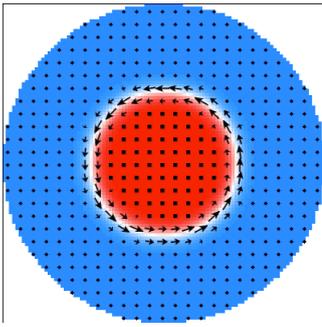
[2] I. Makhfudz, B. Krüger, and O. Tchernyshyov, Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 217201 (2012)

[3] "Dynamics and inertia of skyrmionic spin structures", F. Büttner, C. Moutafis, et al., Nature Physics 11, 225–228 (2015)

Conclusions

- Bubbles a laboratory to study link between Topology & Dynamics
- Nanostructures laboratories of topological states
- Isolated/Single skyrmion bubble GHz dynamics observed
- The Gyrotropic & breathing-like motion demonstrated
- Skyrmion bubble exhibits inertia
- Infer topological complexity (Skyrmion number N) from dynamical behaviour -> Skyrmion topology

Next step...?



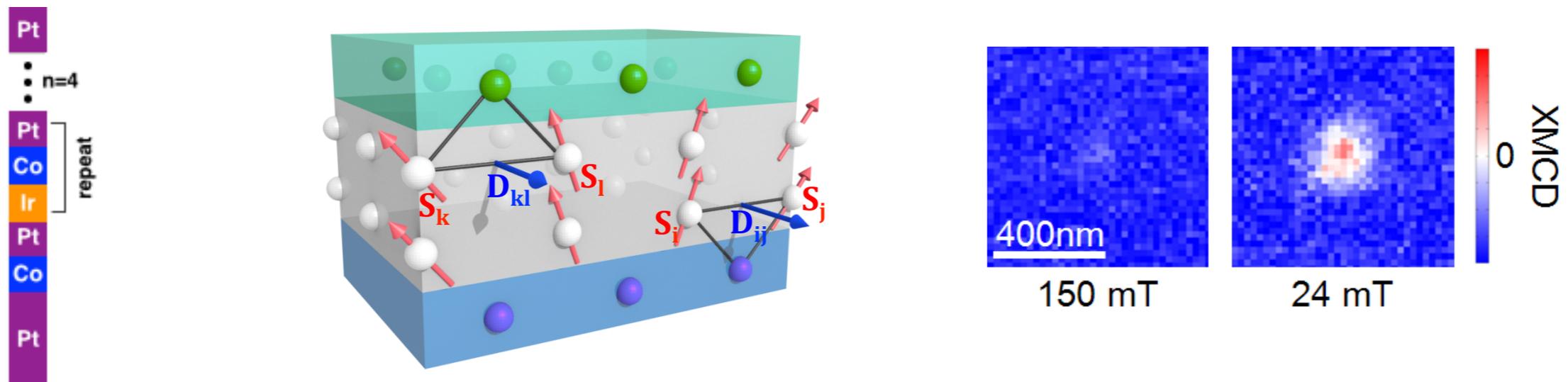


DMi System: Engineer films with Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction

Collaboration between PSI/Manchester and **CNRS/Thales V. Cros & A. Fert**

European Union MAGICSky No. FET-Open-665095

<http://magicsky-fet.prod.lamp.cnrs.fr/>



[1] N. Nagaosa, Y. Tokura, Topological properties and dynamics of magnetic skyrmions, Nature Nanotech. 8, 899 (2013)

[2] Fixed Chirality: e.g. G. Chen, et al., "Tailoring the chirality of DWs by interface engineering." Nat. Comm. 4: 2671. (2013), G. Chen, et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 106, 242404 (2015).

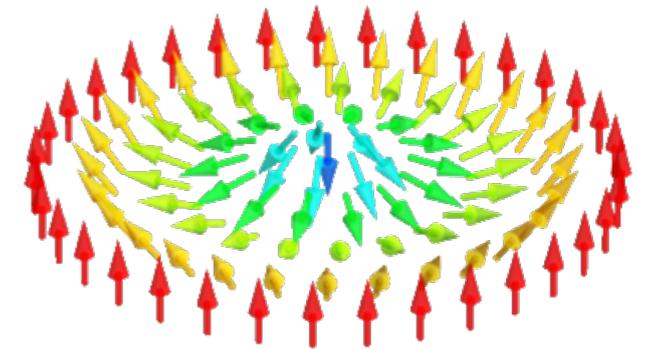
Recent publications, e.g.: [A] "Room temperature chiral magnetic skyrmion in ultra thin magnetic nanostructures", O. Boulle, ..., G. Gaudin, Nature Nanotechnology, 25 Jan. 2016, doi:10.1038/nnano.2015.315

[B] 'Observation of room temperature magnetic skyrmions and their current-driven dynamics in ultrathin Co films', S. Woo,..., G. Beach Nature Materials, Published online 29 February 2016 doi:10.1038/nmat4593

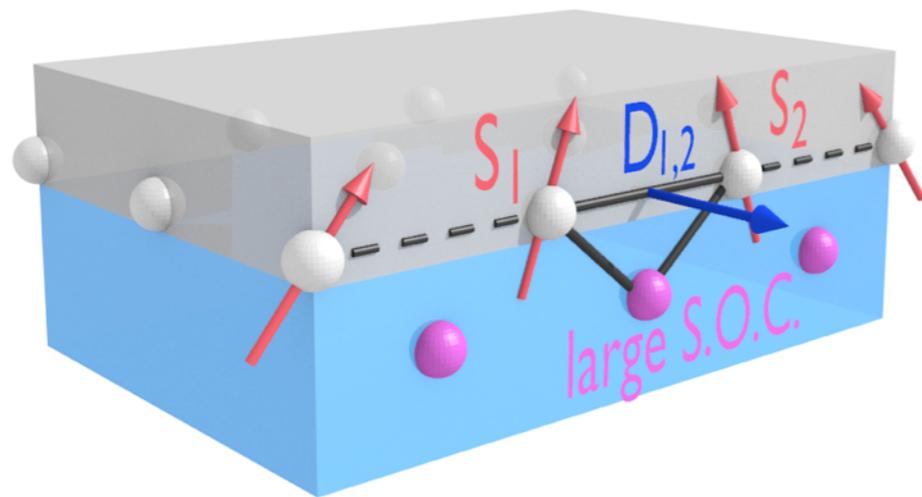
[C] "Additive interfacial chiral interaction in multilayers for stabilisation of small individual skyrmions at room temperature", C. M.-Luchaire, C. Moutafis, ..., V. Cros, A. Fert, Nat. Nanotechnology, 18 Jan. 2016, doi:10.1038/nnano.2015.313



- Break of the inversion symmetry at the **interface**
- Large spin - orbit coupling in the normal metal (i.e. large Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction DMi)



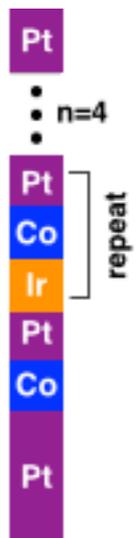
Hedgehog skyrmion



In case of interfacial DMi :

A. Fert, Mater. Sci. Forum 59, 439 (1990)

$$H_{DM} = -D_{1,2} \cdot (S_1 \times S_2)$$



→ Opportunities to tune various parameters : DMi (dilution with thickness), magnetic anisotropy, number of active interfaces etc...

Main advantages : multiple possible **associations** of magnetic thin films and metals with large SO coupling (Pt, W, Ir , etc...) in bilayers or multilayers

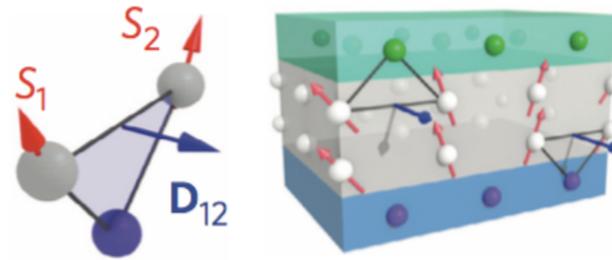
[1] N. Nagaosa, Y. Tokura, Topological properties and dynamics of magnetic skyrmions, Nature Nanotech. 8, 899 (2013)

[2] **Fixed Chirality**: G. Chen, et al., "Tailoring the chirality of DWs by interface engineering." Nat. Comm. 4: 2671. (2013)

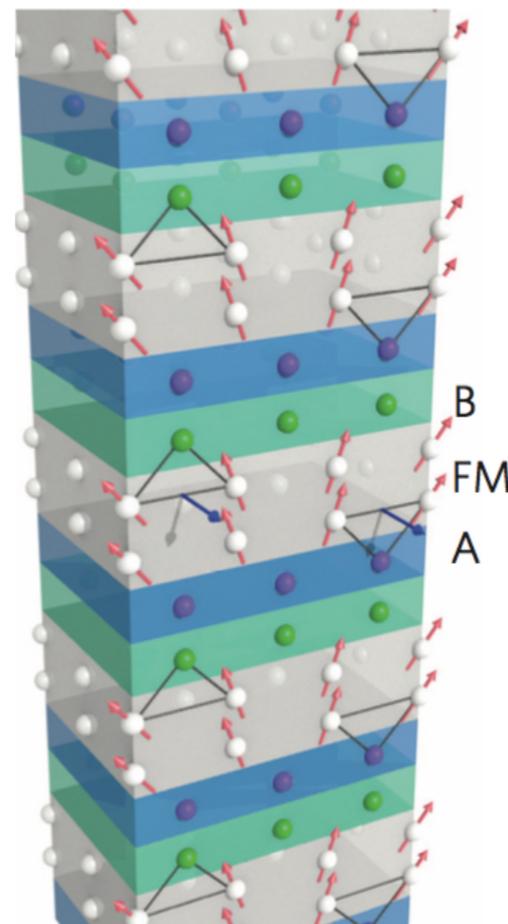
Interfacial DMI in asymmetric magnetic multilayers



The DMI for two magnetic atoms (grey spheres) close to an atom with a large spin-orbit coupling (blue sphere) in the Fert-Levy picture¹.



A single trilayer composed of a magnetic layer (FM, grey) sandwiched between two different heavy metals A (blue) and B (green) that induce the same chirality (same orientation of D) when A is below and B above the magnetic layer.



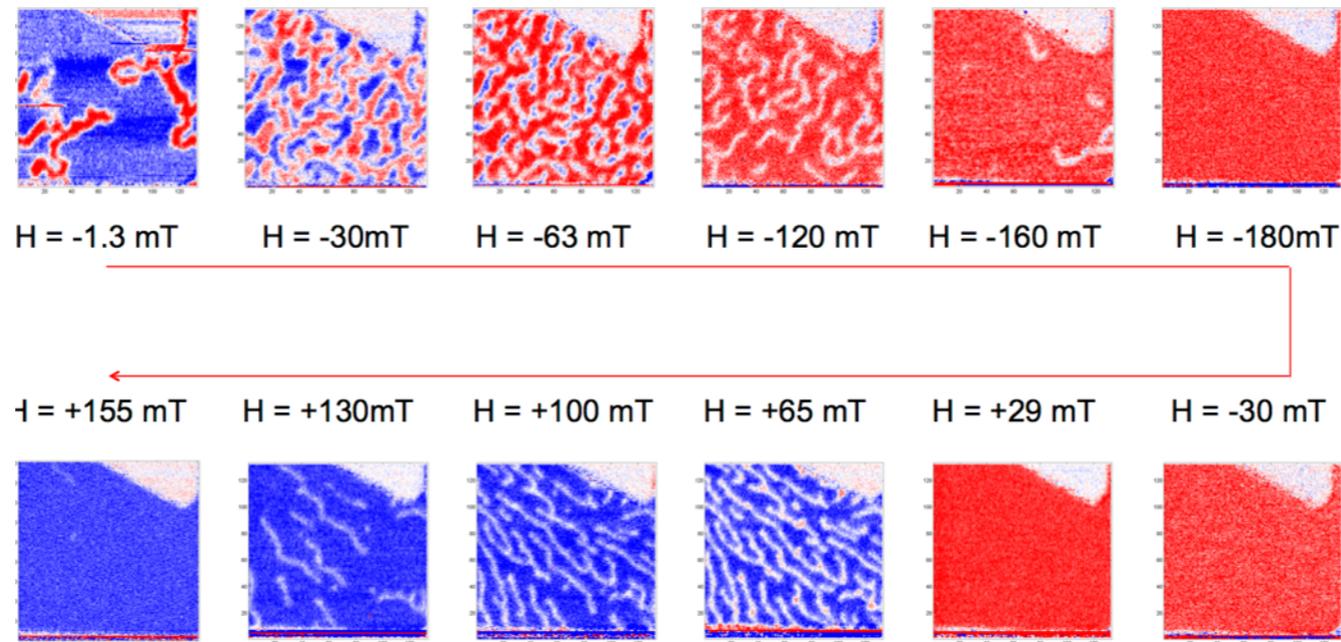
Asymmetric multilayer made of several repetitions of the trilayer. Additive chiral interactions.

[1] Fert, A. & Levy, P. M. Role of anisotropic exchange interactions in determining the properties of spin-glasses. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **44**, 1538–1541 (1980).

Domain size with perpendicular field cycles



(Pt|Co)x10



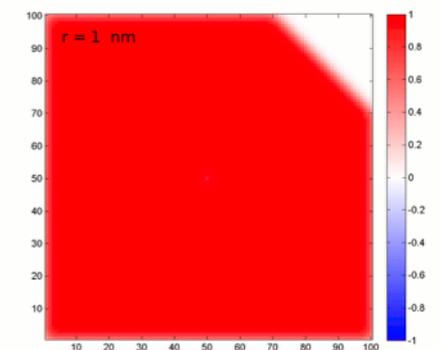
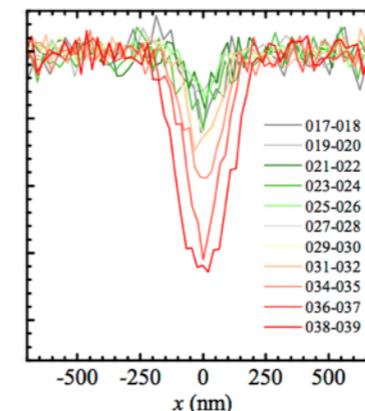
- Magnetic field cycle and image (Pt/Co/Pt and Ir/Co/Pt). Experimentally determine domain and bubble size.
- Simulate domain/bubble size during field cycle and fit DMI value to obtain experimental domain/bubble size.

[1] "Skyrmions at room temperature : From magnetic thin films to magnetic multilayers" C. M.-Luchaire, C. Moutafis, et al., arxiv.org/abs/1502.07853.

or

[2] "Additive interfacial chiral interaction in multilayers for stabilisation of small individual skyrmions at room temperature"

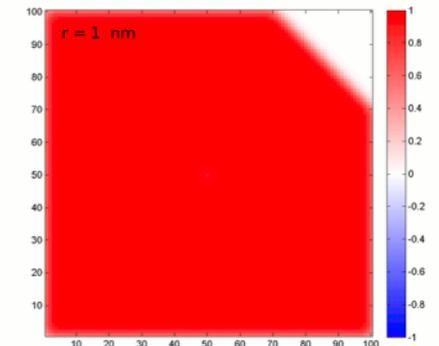
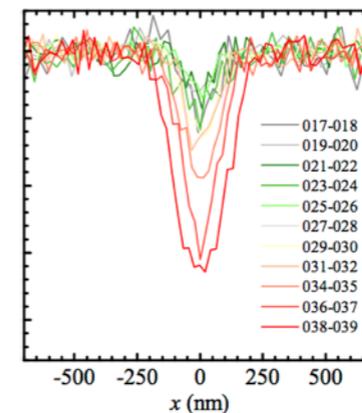
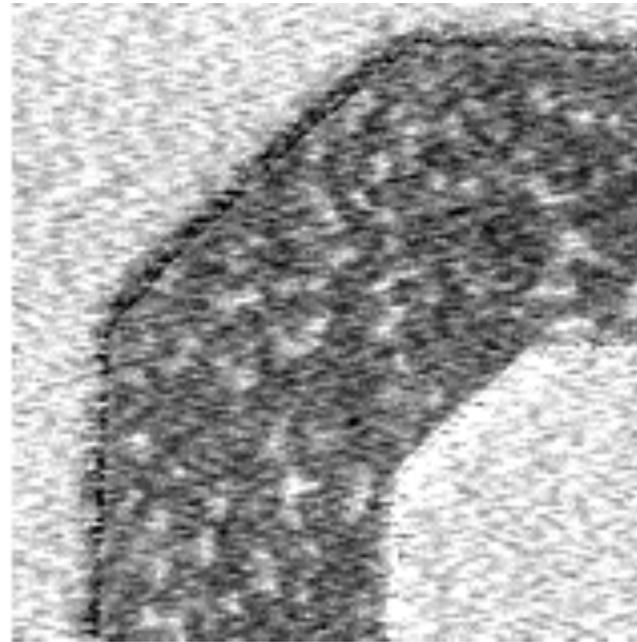
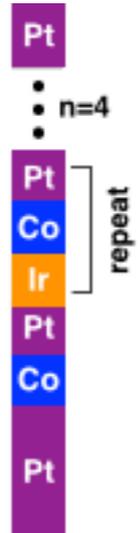
C. M.-Luchaire, C. Moutafis, ..., V. Cros, A. Fert, online 18th of January, **Nature Nanotechnology** **11**, 444–448 (2016).



Domain size with perpendicular field cycles



(Ir|Pt|Co)x10

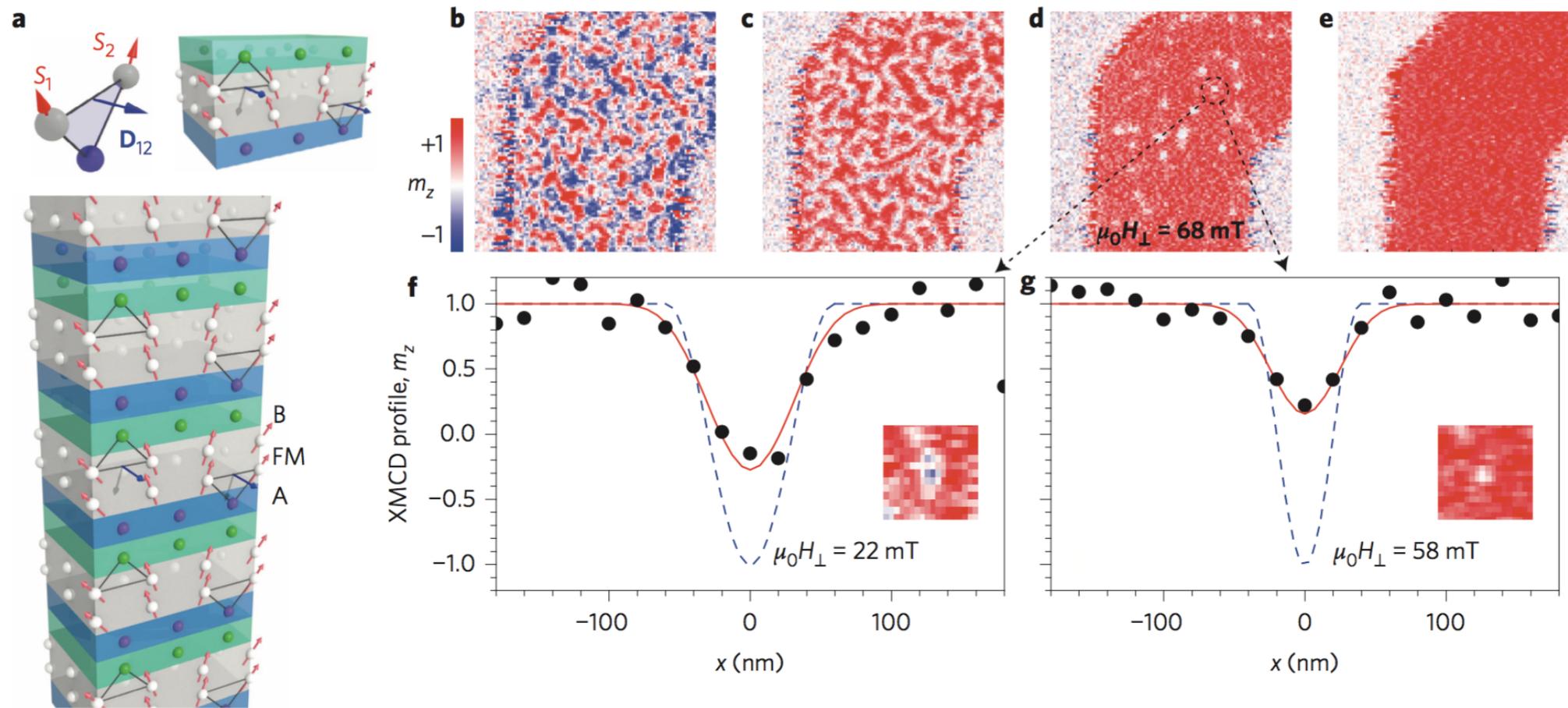


[1] "Skyrmions at room temperature : From magnetic thin films to magnetic multilayers" C. M.-Luchaire, C. Moutafis, et al., arxiv.org/abs/1502.07853.

or

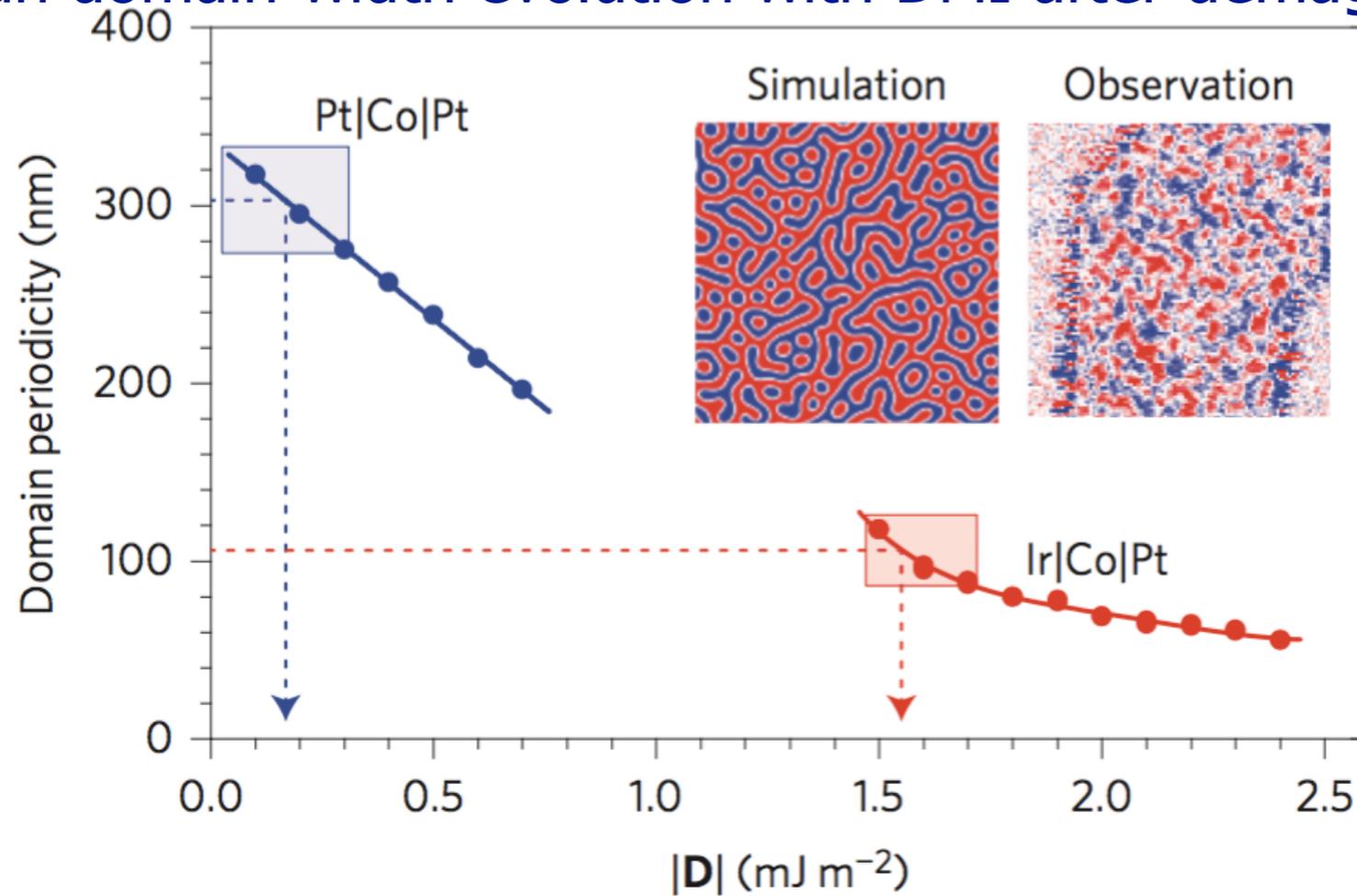
[2] "Additive interfacial chiral interaction in multilayers for stabilisation of small individual skyrmions at room temperature"
C. M.-Luchaire, C. Moutafis, ..., V. Cros, A. Fert, online 18th of January, **Nature Nanotechnology** **11**, 444–448 (2016).

Interfacial DMI in asymmetric magnetic multilayers



- Asymmetric multilayer made of several repetitions of the trilayer.
- A $1.5 \times 1.5 \mu\text{m}^2$ out-of-plane magnetization (m_z) map (STXM) on a (Ir|Co|Pt)₁₀ multilayer at R.T. for applied out-of-plane magnetic fields of 8 (b), 38 (c), 68 (d) and 83 (e) mT.
- f) XMCD signal through a magnetic circular domain (skyrmion) as observed at 22 mT (black dots). The blue dashed curve is the magnetization profile of an ideal 60-nm-diameter skyrmion.
- g) Same type of data at 58 mT and the corresponding simulation of a 40-nm-diameter skyrmion. The images and data of f and g result from the same skyrmion evolution in the field. The actual image size of the insets is 360 nm.

Micromagnetic simulations & experimental measurements of mean domain-width evolution with DMI after demagnetization



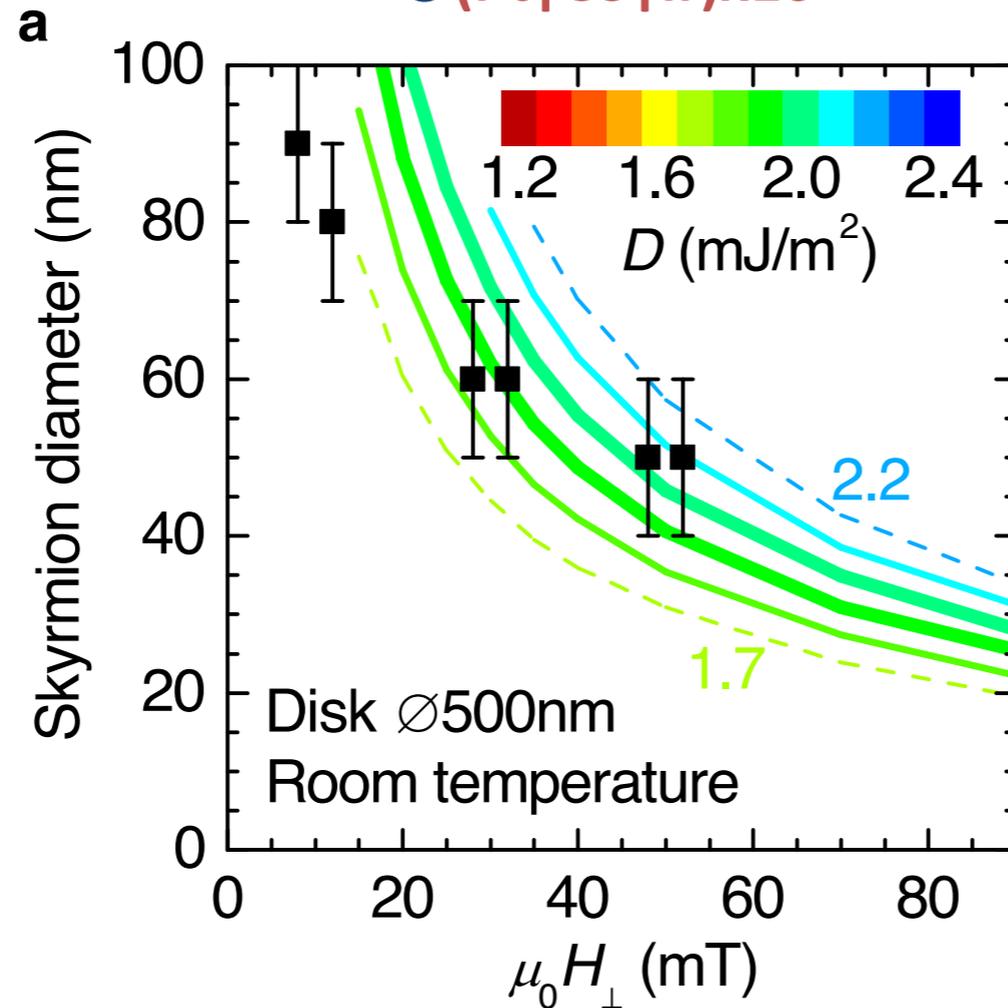
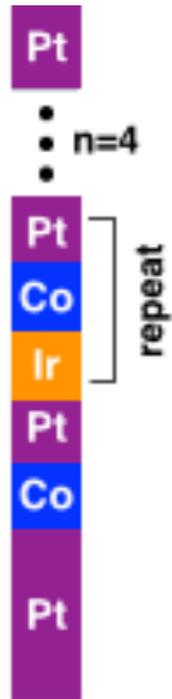
- Comparing the simulations with the experimental domain-width value (dotted horizontal line) allows us to estimate $|D|(\text{Ir|Co|Pt}) = 1.6 \pm 0.2 \text{ mJ m}^{-2}$ and $|D|(\text{Pt|Co|Pt}) = 0.2 \pm 0.2 \text{ mJ m}^{-2}$.
- The box height represents the error margins on the experimental domain-size evaluation; its width gives the resulting error on $|D|$ for the used simulation parameters.
- The inset shows a simulated worm pattern for $|D| = 1.6 \text{ mJ m}^{-2}$ in Ir|Co|Pt ($1.5 \times 1.5 \mu\text{m}^2$) and a corresponding experimental observation at the same scale (using the same colour code as in Fig. 1).

Evolution of the skyrmion size in patterned nanoscale disks and tracks



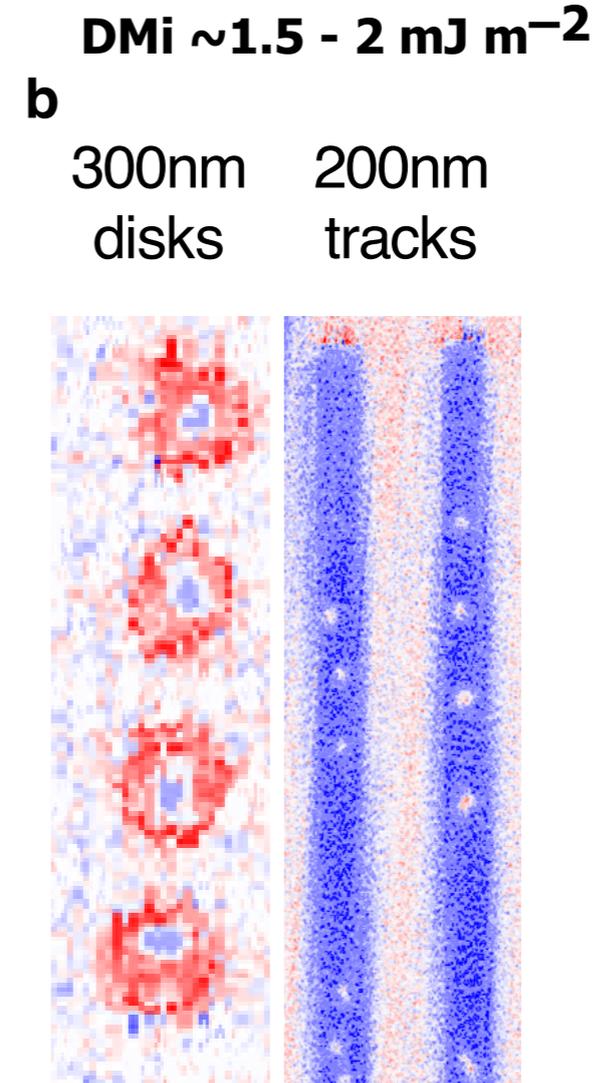
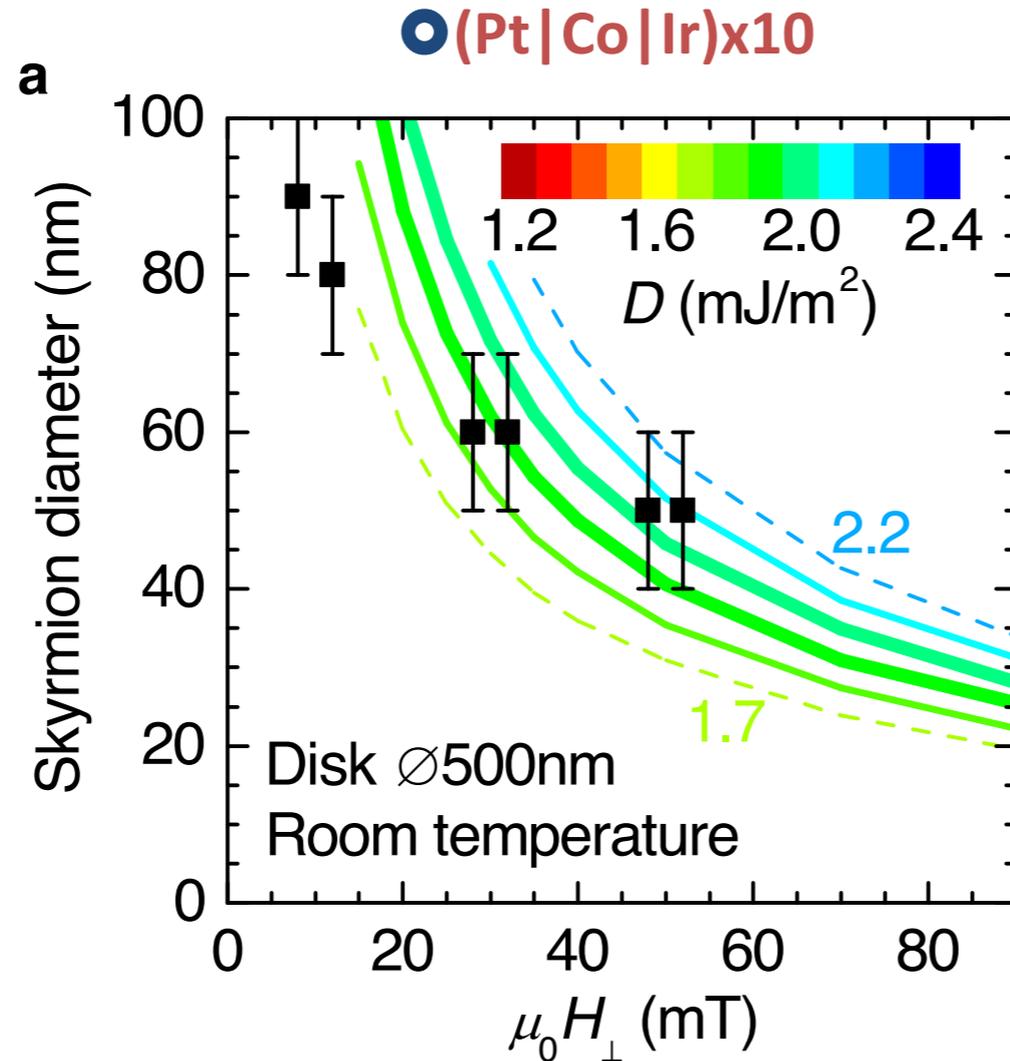
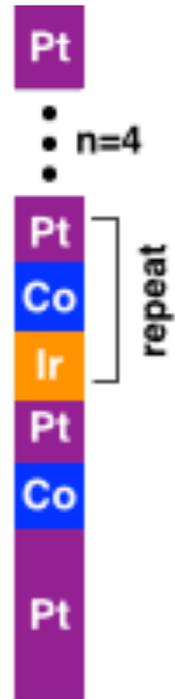
DMI $\sim 1.5 - 2 \text{ mJ m}^{-2}$

● (Pt|Co|Ir)x10



- Isolated nanoscale skyrmions, at R.T. in nanodiscs and nanowires / racetracks
- a) field dependence of the diameter of circular domain in a 500-nm-diameter disk, compared with micromagnetic simulations.
- We need large DMI values of at least 1.5 mJ m^{-2} to stabilize any bubble-like domain in nanodiscs.

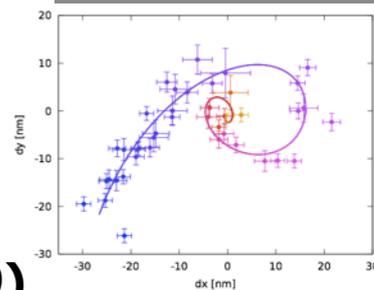
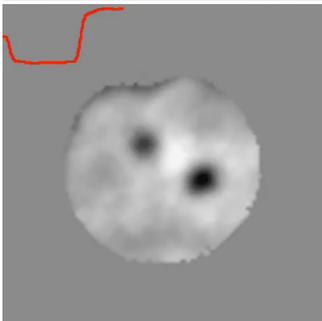
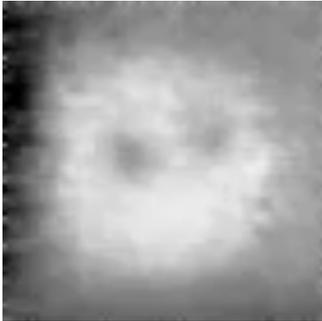
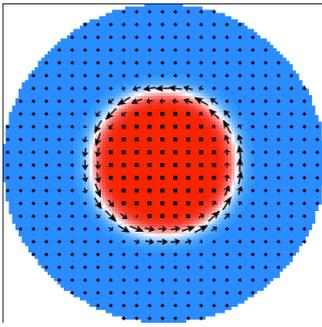
Evolution of the skyrmion size in patterned nanoscale disks and tracks



- Isolated nanoscale skyrmions, at R.T. in nanodiscs and nanowires / racetracks
- a) field dependence of the diameter of circular domain in a 500-nm-diameter disk, compared with micromagnetic simulations.
- We need large DMI values of at least 1.5 mJ m⁻² to stabilize any bubble-like domain in nanodiscs.
- b) 300 nm disks and tracks 200 nm wide with nanoscale skyrmions, stable down to very small fields (\sim 8 mT) of dimensions that range from 90 nm close to a zero field to 50 nm in an applied field.

[1] "Additive interfacial chiral interaction in multilayers for stabilisation of small individual skyrmions at room temperature", C. M.-Lucaire, C. Moutafis, ..., V. Cros, A. Fert, **online 18 Jan. 2016, Nature Nanotechnology 11, 444–448 (2016)**.

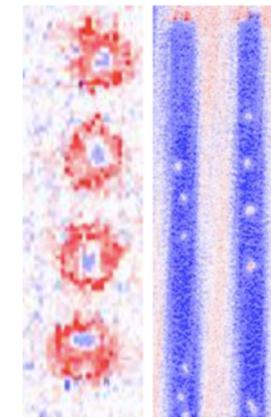
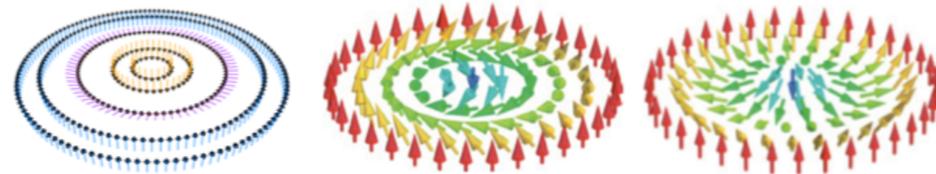
Conclusions



- Isolated/Single skyrmion bubble GHz dynamics observed
- The Gyrotropic & breathing-like motion demonstrated
- Infer topological complexity (Skyrmion number N) from dynamical behaviour -> Skyrmion Bubble
- Inertia/mass
- Nanoscale Room Temperature Chiral Skyrmions

Ongoing...

- Topologically equivalent systems -> Similar behaviour?

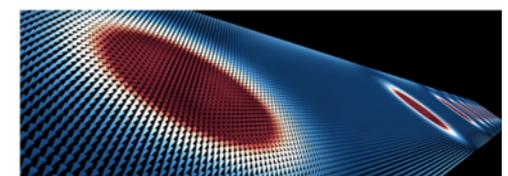


[1] C. Moutafis, et al., **Phys. Rev. B** **76** (10), 104426 (2007); **Phys. Rev. B** vol. **79**, 224429 (2009)

& F. Büttner, C. Moutafis, et al., **Nature Physics** **11**, 225–228 (2015)

[2] C. M.-Luchaire, C. Moutafis, ..., **V. Cros**, **A. Fert**, **Nature Nanotechnology** **11**, 444–448 (2016)

Acknowledgements for recent work [2]: Univ. Manchester set-up grant & European Union MAGICSky No. FET-Open-665095: <http://magicsky-fet.prod.lamp.cnrs.fr/>



The story continues...

- Cooling Skyrmions
- Moving Skyrmions
- Writing/Deleting Skyrmions
- Topology & Dynamics

