

MP2 - Precessional dynamics, dissipation processes, elementary and soliton excitations

Joo-Von Kim Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Université Paris-Saclay 91120 Palaiseau, France

joo-von.kim@c2n.upsaclay.fr

MP2: Precessional dynamics

- Overarching theme: Landau-Lifshitz equation
- Linear excitations spin waves Dispersion relations, applications in information processing
- Dissipation processes Intrinsic and extrinsic contributions, Gilbert damping
- Dynamics of topological solitons Lagrangian formulation, domain wall motion, vortex gyration

Time scales



Magnetisation dynamics

- In MP1, we saw how magnetic moments couple to each other and to their environment (e.g., exchange, dipole-dipole interactions).
- But how do they evolve in time? Consider Heisenberg picture in quantum mechanics,

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \langle \mathbf{S}(t) \rangle = \left\langle \left[\mathbf{S}, \mathcal{H} \right] \right\rangle$$

• Consider a single spin in an applied magnetic field **H**. The Zeeman Hamiltonian is

$$\mathcal{H} = -g\mu_0\mu_B\mathbf{S}\cdot\mathbf{H}$$

• To see how this works, expand out the S_x term:

$$[S_x, \mathcal{H}] = -g\mu_0\mu_B[S_x, S_xH_x + S_yH_y + S_zH_z]$$
$$= -g\mu_0\mu_B(H_y[S_x, S_y] + H_z[S_x, S_z])$$

Magnetisation dynamics

• By applying the usual commutation rules for the spin operators

$$[S_x, S_y] = iS_z$$
 $[S_y, S_z] = iS_x$ $[S_z, S_x] = iS_y$

we obtain

$$[S_x, \mathcal{H}] = -g\mu_0\mu_B i \left(H_y S_z - H_z S_y\right)$$

• Combining with the other spin components, we find

$$\frac{d\langle \mathbf{S}(t)\rangle}{dt} = \frac{g\mu_0\mu_B}{\hbar} \langle \mathbf{S} \rangle \times \mathbf{H}$$

• This describes the precession of a spin in a magnetic field. With the definition of the gyromagnetic constant

$$\gamma = \frac{gq_e}{2m} = \frac{g\mu_B}{\hbar} < 0 \qquad \gamma_0 = \mu_0 \frac{g|\mu_B|}{\hbar} = -\mu_0 \gamma \quad \text{~~28 GHz/T}$$

H

S

Magnetisation dynamics

• By averaging over the spins in the Bloch equation,

$$\frac{d\langle \mathbf{S}(t)\rangle}{dt} = \frac{g\mu_0\mu_B}{\hbar}\langle \mathbf{S}\rangle \times \mathbf{H}$$

we can express the torque equation for a general magnetisation field **M** as

$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}$$

$$\mathbf{M} = g\mu_B N \langle \mathbf{S} \rangle / V$$

• The micromagnetics approach allows for a classical description of the magnetisation dynamics by treating the magnetisation as a continuous field *M* subject to torques applied by magnetic fields *H*.

H

M

Precessional dynamics

• Generalise torque equation to any magnetic energy by replacing \pmb{H} with the <u>effective field</u> \pmb{H}_{eff}

$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}}$$

where

$$\mathbf{H}_{\rm eff} = -\frac{1}{\mu_0} \frac{\delta E}{\delta \mathbf{M}}$$

- The energy density accounts for *all* relevant contributions to the magnetic Hamiltonian (see MP1)
- Magnetisation precesses about its *local effective field*
- Note that this torque equation conserves the norm of the magnetisation vector and describes dynamics at constant energy

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\mathbf{M}\|^2 = 0 \qquad \qquad \frac{d}{dt} \left(\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}}\right) = 0$$

H_{eff}

M

Linear excitations - Spin waves

- Small amplitude (linear) excitations of magnetisation are described by spin waves
- Consider a chain of spins uniformly aligned along an applied field H_0

$$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \\ H_0 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} E = -N(g\mu_B S)H_0 \equiv E_0 \end{array}$$

- What is the smallest excitation possible? One spin reversal. There are two ways to accomplish this:
 - 1) Flip one spin along the chain



2) Distribute the spin reversal by canting all spins

 $E - E_0 = \hbar \omega \ll 2J$



- Spin waves are elementary excitations of a magnetic system
- Quantised spin-wave: **magnon** (*cf* phonons for elastic waves)
- It is more favourable energetically to distribute flipped spin over all lattice sites, rather than to have it localised to one lattice site.

(NB. Such excitations do exist - Stoner excitations - and these are important at high energies)

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Spin wave dispersion relations

Consider a uniformly magnetised system along the positive z axis. Suppose there
is an applied external field H₀ along the positive z direction:



Let

$$\mathbf{M} = M_s \mathbf{m} \qquad \qquad \|\mathbf{m}\| = 1$$

• If we allow for spatial variations in *m*, we need to also include exchange,

$$E = E_Z + E_{\text{ex}} = -\mu_0 M_s H_0 m_z + A \left[\left(\nabla m_x \right)^2 + \cdots \right]$$

• From this expression, we can derive an expression for the effective field

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{1}{\mu_0 M_s} \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mathbf{m}} = H_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}} + \frac{2A}{\mu_0 M_s} \nabla^2 \mathbf{m}$$

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Linearising the equations of motion

- Study small amplitude fluctuations of the magnetisation by *linearising* the equations of motion
- Write the magnetisation in terms of static and dynamic components. Assume the ground state consists of uniform magnetic state along +z:

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r},t) &= \mathbf{m}_0 + \delta \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r},t) = (0,0,1) + (m_x(\mathbf{r},t),m_y(\mathbf{r},t),0) \\ & \text{static} & \text{dynamic} \end{split}$$

• Similarly, decompose the effective field into static and dynamic components:



Linearising the equations of motion

• Rewrite the precession term in the Landau-Lifshitz equation in terms of static and dynamic parts, retain only linear terms in the dynamic components:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{m}}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}}$$
$$\frac{d\mathbf{m}}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \left(\delta \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff},0} + \mathbf{m}_0 \times \mathbf{h}_{\text{eff}} \right)$$
$$\frac{d\mathbf{m}}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \left(\delta \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff},0} + \mathbf{m}_0 \times \mathbf{h}_{\text{eff}} \right)$$

• Assume plane wave solutions for the dynamic part

$$m_{x,y}(\mathbf{r},t) = c_0 e^{i(\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}-\omega t)}$$

• Left-hand side of the torque equation becomes

$$\frac{d\delta\mathbf{m}}{dt} = -i\omega \begin{bmatrix} m_x \\ m_y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\delta \mathbf{m} = (m_x, m_y, 0)$$

dynamic magnetisation

Linearising the equations of motion

• In a similar way, the terms on the right-hand side (RHS) of the equation become

which leads to the matrix equation

$$-i\omega \begin{bmatrix} m_x \\ m_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\omega_k \\ \omega_k & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m_x \\ m_y \end{bmatrix} \qquad \omega_k = \gamma_0 \left(H_0 + \frac{2A}{\mu_0 M_s} k^2 \right)$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} i\omega & -\omega_k \\ \omega_k & i\omega \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m_x \\ m_y \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Spin wave dispersion relation

 Condition of vanishing determinant of the 2x2 matrix gives the *dispersion relation* for the spin waves:

$$-\omega^2 + \omega_k^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \omega = \omega_k = \gamma_0 H_0 + Dk^2$$

where we have defined a *spin-wave stiffness*

$$D \equiv \frac{2\gamma A}{M_s}$$

 Spin waves in ferromagnets are *dispersive* with a "band gap" due to applied and anisotropy fields

$$\frac{\omega}{k} \neq \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k}$$

Other energy contributions will bring supplementary terms to the dispersion relation



k

Brillouin light scattering spectroscopy

- Probe spin wave spectra by scattering light off surfaces
- Reflected photons give information about spin waves that are created (Stokes) or annihilated (anti-Stokes)





Mode confinement in nanostructures

- Translational invariance is broken in nanostructured magnetic elements
- Boundary conditions determine the quantisation conditions



$$\left. \frac{\partial M}{\partial \vec{n}} \right|_{\rm S} = \kappa \vec{M}$$



Micromagnetics

R D McMichael & M D Stiles, J Appl Phys 97, 10J901 (2005)



Mode confinement in nanostructures

Brillouin light scattering with nano-sized apertures and near-field imaging allows confined modes to be probed



Edge modes in a ferromagnetic ellipse

Experiments



Spin waves as probes of magnetic properties

 <u>Example</u>: Determine exchange constant A from frequencies of perpendicular standing spin waves (PSSW)



Information technologies with spin waves



Magnetic relaxation

• How does magnetisation reach equilibrium?



Phenomenology

(i) Two-step processes: **Bloch-Bloembergen** terms – ||**M**|| is *not* conserved

$$\frac{dM_z}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \left(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}}\right)_z - \frac{M_z - M_s}{T_1}$$
$$\frac{dM_{x,y}}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \left(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}}\right)_{x,y} - \frac{M_{x,y}}{T_2}$$

(ii) Viscous damping: **Gilbert** term – ||**M**|| is conserved

$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}} + \frac{\alpha}{M_s} \mathbf{M} \times \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt}$$

Only the Gilbert term is compatible with the basic assumption of micromagnetics

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Gilbert vs Landau-Lifshitz

The **Gilbert term** can be rewritten in the following way to make the physics more transparent

$$(1 + \alpha^2) \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}_{eff} - \frac{\alpha \gamma_0}{M_s} \mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}_{eff})$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{directed along} \\ \text{precession} \\ \text{trajectory} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{directed towards} \\ \text{effective field} \end{array}$$

This is referred to as the Landau-Lifshitz equation.

Note that α – the damping constant – determines the rate at which **energy dissipation** can occur:

- Governs magnetisation reversal times
- Governs switching fields, currents

The Landau-Lifshitz equation gives a good description of the damped magnetisation dynamics in strong ferromagnets (on the ~ns time scale).

Spin wave damping

• With the inclusion of Gilbert damping, linearised equations give

$$-i\omega \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \alpha \\ -\alpha & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m_x \\ m_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\omega_k \\ \omega_k & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m_x \\ m_y \end{bmatrix}$$

• This leads to the complex frequencies

$$\omega = \frac{1}{1 + \alpha^2} \left(\pm \omega_k - i\alpha\omega_k \right)$$

 $m_{x,y} \qquad 1 + \alpha^2 \qquad \qquad 1 + \alpha^2 \qquad \qquad \alpha \ll 1 \quad \text{Weak damping}$ $\omega \approx \pm \omega_k - i\Gamma_k \qquad \qquad \alpha \ll 1 \quad \text{Weak damping}$ $\int_{\Gamma_k} \Gamma_k \qquad \qquad \text{o Spin waves represent damped oscillations}$ in the magnetisation

Spin wave susceptibilities

• From linear response theory, it can be shown that the frequency-dependent magnetic susceptibility can be written as

$$\chi(\omega) = \sum_{k} \frac{1}{\omega - \omega_k + i\Gamma_k}$$

• The susceptibility is a complex-valued Green's function and describes the magnetic response to a driving field

$$m(\omega) = \chi(\omega)h(\omega)$$



Relaxation processes





Relaxation processes (intrinsic)



Relaxation processes (extrinsic)

• Uniform (FMR) mode is damped by scattering to finite *k* spin wave



Note that linear momentum is not conserved in this process

Question: How might this occur?



Relaxation processes (extrinsic)

• Example of non-local damping. Spin flips occur in neighbouring films.



S Mizukami et al, *Jpn J Appl Phys* **40**, 580 (2001) S Mizukami et al, *Phys Rev B* **66**, 104413 (2002)



Spin pumping

Dynamics of solitons

- We've seen that domain walls, vortices and skyrmions are nonuniform, nontrivial spin configurations *topological solitons*
- By knowing their static profiles, how can we describe their motion (at velocity *v*)?



- Unlike plane waves, in general it is not possible to translate static solution to obtain moving solution. Need to satisfy Landau-Lifshitz!
- Need to use method of collective coordinates, Lagrangian formulation

Lagrangian formulation

- In order to describe domain wall motion, it is convenient to use a slight different approach to describe the magnetisation dynamics
- Instead of trying to solve the Landau-Lifshitz equation, we can use another formulation in terms of the *Lagrangian*

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L} &= \frac{M_s}{\gamma} \dot{\phi} (1 - \cos \theta) - \mathcal{E} & \text{Lagrangian density} \\ L &= \int dV \ \mathcal{L} & \text{Lagrangian} \end{split}$$

• The idea is that if we can describe the domain wall in terms of its position X and conjugate momentum P, then we can derive its dynamics directly from the Lagrangian:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{X}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial X} = 0$$
$$\frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{P}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial P} = 0$$

Dissipation - Gilbert damping

• To describe the full dynamics, we need to include the dissipation term

Gilbert damping can be accounted for through a *Rayleigh dissipation function* of the form:

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\alpha M_s}{\gamma} \left(\dot{\theta}^2 + \sin^2 \theta \ \dot{\phi}^2 \right)$$

which appears in the equations of motion as

$$\frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{q}} = 0$$

Equations of motion with dissipation

where

$$F = \int dV \,\mathcal{F}$$

and the q's are generalised coordinates.

Domain wall dynamics

- How does a domain wall move in response to applied fields and currents?
- Recall Landau-Lifshitz equation

$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = -\gamma_0 \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}} - \frac{\alpha \gamma_0}{M_s} \mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}})$$

- At equilibrium, the magnetisation is aligned along the direction of H_{eff} .
- Consider torques due to an applied field, H_0 , along +z direction (i.e., left domain)



Domain wall dynamics

 Motion of the domain wall can be described by a one-dimensional model with two variables:



X

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V

Domain wall Lagrangian

• Take energy terms from MP1 (exchange, anisotropy, dipolar, Zeeman ...) and integrate out the spatial degrees of freedom using trial solution to obtain Lagrangian

$$\theta(x,t) = 2 \tan^{-1} \left[\exp\left(-\frac{x - X_0(t)}{\Delta}\right) \right] \quad \phi(x,t) = \phi_0(t)$$

$$\mathbf{m} = (\cos\phi\sin\theta, \sin\phi\sin\theta, \cos\theta) \quad \text{Trial solution}$$
Berry phase ("Kinetic energy") (Potential) Energy
$$\mathcal{E}_{ex} = A \left(\nabla \mathbf{m}\right)^2 + \mathcal{E}_{K} = -K \left(\mathbf{m} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}\right)^2 + \mathcal{E}_{K} = -K \left(\mathbf{m} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}\right)^2 + \mathcal{E}_{d} = -\frac{1}{2}\mu_0 \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{H}_d + \mathcal{E}_{Z} = -\mu_0 \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{H}_0$$
Integrate out spatial variables
$$L = L_B - U$$

(Domain wall) Lagrangian

Domain wall equations of motion

• From the Lagrangian and the dissipation function, derive the equations of motion for the domain wall:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{X}_{0}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial X_{0}} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{X}_{0}} = 0$$

$$-\dot{\phi}_{0} + \frac{\alpha \dot{X}_{0}}{\Delta} = \left(-\frac{\gamma}{2M_{s}}\frac{\partial U}{\partial X_{0}}\right)$$
Generalised forces
$$\frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\phi}_{0}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi_{0}} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{\phi}_{0}} = 0$$

$$\vec{X}_{0} - \frac{\dot{X}_{0}}{\Delta} + \alpha \dot{\phi}_{0} = \left(-\frac{1}{2}\gamma_{0}M_{s}\sin 2\phi_{0} - \frac{\gamma}{2M_{s}\Delta}\frac{\partial U}{\partial \phi_{0}}\right)$$
Generalised forces
Generalised forces

Domain wall motion under applied field





Walker breakdown showing vortex nucleation at edges

Vortex dynamics

- The Lagrangian approach can be used to derive the equations of motion for a vortex
- Parametrise with the core position in the film plane (X₀), topological charge (q), and polarisation (p).



Vortex dynamics

• Vortex Lagrangian with Gilbert damping leads to "Thiele" equation, which describes the dynamics of the vortex core position

$$\mathbf{G} \times \dot{\mathbf{X}}_0 + \alpha \mathbf{D} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{X}}_0 = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial \mathbf{X}_0}$$

where

• The gyrovector is

$$\mathbf{G} = \frac{2\pi M_s dpq}{\gamma} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

$$q = 1, \qquad q =$$

Vortex dynamics

• The natural motion for a magnetic vortex is *gyrotropic*. In fact, the motion is intrinsically <u>non-Newtonian</u>. Consider the conservative case without damping:

$$\mathbf{G} \times \dot{\mathbf{X}}_0 = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial \mathbf{X}_0}$$

With the definition of the gyrovector:

$$-G\dot{Y}_0 = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial X_0}$$
$$G\dot{X}_0 = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial Y_0}$$

$$G = \frac{2\pi M_s dpq}{\gamma}$$

For a Newtonian system, we have (for comparison)

$$m\frac{d^{2}\mathbf{X}_{0}}{dt^{2}}=-\frac{\partial U}{\partial\mathbf{X}_{0}}$$
 mass

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Summary

 Landau-Lifshitz equation provides framework to describe damped precessional dynamics

• Spin waves Linear (small amplitude) excitations, useful probes

Relaxation processes
 Gilbert, Bloch-Bloembergen; intrinsic and extrinsic processes

• Domain wall and vortex dynamics Lagrangian formulation, collective coordinates





