

# Magnetic Microscopy

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THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL ON  
MAGNETISM



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE LORRAINE

<http://spin.ijl.cnrs.fr>

# Special thanks !



Jeffrey McCord



Kiel University  
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel



Thomas Hauet

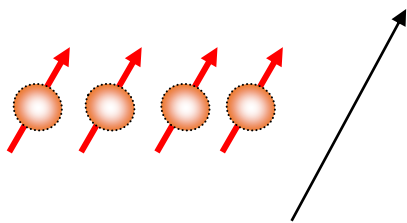


Daniel Lacour



# Interactions

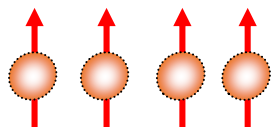
Zeeman Energy



H

$$E_{\text{zee}} = -\mu_0 \vec{M} \cdot \vec{H}$$

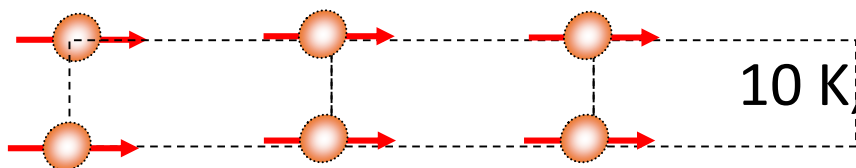
Exchange



1000 K, 100 T

$$E_{\text{exc}} = -J \vec{S}_1 \cdot \vec{S}_2$$

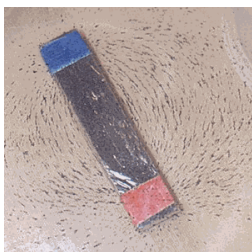
Magneto-crystalline anisotropy



10 K, 0.01 to 10 T

$$E_K = -K \cos^2(\theta)$$

Dipolar

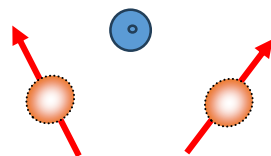


1 K, 10 mT

$$E_{\text{dip}} = -\mu_0 \vec{M} \cdot \vec{H}_{\text{dip}}$$

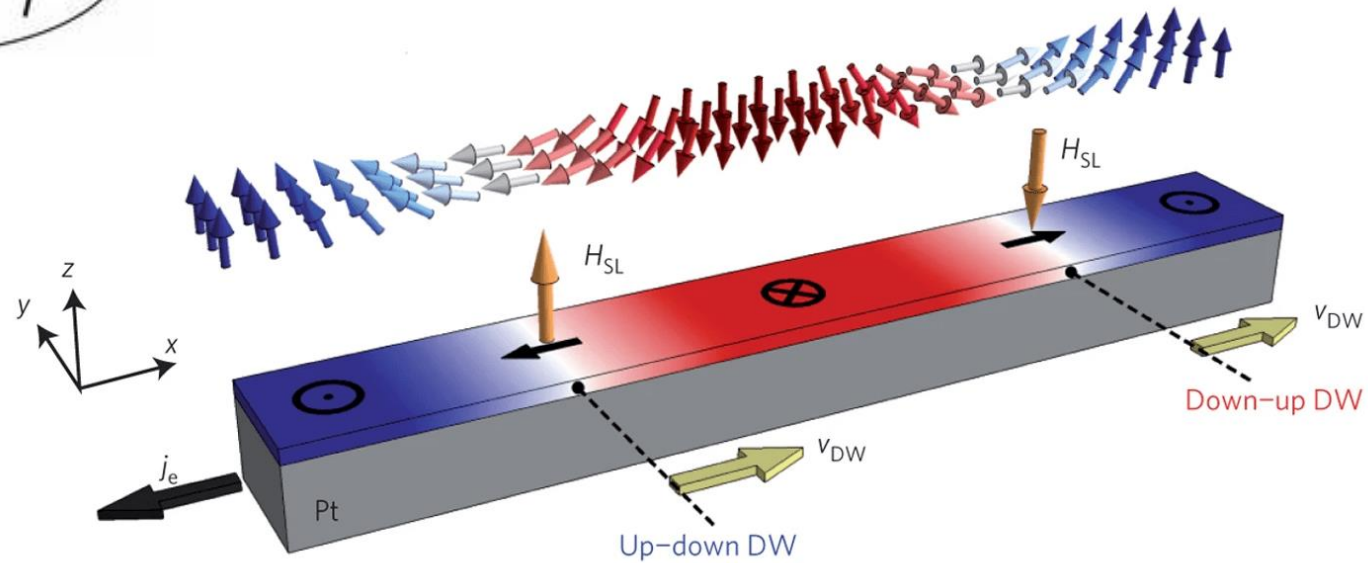
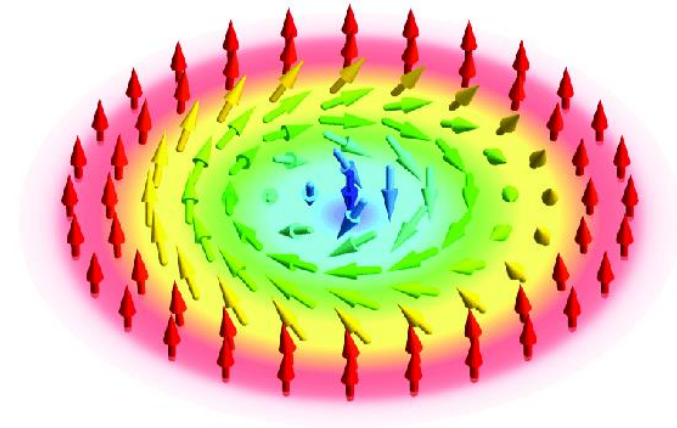
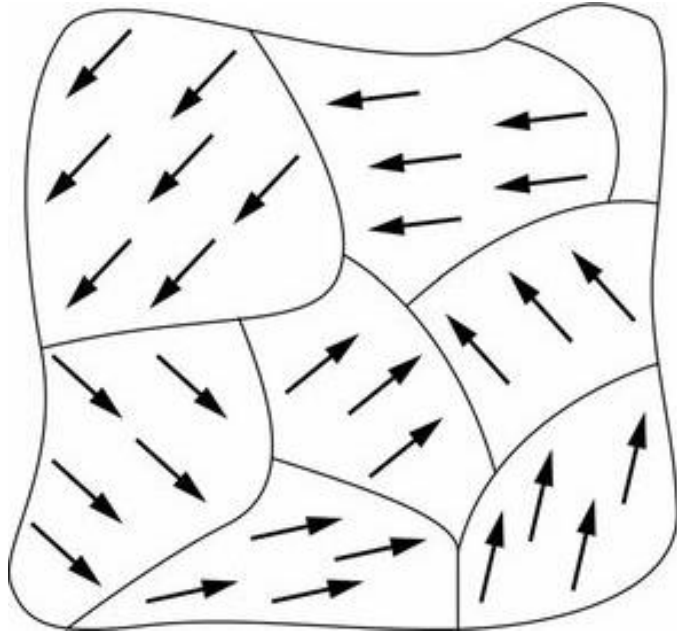
$$E_{\text{DMI}} = \vec{D}_{12} \cdot (\vec{S}_1 \times \vec{S}_2)$$

Dzyaloshinskii–Moriya interaction (DMI)

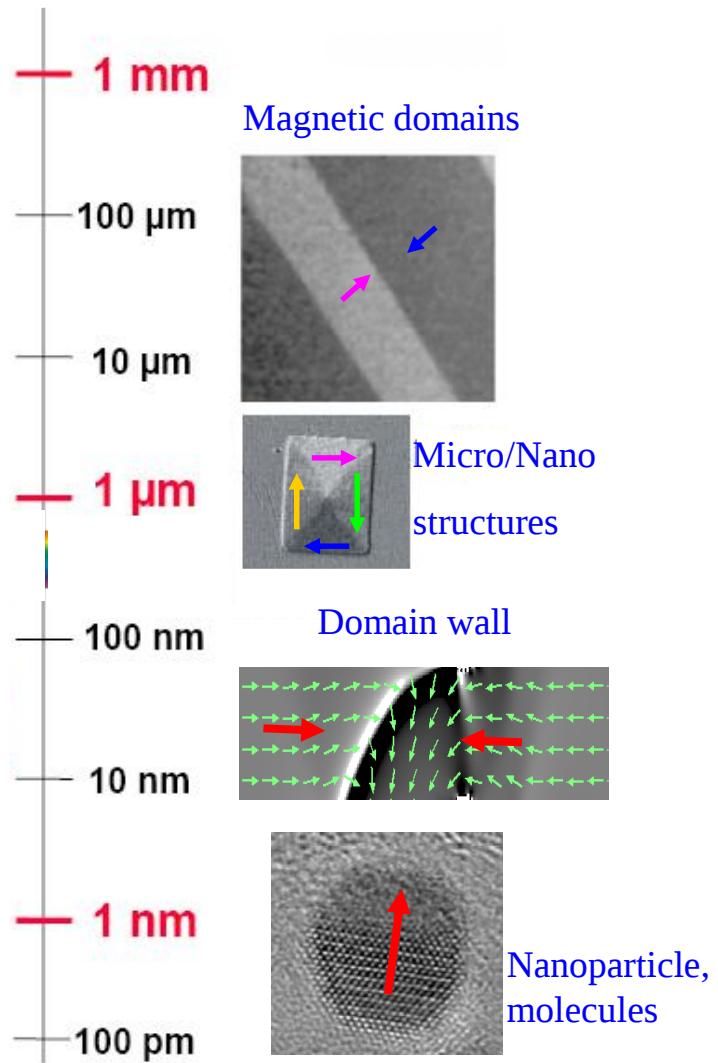


Configuration results from competition of the different interactions

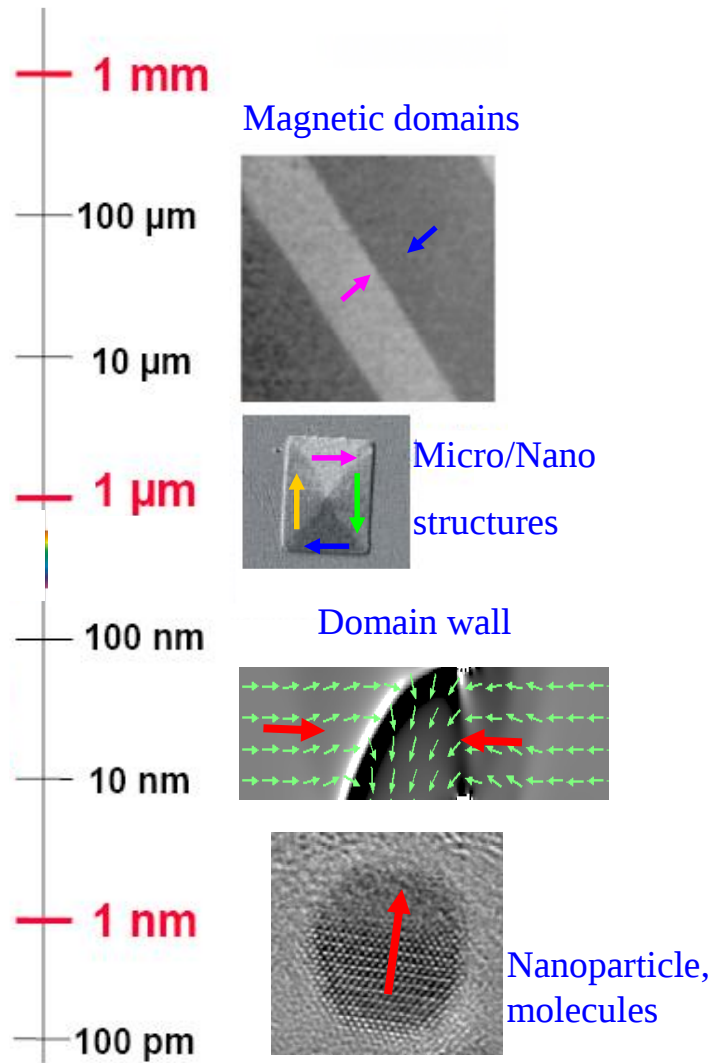
# Magnetic configurations



## Spatial scale



## Spatial scale



Magneto-optical microscopy (MO)

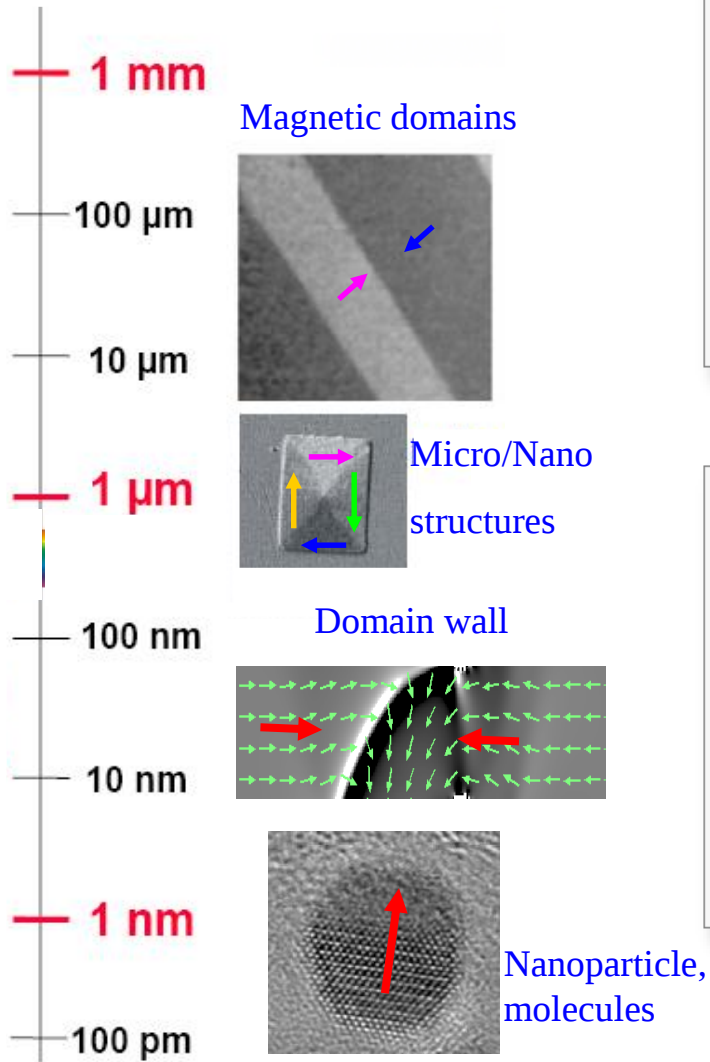
Scanning electron microscopy (SEMPA)

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

X-Ray microscopy

Magnetic force microscopy (MFM)

## Spatial scale



### What is measured?

- ☐ Magnetization, induction, stray field?
- ☐ Elemental resolution
- ☐ Direct or indirect?
- ☐ Quantitative or not?

### Which specifications?

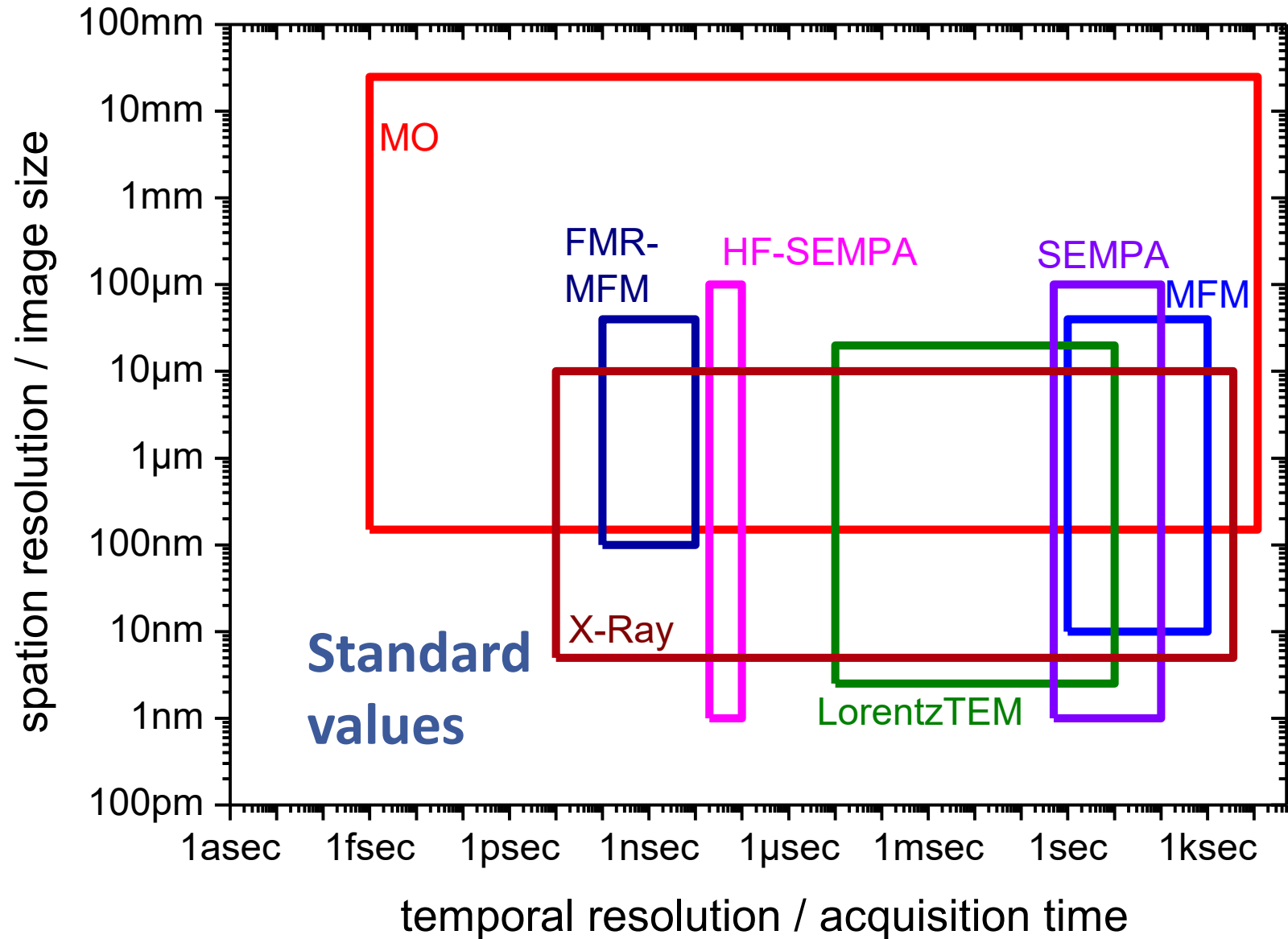
- ☐ Magnetization: 1D, 2D, 3D
- ☐ Depth resolution: surface or volume?
- ☐ Lateral resolution
- ☐ Sensitivity
- ☐ Time/Spectral resolution

### Environmental conditions

- ☐ Temperature
- ☐ Field: magnetic field, electric
- ☐ Electric current, light etc.
- ☐ Strain
- ☐ Additional measuring techniques

### Versatility

- ☐ Sample preparation needed
- ☐ Time per one measurement
- ☐ In situ / ex situ
- ☐ Large-scale or in-lab?
- ☐ Expensive or cheap?



Magneto-optical microscopy (MO)

Scanning electron microscopy (SEMPA)

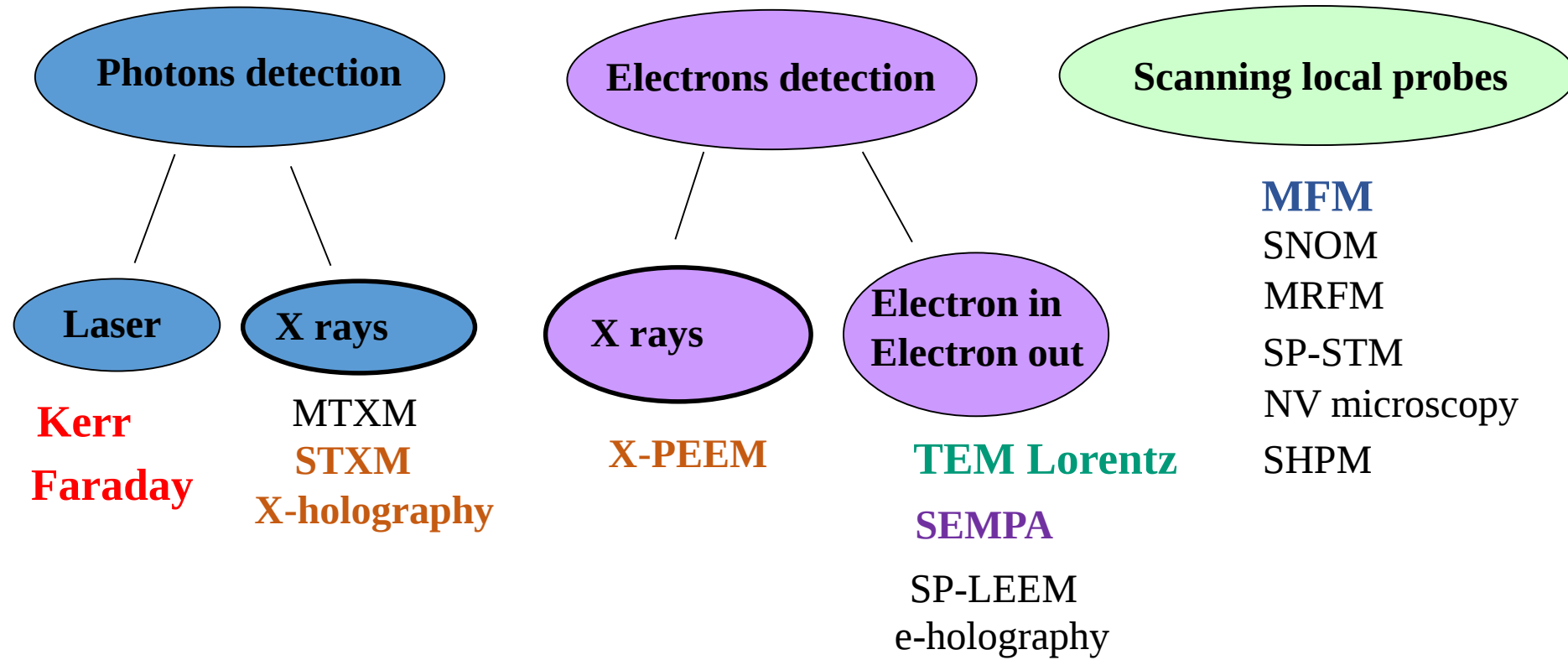
Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

X-Ray microscopy

Magnetic force microscopy (MFM)

|                                                               | Bitter pattern   | MFM              | SEM-I Secondary    | TEM Fresnel and Foucault     | TEM DPC                      | TEM Holography               | SEM-II Back-scattered | SEMPA            | SPEEM           | MOKE (Kerr microscopy) | XPEEM            | STXM <sup>(a)</sup>          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Contrast mechanism                                            | $\nabla B_{ext}$ | $\nabla B_{ext}$ | $\nabla B_{ext}$   | B                            | B                            | $B, \Phi_B$                  | B                     | M                | M               | M                      | M                | M                            |
| Evaluation of the magnetization, $M(r)$                       | Indirect         | Indirect         | Q                  | Indirect                     | Q                            | Q                            | Q                     | Q                | Q               | Q                      | Q                | Q                            |
| Spatial resolution (nm) $\frac{\text{Typical}}{\text{Limit}}$ | $\frac{300}{80}$ | $\frac{60}{20}$  | $\frac{1000}{800}$ | $\frac{50}{\sim 10}$         | $\frac{10}{2}$               | $\frac{20}{5}$               | $\frac{2000}{1000}$   | $\frac{150}{20}$ | $\frac{40}{20}$ | $\frac{800}{250}$      | $\frac{300}{50}$ | $\frac{30}{15}$              |
| Depth of information (nm)                                     | 500–1000         | 20–500           | 10–50 nm           | Thickness integrated <150 nm | Thickness integrated <100 nm | Thickness integrated <100 nm | 10,000                | 1–2              | <1              | <20 (metals)           | <5 nm            | Thickness integrated <100 nm |
| Time for image acquisition                                    | 30 msec          | 5–20 mins        | 10–60 sec          | 50 msec–60 sec               | 5–60 secs                    | 50 msec–10 sec               | 10–60 sec             | 1–100 min        | ~1sec           | 1 msec–5 sec           | ~1sec            | ~1sec                        |
| Limits on applied magnetic fields                             | None             | <500 kA/m        | Not advised        | ~100–500 kA/m                | ~100–500 kA/m                | 50 kA/m                      | Not advised           | Not advised      | Not advised     | None                   | Not advised      | None                         |
| Imaging conditions                                            | None             | In air           | HV                 | HV                           | HV                           | HV                           | HV                    | UHV              | UHV             | In air                 | UHV              | None                         |
| Max thickness                                                 | None             | None             | None               | <150 nm                      | <100 nm                      | <100 nm                      | None                  | None             | None            | None                   |                  | 60–100 nm                    |
| Sample smoothness                                             | R                | R                | NR                 | Preferred                    | Preferred                    | Preferred                    | NR                    | NR               | R               | R                      | NR               | NR                           |
| Sample clean surface                                          | NR               | NR               |                    | Preferred                    | Preferred                    | Preferred                    | NR                    | R                | R               | NR                     | Preferred        | NR                           |

# Type of measurements



NV = NV center of diamond probe

MFM = magnetic force microscopy

MRFM = magnetoc resonance force microscopy

MTXM = magnetic transmission X-ray microscopy

SEMPA = scanning electron microscopy with polarization analysis

SNOM = scanning near field optical microscopy

SP-LEEM = spin polarized low energy electron microscopy

SHPM = scanning all probe microscopy

# Outlines

Magneto-optical microscopy (MO)

Scanning electron microscopy (SEMPA)

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

X-Ray microscopy

Magnetic force microscopy (MFM)

Magneto-optical microscopy (MO)

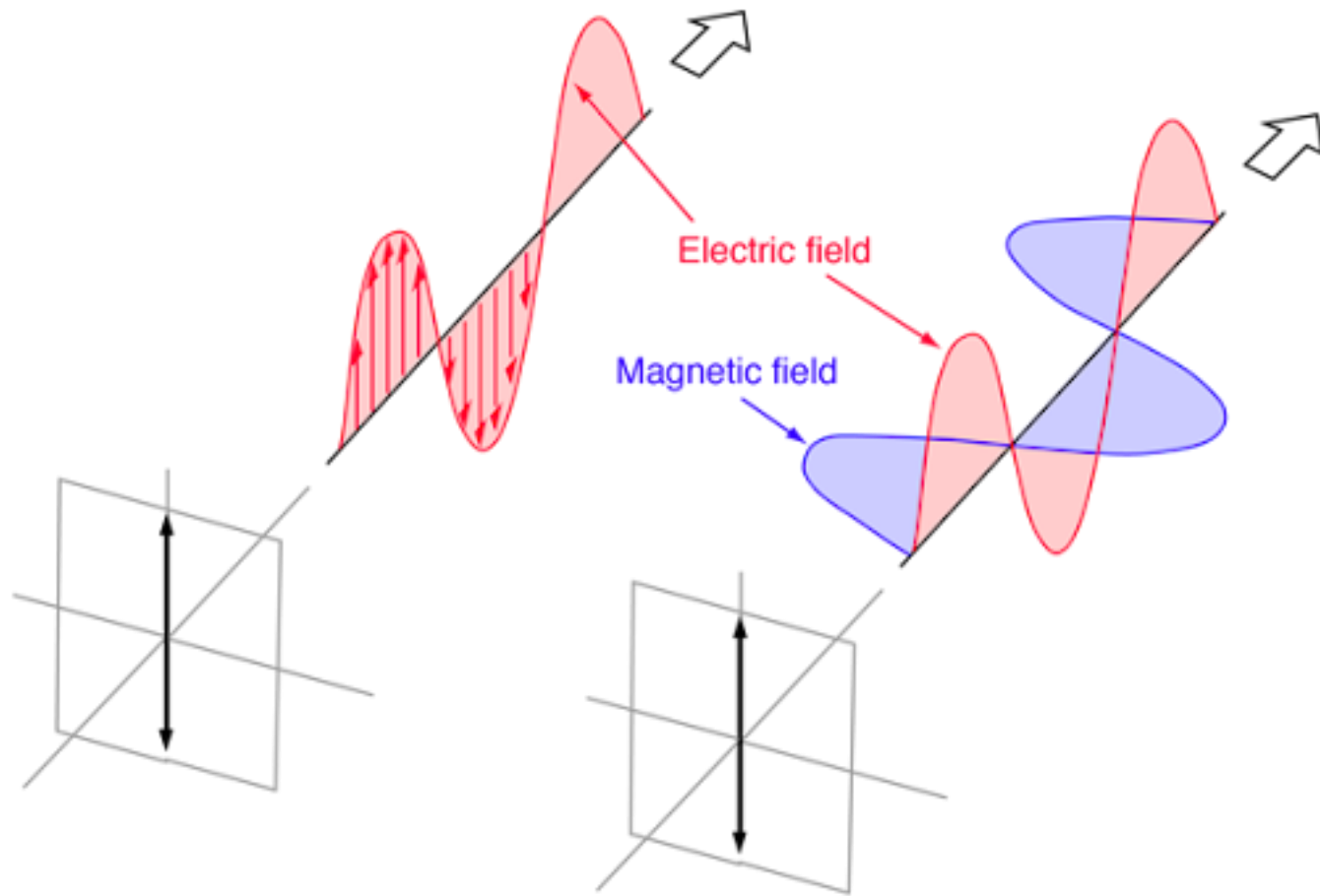
Scanning electron microscopy (SEMPA)

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

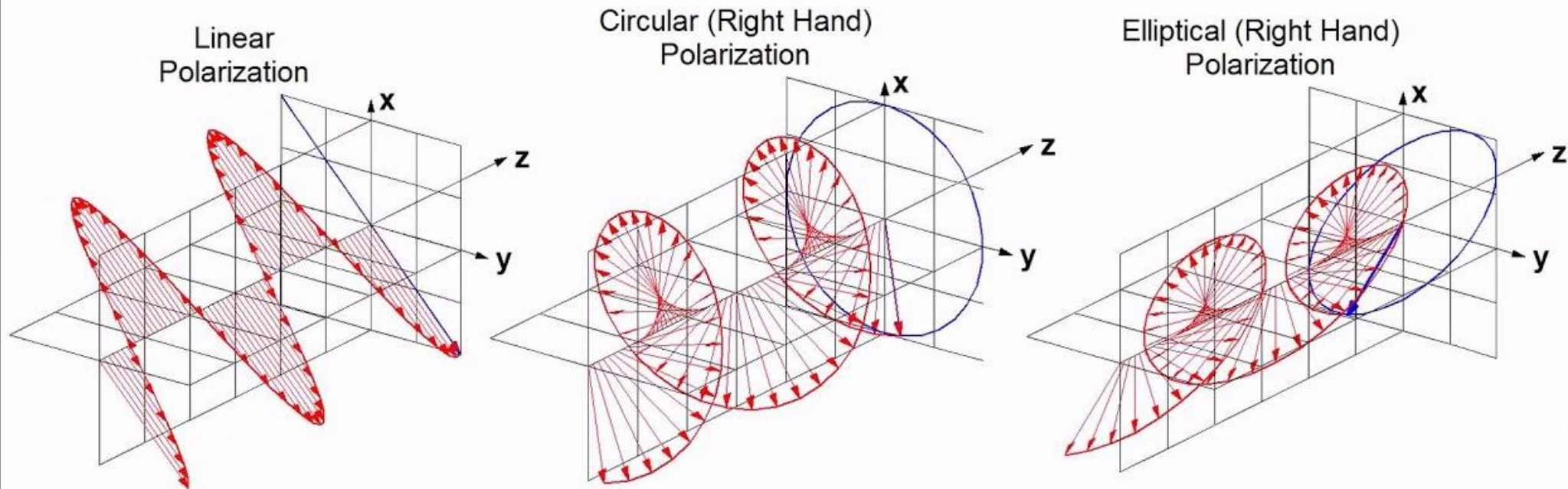
X-Ray microscopy

Magnetic force microscopy (MFM)

# Linearly polarized light



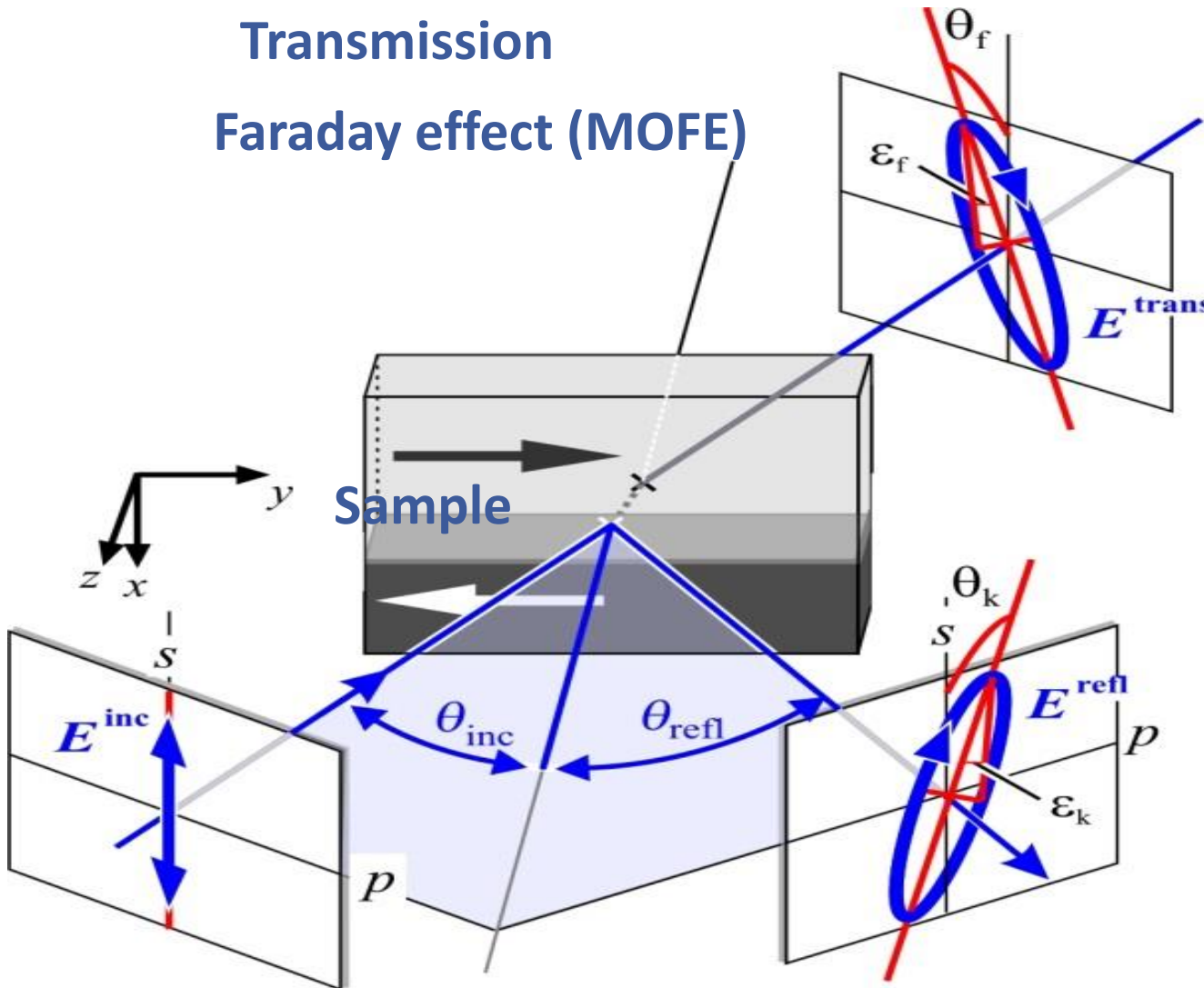
# polarized light



# Magneto-optic effect

Transmission

Faraday effect (MOFE)



Longitudinal Faraday and Kerr effect under an angle of incidence  $\vartheta_{inc}$  relative to the surface normal. The case of s-polarization is sketched. By the MO interaction with the magnetic medium the linearly polarized incoming light ( $E^{inc}$ ) is transformed to an elliptically polarized light  $E^{trans}$  and  $E^{refl}$ . The resulting Faraday rotation  $\vartheta_f$  and ellipticity  $e_f$ , respectively, Kerr rotation  $\vartheta_k$  and ellipticity  $e_k$  are shown.  $\vartheta_{refl}$  is the angle of reflection of light.

J. McCord, Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics 48, 333001 (2015)

Reflection

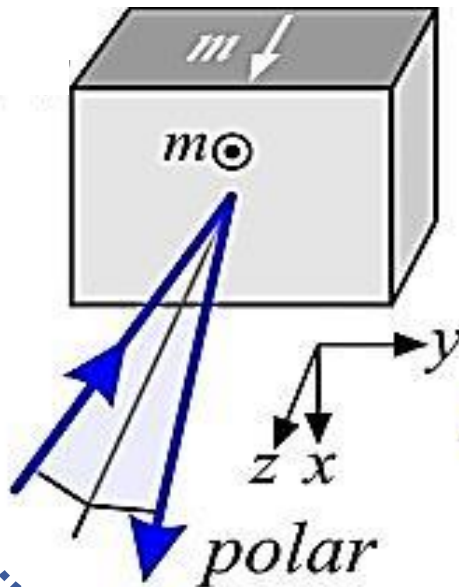
Kerr effect (MOKE)

# Magneto-optic effect

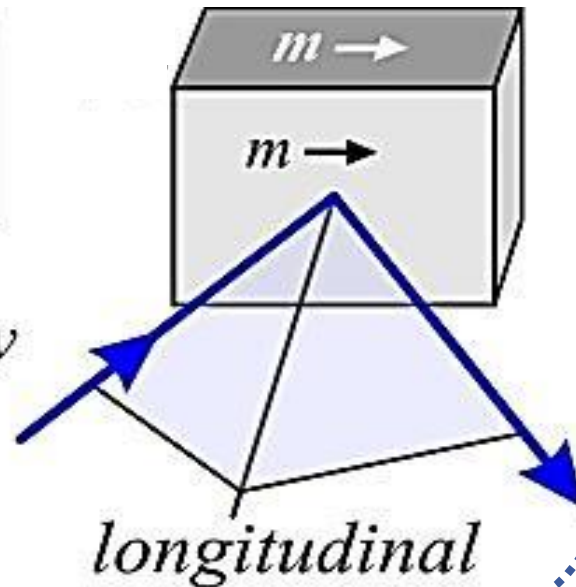
The effects might come together!

J.McCord, Journal of Physics D:  
Applied Physics 48, 333001 (2015)

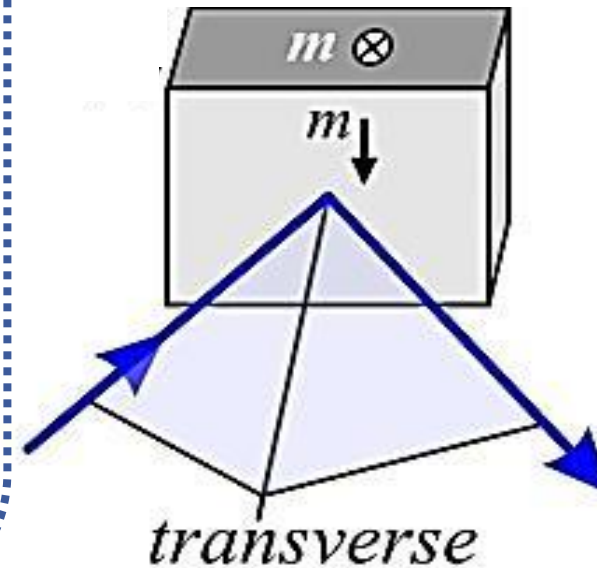
Out-of-plane  
magnetization



In-plane  
magnetization

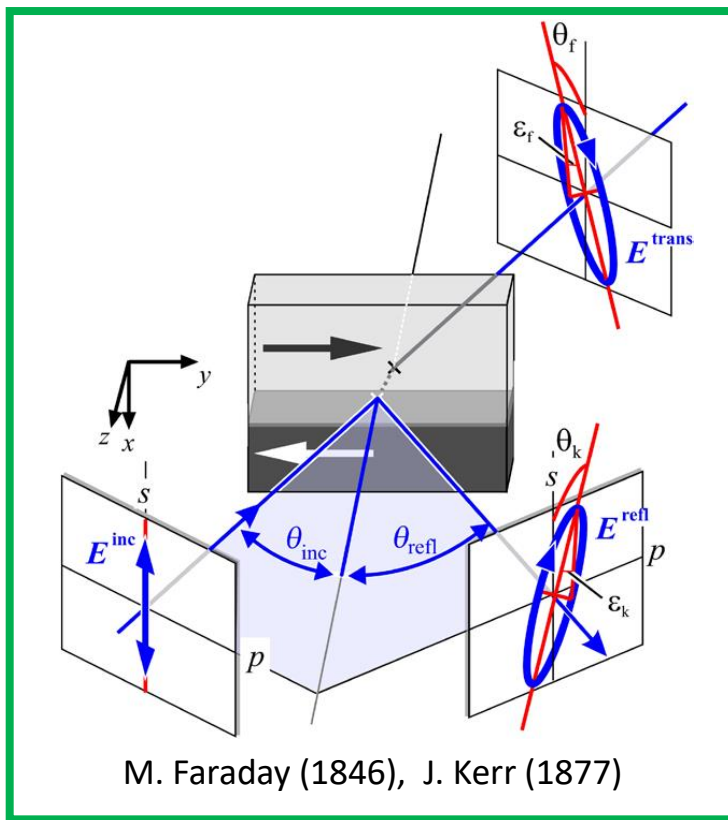


In-plane  
magnetization



The three basic configurations of the (a) polar, (b) longitudinal, and (c) transverse magneto-optical Kerr effect. The unit vector of magnetization  $m$  is lying along the corresponding sensitivity axes (as indicated).

# Magneto-optic effect



**Classical description :**

dielectric conductivity tensor  $\vec{\sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_0 & -\sigma_1 m_z & 0 \\ \sigma_1 m_z & \sigma_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_0 \end{bmatrix}$

diagonalization  $\begin{matrix} \sigma_+ = \sigma_0 - i\sigma_1 \\ \sigma_- = \sigma_0 + i\sigma_1 \\ \sigma_z = \sigma_0 \end{matrix}$

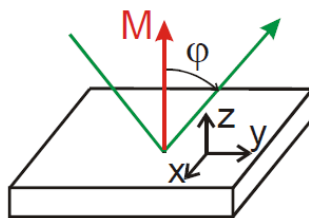
$n_{\pm}(\omega) = \sqrt{1 + \frac{4\pi i}{\omega} \sigma_{\pm}(\omega)}$

## More generally : 3 useful configurations

$$\vec{\sigma}(\vec{M}) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_0 & -\sigma_1 m_z & \sigma_1 m_y \\ \sigma_1 m_z & \sigma_0 & -\sigma_1 m_x \\ -\sigma_1 m_y & \sigma_1 m_x & \sigma_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

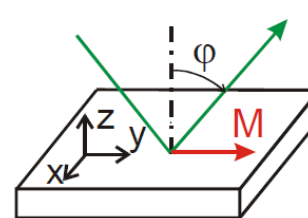
Polar Kerr effect (PMOKE)

$M \perp$  sample surface



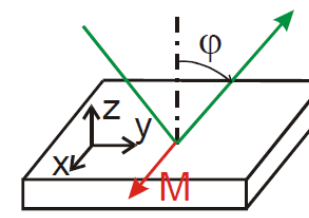
Longitudinal Kerr effect (LMOKE)

$M \parallel$  plane of incidence



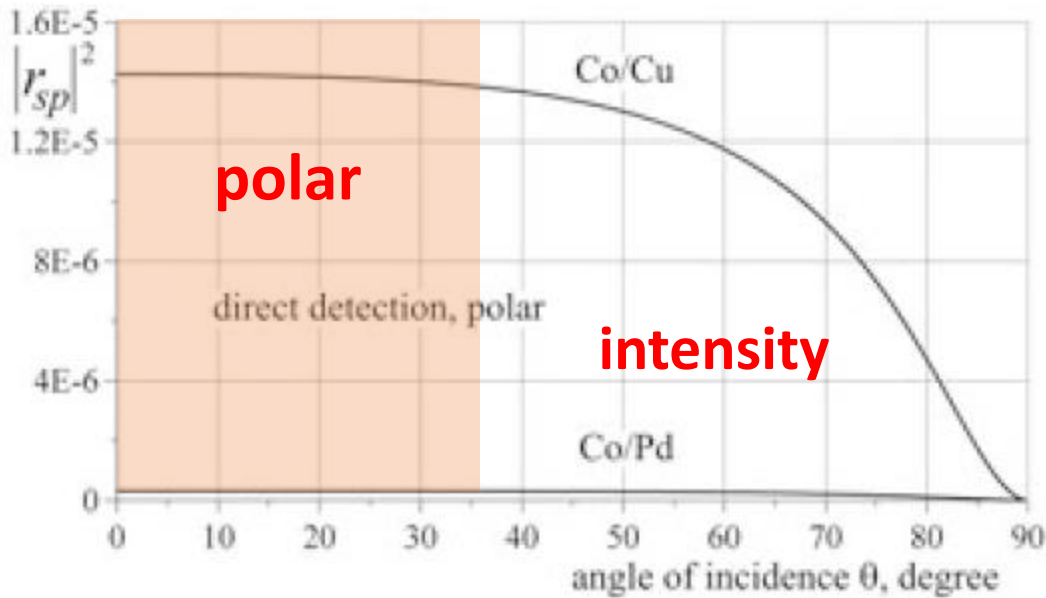
Transversal Kerr effect (TMOKE)

$M \perp$  plane of incidence

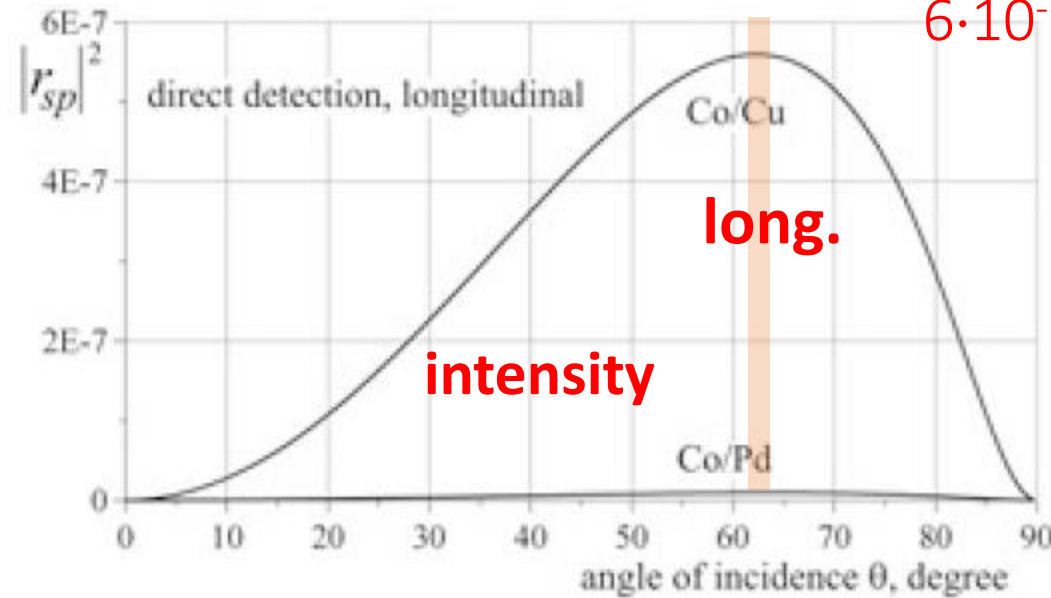


# Magneto-optic effect

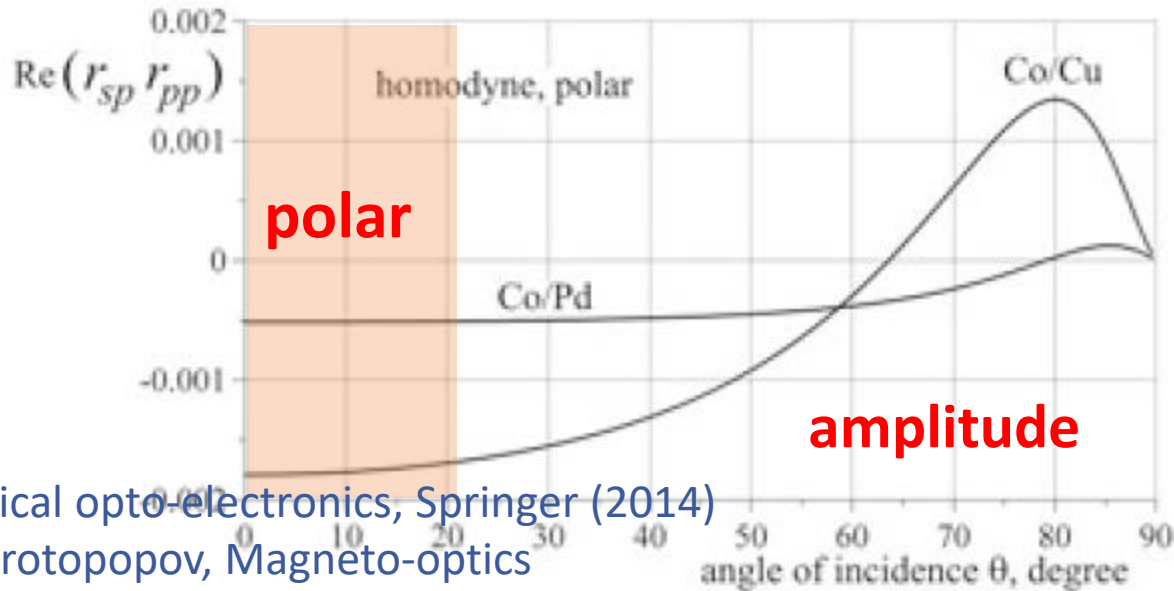
$1.6 \cdot 10^{-5}$



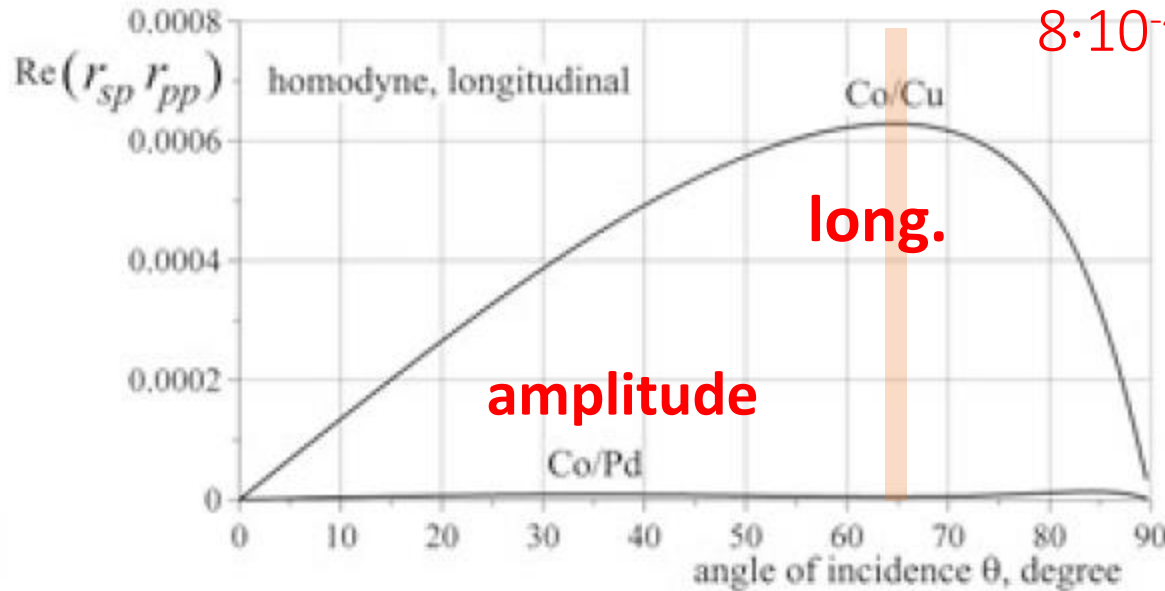
$6 \cdot 10^{-7}$



$2 \cdot 10^{-3}$



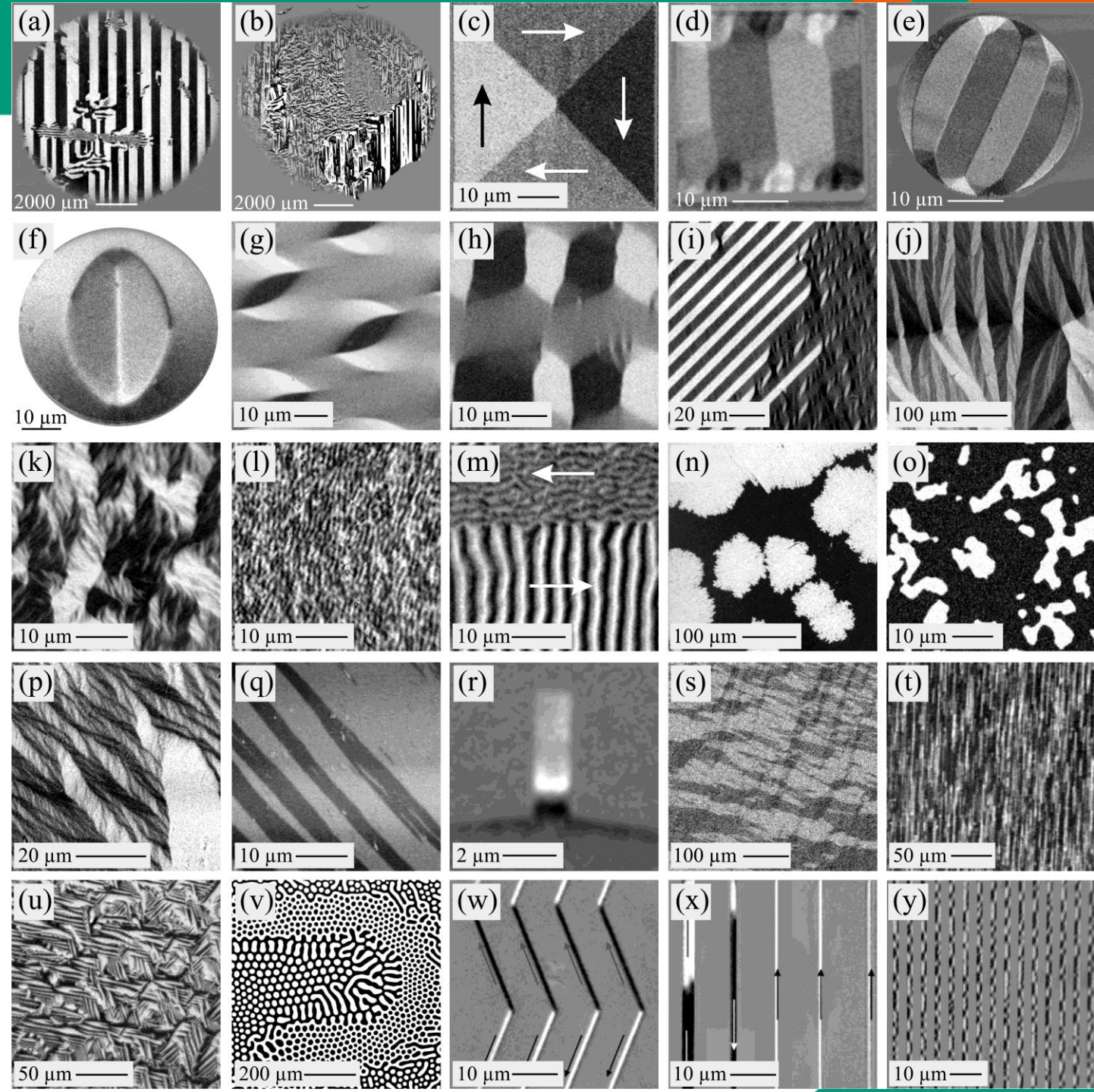
$8 \cdot 10^{-4}$



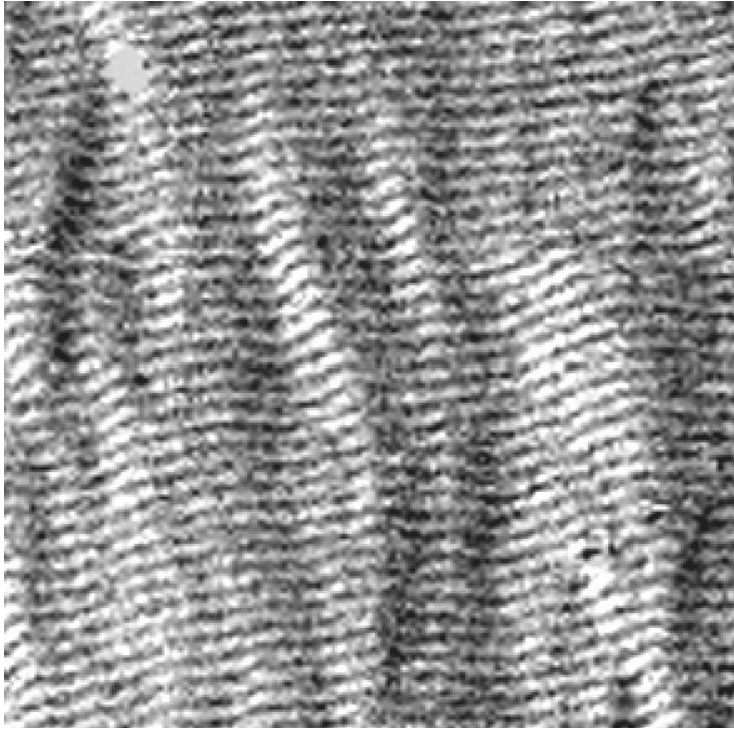
# MOKE (Kerr microscopy)

|                                                               |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Contrast mechanism                                            | M                 |
| Evaluation of the magnetization, $M(\mathbf{r})$              | Q                 |
| Spatial resolution (nm) $\frac{\text{Typical}}{\text{Limit}}$ | $\frac{800}{250}$ |
| Depth of information (nm)                                     | <20 (metals)      |
| Time for image acquisition                                    | 1 msec–5 sec      |
| Limits on applied magnetic fields                             | None              |
| Imaging conditions                                            | In air            |
| Max thickness                                                 | None              |
| Sample smoothness                                             | R                 |
| Sample clean surface                                          | NR                |

Topical Review  
J. McCord,  
J. Phys. D: Appl.  
Phys. 48,  
333001 (2015)



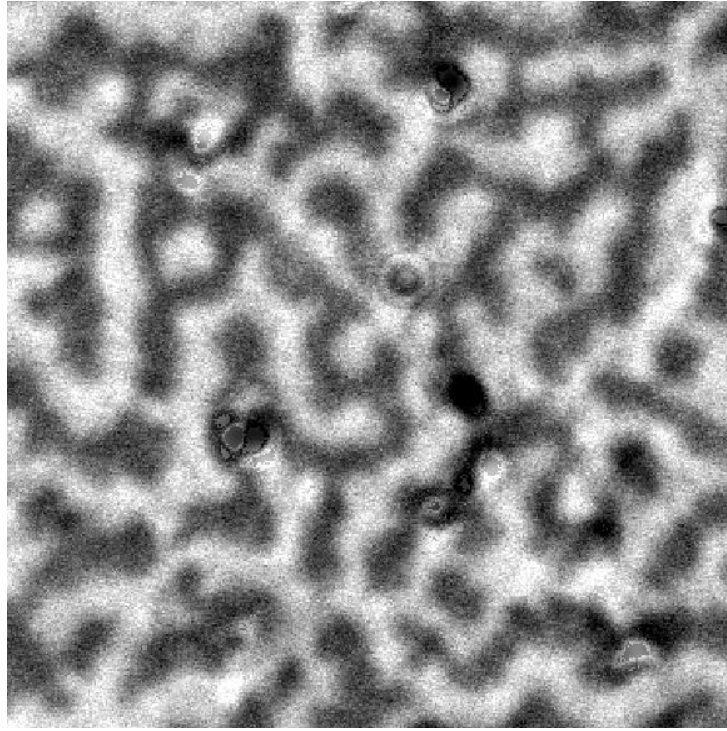
# Ultimate resolution



**Stripe domains in  $\text{Ni}_{81}\text{Fe}_{19}$**

Domain width 250 nm

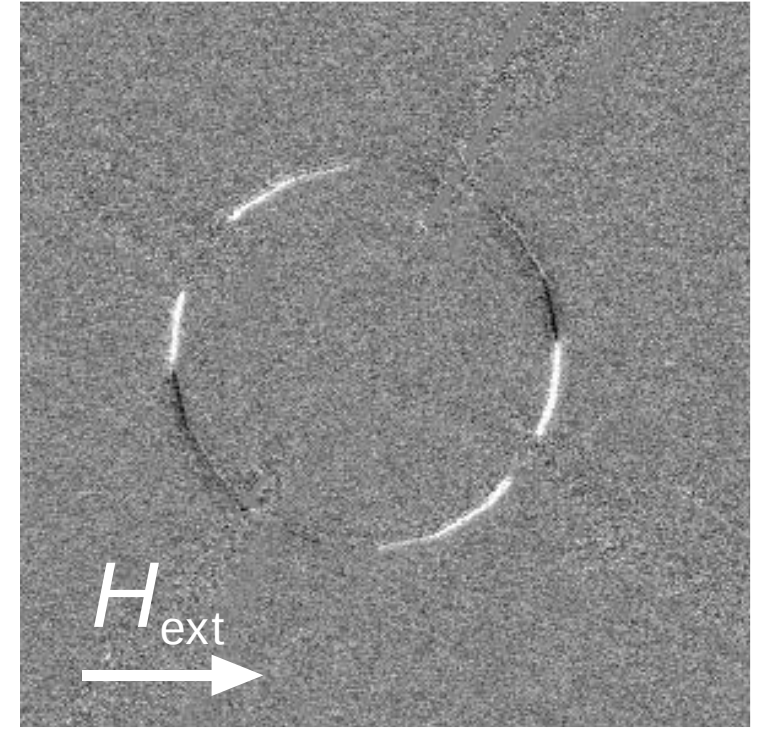
**150 nm  
resolution**



**Interaction domains in  $\text{Nd}_2\text{Fe}_{14}\text{B}$**

Domain width 400 nm

(sample O. Gutfleisch, TU  
Darmstadt)



**Magnetic domains in a angle sensor**

Stripe width 300 nm

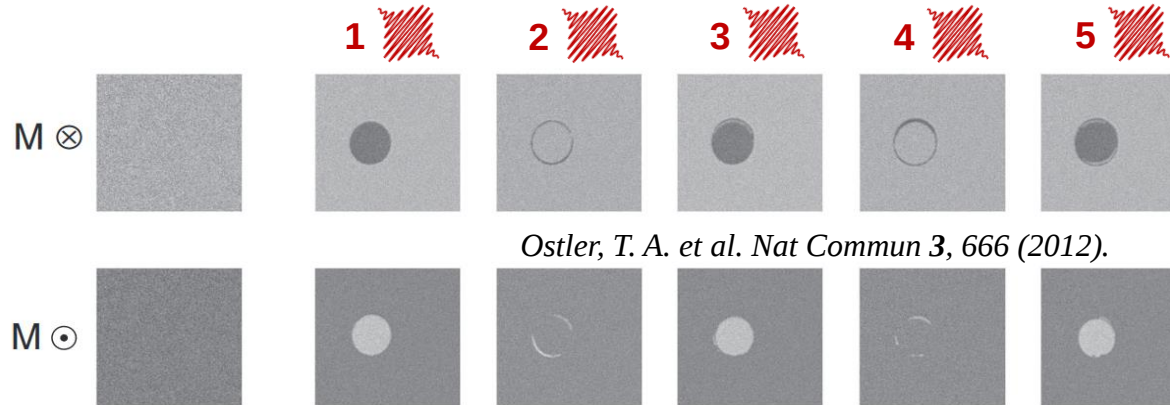
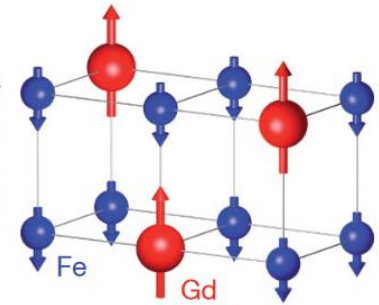
Localization accuracy 10 nm

(sample R. Mattheis, IPHT Jena)

J. McCord, J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 48, 333001 (2015)

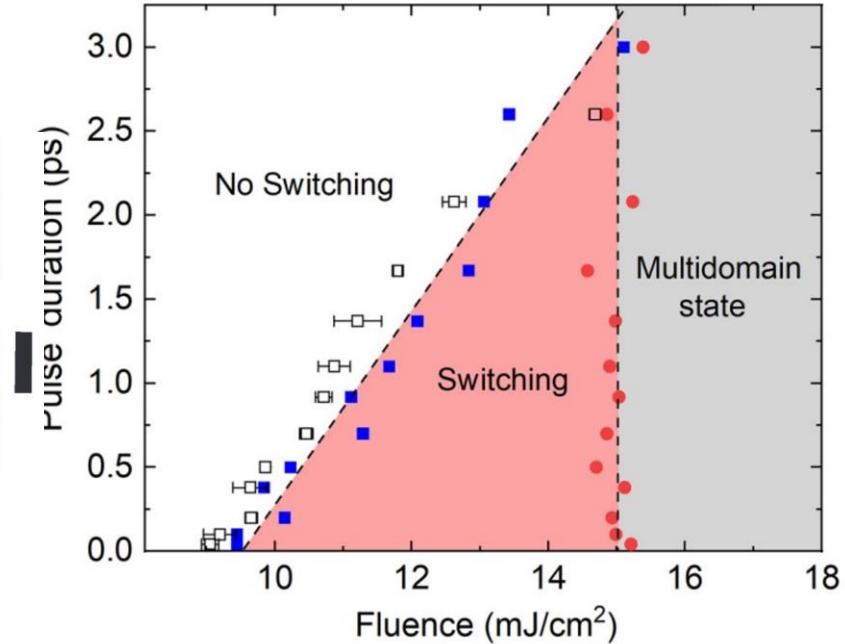
# All Optical – Helicity Independent switching

## Characteristics



Ostler, T. A. et al. Nat Commun 3, 666 (2012).

Single pulse & Fast

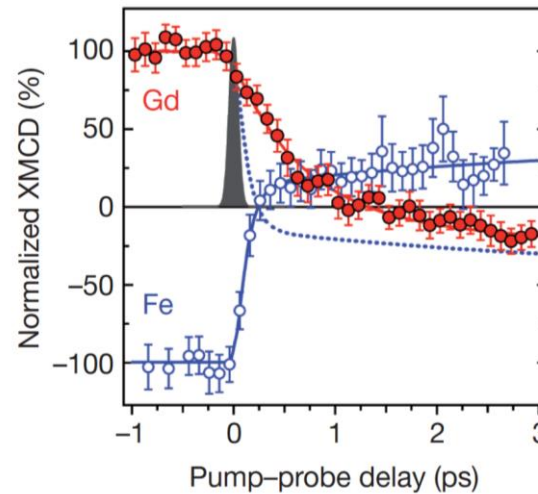


Characteristic State diagram

Specific materials

→ Gd based Material

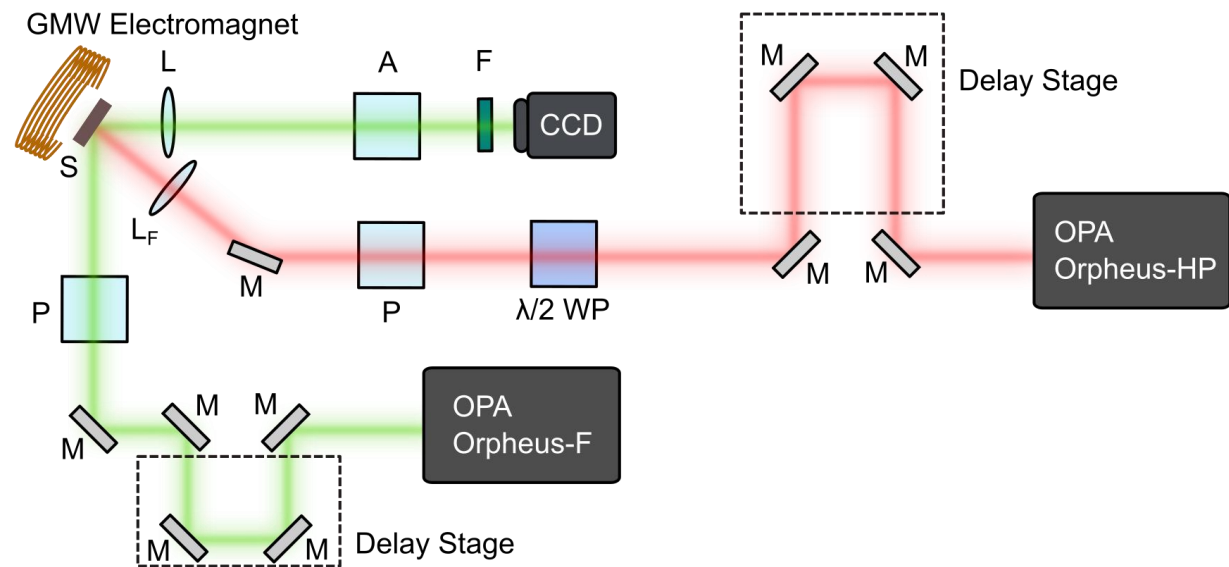
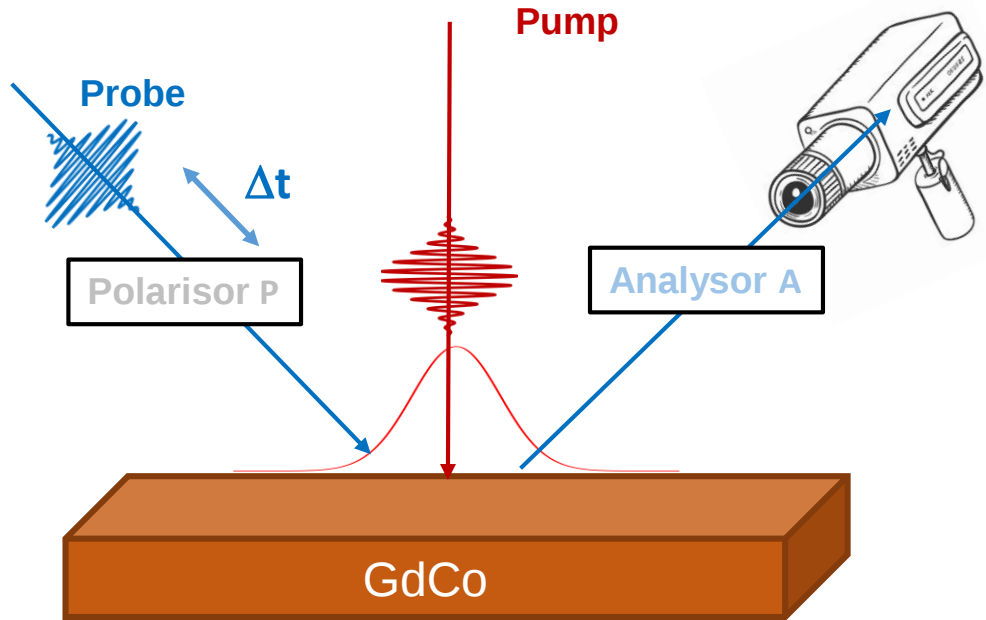
→ MnRuGa



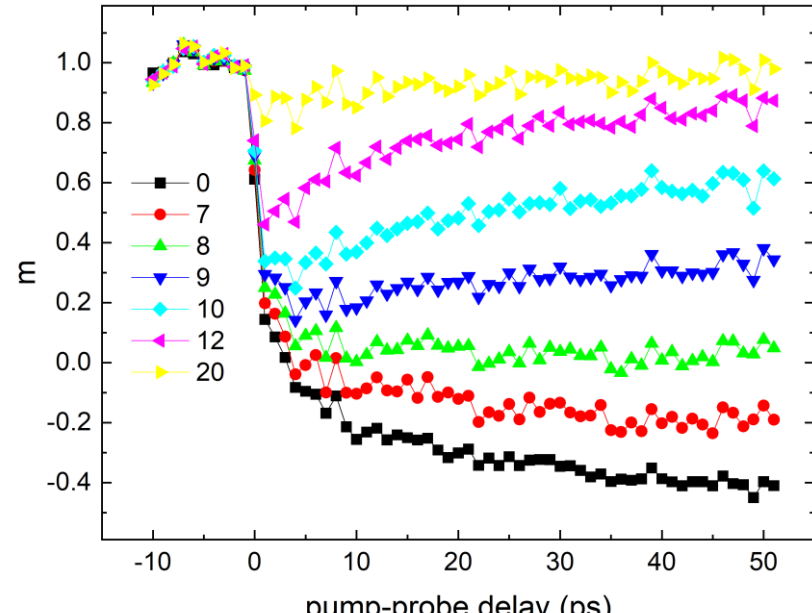
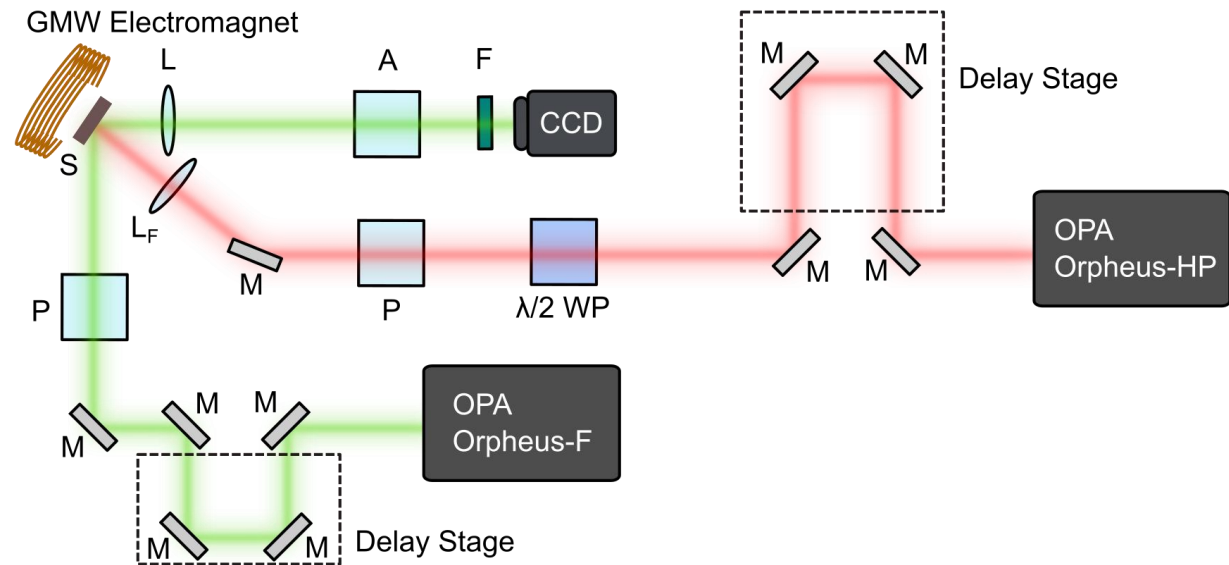
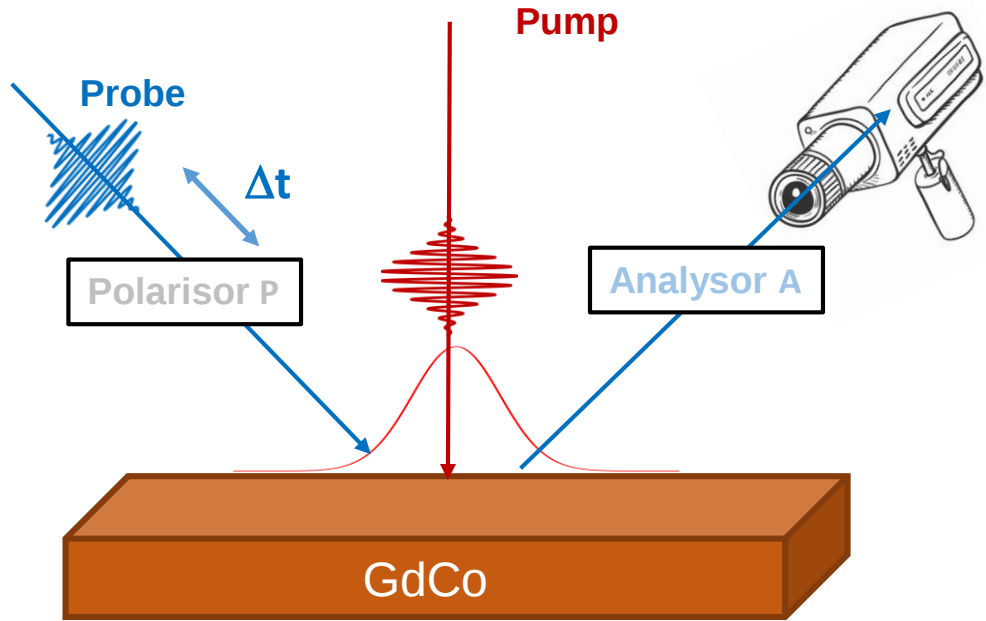
Wei, J. et al.  
Phys Rev Applied 15, 054065 (2021).

Radu, I. et al. Nature 472, 205–208 (2011).

# Dynamic



# Dynamic



# Magneto-optical imaging

- Flat and smooth surface required
- Imaging through substrate and covering layers (devices)
- Spatial resolution below 200 nm
- Magnetization can be observed directly
- Quantitative measurements possible
- Almost no influence on magnetization (but light induced heat)
- Straightforward sample manipulation (fields, temperature, stress)
- Surface sensitive (approx. 30 nm)

# Outlines

Magneto-optical microscopy (MO)

Scanning electron microscopy (SEMPA)

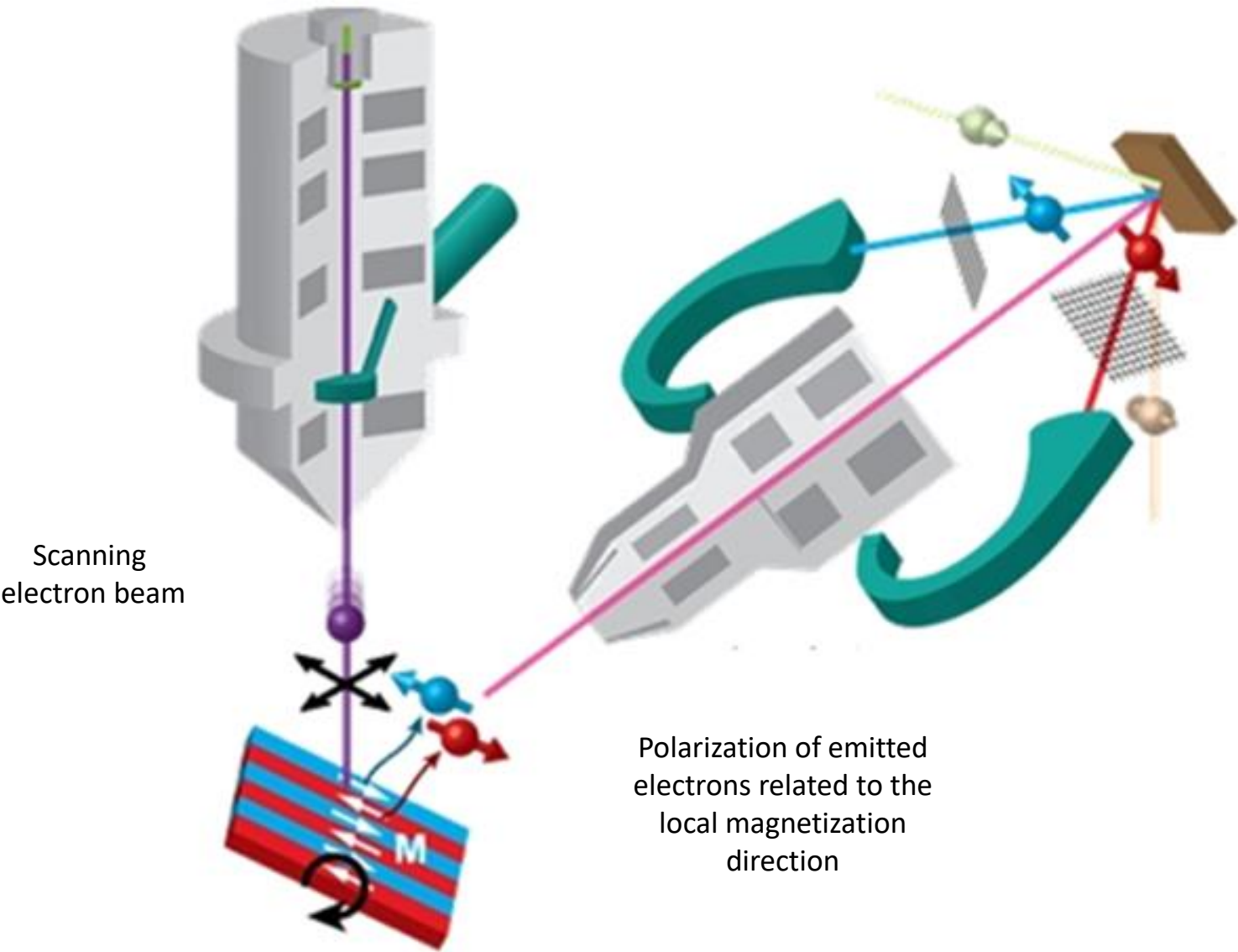
Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

X-Ray microscopy

Magnetic force microscopy (MFM)

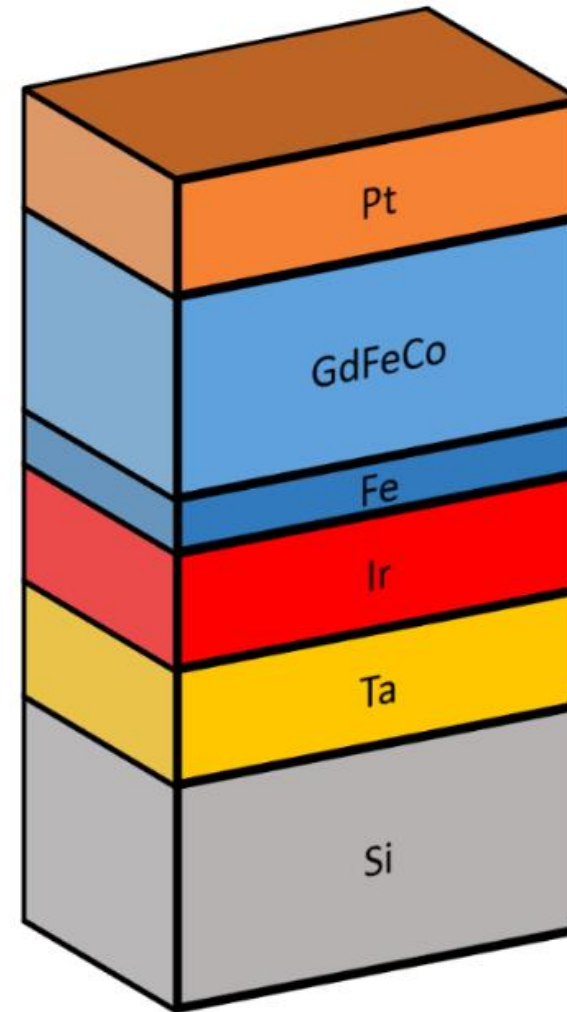
# Scanning Electron Microscopy with Polarization Analysis

|                                                               | SEMPA            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Contrast mechanism                                            | M                |
| Evaluation of the magnetization, $M(\mathbf{r})$              | Q                |
| Spatial resolution (nm) $\frac{\text{Typical}}{\text{Limit}}$ | $\frac{150}{20}$ |
| Depth of information (nm)                                     | 1–2              |
| Time for image acquisition                                    | 1–100 min        |
| Limits on applied magnetic fields                             | Not advised      |
| Imaging conditions                                            | UHV              |
| Max thickness                                                 | None             |
| Sample smoothness                                             | NR               |
| Sample clean surface                                          | R                |

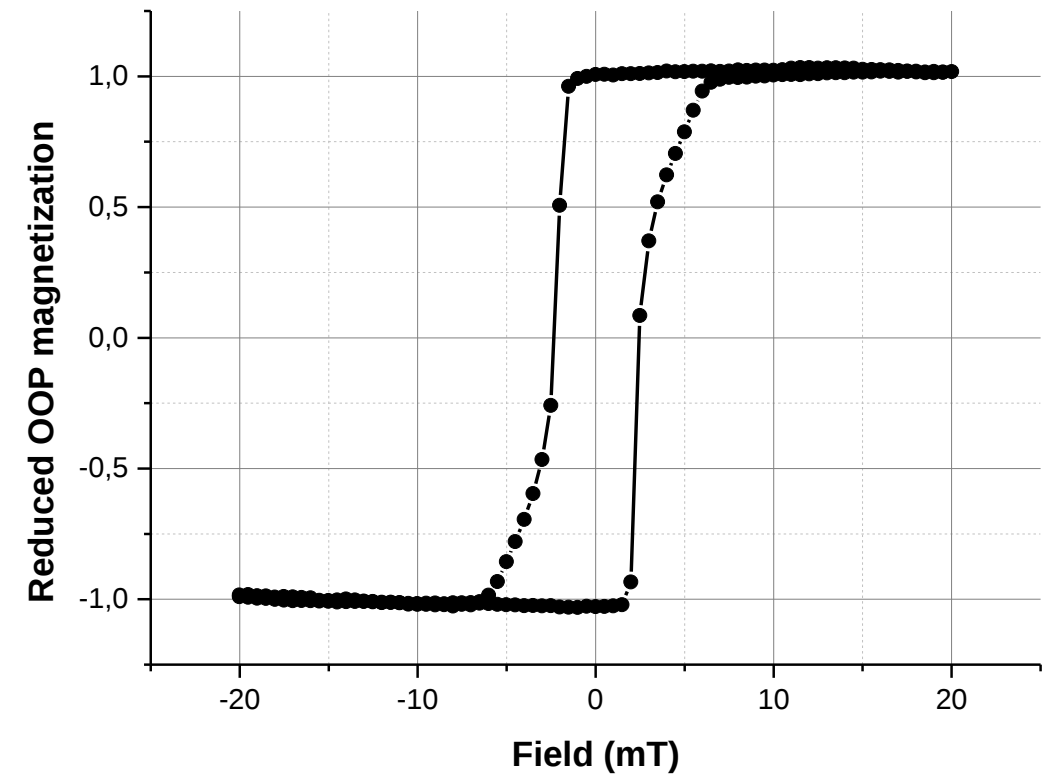


# One example

- ❖ GdFeCo ferrimagnet
- ❖ DMI enhancement: Fe dusting layer for interfacial (Ir/Fe) and Pt capping layer
- ❖ Small Pt layer for surface sensitive imaging technique
- ❖  $\text{Si} // \text{Ta}(5) / \text{Ir}(5) / \text{Fe}(0.3) / [\text{Gd}_{26.1}\text{Fe}_{65.5}\text{Co}_{8.3}](8) / \text{Pt}(1.5)$

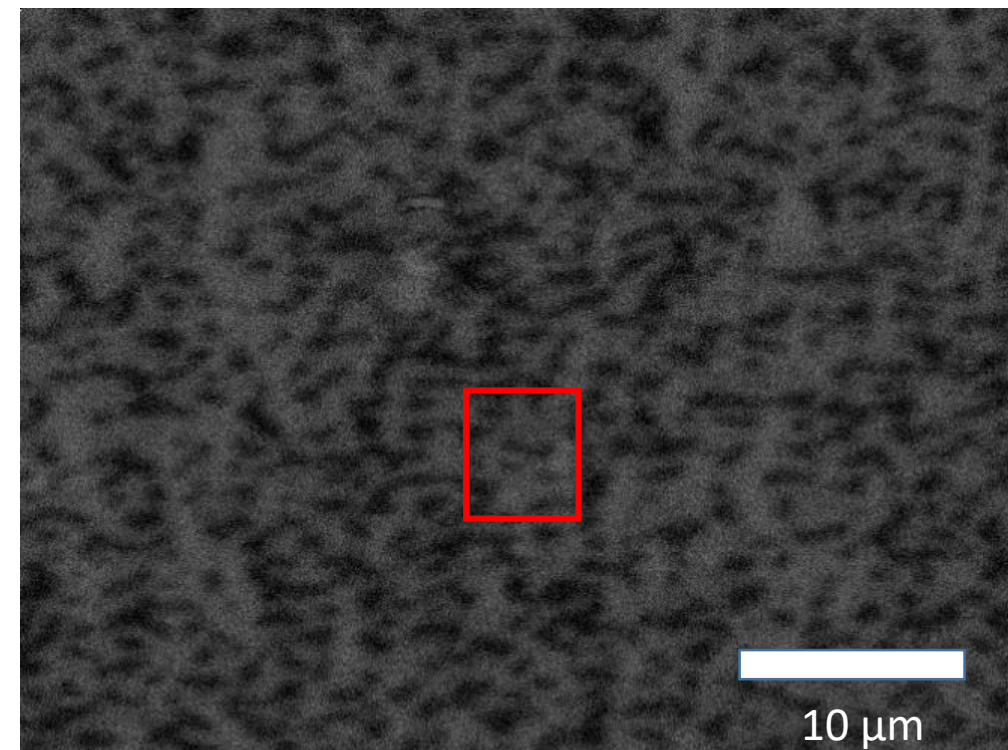


- ❖ OOP anisotropy
- ❖ Nucleation using relaxation after IP saturation



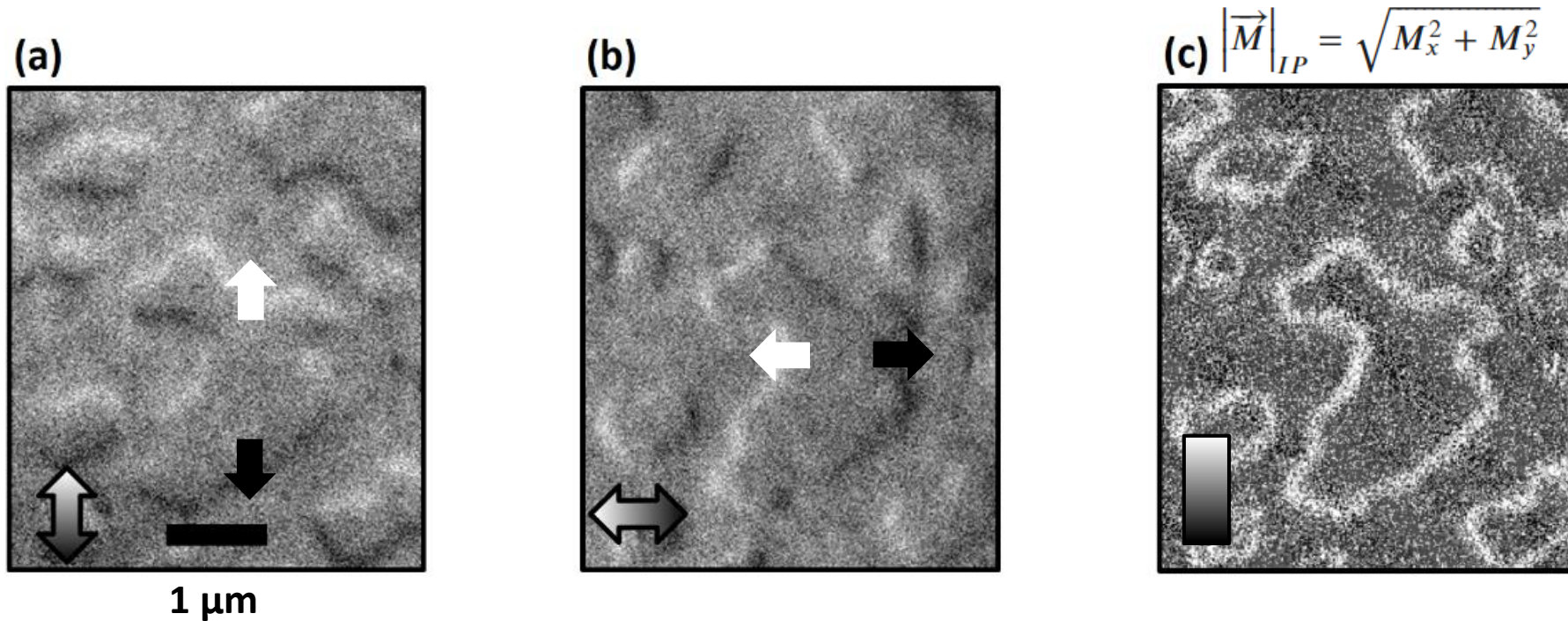
# Spin textures observed at room

- ❖ OOP anisotropy
- ❖ Nucleation using relaxation after IP saturation
- ❖  $\mu\text{m}$ -sized spin textures nucleated
- ❖ To determine the chirality, observation of the domain wall spin configuration is necessary



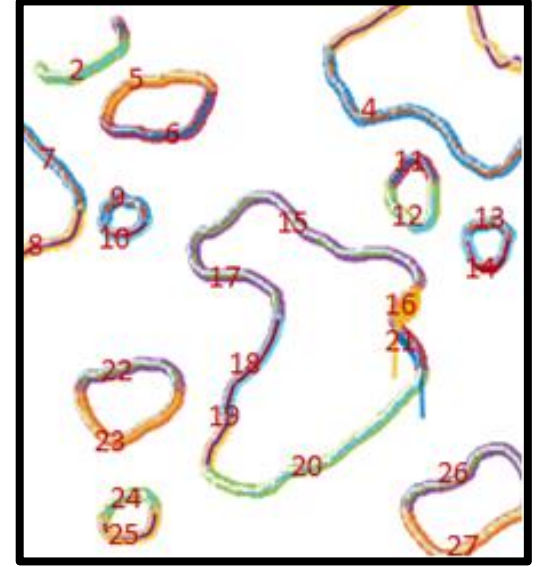
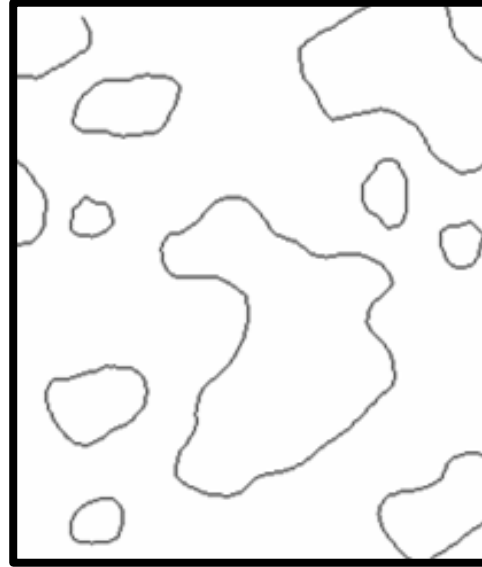
Kerr microscopy at RT, 0 mT

# Determination of the domain wall width



- ❖ Observation of the  $IP|_x$  and  $IP|_y$  components of the magnetization
- ❖ Localization of the domain walls

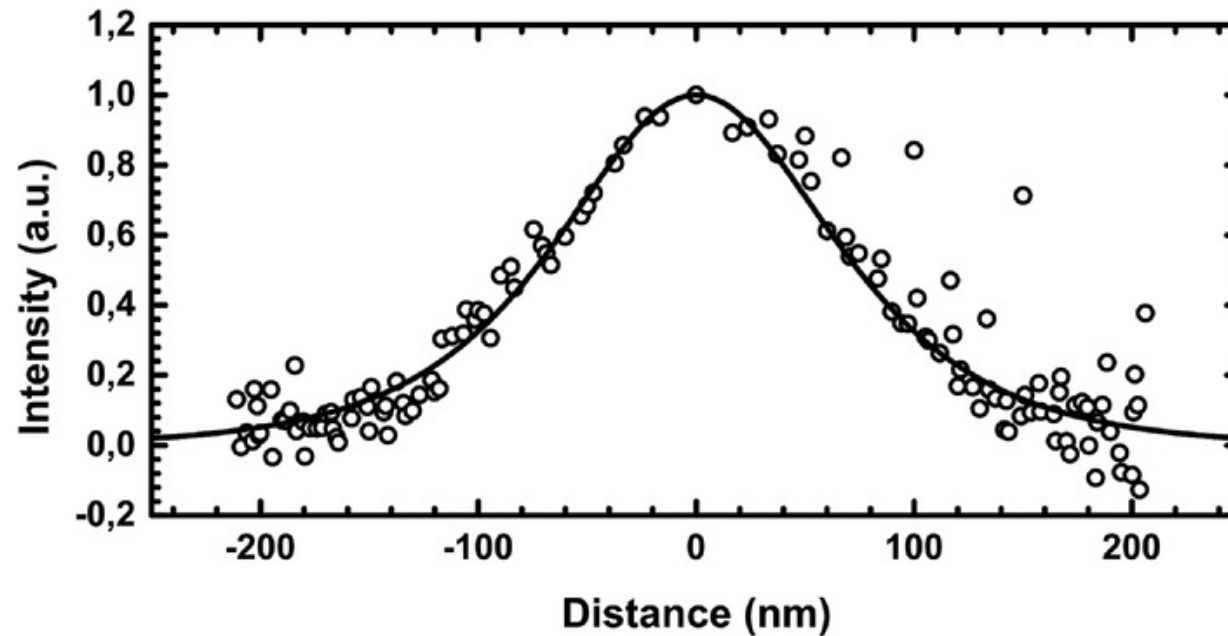
# Determination of the domain wall width



Binarization, skeletonize, polynomial fitting

→ Determination of the local normal of the skeleton

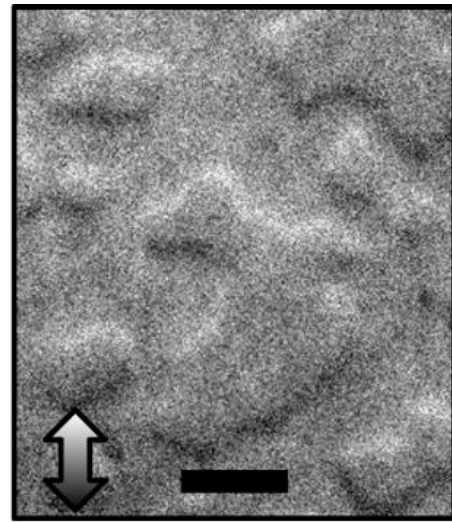
# Determination of the domain wall width



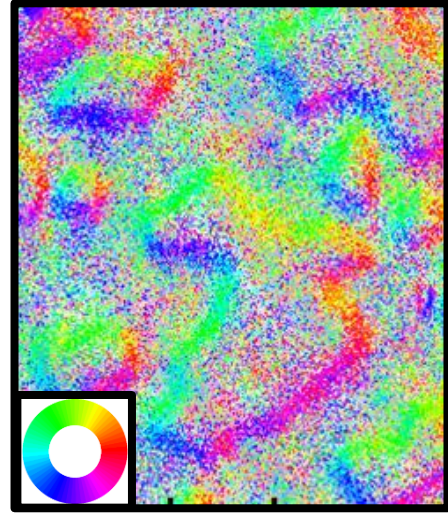
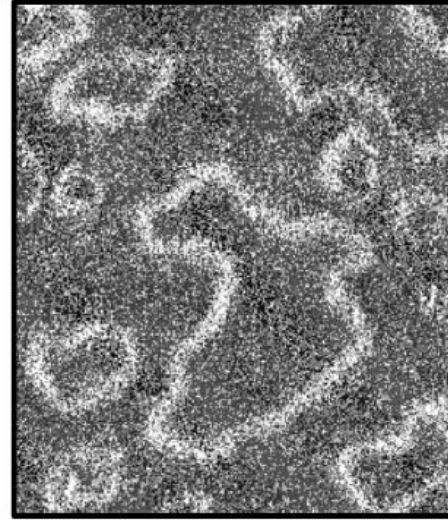
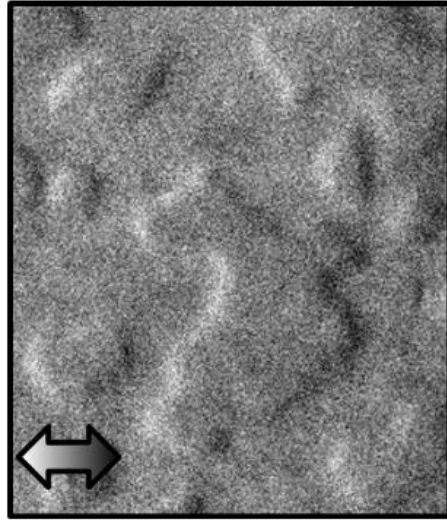
Distribution of the domain wall profile:  $\text{Intensity} \propto \cosh^{-1}(x/\Delta) \otimes e^{-(x^2/2\sigma^2)}$

$$\rightarrow \delta_{\text{real}} = \pi \Delta = 175 \pm 5 \text{ nm}$$

# Determination of the chirality



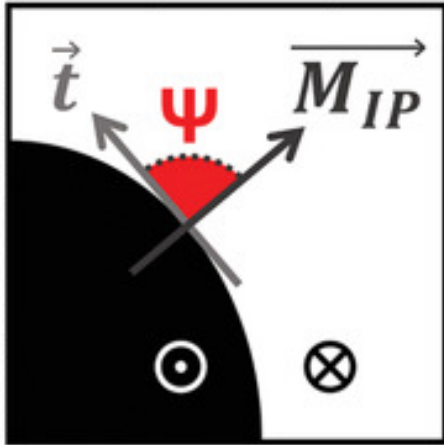
1  $\mu\text{m}$



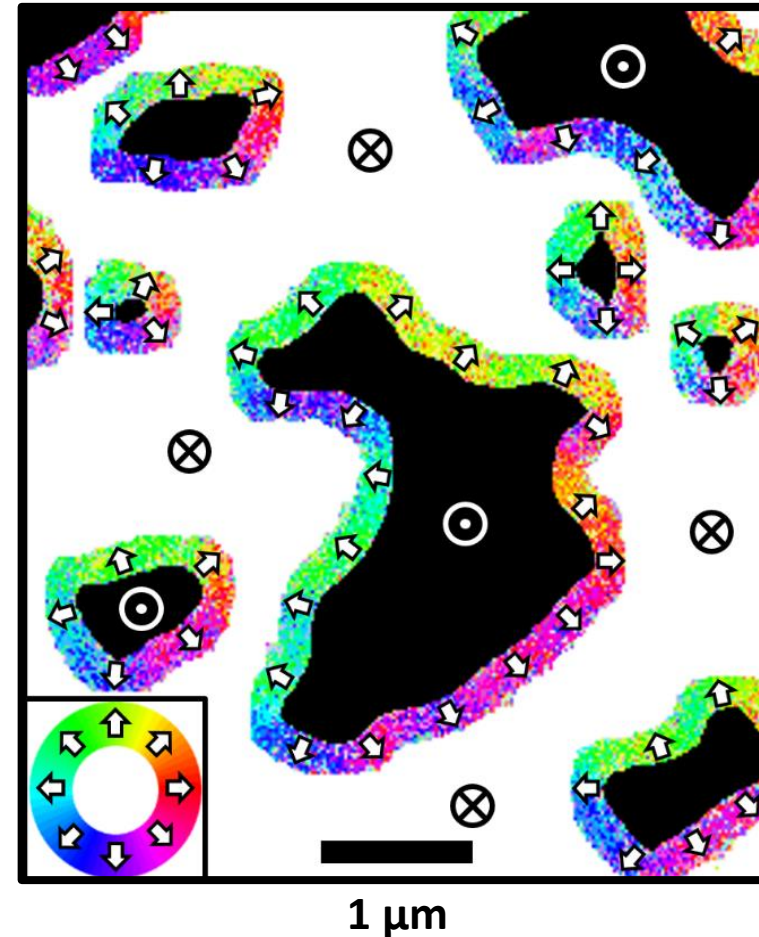
- ❖ We determined firstly the position of the DW
- ❖ We can also deduct the direction of the local magnetization

# Determination of the chirality

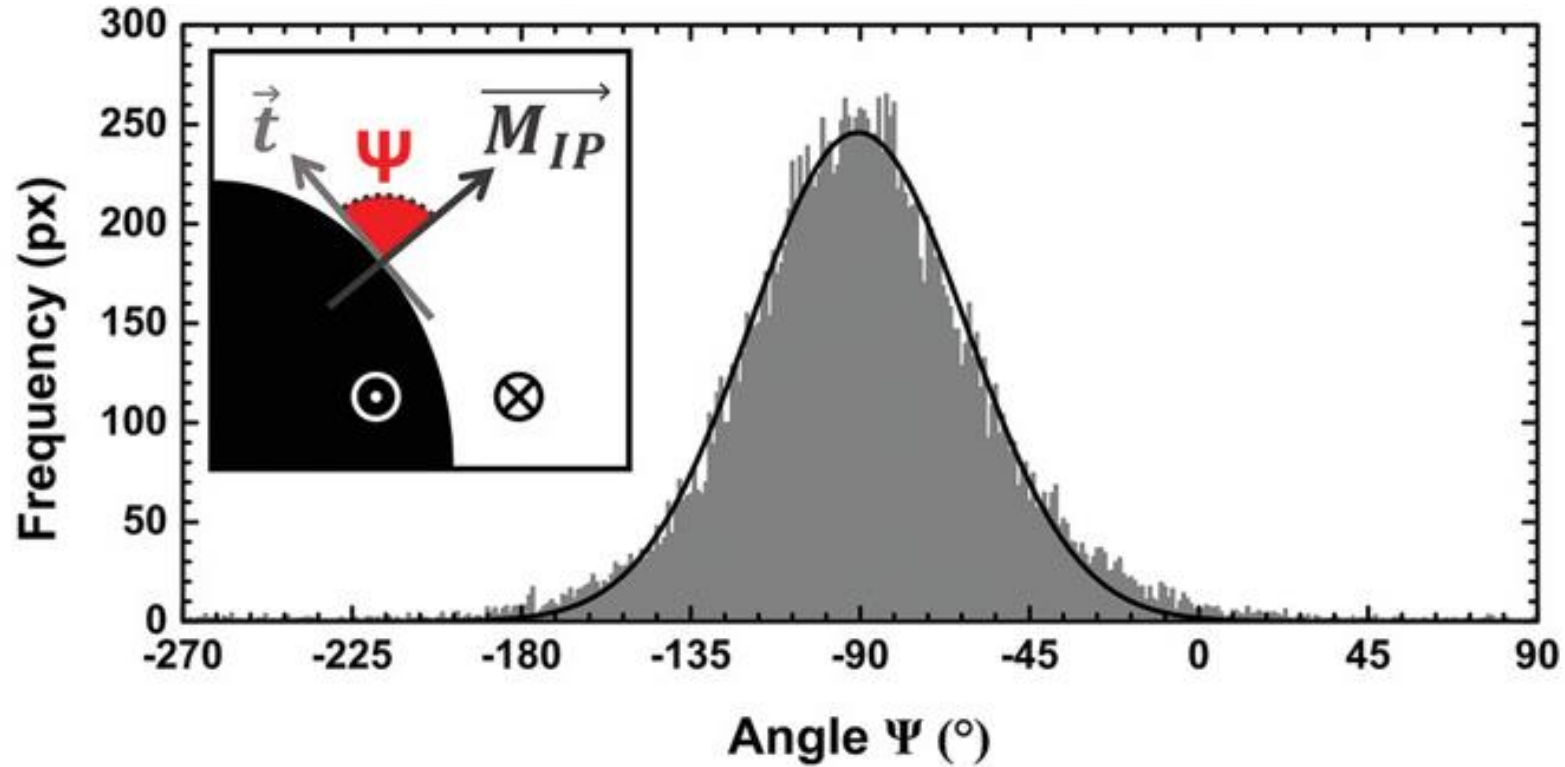
- ❖ Qualitatively, Néel-type spin textures



- ❖ Homochirality



# Determination of the chirality



→ Pure right-hand Néel-type chirality

# Determination of the exchange stiffness A

$$\Delta = \Delta_0 - \frac{1}{\frac{2\pi(Q-1)}{d} + \Delta_0 - \Delta_\infty}$$

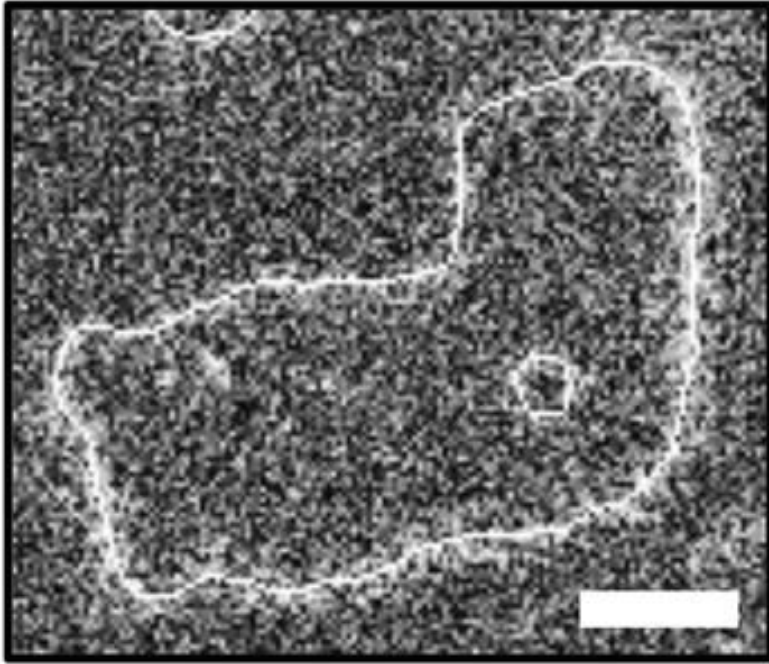
$$Q = \frac{2K_u}{\mu_0 M_s^2}, \quad \Delta_0 = \sqrt{\frac{A}{K_{eff}}}, \quad K_{eff} = K_u - \frac{\mu_0 M_s^2}{2}, \quad \Delta_\infty = \sqrt{\frac{A}{K_u + \frac{\mu_0 M_s^2}{2} \sin^2(\Psi)}}$$

$$\Delta = f(A, K_u, M_s, d, \Psi)$$

- ❖  $\Delta, \Psi$ : measured using SEMPA imaging
- ❖ Thickness  $d$  known, measurement of the uniaxial anisotropy  $K_u$  and the saturation magnetization  $M_s$  using magnetometer.

→ The exchange stiffness is found numerically and equal to:  $A = 8,0 \pm 0.5. \text{pJ} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$

# Observation of a ferrimagnetic skyrmionium



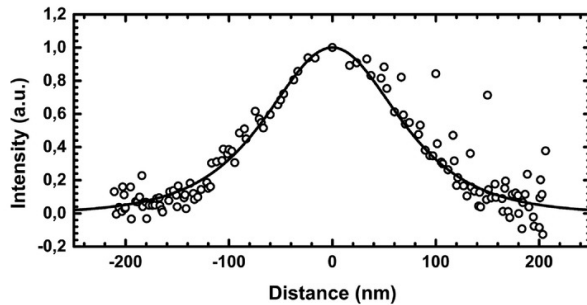
500 nm



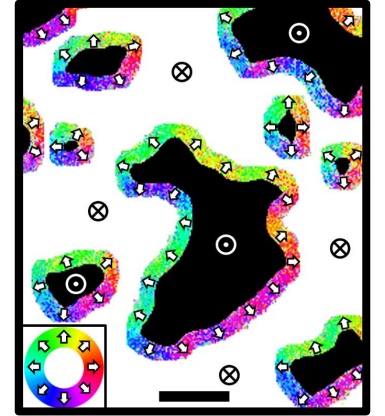
→ First observation of a ferrimagnetic skyrmionium in ferrimagnetic materials

# Conclusion of our SEMPA study

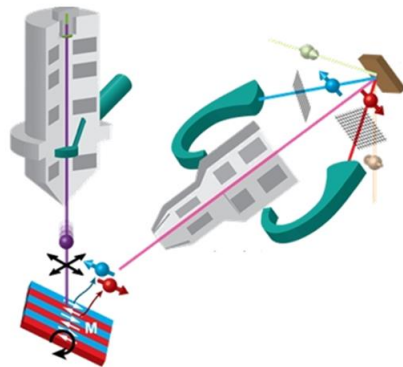
- ❖ Determination of the domain wall width



- ❖ Determination of the chiral character of the spin textures: pure right-hand Néel-type



- ❖ Extraction of the exchange stiffness could be possible with SEMPA



- ❖ Observation of a ferrimagnetic skyrmionium



Magneto-optical microscopy (MO)

Scanning electron microscopy (SEMPA)

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

X-Ray microscopy

Magnetic force microscopy (MFM)

# TEM Lorentz microscopy

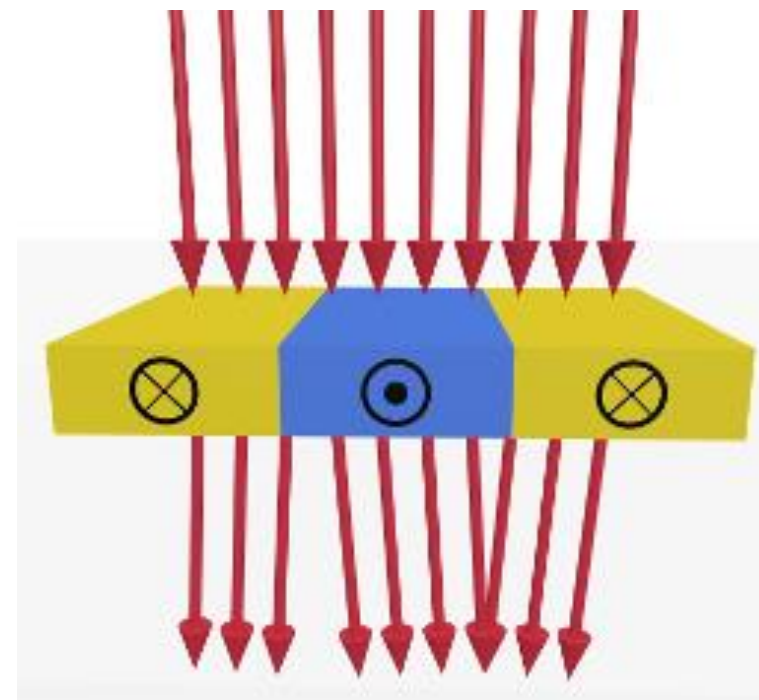
|                                                           | TEM<br>Fresnel<br>and<br>Foucault | TEM<br>DPC                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Contrast mechanism                                        | B                                 | B                               |
| Evaluation of the magnetization, $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{r})$ | Indirect                          | Q                               |
| Spatial resolution (nm)<br>Typical<br>Limit               | 50<br>~10                         | 10<br>2                         |
| Depth of information (nm)                                 | Thickness integrated<br><150 nm   | Thickness integrated<br><100 nm |
| Time for image acquisition                                | 50 msec–<br>60 sec                | 5–60 secs                       |
| Limits on applied magnetic fields                         | ~100–<br>500<br>kA/m              | ~100–<br>500<br>kA/m            |
| Imaging conditions                                        | HV                                | HV                              |
| Max thickness                                             | <150 nm                           | <100 nm                         |
| Sample smoothness                                         | Preferred                         | Preferred                       |
| Sample clean surface                                      | Preferred                         | Preferred                       |

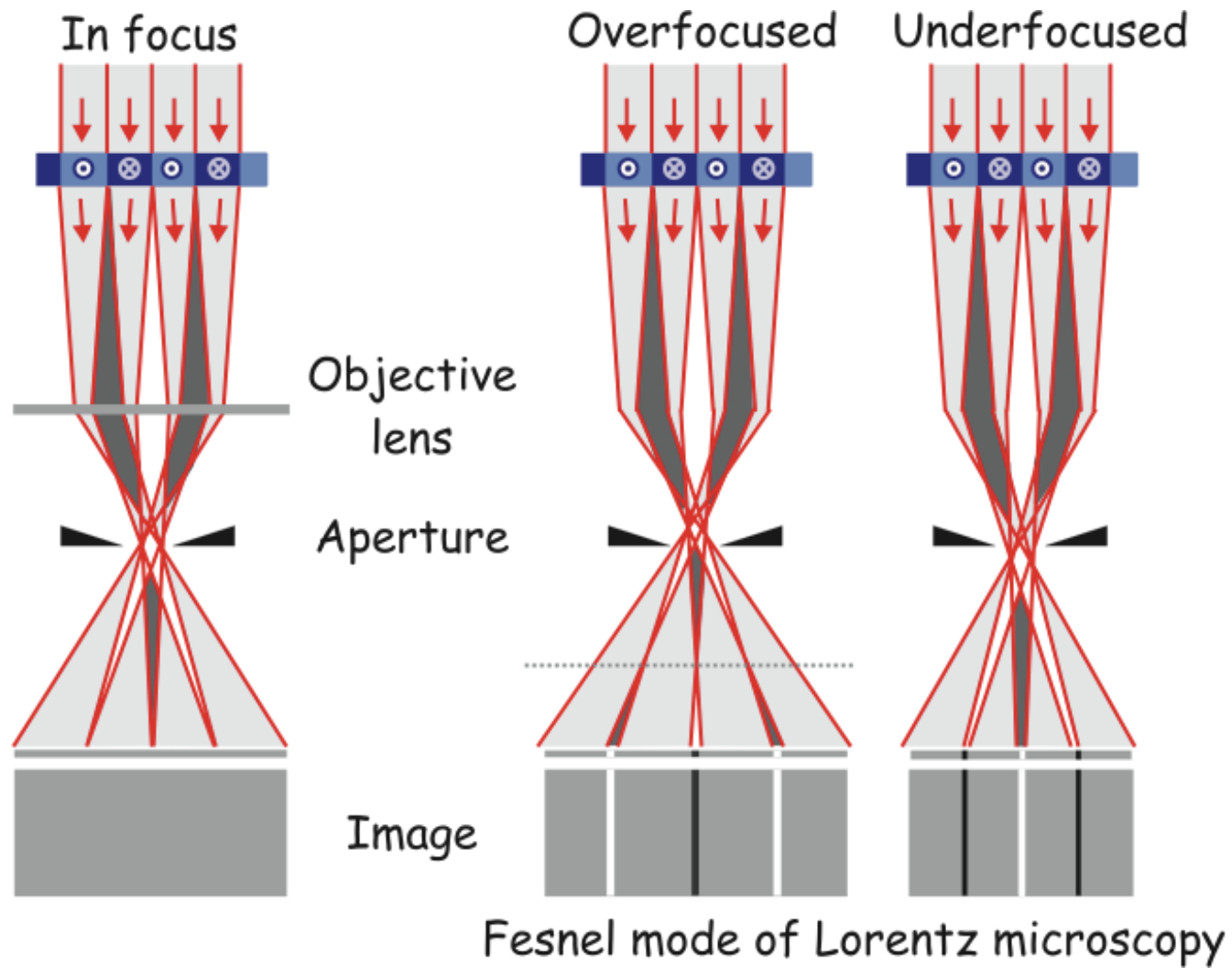
$$\mathbf{F} = |e|(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$$

Lorentz force

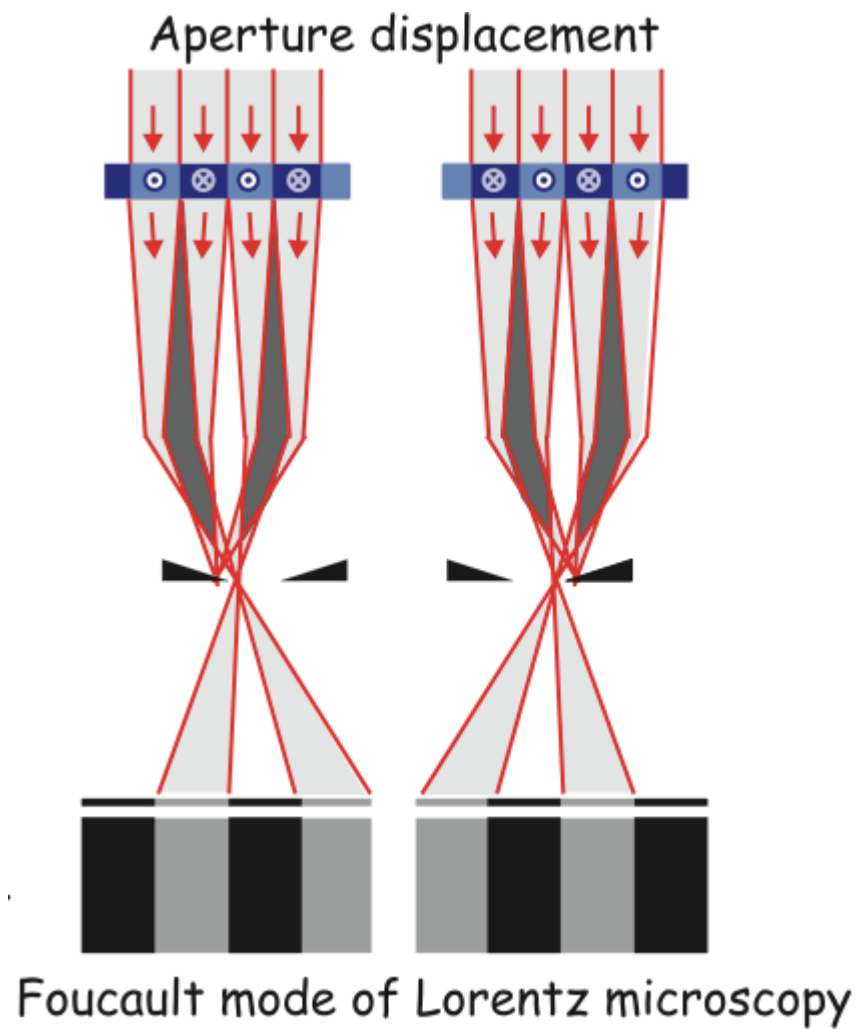
Lorentz deflection angle

$$\beta_L = \frac{e\lambda(\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{n})}{h} t \approx 100 \mu\text{rad}$$



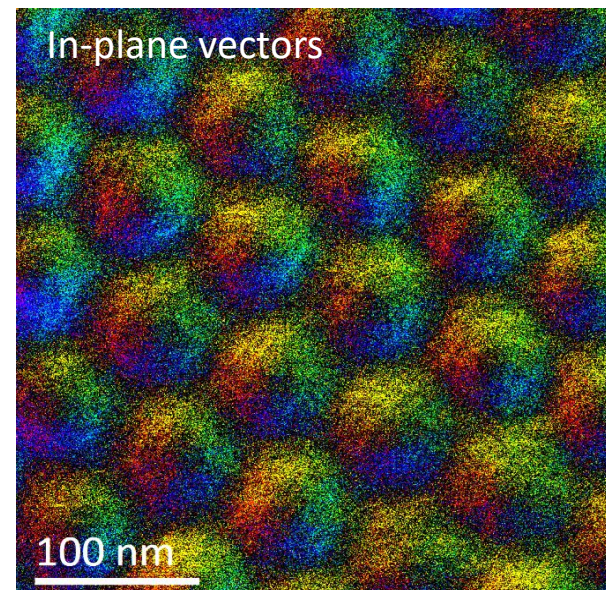
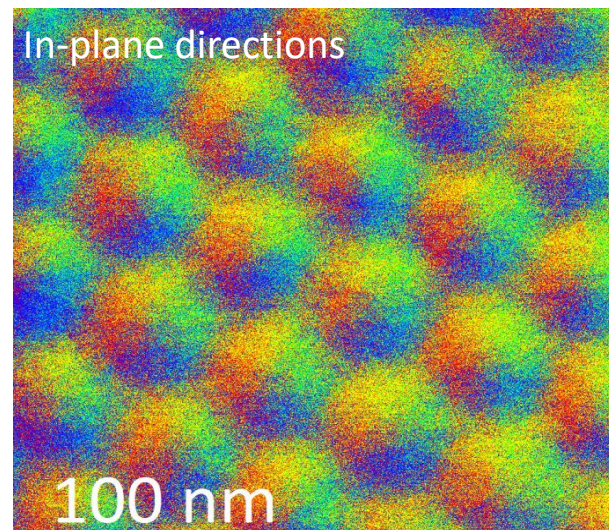
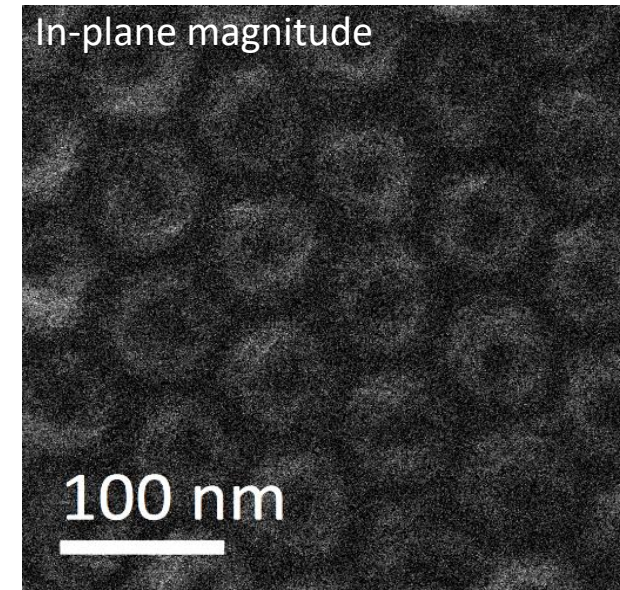
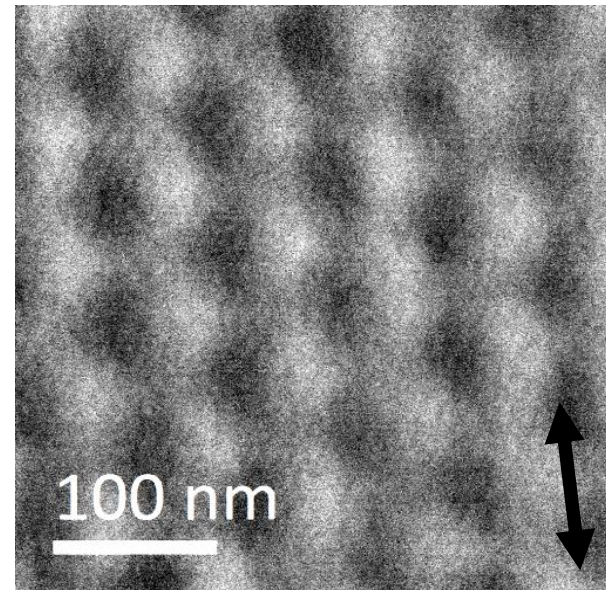
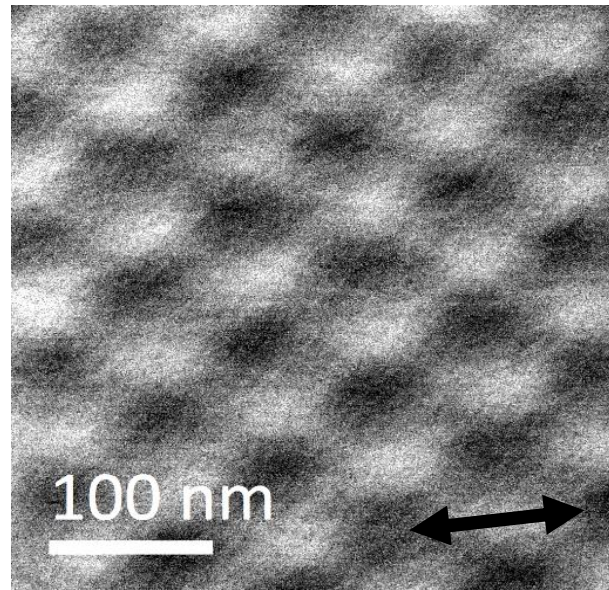
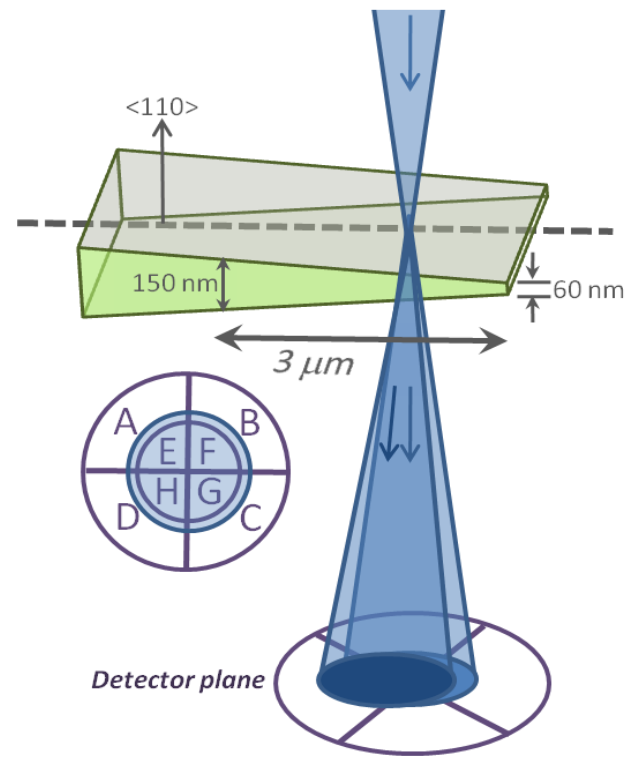


Highlight domain walls

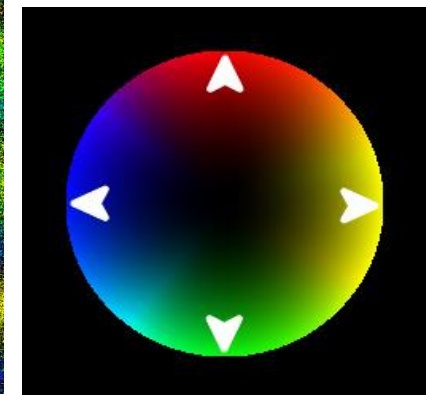


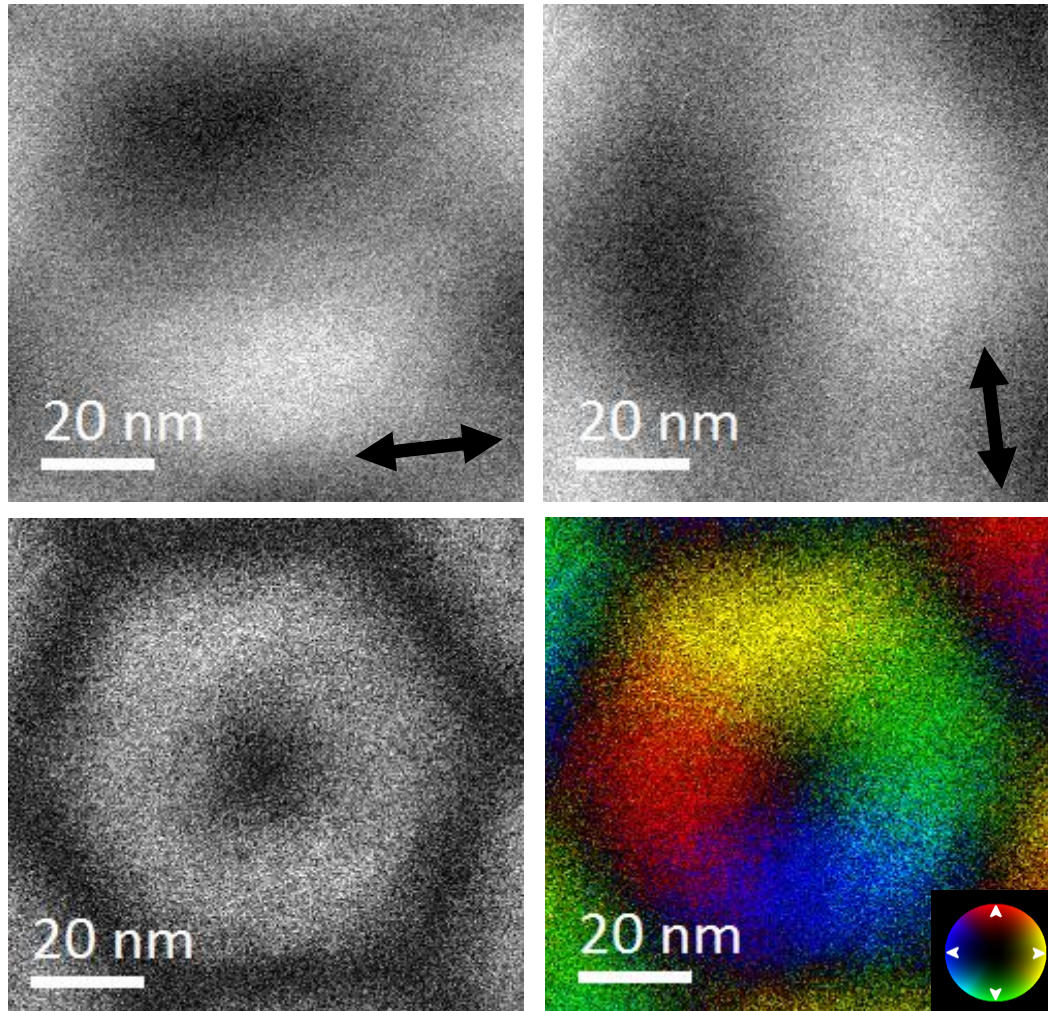
Highlight domains

# Skymion lattice

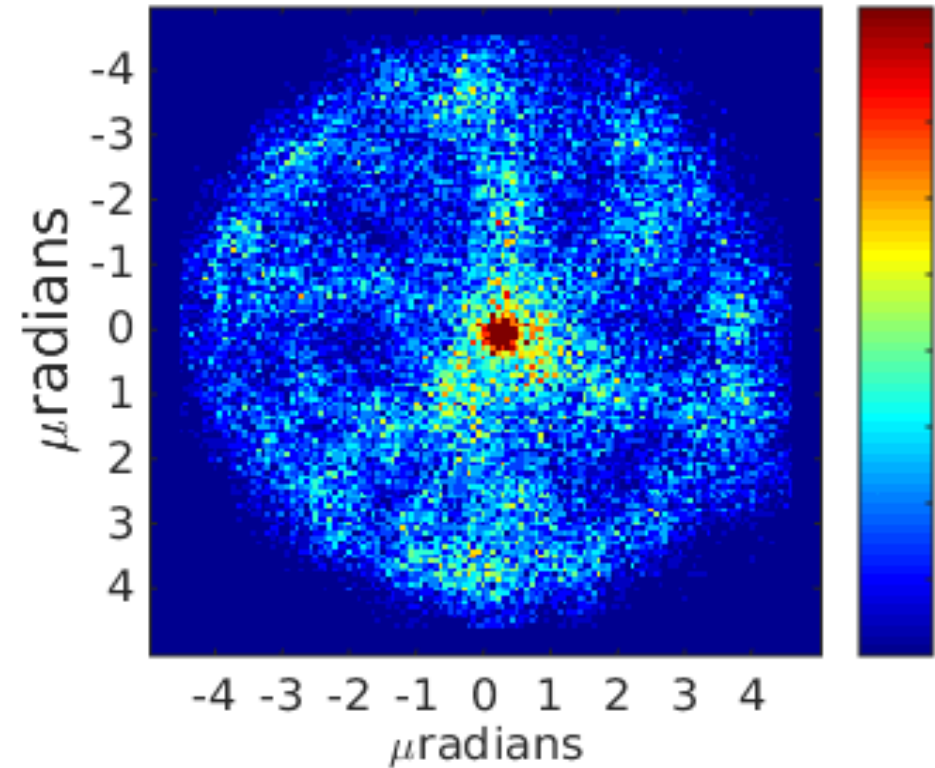


$$H = 796 \text{ Oe}$$





3D histogram analysis



- Lorentz deflection angle  $\pm 4 \mu\text{radians}$  – equiv. to  $B_S \sim 0.2$  Tesla
- Six-fold symmetry

Material from S. McVitie, Univ. Glasgow, UK

Magneto-optical microscopy (MO)

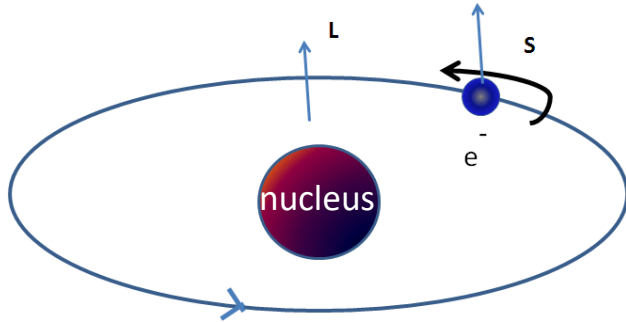
Scanning electron microscopy (SEMPA)

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

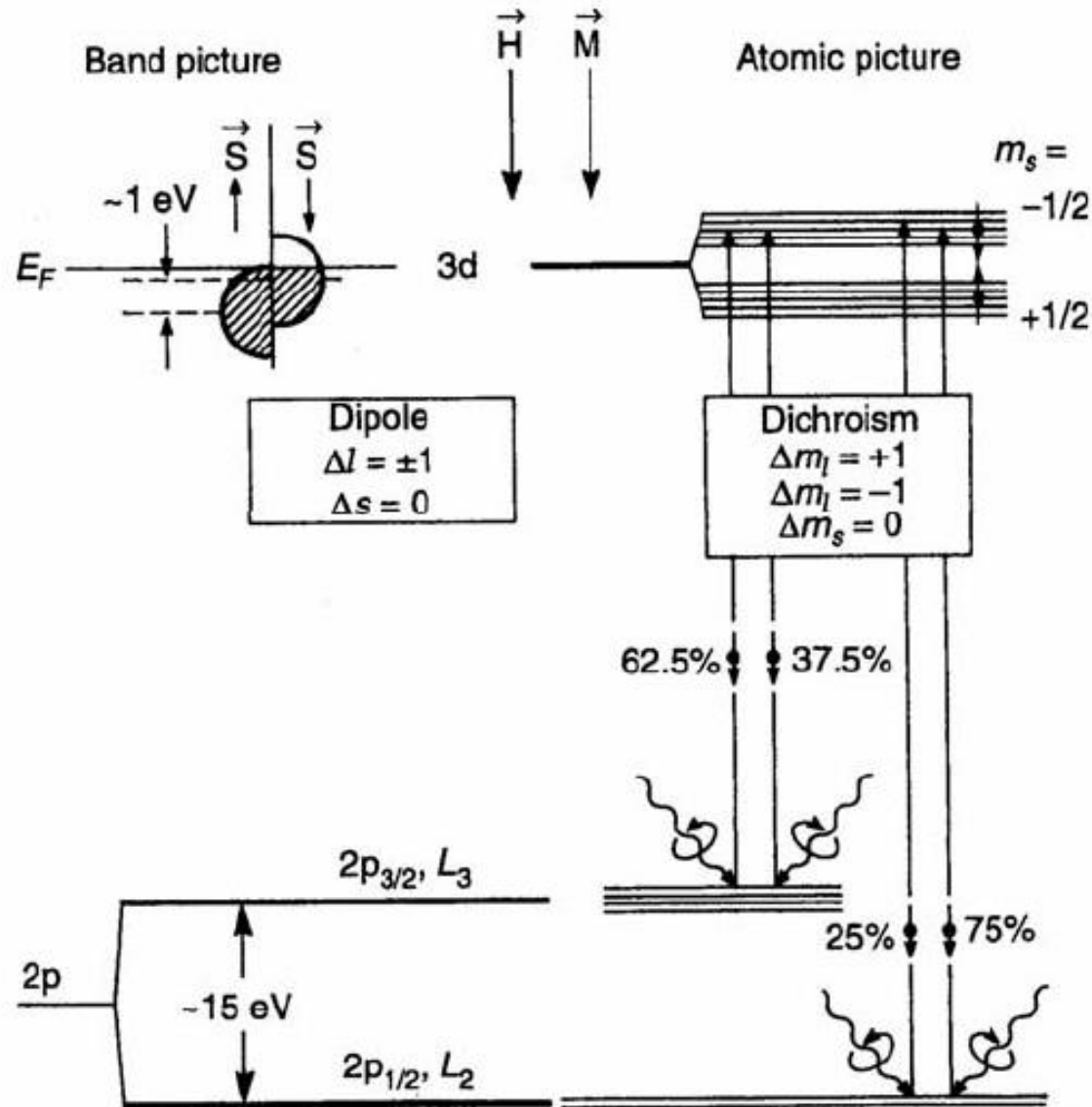
**X-Ray microscopy**

Magnetic force microscopy (MFM)

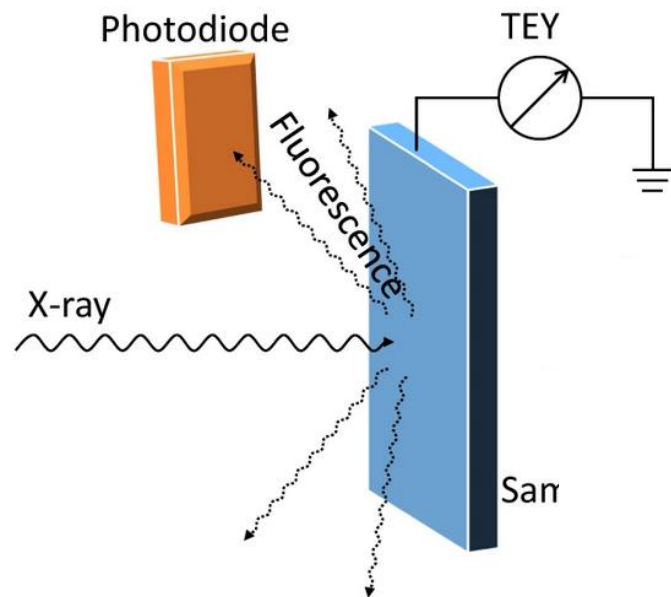
# X-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD)



- XMCD disentangles spin and orbital magnetic moment
- XMCD disentangle the moment from specific atoms in an alloy or a multilayer
- XMCD requires to work in synchrotron to get enough X-ray flux (700 - 900 eV for Fe,Co,Ni)

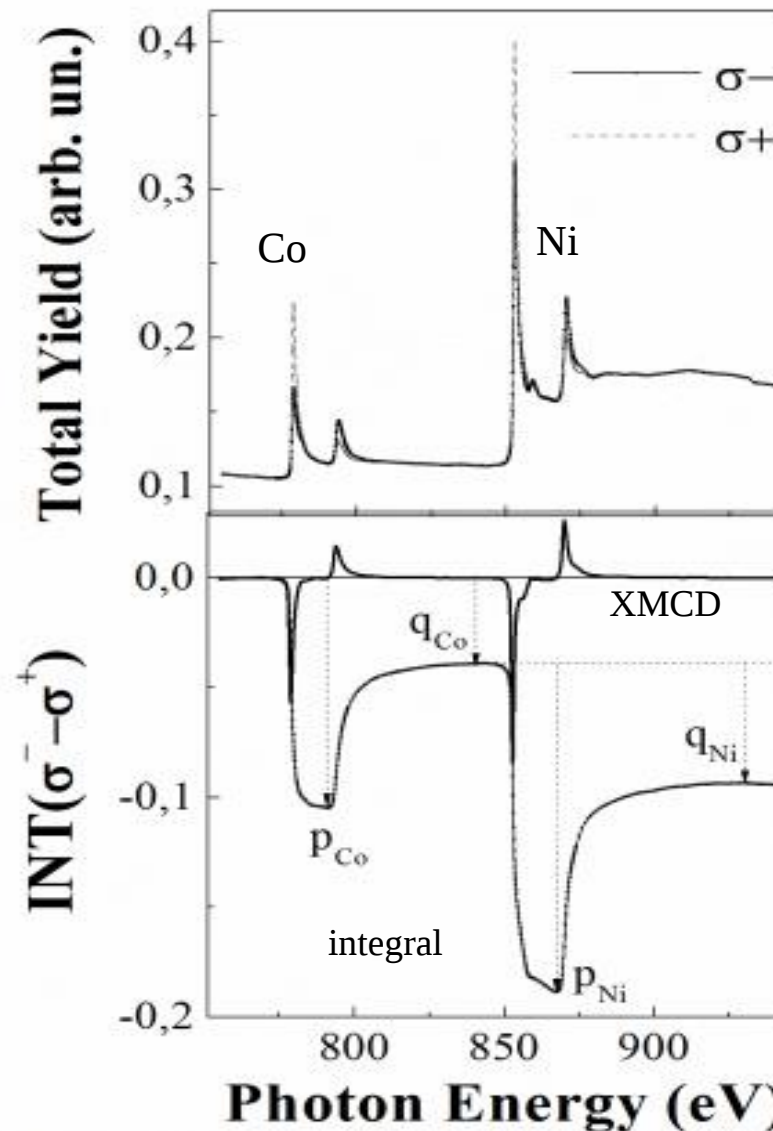


# X-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD)



$$m_{\text{spin}}^{\text{eff}} = 2 \langle S_z^{\text{eff}} \rangle \frac{\mu_B}{\hbar} = n_h \cdot \left( \frac{3p - 2q}{r} \right) \mu_B$$

$$m_{\text{orb}} = \langle L_z \rangle \frac{\mu_B}{\hbar} = n_h \cdot \left( \frac{2q}{3r} \right) \mu_B$$



« Surface » sensitive technic (< 50 nm)

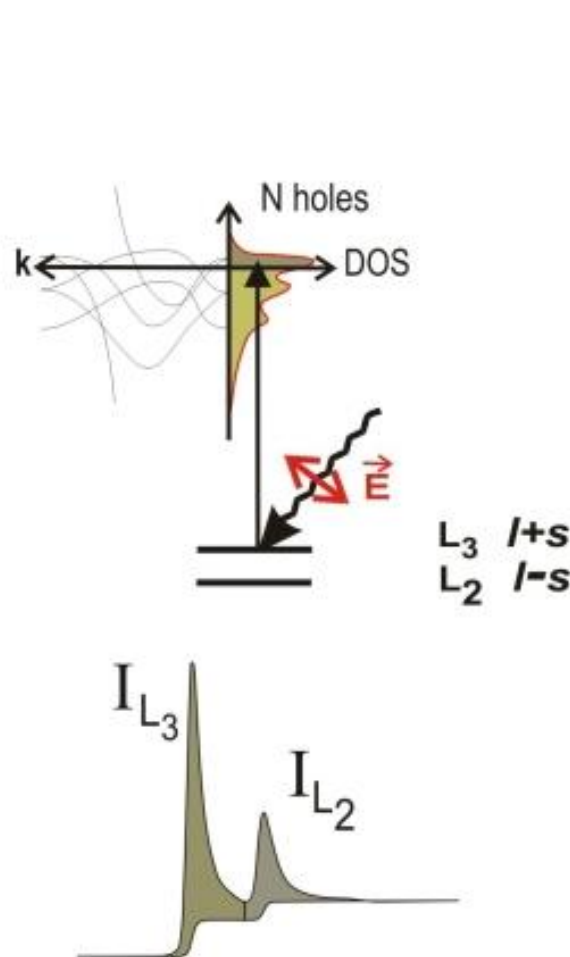
# X-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD)

Electronic transitions in conventional L-edge x-ray absorption (a), and x-ray magnetic circular dichroism (b,c), illustrated in a one-electron model. The transitions occur from the spin-orbit split 2p core shell to empty conduction band states. In conventional x-ray absorption the total transition intensity of the two peaks is proportional to the number of d holes (first sum rule). By use of circularly polarized x-rays the spin moment (b) and orbital moment (c) can be determined from linear combinations of the dichroic difference intensities A and B, according to other sum rules

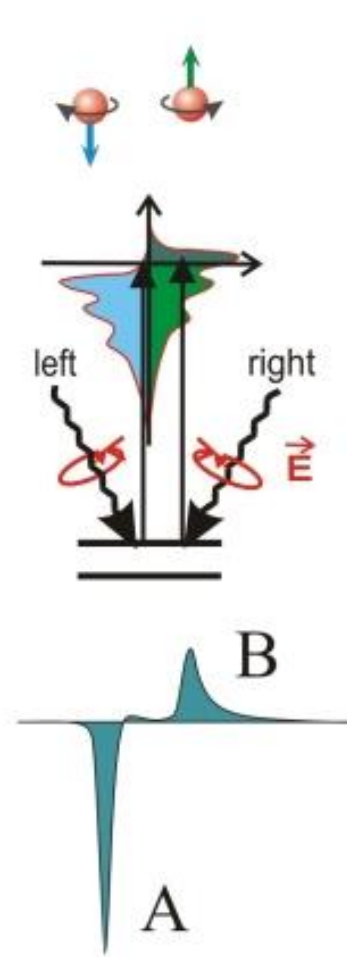


## Spin and Orbital Moments: X-Ray Magnetic Circular Dichroism

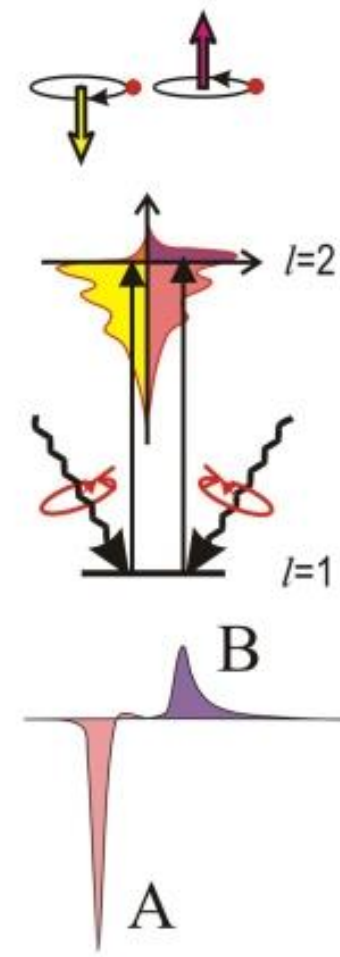
(a) d-Orbital Occupation



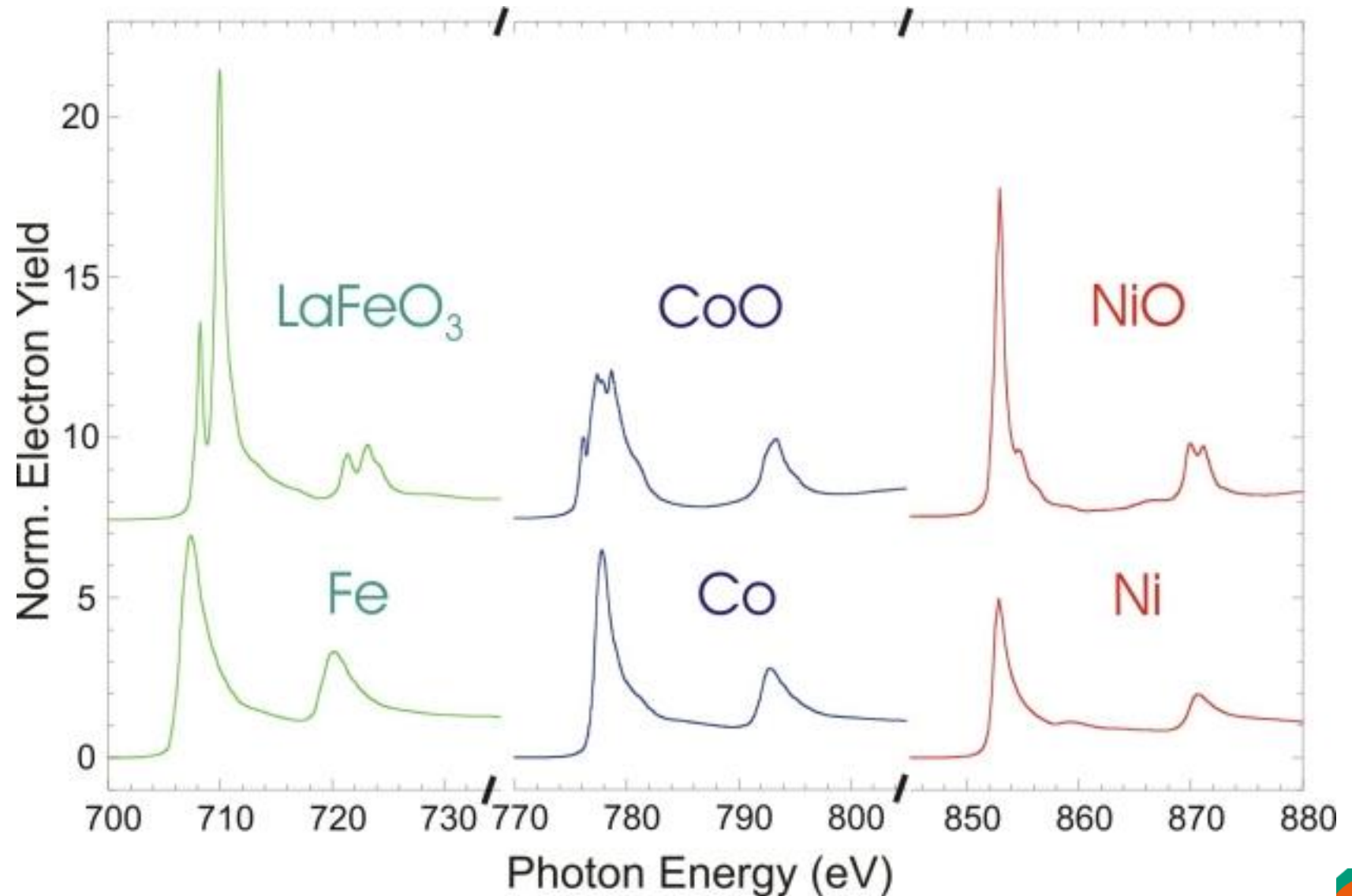
(b) Spin Moment



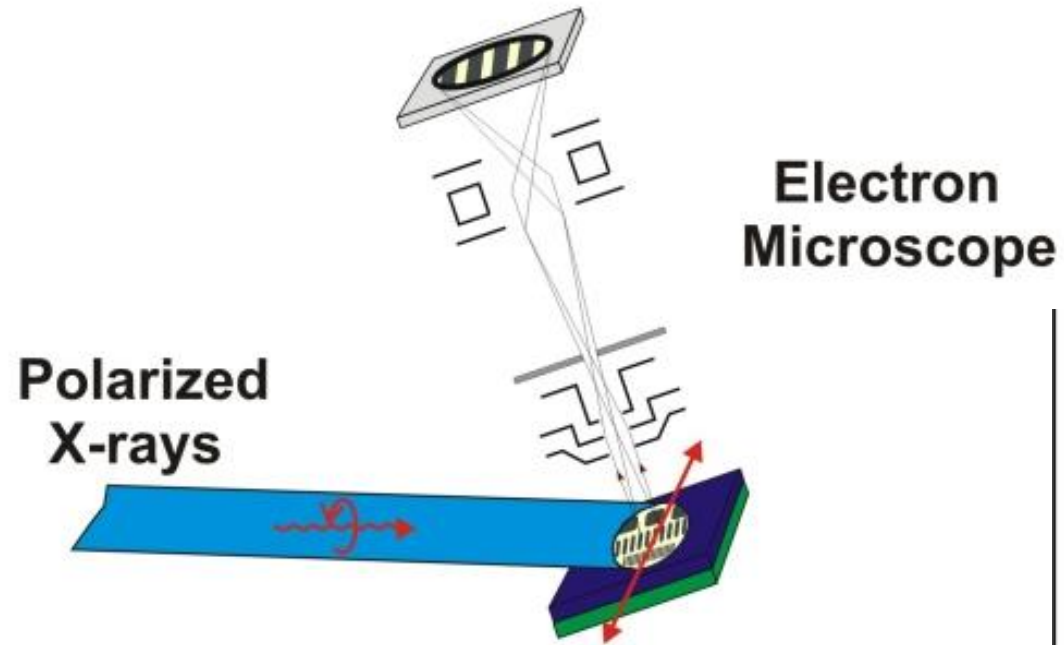
(c) Orbital Moment



# X-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD)



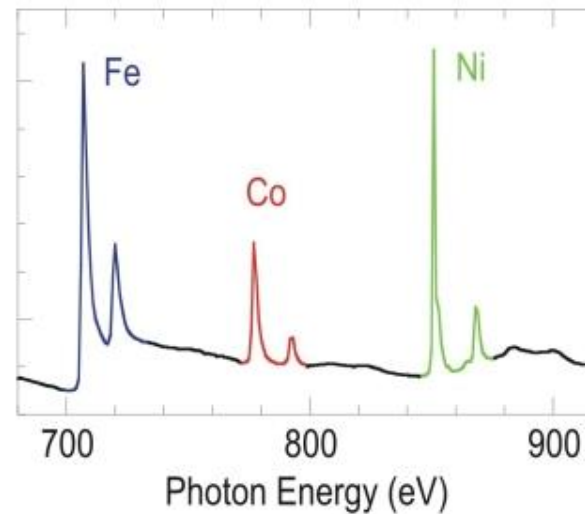
# X-Ray Spectro-Microscopy



Magnetic imaging by means of [PEEM](#). A layer in the sample is selected by tuning the x-ray energy to the desired element. X-ray polarization contrast at an absorption peak is used for imaging contrast. The local electron yield from a sample region, imaged by PEEM, depends on the relative orientation of the magnetic direction or axis and the polarization, as illustrated on the right.

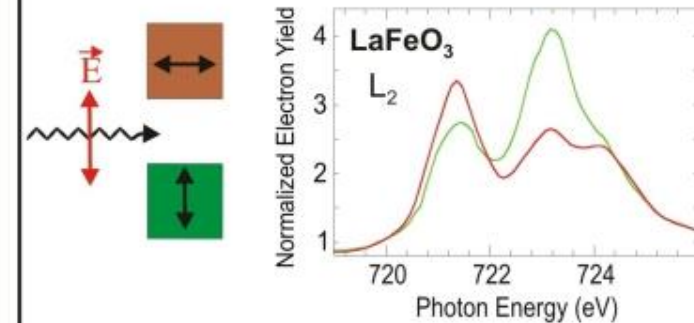
Photoemission electron microscopy (PEEM,

Tune x-ray **energy**  
for elemental specificity

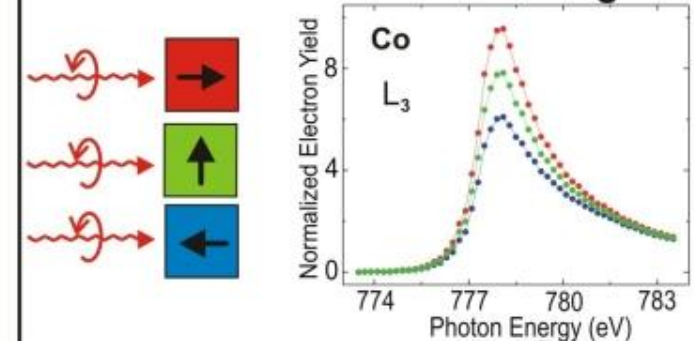


Tune x-ray **polarization**  
for magnetic specificity

Linear Dichroism - Antiferromagnets

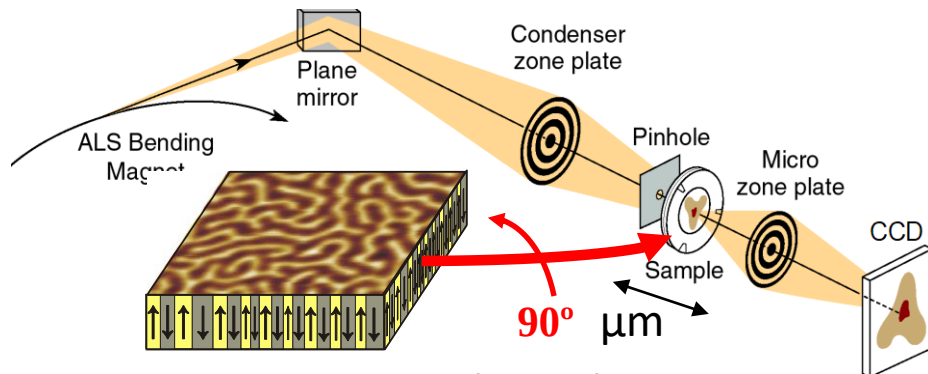


Circular Dichroism - Ferromagnets



# Transmission X-ray microscopy (TXM)

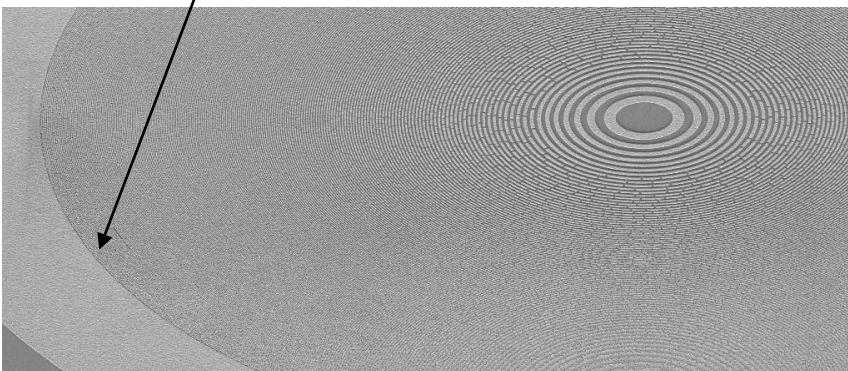
(ALS, SLS, BESSY II, ANKA)



**Advantages :** large image (10 μm)  
with good, 50ps time resolution

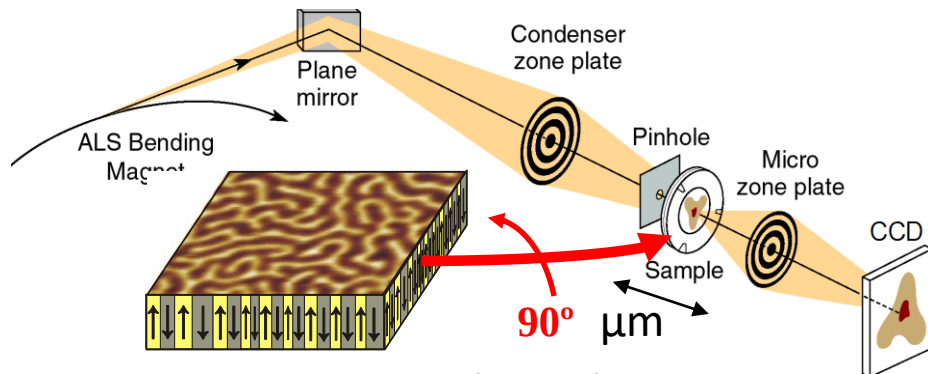
**Disadvantages :** mostly 300K, small field, lenses

Distance between 2 circles => resolution (here 15 nm)



# Transmission X-ray microscopy (TXM)

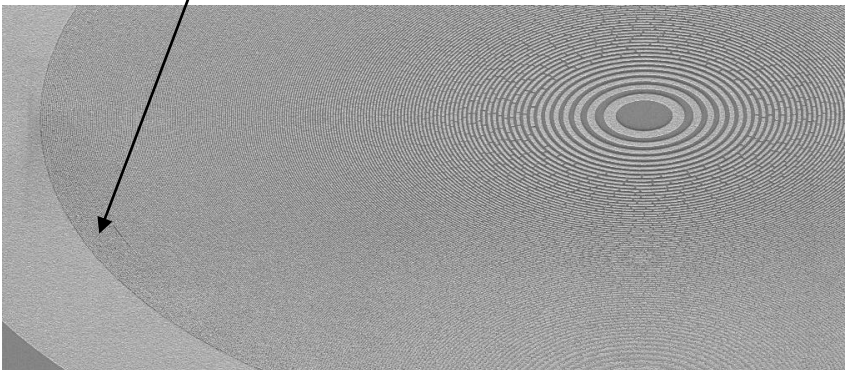
(ALS, SLS, SOLEIL, BESSY II, ANKA)



**Advantages :** large image (10  $\mu\text{m}$ )  
with good, 50ps time resolution

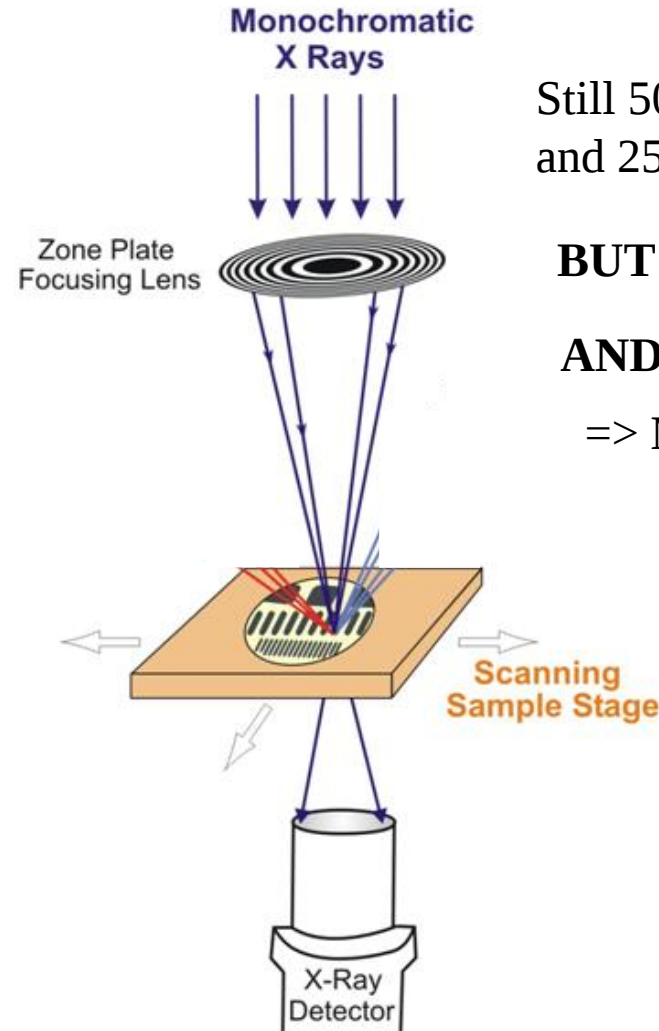
**Disadvantages :** mostly 300K, small field, lenses

Distance between 2 circles => resolution (here 15 nm)



# Scanning TXM

(ALS, SSRL, SLS, Soleil)



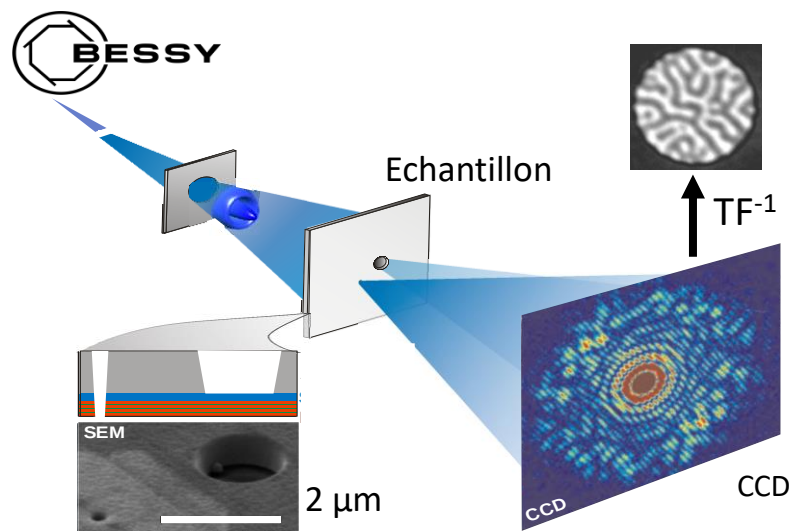
Still 50 ps time resolution  
and 25 nm resolution

**BUT Only one lense**

**AND Scanning**

=> More flux locally

## X-ray Holography



**Advantage :** 400K-10K, more space around the sample

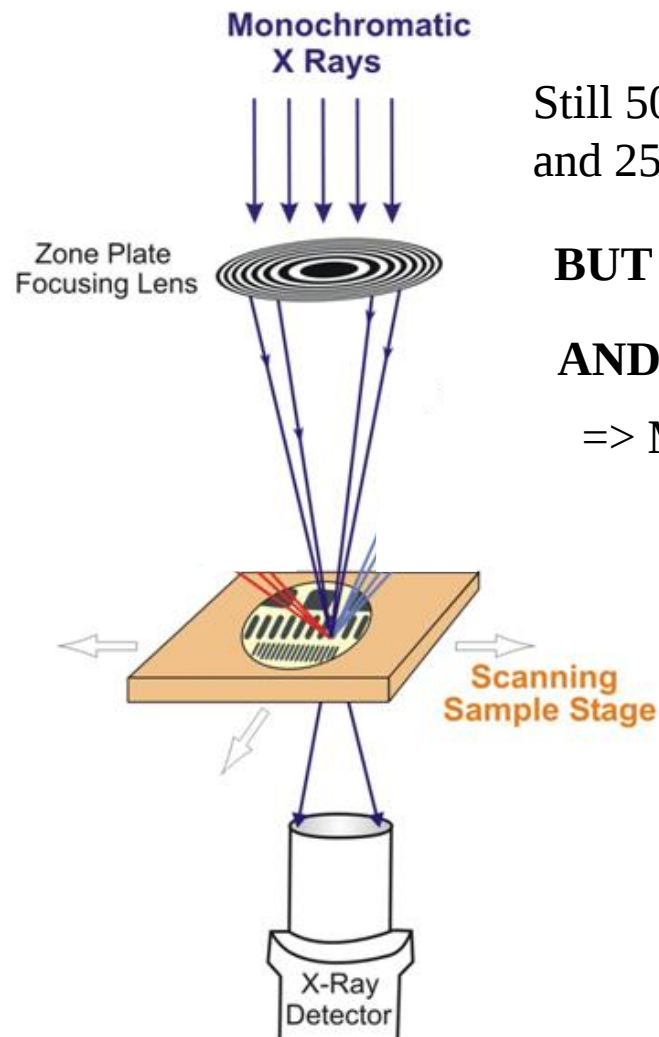
**Disadvantage :** sample preparation,  
limited image size ( $< 2 \mu\text{m}$ )  
Loss in resolution (50nm)  
Phase retrieval



**Dynamics in MTXM, STXM,  
Holography requieres stromboscopy**

## Scanning TXM

(ALS, SSRL, SLS, Soleil)



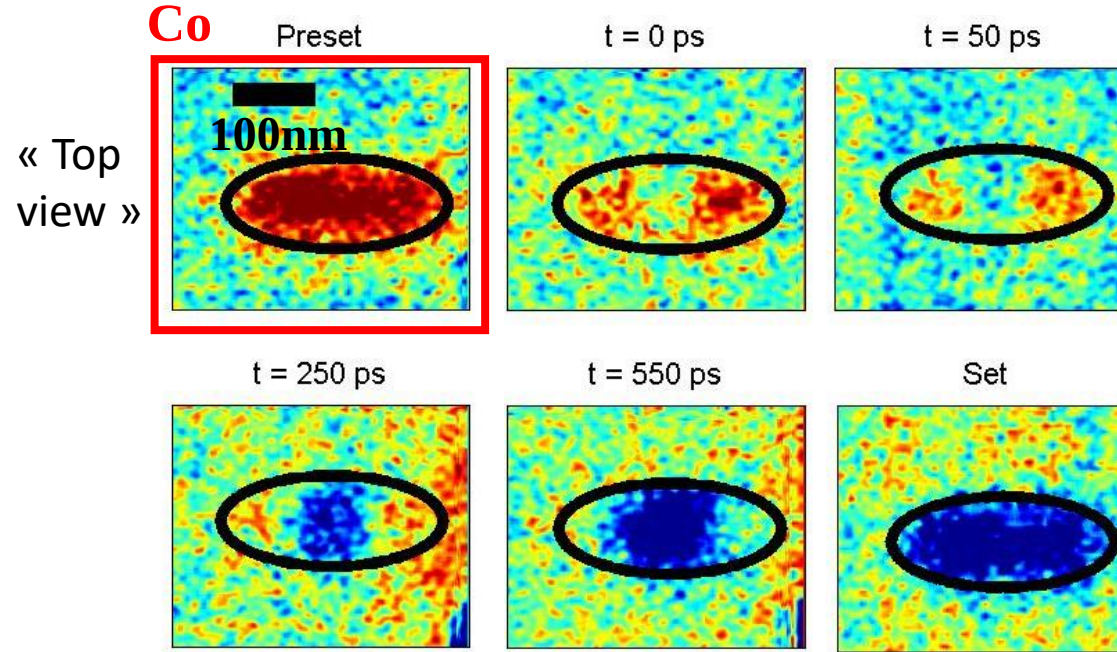
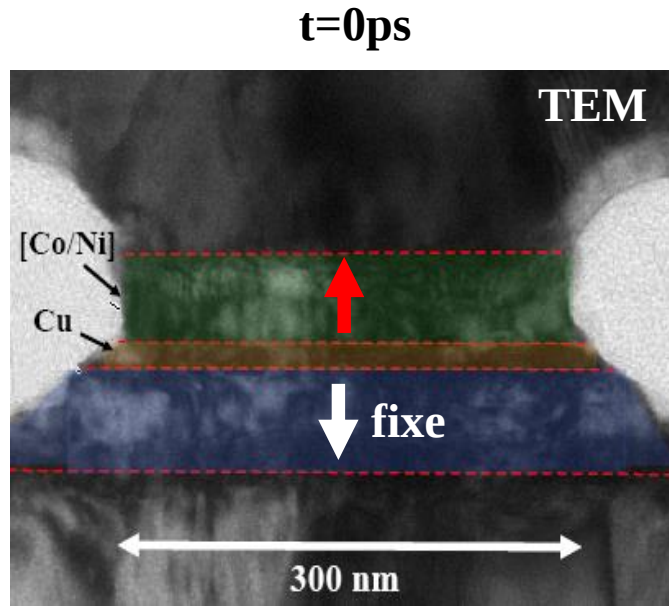
Still 50 ps time resolution  
and 25 nm resolution

**BUT Only one lense**

**AND Scanning**

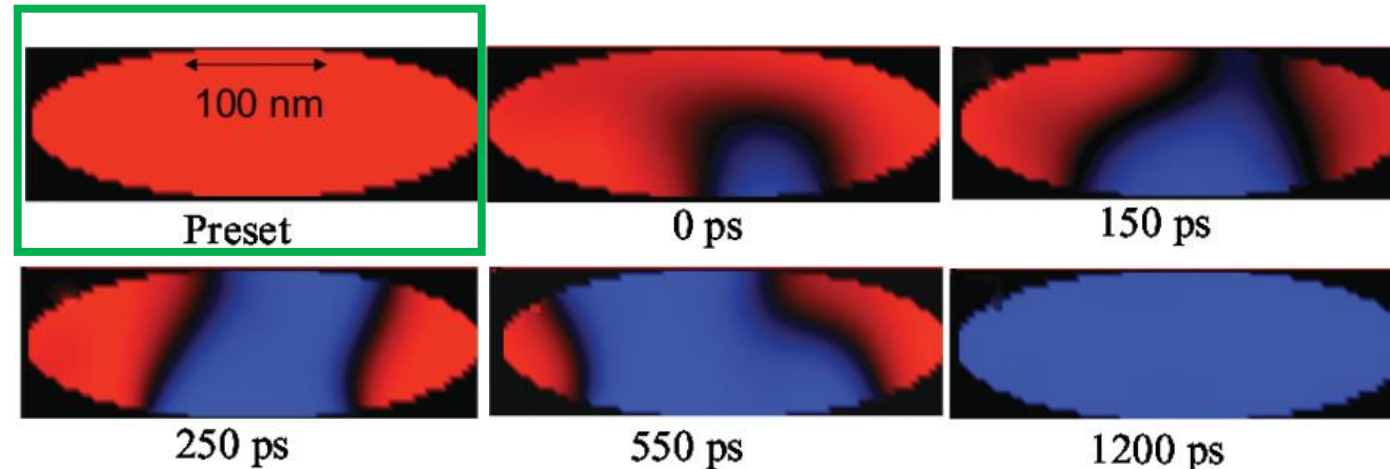
=> More flux locally

# STT induced switching - STXM

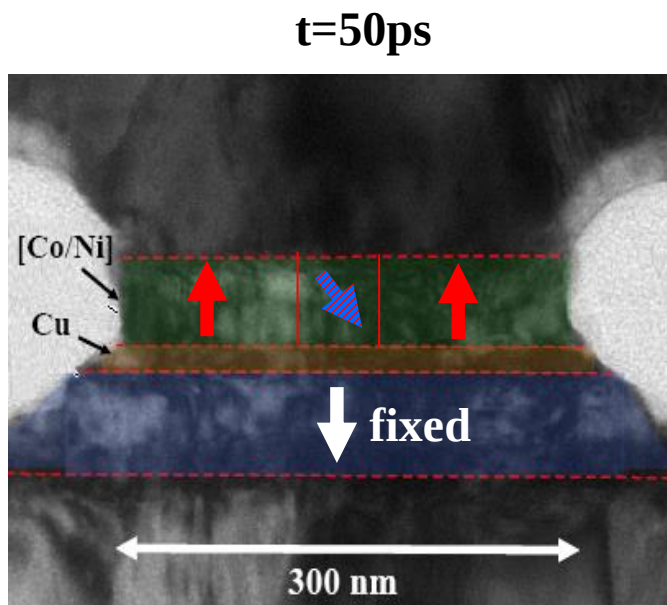


**Excitation :** Current pulsed at t=0ps

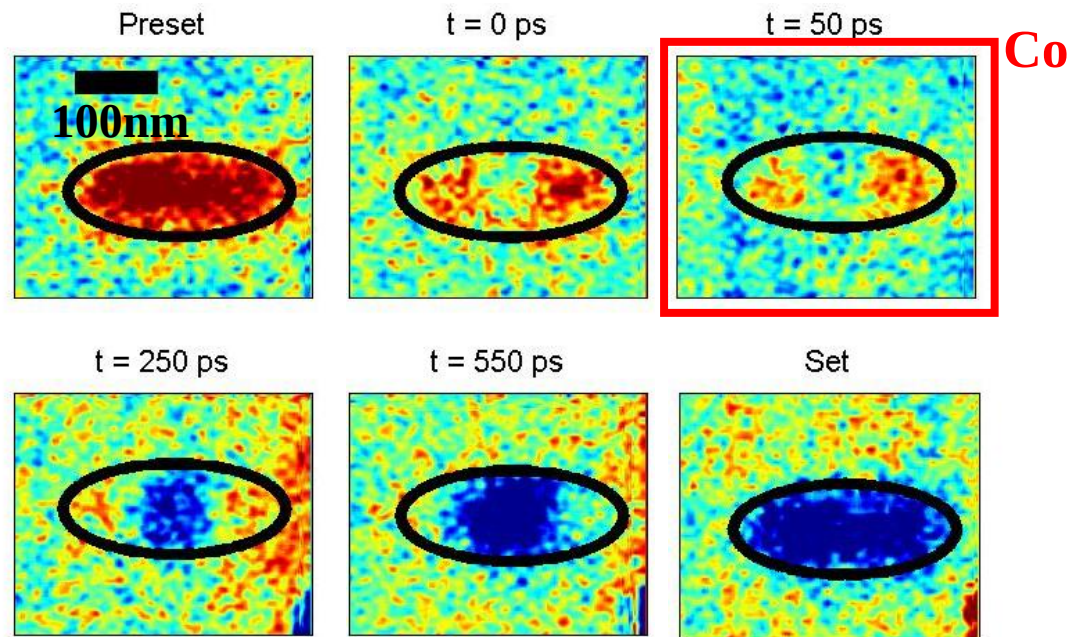
Micromagnetic simulation  
(Scheinfel code)



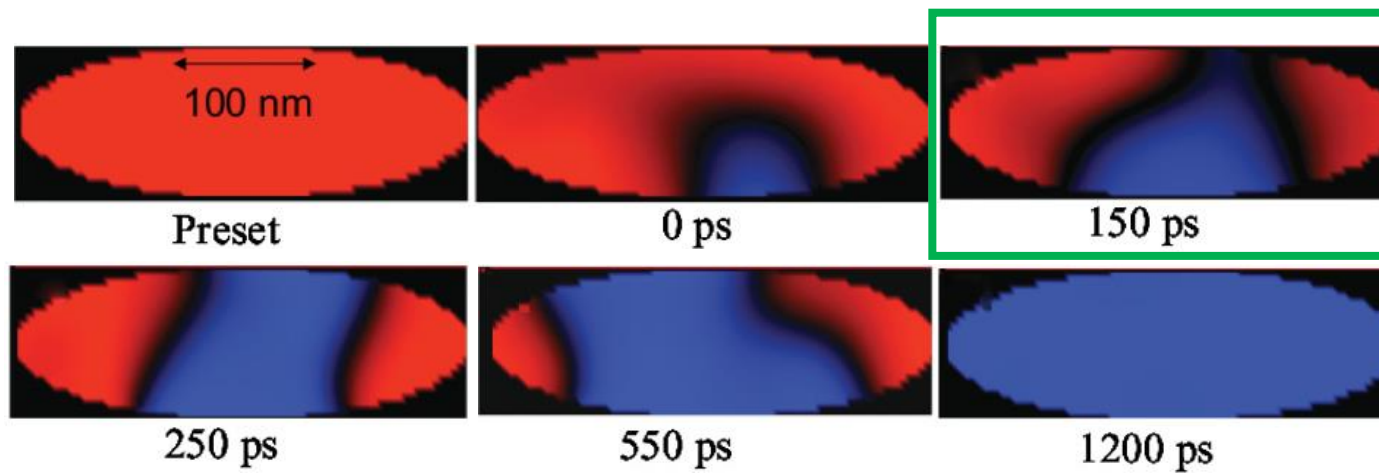
# STT induced switching - STXM



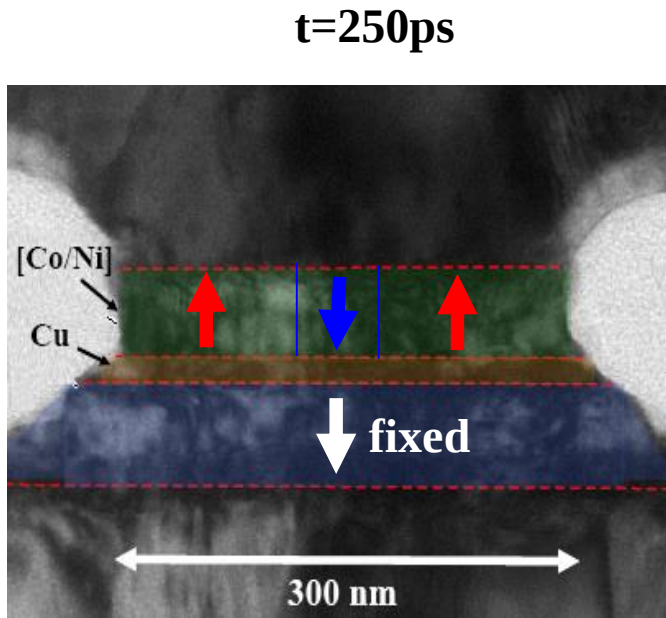
**Excitation :** Current pulsed at  $t=0\text{ps}$



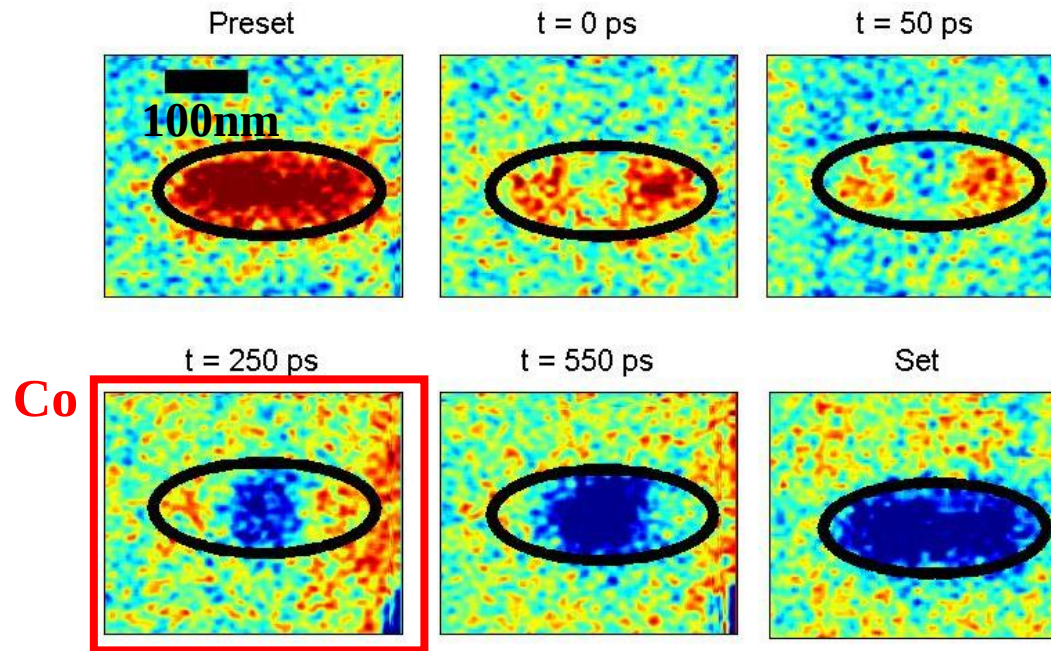
Micromagnetic simulation  
(Scheinfain code)



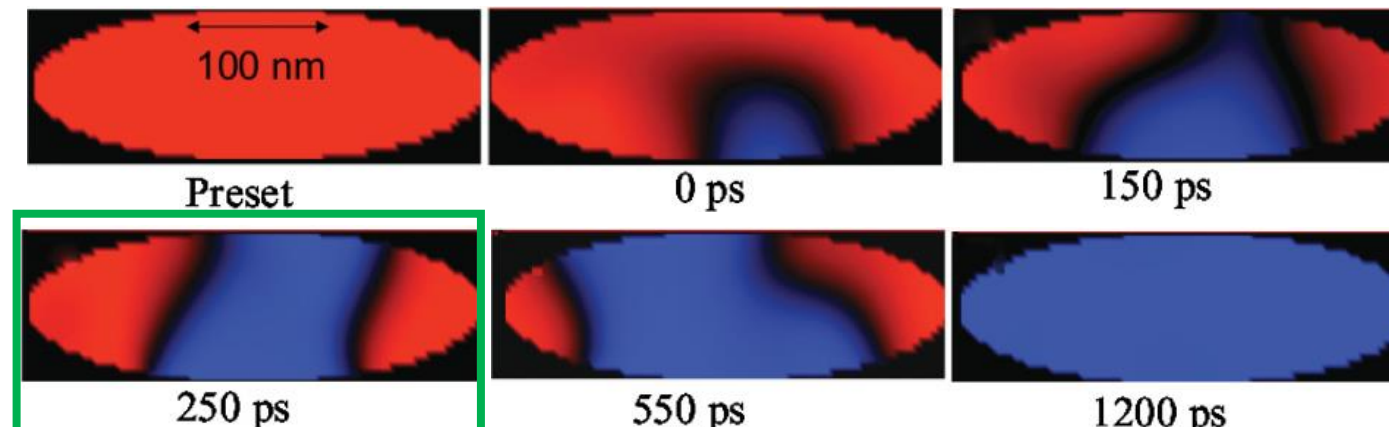
# STT induced switching - STXM



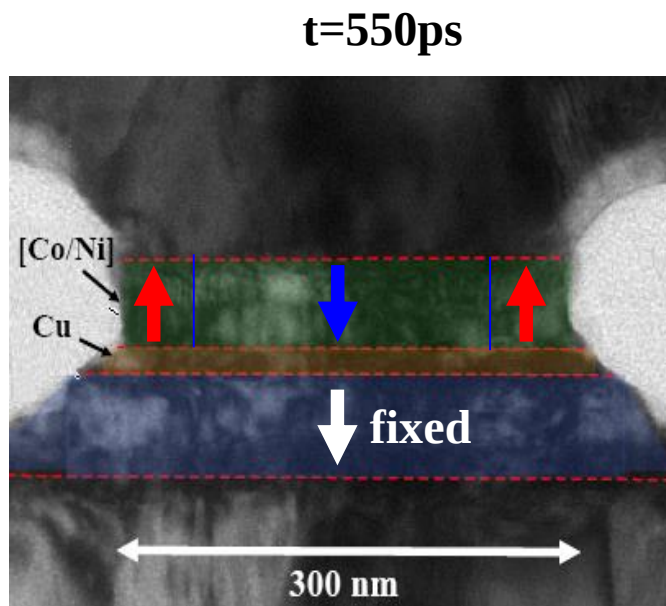
**Excitation : Current pulsed at  $t=0\text{ps}$**



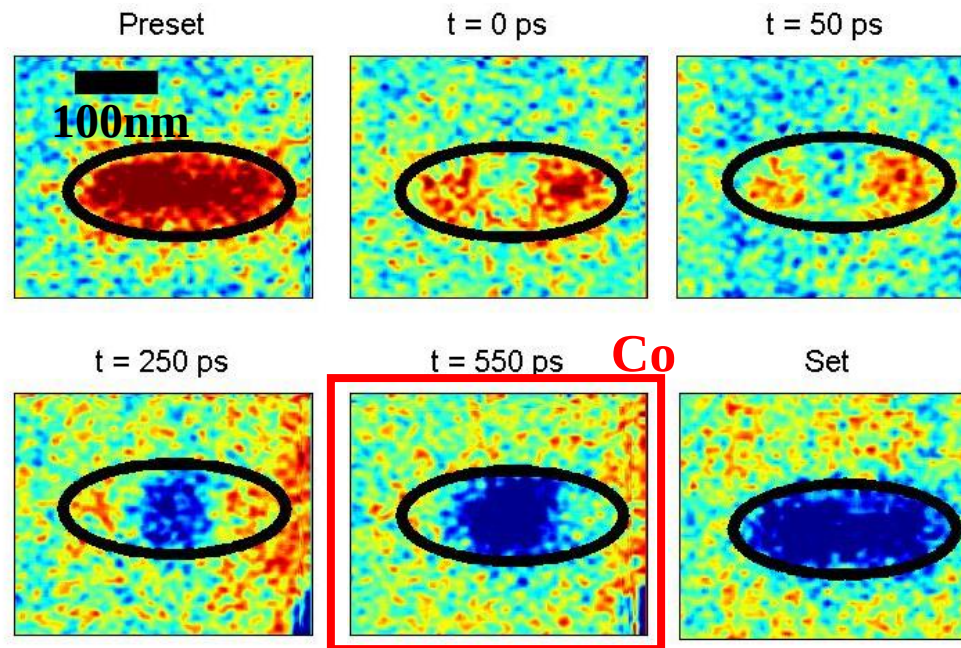
Micromagnetic simulation  
(Scheinfel code)



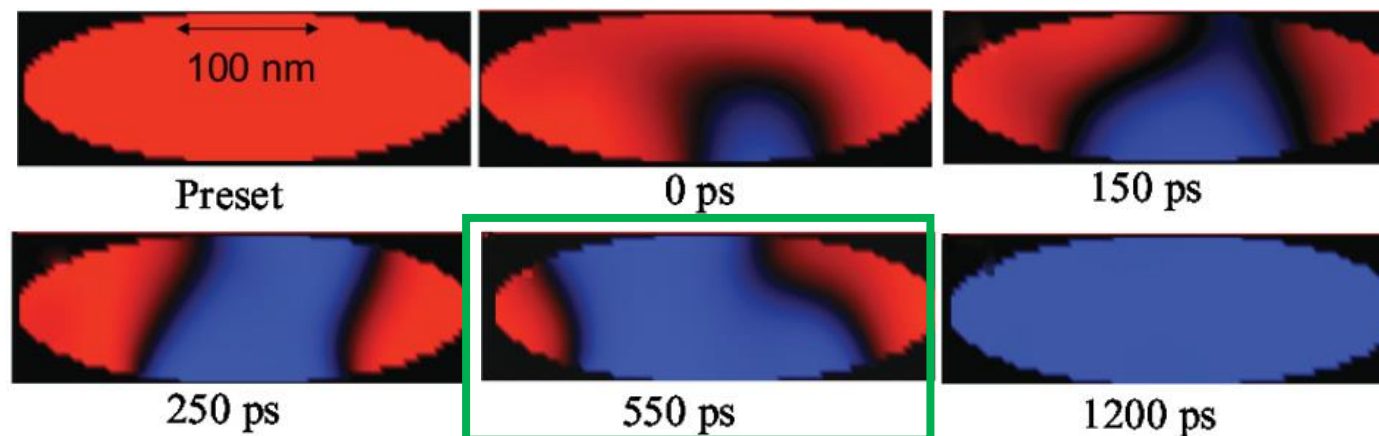
# STT induced switching - STXM



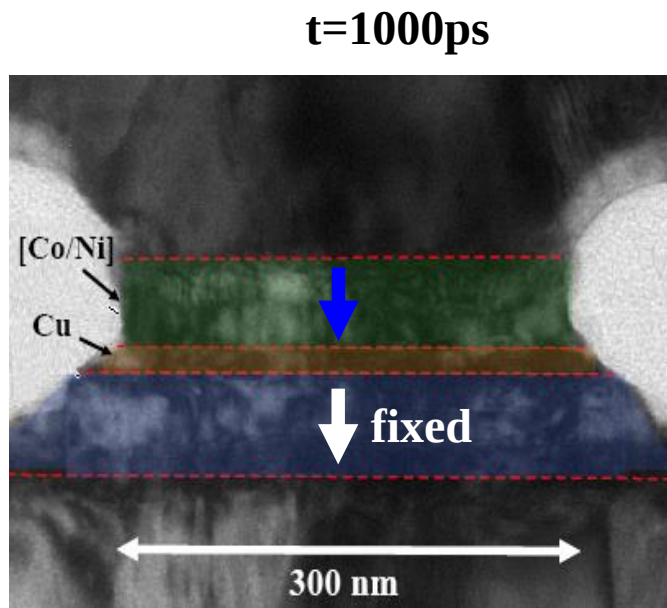
**Excitation :** Current pulsed at  $t=0\text{ps}$



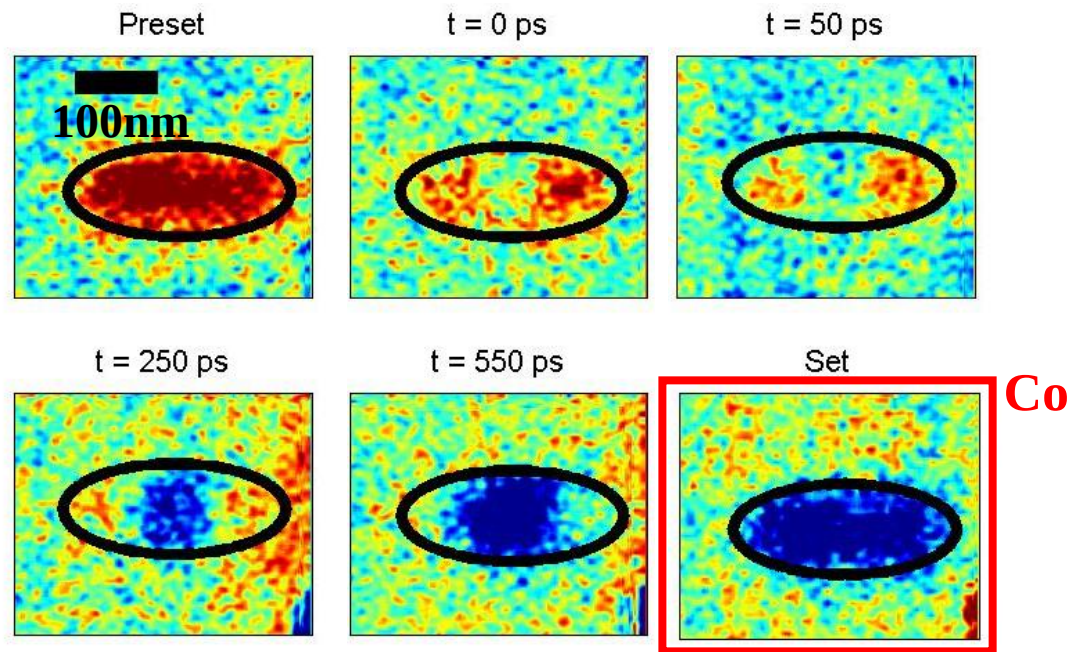
Micromagnetic simulation  
(Scheinfain code)



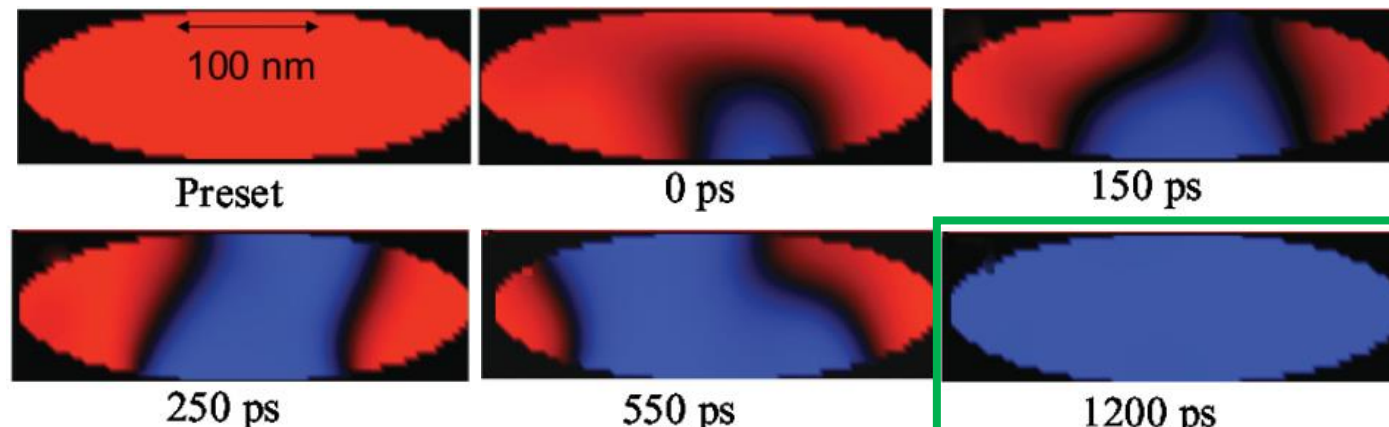
# STT induced switching - STXM



Excitation : Current pulsed at  $t=0\text{ps}$



Micromagnetic simulation  
(Scheinfel code)



### What is measured?

- ☐ Magnetization component
- ☐ Elemental resolution
- ☐ Direct
- ☐ Quantitative

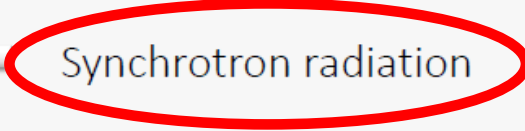
### Environmental conditions

- ☐ Temperature 
- ☐ Field: magnetic field (not PEEM) 
- ☐ Electric current, light etc. 
- ☐ Strain 
- ☐ Additional measuring techniques

### Which specifications?

- ☐ Magnetization: 1D, 2D 
- ☐ Depth resolution: surface/volume 
- ☐ Lateral resolution 25 nm 
- ☐ Sensitivity: <single layer 
- ☐ Time/Spectral resolution 

### Versatility

- ☐ No sample preparation
- ☐ Time per measurement: s – min
- ☐ In situ
- ☐ Synchrotron radiation 

# Outlines

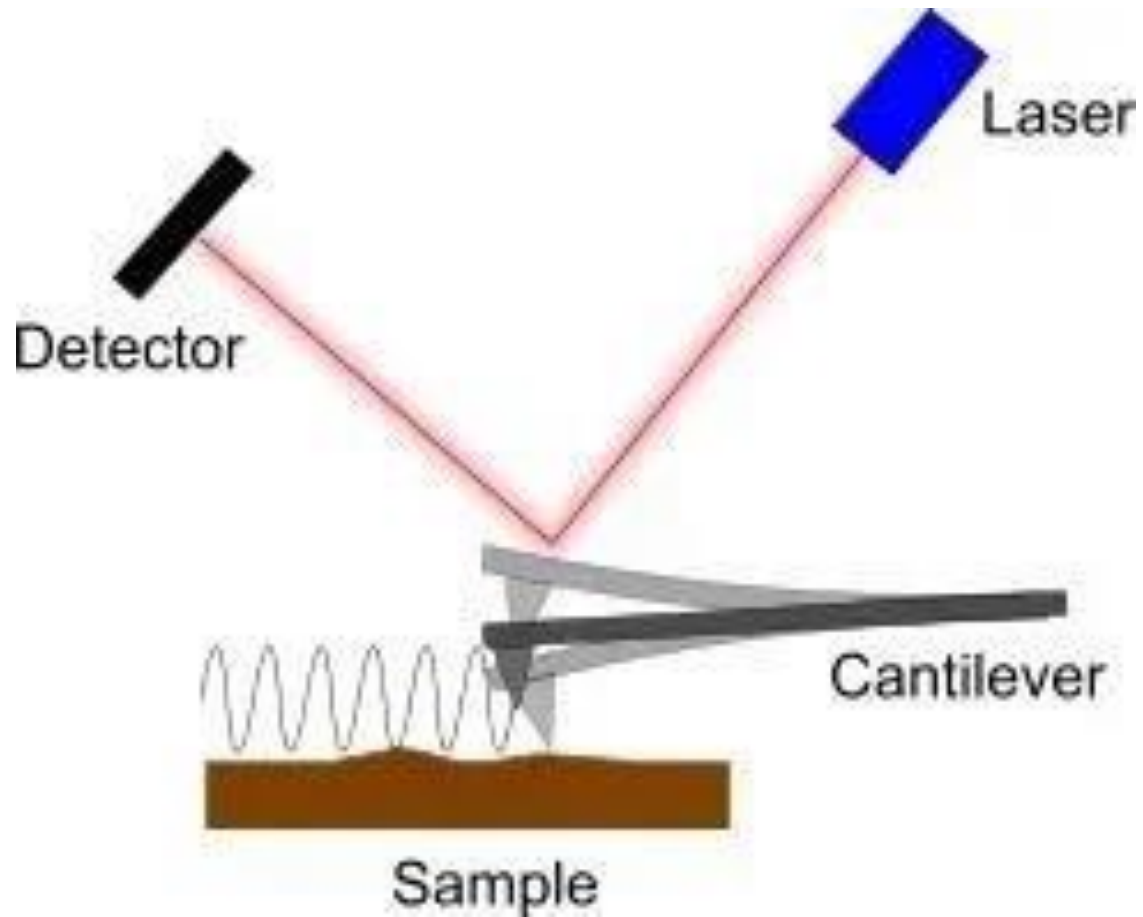
Magneto-optical microscopy (MO)

Scanning electron microscopy (SEMPA)

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

X-Ray microscopy

Magnetic force microscopy (MFM)



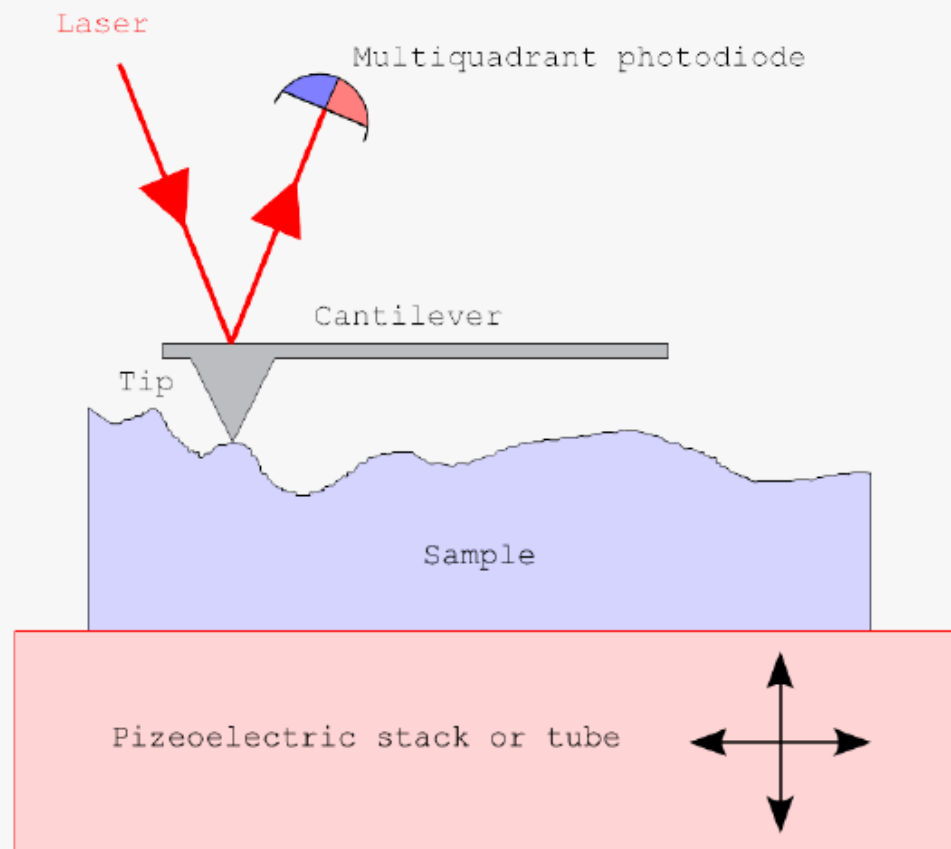
Interaction between the Tip and the sample

Different interaction = different technique

Making tip is an art !

# Atomic Force Microscopy

## The Atomic Force Microscope (AFM)



G. Binnig et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 56, 930 (1986)

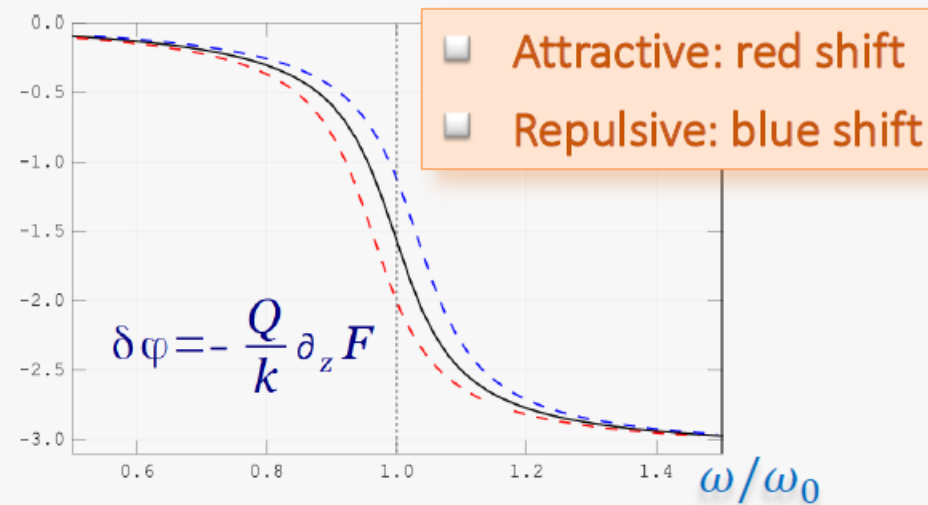
## The cantilever as an oscillator

$$m \ddot{z} + \Gamma \dot{z} + k z = F(z)$$

$$\text{with: } F(z) = F(z_0) + (z - z_0) \partial_z F$$

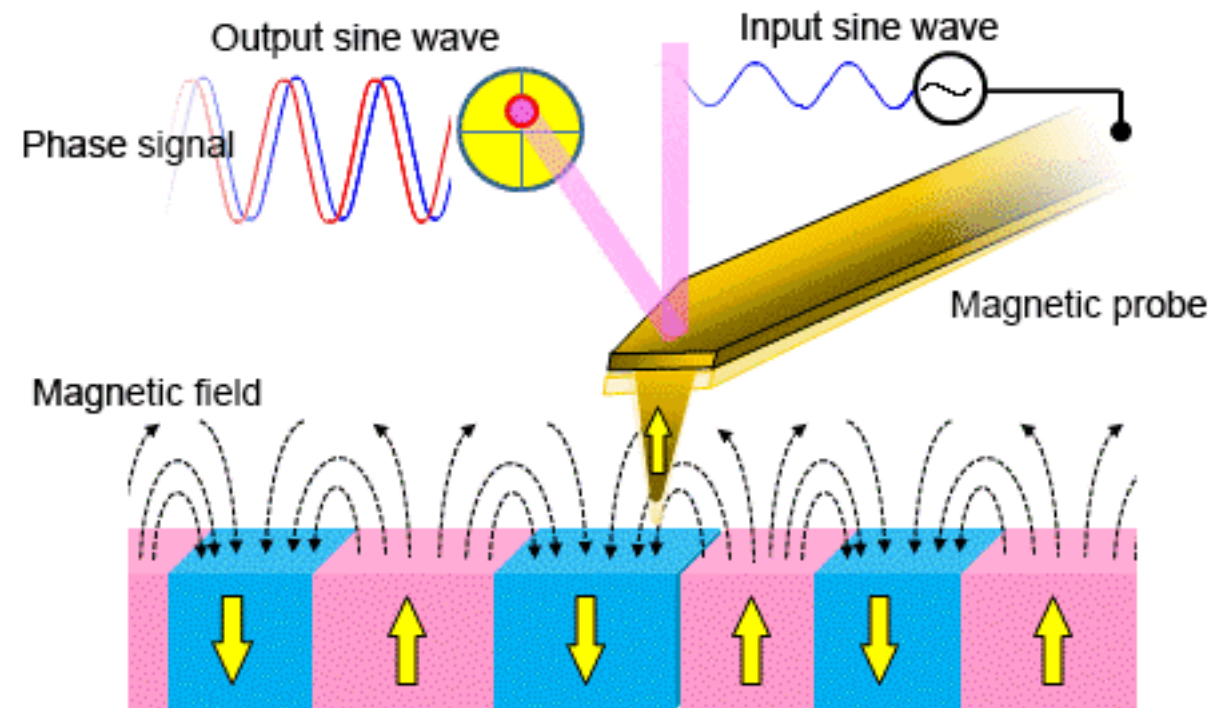
Mere  
renormalization:  $\omega_{o,\text{eff}} = \omega_0 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2k} \partial_z F \right)$

## Probing forces with the phase shift



# Magnetic Force Microscopy

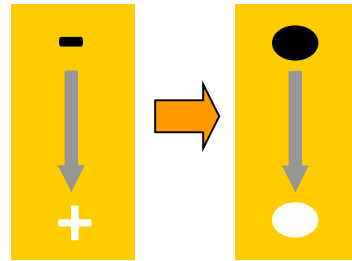
$$\vec{F} = \nabla(\vec{m} \bullet \vec{H}_D)$$



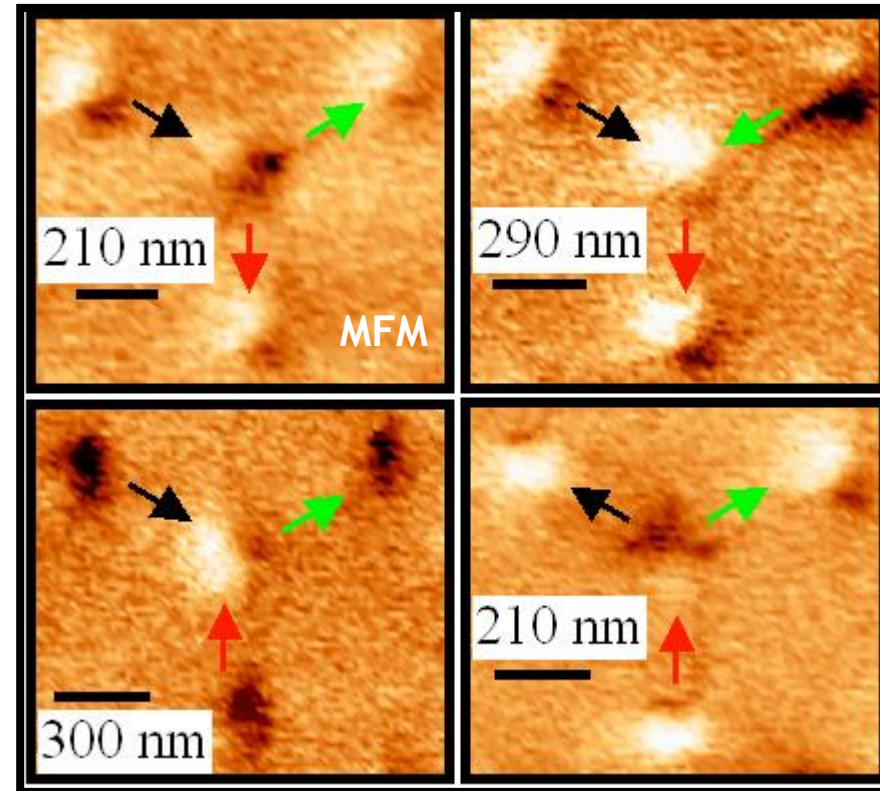
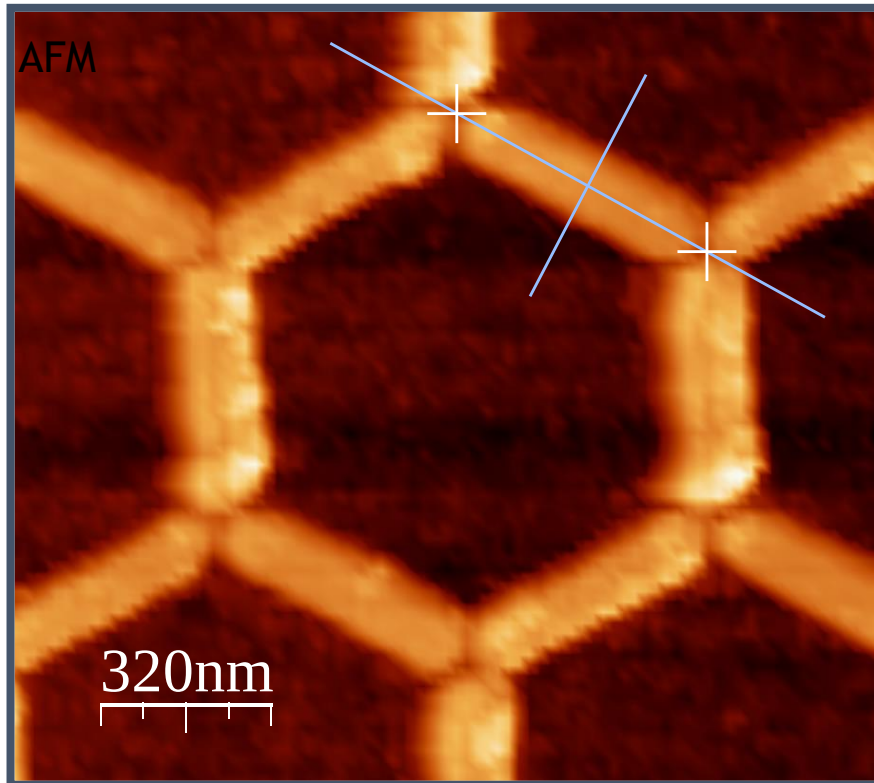
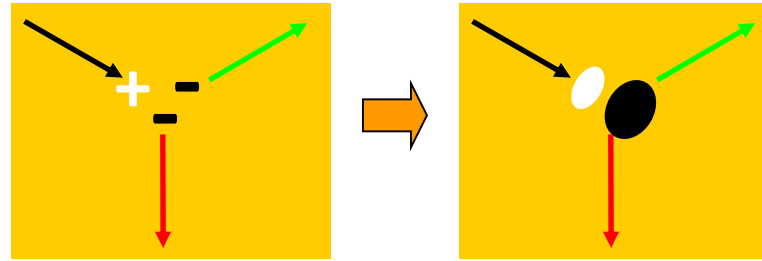
$$\rho = \text{div}(\vec{M}), \quad \sigma = \vec{M} \bullet \vec{n}$$

$$\sigma = \vec{M} \bullet \vec{n}$$

1 Spin



3 Spins :

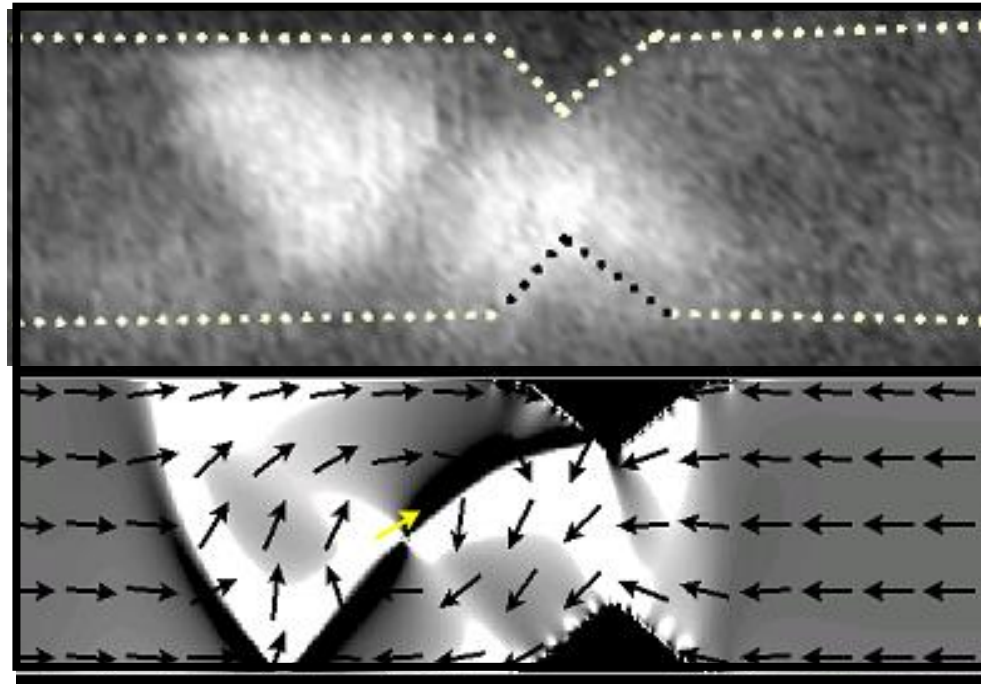


$$\rho = \text{div}(\vec{M}),$$

MFM

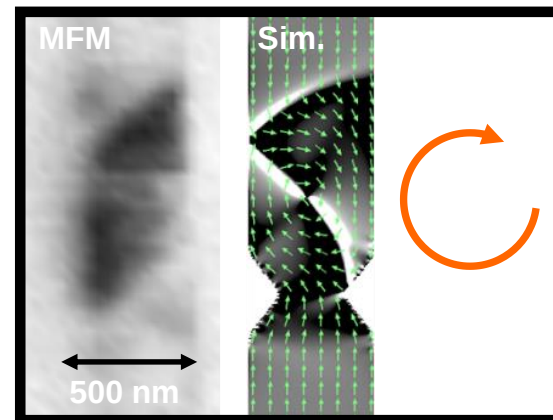
Simulation

Domain wall Vortex

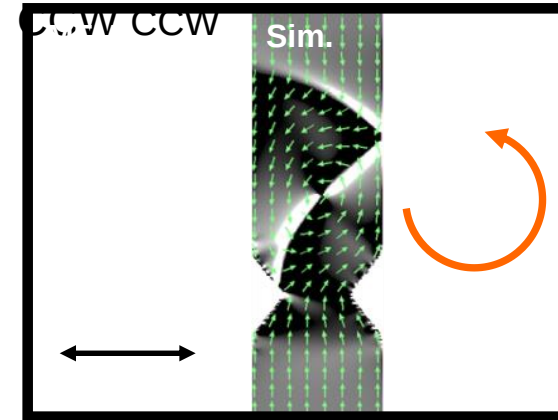


500 nm

Domain wall Chirality CW



Domain wall Chirality



# MFM - Characteristic

|                                         |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|
| Contrast mechanism                      | $\nabla B_{ext}$ |
| Evaluation of the magnetization, $M(r)$ | Indirect         |
| Spatial resolution (nm)                 | $\frac{300}{80}$ |
| Typical Limit                           |                  |
| Depth of information (nm)               | 500–1000         |
| Time for image acquisition              | 30 ms            |
| Limits on applied magnetic fields       | None             |
| Imaging conditions                      | None             |
| Max thickness                           | None             |
| Sample smoothness                       | R                |
| Sample clean surface                    | NR               |

Maps the derivative of the magnetic stray field

Spatial resolution down to 10 nm (vacuum)

Non-destructive

Mostly sensitive to the z-component of stray field (depending on tip)

No sample preparation needed

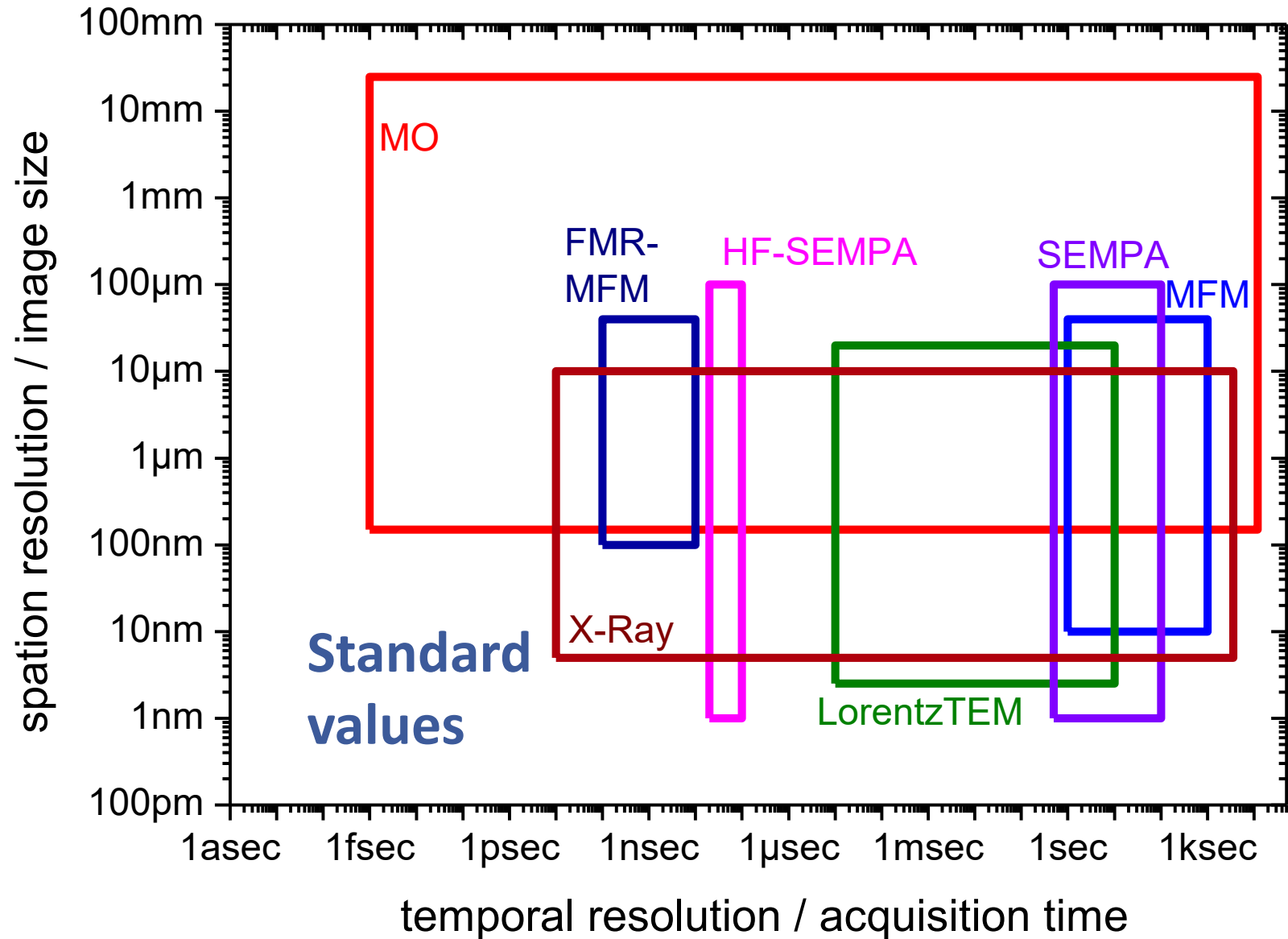
Surface should be relatively flat

**Tip quality is critical**

Tip-sample interaction: induced change of magnetic state

Limitations to measure magnetically soft samples

$$\vec{F} = \nabla(\vec{m} \bullet \vec{H}_D)$$



Magneto-optical microscopy (MO)

Scanning electron microscopy (SEMPA)

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

X-Ray microscopy

Magnetic force microscopy (MFM)

# Thank you !



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MAGNETISM

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