



# **Basic Theory of Antiferromagnets I**

Helen Gomonay

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz



September 26, 2016 Antiferromagnetic Spintronics Waldhausen Schloss

#### **Take-home message**



- Antiferromagnets: Neel order parameter, distinguish between **micro** and **macro** description!
- Two types of exchange, exchange enhancement
- Newtonian-like dynamics vs gyrotropic dynamics in FM

#### **Motivation**

 $\mathsf{FM} \Rightarrow \mathsf{AFM}$ 



#### Application

- High frequencies
- Zero magnetization
- Magnetomechanical coupling
- Combined with
   semiconductors

#### **New physics**

- Variety of structures
- Nontrivial dynamics
- Spin-orbit coupling
- Complicated, less studied

# Outline



- Basics of antiferromagnetism: exchange interactions, Neel states, magnetic sublattices
- Phenomenological description, spin-flop transitions
- Magneto elastic effects
- Basics of dynamics: equation of motion

# Outline



- Basics of antiferromagnetism: exchange interactions, Neel states, magnetic sublattices
- Phenomenological description, spin-flop transitions
- Magneto elastic effects
- Basics of dynamics: equation of motion

#### **Hierarchy of atomic interactions**

energy, eV



# **AF exchange interactions**

- Superexchange (insulators)
- RKKY (4-f metals)
- Exchange in 3-d metals
- Double exchange (transition metal oxides) + +
- **DMI** (anisotropic exchange)









7

30

# SPIN PHENOMENA INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTER

#### Quantum state vs Neel state

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{j,k} J_{jk} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{j} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{k}$$

#### Quantum state, T=0



$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{\{j\}} c_{\{j\}} |S_{z1}\rangle |S_{z2}\rangle \dots |S_{zj}\rangle |S_{zj+1}\rangle$$

#### Quantum state vs Neel state





# $\mathbf{S}_{1} = -\mathbf{S}_{2}$

$$\{\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2, \dots, \mathbf{s}_j, \mathbf{s}_{j+1}\}$$

## Bryan Gallagher: afternoon session



# **Sublattices**



#### Sublattice magnetizations (Neel, 1948)

$$\mathbf{M}_{k}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{g}{N} \sum_{\tau_{j}} \mathbf{S}_{k}(\mathbf{r} + \tau_{j})$$



#### and order parameters

Symmetry relations:  $2_{[110]}$  :  $M_1 \leftrightarrow M_2$ 

Order parameter (Neel vector):

$$L=M_1-M_2$$



NiO, IrMn



Magnetization:  $M_{AF} = M_1 + M_2 \approx 0$ 

$$L \perp M_{AF}$$
,  $|L| \approx 2M_s$ 

#### Noncollinear structures

$$2_{[110]}: \mathbf{M}_1 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{M}_2, \mathbf{M}_3 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{M}_3 \\ 3_{[111]}: \mathbf{M}_1 \to \mathbf{M}_2 \to \mathbf{M}_3$$

Order parameters (Neel vectors):

 $L_1 = M_1 + M_2 - 2M_3 L_2 = M_1 - M_2$ 



Magnetization: 
$$M_{AF} = M_1 + M_2 + M_3 \approx 0$$

IrMn, Mn₃NiN



## Variety of AFM structures



# Take-home messages



- AF = variety of exchange mechanisms
- AF = metals, insulators and in between
- AF = variety of structures
- Macroscopic description = sublattice magnetizations

# Outline



- Basics of antiferromagnetism: exchange interactions, Neel states, magnetic sublattices
- Phenomenological description, spin-flop transitions
- Magneto elastic effects
- Basics of dynamics: equation of motion

#### Hierarchy of interactions



## Free energy, Landau approach



Low temperature

 $T, H \ll J_{\text{inter}}$ 

$$M_{\rm AF} \ll L, \quad L = 2M_s \approx const$$

Symmetry-based modeling

$$w = \frac{1}{2} J_{\text{inter}} \mathbf{M}_{\text{AF}}^2 - \mathbf{M}_{\text{AF}} \mathbf{H} + \frac{1}{2} A \left(\nabla \mathbf{L}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} K_{\text{anis}}^{(2)} L_z^2 - \frac{1}{4} K_{\text{anis}}^{(4)} \left(L_x^4 + L_y^4\right)$$

# Equilibrium state



Principle of energy minimum:

$$\delta F = \delta \int w dV = 0$$

**Exchange** approximation: excluding **M**<sub>AF</sub>

$$\mathbf{M} = \frac{1}{4J_{\text{inter}}M_s^2} \mathbf{L} \times (\mathbf{H} \times \mathbf{L})$$

$$w_{\text{Zeeman}} = -\frac{(\mathbf{L} \times \mathbf{H})^2}{8J_{\text{inter}}M_s}$$

$$\mathbf{L} \wedge \mathbf{M}_1 \qquad \mathbf{M}_2$$

$$\mathbf{M}_2 \qquad \mathbf{H}_3$$

# Spin-flop transition





$$w = \frac{H_{\text{anis}}^{\|}}{8M_s} L_z^2 - \frac{H_{\text{anis}}^{\perp}}{32M_s} \left( L_x^4 + L_y^4 \right)$$

Possibility for information coding!

# **Spin-flop transition**





# **Spin-flop transition**



$$H > H_{\rm sf} = \sqrt{2J_{\rm inter}H_{\rm anis}^{\perp}}$$

#### **Exchange enhancement**

S

# Take-home messages



- Macroscopic description: order parameters and magnetization vector
- Inter-sublattice exchange exchange enhancement
- Static magnetic field quadratic effects
- Equivalent states- information coding
- Spin-flop transition information control

# Outline



- Basics of antiferromagnetism: exchange interactions, Neel states, magnetic sublattices
- Phenomenological description, spin-flop transitions
- Magneto elastic effects
- Basics of dynamics: equation of motion

#### **Hierarchy of atomic interactions**

energy, eV



#### **Magnetoelastic interactions**



#### Covalent bonds $\Rightarrow$ spin-orbit coupling $\Rightarrow$ mag.-el.

$$w_{\rm me} = \lambda_{jklm} u_{jl} L_k L_m$$

$$w_{\rm el} = \frac{1}{2} c_{jklm} u_{jl} u_{km}$$

Spontaneous striction:

$$\hat{u}_{ ext{spon}} = -rac{\hat{\lambda}_{ ext{me}}}{c'} \mathbf{L} \otimes \mathbf{L}$$



#### **Spontaneous striction**



## Magnetoelastic anisotropy





•Additional 4-th order anisotropy

•Variation of potential barrier



# Example: domain walls





#### Elastic dipoles: long-range forces





# Shape-induced effects



#### Inhomogeneous sample, destressing energypy

$$W_{\text{destr}} = K^{\text{shape}} \left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \left\langle L_x^2 - L_y^2 \right\rangle^2$$



#### **Magnetostriction and stress**





# Take-home message



- Magnetostriction = source of additional anisotropy
- Orientation domains = magnetoelastic
- Shape anisotropy = magnetoelastic
- Different effects in nano and macrosamples

# Outline



- Basics of antiferromagnetism: exchange interactions, Neel states, magnetic sublattices
- Phenomenological description, spin-flop transitions
- Magneto elastic effects
- Basics of dynamics: equation of motion

# Spin Torques in antiferromagnet



#### Hierarchy of interactions


#### **Exchange enhancement**



### Solid-like dynamics





 $T, H << J_{inter}$ 

# **Equations of motion**



## **Equation of motion**



# Take-home messages



- AF: dynamics magnetisation
- AF: inertia due to exchange
- Dynamics = balance equation for magnetizations

# Conclusions



- AF different from FM
- Field effects => weak
- Exchange interaction => important for dynamics
- Strong magneto elastic effects

# Thank you!

## Surface vs bulk anisotropy





Shape-induced effects



Homogeneous sample, shape-induced anisotropy

$$W = V \left[ K_{\perp}^{\text{anis}} \left( L_x^4 + L_y^4 \right) + K^{\text{shape}} \left( a / b \right) L_x^2 \right]$$

$$K_{\text{bias}} > K_{\text{shape}}\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) = 0$$
  $K_{\text{bias}} < K_{\text{shape}}\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)$ 



## **Magnetoelastic interactions**



#### Covalent bonds $\Rightarrow$ spin-orbit coupling $\Rightarrow$ mag.-el.

$$w_{\rm m-e} = \lambda_{jklm} u_{jk} L_l L_m$$

#### Spontaneous striction:

V

$$\hat{u}_{
m spon} = -rac{\hat{\lambda}_{
m me}}{c'} {f L} \otimes {f L}$$







# **Basic Theory of Antiferromagnets II**

Helen Gomonay

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz



September 26, 2016 Antiferromagnetic Spintronics Waldhausen Schloss

## **Take-home message**



- Exchange enhancement ⇒ fast antiferromagnetic dynamics
- Antiferromagnetic states can be effectively manipulated by spin and charge current

# Motivation



- All-electrical control and manipulation of AF states
- Information and data storage with AF



# Outline



- Dynamics: spin-waves
- Dynamics: domain walls
- Current-induced dynamics
- Switching and STO

# Outline



- Dynamics: spin-waves
- Dynamics: domain walls
- Current-induced dynamics
- What is beyond?

### Hierarchy of interactions



#### Spin waves as "classical" excitations



## **Circular polarised modes**





## Magnetoelastic gap



Large sample: "frozen" lattice

$$\tau_{\text{sound}} \propto \frac{d}{s} \qquad d = 1 \text{ mm}, \tau_{\text{sound}} \propto 10^{-6} \text{ sec}, \quad \tau_{\text{mag}} \propto 10^{-12} \text{ sec}$$
$$\hat{u}^{\text{spon}} = -\frac{\hat{\lambda}}{c} \mathbf{L} \otimes \mathbf{L} = const$$
$$H_{\text{anis}} \rightarrow H_{\text{anis}} + 2M_s \lambda u^{\text{spon}}$$
$$\omega_{\text{AFMR}} = \gamma \sqrt{J_{\text{inter}} \left(H_{\text{anis}} + 2M_s \lambda u^{\text{spon}}\right)}$$

## Magnetoelastic waves







# Take-home messages



- Spin-wave spectra: many modes
- Spin waves transfer magnetization
- Exchange enhancement
- Magneto elastic gap, size effects

# Outline



- Dynamics: spin-waves
- Dynamics: domain walls
- Current-induced dynamics
- Switching and STO

#### **Below Walker breakdown in FM**



13

#### Anatomy of FM DW motion





#### **Above Walker breakdown in FM**



Velocity

Field

#### No Walker breakdown in AFM



16

#### **Anatomy of AF DW motion**



#### **Dynamics of DW in AF and FM**



Field

Velocity

18

#### **DW motion: "relativistic" dynamics**





## Take-home messages



- No Walker breakdown
- Small mass and exchange enhancement
- Relativistic dynamics

## Ulrich Rössler: today and tomorrow session

# Outline



- Dynamics: spin-waves
- Dynamics: domain walls
- Current-induced dynamics
- Switching and STO

### Hierarchy of interactions



# Spintronic: sd-exchange in FM

$$\hat{H}_{sd} = -J_{sd} \sum_{j} \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{j} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{j} \Rightarrow -J_{sd} \delta \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{M}$$
Polarization:  

$$\delta \mathbf{m} \propto \langle \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{j} \rangle \| \mathbf{M}$$

$$\mathbf{S}_{cattering:}$$

$$\hat{\Pi}_{in} - \hat{\Pi}_{out} \propto f(J_{sd}) \delta \mathbf{m} \otimes \mathbf{j}_{e}$$

$$\mathbf{f} \qquad \mathbf{f} \qquad \mathbf{f}$$

# AF: sd-exchange?

$$\hat{H}_{sd} = -J_{sd} \sum_{j} \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{j} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{j} \Rightarrow -J_{sd} \delta \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{M}_{AF}$$
Polarization:  

$$\delta \mathbf{m} \propto \langle \mathbf{s}_{j} \rangle \| \mathbf{M}_{AF} \to 0$$
Scattering:  

$$\hat{\Pi}_{in} - \hat{\Pi}_{out} \propto f(J_{sd}) \delta \mathbf{m} \otimes \mathbf{j}_{e}$$
Effective field:  

$$\mathbf{H}_{sd} = J_{sd} \delta \mathbf{m}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{J}} \quad \hat{\mathbf{J}} \quad \hat{\mathbf{J$$

# **Equations of motion**



#### Magnetization $\Rightarrow$ rotation


## Spin transfer in AF and spin balance

$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}_{AF}}{dt} = \left(\hat{\mathbf{\Pi}}_{in} - \hat{\mathbf{\Pi}}_{out}\right)\mathbf{N} + \operatorname{sink}$$
$$\ddot{\mathbf{L}} - \gamma^2 J_{\text{inter}} \mathbf{H}_L = \left(\beta \frac{dI}{dt} + J_{\text{inter}} I\sigma\right)\mathbf{s} \times \mathbf{L} - \gamma \alpha_G J_{\text{inter}} \mathbf{L} \times \dot{\mathbf{L}}$$
H.Gomonay, V.Loktev,2008

$$m\ddot{x} + 2\gamma\dot{x} + \frac{dU}{dx} = F_{diss}$$

# Outline



- Dynamics: spin-waves
- Dynamics: domain walls
- Current-induced dynamics
- Switching and STO

### **Dynamics in the dc spin current**



$$\ddot{\mathbf{L}} - \gamma^2 J_{\text{inter}} \mathbf{H}_L = J_{\text{inter}} I \sigma \mathbf{s} \times \mathbf{L} - \gamma \alpha_G J_{\text{inter}} \mathbf{L} \times \dot{\mathbf{L}}$$





#### **Critical current**



#### **Critical current**



$$H_{\rm STT}^{\rm AF} = \sqrt{\alpha_G^2 H_{\rm an} J_{\rm inter} + \left(H_{\rm an}^{\parallel} - H_{\rm an}^{\perp}\right)^2}$$

#### FM vs AFM, possible dynamics near the critical current



## Take-home messages



- Spin transfer = magnetisation = dynamics
- Exchange enhancement of spin
- Different dynamics of FM and AF



- Quantum fluctuations, quantum excitations
- Large fields ~ intersublattice exchange
- Ultrafast dynamics, magnetooptics
- Small AF particles (mesoscales)

# Welcome to AF spintronics!