Designing spin and orbital sources of Berry curvature at oxide interfaces

Caviglia Lab Department of Quantum Matter Physics University of Geneva



Spin textures in and out of equilibrium

Spin textures by material design

Low-symmetry oxide interfaces Berry curvature engineering

Light control of spin dynamics

Light-driven antiferromagnets Propagating coherent magnons





Collaborators and funding

Thierry van Thiel, Yildiz Saglam, Edouard Lesne, Ulderico Filippozzi, Patrick Blah, Graham Kimbell, Mafalda Monteiro, Ian Aupiais, Tancredi Thai Angeloni, Giacomo Sala















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Anomalous velocity and Berry phase

$$\gamma_n = \int_C \boldsymbol{A}_n(\boldsymbol{k}) \cdot d\boldsymbol{k}$$

$$\gamma_n = \oint_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{B}_n(\boldsymbol{k}) \cdot d\boldsymbol{\Omega}$$

 $\boldsymbol{A}_{n}(\boldsymbol{k}) = -i\langle u_{n}(\boldsymbol{k}) | \nabla_{\boldsymbol{k}} | u_{n}(\boldsymbol{k}) \rangle$

Berry

Connection

$$\boldsymbol{B}_n(\boldsymbol{k}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \times \boldsymbol{A}_n(\boldsymbol{k})$$

Berry Curvature





$$\boldsymbol{v}_n(\boldsymbol{k}) = \frac{1}{\hbar} \nabla_{\boldsymbol{k}} \epsilon_n(\boldsymbol{k}) - \frac{e}{\hbar} \boldsymbol{E} \times \boldsymbol{B}_n(\boldsymbol{k})$$

Karplus, Luttinger Phys. Rev. 95, 1154 (1954) Berry Proc. R. Soc. London A 392, 45 (1984) Chang, Niu PRL 75, 1348 (1995)

Why Berry curvature?

Controlling dynamics of charges orbitals and spins through purely quantum effects (no Lorentz force).

Engineering strong electromagnetic responses originating from low-energy physics, THz electrodynamics.

Large non-linear responses.



Sources of Berry curvature

Quantum superposition at finite crystal momentum



1) Zero for real wavefunctions

2) Zero for planar spin textures

 $B_z^{\pm}(k) = \pm \widehat{d} \cdot (\partial_{k_x} \widehat{d} \times \partial_{k_y} \widehat{d})/2$

3) Large near avoided band crossings

 $\boldsymbol{B}_{z}(\boldsymbol{k}) = [\langle \psi_{m} | \nabla \psi_{n} \rangle \times \langle \nabla \psi_{n} | \psi_{m} \rangle]_{z}$ $= \frac{[\langle \psi_{m} | \nabla H | \psi_{n} \rangle \times \langle \psi_{n} | \nabla H | \psi_{m} \rangle]_{z}}{(\epsilon_{m} - \epsilon_{n})^{2}}$

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Conventional systems

Gapped graphene

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k}) = v_F \big[\sigma_x k_x + \sigma_y k_y \big] + m \sigma_z$$

 σ sublattice space





Weyl semimetals

 $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k}) = v_F^{\chi} \sigma_{\chi} k_{\chi} + v_F^{\chi} \sigma_{\chi} k_{\chi} + v_F^{Z} \sigma_{Z} k_{Z}$

 σ spin space

Conventional systems

Gapped graphene

 $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k}) = v_F \big[\sigma_x k_x + \sigma_y k_y \big] + m \sigma_z$

 σ sublattice space



Quantum superposition at finite crystal momentum of a single quantum number



Weyl semimetals

 $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k}) = v_F^{\chi} \sigma_{\chi} k_{\chi} + v_F^{\chi} \sigma_{\chi} k_{\chi} + v_F^{Z} \sigma_{Z} k_{Z}$

 σ spin space

Key questions

Can we design Berry curvature sources from the quantum superpositions at finite crystal momentum of multiple quantum numbers?

Interplay of correlated and topological physics

(111)LAO/STO: the first material system with coexisting sources of Berry curvature



Spin sources

Probed by linear and nonlinear anomalous transport.

Orbital





Lesne et al. Nature Materials 22, 576 (2023)



Exploring hexagonal symmetry



Trigonal warping and spin-orbit coupling

 $k_{\overline{1}10}$

8

 $k_{\overline{11}2}$



 \mathcal{E}_{F}

 $k_{\overline{1}10}$

k112

Monteiro et al. Phys. Rev. B 99, 201102R (2019)

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{k^2}{2m} \sigma_0 + (\alpha_{\rm R} k_x + \mathcal{B} \sin \theta) \sigma_y + (-\alpha_{\rm R} k_y + \mathcal{B} \cos \theta) \sigma_x + \frac{\lambda}{2} (k_+^3 + k_-^3) \sigma_z \qquad \qquad k_{\pm} = k_x \pm i k_y$$

Out-of-plane spin texture





Surface of (111)SrTiO3 He et al. Physical Review Letters 120, 266802 (2018)

Out-of-plane spin texture





Surface of (111)KTaO3 Bruno et al. Advanced Electronic Materials, 1800860 (2019)

Spin sources of Berry curvature





 Ω^{*}_{k}

Anomalous planar Hall effect



17

Spin sources of Berry curvature



Spin sources of Berry curvature





Key questions

Can we design Berry curvature sources from the quantum superpositions at finite crystal momentum of multiple quantum numbers? Can we find transport effects active at B=0?

Structural phase transitions in SrTiO₃



(Images courtesy A. Lau)

Orbital sources of Berry curvature



t_{2g} orbitals with mixing terms (neglecting spinorbit coupling)

∆ trigonal crystal field

T < 105~K Δ_m and α_m tetragonal distortion

T < 30 K α_{OR} interfacial breaking of inversion symmetry with polar axis

Mercaldo et al. npj Quantum Materials (2023) arXiv:2301.04548

$$\mathscr{H}_{\mathrm{OR}}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\mathbf{k}^2}{2m} \Lambda_0 + \Delta \left(\Lambda_3 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \Lambda_8 \right) + \Delta_m \left(\frac{1}{2} \Lambda_3 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \Lambda_8 \right) - \alpha_{\mathrm{OR}} \left[k_x \Lambda_5 + k_y \Lambda_2 \right] - \alpha_m k_x \Lambda_7$$

Orbital sources of Berry curvature



Orbital sources of Berry curvature



Prediction: BCD in the 10s nm range!

Non linear Hall effect at B=0





Ulderico Filippozzi Edouard Lesne

Lesne et al. Nature Materials 22, 576 (2023)

Dipole magnitude





WTe₂ Ma et al. Nature 565, 337 (2019) Sodemann, I. & Fu, L.. Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 216806 (2015)

(111)LaAlO₃/SrTiO₃

Dipole magnitude



Materials	Dimension	Experimental estimate of Berry curvature dipole (nm)
Bilayer WTe ₂	2	5
Few layer WTe ₂	2	0.07
Monolayer WTe ₂	2	0.06
Corrugated bilayer graphene	2	20
Twisted WSe ₂	2	0.5
Strained twisted bilayer graphene	2	20
LAO-STO interface	2	75

Lesne et al. Nature Materials 22, 576 (2023)

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(111)LaAlO₃/SrTiO₃

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Key questions

Can we use selective optical excitation of lattice and orbital degrees of freedom to excite spin waves?

How do we stimulate propagating spin waves by optical means?

MnPS3



Phonon excitation





Mattias Matthiesen

Mn²⁺ ground state: ${}^{6}A_{1g} (t_{2g} {}^{3}e_{g} {}^{2})$ orbital singlet (L = 0) five unpaired spins (S = 5/2).

Resonant phonon excitation leads to thermal spin disorder.

M. Matthiesen et al. Physical Review Letters 130, 076702 (2023)

Orbital excitation



Mattias' poster



Sudden coupling of spin and orbital angular momentum reorients the magnetic anisotropy direction throughout the 4T1g lifetime.

Impulsive torque.

M. Matthiesen et al. Physical Review Letters 130, 076702 (2023)

Why antiferromagnetic spin transport?

- THz operation
- High-speed wave propagation
- Phase coherence
- Macroscopic ballistic propagation



Incoherent diffusive spin transport.

R. Lebrun et al., *Nature* 561, 222 (2018)
J. Li et al., *Nature* 578, 70 (2020)
P. Vaidya et al., *Science* 368, 160 (2020)



Coherent AFM spin dynamics





Impulsive excitation in transparent AFM

Uniform AFM spin precession does not propagate

P. Němec, M. Fiebig, R. Kampfrath, A.V. Kimel. Nat. Phys. 14, 229 (2018)

Propagating spin waves in AFMs







confined optical excitation

magnon wavepacket

Hortensius et al. Nature Physics 17, 1001 (2021)

Rare earth orthoferrite DyFeO₃



Orthorhombic perovskite (*Pnma*) Fe^{3+} are AFM ordered (T_N =650 K)



Measurement scheme



Dmytro Afanasiev



M is the magnetization of Fe³⁺¹

DyFeO₃



Optical absorption



Propagating spin wavepacket





Spectral components of the magnon wavepacket

 $\overline{k_{\rm sw}} = 2k_0 n \cos \gamma'$

k-selective detection



Jorrit Hortensius

8

12



Spin wave velocity



16

12

8

V_{sound}

16

v_g (km/s)

Velocity,

V_{limit_20}

Antiferromagnetic spintronics



First ballistic antiferromagnetic spin-wave propagating at supersonic velocity (~12 km/s) and macroscopic distance (~ μm) Hortensius et al. Nature Physics 17, 1001 (2021)

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Collaborators and references



Lesne et al. Nature Materials 22, 576 (2023) Mercaldo et al. npj Quantum Materials (2023) Matthiesen et al. Physical Review Letters 130, 076702 (2023) Afanasiev et al. Nature Materials 20, 607 (2021) Hortensius et al. Nature Physics 17, 1001 (2021) Afanasiev et al. Science Advances 7 eabf3096 (2021) Hortensius et al. npj Quantum Materials (2020)



Image: Xavier Ravinet UNIGE

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