

# Contents

|          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Introduction</b>  | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1      | The spin and the electron . . . . .                                  | 2         |
| 1.2      | Magnetic ordering . . . . .  | 2         |
| 1.3      | Antiferromagnetic order . . . . .                                    | 4         |
| 1.4      | Outline . . . . .  | 6         |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Soliton-like textures in non collinear antiferromagnets</b>       | <b>7</b>  |
| 2.1      | Introduction . . . . .   | 7         |
| 2.2      | Basic Model . . . . .  | 8         |
| 2.3      | Spin wave spectra . . . . .  | 9         |
| 2.4      | Soliton-like structures . . . . .                                    | 11        |
| 2.5      | Topological defects . . . . .  | 14        |
| 2.6      | Conclusions . . . . .  | 15        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Antiferromagnetic magnonic crystal</b>                            | <b>17</b> |
| 3.1      | Introduction . . . . .   | 17        |
| 3.2      | Phenomenological theory . . . . .                                    | 18        |
| 3.3      | Antiferromagnetic spin wave bands . . . . .                          | 21        |
| 3.3.1    | Periodically modulated anisotropy . . . . .                          | 21        |
| 3.3.2    | Field mediated magnonic crystal . . . . .                            | 22        |
| 3.4      | Conclusions . . . . .  | 25        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Piezospintronic effect</b>  | <b>26</b> |
| 4.1      | Introduction . . . . .   | 26        |
| 4.2      | Analysis of the direct and converse piezospintronic effect . . . . . | 27        |
| 4.3      | Microscopic theory of the piezospintronic effect . . . . .           | 27        |
| 4.4      | Piezospintronic response of antiferromagnetic graphene . . . . .     | 28        |
| 4.5      | Dirac graphene . . . . .   | 32        |
| 4.6      | Piezospintronic response of antiferromagnetic zinc-blende . . . . .  | 34        |
| 4.7      | Conclusions . . . . .  | 35        |
|          | <b>General Conclusions</b>   | <b>36</b> |
|          | <b>Bibliography</b>  | <b>37</b> |
|          | <b>Appendices</b>  | <b>44</b> |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>A Spin path integral and Berry phase</b>                                  | <b>45</b> |
| A.1 Euclidean action from path integral . . . . .                            | 45        |
| A.2 Berry phase . . . . .  | 47        |
| <b>B Landau-Lifshitz-Gilbert equation</b>                                    | <b>50</b> |
| B.1 The equation . . . . .   | 50        |
| <b>C Action of the kagome lattice</b>  | <b>53</b> |
| C.1 A new order parameter . . . . .  | 53        |
| C.2 Effective action . . . . .   | 55        |
| C.2.1 Kinetic term . . . . .   | 55        |
| C.2.2 Exchange term . . . . .  | 57        |
| C.2.3 Anisotropy term . . . . .  | 58        |
| C.2.4 The Lagrangian . . . . .   | 58        |
| C.2.5 Effective action and non-linear $\sigma$ model . . . . .               | 59        |
| C.3 Spin wave spectra . . . . .  | 60        |
| C.3.1 Euler angles . . . . .   | 60        |
| C.3.2 Perturbation of homogeneous state . . . . .                            | 60        |
| <b>D Sine-Gordon solitons</b>  | <b>62</b> |
| D.1 Sine-Gordon equation from effective theory . . . . .                     | 62        |
| D.2 Solutions of sine-Gordon equation and Bäcklund transformations . . . . . | 63        |
| D.2.1 Brute force solution . . . . .   | 63        |
| D.3 Bäcklund transformation . . . . .  | 64        |
| D.3.1 Bäcklund transformation for SG-E . . . . .                             | 64        |
| <b>E Spin waves of magnonic crystal</b>                                      | <b>66</b> |
| E.1 Spin wave spectra from equations of motion . . . . .                     | 66        |

# List of Figures

|     |  |    |
|-----|--|----|
| 1.1 | Classical cartoon of the intrinsic angular momentum $\mathbf{S}$ of an electron . . . . .  | 2  |
| 1.2 | Cartoons of consequences of exchange interaction between two spins . . . . .   | 3  |
| 1.3 | Cartoons of different kinds of magnetic order . . . . .  | 3  |
| 1.4 | Cartoon of effects of anisotropy on a magnetic chain . . . . .   | 4  |
| 2.1 | (a) Different configurations of a given triangle achieved through different rotations around the out of plane axes. An arbitrary configuration is encoded by a smooth distributions of such rotations. (b) Kagome lattice in the (111) plane in $Mn_3Ir$ where $Mn$ atoms are at each corner of a basis triangle. The basis vectors $\mathbf{n}_1 = (0, 1, 0)$ , $\mathbf{n}_2 = (\sqrt{3}/2, -1/2, 0)$ and $\mathbf{n}_3 = (-\sqrt{3}/2, -1/2, 0)$ defined at every point in the lattice are shown. The vectors $\mathbf{e}_i$ point towards the nearest neighbours of each site. These vectors are used in the gradient expansion in the continuum approximation and are defined as $\mathbf{e}_1 = (\cos \pi/3, \sin \pi/3, 0)$ , $\mathbf{e}_2 = (\cos \pi/3, -\sin \pi/3, 0)$ , and $\mathbf{e}_3 = (-1, 0, 0)$ . . . . . | 10 |
| 2.2 | (a) Homogenous state with all the spins pointing toward the center of the triangles. This state is degenerated with the state with all the spins pointing away from the center of each triangle. (b) Dispersion relations for the spin wave spectrum of the homogeneous state. Solid lines correspond to the case with anisotropy and describe two branches one being a flat band with zero group velocity and another with a Klein-Gordon-like dispersion. Dashed line represent the dispersion relations of the isotropic case. . . . .  | 12 |
| 2.3 | (a) Typical shape of a domain wall in kagome lattice. (b) Numerical fit of the soliton solution, black dots are the result of numerical simulation, red line corresponds to fitted solution $\phi = 2 \tan^{-1}(\exp(x/W))$ . (c) Width dependence on anisotropy. Black dots are numerical results while red dashed line is the fitted curve which has a slope equal to 1/2. . . . .   | 13 |
| 2.4 | (a) Contraction of the width $W$ of a moving DW as function of speed $v$ . The simulations were performed setting the easy axis anisotropy by $K = 0.025J$ , and the hard axis anisotropy by $K_z = 0.1J$ . The results of the Landau-Lifshitz equation shows perfect agreement with the Lorentz contraction factor $\sqrt{1 - (v/c)^2}$ , full line, that can be inferred from the sine-Gordon equation. . . . .  | 14 |
| 2.5 | (a) Time evolution of the orientation $\phi$ in the case of a breather state with frequency $\omega = 0.25$ . The results correspond to the solution of the Landau-Lifshitz equation with the same parameters as in Fig.2.4. The color code is the same as the one used for the DW. (b) Snapshot at time (1) and (2) showing the orientation of the local moments in the texture. . . . .  | 15 |

|     |  |    |
|-----|--|----|
| 2.6 | (a) Cartoon of a <i>lump</i> texture, given by the parameterization $\mathcal{R}(\eta, \hat{z})\mathbf{n}_r$ , where $\eta(r) = 2 \arctan[\exp(r - R)/W]$ . This is an example of a trivial 2D texture. While this solution is stable, has no topological protection at all so it can be continuously deformed to the homogeneous state. (b) Cartoon of a class 1 disgyration. This solution is topologically protected because of the non-trivial homotopy $\pi_1(SO(3))$ , then is not possible to reach the homogeneous state adiabatically. As this state is not localized, his energy grows with the size of the system. . . . .  | 16 |
| 3.1 | (a) Spin wave dispersion relation for the homogeneous antiferromagnet. Without anisotropy the relation is dispersionless (dashed line). Addition of anisotropy raises a gap and changes the dispersion relation to the Klein-Gordon form (full line). In both cases the dispersion relation is doubly degenerated reflecting the two possible polarizations of the spin wave. (b) Addition of a homogeneous magnetic field splits the degeneracy and creates different dispersion relations ( $\omega_{\circlearrowleft}$ and $\omega_{\circlearrowright}$ ) for the two opposite polarizations. (c) and (d) Illustration of the two polarizations for the spin wave. The disturbance is perpendicular to the equilibrium staggered magnetization vector ( $\mathbf{n}_0$ ) and precesses in a clockwise or anti-clockwise sense. . . . .  | 20 |
| 3.2 | (a) Model system for a magnonic crystal, a heterostructure with changing anisotropy, illustrating the geometric features. (b) Simple effective potential that represents the effect of the modulated anisotropy. With the choice of units given in the text, the potential is characterized by a reference anisotropy equal to unity and deviations from it equal to $\delta\kappa$ . (c) Left: Magnonic dispersion relation for $\alpha = 1.0$ , $\beta = 0.5$ and $\delta\kappa = 10$ . Bands are doubly degenerated in account for the different polarizations. Bands of forbidden frequencies are highlighted. Right: Same situation under the action of a uniform magnetic field $h = 0.3$ . The degeneracy between the different polarization states is broken. (d) Some features of the band structure are displayed as a function of $\beta/\alpha$ . Top: Bandwidth of the first bands is displayed for different values of the crystal, full lines correspond to $\alpha = 1$ and dashed lines to $\alpha = 2$ . The black and blue lines correspond to $\delta\kappa = -0.5$ and $\delta\kappa = 3.0$ respectively. Bottom: With the same parameters we display the bandgap between the first and second bands. . . . . | 23 |
| 3.3 | (a) Arrangement of wires on top of a two-dimensional antiferromagnetic sample. The magnetic field they generate form a magnonic crystal; (b) The system is characterized by spatially modulated magnetic field that oscillates between two extrema $\pm h$ within a period $\alpha$ ; (c) Left: band structure for $\alpha = 1$ , $\kappa = 1$ and $h = 0.5$ . Right: Band structure for $h = \kappa = 1$ . The lowest band minimum reaches zero, signaling the spin-flop instability; (d) As a function of the magnetic field strength we display the band structure parameters. Top: The band gap for $\alpha = 2, 3, 4$ , and $5$ ; Bottom: band width of the first band for the same parameters. . . . .   | 24 |
| 4.1 | Symmetry analysis of honey-comb (graphene) lattice . . . . .   | 29 |
| 4.2 | First neighbours of a honey-comb lattice . . . . .   | 30 |

|     |  |    |
|-----|--|----|
| 4.3 | Berry curvature along the first Brillouin zone. This is the integrand of Eq. 4.21. The integral of this function will lead to the piezospintronic response of an antiferromagnetic graphene layer. . . . .   | 32 |
| 4.4 | Result of the numerical integration of $\mathbf{A}_{z,y}^{t_3}$ for antiferromagnetic graphene as function of local energy $\Delta$ . This result and the symmetry relations given for $\mathbf{A}$ in Eq. (4.13) the whole piezospintronic response is described. . . . .   | 32 |
| 4.5 | Result of the direct integration of $\mathbf{A}_{z,y}^{t_3}$ for in the long wavelength limit as function of local energy $\Delta$ (red curve). The blue curve is the numerical solution shown in Fig. 4.4. The maximum (minimum) values of the curves are equal to $2\pi/3$ ( $-2\pi/3$ ) as we expect from Eq. 4.27. . . . .   | 33 |
| 4.6 | Antiferromagnetic zinc-blende unit cell . . . . .  | 34 |
| 4.7 | Result of the numerical integration of $\mathbf{A}_{z,z}^{t_1}$ for antiferromagnetic zinc-blende as function of local energy $\Delta$ . With this result and the symmetry relations given in Eq. 4.28 the whole piezospintronic response is characterized. . . . .  | 35 |
| A.1 | Cartoon of the Berry phase $\omega$ . The area enclosed by the path followed by $\mathbf{\Omega}$ in a cycle is proportional to the flux of magnetic field generated by a magnetic monopole. By Stokes theorem this area is proportional to the line integral of the vector potential $\mathbf{A}$ along the boundary $\Gamma$ . . . . .   | 48 |
| B.1 | Time resolved dynamics of a single magnetic moment $\mathbf{S}(t)$ described by the LLG equation. The direction of the magnetic moment is represented by the black arrow. The green arrow correspond to the effective field $\mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}}$ which arises from the contributions to the Hamiltonian. The blue arrow represents the Gilbert damping direction which induces the magnetic moment to align with the effective field. In absence of damping the magnetic moment just precesses around the effective field and never aligns along the effective field. . . . . | 52 |
| C.1 | Cartoon of the vectors utilized in the continuum expansion. In black are the vectors $\hat{e}_i$ , these vectors are used in the expansion of the value of $\mathbf{S}$ in the continuum approximation. $\hat{e}_1 = (\cos \pi/3, \sin \pi/3, 0)$ , $\hat{e}_2 = (\cos \pi/3, -\sin \pi/3, 0)$ , $\hat{e}_3 = (-1, 0, 0)$ . The distance between triangles is $2a$ . . . . .   | 54 |
| C.2 | Cartoon of the definition of Euler angles. This angles are used in the calculation of the spin wave spectra of the system. . . . .   | 60 |