Advances in observation of linear and nonlinear magnon spectra

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Wave interactions are responsible for the various aspects of the behavior of different systems in nature, including processes in the Earth's ocean and atmosphere, dynamics of stars, and even the evolution of the Universe. Spin waves (and their quanta–magnons) in magnetically ordered materials are highly nonlinear compared to, for example, phonons or photons in solids. One of the most suitable systems for studying magnons is single-crystalline ferrimagnetic yttrium iron garnet (YIG, $Y_3Fe_5O_{12}$) and in particular, films made out of it. The strong nonlinearity, combined with the high quality factor of magnons in YIG, facilitates the observation of various types of nonlinear interaction processes [1–3]. For example, the phenomenon of Bose-Einstein condensation of magnons at the bottom of their frequency spectrum, observed in YIG films [4,5], has provided significant assistance in these studies. In our experiments, this condensation was achieved by the parametric pumping of magnons with microwave radiation.

In the currently presented study, I will show the construction of a 3D-printed setup for 2D wavevector-resolved Brillouin light scattering spectroscopy. Using this setup, it became possible to directly measure for the first time the full spin wave dispersion of thin YIG film in 2D. Also, we were able to register the results of several novel nonlinear processes that involve not only "real" quasiparticles (the eigenmodes of the medium) but produce as a final product virtual quasiparticles (out-of-spectrum waves) caused by various types of nonlinear interactions. The most nontrivial and intriguing process involves a pair of parametrically excited magnons and a partially coherent Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC). This process is enhanced by full phase correlations in parametric magnon pairs with opposite wavevectors [6].

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05.06.2023 at 15:00

Seminarraum 55, Boltzmanngasse 5, 1st floor, 1090 Wien