

Memory of frozen and rotatable antiferromagnetic spins in epitaxial CoO(111)/Fe and NiO(111)/Fe bilayers



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Trieste, Italy

T. O. Menteş

F. Genuzio (CERIC)

A. Locatelli

- **Antiferromagnets - motivation**
- **Introduction:** Spin reorientation transition in **ferromagnet** as a tool to control magnetic state of AFM overlayers
- **XMCD and XMLD**
- **Frozen AFM spins in CoO(111)/Fe(110)**
- **Rotatable AFM spins in NiO(111)/Fe(110)**
- **AFM vortex states in individual NiO(111)/Fe(110) nanostructures**
- **Summary**

Antiferromagnets - motivation

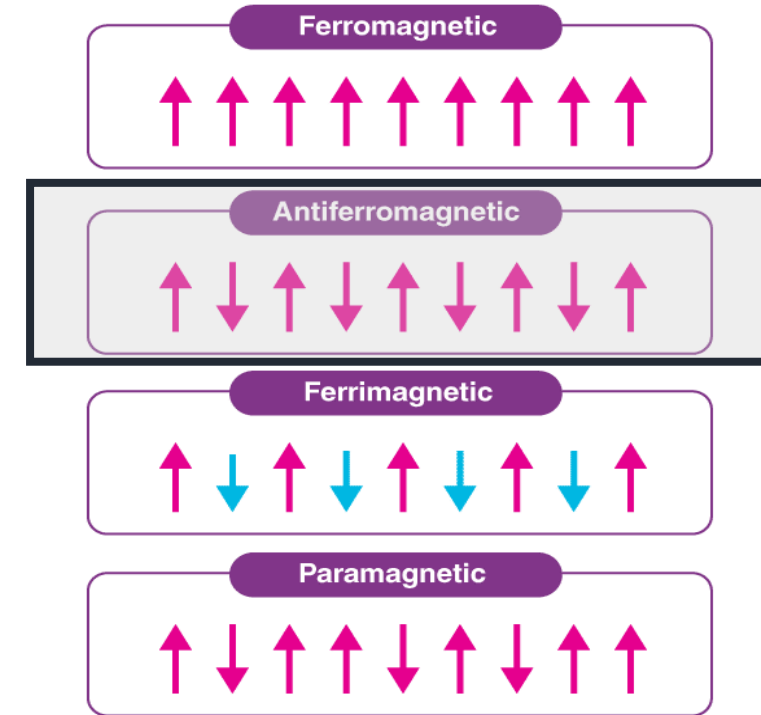
LOUIS NÉEL

Magnetism and the local molecular field

Nobel Lecture, December 11, 1970



„They are **extremely interesting** from the theoretical viewpoint, but **do not seem to have any applications**”



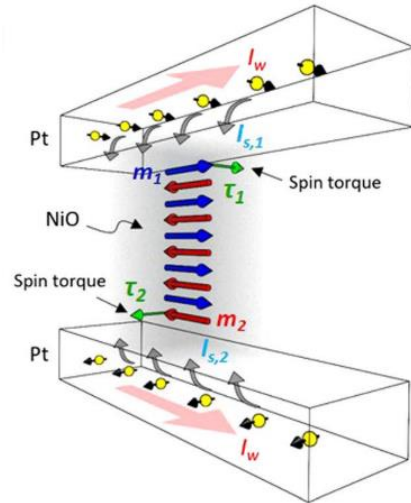
The 2020 magnetism roadmap

E. Y. Vedmedenko et al 2020 J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.53 453001

„the future of spintronics is related to new materials, with **antiferromagnets** as promising nominees.”

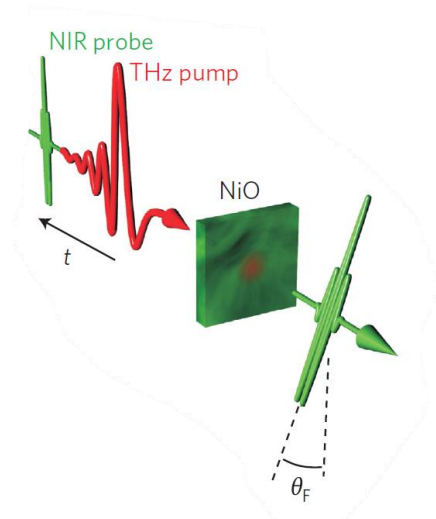
- robust against external magnetic fields
- produce no stray fields
- display ultrafast dynamics
- large magnetotransport effects

Electrical control



Moriyama T. et al., *Sci. Rep.* **8**, 14167 (2018)

Optical control



Kampfrath T., et al. *Nat. Photon.*, **5**, 31-34 (2011)

nature
nanotechnology

REVIEW ARTICLE

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 3 MARCH 2016 | DOI: 10.1038/NNANO.2016.18

Antiferromagnetic spintronics

T. Jungwirth^{1,2*}, X. Marti¹, P. Wadley² and J. Wunderlich^{1,3}

How can we control
magnetic state in
AFMs?

IOP Publishing

Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology **29** (2018) 112001 (20pp) <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6528/aaa812>

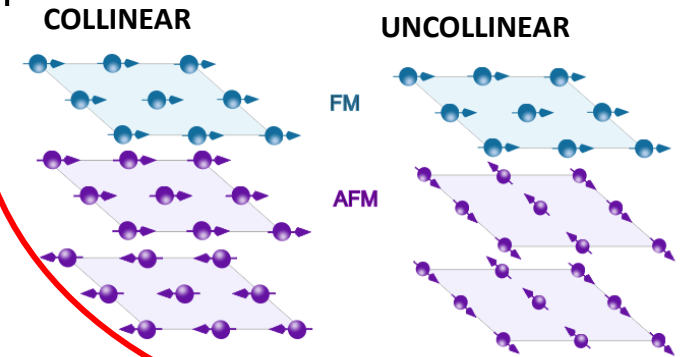
Topical Review

How to manipulate magnetic states of antiferromagnets

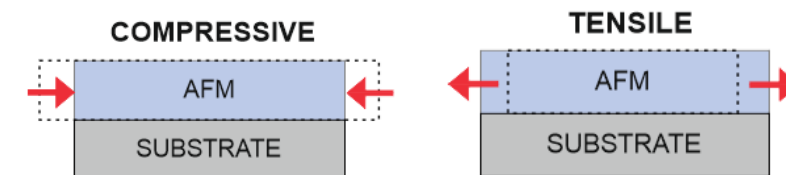
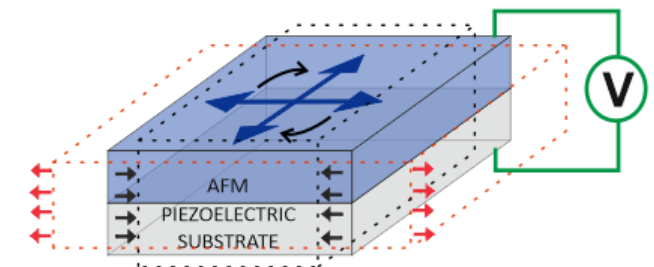
Cheng Song^{1,2,4}, Yunfeng You¹, Xianzhe Chen^{1,2}, Xiaofeng Zhou^{1,2}, Yuyan Wang³ and Feng Pan^{1,2,4}

Magnetic control

Strong external magnetic field
Exchange coupling at FM/AFM interface



Strain control



Discovery of *exchange bias*

Phys. Rev., 105, 904 (1957)

New Magnetic Anisotropy

W. H. MEIKLEJOHN AND C. P. BEAN

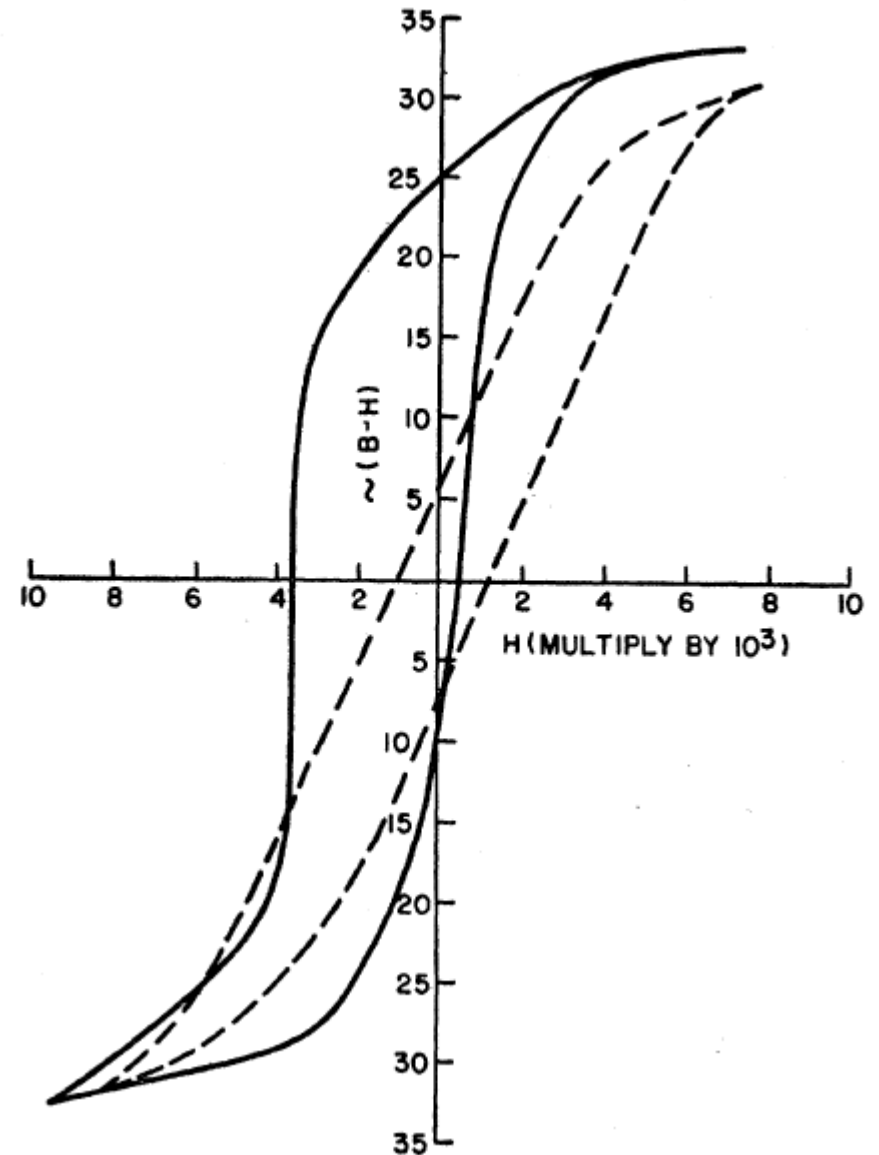
General Electric Research Laboratory, Schenectady, New York

(Received March 7, 1956)

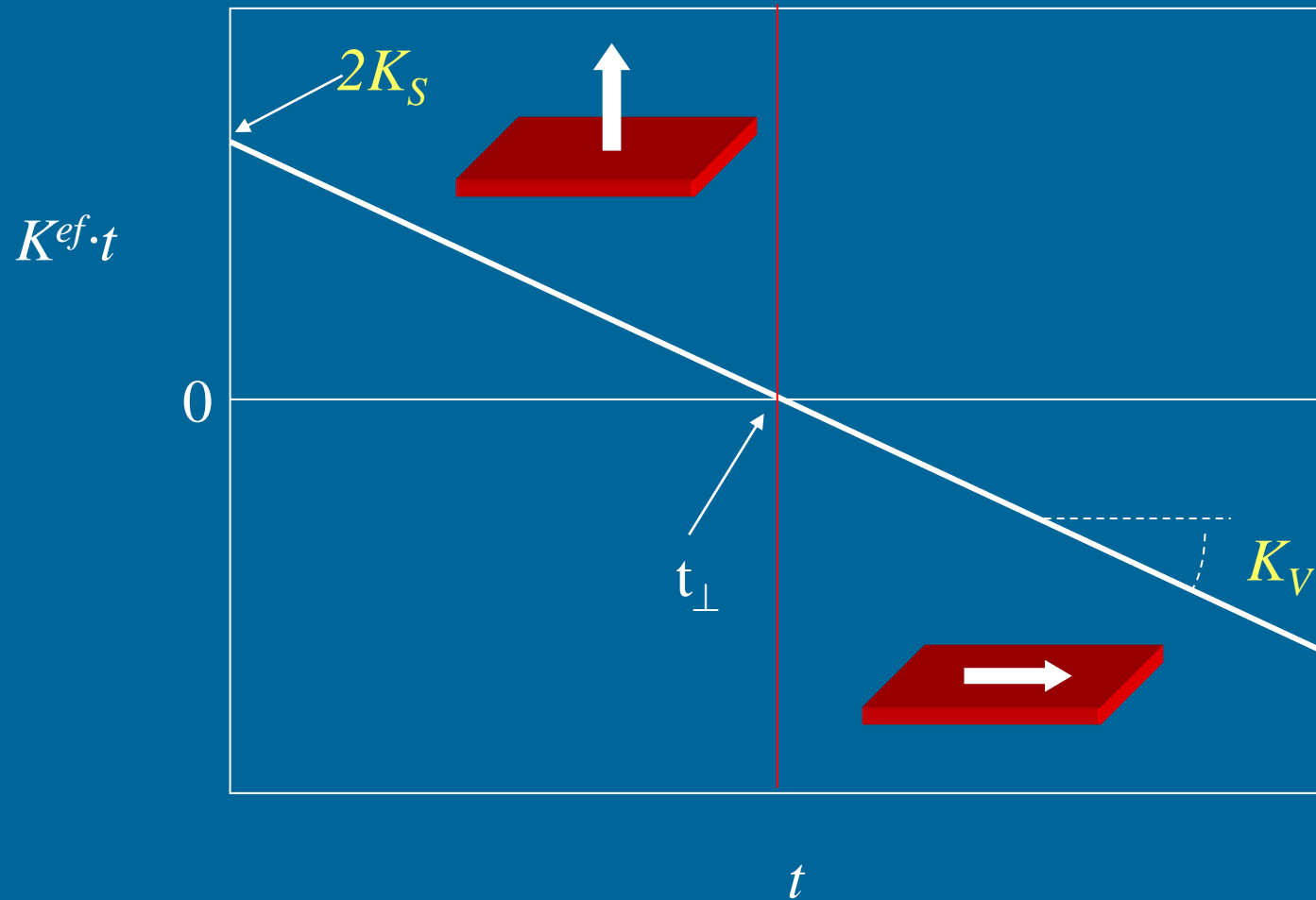
Co particles embedded in their native
antiferromagnetic oxide CoO

W. H. Meiklejohn and C. P. Bean, Phys. Rev. 102, 1413 (1956).

W. H. Meiklejohn and C. P. Bean, Phys. Rev. 105, 904 (1957).



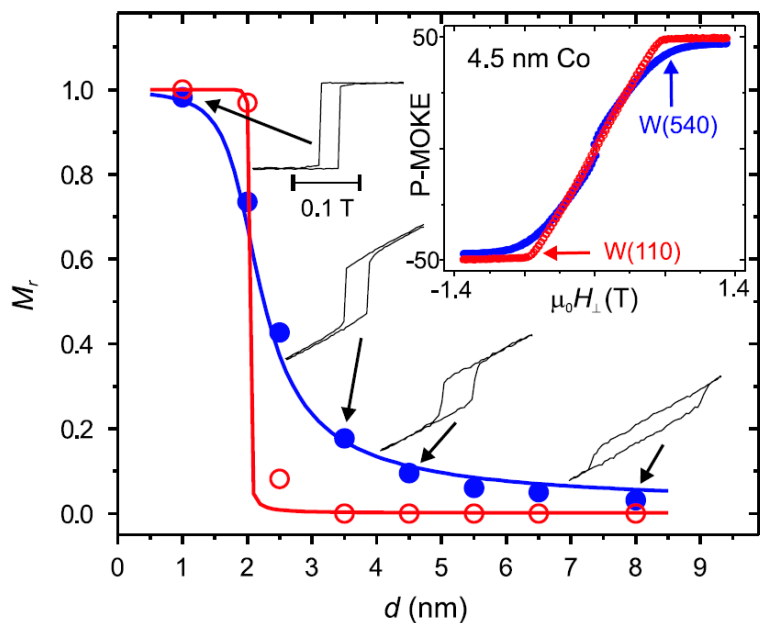
Reorientacja spontanicznego namagnesowania wywołana zmianą grubości **FERROMAGNETYKA**



$$K^{ef} t = K_V t + 2K_S$$

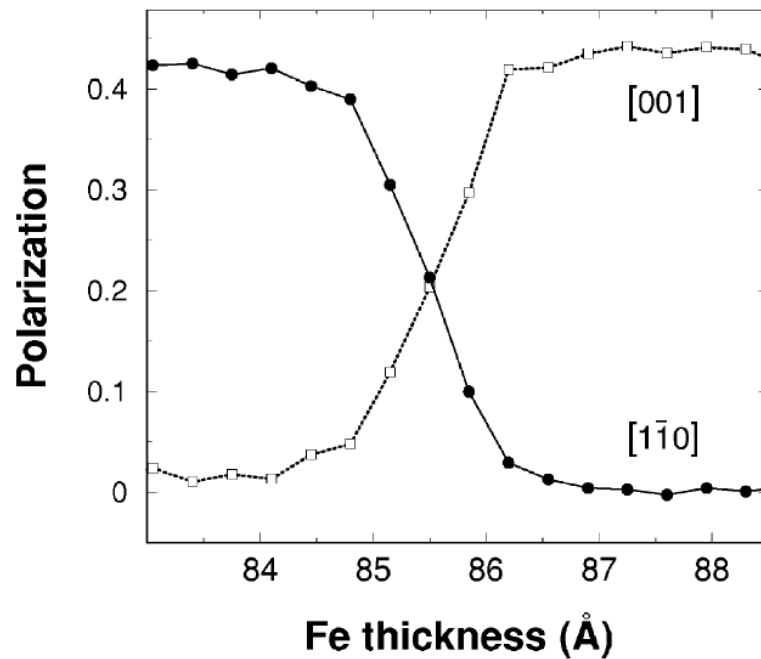
Thickness induced SRT:

out-of-plane to in-plane
Co/Au(111)



PRL 101, 217202 (2008)

in-plane to in-plane
Fe/W(110)

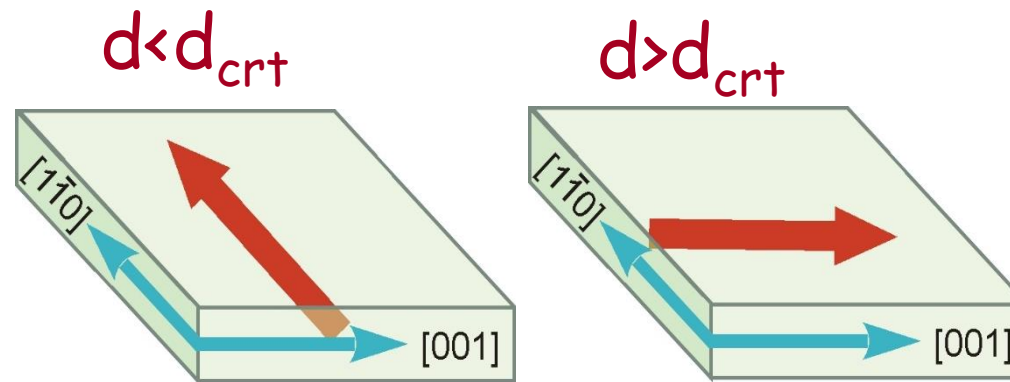
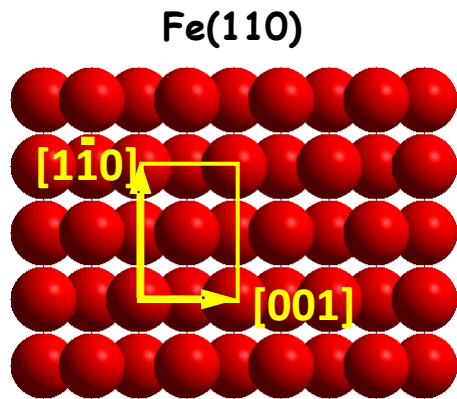


PHYSICAL REVIEW B 67, 075401 (2003)

Introduction

Spin Reorientation Transition in Fe/W(110)

Thickness induced in-plane SRT

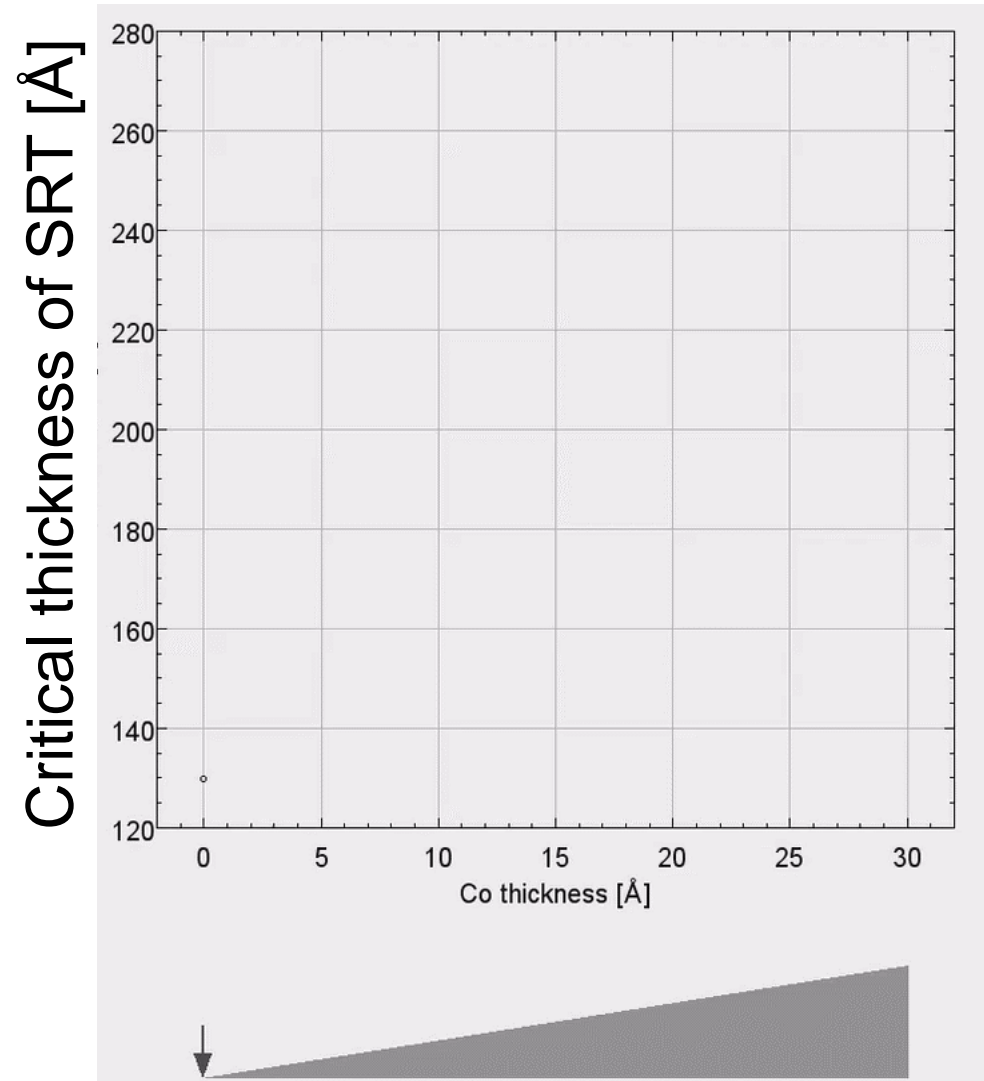


$d_{\text{crt}} \sim 60 \text{ \AA}$
for RT growth of Fe

Gradmann et al., Appl. Phys. A 39, 101-108 (1985)

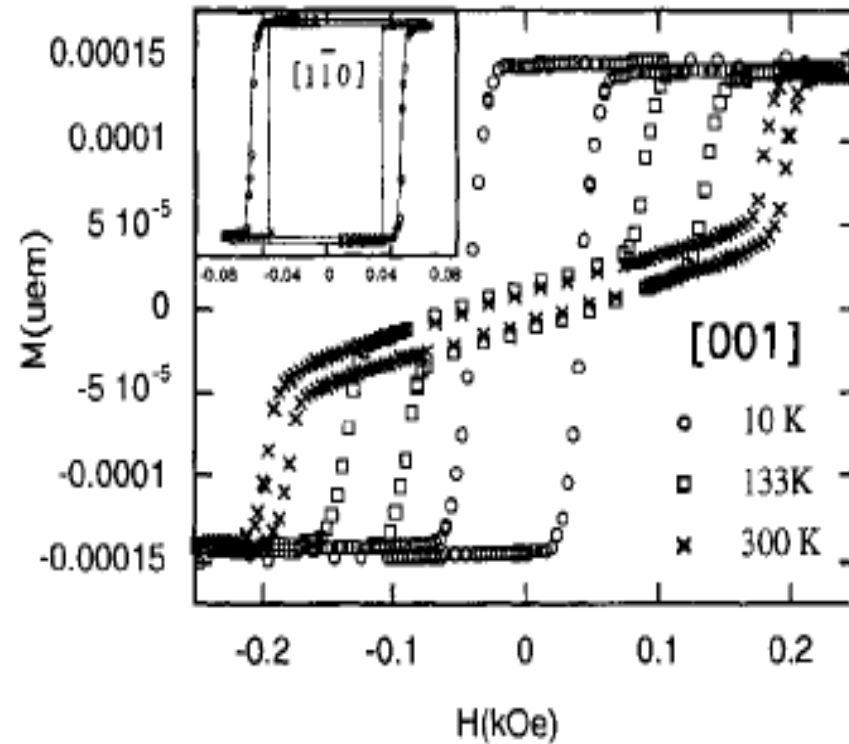
Introduction

Magnetic Anisotropy and SRT in Co/Fe(110)



Temperature induced SRT in Fe(110)

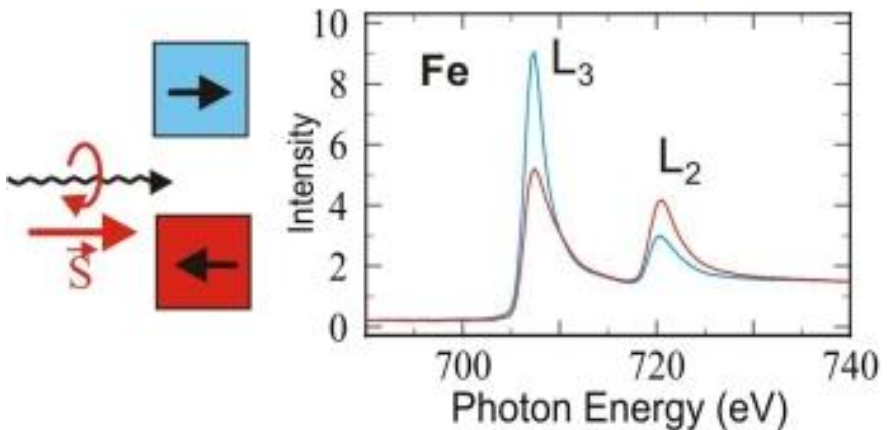
$d = 60 \text{ \AA}$



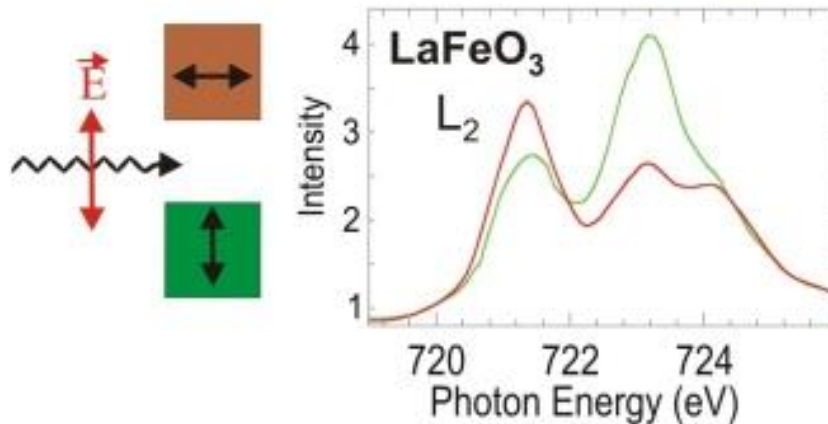
Fruchart et al., *JMMM* 165 (1997) 508-511
Baberschke et al. *PRB* 47 (1993) 11204

XMCD and XMLD

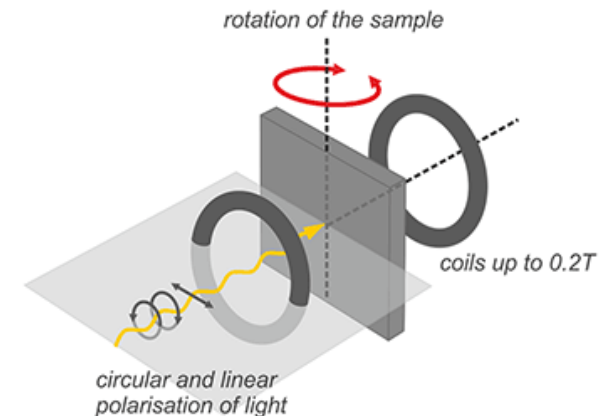
Circular Dichroism - Ferromagnets



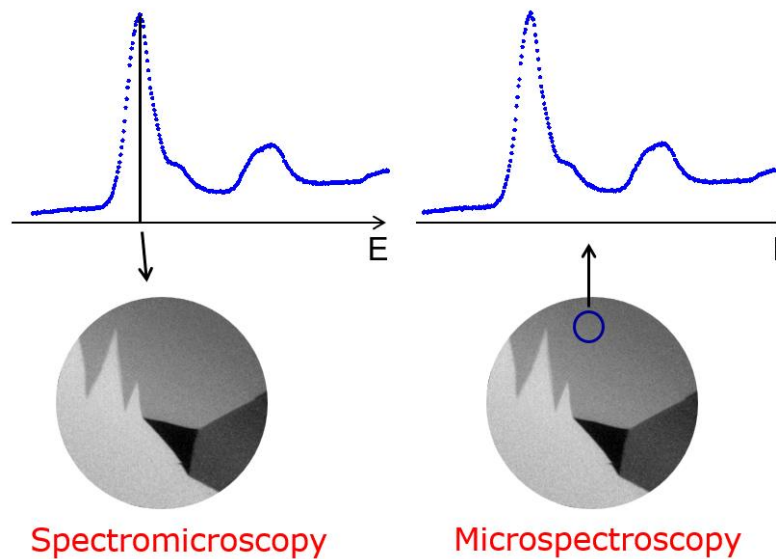
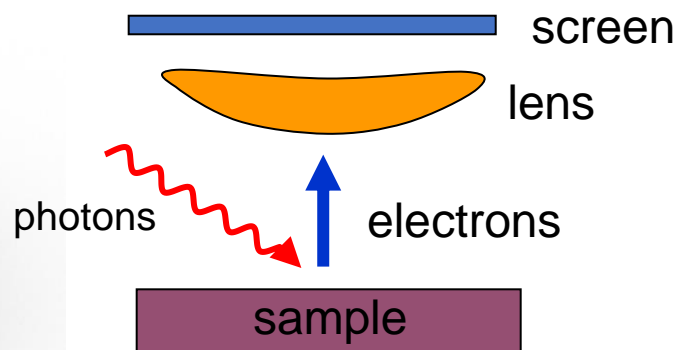
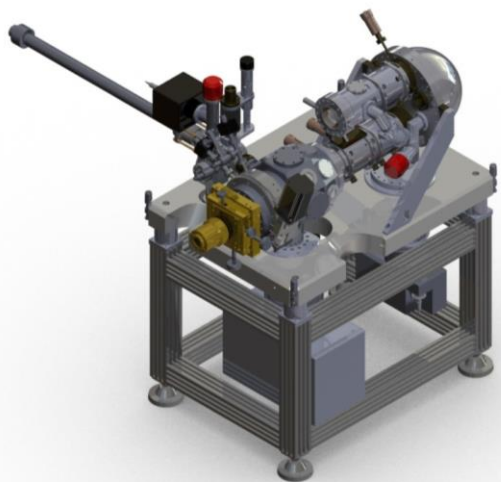
Linear Dichroism - Antiferromagnets



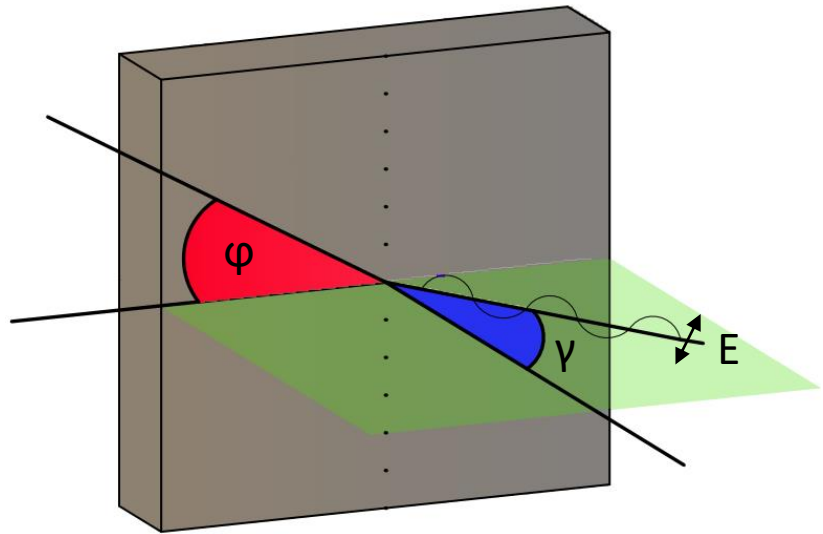
PIRX end-station



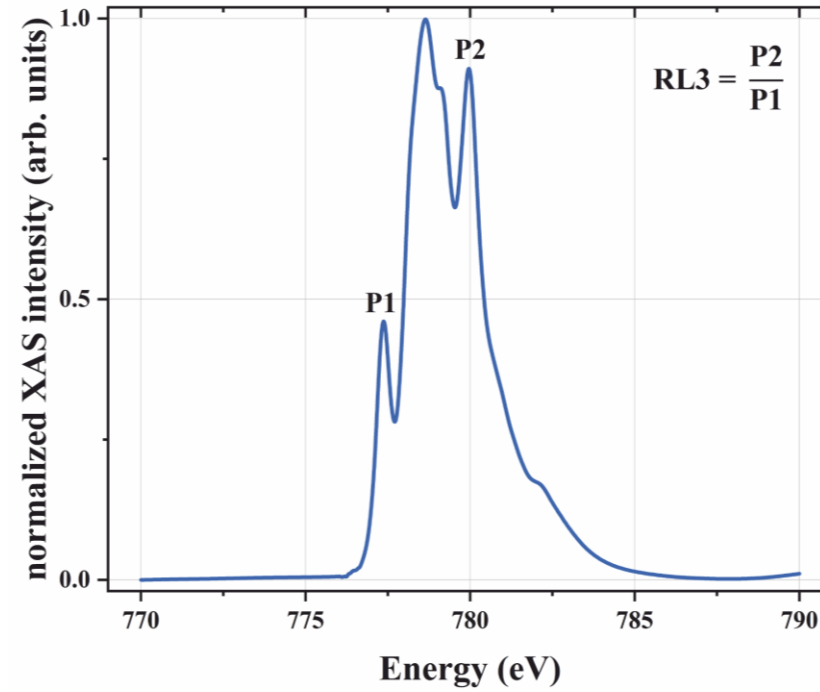
DEMETER (Solaris)
Nanospectroscopy (Elettra)



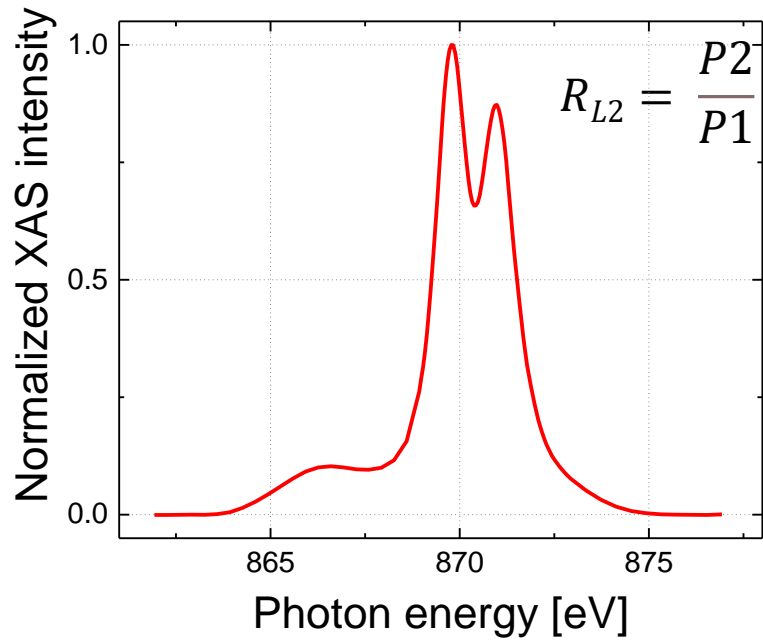
XMLD: CoO and NiO



CoO

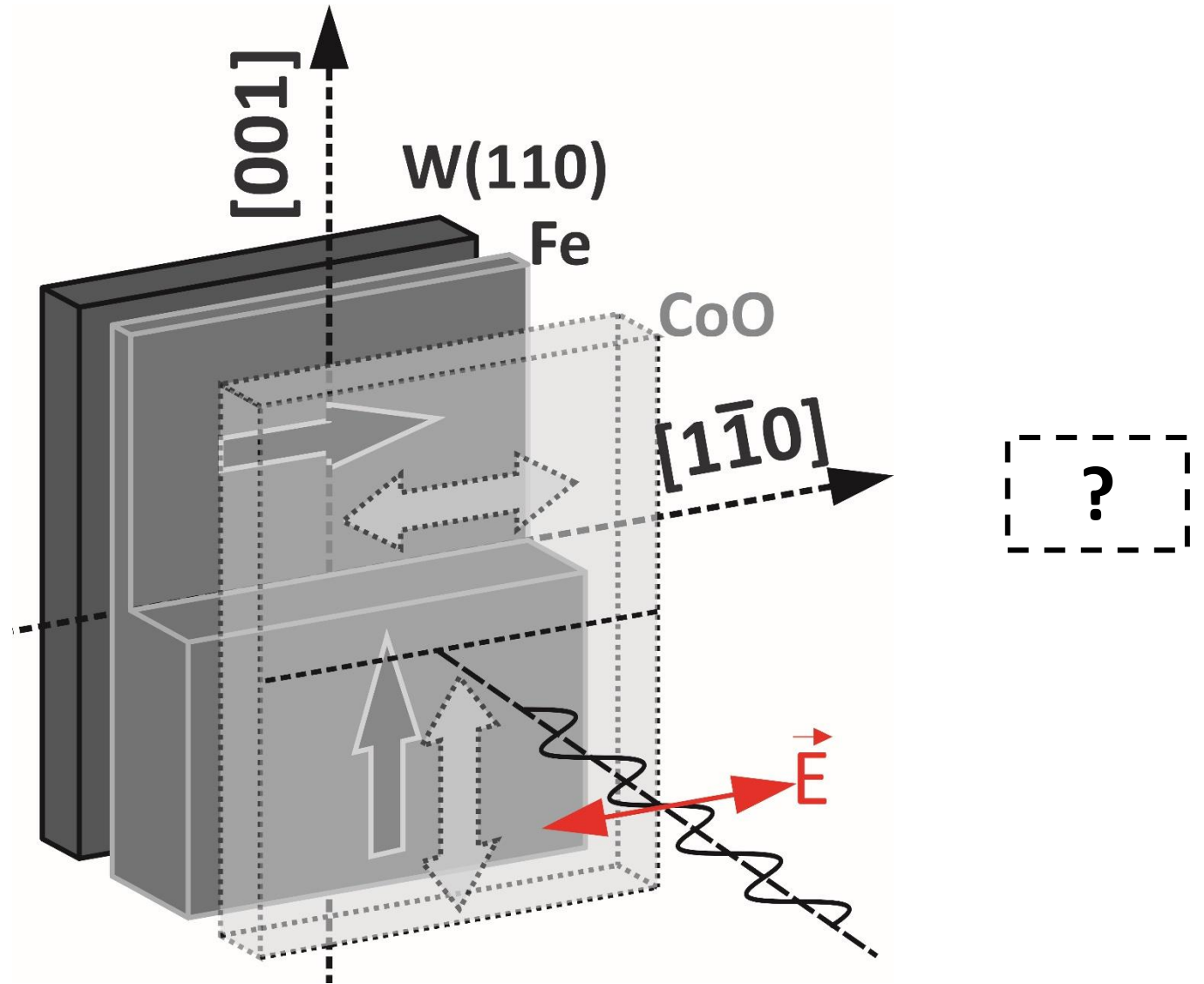
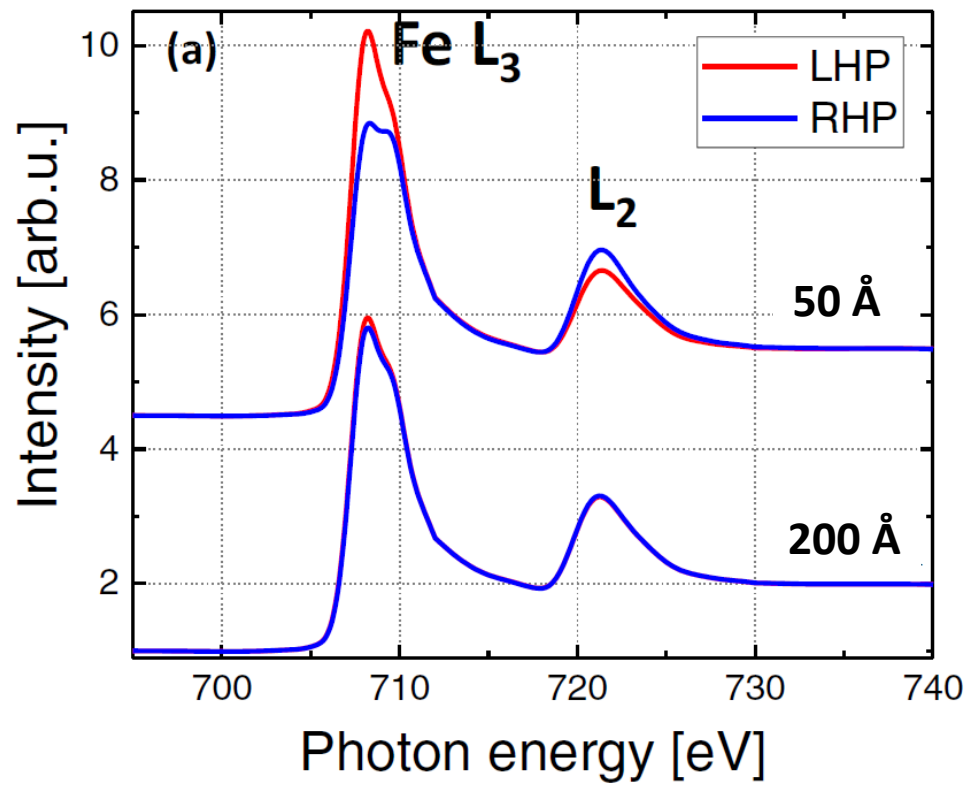


NiO

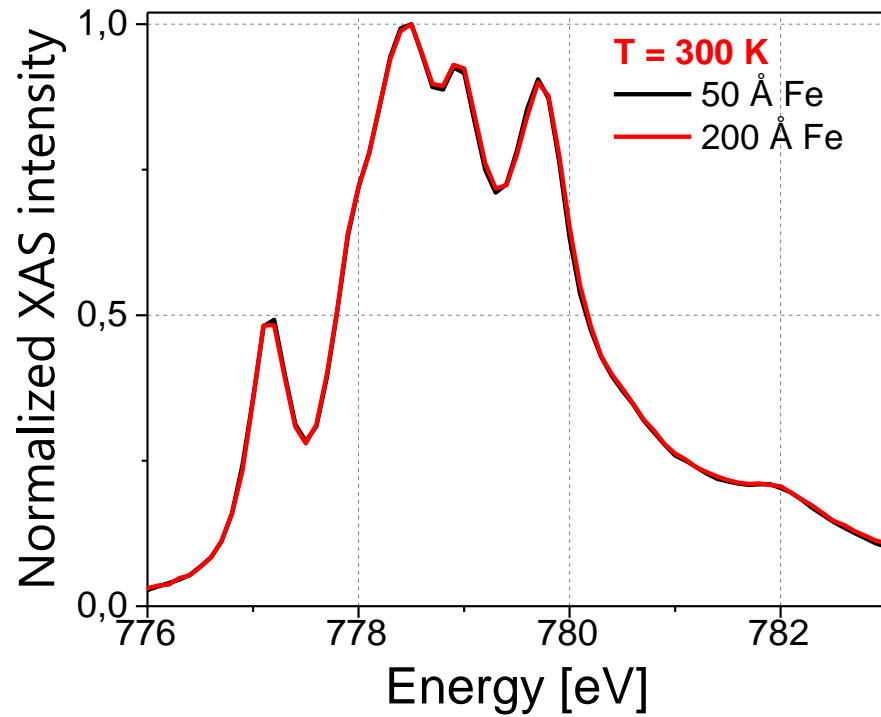


CoO(111) on Fe(110)

Looking for SRT in antiferromagnetic CoO



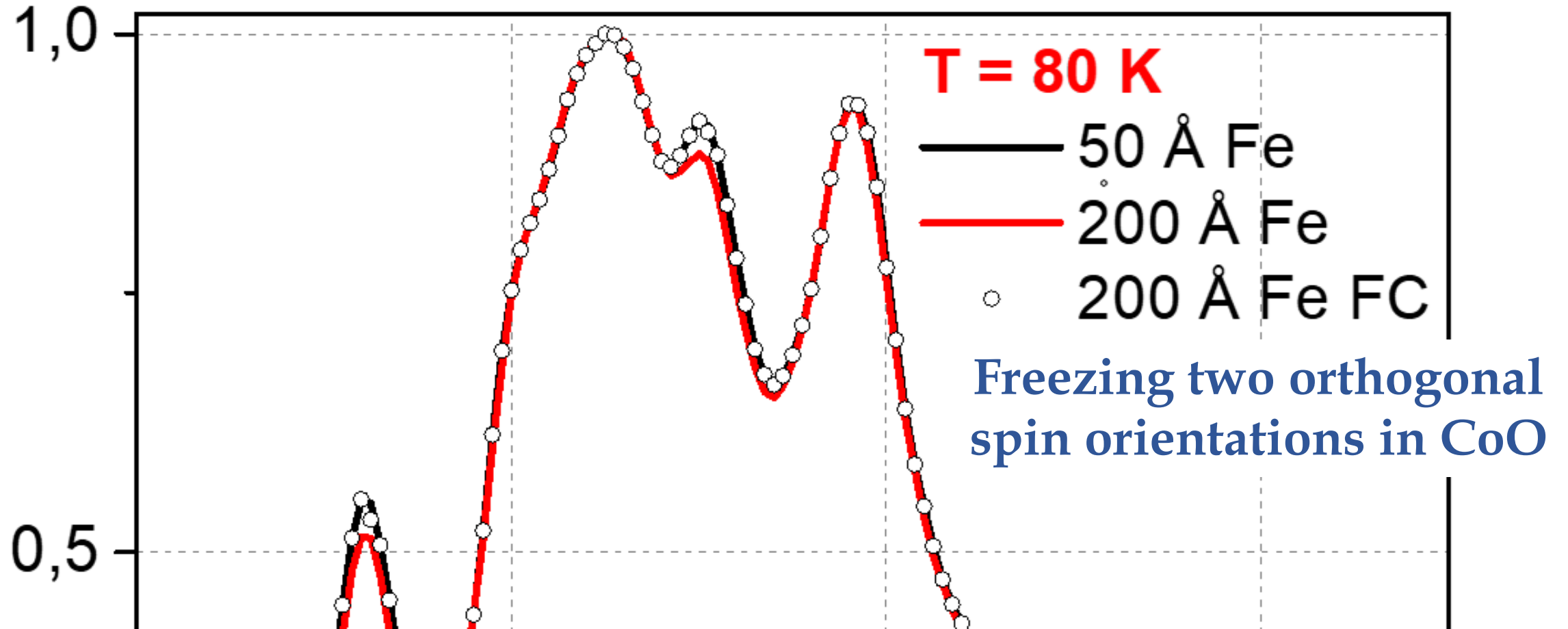
Freezing AFM spins in CoO(111)?



M. Ślęzak, T. Ślęzak, P. Drózdź, B. Matlak, K. Matlak, A. Koziół-Rachwał, M. Zając, J. Korecki, **Scientific Reports** 9 (2019) 889

M. Ślęzak, P. Drózdź, W. Janus, M. Szpytma, H. Nayyef, A. Koziół-Rachwał, M. Zając, T. Ślęzak, **Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials** 545 (2022) 168783

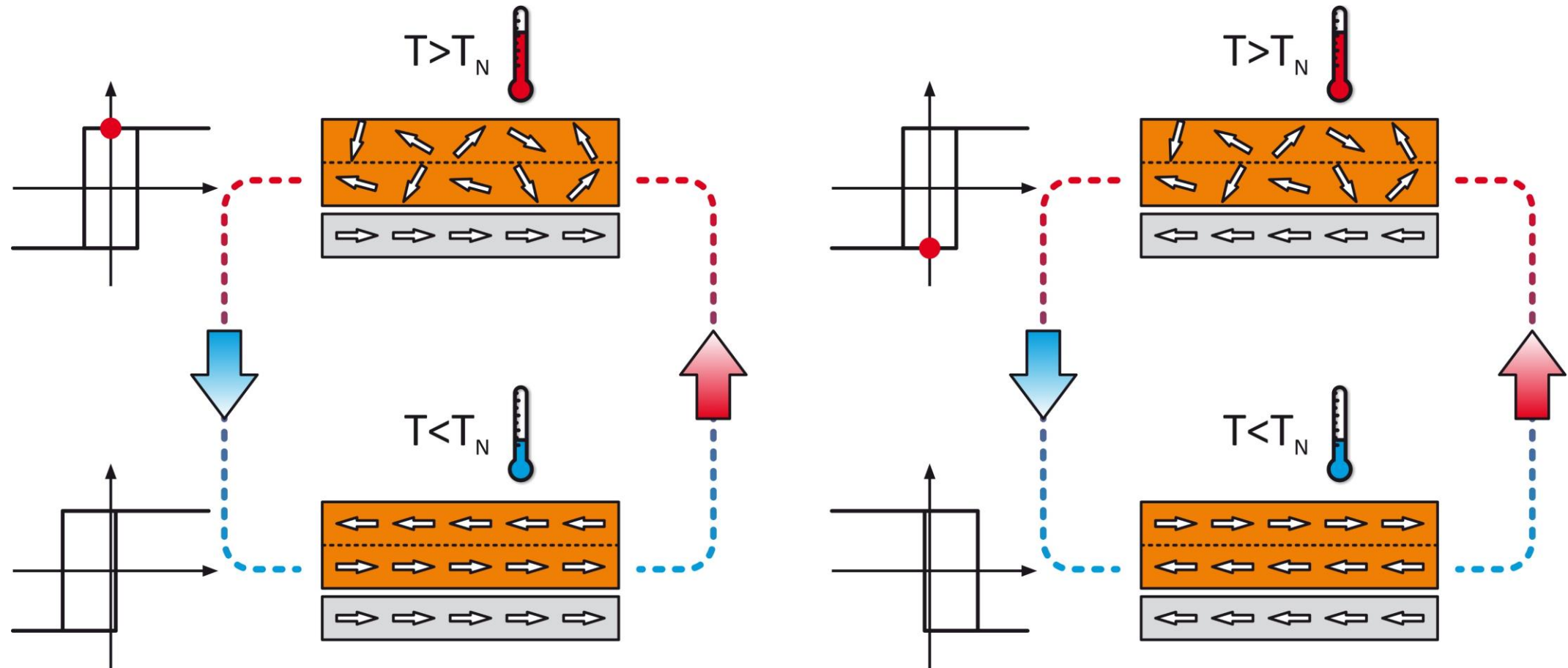
Freezing AFM spins in CoO(111)?



Can we freeze two 180° orientations of
interfacial CoO spins?

**XMLD is blind
but MOKE is sensitive \rightarrow exchange
bias**

Frozen antiferromagnetic spins of CoO(111)

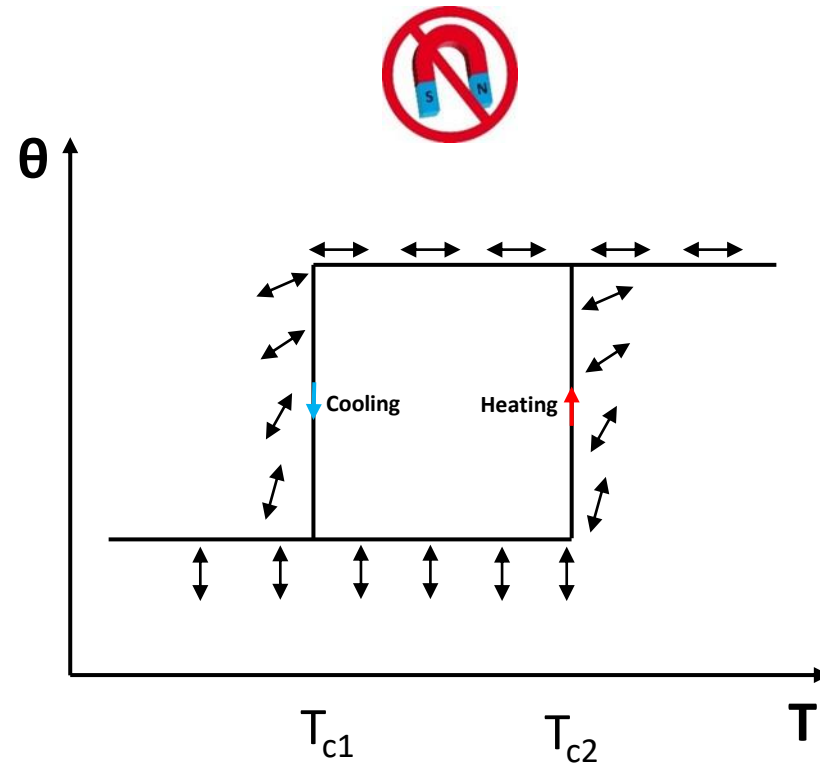
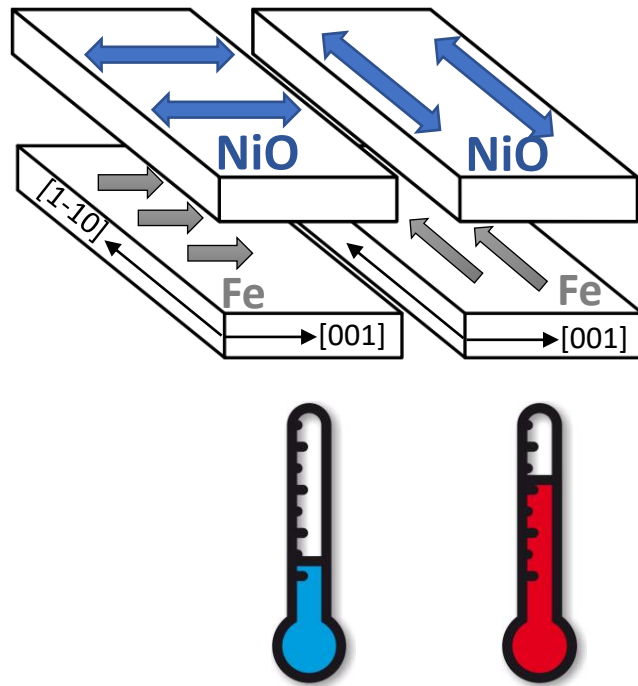


NiO(111) on Fe(110)

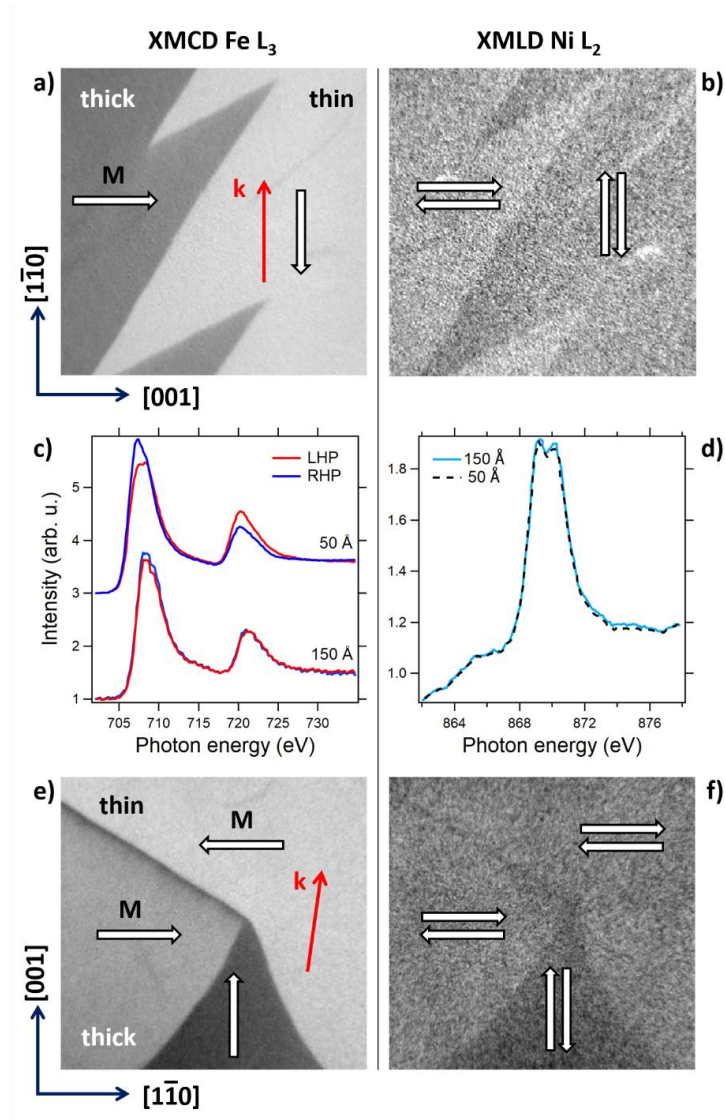
NiO(111)/Fe(110):

field-free switching of AFM spins in a **uniform** thickness system

Idea



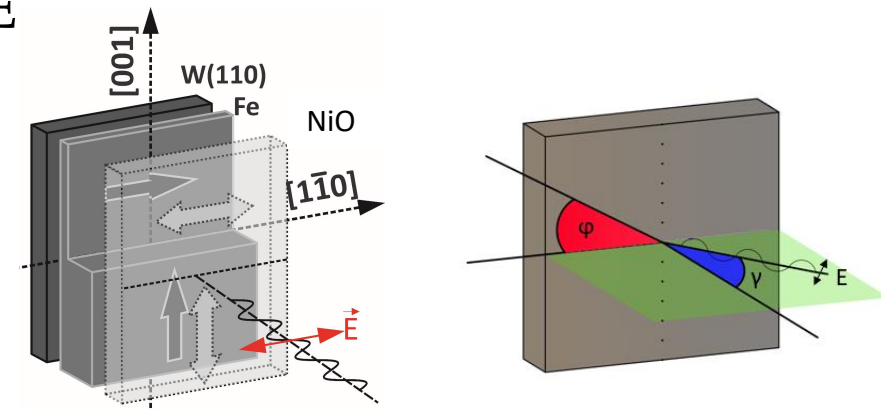
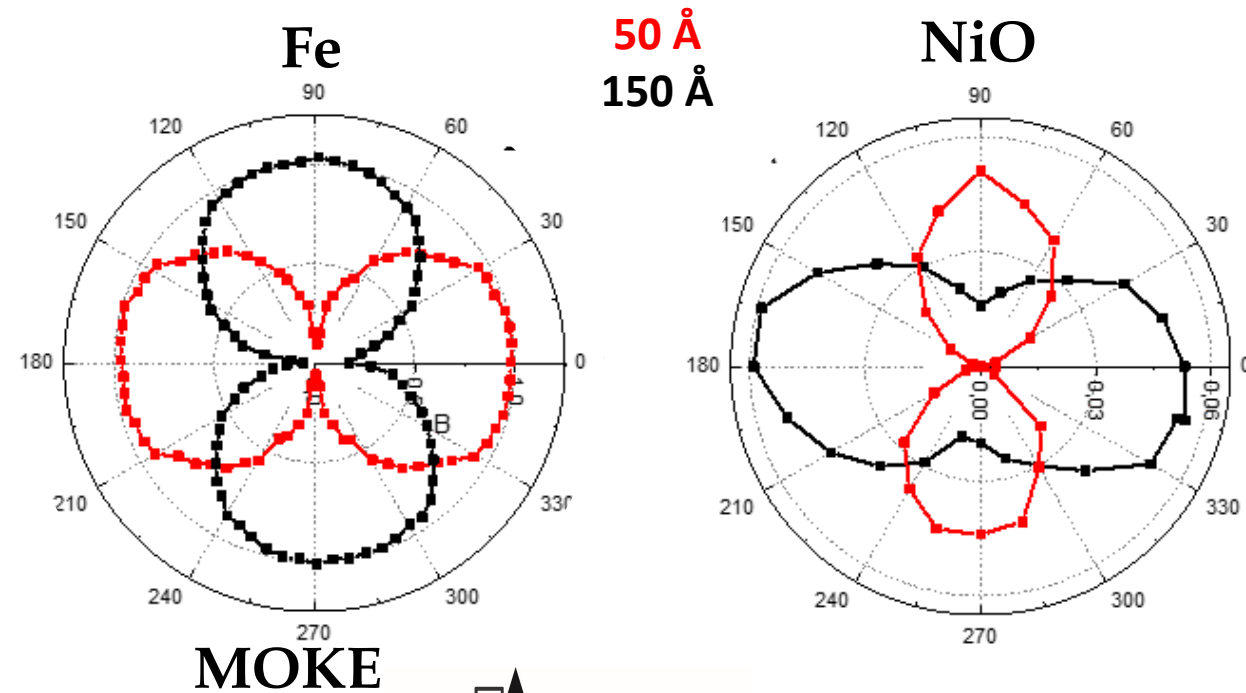
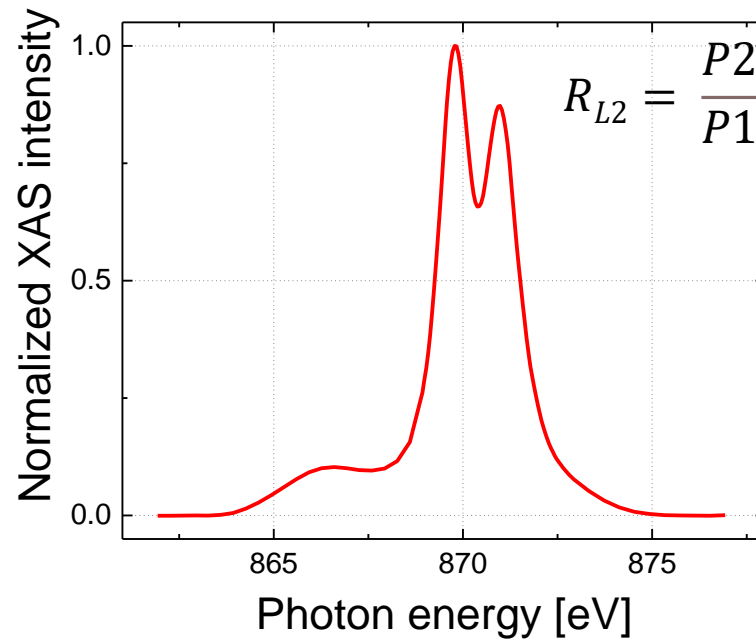
NiO(111)/Fe(110): SRT seen by XPEEM



XMLD-PEEM at Nanospectroscopy
beamline (Elettra, Trieste)

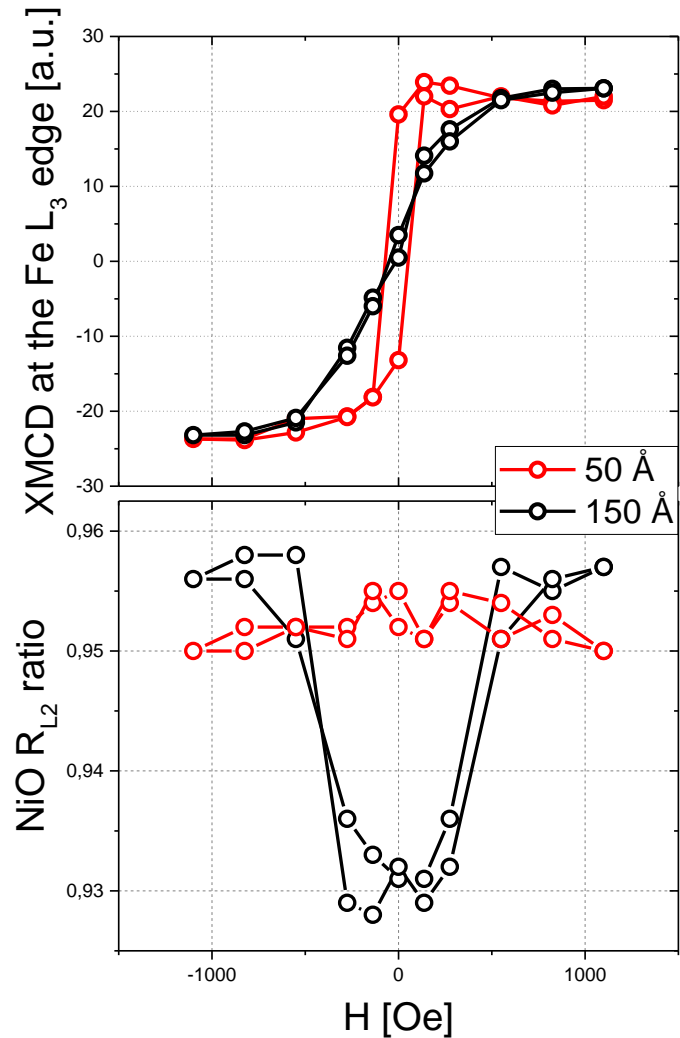
NiO(111)/Fe(110): m. anisotropy and rotatable AFM spins

NiO **in-plane** magnetic anisotropy determined by Fe

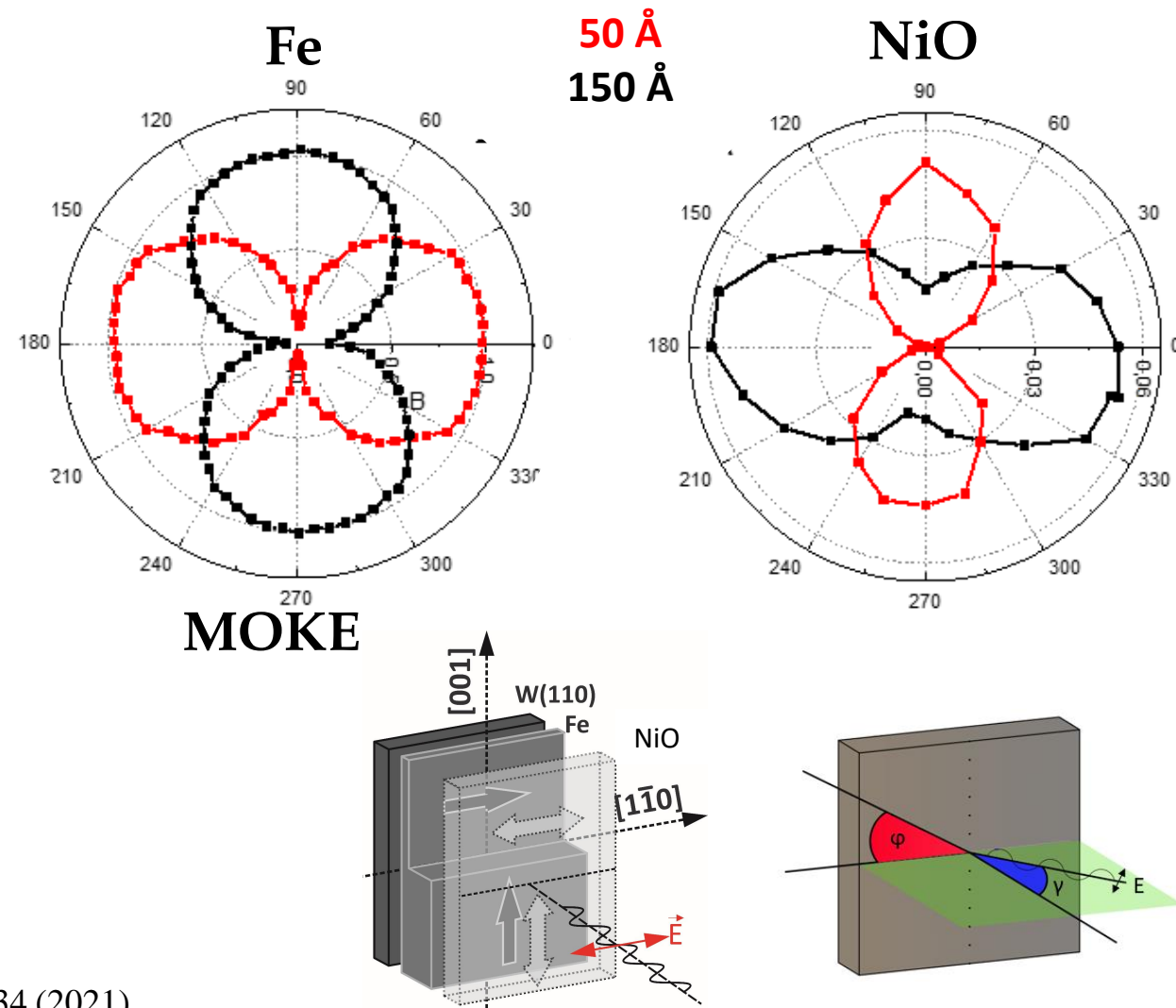


NiO(111)/Fe(110): m. anisotropy and rotatable AFM spins

Rotatable NiO spins

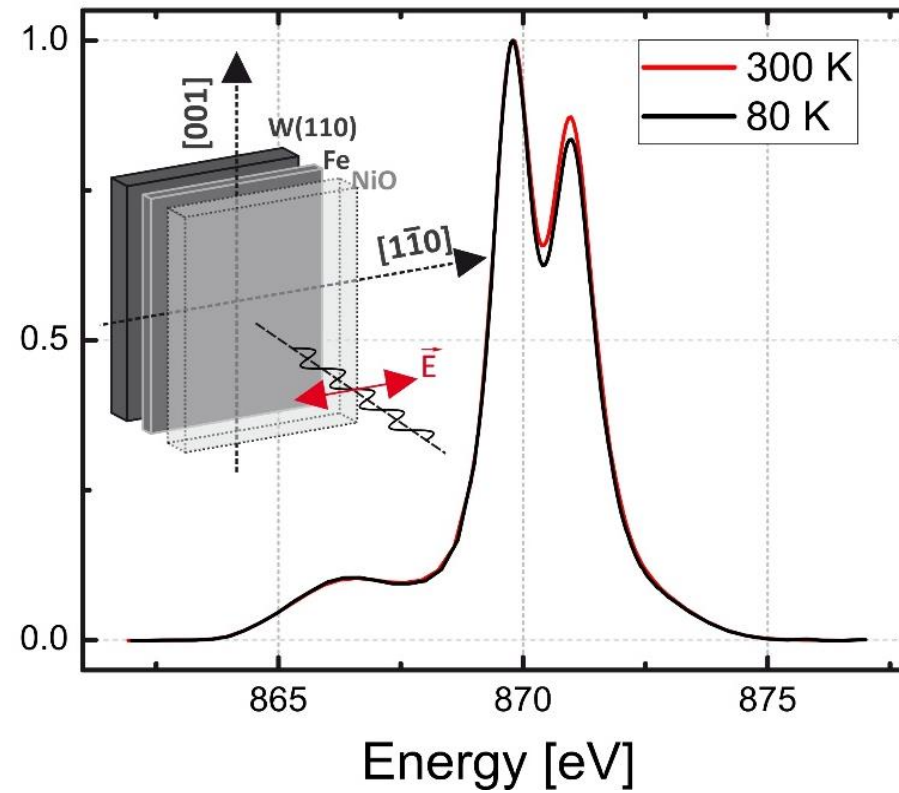


NiO **in-plane** magnetic anisotropy determined by Fe

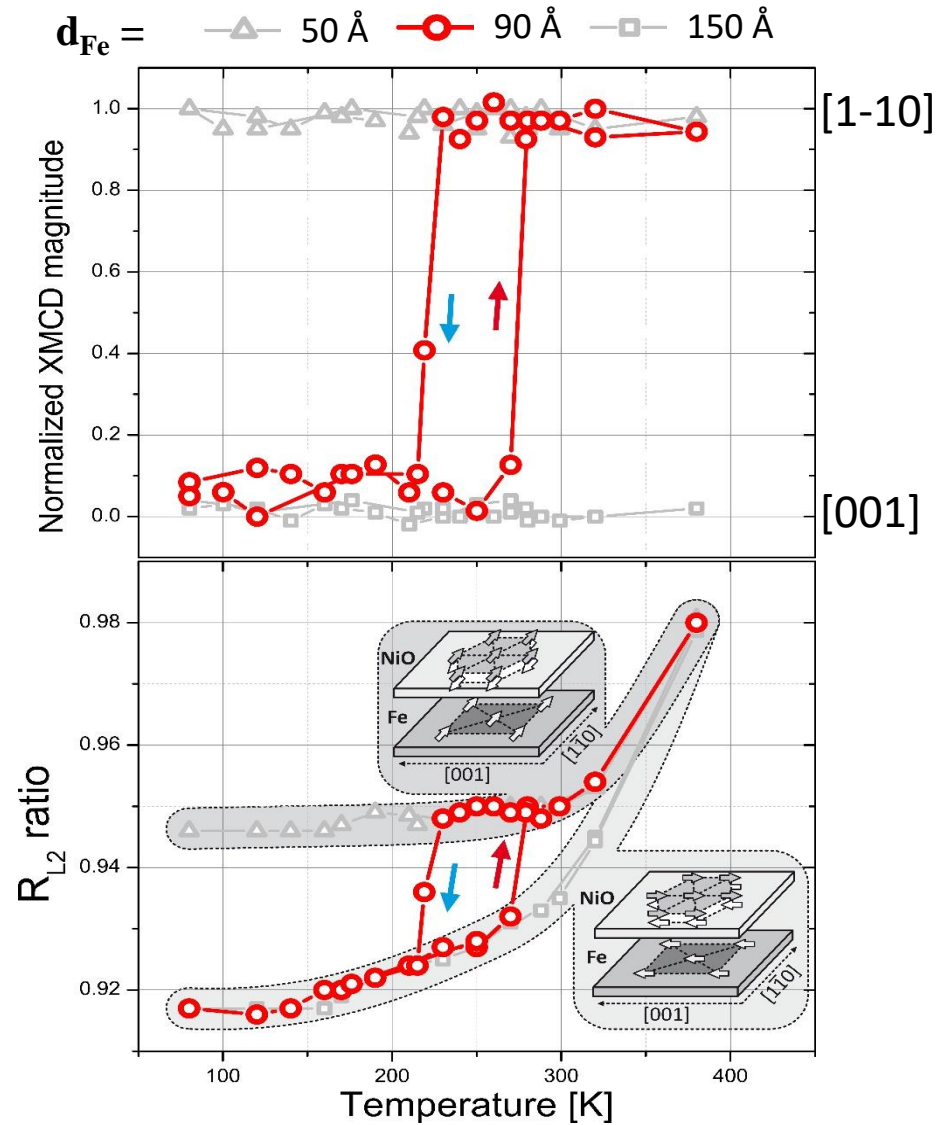


Temperature induced SRT in AFM

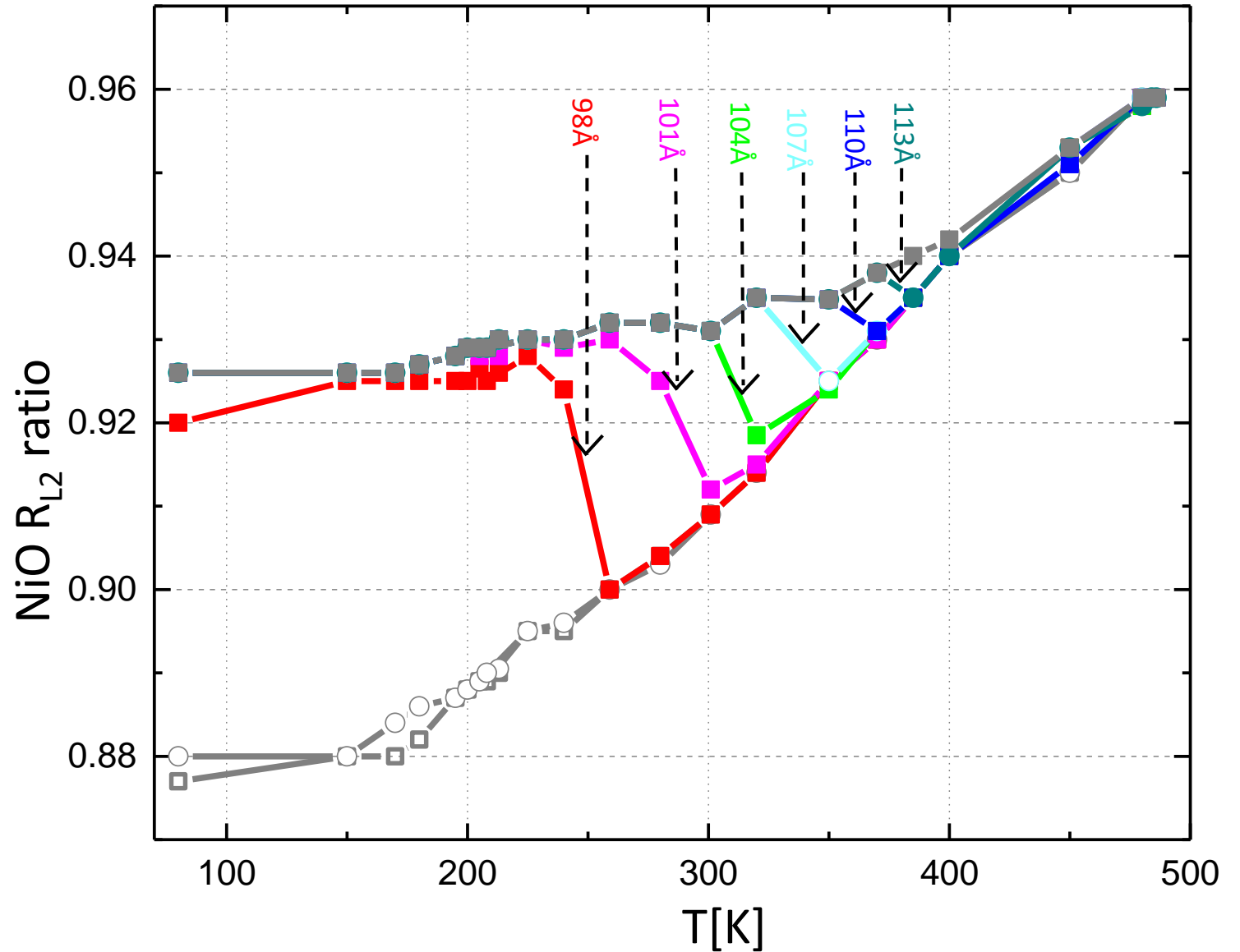
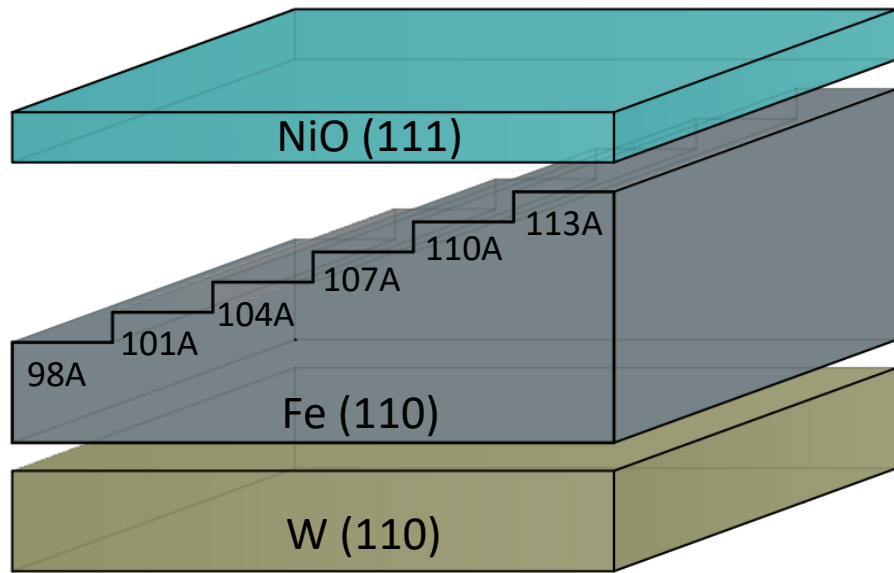
Temperature induced SRT in
NiO on Fe(110)



Field-free switching of AFM spins

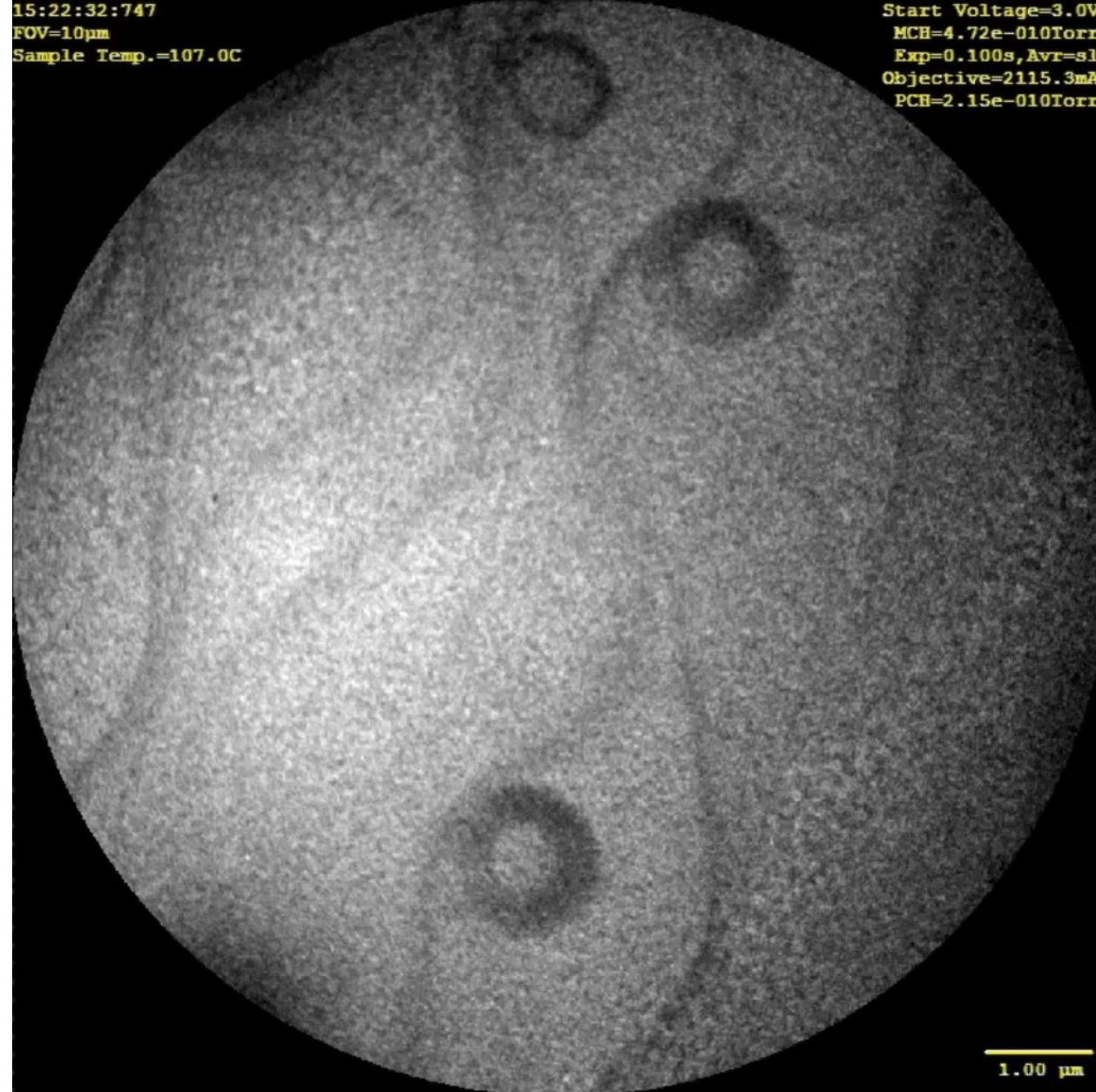


Can we tune NiO switching temperature?

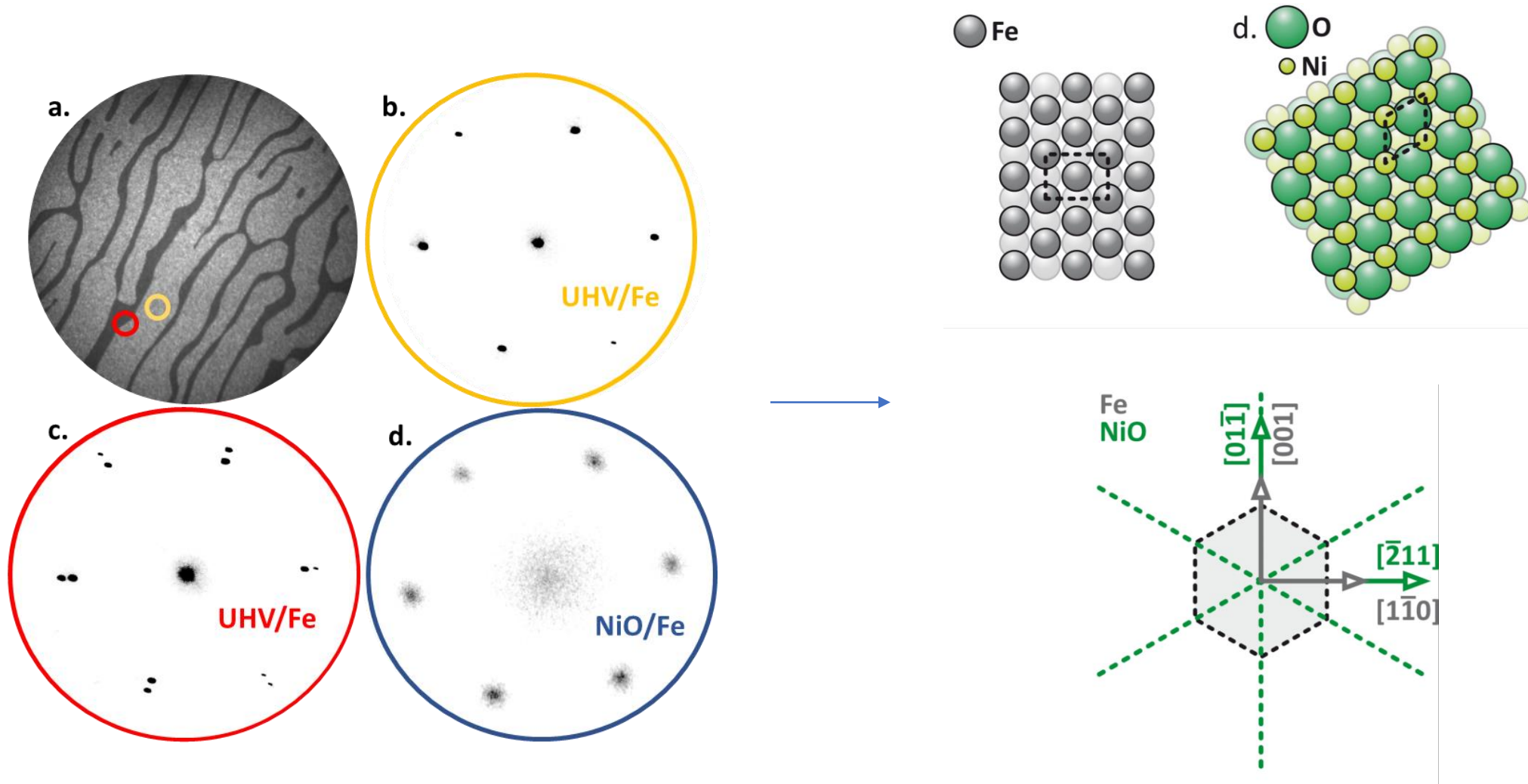


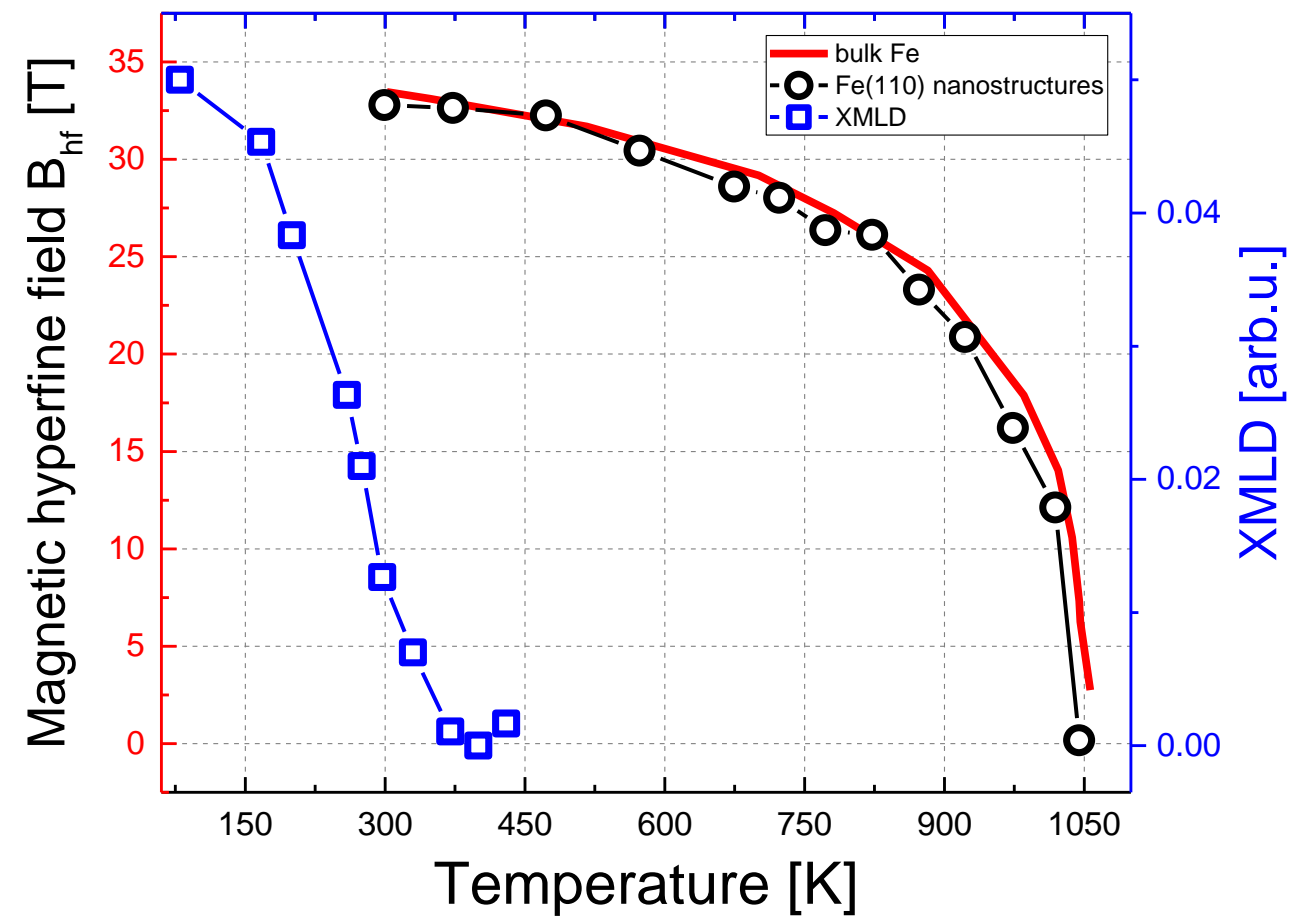
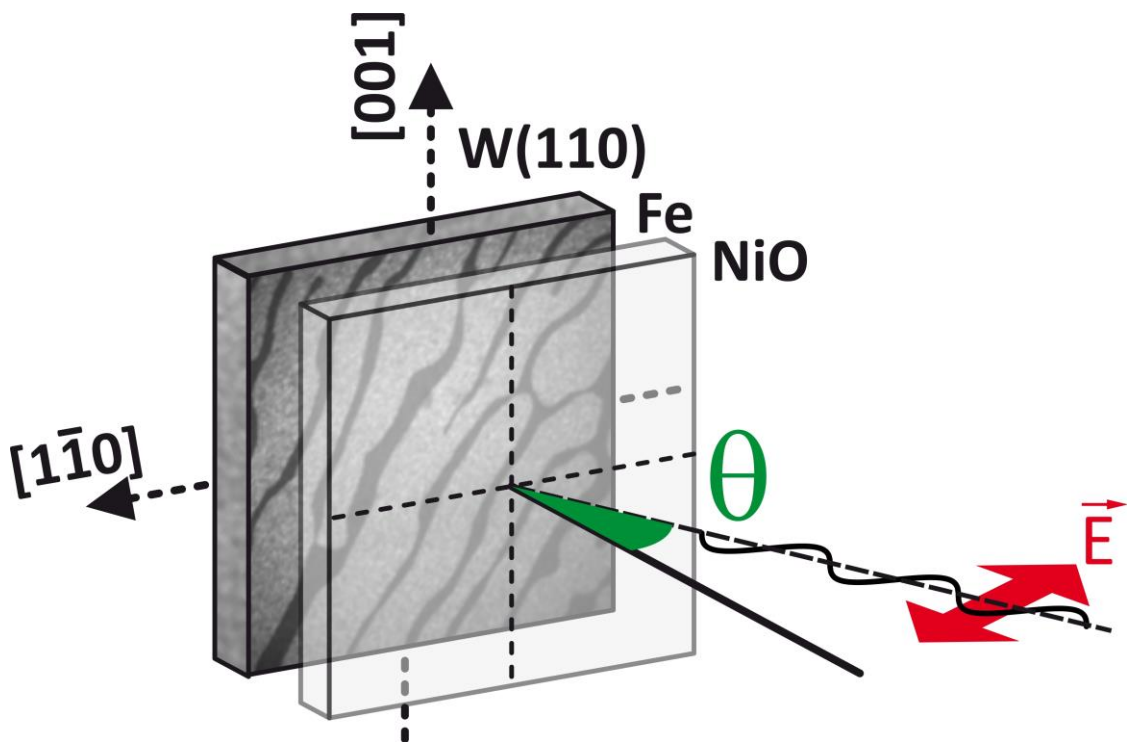
Looking on individual nanostructures

LEEM movie recorded during annealing of 5 atomic layers of Fe on W



LEEM and μ LEED for local crystal structure determination

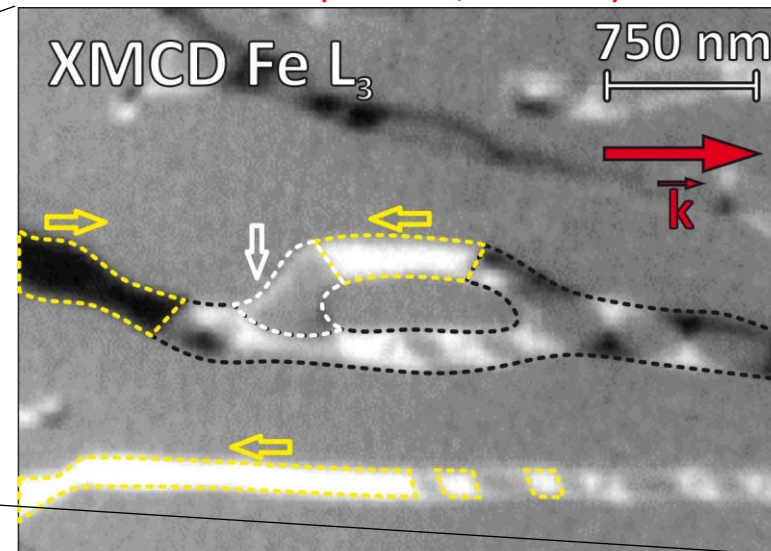
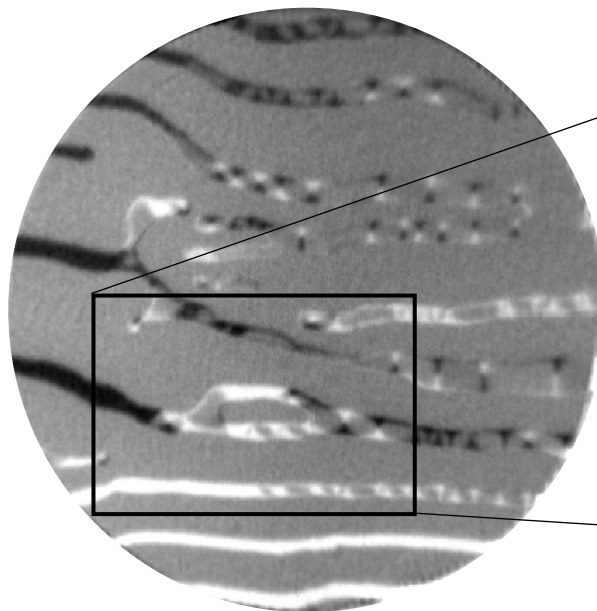




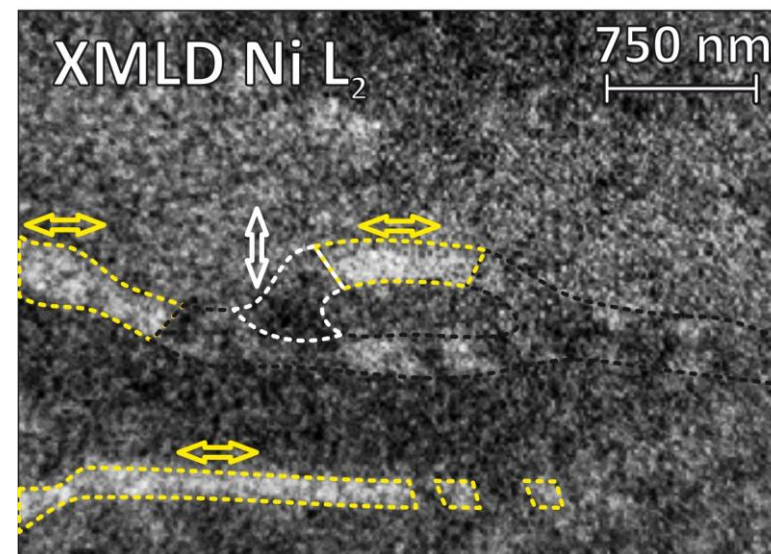
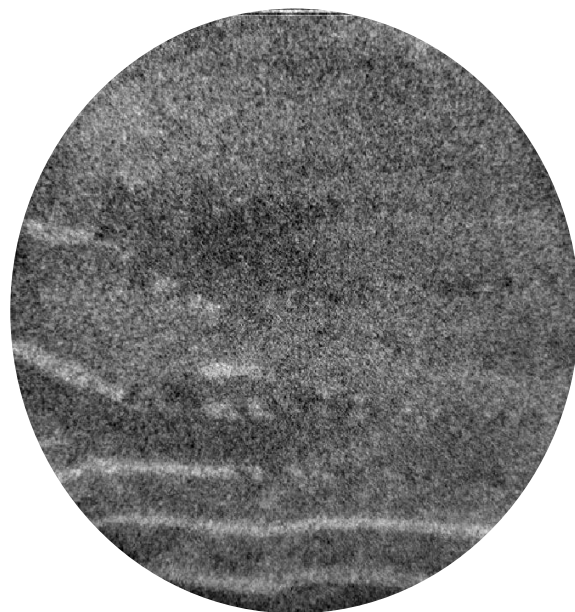
Self-organized NiO(111)/Fe(110) nanostructures

XML(C)D-PEEM at Nanospectroscopy beamline
(Elettra, Trieste)

XMCD: Fe

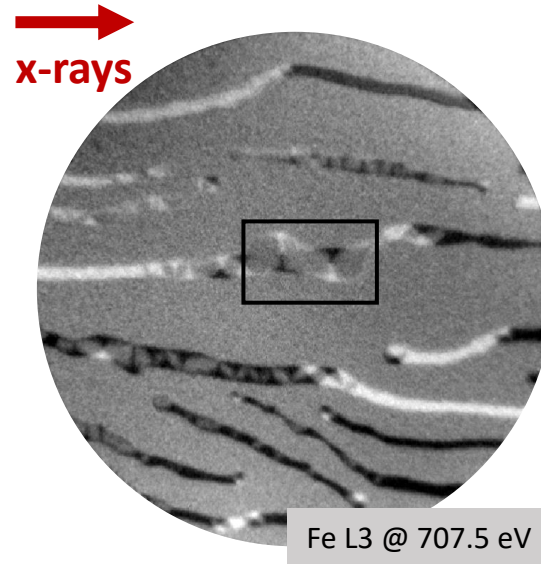


XMLD: NiO



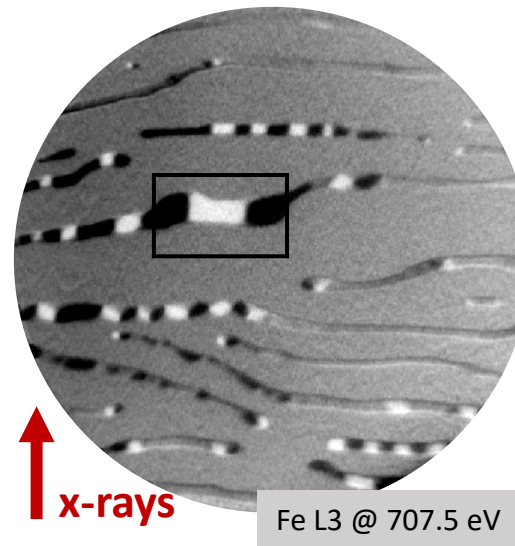
NiO(111)/Fe(110) nanostructures

XMCD



XMCD

After sample rotation

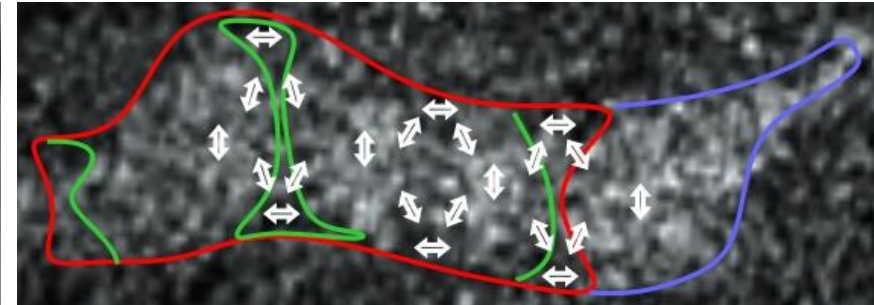
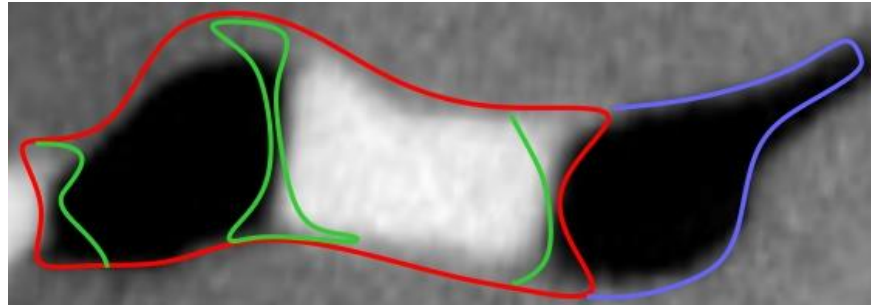
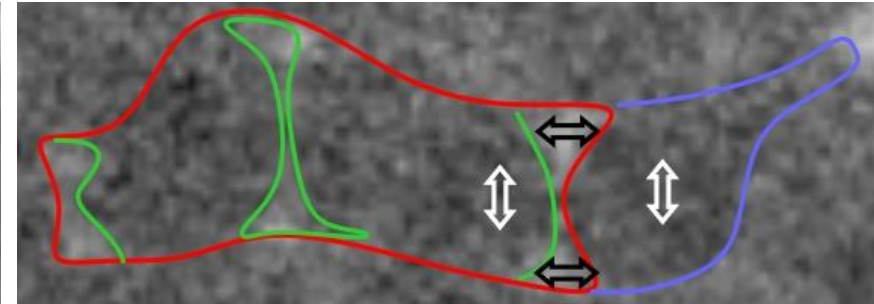
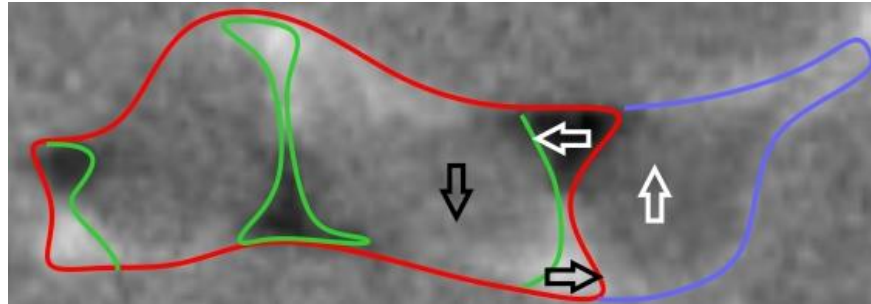


XML(C)D-PEEM at Nanospectroscopy
beamline (Elettra, Trieste)

NiO(111)/Fe(110) nanostructures

XMCD

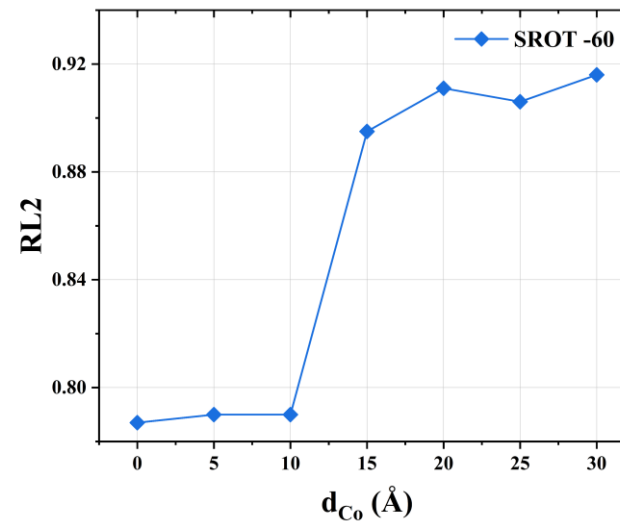
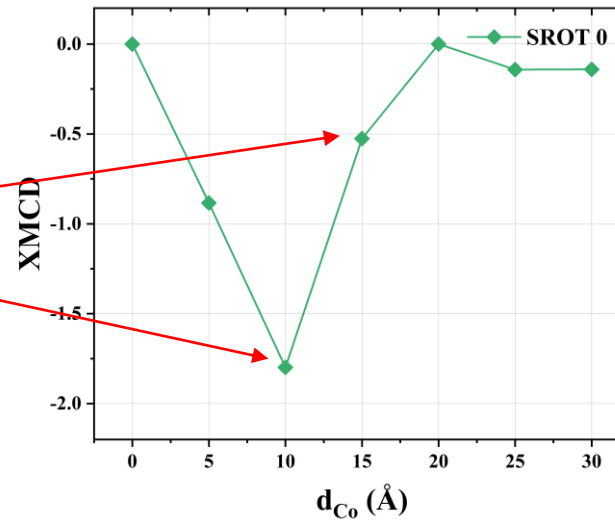
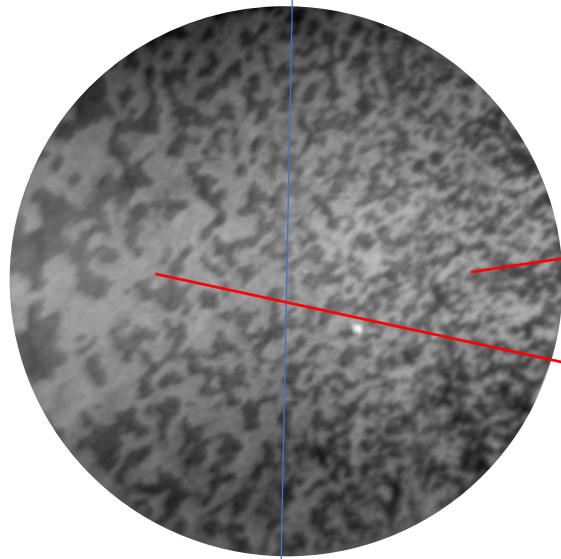
XMLD



After sample rotation

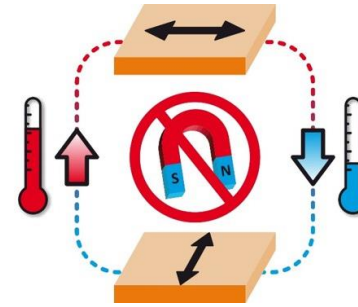
500 nm

Out-of-plane to in-plane SRT in: NiO/Co/Au(111)/W(110)



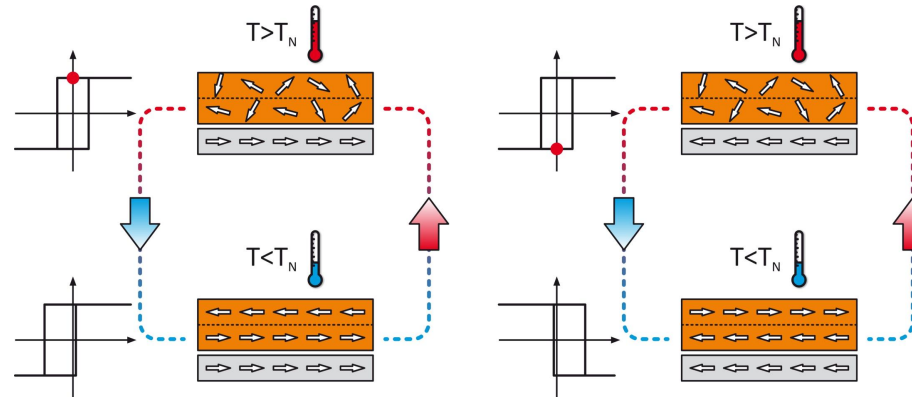
Summary

- Temperature induced, field-free switching of AFM spins - rotatable NiO



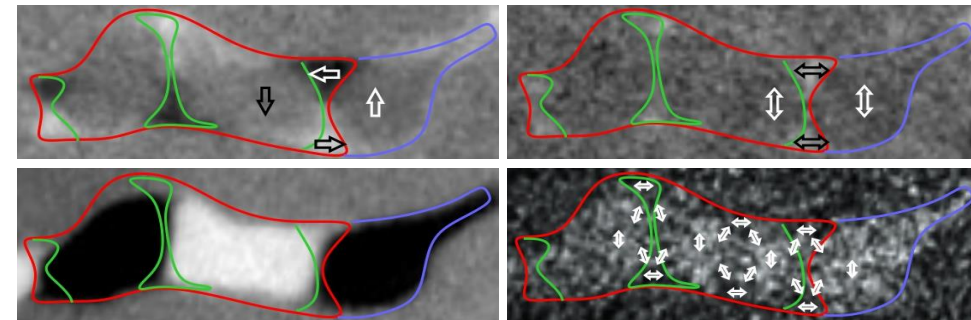
Nanoscale 12 (2020) 18091
Phys. Rev. B 104 (2021)134434

- Memory effects in CoO/Fe



Scientific Reports 9 (2019) 889
JMMM 545 (2022) 168783

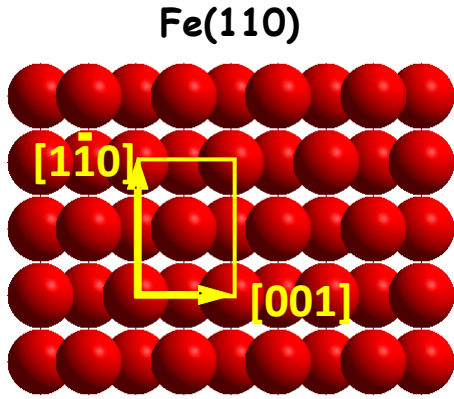
- Imprinting magnetic domain structure in individual AFM/FM nanostructures



in preparation

Introduction

Spin Reorientation Transition in Fe/W(110)



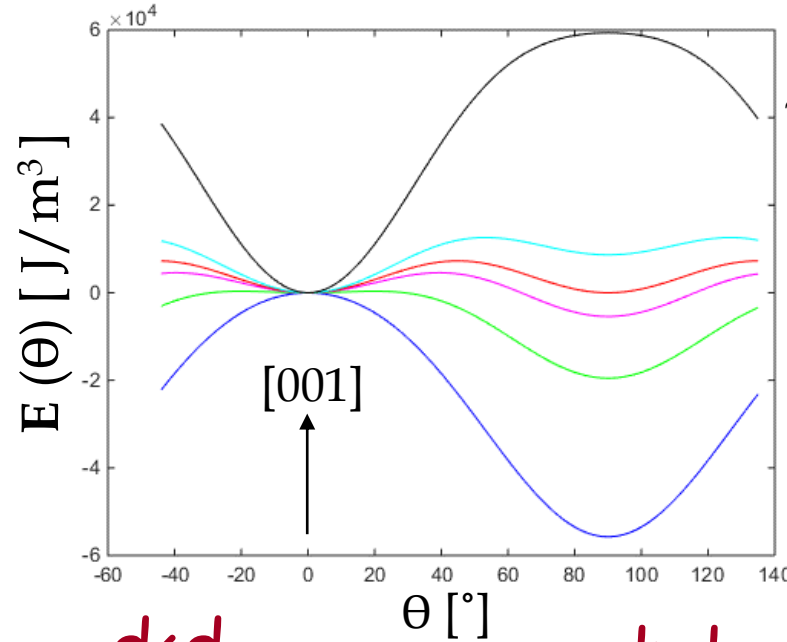
d_{crt} is a good measure of in-plane magnetic anisotropy

$$E_{\text{m in-plane}}(\theta) = A \sin^2(\theta) + B \sin^4(\theta)$$

$$A = K_{\text{vp}} - \frac{K_{\text{sp}}}{d}$$

$$B = K_{\text{vpp}} - \frac{K_{\text{spp}}}{d}$$

[1-10] anisotropy



~ bulk Fe

150 Å

130 Å - critical SRT thickness

120 Å

100 Å

70 Å

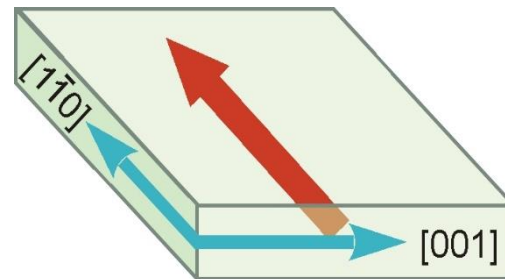
$$K_{\text{vp}} = 10.60 \cdot 10^4 \text{ J/m}^3$$

$$K_{\text{vpp}} = -0.60 \cdot 10^4 \text{ J/m}^3$$

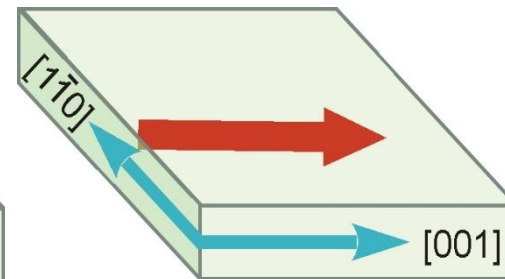
$$K_{\text{sp}} = 0.82 \cdot \text{mJ/m}^2$$

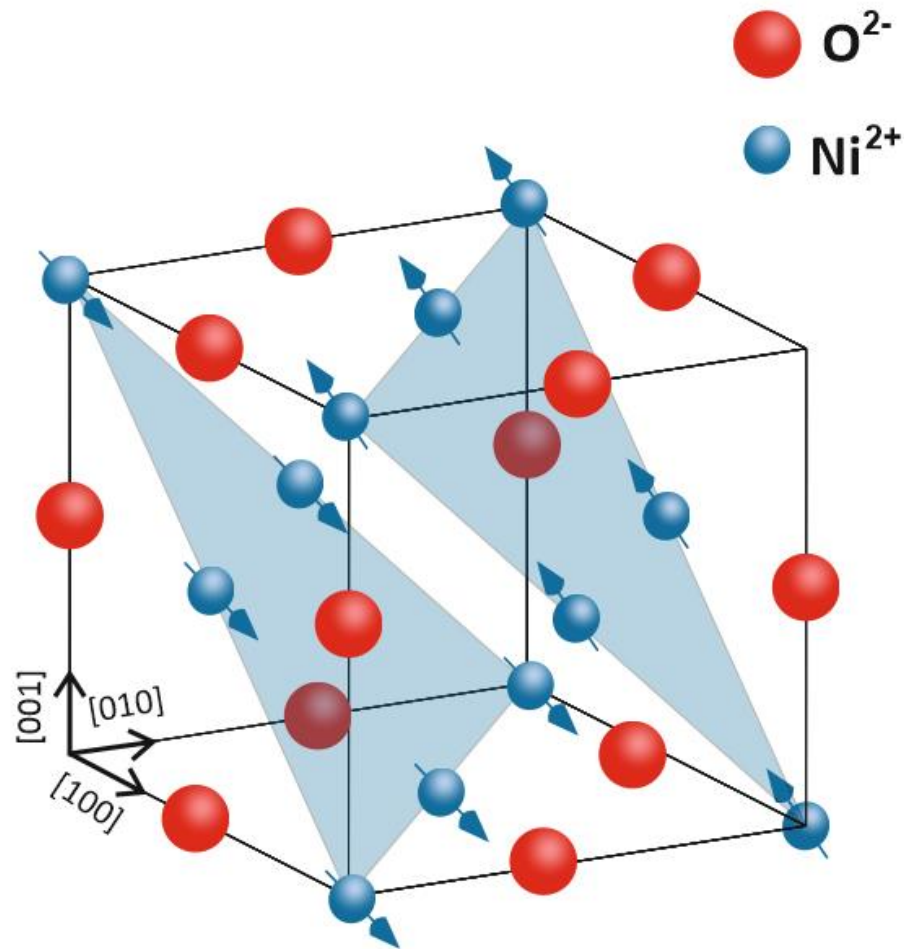
$$K_{\text{spp}} = 0.48 \cdot \text{mJ/m}^2$$

$d < d_{\text{crt}}$

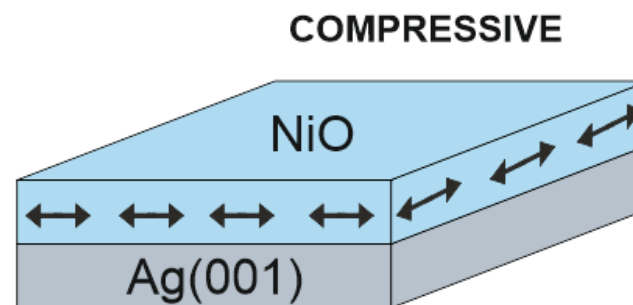


$d > d_{\text{crt}}$

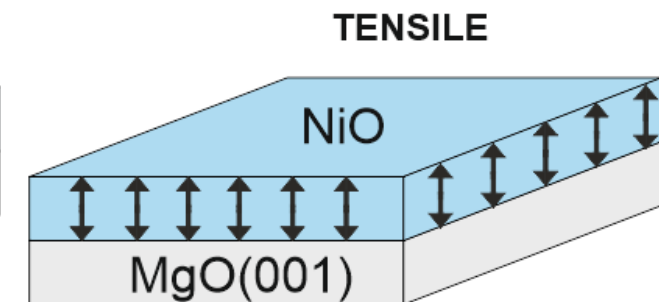




- rocksalt crystal structure
- lattice constant $a = 4.17 \text{ \AA}$
- Néel temperature $T_N = 523 \text{ K}$
- FM alignment within each (111) plane, AFM alignment between adjacent (111) planes
- In thin NiO(001) films spin direction can be modified by strains imposed by the substrate



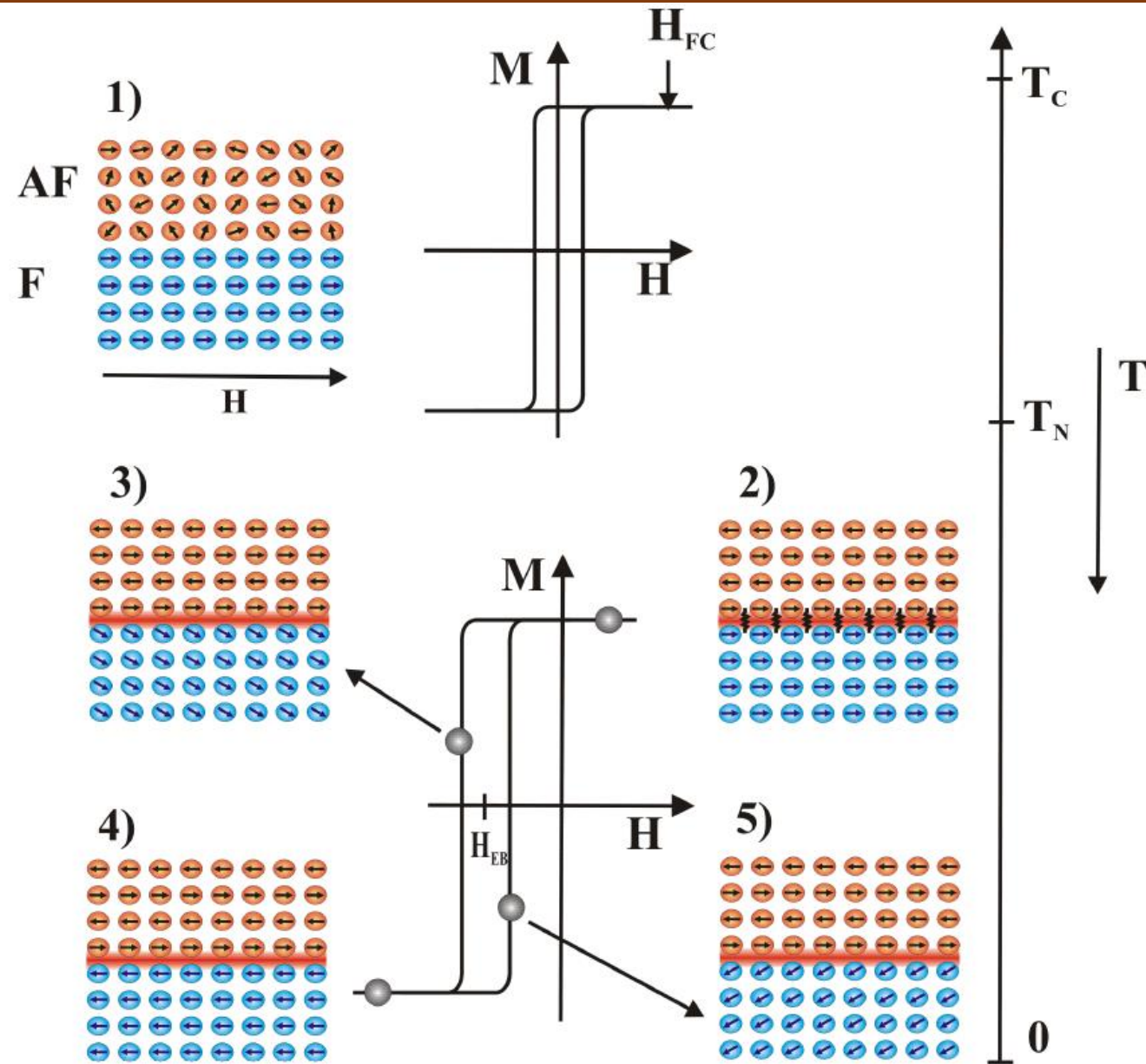
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D. Alders et al., Phys. Rev. B 57, 11623 (1998).

Introduction

exchange bias



AFM/FM systems



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Readout of an antiferromagnetic spintronics system by strong exchange coupling of Mn₂Au and Permalloy

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