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## Ferromagnetic Resonance in a Nickel thin film driven by optically-excited Surface Acoustic Waves (SAWs) in a Transient Grating (TG) setup

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Moore-ruled down-scaling of magnetic bits in new-generation memories hampers deterministic switching and calls for new techniques for magnetization manipulation. Acoustic control of magnetism is an appealing route for low-energy-consumption operation, e.g. exploiting magneto-elastic coupling (MEC) in a thin-film planar heterostructure, where SAWs at micron-size wavelength drive magnetization precession by inverse magnetostriction [1].

We studied MEC in Nickel films (8-40 nm) deposited on amorphous and crystalline substrates. We employed a four-wave-mixing approach [2] in a UHV-ready TG-spectroscopy setup, with a 300 fs, high frequency laser (NFFA-SPRINT\*). Two pump pulses thermally excite SAWs, which couple to magnetostatic waves. A third time-delayed pulse acts either as acoustic (TG diffraction), or as magnetic probe (Faraday rotation). Tuning an external magnetic field, the condition of SAW-driven ferromagnetic resonance (FMR) is reached: the time-dependent magneto-elastic field balances the Gilbert damping, allowing spin precession to last long after its natural damping. The range of wavevectors studied (few inverse microns) allows a comparison with results from standard FMR in terms of Kittel curve and extrinsic contribution to the magnetic damping.

\*<https://www.trieste.nffa.eu/techniques/spectroscopy/tg-sprint/>

[1] W.Yang and H.Schmidt, Appl.Phys.Rev. 8, 021304 (2021)

[2] J.Janušonis et al. Sci.Rep. 6.1, 1-10 (2016)

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