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## Magnetic nano-domain microscopy and topology-sensitive modelling in $\text{Fe}_3\text{GeTe}_2$

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### ABSTRACT

$\text{Fe}_3\text{GeTe}_2$  (FGT) is a layered ferromagnetic solid with a Curie temperature of  $T_C \approx 205\text{K}$ . It is a layered material with out-of-plane magnetic anisotropy. We have performed microscopy investigations of the magnetic nano-domain structures in thin flakes of FGT. The data are acquired using the Fourier Transform Holography (FTH) technique with circular dichroism contrast at the iron L3 edge [1]. These studies complement measurements by scanning x-ray techniques [2], but the extension over a large range of temperatures and applied magnetic fields (B) allows for the creation of specific initial states by cooling from the paramagnetic phase through  $T_C$ . We observe labyrinthine domains as well as small objects that are identified as Skyrmions. At low temperature, various structures emerge with increasing B field, and the patterns are readily erased by fields exceeding the coercivity. At high temperature, the Skyrmions are denser and re-emerge after reducing the B field. The experimental study is complemented by modelling calculations based on band structure models with spin-orbit interactions explicitly considered [3]. The corresponding patterns match, and the trends on Skyrmion density in changing B fields are found to be qualitatively different for temperature well below  $T_C$  and close to  $T_C$ . This study allows us to conclude on the controllable transformation between these topological states in relation to the temperature dependence of the electronic band structure in FGT.

### REFERENCES

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3. Kathyat, D. S., Mukherjee, A., & Kumar, S. Microscopic magnetic Hamiltonian for exotic spin textures in metals. *Phys. Rev. B* 102, 075106 (2020).

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