

# Near-field magneto-optical Microscopy

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# Outline

- \* **Optical far-field, Rayleigh criterion and Near-field**
- \* **Some previous results**
- \* **Our experimental method**
- \* **Theoretical background**
- \* **The experimental set-up**
- \* **Some examples**

**Conclusions**

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**\* Optical far-field, Rayleigh criterion and Near-field**

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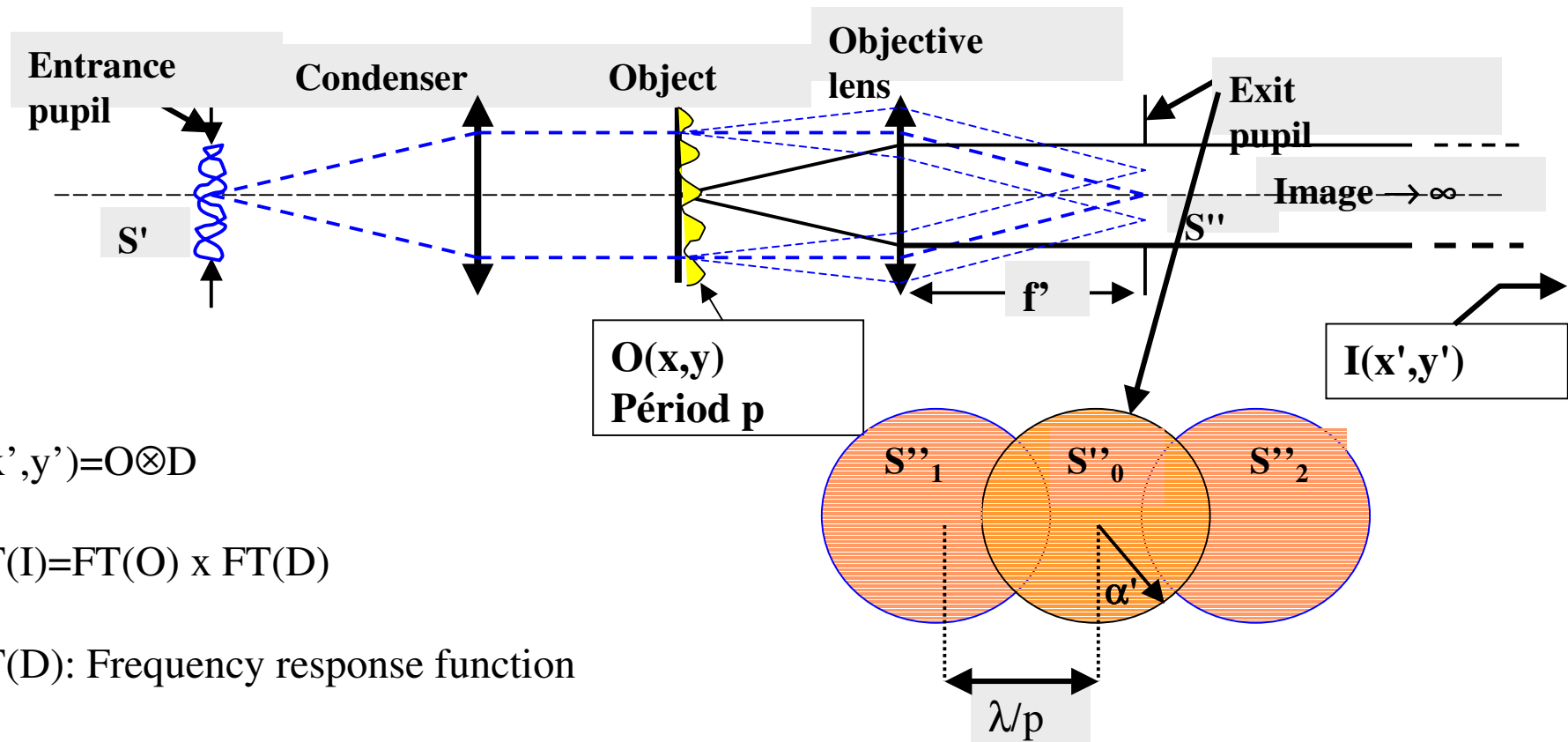
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\* Some examples

**Conclusions**

# Far-field optics

## Object-image relation in incoherent light (Köhler illumination)



$$I(x',y') = O \otimes D$$

$$FT(I) = FT(O) \times FT(D)$$

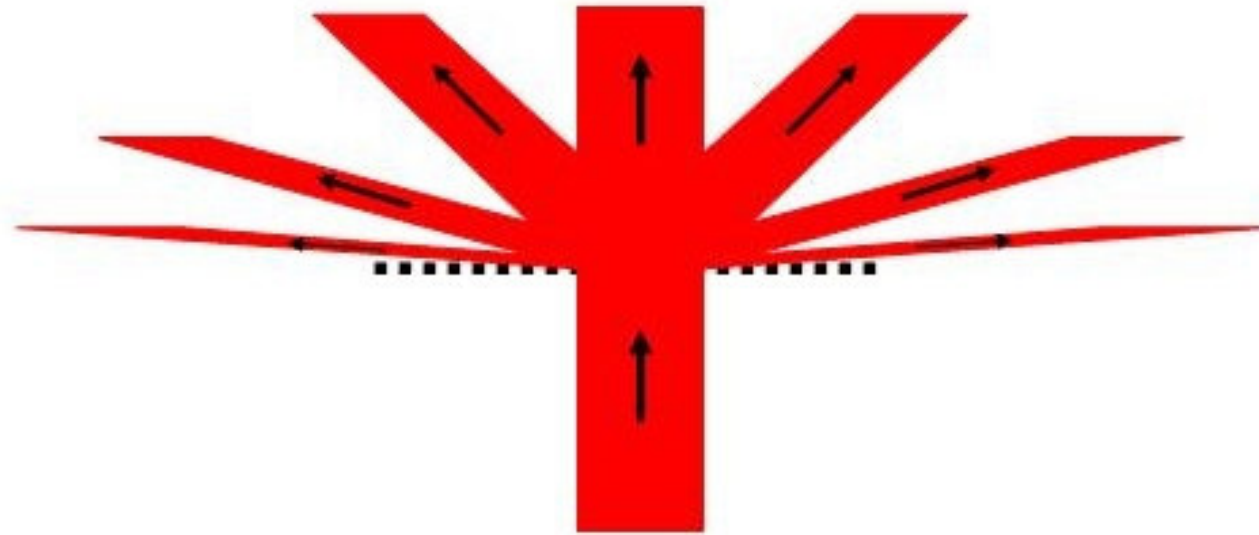
$FT(D)$ : Frequency response function

**Rayleigh criterion**  $\Rightarrow 2\alpha' = \lambda/p_{\min}$

**Minimum detectable Period**

$$(\alpha' = 1)$$

$$P_{\min} \geq \lambda/2$$



**A light beam is diffracted by a periodic array**

**Only the propagating light is showed**

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$\Delta k_s$ : uncertainty on measure of wave vector

Heisenberg relation:

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Rayleigh criterion:  $\Delta s = \lambda/2$

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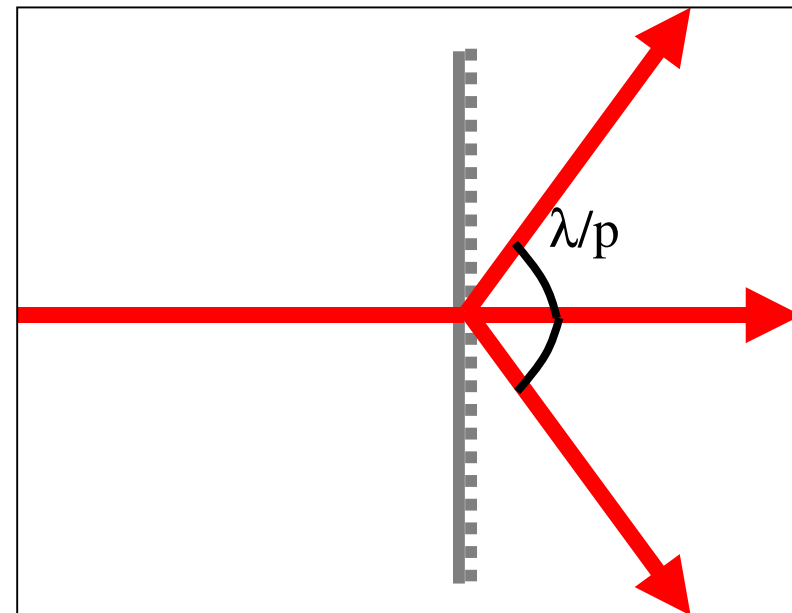
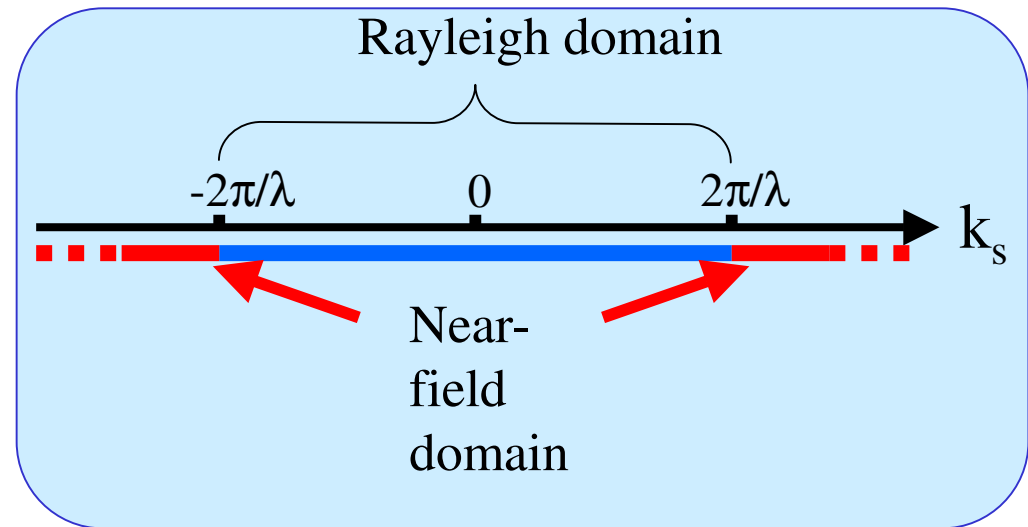
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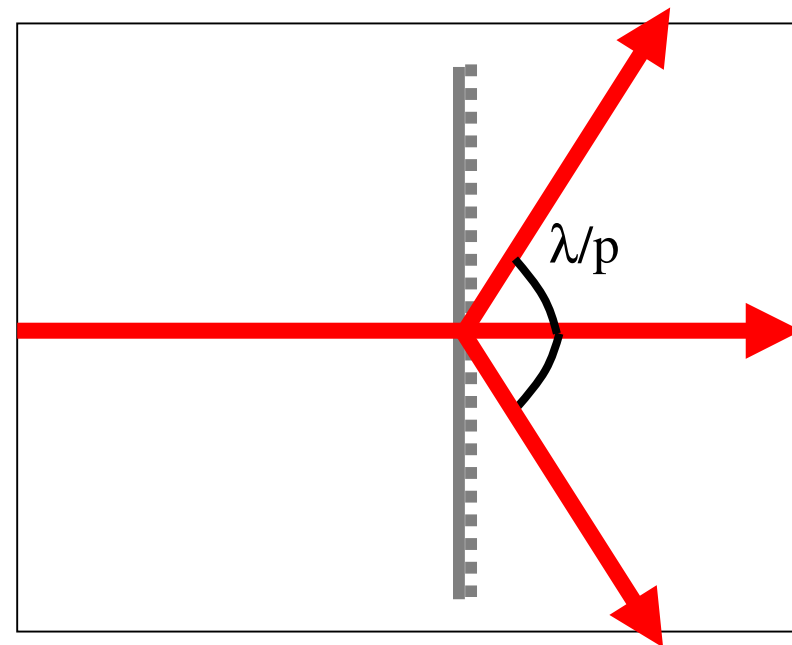
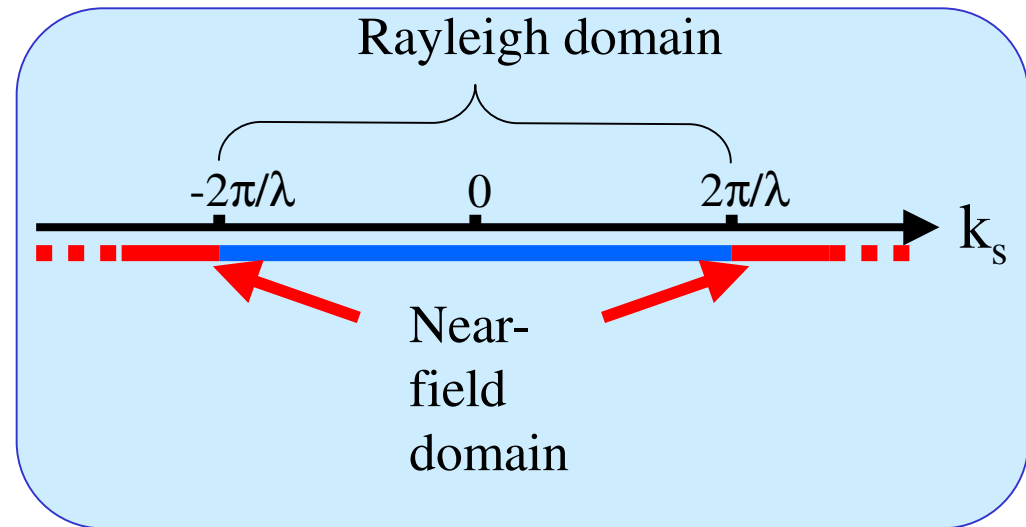
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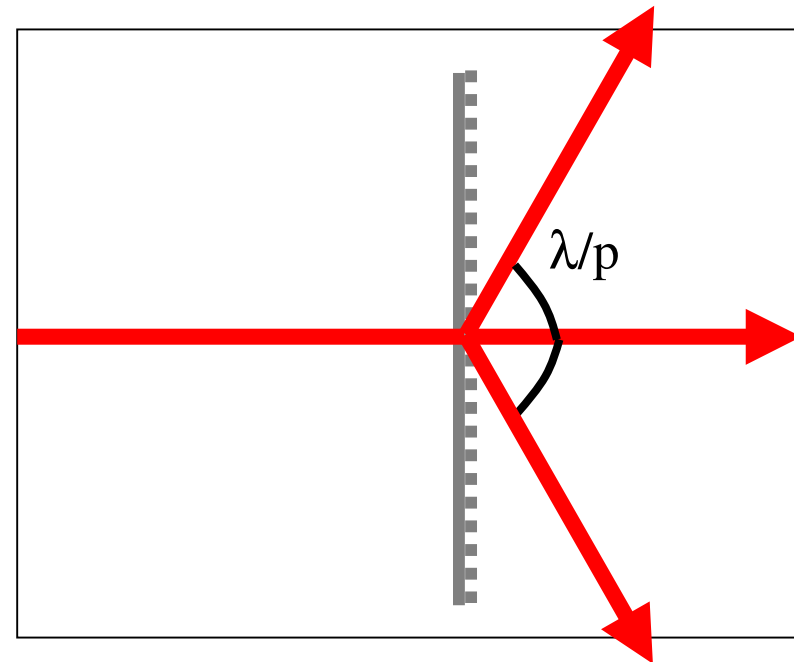
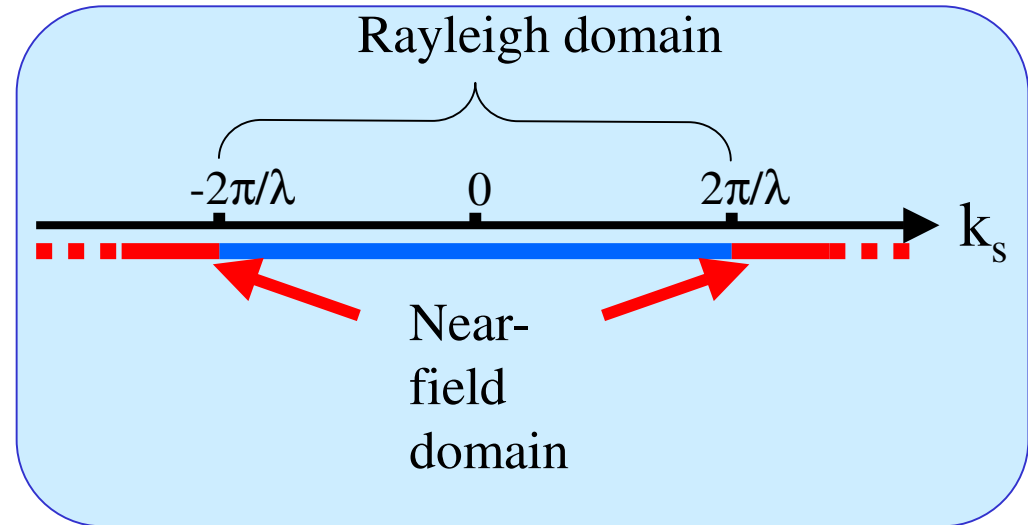
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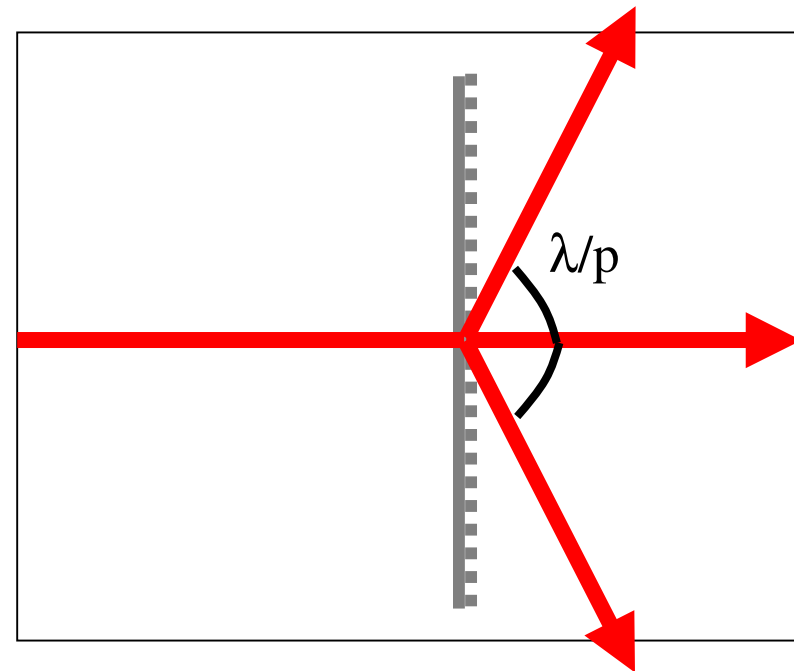
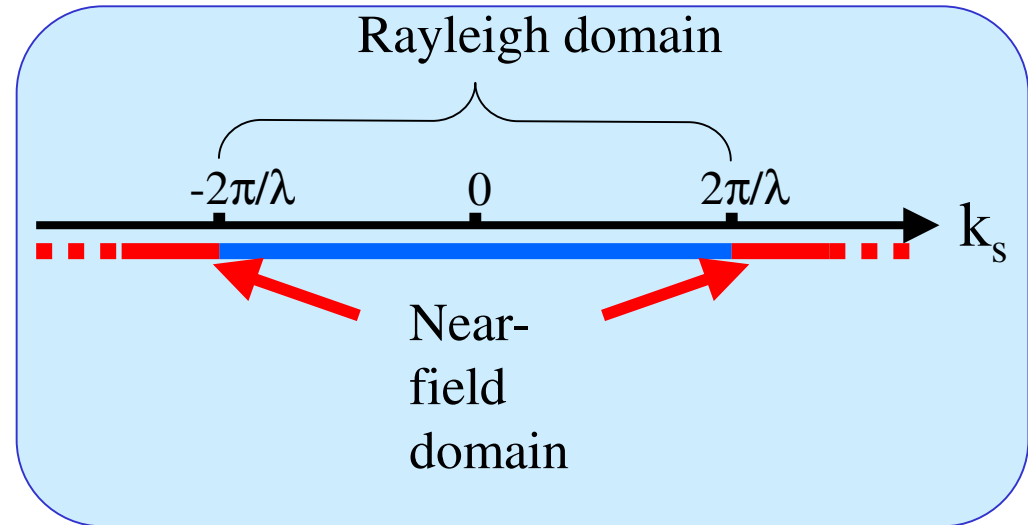
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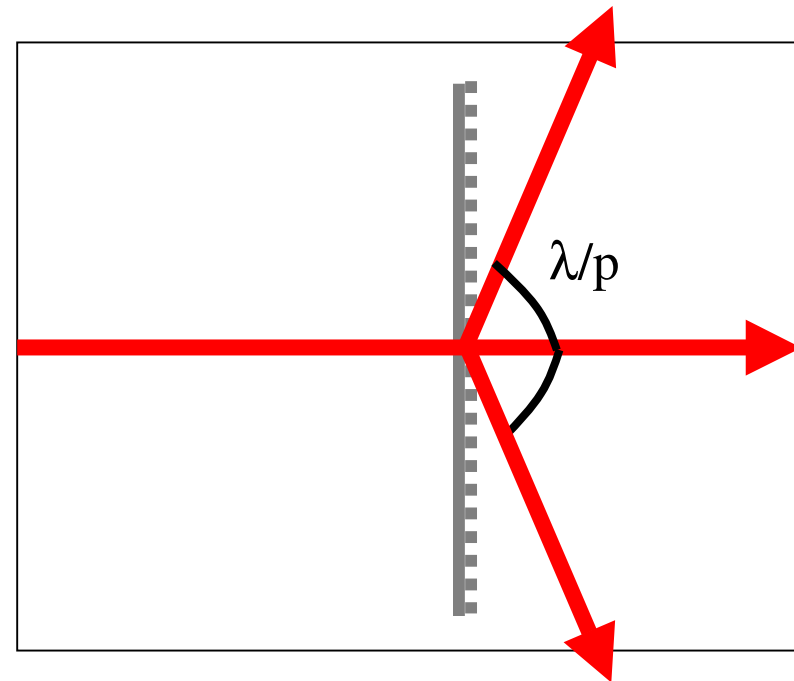
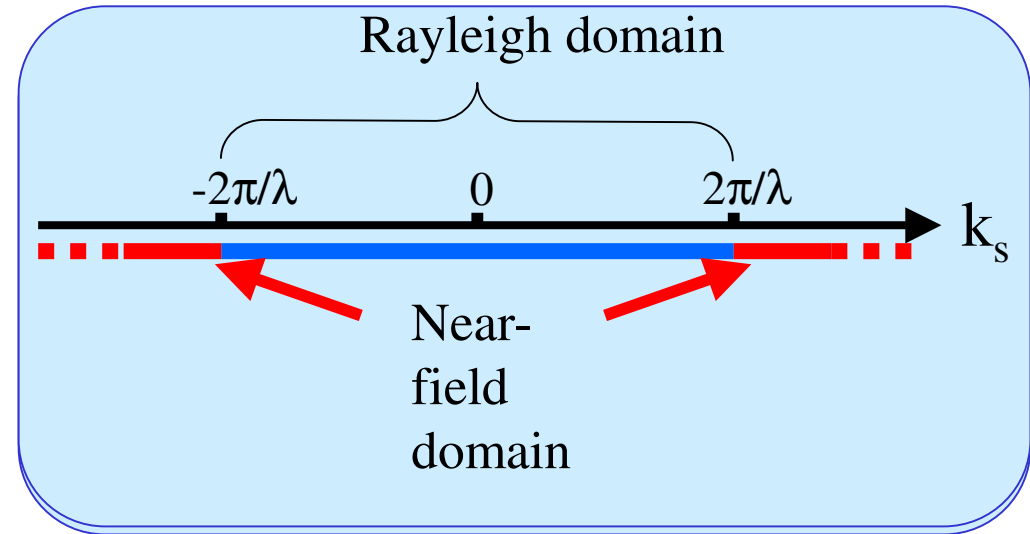
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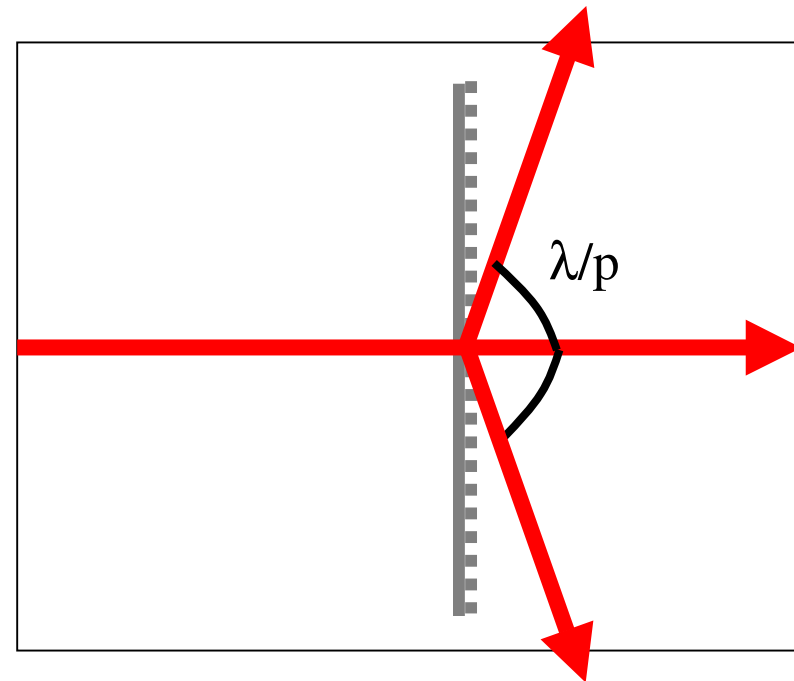
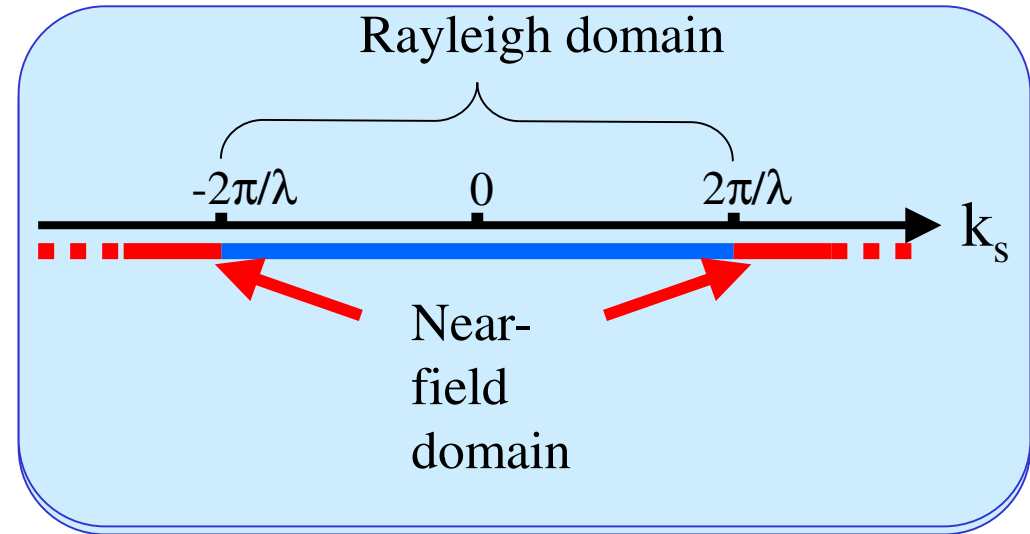
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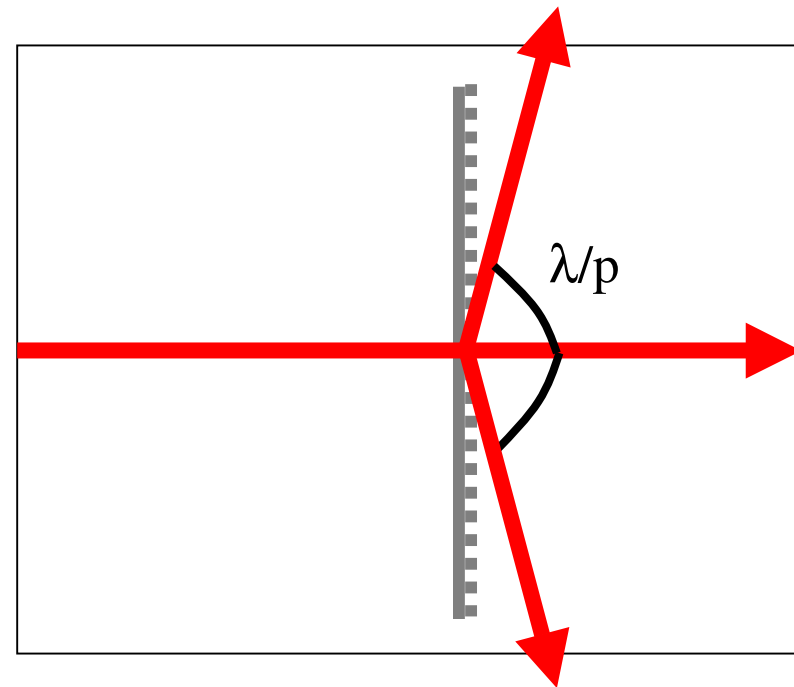
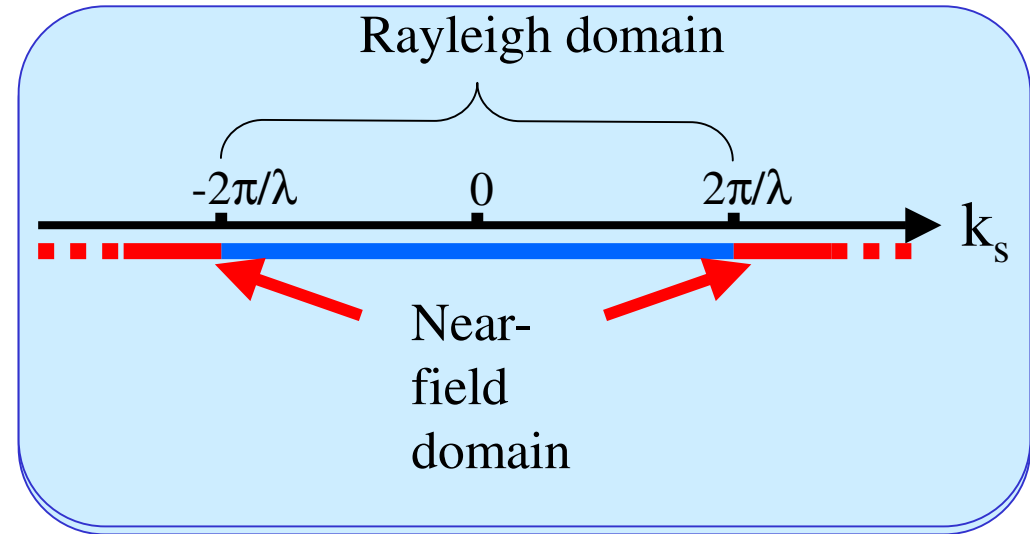
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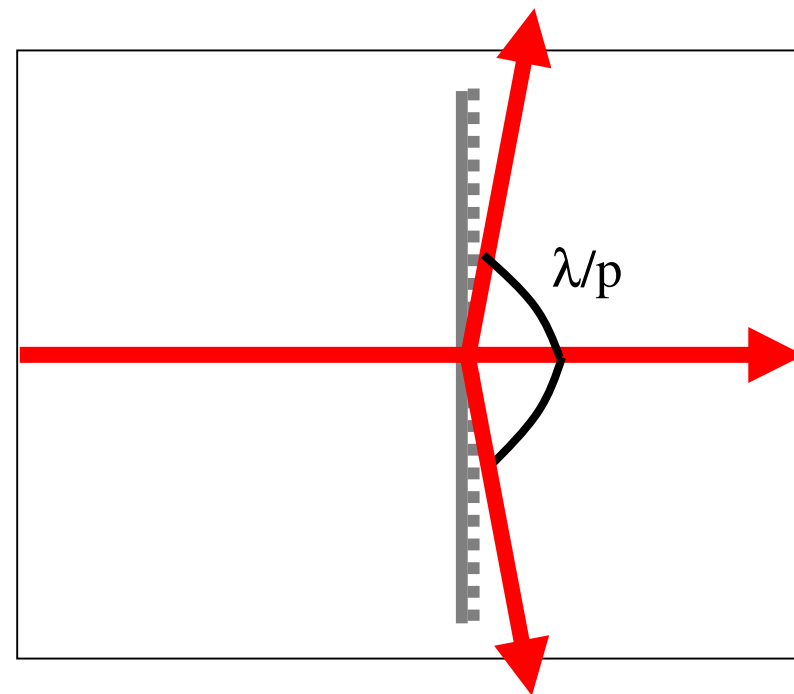
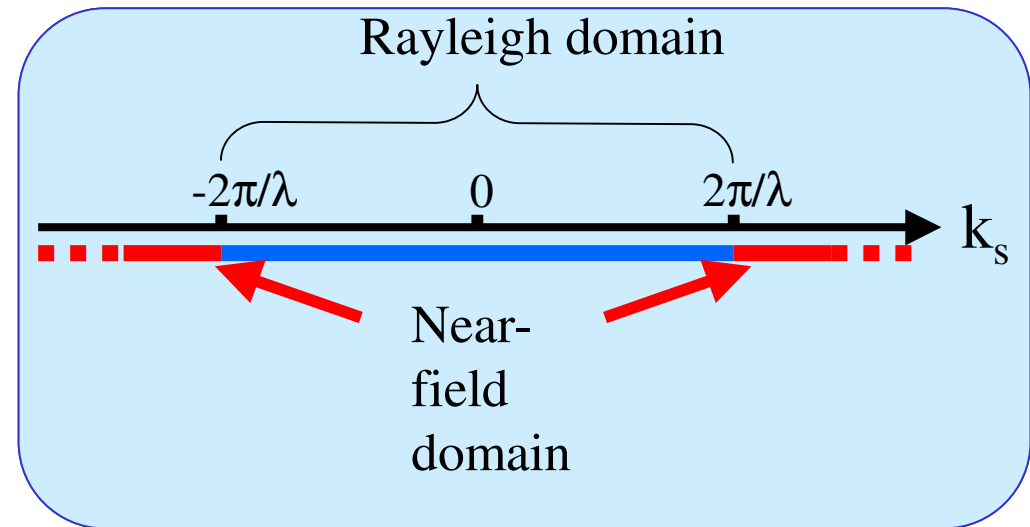
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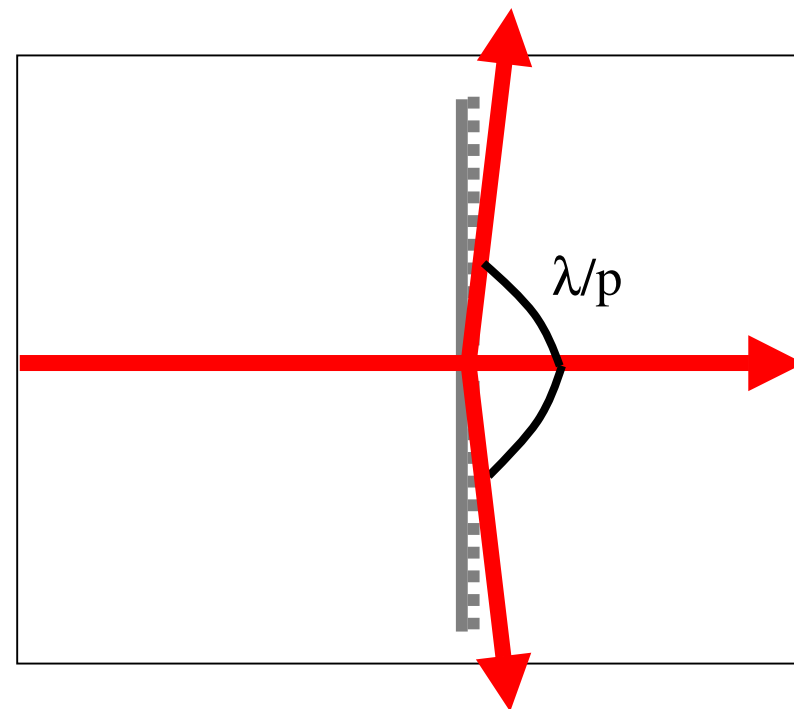
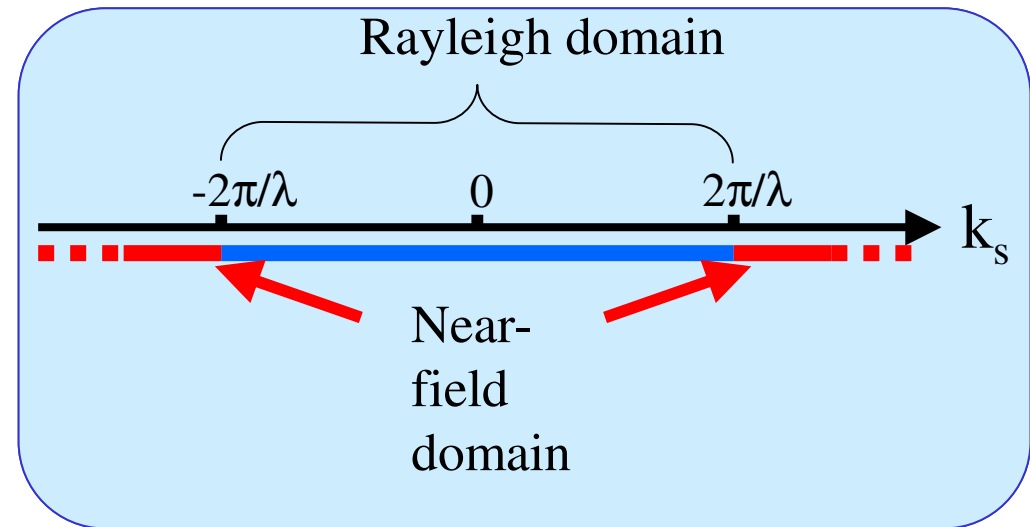
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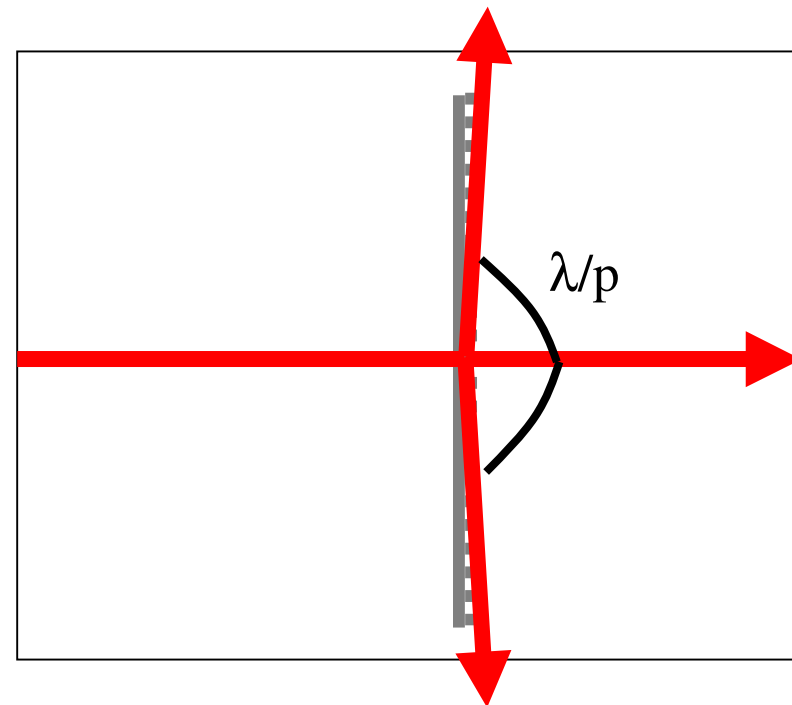
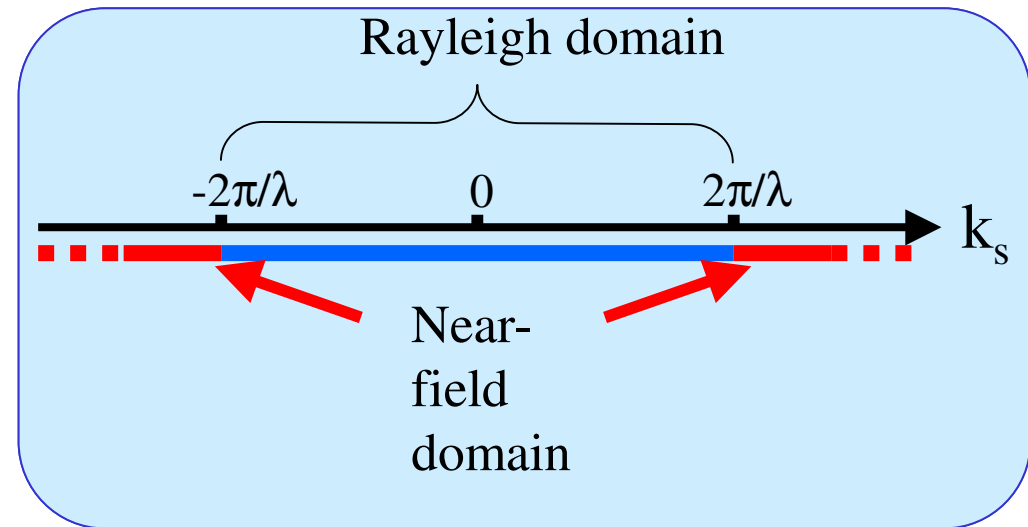
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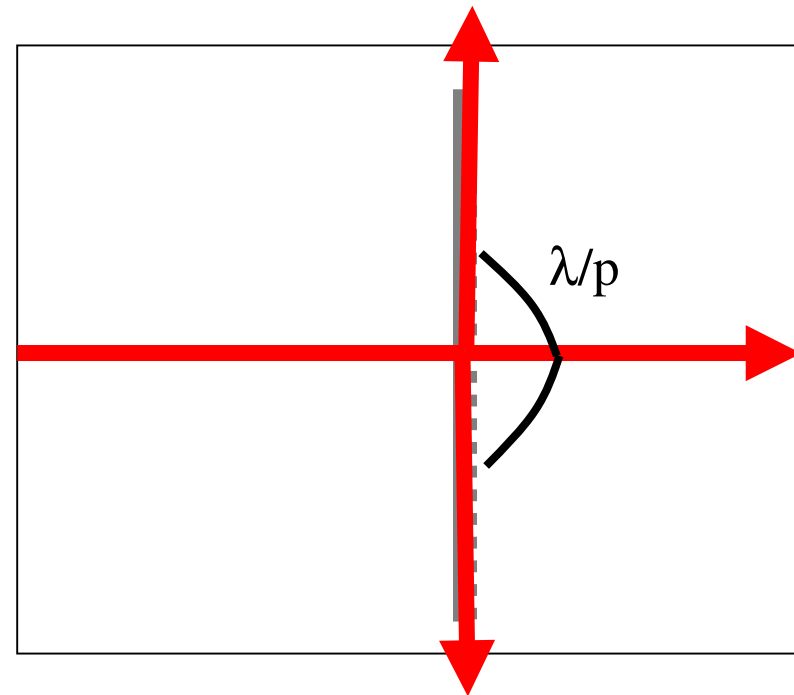
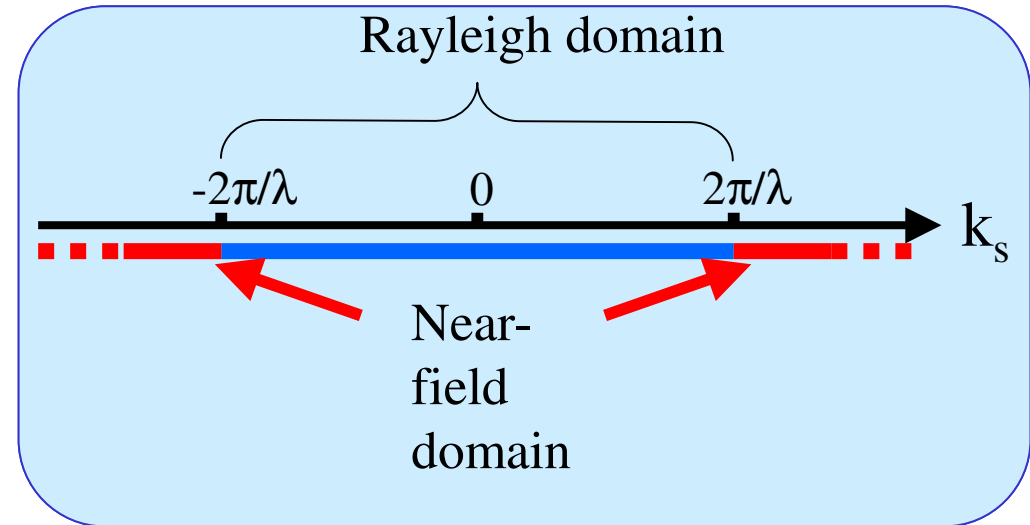
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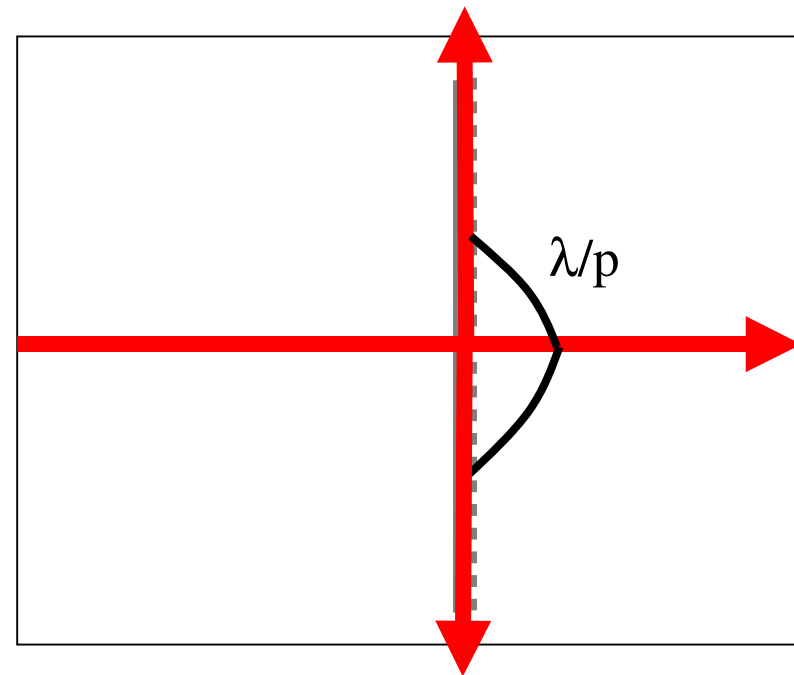
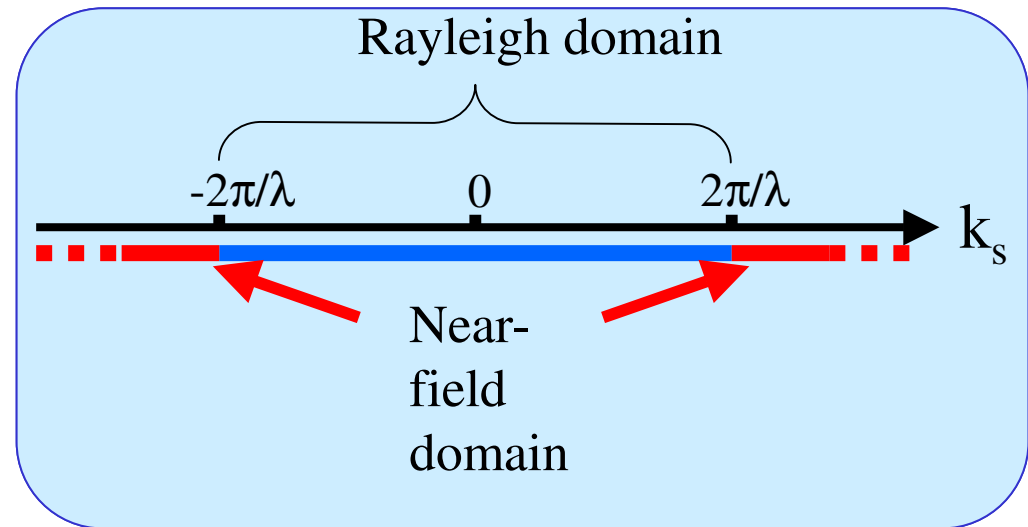
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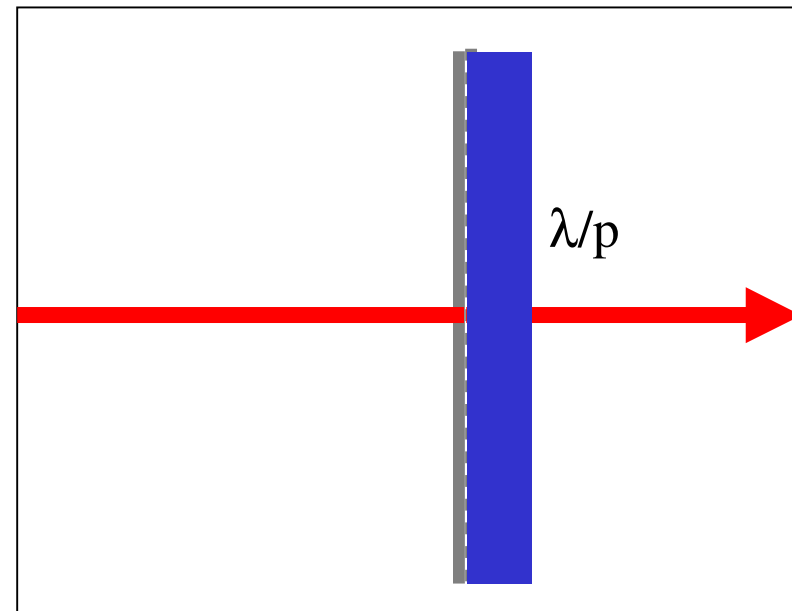
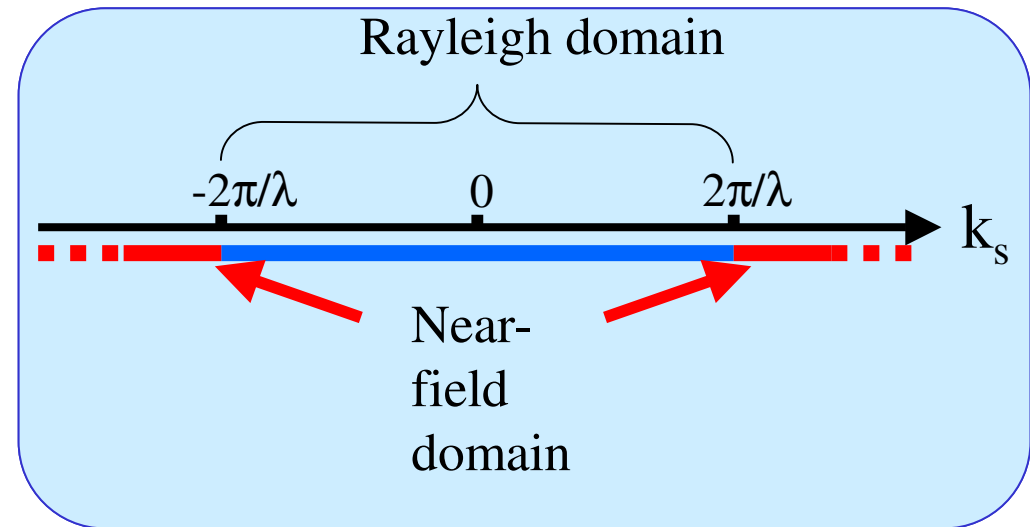
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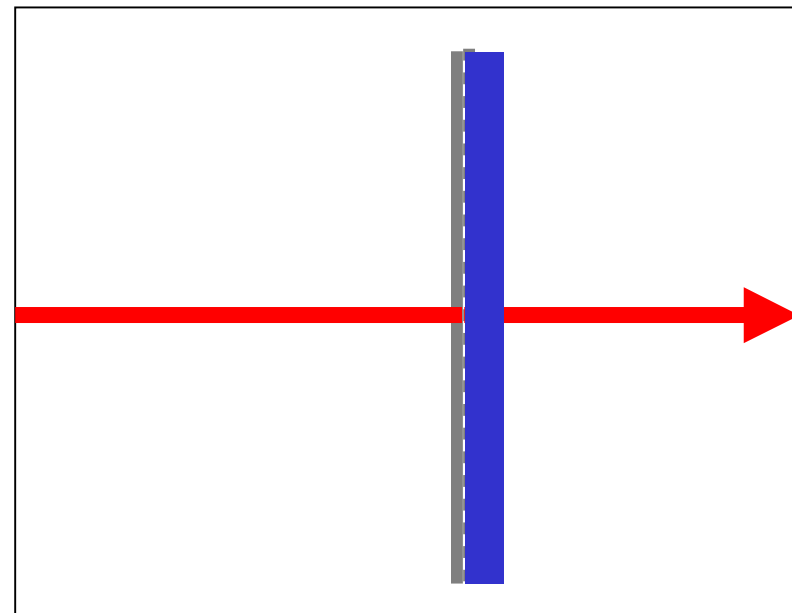
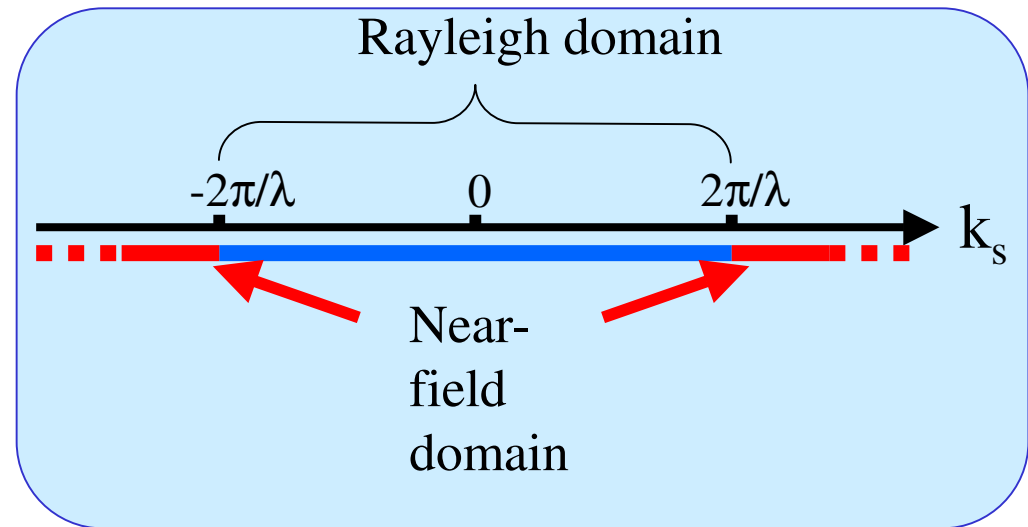
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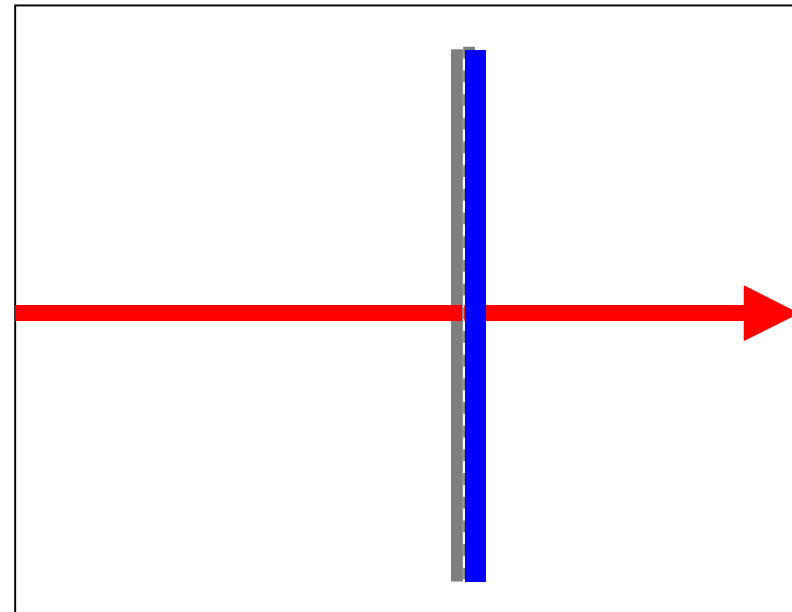
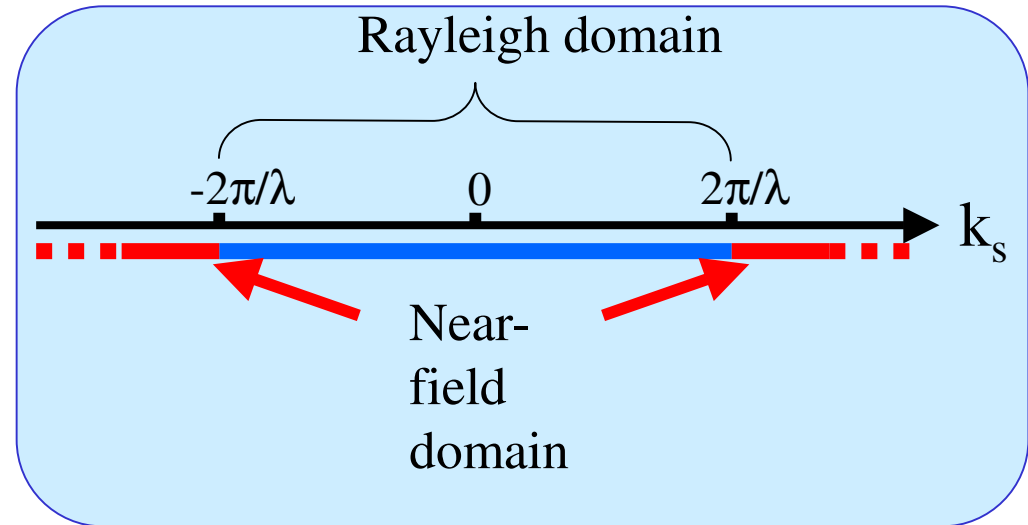
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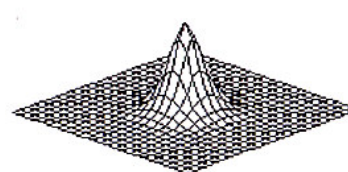
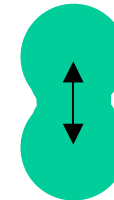
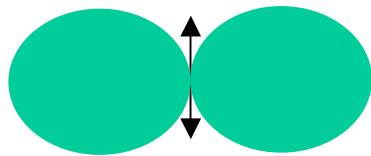
# Some properties of the optical near-field

- \* Distance probe-sample plays the role of a low-pass filter

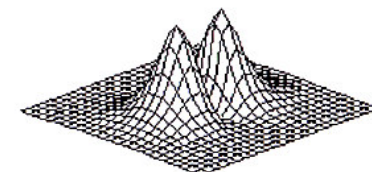
$$[E \propto E_0(t) \exp(-z/l_p)]$$

- \* The characteristic decay length:
  - \* is independent of the wavelength
  - \* depends on the period (Fourier component)
  - \* depends on the diffraction order number

- \* The emission diagram of the local oscillating dipoles is quite different in the far- and in the near-field



⊥



||

- \* Resolution depends mainly on the lateral size of the probe

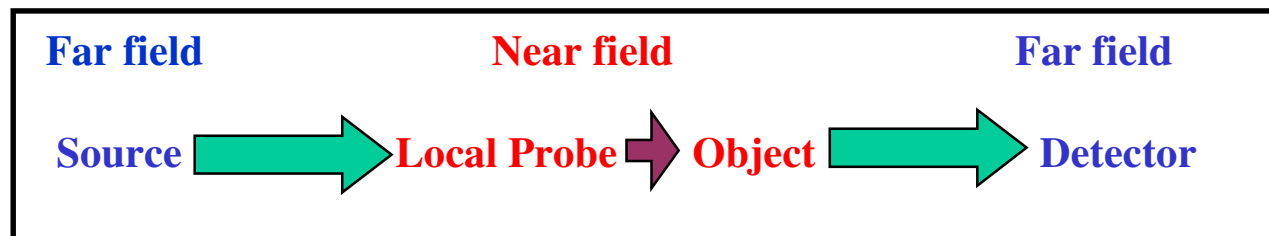
## How to detect evanescent light?

The aim of the near-field microscopy is to provide images of the small details (having a characteristic length lower than  $\lambda/2$ ) of objects.

These details diffract evanescent waves.

A local probe diffusing light towards the detection system or diffusing light in the near field is needed.

We have adopted the following scheme:



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\* Optical far-field, Rayleigh criterion and Near-field

\* **Some previous results**

\* Our experimental method

\* Theoretical background

\* The experimental set-up

\* Some examples

Conclusions

*Near-field magneto-optics and high density data storage*

E. Betzig, J.K. Trautman, R. Wolfe, E.M. Gyorgy, P.L. Finn, M.H. Kryder, C.-H. Chang  
Appl. Phys. Lett., 61 (1992) 142

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**A scanning near-field optical microscope for the imaging of magnetic domains in reflection**

T. J. Silva<sup>a)</sup> and S. Schultz

*Center for Magnetic Recording Research, University of California, San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive,  
La Jolla, California 92093-0401*

Rev. Sci. Instrum. 67 (3), March 1996

0034-6748/96/67(3)/715/11/\$10.00

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715

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**Dichroic imaging of magnetic domains with a scanning near-field optical microscope**

V. Kottler <sup>a,b,1</sup>, N. Essaidi <sup>a</sup>, N. Ronarch <sup>a</sup>, C. Chappert <sup>b</sup>, Y. Chen <sup>a,\*</sup>

**Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials 165 (1997) 398–400**

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**Versatile UHV system for combined far- and near-field magneto-optical microscopy of thin films**

Gereon Meyer\*, Tristan Crecelius, Günter Kaindl, Andreas Bauer

*Institut für Experimentalphysik, Freie Universität Berlin, Fachbereich Physik, Arnimallee 14, D-14195 Berlin, Germany*

**J. Mag. Mag. Mat., 240 (2002) 76-78**

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**Observation of magnetic domains using a reflection-mode scanning near-field optical microscope**

C. Durkan and I. V. Shvets<sup>a)</sup>

*Department of Physics, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland*

J. C. Lodder

*MESA Research Institute, University of Twente, 7500 AE, Enschede, the Netherlands*

Appl. Phys. Lett. 70 (10), 10 March 1997

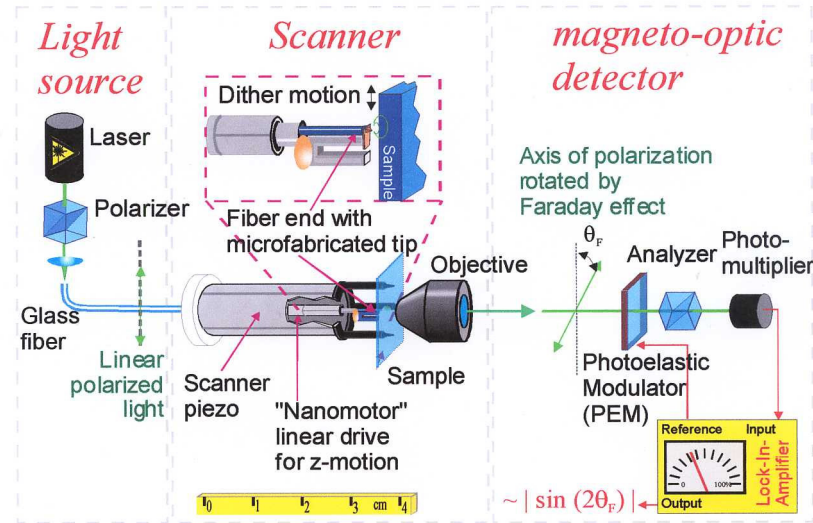
0003-6951/97/70(10)/1323/3/\$10.00

© 1997 American Institute of Physics

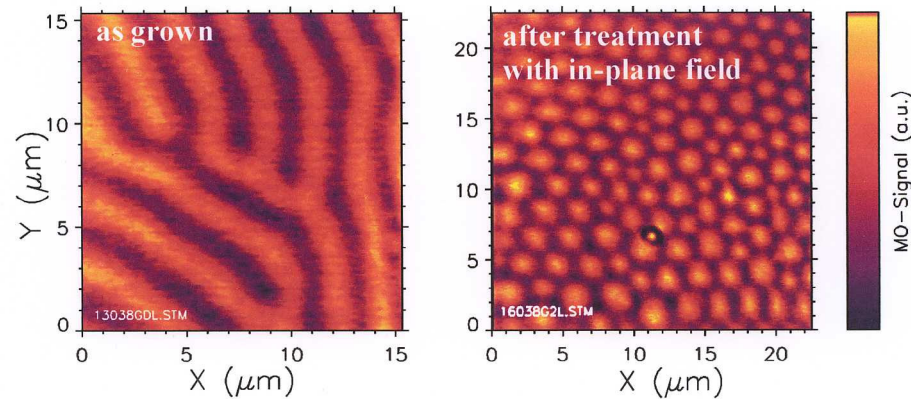
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## Magneto-optic Scanning Near-field Microscopy in transmission mode

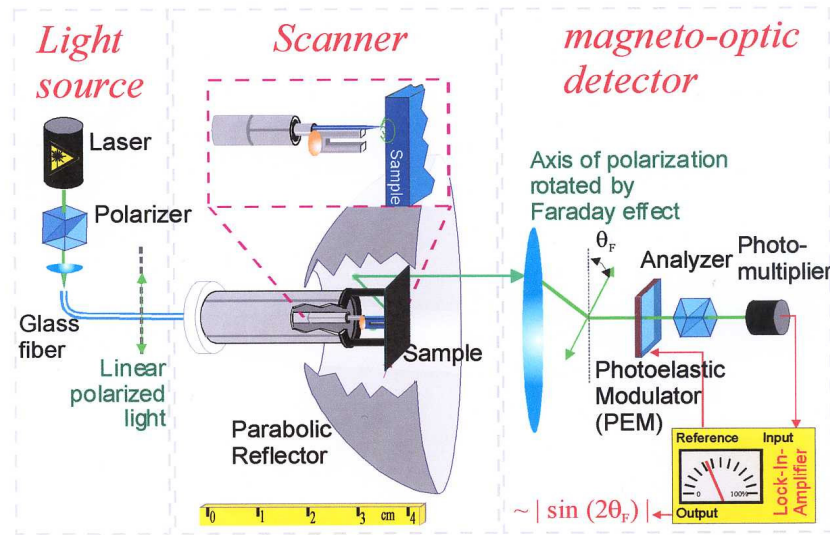


## Transmission Mode Images of a Iron Garnet Film

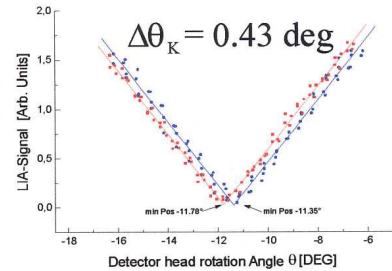
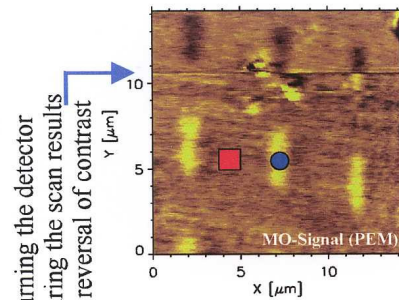


Courtesy of  
Dr. Eggers

# Magneto-optic Scanning Near-field Microscopy in reflection mode



## Reflection Mode Image of a Cobalt-Platinum Multilayer with written domains as used for data storage



The local Kerr rotation angle can be measured by turning the detector head

Courtesy of  
Dr. Eggers

# Outline

- \* **Optical far-field, Rayleigh criterion and Near-field**

- \* **Some previous results**

- \* **Our experimental method**

- \* **Theoretical background**

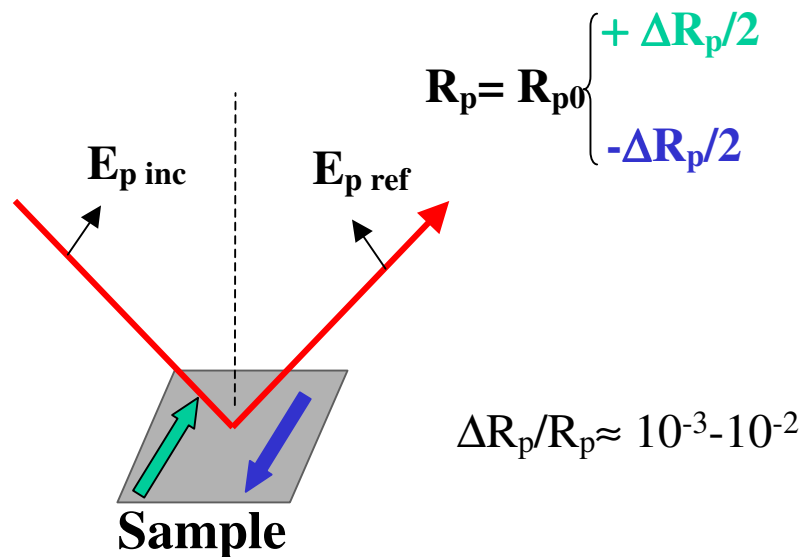
- \* **The experimental set-up**

- \* **Some examples**

**Conclusions**

# Transverse Kerr effect

- Far-field

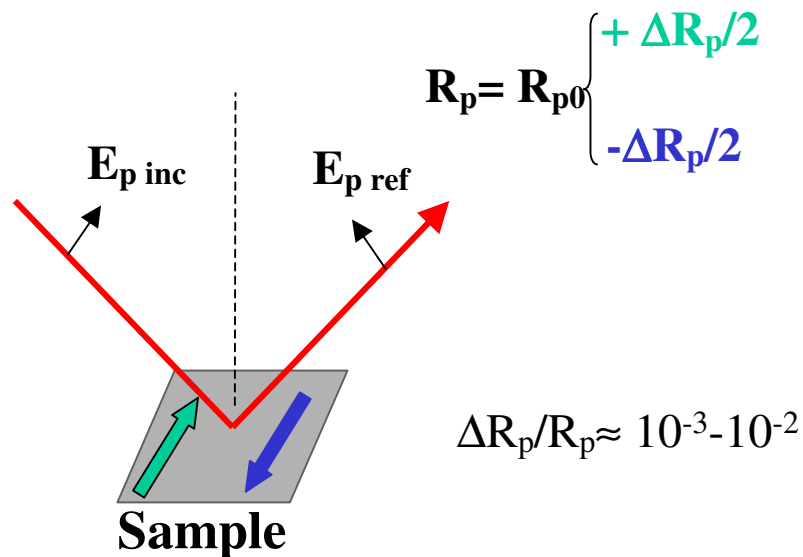


Advantages (relative to the longitudinal Kerr):

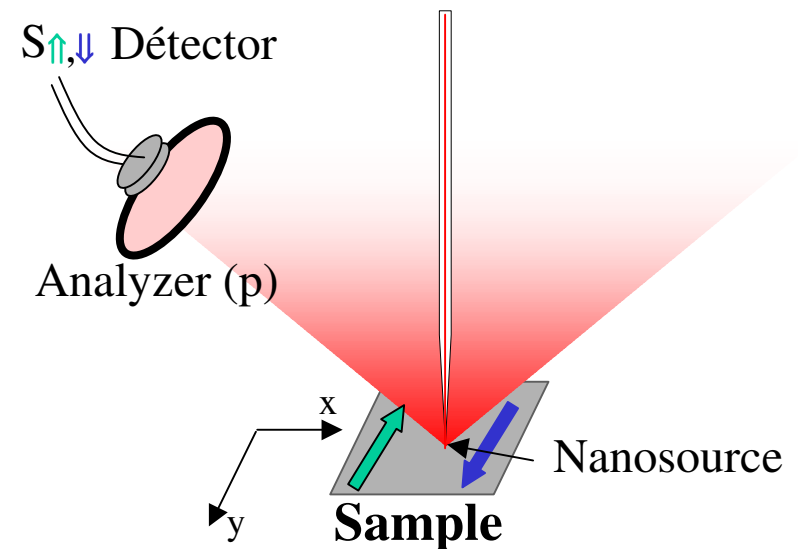
- \* maximum light (parallel polarizers)
- \* sensitivity to  $M_y$  only

# Transverse Kerr effect

- Far-field



- Near-field



Advantages (relative to the longitudinal Kerr):

- \* maximum light (parallel polarizers)
- \* sensitivity to  $M_y$  only

# Outline

- \* Optical far-field, Rayleigh criterion and Near-field

- \* Some previous results

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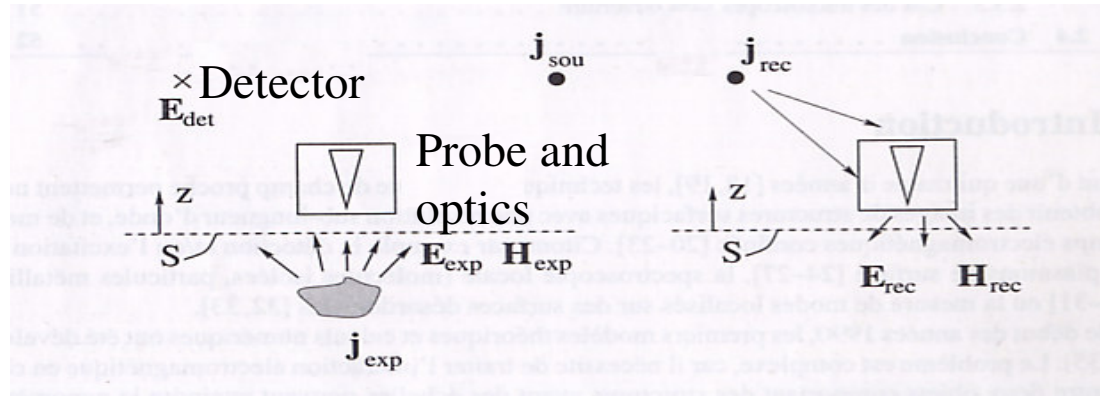
- \* **Theoretical background**

- \* The experimental set-up

- \* Some examples

**Conclusions**

# Theorem of reciprocity applied to near-field optics



where  $\mathbf{j}_{\text{sou}}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}_{\text{exp}}$ : current density in external source, in the sample

$\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}}$ ,  $\mathbf{H}_{\text{exp}}$ : electric, magnetic fields radiated by the sample with the actual configuration

$\mathbf{E}_{\text{det}}$ : electric field at the detector position

$\mathbf{j}_{\text{rec}}$ : point source located at the detector position

$\mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}}$ ,  $\mathbf{H}_{\text{rec}}$ : reciprocal electric, magnetic fields without sample

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}} \cdot \mathbf{j}_{\text{rec}} = \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{sou}}) \cdot \mathbf{j}_{\text{sou}} + \int_S (\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{rec}} - \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{exp}}) \cdot \mathbf{e}_z \, dx \, dy$$

Component  $A$  of the electric field along the direction of the analyzer direction  $\mathbf{p}$  at the detector position

$$A = \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{det}}) \cdot \mathbf{p} = 1/i\omega \int_V \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}} \cdot \mathbf{j}_{\text{exp}} d\mathbf{r}$$



Component  $A$  of the electric field along the direction of the analyzer direction  $\mathbf{p}$  at the detector position

$$A = \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{det}}) \cdot \mathbf{p} = 1/i\omega \int_V \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}} \cdot \mathbf{j}_{\text{exp}} d\mathbf{r}$$

$$\mathbf{j}_{\text{exp}} = \mathbf{j}_{\epsilon}$$

Component A of the electric field along the direction of the analyzer direction  $\mathbf{p}$  at the detector position

$$A = \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{det}}) \cdot \mathbf{p} = 1/i\omega \int_V \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}} \cdot \mathbf{j}_{\text{exp}} d\mathbf{r}$$

**Magnetization  $\mathbf{M}\hat{\mathbf{e}}$**

$$\mathbf{j}_{\text{exp}} = \mathbf{j}_{\epsilon} + \mathbf{j}_{\text{mag}} = -i\omega\epsilon_0[(\epsilon_1 - 1)\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} + i\mathbf{M}\hat{\mathbf{e}} \times \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}}]$$

Component A of the electric field along the direction of the analyzer direction  $\mathbf{p}$  at the detector position

$$A = \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{det}}) \cdot \mathbf{p} = 1/i\omega \int_V \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}} \cdot \mathbf{j}_{\text{exp}} d\mathbf{r}$$

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$$\mathbf{j}_{\text{exp}} = \mathbf{j}_{\epsilon} + \mathbf{j}_{\text{mag}} = -i\omega\epsilon_0 [(\epsilon_1 - 1)\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} + i\mathbf{f}\mathbf{M}\hat{\mathbf{e}} \times \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}}]$$

$$A_{\text{mag}} = -i\mathbf{f}\epsilon_0 \int_V \mathbf{M}\hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot (\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \times \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}}) d\mathbf{r}$$

$\mathbf{R}=(x,y)$ ; probe at height  $z_{\text{tip}}$

$$A_{\text{mag}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{tip}}) = \int_V H_{\text{mag}}(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}_{\text{tip}}, z, z_{\text{tip}}) M(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$

Cst-height amplitude response for the magnetization in the sample plane  $z$

$$H_{\text{mag}} \propto \hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot (\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \times \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}})$$

Component A of the electric field along the direction of the analyzer direction  $\mathbf{p}$  at the detector position

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$$A_{\text{mag}} = -if\epsilon_0 \int_V M\hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot (\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \times \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}}) d\mathbf{r}$$

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Cst-height amplitude response for the magnetization in the sample plane z

$$H_{\text{mag}} \propto \hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot (\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \times \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}})$$

$$A(M=0)(\mathbf{r}_{\text{tip}}) = \int_V H_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}_{\text{tip}}, z, z_{\text{tip}}) \epsilon_1(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$

Response function:

$$H_{\epsilon} \propto \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \cdot \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}}$$

Component A of the electric field along the direction of the analyzer direction  $\mathbf{p}$  at the detector position

$$A = \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{det}}) \cdot \mathbf{p} = 1/i\omega \int_V \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}} \cdot \mathbf{J}_{\text{exp}} d\mathbf{r}$$

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$$A_{\text{mag}} = -i f \epsilon_0 \int_V M\hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot (\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \times \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}}) d\mathbf{r}$$

$\mathbf{R} = (x, y)$ ; probe at height  $z_{\text{tip}}$

$$A_{\text{mag}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{tip}}) = \int_V H_{\text{mag}}(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}_{\text{tip}}, z, z_{\text{tip}}) M(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$

Cst-height amplitude response for the magnetization in the sample plane z

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Response function:

$$H_{\epsilon} \propto \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \cdot \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}}$$

Reciprocal field: plane wave  $\Rightarrow$

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}} = k_2 \exp(ikr) / r \cdot (-\cos\theta \mathbf{x} + \sin\theta \mathbf{z})$$

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$$A_{\text{mag}} = -i\mathbf{f}\epsilon_0 \int_V \mathbf{M}\hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot (\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \times \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}}) d\mathbf{r}$$

$\mathbf{R}=(x,y)$ ; probe at height  $z_{\text{tip}}$

$$A_{\text{mag}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{tip}}) = \int_V H_{\text{mag}}(\mathbf{R}-\mathbf{R}_{\text{tip}}, z, z_{\text{tip}}) M(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$

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Response function:

$$H_{\epsilon} \propto \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \cdot \mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}}$$

Reciprocal field: plane wave  $\Rightarrow$

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{rec}} = k_2 \exp(i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}) / r \cdot (-\cos\theta \mathbf{x} + \sin\theta \mathbf{z})$$

**Response functions:**  $H_{\text{mag}} \propto \mathbf{y} \cdot (\mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \wedge (-\cos\theta \mathbf{x} + \sin\theta \mathbf{z})) = \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} (\cos\theta \mathbf{z} + \sin\theta \mathbf{x})$   
 $H_{\epsilon} \propto \mathbf{E}_{\text{exp}} \cdot (-\cos\theta \mathbf{x} + \sin\theta \mathbf{z})$

# Outline

- \* **Optical far-field, Rayleigh criterion and Near-field**

- \* **Some previous results**

- \* **Our experimental method**

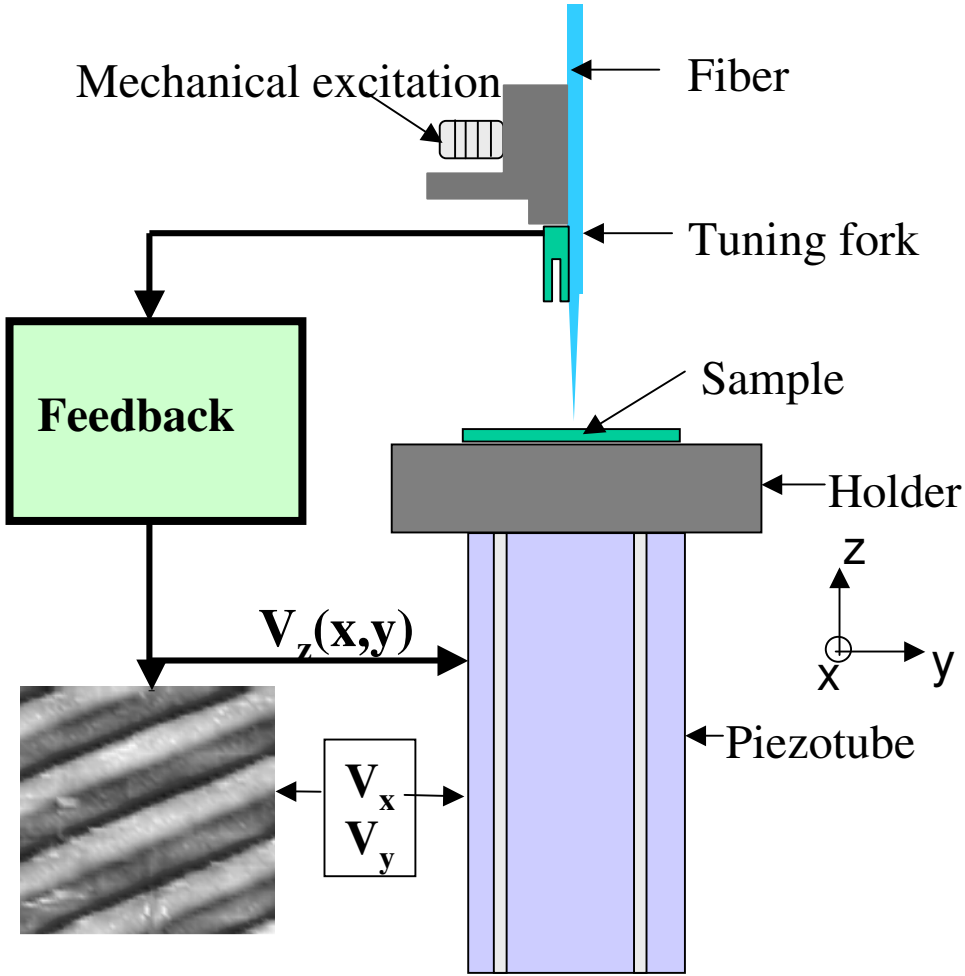
- \* **Theoretical background**

- \* **The experimental set-up**

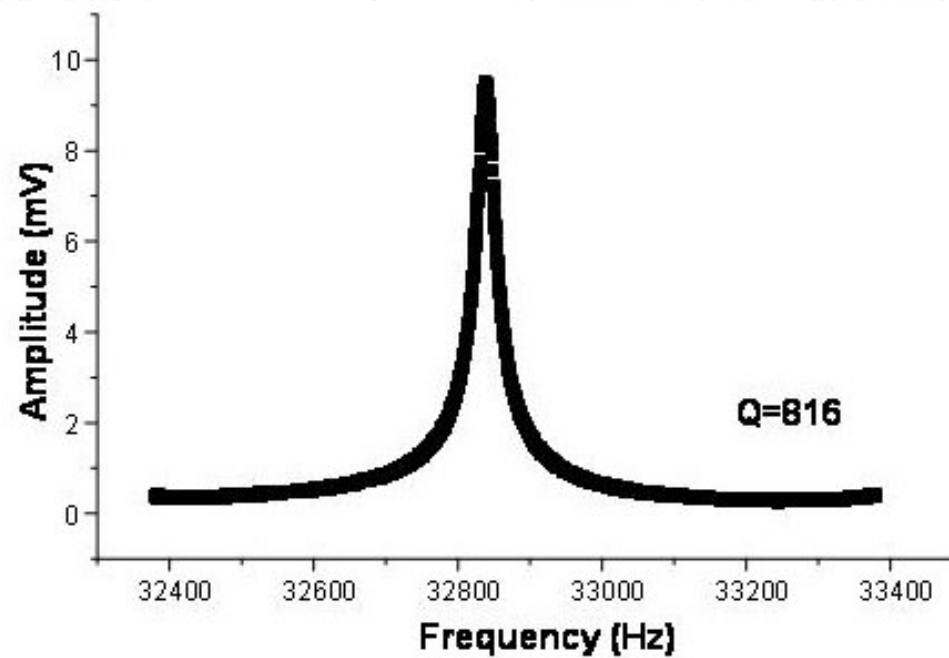
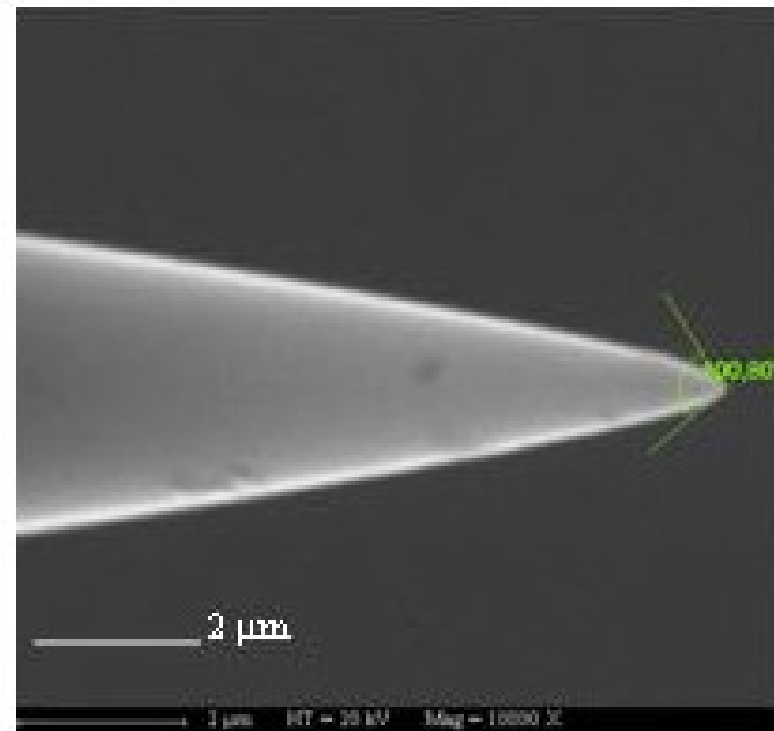
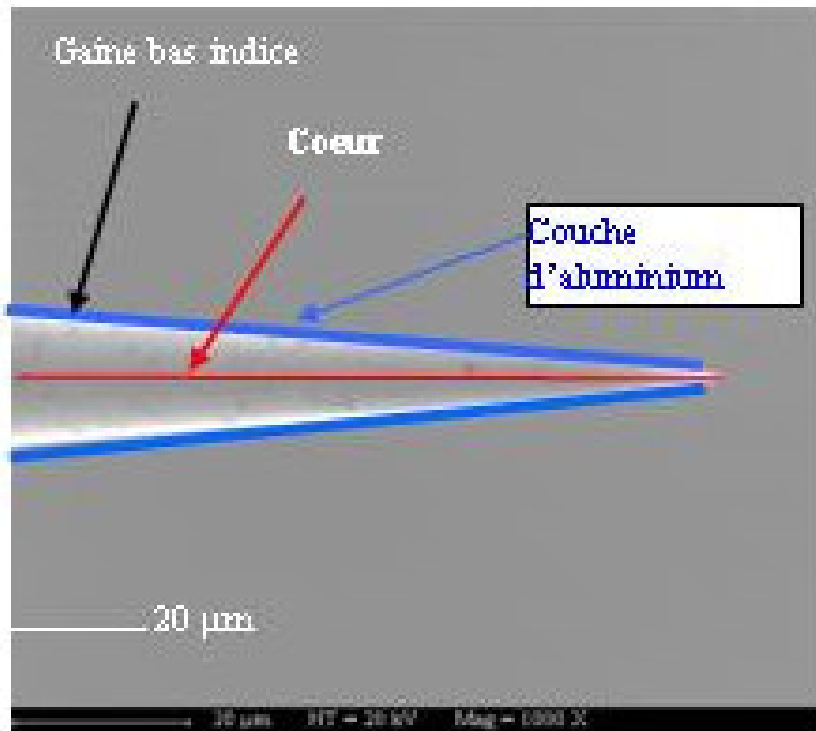
- \* **Some examples**

**Conclusions**

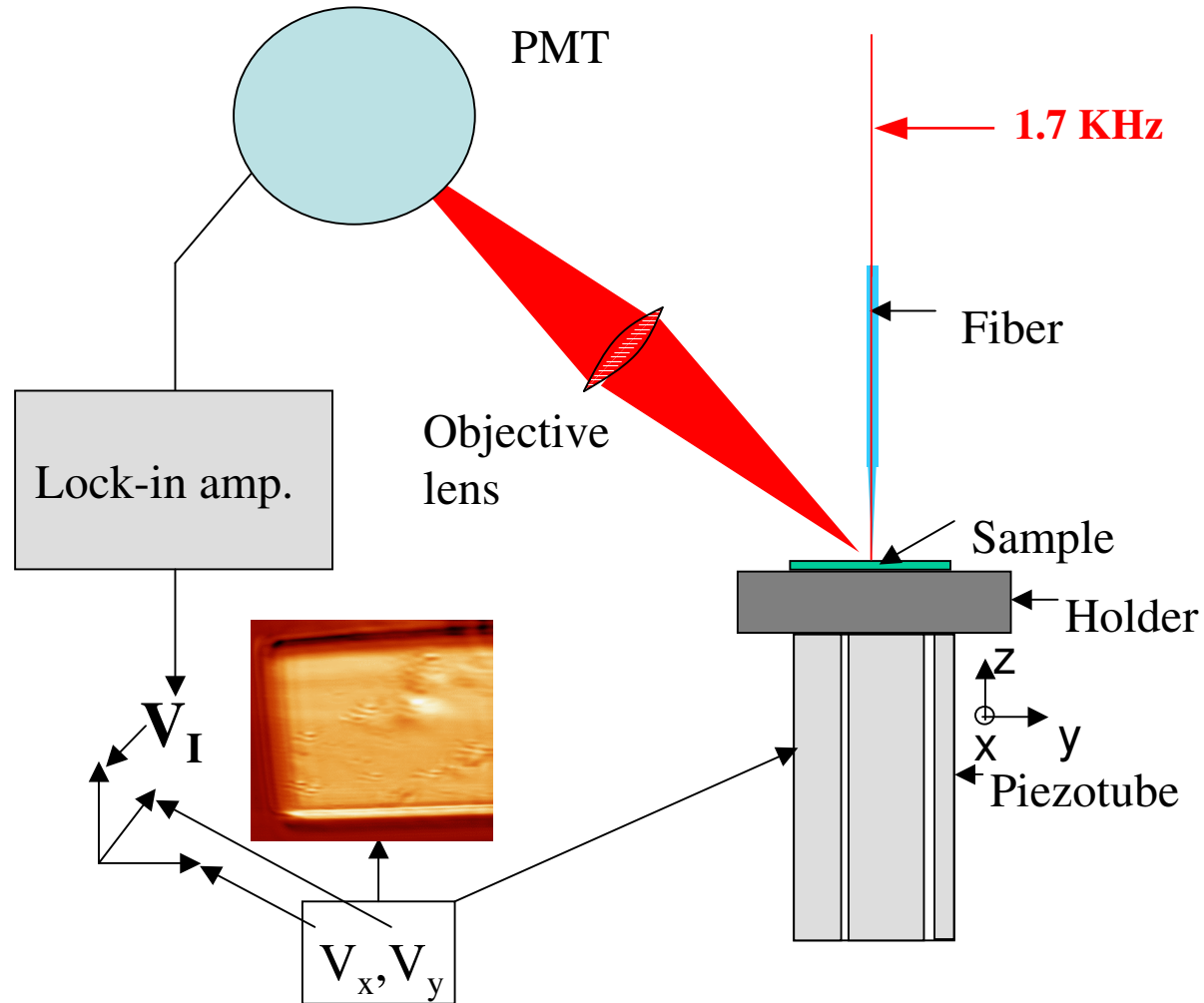
# The topographic imaging



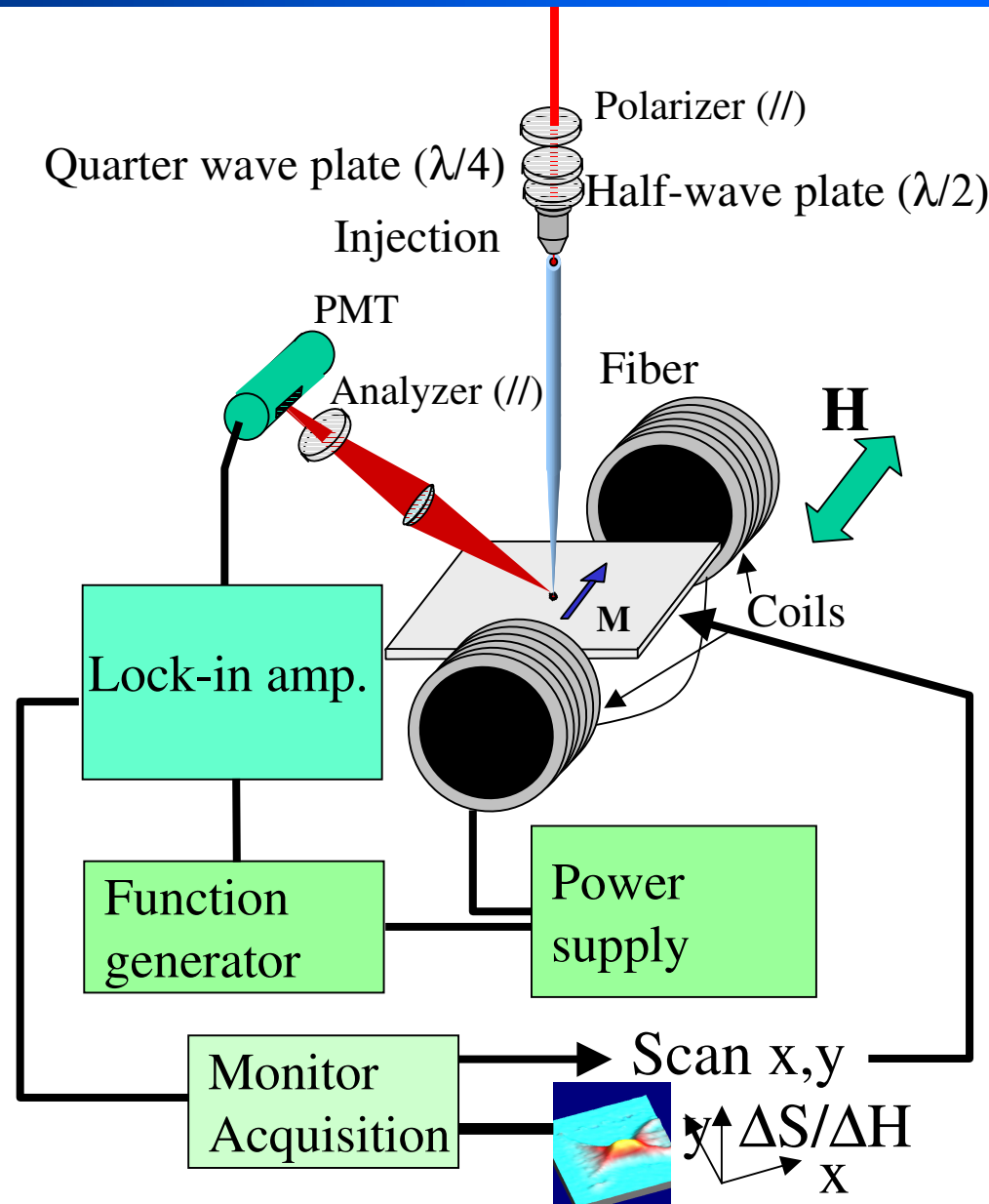


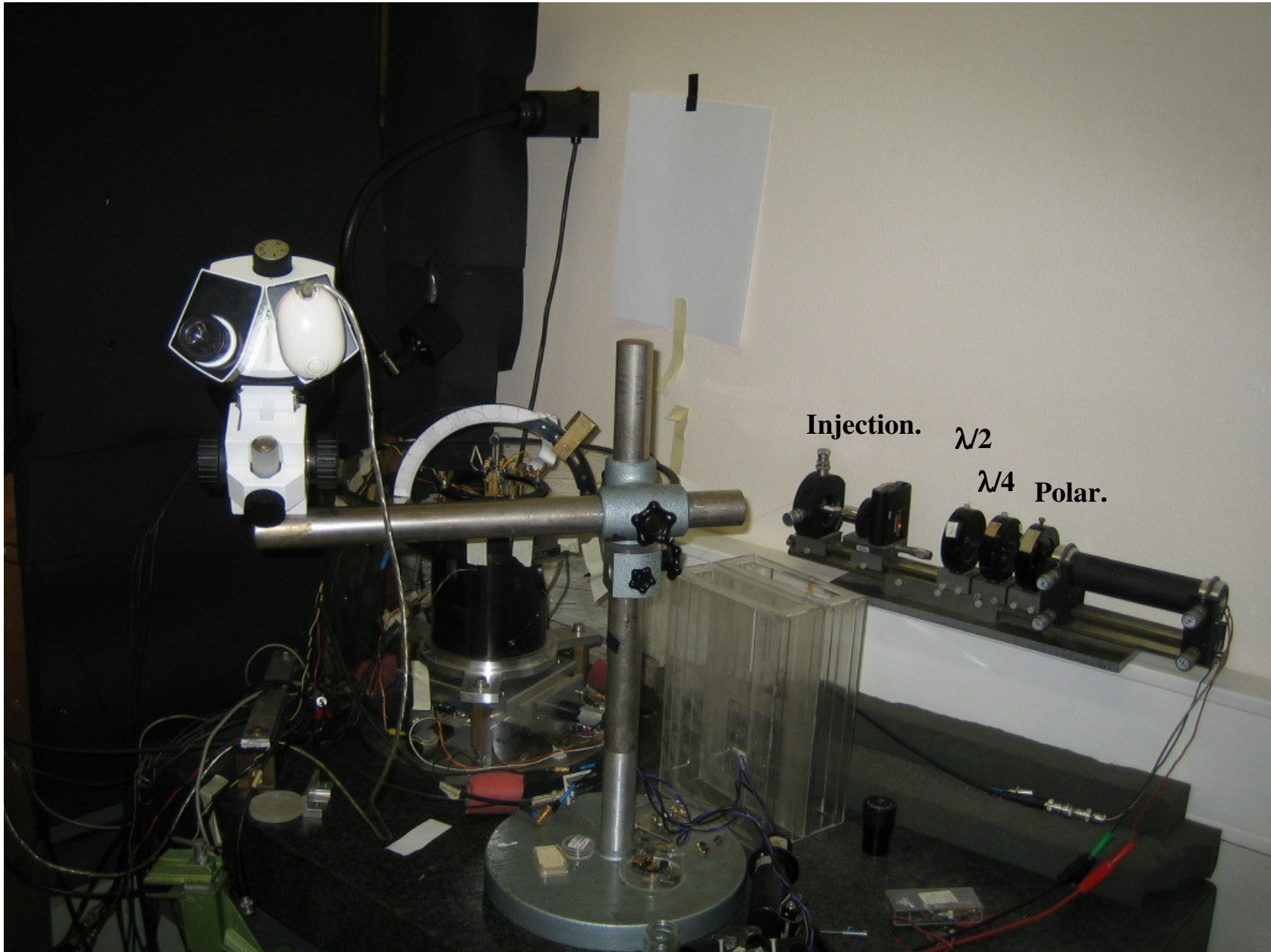


# The optical imaging



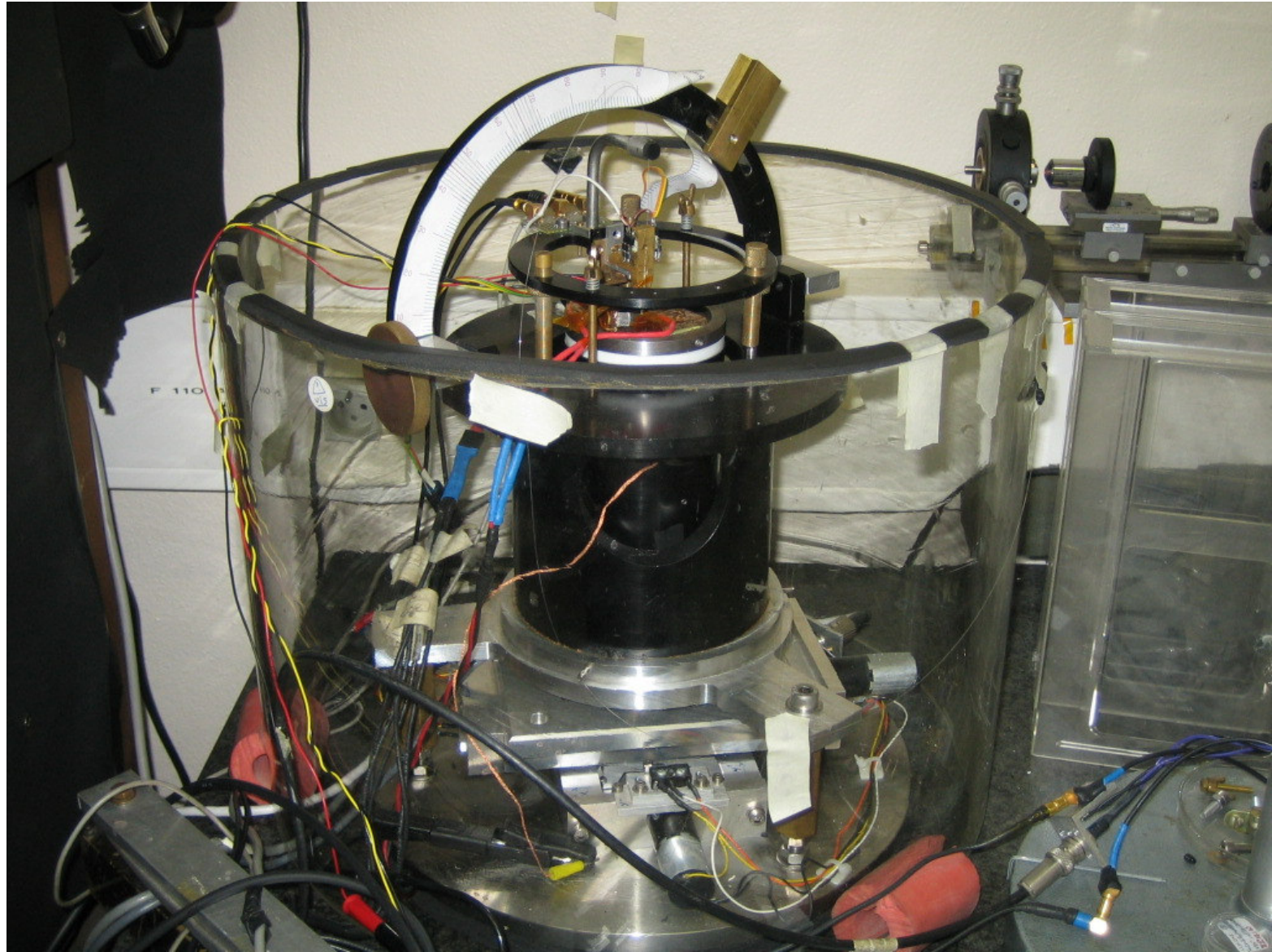
# The magneto-optical imaging



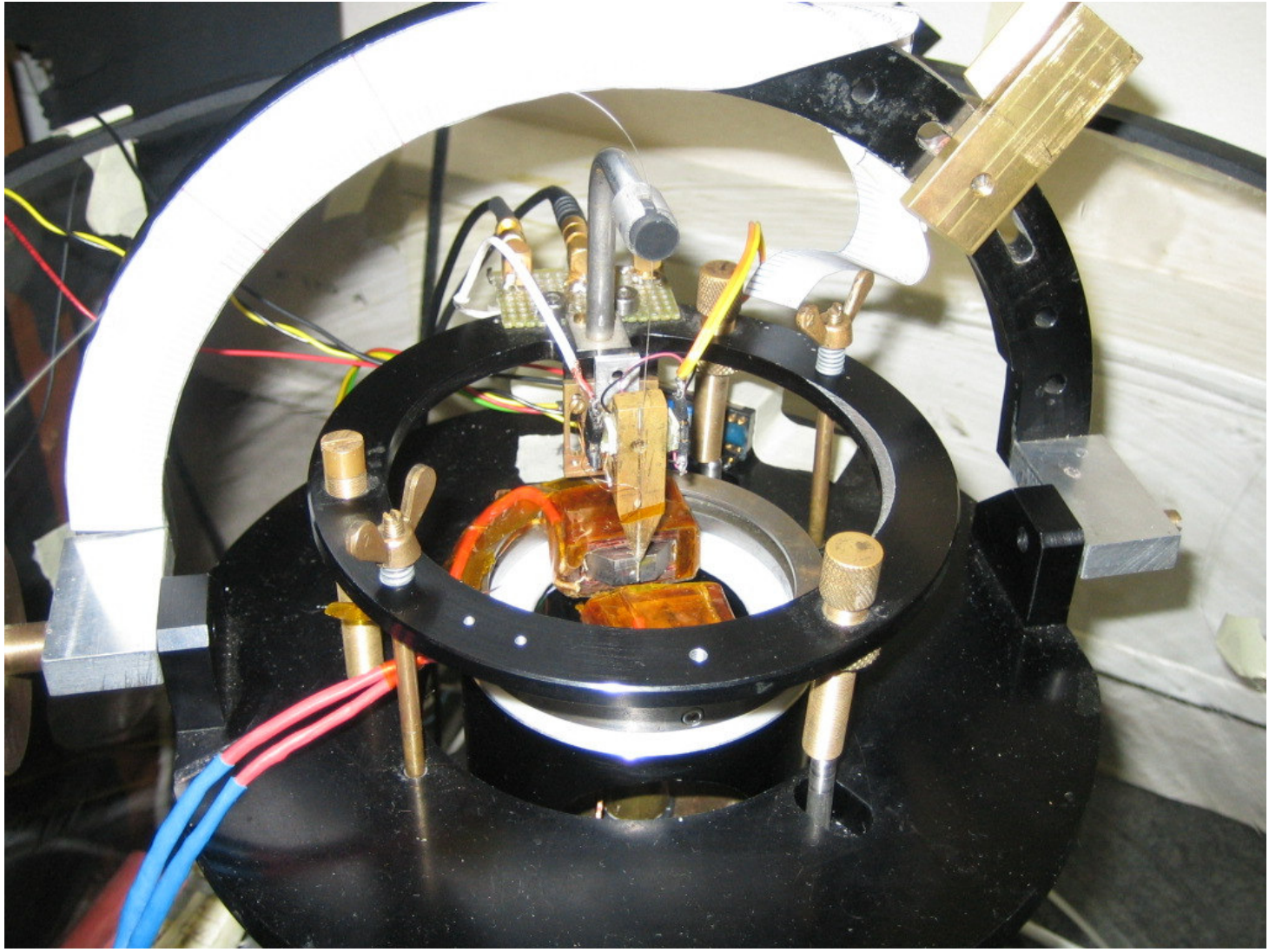


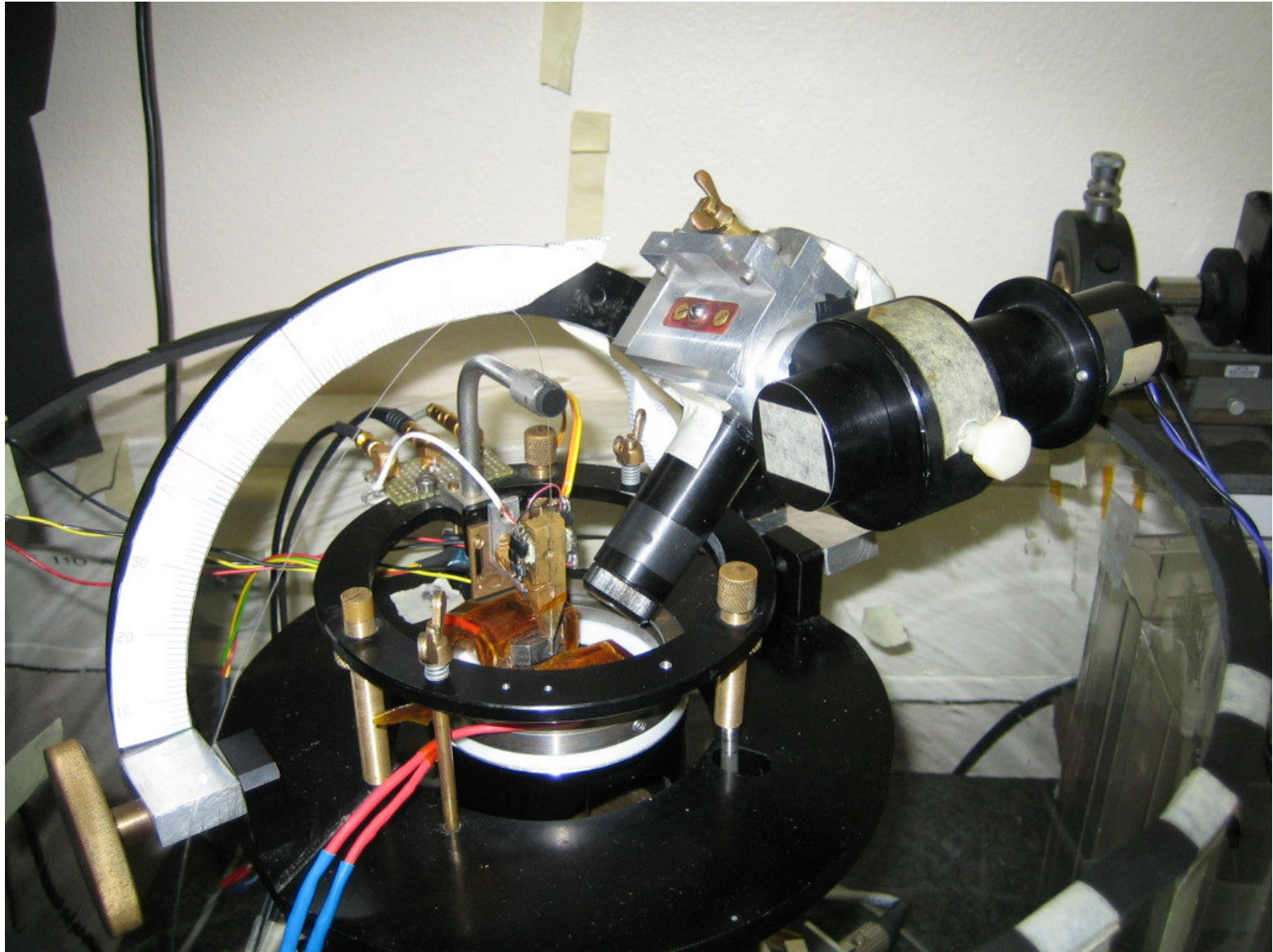
Injection.  $\lambda/2$   
 $\lambda/4$  Polar.



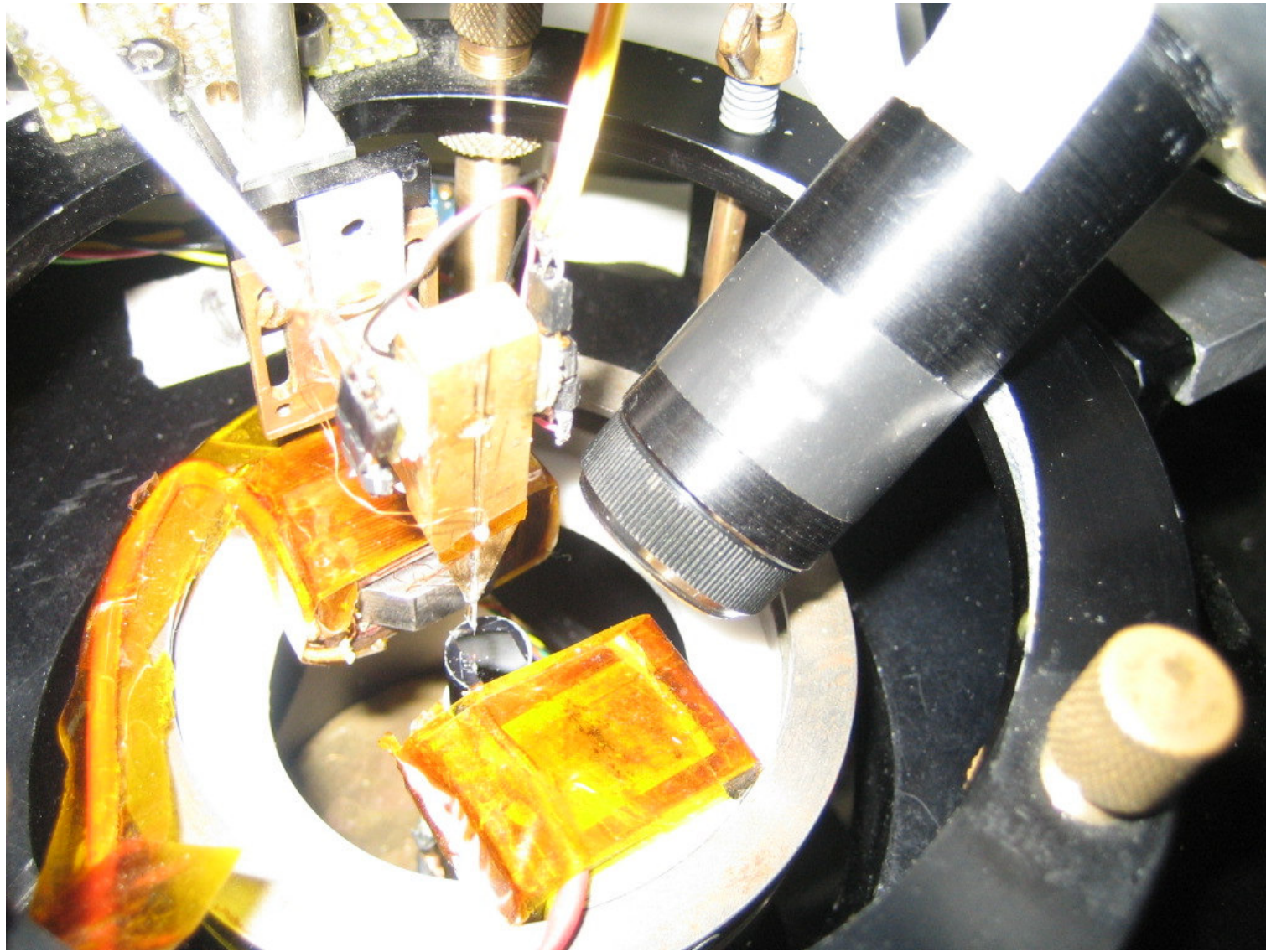




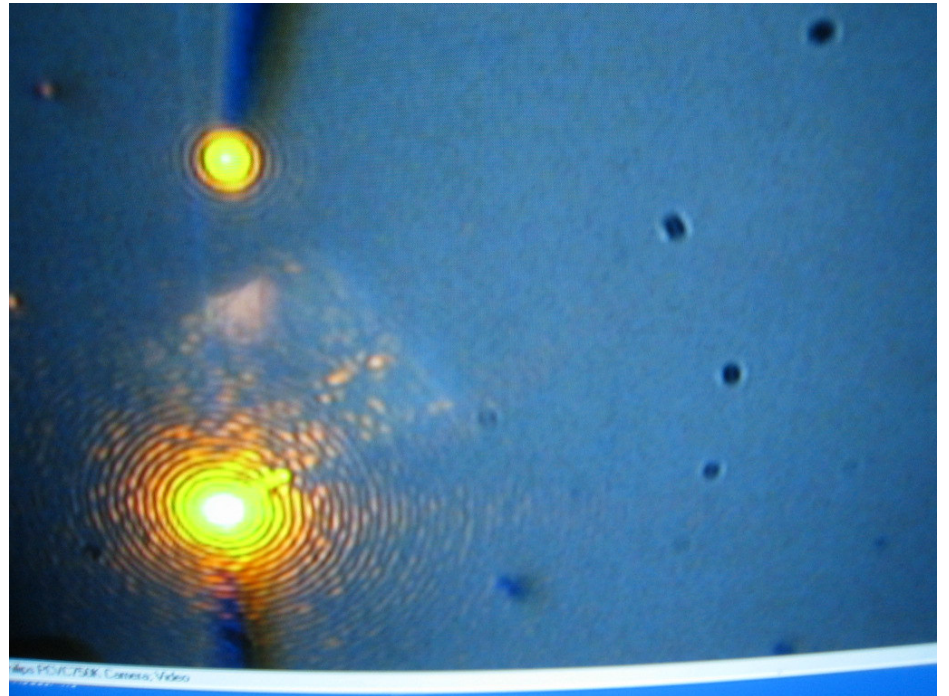
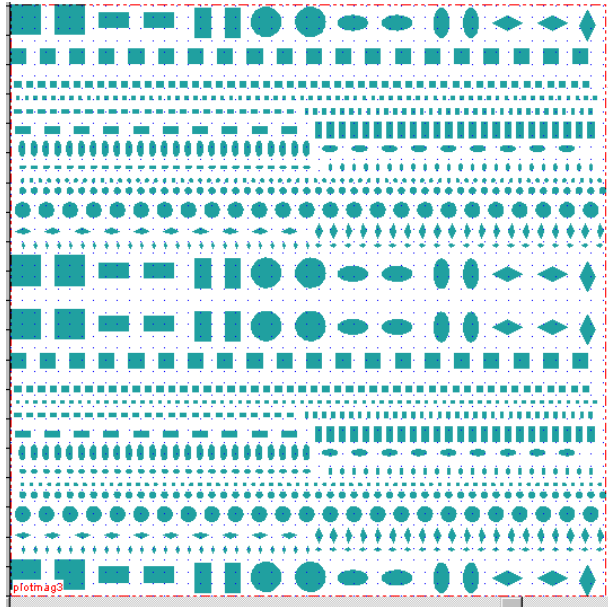
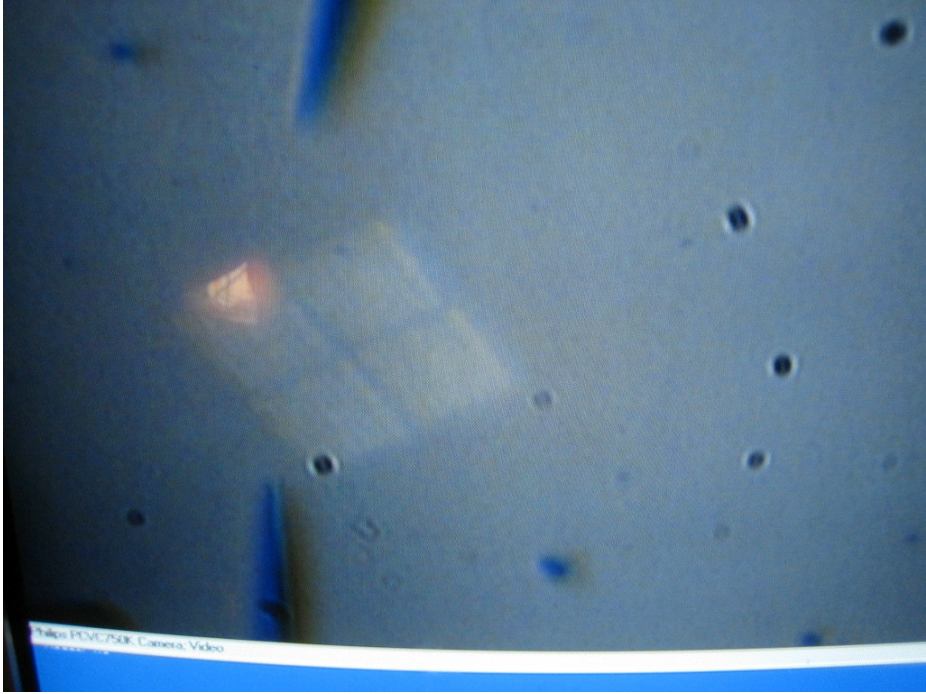












# Outline

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\* **Theoretical background**

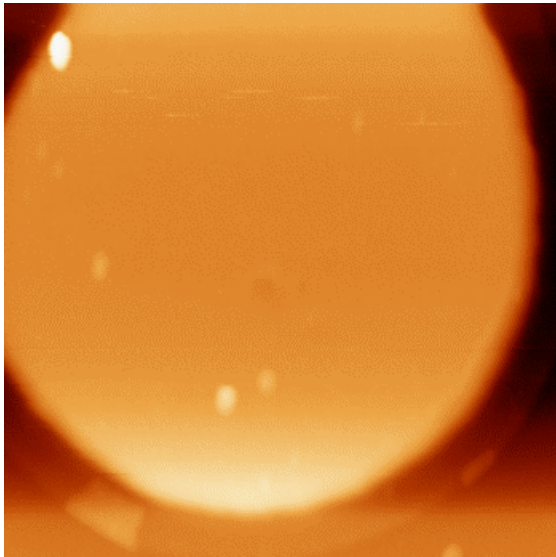
\* **The experimental set-up**

\* **Some examples**

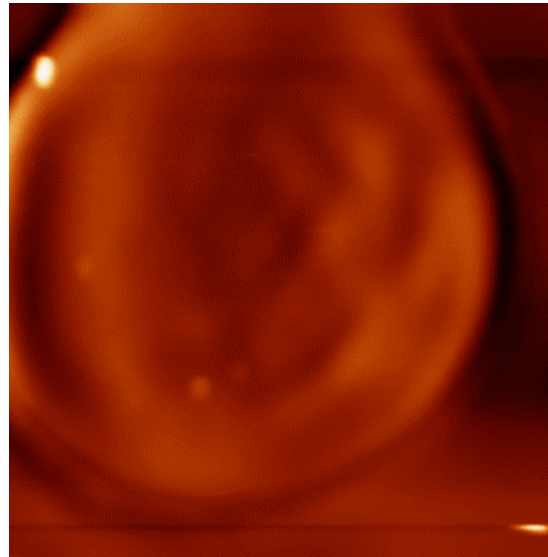
**Conclusions**

**Thin film disk**  
**Ø 5 µm; 50 nm thick**  
**FeCoSiB**

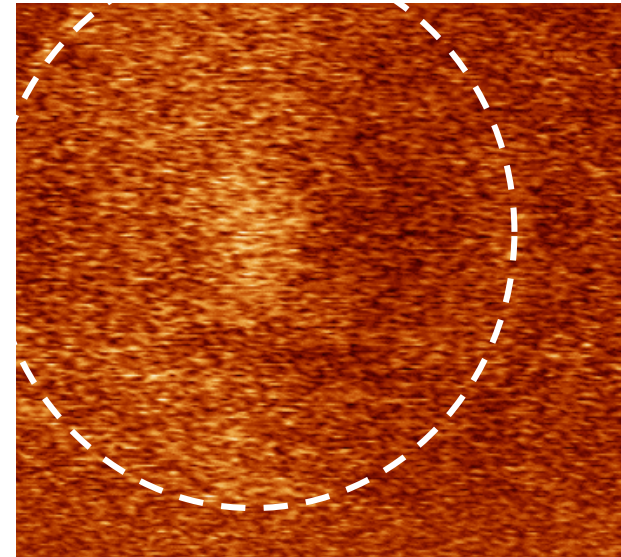
**Topography**



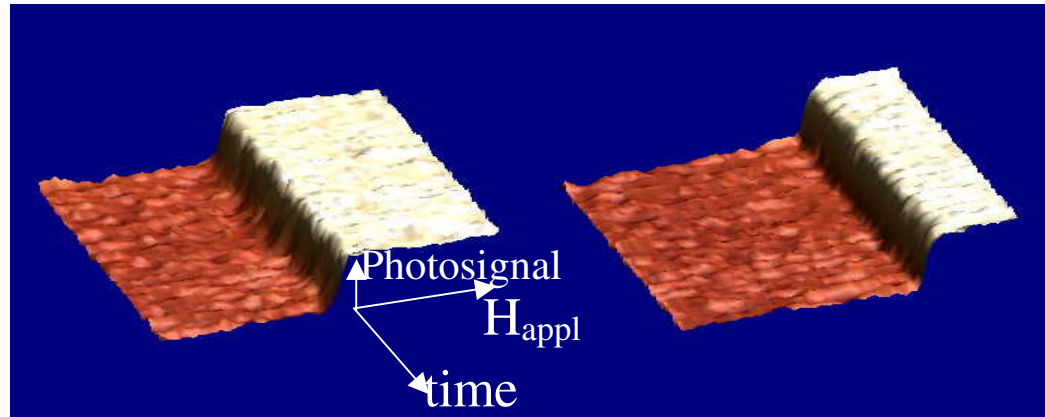
**Optics**



**Magneto-optics**

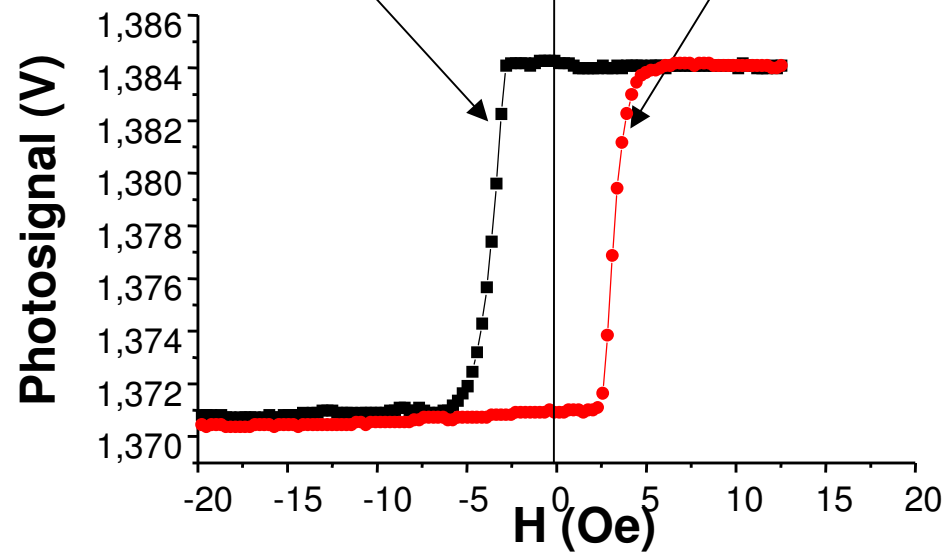


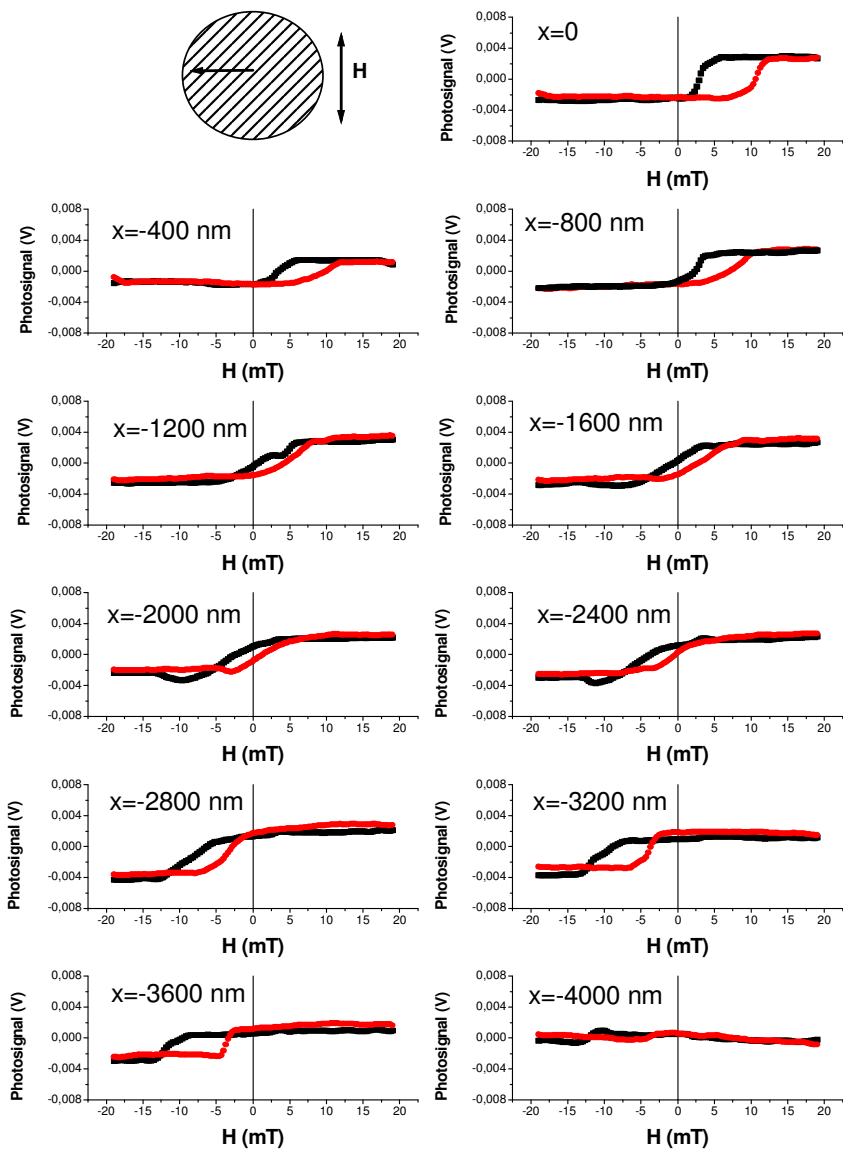
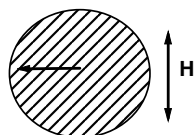
# Hysteresis loops



3d mode of WSxM programme  
By Nanotec Electrónica (Spain)

Photosignal= $f(H_{\text{appl}}, \text{time})$   
N loops (N= 32, 64, 128, ...)  
Frequency: 0.4 Hz



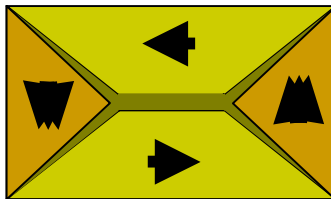
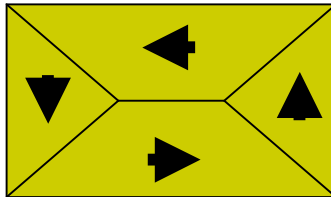




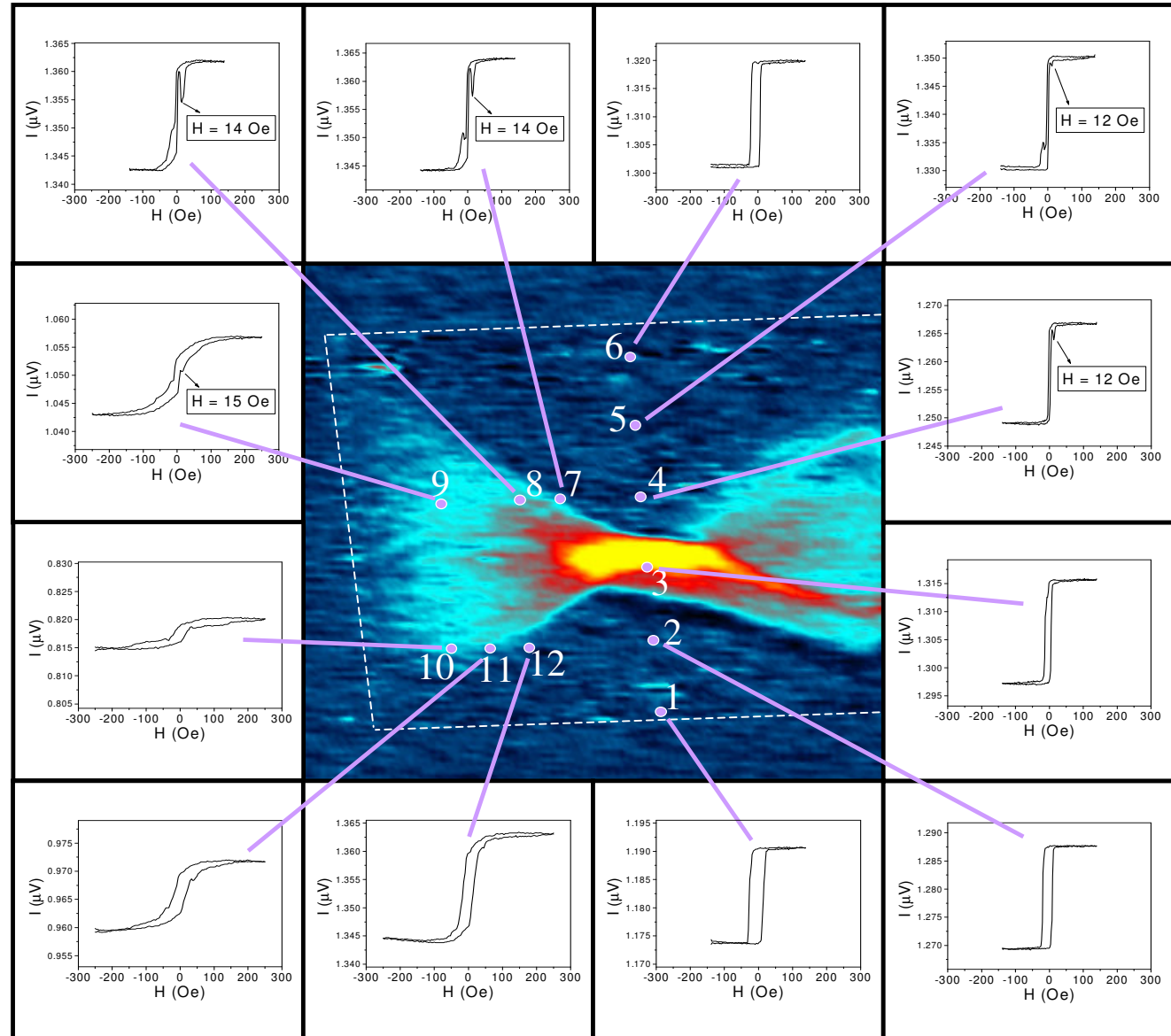
# Image and Local hysteresis loops

16 x 16  $\mu\text{m}^2$   
particle  
80 nm thick  
 $\text{Fe}_{4.6}\text{Co}_{70.4}\text{Si}_{15}\text{B}_{10}$

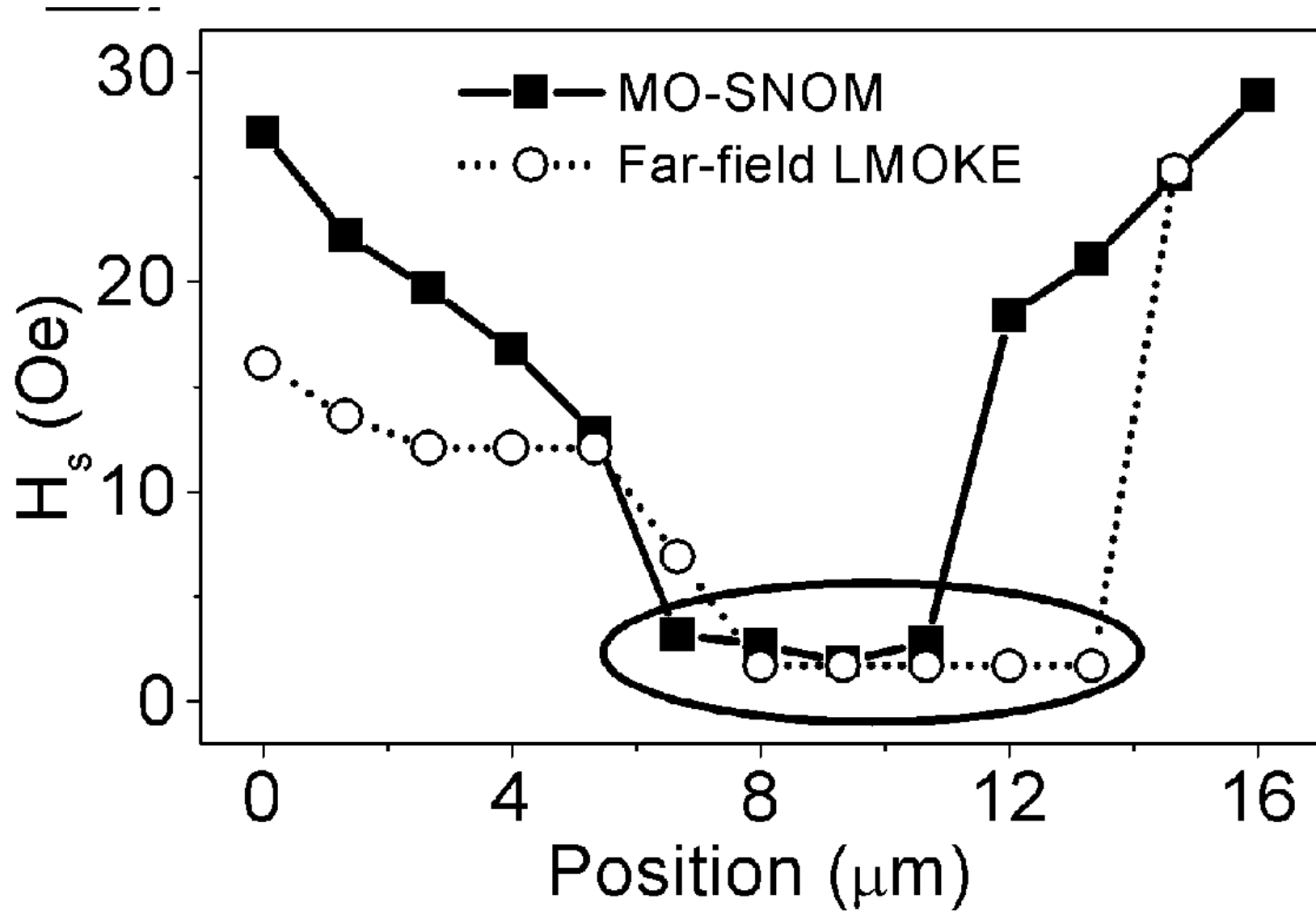
$H_{ac}=0$   
 $H_{bias}=0$

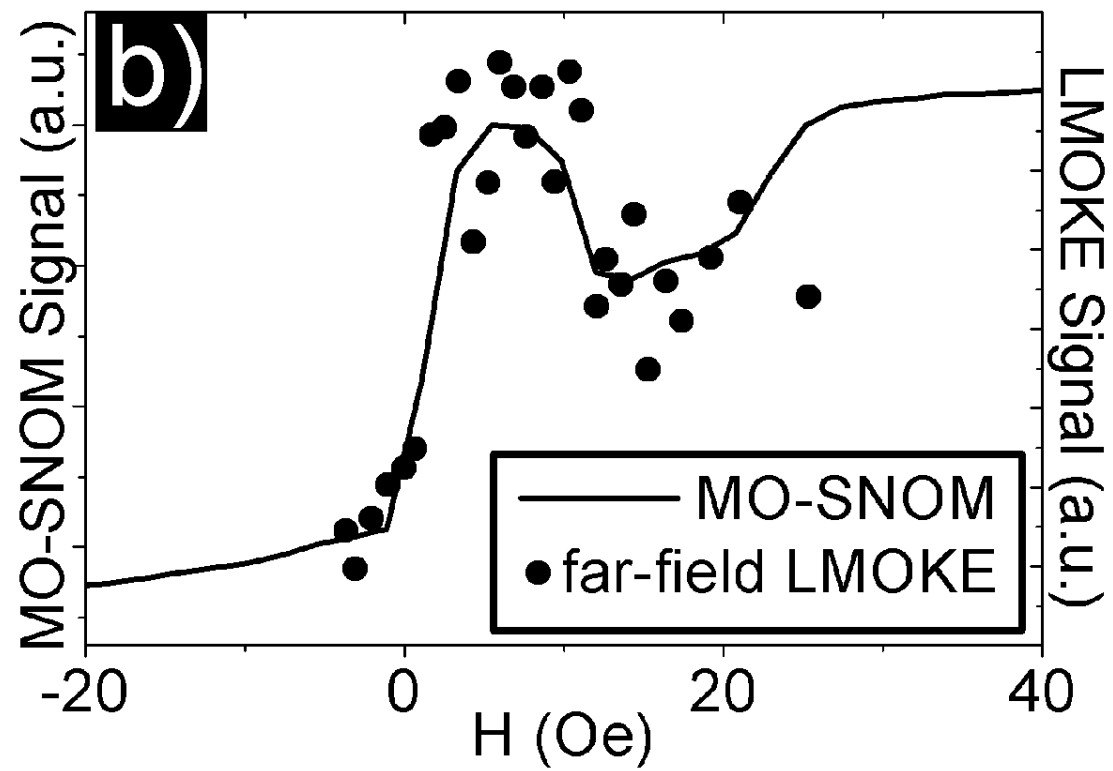
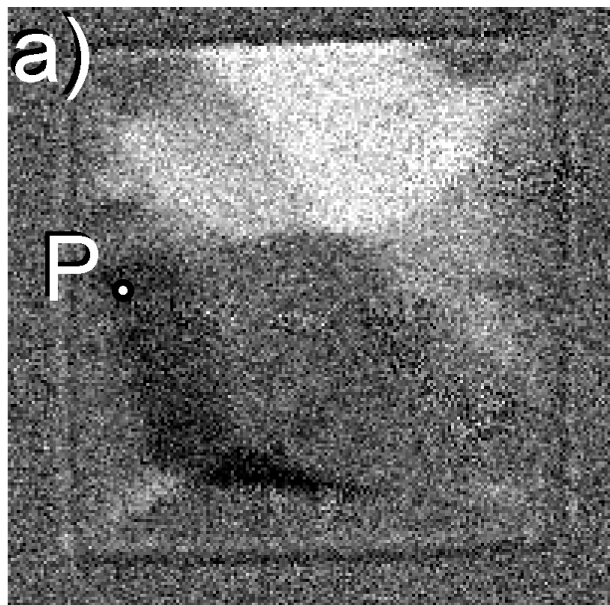


$H_{ac} \neq 0$   
 $H_{bias}=0$



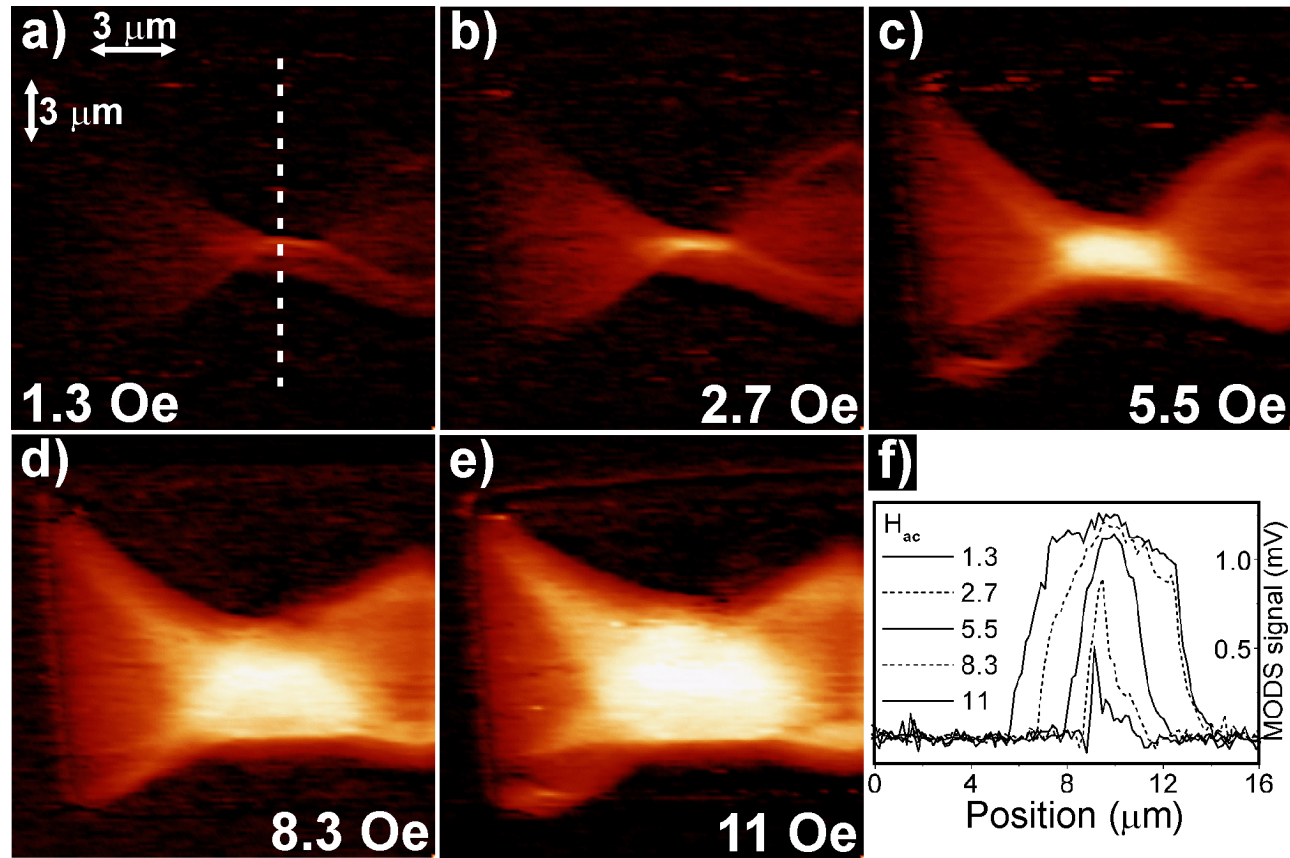
# Particular features







$0.13 \text{ mT} < H_{ac} < 1.1 \text{ mT}$

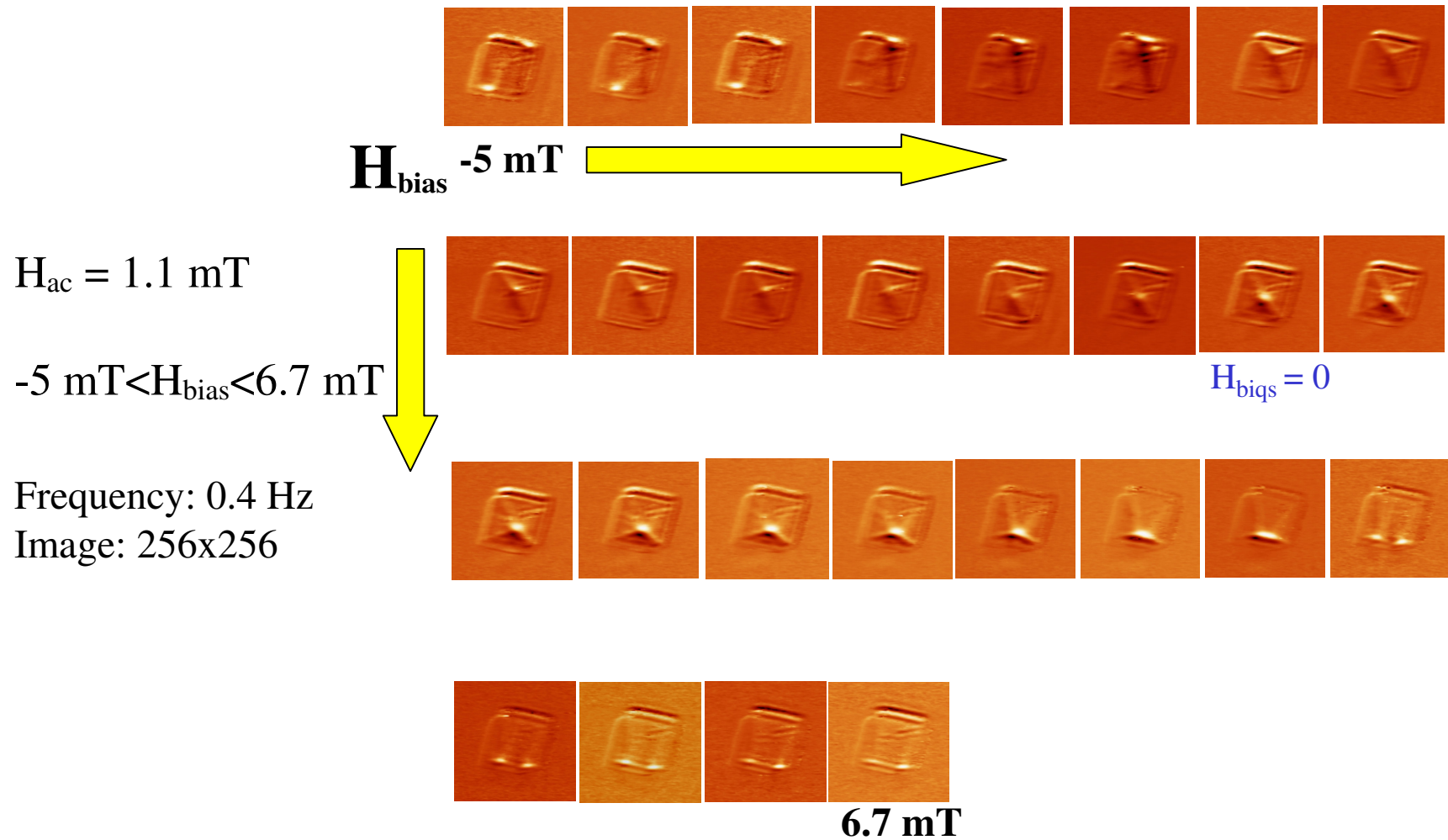


$16 \times 16 \mu\text{m}^2$  particle

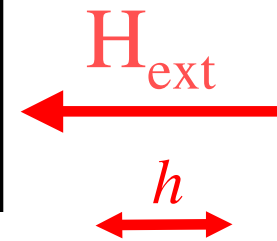
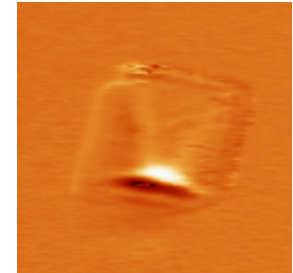
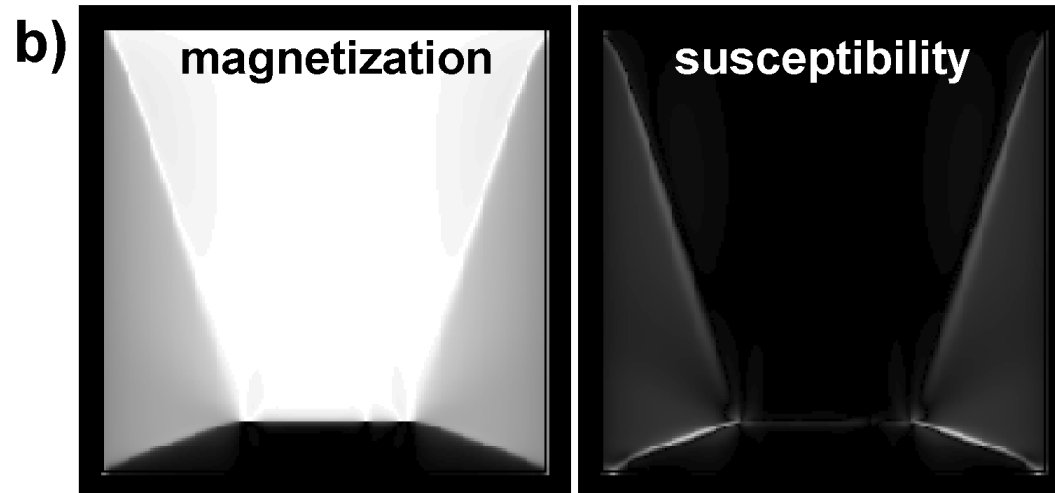
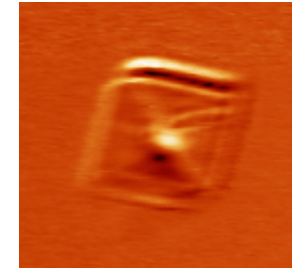
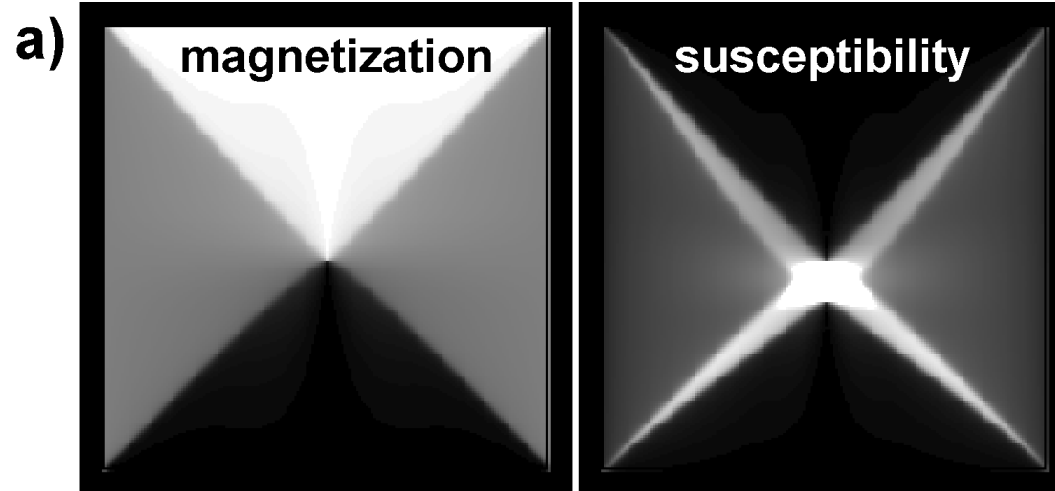
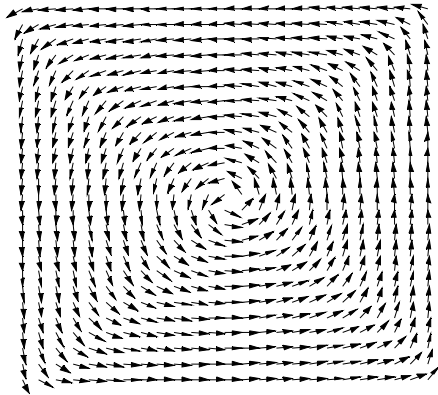
80 nm thick

$\text{Fe}_{4.6}\text{Co}_{70.4}\text{Si}_{15}\text{B}_{10}$

**Fe<sub>4,6</sub>Co<sub>70,4</sub>Si<sub>15</sub>B<sub>10</sub> particle**  
4 x 4 μm<sup>2</sup>; 80 nm thick

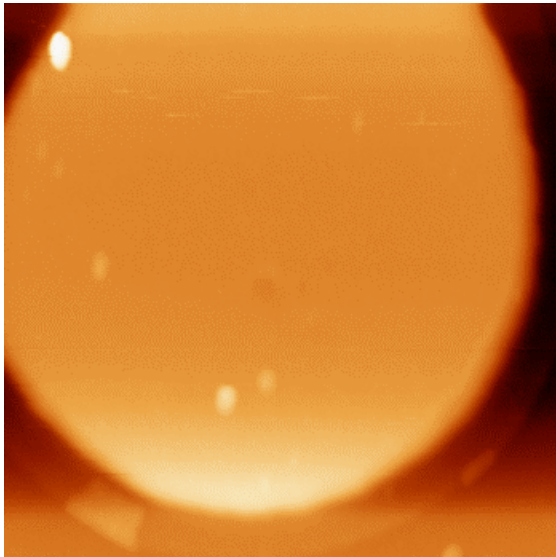


# Micromagnetic simulation

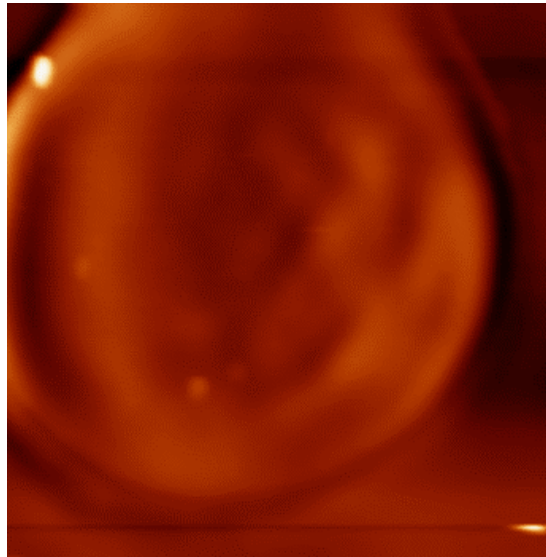


**Thin film disk**  
**Ø 5 µm; 50 nm**  
**FeCoSiB**

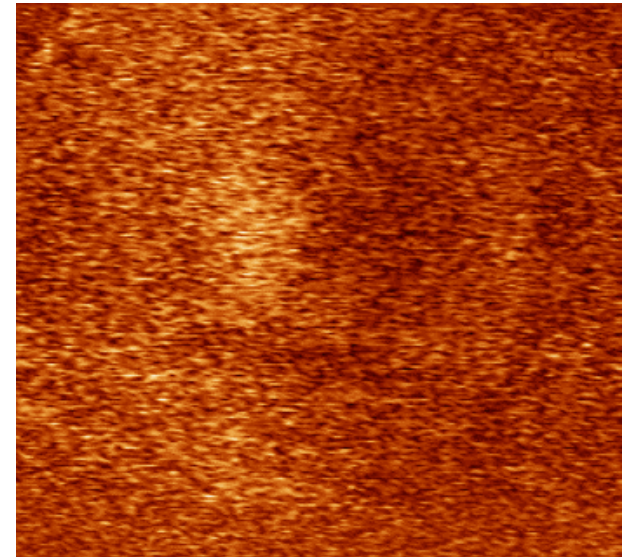
**Topography**



**Optics**

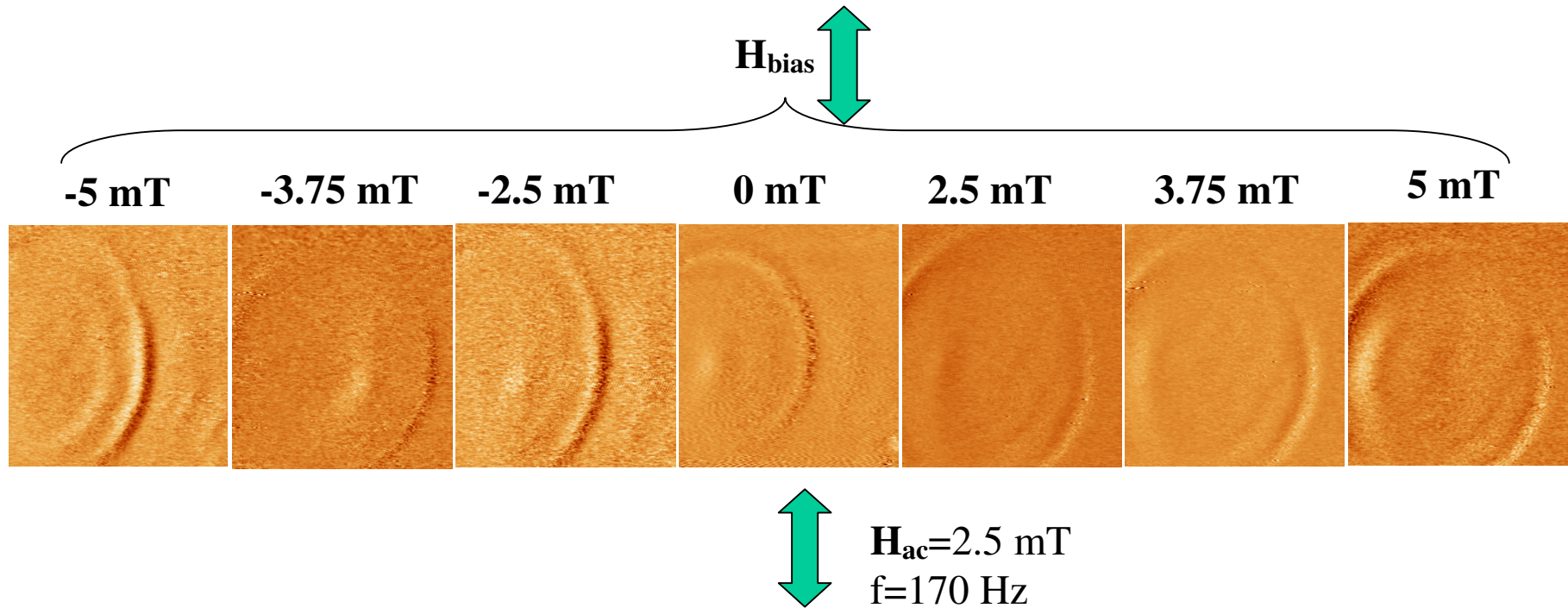


**Magneto-optics**

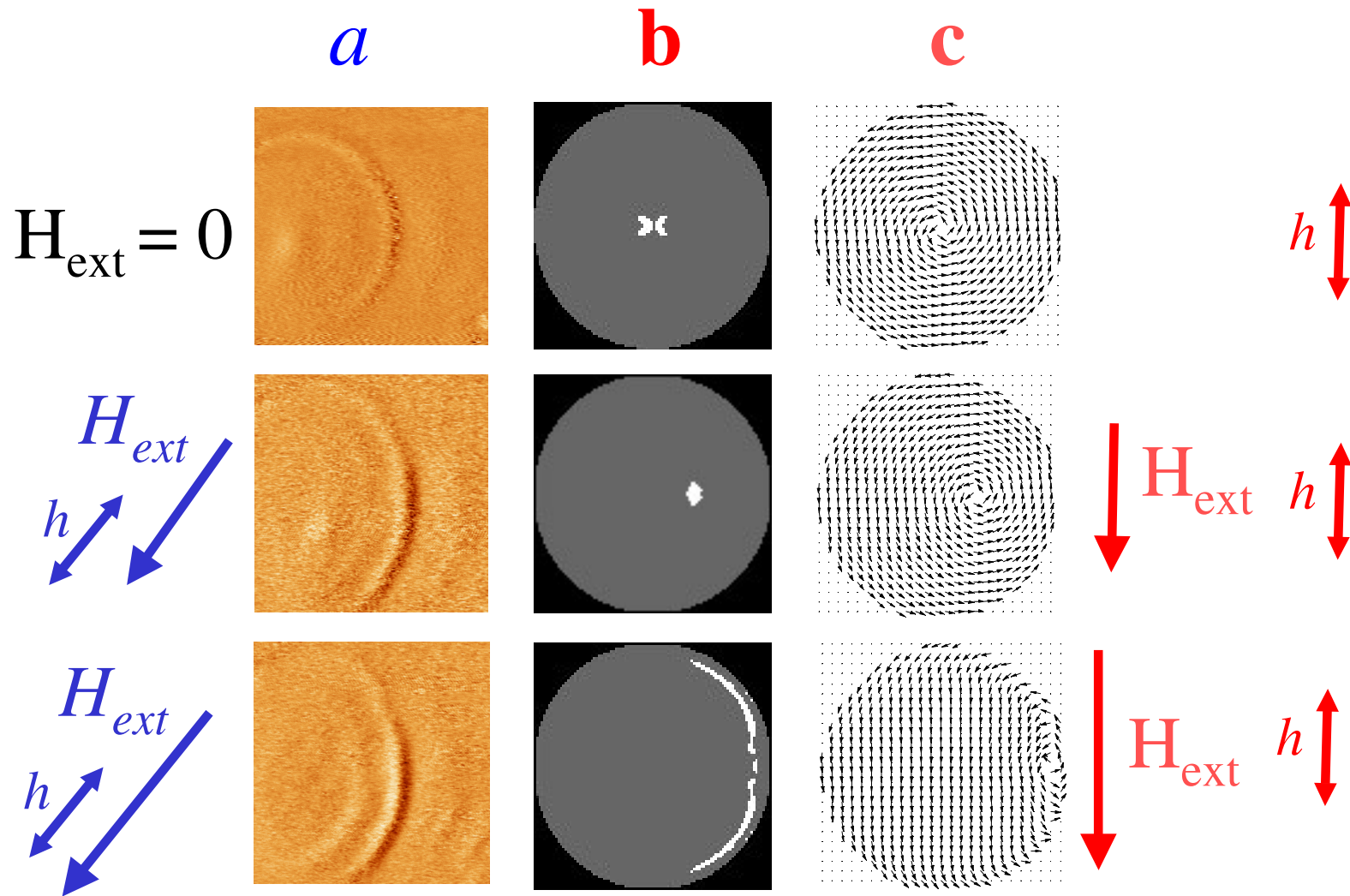




Fe<sub>3</sub>Si particle  
Ø 5 µm; 50 nm thick



# Micromagnetic simulation



# Resolutions

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**Topographic:** depends on the tip shape

**Optical:** depends on the size of the nanoaperture and on the tip-sample distance

**( $\geq 20-30$  nm)**

**Magneto-optical:** depends on the optical resolution, on the amplitude of  $H_{ac}$

**( $\approx 100$  nm)**

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- \* **Some examples**

**Conclusions**



# Conclusions

---

- Near-field optics is sensitive to in-plane components of magnetization
- Transverse Kerr effect is valid in the optical near-field
- The local probe is not magnetic; a bias field can be applied
- Several images can be plotted simultaneously: topographic, optical, magneto-optical
- Local hysteresis loops can be plotted at the nanometre scale
- Slow dynamics of domains can be studied on a elementary pattern
- Resolution depends strongly on the geometrical and optical characteristics of the probe