Temperature dependent magnetic excitations in Tb₃Fe₅O₁₂ through inelastic neutron scattering

Yo Kawamoto¹, Kazuhiko Ikeuchi², Kazuya Kamazawa², Takashi Kikkawa^{3,4}, Eiji Saitoh^{3,4,5,6}, Masaki Fujita³, Kazuhisa Kakurai² and Yusuke Nambu³
¹ Department of Physics, Tohoku Univ., Sendai 980-8578, Japan
²CROSS, Tokai 319-1106, Japan
³ Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku Univ., Sendai 980-8577, Japan
⁴Advanced Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku Univ., Sendai 980-8577, Japan

⁵Department of Applied Physics, Univ. Tokyo, Tokyo 113-8656, Japan ⁶Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC), JAEA, Tokai 319-1195, Japan

In spintronics research, control of spin currents has been a key issue. Spin Seebeck effect (SSE) is known to create the spin currents in ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic insulators under a temperature gradient.

In this research, we focus on peculiar sign-changes in the temperature dependence of the SSE signal from $Gd_3Fe_5O_{12}$ (GdIG) [1]. The compound shows twice changes: one is at 270 K corresponding to the magnetic compensation point. The other is at around 70 K, and it cannot stem from the magnetic structure change. The origin of the sign change at lower temperature has not been clarified yet. One possibile mechanism is a competition between the acoustic and gapped optical magnon modes that carry spin currents in the opposite direction due to their directions of the precessional motion of magnetizations (magnon polarization) [2].

Inelastic neutron scattering is a powerful method to study magnetic excitations including observation of the magnon polarization. Given that gadolinium has a very large neutron absorption cross section, it is supposed to be difficult to observe neutron scattering signal. We hence searched alternative iron garnets with distinct rare-earth elements, and have confirmed that $Tb_3Fe_5O_{12}$ (TbIG) shows similar behavior through SSE measurements. For the first step of our research, we performed an unpolarized inelastic neutron scattering experiment on BL01 4SEASONS at J-PARC to measure magnon dispersion relations in a wide (Q, E) regime. In the poster presentation, we show observed three major magnon branches in TbIG and discuss on the mechanism of the sign-change based on their temperature dependences.

[1] S. Geprägs et al., Nat. Commun 7, 10452 (2016).

[2] Y. Nambu et al., arXiv:1911.11968.