Nonreciprocal surface acoustic wave via magnon-phonon coupling

Yoichi Nii^{1,2}, Ryo Sasaki³, Y. Iguchi⁴, and Yoshinori Onose¹

¹Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University, Sendai 980-8577, Japan

²PRESTO, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST),

Kawaguchi 332-0012, Japan

³Department of Basic Science, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo 153-8902, Japan ⁴Department of Applied Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

Velocity, decay rate, and path of quantum particles sometimes changes upon the reversal of wave vector. This directional flow of particles, known as nonreciprocity, universally occur in various particles such as photon [1] and electron [2] when matters has neither spatial inversion (P) nor time reversal (T) symmetries. Here, we show nonreciprocity of phonon propagating on the surface of Ni/LiNbO₃ device [3]. Due to the character of surface and ferromagnetism of Ni, this hybrid system is regarded as an artificial multiferroic without P, T symmetries. Our precise measurement shows that phase velocity and absorption is found to be dependent on the propagation direction of phonon, and this nonreciprocity becomes maximal when magnon and phonon frequencies coincide and hybridization occurs. Theoretical treatment based on magneto-elastic coupling explained selective excitation of magnon by surface phonon is the origin of this nonreciprocity.

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