

PHYS-491

Magnetism in materials

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Ing.-phys	MA2, MA4	Opt.
Physicien	MA2, MA4	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	4
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	Oral
Workload	120h
Weeks	14
Hours	4 weekly
Lecture	2 weekly
Exercises	2 weekly
Number of positions	

Summary

The lectures will provide an introduction to magnetism in materials, covering fundamentals of spin and orbital degrees of freedom, interactions between moments and some typical ordering patterns. Selected experimental techniques and their application in current research will be presented.

Content

1. Introduction (spin and orbital moments, Pauli matrices)
2. Isolated magnetic moments (diamagnetism, paramagnetism, Hund rules)
3. Crystal fields (ligand environment of magnetic ions, Jahn-Teller effect)
4. Interactions (dipole, direct exchange, super-exchange, anisotropic and asymmetric exchange)
5. Long-range magnetic order (ferromagnetism, Weiss model, critical behavior, excitations)
6. Long-range magnetic order (antiferromagnetism, incommensurate order, spin-glass)
7. Magnetism in metals (Pauli paramagnetism, Stoner mechanism, Landau levels)
8. Magnetism in metals (spin-density wave, RKKY, Kondo effect)
9. Measurement techniques 1 (magnetization, susceptibility)
10. Measurement techniques 2 (specific heat, ESR)
11. Measurement techniques 3 (NMR, μ SR)
12. Measurement techniques 4 (neutron scattering)
13. Multiferroics (ferroelectrics, magneto-elastic effect, magneto-caloric effect)

Learning Prerequisites**Required courses**

Classical electrodynamics
Quantum Physics 1

Recommended courses

Quantum Physics 2
Solid State Physics 1
Solid State Physics 2

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Define fundamental sources of magnetism
- Explain the behavior of magnetic moments in magnetic fields
- Work out / Determine spin states from ligand environment

- Elaborate common magnetic interactions and their properties
- Contrast typical long-range ordered states in magnetism
- Discuss how magnetism arises in metals
- Demonstrate similarities and differences in low-dimensional magnetic systems
- Specify the role of a given experimental technique in investigation of magnetic materials

Transversal skills

- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
- Summarize an article or a technical report.
- Make an oral presentation.

Teaching methods

Lectures with exercises.

Assessment methods

Oral exam.

Supervision

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	Yes
Others	Office hours: appointments can be arranged by email.

Resources

Bibliography

"Magnetism in Condensed Matter Physics", Stephen Blundell (Oxford University Press, 2001)

Ressources en bibliothèque

- [Magnetism in Condensed Matter / Blundell](#)

Moodle Link

- <https://go.epfl.ch/PHYS-491>