



HAL
open science

Magnetic helicoidal dichroism with XUV light carrying orbital angular momentum

Mauro Fanciulli, Matteo Pancaldi, Emanuele Pedersoli, Mekha Vimal, David Bresteau, Martin Luttmann, Dario de Angelis, Primož Rebernik Ribič, Benedikt Rösner, Christian David, et al.

► **To cite this version:**

Mauro Fanciulli, Matteo Pancaldi, Emanuele Pedersoli, Mekha Vimal, David Bresteau, et al.. Magnetic helicoidal dichroism with XUV light carrying orbital angular momentum. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 2023, 14th International Conference on Synchrotron Radiation Instrumentation (SRI 2021) 28.03.2022 - 01.04.2022 Online, 2380, pp.012129. 10.1088/1742-6596/2380/1/012129 . hal-03940355

HAL Id: hal-03940355

<https://cnrs.hal.science/hal-03940355v1>

Submitted on 16 Jan 2023

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

PAPER • OPEN ACCESS

Magnetic helicoidal dichroism with XUV light carrying orbital angular momentum

To cite this article: Mauro Fanciulli *et al* 2022 *J. Phys.: Conf. Ser.* **2380** 012129

View the [article online](#) for updates and enhancements.

You may also like

- [Hollow-core photonic bandgap fibers for orbital angular momentum applications](#)
H Li, G Ren, Y Gao et al.
- [Orbital angular momentum of twisted light: chirality and optical activity](#)
Kayn A Forbes and David L Andrews
- [Transverse linear and orbital angular momenta of beam waves and propagation in random media](#)
Mikhail Charnotskii

ECS Toyota Young Investigator Fellowship



For young professionals and scholars pursuing research in batteries, fuel cells and hydrogen, and future sustainable technologies.

At least one \$50,000 fellowship is available annually.
More than \$1.4 million awarded since 2015!



Application deadline: January 31, 2023

Learn more. Apply today!

Magnetic helicoidal dichroism with XUV light carrying orbital angular momentum

Mauro Fanciulli^{1,2}, Matteo Pancaldi³, Emanuele Pedersoli³, Mekha Vimal¹, David Breteau¹, Martin Luttmann¹, Dario De Angelis³, Primož Rebernik Ribič³, Benedikt Rösner⁴, Christian David⁴, Carlo Spezzani³, Michele Manfreda³, Ricardo Sousa⁵, Ioan-Lucian Prejbeanu⁵, Laurent Vila⁵, Bernard Dieny⁵, Giovanni De Ninno^{3,6}, Flavio Capotondi³, Maurizio Sacchi^{7,8} and Thierry Ruchon¹

¹LIDYL, CEA, CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

²Laboratoire de Physique des Matériaux et Surfaces, CY Cergy Paris Université, 95031 Cergy-Pontoise, France

³Elettra-Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A., 34149 Basovizza, Trieste, Italy

⁴Paul Scherrer Institut, 5232 Villigen, Switzerland

⁵IRIG-SPINTEC, CEA, Université Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Grenoble INP, 38000 Grenoble, France

⁶Laboratory of Quantum Optics, University of Nova Gorica, 5001 Nova Gorica, Slovenia

⁷Institut des NanoSciences de Paris, CNRS, Sorbonne Université, 75005 Paris, France

⁸Synchrotron SOLEIL, L'Orme des Merisiers, 91192 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

maurizio.sacchi@cnrs.fr

Abstract. Circularly polarized light is a fundamental tool in magnetic studies, notably for magnetization dynamics. It is less common in magneto-optics to exploit the orbital angular momentum (OAM) of value ℓ carried by light beams possessing a helical wavefront. After finding many applications in the visible range, recently OAM pulses with ultra-short duration and XUV wavelengths became available, widening the range of experiments that can be envisaged. We modelled the interaction of an XUV OAM beam with non-uniform magnetic structures, showing that the far field scattered intensity profile encodes the symmetry of the magnetic structure in a way that depends on the sign and value of ℓ . In analogy with magnetic circular dichroism, this effect, named magnetic helicoidal dichroism (MHD), can be observed by inverting the sign of either the orbital momentum or of the magnetization. We obtained experimental evidence of MHD by measuring ℓ -dependent resonant scattering from a magnetic vortex. The results of recent complementary experiments match well the theoretical predictions, confirming the potential of the new toolset provided by MHD for studying the laser-triggered ultrafast dynamics of complex magnetic materials.

1. Introduction

The interaction of polarized light beams, ranging from infrared to hard-x-rays, with magnetic materials defines the rich set of analytical tools used in magneto-optics and it is also widely employed for studying magnetization dynamics in time-resolved experiments. Photons carrying a spin angular momentum (SAM) $\sigma\hbar$, with $\sigma = \pm 1$ corresponding to left or right circular polarization (figure 1a), have been used



intensely for decades in circular dichroism experiments to discriminate and study the properties of magnetic, as well as of chiral, molecules and materials. It is less common, in magnetic dichroism studies, to exploit the fact that a photon beam can also carry an orbital angular momentum (OAM) with topological charge equal to $\ell\hbar$ (with $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$), which corresponds to featuring a helical wavefront [1]. Such OAM beams, also called *light vortices*, develop a distinctive corkscrew shape of the wavefront (see figure 1b) determined by an azimuthal angular dependence of the electric field phase and show a well-defined handedness. The analogy between quantum mechanics and paraxial optics suggests that modes with such an azimuthal dependence are eigenvalues of the angular momentum operator L_z and carry an OAM of $\ell\hbar$ per photon [2].

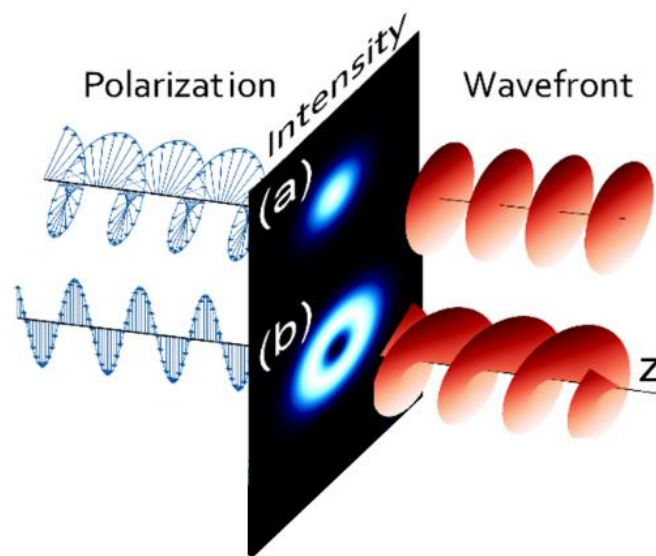


Figure 1. Sketches of SAM and OAM photon beams. On the left, blue arrows represent the electric field vectors defining the polarization, circular in (a) and linear vertical in (b). On the right, phase wavefronts are shown in orange for SAM (a) and OAM (b) photon beams. Blue maps on black background represent the intensity in a given transverse plane.

OAM beams in the visible range have been generated and intensely exploited for decades as a tool for manipulating physical systems and probing their properties [3,4]. More recently, OAM beams with shorter wavelengths, from the extreme ultraviolet (XUV) [5-7] to the soft X-ray [8] range, became available at high-harmonic generation (HHG) [5,6], free-electron laser (FEL) [7] and synchrotron [8] sources, widening considerably the range of experiments that can be envisaged. Moreover, HHG and FEL sources produce light pulses with femtosecond and attosecond durations, ideally suited for dynamic studies.

In this framework, it has been theoretically predicted that OAM beams should prompt novel kinds of dichroism experiments, paving the way for new spectroscopic tools in the fields of orbital physics and magnetism [9]. In particular, after the scattering of an OAM beam from magnetic structures featuring non-uniform magnetization (like magnetic vortices), it is expected that the far field intensity profile encodes the symmetry of the magnetization distribution in a way that depends on the sign and value of ℓ [10], giving rise to magnetic helicoidal dichroism (MHD). As for magnetic circular dichroism, MHD can be observed by inverting the sign of either the orbital momentum or of the magnetization, i.e. by switching the handedness of either the light vortex or of the magnetic vortex.

2. Experimental details

The first experimental demonstration of MHD at XUV wavelengths was reported recently by measuring the scattering of an OAM photon beam from a magnetic vortex [11]. In order to support these findings and to prepare for more complex time-resolved measurements in pump-probe mode, a new series of experiments was planned and performed.

A new set of permalloy dots was prepared by magnetron sputtering and lithography, using either ion-etching or lift-off methods. The shape of the dots was the same as in the original experiment, pacman-like and optimized by means of micromagnetic simulations [12] in order to form at remanence a stable magnetic vortex whose sense of rotation, either clockwise (CW) or counter-clockwise (CCW), could be deterministically defined by an external magnetic field pulse (see figure 2). With respect to the original 15 μm , their lateral size was varied from 5 to 20 μm , allowing for a trade-off between ease of alignment of the XUV beam (~ 3 μm FWHM) on the dot and ease of formation of a clean vortex (favoured for smaller sizes). Dots were prepared in four sizes and two orientations (π -rotated). They formed a 12×12 matrix of 144 dots, 100 μm spaced, on each Si substrate in order to have at one's disposal fresh new samples in situ, since in the previous experiment radiation damage was observed after ~ 12 hours of exposure to the FEL beam. Preliminary MOKE measurements showed that samples prepared by lift-off provided better performance in terms of vortex formation and were selected for the final measurements.

As in the original experiment [11], the light source was the FERMI FEL-1 free-electron laser [13], tuned to produce 52.8 eV photons, i.e. to match the Fe-3p core resonance, in order to enhance magneto-optical effects at XUV wavelengths. The scattering experiment was performed at the DiProI end-station [14], equipped with high-precision translation and rotation stages for the sample alignment, with an electromagnet capable of generating field pulses in excess of 500 Oe along any direction within the sample surface, and with a charge-coupled device (CCD) for two-dimensional (2D) imaging of the scattered intensity. Well-defined OAM values up to $\ell = \pm 3$ were imparted to the XUV beam by using specially designed spiral zone plates (SZPs, prepared at PSI - Villigen) that worked at the same time as focusing elements (all with the same focal distance) and as phase plates [7].

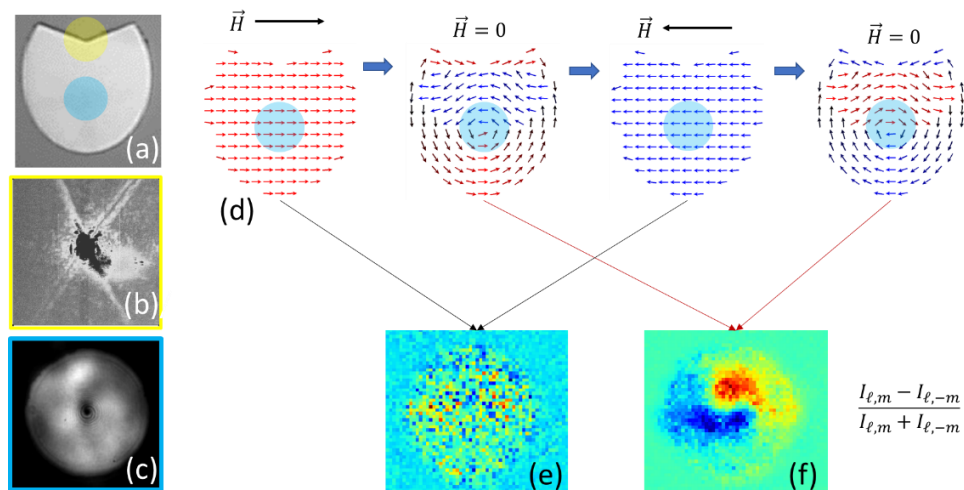


Figure 2. (a-c): Scanning electron microscopy image of a 15 μm wide permalloy dot (a). The colored circles correspond to the XUV beam size. Positioning the beam at the crossing of the straight edges produces a characteristic scattering pattern (b), used for aligning at the correct position for measurements (c). (d): Sequence of magnetic configurations prepared for each measurement (arrows represent the results of micromagnetic simulations). (e-f): magnetic signal obtained by combining two measurements performed in saturated (e) and remanent (f) conditions.

3. Results

A first part of the experiment was dedicated to designing a more reproducible procedure for aligning the photon beam at the desired position on the dots, corresponding to the nominal vortex center, since this point raised criticisms to our previous results. To do this, we took advantage of the intense scattering produced by the two straight edges of the pacman-shaped permalloy dot (see figure 2a,b), which make it possible to position precisely the beam at their intersection, then move the sample vertically to the desired position (figure 2c). The experiment was performed following a sequence of four measurements (figure 2d) for each sample and OAM value. The MHD signal was then obtained by taking the difference divided by the sum of two images of the scattered intensity collected either for opposite saturation directions (figure 2e) or for CW and CCW configurations of the magnetic vortex (figure 2f). These configurations were always obtained just by applying magnetic pulses, without any sample or SZP realignment in between the two acquisitions, minimizing possible spurious effects in the MHD signal.

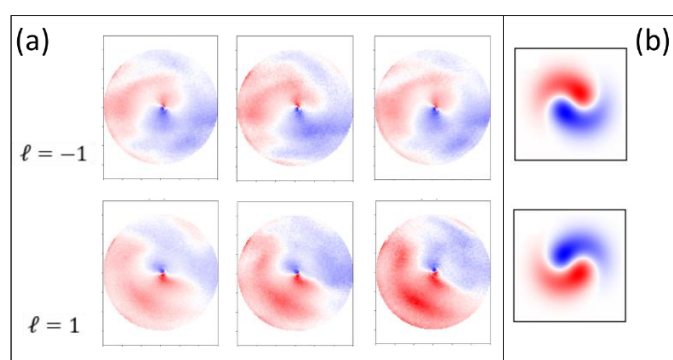


Figure 3. MHD signal measured (a) and calculated (b) in magnetic vortices for $\ell = -1$ (top) and $\ell = +1$ (bottom). The photon energy is 52.8 eV, the polarization is linear-p and the angle of incidence is 48 degrees. The three pairs of images in (a) correspond to three different permalloy samples.

Examples of data obtained using linear p-polarized radiation and a scattering angle close to the Brewster extinction condition are shown in figure 3a for $\ell = -1$ and for $\ell = +1$. The experimental results are compared to the calculated MHD intensity patterns (figure 3b) based on a previously developed theoretical model [10], showing an overall good agreement. In order to assess the reproducibility of the measurements and the reliability of the alignment procedure, we measured different dots, of either the same or of different size, prepared on different substrates, obtaining rather equivalent results (see figure 3a). Measurements on the smallest objects (5 μm) showed some scattering from the edges, hampering data analysis.

Finally, we tested also a setup for the pump-probe scheme. The 800 nm wavelength laser beam was made to arrive at the sample almost collinear with the FEL beam also in presence of the SZP and order-sorting aperture necessary for imparting the OAM to the incoming XUV radiation. Test measurements were performed, showing the expected demagnetization of permalloy after the laser pulse. The results are too preliminary for a full scientific discussion, but they demonstrate the feasibility of pump-probe experiments with XUV-OAM beams at DiProI.

4. Conclusion

The primary goal of our experiment was to confirm that magnetic structures can yield, in the XUV range, strong MHD signals, which depend on the exact topology of their magnetization configuration. We had obtained the first experimental evidence of MHD by measuring ℓ -dependent scattering from permalloy magnetic vortices at the FERMI FEL source [11]. We have now given support to our findings in a new series of more systematic experiments with results that match well our theoretical predictions [10] and confirm the potential of the new toolset provided by MHD for studying the laser-triggered ultrafast dynamics of complex magnetic materials. This novel effect has the potential to open up new perspectives for fundamental spectroscopic studies, both in the static and in the dynamic regimes, allowing for instance a dynamical mapping of the spin texture.

Understanding the interaction of OAM XUV-light with a complex magnetic structure has many potential interests. At a fundamental level, it allows to observe a new kind of dichroism, to study the role of photon spin-orbit coupling [15], as well as to explore new possibilities of angular momentum transfer between light and matter, as already observed in the visible range [3,16]. In terms of applications, MHD in reflection can be exploited as a new spectroscopic tool joining the family of magnetic dichroism techniques. For their symmetry and size, magnetic vortices can be considered as an ideal benchmark sample to explore the interaction with OAM beams; moreover, given their rich dynamical response in the ultrafast domain, they are promising structure for light-driven manipulation of the magnetization.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by: the Agence Nationale pour la Recherche (contracts n. ANR11-EQPX0005-ATTOLAB, n. ANR14-CE320010-Xstase, and ANR-10-LABX-0039-PALM); the Swiss National Science Foundation (project n. P2ELP2 181877); the Plateforme Technologique Amont de Grenoble (with financial support from the CNRS Renatech network); the CNRS–GoToXFEL action; the Slovenian Research Agency ARRS (project n. J1-3012 *Structured light as a tool for triggering and probing new states of matter*); the EU-H2020 Research and Innovation Programme n. 654360 NFFA-Europe.

References

- [1] Allen M, Beijersbergen W, Spreeuw R J C and Woerdman J P 1992 Orbital angular momentum of light and the transformation of Laguerre-Gaussian laser modes, *Phys. Rev. A* **45** 8185 <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.45.8185>
Allen L, Padgett M J and Babiker M 1999 The orbital angular momentum of light *Progress in Optics* **39** 291 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0079-6638\(08\)70391-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0079-6638(08)70391-3)
- [2] Nye J F and Berry M V 1974 Dislocations in Wave Trains *Proc. R. Soc. London A* **336** 165 <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspa.1974.0012>
- [3] Shen Y, Wang X, Xie Z, Min C, Fu X, Liu Q, Gong M and Yuan X 2019 Optical vortices 30 years on: OAM manipulation from topological charge to multiple singularities *Light: Science & Applications* **8** 90 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41377-019-0194-2>
- [4] Forbes K A and Andrews D L 2021 Orbital angular momentum of twisted light: chirality and optical activity *J. Phy.: Photonics* **3** 022007 <https://doi.org/10.1088/2515-7647/abdb06>
- [5] Géneaux R, Camper A, Auguste T, Gobert O, Caillat J, Taïeb R and Ruchon T 2016 Synthesis and characterization of attosecond light vortices in the extreme ultraviolet *Nature Commun.* **7** 12583 <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms12583>
- [6] Gauthier D, Rebernik Ribič P, Adhikary G, Camper A, Chappuis C, Cucini R, DiMauro L F, Dovillaire G, Frassetto F, Géneaux R, Miotti P, Poletto L, Ressel B, Spezzani C, Stupar M, Ruchon T and De Ninno G 2017 Tunable orbital angular momentum in high-harmonic generation *Nature Commun.* **8** 14971 <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms14971>
- [7] Rebernik Ribič P, Rösner B, Gauthier D, Allaria E, Döring F, Foglia L, Giannessi L, Mahne N, Manfreda M, Masciovecchio C, Mincigrucci R, Mirian N, Principi E, Roussel E, Simoncig A, Spampinati S, David C and De Ninno G 2017 Extreme-ultraviolet vortices from a free-electron laser *Phys. Rev. X* **7** 031036 <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevX.7.031036>
- [8] Woods J S, Chen X M, Chopdekar R V, Farmer B, Mazzoli C, Koch R, Tremsin A S, Hu W, Scholl A, Kevan S, Wilkins S, Kwok W-K, De Long L E, Roy S and Hastings J T 2021 Switchable x-ray orbital angular momentum from an artificial spin ice *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **126** 117201 <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.126.117201>
- [9] van Veenendaal M and McNulty I 2007 Prediction of strong dichroism induced by x rays carrying orbital momentum *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **98** 157401 <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.98.157401>
- [10] Fanciulli M, Bresteau D, Vimal M, Luttmann M, Sacchi M and Ruchon T 2021 Electromagnetic theory of helicoidal dichroism in reflection from magnetic structures *Phys. Rev. A* **103** 13501

- <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.103.013501>
- [11] Fanciulli M, Pancaldi M, Pedersoli E, Vimal M, Bresteau D, Luttmann M, De Angelis D, Rebernik Ribič P, Rösner B, David C, Spezzani C, Manfreda M, Sousa R, Prejbeanu I-L, Vila L, Dieny B, De Ninno G, Capotondi F, Sacchi M and Ruchon T 2022 Observation of magnetic helicoidal dichroism with extreme ultraviolet light vortices *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **128** 077401 <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.128.077401>
- [12] Donahue M J and Porter 1999 D G OOMMF User's Guide *Interagency Report NISTIR 6376 National Institute of Standards and Technology* (Gaithersburg, MD) <https://math.nist.gov/oommf/>
- Vansteenkiste A, Leliaert J, Dvornik M, Helsen M, Garcia-Sanchez F and Van Waeyenberge B 2014 The design and verification of MuMax3 *AIP Advances* **4**, 107133 <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.4899186>
- [13] Allaria E, Appio R, Badano L, Barletta W A, Bassanese S, Biedron S G, Borga A, Busetto E, Castronovo D, Cinquegrana P, Cleva S, Cocco D, Cornacchia M, Craievich P, Cudin I, D'Auria G, Dal Forno M, Danailov M B, De Monte R, De Ninno G, Delgiusto P, Demidovich A, Di Mitri S, Diviacco B, Fabris A, Fabris R, Fawley W, Ferianis M, Ferrari E, Ferry S, Froehlich L, Furlan P, Gaio G, Gelmetti F, Giannessi L, Giannini M, Gobessi R, Ivanov R, Karantzoulis E, Lonza M, Lutman A, Mahieu B, Milloch M, Milton S V, Musardo M, Nikolov I, Noe S, Parmigiani F, Penco G, Petronio M, Pivetta L, Predonzani M, Rossi F, Rumiz L, Salom A, Scafuri C, Serpico C, Sigalotti P, Spampinati S, Spezzani C, Svandrlík M, Svetina C, Tazzari S, Trovo M, Umer R, Vascotto A, Veronese M, Visintini R, Zaccaria M, Zangrando D and Zangrando M 2012 Highly coherent and stable pulses from the FERMI seeded free-electron laser in the extreme ultraviolet *Nature Photon.* **6** 699 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nphoton.2012.233>
- [14] Capotondi F, Pedersoli E, Mahne N, Menk R H, Passos G, Raimondi L, Svetina C, Sandrin G, Zangrando M, Kiskinova M, Bajt S, Barthelmess M, Fleckenstein H, Chapman H N, Schulz J, Bach J, Frömter R, Schleitner S, Müller L, Gutt C and Grübel G 2013 Coherent imaging using seeded free-electron laser pulses with variable polarization: First results and research opportunities *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* **84** 051301 <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.4807157>
- [15] Bliokh K, Rodríguez-Fortuño F, Nori F and Zayats A V 2015 Spin-orbit interactions of light. *Nature Photon.* **9** 796 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nphoton.2015.201>
- [16] Franke-Arnold S. and Arnold A S 2008 Twisting Light to Trap Atoms: Photons carry a type of angular momentum that can guide, trap and rotate ultracold atoms and particles *The American Scientist* **96** 226 <https://doi.org/10.1511/2008.71.22>