

with predictions from a model for thermally induced magnetization reversal [9].

B. MNP measurements with Nb nanoSQUIDs

Nb nanoSQUIDs have been integrated into the torque magnetometer setup of the Poggio group at Univ. Basel to investigate individual Ni, permalloy and CoFeB nanotubes. The combined system enables simultaneous measurements of the integral magnetization by dynamic cantilever torque magnetometry and local magnetization by nanoSQUID magnetometry [13]. Combined torque and SQUID measurements on individual Ni nanotubes, supported by micromagnetic simulations of magnetization configurations, suggest reversal via the formation of vortexlike states within the nanotube [22]. Such stray-field free states can have applications for memory and noninvasive sensing.

CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

YBCO and Nb nanoSQUIDs have been developed for the investigation of magnetization reversal of individual magnetic nanoparticles. Very small SQUID inductances enable the realization of ultralow flux noise of the nanoSQUIDs in the thermal white noise limit. For MNPs placed in 10 nm distance to the SQUID loop, this translates into spin sensitivities down to only a few Bohr magnetons per unit bandwidth, which is appropriate for many studies on individual MNPs. Apart from further suppression of $1/f$ noise, a key challenge is the development of reliable routines for placing MNPs in a controlled way in close vicinity to the nanoSQUIDs, ideally at variable position and temperature. For YBCO nanoSQUIDs, the recently developed creation of Josephson junctions and SQUIDs by focused He ion irradiation [23, 24] can provide new perspectives for creating advanced nanoscale devices

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