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### Magnetic damping of ferromagnetic and exchange resonance modes in a ferrimagnetic insulator

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Understanding the damping is an important fundamental problem with widespread implications in magnetic technology. Ferrimagnetic materials offer a rich platform to explore not only the damping of the ferromagnetic mode, but also the damping of the high-frequency exchange mode very promising for ultrafast devices. Here we use time-resolved magneto-optical Kerr effect to investigate the ferromagnetic and exchange resonance modes and their damping in the bismuth-doped gadolinium iron garnet over a broad range of magnetic fields (0-10 T) and temperatures (50-300 K) including the magnetization and angular compensation points. These two resonance modes are excited via the inverse Faraday effect and unambiguously identified by their distinct frequency dependence on temperature and magnetic field. The temperature-dependent measurements in the external magnetic field  $H_{\text{ext}} = 2 \text{ T}$  revealed that the intrinsic damping of the ferromagnetic mode is always smaller than the one of the exchange modes and both have a maximum near the angular compensation point. These results are fully consistent with recent predictions of atomistic simulations and a theory based on two-sublattice Landau-Lifshitz-Bloch equation. We also demonstrate that the damping of these modes varies differently as a function of  $H_{\text{ext}}$ . We explain the observed behaviors by considering the different features of the effective fields defining the precession frequencies of the ferromagnetic and exchange modes.

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

Due to its crucial role in magnetization dynamics, magnetic damping has attracted a great deal of attention since its introduction by Gilbert and Bloch in the middle of the 19th century [1,2]. Indeed, magnetic damping is one of the crucial parameters defining the energy efficient and operation speed in most past and present magnetic technologies, including those based on domain-wall motion [3–5], magnetization switching [6,7], and spin-wave propagation [8,9]. To satisfy the increasing demand for more energy-efficient and faster technologies, studying, understanding, and controlling the magnetic damping are nowadays subjects of great interest in almost all major fields of modern magnetism such as spintronics [10-14], magnonics [8,9,15,16], and ultrafast magnetism [17–21]. For instance, in magnonics, a low magnetic damping is desired to realize energy-efficient spin waves-based data transport and processing technologies [8,16,22,23]. On the other hand, a high damping is essential to obtain an ultrafast ringing-free precessional switching [6], which is very important for faster data storage and spintronic memory devices.

Recently, there has been a huge renewed interest in rare-earth (RE)-transition-metal (TM) ferrimagnets, due to the discovery of many unique and interesting magnetization dynamic phenomena at the magnetization compensation temperature  $T_{\rm M}$  (where  $M_{\rm RE}=M_{\rm TM}$ ) and/or at the angular momentum compensation temperature  $T_{\rm A}$  (where  $M_{\rm RE}/\gamma_{\rm RE}=M_{\rm TM}/\gamma_{\rm TM}$ ,  $\gamma_{\rm RE}$ , and  $\gamma_{\rm TM}$  being the gyromagnetic ratios). In

particular, the possibility to reverse the magnetization of RE-TM metallic alloys near  $T_{\rm M}$  using femtosecond laser or hot-electron pluses without requiring any external magnetic field [24,25] was demonstrated. Femtosecond laser pulse has also been used to trigger a magnetization reversal across  $T_{\rm M}$  of RE-TM ferrimagnetic insulating [26] and metallic [27] films. Beside the magnetization reversal dynamics, interesting experiments have shown that domain-wall mobility reaches a maximum at  $T_{\rm A}$  [28,29]. Moreover, an enhancement of the spin-transfer torque and spin-orbit torque has been reported in the vicinity of  $T_{\rm M}$  and  $T_{\rm A}$  [30–32]. These important phenomena make RE-TM ferrimagnets a promising candidate for future ultrafast data storage and spintronics technologies.

Despite the important criterion related to  $T_{\rm M}$  and/or  $T_{\rm A}$  in all the above-mentioned phenomena, exploring the magnetic damping near these temperatures has been limited to only few studies [17,18,33], which show some disagreements between the experimental results themselves as well as between the experimental results and the theoretical predictions. Indeed, the time-resolved magneto-optical experiments in GdFeCo by Stanciu et al. [17] and in CoGd by Binder et al. [18] show a finite maximum of the damping related to the ferromagnetic resonance mode at  $T_A$ , which is in disagreement with the earlier theoretical prediction of a divergence used to discuss the data [see Eq. (5)]. More surprisingly, in 2019, Kim et al. [33] extracted from the field-driven domain-wall motion in GdFeCo a constant ferromagnetic damping over  $T_A$ . Even more important, these studies have been limited to the damping of the ferromagnetic mode in metallic ferrimagnets [17,18,33] and did not explore the damping of the exchange

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mode. Therefore, extending the investigations to the damping of both ferromagnetic and exchange modes as well as to other RE-TM ferrimagnetic systems like the insulating oxide of gadolinium iron garnet is important to improve our fundamental understanding of ultrafast magnetization dynamics in ferrimagnets.

In this paper, we carefully investigate the ferromagnetic and exchange resonance modes and their damping in the RE-TM ferrimagnetic insulator of a Bi-dopped gadolinium iron garnet using the time-resolved magneto-optical Kerr effect. We show that femtosecond laser pulses trigger both ferromagnetic and exchange resonance modes over a broad range of magnetic fields (0-10 T) and temperatures (50-300 K) including  $T_{\rm M}$  and  $T_{\rm A}$ . We identify the ferromagnetic mode due to the linear increase of its frequency with the external magnetic field. The exchange resonance mode is unambiguously identified by its THz frequency range at low temperature that gradually decreases to vanish at  $T_A$ , as well as due to the linear decrease of its frequency with the external magnetic field. We demonstrate that the damping parameters of these modes have different values that both highly depend on temperature and maximize near  $T_A$ . These results are interpreted in the framework of computational atomistic simulations and an analytical calculation based on the two-sublattice Landau-Lifshitz-Bloch equation. Moreover, we show that the damping of the ferromagnetic and exchange modes varies differently as a function of the external magnetic field. Their distinct behaviors are explained by considering the different features of the effective fields defining the precession frequency of the ferromagnetic and exchange modes.

# II. SAMPLE CHARACTERIZATION AND EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

The insulating RE-Fe garnets belong to the centrosymmetric space group  $Ia\bar{3}d$   $(O_h^{10})$ , in which the magnetic atoms occupy three different crystallographic sites formed by the oxygen atoms (tetrahedral 24d, octahedral 16a, and dodecahedral 24c) [34,35]. The iron ions are distributed over the two nonequivalent tetrahedral and octahedral sublattices that are antiferromagnetically coupled by a strong negative superexchange interaction. The RE ions occupy the dodecahedral sublattice and their magnetic moments  $M_{RE}$  are antiferromagnetically coupled to the resultant iron magnetic moments  $M_{\rm Fe}$ with a relatively weak superexchange interaction. Due to their strong superexchange interactions, the Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions are usually treated as belonging to a single site, reducing the system to a two-sublattice ferrimagnet. The magnetization dynamics is usually represented by the following two coupled Landau-Lifshitz-Gilbert equations [36,37]:

$$\frac{dM_{\text{Fe}}}{dt} = -\gamma_{\text{Fe}} \left[ \vec{M}_{\text{Fe}} \times \left( \vec{H}_{\text{ext}} + \vec{H}_{\text{Fe}}^{a} + \lambda_{\text{exch}} \vec{M}_{\text{RE}} \right) \right] 
+ \frac{\alpha_{\text{Fe}}}{M_{\text{Fe}}} \left( M_{\text{Fe}} \times \frac{dM_{\text{Fe}}}{dt} \right), 
\frac{dM_{\text{RE}}}{dt} = -\gamma_{\text{RE}} \left[ \vec{M}_{\text{RE}} \times \left( \vec{H}_{\text{ext}} + \vec{H}_{\text{RE}}^{a} + \lambda_{\text{exch}} \vec{M}_{\text{Fe}} \right) \right] 
+ \frac{\alpha_{\text{RE}}}{M_{\text{RE}}} \left( M_{\text{RE}} \times \frac{dM_{\text{RE}}}{dt} \right),$$
(1)

where  $H_i^a$  is the anisotropic field of the sublattice i (i = RE, Fe),  $H_{\text{ext}}$  is the external field,  $\lambda_{\text{exch}}$  is the molecular-field constant describing the RE-Fe interaction, and  $\alpha_i$  is the damping parameter. Solving these coupled equations yields to two modes called the ferromagnetic mode and the exchange mode [36,37]. Among the different approximate solutions for the frequency of the ferromagnetic ( $f_{\text{fmr}}$ ) and exchange ( $f_{\text{exch}}$ ) modes [17,18,36–38], the ones which seem to provide the higher degree of accuracy give [37]

$$f_{\text{fmr}} = \gamma_{\text{eff}} \left( H_{\text{ext}} + \frac{M_{\text{Fe}} H_{\text{Fe}}^a - M_{\text{RE}} H_{\text{RE}}^a}{M_{\text{Fe}} - M_{\text{RE}}} \right), \tag{2}$$

$$f_{\text{exch}} = \lambda_{\text{exch}} \left( \gamma_{\text{RE}} M_{\text{Fe}} - \gamma_{\text{Fe}} M_{\text{RE}} \right) - \frac{\gamma_{\text{Fe}} + \gamma_{\text{RE}}}{2} H_{\text{ext}} + \frac{\gamma_{\text{Fe}} H_{\text{Fe}}^a - \gamma_{\text{RE}} H_{\text{RE}}^a}{2},$$
(3)

where

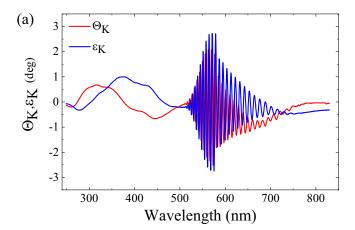
$$\gamma_{\rm eff}(T) = (M_{\rm Fe} - M_{\rm RE}) / \left(\frac{M_{\rm Fe}}{\gamma_{\rm Fe}} - \frac{M_{\rm RE}}{\gamma_{\rm RE}}\right)$$
(4)

is the effective gyromagnetic ratio which can also be written as  $\gamma_{\rm eff} = M/A$  in terms of the net magnetic ( $M = M_{\rm Fe} - M_{\rm RE}$ ) and net angular ( $A = \frac{M_{\rm Fe}}{\gamma_{\rm Fe}} - \frac{M_{\rm RE}}{\gamma_{\rm RE}}$ ) momenta. These solutions include the effect of magnetic anisotropy. They also do not neglect the term with  $H_{\rm ext}$  compared to the term  $\lambda_{\rm exch}$  ( $\gamma_{\rm RE}M_{\rm Fe} - \gamma_{\rm Fe}M_{\rm RE}$ ) to properly describe the dependences near  $T_{\rm M}$  and  $T_{\rm A}$ . The Equations (2) and (4) predict that  $f_{\rm fmr}$  should increase linearly with increasing  $H_{\rm ext}$ , go to zero at  $T_{\rm M}$ , and diverge at  $T_{\rm A}$ . Equation (3) predicts that  $f_{\rm exch}$ , dominated by the first term  $\lambda_{\rm exch}(\gamma_{\rm RE}M_{\rm Fe} - \gamma_{\rm Fe}M_{\rm RE})$  due to the large value of  $\lambda_{\rm exch}$ , has a weak linear decrease with  $H_{\rm ext}$  as well as a softening near  $T_{\rm A}$ . We note that the solution of the effective Gilbert damping for the ferromagnetic resonance mode is given by [39]

$$\alpha_{\text{eff}}^{\text{fmr}}(T) = \frac{\alpha_{\text{Fe}} \frac{M_{\text{Fe}}}{\gamma_{\text{Fe}}} + \alpha_{\text{RE}} \frac{M_{\text{RE}}}{\gamma_{\text{RE}}}}{\frac{M_{\text{Fe}}}{\gamma_{\text{Fe}}} - \frac{M_{\text{RE}}}{\gamma_{\text{RE}}}}.$$
 (5)

Equation (5) shows a divergence of  $\alpha_{\rm eff}^{\rm fmr}$  at  $T_{\rm A}$ . A similar expression for  $\alpha_{\rm eff}^{\rm exch}(T)$  seems still to be determined. We must mention that a recent study of the magnetization dynamics in ferrimagnets by both computer simulations and analytical calculations predicts no divergence of  $f_{\rm fmr}$  and  $\alpha_{\rm eff}^{\rm fmr}$  at  $T_{\rm A}$ , but only a finite maximum [40]. This theoretical investigation also predicts that  $\alpha_{\rm eff}^{\rm exch}$  has maximum at  $T_{\rm A}$  and  $f_{\rm fmr}$  does not go to zero at  $T_{\rm M}$ , but has a finite value [40].

The experiments were performed on a 7- $\mu$ m-thick ferrimagnetic (GdTmPrBi)<sub>3</sub>(FeGa)<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> single-crystalline film, grown by liquid-phase epitaxy (LPE) on a (111) gadolinium gallium garnet substrate. The static magneto-optical (MO) and magnetic properties of the film were characterized using a custom-designed magneto-optical Kerr spectrometer based on a 90° polarization modulation technique. Details on the experimental setup were described in Refs. [41,42]. Figure 1(a) shows the room-temperature Kerr rotation ( $\Theta_K$ ) and ellipticity ( $\varepsilon_K$ ) spectra. Above the optical band gap ( $E_g \approx 510$  nm), strong interference oscillations are observed for  $\Theta_F$  and  $\varepsilon_F$  which both reach about 2.6° near 575 nm. Below the band gap,



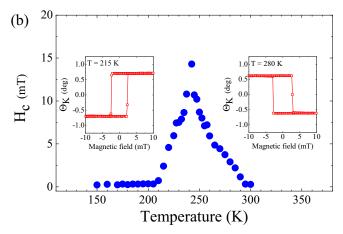


FIG. 1. Static magneto-optical and magnetic properties of the garnet film. (a) Magneto-optical polar Kerr rotation ( $\Theta_{\rm K}$ ) and ellipticity ( $\varepsilon_{\rm K}$ ) spectra at 300 K. The strong interference oscillations in  $\Theta_{\rm K}$  and  $\varepsilon_{\rm K}$  above 510 nm are due to the multiple reflexions in the film. (b) Temperature dependence of the coercive field  $H_{\rm c}$ . The insets show polar Kerr hysteresis loops measured at a wavelength of 450 nm for  $H_{\rm ext}$  applied normal to the film plane for a temperature below ( $T=215~{\rm K}$ ) and above ( $T=280~{\rm K}$ ) the compensation temperature  $T_{\rm M}$ .

 $\varepsilon_{\rm K}$  reaches a maximum value of 0.98° at 374 nm, whereas  $\Theta_{\rm K}$ shows two peaks with opposite sign and equal amplitude of  $0.66^{\circ}$ . The large Kerr signals and the interference above  $E_{\rm g}$  are due to the multiple reflections in the film that occur in the Kerr responses. These spectral dependencies, in good agreement with previous studies of MO properties in Bi-substituted iron garnet [41,43], are well explained by the crystal energy levels of Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions in the octahedral and tetrahedral symmetries and their strong hybridization with Bi-6s orbital [42,44–46]. The insets of Fig. 1(b) show two selected hysteresis loops measured at 215 and 280 K with an applied field perpendicular to the film plane. Their square shape reveals that the magnetic anisotropy is perpendicular to the film plane. We mention that all measured hysteresis loops below 300 K have almost the same amplitude, in agreement with the approach describing the MO spectra in terms of diamagnetic optical transitions [42,46,47]. Furthermore, we observe that the hysteresis loops change sign at the magnetic compensation temperature,  $T_{\rm M} \sim 245$  K, where a maximum of  $H_{\rm C}$  also takes place [see Fig. 1(b)]. We note that in gadolinium iron garnets,  $T_{\rm M}$  and  $T_{\rm A}$  are nearly equal [48] or rather close to each other [49], which is also the case of our sample where the difference between  $T_{\rm M}$  and  $T_{\rm A}$  is less than 10 K.

The laser-induced spin dynamics were investigated by time-resolved magneto-optical Kerr (TR-MOKE) effect with the all-optical pump-probe configuration sketched in Fig. 2(a). We have employed a femtosecond laser pulse issued from an amplified Ti-sapphire laser system operating at a 5-kHz repetition rate and delivering 50-fs pulses at 800 nm to generate the pump and the probe beams. The pump beam was kept at the fundamental of the amplifier at 800 nm and excites the sample at an incidence angle of 7.5°, while the probe beam was frequency doubled to 400 nm using a beta-barium borate crystal and incident with a small angle of 1.5°. The pump beam was circularly polarized and focused onto the sample in a spot diameter of  $\sim$ 150  $\mu$ m. The probe beam was linearly polarized and had a diameter of  $\sim$ 60  $\mu$ m. The reflected probe beam allows measuring the differential changes of the magnetooptical polar Kerr rotation  $\Delta\Theta_K(t)$  induced by the excitation pulse as a function of the time delay t between the pump and probe pulses using a polarization bridge and a lock-in detection scheme. The sample was mounted in a helium-cooled magneto-optical cryostat with temperature stability better than 0.2 K and equipped with 10-T superconducting magnet.  $H_{\text{ext}}$ was applied parallel to the film plane.

#### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figures 2(b) and 2(c) display the TR-MOKE measurements of the magnetization dynamics induced by right  $(\sigma^+)$ and left ( $\sigma^-$ ) circularly polarized light for  $H_{\rm ext} = 2\,{\rm T}$  at T=290 K [Fig. 2(b)] and T = 190 K [Fig. 2(c)]. For both temperatures, the signals show complex oscillations issued from two resonance modes, as revealed by the fast Fourier transform (FFT) [see the insets of Figs. 2(b) and 2(c)]. By reversing the helicity of the pump pulse, these oscillations change sign and keep the same amplitudes. In addition, the amplitude of the two modes linearly increases with increasing the pump energy density  $E_{\text{pump}}$  (not shown). These results indicate that the main mechanism behind the excitation is the inverse Faraday effect, where a circularly polarized light generates a magnetic field in the direction of the propagating pump beam [41,50,51]. This field has opposite signs for  $\sigma^+$  and  $\sigma^-$  which result in a  $\pi$ -phase shift for the spin precession as seen in Figs. 2(b) and 2(c). To study in detail the properties of these modes, TR-MOKE signals are fitted using the sum of two exponentially damped oscillators:

$$\Delta\Theta_K(t) = \sum_{i=1}^2 A_i e^{-t/\tau_i} \sin(2\pi f_i t - \phi_i) + B e^{-Ct}, \quad (6)$$

where  $A_i$ ,  $f_i$ ,  $\phi_i$ ,  $\tau_i$  are, respectively, the amplitude, frequency, initial phase, and decay time characterizing the precession of the mode i (i = 1, 2). The term  $Be^{-Ct}$  represents a MO background signal added for best fit. This term was previously reported in many magnetic insulators [50,52–54] and it likely has an electronic origin [53]. The fits with Eq. (6) are plotted in Figs. 2(b) and 2(c) with solid lines showing a good agreement with the experimental data. It allows

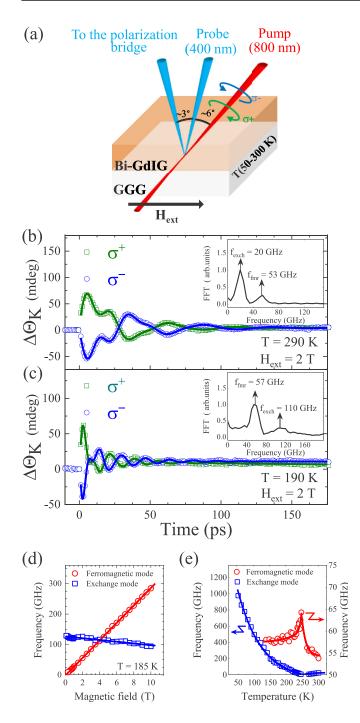


FIG. 2. Laser-induced spin dynamic in the garnet film. (a) Sketch of the time-resolved magneto-optical Kerr configuration. (b), (c)  $\Delta\Theta_{\rm K}$  induced by  $E_{\rm pump}=38\,{\rm mJ~cm^{-2}}$  for  $H_{\rm ext}=2$  T and temperatures of (b)  $T=290\,{\rm K}$  and (c)  $T=190\,{\rm K}$ . The solid lines are the fits using Eq. (6). (d) Magnetic field dependence of  $f_{\rm fmr}$  and  $f_{\rm exch}$  for  $T=185\,{\rm K}$ . The solid lines are the fits using Eqs. (2) and (3). (e) Temperature dependence of  $f_{\rm fmr}$  and  $f_{\rm exch}$ . The solid lines are guides to the eye. The insets show the FFT spectra.

extracting the frequencies of  $f_1 = f_{\rm fmr} = 53 \, {\rm GHz}$  (57.8 GHz) and  $f_2 = f_{\rm exch} = 20 \, {\rm GHz}$  (110.3 GHz) at 290 K (190 K). These frequencies correspond precisely to those derived by the FFT analysis. The adjustments also allow extracting

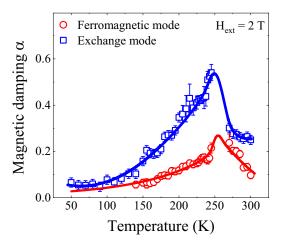


FIG. 3. Magnetic damping of the ferromagnetic ( $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$ ) and exchange ( $\alpha_{\rm exch}$ ) resonance modes as a function of temperature for  $H_{\rm ext}=2\,{\rm T}$  and  $E_{\rm pump}=32\,{\rm mJ}\,{\rm cm}^{-2}$ . The solid lines are guides to the eye.

the effective damping of each resonance mode, defined as  $\alpha_i = 1/f_{i,T_i}$ .

To determine the physical origin of the two modes, we investigated the dependence of their frequency as a function of the external field [Fig. 2(d)] and temperature [Fig. 2(e)]. The mode with the frequency that increases linearly with increasing  $H_{\text{ext}}$  matches the behavior of the ferromagnetic mode [see Eq. (2)], while the one with the frequency that slightly decreases with increasing  $H_{\text{ext}}$  is consistent with the behavior of the exchange mode [see Eq. (3)]. These origins are confirmed by their temperature dependences where  $f_{\text{exch}}$  is in the THz range at low temperature and progressively decreases until vanishing near  $T_A$ , whereas  $f_{fmr}$  shows a clear maximum near  $T_A$  [Fig. 2(e)]. Considering the near proximity of  $T_M$ and  $T_A$  in gadolinium iron garnets [48,49], the temperature dependence of  $f_{\text{fmr}}$  is consistent with the one measured in the GdFeCo [17] and CoGd [18] metallic alloys. It is also in good agreement with the results obtained from recent atomistic simulations and a theory based on the two-sublattice Landau-Lifshitz-Bloch equations [40].

Figure 3 shows the temperature dependence of the ferromagnetic ( $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$ ) and exchange ( $\alpha_{\rm exch}$ ) damping. Interestingly, both show a pronounced maximum at  $T_{\rm A}$ , where their ratio is rather large, with an exchange mode being  $\sim\!2.7\times$  more damped than the ferromagnetic one. These behaviors, observed here in a ferrimagnetic garnet, have been recently predicted theoretically [40]. Note that the observed maximum of  $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$  and  $f_{\rm fmr}$  at a temperature not very far below room temperature suggest that this system might be interesting for ringing-free precessional switching where high damping is required.

To study in more detail the damping parameters, we investigate their dependencies on  $H_{\rm ext}$  up to 10 T at a temperature below [ $T=150\,\rm K$ , Fig. 4(a)] and above [ $T=300\,\rm K$ , Fig. 4(b)]  $T_{\rm A}$ .  $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$  shows a very pronounced exponential-like decrease by 92% at 150 K and 95% at 300 K. For  $H_{\rm ext}=10\,\rm T$  it reaches small values of 0.025 and 0.036 at 150 and 300 K, respectively. Similar field dependences of

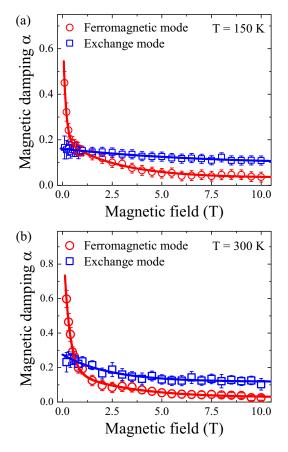


FIG. 4. Magnetic damping of the ferromagnetic ( $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$ ) and exchange ( $\alpha_{\rm exch}$ ) resonance modes as a function of  $H_{\rm ext}$  at (a)  $T=150\,{\rm K}$  and (b)  $T=300\,{\rm K}$  for a pump energy density  $E_{\rm pump}=32\,{\rm mJ\,cm^{-2}}$ . The solid lines are guides to the eye.

 $\alpha_{fmr}$  were previously observed in different magnetic media [55–58]. The increase of  $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$  at low  $H_{\rm ext}$  can be attributed to a weak inhomogeneity in the magnetic anisotropy field, which defines the precession frequency of the ferromagnetic mode [57]. This magnetic inhomogeneity induces a broadening of the ferromagnetic precession frequency, which increases the magnetic losses via magnon-magnon scattering. When the applied field  $H_{\text{ext}}$  becomes larger and larger, the frequency of the ferromagnetic precession becomes more and more defined by this field, which is almost homogeneous across the sample. This ensures better and better coherence of the magnetization precession, limiting the magnetic losses, and thus reducing the magnetic damping to its intrinsic value. Indeed, the obtained values of  $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$  at high  $H_{\rm ext}$  are in good agreement with the ones reported in the literature for GdIG [59], Bi-substituted GdIG [60], and (Yb,Bi)-substituted GdIG [61].

The field dependence of  $\alpha_{\rm exch}$  shows also a decrease, which is relatively small compared to the one measured for  $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$  [see Figs. 4(a) and 4(b)]. On the other hand, the decrease of  $\alpha_{\rm exch}$  is more pronounced at 300 K than at 150 K. This behavior can be qualitatively explained considering features of the precession frequency of the exchange mode. For temperatures far from  $T_{\rm A}$ , such as 150 K,  $f_{\rm exch}$  is mainly defined by the Gd-Fe superexchange coupling parameter  $\lambda_{\rm exch}$  [see Eq. (3)], which is determined by the local Fe-O-Gd distances. Con-

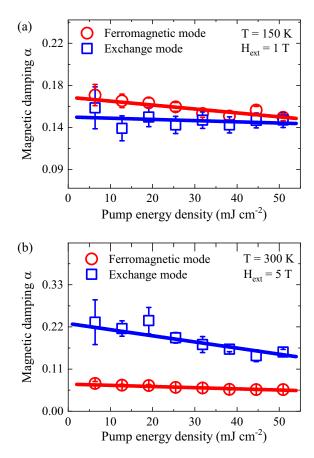


FIG. 5. Magnetic damping of the ferromagnetic ( $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$ ) and exchange ( $\alpha_{\rm exch}$ ) resonance modes measured as a function of the pump energy density  $E_{\rm pump}$  at (a) 150 K and (b) 300 K. The damping at 150 K is obtained for  $H_{\rm ext}=1$  T, whereas the damping at 300 K is obtained for  $H_{\rm ext}=5$  T. The solid lines are guides to the eye.

sidering the well-known high stability of the garnet structure [35,62], together with the very good crystallinity of garnets grown by LPE [63],  $\lambda_{\rm exch}$  should be almost homogeneous over the film. This guarantees a coherent exchange precession independently on  $H_{\rm ext}$ , and therefore  $\alpha_{\rm exch}$  will slightly depend on the external magnetic field. For temperatures near  $T_{\rm A}$ , such as 300 K, the term  $\lambda_{\rm exch}(\gamma_2 M_1 - \gamma_1 M_2)$  becomes small and comparable to the last terms in Eq. (3), which involves the anisotropy field. Due to a small inhomogeneity of the anisotropy field, a bordering of the exchange precession frequency occurs at low  $H_{\rm ext}$ , which increases  $\alpha_{\rm exch}$  due to the magnon-magnon scattering. The increase of  $H_{\rm ext}$  results in a better coherence of  $f_{\rm exch}$ , and therefore  $\alpha_{\rm exch}$  converges toward its intrinsic value with a more significant decrease compared to 150 K.

To further investigate the damping of both modes, we studied their dependence on  $E_{\rm pump}$  at 150 and 300 K. The dependences at 150 K are obtained for  $H_{\rm ext}=1\,{\rm T}$  [Fig. 5(a)], whereas the ones at 300 K are obtained for  $H_{\rm ext}=5\,{\rm T}$  [Fig. 5(b)]. The results show a linear decrease of  $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$  with increasing  $E_{\rm pump}$  at both 150 and 300 K. This dependence is different compared to the ones usually measured in metallic magnets, where  $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$  increases with increasing  $E_{\rm pump}$  [64,65]. The behavior in metallic magnets can be qualitatively linked

to an increase of the sample temperature toward the Curie temperature, where  $\alpha_{fmr}$  is expected to have a larger value [40,66]. In Bi-substituted iron garnets, the absorption of the 800-nm pump pulses by the phonon-assisted electronic d-d transitions can induce a small increase of the sample temperature [20,26,67]. This temperature rise can explain the decrease of  $\alpha_{\rm fmr}$  and  $\alpha_{\rm exch}$  with  $E_{\rm pump}$  at 300 K as the sample temperature will be rather far from  $T_A$  where the damping tends to have smaller values. Within this picture, for the measurements at 150 K, a small temperature rise with  $E_{\text{pump}}$  should induce an increase of  $\alpha_{fmr}$  and  $\alpha_{exch}$  as the sample temperature will approach  $T_A$ ; however, the opposite behavior is observed. This suggests that additional mechanisms are involved in the dependence of the damping on the pump energy density. A possible scenario to explain this dependence apart from the sample temperature variation can be described as follows: For high  $E_{\text{pump}}$ , the magnetization is more homogeneously excited around the probed area, leading to a better coherence of the spin precession and therefore a lower magnetic damping than the one measured at low  $E_{pump}$ . However, a further inquiry is necessary to understand in more detail the effect of  $E_{\text{pump}}$  on the damping of magnetic insulators.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

We have studied the laser-induced ferromagnetic and exchange resonance modes in the bismuth-substituted gadolin-

ium iron garnet over a wide range of magnetic fields (0–10 T) and temperatures (50-300 K) including the magnetization and angular compensation points. These two magnetic modes were excited via the inverse Faraday effect and unambiguously identified by their distinct frequency dependence on temperature and external magnetic field. We demonstrate that the damping of these modes has different values that both highly depend on temperature and maximizes near the angular compensation point. These properties confirm recent predictions of atomistic simulations and an analytical calculation based on the two-sublattice Landau-Lifshitz-Bloch equation. We also demonstrate that the damping of the two modes have different behaviors as a function of the external magnetic field. We explain this phenomenon considering the different features of the effective fields defining the precession frequency of the ferromagnetic and exchange modes. Our results provide a detailed characterization of both ferromagnetic and exchange resonance modes, which predict a high-speed precessional magnetization reversal near the angular compensation point, as the ferromagnetic mode combines a large damping with high precession frequency.

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