

Acknowledgment

I want to thank all those who contributed to the success of this work. Especially in a PhD thesis, which is partially based on the construction of a new equipment the support of technicians and workshop members is of great value. First of all I express my gratitude to **Prof. Dr. M. Farle** for giving me the opportunity to start the doctorate in his group. He promoted this work with valuable discussions and followed the progress of the UHV-SQUID magnetometer with continuous interest and helpful comments.

Moreover, my thanks go to:

Prof. Dr. H. Poppa for giving me the chance to benefit from the collaboration with his group in Berkeley.

Dr. A. K. Schmid for introducing me into the low energy electron microscopy. Without him SPLEEM measurements would not have been possible! It was a great time in Berkeley.

Priv.-Doz. Dr. A. Carl for valuable explanations and details about the nature of magnetic domains and for proofreading of this thesis.

Prof. Dr. M. Acet for helpful discussions about the physics of Fe-Ni alloys.

Dr. M. Spasova for fruitful discussions and for helping to perform the XMCD measurements.

Dr. M. Ulmeanu for assisting with the performance of the XMCD measurements.

Prof. Dr. D. Arvanitis, Dr. A. Fraile-Rodríguez, Dr. A. Preobrajensky, Dr. J. Hunter Dunn and **Dr. A. Hahlin** for assistance and hints during the XMCD measurements.

Dr. C. Klein for performing additional SPLEEM measurements.

Dr. J. Lindner for beneficial discussions and proofreading of this thesis.

Dr. A. Hucht for adjuvant theoretical comments on the nature of SRTs.

Dr. P. J. Jensen for helpful theoretical discussions about the role of domain formation near the SRT.

T. Kebe and **K. Zakeri Lori** for their constant assistance during the built-up and testing of the UHV-equipment.

D. Schädel for the construction of all the small and big tools and devices. Without him the UHV-equipment would not have been built-up in time.

U. Wiedwald for profitable discussions about XMCD and magnetism in general.

H. Zähres for his valuable suggestions and numerous discussions about electronics.

C. Raeder for assisting during the built-up of the UHV-setup.

A. Scherz and **M. Bernien** for helpful remarks and the correction of x-ray absorption spectra.

Dr. habil. M. Bode for valuable information about domain walls.

K. Lenz and **A. Ney** for helpful discussions about problems concerning SQUID magnetometry.

Dr. T. Duden for helping to solve technical problems concerning the SPLEEM instrument.

Dr. H. Ding for helping to clarify the sense of rotation of the electron polarization in the SPLEEM.

F. Römer for writing the SQUID data acquisition and control program.

C. Antoniak and **A. Schlachter** for proofreading of this thesis.

O. Bendix for helpful algebraic hints.

M. Vennemann for retrieving important measuring data after a hard disc crash.

JSQ for technical assistance and helpful hints to improve the SQUID system.

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst who supported the SPLEEM measurements in Berkeley.

My parents who supported and helped me all the time during my studies.

Daniela for her encouragement and the beautiful time we had so far.