Cavity optomagnonics with magnetic textures: coupling a magnetic vortex to light

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Optomagnonic systems, where light couples coherently to collective excitations in magnetically ordered solids, are currently of high interest due to their potential for quantum information processing platforms at the nanoscale. Efforts so far, both at the experimental and theoretical level, have focused on systems with a homogeneous magnetic background. A unique feature in optomagnonics is however the possibility of coupling light to spin excitations on top of magnetic textures. We propose a cavity-optomagnonic system with a non homogeneous magnetic ground state, namely a vortex in a magnetic microdisk. In particular we study the coupling between optical whispering gallery modes to magnon modes localized at the vortex. We show that the optomagnonic coupling has a rich spatial structure and that it can be tuned by an externally applied magnetic field. Our results predict cooperativities at maximum photon density of the order of $\mathcal{C} \approx 10^{-2}$ by proper engineering of these structures.

Introduction.– Optomagnonics is an exciting new field in which light couples coherently to elementary excitations in magnetically ordered solid state systems. The origin of this photon-magnon interaction is the Faraday effect, where the magnetization in the sample causes the light’s polarization plane to rotate. Conversely, the light exerts a small effective magnetic field on the magnetic moments in the material. Shaping the host material into an optical cavity enhances the effective coupling strength according to the increased number of trapped photons. Recent seminal experiments have demonstrated this coupling [13,8]. In these, an Yttrium Iron Garnet (YIG) sphere serves both as the host of the magnetic excitations and, via whispering gallery modes (WGM), as the optical cavity. The optomagnonic coupling manifests itself in the observed transmission sidebands at the magnon frequency. So far, these experiments have probed mostly the homogeneous magnetic mode of the sphere (Kittel mode) where all spins rotate in phase, with a frequency tunable by an external magnetic field [4]. Very recently, optomagnonic coupling to other magnetostatic modes [3,0] has been first demonstrated, but still on top of a homogeneous background [7,8].

The Kittel mode, although it is the simplest one to probe and externally tune, is a bulk mode and has a suboptimal overlap with the optical WGMs living near the surface. Another caveat is the state of the art in terms of sample size, which is currently sub-millimetric. This results in modest values for the optomagnonic coupling and motivates the quest for smaller, micron-sized magnetic samples, as well as for engineering the coupling between magnetic and optical modes. Increasing the currently observed values of optomagnonic coupling is an urgent prerequisite for moving on to promising applications such as magnon cooling, coherent state transfer, or efficient wavelength converters [9,24].

In microscale magnetic samples, the competition between the short-range exchange interaction and the boundary-sensitive demagnetization fields can lead to magnetic textures, in which the ground state configuration of the spins is not homogeneous across the sample [25,26]. A well studied case is that of a thin magnetic disk, where the magnetization swirls in the plane of the disk and forms a magnetic vortex in the center [27,28], see Fig. 1a. In the vortex core, the spins point out of plane. Magnetic vortices carry two independent degrees of freedom: how the magnetization curls (clock or anti-clock wise) defines the chirality $C = \pm 1$, while its pointing up or down at the center of the vortex defines the polarity $P = \pm 1$. These are robust topological properties and make vortices interesting for information processing [26]. Moreover, the position of the vortex can be controlled by an external magnetic field, which makes this system highly tunable (Fig. 1b).

While optomagnonic systems present analogies to optomechanics [16,29] (where light couples to phonons [30]), the possibility of coupling light to magnetic textures is unique to optomagnonics. In this work we study the optomagnonic coupling in the presence of an inhomogeneous magnetic background in a microdisk.

Figure 1. Schematics of the system studied in this paper: a) In a magnetic microdisk, the ordered magnetic state is a vortex configuration with chirality $C = \pm 1$ and polarity $P = \pm 1$. Envisioned setups: b) A thin YIG disk supporting magnon modes embedded in an optical cavity of choice. c) A thicker YIG microdisk can support both optical WGM and magnon modes. Applying an external in-plane magnetic field displaces the vortex core in a direction perpendicular to the field.
geometry (note that this differs from the case studied in Refs. [6], where the underlying magnetic ground state is uniform). This is a relevant case to study since: (i) YIG disks at the microscale have been experimentally realized and characterized, including demonstrating the presence of magnetic vortices [31–33] (ii) the disk geometry supports optical WGMs while reducing the magnetic volume with respect to a sphere, which could lead to larger optomagnonic couplings, and (iii) the spin excitations in the presence of the vortex state are qualitatively different from those on top of a saturated, homogeneous magnetization.

We combine analytical methods with micromagnetic and finite-element simulations to derive the spatial dependence and the strength of the optomagnonic coupling. We study two qualitatively different regimes that can be accessed by nanostructure-patterning: a very thin micromagnetic disk embedded in an optical cavity, and a thicker micromagnetic disk that also serves as the optical cavity (Fig. 1b, c). We demonstrate our method for the coupling between magnon modes localized at the magnetic vortex and the optical WGMs, and predict unprecedented high values for the optomagnonic coupling and the cooperativity, an important figure of merit in these systems.

**Optomagnonic coupling for magnetic textures.** In a Faraday active material, the electromagnetic energy is modified by a term which represents the coupling between the electric field and the magnetization in the material [34]:

$$H_{MO} = -\frac{\theta_F \lambda_n \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon}{2} \int dr \mathbf{m}(r, t) \cdot \left[ \mathbf{E}^*(r, t) \times \mathbf{E}(r, t) \right],$$

where $\mathbf{m}(r, t)$ is the local magnetization measured in units of the saturation magnetization $M_s$, and we used the complex representation of the electric field, $(\mathbf{E}^* + \mathbf{E})/2$. The pre-factor $\theta_F \lambda_n / 2\pi$ ($\sim 4 \times 10^{-5}$ in YIG) gives the Faraday rotation $\theta_F$ per wavelength $\lambda_n$ in the material, $\varepsilon(\varepsilon_0)$ is the relative (vacuum) permittivity, and $n = \sqrt{\varepsilon/\varepsilon_0}$ the refractive index. Eq. (1) couples the spin density in the magnetic material with the optical spin density (OSD), which represents the spin angular momentum density carried by the light field. Quantizing Eq. (1) leads to the optomagnonic Hamiltonian [29]. The coupling is parametric, coupling one local spin operator to two photon operators.

We consider the coupling of the optical fields to spin wave excitations on top of a non-uniform static ground state $\mathbf{m}_0(r)$, $\delta \mathbf{m}(r, t) = \mathbf{m}(r, t) - \mathbf{m}_0(r)$. We work in the limit of small deviations $|\delta \mathbf{m}| \ll 1$, such that we can express these in terms of harmonic oscillators (magnon modes). Quantizing the fields as $\delta \mathbf{m}(r, t) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{\alpha} \left( \delta \mathbf{m}_\alpha(r) \hat{b}_\alpha e^{-i\omega_\alpha t} + \delta \mathbf{m}_\alpha^*(r) \hat{b}_\alpha^\dagger e^{i\omega_\alpha t} \right)$ and $\mathbf{E}(r, t) \rightarrow \sum_{\beta} \mathbf{E}_\beta^s(r) \hat{a}_\beta^s e^{-(+)^i\omega_\beta t}$ we obtain the coupling Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_{MO} = \sum_{\alpha \beta \gamma} G_{\alpha \beta \gamma} \hat{b}_\alpha \hat{a}_\beta \hat{b}_\gamma + \text{h.c.}$ where $G_{\alpha \beta \gamma} = \int dr G_{\alpha \beta \gamma}(r)$ and

$$G_{\alpha \beta \gamma}(r) = -\frac{i}{4\pi} \frac{\theta_F \lambda_n \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon}{\delta} \mathbf{m}_\alpha(r) \cdot \left[ \mathbf{E}_\beta^s(r) \times \mathbf{E}_\gamma(r) \right]$$

is the local optomagnonic coupling. We use this expression to evaluate the optomagnonic coupling between optical WGMs to magnon modes in a YIG microdisk in the presence of a magnetic vortex. We focus on magnonic modes localized at the vortex. We study two cases: (i) a thin disk where the problem is essentially 2D, and (ii) a thicker disk, where the $z$-dependence of the problem is non-trivial. The case of a thin disk allows us to compare with analytical results, validating our numerical results.

**Thin Disk.** We consider a magnetic microdisk of thickness $h$ and radius $R$. The characteristic magnetic length scale is the exchange length $l_{ex}$ (for YIG: $l_{ex} \sim 10$ nm) [35]. A vortex is the stable magnetic configuration for $h \gtrsim l_{ex}$ and $R \gg l_{ex}$ [28]. The lowest magnetic excitation mode consists of the vortex’s center-of-mass rotating around an axis perpendicular to the plane of the disk [36, 37], see Fig. 1b. The frequency $\omega_\gamma$ of this gyrotropic mode can be approximated by $\omega_\gamma / 2 \pi \approx \mu_0 \gamma M_s / (4\pi R)$ with $\gamma$ the gyromagnetic ratio (for YIG $\omega_\gamma / 2 \pi \approx 1$ GHz $\cdot h / R$). The excitation is localized at the vortex core, decaying linearly with distance (Sup. Mat. A). The disk geometry also supports optical WGMs. The approximate 2D analytical solution for these is well known (see Sup. Mat. A). The WGM can be classified into TM and TE modes, for electric field perpendicular to and in the plane of the disk respectively [38]. Within this approximation we have two possibilities for finite optomagnonic coupling to the gyrotropic mode: processes involving both TE and TM modes, and those involving only TE optical modes. For processes involving both TE and TM modes, the product $\mathbf{E}^t_{\beta} \times \mathbf{E}^s_\beta$ lies in the $xy$ plane and...
Figure 3. Optomagnonic coupling (red dots) as a function of external magnetic field $H_x$ (bottom axis) or vortex position (top axis) for the thin disk. Note the nonlinear dependence of the position of the vortex on $H_x$, which was obtained via micromagnetic simulations (see Sup. Mat. D). The vortex position is shown schematically in the inset. Also shown is the OSD (blue solid line) at the position of the vortex, normalized to the maximum OSD. Above the plot, the complex-valued mode function $\delta m_z(r)$ shows the distortion of the gyrotropic mode as the vortex moves close to the rim of the disk ($R = 1\ \mu m$, $h = 20\ nm$, $\omega_{opt}/2\pi = 217\ THz$, $\kappa_{opt} = 1.51\ THz$).

Therefore can couple to the in-plane component of the gyrotropic mode, which is finite both inside and outside of the vortex core. Processes involving instead only TE modes will couple exclusively to the out-of-plane component of the gyrotropic mode, which is finite only inside the vortex core region (see Sup. Mat. A). For a YIG sample in the micrometer range, the free spectral range $\Delta F_{SR} \approx 0.1\ THz$, which is much larger than the typical gyrotropic frequencies. Therefore, magnon scattering between two energetically distinct optical modes would be allowed either in the sideband unresolved case, or possibly with carefully selected modes of other radial optical quantum numbers. Moreover, using an external magnetic field for frequency-matching can be difficult in these structures, since it would alter the static magnetic texture and consequently the modes. In the following we discuss the case of scattering with one TE mode, which is free from these considerations. This is analogous to single-mode optomechanics [30] or optomagnonics [29], where the system is driven by a laser, whose detuning from the optical mode can be made to match the magnon excitation frequency.

The coupling to the gyrotropic mode is only possible if there is an overlap with the WGM. Applying a magnetic field $H_z$ along the $x$ direction displaces the vortex up (down) along the $y$ direction for counterclockwise (clockwise) chirality, as the spins try to align with the field. This provides a knob to control the optomagnonic coupling, as we show in the following. We first note however that a thin YIG microdisk such that $h \gtrsim l_{ex} \approx 10\ nm$ is a bad optical cavity. To better confine the optical modes, we consider a structure as shown in Fig. 1b, such that the YIG disk is placed between two dielectric, non-magnetic disks with height comparable to $\lambda_m$. In our example we chose Si$_3$N$_4$ (refractive index $n_{Si_3N_4} \approx 2$) in order to create an almost continuous material for the WGM resonator, and we took their radius to be equal to that of the YIG disk. Hence the WGMs live in the whole structure, whereas the magnon modes are confined to the thin YIG disk. The gyrotropic mode can overlap with the WGMs for a displaced vortex, as shown in Fig. 2. We continue to call this mode "gyrotropic" since it evolves continuously from the gyrotropic mode at $H_x = 0$. Whereas its frequency has a light dependence on $H_x$, the mode itself is distorted as the rim of the disk is approached. This reflects the deformation of the vortex core into a C-shaped domain wall due to the stronger influence of the demagnetization fields at the nearest boundary [39] [40] (Sup. Mat. D).

Fig. 2 shows an example of the spatial dependence of the optomagnonic coupling $|G(r, H_x)|$ for the gyrotropic mode and a WGM. The coupling, given throughout this work as per photon and per magnon (see the definition of $H_{MO}$, Eq. (1)), was obtained by combining MuMax$^3$ [41] micromagnetic simulations with COMSOL finite-element simulations for the optical WGM via Eq. (2). Details on the simulations and the normalization procedure are presented in the Supplemental Material [42] [43] and [44]. The total coupling is obtained by integrating over the whole volume. The integration volume is however bounded by the magnon mode volume, $V_{mag}$, since it is much smaller than the optical mode $V_{opt}$. A quick estimate of the maximum coupling is $|G_{max}| \approx \sqrt{2\mu_B/(M_s V_{mag})} (\theta_F \lambda_n/2\pi) (V_{mag}/V_{opt}) h \omega_{opt}$, showing a suppression of the coupling by a factor $\sqrt{V_{mag}/V_{opt}}$. For the thin disk considered here we find $|G_{max}| \approx 30\ Hz$, in agreement with the modest maximum value of $|G| \approx 10\ Hz$ obtained numerically, see Fig. 3. Interestingly, this maximum value is not obtained, as naively expected, at the maximum of the OSD, but at points of its maximum slope (note that in Fig. 3 the OSD is plotted as a function of $H_x$, which depends non-linearly on the position of the vortex). This can be understood by noting the antisymmetry under inversion of $\delta m_z$ for the gyrotropic mode, which leads to a cancellation when integrated weighted by an isotropic factor. This cancellation is lifted most effectively when the vortex is located at highly anisotropic points of the OSD, leading to a maximum value of the optomagnonic coupling. The full dependence of $|G|$ as a function of applied magnetic field is shown in Fig. 3 together with the profile for the OSD. This shows clearly...
that the magnon mode couples effectively to the gradient of the OSD. The value of the optomagnonic coupling $|G|$ is therefore completely tunable by an in-plane external magnetic field, in contrast to the usual case of magnonic modes on top of a homogeneous background.

Using the "rigid vortex" model [28, 42] for the magnets, the optomagnonic coupling for the gyrotropic mode can be obtained analytically, see Sup. Mat. A, B, and D. The simplified analytical model is valid in the 2D limit can be obtained analytically, see Sup. Mat. A, B, and D. The analytical results, both for the strength of the coupling as well as its dependence on the vortex position, are nevertheless in good agreement with the simulations.

**Thick Disk.**—The magnetization texture can be considered independent of the $z$-coordinate for sufficiently thin disks, where $h$ is only a few $l_{ex}$. Increasing the height of the disk leads to more complex magnetic textures and the appearance of magnon flexural modes along the $z$-direction [23], which can hybridize with in-plane modes [44]. Although this effect is already present for $H_x = 0$, it is even more striking for finite external field. We discuss this regime in the following.

We consider a "thick" microdisk such that $h \gg l_{ex}$ in an applied external field $H_x$. In this case, as shown in Fig. 4a-c, the magnetic texture has a dependence along the height of the disk, and the vortex “snakes” from top to bottom. This results in highly complex magnon modes, which we obtain by micromagnetic simulations. The spatial structure for the first five excited modes is shown in Fig. 4d. We interpret these as flexural modes of the vortex core, possibly hybridized with the gyrotropic mode. The optomagnonic coupling for these modes at a fixed $H_x$ is presented in Fig. 4f. We observe that (i) we obtain values for the coupling in the kHz range, and (ii) the value of the coupling has a non-monotonic dependence on the mode number, due to cancellation effects, as can be seen when compared with the integrated absolute value of the coupling, see the inset in Fig. 4f. This system shows also tunability by an external magnetic field, as shown in Fig. 4g. As for the case of the thin disk, the coupling is governed by the gradient of the OSD. Taking the Gilbert damping coefficient for YIG $\alpha \approx 10^{-5}$ we obtain single-photon cooperativities up to $C_0 = 4G^2/(\kappa \omega \alpha) \approx 10^{-7}$, where $\kappa \sim 0.1\text{THz}$ (from COMSOL) and $\omega$ the frequency of the respective magnon mode. For a maximum allowed photon density of $10^5\text{pm}^{-3}$ we obtain therefore $C = n_{ph}C_0 \sim 10^{-2}$, a five orders of magnitude improvement with respect to the current state of the art.

**Conclusion.**—We studied a cavity optomagnonic system with a micromagnetic disk where the magnetic static background is a magnetic vortex. The system presents two qualitatively distinct regimes depending on the height of the disk compared to the exchange length. For thin disks, the problem is essentially 2D and allows for an approximate analytical treatment which allows us to benchmark our results. In this case, we propose a heterostructure where the optical cavity surrounds the microdisk for better confinement of the optical modes. A simpler structure from the experimental point of view could be instead an optical cavity on top of the microdisk,
where the coupling to the optical modes will be evanescent. This could provide the freedom of designing optical modes, independently of the magnetic structure. For thick disks, the microdisk serves also as the optical cavity. The system presents a rich magnetic structure and large values of optomagnonic coupling and cooperativities are in principle achievable. Coupling to other spin wave modes in these systems, of the WGM kind [15], could boost these values even further. The predicted values imply a significant improvement with respect to the state of the art, and are attainable within current technology. Our results pave the way for optomagnonics with magnetic textures, including optically induced non-linear vortex dynamics (e.g. self-oscillations of the gyrotropic mode), optically mediated synchronization in vortex arrays, and exotic quantum states entangling vortex and optical degrees of freedom. Finally, our results indicate the potential of these systems for cavity-enhanced Brillouin scattering microscopy to study vortices or other magnetic structures.

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Appendix A: Gyrotropic Mode

In this section we calculate the local change in the magnetization $\delta \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ corresponding to small oscillations of the spin with respect to the local equilibrium due to the gyrotropic mode. The obtained results are valid for the thin disk approximation.

We can parametrize the magnetization outside of the vortex core as

$$\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}) = Ce \varphi,$$  \hspace{1cm} (A1)

with $\mathbf{r} = (\rho, \varphi)$ the polar coordinates in the system with origin at the center of the core. We describe the magnetization profile inside of the core with the "rigid vortex" model [28, 42] using the following parametrization

$$\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\rho^2 + b^2} \left( \begin{array}{c} -2Cb y \\ 2Cb x \\ P(b^2 - \rho^2) \end{array} \right).$$  \hspace{1cm} (A2)

The radius of the vortex core $b$ can be obtained approximately by energy considerations [42]. For a disk with micrometer radius, $b$ is of the order of a few $l_{ex}$. The time-dependent magnetization as long as the gyrotropic mode is excited can be approximated as

$$\mathbf{m}_{ex}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r} - r_{c}(t)) \approx \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}) - (r_{c}(t) \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r})$$

with $r_{c}(t) = r_{c}[\cos(\omega_{g}t)e_{x} + P \sin(\omega_{g}t)e_{y}]$, where we have ignored damping of the mode. Using the complex representation of $r_{c}(t)$ we obtain

$$\delta \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{r_{c}}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{m}}{\partial x} - iP \frac{\partial \mathbf{m}}{\partial y} \right) e^{i\omega_{g}t} + c.c.$$. \hspace{1cm} (A3)

We first consider the perturbation outside the vortex core such that $\rho \geq b$ and $\mathbf{m}_{o}(\mathbf{r}) = Ce \varphi$. In a cartesian coordinate system with center at the unexcited vortex $\mathbf{r}_{0}$ we get

$$\mathbf{m}_{o}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{C \rho}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \left( \begin{array}{c} -y \\ x \end{array} \right)$$ \hspace{1cm} (A4)

with $x = \rho \cos(\varphi)$, $y = \rho \sin(\varphi)$. Hence the following expressions hold

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{m}_{o}}{\partial x} = \frac{C}{\rho} \sin(\varphi)e_{\rho}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{m}_{o}}{\partial y} = -\frac{C}{\rho} \cos(\varphi)e_{\rho}. \hspace{1cm} (A5)$$

Inserting Eqs. (A5) into Eq. (A3) and using $e^{-iP\varphi} = \cos(\varphi) - iP \sin(\varphi)$ we obtain

$$\delta \mathbf{m}_{o}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -CPe_{\rho} \frac{r_{c}}{2\rho} e^{-i(\varphi - \pi/2)} e^{i\omega_{g}t} + c.c., \hspace{1cm} (A6)$$

with $e_{\rho} = (\cos(\varphi), \sin(\varphi))$.

Inside the vortex core, the magnetization acquires an out-of-plane component. In the rigid vortex model, the vortex moves without deforming and for $\rho \leq b$ it is parametrized as

$$\mathbf{m}_{i}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\rho^2 + b^2} \left( \begin{array}{c} -2Cb y \\ 2Cb x \\ P(b^2 - \rho^2) \end{array} \right).$$ \hspace{1cm} (A7)

For the gyrotropic mode, using (A3), we obtain

$$\delta m_{ix} = -2r_{c}C \frac{b}{(\rho^2 + b^2)^2} \left[ 2xy - iP(\rho^2 + b^2 - 2y^2) \right]$$  \hspace{1cm} (A8)

$$\delta m_{iy} = -2r_{c}C \frac{b}{(\rho^2 + b^2)^2} \left[ (\rho^2 + b^2 - 2y^2) - iP2xy \right]$$

$$\delta m_{iz} = 4r_{c}P \frac{\rho b^2}{(\rho^2 + b^2)^2} e^{iP\varphi}. \hspace{1cm}$$
Figure A.1. Spatial profile of the gyrotropic mode obtained by micromagnetic simulations for the thin disk \((R = 1\, \mu m, h = 20\, \text{nm})\) for (a) \(H_x = 0\) and (b) \(H_x = 1\, \text{mT}\).

If an external in-plane field \(H_x\) is applied, the vortex is displaced from the center of the disk and it is deformed into a C-vortex for fields larger than a certain field \(H_n\), see Fig. (A.2). The calculated mode profile in Eqs. (A.6) and (A.8) are valid as long as the vortex core is not deformed, that is, for \(H_x < H_n\). Fig. (A.1) shows the gyrotropic mode profile obtained by micromagnetics for a field \(H_x < H_n\). The results are in agreement with the mode profile obtained in Eqs. (A.6) and (A.8).

Appendix B: Normalization of the Gyrotropic Mode

We can relate the amplitude \(r_c\) of the gyrotropic mode to the average number of excited magnons in the mode. For this we recall that the local magnetization can be written as

\[
\mathbf{m}_{\text{ex}}(r) = e_3 \sqrt{1 - \frac{2g\mu_B |\psi(r)|^2}{M_s^2}} + \frac{g\mu_B M_s}{\sqrt{2}} [\psi(r)e_+ + \psi^*(r)e_-]
\]

where \(e_3 = \mathbf{m}(r)\) corresponds to the local equilibrium direction, \((e_1, e_2, e_3)\) is a local orthonormal basis, and \(e_{\pm} = (e_1 \pm ie_2)/\sqrt{2}\). \(\psi(r)\) is the (complex) amplitude of the spin wave, and \(|\psi(r)|^2\) gives us the probability density of magnonic excitations. We can therefore identify

\[
\delta \mathbf{m}(r) = \frac{g\mu_B}{M_s} [\psi(r)e_+ + \psi^*(r)e_-]
\]

and obtain \(\psi_i(r), \psi_o(r)\) from the corresponding expressions in Eqs. (A.8) and (A.6).

We proceed with finding \(\psi_i\). While \(e_3\) is determined by the local equilibrium magnetization, \(e_{\pm}\) can be chosen. Writing \(\mathbf{m}(r)\) in cylindrical coordinates results in a natural way to chose \(e_{\pm}\) (in what follows we take for notational simplicity \(C = P = 1\)),

\[
e_3' = \mathbf{m}_i(r) = \frac{2\rho b}{\rho^2 + b^2} e_{\varphi} + \frac{b^2 - \rho^2}{\rho^2 + b^2} e_z = \cos(\phi)e_{\varphi} + \sin(\phi)e_z
\]
where the second equality defines the angle $\phi$ in the plane spanned by $e_\phi$ and $e_z$. If we define $e_2^i$ to be in the same plane, i.e. $e_2^i = \sin(\phi)e_x - \cos(\phi)e_z$, then the local triad is completely determined by $e_1^i = e_2^i \times e_3^i = e_\rho$. Hence we have $\delta m_i(r) \cdot e_+^i = 0$, $\delta m_i^*(r) \cdot e_-^i = 0$ and we can write

$$\psi_\gamma(r) = \sqrt{\frac{M_s}{g\mu_B}} \frac{\delta m_+(r)}{2} \cdot e_+^i = -\sqrt{\frac{M_s}{g\mu_B}} \frac{\sqrt{2}br_c}{b^2 + \rho^2} \left[\sin(\varphi) + i\cos(\varphi)\right], \quad (B4)$$

$$\psi_\gamma^*(r) = \sqrt{\frac{M_s}{g\mu_B}} \delta m_i(r) \cdot e_-^i. \quad (B5)$$

Using this we obtain

$$\int d^3r |\psi_\gamma(r)|^2 = \frac{2\pi\hbar}{M_s} \frac{\delta m_+(r)}{g\mu_B} \int_0^b d\rho \rho \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}br_c}{b^2 + \rho^2}\right)^2 = \pi\hbar \frac{M_s}{g\mu_B} r_c^2. \quad (B6)$$

Outside of the vortex core, $e_3^i = m_\phi(r) = e_\phi$ holds and the fluctuations $\delta m_\phi$ are in the plane and along $e_\rho$ (see Eq. (A6)). In this case we simply have $\delta m_+^i/2 = \psi_\phi(r)e_\rho$ and hence

$$\psi_\phi(r) = i \sqrt{\frac{M_s}{g\mu_B}} r_c e^{i\varphi}. \quad (B7)$$

In this case we obtain

$$\int d^3r |\psi_\phi(r)|^2 = \frac{\pi\hbar}{2} \frac{M_s}{g\mu_B} r_c^2 \int_b^R \frac{d\rho}{\rho} \left[\frac{\pi\hbar}{2} \frac{M_s}{g\mu_B} r_c^2 \ln \left(\frac{R}{b}\right)\right]. \quad (B8)$$

By normalizing to one magnon in the disk volume, we obtain

$$r_c^2 = \frac{g\mu_B}{M_s} \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \left[1 + \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{R}{b}\right)\right]^{-1}. \quad (B9)$$

For a typical microdisk with $R \approx 1 \mu m$ and $b \approx 10 nm$ we get

$$r_c^2 \approx \frac{1}{3} \frac{g\mu_B}{M_s} \frac{1}{\pi\hbar}. \quad (B10)$$

In the case of a YIG disk with $h \approx 100 nm$ [B10] evaluates to $r_c \approx 1 \AA$.

**Appendix C: Whispering Gallery Modes in Cylindrical Geometry**

In the limit of an infinite cylinder, Maxwell equations can be solved analytically due to the translation invariance along the cylinder axis $z$. Hence the problem can be considered as two dimensional. In the following we sketch the solution for completeness [17].
The functional form of the electric $\psi = E_z$ or the magnetic $\psi = B_z$ field component is given by solving the Helmholtz equation

$$\left(\nabla^2 + n^2 k^2\right) \psi = 0,$$

(C1)

respectively for the TM ($B \perp e_z$) and the TE ($E \perp e_z$) mode. In cylindrical coordinates $(r, \theta)$ with origin at the center of the disk, one obtains in the case $r < R$

$$\psi(r, \theta) = A_m J_m(kr)e^{i(\pm m\theta)},$$

(C2)

with $J_m$ the Bessel function of the first kind. Since the magnetic mode is confined to the disk, we can focus only the solution for $r < R$. The outer solution $r > R$ however is needed to obtain the allowed values of $k$. This is given by the condition

$$K \partial_r J_m(nkR)/J_m(nkR) = \partial_r H^{(1)}_{m}(kR)/H^{(1)}_{m}(kR)$$

(C3)

with $H^{(1)}_{m}$ the Hankel function of the first kind and $K = n$ for a TM and $K = 1/n$ for a TE mode. The solutions to this transcendental equation are of the form

$$\tilde{k}_{mp} = k_{mp} - ik''_{mp}$$

(C4)

where the real part $k_{mp}$ determines the position of the resonance and the imaginary part $k''_{mp} > 0$ the leaking of the mode out of the cavity, and therefore its lifetime. Additionally, $2m$ gives the number of interference maxima of the $E/B$-field in the azimuthal direction and $p$ the number of interference regions in the radial direction. In the following we are interested in the $E$ field, which is the field relevant for the optomagnonic coupling. For the TM mode one obtains simply

$$E_{TM}^{mp} = \psi_{mp}(r, \theta)e_z$$

(C5)

while for the TE mode

$$E_{TE}^{mp} = i\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0} \lambda \left(1 \partial_\theta \psi_{mp}e_r - \partial_r \psi_{mp}e_\theta \right)$$

(C6)

holds, where $\omega = \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0} \lambda = \omega + \frac{i\kappa}{2}$ and the subscripts $mp$ indicates that the expressions are evaluated for a particular solution $\tilde{k} = \tilde{k}_{mp}$ of Eq. ([C3]). Since WGMs in a classical sense are located at the rim of the disk, we assume $p = 1$ and hence omit this index in the following discussions. By considering well defined WGMs, $k_m$, determined by the boundary conditions at the rim, can be taken as real in a first approximation.

The normalization coefficient to one photon in average in the optical cavity can be found from

$$\frac{\epsilon_0 \epsilon}{2} \int_V \text{d}r |E(r)|^2 = \frac{\hbar \omega_m}{2}.$$  

(C7)

For the TE mode we obtain

$$\frac{\epsilon_0 \epsilon \hbar}{(\epsilon \omega_m)^2} |A_m|^2 = \frac{\hbar \omega_m}{2\pi N_J}$$

(C8)

with

$$N_J = \int_0^1 u \text{d}u \left[ \frac{m^2}{u^2} |J_m(k_m Ru)|^2 + |\partial_u J_m(k_m Ru)|^2 \right].$$

(C9)

Appendix D: Optomagnonic coupling for the thin Disk

We consider an applied external magnetic field $H_x$ such that the vortex is displaced a distance $s$ from the disk’s center, and calculate the coupling of the gyrotropic mode discussed in Sec. A to a TE-WGM as given in Eq. ([C6]).
The optical spin density vector is perpendicular to the disk plane (z-axis) and therefore couples only to \( \delta m_{z} \) given in Eq. (A8), which is finite only for \( \rho \leq b \). The optomagnonic coupling in this case reads

\[
G_{m} = -i \frac{\theta_{F} \lambda_{m} \xi_{0} \varepsilon}{4\pi} \frac{2}{h} \int_{0}^{b} \rho d\rho \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\varphi m_{z}(\rho, \varphi) \left( E_{m}^{TE} \times E_{m}^{TE} \right) \cdot \hat{e}_{z},
\]

Here, \( (\rho, \varphi) \) are polar coordinates in the system with origin at the center of the vortex. From Eq. (C6) we obtain \( \hat{r} = k_{m} \rho, \) and \( \omega_{m} = \frac{2}{n} k_{m} \)

\[
E_{m}^{TE} \times E_{m}^{TE} = \pm i \varepsilon_{z} \frac{|A_{m}|^2 k_{m} m_{z}}{\xi^{2} \omega_{m}^2} \frac{\partial_{\varphi}|J_{m}(\rho)|^2}{\rho},
\]

where \( \pm m \) corresponds to \( e^{\pm im\theta} \) and \( \rho = se_{x} + \rho e_{y} \). Using also Eq. (C9) we obtain

\[
G_{m} = \pm i \frac{\theta_{F} \lambda_{m} \hbar \omega_{m}}{2\pi} \frac{r_{c} k_{m} m_{z}}{2\pi N_{f}} \int_{0}^{1} d\rho \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\varphi e^{im\varphi} \frac{\rho^2}{(\rho^2 + 1)^2} \frac{\partial_{\varphi}|J_{m}(\rho)|^2}{|s/b| e_{y} + \rho e_{\rho}}.
\]

Note that the last factor in the integrand has a non-trivial dependence on \( \varphi \), since the vortex is displaced from the center of the disk. The coefficient \( r_{c} \) is determined by the number of magnons in the excited mode, for a single magnonic excitation we obtain \( r_{c} \approx 1 \text{ Å} \), see Sec. (B). Taking a WGM with \( f \approx 200 \text{ THz} \), and using \( \theta_{F} \lambda_{m}/2\pi \approx 4 \times 10^{-5} \) for YIG, we obtain

\[
G_{m} = \pm i \frac{\theta_{F} \lambda_{m} \hbar \omega_{m}}{2\pi} \frac{r_{c} k_{m} m_{z}}{2\pi N_{f}} \int_{0}^{1} d\rho \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\varphi e^{im\varphi} \frac{\rho^2}{(\rho^2 + 1)^2} \frac{\partial_{\varphi}|J_{m}(\rho)|^2}{|s/b| e_{y} + \rho e_{\rho}} \times (1 \text{ MHz}).
\]

This expression is plotted as a function of the position of the vortex in Fig. (A.3). The result agrees reasonably well both for the order of magnitude of the coupling \( (G_{m} \approx 10 \text{ Hz}) \), as for the non-monotonic behavior. In the same plot, we show the magnitude OSD evaluated at the position of the vortex. As discussed in the main text, the plot shows that the optomagnonic coupling vanishes at the maximum of the OSD, showing that the magnon mode couples effectively to the gradient of the OSD, and the coupling is maximum at the points of maximum slope. Note that in Fig. (3) both the optomagnonic coupling and the OSD are plotted as a function of \( H_{x} \), using the nonlinear dependence between the position of the vortex and the external magnetic field found by micromagnetic simulations and shown in Fig. (A.4) (the OSD of course does not depend on \( H_{y} \), but we translate the vortex position into magnetic field). Due to this nonlinear dependence, the point of maximum slope of the OSD plotted as a function of the magnetic field does not coincide with that one as a function of position (in particular, the steepness of the slope right and left from the maximum of the OSD is inverted, compare Fig. (A.3) and Fig. (3)). In Fig. (3) we plot the optomagnonic coupling as a function of \( H_{x} \) since this is the externally tunable parameter.

In Eq. (D2) and the corresponding Fig. (A.3) we assumed that under the application of \( H_{x} \), the vortex remains undeformed until the rim of the disk. This is true up to \( H_{x} \approx H_{y}^{p} \). Beyond these fields, the vortex core is elongated, forming a small domain wall in the form of a C. The magnon modes in the presence of this distorted vortex differ from the ideal case [39, 40]. Eq. (D2) therefore must be taken as an approximate expression. Note also that we have neglected the imaginary part of the wave vector for the WGM.

**Appendix E: Vortex position Vs. external magnetic field**

The vortex core can be shifted towards the rim by applying an external magnetic field. Hence the vortex core position can be related to the magnitude of this external field. The vortex’s displacement is linear with the field for \( H_{x} \lesssim H_{y}^{p} \) and one can write \( s = R_{x_{m}} H_{x} \), where the magnetic susceptibility \( \chi_{m}(R, \beta) \) is defined via \( (m)_{V} = \chi_{m} H \) and its parametric dependence is given by \( \chi_{m}(R, \beta) \). For higher magnetic field however this dependence deviates from linear. We obtained the position of the vortex as a function of magnetic field using MuMax3. The results are plotted in Fig. (A.4). We used these results to relate position and magnetic field in Fig. (4) of the main text.

**Appendix F: Optical Simulations**

In order to obtain the optical eigenmodes of the cylindrical cavity we used the finite element simulation tool COMSOL Multiphysics. The simulated geometry consists of a magnetic disk surrounded by an air cylinder, with
Figure A.3. Red: Optomagnonic coupling for the gyrotropic mode as a function of position of the vortex for a YIG thin disk ($R = 1\mu m$), according to the analytical expression in Eq. (D2). We took a WGM with $m = 6$, $\omega_{\text{opt}}/2\pi \approx 200\text{THz}$. Cyan: Magnitude of the optical spin density evaluated at the vortex position, in arbitrary units.

Figure A.4. External magnetic field as a function of the position of the vortex. Results for the thin disk ($R = 1\mu m$, $h = 20\text{nm}$).

dimensions listed in Table I. The air has to be taken into account, since the electric field captured in the disk can leak out at its boundaries. The size of the air cylinder was chosen such that the evanescent light has at least $3 \cdot \lambda \approx 4.5\mu m$ before it reaches the boundaries. We work with the insulating magnetic material YIG with the following parameters

$$\varepsilon_r = 5$$
$$\mu_r = 1$$
$$\sigma = 0,$$

where $\varepsilon_r$ ($\mu_r$) is the relative permittivity (permeability) and $\sigma$ the conductivity. The air is simulated with $\varepsilon_r = \mu_r = 1$ and $\sigma = 0$. Due to the small height of the thin YIG disk the modes are very leaky causing the quality factor to be very low. In order to prevent that we confine the modes in the disk by sandwiching the YIG disk with two $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$
disks \((r = 1 \mu m, h = 800 \text{ nm})\). The corresponding material parameters of Si\(_3\)N\(_4\) are

\[
\varepsilon_r = 4 \\
\mu_r = 1 \\
\sigma = 0.
\]

We use three “Free triangular” mesh grids, one for each material. In the YIG and Si\(_3\)N\(_4\) domains we choose a finer mesh, whereas in the air domain the mesh can be increased without losing accuracy, since the optical field is concentrated closely to the disks. Details are found in table II.

Due to the axial symmetry of the whole geometry we can use the “2D Axis symmetric space dimension” in order to save simulation time by simulating just one slice, see Fig. A.5. We used the “Electromagnetic waves, Frequency domain” package of COMSOL’s RF module which solves for

\[
\nabla \times \left( \frac{1}{\mu_r} \left( \nabla \times \vec{E} \right) \right) - k_0^2 \left( \varepsilon_r - \frac{i\sigma}{\omega\varepsilon_0} \right) \vec{E} = 0
\]

with \(k_0\) the vacuum wave number, \(\omega\) the angular frequency and \(\vec{E}\) the electric field. As the finite element method requires a finite-sized modeling domain, we need to limit the modeled air stack to a finite size. To account for leakage

| Material | Maximum element size [nm] |
|----------|---------------------------|
| YIG      | 15                        |
| Si\(_3\)N\(_4\) | 20                      |
| Air      | 100                       |

Table II. Mesh element size for the different simulated system components.
Figure A.6. Protocol used in the micromagnetic simulations to obtain the magnon modes.

from the optical mode, we apply scattering boundary conditions at the surface of the air cylinder

\[ \vec{n} \times \left( \vec{n} \times \vec{E} \right) - ik\vec{n} \times (\vec{E} \times \vec{n}) = 0 \]

with \( \vec{n} \) the normal vector. This should avoid reflection of the electric field at the boundaries of the air cylinder, and as a consequence the obtained eigenfrequencies are complex with an imaginary part describing the loss scattered out of the the disk cavity. To find the TE modes, we simulate the upper half of the whole geometry and apply a “perfect magnetic conductor” boundary condition \( (\vec{n} \times \vec{H} = 0) \) to the bottom surface of the cut geometry, see Fig. A.5. The full solution is obtained by mirroring with respect to the bottom plane. Therefore within our definition, the TE (-like) modes are even under a vector-parity operation.

We search for relatively well confined optical WGMs. The micrometer scale of the system will result in low possible azimuthal numbers for the modes, and modest quality factors. We find possible candidates for \( m = 6 \) in the case of the thin and \( m = 11 \) in the case of the thick disk. Solving Eq. (F7) using these values we obtain modes with an eigenfrequency of \( 218 + i1.5 \) THz (thin disk) and \( 184 + i0.3 \) THz (thick disk), respectively.

Appendix G: Micromagnetic Simulations

In order to calculate the magnetics we use the GPU accelerated micromagnetic simulation tool MuMax\textsuperscript{3} \cite{1}. We simulate both a thin and a thick YIG disk with corresponding dimensions as given in table I. The material parameters used are listed in table III.

The two different meshes we use can be found in table IV, where \( n_i \) denotes the amount of cells in the direction \( i \in (x, y, z) \) and \( s_i \) the side length. Here we pay attention that the amount of the cells is a power of two or at least has small prime factors (e.g. 2, 5) \cite{1}. Furthermore the cell size should not exceed the dipole interaction length of YIG of \( l_{ex} \approx 12.7 \) nm in order to ensure that we are able to resolve the finest magnetization structures.

After the geometry and the mesh are set we initialize the magnetization with a random configuration in the case of the thin disk and already with a vortex in the case of the big disk in order to save simulation time. Afterwards the

| Parameter       | Value     |
|-----------------|-----------|
| \( M_{sat} \)   | 140 kA/m  |
| \( A_{ex} \)    | 2 pJ/m    |
| \( K_{c1} \)    | -610 J/m\(^3\) |
| anisotropy axis | \( \hat{z} \) |
| \( \alpha \)    | 1 (relax), 0.008 (evolution) |

Table III. Magnetic parameters for YIG as used in the micromagnetic simulations.
system is relaxed to its ground state for zero-applied magnetic field in both cases. To find the magnon modes, we apply the following general procedure [31]:

1. Application of a particular external magnetic field and relaxation of the system to its corresponding ground state.

2. Excitation of the system with a short square pulse (1.5 ns) with a strength of 0.1 mT into the x direction.

3. Evaluation of the magnon mode spectrum by Fourier transforming the time evolution of e.g. \( m_y(t) - m_y(0) \).

In order to obtain a full mode spectrum as a function of the external applied magnetic field, the above described procedure has to be applied for each magnetic field separately, starting with the evolved magnetization state of the previous B-field step. A sketch of this procedure is found in Fig. [A.6].

**Magnon spectrum - thin disk** – In this case the above approach is applied between the magnetic fields 0 and 4.5 mT in steps of 0.5 mT, where the system is evolved for 2 \( \mu \)s (-1.5 ns) saving the whole magnetization pattern each 2.5 ns which gives 2 \cdot 400 time steps. With this chosen time settings we make the frequency range 0 to 400/2 MHz accessible with a frequency resolution of 0.5 MHz. The factor of 2 is due to symmetry of the Fourier transformation with respect to positive and negative values. The spectrum is shown in Fig. [A.7a].

**Magnon spectrum - thick disk** – In this case the excitation procedure is adopted between the external fields 0 and 18 mT in steps of 1 mT, where the system is evolved for 1 \( \mu \)s saving the whole magnetization each 1 ns resulting in 2 \cdot 500 time steps. With these settings we make the frequency range from 0 to 1/2 GHz accessible with a frequency resolution of 1 MHz. The spectrum is shown in Fig. [A.7b].

**Spatial dependence of the magnon modes** – To obtain the spatial dependence of the magnon modes the same procedure as described above can be applied for each particular B-field, but by using a space dependent Fourier transformation on the magnetization components

\[
m_i(\vec{r}, f) = \int dt \left[ m_i(\vec{r}, t) - m_i(\vec{r}, 0) \right] e^{i2\pi ft}, \quad i = x, y, z
\]  

where the Fourier transformation gets applied to the time evolution of each simulation cell separately.

### Appendix H: Normalization of the coupling

In the main text we give values of optomagnonic coupling per photon per magnon. The optical field strength obtained with COMSOL has to be scaled to have an average photon number of one in the optical cavity. The photon number is obtained by dividing the total energy of the WGM, by the energy of one photon

\[
N_{\text{Ph}} = \frac{E_c^o + E_m^o}{\hbar \omega_{\text{opt}}} \quad \text{(H1)}
\]

where \( E_c^o \) represents the energy of the electric field, \( E_m^o \) the energy of the magnetic field and \( \omega_{\text{opt}} \) the eigenfrequency of the optical mode. Numerically this is easily obtained by a “Global evaluation” in COMSOL.

In order to calculate the magnon number we need the total energy contained in the magnon mode. This can be obtained numerically by inserting the obtained mode profile for a given mode \( \delta \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}) \) (see Eq. [G1]) back into MuMax and computing the energy. Since the computed magnetization profile given by Eq. [G1] is complex, we write the total energy of the mode as

\[
E_{\text{tot}}^m = \frac{1}{2} \int \mathbf{r} \left[ E_m^m \left( \text{Re} \{ \delta \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}) + \mathbf{m}_0(\mathbf{r}) \} \right) + E_m^m \left( \text{Im} \{ \delta \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}) + \mathbf{m}_0(\mathbf{r}) \} \right) \right]
\]  

where

| Disk  | \( n_x \) | \( n_y \) | \( n_z \) | \( s_x \) [nm] | \( s_y \) [nm] | \( s_z \) [nm] |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| Thin disk | 256    | 256    | 5       | 7.8125     | 7.8125     | 4          |
| Big disk  | 320    | 320    | 40      | 12.5 \cdot 10^4 | 12.5 \cdot 10^4 | 12.5      |

Table IV. Mesh for micromagnetic simulations.
Figure A.7. Magnon modes spectra as a function of applied external field for the (a) thin disk \((R = 1 \mu m, h = 20 nm)\) and (b) thick disk \((R = 2 \mu m, h = 500 nm)\). For the left column a short cutoff window was taken, for the right column a Hanning window.

where \(m_0(r)\) is the magnetic ground state (note that for \(|\delta m|/|m_0| \) small, \(E_m^m\) is quadratic in \(\delta m\)). The magnon number in the excited mode is obtained by

\[
N_{\text{Mag}} = \frac{E_m^m(m) - E_m^m(m_0)}{\hbar \omega_{\text{mag}}},
\]

where \(\omega_{\text{mag}}\) is the eigenfrequency of the chosen magnon mode.

The coupling Hamiltonian is quadratic in the photon operators and linear in the magnon operators. The full normalization is therefore accomplished by dividing the computed coupling by \(N_{\text{ph}} \sqrt{N_{\text{mag}}}\).