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Magnon confinement

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Magnetic structures are known to possess magnetic excitations confined to their surfaces and interfaces, but these spatially localized modes are often not resolved in spectroscopy experiments. We developed a theory to calculate the confined magnon spectra and its associated spin scattering function, which is the physical observable in spectroscopy based on neutron and electron scattering, and a proxy for Raman and infrared optical experiments. We apply our theory to simple ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic models to show that confined magnons are qualitatively different in these two systems. The theory shows that extra magnetic anisotropy at the system's edge quantitatively impacts magnon confinement in all cases. Our results provide insights on how to interpret magnetic spectroscopy experiments in nanostructures, and how their confined spectra is affected by surrounding materials.

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