

# Rare-Earth Iron Garnet Superlattices with Sub-unit Cell Composition Modulation

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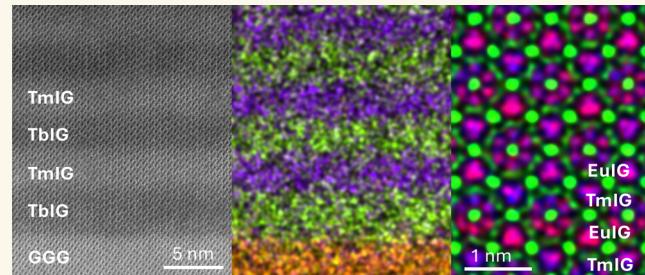
Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Oxide superlattices reveal a rich array of emergent properties derived from the composition modulation and the resulting lattice distortion, charge transfer, and symmetry reduction that occur at the interfaces between the layers. The great majority of studies have focused on perovskite oxide superlattices, revealing, for example, the appearance of an interfacial 2D electron gas, magnetic moment, or improper ferroelectric polarization that is not present in the parent phases. Garnets possess greater structural complexity than perovskites: the cubic garnet unit cell contains 160 atoms with the cations distributed between three different coordination

sites, and garnets exhibit a wide range of useful properties, including ferrimagnetism and ion transport. However, there have been few reports of the synthesis or properties of garnet superlattices, with layer thicknesses approaching the unit cell dimension of 1.2 nm. Here, we describe superlattices made from Bi and rare earth (RE = Tm, Tb, Eu, Lu) iron garnets (IGs) grown by pulsed laser deposition. Atom probe tomography and transmission electron microscopy reveal the composition modulation without dislocations and layer thicknesses as low as 0.45 nm, less than half a unit cell. TmIG/TbIG superlattices exhibit perpendicular magnetic anisotropy that is qualitatively different from the in-plane anisotropy of the solid solution, and BiIG/LuIG superlattices exhibit ferromagnetic resonance linewidth characteristics of the end-members rather than the solid solution. Garnet superlattices provide a playground for exploring interface physics within the vast parameter space of cation coordination and substitution.

**KEYWORDS:** iron garnet, superlattice, multilayer, ferrimagnet, magnetic anisotropy, pulsed laser deposition

Complex oxide heterostructures exhibit fascinating emergent phenomena driven by broken symmetry, structural distortions, and charge transfer that occur at oxide interfaces. Examples include the 2D electron gases or magnetic moments that appear at interfaces between otherwise insulating and non-magnetic perovskites  $\text{LaAlO}_3$  and  $\text{SrTiO}_3$ ,<sup>1</sup> improper ferroelectricity in  $\text{PbTiO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$  perovskite superlattices, anomalous spin-glass transitions in superlattices of magnetically frustrated  $\text{ZnCr}_2\text{O}_4/\text{ZnFe}_2\text{O}_4$  spinels,<sup>3</sup> and metallicity in rutile-structured  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{IrO}_2$  superlattices.<sup>4</sup> Garnets, with formula  $\text{A}_3\text{B}_2\text{C}_3\text{O}_{12}$ , have three different types of cation sites in the b.c.c. unit cell, enabling an even greater range of compositional variation than in perovskites,  $\text{ABO}_3$ . Moreover, iron garnets in particular ( $\text{A}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$ ), are ferrimagnetic insulators with a high Curie temperature of 560 K, and their magneto-optical properties, low damping, and high domain wall velocities make them essential components in a range of microwave, magnetic, and photonic devices.<sup>5–7</sup> Other garnets have applications in lasing materials (e.g., aluminum garnets) and as ionic conductors (Li-stuffed garnets).<sup>8–10</sup>

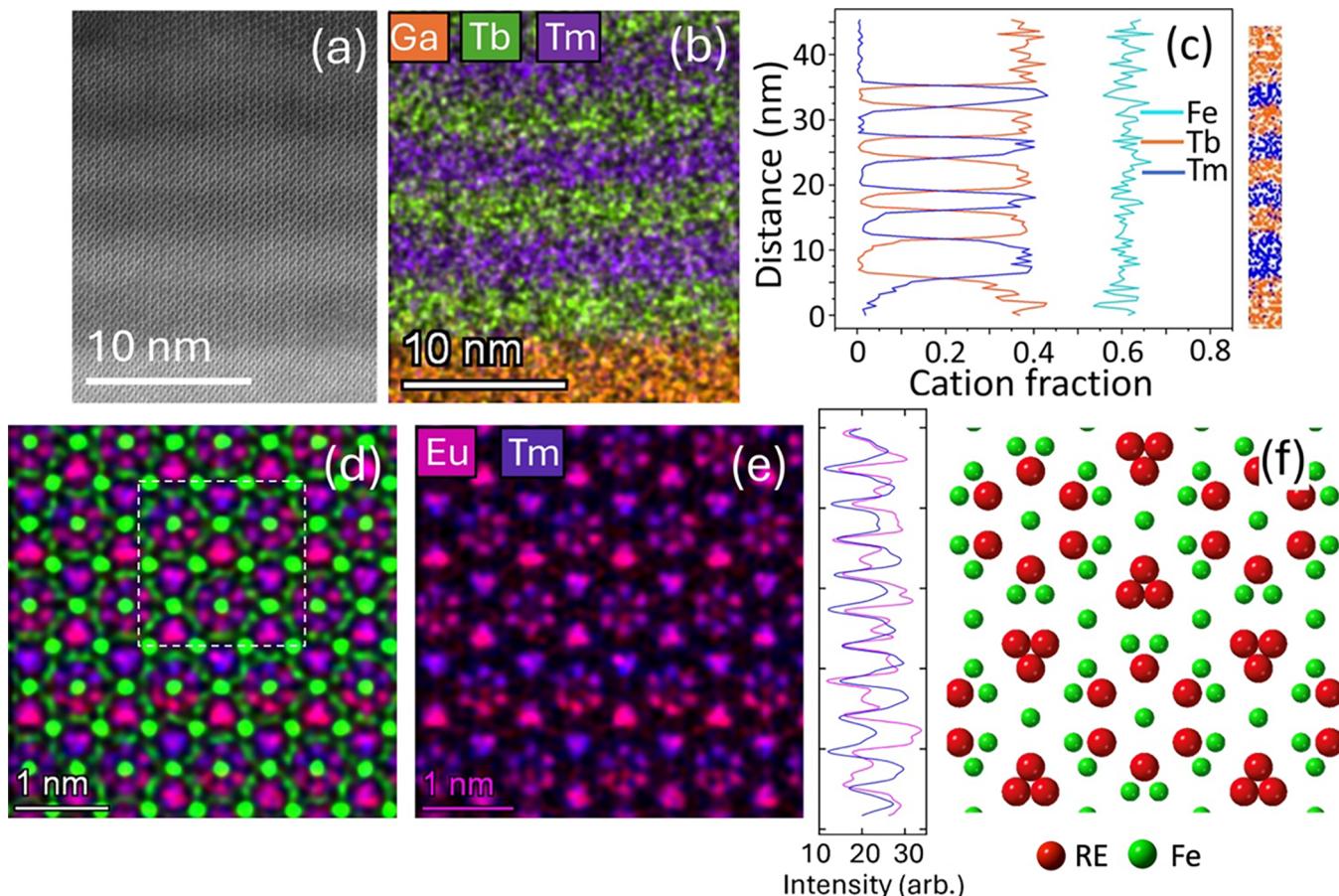


In rare earth iron garnets ( $\text{RE}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$ , REIG), the RE ion has fundamental importance in determining the magnetic anisotropy, magnetostriction, magnetic moment, compensation temperature, damping, and optical properties of the garnet.<sup>11–13</sup> As a perovskite analogy, in rare earth nickelates ( $\text{RENiO}_3$ ), changing the RE leads to a dramatic change in electronic and magnetic properties,<sup>14</sup> and in rare earth orthoferrites ( $\text{REFeO}_3$ ), the RE determines the Néel temperature and spin reorientation of the Fe sublattice and drives improper ferroelectricity.<sup>15–18</sup> A variety of studies have demonstrated the growth of perovskites and spinel superlattices,<sup>3,19–23</sup> including orthoferrite or nickelate superlattices

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**Figure 1. Superlattice garnet films.** (a) HAADF image for a cross-section of a (TbIG/TmIG)/(111) GGG superlattice with 2.8 nm thick layers along the [110] zone axis. (b) TEM EDS map for the sample in panel (a). (c) Projected 2D image for APT data for a (TbIG/TmIG)/(111) GGG multilayered film with different layer thicknesses of TbIG and TmIG. In the adjacent image, each dot represents the position of the ion detected by mass spectrometry. (d, e) Elemental maps of a superlattice of EuIG–TmIG grown on a (110) substrate imaged along the [111] in-plane zone axis. They show the same area with Eu in magenta and Tm in purple, but panel (d) includes Fe. The plot adjacent to panel (e) shows the integrated intensity of Eu and Tm. (f) Crystal structure of REIG along the [111] zone axis showing the Fe (green) and RE (red) sites, matching the arrangement seen in the dashed square in panel (d).

with intriguing properties.<sup>24–26</sup> Therefore, we might expect RE garnet superlattices to provide a rich opportunity for materials engineering, where interfacial strain, composition gradients, and the loss of inversion symmetry could drive piezomagnetic<sup>27</sup> or flexomagnetic<sup>28,29</sup> effects, growth-induced anisotropy,<sup>30,31</sup> Dzyaloshinskii–Moriya interactions, or a ferroelectric response.<sup>32</sup>

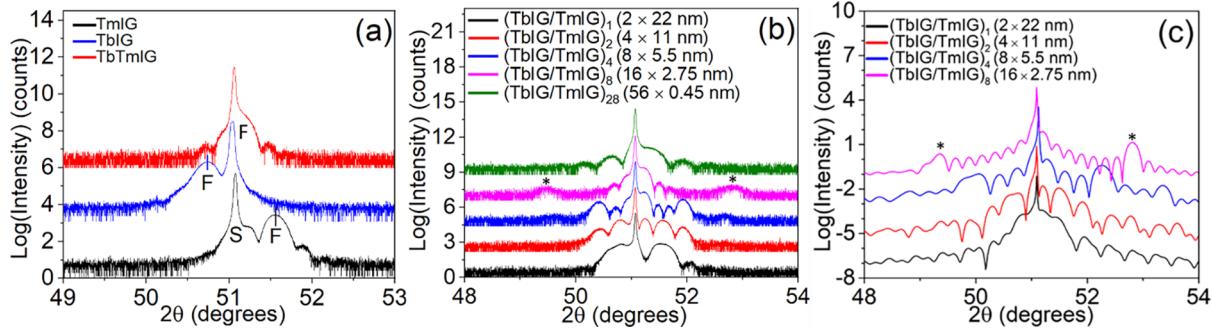
Despite the exceptional properties of garnets and the opportunities inherent in interface engineering, there has been little study of garnet heterostructures and multilayers. Garnet multilayers of  $Y_3Fe_5O_{12}/Bi_3Fe_5O_{12}$  (YIG/BiIG), YIG/(EuBi)<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>, YIG/Gd<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>, and (Bi,Dy)<sub>3</sub>(Fe,Ga)<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>/(Bi,Lu)<sub>3</sub>(Fe,Al)<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> with layer thicknesses of tens to hundreds of nanometers were synthesized for magneto-optical and optical applications, such as Bragg reflectors.<sup>33–36</sup> The study of garnet superlattices with nm-scale layer thicknesses is restricted to YIG/Gd<sub>3</sub>Ga<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> (GGG) with a minimum layer thickness of one unit cell (cubic lattice parameter  $a = 1.2$  nm),<sup>37</sup> GGG/Gd<sub>3</sub>Sc<sub>2</sub>Ga<sub>3</sub>O<sub>12</sub> (GSGG) with layers of  $\sim 2$  nm,<sup>23</sup> and YIG/GGG/Ca<sub>3</sub>Sc<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>TiO<sub>12</sub> with each layer 3.5 nm thick.<sup>21,38–41</sup> Structural characterization is limited, and the only magnetic component is YIG.

Here, we describe the structure and magnetic properties of coherent superlattices made from terbium iron garnet (TbIG,

Tb<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>), europium iron garnet (EuIG, Eu<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>), thulium iron garnet (TmIG, Tm<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>), lutetium iron garnet (LuIG, Lu<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>), and bismuth iron garnet (BiIG). TbIG, EuIG, and TmIG were selected due to their diverse magnetostriction and lattice parameters, whereas, in LuIG and BiIG, the dodecahedral cation is nonmagnetic, and LuIG has very low damping similar to YIG. Unlike prior work, all layers are ferrimagnetic, and the composition modulation involves only the dodecahedral sites. Compositionally modulated layers of 0.45 nm thickness, half the out-of-plane lattice spacing, are confirmed both by elemental analysis of a EuIG/TmIG superlattice and from the magnetic anisotropy of a TbIG/TmIG superlattice, which differs qualitatively from that of the solid solution (Tb<sub>0.5</sub>Tm<sub>0.5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>. LuIG/BiIG superlattices exhibit ferromagnetic resonance (FMR) linewidth characteristics of the end-member BiIG and not the solid solution. These findings demonstrate the engineering of garnet multilayers with layering at a sub-unit cell scale, providing opportunities to explore interfacial phenomena in iron garnets with tunable magnetic and spintronic properties.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The superlattices in this study, summarized in Table S1, Supporting Information (Supplementary Note 1), were



**Figure 2.** X-ray diffraction scans of garnet films. (a) HRXRD scans of TmIG, TbIG, and TbTmIG films deposited on (111) GGG substrates, vertically offset for clarity with film and substrate peaks labeled F and S, respectively. (b) HRXRD scans of bilayered, 4-layered, 8-layered, 16-layered, and 56-layered films of (TbIG/TmIG)/(111) GGG vertically offset for clarity. (c) Simulation of XRD scans for bilayered, 4-layered, 8-layered, and 16-layered films of (TbIG/TmIG)/(111) GGG with a total thickness of 44 nm. Satellite peaks from the multilayer with 2.75 nm thick layers are indicated in (b, c) with a star.

deposited by pulsed laser deposition (PLD) on GGG and GSGG substrates at oxygen pressures of 50–150 mTorr, a substrate temperature of 650 °C (750 °C for TmIG/EuIG), and a laser repetition rate of 10 Hz (see the *Methods* section). Superlattices with a total thickness of 15–44 nm, consisting of 2–56 individual layers, were formed by ablation from targets of the end-members (TbIG, TmIG, EuIG, LuIG, BiIG) based on the deposition rate established from each target. In contrast, a substitutional solid solution film,  $(\text{Tb}_{0.5}\text{Tm}_{0.5})_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$  (TbTmIG) or  $(\text{Lu}_{0.5}\text{Bi}_{0.5})_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$  (LuBiIG), was formed when the number of shots per layer is low enough to allow intermixing of the species on the c sites.

Figure 1 reveals direct evidence of superlattice formation from transmission electron microscopy (TEM) high-angle annular dark-field (HAADF) imaging and 3D atom probe tomography (APT). A cross-section of the 44 nm thick, 16-layered TbIG/TmIG film on (111) GGG and its energy-dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) map (Figures 1a,b and *Supplementary Note 2*) reveal a coherent, compositionally modulated superlattice with a layer thickness of 2.8 nm, in which the transition between the layers occurs within an interfacial width of less than 1 nm. No dislocations are present within the image area, and the film is fully strained to the substrate, consistent with the coherent epitaxial growth of a variety of single-layer iron garnet films with thicknesses of up to 90 nm on garnet substrates.<sup>42,43</sup> A separate TbIG/TmIG sample made with various layer thicknesses analyzed via APT (Figure 1c, *Methods*) also shows interface widths below 1 nm. The RE:Fe cation stoichiometry was close to its bulk value of 3:5 for TbIG and TmIG layers of 4.5 and 3.2 nm, respectively (*Supplementary Note 1*). To illustrate superlattice formation for another pair of REIGs and on a different substrate orientation, we imaged a TmIG/EuIG film on (110) GGG (Figure 1d,e), along the  $\langle\bar{1}11\rangle$  in-plane zone axis. It exhibits compositionally modulated layers of 0.45 nm thickness, half the out-of-plane spacing of  $a/\sqrt{2}$ .

TEM and APT, as well as atomic force microscopy (AFM) (*Supplementary Notes 2, 3*) show that while multilayers initially grow with a smooth surface (e.g., r.m.s. roughness of 0.2 nm for a 15 nm thick film, Figure S4b), roughness develops in multilayers grown at 150 mTorr when the thickness exceeds ~25 nm, Figure S4a, corresponding to waviness in the compositionally modulated layers. Roughness was suppressed by growing the films at 50 mTorr (Figure S4c), suggesting that

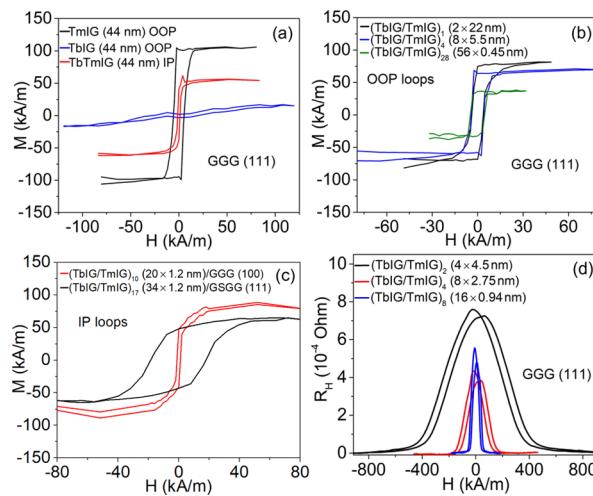
it is promoted by the lower mobility conditions present during deposition at high oxygen pressures.

Considering the in-plane lattice match to the substrate, symmetric high-resolution X-ray diffraction (HRXRD) scans of single-layer films TbIG, TmIG, and TbTmIG, Figure 2a, show that the TbIG is under in-plane compressive strain and the TmIG under tension, whereas the TbTmIG displays little strain. For a multilayer film consisting of thick layers, e.g., 22 nm, the HRXRD scans (Figure 2b and *Supporting Information, Part 4*) resemble a superposition of peaks corresponding to the single-layer TbIG and TmIG films. However, for multilayer films consisting of thinner layers, multiple peaks occur at positions different from those of the end-member peaks, including satellite peaks on either side of the main peak. XRD modeling of TbIG/TmIG multilayers with a finite number of layers, Figure 2c, yields good agreement with the measured data, further supporting the existence of a superlattice. Multilayer films made at lower oxygen pressures exhibit more prominent fringes, indicating reduced roughness and greater thickness uniformity (Figure S7).

Hysteresis loops from vibrating sample magnetometry (VSM), Figure 3 and *Supplementary Note 5* show an out-of-plane easy axis for the TbIG and TmIG films and the TbIG/TmIG superlattices on (111) GGG substrates, whereas the solid solution TbTmIG film and superlattices grown on (100)-oriented GGG and (111)-oriented GSGG have an in-plane easy axis. To analyze these differences, we consider the net anisotropy,  $K_{\text{eff}}$ , defined as the difference in energy between the magnetization being oriented in-plane vs out-of-plane. Based on an expression for (111)-oriented iron garnet films,<sup>30,42,43</sup> the effective anisotropy is given by

$$K_{\text{eff}} = \frac{-K_1}{12} - \frac{\mu_0 M_s^2}{2} + \frac{9}{4} c_{44} \lambda_{111} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - \beta \right) + K_G + K_I \quad (1)$$

Here,  $K_1$  is the first-order cubic magnetocrystalline anisotropy constant, which is small compared to other terms (of order  $-100 \text{ J/m}^3$  for TbIG and TmIG);  $M_s$  is the saturation magnetization of the film,  $c_{44}$  is the shear modulus of the film,  $\lambda_{111}$  is the magnetostriction coefficient along  $\langle 111 \rangle$ ,  $\beta$  is the corner angle of the rhombohedrally distorted unit cell,  $K_G$  is the uniaxial growth-induced anisotropy,<sup>30,44,45</sup> originating from the preferential occupancy of cations or vacancies in nonequivalent sites. We include a term  $K_I$  to capture any



**Figure 3.** (a) Hysteresis loops measured by VSM of TmIG, TbIG, and TbTmIG films deposited on the (111) GGG substrates. (b) VSM hysteresis loops of 2-, 8-, and 56-layered (TbIG/TmIG)/(111) GGG. (c) VSM hysteresis loops of 20-layered (TbIG/TmIG) deposited on (100) GGG and 34-layered (TbIG/TmIG) deposited on (111) GSGG. (d) In-plane SMR loops for 4-layered, 8-layered, and 16-layered (TbIG/TmIG)/(111) GGG.

interfacial or surface contributions to anisotropy.<sup>46,47</sup> A positive  $K_{\text{eff}}$  results in an out-of-plane easy axis, i.e., perpendicular magnetic anisotropy (PMA).

The PMA of the TmIG film (in-plane tensile strain;  $\lambda_{111} = -5.2 \times 10^{-6}$ ) and the TbIG film (in-plane compressive strain;  $\lambda_{111} = +12 \times 10^{-6}$ ) on GGG substrates originates from their dominant magnetoelastic energy contributions.<sup>48</sup> In contrast, the TbTmIG solid solution film has little strain and an interpolated  $\lambda_{111} = +3.4 \times 10^{-6}$ ; hence, the magnetoelastic energy term is small. Its in-plane easy axis indicates that any perpendicular growth-induced or surface anisotropy is insufficient to overcome the dominant shape anisotropy of  $-\frac{\mu_0}{2}M_s^2$  for the TbTmIG solid solution. Therefore, the presence of PMA in the multilayer films is an indication that they are not intermixed but instead consist of layers that retain the magnetic characteristics of the end-members. In particular, the PMA of the 56-layered 25 nm thick TbIG/TmIG superlattice, which is qualitatively different from the in-plane easy axis of the TbTmIG solid solution, indicates that a composition modulation exists for TbIG/TmIG layers of 0.45 nm thickness.

Multilayers were also deposited onto other substrates: (111)-oriented GSGG, which has a larger lattice parameter than GGG, and (001)-oriented GGG. First, considering films

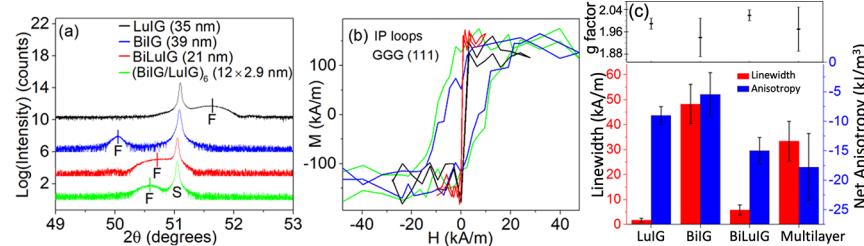
on (111) GSGG, based on the strain state and magnetostriction, we expect an epitaxial TmIG film to have PMA but epitaxial TbIG and TbTmIG to have in-plane anisotropy. A TbIG/TmIG superlattice on (111) GSGG showed an in-plane easy axis (Figure 3c), which is consistent with its multilayer structure; however, it is also consistent with intermixing to form a solid solution TbTmIG (Supplementary Note 7). Next, for a film on a (100)-oriented substrate, analogously to eq 1, the anisotropy is given by<sup>43</sup>

$$K_{\text{eff},100} = \frac{3}{2}\lambda_{100}(c_{11} - c_{12})(\varepsilon_{zz} - \varepsilon_{xx}) - \frac{\mu_0}{2}M_s^2 + K_G + K_I \quad (2)$$

where  $\lambda_{100}$  is the magnetostriction coefficient along <100>,  $c_{11}$  and  $c_{12}$  are elastic constants of the film material, and  $\varepsilon_{ii}$  denotes the  $i$ th normal strain component. The in-plane easy axis observed for the TbIG/TmIG superlattice on (100) GGG (Figure 3c) is consistent with the behavior expected from a multilayer and also with a solid solution (Supplementary Note 8). Therefore, unlike the (111) GGG substrate, neither (111) GSGG nor (100) GGG substrates enable us to distinguish between a TbIG/TmIG multilayer and a TbTmIG solid solution based solely on the orientation of the easy axis.

We quantify the anisotropy of the TbIG/TmIG/(111) GGG superlattices and TbTmIG/(111) GGG solid solution using spin Hall magnetoresistance (SMR) measurements of films of thicknesses below 22 nm with a root-mean-square roughness below 0.2 nm. A 4 nm thick Pt layer was sputtered onto the films and patterned into Hall crosses, and the anisotropy field  $H_K$  and net anisotropy  $K_{\text{eff}} = \mu_0 M_s H_K / 2$  were determined from the SMR (see the Methods section). Figure 3d shows that the  $K_{\text{eff}}$  decreased as the layer thickness decreased from  $13.8 \pm 1.9$  kJ/m<sup>3</sup> for 4.5 nm layers to  $1.9 \pm 0.3$  kJ/m<sup>3</sup> for 0.94 nm layers, i.e., the PMA becomes weaker as the layers become thinner. We attribute this to the increasing volume fraction of the interfaces. The TbTmIG solid solution has an in-plane easy axis with  $K_{\text{eff}} = -3.8 \pm 0.3$  kJ/m<sup>3</sup>, dominated by shape anisotropy of  $-2.1 \pm 0.7$  kJ/m<sup>3</sup>. The interfacial regions of the superlattice with their intermediate composition are similarly expected to contribute an in-plane anisotropy, and a higher density of interfaces therefore lowers the net PMA of the superlattice.

We now turn to superlattices based on BiIG and LuIG, comparing single-layer films of BiIG, LuIG, and solid solution LuBiIG with a BiIG/LuIG multilayer with 2.9 nm layers on (111) GGG. While BiIG is not a stable phase in bulk, it crystallizes on a garnet substrate as an epitaxial thin film with a lattice parameter of 1.263 nm.<sup>49</sup> From XRD, Figures 4a and S6, epitaxial LuIG on GGG is in tension, whereas BiIG exhibits an



**Figure 4.** (a) HRXRD scans of LuIG, BiIG, BiLuIG, and 12-layered BiIG/LuIG deposited on (111) GGG, vertically offset for clarity, with film and substrate peaks labeled F and S, respectively. (b) In-plane VSM hysteresis loops for the films in panel (a). (c) Landé g-factor, FMR linewidth at 8 GHz, and net anisotropy of the films in panel (a). The g-factors are close to 2, as expected for Fe<sup>3+</sup>.

in-plane compressive strain. LuBiIG and the BiIG/LuIG multilayer are under a smaller compressive strain.

Figure 4b shows that BiIG, LuIG, LuBiIG, and the BiIG/LuIG multilayer all have an in-plane easy axis and  $M_s = 135 \pm 15$  kA/m, similar to the bulk magnetization of IGs with nonmagnetic *c*-site ions, including LuIG, YIG, and BiYIG.<sup>31,48</sup> Anisotropy was measured by FMR, Figure 4c and Supplementary Tables S2, S3. All four films have a negative  $K_{\text{eff}}$ ; however, after subtracting the shape anisotropy, the remaining anisotropy ( $K = K_{\text{eff}} - K_{\text{shape}}$ ) is positive for LuIG and BiIG (i.e., favoring PMA) and negative for LuBiIG and the BiIG/LuIG multilayer. The values of  $K$  can be explained by magnetoelastic anisotropy, except in the case of BiIG, which exhibits an additional source of PMA, Supplementary Note 6.

Although the anisotropy and magnetization of the LuBiIG solid solution and the BiIG/LuIG multilayer are similar, their FMR linewidths are dramatically different. The BiIG film and the multilayer both have much greater linewidths (48 and 33 kA/m, respectively, at 8 GHz) compared to LuIG and BiLuIG (1.7 and 5.8 kA/m, respectively). The high linewidths associated with BiIG are likely to be a result of defects in the strained metastable compound.<sup>50,51</sup> The high linewidth of the BiIG/LuIG multilayer is consistent with the presence of BiIG and thus indicates that composition modulation is present within the multilayer film.

## CONCLUSIONS

We have demonstrated the synthesis of coherent superlattices of a complex oxide, iron garnet. A composition modulation in the *c*-site cation can be obtained for a layer thickness of 0.45 nm, less than half of the lattice parameter. Superlattice formation is revealed directly by compositional mapping using both electron microscopy and atom probe tomography and by X-ray diffraction and is inferred from the magnetic properties of the films. In particular, TbIG/TmIG superlattices with layers of 0.45 nm and above show PMA in common with the end-members TmIG and TbIG, dominated by magnetoelastic anisotropy, whereas a solid solution TbTmIG has an in-plane easy axis as a result of its low strain and low magnetostriction. Furthermore, LuIG/BiIG with 2.9 nm layer thickness has a high FMR linewidth, in common with that of the end-member BiIG, whereas the solid solution LuBiIG has a low linewidth.

Oxide heterostructures exhibit a wealth of useful and fascinating physical and electronic properties that emerge from gradients and asymmetry in strain, composition, and charge transfer at interfaces. Much of the research has focused on perovskites; however, the garnet heterostructures demonstrated here provide an even greater range of compositional parameters, resulting from the three different cation sites present in the crystal. The ability to modulate the composition of iron garnets on a sub-unit cell length scale provides opportunities for manipulating the electronic and magnetic properties of an important class of materials with exceptional and tunable magnetic and magneto-optical properties and scope for developing and exploiting interfacial phenomena.

## METHODS

Films were grown by pulsed laser deposition on GGG substrates with (111) and (100) orientations and on GSGG substrates with (111) orientation (MTI, Inc.). Commercially available TbIG ( $\text{Tb}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$ ), TmIG ( $\text{Tm}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$ ), EuIG ( $\text{Eu}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$ ), BiIG ( $\text{Bi}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$ ), and LuIG ( $\text{Lu}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$ ) targets with purity above 99.9% were used for PLD in a Neocera chamber with a Compex Pro laser of 248 nm wavelength,

fluence of 2.0 J/cm<sup>2</sup>, repetition rate of 10 Hz, and oxygen partial pressure of 150 mTorr. TbIG, EuIG, and TmIG were deposited in one chamber on substrates heated to 750 °C (heater set point temperature of 900 °C), while a different chamber was used for deposition of BiIG and LuIG with a substrate temperature of 550 °C (heater set point of 700 °C). The deposited films were cooled to room temperature at a rate of 20 °C/min in an oxygen pressure of 150 mTorr. A Bruker D8 Discover instrument was used to perform HRXRD measurements. XRD scans for multilayered films were simulated using LEPTOS. In the simulations, each layer was assumed to be ideally crystalline with the composition of the end-member, and all layers were assumed to be strained in-plane to match the substrate lattice parameter. Interfaces were modeled to have an abrupt composition change from one end-member to the other without any intermixing between layers. Topographical images of the film surface were obtained using an AFM model Cypher S. An ADE 1660 VSM was used to perform magnetic measurements.

The TEM lamella sample was prepared using a VELION FIB-SEM system with a 35 keV Au<sup>+</sup> ion beam, followed by ion polishing by Ar<sup>+</sup>. The HAADF and EDS images were acquired on a Themis Z STEM at 200 keV with a chromatic aberration corrector. Specimen tips for the 3D APT were prepared using an FEI Helios 660 Nanolab Dual-Beam FIB/SEM. Standard APT sample preparation procedures were followed for the lift out: sharpening of the tips was performed first with an ion beam accelerating voltage of 30 kV and then (for final shaping and cleanup) at 2 kV. APT was performed using a Cameca LEAP 4000X HR instrument in laser pulsing mode, with the following operating conditions: laser pulse energy, 20 pJ, repetition rate, 100 kHz; base temperature, 40 K; and detection rate, 1%. Reconstruction and analysis of the data were performed using Cameca IVAS 3.6.14 software. A 1D concentration profile along a cylindrical subvolume parallel to the long axis of the specimen tip was extracted, and then, the ion counts were converted into cation ratios. The accurate oxygen content cannot be determined via APT because the oxygen field evaporates as both O<sup>+</sup> and O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, which have the same mass-to-charge ratio. The thickness calibration was obtained from an HRXRD analysis.

FMR<sup>52</sup> measurements were performed to determine the net anisotropy of the films using a broadband FMR system with a coplanar waveguide. An r.f. magnetic field of  $f = 5$  to 17 GHz was applied perpendicular to the film, while an in-plane dc magnetic field was swept from  $\mu_0 H = 0$  to 0.6 T. The resonance field  $H_{\text{res}}$  and linewidth  $\Delta H$  were determined for each frequency by fitting the detected voltage with the derivative of the sum of a symmetric and antisymmetric Lorentzian.<sup>53</sup>

$$P = \frac{d}{dH} \left[ \frac{S\Delta H^2 + A_s(H - H_{\text{res}})}{4(H - H_{\text{res}})^2 + \Delta H^2} \right] \quad (3)$$

where  $S$  and  $A_s$  are fitting coefficients. The Lande *g*-factor and  $M_{\text{eff}}$  were obtained for all films by fitting the frequency of the magnetic field  $f$  and  $H_{\text{res}}$  to the following equation:

$$f = \frac{g\mu_0\mu_B}{2\pi\hbar} \sqrt{H_{\text{res}}(H_{\text{res}} + M_{\text{eff}})} \quad (4)$$

SMR was measured by first depositing 4 nm Pt on top of the garnet film using RF magnetron sputtering with an Ar pressure of 2 mTorr. The 22 nm thick films show PMA and similar hysteresis to that of the thicker multilayered films but have a root-mean-square roughness below 0.2 nm. The Pt/REIG longitudinal and Hall resistances are measured by wire bonding at the corners of a continuous square film sample in a Van der Pauw–Hall geometry. The magnetic field was applied by a solenoid coil magnet, and the resistance was measured by standard low-frequency lock-in amplifiers. An electric current in the Pt layer produces a spin current perpendicular to the film plane by the spin Hall effect,<sup>55</sup> which interacts with the REIG magnetization and modulates the resistivity of Pt.<sup>56</sup> The transverse Hall resistance is given by

$$R_H = R_H^{\text{SMR}} \sin^2 \theta \sin(2\Phi) + R_H^{\text{AHE,SMR}} \cos \theta + R_H^{\text{OHE}} H_z \quad (5)$$

where  $\theta$  and  $\Phi$  are the polar and azimuthal angles of the magnetization, respectively.  $R_H^{\text{SMR}}$ ,  $R_H^{\text{AHE, SMR}}$ , and  $R_H^{\text{OHE}}$  are manifestations of the SMR, anomalous Hall effect-like SMR, and ordinary Hall effect (OHE), respectively, and  $H_z$  is the applied out-of-plane magnetic field. For films with PMA, we apply an in-plane magnetic field at  $45^\circ$  to the current direction and measure  $H_{\text{K,eff}}$  the field required to saturate  $R_H$  using a standard lock-in technique with the Van der Pauw method and fitting the data to a macrospin model.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### SI Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsnano.4c11117>.

Data tables; anisotropy analysis; and additional data from transmission electron microscopy, atom probe tomography, X-ray diffraction, magnetic hysteresis loops, and ferromagnetic resonance ([PDF](#))

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### Notes

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