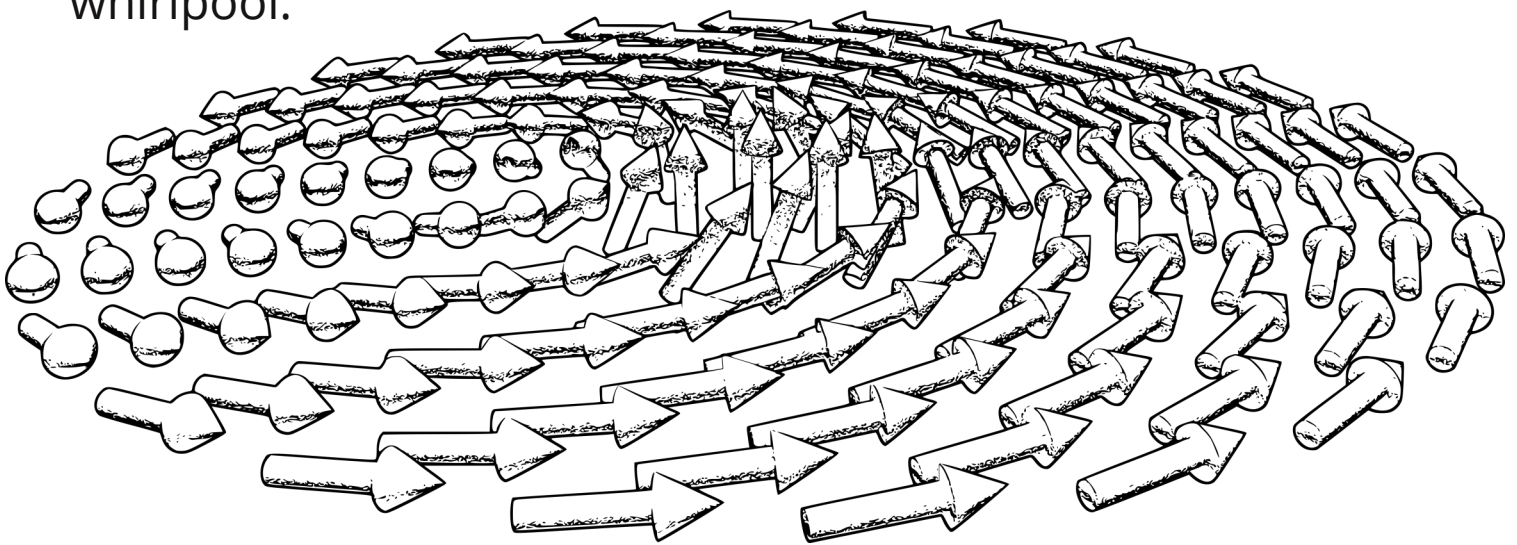


Vortices & Skyrmions

The 'spin' of an atom is the magnetism that atom has. We usually use an arrow to represent it.

The spins of atoms often line up in interesting ways. In certain materials they can be made to point round and round in a vortex - like the wind in a tornado or the water in a whirlpool.



Spins can also create patterns called 'skyrmions', where spins at the edge point up and spins in the centre point down. A vortex skyrmion has the spins in between pointing around in a circle, but a 'hedgehog skyrmion' has the spins like this:

