

Interaction between charge, spin and orbital currents in magnetic heterostructures

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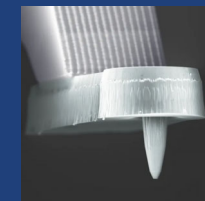


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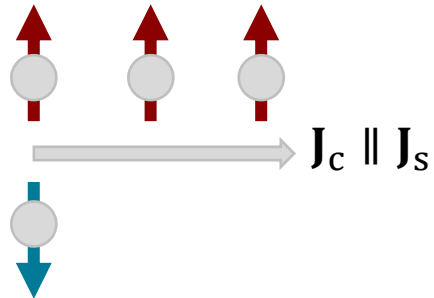


Outline

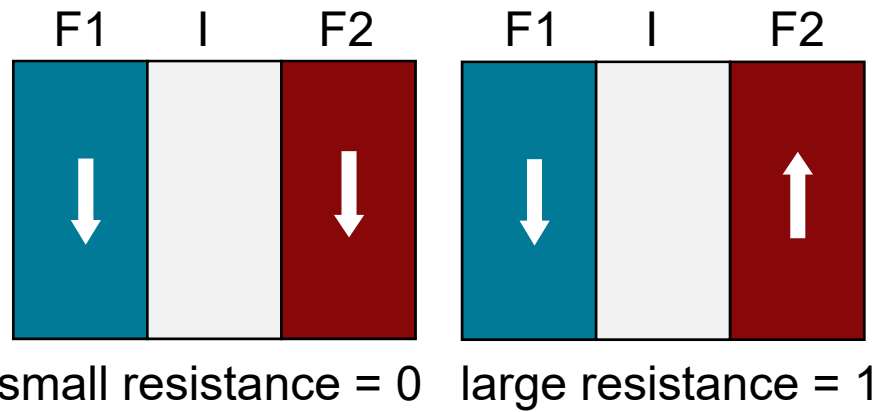
- Charge-spin conversion mechanisms
- Spin-orbit torques
- Current-induced manipulation of
 - ✓ Ferromagnets
 - ✓ Ferrimagnets
 - ✓ Antiferromagnets
- Examples of applications
 - ✓ Domain wall logic
 - ✓ MRAMs

Spin currents

Spin polarized current

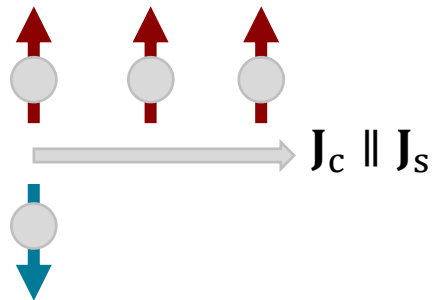


Tunnelling Magnetoresistance (TMR)

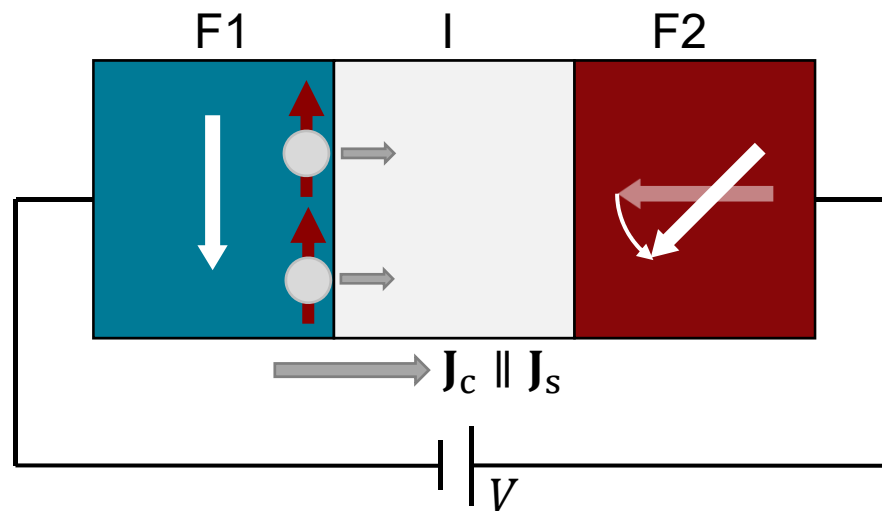


Spin torques

Spin polarized current

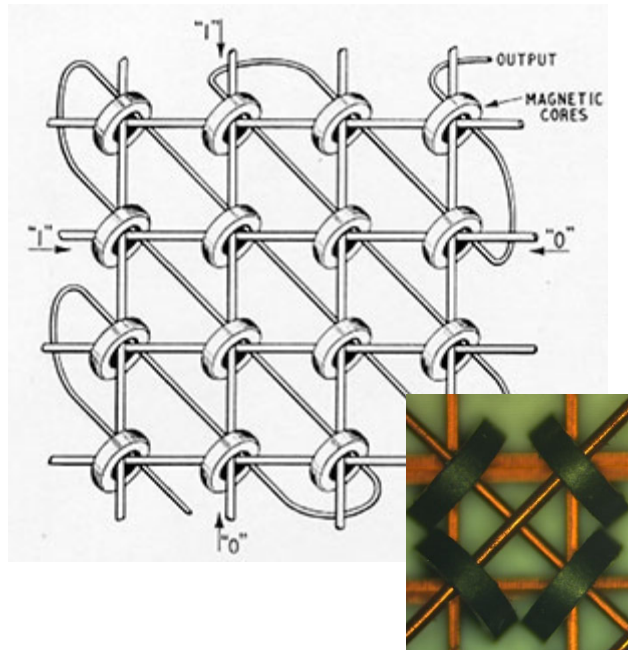


Spin transfer torque

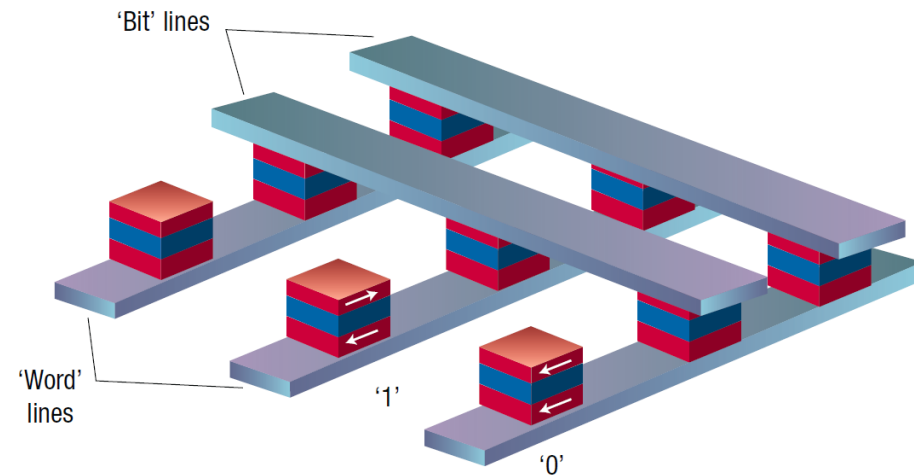


Magnetic random access memories (MRAMs)

Ferrite-core memory 1955-1975



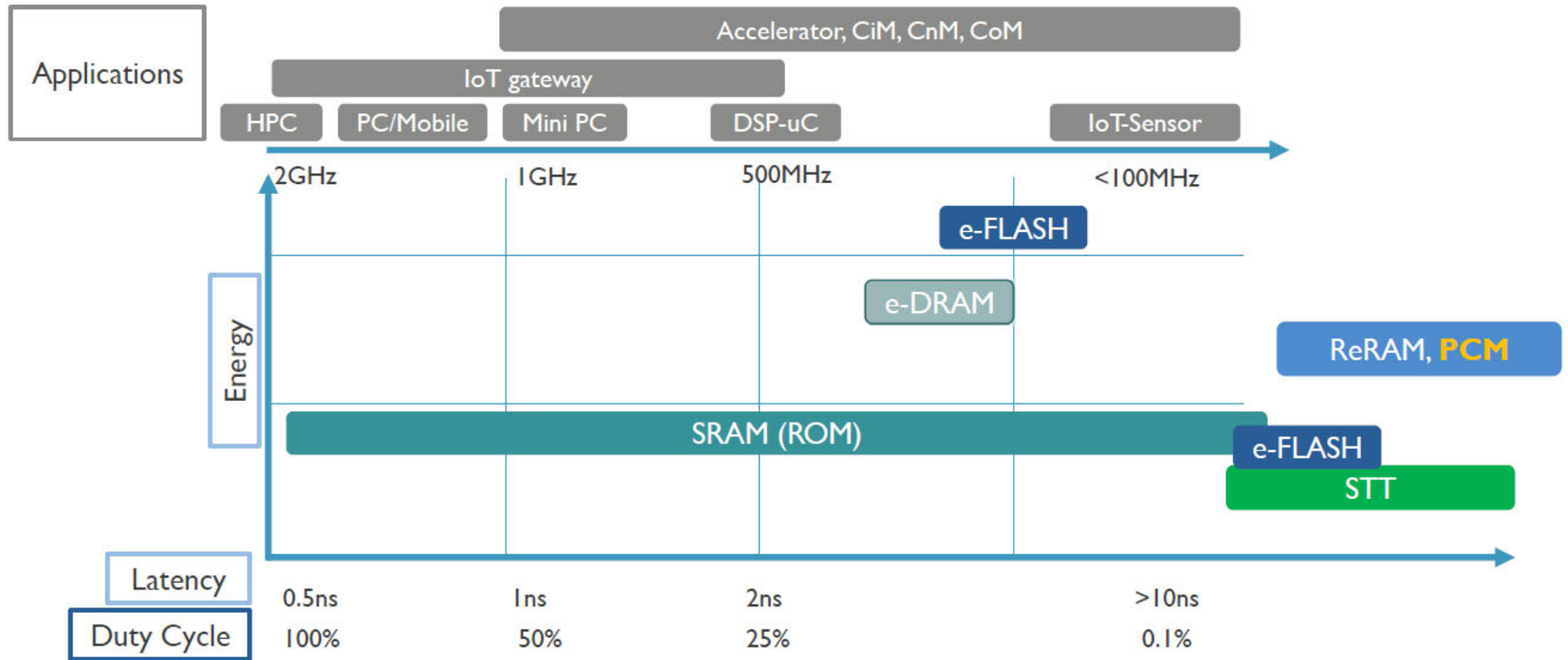
STT-MRAM



Chappert, Fert & Van Dau, Nat. Mater. 2007
 Dieny et al., Nat. Electronics 2020

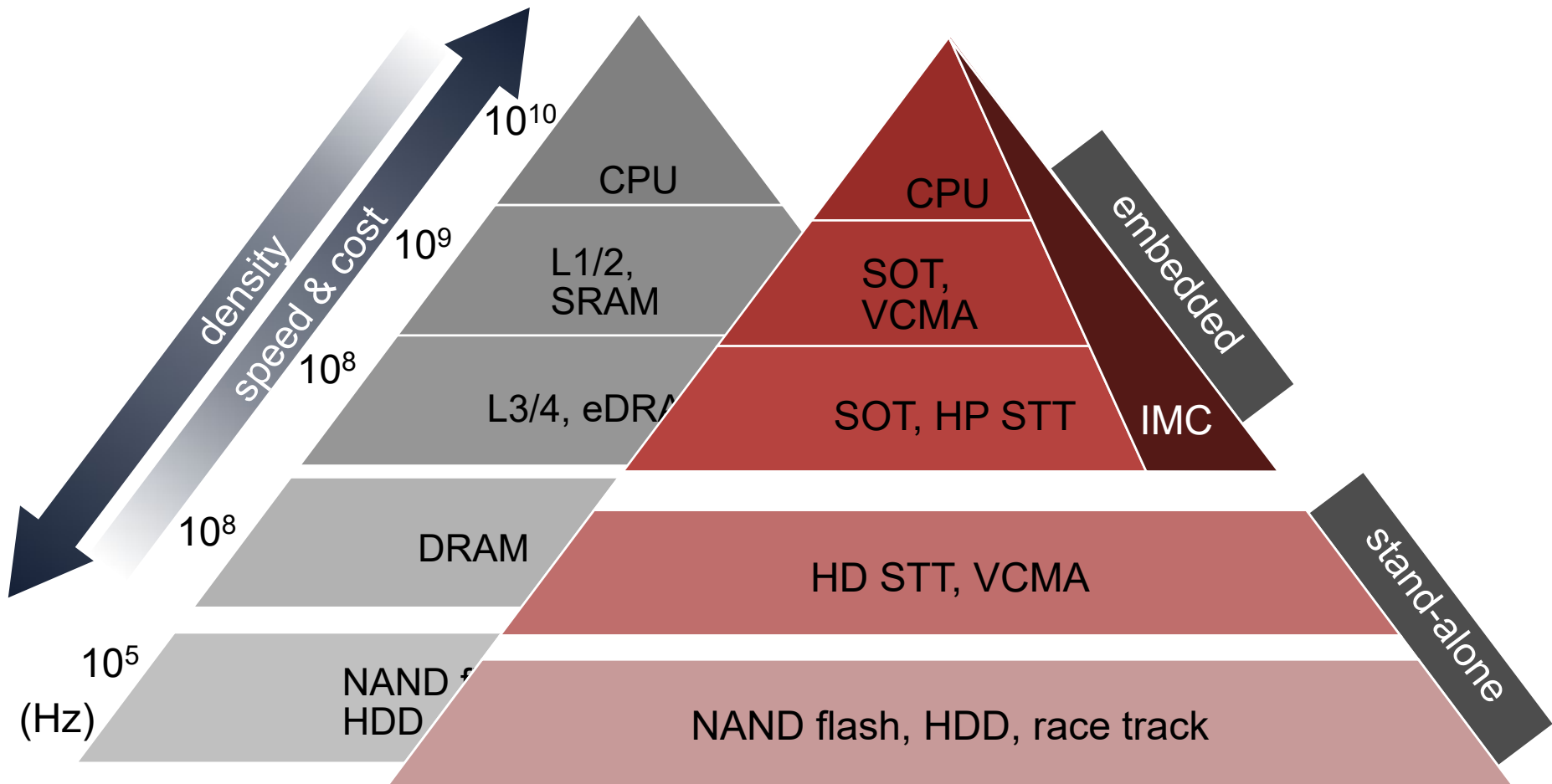
	Ferrite core memory	STT-MRAM
Density	32 kb/ft ³ Pitch (size) 5 mm (1 mm)	1 Gb/cm ² Pitch (size) 100 nm (50 nm)
Writing Speed	> 1 ms	10 ns
Switching current Switching energy of 1 bit	100-500 mA 1-5 10 ⁻⁷ J	50 μA 1-5 10 ⁻¹³ J
Endurance	?	10 ¹²⁻¹⁴ cycles

Embedded memories: Present

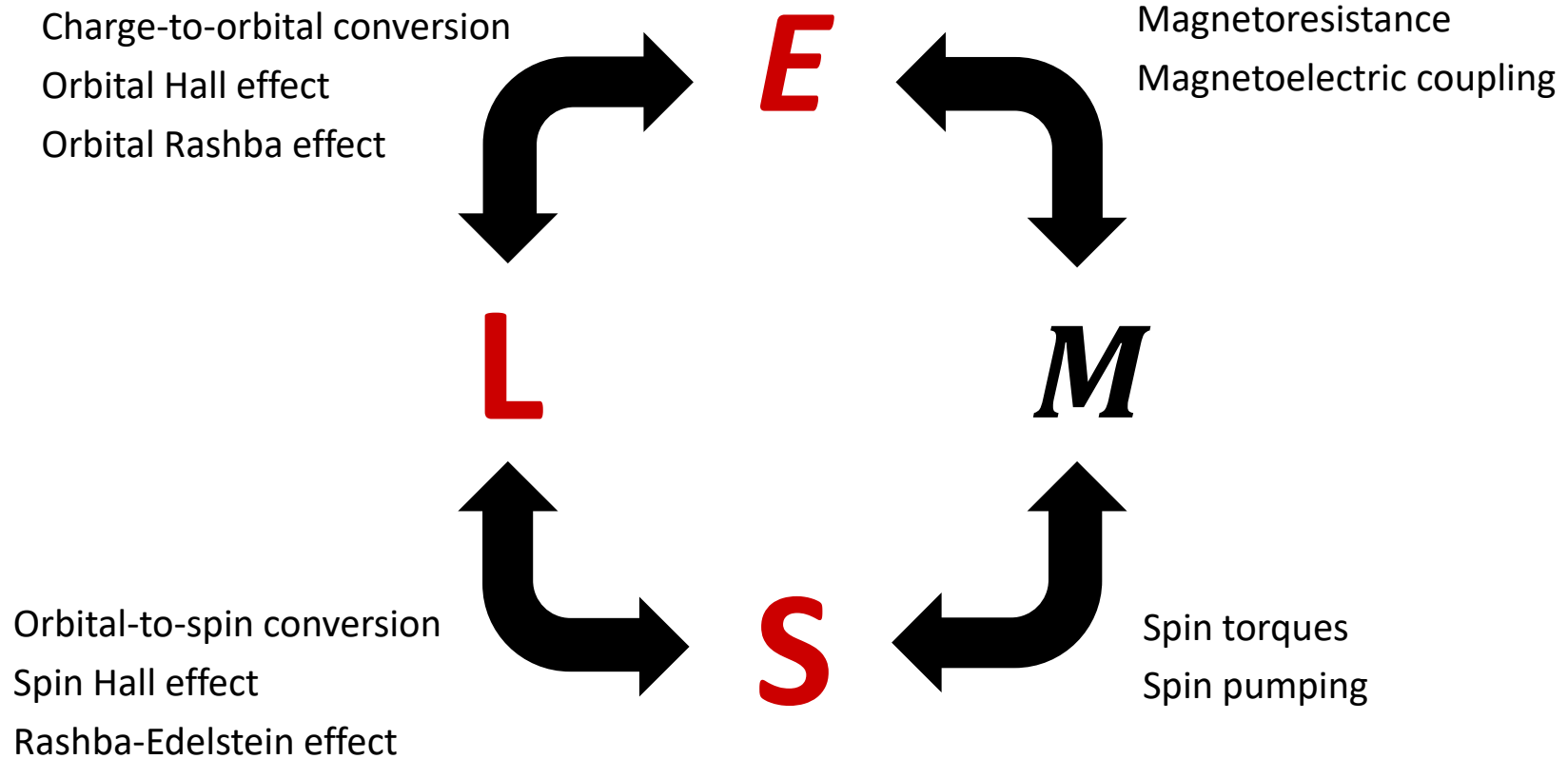


imec

Electronic vs spin memories

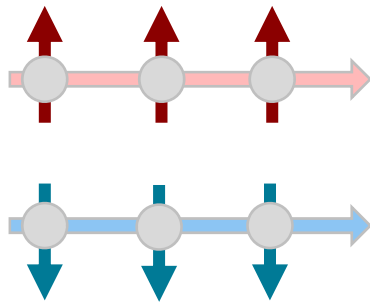


Charge-spin interconversion mechanisms



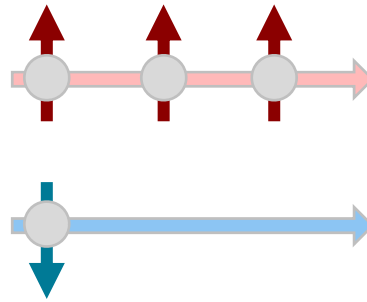
Currents of angular momentum

Pure charge current



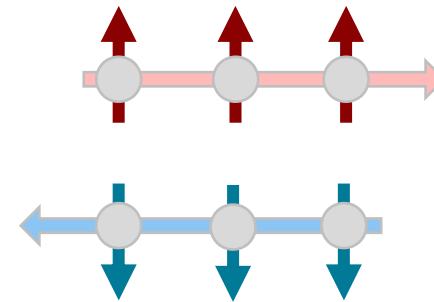
$$J_c \neq 0, J_s = 0$$

Spin-polarized current



$$J_c \parallel J_s$$

Pure spin current

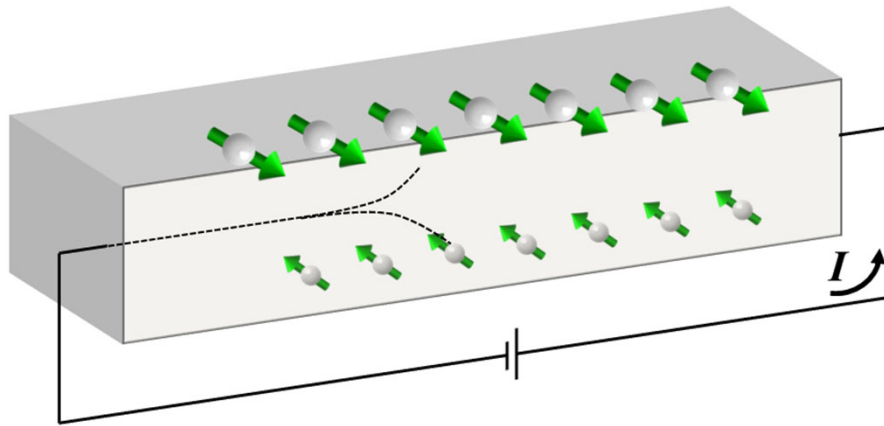


$$J_c = 0, J_s \neq 0$$

$$J_c = J_{\uparrow} + J_{\downarrow}$$

$$J_s = -\frac{\hbar}{2e} (J_{\uparrow} - J_{\downarrow})$$

The spin Hall effect



Dyakonov and Perel, JETP Lett. **13**, 467 (1971)

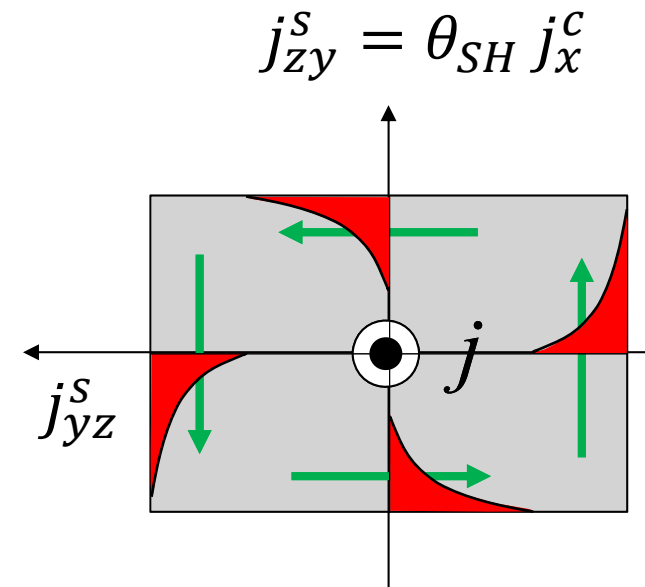
Sinova et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. **87**, 1213 (2015)

Spin-dependent anomalous velocity:

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial E_n(\mathbf{k})}{\partial \mathbf{k}} + \mathbf{k} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k})$$

Karplus and Luttinger, Phys. Rev. **95**, 1154 (1954)

Xiao, Chang and Niu, Rev. Mod. Phys. **82**, 1959 (2010)

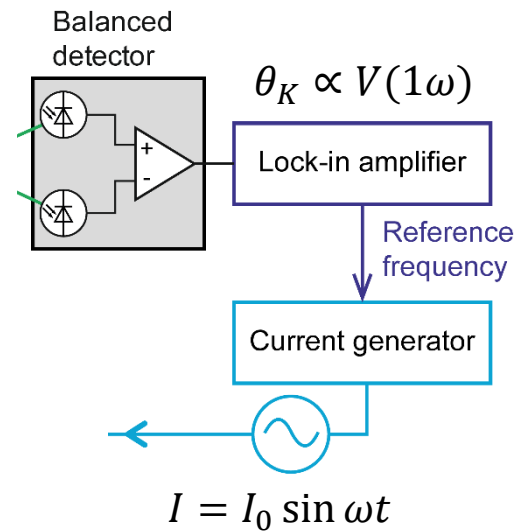
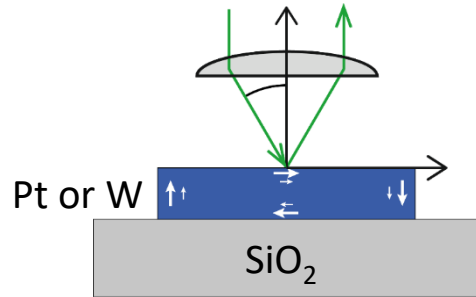


$$\theta_{SH} = \frac{j_s}{j_c} = \frac{\sigma_{yx}^{SH}}{\sigma_{xx}}$$

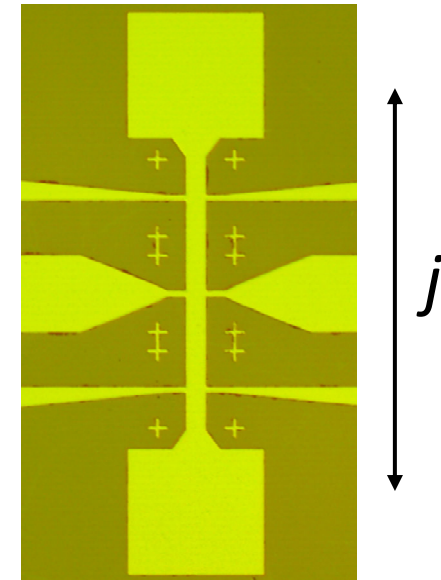
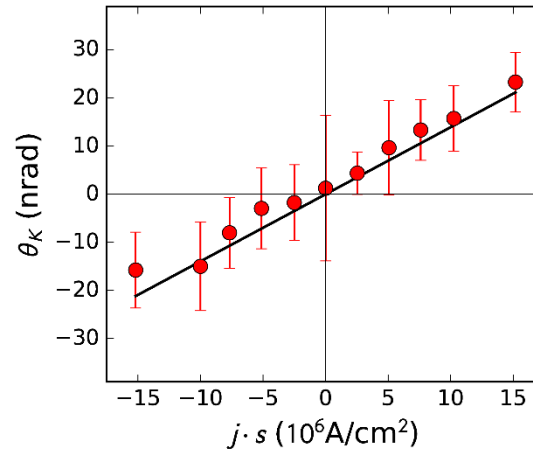
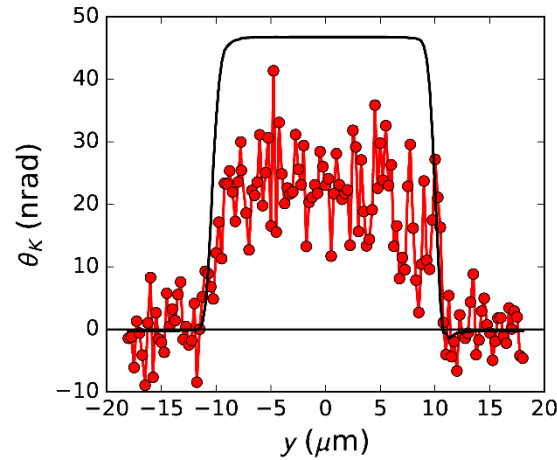
$$\theta_{SH}(\text{Pt}) = 0.05 - 0.2$$

$$\lambda_s(\text{Pt}) = 1 - 14 \text{ nm}$$

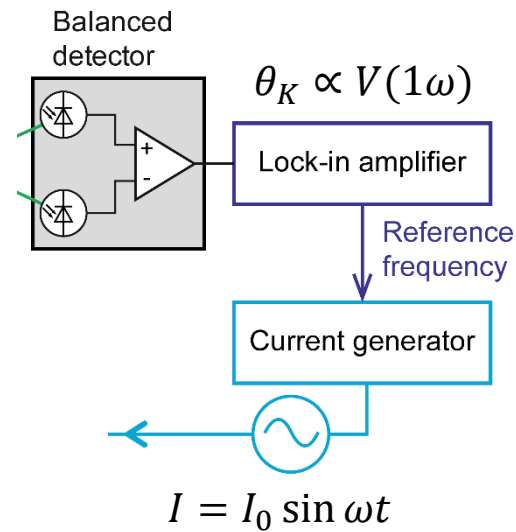
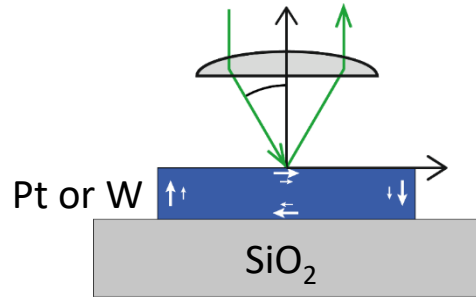
MOKE detection of the SHE-induced spin accumulation in Pt



Kerr rotation

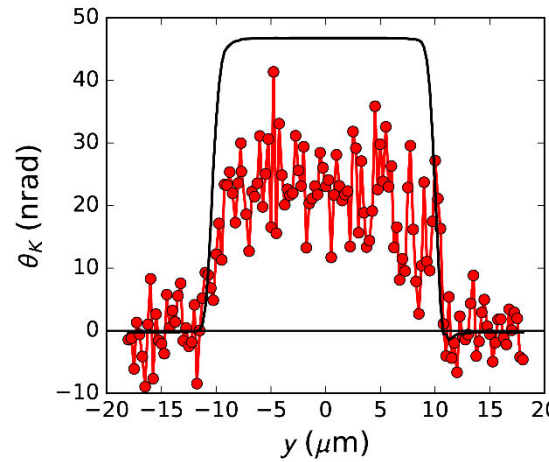


MOKE detection of SHE-induced spin accumulation

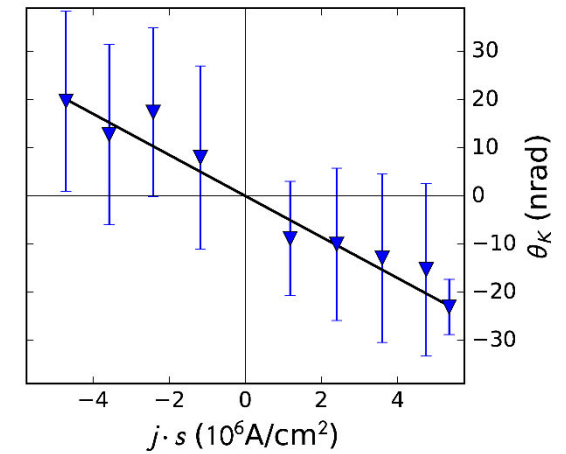
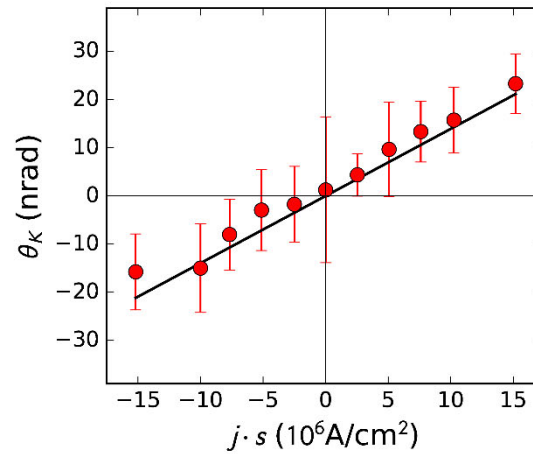
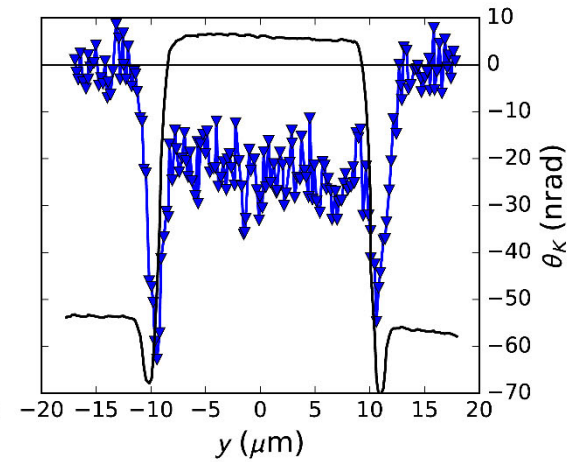


Stamm et al., *PRL* **119**, 087203 (2017)

Pt



W

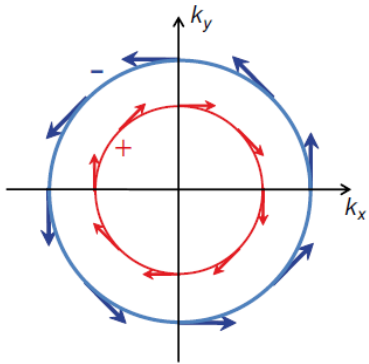
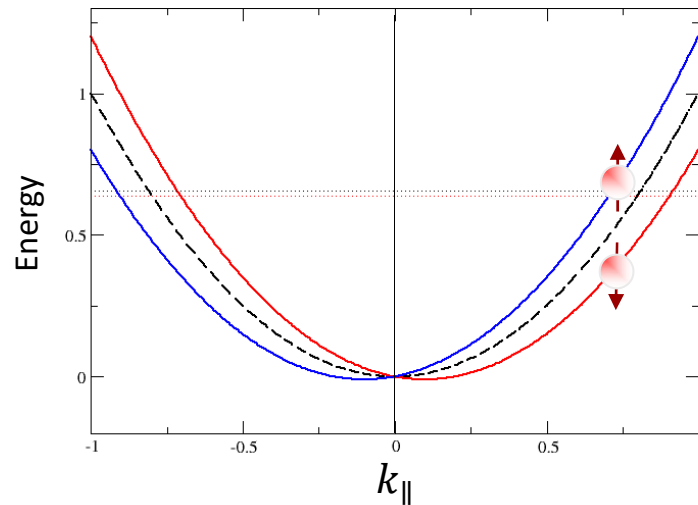


$$\frac{\theta_K}{j} = 14 \frac{\text{nrad}}{10^7 \text{A/cm}^2}$$

$$\frac{\theta_K}{j} = -43 \frac{\text{nrad}}{10^7 \text{A/cm}^2}$$

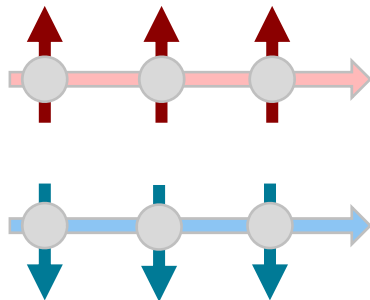
Rashba-Edelstein effect

$$E_{+/-} = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m^*} \pm \alpha_R k$$



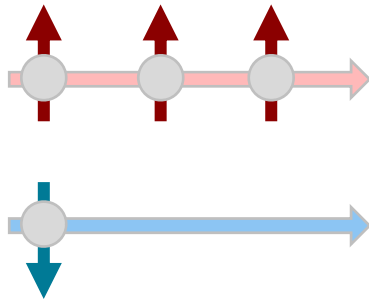
Currents of angular momentum

Pure charge current



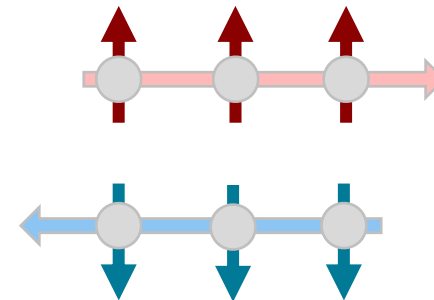
$$J_c \neq 0, J_s = 0$$

Spin-polarized current



$$J_c \parallel J_s$$

Pure spin current

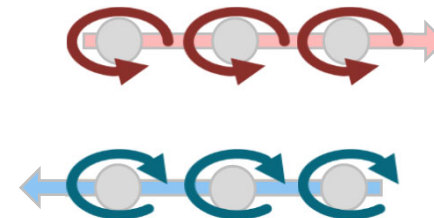


$$J_c = 0, J_s \neq 0$$

$$J_c = J_\uparrow + J_\downarrow$$

$$J_s = -\frac{\hbar}{2e} (J_\uparrow - J_\downarrow)$$

Pure orbital current



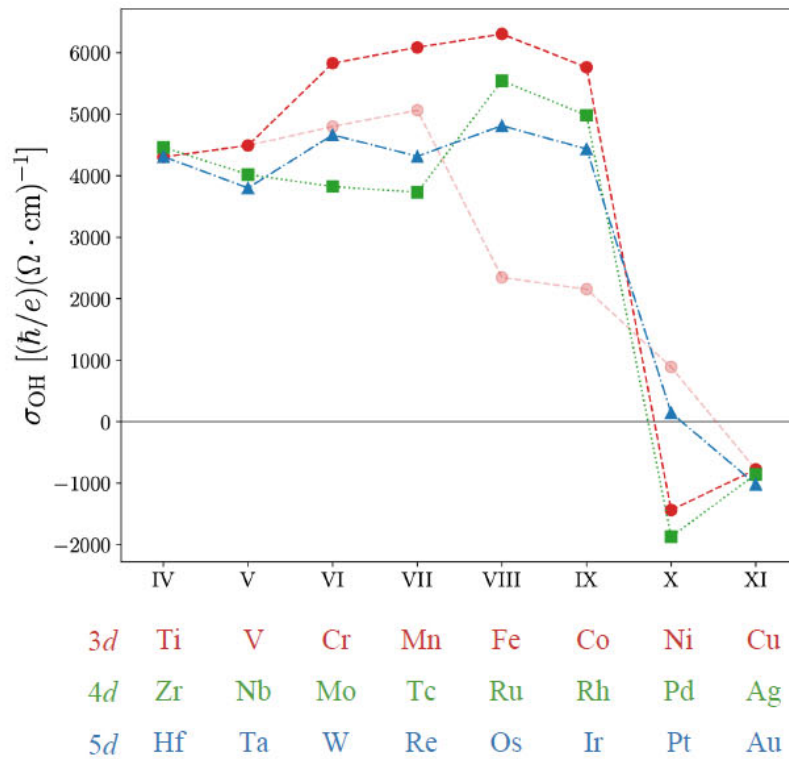
$$J_c = 0, J_L \neq 0$$

Orbital Hall and spin Hall conductivities in the transition metals

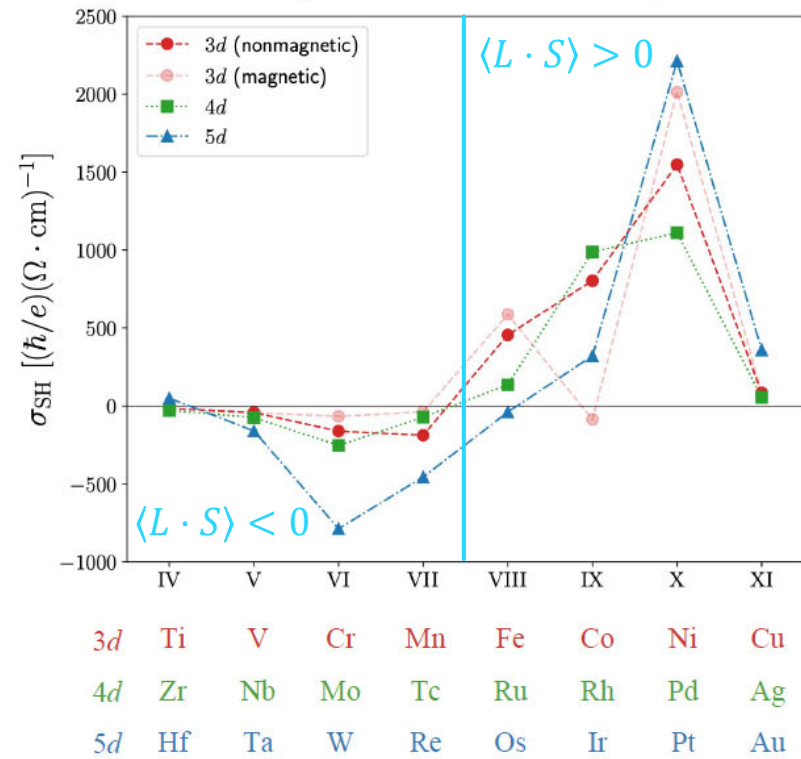
$$j_L = \sigma_{yx}^{OH} E$$

$$j_S = \sigma_{yx}^{SH} E$$

Orbital Hall conductivity

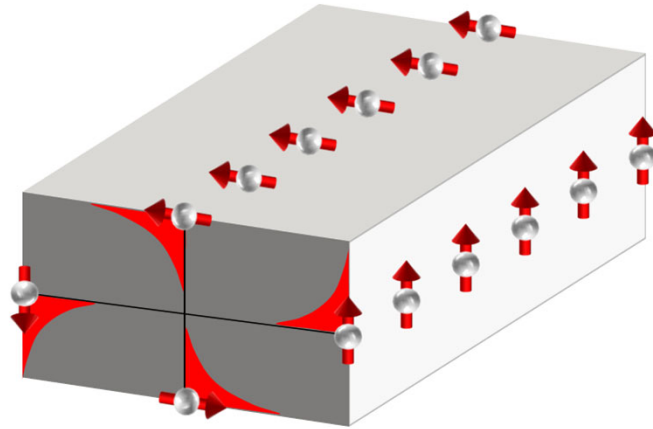


Spin Hall conductivity



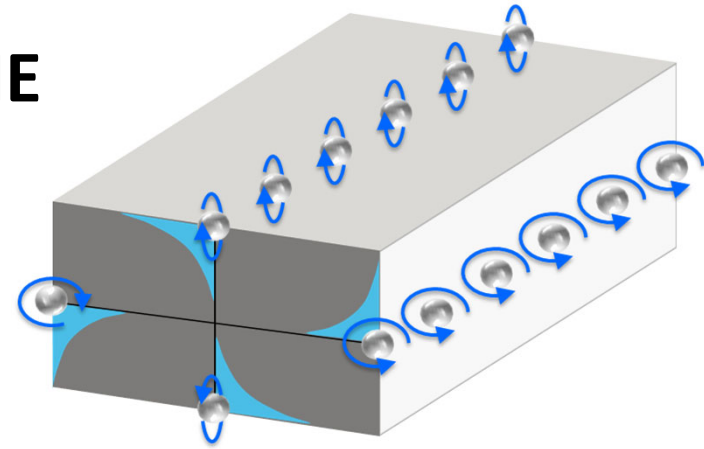
Charge and spin conversion mechanisms

SHE

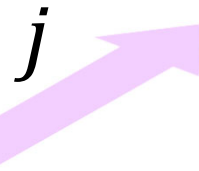


Sinova et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. **87**, 1213 (2015)

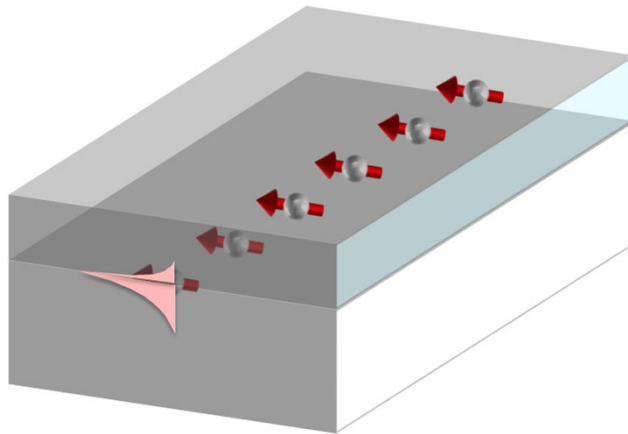
OHE



Kontani et al., PRL **102**, 016601 (2009)
Go et al., PRL **121**, 086602 (2018)

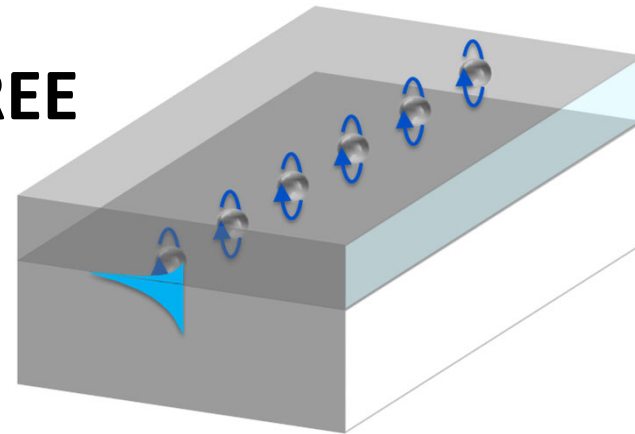


REE



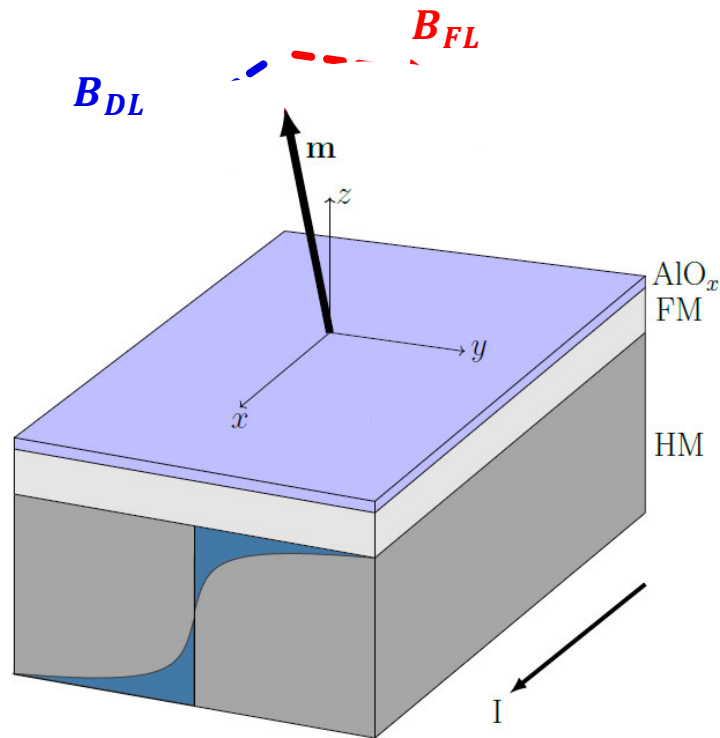
Manchon and Zhang, PRB **78**, 212405 (2008)
PG and Miron, Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A **369**, 3175 (2011)

OREE

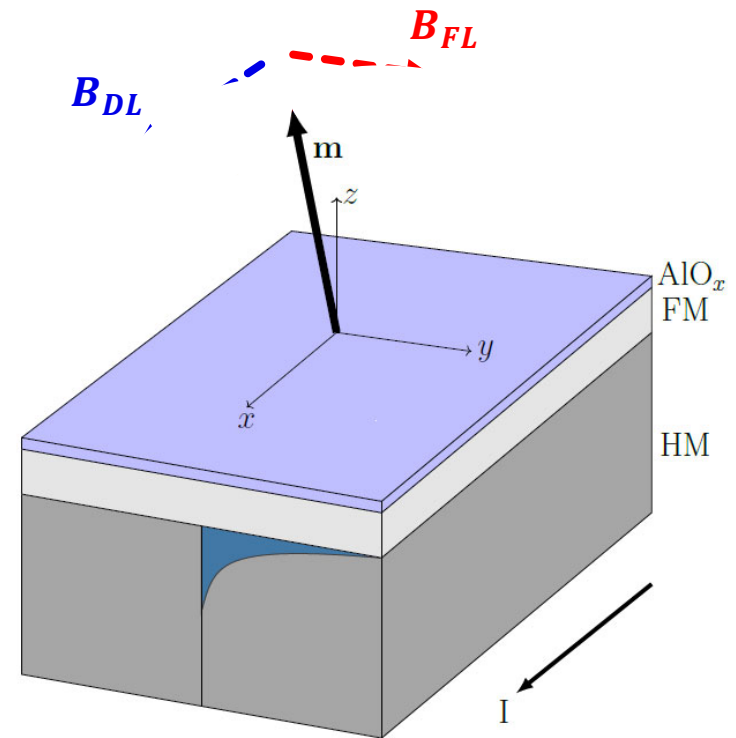


Salemi et al., , Nat. Comm. **10**, 5381 (2019)

Current-induced spin-orbit torques in FM/NM bilayers

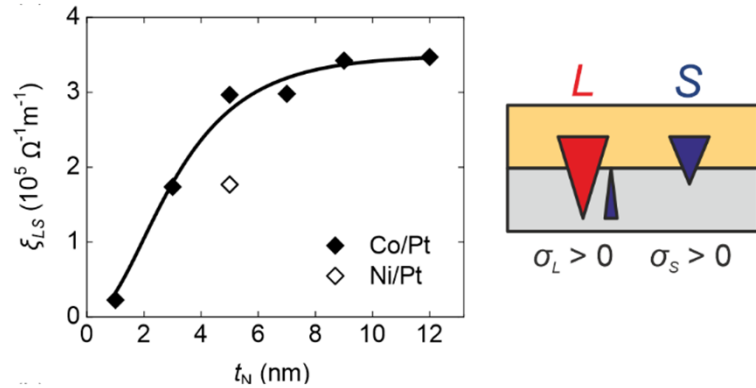


“Bulk” spin current



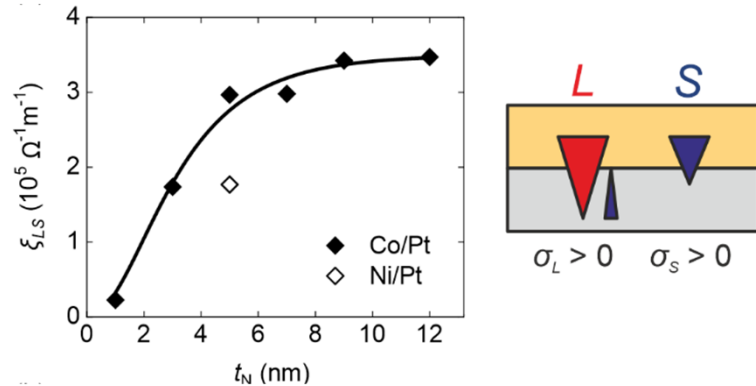
Interfacial spin polarization

Orbital torque in Co and Ni layers due to OHE in Cr and Mn

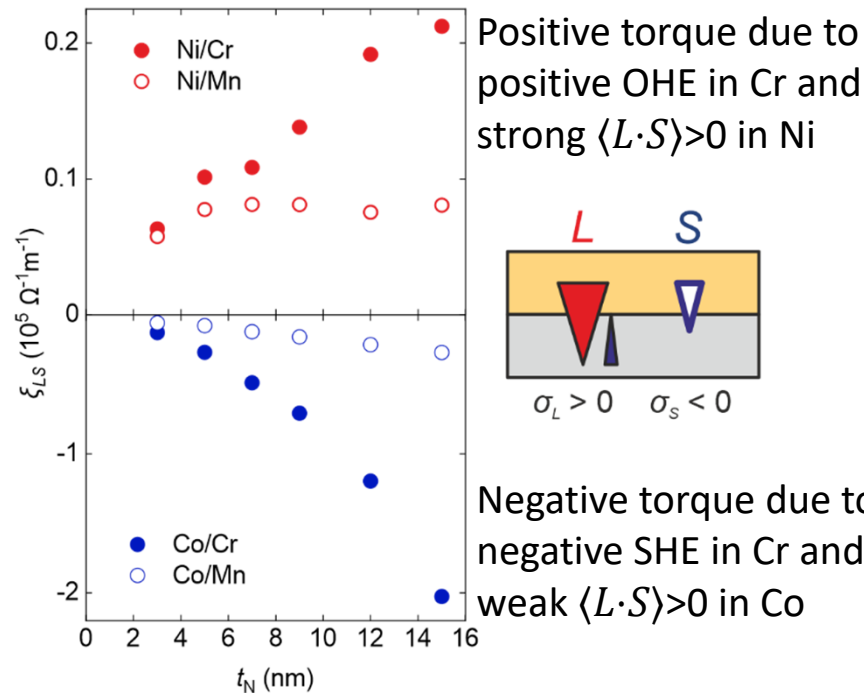


- «Standard» spin-orbit torque in Co/Pt and Ni/Pt due to spin current generated by Pt

Orbital torque in Co and Ni layers due to OHE in Cr and Mn



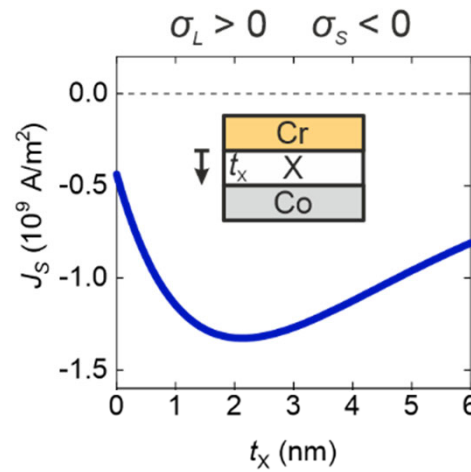
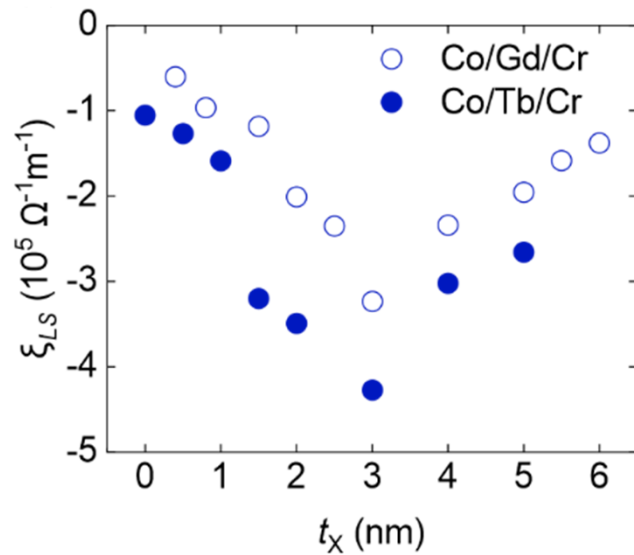
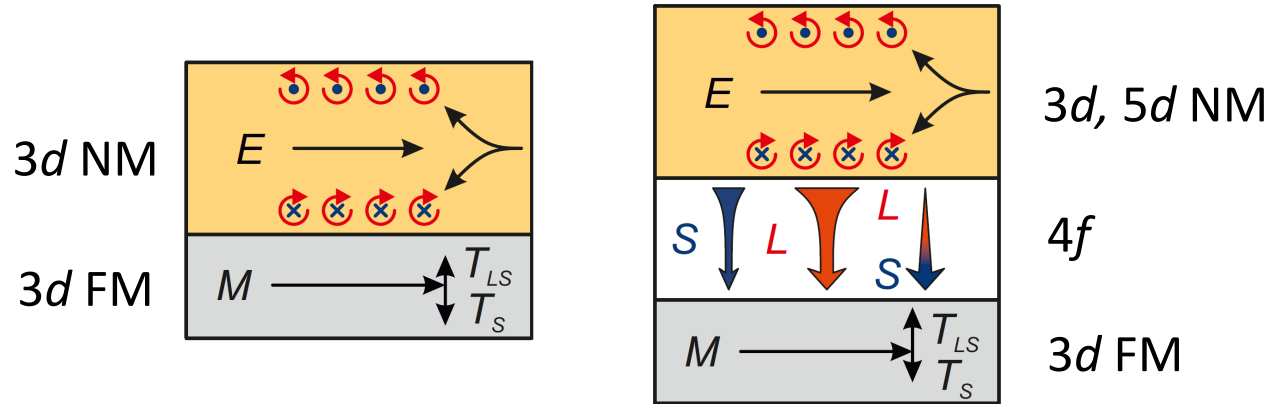
- «Standard» spin-orbit torque in Co/Pt and Ni/Pt due to spin current generated by Pt



- Orbital torque in Ni,Co/Cr due to orbital current and spin current generated by Cr

	Cr	Mn	Co	Ni
$\langle \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S} \rangle$	-	-	+	+
σ_L	+	+		+
σ_S	-	-	+	+

Crucial role of orbital-to-spin conversion



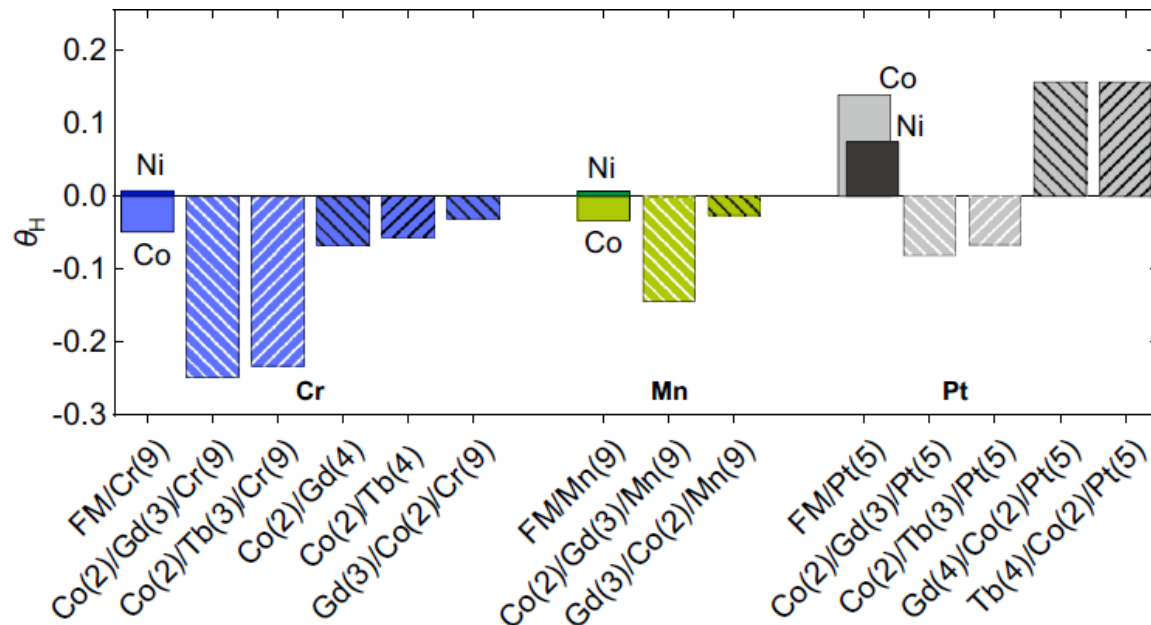
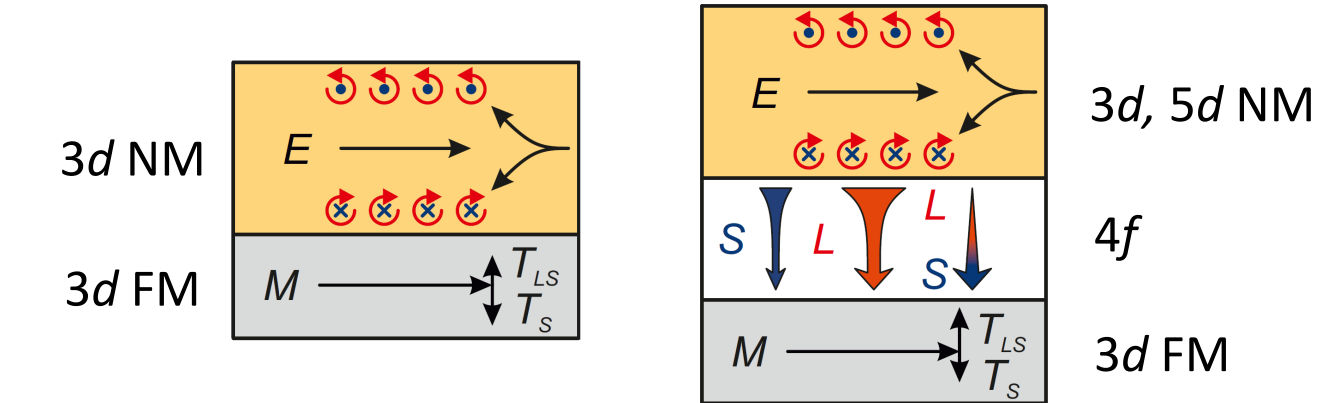
$$\frac{d^2 \mu_S}{dz^2} = \frac{\mu_S}{\lambda_S^2} \pm \frac{\mu_L}{\lambda_{LS}^2}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \mu_L}{dz^2} = \frac{\mu_L}{\lambda_L^2} \pm \frac{\mu_S}{\lambda_{LS}^2},$$

$$j_S = -\frac{\sigma}{2e} \frac{d\mu_S}{dz} + \sigma_S E,$$

$$j_L = -\frac{\sigma}{2e} \frac{d\mu_L}{dz} + \sigma_L E,$$

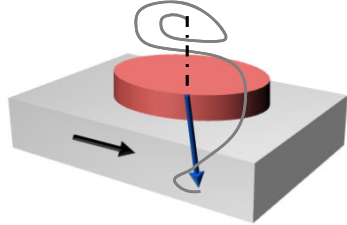
Giant orbital Hall effect in metallic heterostructures



Charge-spin conversion and spin-orbit torques

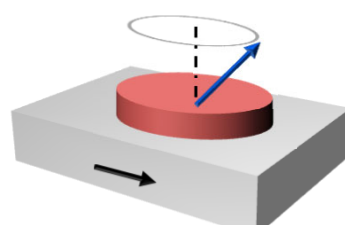
Functionalities & applications

Magnetization switching



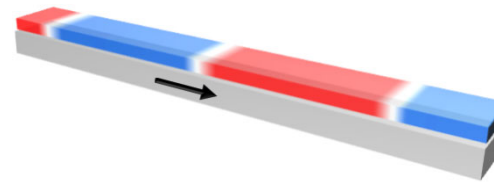
Magnetic memories

High-frequency oscillations



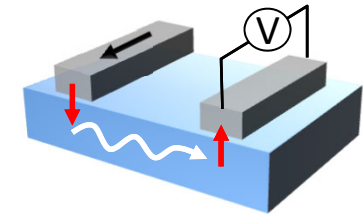
GHz and THz nanooscillators

Domain wall and skyrmion motion



Race-track memories

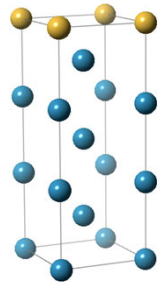
Spin-wave excitations



Chargeless interconnect & spin logic

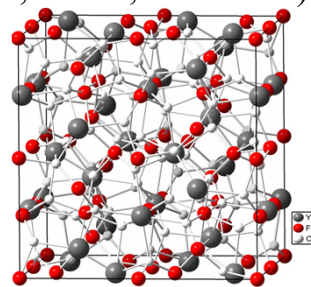
Materials

Magnetic metallic heterostructures

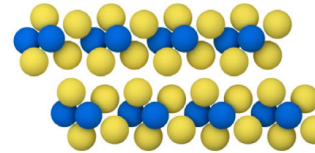


● Co, Ni, Fe, GdFeCo...
 ● Pt, W, Ta...
 WO_x, CuO_x, SrIrO₃...
 Bi₂Se₃, WTe₂, MoS₂...

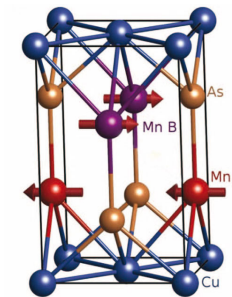
Magnetic Insulators
(YIG, TmIG, Bi:YIG...)



2D Materials

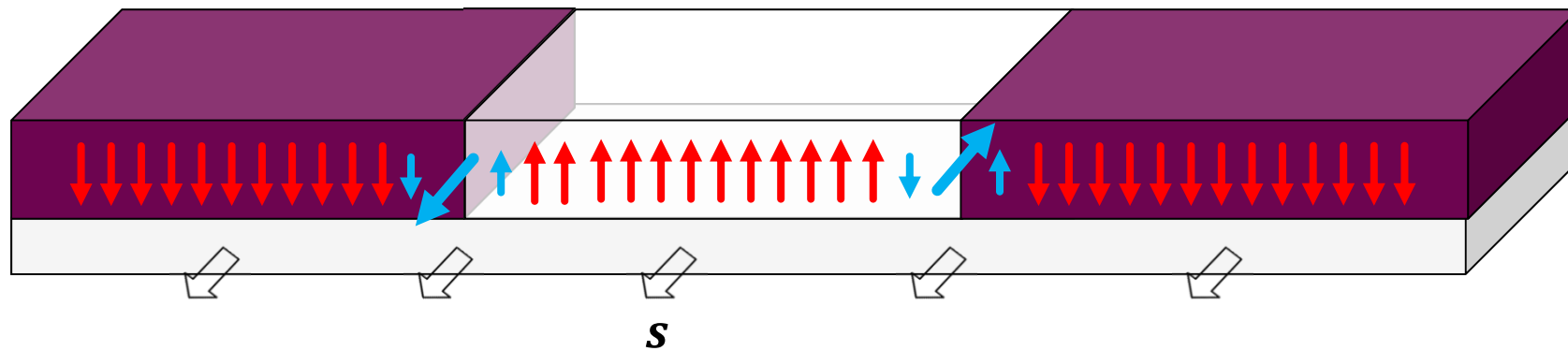


Antiferromagnets
(CuMnAs, Mn₂Au, IrMn...)

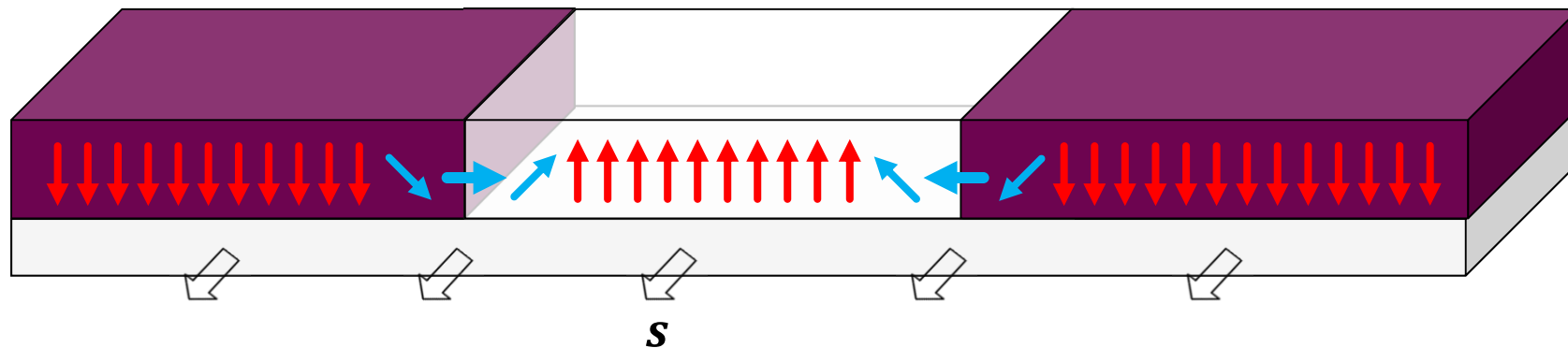


Spin-orbit torques acting on domain walls

Bloch walls



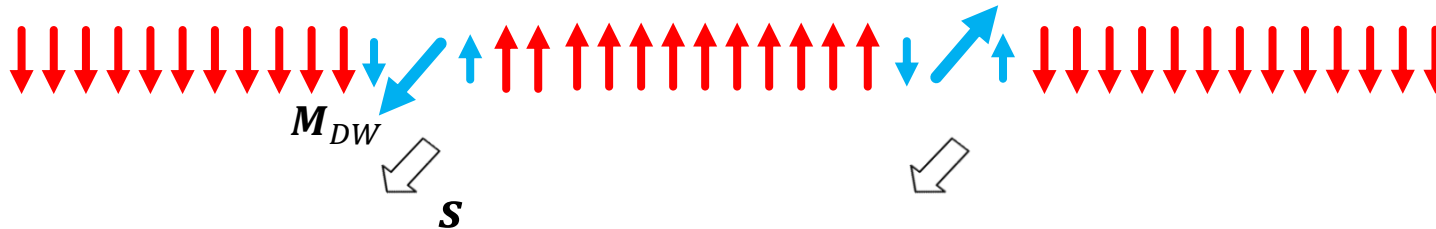
Néel walls



Spin-orbit torques acting on domain walls

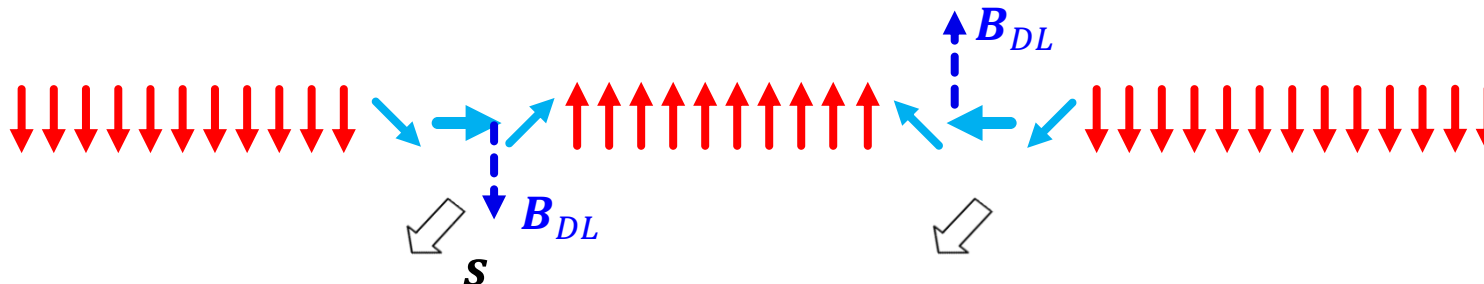
Bloch walls

$$\mathbf{s} \parallel \mathbf{M}_{DW} \Rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{DL} = \mathbf{s} \times \mathbf{s} \times \mathbf{M}_{DW} = 0$$

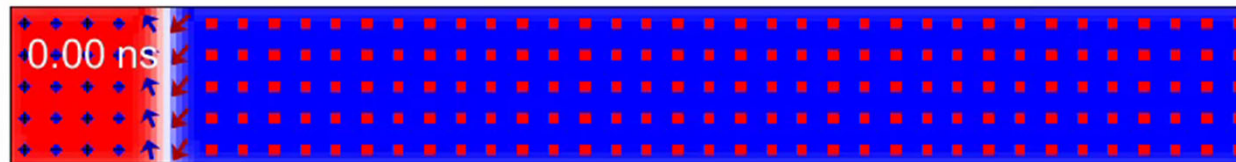
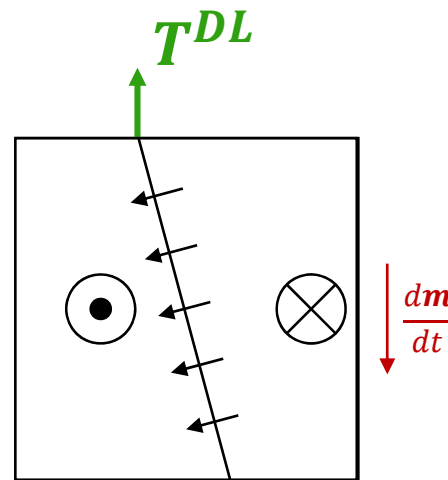


Néel walls

$$\mathbf{s} \perp \mathbf{M}_{DW} \Rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{DL} = \mathbf{s} \times \mathbf{s} \times \mathbf{M}_{DW} = \max$$



Spin-orbit torque induced domain wall motion in magnetic racetracks



$$j = 2 \cdot 10^8 \text{ A cm}^{-2} (T^{DL} = 36 \text{ mT})$$

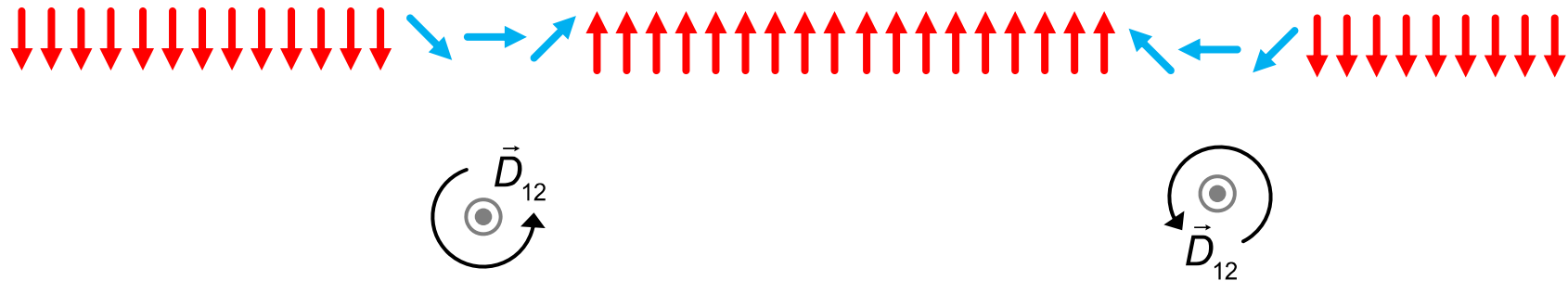
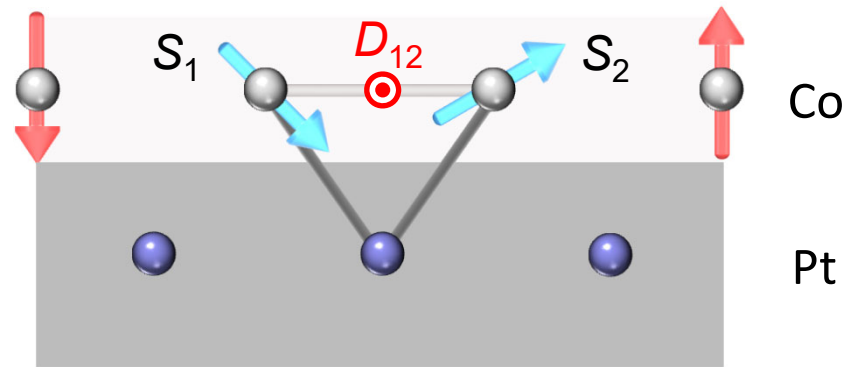
Baumgartner & PG, APL **113**, 242402 (2018)

Miron et al., *Nat. Mater.* 2011; Thiaville et al., *Europhys. Lett.* 2012

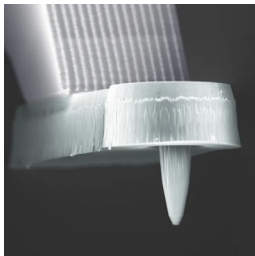
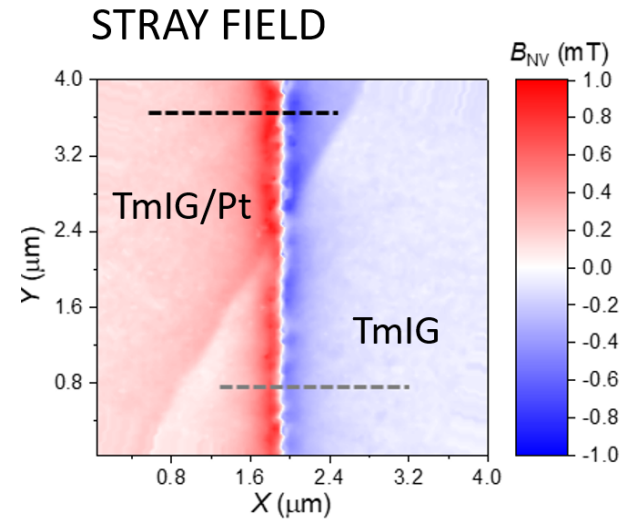
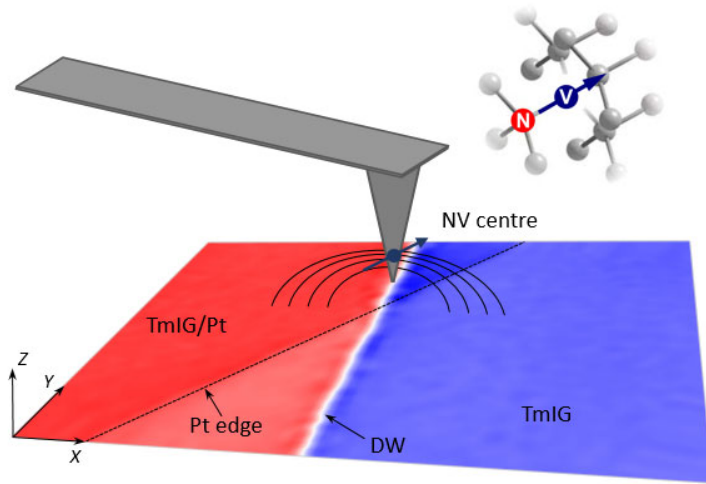
Ryu et al. *Nat. Mater.* 2013; Emori et al., *Nat. Mater.* 2013

Chiral domain walls due to interfacial DMI in thin films with PMA

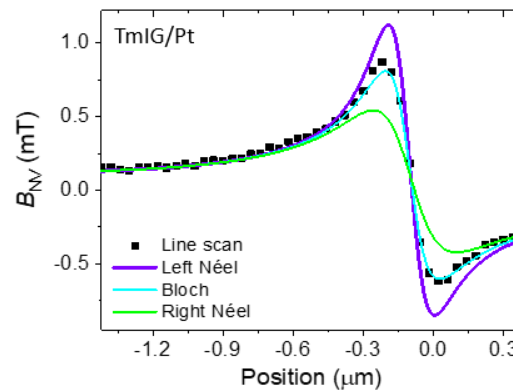
$$\mathcal{H}_{DMI} = -\mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{S}_1 \times \mathbf{S}_2$$



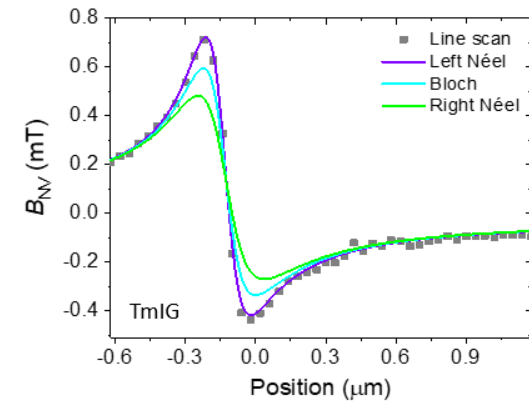
Chiral domain walls measured by scanning NV magnetometry



C. Degen
M. Wörnle
qzabre.com

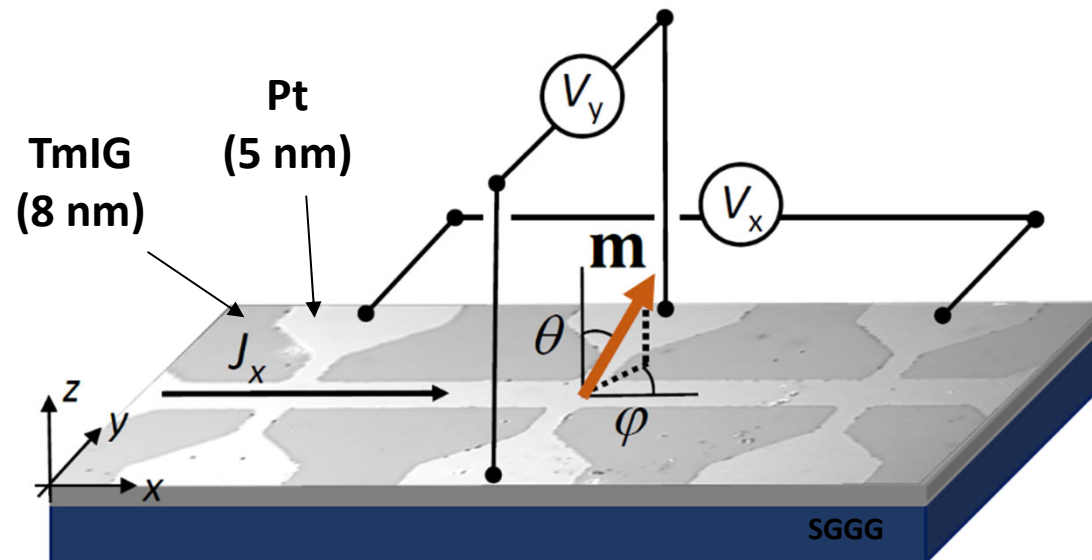


TmIG/Pt: Bloch/left Néel



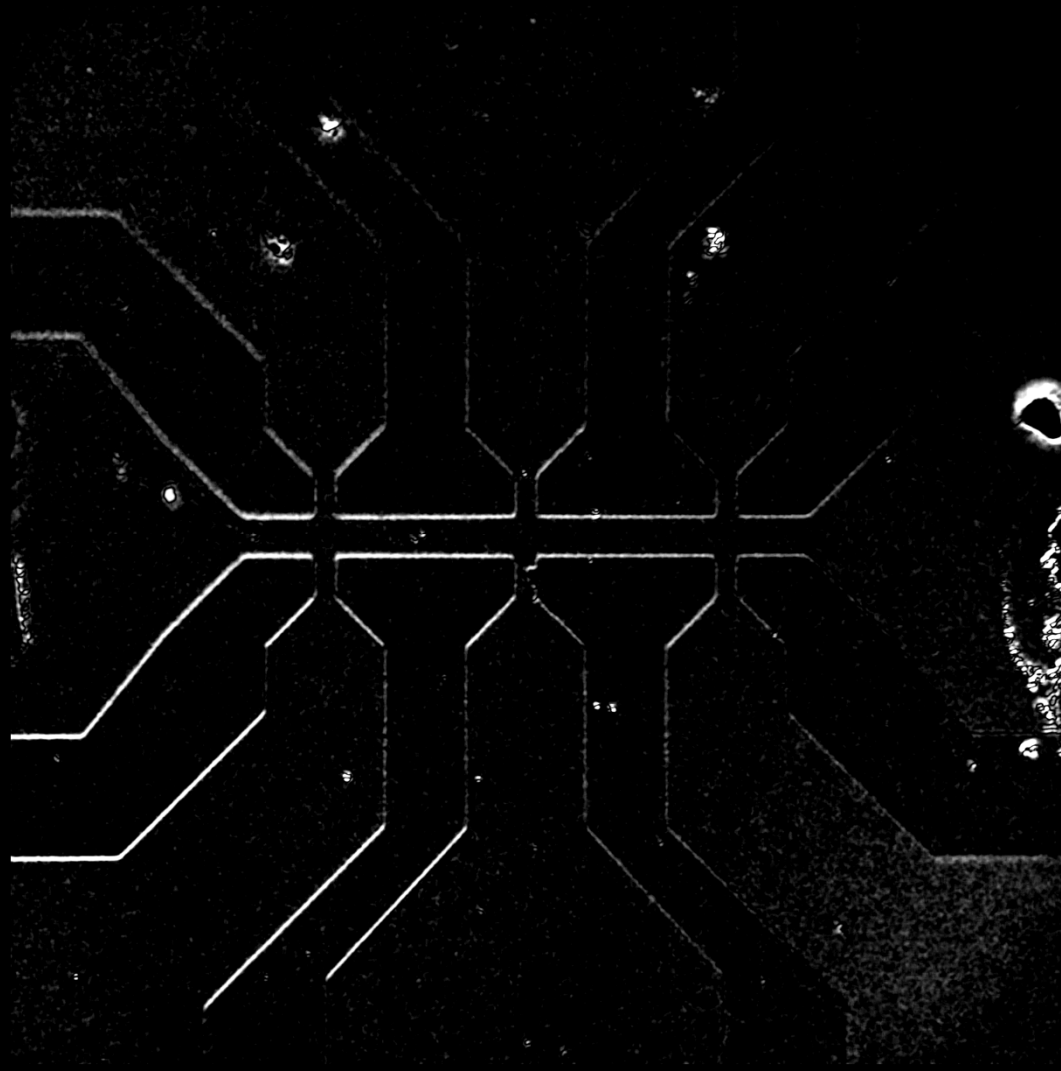
TmIG: Left Néel

Current-induced domain wall motion in a magnetic insulator



Vélez, PG et al., Nat. Comm. **10**, 4750 (2019)

Current-induced switching and domain wall motion in Pt/TmIG



p-MOKE

$$J_x = 10^8 \text{ A cm}^{-2}$$

$$t_p = 250 \text{ ns}$$

$$H_x = 215 \text{ Oe}$$

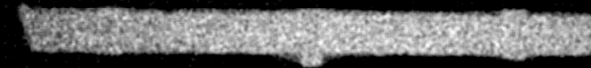
Current-induced switching and domain wall motion in Pt/TmIG

p-MOKE

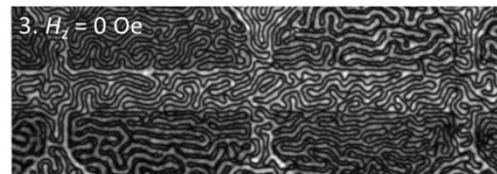
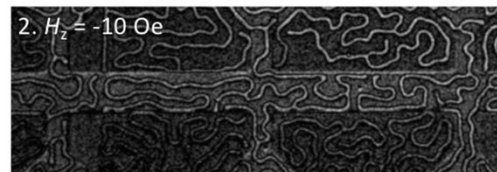
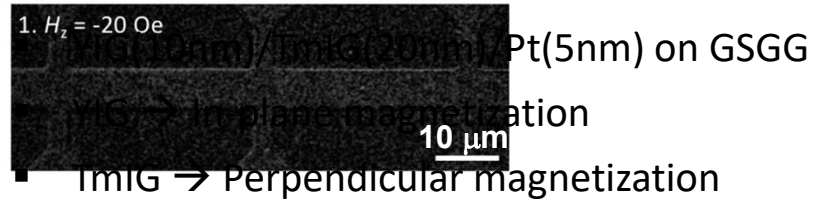
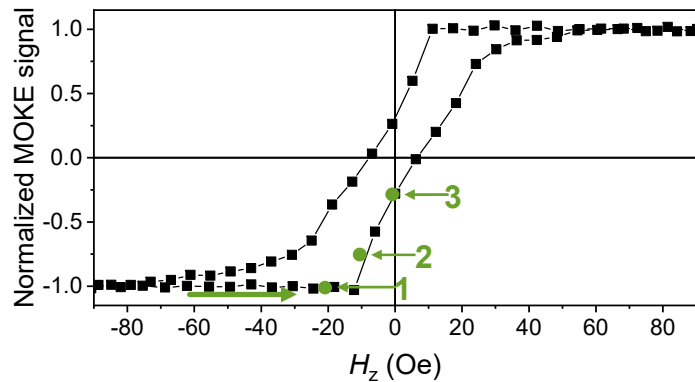
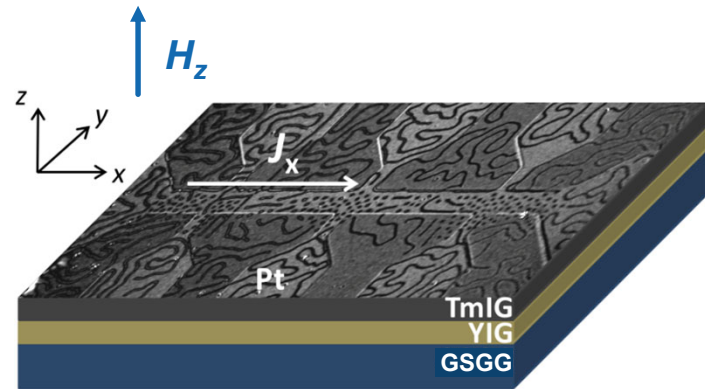
$$J_x = -10^8 \text{ A cm}^{-2}$$

$$t_p = 250 \text{ ns}$$

$$H_x = 215 \text{ Oe}$$

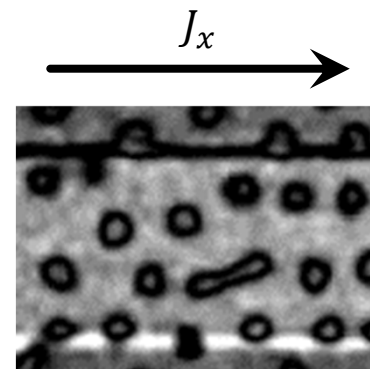
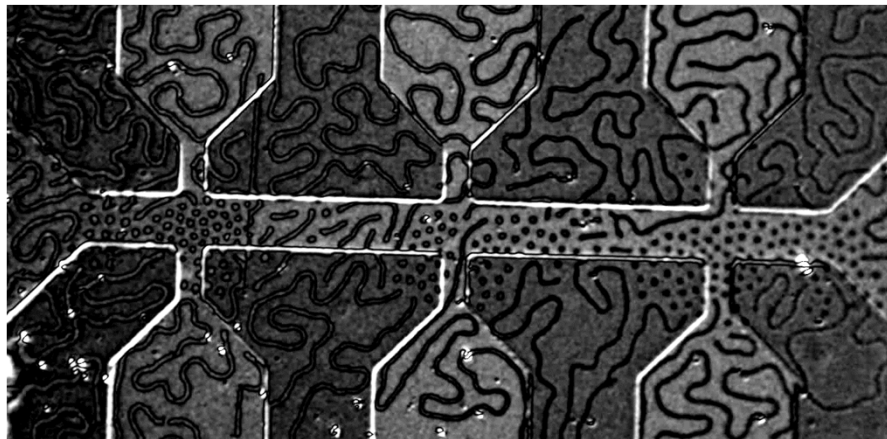
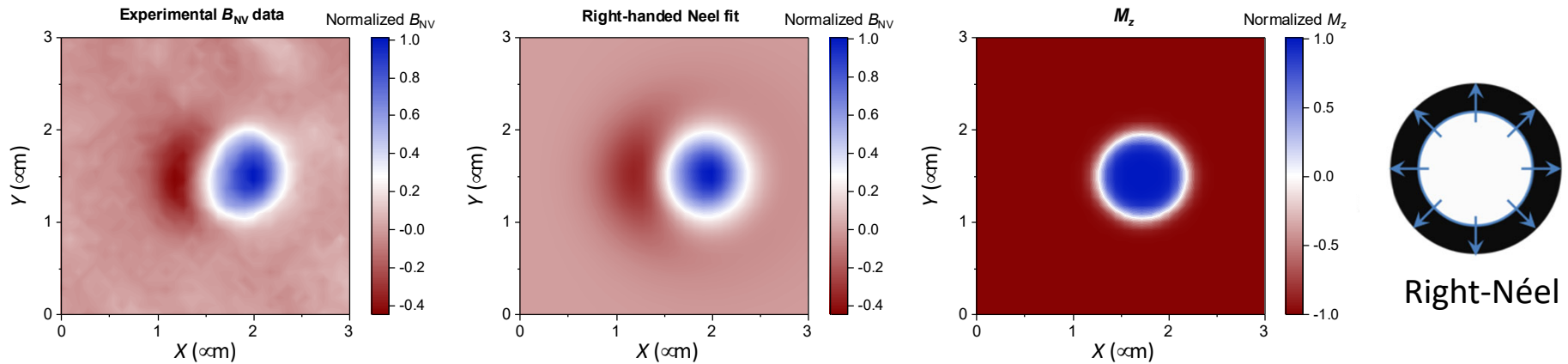


Current-driven stabilization of skyrmion bubbles in Pt/TmIG/YIG



- YIG is demagnetized
- Current pulses can nucleate bubble domains and break stripe domains into bubble domains

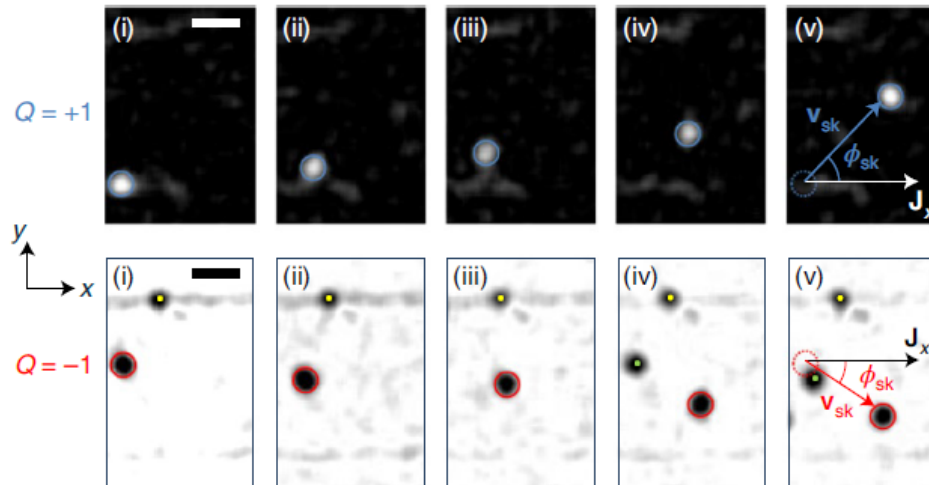
NV magnetometry of skyrmions in Pt/TmIG/YIG



$|J_x| \sim 7 \times 10^{11} \text{ A m}^{-2}$
 $t_p = 50 \text{ ns}$
 $H_z = -10 \text{ Oe}$
 1 pulse/frame

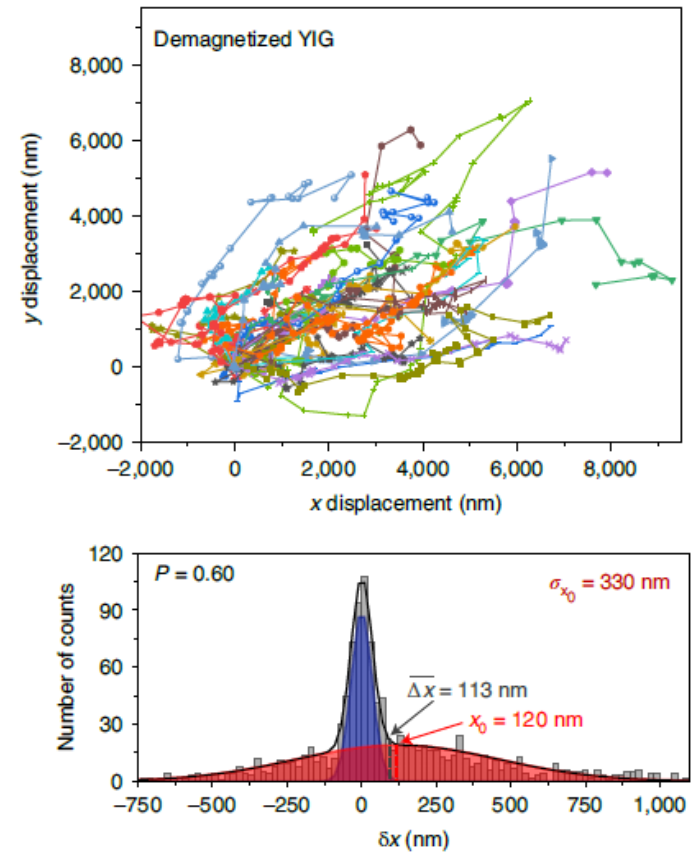
Current-driven skyrmions in YIG/TmIG/Pt

Skyrmion Hall effect

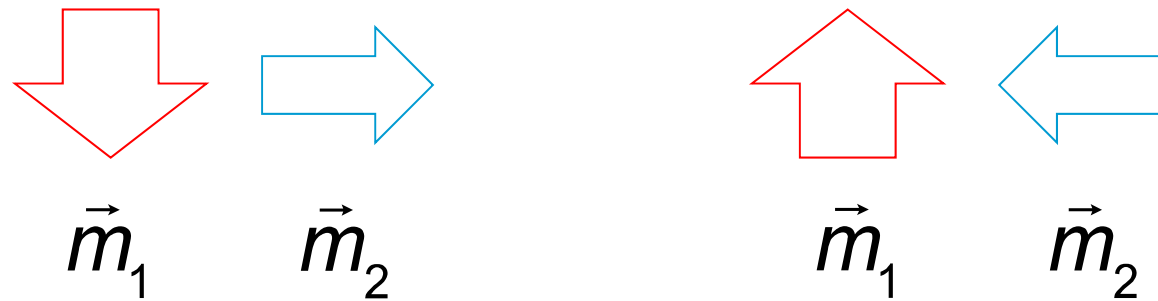


$$\phi_{sk} \approx \tan^{-1} \left(-\frac{s_{net}}{s_{tot}} \frac{2\Delta_{DW}Q}{\alpha R} \right)$$

Hopping motion

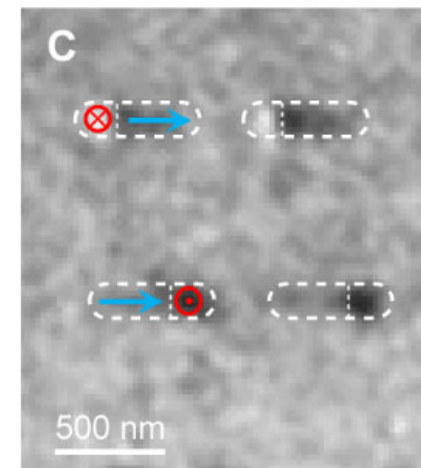
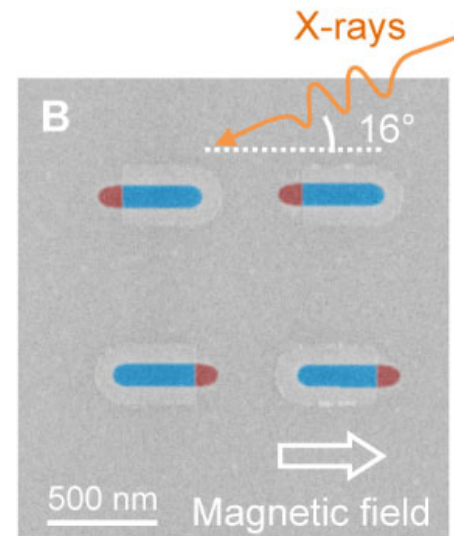
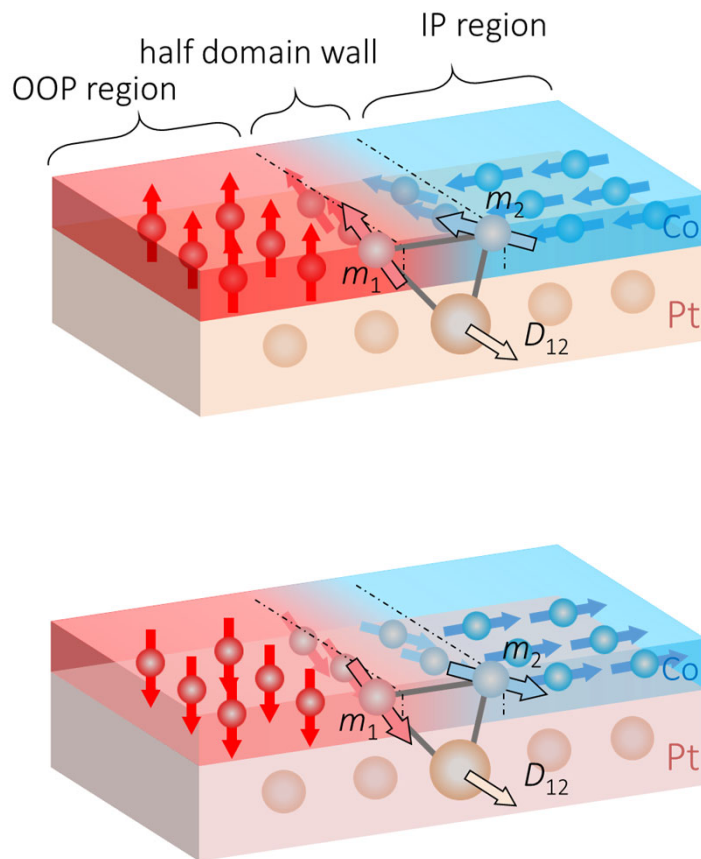


From chiral Néel walls to chirally-coupled nanomagnets



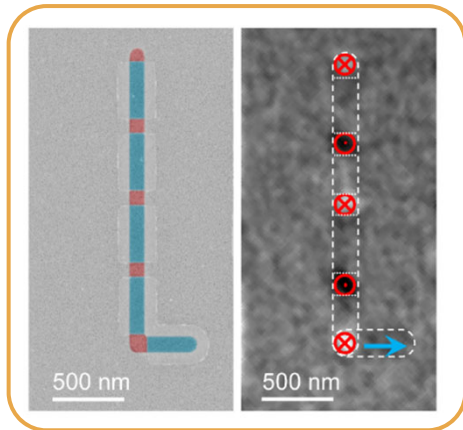
$$H_{\text{DM}} = -\vec{D}_{12} \cdot (\vec{m}_1 \times \vec{m}_2)$$

From chiral walls to chirally-coupled nanomagnets

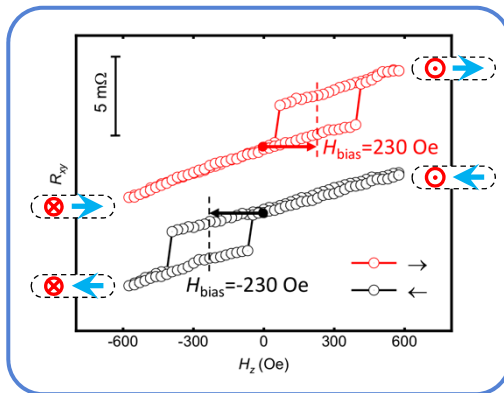


XPEEM @ SIM beamline/PSI

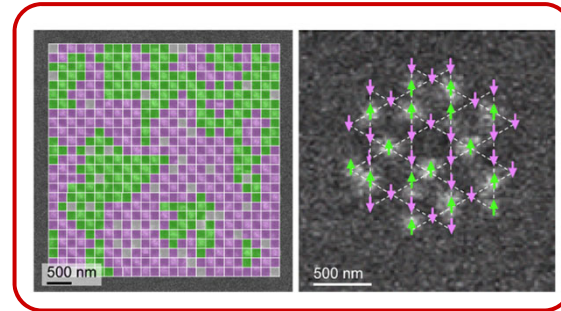
DMI-induced lateral coupling



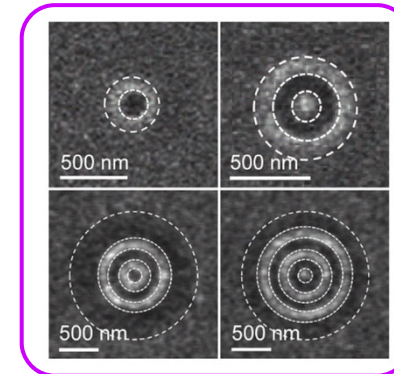
planar synthetic antiferromagnets



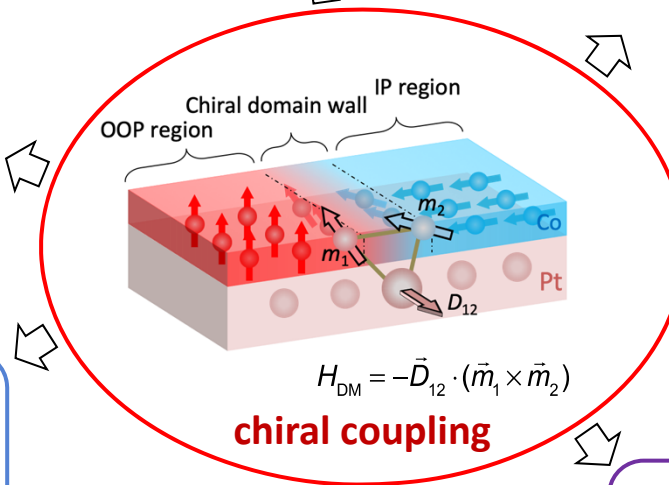
lateral exchange bias



artificial spin ices

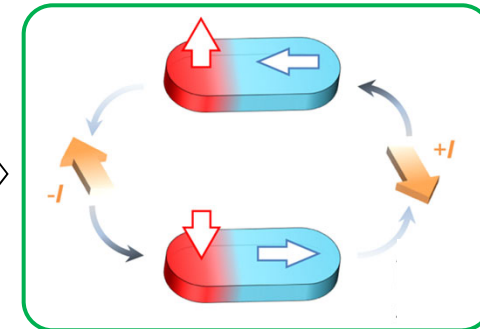


synthetic skyrmions

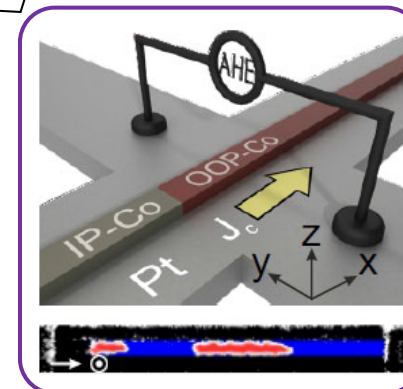


chiral coupling

Luo et al.,
Science **363**, 1435 (2019)
Dao et al.,
Nano Lett. **19**, 5930 (2019)
Hrabec et al.,
APL **117**, 130503 (2020)

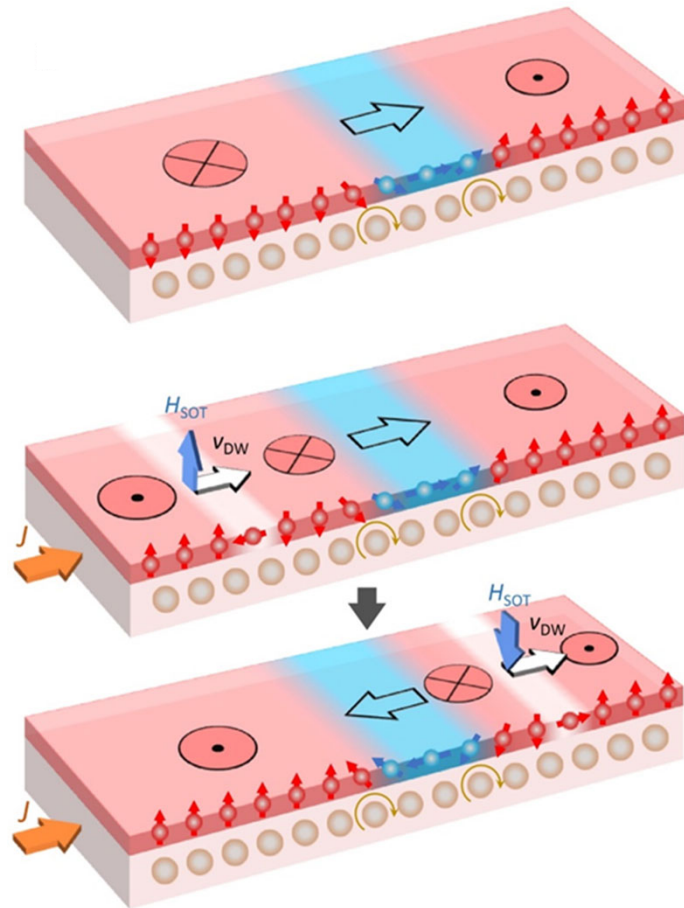


field-free SOT switching



domain wall injector

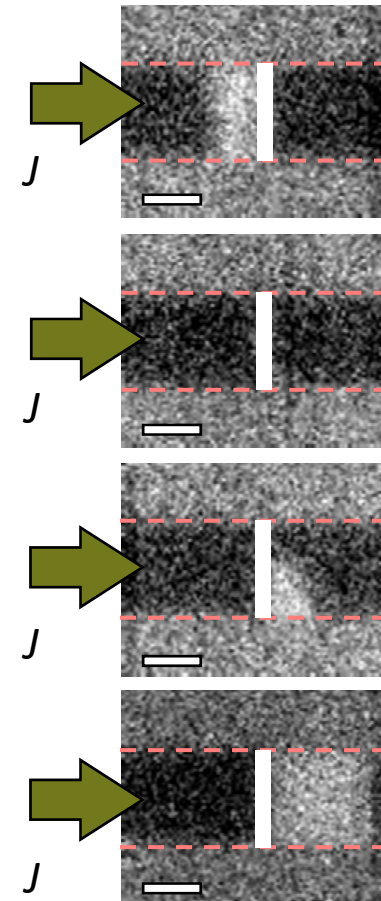
Current-driven domain-wall inverter



Z. Luo, et al., *Nature* **579**, 214 (2020)

Experiment

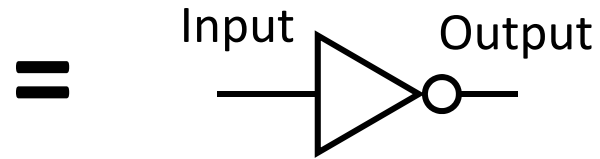
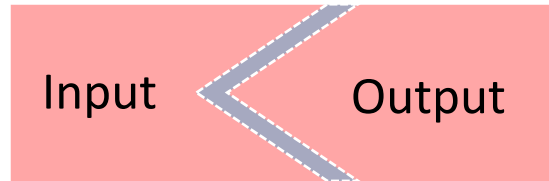
STXM measurement of an OOP-IP-OOP racetrack



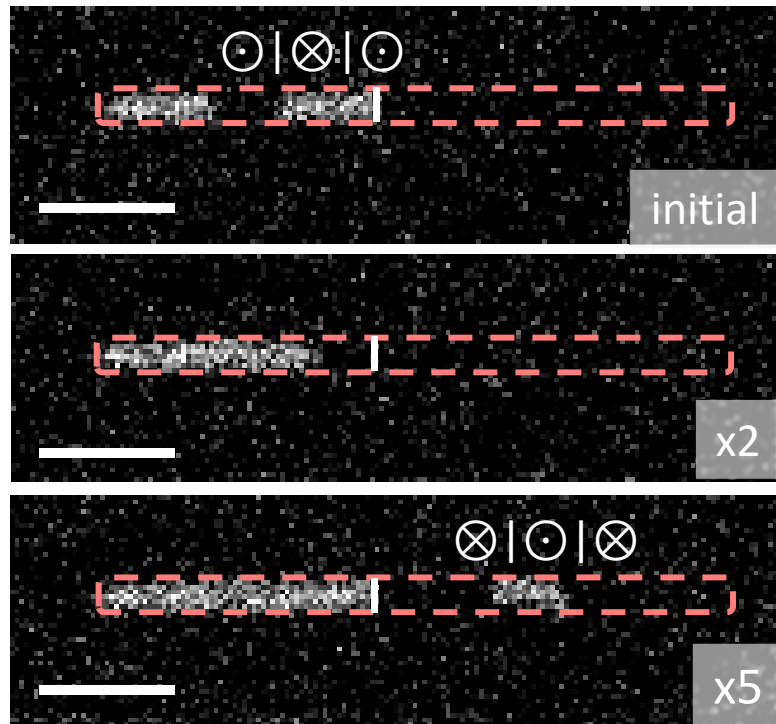
The $\otimes|\odot$ DW is inverted into a $\odot|\otimes$ DW by the current pulses

Domain-wall NOT gate

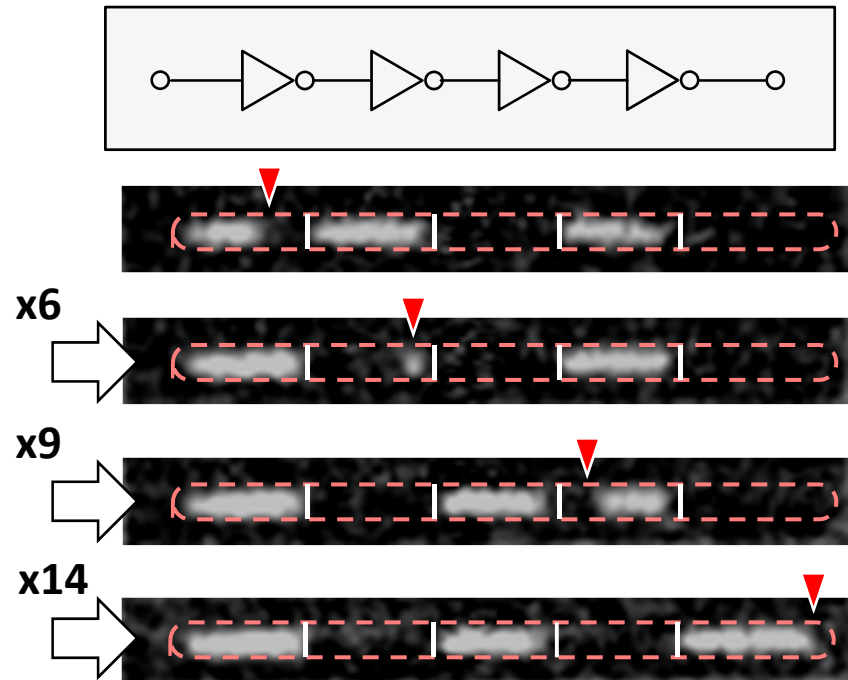
We define \otimes = logical '1' and \odot = logical '0'



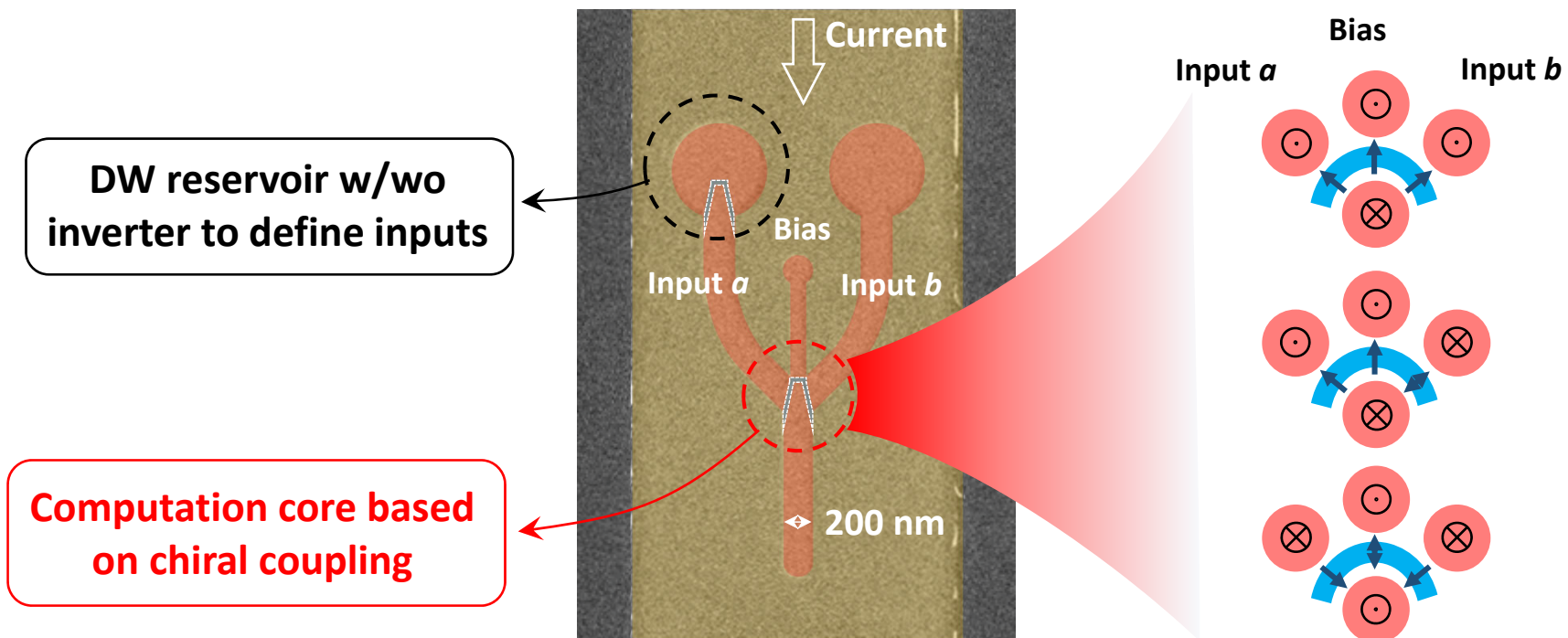
Data flow



Cascaded NOT gates

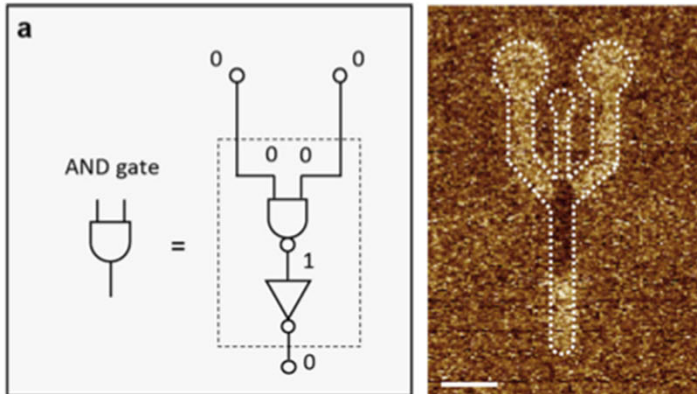


Fabricating majority logic gates based on DMI coupling

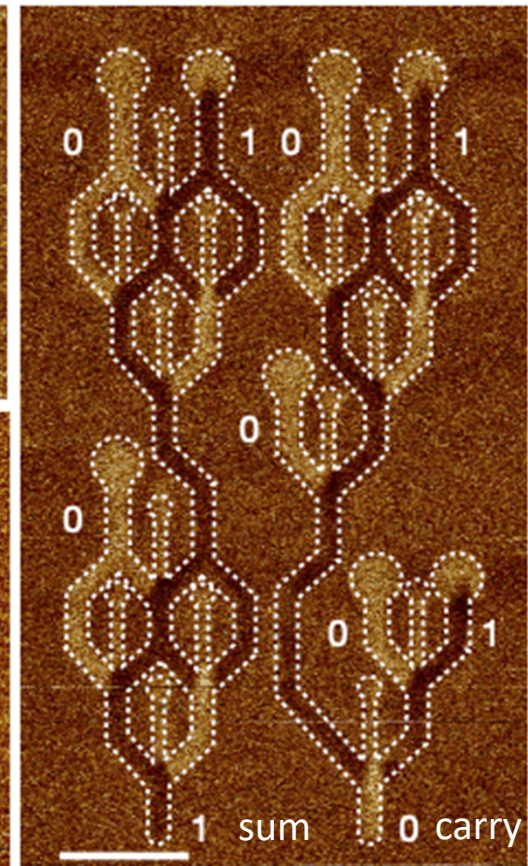
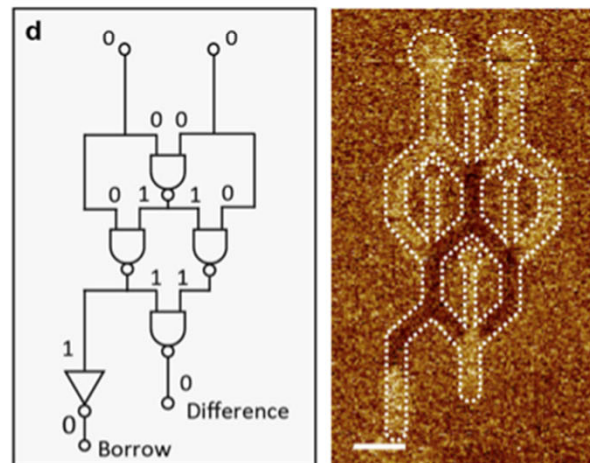
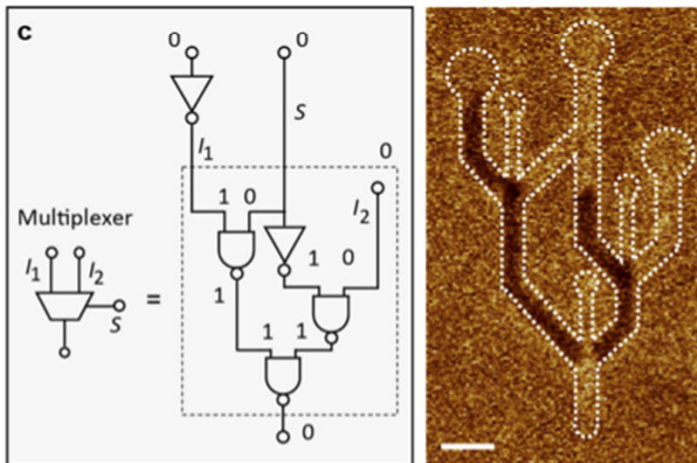
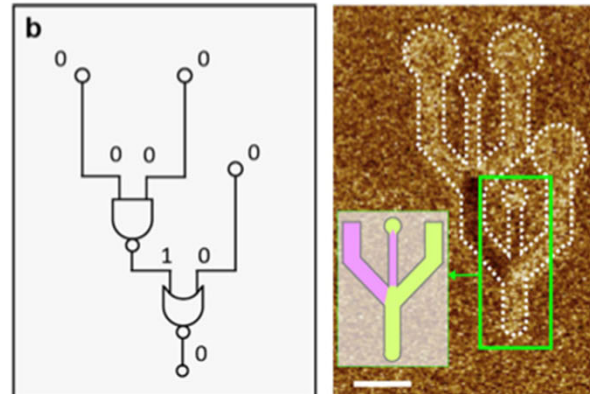


Examples of DW logic circuits enabled by SOT and chiral coupling

AND gate



NAND+NOR circuit

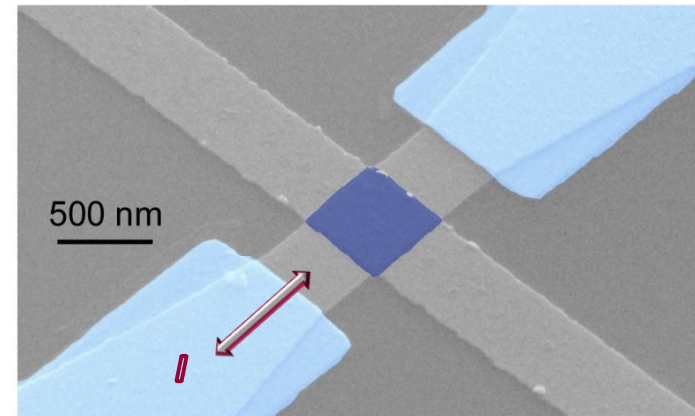
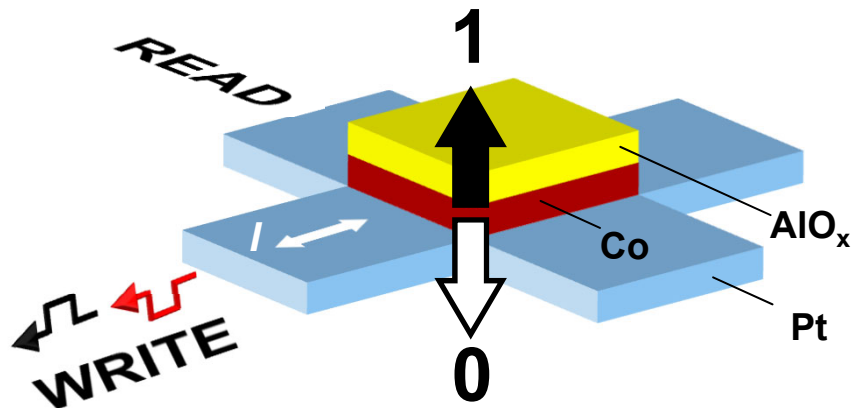


2-bit multiplexer

Half subtractor

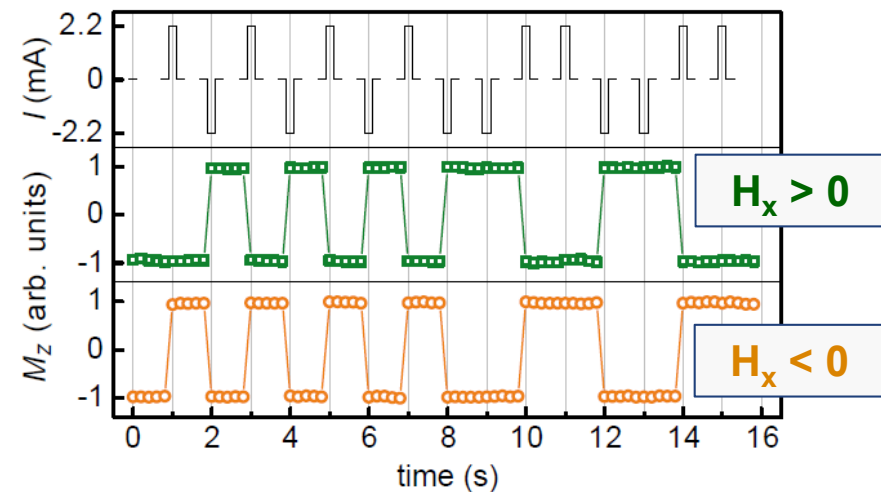
Full adder

Spin-orbit torque switching of a single ferromagnetic layer



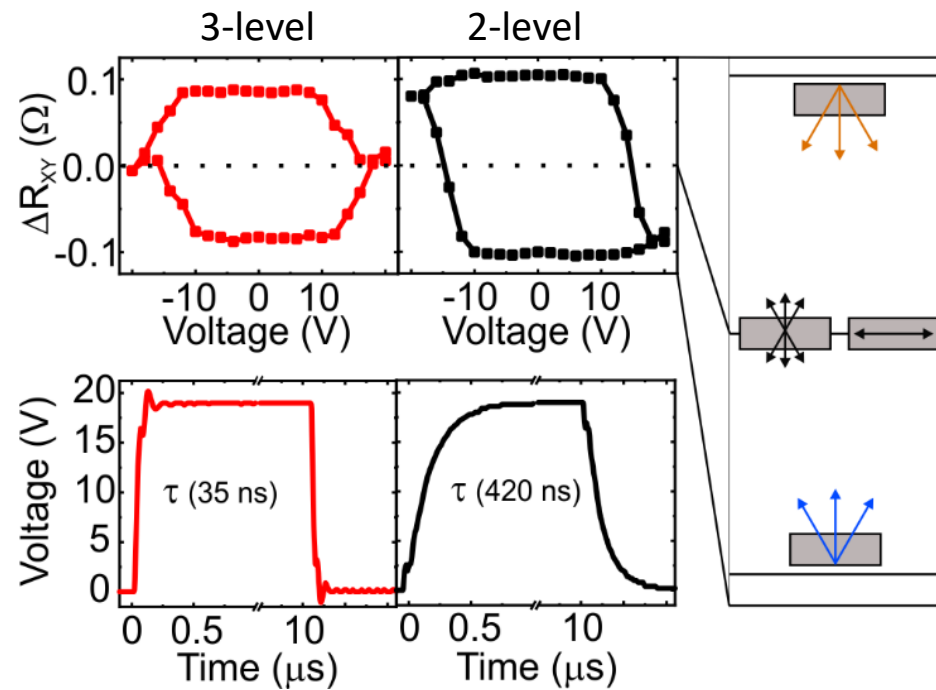
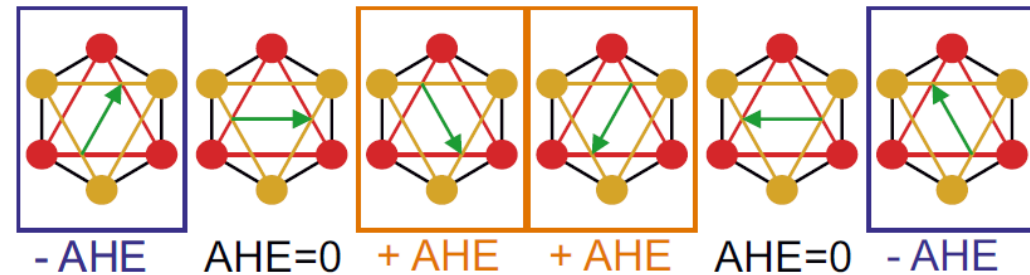
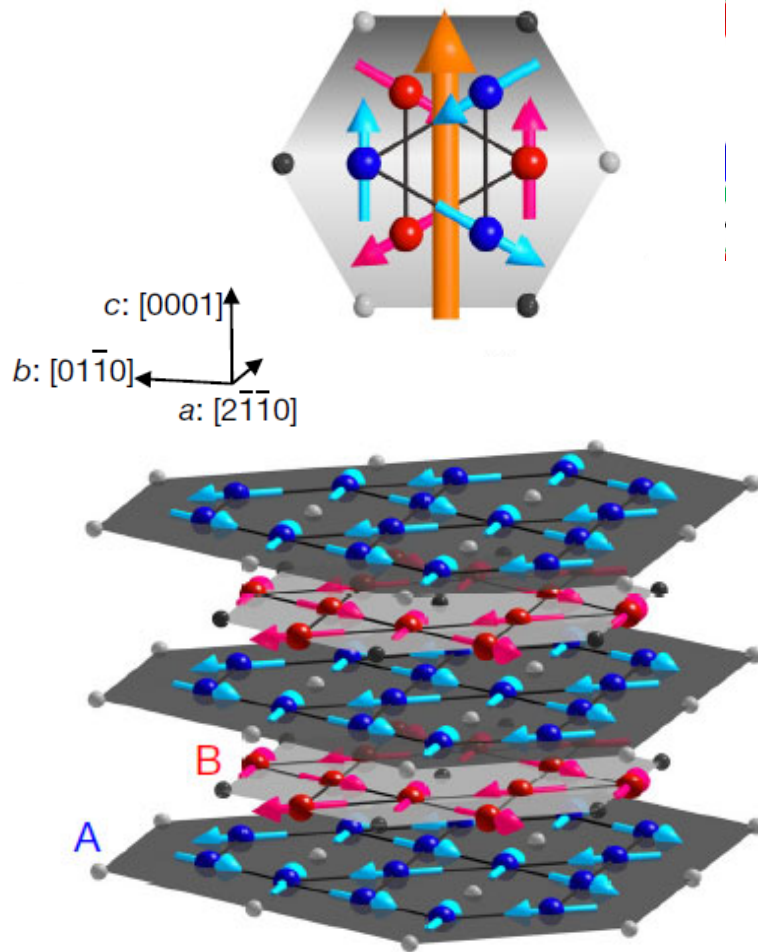
- ✓ Transfer of *orbital* to *spin* momentum
- ✓ Efficient spin injection/No polarizer
- ✓ Scalable
- ✓ Versatile (PMA, IMA, ...)
- ✓ CMOS-compatible

- DL torque is in-plane: switching of M_z requires symmetry-breaking field



Miron et al., *Nature* **476**, 189 (2011)

Spin-orbit torque switching of a chiral antiferromagnets: Mn_3Sn

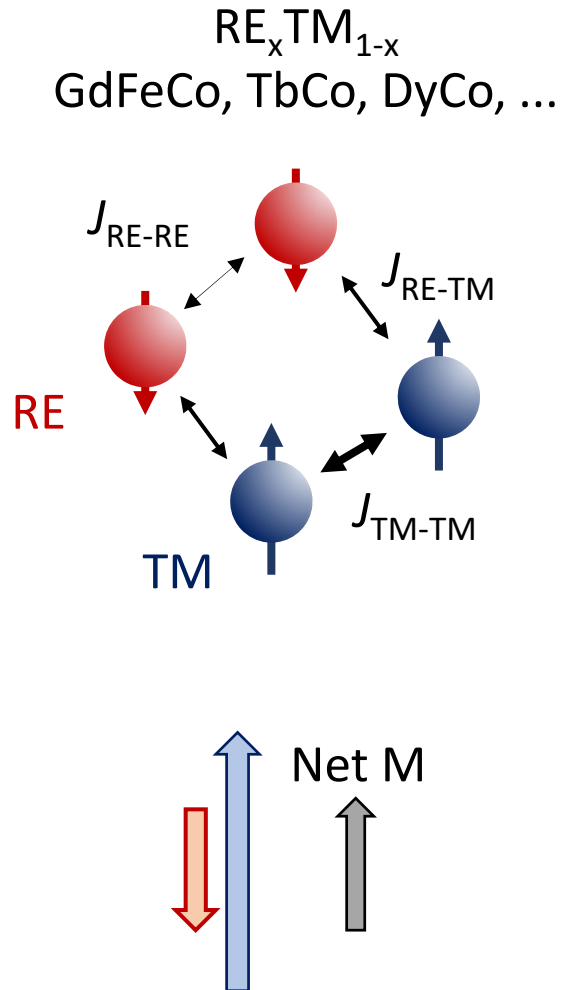


Nakatsuji et al., Nature 527, 212 (2015)

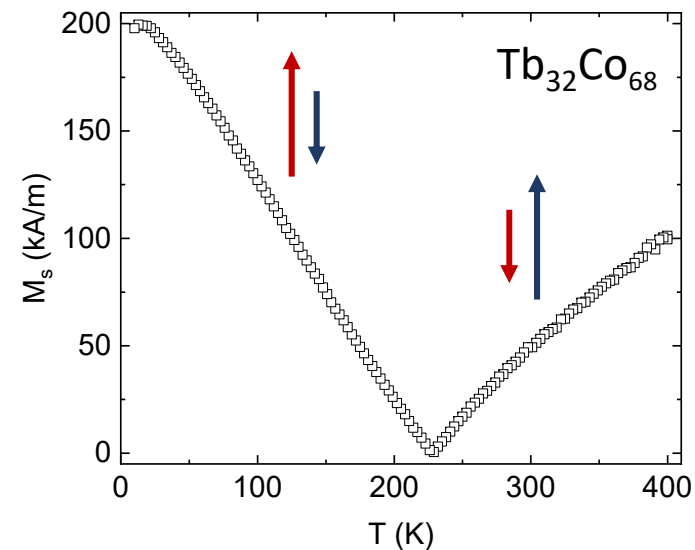
Tsai et al., Nature **580**, 608 (2020)

Krishnaswamy, PG et al., Phys. Rev. Appl. **18**, 024064 (2022)

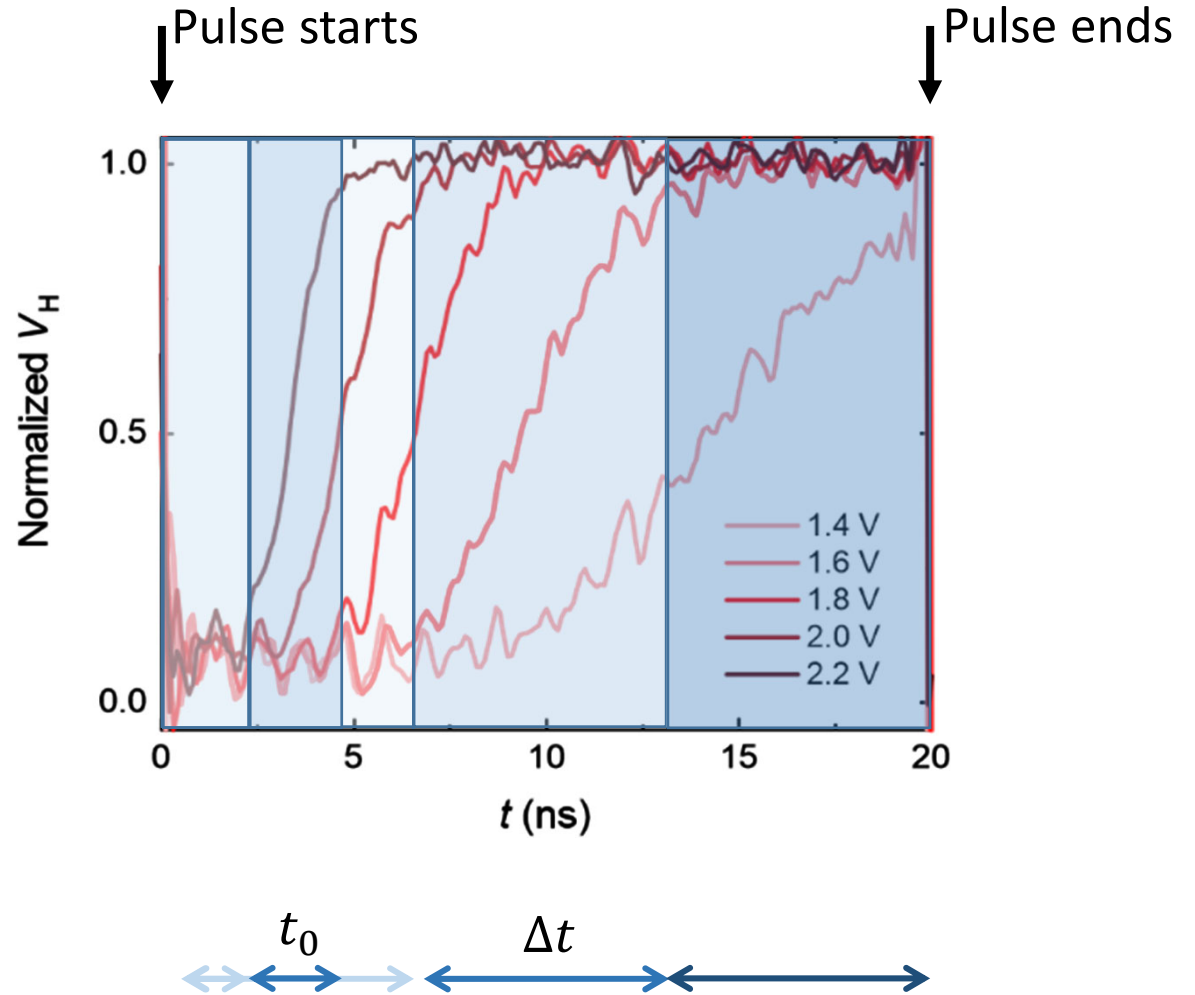
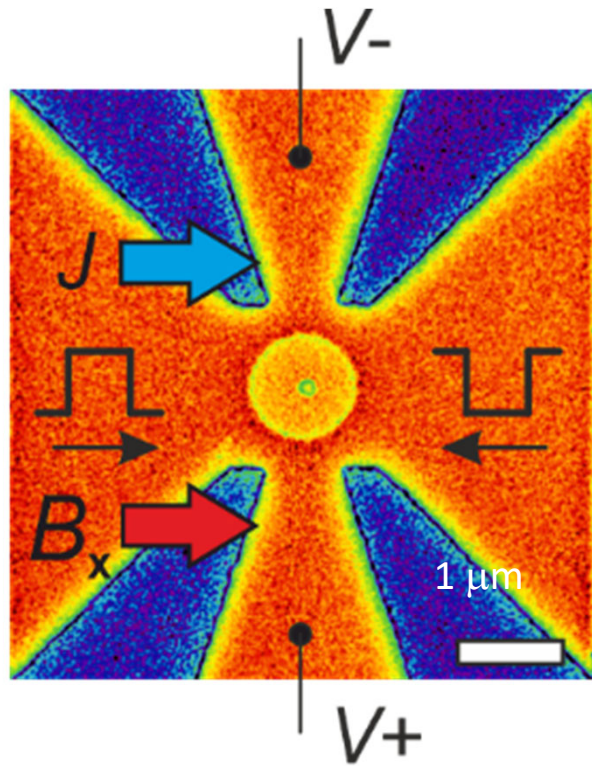
Rare-earth transition-metal ferrimagnetic alloys



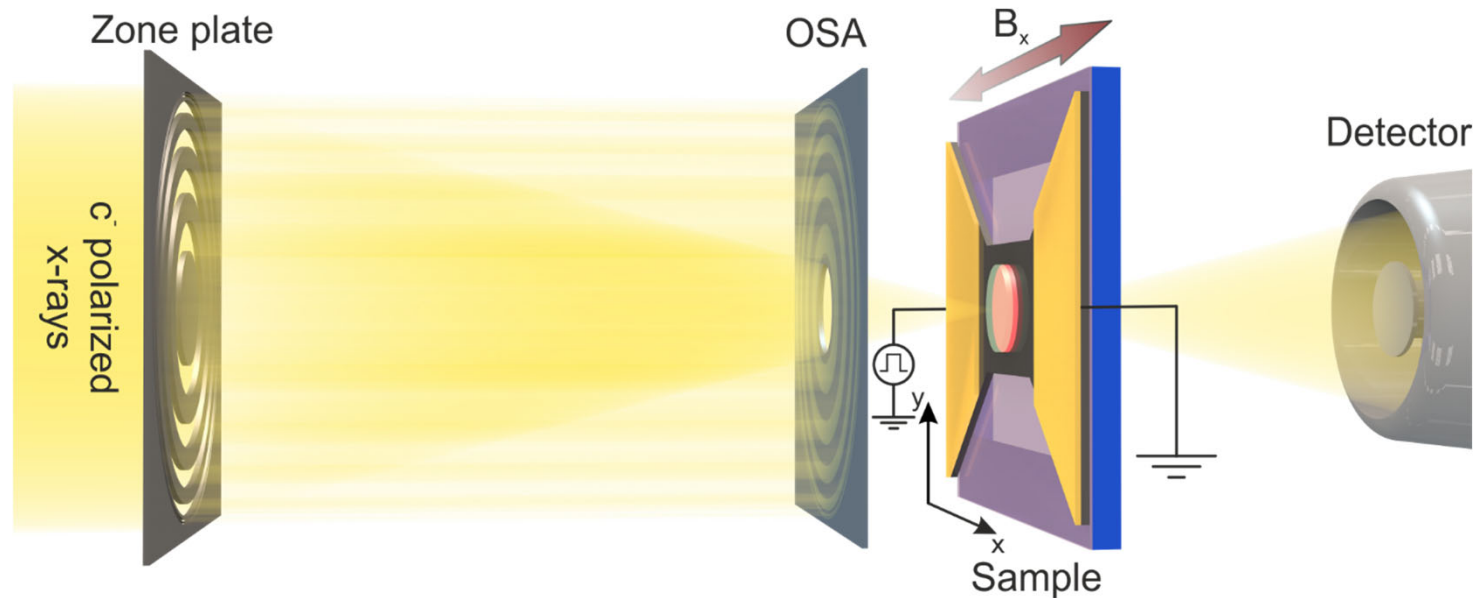
- Fast dynamics
- Easier to measure than AFMs
- Bulk PMA and DMI
- Low stray field
- Tunable by composition and temperature



see, e.g., Buschow, Rep. Prog. Phys. **40**, 1179 (1977); Kim et al., Nat. Mater. **21**, 24 (2022)

SOT-induced switching of Pt(5 nm)/Gd₃₀Fe₆₃Co₇(15 nm) dots

Time-resolved scanning transmission x-ray microscopy (STXM)



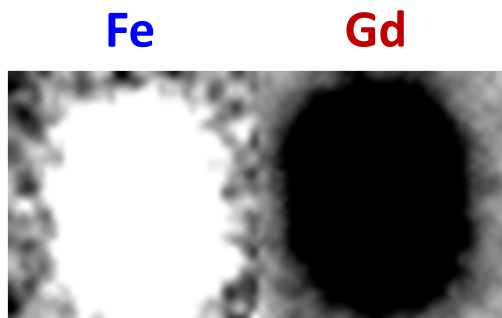
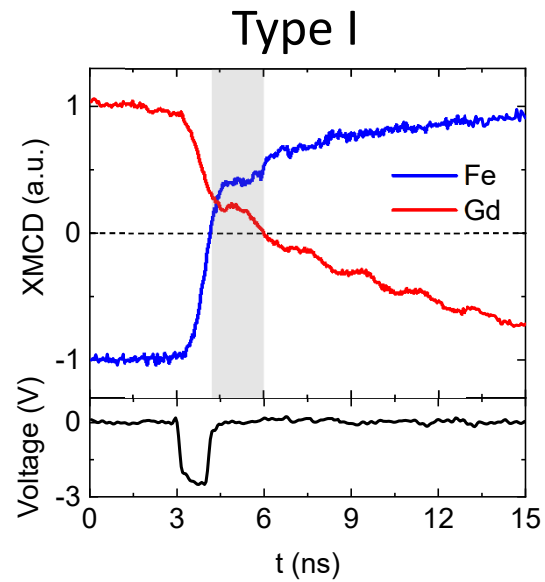
- Contrast due to XMCD
- Normal incidence: $\pm M_z$
- Element specific: Gd M_5 -edge (1185eV)
Fe L_3 -edge (707 eV)
- Time resolution: ~ 100 ps
- Lateral resolution: ~ 25 nm

Current pump / x-ray probe measurements

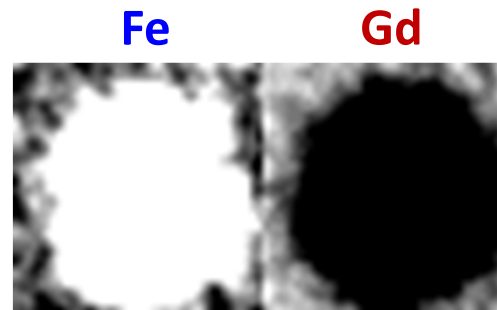
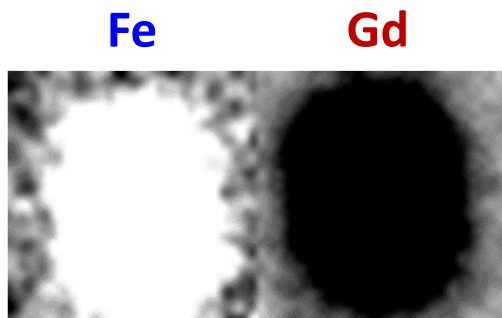
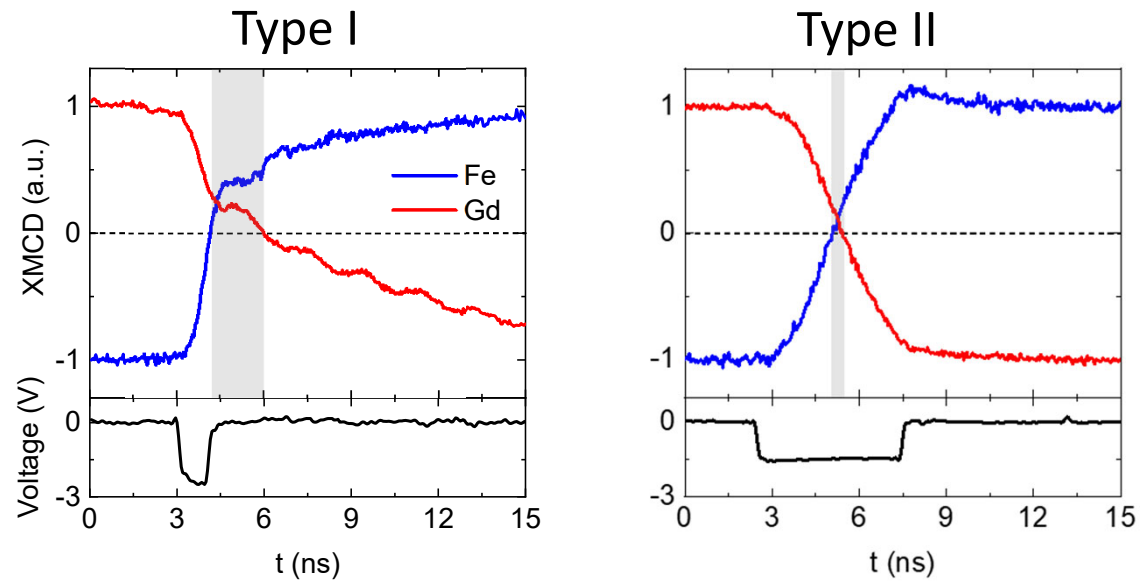
- Pump: 0.8 – 20 ns current pulses at 20 MHz rep rate
- Probe: 70 ps x-ray pulses at 500 MHz rep rate

PolLux beamline
Swiss Light Source

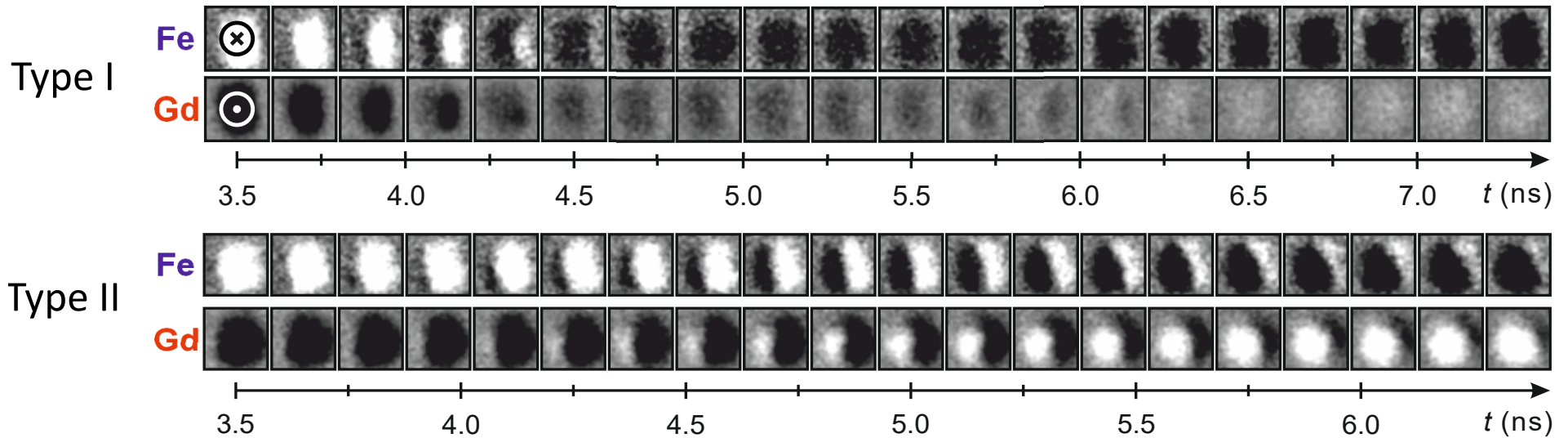
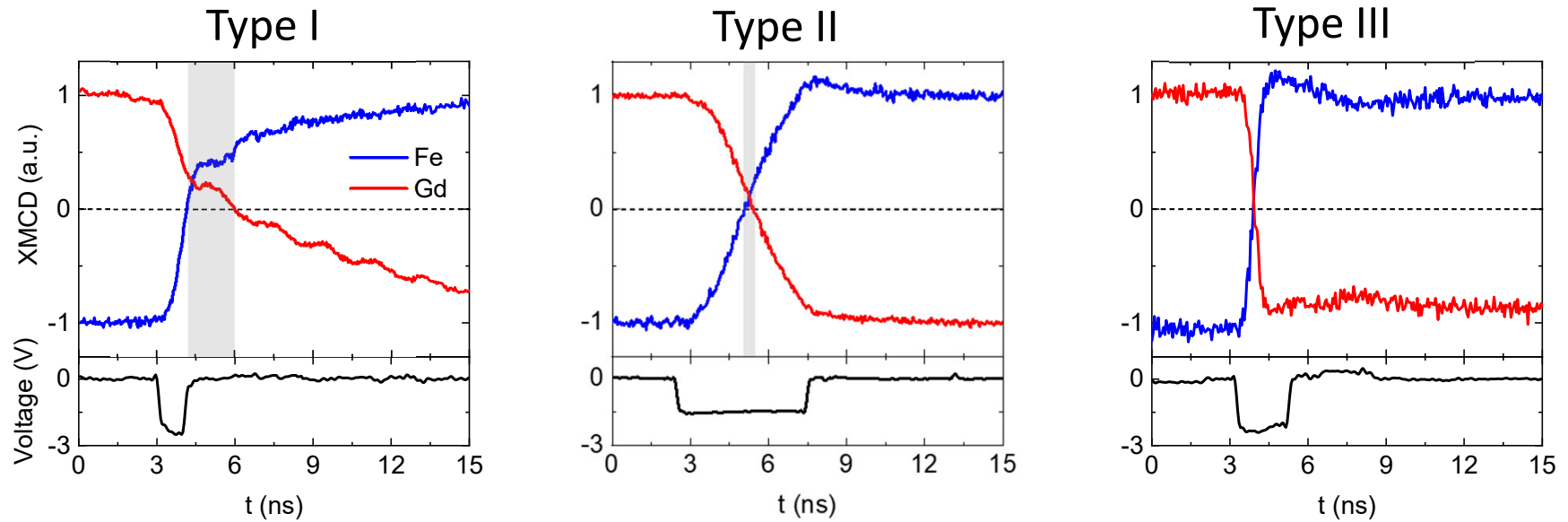
Asynchronous switching of ferrimagnetic alloys



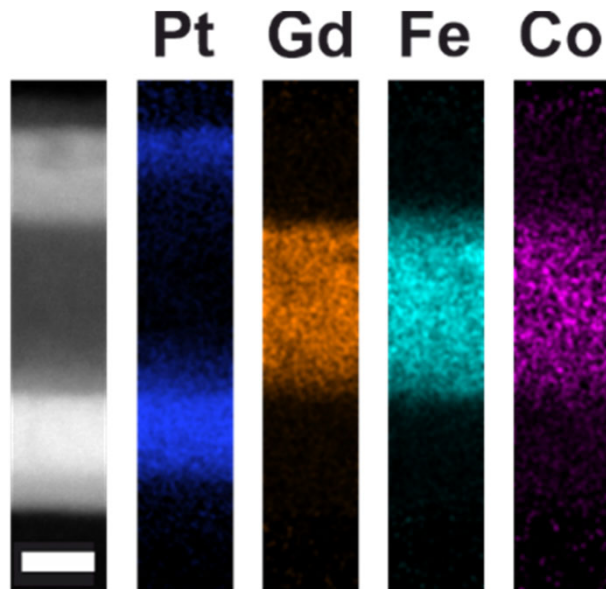
Asynchronous switching of ferrimagnetic alloys



Asynchronous and synchronous switching of ferrimagnetic alloys

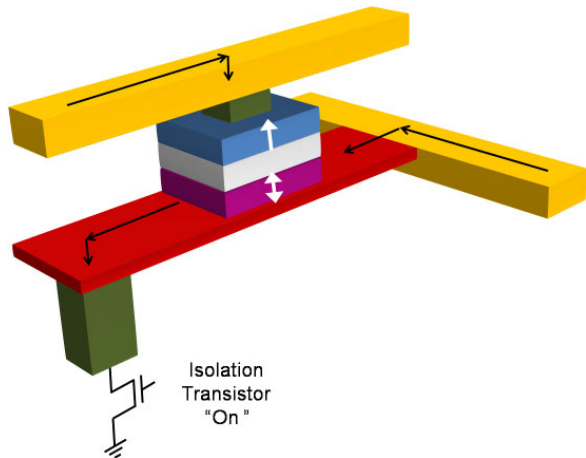


Switching of M_{TM} and M_{RE} in ferrimagnets



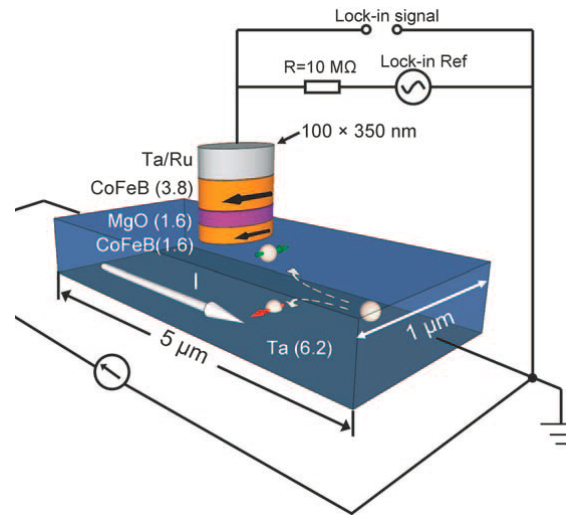
- Asynchronous switching of sublattice magnetizations with ns-long transient FM state
- Asymmetric action of spin-orbit torques on TM and RE sublattices: master-slave dynamics
- Variable strength of antiferromagnetic coupling depending on alloy microstructure

Spin-orbit torque switching of binary MTJ devices



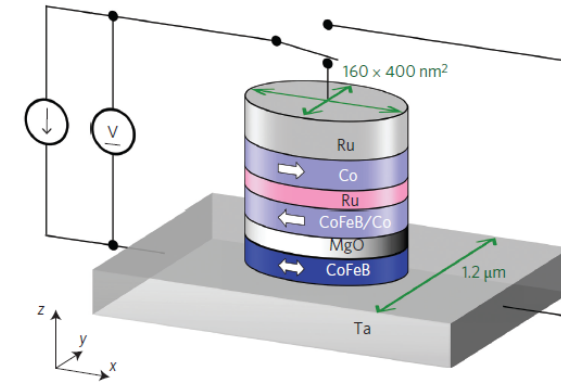
Perpendicular MTJ

Cubukcu et al.,
APL **104**, 042406 (2014)



In-plane MTJ
"y-Type"

Liu et al.,
Science **336**, 555 (2012)



In-plane MTJ
"x-Type"

Fukami et al.,
Nat. Nano. **11**, 621 (2016)



CMOS-compatible back-end-of-line array of 3-terminal MTJs

Imec - Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre, Leuven, Belgium

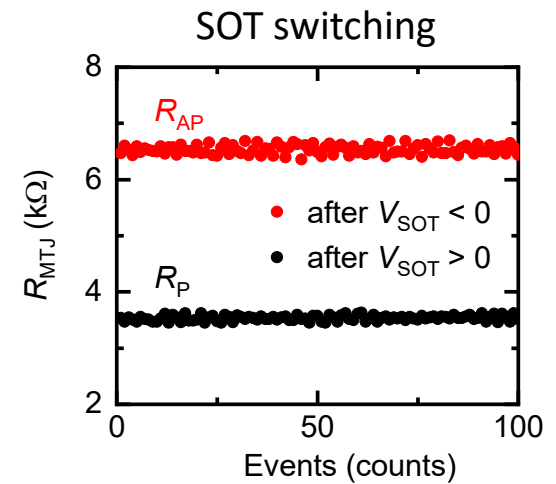
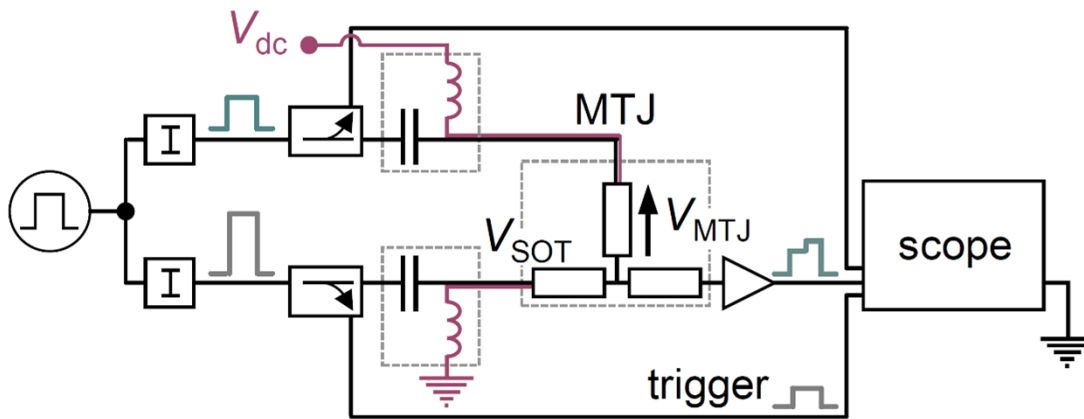
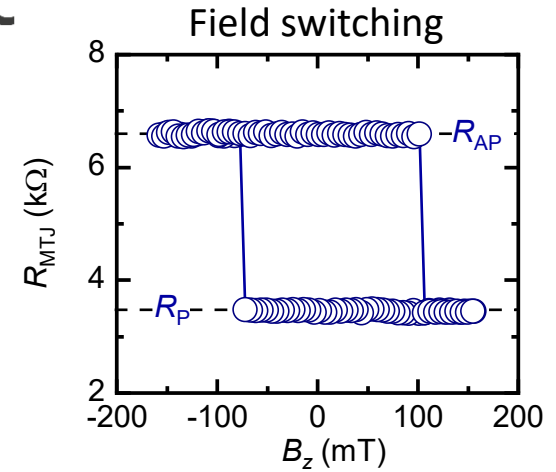
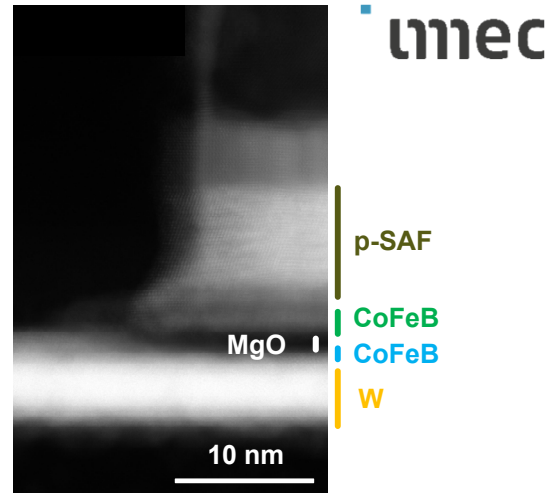
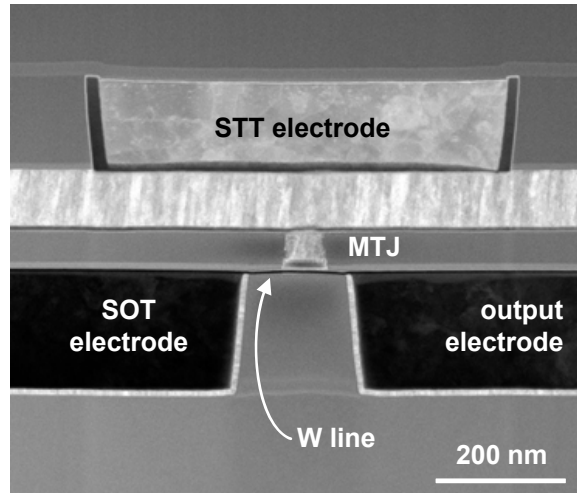
K. Garelo, S. Couet, F. Yasin, G.S. Kar

ETH Zurich

V. Krizakova, E. Grimaldi, G. Sala, PG



Dual pulse switching of 3-terminal MTJs

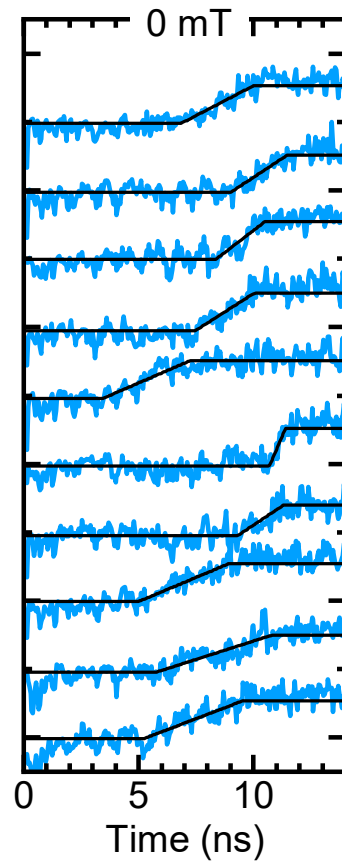


Single-shot SOT and STT switching in a 3T-MTJ

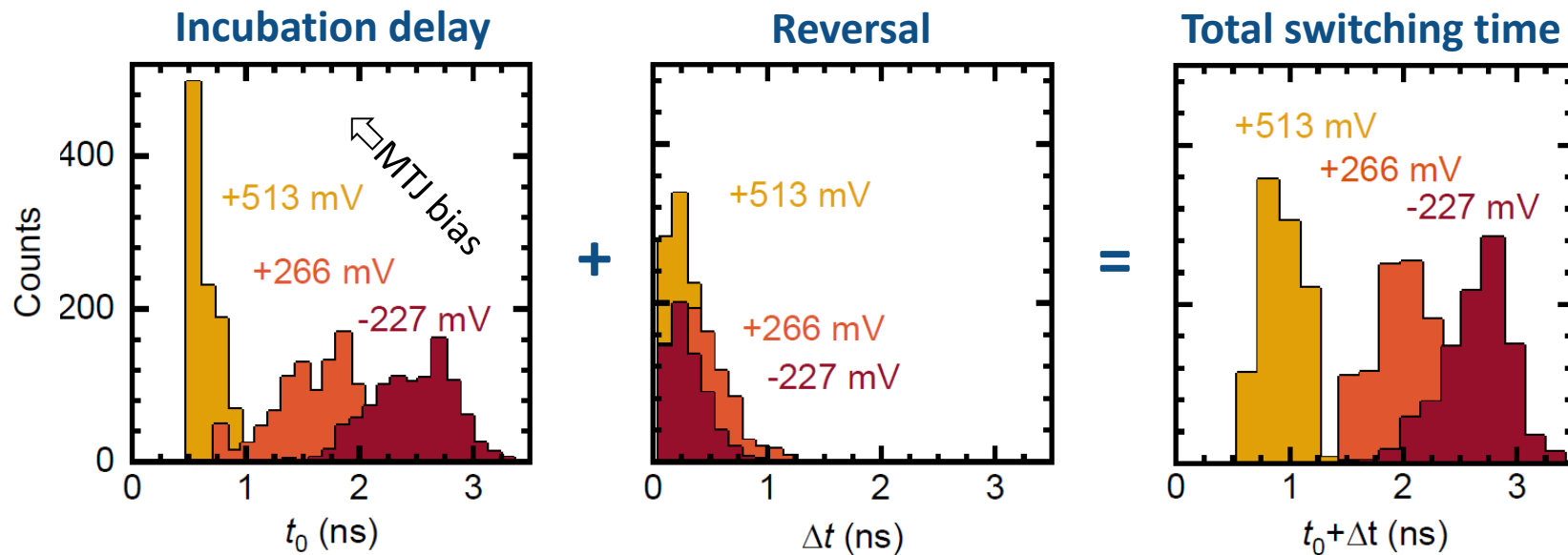
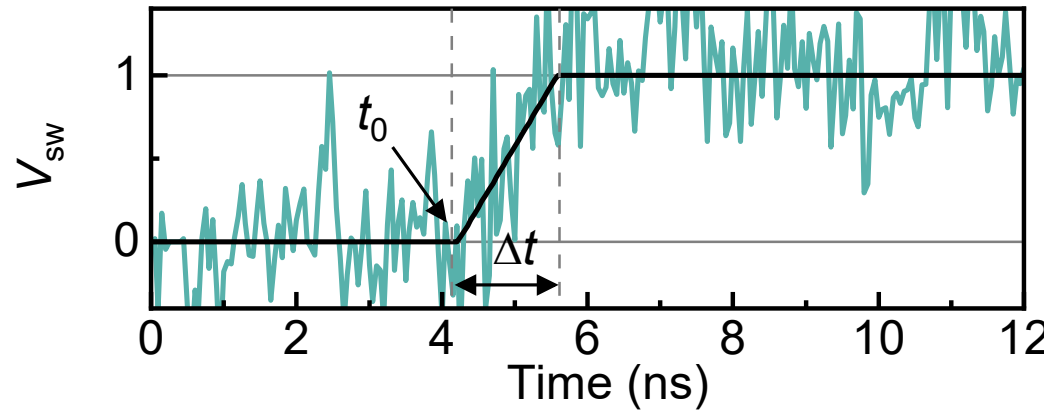
STT only

$$V_{SOT} = 0$$

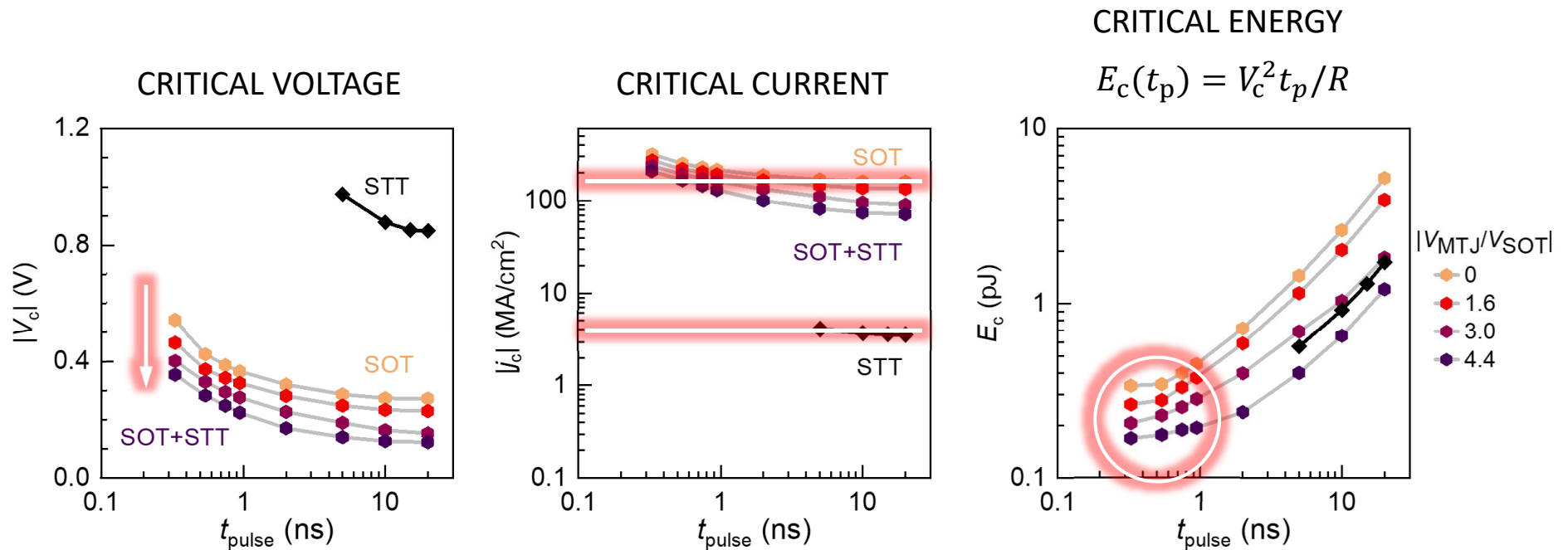
$$V_{STT} = +0.88 \text{ V}$$



Squeezing the switching time distributions by VCMA, STT, self-heat



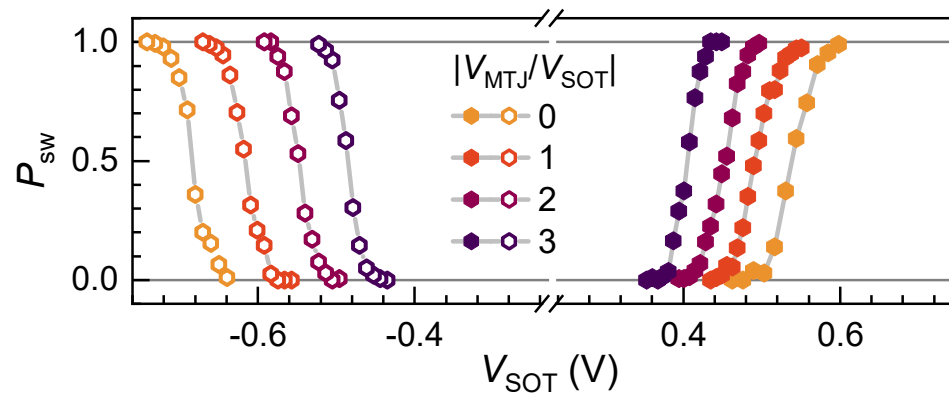
Trade-off between speed and efficiency: comparison between STT and SOT



Writing by combined V_{SOT} & V_{MTJ} pulses provides gain in speed and energy efficiency

Quantifying the separate effect of SOT, STT, VCMA, and SELF-HEATING

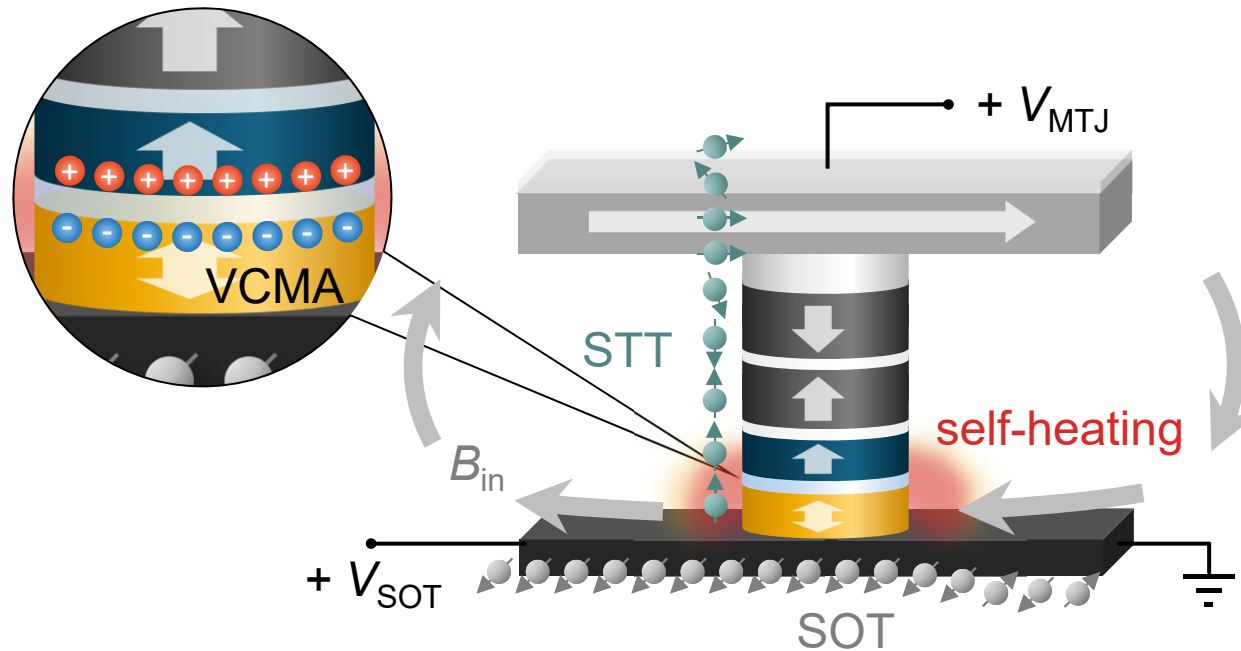
- Critical SOT voltage: $V_c(V_{MTJ}, t_p)$



- Normalized critical voltage: $v_c = V_c/V_{c0} = (V_{c0} + \Delta V_c)/V_{c0}$

$$v_c = 1 - \left(\underbrace{\frac{2\varepsilon}{M_S t_{FL} t_{MgO}} V_{MTJ}}_{\text{VCMA}} \pm \underbrace{\frac{\beta}{RA(1-b|V_{MTJ}|)} V_{MTJ}}_{\text{STT}} + \underbrace{\frac{\zeta}{RA(1-b|V_{MTJ}|)} V_{MTJ}^2}_{\text{Joule heating due to } V_{MTJ}} \right) \cdot (H_k \mp H_{\text{offset}})^{-1}$$

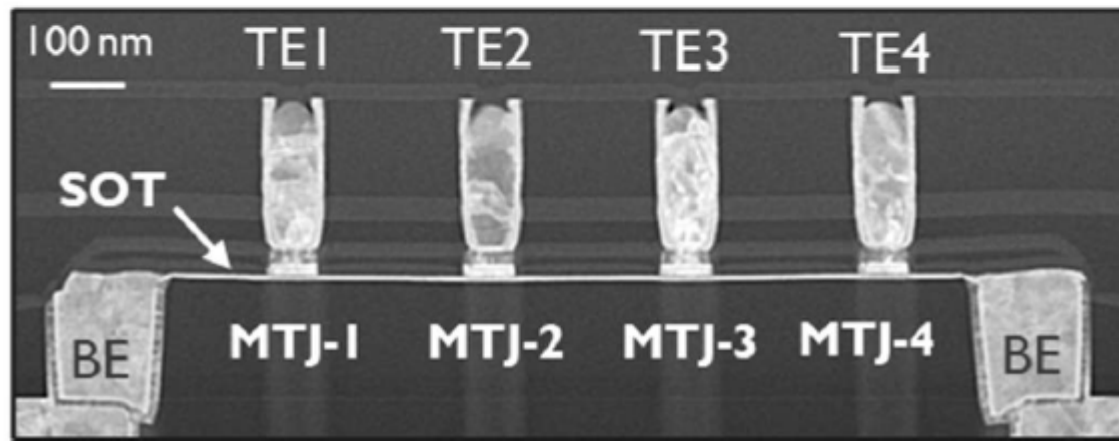
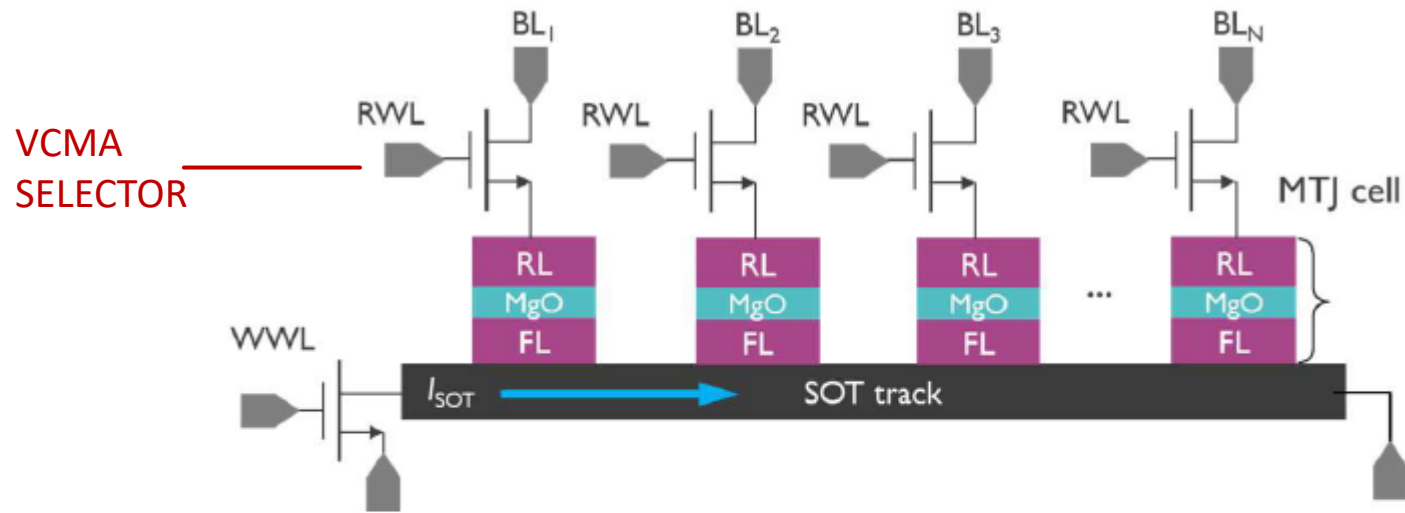
3-terminal MTJs: combining four effects in one device



SOT	$\propto j_{\text{SOT}} \propto V_{\text{SOT}}$
STT	$\propto j_{\text{STT}} \propto V_{\text{MTJ}} \text{sign}(M_{\text{REF}})$
Joule heating	$\propto I^2 R$
VCMA	$\propto V_{\text{MTJ}}$

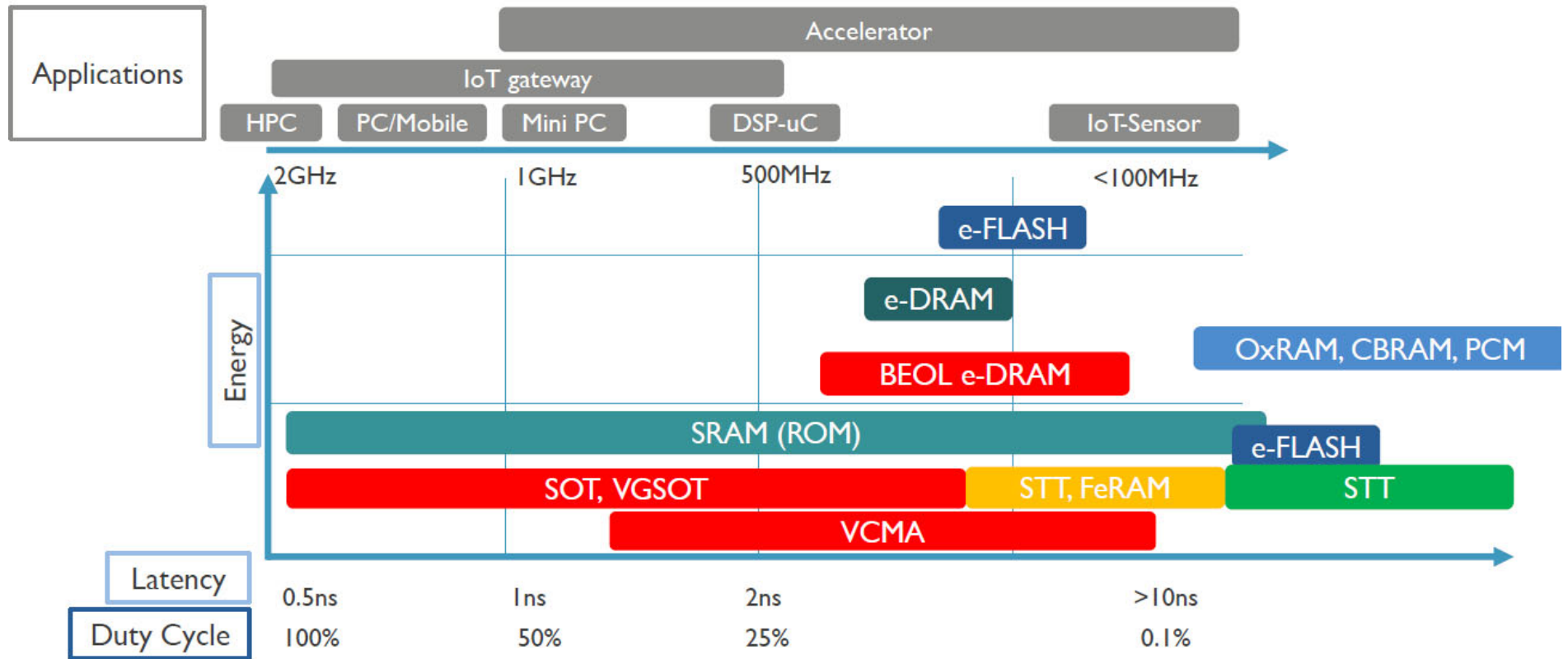
Krizakova et al.,
Phys. Rev. Appl. **15**, 054055 (2021)

Dense integration of 3-terminal MTJs for SOT-MRAM: “VGSOT”

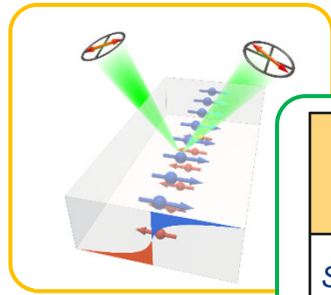


Cai et al., *VLSI Tech. Circ.* 375 (2022)

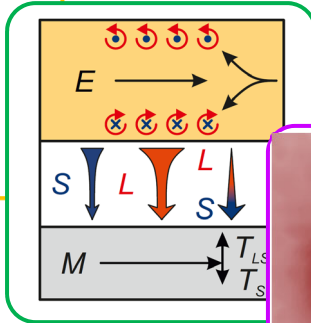
Embedded memories: Future



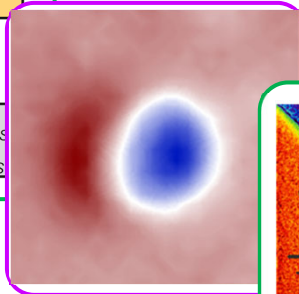
Current-induced spin and orbital moments



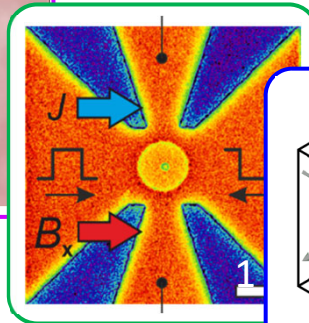
Orbital-to-spin conversion



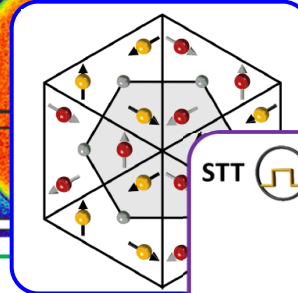
Current-driven DW and skyrmion motion



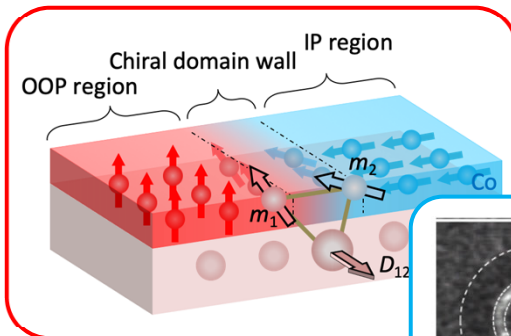
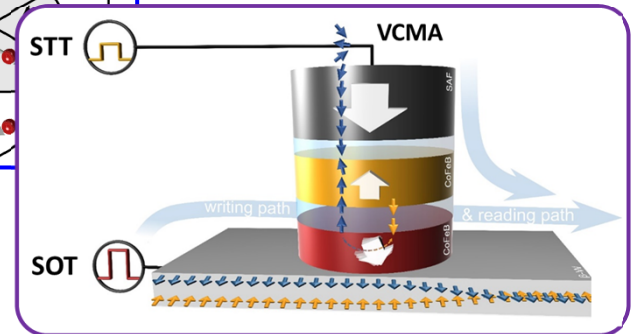
Current-driven dynamics in ferrimagnets



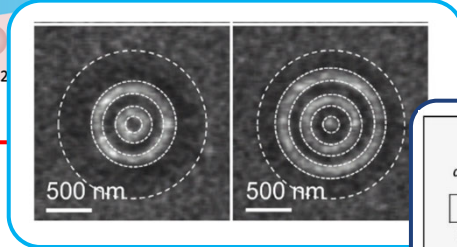
Chiral antiferromagnets



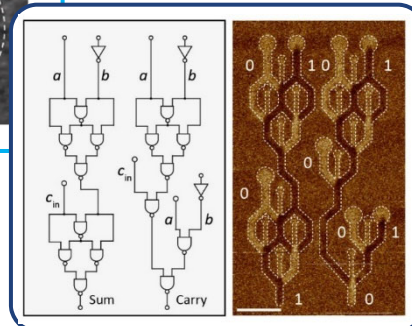
3-terminal MTJs



DMI-coupled nanomagnets

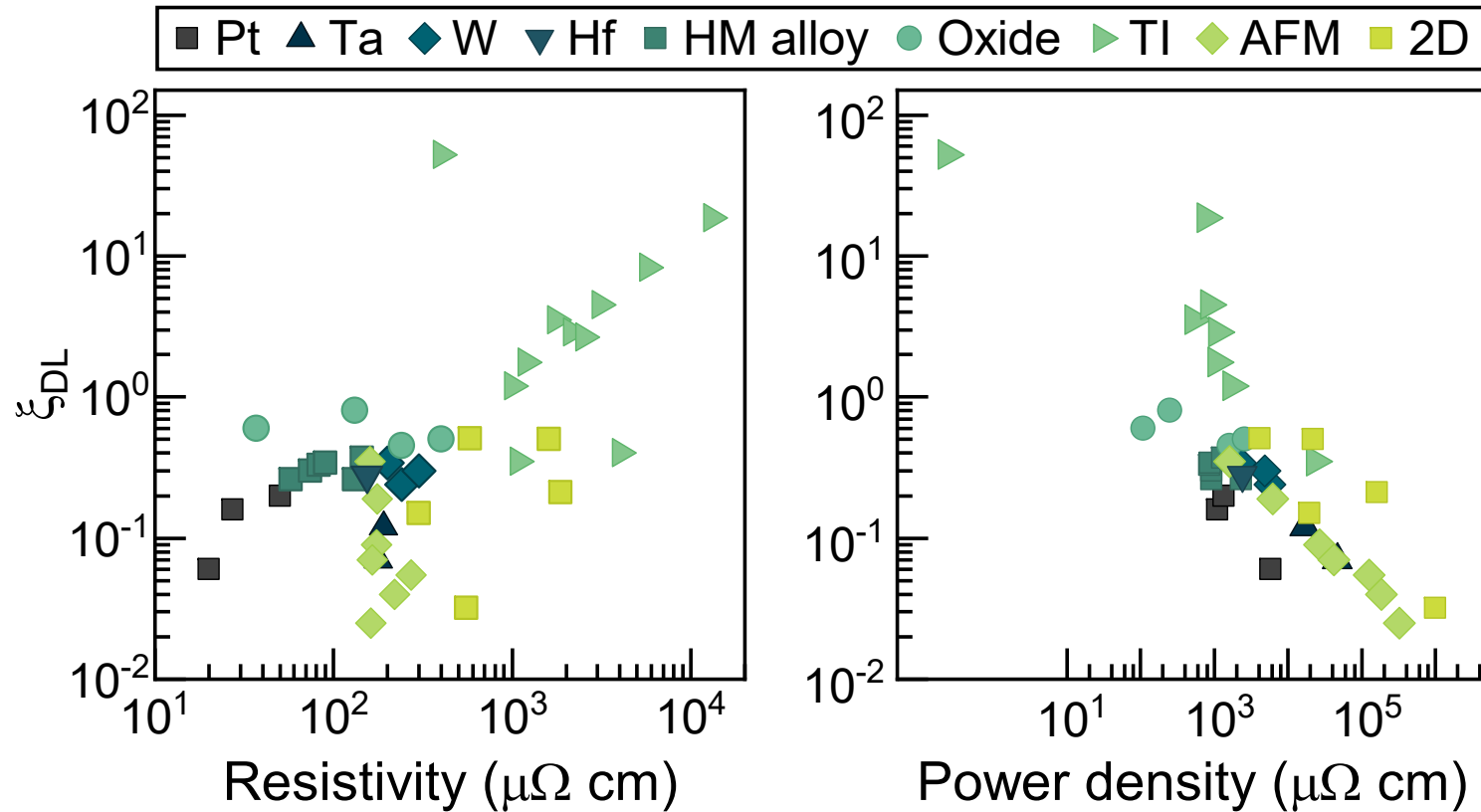


Synthetic magnets



Electrically-driven domain wall logic circuits

Material issues: SOT efficiency vs power density



SOT efficiency ξ_{DL}

$$P_{SW} = j_{SW}^2 \rho \propto \frac{\rho}{\xi_{DL}^2} \propto \text{magnetic anisotropy}$$

Materials with large SOT efficiency

Switching power density:

$$P_{SW} = j_{SW}^2 \rho \propto \frac{\rho}{\xi_{DL}^2}$$

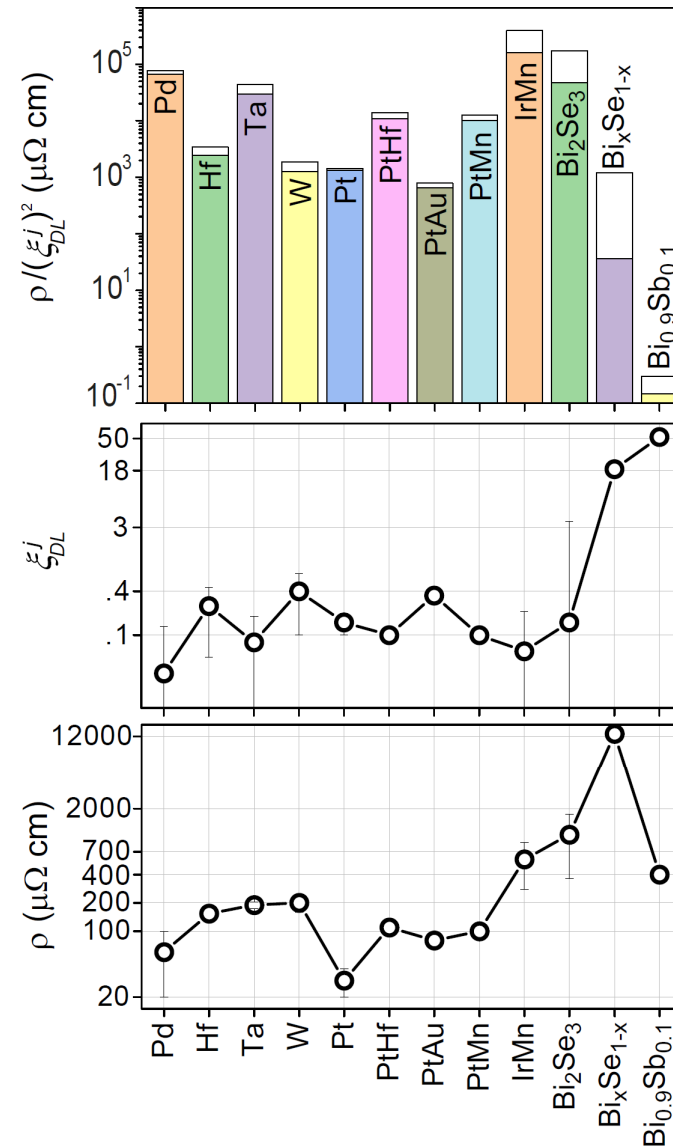


Spin-orbit torque efficiency:

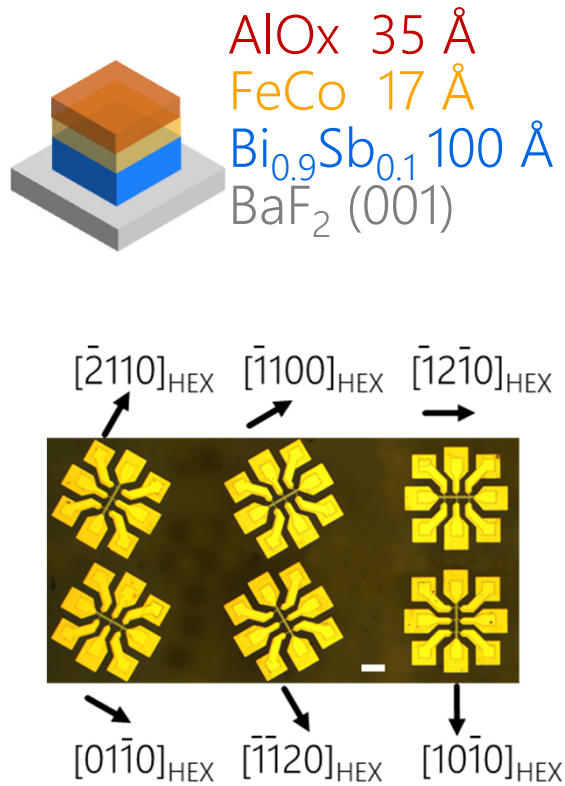
$$\xi_{DL} = \frac{j_s^{FM}}{j_c} = \frac{2e}{\hbar} M_s t_{FM} \frac{B_{DL}}{j_c}$$



Bi ₂ Se ₃ /NiFe	IP	$j_{SW} = 0.6 \text{ MA/cm}^2$	Wang et al., Nat. Comm. 8 , 1364 2017
Bi _x Se _(1-x) /CoFeB/ Gd/CoFeB	OOP	$j_{SW} = 0.4 \text{ MA/cm}^2$	Mahendra et al., Nat. Mater. 17 , 800 (2018)
Bi _{0.9} Sb _{0.1} /MnGa	OOP	$j_{SW} = 1.5 \text{ MA/cm}^2$	Khang et al., Nat. Mater. 17 , 808 (2018)
[Pt/Hf] _N /Pt/Co	IP	$j_{SW} = 3.6 \text{ MA/cm}^2$	Zhu et al., Phys. Rev. Appl. 11 , 061004 (2019)

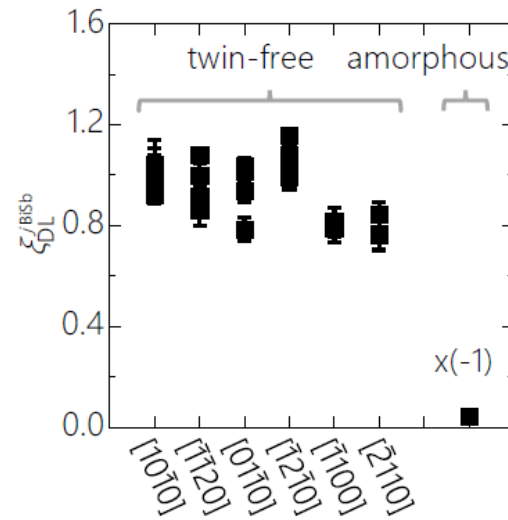


Conversion efficiency in TIs: twin-free single crystal $\text{Bi}_{0.9}\text{Sb}_{0.1}$



- $\xi_{DL} \approx 1$ (single crystal),
- $\xi_{DL} \approx 0.05$ (amorphous)
- Isotropic
- Nonmonotonic T -dependence

SOT efficiency



Spin Hall conductivity

