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# Lectures on spintronics

Master 2 Univ. Grenoble Alpes

Vincent Baltz

CNRS Researcher at SPINTEC

Lecture 1	–	04 Dec.
Lecture 2	–	07 Dec.
Lecture 3	–	11 Dec.
Lecture 4	–	14 Dec.
Exercises 1 & 2	–	21 Dec.



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Note about the delivery of these lectures:

- Incomplete slides distributed at the beginning of each lecture
- Mix of slideshow and writing down on the blackboard
- Complete slides posted online at the end of the 5 lectures
- Although the timing is very tight, asking/sending questions is encouraged
- 'Quiz Test' on the lectures: December 21

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- 1h30**
- I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications**
  - II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR**

**1h30** III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

**1h30** IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

**1h30** VI. Brief non-exhaustive introduction to current topics

**1h30** Exercise 1 - Anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR)

Exercise 2 – The spin pumping (SP) and inverse spin Hall effects (ISHE)

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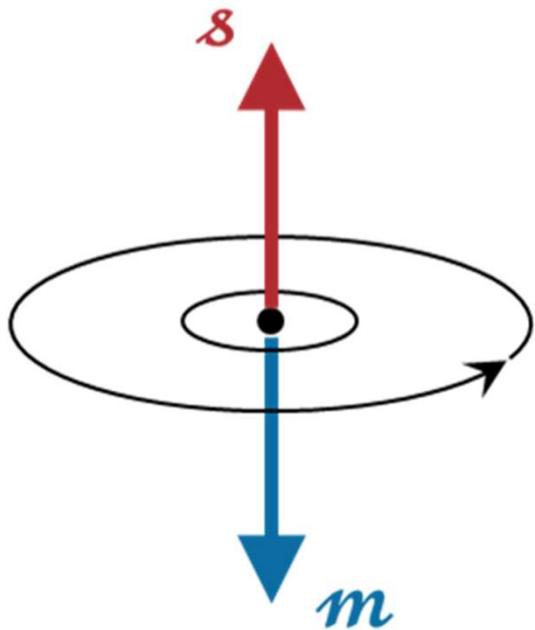
# **I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications**

# I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications

## 1. Spin in electronics

$$\hbar \cdot \frac{1}{2} (m_p \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v}) / m \cdot \left(-\frac{e}{2} \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v}\right)$$

Spin angular momentum / Spin magnetic moment  
Internal quantum properties of the electron



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Notation: moment (↓)-spin(↑) electron

spin projection quantum number

$$s = m_s \hbar \text{ with } m_s = \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

$$m = -\frac{e}{2m_e} g s$$

Landé factor

$$\Rightarrow m \approx \pm \mu_B \text{ with } \mu_B = \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e}$$

and  $g \approx 2$

$$m = -|\gamma| s$$

where  $\gamma = -\frac{e}{2m_e} g < 0$  is the gyromagnetic ratio

# I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications

## 1. Spin in electronics

Electronics exploits charge transport

Unpolarized currents

Spin electronics exploits spin transport

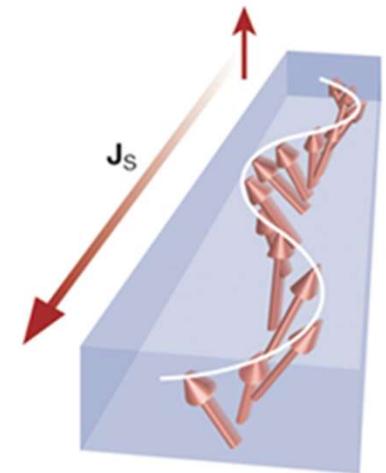
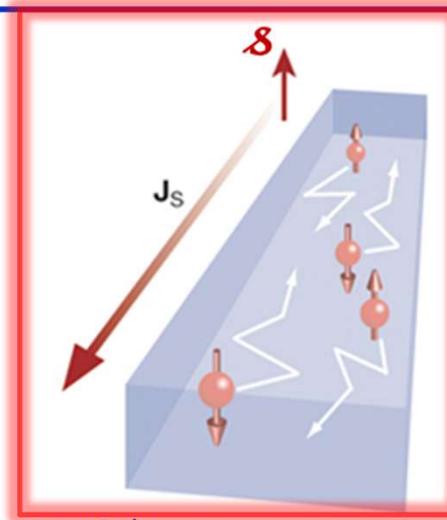
- on top of moving charges: **electronic transport**

Polarized currents in magnetic materials

Pure spin current in magnetic & non-magnetic materials

- via exchange interactions: **magnonic transport/spin waves**

Pure spin current in magnetic materials



Nature 464, 262 (2010)

This series of lectures:

- **focuses on the electronic transport of spin**
- **introduces some key underlying physical principles of spintronics**

First, brief introduction to:

- some of the flagship applications of spintronics

# I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications

## 2. The example of two success stories

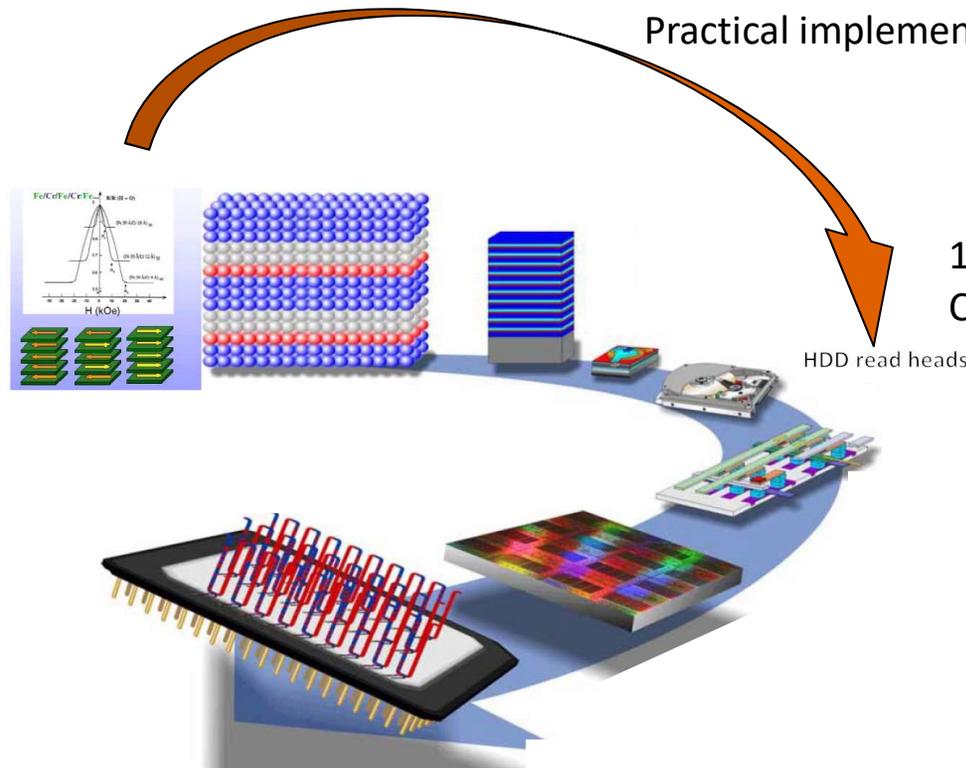
### Success story #1

1988

Discovery of **the GMR effect**

1991

Practical implementation in spin-valves



1997-now

Commercial product (sensor), in billions of HDD

Nobel Prize 2007

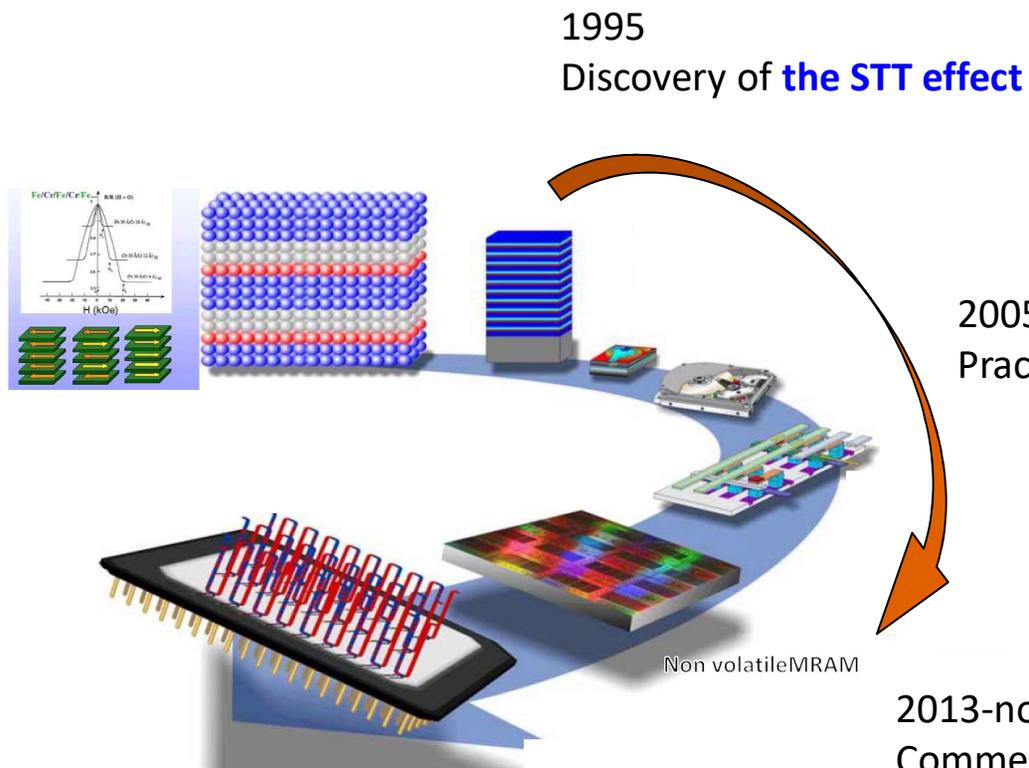


# I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications

## 2. The example of two success stories

### Success story #2

MRAM is not the best in each category but it scores everywhere



2005  
Practical implementation in TMR junctions

2013-now  
Commercial product (MRAM / non-volatile memory)



# I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications

## 3. Many more to come

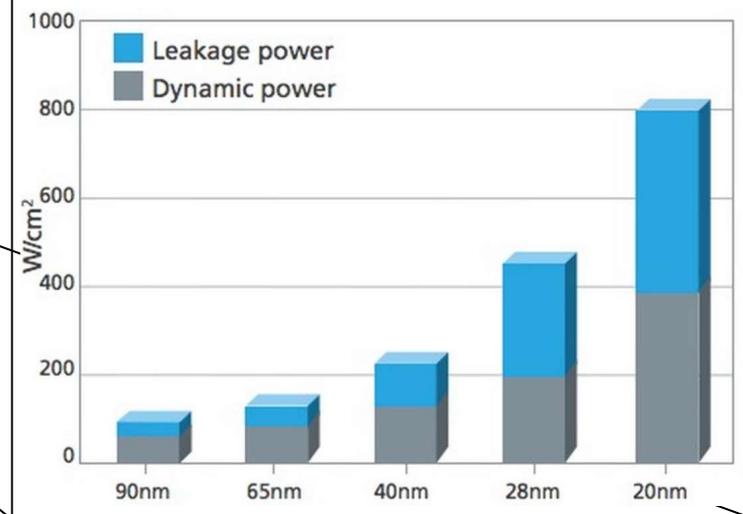
Many more success stories to come



Kitchen Stove  
 $\approx 10 \text{ W/cm}^2$



Microprocessor Die  
 $\approx 100 \text{ W/cm}^2$



### Energy harvesting:

- Miniaturization of electronics is hampered by energy consumption issues
- **Spin (currents)** may circumvent such issues

### Numerous fields of applications:

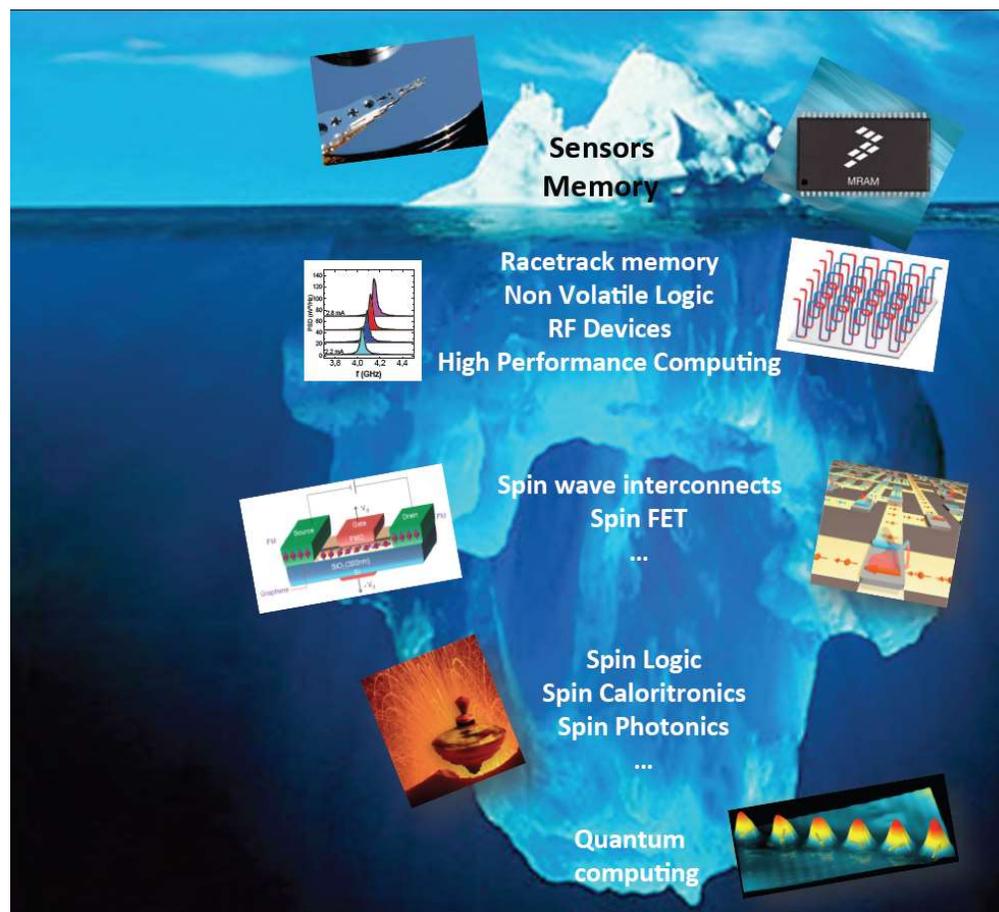
- Information technology - IT (e.g. memory, processors, data security)
- Biomedical (e.g. sensors)
- Telecommunication (e.g. transceiver)
- Artificial intelligence - AI (e.g. neuromorphic computing)

# I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications

3. Many more to come

Many more success stories to come

*'More transistors and magnets are produced in fabs than grains of rice are grown in paddy fields' (tcd Dublin)*



The goal of this series of lectures is:  
to give you the basic knowledge to  
understand most of the underlying  
physical principles of spintronics

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## **II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR**

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 1. Degree of 'quantumness'

#### Different transport regimes

Quantum	$\psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$	AMR 'CFJ', STT 'Slonczewski', Berry curvature ...
Semiclassical	$f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k}, t)$	GMR drift-diffusion 'Valet&Fert'...
Classical	$n(\mathbf{r}, t)$	Drift-diffusion 'Drude'...
Phenomenological		All: AMR, GMR, TMR ...

$\psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$ : wavefunction

$f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k}, t)$ : distribution function

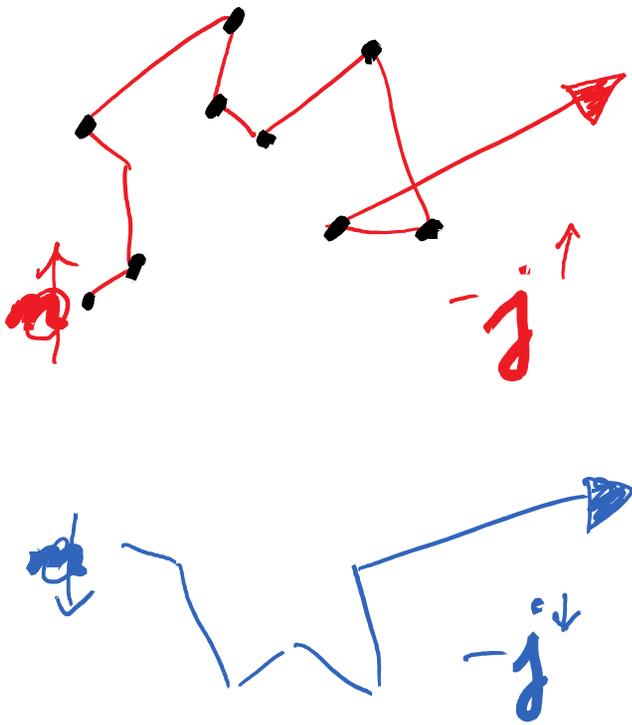
$n(\mathbf{r}, t)$ : density

Notation: **bold** is used for vectors, e.g.  $\mathbf{r} = \vec{r}$

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 2. The two current model

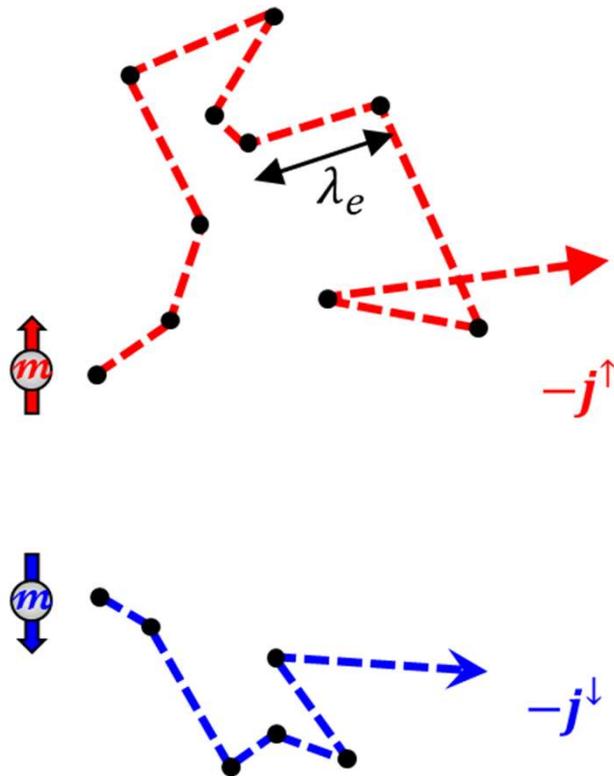
Majority moment ( $\uparrow$ )-spin( $\downarrow$ ) and minority moment ( $\downarrow$ )-spin( $\uparrow$ ) electrons are considered to flow in separate channels. This is known as the two current model. It was introduced in 1936 by N. F. Mott.



		$J_e =$ $j^\uparrow + j^\downarrow$	$J_s =$ $-(j^\uparrow - j^\downarrow)$
Unpolar current	$\uparrow \uparrow \rightarrow$ $\downarrow \downarrow \rightarrow$	$e^- \rightarrow$	0
Spin polarized current	$\uparrow \uparrow \rightarrow$ $\downarrow \rightarrow$	$e^- \rightarrow$	$\uparrow \rightarrow$
Pure spin current	$\uparrow \rightarrow$ $\downarrow \leftarrow$	0	$\uparrow \rightarrow$ $\downarrow \rightarrow$

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 3. Drude model, mean free path



Drude model of electronic transport

$$j = \sigma E$$

$$\sigma = \frac{N(E_F) e^2 D}{m_e}$$

$$j = \frac{\sigma \nabla \mu}{e}$$

$$E = -\nabla V$$

$$\mu = \mu_e = -eV$$

↑  
electrostatic potential (energy)      ↑  
electric potential

Electron mean free path

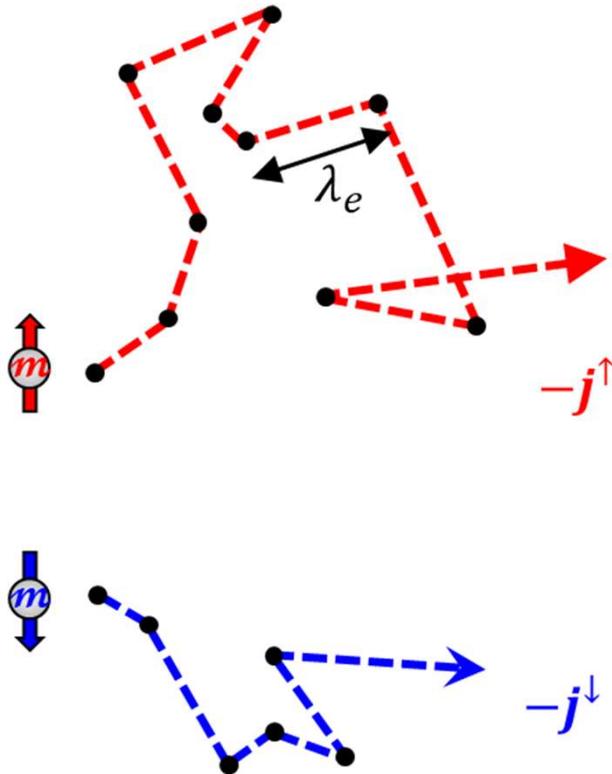
$$\lambda_e = v_F \tau_e$$

↑                      ↑  
Fermi velocity      scattering time

DOI: 10.1051/978-2-7598-2917-0.c002

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 3. Drude model, mean free path



In the next slides, we will explain why  $\tau_e$  is spin-dependent, making  $\mathbf{j}^\uparrow \neq \mathbf{j}^\downarrow$

Spin-dependent generalized Ohm's law

$$\mathbf{j}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = \frac{\sigma^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} \nabla_{\mu}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}}{e}$$

(2 equations)

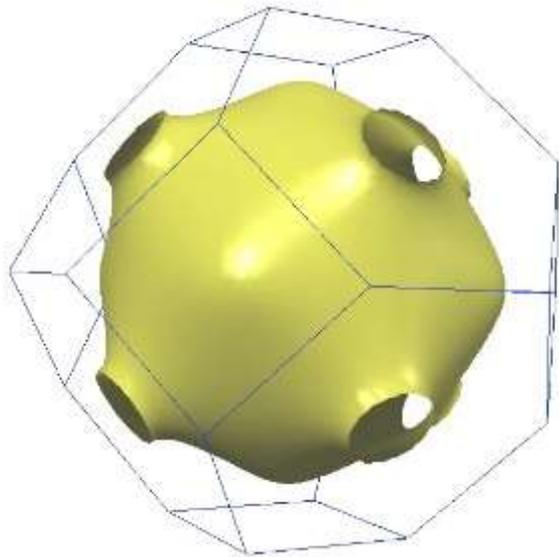
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## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 4. Band structures and spin-dependent Fermi surface

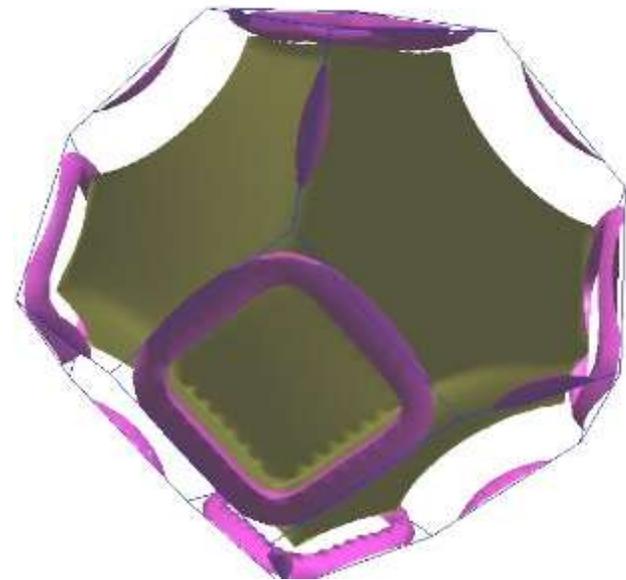
In metals, conduction processes occur at or near the Fermi surface (for  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_F$  )

Copper



$3d^{10}4s^1$

Aluminium



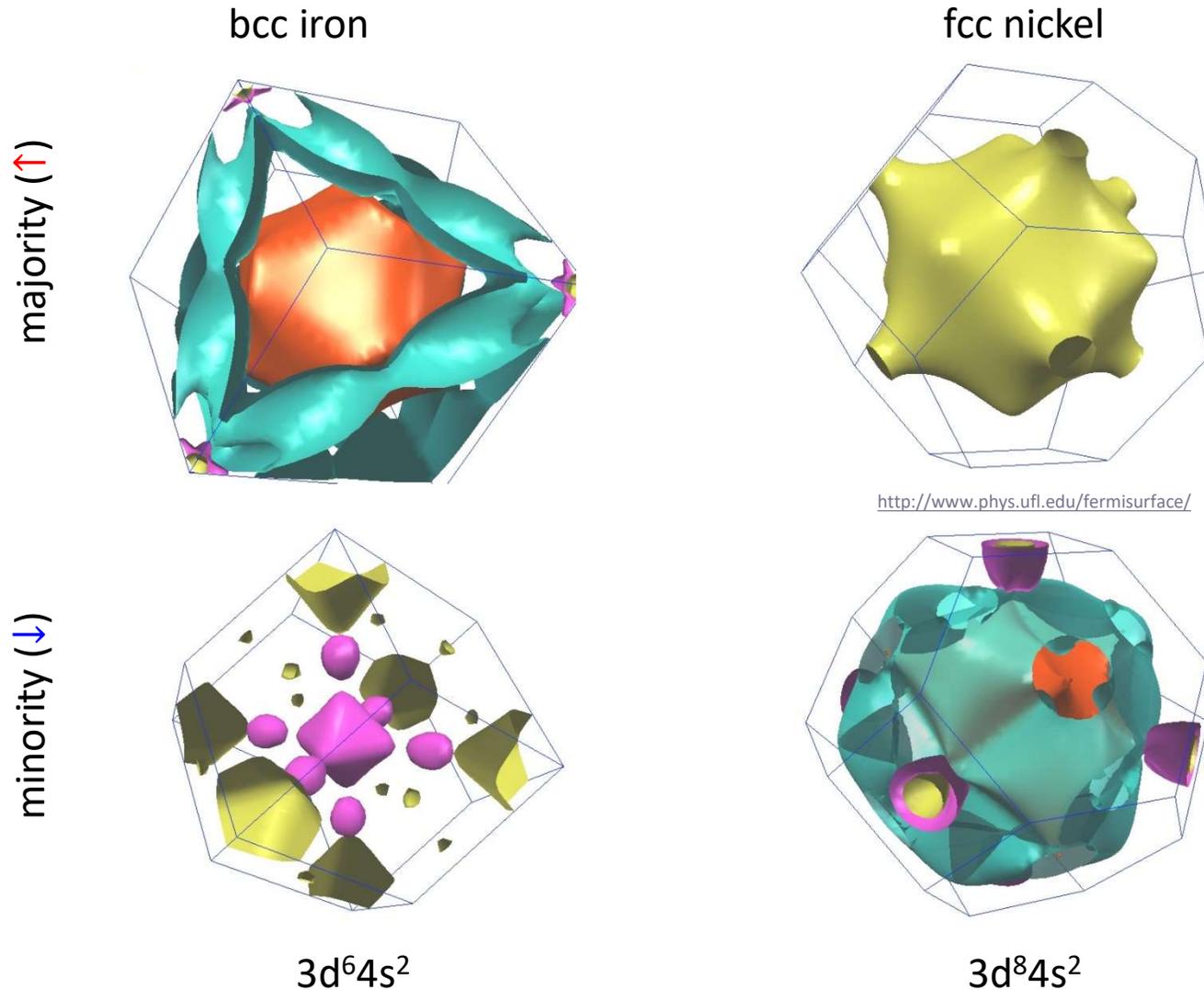
$3s^24p^1$

<http://www.phys.ufl.edu/fermisurface/>

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 4. Band structures and spin-dependent Fermi surface

Ferromagnets have different Fermi surfaces for majority moment ( $\uparrow$ )-spin( $\downarrow$ ) and minority moment ( $\downarrow$ )-spin( $\uparrow$ ) electrons => spin-dependent conduction processes

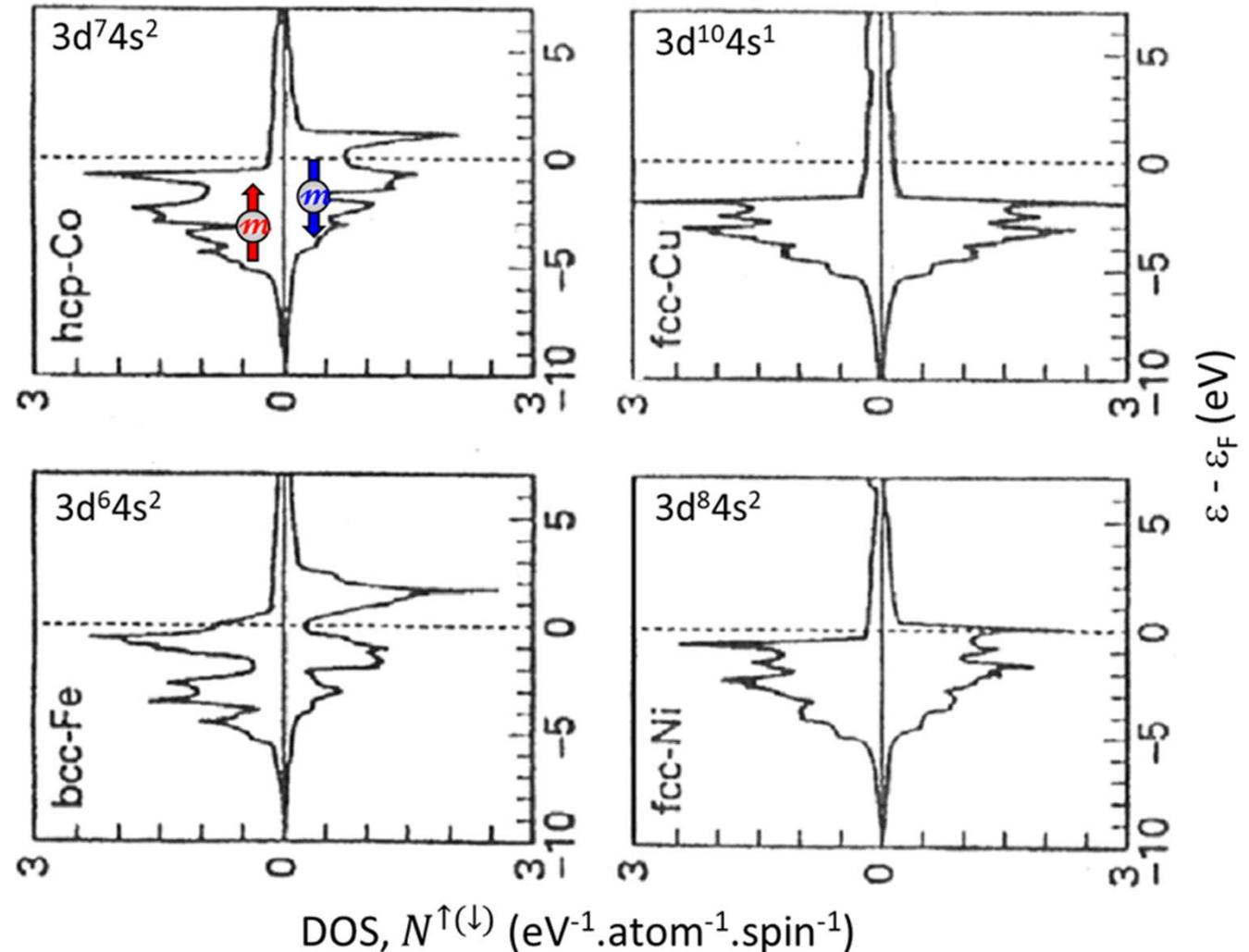


## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 5. Localized vs itinerant ferromagnetism

Partial density of state (DOS) of 3d transition metals  
for majority moment ( $\uparrow$ )-spin( $\downarrow$ ) and minority moment ( $\downarrow$ )-spin( $\uparrow$ ) electrons

DOS = number  
of continuum  
states in an  
infinitesimally  
small energy  
interval  $\varepsilon + d\varepsilon$

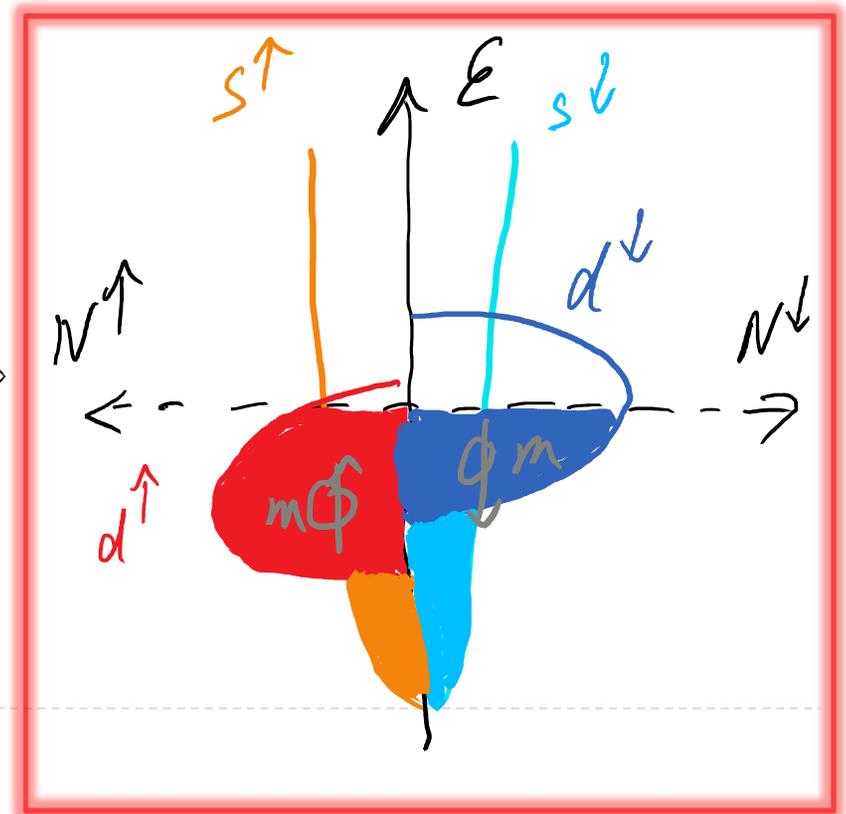
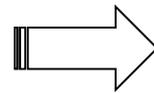
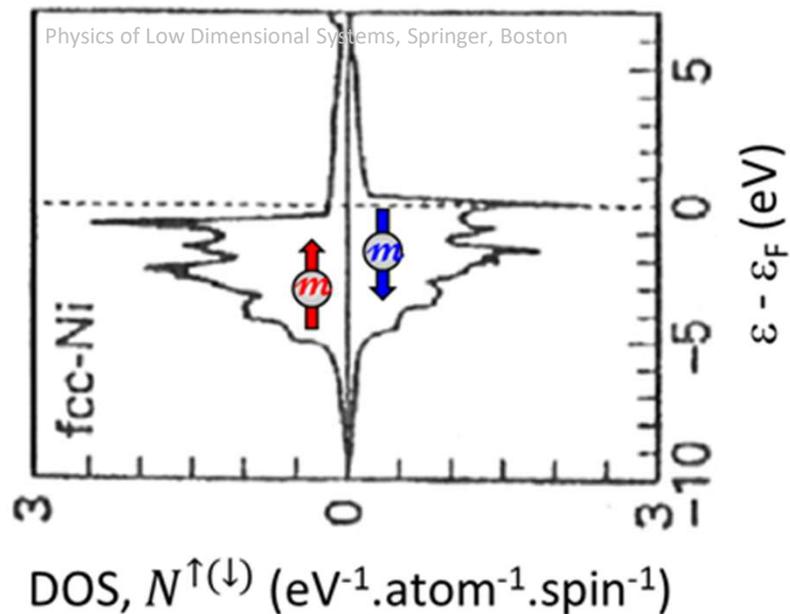


## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 5. Localized vs itinerant ferromagnetism

In transition metals, spins contributing to transport are split in two types:

- localized spins carried by heavy 3d-electrons
- itinerant spins carried by light 4s-electrons



## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

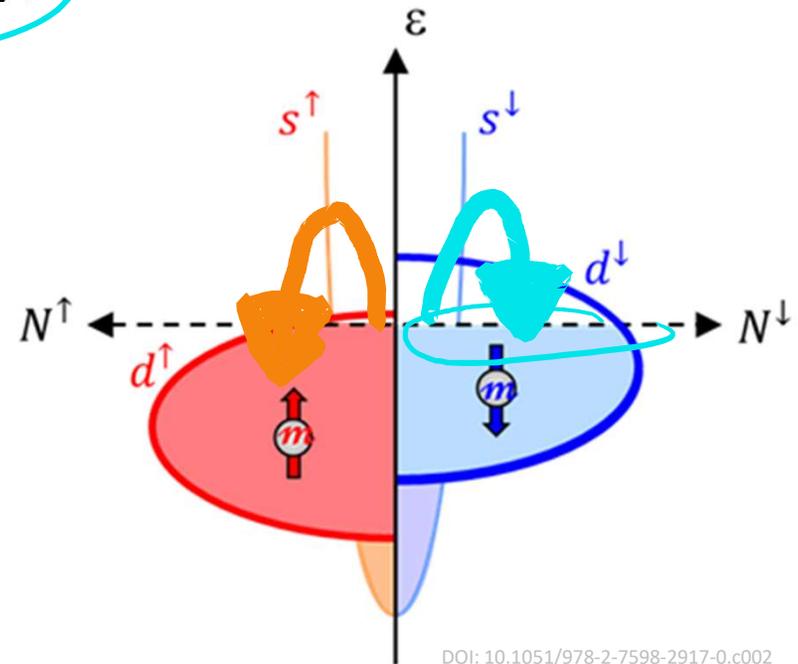
### 6. The two current and s-d models

Elastic scattering between itinerant  $s$ -electrons and localized  $d$ -electrons is considered. This is known as the  $s$ - $d$  model.

Because  $m^*(d) \gg m^*(s)$ ,  $J$  is mostly carried by  $s$ -electrons

Scattering of electrons is determined by  $N^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}(\epsilon_F)$

Fermi's golden rule: .....



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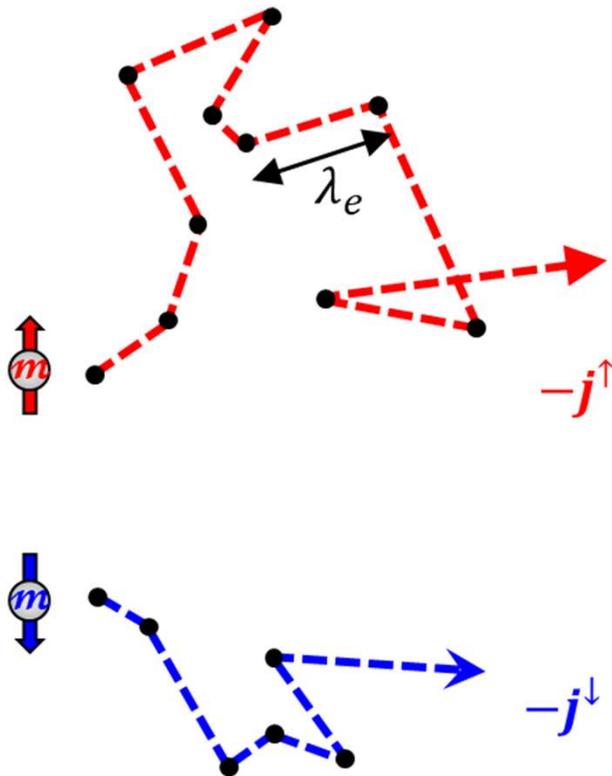
Electronic scattering rate,  $\tau_e$ , is therefore spin-dependent:

$$\tau_e^{\uparrow} > \tau_e^{\downarrow}$$

Example for Co:  $\tau_e^{\uparrow} \approx 10 \tau_e^{\downarrow}$  i.e.  $\lambda_e^{\uparrow} \approx 10 \text{ nm}$  and  $\lambda_e^{\downarrow} \approx 1 \text{ nm}$

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 6. The two current and s-d models



$\tau_e$  is spin-dependent, making  $j^{\uparrow} \neq j^{\downarrow}$

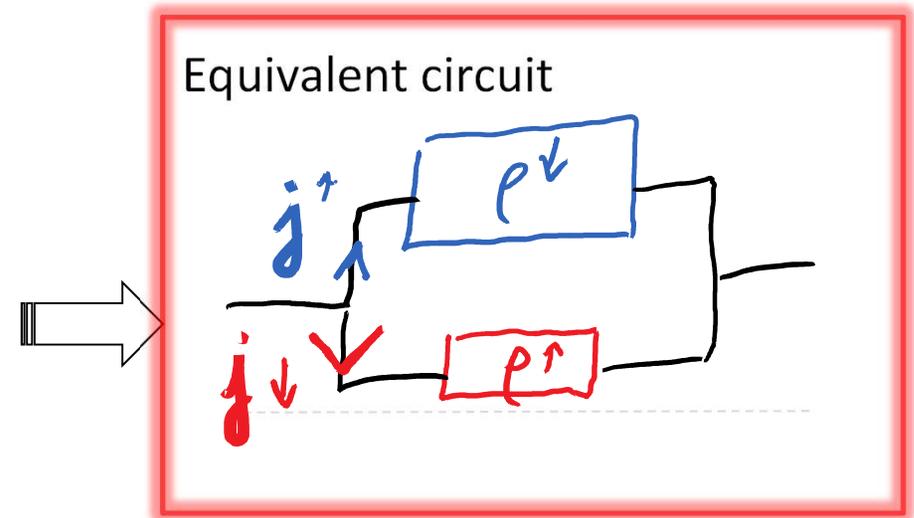
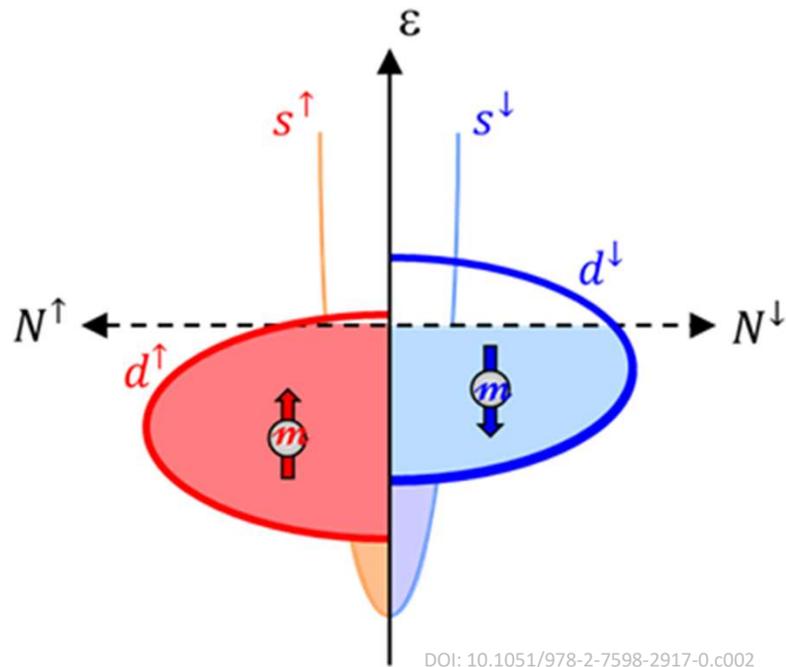
Spin-dependent generalized Ohm's law

$$j^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = \sigma^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} \frac{\nabla \mu^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}}{e}$$

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## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

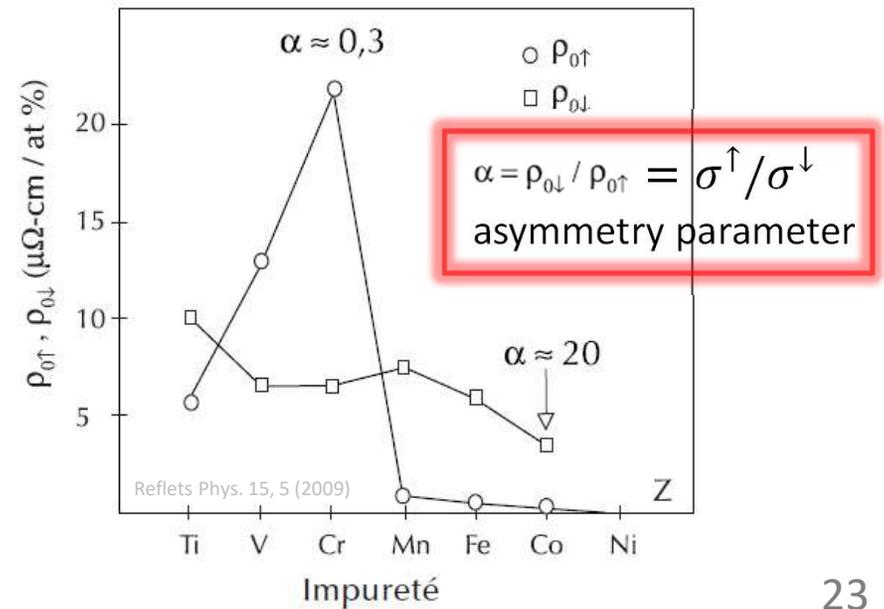
### 6. The two current and s-d models



Spin-dependent generalized Ohm's law

$$\mathbf{j}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = \sigma^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} \frac{\nabla \mu^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}}{e}$$

Some numbers



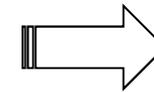
## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 7. From impurity scattering to heterostructures

#### Impurity control over a layer's resistance – the case of a ternary alloy

**Type 1:** e.g. the Ni(Co-Rh) alloy

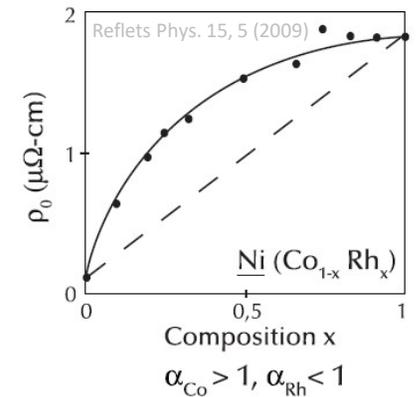
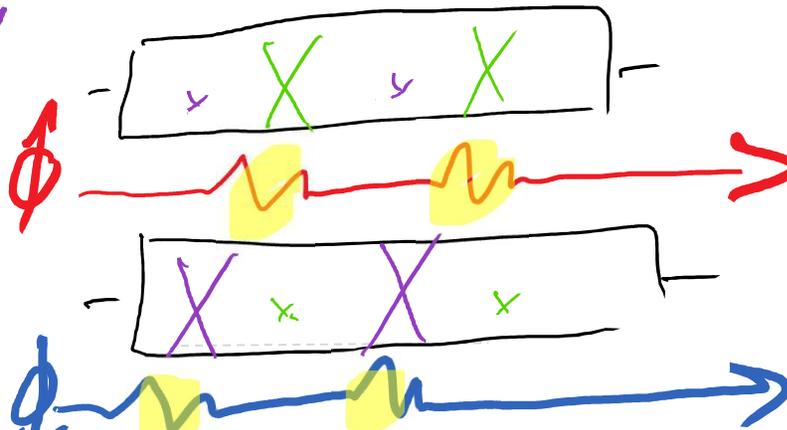
Electrons flow is altered in the two spin-channels



**High resistance**

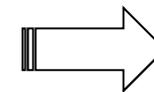
$$\alpha_{Co} = \frac{\rho_{Co}^{\downarrow}}{\rho_{Co}^{\uparrow}} > 1$$

$$\alpha_{Rh} < 1$$



**Type 2:** e.g. the Ni(Au-Co) alloy

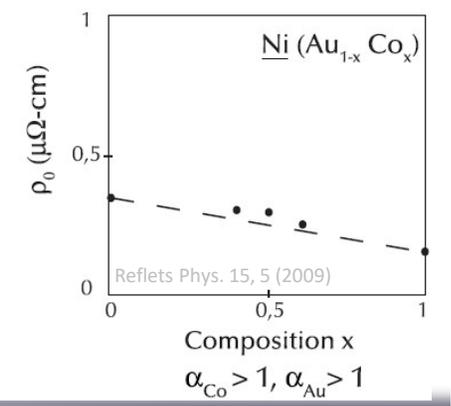
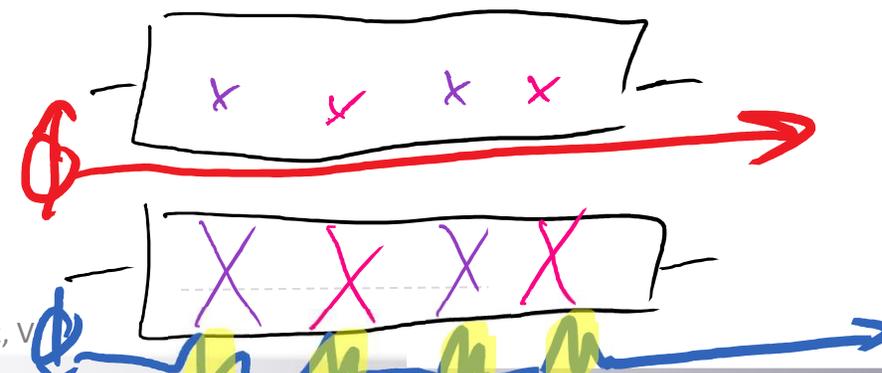
Electrons flow is altered in one spin-channel only



**Low resistance**

$$\alpha_{Co} > 1$$

$$\alpha_{Au} > 1$$



## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

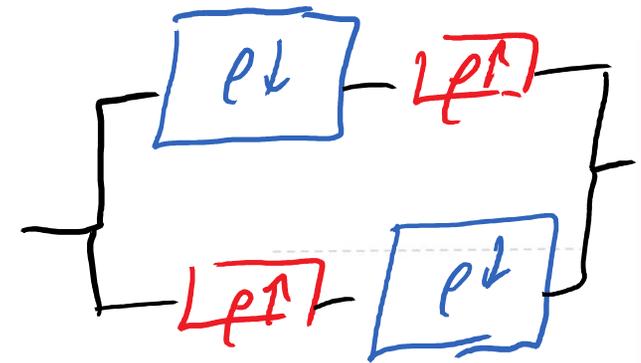
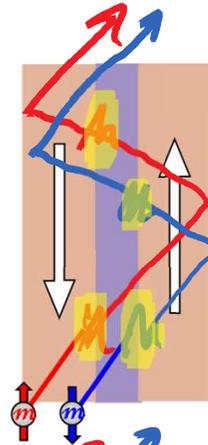
### 7. From impurity scattering to heterostructures

#### Relative direction of magnetization control over a stack's resistance – CIP-GMR

The initial idea underlying the giant magnetoresistance effect (GMR) is to replace the two types of impurities by two ferromagnetic layers (Fs)

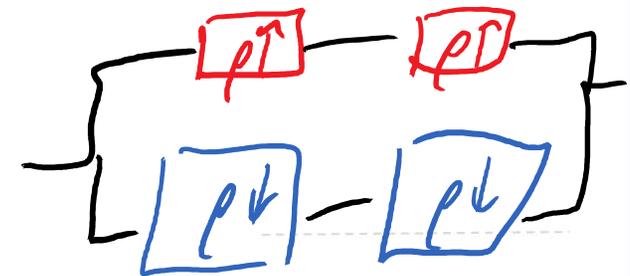
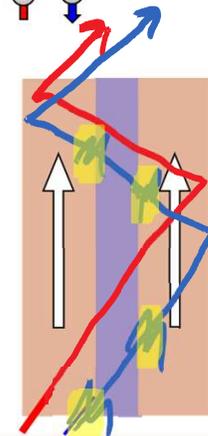
#### **Antiparallel (AP) state = type 1:**

Electrons flow is altered in the two spin-channels



#### **Parallel (P) state = type 2:**

Electrons flow is altered in one spin-channel only

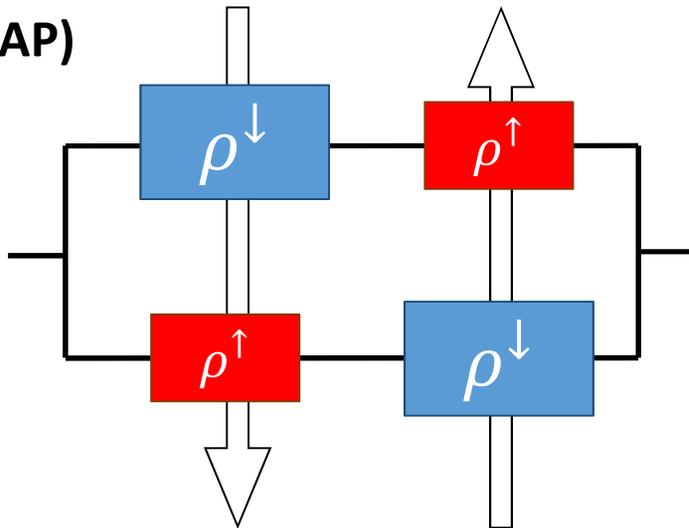


## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 7. From impurity scattering to heterostructures

Equivalent circuits

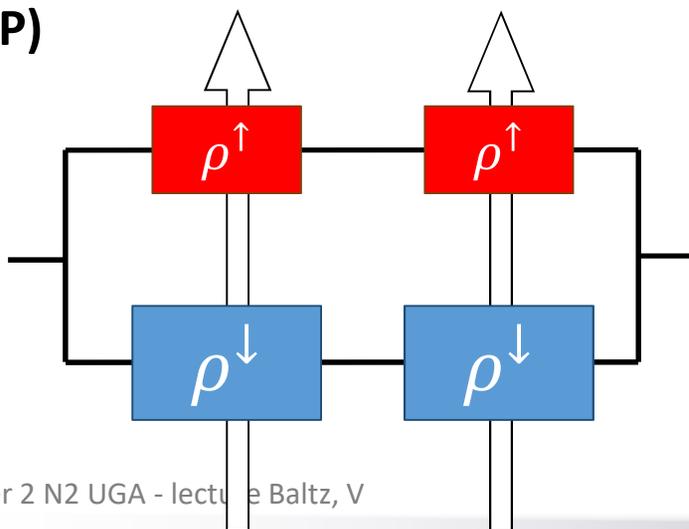
(AP)



$$\rho^{AP} = \frac{\rho^{\uparrow} + \rho^{\downarrow}}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{GMR} = \frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho^{AP}} = \left( \frac{\rho^{\uparrow} - \rho^{\downarrow}}{\rho^{\uparrow} + \rho^{\downarrow}} \right)^2 = \left( \frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha + 1} \right)^2$$

(P)



$$\rho^P = \frac{2\rho^{\uparrow}\rho^{\downarrow}}{\rho^{\uparrow} + \rho^{\downarrow}}$$

with  $\alpha = \frac{\rho^{\downarrow}}{\rho^{\uparrow}}$

asymmetry parameter

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 8. Interlayer exchange coupling (IEC)

---

Notes:

- The relative orientation of the layers' magnetization can for example be controlled by field and spin-torques (see lecture 3).
- An important effect sharing similarities with CIP-GMR is known as the interlayer exchange coupling (IEC) (next set of slides), closely related to Ruderman–Kittel–Kasuya–Yosida (RKKY) interactions between magnetic impurities.

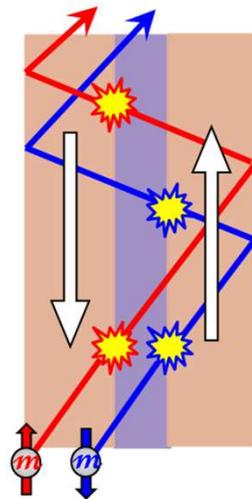
## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 8. Interlayer exchange coupling (IEC)

- GMR: - the thickness of the non-magnetic (N) spacer-layer,  $d_N$  is fixed  
- the relative alignment of the magnetic layers ( $M_1, M_2$ ) is varied by the user (eg with an external magnetic field, a current), leading to a change in resistance

#### Antiparallel (AP) state

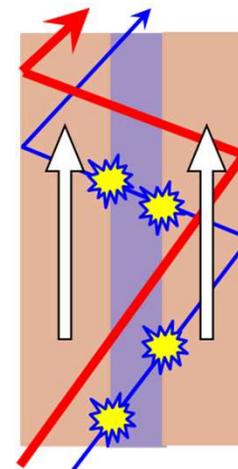
High resistance



Electrons flow is altered in the two spin-channels

#### Parallel (P) state

Low resistance

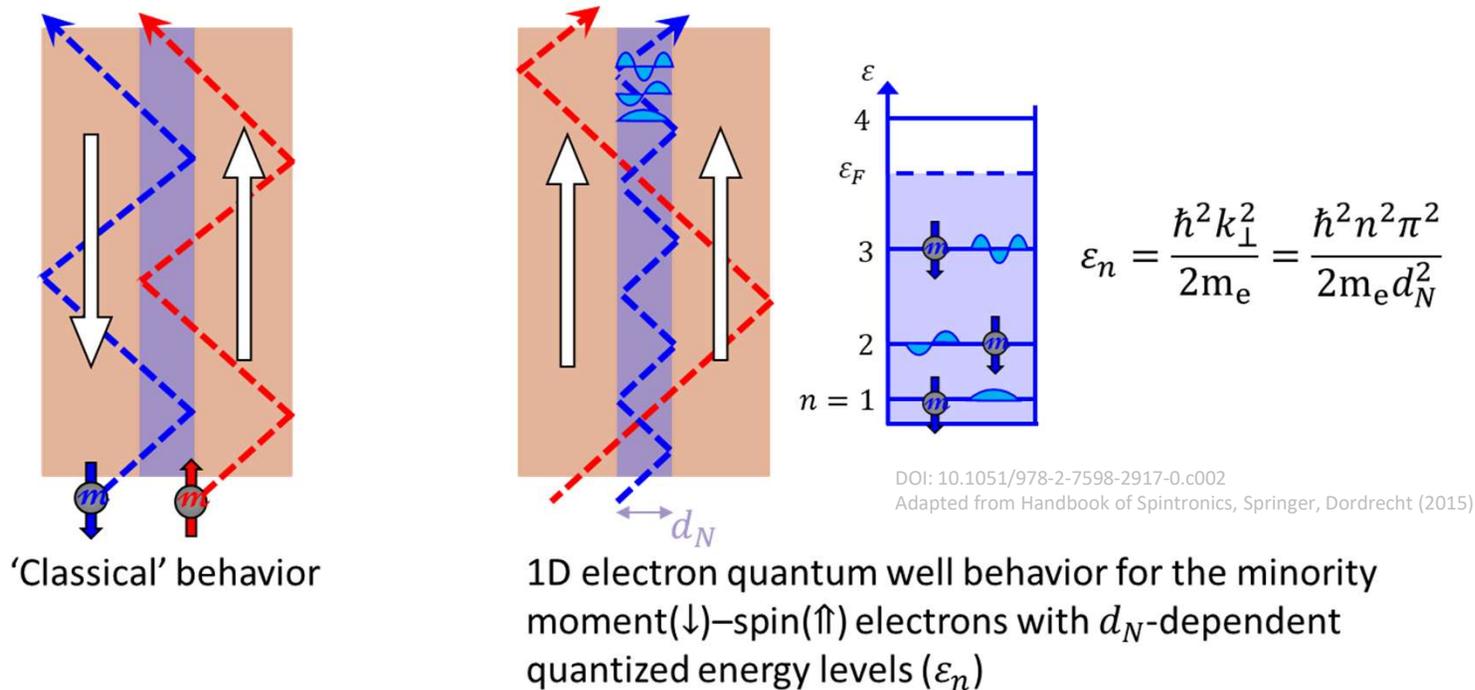


Electrons flow is altered in ~one spin-channel only (the spin down channel)

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 8. Interlayer exchange coupling (IEC)

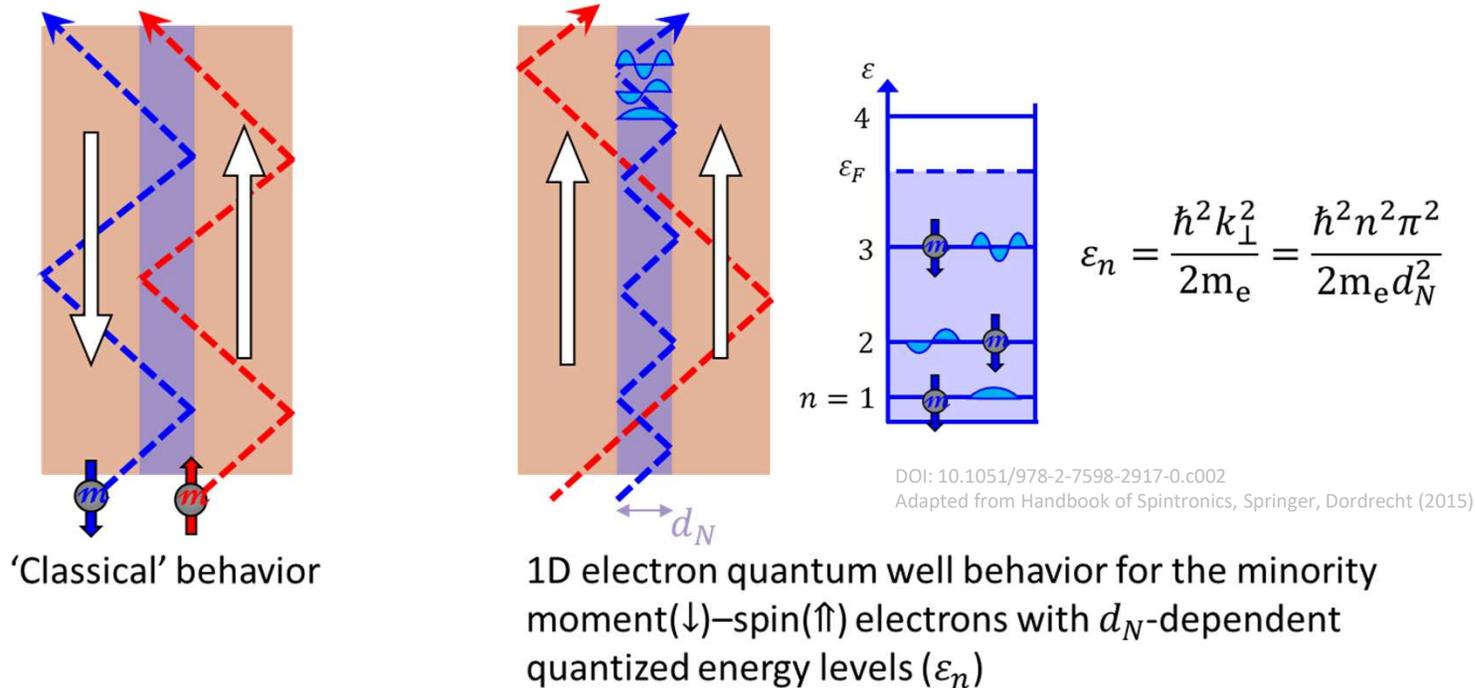
IEC: - the thickness of the non-magnetic (N) spacer-layer,  $d_N$  is varied, directly leading to a change in resistance



## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 8. Interlayer exchange coupling (IEC)

IEC: - the thickness of the non-magnetic (N) spacer-layer,  $d_N$  is varied, directly leading to a change in resistance



'Classical' behavior

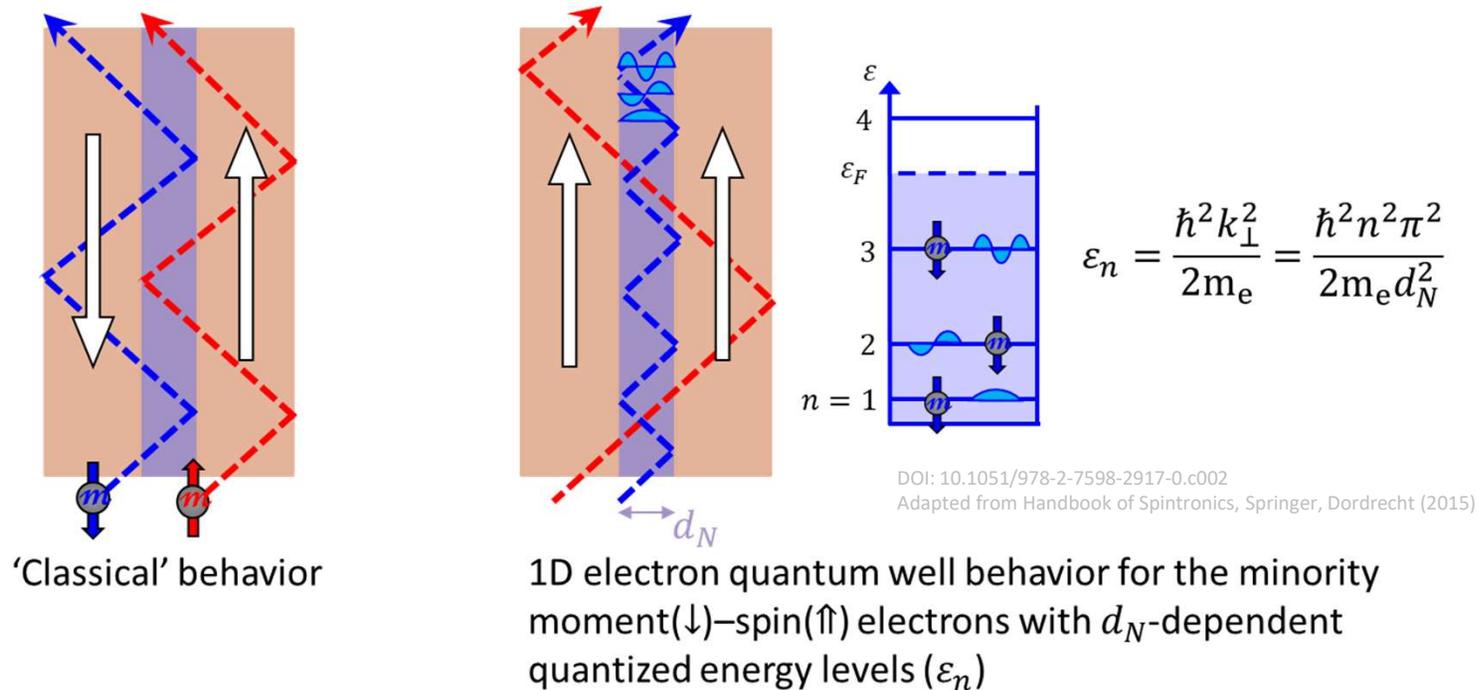
1D electron quantum well behavior for the minority moment( $\downarrow$ )–spin( $\uparrow$ ) electrons with  $d_N$ -dependent quantized energy levels ( $\epsilon_n$ )

'For increasing  $d_N$ , the levels move downward. When a level crosses the Fermi energy  $E_F$ , the QWS is populated, and the total energy increases. When the QWS level moves further below  $E_F$ , the energy again decreases until the next level approaches  $E_F$ .'

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 8. Interlayer exchange coupling (IEC)

IEC: - the thickness of the non-magnetic (N) spacer-layer,  $d_N$  is varied, directly leading to a change in resistance



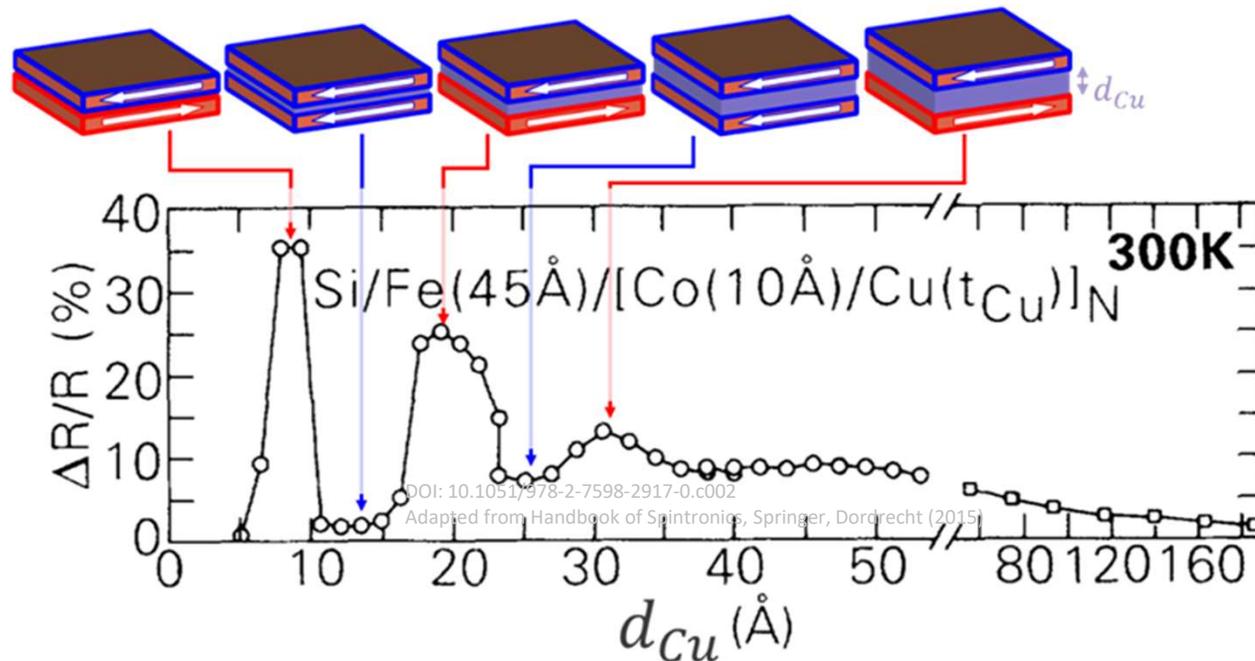
Thus, for the P alignment, the energy oscillates with  $d_N$ .

In contrast, for the AP alignment (no QWS) the energy stays still.

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 8. Interlayer exchange coupling (IEC)

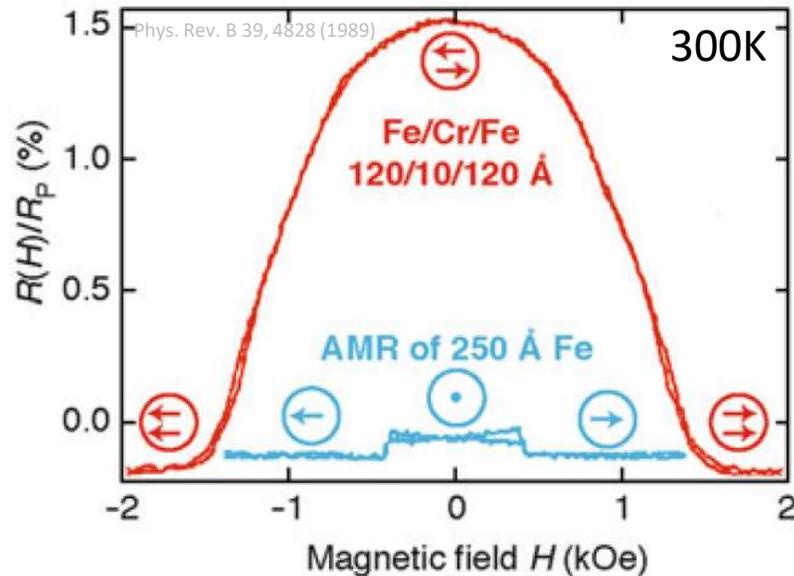
To always take the configuration with the lowest energy, the alignment switches between P and AP when  $d_N$  increases, and hence the coupling oscillates between + and – and the GMR oscillates between high and low R.



## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

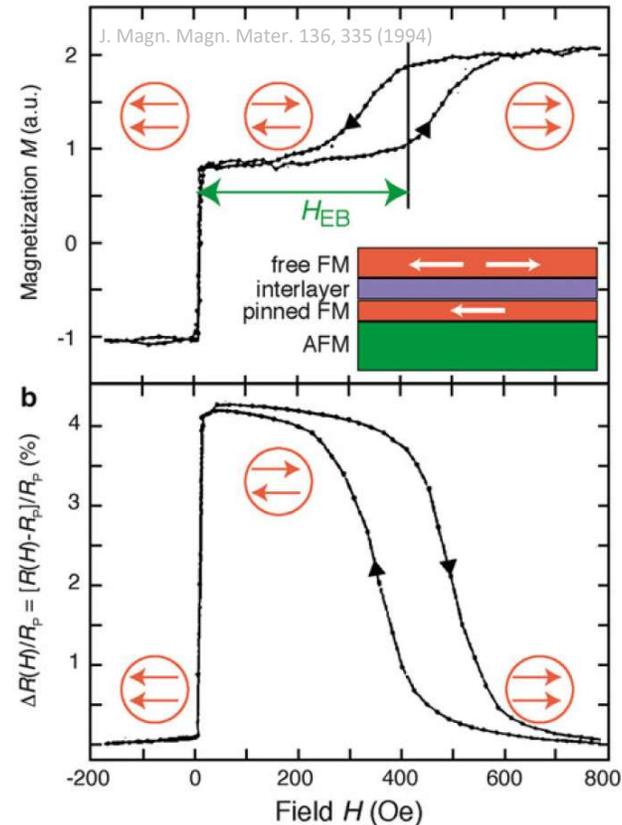
9. Numbers

Some numbers



CIP-GMR, 1<sup>st</sup> experiments (1988-1989)

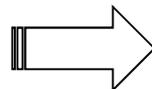
A. Fert and P. Grünberg  
Nobel Prize 2007



Spin-valve, 1<sup>st</sup> experiment (1991)

see lecture 2 for CPP-GMR,  
typical best values for GMR: few 10<sup>th</sup> of % at 300K  
(see M1 for TMR of few 100<sup>th</sup> of %)

Several billions of sensors,  
e. g. in hard disk drives



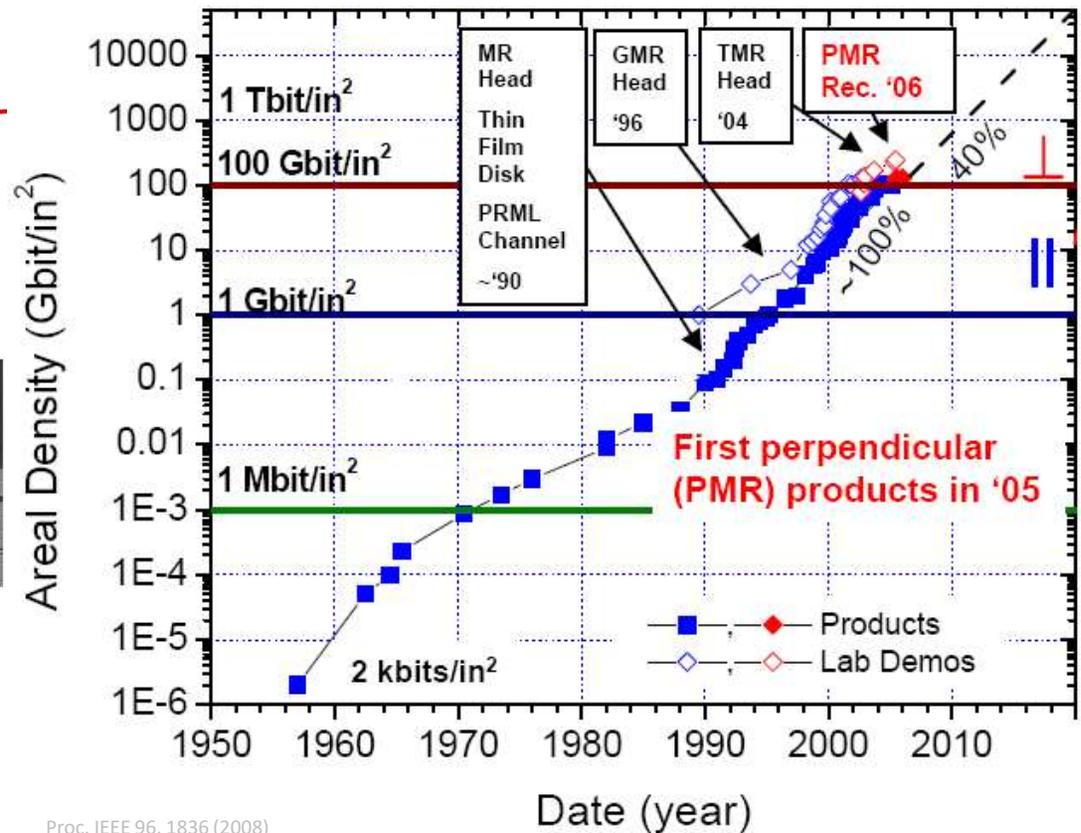
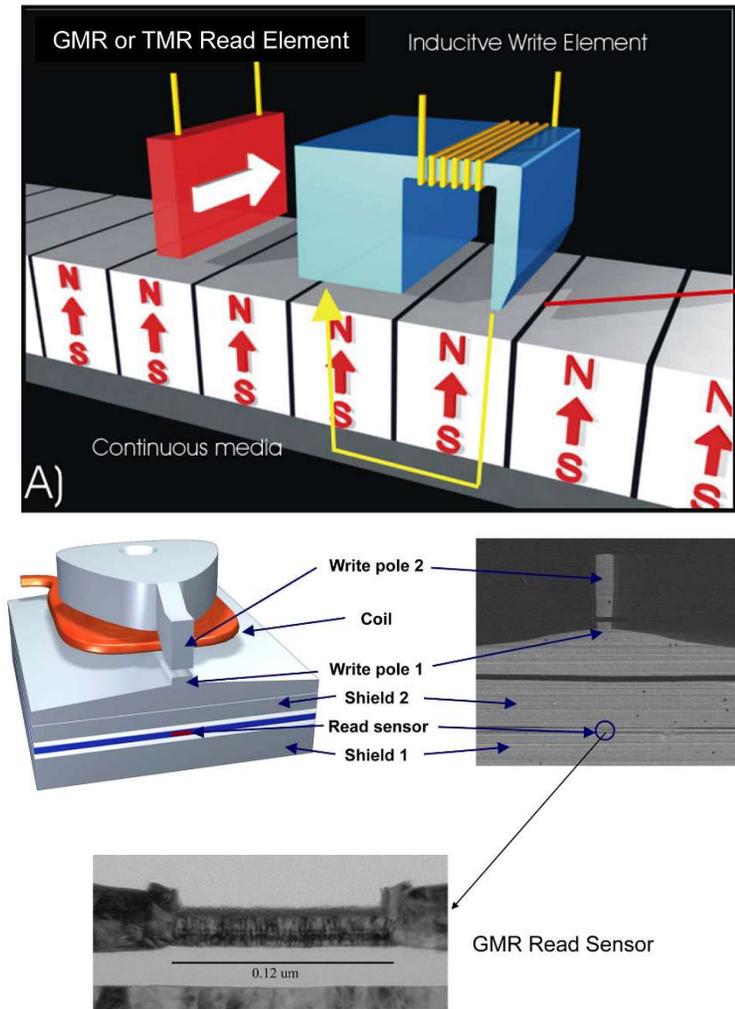
Note:

- Remember that the important characteristic length in CIP-GMR is the (spin-dependent) electron mean free path ( $\lambda_e^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}$ ), as opposed to current perpendicular-to-plane (CPP)-GMR, where spin diffusion length ( $l_{sf}^*$ ) is the one to consider (see lecture 2), with  $l_{sf}^* > \lambda_e$ .

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

9. Numbers

The example of MR in read-heads of hard-disk drives for data storage

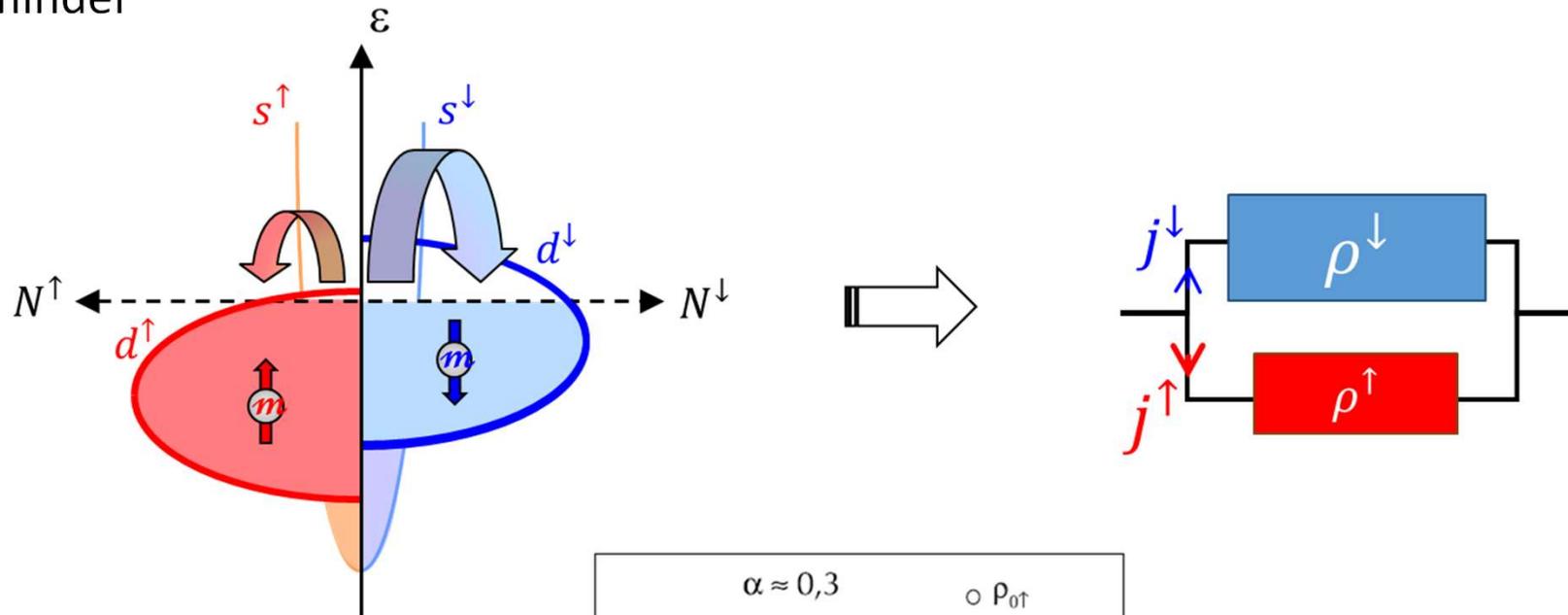


Proc. IEEE 96, 1836 (2008)

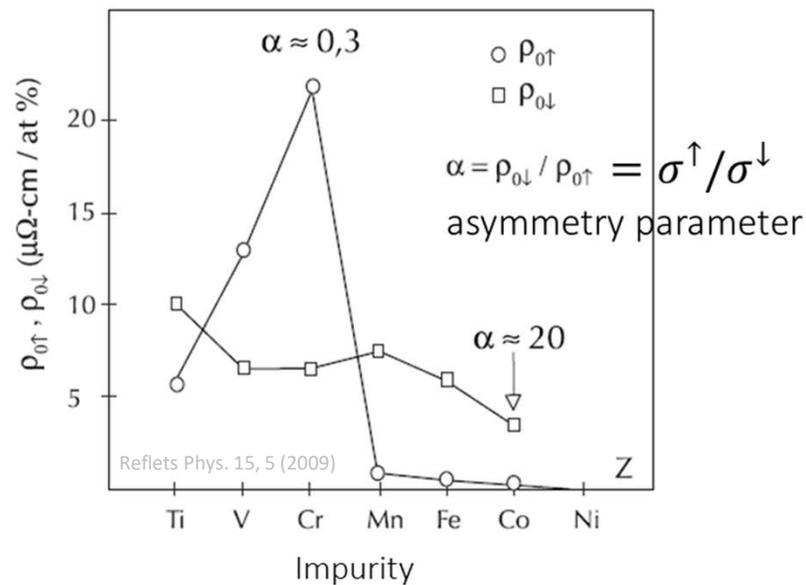
## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 10. Spin mixing and spin-orbit interactions

Reminder



DOI: 10.1051/978-2-7598-2917-0.c002

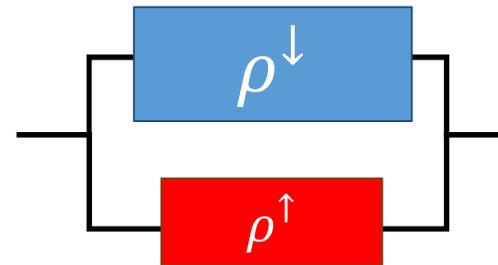


## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 10. Spin mixing and spin-orbit interactions

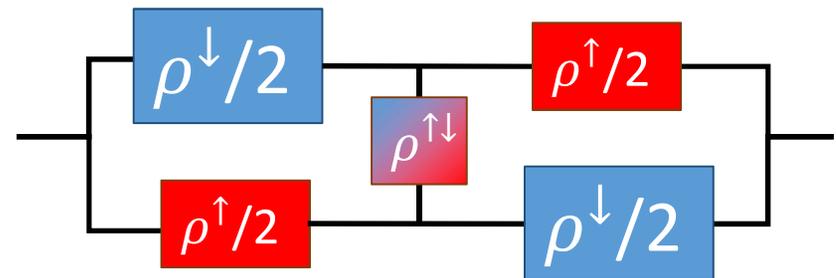
No mixing between the two spin-channels

$$\rho = \frac{\rho^{\uparrow} \rho^{\downarrow}}{\rho^{\uparrow} + \rho^{\downarrow}}$$



Mixing between the two spin-channels,  $\rho^{\uparrow\downarrow}$ ,  
e.g. due to spin-orbit interactions

$$\rho = \frac{\rho^{\uparrow} \rho^{\downarrow} + \rho^{\uparrow\downarrow} (\rho^{\uparrow} + \rho^{\downarrow})}{\rho^{\uparrow} + \rho^{\downarrow} + 4\rho^{\uparrow\downarrow}}$$



## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 10. Spin mixing and spin-orbit interactions

Spin-orbit interaction couples the spin,  $\mathbf{S}$ , and the orbital,  $\mathbf{L}$ , angular momentum of an electron. In  $3d$  transition metals, this results in:

- a lift of the degeneracy of the energy states of majority- and minority-spins
- a 'mix/reorientation' of the  $d$  orbitals ( $l = 2; m_l = -2, -1, 0, +1, +2$ )

$$H = \xi_{SO} \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S}$$

with  $\mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S} = L_x S_x + L_y S_y + L_z S_z = L_z S_z + \frac{1}{2} (L^+ S^- + L^- S^+)$

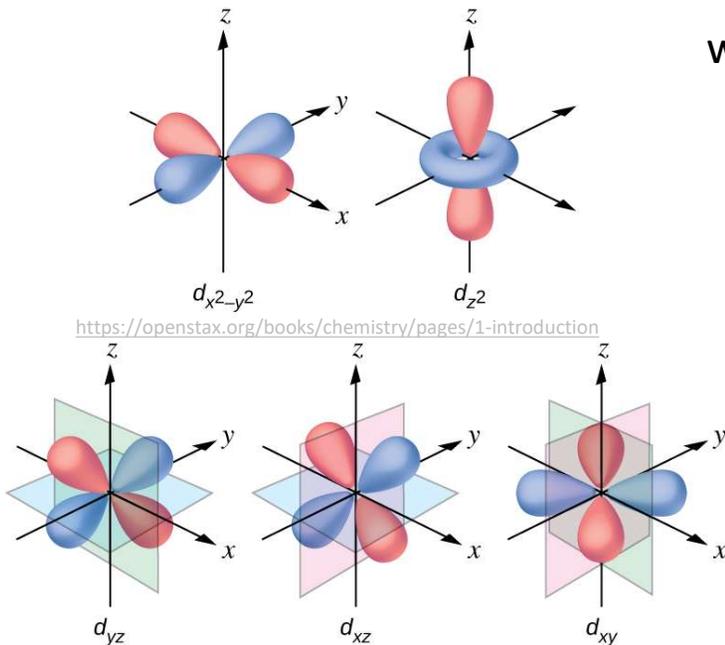
The ladder operators depend on the quantum numbers as follows:

$$\mathbf{L}^{+(-)} |l, m_l\rangle = \sqrt{l(l+1) - m_l(m_l \pm 1)} \hbar |l, m_l \pm 1\rangle$$

$$\mathbf{S}^{+(-)} |s, m_s\rangle = \hbar |s, m_s \pm 1\rangle$$

$$3d^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}(m_l) \rightarrow 3d^{\downarrow(\uparrow)}(m_l \pm 1)$$

Numbers:  $\xi_{SO} \sim 1$  meV in Ni

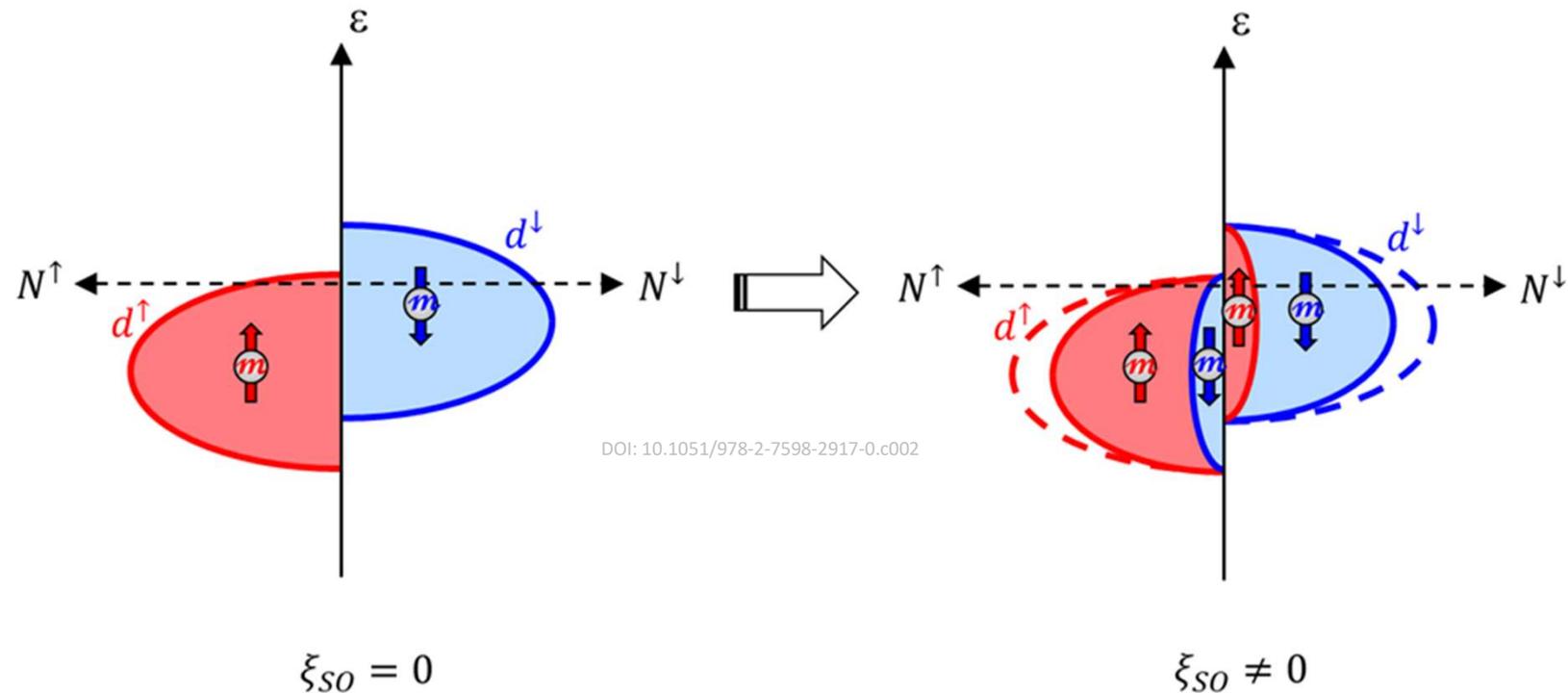


## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 10. Spin mixing and spin-orbit interactions

Partial density of state (DOS) of  $3d$  transition metals

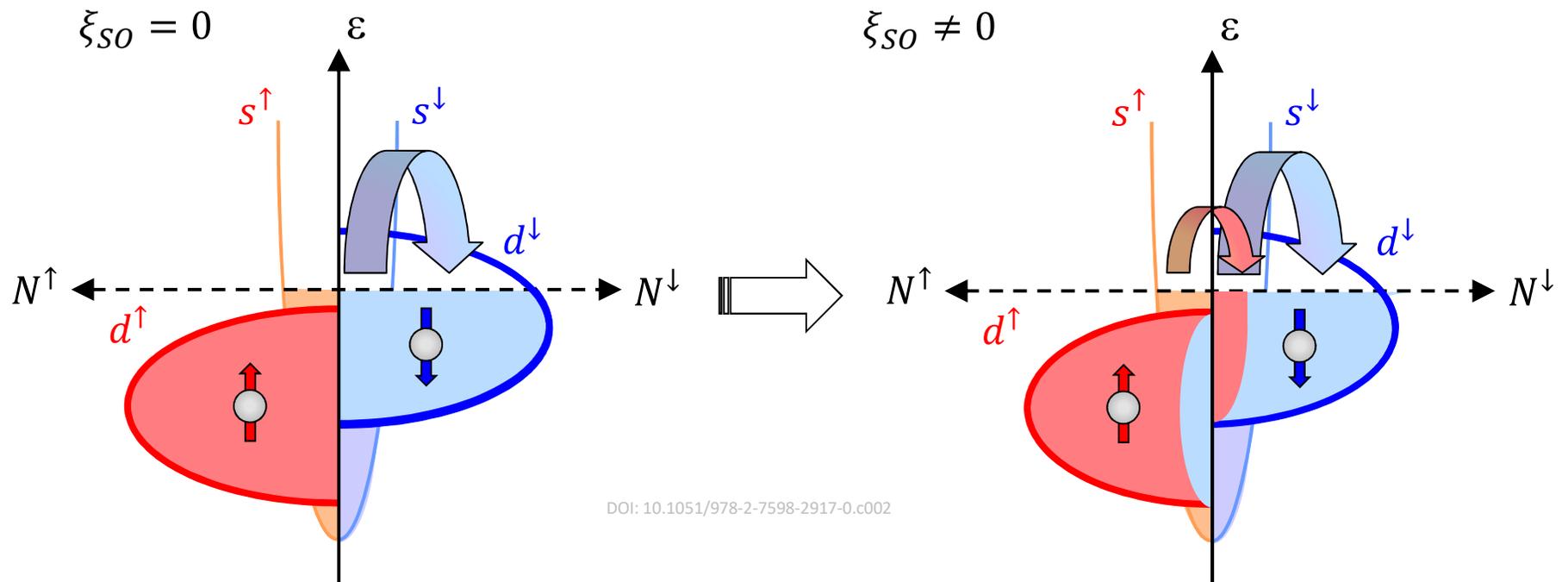
for majority moment ( $\uparrow$ )-spin( $\downarrow$ ) and minority moment ( $\downarrow$ )-spin( $\uparrow$ ) electrons



Simplistic illustration of mixing of  $d$ -bands due to spin-orbit interactions. The majority moment ( $\uparrow$ )-spin( $\downarrow$ )  $d$ -band acquires a minority moment ( $\downarrow$ )-spin( $\uparrow$ ) character and vice versa.

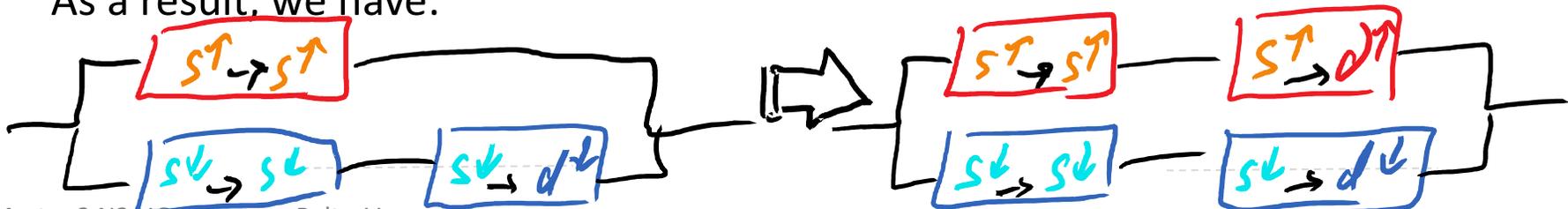
## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 10. Spin mixing and spin-orbit interactions



Mixing of d-bands modifies the spin dependent scattering rates, as it opens a new channel for scattering  $s^\uparrow \rightarrow d^\uparrow$

As a result, we have:



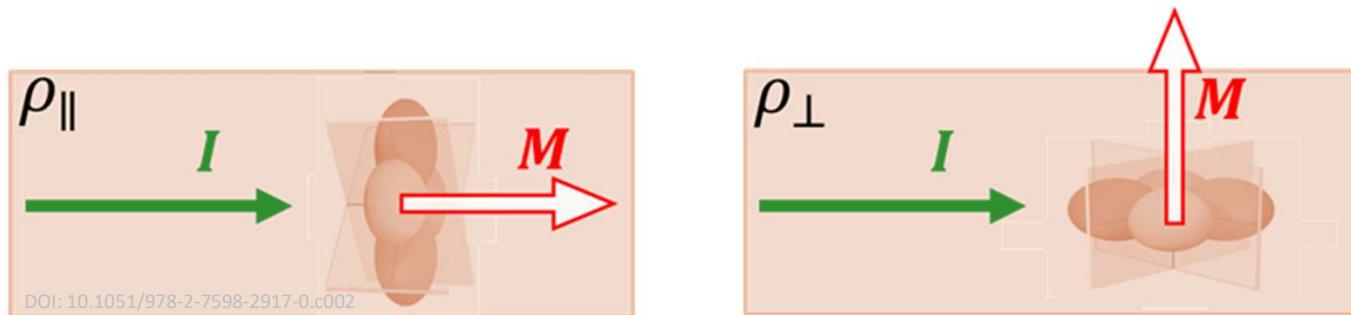
## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 11. The example of anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR)

Spin-orbit interactions will depend on the direction of the angular momentum of  $s$ -electrons (parallel to the wavevector  $\hbar\mathbf{k}$ ) relative to that of the  $d$ -electrons (parallel to  $\mathbf{M}$ ).

Phenomenological picture:

- $I \parallel \mathbf{M}$  : the electronic orbits are  $\perp$  to  $I$ , offering a large cross section for the  $s$ -electrons to scatter (high resistivity,  $\rho_{\parallel}$ )
- when  $I \perp \mathbf{M}$  : the electronic orbits are  $\parallel$  to  $I$  and thus offer a smaller cross section for scattering (low resistivity,  $\rho_{\perp}$ ).

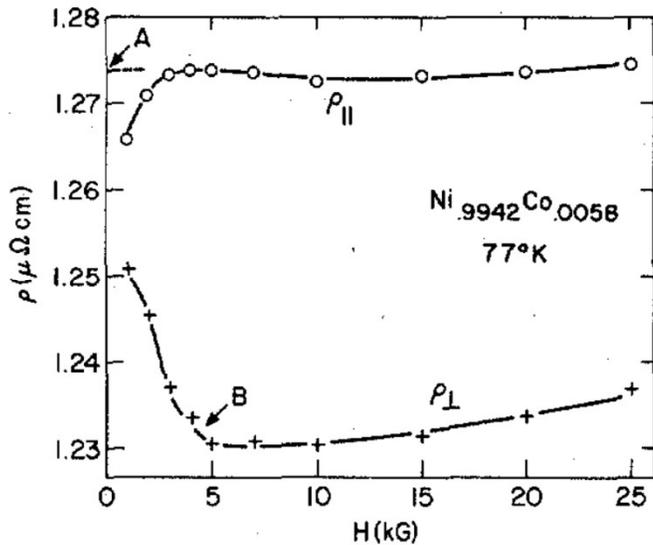


This is known as the anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR) effect. It was demonstrated experimentally by W. Thomson (Lord Kelvin) in 1857 and explained theoretically e. g. by the Campbell, Fert and Jaoul model (CFJ) in 1970.

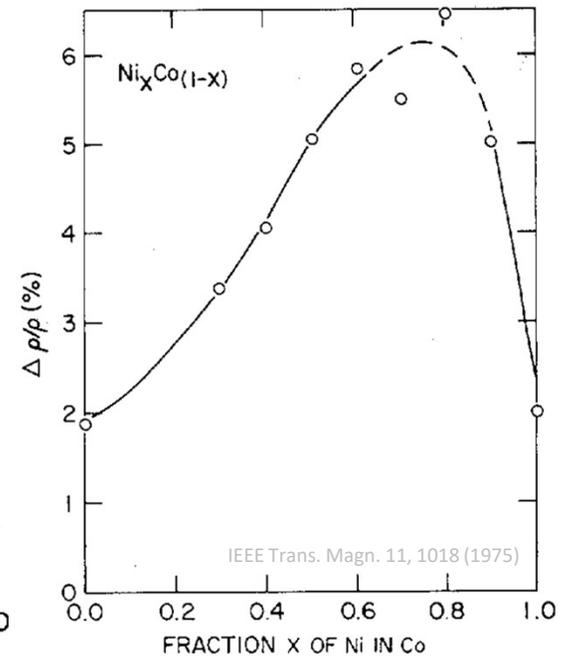
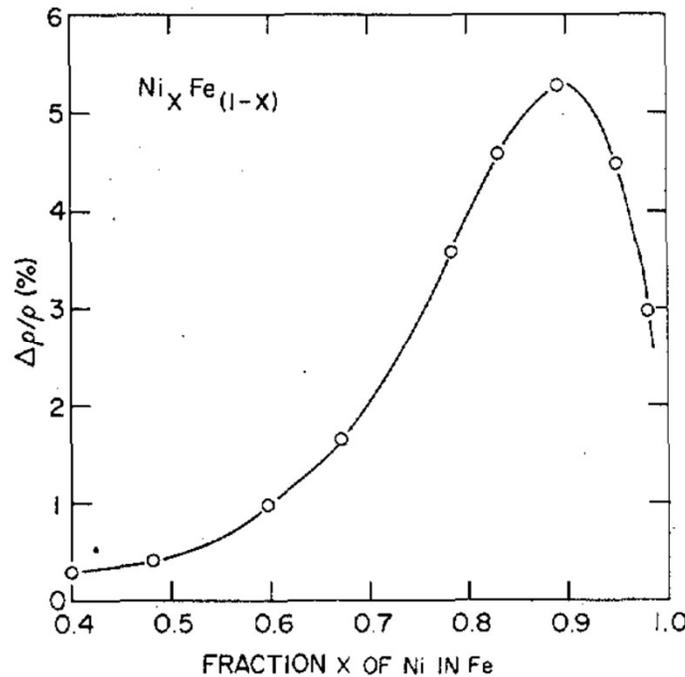
## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

### 11. The example of anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR)

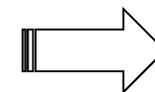
Some numbers



Note:  $\rho^{\uparrow\downarrow} \sim 10 \mu\Omega\text{ cm}$  in Ni and Fe



Angular dependence of AMR, cf. Exercise 1



Billions of sensors

## II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR

### 12. Conclusion

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- **Models and their degree of ‘Quantumness’**
  - Phenomenological vs. classical vs  $\frac{1}{2}$ classical vs quantum
- **Electronic transport**
  - Drude, Band structures, DOS and Fermi level
- **Electronic spin-dependent transport**
  - The two current / s-d models and spin-dependent relaxation (electron mean free path )
  - Spin-orbit interactions and spin mixing, the example of the AMR effect
  - Spin-dependent scattering in heterostructures, the example of the CIP-GMR effect
- **References:**
  - A. Fert, *Reflcts Phys.* **15**, 5 (2009) and references therein
  - P. S. Bechtold **B7**, in S. Blügel *et al* (eds) *Spintronics - from GMR to quantum information* (2009)
  - P. Grünberg *et al*, *Metallic Multilayers*, in Y. Xu Y. *et al* (eds) *Handbook of Spintronics*, Springer (2015)
  - AMR, CFJ model: I. A. Campbell *et al*, *J. Phys. C: Solid State Phys.* **3**, S95 (1970)
  - AMR, a review: T. R. McGuire *et al*, *IEEE Trans. Magn.* **11**, 1018 (1975)
  - CIP-GMR: M. N. Baibich *et al*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **61**, 2472 (1988), G. Binasch *et al*, *Phys. Rev. B* **39**, 4828 (1989)
  - Spin-valve: B. Dieny, *J. Magn. Mater.* **136**, 335 (1994)
  - MR in HDDs: E. Dobisz *et al*, *Proc. IEEE* **96**, 1836 (2008)

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# Lectures on spintronics

Master 2 Univ. Grenoble Alpes

Vincent Baltz

CNRS Researcher at SPINTEC

Lecture 1	–	04 Dec.
Lecture 2	–	07 Dec.
Lecture 3	–	11 Dec.
Lecture 4	–	14 Dec.
Exercises 1 & 2	–	21 Dec.



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- 1h30
- I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications
  - II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

1h30

**III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR**

- 1h30
- IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

- 1h30
- VI. Brief non-exhaustive introduction to current topics

1h30

Exercise 1 - Anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR)

Exercise 2 – The spin pumping (SP) and inverse spin Hall effects (ISHE)

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## III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 0. Characteristic lengths, Extended Drude model, notion of electrochemical potential

Electron mean free path

$$\lambda_e = v_F \tau_e$$

Spin-flip length

$$l_{sf} = v_F \tau_{sf}$$

Spin-diffusion length (geometrical mean)

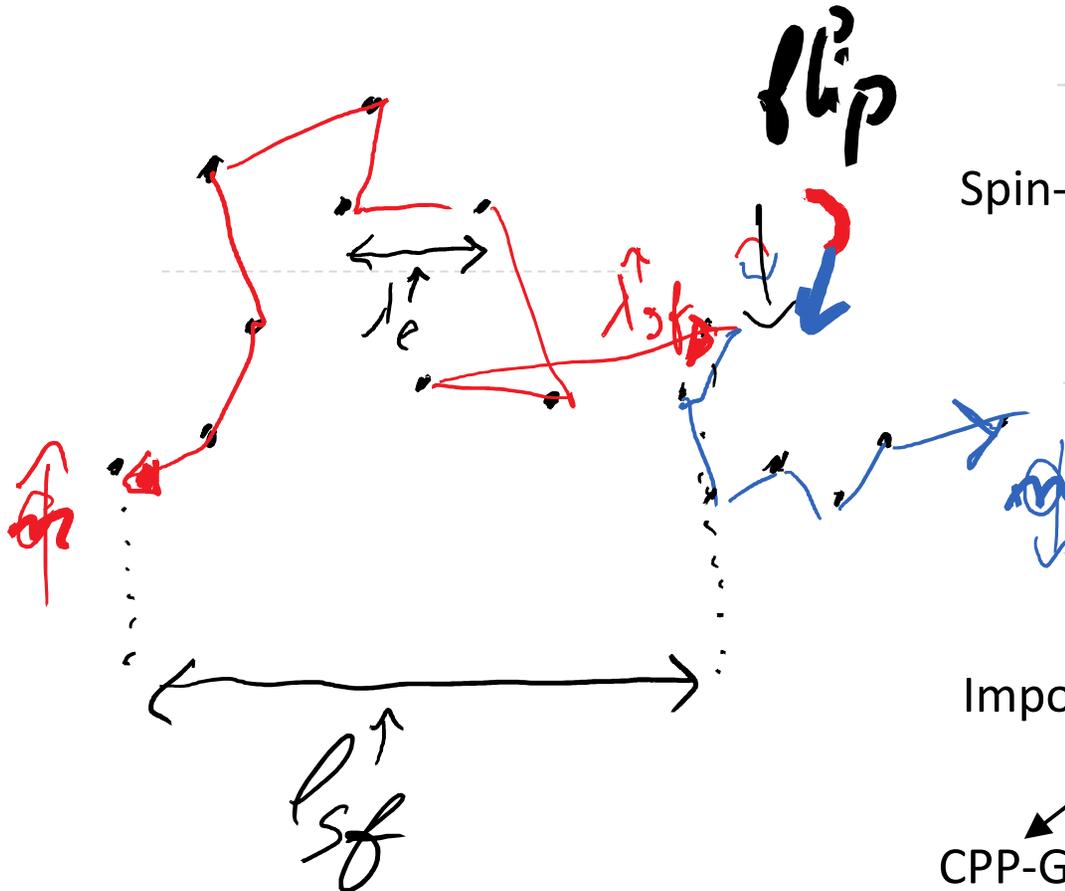
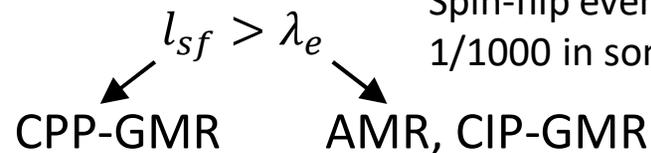
$$l_{sf} = \sqrt{D \tau_{sf}} \uparrow \text{Einstein relation}$$

$$\text{with } D = \frac{1}{3} v_F \lambda_e \text{ Fick}$$

$$\Rightarrow l_{sf} = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_e l_{sf}}{3}}$$

Important note

Spin-flip events are scarce:  
1/1000 in some non-magnets



### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 0. Characteristic lengths, Extended Drude model, notion of electrochemical potential

Spin-dependent electron mean free path

$$\lambda_e^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = \sqrt{3D^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}\tau_e^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}}$$

Spin-dependent spin-diffusion length

$$l_{sf}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = \sqrt{D^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}\tau_{sf}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}}$$

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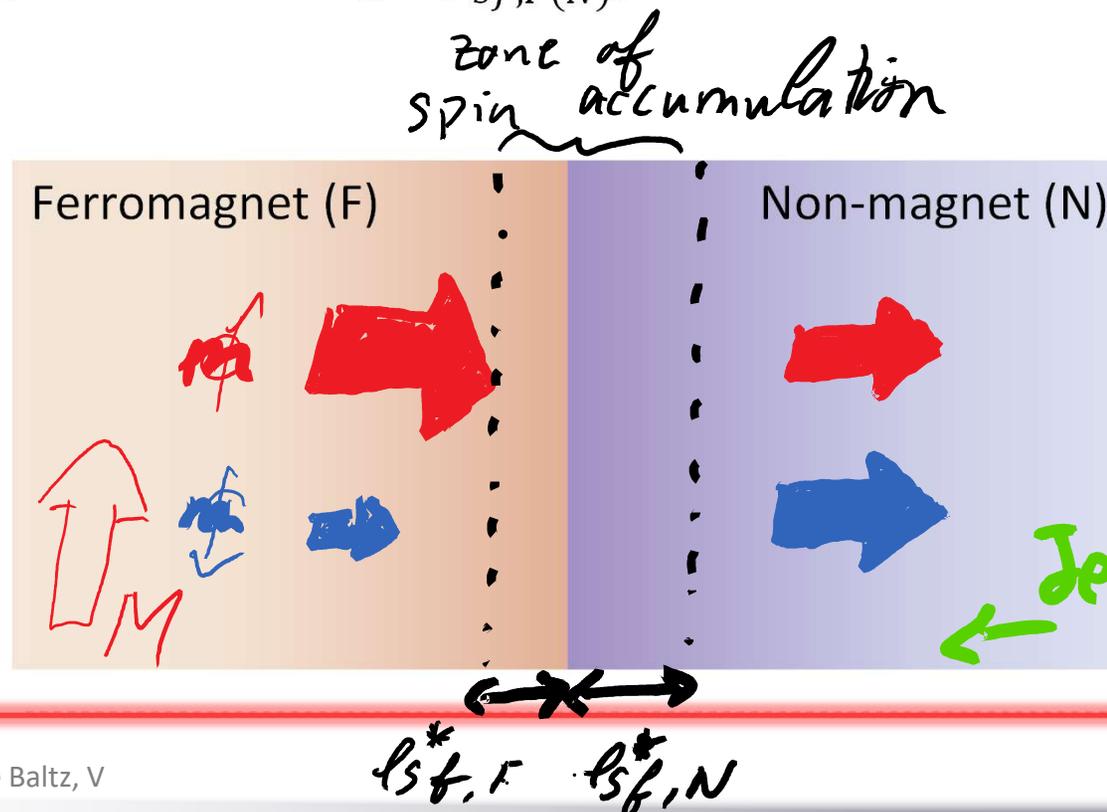
### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 1. Spin accumulation at a single interface

Distinct densities of current at the interface between materials of different types (e.g. F and NM) creates a spin imbalance.

This effect is called spin accumulation.

Relaxation towards equilibrium conditions causes spins to diffuse near the interface. The *average* spin-diffusion length ( $l_{sf,F(N)}^*$ ) is the characteristic length for this effect.



### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 1. Spin accumulation at a single interface

Drude model of electronic transport

$$\mathbf{j} = \sigma \mathbf{E} \quad \text{with} \quad \sigma = \frac{N(\varepsilon_F) e^2 \tau_e}{m_e} = N(\varepsilon_F) e^2 D$$

$$\mathbf{j} = \sigma \frac{\nabla \mu_e}{e} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{E} = -\nabla V \quad \text{electric potential}$$

and  $\mu_e = -eV$  electrostatic potential

Drift-diffusion and generalized Ohm's law

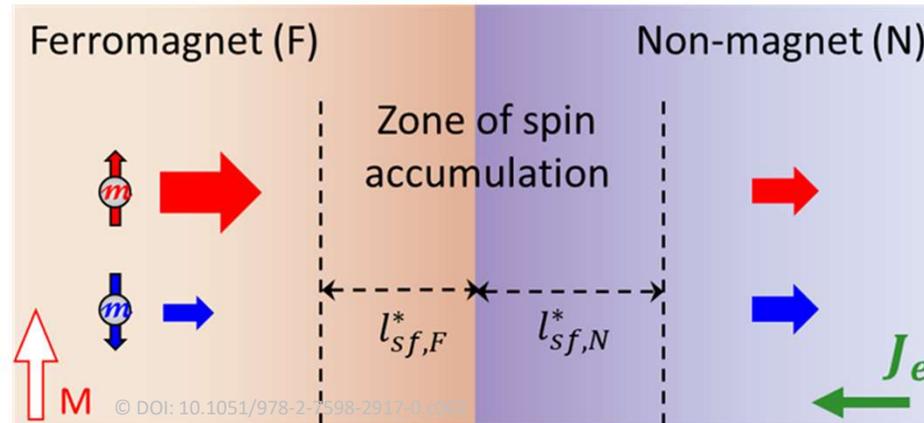
$$\mathbf{j} = \sigma \frac{\nabla \mu}{e} \quad \text{where } \mu = \mu_e + \mu_n \text{ is the electrochemical potential}$$

and  $\mu_n = \mu_{n0} + \frac{e^2 D}{6} \delta n$  is the chemical potential

at equilibrium  $= \frac{\delta n}{N(\varepsilon_F)}$  ← excess particle density

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 1. Spin accumulation at a single interface



In the next slides, we will explain how to determine:

- the spin imbalance:  $\mu_s = -(\mu^\uparrow - \mu^\downarrow)$
- the spin current:  $J_s = -(\mathbf{j}^\uparrow - \mathbf{j}^\downarrow)$

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

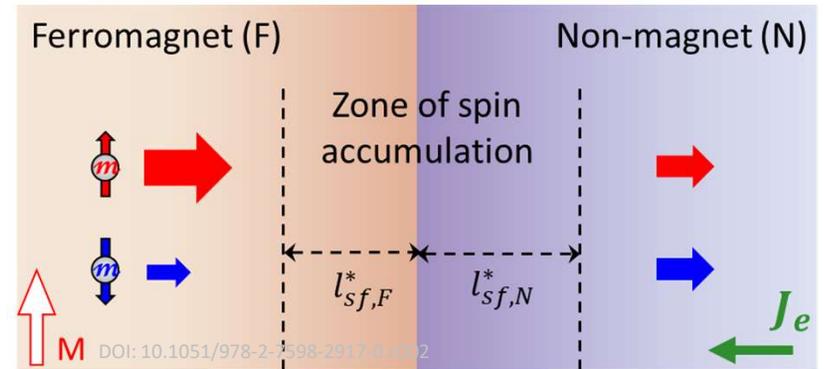
#### 1. Spin accumulation at a single interface

(1) Reminder: Ohm's law

$$j_{F,N}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = \sigma_{F,N}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} \frac{\nabla_{F,N}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}}{e}$$

4 equations

$$\text{with } \mu_{F,N}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = \frac{e^2 D_{F,N}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}}{\sigma_{F,N}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}} j_{F,N}^{\downarrow(\uparrow)}$$



(drift is omitted to facilitate reading)

(2) Charge (e) and spin (s) current

(F,N subscripts omitted here and in the next slide, to facilitate reading)

$$J_e = j^{\uparrow} + j^{\downarrow}$$

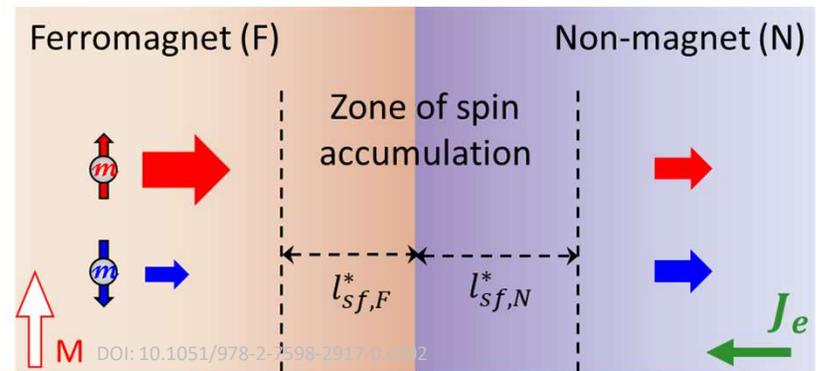
$$J_s = -(j^{\uparrow} - j^{\downarrow})$$

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 1. Spin accumulation at a single interface

(3) Charge conservation:

$$\nabla \cdot J_e = 0 \quad \nabla \cdot \equiv \text{div}$$



(4) Total angular momentum conservation:

'Nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed' (Antoine Lavoisier)

any loss in spin current must be due to spin-flips

$$\nabla \cdot J_s = -e \left( \frac{\delta n^{\uparrow}}{l_{sf}^{\uparrow}} - \frac{\delta n^{\downarrow}}{l_{sf}^{\downarrow}} \right)$$

Note: the flux of angular momentum current is not conservative, however total angular momentum is conserved.

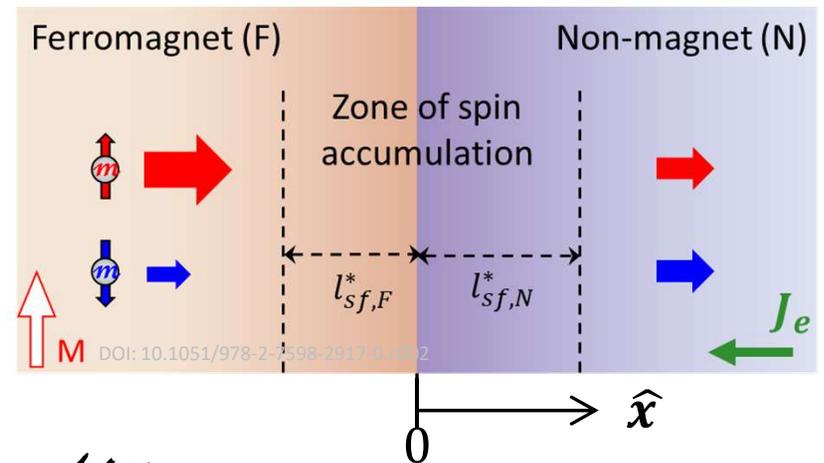
(5) Using Eqs. (1) to (4), it is possible to show that CPP transport at an heterogeneous interface is governed by a simple diffusion equation describing spin accumulation or chemical potential imbalance

$$\nabla^2 \mu_s - \frac{\mu_s}{l_{sf}^2} = 0$$

where  $l_{sf}^*$  can be viewed as an average spin-diffusion length:  $\frac{1}{l_{sf}^2} = \frac{1}{l_{sf}^{\uparrow 2}} + \frac{1}{l_{sf}^{\downarrow 2}}$

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 1. Spin accumulation at a single interface



(6) In a 1D problem, the solutions of Eq. (5) take the following form:

$$\mu_{s, F(N)}(x) = A_{F(N)} e^{x/l_{sf, F(N)}^*} + B_{F(N)} e^{-x/l_{sf, F(N)}^*}$$

*2 Equations*

(7) Boundary conditions for infinite layers:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -(\pm)\infty} \mu_{s, F(N)} = 0$$

(8) Continuity of  $\mu_s$  and  $J_s$  across the interface:

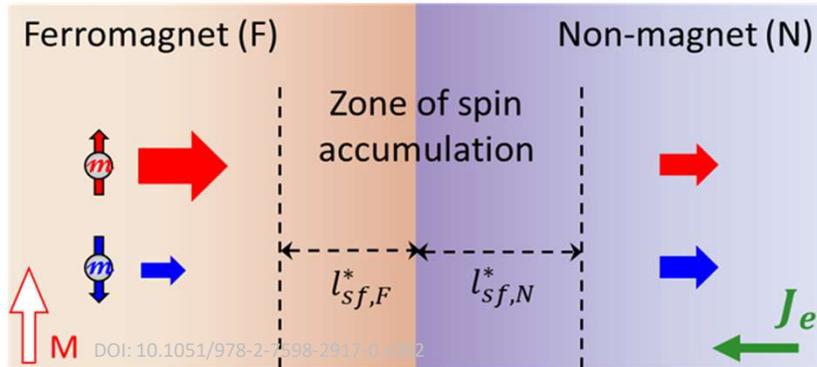
$$\mu_{s, F}(0) = \mu_{s, N}(0) \quad \text{and} \quad J_{s, F}(0) = J_{s, N}(0)$$

(9) Using Eqs. (6) to (8), it is possible to calculate the spin accumulation and the charge current in the F/N bilayer.

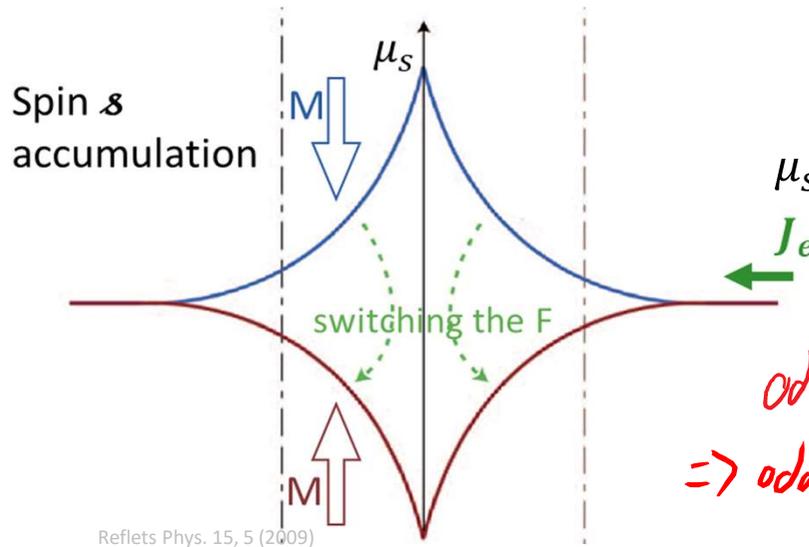
Example and detailed calculations, cf. Exercise 2

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 1. Spin accumulation at a single interface



As the result of spin accumulation, a spin polarization diffuses in the N layer



$$\mu_{s,F(N)}(x) = 2e\beta J_e l_{sf,N}^* \rho_N \left( 1 + \frac{l_{sf,N}^* \rho_N}{l_{sf,F}^* \rho_F^*} \right)^{-1} e^{+(-)\frac{x}{l_{sf,F(N)}^*}}$$

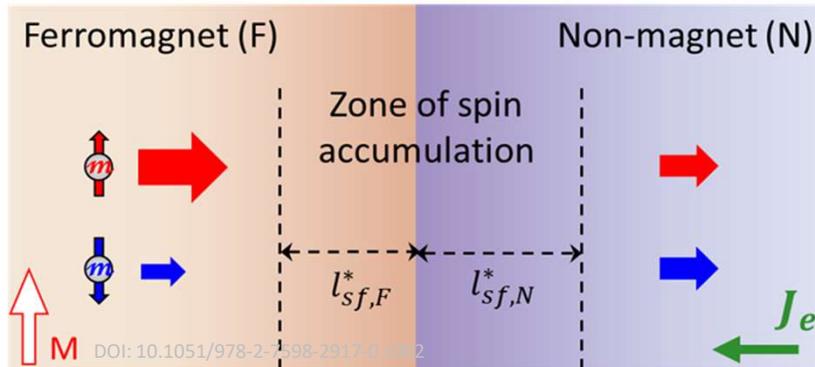
*odd in  $\beta$*   
 *$\Rightarrow$  odd in  $M$ :  $\mu_s \propto -M$*   
 *$= -\mu_s(M)$*   
*odd in  $J_e$*   
 *$\Rightarrow \mu_s(F/N) = -\mu_s(N/F)$*

*material dependent*  
 with  $\beta = \frac{\alpha-1}{1+\alpha}$  and  $\alpha = \frac{\rho_F^\downarrow}{\rho_F^\uparrow}$   
 (polarization of the F layer)  
 and  $\rho_F^* = \rho_F / (1 - \beta^2)$

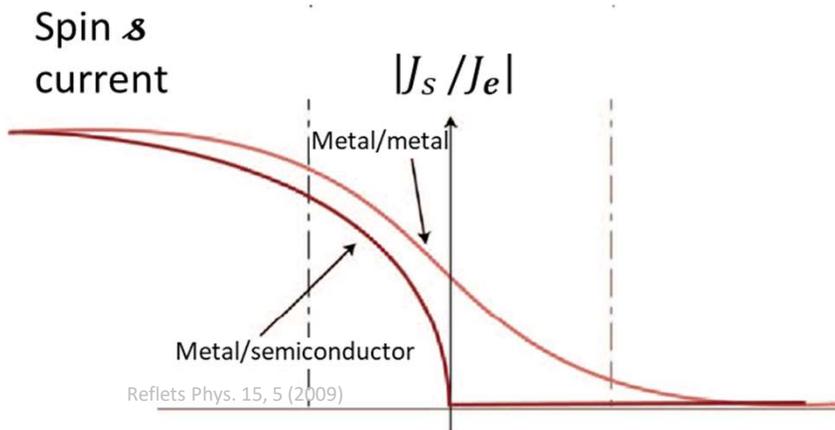


### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 1. Spin accumulation at a single interface



As the result of spin accumulation, a spin polarization diffuses in the N layer



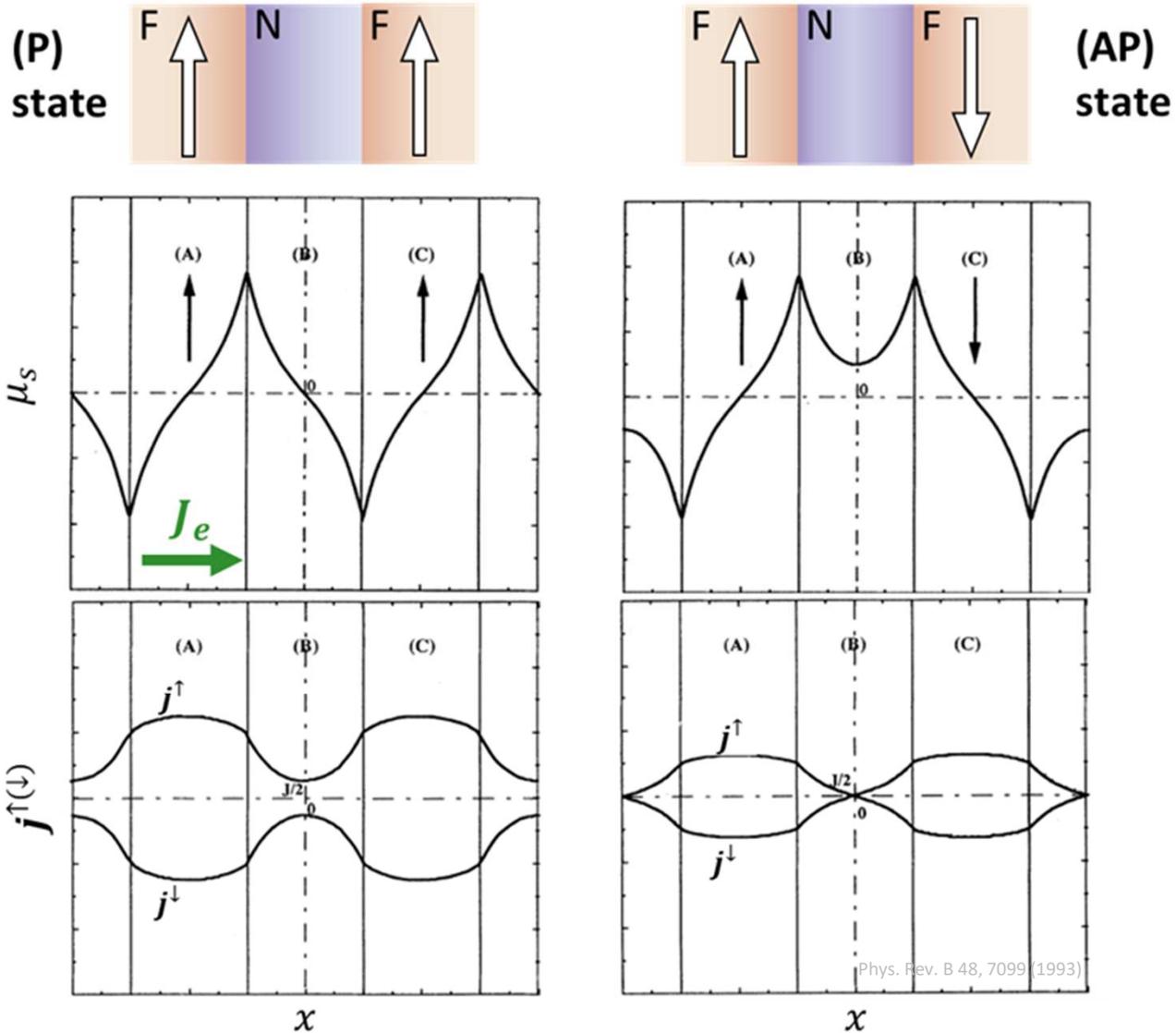
$$\begin{cases} J_{S,F}(x) = -\beta J_e \left[ 1 - \left( 1 + \frac{l_{sf,F}^* \rho_F^*}{l_{sf,N}^* \rho_N} \right)^{-1} e^{-\frac{x}{l_{sf,F}^*}} \right] \\ J_{S,N}(x) = -\beta J_e \left( 1 + \frac{l_{sf,N}^* \rho_N}{l_{sf,F}^* \rho_F^*} \right)^{-1} e^{-\frac{x}{l_{sf,N}^*}} \end{cases}$$

Note: when  $l_{sf,N}^* \rho_N \gg l_{sf,F}^* \rho_F^*$  (F-Metal/N-semiconductor),  $J_{S,N}(x) \rightarrow 0$

*⇒ No spin polarization diffuses the N layer  
a.k.a. spin impedance mismatch issue*

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 2. Spin accumulation in heterostructures – the example of CPP-GMR



Reminder:

$$\mu_s(\sim M) = -\mu_s(M)$$

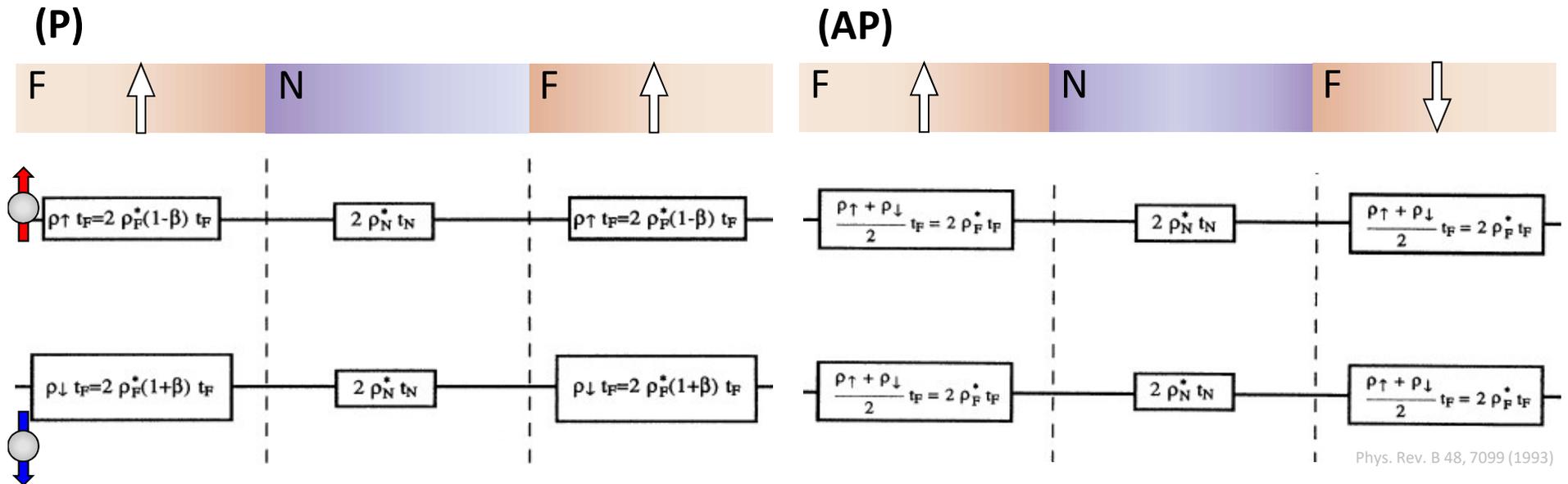
and

$$\mu_s(F/N) = -\mu_s(N/F)$$

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 2. Spin accumulation in heterostructures – the example of CPP-GMR

Equivalent circuits (for  $d_{N(F)} \ll l_{sf,N(F)}^*$ )



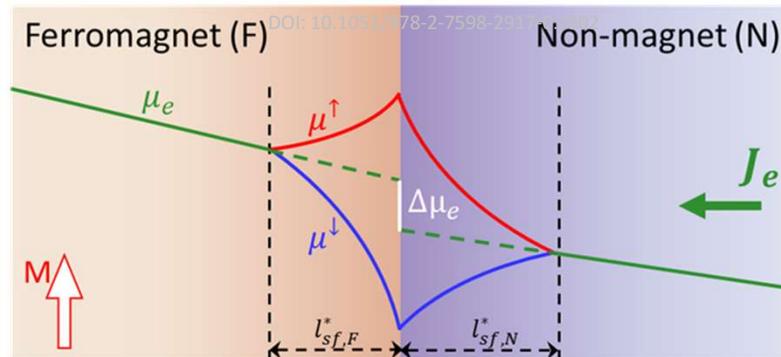
$$\text{CPP-GMR} = \frac{\rho^{AP} - \rho^P}{\rho^{AP}} = \beta^2 \frac{(2\rho_F^* d_F)^2}{(\rho_N^* d_N + 2\rho_F^* d_F)^2}$$

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 3. Interfacial spin-dependent scattering

- In the previous slides on CPP-GMR, only bulk spin-dependent scattering was considered.
- Refined models must consider interfaces, because e. g. decoherent roughness-induced stray fields and changes in the local DOS creates:

1) interfacial spin-dependent electronic scattering ( $\tau_{e,interface}^{\uparrow} \neq \tau_{e,interface}^{\downarrow}$ ).



$$\text{Bulk } \rho_F^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = 2\rho_F^*(1 \mp \beta)$$

$$\text{with } \beta = \frac{\alpha-1}{1+\alpha} \text{ and } \alpha = \frac{\rho_F^{\downarrow}}{\rho_F^{\uparrow}}$$

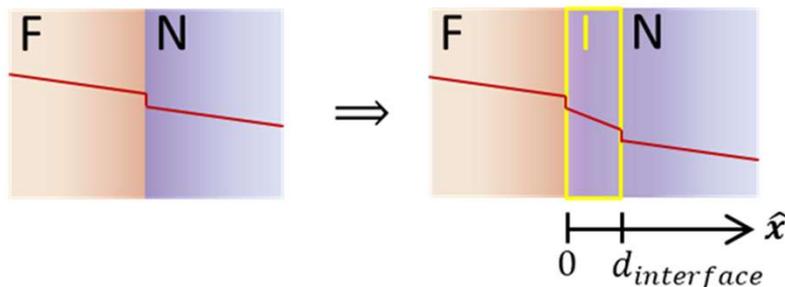
$$\text{Interface } r_{interface}^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = 2r_b^*(1 \mp \gamma)$$

The interface is considered as an infinitesimally thin extra layer, and the electrochemical potential is no more continuous, giving rise to extra resistances in series in each spin-channel. An interfacial spin asymmetry parameter ( $\gamma$ ) is introduced.

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 3. Interfacial spin-dependent scattering

2) interfacial spin-dependent spin-flip scattering ( $\tau_{interface}^{\uparrow\downarrow(\downarrow\uparrow)}$ ) to account for the fact that only a fraction of the spin current coming from the F layer effectively reaches the N layer. This effect is called the spin memory loss (SML). It is modelled by the following ratio:

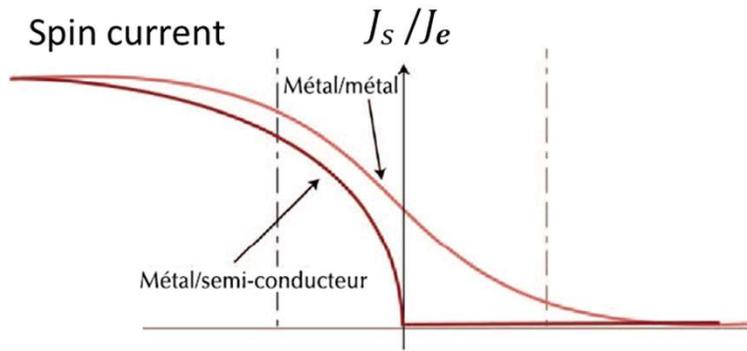


$$R_{SML} = \frac{J_s(x = d_{interface})}{J_s(x = 0)}$$

The interface is considered as thin extra layer with finite dimensions,  $t_{interface}$  and possessing a finite spin-flip length,  $l_{sf,interface}^*$ . Spin-flipping by the interface is modelled by the interfacial spin-flip parameter,  $\delta = d_{interface}/l_{sf,interface}^*$

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 4. Numbers



$$\begin{cases} J_{S,F}(x) = \beta J_e \left[ 1 - \left( 1 + \frac{l_{sf,F}^* \rho_F^*}{l_{sf,N}^* \rho_N^*} \right)^{-1} e^{-\frac{x}{l_{sf,F}^*}} \right] + f(r_b^*, \gamma) \\ J_{S,N}(x) = \beta J_e \left( 1 + \frac{l_{sf,N}^* \rho_N^*}{l_{sf,F}^* \rho_F^*} \right)^{-1} e^{-\frac{x}{l_{sf,N}^*}} + f(\rho_{inter} l_{sf,inter}^*, \delta) \end{cases}$$

#### Bulk

Material	Measured resistivity 4K/300K	$\beta$ Bulk scattering asymmetry	$l_{sf}^*$
Cu	0.5-0.7 $\mu\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ 3-5	0 0	500nm 50-200nm
Au	2 $\mu\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ 8	0 0	35nm 25nm
Ni <sub>80</sub> Fe <sub>20</sub>	10-15 22-25	0.73-0.76 0.70	5.5 4.5
Ni <sub>66</sub> Fe <sub>13</sub> Co <sub>21</sub>	9-13 20-23	0.82 0.75	5.5 4.5
Co	4.1-6.45 12-16	0.27 – 0.38 0.22-0.35	60 25
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub>	6-9 13-18	0.6 0.55	55 20
Co <sub>50</sub> Fe <sub>50</sub>	7-10 15-20	0.6 0.62	50 15
Pt <sub>50</sub> Mn <sub>50</sub>	160 180	0 0	1 1
Ru	9.5-11 14-20	0 0	14 12

#### Interface

Material	Measured R.A interfacial resistance	$\gamma$ Interfacial scattering asymmetry
Co/Cu	0.21 $\text{m}\Omega \cdot \mu\text{m}^2$ 0.21-0.6	0.77 0.7
Co <sub>90</sub> Fe <sub>10</sub> /Cu	0.25-0.7 0.25-0.7	0.77 0.7
Co <sub>50</sub> Fe <sub>50</sub> /Cu	0.45-1 0.45-1	0.77 0.7
NiFe/Cu	0.255 0.25	0.7 0.63
NiFe/Co	0.04 0.04	0.7 0.7
Co/Ru	0.48 0.4	-0.2 -0.2
Co/Ag	0.16 0.16	0.85 0.80

Material	$\rho_l l_{sf,inter}^*$ Interfacial spin resistance	$\delta$ Interfacial spin-flip parameter
Co/Cu	2 $\text{f}\Omega \cdot \text{m}^2$	0.25
Cu/Pt	1.7	0.9
Co/Pt	0.83	0.9
Co/Cu/Pt	0.85	1.2

Phys. Rev. B 73, 184418 (2006)

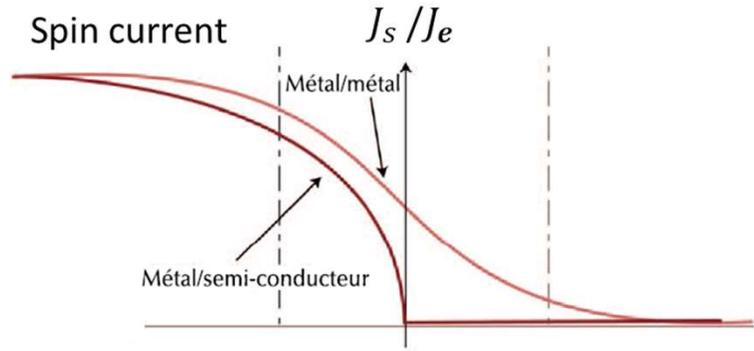
Handbook of Spintronics, Springer, Dordrecht (2016)

$$\mu_s \sim 10 - 100 \mu\text{eV}$$

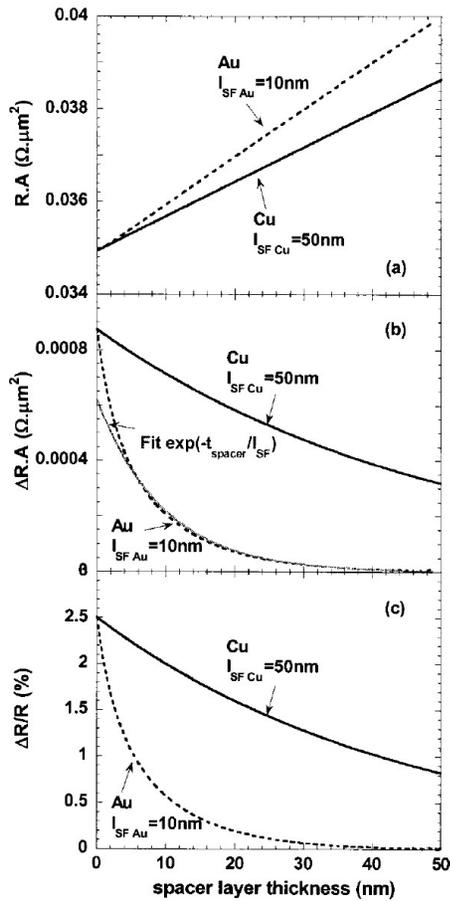
$$J_e \sim 10^5 - 10^6 \text{ A} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$$

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

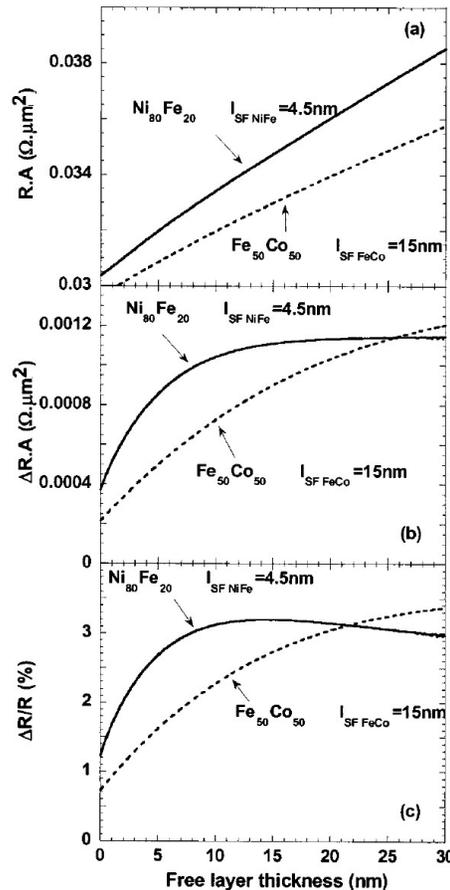
#### 4. Numbers



$$\begin{cases} J_{S,F}(x) = \beta J_e \left[ 1 - \left( 1 + \frac{l_{sf,F}^* \rho_F^*}{l_{sf,N}^* \rho_N^*} \right)^{-1} e^{-\frac{x}{l_{sf,F}^*}} \right] + f(r_b^*, \gamma) \\ J_{S,N}(x) = \beta J_e \left( 1 + \frac{l_{sf,N}^* \rho_N^*}{l_{sf,F}^* \rho_F^*} \right)^{-1} e^{-\frac{x}{l_{sf,N}^*}} + f(\rho_{inter} l_{sf,inter}^*, \delta) \end{cases}$$



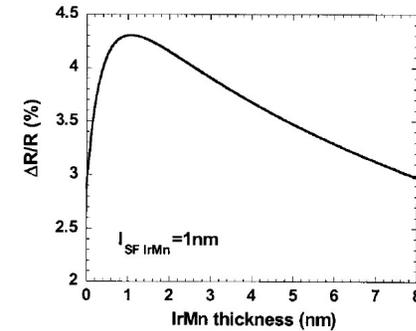
CoFe(1) / Cu ( $t_N$ ) / CoFe(3)  
vs CoFe(1) / Au ( $t_N$ ) / CoFe(3)



NiFe( $t_F$ ) / CoFe(1) / Cu(4) / CoFe (3)  
vs CoFe( $t_F$ ) / Cu(4) / CoFe (3) (nm)

Name	$\rho$	$\beta$	$r$	$\gamma$	$l_{SF}$
Ni <sub>80</sub> Cr <sub>20</sub>	140 $\mu\Omega$ cm	0	0.5 m $\Omega$ $\mu$ m <sup>2</sup>	0.5	20 nm
Ni <sub>80</sub> Fe <sub>20</sub>	25	0.7	0.3	0.7	4.5
Co <sub>50</sub> Fe <sub>50</sub>	16	0.7	0.3	0.7	15
Cu	5	0	0.3	0.7	50
Co <sub>50</sub> Fe <sub>50</sub>	16	0.7	0.5	0.1	15
Pt <sub>50</sub> Mn <sub>50</sub>	180	0	0.8	0	2
Ni <sub>80</sub> Cr <sub>20</sub>	140	0	0.5	0	20
IrMn	150	0	0.5	0.1	1

J. App. Phys. 94, 3278 (2003)



NiFe(4) / CoFe(1) / Cu(4) / CoFe (3)  
/ IrMn( $t_{IrMn}$ ) / NiCr(5)

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 5. 3-dimensionality, non-uniformity, non-collinearity

- In the uniform 1D GMR formalism, it is convenient to describe spin accumulation with electrochemical potentials,  $\mu_s$ , to match theory with electrical measurements.
- A spin accumulation can also be described by a net magnetization  $\mathbf{m}$ . Using this latter formalism is for example convenient when considering interactions between spin accumulation and the layer's magnetization  $\mathbf{M}$ , e.g. for spin transfer torque (see lecture 3).

$$\mathbf{m} \approx -\mu_B \mathbf{n}$$
$$\mathbf{m} \approx -\mu_B N \mu$$

$A. m^2$

$eV^{-1} atom^{-1}$

$eV$

$$\mathbf{m} \sim 0.0001 \mu_B \text{ per atom}$$

versus

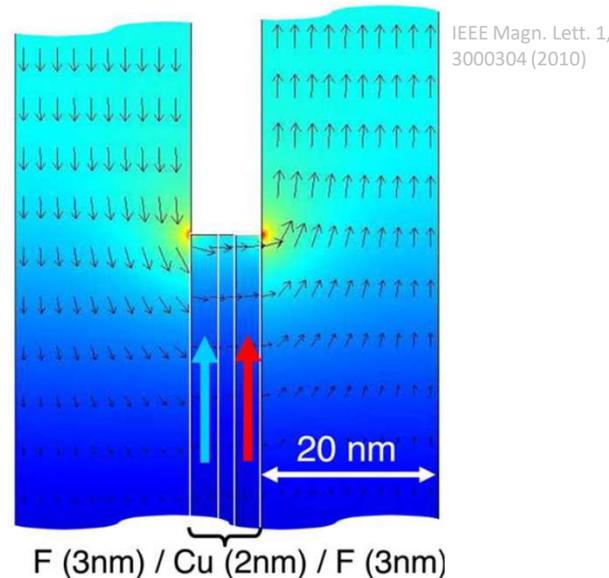
$$\mathbf{m}_{ferro} \sim 1 \mu_B \text{ per atom}$$

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

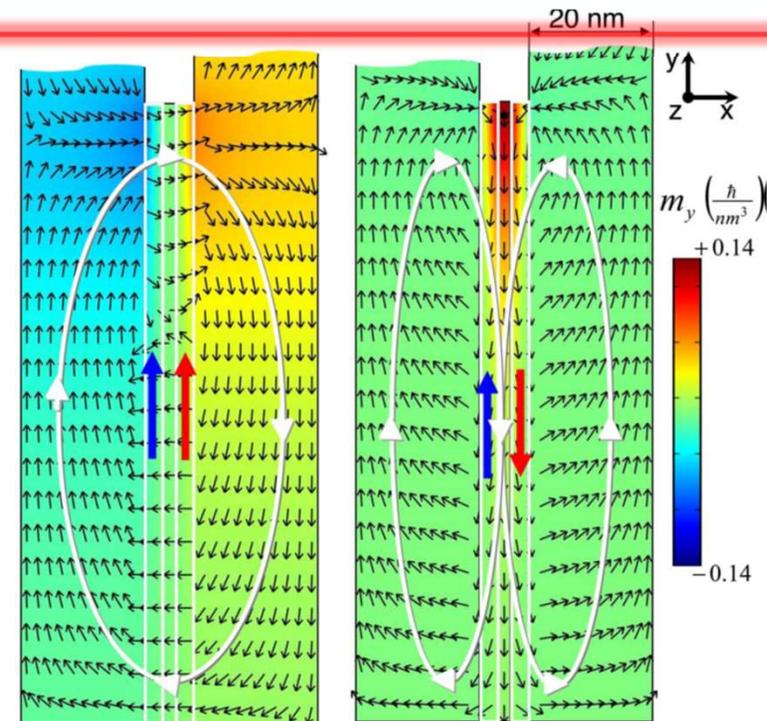
#### 5. 3-dimensionality, non-uniformity, non-collinearity

The use of  $\mathbf{m}$  also implicitly recalls that spin accumulation is described by a vector. This is especially needed to deal with 3D, non-uniformity (e. g. of  $\mathbf{J}_e$ ) and non-collinearity (e. g. between  $\mathbf{M}$  of several layers).

Finally, note that because spin accumulation is described by a vector in the general case (3 components of  $\mathbf{m}$ ), spin current is described by a 3x3 tensor (3 components of  $\mathbf{J}_s$  flowing along 3 directions in space).



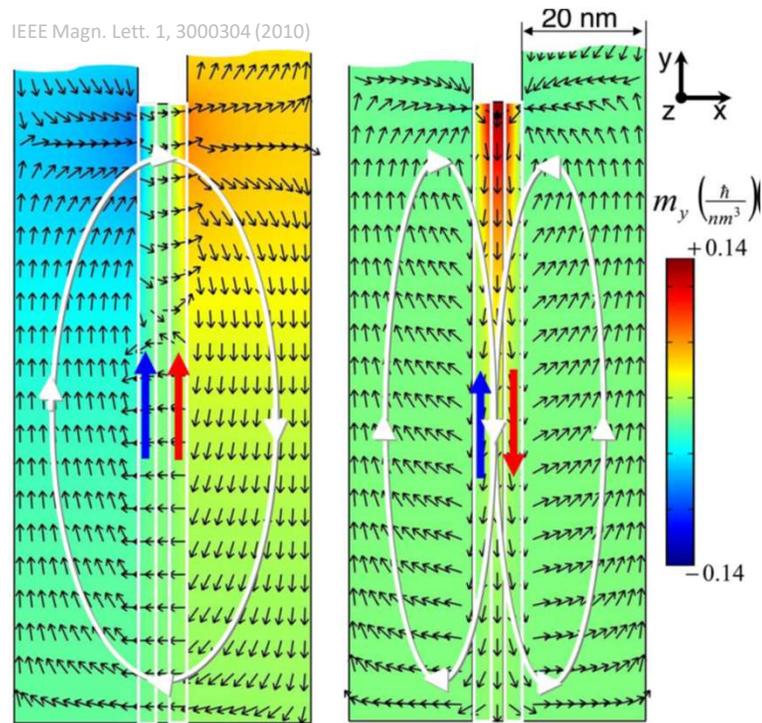
The color map indicates the amplitude of the charge current,  $J_e$  (scalar). The arrows indicate the flow of charges,  $\mathbf{J}_e$  (vector).



The color map indicates the amplitude of the y-component of spin accumulation,  $m_y$  (scalar). The arrows indicate the corresponding flow of y-spins,  $\mathbf{J}_s^y$  (vector).

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 5. 3-dimensionality, non-uniformity, non-collinearity



The color map indicates the amplitude of the y-component of spin accumulation,  $m_y$  (scalar). The arrows indicate the corresponding flow of y-spins (vector),  $J_s^y =$

$$J_s^y = J_s^{yx} \hat{x} + J_s^{yz} \hat{z}$$

spin

$$J_s = \bar{\bar{J}}_s = \begin{bmatrix} J_s^{(x)} & J_s^{(y)} & J_s^{(z)} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bar{\bar{J}}_s = \begin{bmatrix} J_s^{yx} & J_s^{yy} & J_s^{yz} \\ J_s^{xy} & J_s^{yy} & J_s^{zy} \\ J_s^{xz} & J_s^{yz} & J_s^{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$

spin

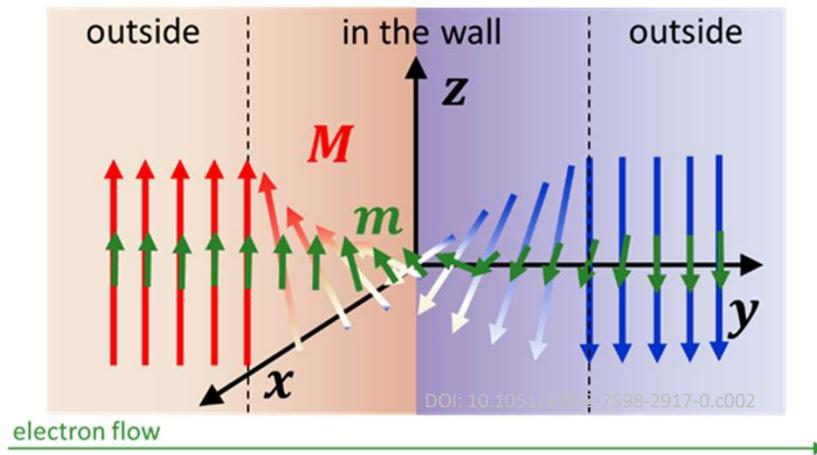
space

2<sup>nd</sup> order tensor  $\bar{\bar{J}}_s$

### III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

#### 5. 3-dimensionality, non-uniformity, non-collinearity

- Spin accumulation ( $\mathbf{m}$ ) also exists in magnetic textures like domain walls (DWs), when the spins of the itinerant s-electrons are unable to follow magnetization ( $\mathbf{M}$ ) (spin-mistracking). However, spin accumulation in DW most often gives rise to negligible resistance in the diffusive regime. This DW effect coexists with other contributions: one is called ‘intrinsic’ domain wall magnetoresistance (DWMR) and arises from spin-dependent scattering subsequent to spin-mistracking; another relates to AMR (DWAMR) due to SO-interactions.



Bloch wall

$$\frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho} = \frac{\rho_{withDW} - \rho_{withoutDW}}{\rho_{withoutDW}} = \frac{\rho_{DW} - \rho_0}{\rho_0}$$

Here:

$$\Delta\rho_{AMR} = 0$$

$$\Delta\rho_m = \frac{8\sqrt{3}}{9} \beta^2 \rho_F^* \xi^2 \lambda_e \sim 0$$

$$\Delta\rho_{DWMR} = \frac{12}{5} \beta^2 \rho_F^* \xi^2 w_{DW} \left( 1 + \frac{5}{3} \sqrt{1 - \beta^2} \right) \sim \text{few \%}$$

$$\xi = \left( \frac{l_{sd}}{l_{sf}^*} \right)^2 \text{ spin mistracking parameter (ability of } \mathbf{m} \text{ to follow } \mathbf{M} \text{)}$$

See also lecture 3 for spin transfer torque in DWs.

- **Electronic transport**
  - Electron mean free path vs. Spin diffusion length
  - Electrochemical potential
- **Spin accumulation at a single interface (the Valet/Fert ½classical model)**
  - Drift-diffusion equations to describe spin currents + Boundary conditions
  - Impedance matching
  - Interface (spin-dependent scattering, spin-flip scattering)
- **Spin accumulation in heterostructures**
  - The example of the CPP-GMR effect
- **References:**
  - A. Fert, *Revue Phys.* **15**, 5 (2009) and references therein
  - P. S. Bechthold **B7**, in S. Blügel *et al* (eds) *Spintronics - from GMR to quantum information* (2009)
  - G. Zahnd, PhD thesis manuscript (2017), <https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-01791039v2/document>
  - Theory of CPP-GMR: T. Valet and A. Fert, *Phys. Rev. B* **48**, 7099 (1993)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> exp: W. P. Pratt *et al*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **66**, 3060 (1991)
  - Numbers: J. Bass and W. P. Pratt, *J. Phys. Cond. Mat.* **19**, 183201 (2007);  
N. Strelkov *et al*, *J. App. Phys.* **94**, 3278 (2003)
  - Non-uniformity: N. Strelkov *et al*, *Phys. Rev. B* **84**, 024416 (2011)
  - Impedance mismatch: A. Fert and H. Jaffrès, *Phys. Rev. B* **64**, 184420 (2001)
  - Spin memory loss: J.-C. Rojas-Sánchez *et al*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **112**, 106602 (2014).

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# Lectures on spintronics

Master 2 Univ. Grenoble Alpes

Vincent Baltz

CNRS Researcher at SPINTEC

Lecture 1	–	04 Dec.
Lecture 2	–	07 Dec.
Lecture 3	–	11 Dec.
Lecture 4	–	14 Dec.
Exercises 1 & 2	–	21 Dec.



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[www.spintec.fr/af-spintronics/](http://www.spintec.fr/af-spintronics/)

1h30 I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications  
II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR

1h30 III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR

1h30 **IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT**

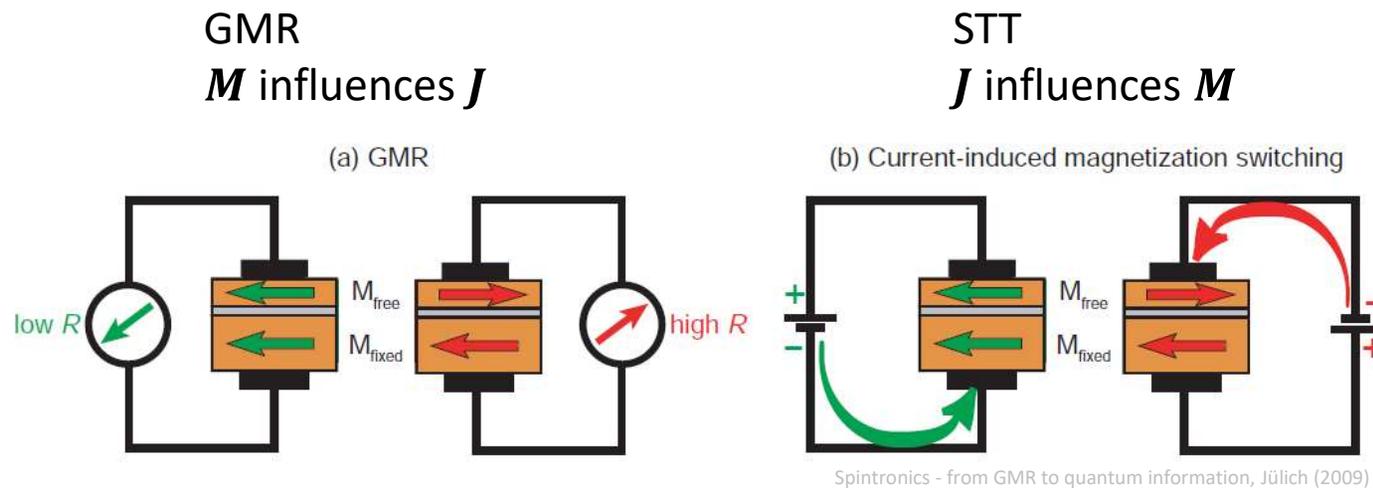
1h30 V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE  
VI. Brief non-exhaustive introduction to current topics

1h30 Exercise 1 - Anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR)  
Exercise 2 – The spin pumping (SP) and inverse spin Hall effects (ISHE)

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## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

Spin transfer torque (STT) and giant magnetoresistance (GMR) are reciprocal effects.



**Fig. 1:** Phenomenology of (a) GMR and (b) current-induced magnetization switching. (a) The electric resistance of a trilayer structure consisting of two ferromagnets separated by a non-magnetic, metallic interlayer depends on the alignment of the layer magnetizations. (b) The stable alignment of the magnetizations depends on the polarity, i.e. the direction, of the current flowing perpendicularly through the trilayer.

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

0. Reminder

In a  $F_{\text{pinned}}/N/F_{\text{free}}$  trilayer, electrons flowing from the pinned layer to the free layer acquire a spin-polarization in the  $F_{\text{pinned}}$  layer and accumulate ( $\mathbf{m} \parallel \mathbf{M}_{\text{pinned}}$ ) at the interfaces with the  $F_{\text{free}}$  layer.

Ferromagnet



Non-magnet

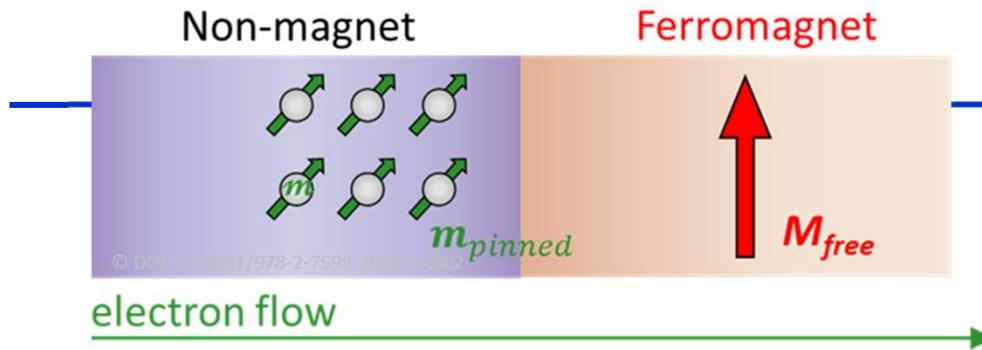


Ferromagnet



## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 1. Spin accumulation and $sd$ coupling



Spin accumulation  $m$  and magnetization  $M_{free}$  are coupled via the  $sd$  exchange interactions:

$$g_{sd} = -J_{sd} \hat{m}_{pinned} \cdot \hat{M}_{free}$$

In the reference frame of the s-electrons,  $m$  experiences an effective field and a subsequent torque created by  $M_{free}$ :

$$H_{eff} = J_{sd} M_{free}$$

Conversely, in the reference frame of the layer's magnetization,  $M_{free}$  also experiences an effective field and a torque (called the spin transfer torque, STT) due to  $m$ :

$$H_{eff} = J_{sd} m_{pinned} \quad \text{and} \quad T \ll -\frac{1}{181} \frac{dM_{free}}{dt}$$

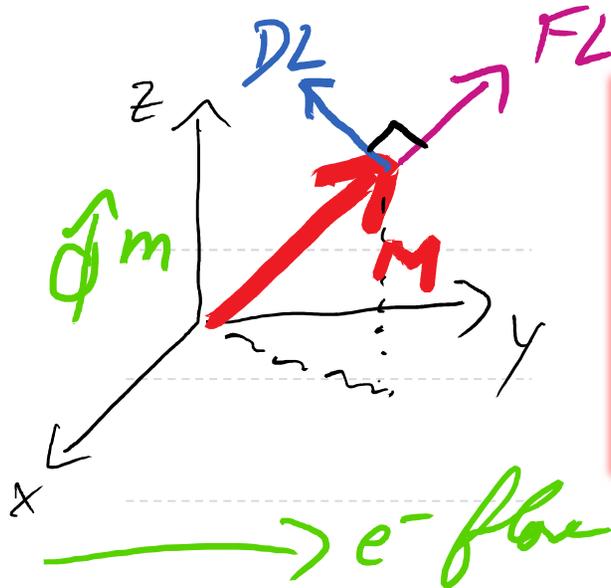
Conservation of total angular momentum gives (if all other relaxation channels are closed):

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = -\frac{dM_{free}}{dt}$$

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 1. Spin accumulation and *sd* coupling

Only projections of  $\mathbf{m}$  perpendicular to  $\mathbf{M}_{free}$  give rise to an actual torque.  
Therefore, STT is often written and discussed as follows:



$$-\mathbf{T} = \frac{\tau_{DL}}{a_j \mu_s^2} \mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{M}) + \frac{\tau_{FL}}{b_j \mu_s^2} \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{M}$$

In-plane Slonczewski (anti) <u>Damping-like (DL)</u>	Perpendicular Transverse <u>Field-like (FL)</u>
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Notes: -  $\tau_{DL}$  and  $\tau_{FL}$  depend on material (e.g.  $M_s$ ), geometry, current ( $J$ )

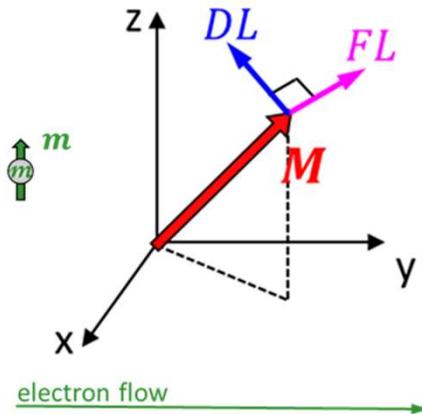
-  $\mathbf{m}$  depends on the effect that gave rise to spin accumulation.

Directions of FL and DL torques may be inverted depending on the direction of  $\mathbf{m}$ .

For STT,  $\mathbf{m} \parallel \mathbf{M}_{pinned}$ . In some other structures for spintronics, effects arising from spin-orbit coupling, like spin-Hall and Rashba, can give rise to different spin accumulation and torques. These torques are called spin-orbit torques, SOT (see lecture V).

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 1. Spin accumulation and $sd$ coupling



$$-\mathbf{T} = \frac{\tau_{DL}}{M_S^2} \mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{m}) + \frac{\tau_{FL}}{M_S^2} \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{M}$$

Damping-like (DL)                      Field-like (FL)

In the next slides, we will discuss toy models to:

- determine  $\mathbf{T}$
- see how magnetization is influenced by  $\mathbf{T}$

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 2. Quantum mechanical model

Reminder about the quantum mechanical treatment of charge and spin:

#### Charge

density of charge

$$\rho = -e \langle \psi | \psi \rangle$$

density of charge current

$$\begin{aligned} J_e &= -e \operatorname{Re}(\langle \psi | \mathbf{v} | \psi \rangle) \\ &= \frac{e\hbar}{m} \Im m(\langle \psi | \nabla | \psi \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

#### Spin

density of spin

$$S = \langle \psi | \mathbf{S} | \psi \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2} \langle \psi | \boldsymbol{\sigma} | \psi \rangle$$

density of spin current

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Q} = J_s &= \operatorname{Re}(\langle \psi | \mathbf{S} \otimes \mathbf{v} | \psi \rangle) \\ &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \Im m(\langle \psi | \boldsymbol{\sigma} \otimes \nabla | \psi \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

$\psi$  is the spinor, here spin-half electron wave function

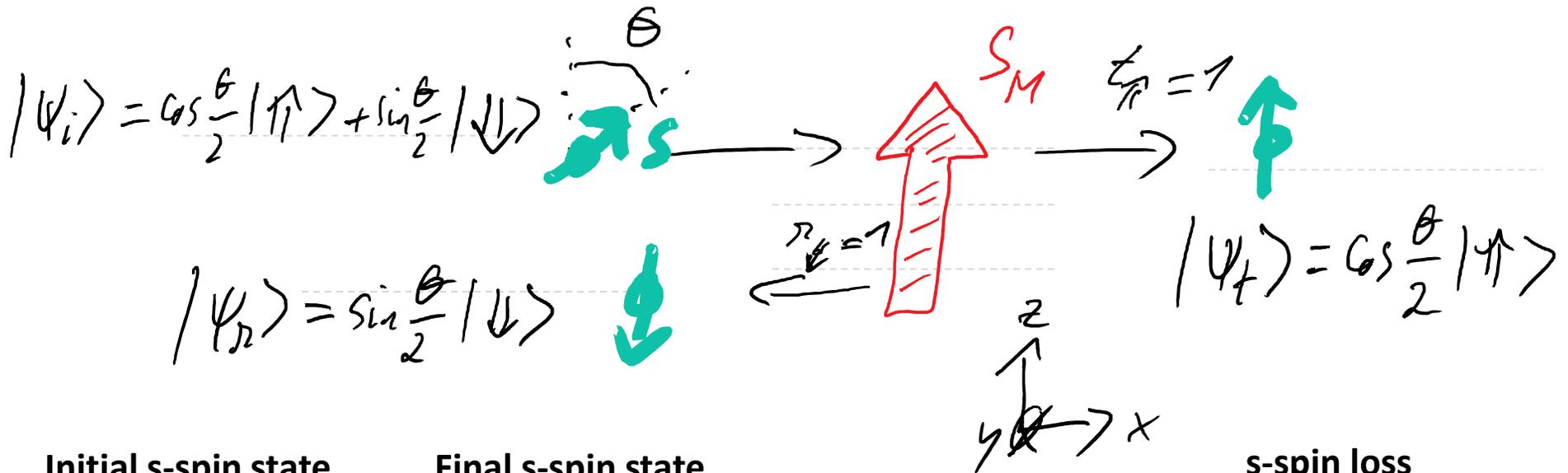
$\mathbf{v}$  is the velocity operator

$\mathbf{S}$  is the spin operator, linked to the Pauli operator,  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$

with  $\sigma^x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\sigma^y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , and  $\sigma^z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ ;  $z =$  quantification axis

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 2. Quantum mechanical model



Initial s-spin state

$$s_i^x = \frac{\hbar}{2} \sin \theta$$

$$s_i^z = \frac{\hbar}{2} \cos \theta$$

Final s-spin state

$$s_f^x = s_t^x + s_r^x = \dots = 0$$

$$s_f^z = s_t^z + s_r^z = \dots = \frac{\hbar}{2} \cos \theta$$

s-spin loss

$$\Delta s^x = -\frac{\hbar}{2} \sin \theta$$

$$\Delta s^z = 0$$

**Conservation of total angular momentum** 'Nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed'

$$\Delta s + \Delta S_M = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta S_M = \Delta S_M^x = \frac{\hbar}{2} \sin \theta$$

Note: the propagation terms ( $e^{ikx}$  and  $e^{-ikx}$  in  $\psi_{i(t)}$  and  $\psi_r$ ) were omitted here to facilitate the message delivery.

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 2. Quantum mechanical model

Calculation of the spin components (Homework)

$$\mathbf{s} = \langle \psi | \mathbf{S} | \psi \rangle \quad \text{with } \mathbf{S} = \frac{\hbar}{2} \boldsymbol{\sigma}$$

$$\langle \uparrow | = (1 \ 0), \text{ and } |\uparrow\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle \downarrow | = (0 \ 1), \text{ and } |\downarrow\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Initial state

$$s_i^x = \langle \psi_i | \mathbf{S}^x | \psi_i \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} & \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \\ \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\hbar}{2} \sin \theta$$

$$s_i^z = \langle \psi_i | \mathbf{S}^z | \psi_i \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & -\cos \frac{\theta}{2} \end{pmatrix} \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \\ \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\hbar}{2} \cos \theta$$

Final state

$$s_t^x = \langle \psi_t | \mathbf{S}^x | \psi_t \rangle = \dots$$

$$s_t^z = \langle \psi_t | \mathbf{S}^z | \psi_t \rangle = \dots$$

$$s_r^x = \langle \psi_r | \mathbf{S}^x | \psi_r \rangle = \dots$$

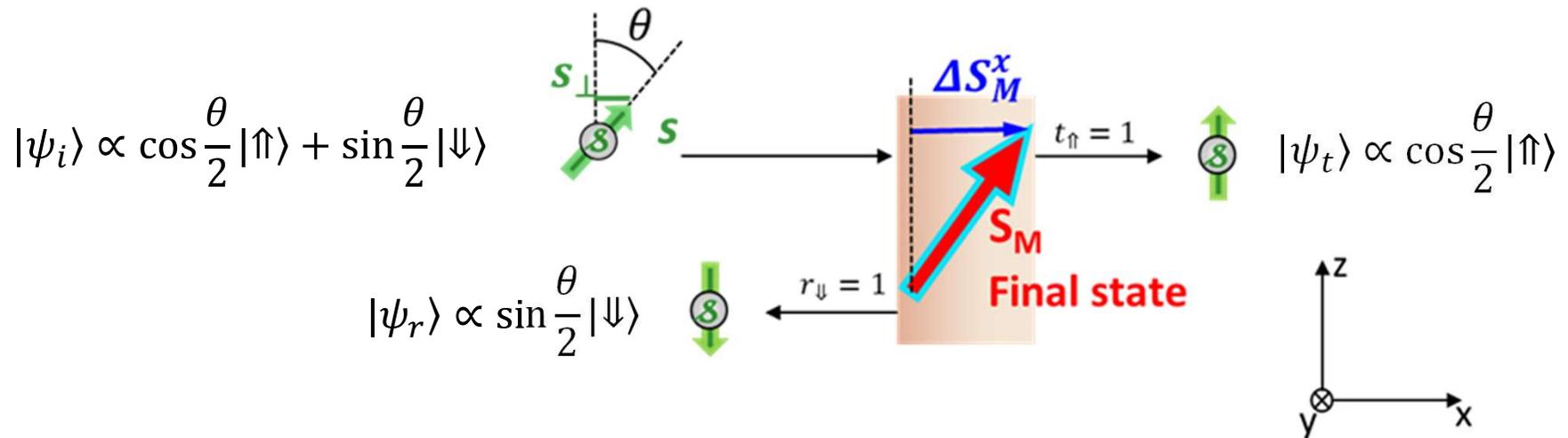
$$s_r^z = \langle \psi_r | \mathbf{S}^z | \psi_r \rangle = \dots$$

Loss

$$\Delta s^x = (s_t^x + s_r^x) - s_i^x = \dots \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta s^z = (s_t^z + s_r^z) - s_i^z = \dots$$

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 2. Quantum mechanical model



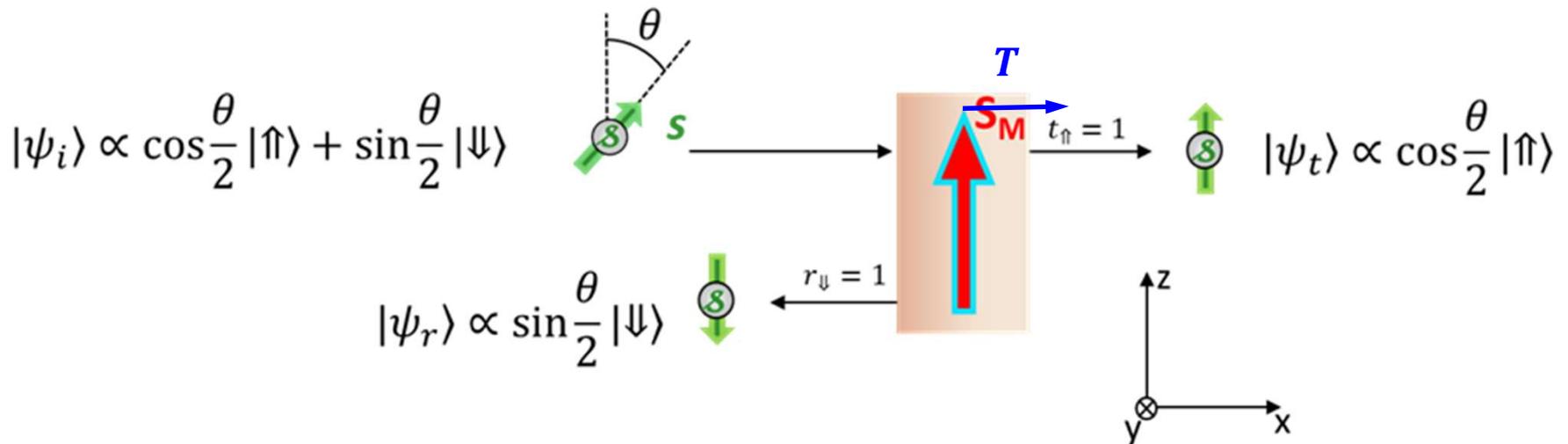
$$\Delta \mathbf{S}_M = \Delta S_M^x \hat{x} = \frac{\hbar}{2} \sin \theta \hat{x} = \mathbf{s}_{\perp}$$

It is said that the transverse component of spin angular momentum is absorbed.

This absorption was actually the result of a torque,  $\mathbf{T}$ , acting on  $\mathbf{S}_M$ .

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 2. Quantum mechanical model



The spin transfer torque,  $\mathbf{T}$ , can directly be calculated from the flux of spin current entering and leaving the effective volume impacted:

$$\mathbf{T} = - \iint \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{Q} dA = A \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot (\mathbf{Q}_i + \mathbf{Q}_r - \mathbf{Q}_t)$$

$$\mathbf{T} = \frac{A}{V_{eff}} \frac{\hbar^2 k}{2m} \sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{A}{V_{eff}} \frac{\hbar^2 k}{2m} \widehat{S}_M \times (\hat{\mathbf{s}} \times \widehat{S}_M)$$

Here, we see that  $\mathbf{T}$  is damping-like.

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 2. Quantum mechanical model

Calculation of the torque (Homework)

Density of spin current:

$$\mathbf{Q} = -\frac{\hbar}{m} \Im m(\langle \psi | \mathbf{S} \cdot \nabla | \psi \rangle) \quad \text{with } Q^{ab} = -\frac{\hbar}{m} \Im m(\langle \psi | \mathbf{S}^a \cdot \nabla_b | \psi \rangle)$$

spin
space
 $Q^{ab}$  = flow of a-spins along b

$$= -\frac{\hbar k_b}{m} \langle \psi | \mathbf{S}^a | \psi \rangle$$

$$= -\frac{\hbar k_b}{m} S^a$$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \bar{\mathbf{Q}} = -\frac{\hbar k_x}{m} \begin{bmatrix} S^x & S^y & S^z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{Q} = \frac{\hbar k_x}{m} (S^x + S^y + S^z) \hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

Torque:

$$\mathbf{T} = \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot (\mathbf{Q}_i + \mathbf{Q}_r - \mathbf{Q}_t)$$

$$\mathbf{T} = -\frac{\hbar k_x}{m} (\Delta S^x + \Delta S^y + \Delta S^z) \hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

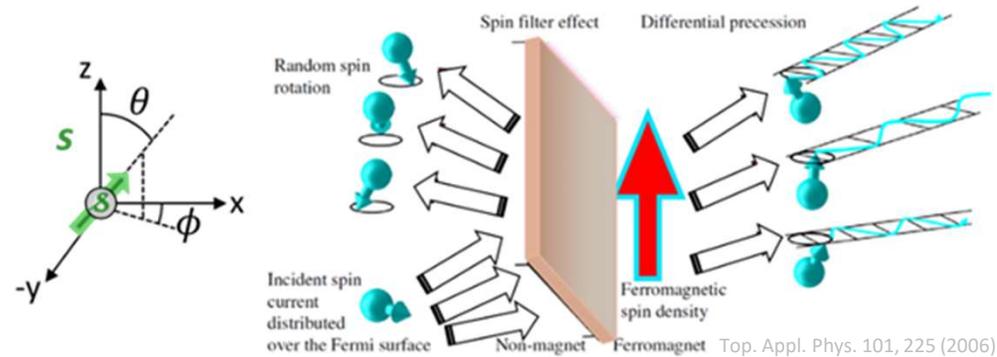
$$\mathbf{T} = \frac{\hbar^2 k_x}{2m} \sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

For calculations of  $\Delta S^x, \Delta S^y, \Delta S^z$ , cf. slide 10.

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 2. Quantum mechanical model

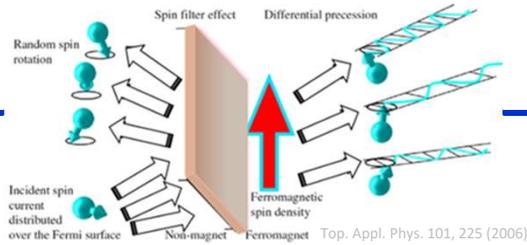
Other ingredients can be introduced to explain the physical origin of STT more accurately:



- Spin filtering: spin dep.  $t_{\uparrow}(\epsilon)$  and  $r_{\uparrow}(\epsilon)$
- spin rotation  $\phi$  and dephasing  $\delta\phi$  upon reflection:  $e^{i(\phi + \delta\phi)}$
- spin precession upon transmission in the F:  $e^{i(k_{\uparrow} - k_{\downarrow})x}$

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 2. Quantum mechanical model

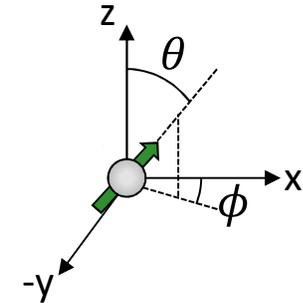


These ingredients are taken into account by considering complex number transmission ( $t_{\downarrow}, t_{\uparrow}$ ) and reflection ( $r_{\downarrow}, r_{\uparrow}$ ) coefficients. Below is the example with spin dephasing upon reflection:

$$Q_r^{xx} = -\frac{\hbar k_x}{m} \sin \theta \operatorname{Re}(r_{\uparrow}^* r_{\downarrow} e^{i\phi})$$

$$Q_r^{yx} = -\frac{\hbar k_x}{m} \sin \theta \operatorname{Im}(r_{\uparrow}^* r_{\downarrow} e^{i\phi})$$

with, by definition,  $\underline{r_{\uparrow}^* r_{\downarrow}} = |r_{\uparrow}^* r_{\downarrow}| e^{i\delta\phi}$

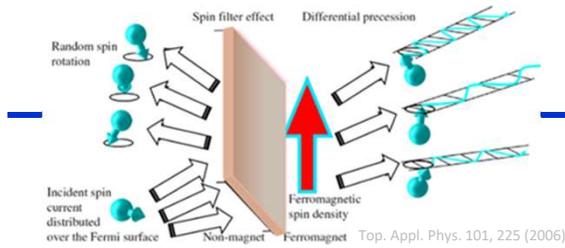


Describes reflection along axes transverse to  $\mathbf{S}_M \parallel \hat{\mathbf{z}}$ . This term relates to the transverse reflection coefficient or the spin-mixing coefficient (mixing stands for mixing of the eigen states no spin-flip is involved).

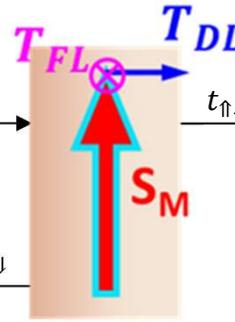
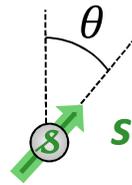
(Advanced) It is the spin-mixing conductance in the magnetoelectronic circuit theory.

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

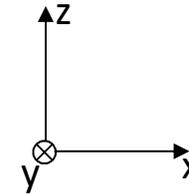
### 2. Quantum mechanical model



$$|\psi_i\rangle \propto \cos \frac{\theta}{2} |\uparrow\rangle + \sin \frac{\theta}{2} |\downarrow\rangle$$



$$|\psi_r\rangle \propto \sin \frac{\theta}{2} |\downarrow\rangle$$



$$|\psi_t\rangle \propto \cos \frac{\theta}{2} |\uparrow\rangle$$

When dephasing is introduced by considering complex transmission ( $t_{\uparrow}, t_{\downarrow}$ ) and reflection ( $r_{\uparrow}, r_{\downarrow}$ ) coefficients, both DL and FL terms contribute to the torque:

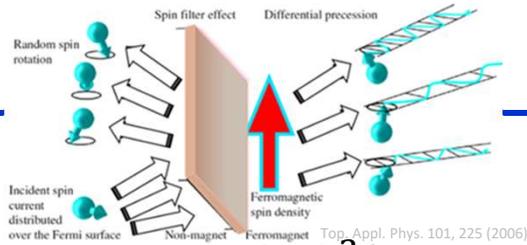
$$\mathbf{T} = \frac{A}{V_{eff}} \frac{\hbar^2 k}{2m} \sin \theta \left[ (1 - \text{Re}(t_{\uparrow} t_{\downarrow}^* + r_{\uparrow} r_{\downarrow}^*)) \hat{x} - \text{Im}(t_{\uparrow} t_{\downarrow}^* + r_{\uparrow} r_{\downarrow}^*) \hat{y} \right]$$

$$\mathbf{T} = \frac{A}{V_{eff}} \frac{\hbar^2 k}{2m} \left[ g_r^{\uparrow\downarrow} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_M \times (\hat{\mathbf{s}} \times \hat{\mathbf{S}}_M) + g_i^{\uparrow\downarrow} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_M \times \hat{\mathbf{s}} \right]$$

with  $g^{\uparrow\downarrow} = 1 - (t_{\uparrow} t_{\downarrow}^* + r_{\uparrow} r_{\downarrow}^*)$ , the spin mixing coefficient

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 2. Quantum mechanical model



$$\mathbf{T} = \frac{A}{V_{eff}} \frac{\hbar^2 k}{2m} \left[ (1 - \text{Re}(t_{\uparrow} t_{\downarrow}^* + r_{\uparrow} r_{\downarrow}^*)) \widehat{\mathbf{S}}_M \times (\widehat{\mathbf{S}}_M \times \hat{\mathbf{s}}) + \text{Im}(t_{\uparrow} t_{\downarrow}^* + r_{\uparrow} r_{\downarrow}^*) \widehat{\mathbf{S}}_M \times \hat{\mathbf{s}} \right]$$

Notes:

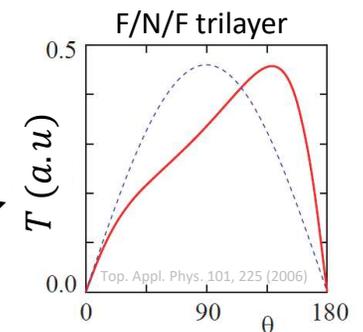
$T = 0$  if  $t_{\uparrow} = t_{\downarrow}$  and  $r_{\uparrow} = r_{\downarrow}$  (no spin filtering)

(Note:  $|t_{\uparrow(\downarrow)}^2| + |r_{\uparrow(\downarrow)}^2| = 1$ )

$T = 0$  if  $\theta = 0$  or  $\theta = \pi$  (collinearity)

The above formula considered  $\mathbf{T}$  created by one type of electron wave only.  $\mathbf{T}_{total}$  can be obtained by summation over the Fermi surface of the N layer corresponding to all possible incident wave vectors.

Reflected (dephased) spins affect spin accumulation, e. g. resulting in a non-trivial  $\theta$ -dependence of STT).



In metallic structures, some transverse components average out:  $\text{Re}(t_{\uparrow} t_{\downarrow}^*) = \text{Im}(t_{\uparrow} t_{\downarrow}^*) \approx 0$  and  $\text{Im}(r_{\uparrow} r_{\downarrow}^*) \ll \text{Re}(t_{\uparrow} t_{\downarrow}^* + r_{\uparrow} r_{\downarrow}^*)$ . The FL term is small (less than 5% of the DL). This contrasts with tunnel junctions, where the  $k$ -selection upon tunnelling reduces the effect of averaging (FL  $\sim$  30% of DL).

$R_{\perp} = \text{Re}(r_{\uparrow} r_{\downarrow}^*)$  and  $R_{\times} = \text{Im}(r_{\uparrow} r_{\downarrow}^*)$  describe reflection along axes transverse to  $\mathbf{S}_M$ . They are called the transverse reflection coefficients or spin-mixing coefficients.

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 3. The STT term in diffusion equations

Transfer of angular momentum must be introduced in the diffusion equations of transport.

Charge conservation:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}_e = 0$$

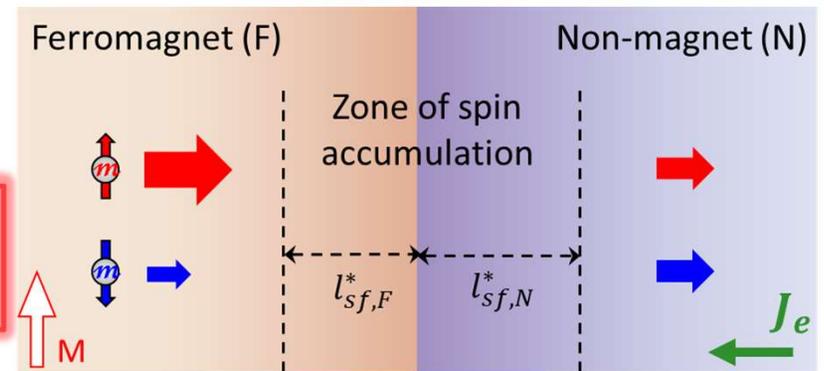
Total angular momentum conservation:

any loss in spin current must be due to spin-flips (1<sup>st</sup> term) or to spin transfer torque i. e. precession of the spin accumulation around the local magnetization due to  $s$ - $d$  exchange interaction (2<sup>nd</sup> term).

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}_s = \frac{\sigma^*(1 - \beta^2)}{4el_{sf}^{*2}} \boldsymbol{\mu}_s + \frac{\sigma^*}{4eM_s l_{sd}^2} (\mathbf{M} \times \boldsymbol{\mu}_s)$$

$l_{sf}^*$  is the average spin-diffusion length defined in lecture 2

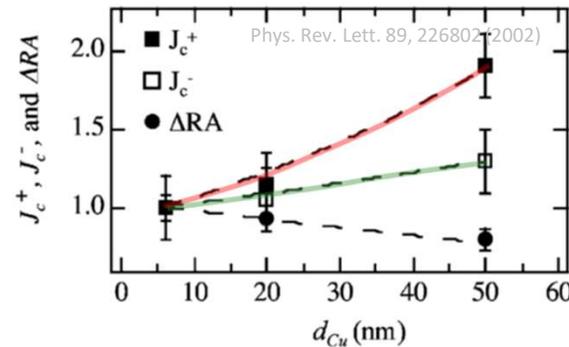
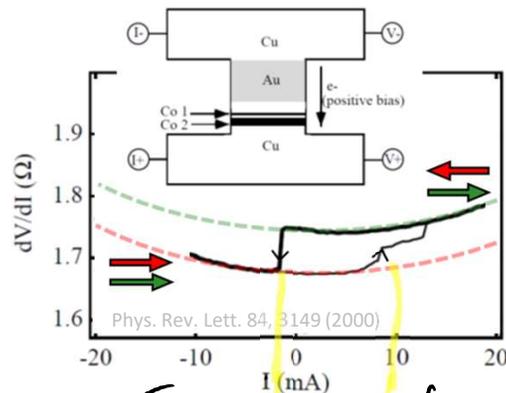
$l_{sd} = \sqrt{2D\hbar/J_{sd}}$  is the ‘exchange’ spin-reorientation length, i. e. the distance over which the spin polarization is reoriented along  $\mathbf{M}$  (typically,  $l_{sd} \sim 1 \text{ nm}$  in metals)



## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 3. The STT term in diffusion equations

Typical critical current densities for switching magnetization by STT are  $J_{e,crit} \sim 10^7 \text{ A} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ , hence the need for nm lateral dimensions (in addition to nm-thick layers due to  $l_{sf}^*$  and  $l_{sd}$ )

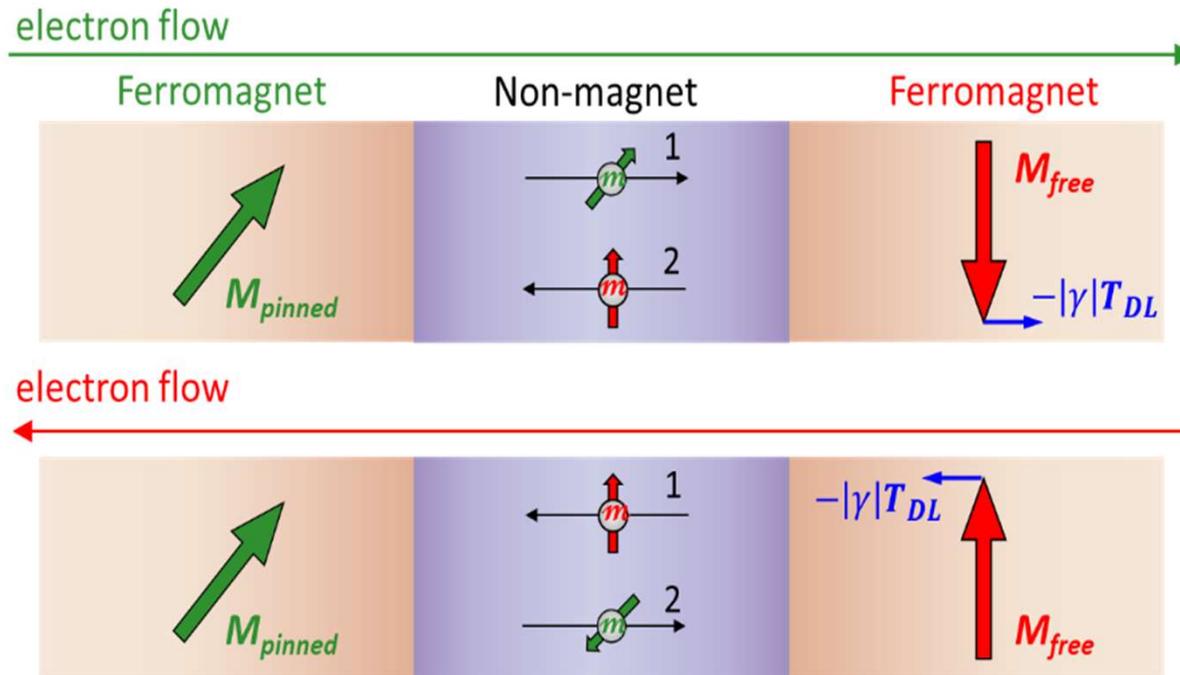


Note that the switching is polarity dependent:

$$J_c^+ > J_c^-$$

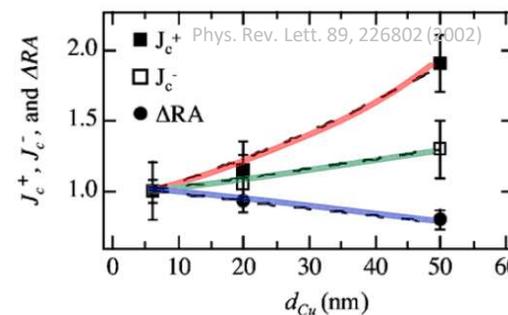
## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 3. The STT term in diffusion equations



For a positive electron flux ( $J_{e,crit}^-$ ), spins travel only once across the N (Cu) layer.

For a negative electron flux ( $J_{e,crit}^+$ ), spins travel twice across the N (Cu) layer.



$$\Delta RA \propto \exp\left(\frac{-d_{Cu}}{\lambda}\right) \Rightarrow \lambda = (190 \pm 20) \text{ nm}$$

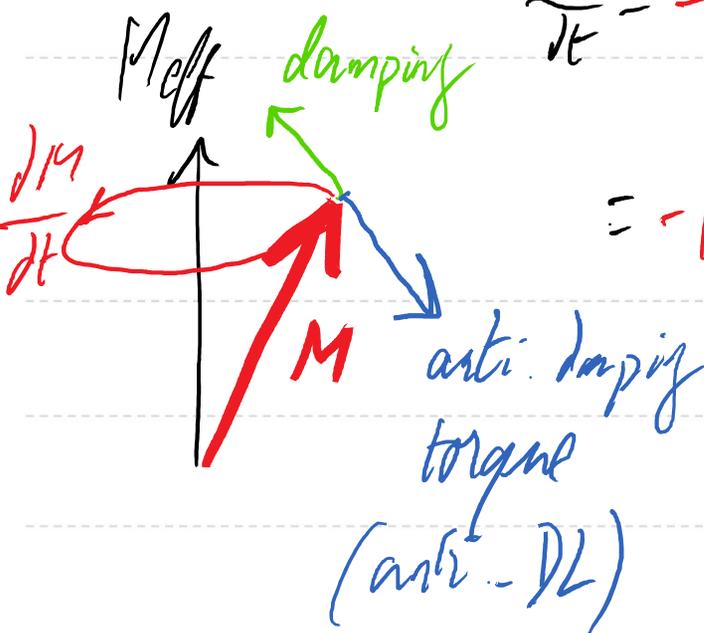
$$J_c^- \propto \exp\left(\frac{d_{Cu}}{\lambda}\right) \Rightarrow \lambda = (170 \pm 40) \text{ nm}$$

$$J_c^+ \propto \exp\left(\frac{2d_{Cu}}{\lambda}\right) \Rightarrow \lambda = (140 \pm 30) \text{ nm}$$

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 4. The STT term in magnetization dynamics equations

Introducing the STT DL term in the LLG equation:



$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = -|\gamma| \mathbf{T}_{Larmor} - |\gamma| \mathbf{T}_{Damping} - |\gamma| \mathbf{T}_{DL} - |\gamma| \mathbf{T}_{FL}$$

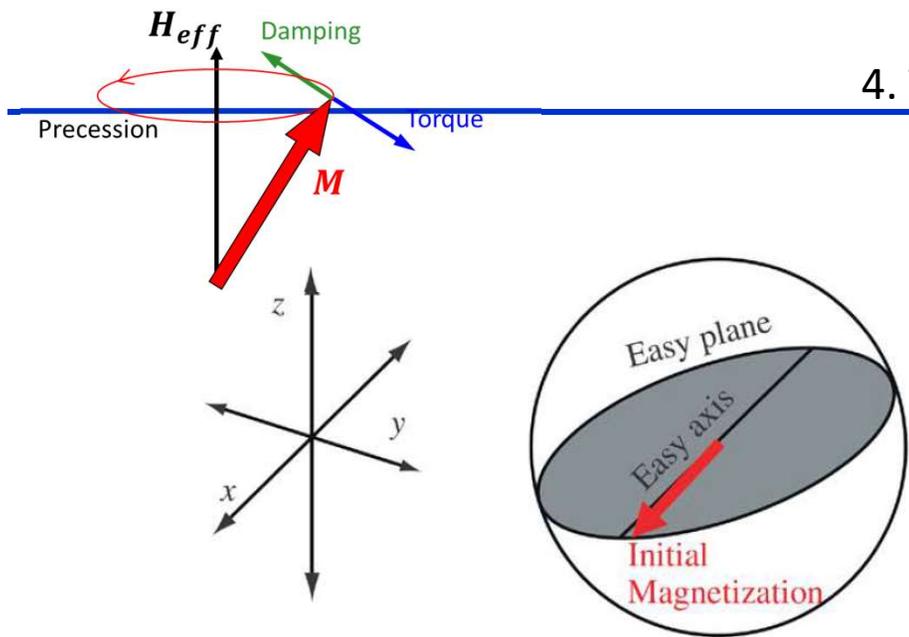
$$= -|\gamma| \mathbf{M} \times \mu_0 \mathbf{H}_{eff} + \mathbf{M} \times \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt}$$

$$+ |\gamma| \frac{\tau_{DL}}{\hbar^2} \mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{M})$$

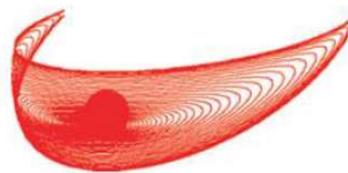
$$+ |\gamma| \frac{\tau_{FL}}{\hbar^2} (\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{M})$$

# IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

## 4. The STT term in magnetization dynamics equations

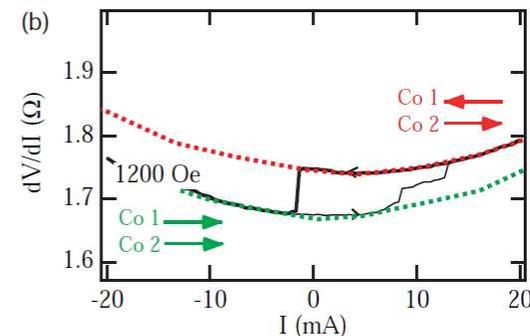
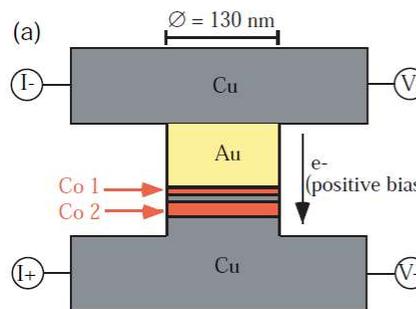
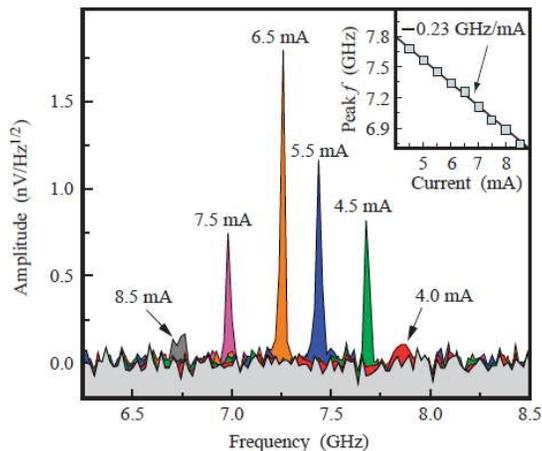
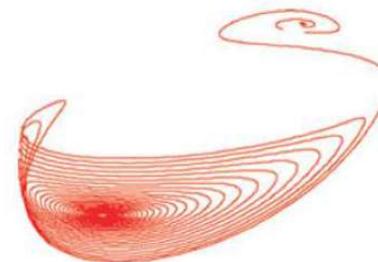


Stable precession  
STT = damping



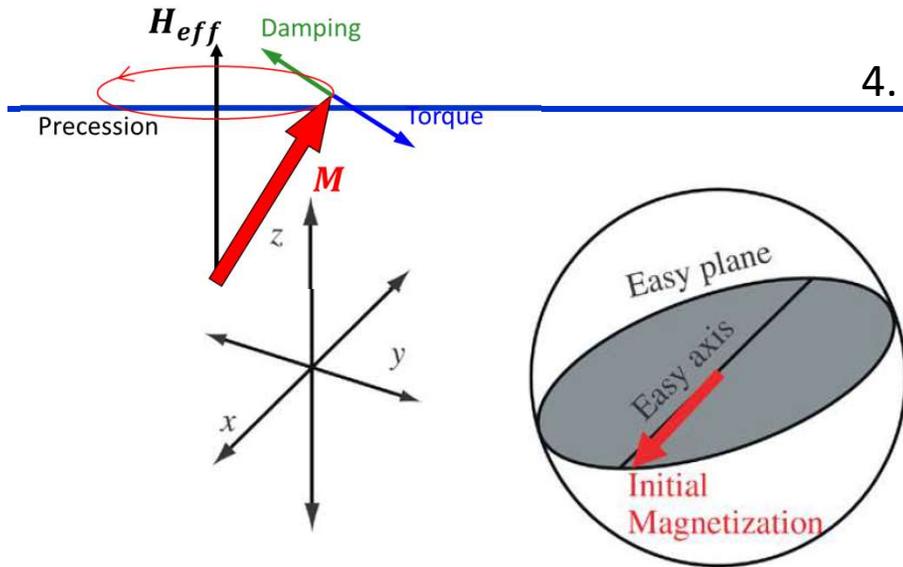
J. Mag. Magn. Mat. 320, 1190 (2008)

Switching  
STT > damping



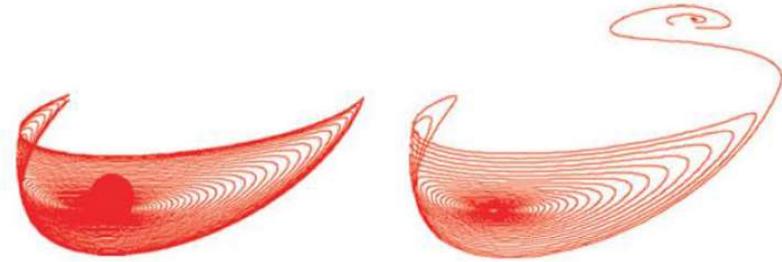
## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 4. The STT term in magnetization dynamics equations



Stable precession  
STT = damping

Switching  
STT > damping



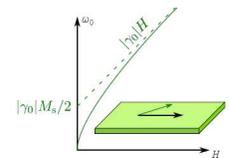
J. Mag. Magn. Mat. 320, 1190 (2008)

$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = -|\gamma|\mathbf{M} \times (\mu_0\mathbf{H}_{eff}) + \frac{\alpha}{M_S}\mathbf{M} \times \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} + |\gamma|\frac{\tau_{DL}}{M_S^2}\mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{M}) + \dots \text{ with } \tau_{DL} = \frac{J_e\hbar\beta}{2eM_Sd_F}$$

Estimating the critical current density, stability criterion (with  $H=0$ ,  $H_k \sim 0$ ):

$$|\gamma|\tau_{DL,crit} = 2\pi\frac{\alpha}{dt} = 2\pi\alpha f \Rightarrow |\gamma|\frac{J_e\hbar\beta}{2eM_Sd_F} = 2\pi\frac{|\gamma|\mu_0M_S}{2}$$

$$J_{e,crit} = \frac{e\mu_0M_S^2d_F\alpha}{\hbar\beta}$$



For permalloy ( $\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}$ ):  $\alpha = 0.008$ ,  $M_S = 0.8 \text{ MA} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$ ,  $g=2.1$ ,  $P=0.3$ .

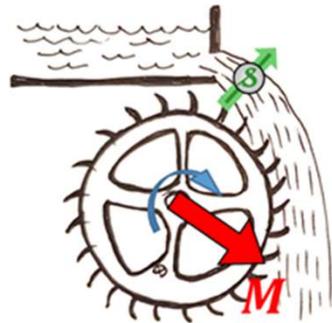
Let's consider:  $d_F = 3 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\Rightarrow J_{e,crit} \sim 1 \times 10^7 \text{ A} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 6. STT - spin pumping reciprocity

STT has another reciprocal effect called spin pumping

Spin transfer torque  
 $J_s$  puts  $M$  into motion



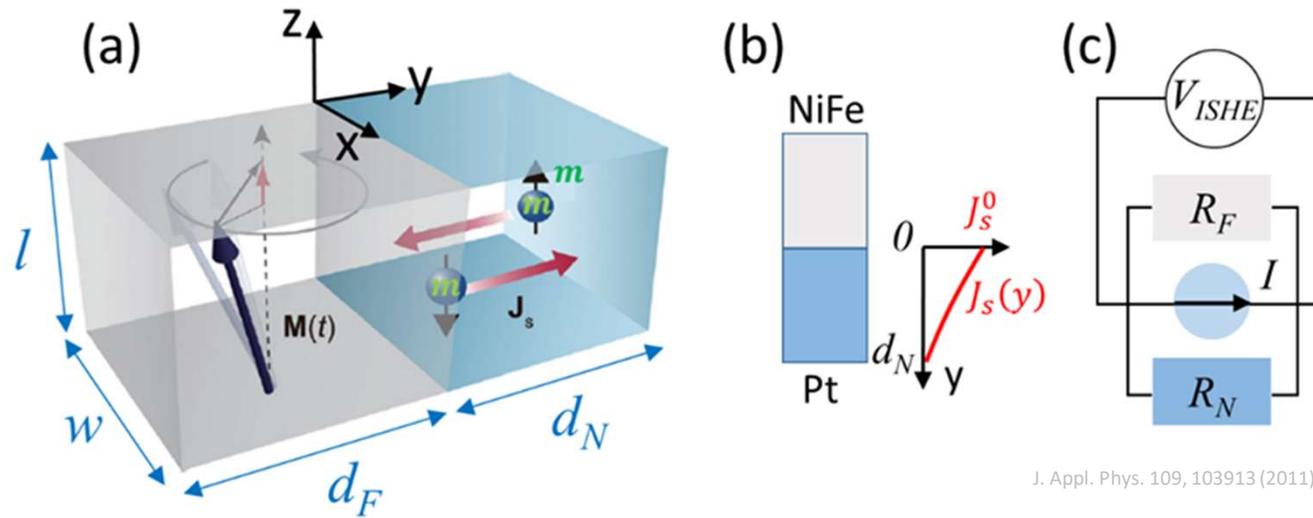
Spin pumping  
The motion of  $M$  induces  $J_s$



DOI: 10.1051/978-2-7598-2917-0.c002

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 6. STT - spin pumping reciprocity



J. Appl. Phys. 109, 103913 (2011)

$$J_s^0 = J_s^{pump} - J_s^{back} = \frac{e}{2\pi M_S^2} \text{Re}(g_{eff}^{\uparrow\downarrow}) \mathbf{M} \times \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} + \frac{e}{2\pi M_S} \text{Im}(g_{eff}^{\uparrow\downarrow}) \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt}$$

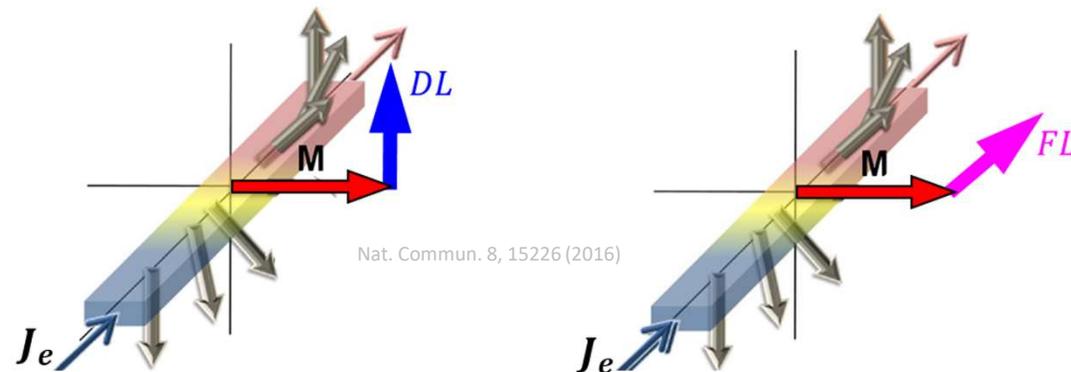
cf. Exercise 2

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 7. STT in magnetic textures

Spin transfer torque also exists in magnetic textures like domain walls (DWs):

- when the moments of the itinerant  $s$ -electrons ( $\mathbf{m}$  in the sketch below) follow adiabatically the magnetization ( $\mathbf{M}$ ), then  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}_s \propto \nabla \cdot \mathbf{M}$  builds up. This gives rise to an ‘adiabatic’ contribution to STT.
- when the spins are unable to follow  $\mathbf{M}$  (spin-mistracking), then spin accumulation builds up, giving rise to a ‘non-adiabatic’ contribution.



$$-\mathbf{T} = \frac{\hbar\beta}{2eM_S^3(1+\xi^2)} \mathbf{M} \times [\mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{J}_e \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{M}] + \frac{\hbar\beta\xi}{2eM_S^2(1+\xi^2)} \mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{J}_e \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{M}$$

DL  
Adiabatic

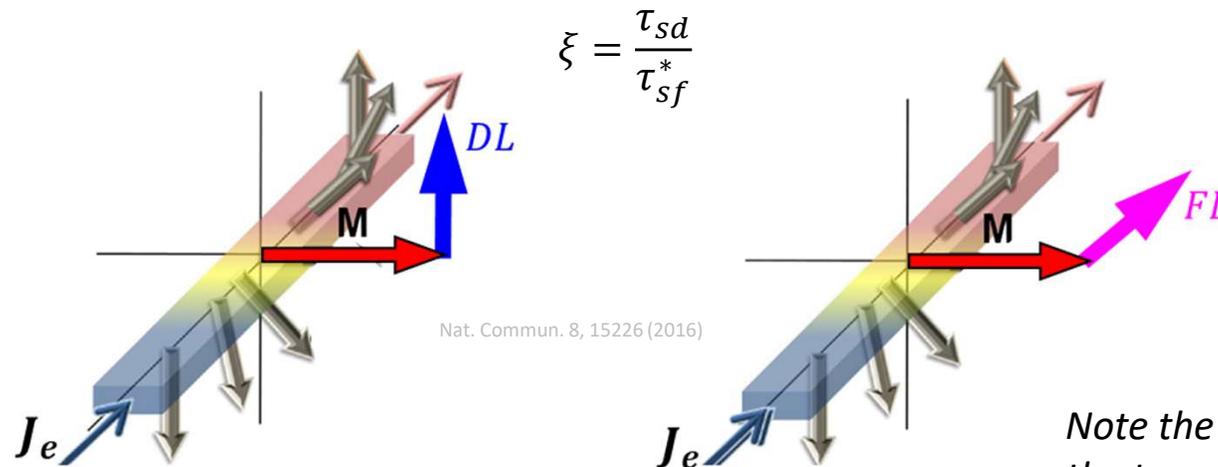
FL  
Non-adiabatic

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 7. STT in magnetic textures

- Spin transfer torque can also be efficient to move magnetic textures.

$$-\mathbf{T} = \frac{\hbar\beta}{2eM_S^3(1+\xi^2)} \mathbf{M} \times [\mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{J}_e \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{M}] + \frac{\hbar\beta\xi}{2eM_S^2(1+\xi^2)} \mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{J}_e \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{M}$$



Example for a Bloch wall

Note the distortion effect of the torque, redistributing the initial conditions for the calculation of  $\mathbf{T}$

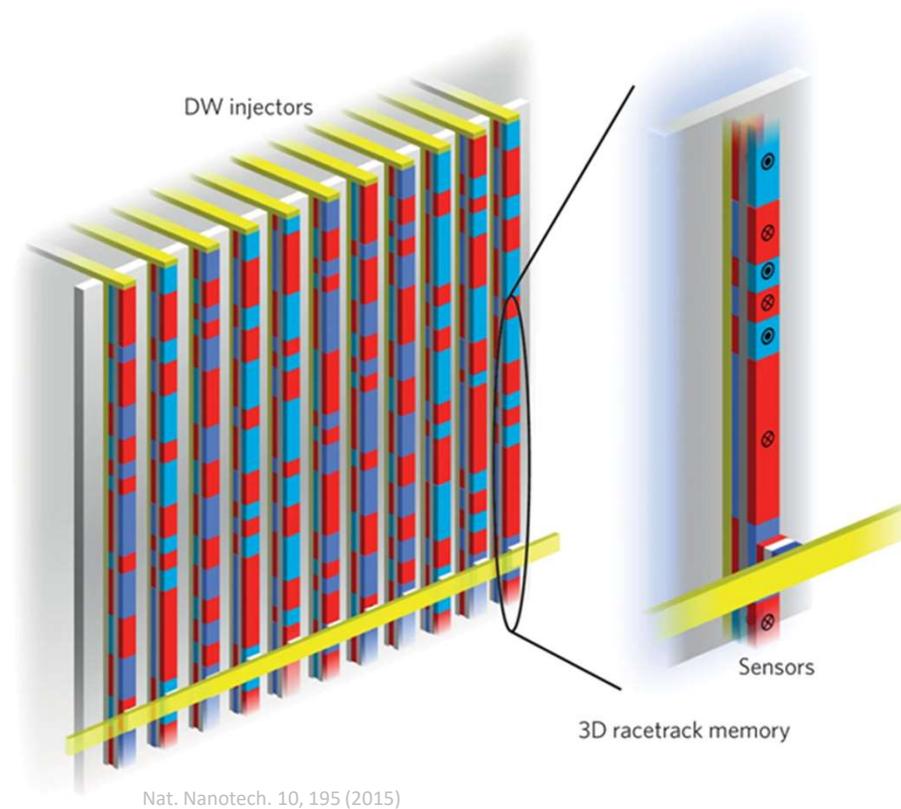
$\xi \ll 1$  in weakly SO-coupled dense-moment F metals, e. g. (Co) => DL >> FL

$\xi \gg 1$  in strongly SO-coupled dilute-moment F semiconductors, e. g. (Ga,Mn)As => FL >> DL

## IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT

### 7. STT in magnetic textures

- Possible application of STT in magnetic textures: the racetrack memory.



#### - Spin transfer torque - STT

- sd coupling between spin accumulation and magnetization
- Damping-like vs field-like contributions
- Quantum mechanical model

#### - STT in diffusion equation of transport

- Loss of spin current = spin-flips + STT
- Critical currents for switching:  $J_e^{P \rightarrow AP} > J_e^{AP \rightarrow P}$

#### - STT in magnetization dynamics equations

- Precession vs switching
- Magnetic textures

#### - References:

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- Tutorial articles: D. C. Ralph & M. D. Stiles, JMMM **320**, 1190 (2008); M. D. Stiles & J. Miltat, Topics in Appl. Phys. **101**, 225 (2006); and references therein
- Models: J. C. Slonczewski, JMMM **159**, L1 (1996); L. Berger, Phys. Rev. B **54**, 9353 (1996)
- Experiments: J. Katine *et al*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **84**, 3149 (2000); W. H. Rippard *et al*, *ibid* **92**, 027201 (2004)
- STT in transport: N. Strelkov *et al*, Phys. Rev. B **84**, 024416 (2011)
- Spin pumping: Y. Tserkovnyak *et al*, Rev. Mod. Phys. **77**, 1375 (2005)
- STT in DWs: S. Zhang & Z. Li, Phys. Rev. Lett. **93**, 127204 (2004)
- Racetrack memory: S. S. P. Parkin *et al*, Science **320**, 190 (2008)

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# Lectures on spintronics

Master 2 Univ. Grenoble Alpes

Vincent Baltz

CNRS Researcher at SPINTEC

Lecture 1	–	04 Dec.
Lecture 2	–	07 Dec.
Lecture 3	–	11 Dec.
<b>Lecture 4</b>	–	<b>14 Dec.</b>
Exercises 1 & 2	–	21 Dec.



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[www.spintec.fr/af-spintronics/](http://www.spintec.fr/af-spintronics/)

- 1h30 I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications
- II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR
- 1h30 III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR
- 1h30 IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT
- 1h30 V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE**
- VI. Brief non-exhaustive introduction to current topics**
- 1h30 Exercise 1 - Anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR)
- Exercise 2 – The spin pumping (SP) and inverse spin Hall effects (ISHE)

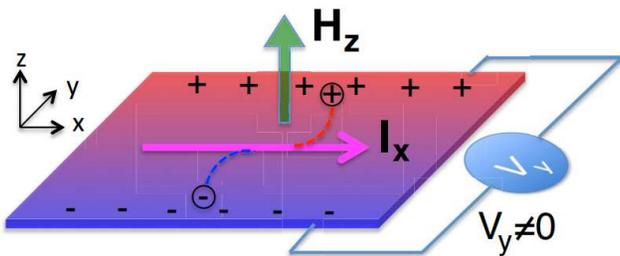
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# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

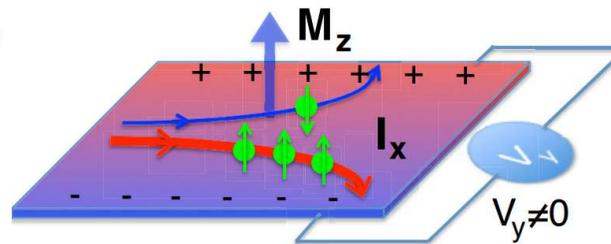
# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 1. The Hall effect trio

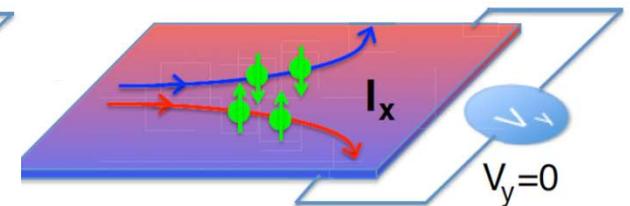
(Ordinary)  
Hall effect - 1879



Anomalous  
Hall effect - 1881



Spin  
Hall effect - 2004



arXiv:1509.05507

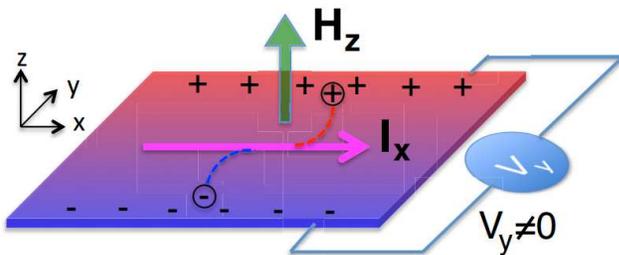
Crude link: AHE = SHE for a spin polarized material  
AHE = SHE x Polarization

$$\vec{J}_e = \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{E} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \sigma_{xy} & 0 \\ -\sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \vec{E}$$

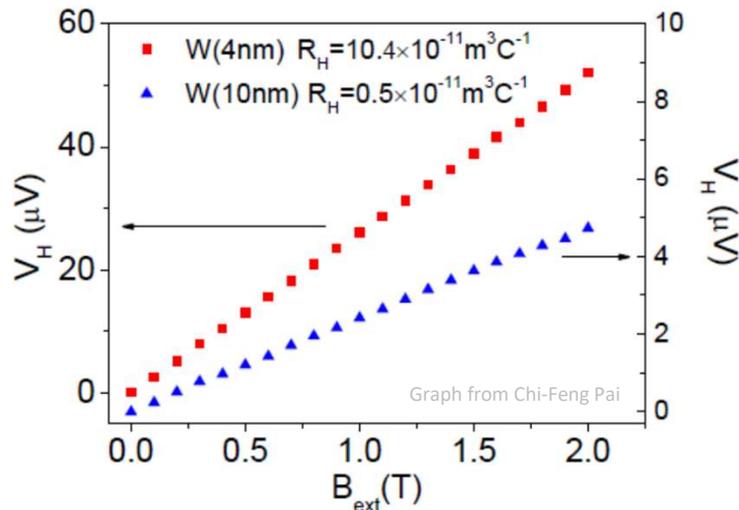
# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 1. The Hall effect trio

(Ordinary) Hall effect



arXiv:1509.05507



Graph from Chi-Feng Pai

Change of momentum

$$\hbar \dot{\mathbf{k}} = -e\mathbf{E} - e\dot{\mathbf{r}} \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\rho_{xy} = R_0 H_z = -\frac{1}{ne} H_z$$

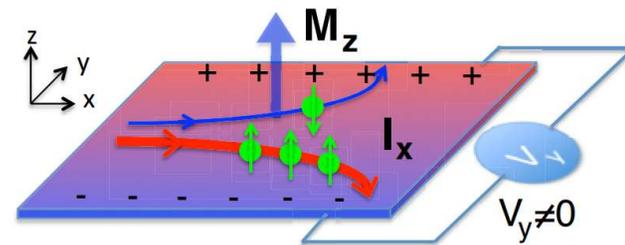
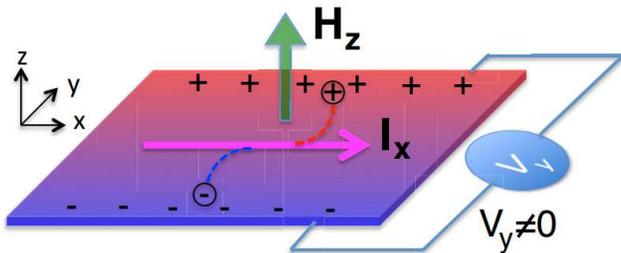
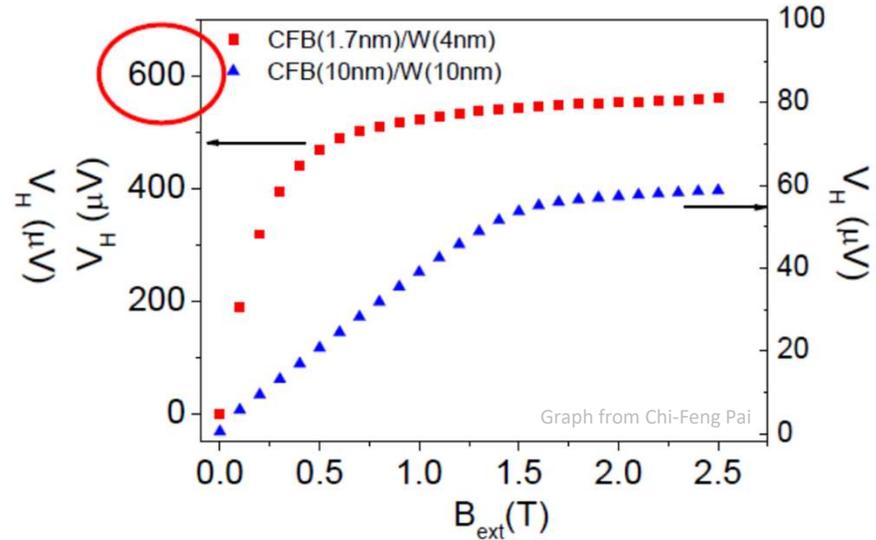
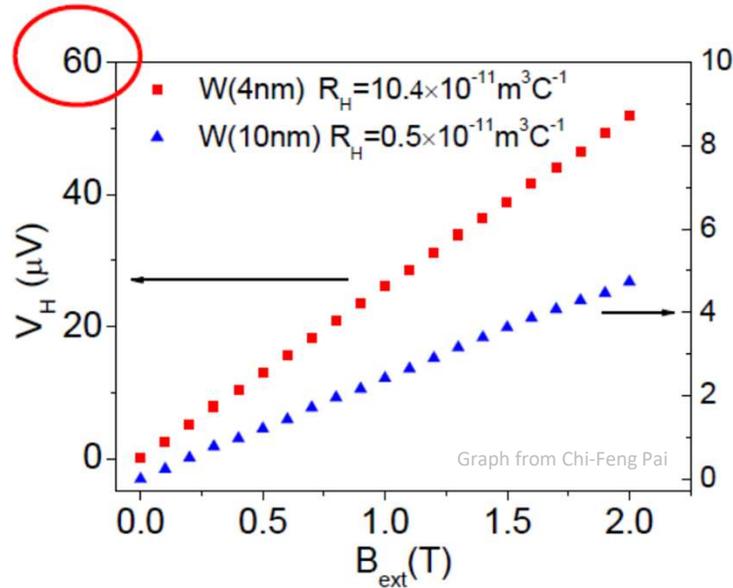
In **symmetry** words:

1. **B** breaks the time reversal ( $\mathcal{T}$ )-symmetry of the system
2. the **Lorentz force** connects electrons to  $\mathcal{T}$ -breaking!

$$\rho_{xy}(\mathbf{r}) = -\rho_{xy}(-\mathbf{r})$$

# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 1. The Hall effect trio



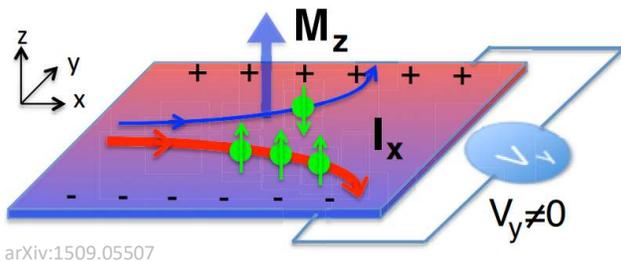
$\rho_{xy} = R_H \mu_0 H_z$   
Ordinary Hall effect

$\rho_{xy} = R_H^N \mu_0 H_z + R_H^A \mu_0 M_z$   
+ Anomalous Hall effect  
Extrinsic + **intrinsic origin**

## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 1. The Hall effect trio

Anomalous Hall effect  
Intrinsic origin



$$\rho_{xy} = R^A \mu_0 M_z$$

In **symmetry** words:

1.  $M_z$  breaks the time reversal ( $\mathcal{T}$ )-symmetry of the system
2. the **spin-orbit coupling** connects electrons to  $\mathcal{T}$ -breaking

$$\rho_{xy}(\mathbf{r}) = -\rho_{xy}(-\mathbf{r})$$

More generally,  
Change of position

$$\mathbf{v}_n(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\partial \epsilon_n(\mathbf{k})}{\hbar \partial \mathbf{k}} - \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k})$$

transversal  
velocity due to the  
Berry curvature  $\mathbf{\Omega}$

## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 2. The Berry curvature

$$v_n(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\partial \varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})}{\hbar \partial \mathbf{k}} - \underbrace{\dot{\mathbf{k}} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k})}_{\substack{\text{Transversal velocity} \\ \text{Berry curvature}}}$$

Electronic transport in a material under an external potential gradient is calculated from the Schrödinger equation:

Energy band dispersion  
energy eigenvalues

$$\varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k}(t))$$

Berry curvature dispersion  
from Bloch wavefunction eigenstates

$$|\psi_n(\mathbf{k}(t))\rangle$$

$\mathbf{k}(t)$  gauge invariant crystal momentum, includes the time varying external potential in the electron frame

'A uniform  $\mathbf{E}$  means that  $V(\mathbf{r})$  varies linearly in space and breaks the translational symmetry of the crystal so that Bloch's theorem cannot be applied. To avoid this difficulty, one can let the electric field enter through a uniform vector potential  $\mathbf{A}(t)$  that changes in time.'

# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 2. The Berry curvature

The Berry formalism stems from the adiabatic theorem in quantum mechanics: a physical system remains in its instantaneous eigenstate, **up to a phase throughout the process of a cyclic evolution**, if a given perturbation is acting on it slowly enough.



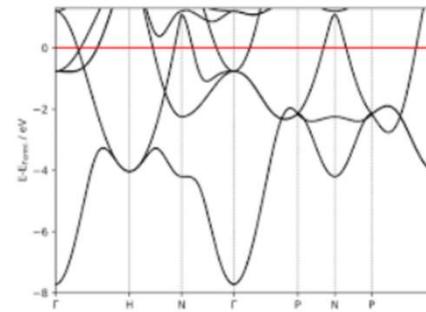
Water

$$|\psi_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle$$

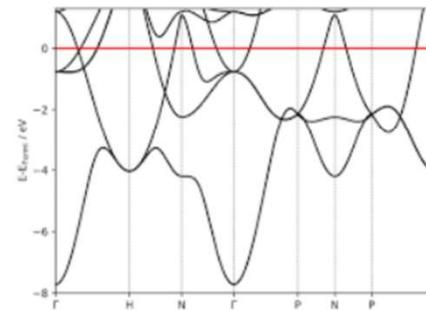


Vodka

$$e^{i\varphi} |\psi_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle$$



$\epsilon_n(\mathbf{k})$



$\epsilon_n(\mathbf{k})$

Picture from [www.uzh.ch](http://www.uzh.ch)

## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 2. The Berry curvature

$$\mathcal{H}|\psi_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle = \varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})|\psi_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle$$

$$e^{i\varphi}|\psi_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle; \varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})$$

$$\varphi = \varphi^{\text{geo.}}(\mathbf{k}) + \varphi^{\text{dyn.}}(\varepsilon_n)$$

$$\varphi^{\text{dyn.}}(\varepsilon_n)$$

Dynamic phase:

Usual phase that appears even for a time independent Hamiltonian. It addresses the following question: how long did the journey last ?

$$\varphi^{\text{geo}}(\mathbf{k}) = \gamma_n(\mathbf{k})$$

Geometric (Berry) phase:

Phase related to variations of  $\mathbf{k}$  and only dependent on the trajectory of this parameter. It addresses the following question:

*what trajectory did the system follow ?*

# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 2. The Berry curvature

Geometric (Berry) phase:

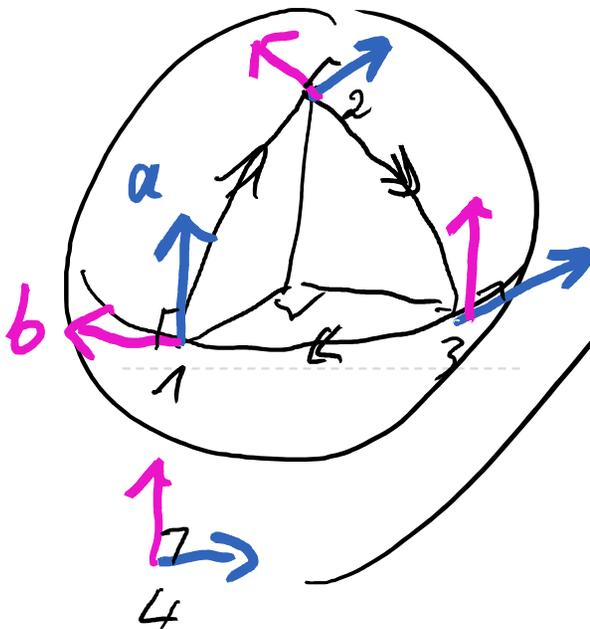
only dependent on the trajectory of this parameter.

It addresses the following question:

which way did the system go during the journey ?

$$\varphi^{geo.}(\mathbf{k}) = \gamma_n(\mathbf{k})$$

Simple example of parallel transport on a closed contour  $\mathcal{C}$



Rotation of  $a, b$  by:

$$\varphi^{geo} = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Solid angle subtended by the contour:

$$\frac{1}{8} 4\pi = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Adapted from Jean Dalibard's lecture  
[www.college-de-france.fr](http://www.college-de-france.fr)

## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 2. The Berry curvature

Geometric (Berry) phase:

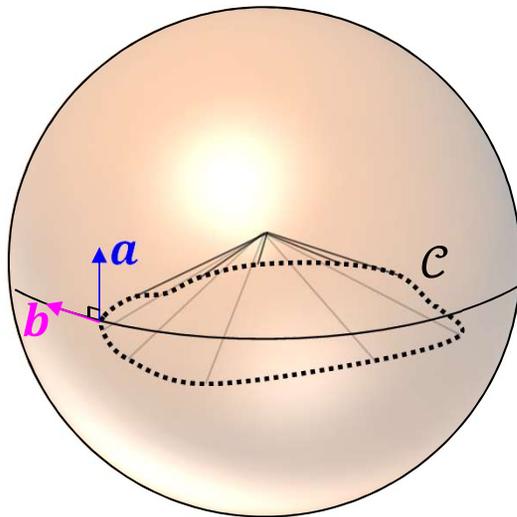
only dependent on the trajectory of this parameter.

It addresses the following question:

which way did the system go during the journey ?

$$\varphi^{geo.}(\mathbf{k}) = \gamma_n(\mathbf{k})$$

General formalism for parallel transport on a closed contour  $C$



Rotation of  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}$  by:  $\varphi^{geo.}$

$$a_f = a_i \cos \varphi^{geo.} - b_i \sin \varphi^{geo.}$$

$$b_f = a_i \sin \varphi^{geo.} + b_i \cos \varphi^{geo.}$$

Consider  $\psi_i = a_i + i b_i$

$$\text{One obtains } \psi_f = a_f + i b_f = e^{i \varphi^{geo.}} \psi_i$$

$\varphi^{geo.}(C)$  is the solid angle subtended by  $C$

Adapted from Jean Dalibard's lecture  
[www.college-de-france.fr](http://www.college-de-france.fr)

## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 2. The Berry curvature

'It is now well recognized that information on the Berry curvature is essential in a proper description of the dynamics of Bloch electrons, which has various effects on transport and thermodynamic properties of crystals.'

$$\mathcal{H}|\psi_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle = \varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})|\psi_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle$$

$$e^{i\gamma_n(\mathbf{k})}|\psi_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle$$

Berry phase	$\gamma_n(\mathbf{k}) = \oint \mathcal{A}_n(\mathbf{k}) d\mathbf{k} = \iint \Omega_n(\mathbf{k}) d^2\mathbf{k}$	Global
Berry connection	$\mathcal{A}_n(\mathbf{k}) = \langle \psi_n(\mathbf{k})   i\nabla_{\mathbf{k}}   \psi_n(\mathbf{k}) \rangle$	
Berry curvature	$\Omega_n(\mathbf{k}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \times \langle \psi_n(\mathbf{k})   i\nabla_{\mathbf{k}}   \psi_n(\mathbf{k}) \rangle$	Local

# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 2. The Berry curvature

### Analogies

Berry curvature

$$\Omega_n(\mathbf{k})$$

Berry connection

$$\mathcal{A}_n(\mathbf{k})$$

Berry phase

$$\gamma_n(\mathbf{k})$$

$$= \oint \mathcal{A}_n(\mathbf{k}) d\mathbf{k} = \iint \Omega_n(\mathbf{k}) d^2\mathbf{k}$$

Chern number

$$\nu = \frac{1}{2\pi} \iint \Omega_n(\mathbf{k}) d^2\mathbf{k} = \text{integer}$$

Magnetic field

$$B(\mathbf{r})$$

Vector potential

$$A(\mathbf{r})$$

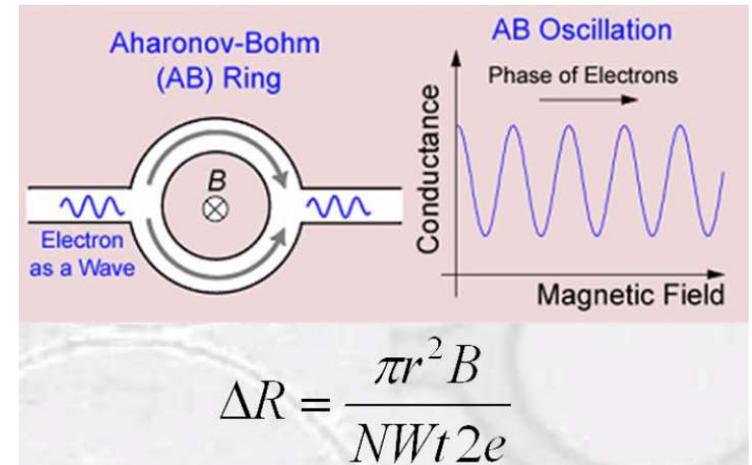
Bohm-Ahronov phase

$$\varphi(\mathbf{r})$$

$$= \oint A(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r} = \iint B(\mathbf{r}) d^2\mathbf{r}$$

Dirac monopole

$$q_m = \iint B(\mathbf{r}) d^2\mathbf{r} = \text{integer} \frac{h}{e}$$



# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 2. The Berry curvature

Semiclassical transport theory

$$J_e = -e \sum_n \int_{BZ} v_n(\mathbf{k}) g(\epsilon_n(\mathbf{k})) \frac{d^d \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^d}$$

System dimension

$$v_n(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\partial \epsilon_n(\mathbf{k})}{\hbar \partial \mathbf{k}} - \dot{\mathbf{k}} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k})$$

$$g(\epsilon_n) = f(\epsilon_n) + \delta g(\epsilon_n)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{k}} = -\frac{e}{\hbar} \mathbf{E}$$

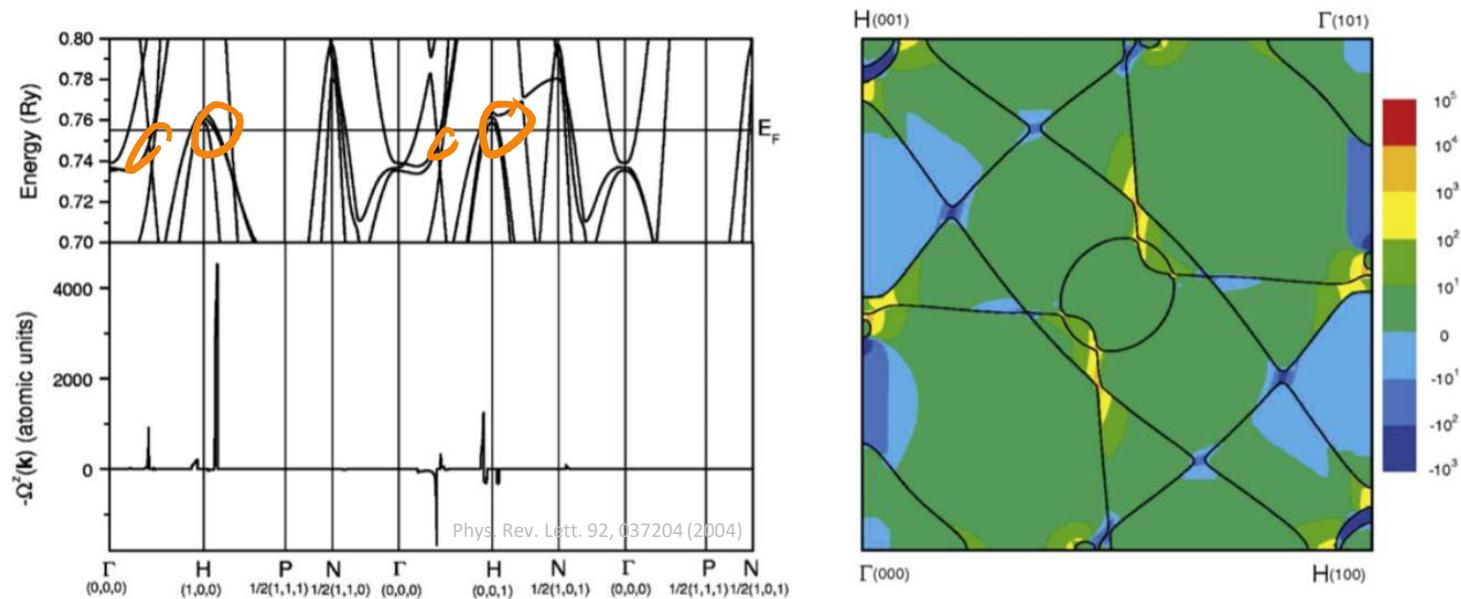
$$J_e = \bar{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{E} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \sigma_{xy} & 0 \\ -\sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h} \sum_n \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d-1}} \int_{BZ} \Omega_n(\mathbf{k}) (\epsilon_n(\mathbf{k})) d^d \mathbf{k}$$

$\sigma_{xy}$ ( $S \cdot cm^{-1}$ )	bcc Fe	fcc Ni	hcp Co
Fermi loop	750	-2275	478
Fermi loop (first term)	7	0	-4
Berry curvature	753	-2203	477
Previous theory	751 <sup>a</sup>	-2073 <sup>b</sup>	492 <sup>b</sup>
Expt.	1032 <sup>c</sup>	-646 <sup>d</sup>	480 <sup>c</sup>

Phys. Rev. B 76, 195109 (2007)

### Ab initio calculations

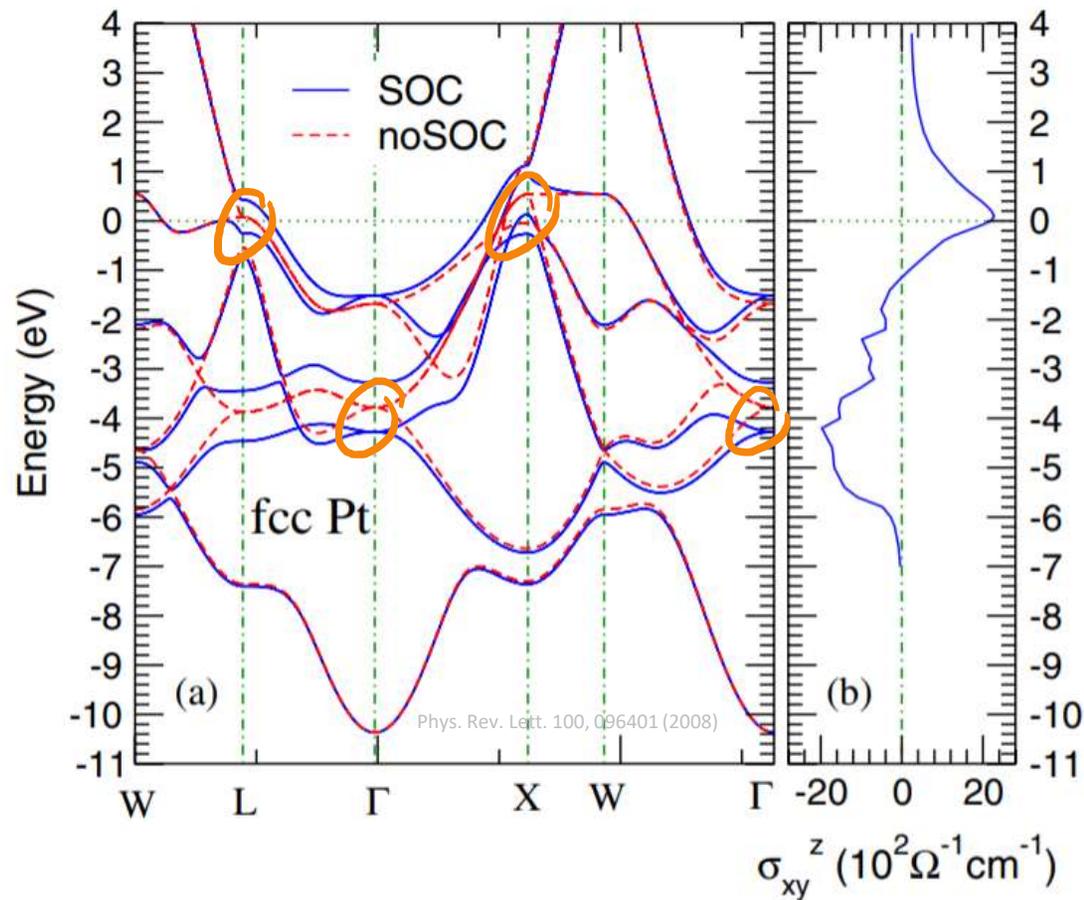


**Figure 15.** Left: band structure of bulk Fe near Fermi energy (upper panel) and Berry curvature  $\Omega^z(\mathbf{k})$  (lower panel) along symmetry lines. Right: Fermi surface in (010) plane (solid lines) and Berry curvature  $-\Omega^z(\mathbf{k})$  in atomic units (color map). Reproduced with permission from [41]. Copyright 2004 American Physical Society.

# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 2. The Berry curvature

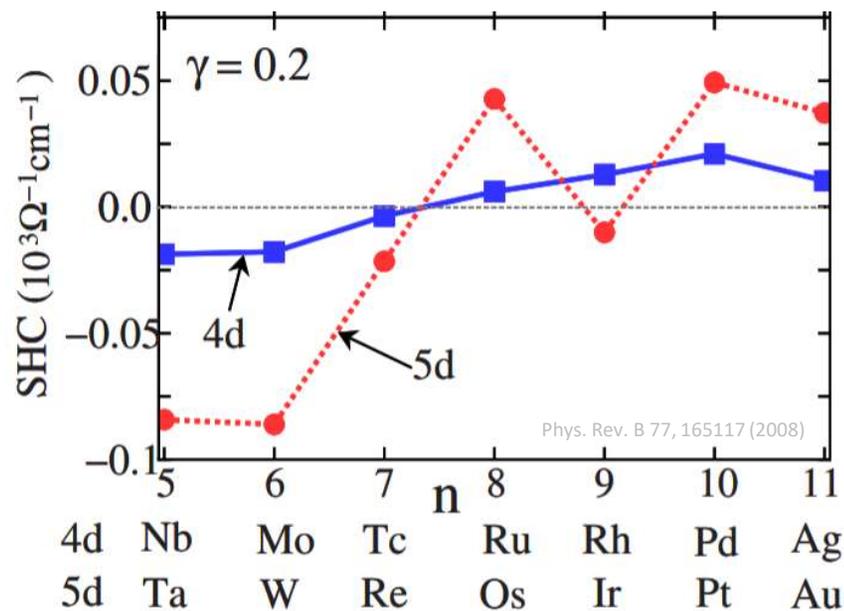
### Ab initio calculations



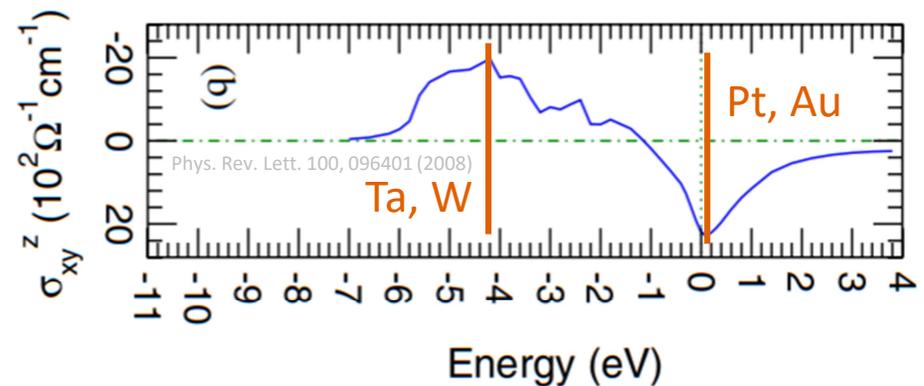
# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 2. The Berry curvature

### The intrinsic spin Hall conductivity of 4d and 5d metals



Metals	Structure	Electron number	SOI (Ry)
Nb	bcc	5 (4d <sup>4</sup> 5s <sup>1</sup> )	0.006
Mo	bcc	6 (4d <sup>5</sup> 5s <sup>1</sup> )	0.007
Tc	hcp	7 (4d <sup>6</sup> 5s <sup>1</sup> )	0.009
Ru	hcp	8 (4d <sup>7</sup> 5s <sup>1</sup> )	0.01
Rh	fcc	9 (4d <sup>8</sup> 5s <sup>1</sup> )	0.011
Pd	fcc	10 (4d <sup>10</sup> 5s <sup>0</sup> )	0.013
Ag	fcc	11 (4d <sup>10</sup> 5s <sup>1</sup> )	0.019
Ta	bcc	5 (5d <sup>3</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> )	0.023
W	bcc	6 (5d <sup>4</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> )	0.027
Re	hcp	7 (5d <sup>5</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> )	0.025
Os	hcp	8 (5d <sup>6</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup> )	0.025
Ir	fcc	9 (5d <sup>9</sup> 6s <sup>0</sup> )	0.025
Pt	fcc	10 (5d <sup>9</sup> 6s <sup>1</sup> )	0.03
Au	fcc	11 (5d <sup>10</sup> 6s <sup>1</sup> )	0.03



## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 3. The quantum Hall effects

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h} \sum_n \frac{d^d \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{d-1}} \int \boldsymbol{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k}) f(\epsilon_n(\mathbf{k})) d^d \mathbf{k}$$

This is the 'unquantized' version of the Hall effect for a system in  $d$  dimension.

#### The quantum Hall effect:

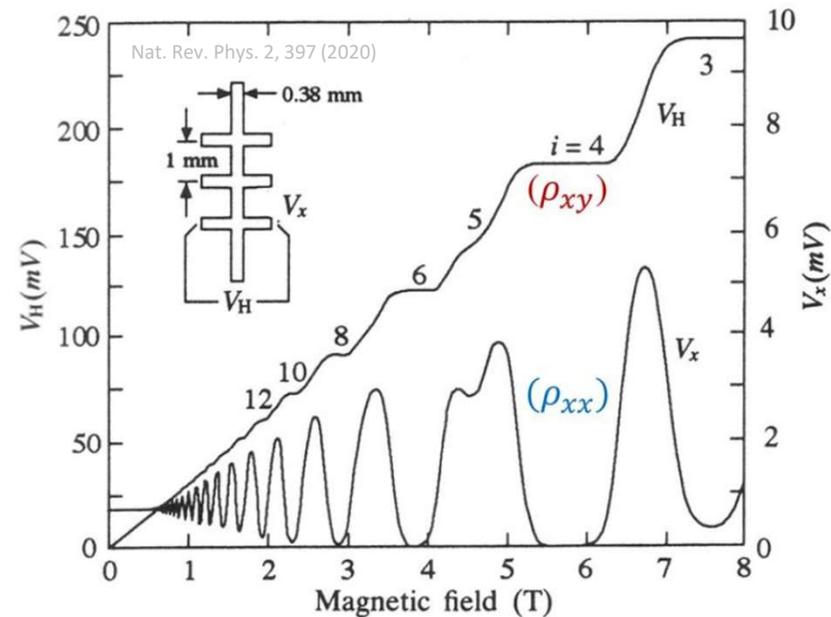
Under a strong magnetic field, 2D electron gas is quantized into a discrete Landau level:

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h} \sum_n \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint \frac{\boldsymbol{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k})}{B} d\mathbf{k}$$

integer

Chern number  $C_n$

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h} \sum_n C_n$$

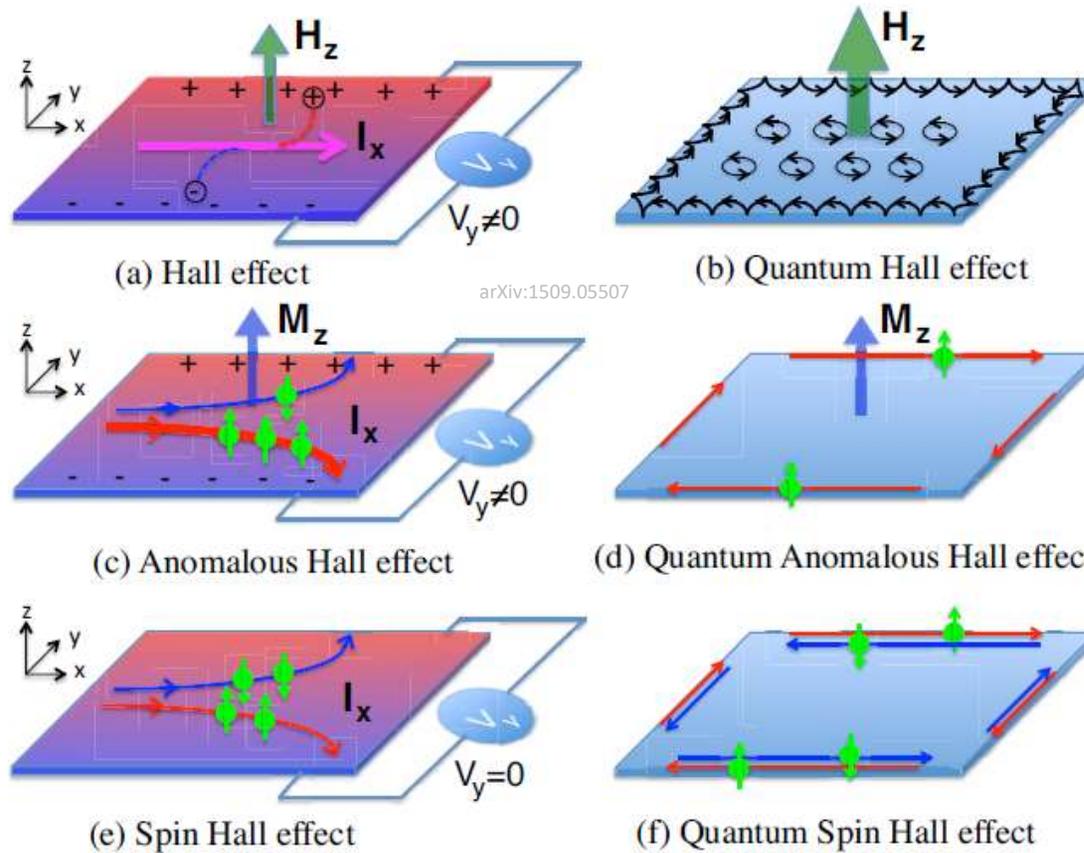


Von Klitzing constant :  $R_K = h/e^2$

# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 3. The quantum Hall effects

A whole family of Hall effects, beyond the Hall trio:



## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 3. The quantum Hall effects

#### Nobel Prizes related to QHE:

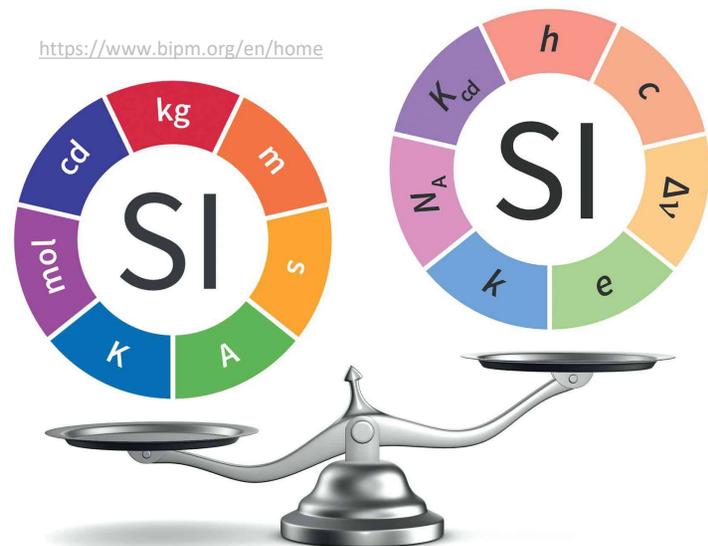
1980	K. Von Klitzing	QHE
1998	H. Störmer, D. Tsui, R. Laughlin	Fractional QHE
2010	A. Geim, K. Novoselov	Graphene
2016	D. J. Thouless, F. D. M. Haldane, J. M. Kosterlitz	Topological insulator

Von Klitzing constant :  $R_K = h/e^2$  depends only on physical constants

More stable and reproducible than any other resistance (25812.807 Ohm)

SiSubstrate/Graphene = QHE new standard

QHE key to the new definition of units in 2018



## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 4. Parity and time symmetries

Intrinsic origin relates to the Bloch states – **Berry curvature**

$$v_n(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\partial \varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})}{\hbar \partial \mathbf{k}} - \underbrace{\dot{\mathbf{k}} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k})}_{\text{Transversal velocity}}$$

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{\hbar} \sum_n \frac{d^d \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{d-1}} \int \boldsymbol{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k}) f(\varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})) d^d \mathbf{k}$$

Non-zero  $\boldsymbol{\Omega}_n$  requires breaking of time-reversal ( $\mathcal{T}$ ) or spatial inversion ( $\mathcal{P}$ ) symmetry

$\mathcal{P}$	$\mathcal{T}$	$\mathcal{PT}$
$\Omega(-\mathbf{k}) = \Omega(\mathbf{k})$	$\Omega(-\mathbf{k}) = -\Omega(\mathbf{k})$	$\Omega(\mathbf{k}) = -\Omega(\mathbf{k}) = 0$

Demonstration:

$\mathcal{P} \quad \mathbf{k} \rightarrow -\mathbf{k}; \quad \dot{\mathbf{k}} \rightarrow -\dot{\mathbf{k}}$	$\mathcal{T} \quad \mathbf{k} \rightarrow -\mathbf{k}; \quad \dot{\mathbf{k}} \rightarrow \dot{\mathbf{k}}$
--	---

and  $v_n(-\mathbf{k}) = -v_n(\mathbf{k}); \quad \varepsilon_n(-\mathbf{k}) = \varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k}); \quad \frac{\partial \varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})}{\hbar \partial \mathbf{k}} \rightarrow -\frac{\partial \varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})}{\hbar \partial \mathbf{k}}$

## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 4. Parity and time symmetries

Intrinsic origin relates to the Bloch states – **Berry curvature**

$$\mathbf{v}_n(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\partial \varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})}{\hbar \partial \mathbf{k}} - \underbrace{\dot{\mathbf{k}} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k})}_{\text{Transversal velocity}}$$

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{\hbar} \sum_n \frac{d^d \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{d-1}} \int \boldsymbol{\Omega}_n(\mathbf{k}) f(\varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})) d^d \mathbf{k}$$

Non-zero  $\boldsymbol{\Omega}_n$  requires breaking of time-reversal ( $\mathcal{T}$ ) or spatial inversion ( $\mathcal{P}$ ) symmetry

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P} & & \mathcal{T} \\ \boxed{\Omega(-k) = \Omega(k)} + & \boxed{\Omega(-k) = -\Omega(k)} & \longrightarrow \boxed{\Omega(k) = -\Omega(k) = 0} \\ & & \mathcal{PT} \end{array}$$

Such type of Hall effect therefore exists even if  $M_z = 0$

spin Hall effect in general,  $\rho_{xy}^z$

see also anomalous Hall in antiferromagnets,  $\rho_{xy} = R_0 H_z + R_S M_z + \rho_{xy}^{AF}$

# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

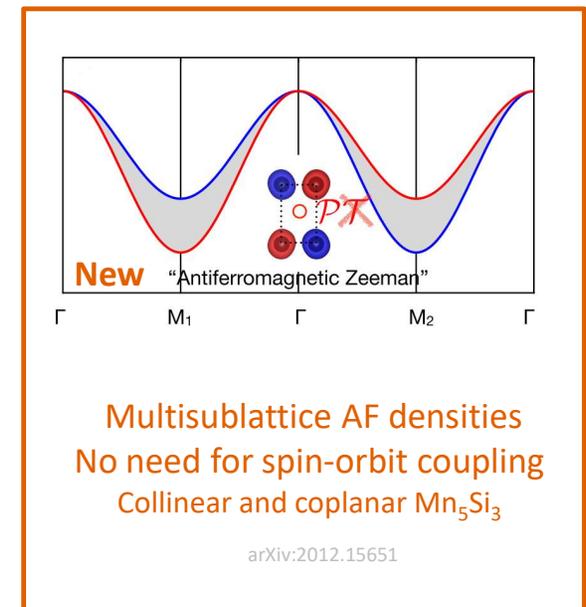
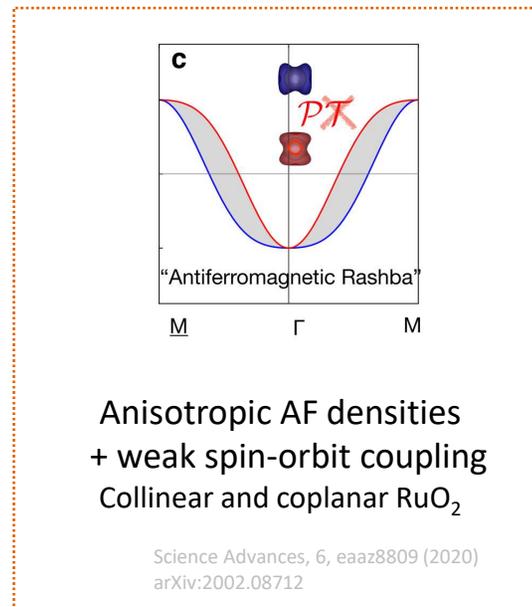
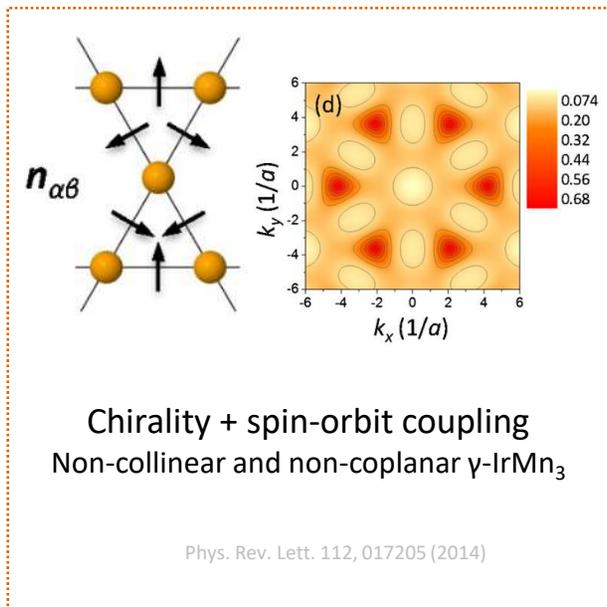
## 4. Parity and time symmetries

Spontaneous Hall effect in antiferromagnets even if  $M_z = 0$ ?

→ **Yes!** The key is breaking of  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry

Breaking  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry → Non-zero Berry curvature → Intrinsic Hall effect

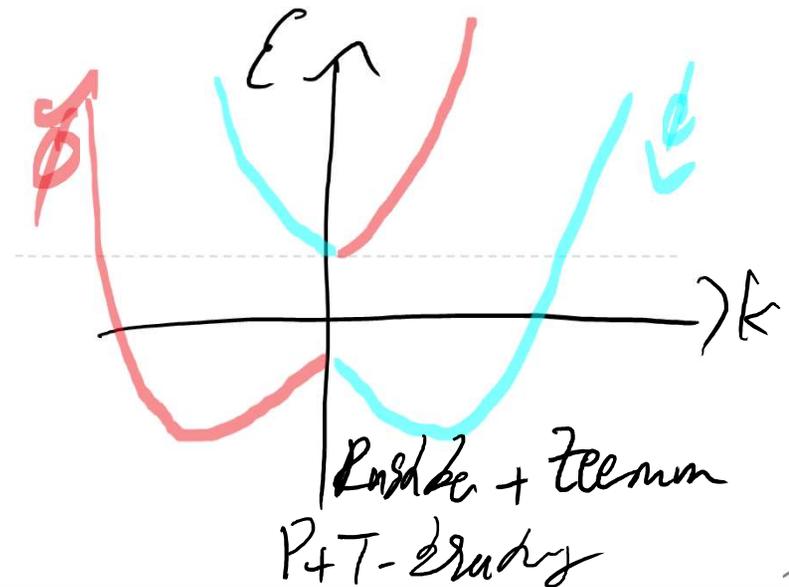
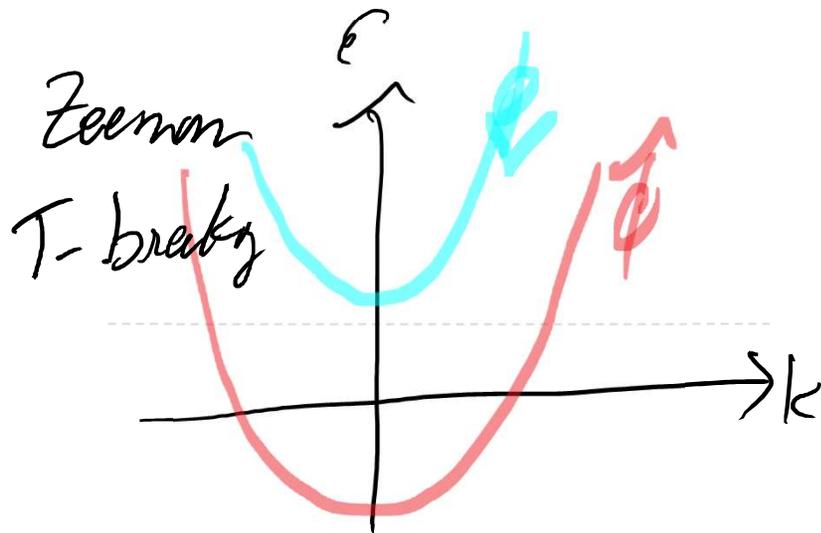
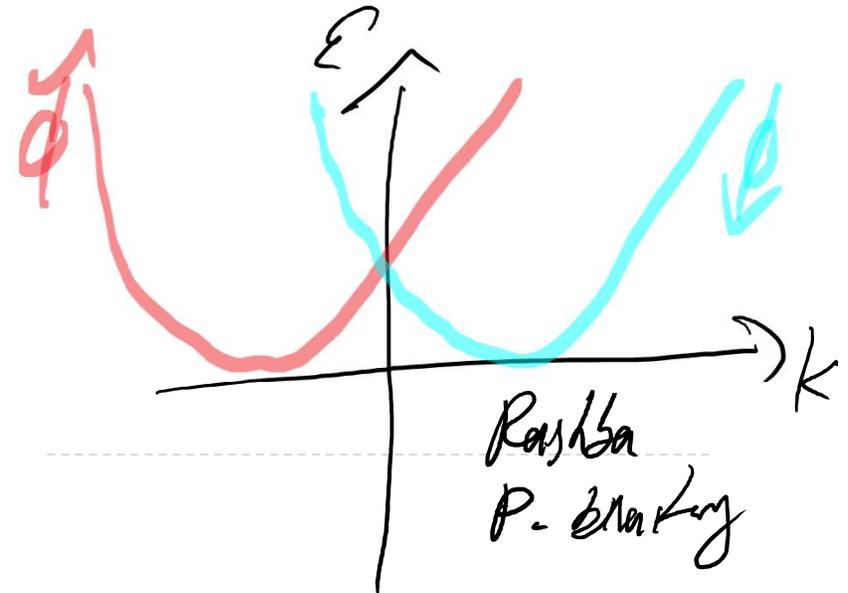
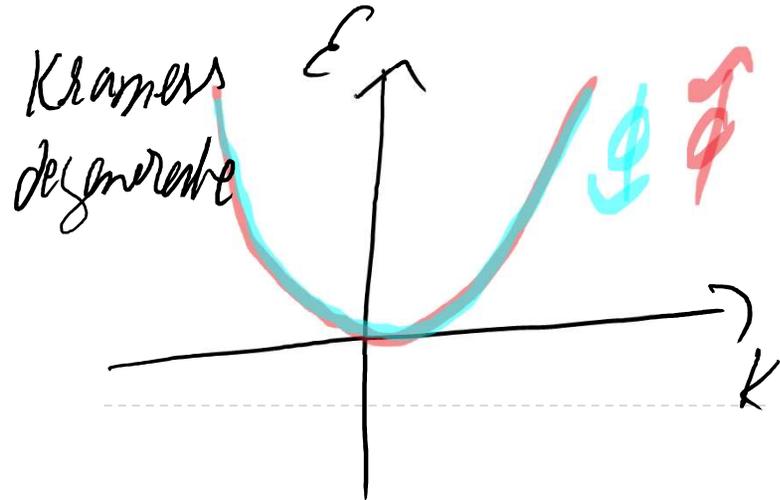
$$\rho_{xy} = R_0 H_z + R_S M_z + \rho_{xy}^{AF}$$



# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

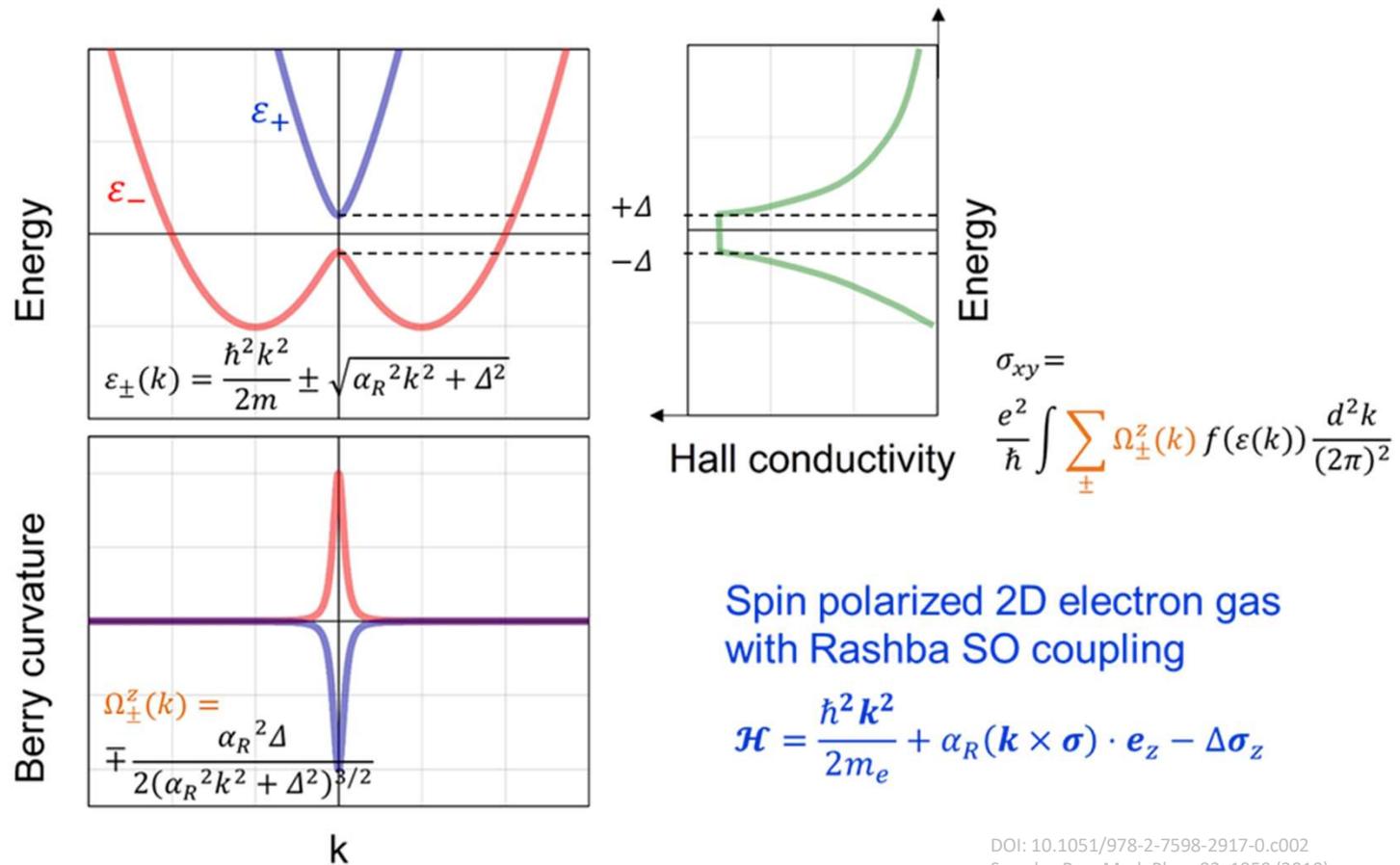
## 4. Parity and time symmetries

Typical examples of dispersion spectra



# V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

## 4. Parity and time symmetries



DOI: 10.1051/978-2-7598-2917-0.c002  
See also Rev. Mod. Phys. 82, 1959 (2010)

## V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE

### 4. Parity and time symmetries

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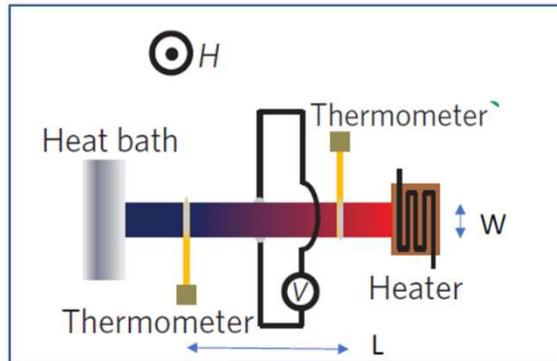
Note: beware the color code, when blue/red is commonly used to distinguish majority and minority-spin bands (see slide 123), it is also commonly used to distinguish the upper/lower band, no matter spin (see slide 124).

Slide 124:

$\Omega_z$  : the Berry curvature is non-zero around the gap and non-zero curvatures required combining Rashba ( $\lambda$ ) and Zeeman ( $\Delta$ ) contributions. It has the same form as the Berry curvature in one valley of graphene.

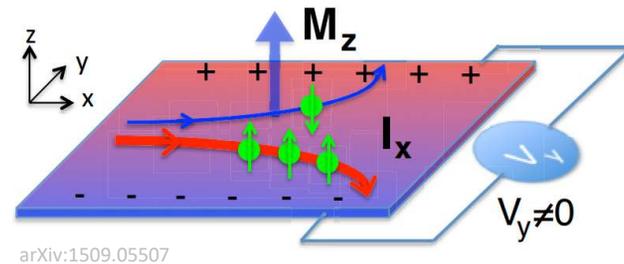
$\sigma_{xy}$  : for  $\varepsilon_F < -\Delta$  the Hall conductivity first increases when increasing the Fermi energy, as one integrates the contribution to the Berry curvature of the lower band. In the gap (for  $-\Delta < \varepsilon_F < \Delta$ ), the Hall conductivity saturates as the lower band fully contributed. Above the gap (for  $\varepsilon_F > \Delta$ ), the Hall conductivity reduces as one integrates the contribution to the Berry curvature of the upper band which opposes that of the lower band.

### Thermal (Nernst) counterparts to electrical Hall effects



thermopower

$$\vec{J}_p = \sigma S \cdot \nabla T$$



resistivity

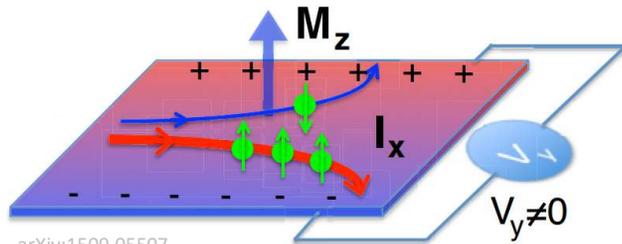
$$\vec{J}_e = \sigma \cdot \nabla V$$

Link via the Mott relation

$$S_{metal} = -\frac{\pi^2 k_B T}{3e} \frac{c'(\mu)}{c(\mu)} \quad \text{with} \quad c(\mu) = 1/\rho = N(\epsilon_F) e^2 D$$

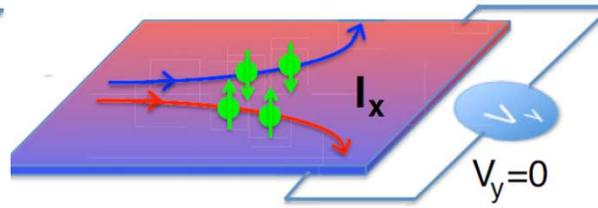
### Extrinsic contributions to the Hall effects

Anomalous Hall effect



arXiv:1509.05507

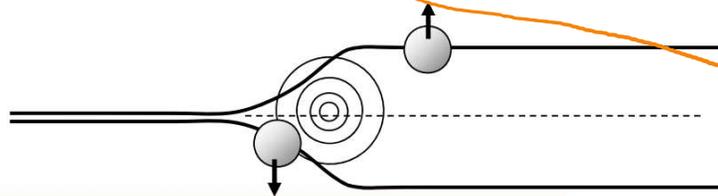
Spin Hall effect



$$J_e = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \sigma_{xy} & 0 \\ -\sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_{zz} \end{pmatrix} E$$

**Extrinsic** + Intrinsic origins

Side jump

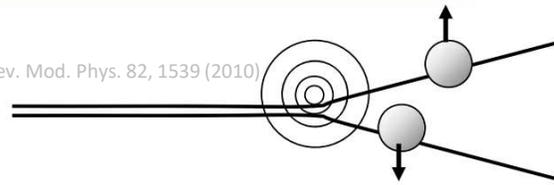


The electron velocity is deflected in opposite directions by the opposite electric fields experienced upon approaching and leaving an impurity. The time-integrated velocity deflection is the side jump.

Skew scattering

Asymmetric scattering due to the effective spin-orbit coupling of the electron or the impurity.

Rev. Mod. Phys. 82, 1539 (2010)



$$\sigma_{xy} = \sigma_{xy}^i + \sigma_{xy}^{sj} + \sigma_{xy}^{sk}$$

#### - Berry curvature

- cyclic adiabatic evolution
- describes the dynamics of Bloch electrons (in a periodic crystal structure)
- has various effects on transport and thermodynamic properties of crystals

#### - Anomalous Hall effect

- Intrinsic contribution: requires breaking of the  $\mathcal{PT}$  combination – example of spin polarized 2D electron gas with Rashba SO coupling
- Extrinsic contribution: due to spin-dependent scattering (skew and side jump)

#### - $\mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{T}$ symmetries

- Bulk contribution: relates to group theory
- Structure contribution: example of the Rashba interface effect

#### - References:

- Berry curvature: D. Xiao *et al*, Rev. Mod. Phys. **82**, 1959 (2010)  
Jean Dalibard's lecture, [www.college-de-france.fr](http://www.college-de-france.fr)
- Hall effects family: N. Nagaosa *et al*, Rev. Mod. Phys. **82**, 1539 (2010)  
H. Weng *et al*, A-APPS Bulletin **23**, 3 (2013)  
K. von Klitzing *et al*, Nat. Rev. Phys. **2**, 397 (2020)
- Rashba effect: A. Manchon *et al*, Nat. Mater. **14**, 871 (2015)

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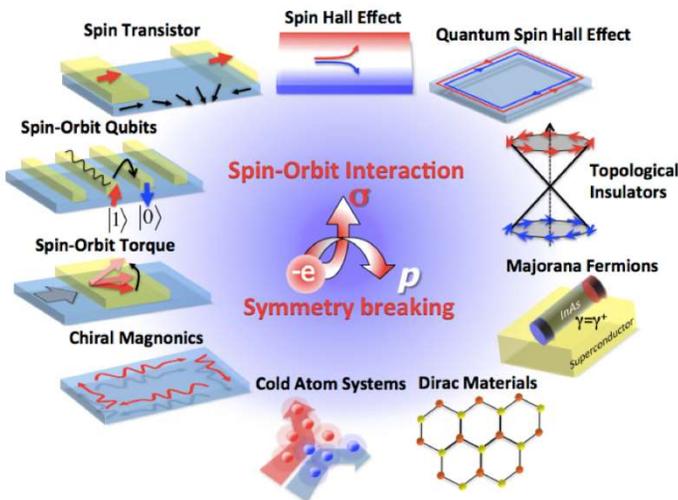
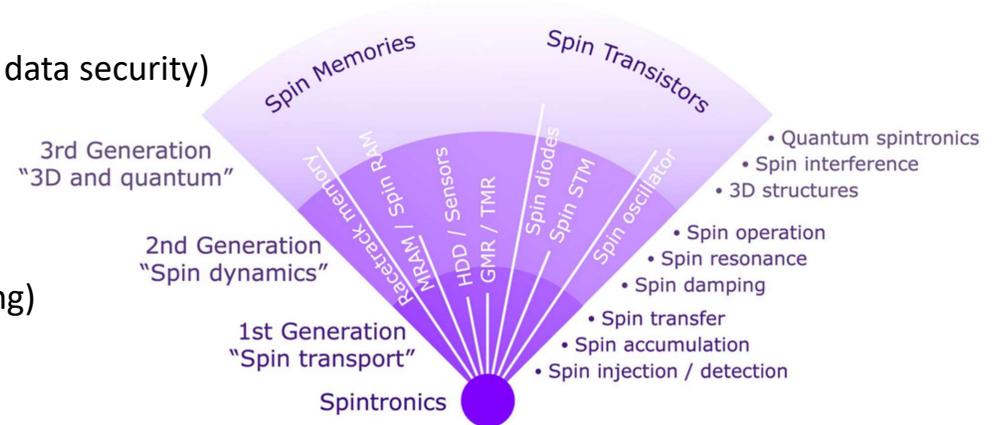
# **VI. Brief non-exhaustive introduction to current topics**

# VI. Brief non-exhaustive introduction to current topics

## 1. Applied targets and basic research topics

### Intended applications:

- Information technology-IT (e.g. memory, processors, data security)
- Biomedical (e.g. sensors)
- Telecommunication-T (e.g. transceiver)
- Artificial intelligence-AI (e.g. neuromorphic computing)



### Among current research topics:

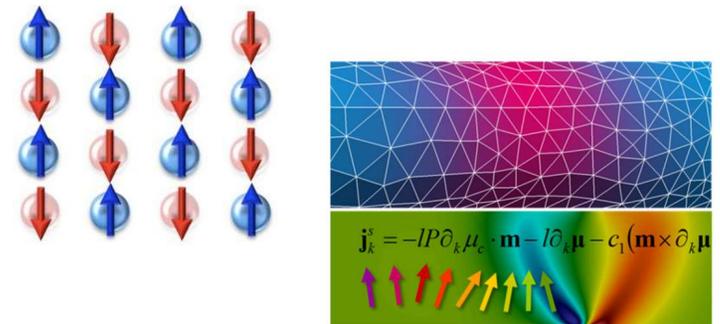
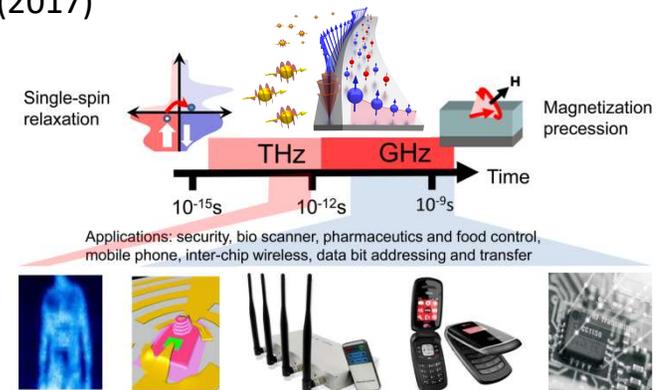
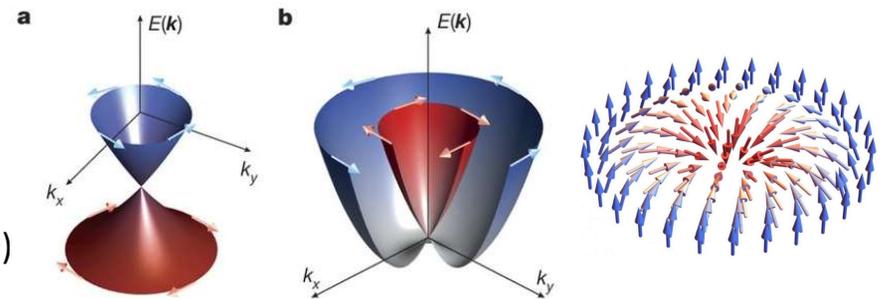
- Symmetry, topology [1,2]
- Transfer of angular momentum: electron, phonon, photon [2-6]
- Ultimate time scales [3,4,6]
- ‘New’ materials / structures / instrumentation [6-9]
- Quantum spintronics
- Mature fields: MRAM/Design (IT), Sensors (IT, Bio), Oscillators (T, AI) [7]

# VI. Brief non-exhaustive introduction to current topics

## 2. For further reading

### For further reading:

- Symmetry/Topology (DMI, Skyrmions, TI etc)
  - [1] A. Soumyanarayanan *et al*, Nature **539**, 509 (2016)
- Spin orbit torques
  - [2] A. Manchon *et al*, Rev. Mod. Phys. **91**, 035004 (2019)
- Magnonics/THz
  - [3] A. V. Chumak *et al*, Nat. Phys. **11**, 453 (2015); JPDAP **50**, 300201 (2017)
  - J. Walowski *et al*, J. Appl. Phys. **120**, 140901 (2016)
- Opto-magnetism
  - [4] A. Kirilyuk *et al*, Rev. Mod. Phys. **82**, 2731 (2010)
- Spin currents
  - [5] S. Maekawa *et al* (Eds), Spin currents, Oxford Uni. Press (2012)
- Antiferromagnetic spintronics
  - [6] V. Baltz *et al*, Rev. Mod. Phys. **90**, 015005 (2018);
  - T. Jungwirth *et al*, Nature Nano. **11**, 231 (2016)
- Future perspectives for spintronic devices
  - [7] A. Hirohata *et al*, J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. **47**, 193001 (2014);
  - B. Dieny *et al* (Eds), Intro to MRAM, IEEE Press, Wiley (2017)
- 3D nanomagnetism
  - [8] A. Fernández-Pacheco, Nat. Commun. **8**, 15756 (2017)
- Thoughts about data handling and material criticality
  - [9] O. Fruchart, <http://fruchart.eu/olivier/slides/magn/magn-fruchart-cnano2018.pdf>



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Complete slides posted online on the UGA Moodle platform

Current Natural Sciences

CONDENSED  
MATTER

Vincent BALTZ

## The Basics of Electron Transport in Spintronics

*Textbook with Lectures,  
Exercises and Solutions*

 Science Press |  edp sciences

More on electron transport in spintronics:

magneto-electronic circuit theory

spin-orbit torques

skyrmion Hall angle

spin Hall magnetoresistance

intrinsic and extrinsic damping

anomalous Hall harmonic analysis

...

<https://bit.ly/3oScD5p>

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# Lectures on spintronics

Master 2 Univ. Grenoble Alpes

Vincent Baltz

CNRS Researcher at SPINTEC

Lecture 1	–	04 Dec.
Lecture 2	–	07 Dec.
Lecture 3	–	11 Dec.
Lecture 4	–	14 Dec.
<b>Exercises 1 &amp; 2</b>	–	<b>21 Dec.</b>



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- 1h30 I. Brief overview of the field of spintronics and its applications
- II. First notions to describe electron and spin transport – AMR, CIP-GMR
- 1h30 III. Spin accumulation – CPP-GMR
- 1h30 IV. Transfer of angular momentum – STT
- V. Berry curvature, parity and time symmetries – AHE
- 1h30 VI. Brief non-exhaustive introduction to current topics

- 1h30 **Exercise 1 - Anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR)**
- Exercise 2 – The spin pumping (SP) and inverse spin Hall effects (ISHE)**

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# Exercises 1 & 2

## 1. Anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR)

### ■ Introduction / Reminder

The anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR) effect refers to the dependence of the electrical resistivity  $\rho$  on the relative angle  $\theta$  between the applied electrical current  $I$  and the magnetization  $\mathbf{M}$  of a magnetic material [W. Thomson, *Proc. Roy. Soc.* **8**, 546 (1857); T. McGuire and R. Potter, *IEEE Trans.Magn.* **11**, 1018 (1975)]. It is a bulk property caused by anisotropic mixing of majority moment( $\uparrow$ )–spin( $\downarrow$ ) electrons and minority moment( $\downarrow$ )–spin( $\uparrow$ ) electrons conduction bands, induced by the spin-orbit interaction.

In the reference frame set by  $\mathbf{M}$  (FIG. 1), the electric field  $\mathbf{E}$  and the current density  $\mathbf{J}_e$  are linked by the resistivity tensor  $\bar{\rho}$

$$\mathbf{E} = \bar{\rho} \mathbf{J}_e$$

$$\text{with } \begin{pmatrix} E_{\parallel} \\ E_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{\parallel} & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J_{\parallel} \\ J_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

with  $\rho_{\parallel}$  and  $\rho_{\perp}$ , the resistivities for  $\mathbf{J}_e \parallel \mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{J}_e \perp \mathbf{M}$ , respectively.

### ■ Questions

- a) Find the expressions of  $E_x$  and  $E_y$  vs.  $J_x, J_y, \rho_{\parallel}, \rho_{\perp}$  and  $\theta$ , in the experimental reference frame defined by  $(\hat{x}, \hat{y})$ , (FIG. 1).

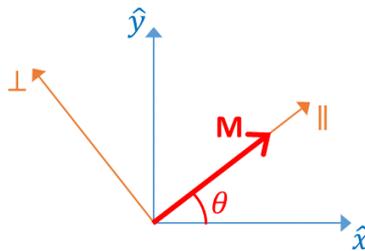


FIG. 1. Illustration showing the two reference frames considered.

- b) In practice, how would you proceed experimentally to measure  $\rho_{\parallel}$  and  $\rho_{\perp}$ ? What is the order of magnitude of the values of field, current, voltage etc that you think you would use or measure?
- c) Experimental measurements of Ni films at room temperature returned  $\rho_{\parallel} = 8.2 \mu\Omega.cm$  and  $\rho_{\perp} = 8 \mu\Omega.cm$ . Calculate the AMR ratio  $\frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho} = \frac{\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}}{\rho_{\perp}}$  for Ni. Can you think of any practical use of the AMR effect?

- d) We now consider a ‘Union Jack’ device shown in FIG. 2, a magnetization pointing along  $\hat{x}$ , a film of thickness  $d$ , and a time-dependent square wave current density  $J_{ij}(t)$ . Plot the time( $t$ )-variation of:  $V_{15}$ , and  $V_{37}$  for  $J_{15}$ ;  $V_{84}$ , and  $V_{26}$  for  $J_{84}$ ;  $V_{73}$ , and  $V_{15}$  for  $J_{73}$ ;  $V_{62}$ , and  $V_{84}$  for  $J_{62}$ .

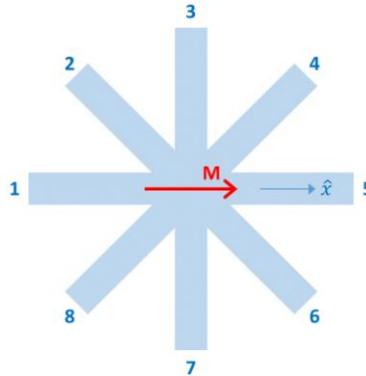


FIG. 2. Illustration of the ‘Union Jack’ device considered.

- e) An antiferromagnet is used instead of a ferromagnet. This antiferromagnet has two collinear sublattices with magnetizations pointing towards opposite directions ( $M_1 = -M_2$ ). The total magnetization is  $M = M_1 + M_2 = 0$ . Do you think that using AMR is appropriate to characterize this type of magnetic material ?
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## 2. Spin pumping (SP) and inverse spin Hall effect (ISHE)

### ■ Introduction / Reminder

The spin pumping effect [Y. Tserkovnyak *et al*, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **77**, 1375 (2005)] refers to the ability of a magnetic material to generate a spin current  $J_s^0$  when brought out-of-equilibrium. The technique usually involves inducing resonance in a ferromagnetic (F) spin injector – e.g. a NiFe layer – which is adjacent to a non-magnetic material (N) known as the spin sink – e.g. a Pt layer (FIG. 3). Spin pumping and spin transfer torque are reciprocal effect. An intuitive picture consists in comparing spin transfer torque to a water flow (spin current) moving the blades of a watermill (magnetization) and spin pumping to moving blades (magnetization) creating a water flow (spin current).

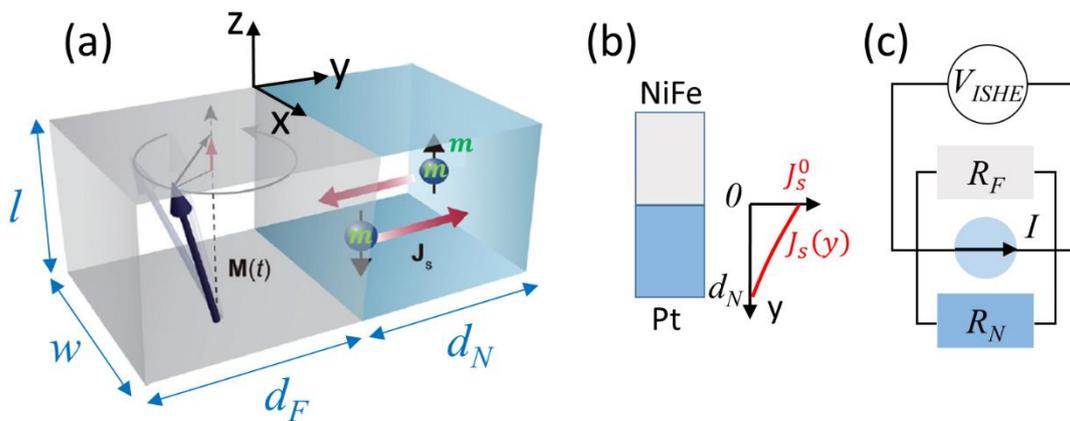


FIG. 3. (a) Illustration of the spin pumping effect due to sustained out-of-equilibrium magnetization dynamics. (b) Illustration of spin current diffusion across the non-magnetic layer (here, Pt). (c) Equivalent circuit considering spin-charge conversion due to the inverse spin Hall effect in the non-magnetic layer. Adapted from K. Ando *et al*, *J. Appl. Phys.* **109**, 103913 (2011).

### ■ Questions

a) Because the system is out-of-equilibrium, spins accumulate at the F/N interface and diffuse across the N layer [FIG. 3(b)]. The time-varying spin density (nonequilibrium chemical-potential imbalance) can be written as follows:  $\tilde{\mu}_s = \mu_s e^{i\omega t}$ . In this part, you will calculate the  $y$ -dependence of the spin current in the N layer:  $J_s(y)$ .

a1) Write the relation between  $J_s$  and  $\mu_s$ .  
This will be Eq. (a1).

a2) Write the transport equation that regulates  $\mu_s$  and show that

$$\frac{d^2 \mu_s}{dy^2} - \frac{1}{l_{sf}^{\#2}} \mu_s = 0, \quad (\text{a2})$$

with  $l_{sf}^{\#} = \frac{l_{sf}^*}{\sqrt{1+i\omega\tau_{sf}^*}}$  and  $l_{sf}^* = \sqrt{D\tau_{sf}^*}$ , where  $D$  is the diffusive constant, and  $\tau_{sf}^*$  is the average spin flip scattering rate in the N layer. Here,  $l_{sf}^* = l_{sf,N}^*$  and  $l_{sf}^{\#} = l_{sf,N}^{\#}$ .

- a3) Is it realistic to consider that  $l_{sf}^{\#} \sim l_{sf}^*$  ?
- a4) Write the boundary conditions at  $y = 0$  and  $y = d_N$ .
- a5) Use the result of question a4) and the fact that the solution of Eq. (a2) takes the following form:  $\mu_s(y) = Ae^{y/l_{sf}^*} + Be^{-y/l_{sf}^*}$ , to explicit  $\mu_s(y)$  vs  $y$ ,  $d_N$ ,  $l_{sf}^*$ ,  $e$ , and  $\rho_N$ .
- a6) Use the result of question a5) and Eq. (a1) to explicit  $J_s(y)$  vs  $y$ ,  $d_N$ ,  $l_{sf}^*$ , and  $J_s^0$ . This will be Eq. (a6).
- b) Due to the inverse spin Hall effect (ISHE) (§V), the spin current is converted in a transverse charge current  $J_e$  along  $x$ . The N layer then becomes a ‘source’ of charge current. The spin-charge conversion is expressed as  $J_e(y) = \theta_{SHE}J_s(y)$ , where  $\theta_{SHE}$  is called the spin Hall angle.
- b1) Use Eq. (a6) and the indications above to explicit the average charge current density  $J_e = \langle J_e(y) \rangle = \frac{1}{d_N} \int_0^{d_N} J_e(y) dy$  vs  $y$ ,  $d_N$ ,  $l_{sf}^*$ , and  $J_s^0$ .
- b2) Plot the charge current  $I$  vs  $d_N$ . Comment the trend for  $d_N \ll l_{sf}^*$  and for  $d_N \gg l_{sf}^*$ .
- b3) The equivalent circuit of the F/N bilayer is illustrated in FIG. 3(c). Explicit the electromotive force (voltage  $V_{ISHE}$ ) due to the inverse spin Hall effect in the N layer induced by spin pumping in a F/N bilayer.
- b4) Calculate the value of the ‘spin-charge conversion efficiency’:  $\theta_{SHE}l_{sf}^*$ , considering that  $d_N\sigma_N \gg d_F\sigma_F$ , and for  $V_{ISHE}=4 \mu V$ ,  $d_N=10 \text{ nm}$ ,  $l_{sf}^*=3 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\sigma_N=4 \times 10^6 \text{ S.m}^{-1}$ ,  $w=0.5 \text{ mm}$ , and  $J_s^0=4.8 \times 10^5 \text{ A.m}^{-2}$ .
- b5) A contribution to the spin Hall angle is due to extrinsic  $sd$  scattering on defects. Given this specific contribution – intrinsic contributions are not considered here - how would you proceed to increase the value of the spin Hall angle in a material ? Will the options you propose improve the ‘spin-charge conversion efficiency’ ?
- c) It is possible to show that the angular dependence of the inverse spin Hall voltage is

$$V_{ISHE} = \frac{w\theta_{SHE}l_{sf}^*\tanh(d_N/(2l_{sf}^*))}{d_N\sigma_N+d_F\sigma_F} \frac{eg_r^{\uparrow\downarrow}\gamma^2(\mu_0 h_{rf})^2}{8\pi\alpha^2\omega} \sin(\theta_M) \bar{\Gamma}, \quad (c)$$

with  $\bar{\Gamma} = 2\omega \frac{\mu_0 M_S |\gamma| \sin^2(\theta_M) + \sqrt{(\mu_0 M_S \gamma \sin^2(\theta_M))^2 + 4\omega^2}}{(\mu_0 M_S \gamma \sin^2(\theta_M))^2 + 4\omega^2}$ ,  $w$  the width of the layers,  $\theta_{SHE}$  the spin-Hall angle,  $h_{rf}$  the *rf* excitation field used to reach F resonance, and  $\omega$  the resonance angular frequency.  $\theta_M$  is defined in FIG. 4.  $\bar{\Gamma}$  is a parameter accounting for the trajectory of the magnetization precession in the (*xy*) plane. It can be viewed as the elliptic- to circular-trajectory ratio.  $g_r^{\uparrow\downarrow}$  is the real part of the spin mixing conductance per unit area per quantum conductance per spin channel, accounting for the ability of the F/N interface and N layer to absorb the spin component along  $\mathbf{M} \times (\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{M})$ .

- c1) Show that  $\bar{\Gamma}$  is a dimensionless parameter.
- c2) What is the trajectory of the magnetization precession for  $\theta_M=0$  ? Why is it so ? And should it always be the case ?
- c3) The angular( $\theta_H$ )-dependence of the magnetization's tilt  $\theta_M$  deduced from experimental data for the case of a 8 nm-thick NiFe film is given in FIG. 4.  $\theta_H$  is the angle between the applied magnetic field  $\mathbf{H}$  and the normal to the sample's surface  $\mathbf{y}$ . Comment this behaviour: what governs it ? Use Eq. (c) and FIG. 4, to hand-sketch the  $\theta_H$ -dependence of  $V_{ISHE}$ . Comment the symmetry of  $V_{ISHE}$  with  $\mathbf{H}$ .

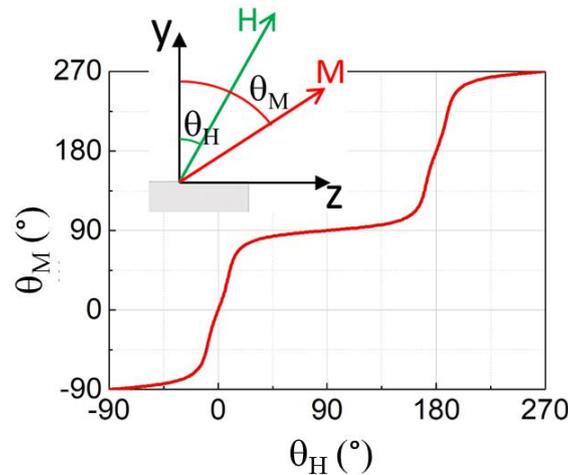


FIG. 4. Typical angular( $\theta_H$ )-dependence of the magnetization's tilt  $\theta_M$ . From O. Gladii *et al*, *Phys. Rev. B* **100**, 174409 (2019).

■ **Solutions to exercise 1**

a) A change of basis can be done by using the appropriate rotation matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_{\parallel} \\ E_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} J_{\parallel} \\ J_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J_x \\ J_y \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

Combining Eqs. (1) (see text of exercise 1) and (2) gives

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{\parallel} & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J_x \\ J_y \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{\parallel} & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J_x \\ J_y \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{\parallel} & 0 \\ 0 & \rho_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J_x \\ J_y \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \rho_{\parallel} & -\sin \theta \rho_{\perp} \\ \sin \theta \rho_{\parallel} & \cos \theta \rho_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J_x \\ J_y \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos^2 \theta \rho_{\parallel} + \sin^2 \theta \rho_{\perp} & \cos \theta \sin \theta (\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}) \\ \cos \theta \sin \theta (\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}) & \sin^2 \theta \rho_{\parallel} + \cos^2 \theta \rho_{\perp} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J_x \\ J_y \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{\parallel} - (\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}) \sin^2 \theta & \cos \theta \sin \theta (\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}) \\ \cos \theta \sin \theta (\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}) & \rho_{\perp} - (\rho_{\perp} - \rho_{\parallel}) \sin^2 \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J_x \\ J_y \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

For  $J_y = 0$ , we obtain

$$E_x = [\rho_{\parallel} - (\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}) \sin^2 \theta] J_x,$$

$$E_y = (\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}) \cos \theta \sin \theta J_x.$$

Note that, in this case, a transversal voltage drop  $\propto E_y$  is obtained when  $\theta \neq 0$  and  $\theta \neq \pi/2$ . By analogy, this effect is called the planar Hall effect. It is noteworthy that the terminology planar Hall effect is misleading because the phenomenon at play is unrelated to Hall effects. The terminology transverse AMR is sometimes preferred.

- b) Use 4-point resistance measurements and a known geometry [I. Miccoli *et al*, *J. Phys. Cond. Mat.* **27**, 223201 (2015)].

Set  $I_x \neq 0$  and  $I_y = 0$ .

Monitor  $V_x$ , to get  $R_x$ .

Use a magnet to apply an external magnetic field at  $\theta = 0$  and get  $\rho_{\parallel}$ ; and at  $\theta = 90^\circ$  and get  $\rho_{\perp}$ .

Use 4-point resistance measurements and a known geometry.

Use a magnet to apply an external magnetic field and set  $\theta = 0$ .

Set  $I_x \neq 0$  and  $I_y = 0$  and monitor  $V_x$ , to get  $R_x$  and then  $\rho_{\parallel}$ .

Set  $I_x = 0$  and  $I_y \neq 0$  and monitor  $V_y$ , to get  $R_y$  and then  $\rho_{\perp}$ .

Orders of magnitude: *mm* device, *mA*, tenth of *Ohms*, *mV*

- c) For Ni,  $\frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho} \sim 2.5\%$  at room temperature.

The AMR effect was used in the first generation of sensors, like read heads in hard disk drives. Nowadays, most sensors are based on tunnel magnetoresistance with orbital filtering. Typical values of magnetoresistance are now greater than 100%. The temperature-dependence of AMR sensors can still be a plus for some applications.

- d) From Eq. (3) we can deduce the following:

For  $J_{15}$ , we have  $\theta=0$

$$V_{15} = \rho_{\parallel} J_{15} / d$$

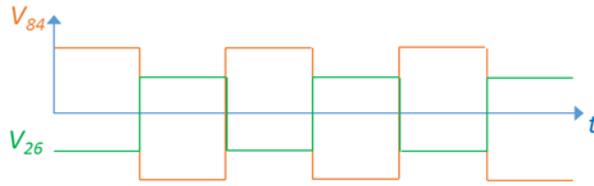
$$V_{37} = 0$$



For  $J_{84}$ , we have  $\theta=-45^\circ$

$$V_{84} = (\rho_{\parallel} + \rho_{\perp}) J_{84} / (2d)$$

$$V_{26} = -(\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}) J_{84} / (2d)$$



For  $J_{73}$ , we have  $\theta = -90^\circ$

$$V_{73} = \rho_{\perp} J_{73} / d$$

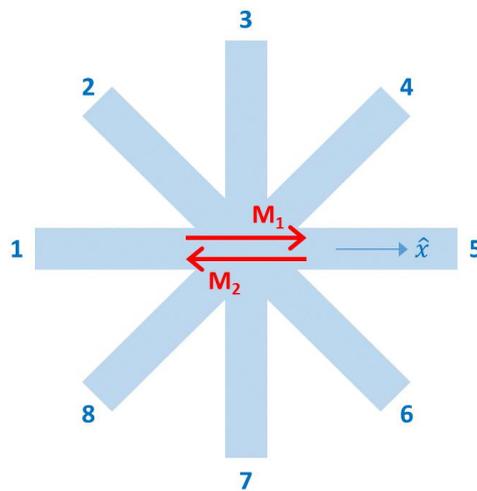
$$V_{15} = 0$$

For  $J_{62}$ , we have  $\theta = -135^\circ$

$$V_{62} = (\rho_{\parallel} + \rho_{\perp}) J_{84} / (2d)$$

$$V_{84} = (\rho_{\parallel} - \rho_{\perp}) J_{62} / (2d)$$

- e) The AMR effect is even in magnetization, *i.e.* it is invariant on magnetization reversal. It can be shown that  $\frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho} \propto (\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{J}_e)^2$ . The AMR responses from the two sublattices add up. Using the AMR effect is hence appropriate for characterizing/detecting a collinear antiferromagnet [P. Wadley *et al*, *Science* **351**, 587 (2016)].



## ■ Solutions to exercise 2

a1) The relation between  $J_s$  and  $\mu_s$  is

$$J_s = \frac{1}{2e\rho_N} \frac{d\mu_s}{dy} \quad (\text{a1})$$

Note: take  $\sigma^\uparrow = \sigma^\downarrow = \sigma_N/2$

a2) The time-variation of the spin density  $\widetilde{\mu}_s$  results in spin diffusion, which is balanced by spin scattering. The transport equation becomes

$$\frac{d\widetilde{\mu}_s}{dt} = D \frac{d^2\widetilde{\mu}_s}{dy^2} - \frac{\widetilde{\mu}_s}{\tau_{sf}^*},$$

$$i\omega\mu_s = D \frac{d^2\mu_s}{dy^2} - \frac{\mu_s}{\tau_{sf}^*},$$

$$\frac{d^2\mu_s}{dy^2} - \frac{1}{l_{sf}^{\#2}} \mu_s = 0 \quad (\text{a2})$$

with  $l_{sf}^{\#} = \frac{l_{sf}^*}{\sqrt{1+i\omega\tau_{sf}^*}}$  and  $l_{sf}^* = \sqrt{D\tau_{sf}^*}$ , where  $D$  is the diffusive constant and  $\tau_{sf}^*$  is the average spin-flip scattering rate.

a3) We have  $l_{sf}^{\#} = \frac{l_{sf}^*}{\sqrt{1+i\omega\tau_{sf}^*}}$  with  $\omega\tau_{sf}^* = 2\pi f\tau_{sf}^*$ . The typical value of the resonance frequency for a ferromagnet is  $f \sim 10 \text{ GHz}$  (with  $\mu_0 H \sim 0.1 \text{ T}$ ), and the typical value of spin-flip scattering rate is  $\tau_{sf}^* \sim 1 \text{ ps}$ , so  $\omega\tau_{sf}^* \sim 10^{11} \times 10^{-14} \ll 1 \Rightarrow l_{sf}^{\#} \sim l_{sf}^*$ . Note that this condition is no longer true in the THz regime, for example for antiferromagnetic resonance. In the following, we consider that  $l_{sf}^{\#} = l_{sf}^*$ .

a4) At the boundaries, we have:

$$\text{for } y = 0, J_s = \frac{1}{2e\rho_N} \frac{d\mu_s}{dy} (0) = J_s^0,$$

$$\text{for } y = d_N, J_s = \frac{1}{2e\rho_N} \frac{d\mu_s}{dy} (d_N) = 0.$$

a5) The solution of Eq. (a2) takes the form

$$\mu_s(y) = A e^{y/l_{sf}^*} + B e^{-y/l_{sf}^*},$$

$$\text{for } y = 0, \frac{1}{2e\rho_N} \frac{d\mu_s}{dy} = J_s^0 \Rightarrow A - B = 2e\rho_N J_s^0 l_{sf}^*$$

$$\text{for } y = d_N, \frac{1}{2e\rho_N} \frac{d\mu_s}{dy} = 0 \Rightarrow B = A e^{2d_N/l_{sf}^*}$$

$$\mu_s(y) = 2e\rho_N J_s^0 \frac{l_{sf}^*}{1 - e^{2d_N/l_{sf}^*}} \left( e^{y/l_{sf}^*} + e^{-y/l_{sf}^*} e^{2d_N/l_{sf}^*} \right)$$

$$\mu_s(y) = 2e\rho_N J_S^0 \frac{e^{-d_N/l_{sf}^*}}{e^{-d_N/l_{sf}^*} - 1} \frac{l_{sf}^*}{e^{2d_N/l_{sf}^*}} \left( e^{y/l_{sf}^*} + e^{-y/l_{sf}^*} e^{2d_N/l_{sf}^*} \right)$$

$$\mu_s(y) = -2e\rho_N J_S^0 l_{sf}^* \frac{\cosh((y-d_N)/l_{sf}^*)}{\sinh(d_N/l_{sf}^*)}$$

a6) Using the result of question a5) and Eq. (a1), we obtain

$$J_s(y) = -J_S^0 \frac{\sinh((y-d_N)/l_{sf}^*)}{\sinh(d_N/l_{sf}^*)} \quad (\text{a6})$$

$$\text{b1) } J_e = \langle J_e(y) \rangle = \frac{1}{d_N} \int_0^{d_N} \theta_{SHE} J_s(y) dy = -\frac{1}{d_N} \int_0^{d_N} \theta_{SHE} J_S^0 \frac{\sinh((y-d_N)/l_{sf}^*)}{\sinh(d_N/l_{sf}^*)} dy$$

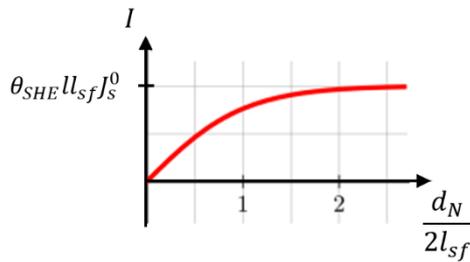
$$J_e = -\theta_{SHE} J_S^0 \frac{1}{d_N} \frac{1}{\sinh(d_N/l_{sf}^*)} \int_0^{d_N} \sinh((y-d_N)/l_{sf}^*) dy$$

$$J_e = -\theta_{SHE} J_S^0 \frac{l_{sf}^*}{d_N} \frac{1 - \cosh(d_N/l_{sf}^*)}{\sinh(d_N/l_{sf}^*)} = -\theta_{SHE} J_S^0 \frac{l_{sf}^*}{d_N} \frac{1 - 2 \sinh^2(d_N/(2l_{sf}^*)) + 1}{2 \sinh(d_N/(2l_{sf}^*)) \cosh(d_N/(2l_{sf}^*))}$$

$$J_e = \theta_{SHE} \frac{l_{sf}^*}{d_N} \tanh\left(\frac{d_N}{2l_{sf}^*}\right) J_S^0$$

$$J_e = \theta_{SHE} \frac{l_{sf}^*}{d_N} \tanh\left(\frac{d_N}{2l_{sf}^*}\right) J_S^0$$

$$\text{b2) } I = J_e l d_N = \theta_{SHE} l l_{sf}^* \tanh\left(\frac{d_N}{2l_{sf}^*}\right) J_S^0$$



For  $d_N \ll l_{sf}^*$ ,  $I \sim \theta_{SHE} l \frac{d_N}{2} J_S^0$ . Spins are still coherent and get converted efficiently in the N layer. The thicker the layer, the more spins are converted.

For  $d_N \gg l_{sf}^*$ ,  $I = \theta_{SHE} l l_{sf}^* J_S^0$ . The signal levels out. The part of the N layer in contact with the F layer ( $d_N < 2 - 3l_{sf}^*$ ) converts spins. Above  $d_N \sim 2 - 3l_{sf}^*$  spin-charge conversion becomes inefficient because the spins are depolarized.

$$b2) V_{ISHE} = \frac{R_F R_N}{R_F + R_N} I = \frac{\frac{\rho_F w \rho_N w}{l d_F} \frac{l d_N}{l d_F + l d_N} J_e l d_N}{\frac{\rho_F w \rho_N w}{l d_F} + \frac{l d_N}{l d_F + l d_N}}$$

$$V_{ISHE} = \frac{w d_N}{d_N \sigma_N + d_F \sigma_F} J_e$$

$$V_{ISHE} = \theta_{SHE} \frac{w l_{sf}^*}{d_N \sigma_N + d_F \sigma_F} \tanh\left(\frac{d_N}{2 l_{sf}^*}\right) J_s^0$$

b3) The Hall angle is  $\theta_{SHE} \sim 6\%$  and the 'spin-charge conversion efficiency' is  $\theta_{SHE} l_{sf}^* \sim 0.18 \text{ nm}$  [J. C. Rojas-Sanchez *et al*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **112**, 106602 (2014)].

b4) Increasing the number of scattering centers will increase the extrinsic contribution to  $\theta_{SHE}$ , because for this extrinsic contribution  $\theta_{SHE} \propto \frac{1}{l_{sf}^*}$ , and increasing the number of scatterers will reduce  $l_{sf}^*$ . This solution is however not appropriate to increase the 'spin-charge conversion efficiency' because  $\theta_{SHE} l_{sf}^*$  will remain unchanged.

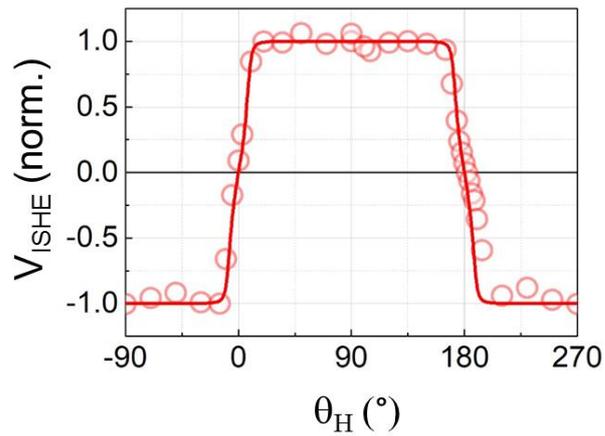
Increasing the scattering efficiency by using heavier materials, with a large atomic number  $Z$ , is another solution to increase  $\theta_{SHE}$ . Because spin-orbit interactions roughly vary as  $Z^4$ , this solution will result in a large increase of 'spin-charge conversion efficiency'. Note however that other effects contribute to  $\theta_{SHE}$  and the picture presented above is certainly more complicated. In particular, intrinsic contributions do matter.

$$c1) \bar{\Gamma} = 2\omega \frac{\mu_0 M_S |\gamma| \sin^2(\theta_M) + \sqrt{(\mu_0 M_S \gamma \sin^2(\theta_M))^2 + 4\omega^2}}{(\mu_0 M_S \gamma \sin^2(\theta_M))^2 + 4\omega^2}$$

$\gamma$  is in unit of  $\text{Hz} \cdot \text{T}^{-1}$ ;  $\mu_0 M_S$  is in  $\text{T}$ ; and  $\omega$  is in  $\text{Hz}$ , so we can conclude that  $\bar{\Gamma}$  is a dimensionless parameter.

c2) For  $\theta_M = 0$ ,  $\bar{\Gamma} = 1$ . By definition, the magnetization trajectory in the  $(x, y)$  plane is circular. In this case, the magnetization rotates about the out-of-plane direction. If there is no in-plane anisotropy, it is expected that the trajectory is circular. It would not be the case in the presence of an in-plane anisotropy.

c3) The magnetization is mostly in-plane, whatever the angle of the applied field. This is because of the demagnetizing field.



From [O. Gladii et al, Phys. Rev. B \*\*100\*\*, 174409 \(2019\)](#).

$V_{ISHE}$  is an odd function of  $\mathbf{H}$ . Angular-dependent symmetries are useful to disentangle the inverse spin Hall effect and several others that may occur concurrently [[M. Harder et al, Phys. Rep. \*\*661\*\*, 1 \(2016\)](#)]. When two effects share the same angular-dependent symmetries, frequency-, temperature-, stacking order- etc. dependences are used to unravel the contributions.