

A New Spin on Magnetism with Applications in Information Processing

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CQP Center for
Quantum
Phenomena

A New Spin on Magnetism with Applications in Information Processing

Outline

- Spintronics and spin-transfer torques
- Switching magnetization in magnetic tunnel junction nanopillars
- Magnetic skyrmions
- Center for Quantum Phenomena NYU NY

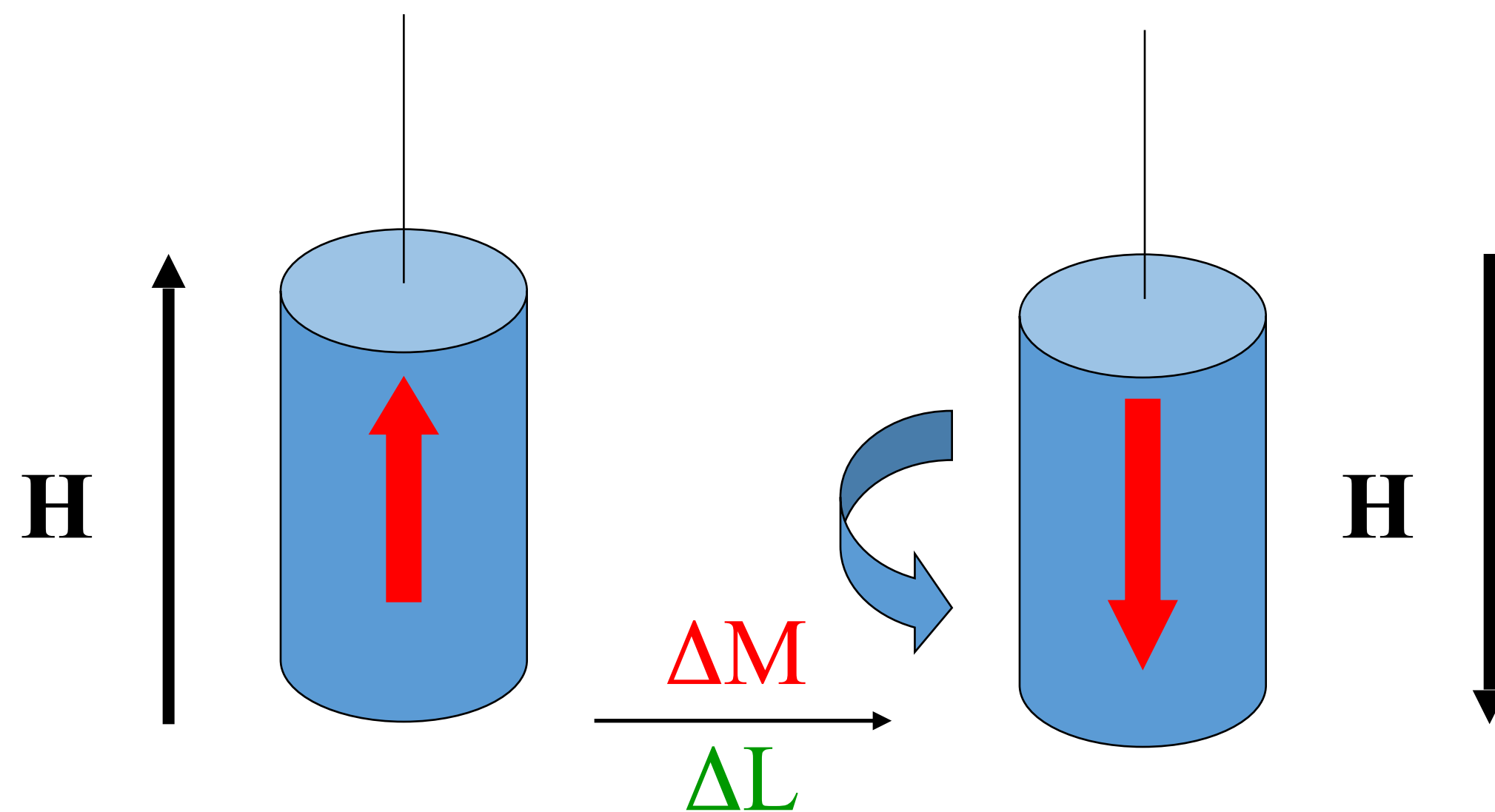
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Einstein-de Haas Effect



$$\Gamma = \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt}$$



Rotation

$$M = \gamma L$$

$$\gamma = \frac{ge}{2m} = \frac{g\mu_B}{\hbar}$$

A. Einstein, W. J. de Haas, *Experimenteller Nachweis der Ampereschen Molekularstörme*, Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft, Verhandlungen **17**, pp. 152-170 (1915).

Proof of the existence of the Ampere molecular field



Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR)



The Nobel Prize in Physics 2007

"for the discovery of Giant Magnetoresistance"



Albert Fert

Peter Grünberg

1/2 of the prize

1/2 of the prize

France

Germany

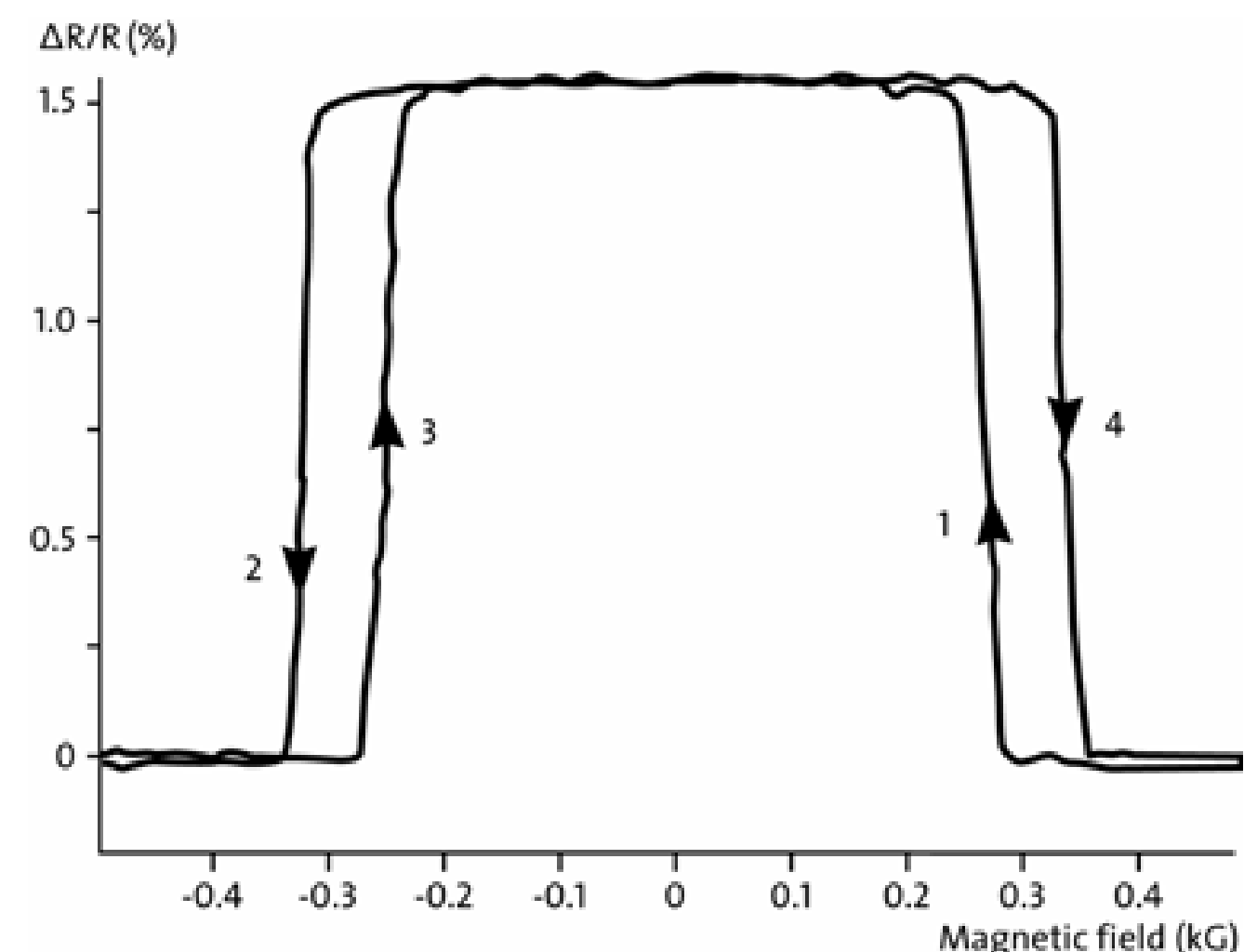
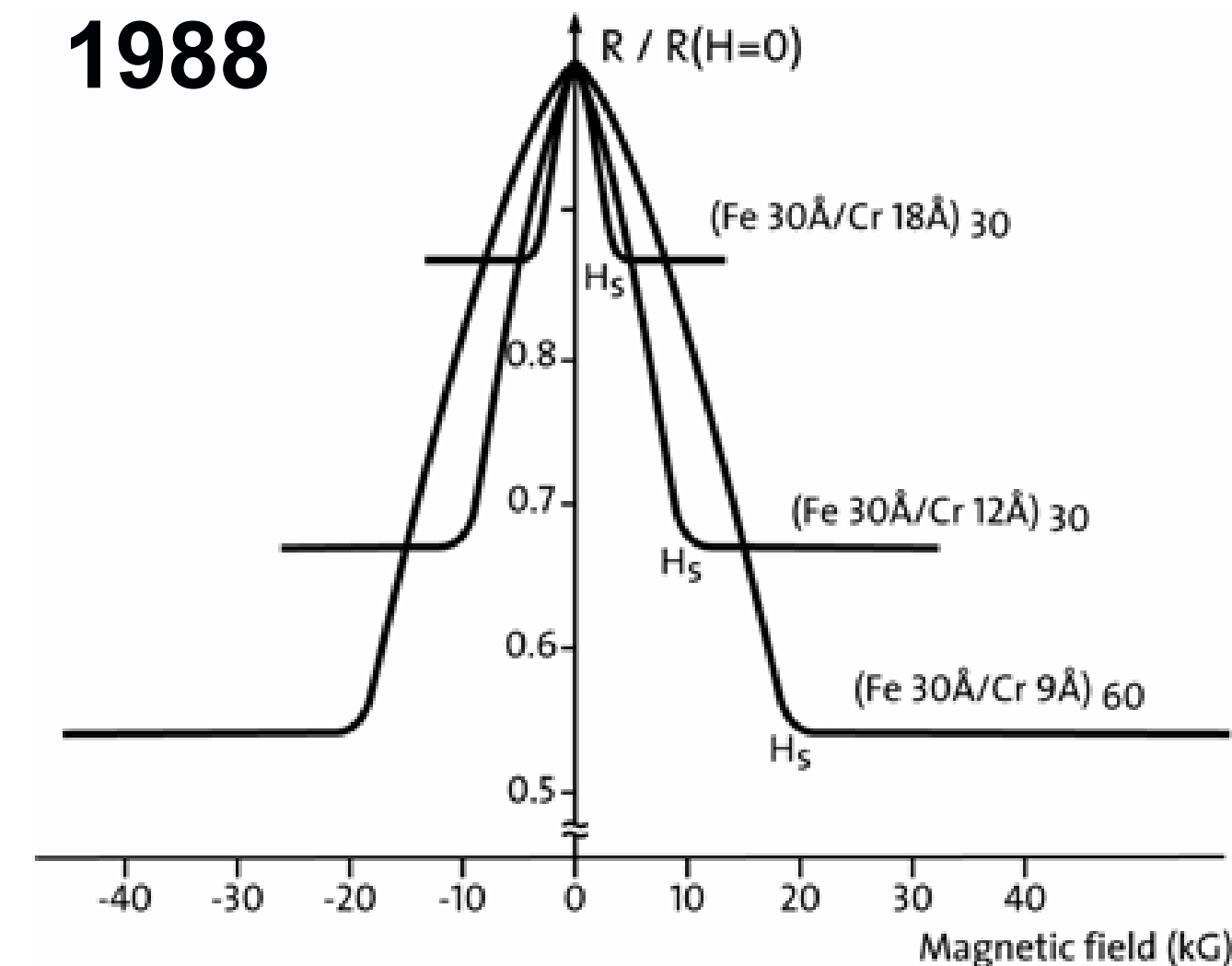
Université Paris-Sud;
Unité Mixte de Physique
CNRS/THALES
Orsay, France

Forschungszentrum Jülich
Jülich, Germany

b. 1938

b. 1939

1988



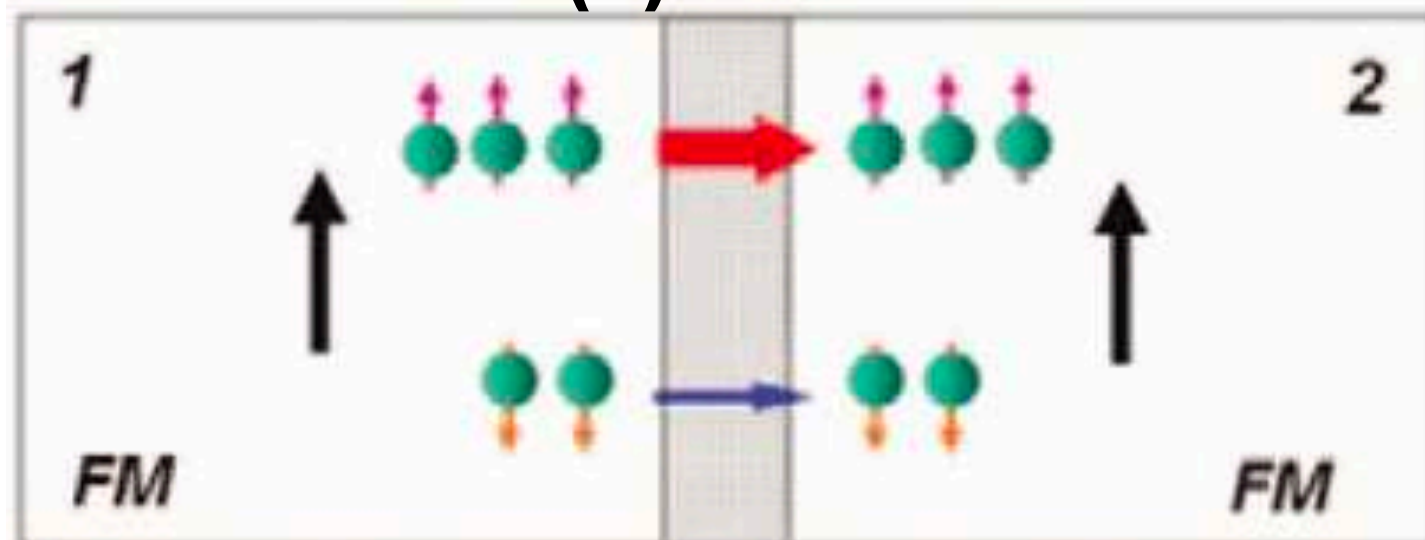
→ **'Spintronics' = Spin+Transport+Electronics: control of current using the spin of electrons**



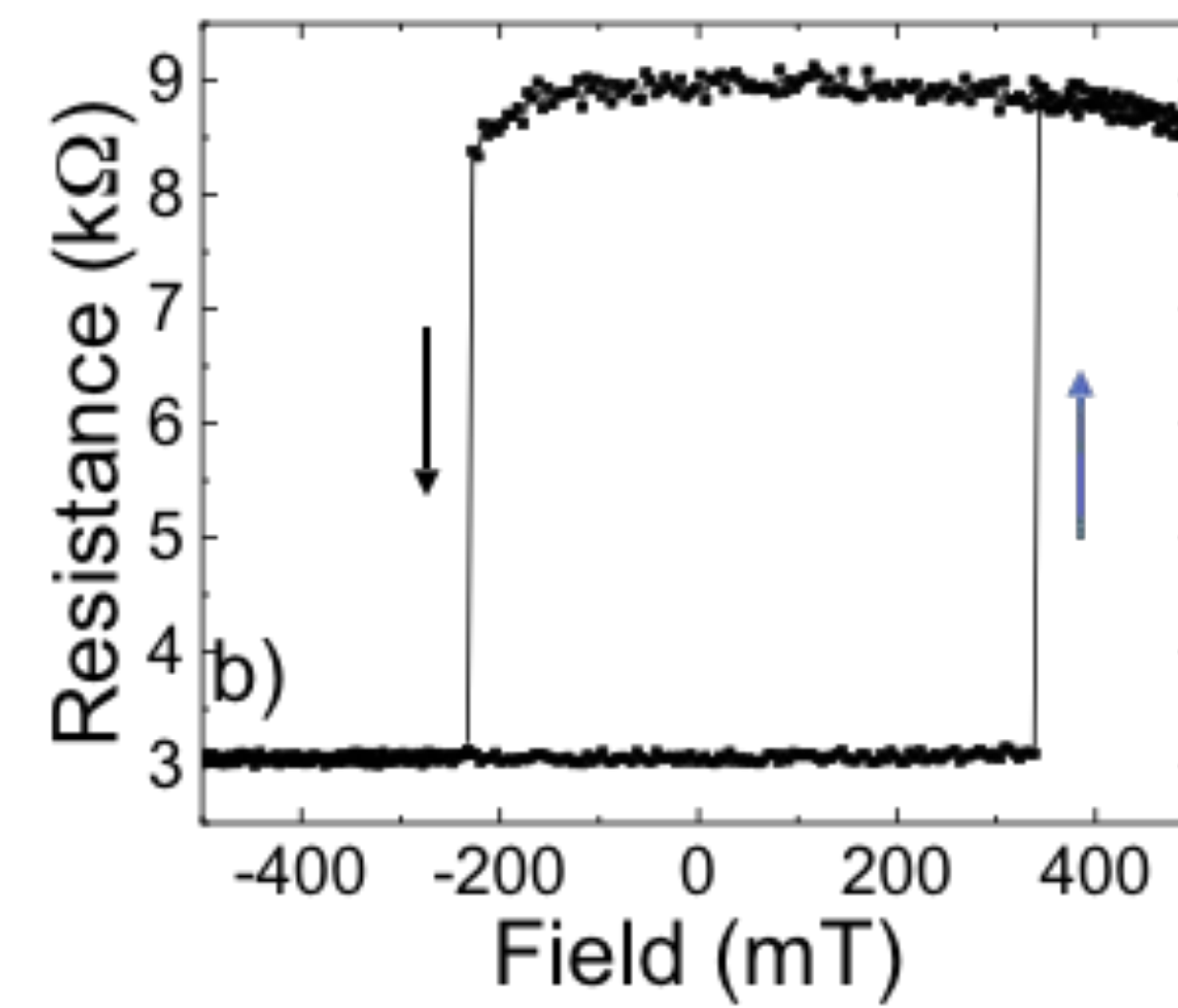
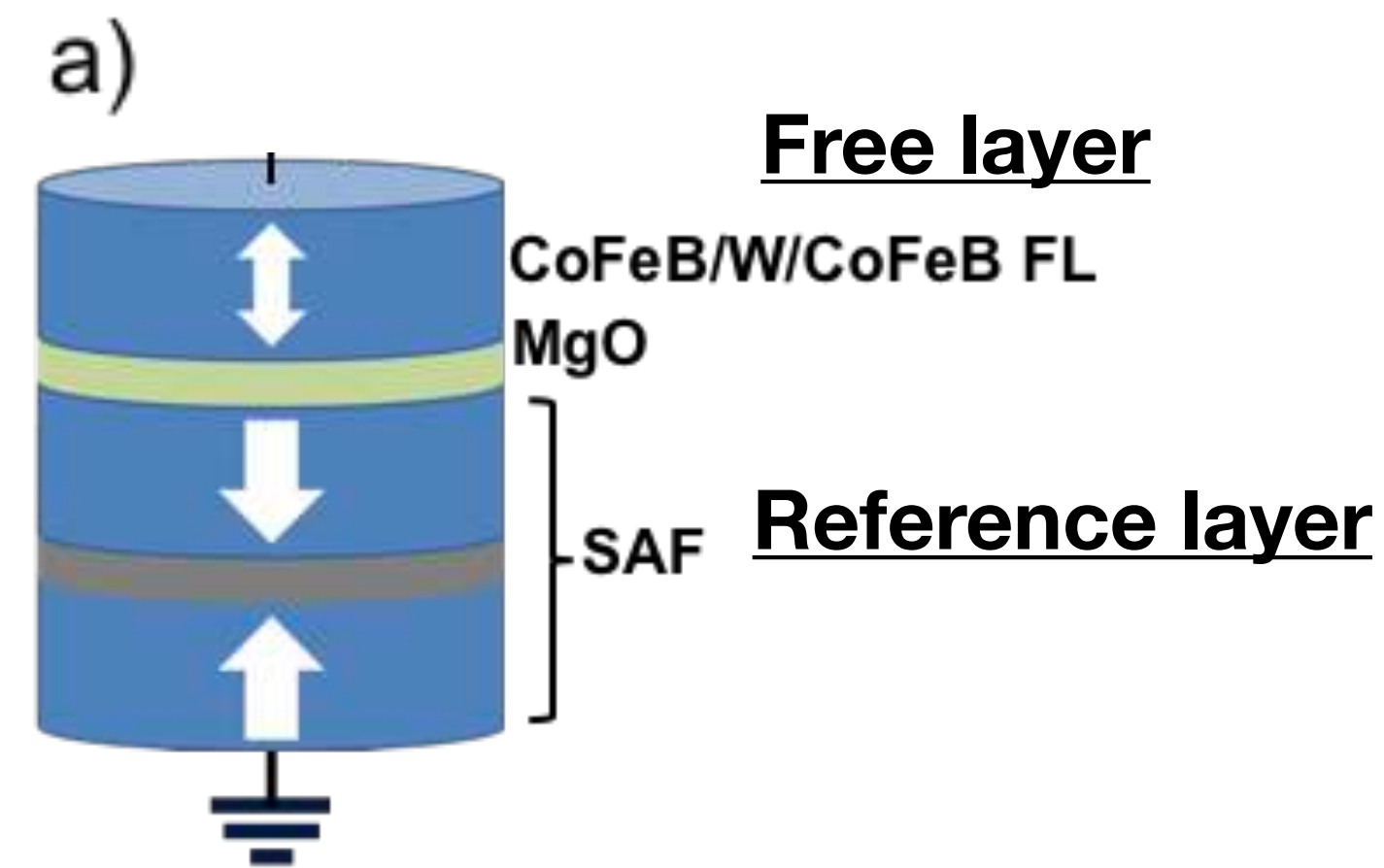
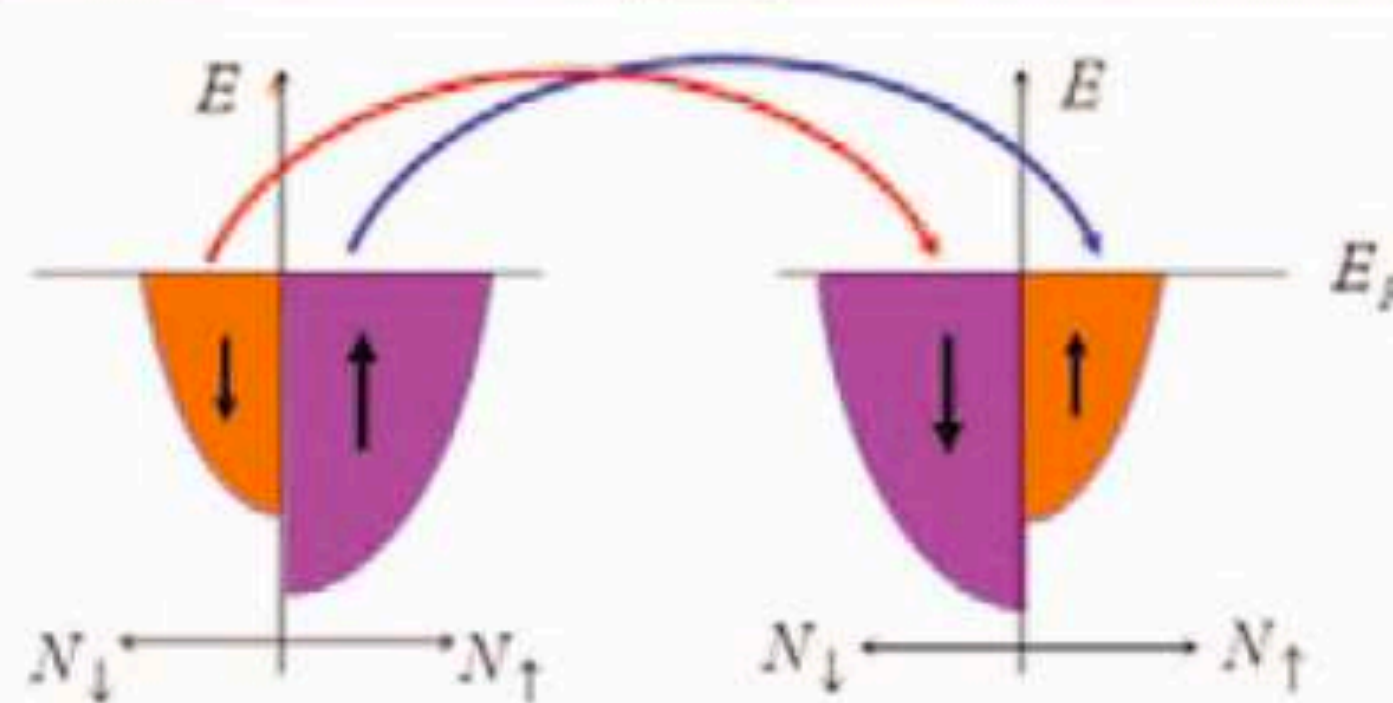
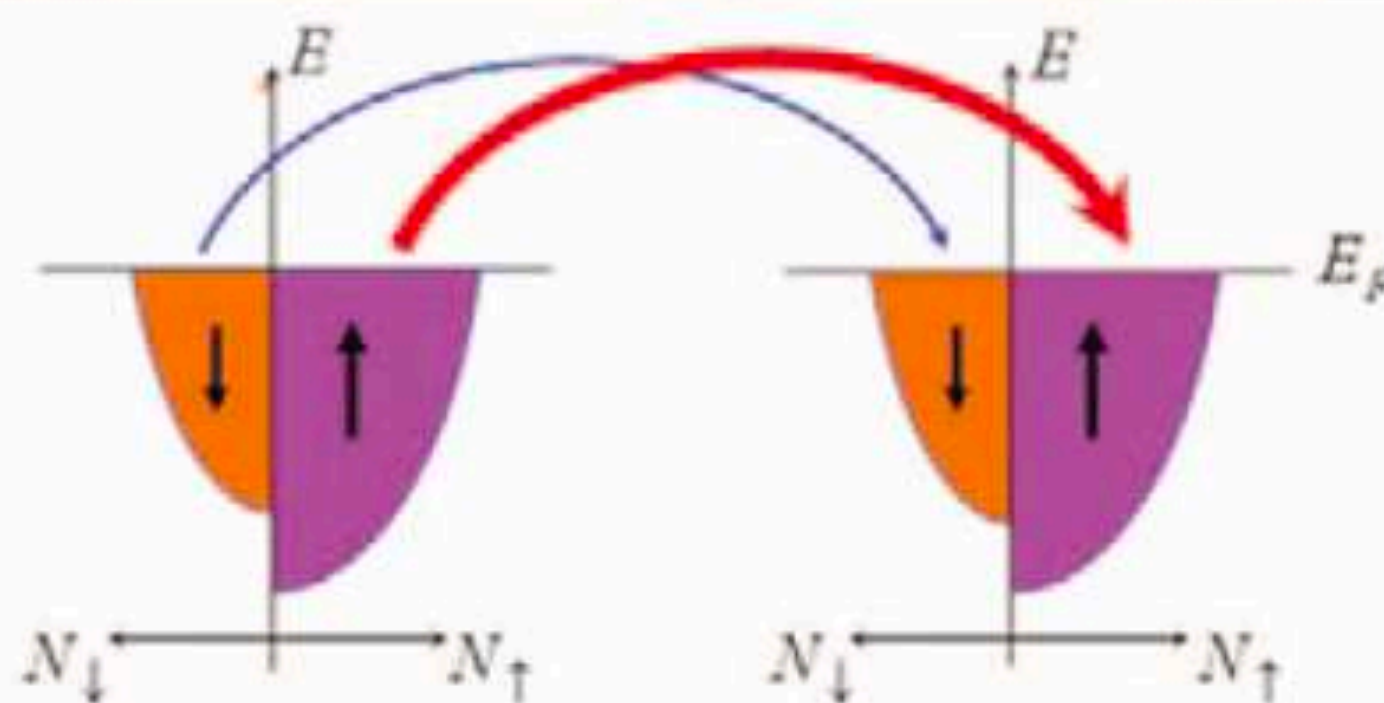
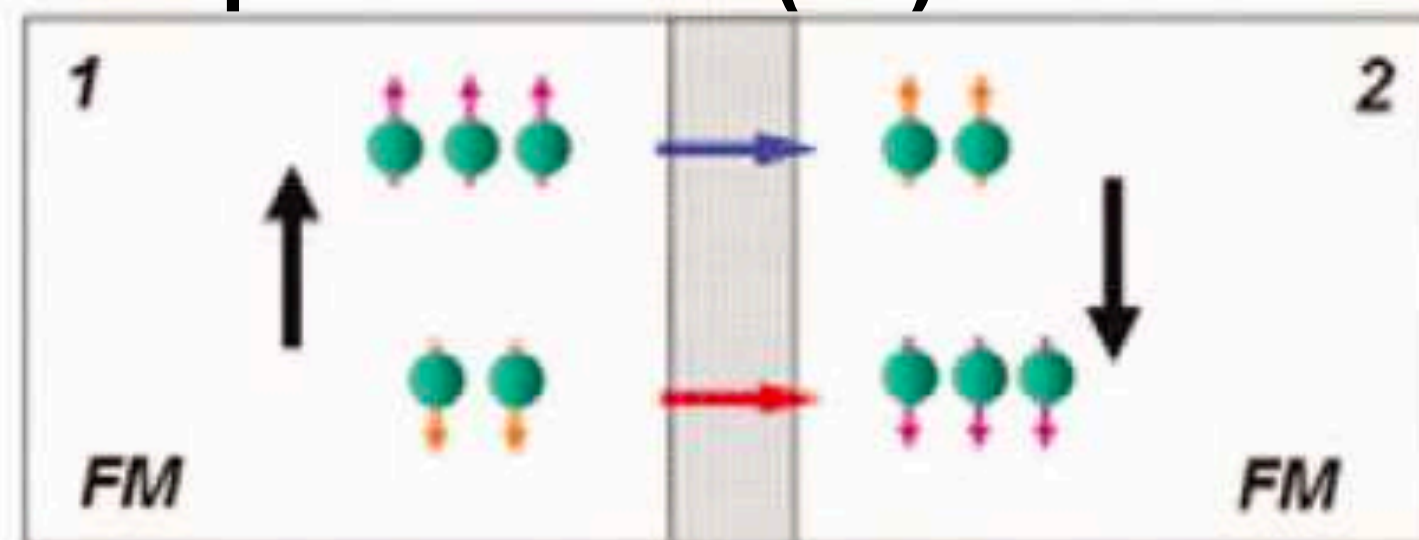
Magnetic Tunnel Junction

Two ferromagnetic metals separated by an insulating barrier

Parallel state (P)



Anti-parallel state (AP)



From:

$$P_i = \frac{N_{i\uparrow}(E_F) - N_{i\downarrow}(E_F)}{N_{i\uparrow}(E_F) + N_{i\downarrow}(E_F)}$$

Julliere's formula:
$$\text{TMR} = \frac{R_{\text{AP}} - R_{\text{P}}}{R_{\text{P}}} = \frac{2P_1P_2}{1 - P_1P_2}$$

W. H. Butler *et al.*, Spin-dependent tunneling conductance of Fe|MgO|Fe sandwiches
PRB **63**, 054416 (2001)



Prediction of Spin-Transfer Torques

2013 APS Oliver E. Buckley Prize

John Slonczewski

Luc Berger

Citation:

“For predicting spin-transfer torque and opening the field of current-induced control over magnetic nanostructures.”

Foundational papers:

J. C. Slonczewski, Phys. Rev. B. **39**, 6996 (1989)

J. C. Slonczewski, J. Magn. Mater. **159**, L1 (1996)

L. Berger, Phys. Rev. B **54**, 9353 (1996)





Prediction of Spin-Transfer Torques

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 10

1 APRIL 1989

Conductance and exchange coupling of two ferromagnets separated by a tunneling barrier

J. C. Slonczewski

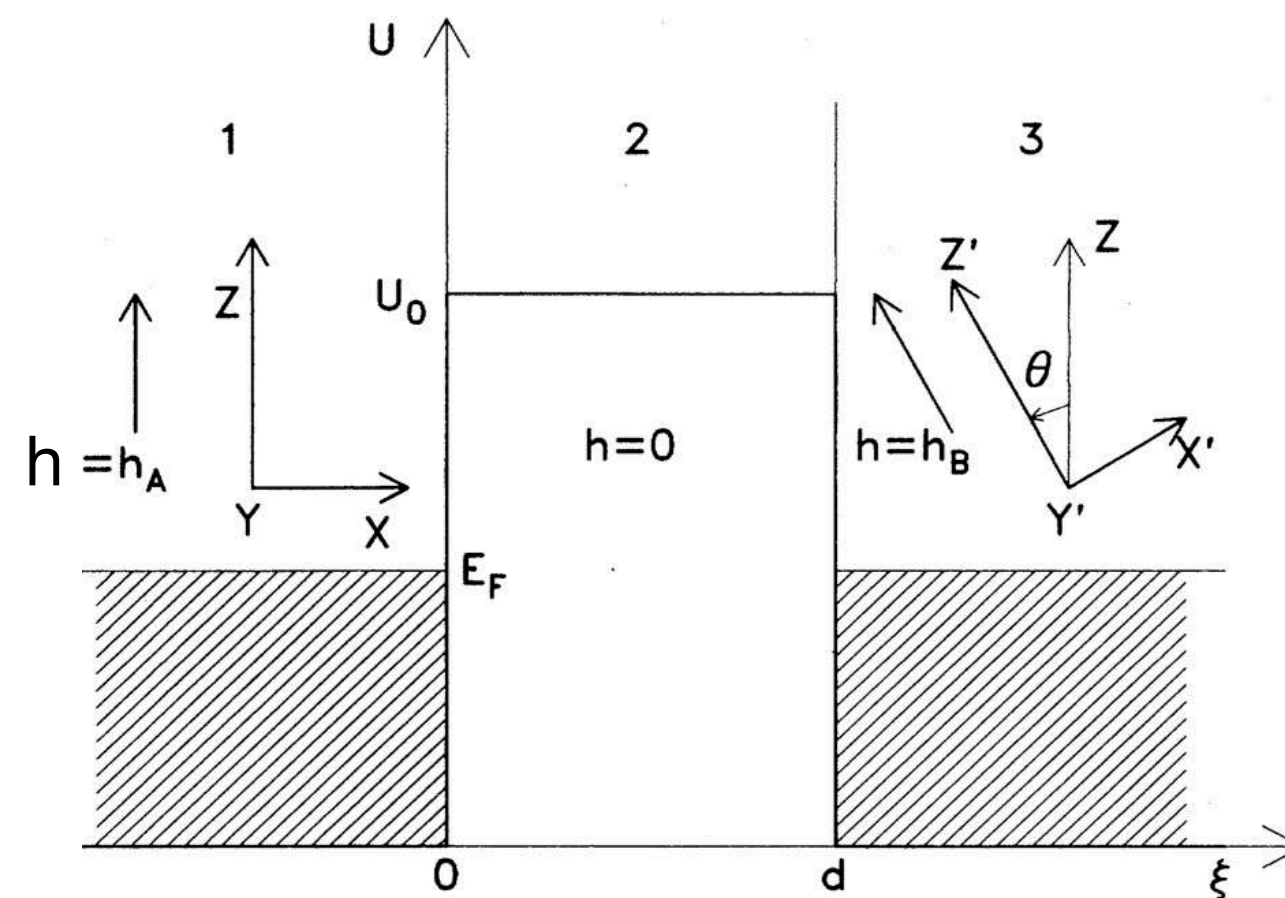
IBM Research Division, Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

(Received 27 June 1988)

A theory is given for three closely related effects involving a nonmagnetic electron-tunneling barrier separating two ferromagnetic conductors. The first is Julliere's magnetic valve effect, in which the tunnel conductance depends on the angle θ between the moments of the two ferromagnets. One finds that discontinuous change of the potential at the electrode-barrier interface diminishes the spin-polarization factor governing this effect and is capable of changing its sign. The second is an effective interfacial exchange coupling $-J \cos\theta$ between the ferromagnets. One finds that the magnitude and sign of J depend on the height of the barrier and the Stoner splitting in the ferromagnets. The third is a new, irreversible exchange term in the coupled dynamics of the ferromagnets. For one sign of external voltage V , this term describes relaxation of the Landau-Lifshitz type. For the opposite sign of V , it describes a pumping action which can cause spontaneous growth of magnetic oscillations. All of these effects were investigated consistently by analyzing the transmission of charge and spin currents flowing through a rectangular barrier separating free-electron metals. In application to Fe-C-Fe junctions, the theory predicts that the valve effect is weak and that the coupling is antiferromagnetic ($J < 0$). Relations connecting the three effects suggest experiments involving small spatial dimensions.

$$\text{TMR} = \frac{2P_1 P_2}{1 - P_1 P_2}$$

In magnetic tunnel junctions



In magnetic metallic multilayers

J. C. Slonczewski, JMMM **159**, L1-L7 (1996)

L. Berger, PRB **54**, 9353 (1996)

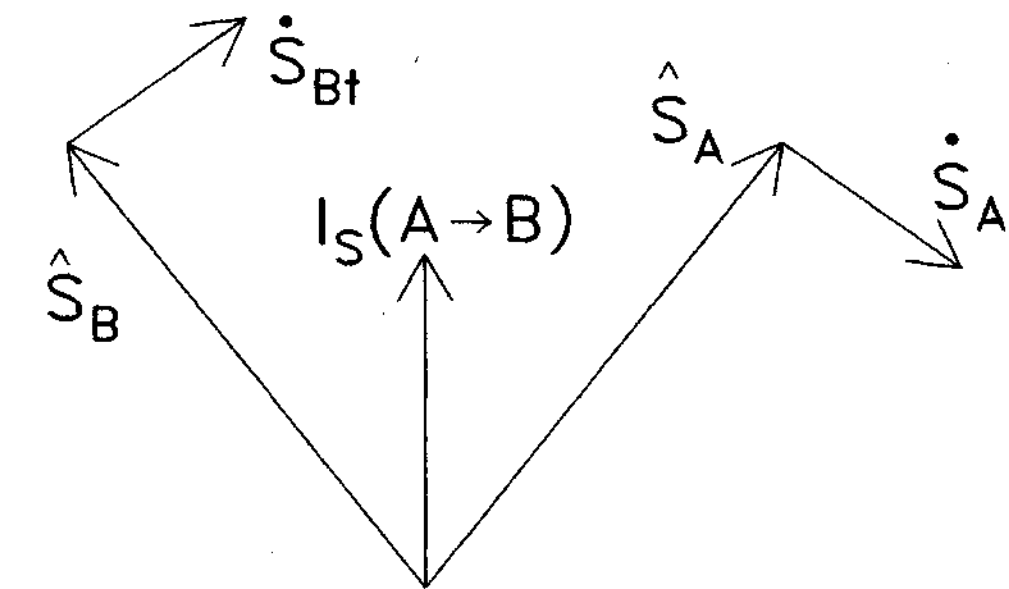
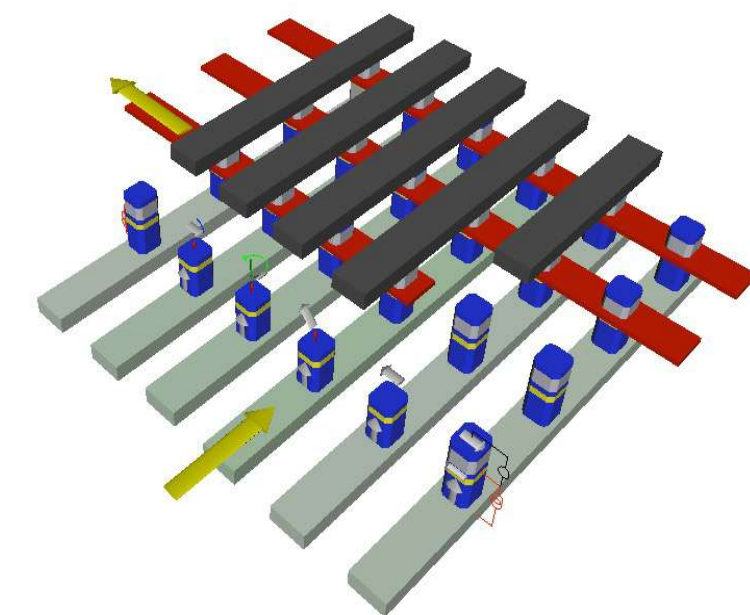


FIG. 6. Scheme of spin-vector dynamics due to the transverse terms of dissipative exchange coupling induced by an external voltage across the barrier.

Applications: New types of MRAM



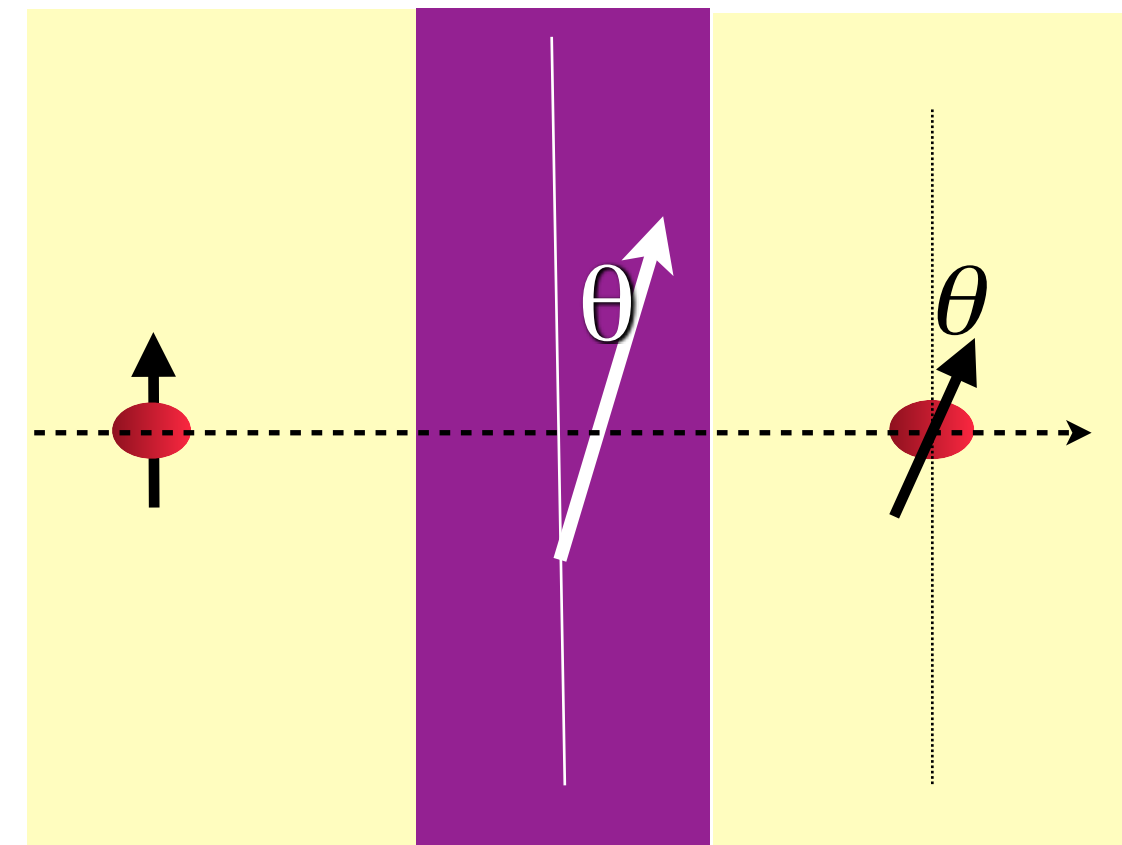
Applications: Magnetic Random Access Memory, STT-MRAM

Nature Nanotechnology, March 2015
Spin-transfer-torque memory



Basic Physics of Spin Transfer

Based on conservation of angular momentum



$$\frac{d\vec{S}_{\text{int}}}{dt} \rightarrow \vec{\tau}$$

$$\left| \frac{d\vec{S}_{\text{int}}}{dt} \right| = \frac{\hbar}{2e} IP \sin \theta$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{d\vec{M}}{dt}}_{\text{magnetization}} + \underbrace{\frac{d\vec{S}_{\text{int}}}{dt}}_{\text{itinerant charge}} = 0$$

- ▶ Reference layer ‘sets’ spin-polarization of current
- ▶ Enables readout of magnetization state through the tunnel magnetoresistance (TMR), giant magnetoresistance (GMR), or anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR) effects



Basic Physics of Spin Transfer

Based on conservation of angular momentum

Spin transfer torques

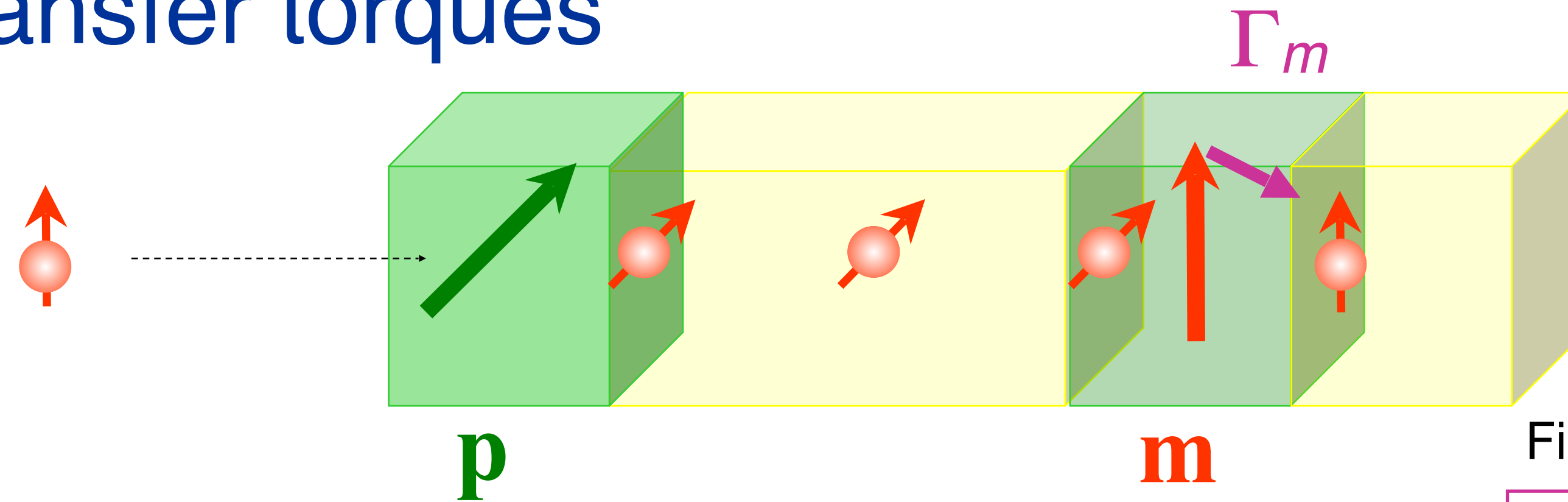


Figure courtesy of Stephane Mangin

Angular momentum conservation
→ spin transfer torques

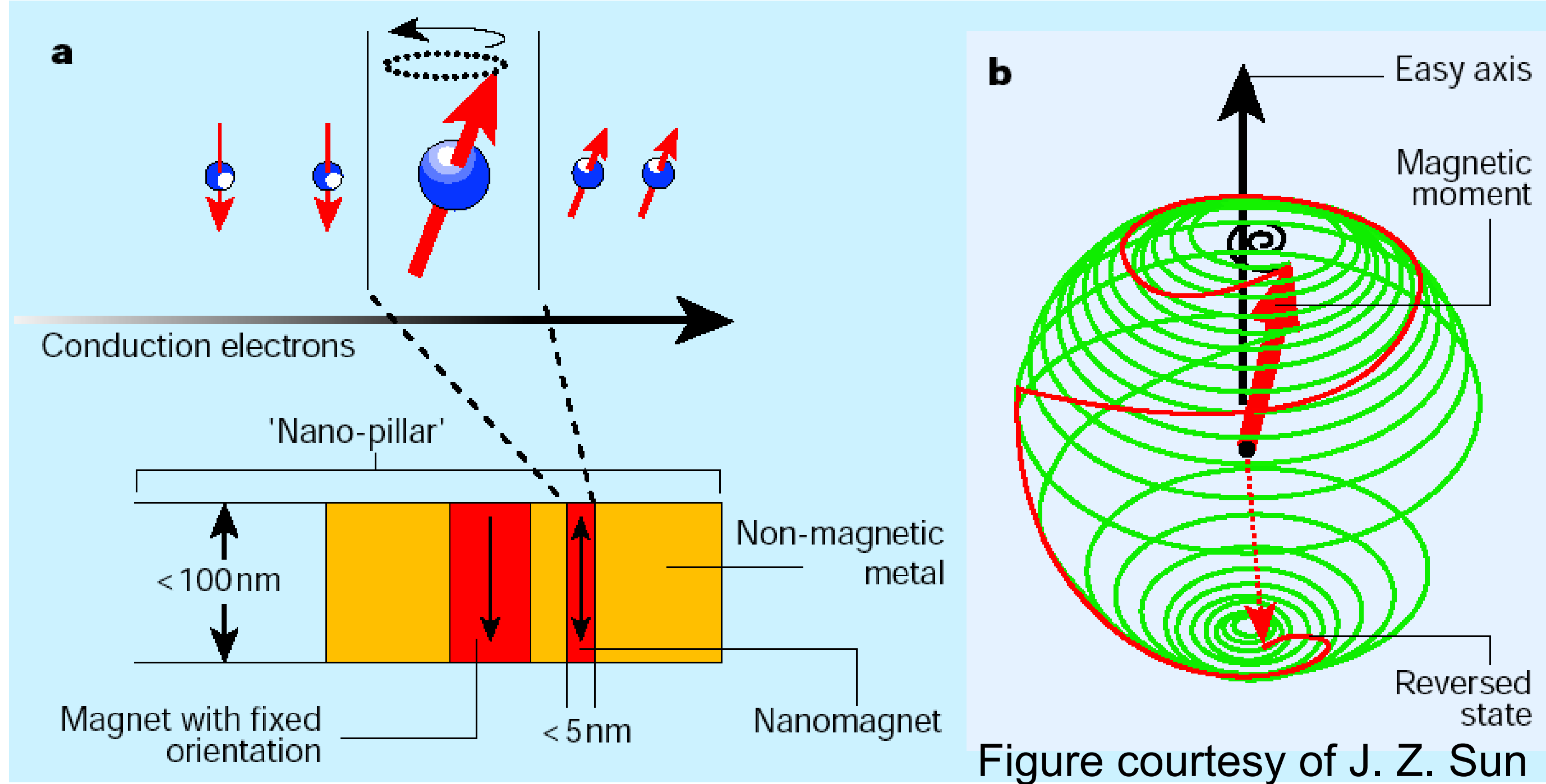
$$\Gamma_m = \frac{dS_{\text{int}}}{dt}$$

- ▶ Reference layer 'sets' spin-polarization of current
- ▶ Enables readout of magnetization state through the tunnel magnetoresistance (TMR), giant magnetoresistance (GMR), or anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR) effects

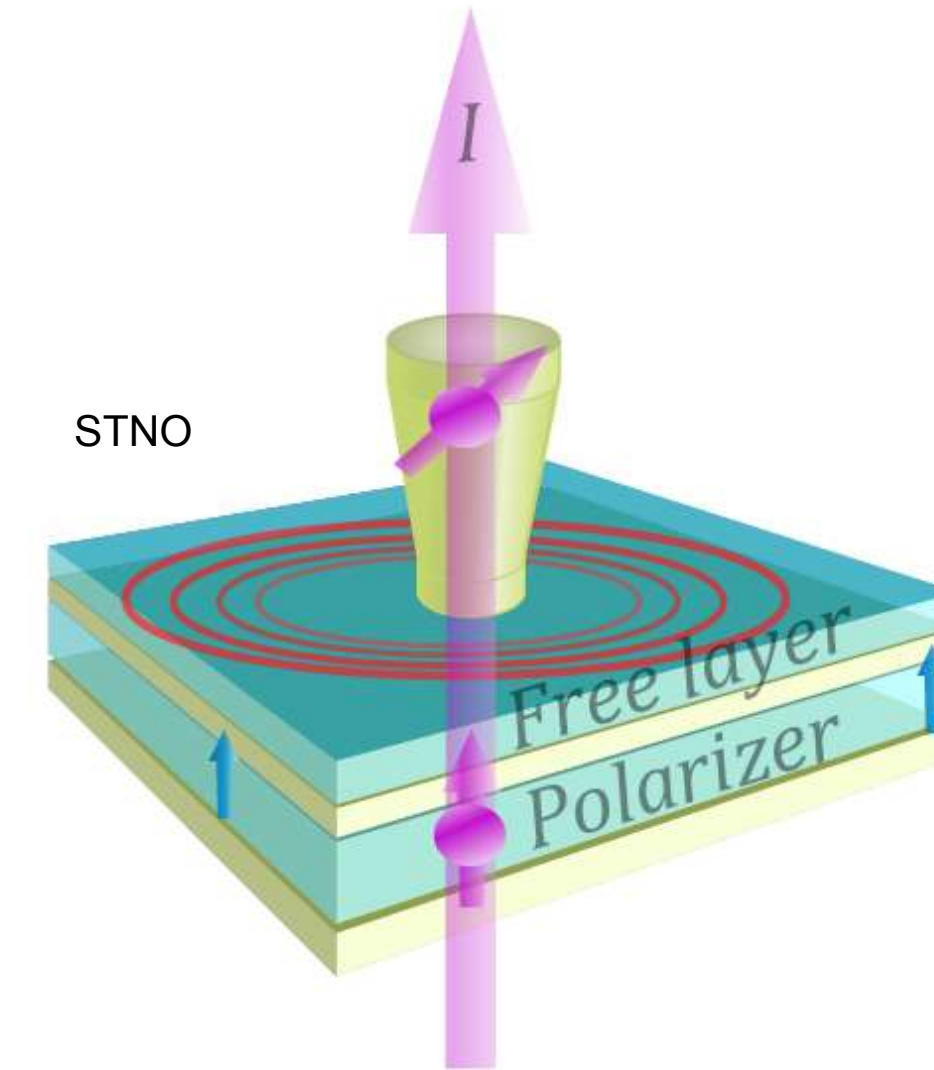
All electrical (no mechanical parts) ⇒ fast magnetic memory device

Threshold Current for Magnetic Excitations

Switching



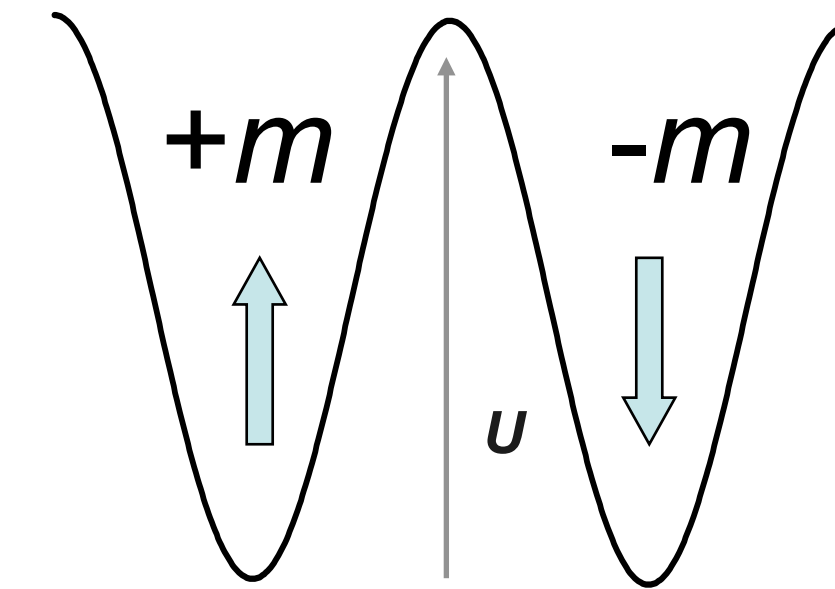
Spin-wave excitations



Spin-current amplifies the motion for currents greater than a critical value:

“anti-damping switching”
$$I_{c0} = \frac{2e}{\hbar} \frac{\alpha}{P} \mu_0 M_s H_k V = \frac{4e}{\hbar} \frac{\alpha}{P} U$$

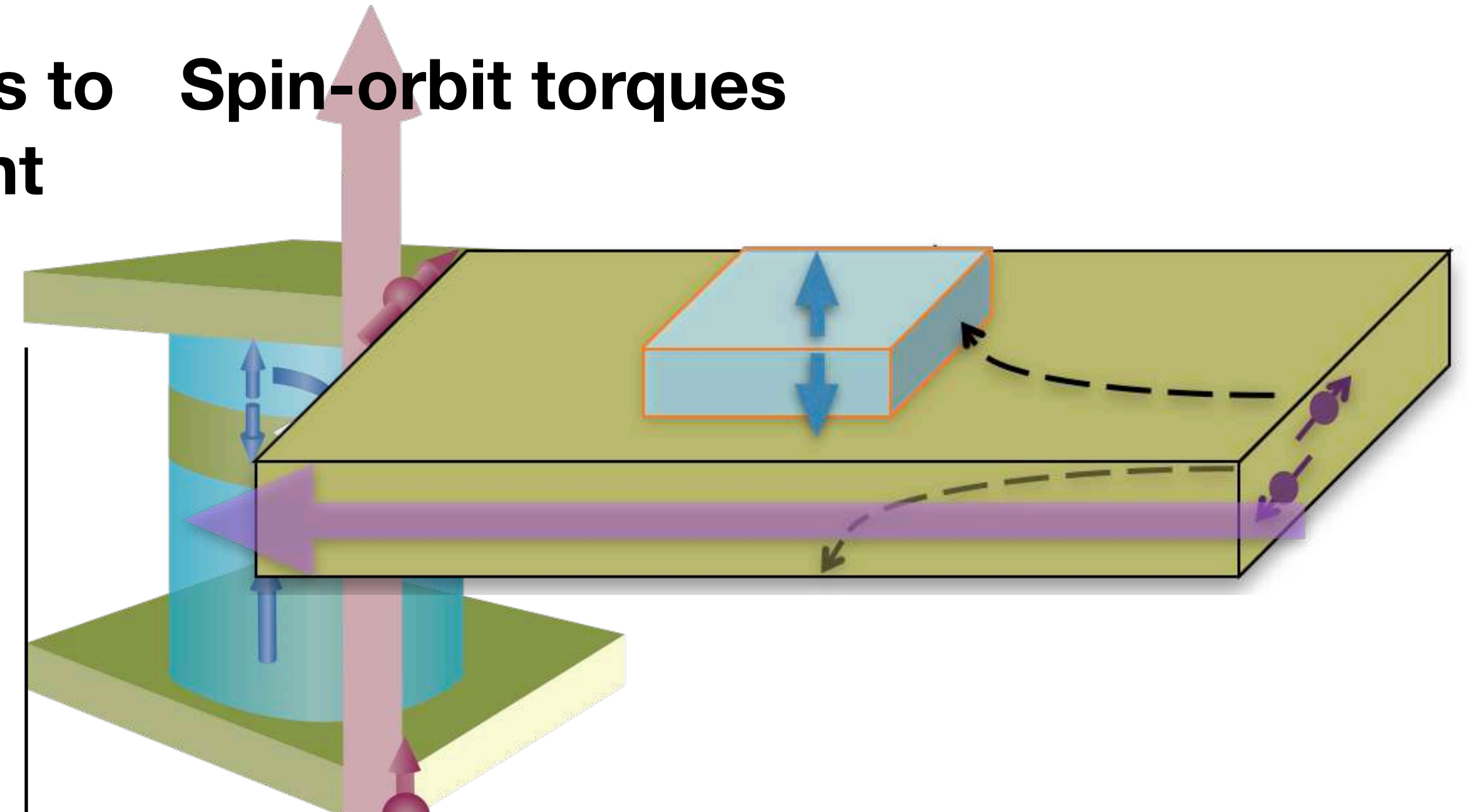
$P = 1, \alpha = 0.01, U = 60kT \rightarrow I_{c0} = 15 \mu A$





Charge Current to Spin Current Conversion

Ferromagnetic layers to polarize the current **Spin-orbit torques**



Spin-polarization direction set by layer magnetization directions

Spin-polarization direction set by layer geometry and current flow direction

Spin torque foundational theory papers:

J. C. Slonczewski, Phys. Rev. B. **39**, 6996 (1989)
 Miron *et al.*, Nature Materials 2010
 J. C. Slonczewski, J. Magn. Mater. **159**, L1 (1996)
 Science 2012
 L. Berger, Phys. Rev. B **54**, 9357 (1996)
 Review article: J. Sinova *et al.*, Spin Hall Effects, RMP **87**, 1213 (2015)

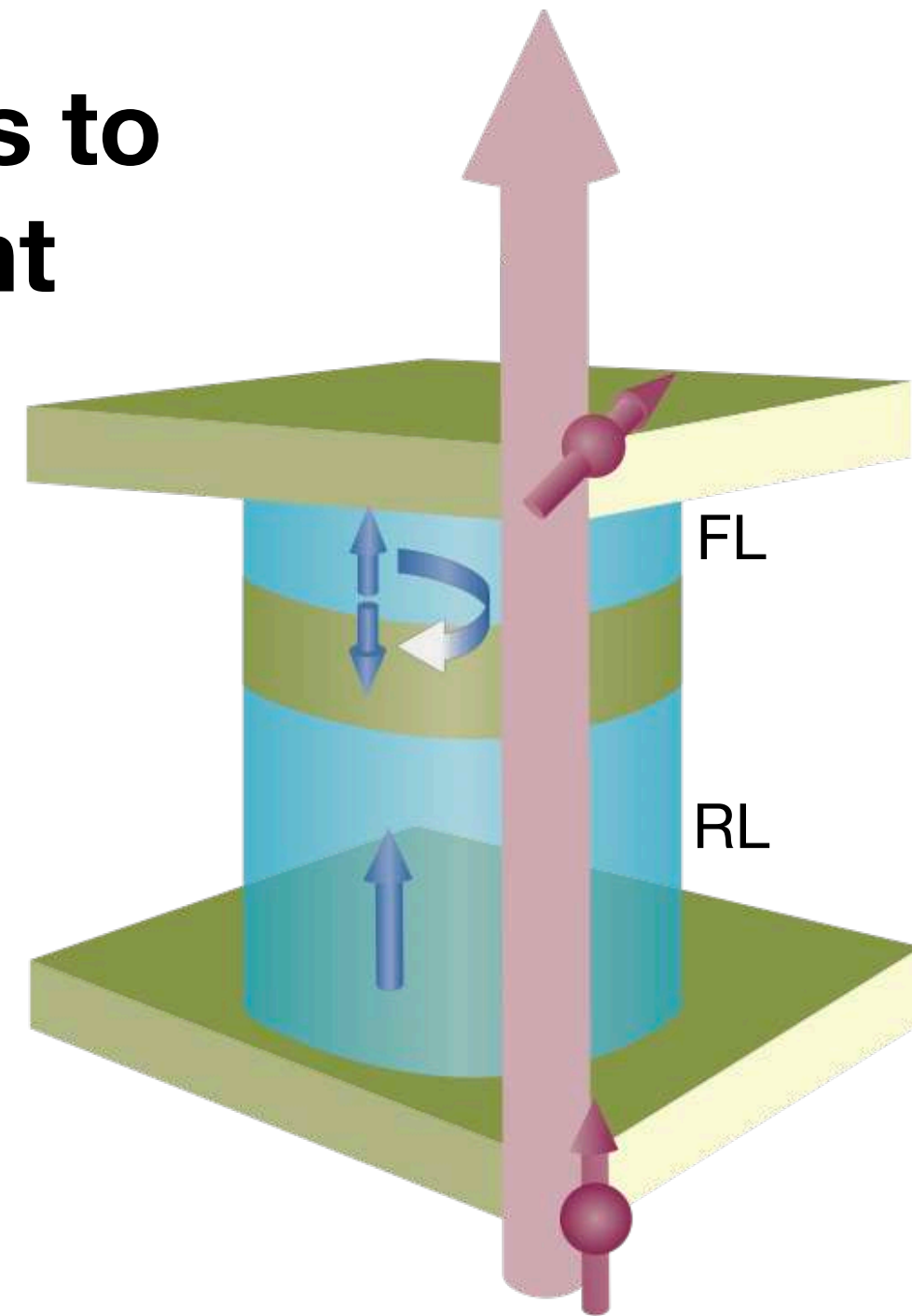
V. Amin *et al.*, Interfacial SOT, J. Appl. Phys. **128**, 151101 (2020)

C. Safranski, J. Z. Sun & ADK, Appl. Phys. Lett. **120**, 160502 (2022)



Charge Current to Spin Current Conversion

Ferromagnetic layers to polarize the current



spin-current density / charge current density

$$J_s/J_c \simeq P$$

$$I_s/I_c \simeq P$$

spin current is $\hbar J_s / (2e)$

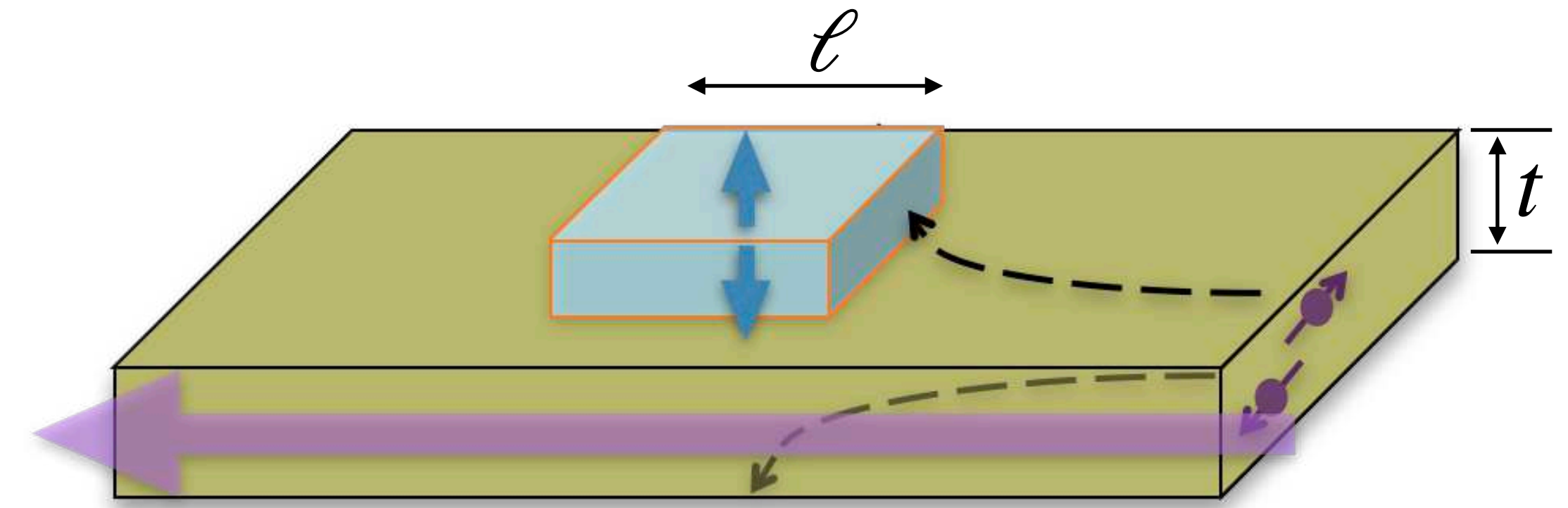
$$\mathbf{Q} \sim \hat{m}_{RL} \otimes \hat{z}$$

Polarization \otimes Flow direction

Spin torque foundational theory papers:

- J. C. Slonczewski, Phys. Rev. B. **39**, 6996 (1989)
- J. C. Slonczewski, J. Magn. Magn. Mater. **159**, L1 (1996)
- L. Berger, Phys. Rev. B **54**, 9353 (1996)

Spin-orbit torques



$$J_s/J_c = \theta_{SH}$$

$$I_s/I_c \simeq \theta_{SH}(\ell/t)$$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \frac{-\hbar}{2e} \xi \sigma_{SHE} (\hat{z} \times \mathbf{E}) \otimes \hat{z}$$

Polarization \otimes Flow direction

- Heavy metals/Ferromagnet bilayers
- M. Miron *et al.*, Nature Materials 2010
- L. Liu *et al.*, Science 2012

- Review articles: J. Sinova *et al.*, Spin Hall Effects, RMP **87**, 1213 (2015)
 V. Amin *et al.*, Interfacial SOT, J. Appl. Phys. **128**, 151101 (2020)
 C. Safranski, J. Z. Sun & ADK, Appl. Phys. Lett. **120**, 160502 (2022)

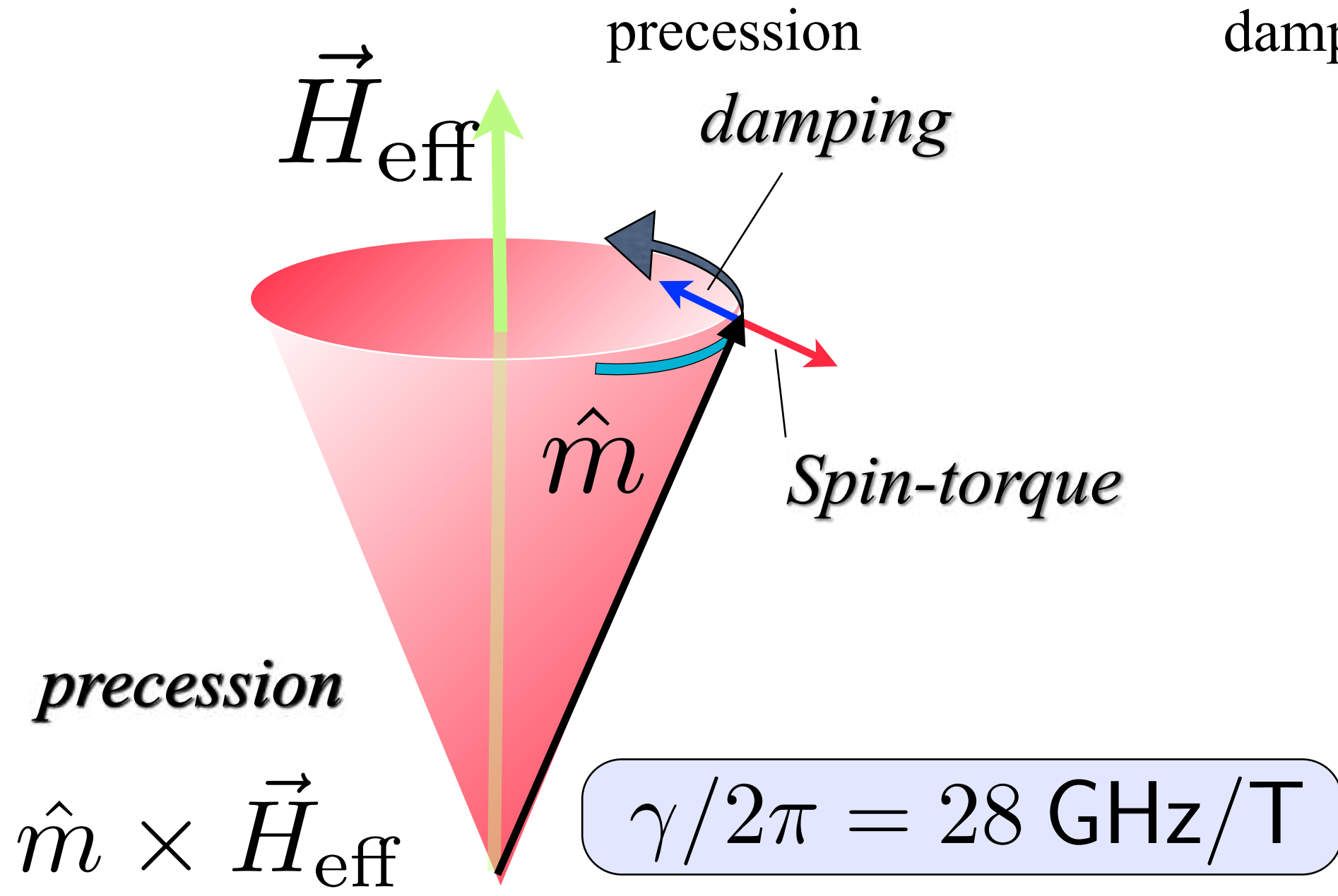


Spin Dynamics: LLG+Spin-Torque (LLGS)

Landau-Lifshitz-Gilbert-Slonczewski Eqn:

$$\frac{d\hat{m}}{dt} = \underbrace{-\gamma\mu_0\hat{m} \times \vec{H}_{\text{eff}}}_{\text{precession}} + \underbrace{\alpha\hat{m} \times \frac{d\hat{m}}{dt}}_{\text{damping}} + \underbrace{\gamma a_J \hat{m} \times (\hat{m} \times \hat{m}_P)}_{\text{spin torque "adiabatic STT"}}$$

Nonlinear dynamics!



$$a_J = \frac{\hbar P I}{2e M_s V}$$

When the spin-torque exceeds the damping instabilities occur

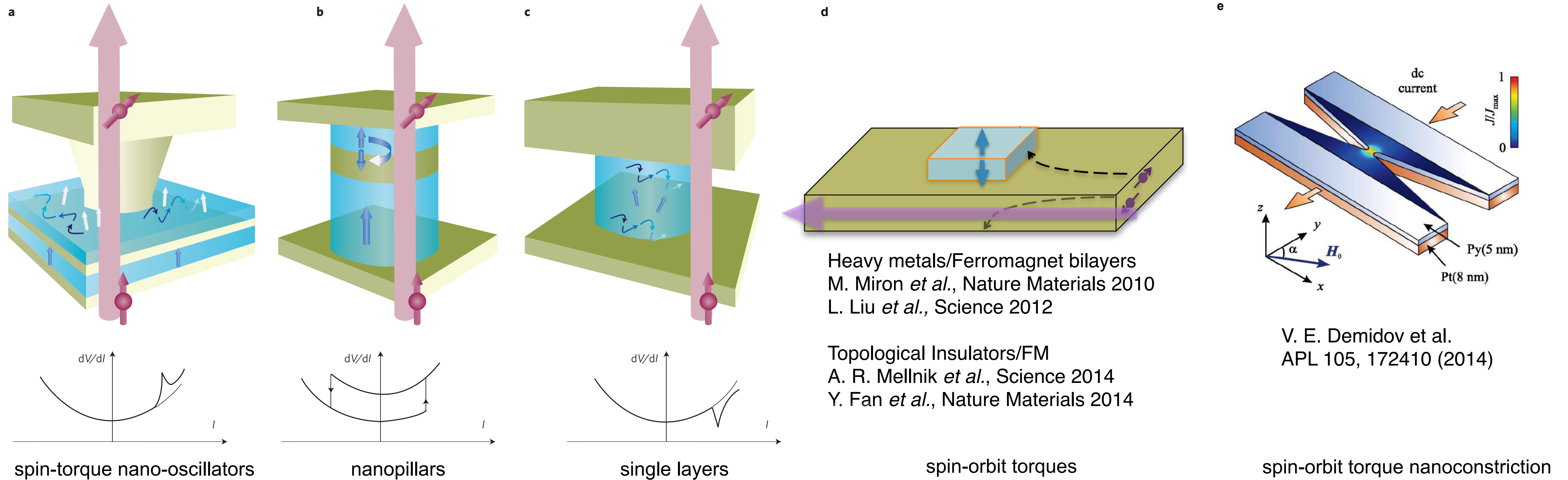
Also: $b_J \hat{m} \times \hat{m}_P$
 "non-adiabatic STT"

'Current-Induced Effective field'
 Important in MTJs

- Fast dynamics is associated with the gyroscopic term
- Damping and spin transfer terms are smaller by a factor of ~100
- If \hat{m}_P and \vec{H}_{eff} are collinear the adiabatic spin-torque can act as an "anti-damping" torque
- The adiabatic spin-torque is zero when \hat{m} and \hat{m}_P are strictly collinear

Sample Geometries and Materials

Important in nanostructures: Large current densities+STT dominate over Oersted fields



from: A. Brataas, ADK, H. Ohno, Nature Materials 2012

$$\frac{d\hat{m}}{dt} = \gamma\mu_0\hat{m} \times \vec{H}_{\text{eff}} + \underbrace{\alpha\hat{m} \times \frac{d\hat{m}}{dt} + \gamma a_J \hat{m} \times (\hat{m} \times \hat{p})}_{\text{STT can compensate damping in regions in the material}}$$

STT can compensate damping in regions in the material

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- **Switching magnetization in magnetic tunnel junction nanopillars**
- Magnetic skyrmions
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A perpendicular-anisotropy CoFeB–MgO magnetic tunnel junction

S. Ikeda^{1,2*}, K. Miura^{1,2,3}, H. Yamamoto^{1,2,3}, K. Mizunuma², H. D. Gan¹, M. Endo², S. Kanai², J. Hayakawa³, F. Matsukura^{1,2} and H. Ohno^{1,2*}

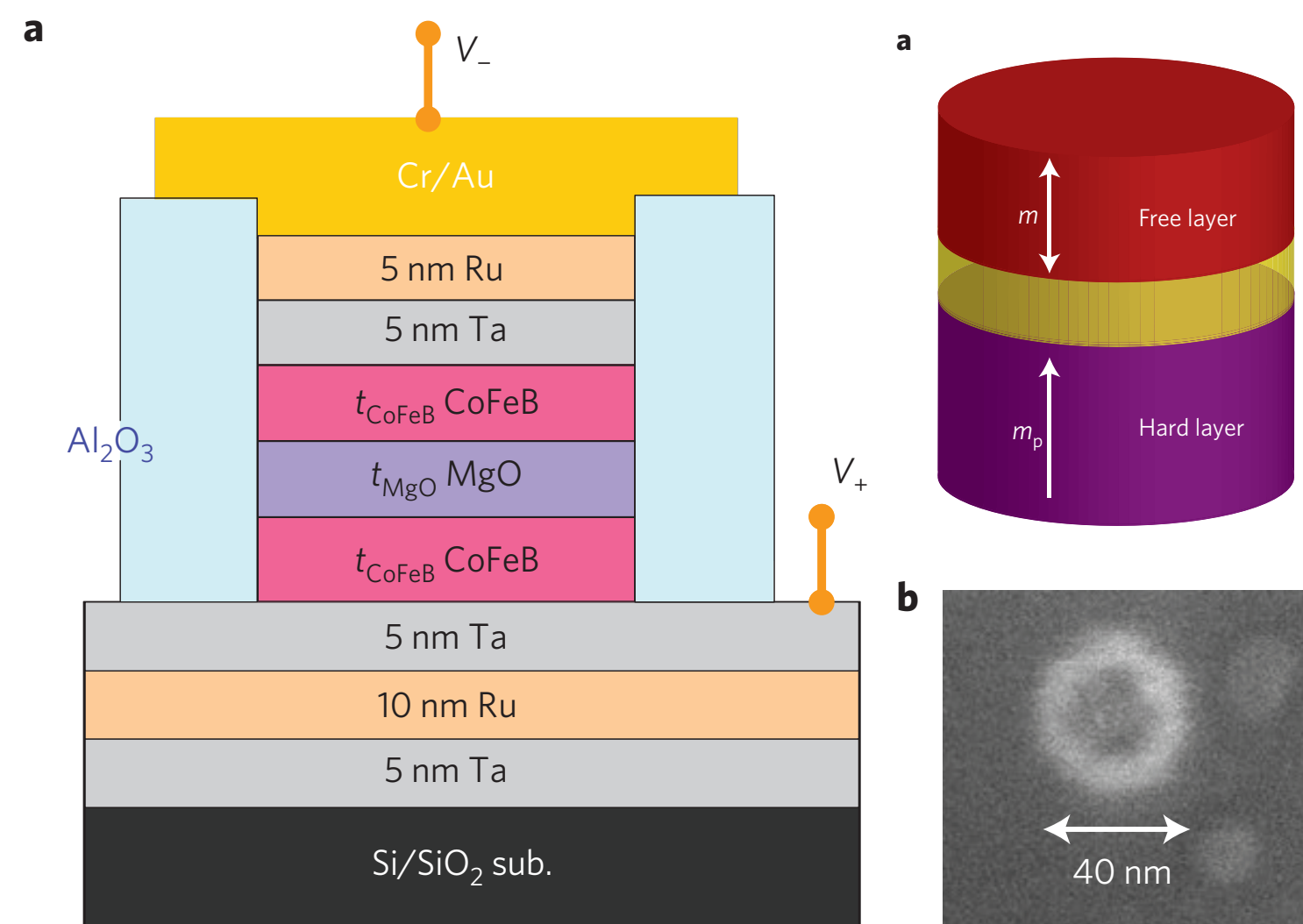
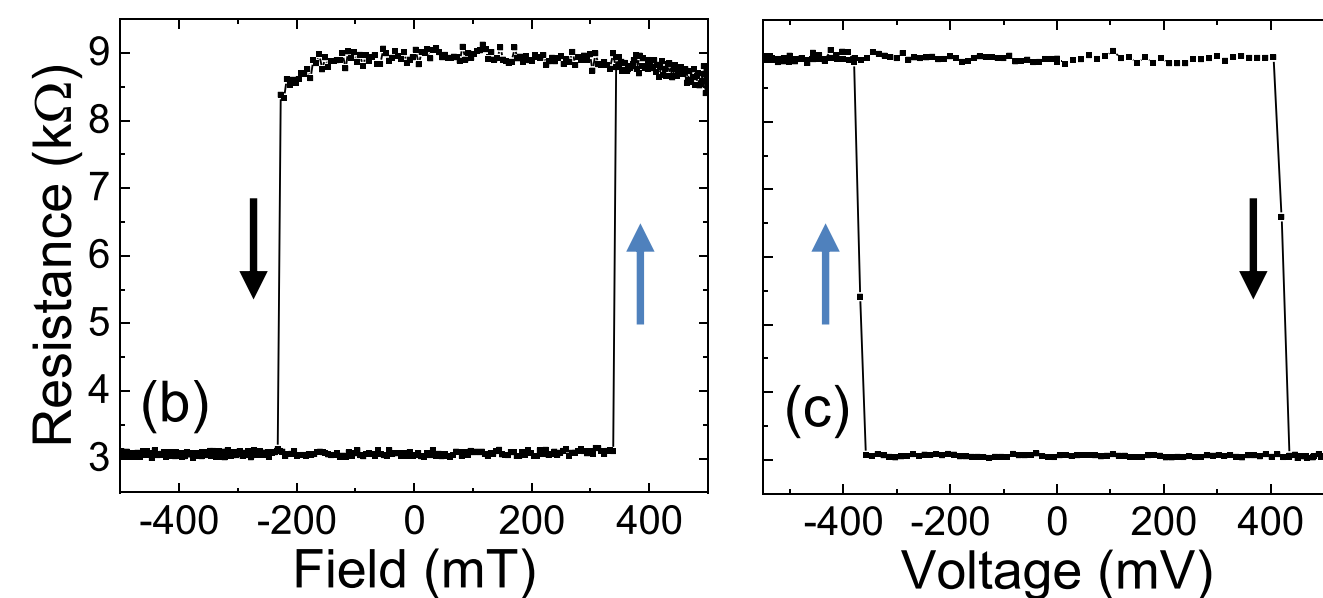


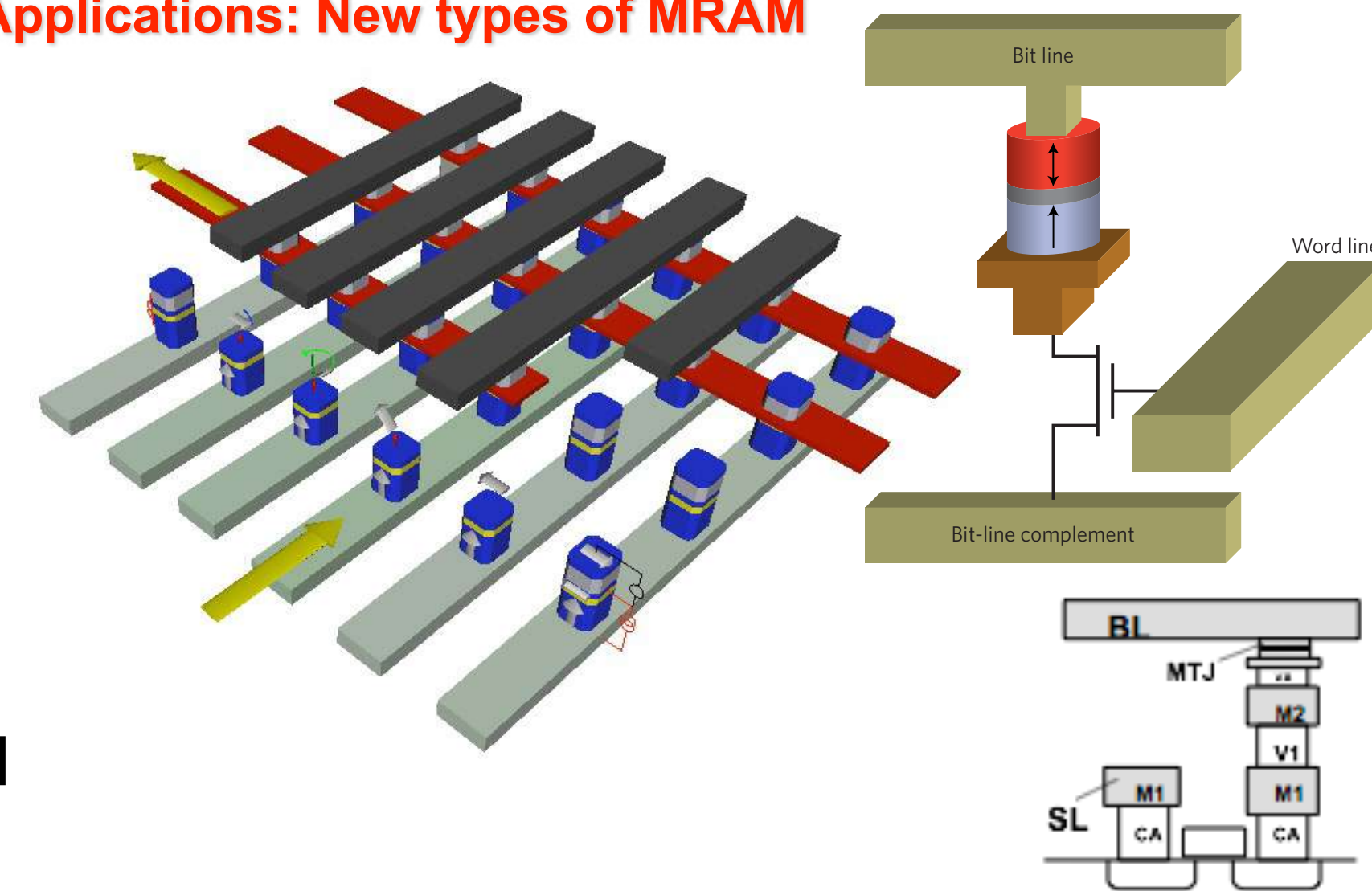
Figure 1 | MTJ structure. **a**, Schematic of an MTJ device for TMR and CIMS measurements. **b**, Top view of an MTJ pillar taken by scanning electron microscope.



Field induced free layer switching

Current-induced switching

Applications: New types of MRAM



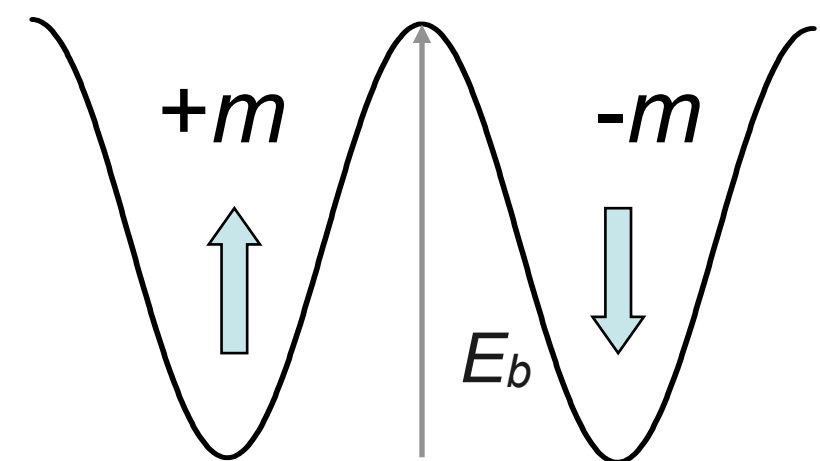
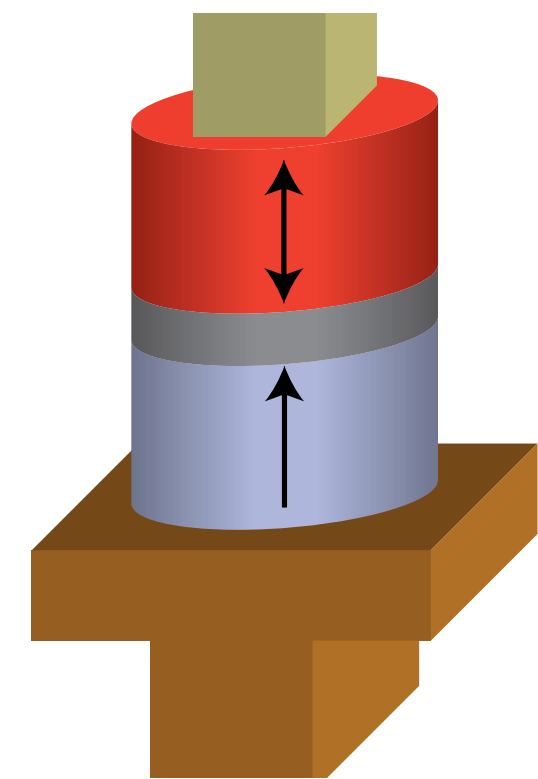
R. Beach et al., IEDM 2008

Also, D.C. Worledge *et al.*, Applied Physics Letter **98**, 022501 (2011)

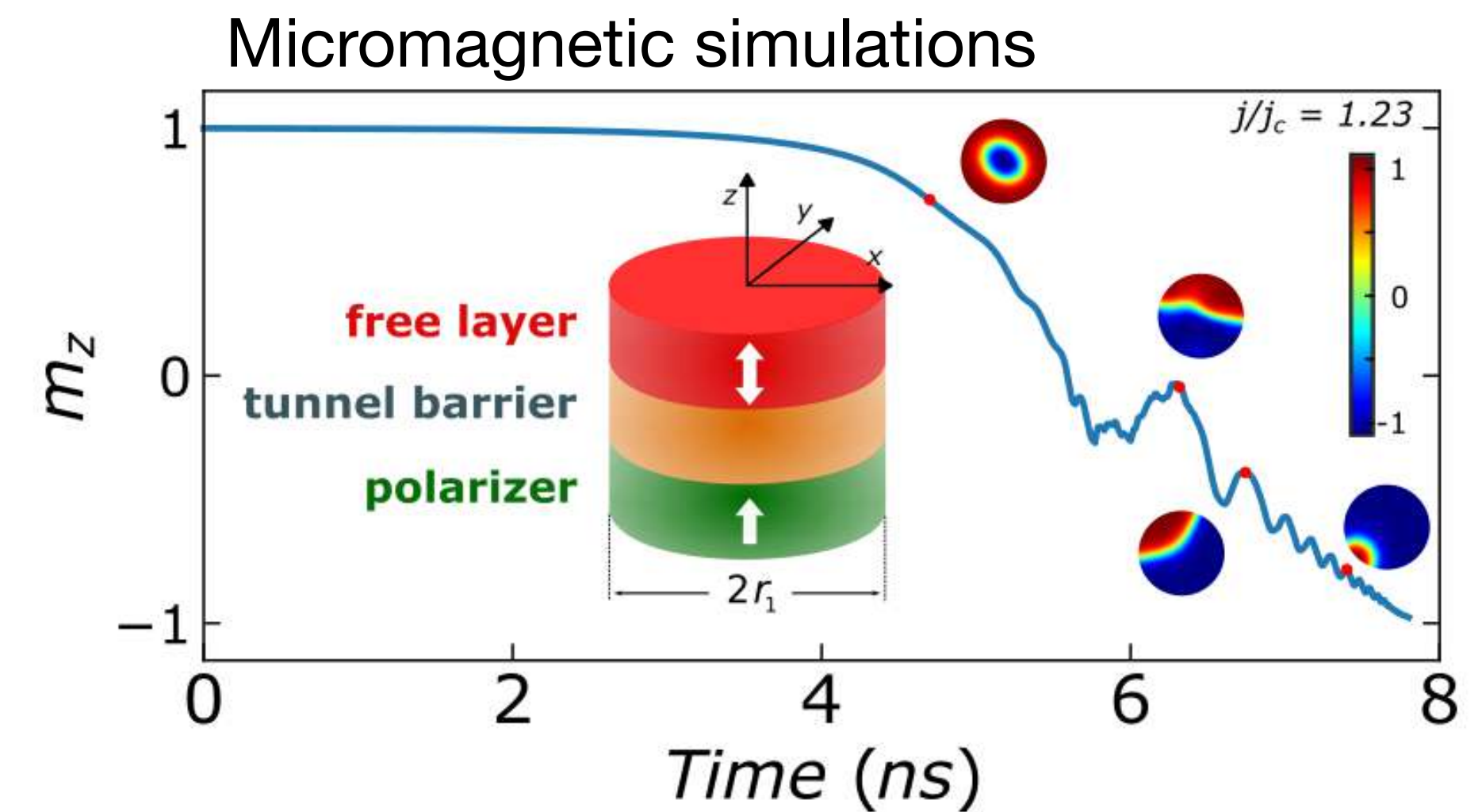
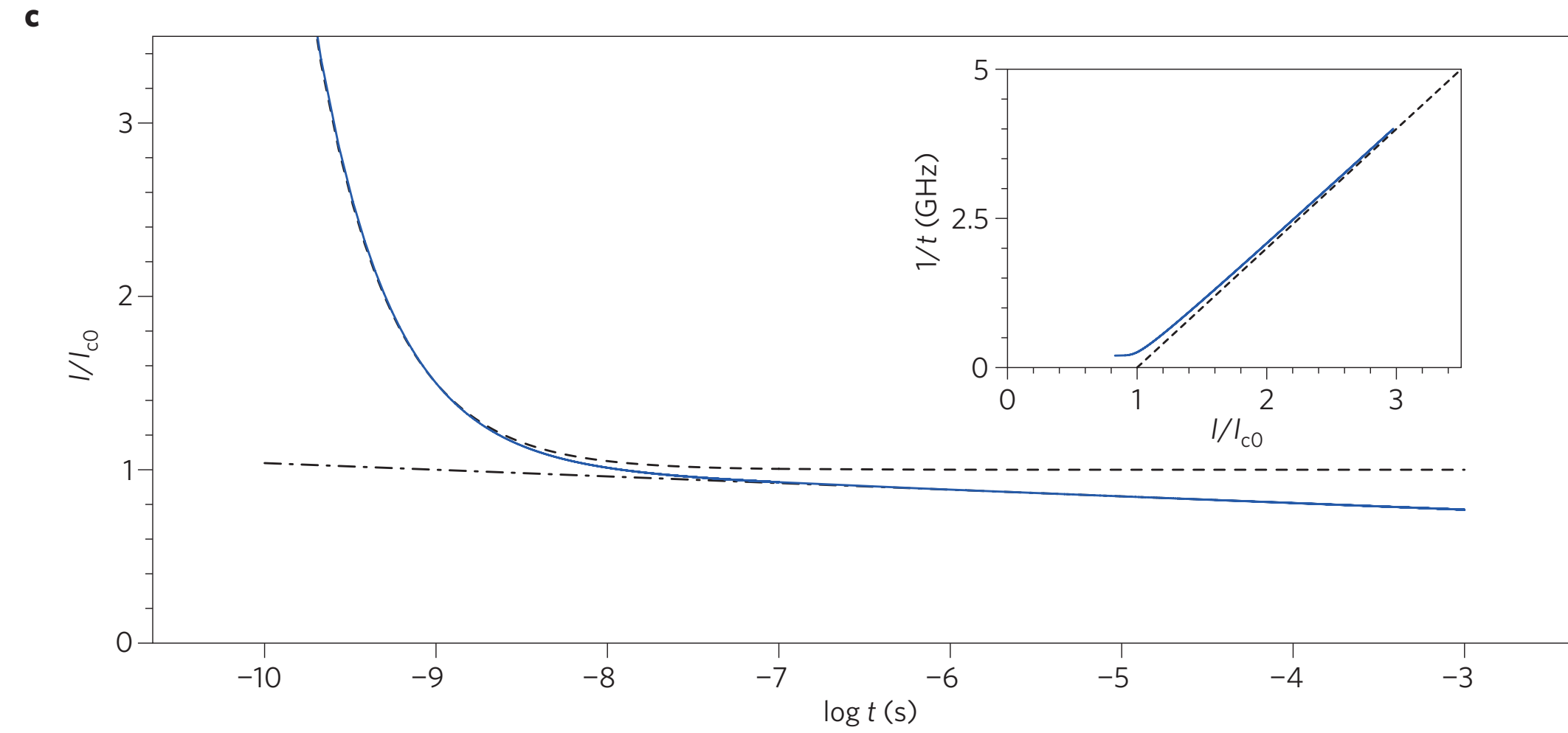
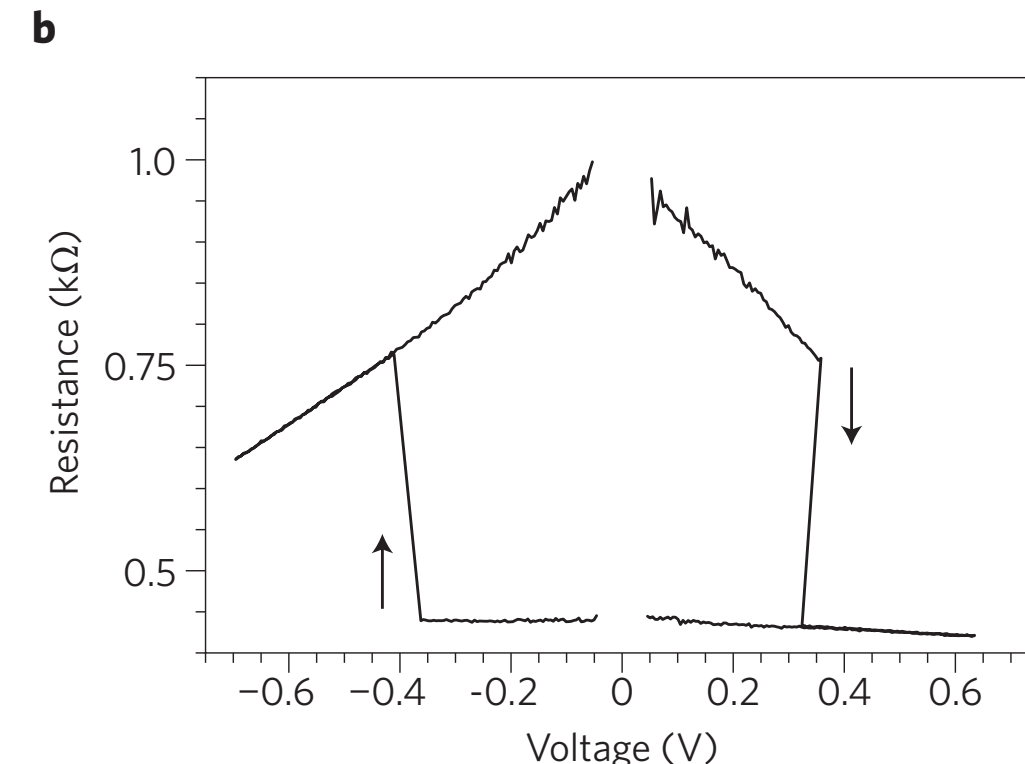
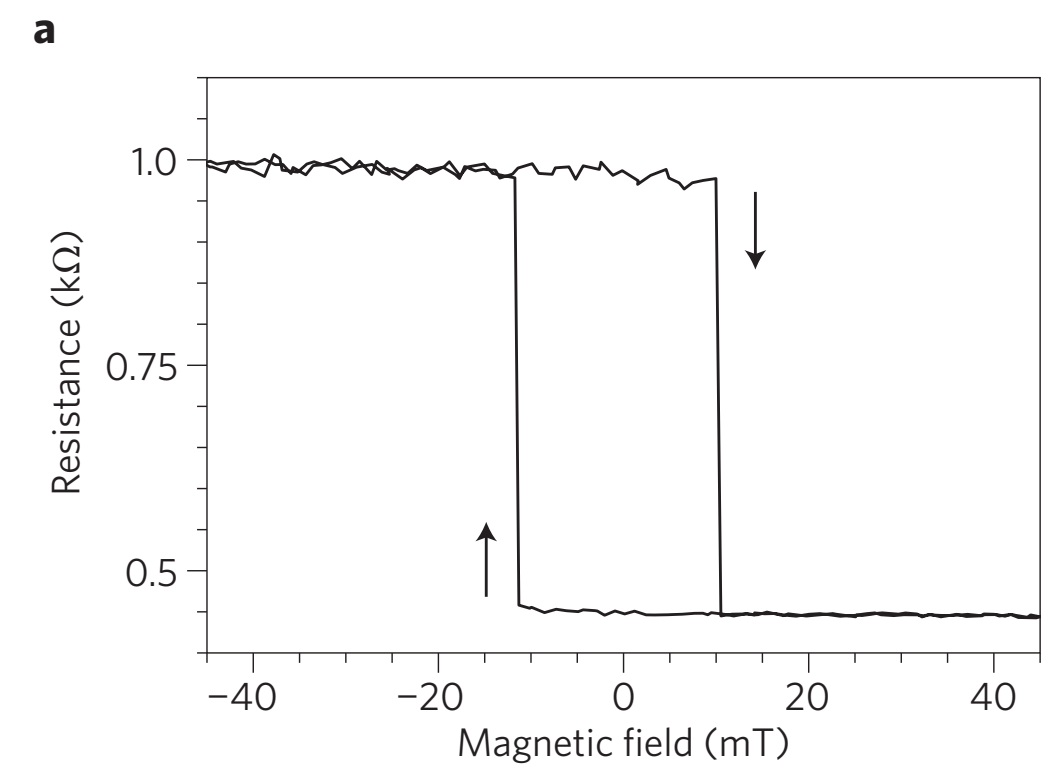
Perspective: A. D. Kent, Perpendicular all the way, Nature Materials **9**, 699 (2010)



Switching Magnetization of MTJ Nanopillars



$$E_b / (kT) \gtrsim 60$$

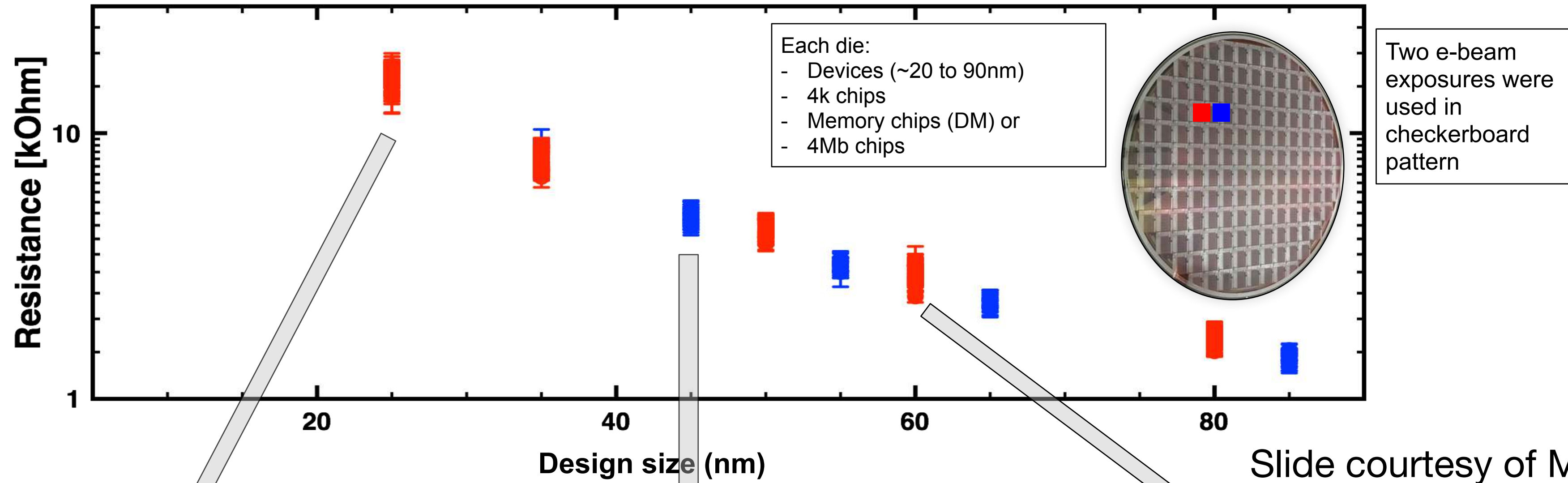


N. Statuto *et al.*, PRB **103**, 014409 (2021)
 P. Bouquin *et al.*, APL **113**, 222408 (2018)
 I. Volvach *et al.*, APL **116**, 192408 (2020)
 J. B. Mohammadi *et al.*, APL **118**, 132407 (2021)

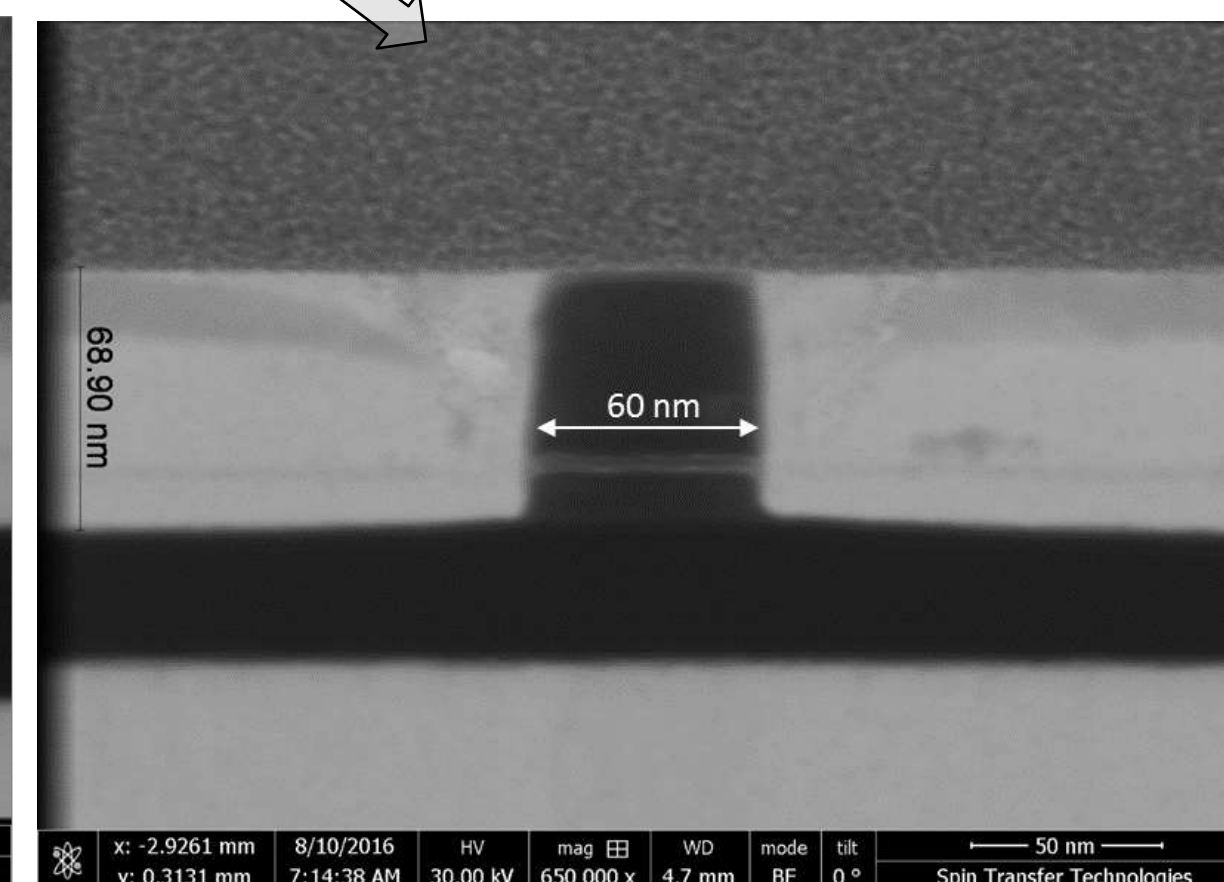
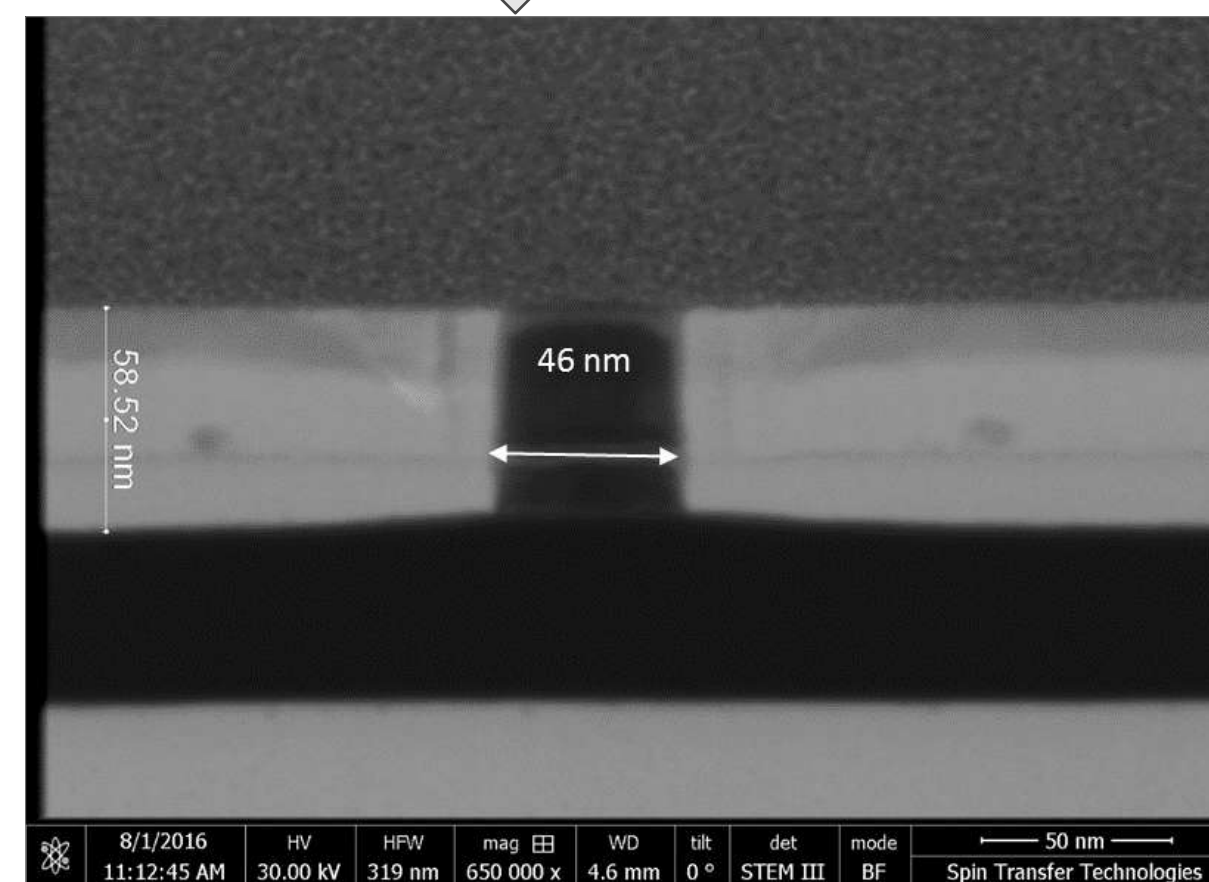
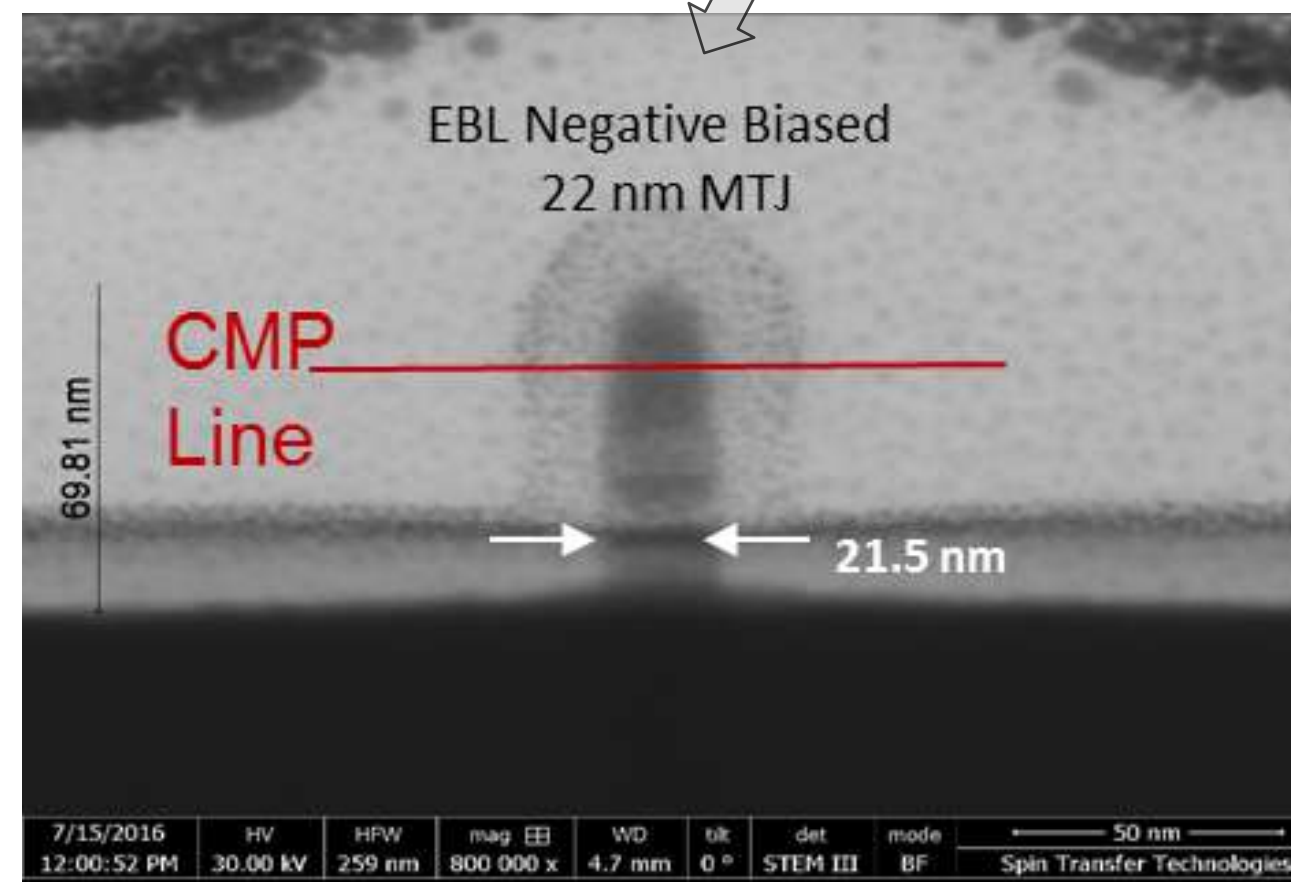
A. D. Kent and D. C. Worledge, "A new spin on magnetic memories," Nature Nanotechnology **10**, 187 (2015)

Magnetic Tunnel Junction Nanopillars

- Scaling down to 20 nm diameters

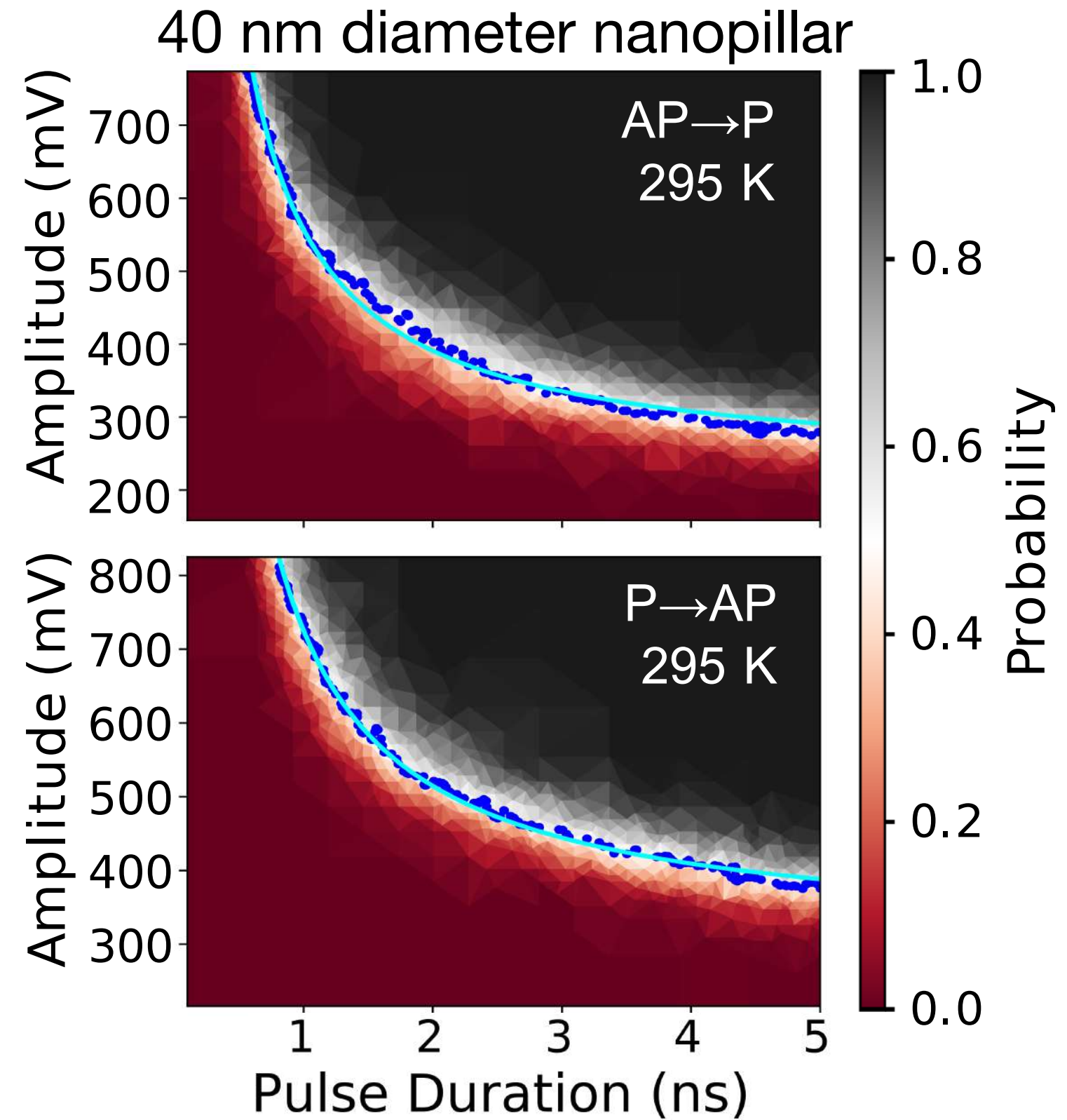
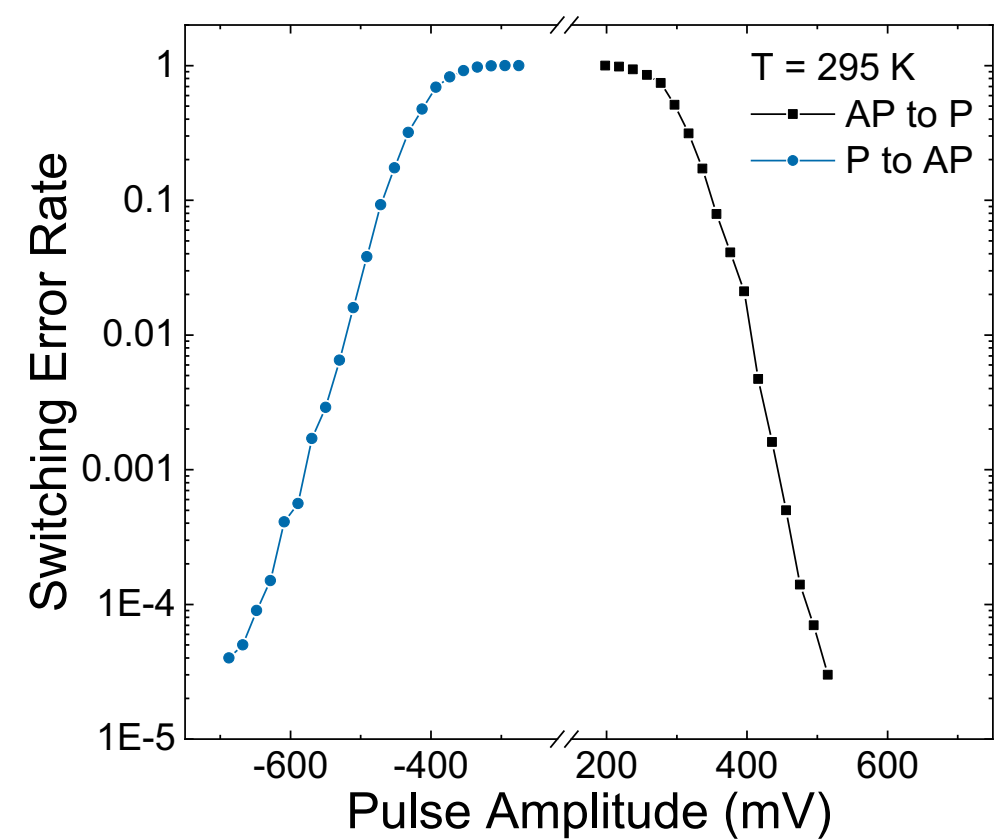
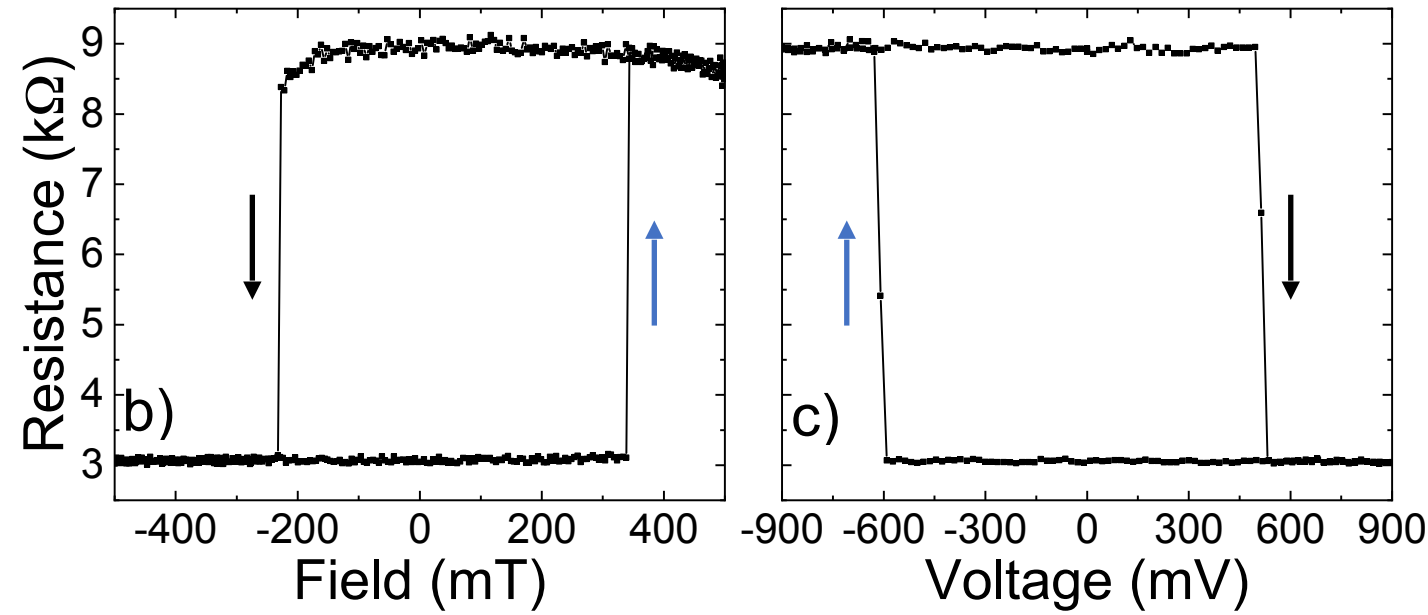
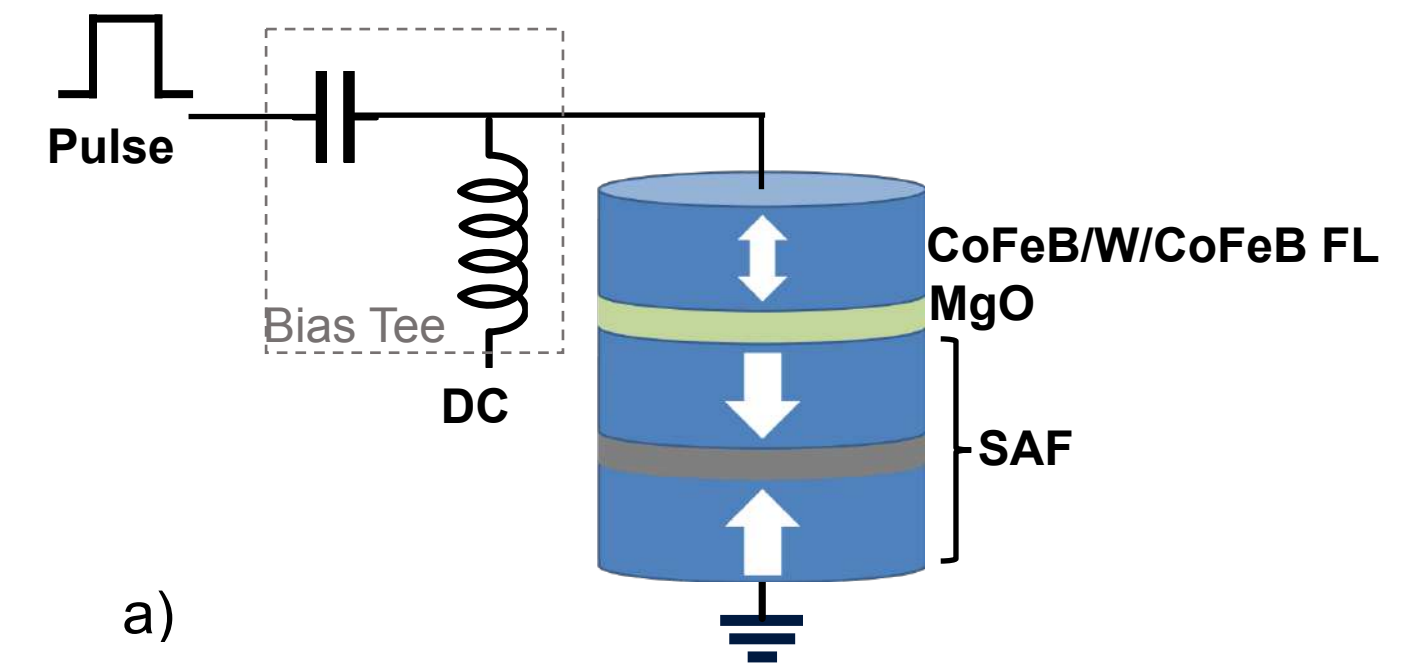


Slide courtesy of Mustafa Pinarbasi





High Speed Magnetization Switching



$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{1}{\tau_0} \left(\frac{I - I_c}{I_c} \right)$$

critical number
of transmitted
charges N_c

$$\tau_0 I_c = I\tau - I_c\tau$$

eN_c N dissipation

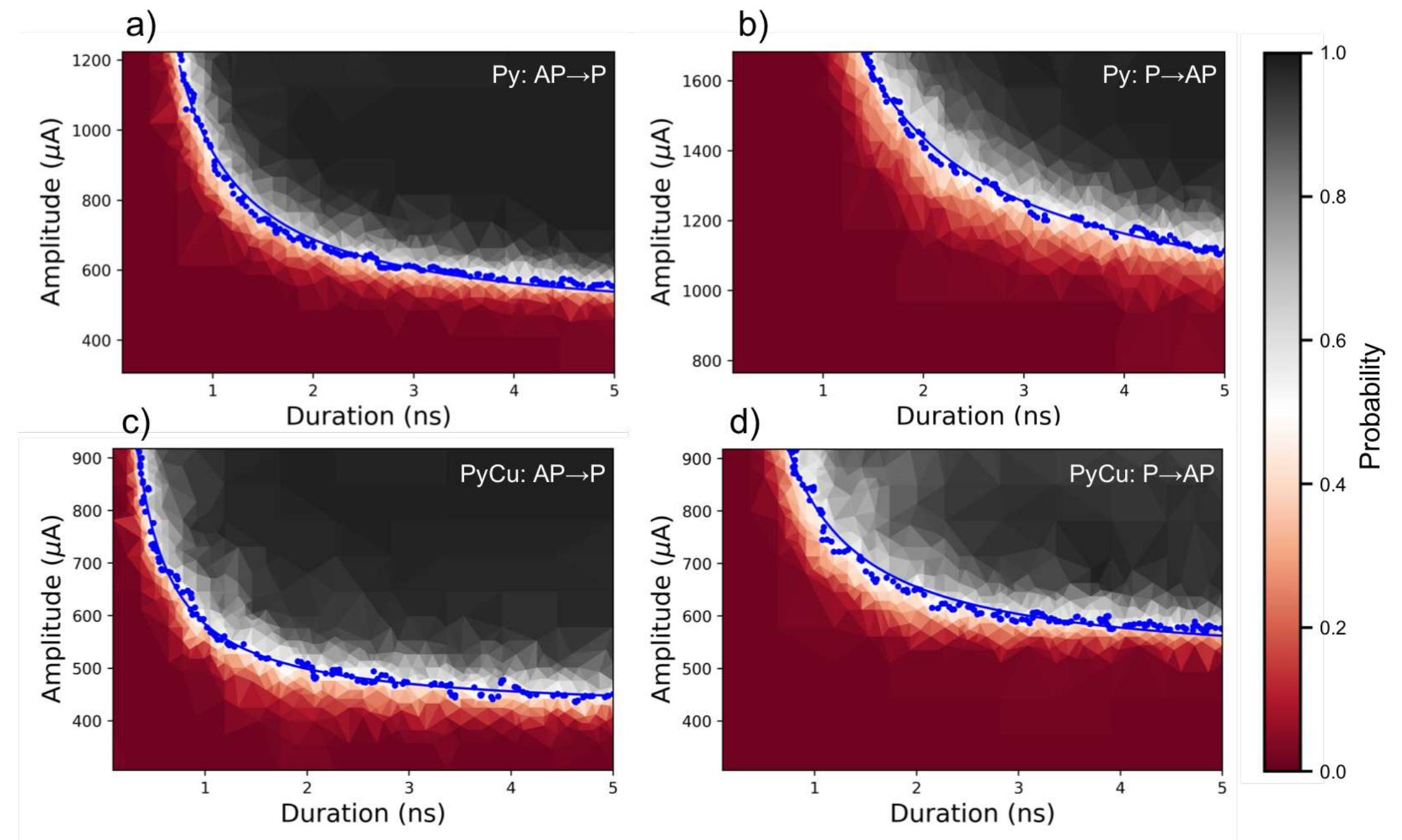
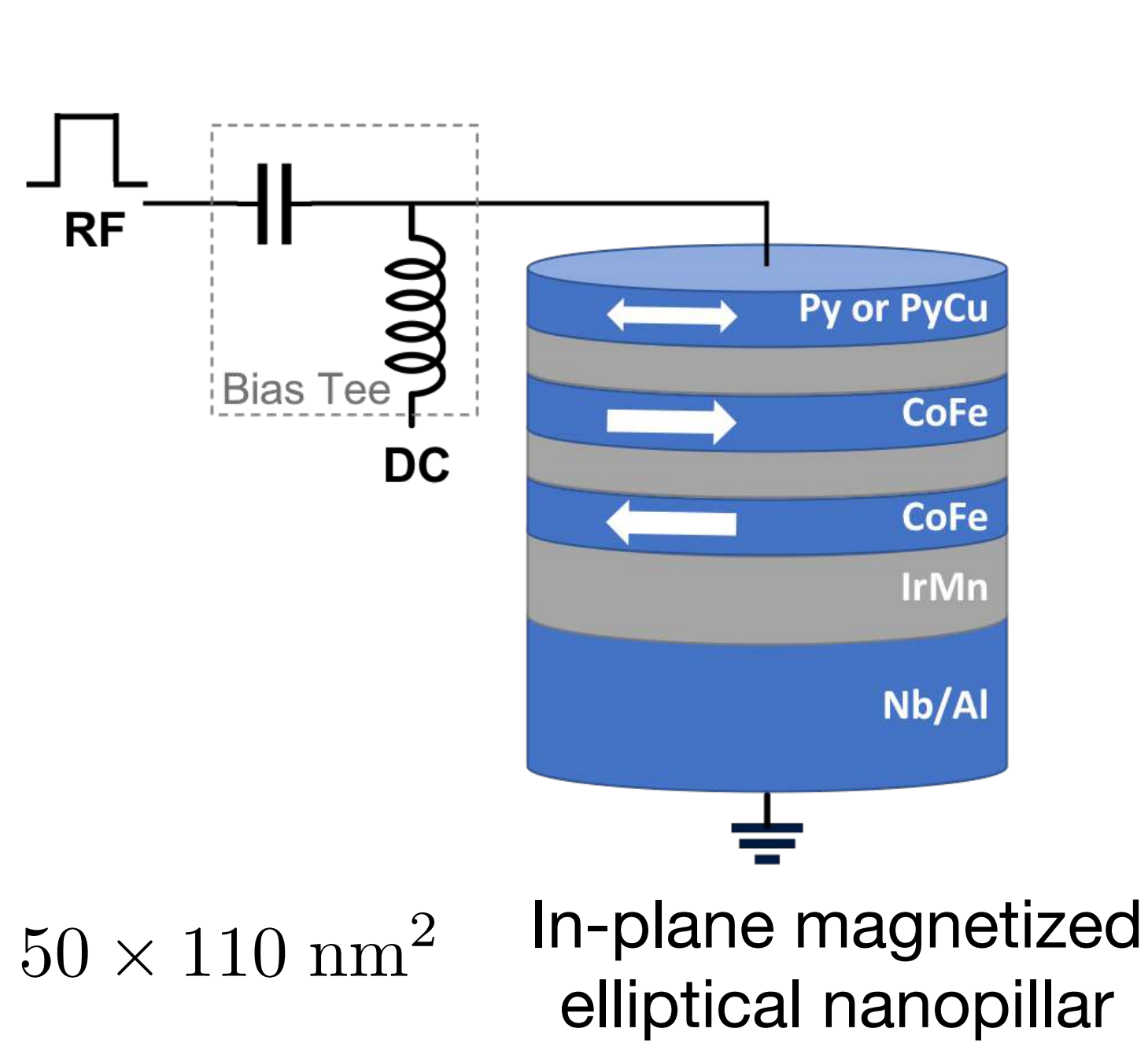
Write energy: $\lesssim 250$ fJ

Laura Rehm *et al.*, Appl. Phys. Lett. **115**, 182404 (2019)

Laura Rehm *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Appl. **15**, 034088 (2021)

Reducing the Switching Energy

Reducing the magnetic moment of the free layer in a spin valve nanopillar



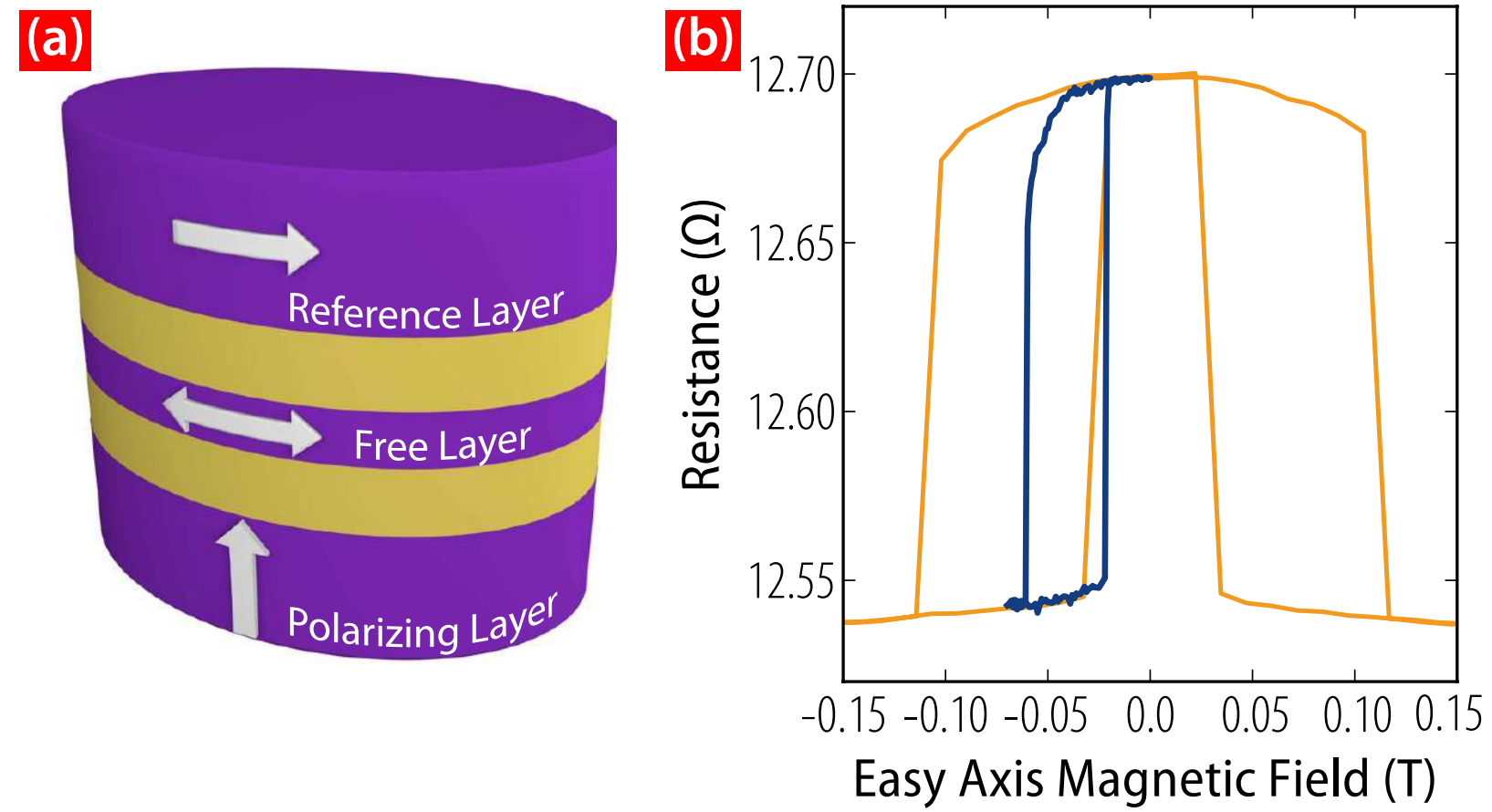
Sample	I_c (μA)		Λ	τ_0 (ns)	$\mu_0 M_{s,3.2\text{K}}$ (mT)
	AP \rightarrow P	P \rightarrow AP			
PyCu FL	395 ± 2	532 ± 2	1.16	0.475 ± 0.007	240
Py FL	432 ± 2	902 ± 3	1.44	1.18 ± 0.01	860

Write energy: $\lesssim 40 \text{ fJ}$

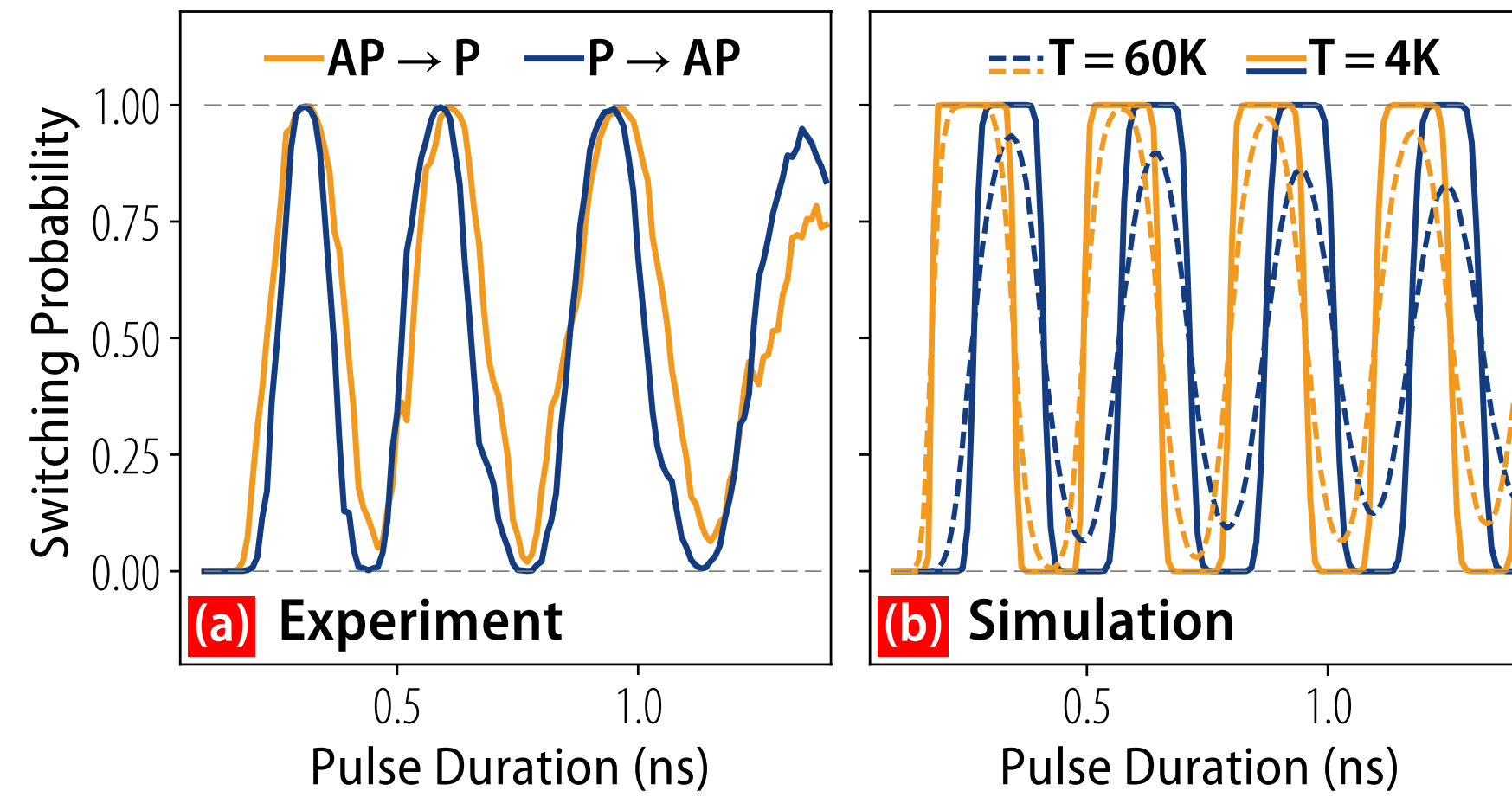
L. Rehm, V. Sluka, G. E. Rowlands, M.-H. Nguyen, T. A. Ohki and A. D. Kent, Appl. Phys. Lett. **114**, 012404 (2019)



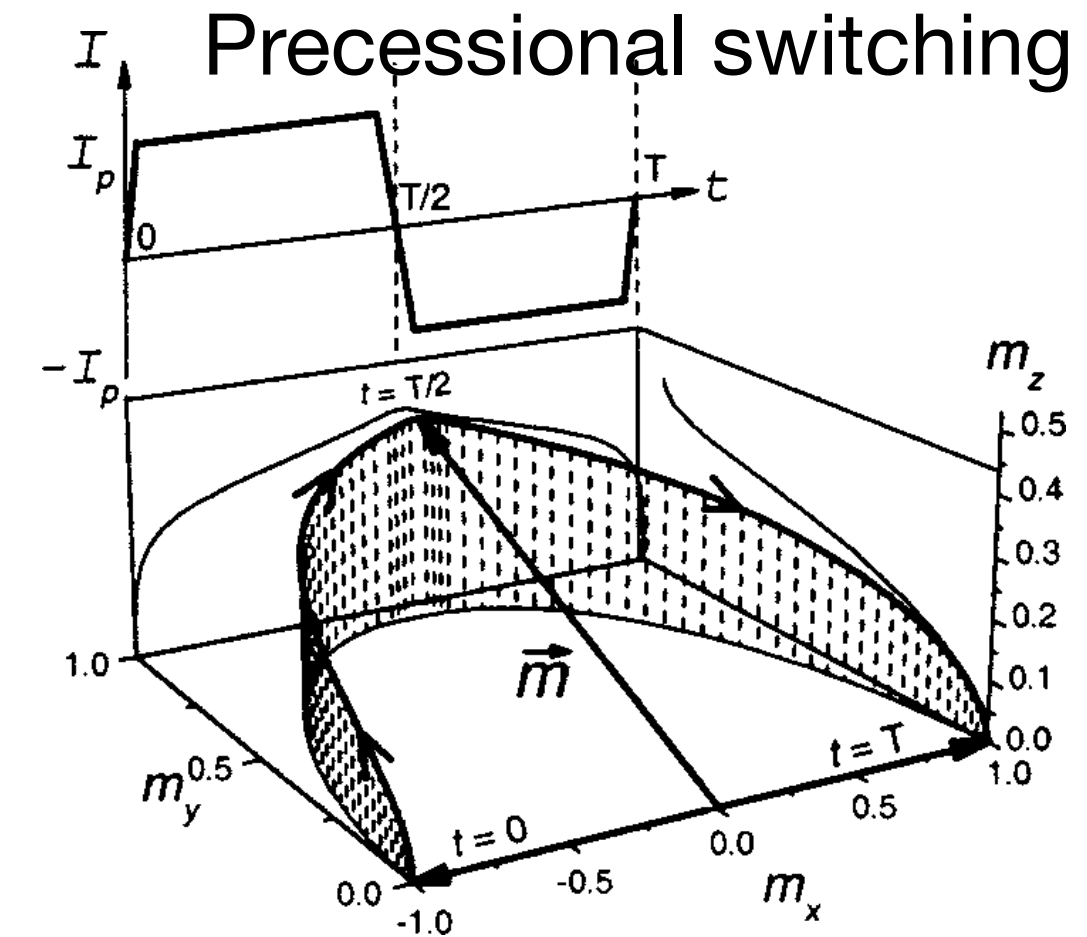
Increasing the Switching Speed



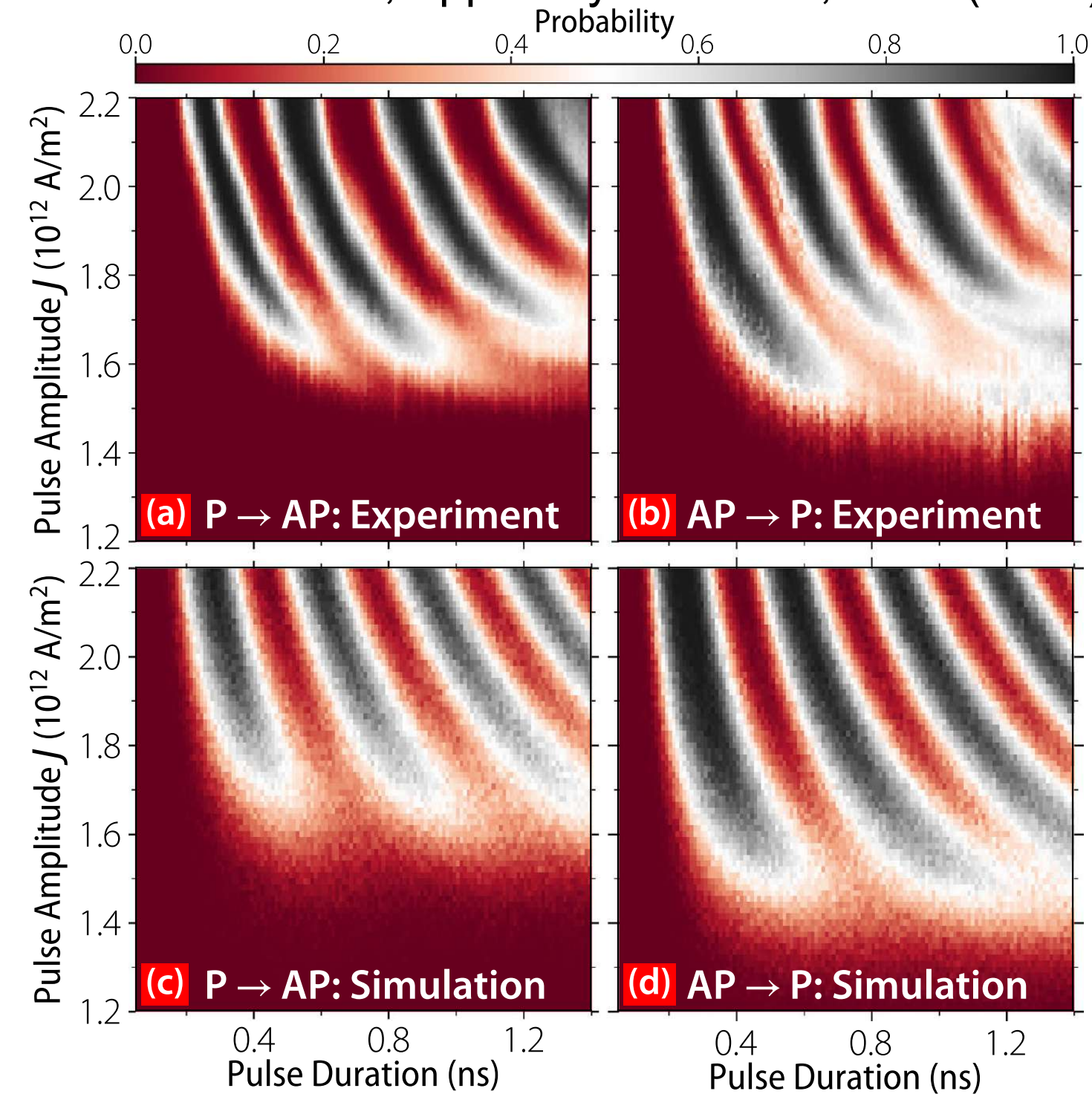
Orthogonal spin transfer torque device



G. E. Rowlands *et al.*, Scientific Reports **9**, 803 (2019)



A.D. Kent *et al.*, Appl. Phys. Lett. **84**, 3897 (2004)

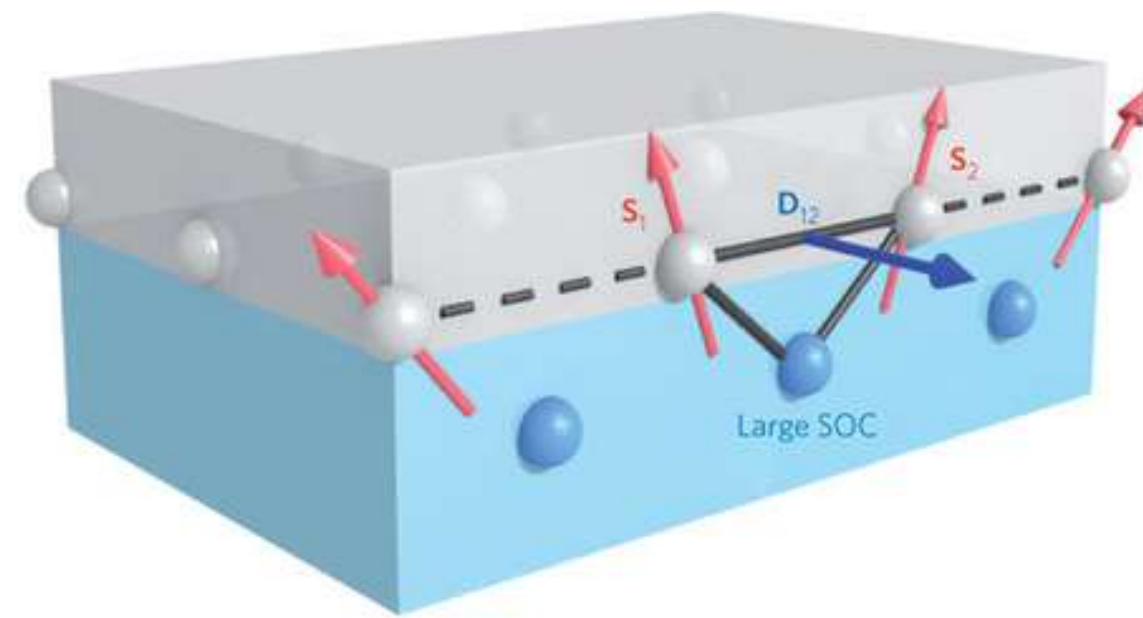


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Magnetic Skyrmions



Control magnetic interactions

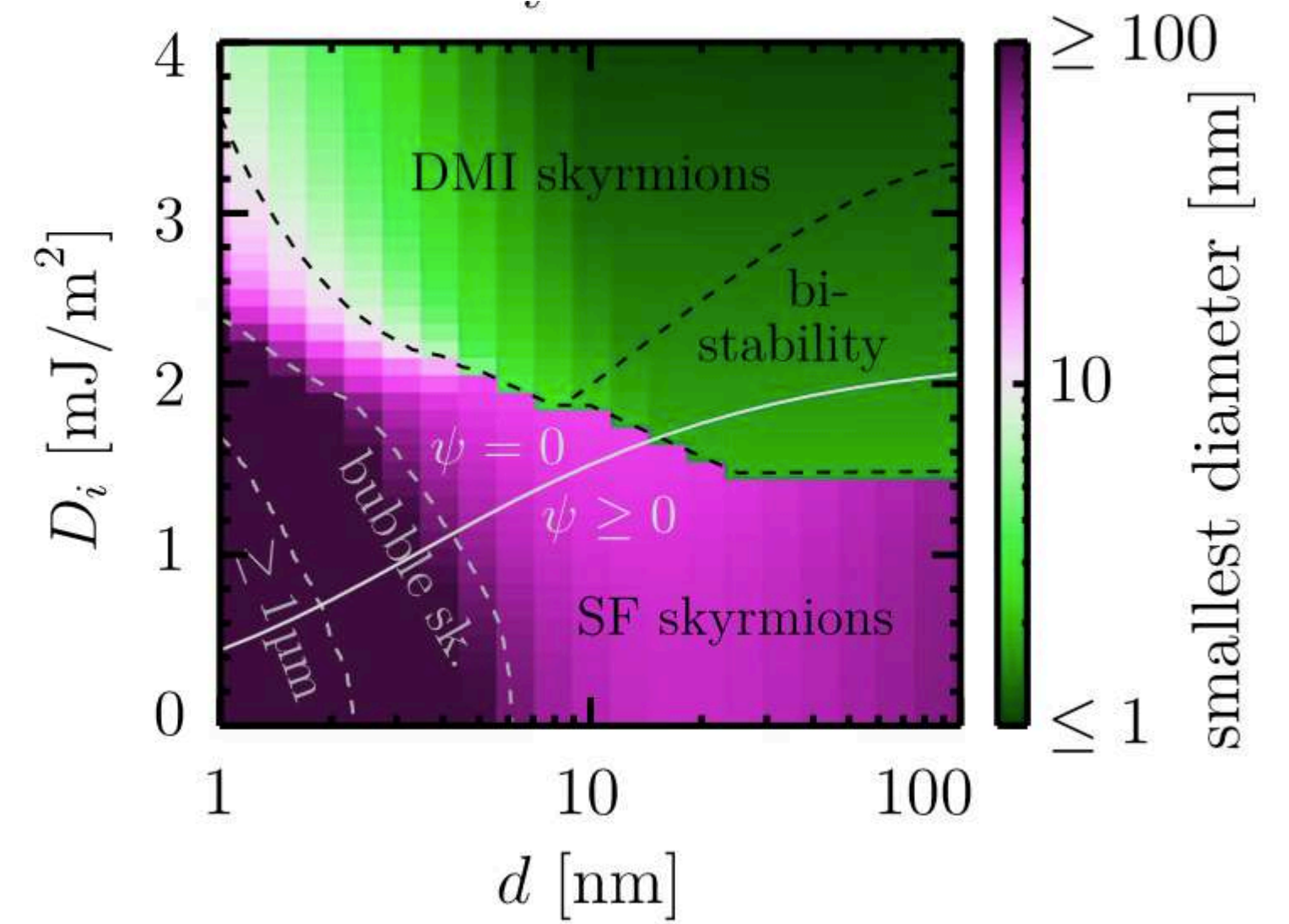


Néel-type skyrmion

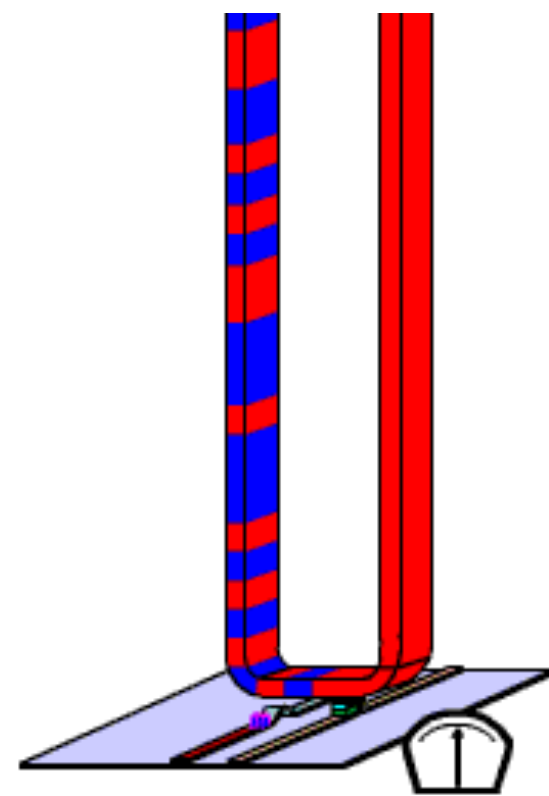


Isolated skyrmions

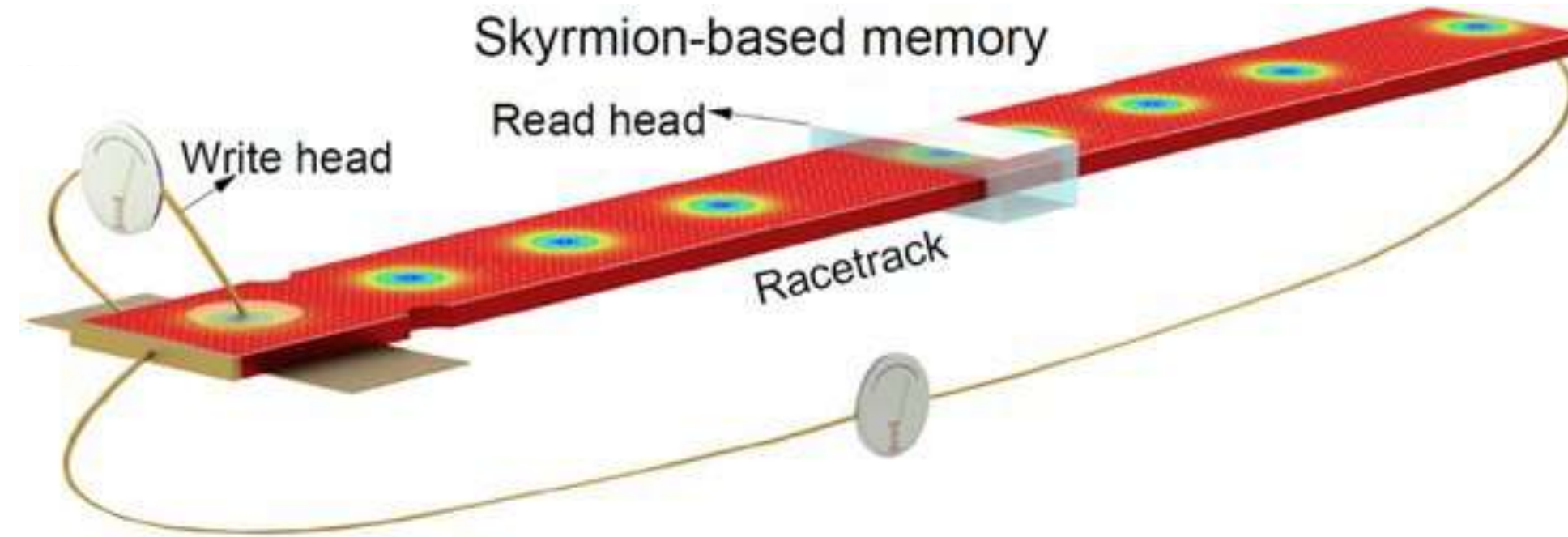
$$H = - \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \left[J_{ij} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j - D_{ij} \cdot (\vec{S}_i \times \vec{S}_j) \right] - \sum_i K S_z^2$$



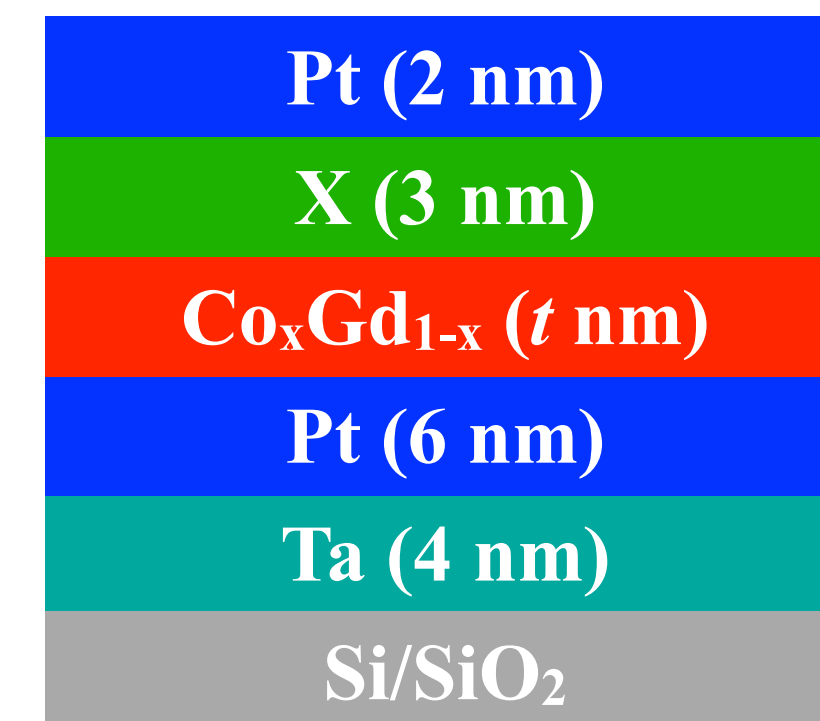
F. Büttner *et al*, *Scientific Reports* **8**, 4464 (2018)



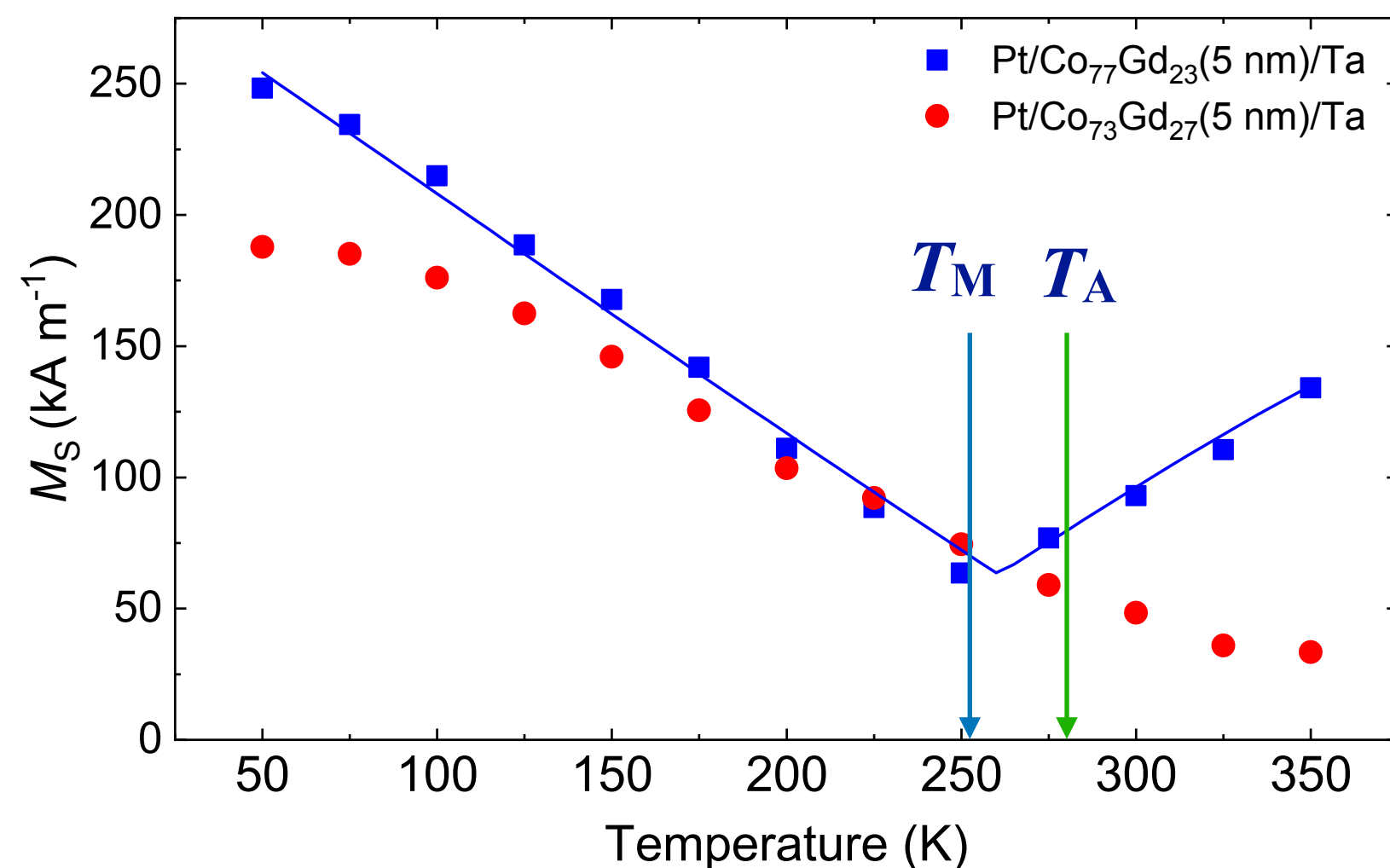
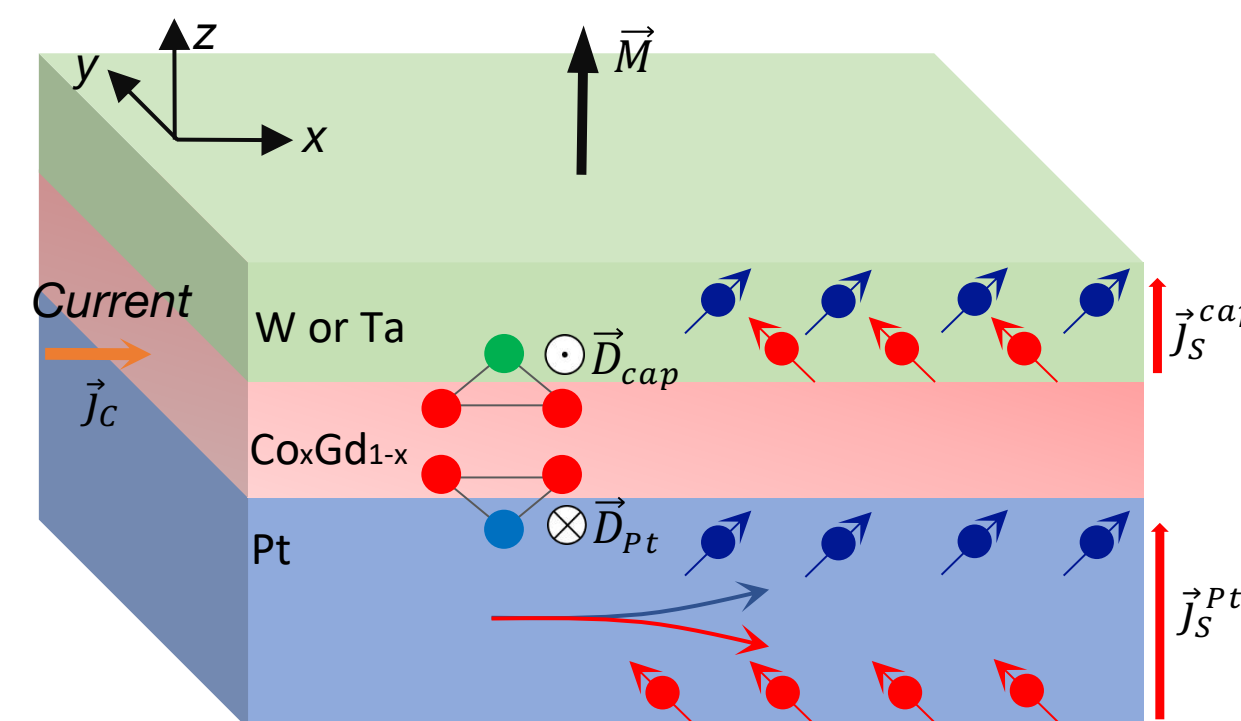
DW racetrack memory
Skyrmion racetrack memory



- Control of the DMI and SOTs is important to improve current-induced skyrmion motion.
- Study² of a trilayer system to simultaneously vary DMI and SOTs (θ_{SHE}).
- Bottom and top HM layer are sources of:
 - Spin-Orbit Coupling (\Rightarrow DMI, stability of SKs)
 - Spin currents (\Rightarrow enhanced dynamics)
- CoGd alloy compositions were chosen in a way that:
 - Low M_s i.e. T_M close to RT ideal for small SKs
 - T_A close to RT: fast spin dynamics



X = Ta, W or Ir

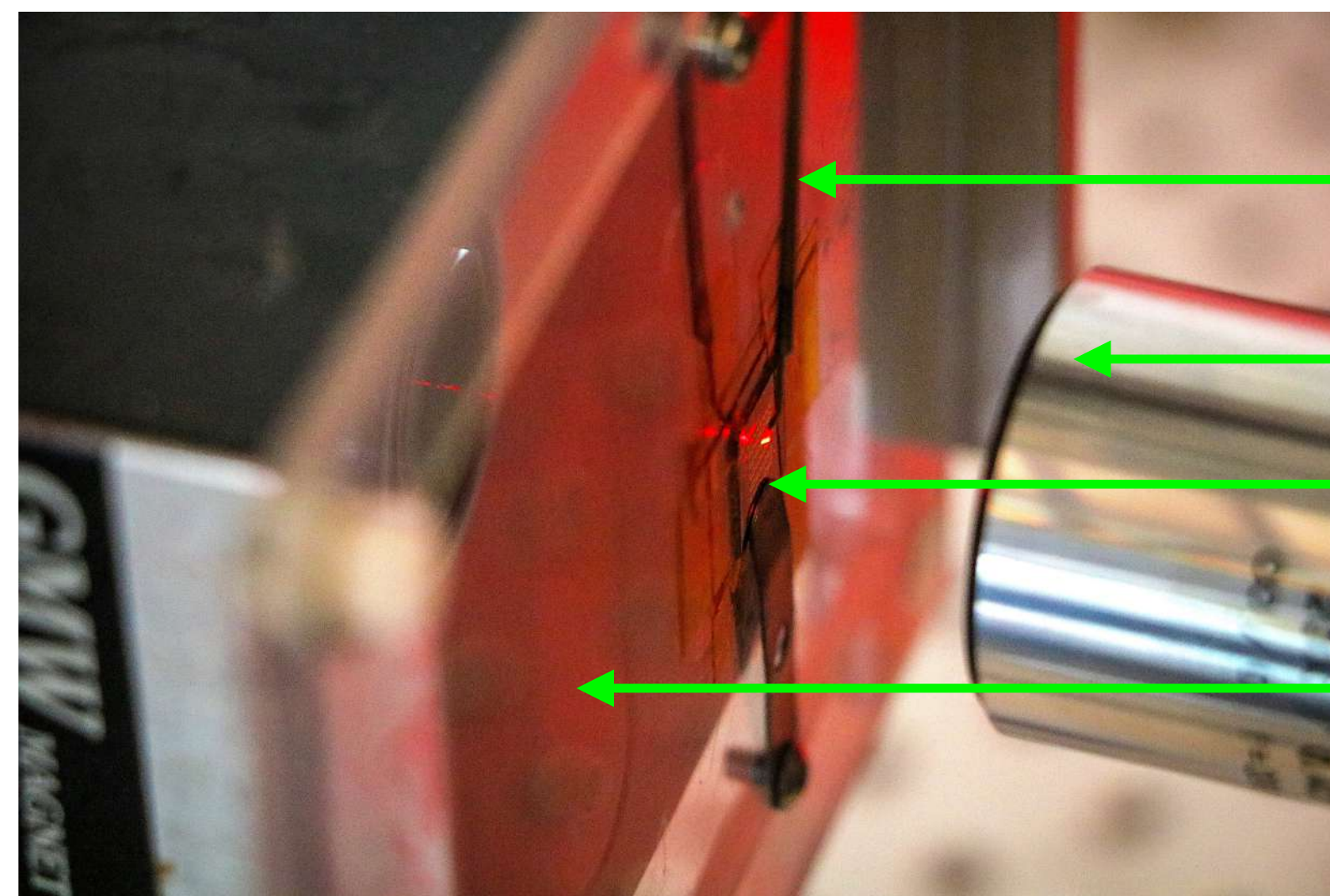


Capping layer	x_{Co} [%]	M_s [kA m ⁻¹]	K_U [kJ m ⁻³]	T_M [K]	T_A [K]
Ta	77	93	18.0	250	285
Ta	73	48	9.5	337	361
W	77	132	26.7	250	292
W	73	65	8.6	367	391
Ir	77	188	38.3	150	174
Ir	73	38	7.4	300	325

T = 300 K

Y. Quessab *et al.*, Advanced Science 8, 2100481(2021)

- **Goal:** characterize the **SOT-induced DW dynamics in Pt/CoGd(5 nm)/(W or Ta)**
- DW motion is induced by 5-ns current pulses using a GSG probe.
- Imaging is done by a home-made polar MOKE microscope.

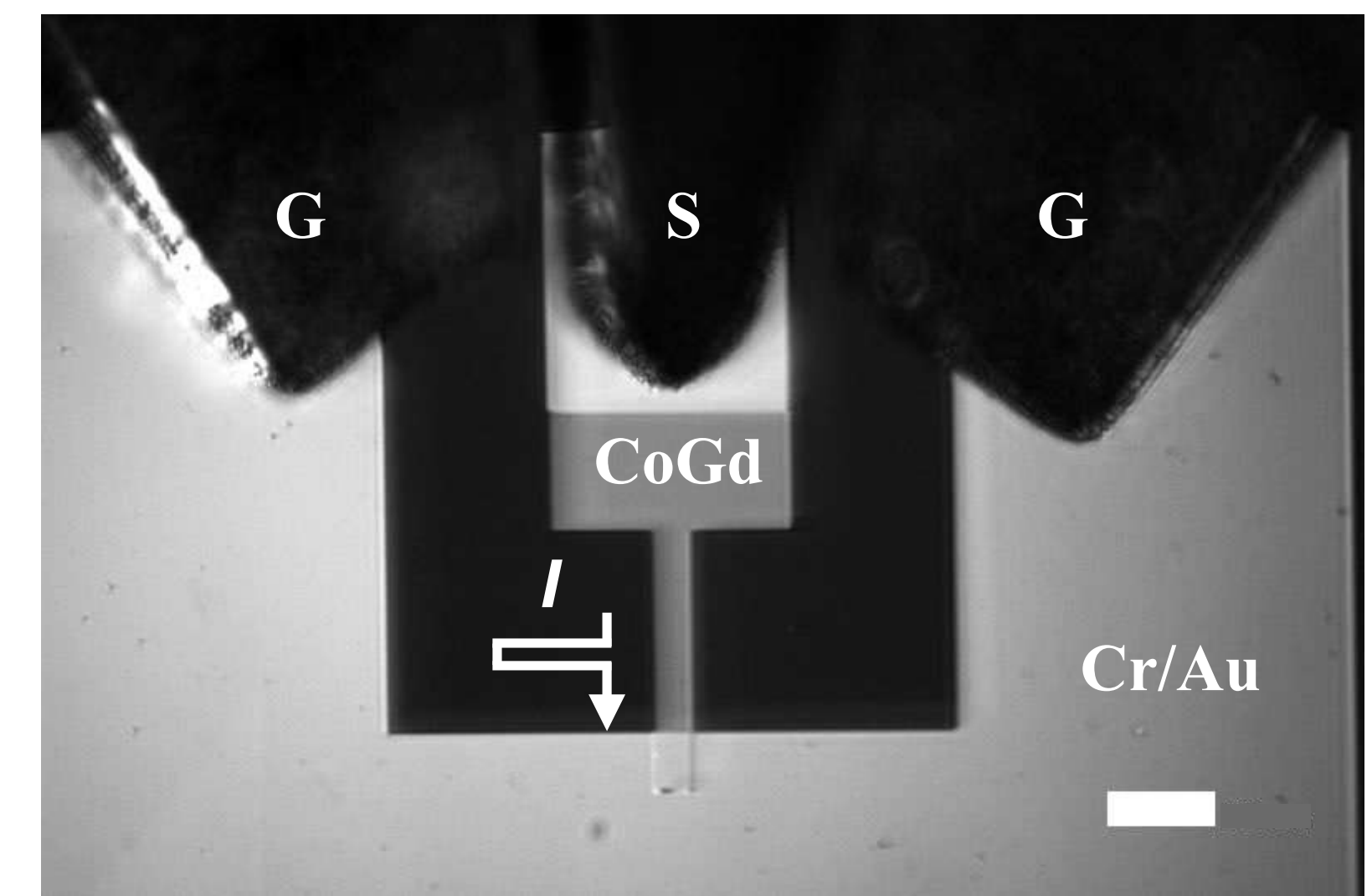


GSG probe

Objective lens (x20)

Sample

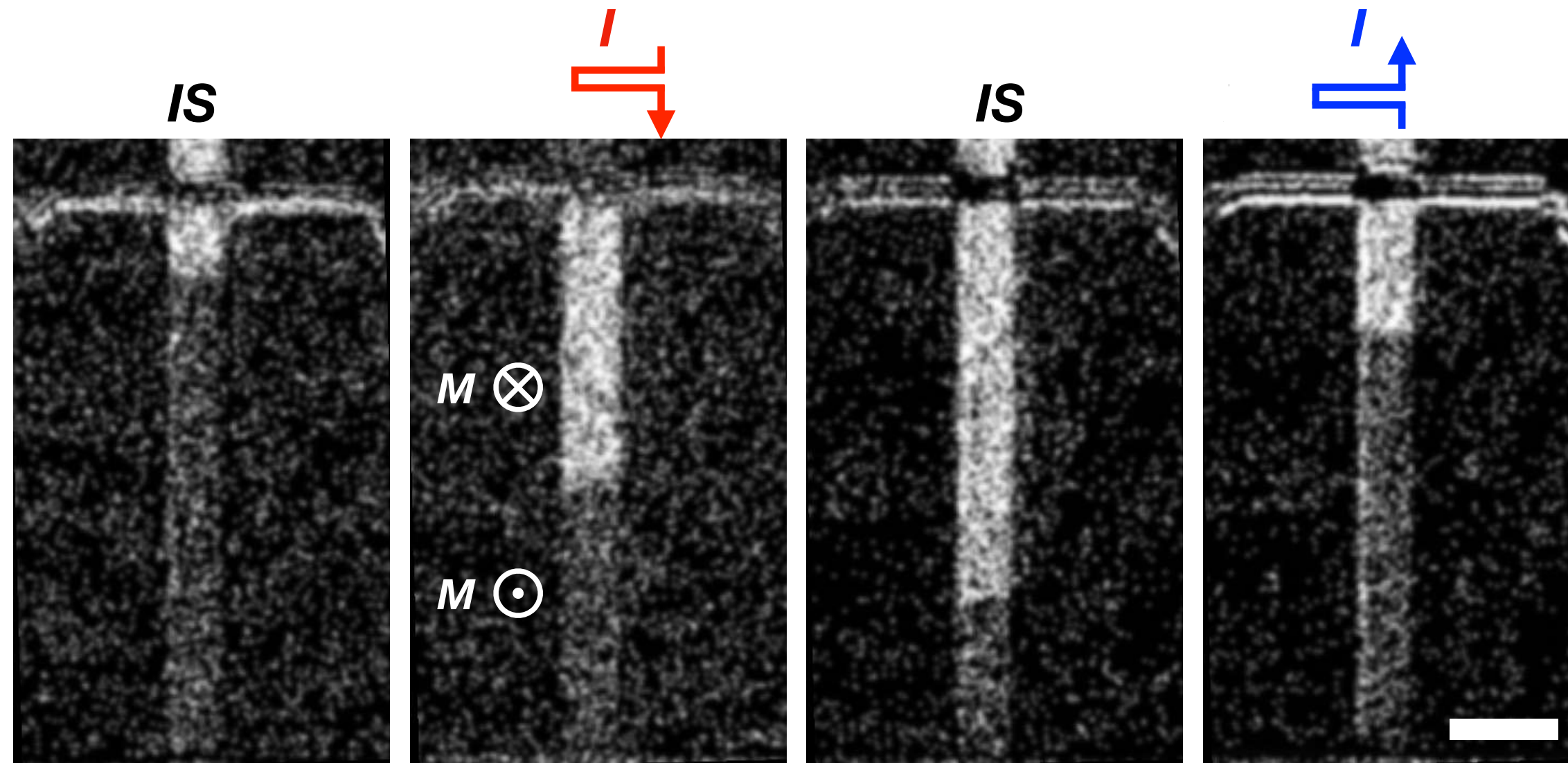
Projected magnet (B_x , B_y , B_z)



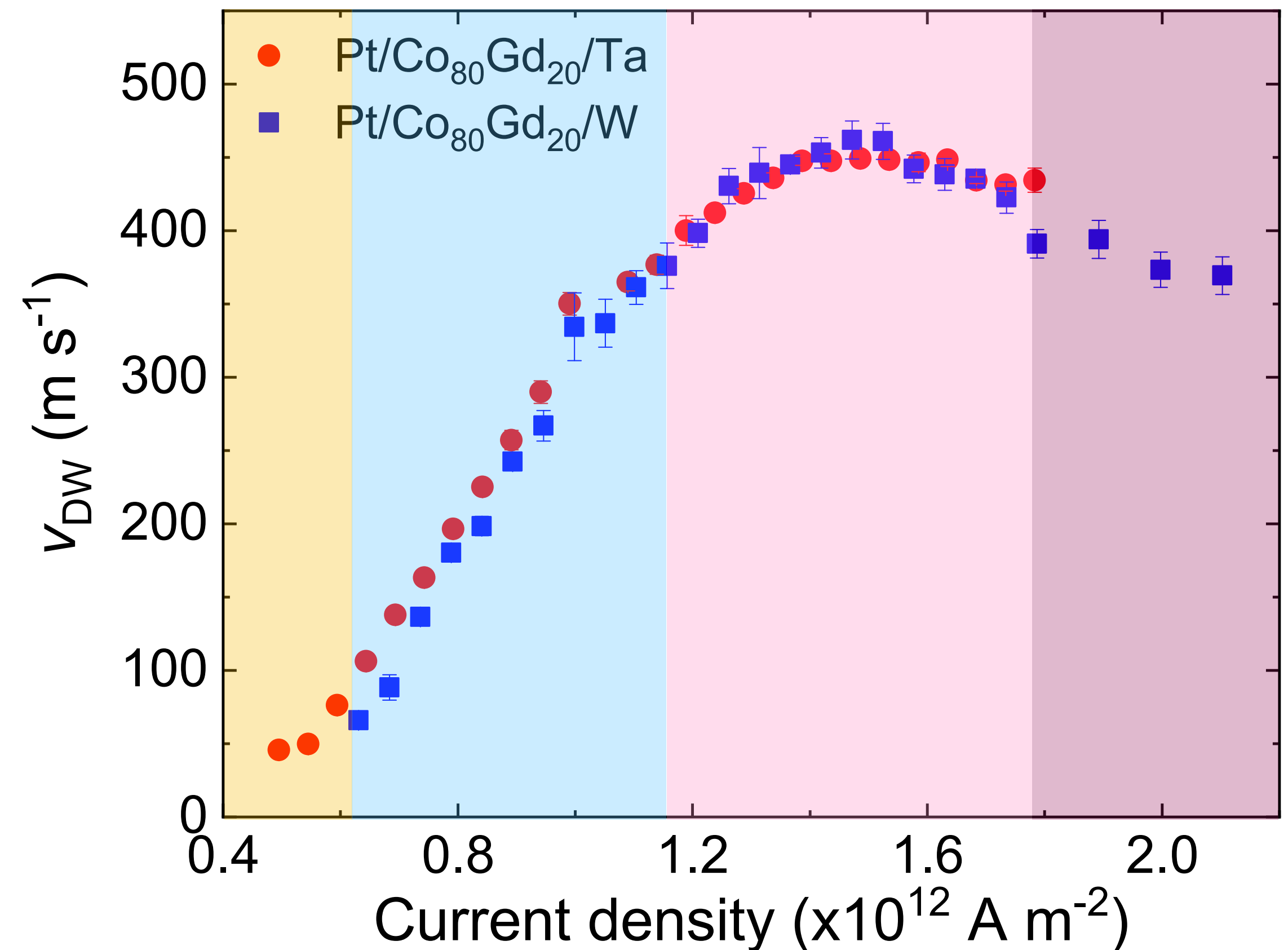
- ➡ DW displacement direction reverses by changing the current polarity
- ➡ Down-up and up-down DWs move in the same direction
- ➡ Consistent with SOTs-driven motion of Néel DWs.
- ➡ $v_{\max}(\text{Ta}) \sim 448 \text{ m/s}$; $v_{\max}(\text{W}) \sim 460 \text{ m/s}$

$$v_{\text{DW}} = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{Dj}{\sqrt{(S_{\text{net}}(T)j)^2 + (\alpha S_{\text{tot}}j_0)^2}}$$

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} v_{\text{DW}}(j) = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{D}{S_{\text{net}}(T)}$$

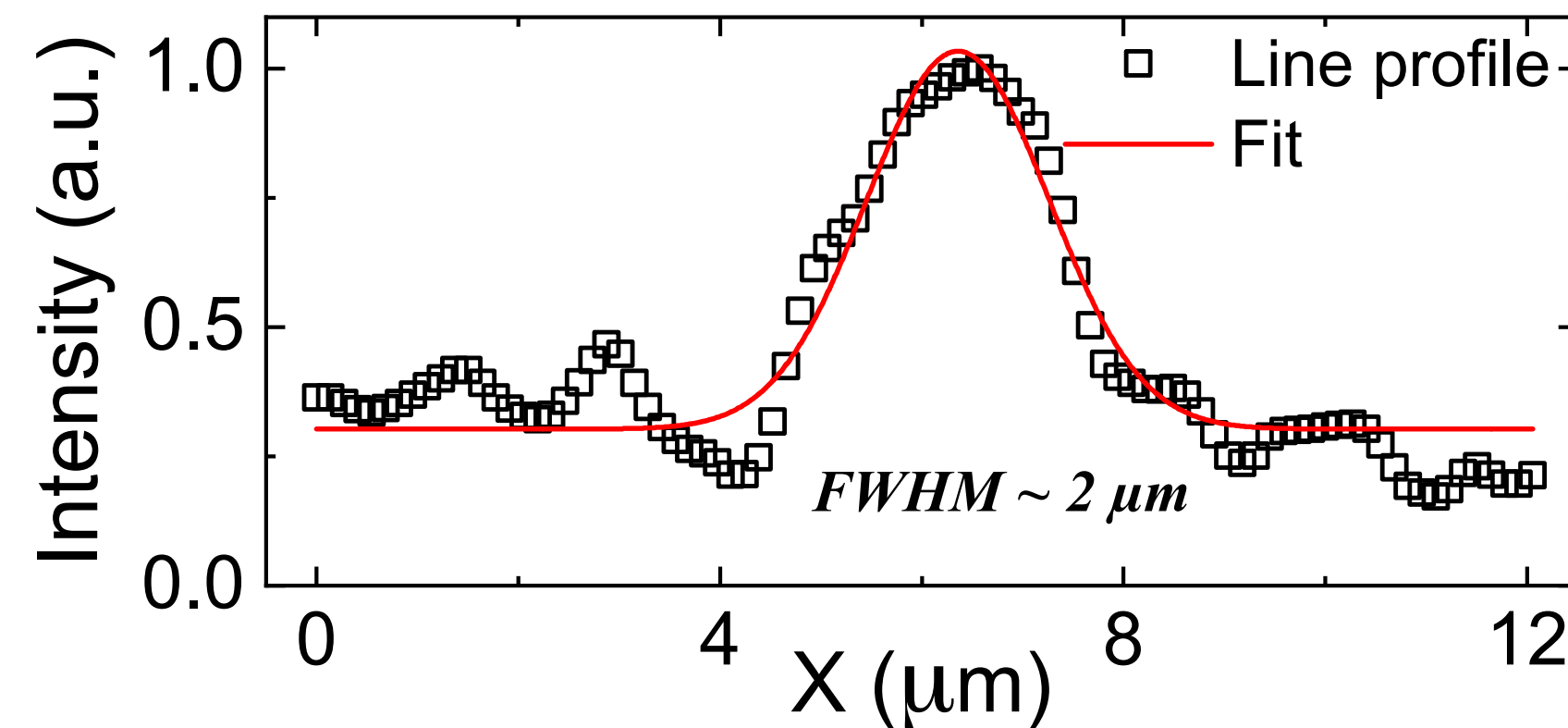
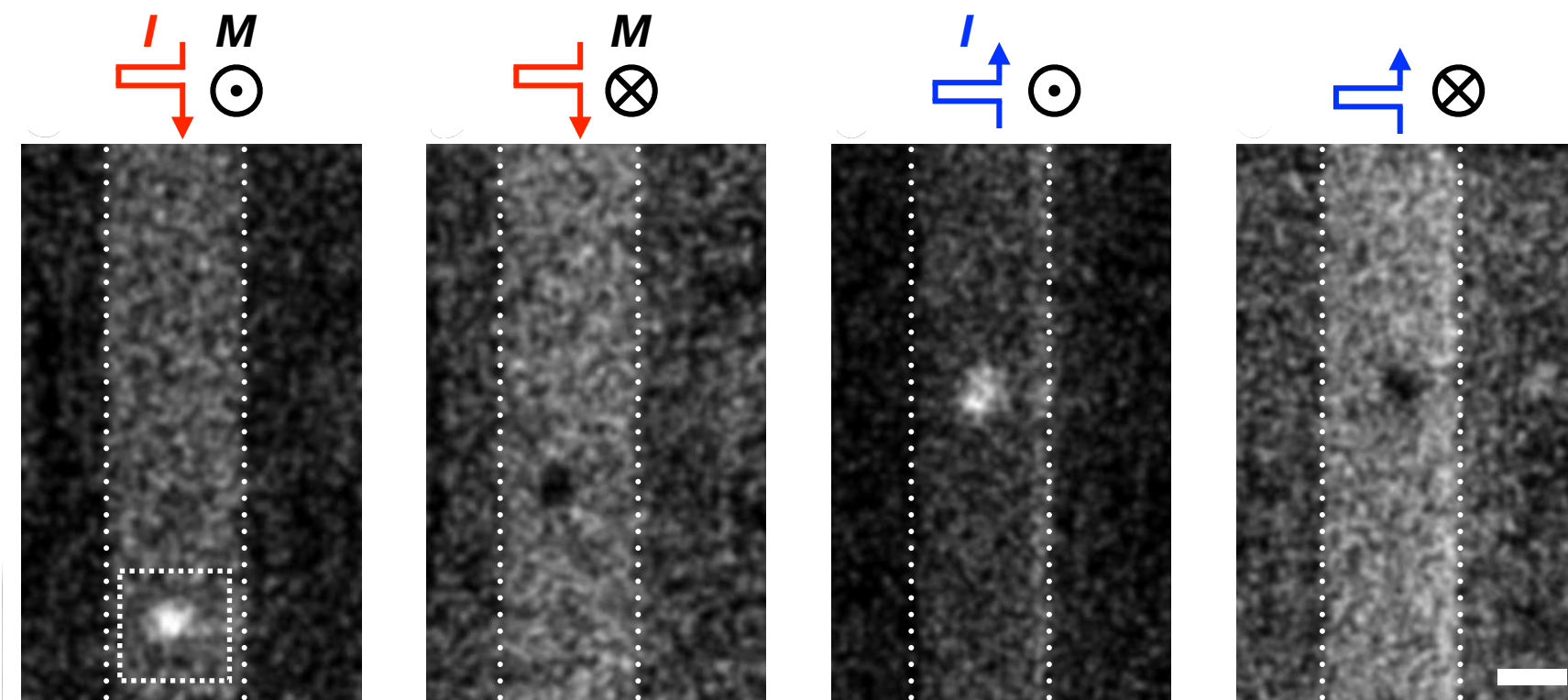


CoGd racetracks have very low DW pinning and density of natural defect \implies ideal to study SK motion



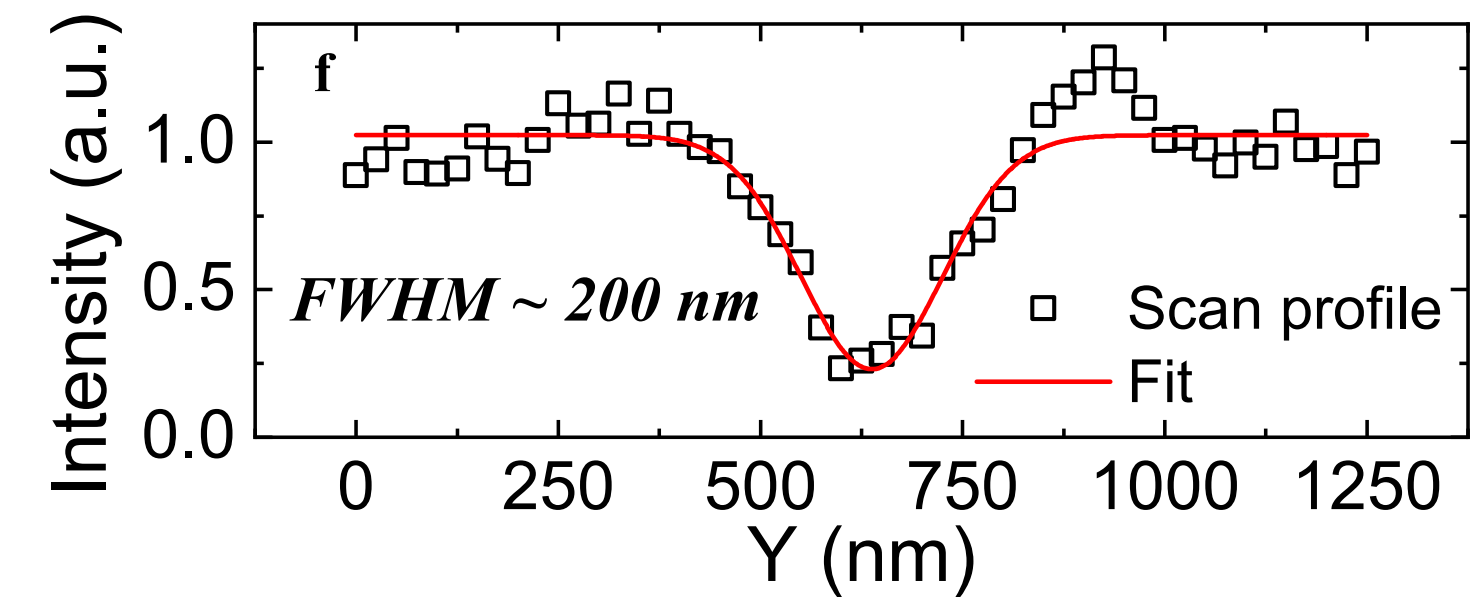
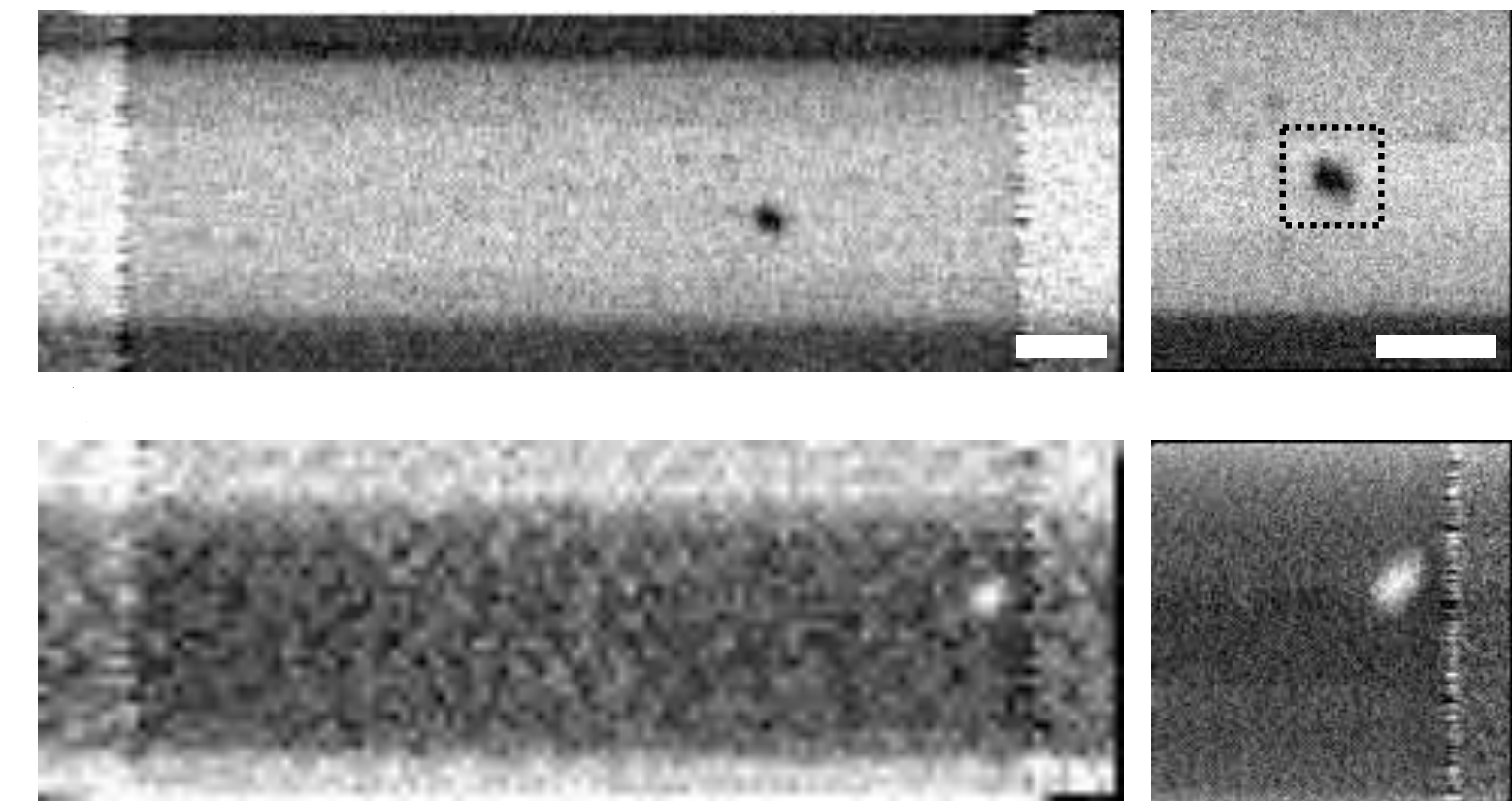
- Observation of zero-field nucleation of SK bubbles by a single 5-ns current pulse
- Nucleation does not depend on initial magnetization direction and current polarity \rightarrow *thermal process*
- Zero field nucleation of 200-nm skyrmion by a train of 5-ns current pulses

Pt/CoGd(5 nm)/Ta



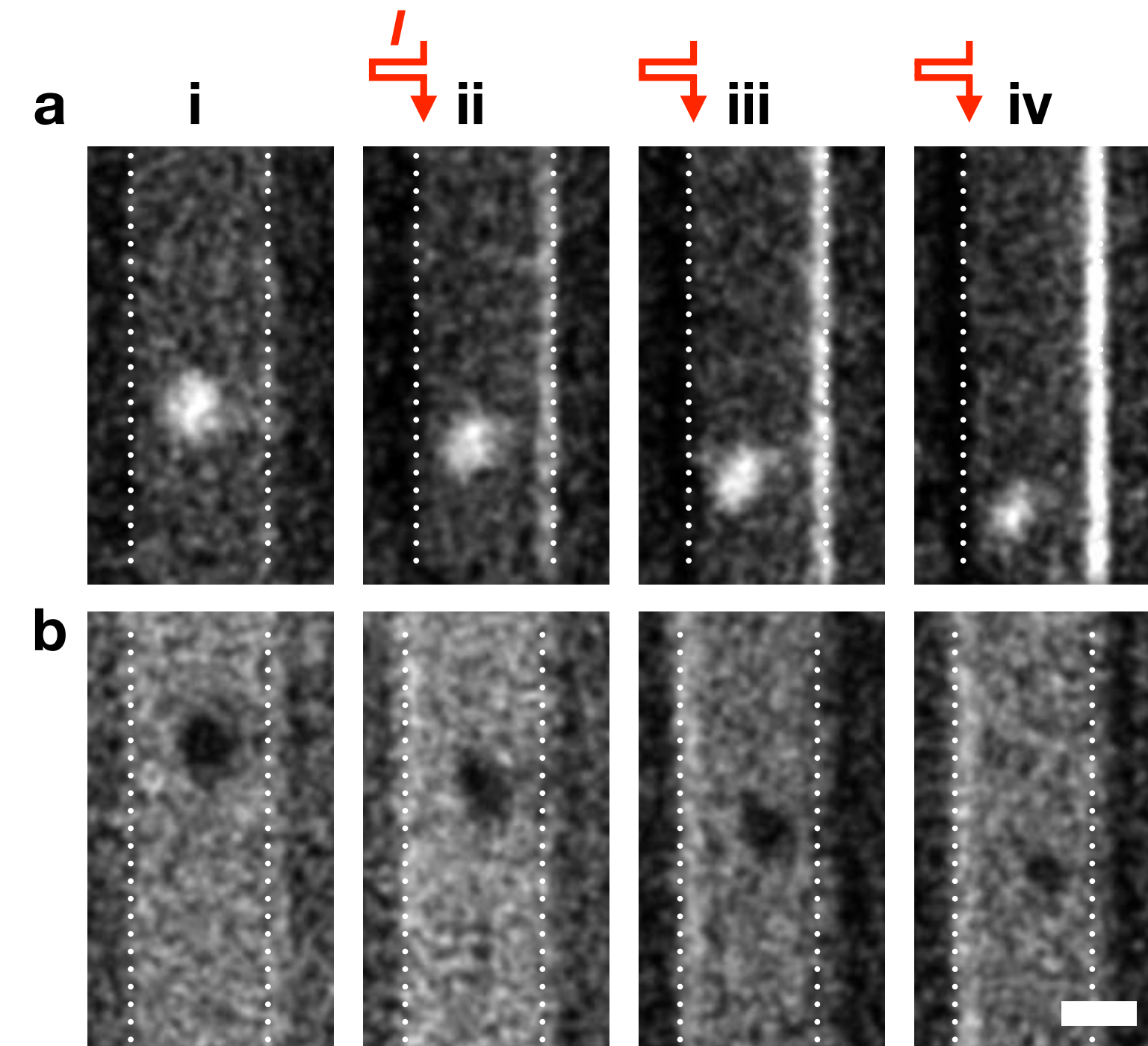
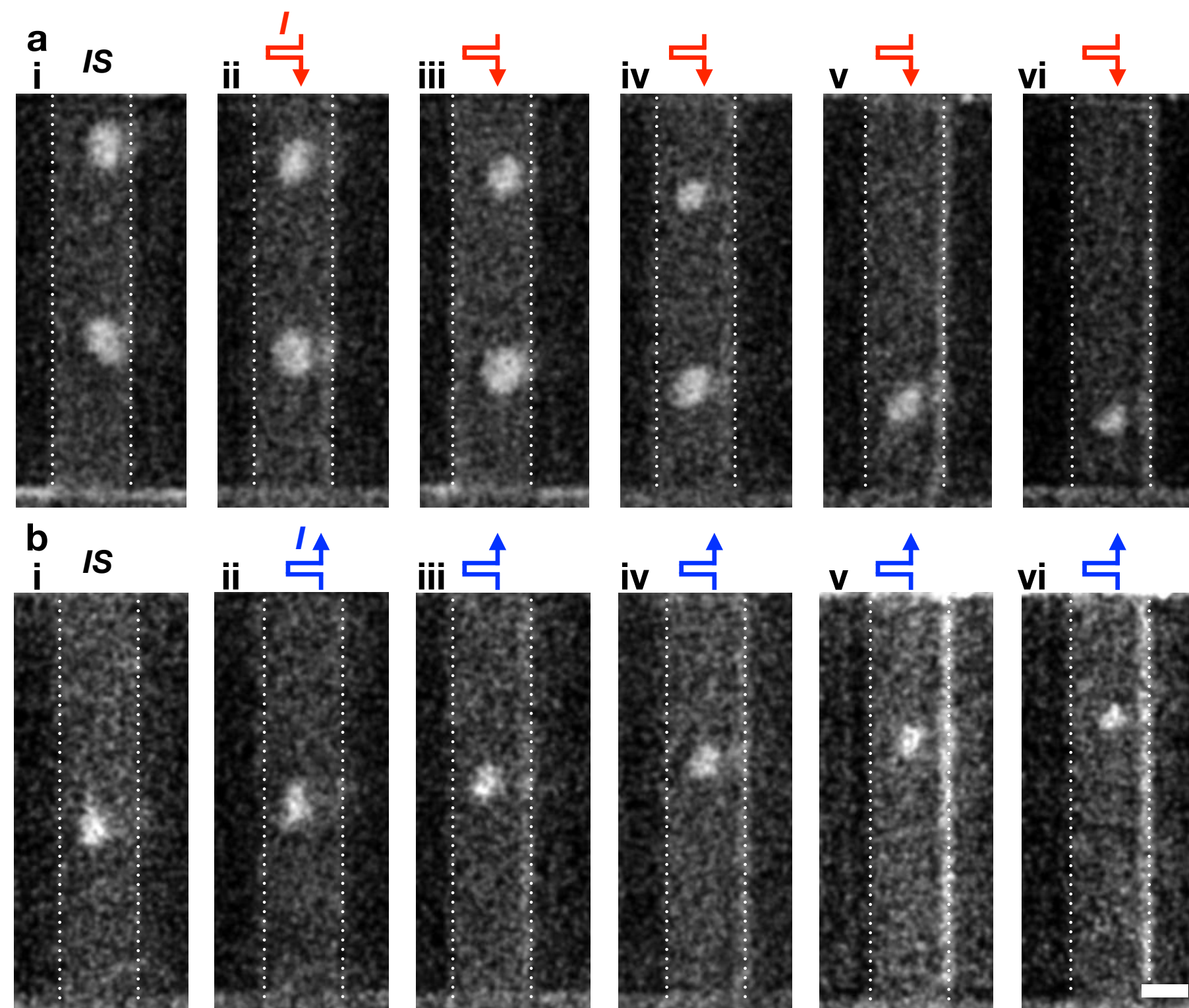
$$\mu_0 H_z = 0 \text{ mT}; j_x = 1.81 \times 10^{12} \text{ A m}^{-2}$$

Pt/CoGd(5 nm)/W



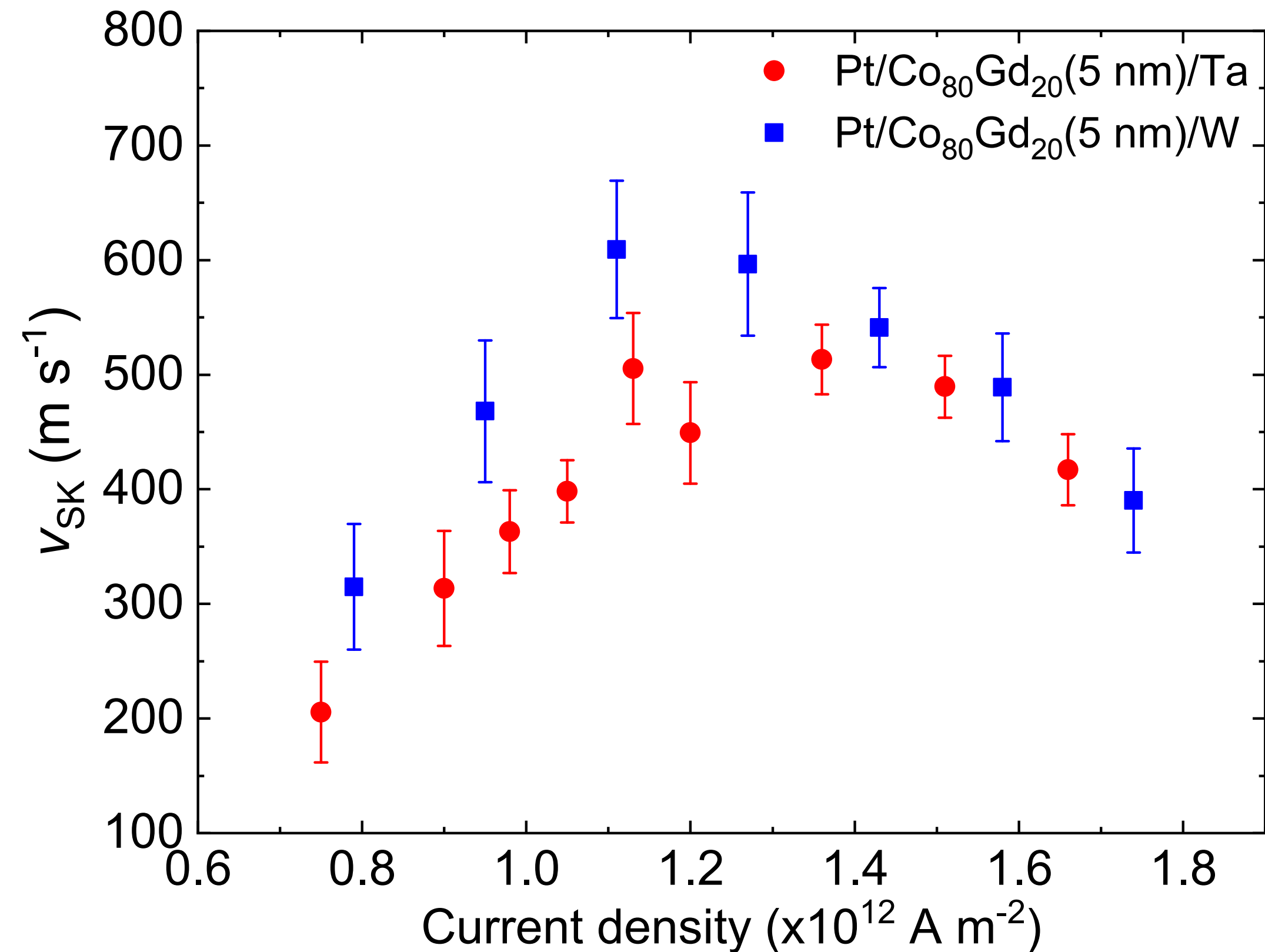
$$\mu_0 H_z = 0 \text{ mT}; j_x = 8.6 \times 10^{11} \text{ A m}^{-2}$$

- The SK displacement changes when reversing the current polarity.
- SKs with a core pointing up or down move in the same direction.
- The SK motion is indeed induced by SOTs.
- Stochastic annihilation is possible due to Joule heating.

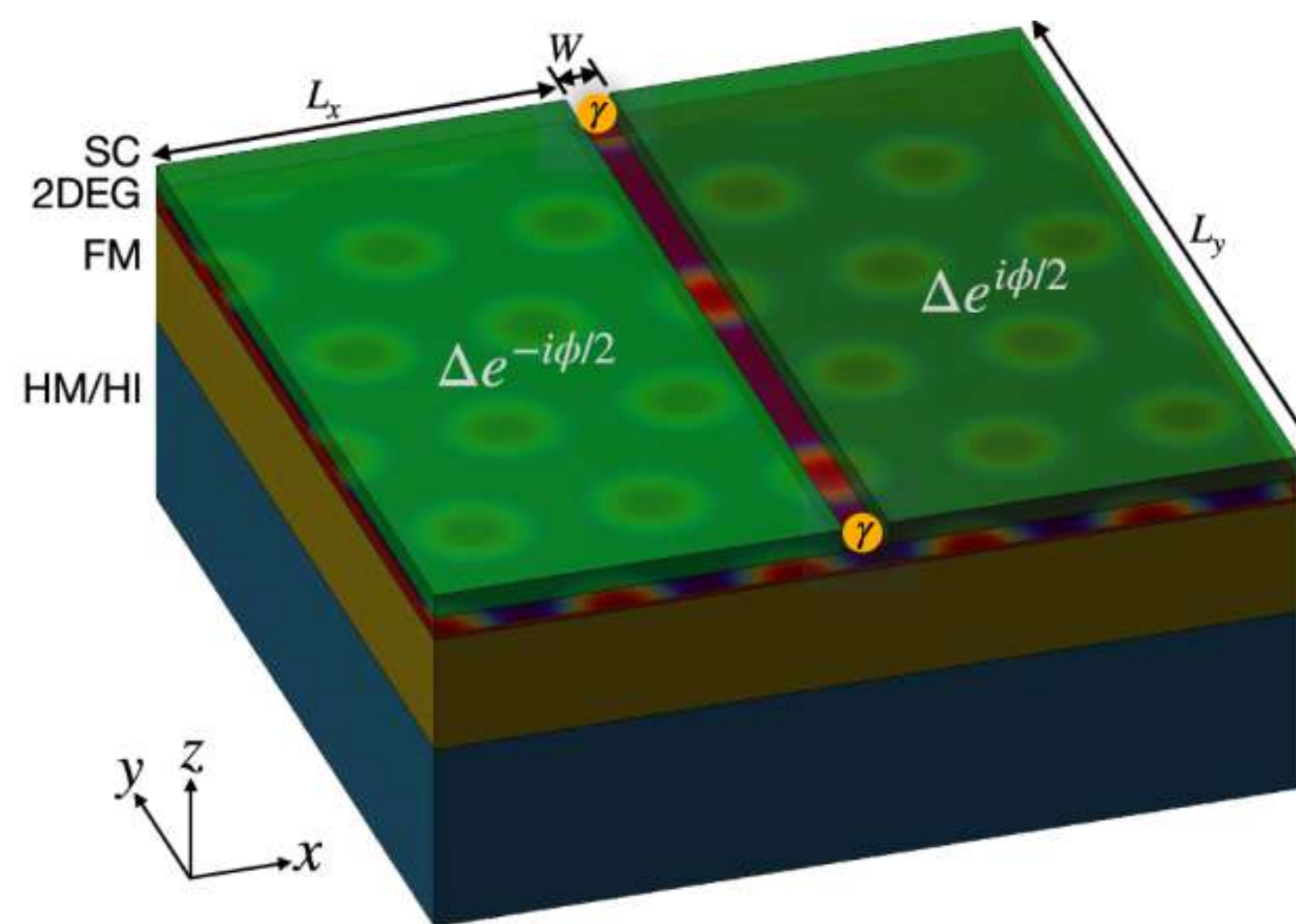
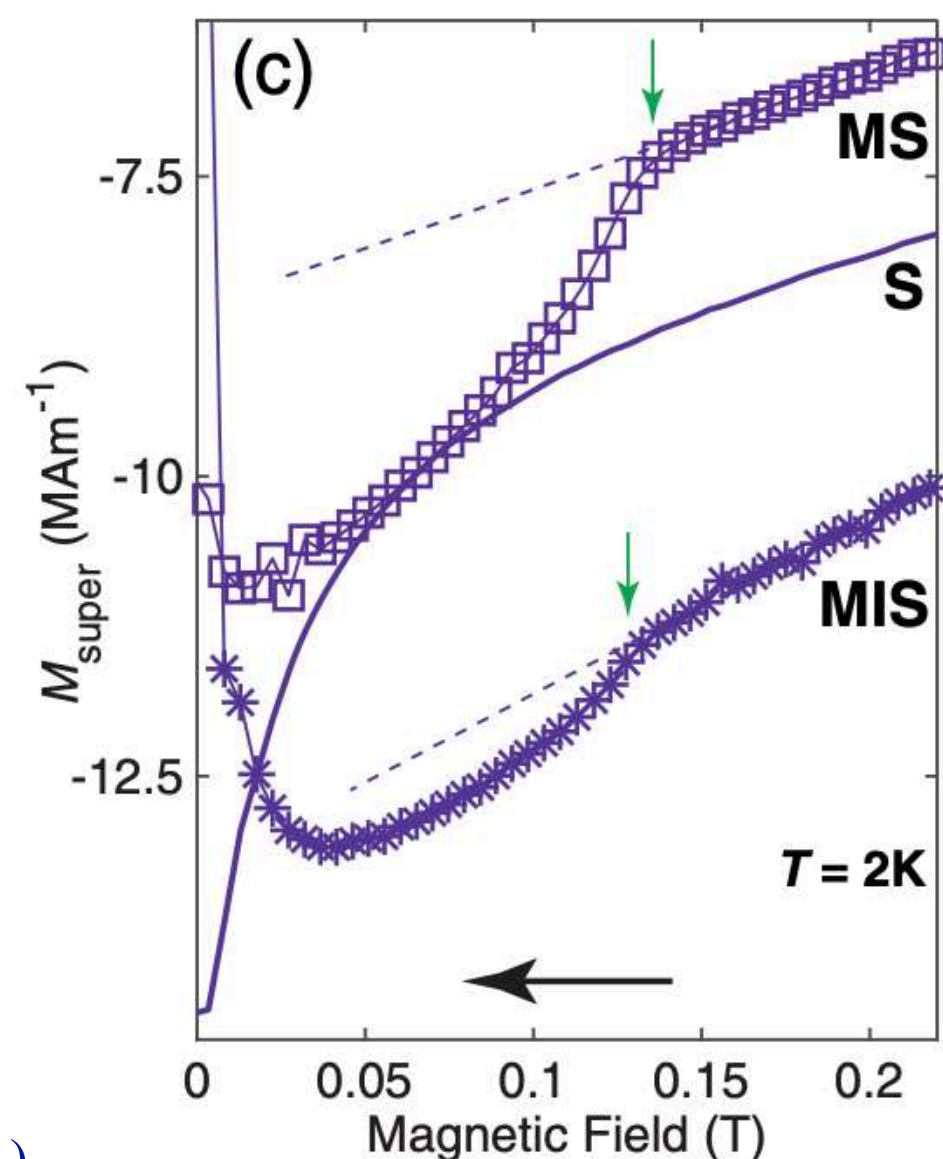
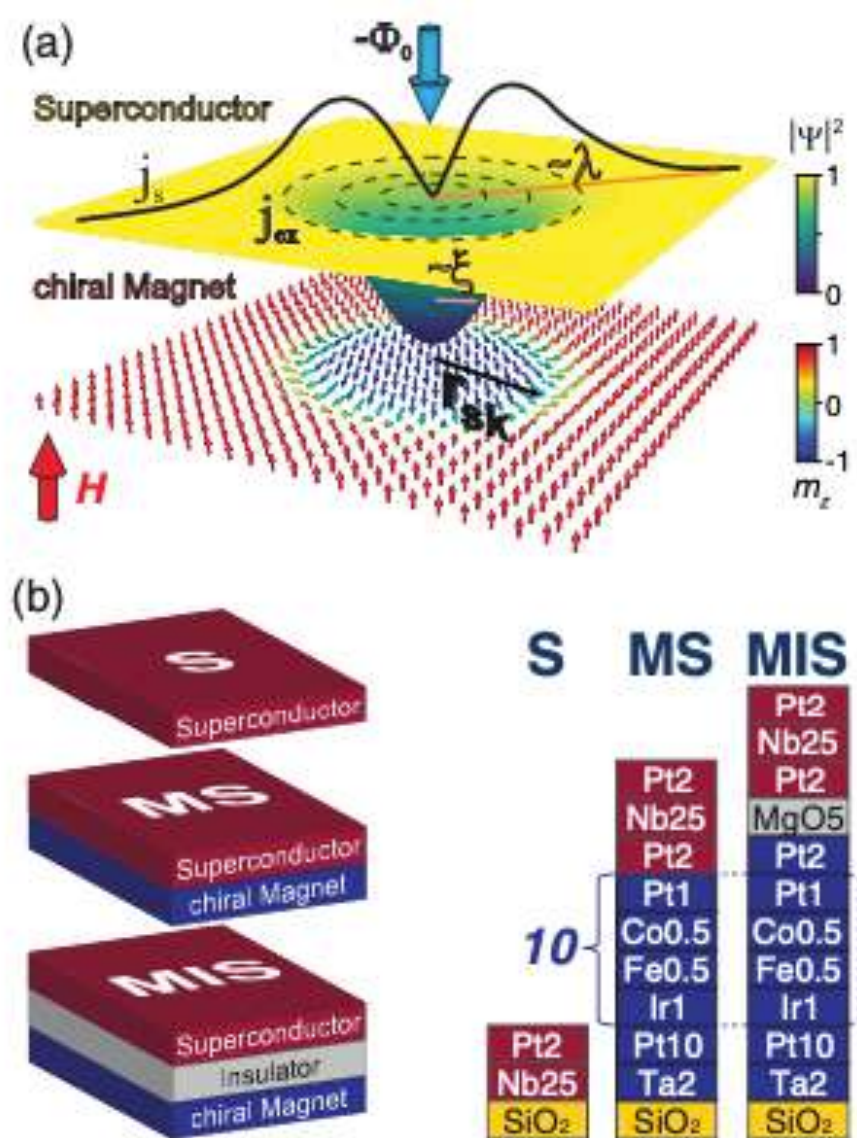
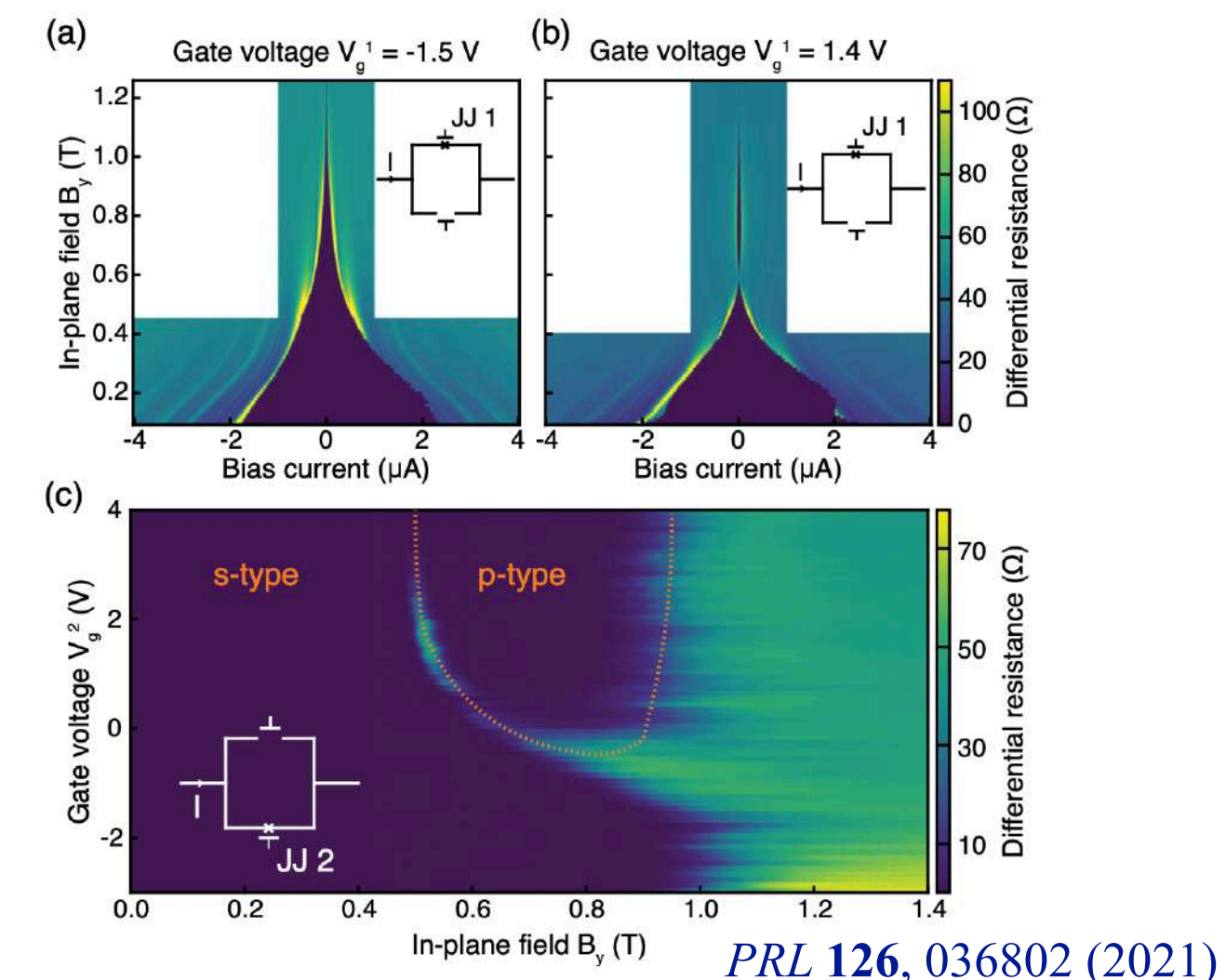


$$\mu_0 H_z = -5.7 \text{ mT}; j_x = 1.8 \times 10^{12} \text{ A m}^{-2}; v_{SK} \sim 400 \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

- High mobility of SK bubbles at RT with a maximum velocity of $v_{SK} \sim 610 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ (highest SK velocity reported thus far!)
- SKs move faster in Pt/CoGd/W than in Pt/CoGd/Ta
- Theory predicts a plateau ($S_{net} \neq 0$) but a decrease of the SK velocity is observed at large current densities
- Deviation from the Thiele approximation, we cannot entirely consider the SK as a rigid texture.

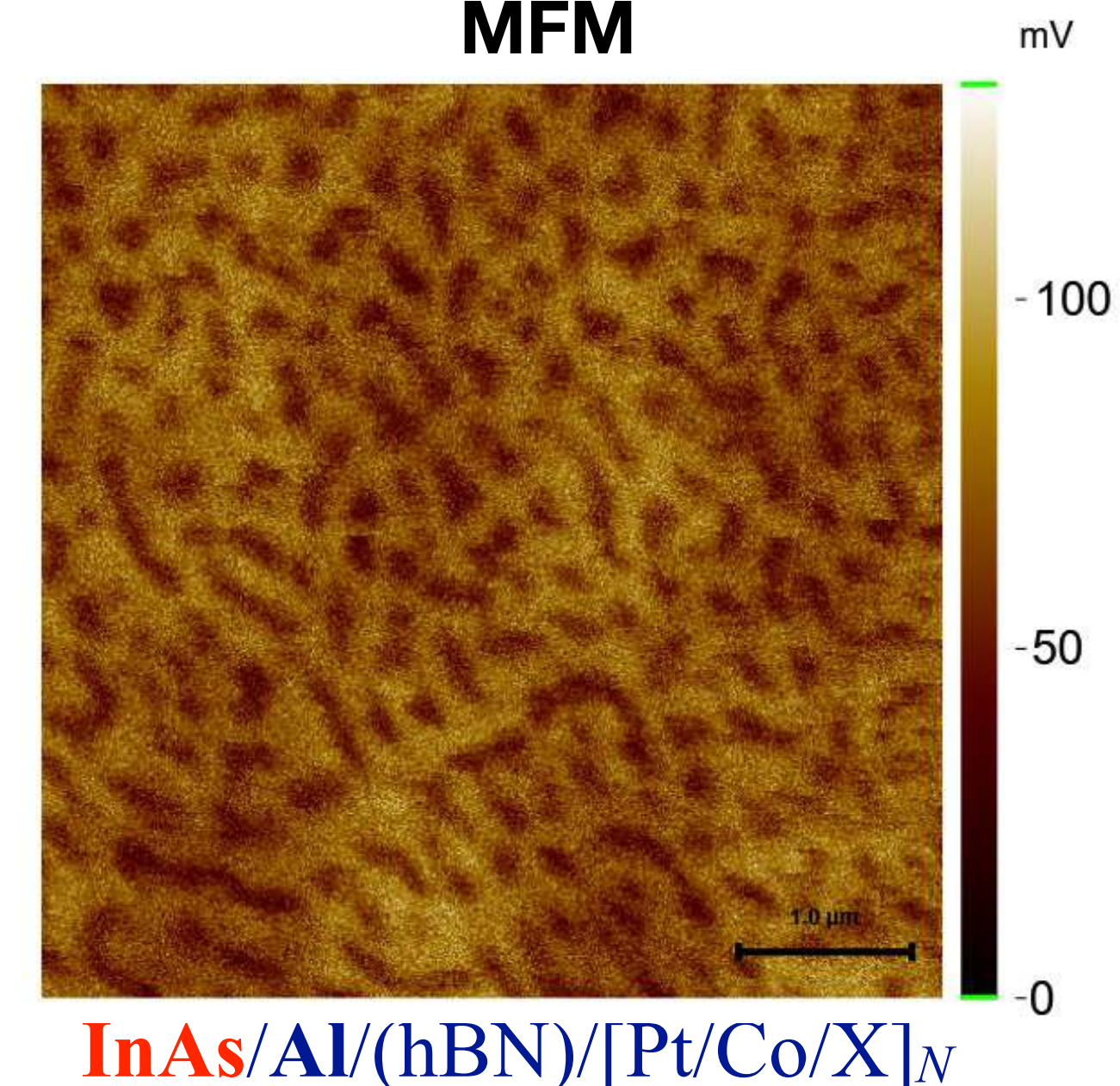


- Skyrmions can be used to nucleate (anti)-vortices in superconductors.
 - Can the topological phase emerge without using a global magnetic field?
 - Spatial variation of the skyrmion stray field can create a spatial-dependent SOC that can enable Majorana Fermions
- ➡ Growth of ferromagnet on top of a semiconductor/superconductor heterostructure that exhibits a topological phase



Communication Physics **4**, 163 (2021)

MFM

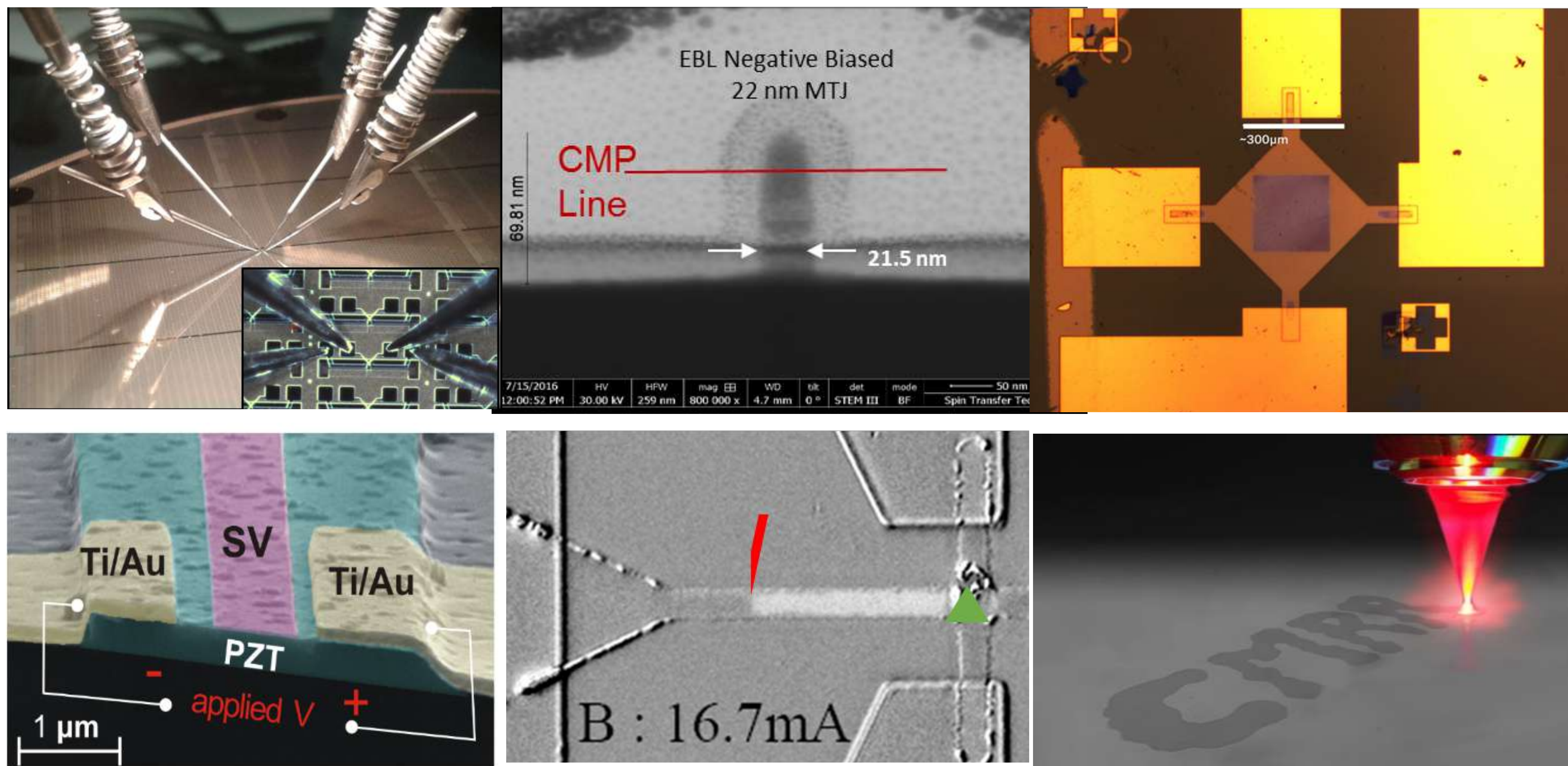


Physical Review Letters **126**, 117205 (2021)



New Magnetic Nanotechnologies

Nanoelectronics, from new phenomena to low power electronics



International Associated Laboratory (LIA)



UNIVERSITÉ DE LORRAINE

université PARIS-SACLAY



A New Spin on Magnetism with Applications in Information Processing

Outline

- Spintronics and spin-transfer torques
- Switching magnetization in magnetic tunnel junction nanopillars
- Magnetic skyrmions
- **Center for Quantum Phenomena NYU NY**



NYU Center for Quantum Phenomena

Paul Chaikin - CMP Experiment

Andy Kent - CMP Experiment

Aditi Mitra - Theory

Dries Sels - Theory

Davood Shahrjerdi - ECE Experiment

Dan Stein - Theory

Andrew Wray - CMP Experiment





NYU Center for Quantum Phenomena

- **Quantum Materials and Devices**
- **Out-of-Equilibrium Quantum Systems**
- **Quantum Information**

- CQP inauguration: June 2017
- Official opening: September 1, 2017
- Laboratory space dedicated to CQP and new facilities

Center has 9 physics faculty, with associated faculty in **Engineering**

- There is a search this academic year for two QCMP/AMO experimental physicists
- There are ties to faculty at NYU Shanghai
- There are affiliated faculty in the NYU Tandon School of Engineering



A New Spin on Magnetism with Applications in Information Processing

Summary

- Spintronics and spin-transfer torques
- Switching magnetization in magnetic tunnel junction nanopillars
- Magnetic skyrmions
- Center for Quantum Phenomena NYU NY



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- NYU: Gabriel Chaves and Dan Stein
- University of Barcelona and ICMAB-CSIC: Nahuel Statuto & Ferran Macia
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- BBN Raytheon: Tom Ohki, Colm Ryan & Graham Rolands
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- UCSD: Eric Fullerton
- WD-HGST: Jordan Katine