



Nanosystems from ions,
spins and electrons

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Spin-Orbitronics
for advanced magnetic memories:
chiral domain walls and anti-skyrmions

Max Planck Institute for Microstructure Physics, Halle



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



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- Postdocs
- Junior Group Leaders
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Alexander von Humboldt
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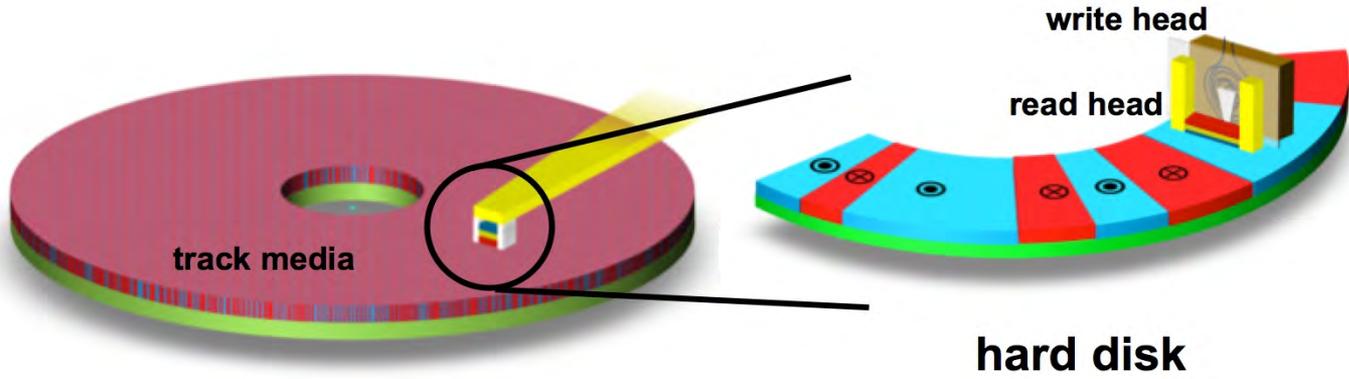
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

*Atomically engineered materials; Spintronics; Cognitive devices;
3D structures; Room temperature superconductivity; Topological matter;
Combinatorial materials discovery....*

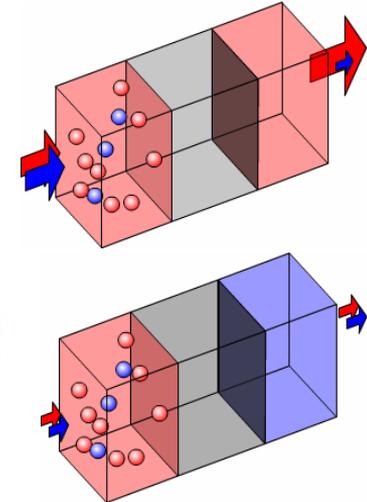
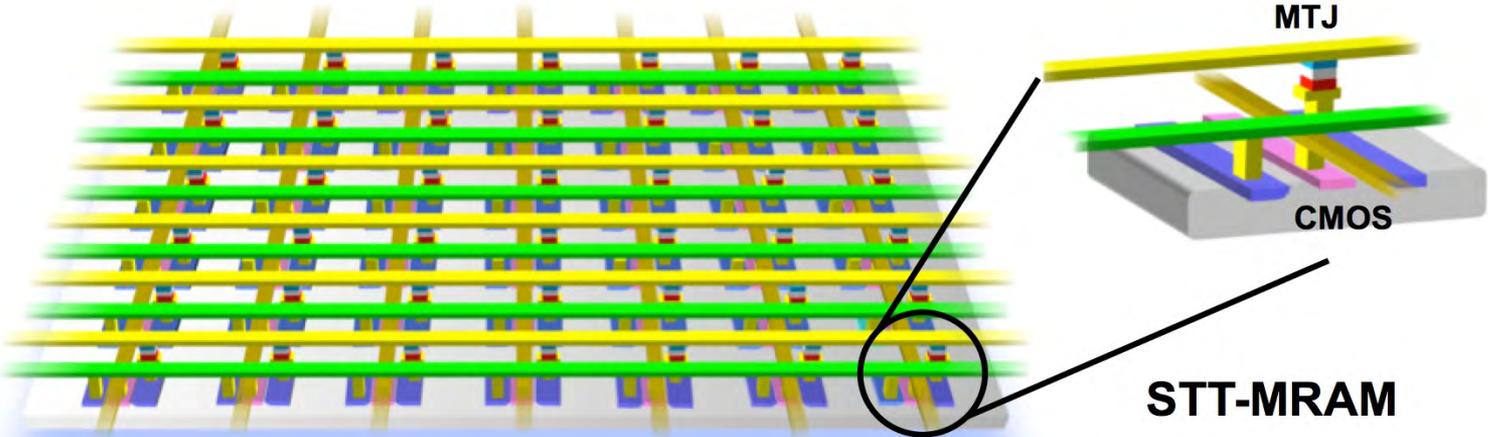


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Spintronics – from materials and phenomena to applications



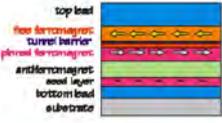
MTJ
Magnetic tunneling junction



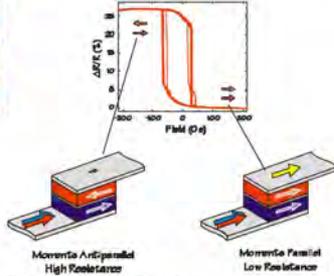
Parkin & Yang, *Nature Nanotechnology* (March 2015)

Stuart Parkin – Spin on Electronics!

IBM/DARPA Advanced Magnetic Random Access Memory

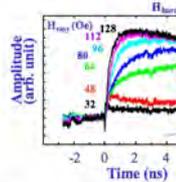


Magnetic Tunnel Junction storage cell



JOURNAL OF APPLIED PHYSICS

VO



MTJ resistive response to 5 ns easy-axis current pulse strength

Accomplishments over last

- Achieved MR > 40%
- Resistance of MTJ
- 1 ns write time for
- MRAM1 design cells; fabrication co

Exchange-biased magnetic tunnel junction to nonvolatile magnetic random access

S. S. P. Parkin,^{a)} K. P. Roche, M. G. Samant, P. IBM Research Division, Almaden Research Center, San Jose

R. E. Scheuflin IBM Storage Division, San Jose, California 95120

E. J. O'Sullivan, S. L. Brown, J. Bucchigano, D. V. P. L. Trouilloud, R. A. Wanner, and W. J. Gallagher IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, New

Exchange-biased magnetic tunnel junction (MTJ) structures forming magnetic memory storage elements in a novel been developed which exhibit very large magnetoresistance temperature, with specific resistance values ranging do values enhanced by moderate thermal treatments. Elements with areas as small as $0.17 (\mu\text{m})^2$. The characteristics of an MTJ element integrated with a s properties of the MTJ element itself. © 1999 American [S0021-8979(99)77508-0]

1995

1999

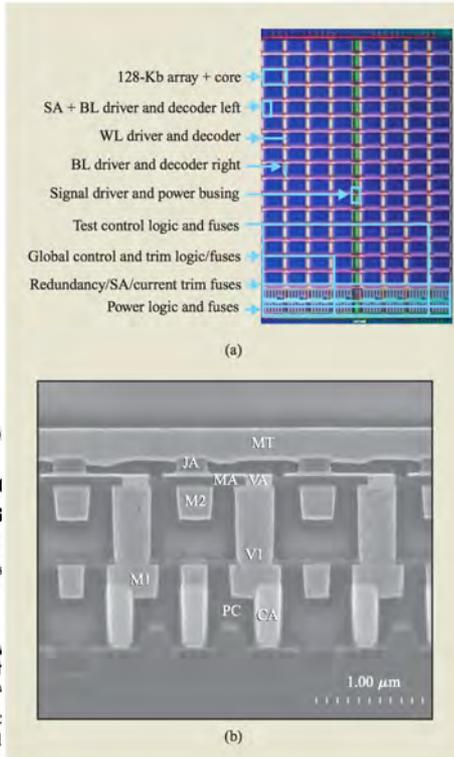


Figure 10

(a) Photograph of 16-Mb product demonstrator chip, with indications of main functional subunits. From [58], with permission; ©2005 IEEE. (b) SEM cross section showing three cells: M1, M2, and M3 are segments of three global wiring layers; VA, V1, and CA are segments of three via layers; PC is a segment of the transistor gate layer; JA is a segment of the tunnel-junction definition layer; and MA is a segment of the local wiring layer.

Innately 2D!

2016

Samsung

MICRON

Global Foundries

Intel

Everspin

Avalanche

Crocus

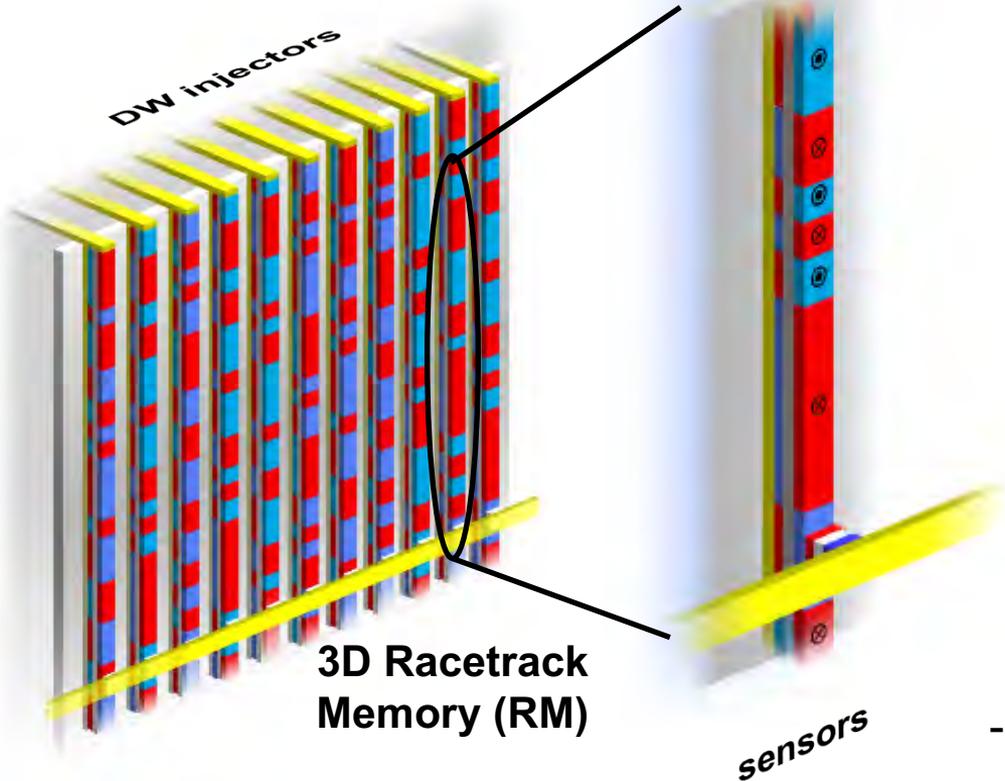
Spin Transfer Technologies

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MRAM widely available in 2018!

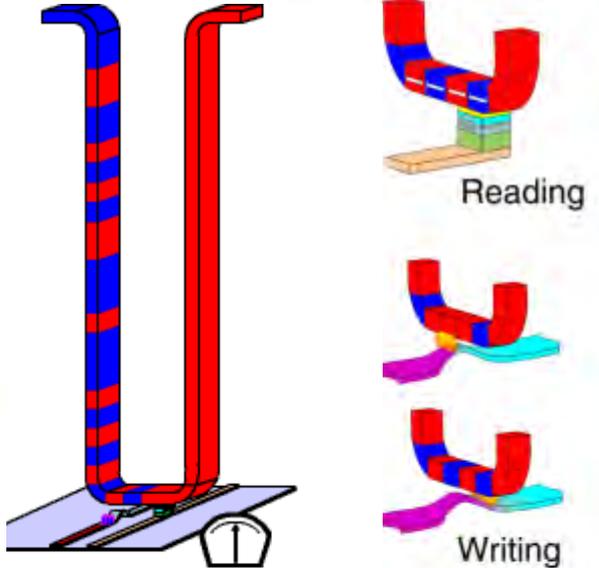
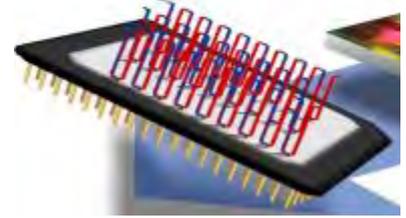
Magnetic Racetrack Memory

- Bits = Domains in the tracks



3D Racetrack Memory (RM)

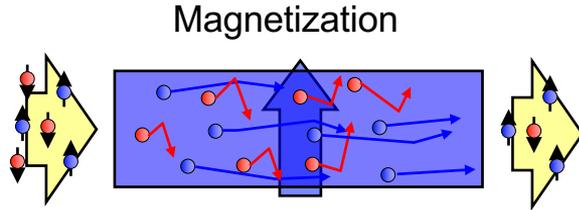
Parkin, US patents 6834005, 6898132.
Parkin et al., Science **320**, 190 (2008).
Parkin, Scientific American (2009).



- A novel *three-dimensional* storage-class memory
- The capacity of a hard disk drive

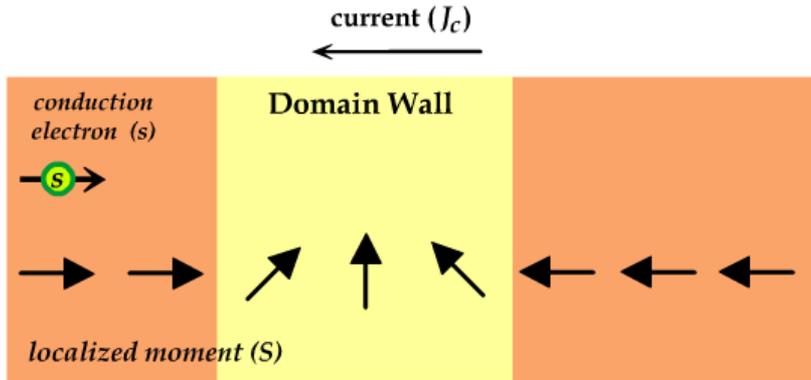
Spin polarized current → manipulate domain walls!

- electrical current in ferromagnetic metals is innately spin-polarized



- Giant magnetoresistance
- Spin transfer switching
- Current induced magnetization precession

- Current driven domain wall motion



- Domain wall moves in direction of flow of spin angular momentum
- For Ni and Co based soft magnetic alloys domain wall moves in direction of *electron flow*
- *All domain walls move in same direction!*

First demonstration!

Current-Controlled Magnetic Domain-Wall Nanowire Shift Register

Masamitsu Hayashi, Luc Thomas, Rai Moriya, Charles Rettner, Stuart S. P. Parkin*

The controlled motion of a series of domain walls along magnetic nanowires using spin-polarized current pulses is the essential ingredient of the proposed magnetic racetrack memory, a new class of potential non-volatile storage-class memories. Using permalloy nanowires, we achieved the successive creation, motion, and detection of domain walls by using sequences of properly timed, nanosecond-long, spin-polarized current pulses. The cycle time for the writing and shifting of the domain walls was a few tens of nanoseconds. Our results illustrate the basic concept of a magnetic shift register that relies on the phenomenon of spin-momentum transfer to move series of closely spaced domain walls.

SCIENCE VOL 320 11 APRIL 2008

Racetrack Memory 1.0

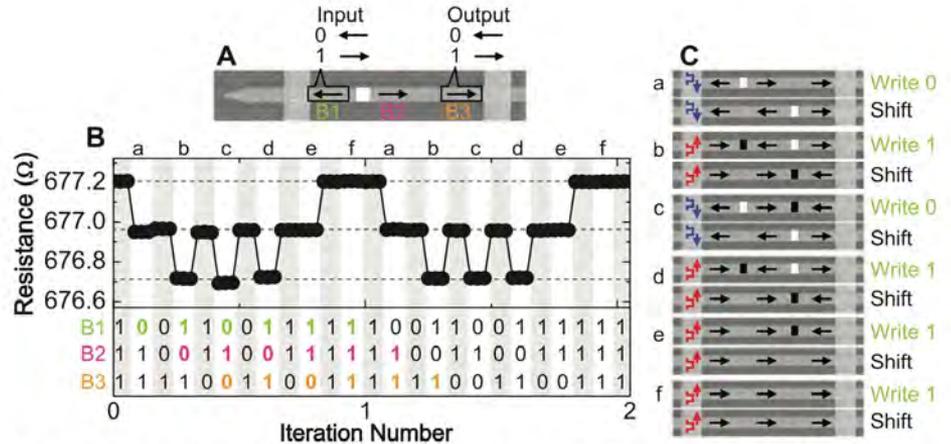
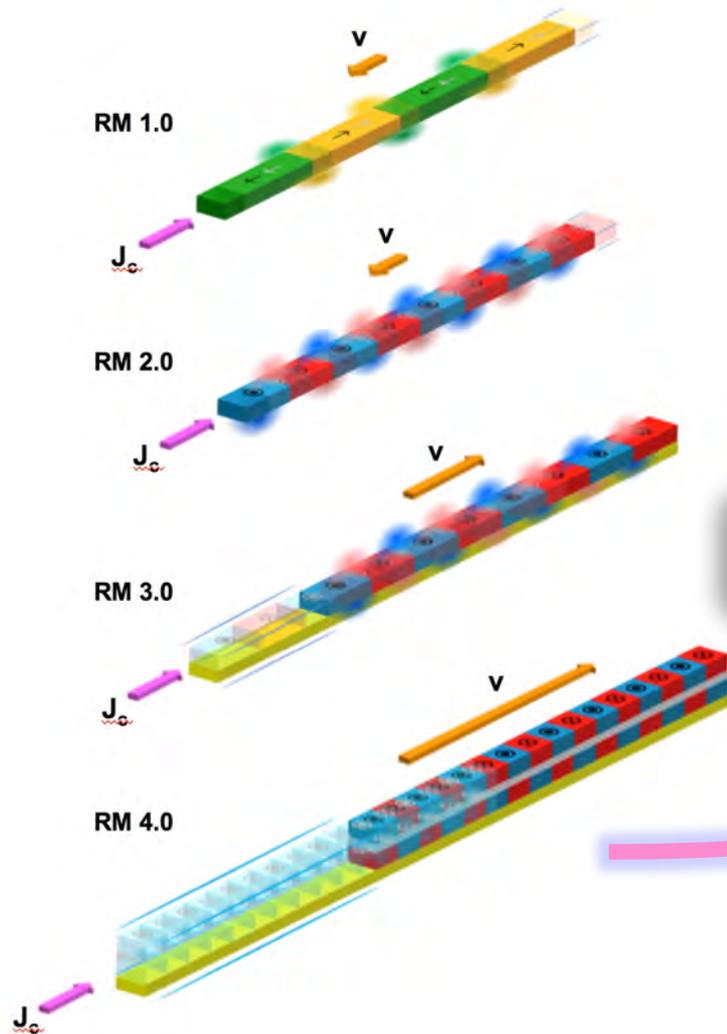
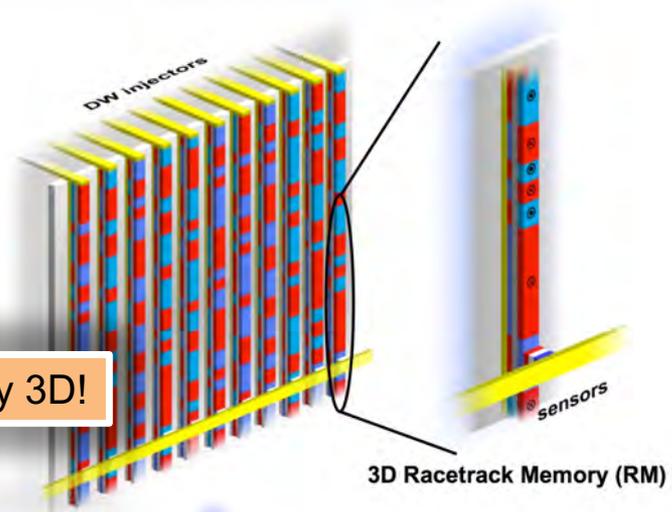


Fig. 4. Demonstration of a three-bit unidirectional magnetic DW shift register. **(A)** Data are encoded by the magnetization direction of three domains in the nanowire. **(B)** Nanowire resistance variation when a pulse sequence is used to write and shift along the register the sequence 010111 two times in succession. The light and dark regions indicate writing and shifting operations, respectively. The table shows the corresponding evolution of the states of the three bits during these operations. The highlighted digits show how the input bit sequence is transferred to the output after two write/shift operations. **(C)** Schematic illustration of the shift-register operation. Black squares and white squares represent HH and TT DWs, respectively. Black arrows represent the magnetization direction within each domain. Blue and red arrows represent the electron flow direction.

Memory on Racetrack! 4 stages



Innately 3D!



Garg et al. *Science Adv.* (2017)

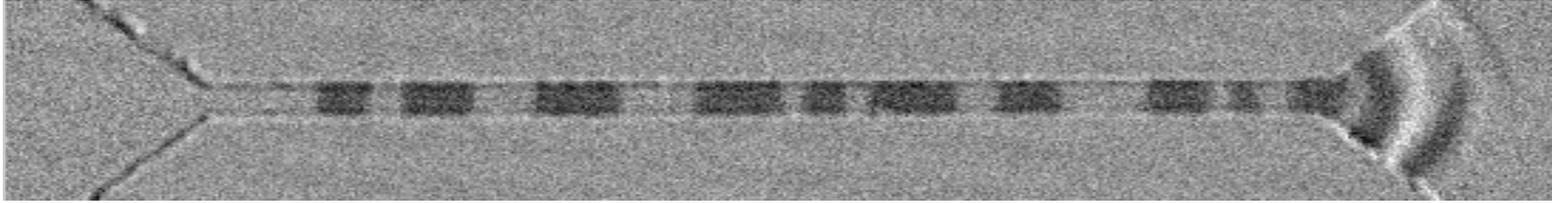
Parkin & Yang, *Nature Nano.* (March 2015)

Yang, Ryu and Parkin, *Nature Nano.* (March 2015)

Ryu et al. *Nature Nano.* (2013)

Parkin et al. *Science* (2008)

Racetrack Memory 3.0

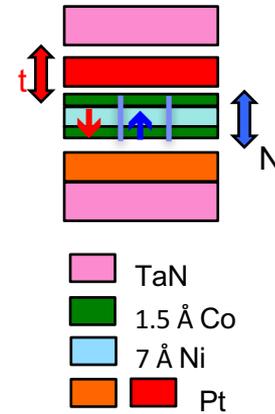


- 20 domain walls moved in lock step with current pulses
- High velocity at low current densities
- Narrow domain walls (~6 nm)
- Very thin racetracks (~1 nm)

Ryu et al. Nature Nanotechnology (2013)

Yang et al. Nature Nanotechnology (February 2015)

Parkin et al. Nature Nanotechnology (March 2015)



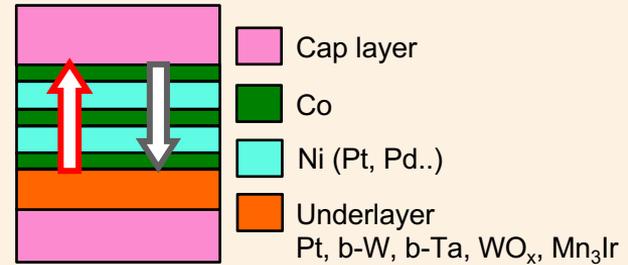
Chiral domain walls from Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya Interaction

(#1) Perpendicular Magnetic anisotropy (PMA)

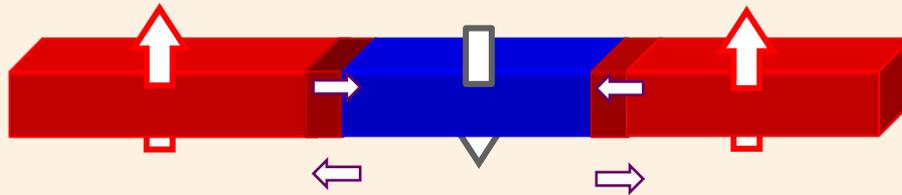
- materials: Co/Ni, Co/Pt, Co/Pd, RE/TM multilayers, low symmetry magnetic materials
- racetracks magnetized perpendicular to the plane of the racetrack

- Bloch and Neel domain walls
→ narrow domain walls

- Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya Interaction
→ chiral domain walls



Neel domain walls



clockwise

anti- clockwise

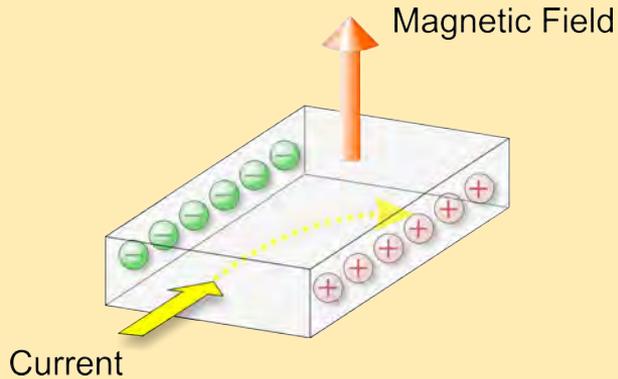
(#2) Dzyaloshinskii–Moriya interaction (DMI)

- *chirality* of domain walls set by interface(s) vector exchange interaction

(#3) Proximity Induced Magnetization (PIM)

(#4) Spin Hall effect: conversion of charge to spin current

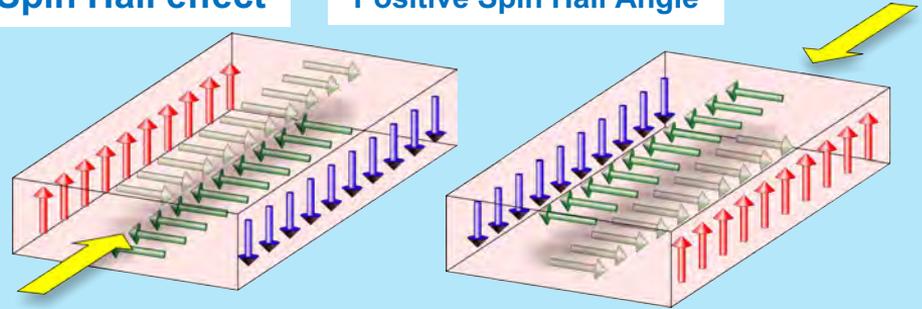
Conventional Hall effect



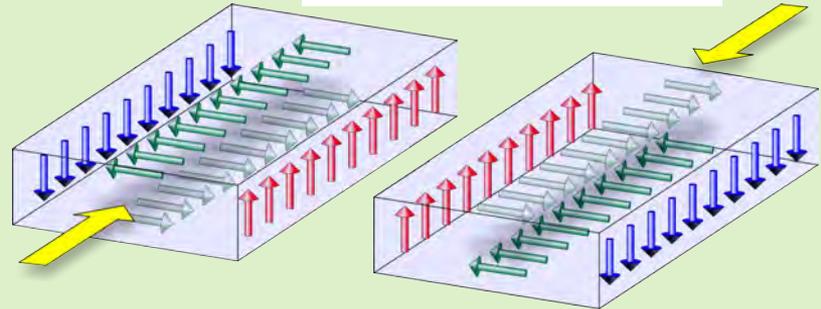
SHA: Spin Hall Angle
charge to spin conversion efficiency: ~10-30 %

Spin Hall effect

Positive Spin Hall Angle

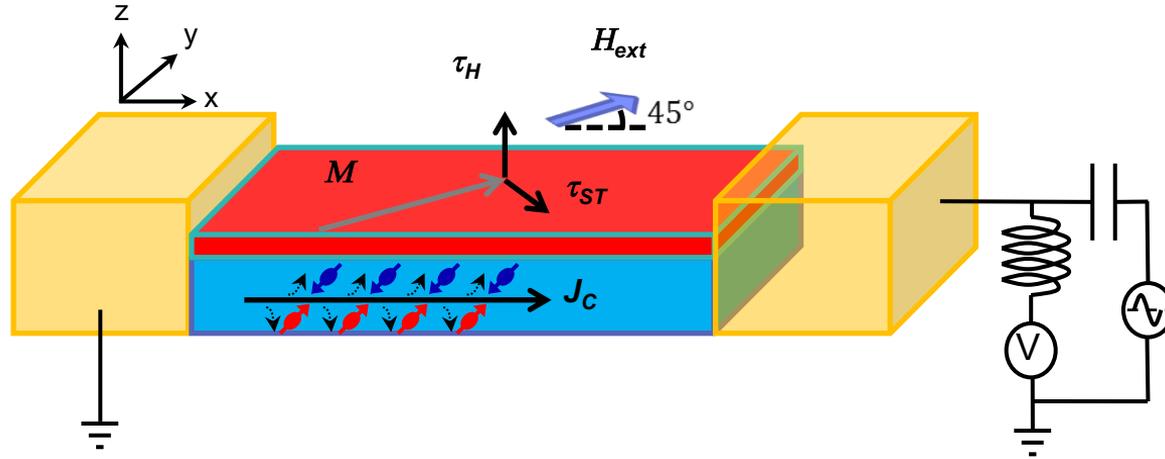


Negative Spin Hall Angle



Measurement of Spin orbit torque \rightarrow Spin Hall angle

ST-FMR: Spin Torque Ferromagnetic Resonance

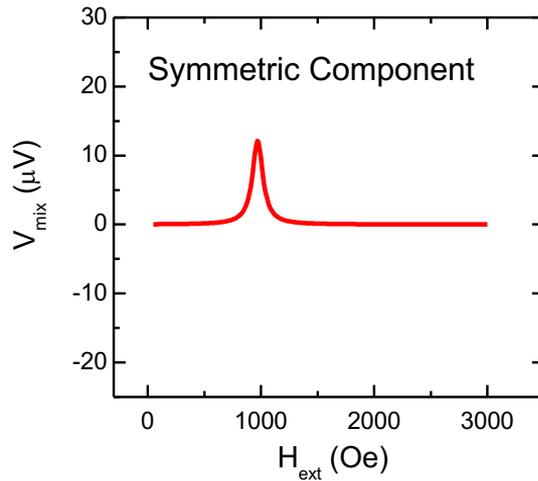
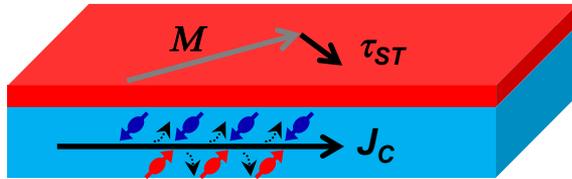


- Spin Hall torque and Oersted Field torque
- Ratio \rightarrow charge to spin conversion efficiency

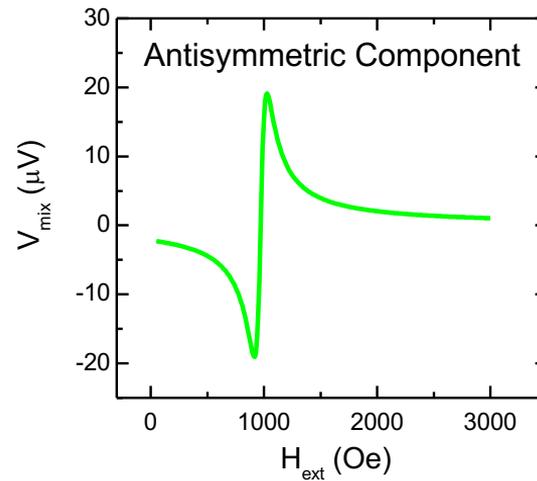
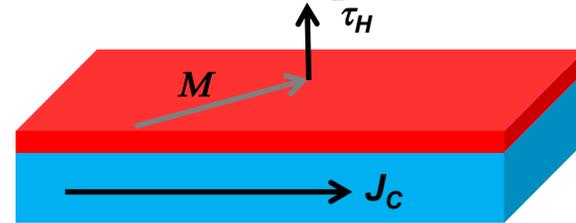
Liu *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2011)

ST-FMR: Spin Torque Ferromagnetic Resonance

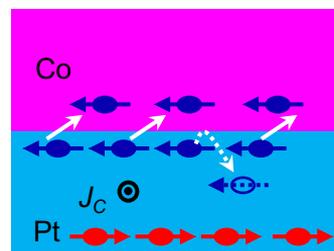
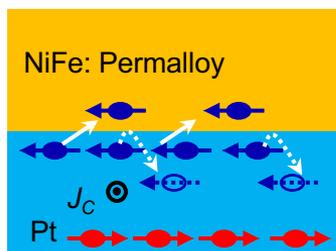
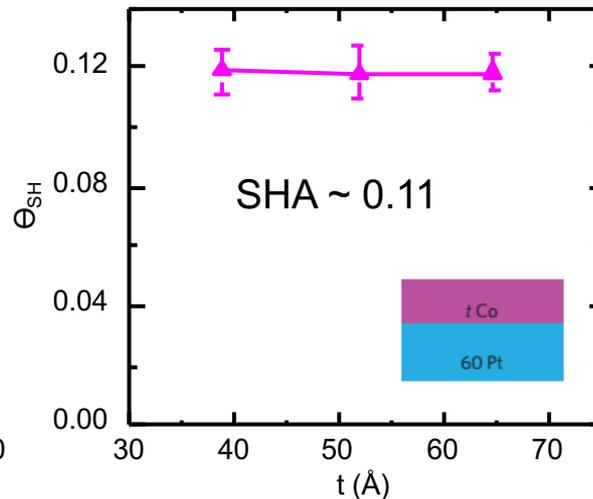
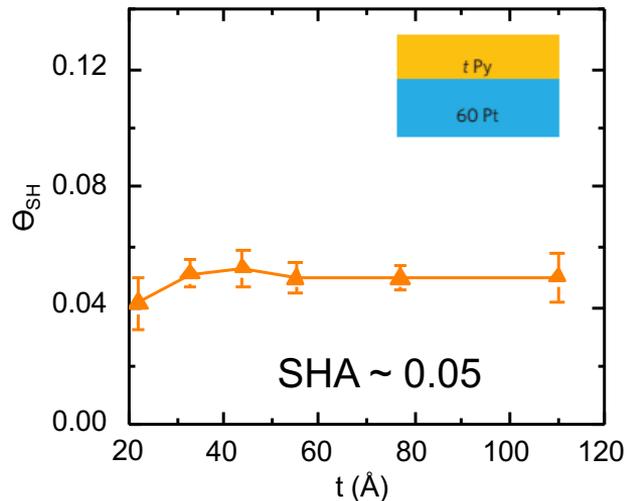
Spin torque



Field torque

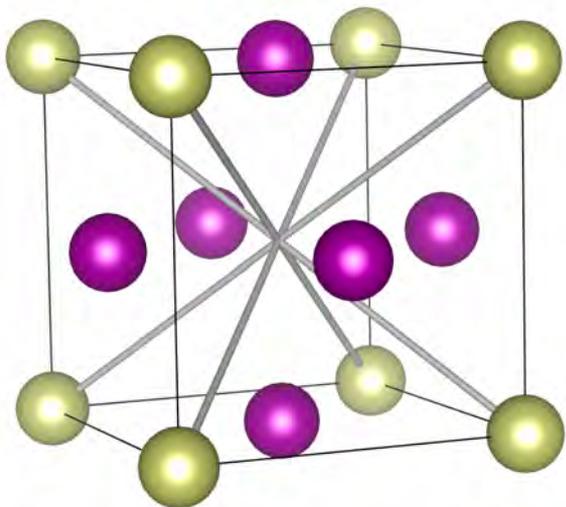


Interface is important!



→ Transparency of NiFe/Pt and Co/Pt interfaces not 100 % → NiFe/Pt: 25%; Co/Pt: 50%
 → Correct for transparency then Spin Hall Angle: SHA of Pt = 0.20

IrMn₃ – fcc structure - a triangular antiferromagnet



Lattice without magnetism

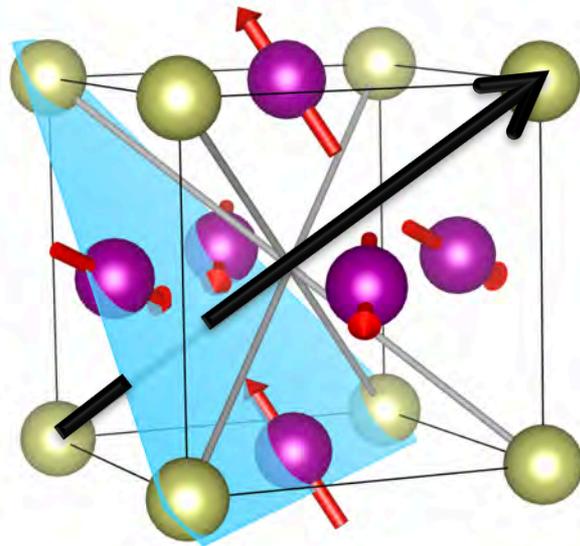
Four equivalent axes

[1 1 1]

[1-1 1]

[1 1-1]

[1-1-1]



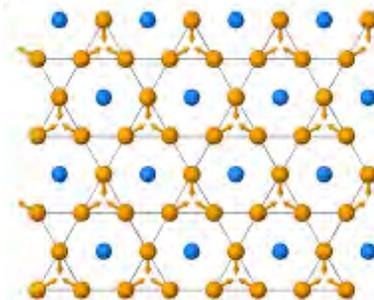
Lattice with noncollinear AF

[1 1 1] → one special plane

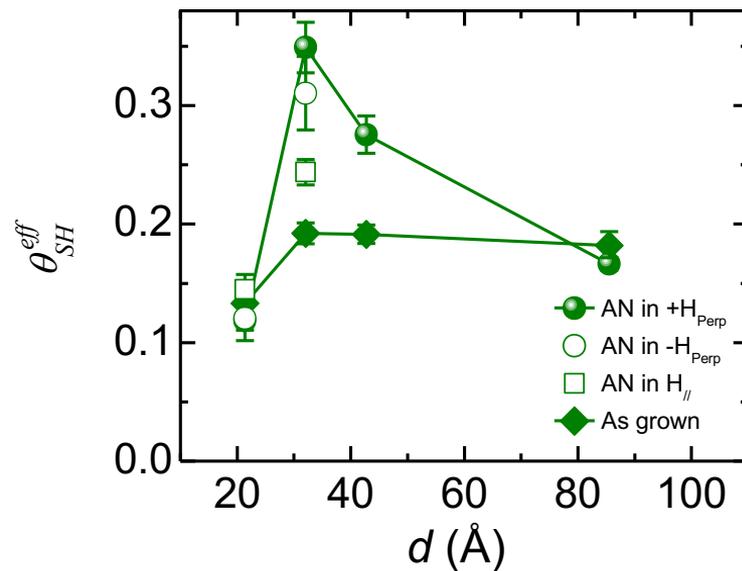
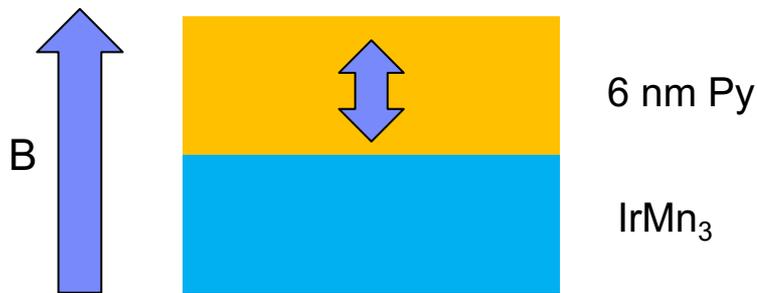
[1-1 1]

[1 1-1]

[1-1-1]



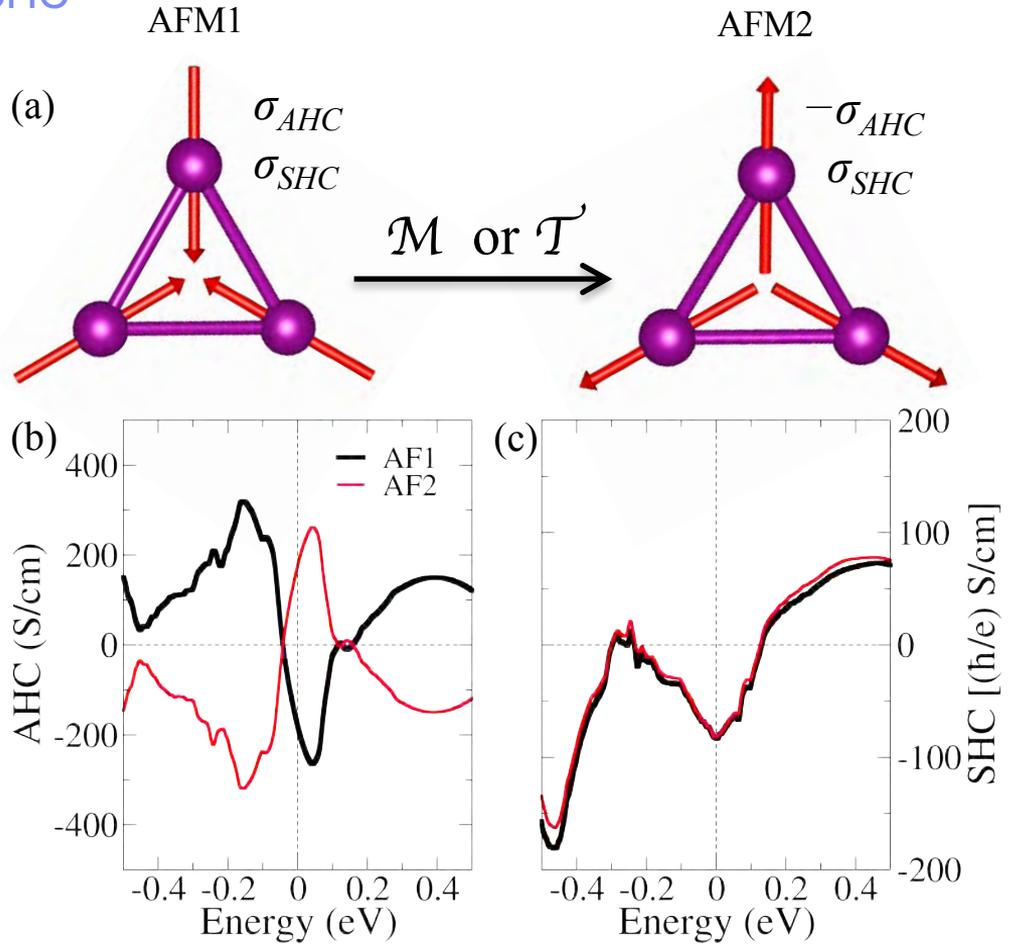
Strong effect on SHA of field annealing in *perpendicular* field → change in AF domain structure in IrMn₃



- Tunes the AFM domain configuration at the IrMn₃ interface
- Only effective for thicknesses of IrMn₃ for which the AF domains can be reset
i.e. the blocking temperature $T_B < T_{AN}$

N.B. in-plane annealing → changes in-plane exchange bias field → no effect on SHA

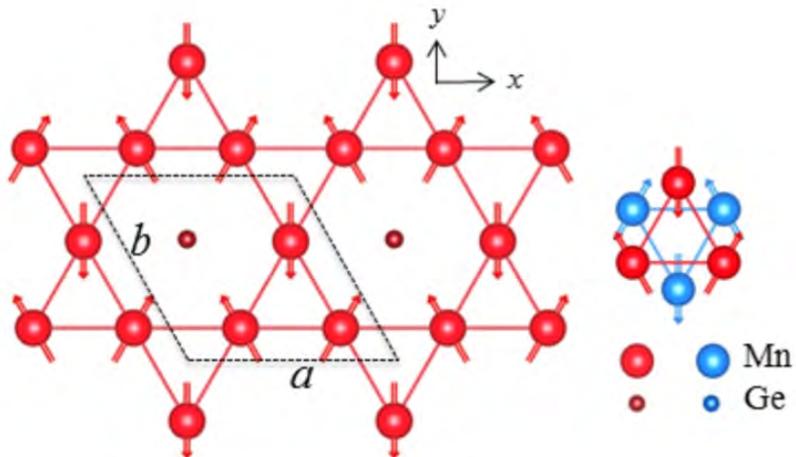
IrMn₃: Calculation of AHC and SHC



Calculations by Binghai Yan et al.

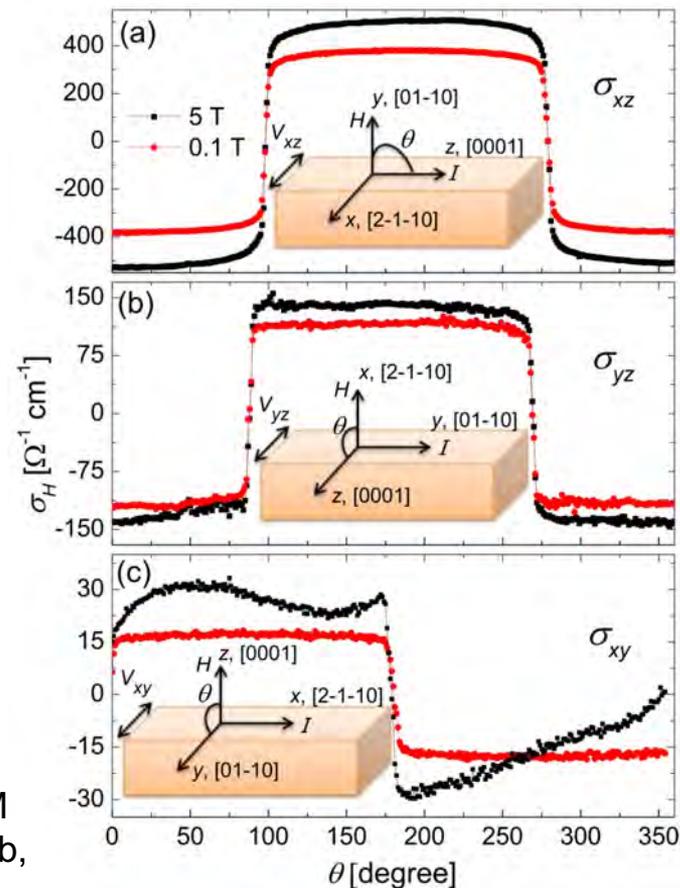
Zhang *et al.* Sci. Adv. (2016)

AHE in *hexagonal* Mn_3Ge : a triangular AF



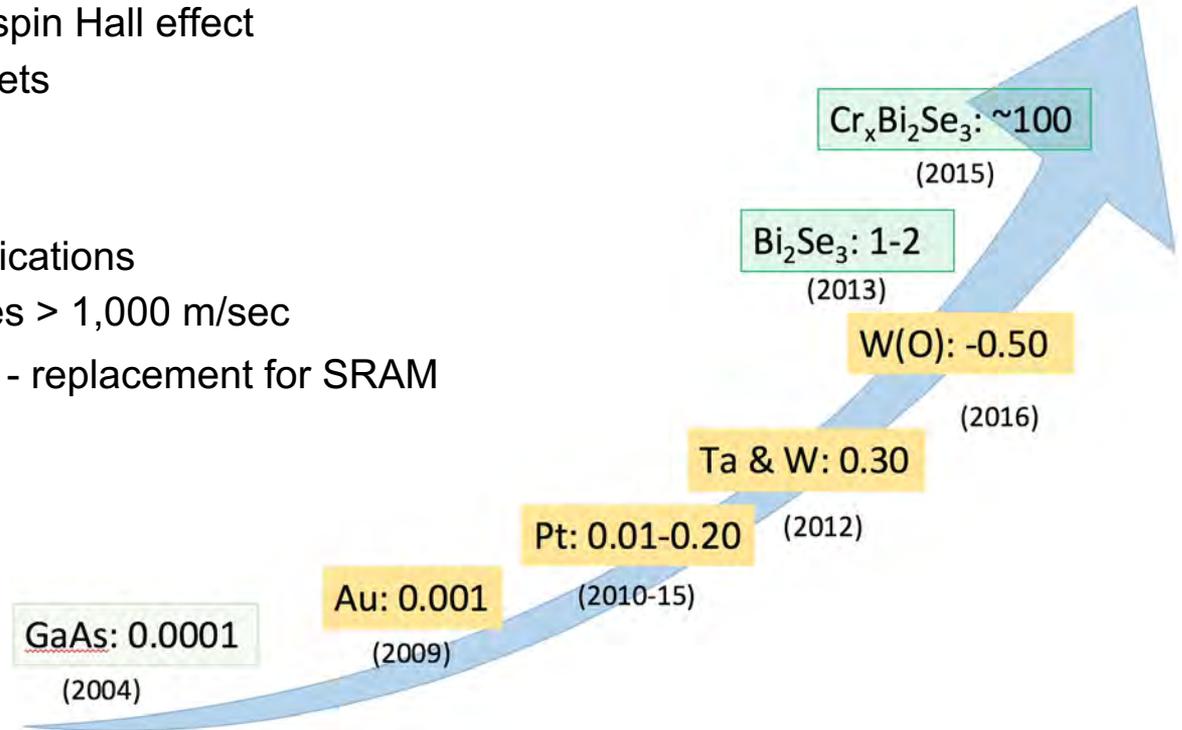
- Results on single crystals
- Facet dependent AHE conductivity in Mn_3Ge : a non-collinear AFM
- Anticipate strong SHE/ SHC in this and related materials (*h*- Mn_3Sb , *h*- Mn_3Sn)

Nayak *et al.* Sci. Adv. (2016)



Charge to spin conversion via the Spin Hall Effect

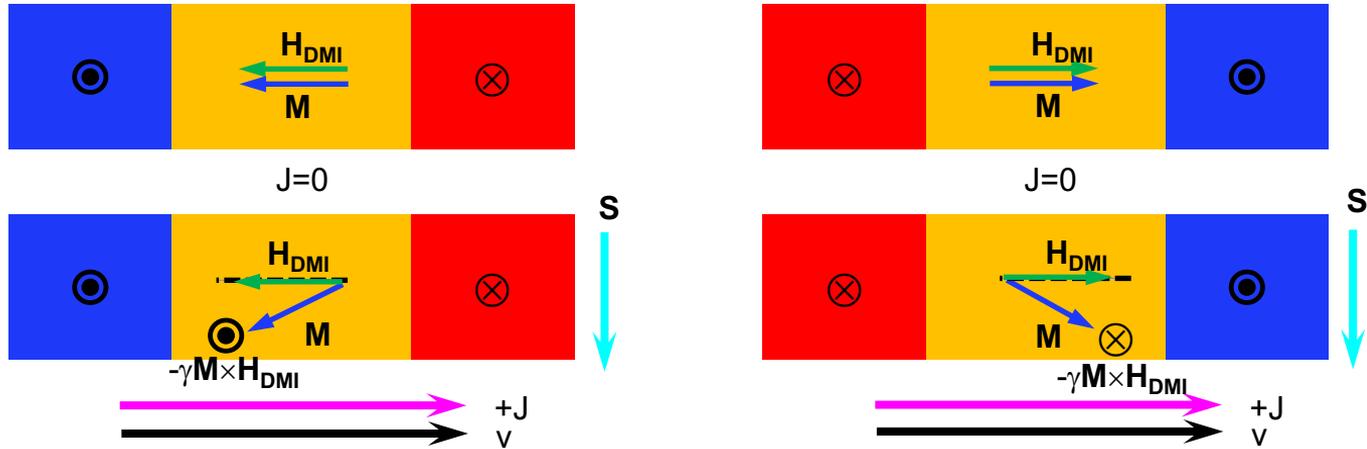
- Spin Hall effect: dramatic evolution
- Novel materials show large spin Hall effect
 - Triangular antiferromagnets
 - Novel crystalline phases
- Important technological applications
 - Racetrack – DW velocities > 1,000 m/sec
 - 3T Single DW Racetrack - replacement for SRAM



Zhang *et al.* Nat. Phys. (2015)
Demasius *et al.*, Nat. Comm. (2016)
Nayak *et al.* Sci. Adv. (2016)
Zhang *et a.* Sci. Adv. (2016)

Chiral Spin Torque → drives domain walls very fast!

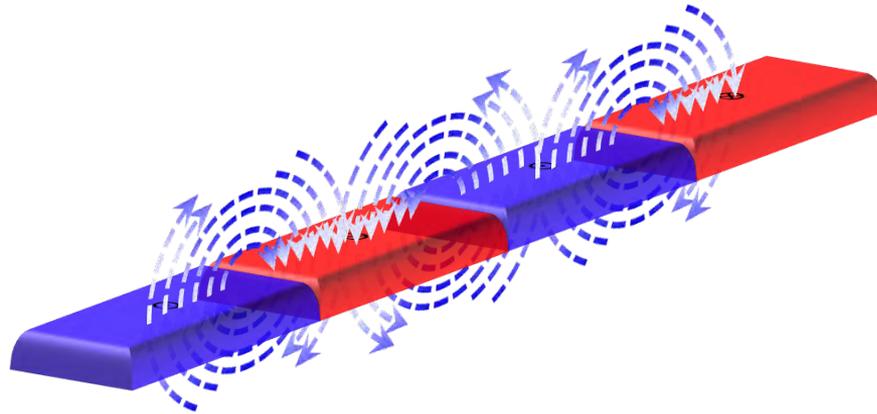
Top view: Counter-clockwise chirality



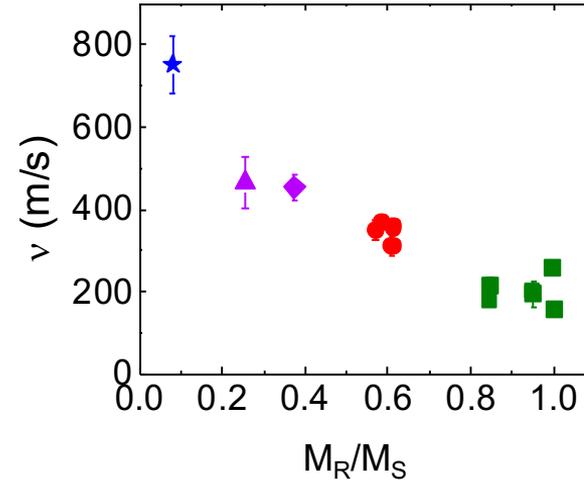
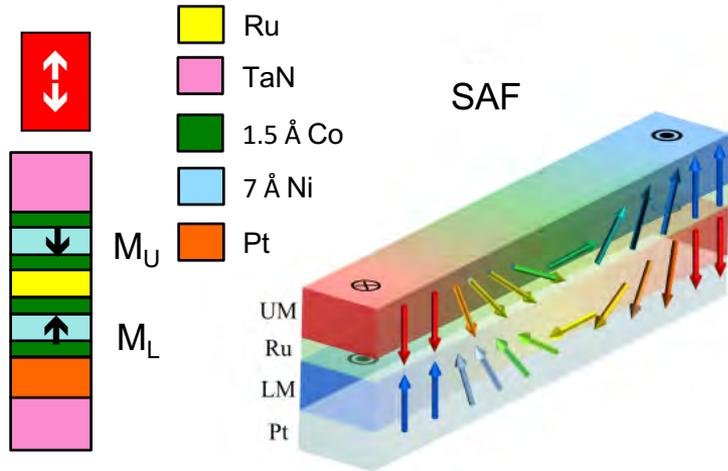
- DMI local field → Neel domain walls
- DMI field H_{DMI} sets a specific chirality the Neel domain Walls
- spin Hall torque causes M to rotate towards spin accumulation S
- DMI field torque moves all the DWs along the current flow direction.

Ryu et al., Nat. Nanotech. (2013); Yang et al., Nat. Nanotech. (2015)

Dipolar fringing fields emitted from Domains



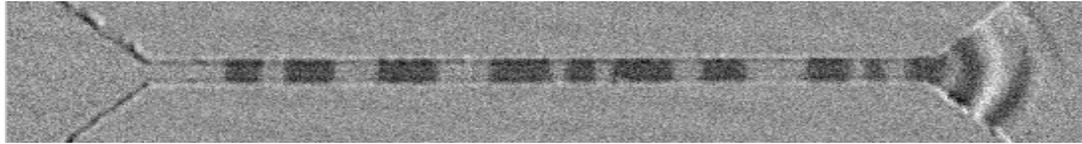
RM 4.0: Very High DW Speeds in SAF PMA racetracks



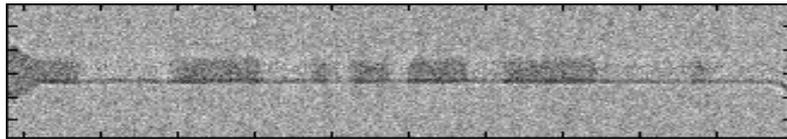
- SAF: Synthetic antiferromagnet: upper racetrack = exact mirror image of lower
- DW velocity increases as degree of compensation of moments in upper and lower racetracks increased
- 4x highest DW velocity yet reported → Speeds exceed 1.5- 5 km/sec
- AF exchange field > DMI field

Yang et al. Nature Nanotechnology (2015)

Racetrack Memory 4.0



- 20 domain walls moved in lock step with current pulses
- High velocity at low current densities
- Narrow domain walls (~6 nm)
- Very thin racetracks (~1 nm)
- Giant domain wall velocities in Synthetic Antiferromagnet racetracks



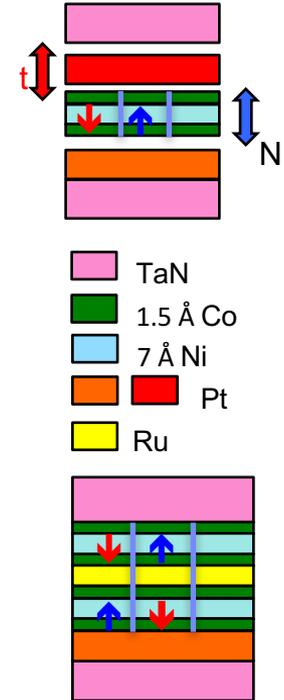
Ryu et al. Nature Nanotechnology (2013)

Yang et al. Nature Nanotechnology (February 2015)

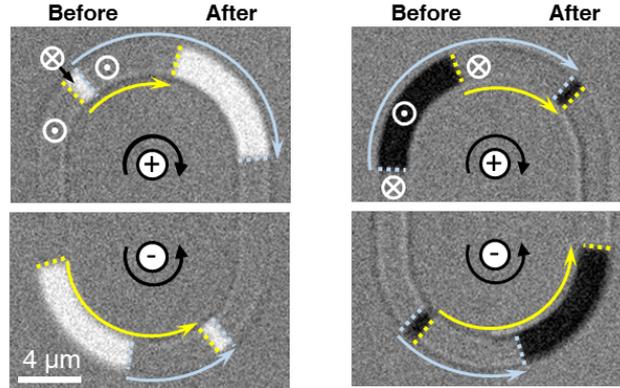
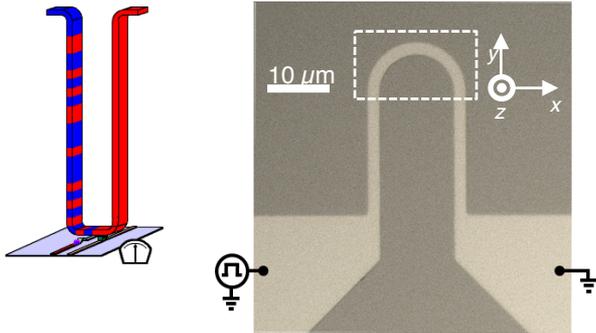
Parkin et al. Nature Nanotechnology (March 2015)

SORBET - complex interplay of 4 spin-orbit derived phenomena

1. Perpendicular magnetic anisotropy – from broken symmetry from interfaces
2. Proximity induced magnetization
3. Chiral domain walls – DMI
4. Spin currents – from spin Hall effect (SHE)

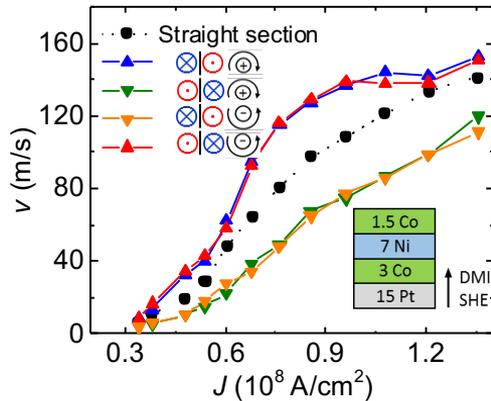


Dramatic dependence of DW velocity on Curvature



DW motion after 2 pulses ($0.6 \times 10^8 \text{ A/cm}^2$ for 100ns)

→ Domain size decreases or increase by 10 times depending on curvature

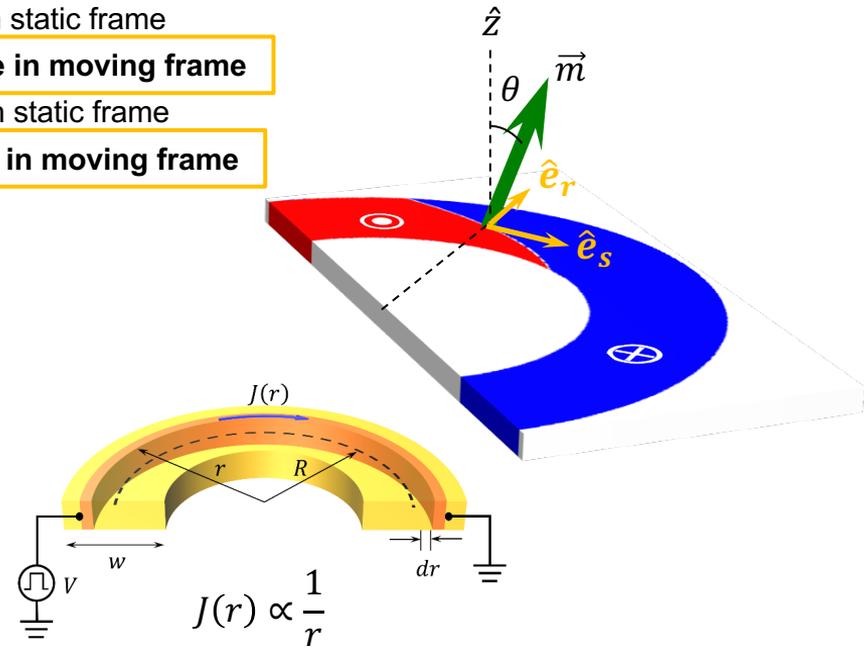
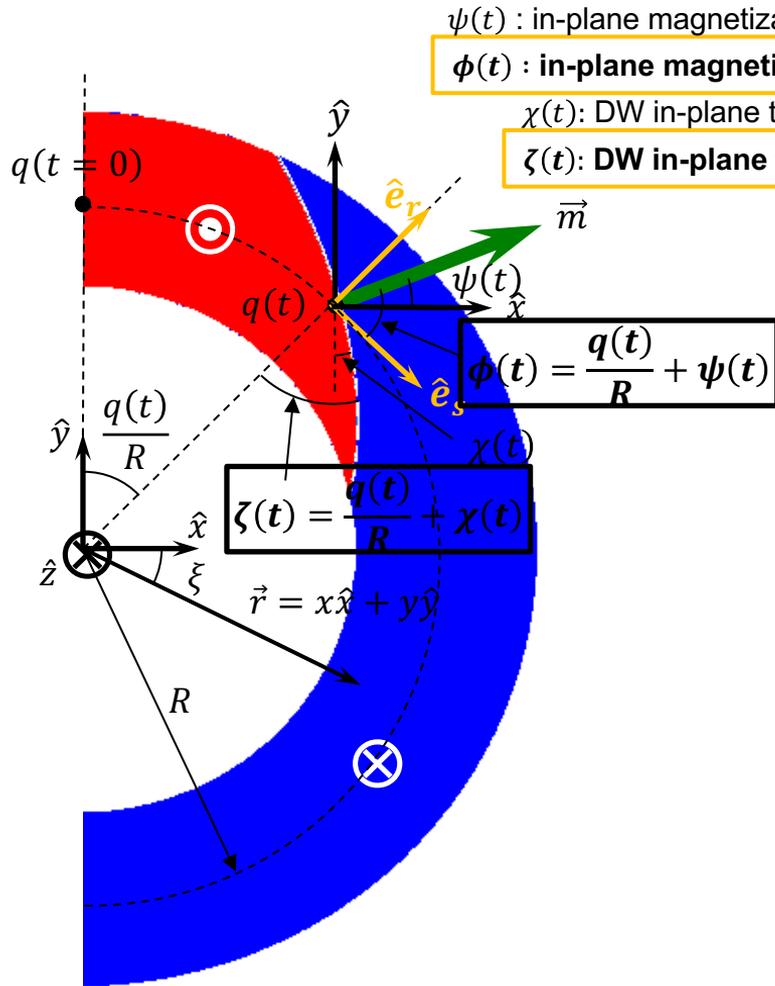


$R = 7 \mu\text{m}$ and $w = 2 \mu\text{m}$

- DW velocities are different for all J.
- CW (CCW) DW motion : $\kappa > 0$ ($\kappa < 0$)
- \odot | \otimes $\kappa > 0$ = \otimes | \odot $\kappa < 0$ → slower
- \odot | \otimes $\kappa < 0$ = \otimes | \odot $\kappa > 0$ → faster
- DW velocity in straight wire ($\kappa = 0$) is in-between $\kappa > 0$ and $\kappa < 0$.

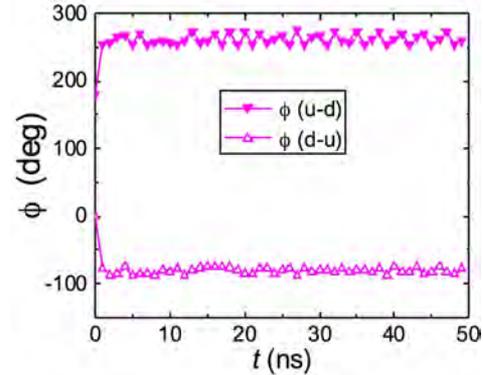
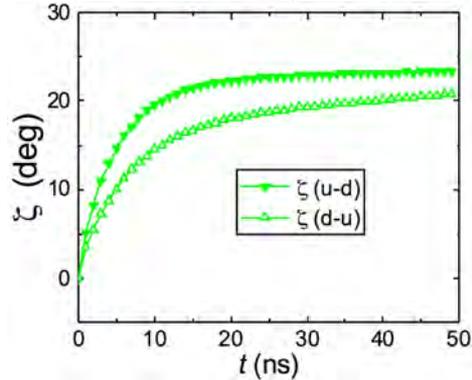
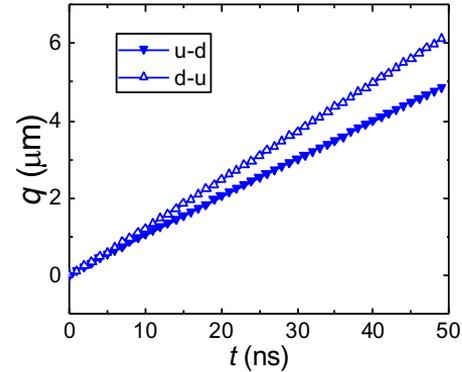
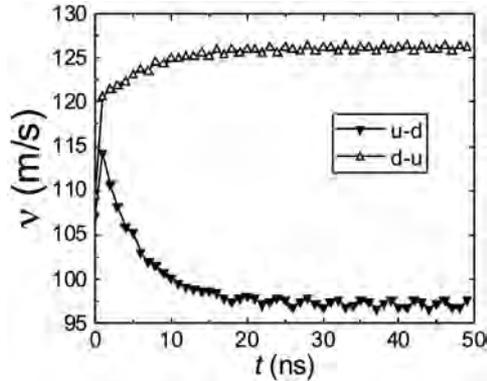
Garg *et al.* Science Advances (May 5, 2017)

Quasi 2D Model for curved wires with radius dependent current



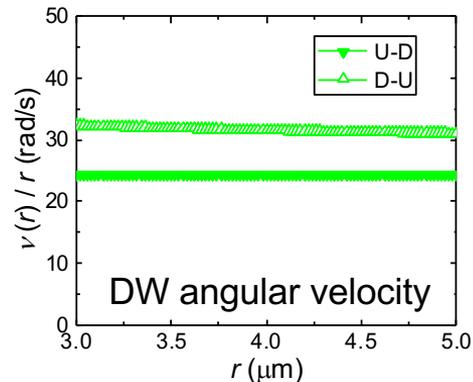
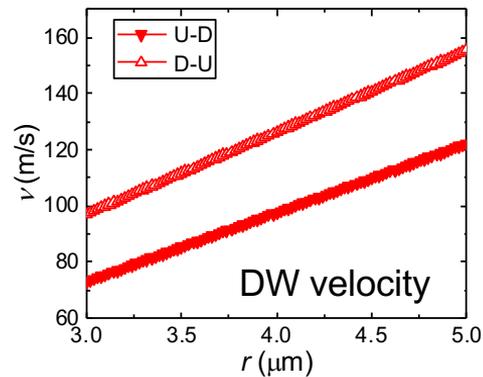
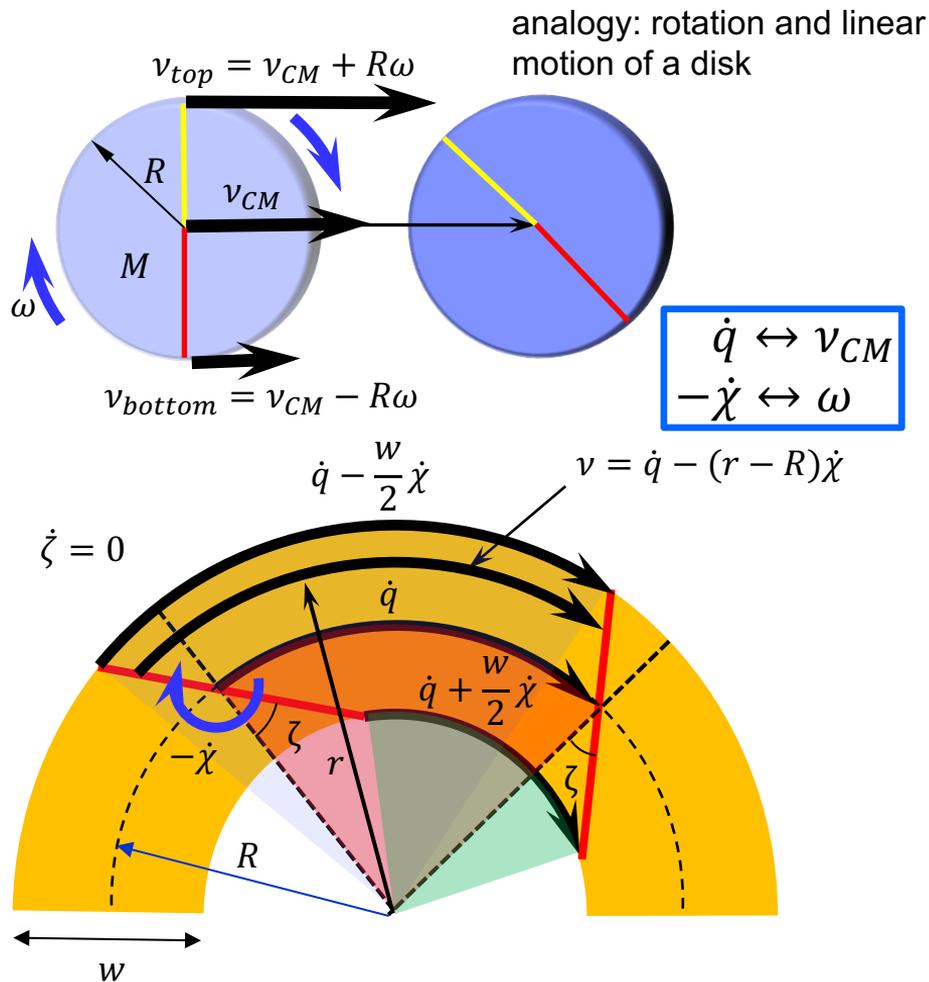
- DW is not straight but **curved** due to the cylindrical symmetry of experimental parameters such as electrical current, SHE and DMI.
- Key point \rightarrow transformation between cylindrical moving frame and cartesian static coordinates \rightarrow DW magnetization and DW tilting angle in static coordinates are a function of DW position.

Quasi Two Dimensional Model Results for curved wires: time-resolved



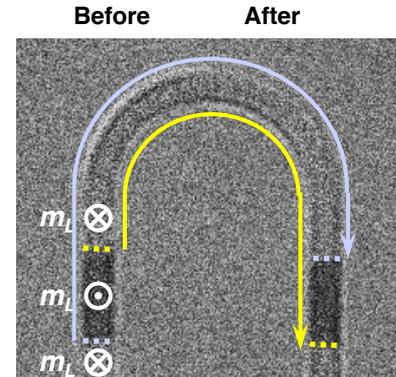
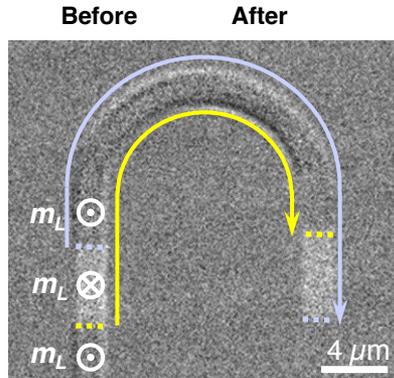
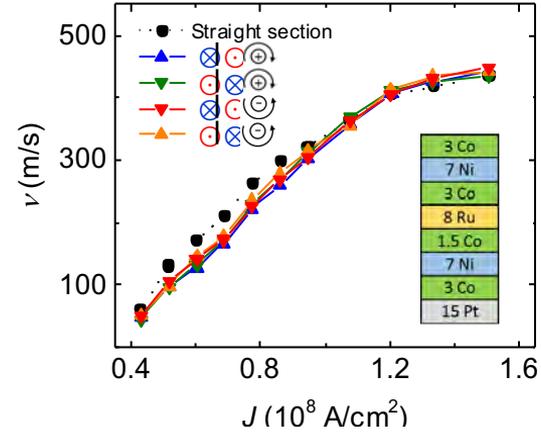
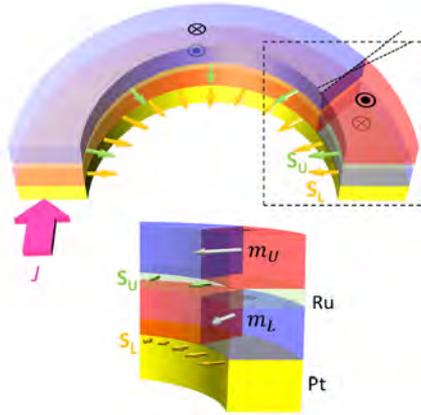
- Terminal velocity for \odot | \otimes with $\kappa > 0$ is larger than that for \otimes | \odot with $\kappa > 0$.
- It takes shorter for \odot | \otimes with $\kappa > 0$ (~ 10 ns) to reach the terminal velocity than for \otimes | \odot with $\kappa > 0$ (~ 20 ns).
- DW magnetization reaches steady state much faster (< 1 ns) than DW tilting angle (> 20 ns).

Torque along the radial direction in curved wires



- DW velocity (torque) at outer rim is faster than at inner rim.
- Angular velocity is the same along the DW in steady state.

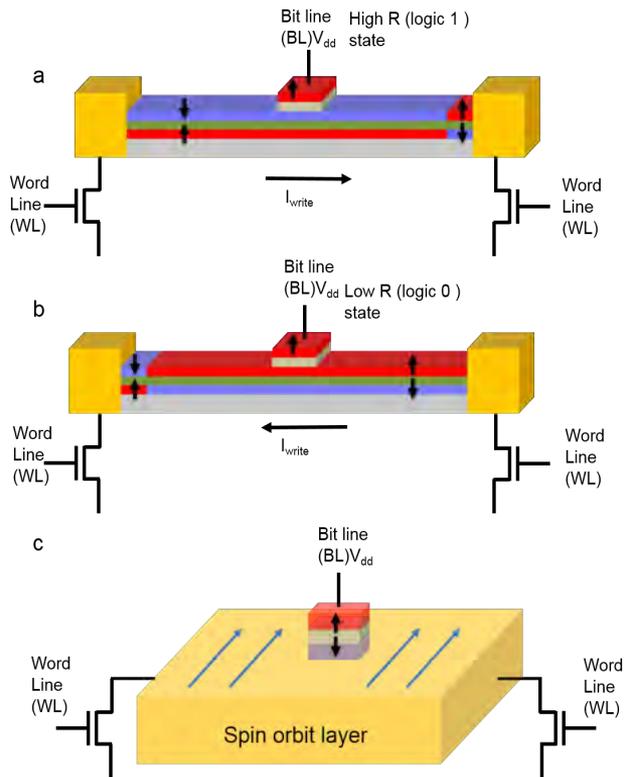
DW motion in synthetic antiferromagnetic curved wires → no change !



- Curvature does not affect DW motion in SAF nanowires.
- Exchange coupling torque dominant → insensitive to DW tilting
- Curvature induced lock-step motion breakdown problem resolved !!

Garg *et al.* Science Advances (May 5, 2017)

3T single domain wall Racetrack → SRAM replacement

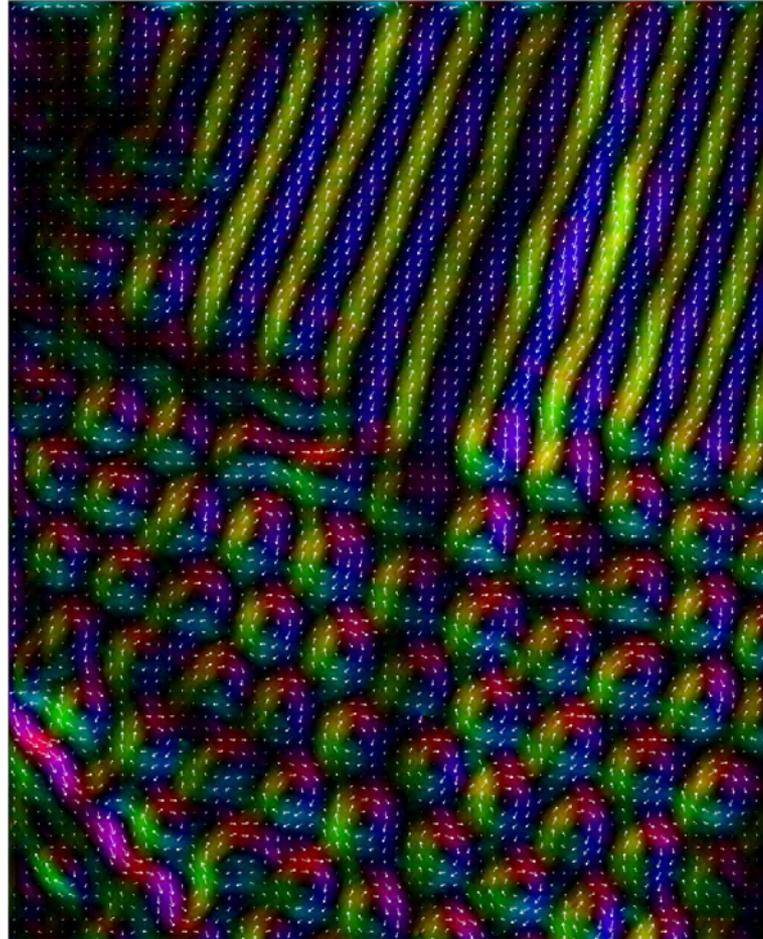
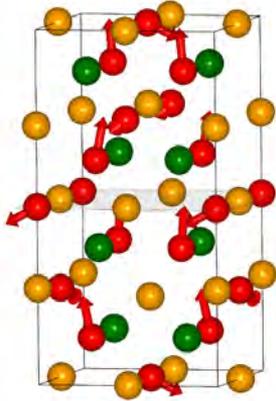
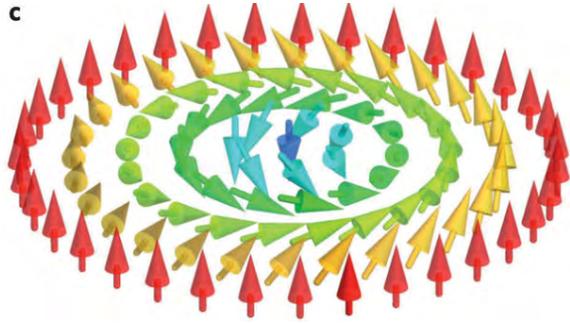


- 100 picosecond writing speed
- Non-volatile & very low energy
- 40% size of SRAM

	ultra dense SRAM	1DWRM 6 Q layout	3T-SOT-MRAM 6 Q layout	1DWRM 8 Q layout	3T-SOT-MRAM 8 Q layout
Fins/FET	1	1	1	2	2
Feature size (F) (nm)	14	14	14	14	14
Fin pitch (FP) (nm)	42.67	42.67	42.67	42.67	42.67
contact poly pitch (CPP) (nm)	80	80	80	80	80
Bit line pitch (BLP) (FP)	8	4	4	4	4
Bit line pitch (BLP) (nm)	341.3	170.7	170.7	170.7	170.7
Word line pitch (WLP) (CPP)	2	1.5	1.5	2	2
Word line pitch (WLP) (nm)	160	120	120	160	160
Cell (Q)	16	6	6	8	8
Cell (nm ²)	54613	20480	20480	27307	27307
Cell (F ²)	278.6	104.5	104.5	139.3	139.3
Cell/SRAM	1	0.375	0.375	0.5	0.5
Energy (fJ)	96	9.6	9.6	19.2	19.2
Switching speed (ps)	667	< 200	< 200	< 200	< 200
Max transistor current (μA)	30	30	30	60	60

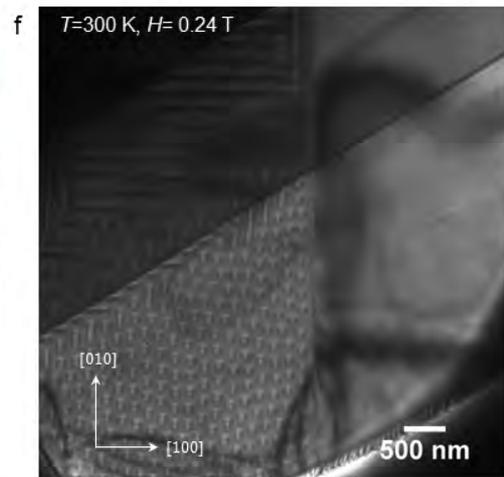
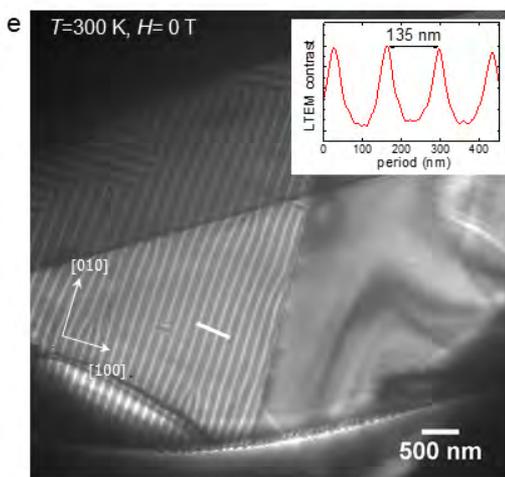
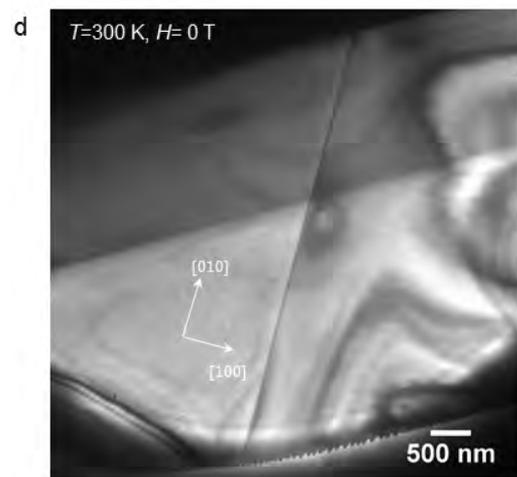
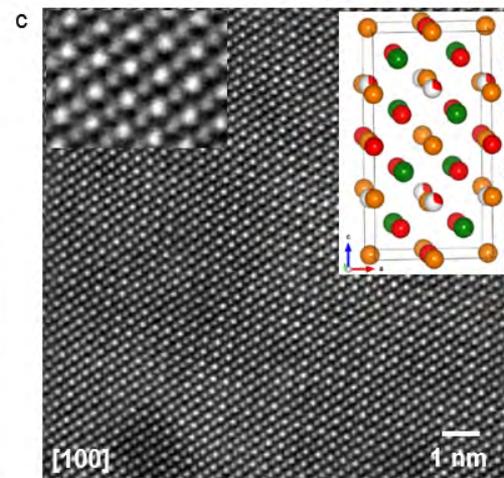
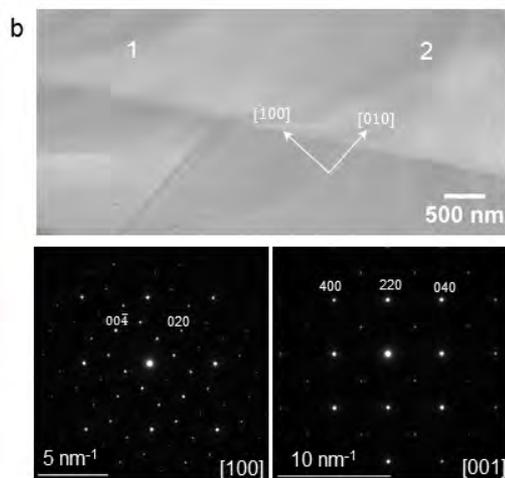
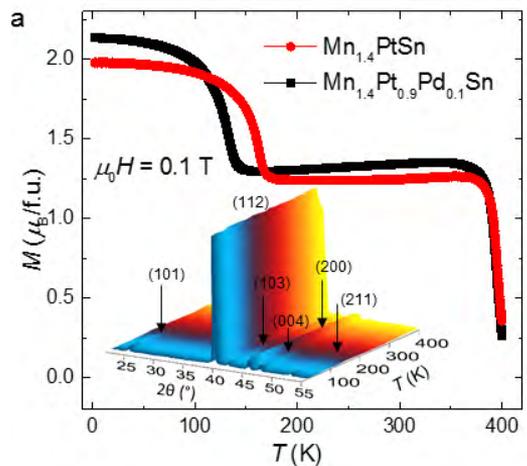
Skyrmions at room temperature in $\text{Mn}_2(\text{Pd}_{40}\text{Pt}_{60})_1\text{Sn}$

c



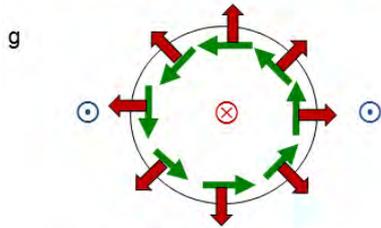
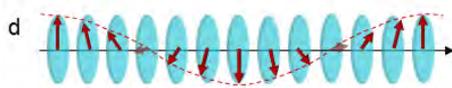
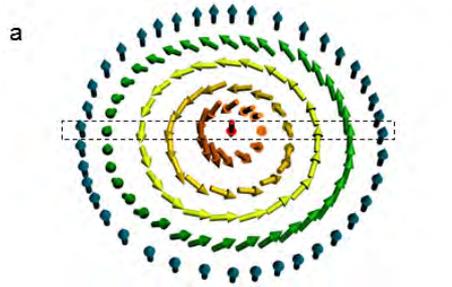
Nayak *et al.* (unpublished)

Non collinear spin structures in $\text{Mn}_{1.4}(\text{Pt}_{0.9}\text{Pd}_{0.1})\text{Sn}$

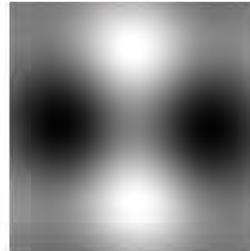
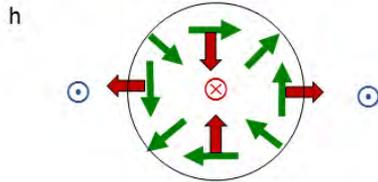
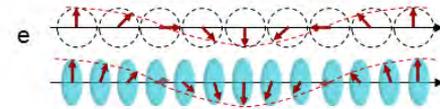
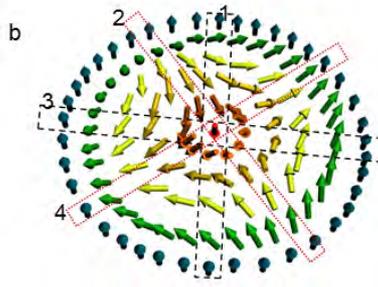


Skyrmions and anti-skyrmions

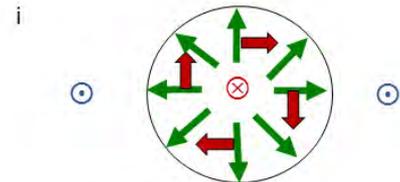
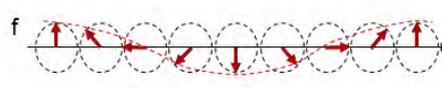
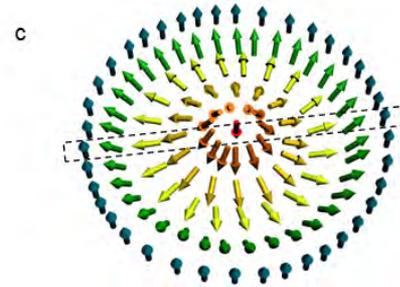
Bloch skyrmion



antiskyrmion

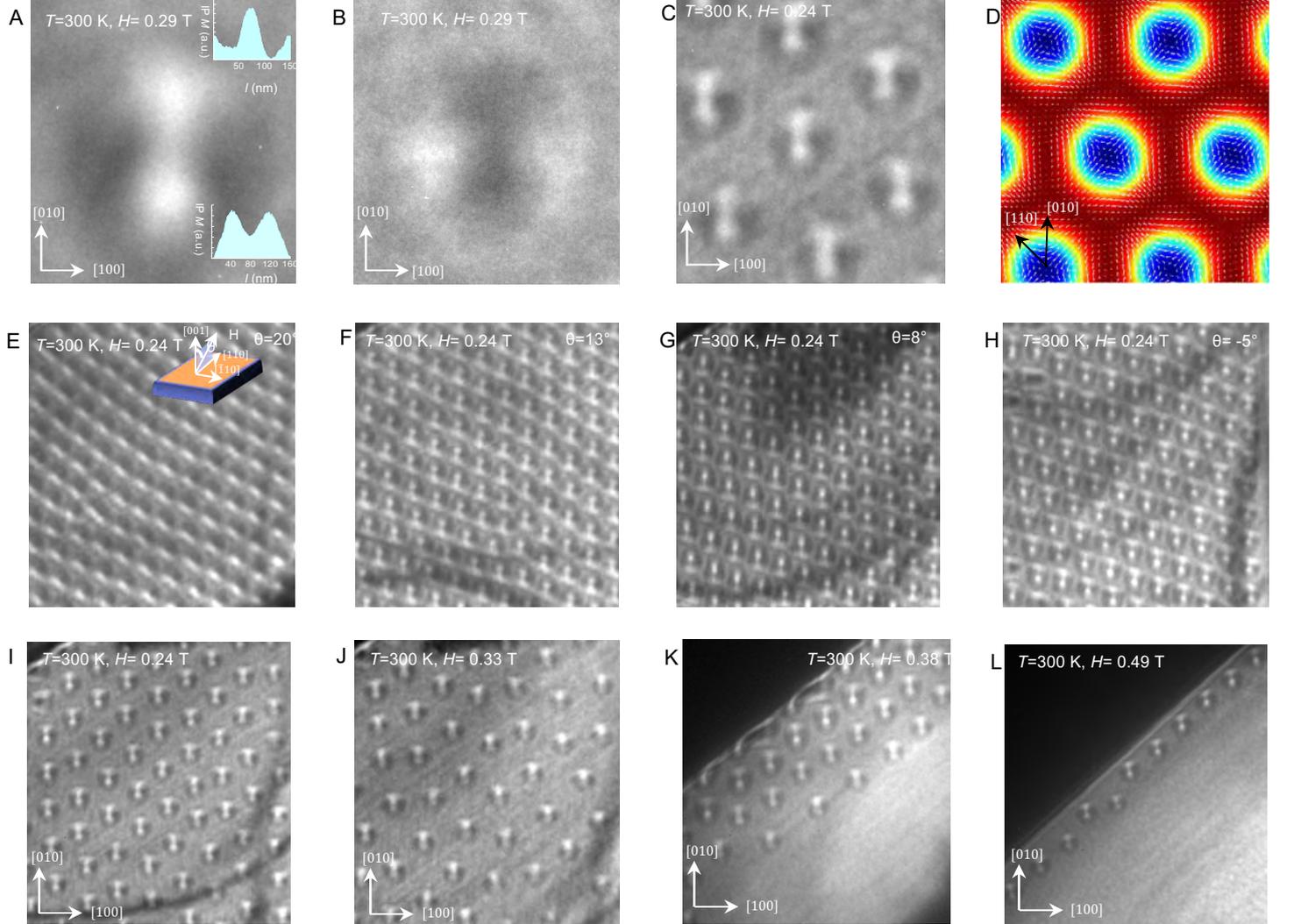


Néel skyrmion



Anti-Skyrmions!

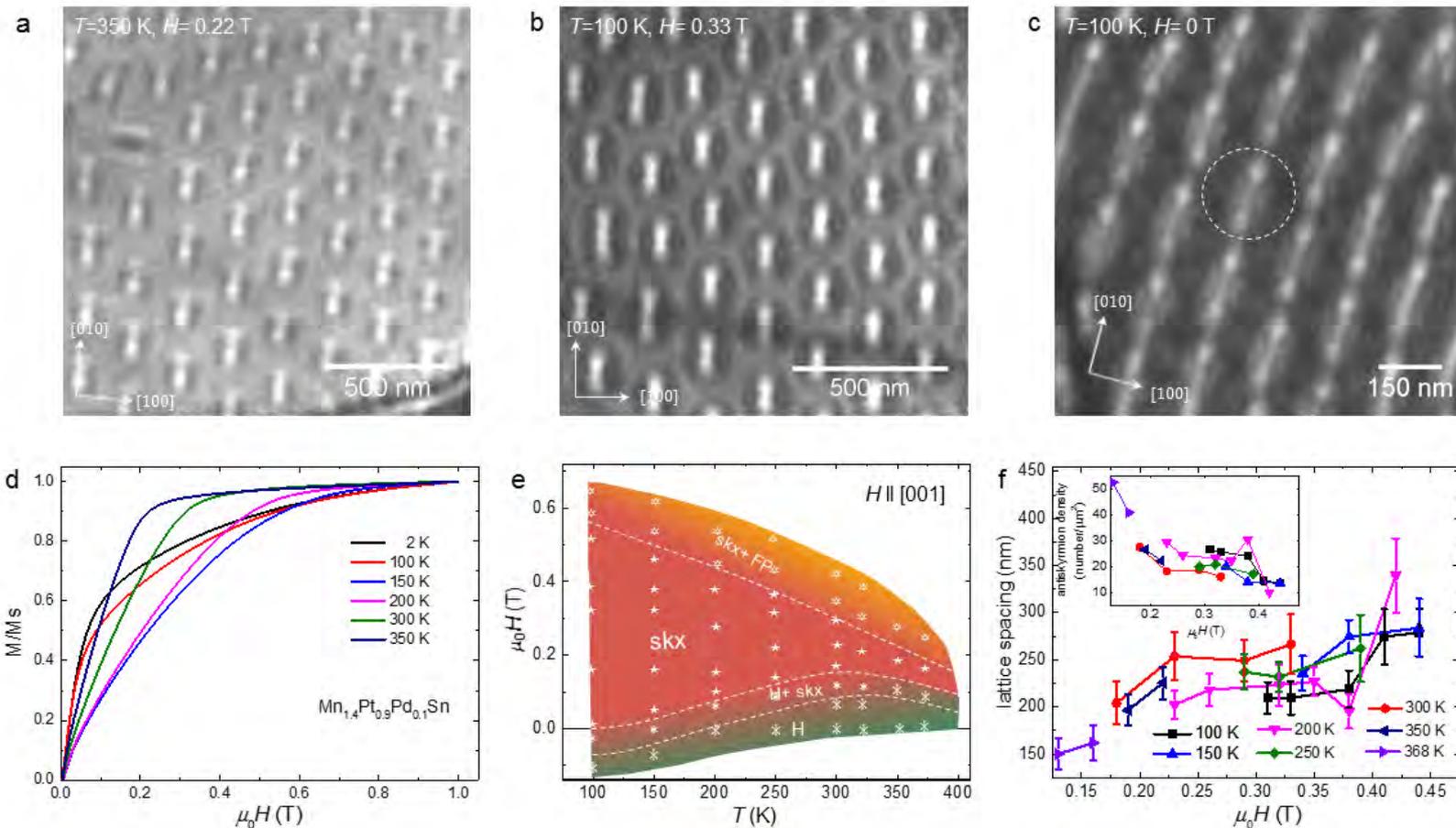
1st observation
- Stable above 300 K



Nayak *et al.* (2017)

Stuart Parkin – Spin on Electronics!

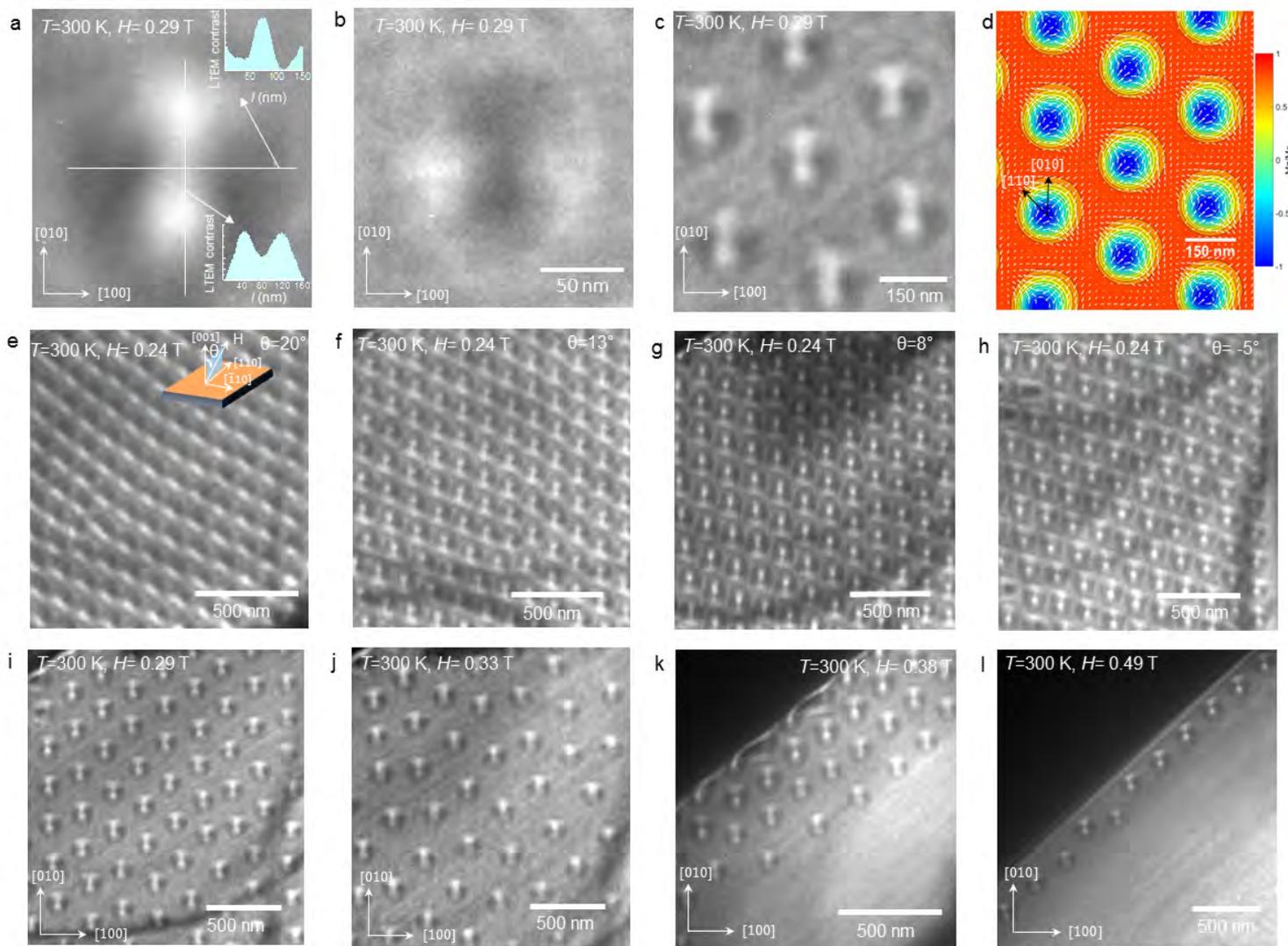
Phase diagram: $\text{Mn}_{1.4}(\text{Pt}_{0.9}\text{Pd}_{0.1})\text{Sn}$



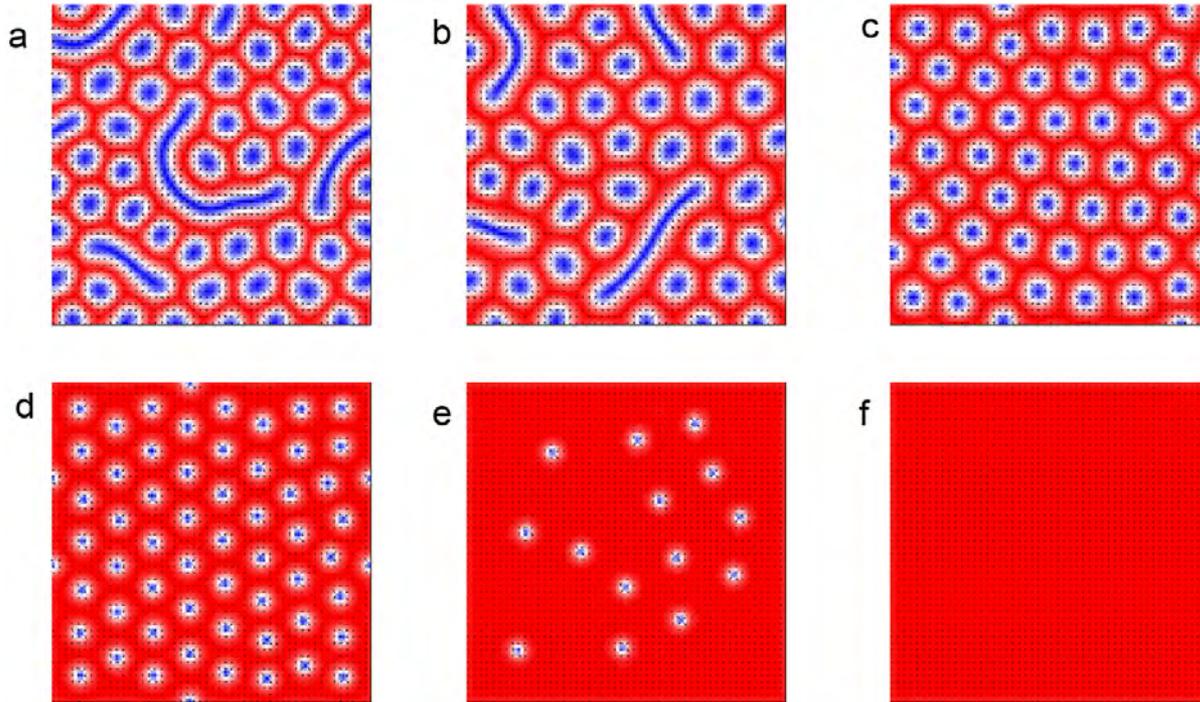
Nayak *et al.* (submitted)

Anti-Skyrmions!

1st observation
- Stable above 300 K

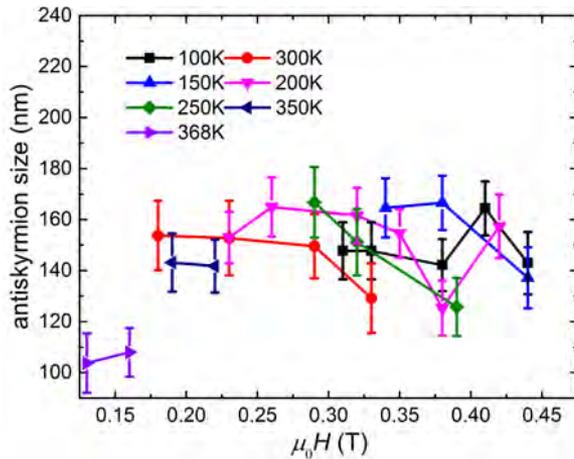
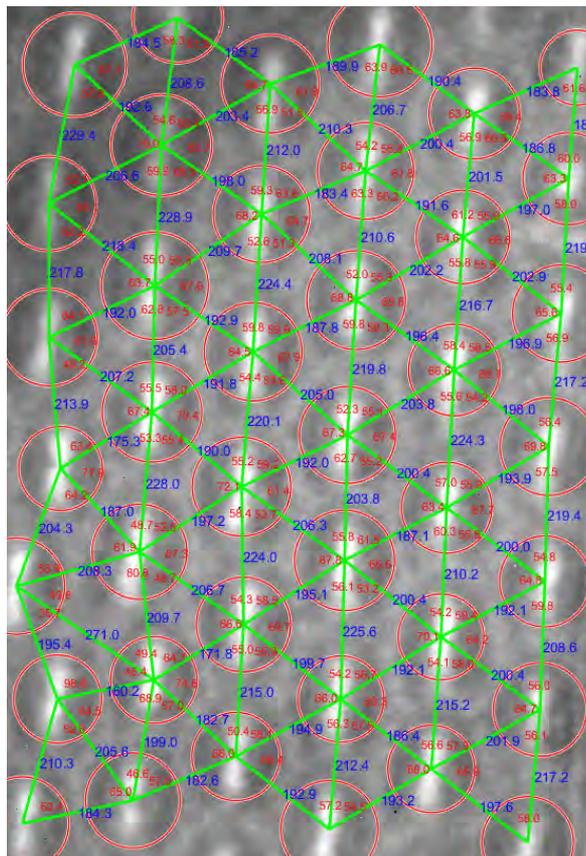


Micromagnetic simulations - phase diagram

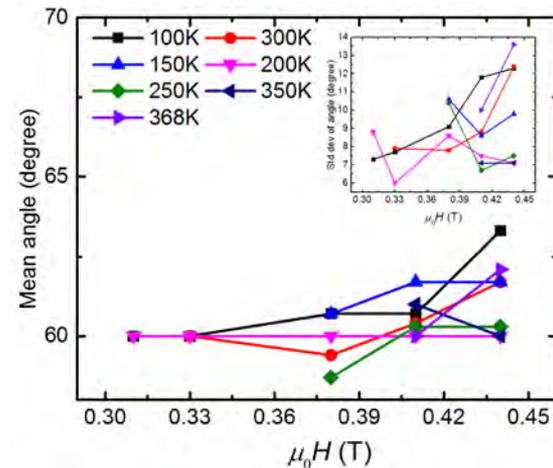


OOMMF simulation of phase change as a function of perpendicular field strength, with: (a) $H_z=0.09\text{T}$, helix+antiskyrmion phase, (b) $H_z=0.15\text{T}$, helix+antiskyrmion phase, (c) $H_z=0.21\text{T}$, antiskyrmion phase, (d) $H_z=0.39\text{T}$, antiskyrmion phase, (e) $H_z=0.47\text{T}$, antiskyrmion + spin polarized phase and (f) $H_z=0.50\text{T}$, spin polarized phase.

LTEM – anti-skyrmion lattice evolution



Field dependence of the anti-skyrmion size at various temperatures. The error bar is the standard deviation of the size distribution.

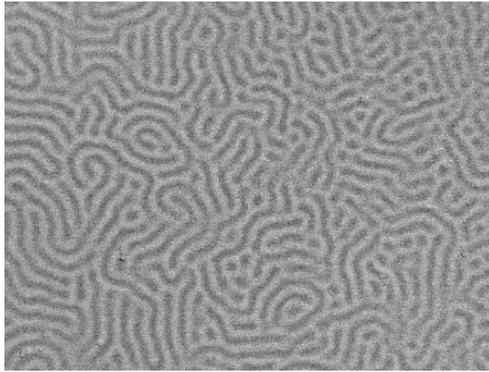


Field dependence of the anti-skyrmion lattice mean angle at several different temperatures. The inset show the corresponding standard deviation of the lattice angles.

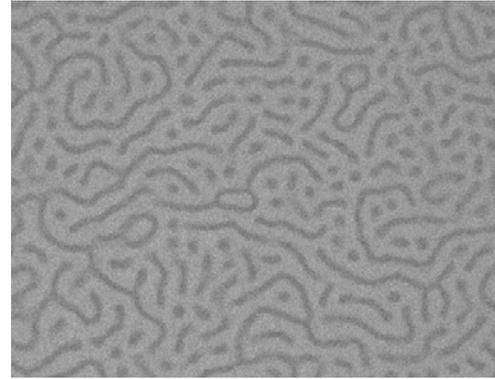
Analysis of a LTEM image of the anti-skyrmion lattice at 200K under a perpendicular field of $H=0.23T$.

Magnetic bubbles / skyrmions in W | CoFeB films

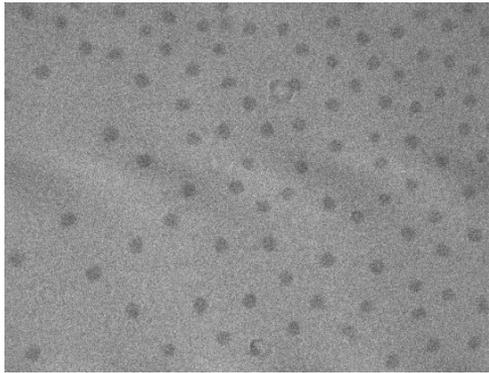
H_z



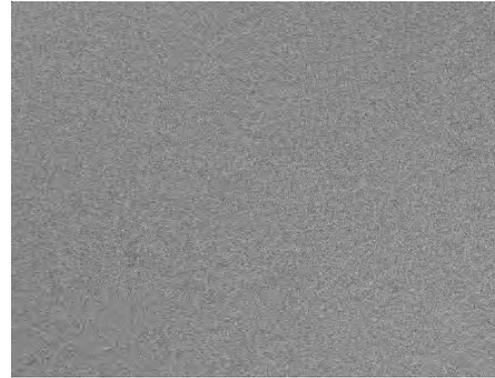
0 Oe : Stripe + Bubble



1.2 Oe : Stripe + Bubble



2 Oe : Bubble



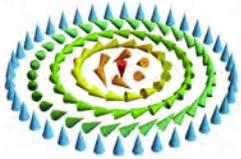
4 Oe : Single domain

Skyrmions on the “Racetrack”

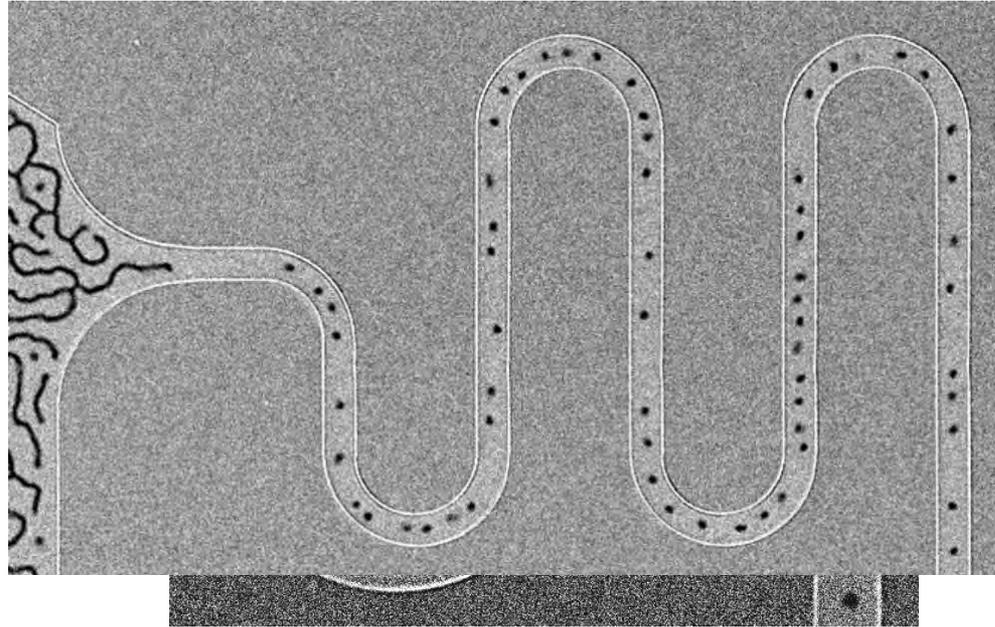
Skyrmions in CoFeB \rightarrow speed 0.000001 m/sec at $j = 10^5$ A/cm²



“hedgehog” (Néel) type
Examples: thin Fe/Ir
 \rightarrow SOC + interface sets
chirality



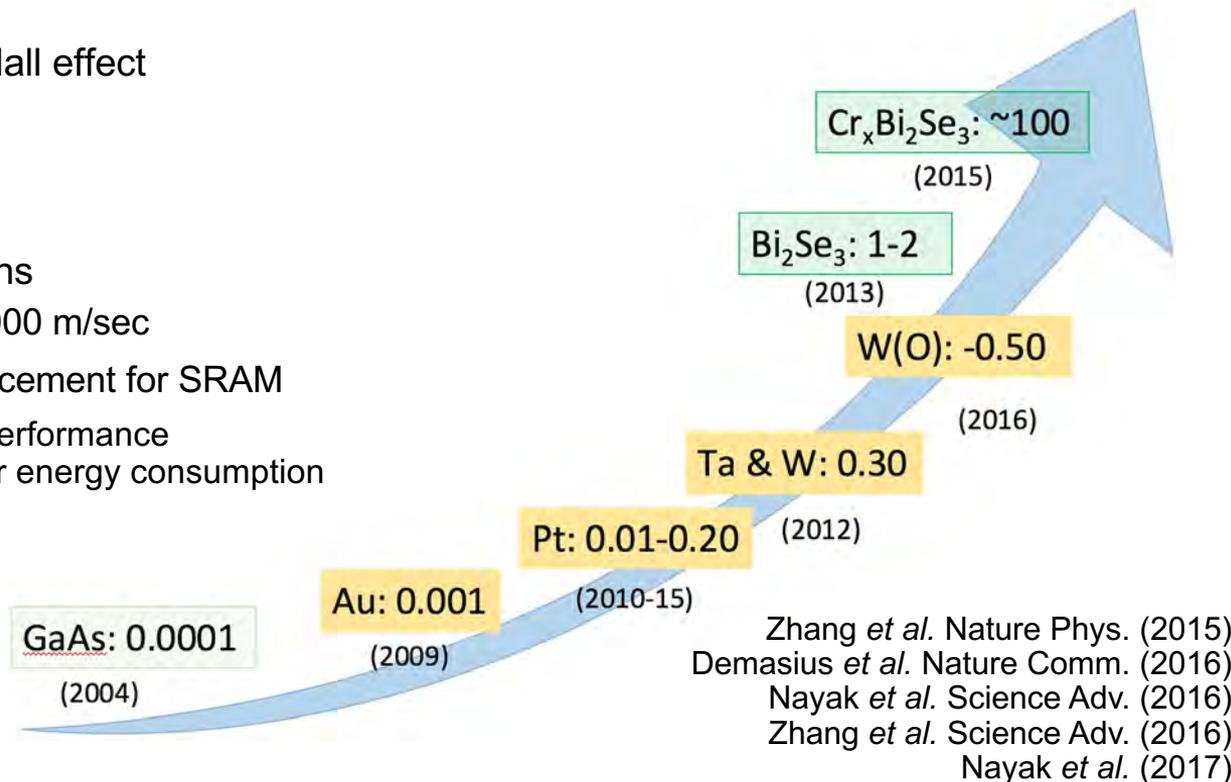
“vortex type” (Bloch) chiral
phase examples: MnSi; films
with perpendicular anisotropy
plus magnetic dipolar
coupling (achiral)



Jiang et al. Science (2015)

Spin Orbitronics

- Chiral spin torque and giant exchange torque
 - Ultrafast current induced DW velocities in racetracks with no magnetization!
 - Curvature strongly affects DW velocity but eliminated in SAF racetrack
- Novel materials show large spin Hall effect
 - Triangular antiferromagnets⁺
 - Novel crystalline phases⁺⁺
- Important technological applications
 - Racetrack – DW velocities > 1,000 m/sec
 - 3T Single DW Racetrack - replacement for SRAM
 - Promises 3T device with SRAM performance but increased density, much lower energy consumption & non-volatility (fast start-up)
- Non collinear spin textures!
 - Anti-skyrmions...



Max Planck Institute for Microstructure Physics, Halle



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for Research & Innovation

*Atomically engineered materials; Spintronics; Cognitive devices;
3D structures; Room temperature superconductivity; Topological matter;
Combinatorial materials discovery....*



contact: stuart.parkin@mpi-halle.mpg.de