Zagreb, May 2008, A. Fert, CNRS/Thales, Palaiseau, and Université Paris-Sud

In classical spintronics: new types of MTJ

Spin transfer: switching, oscillators, synchronization



The present and future of



Hrus<u>ka et al</u>



Spintronics with semiconductors

Spintronics



Spintronics with molecules



single-electron devices **Introduction :**

Spin dependent conduction in ferromagnetic conductors, Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR), Tunnel Magnetoresistance (TMR)

Spin dependent conduction in ferromagnetic metals





Mixing impurities A and B with opposite or similar spin asymmetries: *the pre-concept of GMR*



Magnetic multilayers



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• Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR) (Orsay, 1988, Fe/Cr multilayers, Jülich, 1989, Fe/Cr/Fe trilayers)



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Anti-parallel magnetizations (zero field, high resistance)



Parallel magnetizations (appl. field, low resist.)



Condition for GMR: layer thickness ≈ nm



1997 (before GMR) : 1 Gbit/in² , 2007 : GMR heads ~ 600 Gbit/in²



Applications: - read heads of Hard Disc Drive

- M-RAM (Magnetic Random Access Memory)



Epitaxial magnetic tunnel junctions (MgO, etc)





FIG. 2. Tunneling density of states on each atomic layer at k_{\parallel} =0 for the Co/MgO/Co tunnel junction. Top panel: parallel spin alignment, bottom panel: antiparallel spin alignment

Mathon and Umerski, PR B 1999 Mavropoulos et al, PRL 2000 Butler et al , PR B 2001 Zhang and Butler, PR B 2004 [bcc Co/MgO/bcc Co(001)]



FIG. 2. Tunneling density of states on each atomic layer at k_{\parallel} =0 for the Co/MgO/Co tunnel junction. Top panel: parallel spin alignment, bottom panel: antiparallel spin alignment Beyond MgO

MgO, ZnSe (Mavropoulos et al, PRL 2000), etc

 $\rightarrow \Delta_1$ symmetry (sp) slowly decaying

 \rightarrow tunneling of Co majority spin electrons

SrTiO₃ and other d-bonded insulators (Velev et al , PRL 95, 2005; Bowen et al, PR B 2006)

 $\rightarrow \Delta_5$ symmetry (d) slowly decaying

→ tunneling of Co minority spin electrons

in agreement with the negative polarization of Co found in TMR with SrTiO₃,TiO₂ and Ce_{1-x}La_xO₂ barriers (de Teresa, A.F. et al, Science 1999)



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Spin Transfer (magnetic switching, microwave generation)

Spintronics with semiconductors

Spintronics with molecules

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Common physics: spin accumulation

Co/Cu: Current \perp to Plane (CPP) -GMR of multilayered nanowires (L.Piraux, AF et al, APL 1994,JMMM 1999)



Other results: MSU group, PRL 1991, JMMM 1999

Spin injection/extraction at a NM/FM interface (beyond ballistic range)



Spin injection/extraction at a NM/FM interface (beyond ballistic range)



(illustration in the simplest case = flat band, low current, no interface resistance, single polarity) $I_{s f}^{F M}$ = spin diffusion length in FM $I_{s f}^{N M}$ = spin diffusion length in NM (example: 0.5 µm in Cu, >10µm in carbon nanotube)

Extension to more complex situations

-CPP-GMR: typical multi-interface problem (spin accumulation overlaps)

-Spin transfer: multi-interface problem with non-colinear magnetic configurations

-Spintronics with semiconductors: spin inject. from metals complicated by « density of states mismatch », band bending, etc

Spin injection/extraction at a Semiconductor/FM interface



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Spin transfer

(J. Slonczewski, JMMM 1996, L. Berger, PR B 1996)



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Experiments on pillars



Metallic pillar $\approx 50 \times 150 \text{ nm}^2$



E-beam lithography + etching

a) First regime (low H): irreversible switching (CIMS)

b) Second regime (high H): steady precession (microwave generation)



Regime of steady precession (microwave frequency range)



Regime of steady precession or vortex motion(microwave frequency range)



Regime of steady precession or vortex motion(microwave frequency range)



Switching of reprogrammable devices (example: MRAM)

demonstrations by Sony, Hitachi, NEC, etc)

Experiments of STO synchronization by electrical connection

(B.Georges, AF et al, CNRS/Thales and LPN-CNRS, preliminary results)

Spintronics with semiconductors

and molecules

Spintronics with semiconductors

Magnetic metal/semiconductor hybrid structures

Ferromagnetic semiconductors (FS)

GaMnAs (T_c→170K) and R.T. FS Electrical control of ferromagnetism TMR, TAMR, spin transfer (GaMnAs) Field-induced metal/insulator transition

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Ferromagnetic semiconductors (FS)

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Semiconductor lateral channel between spin-polarized source and drain transforming spin information into large(?) and tunable (by gate voltage) electrical signal Nonmagnetic lateral channel between spin-polarized source and drain

Semiconductor channel:

« Measured effects of the order of 0.1-1% have been reported for the change in voltage or resistance (between P and AP).... », from the review article
 « Electrical Spin Injection and Transport in Semiconductors » by BT Jonker and ME Flatté in Nanomagnetism (ed.: DL Mills and JAC Bland, Elsevier 2006)

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the contrast between P(on) and AP(off),
$$\frac{\Delta R}{R^P} = \frac{\gamma^2 / (1 - \gamma^2)}{1 + \tau_n / \tau_{sf}}$$
, is large if $\tau_n < \tau_{sf}$

Nanotubes (also graphene, other molecules):

small spin-orbit \rightarrow spin lifetime τ_{sf} is long ($\approx 5-50$ ns)

high velocity $v \to \tau_n = \frac{2L}{v\bar{t}_r}$ can be relatively short ($\approx 60ns^* \approx \tau_{sf}$) Semiconductors τ_{sf} can be as long as in CNT (for $n \approx 10^{17} \text{ el} / \text{cm}^3$) but v is smaller $\to \log \tau_n = \frac{2L}{v\bar{t}_n} >> \tau_{sf}$

^{*}CNT : $\tau_n = 60$ ns from L, v of CNT and \bar{t}_r derived from interface resistance

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Solution for semiconductors:

shorter L ?, larger transmission t_r ?

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Next challenge for molecules:

spin control by gate

Summary

¤Already important aplications of GMR/TMR (HDD, MRAM..) and now promising new fields

-Spin transfer for magnetic switching and microwave generation

-Spintronics with semiconductors, molecules or nanoparticles

SILICON ELECTRONICS

SPINTRONICS

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Oscillatory variation of the conductance, different signs of theMR depending on the bias voltage and from sample to sample

Quasi-continuous DOS, same conditions as for semiconductor or metallic channel

Deviations from $\frac{\mathbf{J}_{\uparrow} - \mathbf{J}_{\downarrow}}{\mathbf{J}_{\uparrow} + \mathbf{J}_{\downarrow}} = \frac{\beta r_F + \gamma r_b^*}{r_F + r_N + r_b^*}$ at large current density (drift effect) • = low current limit

= deviations from the low current limit (nondegenerate semiconductor)

from Jaffrès and A.F. (see also Yu and Flatté)

current density

$\Delta V / V_{bias}$ for local (2 types) and non-local geometries

 t_{sc}

MR of LSMO/Alq3/Co structures (preliminary results)

Collaboration CNRS/Thales [C. Barraud, P. Seneor et al) and CNR Bologna (Dediu et al)]

