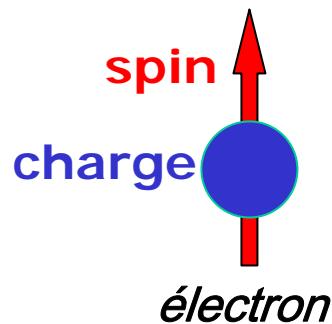


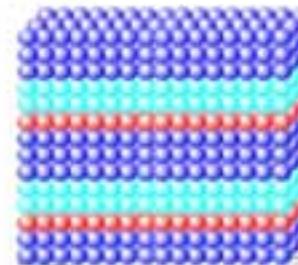
Présent et futur de la spintronique (LAAS, 17/12/08)



Influence of spin
on conduction

Spin up electron
+
Spin down electron

Magnetic
nanostructures



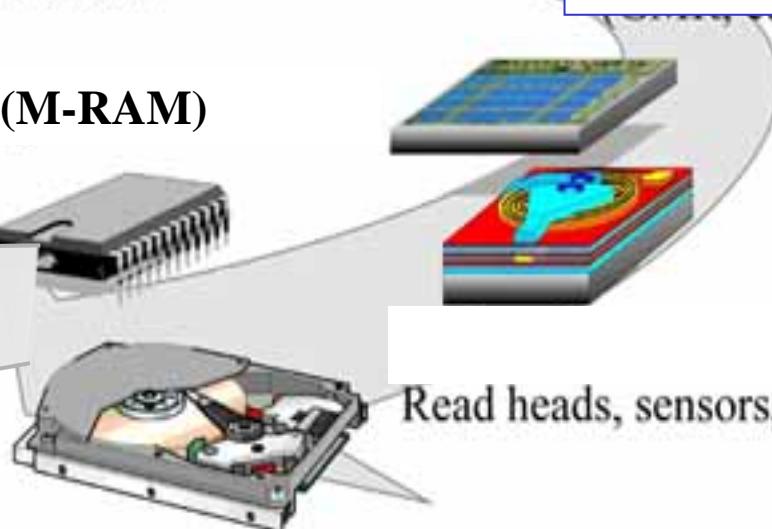
→ Spintronics

GMR, TMR, etc...

Spin transfer :

- writing by electrical transport of magnetic information,
- microwave generation
- spintronics with semiconductors,**
- molecular spintronics,**
- Single-electron spintronics, etc**

Memory (M-RAM)



Read heads, sensors, etc.

Introduction :

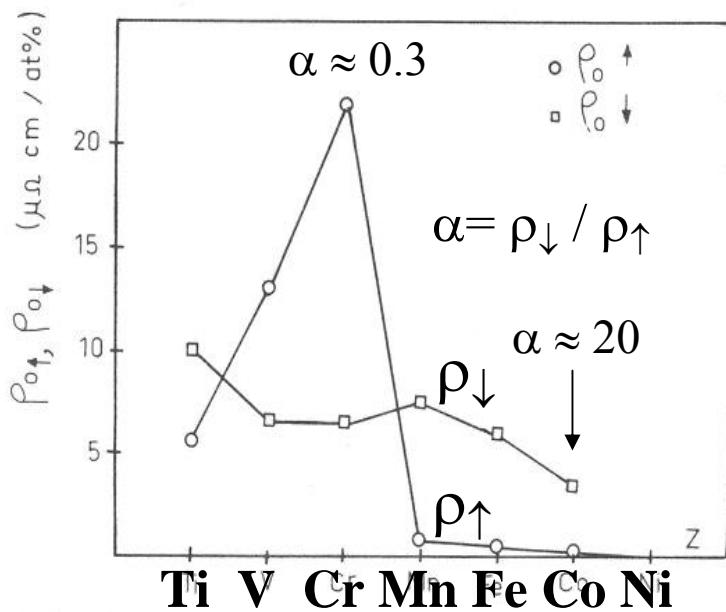
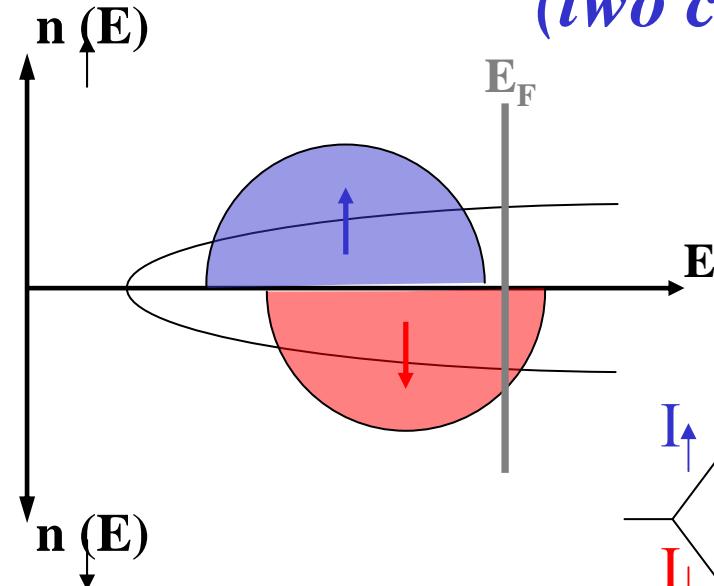
**Spin dependent conduction in
ferromagnetic conductors,**

Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR),

Tunnel Magnetoresistance (TMR)

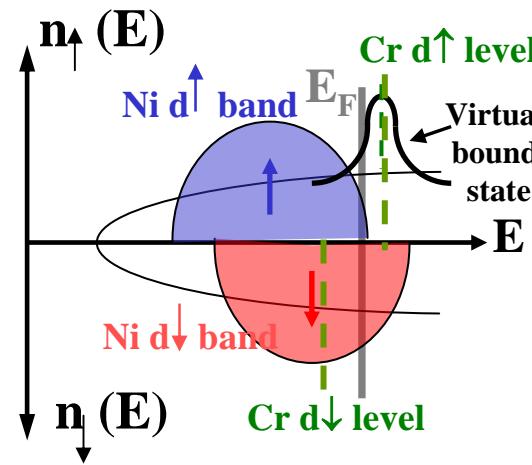
Spin dependent conduction in ferromagnetic metals

(two current model)



- Mott, Proc.Roy.Soc A153, 1936
- Fert et al, PRL 21, 1190, 1968
- Loegel-Gautier, JPCS 32, 1971
- Fert et al, J.Phys.F6, 849, 1976
- Dorlejin et al, ibid F7, 23, 1977

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= \rho_{\downarrow} / \rho_{\uparrow} \text{ or} \\ \beta &= (\rho_{\downarrow} - \rho_{\uparrow}) / (\rho_{\downarrow} + \rho_{\uparrow}) \\ &= (\alpha - 1) / (\alpha + 1)\end{aligned}$$

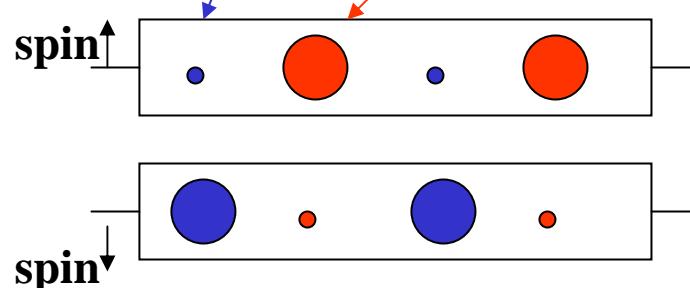


Mixing impurities A and B with opposite or similar spin asymmetries: *the pre-concept of GMR*

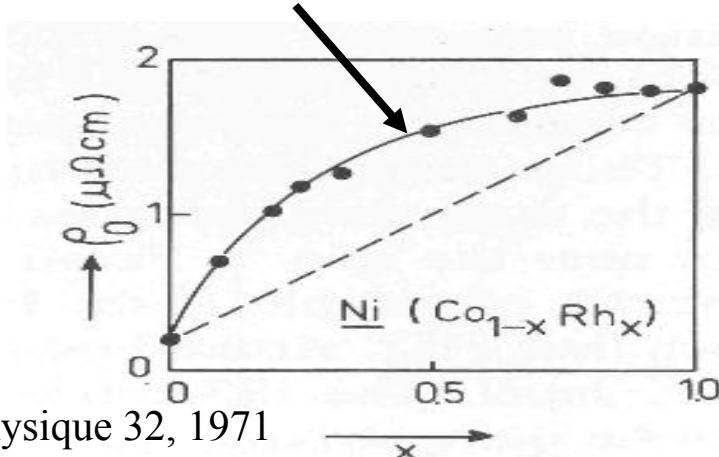
Example: Ni + impurities A and B (Fert-Campbell, 1968, 1971)

1st case

$$\alpha_A > 1, \alpha_B < 1$$



$$\rho_{AB} \gg \rho_A + \rho_B$$

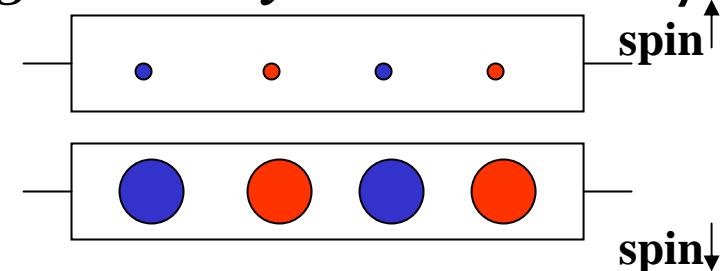


$$\alpha = \rho_\downarrow / \rho_\uparrow$$

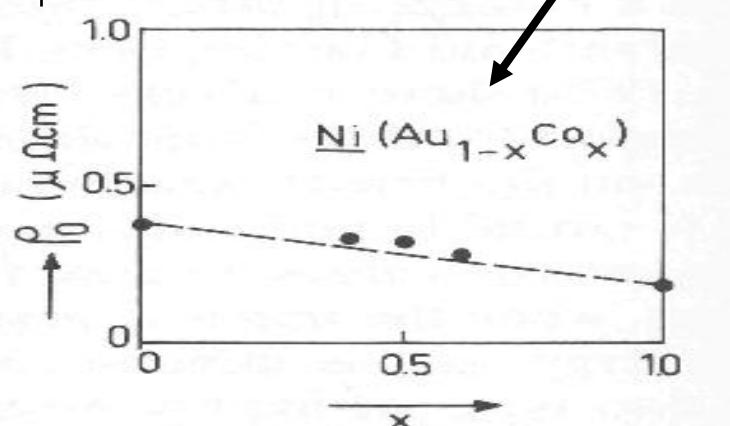
2d case

$$\alpha_A \text{ and } \alpha_B > 1$$

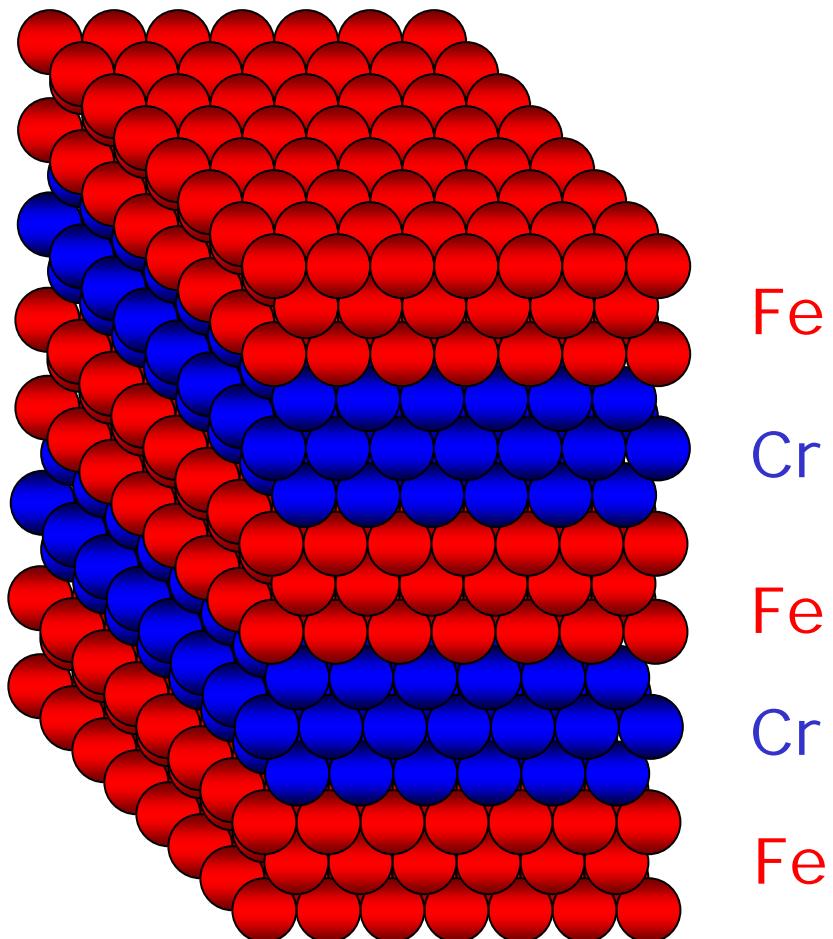
High mobility channel → low ρ



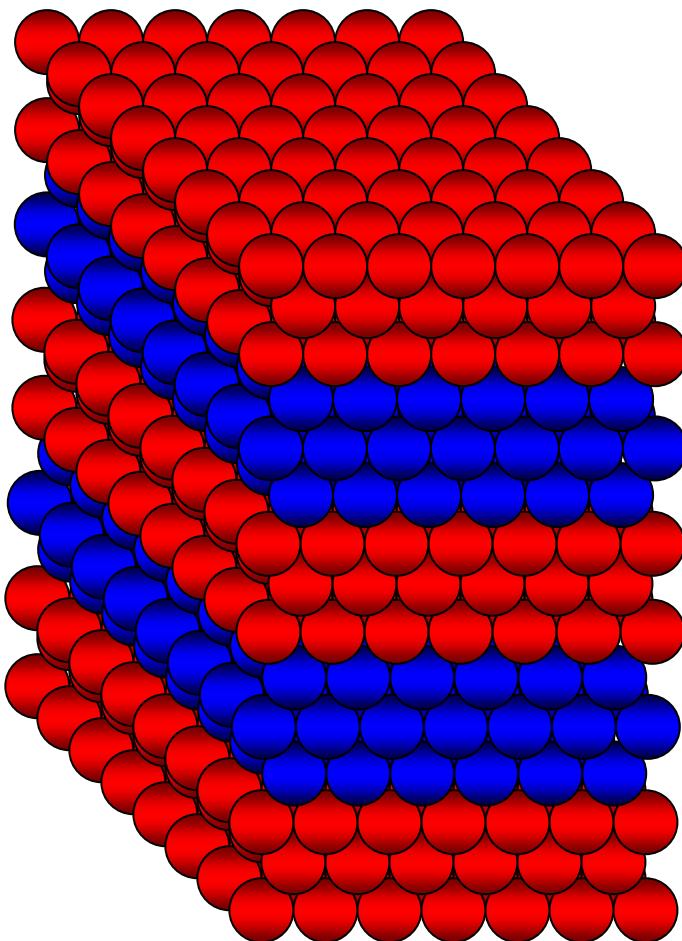
$$\rho_{AB} \approx \rho_A + \rho_B$$



- Magnetic multilayers



- Magnetic multilayers



Magnetizations of
Fe layers at zero field
in Fe/Cr multilayers

Fe

Cr

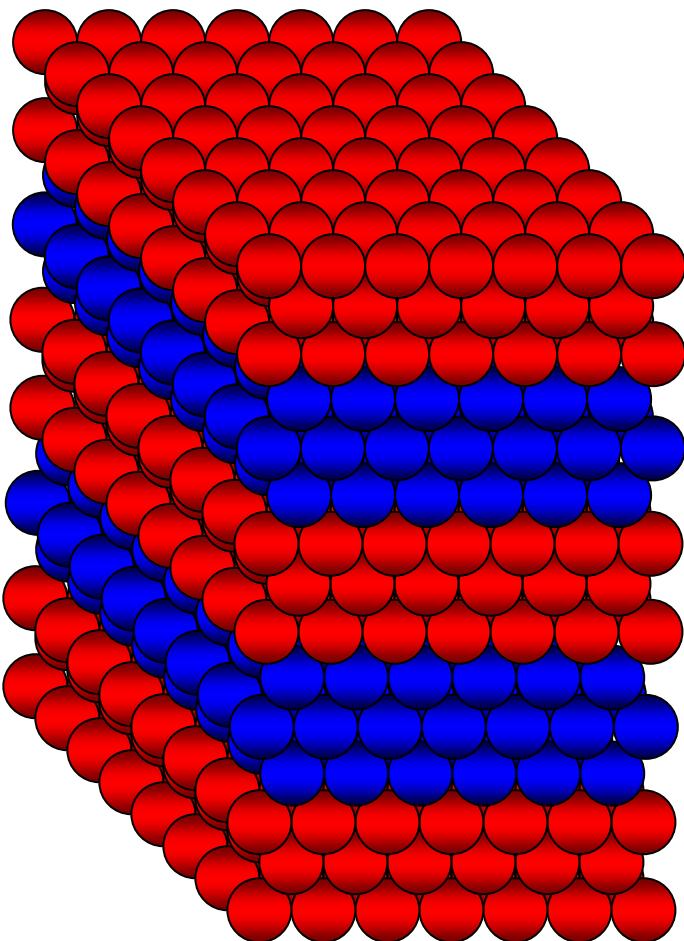
Fe

Cr

Fe

P. Grünberg, 1986 → antiferromagnetic interlayer coupling

- Magnetic multilayers



Magnetizations of
Fe layers in an
applied field
in Fe/Cr multilayers

Fe

Cr

Fe

Cr

Fe

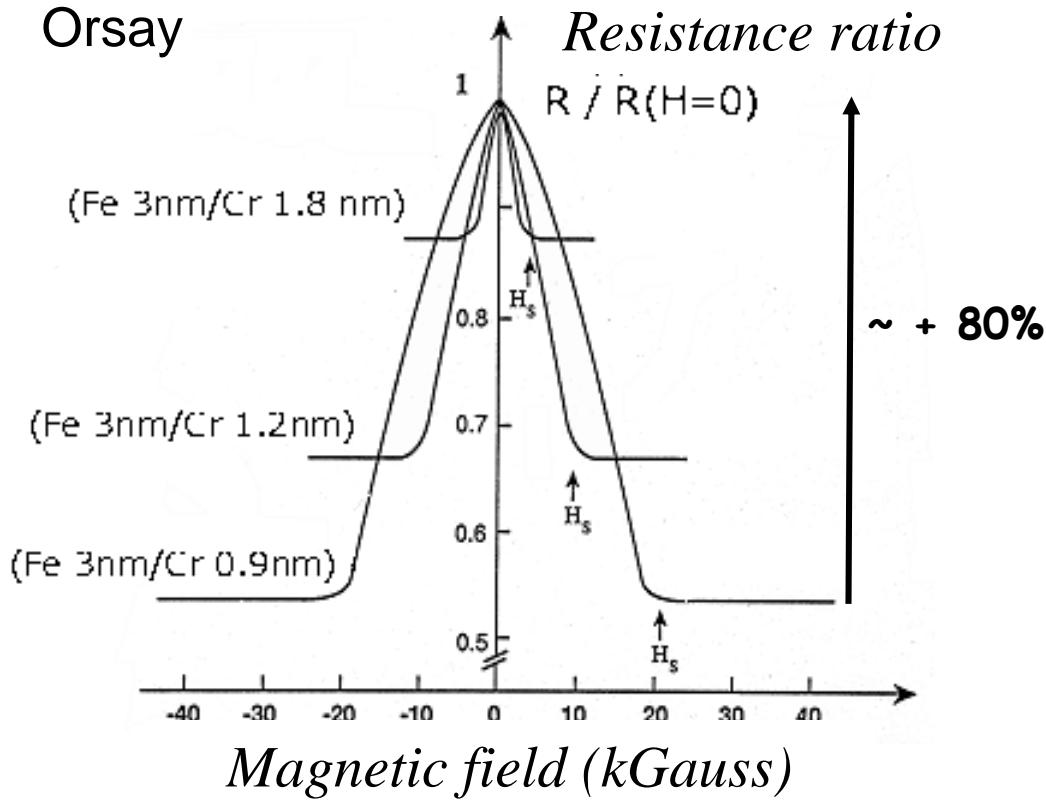


P. Grünberg, 1986 → antiferromagnetic interlayer coupling

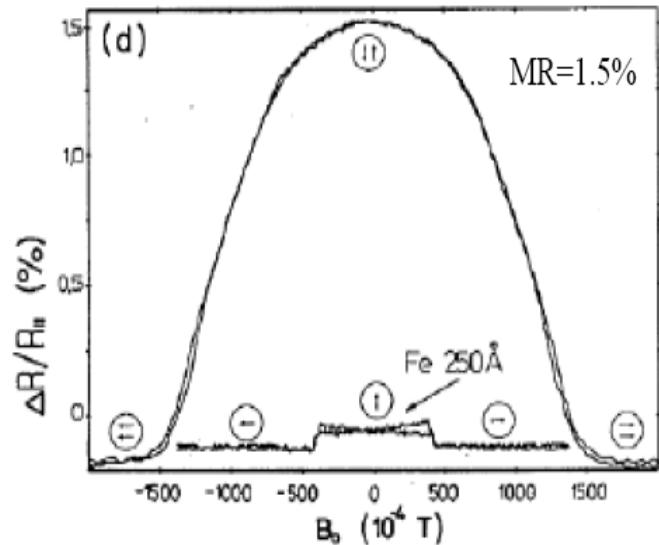
• Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR)

(Orsay, 1988, Fe/Cr multilayers, Jülich, 1989, Fe/Cr/Fe trilayers)

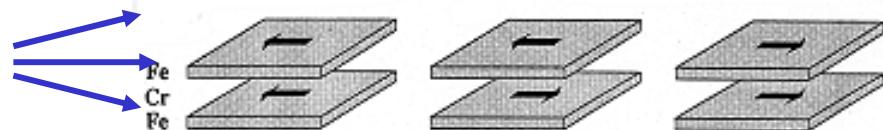
Orsay



Jülich

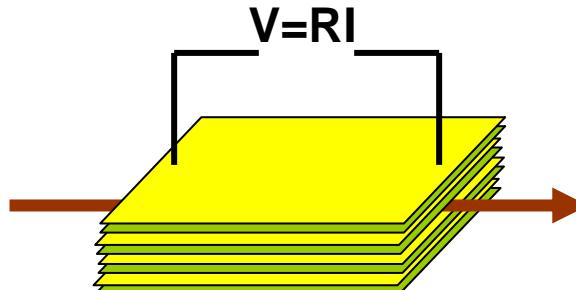


$Magnetic field (kGauss)$



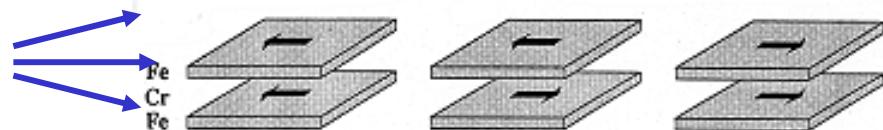
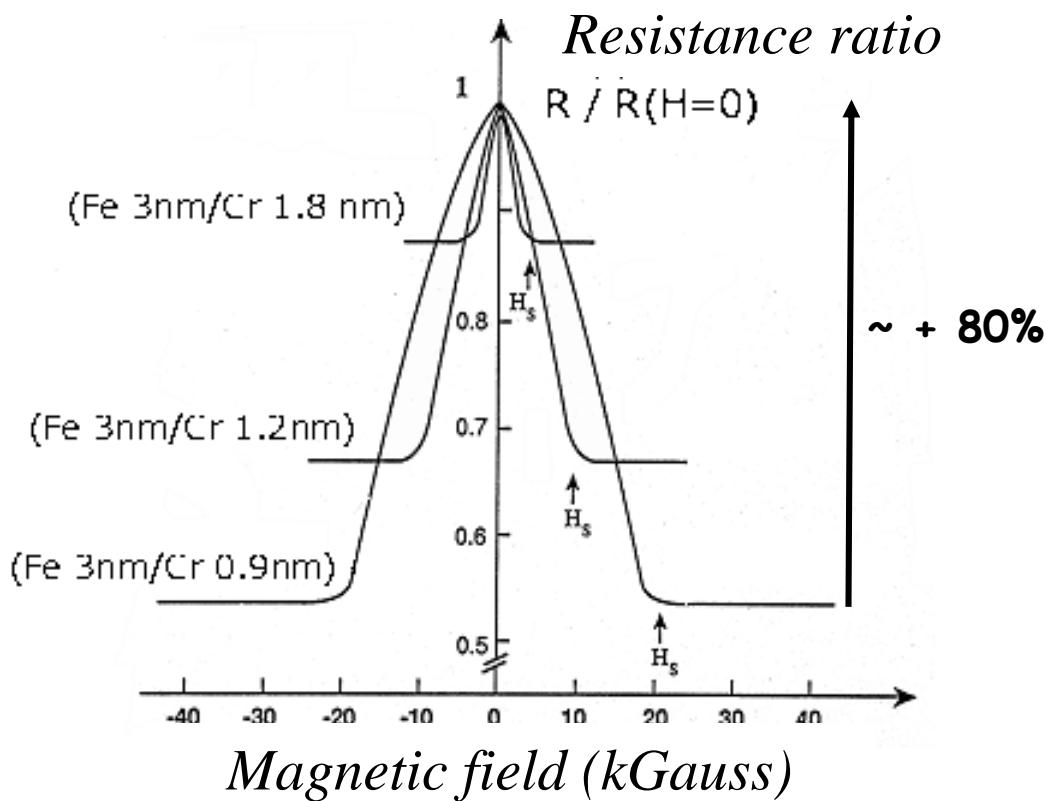
Current

AP (AntiParallel) **P** (Parallel)



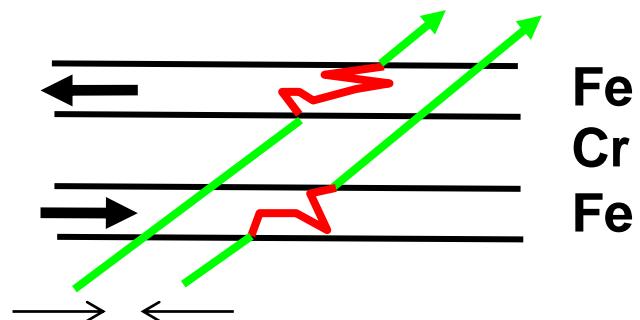
• Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR)

(Orsay, 1988, Fe/Cr multilayers, Jülich, 1989, Fe/Cr/Fe trilayers)

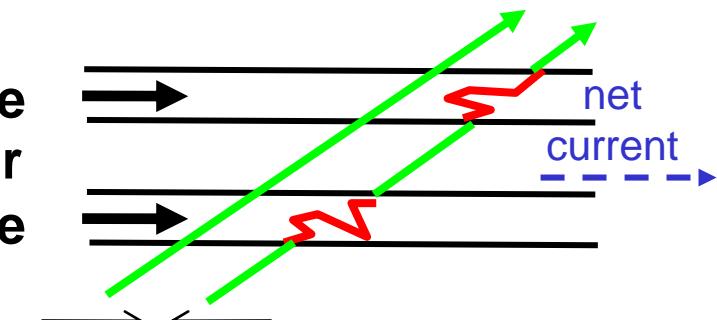


AP (AntiParallel) **P** (Parallel)

**Anti-parallel magnetizations
(zero field, high resistance)**

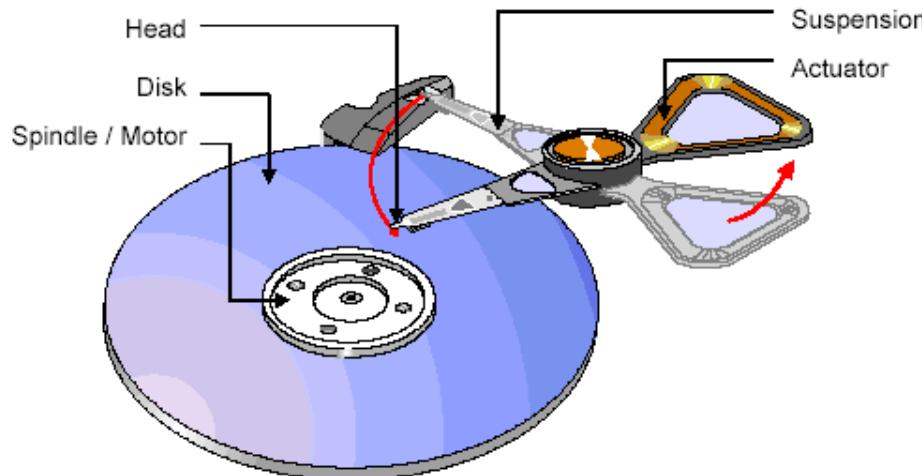


**Parallel magnetizations
(appl. field, low resist.)**

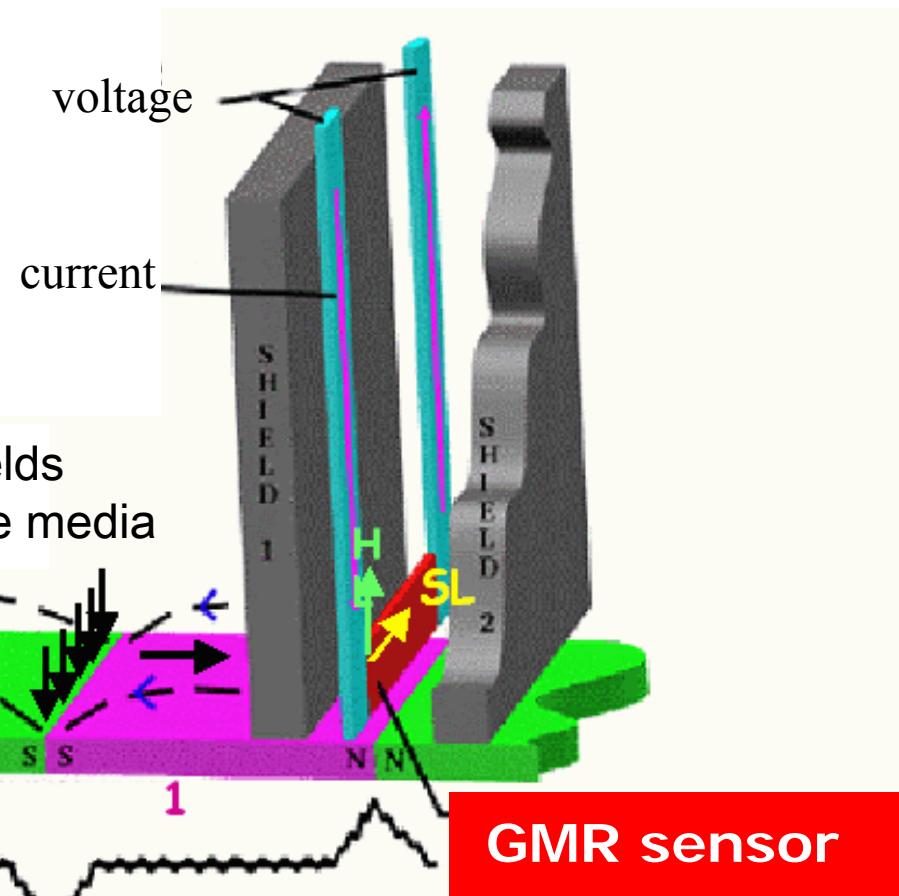


**Condition for GMR:
layer thickness \approx nm**

The Magnetic Recording System



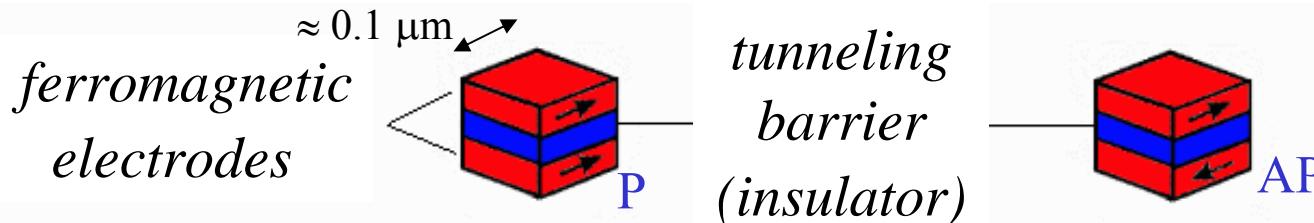
Read head of hard disc drive



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

Recent review :
« The emergence
of spintronics in
data storage »
Chappert, AF et al
Nat. Mat.(Nov.07)

• Magnetic Tunnel Junctions, Tunneling Magnetoresistance (TMR)



Jullière, 1975,
low T, hardly
reproducible

Low resistance state

High resistance state

Moodera et al, 1995, Miyasaki et al, 1995, CoFe/Al₂O₃/Co, MR $\approx 30\text{-}40\%$

CoFeB/MgO/CoFeB,

$\Delta R/R \approx 500\%$ at RT in 2006-2007

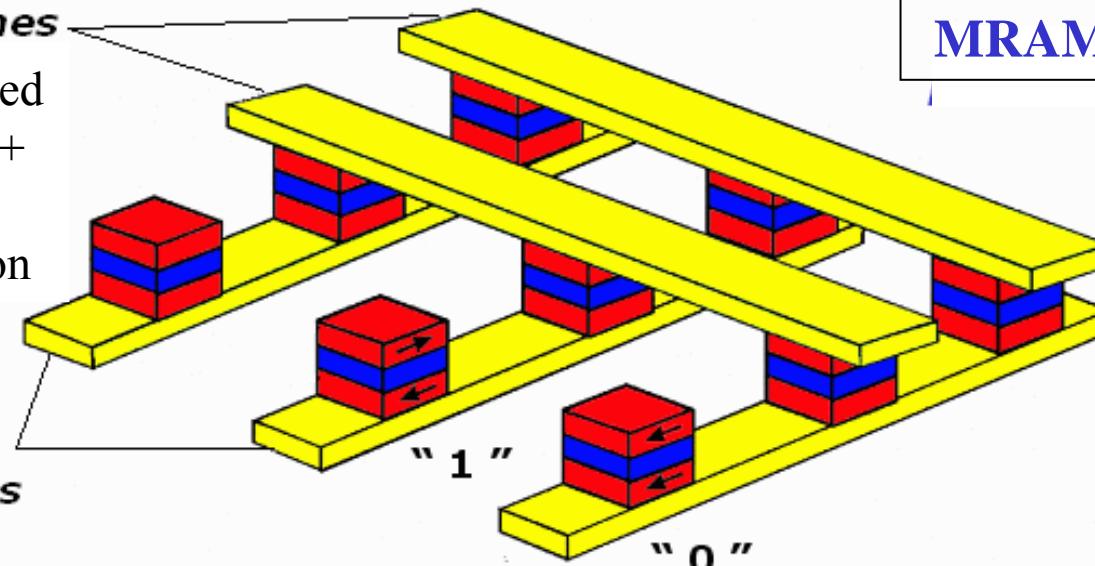
Applications: - read heads of Hard Disc Drive

- M-RAM (Magnetic Random Access Memory) and STT-RAM

"bit" lines

aims: density/speed
of DRAM/SRAM +
nonvolatility + low
energy consumption

"word" lines



MRAM (2006, Freescale)

STT-RAM (in
demonstration)

with MgO
tunnel junctions

+ writing by
spin transfer

Epitaxial magnetic tunnel junctions (MgO, etc)

First examples on Fe/MgO/Fe(001):

CNRS/Thales (Bowen, AF et al, APL2001)

Nancy (Faure-Vincent et al, APL 2003)

Tsukuba (Yuasa et al, Nature Mat. 2005)

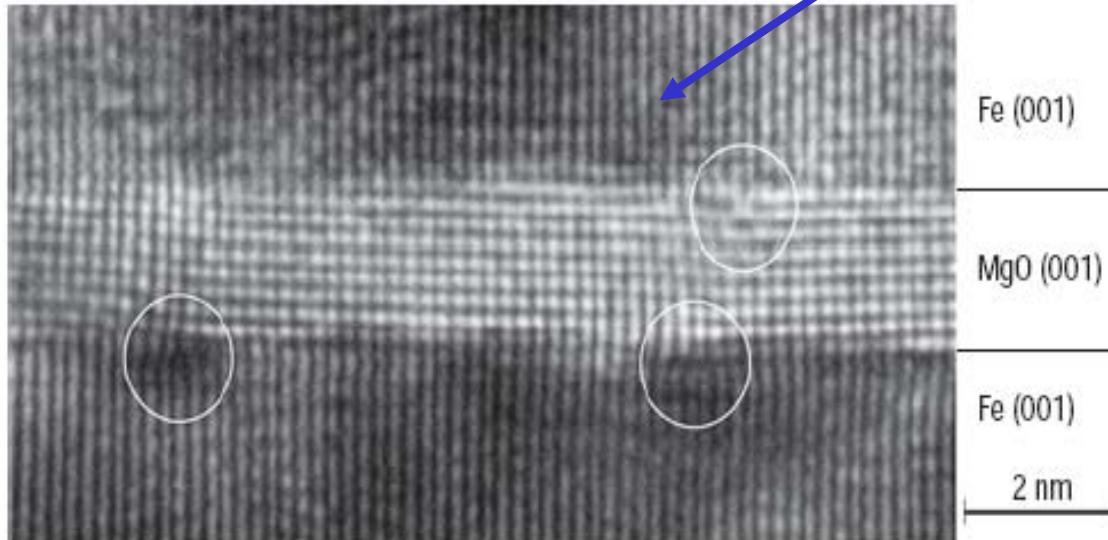
IBM (Parkin et al, Nature Mat. 2005)

....etc

Yuasa et al, Fe/MgO/Fe

Nature Mat. 2005

$$\Delta R/R = (R_{AP} - R_p) / R_p \approx 200\% \text{ at RT}$$



2006-2007

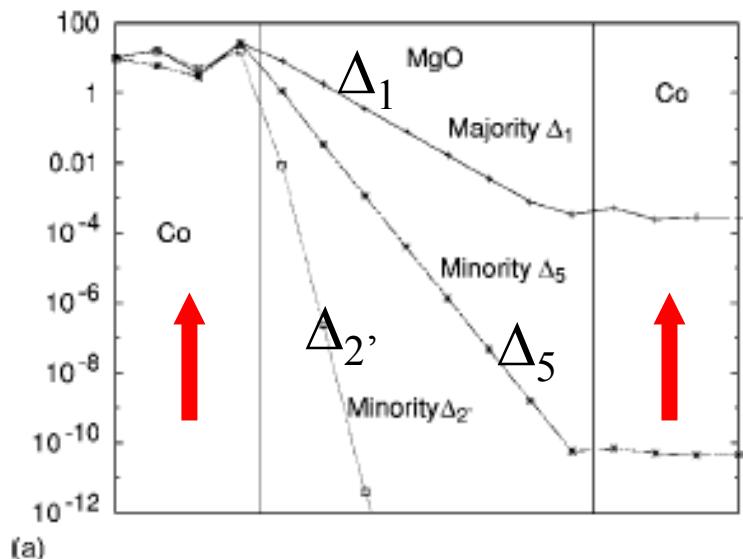
CoFeB/MgO/CoFeB,

$\Delta R/R \approx 500\%$ at RT in several laboratories in 2006-2007

+

**Clearer picture of the physics of TMR:
what is inside the word « spin polarization »?**

P



AP

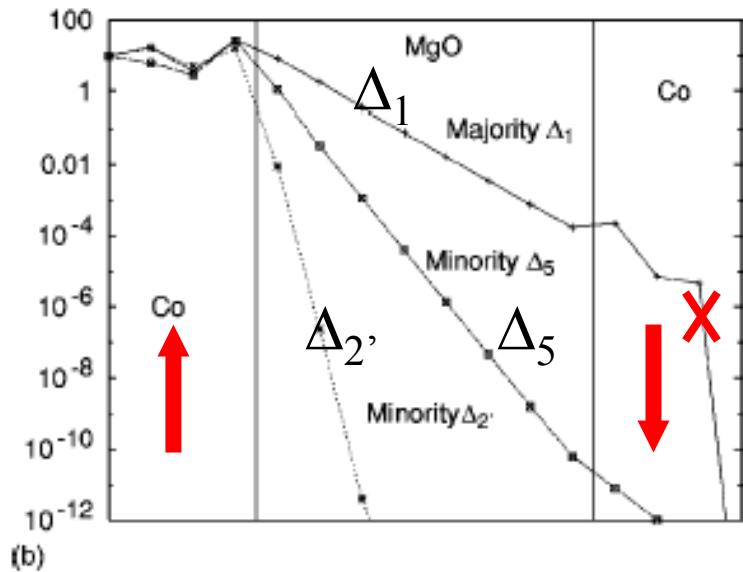
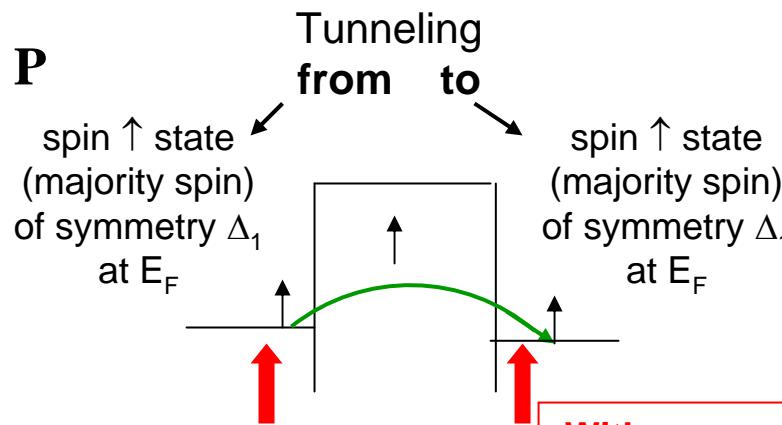


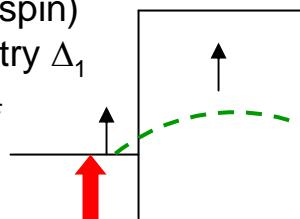
FIG. 2. Tunneling density of states on each atomic layer at $k_{\parallel}=0$ for the Co/MgO/Co tunnel junction. Top panel: parallel spin alignment, bottom panel: antiparallel spin alignment

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)]



AP

spin \uparrow state (majority spin) of symmetry Δ_1 at E_F



With reversed M in the right electrode, spin \uparrow corresponds to a minority spin band state without Δ_1 character at E_F in which the tunneling Δ_1 el. cannot be accommodated

Spin Transfer

(magnetic switching, microwave generation)

Spintronics with semiconductors

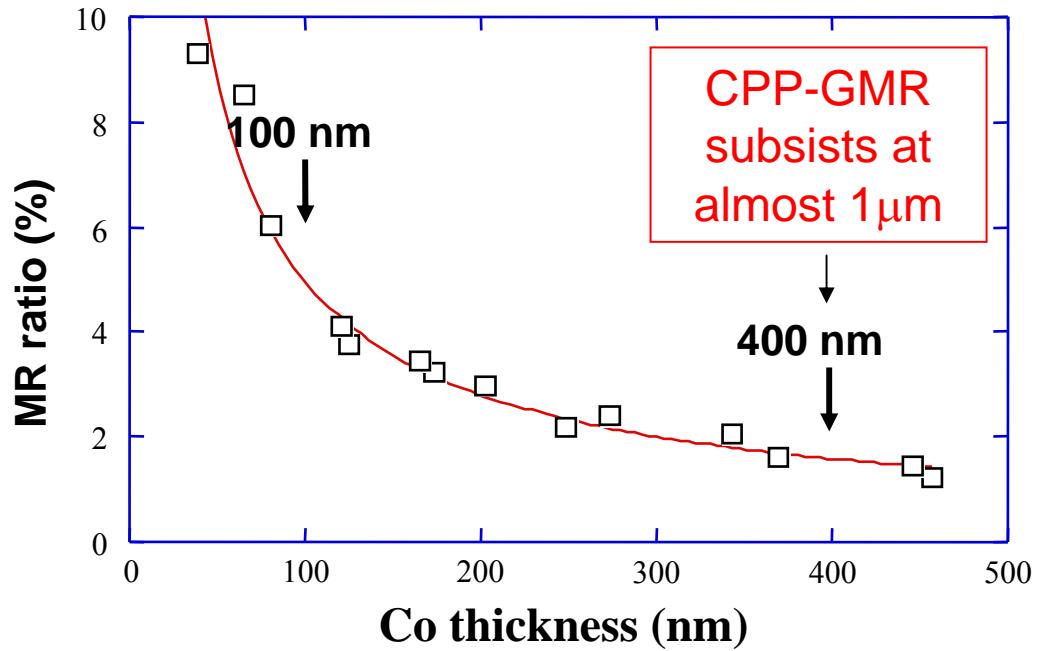
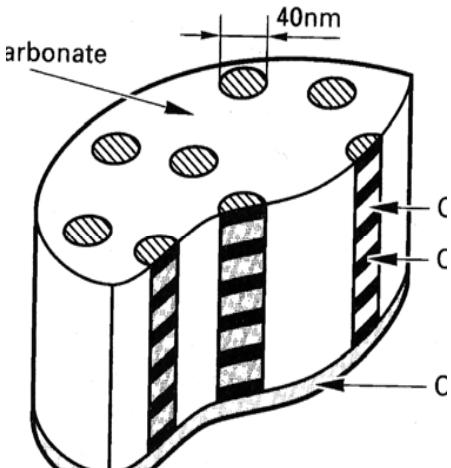
Spintronics with molecules

Common physics:
spin accumulation



**spins injected to long distances
by diffusion**

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

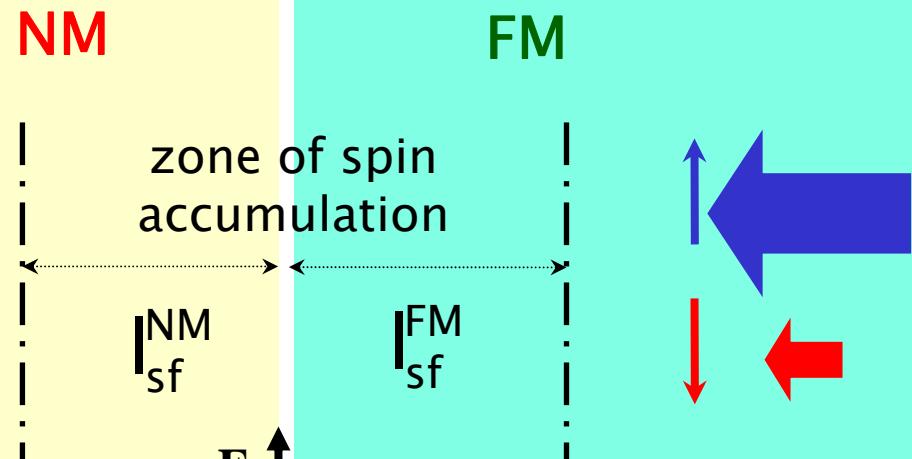


CIP-GMR
scaling length = mean free path

CPP-GMR
scaling length = spin diffusion length
>> mean free path
spin accumulation theory
(Valet-Fert, PR B 1993)

Other results: MSU group, PRL 1991, JMMM 1999

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)

$|_{sf}^{FM}$ = spin diffusion length in FM

$|_{sf}^{NM}$ = spin diffusion length in NM
(example: 0.5 μm in Cu,
 $>10\mu\text{m}$ in carbon nanotube)

Spin accumulation

$$\Delta\mu = E_{F\uparrow} - E_{F\downarrow}$$

$E_{F\uparrow}$ = spin \uparrow chemical potential

$$E_{F\uparrow} - E_{F\downarrow} \sim \exp(z / |_{sf}^{FM}) \text{ in FM}$$

Spin current

$$= J_\uparrow - J_\downarrow$$

$E_{F\downarrow}$ = spin \downarrow chemical potential

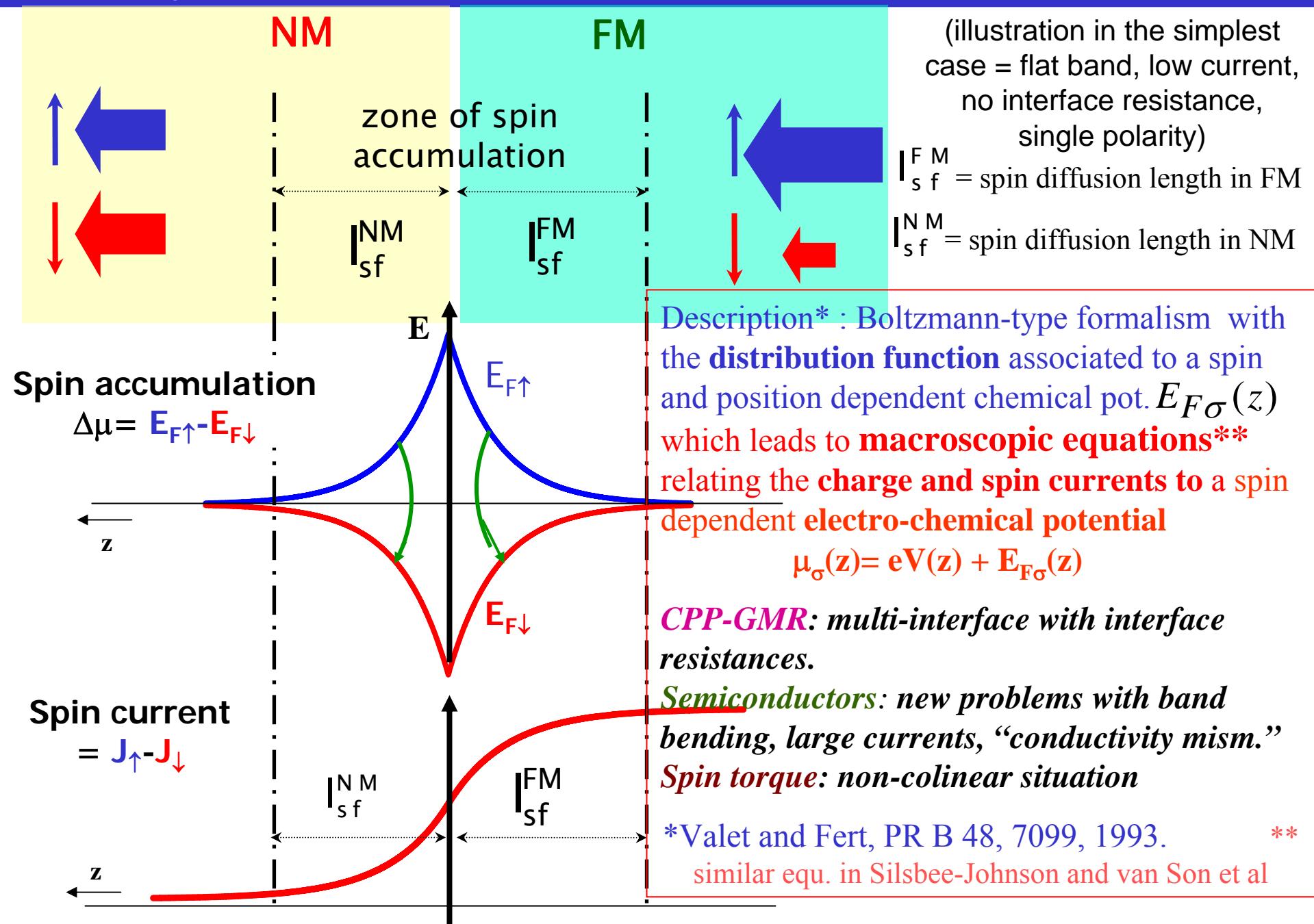
$$E_{F\uparrow} - E_{F\downarrow} \sim \exp(-z / |_{sf}^{NM}) \text{ in NM}$$

z

$|_{sf}^{NM}$ $|_{sf}^{FM}$

$$\frac{J_\uparrow - J_\downarrow}{J_\uparrow + J_\downarrow} = \text{current spin polarization}$$

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



Spin injection/extraction at a Semiconductor/FM interface

NM = metal or semiconductor

zone of spin accumulation

NM_{sf}

FM

FM_{sf}

1) situation without interface resistance
(``conductivity mismatch'')
(Schmidt et al, PR B 2000)

Semiconductor/ F metal

If similar spin splitting on both sides but much larger density of states in F metal

much larger spin accumulation density

and much more spin flips

on magnetic metal side

Spin accumulation

$$\Delta\mu = E_{F\uparrow} - E_{F\downarrow}$$

z

$$E$$

$$E_{F\uparrow}$$

$$E_{F\downarrow}$$

Spin current

$$= J_\uparrow - J_\downarrow$$

z

NM = metal

NM_{sf}

FM_{sf}

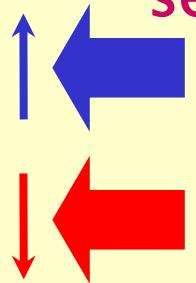
NM =
semiconductor

almost complete depolarization of
the current before it enters the SC

Spin injection/extraction at a Semiconductor/FM interface

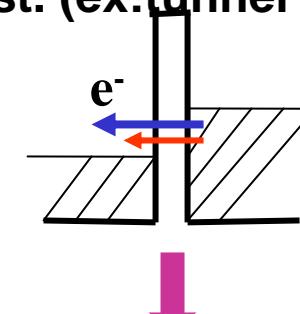
NM =

semiconductor



FM

**spin dependent. interf.
resist. (ex:tunnel barrier)**



Spin dependent drop of the electro-chemical potential

Discontinuity increases the spin accumulation in NM

re-balanced spin relaxations in F and NM

extension of the spin-polarized current into the semiconductor

Z

Spin accumulation

$$\Delta\mu = E_{F\uparrow} - E_{F\downarrow}$$

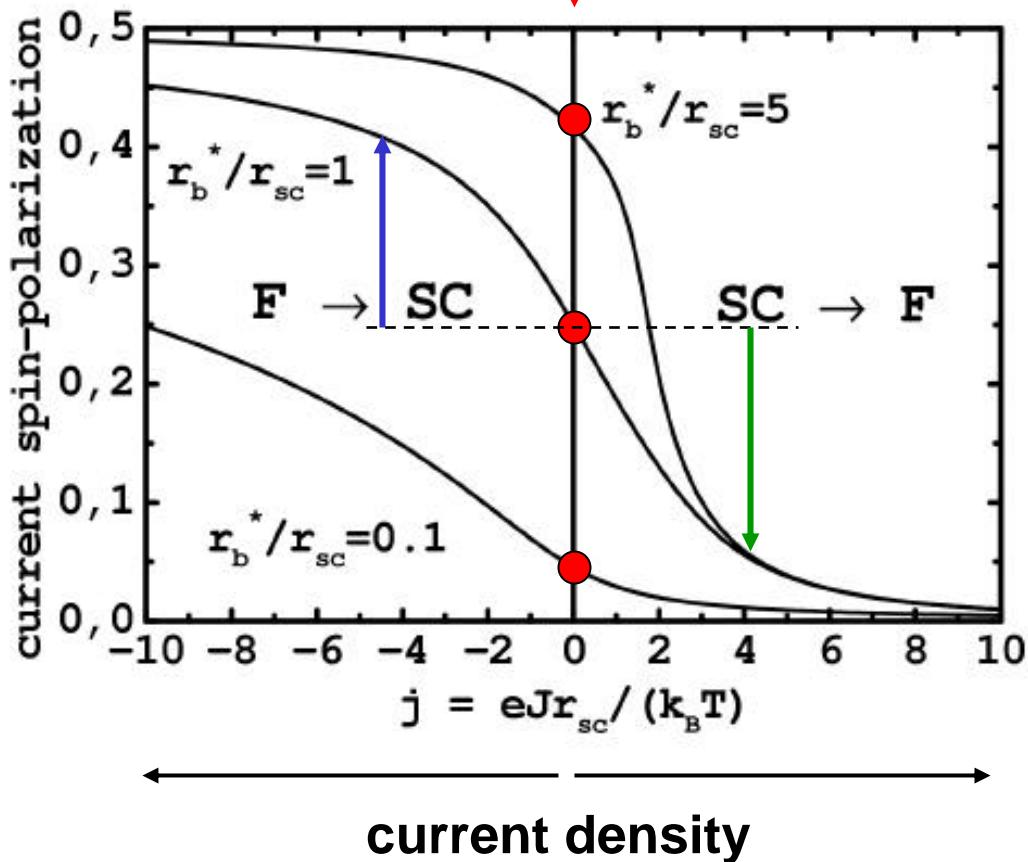
Current Spin Polarization $(J_{\uparrow} - J_{\downarrow}) / (J_{\uparrow} + J_{\downarrow})$

$$r_b^* \gg r_N$$

$$r_b^* \approx r_N = \rho_N l_{sf}^N$$

Deviations from $\frac{J_{\uparrow}-J_{\downarrow}}{J_{\uparrow}+J_{\downarrow}} = \frac{\beta r_F + \gamma r_b^*}{r_F + r_N + r_b^*}$ at large current density (drift effect)

● = low current limit



= deviations from
the low current limit
(nondegenerate
semiconductor)

from Jaffr  s and A.F.
(see also Yu and Flatt  )

Spin transfer

(transport of magnetization by an electrical current)

- fundamentals

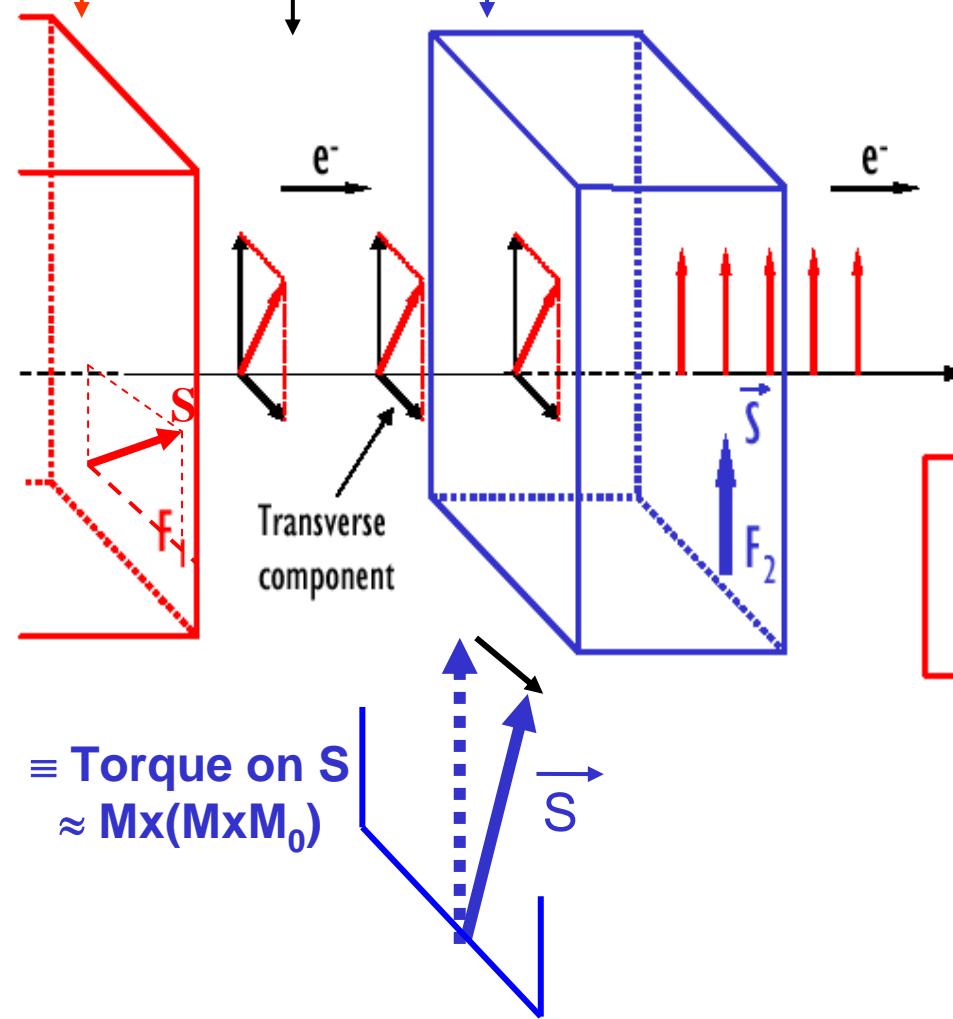
- switching of magnetization by spin transfer and applications (STT-RAM, reprogrammable devices)

- microwave oscillations by spin transfer and applications to telecommunications.s

Spin transfer

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

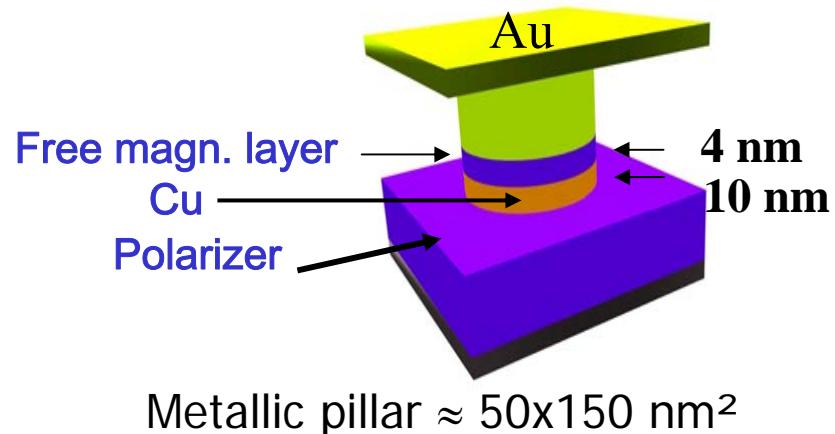
Ex:Cobalt/Copper/ Cobalt



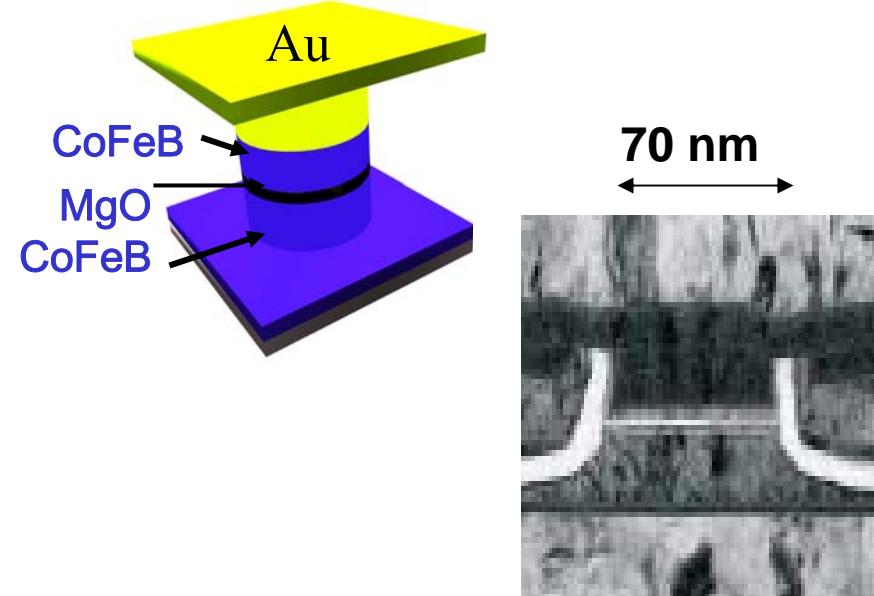
The transverse component of the spin current is absorbed and transferred to the total spin of the layer

$$\frac{\text{torque}}{\hbar} = \left(\frac{d \vec{S}}{dt} \right)_i = \text{absorbed transverse spin current} \propto j M \times (M \times M_0)$$

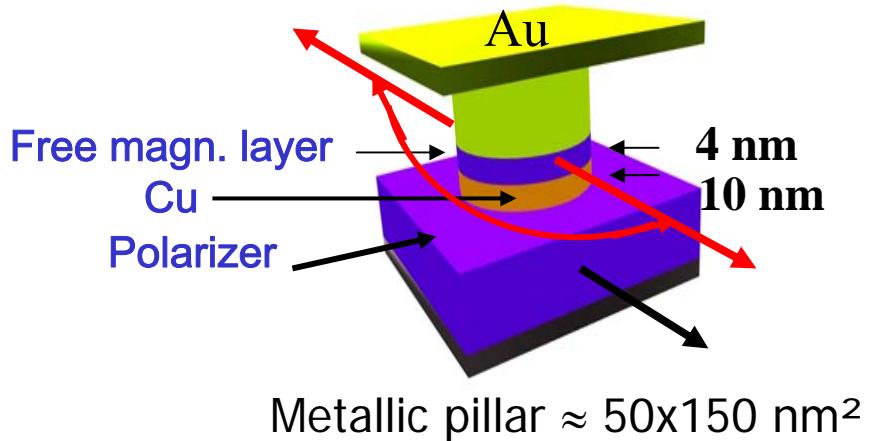
Trilayered pillar or tunnel junction



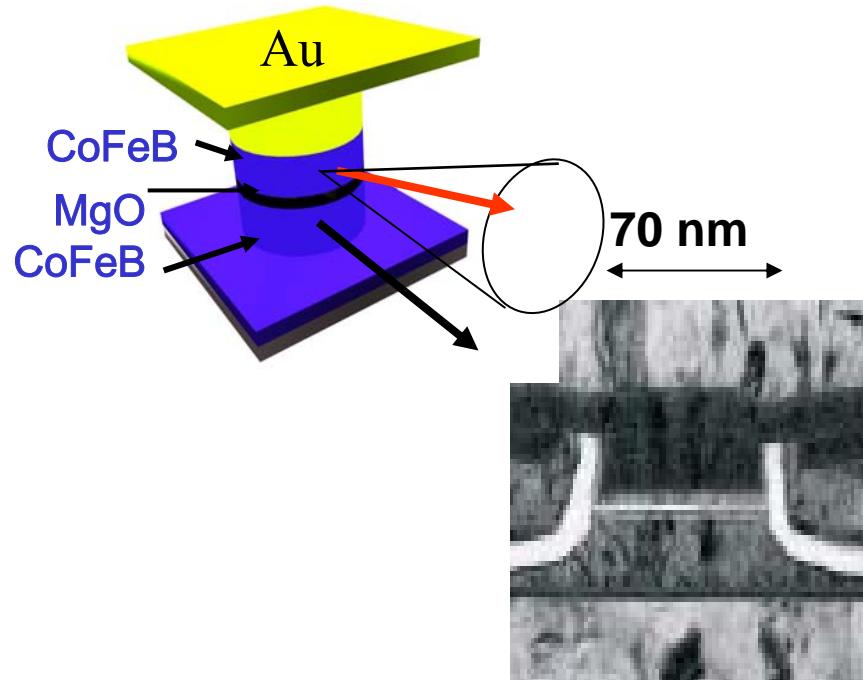
Tunnel junction $\approx 50 \times 170 \text{ nm}^2$



Trilayered pillar or tunnel junction

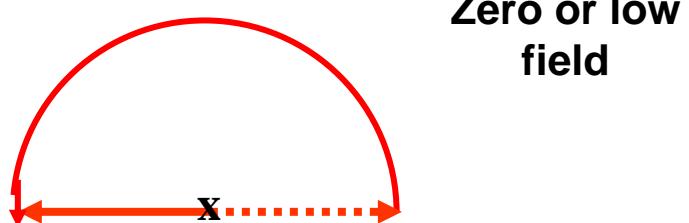


Tunnel junction $\approx 50 \times 170 \text{ nm}^2$



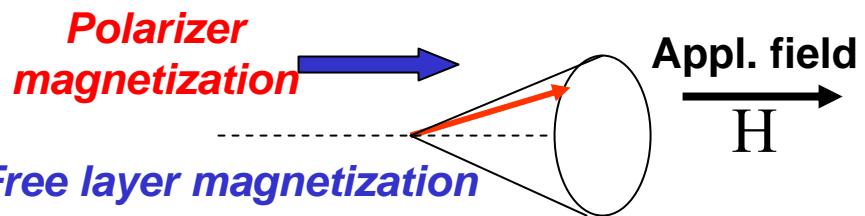
Two regimes of spin transfer

1) Magnetization switching by spin transfer



Applications: writing a memory, etc

2) Sustained precession of the magnetization of the free layer and generation of radio-frequency oscillations



Applications: spin transfer nano-oscillators (NSTOs) for communications (telephone, radio, radar)

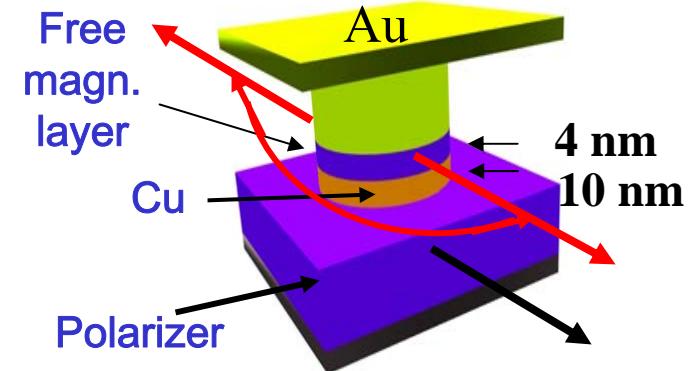
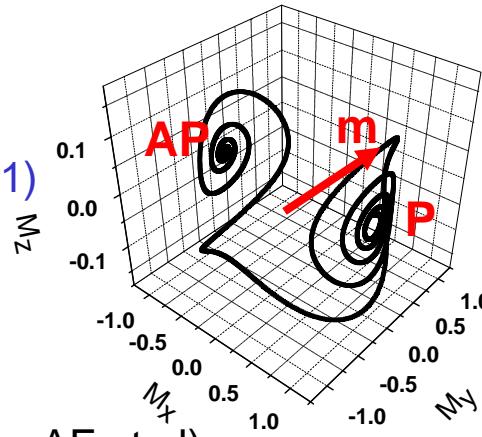
Regime of irreversible magnetic switching

First experiments on pillars:

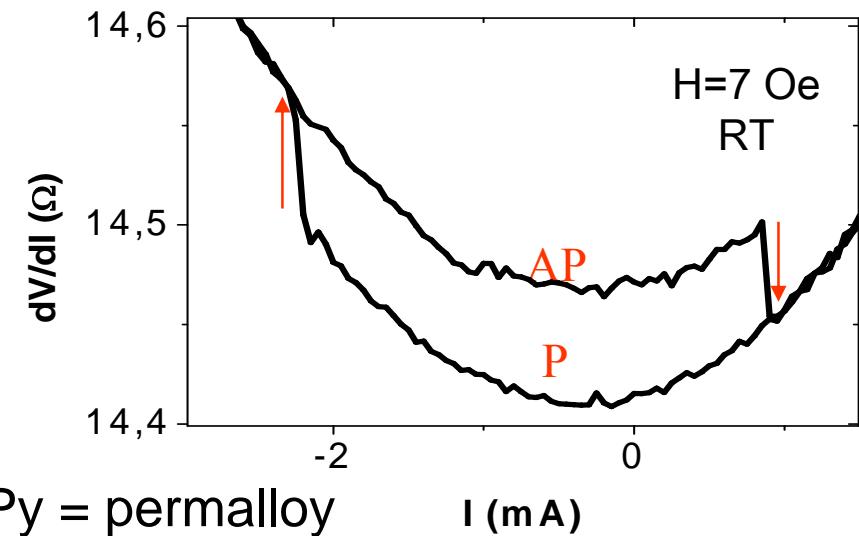
Cornell (Kanine et al, PRL 2000)

CNRS/Thales (Grollier et al, APL 2001)

IBM (Sun et al, APL 2002)



Py/Cu/Py 50nmX150nm (Boule, AF et al)

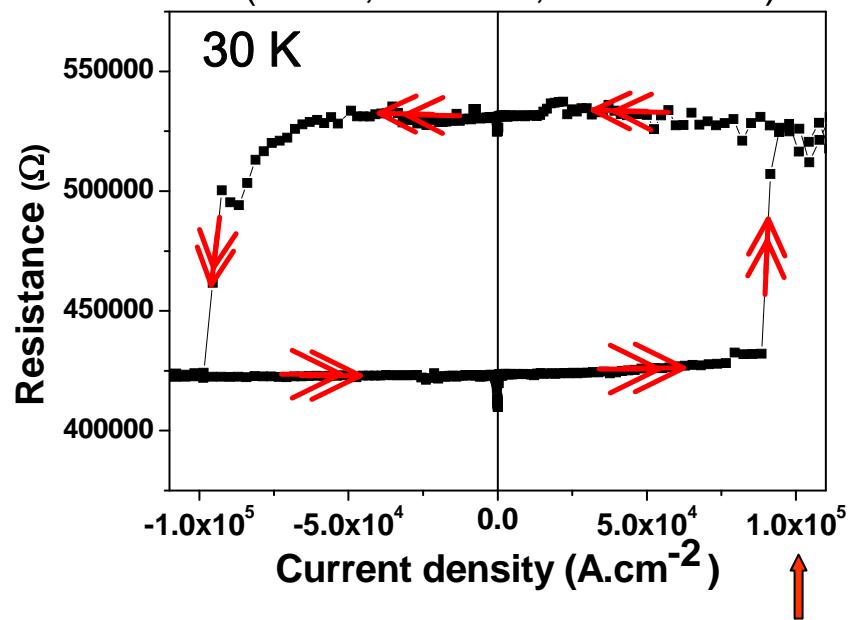


Py = permalloy

typical switching current $\approx 10^7 \text{ A/cm}^2$

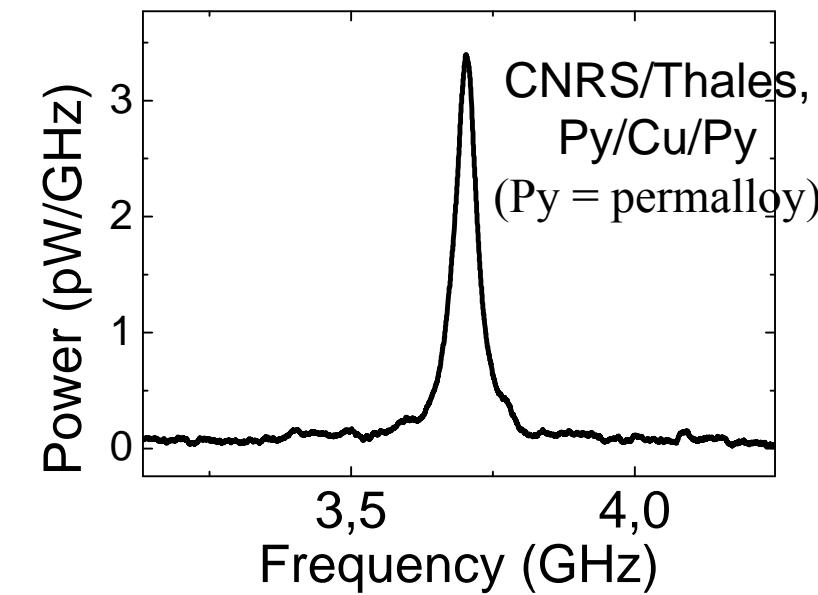
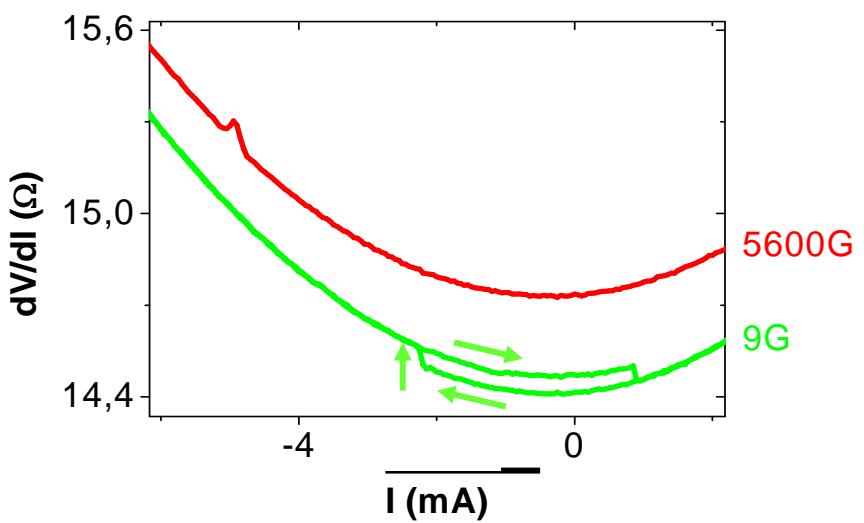
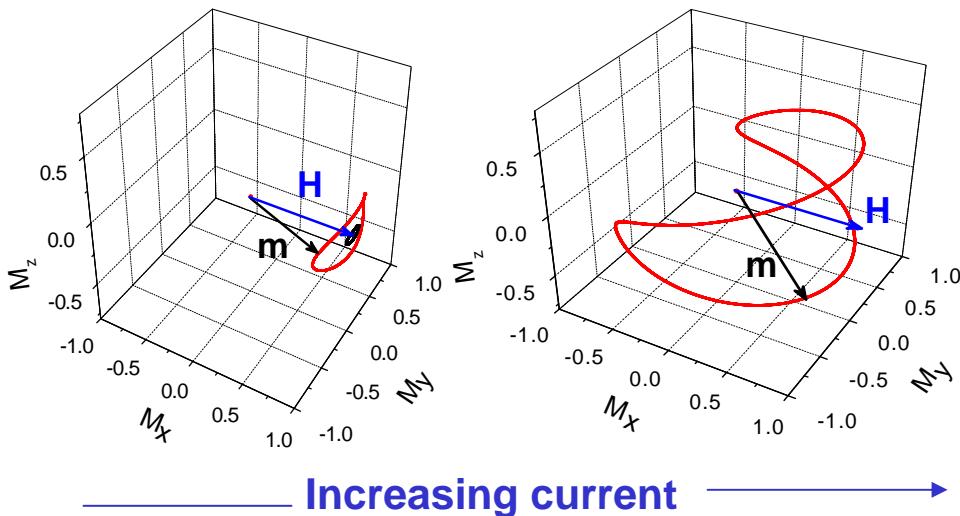
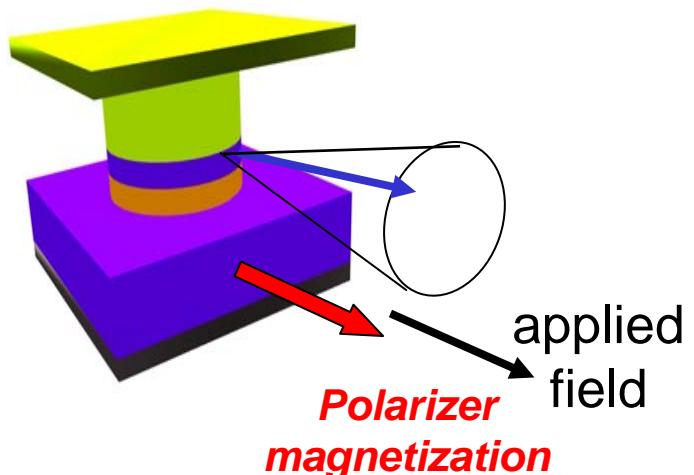
switching time can be as short as 0.1 ns (Chappert et al)

GaMnAs/InGaAs/GaMnAs tunnel junction ($MR=150\%$)
(Elsen, AF et al, PR B 2006)



$1 \times 10^5 \text{ A/cm}^2$

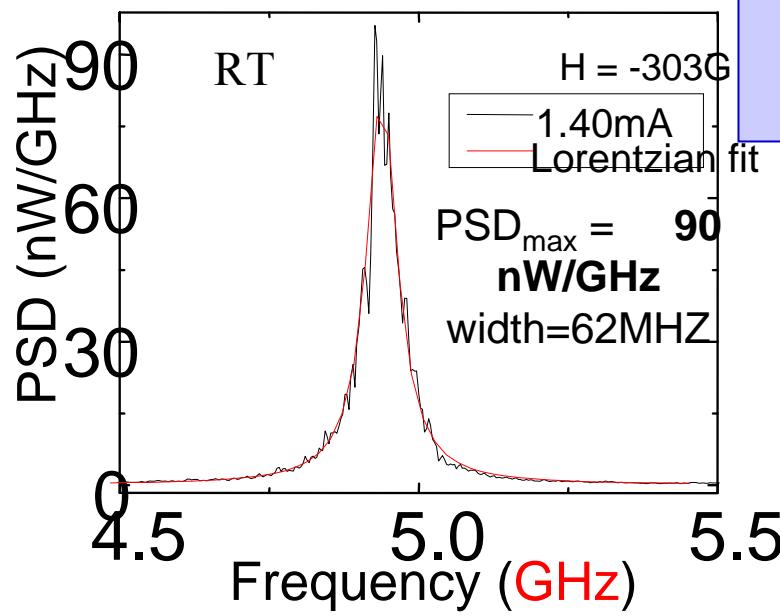
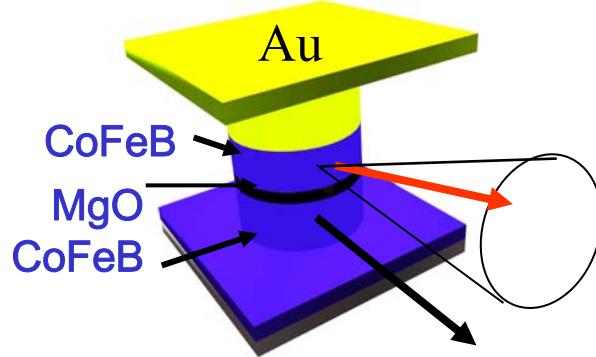
Regime of steady precession (microwave frequency range)



Microwave power spectrum of the oscillations of a permalloy-based pillar

Regime of steady precession for tunnel junctions

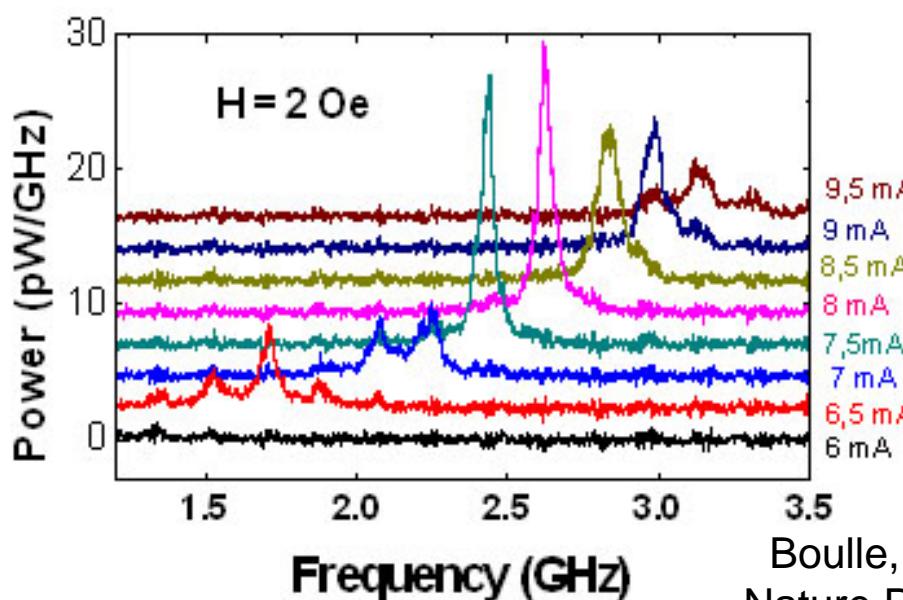
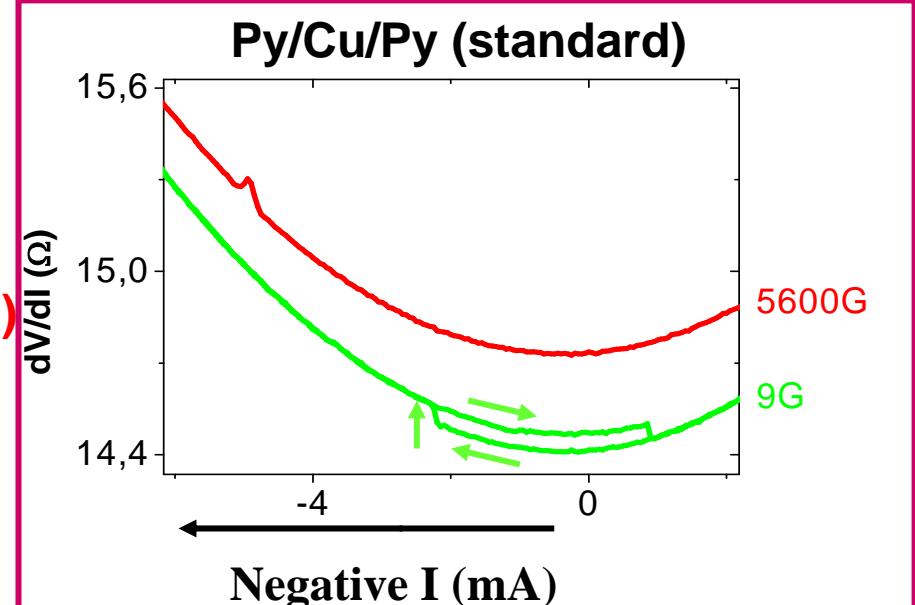
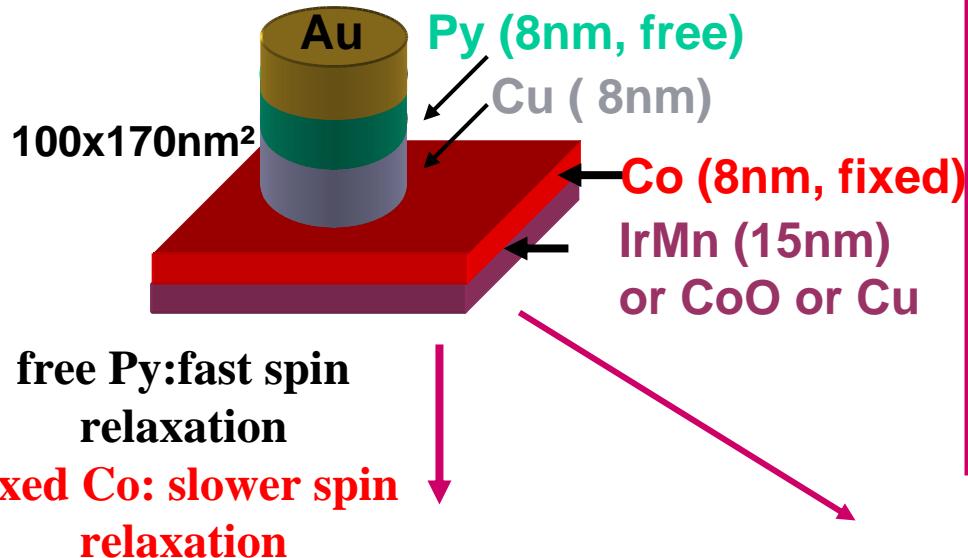
Tunnel junction $\approx 50 \times 170 \text{ nm}^2$



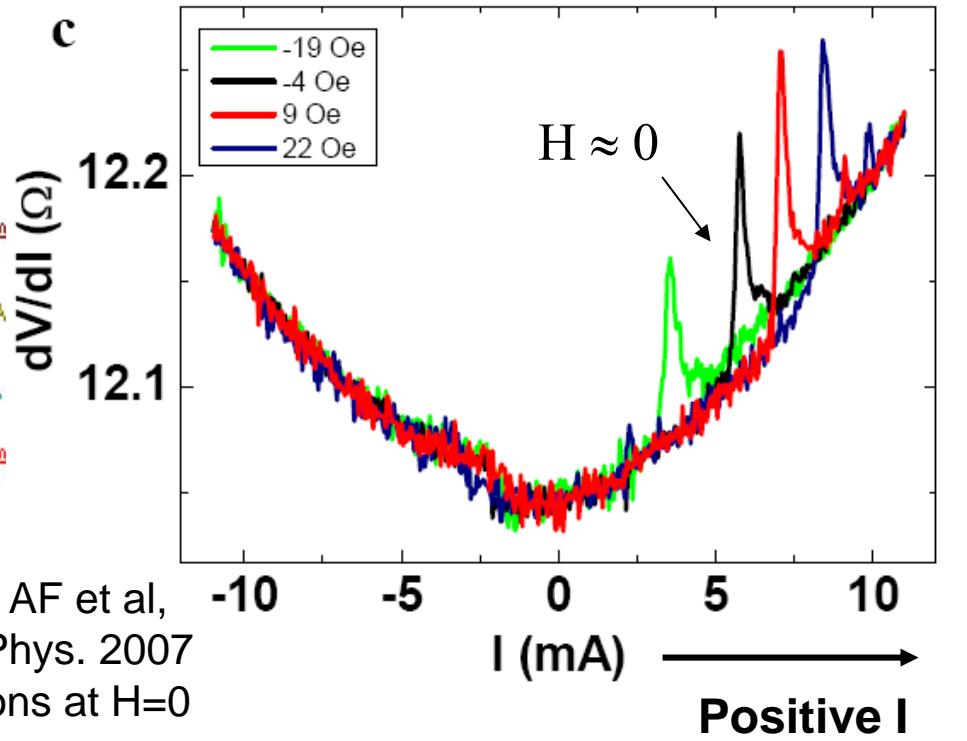
Spin Transfer mixes very different (and interacting) problems:
transport (in metallic pillars, tunnel junctions, point contacts)
problems of non-linear dynamics
micromagnetism (non-uniform excitations, vortex motion..)

CoFeB/MgO/CoFeB junction (J.Grollier, AF et al 2008, collaboration S. Yuasa et al, AIST)

Co/Cu/Py (« wavy » angular variation
calculated by Barnas, AF et al, PR B 2005)



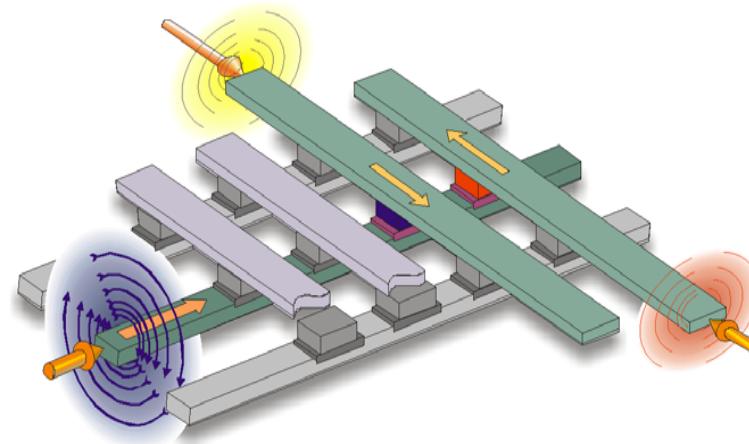
Boule, AF et al,
Nature Phys. 2007
oscillations at $H=0$



Applications of magnetic switching by spin transfer

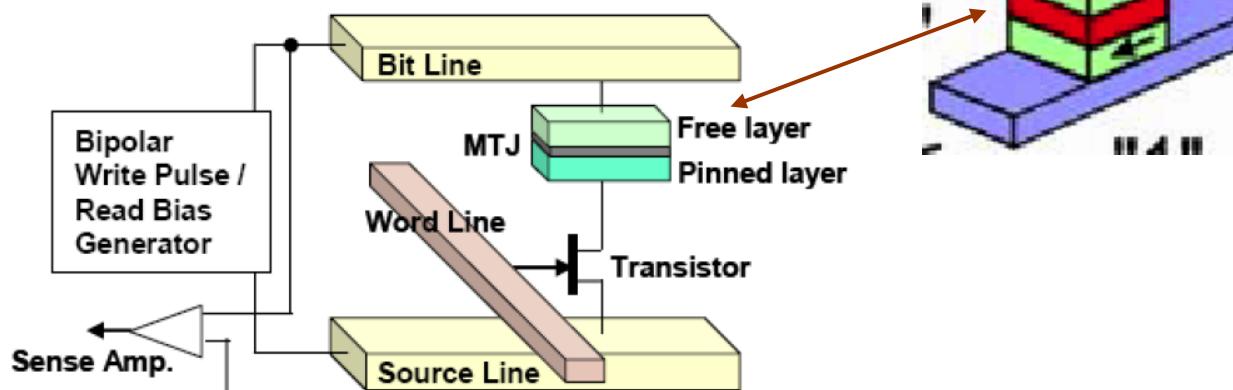
Switching of reprogrammable devices (example: STT-RAM)

To replace M-RAM (switching by external magnetic field : *nonlocal*, risk of « cross-talk » limiting integration, too large currents)



STT-RAM : «Electronic» reversal by spin transfer from an electrical current

Current pulse

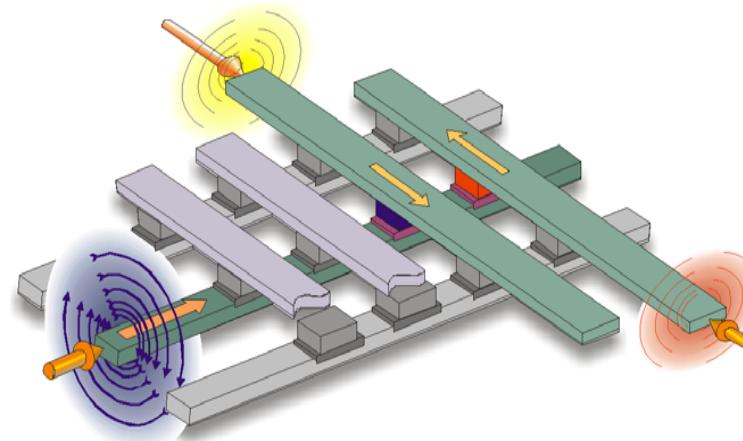


Source : SpinRAM SONY, IEEE 2005

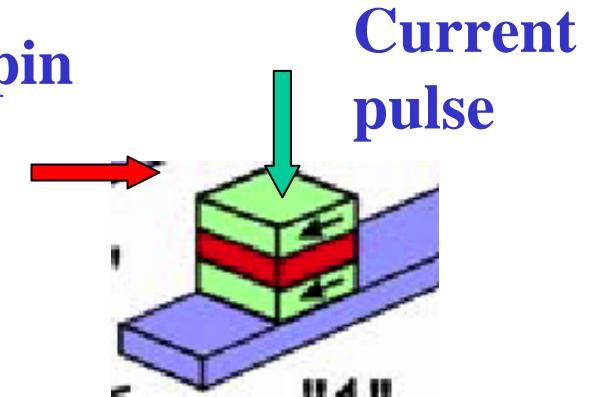
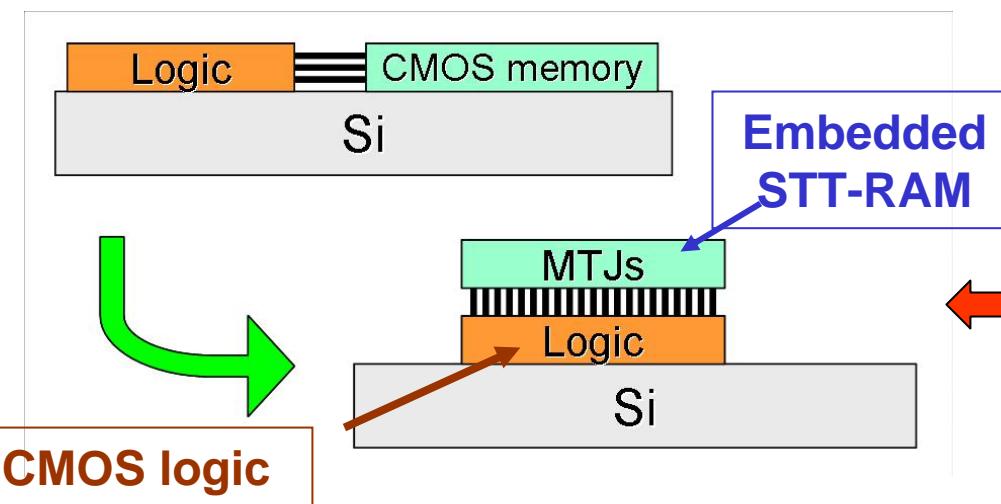
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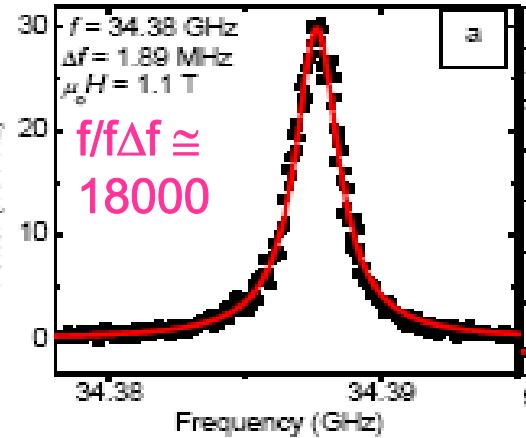


Non volatile FPGA Logic Circuits

Flash and SRAM would be replaced by a non volatile memory ($<10\text{F}^2$) embedded directly inside the look up table (Sony, IEEE Proc. 07)

Spin Transfer Oscillators (STOs)

(telecommunications, radar, chip to chip communication...)



Advantages:

- direct oscillation in the microwave range (0.5-40 GHz)
- agility: control of frequency by dc current amplitude
- high quality factor
- small size ($\approx 0.1\mu\text{m}$) (on-chip integration, chip to chip com., microwave assisted writing in HDD)

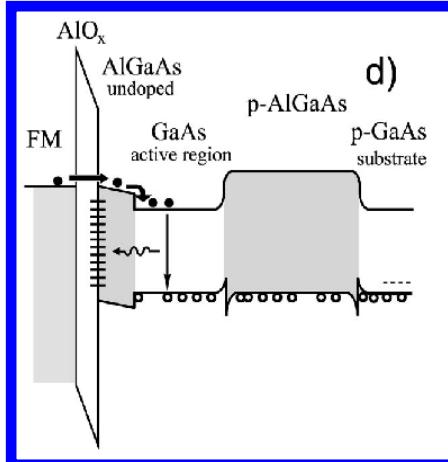
- Needed improvements
 - Increase of power by synchronization of a large number N of STOs ($\propto N^2$)
- Optimization of the emission linewidth

Spintronics with semiconductors and molecules

Spintronics with semiconductors

Magnetic metal/semiconductor hybrid structures

Example: spin injection from Fe into LED
(Mostnyi et al, PR. B 68, 2003)



Ferromagnetic semiconductors (FS)

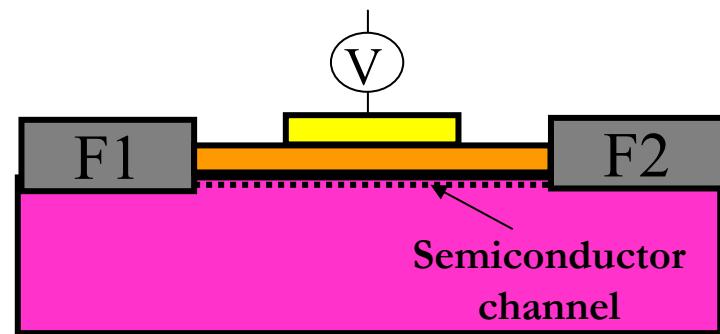
GaMnAs ($T_c \rightarrow 170K$) and R.T. FS

Electrical control of ferromagnetism

TMR, TAMR, spin transfer (GaMnAs)

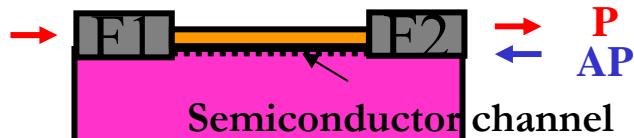
Field-induced metal/insulator transition

Logic devices, spin transistor ?



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:

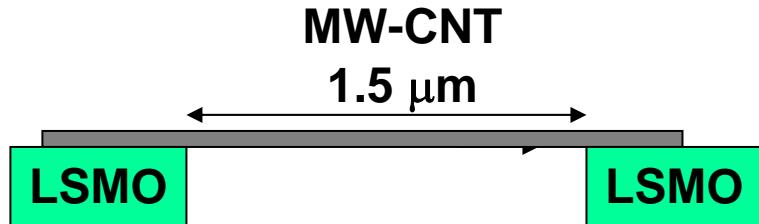
« Measured effects of the order of **0.1-1%** have been reported for the change in voltage or resistance (between P and AP).... », from the review article

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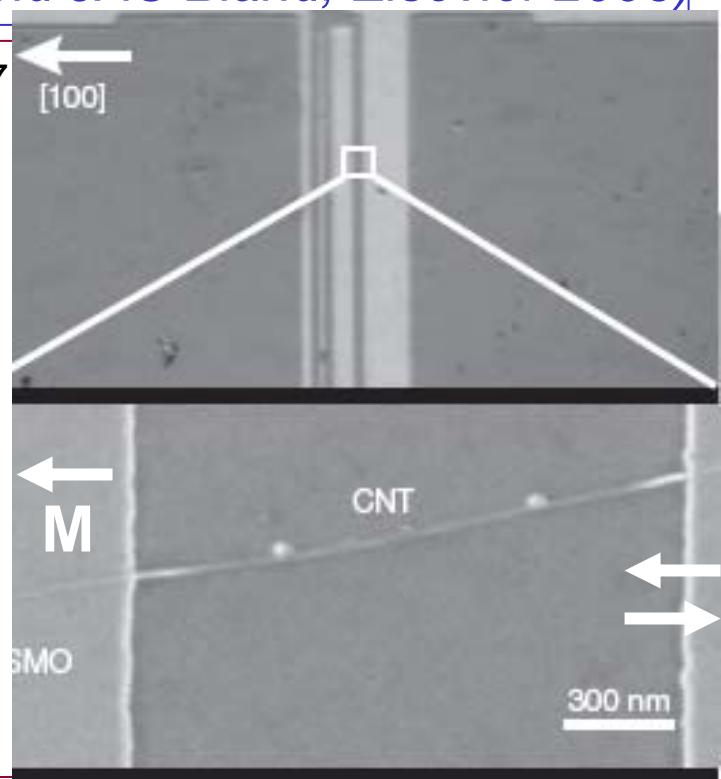
L.Hueso, N.D. Mathur,A.F. et al, Nature 445, 410, 2007

Carbon nanotubes:

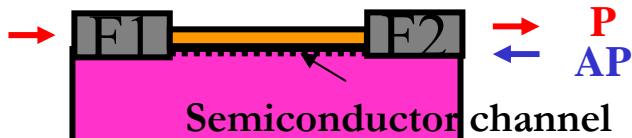
$$\Delta R/R \approx 60-70\%, V_{AP} - V_P \approx 20-60 \text{ mV}$$



LSMO = $\text{La}_{2/3}\text{Sr}_{1/3}\text{O}_3$



Nonmagnetic lateral channel between spin-polarized source and drain



Semiconductor channel:

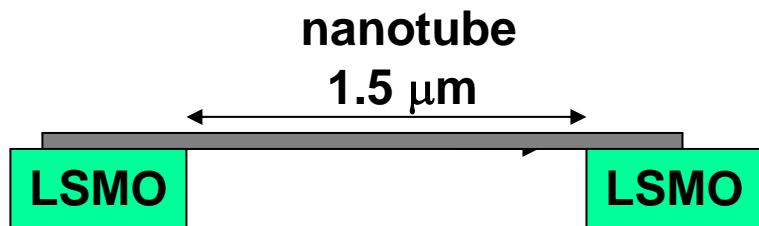
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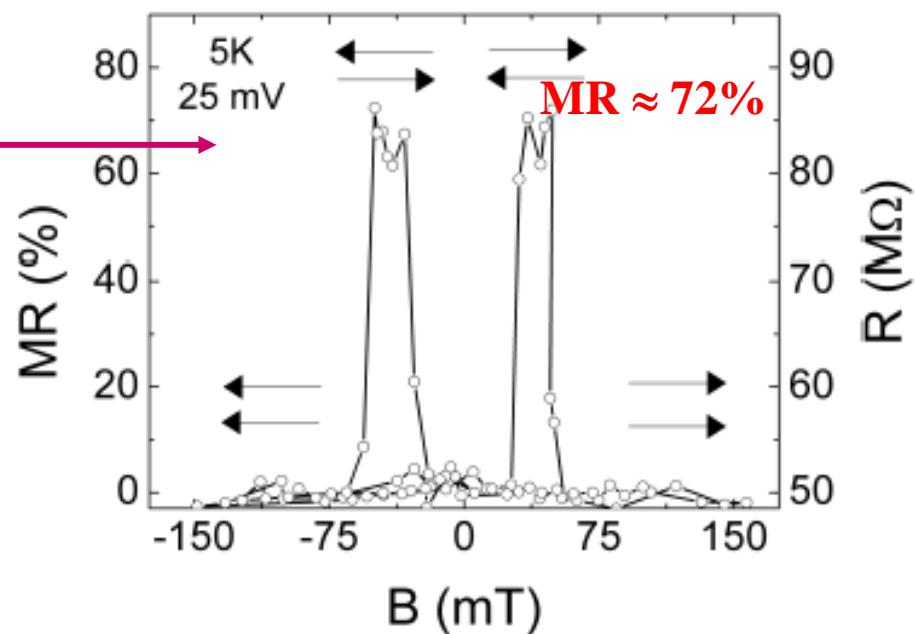
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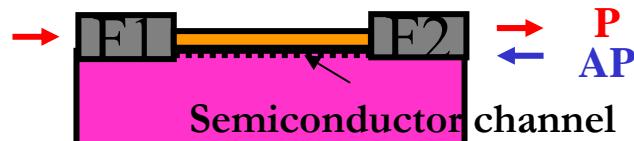
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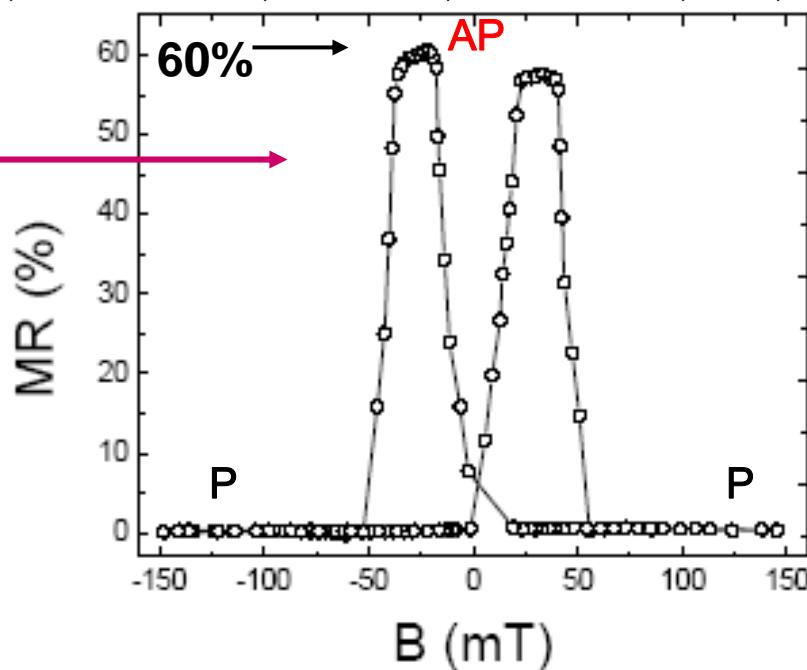
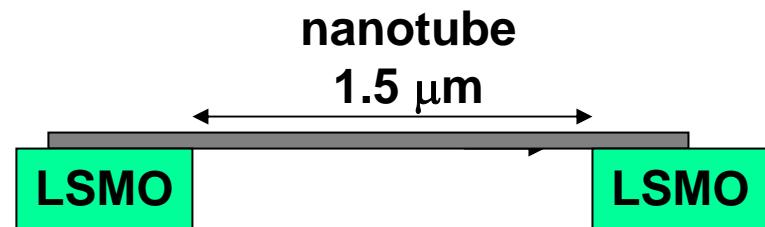
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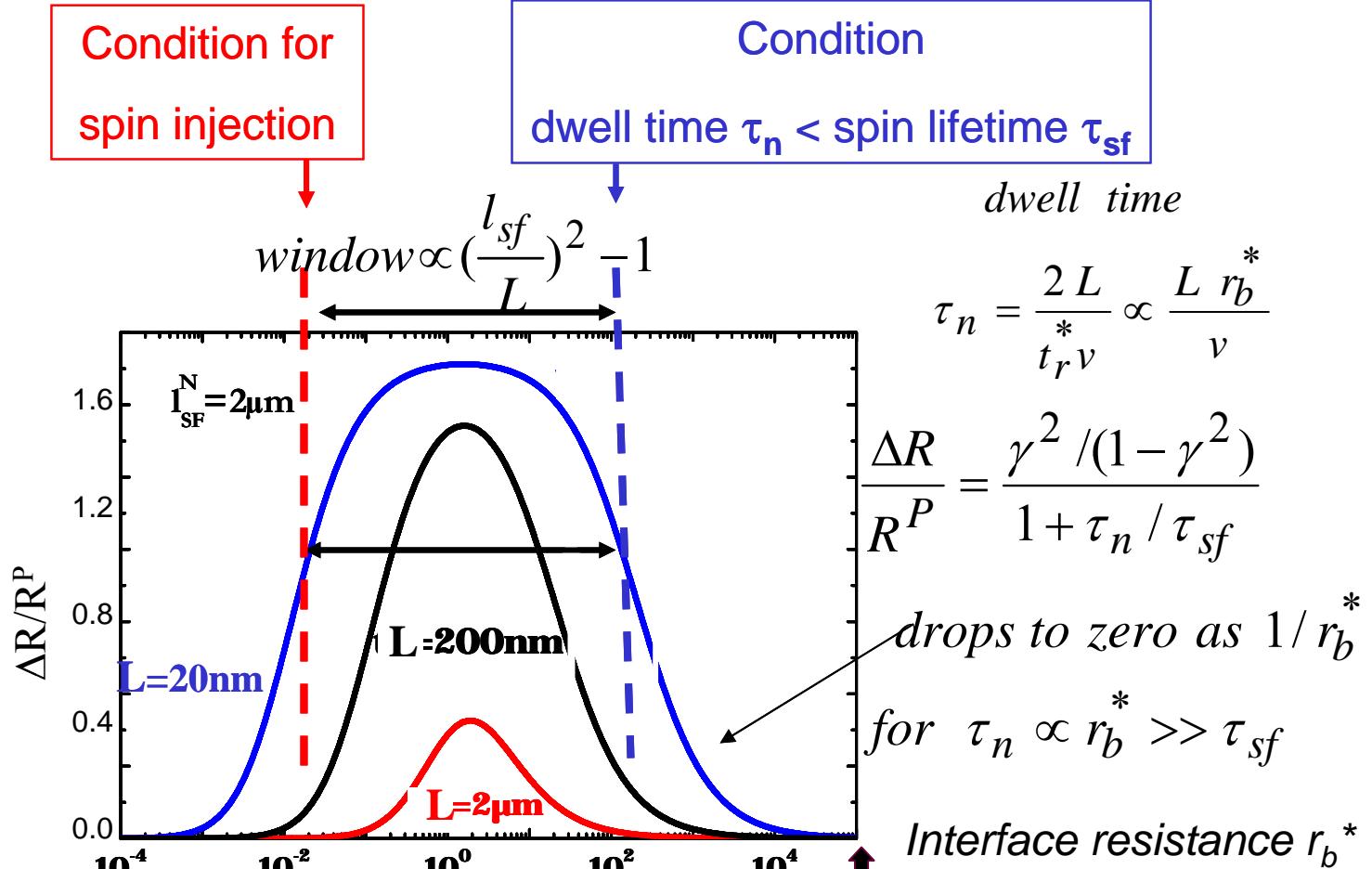
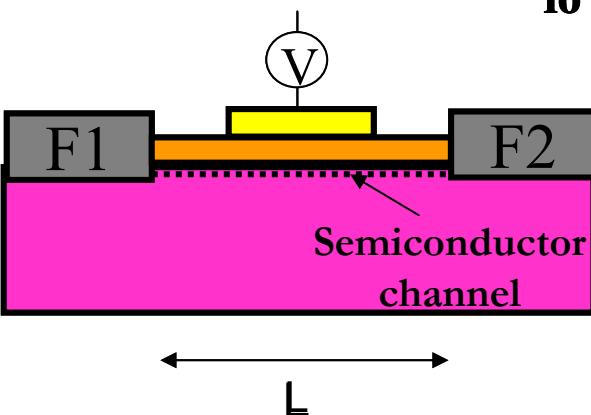
Carbon nanotubes:

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Two interface spin transport problem (diffusive regime)

AF and Jaffr  s
PR B 2001
+cond-mat
0612495, +
IEEE
Transactions.on
Electronic
Devices.
54,5,921,2007



r_b^* = unit area interface resist. $\propto 1/\text{trans.coeff } t_r^*$

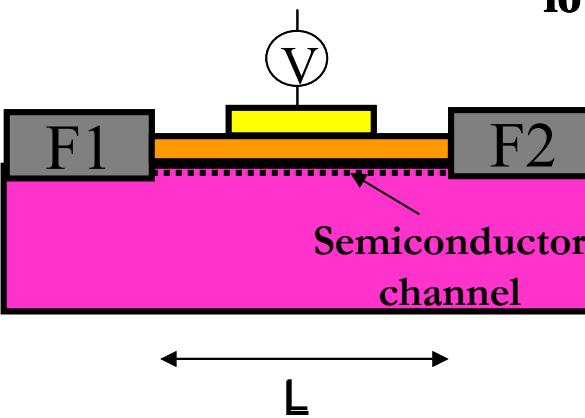
γ = spin asymmetry of the interface resistance (calc.with $\gamma = 0.8$)

$$r_N = \rho_N l_{sf}^N$$

Window only for $l_{sf}(N) > L$

Two interface spin transport problem (diffusive regime)

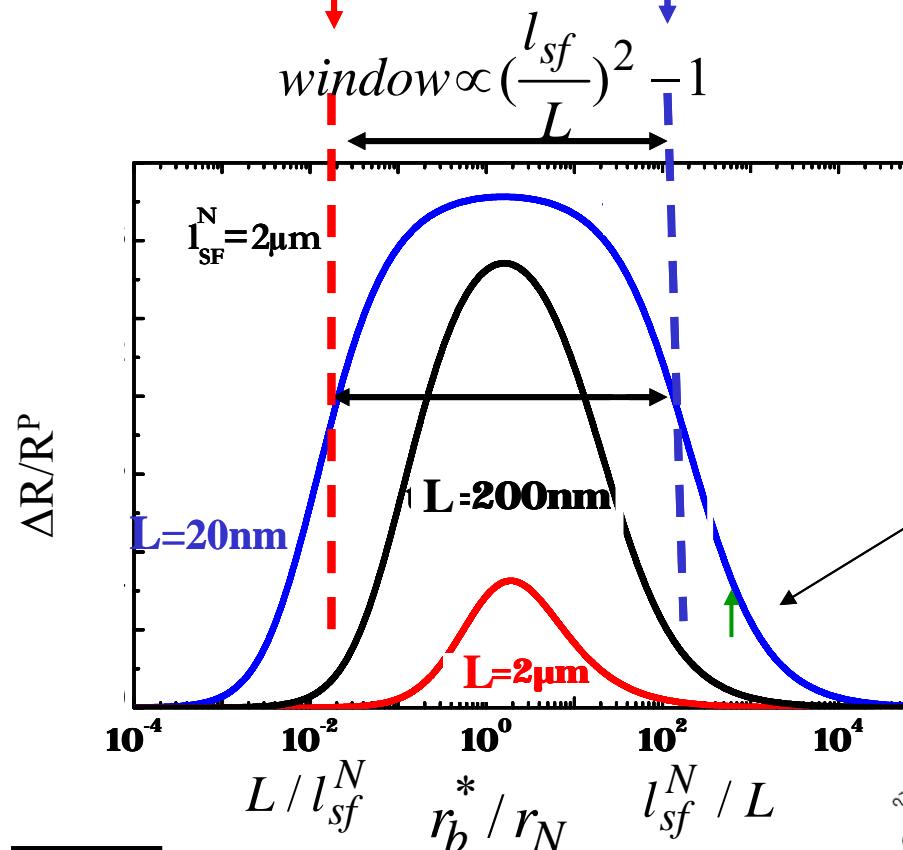
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PR B 2001*
+cond-mat
0612495, +
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54,5,921,2007
*calculation. for
Co and GaAs
at RT



Condition for
spin injection

Condition

dwell time $\tau_n <$ spin lifetime τ_{sf}



Min, Motihashi, Lodder and Jansen,

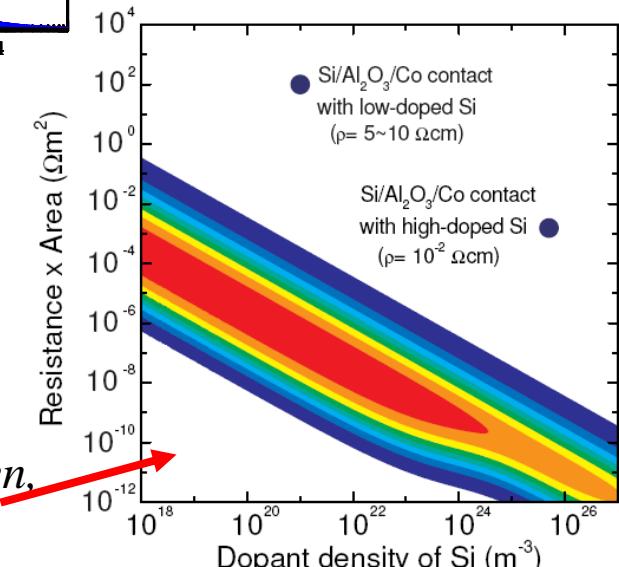
Nature Mat. 5, 817, 2006

Window only for $l_{sf}(N) > L$

$$\text{dwell time} \quad \tau_n = \frac{2L}{t_r^* v} \propto \frac{L r_b^*}{v}$$

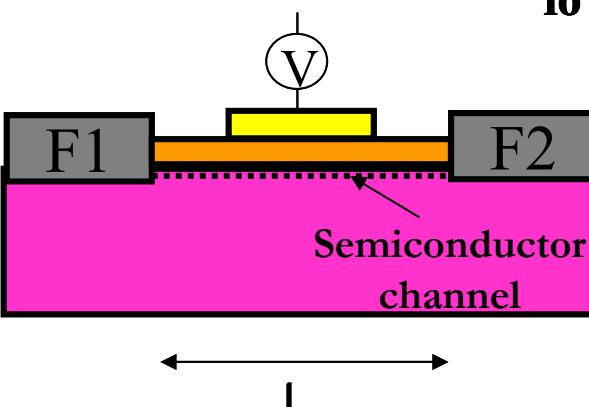
$$\frac{\Delta R}{R^P} = \frac{\gamma^2 / (1 - \gamma^2)}{1 + \tau_n / \tau_{sf}}$$

drops to zero as $1/r_b^*$
for $\tau_n \propto r_b^* \gg \tau_{sf}$



Two interface spin transport problem (diffusive regime)

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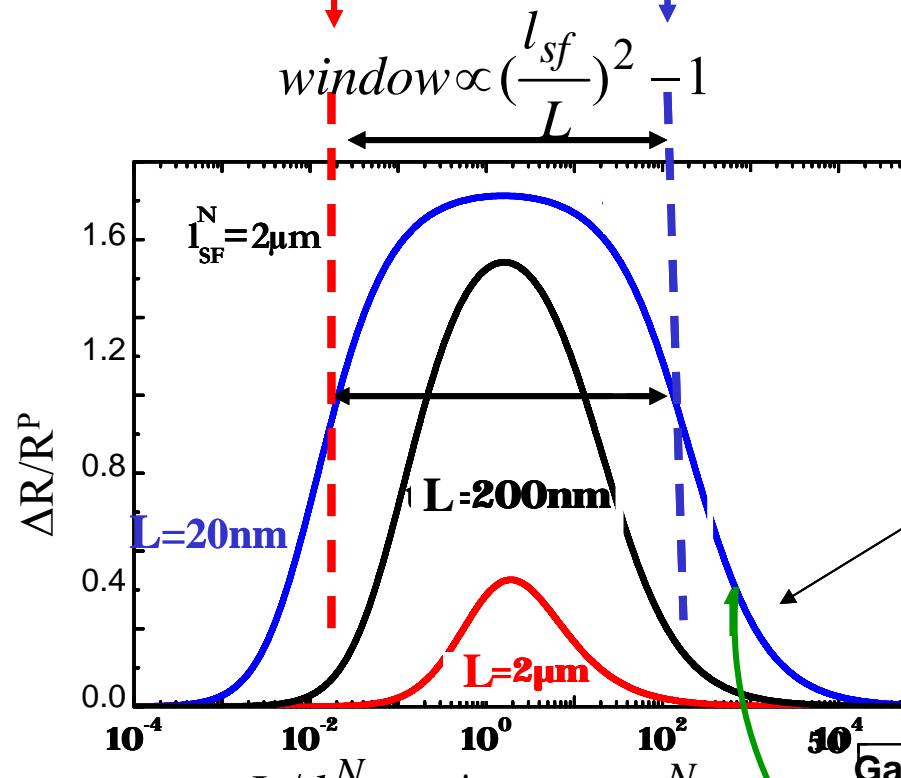


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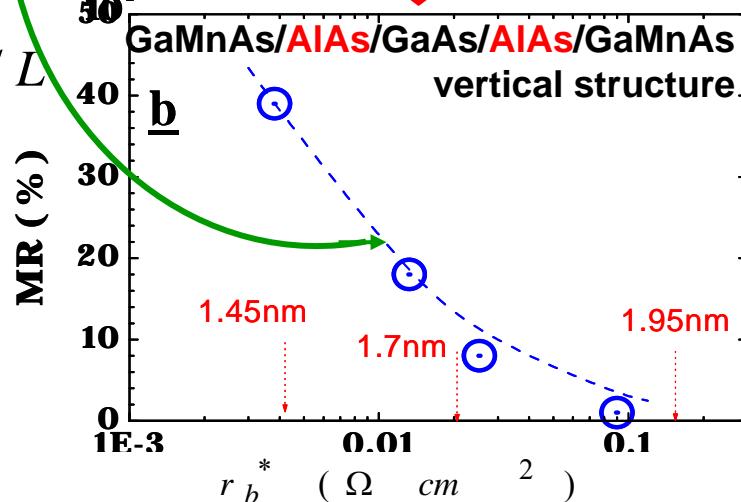
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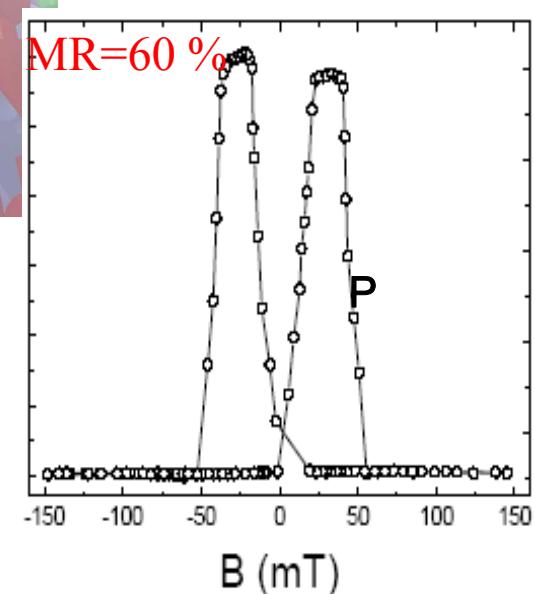
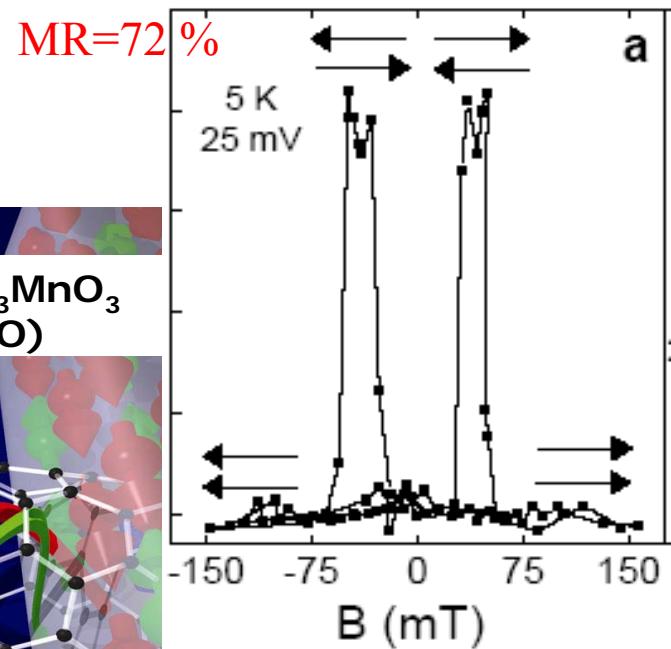
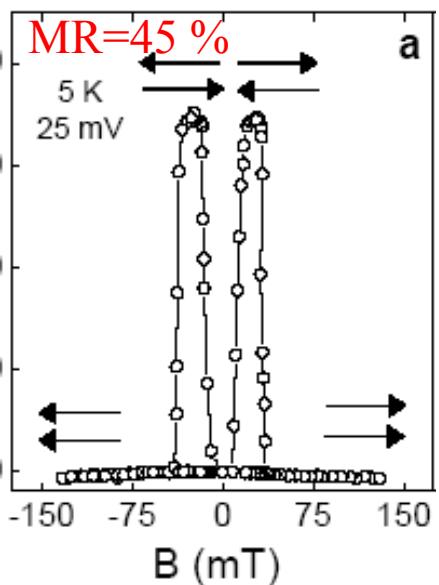
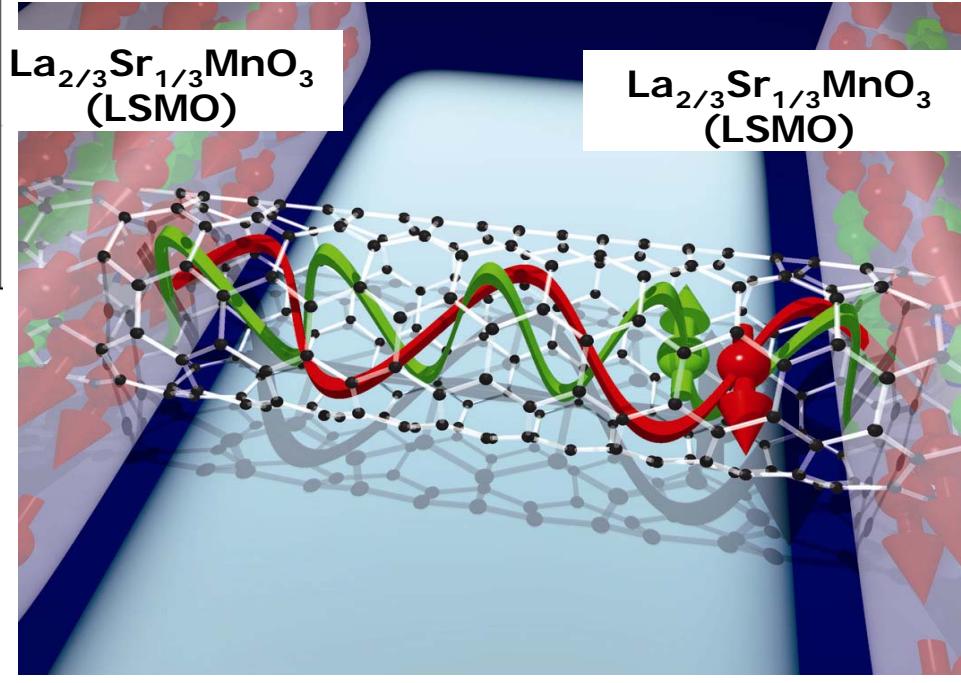
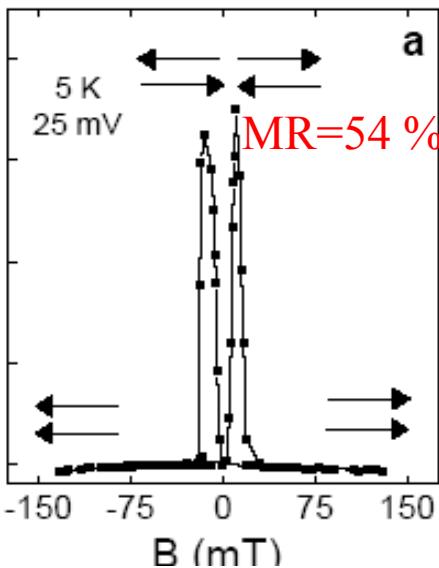
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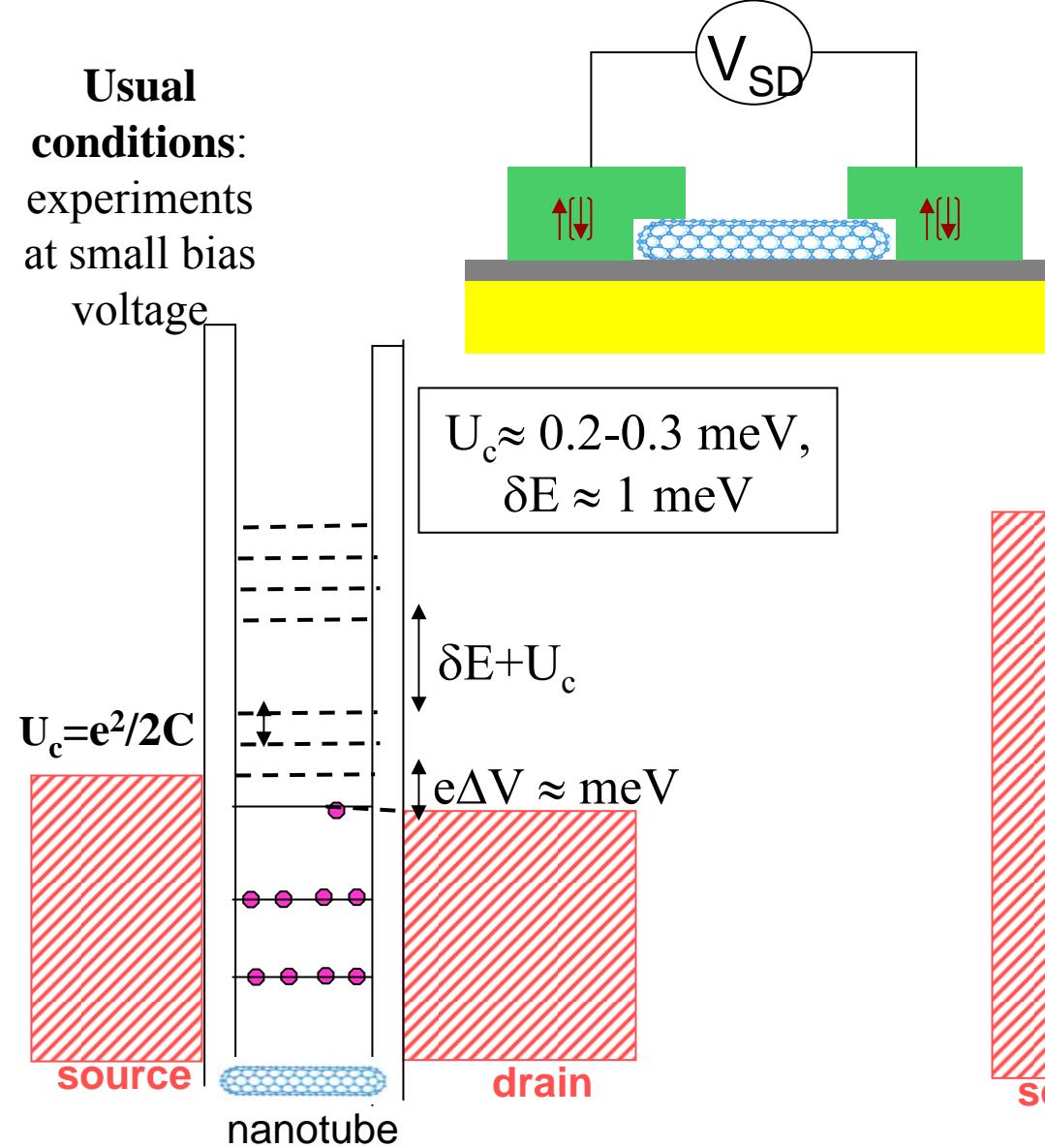
drops to zero as $1/r_b^*$
as in this example
(Mattana, AF et al)



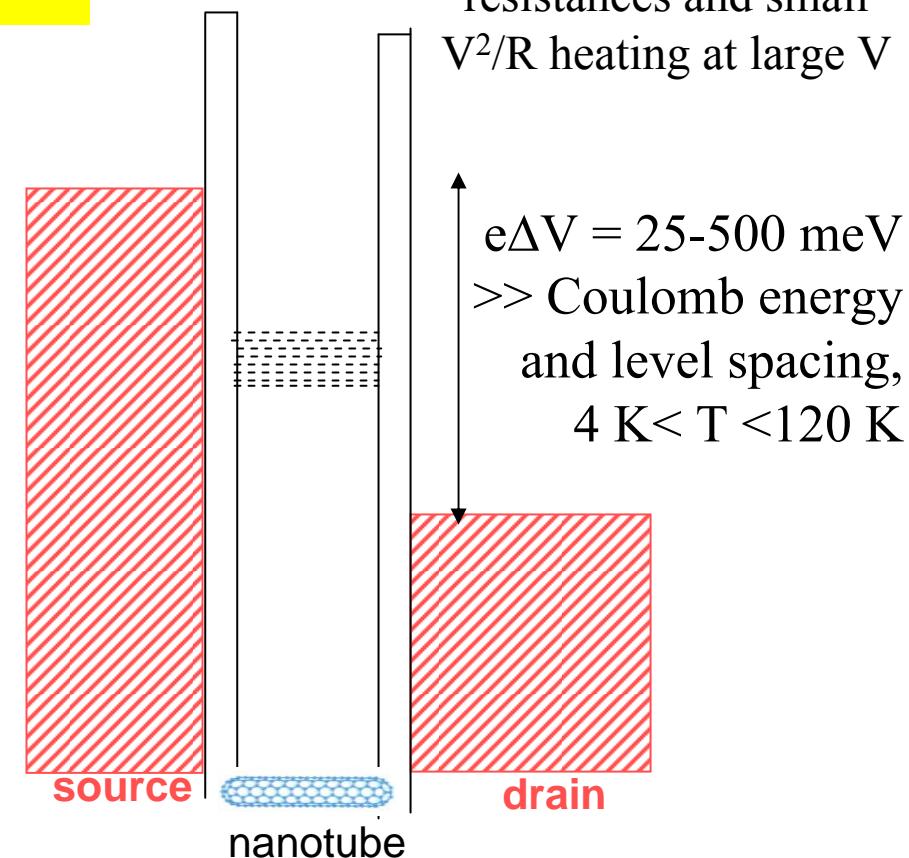
Carbon nanotubes between spin-polarized sources and drains



Usual conditions:
experiments at small bias voltage

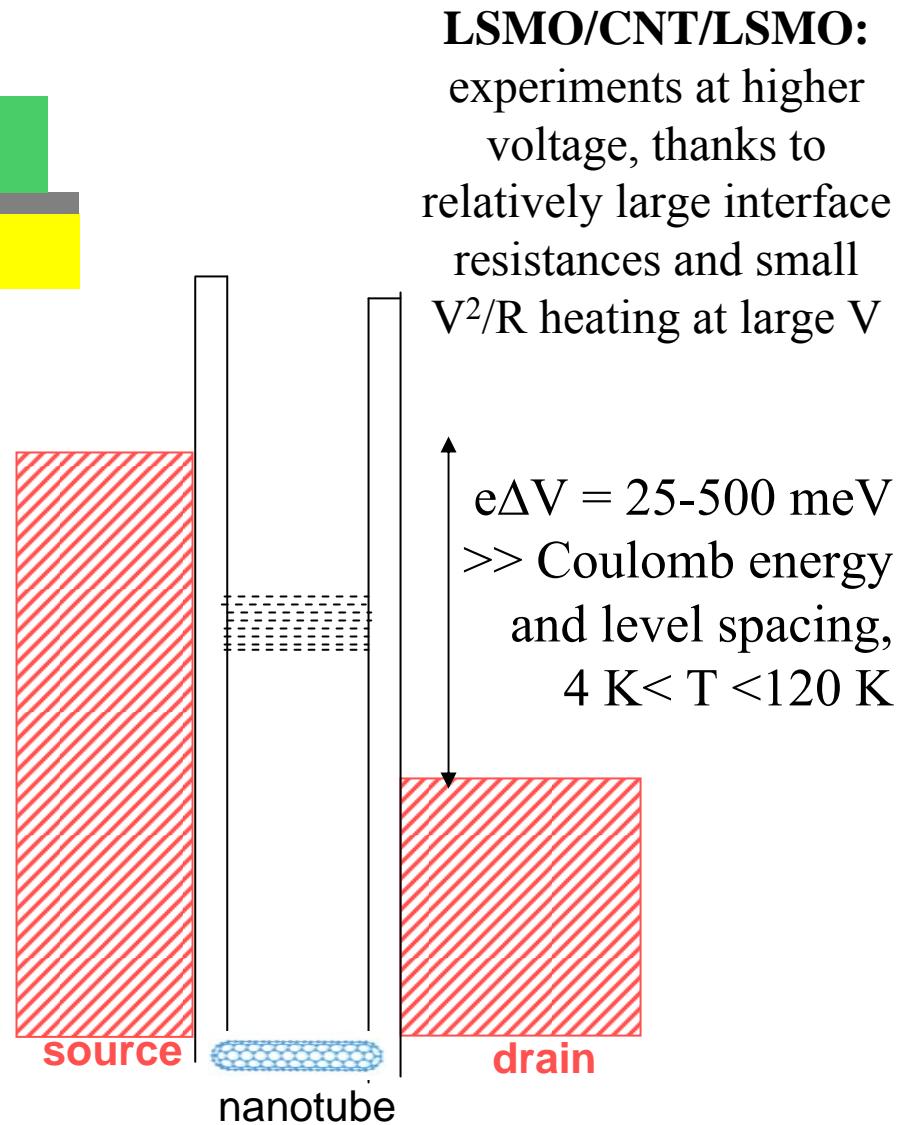
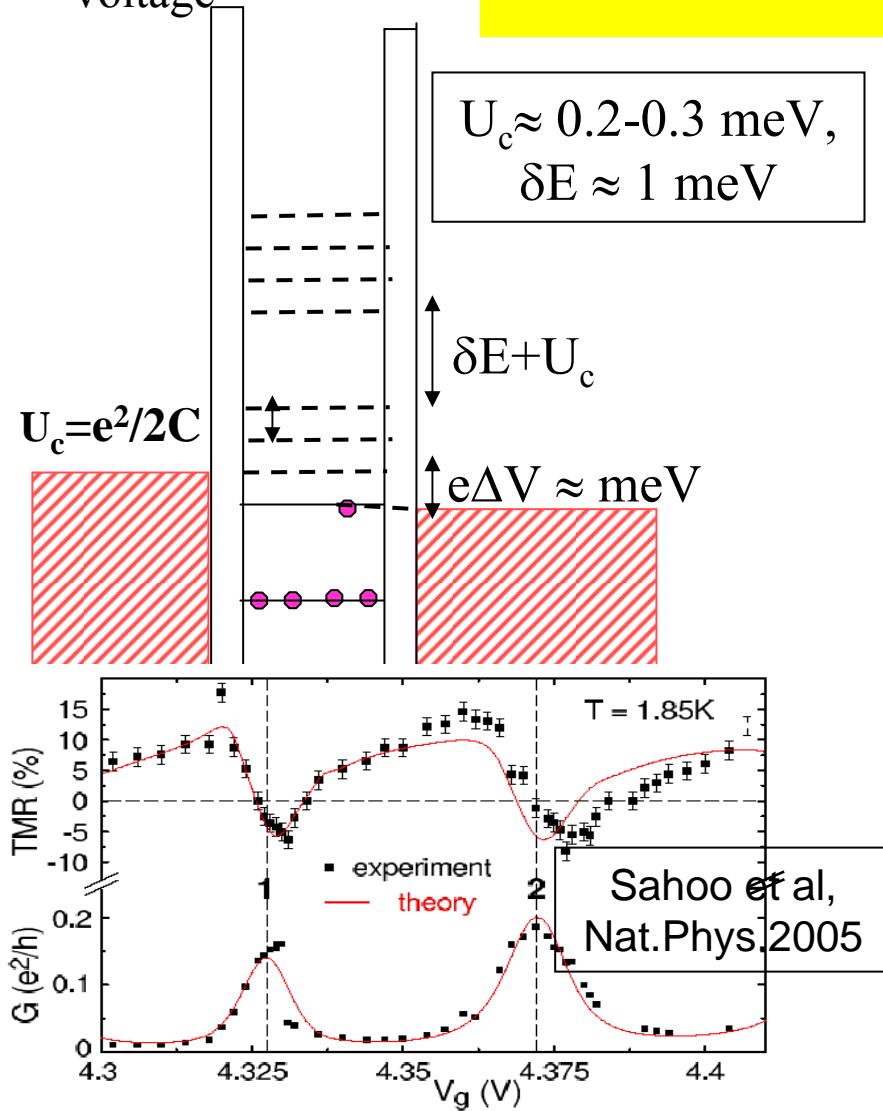


Oscillatory variation of the conductance,
different signs of the MR depending on the
bias voltage and from sample to sample



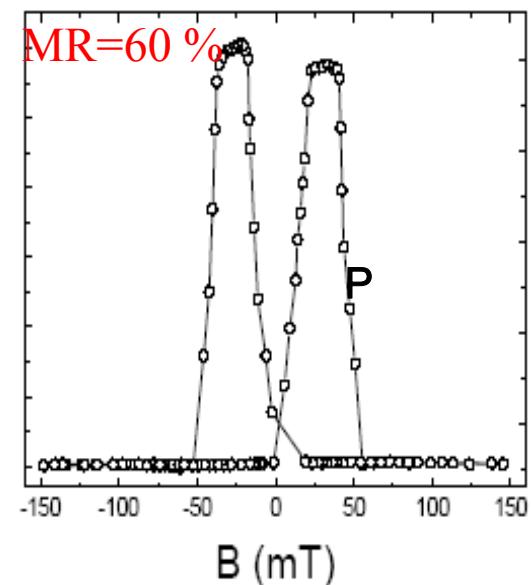
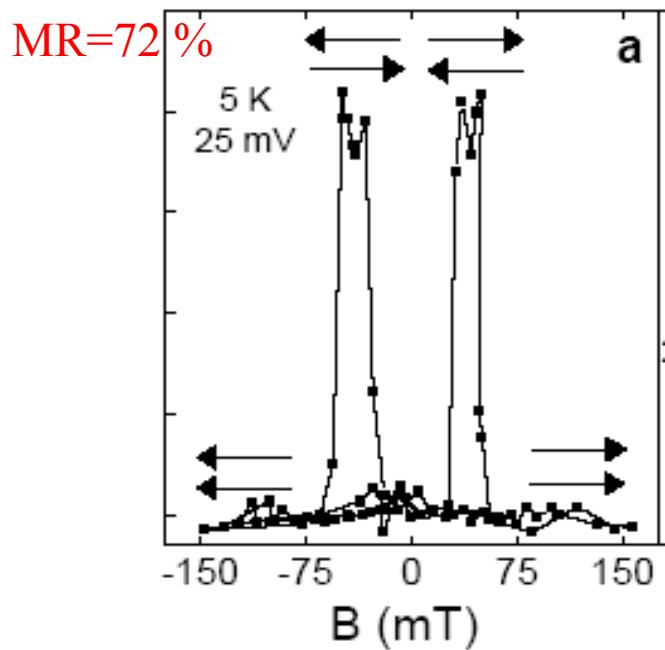
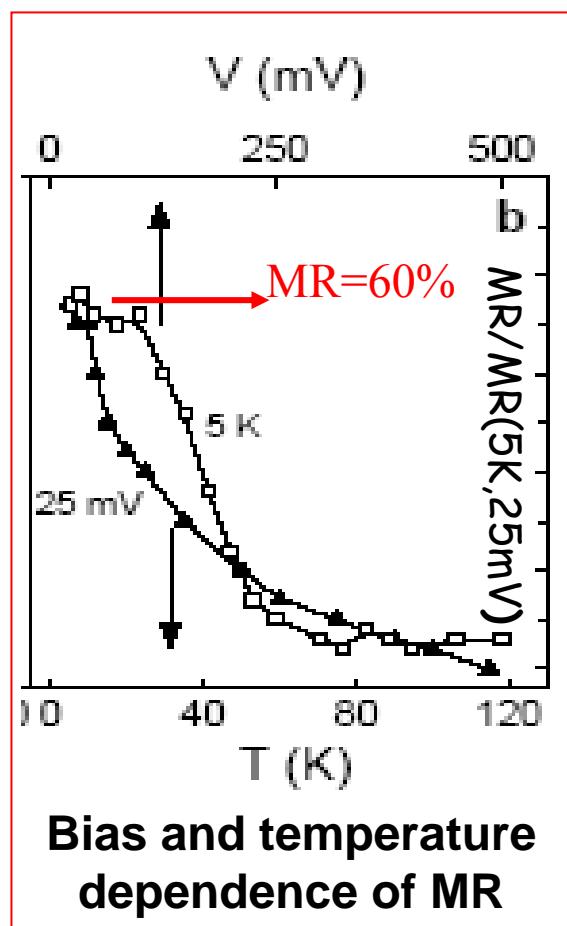
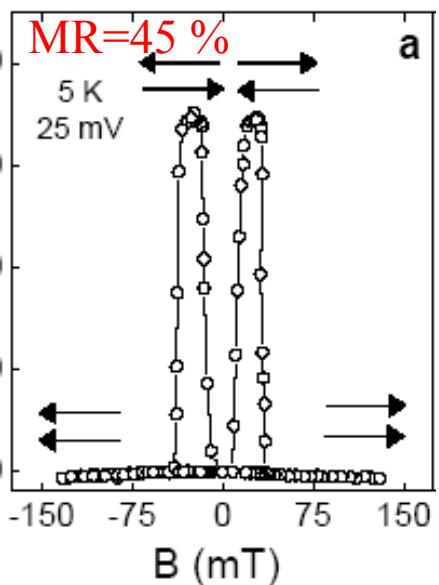
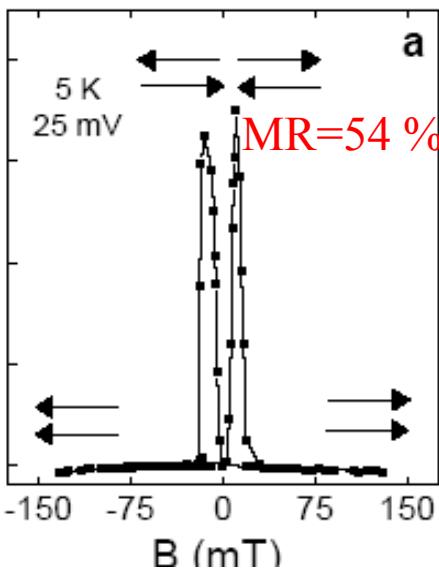
Quasi-continuous DOS, same conditions
as for semiconducting or metallic channel
(also diffusive transport regime)

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experiments at small bias voltage



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Carbon nanotubes between spin-polarized sources and drains



Transport between SP source and drain : τ_n = dwell time, τ_{sf} = spin lifetime, γ = injection SP

: 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 ($\approx 5 - 50\text{ns}$)

high velocity $v \rightarrow \tau_n = \frac{2L}{v \bar{t}_r}$ can be relatively short (60ns)^{*}

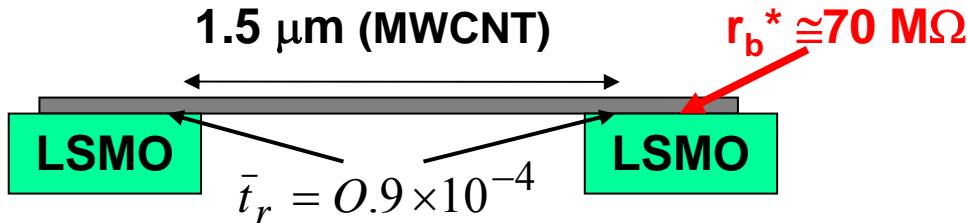
Semiconductors:

τ_{sf} can be as long as in CNT (for $n \approx 10^{16-17} \text{ el/cm}^3$)

but v is smaller \rightarrow long $\tau_n = \frac{2L}{v \bar{t}_r} \gg \tau_{sf}$

with $\tau_n \approx 60\text{ns}^*$
(from interface resist.)
fit with $\tau_{sf} \approx 30\text{ns}$
($I_{sf}=48\mu\text{m}$) and $\gamma = 0.8$
 $\rightarrow \tau_n \approx \tau_{sf}$
(Hueso, AF et al, Nat.07)

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



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Solution for semiconductors:

shorter L ?, larger transmission t_r ?

- $\tau_n \approx 60\text{ ns}^*$,
 $\tau_{sf} > 4\text{ ns}$ if $\gamma < 0.95$
or $\tau_{sf} \approx 30\text{ ns}$
($I_{sf}=48\mu\text{m}$) for $\gamma = 0.8$
 $\rightarrow \tau_n \approx \tau_{sf}$
(Hueso, AF et al, Nat.07)

Improvement for nanotubes:

slightly larger transmission t_r and
longer spin lifetime with the spin
polarization directed along the tube

Nanotubes, graphene..

Next challenge for nanotubes (or graphene...):
spin control by a gate potential

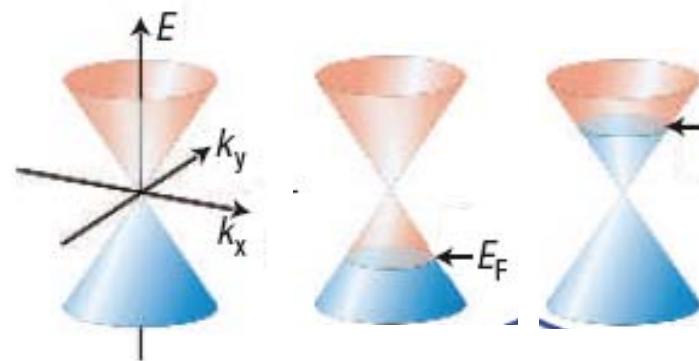
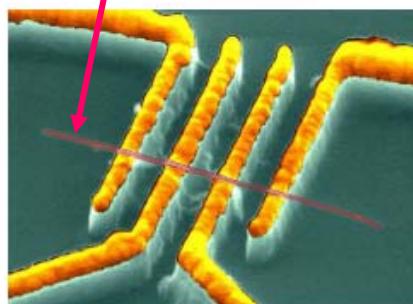
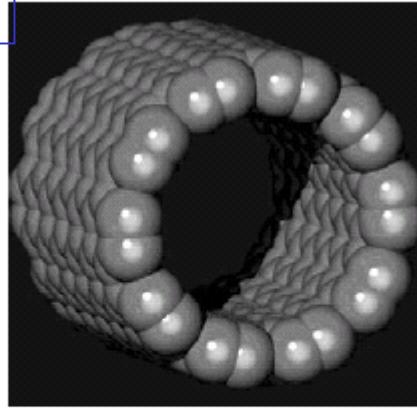
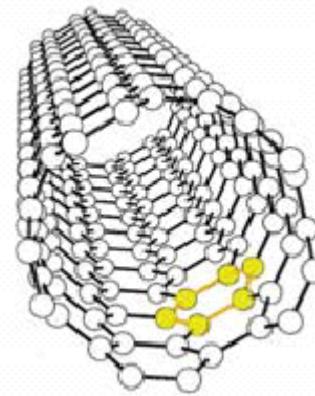
Molecules in general

Promising potential of molecular spintronics

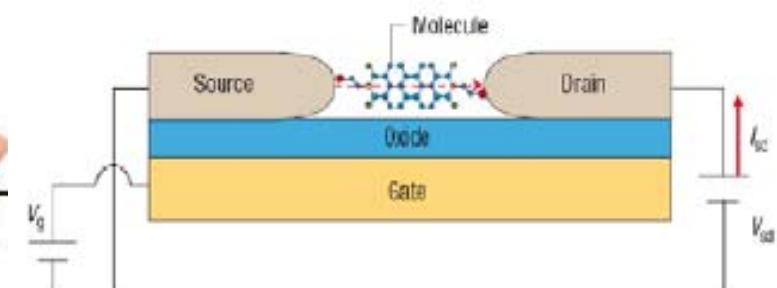
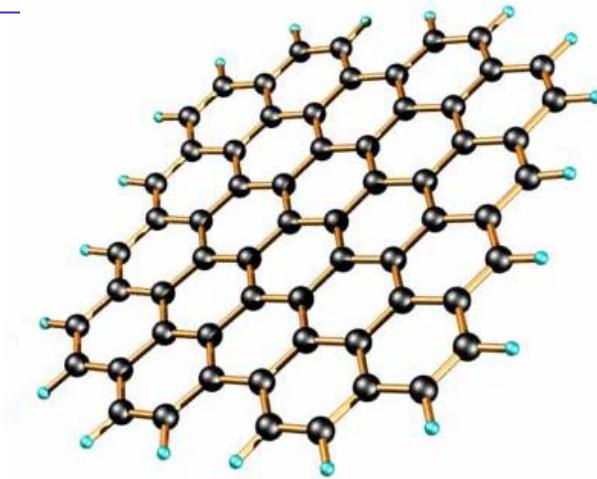
New materials for spintronics (carbon nanotubes, graphene, molecules,)

Examples of new materials

Carbon nanotubes



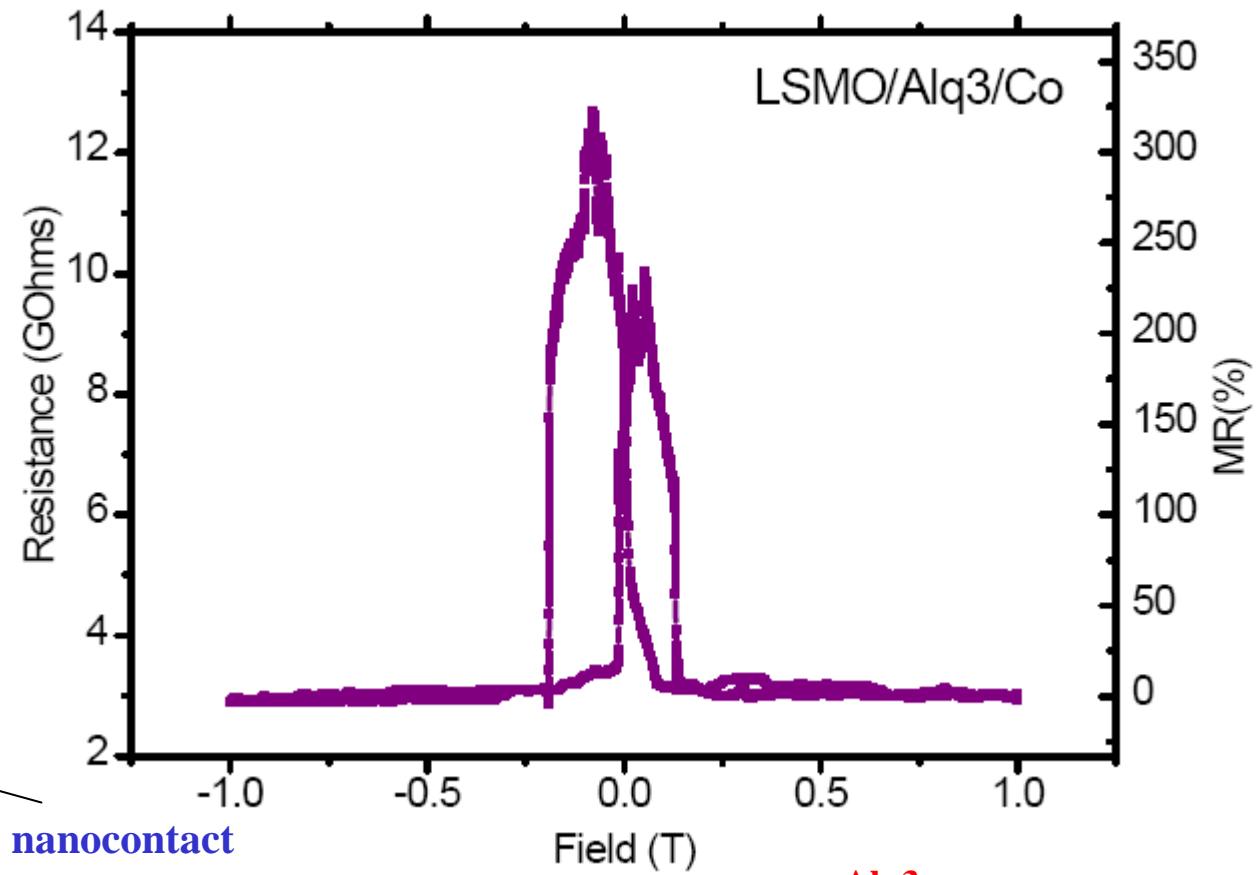
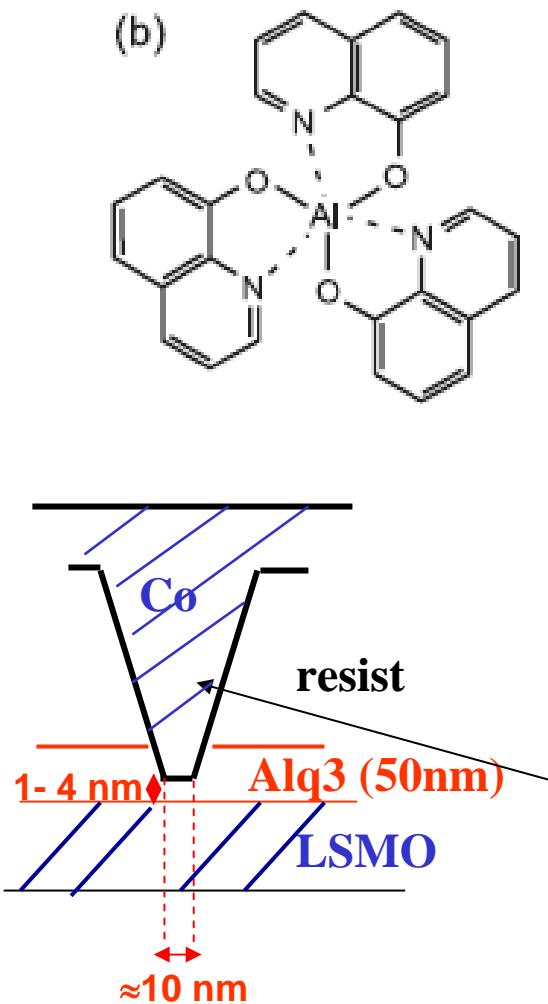
Graphene



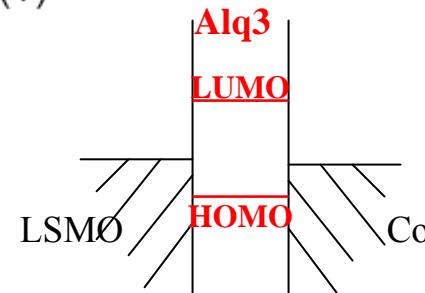
Molecules

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

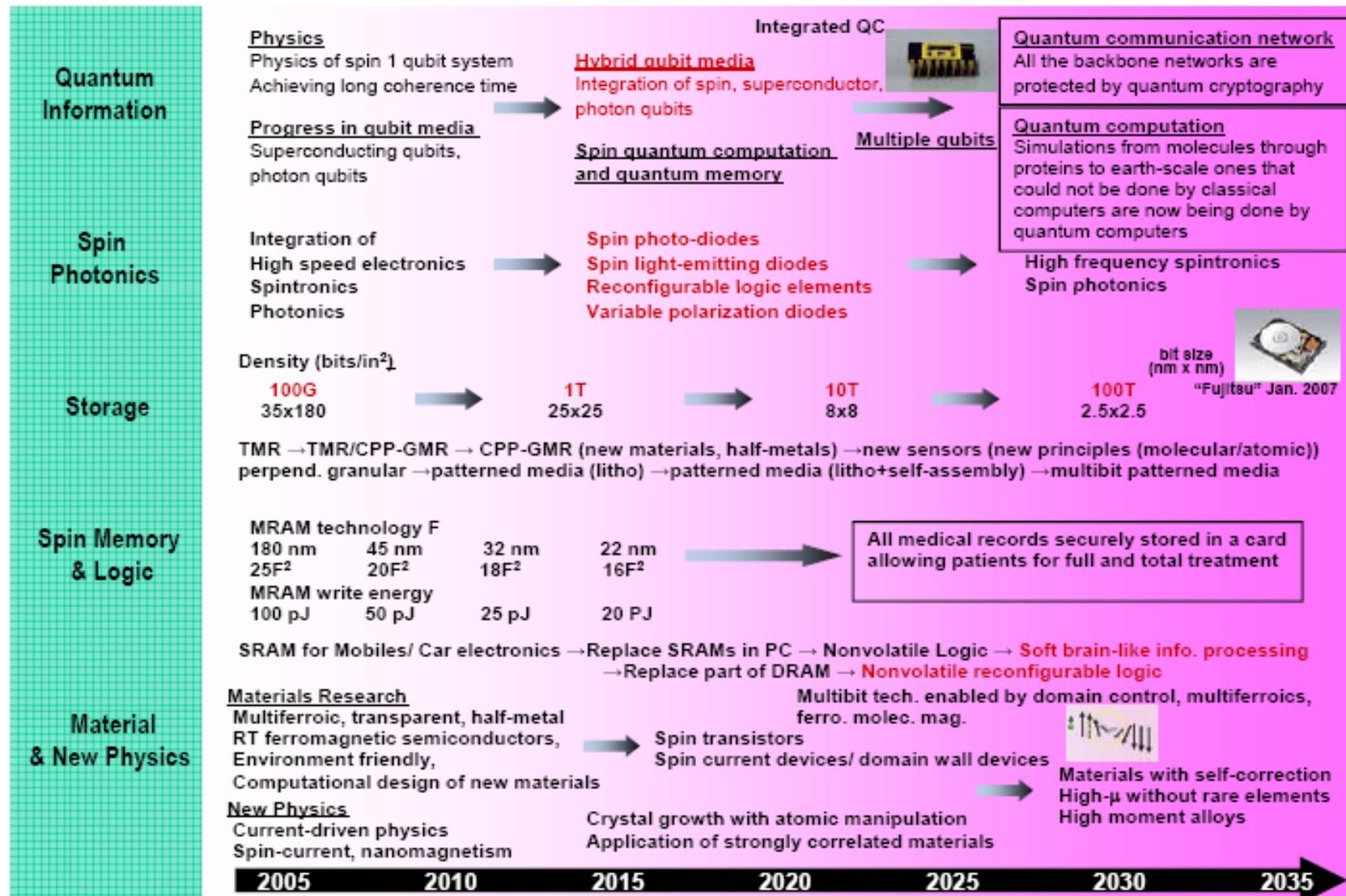
Collaboration CNRS/Thales [C. Barraud, P. Seneor et al) and CNR Bologna (Dediu et al)]



Alq3 = π - conjugated 8-hydroxy-quinoline aluminium



The Japan Applied Physics Society Academic Roadmap on Spintronics



Summary

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



- Spin transfer for magnetic switching and microwave generation

- Spintronics with semiconductors, molecules or nanoparticles

ELECTRONICS

SPINTRONICS

Acknowledgements to

M. Anane, C. Barraud, A. Barthélémy, H. Bea, A. Bernard-Mantel, M. Bibes, O. Boulle, K. Bouzehouane, O. Copi, V. Cros, C. Deranlot, B. Georges, J-M. George, J. Grollier, H. Jaffrès, S. Laribi, J-L. Maurice, R. Mattana, F. Petroff, P. Seneor, M. Tran F. Van Dau, A. Vaurès

Université Paris-Sud and Unité Mixte de Physique CNRS-Thales, Orsay, France

P.M. Levy, New York Un., **A. Hamzic, M. Basletic** Zagreb University

B. Lépine, A. Guivarch and G. Jezequel

Unité PALMS, Université de Rennes , Rennes, France

G. Faini, R. Giraud, A. Lemaître: CNRS-LPN, Marcoussis, France

L. Hueso, N. Mathur, Cambridge

J. Barnas, M. Gimtra, I. Weymann, Poznan University