

# From spinwaves to Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR) and beyond

P.A. Grünberg, *Institut für Festkörperforschung*

*Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany*

1. Introduction
2. Discovery of BLS from Damon Eshbach surface modes
3. Discovery of interlayer exchange coupling
4. Discovery of Enhanced Magnetoresistance(GMR)
5. Further development:TMR and CIMS
6. Applications



# **May I introduce myself**

**1969: PhD in Darmstadt (Germany) with**

**„Optical Spectroscopy and Crystal Field Analysis in some Rare Earth Garnets“**

**Mentor K.H.Hellwege, Supervisor: St.Hüfner**

**1969-1972 postdoctoral fellow at**

**Carleton University Ottawa Canada.**

**Raman Spectroscopy on electronic states and phonons**

**Supervisor: J. A.Koningstein**

**since 1972 Research Center Jülich,**

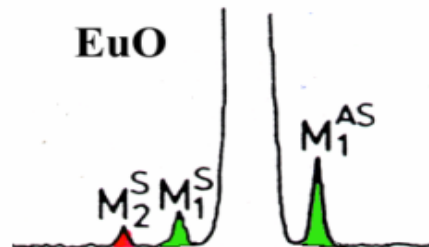
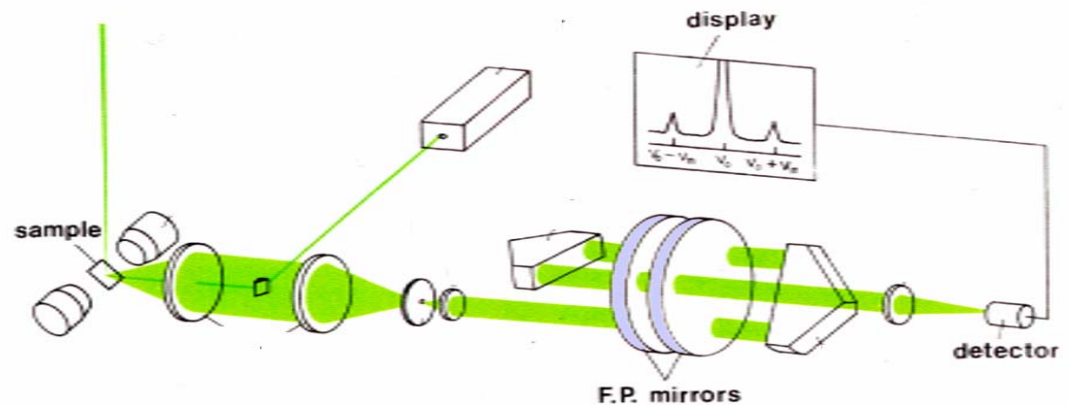
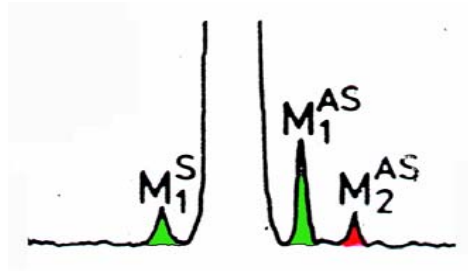
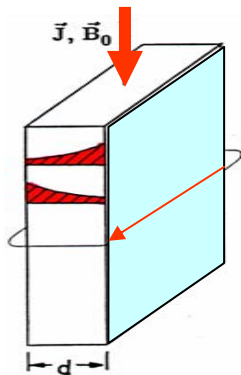
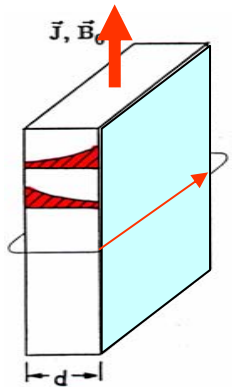
**Institute for Magnetism founded in 1971**

**Investigation of magnetic semiconductors EuO, EuS**

**Fabrication, magnetic and transport properties of layered magnetic structures**

**Mentor: W.Zinn**

# Bulk and Surface Spinwaves in EuO



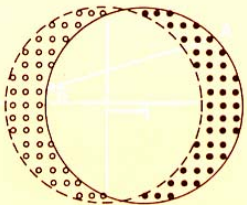
New instrumental development

Harald Ibach Hans Lüth

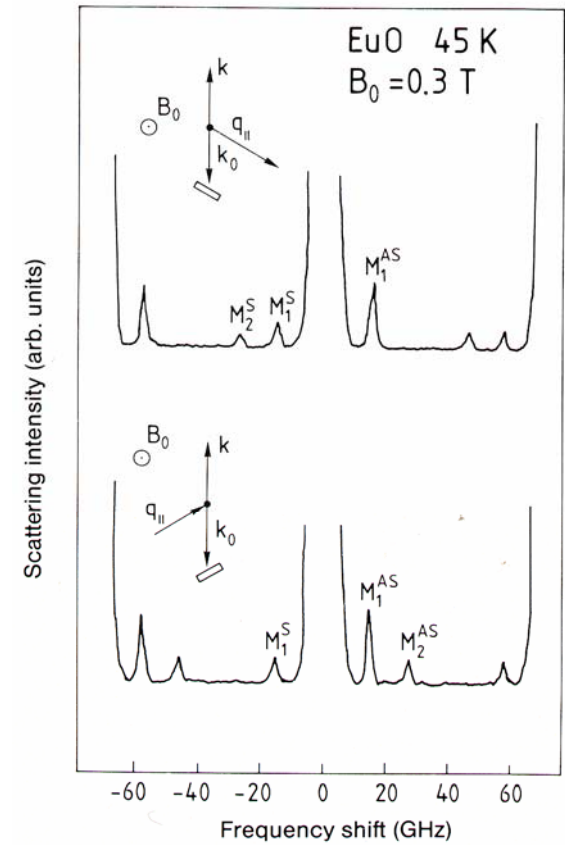
# Solid-State Physics

An Introduction to Principles of Materials Science

Second Edition



Page 186

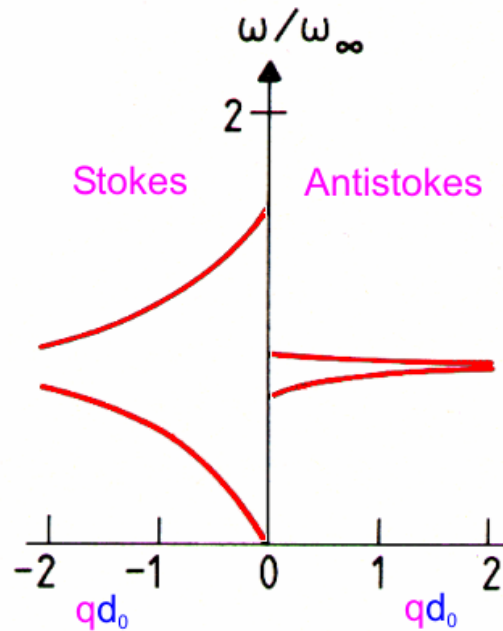
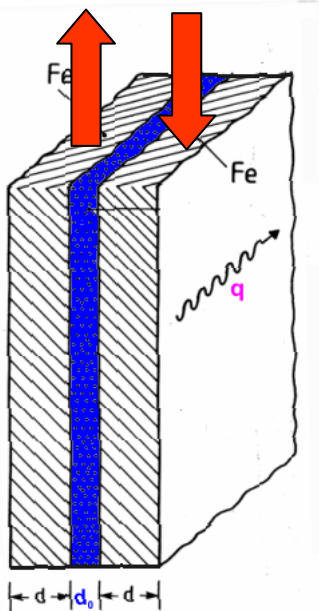
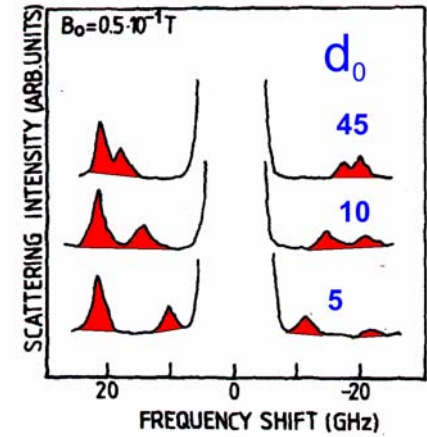
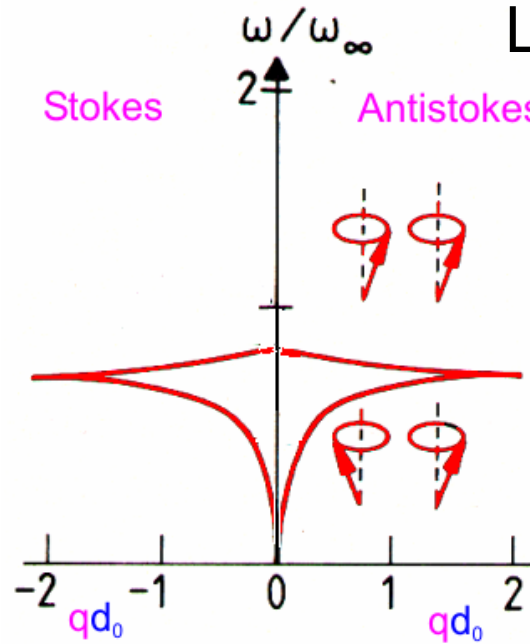
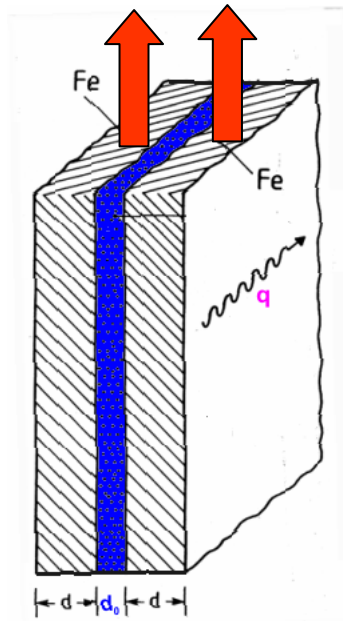


**Fig. VI.3.** Raman spectrum from EuO [VI.2]. According to the orientation of the sample one observes the Damon-Eshbach spin waves (labelled as  $M_2$ ) as a Stokes line (*above*) or as an anti-Stokes line (*below*), while the volume spin waves appear with equal intensity in both geometries, although higher intensity is observed for the anti-Stokes line [VI.3]

# Coupled Damon-Eshbach-Spinwaves

Landau Lifshitz equation

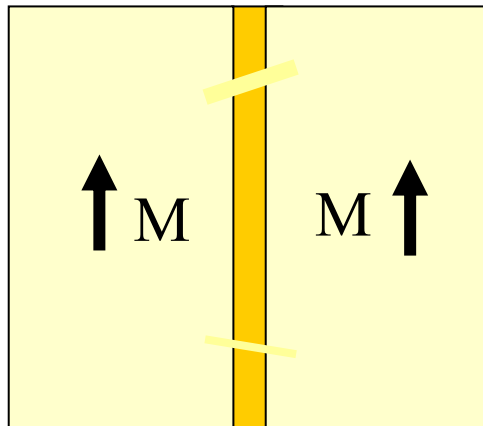
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{M}}{\partial t} = -\gamma \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}}$$



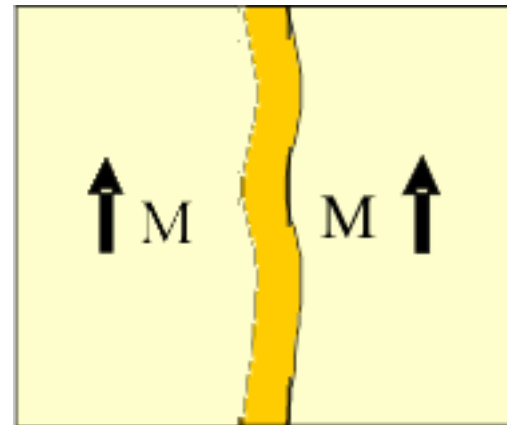
?

# What was known in 1984 about interlayer coupling apart from the dynamic coupling?

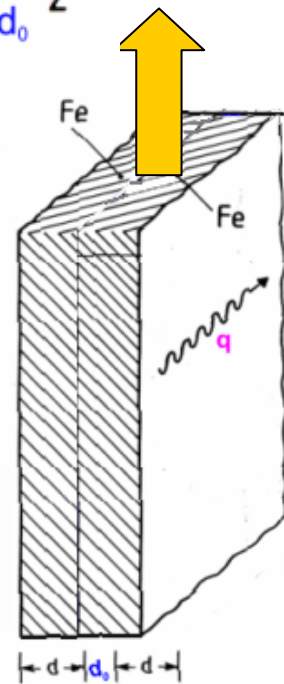
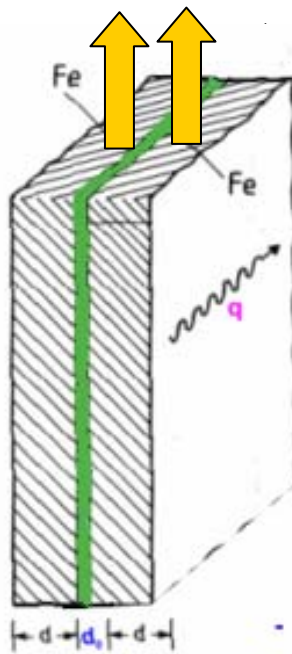
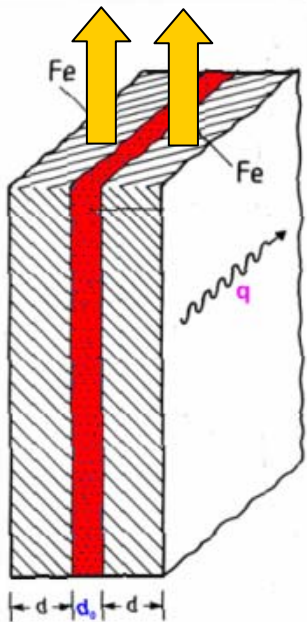
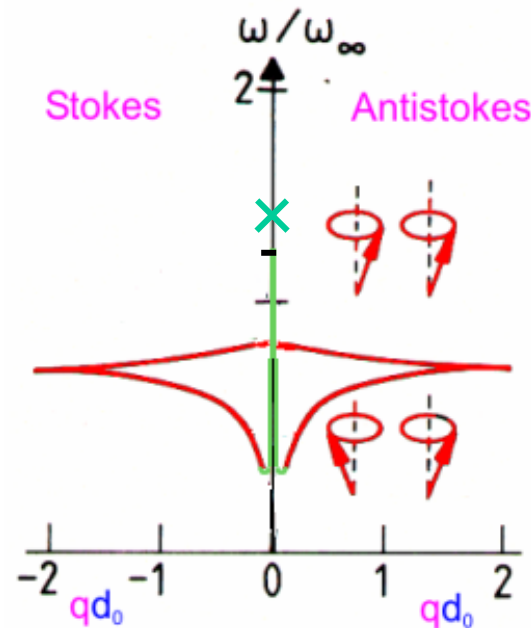
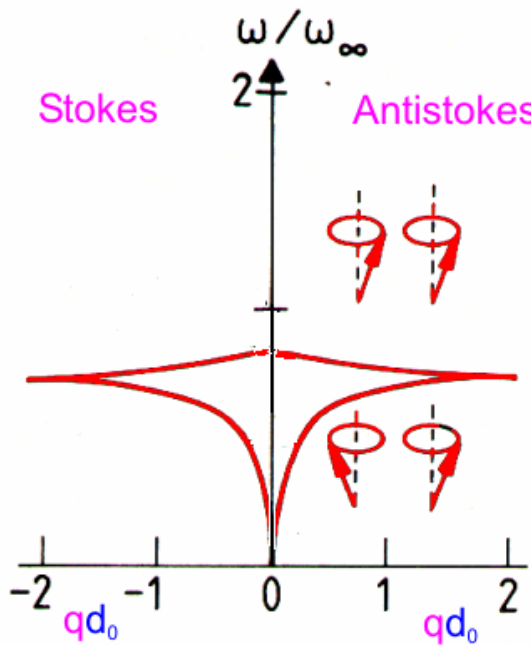
Pinhole coupling due to „magnetic bridges“



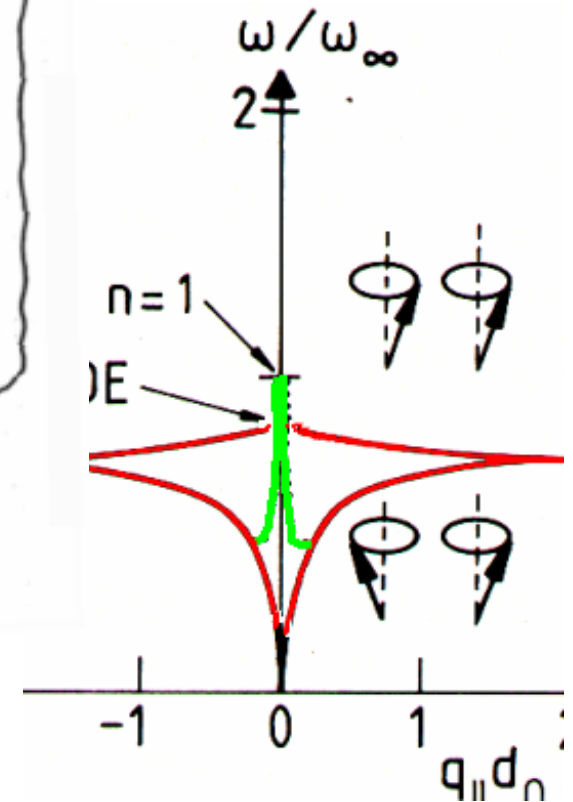
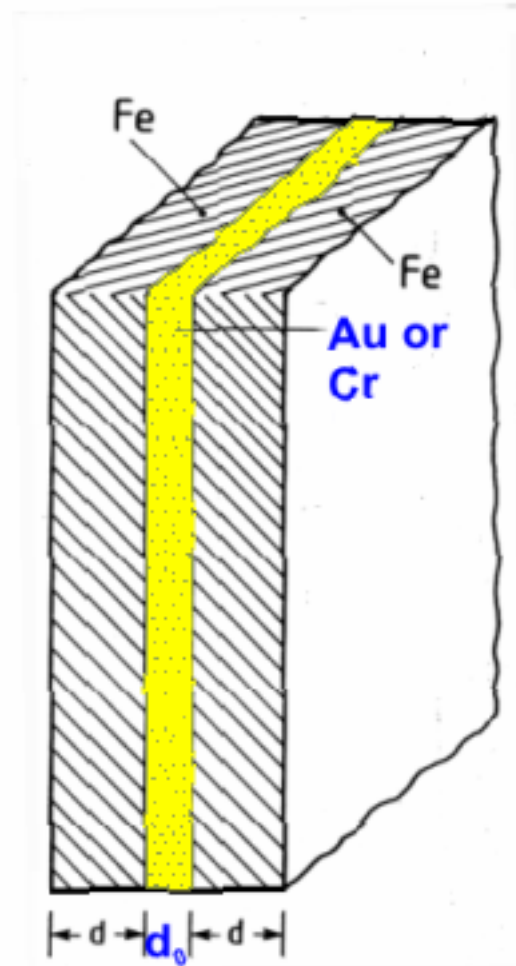
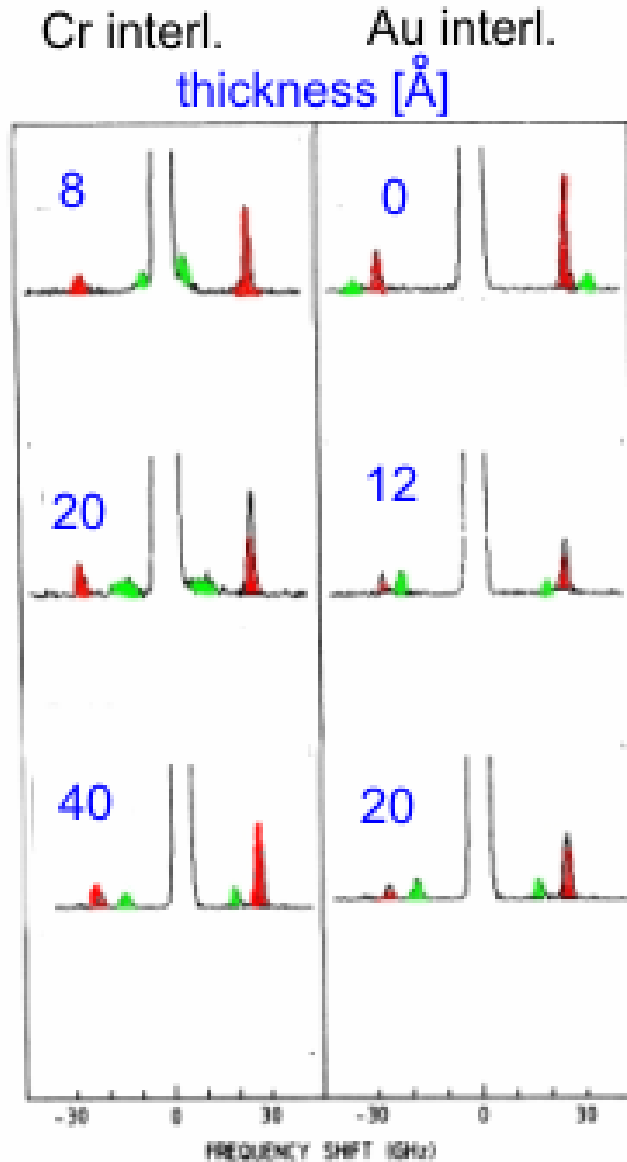
Orange peel or Neel type coupling caused by strayfields due to meandering interlayers



# Coupled Damon-Eshbach-Spinwaves

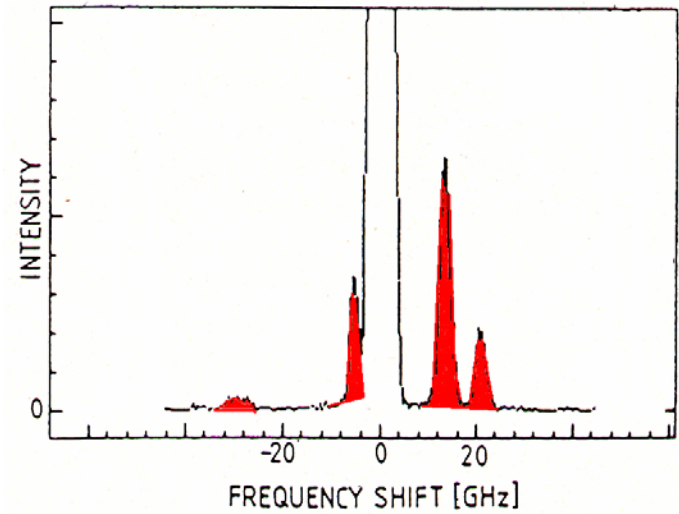
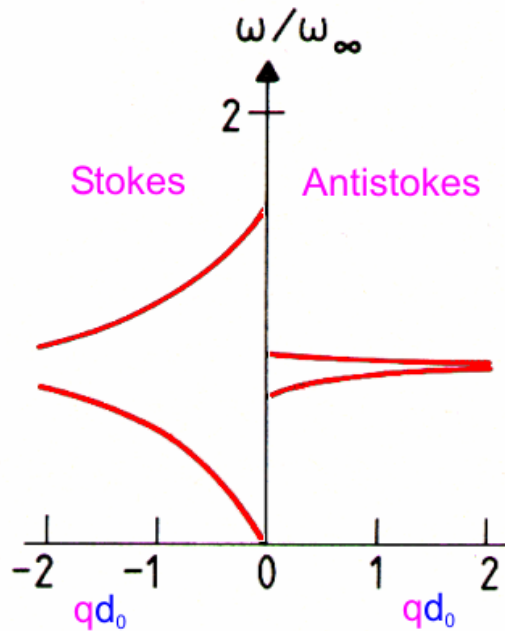
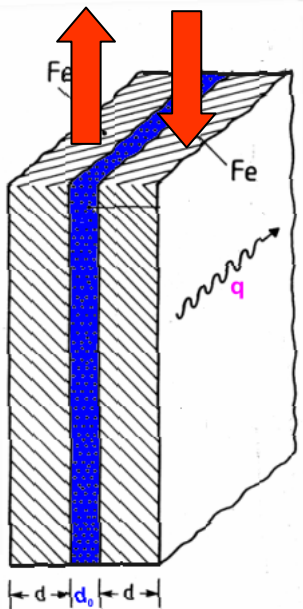
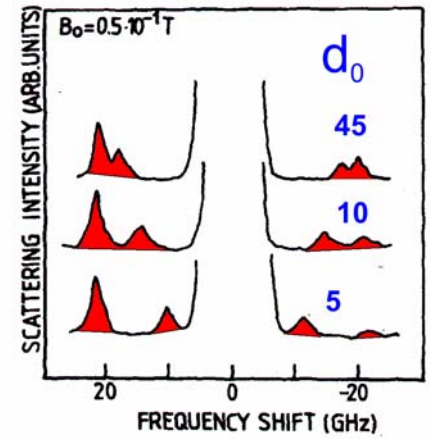
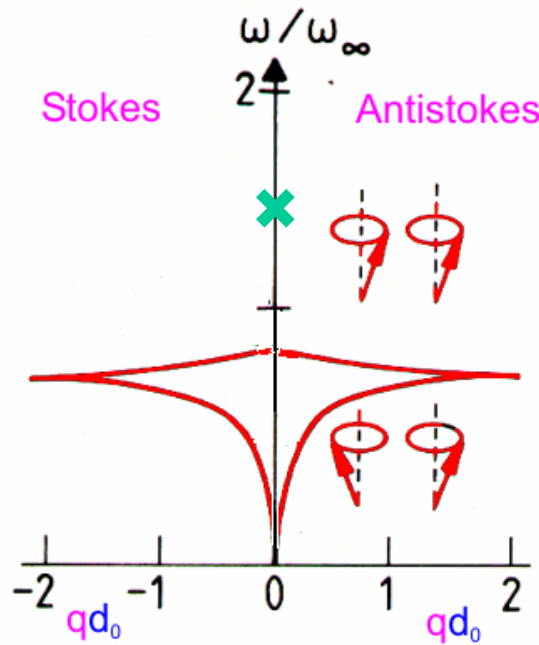
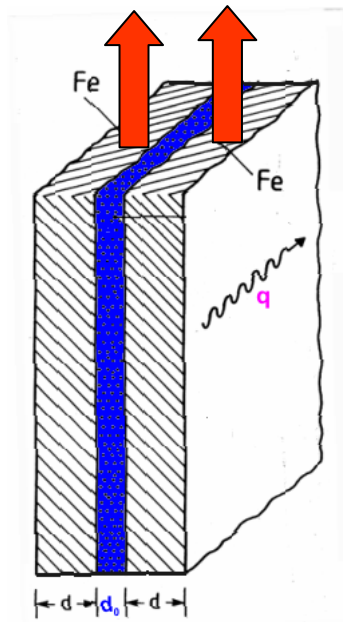


# Effect of exchange coupling

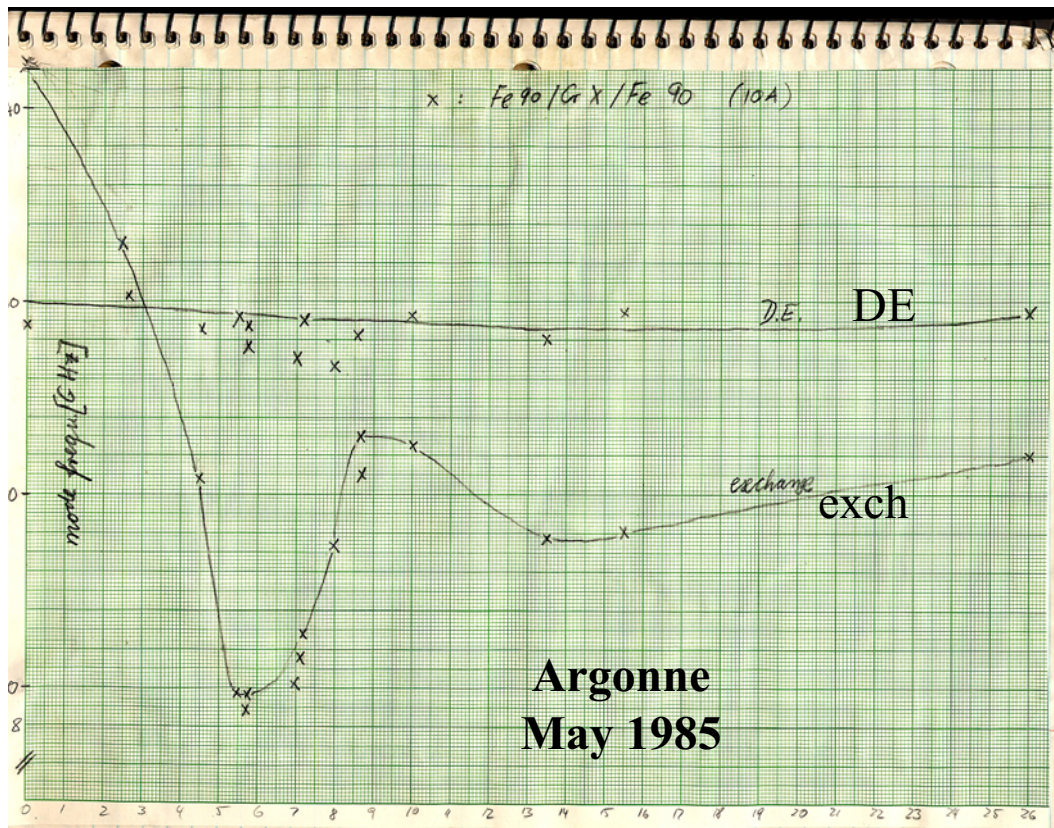




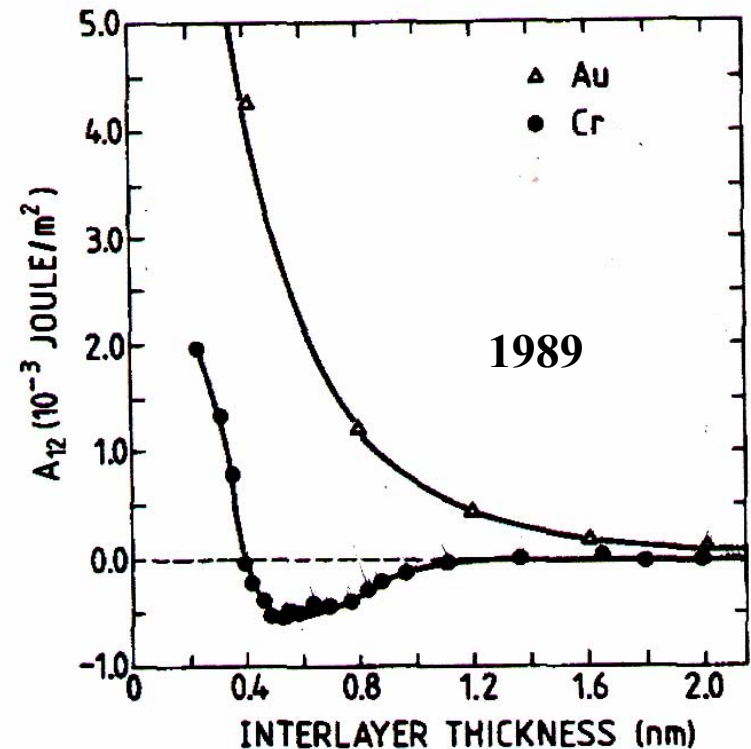
# Coupled Damon-Eshbach-Spinwaves



# First measurement of interlayer exchange coupling as a function of the interlayer thickness



$$E_{exch} = -2A_{12} \frac{M_1 * M_2}{|M_1| * |M_2|}$$



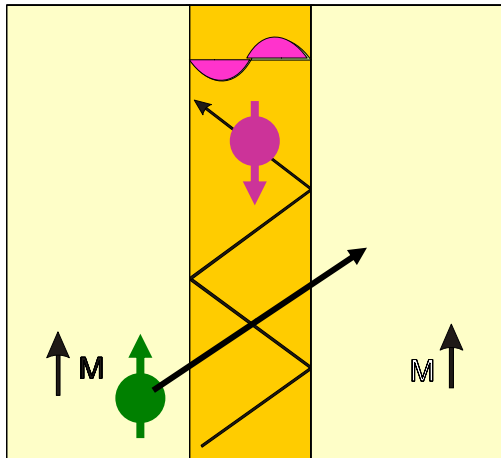
**Work on interlayer exchange coupling  
published in 1986**

**Oscillatory coupling in Gd/Y multilayers (Majkrzak et al)**

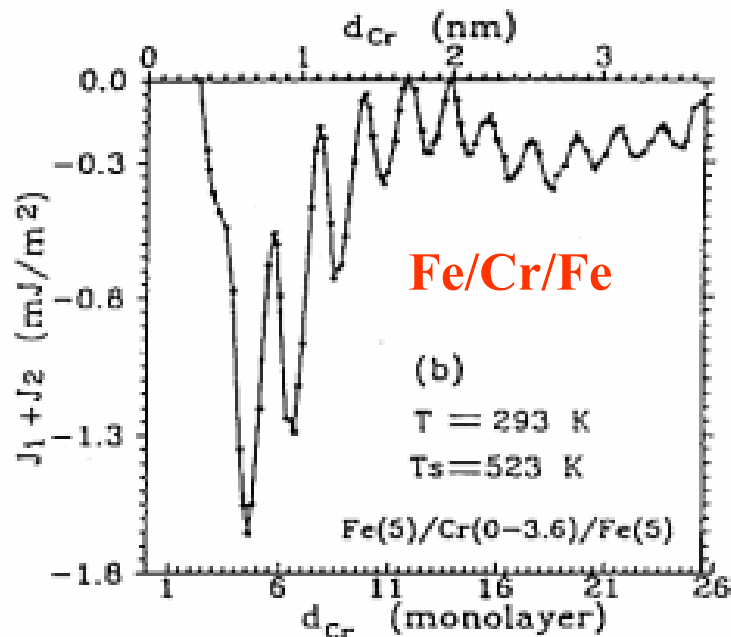
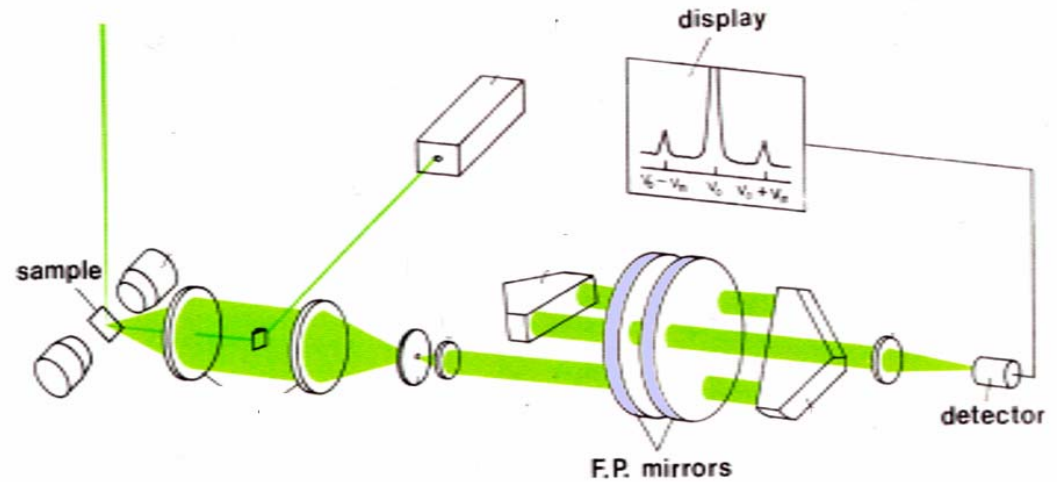
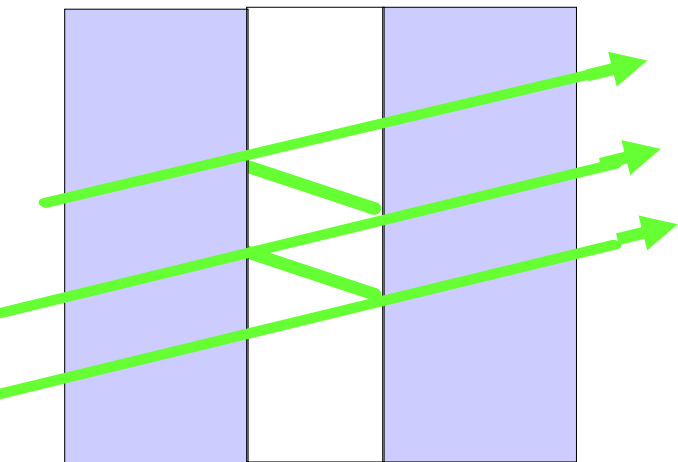
**Helical structures in Dy/Y multilayers (Salamon et al.)**

**AF coupling in Fe/Cr/Fe layered structures (Grünberg et al)**

# Fabry Perot model of interlayer exchange coupling



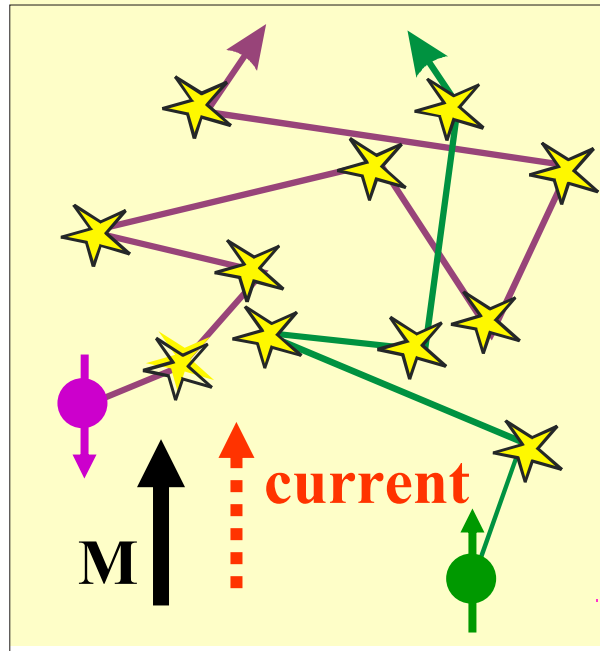
analogy: optical Fabry Perot interferometer



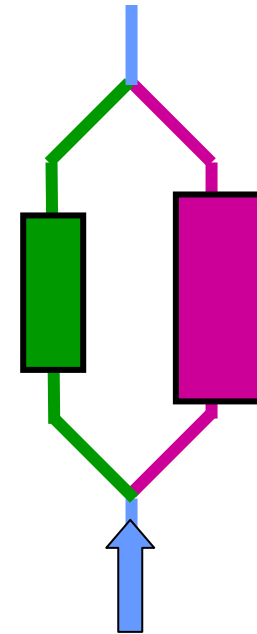
Short period oscillations after improvement of growth

# Mott's two current model

★  
Scattering  
event

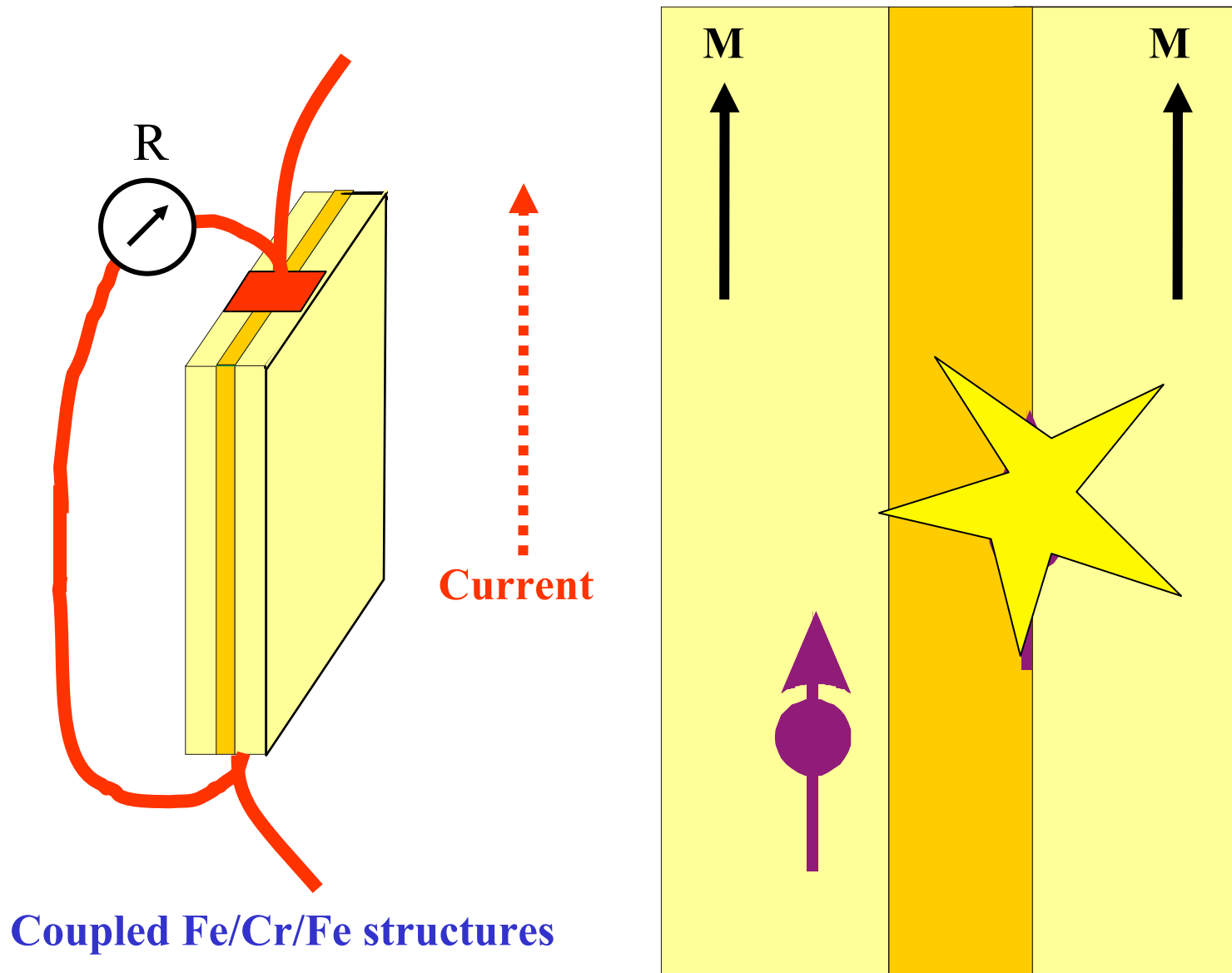


ferromagnetic alloy

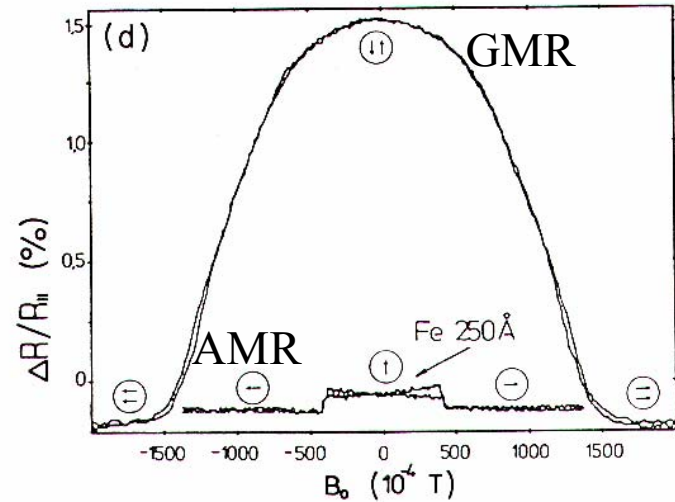
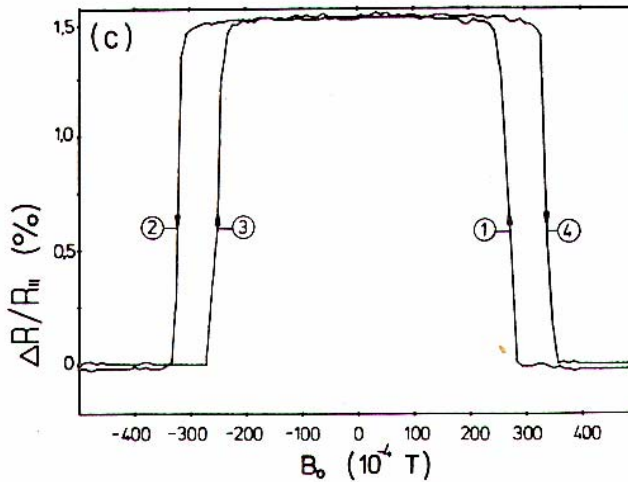
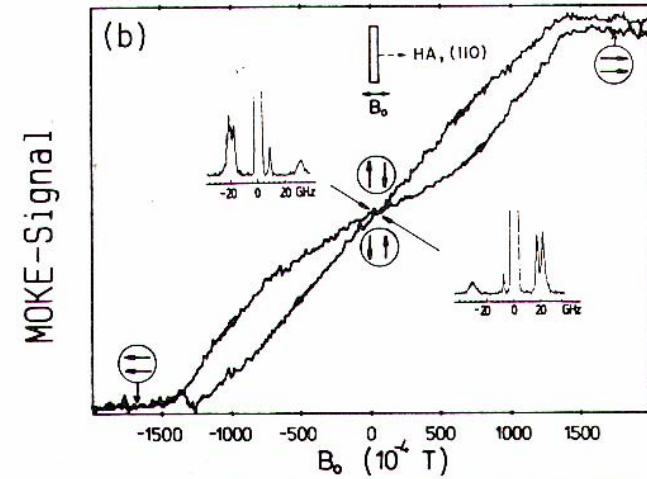
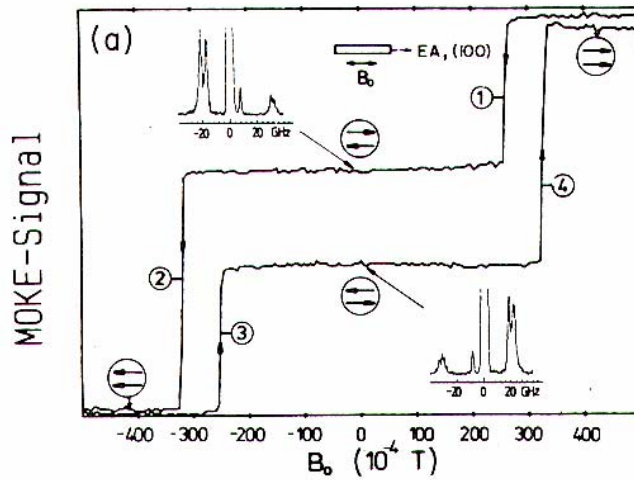
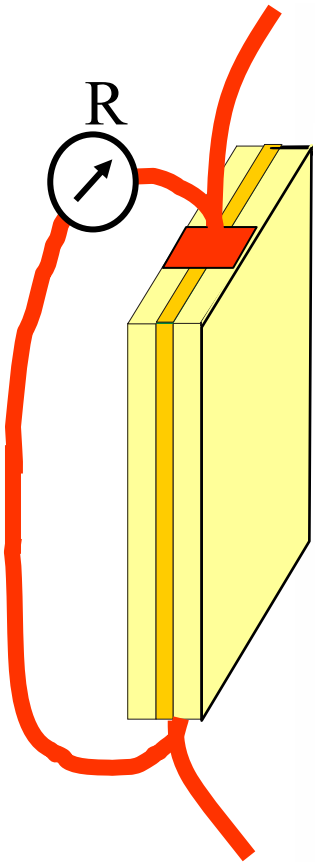


Equivalent circuit

# What can we expect in magnetic multilayers?



# First measurement of GMR





**Le Creusot, August 1988**

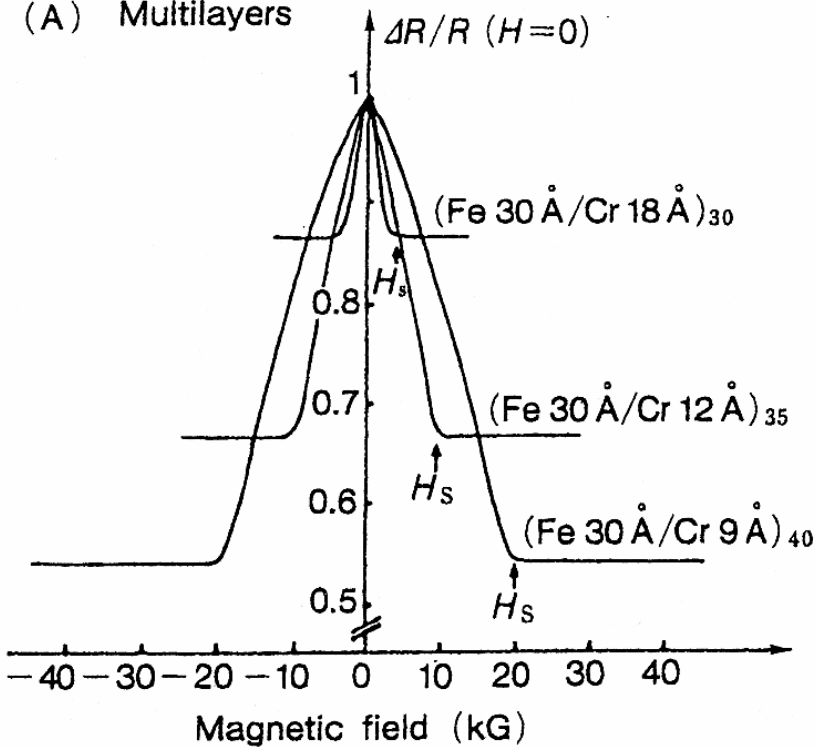


# First measurements of GMR in Fe/Cr/Fe

Orsay

Jülich

(A) Multilayers



(B) Double layers

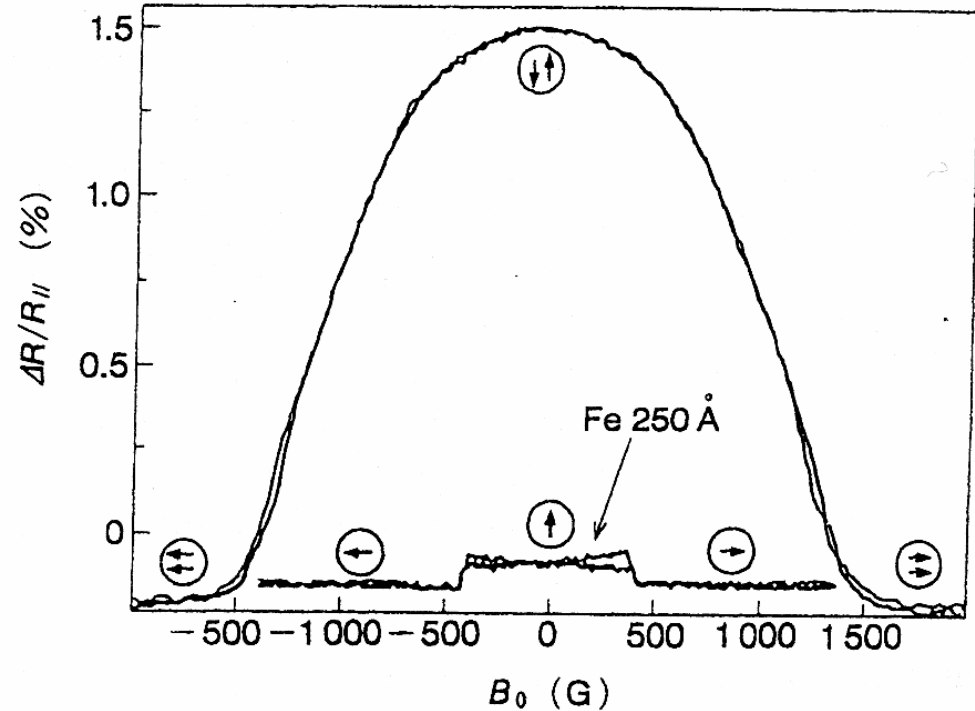


Fig. 5. GMR effect in a multilayer (A) and a double layer (B) of Fe interspaced by Cr. (B) The AMR effect in a single film of Fe with thickness 250 Å is also shown for comparison.

# First theories of GMR

VOLUME 63, NUMBER 6 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

7 AUGUST 1989

## Theory of Giant Magnetoresistance Effects in Magnetic Layered Structures with Antiferromagnetic Coupling

R. E. Camley<sup>(a)</sup> and J. Barnaś<sup>(b)</sup>

*Institut für Festkörperforschung der Kernforschungsanlage Jülich GmbH,  
Postfach 1913, D-5170 Jülich, West Germany*

(Received 30 March 1989)

$$\frac{\partial g^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}(z, \mathbf{v})}{\partial z} + \frac{g^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}(z, \mathbf{v})}{\tau^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} v_z} = \frac{eE}{mv_z} \frac{\partial f_0(\mathbf{v})}{\partial v_x},$$

**Boltzmann transport equation:  
Camley-Barnas model**

PHYSICAL REVIEW B VOLUME 42, NUMBER 13 1 NOVEMBER 1990

**Novel magnetoresistance effect** page 8110  
**in layered magnetic structures:**

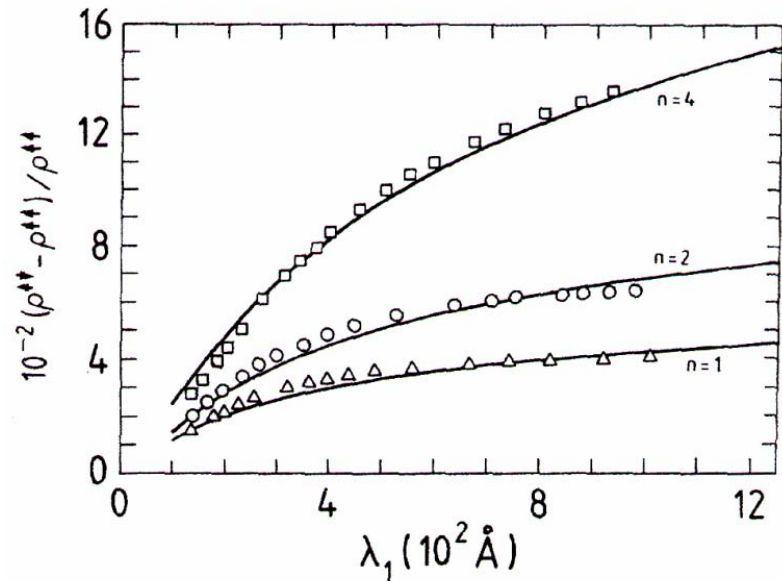
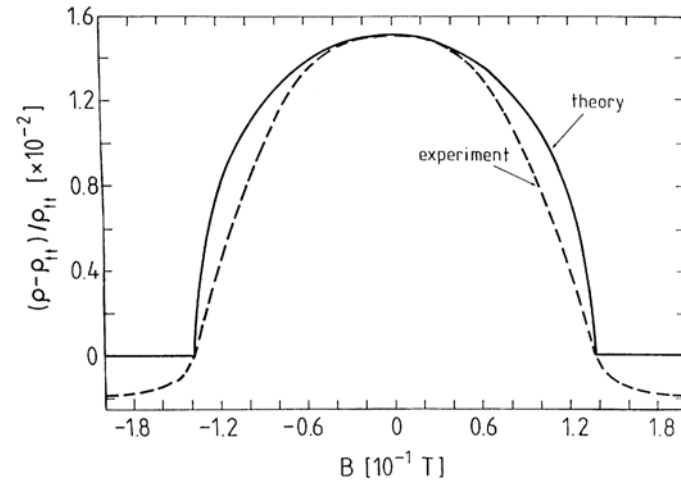
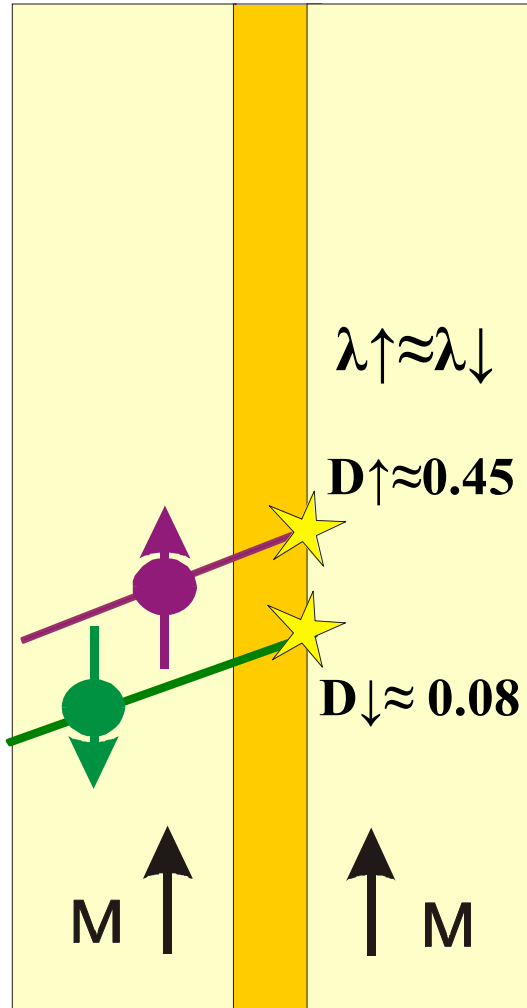
**Theory and experiment**

J. Barnaś,\* A. Fuss, R. E. Camley,† P. Grünberg, and W. Zinn

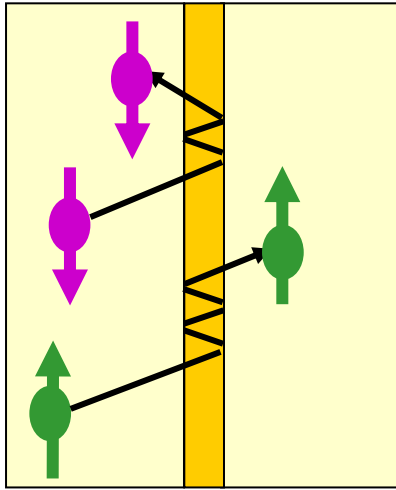
*Kernforschungsanlage GmbH, Institut für Festkörperforschung, Postfach 1913,  
5170 Jülich, West Germany*

# Theory and Experiment

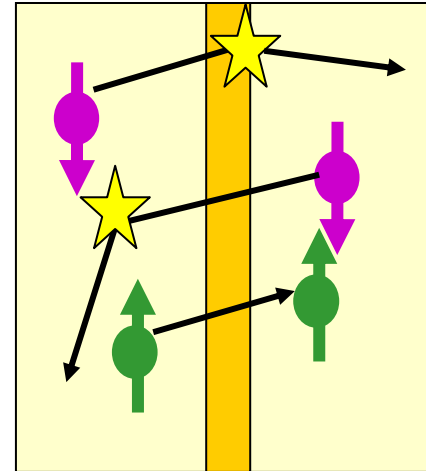
↑  
Current  
in Plane  
(CIP)



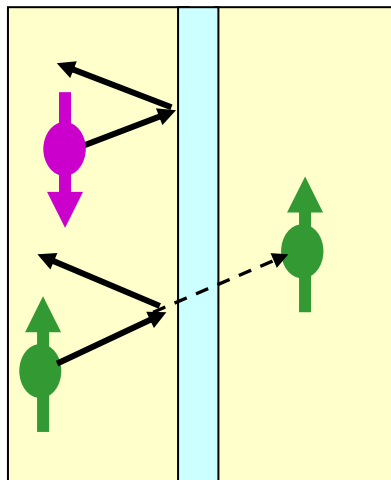
# Spin dependent transfer phenomena in layered magnetic structures



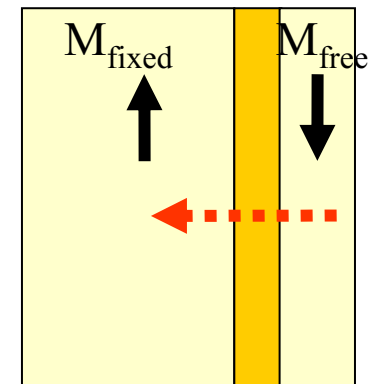
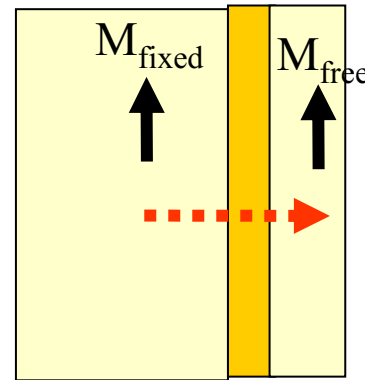
osc.  
Interlayer  
exchange  
coupling



Giant  
Magneto-  
resistance  
(GMR)



Tunneling magn-  
etoresistance  
(TMR)



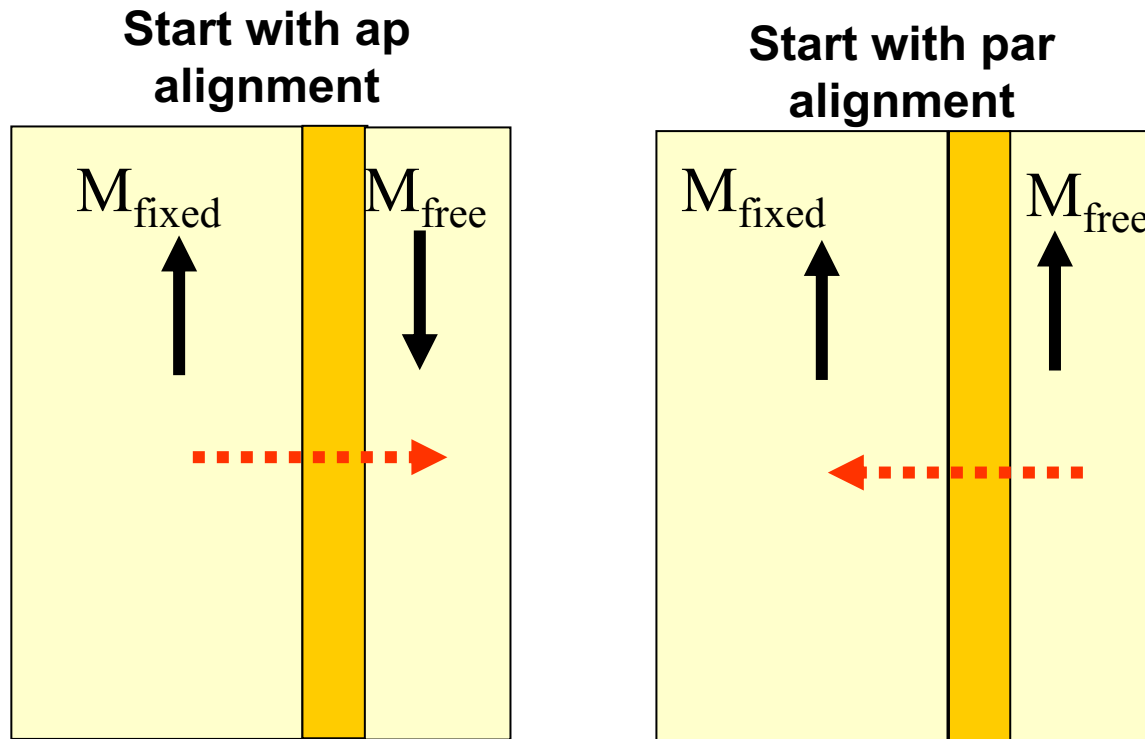
current induced magnetic  
excitations and switching (CIMS)

# CIMS – advanced magnetic switching concept

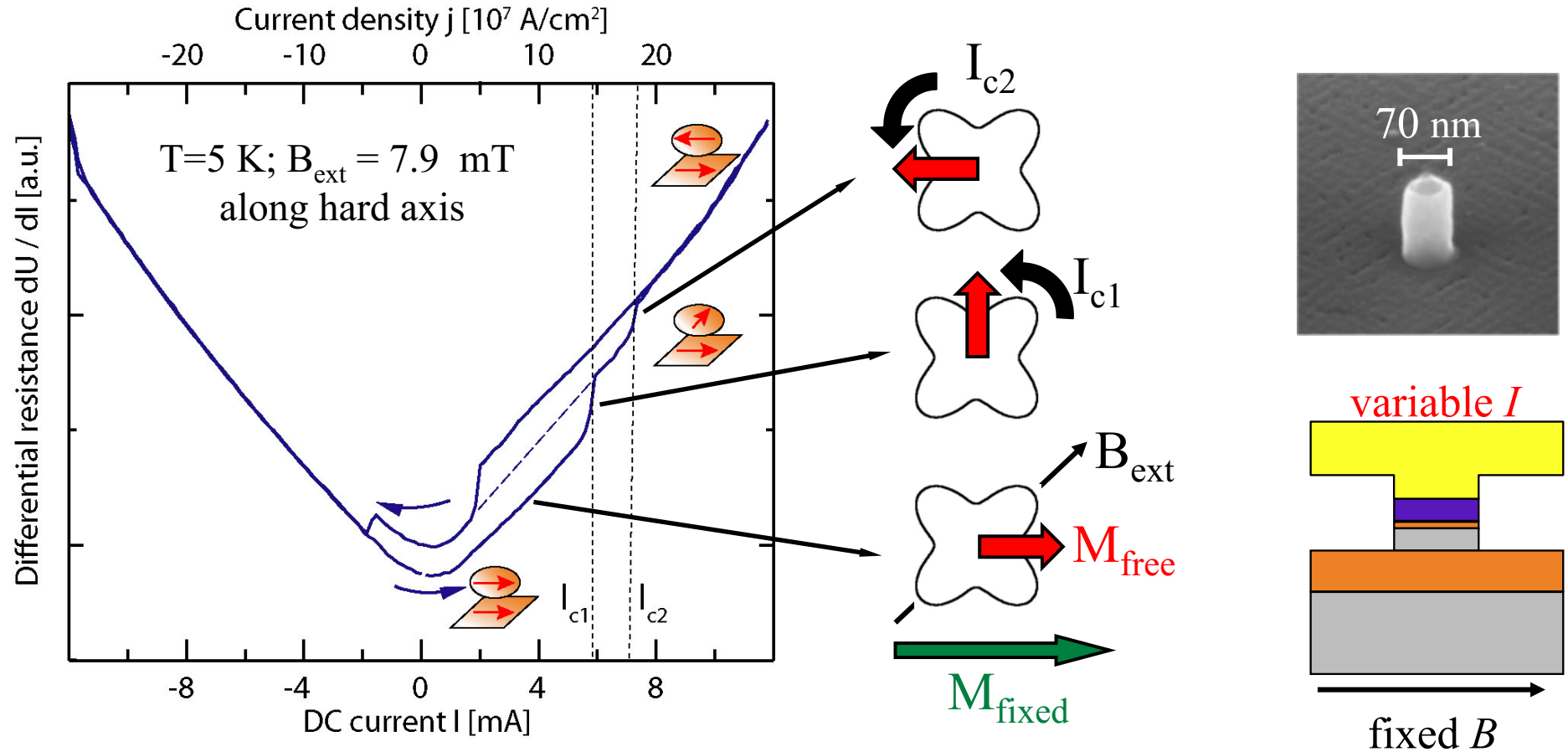
due to spin polarized currents

current induced magnetization switching and excitation of spinwaves  
proposed by J.Slonczewski and L.Berger in 1995

first experiment: J.A. Katine *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 84, 3149 (2000)



# Two step CIMS in Fe/Ag/Fe

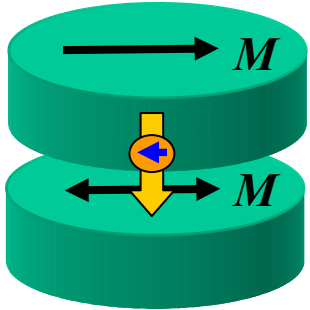


Four energetically nearly identical states give rise to two-step switching

R. Lehdorf, D. Bürgler, C. Schneider, Jülich  
2007

# Magnetization reversal of a thin-film element by a spin-polarized current

spin-polarized electric current

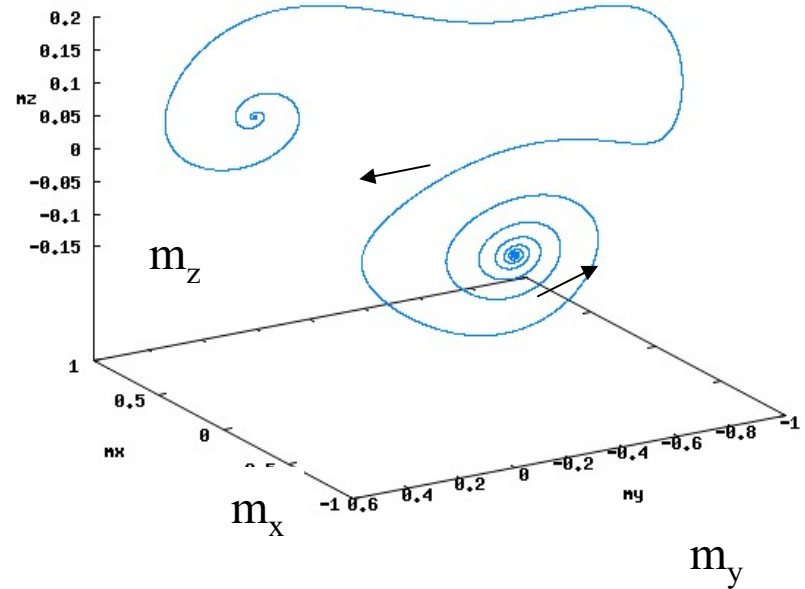
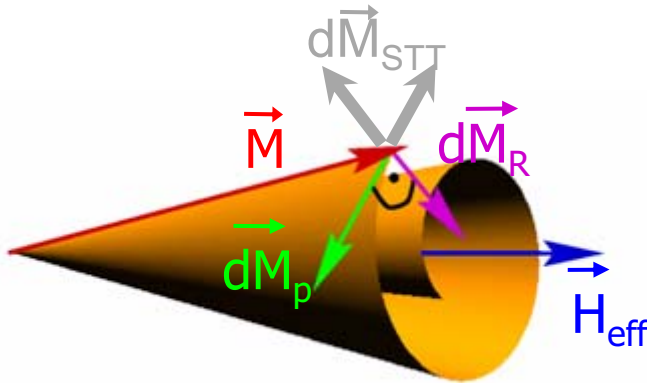


$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \underbrace{-\gamma \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}}}_{\text{precession}} + \underbrace{\alpha \mathbf{m} \times \frac{d\mathbf{m}}{dt}}_{\text{damping}} + \underbrace{\chi \mathbf{m} \times (\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{p})}_{\text{spin-transfer torque}}$$

precession

damping

spin-transfer torque

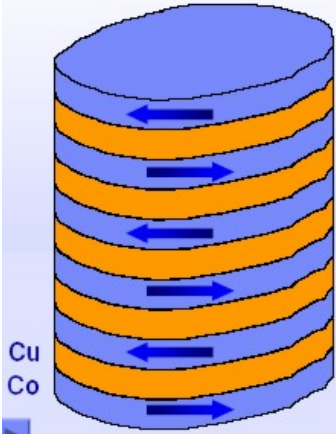
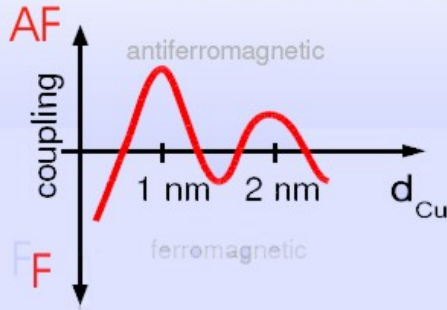


A. Kakay, R. Hertel, C. Schneider, IFF Jülich

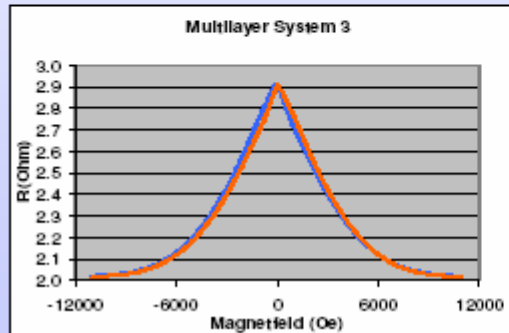
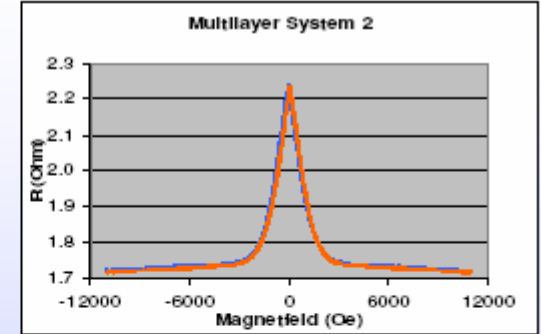
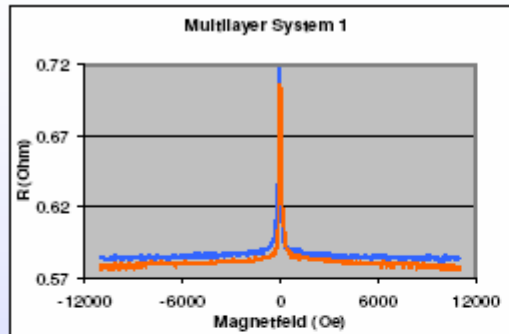
# **Applications**



Orientation of magnetization depends on spacer layer thickness;  
"interlayer exchange coupling"



**AF coupled multilayer:**  
**large signal (22-44%)**  
**easy tailoring of sensitivity**  
**unipolar**



| Multilayer System 1: CoFe/Cu |      |     |
|------------------------------|------|-----|
| H50                          | dR/R | Rsq |
| 63                           | 22   | 3   |

| Multilayer System 2: CoFe/Cu |      |     |
|------------------------------|------|-----|
| H50                          | dR/R | Rsq |
| 800                          | 30   | 9,7 |

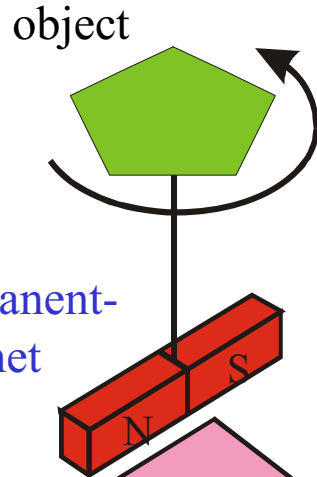
| Multilayer System 3: CoFe/Cu |      |      |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| H50                          | dR/R | Rsq  |
| 2600                         | 45   | 12,5 |

**Fig.13 working principle and data for GMR sensor with AF coupled multilayer**

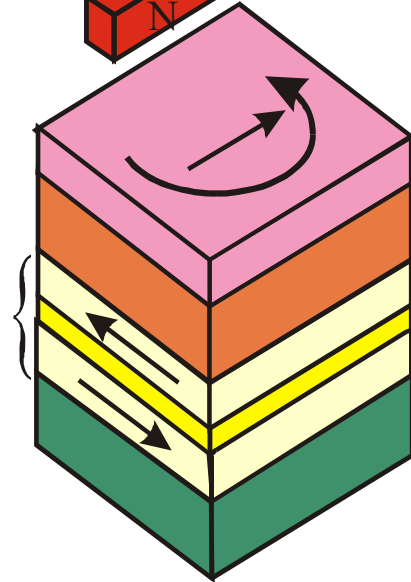
by courtesy of NAOMI-Sensitech, Germany

# Spinvalves

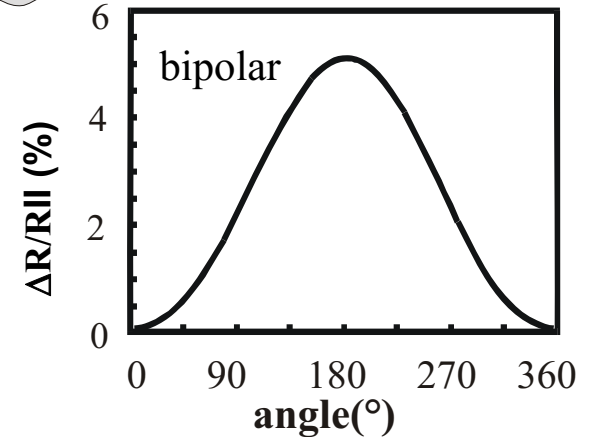
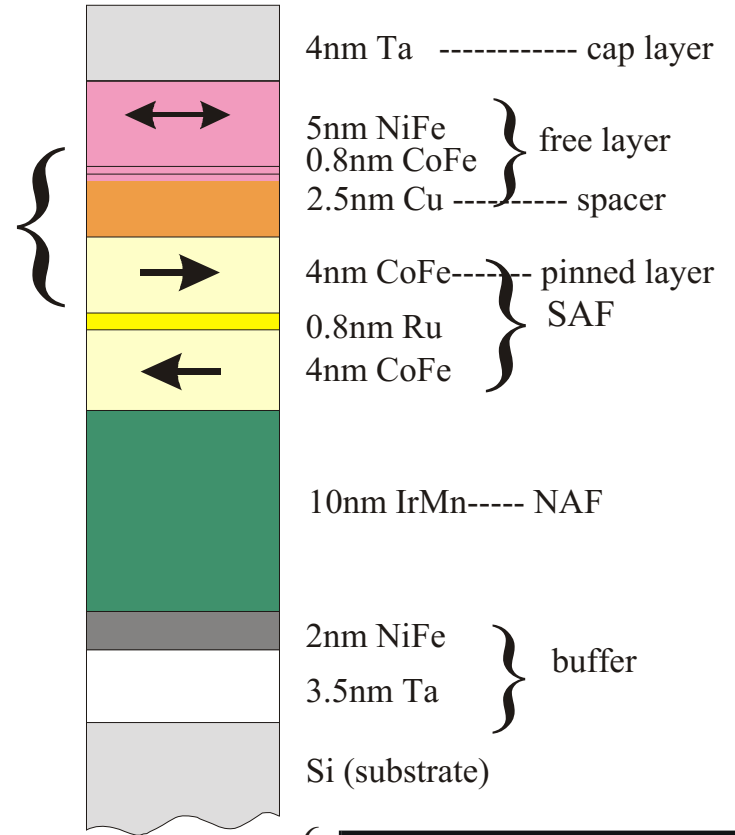
Here to monitor  
mechanical  
rotations



synthetic  
antiferromagnet  
(SAF)

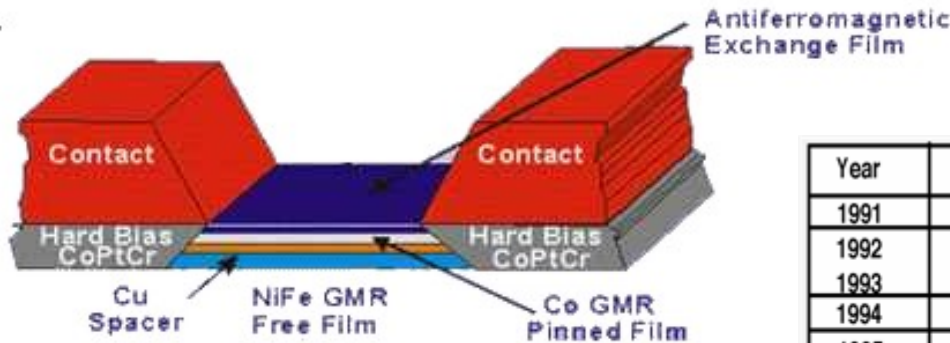


GMR  
effect

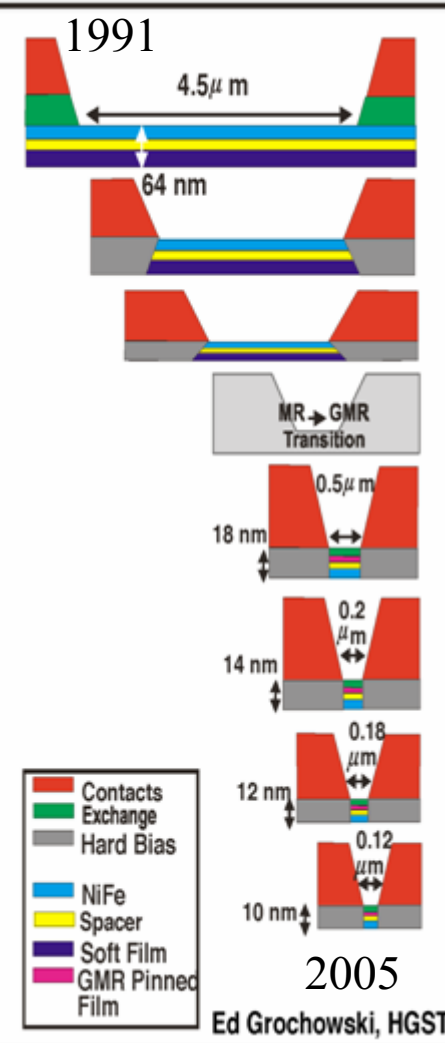


Used in ABS- and ESP-Systems for cars

# GMR sensors in read-heads for hard-disk drives

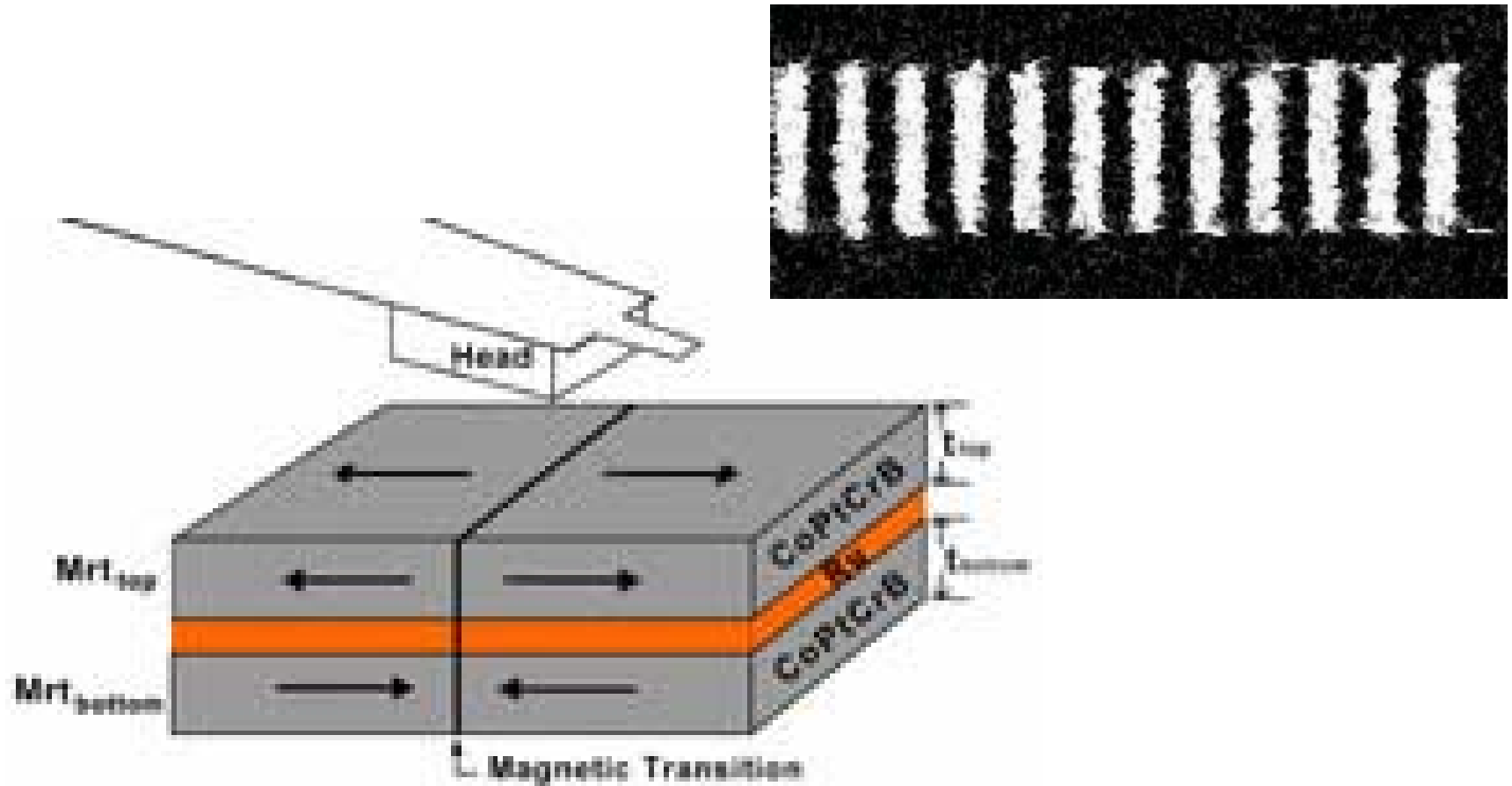


| Year | Areal Density<br>Gbits/in <sup>2</sup> | Product          |
|------|--|------------------|
| 1991 | 0.132                                  | Corsair          |
| 1992 | 0.260                                  | Allicat          |
| 1993 | 0.354                                  | Spitfire         |
| 1994 | 0.578                                  | Ultrastar XP     |
| 1995 | 0.829                                  | Ultrastar 2XP    |
|      | 0.923                                  | Travelstar 2LP   |
| 1996 | 1.32                                   | Travelstar 2XP   |
|      | 1.45                                   | Travelstar VP    |
| 1997 | 2.64                                   | Travelstar 5GS   |
|      | 2.68                                   | Deskstar 16GP    |
|      | 3.12                                   | Travelstar 6GN   |
| 1998 | 3.74                                   | Travelstar 6GT   |
|      | 4.1                                    | Deskstar 25GP    |
|      | 5.7                                    | Travelstar 6GN   |
| 1999 | 5.3                                    | Deskstar 37GP    |
|      | 10.1                                   | Travelstar 18GT  |
| 2000 | 7.04                                   | Ultrastar 36LZX  |
|      | 14.5                                   | Deskstar 40GV    |
|      | 17.1                                   | Travelstar 30GT  |
| 2001 | 13.2                                   | Ultrastar 73LZX  |
|      | 25.7                                   | Travelstarr 30GN |
|      | 29.7                                   | Deskstar 120GXP  |
|      | 34.0                                   | Travelstar 40GN  |
| 2002 | 26.3                                   | Ultrastar 146Z10 |
|      | 45.5                                   | Deskstar 180GXP  |
|      | 29.7                                   | Deskstar 120GXP  |
| 2003 | 70.0                                   | Travelstar 80GN  |
| 2004 | >100                                   |                  |
| 2005 | >200                                   |                  |



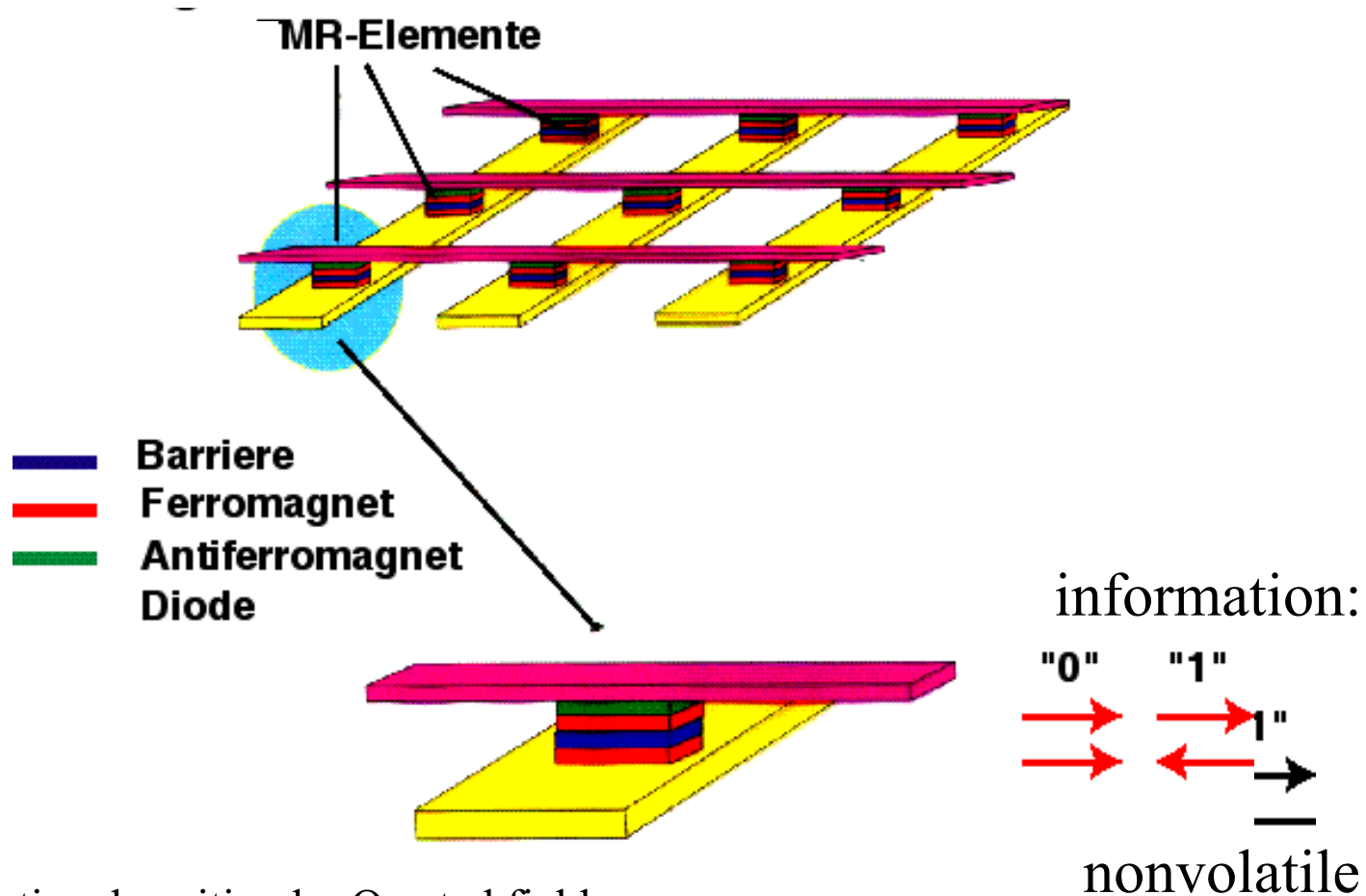
Shipment of GMR-read-heads (1997-2007):  
5 billion ( $10^9$ )

# AFC media



AFC stabilising magnetic domains on hard disc

# TMR and MRAM (magnetic random access memory)



Conventional: writing by Oersted fields  
Advanced: writing by CIMS

# AMR-and GMR-Sensor Applications

## e.g. als Electronic Compass Combined with a Mobile GPS

### System

there are already mobiles on the market which include GPS, in future also compasses

- measurement of the Earth's magnetic field in 2 or 3 axis
- accuracy of  $1^\circ$
- low power consumption (2 years battery life)

For continuous, retardation free alignment of map or direction of motion.



# Traffic Control Sensors

most vehicles contain parts of ferromagnetic materials



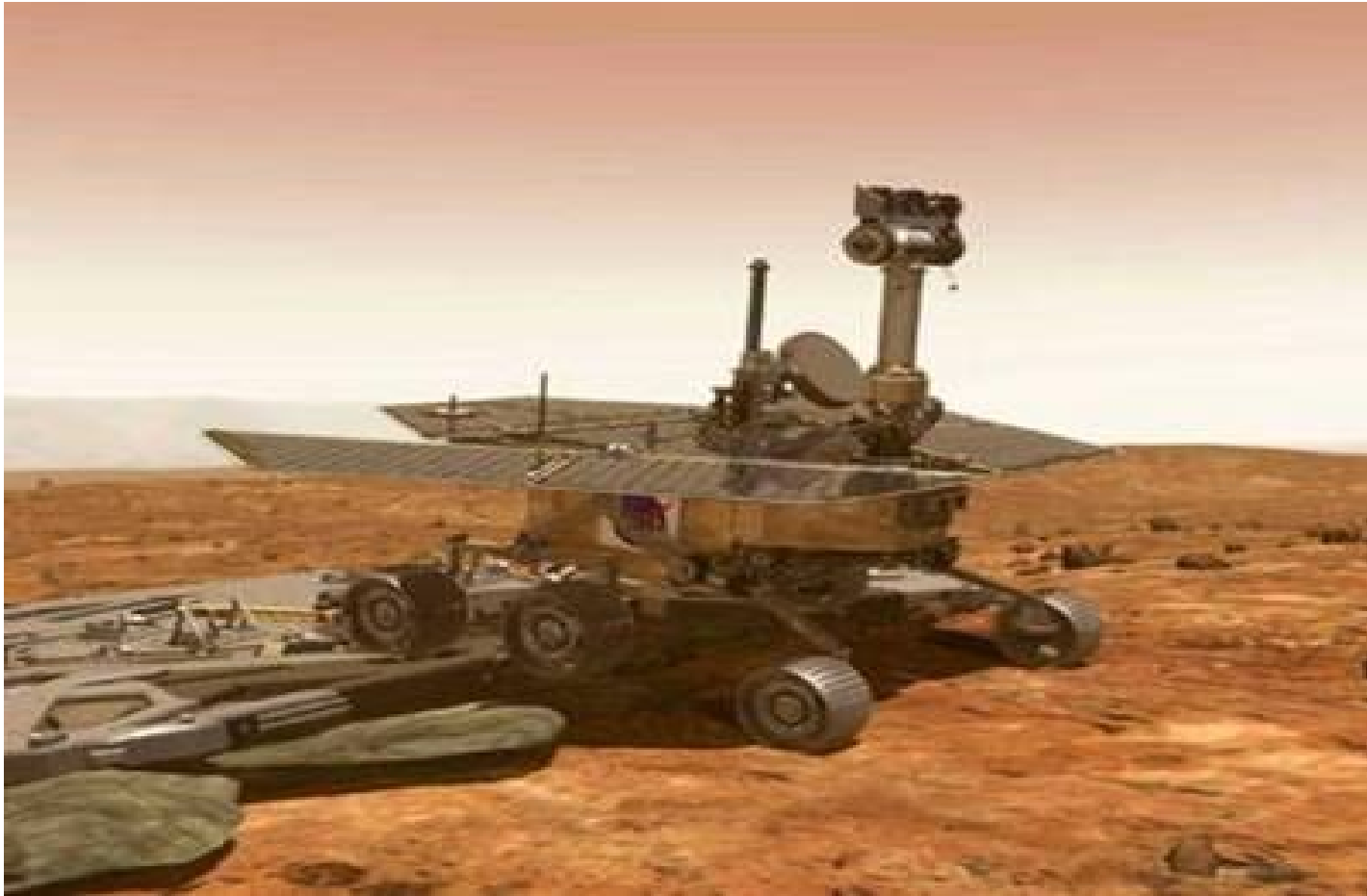
traffic control



indicate free parking lots on a display at the entrance of parkhouses



# **Spirit and Opportunity**

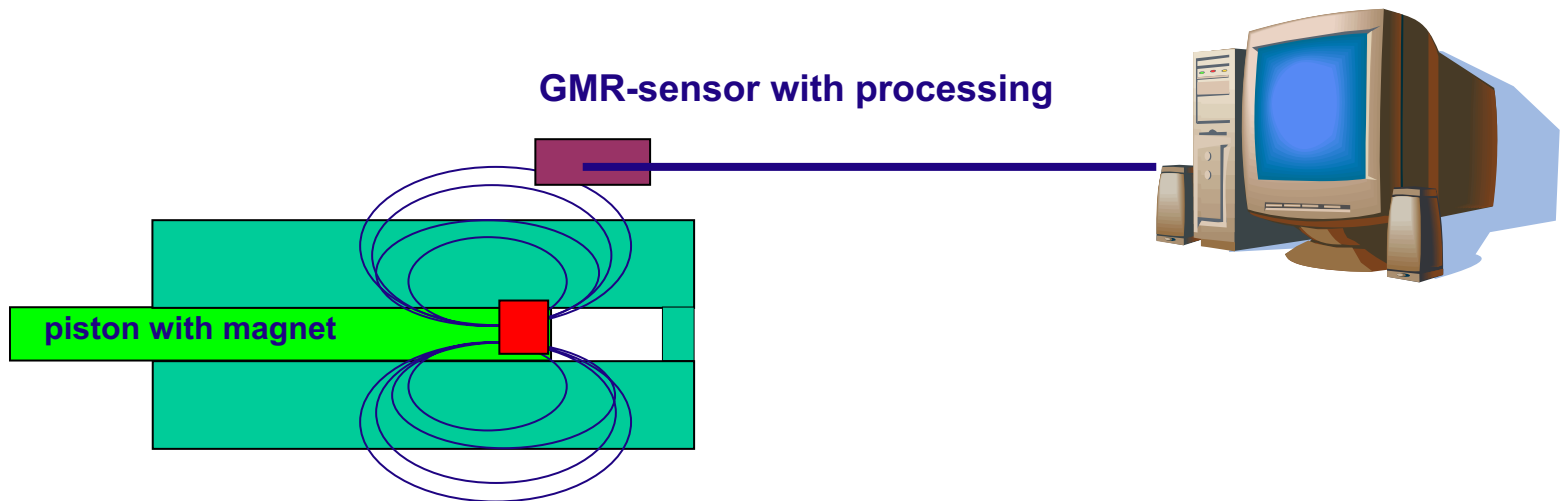


**The motion of „Spirit and Opportunity“ on Mars are monitored by AMR sensors.**



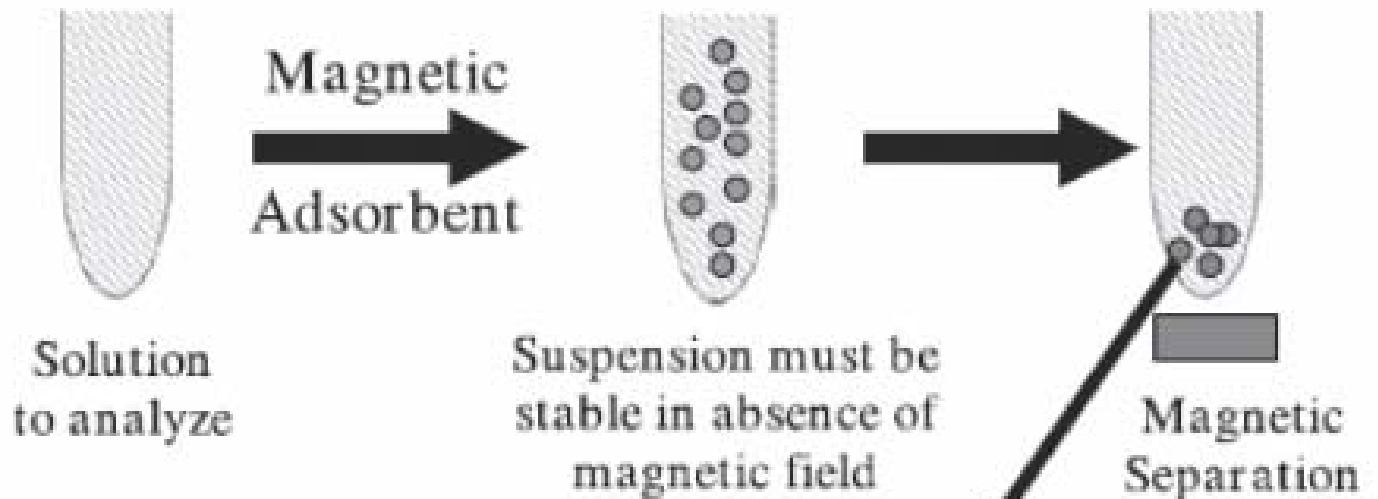
# GMR-Field Sensor Applications

e.g. Detection of piston end positions



The GMR-sensor detects - due to its high magnetic sensitivity - the position of the piston even at large distances and different cylinder diameters.

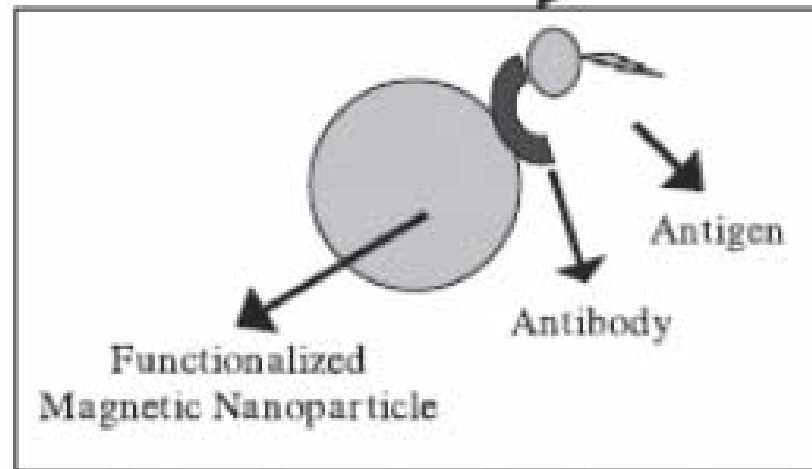
# GMR in medicine and biology



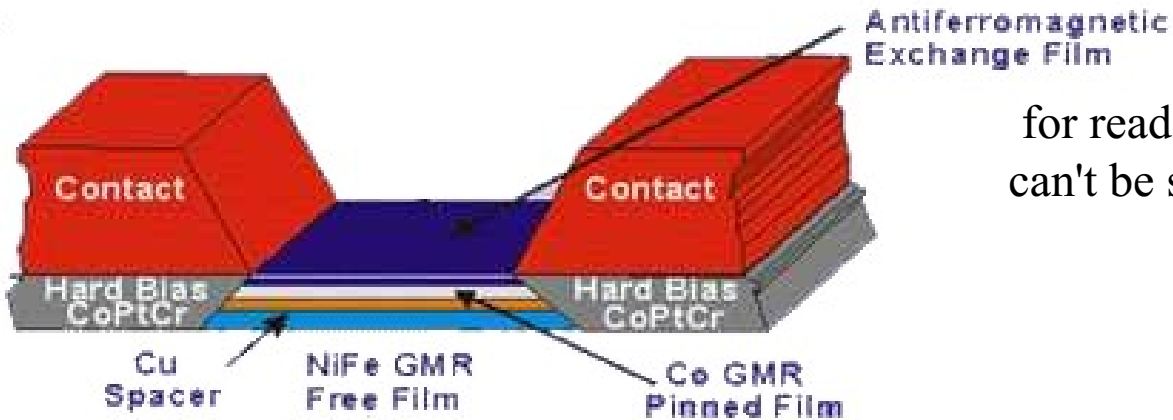
bead

## Surfaces

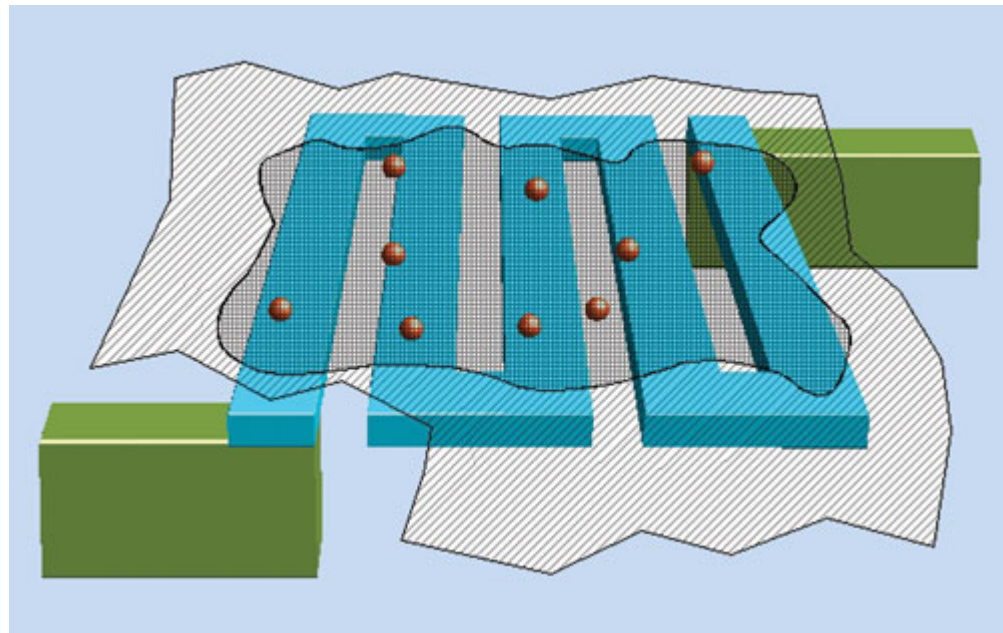
- Streptavidin
- Protein A
- Protein G
- Other target specific ligands
- Silica
- COOH
- NH<sub>2</sub>
- SH
- CHO
- C18-C4
- Tosyl



# New applications - New challenges



for read out in HDD  
can't be small enough



for detecting magnetic beads:  
can't be large enough

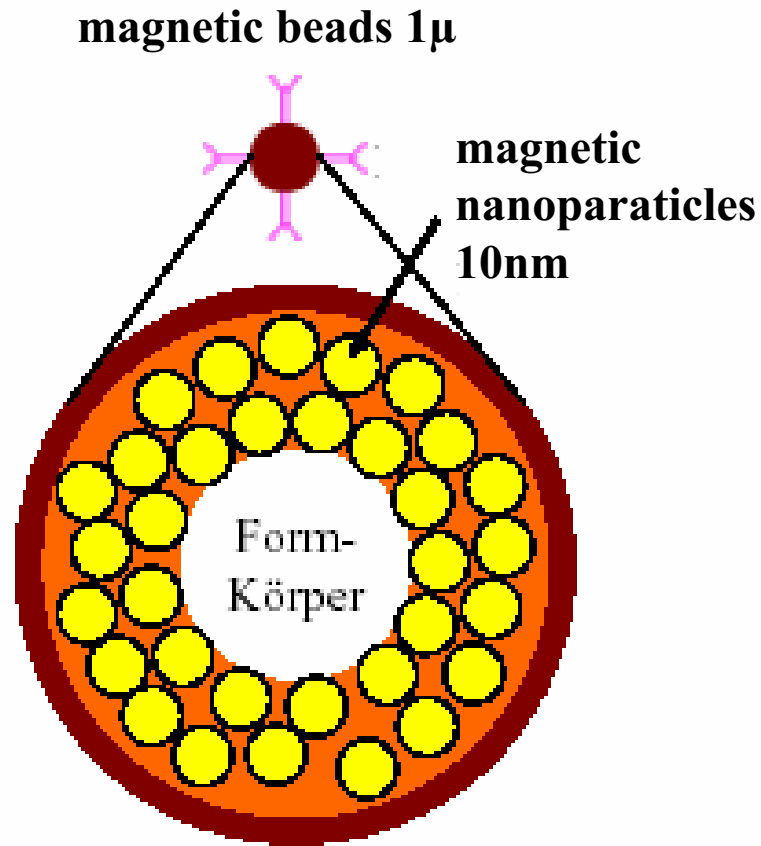
Hydra in the Greek mythology: cut one head, two new grow

Thank You

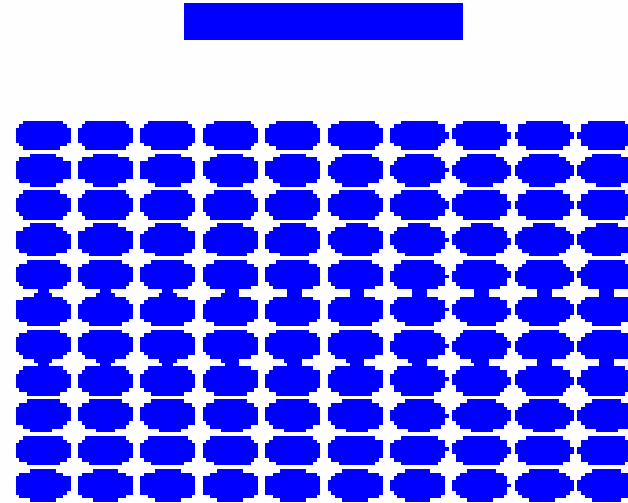
More Informations at  
[www.fz-juelich.de/gmr](http://www.fz-juelich.de/gmr)



# Biosensor: important ingredients



GMR- TMR-Sensor Array:  
see also „MRAM“



10x10 Sensors on  
 $0.1 \times 0.1 \text{mm}^2$  area

Y antibodies  
good guys



antigenes  
bad guys

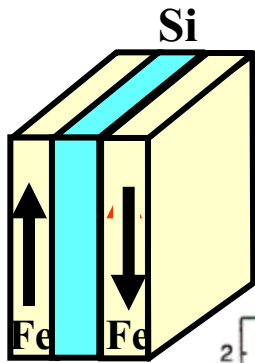


immune reaction

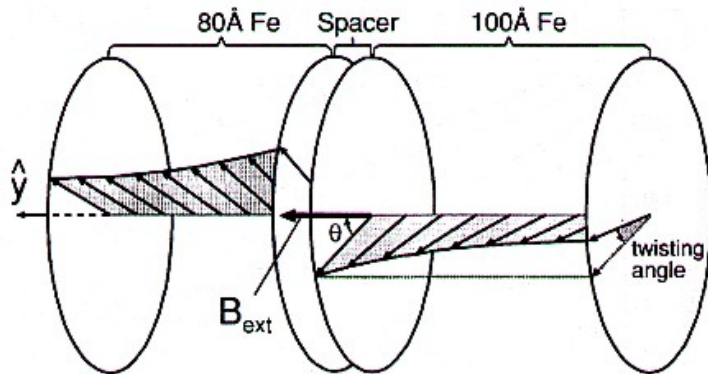
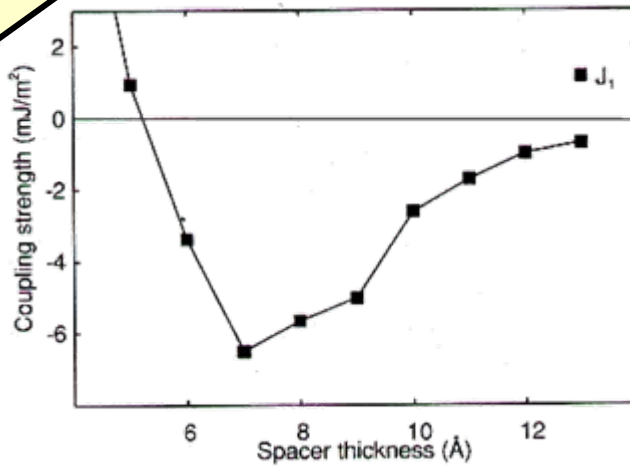
## Largest GMR values in trilayers and multi layers at room temp

| system                       | GMR[%] | $t_{\text{mag}}$ [nm] | ref. |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Fe/Cr/Fe                     | 1.5    | 12                    | 1)   |
| Fe/Cr/Fe                     | 2      | 5                     | 2)   |
| [Fe/Cr(1.2nm)] <sub>50</sub> | 42     | .45                   | 2)   |
| Co/Au/Co                     | 1.8    | 10                    | 1)   |
| Co/Cu/Co                     | 2.0    | 10                    | 1)   |
| Fe/Cu/Fe                     | 0.5    | 10                    | 1)   |
| Co/Cu/Co                     | 15     | 3                     | 3)   |
| [Co/Cu(0.9nm)] <sub>30</sub> | 48     | 1.5                   | 5)   |
| [Co/Cu(0.9)] <sub>16</sub>   | 65     | 1                     | 6)   |

- 1) Grünberg et al. JMMM 1991    2) Schad et al. JAP 1994    3) Egelhoff et al. JAP 79  
4) Schad et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. 1994    5) Mosca et al. JMMM 1991    6) Parkin Appl. Phys. Lett. 1991

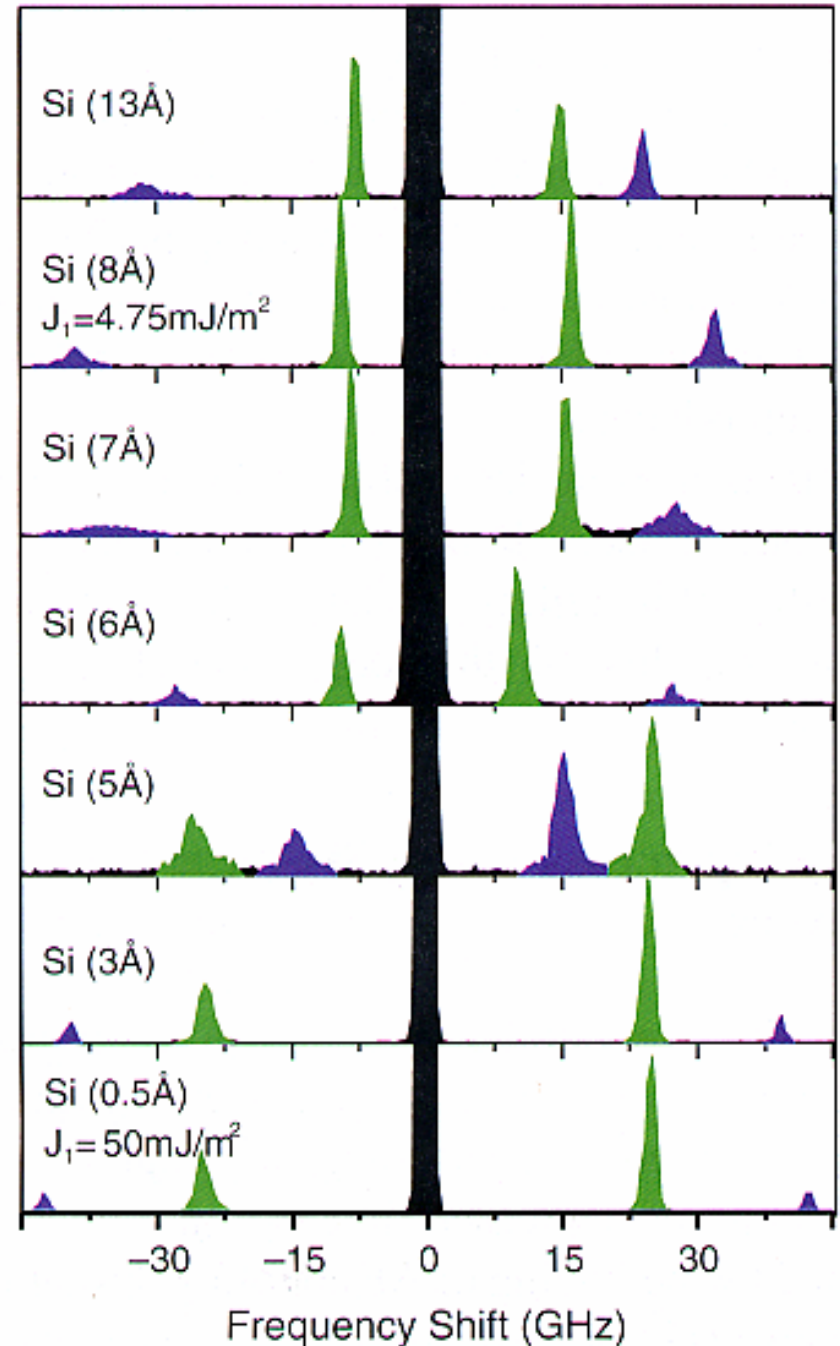


recent example: M. Buchmeier et al. PRB 67(2003)184404 and PhD thesis, Juelich 2003



evaluation includes twisting of magnetization in the Fe films

Scattering Intensity (a.u.)

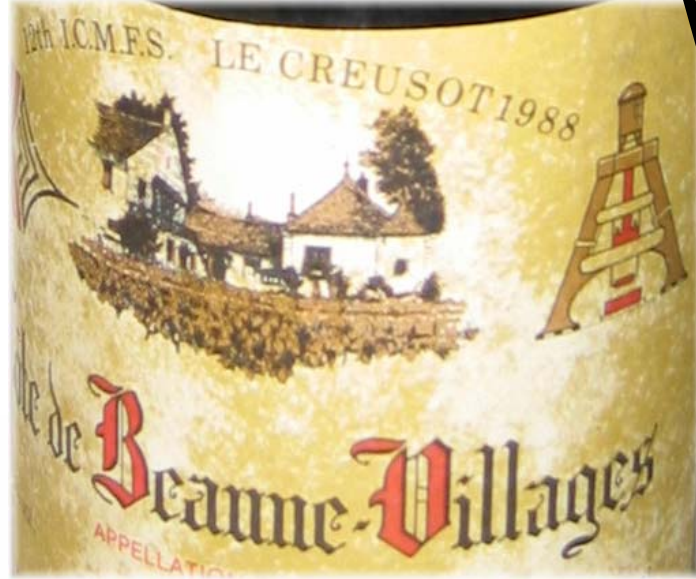


| Structure | Interlayer thickness [nm] | Coupling strength [mJ/m <sup>2</sup> ] | Reference |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| Fe/MgO/Fe | 0.5                       | -0.26                                  | [12]      |
| Fe/Si/Fe  | 0.6                       | -6.2                                   | [11]      |
| Co/Ru/Co  | <0.9                      | -5                                     | [50]      |
| Fe/Cr/Fe  | 0.5                       | -1.6                                   | [51]      |

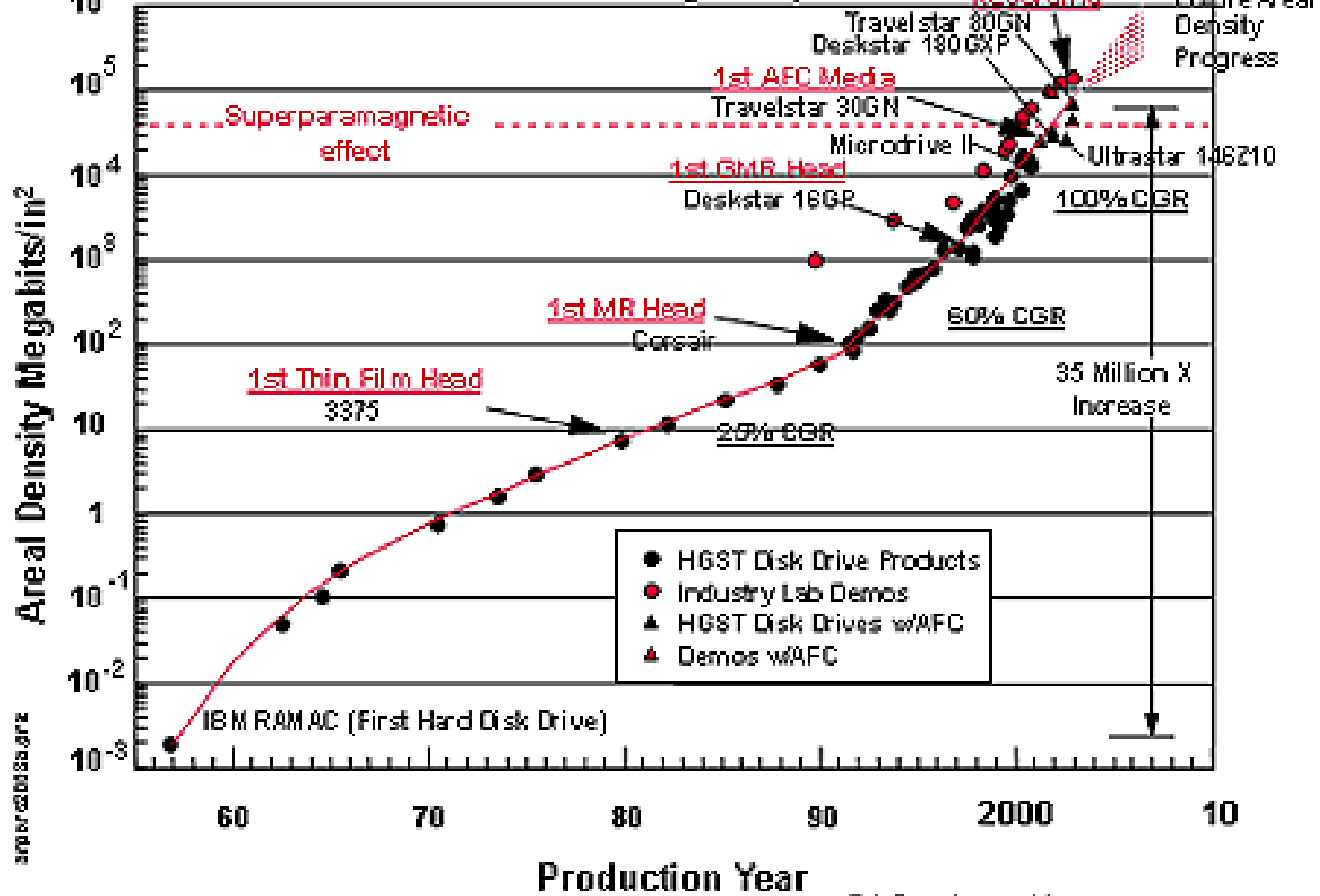
Table 1: Comparison of interlayer coupling strengths for some structures with insulating, semiconducting, and metallic interlayers.



# Le Creusot 1988



# HGST Areal Density Perspective



Ed Grochowski