Magnetism

Applications of magnetism

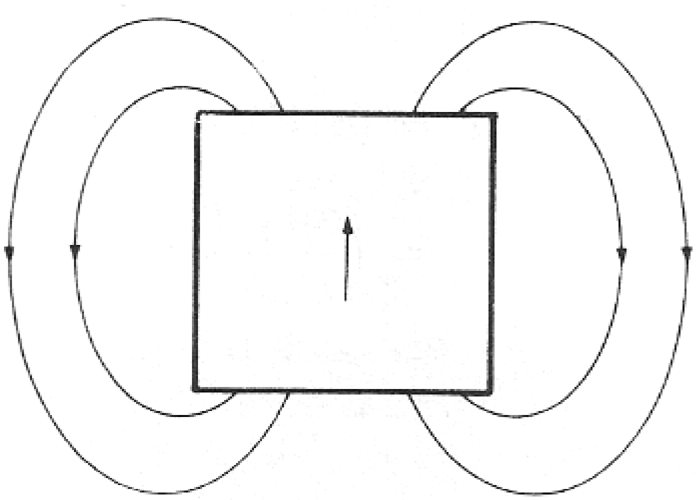
Hard magnets: permanent magnets, motors, generators, microphones

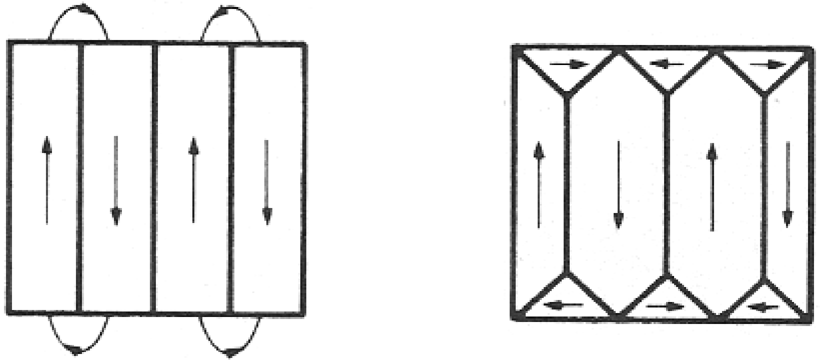
Soft magnets: transformers

Magnetic recording

Magnetic force microscope

Magnetic domains (weisssche Bezirke)





Magnetic energy density

$$\frac{B^2}{2\mu_0}$$

Costs energy to introduce domain walls where spin up regions are adjacent to spin down regions.

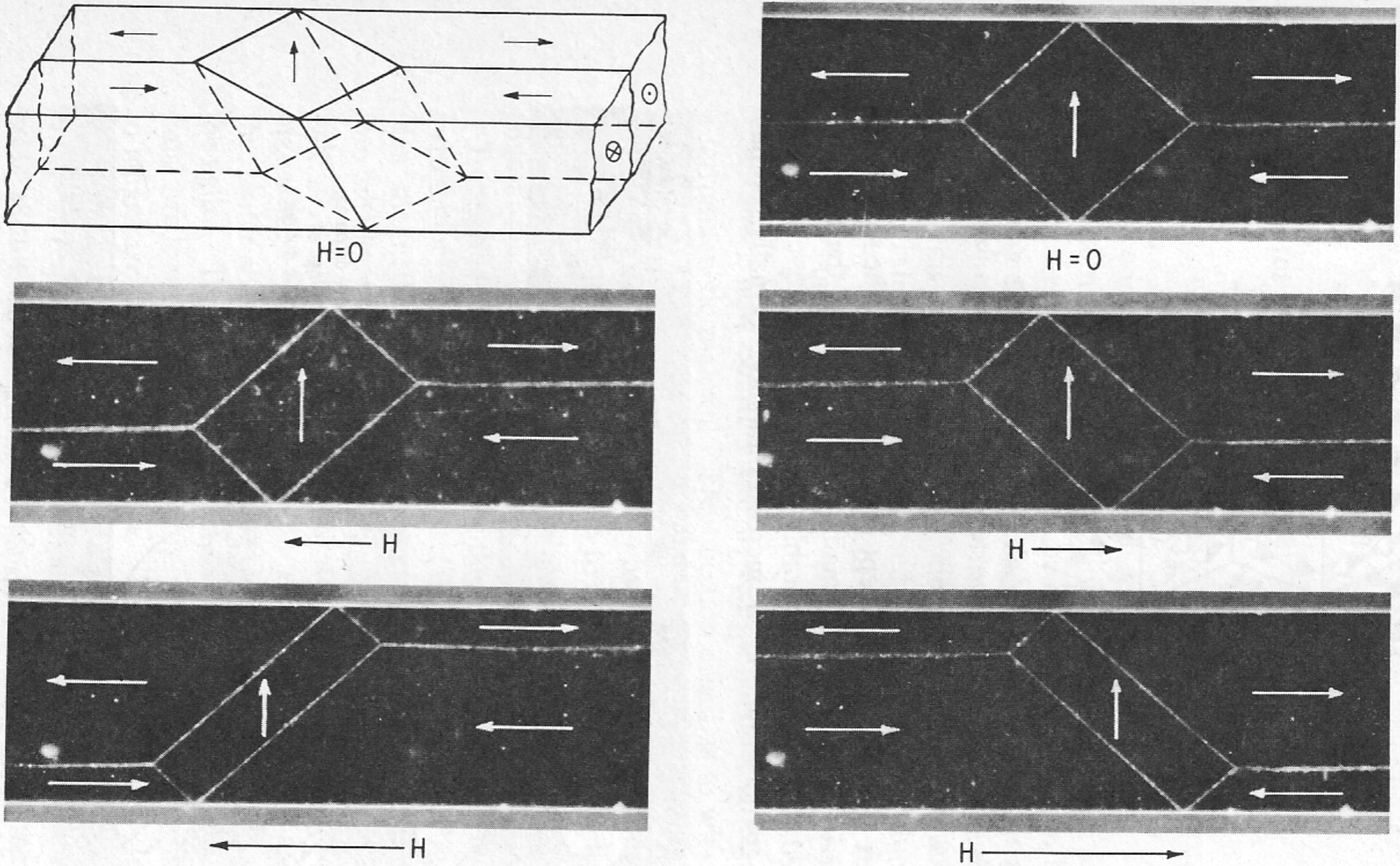


Figure 9.7

Ferromagnetic domains

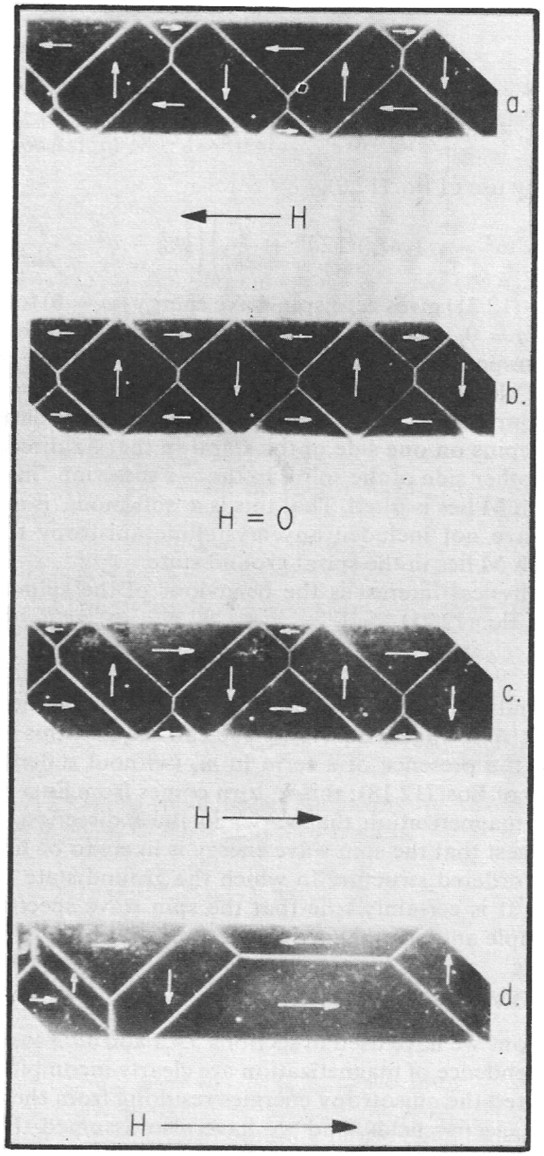
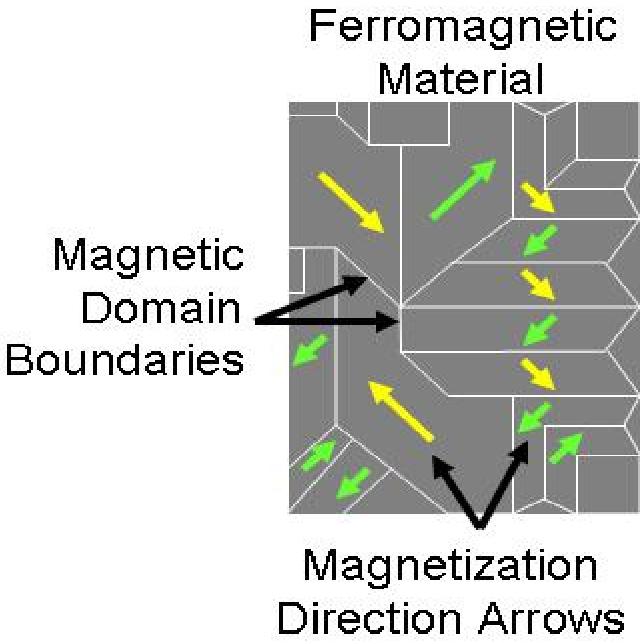


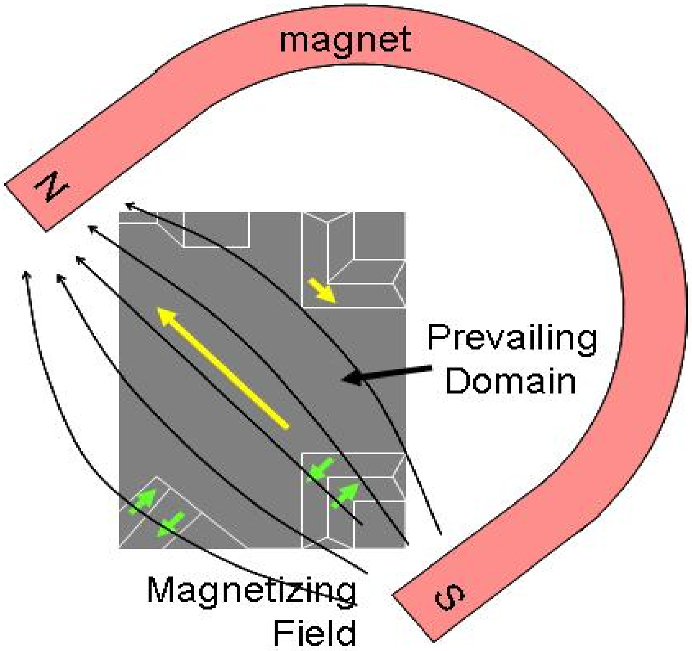
Fig. 12.5. Photographs showing reversible domain wall motion in a 50 μm whisker from (*a*) to (*b*) to (*c*), with an irreversible jump from (*c*) to (*d*).
{R. W. de Blois and C. D. Graham, *J. Appl. Phys.*, **29**, 931 (1958)}.

Weak fields: favorable domains expand
Strong fields: domains rotate to align with field

Irreproducible jump between c and d.

Magnetizing a magnet

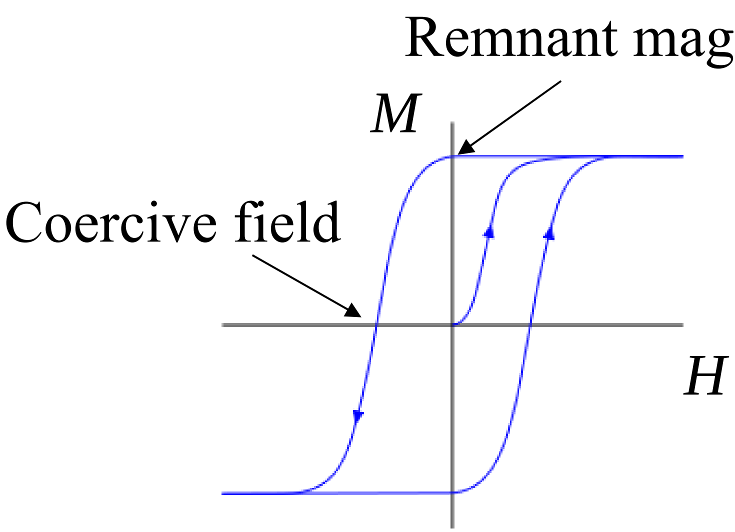




Weak fields: favorable domains expand

Strong fields: domains rotate to align with field

Hysteresis

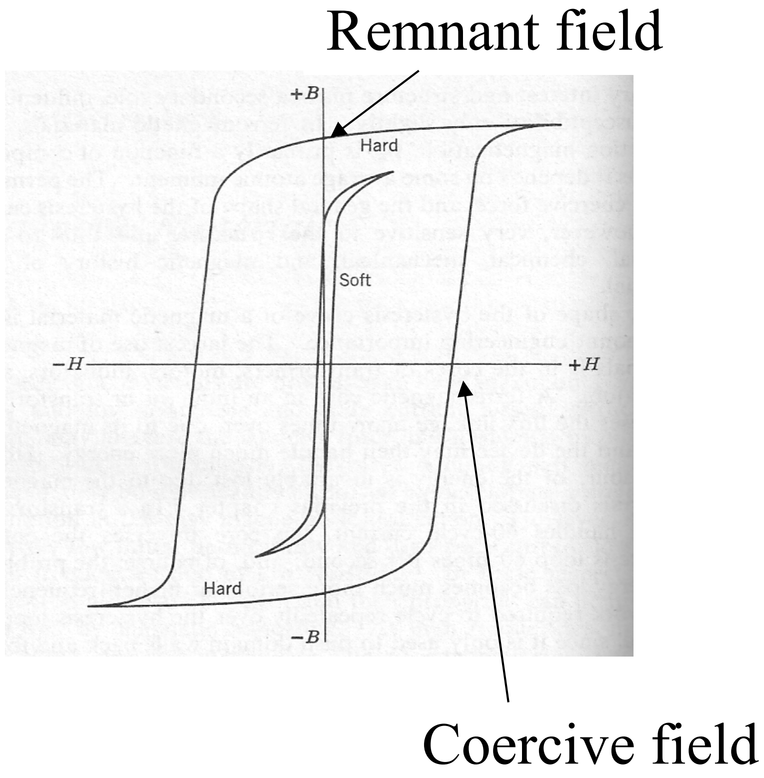


$$B = \mu_0 \left(H + M \right)$$

$$B = \mu H = \mu_r \mu_0 H$$

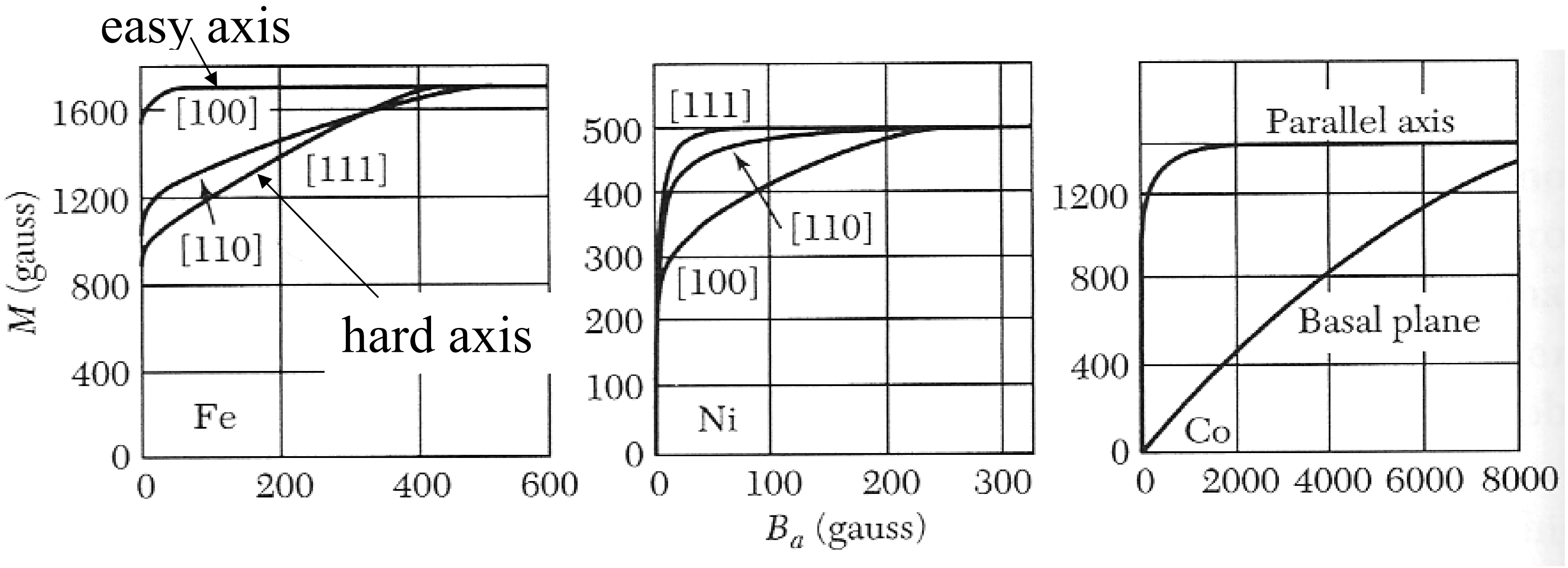
$$M = \chi H$$

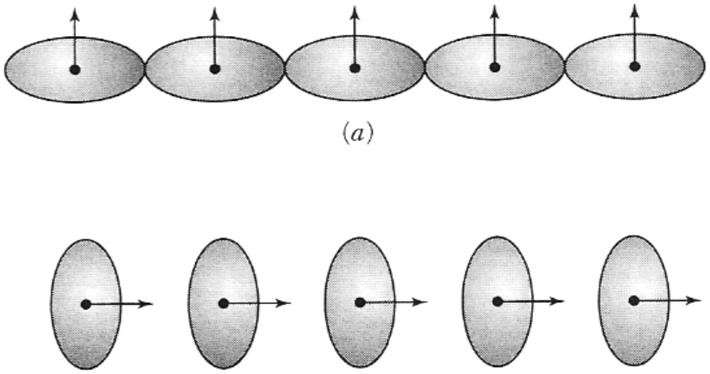
$$\mu_r = \left(1 + \chi \right)$$



Area of the loop is proportional to energy dissipated in traversing the loop.

Anisotropy energy





Spin-orbit coupling couples the shape of the wavefunction to the spin. The exchange energy depends on the overlap of the wavefunctions and thus on spin direction.

Bloch wall

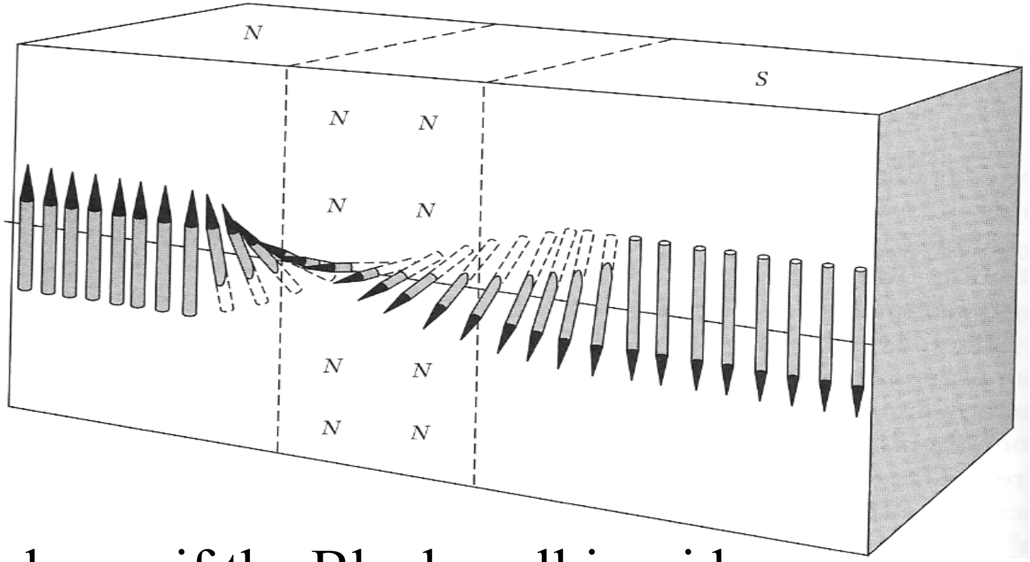
energy of two spins

$$w = -J\vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j = -JS^2\cos\varphi \approx -JS^2\left(1 - \frac{\varphi^2}{2}\right)$$

neglecting the constant part

$$w \approx JS^2\frac{\varphi^2}{2}$$

$$\varphi = \frac{\pi}{N}$$



energy of a line of spins

$$Nw \approx \frac{JS^2\pi^2}{2N}$$

energy is lower if the Bloch wall is wide

energy per unit area $\approx \dfrac{JS^2\pi^2}{2Na^2}$

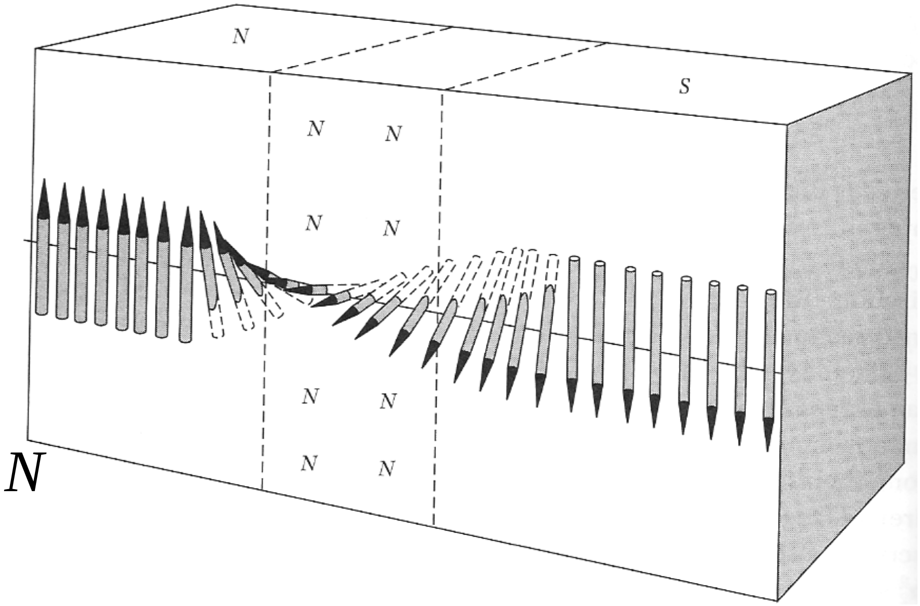
a is the lattice constant

Bloch wall

Anisotropy energy depends on the number of spins pointing in the hard direction

$\approx KNa$ ← Na = thickness of wall

↗ anisotropy constant J/m^3



Total energy per unit area:

$$E = \frac{JS^2\pi^2}{2Na^2} + KNa \qquad [\mathrm{J/m^2}]$$

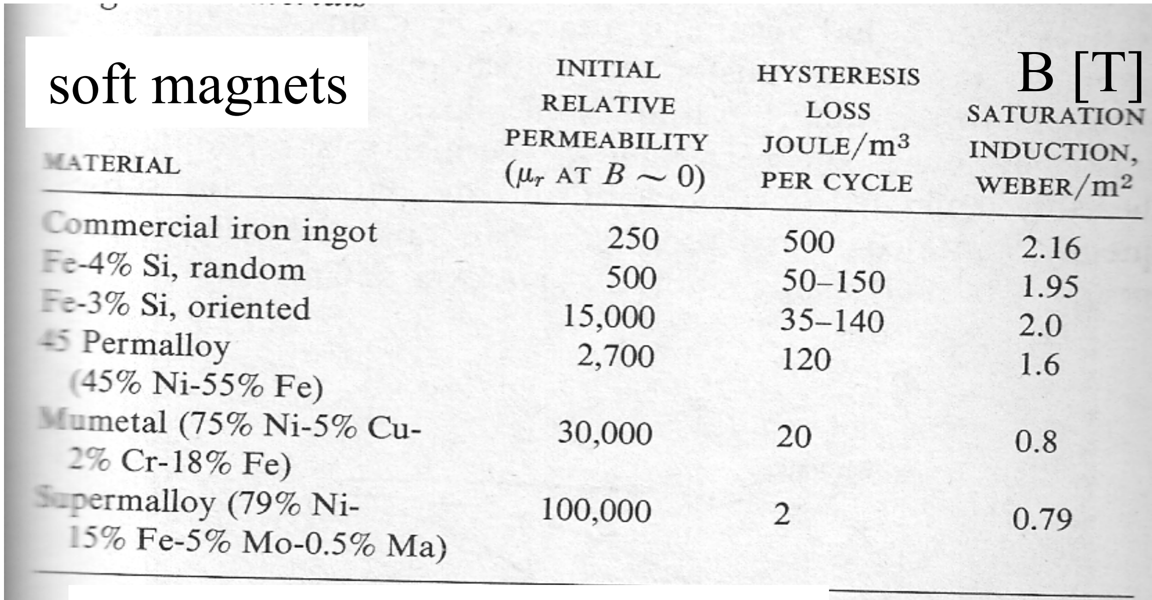
smaller for large N ↗ ↖ smaller for small N

$$\frac{dE}{dN} = 0 \Rightarrow -\frac{JS^2\pi^2}{2N^2a^2} + Ka = 0$$

$$N = \sqrt{\frac{JS^2\pi^2}{2Ka^3}}$$

$N \sim 300$ for iron

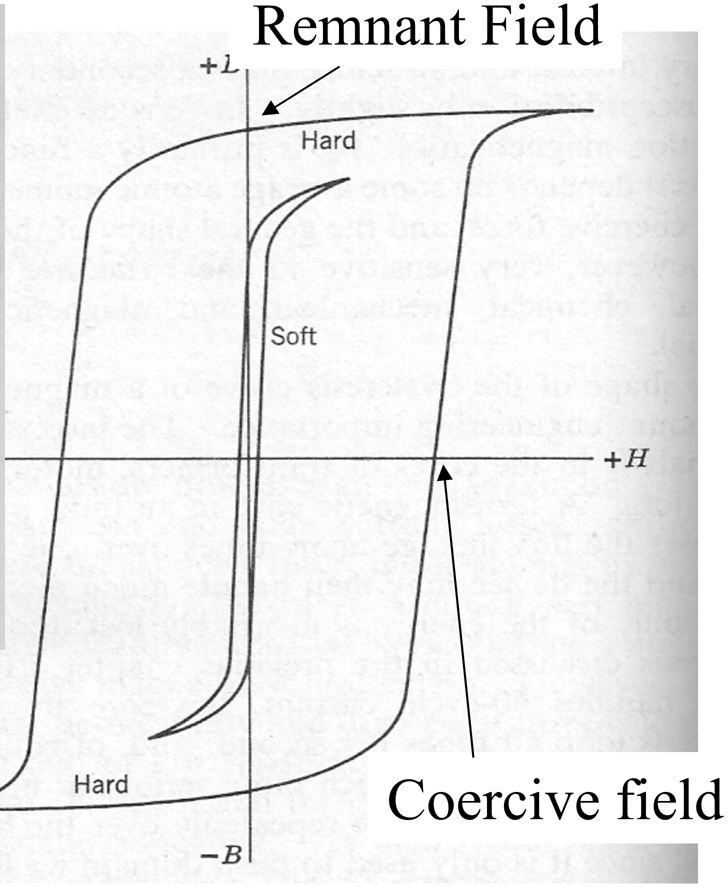
Soft magnetic materials



soft magnets

MATERIAL	INITIAL RELATIVE PERMEABILITY (μ_r AT $B \sim 0$)	HYSTERESIS LOSS JOULE/m^3 PER CYCLE	B [T] SATURATION INDUCTION, WEBER/m^2
Commercial iron ingot	250	500	2.16
Fe-4% Si, random	500	50–150	1.95
Fe-3% Si, oriented	15,000	35–140	2.0
45 Permalloy (45% Ni-55% Fe)	2,700	120	1.6
Mumetal (75% Ni-5% Cu-2% Cr-18% Fe)	30,000	20	0.8
Supermalloy (79% Ni-15% Fe-5% Mo-0.5% Ma)	100,000	2	0.79

transformers
magnetic shielding
above 1 MHz ferrites are used



Remnant Field

Coercive field

$$B = \mu_0 \left(H + M \right)$$

$$B = \mu_r \mu_0 H$$

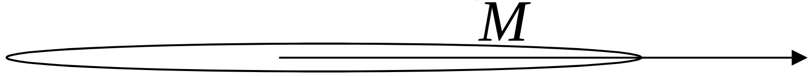
$$M = \chi H$$

$$\mu_r = 1 + \chi$$

Single domain particles

Small 10 - 100 nm particles have single domains.

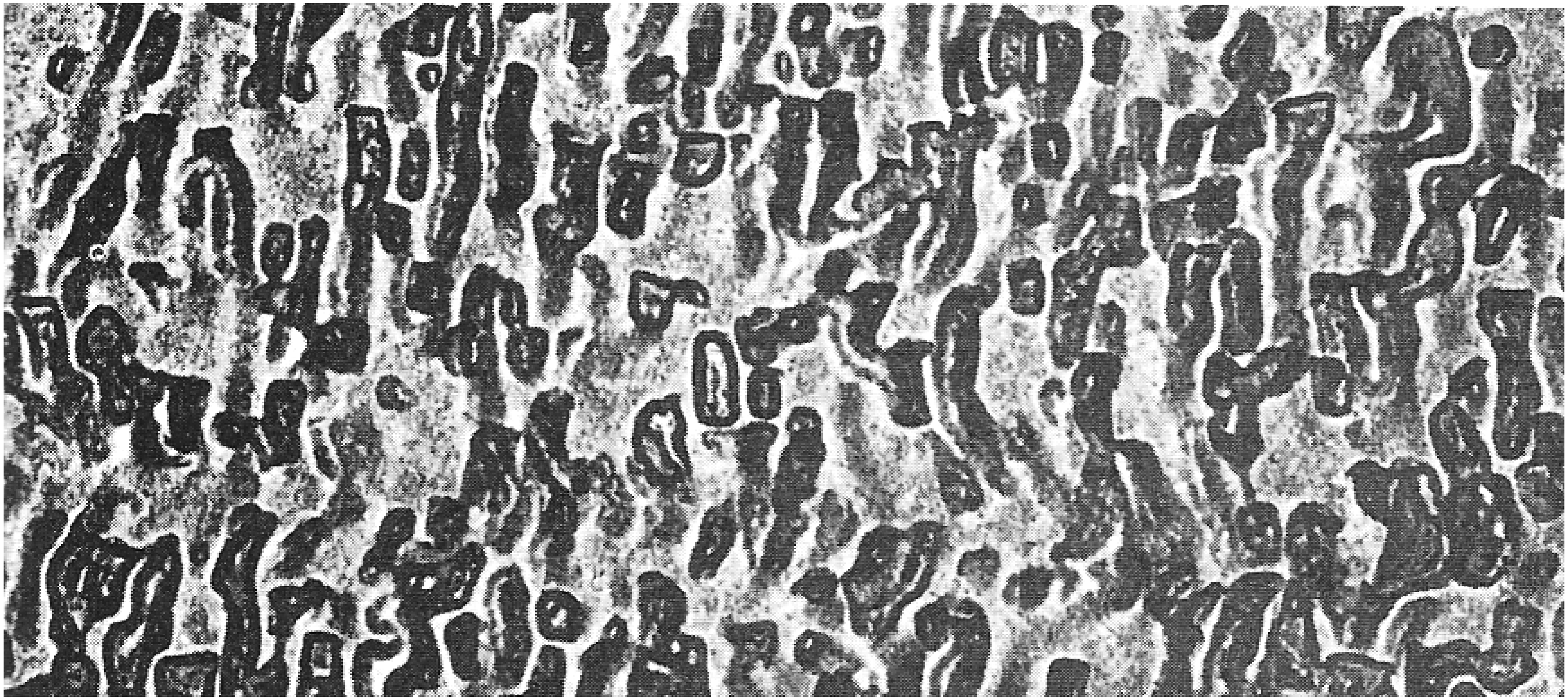
Elongated particles have the magnetization along the long axis.



Single domains are used for magnetic recording. Long crystals can be magnetized in either of the two directions along the long axis.

Shape anisotropy.

Hard magnets



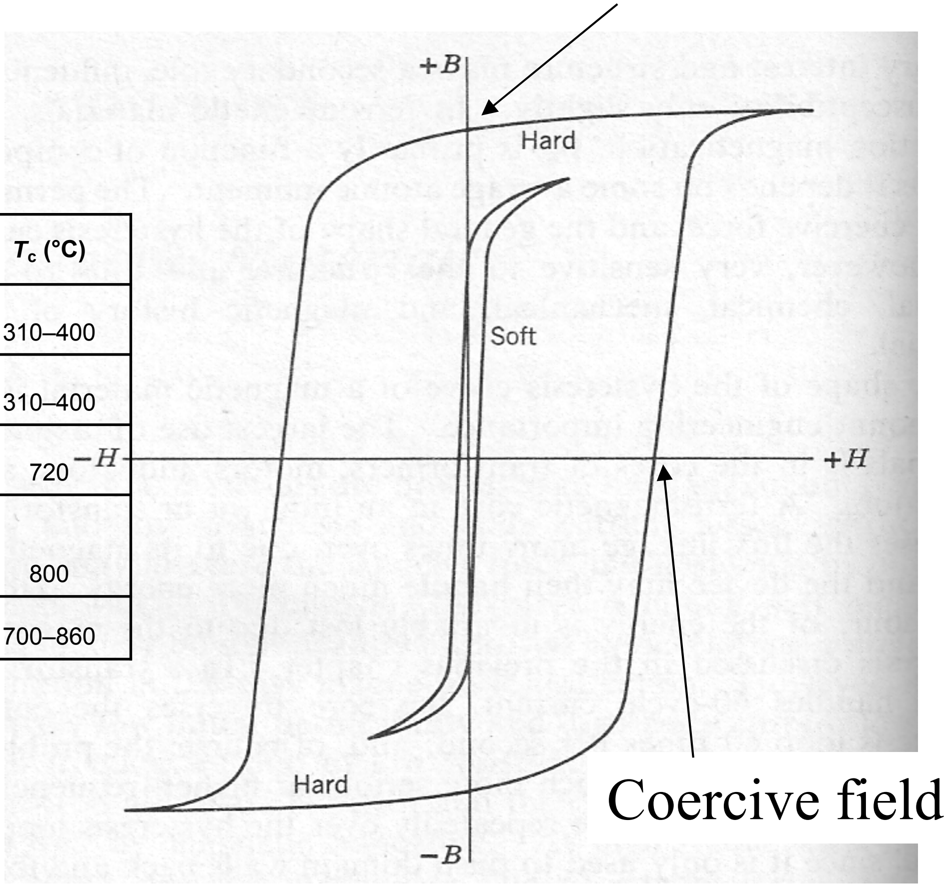
Grains too small to contain Bloch walls must be flipped entirely by the field.

Alnico: 8-12% Al, 15-26% Ni, 5-24% Co, up to 6% Cu, up to 1% Ti, rest is Fe

Hard magnetic materials

hard magnets

Magnet	B_r (T)	H_{ci} (kA/m)	$(BH)_{max}$ (kJ/m^3)	T_c (°C)
$Nd_2Fe_{14}B$ (sintered)	1.0–1.4	750–2000	200–440	310–400
$Nd_2Fe_{14}B$ (bonded)	0.6–0.7	600–1200	60–100	310–400
$SmCo_5$ (sintered)	0.8–1.1	600–2000	120–200	720
Sm(Co,Fe,Cu,Zr)$_7$ (sintered)	0.9–1.15	450–1300	150–240	800
Alnico (sintered)	0.6–1.4	275	10–88	700–860



Remnant Field

Coercive field

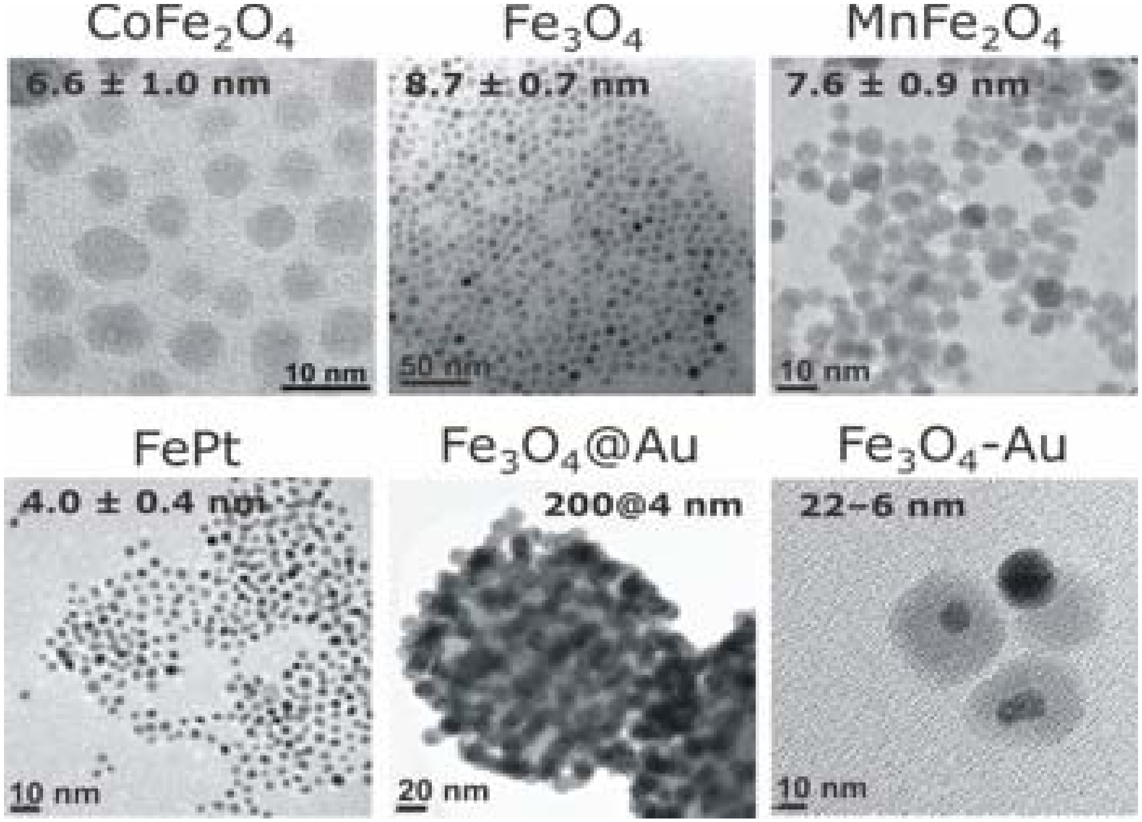
Permanent magnets,
magnetron, motors, generators

Defects are introduced to pin the Bloch walls in a hard magnet.

Applications of hard magnets

Motors, generators, speakers, microphone

Superparamagnetism



Below the Curie temperature the thermal energy changes the direction of magnetization of the entire crystallites.

http://www.imec.be/microsystems/bioelectronics/research/fn2.shtml

Composite magnets

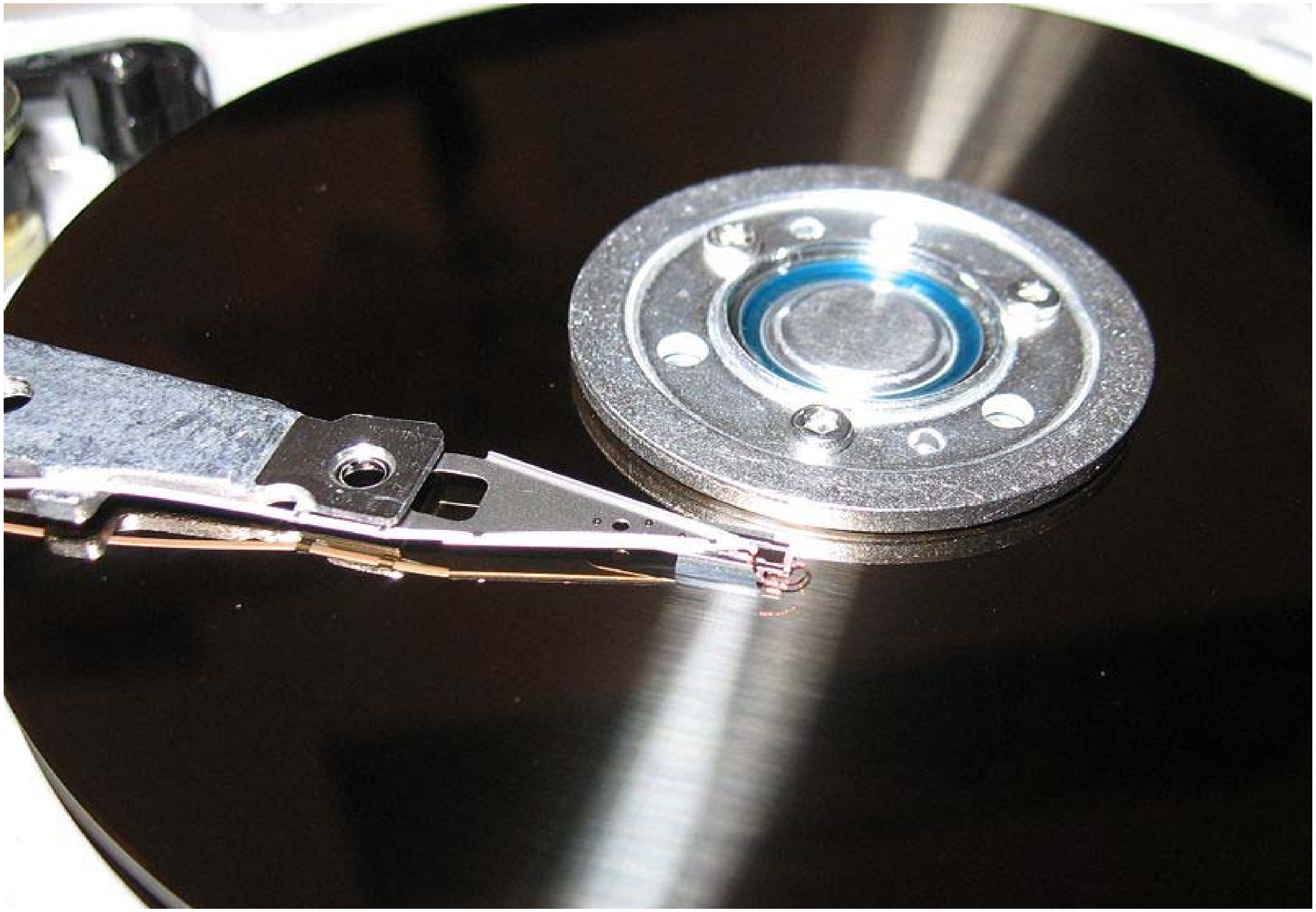
Injection molded magnets are a composite of various types of resin and magnetic powders

Flexible magnets are made by embedding magnetic particles in vinyl.

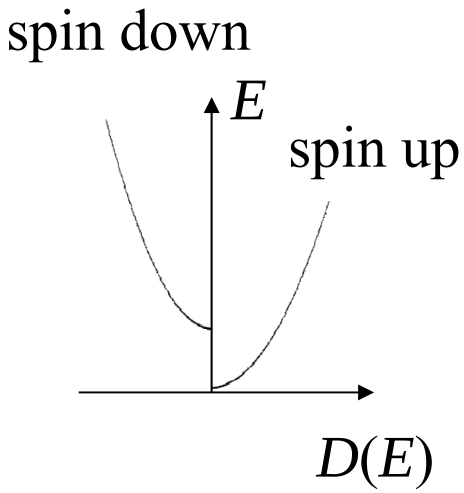
Powers deposited on tapes for magnetic storage.

Magnetic tapes are much cheaper per GB than hard disks.

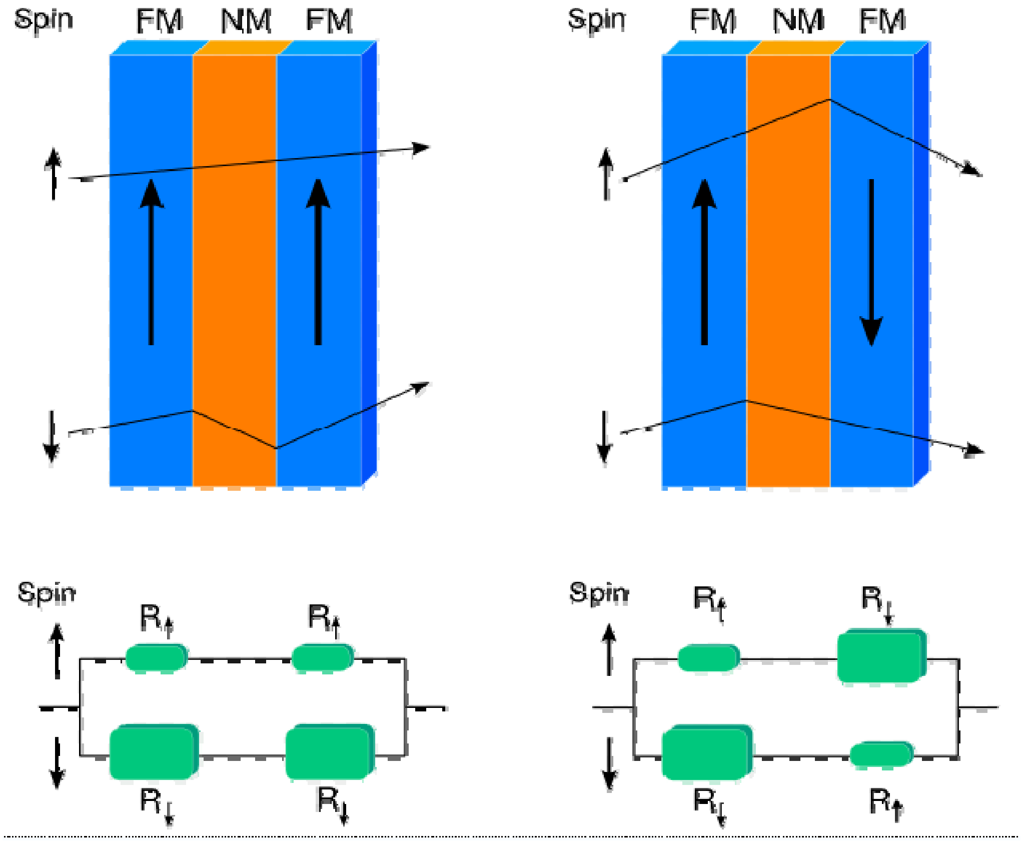
magnetic recording



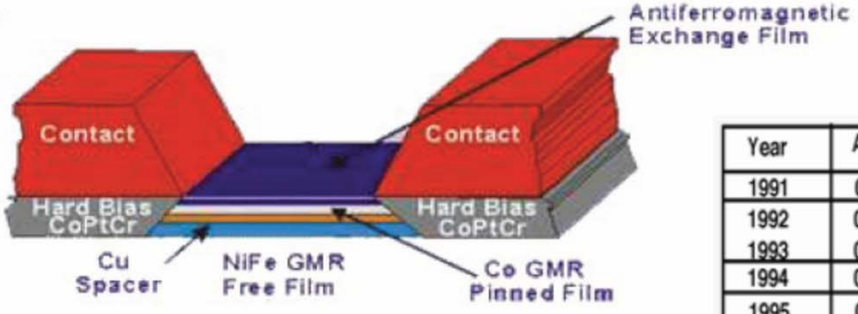
Giant magnetoresistance



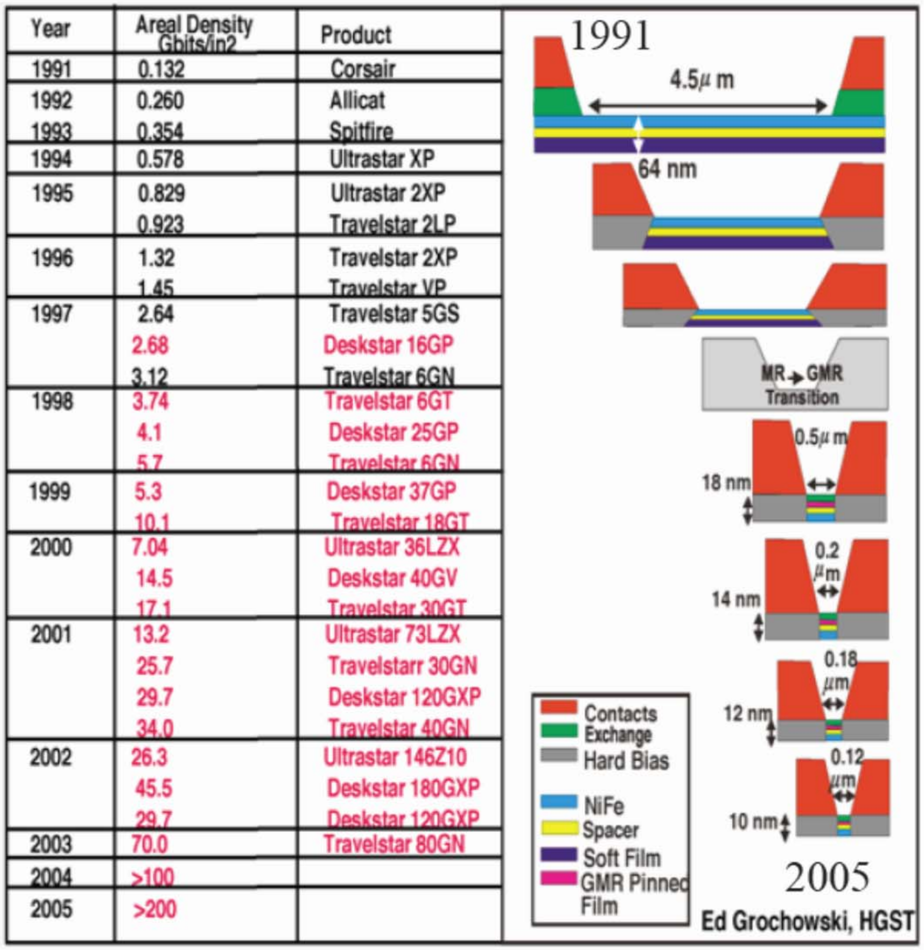
spin value



GMR sensors in read-heads for hard-disk drives



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



Year	Areal Density Gbits/in2	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	

Ed Grochowski, HGST

Peter Gruenberg Nobel Lecture 2007:
From Spinwaves to Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR) and Beyond