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# Guest Lecture „Magnetic Functional Materials“ within the AFM module „Facets of Materials“

## Feedback Session I (the basics)

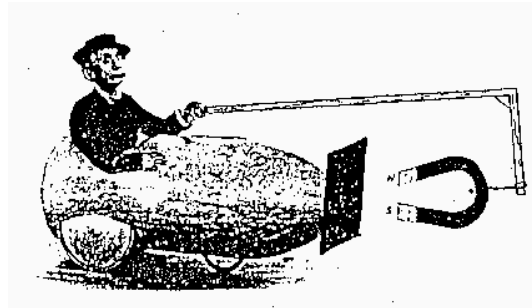
**Prof. Dr. Olav Hellwig**

**Lehrstuhl für Magnetische Funktionsmaterialien**

**Sommersemester 2021**

**Fridays**

**9:15 – 10:45 Uhr**



TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT  
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**HZDR**

HELMHOLTZ  
ZENTRUM DRESDEN  
ROSSENDORF



**Sorry, the first couple of slides in the recorded lecture were presented in German, since the lecture was originally recorded for the German physics module „Komplexe Materialien“!**

**I will show the corresponding English slides here in the review session and will once more go through the outline of the recorded lecture.**

## Ferromagnetic (Functional) Materials

- **Introduction**
- **Energies und energy densities of a ferromagnetic sample**
  - Exchange Interaction
  - Stray field or demagnetization energy, shape anisotropy
  - Additional anisotropy energies (except for shape anisotropy = demagnetization energy)
  - Zeemann energy, external fields
- **Mutual competition between the different magnetic energy terms**
- **Hysteresis-effects, Stoner-Wohlfarth model, basis for binary magn. data storage)**
- **Magnetic functional materials for data storage**
  - Development of the hard disk drive: from magnetic Micro-systems to Nano-systemes
  - GMR (Giant magnetoresistance) and TMR effects for high sensitivity magnetic read heads
  - Future hard disk drive technologies
  - New effects in the magnetic nano-world: Spin transfer torque in Nano-contacts
  - Separation of charge and spin currents: Spin orbit torque in thin films systems
  - New applications Magnetic Random Access Memory (MRAM)
  - Spin waves as new information carriers (HZDR-movie)

## Ferromagnetische (Funktionale) Materialien

- Guest-lecture “Komplexe Materialien” part 1: FM functional materials for data storage (some basics) (1:36:31)
- Guest-lecture “Komplexe Materialien” part 2: FM functional materials for data storage (applications) (1:32:24)
- Total lecture time 3:08:55

**Questions ?**

**We can go to the corresponding slide and discuss !**

- 12 +2 questions about the last lecture ...

Do you remember?

# Question 1

Which elements are ferromagnetic at room temperature?

A: Fe, Cr, Mn

B: Co, Fe, Cr

C: Ni, Fe, Co

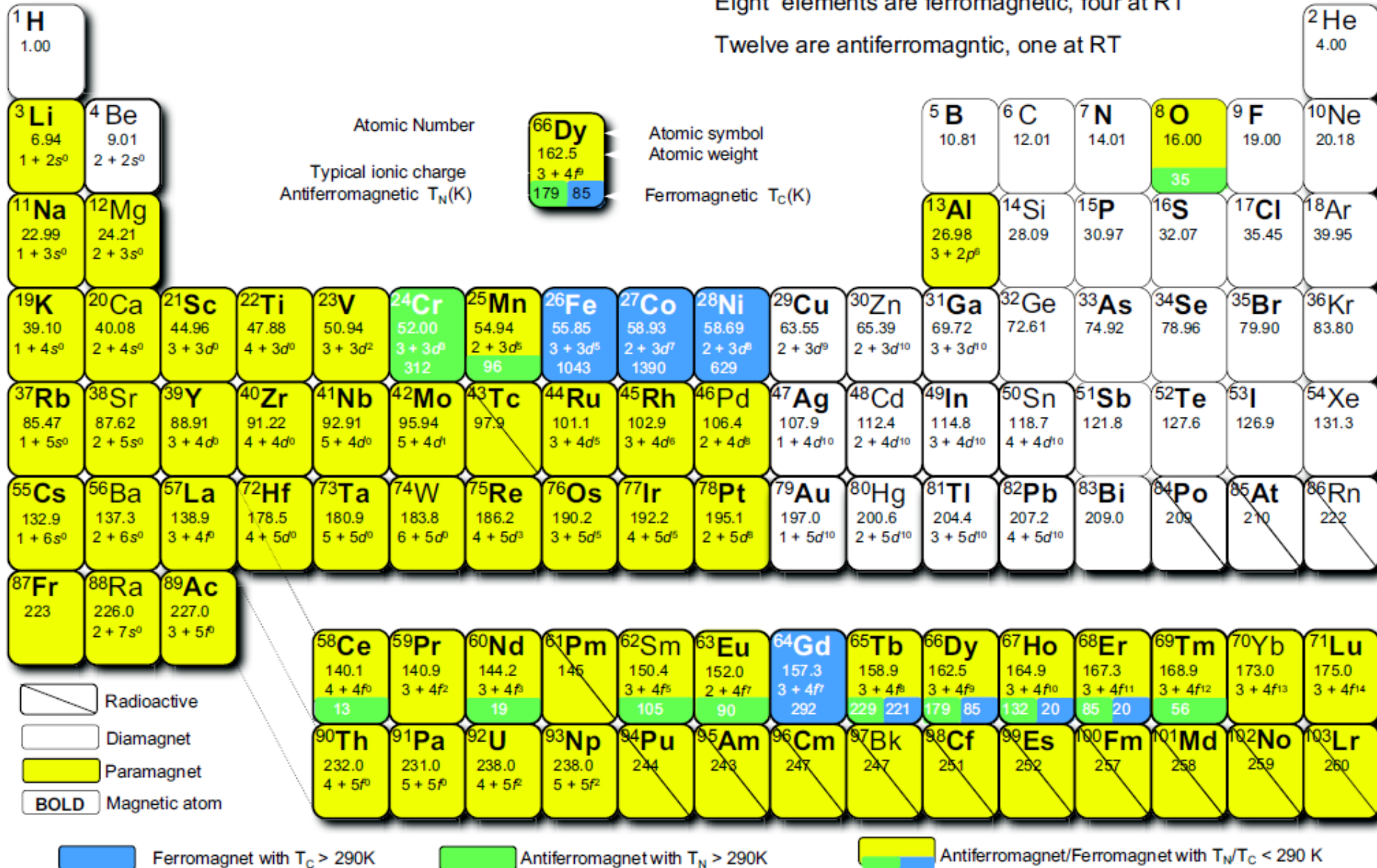
D: Co, Ni, Fe, Tb

E: Gd, Fe, Co, Ni

# Magnetic Elements

Eight elements are ferromagnetic, four at RT

Twelve are antiferromagnetic, one at RT



# Question 2

Which material has the highest Curie Temperature  $T_C$ ?

A: Fe

B: Co

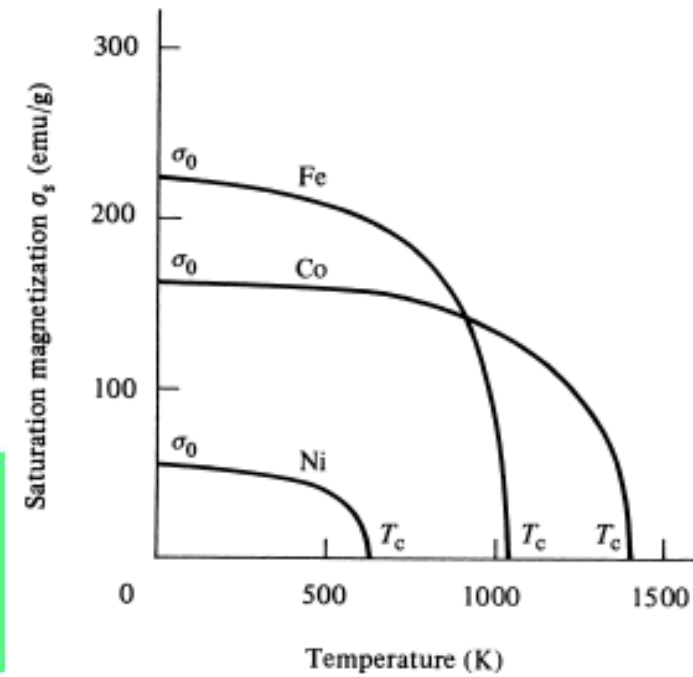
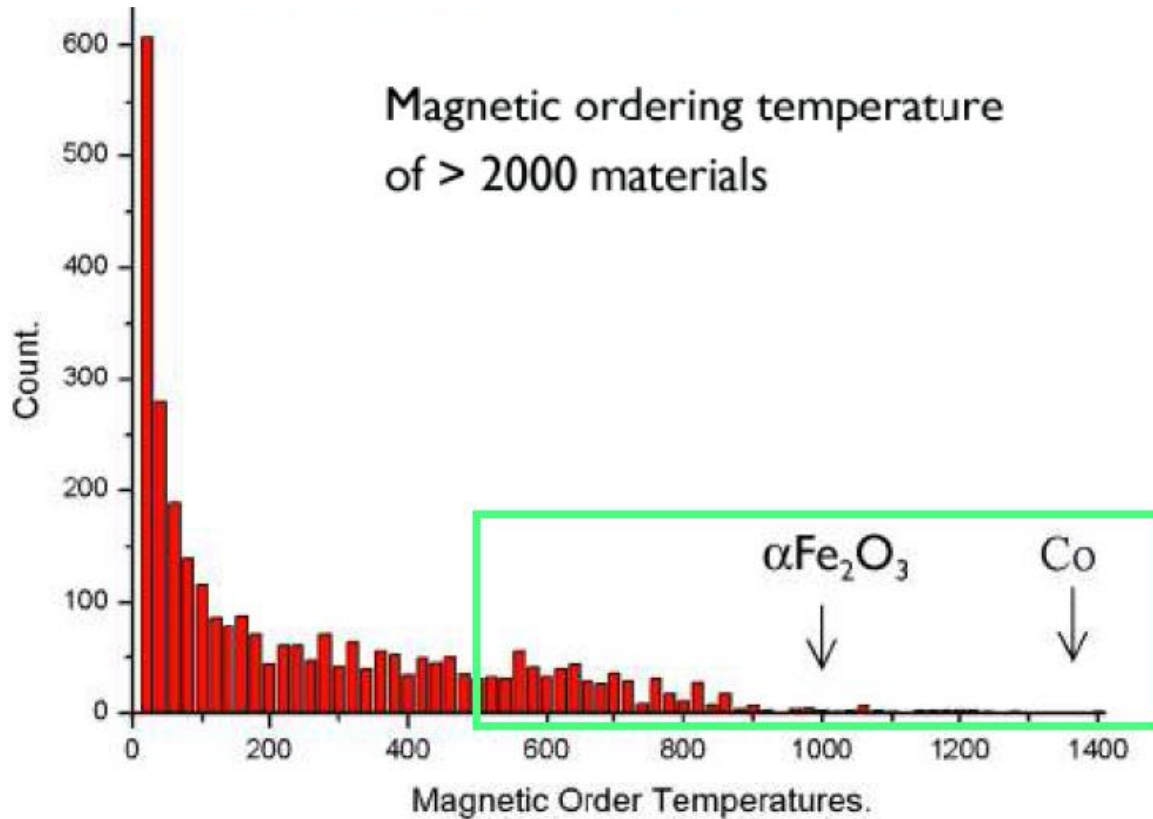
C: Ni

D:  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

E:  $\text{Co}_{75\%}\text{Fe}_{25\%}$



# $T_C$ of magnetic materials



A useful magnetic material needs to be able to operate from -50 C to 120 C.

The Curie temperature needs to be > 500 K

Co has the highest  $T_C$  of all magnetic materials

Which magnetic energy is the most short range?

A: Zeeman energy

B: Anisotropy Energy

C: Demagnetization energy

D: Exchange energy

E: Stray field energy

# Question 4

Which magnetic energy is the most long range?

A: Shape anisotropy energy

B: Stray field energy

C: Demagnetization energy

D: all of the above

E: none of the above

Which magnetic energy varies the most in strength across ferromagnetic materials?

A: Zeeman energy

B: Anisotropy Energy

C: Demagnetization energy

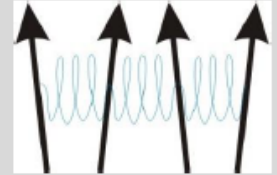
D: Exchange energy

E: Stray field energy

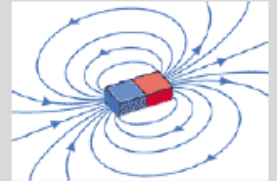
## How much vary stray fields, exchange and anisotropy across useful magnetic materials?

	$M_s$ stray/demag (MA m <sup>-1</sup> )	$A$ exchange (pJ m <sup>-1</sup> )	$K_1$ anisotropy (kJ m <sup>-3</sup> )
Ni <sub>80</sub> Fe <sub>20</sub>	0.84	10	0.15
Fe	1.71	21	48
Co	1.44	31	410
CoPt	0.81	10	4900
Nd <sub>2</sub> Fe <sub>14</sub> B	1.28	8	4900
SmCo <sub>5</sub>	0.86	12	17 200
CrO <sub>2</sub>	0.39	4	25
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.48	7	-13
BaFe <sub>12</sub> O <sub>19</sub>	0.38	6	330

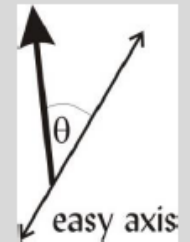
$$E_{exchange} = A \left( \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \right)^2$$



$$E_{stray} = -\frac{1}{2} \vec{H}_s \cdot \vec{M}$$



$$E_{anisotropy} = K_U \sin^2 \theta$$



magnetization      exchange stiffness      anisotropy (energy density)

Variation across materials

less than 5

less than 10

up to 100 000



largest variations in anisotropy

$$E_{magnetostatics} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{sample} \vec{H}_a \cdot \vec{M} dV = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{sample} N \vec{M}^2 dV = -\frac{1}{2} N \vec{M}^2 V$$

# Question 6

Which ferromagnetic 3d element has in its single crystal ground state uniaxial magnetic anisotropy?

A: Fe

B: Co

C: Ni

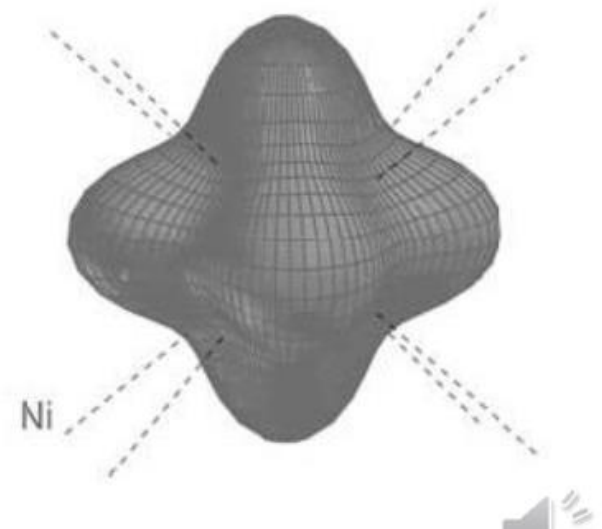
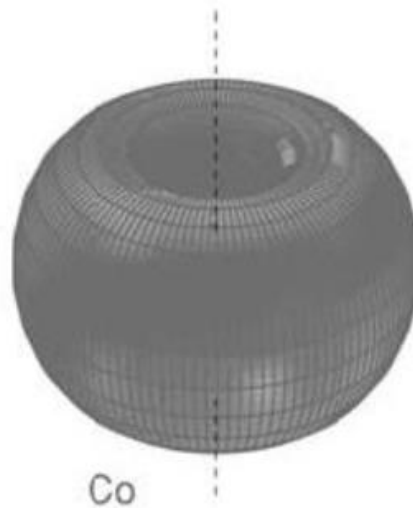
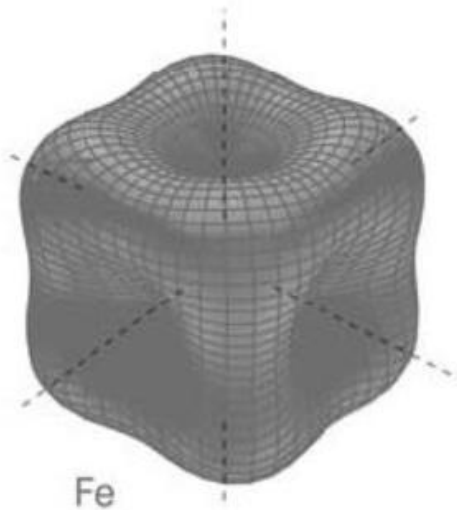
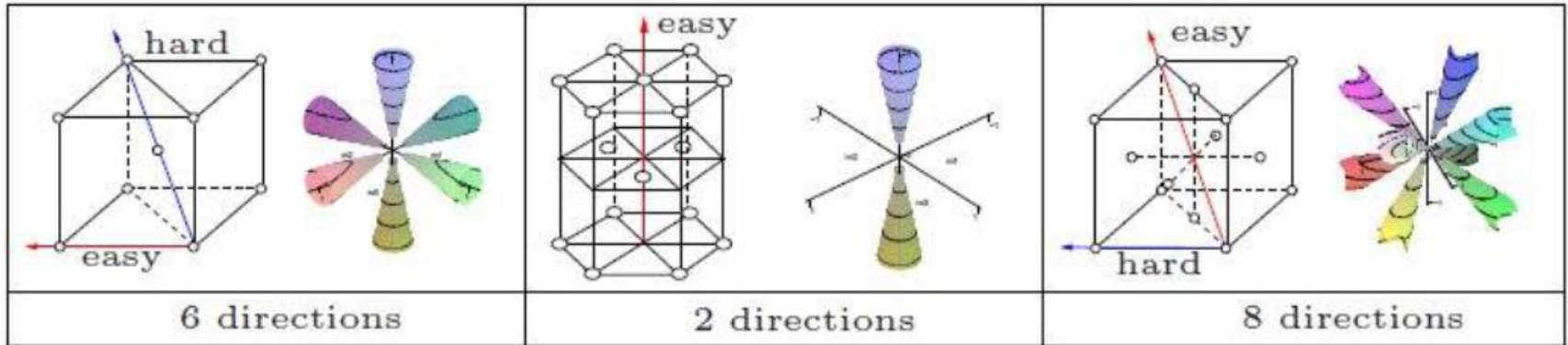
D: all of the above

E: None of the above

## Fe bulk

## Co bulk

## Ni bulk



# Question 7

Which of the following statements is true?

- A: The larger the exchange energy, the larger the domain wall width
- B: The larger the exchange energy, the shorter the domain wall width
- C: The larger the anisotropy energy, the larger the domain wall width
- D: The larger the stray field energy, the larger the domain wall width
- E: The larger the stray field energy, the shorter the domain wall width



# Domain wall width and energy

walls  $\sigma_w = \text{exchange} + \text{anisotropy}$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A \left( \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \right)^2 + K \sin^2(\theta) dx$$

Minimize the energy (exchange+anisotropy),  
No demag energy included in the domain wall

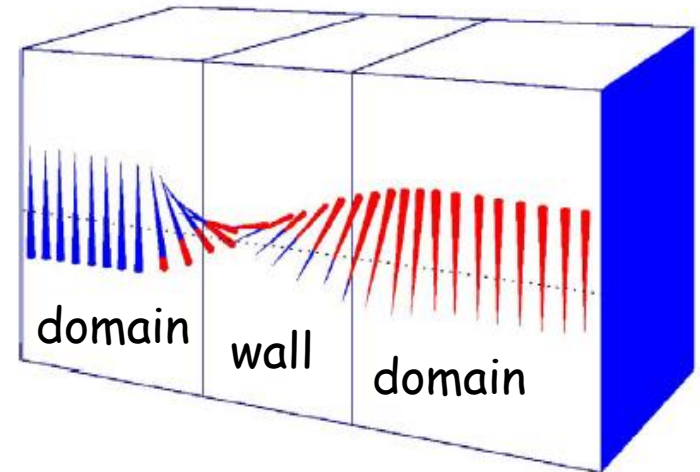
$$\theta(x) = \arctan\left[\sinh\left(\pi x / \delta_w\right)\right] + \pi / 2$$

$\sigma_w = 4\sqrt{AK}$   
domain wall energy density

and

$\delta_w = \pi\sqrt{A/K}$   
domain wall width

How do we define where the domain wall ends?



anisotropy K  
(energy density)  
up to 100 000

exchange  
stiffness A  
less than 10

The domain wall does not have a precisely defined width, since the direction of magnetization only approaches the easy axis asymptotically. Anisotropy of some sort is necessary for finite domain wall width.

Stray field or demagnetization energy triggers domain formation → domain wall formation  
Exchange wants infinitely thick DW, anisotropy wants infinitely thin DW → compromise

## Question 8

What energy dominates in the image? Why?

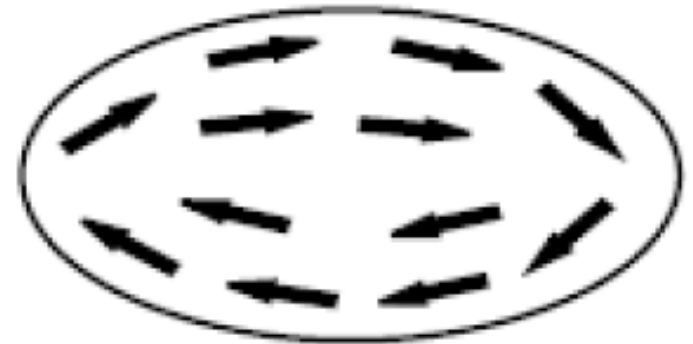
A: Shape anisotropy energy

B: Stray field energy

C: Demagnetization energy

D: all of the above

E: none of the above



## Question 9

What energies determine the magnetic state in the image?

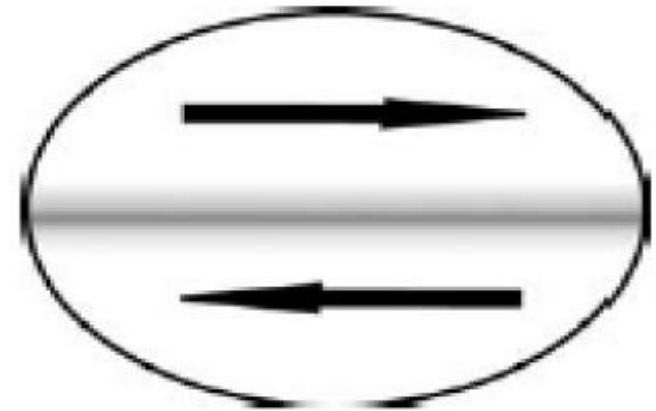
A: Uniaxial anisotropy energy

B: Stray field energy

C: Exchange energy

D: all of the above

E: none of the above



# Question 10

What micromagnetic energies are considered in the Stoner Wohlfarth model?

A: external magnetic field and exchange energies

B: external magnetic field and stray field energies

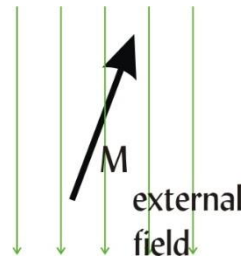
C: external magnetic field and anisotropy energies

D: exchange and anisotropy energies

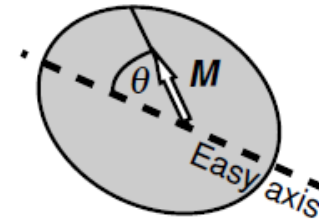
E: stray field and anisotropy energies

# Stoner-Wohlfarth-Model

**Simplest possible reversal: Consider only Zeeman and anisotropy energy**  
**Simplest analytical model that exhibits hysteresis, Stoner-Wohlfarth-Model**

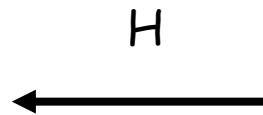
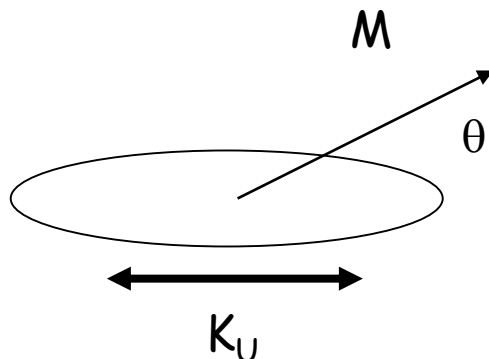


$$E_{external} = -\vec{H} \cdot \vec{M}$$



$$E_{anisotropy} = g(\theta)$$

$$= K_U \sin^2 \theta$$



$$E = -MH \cos \theta + K \sin^2 \theta$$

H term is uni-directional, K term is uniaxial

# Question 11

What assumptions go into the Stoner Wohlfarth model, as a macro spin model?

A: Exchange energy is neglected

B: Exchange energy is infinitely strong

C: Stray field energy is neglected

D: Stray field energy is infinitely strong

E: Both, B and C

# Question 12

At which angle of external field axis and anisotropy axis do we get the lowest reversal field in the Stoner Wohlfarth model?

A: When the external field is applied along the easy axis

B: When the external field is applied along the hard axis

C: When the external field is applied at 45 degrees, i.e. exactly in between the easy axis and the hard axis

D: When the external field is applied at 30 degrees

E: none of the above

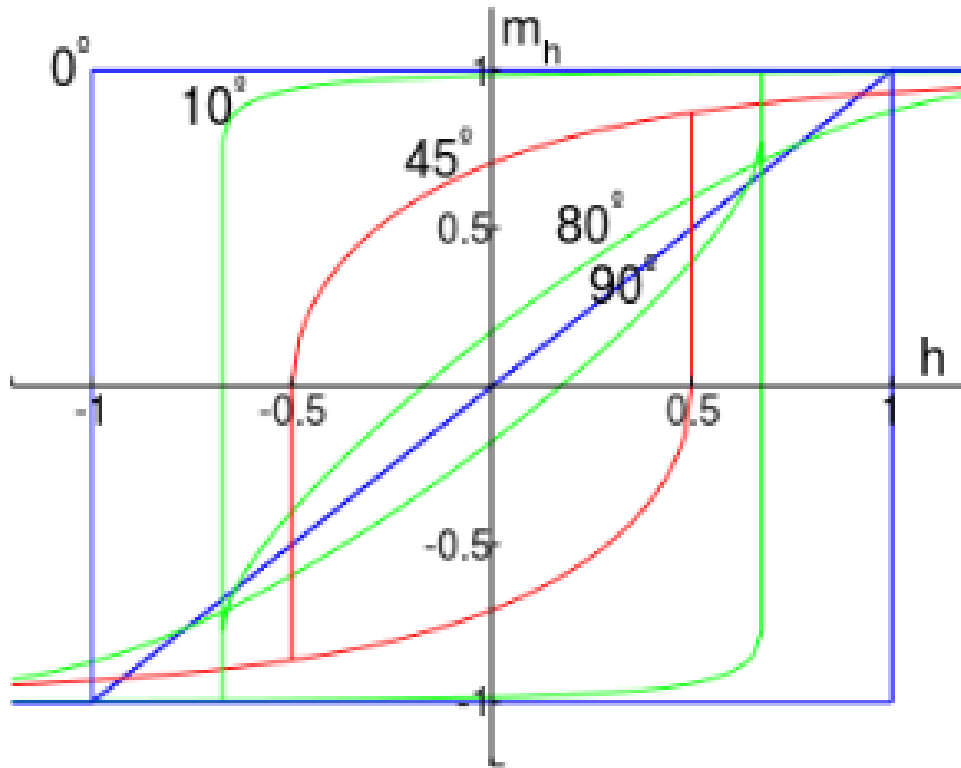


Figure 3. Some hysteresis loops predicted by the Stoner-Wohlfarth model for different angles between the field and easy axis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkzQuWA06A>

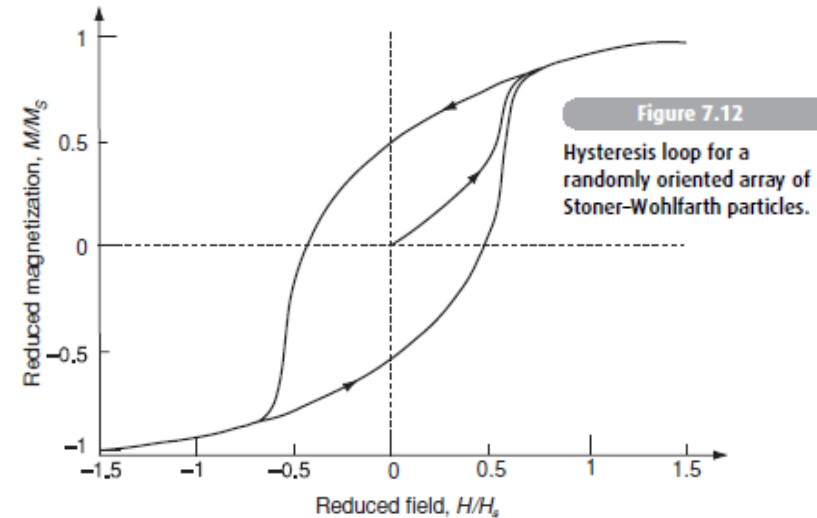
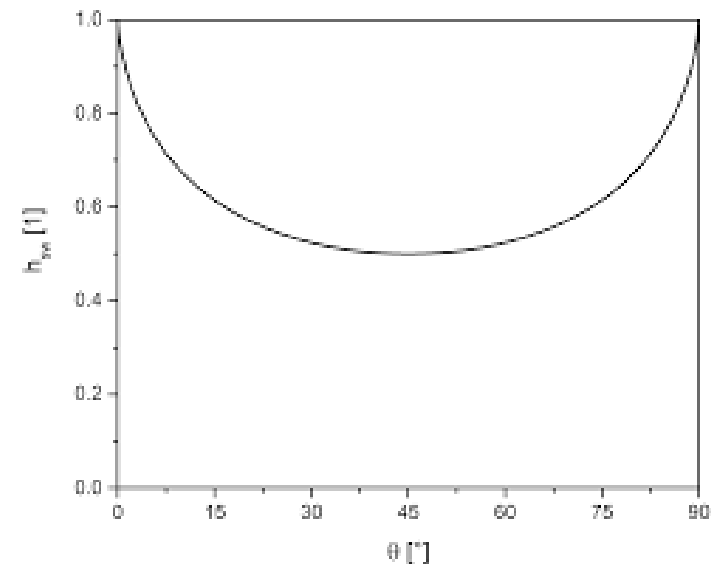


Figure 7.12  
Hysteresis loop for a randomly oriented array of Stoner-Wohlfarth particles.



Reversal movies for 0,15,30,45,60,75, 85 and 90 degrees



Which magnetic energy terms do they belong to ?

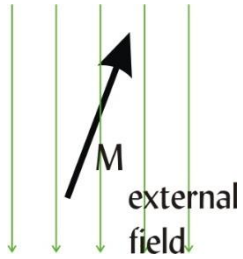
1. M
2. A
3. *J*
4. K
5. H

A: Exchange energy

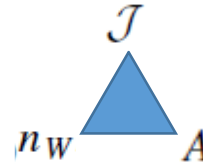
B: Zeeman energy

C: Anisotropy energy

D: Stray field energy

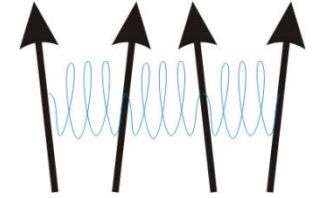


$$E_{external} = -\vec{H} \cdot \vec{M}$$



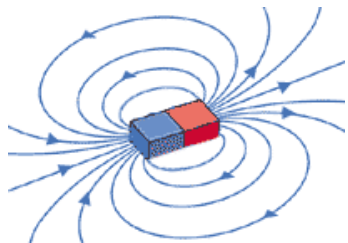
$$E_{exchange} = A \left( \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \right)^2$$

very short range,  
nearest neighbor interactions only



$$E_{total} = \int_{\Omega} (E_{external} + E_{stray} + E_{exchange} + E_{anisotropy}) dV + surface + others$$

$$E_{stray} = -\frac{1}{2} \vec{H}_s \cdot \vec{M}$$

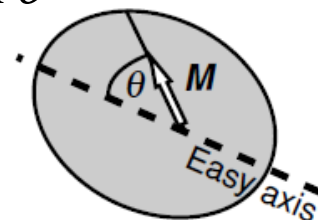


long range,  
everything interacts,  
takes most computational  
resources in micro-magnetics

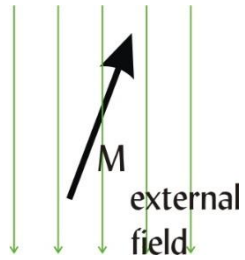
$$E_{anisotropy} = g(\theta)$$

$$= K_U \sin^2 \theta$$

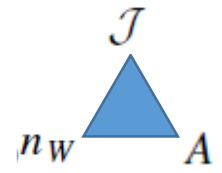
directionally varying energy,  
source is often the crystal structure



# Micromagnetic Energies determining the magnetic state of a sample



$$E_{external} = -\vec{H} \cdot \vec{M} = -H M \cos\theta$$



$$E_{exchange} = A \left( \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \right)^2$$

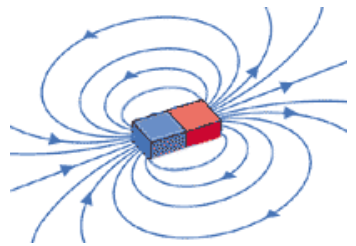
very short range,  
nearest neighbor interactions only

$$\mathcal{H} = -2 \sum_{i>j} J_{ij} S_i \cdot S_j$$

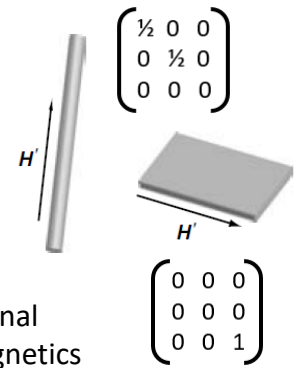
exchange integral

$$E_{total} = \int_{\Omega} (E_{external} + E_{stray} + E_{exchange} + E_{anisotropy}) dV + surface + others$$

$$E_{stray} = -\frac{1}{2} \vec{H}_s \cdot \vec{M}$$

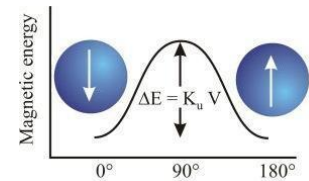


long range,  
everything interacts,  
takes most computational  
resources in micro-magnetics



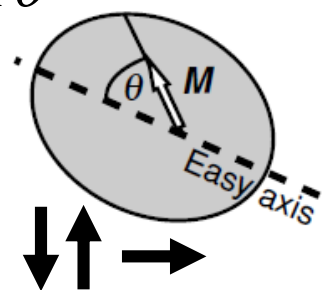
$$E_{magnetostatics} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{sample} \vec{H}_d \cdot \vec{M} dV = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{sample} N \vec{M}^2 dV = -\frac{1}{2} N \vec{M}^2 V$$

$$E_{anisotropy} = g(\theta)$$

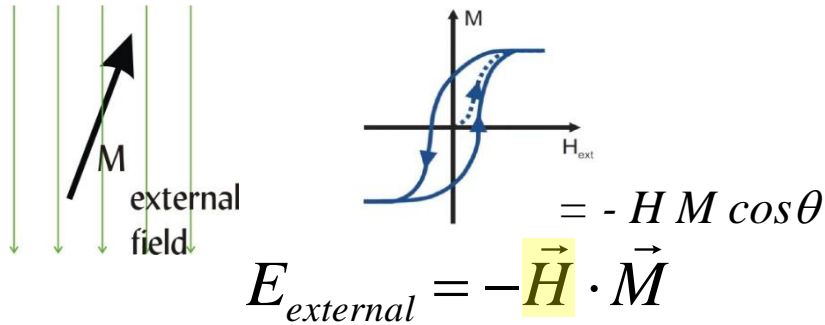


$$= K_U \sin^2\theta$$

directionally varying energy,  
source is often the crystal structure  
simplest case = uni-axial



# Micromagnetic Energies determining the magnetic state of a sample

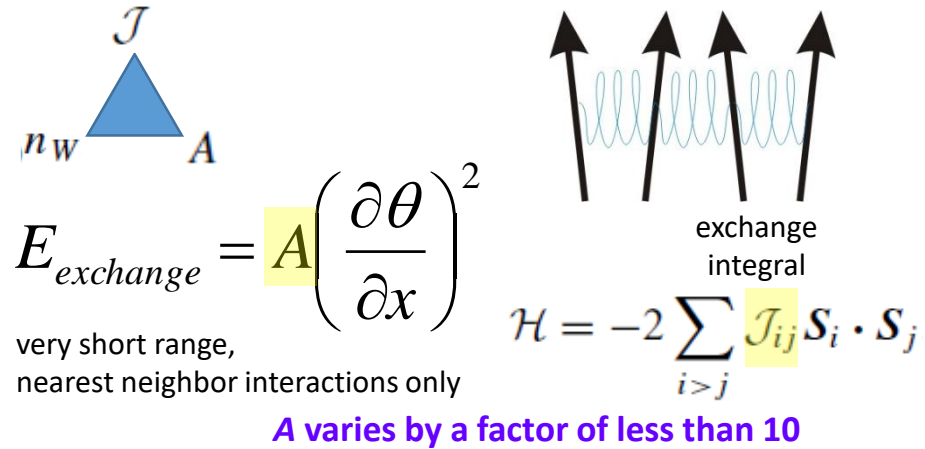


external field

$E_{external} = -\vec{H} \cdot \vec{M}$

$= -H M \cos\theta$

H earth  $\approx 50\mu\text{T} = 0.00005\text{ T}$ , H electromagnet  $\approx 2.5\text{ T}$   
 H superconducting  $\approx 15\text{ T}$ , H pulsed  $\approx 100\text{ T}$  (factor  $10^7$ )



$E_{exchange} = A \left( \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial x} \right)^2$

very short range,  
nearest neighbor interactions only

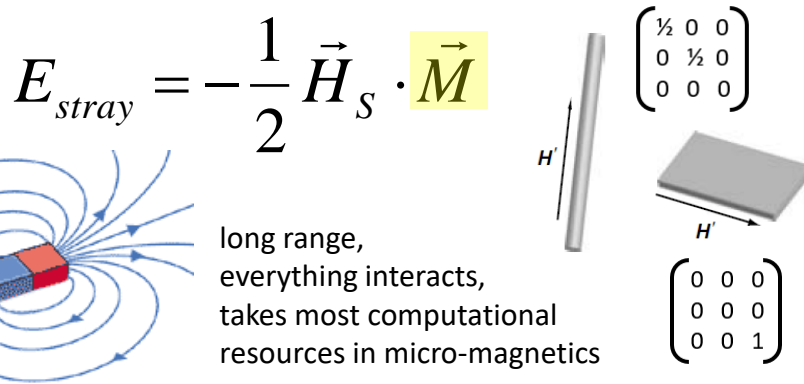
$\mathcal{H} = -2 \sum_{i>j} J_{ij} S_i \cdot S_j$

exchange integral

$A$  varies by a factor of less than 10

$$E_{total} = \int_{\Omega} (E_{external} + E_{stray} + E_{exchange} + E_{anisotropy}) dV + \text{surface} + \text{others}$$

$M$  varies by a factor of  $\sim 10$  (for useful, large  $M$  materials)



$E_{stray} = -\frac{1}{2} \vec{H}_s \cdot \vec{M}$

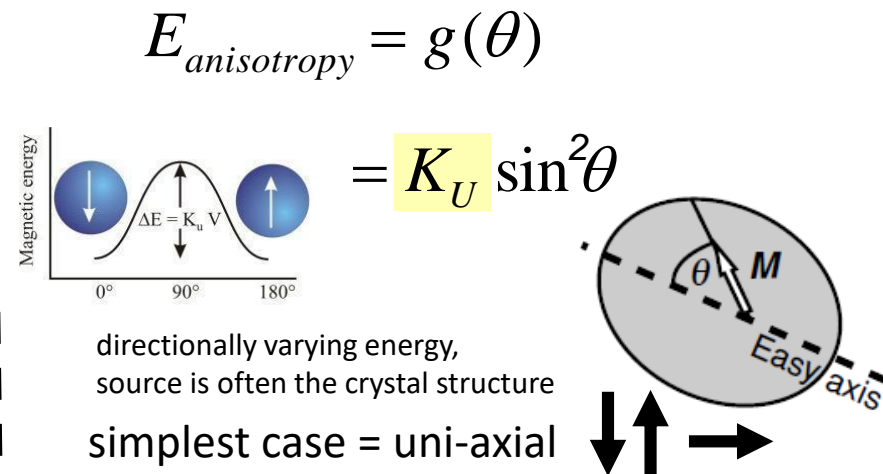
long range,  
everything interacts,  
takes most computational  
resources in micro-magnetics

$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$E_{magnetostatics} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{sample} \vec{H}_d \cdot \vec{M} dV = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{sample} N \vec{M}^2 dV = -\frac{1}{2} N \vec{M}^2 V$$

$K_u$  varies by a factor of 100 000 or more ...



$E_{anisotropy} = g(\theta)$

$= K_U \sin^2\theta$

Magnetic energy

$\Delta E = K_u V$

directionally varying energy,  
source is often the crystal structure

simplest case = uni-axial

Easy axis

Which magnetic energy (energy density) terms do belong to which characteristic magnetic parameter

1. Exchange energy
2. Anisotropy energy
3. Demagnetization or stray field energy (shape anisotropy)

A: The magnetic hardness parameter  $\kappa$  (or Q-factor)

B: The domain wall energy  $\sigma_w$

C: The exchange length  $l_{ex}$

# Magneto-crystalline anisotropy energy

(across all magnetic materials)

**Table 7.1.** Domain wall parameters for some ferromagnetic materials

	$M_s$ stray/demag (MA m <sup>-1</sup> )	$A$ exchange (pJ m <sup>-1</sup> )	$K_1$ anisotropy (kJ m <sup>-3</sup> )	$\delta_w$ exchange vs anisotropy factor (nm)	$\gamma_w$ domain wall energy (mJ m <sup>-2</sup> )	anisotropy vs stray fields $\kappa$	exchange vs $l_{ex}$ stray (nm)
Ni <sub>80</sub> Fe <sub>20</sub>	0.84	10	0.15	2000	0.01	0.01	3.4
Fe	1.71	21	48	64	4.1	0.12	2.4
Co	1.44	31	410	24	14.3	0.45	3.4
CoPt	0.81	10	4900	4.5	28.0	2.47	3.5
Nd <sub>2</sub> Fe <sub>14</sub> B	1.28	8	4900	3.9	25	1.54	1.9
SmCo <sub>5</sub>	0.86	12	17 200	2.6	57.5	4.30	3.6
CrO <sub>2</sub>	0.39	4	25	44.4	1.1	0.36	4.4
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.48	7	-13	72.8	1.2	0.21	4.9
BaFe <sub>12</sub> O <sub>19</sub>	0.38	6	330	13.6	5.6	1.35	5.8

magnetization      exchange stiffness      anisotropy (energy density)      domain wall width      domain wall energy      hardness parameter      exchange length

Variation across materials

less than 5

less than 10

up to 100 000

up to 1000

up to 6000

up to 500

~ factor 3

$$\delta_w = \pi \sqrt{A/K}$$

$$\gamma_w = 4\sqrt{AK}$$

$$\kappa = \sqrt{|K_1| / \mu_0 M_s^2} \quad l \approx \sqrt{A/M}$$

largest variations in anisotropy ↑

stray field energy =  
shape anisotropy energy





# Discussion about and feedback on the lecture recordings