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Introduction to Magnetic Recording

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CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE



Summary

- I- Recording
- II- Physical Effects/Competing Technologies
- **III-** Magnetic Recording
- Physics and materials (mainly for HDD)
- IV- MRAMs and next





I- Recording





Analog recording (sound, images)

imperfect transfer, low quality, difficult to process

Digital recording (data, now sound and images)

analog-digital conversion (ADC-DAC) : imperfect digital write/read : perfect fidelity

Digital recording is now the main recording method It is more universal data transfer whatever the origin whatever the technology





One computer instruction Microprocessor memory One hour of music (CD-ROM) Computer RAM memory One Hour of video (DVD-ROM) Hard Disk Capacity LHC(CERN) data/year Google Storage Hard Disk Drive shipment /year

32 – 64 bits

1 Megabyte (MB)

700 MB

1 Gigabyte (GB)

4 GB

100 GB 1 Terabyte (10¹² TB)

15 Petabyte (10¹⁵ PB)

200 PB

400 million HDD x 100 GB = 40 exabytes (10^{18} EB)



Storing information : what conditions ?

Digital storage (binary coding) Two states : 0 and 1 or up and down More states / memory cell is possible (FLASH cell, 4 bit/cell = 16 states) (DVD 2 surfaces+2 sides)

Permanent storage (volatility) : 1ms -1s-1y-10-100 years

Storage Density : 1 byte to 1 Terabyte on a given surface 1 mm² memory to 1 km-long tape

Access time : Random Access / Sequential Access Minutes (tape), µs (FLASH) to ns (HDD)





II- Possible Physical effects Competing Technologies



We need physical effects and then technologies, which allow for

storing i.e. writing + reading (+erasing)





Storing : possible physical effects

Magnetic : remanent state of a ferromagnetic entity

Ferroelectric : remanent state of a ferroelectric entity

Electrostatic : presence or absence of electrical charge

Mechanical : hole/no hole

Phase transition (metal - insulator)













Writing + Reading information

Mechanical :

Write : Print, Press, Engrave ...

Read : mechanical needle (Edison 1877) piezoelectric transducer (record player) optical interference (CD-ROM) heat dissipation (Millipede)





Mechanical Recording : CD-ROM, DVD, BlueRay/HDDVD



CD: 780 nm (I.R.) DVD : 650 nm (red) BlueRay : 405 nm (blue)





Mechanical Recording : Millipede (IBM Zurich)



40 nm hole in a polymer film





Mechanical Recording : Millipede (IBM Zurich)



Read = thermal sensor





Writing + Reading information

Electrostatic (semiconductor memories):

Write

current pulse to charge a capacitor or a gate

Read

transistor open/close FLASH capacitor charged or not RAM





FLASH memory Principle



Leakage < 1 e / day

Large voltage pulse to inject the charge in the floating gate

Several level of Charge= multi-bit /cell

Characteristic charging time given by RC of the circuit large RC, less volatile storage, less rapid





Usual FLASH : conducting floating gate



Spansion's technology : charging an insulating layer : 2 separated charges can be written





4 bits /memory cell



MirrorBit Quad 4 Bits/Cell







Writing + Reading information

Phase-Change Crystalline-amorphous (PC-RAM memories)

Write

current pulse heat the material (melt or crystallise)

Read

low/high resistance





Phase Change Memory (PC-RAM)



 $Ge_2Sb_2Te_5$: amorphous (resistive) crystallised 40X more conducting





PC-RAM : Writing - Erasing







Writing + Reading information

Ferroelectric :

Write – Read

electric voltage to polarise a ferroelectric

discharge to check polarisation





Ferroelectric RAM (FeRAM) Pb $(Zr_{x}Ti_{1-x})O_{3}$ or SbBi₂Ta₂O₉

Ti /7.5 Dxygen O Pb

K. Doerr's talk last Friday

Condensator with a ferroelectric dielectric







Reading destroys the information

Non square loop : remanence is not well defined, the access transistor is necessary







Commercial FeRAM :

FM20L08

1Mbit Bytewide FRAM Memory - Industrial Temp.

Features

1Mbit Ferroelectric Nonvolatile RAM

- Organized as 128Kx8
- Unlimited Read/Write Cycles
- NoDelay[™] Writes
- Page Mode Operation to 33MHz
- Advanced High-Reliability Ferroelectric Process

SRAM Replacement

- JEDEC 128Kx8 SRAM pinout
- 60 ns Access Time, 350 ns Cycle Time

1 Mbit

read-write cycle 350 ns

nonvolatile 10 years

Superior to Battery-backed SRAM Modules

RAMTRON

- No battery concerns
- Monolithic reliability
- True surface mount solution, no rework steps
- Superior for moisture, shock, and vibration
- Resistant to negative voltage undershoots

Low Power Operation

- 3.3V +10%, -5% Power Supply
- 22 mA Active Current





Writing + Reading information

Magnetism :

writing magnetic field

electric field

current pulse

light pulse





Writing Magnetic bits

Ferrite Head (hard disk Seagate ST251 50 MB 1990, present floppy head)



MIG (Metal-in-gap) head : deposition of an iron rich alloy onto the poles to increase their magnetisation (and thus, their saturation).



Magnetic Recording Heads : inductive heads



teorra e se recever. Notas e de recever

Thin film head

Bottom Pole (NiFe) Copper windings Top Pole (NiFe)

(Read-Rite)





Writing Magnetic bits : recent proposals

Spin polarised current induced Magnetisation reversal Domain wall displacement

Klaui et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. 88, 232507 (2006)



See M. Viret's talk this afternoon





Writing Magnetic bits : recent experiments

Circularly-polarised light pulse : 800 nm, 40 fs



Stanciu et al. PRL(2007)



Writing + Reading information

Magnetism :

writing magnetic field electric field, current pulse, light pulse

reading stray field (Floppy disk) magneto-optical effect (M-O disk) electrical effect (MRAM)





Reading Magnetic bits

Magnetic Stray Field above a Longitudinal Media



Longitudinal recording





Reading Magnetic bits

Magneto-optical effect (polar Kerr) Perpendicular Media





Reading Magnetic bits : Magnetoresistance



See J M. de Teresa 's lecture tomorrow



What makes the difference ?

Existing technology / not yet developped existing memories (10 GB RAM and Flash) no magnetism in Si technology --> no integrated MRAM yet

Maximum density : physical limits Wavelength / Heating Thermal stability (superparamagnetism)

Access time (ns) / Write time (1 ns) / Read time (1ns)

Life cycles10⁵ - 10⁸ - 10^{infinity} (mechanical stress, electromigration ...)





Economics (cost, investment to develop) Competing technologies Exponential decrease of the €/bit



III- Magnetic Recording




Magnetic Recording Media

One Magnetic Bit = One information

Parameters

Two states --> uniaxial anisotropy Stable --> anisotropy large enough Access --> how to write/read ?







Magnetic Recording Media

One Magnetic Bit = One information \forall

Parameters

Two states --> uniaxial anisotropy Stable --> anisotropy large enough Access --> how to write/read ?











Magnetic Recording Media

One Magnetic Bit = One information

Parameters

Two states --> uniaxial anisotropy Stable --> anisotropy large enough Access --> how to write/read ?

First solution : particulate media







Origin of the Uniaxial anisotropy

 $E = K \sin^2 \theta$

Shape Anisotropy vs Magnetocrystalline Anisotropy







Coercicity : Much Smaller than Anisotropy in a larger particle





Shape anisotropy :
$$E = -\frac{\mu_0}{2} \vec{H}_d \cdot \vec{M} = \frac{\mu_0}{2} (N_{//} \vec{M}_{//} + N_\perp \vec{M}_\perp) \cdot \vec{M}$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0}{2} (N_{//} M_{//}^2 + N_\perp M_\perp^2)$$

For a needle-like particle $N_{//}=0$ and $N_{-}=0.5$

i.e.
$$E = \frac{\mu_0}{2} N_{\perp} M_{\perp}^2 = \frac{\mu_0}{4} M^2 \sin^2 \theta$$

 $\mu_0 M = 0.5$ to 1 T for oxides, 2.2 T for Fe and 2.5 T for FeCo

maximum shape anisotropy : 200 kJ/m³ (using 1 Tesla magnetisation) 1250 kJ/m³ absolute maximum





Magnetocrystalline Anisotropy : $E = K_1 \sin^2(\theta)$



Low symmetry structure (hexagonal, rhomb. tetragonal) + large spin orbit constant (rare-earth or platinum)

give MCA larger than the shape anisotropy But Co, Pt are expensive (OK as thin films) Rare earths are corrosive





Magnetic Recording Media : Continuous Media

Beyond particle media

smaller particle --> continuous granular media

better materials --> cobalt based





Let us suppose that M does not depend on thickness

$$M_x(x) = \frac{2M_s}{\pi} \arctan \frac{x}{a}$$

The transition width is 2a

The density of « magnetic » charges is :

$$\rho = - \operatorname{div} \vec{M} = - \frac{\operatorname{dM}(x)}{\operatorname{dx}} = - \frac{2M_s}{\pi \cdot a} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{x^2}{a^2}}$$

► X



Magnetic Recording Media : Transition Width



Magnetic Recording Media : Transition Width

 $M_r t$ As small as possible

Thin film media Small magnetisation

Signal amplitude will also decrease !!!!

 H_c As large as possible

Hard magnetic materials (see N. Dempsey's talk)

The write field should be larger than $H_c !!!$



Magnetic Recording Media : Continuous Media



to increase \overrightarrow{H}_{C} CoCrM / Cr (M=Ta, Pt)

Thin film media







Magnetic Recording Media : Continuous Media Multilayers

Substrate : Aluminium (Al-Mg) or glass (stiffer)

Underlayers : smoothing (NiP), Nucleation, texture (Cr, CrV)

Magnetic layer : Co-rich CoCrPt(Ta)

Hard layer : Diamond-like Carbon DLC

Lubricant layer : fluorocarbons

CoCr lattice parameter evolves with Pt or Ta substitution Cr underlayer becomes CrV or CrW to match lattice parameters Nucleation and texture layer could be NiAl (produces Co(100))





Longitudinal media

26.5 Gb/in² demonstrator M.A. Schultz et al. (Read-Rite), IEEE Trans Mag. **36** (2000)2143

CoCrPtTaB/Cr



 μ_0 Hc : 0.25 T M_rt : 0.4 x10⁻³ emu/cm² Film thickness : 19 nm Average grain size : 11 nm Transition parameter : 20 nm



Intermag 2002 (Seagate and Fujitsu) 100 Gbit/in^2 $\mu_0\text{Hc} : 0.48 \text{ T}$ $M_rt : 0.35 \times 10^{-3} \text{ emu/cm}^2$ AFC Film Average grain size : 9 nm



Magnetic grains size distribution



Magnetic Recording Media : A physical limit : Superparamagnetism

Remanent state is bistable

if anisotropy energy < thermal energy i.e. KV < kT



thermal relaxation time, τ

 $\tau = \tau_0 \exp(KV / kT)$

 $1/\tau_0$ is the attempt frequency ($\tau_0 \approx 10^{-9}$ s)



Superparamagnetism lower limit to the size of a stable ferromagnetic particle

for data storage want $\tau > 10$ years i.e. must have KV / kT > 60

at 300 K

	K ₁	ϕ_{\min}
	(MJ/m^3)	(nm)
Fe	0.05	20
Со	0.5	8
$\overline{\mathrm{Nd}_{2}\mathrm{Fe}_{14}\mathrm{B}}$	5	4
SmCo ₅	17	2



Magnetic Recording Media : Enhanced Continuous Media



RKKY AF coupled bilayer Co/Ru/Co



Fullerton et al. APL 2001

Total M_r.t decreases : less sensitive to demagnetising fields but less signal also Total M_r.t decreases : but V does not, so K.V can be maintained

Max. storage density $\approx 100 \text{ Gbits/in}^2$ Min. bit area $\approx 10^{-2} \,\mu\text{m}^2$ Applications : Ultra High Density

130 Gbit/in² in 2002 (Read-Rite) 150 Gbit/in² in 2006 (Hitachi)



Magnetic Recording Media : Enhanced Continuous Media

The limit of longitudinal media has been reached Signal M.t vanishes Coercivity is becoming larger than available write field

----> transition to perpendicular recording





Magnetic Recording Media : Beyond Longitudinal Media





New SUL layer

Induce Co recording layer with c-axis out-of-plane





Magnetic Recording Media : Beyond Longitudinal Media

Perpendicular recording (commercial early 2007)

Overcoat/lubricant 4 nm

Recording layer 15 nm

Decoupling+Texturing layer 20 nm

SUL 80 nm

Seedlayer+substrate

 $CoCrPt+SiO2 (7 nm + R.C. 2-3^{\circ})$





Magnetic Recording Media : Perpendicular Media





Different aspect ratio : Decrease of demagnetising field Thicker films allowed

SUL : Soft Underlayer to double the thickness

Write field twice as large available

The write head should now provide perpendicular fields

new head design

HDD PMR 2007 130 Gbit/in² μ_0 Hc : 0.4 T M_rt : 0.7 x10⁻³ emu/cm² Grain size 7 nm

Sept. 2006 Demo Seagate 421 Gbit/in²



Magnetic Recording Media : Perpendicular Media



FIG. 20. TEM planar view of grains in (a) RuCr intermediate layer and (b) RuCr-oxide intermediate layer.

S. N. Piramanayagam

J. Appl. Phys. 102, 011301 (2007)



Magnetic Recording Media : Perpendicular Media

What's the next step?

FePt could be stable down to 3 nm grain size

BUT : only in the bct L10 phase (needs annealing) Hc is very large (large K)





Magnetic Recording Drive : Data transfer, coding

Original Floppy disk Coding system

Frequency Modulation : 2 Clock periods / information bit 1 is flux reversal + flux reversal 0 is no reversal + reversal (simple density recording)



Magnetic Recording Drive : Data transfer, coding

Better Coding system

Modified Frequency Modulation

1: NR 0 after a 1: NN 0 after a 0: RN (present double density Recording) 2 clock periods /bit but never RR Shortest magnetic bit is 2 clock-long





Magnetic Recording Drive : Data transfer, coding

Hard Disk Coding

- MF: 1.5 flux reversal /bit
- MFM : 0.75 flux reversal /bit
- RLL (Run Length Limited) 0.46 flux reversal /bit
- PRML (Partial Response Maximum Likelihood) increase 30%
- EPRML increase 20%





Magnetic Recording Media : Beyond Present Media

GRANULAR MEDIA $10^2 10^3$ GRAINS = 1 BIT

PATTERNED MEDIA 1 GRAIN = 1 BIT



granular media give also rise to media noise (not well defined transition)

And 100 grains means 10 % statistical noise





Magnetic Recording Media : Beyond Continuous Media

Patterned media : How to make them ?

e-beam lithography

Nano-imprint

self assembly + self organisation

moiré arrays





Grain Dispersion Narrowing

SOMA : Self Organised Magnetic Array

45 Gbit/in² demo media (Seagate)

•8.5 nm grains $\sigma_{area} \cong 0.5$



Nanoparticle arrays

•6 nm FePt particles $\forall \sigma_{area} \cong 0.1$



S. Sun, Ch.Murray, D. Weller, L. Folks, A. Moser, Science, 287, 1989 (2000)

(slide courtesy of D. Weller - Seagate)





APPLIED PHYSICS CETTERS

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 22.

31 MAY 1999

Sub-50 nm planar magnetic nanostructures fabricated by ion irradiation

T. Devolder and C. Chappert Institut d'Eléctronique Fondamentale, Université Paris Sud, 91405 ORSAY Cedex, France

Y. Chen and E. Cambril Laboratobre de Microstructures et Microélectronlaire, 196 rue H. Ranera, 8P 107, 92220 Rogneux, France

H. Bernas Centre de Spectrumêntie Nucléatre et de Spectruménte de Maxie, Université Parte Sul, 91403 ORSAT Cedex, France

J. P. Jamet and J. Ferre Laboratoire de Physique des Solldes, Université Paris Sud, 91405 ORSAY Cedex, France

Co-Pt multilayers irradiated by a He⁺ beam Change of magnetic properties

Same idea with FePt L_{10} phase











VOLUME 91, NUMBER 10

15 MAY 2002

Domain structure in magnetic dots prepared by nanoimprint and e-beam lithography

J. Moritz,^{a)} B. Dieny, and J. P. Nozières.

CEA/Grenoble, Département de Recherche Fondamentale sur la Matière Condensée, SP2M/SPINTEC, 17 Avenue des Martyrs, 38054 Grenoble Cedex, France

S. Landis CEA Grenoble DTS/STME, 17 Avenue des Martyrs. 38054 Grenoble Cedex, France

A. Lebib and Y. Chen Laboratolire de Photonique et de Nanostructures, 196 Avenue Henri Ravera, 92220 Bagneux, France



60 nm dot array

Nano-imprint + RIE + Lift-off Ni + Si RIE

+ Co-Pt mutilayers







Magnetic dimensions are smaller than semiconductor industry lithography tools


Magnetic Recording Heads

Stray field measurement only magnetic transition contribute

M-O signal laser wavelength limit (diffraction)

Solid state (resistance) electrical connection memory matrix





Magnetic Recording Heads : inductive heads

Mini electromagnet

Write head was the same as Read head

$$e = -\frac{d\varphi}{dt} = -\frac{S \cdot dB}{dt}$$

velocity : moving media and/or moving head

surface : signal proportional to coil area

now floppy, VHS ...

Still the write head in up-to-date HDD









$$B_{gap} = f(I)$$

Higher Magnetisation Materials to create larger magnetic fields

NiFe ---> FeCo based (and soft)

Presently demonstration with 2.4 Tesla materials

Problem : The largest M at room temperature is 2.5 T new materials required





Magnetic Recording Heads : MR heads

Larger signal : electrical response to stray fields

AMR (Anisotropic Magnetoresistance) : $Ni_{80}Fe_{20}$ (permalloy) film

GMR (Giant Magnetoresistance) : Fe / Cu / NiFe

TMR (Tunnel Magnetoresistance) : Fe / Al_2O_3 /NiFe



Magnetic Recording Heads : MR heads

Angular dependence of MR



Signal processing people want linear response Consequence for linear sensing : Angle at 45° or 90°



Magnetic Recording Heads : material development

High spin polarisation materials : CoFe

Spin filtering effects : CoFeB / MgO / CoFeB TMR >>100 %

Magnetic semiconductors : GaAsMn ... electronics + spin + optics ...





One word about tapes

Tape media went from particle to continuius media too

Mechanically less stable --> wider tracks

But parallel tracks is possible



MR heads (multiheads) are being implemented

100 GB tape EMTEC 2003 600 m (thickness 9 microns) coercive field : 185 mT track/inch : 923 (27.5 micron) bit/inch : 93000 (270 nm)



IV - MRAM





MAGNETIC RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY

Non volatile

Fast < 50 ns read and write cycle time

infinite cyclability





Memory cell MRAM







Switching Field of the free layer





First generation : current generated magnetic field +Stoner Wohlfarth reversal

> large current poor selectivity

improve cell selectivity and decrease current

Second generation : Toggle (Freescale)

Heat assistance to decrease Hc (Crocus)

Third generation : Spin torque reversal





First Commercial MRAM : 4 Mbit 35 ns write-read cycle 20 year non volatility

> Freescale Semiconductor Data Sheet

256K x 16-Bit 3.3-V Asynchronous Magnetoresistive RAM

Introduction

The MR2A16A is a 4,194,304-bit magnetoresistive random access memory (MRAM) device organized as 262,144 words of 16 bits. The MR2A16A is equipped with chip enable (\overline{E}), write enable (\overline{W}), and output enable (\overline{G}) pins, allowing for significant system design flexibility without bus contention. Because the MR2A16A has separate byte-enable controls (\overline{LB} and \overline{UB}), individual bytes can be written and read.

MR2A16A



Features

- Single 3.3-V power supply
- Commercial temperature range (0°C to 70°C). Industrial temperature range (-40°C to 85°C) and Extended temperature range (-40°C to 105°C)
- Symmetrical high-speed read and write with fast access time (35 ns)
- Elexible data bus control 8 bit or 16 bit access





MOTOROLA 1T-1MTJ cell

fabrication : $0.6 \ \mu m \ technology + Cu \ (1 \ Mb)$ $0.18 \ \mu m \ (4 \ Mb)$ $7 \ \mu m^2$ /cellule 25 mm² wafer 200 mm

performance : 3 Volt 20 MHz 45% TMR (low bias) 30% at operating bias (1% uniformity) 25 Oe coercivity cladded lines 50 ns access time





Motorola « Toggling Mode »

S.A.F. free layer



Co / Ru / Co RKKY A.F. coupling

H>Hc Spin flop transition









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COLUMN DOWN





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CONTRACTORS - DOMAGNET THE CASE OF CONTRACTS A CASE OF CONTRACTS



S.S.P. Parkin(IBM) 's racetrack memory

Using the third dimension : bits are domain walls

Reading bits in register







DRAM nearly passed HDD in 1992. ? 2010




European School on Magnetism Cluj 2007 Laurent Ranno (Institut Néel)

