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Magnetic damping modulation in IrMn₃/Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ via the magnetic spin Hall effect

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Non-collinear antiferromagnets can have additional spin Hall effects due to the net chirality of their magnetic spin structure, which provides for more complex spin-transport phenomena compared to ordinary non-magnetic materials. Here we investigated how ferromagnetic resonance of permalloy (Ni₈₀Fe₂₀) is modulated by spin Hall effects in adjacent epitaxial IrMn₃ films. We observe a large dc modulation of the ferromagnetic resonance linewidth for currents applied along the [001] IrMn₃ direction. This very strong angular dependence of spin-orbit torques from dc currents through the bilayers can be explained by the magnetic spin Hall effect where IrMn₃ provides novel pathways for modulating magnetization dynamics electrically.

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Antiferromagnetic materials are promising for future spintronic applications, since they combine several **advantages**. They are robust against perturbation due to magnetic fields, produce no stray fields, display ultrafast dynamics, and are capable of generating large magnetotransport effects [1, 2]. The idea of using antiferromagnetic materials in spintronic devices [1-4] has gained interest with the realization that antiferromagnets can be efficient sources of spin currents [5-12] and that their spin structure can be modulated electrically. Furthermore, antiferromagnets with non-collinear spin configurations provide additional rich new spin-transport phenomena, since any chirality of their spin structure may result in non-vanishing Berry curvatures affecting profoundly their charge transport properties [13-15]. Towards this end, it has been shown that triangular antiferromagnets with chiral spin arrangements can exhibit ferromagnetic-like behaviors such as large anomalous Hall and Nernst effects, as well as a magneto-optical Kerr effect. An interesting addition to these discoveries is the magnetic spin Hall effect (MSHE) in the triangular antiferromagnet Mn_3Sn [16]. **The origin of the MSHE is similar to that of the ordinary spin Hall effect (OSHE), however, the MSHE arises from a reactive counterpart of the dissipative spin response that gives rise to OSHE. This interpretation can be understood in terms of the symmetries of linear response functions that are supported here by the dependence of the spin Hall effect (SHE) signals on the magnetic-order parameter reversal.** This means that the MSHE can be explored under the condition of ferromagnetic resonance and represents a new way of analyzing the magnetization dynamics, *i.e.*, when *dc* electrical current passes through the uniformly magnetized material, a non-equilibrium distribution of spins at the interface influences the dynamic properties. In particular, current-induced modulation of damping has become a standard technique for quantifying spin Hall effects [17, 18]. Therefore, the control of damping in ferromagnetic/antiferromagnetic bilayers can provide fundamental insights for ferromagnetic or antiferromagnetic spintronics.

An interesting material to be investigated is the non-collinear antiferromagnet IrMn_3 , in which Mn atoms form Kagome lattice in the $\{111\}$ planes [See **Fig. 1 (a)**]. IrMn_3 has a giant magnetocrystalline anisotropy energy due to the locally broken cubic symmetry of the Mn sublattices [19]. Additionally, IrMn_3 has a large variation of the spin Hall conductivities along different crystallographic orientations [20-22]. In this letter, we perform ferromagnetic resonance measurements without and with *dc* current in $\text{IrMn}_3/\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}$ bilayers. Our results show a strong angular dependence of the electric current induced modulation of **the** ferromagnetic resonance

linewidth for magnetic fields applied along different crystalline orientations, *i.e.*, [001] and [011]. We report a maximum Gilbert damping modulation of 41% and the observed anisotropy for the magnetic fields applied along the two different crystalline directions can be associated with the variation of spin accumulation at the interface due to the additional contributions arising from the magnetic spin Hall effect.

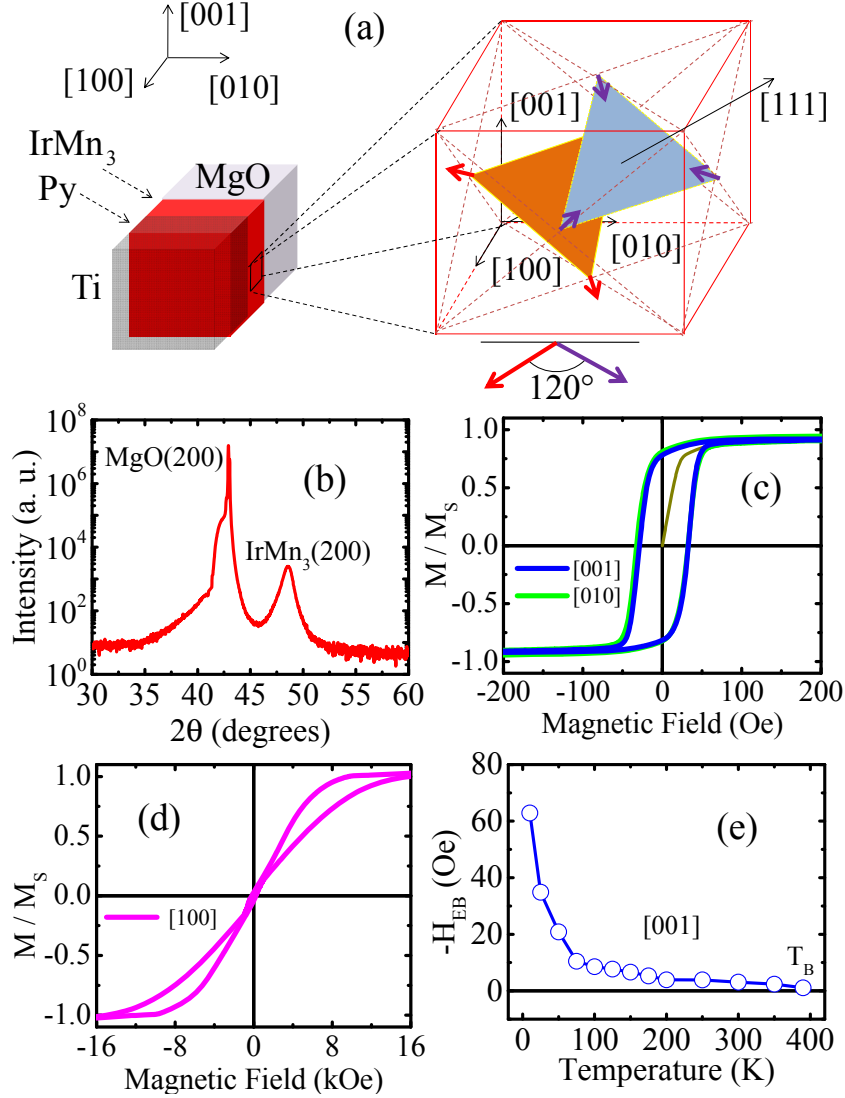


Figure 1: (a) shows the schematic of IrMn₃/Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ (permalloy, Py) bilayer capped with a thin layer of Ti and also includes the unit cell of IrMn₃ with its spin structure. Note that the Mn atoms in the unit cell of IrMn₃ form a Kagome lattice in the {111} planes with the spins either pointing **in wards or outwards in** each triangular Mn arrangement. (b) The X-ray diffraction pattern measured for a 20-nm thick IrMn₃ layer capped with a 2-nm Ti layer. (c) Measured magnetic

hysteresis curves after field-cooling in a magnetic field of +70 kOe applied along either [001] or [010] directions at a temperature of 300 K. **(d)** Magnetic hysteresis curves after field-cooling in a magnetic field of +70 kOe applied along the [100] direction at a temperature of 300 K. **(e)** Measured exchange bias field as a function of temperature after field cooling with an applied magnetic field of +70 kOe along the [001] direction, showing that the blocking temperature of IrMn₃(20 nm)/Ni₈₀Fe₂₀(10 nm) bilayer is 380 K.

We have grown nominally 20-nm thick epitaxial IrMn₃ films on MgO (100)-oriented single-crystal substrates at 843 K using a magnetron sputtering technique. Subsequently, a thin layer of Ni₈₀Fe₂₀(10 nm) and Ti(2 nm) were deposited at room temperature. Here, the Ti layer was used to protect the surface properties of Ni₈₀Fe₂₀. **Figure 1(a)** shows the unit cell of IrMn₃, where the Mn moments are parallel to the {111} planes and aligned along the <112> directions. **Figure 1(b)** shows an X-ray diffraction pattern for IrMn₃ grown on an MgO substrate. We found that IrMn₃ has a lattice constant of (0.377 ± 0.001) nm, which is consistent with previous literature values [20, 23].

The magnetic characterization was performed with a Superconducting Quantum Interference Device (SQUID) magnetometer. **Figures 1(c), (d) and (e)** are measured for MgO/IrMn₃(20 nm)/Ni₈₀Fe₂₀(10 nm)/Ti(2 nm). In **Figures 1(c) and (d)** we show the hysteresis curves at room temperature (300 K) after field-cooling starting at temperature of 390 K with a magnetic field of +70 kOe applied along the crystallographic directions [001], [010] and [100]. From the SQUID measurements we also determine a saturation magnetization of $M_S = (774 \pm 8)$ emu/cm³, which is consistent with typical values reported for permalloy [16]. **Figure 1(e)** shows the exchange bias field as a function of temperature for magnetic fields applied along the [001] direction, where exchange bias is defined as $H_{EX} = -(H_1 + H_2)/2$. This means that the blocking temperature is above 300 K, which shows that IrMn₃ is antiferromagnetically ordered at room temperature [23].

We utilize a flip-chip ferromagnetic resonance technique [24] for characterizing the Gilbert damping measured for fields applied in different crystal orientations. We measured the transmission coefficient by sweeping the frequency at fixed fields. **Figure 2(a)** shows the experimental configuration for ferromagnetic resonance measurements without and with *dc* currents. **Figures 2(b) and (c)** show the ferromagnetic resonance (FMR) signals obtained with a

vector network analyzer (VNA) for magnetic fields applied along the [001] and [011] crystallographic directions, respectively. For the measurements with the magnetic field along [011] the sample is rotated 45° with respect to the coplanar waveguide and thus not symmetrically positioned, which may give rise to the slight asymmetric lineshape observed in Figure 2(e).

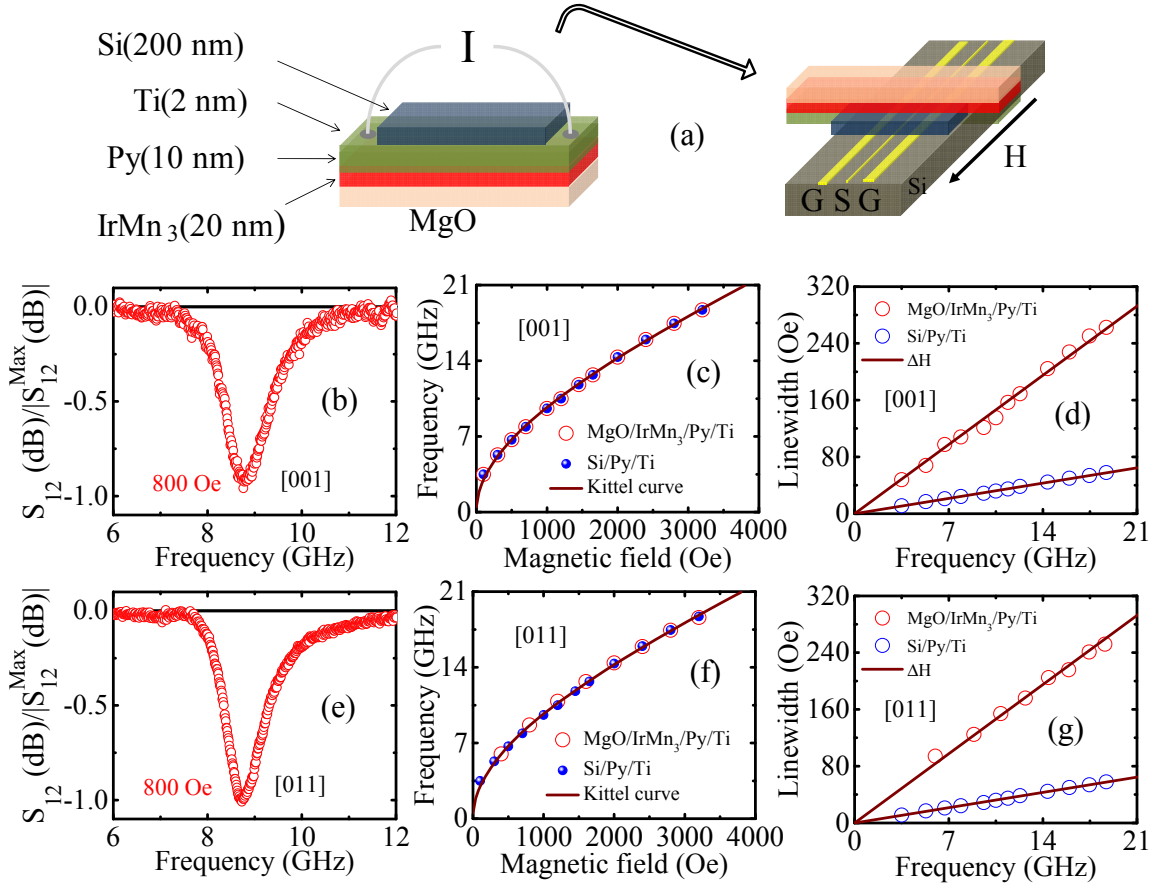


Figure 2: (a) Schematic of the flip-chip ferromagnetic resonance measurement set up, where dc current (I) leads are connected to the Ti layer. (b) and (e) ferromagnetic resonance (FMR) signals obtained using a VNA for the magnetic field applied along the [001] and [011] crystallographic directions, respectively. (c) and (f) FMR frequency as a function of magnetic field, which was applied along the [001] and [011] crystallographic directions, respectively. The fits are performed with the Kittel equation, where $\gamma = g\mu_B/\hbar = 2.8$ GHz/kOe and $4\pi M_{\text{eff}} = (9706 \pm 1)$ Oe. (d) and (g) show the linewidth variation as a function of the FMR frequency for the crystallographic directions [001] and [011], respectively.

Figures 2(c) and (f) show the measured FMR frequency as a function of the magnetic field. The solid curve **is a fit of** the experimental data to the Kittel equation, $f = \gamma[(H_R)(H_R + 4\pi M_{\text{eff}})]^{1/2}$ where $\gamma = g\mu_B/\hbar = 2.8$ GHz/kOe is the gyromagnetic ratio, $g=2$ is the spectroscopic splitting factor, μ_B is the Bohr magneton, \hbar the reduced Planck constant, and $4\pi M_{\text{eff}}$ the effective magnetization, which is determined by the fit $4\pi M_{\text{eff}} = (9706 \pm 1)$ Oe, **consistent with the SQUID data**. As expected, there is no significant variation in the ferromagnetic resonance field for single $\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}$ or $\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}/\text{IrMn}_3$ samples. The frequency swept linewidths (Δf_{VNA}) were obtained via Lorentz fitting. Detailed steps, including the conversion from Δf_{VNA} to **resonance magnetic field linewidth** ΔH can be found in Ref. 24. The linewidth as a function of the frequency is **given by** $\Delta H = (\alpha/\gamma)f$ [25], where α is the magnetic Gilbert damping of the material. **Figures 2(d) and (g) show** the linewidth **and** fits are made using $\Delta H = (\alpha/\gamma)f$. **The** damping **values** for both crystallographic directions [001] and [011] **are** practically the same $\alpha_{\text{IrMn}_3/\text{Py}} = (3.94 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-2}$ but damping increased significantly in comparison to a **single** layer of $\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}(\text{Py})$ $\alpha_{\text{Py}} = (8.66 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-3}$. **Using** the variation of **the** damping, it is possible to **determine** the spin-mixing conductance $g_{\text{eff}}^{\uparrow\downarrow} = 4\pi M_{\text{eff}} t_{\text{FM}} \Delta\alpha / (\gamma\hbar) = (1.6 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ [19], where $t_{\text{FM}} = 10$ nm is the thickness of the ferromagnetic material ($\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}$, Py).

The experimental results **with applied dc currents along the [001] direction are shown in Figure 3 and suggest** that there are three distinct contributions to α : the first, **current-independent** mechanism is that α is strongly facet-dependent and is derived from the antiferromagnetic domains of the uncompensated spins; the second, **magnetic field-independent** mechanism is that it is facet-independent and arises from bulk spin-orbit coupling within the IrMn_3 layer, and the third **mechanism, which is both magnetic field direction and electric current dependent, is the magnetic spin Hall effect (MSHE)**. It is known that chemically ordered IrMn_3 has a triangular chiral magnetic structure with the Mn magnetic moments aligned at 120° to each other in the (111) plane [20]. The coupling of the magnetization of $\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}$ to the Mn interface moments becomes strongly fixed in its preferred direction [26-28] by the preferred antiferromagnetic domains in the bulk of the IrMn_3 film. The coupling at the $\text{IrMn}_3/\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}$ interface is responsible for the spin current flow and the concomitant manipulation of damping of the magnetization in $\text{Ni}_{80}\text{Fe}_{20}$. **Figures 3(a) and (c) show** the linewidth variation as a function of the resonance frequency for the magnetic field applied along the [001] and [011] crystallographic directions,

respectively. Based on the Landau-Lifshitz-Gilbert-Slonczewski equation the linewidth as a function of the frequency can be written as $\Delta H = \alpha f / \gamma + \theta_{MSH}^{eff} \hbar j_c L / (2e M_{eff} t_{FM})$, where θ_{MSH}^{eff} is the effective magnetic spin Hall angle, e is the charge of electron, j_c is the charge density and the spin transparency of interface is represented by $L = [g_{eff}^{\uparrow\downarrow} \tan(t_{AF}/2\lambda_{AF})] / [\sigma h / (2\lambda_{AF} e^2) + g_{eff}^{\uparrow\downarrow} \coth(t_{AF}/\lambda_{AF})]$ [29], where λ_{AF} is the spin diffusion length in the IrMn₃, $g_{eff}^{\uparrow\downarrow}$ is the effective spin mixing conductance, σ is the electrical conductivity and t_{AF} is the thickness of the IrMn₃. For analyzing the measurements of the IrMn₃(20 nm)/Py(10 nm) samples with the magnetic field applied along the [001] direction we used the following parameters: resonance frequency $f = (17.45 \pm 0.03)$ GHz, linewidth of $\Delta H = (336.5 \pm 0.5)$ Oe, dc current density of $j_c = 2.5 \times 10^4$ Acm⁻², the spin diffusion length $\lambda_{AF} = 1$ nm [20], thickness $t_{AF} = 20$ nm, and electrical conductivity $\sigma_{[001]}^{Elec} = (8.2 \pm 0.2) \times 10^3 \Omega^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$, which is in accordance with the previously reported values [20-22]; using these parameters we obtain an effective magnetic spin Hall angle of $\theta_{MSH}^{eff} \sim (0.33 \pm 0.02)$. This result is consistent with Ref. 20, where the spin Hall effect was probed via other techniques.

We observe that for the magnetic field applied along the [001] direction a change in the magnetic damping occurs, depending on the direction (positive or negative) of the applied dc current. This does not occur when the magnetic field is applied along the [011] direction, which indicates a change of the current induced toques in Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ as a function of the magnetic field due to the MSHE of IrMn₃. Also note that the electrical conductivity of Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ is $\sigma_{Py} = 2 \times 10^4 \Omega^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$ [30] and thus $\sigma_{Py} / \sigma_{[001]}^{Elec} = (2.4 \pm 1)$. Together with the thickness ratio of the two layers, this means that the dc current flows in about equal parts through the Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ and IrMn₃ layers. At the same time Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ has a small spin Hall angle, $\theta_{SH} = 0.005$ [31] compared to IrMn₃ (*i.e.*, $\theta_{SH} / \theta_{MSH}^{eff} \approx 1.5\%$) and thus any magnetic torques originating from electric current flowing through the Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ layer can be neglected. **Figures 3(b) and (d)** show the variation of the magnetic damping of the Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ layer as a function of the applied dc current along the crystallographic [001] direction and the magnetic field applied in crystallographic [001] and [011] directions, respectively.

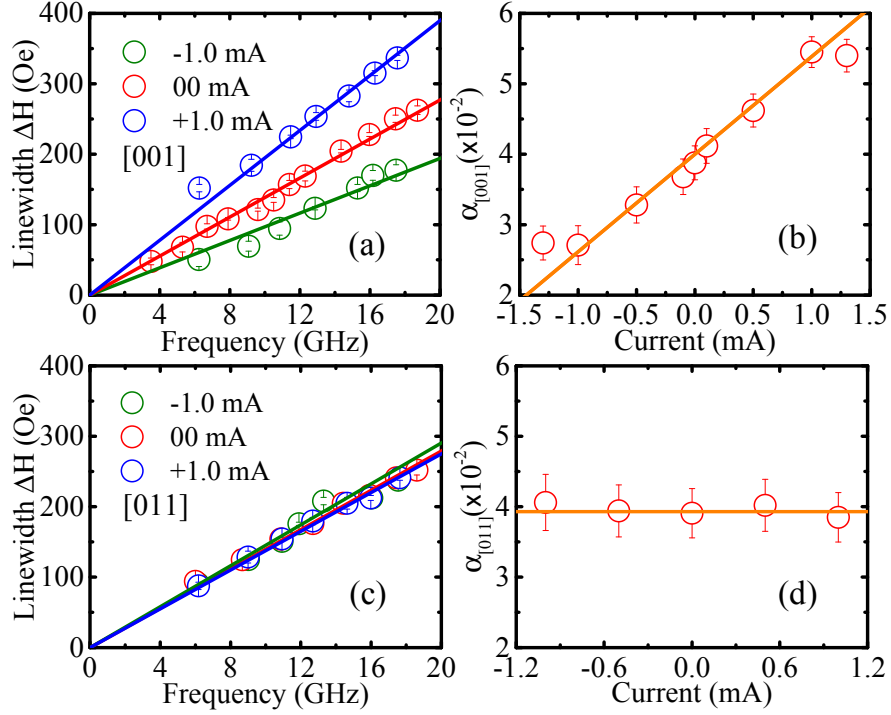


Figure 3: Electric current modulation of FMR measured for MgO/IrMn₃(20 nm)/Ni₈₀Fe₂₀(10 nm)/Ti(2 nm). **(a)** and **(c)** FMR linewidth variation as a function of the resonance frequency with *dc* currents of ± 1 mA applied along the [001] crystallographic direction and magnetic field applied along the [001] and [011] crystallographic directions, respectively. **(b)** and **(d)** damping variation as a function of *dc* current for the [001] and [011] crystallographic directions, respectively.

The MSHE generated in IrMn₃ leads to significant changes in the magnetization dynamics of the adjacent Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ layer depending on the crystalline orientations. For a (100)-oriented IrMn₃ film, the in-plane current leads to a large out-of-plane spin current whose amplitude is much larger than that of a (111)-oriented IrMn₃ films [20]. In IrMn₃, the Mn atoms are arranged in the form of triangles within the {111} planes of the primitive crystallographic unit cell, such that the Mn moments point either toward (spins-in) or away from the center of the triangle (spins-out), respectively [see Fig. 4 (a)]. Using either a mirror reflection or time-reversal operation, the spins-in and spins-out configurations can be transformed into each other. For

example, for the (011)-crystallographic plane, the reversal operation process should apply to both the lattice and the magnetic moments and thus time-reversal reverses the directions of all moments, because either the mirror symmetry or the time-reversal symmetry is broken in IrMn₃. On the other hand, **spins-in** and **spins-out** are nonequivalent ground states and are chiral images of each other. In this case, **the spins-in and spins-out configurations** exhibit the same energies and both exist spontaneously in the material [32, 33]. It is known that under time reversal the magnetic spin Hall effect is odd [16], whereas the conventional spin Hall effect is even [31]. Thus, we can conclude with the help of time reversal that **both spin configurations** will exhibit the same MSHE, as schematically shown in **Fig. 4**.

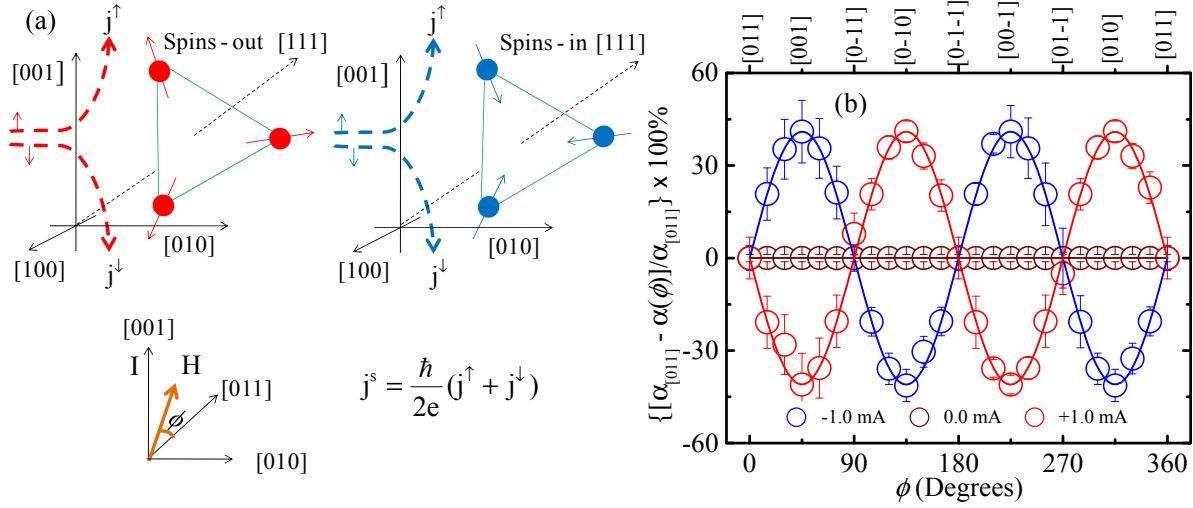


Figure 4: (a) Schematic diagram of two chiral antiferromagnetic **spin configurations (spins-in and spins-out)** of the Mn moments in IrMn₃. Due to the magnetic spin Hall effect, the trajectories of spin-up and spin-down electrons have opposite transverse components and produce a spin current in the [001] direction. The angular variation of the magnetic field (H) in the plane of the film is also shown and it determines the polarization of the spin accumulation due to magnetic spin Hall effect. (b) Variation of the current dependent Gilbert magnetic damping as a function of the applied magnetic field angle, which in turn defines the polarization of the spin accumulation due to magnetic spin Hall effect. The curves represent the function $\{[\alpha_{[011]} - \alpha(\phi)]/\alpha_{[011]}\} \times 100\% = \Delta\alpha_{\text{MSHE}} \sin(\pm 2\phi)$, with $\Delta\alpha_{\text{MSHE}} = (40 \pm 1) \%$.

Figure 4(b) shows for a MgO/IrMn₃(20nm)/Ni₈₀Fe₂₀(10nm)/Ti(2nm) **sample** the damping variation as a function of the applied magnetic field angle, which in turn defines the polarization of the spin accumulation due to the magnetic spin Hall effect. The modulation of the electric current induced damping modulation of the Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ as a function of the applied magnetic field direction provides an efficient pathway for modulating magnetization dynamics. The influence of the spin accumulation generated by the spin current $j^s = (j^\uparrow + j^\downarrow)\hbar/2e$ at the antiferromagnetic/ferromagnetic interface due to the MSHE also depends on the crystallographic direction of the material. As shown in **Fig. 3(a)** for -1 mA or +1 mA *dc* current, the damping variation for magnetic fields applied either along the [001] or [011] crystallographic directions is $\Delta\alpha_{\text{MSHE}} \approx (40 \pm 1)\%$. **This result was also confirmed by the data in Fig. 4 (b).** The fit of **Fig. 4 (b)** was realized with the function $\{[\alpha_{[011]} - \alpha(\square)]/\alpha_{[011]}\} \times 100\% = \Delta\alpha_{\text{MSHE}} \sin(\pm 2\square)$, where $\Delta\alpha_{\text{MSHE}} = (40 \pm 1)\%$. A variation of this order opens new possibilities for the control of spin currents and thus information flow in spintronics devices. **The fact that we observe an even field dependence of the damping modulation with electric currents indicates that the** mirror symmetry is broken in IrMn₃, **which gives rise to the MSHE** in this material [16]. **In other words,** the MSHE is influenced by the contributions of intrinsic Hall conductivities of the domains with opposite chirality of spin [34].

Similar measurements were performed with *dc* electrical currents applied along the [011] crystallographic direction. The results are similar to the ones shown in **Figure 4(b)**. It is also worthwhile to note that recently very large anisotropies of the magnetization damping as a function of magnetic field direction with respect to the crystalline orientation have been observed for individual ferromagnetic layers [35]. This differs from the current observation where the magnetic damping of the Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ film without any applied electric current is largely independent of the magnetic field orientation as can be seen in **Figs. 3(b) and (d)**. In contrast here, only the electric current dependent part of the magnetization damping shows a large anisotropy.

In summary, we have shown that bilayers of IrMn₃/Ni₈₀Fe₂₀ have a strong modulation of electric current induced damping-like spin torques. The angular magnetic field dependence indicates that these damping-like torques originate from magnetic spin Hall effects in the IrMn₃. This indicates that chiral antiferromagnetic systems, such as IrMn₃ can provide additional functionality for electric current control of magnetization dynamics with very different

symmetries than what can be expected from conventional spin Hall effects. Thus, this work provides new perspectives for the fundamental understanding of charge- to spin-current conversions in antiferromagnets, as well as new avenues for integrating chiral antiferromagnets into spintronics devices.

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