

Paolo Allia

DISAT – Politecnico di Torino  
Associate, INRiM - Torino



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DI TORINO



## Basic Magnetism (II. Magnetization processes)

# Towards the macro-world of *magnetics*

## Magnetic anisotropies: 1 - crystal anisotropy

Origin

Temperature behaviour

## Crystal anisotropy (single-ion)

The Heisenberg exchange hamiltonian is isotropic, depending on the mutual directions of spins  $\mathbf{S}_i$  and  $\mathbf{S}_j$ :

$$\mathcal{H} = -\sum_{i \neq j} \mathcal{J}_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j = -\sum_{i \neq j} \mathcal{J}_{ij} (S_{xi} S_{xj} + S_{yi} S_{yj} + S_{zi} S_{zj})$$

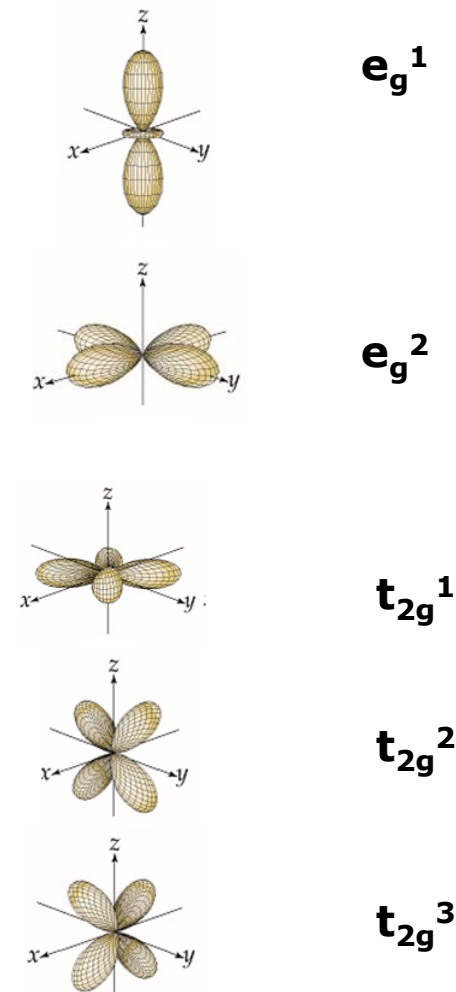
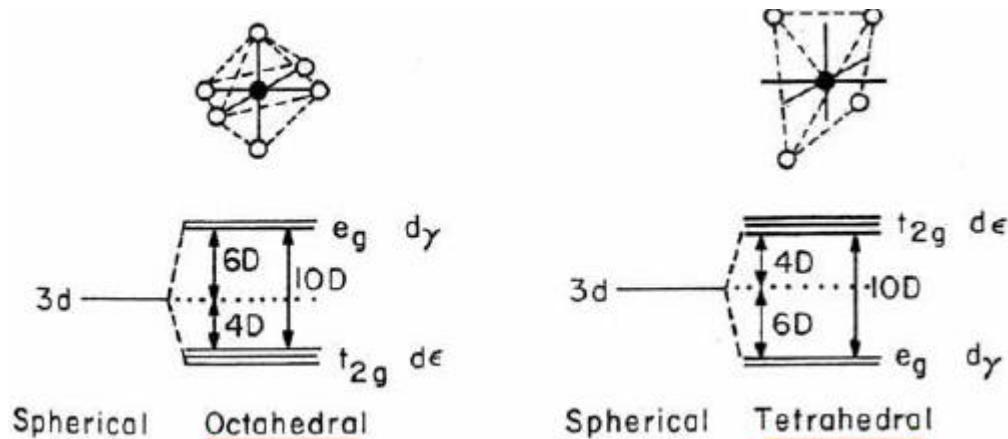
Real magnetic materials, however, exhibit a *crystal magnetic anisotropy*, which is basically related to spin-orbit coupling.

**Spin-orbit coupling correlates the direction of spin with the orientation of electron orbits**



Energies of electron orbitals are influenced by crystal symmetry – therefore, the *spins* preferentially align in order to minimize the *orbit* energy, which depends on *crystal symmetry*

The **crystal field** – already introduced to explain the quenching of orbital momentum - is responsible for the emergence of such a magnetic anisotropy (*single-ion anisotropy*).

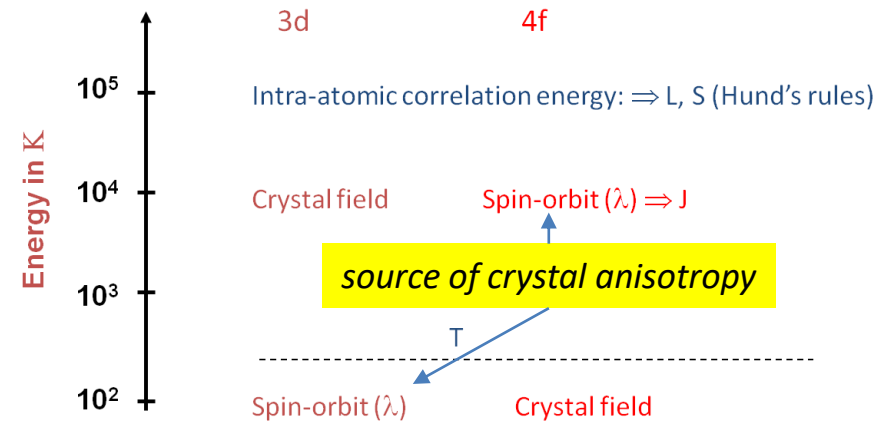


The energy of the system is markedly affected by the actual arrangement of neighboring atoms/ions.

As a result, there will be preferred (= low-energy) directions spontaneously taken by **M**

For transition metal ions, magnetic anisotropy is usually treated by evaluating the crystal field splitting and adding spin-orbit coupling *as a perturbation*. Crystal-field splitting is much larger than spin-orbit coupling for 3d electrons.

Instead, in rare-earth ( RE ) metals and RE-intermetallics, crystal-field splitting is much weaker than spin-orbit energy. *Large S.O. coupling  $\rightarrow$  large magnetic anisotropy of RE metals/intermetallics.*



## Two-ion crystal anisotropy

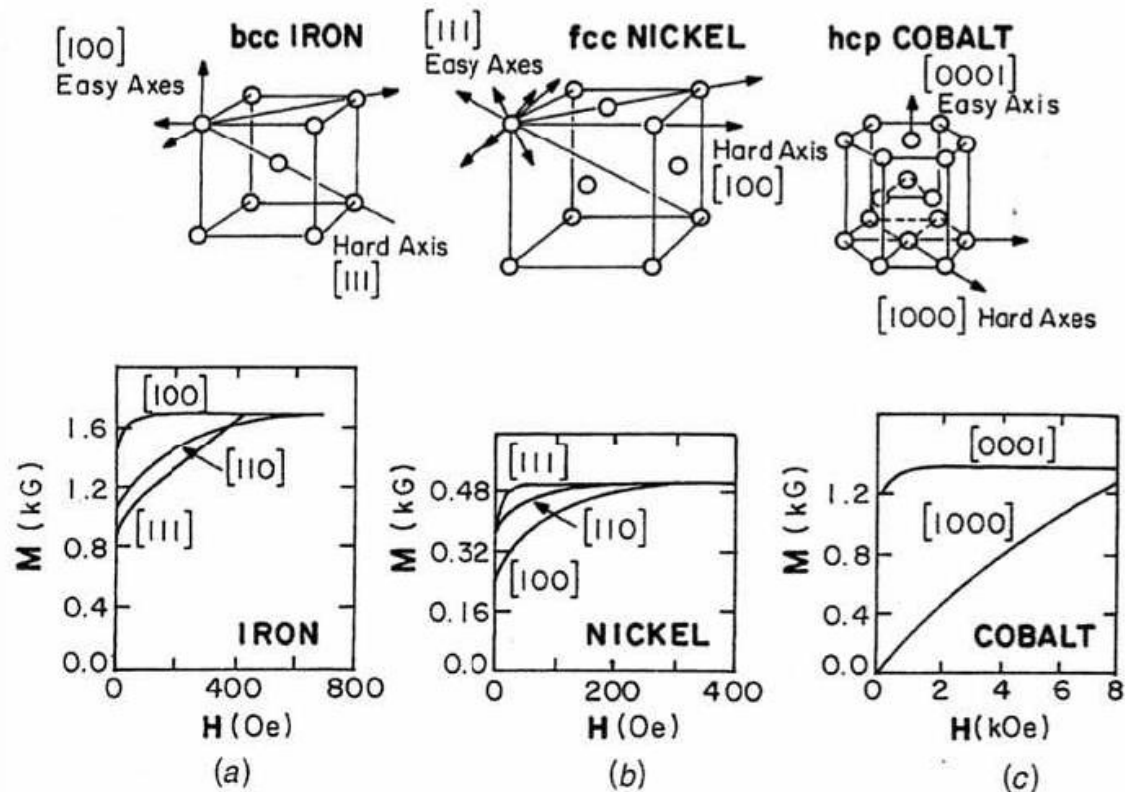
An anisotropic two-ion coupling is given by the classical magnetic dipole–dipole interaction  $\rightarrow$  very weak (orders of magnitude less than isotropic exchange) - but extremely long-range.

Note: the dipole sum is extended over the entire lattice, and  $\rightarrow 0$  for certain ideal lattices (e.g., all *cubic* lattices).

## Phenomenology of the magnetic crystal anisotropy

A general theory of magnetic anisotropy is hard to derive from first principles  
→ *macroscopic, phenomenological picture* of the measured effects, explicitly based on crystal symmetry.

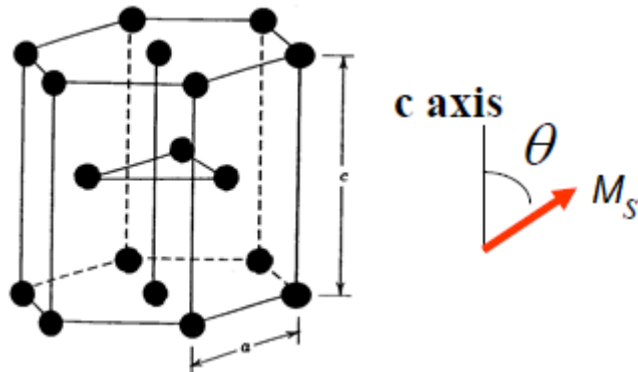
**Favorable / unfavorable directions of the magnetization vector are usually called *easy/hard axes*.**



## Types of magnetocrystalline anisotropy

### *Uniaxial anisotropy*

Co crystals (hcp arrangement) show negligible anisotropy in the basal plane. Therefore, Co exhibits *uniaxial anisotropy* with a preference for magnetization to point along the c axis.



Uniaxial anisotropy energy (per unit volume) can be expressed as a power series containing *even powers* of  $\sin \theta$  (energy does not change value under space inversion)

$$E_U = \sum_n K_n \sin^{2n} \theta = K_0 + K_1 \sin^2 \theta + K_2 \sin^4 \theta + \dots$$

quantum physics  
is contained here

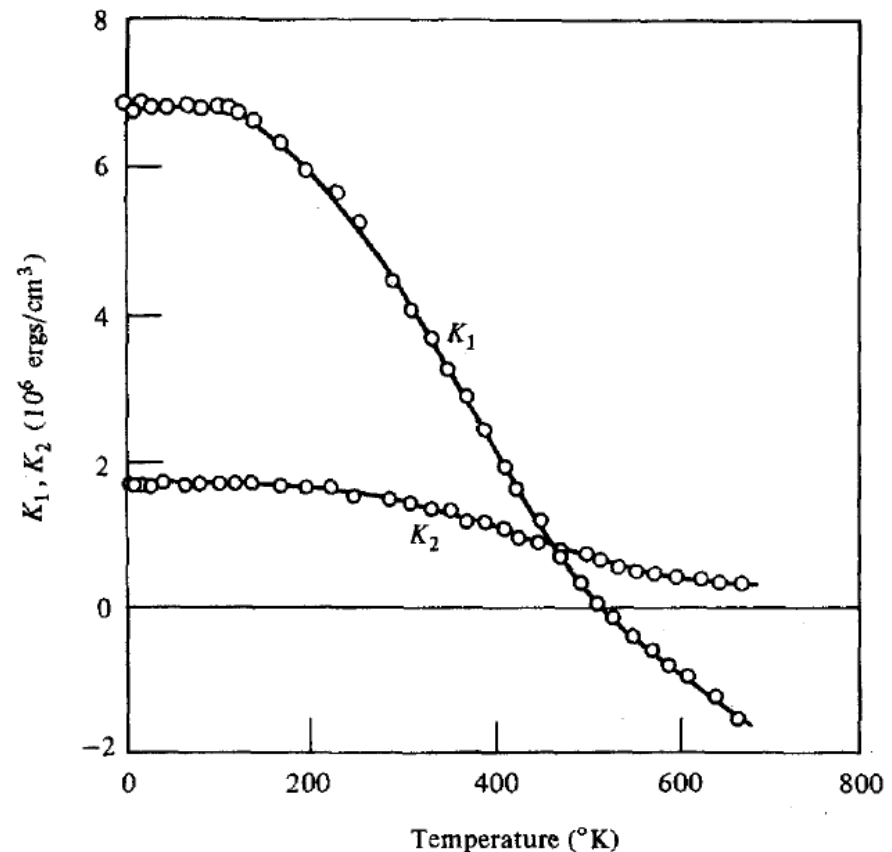
crystal symmetry is  
represented here

Usually,  $K_1 > K_2 > K_3 \dots$ . The c-axis is the easy axis if  $K_1 > 0$ .

	$K_{u1}$ [J/m <sup>3</sup> ]	$K_{u2}$ [J/m <sup>3</sup> ]
Co	$4.1 \times 10^5$	$1.5 \times 10^5$

The anisotropy constants  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$ , ... are strongly temperature-dependent; they even intersect well above room temperature.  $K_1$  changes of sign at high T.

Crystal anisotropy becomes negligible at high temperatures  
Disappears at  $T_c$





## Anisotropy field

In uniaxial media, the magnetization process along the **hard** axis is described by adding the Zeeman energy  $-M_s H \cos(\pi/2 - \theta) = -M_s H \sin \theta$ . Keeping only the  $K_1$  term:

$$E = E_U - M_s H \sin \theta = K_1 \sin^2 \theta - M_s H \sin \theta$$

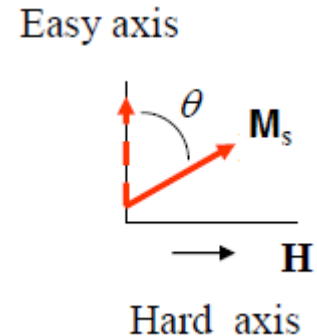
Equilibrium condition: take the derivative of  $E(\theta)$  and put it equal to zero:

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial \theta} = 2K_1 \sin \theta \cos \theta - M_s H \cos \theta = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2K_1 \sin \theta = M_s H$$

The field needed to rotate the  $M_s$  vector by  $90^\circ$  away from the easy axis ( $\sin \theta \rightarrow 1$ ) is

$H = \frac{2K_1}{M_s}$ . This quantity measures the anisotropy strength in terms of an internal fictitious field: the *anisotropy field*.



## Cubic anisotropy

In cubic crystals, symmetry requires that the anisotropy takes the form:

$$E_A = K_0 + K_1(\alpha_1^2\alpha_2^2 + \alpha_2^2\alpha_3^2 + \alpha_3^2\alpha_1^2) + K_2(\alpha_1^2\alpha_2^2\alpha_3^2) + \dots$$

quantum physics  
is contained here

crystal symmetry is  
represented here

The direction cosines  $\alpha_i$  are defined in terms of the Euler angles as:

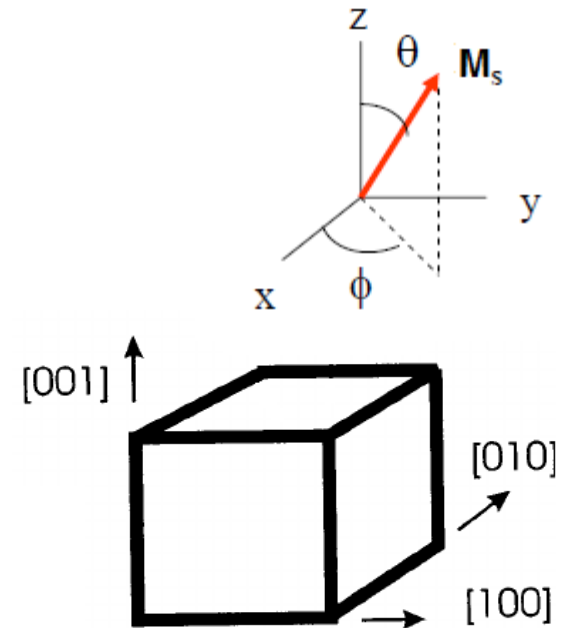
$$\alpha_1 = \sin \theta \cos \phi; \quad \alpha_2 = \sin \theta \sin \phi; \quad \alpha_3 = \cos \theta$$

$$\alpha_1^2 + \alpha_2^2 + \alpha_3^2 = 1$$

Cubic systems: [100], [010], [001] crystallographic axes are equivalent.

Usually  $|K_1| > |K_2| \dots$ \*

\*exercise nr. 4



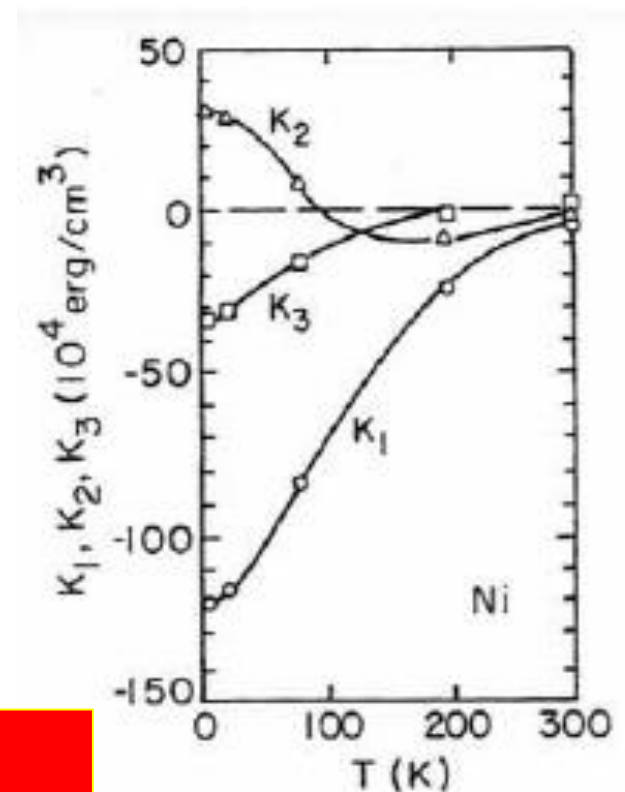
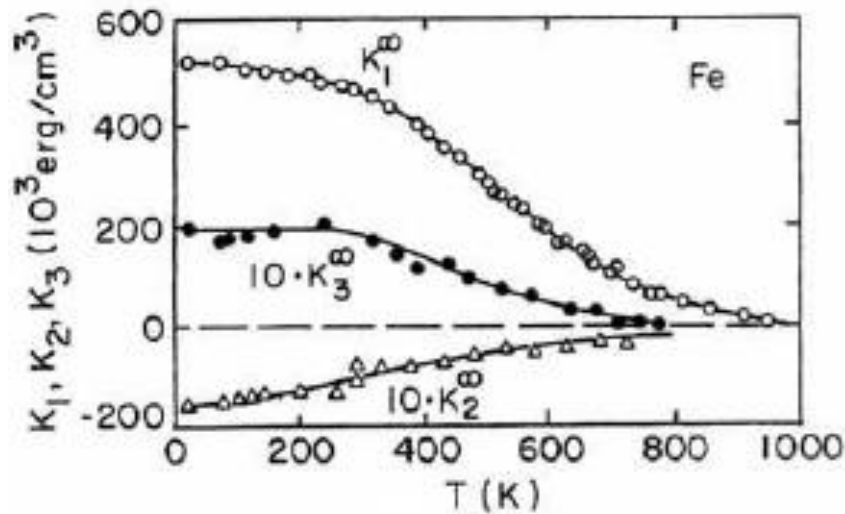
Room-temperature values of  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$  and temperature dependence of  $K_1, K_2, K_3$  for Fe and Ni single crystals.

	$K_1$ [J/m <sup>3</sup> ]	$K_2$ [J/m <sup>3</sup> ]
Fe	$4.8 \times 10^4$	$-1.0 \times 10^4$
Ni	$-4.5 \times 10^3$	$-2.3 \times 10^3$
Ni <sub>81</sub> Fe <sub>19</sub>	$\sim 0$	$\sim 0$

$$\frac{K_i(T)}{K_i(0)} \approx \left( \frac{M_s(T)}{M_s(0)} \right)^{l(l+1)/2}$$

$l=2$  for uniaxial anisotropy  $\rightarrow M_s^3$

$l=4$  for cubic anisotropy  $\rightarrow M_s^{10}$



Crystal anisotropy becomes negligible at high temperatures  
Disappears at  $T_c$

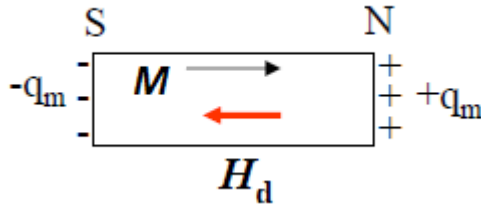
# Approaching *magnetics*

A ferromagnetic *body* is not indefinite; it has *shape*, *surfaces*...

- **Shape anisotropy**: nature, representation, practical consequences
- **Self-energy** of a magnetized body and practical consequences:
  - a. Ferromagnetic **domains** and domain structures
  - b. Domain **walls**

## Shape anisotropy

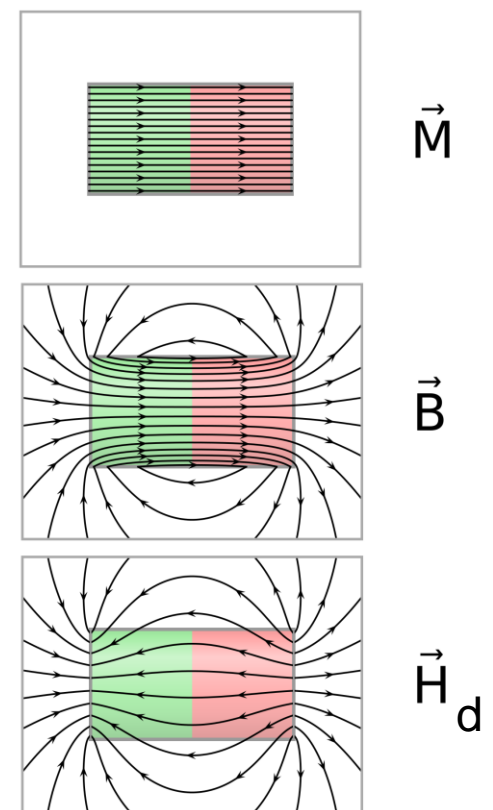
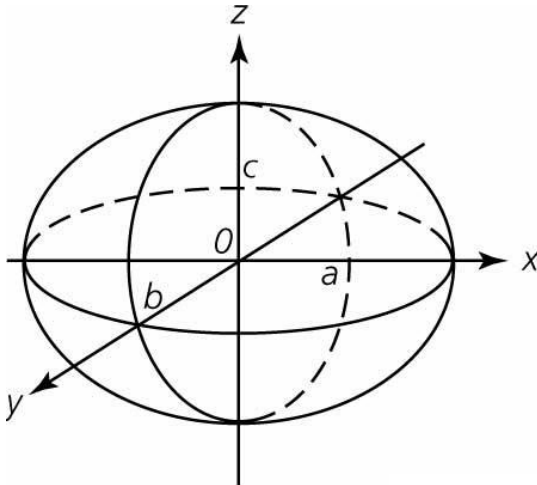
A magnetized body produces a magnetic field



$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{H}_d = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{M}$$

Discontinuities of magnetization at surfaces act as sources of *demagnetizing* field  $\mathbf{H}_d$ . Generally speaking,  $\mathbf{H}_d = -N\mathbf{M}$ . The demagnetization factor  $N$  depends on body's shape. For an ellipsoid, three demagnetization factors can be defined:

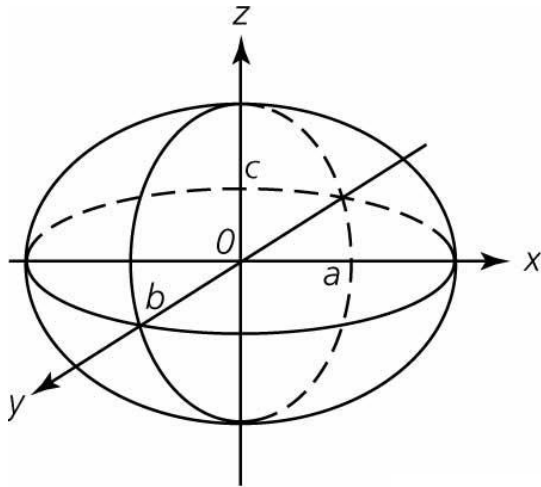


$$\text{Gaussian system: } N_x + N_y + N_z = 4\pi$$

$$H_{dx} = -N_x M_x$$

$$H_{dy} = -N_y M_y$$

$$H_{dz} = -N_z M_z$$



The magnetic energy (per unit volume) is given by:

$$\varepsilon_d = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{H}_d$$

$$\varepsilon_d = +\frac{1}{8\pi} (N_x M_x^2 + N_y M_y^2 + N_z M_z^2)$$

General rule: if  $a > b > c$ , then  $N_x < N_y < N_z$

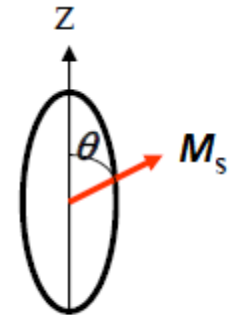


the longer the axis, the smaller  $N_{\text{axis}}$

For an ellipsoid of revolution around  $z$ ,  $N_x = N_y = N_{\perp} (= 2\pi - \frac{N_z}{2})$

– so:

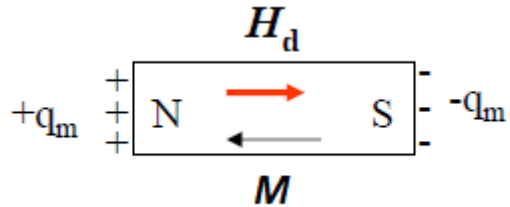
$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_d &= +\frac{1}{8\pi} (N_{\perp} (M_x^2 + M_y^2) + N_z M_z^2) = \frac{M_s^2}{8\pi} (N_{\perp} \sin^2 \theta + N_z \cos^2 \theta) \\ &= \text{const.} + \frac{M_s^2}{8\pi} (N_z - N_{\perp}) \cos^2 \theta \end{aligned}$$



Shape anisotropy is **uniaxial**; easy axis is the *long axis* of ellipsoid (\*)

\*exercise nr. 5

## Ferromagnetic domains & domain structures



$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{H}_d = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{M}$$

$$\varepsilon_d = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{H}_d$$

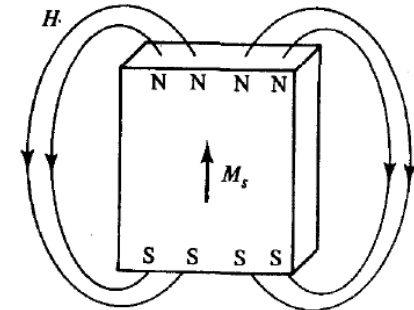
Magnetic poles (of field  $\mathbf{H}_d$ ) appear at sample surfaces

The magnetostatic energy for a uniformly magnetized body can be written in either form:

$$E_d = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \int_{body} \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{H}_d dV$$

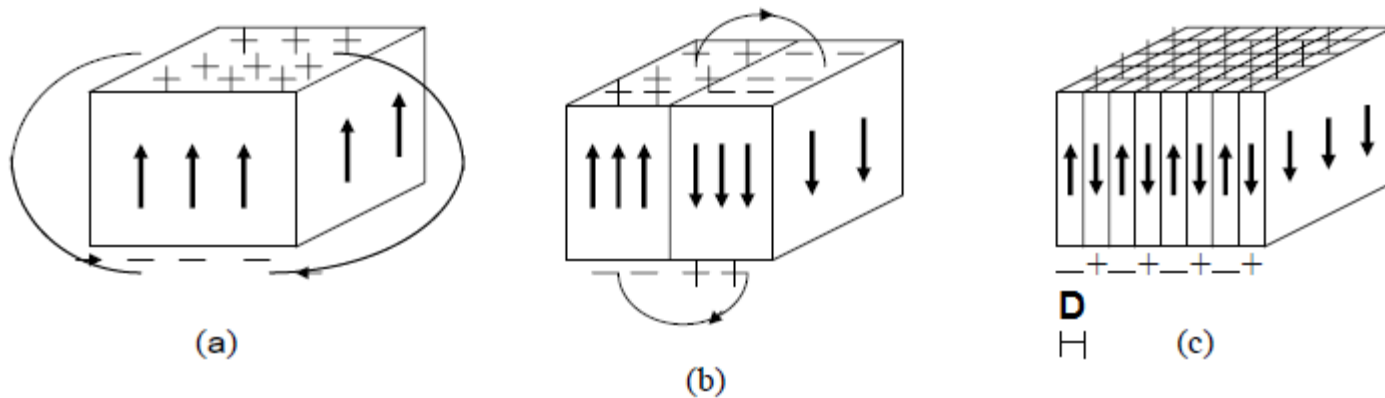
$$E_d = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \int_{all\ space} H_d^2 dV$$

where the second integral is to be performed over *all space*, both inside and *outside* the body.



For a uniformly magnetized macroscopic body the overall magnetostatic energy can be significant (large straw field)

This can be effectively reduced with the nucleation of *magnetic domains* of antiparallel magnetization such as those shown in the figure, cases (b) and (c):



Positive and negative magnetic poles at the sample surface become finely distributed, and the *external* field decreases.

A quick calculation: consider a thin slab of Co, with  $M_s = 1.4 \times 10^3 \text{ emu/cm}^3$  aligned along  $z$  by crystal anisotropy. Taking  $N_z \cong 4\pi$  one gets, in the single-domain configuration (a):  $\varepsilon_d = M_s^2/2 = 1 \times 10^6 \text{ erg/cm}^3$ . In the presence of regular domains of width  $D$  (c) one gets instead:  $\varepsilon_d \cong 1 \times 10^6 D$  which can be much smaller.



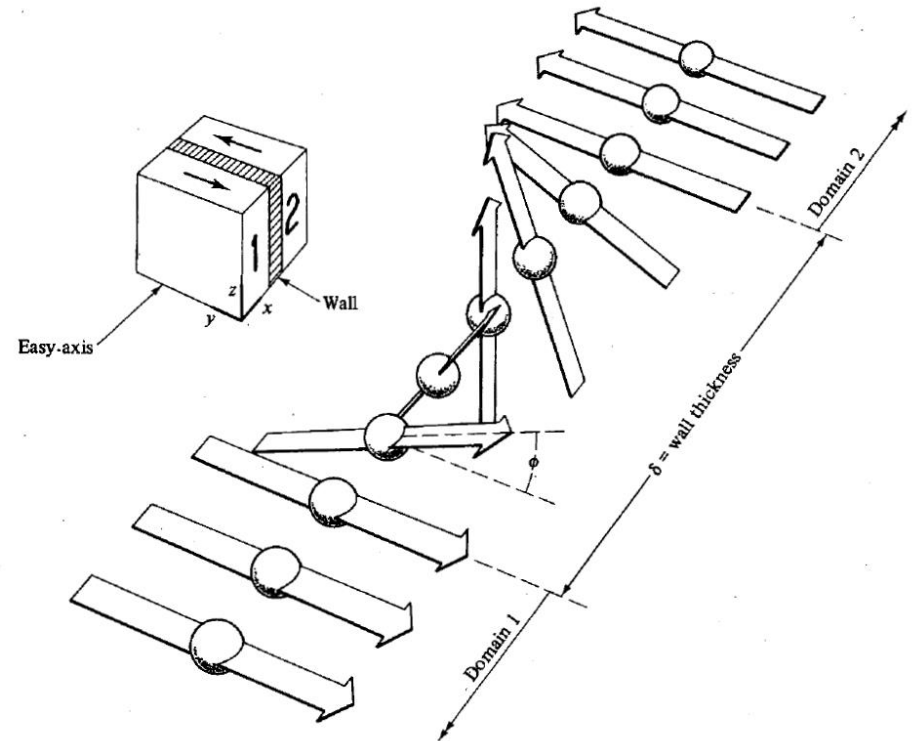
Of course,  $D$  cannot become equal to zero as suggested by the last formula: an intermediate region called *magnetic domain wall (DW)* must exist between two adjacent domains of antiparallel magnetization. Nucleation of a DW requires paying an energy cost, because DW's store both exchange and anisotropy energy.

## Domain wall thickness and stored energy

Within a DW the magnetization points along a direction not corresponding to an easy axis *and* a quasi-continuous rotation of the  $\mathbf{M}$  vector occurs there.

The wall thickness is the space length required for a full rotation of a given angle to occur.

The full rotation angle between domains of antiparallel magnetization is  $\pi$  ( $180^\circ$  domain wall).

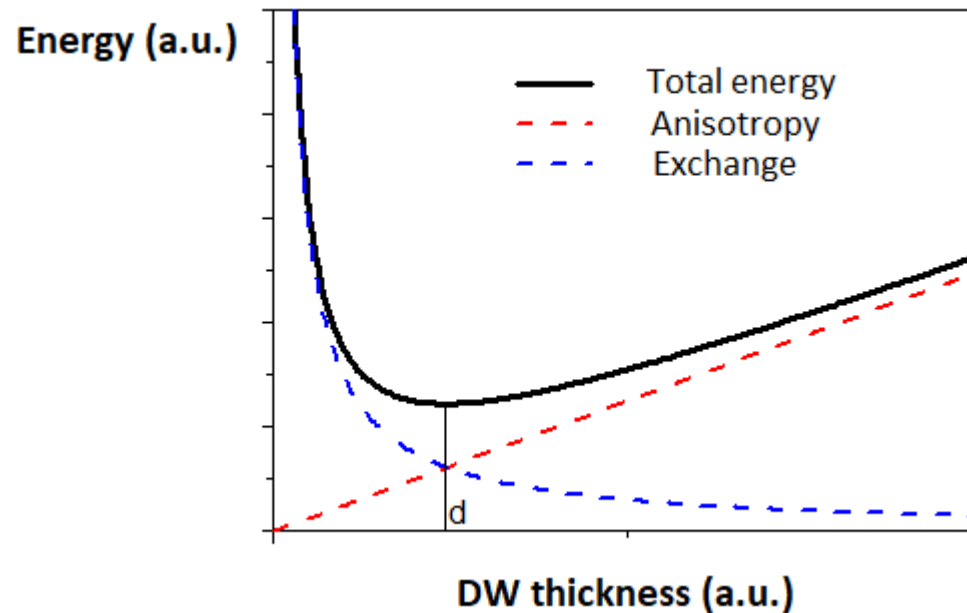


## The DW «accumulates» exchange and anisotropy energy

These two energy terms are in direct competition:

- to minimize exchange energy the DW should be as thick as possible
- to minimize anisotropy energy the DW should be as thin as possible

**Breakeven point** at a DW wall thickness  $d$ . (\*) There, the accumulated energy is still positive.

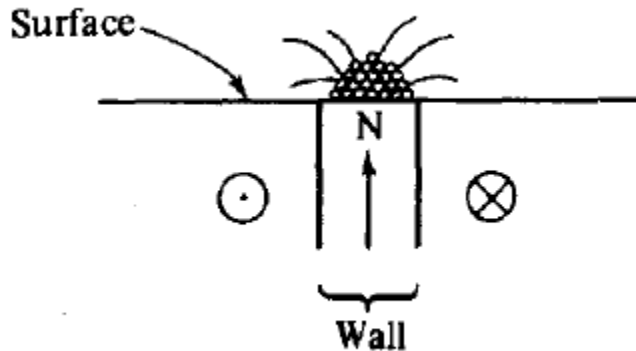


\*insight nr. 2

## Bloch walls vs. Néel walls

Across the thickness of a  $180^\circ$  DW there are virtually no magnetic poles ( $\equiv$  inhomogeneities of the magnetization in a direction perpendicular to the wall).

Magnetic poles are created at the top and bottom of the wall on opposite surfaces of a bulk material, where the DW terminates; positive and negative poles are however separated by a macroscopic distance, and the associated magnetostatic energy is negligible.

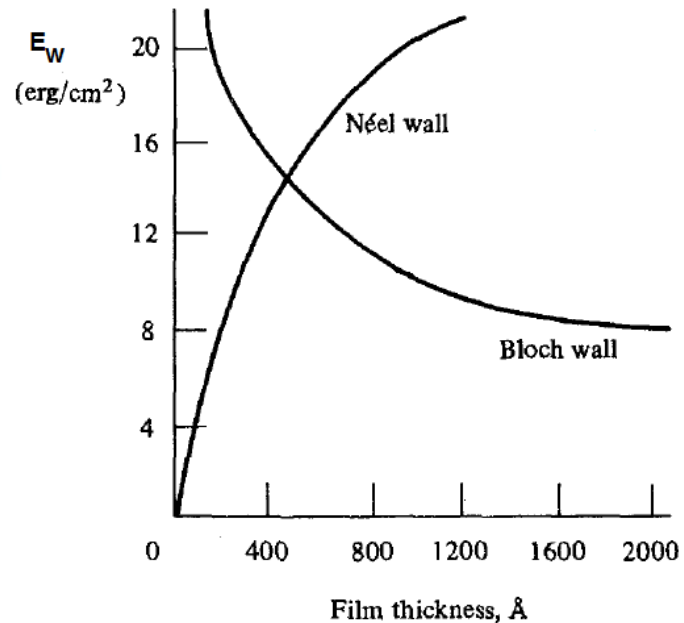
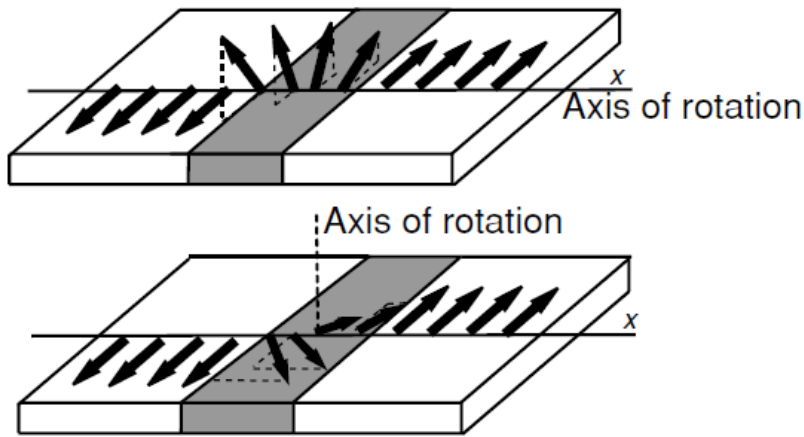


Magnetic poles appear at the surface in correspondence of a  $180^\circ$  DW

(The stray field generated by the poles provides a way to visualize the DW by observing the magnetic micropowders accumulated there)

## Bloch walls vs. Néel walls

In thin films, the magnetostatic energy would significantly increase as a result of free poles at film surfaces. In order to reduce the energy, the moments inside the wall may rotate **in the plane**. Such a wall is called a Néel wall.

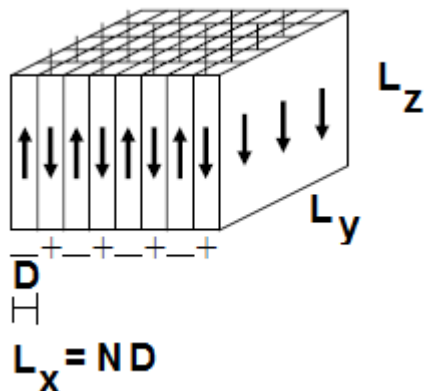


Néel wall (below) becomes more stable than Bloch wall (above) below some critical film thickness (data refer to Permalloy [a soft NiFe alloy]).

Magnetic domains reduce the magnetostatic energy; however, each pair of adjacent domains requires a DW between them - which accumulates magnetic energy.

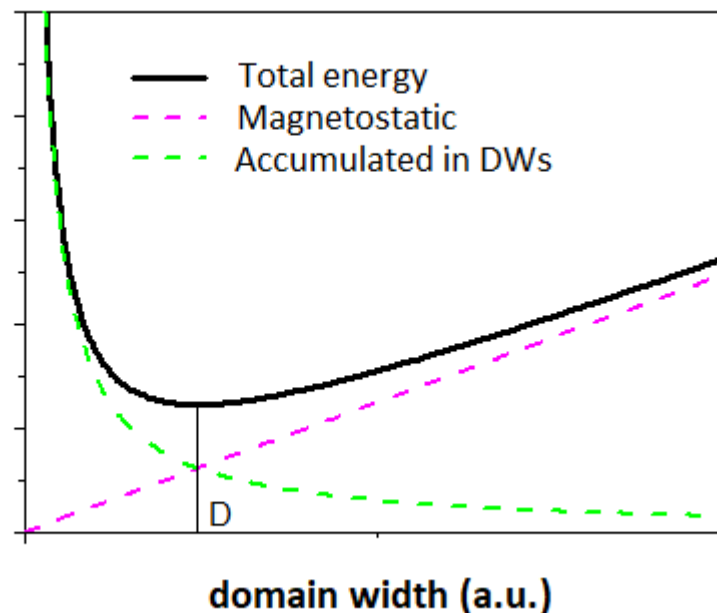
There is another pair of competing energies and a breakeven condition (\*):

- to minimize the magnetostatic energy the number of domains should be as large as possible (and the domain width as low as possible)
- to minimize the DW energy the number of DWs should be as low as possible (and the domain width as large as possible)



N: number of DWs

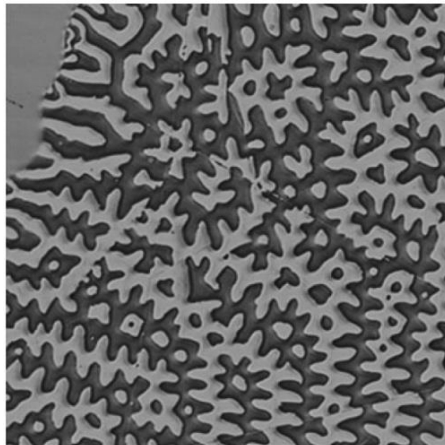
Energy (a.u.)



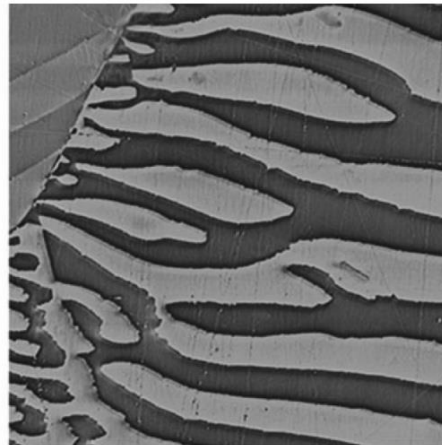
\*insight nr. 3

## Domain walls patterns

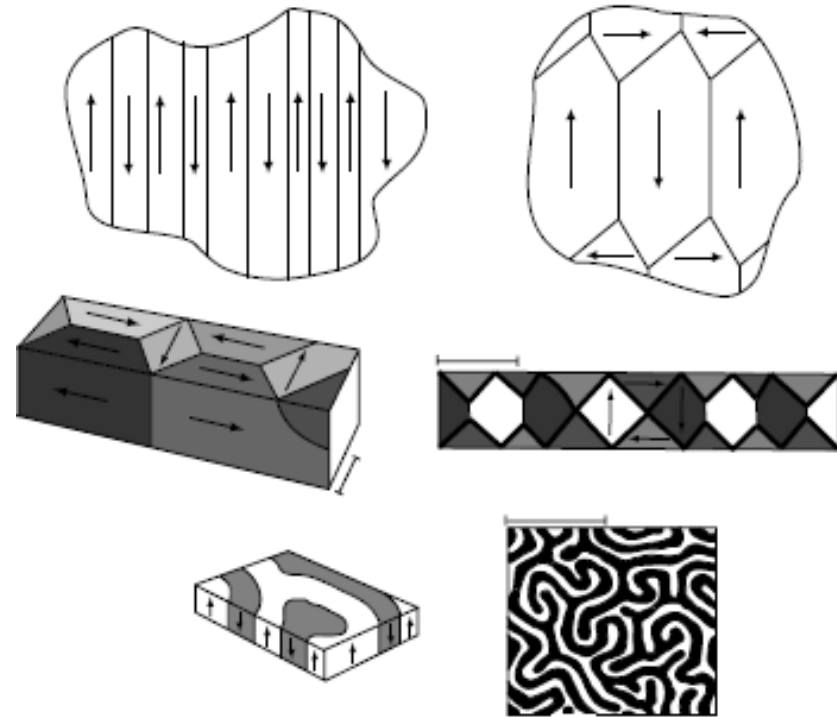
In actual materials, there is a wide variety of equilibrium magnetic domain patterns; domain shape and width is dictated by the complex interplay of different magnetic energies



5  $\mu\text{m}$



5  $\mu\text{m}$



# Magnetization processes in macroscopic bodies

*Fundamental aspects of macroscopic ferromagnetism*

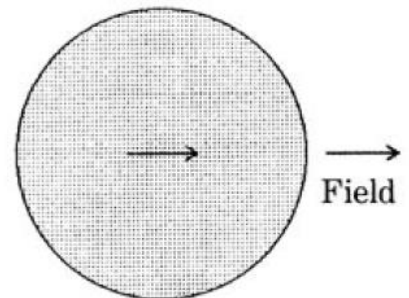
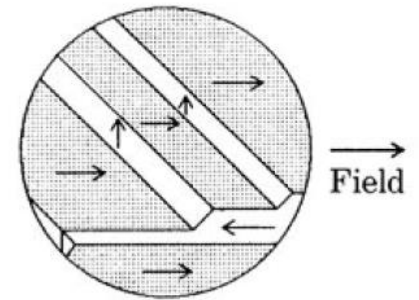
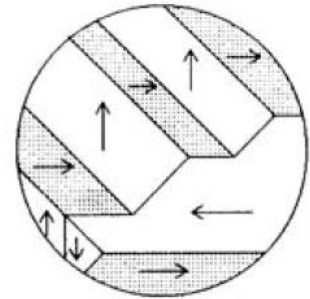
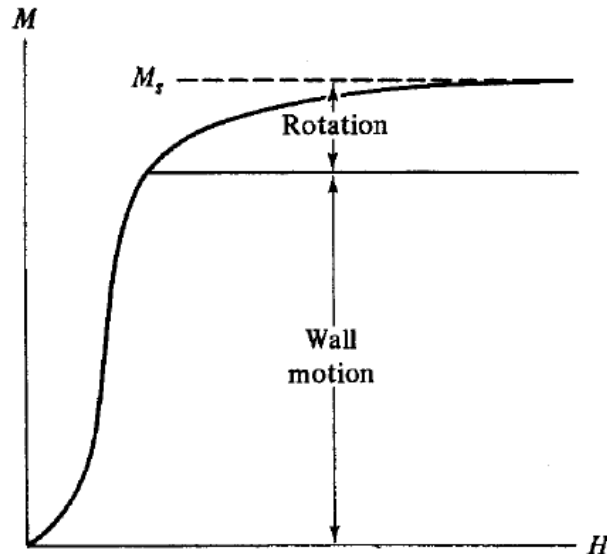
- The technical magnetization process
- Magnetic losses
- An introduction to coherent magnetization dynamics

## The “technical” magnetization process in bulk ferromagnetic materials

A ferromagnetic body in the absence of applied magnetic field is spontaneously divided into many domains .

The initial *macroscopic* magnetization of the body is zero (or close to zero) because of the mutually compensating contributions from antiparallel domains.

An applied field modifies the starting configuration and a net magnetization of the material is measured.

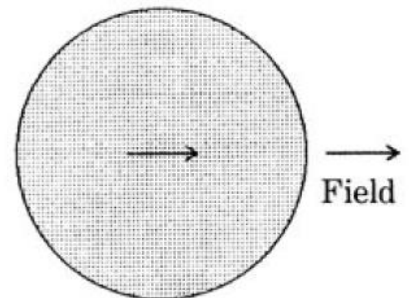
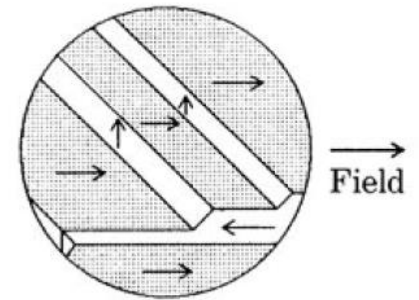
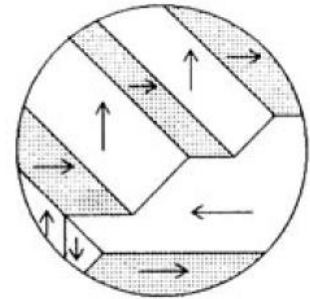
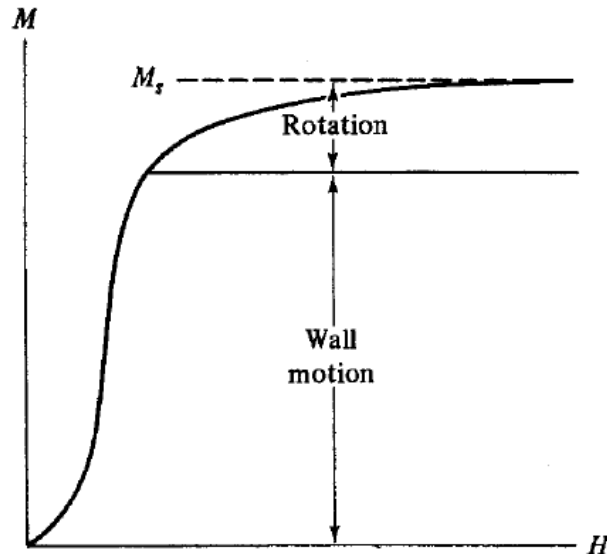




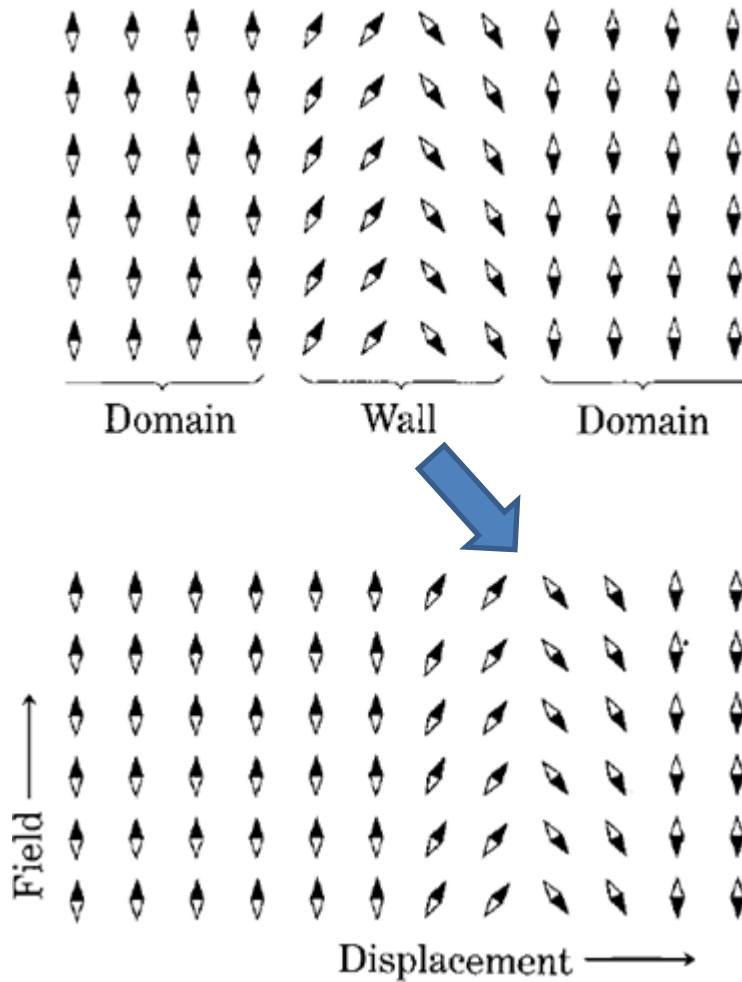
## The “technical” magnetization process in bulk ferromagnetic materials

At low fields, favorable domains (those whose local magnetization is closest to the applied field direction) **grow** at the expenses of the unfavorable ones according to a sort of principle of “survival of the fittest”.

At higher fields, the magnetization rotates coherently towards the field direction (if needed).



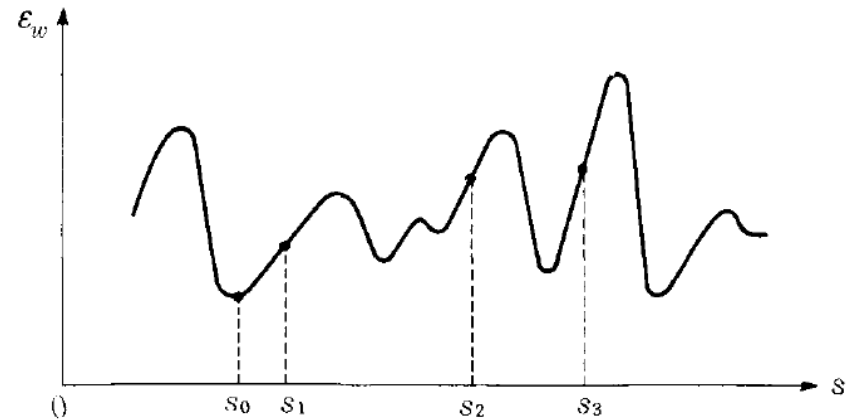
## Domain wall displacement



DW displacement occurs because of the force (pressure) exerted by the external field and involves a continuous rotation of local magnetization with time.

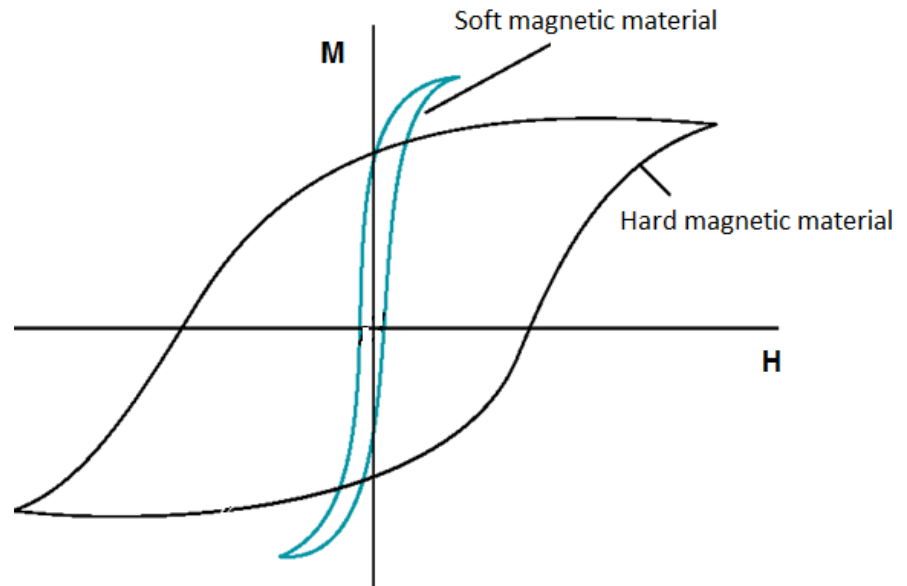
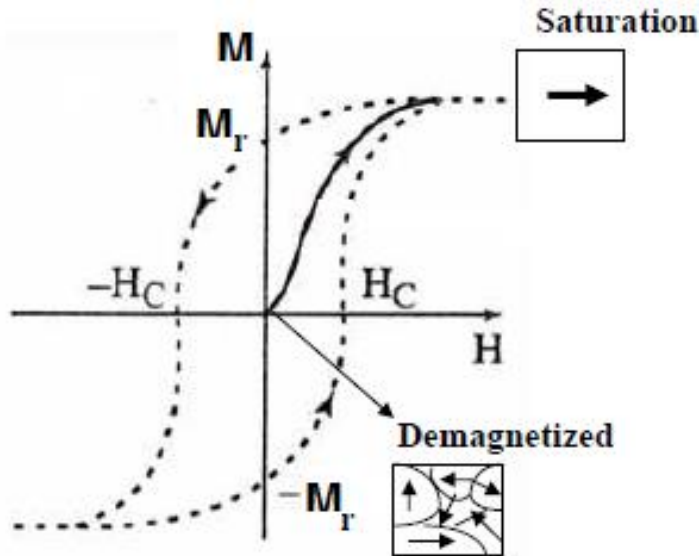
The displacement is *hindered* by defects (point defects, dislocations, inclusions, stress centers,...).

The wall moves in a complex, multi-valley “potential energy landscape” which is the source of intrinsic *irreversibility* of this motion.



In general, both magnetization mechanisms, i.e., DW displacement and coherent rotation of the vector  $\mathbf{M}_s$  are **stochastic** in nature and display intrinsic **irreversibility**.

As a consequence, if the magnetization process is done under an alternating magnetic field, *magnetic hysteresis* appears. The hysteresis loop's area has the meaning of the energy (per unit volume) **dissipated by the material in the magnetic loop. (\*)**



Loop features dictate the area of application

\*exercise nr. 6

## Magnetic losses have a strong impact on world economy!

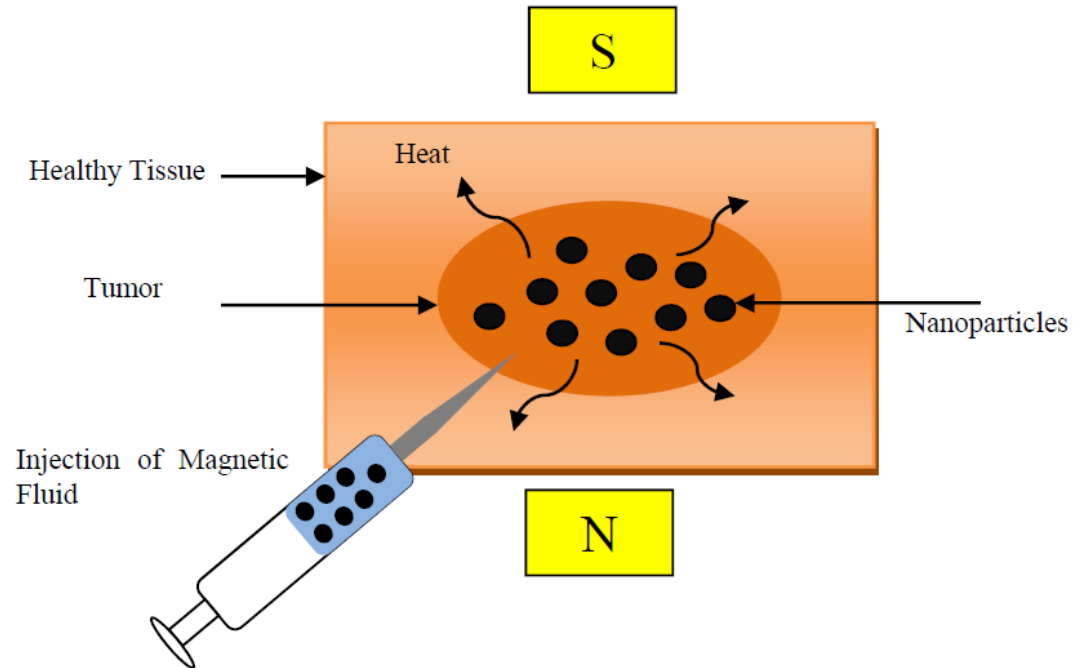
- Total worldwide transformer loss per year  $\cong 285$  TWh (as of 2011)
  - Average worldwide cost of 1 kWh of electrical energy  $\cong 0,19$  \$ (as of 2011)
  - Total worldwide cost of transformer losses in 2011  $\cong 5.4 \times 10^{10}$  (54 billion !! ) \$
- Gross domestic product of Croatia (2017)  $\approx 53$  billion \$*

Electrical energy is dissipated as **heat** during the cyclic magnetization process.

This may have **beneficial effects** too.

E.g.: cyclic magnetization of magnetic nanoparticles results in controlled heating of living tissues

(*hyperthermia*: see subsequent lecture)



## Microwave magnetization dynamics (propaedeutic to ferromagnetic resonance)

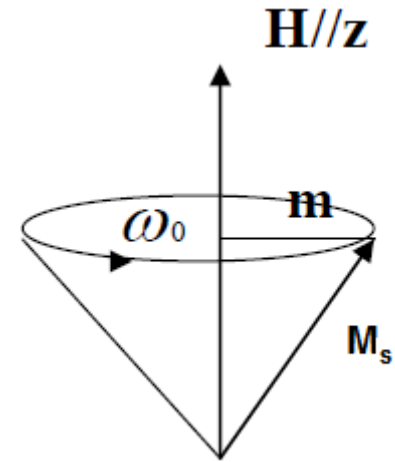
Under a magnetic field  $\mathbf{H}$  applied along  $z$ , the **non-collinear** magnetization vector  $\mathbf{M}_s$  is expected to freely precess around the field axis according to:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}_s}{dt} = -\gamma \mathbf{M}_s \times \mathbf{H}$$

gyromagnetic ratio  $\rightarrow$   $|\gamma| = \frac{g_J \mu_B}{\hbar}$

The solution is:

$$\begin{cases} M_{sx} = m \cos \omega_0 t \\ M_{sy} = m \sin \omega_0 t \\ M_{sz} = \text{const} \end{cases}$$



$\omega_0 = \gamma H$  being the Larmor frequency,  $m$  is the projection of  $M_{sx}, M_{sy}$  on the  $z$  axis.

In a ferromagnetic material the internal field (exchange field) is of the order of several hundred kOe. Therefore  $\omega_0 \approx 1.1 \times 10^5 \times 1 \times 10^5 \approx 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1}$  ( $f_0 \approx 10^9 \text{ Hz}$ ).

The magnetization vector will eventually *relax* towards the field direction on the time scale of magnetometer measurement – because of **dissipation** processes.

Assuming that the rate of relaxation is proportional to the amount by which the moment is out of equilibrium, addition of the loss term results in:

$$\frac{dM_{sz}}{dt} = -\gamma(\mathbf{M}_s \times \mathbf{H})_z - \frac{M_{sz} - M_s}{\tau_1}$$


$\tau_1$  is the *longitudinal relaxation time*. Similarly, the transverse components relax to zero, but with a different (transverse) relaxation time:

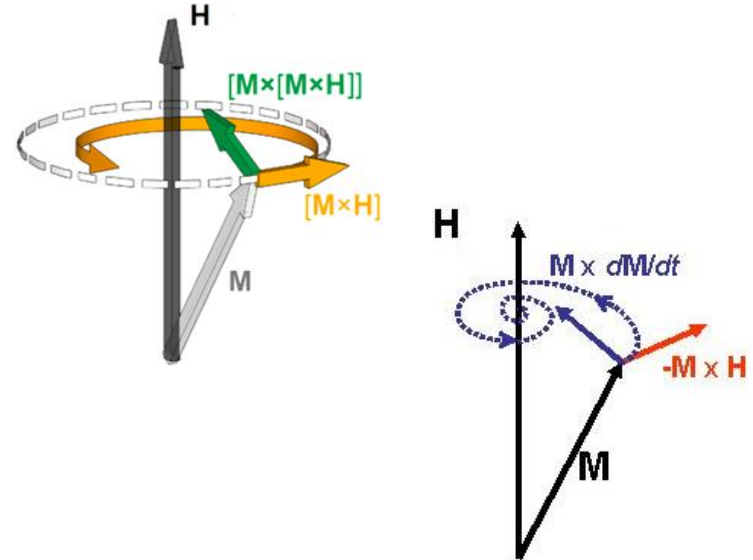
$$\frac{dM_{sx,y}}{dt} = -\gamma(\mathbf{M}_s \times \mathbf{H})_{x,y} - \frac{M_{sx,y}}{\tau_2}$$

These are the phenomenological Bloch equations.

The Bloch equations are compatible with a general equation of motion containing a phenomenological damping term. Two expedient expressions, due to Landau -Lifschitz and Gilbert respectively, are:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = -\gamma(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}) + \gamma \frac{\lambda}{M} \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = -\gamma(\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}) + \frac{\alpha}{M} \mathbf{M} \times \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt}$$



$\alpha$  is the Gilbert damping, which is of the order 0.01-0.1; with  $\omega_0 \approx 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\tau_1$  is the order of the nanosecond at room temperature.

→ Damping is overcome by “pumping” energy into the system

*See subsequent lectures on magnetic resonances and spintronics*

# There and back again

## *Just a glimpse to the Nanoscale*

- When fine magnetic particles become single-domain?
- A Langevin-function revival
- Magnetic forces on fine magnetic particles

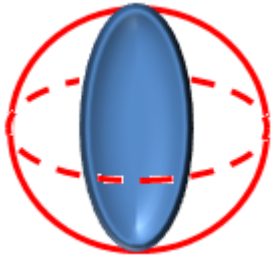


## Magnetic domains disappear in fine particles

Magnetic domains have a typical width; **they do not develop in a ferromagnetic body of sufficiently small size.**

Which is the critical size below which a particle no longer exhibits multiple domains ( $\rightarrow$  i.e., it becomes a *single-domain particle*)? This is important for applications of fine particles in permanent magnets, recording media, healthcare.

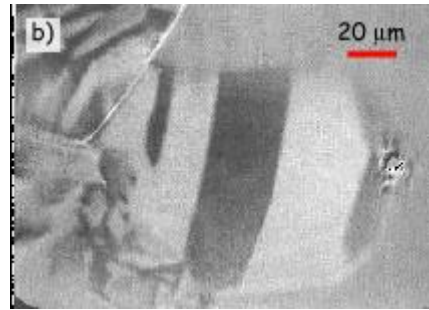
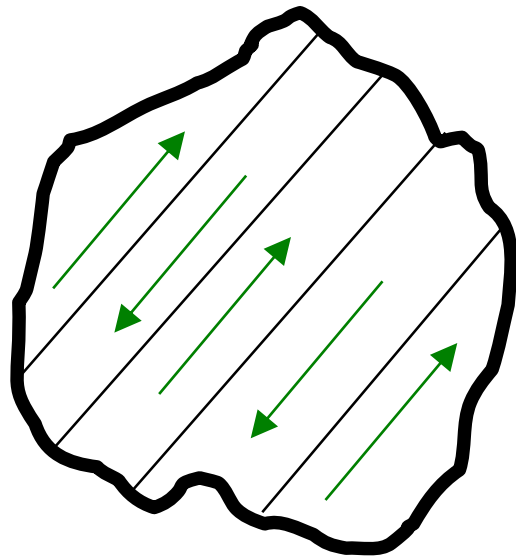
For the *single-domain state* to be stable, the energy needed to create one domain wall spanning a spherical particle of radius  $r$ ,  $E_{\text{wall}} \pi r^2$ , must exceed the magnetostatic energy  $E_d = 4\pi/3 M_s^2 V$  (the demagnetizing factor being  $4\pi/3$  in this case):



$$E_{DW} \pi r^2 > \frac{4\pi}{3} M_s^2 \frac{4\pi}{3} r^3$$

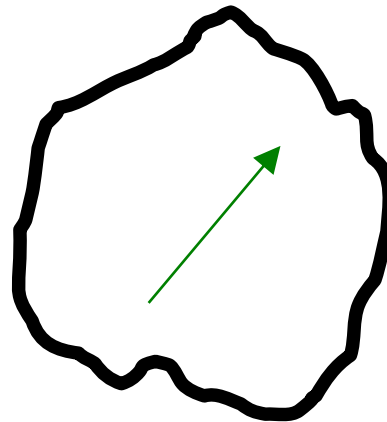
$$r_{\text{crit}} \cong \frac{9}{16\pi} \frac{E_{DW}}{M_s^2}$$

For Co,  $r_{\text{crit}} \cong 15 \text{ nm}$ ; for  $\text{SmCo}_5$  with very large  $K_u$  ( $1 \times 10^7 \text{ J/m}^3$ ),  $r_{\text{crit}} \cong 1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .



Fine particle with  
ferromagnetic domains

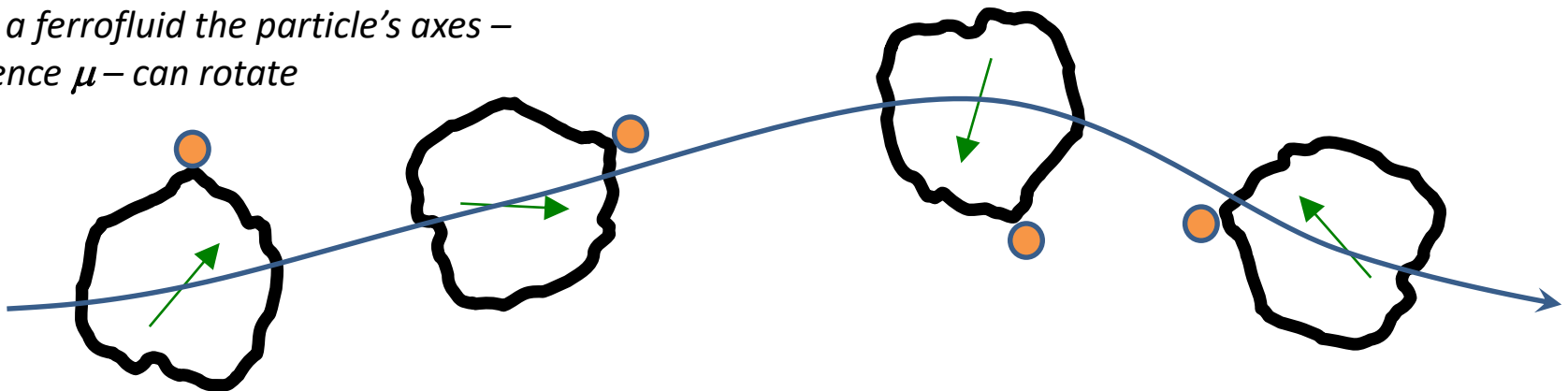
$D \sim 10^2 \text{ nm} \div 10^5 \text{ nm}$  (depends  
on material)



Single-domain fine particle  
(magnetically blocked\* state)

$D \sim 10 \text{ nm} \div 10^3 \text{ nm}$  (depends  
critically on material &  
temperature)

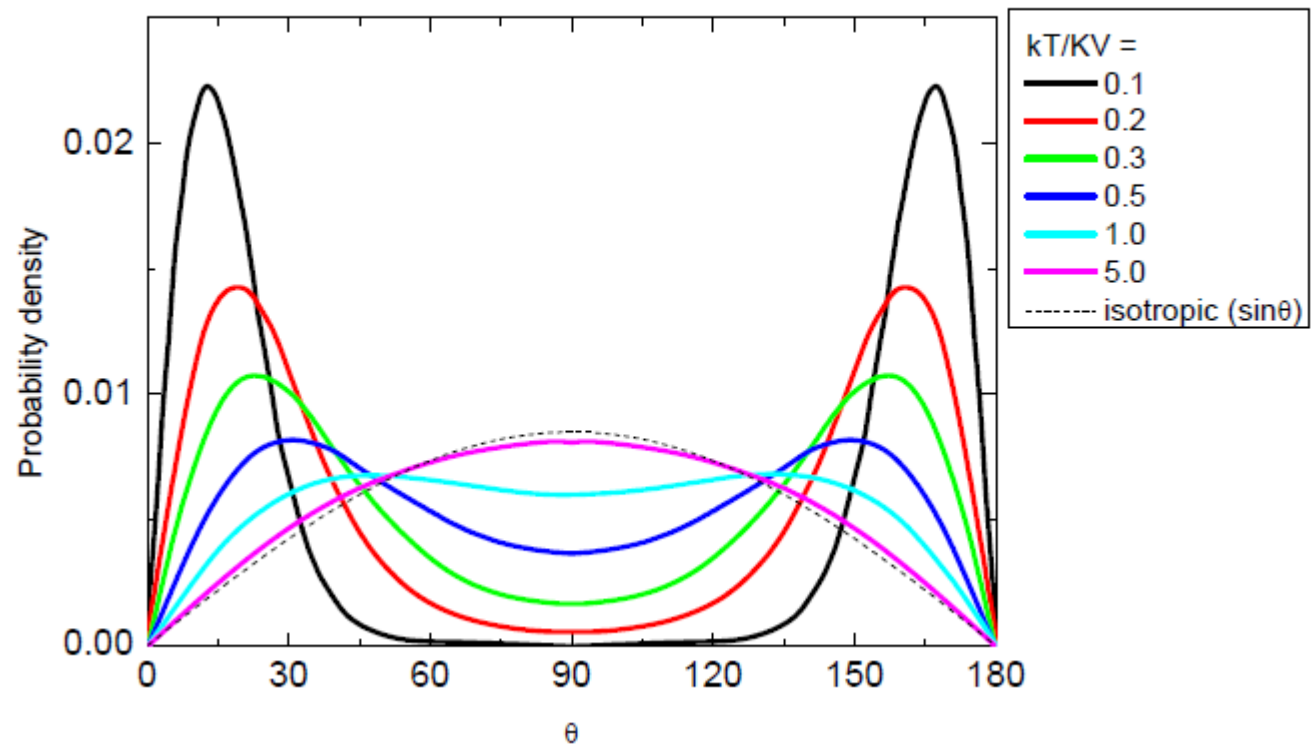
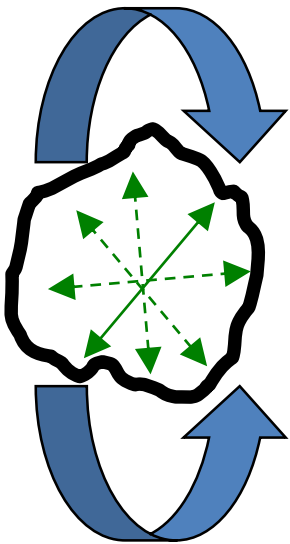
\*“blocked” by magnetic anisotropy  $K$   
in a ferrofluid the particle’s axes –  
hence  $\mu$  – can rotate



In very small particles ( $KV \ll k_B T$ ) the local anisotropy energy (which scales with  $V$ ) is not enough to resist to thermal disorder

**Superparamagnetic regime: direction of magnetization can be pictured as continuously modified by thermal disorder**

$D \sim 3 \div 15$  nm (depends critically on material **& temperature**)



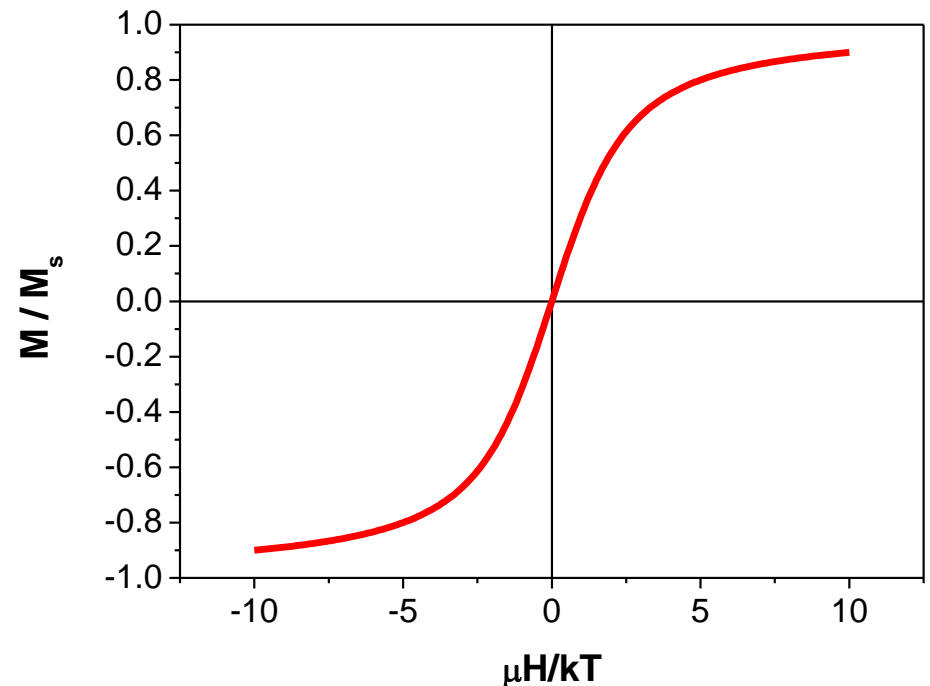
Directional probability of a macrospin. If  $KV \ll k_B T$ ,  $\mu$  takes all directions over the sphere

# Langevin's function revival

- $M(H,T)$  is obtained adapting the procedure developed for paramagnetism of *localized non-interacting magnetic moments* (see Vleck's paramagnetism)
- However, macrospins behave classically
- Langevin's approach to paramagnetism applies  $\rightarrow \frac{M}{M_s} = L\left(\frac{\mu H}{k_B T}\right) = \coth\left(\frac{\mu H}{k_B T}\right) - \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\mu H}{k_B T}\right)}$
- $M(H)$ : slowly saturating, anhysteretic

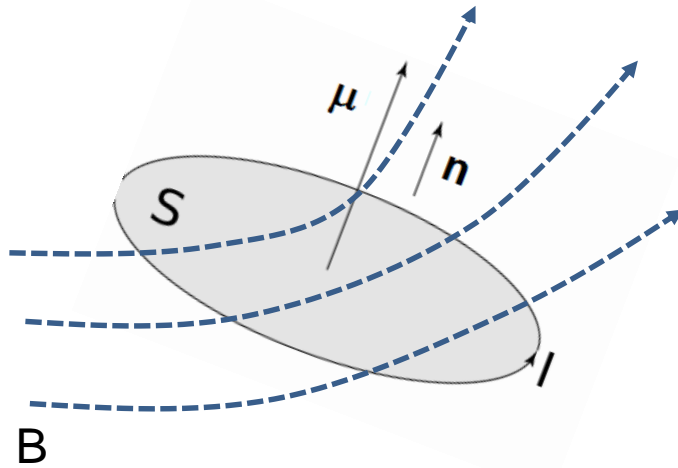
**But beware!!**

Virtually no *real* magnetic nanoparticles actually follow this «pure superparamagnetic» law (even at high temperatures)



# Magnetic forces

Consider an ideal, classical magnetic dipole  $\mu$  first. This can be thought of as a tiny circular coil bearing a steady current  $I$  and lying on a plane identified by the normal unit vector  $\mathbf{n}$ . Remember that  $\mu = IS\mathbf{n}$



If the coil is placed in the flux lines of an external field  $\mathbf{B}$ , the potential energy is:

$$U = -\mu \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

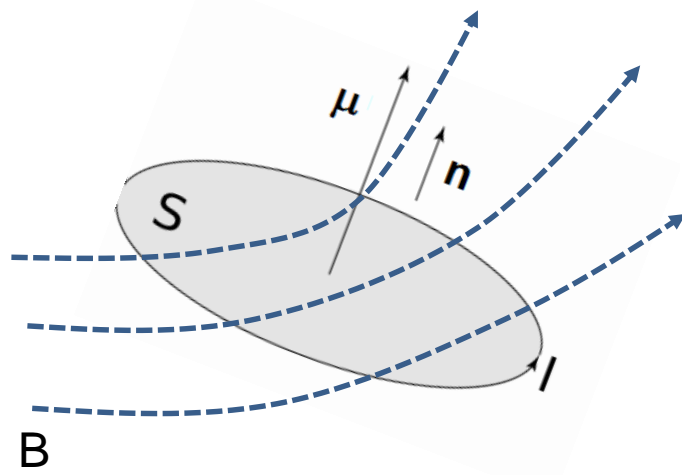
and the force on the dipole is:  $\mathbf{F} = -\nabla U$

This magnetic force is expressed as:

$$\mathbf{F} = \nabla(\mu \cdot \mathbf{B}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\mu_x B_x + \mu_y B_y + \mu_z B_z)\mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\mu_x B_x + \dots)\mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\mu_x B_x + \dots)\mathbf{k}$$

This expression can be cast in the equivalent form:  $\mathbf{F} = (\mu \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B} + \mu \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{B})$

# Magnetic forces



When  $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = 0$  (*magnetostatics; no free currents*), the last expression (which becomes exact if the coil's radius  $\rightarrow 0$ ) reduces to

$$\mathbf{F} = (\boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}$$

where the scalar operator within brackets has meaning:

$$\mu_x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \mu_y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \mu_z \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

For instance, the force along x-direction is:

$$F_x = \mu_x \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + \mu_y \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial y} + \mu_z \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z} \quad (\text{and so on})$$

Note: if  $\mathbf{B}$  is uniform, the force on  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  is zero

A strong magnetic-field **gradient** is needed to have a strong magnetic force acting on a *magnetic dipole moment*

# Magnetic forces

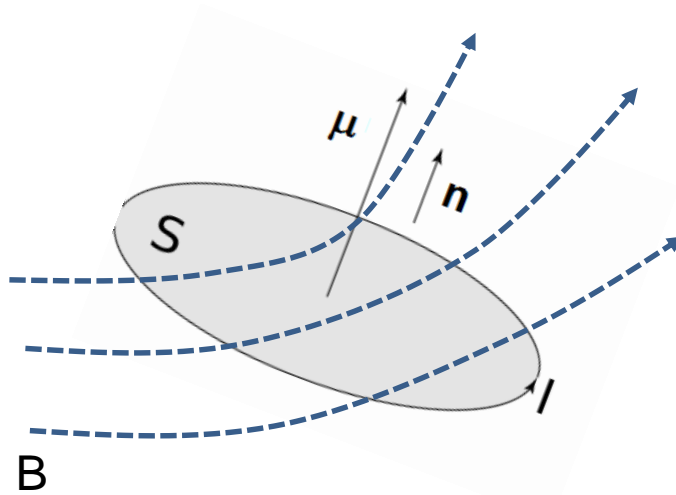
The same field produces on the  $\mu$  vector a torque  $\tau$  whose general expression is:

$$\tau = r \times F + \mu \times B$$

$F$  is the force defined in the previous slide.

If  $B$  is uniform,  $F=0$  and the torque reduces to:

$$\tau = \mu \times B$$



The previous expressions can be applied to magnetic nanoparticles (NP) when these are supposed to be **stable point dipoles**.

Actually, they aren't –

- multi-domain particles:  $B$  acts to change the NP magnetic domain pattern
- single-domain particles:  $B$  acts to modify magnetization at NP surface

# Magnetic forces

A more correct expression (using the cgs system where  $\mathbf{B} \equiv \mathbf{H}$ ) takes into account that the moment on a NP of volume  $V$  is:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{M}_0 V + \chi \mathbf{H} V$$

where  $\mathbf{M}_0$  is the spontaneous magnetization of the NP when  $\mathbf{H}=0$  and  $\chi \mathbf{H}$  is the increase by effect of field (an effective susceptibility  $\chi$  is used, and one makes the hypothesis that the effect of  $\mathbf{H}$  is linear). Therefore:

$$\mathbf{F} = (\boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla}) \mathbf{B} = v [(\mathbf{M}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla}) \mathbf{B} + \chi (\mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla}) \mathbf{B}]$$

Finally, note that the above expressions apply for **small** (strictly speaking, **pointlike**), **rigid** particles only. For instance, if a magnetized body extends over a macroscopic volume  $V_{\text{macro}}$  the following (much more complex) integral expressions should be used:

$$\mathbf{F} = \int_{V_{\text{macro}}} (\mathbf{M} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla}) \mathbf{B} dV$$

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \int_{V_{\text{macro}}} [\mathbf{r} \times (\mathbf{M} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla}) \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{B}] dV$$