

Benchmarking Interfacial Magnetic Interactions and Spin Hall Angle in Heavy Metal /CoFeB/MgO Heterostructures

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Abstract

The stability and efficient electrical control of chiral spin textures (CST) is critical for their implementation in racetrack device architectures. Three principal properties determine the utility of material platforms for spin-texture dynamics: perpendicular magnetic anisotropy (PMA), Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction (DMI), and spin Hall angle (SHA). Notwithstanding individual studies, a comprehensive benchmarking of these key interactions across racetrack-compatible material systems remains lacking. Here, we systematically evaluate tunnel-readout compatible HM/CoFeB/MgO trilayers fabricated using wafer-scale techniques. Their key properties – PMA, DMI, and SHA – were characterized across four heavy metals (Pt, W, Ta, Ir) and two CoFeB compositions using magnetometry, spectroscopy, and transport techniques respectively. Our results reveal that W-based stacks exhibit robust PMA and high SHA, while Pt-based stacks provide the strongest DMI. Notably, both DMI and SHA depend strongly on both heavy metal and CoFeB composition, underscoring the critical role of alloy engineering in controlling interfacial magnetic properties. Our work provides quantitative benchmarks and materials design principles for developing next-generation CST-based racetrack devices.

A. Introduction

1. Chiral spin textures (CSTs) such as domain walls and skyrmions are nanoscale spin configurations with considerable potential for advanced spintronic applications.[1, 2] A leading example is racetrack memory, which uses CSTs as bits to encode information along magnetic tracks.[3] Foundational efforts have achieved deterministic, current-driven domain wall manipulation in magnetic heterostructures, establishing the potential for racetrack-based memory and logic devices.[4, 5] Recent developments have extended these to skyrmions, and demonstrated spatially resolved motion at high-speeds – enhancing their potential bit density and operational efficiency.[6, 7] Meanwhile, practical implementations of such racetrack devices require robust CST stability, efficient electrical manipulation and switching, and accurate readout.

2. Deterministic electrical readout and manipulation of CSTs is critical for integrating racetrack memory into practical technologies. Efficient readout can be achieved via magnetic tunnel junctions (MTJs), wherein tunnel magnetoresistance (TMR) affords high signal-to-noise ratio ($\sim 200\%$), with inherent CMOS compatibility.[8] A typical MTJ comprises a magnetic free layer (FL), an insulating tunnel barrier, and a magnetic reference layer (RL). Integration of crystalline MgO barrier with a ferromagnet (FM) such as CoFeB yields robust, large TMR values.[8] Concurrently, spin-orbit torque (SOT) has emerged as an energy-efficient method for CST manipulation, significantly boosting device functionality and efficiency.[9, 10]

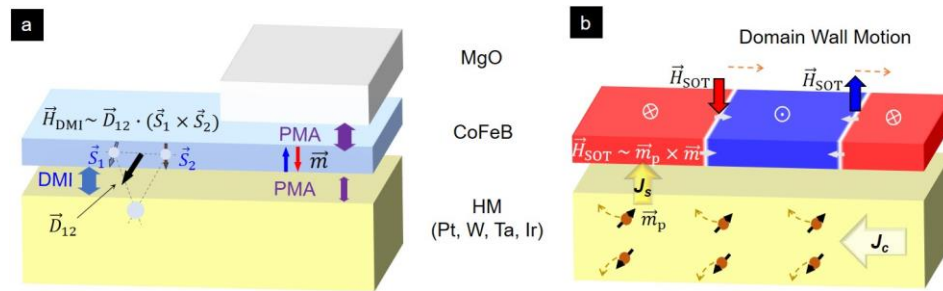


Figure 1. Schematic of (a) interfacial DMI (D) and PMA interactions – key to stabilizing chiral spin textures, and (b) interfacial SOT, used to move Néel-type domain walls in HM/CoFeB/MgO stack. The SHA of the HM governs the threshold charge current density (J_c) need to drive the domain wall.

3. The critical magnetic parameters governing CST formation and manipulation are – perpendicular magnetic anisotropy (PMA), interfacial Dzyaloshinskii–Moriya interaction (DMI), and spin Hall angle (SHA) (Fig 1). PMA determines the tendency for perpendicular magnetization alignment – essential for CST stabilization.[11] Meanwhile, both DMI and SHA originate from inversion symmetry breaking at heavy metal (HM)/FM interfaces.[12, 13] DMI enforces CSTs with fixed Néel chirality, enabling predictable current-induced motion,[14] while SHA, the charge-to-spin conversion efficiency, determines the efficacy of their motion.[15] PMA and DMI collectively govern the stability and geometry of CSTs,[16, 17] thereby influencing racetrack device characteristics.[18]

4. Several previous efforts have individually characterized PMA, DMI, and effective SHA in HM/CoFeB/MgO heterostructures. First, high PMA is typically achieved by either boron-absorbing HMs (e.g. Ta and W) that enhance Fe-O and Co-O interactions at the CoFeB/MgO interface,[19-21] or by specific HMs (e.g. Pt, Ir) via interfacial interactions at the HM/CoFeB interface.[22-24] Next, high DMI values are typically reported at HM interfaces with elemental FMs, such as Pt/Co, and Ir/Fe.[25, 26] Finally, SHA strongly depends on the choice of HM. While Pt, W, Ta etc. are commonly employed due to their large SHA, enabling strong SOTs, [27-29] effective SHA also depends on interfacial spin transparency.[30] Despite numerous efforts, studies have predominantly addressed individual properties or specific material combinations, which vary across reports and systems. A comparative analysis of all

critical properties across HMs and CoFeB compositions – crucial for identifying racetrack-compatible stack platforms – remains to be performed.

5. Here, we systematically examine PMA, DMI, and SHA in HM/CoFeB/MgO trilayers, exploring different HMs (Pt, W, Ta, Ir) and CoFeB alloy compositions. Our principal findings include: (a) consistent PMA across nearly all systems post-annealing, pronounced in Ir- and W-based stacks; (b) sizable DMI in Pt-based stacks; and (c) effective SHA in W-based stack configurations. We also observe systematic differences in properties with varying CoFeB composition. Collectively, our results identify W- and Pt-based stacks as possessing optimized interfacial properties for efficient SOT-mediated CST control.

B. Methods

6. The multilayer stacks developed in this work consist of Ta (0 or 3)/HM (5 or 6)/CoFeB (0.7–1.4)/MgO (1.8)/Pt (3) layers (thickness in nm in parentheses). The stacks were deposited on 200 mm Si/SiO₂ wafers by ultra-high vacuum magnetron sputtering at room temperature. Here, Pt, W, Ta, and Ir were selected as HMs to span a range of boron-gettering abilities and spin–orbit coupling strengths. Meanwhile, Co₆₀Fe₂₀B₂₀ (CFB₆₂₂) and Co₂₀Fe₆₀B₂₀ (CFB₂₆₂) compositions were used to assess the impact of CoFeB alloy variations. Using a wedged deposition technique, approximately 60 samples of varying CoFeB thicknesses ("HM/CFB₆₂₂" and "HM/CFB₂₆₂") were fabricated. Following deposition, all wafers were post-annealed at 300 °C for 60 min to emulate standard MTJ processing conditions.[31] For characterization, thin film samples with varying thicknesses were prepared for anisotropy and DMI measurements, and associated Hall-bars (60 μm × 10 μm) device samples were fabricated for transport characterization of SHA.

C. Results

Magnetization and Anisotropy

7. Bulk magnetic CoFeB naturally favors in-plane (IP) easy axis. Interfacial engineering is crucial to induce PMA in HM/CoFeB/MgO heterostructures. Key mechanisms include hybridization between Co/Fe (3d) and O (2p) orbitals at the CoFeB/MgO interface,[19] Co/Fe (3d) - HM (5d) orbital interactions at the HM/CoFeB interface,[23, 24] and the formation of interfacial high PMA alloys (e.g. CoPt, FePt) during post-deposition annealing.[32, 33] In this context, boron-gettering HMs combined with annealing can enhance PMA by promoting interfacial crystallinity.[19, 34] However, annealing can also lead to interfacial intermixing, creating magnetic dead layers that reduce the effective ferromagnetic volume. This complicates accurate evaluation of magnetic properties. To enable reliable comparisons across stack compositions, the dead layer thickness (t_d) was first extracted from linear fits of saturation magnetization (M_s) as a function of CoFeB thickness (t_{CFB}) for each stack, where t_d corresponds to the x-intercept (Fig. 2a, b). The M_s was obtained from hysteresis loops (Supporting Information S1).

8. The extracted t_d values, summarized in Fig. 2c and Table I, reveal a pronounced dependence on the HM layer, with minimal sensitivity to CoFeB composition. W/CoFeB and Ir/CoFeB stacks have moderate t_d (~0.3 nm), attributed primarily to the CoFeB/MgO interface.[35] Meanwhile, Ta/CoFeB stacks have much larger t_d (~0.44–0.54 nm), consistent with enhanced interfacial intermixing.[36] Finally, Pt/CoFeB stacks exhibit the smallest t_d , with Pt/CFB₆₂₂ presenting slightly negative values, likely due to proximity-induced magnetization.[37] These analyses were used to correct the effective CoFeB thickness ($t_{\text{eff}} = t_{\text{CFB}} - t_d$), and extract the effective saturation magnetization ($M_{s,\text{eff}}$). Overall, we see in Fig. 2d and Table I that HM/CFB₆₂₂ stacks have $M_{s,\text{eff}} \approx 1.28$ MA/m, lower than that for HM/CFB₂₆₂ (~1.55 MA/m). This is in agreement with the expected trends for Co-rich c.f. Fe-rich CoFe alloys.[38] Here, W-based stacks exhibit reduced composition sensitivity, while Pt-, Ta-, and Ir-based stacks display stronger

dependence on CoFeB alloying. This is likely due to differences in interfacial bonding and boron redistribution during annealing.

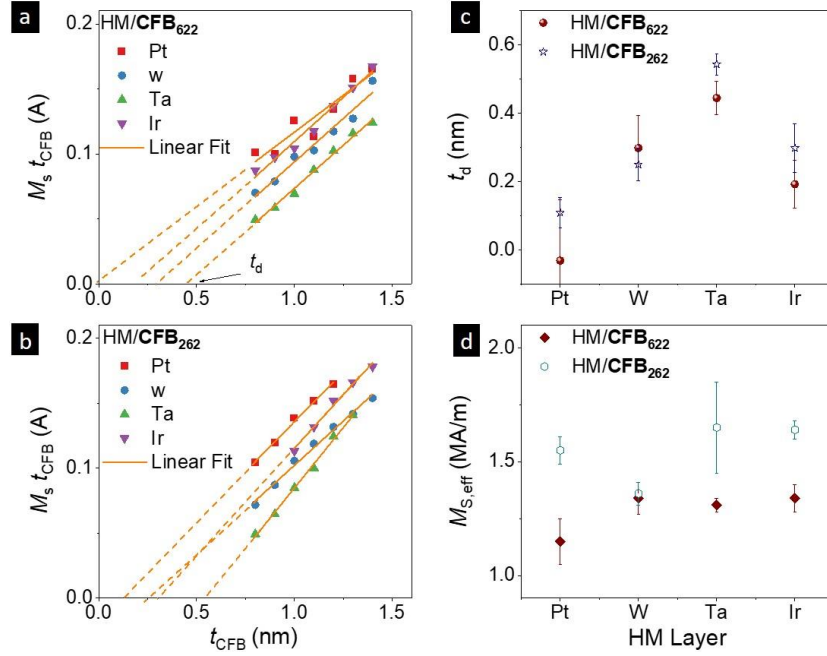


Figure 2 (a, b) Plots of $M_s t_{\text{CFB}}$ against FM thickness t_{CFB} for (a) HM/CFB₆₂₂ and (b) HM/CFB₂₆₂ stacks (HM = Pt, W, Ta, Ir). The dead layer thickness (t_d) is estimated as the x-intercept of the linear fit to each curve. (c, d) The variation of thus extracted t_d (c) and effective magnetization $M_{s,\text{eff}}$ (d) across the HM/CoFeB stacks (details in text).

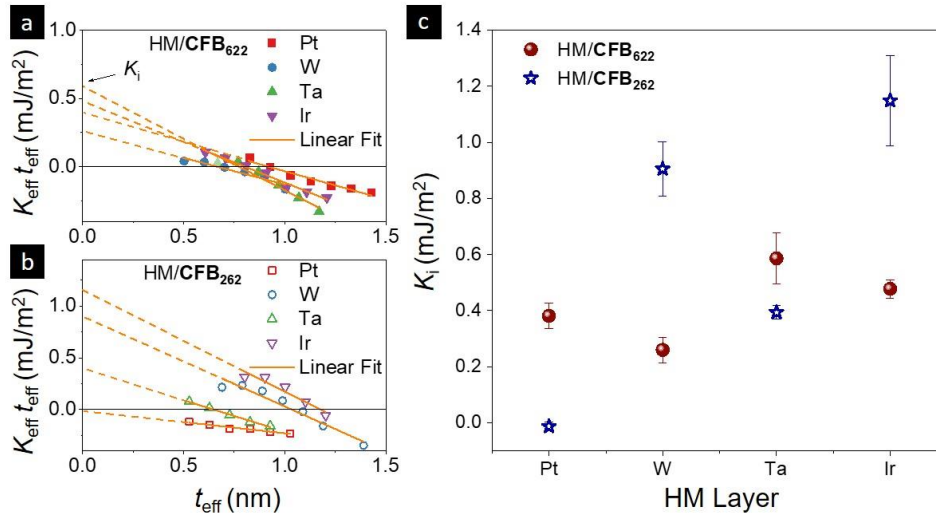


Figure 3 (a, b) Plots of $K_{\text{eff}} t_{\text{eff}}$ against effective FM thickness t_{eff} ($= t_{\text{CFB}} - t_d$) for (a) HM/CFB₆₂₂ and (b) HM/CFB₂₆₂ stacks. The interfacial anisotropy, K_i is estimated as the y-intercept of the linear fit to each curve. (c) The variation of extracted K_i across HM/CFB stacks.

9. For ultrathin films, where interfacial effects dominate, the effective anisotropy, K_{eff} , is typically expressed as[31, 39]:

$$K_{\text{eff}} t_{\text{eff}} = K_i + (K_u - 2\pi M_{s,\text{eff}}^2) \cdot t_{\text{eff}} \quad (1),$$

where K_i , K_u and $2\pi M_{s,\text{eff}}^2$ denote the interfacial, magnetocrystalline, and shape anisotropies, respectively. To determine K_i – the parameter of interest – K_{eff} was first obtained from the areal difference between IP

and out-of-plane (OP) hysteresis loops (Supporting Information S2). Linear fits of $K_{\text{eff}} \cdot t_{\text{eff}}$ versus t_{eff} yield K_i as the y-intercept (Fig. 3a, b). The extracted values are summarized in Fig. 3c and Table I.

Table I. Measured magnetic properties for HM/CFB stacks with varying composition – dead layer thickness (t_d), effective CoFeB magnetization ($M_{s,\text{eff}}$), interfacial magnetic anisotropy (K_i) and interfacial DMI (D_{int}). See text for details on measurements and analyses.

HM	CoFeB Composition	t_d (nm)	$M_{s,\text{eff}}$ (MA/m)	K_i (mJ/m ²)	D_{int} (pJ/m)
Pt	20:60:20	0.11±0.04	1.55±0.06	-0.01±0.02	0.92±0.07
	60:20:20	-0.03±0.17	1.15±0.10	0.38±0.05	1.53±0.06
W	20:60:20	0.25±0.04	1.36±0.05	0.90±0.09	0.10±0.01
	60:20:20	0.30±0.09	1.34±0.07	0.26±0.05	0.31±0.02
Ta	20:60:20	0.54±0.03	1.65±0.20	0.39±0.02	-0.05±0.03
	60:20:20	0.44±0.05	1.31±0.03	0.59±0.09	0.11±0.02
Ir	20:60:20	0.30±0.07	1.64±0.04	1.15±0.16	0.12±0.05
	60:20:20	0.19±0.07	1.34±0.06	0.48±0.03	-0.23±0.06

10. The K_i values are positive for nearly all stacks, and exhibit systematic trends with varying HM type and CoFeB composition. Overall, the HM/CFB₆₂₂ stacks exhibit lower K_i variation (0.26-0.59 mJ/m²) than the HM/CFB₂₆₂ stacks (-0.013-1.15 mJ/m²). For Pt-based stacks, Pt/CFB₂₆₂ (Pt/CFB₆₂₂) have small negative (positive) K_i , consistent with prior reports. These may be attributed to Fe–O bond disruption[40] and Pt–Co orbital hybridization[24, 32], respectively. Next, both Ta-based stacks show comparable K_i , likely due to cooperative contributions from both interfaces.[41] Meanwhile, for both W and Ir, the CFB₂₆₂ stacks demonstrate significantly enhanced K_i - 2~3 times higher than their CFB₆₂₂ counterparts. This is likely driven by W's boron-gettering effect and enhanced Fe–O bonding,[19, 34] and by Ir–Fe hybridization at the HM/CoFeB interface[23], respectively.

Interfacial DMI

11. DMI plays a crucial role in stabilizing CSTs by introducing a fixed sense of magnetization rotation (chirality) to the spin structure. In this work, DMI was quantified using wave vector-resolved BLS spectroscopy across HM and CoFeB compositions. Compared to domain wall expansion methods, BLS provides a parameter-free robust approach for quantifying DMI[42-44]. Figures 4a-b show the schematics of the measurement setup and spectra, respectively. For finite DMI, BLS spectra exhibit nonreciprocal frequency shifts (Δf) between the Stokes (S) and anti-Stokes (AS) resonance peaks, which can be determined by Lorentzian fitting. This asymmetric Δf , measured for opposite wave vectors (k) by applying an external magnetic field H_{ext} along $\pm x$ -direction, follows the relation[45, 46]:

$$f(k)_{\text{asym}} = \frac{f(-k) - f(k)}{2} = \frac{\gamma D k}{\pi M_{s,\text{eff}}} \quad (2)$$

where γ is the gyromagnetic ratio (176 GHz/T), and D is the micromagnetic DMI. For a representative dataset (Pt/CFB₆₂₂ stack: Fig. 4c), BLS analysis yielded an averaged DMI of 0.8 ± 0.06 mJ/m² (Supporting Information S3).

12. To facilitate direct comparison of DMI across stacks of different thicknesses, the interfacial DMI parameter ($D_{\text{int}} = D \times t_{\text{CFB}}$) was calculated for all HM/CoFeB stacks. The data summarized in Fig. 4d and Table I show that all stacks exhibit positive D_{int} , except Ta/CFB₂₆₂ and Ir/CFB₆₂₂. Comparing the magnitude ($|D_{\text{int}}|$), HM/CFB₆₂₂ stacks display higher values relative to HM/CFB₂₆₂ stacks. Furthermore,

$|D_{\text{int}}|$ follows a clear trend across HMs: $\text{Pt} \gg \text{W} \approx \text{Ir} > \text{Ta}$. Notably, for a nominal CoFeB thickness of 1 nm, the Pt/CFB₆₂₂ stack delivers the highest DMI, reaching 1.53 mJ/m².

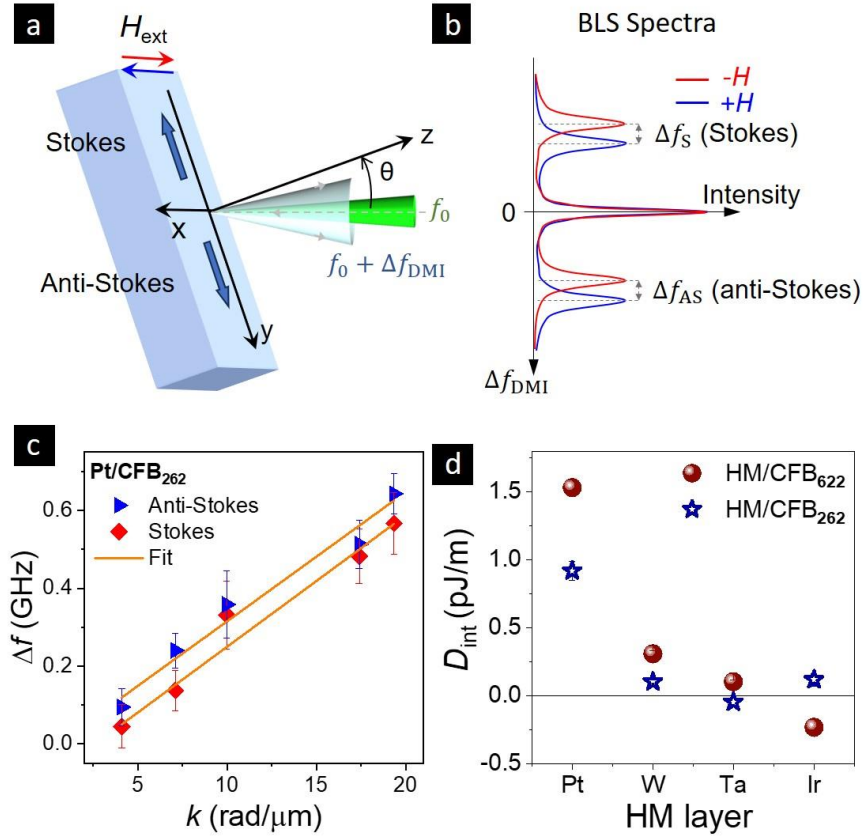


Figure 4 (a) Schematic representation of the BLS measurement geometry, and magnon scattering processes relevant to DMI measurements. (b) Schematic BLS spectra illustrating shifts in Stokes and anti-Stokes magnon peaks for magnetic fields (H_{ext}) applied along $\pm x$ (blue, red) directions. (c) Dispersion of frequency difference (Δf) with wavevector (k), and corresponding linear fits for the Pt/CFB₆₂₂ stack. (d) Resulting variation of interfacial DMI (slope of linear fit in (c)), D_{int} , across the HM/CoFeB stacks in this work.

13. The variation of interfacial DMI with HMs and CFB composition can be understood as arising from electronic structure variations due to spin-orbit coupling (SOC) and broken symmetry effects[47]. For HM(W[48], Ta[49])/CFB₂₆₂ stacks, positive DMI has been reported in the literature, consistent with our results. Conversely, negative DMI has been reported for Ir/Co[26], in line with our Ir/CFB₆₂₂ stacks. Compositional gradients within CoPt alloys have been shown to influence the DMI sign.[50] Additionally, prior studies indicate that Ir/Co and Pt/Co interfaces share the same DMI sign[26, 51], while Ir/Fe and Pt/Co interfaces exhibit opposite signs.[16] These trends result from SOC and electronic structure at HM/FM interfaces, due to interfacial hybridization and broken inversion symmetry.[47] Thus, the negative D_{int} for Ta/CFB₂₆₂ is attributed to interfacial alloy formation, while the positive D_{int} for Ir/CFB₂₆₂ likely arises from the Ir/Fe interface.

Spin Hall Angle

14. In SOT-based HM/FM devices, the SHA θ_{SH} quantifies the efficiency of spin-charge conversion. A larger θ_{SH} enables more efficient SOT generation, reducing the critical current for magnetization switching or CST manipulation. To quantify θ_{SH} , both spin-torque ferromagnetic resonance (ST-FMR) and harmonic Hall measurement techniques are widely employed.[52, 53] ST-FMR utilizes the

microwave response of FMs, and is typically limited to FMs with IP easy axis. In contrast, harmonic Hall measurements employ a simple, versatile four-probe lock-in technique – compatible with both IP- and PMA samples, and capable of resolving damping-like (H_{DL}) and field-like (H_{FL}) torque components. Figure 5a shows the device geometry used for harmonic Hall measurements in this work (Supporting Information S4). Following device fabrication, anomalous Hall measurements were first performed to confirm PMA (Fig. 5b). Next, first- ($V_{1\omega}$) and second-harmonic ($V_{2\omega}$) Hall voltages were measured under applied IP magnetic fields. SOT-induced longitudinal/transverse ($H_{L/T}$) fields and the $H_{DL(FL)}$ were determined using

$$H_{L(T)}|_{J_e} = \left(\frac{\partial V_{2\omega}}{\partial H} / \frac{\partial^2 V_{1\omega}}{\partial H^2} \right)_{x(y)} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{and } H_{DL(FL)}|_{J_e} = -2 \frac{H_{L(T)} \pm 2\varepsilon H_{T(L)}}{1 - 4\varepsilon^2} \quad (4),$$

respectively, where ε is the ratio of planar to anomalous Hall voltages (Supporting Information S5).

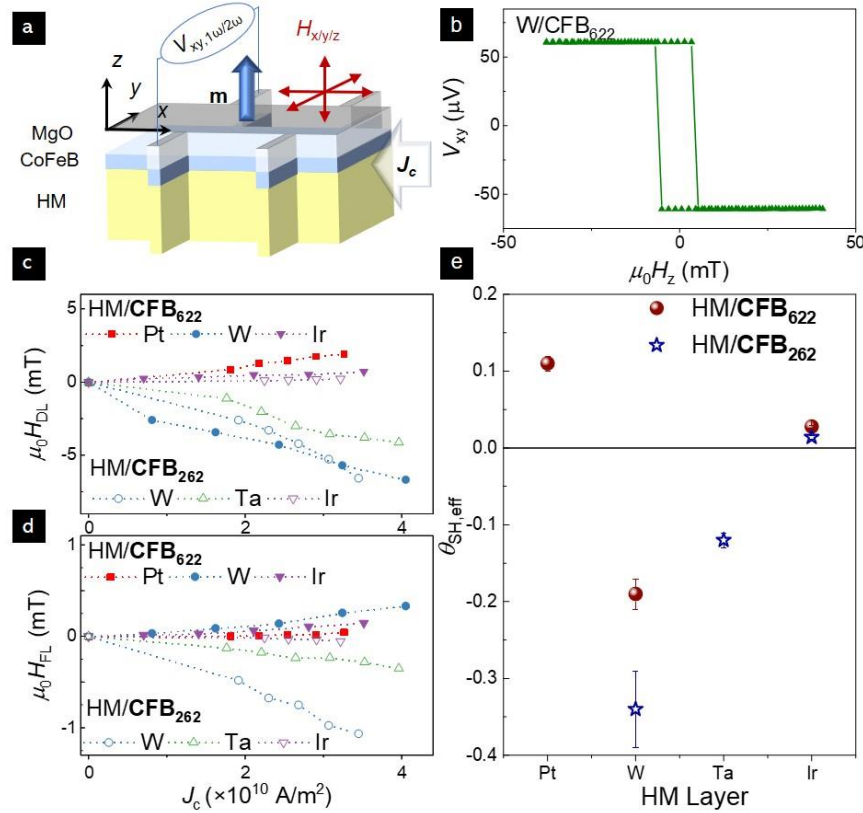


Figure 5 (a) Schematic of the harmonic Hall response measurement of HM/CFB Hall bar devices. A charge current J_c is applied along +x, with external magnetic field $H_{x/y/z}$ (subscript indicates axis). The first and second harmonic Hall signals ($V_{1\omega/2\omega}$) were obtained simultaneously. (b) Measured AHE, $V_{xy}(H_z)$ for the W/CFB₆₂₂ stack, with $J_c = 2.7 \times 10^{10}$ A/m². (c-e) Variation of SOT induced effective fields for (c) damping-like ($\mu_0 H_{DL}$) and (d) field-like ($\mu_0 H_{FL}$) torques for J_c over 0 - 4×10^{10} A/m². (e) The resulting variation of effective SHA $\theta_{SH,eff}$ across HM/CFB stacks.

15. Figures 5c (5d) summarize the extracted $H_{DL(FL)}$ with varying current density J_e . The slope of these curves represents the corresponding torque efficiency, $\beta_{DL(FL)}$. The effective SHA ($\theta_{SH,eff}$) was thus calculated using:

$$\theta_{SH,eff} = \frac{4eM_{s,eff}t_{CoFeB}}{\pi \hbar} \beta_{DL}, \quad (5)$$

as summarized in Fig. 5e and Table II. The W/CFB₆₂₂ stack exhibits the highest ε value, due to a strong planar Hall contribution. Likewise, W/CFB stacks also show the largest $|\beta_{DL/FL}|$ and $|\theta_{SH,eff}|$ values,

Table II. Measured key harmonic Hall transport properties for HM/CFB stacks with varying composition – ratio of planar to anomalous Hall voltages signals (ε), damping-like (β_{DL}) and field-like (β_{FL}) torque coefficients, and effective spin Hall angle ($\theta_{SH,eff}$).

HM	CoFeB Composition	ε (%)	β_{DL} ($10^{-11} \text{ mT} \cdot \text{A}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^2$)	β_{FL} ($10^{-11} \text{ mT} \cdot \text{A}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^2$)	$\theta_{SH,eff}$
Pt	60:20:20	5.8 ± 0.7	6.2 ± 0.4	-0.5 ± 0.1	0.11 ± 0.01
W	20:60:20	26.0 ± 1.7	-23.7 ± 3.7	5.8 ± 2.0	-0.34 ± 0.05
	60:20:20	71.7 ± 0.2	-14.9 ± 1.6	20.3 ± 1.9	-0.19 ± 0.02
Ta	20:60:20	6.9 ± 0.8	-10.8 ± 0.8	-0.9 ± 0.1	-0.12 ± 0.01
Ir	20:60:20	4.6 ± 0.3	0.7 ± 0.1	-0.1 ± 0.04	0.014 ± 0.002
	60:20:20	2.1 ± 0.4	1.8 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.1	0.028 ± 0.002

underscoring the efficient SOT generation for W.[54] Across stacks, positive $\theta_{SH,eff}$ values were observed for Pt/CFB and Ir/CFB, and negative values for W/CFB and Ta/CFB. In terms of $|\theta_{SH,eff}|$ magnitude, the trend is: $W > Ta \approx Pt \gg Ir$. Finally, the W/CFB₂₆₂ (-0.34) displayed a higher $|\theta_{SH,eff}|$ than the W/CFB₆₂₂ (-0.19).

16. Previous studies have shown that the magnitude and sign of $\theta_{SH,eff}$ are primarily determined by the HM layer. Reported values vary widely with HM thickness and fabrication conditions – for Pt (0.07–0.12)[13, 27], W (−0.08 – −0.64)[29, 55, 56], Ta (−0.1 – −0.35) [13, 28, 56], and Ir (0.02–0.04)[42, 49]. Consistent with the overall trends, this work benchmarks the HM variation of $\theta_{SH,eff}$ under identical deposition conditions. For W and Ta, $|\theta_{SH,eff}|$ is sensitive to the crystalline phase – with higher magnitudes for the β -phase (W: 0.64[29], Ta: 0.35[28]) than the α -phase (W: 0.08[55], Ta: 0.16[56]). For our case ($t_{HM} \sim 5\text{-}6$ nm, annealed at 300 °C), the data suggests that W layers may have mixed α/β -phase composition, whereas Ta is predominantly in the α -phase. Finally, a notable observation is the sizable discrepancy of $\theta_{SH,eff}$ between W/CFB₆₂₂ (-0.19) and W/CFB₂₆₂ (-0.34), as there are no prior reports of

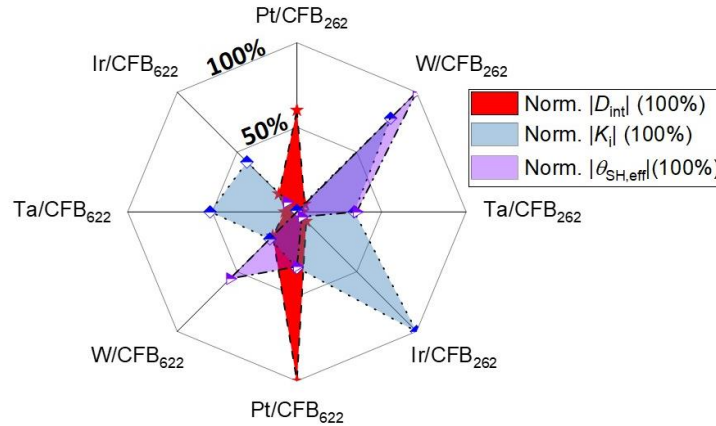


Figure 6 Radar plots of normalized magnitudes of key magnetic parameters - $|D_{int}|$ (red), $|K_i|$ (teal) and $|\theta_{SH,eff}|$ (magenta) across the HM/CoFeB stacks. The plotted values are normalized to the corresponding maximum values (see Tables I and II).

CoFeB composition-induced changes in SHA. We speculate that the enhanced $|\theta_{SH,eff}|$ in W/CFB₂₆₂ could arise from altered interfacial bonding or spin transparency, which warrants further investigation in future works.

D. Discussion and Conclusion

17. We have performed a comprehensive evaluation of HM-FM heterostructures identified as promising for MTJ-compatible racetrack devices. Across 8 such HM/CFB/MgO trilayer stacks, we have benchmarked the interfacial anisotropy K_i , DMI (D_{int}), and effective SHA ($\theta_{\text{SH,eff}}$). To enable intuitive comparison, $|K_i|$, $|D_{\text{int}}|$, and $|\theta_{\text{SH,eff}}|$, normalized to their respective maxima (across all stacks), are presented as a radar plot (Fig. 6). The comparison shows that W/CFB and Pt/CFB₆₂₂ offer complementary strengths as all-electrical CST platforms: high SHA and anisotropy for W, and robust DMI for Pt. Beyond performance benchmarking, our systematic screening study also uncovers valuable findings on the sensitivity of both DMI and $\theta_{\text{SH,eff}}$ to CoFeB composition and HM combinations – well beyond the scope of individual material studies.

18. While no single stack configuration can fully address all three requirements, promising candidates could be optimized to enhance their utility for racetrack devices. For W-based stacks, alloying with additional HMs (e.g., $\text{W}_x\text{Ir}_{100-x}$ [57]) could complement the intrinsically large SHA and PMA with sizable DMI – thereby augmenting both skyrmion stability and SOT efficiency. For Pt-based stacks, improved boron-gettering strategies can strengthen interface crystallinity[22, 23], improving interfacial anisotropy and TMR. Moreover, finely-tuned annealing protocols offer an additional lever to modulate material properties[20, 39], enabling optimization for specific device designs and application requirements.

19. In addition to standalone HM/FM/MgO free layers, our stacks can also be effectively implemented as building blocks within composite free layer architectures for CSTs. In such structures, a chiral underlayer (HM1/FM/HM2) establishes spin texture stability and supports SOT manipulation, while the top layer is optimized for TMR readout and SOT. [58] For such applications, W-based stacks emerge as the natural choice for the top layer due to their high PMA and TMR. Our results elucidate their recently shown efficacy for CST readout, via either interlayer exchange coupling (IEC) or dipolar coupling, or a combination of both mechanisms.[59-61] Our findings on the influence of CoFeB composition on SHA and PMA provide valuable insights for optimizing the properties of both components in composite stack structures.

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AUTHOR DECLARATIONS

Conflict of Interest

All the authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this study are available within the article.

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