Contents

Symbols XVII

1 Introduction 1
1.1 Review of Certain Historic Magnetic Concepts 2
1.1.1 Magnetic Susceptibility 2
1.1.2 Classification of Magnetic Materials 3
1.1.3 The Concept of Magnetic Pole 5
1.1.4 Magnetic Dipoles 6
1.2 Origins of Magnetism on an Atomic Scale 6
1.2.1 The Importance of Angular Momentum 7
1.2.2 Magnetic Moment of a Sample of N Atoms 8
1.2.3 Crystal Field vs. Spin–Orbit Coupling 9
1.2.4 Magnetocrystalline Anisotropy 10
1.2.5 Magnetostriction 10
1.3 Structure-Dependent Micromagnetism 11
1.3.1 Division into Magnetic Domains 12
1.3.2 Formation of Domain Walls 12
1.3.3 Types of Domain Walls 13
1.3.4 Significance of Magnetic Domains and Domain Walls 14
1.4 Towards Technological Advancements 15
1.4.1 Design of New Magnetic Materials 15
1.4.2 Magnetic Quantum Dots 15
References 16

2 Barkhausen Noise as a Magnetic Nondestructive Testing Technique 19
2.1 Introduction 19
2.2 A Basic Definition of Magnetic Barkhausen Noise 20
2.2.1 Types of MBN Experiments 20
2.2.2 Where does MBN Originate? 21
2.2.3 Formation of Magnetic Domains 22
2.2.4 MBN and 180° Domain Walls 23

2.3 Stress Effects 24
2.3.1 Elastic Stress Causes Changes in Bulk Magnetization . . 24
2.3.2 Magnetic Domains Respond to Stress 24
2.3.3 Magnetic Anisotropy and MBN 25
2.3.4 Some Parameters Used in MBN Analysis 25
2.3.5 Elastic Stress Influences on Magnetic Anisotropy 27
2.3.6 Plastic Deformation and Magnetic Anisotropy 27
2.3.7 Effects of Residual Stresses 28
2.3.8 Influence of Dislocations 30
2.3.9 Selective Wall Energy Increases at Pinning Sites 30
2.3.10 Roll Magnetic Anisotropy 31
2.3.11 Limits in MBN Signal Increase with Plastic Stress 32
2.4 Effects of Microstructure on MBN 33
2.4.1 Variations in Grain Size 33
2.4.2 Compositional and Phase Influences 34
2.4.3 MBN Behavior in Different Materials 34
2.5 Competitiveness of MBN in Nondestructive Evaluation 36
2.5.1 Usefulness of MBN for MFL 36
2.5.2 Need for Calibration of MBN as NDT 37
References 38

3 Combined Phenomena in Novel Materials 41
3.1 The Interest in Magneto-optical Media 41
3.1.1 Conventional vs. Continuous Media 42
3.1.2 The Basis of Magneto-optical Effects 43
3.1.3 Composite Films Used in Magneto-optical Recording . . 43
3.1.4 Magnetic Recording and Optical Readout 44
3.1.5 Quality of Magnetic Recording 44
3.1.6 Overcoming Noise Problems 45
3.1.7 The MO Sony Disk 46
3.1.8 Magnetically Induced Super Resolution 47
3.1.9 Nondestructive Optical Readout 47
3.1.10 Double and Multilayer MO Disks 48
3.1.11 Domain Wall Displacement Detection 49
3.1.12 Magnetic Bubble Domains 50
3.1.13 Generation of a Bubble Bit of Memory 50
3.1.14 Driving Force for Wall Displacement 50
3.2 Magnetoelectric Materials 51
3.2.1 The Magnetoelectric Effect 51
3.2.2 Oxides, Boracites, Phosphates, etc. 52
3.2.3 Layered Composite Materials 52
3.2.4 Product, Sum and Combination Properties 53
3.2.5 PZT and Magnetostrictive Materials 53
3.2.6 Avoiding Ferrites 54
3.2.7 Undesired Effects of Sintering 54

3.2.8 Variations in Signal Due to Mechanical Coupling 55
3.2.9 Laminated Composites 55
3.2.10 Voltage Coefficient α 56
3.2.11 Obtaining Improved Voltage Coefficients 57
3.2.12 ME and Nanostructures 57
3.2.13 Effects on a Nanoscale 58
3.2.14 Residual Stresses and Strains in Nanostructures 60
3.2.15 Multiferroics 61
3.2.16 Using Terfenol-D 61
3.2.17 Multiferroic Transformers 61
3.2.18 Multiferroic Sensors for Vortex Magnetic Fields 63
3.2.19 Enhancing Multiferroicity through Material Design 63
3.2.20 Identifying Multiferroics 64
References 64

4 Magnetoresistance and Spin Valves 71
4.1 Introduction 71
4.2 A Simple Way of Quantifying Magnetoresistance 72
4.3 What is Responsible for GMR? 72
4.4 Deskstar 16 GP 73
4.5 "Spin-down" vs. "Spin-up" Scattering: Magnetic Impurities ... 73
4.6 Fabrication of GMR Multilayers: Thin Films and Nanostructures 74
4.7 Spin Valves 75
4.8 The Role of Exchange Bias 75
4.9 Ni–Fe Alloys 76
4.10 Ternary Alloys 77
4.11 Ni–Fe Alloys with Higher Fe Content 77
4.12 Basic Principles of Storing Information Magnetically 78
4.13 Materials for spin valve Sensors 80
4.14 The Need for Proper Sensor Design 81
4.15 Magnetic Tunnel Junctions 82
4.16 Anisotropic Magnetoresistive Sensors 82
4.17 Extraordinary Magnetoresistance 83
4.18 GMR Sensors with CPP Geometry 83
4.19 Dual Spin Valves 84
4.20 Some GMR Multilayer Material Combinations 85
4.21 Ferromagnetic/Nonmagnetic Interfaces 86
4.22 The Nonmagnetic Spacer 86
4.23 Magnetic Tunneling 87
4.24 The Magnetic Tunnel Transistor 87
4.25 Some Special Types of Ferromagnets 88
4.26 Colossal Magnetoresistance 89
4.27 CPP Geometry Preferred in Sensors 90
4.28 Spin Valves in Commercial Applications 91
References 93

5 Some Basic Spintronics Concepts 99
5.1 Encoding Information: Emergence of Spintronics 99
5.2 Spin Injection 100
5.2.1 Minority vs. Majority Spin Carriers 100
5.2.2 Spin Injection Rate 100
5.2.3 Spin Polarization and Spin Transfer 101
5.2.4 CPP vs. CIP Geometry 102
5.2.5 Spin Accumulation, Spin Relaxation, and Spin Diffusion Length 103
5.2.6 No Spin Accumulation in CIP Geometry 103
5.2.7 Half-Metallic Ferromagnets 104
5.2.8 Some Epitaxial Growth Techniques 104
5.2.9 ME Materials and Spintronics 105
5.2.10 Spontaneous Band Splitting 106
5.2.11 Spin Valves 106
5.2.12 Poor Injection Efficiency 107
5.2.13 Additional Layer Between Ferromagnet and Spacer 107
5.2.14 III–V Magnetic Semiconductors 107
5.2.15 Obtaining Spin-Polarized Magnetic Semiconductors 108
5.2.16 Light vs. Electric-Field-Induced Carrier Enhancement 108
5.2.17 Giant Planar Hall Effect 109
5.2.18 Maintaining Spin Polarization 109
5.2.19 The Future of Spin Injection 111
5.3 Control of Spin Transport 111
5.3.1 The Need for Long Spin Relaxation Times 111
5.3.2 Organic Semiconductor Spacers 112
5.3.3 Spin Transport in Organic Semiconductor Spin Valves 113
5.3.4 Nanoscale Effects at Ferromagnet/Organic Semiconductor Interface 113
5.3.5 Carbon Nanotubes 114
5.3.6 GMR vs. TMR 114
5.3.7 The Parallel Resistor Model 116
5.3.8 Effects at Adjacent Interfaces in GMR 116
5.3.9 Scattering at Bloch Walls 117
5.3.10 Importance of Materials Choice 118
5.3.11 Spin Control Through Electric Fields 118
5.4 Spin Selective Detection 119
5.4.1 Detecting Single Spins 119
5.4.2 Detecting Spin Polarization of an Ensemble of Spins 119
5.4.3 The Datta and Das Spin Field Effect Transistor 121
5.4.4 The Future of Spintronics Devices 121
References 121

6 Trends in Magnetic Recording Media 129
6.1 The Popularity of Magnetic Tapes 129
6.1.1 Quality of Magnetic Tapes 130
6.1.2 The Pressure for Higher Capacity Magnetic Tapes 131
6.1.3 Constraints Imposed by Thermal Stability 131
6.1.4 Forming a Bit 132
6.1.5 Influence of Magnetic Anisotropy 133
6.1.6 Choice of Materials 133
6.2 Bit Patterned Magnetic Media 134
6.2.1 Bit-Cells 134
6.2.2 Minimizing Errors 135
6.2.3 Some Disadvantages of Patterned Bits 136
6.2.4 Solutions for Patterning Bits Efficiently 136
6.2.5 Materials for Bit Patterned Magnetic Media 137
6.2.6 Maintaining Competitiveness 138
6.2.7 Going Nano and Beyond 138
6.3 Self-assembly and Magnetic Media 139
6.3.1 Alumina Templates 139
6.3.2 Guided Self-assembly as a Solution to Long-Range Ordering 142
6.3.3 Chemically vs. Topographically Guided Self-assembly . . 144
6.3.4 Biological Self-assembled Templates 144
6.3.5 The Versatility of Block Copolymers 144
6.3.6 Inorganic Templates May Still Be Competitive 145
6.4 Present Alternatives for Discrete Media Production 145
6.4.1 Patterning with Stampers and Masks 145
6.4.2 Cleanliness Concerns 146
6.4.3 Obtaining High Aspect Ratios 147
6.4.4 Types of Nanopatterning Processes 147
6.4.5 Emerging Fabrication Techniques 148
6.4.6 Discrete Track Media 149
6.4.7 Identifying Track Locations 149
6.4.8 Parallel Writing of Data 150
6.4.9 Magnetic Lithography for Mass Data Replication 150
6.4.10 Magnetic Disk Drives vs. Semiconductor Processing 151
6.4.11 Head Performance 151
6.4.12 Spin Valves and Giant Magnetoresistive Heads 152
6.4.13 Looking Back and into the Future 152
References 153

7 Concluding Remarks 161
Reference 161

Index 163