30<sup>th</sup> N R Kamath & Mrs. Ruzena Kamath Oration (2014) *In the Centenary year of Professor N R Kamath (b: 8.9.1914)* 

# New Functional Materials for Spintronics and Magnetic STM Imaging

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\*Based on work done in association with Post-Doctoral Fellows (in particular, Dr. Prasanna D Kulkarni, S. Venkatesh and Dr. Swati Pandya) and other colleagues (S. K. Dhar, A. Thamizhavel, S. Ramakrishnan and Ulhas Vaidya) at TIFR, Mumbai.

Sixty Seventh Annual Meeting of Institution of Chemical Engineers (CHEMCON 2014), P U Auditorium, Chandigarh 160014

# Story of a contemporary topic in Magnetic Materials

#### **Motivation**

\* Extend the scope of STM Imaging for magnetic Imaging

(STM: Nobel Prize, 1986)

\* Simplify structure of Giant Magneto-Resistance (GMR) effect based Spin Valve Device in the READ HEADS of Hard Disks of Computers

(GMR: Nobel Prize, 2007)

# Spin Valve Devise that reads the magnetic information stored on the Hard Disk belongs to realm of Spintronics

## What is Spintronics?

Spintronics, also known as magneto-electronics, is an emerging technology that exploits the intrinsic spin of the electron and its associated magnetic moment, in addition to its fundamental electronic charge in solid-state devices

In such devices a distinction is made for the (polarized) electrical current in two spin channels depending on their spin orientation with respect to some axis such as an applied magnetic field.

#### A small digression

## History of nomenclature 'Magnet'

"It was probably the Greeks who first reflected upon the wondrous properties of magnetite, the magnetic iron ore  $FeO-Fe_2O_3$  and famed lodestone (leading stone, or compass). This mineral *is believed* to have been mined in the province of Magnesia"

The magnet's name the observing Grecians drew

From the Magnetick region where it grew<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>English translation by Th. Creech (1974, London),

from Lucretius Carus, De Rerum Natura, 1st century B. C.

\*First para of Chapter 1: "The Theory of Magnetism" by Daniel C. Mattis
HARPER & ROW Publishers Inc. (New York, 1965)

## **Plan of Story**

#### **# Background Information:**

- \* Primer on atomic characteristics of Rare Earth elements in the Periodical Table, in particular, the special attributes of element Samarium
- \* Explain rationale for NET Zero-Magnetization (ZM), possible via *Spin-Ferromagnetism* (SF) that prevails in admixed Rare Earth (RE) systems.

#### # Highlights of Studies at TIFR in recent years:

- \* Discovery of tunable Exchange Bias as a new functionality in ZMSF.
- \* Elucidation of (long awaited) self-magnetic compensation in Samarium based Ferromagnets.
- \* New physics issues relating to magnetic compensation in Ferrimagnets.

# A long Prologue to the story

#### An extract from a text book titled

(Cambridge University Press, UK, 2011)

## "Magnetic Materials: Fundamental and Applications"

by Nicola A Spaldin (recipient of APS McGroddy Prize for New Materials)

# Section 9.4: Half-metallic Anti-Ferromagnets (oxymoron?)

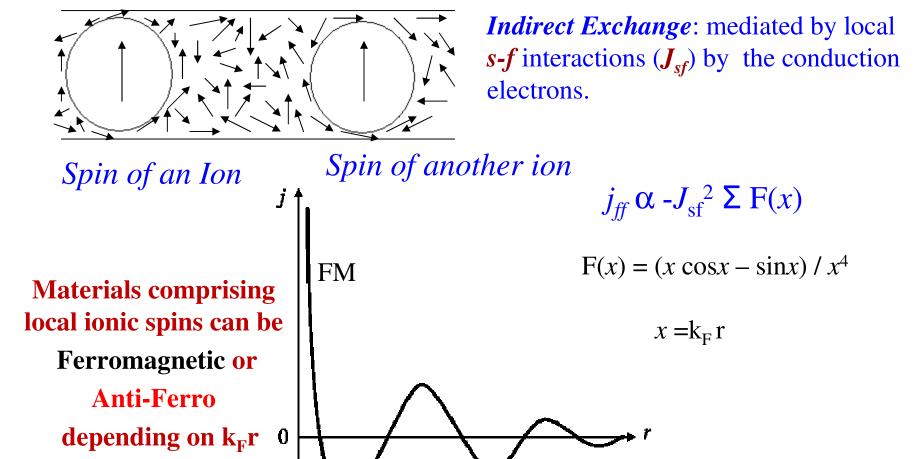
Half-metallic Anti-Ferromagnets are a class of materials which have been predicted theoretically but not yet synthesized. We include them here in part for some light entertainment, but also to illustrate that there is still great potential in the search for new magnetic materials with novel and possibly technologically relevant properties.

#### "Magnetic Materials: Fundamental and Applications"

Half-metallic materials are defined as those which are metallic for one spin direction (upspin, say) but insulating for the other spin channel (down-spin).

Such a situation can happen in Ferromagnetic intermetallics or alloy systems, where well separated large Local Magnetic Moments are coupled via the polarization of the conduction band electrons.

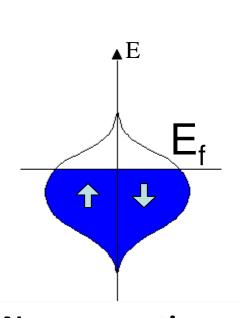
# The RKKY (Rudermann-Kittel-Kasuya-Yoshida) Interaction: Governs coupling between Spins of Magnetic Ions



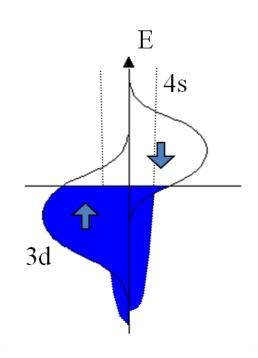
Variation of coupling constant  $j_{ff}$ , with distance (r) from an ionic spin. It is oscillatory and damped in spatial variation.

**AFM** 

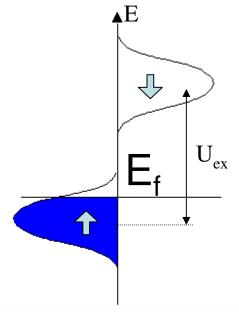
## Schematic band diagrams



Non-magnetic
Metal
( equally populated
and Metallic in both
spin directions)



3d-4s Ferromagnet
(Unequally populated
in s and d-channels,
but metallic
in both spin directions)



Half-Metallic system
(It is indeed a
Ferro-magnet)
(But what is desired
is a material
with (near) Zero Net
Magnetization, like, in an
Anti-Ferromagnet)

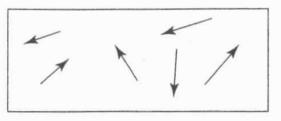
"Magnetic Materials: Fundamental and Applications"

## Half-Metallic Anti-Ferromagnets

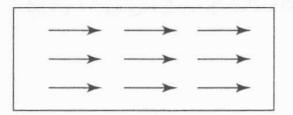
• The properties of half-metallic Anti-Ferromagnets are unusual. ..... since there is no net internal magnetization, half-metallic Anti-Ferromagnets would not generate a magnetic field, in spite of their fully magnetized currents. This would be a particularly desirable property, for example in spinpolarized Scanning Tunneling Microscopy (STM) , ... Currently such experiments are complicated by the existence of a permanent magnetic tip (required to produce the spin-polarized electrons) close to the magnetic surface being investigated.

\* In the context of Half-metallic Anti-Ferromagnets, realistically one can conceive of *pseudo-Ferrimagnets*, in which the magnetizations of the two different magnetic sub-lattices can (somehow) cancel out (atleast over some temperature region).

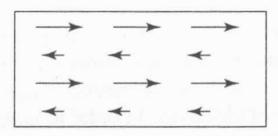
#### **Schematic M-H curves of different arrangements**



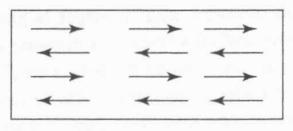
(a) Paramagnetic



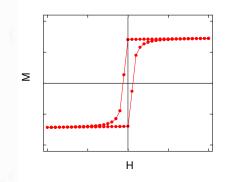
(b) Ferromagnetic

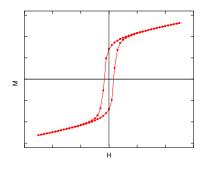


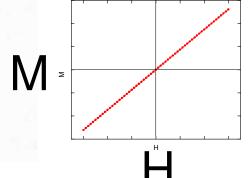
(c) Ferrimagnetic



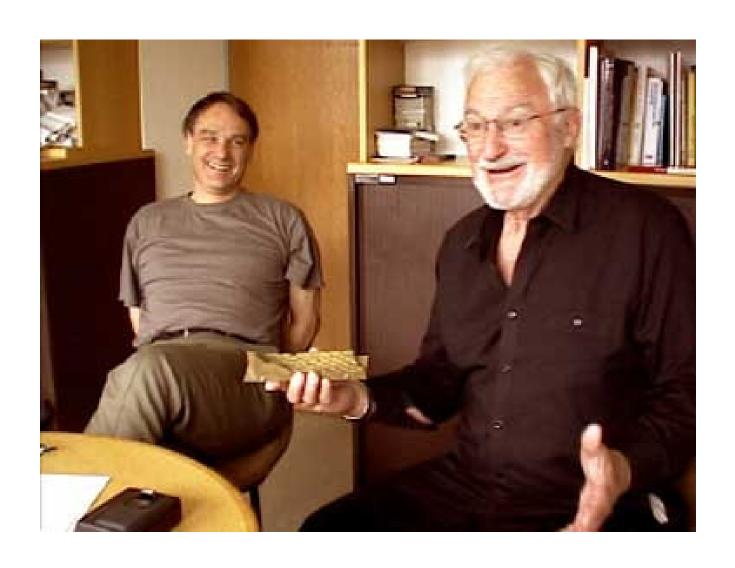
(d) Antiferromagnetic

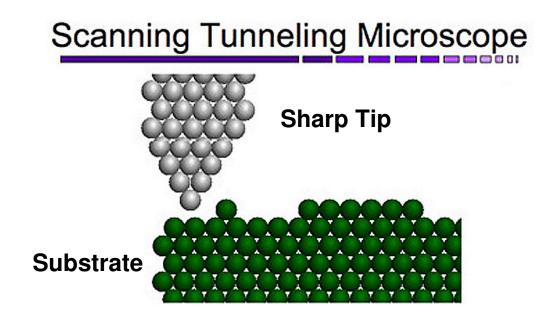


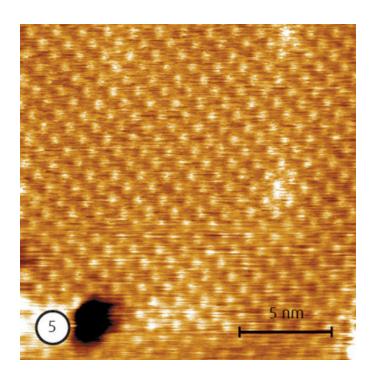




## **STM**: Nobel Prize 1986 (Gerd Binning and Heinrich Rohrer)





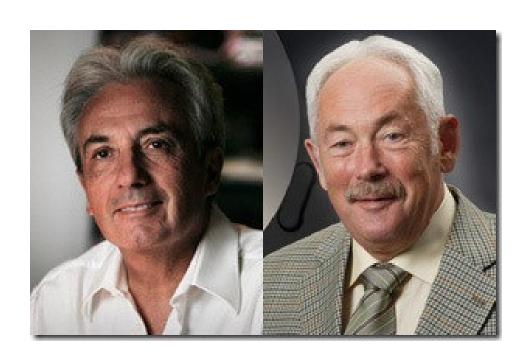


STM image of evaporated silver film

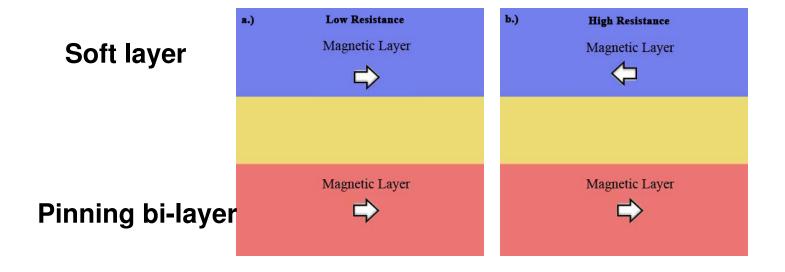
Heinrich Rohrer and Gerd Binning were recognized for developing the powerful microscopy technique, which can form an image of individual atoms on a metal or semiconductor surface by scanning the tip of a needle over the surface at a height of only a few atomic diameters.

#### **GMR: Nobel prize in Physics, 2007**

Giant Magneto-Resistive Effect was discovered in 1988 in Fe/Cr/Fe trilayers by a research team led by Peter Grünberg of the Jülich Research Centre (DE), and independently in Fe/Cr multilayers by the group of Albert Fert of the University of Paris-Sud (FR).

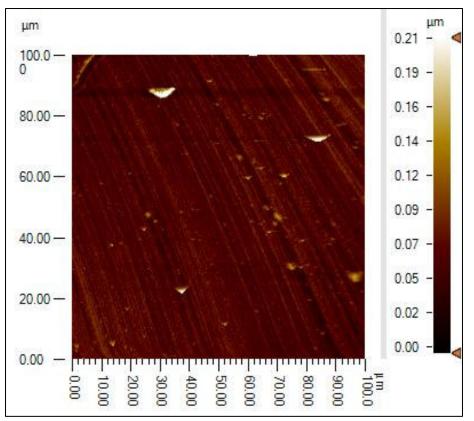


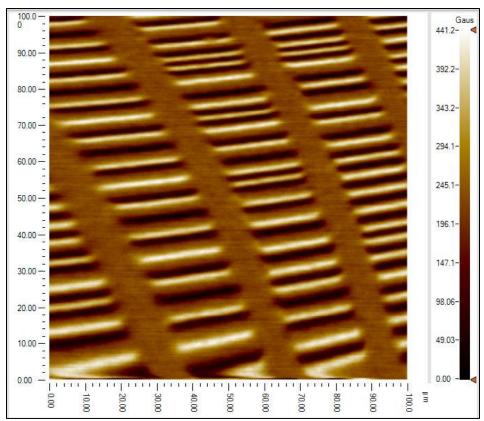
# Two states of a magnetic bit yield different resistance values



GMR Effect forms the basis of functionality of multi-layer Spin Valve Device, which yield different resistance values for two states of a magnetic 'bit' in every day used Hard Disc.

#### **Hard disk image**

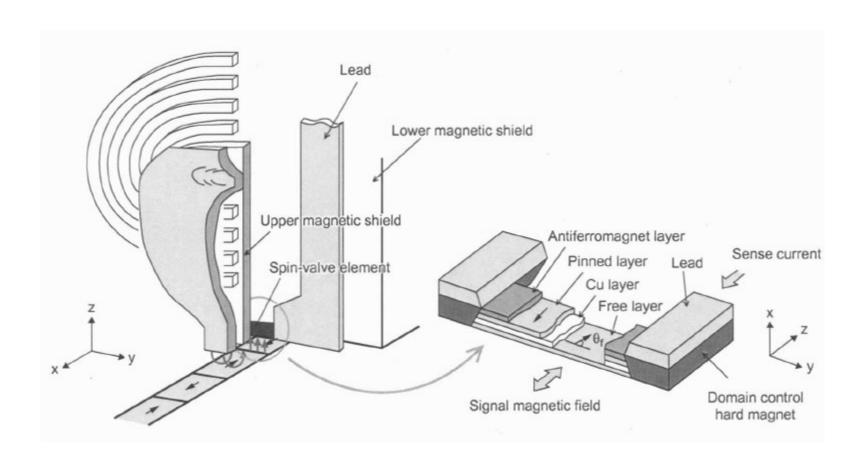




**Tracks on the Surface** 

**Stored Magnetic information** 

#### Different components of a Spin valve read head



#### SPIN-VALVE DEVICE

A Spin-Valve device consists of layers of two (or more) conducting magnetic materials.

**Antiferromagnetic** 

**Ferromagnetic** 

**Non-magnetic Conductor** 

**Ferromagnetic** 

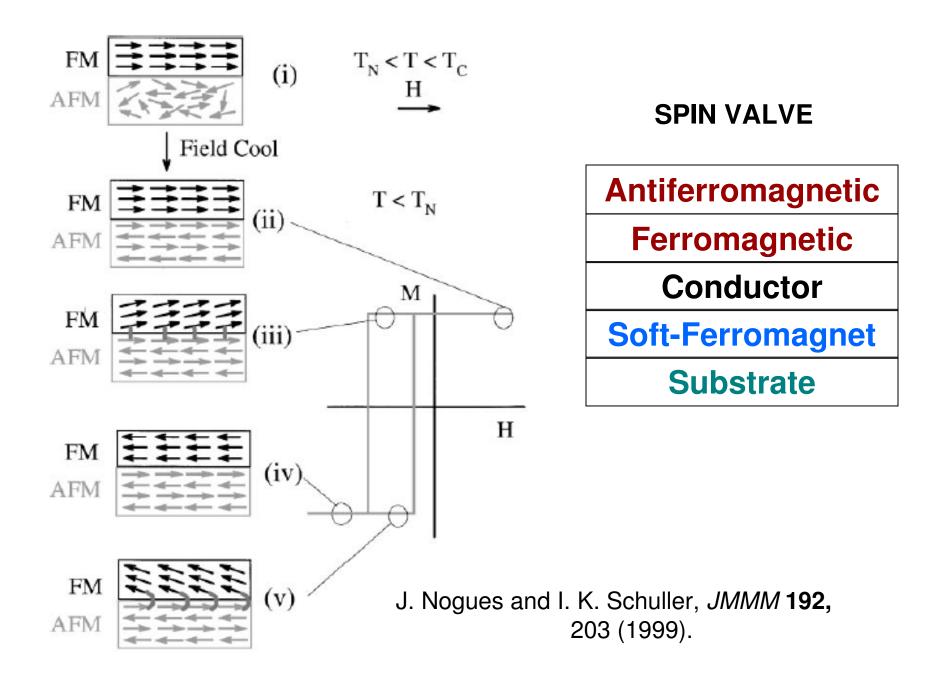
**Substrate** 

Pinned layer with an Exchange Bias, i.e.,
Shifted Hysteresis Loop

Soft layer with no Bias, It faithfully aligns with the direction of magnetic bit

It alternates its <u>electrical resistance</u> (from low to high or high to low) depending on the alignment of the magnetic layers, while exploiting the <u>Giant Magneto-Resistive (GMR) effect</u>.

#### **EXCHANGE BIAS ATTRIBUTE IN FM/AFM BI-LAYER OF A SPIN VALVE**



#### A possible material for Magnetic STM Imaging

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.....

#### A ferromagnet having no net magnetic moment

(should be read as 'no net-magnetization')

#### H. Adachi\*<sup>2</sup> & H. Ino\*<sup>3</sup>

- \* Department of Materials Science, the University of Tokyo, Tokyo 113, Japan
- <sup>2</sup> Institute of Materials Structure Science, **KEK**, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan
- <sup>3</sup> College of Engineering, Hosei University, Koganei, Tokyo 184, Japan

NATURE | VOL 401 | 9 SEPTEMBER 1999 | www.nature.com

#### Ferromagnet SmAl<sub>2</sub> on replacement of few percent of Sm by Gd loses

its magnetization, and when this happens ....

- ....it exhibits the seemingly incompatible properties of large spin polarization, but no bulk magnetization.
- .... attributes should be **generic** to ferromagnets containing trivalent **Samarium ions.**
- .... potential application in, for example, spin-resolving devices for charged particles.

#### US Patent: 6558481 B1

Hiromichi Adachi, Hiromitsu Ino & Hirosi Miwa

Filed: Sept.17,1999; Granted: May 6, 2003

#### **BASED ON THEIR TWO PAPERS**

- (i) Effect of conduction-electron polarization on the magnetism of Samarium metal (Phys. Rev B 56, 349, 1997)
- (ii) Separation of the 4f-spin, 4f-orbital, and conduction-electron magnetization ... for ferromagnetic Sm intermetallics (Phys. Rev. B 59, 11445, 1999)

#### US Patent: 6558481 B1

Hiromichi Adachi, Hiromitsu Ino & Hirosi Miwa

Patent title: 'Method of controlling properties of a ferromagnetic Sm based material and a spin resolving device'

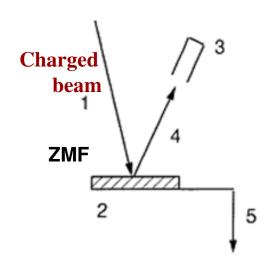
Metallic materials with no self-stray field are useful:

- (i) To generate a spin polarized charge-particle beam.
- (ii) To measure spin polarization/structure on a surface (e.g., magnetic STM imaging).
- (iii) To polarize or analyze the spin for chargedparticle flow.

#### **Schematics:**

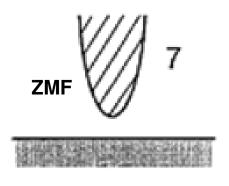
(Extracted from sheet #4 of U.S. patent: 6558481B1)

# (a) To measure spin polarization of charged beam



Spin asymmetry in the scattering or diffraction intensity of beam 4 or that in the observed electric current (5)

# (b) To measure spin structure of surface by tip made up of ZMF

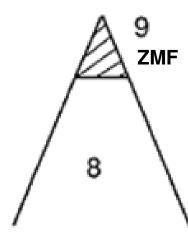


Spin asymmetry in the tunneling electric current on exchange force between the surface of the magnetic sample (6) and the ZMF tip could make it possible to observe surface spin structure

6
Magnetic STM Imaging

(c) Spin polarized electron gun

**ZMF: Zero Magnetization Ferromagnet** 



# Newer Functionality of Zero-Magnetization materials as a Pinning Layer (via Exchange Bias field ) in SPIN VALVE DEVICES

# Shift in centre of gravity of the M-H loop is termed as an Exchange Bias (EB) in the literature

# Noted in 2% Gd doped SmAl<sub>2</sub> by C W (Paul) Chu's group in 2005, see, Phys. Rev. B 72, 054436 (2005).

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 82, 174421 (2010)

Using a zero-magnetization ferromagnet as the pinning layer in exchange-bias systems

M. Ungureanu, <sup>1</sup> K. Dumesnil, <sup>1</sup> C. Dufour, <sup>1</sup> N. Gonzalez, <sup>1</sup> F. Wilhelm, <sup>2</sup> A. Smekhova, <sup>2</sup> and A. Rogalev <sup>2</sup>

SA / SGA Bilayer assembly displays EB SA: SmAl<sub>2</sub> (Ferromagnet) SGA:Sm<sub>0.972</sub>Gd<sub>0.028</sub>Al<sub>2</sub> (Zero-Magnetization Spin-Ferromagnet)

2010: First results towards use of doped Sm-Ferromagnets as a pinning layer

# Exchange Bias is a *Generic* attribute of Rare Earth based Zero-Magnetization systems

2902

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MAGNETICS, VOL. 45, NO. 7, JULY 2009

#### Exchange Bias and Its Phase Reversal in Zero Magnetization Admixed Rare-Earth Intermetallics

Prasanna D. Kulkarni, S. Venkatesh, A. Thamizhavel, V. C. Rakhecha, S. Ramakrishnan, and A. K. Grover

Magnetic compensation phenomenon and the sign reversal in exchange bias in a single crystal of  $Nd_{0.75}Gd_{0.25}$   $Al_2$ 

P D Kulkarni et al., Euro Physics Letters 86, 47003, 2009

## Premise of studies at TIFR

Special attributes of net zeromagnetization materials derived from ferromagnetic Samarium compounds are not specific to Sm ions but these are generic to admixed rare earth alloys, formed by mixing together any two ferromagnetic rare earth intermetallic compounds, belonging to two different halves of the 4f-Rare Earth series.

#### The Periodic Table

1													18						
	1		Metals Metalloids Nonmetals																2
	Н	2	_													15	16	17	He
	3	4													6	7	8	9	10
	Li	Ве													C	N	0	F	Ne
	11	12		3 4 5 6 7 6 9 10 11 12											14	15	16	17	18
	Na	Mg													Si	P	S	CI	Ar
	19	20	<b>3d</b>	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
	K	Ca		Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
	37	38		39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
	Rb	Sr		Υ	Zr	Nb	Мо	Тс	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	1	Xe
	55	56	<b>4f</b>	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
	Cs	Ba	1	Lu Hf Ta W Re Os Ir Pt Au Hg								Hg	TI	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn	
	87	88		103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118
	Fr	Ra	1	Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Uub						
			<b>시</b> l .																
	Lanthanide			57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70		
La Ce Pr Nd Pm Sm Eu Gd Tb D							Dy	Но	Er	Tm	Yb								
	Actinide 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98							98	99	100	101	102							
	series			Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No		

## Magnetic properties of some elements

Samarium is the 5<sup>th</sup> element of the 4f-Rare Earth series (At. no.: 58-71), having small moment for Sm metal

Material	Curie Temperature T <sub>c</sub> (K)	Bohr Magnetons per Atom ( $\mu_{\text{B}}$ )
Fe (3d)	1040	2.22
Co (3d)	1395	1.72
Ni (3d)	630	0.61
Gd (4f)	290	7.1
Sm (4f)	160	~ 0.1

#### The ground state properties of the Rare Earth (RE3+) ions

	$m_L$	+3	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	S	L	J	$g_J$	$g_J J$
$4\mathrm{f}^1$	$\mathrm{Ce}^{3+}$	1							$\frac{1}{2}$	3	5/2	6/7	15/7
$4f^2$	${ m Pr}^{3+}$	†	1						ī	5	4	4/5	16/5
$4 f^3$	$Nd^{3+}$	1	1	1					3/2	6	9/2	8/11	36/11
$4  \mathrm{f}^4$	$\mathrm{Pm}^{3+}$	1	1	1	1				2	6	4	3/5	12/5
$4  \mathrm{f}^5$	$\mathrm{Sm}^{3+}$	1	1	1	1	1			5/2	5	5/2	2/7	5/7
$4f^6$	$\mathrm{Eu^{3+}}$	1	1	1	1	1	1		3	3	0	_	0
$4\mathrm{f}^7$	$\mathrm{Gd}^{3+}$	1	1	1	1	1	<b>†</b>	1	7/2	0	7/2	2	7
$4f^8$	$\mathrm{Tb^{3+}}$	$\uparrow \downarrow$	1	<b>†</b>	1	†	<b>↑</b>	<b>†</b>	3	3	6	3/2	9
$4f^9$	$\mathrm{Dy}^{3+}$	↑↓	↑↓	†	1	1	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>	5/2	5	15/2	4/3	10
$4f^{10}$	$Ho^{3+}$	↑↓	↑↓	1↓	1	1	1	1	2	6	8	5/4	10
$4f^{11}$	$\mathrm{Er}^{3+}$	$\uparrow \downarrow$	†↓	↑↓	↑↓	1	<b>†</b>	1	3/2	6	15/2	6/5	9
$4f^{12}$	$\mathrm{Tm}^{3+}$	$\uparrow \downarrow$	↑↓	1↓	†↓	<b>†</b> ↓	†	1	1	5	6	7/6	7
$4f^{13}$	$Yb^{3+}$	$\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow \downarrow$	$\uparrow\downarrow$	$\uparrow \downarrow$	$\uparrow \downarrow$	$\uparrow \downarrow$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	7/2	8/7	4

The ground state is given by-

J = L - S, for **less** than **half** filled

J = L + S, for more than half filled.

L - orbital angular momentum,

S - spin angular momentum and

J - total angular momentum

Lande's  $g_J$ -factor:  $g_J = 1 + [J(J+1) - L(L+1) + S(S+1)]/2J(J+1)]$ 

$$\mu_{eff} = g_J [J(J+1)]^{1/2} \mu_B$$

$$(paramagnetic state)$$

$$\mu_{sat} = g_J J \mu_B$$

$$(ferromagnetic state)$$

#### **Magnetic Moments of Free Rare Earths Ions**

$$< L_z > = J_z (g_J - 2),$$

$$< S_z > = J_z (1 - g_J)$$

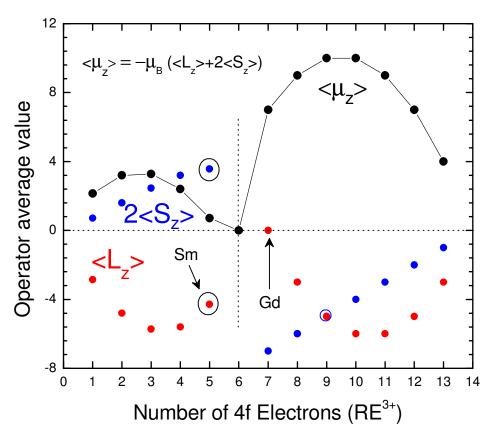
$$<\mu_z> = -\mu_B g_J J_z$$

 $Sm^{3+}$ : L=5, S=5/2 ; J=5/2

$$\langle L_z \rangle = -30/7, \ 2 \langle S_z \rangle = 25/7$$

 $\mu_z(\text{Sm}^{3+}) = 5/7 \ \mu_B$  (six fold degenerate)

# Magnetic moment originating from 4f<sup>n</sup> electrons has two parts: orbital and spin



In cubic systems:

$$\mu_z(Sm^{3+}) = 5/21$$
 (doublet)

$$\mu_z(Sm^{3+}) = 11/21$$
 (quartet)

#### Take any Ferromagnetic series of Rare Earth (R) compounds

For example: R Al<sub>2</sub>, R atoms form a diamond lattice

## 1) PrAl<sub>2</sub>:

Magnetic moment per Pr ion  $\sim 2.8 \mu_{\rm B}$ 

Ferromagnetic Curie temperature, T<sub>c</sub> ~ 35 K

## 2) GdAl<sub>2</sub>:

Magnetic moment per Pr ion ~ 7.7  $\mu_{\rm B}$ 

Ferromagnetic Curie temperature, T<sub>c</sub> ~ 170 K

**Experimental fact (since 1960):**  $Pr_{0.7}Gd_{0.3}Al_2$  is a pseudo-Ferrimagnet

#### 1960s: Mix two rare earth ferromagnetic compounds

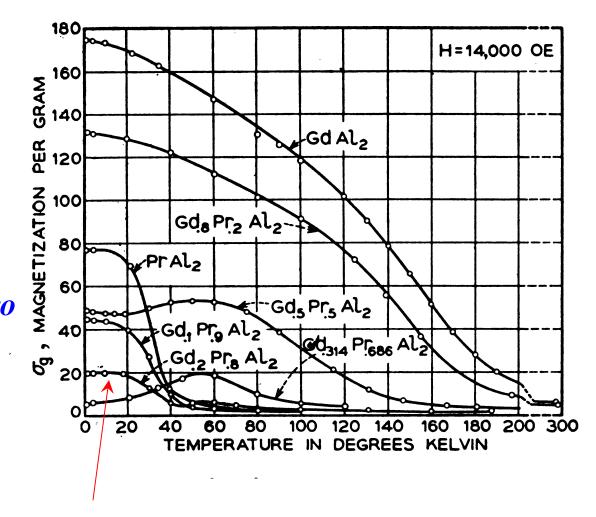
PrAl<sub>2</sub>: 
$$T_c \sim 35 \text{ K}$$
  
 $\mu / \text{f.u.} \sim 2.8 \mu_B$   
GdAl<sub>2</sub>:  $T_c \sim 170 \text{ K}$   
 $\mu / \text{f.u.} \sim 7.7 \mu_B$ 

 Zero Magnetization stoichiometry realized at

x ~ 0.3, quasi-antiferro response in M vs. T

Magnetic compensation
 phenomenon at x ~ 0.2
 T<sub>c</sub> ~ 80 K, T<sub>comp</sub>~ 40 K

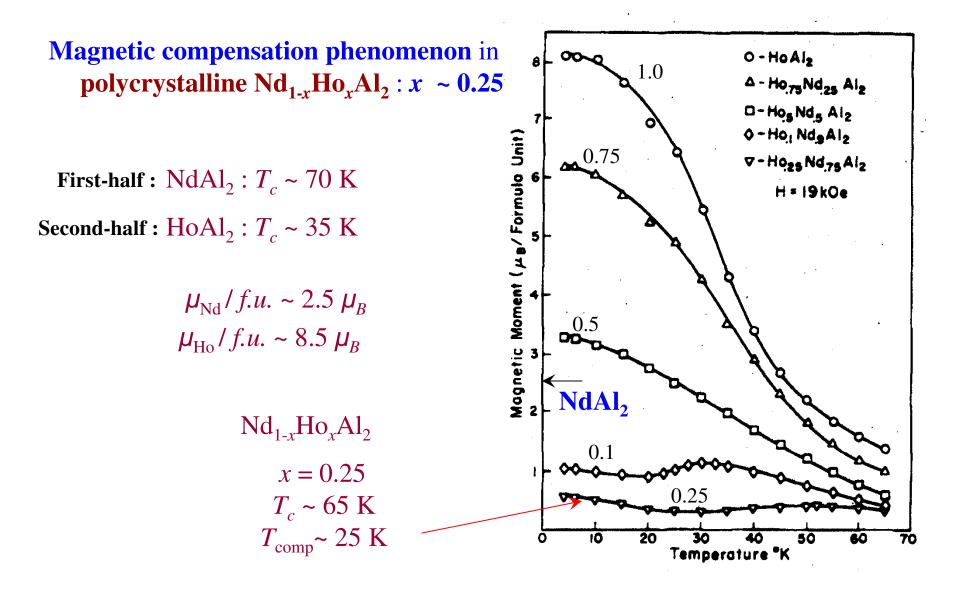
Magnetization is minimum at  $T_{comp}$ 



$$Pr_{1-x}Gd_xAl_2$$
$$x = 0.2$$

H. J. Williams *et al.* J. Phys. Soc. of Japan **17** (**Suppl. 1**), 91 (1962) Presented at ICM, Tokyo, 1961

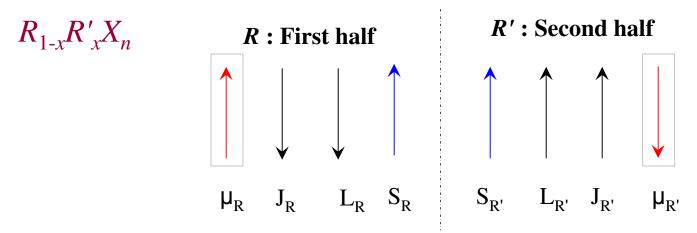
#### **Another example of mixing two Rare Earth ferromagnets**



W. M. Swift et al., J. Phys Chem. Solids 29, 2053 (1968)

# Understanding the magnetic behavior of the admixed rare earth systems: SPIN FERROMAGNETS

- 1) Recall: J = L S, for first half of Rare Earth series and J = L + S, for second half
- 2) When spins remain parallel in the admixed systems, the magnetic moments are compelled to align antiparallel



Admixed alloys: Spin- ferromagnets (SF)

**Zero-Magnetization SF** :  $(R_{1-x}R'_xX_n)$  :  $(1-x)\mu_R \approx x\mu_{R'}$ 

(ZMSF) X: Non-magnetic element(s)

# Hyperfine fields in $Sm_{1-x}Gd_xAl_2$ alloys - Microscopic evidence for ferromagnetic coupling between rare earth spins

J. Appl. Phys. Volume 50, pp. 7501-7503 (1979) (Cited amongst eleven references by H Adachi and H Ino, Nature 401, 148, 1999)

#### A. K. Grover, S. K. Malik and R. Vijayaraghavan

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay 400 005, India K. Shimizu

Faculty of Education, Toyama University, Toyama, Japan

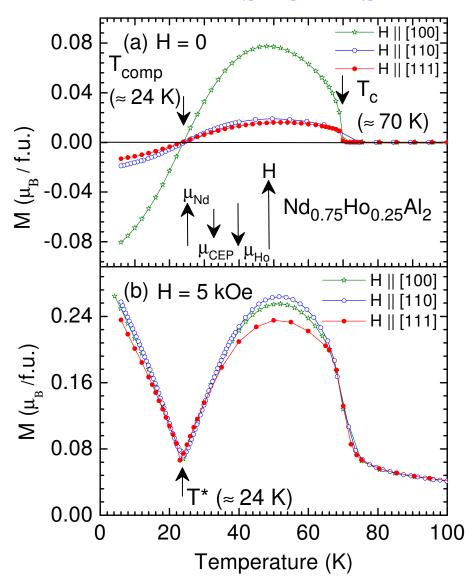
**Abstract :** The results of hyperfine field studies on  $Sm_{1-x}Gd_xAl_2$  alloys for 0 < x < 0.5 are reported. The hyperfine field at Al, H(Al), has been measured to be +32.5 kOe in  $SmAl_2$  and -47 kOe in  $GdAl_2$ . In  $Sm_{1-x}Gd_xAl_2$  alloys, we find that the **magnitude of H(Al) increases with increasing x and further H(Al) becomes negative even with small replacement of Sm by Gd. H(Al) in these compounds is proportional to the average value of spin per rare earth ion. The observed behaviour can be understood in terms of a ferromagnetic coupling between the spins of Sm and Gd.** 

10% replacement of Sm by Gd changed the sign of Hyperfine Field at Al nuclei, implying that sample magnetization got dictated by Gd ions.

## Our strategy in recent years

- # Admix Ferromagnetic compounds belonging to two different halves of Rare Earth series
- # Grow single crystals of them to re-explore physics issues, in systems which were first studied in 1960s.

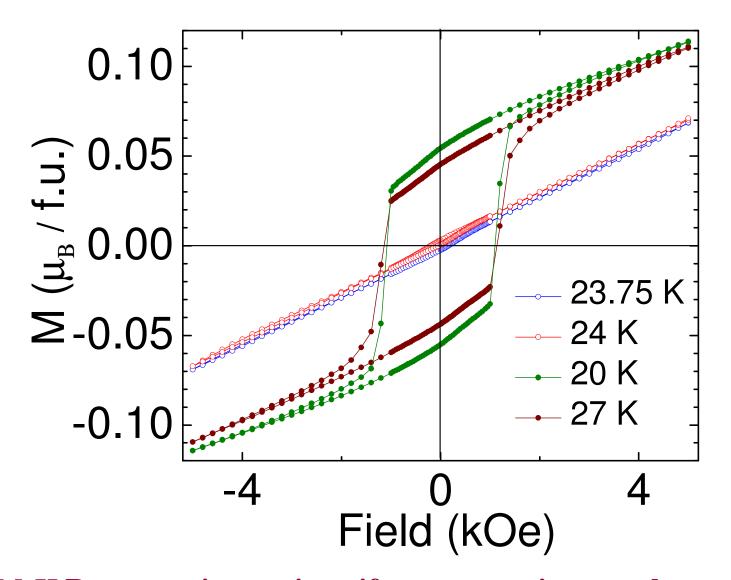
### STUDIES AT TIFR SINCE 2007



# EXPERIMENTS IN SINGLE CRYSTALS OF Nd<sub>0.75</sub>Ho<sub>0.25</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>

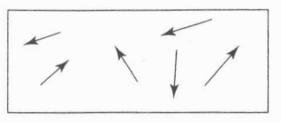
Magnetic compensation phenomenon established in all orientations of field in a single crystal of Nd<sub>0.75</sub>Ho<sub>0.25</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>

### **Magnetization Hysteresis Loops : Nd**<sub>0.75</sub>**Ho**<sub>0.25</sub>**Al**<sub>2</sub>

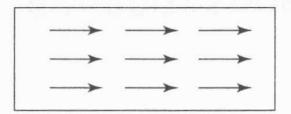


 $M ext{-}H$  Response is quasi-antiferromagnetic very close to  $T_{\mathrm{comp}}$ 

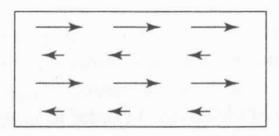
### **Schematic M-H curves of different arrangements**



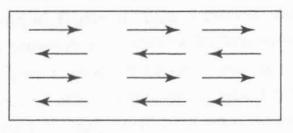
(a) Paramagnetic



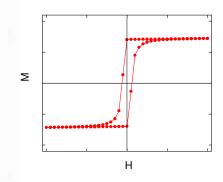
(b) Ferromagnetic

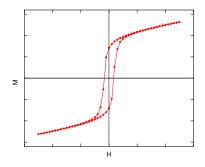


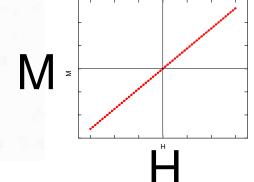
(c) Ferrimagnetic



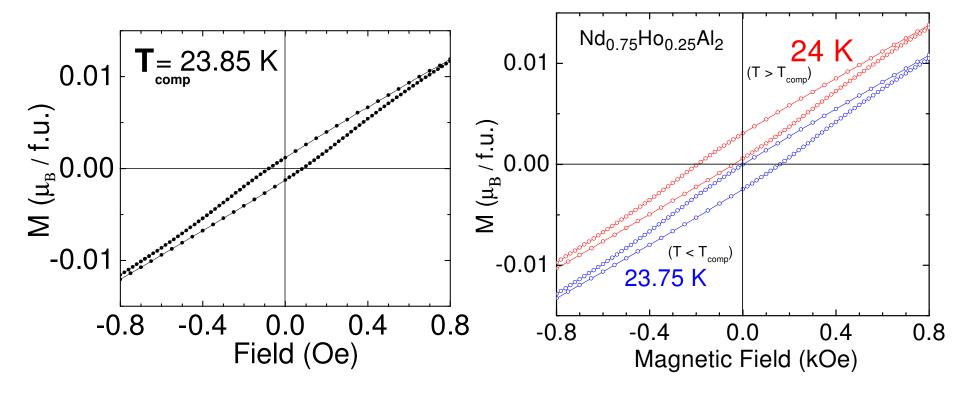
(d) Antiferromagnetic





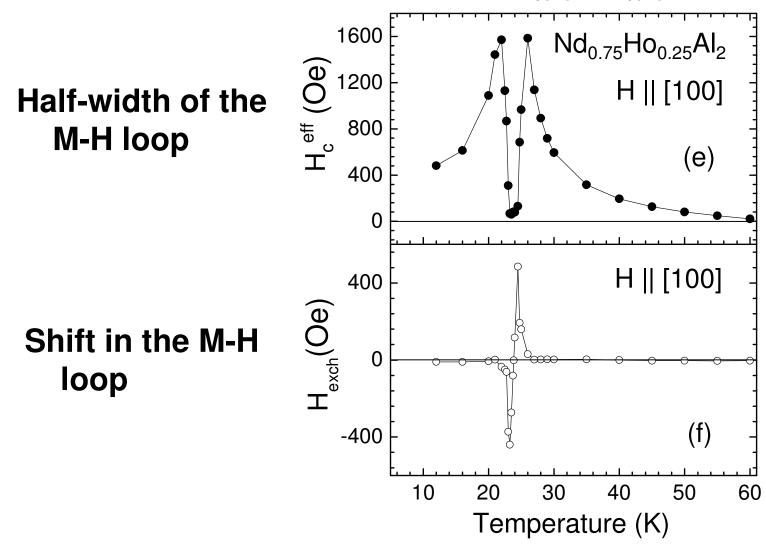


### Magnetization Hysteresis Loops in very close vicinity of $T_{comp}$



- Note the visible shift in the *M-H* loop at 23.75 K and 24 K and the symmetric *M-H* loop at 23.85 K.
- ➤ (Left/Right) Shift in M-H loop is called Exchange Bias Field

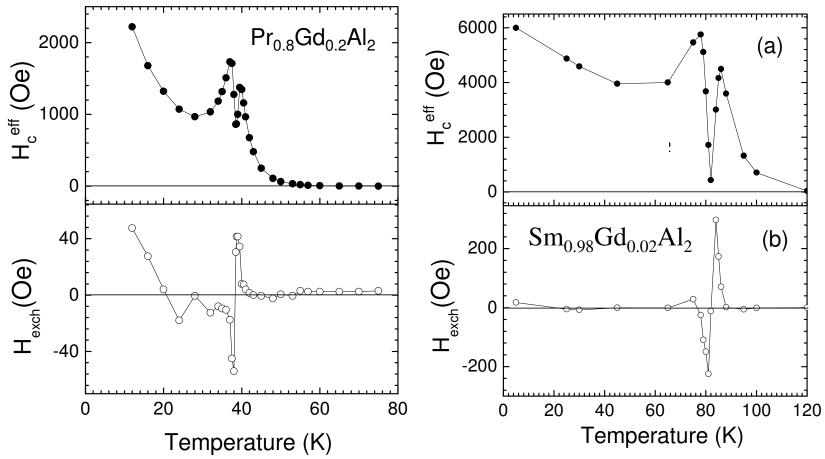
## Exchange Bias in Nd<sub>0.75</sub>Ho<sub>0.25</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>



 $\triangleright$  The notion of exchange bias is observed in the admixed rare earth intermetallics near  $T_{comp}$ 

P. Kulkarni *et al., Euro Physics Letters 86,47003 (2009)*P. Kulkarni *et al., IEEE Trans. Magn. 45, 2902 (2009)* 

# Confirmation of EB and its phase reversal in close vicinity of $T_{comp}$ in $Pr_{0.8}Gd_{0.2}Al_2$ and $Sm_{0.98}Gd_{0.02}Al_2$

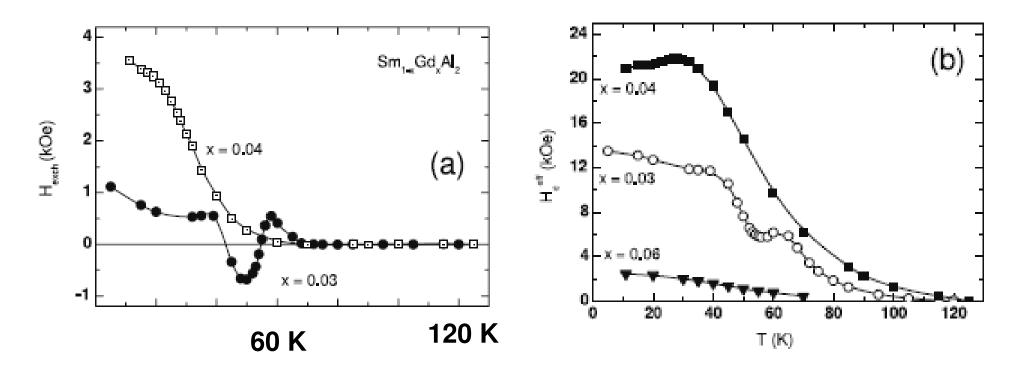


**EXCHANGE BIAS FINGERPRINTS COMPENSATED** 

LOCAL MOMENTS COUPLED TO POLARIZED BAND

P. D. Kulkarni et al., IEEE Trans. Magn. 45, 2902 (2009)

### Tuning of exchange bias and coercive field in Sm<sub>1-x</sub>Gd<sub>x</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>



Exchange bias enhances from x = 0.1 to 0.4, therafter it collapses at x = 0.06 and  $H_c^{eff}$  reduces. At x = 0.06, Gd magnetization dominates over that from Sm.

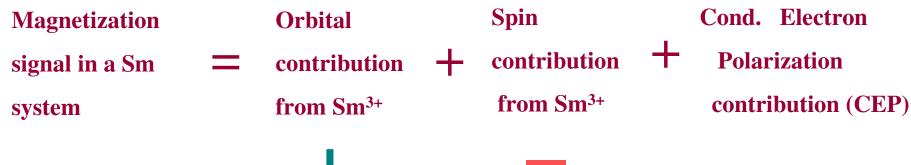
S. Venkatesh *et al*, J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 22 (2010) 496002

# Comparison between the pinned F/AF bi-layer structure and the admixed RE alloys

- ➤ The soft conduction electron contribution could assume a role of the soft ferromagnetic layer near the magnetic compensation region.
- ➤ However, both, the polarized electrons and the compensated local moments reverse their orientations across the compensation temperature.

# Separation of the 4*f*-spin, 4*f*-orbital, and conduction-electron magnetization ... for ferromagnetic Sm intermetallics

( H. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. B, 59, 11445 (1999))



Usually: Orbital contribution > contributions from spins

### "Orbital Surplus" system

- # In the case of Sm ions, higher J-states easily admix into the ground J-state in presence of strong Exchange field and crystalline electric field.
- # 'Spin' and 'Orbital' parts of the Samarium moments typically start to follow **different** temperature dependences.

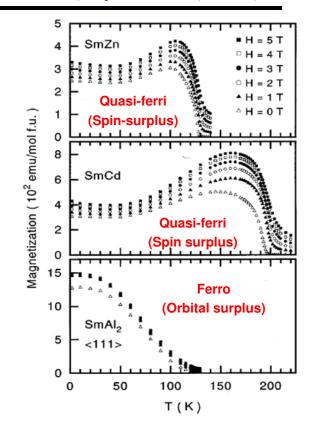
Occassionally: Contributions from spins > Orbital contribution

"Spin Surplus" system

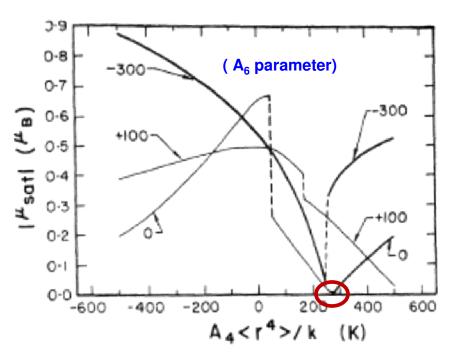
#### Calculated T = 0 values

	$M_{tot.} $ $(\mu_B)$	$m_{4\mathrm{f}} \ (\mu_{\mathrm{B}})$	-L <sub>z</sub>	-2S <sub>z</sub>	$m_{\text{cond}} \atop (\mu_B)$
SmZn	.05	-0.36	-4.01	3.65	0.41
SmCd	.06	-0.34	-4.19	3.85	0.40
SmAl <sub>2</sub>	0.26	0.50	4.37	-3.87	-0.24

### H. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. B 59, 11445, 1999



### Calculations by S K Malik at TIFR (1973-74)



Pramana 3,122(1974)

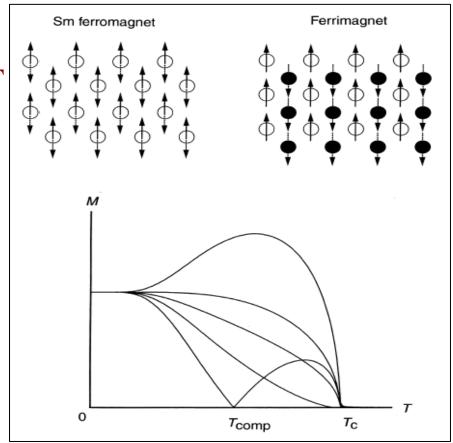
S K Malik's zero-local moment implies an antiferromagnet at every ionic site, exchange coupled to conduction electrons to yield high CEP.

See, also, K H J Buschow *et al.* Phys. Rev. B 8, 5134 (1973)

### "A ferromagnet having no magnetic moment"

H. Adachi, H. Ino *Nature*, **401**, 148 (1999)

S K Malik's Local AF

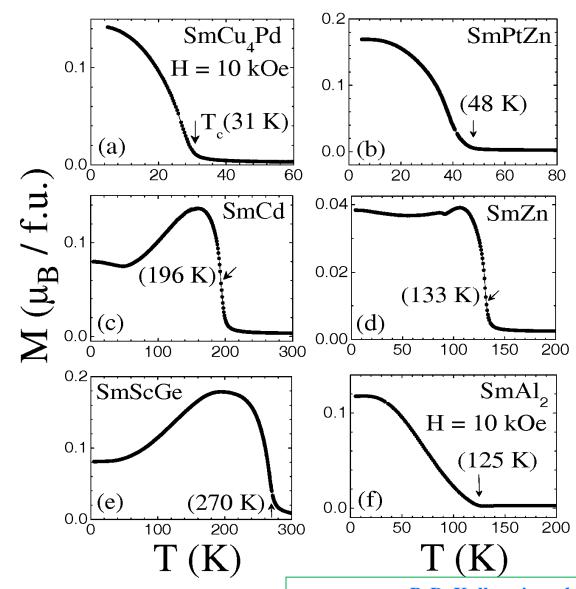


# **Examples of Self-Compensation in pristine Sm based Ferro-magnets**

### M-T Curves in 10 kOe in Sm-Ferromagnets

Orbital-surplus
SmCu<sub>4</sub>Pd
SmPtZn
SmAl<sub>2</sub>

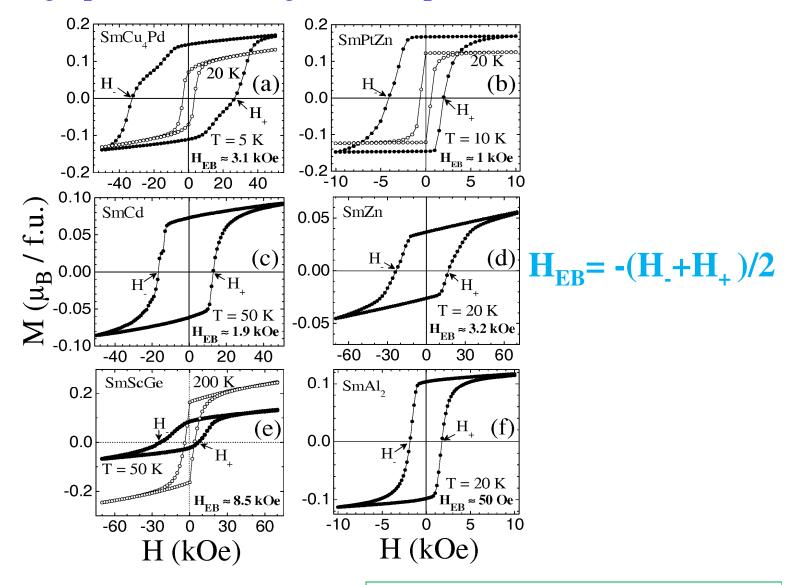
Spin-surplus
SmCd
SmScGe
SmZn



P. D. Kulkarni *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **82**,144411(2010)

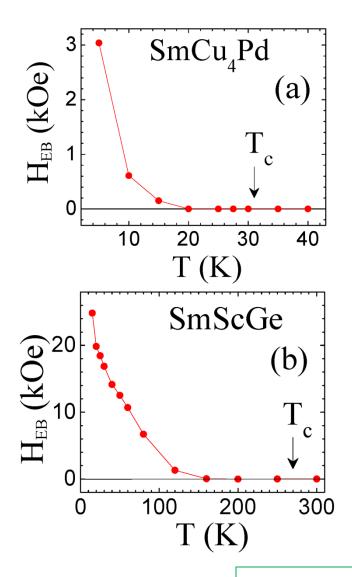
### **Shifted M-H loops in Sm-Ferromagnets**

Fingerprint of self-magnetic compensation

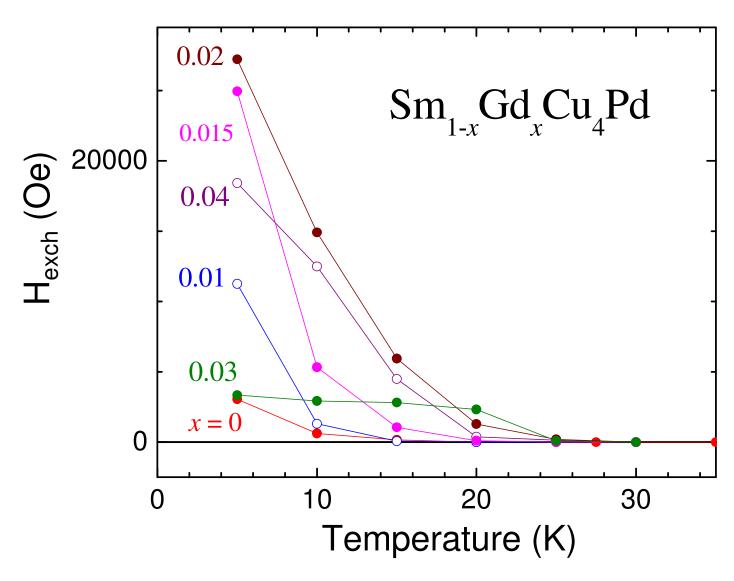


P. D. Kulkarni et al., PRB 82, 144411 (2010)

# Temperature dependences of exchange bias in two Sm-ferromagnets

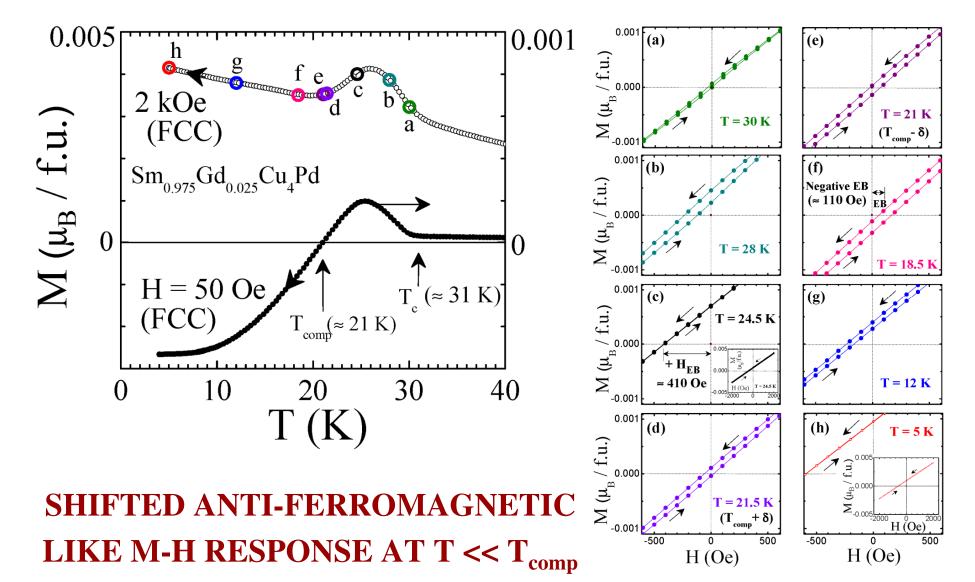


## Tuning of the exchange bias field in Sm<sub>1-x</sub>Gd<sub>x</sub>Cu<sub>4</sub>Pd



P D Kulkarni et al., unpublished

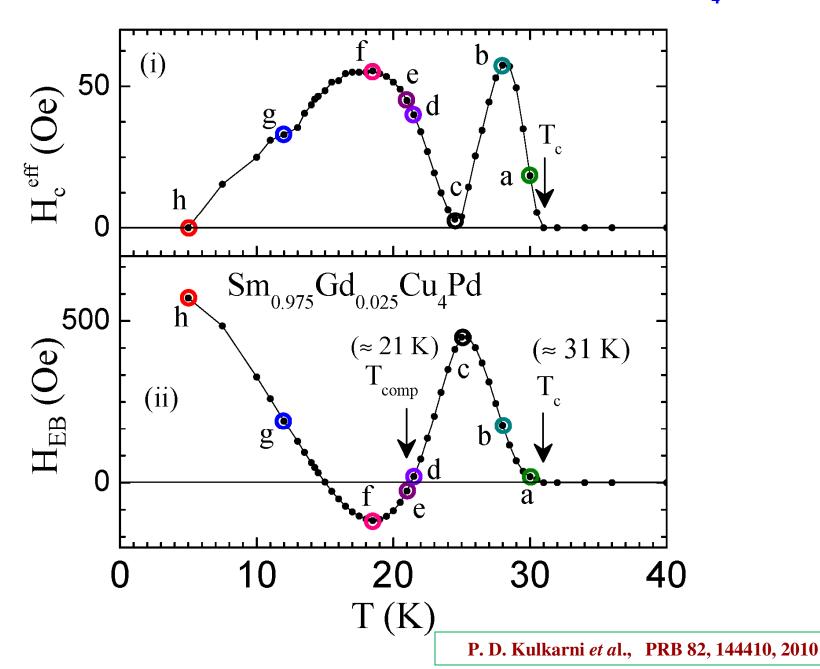
## Compensated pseudo-Ferrimagnet: Sm<sub>0.975</sub>Gd<sub>0.025</sub>Cu<sub>4</sub>Pd



( see curve at 5 K in panel (h))

P. D. Kulkarni et al., PRB 82, 144410, 2010

### EXCHANGE BIAS ITS PHASE REVERSAL IN Gd DOPED SmCu<sub>4</sub>Pd



# Explorations needed to find RE based materials to perform the function of a pinned ferromagnetic layer in Spin Valves at Room temperature

- They should be magnetically ordered at room temperature
- Exchange bias should exist over large temperature range including RT

New Samarium and Neodymium based admixed ferromagnets with near-zero net magnetization and tunable exchange bias field. (near ambient temperatures)

P. D. Kulkarni et al., J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 42 (2009) 082001 (Fast Track Publication)



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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ssc

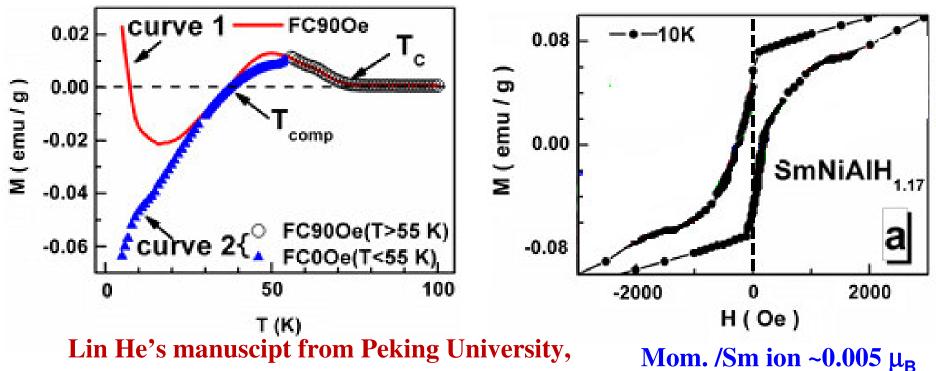


Zero-magnetization ferromagnet induced by hydrogenation

Lin He\*

### FIRST EXAMPLE OF ZERO CROSSOVER

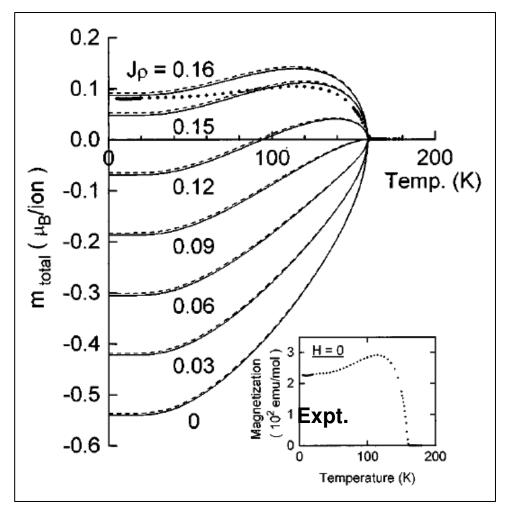
### IN M vs. T CURVE IN A PRISTINE Sm FERROMAGNET



Lin He's manuscipt from Peking University, Received, accepted and published in three weeks

## Calculations for Pure Sm metal

**Zero crossover possible in Pristine Sm Ferromagnets** 



$$\mathcal{H} = \lambda \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S} + \mathcal{H}_{cryst} + \mu_B \mathbf{H} \cdot (\mathbf{L} + 2\mathbf{S})$$
$$+ 2\mu_B J \rho \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{S} - 2J_{ff} \langle \mathbf{S} \rangle \cdot \mathbf{S},$$

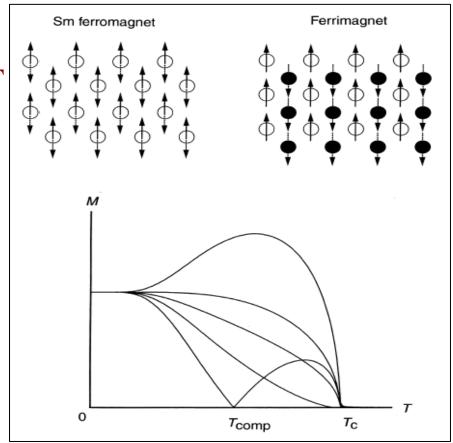
H. Adachi et al, Phys. Rev. B 56, 349 (1997)

Paper included in their patent

### "A ferromagnet having no magnetic moment"

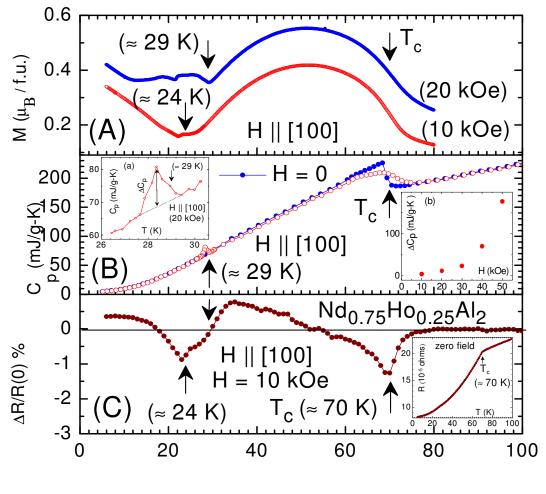
H. Adachi, H. Ino *Nature*, **401**, 148 (1999)

S K Malik's Local AF



# More interesting Physics results in Single crystal of Nd<sub>0.75</sub>Ho<sub>0.25</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>

## Magnetic compensation in a single crystal of Nd<sub>0.75</sub>Ho<sub>0.25</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>

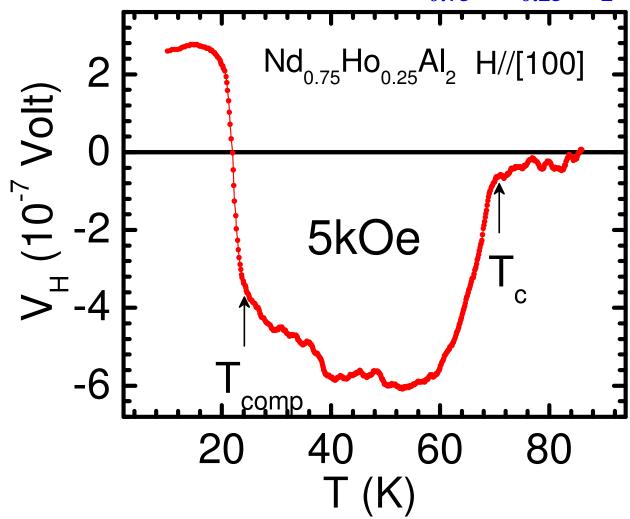


Temperature (K)

- Field induced reversal in magnetic moments of Ho/Nd imprints as a peak in the specific heat data
- Oscillatory response in the magneto-resistance

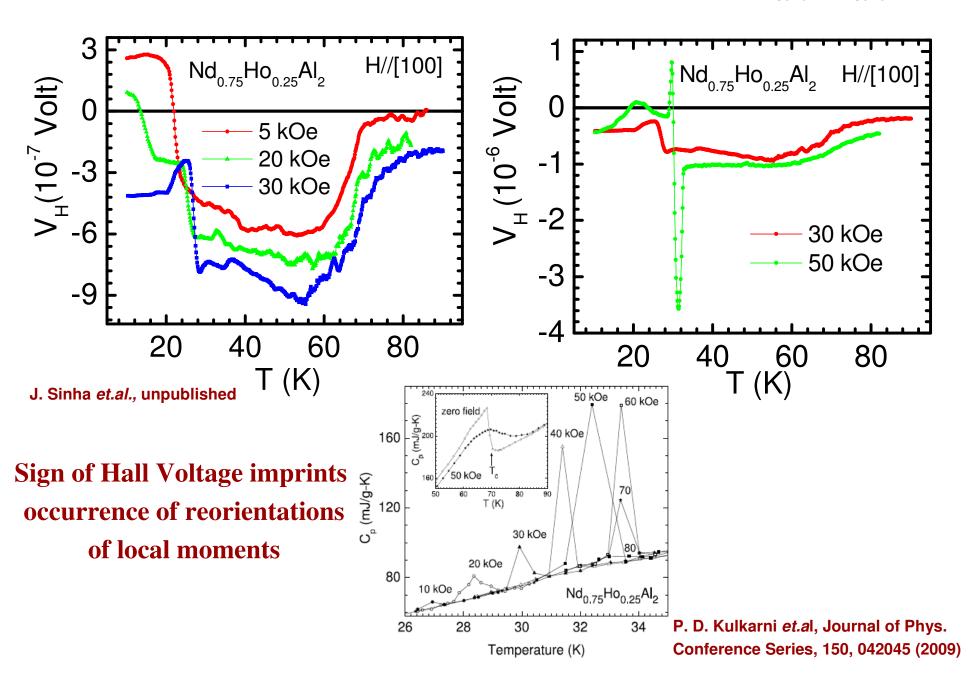
## Unexpected sign reversal in Hall-voltage across $T_{comp}$



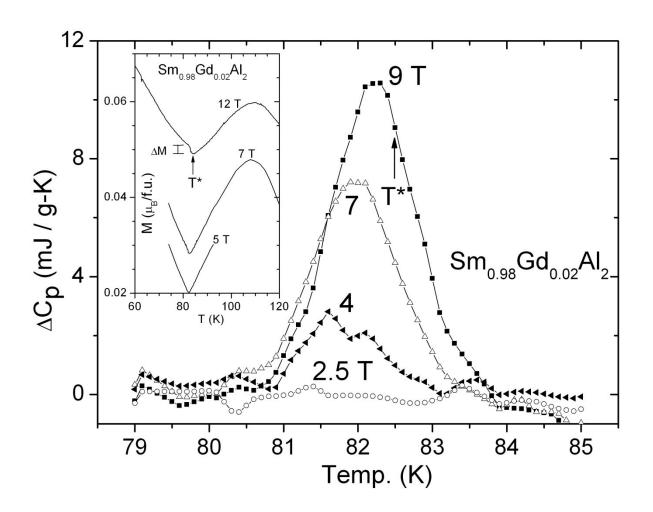


First noted in 1 & 2 % Gd doped SmAl<sub>2</sub> by Paul Chu's group in 2005 and attributed to characteristics of Sm

### Further Hall-voltage & Sp. Heat data in crystal of Nd<sub>0.75</sub>Ho<sub>0.25</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>



# Field induced step change in Magnetization and peak in Specific heat data at $T_{comp}$ in $Sm_{0.98}Gd_{0.02}Al_2$

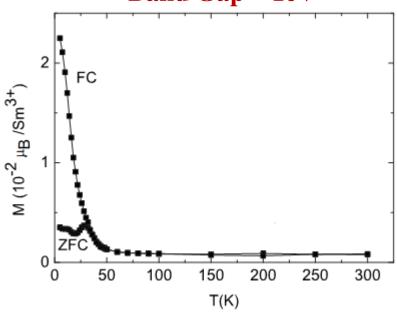


Fingerprints of field-induced phase transition at  $T_{comp}$ S Sumithra *et al.*, unpublished

#### Near-zero-moment ferromagnetism in the semiconductor SmN

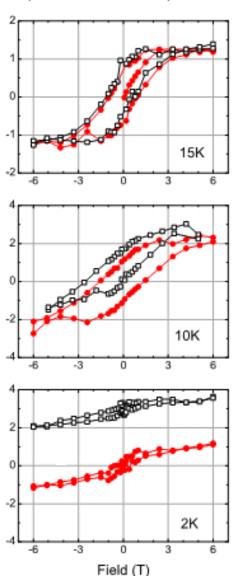
C. Meyer, 1,2 B. J. Ruck, 1,\* J. Zhong, S. Granville, A. R. H. Preston, G. V. M. Williams, and H. J. Trodahl 1,4

### SmN: Indirect Band Semiconductor Band Gap ~ 1eV



No conduction Band & No visible Exchange Bias in red curves

Moment / Sm ion at 2 K ~ 0.035  $\mu_B$ 



## **XMCD STUDIES**

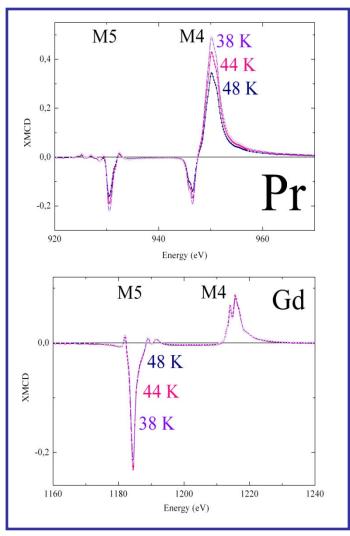
X-ray Magnetic Circular Dichroism provides information on spin and orbital contribution to magnetization at individual

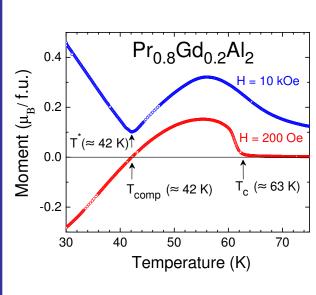
Rare Earth ion level

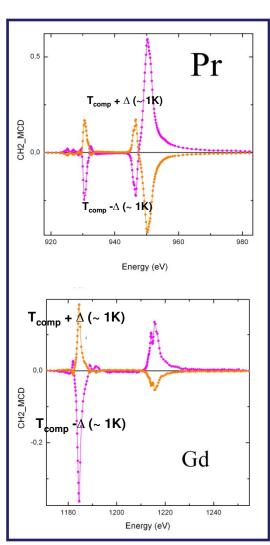
(XMCD Expts. at SPRING8, Japan )

P. D. Kulkarni, A. Thamizhavel et al.

### XMCD data in a single crystal of Pr<sub>0.8</sub>Gd<sub>0.2</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>





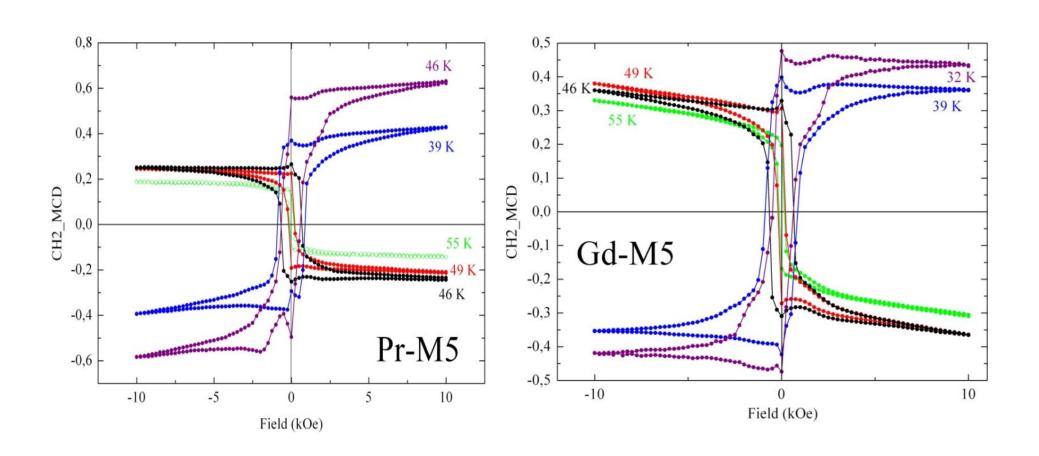


**Low Field (~ 200 Oe)** 

P. D. Kulkarni *et al.*, Proc. DAE SSPS 2010, AIP Conf. Proc. 1349, 1197, 2011

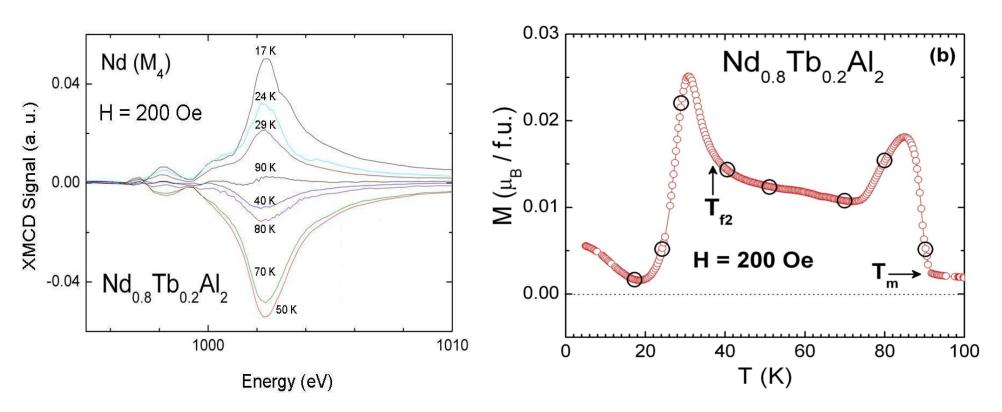
**High Field (~ 5000 Oe)** 

# Hysteresis Loops at individual rare earth ions in single crystal of $Pr_{0.8}Gd_{0.2}Al_2$



P D Kulkarni, A Thamizhavel et al., unpublished

# XMCD data in Nd<sub>0.8</sub>Tb<sub>0.2</sub>Al<sub>2</sub> elucidating repeated magnetic compensation



Spontaneous reversal in the orientations of both the coupled local moments at the onset of second transition at T<sub>f2</sub> via XMCD study at SPring 8, Japan

P. D. Kulkarni *et al.*, Proc. DAE SSPS 2010, AIP Conf. Proc. 1349, 1217, 2011

### **Summary**

Described some of the new findings in fundamental science of magnetic materials which have potential in spintronics and magnetic STM imaging.

- \* Exemplification of the existence of an exchange bias field on approaching  $T_{comp}$  and its phase reversal across  $T_{comp}$  in admixed RE intermetallics.
- \* Identified alloys undergoing magnetic orderings close to the ambient temperatures and possessing large CEP, but, near-zero bulk magnetization, and permitting easy tuning of the exchange bias field for novel applications.
- \* Self-compensation of local magnetization in pristine Sm Ferromagnets.
- \* Step change in high field magnetization and its correlation with the fingerprint of field-induced entropic change in specific heat data.
- \* Sign reversal in Hall voltage across  $T_{comp}$  and its unexpected correlation with sign change in orientation of conduction electron polarization.
- \* Oscillatory character in the magneto-resistance response, including a change in its sign at  $T_{comp}$  (not described).
- \* Repeated magnetic compensation behavior in some specific admixed alloys near zero-magnetization stoichiometry (not described).

### **Publications**

- 1: Journal of Magnetism & Magnetic Materials, 310, 1761-1763 (2007)
  U. V. Vaidya, V.C. Rakecha, S. Sumithra, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- 2: Physical Review B, 78, 064426-1 { 064426-6 (2008)
  P. D. Kulkarni, U.V. Vaidya, V.C. Rakhecha, A. Thamizhavel, A. K. Nigam, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, 45 2902-2906 (2009)
   P. D. Kulkarni, S. Venkatesh, A. Thamizhavel, V.C. Rakhecha, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- 4: J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys., 42 082001 (5 pages) (2009)
  P. D. Kulkarni, U.V. Vaidya, S.K. Dhar, P. Manfrinetti and A. K. Grover
- Europhysics Letters, 86, 47003-p1 { 47003-p6 (2009) \*
   P. D. Kulkarni, A. Thamizhavel, V.C. Rakhecha, A. K. Nigam, P.L. Paulose,
   S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- Phys. Rev. B 82,144410, 2010
   P. D. Kulkarni, S. K. Dhar, A. Provino, P. Manfrinetti, and A. K. Grover
- 7: http://arxiv.org/abs/1009.0927 submitted to Phys. Rev. B
  P. D. Kulkarni, A. Thamizhavel, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- 8: http://arxiv.org/abs/1008.3782 submitted to Phys. Rev. B
  P. D. Kulkarni, A. K. Nigam, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- Jour. Phys: Condensed Matter 22, 496002 (2010)
   S. Venkatesh, Ulhas Vaidya, Veer Chand Rakhecha, S. Ramakrishnan and A.K. Grover
- Proceedings of DAE SSP Symposium, Solid State Physics (India), 51, 937-938 (2006)
   Ulhas Vaidya, S. Sumithra, V. C. Rakhecha, A. Thamizhavel, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- Proceedings of DAE SSP Symposium, Solid State Physics (India), 51, 939-940 (2006)
   S. Sumithra, Ulhas Vaidya, V. C. Rakhecha, A. Thamizhavel, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- Proceedings of DAE SSP Symposium, Solid State Physics (India), 51, 947-948 (2006)
   S. Sumithra, Ulhas Vaidya, V. C. Rakhecha, A. Thamizhavel, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover

- Proceedings of DAE SSP Symposium, Solid State Physics (India), 51, 949-950 (2006)
   V. C. Rakhecha, Ulhas Vaidya, S. Sumithra, A. Thamizhavel, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- 14: Proceedings of DAE SSP Symposium, Solid State Physics (India), 52, 27 (2007) A K Grover et al.; U V Vaidya et al., ibid. p. 1121; P D Kulkarni et al., ibid. p. 1125.
- 15. Proceedings of the International Conference on Magnetic Materials, AIP Conf. Proc. 1003, 204-206 (2007)
  - U.V. Vaidya, V.C. Rakhecha, P. D. Kulkarni, P. Manfrinetti, S.K. Dhar, A. Thamizhavel, A.K. Nigam, D.D. Buddhikot, S. Ramakrishnan, A. K. Grover
- Proceedings of the DAE Solid State Physics Symposium, 53, 1097-1098 (2008)
   P. D. Kulkarni, N. S. Sangeetha, S. Ramakrishnan and A.K.Grover
- Proceedings of the DAE Solid State Physics Symposium, 53, 1125-1126 (2008)
   Prasanna D. Kulkarni, A. Thamizhavel, P. L. Paulose, D. D. Buddhikot, A. K. Nigam,
   S. Ramakrishnan and A.K.Grover
- 18: Proceedings of the DAE Solid State Physics Symposium, 53, 1219-1210 (2008) S. Venkatesh, Ulhas Vaidya, V. C. Rakhecha, A.K.Grover and S. Ramakrishnan
- 19: Journal of Physics: Conference Series, 150, 042045 (4 pages) (2009)
   P. D. Kulkarni, A. Thamizhavel, V.C. Rakhecha, A. K. Nigam, P.L. Paulose,
   S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- Journal of Physics: Conference Series, 150, 042102 (4 pages) (2009)
   P. D. Kulkarni, U.V. Vaidya, V.C. Rakhecha, A. Thamizhavel, S.K. Dhar,
   A.K. Nigam, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- 21: Proceedings of the DAE Solid State Physics Symposium, 54, 1087-1088 (2009) P. D. Kulkarni, P. Manfrinetti, S. K. Dhar, U. V. Vaidya and A. K. Grover
- 22: Proc. DAE SSPS 2010 ( AIP Conf. Proc.1349, 1197, (2011))P. D. Kulkarni, A. Thamizhavel, T. Nakamura, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover
- 23: DAE SSPS 2010 ( AIP Conf. Proc. 1349, 1217, (2011))
  P. D. Kulkarni, A. Thamizhavel, K. Kodama, T. Nakamura, S. Ramakrishnan and A. K. Grover

## Thank You