



Canadian Association
of Physicists

Association canadienne
des physiciens et physiciennes

Contribution ID: 2482 Type: **Oral Competition (Graduate Student) / Compétition orale (Étudiant(e) du 2e ou 3e cycle)**

A study of spin-pumping in Py/Pt and Py/Pt/Py structures

Monday, 3 June 2019 13:15 (15 minutes)

Spin-pumping is the phenomenon by which a pure spin current can be injected into a non-magnetic metal from an adjacent ferromagnet. Spin-pumping into Pt is of great interest since Pt exhibits large inverse spin Hall effect, important for many spintronic applications. However, it is not clear that the mechanism of spin-pumping into Pt is well described by standard spin pumping theory considering that Pt is strongly polarized at an interface with a ferromagnet. Evidence of this is observed in literature results, which disagree with their finding; the magnetic damping on Pt thickness is found to be exponential, linear or even discontinuous. To reconcile this we present a clean, experimental system, to test the measure of spin pumping contribution to magnetic damping, α . By studying α in ferromagnet/Pt and ferromagnet/Pt/ferromagnet structures we provide a very rigorous test for spin-pumping into Pt. The induced magnetic moment in Pt also mediates interlayer exchange coupling between the two ferromagnets which results in an in-phase and out-of-phase resonances modes. From the standard spin-pumping framework, this would imply that the two ferromagnets actively communicate with each other via pumped spin-current and would result in very different behaviour of α . Surprisingly, we find remarkable agreement between experimental results and standard spin pumping theory which involves interlayer exchange coupling. Our results suggest that the enhancement in damping is entirely due to spin-pumping without any contributions from spin memory loss or interface damping due to proximity polarized Pt.

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Session Classification: M2-9 Magnetism and heavy fermions II (DCMMP) | Magnétisme et fermions lourds II DPMCM)

Track Classification: Condensed Matter and Materials Physics / Physique de la matière condensée et matériaux (DCMMP-DPMCM)