

# Current-induced instabilities of composite free layer with antiferromagnetic interlayer coupling

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- 1 Model and methods
  - Magnetization dynamics
  - Linearized Landau-Lifshitz-Gilbert equation
  - Linear stability
- 2 Numerical simulations
- 3 Results
- 4 Conclusions

# Outline

## 1 Model and methods

Magnetization dynamics

Linearized Landau-Lifshitz-Gilbert equation

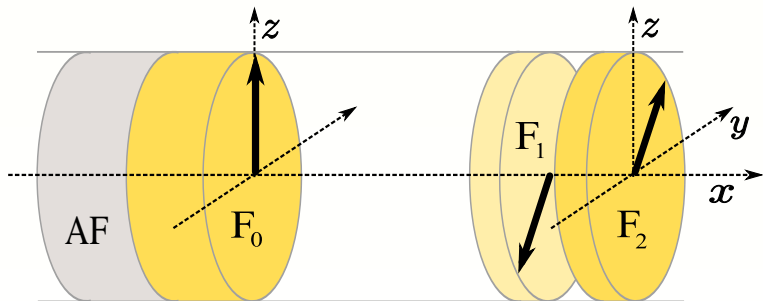
Linear stability

## 2 Numerical simulations

## 3 Results

## 4 Conclusions

# Spinvalve with composite free layer (CFL)



# Magnetization dynamics

## Landau-Lifshitz-Gilber equation

$$\frac{d\hat{\mathbf{S}}_i}{dt} + \alpha \hat{\mathbf{S}}_i \times \frac{d\hat{\mathbf{S}}_i}{dt} = \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_i, \quad \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_i = -|\gamma_g| \mu_0 \hat{\mathbf{S}}_i \times \mathbf{H}_{\text{eff } i} + \frac{|\gamma_g|}{M_s d_i} \boldsymbol{\tau}_i$$

## Effective magnetic field

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{eff } i} = -H_{\text{app}} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z - H_{\text{ani}} (\hat{\mathbf{S}}_i \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z + \mathbf{H}_{\text{dem } i}(\hat{\mathbf{S}}_i) + H_{\text{RKKY } i} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_j$$

Interlayer exchange coupling  $H_{\text{RKKY } i} = -J_{\text{RKKY}} / (\mu_0 M_s d_i)$

## Spin transfer torque

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{1\parallel} = I \hat{\mathbf{S}}_1 \times \left[ \hat{\mathbf{S}}_1 \times \left( a_1^{(0)} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_0 + a_1^{(2)} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_2 \right) \right]$$

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{1\perp} = I \hat{\mathbf{S}}_1 \times \left( b_1^{(0)} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_0 + b_1^{(2)} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_2 \right)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{2\parallel} = I a_2^{(1)} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_2 \times \left( \hat{\mathbf{S}}_2 \times \hat{\mathbf{S}}_1 \right)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{2\perp} = I b_2^{(1)} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_2 \times \hat{\mathbf{S}}_1$$

## Linearized Landau-Lifshitz-Gilbert equation

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- **Local coordinates:**  $\hat{e}_{\phi i} = (\hat{e}_z \times \hat{S}_i) / \sin \theta_i$  and  $\hat{e}_{\theta i} = \hat{S}_i \times \hat{e}_{\phi i}$ , where  $i = 1, 2$

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$$L_i = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha \\ -\alpha / \sin \theta_i & 1 / \sin \theta_i \end{pmatrix}, \text{ provided that } \alpha^2 \ll 1.$$



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- **Acting torques:**  $\tilde{\omega} = (\omega_{\theta 1}, \omega_{\phi 1}, \omega_{\theta 2}, \omega_{\phi 2})^\top$ , where  $\omega_{\theta i} = \Gamma_i \cdot \hat{e}_{\theta i}$  and  $\omega_{\phi i} = \Gamma_i \cdot \hat{e}_{\phi i}$

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- **Static points:**  $\tilde{S}_0$ , where  $\omega_{\theta i} = 0$  and  $\omega_{\phi i} = 0$  for  $i = 1, 2$
- **Linearized LLG** in the vicinity of  $\tilde{S}_0$ :  $\boxed{\frac{d}{dt} \delta \tilde{S} = \bar{D} \cdot \delta \tilde{S}}$  where  $\delta \tilde{S}(t) = \tilde{S}(t) - \tilde{S}_0$  and  $\bar{D} = \bar{M} \cdot \bar{J}$  is the **dynamic matrix** with  $J_{ij} = \partial \tilde{\omega}_i / \partial \tilde{S}_j$ .

## Dynamic matrix

for  $\theta_1 = \theta_2 = \pi/2$ :  $\bar{D} = \begin{pmatrix} D_1 & C_{12} \\ C_{21} & D_2 \end{pmatrix}$

- *single spin dynamic matrix*:  $D_i = \begin{pmatrix} \omega_i^\tau - \alpha \omega_i^{h1} & \alpha \omega_i^\tau - \omega_i^{h2} \\ -\alpha \omega_i^\tau - \omega_i^{h1} & \omega_i^\tau + \alpha \omega_i^{h2} \end{pmatrix}$
- *coupling between the free layer's*:  $C_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} -\omega_{ij}^\tau + \alpha \omega_{Ji} & -(\alpha \omega_{ij}^\tau + \omega_{Ji}) \cos \Delta\phi \\ \alpha \omega_{ij}^\tau + \omega_{Ji} & -(\omega_{ij}^\tau - \alpha \omega_{Ji}) \cos \Delta\phi \end{pmatrix}$

### Effective magnetic field:

$$\omega_i^{h1} = |\gamma_g| \mu_0 \left[ (H_{\text{ani}} - H_{iz}^d) \cos^2 \phi_i + H_{ix}^d - H_{iy}^d \sin^2 \phi_i - H_{\text{app}} \cos \phi_i \right] + \omega_{Ji} \cos \Delta\phi$$

$$\omega_i^{h2} = |\gamma_g| \mu_0 \left[ (H_{\text{ani}} + H_{iy}^d - H_{iz}^d) \cos 2\phi_i + H_{\text{app}} \cos \phi_i \right] - \omega_{Ji} \cos \Delta\phi$$

with  $\Delta\phi = \phi_1 - \phi_2$ , and  $\omega_{J1} = \omega_J/\xi$  and  $\omega_{J2} = \omega_J$ , where  $\omega_J = |\gamma_g| \mu_0 H_{\text{RKKY}}$

### Spin transfer torque:

$$\omega_1^\tau = -\omega_{10}^\tau \cos \phi_1 + \omega_{12}^\tau \cos \Delta\phi, \omega_2^\tau = \omega_{21}^\tau \cos \Delta\phi, \text{ and } \omega_{ij}^\tau = \frac{a_i^{(j)} I}{\mu_0 M_s d_i}$$

# Stability in the sense of Lyapunov

Consider  $\dot{x} = f(x)$  with  $x(0) = 0$  and equilibrium  $x_e$ . This equilibrium is

**Lyapunov stable** if  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta = \delta(\epsilon)$  such that  $\|x(0) - x_e\| < \delta$ ,  
then  $\|x(t) - x_e\| < \epsilon$  for every  $t \geq 0$ .

**Asymptotically stable** if  $\exists \delta$  such that if  $\|x(0) - x_e\| < \delta$ ,  
then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x(t) - x_e\| = 0$ .

# Lyapunov stability criterion

$$\frac{d}{dt} \delta \tilde{\mathbf{S}} = \bar{\mathbf{D}} \cdot \delta \tilde{\mathbf{S}} \implies \delta \tilde{\mathbf{S}}(t) = \exp(\bar{\mathbf{D}}t) \delta \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_0,$$

where  $\delta \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_0$  is initial deviation from the equilibrium  $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}_0$

## Lyapunov criterion

*Static state,  $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}_0$ , is stable if and only if all the eigenvalues of  $\bar{\mathbf{D}}$  have negative real parts. If one of them becomes positive, the static point is unstable.*

- **stable node:** all the eigenvalues have negative real parts
- **unstable node:** all the eigenvalues have positive real parts
- **saddle point:** some of the eigenvalues have positive and some negative real parts

## Example: Application to stability of single spin dynamics

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- The latter expression can be recast as  $\lambda^2 - \lambda \text{Tr} \bar{D} + \det \bar{D} = 0$  with solution  $\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{\text{Tr} \bar{D}}{2} \pm \sqrt{A}$ , where  $A = \left(\frac{\text{Tr} \bar{D}}{2}\right)^2 - \det \bar{D}$

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- **Note:** This simplification is not valid in higher dimensions  $n > 2$ .

# Routh-Hurwitz theorem

- Consider an  $n$ -th degree **polynomial**  $\wp(z) = a_0 z^n + a_1 z^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} z + a_n$

- Define a matrix  $H_\wp = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ a_3 & a_2 & a_1 & a_0 & \dots & 0 \\ a_5 & a_4 & a_3 & a_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a_n \end{pmatrix}$

## Routh-Hurwitz theorem

*The roots of polynomial  $\wp(z)$  have all negative real parts if and only if all the **leading principal minors** of  $H_\wp$  are **positive**.*

$$\Delta_1 = a_1 > 0, \quad \Delta_2 = \det \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_0 \\ a_3 & a_2 \end{pmatrix} > 0, \quad \Delta_3 = \det \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_0 & 0 \\ a_3 & a_2 & a_1 \\ a_5 & a_4 & a_3 \end{pmatrix} > 0, \quad \dots,$$

$$\Delta_n = a_n \Delta_{n-1} > 0$$

## Example: Application to stability of single spin dynamics

- We found that the eigenvalues of  $2 \times 2$  dynamic matrix obeys  $\lambda^2 - \lambda \operatorname{Tr} \bar{D} + \det \bar{D} = 0$
- The characteristic polynomial is  $\wp(\lambda) = a_0 \lambda^2 + a_1 \lambda + a_2$ , where  $a_0 = 1$ ,  $a_1 = -\operatorname{Tr} \bar{D}$ ,  $a_2 = \det \bar{D}$ .
- We define the matrix  $H_\wp = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_0 \\ 0 & a_2 \end{pmatrix}$
- The **first stability condition** reads  $\Delta_1 = a_1 = -\operatorname{Tr} \bar{D} > 0$ .  
This leads to  $\operatorname{Tr} \bar{D} < 0$ .
- The **second one**  $\Delta_2 = \det \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_0 \\ 0 & a_2 \end{pmatrix} > 0$ . It means that  $\operatorname{Tr} \bar{D} \cdot \det \bar{D} < 0$ , which leads to  $\det \bar{D} > 0$  since  $\operatorname{Tr} \bar{D} < 0$ .

# Application of the Routh-Hurwitz method to CFL

**Characteristic polynomial** of the dynamic matrix:  $P(\lambda) = c_4\lambda^4 + c_3\lambda^3 + c_2\lambda^2 + c_1\lambda + c_0$

We define **matrix**  $H_P = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_0 & 0 & 0 \\ c_3 & c_2 & c_1 & c_0 \\ 0 & c_4 & c_3 & c_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & c_4 \end{pmatrix}$

## Stability conditions

$$\Delta_1 = c_1 > 0, \quad \Delta_2 = \det \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_0 \\ c_3 & c_2 \end{pmatrix} > 0, \quad \Delta_3 = \det \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_0 & 0 \\ c_3 & c_2 & c_1 \\ 0 & c_4 & c_3 \end{pmatrix} > 0$$

**Note:** Generally, also condition  $\Delta_4 = c_4\Delta_3 > 0$  must be obeyed. However in our case  $c_4 = 1$  and, therefore,  $\Delta_4 \equiv \Delta_3$ .

# Outline

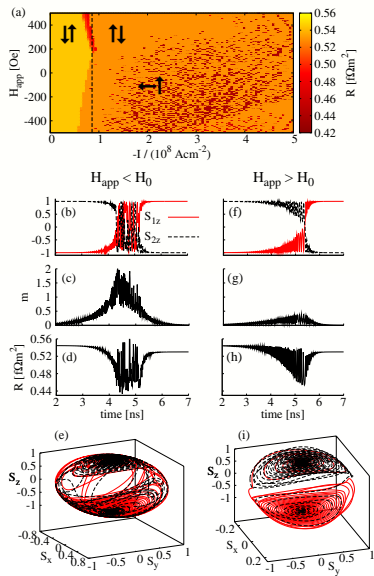
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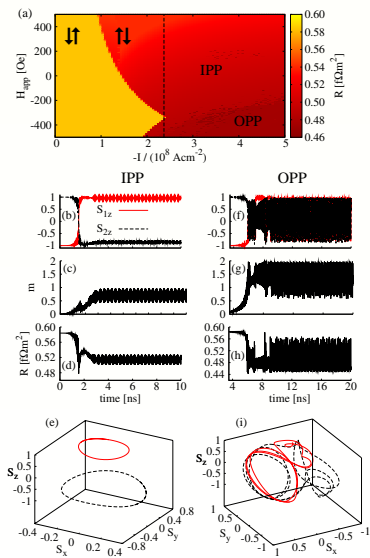


# Simulated spin valve

Cu–IrMn(10)/Py(8)/Cu(8)/Co( $\xi d$ )/Ru(1)/Co( $d$ )–Cu

- When  $\xi = 1$  we have synthetic antiferromagnet
- When  $\xi > 1$  we have synthetic ferrimagnet

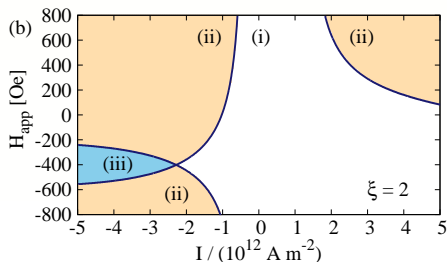
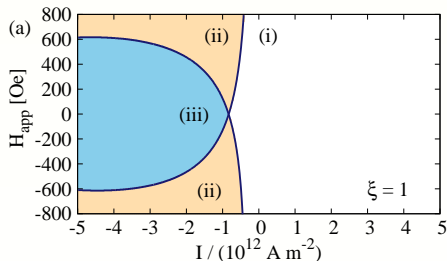




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## Lyapunov exponents for AP configuration



(a) Synthetic antiferromagnet  
( $\xi = 1$ )

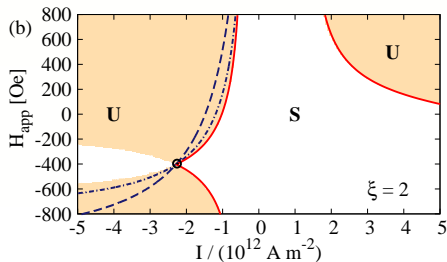
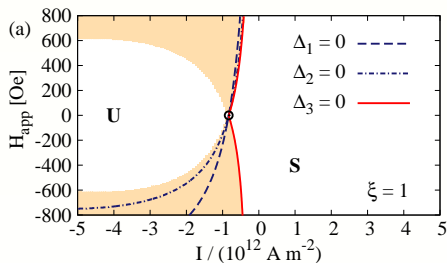
(b) Synthetic ferrimagnet  
( $\xi = 2$ )

(i) AP configuration is table

(ii) two lyapunov exponents are positive

(iii) all four lyapunov exponents are positive

## Hurwitz determinants for AP configuration



(a) Synthetic antiferromagnet ( $\xi = 1$ )

(b) Synthetic ferrimagnet ( $\xi = 2$ )

- in **S** area all the HDs are positive
- $\Delta_3$  is the first HD which becomes negative
- lines  $\Delta_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$  intersects in the same point

$$\Delta_1 = 0 \implies c_1 = 0$$

$$\Delta_2 = 0 \implies c_0 c_3 = 0$$

$$\Delta_3 = c_0 c_3^2$$

### We observe that

- The **critical current** can be obtained from the condition

$$\Delta_3 = 0$$

- The **maximum critical current** (cusp point) in the diagram can be obtained solving

$$\Delta_1 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta_2 = 0$$

$$\Delta_1 = 0 \implies c_1 = 0 \implies c_0 c_3 = 0.$$

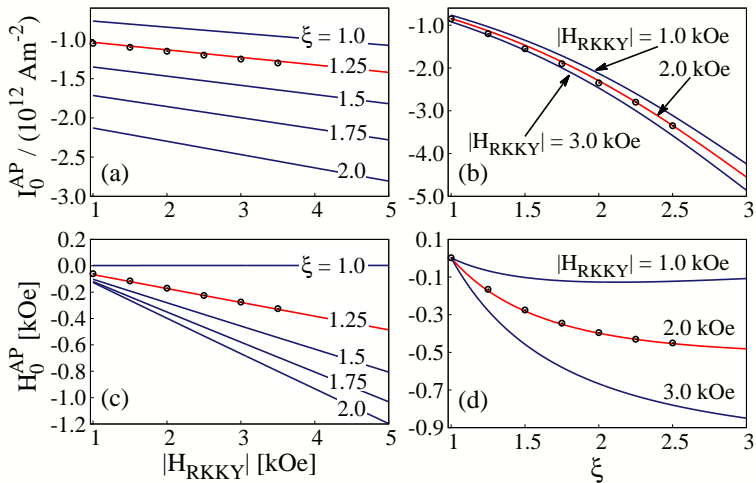
Therefore  $c_0 = 0$  or  $c_3 = 0$ .

From the second condition we obtain

### Critical current density in AP configuration

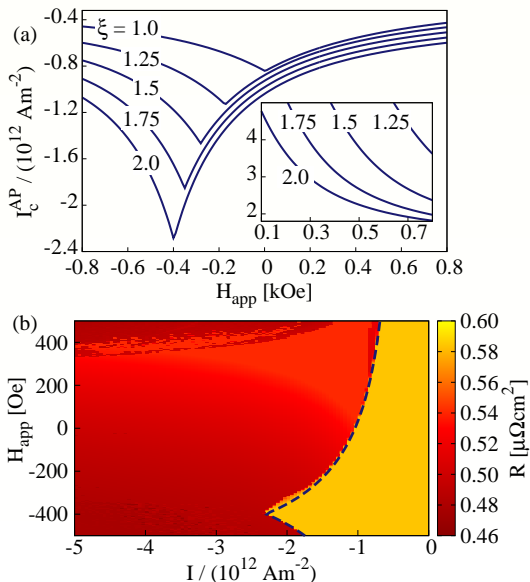
$$I_0^{\text{AP}} = -\alpha \frac{\mu_0 M_s \xi d}{a_1^{(0)} + a_1^{(2)} + \xi a_2^{(1)}} \left[ 2 H_{\text{ani}} + H_1^{\text{d}} + H_2^{\text{d}} - (1 + \xi^{-1}) H_{\text{RKKY}} \right]$$

Inserting  $I_0^{\text{AP}}$  into  $\Delta_1 = 0$  one can obtain the **field of intersection**,  $H_0^{\text{AP}}$ .

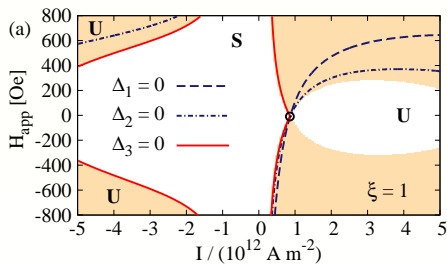




## Critical current density and comparison with numerical simulations

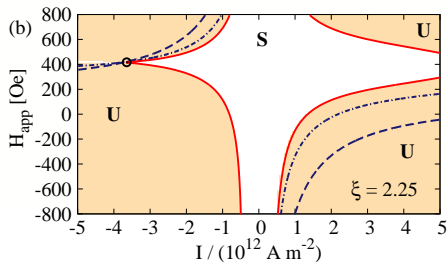


## Hurwitz determinants for P configuration



(a) Synthetic antiferromagnet  
( $\xi = 1$ )

(b) Synthetic ferrimagnet  
( $\xi = 2$ )



# Critical current density for the P configuration

## Critical current density

$$I_0^P = \alpha \frac{\mu_0 M_s \xi d}{a_1^{(0)} - a_1^{(2)} - \xi a_2^{(1)}} [2 H_{\text{ani}} + H_1^{\text{d}} + H_2^{\text{d}} - (1 + \xi^{-1}) H_{\text{RKKY}}]$$

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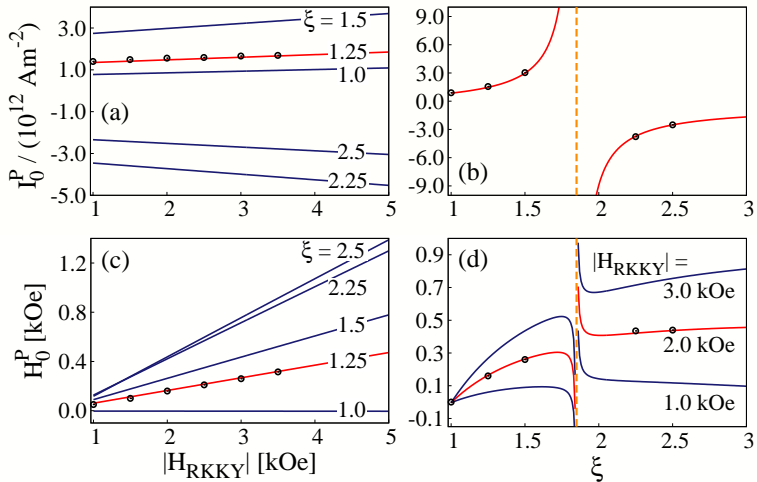
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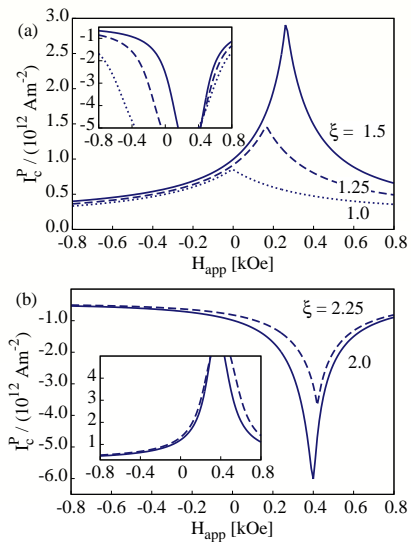
## Critical CFL asymmetry, $\xi_c$

$$a_1^{(0)}(\xi_c) - a_1^{(2)}(\xi_c) - \xi_c a_2^{(1)}(\xi_c) = 0$$

We obtain  $\xi_c \simeq 1.85$



## Critical current density



# Outline

- 1 Model and methods
  - Magnetization dynamics
  - Linearized Landau-Lifshitz-Gilbert equation
  - Linear stability
- 2 Numerical simulations
- 3 Results
- 4 Conclusions

# Conclusions

- We derived expressions for for the **cusp point**, of the critical current densities in P and AP configurations. These currents are connected as 
$$\frac{I_0^P}{I_0^{AP}} = - \frac{a_1^{(0)}[AP] + a_1^{(2)}[AP] + \xi a_2^{(1)}[AP]}{a_1^{(0)}[P] - a_1^{(2)}[P] - \xi a_2^{(1)}[P]}.$$
- We shown **importance of the internal STT in CFL**. Neglecting these STT components leads to  $\propto 18\%$  reduction of the critical current when  $\xi = 1$ , which is quite a significant amount.
- We found single condition for the critical current density,  $\Delta_3 = 0$ , which holds for all studied  $\xi$  and  $H_{app}$ .



# Thank you for your attention