Advanced Light Source: The Science and Technology of Soft X-rays



Overview of the ALS

Industrial R&D at the ALS: Memristors

Basic R&D at the ALS: Skyrmions

A look to the future: ALS Upgrade

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Overview of the Advanced Light Source

ALS mission is to support users in doing outstanding science in a safe environment

- Funded by DOE Office of Basic Energy Sciences, ~
 \$60M/year
 - 21 years of operation
 - 40 beamlines with unique capabilities, from IR to hard x-ray, niche area is soft x-rays
- Presently supports ~2400 users who produce >800 publications appually
- User base in chemical, physical, material, biological, environmental, and geological sciences

X-ray spectroscopy, scattering, microscopy, and diverse combinations of all three of these







ALS Users Are Productive Across a Broad Range of High Impact Science and Critical Technologies







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Soft X-rays Enable Chemical, Electronic and Magnetic Imaging

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Chemically Sensitive Soft X-ray Scattering







Photon Energy (ev)



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Science



C. Wang et al., Nano Letters 2011





Materials Discovery: Magnetism in Heusler Alloys



- + Mn moment as function of composition (~200 XMCD spectra)
- + Maximum moment for Mn_{48.5}V_{22.5}Al₂₉

Jan Schmalhorst, Daniel Ebke Univ. Bielefeld, Germany

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^{0.00} + 1.00

0.75

0.25



0.0

0.2

0.4

0.6

0.8

1.0

My Job: ALS Division Deputy for Science

(I sit around all day long and talk to smart people . . .)



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ALS and ALS-U Research Trends

Enabling directed chemistry

Designed nanostructure to control kinetics and optimize efficiency of diverse chemical systems

- Optimize electrodes of nano- and mesoscale structures for efficient energy conversion and storage
- Connect nanostructures in mesoscale functional networks for efficient and selective catalysis, electrocatalysis, and photocatalysis



Science

Materials to enabling human scale computing

New materials for controlling energy flow, and neural, quantum, and spintronic processing

- Map and optimize nanoscale spin currents and spin textures in operating spintronic structures
- Control emergent, strongly coupled excitations for low power applications
- Develop candidate materials and structures for neural processing



Materials an chemistry to address global challenges

Material structures that rival the function of bio/enviro-systems

- Design nanoporous membranes with extreme chemical selectivity of a biological membrane
- Optimize porous materials for carbon capture and sequestration, environmental remediation, water purification



Schmitt-Rohr, Nature Mat. 7, 75 (2008)



Materials for Computing at the Human Scale

Transformative material and device concepts for ultralow power future generation processing



Spin currents and devices using topological insulators







A Model in Power Efficient Computing



- ~20 W
- ~40 pFLOPS/sec
- ~100 Hz
- ~10¹¹ neurons
- ~10¹⁴ synapses
- Massively parallel
- Usually off neurons spike
- 3D architecture with distributed memory

Many biological systems switch with energy near the Landauer limit kT $ln(2) \sim 10^{-20} J$

- - even though they are immersed in a thermal bath which will drive fluctuations at the same energy scale
- - ingredients of the model are low frequency, low power, massive parallelism

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CMOS gates require $\sim 10^5$ kT to switch at present





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Low-hanging Fruit: Memristor Memory

(Stan Williams, et. al, HP Labs)



Memristor

- - Resistance depends on current history
- - Resistance ~ strength of a synapse







2D map of oxidation states (ALS STXM)

Memristor Crossbar Array

- Nonvolatile memory
- High density (30 nm -> 10 nm)
- Low switching energy (1 pJ)
- Fast (< 100 ps)
- Scalable in 3D (Tb cache?)



Chemical heterogeneity of the junction determines nonlinear behavior, switching energy, cycle life, etc.







Chemical X-ray Microscopy to the Nanoscale



Mapping battery oxidation states





Sintered Zirconia in 3D

Memristor Networks: Neural-morphological processing

[Pickett, et. al., Nature Materials 12, 114-117 (2013)]



Volatile memristor: Emerging processing element



Chemical heterogeneity of the junction determines nonlinear behavior, switching energy, cycle life, etc.



Memristive Neuristor:

- Two volatile memristors
- Two parallel capacitors
- All-or-nothing spiking









Adding Color to Optimize Memristor Junctions



Cross-section



Full 3D mapping of chemical/structural/electronic properties with few nm resolution 3D mapping of functioning device – junction, sidewalls, cycling lifetimes, etc,.











Changing Gears: Magnetic Skyrmions



Tony Skyrme, 1962: *Topological Model of Baryons*



Skyrmions

Bogdanov, J. Mag. Magn. Materials 195, 182 (1999)



Skyrmion lattice Seki et. al. Science 336, 198 (2012). What magnetic interactions conspire to cause magnetic skyrmions?

Micromagnetic Ginsberg-Landau free energy density

$$w = \left[A\left(\nabla \vec{M}\right)^{2} - \vec{M} \cdot \vec{H} - K\left(\vec{M} \cdot \hat{n}\right)^{2} - \frac{1}{2}\vec{M} \cdot \vec{H}_{m} + w_{D}\right]$$

Symmetric exchange: ferro- or ferri-magnetic

Zeeman energy: non-zero field

Perpendicular magnetic anisotropy (in films)

Demagnetizing (self) energy

Asymmetric exchange: Dzyaloshinskii–Moriya interaction







Dzyaloshinskii–Moriya Interaction



Symmetric (super)exchange (e.g., Heisenberg): $H_{H} = J \vec{S}_{A} \times \vec{S}_{B}$

Asymmetric (super)exchange (e.g., DM via spin-orbit):

$$H_{DM} = \vec{D}_{DM} \times \vec{S}_A \quad \vec{S}_B \qquad \vec{D}_{DM} \mid \vec{x} \quad \vec{r}_{AB}$$

Exchange between neighboring spins





Science

Chiral Skyrmions in Cu₂OSeO₃



ERKELEY LAB

Split Skyrmion Phases in Cu₂OSeO₃



Skyrmion satellites split suggesting two phases

Different phases resonate at different energies and have different chemical character.



and the splitting varies ~continuously with T and H

Rotational splitting is more robust than coupling to the lattice

We must be missing a term in the Hamiltonian. Ferrimagnetic?







Skyrmionic Information Processing



Scope of ALS-U



ALS-U will provide highest-power coherent soft x-rays from a synchrotron







Multi-bend achromats pave way to the diffraction limit

Lattice design of ALS would evolve from a triple-bend achromats (TBA) to a multibend (9BA) achromat for ALS-II. Result is a large reduction in emittance



Some Parting Thoughts

DOE x-ray facilities have a large impact on diverse areas of science and technology, serving over 10,000 users/year

ALS fills an important soft x-ray niche that offers useful electronic, chemical, and magnetic contrast

Increasing source brightness combine spectroscopic contrast with imaging and time resolution and broadens the application areas

A planned upgrade of the ALS will provide intense, diffraction-limited soft x-ray beams that will continue these trends









