

Abstract Submitted
for the MAR11 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Mu metal exchange bias¹ PRIYANGA JAYATHILAKA, SCOTT CAMPBELL, CASEY MILLER — The exchange bias of the soft ferromagnet mu-metal, Ni₇₇Fe₁₄Cu₅Mo₄, with the metallic antiferromagnet Fe₅₀Mn₅₀ has been studied. Two series of multilayer heterostructures were grown with (111) texture induced by different buffer layer materials: Cu(300 Å)/Ni₇₇Fe₁₄Cu₅Mo₄(200 or 400 Å)/Fe₅₀Mn₅₀ (100 Å)/Cu(300 Å) and Ta(50 Å)/Ni₇₇Fe₁₄Cu₅Mo₄(60–400 Å)/Fe₅₀Mn₅₀(150 Å); control samples were grown without Fe₅₀Mn₅₀. The samples have a clear unidirectional anisotropy induced by depositing in a magnetic field, the exchange bias magnitude is inversely proportional to the mu-metal thickness, and the interfacial coupling energy of 0.045 erg/cm² agrees with previous results for FeMn antiferromagnets. While the Cu-buffered samples reveal a significant increase in coercivity and saturation field when exchange biased, the Ta-buffered samples retain the soft magnetic properties of the mu-metal simultaneously with the exchange bias. The ability to preserve soft ferromagnetic behavior in an exchange biased heterostructure may be useful for device and sensing applications.

¹Supported by NSF ECCS

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Date submitted: 19 Nov 2010

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