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Spintronic anisotropy: proximity-induced superparamagnetism¹ MACIEJ MISIORNY, MICHAEL HELL, MAARTEN WEGEWIJS, Forschungszentrum Juelich — Superparamagnetism of molecular magnets, i.e. the preferential alignment of their spins along an easy axis, is a useful effect for nanoscale applications as it prevents undesired spin reversals. In these systems such a stabilization of axial spin states is ensured by the magnetic anisotropy barrier stemming from intrinsic spin-orbit coupling. Here we demonstrate that any spin-isotropic high-spin quantum dot coupled to ferromagnets can in fact acquire such superparamagnetic properties in a spintronic way [1], even though spin-orbit interaction is negligible. We predict a proximity-induced spin-anisotropy barrier, which has hallmarks of a spintronic exchange-field of quadrupolar nature: it is highly localized, electrically controllable, increases with tunnel coupling and spin-polarization. Such a field is a generalization of the dipolar exchange field that relates to a current-induced spintorque, effect well established in spintronics [1-3].

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