

# CONTENTS

Abstract (In English).....	I
Abstract (In Chinese).....	IV
List of Contents.....	VII
List of Figures.....	X
List of Tables.....	XVIII

## **Chapter 1 Introduction .....1**

1.1 Motivation.....	2
1.2 Outline of the Dissertation.....	5

## **Chapter 2 Background.....6**

2.1. Half-metal $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ .....	7
2.1.a Half Metal.....	7
2.1.b Properties of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ .....	8
2.1.c Fabrication and Identification of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ .....	9
2.1.d $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ Based Magnetic Tunnel Junctions.....	12
2.2. Dilute Magnetic Semiconductor – $\text{ZnCoO}$ .....	22
2.2.a Properties of $\text{ZnO}$ .....	22
2.2.b Theory of $\text{ZnO}$ -based Dilute Magnetic Semiconductors.....	23
2.2.c Experimental Results of $\text{ZnCoO}$ -based Dilute Magnetic Semiconductors.....	28
2.3. Tunnel Magnetoresistance (TMR).....	31
2.3.a Experiments on Spin-Dependent Tunneling.....	33
2.3.b Tunnel Magnetoresistance Models.....	36

2.3.c	MgO-based Magnetic Tunnel Junctions.....	38
2.4.	Exchange Bias Coupling.....	42
2.1.a	Ideal Interface Model.....	45
2.1.b	Random Field Model.....	47
2.1.c	AFM Domain Wall Model.....	49
2.1.d	Interfacial Spin Model.....	51
2.1.e	Exchange Bias Between Dilute Magnetic Semiconductors and Antiferromagnetic Layer.....	55
<b>Chapter 3 Analysis Techniques and Film Deposition .....</b>		<b>58</b>
3.1	Analysis Techniques.....	58
3.1.a	Magnetic Measurements.....	58
3.1.b	Transport Measurements.....	65
3.1.c	Material and Structural Characterizations.....	68
3.2	Film Deposition .....	69
3.2.a	Ion Beam Deposition System.....	69
<b>Chapter 4 Room-temperature Fabrication of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> .....</b>		<b>71</b>
4.1	Introduction.....	71
4.2	Experimental Procedures.....	74
4.3	Results and Discussions .....	76
4.3.a	Room-Temperature Fabrication of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> .....	76
4.3.b	Room-Temperature Fabrication of Epitaxial Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (111) Films with Conductive Underlayer.....	82
4.4	Summary.....	91

<b>Chapter 5 Investigation of Epitaxial (0002) ZnCoO Films with Antiferromagnetic Layer NiO.....</b>	<b>92</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	92
5.2 Experimental Procedures.....	95
5.3 Results and Discussions.....	96
5.3.a Fabrication of Epitaxial (0002) ZnCoO Films with Cu Underlayer.....	96
5.3.b Co-existence of Exchange-bias Fields and Vertical Magnetization Shifts in ZnCoO/NiO system .....	104
5.4 Conclusion .....	111
 <b>Chapter 6 Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and ZnCoO Based Magnetic Tunnel Junctions...</b>	<b>113</b>
6.1 Introduction.....	113
6.2 Experimental Procedures.....	115
6.3 Results and Discussions.....	116
6.3.a Fabrication of ZnCoO and Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> .....	116
6.3.b Identification of ZnCoO and Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> .....	118
6.3.c Improvement of Underlayer.....	124
6.3.d Full Stack.....	144
<b>Chapter 7 Conclusions .....</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Reference.....</b>	<b>159</b>

## List of Figures

<b>Fig 2.1.</b> The resistivity as a function of temperature for 150 nm and 660 nm thick $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ films in the range of 50~350K.....	10
<b>Fig 2.2.</b> Typical XPS measurement of Fe 2p core spectra of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ thin films.....	11
<b>Fig 2.3.</b> Resistivity of the $\text{MgO}/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ films (50,100 nm), and of $\text{MgO}/\text{Ru}/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ (100nm)/Ru .....	12
<b>Fig 2.4.</b> Magnetoresistance as a function of the in-plane applied magnetic field at different temperature for the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{STO}/\text{MgO}$ heterostructure .....	14
<b>Fig 2.5.</b> Magnetoresistance as a function of the in-plane applied magnetic field at 80 K for the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{STO}/\text{MgO}$ heterostructure and for the individual layers of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ and LSMO layers.....	15
<b>Fig 2.6.</b> Schematic showing two conditions of the magnetization and conduction electron spin orientations in the heterostructure.....	16
<b>Fig 2.7.</b> Hysteresis loops at different temperature for $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{MgO}/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ MTJ.....	18
<b>Fig 2.8.</b> Magnetotransport data for $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{MgO}/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ MTJ at different temperature.....	18
<b>Fig 2.9.</b> TMR of $\text{Co}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ MTJ at 4.2K.....	20
<b>Fig 2.10.</b> Bias dependent MR and conductance of $\text{Co}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ .....	20
<b>Fig 2.11.</b> Calculation results of the Curie temperature for various semiconductor.....	24
<b>Fig 2.12.</b> Stability of the ferromagnetic state in (a)Mn-, (b)Fe-, (c)Co-,	

and (d)Ni-doped ZnO as a function of the carrier concentration....	25
<b>Fig 2.13.</b> Stability of the ferromagnetic state in V-, Cr-, Mn-, Fe-, Co-, and Ni-doped ZnO for different dopant concentrations.....	26
<b>Fig 2.14.</b> Representation of magnetic polarons. Cation sites are represented by small circles.....	26
<b>Fig 2.15.</b> The magnetic moment if thin film produced from (Zn <sub>0.95</sub> M <sub>0.05</sub> )O targets by pulse-laser deposition, for M = Sc to Cu, measured at room temperature.....	27
<b>Fig 2.16.</b> XMCD spectra of ZnCoO under different magnetic field at 20K.....	29
<b>Fig 2.17.</b> AHE signal of ZnCoO thin film.....	30
<b>Fig 2.18.</b> The first observation of large room temperature MR ratio in a CoFe/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /Co TMR junction. The arrows indicate the relative magnetization orientation in CoFe and Co layers.....	32
<b>Fig 2.19.</b> Tunnelling in a ferromagnet/insulator/superconductor junction. The DOS of the superconductor split by a value of $2\mu_B H$ into the up- and down-spin contributions. (b) Conductance as a function of voltage for each spin orientation and the total conductance.....	34
<b>Fig 2.20.</b> Magnetoresistance curves for Fe(001) /MgO(001)/Fe(001) MTJ at T = 293 and 20 K.....	39
<b>Fig 2.21.</b> Major and minor loops for MgO barrier with various electrode combinations.....	40
<b>Fig 2.22.</b> (a) The hysteresis loop, and (b) the torque curves for the Co-CoO sample cooled in the field and measured at 77K.....	43
<b>Fig 2.23.</b> Schematic diagrams of spin configurations of the ideal FM/AFM interface.....	47

<b>Fig 2.24.</b> Schematic diagrams of possible spin configurations in the random field model.....	48
<b>Fig 2.25.</b> Schematic diagram of spin configurations in the AFM domain wall model.....	50
<b>Fig 2.26.</b> FC and ZFC moment densities vs temperature of the [CoO (10.3 nm) / MgO (3 nm)] <sub>15</sub> multilayer.....	52
<b>Fig 2.27.</b> Temperature dependence of $H_E$ for permalloy (30 nm) / CoO bilayers with CoO thickness of 10 to 300 nm.....	53
<b>Fig 2.28.</b> Element specific XMCD loops measured on Co and Mn in Co(2 nm) / IrMn (50 nm).....	54
<b>Fig 2.29.</b> Hysteresis loops of a GaMnAs (t=10nm) / MnO (t~4nm) bilayer measured at T=10K.....	56
<b>Fig. 3.1.</b> Schematic illustration of the MOKE setup.....	60
<b>Fig. 3.2.</b> Schematic illustration of the vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM).....	61
<b>Fig. 3.3.</b> Electronic transitions in conventional L-edge x-ray absorption.....	64
<b>Fig. 3.4.</b> Schematic illustration of the magnetoresistance measurement system.....	65
<b>Fig. 3.5.</b> CIP geometry for GMR measurement.....	67
<b>Fig. 3.6.</b> CPP geometry for TMR measurement.....	68
<b>Fig. 3.7.</b> Ion beam deposition system.....	69
<b>Fig. 3.8.</b> . Energy distribution of sputtered atoms at different working pressure.....	70
<b>Fig 4.1.</b> XRD patterns of the 1000Å Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> films on Si substrates with various oxygen flow rates.....	76
<b>Fig 4.2.</b> EELS spectrum (solid circles) and fitting results (open circle)	

of the 1000Å $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ film deposited on Si substrates.....	78
<b>Fig 4.3.</b> X-ray diffraction $\phi$ -scans of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ (311) peaks (upper curve), and of MgO substrate (311) peaks (lower curve).....	79
<b>Fig 4.4.</b> Film thickness vs the saturation magnetization ( $M_s$ ) for the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ films deposited on Si and MgO substrates.....	81
<b>Fig 4.5.</b> Resistance as a function of temperature for $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ films grown on MgO substrates.....	81
<b>Fig 4.6.</b> X-ray $\theta$ - $2\theta$ scan of Si (001)/ Cu 50 nm / $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ 70 nm.....	84
<b>Fig 4.7.</b> X-ray $\phi$ scans of (a) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ {311} and (b) Cu {111}.....	84
<b>Fig 4.8.</b> SAD patterns of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ films.....	86
<b>Fig 4.9.</b> XPS spectrum of 70 nm thick $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ film on Cu underlayer taken at $h\nu = 1486.6$ eV.....	88
<b>Fig 4.10.</b> Temperature dependence of magnetization of 70 nm $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ films on epitaxial Cu underlayers, measured at a constant field of 100 Oe.....	89
<b>Fig 5.1.</b> XRD $\theta$ - $2\theta$ patterns of (a) Si// $\text{SiO}_2$ / $\text{ZnCo}_{0.07}\text{O}$ 40 nm and (b) Si//Cu 40 nm/ $\text{ZnCo}_{0.07}\text{O}$ 40 nm. The inset of Fig. 1 (b) showed the X-ray in-plane $\phi$ -scans.....	98
<b>Fig 5.2.</b> Dark-field TEM images of epitaxial $\text{ZnCo}_{0.07}\text{O}$ taken from (a) (1100) and (b) (1100) diffraction patterns. SAD patterns taken from (c) A grain (zone axis [1120]) and (d) B grain (zone axis [1100]). The direction of electron beam is along Cu [110]. (e) The schematic diagram of crystalline orientations.....	99
<b>Fig 5.3.</b> XPS spectrum of the $\text{ZnCo}_{0.07}\text{O}$ .....	100
<b>Fig 5.4.</b> Hysteresis loops, measured at 5 K, of (0002) textured $\text{ZnCo}_{0.07}\text{O}$ films deposited at different oxygen flow rate.....	102

<b>Fig 5.5.</b> Magneto-resistance of (0002) textured $\text{ZnCo}_{0.07}\text{O}$ films, measured at 5 K, deposited at different oxygen flow rate.....	102
<b>Fig 5.6.</b> Hysteresis loop of epitaxial (0002) $\text{ZnCo}_{0.07}\text{O}$ films measured at 300 K.....	103
<b>Fig 5.7.</b> XRD pattern of the Si/Cu/ZnCoO40 nm/ NiO50 nm film. The inset shows the $\phi$ scans of Cu (200), ZnCoO ( $10\bar{1}1$ ) and NiO (220).....	105
<b>Fig 5.8.</b> Hysteresis loops measured at 5 K of FC samples of Si/Cu/ZnCoO/NiO with cooling fields of +20000 and -20000 Oe. Inset shows the magnified loops to demonstrate the direction of loop-shifts.....	105
<b>Fig 5.9.</b> (a) Dependence of exchange bias fields $H_{\text{ex}}$ and vertical magnetization shifts on cooling fields. (b) Variation of the exchange bias fields with vertical magnetization shifts for the cooling fields larger than 500 Oe.....	110
<b>Fig 5.10.</b> (a)Temperature dependence of exchange bias fields $H_{\text{ex}}$ and vertical magnetization shifts. (b)Variation of the exchange bias fields with vertical magnetization shifts for temperatures below 50 K.....	111
<b>Fig 6.1.</b> XRD scans of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50 nm.....	117
<b>Fig 6.2.</b> XRD scans of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50 nm/ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ 50nm.....	117
<b>Fig 6.3.</b> A schematic of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ lattice.....	120
<b>Fig 6.4.</b> The Fe 2p XAS (x-ray absorption spectrum) result for $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ layer with parallel and antiparallel alignments of the light helicity. vector to the projected component of sample magnetization.....	120
<b>Fig 6.5.</b> The XMCD signal of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ 50nm.....	121



<b>Fig 6.6.</b> The XMCD signal of pure and over oxidation of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ layer.....	121
<b>Fig 6.7.</b> The Co $L_2$ XAS data for ZnCoO layer.....	122
<b>Fig 6.8.</b> Hysteresis loop of $\text{ZnCo}_{0.07}\text{O}$ films measured at 300 K.....	123
<b>Fig 6.9.</b> The XRD pattern of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50nm/ MgO 50nm.....	125
<b>Fig 6.10.</b> The XRD pattern of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50nm/ NiO 50nm.....	125
<b>Fig 6.11.</b> The XRD patterns of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50nm/ TiN 30nm.....	127
<b>Fig 6.12.</b> The XRD pattern of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50nm/ Ag 50nm/ NiO 50nm.....	128
<b>Fig 6.13.</b> The XRD pattern of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50nm/ Cr 50nm.....	128
<b>Fig 6.14.</b> The XRD pattern of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50nm/ Cr 50nm/ NiO 50nm.....	129
<b>Fig 6.15.</b> The XRD pattern of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50nm/ Cr 50nm/ NiO 50nm/ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ 50nm.....	130
<b>Fig 6.16.</b> The XRD pattern of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50nm/ Cr 50nm/ NiO 50nm/ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ 50nm.....	130
<b>Fig 6.17.</b> The XRD patterns of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50nm/ MgO 50nm/ Fe 30nm/ Ta 5nm.....	132
<b>Fig 6.18.</b> The XRD pattern of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ X nm/ MgO 50nm/ Fe 30nm/ Ta 5nm (X=25, 50, 75 nm).....	132
<b>Fig 6.19.</b> The XRD pattern of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ 50 nm/ MgO X nm/ Fe 30nm/ Ta 5nm (X=25, 50 nm).....	133
<b>Fig 6.20.</b> The XRD patterns of $\text{SiO}_2//\text{ZnO}$ X nm/ MgO Y nm/ Fe 30nm/ Ta 5nm (X=15 Y=10, X=5 Y=5, X=2.5 Y=2.5).....	134
<b>Fig 6.21.</b> The XRD patterns of $\text{SiO}_2//$ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe 30nm/ Ta 5nm.....	134
<b>Fig 6.22.</b> The XRD patterns of $\text{SiO}_2//$ ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe 10nm/ MgO 1nm / Fe 15nm / IrMn 20nm/ Ta 5nm.....	136

<b>Fig 6.23.</b> The hysteresis loop of SiO <sub>2</sub> // ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe 10nm/ MgO 1nm / Fe 15nm / IrMn 20nm/ Ta 5nm.....	136
<b>Fig 6.24.</b> The XRD patterns of SiO <sub>2</sub> // ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 0.8nm / Fe 10nm / Ta 5nm.....	138
<b>Fig 6.25.</b> The TEM image of SiO <sub>2</sub> // ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 0.8nm / Fe 10nm / Ta 5nm.....	139
<b>Fig 6.26.</b> The HR-TEM image of SiO <sub>2</sub> // ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 0.8nm / Fe 10nm / Ta 5nm.....	139
<b>Fig 6.27.</b> The hysteresis loop of SiO <sub>2</sub> // ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 1nm / Fe 5nm / Ta 5nm.....	140
<b>Fig 6.28.</b> The minor loop of SiO <sub>2</sub> // ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 1nm / Fe 5nm / Ta 5nm.....	140
<b>Fig 6.29.</b> The XRD patterns of SiO <sub>2</sub> // ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 2.5 nm / ZnCoO 50nm / Ta 5nm.....	142
<b>Fig 6.30.</b> The TEM image of SiO <sub>2</sub> // ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 2.5 nm / ZnCoO 50nm / Ta 5nm.....	143
<b>Fig 6.31.</b> The HR-TEM image of SiO <sub>2</sub> // ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 2.5 nm / ZnCoO 50nm / Ta 5nm.....	144
<b>Fig 6.32.</b> The XRD pattern of SiO <sub>2</sub> // Ta 20 nm/ ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5 nm/ Fe 30nm/ Ta 5nm.....	145
<b>Fig 6.33.</b> The scheme of the major steps of the lift-off process.....	147
<b>Fig 6.34.</b> The top view image of the patterned MTJ.....	148
<b>Fig 6.35.</b> The I-V curves for the MTJ patterned by lift-off.....	149
<b>Fig 6.36.</b> The R-H loop of SiO <sub>2</sub> // Ta 20nm/ ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 1.2nm/ Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 3nm/ ZnCoO 50nm/ Ta 10nm was measured at 300K.....	150

- Fig 6.37.** The R-H loop of SiO<sub>2</sub>// Ta 20nm/ ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 1.2nm/ Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 3nm/ ZnCoO 50nm/ Ta 10nm was measured at 150K.....150
- Fig 6.38.** The R-H loop of SiO<sub>2</sub>// Ta 20nm/ ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 1.2nm/ Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 3nm/ ZnCoO 50nm/ Ta 10nm was measured at 150K.....151
- Fig 6.39.** The out-of-plane R-H loop of SiO<sub>2</sub>// Ta 20nm/ ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 1.2nm/ Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 3nm/ ZnCoO 50nm/ Ta 10nm was measured at 150K.....152
- Fig 6.40.** The out-of-plane R-H loop of SiO<sub>2</sub>// Ta 20nm/ ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 1.2nm/ Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 50nm/ MgO 3nm/ ZnCoO 50nm/ Ta 10nm was measured at 150K.....152
- Fig 6.41.** The R-H loop of SiO<sub>2</sub>// Ta 20nm/ ZnO 2.5nm/ MgO 2.5nm/ Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 50nm was measured at 150K.....154

## List of Tables

<b>TABLE 2.I.</b>	Physical properties of ZnO.....	22
<b>TABLE 2.II.</b>	Spin polarization obtained in experiments on FM/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /Al tunnel junctions.....	35

