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Author(s)	Leiva, L.; Granville, S.; Zhang, Y.; Dushenko, S.; Shigematsu, E.; Shinjo, T.; Ohshima, R.; Ando, Y.; Shiraishi, M.
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Giant spin Hall angle in the Heusler alloy Weyl ferromagnet Co₂MnGaL. Leiva¹, S. Granville,^{2,3} Y. Zhang^{2,3}, S. Dushenko^{1,4,5}, E. Shigematsu,¹ T. Shinjo,¹ R. Ohshima,¹ Y. Ando,¹ and M. Shiraishi¹¹*Department of Electronic Science and Engineering, Kyoto University, Kyoto 615-8510, Japan*²*Robinson Research Institute, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington 6140, New Zealand*³*The MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, Wellington 6011, New Zealand*⁴*Institute for Research in Electronics and Applied Physics, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742, USA*⁵*Physical Measurements Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, USA*

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Weyl semimetals are playing a major role in condensed-matter physics due to exotic topological properties, and their coexistence with ferromagnetism may lead to enhanced spin-related phenomena. Here, the inverse spin Hall effect (ISHE) in the ferromagnetic Weyl semimetal Heusler alloy Co₂MnGa was investigated at room temperature by means of electrical spin injection in lateral spin valve structures. Spin transport properties such as spin polarization and spin diffusion length in this material were precisely extracted in order to estimate the spin Hall angle θ_{SH} , which was found to be -0.19 ± 0.04 and is among the highest reported for a ferromagnet. Although this value is on the same order of magnitude of known heavy metals, the significantly higher resistivity of Co₂MnGa implies an improvement on the magnitude of detection voltages, while its ferromagnetic nature allows controlling the intensity of SHE through the magnetization direction. It was also shown that Onsager's reciprocity does not hold for this system, which is in part attributable to a different spin-dependent Hall conductivity for spin-up and spin-down carriers.

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Weyl semimetals have been attracting significant attention since the discovery of a nonmagnetic Weyl material, TaAs [1], because of its band-crossing points that give rise to plenty of unique physical properties, such as the Fermi arc surface states, the chiral anomaly coming from the Nielsen-Ninomiya theorem [2] and monopole-like Berry curvature [3]. Furthermore, a prominent class of Weyl semimetals is Weyl magnetic materials such as the ferromagnetic Heusler alloy Co₂MnGa [4,5] and antiferromagnetic Mn₃Sn [6]. These two materials are playing pivotal roles in condensed-matter physics because of the recent discoveries of the gigantic anomalous Hall effect (AHE) [7,8], the magnetic spin Hall effect (a novel family of Hall effects) [9], and spin caloritronics phenomena such as the large anomalous Nernst effect [4,10]. Additionally, magnetic Heusler alloys have emerged as promising materials in the field of spintronics due to their either half-metallic or semimetallic nature, which would lead to a high spin polarization [11,12], as has been reported in Co-based full Heusler compounds [13,14]. Combining the remarkable spin transport properties of Heusler alloys with the unique band structure of Weyl semimetals may lead to new exotic phenomena for topologically driven spintronic applications.

In the quest for these novel phenomena, an old acquaintance has emerged, the spin Hall effect (SHE). Together with its reciprocal version, the inverse spin Hall effect (ISHE), these two are utilized as essential methods for the generation and detection of pure spin currents in spintronics devices since they enable the conversion of a charge current into a transversal spin current and vice versa [15]. These spin-orbit

coupling phenomena have been widely observed in many nonmagnetic heavy metals (HMs) [16–20], but it is thought that replacing a HM with a ferromagnet (FM) offers potential advantages such as precise control of the spin current through the magnetization direction, which could be applied to spin-transfer torque devices [21]. However, measurements on only a few ferromagnetic materials have been reported to date, most of them exhibiting spin Hall angles of just a few percentage points [22–28]. To overcome this limitation, materials exhibiting a large AHE are required since it is understood that both the AHE and the SHE are driven by the same intrinsic and extrinsic scattering mechanisms, related to the spin-orbit interaction [29,30]. The large Berry curvature distribution around the Fermi level in Co₂MnGa, thought to be responsible for its large AHE [31], and *ab initio* calculations that predict a strong intrinsic spin Hall effect in other Weyl semimetals [32] indicate Co₂MnGa is a strong candidate to observe large spin Hall voltages. In addition, significant spin polarization [33,34], strong resistance to oxidation [7], and a higher resistivity than conventional metals [35] suggest that Co₂MnGa is a suitable platform to study the spin transport by means of electrical spin injection. In this work, the ISHE of Co₂MnGa is investigated, wherein a giant spin Hall angle of -0.19 ± 0.04 is found, which is among the highest reported for a FM so far.

The samples consisted of lateral spin valve (LSV) structures that were fabricated starting from 30-nm-thick films of Co₂MnGa epitaxially grown on a (001)-oriented MgO single-crystal substrate. An x-ray diffraction (XRD) θ - 2θ

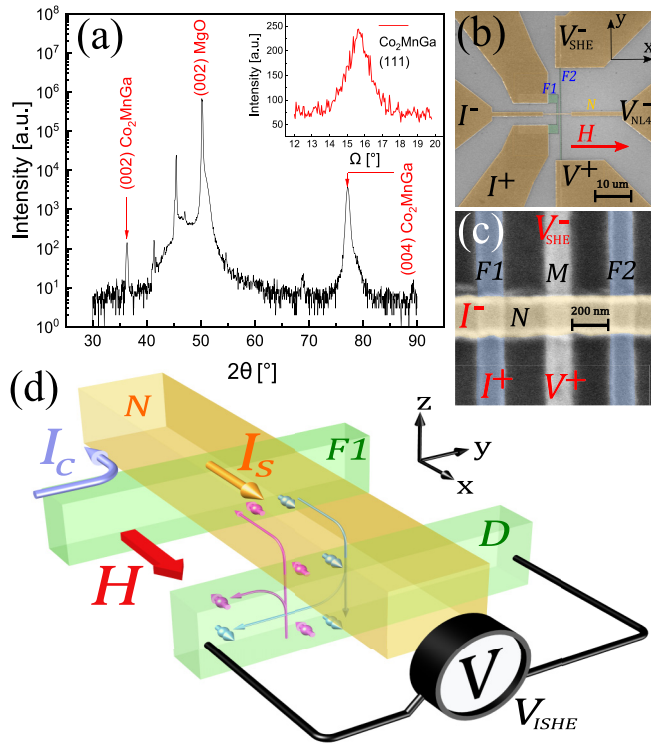


FIG. 1. (a) XRD pattern obtained for an out-of-plane θ - 2θ scan of a sample consisting of a 30-nm-thick Co_2MnGa film grown on a single-crystal MgO substrate. Only the reflections due to the main x-ray source (Co K_α) are indexed. The inset shows the rocking curve for the (111) peak. (b) Scanning electron microscope (SEM) image of a two-wire LSV. In an ISHE/SHE measurement, the magnetic field H is applied parallel to the copper channel (color shown for clarity). (c) SEM image of a close view of the electrodes in a LSV with an absorption middle wire (color shown for clarity). (d) Schematics of the nonlocal ISHE measurement. A charge current I_c is injected from $F1$ to N , producing spin accumulation at the $F1/N$ interface, and a consequent spin current I_s diffuses along N . Part of this spin current is absorbed by the detector D in the negative z direction. Then, a charge current in the positive y direction is induced in D due to the inverse spin Hall effect, and a voltage can be measured in the equilibrium open-circuit condition.

(out-of-plane) scan was performed to check the crystal structure in the films. The presence of (002) and (004) peaks of Co_2MnGa confirms $B2$ ordering in the thin films, as shown in Fig. 1(a), meanwhile the presence of a (111) peak, as verified by the rocking curve in the inset, confirms the $L2_1$ ordering in the samples. The FM electrodes were patterned on the submicron scale using conventional electron-beam lithography and Ar ion milling techniques. Two types of devices were fabricated, one with two parallel FM electrodes [Fig. 1(b)] with various channel lengths L (edge-to-edge separation) and one with three electrodes [Fig. 1(c)] with a fixed distance of 600 nm between $F1$ and $F2$ and various widths of the middle wire M in order to estimate the spin resistance through the absorption technique [19,26,36–40]. Finally, copper channels perpendicularly connecting the ferromagnetic electrodes, as well as the macroscopic connection pads, were patterned using electron-beam lithography and thermal evaporation techniques. It is worth mentioning

that, in order to obtain Ohmic transparent interfaces, low-acceleration-voltage *in situ* Ar ion milling was performed prior to copper deposition. Cu was selected for the non-magnetic channel because of its long spin diffusion length and long spin relaxation time [41], which make it a typical material for nonlocal signal measurements. For reference, devices with the same geometry but with Permalloy (Py) ferromagnetic electrodes were fabricated on a thermally oxidized Si substrate. In some of the two-wire Py devices, an absorption middle wire of Pt was deposited as a reference nonmagnetic material, as shown in the scanning electron microscope image in Fig. 1(c). All the transport measurements were performed at room temperature in a commercial physical property measurement system using a DC technique that consists of averaging the absolute value of the voltage measured with positive and negative DC currents, which is equivalent to an AC lock-in technique [42]. Further details of the fabrication procedure, as well as testing of the transparent interfaces and the determination of the spin diffusion length of Co_2MnGa , are presented in the Supplemental Material in Secs. A, B, and C [43].

Figure 1(d) shows the scheme of a typical ISHE measurement setup in a LSV. An electric current I_c is injected from the $F1$ electrode into the left side of the N channel [terminals I^+ and I^- in Figs. 1(b) and 1(c)], producing spin accumulation at the $F1/N$ interface that induces a diffusive pure spin current along the N wire [44]. Part of the spin current is then absorbed vertically (negative z direction) in a detection electrode D (D can be $F2$ or M depending on the device). Since the spin orientation \hat{s} of the conduction electrons is given by the magnetization of $F1$, which is fixed by the external magnetic field applied along the N channel, a charge current density \mathbf{j}_c given by $\mathbf{j}_c = \theta_{SH}\hat{s} \times \mathbf{j}_s$ [45] (where θ_{SH} is the spin Hall angle and \mathbf{j}_s is the spin current density) is generated along the D electrode length. In the equilibrium state in the open-circuit condition, a voltage V_{ISHE} is generated to suppress the charge current in D , measured between terminals V^+ and V_{SHE}^- . When the magnetization of the injection electrode is switched by sweeping the external magnetic field, the sign of the generated voltage is also expected to switch, as shown in the ISHE-labeled measurements in Fig. 2(c) for Co_2MnGa and Fig. 2(d) for Pt and Py as detector electrodes, where $R_{\text{ISHE}} = V_{\text{ISHE}}/I_c$. The difference between the saturation values of R_{ISHE} for positive and negative fields is defined as $2\Delta R_{\text{ISHE}}$. Reciprocally, if the probe setup is inverted, by exchanging V^+ with I^+ and V_{SHE}^- with I^- , a charge current along D will inject a pure spin current into the D/N interface by means of the (direct) SHE. This spin current will diffuse again across the N channel to be detected as a nonlocal voltage V_{SHE} between electrodes $F1$ and N . The SHE setup nonlocal resistance R_{SHE} (defined as V_{SHE}/I_c) is also shown in the SHE-labeled measurements in Fig. 2(c) for Co_2MnGa and Fig. 2(d) for Pt and Py, where $2\Delta R_{\text{SHE}}$ can be compared with $2\Delta R_{\text{ISHE}}$. Note that the magnitudes of ISHE and SHE signals for Co_2MnGa are not the same, which is discussed later, and they are substantially large, roughly 20 times greater than for Pt and Py in very similar geometries. Anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR) curves for the injection electrode $F1$ are shown to prove that the saturation of the ISHE and SHE signals corresponds to the saturation of

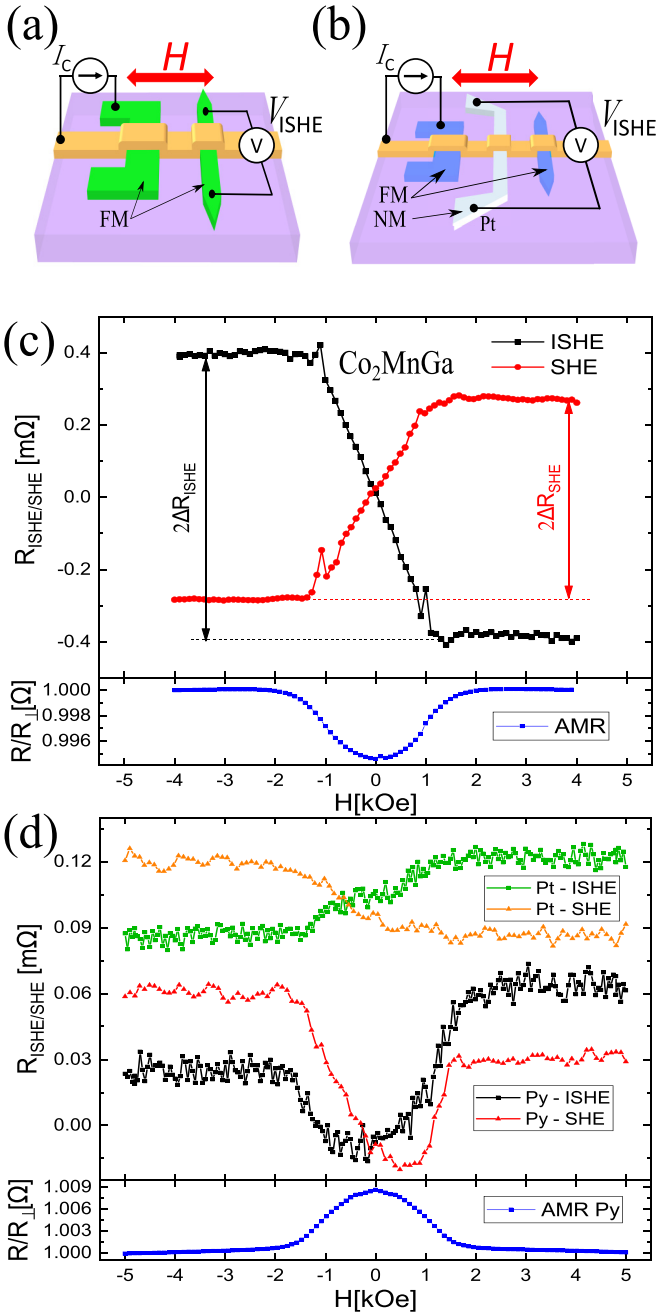


FIG. 2. (a) Schematics of the ISHE setup for a ferromagnetic detector. In this kind of sample both FM electrodes are made of the same material, either Co_2MnGa or Py. For the SHE setup, the current source and voltmeter are exchanged, preserving the polarity. (b) Schematics of the ISHE setup for a nonmagnetic detector. In this case Py was used for FM electrodes, but one of them is not used in this measurement. The SHE setup is obtained by exchanging the current source with the voltmeter while preserving the polarity. (c) Nonlocal resistance of the ISHE setup and of its reciprocal (direct) SHE setup for Co_2MnGa , measured as a function of in-plane external magnetic field H at room temperature. The bottom panel shows a typical AMR curve for Co_2MnGa electrode $F1$. (d) Equivalent nonlocal ISHE and SHE resistances measured for Pt and Py at room temperature. The bottom panel shows the AMR curve for electrode $F1$ made of Py in both cases.

the magnetization of $F1$, where it is worth noting that the AMR of Co_2MnGa was found to be negative, as previously reported [46].

For the ISHE measurement setup, the ISHE resistance ΔR_{ISHE} can be expressed as [37,45]

$$\Delta R_{\text{ISHE}} = \frac{\langle I_s \rangle}{I_c} \theta_{\text{SH}} \frac{x}{W_D}, \quad (1)$$

where $\langle I_s \rangle$ is the spatial average of the absorbed spin current along the z direction, W_D is the width of the detector wire, and x is the shunting factor that takes into account that part of the generated charge current is being shunted by the copper wire. By applying a one-dimensional spin diffusion model [47] for transparent interfaces and considering $t_D \gg \lambda_D$, where t_D is the thickness of the detector electrode and λ_D is its spin diffusion length, ΔR_{ISHE} can be written as

$$\Delta R_{\text{ISHE}}^{2W} = \frac{\theta_{\text{SH}} x W_N (1 - \alpha_F^2) 2\alpha_F R_F^2 R_N e^{-L/\lambda_N}}{t_F (2R_F + R_N)^2 - R_N^2 e^{-2L/\lambda_N}} \quad (2)$$

for a two-wire LSV using $F2$ as the detector and

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta R_{\text{ISHE}}^{3W} &= \frac{\theta_{\text{SH}} x W_N (1 - \alpha_M^2)}{t_M} \\ &\times \frac{2\alpha_F R_F R_M R_N e^{-L/2\lambda_N}}{(2R_F + R_N)(2R_M + R_N) - (2R_M - R_N)R_N e^{-L/\lambda_N}} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

for a three-wire LSV using M as detector, where W_N is the width of the N wire, λ_N is the spin diffusion length of Cu, α_F and α_M are the spin polarizations of the ferromagnetic electrodes and the middle wire M material, respectively, and R_N , R_F , and R_M are, respectively, the spin resistances of the N , $F1$ (considered to be the same as $F2$), and M wires, defined in Ref. [43]. For Eq. (3) it was considered that the middle wire M was located at the middle of the gap distance L between the $F1$ and $F2$ electrodes.

In the case when a FM material is used as a detector electrode, ΔR_{ISHE} can be written in terms of the conventional nonlocal-four-terminal (NL4T) resistance ΔR_{NL4T} , which can be measured by connecting the V_{NL4T}^- terminal instead of V_{SHE}^- in Fig. 1(b) and sweeping the external magnetic field in a direction parallel to the ferromagnetic electrodes length. A typical NL4T signal is shown in the inset of Fig. 3(a), where two different voltage levels are measured depending on whether the relative configuration of the magnetization of the ferromagnetic electrodes is parallel or antiparallel. The difference between these two voltages, normalized by the injection current, define ΔR_{NL4T} , which is a direct measure of the amount of spin current being absorbed by the detection wire. Then, Eqs. (2) and (3) are simplified to

$$\Delta R_{\text{ISHE}} = \frac{\theta_{\text{SH}} x W_N (1 - \alpha_D^2)}{t_D} \frac{1}{2\alpha_D} \Delta R_{\text{NL4T}}, \quad (4)$$

where the only unknown spin transport parameter is the spin polarization of the detector electrode α_D . In order to determine α_D , ΔR_{NL4T} was measured in two-wire LSVs for several

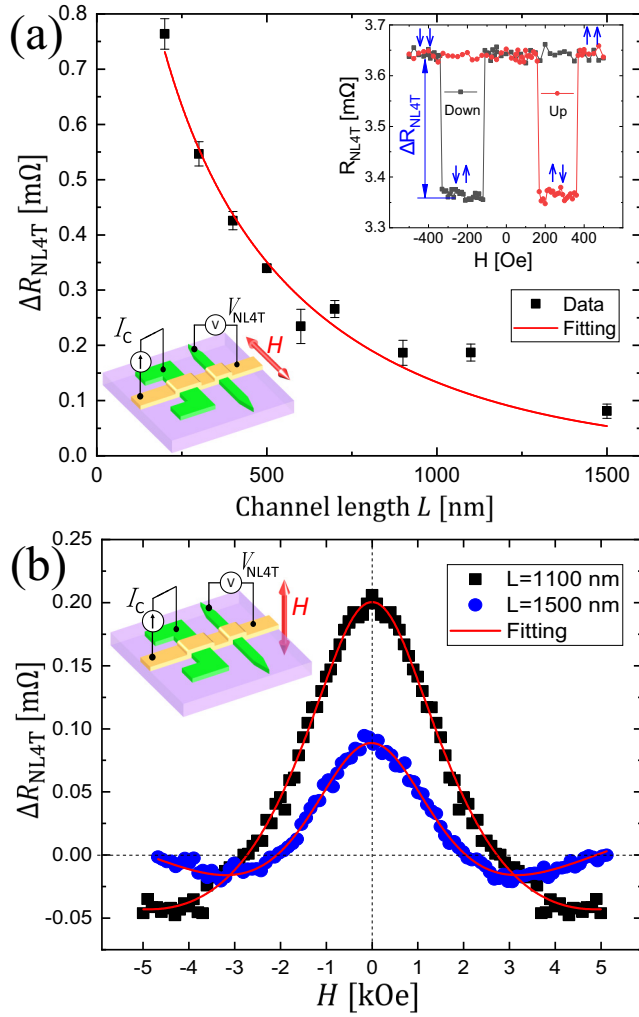


FIG. 3. (a) Channel length dependence of the nonlocal signal measured for several LSV devices at room temperature. The inset shows how ΔR_{NL4T} is determined in an example of the acquired spin signal as a function of in-plane longitudinal magnetic field. (b) Hanle effect nonlocal signal as a function of the external out-of-plane magnetic field for two different channel lengths. A simultaneous fitting with common parameters is shown by the solid red line. In both panels, insets show a schematic of the measurement setup in each case.

different channel lengths L . This gap dependence is shown in Fig. 3(a), where the data are fitted according to the equation [47]

$$\Delta R_{\text{NL4T}} = \frac{4\alpha_F^2 R_F^2 R_N e^{-L/\lambda_N}}{(2R_F + R_N)^2 - R_N^2 e^{-2L/\lambda_N}}, \quad (5)$$

where the only three unknown parameters are α_F , λ_N , and λ_F , the spin diffusion length of the FM. Since α_F and λ_F cannot be extracted independently, additional spin absorption measurements were performed to determine λ_F self-consistently, yielding $\lambda_F = (3.1 \pm 1.1)$ nm for Co_2MnGa [43]. The spin polarization α_F was also determined via Hanle effect nonlocal measurements, which have the same geometry and sample structure as in the NL4T setup except for an out-of-plane external magnetic field instead of in plane. The data for two different channel lengths is shown in Fig. 3(b), where the

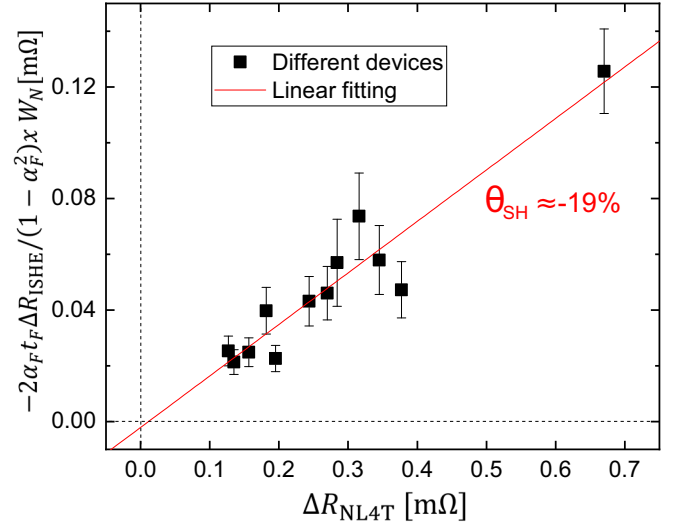


FIG. 4. Data for $-2\alpha_F t_F \Delta R_{\text{ISHE}} / (1 - \alpha_F^2) W_N x$ as a function of ΔR_{NL4T} obtained for Co_2MnGa at room temperature for several devices. The spin Hall angle can be obtained from the slope of the linear fitting. Data points correspond to devices with different channel lengths L .

fitting was performed according to Eqs. (1), (2), and (3) in Ref. [48] for the case of transparent interfaces to consistently obtain $\alpha_F = 0.15 \pm 0.03$.

The only unknown parameter left to estimate θ_{SH} is the shunting factor x , which was determined experimentally with devices specially designed to that end, as detailed in Sec. D of the Supplemental Material [43]. Finally, a linear fitting, shown in Fig. 4, can be performed from the linear relation between ΔR_{NL4T} and ΔR_{ISHE} [Eq. (4)] to extract a large spin Hall angle $\theta_{\text{SH}} = (-19 \pm 4)\%$, which is simply ascribable to the sizable Berry curvature as aforementioned.

According to Onsager's reciprocal relation [49], the resistances obtained for the SHE setup and ISHE setup should be the same, as is the case for the Py and Pt control samples in Fig. 2(b). This was first experimentally demonstrated by Kimura *et al.* [50] for the case of Pt and later verified for many other materials [26,37,38]. However, it was not the case for Co_2MnGa samples, where ISHE and SHE signals are clearly different, as shown in Fig. 2(c). It is important to note that there is no effect of the geometry of the devices on whether the reciprocity holds or not, as verified in the control experiments detailed in Sec. H of the Supplemental Material [43].

While the origin of the reciprocity is well understood for nonmagnetic materials [51], it is still unclear why the relation should hold in FM systems since there is a breaking of the time-reversal symmetry. Furthermore, recent advances in the field suggest that nonreciprocal transport can exist in chiral materials such as Weyl semimetals [52].

In the case of Co_2MnGa , the nonreciprocity could be explained through a phenomenological picture of the Hall phenomena by introducing the spin-dependent spin Hall angles $\theta_\uparrow = \sigma_{xy}^\uparrow / \sigma_{xx}^\uparrow$ and $\theta_\downarrow = \sigma_{xy}^\downarrow / \sigma_{xx}^\downarrow$ and the polarization of the spin Hall angle p_{SH} through the relations $\theta_{\text{SH}} = (\theta_\uparrow + \theta_\downarrow)/2$ and $p_{\text{SH}} = (\theta_\uparrow - \theta_\downarrow)/(\theta_\uparrow + \theta_\downarrow)$, where σ_{xy}^s ($s = \uparrow, \downarrow$) is the spin-dependent Hall conductivity and σ_{xx}^s ($s = \uparrow, \downarrow$)

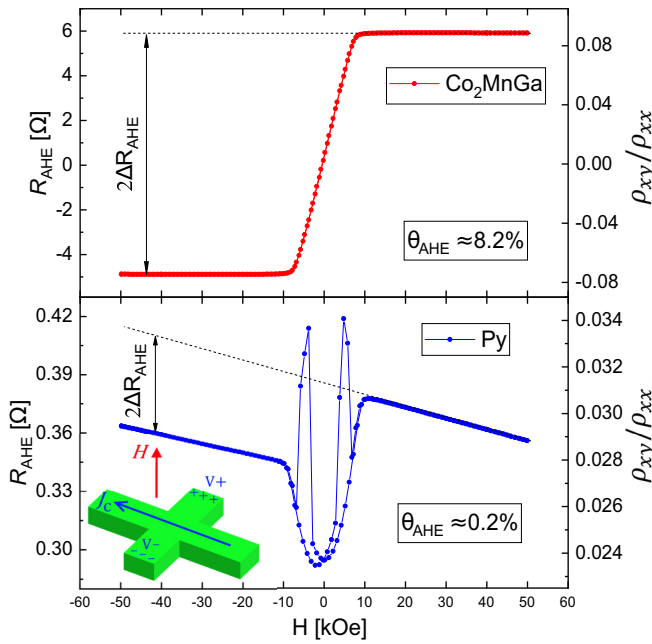


FIG. 5. Anomalous Hall resistance for Co_2MnGa (top) and Py (bottom) measured at room temperature. The inset in the bottom panel shows a schematic of the measurement setup, where the magnetic field is applied out of plane in a Hall bar structure.

is the spin-dependent normal conductivity [26,34]. In the conventional case where p_{SH} is assumed to be zero, the anomalous Hall angle θ_{AHE} is expected to be related to θ_{SH} via the spin polarization α_F in the form $\theta_{\text{AHE}} = \alpha_F \theta_{\text{SH}}$ [22], as demonstrated for Py [26]. However, the values of θ_{AHE} observed for Co_2MnGa and Py have the same sign, as shown in Fig. 5, while θ_{SH} exhibits different signs in both materials, as shown in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d). If a finite p_{SH} is consid-

ered, the relation $\theta_{\text{AHE}} = (\alpha_F + p_{\text{SH}})\theta_{\text{SH}}$ should hold [43], indicating p_{SH} should be negative and $|p_{\text{SH}}| > \alpha_F$. In addition, the relation between ISHE and SHE resistances obtained with the one-dimensional spin diffusion model [43],

$$-\frac{\Delta R_{\text{ISHE}}}{\Delta R_{\text{SHE}}} = \frac{1 - \alpha_F^2}{1 + \alpha_F p_{\text{SH}}}, \quad (6)$$

indicates $|\Delta R_{\text{ISHE}}| > |\Delta R_{\text{SHE}}|$, which is clear in Fig. 2(c). Refer to Sec. G of the Supplemental Material for a more detailed description of this spin-dependent spin Hall angle-based approach [43].

In conclusion, a direct and effective method to determine the spin Hall angle in ferromagnets was introduced to obtain a significantly large value of $\theta_{\text{SH}} = (-19 \pm 4)\%$ for the Heusler alloy Co_2MnGa , a Weyl semimetal. Combined with the ability to control the intensity of ISHE through the magnetization direction and the high resistivity of the compound [43], this result situates Co_2MnGa as a robust platform for the detection and generation of spin currents in future spintronic devices. Furthermore, a lack of reciprocity between ISHE and SHE resistances was observed and attributed to a negative polarization of the spin Hall angle.

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