

A paragraph of materials and methods

The acronym ISHE (intrinsic spin Hall effect) is introduced earlier in this paper.

To electrically detect the ISHE, we fabricated H-shaped mesa structures (Fig. 1) using electron beam lithography and dry-etching techniques, following a design proposed previously by some of us [16]. A Au/Ti electrode was deposited on top of a 110-nm-thick SiO/SiN gate insulator layer that covered the entire sample. Ohmic contacts were fabricated by thermal In bonding. Two additional leads were added to the H-structures to allow further characterization measurements. They were attached to a vertical leg either far away from (for example, sample Q2197, Fig. 1a) or in close proximity to the horizontal leg of the H-bar (for example, sample Q2198, Fig. 1b). The H-structures consisted of legs 1 μm long and 200 nm wide, with the connecting part being 200 nm wide and 200 nm long. With a mean free path estimated at $l \geq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$, the samples studied were well within the quasi-ballistic regime.

The first sentence establishes the topic of the paragraph (fabricating H-shaped mesa structures) and refers both to a figure for illustration and to the literature for more details. It clarifies *who* was involved, among others when it cites a paper published previously by a subset of the authors of the present paper. The remainder of the paragraph can then be written without ambiguity in the passive voice if desired.

Although mentioning chemical elements by their symbol (Au, Ti, etc.) is common practice, using their full names would be more readable ("A gold/titanium electrode," "indium bonding," etc.), for two reasons. First, most scientists would say the full name in place of the symbol if they were to read the above text out loud, as evidenced by the use of the article *A* rather than *An* in front of *Au* (gold). Second, symbols for chemical elements, such as *In*, are easily confused with actual words (and vice versa: in a paragraph using symbols for chemical elements, such as here, "H-structure" could suggest the structure of hydrogen). On the other hand, compounds are usually best written with symbols: the formula "SiO/SiN" is visually clearer, somewhat more accurate, and definitely more concise than "silicon monoxide on silicon nitride."