

Insights into Permanent Magnets

Daniel Haskel Advanced Photon Source



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Permanent Magnets: Evolution brings complexity







Improved magnetic materials enable new technologies



Also: Starter motors, brake systems, generators, seat adjusters, latches, etc.





Modern magnets and the Rare-Earth role

Recipe for a good magnet:

- Large magnetization (pack high density of magnetic ions).
- Large coercivity ("magnetic hardness", add rare-earth ions).







Modern magnets and the Rare-Earth role



- Aspherical 4f orbitals interact with surrounding electrons (crystal field).
- *Spin-orbit coupling* + crystal field determine preferred spin orientation, "pinning" the magnetic moments.





Nd₂Fe₁₄B: Best in its class

J.F.Herbst, Reviews of Modern Physics 63, 819 (1991)

- Tetragonal P4₂/mnm a=8.8Å, c=12.2Å
- 2 RE sites, 6 TM sites 68 atoms/unit cell
- Fe: ~ 31 $\mu_{\rm B}$ /f.u. Nd: ~ 6 $\mu_{\rm B}$ /f.u.
- Ferromagnet: T_c ~ 585K



- Easy axis: [001] (c-axis) at room temperature.
- Magnetocrystalline anisotropy dominated by Nd RE ions.





The rare-earth role: Nd₂Fe₁₄B



Rare-earth Nd ions are simultaneously present in two different crystalline environments. *What are their roles?*





Goal: To measure Nd site-specific magnetism. Tool: Resonant diffraction and absorption of CP x-rays.

Diffraction: site selectivity. Absorption: site-averaging. Atomic resonance: element specificity. CP x-rays: coupling to magnetization.







Exploiting the crystal's symmetry for site separation

Diffraction = site selectivity Atomic resonance = element specificity CP x-rays = couple to magnetization



Nd₂Fe₁₄B







Experiment: Beamline 4-ID-D, Advanced Photon Source



 Resonant diffraction (and absorption) at fix Q (scan ID gap; Monochromator, Phase plate, and sample angles with E. Flip helicity (many times) at each E point.







Diffraction: DANES and MDANES

Absorption: XANES and XMCD



- (110) and (220) reflections probe element and site-specific magnetism.
- Absorption element specific but yields site-averaged magnetism.

Orientation dependence of resonant magnetic scattering, absorption.



magnetization reversal.

Pioneerina Science and **Technology**



Nd magnetic moment reversal, site-by-site.

Nd g

97%





3.6%





51.5%

Theoretical calculations



M. Van Veenendaal (NIU, ANL), CEF parameters M. Yamada et al (1988).





Manipulate magnetic hardness by atomic engineering



- Only one Nd site responsible for magnetic hardness.
- Replace "faulty" ions with other RE ions, or even Gd (isotropic).





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<u>Theory</u>

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