Poster | Material, processing, and characterization

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[P2] Sm-based Magnets & Nitrides

Session Chair: Mr. Johann Fischbacher (University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria), Dr. Yusuke Hirayama (AIST, Japan)

[P2-56] Rapid Preparation of Sm₂Fe₁₇N₃ Fine Powder by Cryo-milling

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Samarium iron nitride ($Sm_2Fe_{17}N_3$) permanent magnetic materials possess excellent intrinsic

magnetic properties, including a saturation magnetization of 1.54 T [1]. To reach the full potential,

the key is to increase the coercivity of the powder. Since the coercivity mechanism of $\rm Sm_2Fe_{17}N_3$ is

nucleation-controlled, reducing the grain size through grinding is a necessary step in preparing highperformance powders for $Sm_2Fe_{17}N_3$ magnets [2-4].

In this study, by using the equipment named Freezer/Mill, the $\rm Sm_2Fe_{17}N_3$ coarse powder was

ground by cryo-milling method at liquid nitrogen temperature. After 1 minute of grinding, the

coercivity of the $Sm_2Fe_{17}N_3$ powder went up from 1.5 kOe to 7.0 kOe, while after 4 minutes, the

coercivity reached 13.4 kOe. However, as the grinding time increased further, the coercivity began

to decrease. X-ray diffraction (XRD) results indicated that no $\alpha\mbox{-}\textsc{Fe}$ phase was generated during the

grinding process, and the $\rm Sm_2Fe_{17}N_3$ diffraction peaks broadened continuously with increasing

grinding time, showing that the liquid nitrogen conditions inhibit oxidation and thermal decomposition during the milling process of $\rm Sm_2Fe_{17}N_3$, and as the grinding time increases, the

grain size of the Sm₂Fe₁₇N₃ powder continuously decreases.

Meanwhile, scanning electron microscope (SEM) results showed that the sample ground for 4

minutes by cryo-milling had a similar particle size to that of the sample ground for 120 minutes by

conventional ball milling. This indicates that the material becomes more brittle at low temperatures,

making it easier to break. Compared to jet milling and ball milling methods, cryo-milling does not

require the use of conventional solvents, is more efficient, and effectively avoids heat and oxidation

issues during the grinding process. The cryo-milling method thus provides a promising approach to

fabricate high-performance Sm₂Fe₁₇N₃ powder.

References

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