

Fig. 1. Basic components of the demonstrator machine: 14-pole outer rotor and inner stator with 12 slots and distributed LRK winding.

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Soft Magnetic Alloys for Electrical Machine Applications: Basics, State-of-the-Art, and R&D Opportunities

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Electrochemical and Magnetic Materials Team Functional Materials Development Division NETL Office of Research and Development



Overview of Presentation

- Basic of Soft Magnetic Materials for Electrical Machinery
 - Soft Magnets for Inductive Applications
 - Losses in Soft Magnets : Hysteresis and Eddy Currents
 - Interplay Between Mechanical and Magnetic Properties
- Engineering Approaches for Soft Magnets in Electrical Machines
 - Bulk Crystalline Alloys
 - State of the Art and Emerging Materials
- Summary and Opportunities / Needs for Future Research
 - Short Term: Compatible with Existing Manufacturing
 - Intermediate Term: Requires Modifications to Manufacturing Processes
 - Long Term: Requires Major Modifications to Manufacturing Processes



Basics of Soft Magnetic Materials for Electrical Machinery

(3)



Soft Magnetic Materials for Inductive Applications



Magnetic components are critical to the performance of

- Power converters (inductors & transformers)
- Electric motors and generators (laminates and permanent magnets)

Electrical Machines:

Machine Power = Speed x Thermal Utilization x Magnetic Utilization x Volume



Courtesy of F. Johnson, GE Global Research

Soft Magnetic Materials for Inductive Applications

Advanced electric machines

- Higher efficiency
- High power density

Performance parameters

- Higher speeds
- Higher operating temperatures
- Lower eddy currents

Material requirements

- Higher electrical resistivity
- Higher tensile strength
- Lower power loss



- Schematic of internal permanent magnet motor
 - Permanent magnets
 - Silicon Steel laminates
 - Copper windings

Relevant Soft Magnetic Materials Require a Combination of :

(1) Mechanical Properties (Yield, Ductility, Creep / Fatigue Strength)

(2) Magnetic / Electrical Properties (Saturation Magnetization, Coercivity, Resistivity) (3) Thermal Conductivity

Alternative materials must compete with M-19 3% Si steel at \$2/kg

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Courtesy of F. Johnson, GE Global Research

Soft Magnetic Materials for Inductive Applications Faraday's Law of induction:



Increased Losses at Elevated Frequency (Rapid Switching and Eddy Currents)



> permeability magnetic magnetization of free space field

> > Electric Motors / Generators

Power = *Voltage* • *Current* or *Torque* • *Rotation speed*

Higher Frequency Magnetic Switching and Higher Flux Swings Yield a Roughly Proportion Reduction in Overall Volume for the Same Power Output.

Material / Core Losses Increase with Increasing Frequency.

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Courtesy of A. Leary, Carnegie Mellon University

Key Engineering Approaches for Soft Magnetic Alloys



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Saturation Induction in Soft Magnetic Materials



 $M_{Fe} > M_{Co} > M_{Ni}$

 $M_{FeCo} > M_{Fe-C,Fe-Si} > M_{NiFe}$

Curie Temperature Also Important in Some Applications **Table 3**Structures, room temperature and 0 K saturation magnetizations and Curie temperaturesfor elemental ferromagnets (O'Handley, 1987)

Element	Structure	М _s <i>(290 К) (ети/ст³)</i>	М _s <i>(0 К) (ети/ст³)</i>	n _B (μ <i>B</i>)	Т _с <i>(К)</i>
Fe	bcc	1707	1740	2.22	1043
Co	hcp, fcc	1440	1446	1.72	1388
Ni	fcc	485	510	1.72	627
Gd	hcp	-	2060	7.63	292
Dy	hcp	-	2920	10.2	88

Saturation Inductions of Magnetic Materials are Primarily Dictated by Electronic Structure and Elemental / Alloy Chemistry. Available Soft Magnetic Alloys are Grouped According to Several Archetypal Composition Ranges.

M. E. McHenry and D. E. Laughlin, Magnetic Properties of Metals and Alloys, 2014

Losses in Soft Magnetic Materials



Electrical Steel Research Dept., Steel Research Laboratory, JFE Steel Corporation

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Permeability and Losses in Soft Magnetic Materials



Review: M. A. Willard and M. Daniil, Nanocrystalline Soft Magnetic Alloys Two Decades of Progress, Handbook of Magnetic Materials Vol. 21., Elsevier B.V., 2013.



For Bulk Alloys Grain Boundaries and Precipitates Act as Pinning Sites Increasing Losses



Figure 23 Steps in the magnetization process (a) virgin state, (b) wall motion, (c) monodomain, (d) rotation, (e) saturation and application of a field exceeding that required to saturate. (For color version of this figure, the reader is referred to the online version of this book.)

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Hysteretic Losses are Dictated by a Combination of Magnetic Anisotropy /

Microstructure and Depend on Reversal Mechanism

(Domain Wall Motion vs. Rotation)

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M. E. McHenry and D. E. Laughlin, Magnetic Properties of Metals and Alloys, 2014



"Magnetic Induction" in Electrical Machines is Also Impacted By Permeabilities

Which are Highly Sensitive to Microstructure and Processing

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Eddy Current Losses in Soft Magnetic Materials



Anomalous Eddy Current Losses are Highly Sensitive to Details of

Magnetization Process Including Magnetic Domain Structure.

S. Constantinides, Arnold Magnetic Technologies, 2009

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Rotational Magnetization Processes



Localized loss (W/kg) at various points in the annealed core at 1.0T in stress free condition.

Table 1Alternating and Rotational Power Loss inVarious Materials and Their Ratios

Samples	Alternating power loss (PAC), W/kg	Rotational power loss (P _R), W/kg	P _R /P _{AC}
Nonoriented 2.7% silicon iron	1.40	3.50	2.50
Nonoriented 1.2% silicon iron	1.23	4.00	3.25
Semiprocessed low-silicon iron	1.93	5.53	2.86
Four square 3.0% silicon iron (0.03 mm)	0.70	1.40	2.00
3.2% Goss-oriented silicon iron	0.46	1.84	3.90
Metglas 2605S-2	0.11	0.21	1.90
Powercore strip	0.12	0.130	1.05

Note: All values obtained at 1.0 T and 50 Hz.

	Volume,	Mean iron Volume, loss,		Proportion of total loss		Proportion of total loss when rotational loss is halved	
	%	W/kg	%	W	%	W	
Core back carrying ac flux	28.3	2.63	22	17.6	30	17.6	
Core back region carrying partial rotating flux	25.6	2.98	25.9	20.7	19.2	10.4	
Core back region carrying rotation flux	27.6	3.64	29.5	23.6	19.8	11.7	
Teeth	18.5	4.72	22.6	18.1	31	18.1	
Total	100	3.37	100	80	100	58	

Table 3 Estimate of Rotational Losses and the Effect of Reducing the Rotational Loss by 50 %

Note: Three-phase 3-kW star-connected induction motor. Peak stator core back flux density = 1.0 T.

Non-Uniform Field Distributions, Stray Fields, and Rotational Hysteresis Effects Are Particularly Important in Electrical Machine Applications. Rotational Losses Tend to Be Significantly Higher than Alternating.

Interplay Between Mechanical and Magnetic Properties

Magnetostrictive Alloys: -Higher Losses and Lower Permeabilities -More Sensitive to Stamping / Processing



N. Volbers, J. Gerster: High Saturation, High Strength Iron-Cobalt Alloy for Electrical Machines Proceedings of the INDUCTICA, CWIEME Berlin 2012.

Engineering Mechanical Properties



Figure 2: Possible combinations of coercivity Hc and yield strength Rp0.2 for VACODUR® 49.

Selection of Alloy / Heat Treatment Temperature (Grain Size) for Magnetic vs. Mechanical Properties

Mechanical Properties are Critical for Consideration as Well

presence of magnetic field

Direct Interplay : Magnetic Properties via Magnetostriction

Indirect Interplay: Tendency for "Trade-offs" in Magnetic vs. Mechanical NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

M. E. McHenry and D. E. Laughlin, Magnetic Properties of Metals and Alloys, 2014

Engineering Approaches for Soft Magnets in Electrical Machines

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Bulk Crystalline Alloys



Cost Per Unit Volume

Materials Selection for Electrical Machine Applications is Carefully Sensitive to Price in Addition to Performance.

Silicon Steels Offer an Excellent Combination of Price / Performance for Large-Scale Industrial Applications. 16

SCA LECHNOLOCA LYBOSYLOSA

S. Constantinides, Arnold Magnetic Technologies, 2009

Conventional Silicon Steels



1) Texture Engineering to Promote (100) In Plane (NOES vs. GOES vs. GOES Hi-B)

2) Si-Content Adjustment

3) Controlling Impurities and Undesired 2nd Phases

4) For Grain Oriented Steels, Intentional 2nd Phase Precipitates Enable Abnormal Grain Growth of Textured Grains

5) Domain Refining Using Laser / Mechanical Scribing

Materials Selection for Electrical Machine Applications is Carefully Sensitive to Price in Addition to Performance.

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Curie

Temperatu

20

wt % Si

700

600

500

Fe

Silicon Steels Offer an Excellent Combination of Price / Performance for Large-Scale Industrial Applications.

Hiroaki Toda

M. E. McHenry and D. E. Laughlin

Magnetic Properties of Metals and Alloys, 2014

December 4, 2013 JMAG User's Conference 2013

Electrical Steel Research Dept., Steel Research Laboratory, JFE Steel Corporation

Fe₃Si

(DO3)

Ni-Fe Alloys



Carpenter HyMu "800"

Carbon	0.01 %	Manganese	0.50 %
Silicon	0.15 %	Nickel	80.00 %
Molybdenum	5.00 %	Iron	Balance

Carpenter High Permeability "49"® Alloy

Carbon	0.02 %	Manganese	0.50 %
Silicon	0.35 %	Nickel	48.00 %
Iron	Balance		

Selection of Ni_xFe_y Ratio
 (Balance of Elements <1%)

2) Controlling Impurities and Undesired 2nd Phases During Annealing Treatments

3) Final Anneal Temperature Dictates Performance for Relatively High Frequencies (Low Temperatures) or Relatively Low Frequencies (High Temperatures)

NiFe-Alloys are Well Known to Have Superior Soft Magnetic Properties in Terms of Losses, Permeability, and Field Annealing Response. Saturation Induction is Reduced and Costs are Higher Compared to Si-Steels Making them Useful Primarily for Specialty Applications. NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY Courtesy of S. Kernion, Carpenter Technology





Hiperco[®] 27 Alloy

Carbon	0.01 %	Manganese	0.25 %
Silicon	0.25 %	Chromium	0.60 %
Nickel	0.60 %	Cobalt	27.00 %
Iron	Balance		

Hiperco[®] 50 Alloy

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Carbon	0.01 %	Manganese	0.05 %
Silicon	0.05 %	Cobalt	48.75 %
Columbium/Niobium	0.05 %	Vanadium	1.90 %
Iron	Balance		

Selection of Co_xFe_y Ratio
 (Balance of Elements <~2.5%)

2) Controlling Impurities and Undesired 2nd Phases

3) Ternary Alloying Elements Can Be Used to Optimize Magnetic Properties, Corrosion, or Mechanical Properties

(e.g. V for Suppressing Ordering)

4) Final Anneal Temperature Dictates Both Magnetic Properties and Mechanical Properties

FeCo Alloys are Unsurpassed in Terms of High Moment and High Temperature Applications But are Significantly More Costly.

Primary Applications for FeCo Alloys Fall within High Temperature and Volume Constrained Applications Such as Aerospace.

Courtesy of S. Kernion, Carpenter Technology

Conventional and Emerging Materials Comparison

_		Low Frequency <(~400Hz) Losses	High Frequency >(~400Hz) Losses	Temperature Stability	Cost	Mechanical Properties	Thermal Conductivity	Bs	Initial Permeability	Resistivity	Material TRL	System TRL
nal	Low C Steels				Very Low Cost						Commercial	Commercial
L II	Si Steels										Commercial	Commercial
nve	NiFe Alloys	Very Low Loss							Very Soft Alloys		Commercial	Commercial
ပို	CoFe Alloys			Highest T _{Curie}				Highest Bs			Commercial	Commercial
ſ	Amorphous Alloys	Very Low Loss			Higher \$ / kg, But Smaller Volume				Very Soft Alloys	Amorphous	Commercial	20kW Demo
ing	Fe-Based Nanocomposite Alloys (Conventional)	Very Low Loss			Higher \$ / kg, But Smaller Volume	Brittle			Very Soft Alloys	Amorphous Matrix	Very Soft Alloys	No Significant Demo
erg	Fe-Based Nanocomposite Alloys (Partially Crystallized)	Very Low Loss			Higher \$ / kg, But Smaller Volume				Very Soft Alloys	Amorphous Matrix	Very Soft Alloys	No Significant Demo
шЩ	Co-Based Nanocomposite Alloys				Higher \$ / kg, But Smaller Volume					Amorphous Matrix		No Significant Demo
	Soft Magnetic Composites									Insulating Binder / Matrix		Insulating Binder / Matrix
-	Ferrites							Lowest Bs			Commercial	Insufficient Bs

Unacceptable	
Not Ideal	
Suitable	
Good	
Best in Class	

Standard Si-Steels : High Performance and Inexpensive for High MW.

Adoption of Alternative Material Systems Must Be Driven By:

1) Policies on Energy Efficiency

2) Technical Needs of Specialty Applications (e.g. Aerospace)

3) Full Optimization at the System Level (Alternative Machine Designs) NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Higher Si-Steel Containing Alloys



Material	Thickness	Saturation		Iron	loss (W	Magnetostriction at 400 Hz,		
Material	(mm)	(T)	W10/60	W10/400	W _{5/2k}	W1/10k	W _{0.5 / 20k}	1.0T(x10-6)
6.5% Si Steel (10JNEX)	0.10	1.8	0.5	5.7	11.3	8.3	6.9	0.1
Ultrathin oriented Electromagnetic Steel sheet	0.10	2.0	0.7	6.4	20.0	18.0	14.0	-0.8
Ferrous amorphous	0.025	1.5	0.1	1.5	8.1	3.0	3.3	27.0



◇ Characteristics of Gradient High Si Steel (JNHF):
 (1) Low iron loss; Low iron loss at high frequency of 10 kHz or higher
 (2) High workability; punching, interlocking and bending
 (3) High saturation magnetization; 1.84 -1.94T (6.5%Si Steel 1.80T)

Higher Efficiency Silicon Steel Technologies Exist and are the Subject of Additional Development, Currently No US-Based Producer :

Economics Must Make Sense to the Materials and Laminate Purchaser

or Energy Efficiencies Must Be Mandated

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Fe-Based Amorphous Alloys (And Partially Crystallized)

	Loss coefficients	Amorphous (W/m ³)	M19 Stee1 (W/m ³)
Hysteretic	k_h	125.167	178.478
Classical	k _c	0.00235968	1.41304
Anomalous	ke	0.534436	1.79322

Highest Relative Gains for High Speed (Frequency) Operation

→ 2015

ELEKTRONIKA IR ELEKTROTECHNIKA, ISSN 1392-1215, VOL. 18, NO. 9, 2012

Tapered design: 300W 7000 rpm stator core power density: 0.3 W/g



2006



Radial design: 2200W



N. Ertugrul, R. Hasegawa, W. Soong, J. Gayler, S. Kloeden, and S. Kahourzade, IEEE Trans. Magn., vol.. 51, no. 7, 2015.

M. Dems, K. Komeza, IEEE Trans. Ind. Elec., vol. 61, no. 6, pp. 3046 2014.



Fe-Based Amorphous Alloys are Emerging as Potential Substitutes for Si-Steels with Higher Efficiencies in Many Cases But Require:

- 1) Wide Ribbon Rapid Solidification Processing
 - 2) Stamping and/or Laser Cutting Processing
- 3) Alloy Development for High Bs, Low Loss, Mechanical Properties

4) Opportunities for Advances in <u>"Permeability Engineering"</u>

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Courtesy of A. Leary, Carnegie Mellon University



Alternative Motor and Generator Designs, Higher Rotational Speeds, and Controllable Permeability Engineering of Materials are Novel Concepts that Can Justify Higher Cost Materials with Improved Functionality. <u>e.g. Uniaxial Flux-Based Electrical Machines Could Leverage GOES</u>

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Nanocomposite Amorphous / Nanocrystalline Alloys



Alloy / Ribbon Processing

Thermal Thermal + Magnetic Thermal + Mechanical e.g. Field or Stress Annealing





In Addition to Alloy Composition Design, Thermal Processing Design is Required. High Performance Nanocomposite Alloys Can Yield a Combination of Bs, High Freq. Losses, and Temp. Stability Surpassing Amorphous Alloys. Nanocomposites Also Allow for Possibility of "Permeability Engineering". Laminate Manufacturing / Alloy Mechanical Properties Must Be Addressed.

Spatially Engineered Permeability Alloys

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Non-Uniform Flux Densities and Rotational Magnetization Processes Offer Opportunities for "Advanced Permeability Engineering"



M. Johnson, OE Workshop on Materials for Grid, 8/2015

Potential Examples: 1) Locally Controlled Crystallographic Texture 2) Masking and In-Line Processing of Strip Alloys 3) Strain, Field, or Rolling Induced Anisotropy

Coupling of Advanced Electrical Machine Design with Tunable Permeabilities as a Function of Position Could Enable Revolutionary Advances in Electrical Machine Design.



Soft Magnetic Composites (i.e. 3-D Micro/Nanostructured)









Soft magnetic composites are pressed Fe powder parts suitable for some motor designs

- Enables 3-D flux paths
- Substantial size and weight reduction
- Suitable for claw-pole and linear brushless DC motors
- High speed motors

Products include Somaloy from Höganäs:

Somaloy Material	ρ (μΩ- cm)	B/10,000 A/m (T)	μ _{max}	W _{1.0/100} (W/kg)		
130i	8000	1.4	290	12		
700	400	1.56	540	10		
700 HR	1000	1.53	440	10		
IMFINE sintered lamellar SMC: W 1.0/60 < 2 W/kg, μ > 2,000, B _{max} 1.7 T						

3-Dimensional Micro/Nanostructuring through Alternative Processing With Sufficient Compositional and Microstructural Control Could Eliminate Laminate Geometry and Enable New Machine Designs. Existing Soft Magnetic Composites Have Permeability / Temp. Limitations. MATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY Courtesy of F. Johnson, GE Global Research

Capabilities and Facilities for Large-Scale Alloy Discovery, Development, and Deployment at NETL

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NETL Metallurgical Discovery and Deployment

Alloy Development Activities



- Development Rational:
 - Performance, cost and application driven
 - Use of computer modeling
 - Prototype alloys ranging from ~100g to 100kg

Customers include:

- DOE funded projects including SOFC and high temperature materials development
- Alloys for medical Stent
 applications
- Alloys for Shell
 Alloys for ORNL
 - · Alloys for GE
 - Alloys for P&W

NETL Capabilities and Research Spans from Discovery (Including Thermo / Ab-Initio) to Full-Scale Casting and Prototyping of 100kg Casts. NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY Courtesy of P. Jablonski, National Energy Technology Laboratory

NETL Large-Scale Alloy Development Facility

Button Furnace – Up to 500 grams Vacuum Induction Melting – Up to 200 lb Vacuum Arc Remelting - Up to 400 lb Electroslag Remelting - Up to 400 lb Air Induction Melting – Up to 300 lb Directional Solidification - Up to 200 lb Induction Skull Melting - Up to 50 lb Vacuum Heat Treating – Up to 1650C

Preheat – Up to 1500C, 3x3x6 ft³ Press Forge (500 Ton) Hot Rolling (420 Ton) Cold Rolling (750 Ton)





NETL is Well-Equipped for Large-Scale Metallurgical Process Development and Research with Major Recent Commercial Successes. NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY Courtesy of P. Jablonski, National Energy Technology Laboratory

NETL Expertise and Collaborations in Large-Scale PFC









Commercial Scale Processing / Core Fabrication

Nanocrystal

Intergranula Phase

Alloy / Ribbon Processing

Thermal Thermal + Magnetic Thermal + Mechanical e.g. Field or Stress Annealing

NETL Has Expertise and Collaborations in Large-Scale Planar Flow Casting, Core Fabrication / Processing, and Magnetic Property Measurements for Amorphous and Nanocrystalline / Amorphous Alloy Development.

Suggestions for High Potential Impact R&D

Short Term ("Plug and Play" Solutions if Successful):

- New Fe-Based Metallic Alloy R&D
- Large-Scale Processing for High Si-Steel Content Alloys
- Fe-Based Amorphous Alloy Development R&D
- Low Crystal Volume Fraction Fe-Based Nanocomposite Alloy Development R&D
- Large-Area Rapid Solidification and Amorphous Alloy Laminate Manufacturing

Intermediate Term (Require Manufacturing Process Modifications if Successful):

- "Permeability Engineering" in Fe-Based Strip, Amorphous, and Nanocomposite Alloys Leveraging In-Line Processing
- High Crystal Volume Fraction Fe-Based Nanocomposite Alloy Development R&D
- Nanocomposite Alloy Laminate Manufacturing
- "Global Systems Level Optimization" with Collaboration Between Materials Developers, Laminate Manufacturers, and Electrical Machine Manufacturers (Higher Speed Designs, Unidirectional Flux Designs, etc.)

Long Term (Major Manufacturing Process Modifications):

- Soft Magnetic (Nano/Micro) Composites with Highly Engineered Microstructure for 3-D Magnetics
- Spatially Tunable "Permeability Engineering"

NETL Has Significant Capabilities / Expertise to Leverage Here and is Highly Interested in Partnering and Collaborating with Others in this Technical Area



Thank You to NIST and DOE AMO for the Opportunity to Attend and Present!

Please Contact Me if Interested in Discussing Potential Collaborations, Technical Support to Program Planning, or Further Details Regarding this Presentation.

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