Fe substitution effects on the magnetic properties of the RCo4-xFexAl compounds (R Ho and Y)

Published in:
Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials

DOI:
10.1016/0304-8853(94)00760-8

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Fe substitution effects on the magnetic properties of the RCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al compounds (R: Ho and Y)

C.V. Thang $^{a,b}$, L.T. Tai $^a$, J.P. Liu $^b$, N.P. Thuy $^a$, T.D. Hien $^a$, J.J.M. Franse $^{b,*}$

$^a$ Cryogenic laboratory, Faculty of Physics, University of Hanoi, Viet Nam
$^b$ Van der Waals–Zeeman Laboratory, University of Amsterdam, Valckenierstraat 65, 1018 XE Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Abstract

Fe substitution for Co leads to the increase of the Curie temperatures of both HoCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al and YCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al and of the spin-reorientation temperature of HoCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al. In contrary, the anisotropy field of YCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al decreases quickly with increasing Fe content. The results are explained in terms of the individual site anisotropy model.

The composition dependences of the obtained magnetic parameters of HoCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al and of the Curie temperature of YCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al are shown in Fig. 1 and in the inset of Fig. 1, respectively. It can be seen that with increasing Fe content, the Curie temperature $T_C$ increases for both systems and tends to reach a constant value at about $x = 1.4$. This effect of Fe substitution on the Curie temperature of RCo$_{4-x}$Al is in good accordance with those obtained for the Co–rare-earth intermetallics RCo$_4$ and RCo$_4$B [4].

In contrast, the ratio $T_K/T_C$ (where $T_K$ is the compensation temperature) decreases when the Fe content increases. This result can be explained by taking into account the larger magnetic moment of Fe compared to that of Co, which leads to an increase of the 3d-sublattice moment [4].

In a low magnetic field (0.1 T), an anomalous temperature dependence of the magnetization can be observed for the HoCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al samples with $x < 1.5$, which is considered to be associated with the spin-reorientation transition as also confirmed by ac susceptibility measurements and by the temperature dependence of the magnetization of aligned samples (not shown here). In addition, an enhancement of the 002 and 001 peaks can be observed from the diffraction patterns of the aligned samples, which confirms the uniaxial anisotropy along the c-axis of the samples with $x < 1$ at room temperature. Thus, the observed spin-reorientation transition is from planar to uniaxial anisotropy with increasing temperature. It is found that the spin-reorientation temperature increases with increasing Fe content (see Fig. 1).

In Fig. 2, the composition dependence of $H_a$ for YCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al at 77 and 300 K is presented. The data for YCo$_4$Al were quoted from Ref. [2]. It can be seen that with increasing Fe content, $H_a$ decreases quickly and tends to change its sign at about $x = 2.0$. In combination with X-ray diffraction patterns of the aligned samples (not

$^*$ Corresponding author. Fax: +31-20-525 5788.
Fig. 1. Composition dependences of the Curie temperature $T_C$, the compensation temperature $T_c$, the spin-reorientation temperature $T_{sr}$ of HoCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al and of the Curie temperature $T_C$ of YCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al (inset). The lines are guides to the eyes.

shown here) it can be suggested that in the temperature range of 77–300 K, the samples with $x < 2.0$ show an uniaxial anisotropy whereas the sample with $x = 2.2$ has a planar one. A conical anisotropy at room temperature is also suggested for the sample with $x = 2.0$. It is evident that Fe substitution leads to a strong decrease in the positive MCA of YCo$_4$Al. Also, if we consider the observed spin-reorientation transition in HoCo$_4$Al as a result of the competition between the positive MCA of Co sublattice and the negative one of Ho sublattice, the observed increase of the spin-reorientation temperature with increasing Fe content can be regarded to result from the decrease of the positive MCA of the 3d sublattice. This effect of Fe substitution can be explained on the basis of the individual site anisotropy (ISA) model [4,10], in which the overall MCA of 3d sublattice is considered to be the sum of the independent contributions coming from the individual 3d sites. In rare-earth–transition-metal intermetallics with CaCu$_4$ structure, there are two crystallographic sites for the transition metal, namely 2c and 3g. As evidenced from nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) measurements on RCo$_x$, the Co ions at the 2c site give a large positive contribution to the overall anisotropy whereas the Co ions at the 3g site give a small negative one [5,6]. In addition, in substituted R$_x$Co$_{m-x}$Fe$_e$ compounds the preferential occupation at some crystallographic sites of Fe ions has been observed by means of neutron diffraction and Mössbauer effect studies [7–9]. Fe and Co ions usually give contributions of opposite signs at the same crystallographic site [4,10]. The decrease of the positive MCA of the 3d sublattice with increasing Fe content obtained above, therefore, suggests that Fe ions preferably occupy the 2c site. At this site, Fe ions have a negative MCA, which competes with the positive one of the Co ions. It should be noticed that Fe ions in RCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_e$B (CeCo$_4$B structure) also prefer the 2c site [7,8] whereas for RCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_e$ (in contrast, Fe ions prefer the 3g site [9]. Recently Konno et al. [3] have reported that the distribution of Al in RCo$_{4-x}$Al$_x$ is not necessarily random. The Al atoms, furthermore, can prefer the 3g site to the 2c site [3]. Thus the Al substitution for Co in RCo$_4$Al is suggested to strongly modify the environment of the crystallographic sites of RCo$_x$ compounds, which leads to a large influence on the occupation of Fe ions in RCo$_{4-x}$Fe$_x$Al.

References