Improvements in magnetomechanical properties of highly magnetostrictive ferrites due to magnetic annealing

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We report substantial increases of both magnetostriction and $d\lambda/dH$ of cobalt ferrite by magnetic annealing under a field of 0.4 T at a temperature of 300 C for 36 hours. The annealed sample showed a uniaxial anisotropy, with the easy axis being along the annealing field direction. The maximum magnetostriction increased from $-200 \times 10^{-6}$ for the as-fabricated sample to $-252 \times 10^{-6}$ (field and strain along the hard axis) after magnetic anneal, whereas the maximum $d\lambda/dH$ increased from $1.3 \times 10^{-9} \, A^{-1}m$ to $3.9 \times 10^{-9} \, A^{-1}m$. This is attributed to the induced anisotropy, which resulted in increased rotation and non-180° domain wall processes as domain magnetizations re-oriented from the induced easy direction towards the applied field along the hard axis. This research was supported by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) under award No NAG-1-02098.

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