Magnetic property enhancement of modified nanocrystalline ZrCo$_5$-based magnets$^1$ WENYONG ZHANG, XINGZHONG LI, RALPH SKOMSKI, JEFF SHIELD, DAVID J SELLMYER, Nebraska Center for Materials and Nanoscience, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE68588, NANOMAGNETICS AND MAGNETOELECTRONIC MATERIALS TEAM — The metastable ZrCo$_5$ compound may be a good candidate for the development of rare-earth-free high-performance hard magnetic materials because of its high magnetocrystalline anisotropy field. Melt spinning is a good approach to synthesize metastable phase because of its high quench rate. In this work, the effect of Zr and Fe addition on structure and magnetic properties of melt-spun nanocrystalline Zr$_{1+x}$Co$_5$(0–0.3) alloys has been investigated. All the samples consist of orthorhombic ZrCo$_5$ hard magnetic and Co/Zr$_6$Co$_{23}$ soft magnetic phases. Proper Zr addition causes nanostructure refinement and the increase of the hard magnetic phase content, which strengthens intergrain exchange coupling. As a result, coercivity and maximum energy product of ZrCo$_5$-based magnet are significantly enhanced. The best magnetic properties: $H_c = 2.8$ kOe, $(BH)_{max} = 4$MGOe, which is the best value among Co-Zr binary alloys, are achieved in Zr$_{1.1}$Co$_5$. The temperature coefficient of its coercivity between 10 and 380K is -0.05%/K. The saturation magnetization of nanocrystalline Zr$_{1.1}$Co$_5$ is greatly increased due to 16 at% Fe addition.

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