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**Enhancement of Critical Current Density of Yttrium Barium Copper Oxide (YBCO) Thin Films by Introducing Nano dimensional Cerium Oxide Defects** TOCHUKWU EMEAKAROHA, RAHUL PONNAM , DHANANJAY KUMAR, ABEBE KEBEDE, FLOYD JAMES, North Carolina AT State University — In the application of high temperature superconductors (HTSC), the critical current density,  $J_c$ , is often the most important parameter in the design and engineering of practical devices. In this work we report the enhance the critical density of  $YBa_2Cu_3O_{7-x}$  (YBCO) HTSC thin films by restraining the magnetic flux using self-assembled nano-structural defects. High density extended crystalline defects were introduced into c-axis oriented  $YBa_2Cu_3O_{7-x}$  (YBCO) thin films, manufactured using pulsed laser deposition (PLD). These defects consist  $CeO_2$  of various densities determined by the number of laser pulses. The structural characterizations of YBCO/  $CeO_2$  were carried out using x-ray diffraction (XRD) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Superconducting proprieties were measured using a vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM). The critical current density ( $J_c$ ) of pure YBCO and  $CeO_2$  embedded YBCO films were calculated from magnetization (M) versus Field (H) loops using Bean's model. The critical current density shows significant enhancement and it is robust against applied field.

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