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Tue-Mo-Po2.10-08 [80]: Improved performance at low temperatures of CSD-grown $\text{YxGd}_{1-x}\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7\text{-BaHfO}_3$ nanocomposite films

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High-temperature superconductors are becoming engineering materials, e.g. as commercially available long-length tapes (coated conductors, CCs). Among them, $\text{REBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-x}$ (REBCO, RE rare earth) compounds have emerged as excellent candidates due to their high-field current carrying capacity. Their properties enhance even further when REBCO nanocomposites are formed, i.e., nanoscale non-superconducting secondary phases are introduced into the superconducting matrix, which pin the vortices. Through this, the performances improve in a wide range of applied magnetic fields and temperatures.

Chemical solution deposition (CSD) has been demonstrated to be a scalable, versatile and cost-effective technique for the preparation of REBCO films with embedded secondary phases, starting from a complex metalorganic precursor solution. In such films, the nanoparticles form spontaneously during the film growth and tend to orient randomly in the REBCO matrix. This creates a high density of defects generating nanostrain within the REBCO matrix, which ultimately leads to a strong enhancement of the isotropic pinning contribution.

In this work, we present the superconducting properties of 220 nm single-RE- $\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-x}$ (RE = Yb, Er, Ho, Y, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Nd) films on different substrates to develop a deeper understanding of their processing windows and properties at different temperatures. Also, we include a complete study about (Y/Gd)BCO + 12 mol% BaHfO_3 nanocomposite films. These films were obtained in a high-quality after a complex growth-parameter optimization for different Y/Gd ratios. Transport measurements of the optimized films were carried out at different temperatures. The results show that the best properties are obtained for different Y/Gd ratios depending on the temperature: at 77 K, where the proximity to the superconducting transition is crucial, $\text{GdBCO}+12\text{mol}\% \text{BaHfO}_3$ has the largest critical current density J_c while at 30 K the $\text{Y}_{0.5}\text{Gd}_{0.5}\text{BCO}+12 \text{mol}\% \text{BaHfO}_3$ films exhibit the highest values at self-field. This behavior was understood by studying the microstructure of these samples by advanced TEM measurements. The distribution of Y and Gd in the mixed phases enriches the pinning landscape making these films more effective at lower temperatures.

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