



Advancements in soft magnetic materials for clean energy



SAND2021-1742PE



PRESENTED BY

Todd Monson, Sandia National Labs,
tmonson@sandia.gov



Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc. for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

Outline



- **Introduction**
- **Soft Magnetic Materials**
 - Applications/needs
 - History
 - Current state of the art
 - Challenges
 - Opportunities

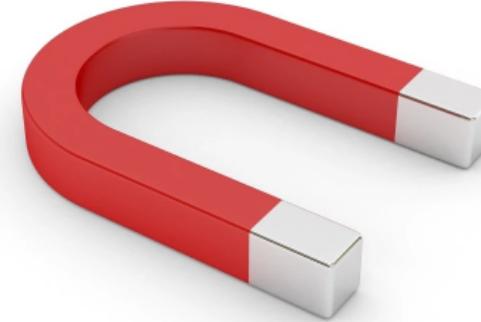
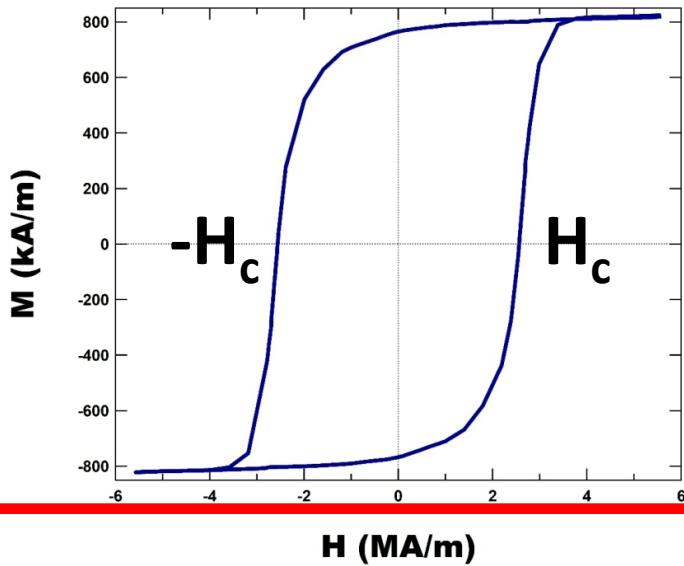


Hard vs. Soft Magnets



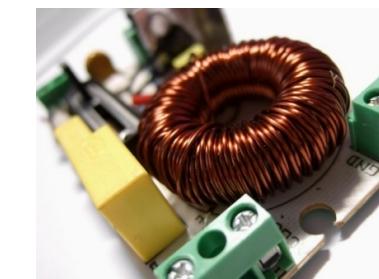
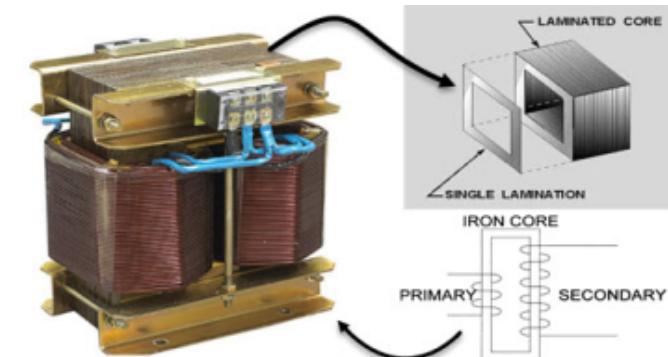
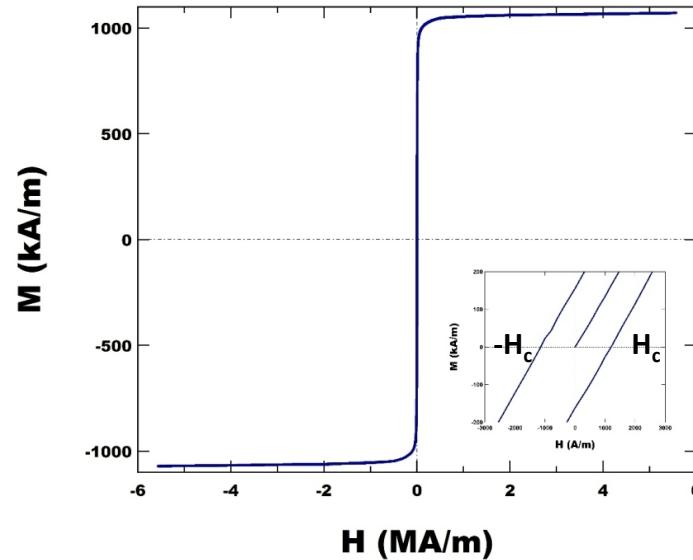
**Hard
(permanent)
magnet**

$H_c > 1000 \text{ A/m}$

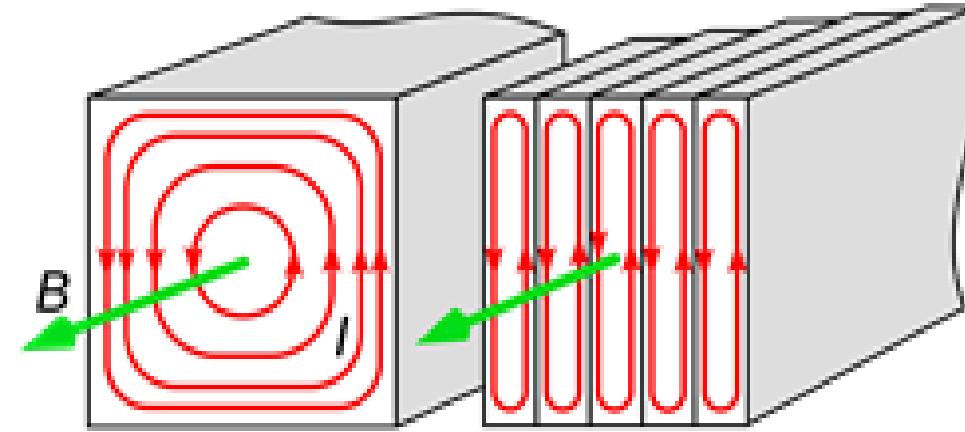
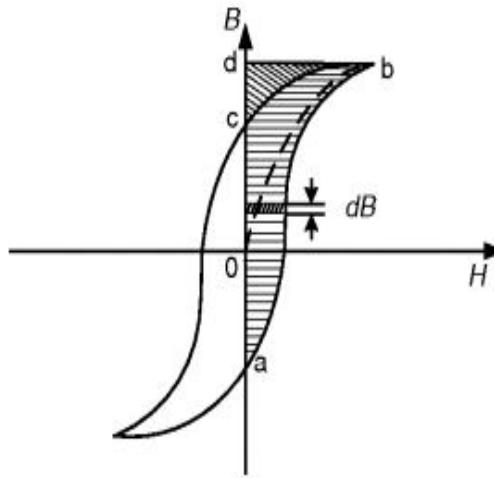


Soft magnet

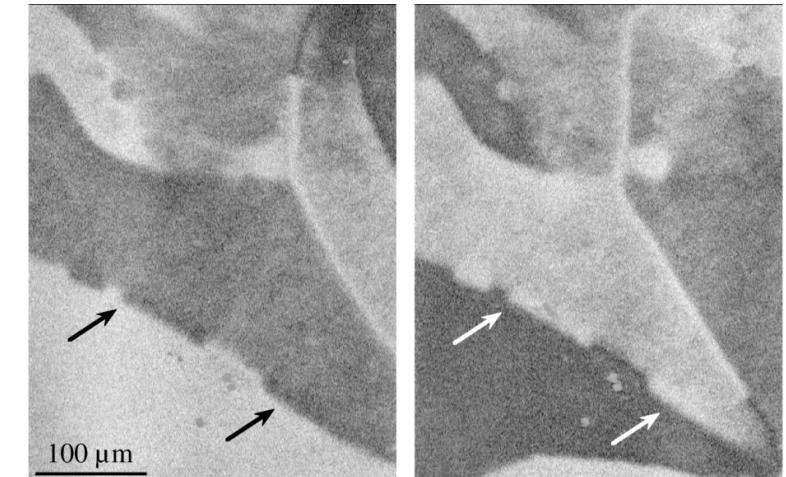
$H_c < 1000 \text{ A/m}$



Magnetic Losses



R. Schaefer and G. Herzer, "Continuous magnetization patterns in amorphous ribbons," IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, vol. 37, pp. 2245-2247, 2001.



$$\frac{P_{\text{phys}}}{V} = \oint H(t) dB$$

$$\frac{P_{\text{eddy}}}{V} = \frac{\omega B^2 A}{48\rho}$$

Hysteresis

Eddy Currents

Domain Wall Motion

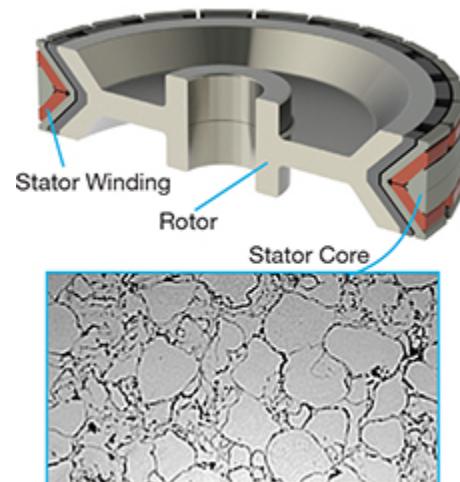
Soft Magnet Energy Related Applications



Inductor cores



Transformer cores



■ Iron Alloy ■ Nonconductive Boundary

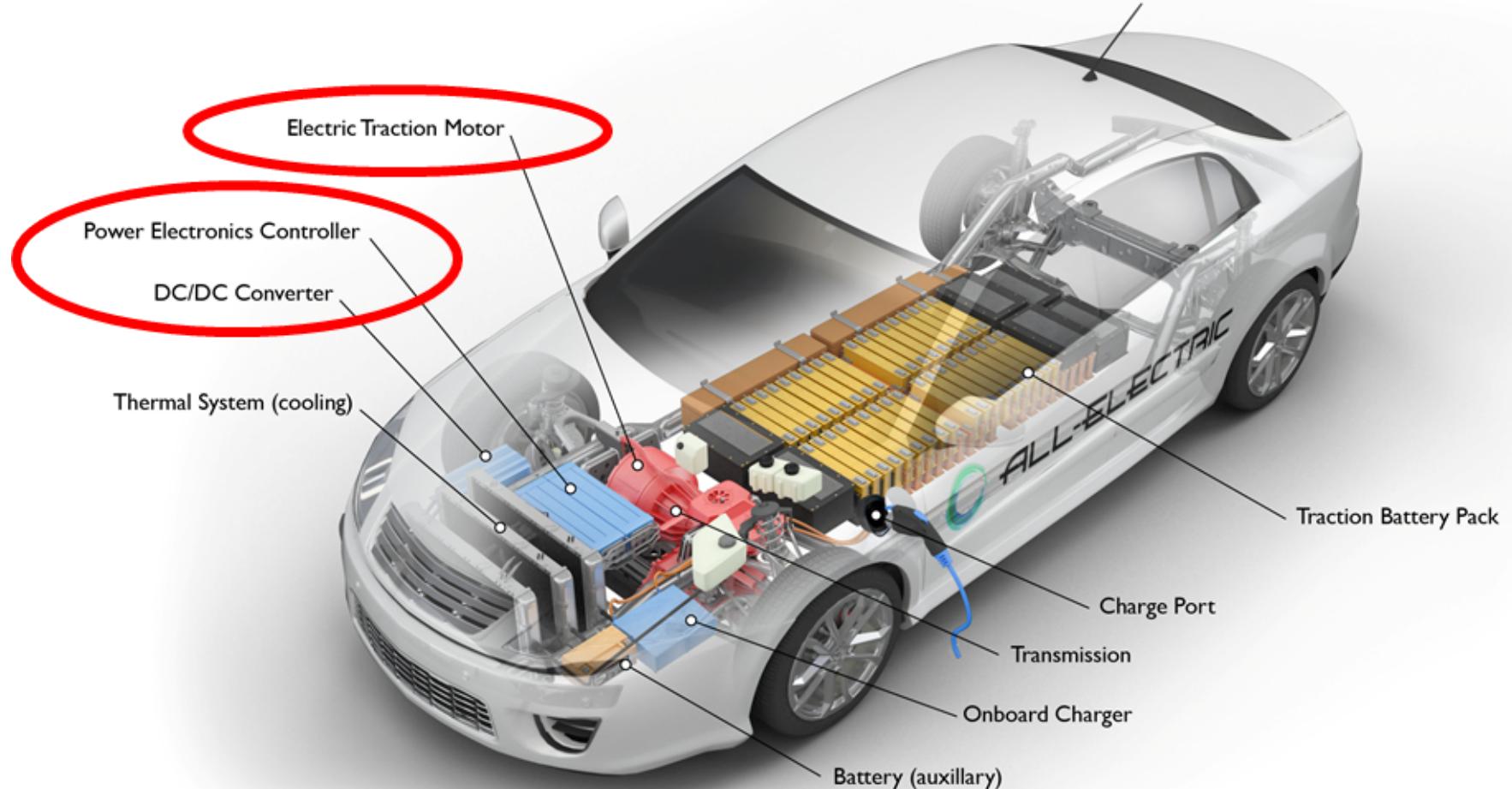
Electrical machines (motors & generators)



Electric Vehicles



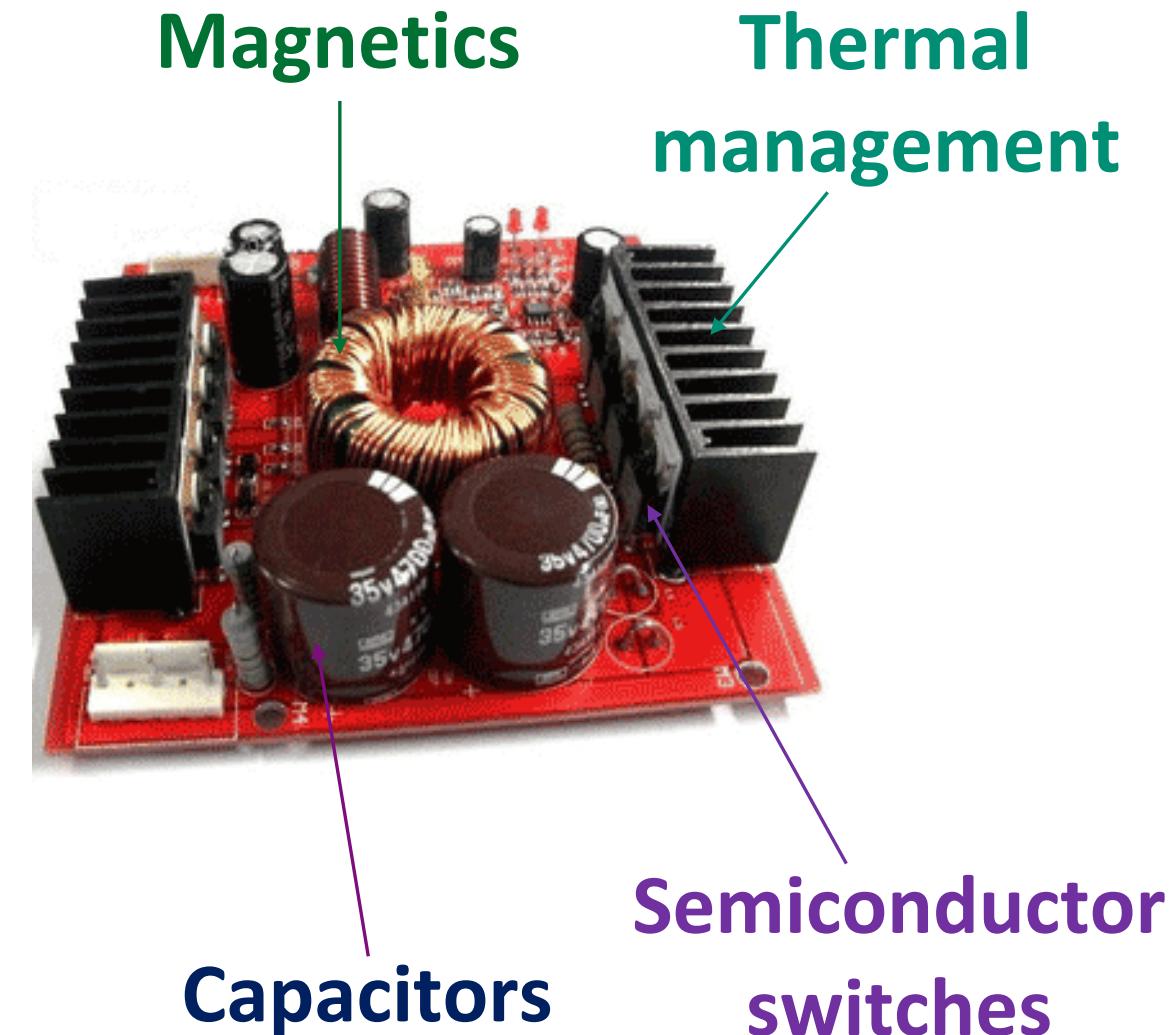
All-Electric Vehicle



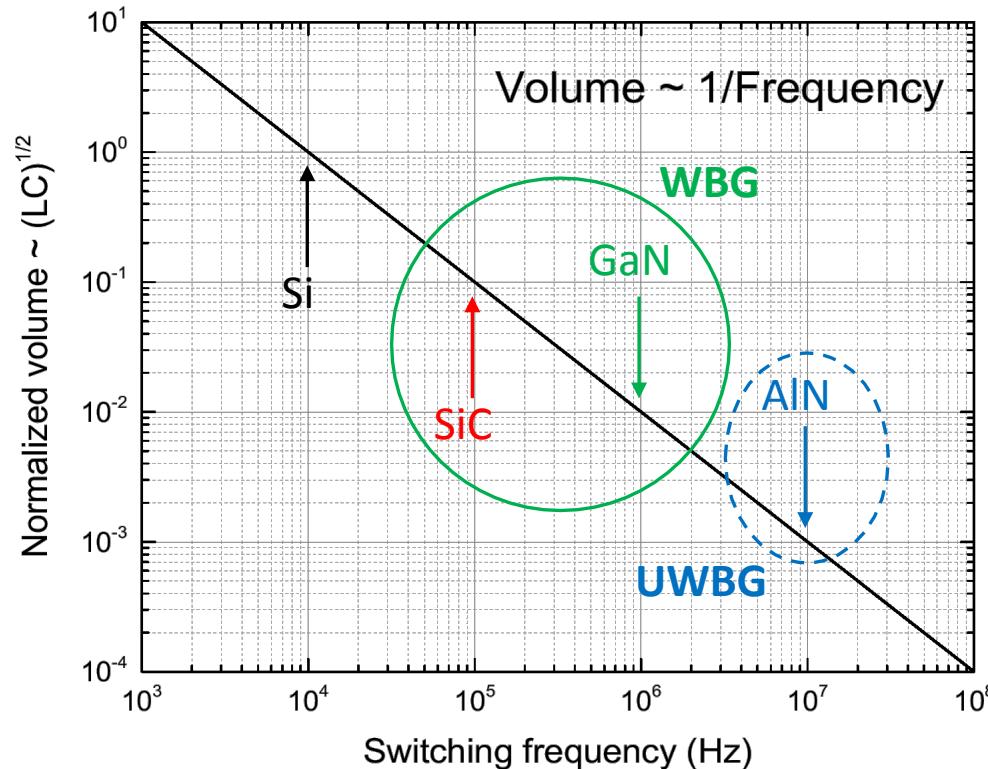


Passive elements and thermal management comprise the bulk of the volume and mass of a power converter

WBG/UWBG materials enable higher switching frequency and better thermal management



Higher Frequencies Decrease Inductance Requirements, However...



- Higher switching frequency is enabled by scaling properties of WBG/UWBG materials
- Ideal $1/f$ SWaP dependence (true dependence likely weaker $1/f^n$ with $n < 1$ due to nonidealities)
- Other benefits exist, e.g. higher voltage without series stacking of devices, and higher temperature operation

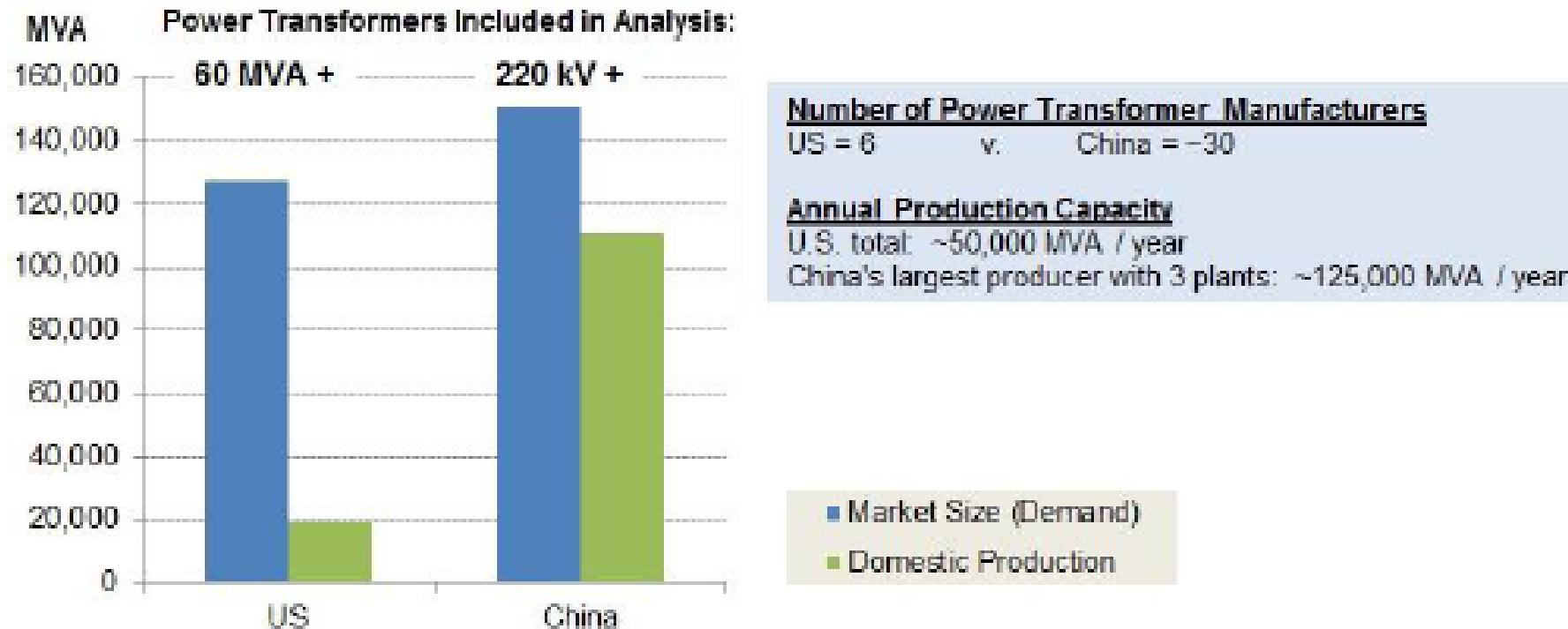
Inductive core materials have essentially been an afterthought and new magnetic materials are needed

Adapted from Bob Kaplar (SNL)

Power Transformer Market Analysis



Figure 12. Estimated Power Transformer Markets: United States v. China in 2010



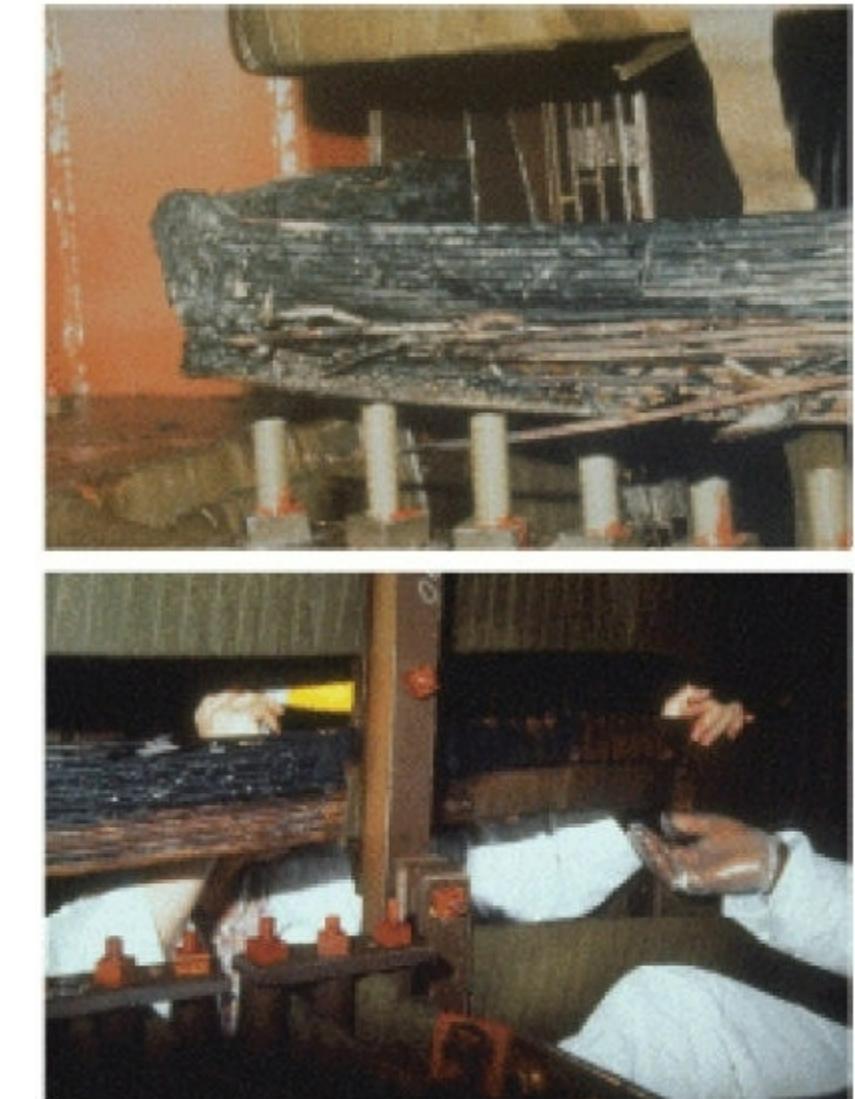
Note: Different criteria used for the United States and China. For the United States, power transformers with capacity greater than or equal to 60 MVA are included in the data; for China, power transformers with capacity greater than or equal to 220 kV are included in the data.

Sources: USITC, 2011; China Transformer Net, 2010; China's Power Transformer Industry Report, Reuters, 2011.



“Large Power Transformers and the U.S. Electric Grid”, Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy, June 2012.

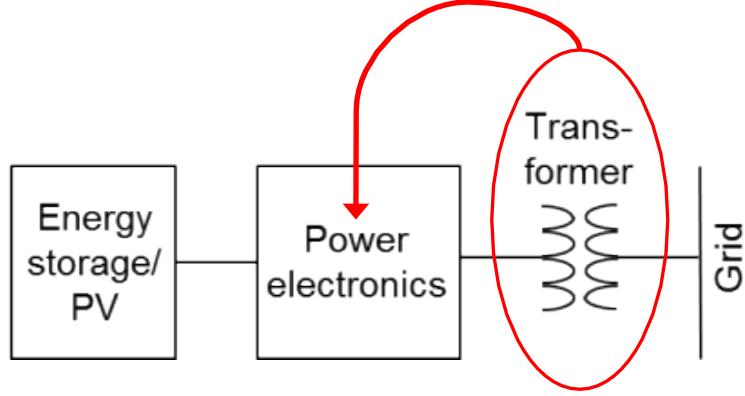
Transformer EMP Vulnerability



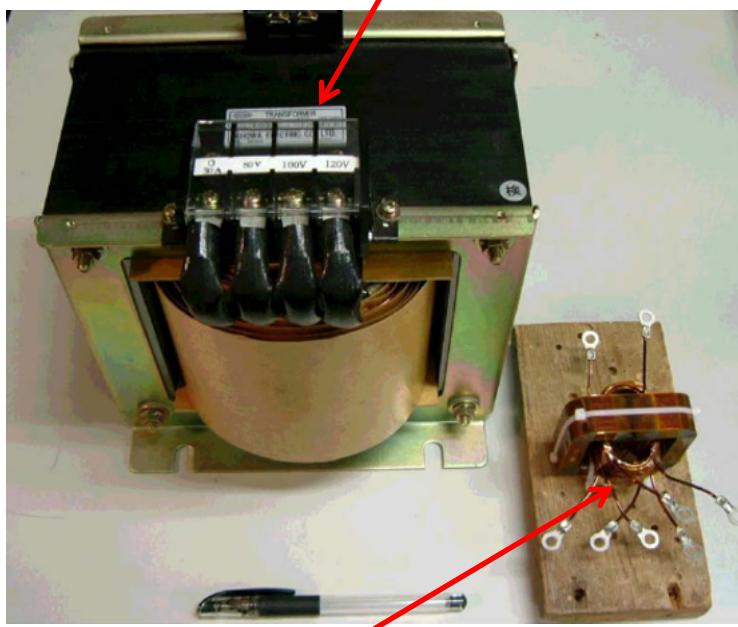
- **Geomagnetic storms couple very efficiently to long transmission lines**
- **Transformer can be driven to saturation, creating harmonics and reactive power**
- **Enough heat generated to melt copper windings**
- **Transformers the grid component that is hardest to replace**

Permanent damage to the Salem New Jersey Nuclear Plant GSU Transformer caused by the March 13, 1989 geomagnetic storm. Photos courtesy of PSE&G.

Benefits of a Solid State Transformer



Line frequency (50 Hz) transformer



High frequency (20 kHz) transformer

- **Integrate output transformer within power conversion electronics**
- **Leverage high switching speed, voltage, and temperature performance of WBG semiconductors**
- **Still maintain galvanic isolation**

Material requirements:

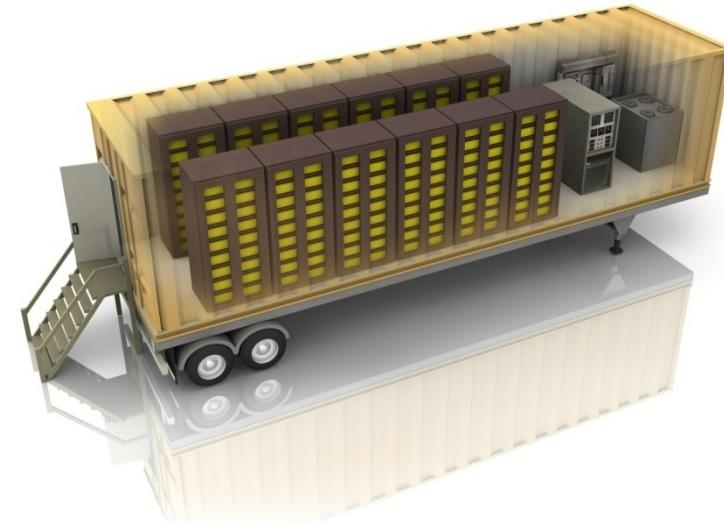
- **Low loss over 10-200 kHz frequency range**
 - **low coercivity, high ρ**
 - **High $J_s \rightarrow$ high power density**
 - **High temperature performance**
 - **Scalable & Affordable**
 - **Increased reliability and better SWaP**

Transportable Energy Storage and Power Conversion Systems (PCS)



Benefits of Energy Storage:

- Maintain power quality and reliability
 - Improve stability and defer upgrades
 - Enhanced agility and control (load leveling, power factor control, frequency and voltage regulation)
- Increase deployment of renewable energy



Benefits of Transportable Systems:

- Lower cost
- Modular design reduces assembly and validation time
- Faster installation at renewable energy generation sites

Microinverters for PV



Improved soft magnetic materials improve performance and decrease size of all inverters



Central Inverter
(1 per solar system)

or



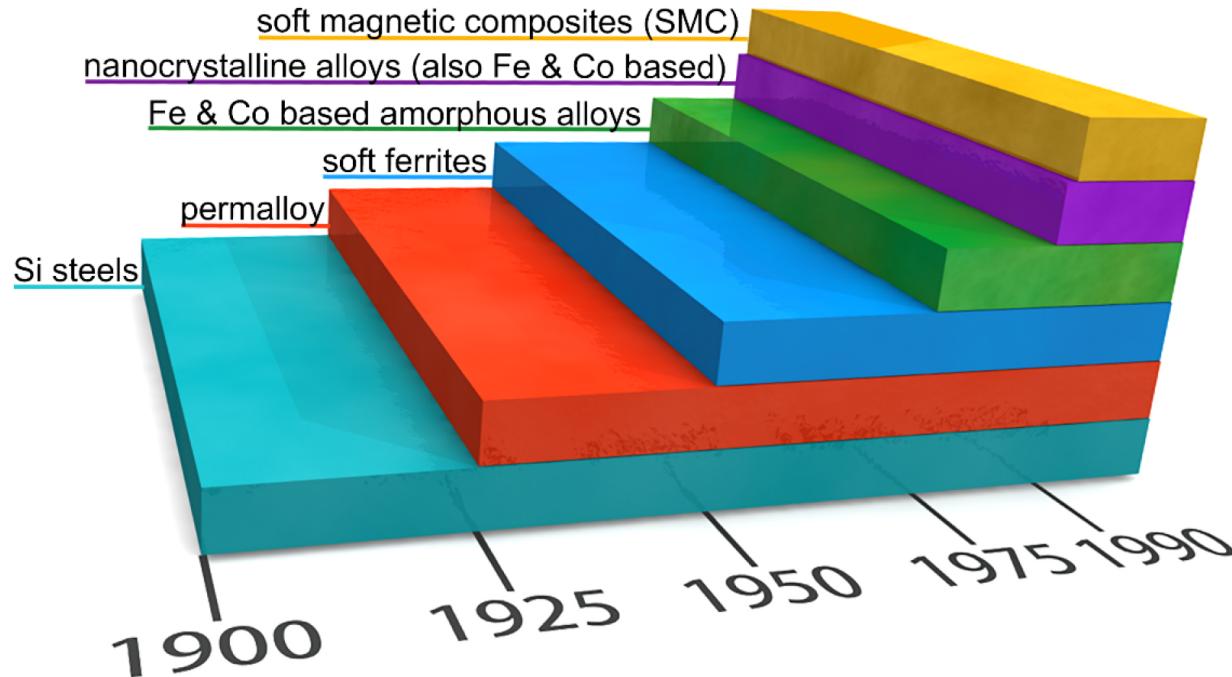
Micro-inverter
(1 per solar panel)

Can increase overall system efficiency by accommodating:

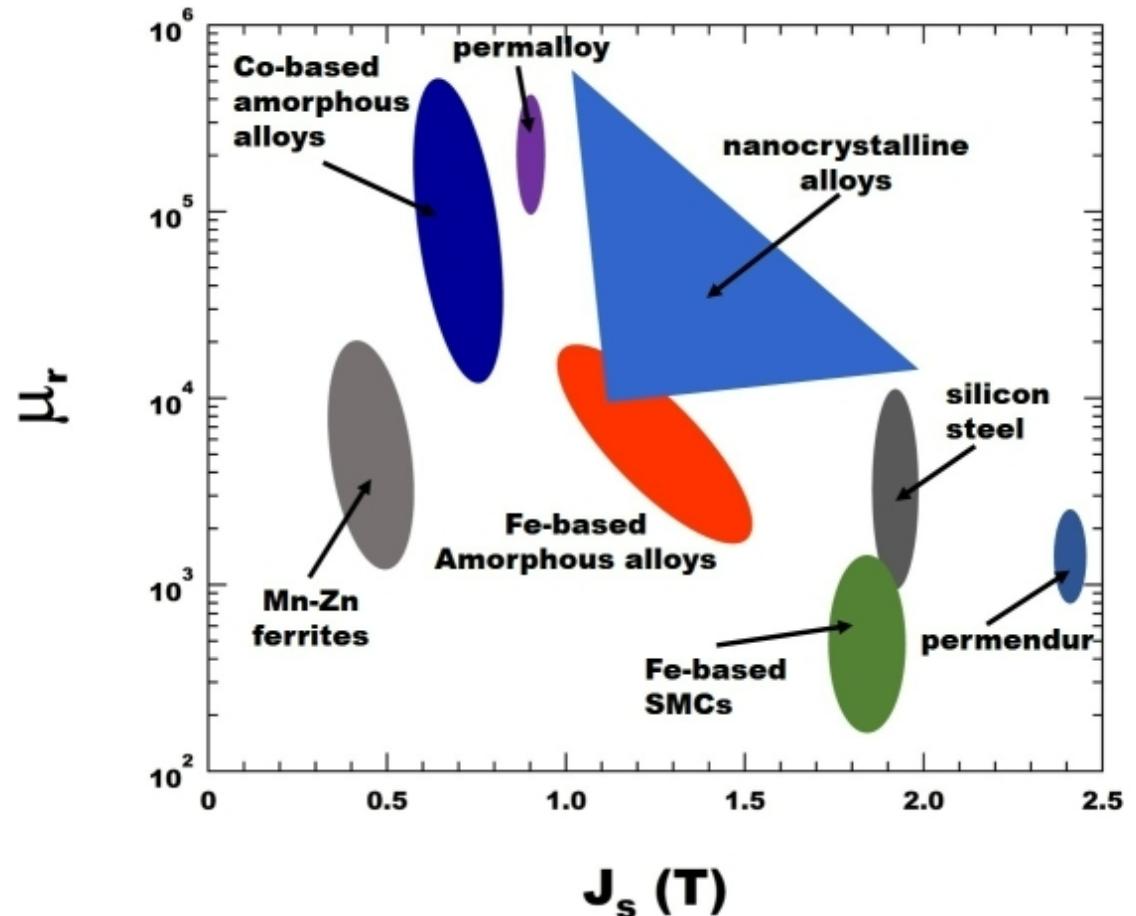
- Solar panel mismatch
- Panel orientation
- Shading

Less loss → Less waste heat → Less failures

Soft Magnetic Materials



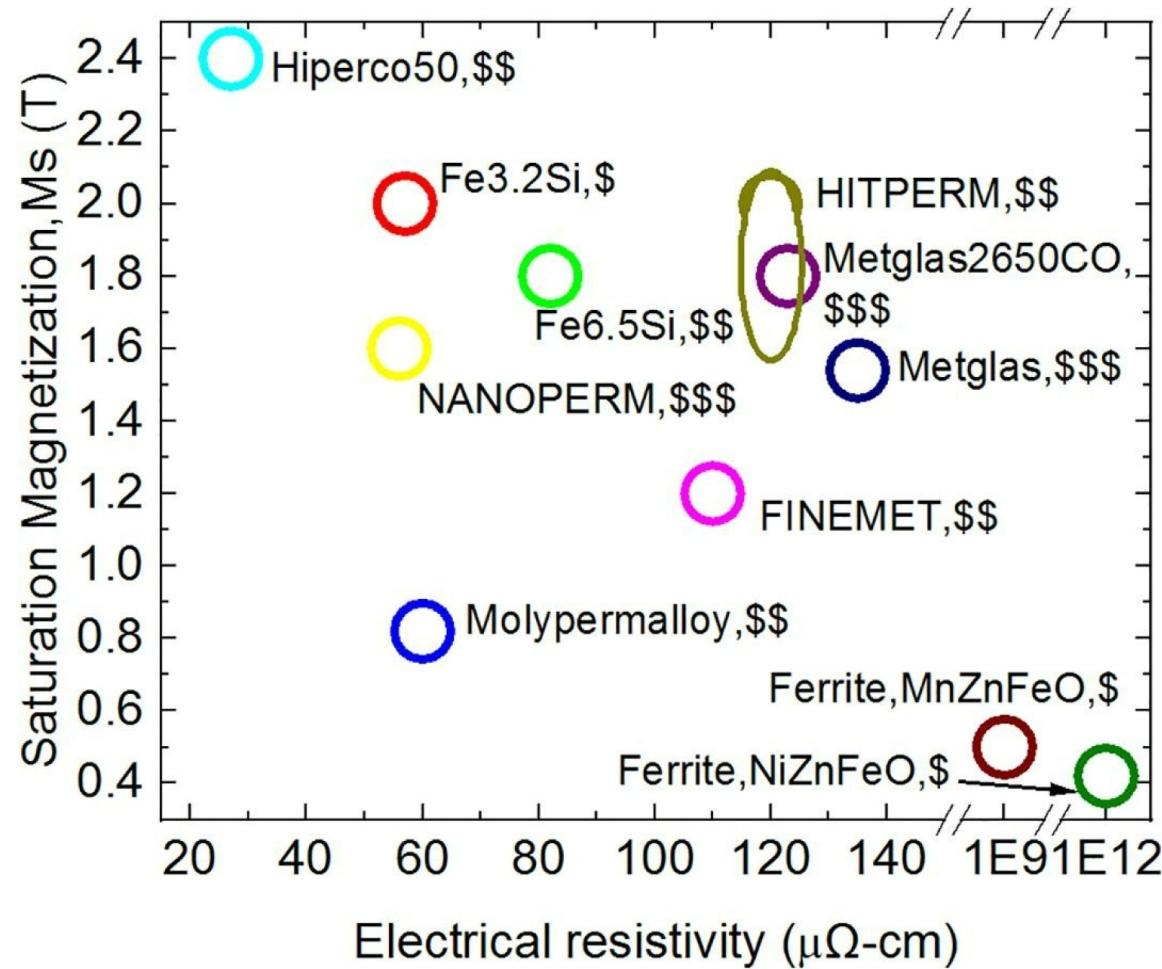
Adapted from: L.A. Dobrzański, M. Drak, B. Ziębowicz, Materials with specific magnetic properties, Journal of Achievements in Materials and Manufacturing Eng., 17, 37 (2006).



Adapted from: F. Fiorillo, G. Bertotti, C. Appino, M. Pasquale, and J. G. Webster, "Soft Magnetic Materials," in *Wiley Encyclopedia of Electrical and Electronics Engineering*: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999.

$$P_{\max} \propto J_s^2$$

Magnetization vs. Resistivity

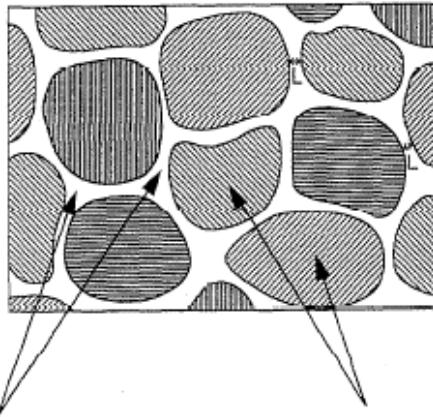


Ouyang, Gaoyuan & Chen, Xi & Liang, Yongfeng & Macziewski, Chad & Cui, Jun. (2019). Review of Fe-6.5 wt% Si high silicon steel—A promising soft magnetic material for sub-kHz application. *Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials*. 481. 10.1016/j.jmmm.2019.02.089.

Amorphous & Nanocrystalline Alloy Manufacturing

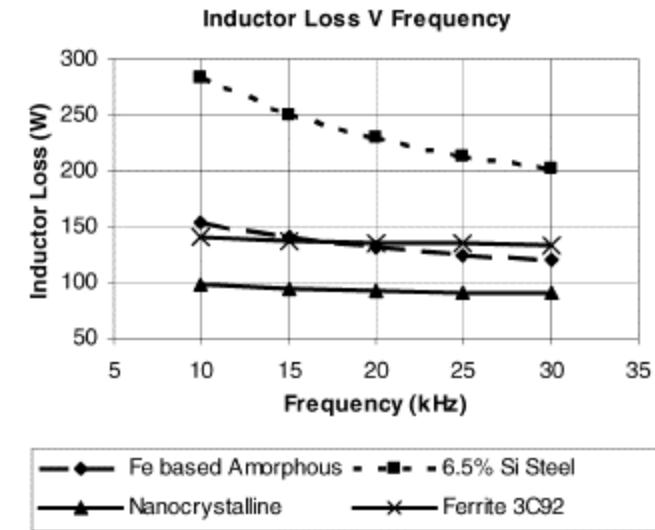
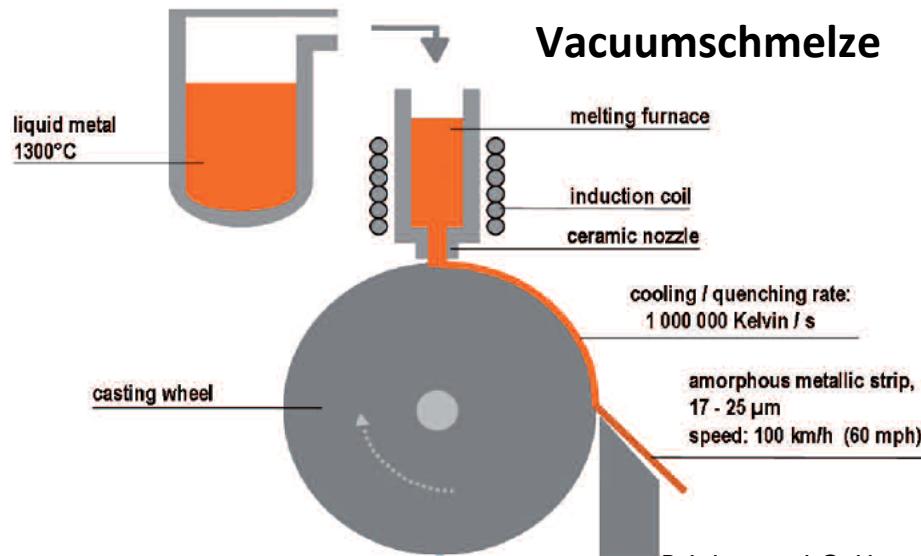


“NANOPERM”



Intergranular amorphous phase with high T_c and high thermal stability due to large amounts of M and B elements.

Nano-scale α -Fe grains with small λ due to small amounts of M and B elements.



B.J. Lyons, J.G. Hayes, M.G. Egan, Magnetic Material Comparisons for High-Current Inductors in Low-Medium Frequency DC-DC Converters, IEEE, 71 (2007).

A. Makino, et. al., Nanocrystalline Soft Magnetic Fe-M-B (M = Zr, Hf, Nb) alloys and their applications, Mat. Sci. and Eng., A226-228, 594 (1997).

- Complex stoichiometries including Fe and/or Co
 - Many other non-magnetic elements such as B, Zr, Hf, Nb, Cu, Mo, Si, C
- Material produced in tapes 5 – 20 μ m thick
- Up to several cm wide
- Can be difficult to stamp into shapes



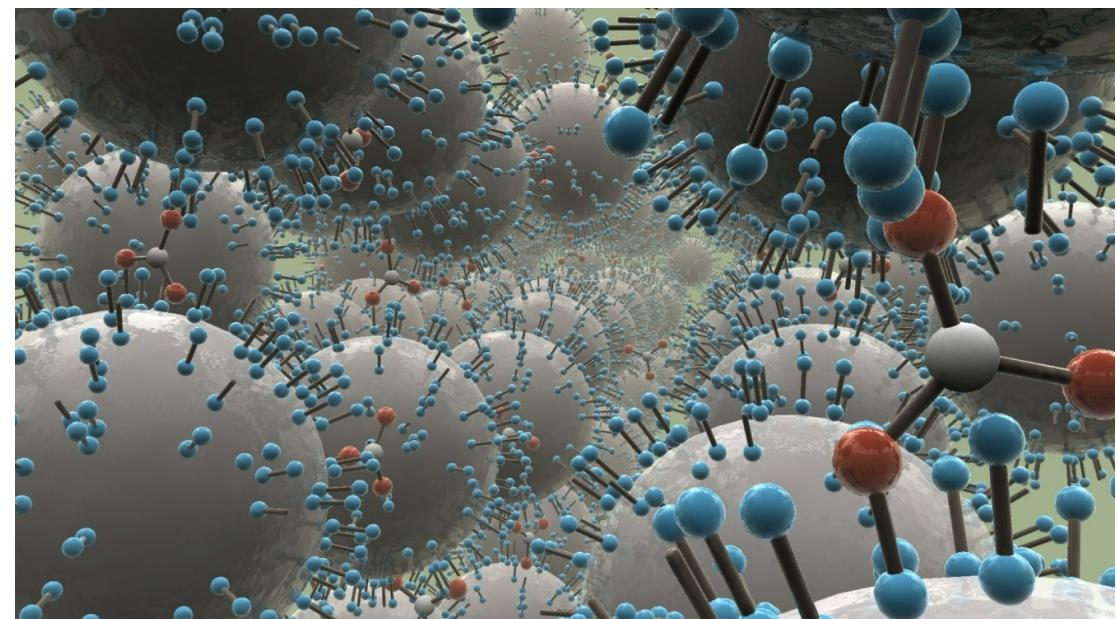
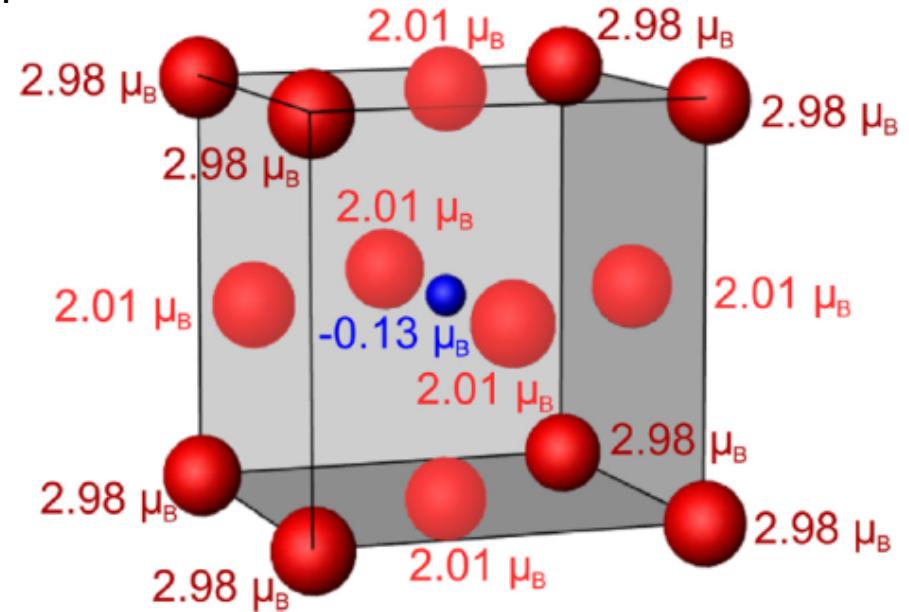
J. M. Silveyra, E. Ferrara, D. L. Huber, T. C. Monson, “Soft magnetic materials for a sustainable and electrified world,” Science 362, 418 (2018).

Opportunities



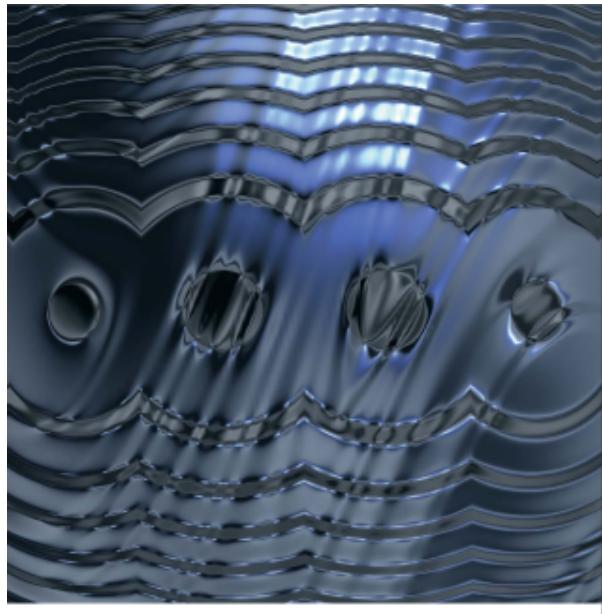
- Improve existing materials
 - 3% → 6.5% Si (electrical) steel
 - Increasing M_s and tape width in amorphous and nanocrystalline alloys
 - Grain boundary engineering in ferrites
- Invent new materials
 - Nitrides
 - New composite (SMC) approaches
 - Ideas no one has thought of?
- Better control over crystallinity and grain size
- Better control over domain wall motion

γ' -Fe₄N unit cell



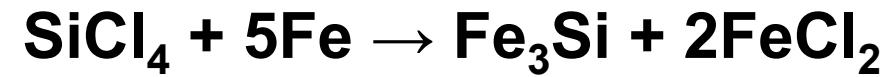
Fe nanoparticle nanocomposite

6.5% Si Steel, CVD Process

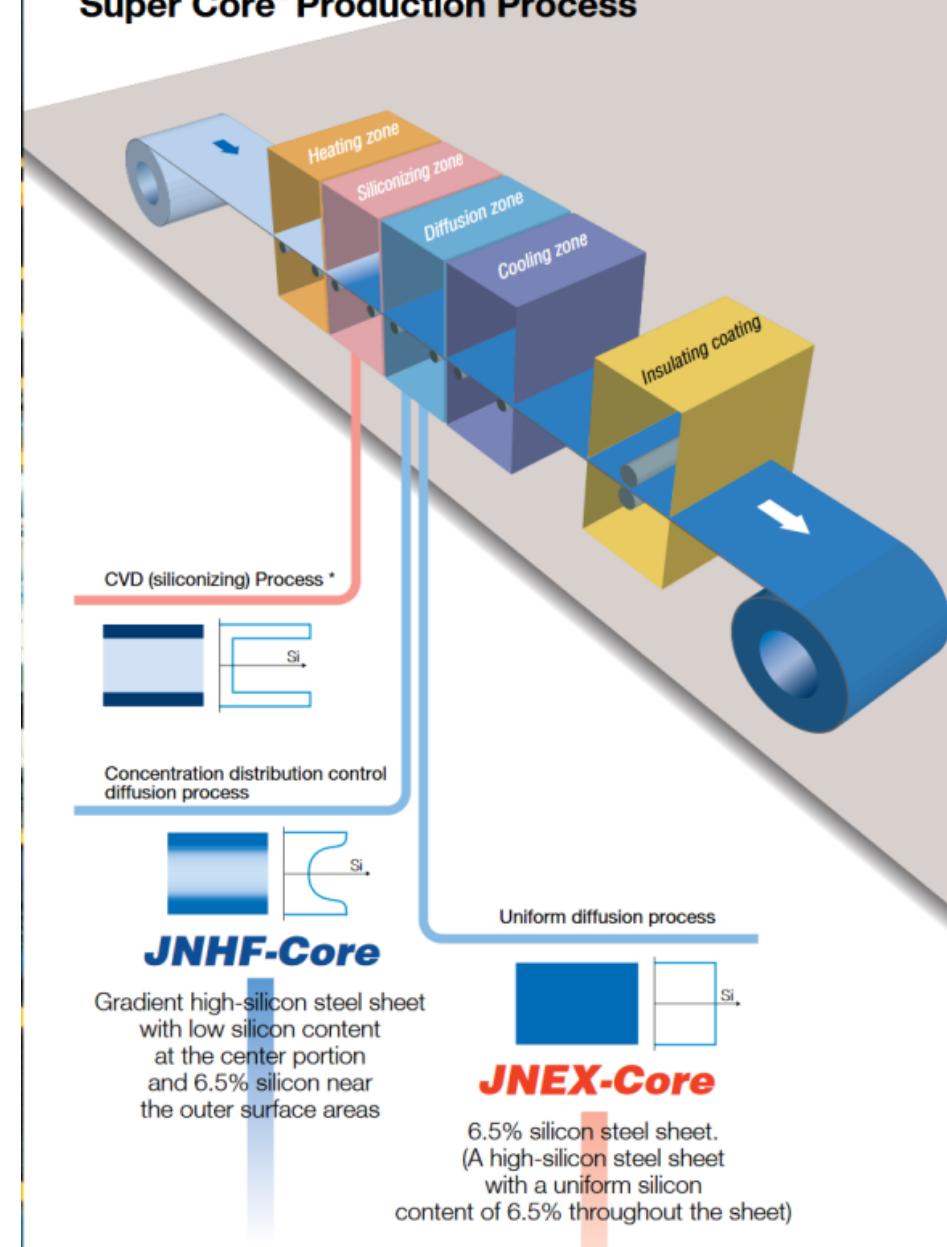


JFE Steel Corporation

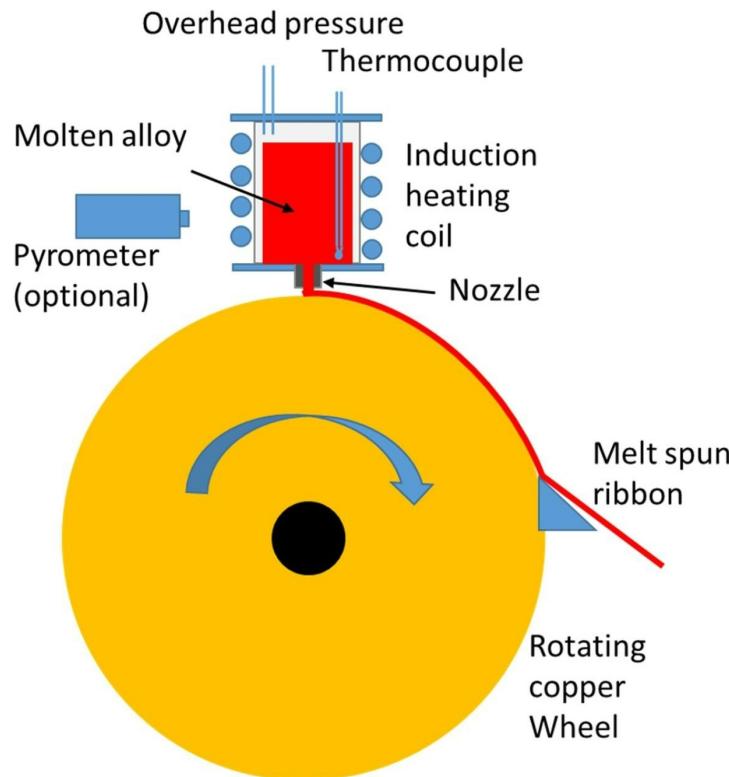
Material	Thickness (mm)	Specific resistance ($\mu\Omega\cdot\text{m}$)	DC max relative permeability	Saturation magnetization (T)	Magnetic flux density B_8 (T)	Magnetic flux density B_{25} (T)	Magneto-striction $\lambda_{10/400}$ ($\times 10^{-6}$)
JNEX-Core	0.10	0.82	23,000	1.80	1.29	1.40	0.1
Grain-oriented silicon steel	0.05 0.10 0.23 0.35	0.48	— 24,000 92,000 94,000	2.03	1.75 1.84 1.92 1.92	— 1.91 1.96 1.96	—0.8
Non-oriented silicon steel	0.10 0.20 0.35	0.57	12,500 15,000 18,000	2.05 2.03 1.96	1.58 1.44 1.45	— 1.53 1.56	7.8
Fe-based amorphous	0.025	1.30	300,000	1.50	1.38	—	27.0
Ferrite	Bulk	—	3,500	—	0.37	—	21.0



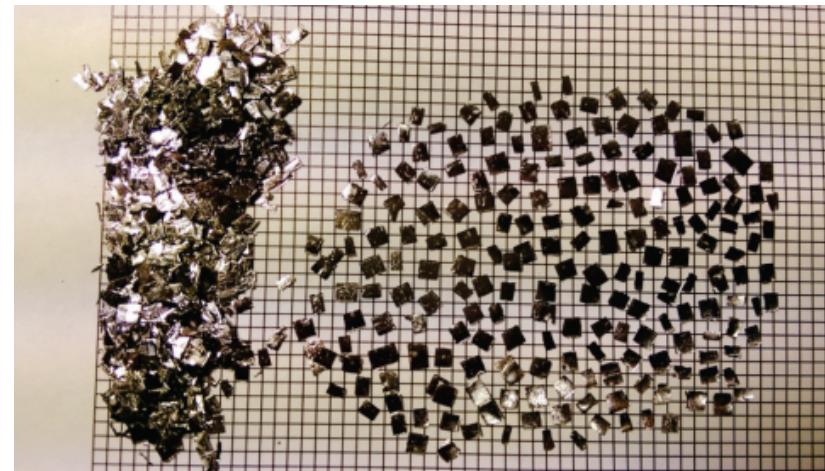
Super Core™ Production Process



6.5% Si Steel, Melt Spinning



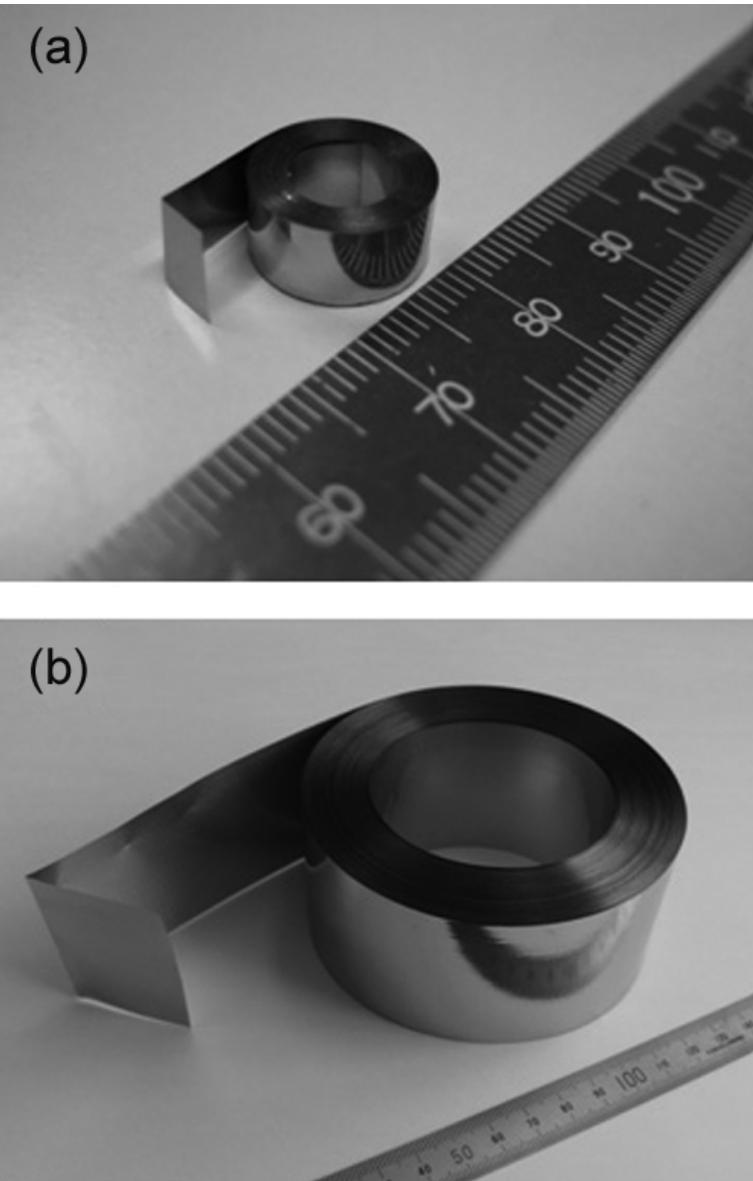
- Limited range of thickness (0.03 – 0.1 mm)
- Limited widths (< 300 mm)
- Currently used in laboratories to produce small batches (< 1 kg)



Cui, Jun, "Cost Effective 6.5% Silicon Steel Laminate for Electric Machines," Electrification 2018 Annual Progress Report, Vehicle Technologies Office, U.S. DOE

Ouyang, Gaoyuan & Chen, Xi & Liang, Yongfeng & Macziewski, Chad & Cui, Jun. (2019). Review of Fe-6.5 wt% Si high silicon steel—A promising soft magnetic material for sub-kHz application. *Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials.* 481. 10.1016/j.jmmm.2019.02.089.

Improving Amorphous and Nanocrystalline Alloys



Theisen, E. (2017). Development of New Amorphous and Nanocrystalline Magnetic Materials for Use in Energy-Efficient Devices. *MRS Advances*, 2(56), 3409-3414. doi:10.1557/adv.2017.552

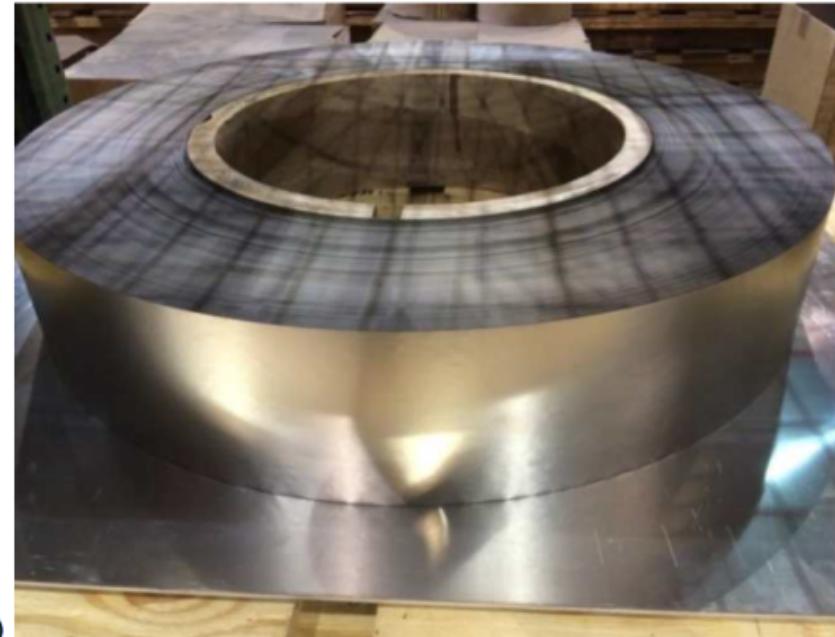
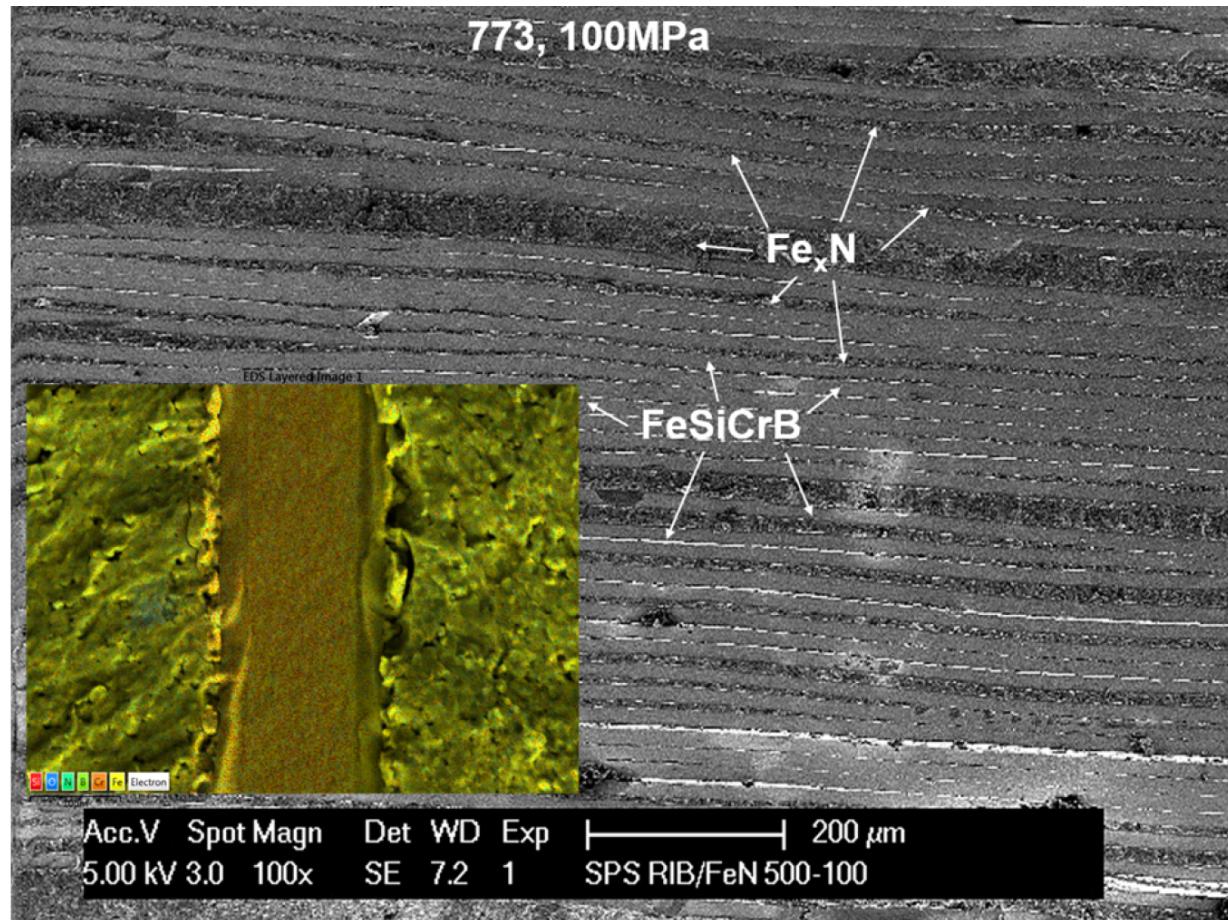
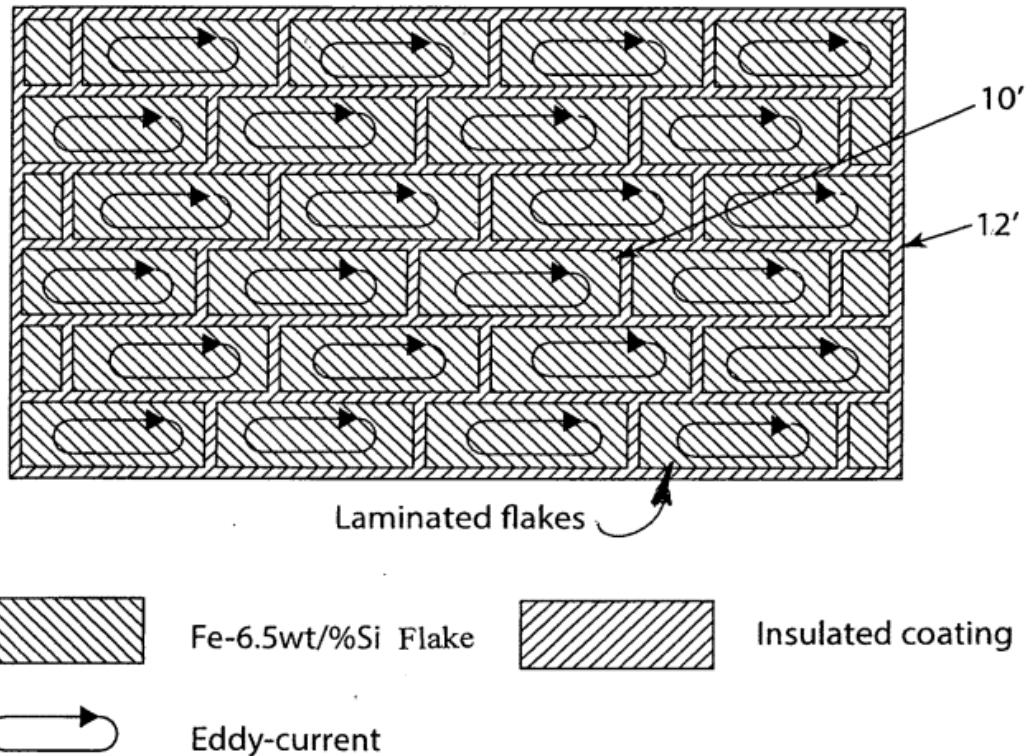


Figure 3: a) Full sized spool of 142mm (5.6") wide FT-3W weighing 500 kgs and b) Inductor core fabricated from the 142mm nanocrystalline FT-3W ribbon.

A. Makino, "Nanocrystalline Soft Magnetic Fe-Si-B-P-Cu Alloys With High B of 1.8–1.9T Contributable to Energy Saving," in *IEEE Transactions on Magnetics*, vol. 48, no. 4, pp. 1331-1335, April 2012. doi: 10.1109/TMAG.2011.2175210

Inorganic Magnetic Composites



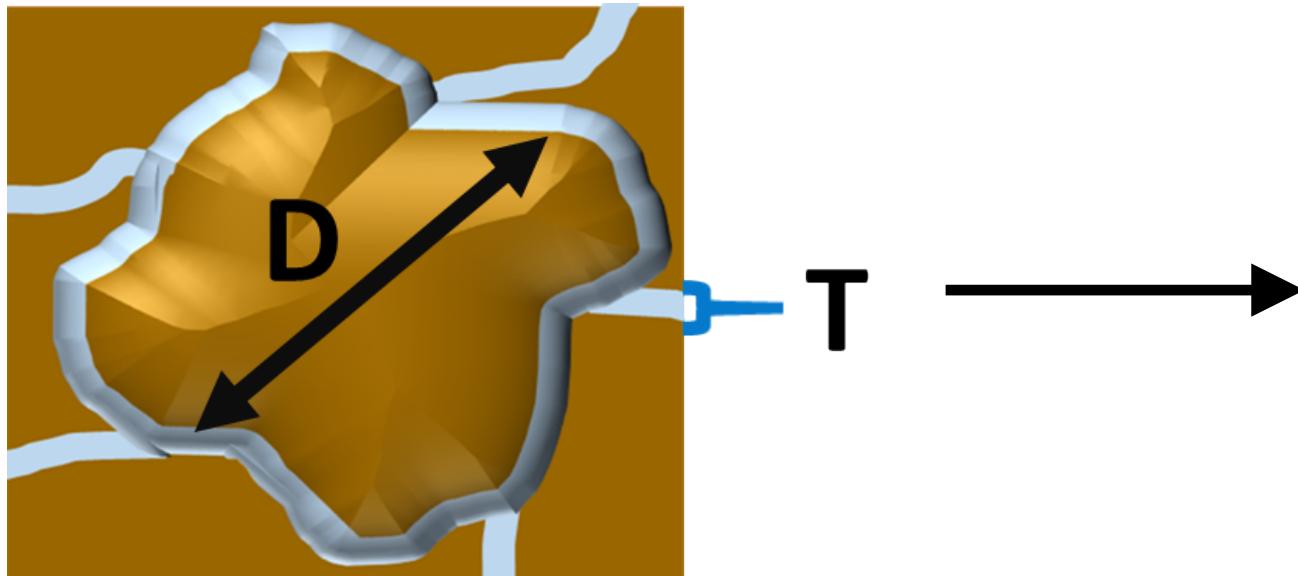
Cui, Jun, et al. "Near net shape bulk laminated silicon iron electric steel for improved electrical resistance and low high frequency loss." U.S. Patent Application No. 16/501,332.

T. C. Monson, B. Zheng, R. E. Delany, C. J. Pearce, E. D. Langlois, S. M. Lepkowski, T. E. Stevens, Y. Zhou, S. Atcitty, E. J. Lavernia, "Soft magnetic multi-layered FeSiCrB - Fe_3N metallic glass composites fabricated via spark plasma sintering," *IEEE Magnetics Letters* 10, 1-5 (2019).

Bottom-up Magnetic Composites, Organic Matrix

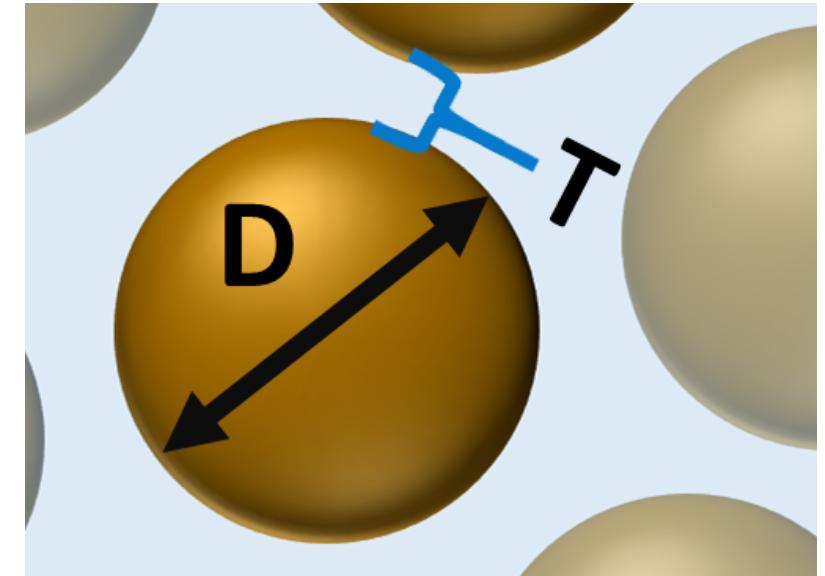


Current SMCs



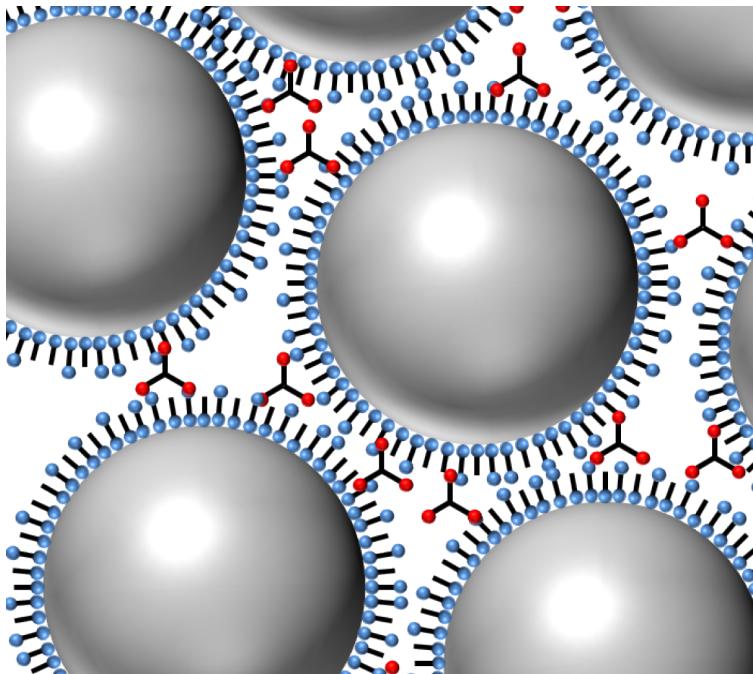
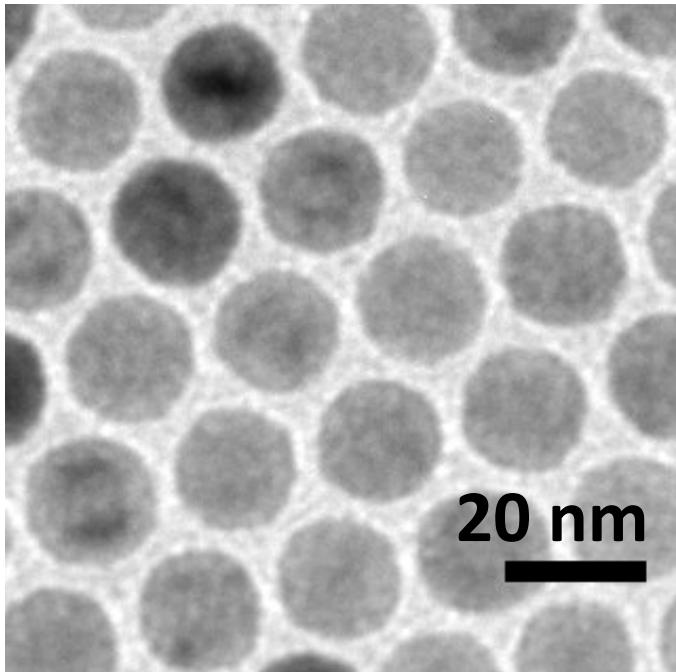
- Irregular shape increases anisotropy
 - Further limits μ
- Particles still touch throughout composite
 - Multiple conductive pathways

New possibility



- Tailored shapes to minimize anisotropy
 - Increased μ
- Better control over particle dispersion
 - True insulating composite

Magnetic Nanocomposites, Organic Matrix

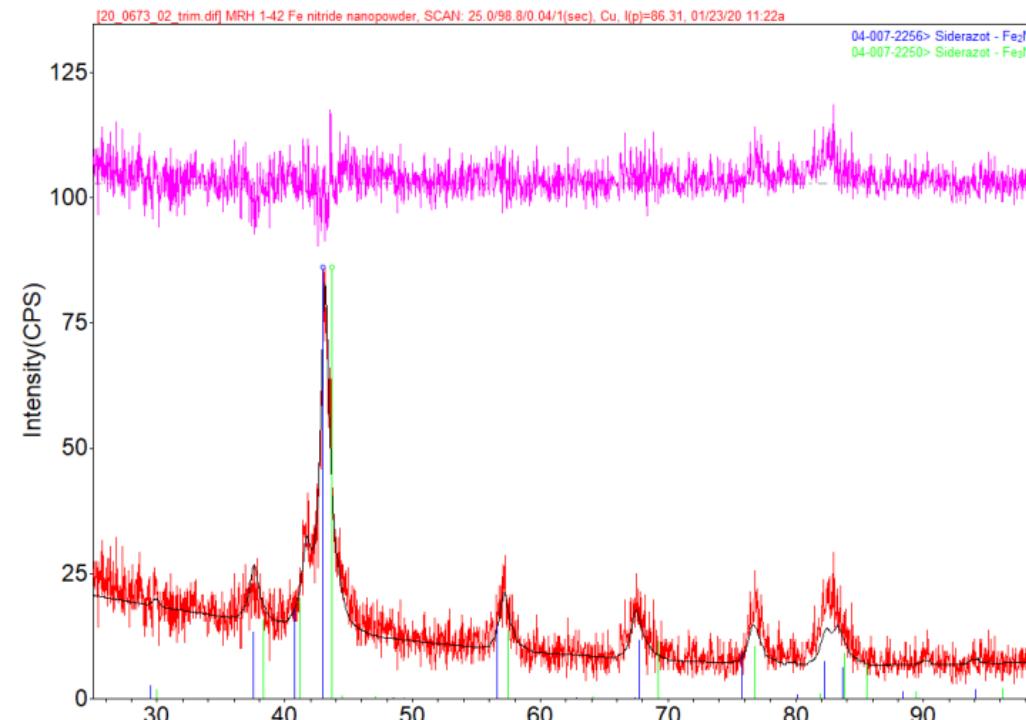
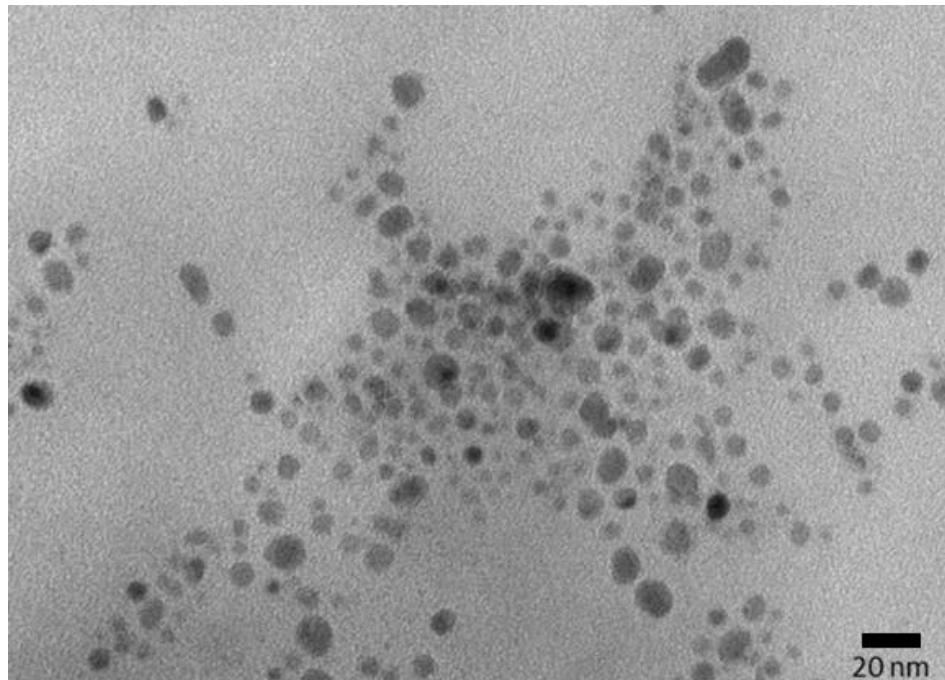
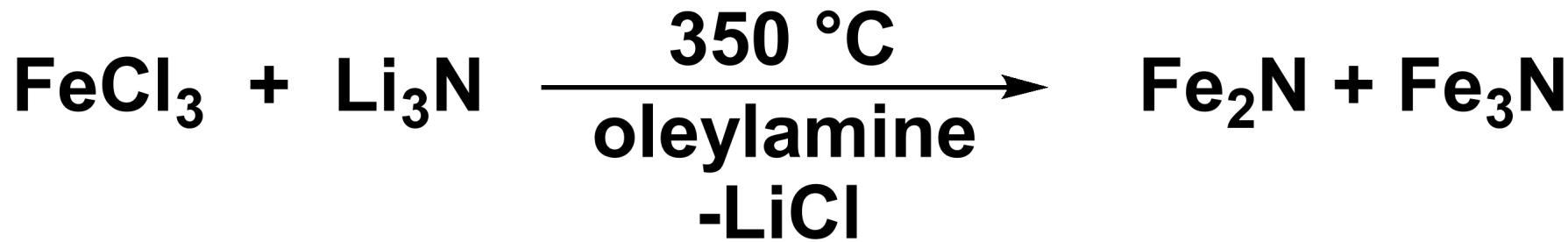


- = Triepoxide
- = Monoamine
- = Diamine

- Uniform particles
- Uniform, controlled spacing
- Nearly insulating composite
- Can leverage superparamagnetic behavior

J. Watt, G. C. Bleier, Z. W. Romero, B. G. Hance, J. A. Bierner, T. C. Monson, D. L. Huber, "Gram scale synthesis of $\text{Fe/Fe}_x\text{O}_y$ core-shell nanoparticles and their incorporation into matrix-free superparamagnetic nanocomposites," *Journal of Materials Research* **33**, 2156-2167 (2018).

Routes to Nanoparticle Iron Nitride

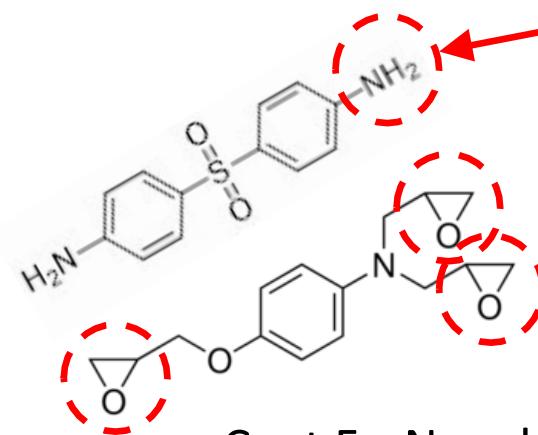
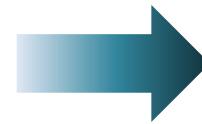


Magnetic Composites



Diamines will bond directly to Fe_4N surface and epoxy matrix for enhanced mechanical robustness and particle electrical isolation

Convert commercial Fe_xN powder to phase pure Fe_4N



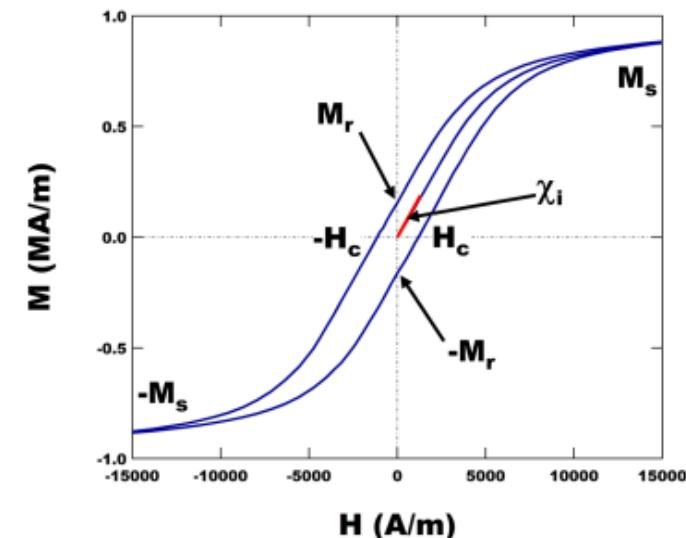
4-aminophenyl sulfone
&

N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidyloxyaniline (NND)

Coat Fe_4N and mix with
epoxy monomers



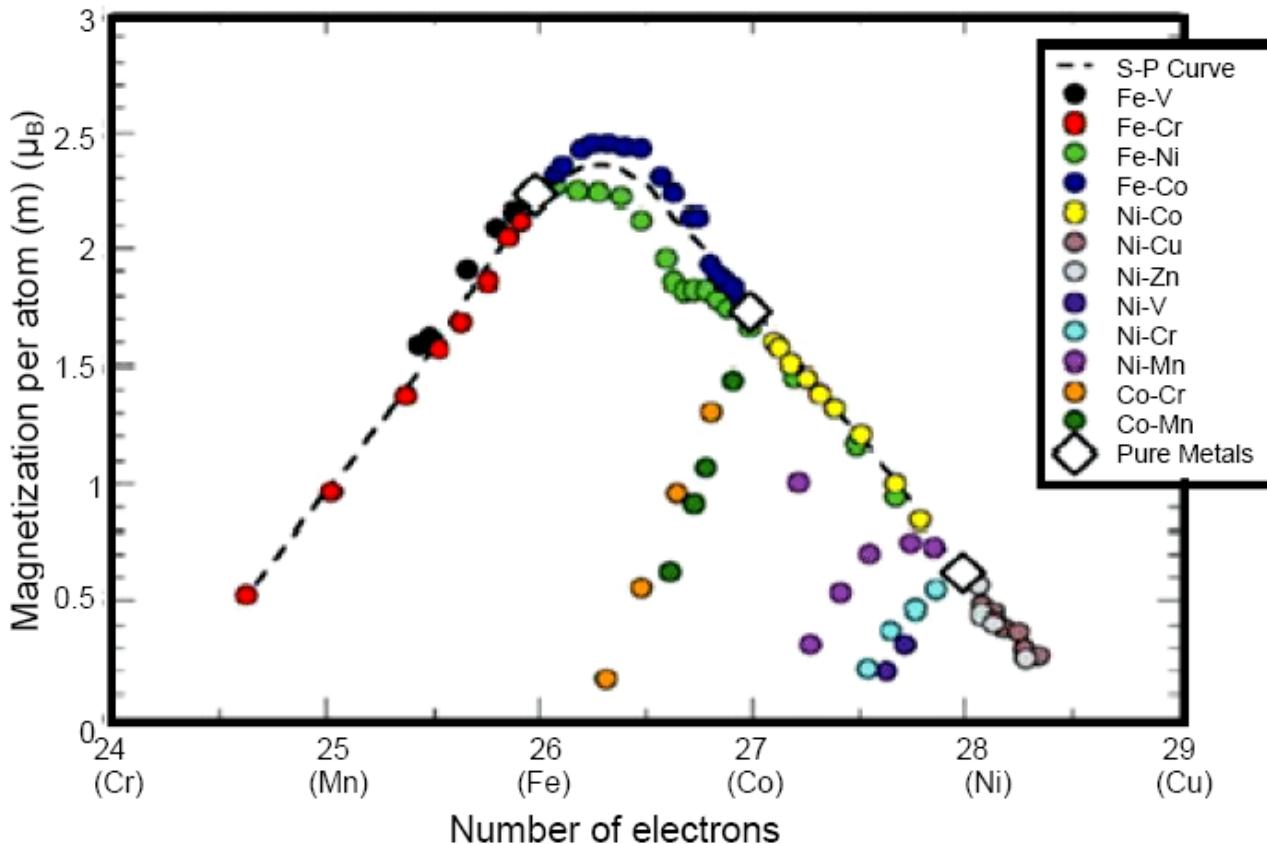
- Pour into 3D printed mold and cure into inductor/motor part
- Hot press to increase density and loading factor
- Results in a net-shaped part (no machining required)



Evaluate and test

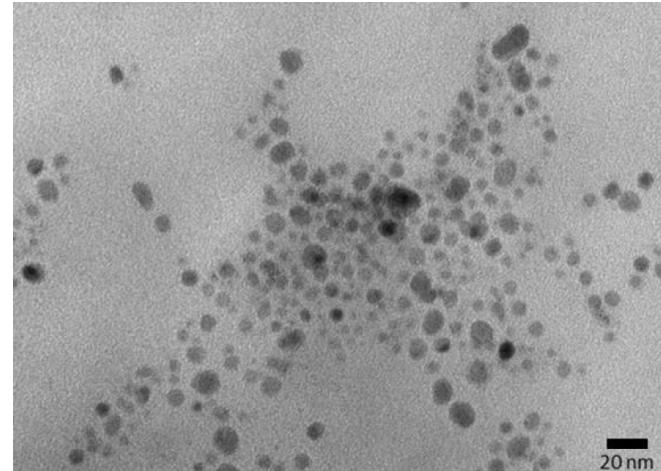
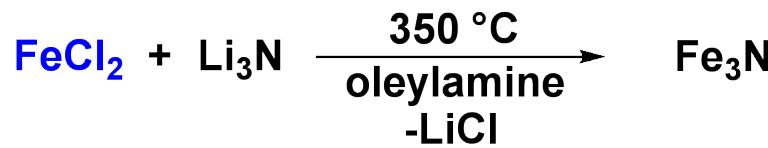
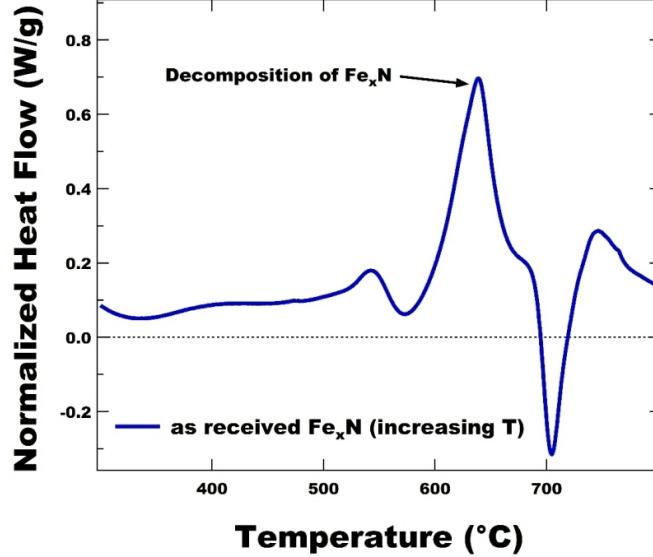


Slater – Pauling Curve

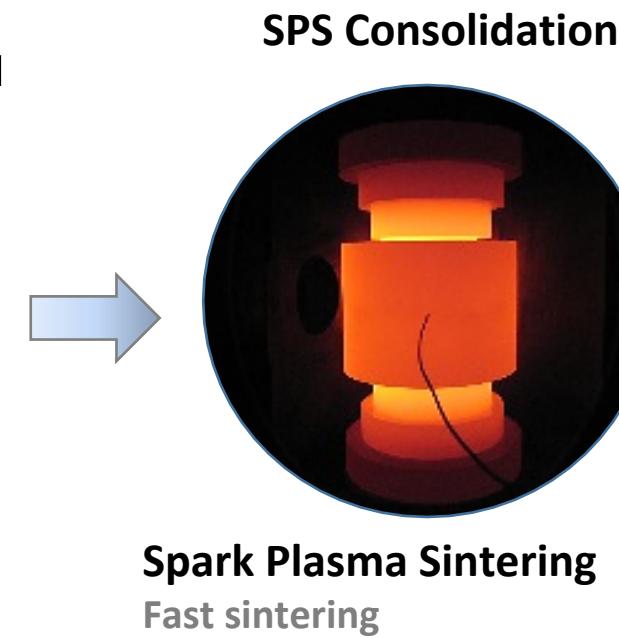
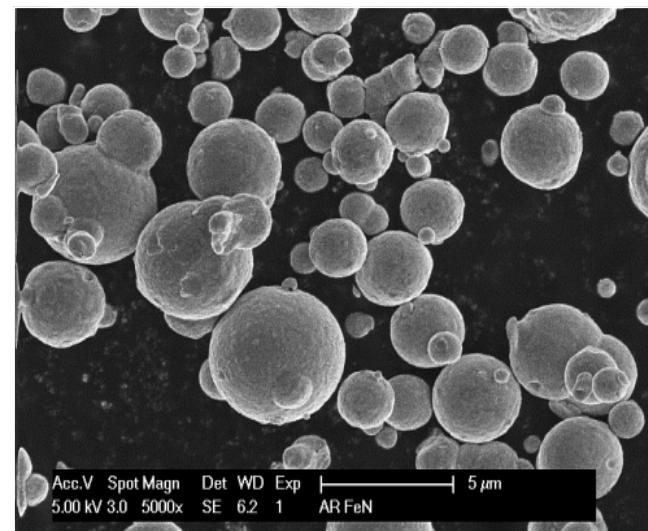


- Alloying alters spacing between atoms
- Tunes exchange coupling and therefore magnetization
- There are other ways to tune the spacing between atoms

SPS consolidated iron nitride (γ' -Fe₄N)



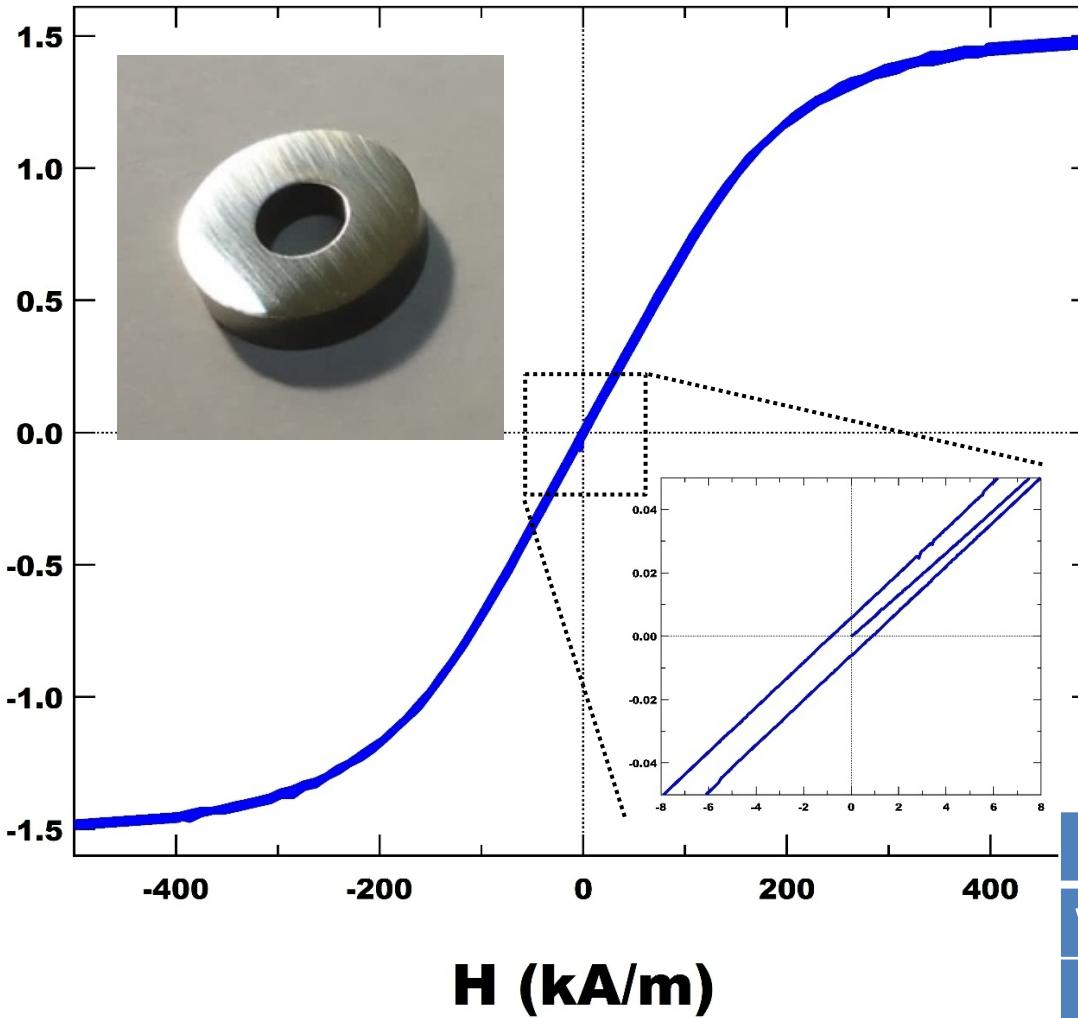
Relatively low thermal decomposition limits consolidation & fabrication methods



- Pressure and pulsed current assisted sintering process
- Precision control over heat, pressure, and time
- Restrain grain growth
- Full densification



SPS consolidated iron nitride (γ' -Fe₄N)



First ever bulk γ' -Fe₄N!
U.S. Patent #9,963,344

- SPSe at 550°C and 100 MPa
- $J_s = 1.62$ T
- Theoretical $J_s = 1.89$ T (SiFe is 1.87 T)
- $H_c < 1000$ A/m

T. C. Monson, B. Zheng, R. E. Delany, C. J. Pearce, E. D. Langlois, S. M. Lepkowski, T. E. Stevens, Y. Zhou, S. Atcitty, E. J. Lavernia, "Soft magnetic multi-layered FeSiCrB-Fe_xN metallic glass composites fabricated via spark plasma sintering," IEEE Magnetics Letters 10, 1-5 (2019).

Magnetic Material	J_s (T)	$\rho(\mu\Omega\cdot m)$	Cost
VITROPERM (Vacuumschmelze)	1.20	1.15	High
Metglas 2605SC	1.60	1.37	High
Ferrite (Ferroxcube)	0.52	5×10^6	Low
Si steel	1.87	0.05	Low
γ' -Fe ₄ N	1.89	> 200	Low



Grain Size, Domain Wall Motion, and Coercivity

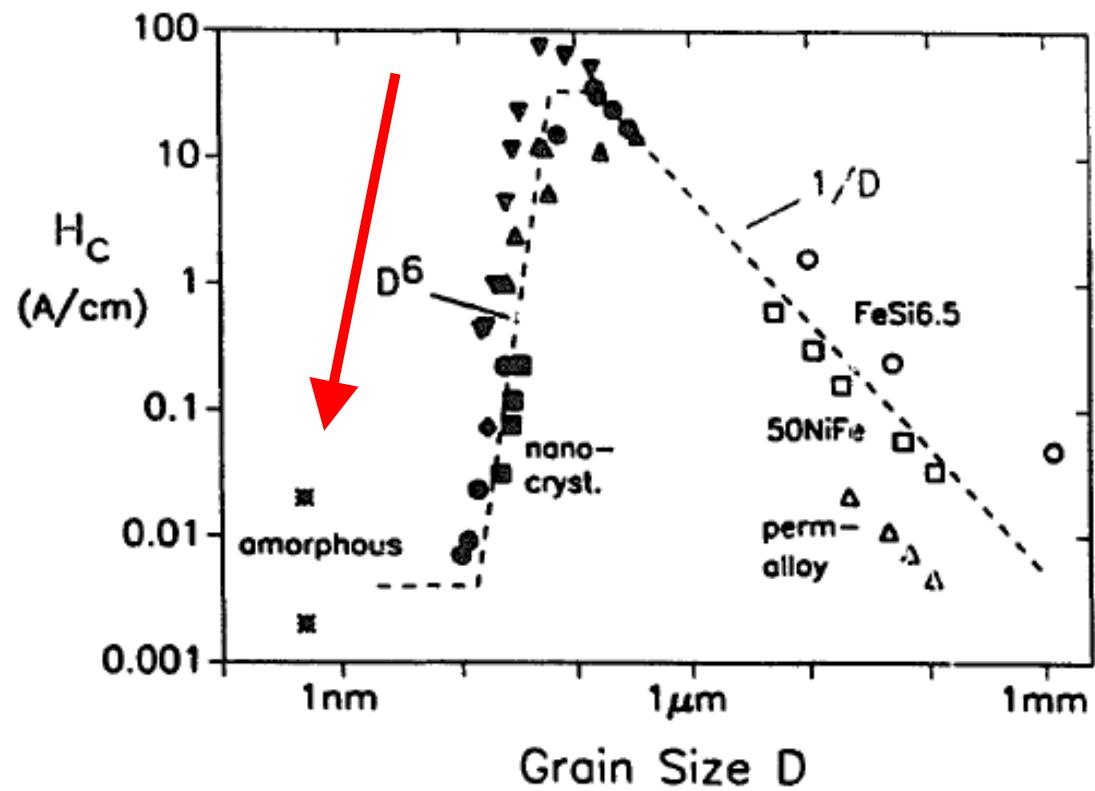
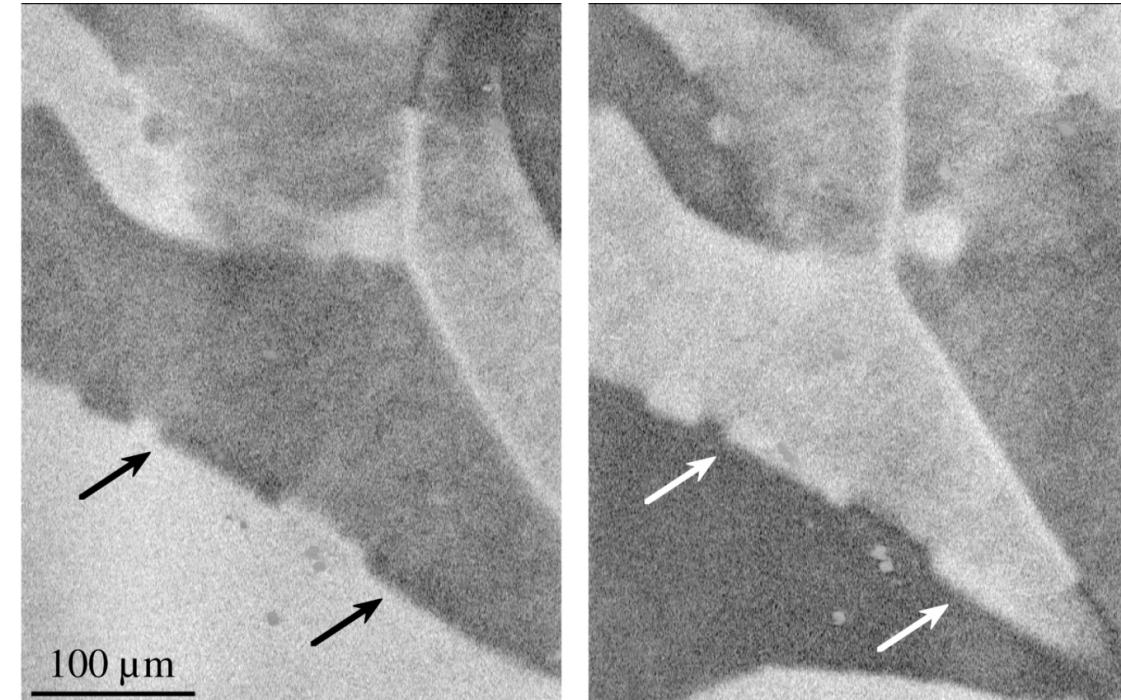


Fig. 2. Coercivity H_c vs. grain size for various soft magnetic metallic alloys. The data of the nanocrystalline material refer to (▲) FeNbSiB and (●) FeCuNbSiB [14], (◆) FeCuVSiB [15], (■) FeZrB [4] and (▼) FeCoZr [16].



R. Schaefer and G. Herzer, "Continuous magnetization patterns in amorphous ribbons," IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, vol. 37, pp. 2245-2247, 2001.

Conclusions



- Soft magnetic materials are ubiquitous and will only become more important as our energy supply and distribution modernizes
- Tradeoffs between magnetization, electrical losses, cost, and suitability for a particular application must always be considered
- No single magnetic material can meet all current and future needs
- Opportunities exist for both incremental and revolutionary improvements

Acknowledgements

- DOE/OE, VTO, ARPA-E, Sandia National Labs LDRD
- CJ Pearce, Melinda Hoyt, Tyler Stevens, Robert Delany, Emily Johnson, and many others...

Questions?

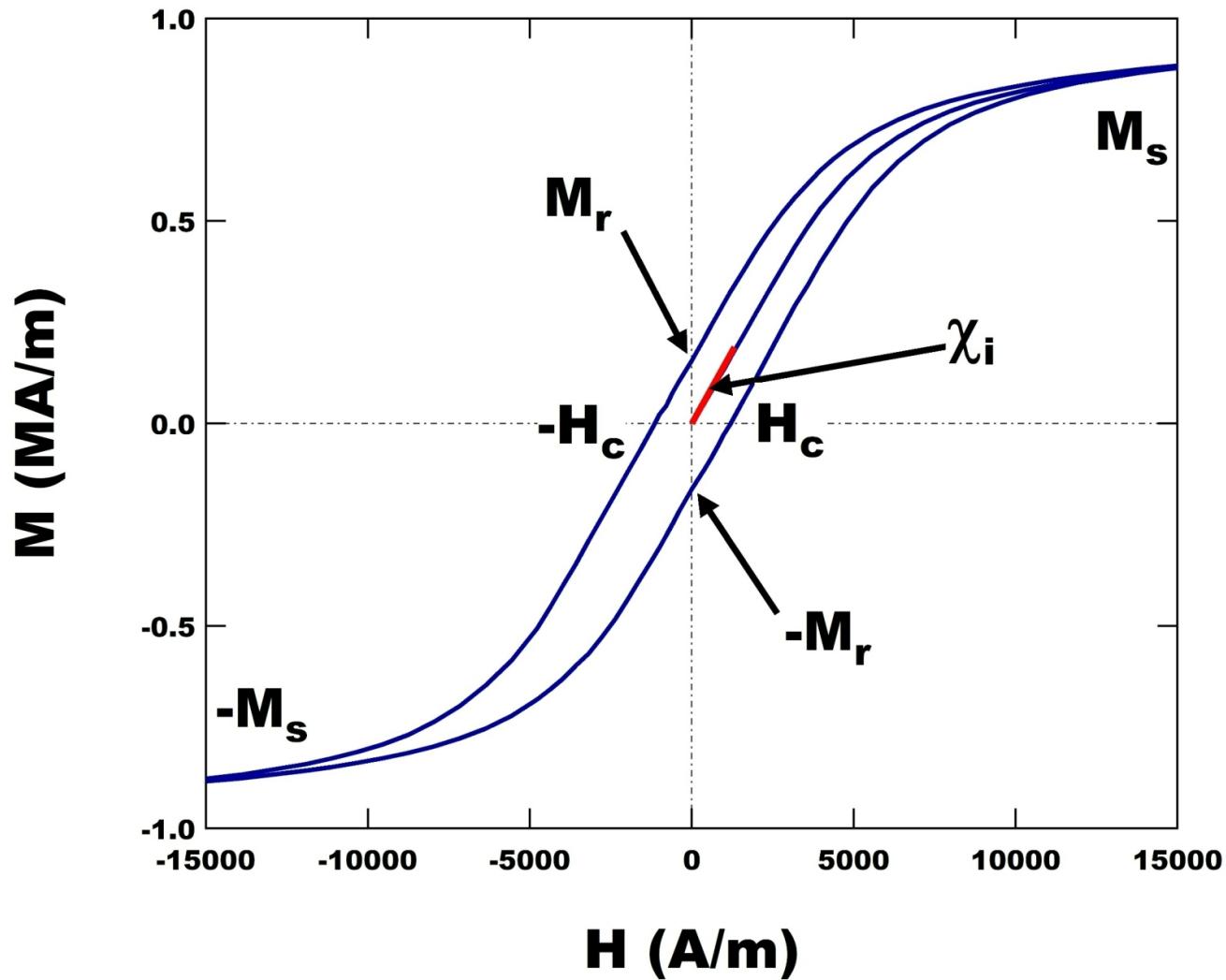


tmonson@sandia.gov



Backup Slides

Magnetic Properties



M_s = saturation magnetization

M_r = magnetic remanence

H_c = coercivity

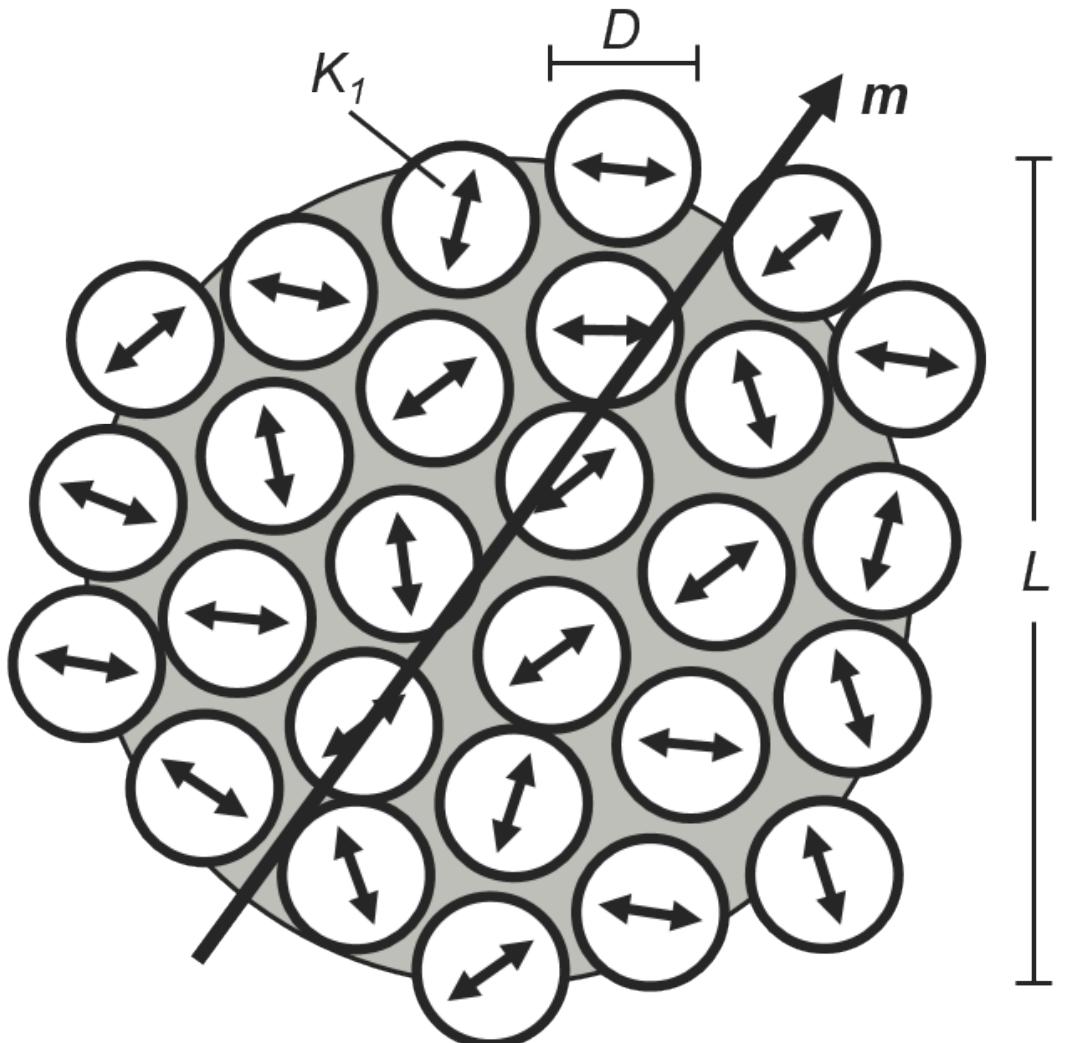
χ_i = initial susceptibility

μ = permeability

μ_r = relative permeability

$$\mu_r = \mu/\mu_0 = 1 + \chi$$

Random Anisotropy Model



- Magnetic correlation length (L) is longer than structural correlation length (D)
- Effective anisotropy becomes negligible

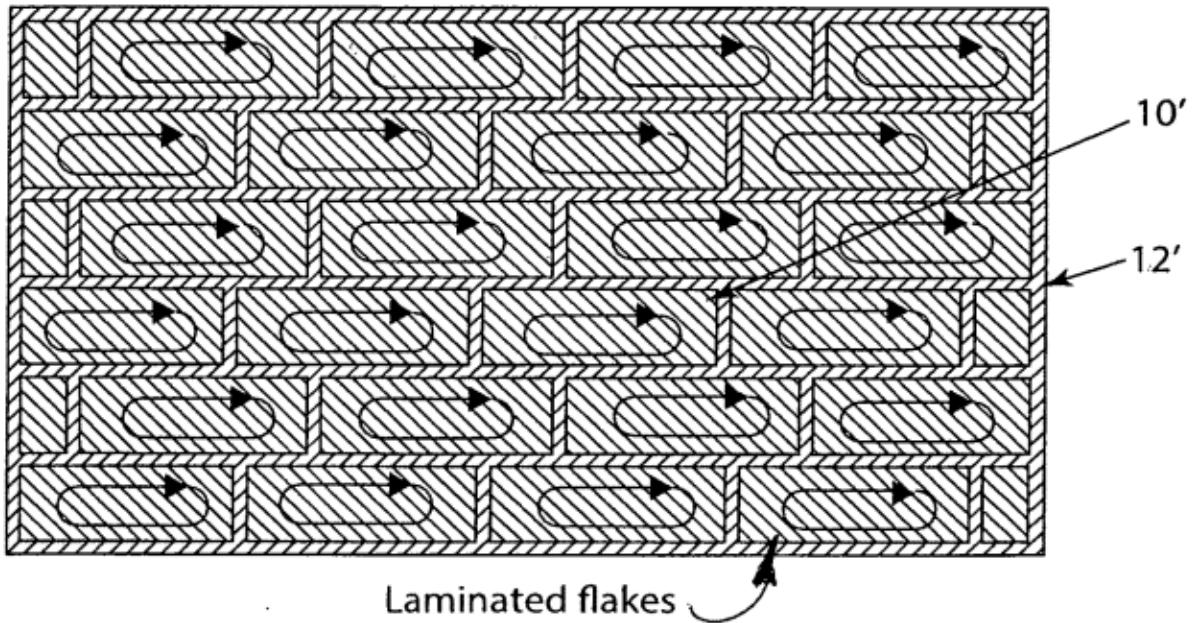
K_1 = Randomly oriented uniaxial anisotropy

D = Structural correlation length (grain size)

m = Magnetization

L = Magnetic correlation length

Inorganic Magnetic Composites



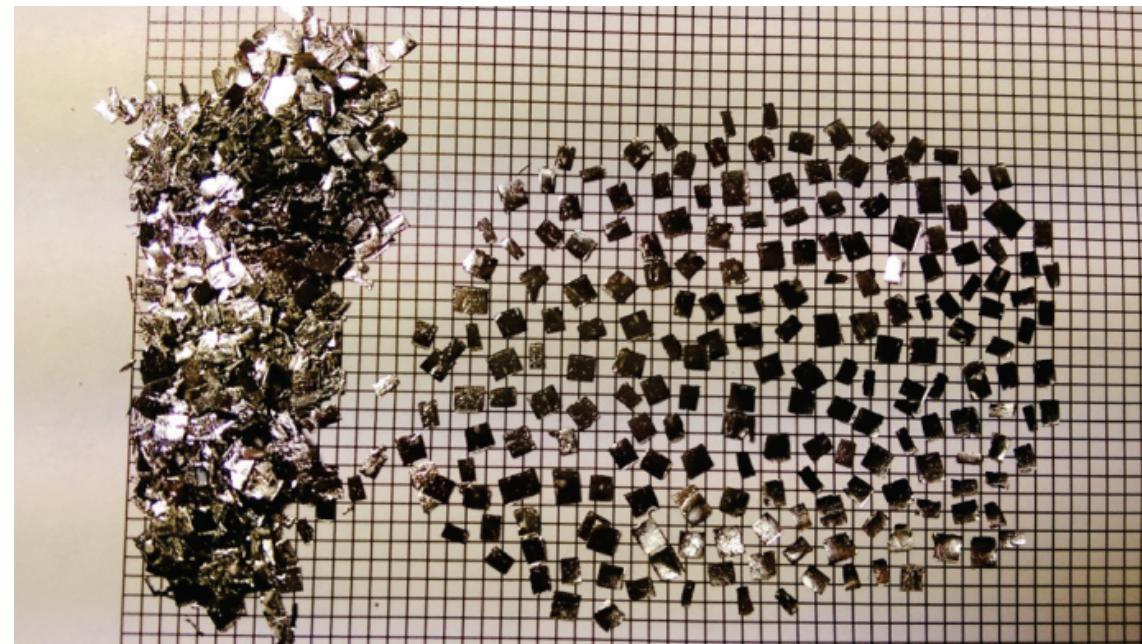
Fe-6.5wt%Si Flake



Insulated coating



Eddy-current



Cui, Jun, "Cost Effective 6.5% Silicon Steel Laminate for Electric Machines," Electrification 2018 Annual Progress Report, Vehicle Technologies Office, U.S. DOE

Cui, Jun, et al. "Near net shape bulk laminated silicon iron electric steel for improved electrical resistance and low high frequency loss." U.S. Patent Application No. 16/501,332.

Applications of High Frequency Transformers

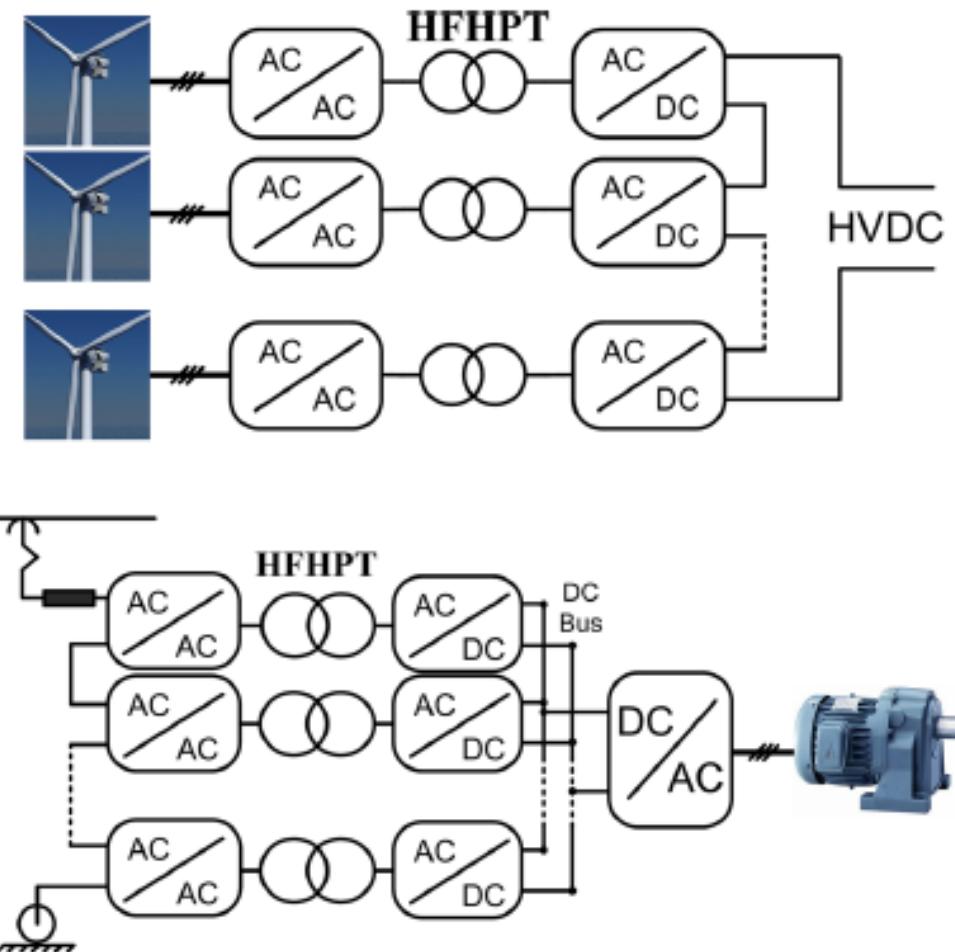
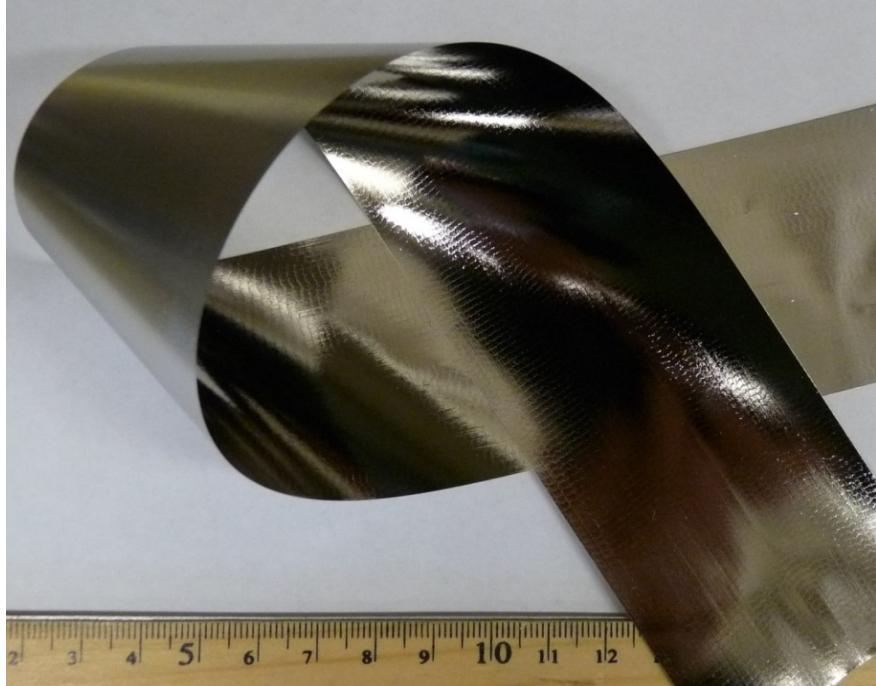
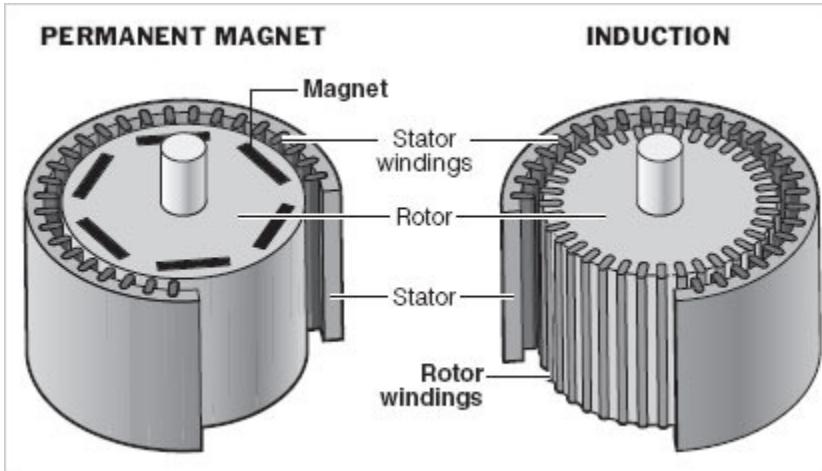


FIG. 1. Two main applications of high power converters with HFHPTs, (top) offshore wind farm and (bottom) traction converter.

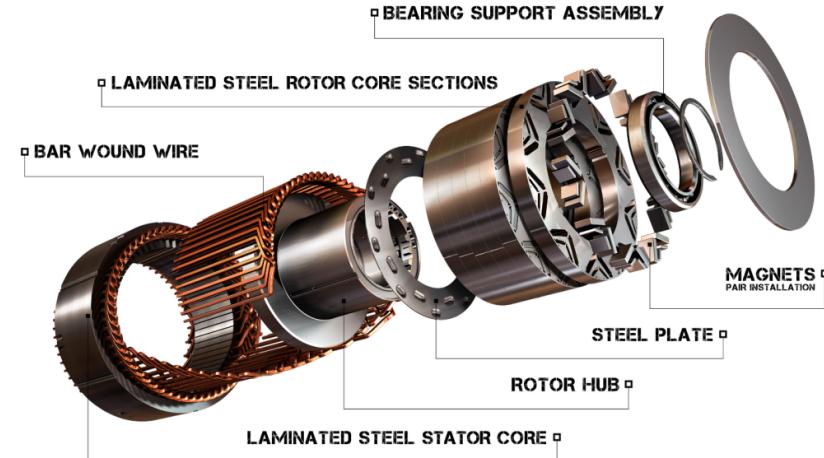
Metglas Ribbon and Laminated Motor Parts



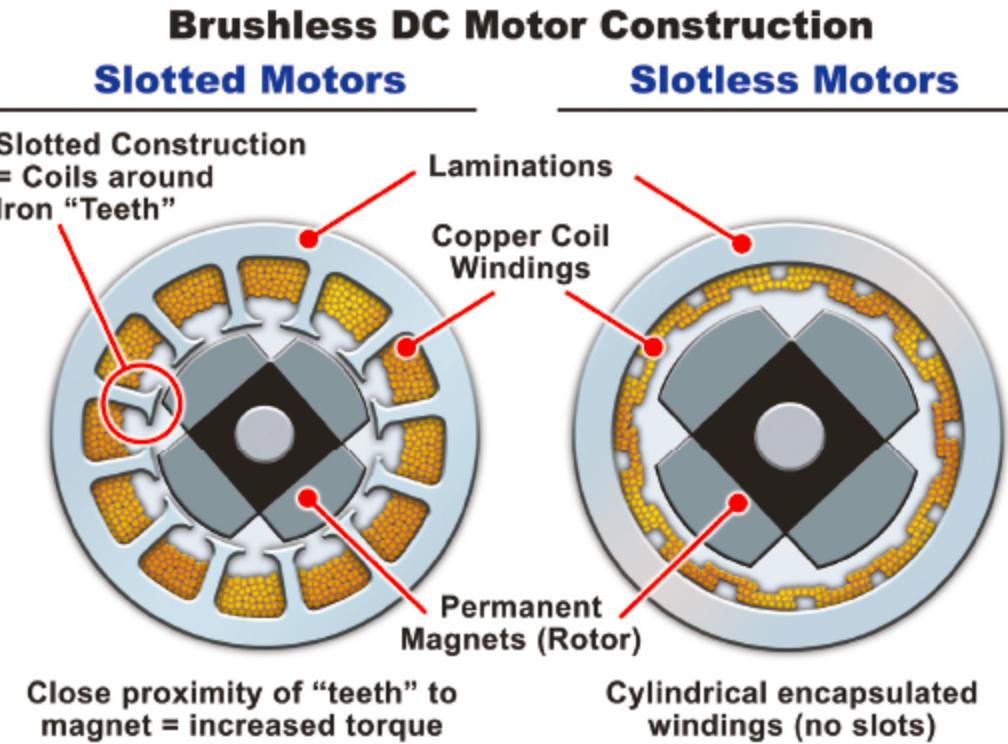
Motors



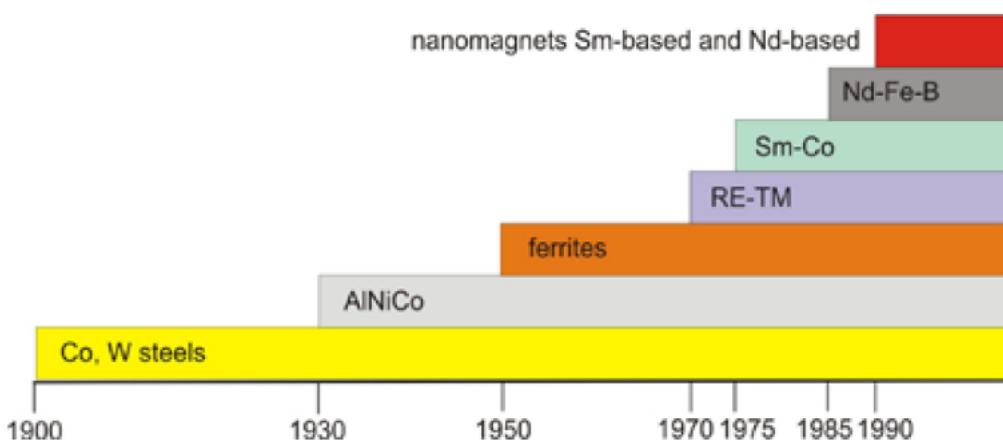
General Motors
Permanent Magnet Electric Motor



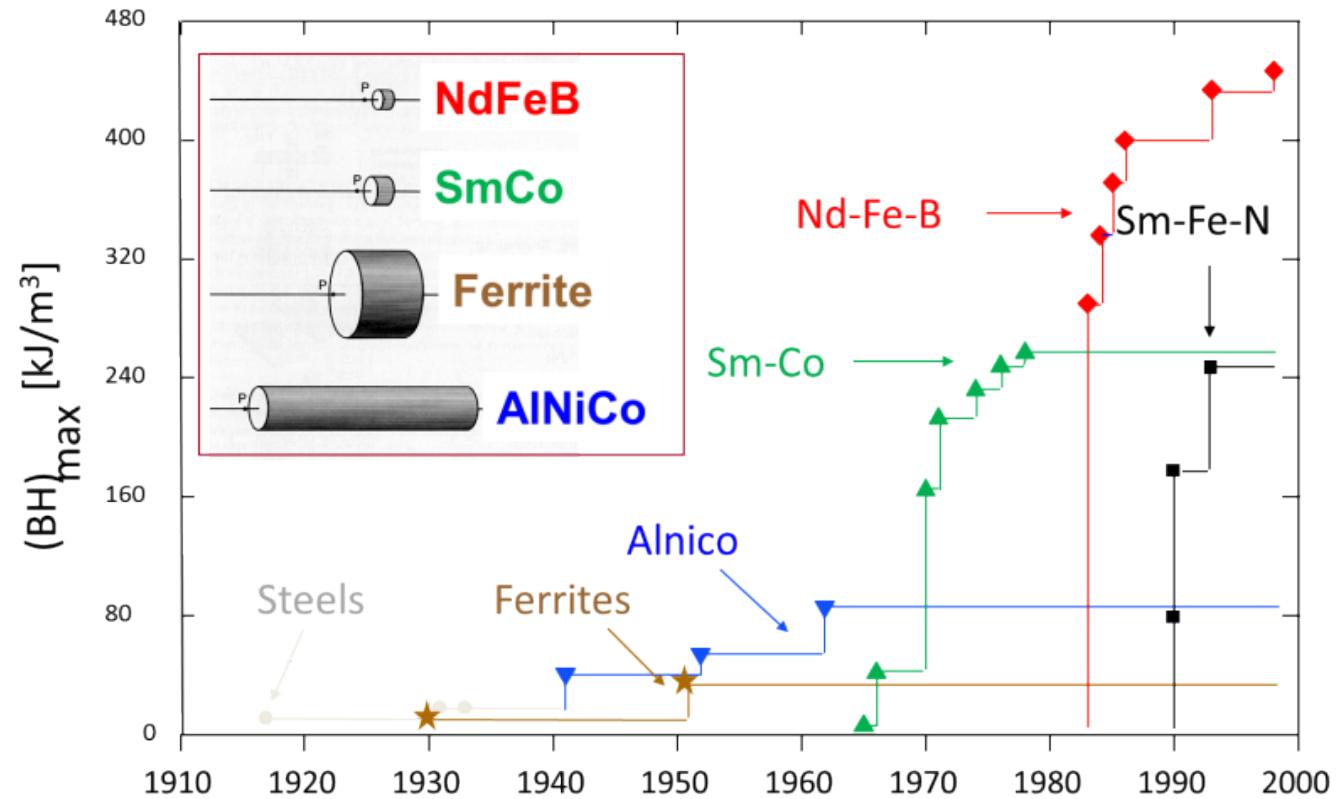
Slotted vs. Slottless Motors



Hard Magnetic Materials



L.A. Dobrzański, M. Drak, B. Ziębowicz, Materials with specific magnetic properties, Journal of Achievements in Materials and Manufacturing Eng., 17, 37 (2006).

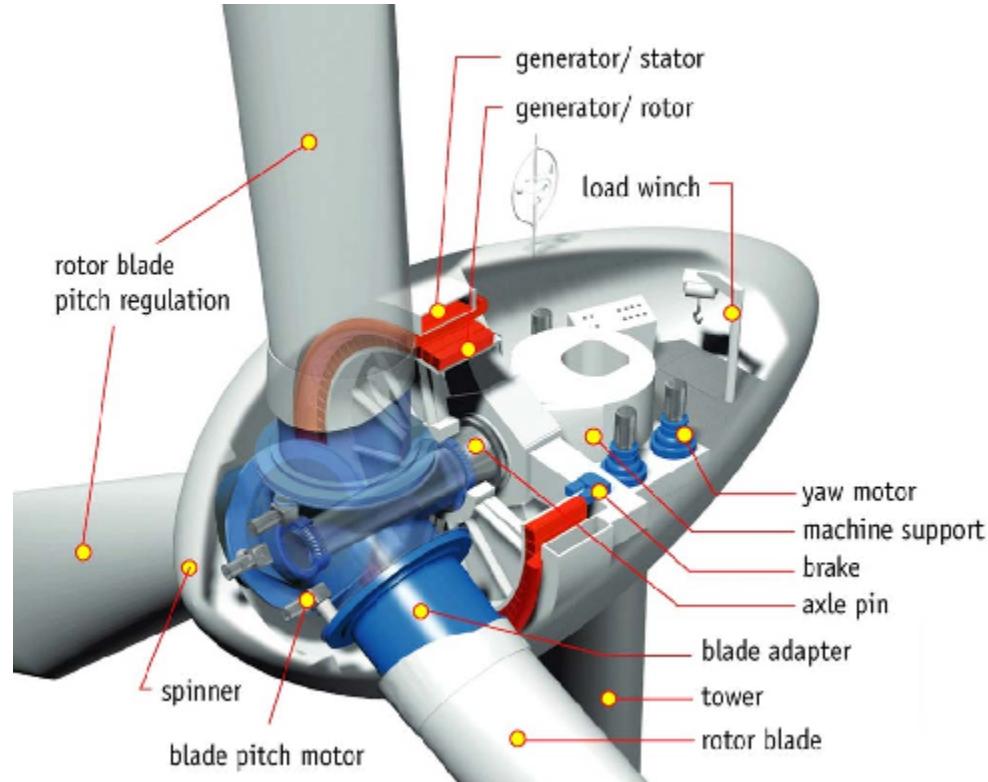


TU Darmstadt Functional Materials

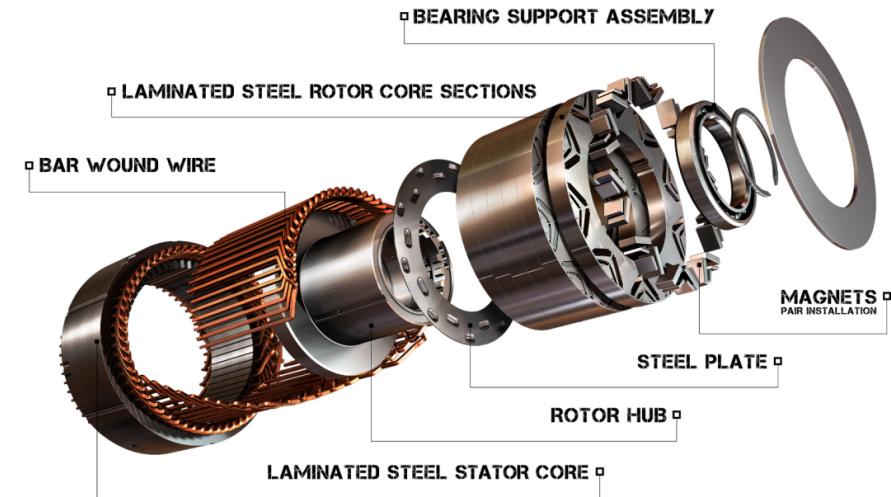
Permanent (Hard) Magnet Applications



Electrical Machines (Generators & Motors)



General Motors
Permanent Magnet Electric Motor



H. Polinder, J. Abraham Ferreira, B. Bech Jensen, A. Abrahamsen, K. Atallah, and R. McMahon, *Trends in Wind Turbine Generator Systems* vol. 1, 2013.