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# Features of the Permeability Spectra of CoZnW Hexaferrites in the Spin-Reorientation Phase Transition Region

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**Abstract**—The hexaferrites of the  $\text{Co}_{2-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{W}$  system have a number of outstanding properties among other hexaferrites. This makes them promising both for obtaining new physical data and for practical use. In this paper, we analyze the concentration and temperature dependences of the resonance frequencies of natural ferromagnetic resonance and the damping constant in the equation of motion of the magnetization vector of these materials in the vicinity of spin-reorientation phase transitions. It is shown that these hexaferrites can find practical application in the entire microwave frequency range.

**Keywords**—hexaferrites, magnetic permeability spectra, magnetocrystalline anisotropy, spin-reorientation phase transitions.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Ferrites with hexagonal crystal structure (called hexaferrites hereinafter) composition  $\text{BaMe}_2\text{Fe}_{16}\text{O}_{27}$  ( $\text{Me}_2\text{W}$ ) have maximum values of the saturation magnetization among the hexaferrites and their Curie temperature is high enough [1]. Therefore, they are promising materials for various practical applications. Here, the letter Me denotes a bivalent metal ion  $\text{Me}^{2+}$ .

An important characteristic of the hexaferrites is the magnitude and sign of the magnetocrystalline anisotropy (MCA) field. The values of MCA fields of the  $\text{Me}_2\text{W}$  hexaferrites are within the limits of 10–20 kOe for bivalent  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions and their combinations [1]. These materials possess MCA of the easy magnetization axis (EMA) type at such substitutions. This axis is the hexagonal axis  $c$  of the crystal lattice. The high value of saturation magnetization of W-type hexaferrites provides a large magnitude of the permeability and hence they are promising for use in various microwave devices. However, the application of hexaferrites of this structural type as a radar absorbing materials is limited by millimeter wavelengths with frequencies of  $\sim 30$ – $60$  GHz because of their strong anisotropy fields.

The use of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ion as  $\text{Me}^{2+}$  leads to the fact that the magnetocrystalline anisotropy of the hexaferrite changes radically from those of the ions listed above. The  $\text{Co}_2\text{W}$  hexaferrite has anisotropy of the easy magnetization plane

(EMP) type. The anisotropy field relative to the hexagonal axis is more than  $-20$  kOe at room temperature [1, 2]. The minus sign hereinafter means the EMP-type anisotropy. The spin-reorientation phase transition (SRPT) from EMA to EMP type anisotropy will be observed in solid solutions of the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  containing hexaferrites combined with any of the above-listed ions with increasing cobalt ion content. SRPT transitions are observed not only for concentration but also for temperature changes [2–4]. Neutron-diffraction investigations of  $\text{Co}_{2-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{W}$  system hexaferrites were carried out in [3]. They have demonstrated that the  $\text{EMA} \leftrightarrow \text{EMP}$  temperature SRPT proceeds through the easy magnetization cone (EMC) phase. The values of the MCA fields can change in a wide range with changes of the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ion concentration. It offers the possibilities of W-type hexaferrite application for radar absorbing materials in the entire microwave range starting from  $\sim 1$  GHz [4, 5].

## II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUNDS

The foundations of the theory of permeability spectra of polycrystalline hexaferrites in the natural ferromagnetic resonance (NFMR) region were developed by us in [5, 7, 8]. The calculations were carried out in the approximation of independent grains. This approximation is well satisfied for hexaferrites with the large values of magnetocrystalline anisotropy fields. The calculation for single-domain particles of ellipsoidal shape was performed in [7]. The effect of the domain structure on NFMR was studied in [5, 8]. It was shown that two absorption maxima can be observed in the spectra of  $\mu''(f)$  depending on the shape of the sample, the type of domain structure, magnitude and sign of the MCA fields.

According to [1, 5, 8], the main contribution to the PS of the hexaferrites comes from the rotation of the magnetization vector in the microwave frequency range. The dispersion of the permeability spectra observed in the microwave range is related to NFMR. Consequently, the concentration and temperature dependences of the PS of the  $\text{Co}_{2-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{W}$  system hexaferrites in the vicinity of the SRPT should have features. In further analysis of the permeability spectra, we restrict ourselves to calculations for single-domain noninteracting spherical particles.

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Most of the articles devoted to the use of the  $\text{Co}_{2-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{W}$  hexaferrite system in the microwave frequency range do not consider the effect of the SRPT concentration and the temperature on the permeability spectra ( $\mu^*(f) = \mu'(f) - i\mu''(f)$ ) [6]. Here  $\mu'(f)$  is the real and  $\mu''(f)$  is the imaginary parts of the permeability. The aim of this work is to study the features of some main parameters of the permeability spectra (PS) of the hexaferrites  $\text{Co}_{2-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{W}$  system with a change in the concentration of zinc ions and temperature.

In this case, in the region of existence EMP type anisotropy, the resonance frequency ( $f_r$ ) of the NFMR is determined by the formula:

$$2\pi f_r = \gamma(|H_\Theta|H_\Phi)^{1/2}, \quad (1)$$

and in the EMA region:

$$2\pi f_r = \gamma H_{a1}. \quad (2)$$

Here,  $H_\Theta = H_{a1} + H_{a2} + H_{a3}$  is the anisotropy field relative to the basal plane,  $H_{a1}$  is the anisotropy field along the hexagonal axis and  $H_{ai} = 2ik_i/M_s$ .  $H_\Phi = 36 \kappa_4/M_s$  is the anisotropy field in the basal plane,  $k_i$  are the  $i$ -th order anisotropy constants.  $M_s$  is the saturation magnetization,  $\gamma$  is the magnetomechanical ratio.

The magnitude of the imaginary part of the permeability of the isotropic polycrystalline sample at resonance in both cases can be estimated as

$$\mu''_r = (\gamma 4\pi M_s)/(3 * 2\pi f_r \alpha), \quad (3)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the dissipation parameter in the equation of motion of the magnetization vector. Formulas (1) - (3) were obtained under the assumption that dissipation is small. The  $H_{a1}$  MCA field changes sign at the SRPT transition EMA  $\leftrightarrow$  EMP. Therefore a minimum should be observed in the temperature or the concentration dependences of  $2\pi f_r$  according to (1), (2). In addition, an increase in the dissipation parameter can be expected in the SRPT region.

### III. SAMPLE PREPARATION AND MEASUREMENT PROCEDURES

An experimental study was carried out on polycrystalline samples of the  $\text{Co}_{2-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{W}$  system ( $0.5 \leq x \leq 1.5$ ). Samples were synthesized using standard two-stage ceramic technology. Precursors were AR grade oxides and salts. The phase composition and lattice parameters of the samples were examined by X-ray diffraction method (SHIMADZU XRD-6000 polycrystalline diffractometer in Bragg-Brentano geometry). The PDF4+ computer database of X-ray powder diffraction data of the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD, Denver, United States) was used for the qualitative analysis of phase composition. Quantitative analysis of the phase composition was carried out using the Powder Cell 2.4 computer software. The content of the target W phase in the materials was not less than 80%, the density of the samples was not less than 0.8 from the X-ray density.

The introduction of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  ions results in an appreciable increase in the saturation magnetization in this hexaferrites system. The extreme compositions of the system possess magnetocrystalline anisotropies of various type. At  $x < 1.3$ , an EMP state is observed and at  $x > 1.3$ , an EMA state is observed.

The region of the complex behavior of the PS of hexaferrites occupies a wide frequency band. Therefore, it is impossible to be limited to one method of the measurement. At low frequencies (0.1–1 GHz), we used the coaxial-waveguide method with toroidal samples. In a high-frequency range (1–27 GHz) we applied a rectangular transmission-type cavity with an oscillation mode  $H_{10p}$ . The samples were taken in the form of rods overlapping the cross section of the waveguide. The wide band of resonance measurements is obtained using a set of resonators and the method of frequency variation. On the boundary of this method (0.2–1.5 GHz), the measurements were carried out using an irregular microstrip resonator [9] made of a high-permittivity ceramics, with a sample in the form of a thin plate with a size corresponding to the air gap between the strip lines. Some discrepancy in the results of measurements was observed on the boundaries of methods. It could be caused by the use of various approaches for the different methods of measurements. The Kramers-Kronig relations were used to match and smooth the results by the method proposed in [10].

### IV. CONCENTRATION DEPENDENCES OF THE PARAMETERS OF THE PERMEABILITY SPECTRA AT ROOM TEMPERATURE

Fig. 1 shows the concentration dependences of the resonance frequency of the NFMR determined from the maximum of  $\mu''(f_r)$  (curve 1) and the dissipation parameter  $\alpha(x)$  (curve 2) calculated by (3) from the value of the imaginary part of the permeability  $\mu''_r$  at resonance. The measurements were carried out at room temperature (20°C). The concentration dependence of  $f_r(x)$  is normalized to the value of  $f_r(x=1) = 6.1$  GHz.

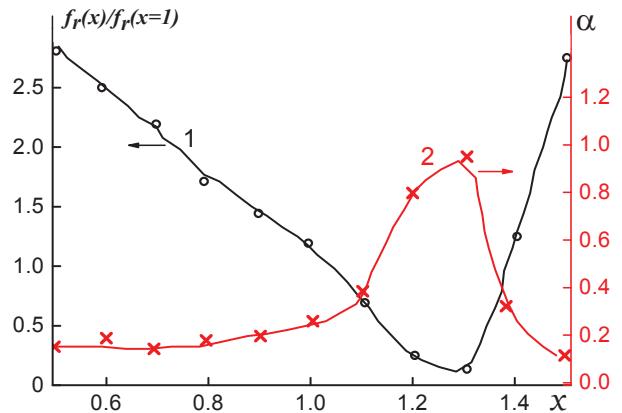


Fig. 1. Concentration dependence of  $f_r(x)/f_r(x=1.0)$  determined from the maximum of  $\mu''(f_r)$  (curve 1) and the concentration dependence of the dissipation parameter  $\alpha(x)$  (curve 2). The measurements were carried out at room temperature.

The frequency  $f_r(x)$  decreases with increasing  $x$ , reaches a minimum near the concentration of ions  $Zn^{2+}$   $x \approx 1.3$  and then quickly increases. The minimum value of  $f_r(x=1.3)$  is 0.6 GHz. The maximum is observed in the concentration dependence of  $\alpha(x)$  at  $x \approx 1.3$ . Neutron diffraction studies of the hexaferrites  $Co_{2-x}Zn_xW$  system [3] showed that up to concentrations  $x \leq 1.2$  there was the EMP state at room temperature. The EMC state is observed for ferrite with  $x_c = 1.3$ . Materials with  $x \geq 1.38$  have EMA states. Thus, anomalies observed in the dependences  $f_r(x)/f_r(x=1.0)$  and  $\alpha(x)$  are related to SRPT. According to Fig. 1, the change in the concentration of zinc ions allows the frequency of NFMR to widely vary.

## V. TEMPERATURE DEPENDENCES OF THE PARAMETERS OF THE PERMEABILITY SPECTRA

More detailed information on the behavior of the permeability spectra in the region SRPT EMA  $\leftrightarrow$  EMP can be obtained from the study of their temperature dependences. Fig. 2 shows the normalized temperature dependences  $f_r(T)/f_r(T=20^\circ\text{C})$  (curve 1) and the temperature dependence of the damping constant  $\alpha(T)$  (curve 2) of  $Co_{2-x}Zn_xW$  hexaferrite with the zinc ion concentration  $x = 1.0$ . The resonant frequency passes through a minimum near  $T_2 = 80^\circ\text{C}$  with increasing temperature. The temperature dependence has one more minimum at  $T_1 = 130^\circ\text{C}$ . The dependence  $\alpha(T)$  at these temperatures also has features. Curve 3 in Fig. 2 represents the temperature dependence of the angle of direction of easy magnetization ( $\theta(T)$ ) of a given hexaferrite. It is calculated from the neutron diffraction data.

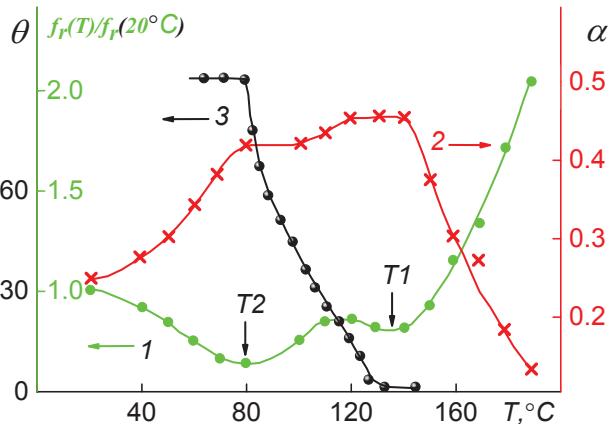


Fig. 2. Temperature dependences of the normalized resonance frequency NFMR  $f_r(T)/f_r(20^\circ\text{C})$  (curve 1) and  $\alpha(T)$  (curve 2) of the hexaferrite  $Co_{2-x}Zn_xW$  ( $x=1$ ). Curve 3 is the calculated from the neutron diffraction data temperature dependence of the angle of easy magnetization direction  $\theta(T)$  of the given hexaferrite.

It can be seen that the temperatures at which  $f_r(T)$  passes through the minimum correlate well with the SRPT EMP  $\leftrightarrow$  EMC ( $T_2$ ) and EMC  $\leftrightarrow$  EMA ( $T_1$ ) temperatures. The damping constant  $\alpha$  is maximum in the interval of the conical phase and rapidly decreases outside the SRPT region.

The anomalies observed in the temperature dependence of the NFMR frequency can be explained as follows. EMP state is implemented with an increase in the temperature up to  $T \leq T_2$ . In this region the MCA fields are related by the

following inequalities:  $H_{a1} < 0$ ,  $|H_{a1}| > H_{a2} + H_{a3}$ . In this case  $H_\Theta < 0$  and the resonance frequency is determined by (1). The MCA field  $H_\Theta$  changes sign at  $T = T_2$ . In the temperature range  $T_2 \leq T \leq T_1$  the magnitude of the MCA field is  $|H_{a1}| \leq H_{a2} + H_{a3}$ . Therefore, the conical configuration is energetically more favorable. A further increase in the temperature leads to the fact that at  $T = T_1$  MCA field  $H_{a1}$  changes sign. Therefore, in the temperature range  $T > T_1$  the EMA state is observed. The resonance frequency of the NFMR in this case is determined by (2).

## VI. CONCLUSION

Thus, the behavior of the permeability spectra of the hexaferrites  $Co_{2-x}Zn_xW$  system depending on the concentration of  $Zn^{2+}$  ions and temperature is explained by the NFMR theory. In this theory, it is considered that the main role in the processes of magnetization at microwave frequencies is played by the processes of rotation of the magnetization vector in the internal MCA fields. An investigation of the permeability spectra allows additional information to be obtained not only about the behavior of the spin system in the vicinity of SRPT but also about the values and signs of the MCA constants of polycrystalline hexaferrites.

A change in the concentration of  $Zn^{2+}$  ions makes it possible to vary the resonance frequency of the NFMR of  $Co_{2-x}Zn_xW$  hexaferrites in a wide range (by tens of times). This allows these materials to be used in devices operating in different microwave frequency ranges.

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