Effects of iron substitution on the magnetic anisotropy of YCo_4B

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Abstract: The effects of iron substitution on the magnetization, the magnetic anisotropy, the spinreorientation temperature, and the Curie temperature of $Y(Co_{1-x}Fe_x)_4B$ have been studied on the cobaltrich side for x values below 0.4. Temperature-induced spin-reorientation phenomena may be observed in compounds with x values below 0.02 by inspecting the low-field magnetization curves of bulk polycrystalline samples and by observing the change in the easy direction in field-oriented powdered samples. The spin-reorientation temperature shifts from 145 K for YCo₄B to higher values with increasing x and the phenomenon disappears for values larger than 0.03. By analyzing the magnetization curves of fieldoriented powder samples, the magnetic anisotropy has been evaluated. The value for the first anisotropy constant K₁ at 4.2 K decreases in a nonlinear way with increasing x values and reaches a minimum around x=0.3.

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