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Nature of magnetocrystalline anisotropy in the basal plane of iron borate

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A B S T R A C T

Basal (hexagonal) magnetocrystalline anisotropy of iron borate FeBO_3 , including crystal field and dipole-dipole contributions, is discussed in detail. Previously, the latter contribution had been ruled out on the basis of symmetry; indeed, considering the magnetic dipole-dipole interaction in the approximation of point dipoles, only uniaxial magnetocrystalline anisotropy is accounted for. In the present work we consider the dipole-dipole interaction energy for extended dipoles and calculate the dipole-dipole contribution to basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy for two different models of an extended dipole: a pair of fictitious magnetic charges and a circular current loop. A comparison between theoretical expressions developed and experimental results obtained by antiferromagnetic resonance allows estimating the effective size of magnetic dipoles and calculating the dipole-dipole contribution to basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants of iron borate.

Keywords:

Iron borate

Magnetocrystalline anisotropy

Crystal field

Dipole-dipole interaction

1. Introduction

From the standpoint of magnetic properties, iron borate FeBO_3 is an easy plane antiferromagnet, possessing a weak in-plane ferromagnetic moment. Iron borate has rhombohedral calcite structure of point group symmetry D_{3d} and the space group D_{3d}^6 [1]. The effective basal (hexagonal) magnetocrystalline anisotropy energy for FeBO_3 can be expressed as follows [2]:

$$\mathcal{E}_A = e_{\text{eff}} \cos 6\varphi \quad (1)$$

where φ is the azimuthal angle of the antiferromagnetic vector and e_{eff} is the effective basal anisotropy constant,

$$e_{\text{eff}} = e_{\text{FeBO}_3} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{d_{\text{FeBO}_3}^2}{a_{\text{eff}}}, \quad (2)$$

d_{FeBO_3} and e_{FeBO_3} being the basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants and a_{eff} being the effective uniaxial magnetocrystalline anisotropy constant,

$$a_{\text{eff}} = a_{\text{FeBO}_3} + \frac{D_{\text{FeBO}_3}^2}{E_{\text{FeBO}_3}}. \quad (3)$$

In the latter equation a_{FeBO_3} , D_{FeBO_3} and E_{FeBO_3} are, respectively, the uniaxial magnetocrystalline anisotropy, Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya and exchange constants for FeBO_3 .

As far as for Fe^{3+} ($3d^5$ electronic configuration) the orbital moment equals zero, the exchange energy in a good approximation is isotropic [3], so that the magnetocrystalline anisotropy energy of FeBO_3 includes only crystal field (cf) and dipole-dipole (dip) terms:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\text{FeBO}_3} &= a_{\text{cf}} + a_{\text{dip}} \\ d_{\text{FeBO}_3} &= d_{\text{cf}} + d_{\text{dip}} \\ e_{\text{FeBO}_3} &= e_{\text{cf}} + e_{\text{dip}} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The crystal field contributions to the abovementioned constants have been calculated by Seleznev in the mean field approximation [4]. Indeed, the effective exchange field H_E in iron borate is in order of 10^3 kOe, thus, Fe^{3+} ions experience strong exchange coupling [5]. The crystal field contribution to the anisotropic part of the magnetocrystalline anisotropy energy can be calculated in perturbation theory using the spin Hamiltonian for isolated Fe^{3+} ion in a diamagnetic crystal isomorphous to iron borate, e.g., gallium borate [6,7]. Thus, a_{cf} , d_{cf} and e_{cf} can be expressed through the parameters of the spin Hamiltonian. The corresponding expressions will be given and the parameters will be specified in the next Section.

The dipole-dipole contributions to these constants are usually calculated using the lattice sum method. The value of $a_{\text{dip}} = 3.82 \cdot 10^5 \text{ J m}^{-3}$ at 0 K for FeBO_3 has been obtained previously [8]. a_{FeBO_3} has been determined by antiferromagnetic resonance

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(AFMR) in a wide temperature range by Velikov et al. [9]; its value extrapolated to 0 K is $a_{\text{FeBO}_3}^{\text{exp}} = 3.29 \cdot 10^5 \text{ Jm}^{-3}$.

Earlier, the occurrence of the dipole dipole contribution to hexagonal basal anisotropy in iron borate had been ruled out on the grounds of symmetry. Indeed, the dipole dipole interaction energy is usually considered for “point dipoles” having a negligible size, in which case only the uniaxial anisotropy is accounted for. Meanwhile, more sophisticated anisotropies, in particular, the hexagonal magnetocrystalline anisotropy can be described by higher than first order terms in the expansion of the dipole dipole interaction energy in a Taylor series in the small parameter dipole size/interdipole distance. Thus, taking into consideration “extended dipoles”, having non negligible size, opens the possibility to reasonably account for the dipole dipole contribution to the basal anisotropy constants and, subsequently, to estimate effective dipole dimensions in iron borate.

With this aim in mind, we have developed a theoretical description of two models of the extended magnetic dipole: (1) an assembly of two fictitious “magnetic charges” $\pm q$ a distance d apart and (2) an Ampérian current, i.e., a circular current loop of a radius R delimiting an area $S = \pi R^2$. Previously, we have obtained and discussed the expressions of vector potentials and magnetic fields produced by these two models [10]. The purpose of the present work has been to calculate the dipole dipole contribution to the basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants of iron borate and to evaluate the size of dipoles in FeBO_3 in the framework of the suggested models.

2. Crystal field contribution to magnetocrystalline anisotropy

In order to calculate the crystal field contribution we have to consider a Fe^{3+} ion in a diamagnetic crystal isomorphous with FeBO_3 . The conventional spin Hamiltonian in this case is [11,12]:

$$\mathcal{H} = g\beta\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{S} + \frac{1}{3}DO_2^0 - \frac{1}{180}(a - F)O_4^0 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{9}a(\mp O_4^3 \sin 3\alpha + O_4^3 \cos 3\alpha) \quad (5)$$

where g is close to the free electron g factor $g_e = 2.0023$, β is the Bohr magneton, \mathbf{H} is the magnetizing field, $S = \frac{5}{2}$ is the electron spin of Fe^{3+} , D is the second order axial fine structure constant, a and F are, respectively, the fourth order cubic and axial fine structure

constants and O_2^0 , O_4^0 , O_4^3 and O_4^3 are extended Stevens operators, as defined in the textbook by Al'tshuler and Kozyrev [13]. The \mp signs refer to two non equivalent iron sites with local magnetic axes rotated through the angle $\mp\alpha$ about the C_3 axis, see Fig. 1.

The spin Hamiltonian parameters of Fe^{3+} in diamagnetic GaBO_3 have been determined previously by Lukin et al. [11] and recently specified by Seleznyova et al. [12].

Seleznev has obtained the expressions for a_{cf} , d_{cf} and e_{cf} using the mean field approximation [4]:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\text{cf}} &= 2N[Dt(x) - \frac{1}{2}(a - F)r(x)] \\ d_{\text{cf}} &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}N a r(x) \cos 3\alpha \\ e_{\text{cf}} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where N is the number of Fe^{3+} ions per unit volume, $N = 2.236 \cdot 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$ for FeBO_3 and $t(x)$ and $r(x)$ are the following functions:

$$\begin{aligned} t(x) &= \frac{(8\text{ch}\frac{1}{2}x + 2\text{ch}\frac{3}{2}x - 10\text{ch}\frac{5}{2}x)\text{sh}\frac{1}{2}x}{\text{sh}3x} \\ \text{and} \\ r(x) &= 5 \frac{(2\text{ch}\frac{1}{2}x - 3\text{ch}\frac{3}{2}x + \text{ch}\frac{5}{2}x)\text{sh}\frac{1}{2}x}{\text{sh}3x}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where $x = g\beta H_E/2kT$, H_E is an effective exchange field, *vide infra*, k is the Boltzmann constant and T is the absolute temperature.

As one can see from Eq. (6), the crystal field gives no contribution to e_{FeBO_3} .

With the spin Hamiltonian constants $D = 0.1032$, $a = 0.0158$, $F = 0.0368 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $\alpha = 36^\circ$ specified recently [12], we obtain the following crystal field contributions to the magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants for FeBO_3 at 0 K:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\text{cf}} &= 4.82 \cdot 10^5 \text{ Jm}^{-3} \\ d_{\text{cf}} &= 2.55 \cdot 10^3 \text{ Jm}^{-3} \\ e_{\text{cf}} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

3. Dipole-dipole contribution to magnetocrystalline anisotropy

3.1. Model of a pair of fictitious magnetic charges

Here we consider the interaction energy \mathcal{E} between two parallel/antiparallel identical dipoles for different models. Fig. 2 shows a system of two interacting dipoles implemented as a pair of

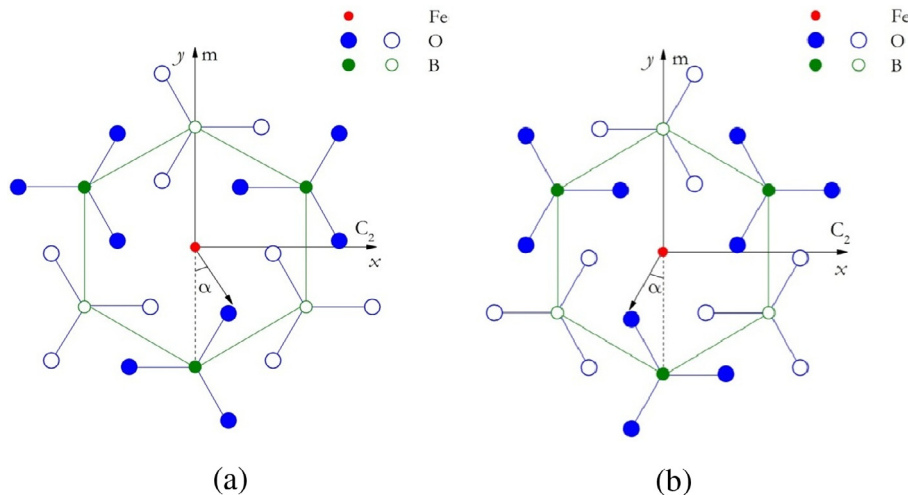


Fig. 1. Two non-equivalent sites of Fe^{3+} . (x, y, z) is a Cartesian coordinate system with $x \parallel C_2$, $y \parallel m$, $z \parallel C_3$ where C_2 , m and C_3 are, respectively, a two-fold axis, a symmetry plane and the three-fold axis [1]. The z -axis is perpendicular to the plane of the figure and points towards the reader. The full and empty circles represent ions located above and below this plane, respectively.

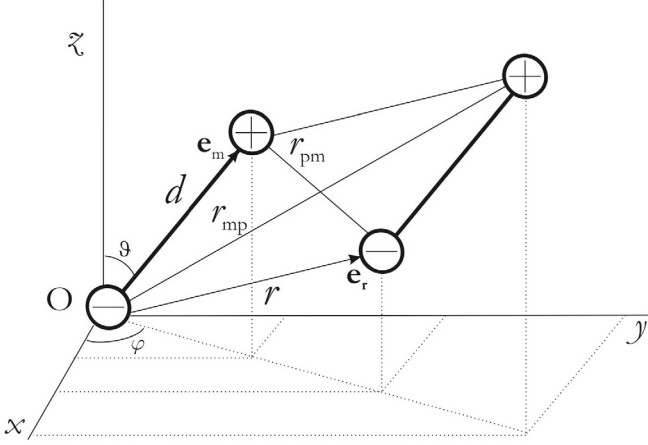


Fig. 2. System of two interacting dipoles in the model of a pair of magnetic charges.

“magnetic charges” $\pm q$ spaced a distance d apart. For the dipole dipole energy one gets:

$$\mathcal{E} = \pm \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{m^2}{d^2} \left(\frac{2}{r} - \frac{1}{r_{mp}} - \frac{1}{r_{pm}} \right) \quad (9)$$

where μ_0 is the permeability of vacuum, $m = qd$ is the magnetic moment, defined by analogy with electrostatics and directed along the unit vector \mathbf{e}_m ($\sin\vartheta\cos\varphi, \sin\vartheta\sin\varphi, \cos\vartheta$); $r = (r_x^2 + r_y^2 + r_z^2)^{1/2}$ is the distance between the centers of the dipoles, $r_{mp} = \sqrt{r^2 + d^2 + 2rd\mathbf{e}_r \cdot \mathbf{e}_m}$ and $r_{pm} = \sqrt{r^2 + d^2 - 2rd\mathbf{e}_r \cdot \mathbf{e}_m}$ where \mathbf{e}_r is the unit vector in the direction of r , see Fig. 2 for the notation. The choice of the \pm signs refers to parallel and antiparallel dipoles, respectively.

Introducing $\varepsilon = d/r$ in Eq. (9) one gets:

$$\mathcal{E} = \pm \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{m^2}{d^2 r} \left(2 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \varepsilon^2 + 2\varepsilon\mathbf{e}_r \cdot \mathbf{e}_m}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \varepsilon^2 - 2\varepsilon\mathbf{e}_r \cdot \mathbf{e}_m}} \right) \quad (10)$$

For our purpose we need only an approximate expression of \mathcal{E} for $\varepsilon \ll 1$. An expansion in the Taylor series up to the fourth order yields:

$$\mathcal{E} = \mp 2 \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{m^2}{r^3} (P_2 + P_4\varepsilon^2 + P_6\varepsilon^4) \quad (11)$$

where P_n are Legendre polynomials [14] of the scalar product $\mathbf{e}_r \cdot \mathbf{e}_m$, and the $-$ and $+$ signs correspond to parallel and antiparallel dipoles, respectively.

3.2. Model of a circular current loop

Next, we calculate the interaction energy between two identical and parallel circular current loops (Ampérian currents) of the same radii R and area $S = \pi R^2$, carrying a current I , see Fig. 3. By definition, the magnetic moment of a loop is $\mathbf{m} = SI\mathbf{e}_m = \pi R^2 I \mathbf{e}_m$.

For definiteness, we choose the loops centered at the space origin O_p and at an arbitrary point O_s as the primary and secondary loops, respectively.

The dipole-dipole interaction energy in this model is straight related to the mutual inductance \mathcal{M} of the loops:

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{M} I^2. \quad (12)$$

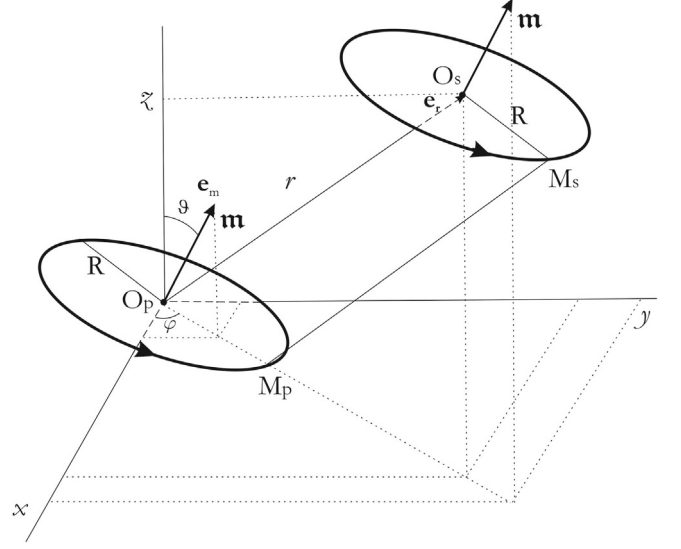


Fig. 3. System of two interacting Ampérian currents.

Here the sign in the right hand member occurs because the interaction energy between two coaxial (attracting) currents is negative while \mathcal{M} in this case is positive. By definition,

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{\Phi}{I} \quad (13)$$

where Φ , the magnetic flux induced by the current in the primary loop and passing through the secondary loop, can be calculated as follows:

$$\Phi = \oint_{l_s} \oint_{l_p} \mathbf{dA} \cdot \mathbf{dI}_s. \quad (14)$$

Here l_p and l_s are perimeters of the primary and secondary loops, \mathbf{dA} is a differential element of the vector potential at a point M_s on the secondary loop, produced by the primary loop:

$$\mathbf{dA} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I}{M_p M_s} \mathbf{dI}_p, \quad (15)$$

$M_p M_s$ is the distance between two points on the primary and secondary loops, and \mathbf{dI}_p and \mathbf{dI}_s are differential elements of the corresponding loops.

In order to evaluate the closed curve integrals in Eq. (14) we express $M_p M_s$, \mathbf{dI}_p and \mathbf{dI}_s as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} |M_p M_s|^2 &= r^2 + 2R^2[1 - \sin(\phi - \tau)] \\ &+ 2Rr_x[\sin\varphi(\cos\phi + \sin\tau) + \cos\varphi\cos\vartheta(\sin\phi - \cos\tau)] \\ &+ 2Rr_y[\sin\varphi\cos\vartheta(\sin\phi - \cos\tau) - \cos\varphi(\cos\phi + \sin\tau)] \\ &+ 2Rr_z\sin\vartheta(\sin\phi - \cos\tau) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathbf{dI}_p = \begin{pmatrix} R(\cos\varphi\cos\vartheta\sin\tau + \sin\varphi\cos\tau)d\tau \\ R(-\sin\varphi\cos\vartheta\sin\tau + \cos\varphi\cos\tau)d\tau \\ R\sin\vartheta\sin\tau d\tau \end{pmatrix} \quad (17)$$

and

$$\mathbf{dI}_s = \begin{pmatrix} R(\sin\varphi\sin\phi - \cos\vartheta\cos\varphi\cos\phi)d\phi \\ R(\sin\varphi\cos\vartheta\cos\phi + \cos\varphi\sin\phi)d\phi \\ R\sin\vartheta\cos\phi d\phi \end{pmatrix}. \quad (18)$$

In Eqs. (16) to (18) τ and ϕ are polar angles of arbitrary points of the primary and secondary loops, respectively. Putting these expressions in Eq. (14), for the interaction energy, cf. Eq. (12), we get:

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{\mu_0 I^2}{4\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\mathbf{l}_p \cdot d\mathbf{l}_s}{M_p M_s} \quad (19)$$

where the integrations are over τ and ϕ .

Since, as in the previous case, we need only an approximate expression of \mathcal{E} , we can first expand the integrand in Eq. (19) in a Taylor series in the small parameter $\varepsilon = R/r$ and then integrate the result. In terms of the Legendre polynomials, up to the fourth order we get:

$$\mathcal{E} = \mp 2 \frac{\mu_0 m^2}{4\pi r^3} \left[P_2 - 3P_4\varepsilon^2 + \frac{75}{8}P_6\varepsilon^4 \right] \quad (20)$$

where the $-$ and $+$ signs correspond to parallel and antiparallel dipoles, respectively.

4. Calculation of the dipole-dipole interaction energy in FeBO₃

In order to calculate the dipole-dipole contribution to the magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants for FeBO₃, we have put forward a computer code implementing the lattice sum method. We have chosen to do the summation in the volume of a rhombohedron congruent to the primitive rhombohedron shown in Fig. 4.

The axes of the rhombohedral coordinate system x' , y' , z' coincide with the edges of the rhombohedron, see Fig. 4. In transforming the radius vector from the Cartesian to the rhombohedral system, we express the coordinates of iron sites through the edge length l of the rhombohedron: $x' = ml$, $y' = nl$ and $z' = kl$, where m, n, k are integers numbering the sites along the corresponding axes. The radius vector in the new coordinate system is

$$\mathbf{r} = l \begin{pmatrix} (z' - x') \cos \widehat{k'i} \\ (x' - 2y' + z') \cos \widehat{i'j} \\ (x' + y' + z') \cos \widehat{k'k} \end{pmatrix} \quad (21)$$

where $\cos \widehat{k'i} = \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos \beta}{2}}$, $\cos \widehat{i'j} = \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos \beta}{6}}$ and $\cos \widehat{k'k} = \sqrt{\frac{1 + 2 \cos \beta}{3}}$ are the cosines of angles between the corresponding axes of two coordinate systems. Substituting Eq. (21) in the expressions for the dipole-dipole interaction energy, Eqs. (11) and (20) for the models of a pair of magnetic charges and a circular current loop, respectively, we express this energy in terms of integers numbering the iron sites along the edges of the rhombohedron.

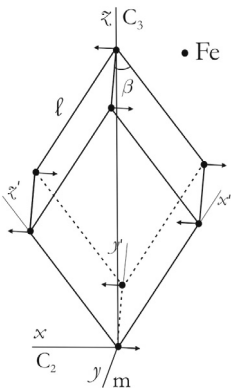


Fig. 4. A primitive rhombohedron with the edge length $l = 3.6 \text{ \AA}$ and the apex angle $\beta = 79.9^\circ$ used to calculate the dipole-dipole energy.

The calculation of the dipole-dipole energy density now is reduced to computing the following sum:

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{dip}} = \frac{1}{2} N \sum_{m,n,k} (-1)^{m+n+k} \mathcal{E}(m, n, k) \quad (22)$$

where the factor $(-1)^{m+n+k}$ takes into account antiferromagnetic ordering and $\mathcal{E}(m, n, k)$ is the dipole-dipole interaction energy between ions at the origin (numbered 0, 0, 0) and at a site numbered m, n, k .

Henceforth, the magnetic dipole moment at $T = 0 \text{ K}$ will be expressed as

$$m = g\beta S \quad (23)$$

where g , β and S have the same meanings as in Eq. (5).

The dipole-dipole contributions at 0 K, together with those of the crystal field, described in Section II, are listed in Table 1. One can see that the models of a pair of magnetic charges and a circular current loop result in substantially different expressions for the dipole-dipole energies.

In order to get the dipole-dipole contributions to the magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants at different temperatures, these contributions at 0 K should be multiplied by $(M_T/M_0)^2$, where M_T is the sublattice magnetization at the temperature T . (M_T/M_0) for FeBO₃ have been tabulated [4]. The temperature dependences of the crystal field contributions are given in Eq. (6).

5. Comparison with experiment

From the AFMR experiments the effective basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy constant $e_{\text{eff}}^{\text{exp}}$, cf. Eq. (2), can be determined [15].

The EMR studies have been carried out at 77 K with a laboratory developed spectrometer at microwave frequencies ν from 15 to 36 GHz and magnetizing field H up to 10 kOe applied in the basal plane of the crystal. FeBO₃ crystal has been synthesized

Table 1

Crystal field and dipole-dipole contributions to the magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants of iron borate at 0 K.

Constants, $J \text{ m}^{-3}$	Crystal field contribution	Dipole-dipole contribution Pair of fictitious magnetic charges	Circular current loop
a_{FeBO_3}	$4.82 \cdot 10^5$	$3.82 \cdot 10^5$	
d_{FeBO_3}	$2.55 \cdot 10^3$	$7.02 \cdot 10^5 d^2 / l^2$	$-2.11 \cdot 10^6 R^2 / l^2$
e_{FeBO_3}	0	$-9.80 \cdot 10^4 d^4 / l^4$	$-9.19 \cdot 10^5 R^4 / l^4$

Table 2

Parameters in Eq. (24) and their experimental values for FeBO₃.

Parameter	Definition	Value at 77 K
Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya field	$H_D = \frac{1}{2} \frac{D_{\text{FeBO}_3}}{M_T} a$	$99.3 \pm 0.2 \text{ kOe}$ [9] $98.68 \pm 0.52 \text{ kOe}$ [this work]
Exchange field	$H_E = \frac{1}{2} \frac{E_{\text{FeBO}_3}}{M_T} a$	$5.937 \cdot 10^3 \text{ kOe}$ $6.02 \cdot 10^3 \text{ kOe}$ [5]
Isotropic energy gap	H_Δ^2	$4.25 \pm 0.25 \text{ kOe}^2$ [9] $6.543 \pm 0.032 \text{ kOe}^2$ [this work]
Anisotropic energy gap	$H_E H_{\text{hex}} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{e_{\text{eff}} E_{\text{FeBO}_3}}{M_T} a$	$0.05421 \pm 0.0013 \text{ kOe}^2$ [this work]
Basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy field	$H_{\text{hex}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{e_{\text{eff}}}{M_T} a$	$-0.9 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ kOe}$ [15] $0.913 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ kOe}$ [this work]

^a For FeBO₃ $M_0 = 520 \text{ G}$ and $M_{77} \approx 512.9 \text{ G}$ [4].

^b Value at 0 K.

by solution in the melt technique and had the shape of a thin hexagonal plate [6].

For \mathbf{H} applied in the basal plane of the crystal, the low frequency AFMR mode for FeBO₃ is described by the following expression [15,16]:

$$\nu = \gamma [H(H + H_D) + 36H_E H_{\text{hex}} \cos 6\varphi + H_{\Delta}^2]^{1/2} \quad (24)$$

where γ is the gyromagnetic ratio for $g = 2.0$; H_D and H_E , $H_E H_{\text{hex}}$ and H_{Δ}^2 are, respectively, effective Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya and exchange fields, anisotropic and isotropic energy gaps, H_{hex} being the effective

field of basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy, and φ is the angle between \mathbf{H} and the x axis. As far as different authors use different definitions of H_D , H_E and H_{hex} , the definitions used in this work are given in Table 2 together with their experimental values.

The field sweep EMR spectra recorded at different ν allow obtaining the relation between ν and H . The experimental results shown in Fig. 5 can be convincingly fitted to Eq. (24), resulting in the following best fit parameters:

$$H_D = 98.68 \pm 0.52 \text{ kOe} \quad \text{and} \quad 36H_E H_{\text{hex}} \cos 6\varphi + H_{\Delta}^2 = 6.46 \pm 0.34 \text{ kOe}^2.$$

This value of H_D confirms the previous finding [9], see Table 2. Using this value, we have determined the product $H_E H_{\text{hex}}$, see Eq. (24), from AFMR measurements at a fixed ν , carried out by rotating \mathbf{H} in the basal plane of the crystal.

Fig. 6 shows the angular dependence of the quantity $(\nu/\gamma)^2 - H(H + H_D)$.

One can see that this dependence can be accounted for by a superposition of hexagonal and uniaxial magnetocrystalline anisotropies in the basal plane. The occurrence of uniaxial magnetocrystalline anisotropy in this case can be due to a slight deviation of \mathbf{H} from the basal plane or caused by mechanical stresses [17]. Therefore, the angular dependence of the resonance field has been fitted to by the following expression, cf. Eq. (24):

$$\left(\frac{\nu}{\gamma}\right)^2 - H(H + H_D) = H_{\Delta}^2 + 36H_E H_{\text{hex}} \cos 6\varphi + p \cos 2\varphi \quad (25)$$

where H_{Δ}^2 , $H_E H_{\text{hex}}$ and p are fitting parameters, the term in p describing the uniaxial component. The best fit parameters H_{Δ}^2 and $H_E H_{\text{hex}}$ are listed in Table 2 and $p = 1.13 \pm 0.05 \text{ kOe}^2$.

From $H_E H_{\text{hex}}$ and H_E we get $H_{\text{hex}} = 0.913 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ kOe}$; then, using the definition of H_{hex} given in Table 2, we get $e_{\text{eff}}^{\text{exp}} = 0.936 \text{ Jm}^{-3}$. The H_{hex} value corroborates that earlier reported by Doroshev et al. [15]; note that the negative sign of the latter value is due to a different definition of the angle φ .

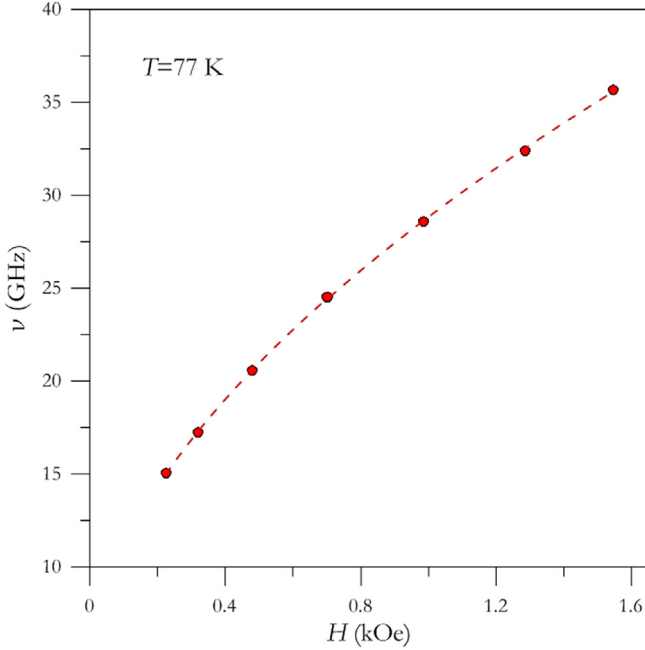


Fig. 5. Dependence of the AFMR frequency on the magnetizing field for FeBO₃ crystal. The dashed curve is the best fit according to Eq. (24).

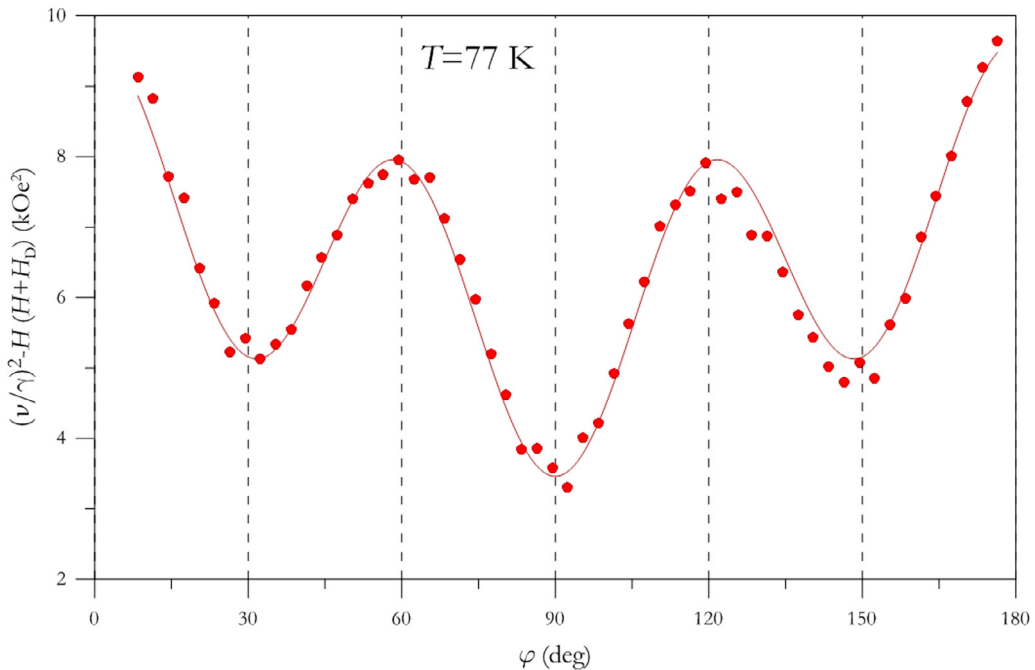


Fig. 6. Dependence of $(\frac{\nu}{\gamma})^2 - H(H + H_D)$ on the angle φ . The curve is a fitting according to Eq. (25).

Finally, from the results described above we estimate the dipole size. In the following we assume that $e_{\text{eff}} = e_{\text{eff}}^{\text{exp}}$, see Eq. (2) for e_{eff} . Substituting $e_{\text{eff}}^{\text{exp}}$ in Eq. (2) and taking into account Eqs. (3) and (4), we get:

$$e_{\text{eff}}^{\text{exp}} = e_{\text{cf}} + e_{\text{dip}} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{(d_{\text{cf}} + d_{\text{dip}})^2}{a_{\text{FeBO}_3} D_{\text{FeBO}_3}^2 + \frac{D_{\text{FeBO}_3}^2}{E_{\text{FeBO}_3}}}. \quad (26)$$

In what follows, for a_{FeBO_3} we use the experimental value $a_{\text{FeBO}_3}^{\text{exp}} = 3.2 \cdot 10^5 \text{ Jm}^{-3}$ determined by AFMR at 77 K [4,9]. D_{FeBO_3} and E_{FeBO_3} at 77 K have been calculated from the experimental values of corresponding effective fields and sublattice magnetization, see Table 2. Substituting in Eq. (26) the abovementioned values as well as those given in Table 1, for the model of a pair of fictitious magnetic charges we get:

$$853d^4 + 135d^2 + 3.2 = 0.936 \quad (27)$$

Obviously, this equation can have only complex solutions; therefore, this model is not applicable in the actual case. In contrast, for the model of a circular current loop, with an analogous substitution, we get:

$$7.47 \cdot 10^3 R^4 = 405.4R^2 + 3.2 = 0.936, \quad (28)$$

yielding two positive solutions: $R_1 = 0.2189$ and $R_2 = 0.0797\text{\AA}$.

In order to assess the plausibility of such values, they should be compared with the ionic radius R_i of Fe^{3+} ; indeed, we can reasonably infer that the effective size of a dipole should be of the same order of magnitude as the size of the physical object producing the corresponding dipole moment. For high spin Fe^{3+} in sixfold oxygen coordination $R_i = 0.645 \text{\AA}$ [18]; therefore the R_1 value seems to be a more realistic estimate than R_2 , the latter value being an order of magnitude smaller than R_i .

The dipole-dipole contributions to the magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants of FeBO_3 at 77 K calculated with the R_1 value are:

$$e_{\text{dip}} = 12.2 \text{ Jm}^{-3} \text{ and } d_{\text{dip}} = 7.57 \cdot 10^3 \text{ Jm}^{-3}. \quad (29)$$

6. Conclusions

Possible contributions to the basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy of iron borate, namely, crystal field and dipole-dipole contributions have been considered in detail. The former contribution has been calculated using the spin Hamiltonian parameters for isolated Fe^{3+} ions in (diamagnetic) gallium borate. The latter contribution has been evaluated assuming that the ratio dipole size/interdipole distance is non-negligible, i.e., that we are dealing with extended dipoles. The dipole-dipole interaction energy has been calculated for two extended dipole models, viz., a pair of magnetic charges and a circular current loop. The dipole-dipole contribution has been calculated by the lattice sum method.

In order to determine the basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants of iron borate, we have carried out AFMR studies at 77 K. A comparison between the experimental and calculated values of this constant has shown that the model of a pair of magnetic charges fails at explaining the experimental results. In contrast, the model of circular current loop provides consistent evidence in support of the dipole-dipole contribution to the basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy of iron borate and, incidentally, yields a more or less realistic estimate of the size of the magnetic dipole associated with Fe^{3+} ion.

In spite of the fact, that the modeling considering extended dipoles, put forward in this work provides new insight in the nature of the basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy of iron borate, it is certainly oversimplified. More sophisticated (*ab initio*) calculations are necessary in order to get further insight in the spatial distribution of the magnetic field produced by paramagnetic ions at short and intermediate distances.

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