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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  $\text{FeBO}_3$ , 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  $\text{FeBO}_3$  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  $\text{FeBO}_3$  can be expressed as follows [2]:

$$E_A = e_{\text{eff}} \cos 6\varphi \quad (1)$$

where  $\varphi$  is the azimuthal angle of the antiferromagnetic vector and  $e_{\text{eff}}$  is the effective basal anisotropy constant,

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

$d_{\text{FeBO}_3}$  and  $e_{\text{FeBO}_3}$  being the basal magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants and  $a_{\text{eff}}$  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  $a_{\text{FeBO}_3}$ ,  $D_{\text{FeBO}_3}$  and  $E_{\text{FeBO}_3}$  are, respectively, the uniaxial magnetocrystalline anisotropy, Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya and exchange constants for  $\text{FeBO}_3$ .

As far as for  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ( $3d^5$  electronic configuration) the orbital moment equals zero, the exchange energy in a good approximation is isotropic [3], so that the magnetocrystalline anisotropy energy of  $\text{FeBO}_3$  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,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  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  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ion in a diamagnetic crystal isomorphous to iron borate, e.g., gallium borate [6,7]. Thus,  $a_{\text{cf}}$ ,  $d_{\text{cf}}$  and  $e_{\text{cf}}$  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  $\text{FeBO}_3$  has been obtained previously [8].  $a_{\text{FeBO}_3}$  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  $\text{FeBO}_3$  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  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ion in a diamagnetic crystal isomorphous with  $\text{FeBO}_3$ . 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  $g_e = 2.0023$ ,  $\beta$  is the Bohr magneton,  $\mathbf{H}$  is the magnetizing field,  $\mathbf{S}$  is the electron spin of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $D$  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  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  in diamagnetic  $\text{GaBO}_3$  have been determined previously by Lukin et al. [11] and recently specified by Seleznyova et al. [12].

Seleznev has obtained the expressions for  $a_{\text{cf}}$ ,  $d_{\text{cf}}$  and  $e_{\text{cf}}$  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  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ions per unit volume,  $N = 2.236 \cdot 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$  for  $\text{FeBO}_3$  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  $e_{\text{FeBO}_3}$ .

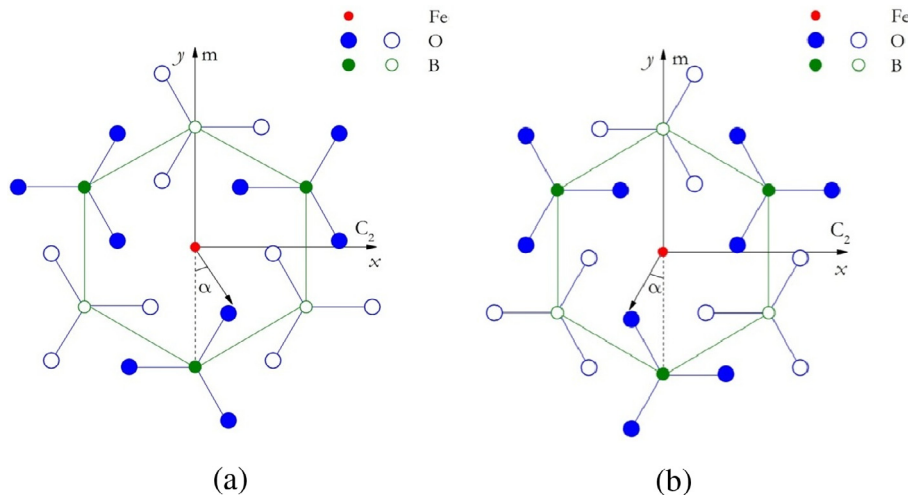
With the spin Hamiltonian constants  $D = 0.1032$ ,  $a = 0.0158$ ,  $F = 0.0368 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\alpha = 36^\circ$  specified recently [12], we obtain the following crystal field contributions to the magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants for  $\text{FeBO}_3$  at 0 K:

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

## 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  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ .  $(x, y, z)$  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.



In Eqs. (16) to (18)  $\tau$  and  $\phi$  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:

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

where the integrations are over  $\tau$  and  $\phi$ .

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.

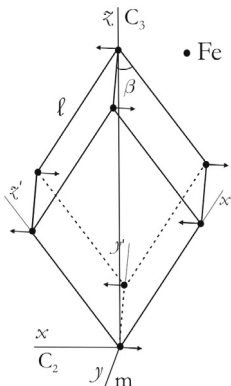
#### 4. Calculation of the dipole-dipole interaction energy in FeBO<sub>3</sub>

In order to calculate the dipole-dipole contribution to the magnetocrystalline anisotropy constants for FeBO<sub>3</sub>, 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  $g, \beta$  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 contribution 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 FeBO<sub>3</sub> 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  $\nu$  from 15 to 36 GHz and magnetizing field  $H$  up to 10 kOe applied in the basal plane of the crystal. FeBO<sub>3</sub> 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
$a_{\text{FeBO}_3}$	$4.82 \cdot 10^5$	$3.82 \cdot 10^5$	
$d_{\text{FeBO}_3}$	$2.55 \cdot 10^3$	$7.02 \cdot 10^5 d^2 / l^2$	$-2.11 \cdot 10^6 R^2 / l^2$
$e_{\text{FeBO}_3}$	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 FeBO<sub>3</sub>.

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	$H_E = \frac{1}{2} \frac{E_{\text{FeBO}_3}}{M_T} a$	$5.937 \cdot 10^3 \text{ kOe}$ $6.02 \cdot 10^3 \text{ kOe}$ <sup>b</sup> [5]
Isotropic energy gap	$H_\Delta^2$	$4.25 \pm 0.25 \text{ kOe}^2$ [9] $6.543 \pm 0.032 \text{ kOe}^2$ [this work]
Anisotropic energy gap	$H_E H_{\text{hex}} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{e_{\text{eff}} E_{\text{FeBO}_3}}{M_T^2} a$	$0.05421 \pm 0.0013 \text{ kOe}^2$ [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]

<sup>a</sup> For FeBO<sub>3</sub>  $M_0 = 520 \text{ G}$  and  $M_{77} \approx 512.9 \text{ G}$  [4].

<sup>b</sup> 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  $\text{FeBO}_3$  is described by the following expression [15,16]:

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

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

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

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

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

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  $\nu$ , 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):

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

where  $H_A^2$ ,  $H_E H_{\text{hex}}$  and  $p$  are fitting parameters, the term in  $p$  describing the uniaxial component. The best fit parameters  $H_A^2$  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  $H_{\text{hex}}$  given in Table 2, we get  $e_{\text{eff}}^{\text{exp}} = 0.936 \text{ Jm}^{-3}$ . The  $H_{\text{hex}}$  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  $\varphi$ .

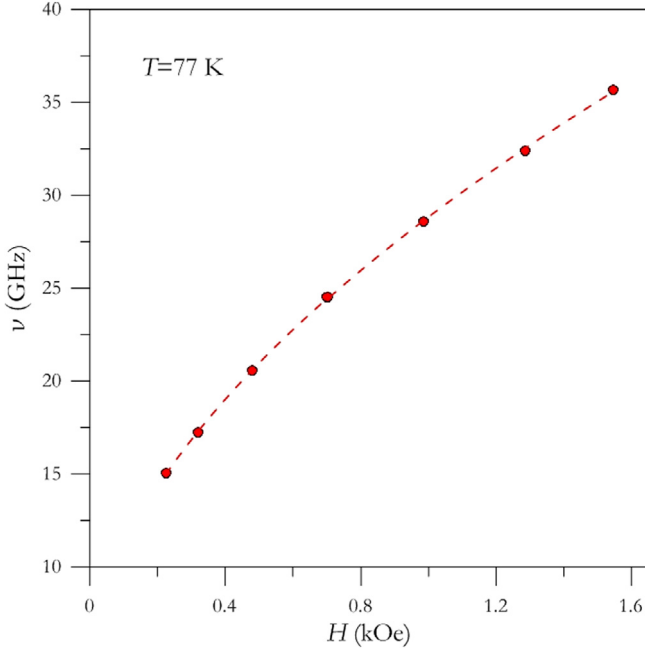


Fig. 5. Dependence of the AFMR frequency on the magnetizing field for  $\text{FeBO}_3$  crystal. The dashed curve is the best fit according to Eq. (24).

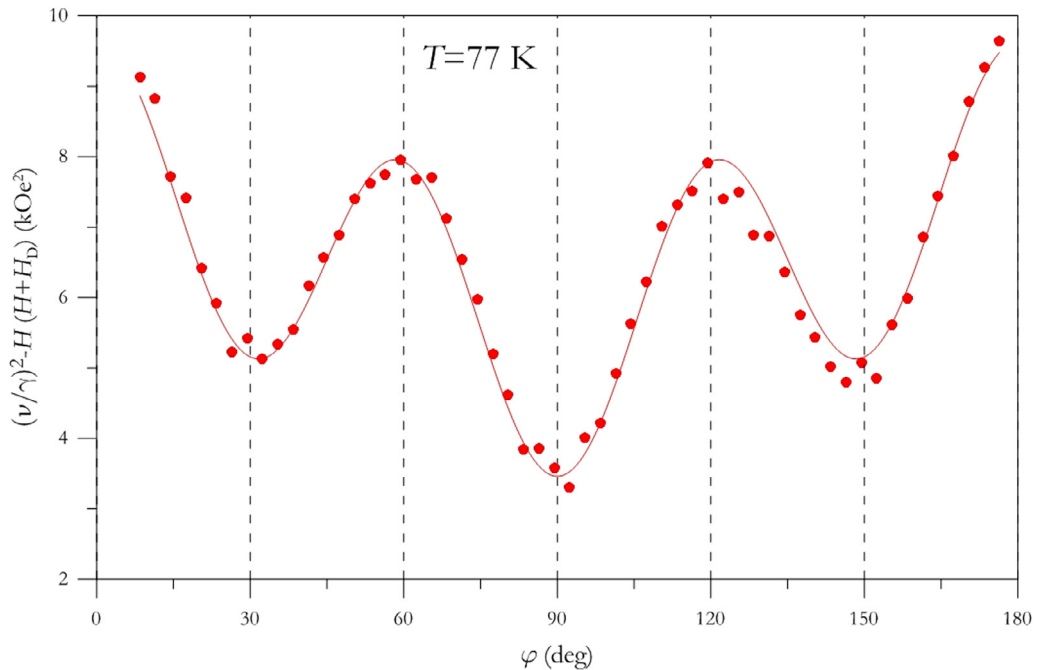


Fig. 6. Dependence of  $(\frac{\nu}{\gamma})^2 - H(H + H_D)$  on the angle  $\varphi$ . The curve is a fitting according to Eq. (25).



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  $e_{\text{eff}}$ . Substituting  $e_{\text{eff}}^{\text{exp}}$  in Eq. (2) and taking into account Eqs. (3) and (4), we get:

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

In what follows, for  $a_{\text{FeBO}_3}$  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].  $D_{\text{FeBO}_3}$  and  $E_{\text{FeBO}_3}$  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  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ; 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  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  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  $\text{FeBO}_3$  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  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  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  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  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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