

How can we control the formation of grain-boundaries (GBs) towards well connected, high field MgB_2 ?

A. Yamamoto

Acknowledgement:

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Outline

1. What can we expect for upcoming MgB₂ magnet ?

Introduction to MgB₂

Magnetic field produced by polycrystalline MgB₂ -
demonstration using SC bulk as prototype of coil -

2. Issues for high field magnet

3. Structural tuning of GBs (*ex situ* wire)

Challenge for well-connected, mechanically tough GBs

4. Electromagnetic tuning of GBs (*in situ* bulk magnet)

Improving trapped field by modification of GBs

5. Summary



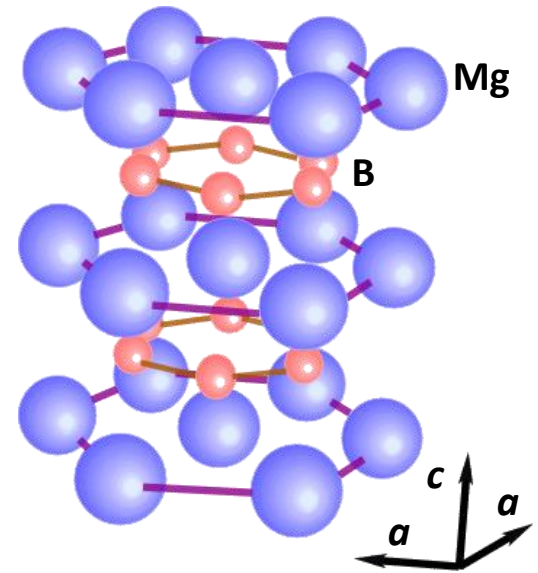
Introduction to MgB₂

MgB₂

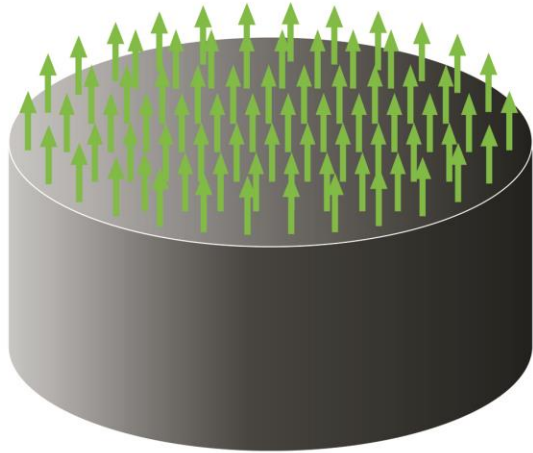
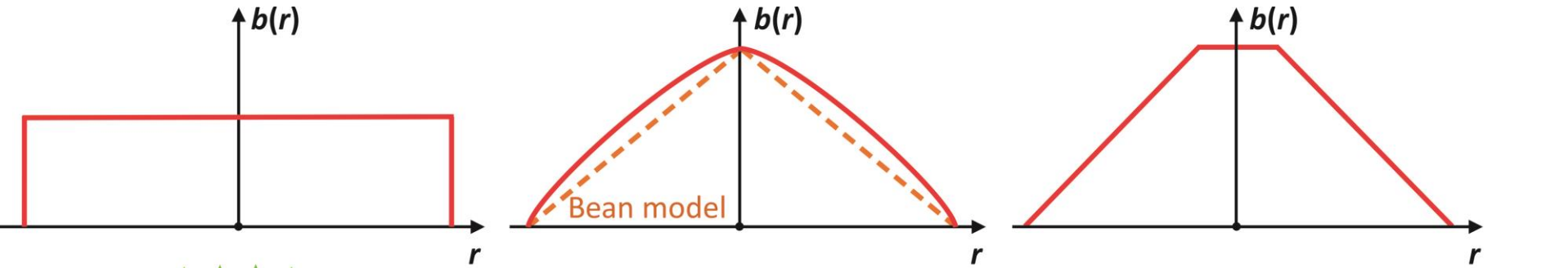
- metallic high- T_c superconductor (40 K)
- transparent GBs, high J_c current @~20 K in randomly oriented polycrystal

Good for applications

- easy wire fabrication
 - >1 km multi-filamentary wires by PIT
- low cost for materials and processing
- liq.He-free operation by cryocooler



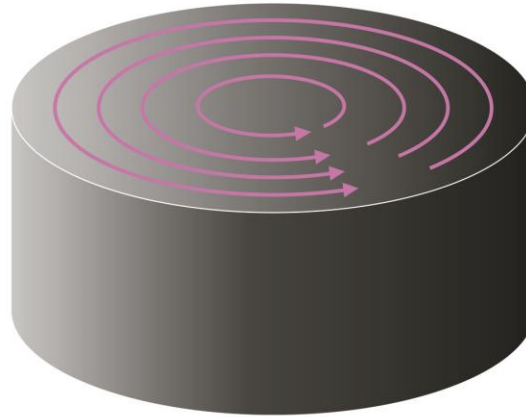
Bulk magnet as prototype of SC coil



Permanent ferromagnet

Spin

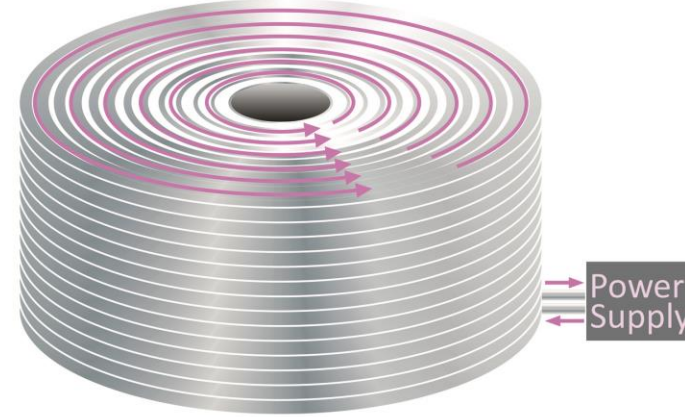
Nd-Fe-B (~1.6 T)



SC bulk magnet

Induced loop SC current

MgB₂ (3-5 T), YBCO (17 T)



Electromagnet

Supplied loop current

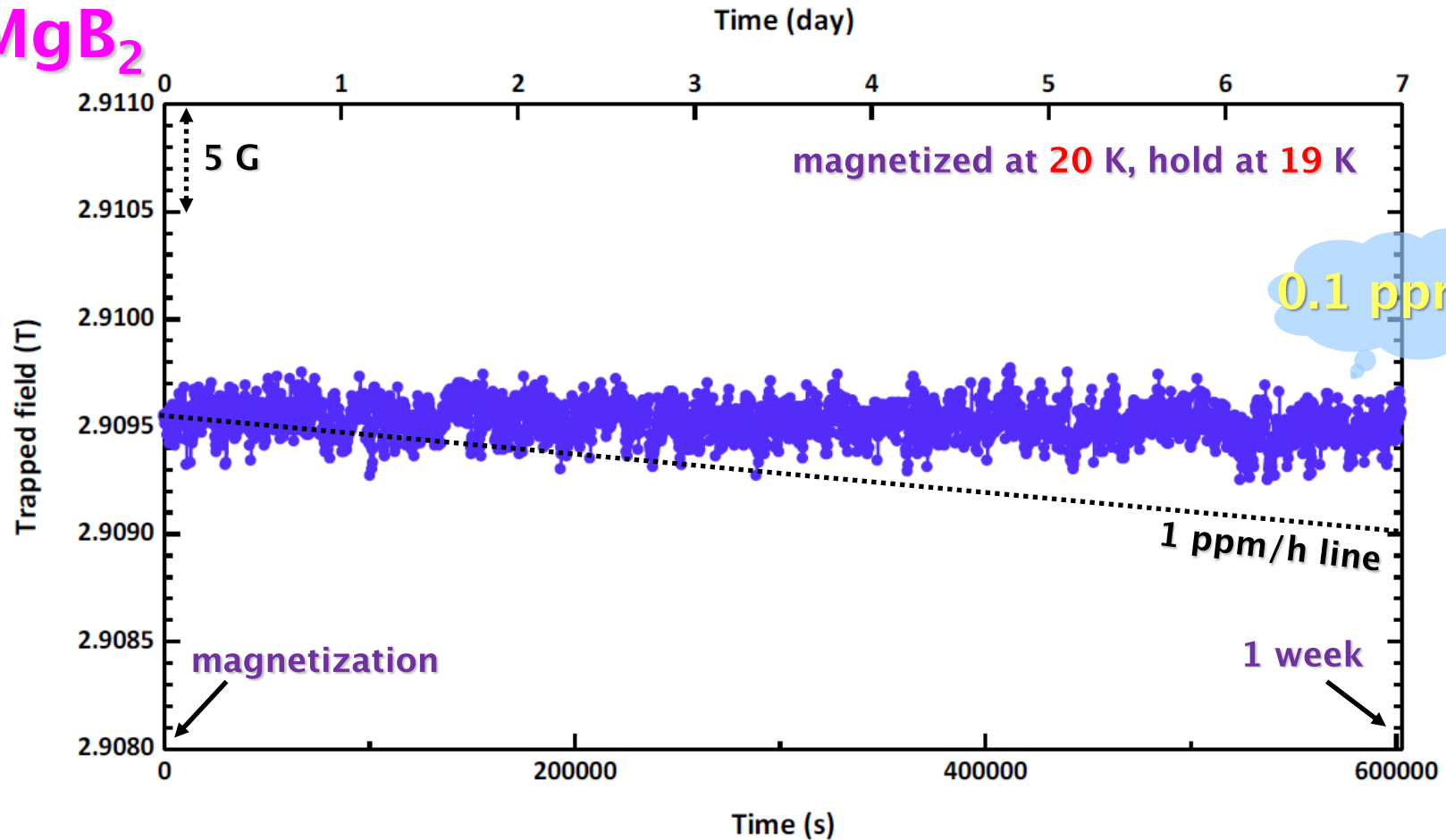
Cu (~2 T), HTS (>30 T)

Local spin

Macroscopic SC current loop
(field produced by the same mechanism)

Temporal uniformity of field

MgB₂



Negligible decay of field (**2.9 T at 19 K**) over the first week!

Macroscopic SC current loop in polycrystalline MgB₂ can be very stable .

MgB₂ : applicable for high field magnet?

MgB₂ could provide **high quality field** (spatial & temporal uniformity)

$H_{c2} // ab(0\text{ K})$: wires ~30 T

vs films >50 T

V. Braccini, A. Gurevich *et al.*, 2003

$J_c(20\text{ K})$: wires 10^5 - 10^6 A/cm²

vs films 10^7 - 10^8 A/cm²

C. G. Zhuang, X. X. Xi *et al.*, M. Naito *et al.* 2008-

Very nice potential of MgB₂, demonstrated by thin film study, has not yet realized in polycrystalline wire forms, issues for high field magnets:

- Higher H_{c2}
- Higher in-field J_c
 - Connectivity
 - Flux pinning
 - Multi-band
- Mechanical strength?



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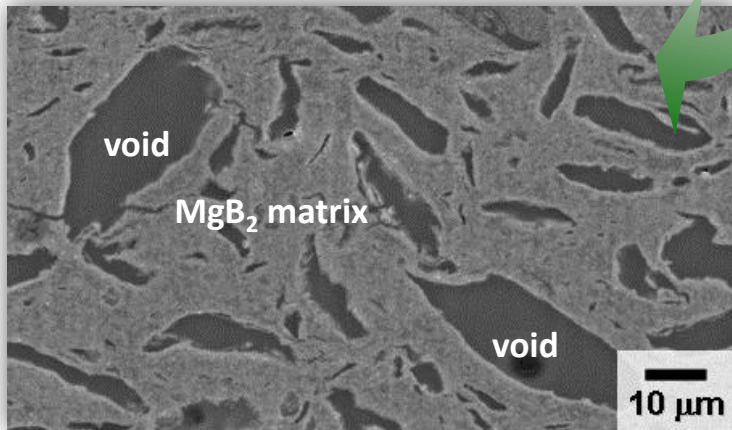
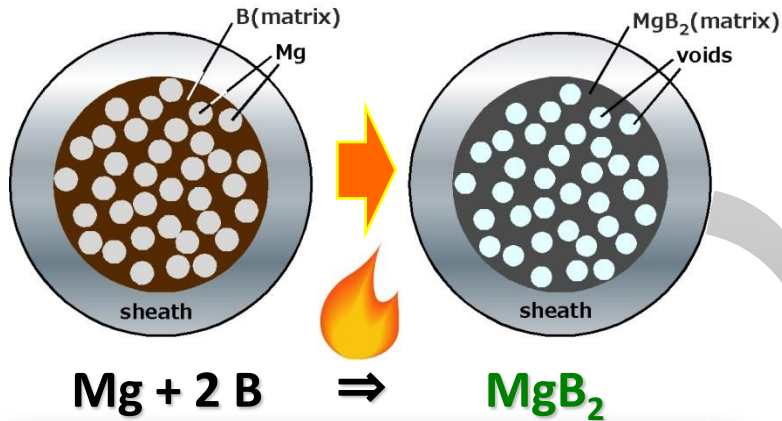
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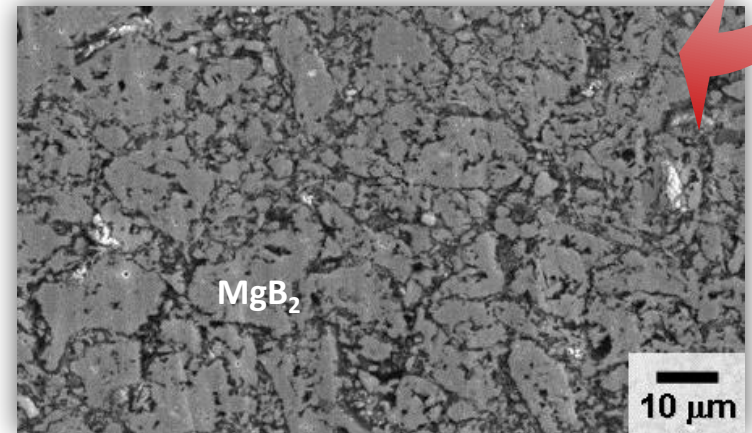
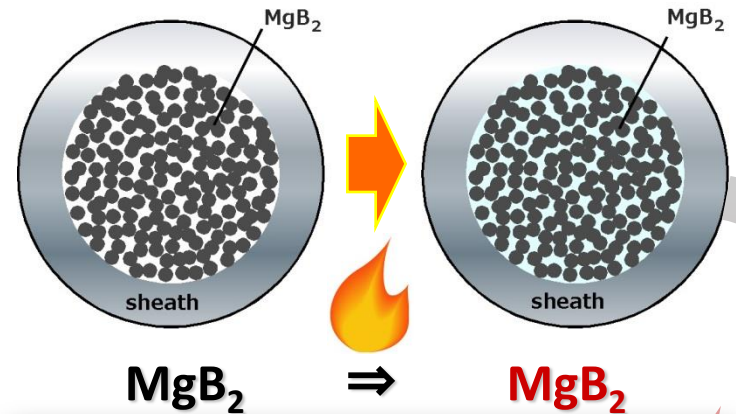
Standard MgB₂ wire fabrication techniques

in situ PIT



- × porous (~50%)
- ⊙ strong intergrain coupling
- higher K, J_c

ex situ PIT



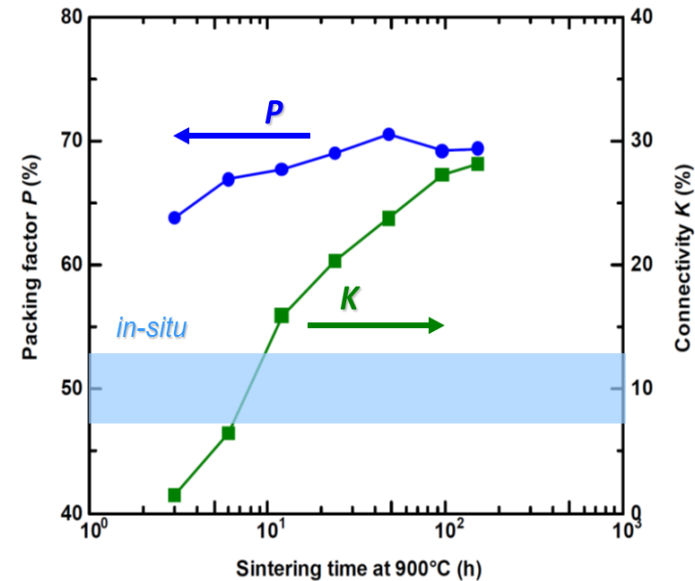
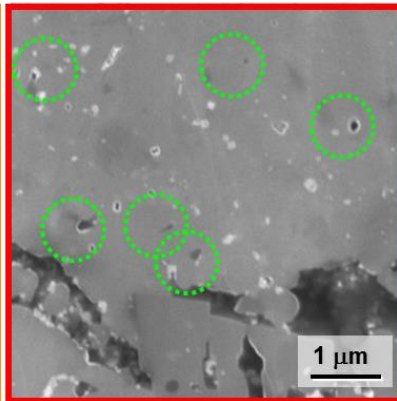
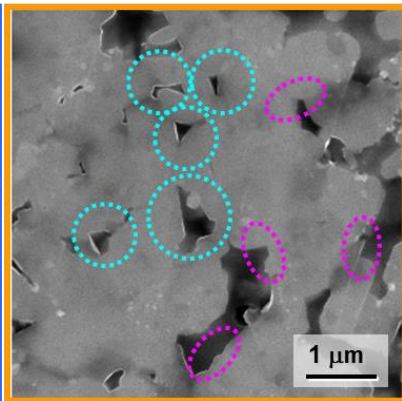
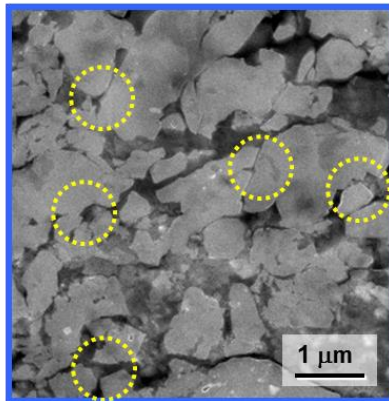
- ⊙ dense (~75%), uniform
- × weak intergrain coupling

Structural control of GBs

- Pressure-less, low-temperature self-sintering of *ex situ* MgB₂
- Connectivity largely increased x3

As-pressed

Sintered at 900°C, 24 h Sintered at 900°C, 240 h

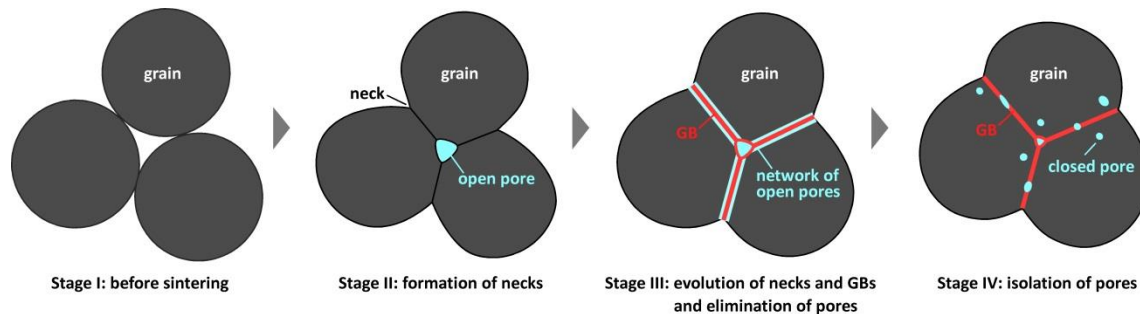


● Contact of grains

● Necks, GBs

● Isolation of pores (closed pores)

● Open pores



A. Yamamoto *et al.*, *Jpn. J. Appl. Phys.* **51**, 010105 1-6 (2012); H. Tanaka *et al.*, *SuST* **25**, 115022 1-7 (2012); S. Mizutani *et al.*, *Supercond. Sci. Technol.* **27**, 044012 1-7 (2014); *SuST* **27**, 114001 1-8 (2014).

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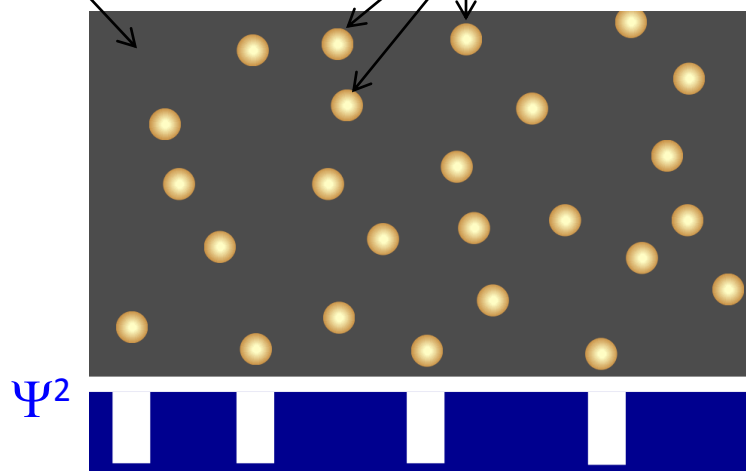


Electromagnetic modification of GBs for higher fields

Single-grain bulk

Introducing artificial defects

SC matrix Artificial defects (non-SC)



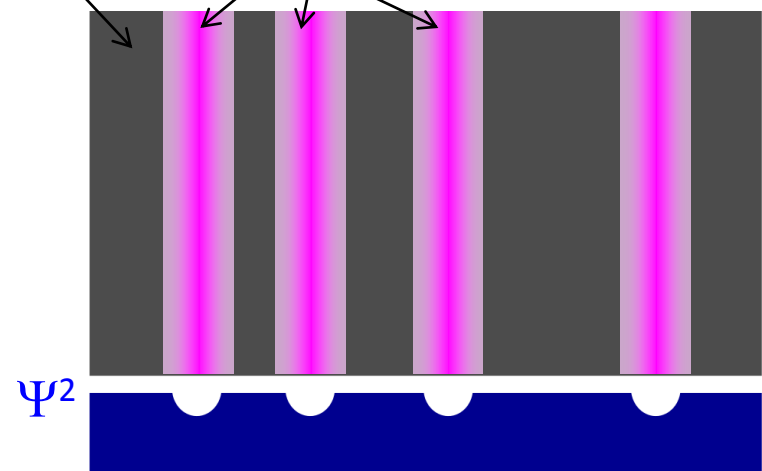
Order parameter

Flux pinning at non-SC precipitates
by saving condensation energy

Polycrystalline bulk

Flux pinning at natural defects

SC matrix GBs (weak-SC)



Order parameter

Flux pinning at natural GBs
by modulation of coherence length ξ
due to electron scattering *

Our approach: Increase GB area (grain refinement) + Enhance e scattering near GBs

(*) T. Matsushita *et al.*, *Supercond. Sci. Technol.* **21**, 015008 (2008); A. Yamamoto *et al.*, *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **88**, 212505 (2005).
G. Zerweck, *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **42**, 1 (1981); W. E. Yetter *et al.*, *Philos. Mag. B* **46**, 523 (1982).



Experimental procedure

Mg, B powder (*in situ*, Mg : B = 1 : 2)

Planetary ball milling
(0-600rpm)

Interface purification process

Uniaxial pressing to form
disk shape (30 mm ϕ , 10mm t)

Heating 850°C, 3 h (pressureless, Ar)

MgB₂ bulk

Cutting & Evaluation
SEM, XRD, SQUID, PPMS

Milling energy

$$E_t/m = c\beta(\omega_p r_p)^3 t/r_v$$

E_t/m : 原料粉末単位質量あたりに
加えられるエネルギー

c : 定数

β : ボールと原料粉末の質量比

$\omega_p r_p$: ボールミルの公転角速度

t : ボールミル時間

r_v : ボールミル容器の半径

W. Häbler *et al.*,
Supercond. Sci. Technol. **26** (2013) 025005.

Magnetization by field-cooling (FC)

Trapped field measurements

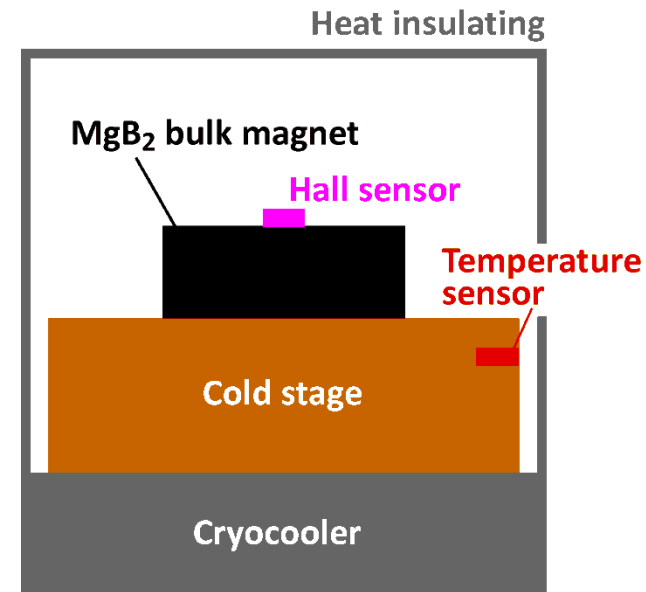
Magnetization and trapped field measurement

MgB₂ bulk

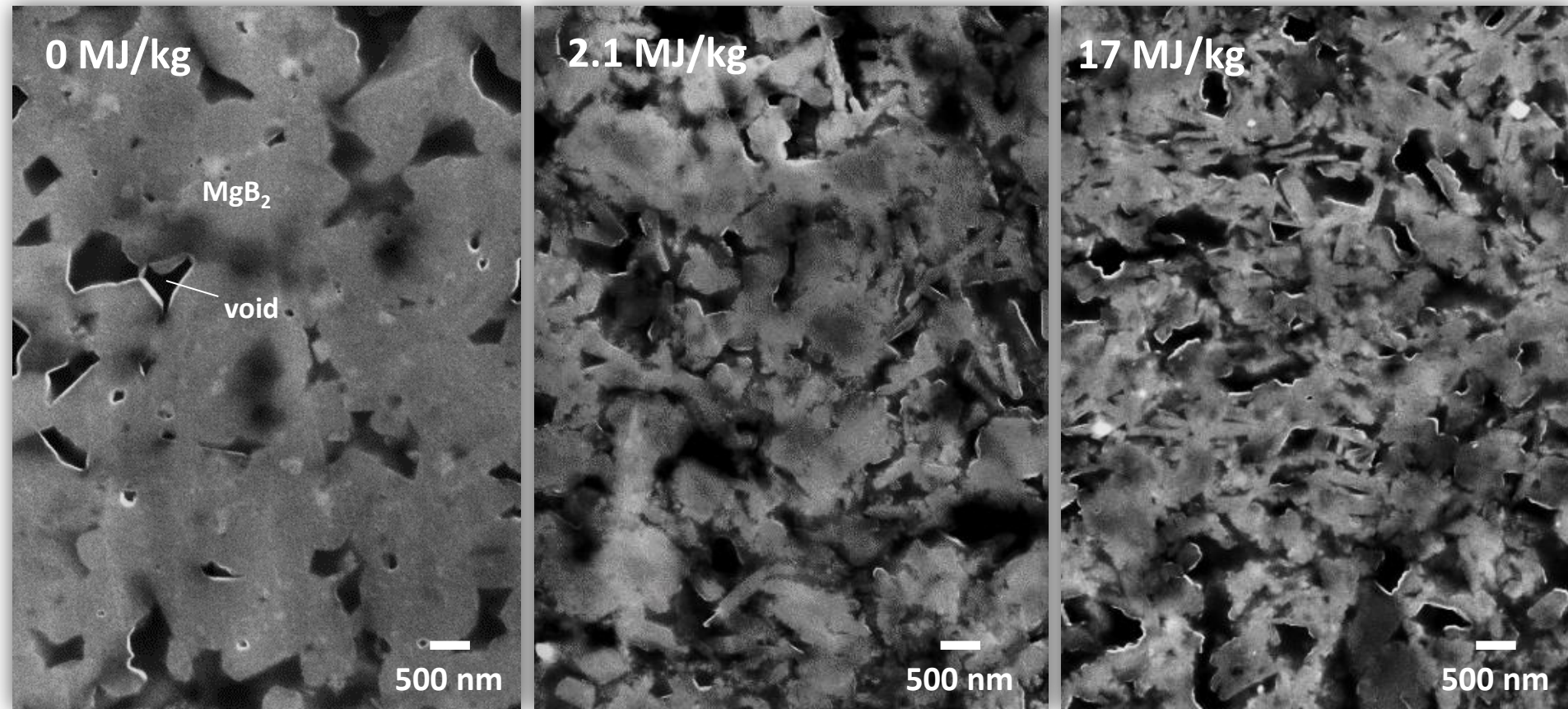
Field-cooling (FC)
to 5–20 K by a cryocooler under 6 T

Magnetizing
by a superconducting magnet (6→0 T)

Trapped field measurement
by a hall sensor at center of surface
from 5 to 40 K



Influence of milling on grain size & microstructure



→ milling

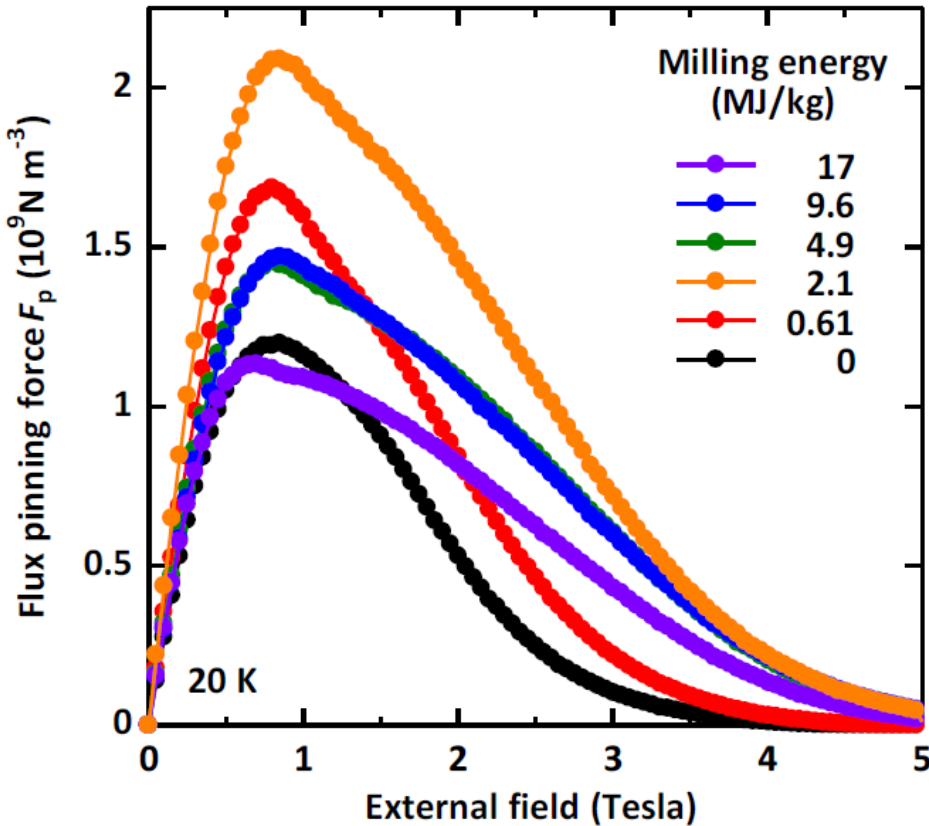
$D_G \sim 1400$ nm

~ 400 nm

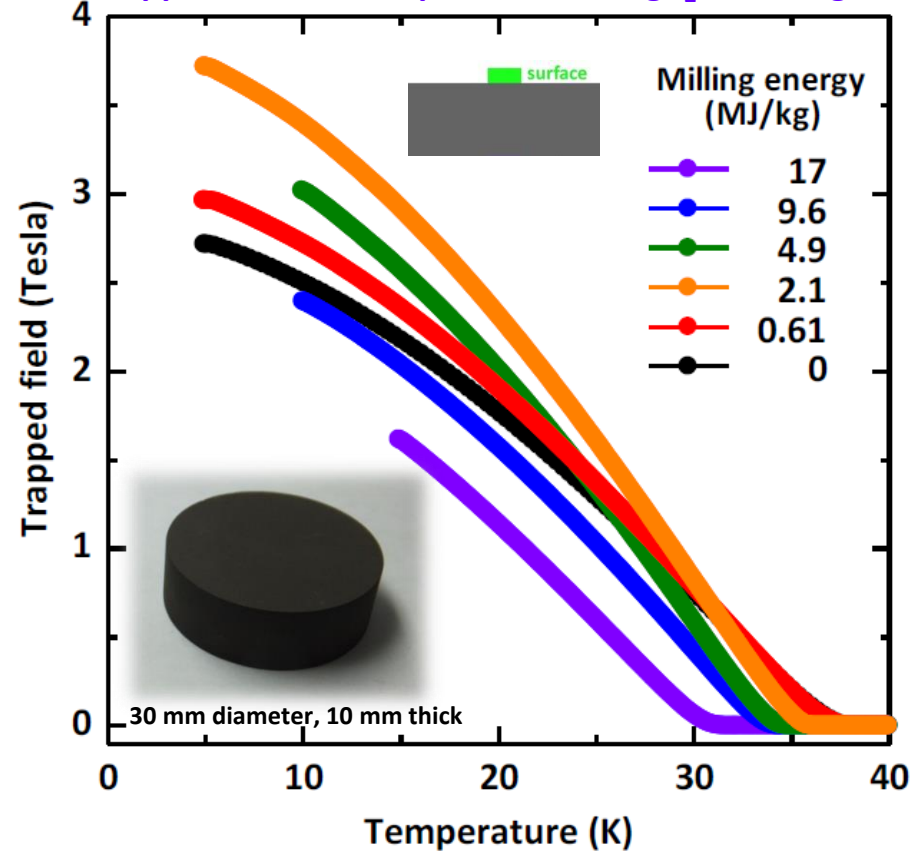
~ 300 nm

Flux pinning strength & trapped field

Macroscopic pinning strength vs. external field



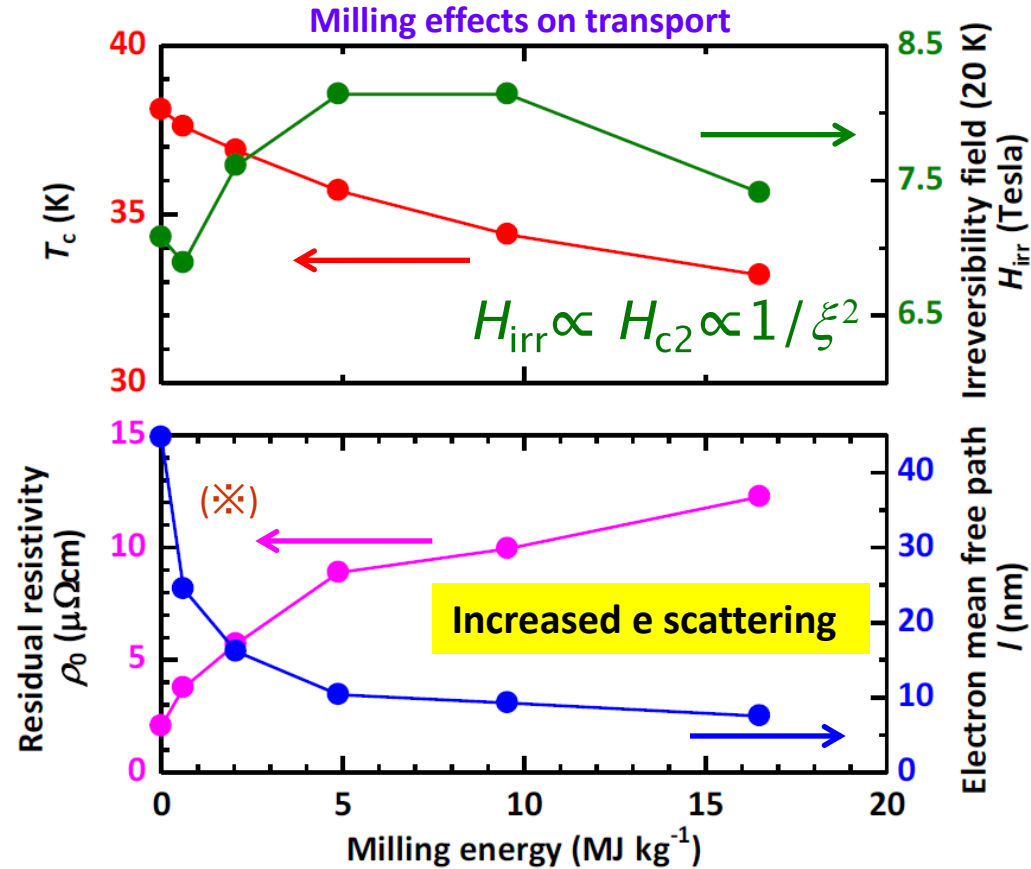
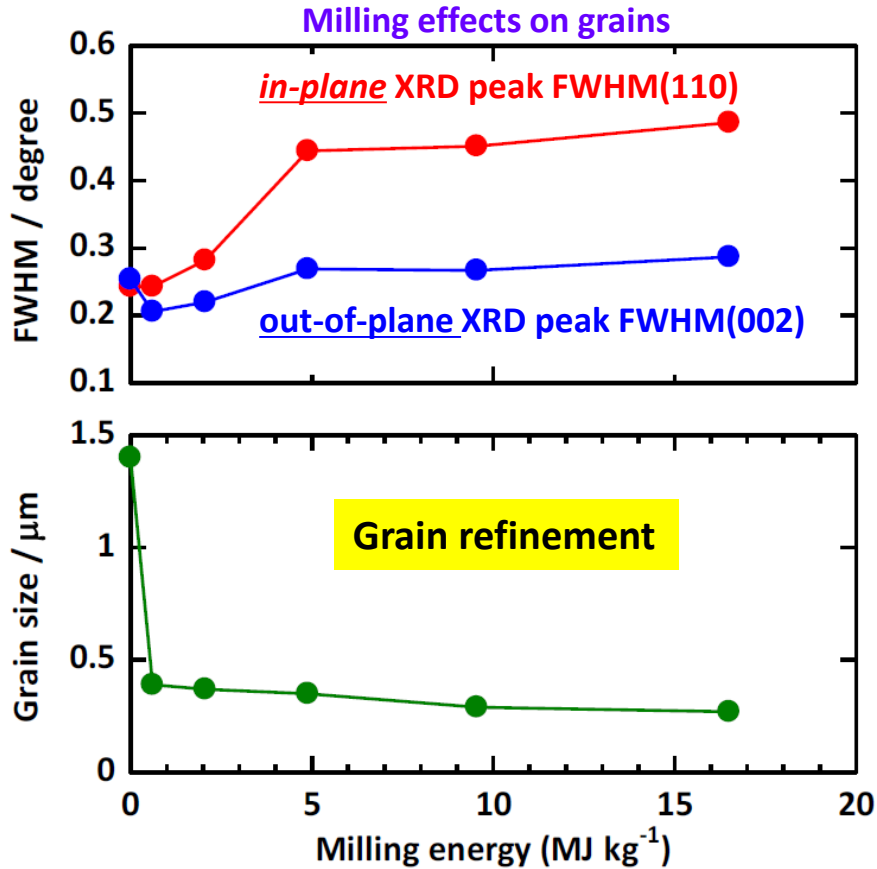
Trapped field vs. temperature for MgB₂ bulk magnets



Flux pinning enhancement: x2 in low field, >x10 under high field
30% increase in trapped field (3.72 Tesla at 5 K)



Discussion: grain size, disorder & scattering



Density of pinning centers $N_p \propto (\text{grain size})^{-1}$

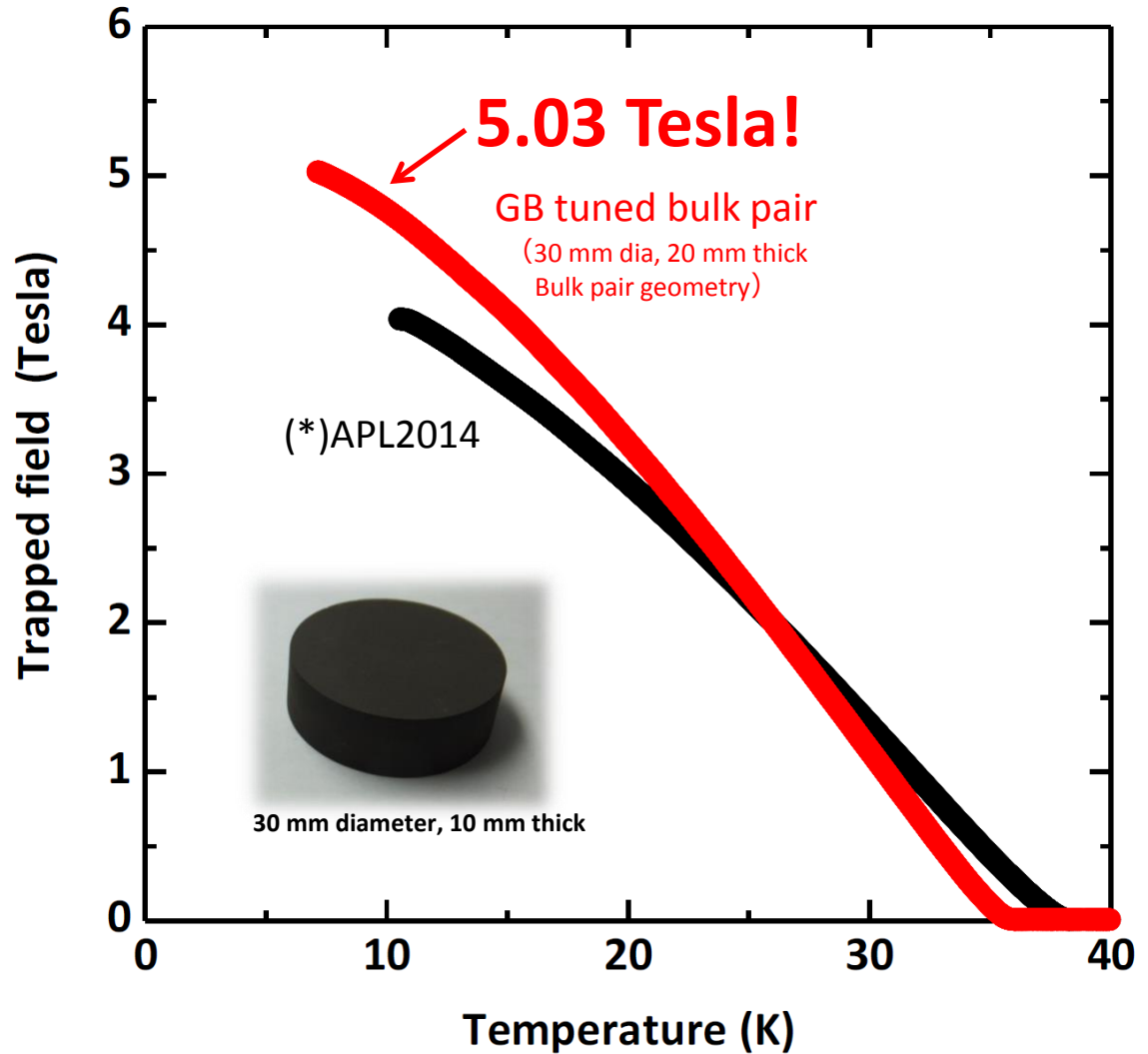
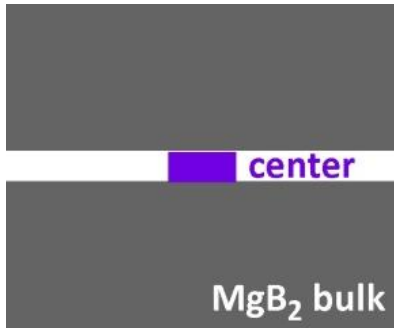
Elementary pinning strength $f_p \propto \Delta\xi_{\text{near GB}}$

Macroscopic pinning force $F_p^{\text{global}} \propto N_p \times f_p$

\Rightarrow Quantitative and qualitative increase of GB pinning

(*) M. Kodama *et al.*, *Supercond. Sci. Technol.* 27, 055003 (2014); T. Matsushita *et al.*, *SuST* 21, 015008 (2008).

Trapped field of bulk pair MgB₂



5 Tesla at 7 K. The highest field among pressureless bulk MgB₂



Summary

Polycrystalline MgB_2 could produce high quality field with...

- ✓ 5 Tesla
- ✓ uniform field distribution
- ✓ excellent magnet stability up to ~ 20 K

owing to natural/nano-scale flux pinning centers (GBs).

More works needed:

- ✓ processing needs to be improved for dense, better $J_c(B)$.

Thank you for your attentions!

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