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MAGNETIC AND ELECTRIC PROPERTIES OF MULTIFERROIC COMPOSITES

In recent years, composite materials made of piezoelectric and magnetostrictive phases have attracted considerable interest for their magnetoelectric (ME) coupling, which may lead to novel multifunctional devices. In these materials, the ME coupling depends upon phase equilibrium, magnitude of the magnetostriction and piezoelectric coefficients and electric resistivity.

In this talk, we present results of our group on the magnetoelectric and magnetostrictive characterization of multiferroic composites based on $Pb(Mg_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})O_3 - PbTiO_3$ (PMN-PT) as ferroelectric matrix and NiFe₂O₄ - CoFe₂O₄ as ferromagnetic phase. In order to account for the data, we have developed a generalized model of the dependence of the magnetostriction on the magnetization for the 0-3 type composite material. We show that the model significantly improves the ordinary square magnetization model to account quantitatively for the dependence of both piezomagnetism and stress field on magnetostriction.