

nuclear acoustic echo in cobalt

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Observation is reported of acoustic nuclear spin echo in single-crystal cobalt at a temperature 4.2 K in a magnetizing field 1.8 T.

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Nuclear echo in cobalt is easily observed when the nuclear spins are excited by an electromagnetic field. We know, however, of only one report of observation of nuclear acoustic echo in

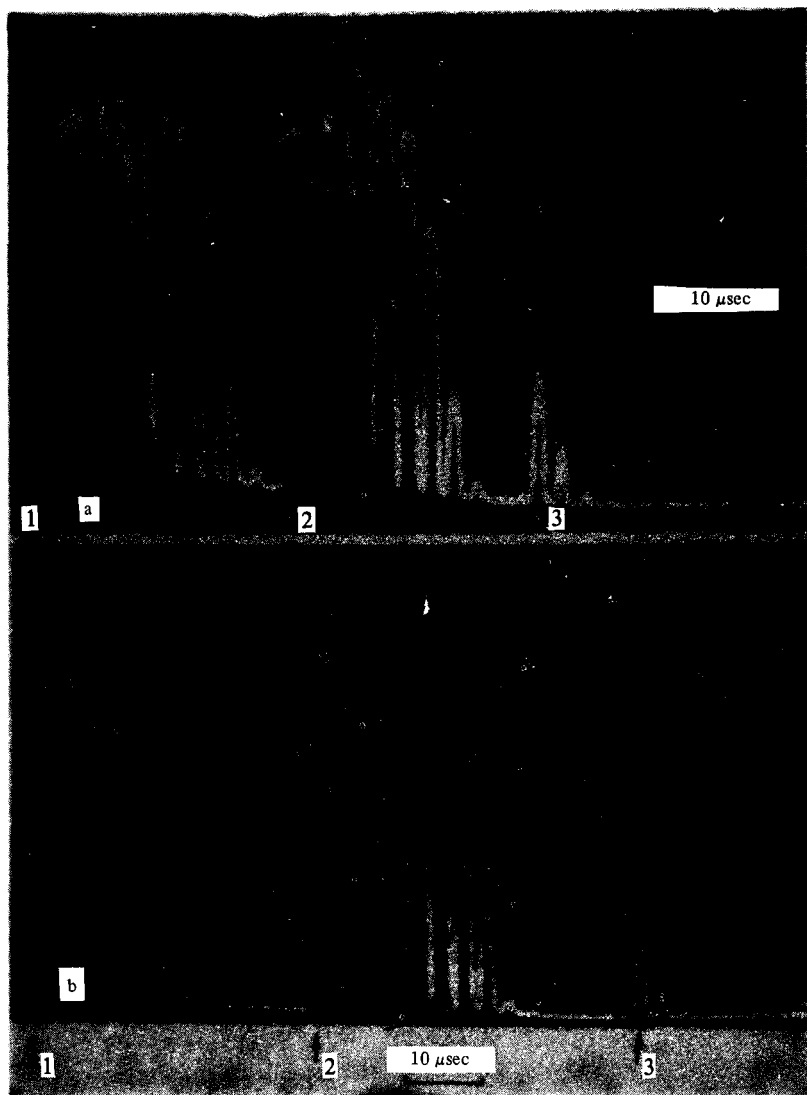


FIG. 1. Acoustic-echo signal (3); 1,2—first and second sounding pulses: a) $\tau = 30 \mu\text{sec}$ and b) $\tau \mu\text{sec}$ between 1 and 2.

magnetically-ordered crystals (KMnF_3 and RbMnF_3).^[1] Experiments of this type on semiconductors are of particular interest. We report here the results of an experiment aimed at observing nuclear acoustic echo in cobalt single crystals at a temperature 4.2 K.

It is known that magnetization, as a rule, affects adversely the condition for the observation of nuclear resonance in cobalt. However, the magneto-acoustic interaction in single crystals of cobalt in the demagnetized state is very small, but when the crystal becomes magnetized in the diffraction direction the interaction increases and has a maximum as a function of the field. Although a

perature this maximum is not as large as at room temperature, it is precisely in the magnetized state that it becomes easy to observe the nuclear acoustic echo in cobalt. The experiment was performed on a single-crystal cobalt sample of almost spherical shape with 12 mm diameter and two small plane-parallel areas to which the piezoelectric sensor could be used. The longitudinal mode was excited by a lithium-niobate plate at an approximate frequency 215 MHz. The directions of the sound propagation and of the magnetizing field were perpendicular to the easy axis. By rotating the sample around the easy axis we could vary the angle between the sound propagation direction and the field direction.

Figure 1 shows oscillograms of the signals observed at delays 30 μsec (a) and 40 μsec (b) between the sounding pulses. After the sounding pulses 1 and 2, a series of reflected pulses is observed, followed by the echo signal 3, the first pulse of which is observed at the instant $\tau + t$, where τ is the delay time between the sounding pulses and t is the delay time of the acoustic pulse in the sample. The relaxation time T_2 , determined from the decrease of the echo-signal amplitude when the time of delay between the sounding pulses is increased at 4.2 K, turned out to be 35 μsec . The echo signal is maximal at a frequency 215 MHz in a field of approximately 1.8 T. It can be assumed that the frequency 2.5 MHz, at the indicated value of the field, corresponds to the nuclear absorption line of the magnetic absorption observed at 219.9 MHz in the demagnetized states.^[2]

The oscillograms of Fig. 1 were obtained at a sounding-pulse repetition frequency 50 Hz. When the repetition frequency is increased above 200 Hz, the echo signal decreases. This means the relaxation time T_2 is of the order of 10^{-3} sec. Under the given experimental conditions, the signal is observed at all angles, in the basal plane, between the field direction and the sound direction. The signal was maximal at 45° , somewhat less at 90° , and several times smaller at 0° .

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