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# Intra- and interparticle magnetism of cobalt-doped iron-oxide nanoparticles encapsulated in a synthetic ferritin cage

E. Skoropata,<sup>1</sup> R. D. Desautels,<sup>1</sup> E. Falvo,<sup>2</sup> P. Ceci,<sup>2</sup> O. Kasyutich,<sup>3</sup> J. W. Freeland,<sup>4</sup> and J. van Lierop<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, Canada*

<sup>2</sup>*CNR, Institute of Biology, Molecular Medicine and Nanobiotechnology, Rome, Italy*

<sup>3</sup>*Engineering Faculty, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom*

<sup>4</sup>*Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA*

We present an in-depth examination of the composition and magnetism of cobalt ( $\text{Co}^{2+}$ )-doped iron-oxide nanoparticles encapsulated in *Pyrococcus furiosus* ferritin shells. We show that the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  dopant ions were incorporated into the  $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  core, with small paramagnetic-like clusters likely residing on the surface of the nanoparticle that were observed for all cobalt-doped samples. In addition, element-specific characterization using Mössbauer spectroscopy and polarized x-ray absorption indicated that  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  was incorporated exclusively into the octahedral B-sites of the spinel-oxide nanoparticle. Comparable superparamagnetic blocking temperatures, coercivities, and effective anisotropies were obtained for 7, 10 and 12% cobalt-doped nanoparticles, and were only slightly reduced for 3% cobalt, indicating a strong effect of cobalt incorporation, with a lesser effect of cobalt content. Due to the regular particle size and separation that result from the use of the ferritin cage, a comparison of the effects of interparticle interactions on the disordered assembly of nanoparticles was also obtained that indicated significantly different behaviours between un-doped and cobalt-doped nanoparticles.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Substantial interest has developed surrounding ferritin-based nanoparticle systems due to the numerous intrinsic advantages for the development of “idealized” nanoparticle systems. That is, the ferritin cage prevents agglomeration, interparticle exchange interactions, and results in predictable interparticle separation due to the well defined cage thickness. In addition, the ferritin cage constrains the particle growth leading to monodisperse nanoparticles. *Pyrococcus furiosus* ferritin (PffT), in particular, has several unique advantages, such as enabling a “gentle” reactive environment that can lead to the formation of materials that are difficult to obtain at the nanoscale using conventional free solution environments<sup>1</sup>, a high thermal stability<sup>2</sup>, and producing well crystallized samples<sup>1</sup> due to the relatively few internal nucleation sites for mineralization; qualities which lead to good tunability and a high quality nanoparticle that is ideal for the examination of nanoparticle magnetism. Importantly, ferritin-based nanoparticles are also particularly well suited as building blocks for macroscopic self-assembly that provides an avenue for the study of dipolar-driven magnetism<sup>1,3–5</sup>.

While reactions in ferritins involve only Fe ions naturally, a variety of particles (oxide, metallic and semiconductor<sup>1,6,7</sup>) have been re-mineralized with various ferritins. By incorporating  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions into the spinel Fe-oxide cores, the intrinsic anisotropy of the nanoparticle may be enhanced substantially. However, due to the differences between confined reactions in the ferritin vessel (which contain specific nucleation and catalytic sites, and are a highly charged environment), and the fundamental difference in the nature of the surface environ-

ments in comparison with surfactant-coated nanoparticles produced freely in solution, a detailed examination of the composition and magnetism of the ferritin-based nanoparticle is necessary. An understanding of the intrinsic properties of the individual nanoparticles is also an essential prerequisite to developing an understanding of the macroscopically assembled systems<sup>8</sup>.

In this work, we examine the relationship between the composition, structure and resulting magnetism of 0 – 12% (atomic) cobalt ( $\text{Co}^{2+}$ )-doped iron-oxide nanoparticles. These nanoparticles were prepared using the artificial ferritin cage PffT, and all the ionic impurities and external aggregates were stripped off. The well crystallized and uniformly separated nanoparticle systems provided ideal platforms for examining the intrinsic magnetism and interparticle interactions (behaviour masked typically by secondary effects such as a large size distributions and particle agglomeration). Using overall, atomic, and elemental magnetism characterization techniques, we find that no change in the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  coordination environment occurs among the series –  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  was incorporated exclusively into the octahedral sites of the Fe-oxide based core that in turn affected the orbital moment of cobalt. The incorporation of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  into the Fe-oxide core increased substantially the anisotropy of the nanoparticle, although not systematically with cobalt content. A clear comparison revealing the nature of the interparticle interactions was enabled as the ferritin shell provided a consistent interparticle separation between systems and prevented exchange interactions from altering the local, atomic magnetism amongst nanoparticles (i.e. from metal-to-metal contact between nanoparticles). We found that the interactions had a significant effect on the dynamical freezing (e.g time-dependent magnetism) of

the cobalt-doped nanoparticles' magnetizations, indicating longer range correlations among nanoparticles with Co doping. Simultaneously, similar long-range effective fields (e.g. dipolar in nature) due to essentially identical nanoparticle spacial arrangements between samples were measured.

## II. EXPERIMENT

### A. Sample Preparation

Fe-oxide, and cobalt doped Fe-oxide nanoparticles in the ferritin were mineralized in the synthetic ferritin *Pyrococcus furiosus* (PfFt) as described in Ref.<sup>9</sup>. Following mineralization, aggregates on the exterior of the nanoparticles were removed using centrifugation, filtration using 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  filters, and size exclusion chromatography as described in Ref.<sup>10</sup>. In addition, to be sure that the filled nanoparticles were extracted from the unfilled protein shells we used the high gradient magnetic separation method described in Ref.<sup>11</sup>. Briefly, PfFt-nanoparticles were passed through a column containing steel powder to which we applied a magnetic field of  $\sim 0.6$  T using a permanent magnet. The nanoparticle solutions containing fixed amounts of metals were dried on a SpeedVac SC110 rotary evaporator at 4°C (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA).

### B. Experimental Techniques

X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were collected under ambient conditions using dried nanoparticle samples on a zero background quartz slide. XRD patterns were collected using a Bruker D8 Discover using  $\text{Cu K}\alpha$  radiation. The lattice parameters, crystallite size (due to Scherrer broadening), and octahedral site occupancy were determined from Rietveld refinements of the XRD patterns using FULLPROF<sup>12</sup>.

Transmission Mössbauer spectra were collected at 10 K in a Janis SHI-850 closed cycle refrigeration system using a WissEl spectrometer in constant acceleration mode with a  $^{57}\text{CoRh}$  source. The spectrometer was calibrated at room temperature using a 6- $\mu\text{m}$  thick  $\alpha$ -Fe foil.

Magnetometry measurements were done using a SQUID magnetometer (Quantum Design MPMS-XL5) using dried nanoparticle samples encapsulated in a gel cap. The metal-oxide cores of the nanoparticles were separated by the protein shell. This ensured identical particle separation for all samples, and prevented physical contact between the oxide cores. Hysteresis loops were collected from 2 K to 400 K after cooling the sample in an applied field of 5 T. Field-cooled and zero field-cooled DC susceptibility curves were measured using an applied field of 5 mT from base temperature to 400 K for the Fe-oxide nanoparticles, and 10 K to 400 K for the cobalt-doped nanoparticles. Frequency dependent AC susceptibility

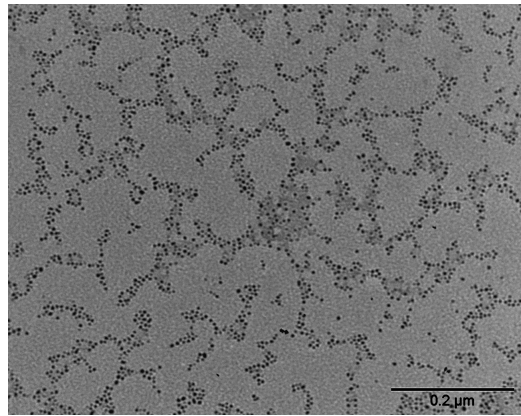


FIG. 1. A typical low-resolution TEM image of Fe-based ferritin nanoparticles

curves were measured using an oscillating field of 2.5 mT with no DC applied field. All magnetometry and susceptibility data are normalized to the total mass of the oxide component of the ferritin-based nanoparticles.

X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) and x-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD) measurements were done at beamline 4-ID-C at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory using dried nanoparticle samples mounted on carbon tape. All spectra were recorded with a 0.1 eV resolution using the total electron yield mode, and XMCD spectra were measured by reversing the x-ray polarization at each energy interval with the XMCD and XAS spectra measured as the difference and sum, respectively, between the absorption of left- and right-circularly polarized x-rays. Spectra were measured from 10 K to 200 K in applied fields from 0.25 T to 5.0 T for 0%, and 3% cobalt-doped samples, and 0.1 T to 5.0 T for 12% cobalt-doped to examine the temperature and field dependence of the Fe and Co site specific magnetism. A spectrum was collected at 50 K and 5.0 T for 10% cobalt doped sample to examine the Fe and Co coordination environments. All spectra were normalized to the maximum intensity at the  $L_3$  edge of the XAS spectrum.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Overall Structure and Composition

Using the magnetic separation purification procedure to prepare the ferritin-based nanoparticles, only ferritin filled with a significant quantity of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  (magnetoferritin) is retained in the column. However, we noted that only a negligible amount of unfilled nanoparticles were recovered from the flow through fractions of the column indicating that most of the protein shells were filled with metals. These results confirm that the synthetic PfFt proteins possess higher metal mineralization

efficiency with respect to the human variants (see for example Ref.<sup>2</sup>), and this is retained also in the case of the cobalt-doped samples.

A typical transmission electron microscopy image of the un-doped (0 %) Fe-oxide nanoparticles is shown in Fig. 1. Size analysis reported previously for un-doped Fe-oxide nanoparticles obtained using the same synthesis procedure and having the same metal loading showed highly uniform spherical particles with an average particle diameter of  $6.5 \pm 0.5$  nm<sup>3,4</sup>.

The x-ray diffraction patterns were typical of an  $\sim 6$  nm (diameter) nanoparticles with the spinel structure (Fd $\bar{3}m$ ). No variation in the line broadening between samples was observed that indicated that the addition of cobalt did not affect the crystallinity or particle size as has been observed in some other cases using traditional solution synthesis of other ferritins<sup>13,14</sup>. This was consistent with the previously observed characteristics of PffT in providing a favourable environment for the efficient formation of well crystallized nanoparticles<sup>10</sup>, and facilitates a comparison of the intrinsic magnetism. The lattice parameter and octahedral site occupancy varied slightly between samples, consistent with previous work which identified the composition as a mixture of  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and cobalt-substituted Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-like Fe-oxides due to Co<sup>2+</sup> incorporation into the octahedral sites of the spinel structure<sup>9</sup>. Due to significant line broadening resulting from the small crystallite size and the similarity between the diffraction patterns for spinel oxides (isostructural with different lattice parameters and site occupancy only), the individual phases could not be dis-

tinguished, and one spinel component, with varying octahedral site occupancy and lattice parameter, was used for the refinement. A slight decrease in the lattice parameter was observed with increasing cobalt content, visible as a shift in the peak positions to lower  $2\theta$ . The (220) and (400) reflections are sensitive to the site occupancy of spinels<sup>15</sup>, with the (220) reflection being sensitive to the cations in the tetrahedral site, and the (400) reflection being sensitive to cations in both the octahedral and tetrahedral sites. A change in site occupancies was indicated by a decrease in  $I_{220}/I_{400}$  with cobalt content that is consistent with an increasing octahedral site occupancy due to Co<sup>2+</sup> incorporation into the structure. The octahedral site occupancy obtained from the refinements increased with cobalt content, consistent with the observed  $I_{220}/I_{400}$  change. However, the occupancy for the 12% cobalt sample was larger than the maximum 16 atoms/unit cell, and may be due to deviations in the A-site or O<sup>2-</sup> occupancies, which was not incorporated into the refinement. The contributions from the individual phases could not be resolved due to the substantial broadening; however all lattice parameters were intermediate to that expected for  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (13.33 B-site Fe<sup>3+</sup> per unit cell and  $a = 8.33$  Å), and CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (16 Fe/Co per unit cell and  $a = 8.38$  Å), and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (16 Fe per unit cell and  $a = 8.39$  Å). The refinements of the spinel phase accounted for all of the observed reflections and their intensities, indicating that no crystalline secondary phases such as CoO or Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> were formed. These results indicated clearly that Co<sup>2+</sup> was incorporated into the Fe-oxide core.

We have established previously<sup>9</sup> the composition of the nanoparticles using Mössbauer spectra collected at 10 K which characterize the atomic <sup>57</sup>Fe electronic and magnetic environments via the hyperfine field ( $B_{hf}$ ), isomer shift, and quadrupolar splitting. Shown in Fig. 3a, the spectrum for the un-doped nanoparticles contained components with hyperfine parameters typical of  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, with the relative weight of the spectrum components indicating a 70 %/30 % mix of  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. With the addition of Co<sup>2+</sup>, a secondary low  $B_{hf}$  component, and strongly reduced Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> B-site absorption was measured that was consistent with the formation of a substituted Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-like phase<sup>13,16,17</sup>. A deviation from the stoichiometric A/B site ratio of 1:2 for the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> component was observed that could not be accounted for by Co<sup>2+</sup> substitution alone, suggesting a B-site deficient oxide resulted. The spectra also indicated the composition of the nanoparticle became more Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-like with increasing cobalt content. Broadened linewidths  $\Gamma = 0.2 - 0.4$  mm/s compared to the natural (source)  $\Gamma_{nat} = 0.130 \pm 0.005$  mm/s indicates that the Fe ions experienced chemical disorder; the nanoparticle likely consisted of solid solution of cobalt doped non-stoichiometric Fe-oxide that contains a changing mixture of Fe ions in  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and cobalt-substituted Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-like magnetic and electronic environments, with disorder arising from the effects of a distribution of Co<sup>2+</sup> and vacancies amongst

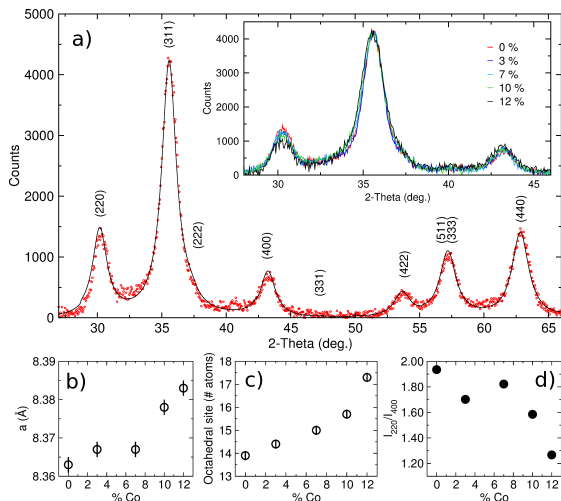


FIG. 2. (Color online) (a) X-ray diffraction pattern for un-doped Fe-oxide sample, with the solid line indicating the result of the Rietveld refinement, and (inset) a selected  $2\theta$  range of the the background subtracted pattern for all samples. Results of the analysis of the x-ray diffraction patterns showing including (b) the lattice parameter  $a$ , (c) the octahedral site occupancy, obtained from a Rietveld refinement of the patterns, and (d)  $I_{220}/I_{400}$  variation with cobalt content.

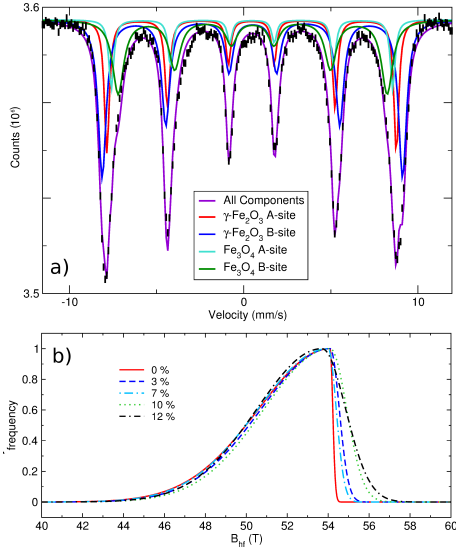


FIG. 3. (Color online) (a) Mössbauer spectrum collected at 10 K for the un-doped nanoparticle sample, with the results of a component fit, described in the text, and (b) distribution of hyperfine fields ( $B_{hf}$ ) observed for the Mössbauer spectra for the un-doped and cobalt-doped nanoparticles that were consistent with results using individual components to represent the A- and B-sites of the Fe-oxide based core<sup>9</sup>.

the B-sites. The relative area of each component of a Mössbauer spectrum is proportional to the number of Fe ions characterized by the hyperfine parameters. Thus, the relative abundance of the  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-like A- and B-sites was used to estimate the overall composition of the nanoparticle<sup>9</sup>. In addition, an estimate of the mass of the oxide core relative to the mass of the metal  $m_{oxide}/m_{metal} = 1.45 \pm 0.07$  was obtained using the composition determined from the Mössbauer spectra, which in turn was used to normalize the mass of the magnetometry sample to the oxide content of the nanoparticles with known metal loadings<sup>9</sup>.

Due to the significant overlap of the Fe-oxide components of the Mössbauer spectra, fits using a distribution of hyperfine fields were done which provided a more transparent comparison of the spectrum features among the series. This was used to ensure that the qualitative changes in the spectrum features were accounted for properly and consistently with the component fits. Shown in Fig. 3, similar increases in the average  $B_{hf}$  with increasing cobalt content were observed using both fitting procedures that resulted primarily from a systematic increase in  $B_{hf}$  of each component<sup>9</sup>. Additionally, both fitting procedures indicated a narrow distribution of high  $B_{hf}$ , and a broad distribution of low  $B_{hf}$ , with additional broadening observed for the cobalt-doped samples. The relatively broad  $B_{hf}$  distribution for all samples was consistent with the large  $\Gamma$  observed for the component fits.

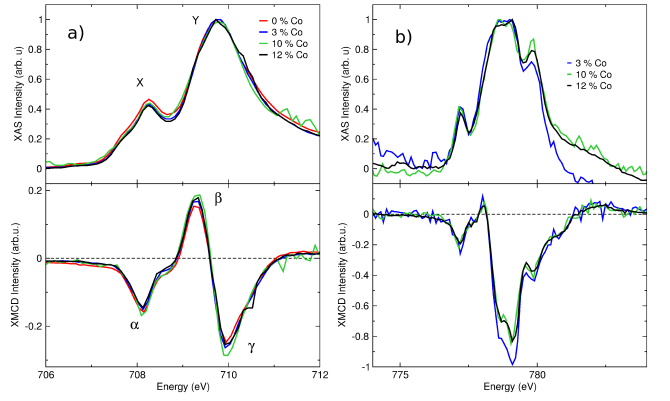


FIG. 4. (Color online) Fe (a) and Co (b) XAS (top) and XMCD (bottom) spectra for the 0% (red), 3% (blue), 10% (green), and 12% (black) cobalt-doped nanoparticles measured at 10 K and 5 T.

## B. Element-specific composition and magnetism

To characterize the Fe and Co coordination environments and site-specific magnetism x-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) and x-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD) spectra were collected over the Fe (700–730 eV) and Co (770–800 eV)  $L_{2,3}$  ( $2p \rightarrow 3d$ ) edges for the 0 %, 3 %, 10 %, and 12 % cobalt-doped samples. XAS and XMCD spectra features vary with the iron and cobalt

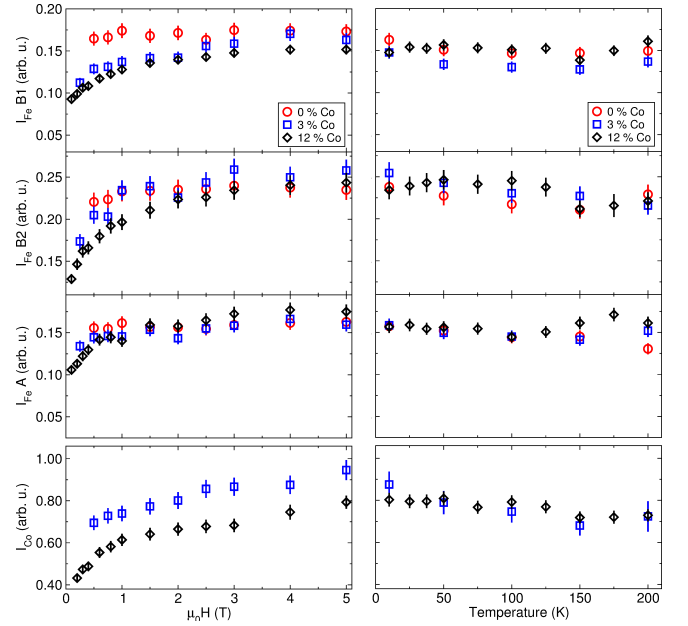


FIG. 5. (Color online) Fe and Co magnetization measured from the XMCD spectra for 0% (black circles), 3% (red squares), and 12% (blue diamonds) as a function of field (a) and temperature (b). Note that the same scale was used for all Fe sites, and the Co scales are 4× the Fe scale.

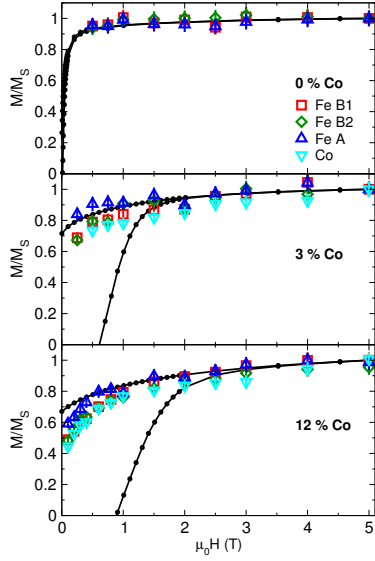


FIG. 6. (Color online) Field-dependent XMCD signal measured at 10 K for the Co (cyan  $\nabla$ ) and Fe  $B_1$ - (red  $\square$ ),  $B_2$ - (green  $\diamond$ ), and A-sites (blue  $\triangle$ ) are shown, normalized to the value at 5 T. The first quarter of the hysteresis loops measured at 10 K are also shown (black curves).

oxidation states and coordination environment, and with the intensity of the characteristic features of each species varying with the relative abundance. The XAS and XMCD spectra for cobalt were consistent with  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  in an octahedral coordination environment such as the octahedral sites of a spinel Fe-oxide, or  $\text{CoO}$ <sup>13,18–20</sup>, and differed clearly from the spectrum expected for  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ <sup>21</sup>. For iron, the XAS spectra can provide some compositional information from the relative intensities of the features at the  $L_3$  edge ( $\sim 705 - 715$  eV) since the relative intensity of the two maxima (labeled X and Y in Fig. 4) in the  $L_3$  edge vary with the A and B-site occupancies. An  $I_X/I_Y \sim 0.33$  and  $0.62$  have been measured for  $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , respectively<sup>22</sup>. A measured  $I_X/I_Y = 0.40 - 0.42$  for the cobalt-doped ferritin samples indicates an mixture of the two Fe-oxides, consistent with the other compositional information. The XMCD spectra are a measure of the spin-dependent x-ray absorption. Similarly to XAS, the XMCD features are characteristic of the coordination environments of the species present, however, in addition, the XMCD intensity is proportional to the magnetization of the ion indicated by a given spectrum feature and hence provides the site-specific magnetization. In  $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , the octahedral B-site Fe ions are coupled to each other ferromagnetically, the tetrahedral A-site Fe ions are coupled to each other ferromagnetically, and the A-B intersublattice coupling is antiferromagnetic. As a result, magnetization of the A-site is opposite to that of the B-site which splits the  $L_3$  into three components ( $B_1$ , A,  $B_2$ , Fig 4) whose intensities vary depending on the amount of octahedral  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , tetrahedral  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , and octahedral  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , respectively. For

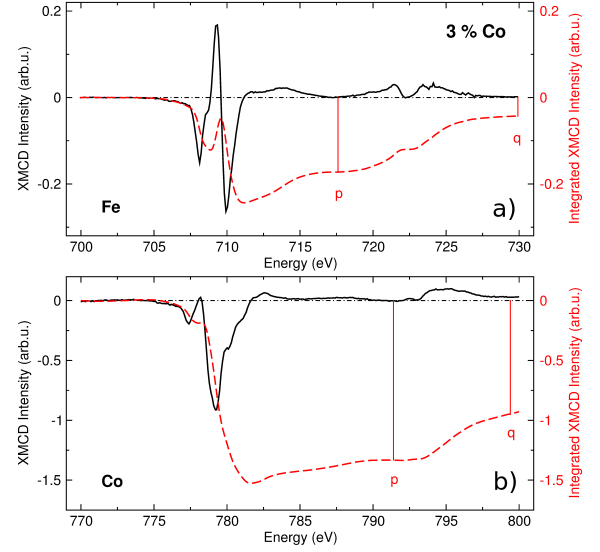


FIG. 7. (Color online) Representative XMCD spectra collected over the  $L_{2,3}$  edges of Fe (top) and Co. The dashed lines indicate the integrated XMCD signal, and  $p$  and  $q$  were used to determine  $m_l/m_s$  using sum-rule analysis.

example, for  $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $B_2$  is more intense than  $B_1$  with  $I_{B_1}/I_{B_2} = 0.4$ . By contrast, for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $B_2$  is more intense than  $B_1$ , and  $I_{B_1}/I_{B_2} = 1.38$ .  $I_{B_1}/I_{B_2} \sim 0.7$  was measured for the un-doped sample, intermediate to the expected ratios for  $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , consistent with the relative amounts of  $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  ( $70\%/30\% \pm 5\%$ ) determined with Mössbauer spectroscopy. A relatively large  $I_A/I_{B_2}$  was measured for all samples, and it was larger than would be expected for either Fe-oxide, suggesting some B-site deficiency as well. In addition, the spectra indicated that the cobalt magnetization was aligned with the B-sites of the Fe-oxide, consistent with the Mössbauer spectroscopy results.

The Fe magnetization for each site showed only a slight temperature dependence ( $\sim 5\%$  decrease) from 10 K to 200 K that was similar for all samples (may have a slightly stronger effect on the  $B_2$  site). A  $\sim 15\%$

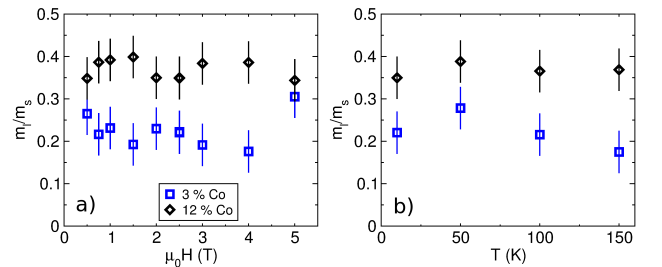


FIG. 8. (Color online) Ratio of the orbital and spin moments for  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  in the 3% and 12% cobalt-doped nanoparticles, determined using sum rule analysis, as a function of (a) applied field and (b) temperature.



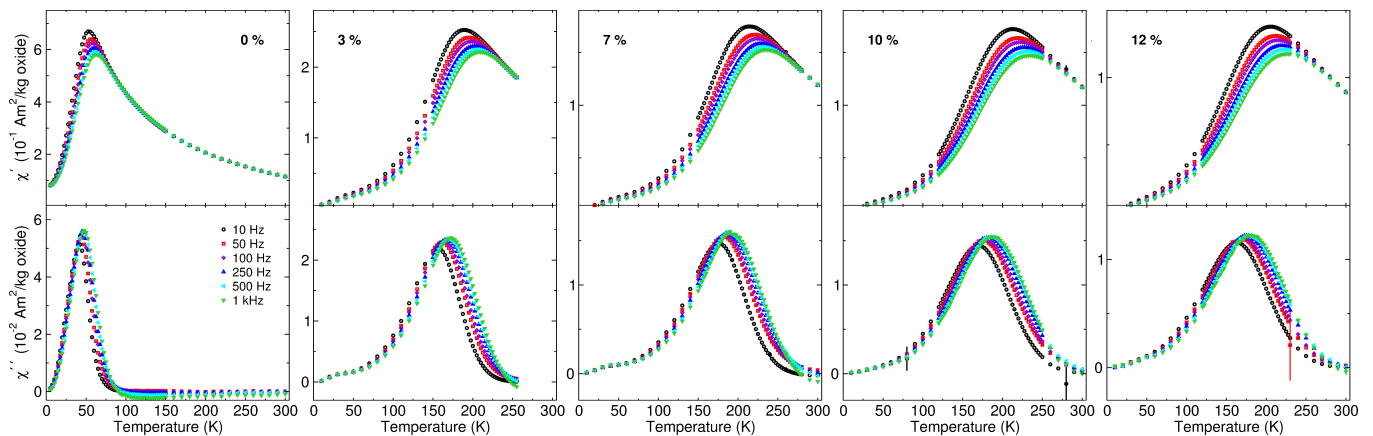


FIG. 9. (Color online) In-phase ( $\chi'$ ) (top) and out-of-phase ( $\chi''$ ) (bottom) AC susceptibility curves for un-doped and cobalt-doped nanoparticles. Note the change in scale between samples.

decrease in XMCD signal with increasing temperature was observed for Co in the 3% and 12% samples. This behaviour was consistent with the temperature dependence of the saturation magnetization measured by magnetometry, where a  $\sim 8\%$  decrease in  $M_S$  was measured for all samples (described below). The field dependent elemental magnetization varied markedly between samples. Shown in Fig. 5, no change in Fe XMCD signal was measured for the un-doped sample, and the field dependence became more pronounced with Co content. A larger variation in the B-site and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  magnetizations was observed compared to the Fe A-site magnetization. A comparison with the first quarter of the hysteresis loop measurements (from +5 T to 0 T) indicated that the Fe and Co magnetization had the same qualitative field dependence as the total magnetization.

The ratio of the orbital and spin moments for Fe and Co were determined using the sum-rule analysis<sup>23</sup> that results in  $m_{\text{orb}}/m_{\text{spin}} = 2q/(9p - 6q)$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are the integrated XMCD intensities over the  $L_3$  edge, and the combined  $L_3$  and  $L_2$  edges, respectively. A slow increase in integrated XMCD intensity due to an offset from zero in the XMCD signal at the highest energies was observed for all Co spectra. This was observed for spectra that were collected by reversing the incident photon helicity, and by reversing the polarity of the applied field, indicating that the effect was not due to an artifact of the experimental conditions. Since the  $d$ -orbitals are very localized and should not contribute significantly to the XMCD spectrum past the  $L_2$  edge, the persisting XMCD intensity may be due to the excitation of polarized, delocalized  $s$ -electrons<sup>24,25</sup>. Since  $s$ -states are not relevant to the calculation of  $m_l/m_s$ , the integral was terminated at the point where there was no longer a slope in the XMCD intensity (799 eV). For this reason, and since it is known that there are limitations to the validity of the sum rules for transition metal oxides, for example, due to mixing of the  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  edges that can result in a large discrepancy in the derived magnetic moments<sup>26</sup>,

we compare only the relative change in  $m_l/m_s$  between samples, having applied the same integration procedure to all spectra. No significant deviation from the expected  $m_l/m_s = 0$  for spinel oxides was observed for all of the Fe spectra for all samples. The Co spectra indicated a larger orbital moment for the 12% compared to the 3% cobalt-doped nanoparticles, with the difference that persisted for various temperature and field measurements, shown in Fig. 8. The  $m_l/m_s$  values were consistent with cobalt ferrites, where crystal field effects result in an unquenched orbital moment of octahedral  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions<sup>27</sup>. The larger  $m_l/m_s$  for the sample with higher  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  suggested a more effective  $d$ -orbital overlap that was likely due to the more filled structure of the higher cobalt content samples, and a consistent shift towards a cobalt substituted  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ -like composition (in comparison with the B-site deficient  $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ) with increasing cobalt content that was indicated by XRD and Mössbauer spectroscopy. In addition, while the increase in  $m_l/m_s$  could be attributed to a reduced average Fe  $m_s$  due to a (slightly) larger fraction of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (vs.  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ) with increasing Co content, the increase of  $m_l/m_s$  and  $B_{\text{hf}}$  (that is affected directly by  $m_l$ ) from comprehensive fits to the Mössbauer spectra using the correct site assignments<sup>9</sup> is more in keeping with an increasing overall Fe  $m_l$ .

### C. Susceptometry (Dynamics)

To examine the dynamics of the magnetism of the nanoparticle samples, AC susceptibility measurements (Fig. 9) and ZFC/FC DC susceptibility measurements (Fig. 11) were done, which show clearly the difference in anisotropy and resulting superparamagnetic blocking temperature for different dopant amounts. The in-phase curves ( $\chi'(T)$ ) show a frequency dependent maximum that is characteristic of the dynamical freezing behaviour of superparamagnetic nanoparticles. At the lowest temperatures the magnetization responds only weakly to the

AC drive field, since the anisotropy is large compared to the thermal energy of the system. At higher temperatures the magnetization responds strongly to the AC drive field and a maximum response is obtained at the superparamagnetic blocking temperature,  $T_B$ , above which the system has sufficient thermal energy to undergo  $180^\circ$  spin flips within the time frame of the measurement. Above  $T_B$ , a frequency dependence is no longer observed since the nanoparticles magnetization behaves as a free paramagnetic “superspin” which exhibits no hysteresis. The out-of-phase ( $\chi''(T)$ ) AC susceptibility curves show single maxima and a strong frequency dependence near  $T_B$ , indicating maximum energy dissipation when the AC drive field is comparable to the time scale of magnetization reversal below  $T_B$  due to hysteretic processes. A shift of the maxima of  $\chi'(T)$  and  $\chi''(T)$  towards higher temperatures indicated clearly an increase in the superparamagnetic blocking temperature with the addition of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ . However, it should be noted that the temperature at which the maximum was observed (which reflects the  $T_B$  for the sample) was a maximum for the 7% and 10% cobalt samples, and slightly lower for the 12 % sample (shown clearly in Fig. 10a and Fig. 13), indicating that the measured anisotropy was not simply proportional to the cobalt content of the Fe-oxide phase.

For single non-interacting uniaxial particles the frequency dependence of the maximum of  $\chi'(T)$  ( $T_B$ ) may be described by the Néel-Arrhenius relaxation model  $\nu = \nu_0 \exp(-KV/k_B T_B)$ , where  $\nu_0$  is the attempt frequency for nanoparticle magnetization rotation,  $\nu$  is the

measurement frequency,  $K$  is the anisotropy constant,  $V$  is the nanoparticle volume, and  $T_B$  is the temperature at which a maximum is observed in  $\chi'(T)$ . Fits to the frequency dependence of  $T_B(\nu)$  using the Néel-Arrhenius model resulted in un-physically large  $\tau_0 = 1/\nu_0$  of  $10^{-15}$  s for the un-doped and  $10^{-23}$  s for the cobalt doped samples, indicating interparticle interactions<sup>28</sup>. To obtain a physically reasonable  $\tau_0$  and to account for the effects of interactions on the energy barrier of the magnetization dynamics, the Néel-Arrhenius law is modified by  $T_B \rightarrow T_B - T_0$  to obtain a Vogel-Fulcher law<sup>28,29</sup>  $\nu = \nu_0 \exp[-KV/k_B(T_B - T_0)]$ , where  $T_0$  accounts for the effect of interparticle interactions. Shown in Fig. 10, fits using the Vogel-Fulcher law using  $\tau_0 = 10^{-10}$  s indicated an increase in  $K$  from  $6.33 \pm 0.05 \times 10^4$  J/m<sup>3</sup> for the un-doped sample, to  $1.4 - 1.5 \times 10^5$  J/m<sup>3</sup> for the cobalt doped samples. These results show that  $K$  did not differ significantly with the cobalt content of the nanoparticle, indicating that the observed change in  $K$  with the addition of cobalt was not due to single-ion effects of the highly anisotropic octahedral  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  dopant ions alone.  $T_0$  can be considered to describe the temperature regime where interactions are effective, and above which thermal energy is sufficient for the interactions to be overcome under the conditions of the AC susceptibility measurement. A comparison of the interaction effects was obtained by comparing  $T_0$  relative to  $T_B$  to account for the differences in energy scales between the samples, i.e. by comparing  $(T_B - T_0)/T_B$ . With  $T_B$  was taken to be the temperature at which  $\chi'(T)$  was a maximum for  $\nu = 10$  Hz,  $(T_B - T_0)/T_B$  (Fig. 10c) was lower for the cobalt-doped nanoparticles than for the un-doped nanoparticles, indicating that interactions were more effective between the cobalt-doped nanoparticles than the un-doped particles ( $(T_B - T_0)/T_B = 1$  for non-interacting particles), and that interactions had a comparable effect for all cobalt dopant amounts. These results were also consistent with the expected  $(T_B - T_0)/T_B$  for interacting nanoparticles<sup>30</sup>. The lower relative value of  $T_0$  for the cobalt doped samples suggested that the correlation length of the spatial fluctuations of the magnetization amongst the cobalt doped nanoparticle systems<sup>29</sup> ( $r_c \propto [(T - T_0)/T_0]^{-1/2}$ ) was larger in comparison to the un-doped so that the dynamics of cobalt doped systems involved the activation of a larger effective volume of correlated nanoparticle magnetizations.

ZFC and FC DC susceptibility curves were consistent with the  $T_B$  indicated by AC susceptibility measurements and are shown in Fig. 11a. The maximum of the ZFC curve ( $T_{max}$ ) increased from 40 K for the un-doped sample to 180 K for the cobalt-doped samples. Above  $T_{max}$  an irreversibility (shown in Fig. 11b) that was consistent with a broadened energy barrier distribution due to interparticle interactions. Fig. 13 presents  $M_{ZFC}(T)$  and  $\chi'(T)$  measured with a 10 Hz drive frequency which shows that both measurements indicated a slightly lower  $T_B$  for the 12 % cobalt-doped sample, compared to the 7 % and 10 %, and an overall broadening of the response

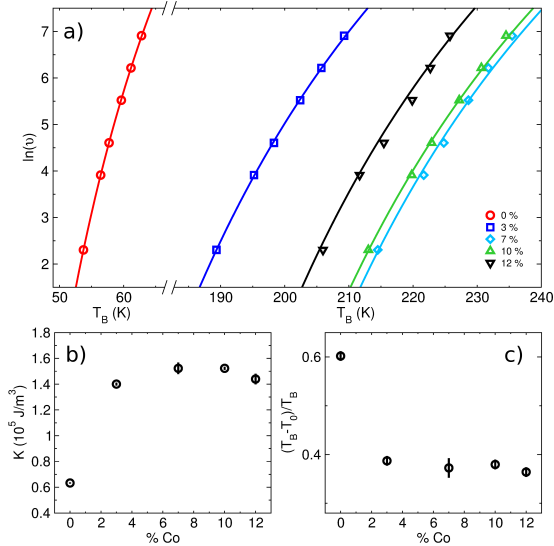


FIG. 10. (Color online) (a) Frequency dependence of the maximum of the in-phase AC susceptibility curves, with the lines indicating a fit to the Vogel-Fulcher law. Note the break in the scale between the 0 % and cobalt-doped curves. (b) The effective anisotropies and (c) values of  $T_0$ , obtained from the Vogel-Fulcher fits, relative to the temperature of the maximum of  $\chi'(T)$  for 10 Hz.



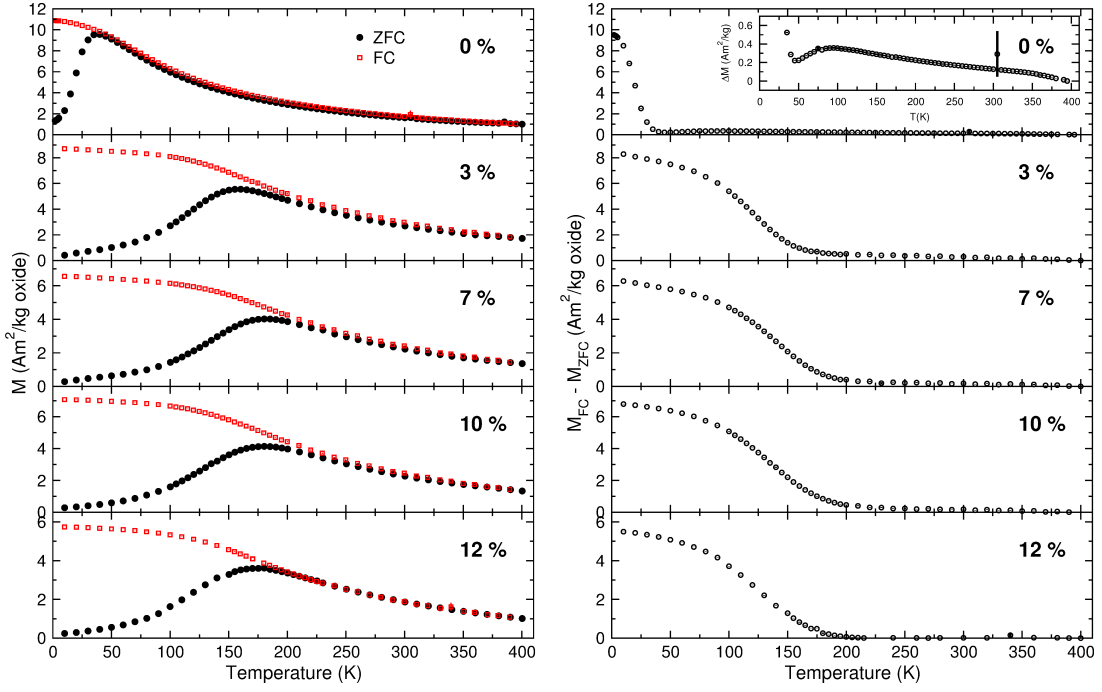


FIG. 11. (Color online) Zero field cooled (ZFC) (red  $\square$ ) and field-cooled (FC) (black  $\circ$ ) DC susceptibility curves (right), and difference between the FC and ZFC magnetizations (right). The inset shows irreversibility persisting to high temperatures for the un-doped nanoparticles.

curves with increasing cobalt content. Since the overall effect of interactions is to increase the energy barrier to magnetization reversal, the measured  $T_B$  in the presence of interactions provide an overestimate relative to the intrinsic behaviour of the isolated nanoparticle. The effect of interparticle interactions was also reflected in the static susceptibility measured in low applied fields. By comparison with the AC susceptibility, where the use of to an AC drive field probes the dynamical response of the interacting system, the application of a DC applied field en-

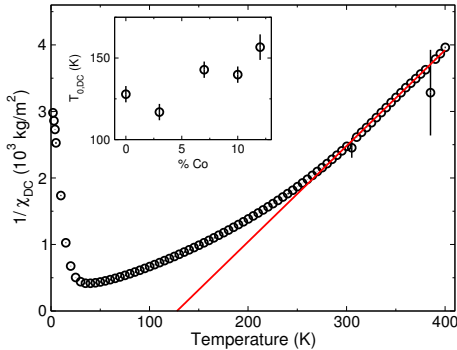


FIG. 12. (Color online) Inverse DC susceptibility for the un-doped nanoparticles, with the line indicating a fit to a Curie-Weiss-like temperature dependence. The inset shows the temperature intercept  $\theta$  that reflects the effects of interparticle interactions.

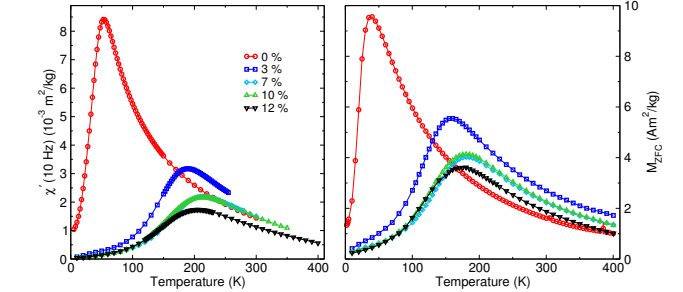


FIG. 13. (Color online) (a) In-phase ( $\chi'$ ) AC susceptibility curves measured using 10 Hz. (b) Zero-field cooled magnetization curves.

hances the interactions by aligning partially the magnetization of the nanoparticles. For interacting systems, a Curie-Weiss-like behaviour at the highest temperatures<sup>29</sup> is observed,  $\chi_{DC}(T) = M_{ZFC}(T)/\mu_0 H = \mu/(T - T_{0,DC})$ , where  $\mu = M_S \pi D^3/6$  is the magnetization of a nanoparticle of diameter  $D$ . Shown in Fig. 12, fits to  $1/\chi_{DC}$  curves at high temperatures, where irreversibility effects were minimal, provided comparable  $T_{0,DC}$  for all samples which indicated a similar interaction field strength for all samples due to a similar magnetization, packing fraction, and particle separation enabled by the ferritin shells.

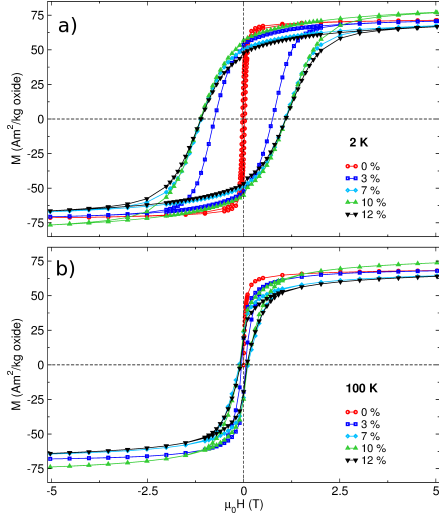


FIG. 14. (Color online) Hysteresis loops at (a) 2 K and (b) 100 K measured after cooling the samples in an applied field of 5 T.

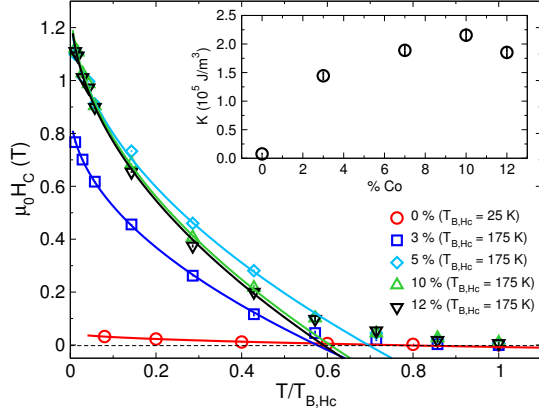


FIG. 15. (Color online) Temperature dependence of the coercivity ( $H_C$ ) with the temperature re-scaled to the onset temperature of the coercivity  $T_{B,Hc}$ . The lines are fits described in the text that indicate a  $T^{1/2}$  dependence. The inset shows the anisotropy constant ( $K$ ) determined from the temperature dependence of  $H_C$ .

#### D. Magnetometry (Statics)

To examine the static magnetic properties of the nanoparticles, hysteresis loop measurements were done from 2 K to 400 K. As was observed for the magnetization dynamics, the static measurements also indicated a substantial change in the magnetism of the nanoparticles that occurred with cobalt doping; large enhancements of the coercivity ( $\mu_0 H_C$ ), anisotropy ( $K$ ), and superparamagnetic blocking temperature ( $T_B$ ) that varied non-systematically with the cobalt content. No exchange bias ( $\mu_0 H_{EX}$ ) was measured for any sample, indicating no crystalline CoO shell was present, and is consistent

with the results from XRD analysis, and in contrast with other ferritin-based Co/Fe-oxide nanoparticles where segregated Co-oxide and Fe-oxide phases resulted in a significant  $\mu_0 H_{EX}$ <sup>31</sup>.

Hysteresis loops measured after cooling the sample in a 5 T field are shown in Fig. 14. A substantial increase in coercivity with cobalt doping that did not scale with the change in  $T_B$  indicated that the change in coercivity between samples was not due to the difference in superparamagnetic relaxation behaviour alone, but arose from the increase in nanoparticle anisotropy. For a uniaxial non-interacting nanoparticle, the coercivity can be related to the anisotropy by  $\mu_0 H_C = 2K/M_S[1 - (T/T_B)^{1/2}]$ . While interaction effects have been identified clearly from the AC susceptibility measurements, this relationship provided a good fit to  $H_C(T)$  up to  $\sim T_{B,Hc}/2$  (the onset temperature of  $H_C$ ), providing an estimate of  $K$ , that was nearly identical to those obtained from the Vogel-Fulcher fits from AC susceptibility measurements, and indicates the same trend in  $K$  with cobalt content. Both methods indicated that  $K$  for the cobalt-doped samples was much higher than the un-doped nanoparticles, that  $K$  was not proportional to the cobalt content, and was a maximum for 10% cobalt doping. No improvement to the fit, or significant change in the resulting  $K$  was achieved by using a  $T^{2/3}$  dependence that would indicate a cubic anisotropy.

The high-field region of the hysteresis loops, showed clearly a linear positive field dependence of the magnetization at high applied fields for all samples. This high-field susceptibility ( $\chi_{HF}$ ) was significantly larger for the cobalt-doped samples than the un-doped Fe-oxide nanoparticles and displayed a temperature dependence. For a typical nano-phase ferromagnet or ferrimagnet,

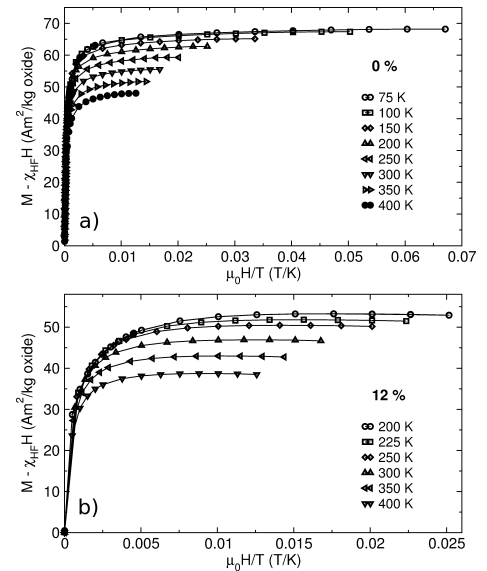


FIG. 16.  $((M - \chi_{HF}H)$  vs.  $H/T$  curves measured for  $T > T_B$  for (a) un-doped and (b) 12% cobalt doped nanoparticles.

the magnetization curves for  $T > T_B$  should follow a Langevin behaviour so that  $M_{LAN}(x) = M_S L(x)$  or, if modified to include a term for a high-field (linear) susceptibility,  $M_{LAN}(x) = M_S L(x) + \chi_{HF} H$ , where  $M_S$  is the saturation magnetization,  $\chi_{HF}$  is the linear high field susceptibility, and  $L(x) = \coth(x) - 1/x$  is the Langevin function, with  $x = \mu(T)H/k_B T$  and  $\mu(T)$  is the magnetic moment of each nanoparticle core. However, as shown in Fig. 16, the magnetization curves for  $T > T_B$  do not lie on a common  $M$  vs.  $H/T$  or  $(M - \chi_{HF} H)$  vs.  $H/T$  curve, indicating a deviation from typical Langevin behaviour (not a simple superparamagnet) that could be a result of a high surface anisotropy that prevents free rotation of the magnetization (as assumed by the Langevin model).

The temperature dependence of the high-field susceptibility is shown in Fig. 17. The temperature dependence of  $\chi_{HF}$  indicated a paramagnetic-like behaviour for  $T < 250$  K, following a Curie-Weiss dependence  $\chi(T) = C/(T - \theta)$  (shown in Fig. 18), where  $C$  is the Curie constant  $C = N\mu_B^2 p_{eff}^2 / 3k_B$  that provides the effective moment  $p_{eff}$ , and  $\theta$  describes the interactions among the ions contributing to  $\chi_{HF}$ . This indicated that there are clusters of ions within the ferritin shell that behave like paramagnets. Since this behaviour was not observed in the un-doped nanoparticles, this indicated that the origin of the effect was the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions, such as  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ -based clusters. The elemental data (XAS, XMCD, and Mössbauer spectroscopy) for cobalt indicated only octahedrally coordinated  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , consistent with  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  dopant ions in the B-sites of Fe-oxide or with CoO. This Curie-Weiss analysis also provided negative  $\theta \sim -(70 - 100)$  K that consistent with antiferromagnetic interactions and strongly reduced exchange due to the small cluster size ( $T_{N,\text{CoO}} = 290$  K).

Using this analysis, a CoO cluster size of  $\leq \sim 0.7$  nm could reasonably fit within the ferritin cavity (in addition to the Fe-oxide core), but may not contribute noticeably to the XRD pattern, and would not provide a measurable  $H_{EX}$ , especially if the cluster was not well crystallized. A reasonable cluster  $p_{eff}$  of  $\sim 50 - 60$  was obtained assuming maximum cluster diameter of 0.7 nm, and a minimum of 50% of the available  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  forming clusters rather than substituting into the Fe-oxide-based core. For larger fractions of the available  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  forming clusters, a lower  $p_{eff}$  was obtained, although more clusters are required; however a range of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  fractions from 50% to 100% provided a reasonable  $p_{eff}$  of  $\sim 4.7 - 6.5/\text{Co}^{2+}$  (50%) and  $\sim 3.8$  for 100% while providing a reasonable overall fraction of the volume to the clusters (i.e. the clusters would easily fit within the ferritin shell, in addition to the Fe-oxide based core that takes up the largest fraction of the total volume). However, since the Mössbauer spectroscopy, and the magnetometry showed clearly the effect of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  incorporation into the Fe-oxide core, the limit of 100 % Co-incorporation into the clusters is not possible. While we can not yet provide a definite degree of cobalt-incorporation into the Fe-oxide, a cobalt distribution of 50% clusters, 50% dopant ions in the ox-

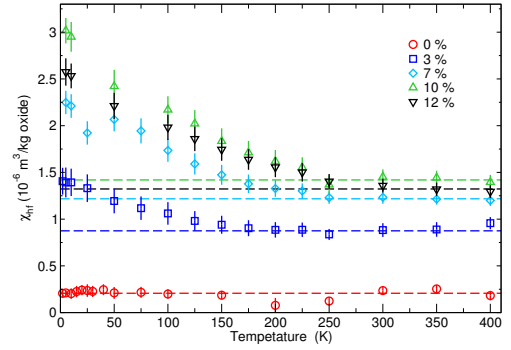


FIG. 17. (Color online) Temperature dependence of the high-field susceptibility  $\chi_{HF}(T)$ . The dashed lines indicate the contribution due to a surface anisotropy, which is independent of temperature.

ide provides reasonable results that are consistent with all of the other data (elemental, atomic, and magnetometry) that we have available. This cluster description accounts for the measured  $\chi_{HF}$  for  $T < 250$  K for the cobalt-doped nanoparticles. In addition, the likelihood of these CoO clusters residing outside the PfFt synthetic ferritin shell is remote at best – any impurities and metal-ion or cluster aggregates left on the ferritin exterior after sample preparation and purification would defeat the unique, macroscopic crystallization of three-dimensional nanoparticle assemblies<sup>1,4</sup> made using these nanoparticle building-blocks.

The temperature independent behaviour of  $\chi_{HF}$  that was observed for the un-doped nanoparticles, and for  $T > 250$  K in the cobalt-doped nanoparticles (above the ordering temperature of the CoO clusters) was consistent with a surface anisotropy. In nanoparticles, a surface anisotropy results from broken exchange bonds at the surface of the particle<sup>32,33</sup>, and has a magnitude that depends on the sign and strength of the exchange interactions between the ions that is determined by structure, the ionic species, and their coordination environment, the result of which is a temperature independent  $\chi_{HF}$ . The Langevin description (that results in an  $H/T$  scaling of the magnetization curves) does not account for anisotropy and hence the existence of a surface anisotropy accounts for the lack of scaling observed for the nanoparticle samples.

There have been other factors discussed in the literature that can produce a positive  $\chi_{HF}$ . For example  $\chi_{HF}$  has been shown to result from a significant distribution of particle sizes<sup>34</sup>. For a large particle size distribution, the magnetization should remain a function of  $H/T$ , and magnetization curves measured above the superparamagnetic blocking temperature should scale accordingly, which is not observed for the samples discussed herein (shown in Fig 16). In addition, the particle size information from TEM, the results from the low-field DC and AC susceptibility measurements, and from the metal loading factor measurements are inconsistent with a large distri-

bution of particle sizes.

It should also be noted that these alternate descriptions are for single-phase nanoparticles and not for mixtures of more than one magnetic phase, as exists in the cobalt-doped MF nanoparticles. When multiple phases are present, the analysis becomes significantly more complex. If there are multiple sized particles within the system (as would occur with the cluster scenario presented), the low-field behaviour is dominated by the largest particles, while the high-field behaviour is dominated by the smallest particles (i.e. a careful comparison of the low-field susceptibilities, such as the AC and DC susceptibility measurements, and the hysteresis loop measurements must be made). The examples that exist in the literature that describe mixed-phase systems provide a more limited physical discussion (e.g. a simple combination of two Langevin functions) than exists for the single-phased systems (described above), and also do not show similar behaviour to that observed in the cobalt-doped ferritin nanoparticles<sup>35,36</sup>.

Following a subtraction of  $\chi_{HF}$ , the saturation magnetization ( $M_S(T)$ ) was obtained using the empirical law of approach to saturation  $M_H = M_S(T)(1 - a/H - b/H^2)$  where  $M_H$  is the component of the magnetization in the applied field direction,  $M_S$  is the saturation magnetization, and  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are phenomenological constants. At 5 K,  $M_S$  was  $73 \pm 3$  emu/g oxide for the undoped nanoparticles, which is in agreement with previous measurements<sup>10</sup>, and  $69 \pm 2$ ,  $63 \pm 2$ ,  $71 \pm 3$ , and  $60 \pm 2$  emu/g for the 3%, 7%, 10%, and 12% doped nanoparticles, respectively, after a correction for the ferritin masses. Since the total magnetization of the (ferrimagnetic) spinel is a result of an imbalance of the A-site and B-site magnetizations (with more B-sites than A-sites resulting in a non-zero magnetization for  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, for example), a less B-site deficient structure may account for the relatively high  $M_S$  value of the 10 % sample compared to the other cobalt doped nanoparticles, a feature that was consistent with the results from Mössbauer spectroscopy. The near bulk values of  $M_S$ , compared with bulk  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  $M_S = 74$  emu/g, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>  $M_S = 84$  emu/g,

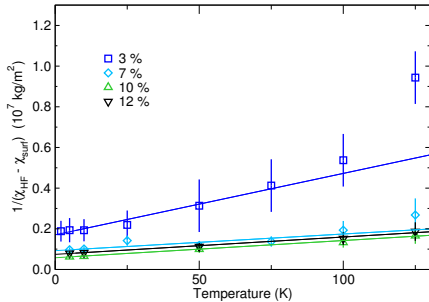


FIG. 18. (Color online) Temperature dependence of the inverse high-field susceptibility  $\chi_{HF}(T)$ , where the constant offset due to the surface anisotropy ( $\chi_{surf}(T)$ ) has been subtracted.

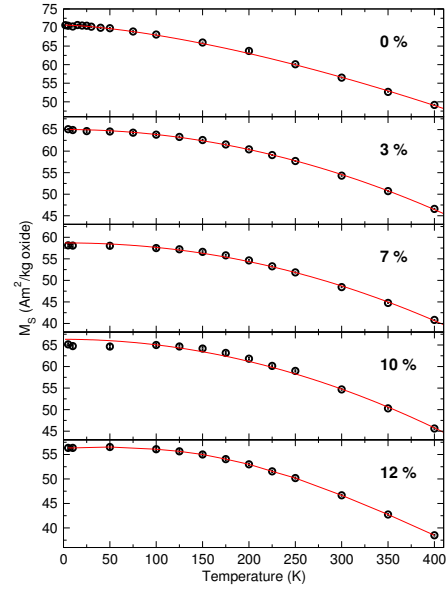


FIG. 19. (Color online) Temperature dependence of the saturation magnetization ( $M_S(T)$ ). The lines indicate a fit described in the text.

and CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>  $M_S = 80$  emu/g, measured here were surprisingly large for a nano-scale materials (where a substantial reduction in  $M_S$  is often the result of intrinsic and surface disorder or poor crystallinity) and were consistent with a well crystallized oxide core indicated by our results, and previous work using the PffT ferritin<sup>10</sup>. The relatively high  $M_S$  values indicate that most, if not all, of the available moments were incorporated into the particles'  $M_S$ : no indication of a disordered surface spin population which would produce an exponential-like decrease in  $M_S(T)$  with increasing temperature, disorder effects in the Mössbauer spectra, or pinned magnetization measured by XMCD<sup>37</sup> was observed. A similar, non-systematic variation of  $M_S$  and  $K$  with increasing cobalt substitution has been reported elsewhere (for example Refs.<sup>14,38</sup>); however, systematic variations in  $M_S$  and  $K$ <sup>13</sup>, and variation in  $K$  with no change in  $M_S$ <sup>39</sup> have also been reported. The wide variability of the reported overall effects of cobalt incorporation further emphasizes the need for a complete determination of the details of the structure and composition to assess properly the nature of the magnetism, since the degree of inversion, crystallinity, surface properties, and particle size will all contribute to variations in  $M_S$  and  $K$ .

The temperature dependence of  $M_S$  is due to spin-wave excitations. In the bulk,  $M_S(T)$  is described by the Bloch  $T^{3/2}$  law,  $M_S(T) = M_0(1 - BT^\alpha)$  where  $\alpha$  is equal to  $3/2$  and  $B$  is the Bloch constant ( $\propto 1/J$ ). For the un-doped particles,  $M_S(T)$  was well represented by the normal Bloch law ( $\alpha = 3/2$ ), and provided  $B = 3.83(3) \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-3/2}$ , consistent with an Fe-oxide nanoparticle<sup>40,41</sup>. Modifications to the Bloch law are obtained when a gap in the spin wave spectrum results

from a high crystalline anisotropy<sup>42</sup>, or due to finite-size effects<sup>43,44</sup>. In such systems,  $M_S(T)$  appears to follow an effective power law  $M_S(T) = M_0(1 - B_{eff}T^\alpha)$  where  $\alpha = 1.5 - 2$ <sup>44,45</sup>. For the cobalt doped samples a  $B_{eff} \sim 2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-2}$  was measured, consistent with a cobalt-ferrite-like composition<sup>46</sup>. In addition,  $\alpha = 2$  was required to describe  $M_S(T)$ , which may reflect a higher intrinsic anisotropy, since the particle sizes of the doped and un-doped samples were not significantly different. The difference in  $M_S(T)$  behaviour between the un-doped and cobalt-doped nanoparticles was also consistent with the dynamical behaviour of the nanoparticles that indicated clearly a difference in the effects of interparticle interactions. A change in the correlation between the magnetization of the nanoparticles that was indicated by the AC susceptibility measurements is consistent with a change in spin-wave behaviour, since both reflect a change in the effectiveness of the dipolar coupling between particles. That is, the change from  $\alpha = 3/2$  to  $\alpha = 2$  may also be the result of the significantly longer correlations of the magnetization between nanoparticles for the cobalt-doped samples that was indicated by the AC susceptibility measurements, in addition to the higher intrinsic anisotropy, since both factors affect the establishment of spin-wave excitations within the system

#### IV. SUMMARY

The structure and magnetism of cobalt-doped iron-oxide nanoparticles prepared using the synthetic ferritin PfFt has been described. By examining in detail the structure using x-ray diffraction, Mössbauer spectroscopy, and polarized x-ray techniques, we have established that cobalt incorporates into the octahedral B-sites of the iron-oxide nanoparticles, which modifies substantially the intrinsic anisotropy due to single ion effects of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ . In addition, a change in the orbital moment of the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions with increasing cobalt content was observed. We show that no crystalline secondary cobalt-oxide phase formed, but that a substantially enhanced surface anisotropy occurs with the addition of cobalt, and a paramagnetic-like contribution to the high-field susceptibility results from cobalt ions at the nanoparticle surface. In addition to enabling a characterization of the changes in the intrinsic magnetism occurring with cobalt doping due to a consistent particle loading (size) and crystallinity, the fixed interparticle spacing provided by the PfFt shell allows a comparison of the interparticle interactions, revealing substantially enhanced correlations with the addition of cobalt.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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