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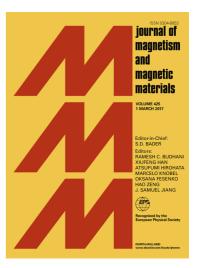
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Effect of rapid quenching on the magnetism and magnetocaloric effect of equiatomic rare earth intermetallic compounds RNi (R = Gd, Tb and Ho)

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Abstract

Magnetocaloric effect (MCE) in RNi (where R = Gd, Tb and Ho) compounds has been studied in their arc-melted and melt-spun forms. The compound GdNi has the orthorhombic CrB-type structure (Space group *Cmcm*, No.63) and the compound HoNi has the orthorhombic FeB-type structure (Space group *Pnma*, No.62) at room temperature regardless of their synthesis condition. However, arc-melted TbNi orders in a monoclinic structure (Space group $P2_1/m$, No.11) and when it is rapidly quenched to a melt-spun form, it crystallizes in an orthorhombic structure (Space group *Pnma*, No.62). The arc-melted GdNi, TbNi and HoNi compounds order ferromagnetically at ~69 K, ~67 K and ~36 K (T_C) respectively. While the melt-spun GdNi shows about 6 K increase in T_C, the ordering temperature of TbNi remains nearly the same in both arc-melted and melt-spun forms. In contrast, a reduction in T_C by about 8 K is observed in melt-spun HoNi, when compared to its arc-melted counterpart. Isothermal magnetic entropy change, ΔS_m , calculated from the field dependent magnetization data indicates an enhanced relative cooling power (RCP) for melt-spun GdNi for field changes of 20 kOe and 50 kOe. A lowered RCP value is observed in melt-spun TbNi and HoNi. These changes could have resulted from the competing shape anisotropy and the granular microstructure induced by the melt-

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