YBa$_2$Cu$_3$O$_{7-x}$ Film with Nanoscale Ba$_2$YNbO$_6$ + Ba$_2$YTaO$_6$ Inclusions for High Magnetic Field Applications

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Abstract - Structural and transport properties of YBa$_2$Cu$_3$O$_{7-x}$ films obtained by pulsed laser deposition with incorporated Ba$_2$YTaO$_6$ and mixed Ba$_2$YTaO$_6$ and Ba$_2$YNbO$_6$ (Ba$_2$Y(Nb/Ta)O$_6$) double perovskite secondary phases are investigated in an extended temperature and magnetic field range. The effects of the different doping and the film growth kinetics on the microstructure were studied. The Ba$_2$YTaO$_6$ truncated nano-sized columns are modified into continuous columns in case of mixed Ba$_2$Y(Nb/Ta)O$_6$ incorporation. High growth rates promote a peculiar microstructure characterized by the formation of Ba$_2$Y(Nb/Ta)O$_6$ splayed columns decorated by Y$_2$O$_3$ nanoparticles, very effective for flux pinning in a wide temperature and magnetic field range. Based on $J_c$ measurements, the vortex pinning behaviour of Ba$_2$Y(Nb/Ta)O$_6$ films are discussed and compared with BaZrO$_3$ doped films showing the high potentiality of mixed Ba$_2$Y(Nb/Ta)O$_6$ inclusions in perspective of the applications of REBa$_2$Cu$_3$O$_{7-x}$ coated conductors in a broad range of conditions.

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