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Conductors for Applications 2014

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# Effect of artificial pinning centers dimensionality on in-field performance of $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_x$ thin films

Image from <http://www.newyoung.com/>

**Paolo Mele**



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Institute for Sustainable Sciences and Development  
Hiroshima University



## Support by, collaboration with and discussions to:

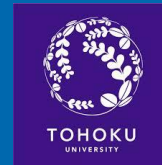
S. Saini - ISSD, Hiroshima University, Japan



A. K. Jha, T. Horide, K. Matsumoto – KIT Kitakyushu, Japan



S. Awaji – Tohoku University, Japan



Y. Yoshida – Nagoya University, Japan



A. Ichinose – CRIEPI Yokosuka, Japan



R. Kita - Shizuoka University, Japan



J. Gazquez, R. Guzman, T. Puig, X. Obradors – ICMAB-CSIC, Barcelona, Spain



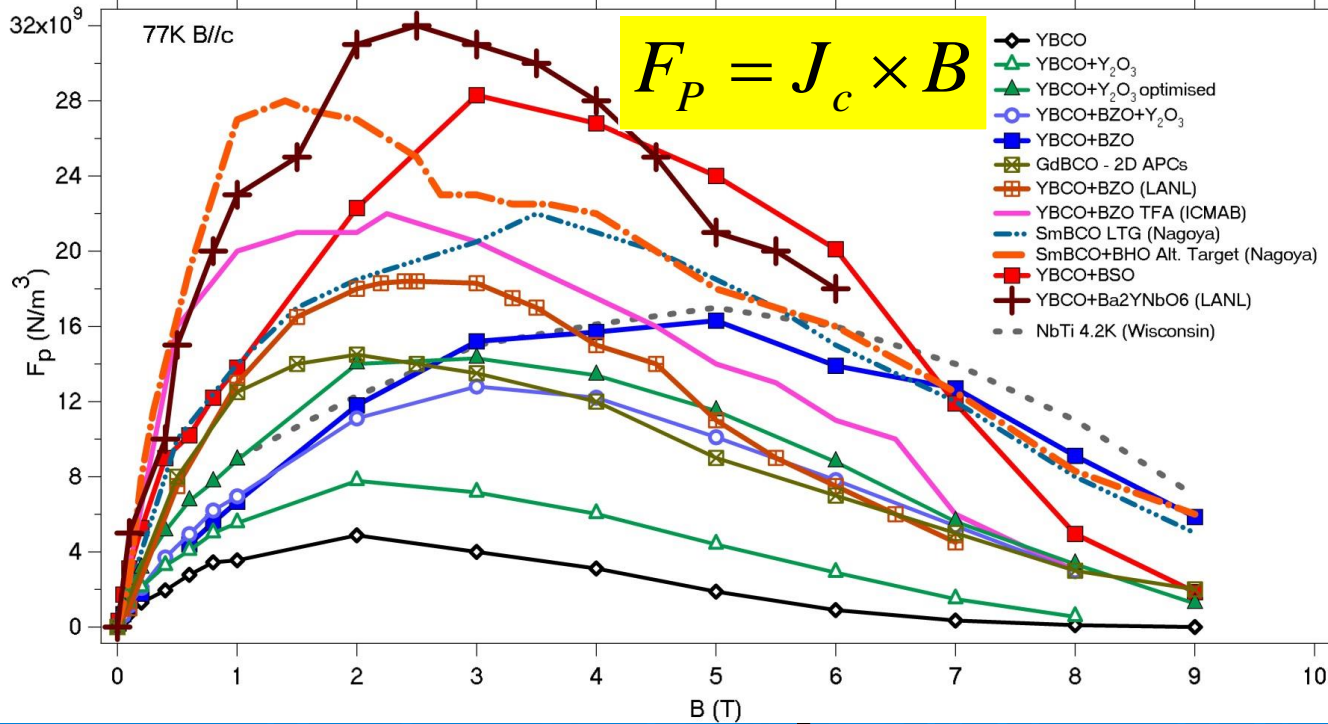
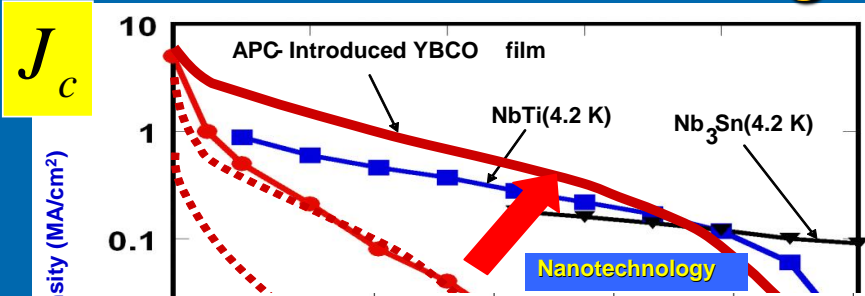
M. I. Adam, UniTeN, Selangor, Malaysia





# Background

Extensive research on nanoengineered YBCO and REBCO thin films added with nanoscale Artificial Pinning Centers (APCs) by several techniques (PLD, MOD, MOCVD...)



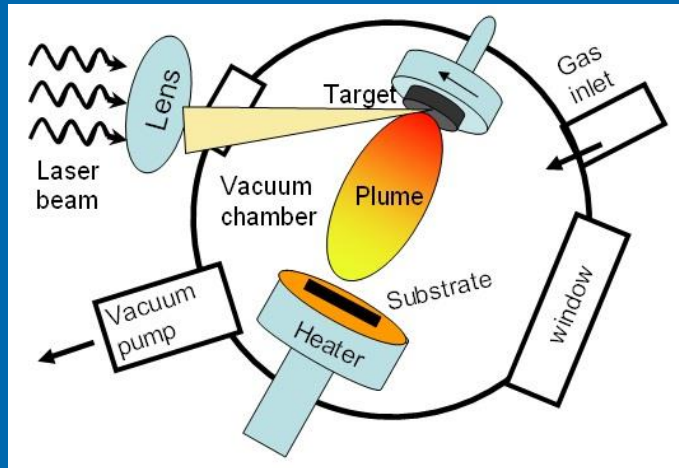
K. Matsumoto et al.  
 23 (2010) 01400



X. Obradors, T. Puig, A. Palau, A. Pomar, F. Sandiumenge, P. Mele and K. Matsumoto – “Nanostructured Superconductors with Efficient Vortex Pinning” in “Comprehensive nanoscience and nanotechnology, AP, Vol. 3 (2011) 303-349 [added with YBCO+Ba2YNbO6 and SmBCO+BHO]

# Incorporation of APCs into YBCO films by PLD

## Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD)



### Experimental parameters

$\lambda = 248 \text{ nm}$   
 $E = 340 \text{ mJ/pulse}$   
 $T = 800\text{-}830 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  
 $P_{\text{O}_2} = 200 \text{ mTorr}$   
 $\nu = 5\text{-}10 \text{ Hz}$ ; pulses = 6000-10000  
 substrate:  $\text{SrTiO}_3$

## Dimensionality of APCs

**1D** Nanorods // c-axis  $\uparrow$  c axis

2, 4, 6, 8 wt%  $\text{BaSnO}_3$

YBCO +  $\text{BaSnO}_3$  mixed target  $\rightarrow$   $\text{BaSnO}_3$  nanorods

**Large  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ ) but anisotropic**

---

**3D** Randomly dispersed

2.51, 5.44, 9.22 at%  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$

YBCO +  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  modified surface  $\rightarrow$   $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  nanoparticles

**Isotropic  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ ) but smaller**

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**1D+3D** multilayer

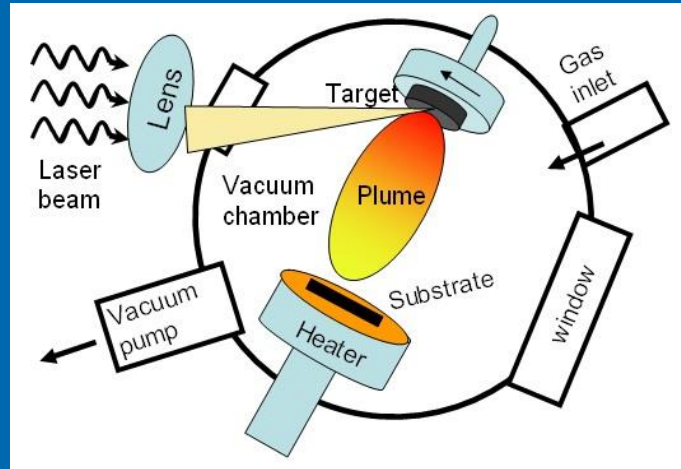
Combinations of 4wt%  $\text{BaSnO}_3$  and 2.5A%  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$

$\text{BaSnO}_3$  nanorods  $\leftrightarrow$   $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  nanoparticles

**Isotropic and large  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ )????**

## 1D APCs into YBCO films by PLD

### Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD)

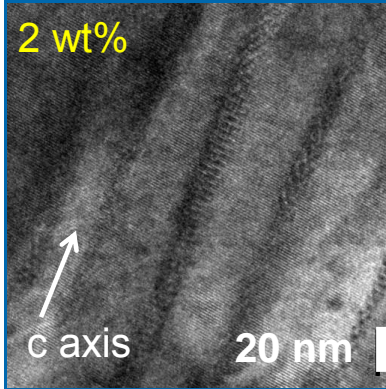


### Experimental parameters

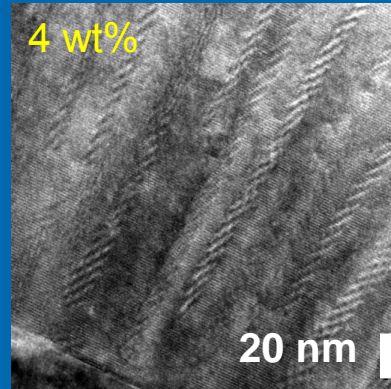
$\lambda = 248 \text{ nm}$   
 $E = 340 \text{ mJ/pulse}$   
 $T = 800\text{-}830 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  
 $P_{\text{O}_2} = 200 \text{ mTorr}$   
 $\nu = 5\text{-}10 \text{ Hz}$ ; pulses = 6000-10000  
substrate:  $\text{SrTiO}_3$



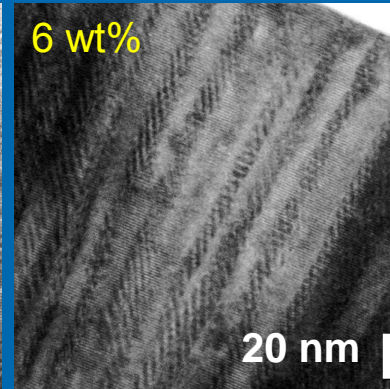
# Morphology of the BaSnO<sub>3</sub> nanorods inside YBCO films



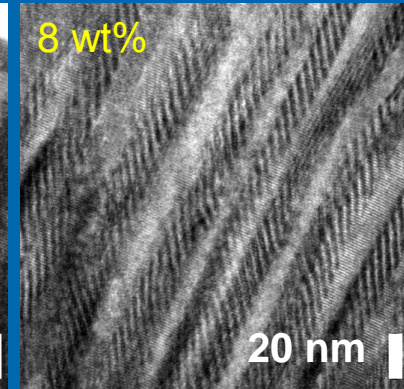
2 wt%  
 d = 30 nm  
 d: average spacing



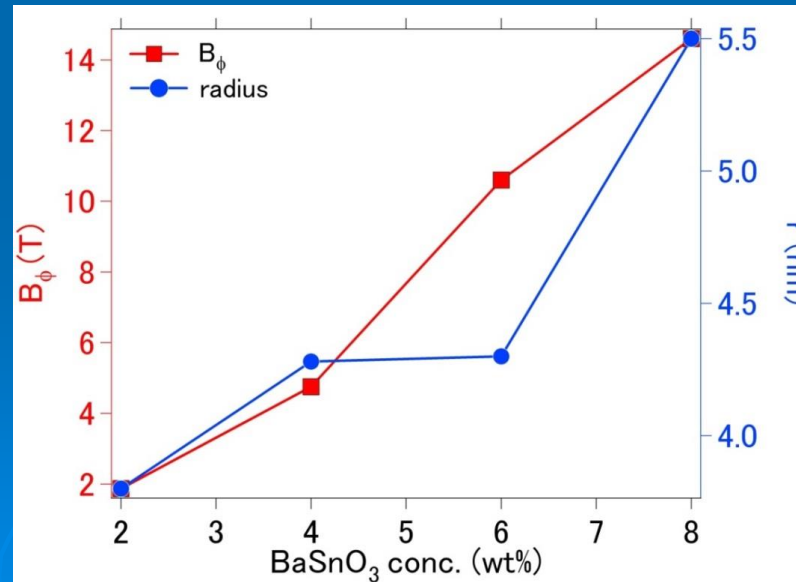
4 wt%  
 d = 21 nm



6 wt%  
 d = 14 nm



8 wt%  
 d = 12 nm



$$B_{\phi} = n \Phi_0$$

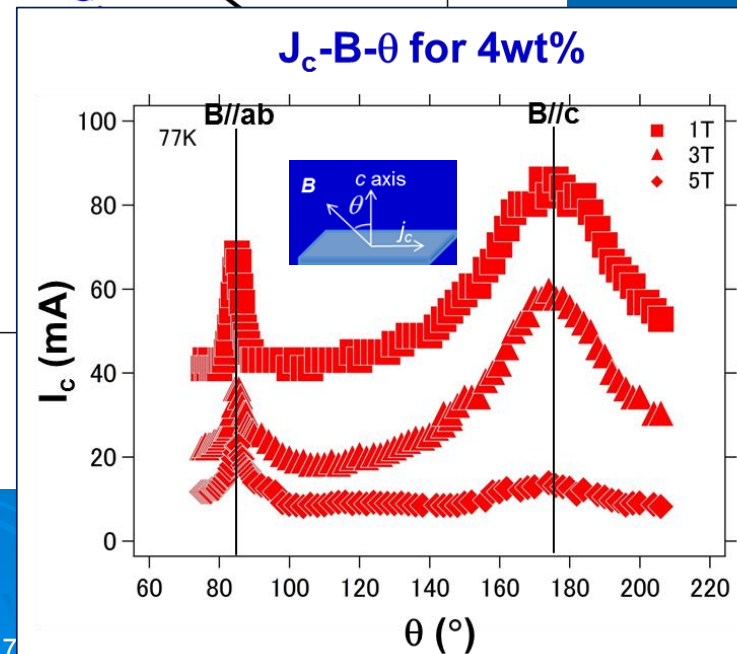
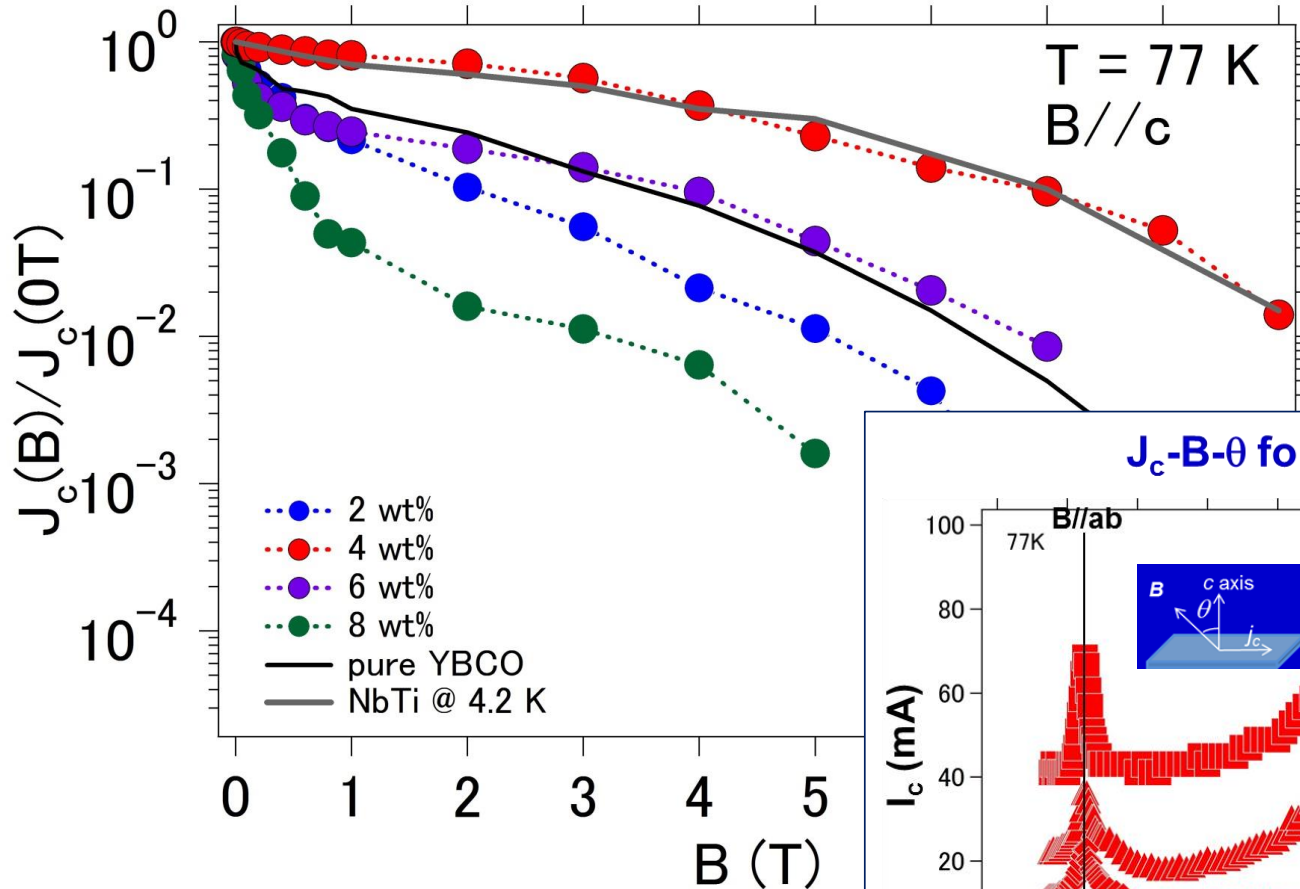
$$n = \text{rods/m}^2$$

$$\Phi_0 = 2.068 \times 10^{-15} \text{ Wb}$$





# Critical current of BaSnO<sub>3</sub>-added YBCO at 77 K



Modified from P. Mele et al, Supercond. Sci. Technol. 21 (2008) 125017



# Pinning by BaSnO<sub>3</sub> nanorods

$$J_c = \frac{U_o}{\Phi_0 \xi_{ab}}$$

where

Vortex pinning energy per unit length

$$U_o = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \ln \left( 1 + \left( \frac{C_o}{\sqrt{2} \xi_{ab}} \right)^2 \right)$$

$$\epsilon_0 = (\Phi_0 / 4\pi \lambda_{ab})^2, \Phi_0 = 2.068 \times 10^{-15} \text{ Wb}$$

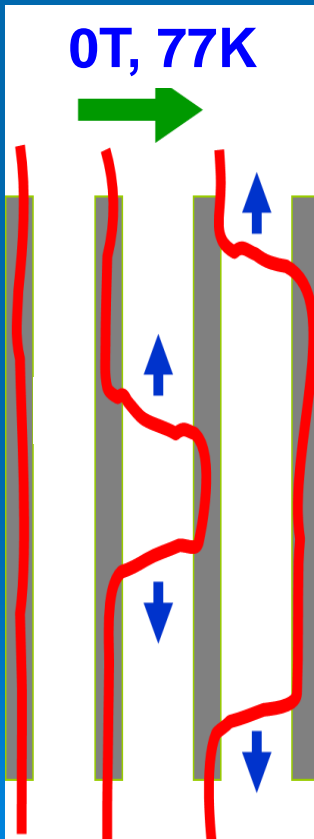
$$\lambda_{ab} = \lambda_0 (1-t)^{-0.5}, \xi_{ab} = \xi_0 (1-t)^{-0.5}, t = T/T_c$$

$$\lambda_0 \text{ YBCO} = 150 \text{ nm}, \xi_0 \text{ YBCO} = 1.5 \text{ nm}$$

[D. Larbalestier et al., Nature 414 (2001) 368]

D. R. Nelson and V. M. Vinokur PRB 48 (1993) 13060

Solution of GL equations in the case of columnar pins, when  $C_o \sim \xi_{ab}$

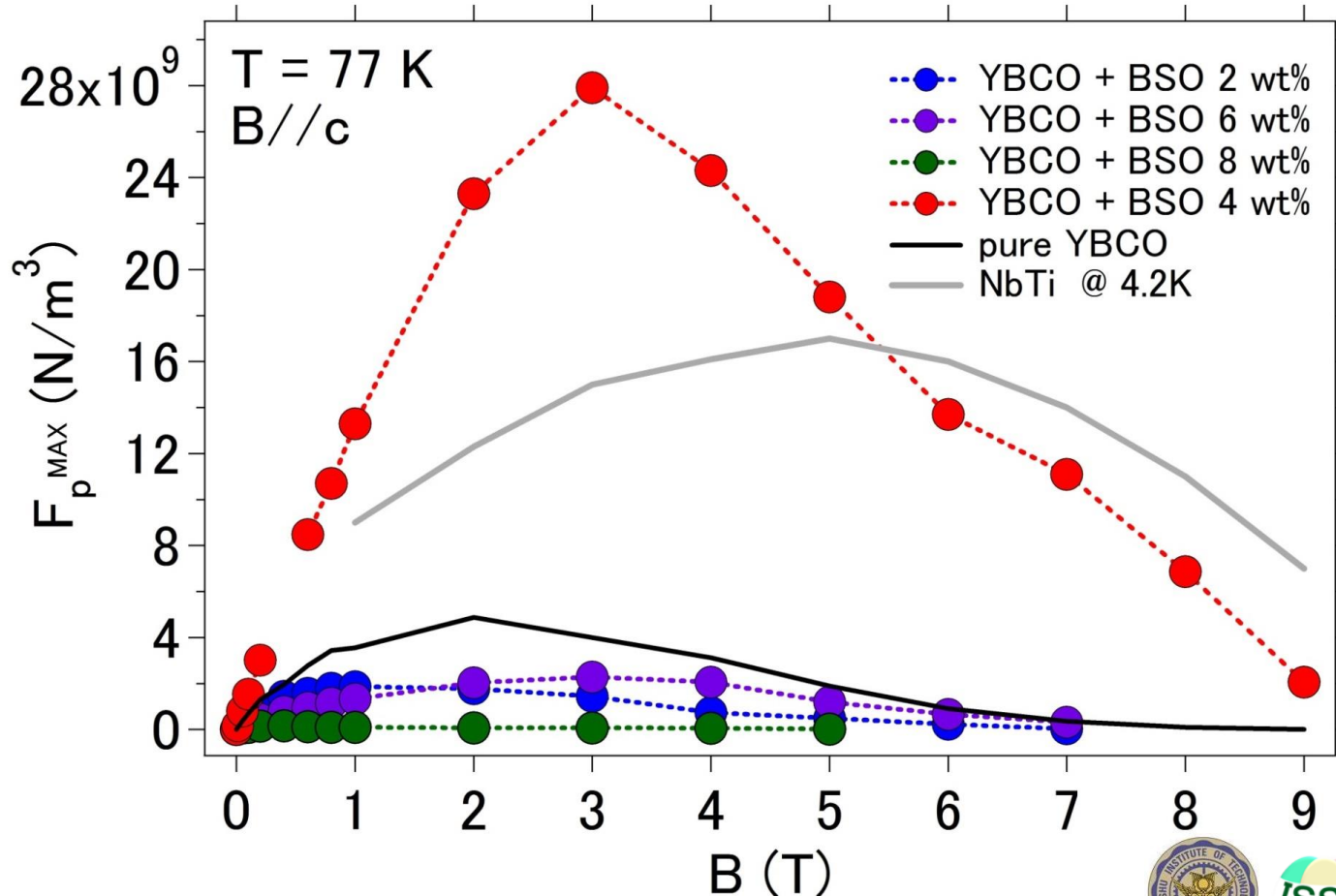


BaSnO <sub>3</sub> content	2wt%	4wt%	6wt%	8wt%
Amount of APCs (m <sup>-2</sup> )	9.07 × 10 <sup>14</sup>	2.30 × 10 <sup>15</sup>	5.10 × 10 <sup>15</sup>	6.80 × 10 <sup>15</sup>
d (nm)	30	21	14	12
T <sub>c</sub> (K)	88.68	88.57	86.46	83.08
C <sub>0</sub> (nm)	3.8	4.28	4.3	5.5
U <sub>0</sub> (N)	1.01 × 10 <sup>-12</sup>	1.4 × 10 <sup>-12</sup>	0.84 × 10 <sup>-12</sup>	0.59 × 10 <sup>-12</sup>
Calculated J <sub>c</sub> (0T, 77K) (MA/cm <sup>2</sup> ) 1D	12	16.3	9	5
Measured J <sub>c</sub> (0T, 77K) (MA/cm <sup>2</sup> ) 1D	0.89	1.64	0.54	0.23
J <sub>c</sub> calc/J <sub>c</sub> meas	13.5	9.94	16.7	22
Eff. current blocking	16%	37%	50%	71%

Reducing the separation between 1D APCs does not increase J<sub>c</sub> due to current blocking by the pinning defect structure. 4wt% is best compromise between amount of pins and current obstruction



## Influence of the BaSnO<sub>3</sub> nanorods on global pinning force

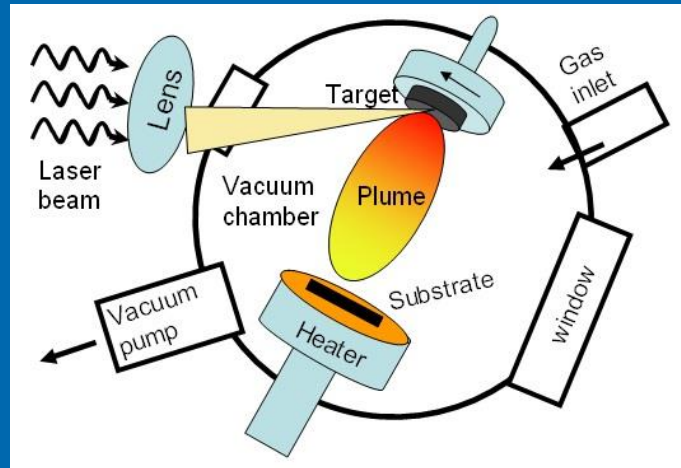


Modified figure from P. Mele et al, Supercond. Sci. Technol. 21 (2008) 125017



# Incorporation of APCs into YBCO films by PLD

## Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD)



### Experimental parameters

$\lambda = 248 \text{ nm}$   
 $E = 340 \text{ mJ/pulse}$   
 $T = 800\text{-}830 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  
 $P_{\text{O}_2} = 200 \text{ Torr}$   
 $\nu = 5\text{-}10 \text{ Hz}$ ; pulses = 6000-10000  
 substrate:  $\text{SrTiO}_3$

## Dimensionality of APCs

**1D** Nanorods // c-axis  $\uparrow$  c axis

2, 4, 6, 8 wt%  $\text{BaSnO}_3$

YBCO +  $\text{BaSnO}_3$  mixed target  $\rightarrow$   $\text{BaSnO}_3$  nanorods

**Large  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ ) but anisotropic**

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**3D** Randomly dispersed

2.51, 5.44, 9.22 at%  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$

YBCO +  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  modified surface  $\rightarrow$   $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  nanoparticles

**Isotropic  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ ) but smaller**

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**1D+3D** multilayer

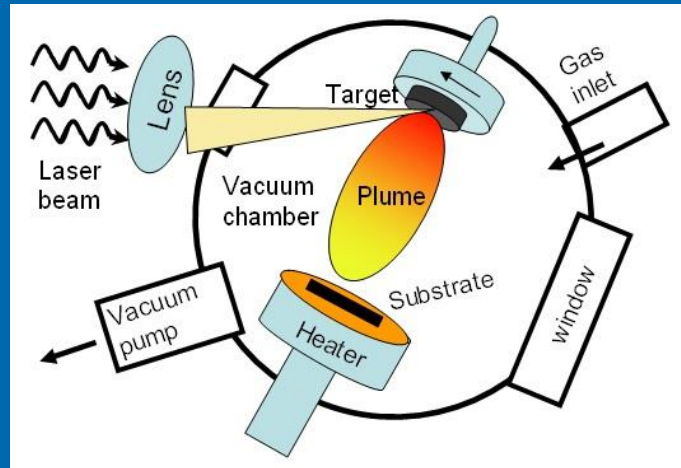
Combinations of 4wt%  $\text{BaSnO}_3$  and 2.5at%  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$

$\text{BaSnO}_3$  nanorods  $\leftrightarrow$   $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  nanoparticles

**Isotropic and large  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ )????**

# Incorporation of 3D APCs into YBCO films by PLD

## Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD)

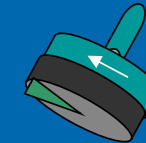
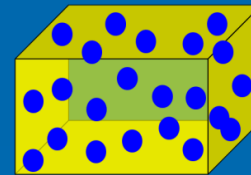


### Experimental parameters

$\lambda = 248 \text{ nm}$   
 $E = 340 \text{ mJ/pulse}$   
 $T = 800\text{-}830 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  
 $P_{\text{O}_2} = 200 \text{ Torr}$   
 $\nu = 5\text{-}10 \text{ Hz}$ ; pulses = 6000-10000  
substrate:  $\text{SrTiO}_3$

$\uparrow$  c axis

### 3D Randomly dispersed

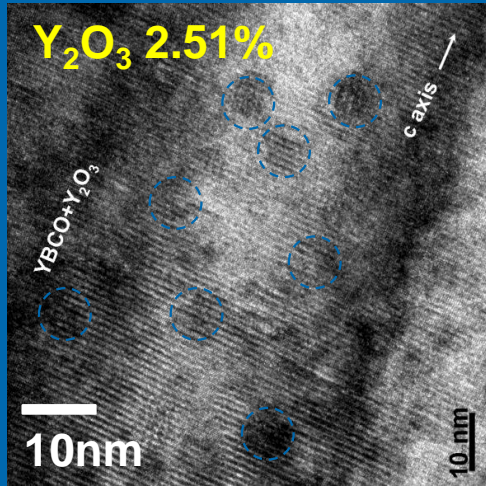


2.51, 5.44,  
9.22 A%  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$

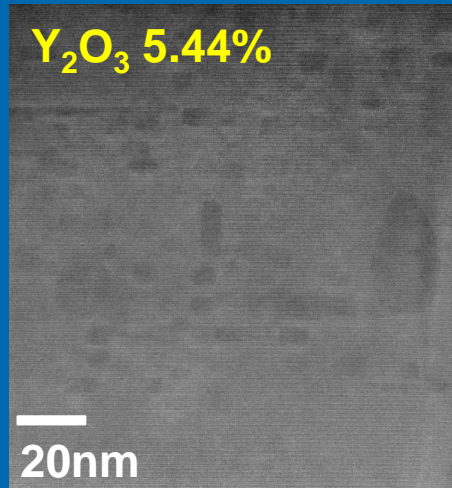
YBCO+ $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  modified surface  $\rightarrow$   
 $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  nanoparticles

Isotropic  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ ) but smaller

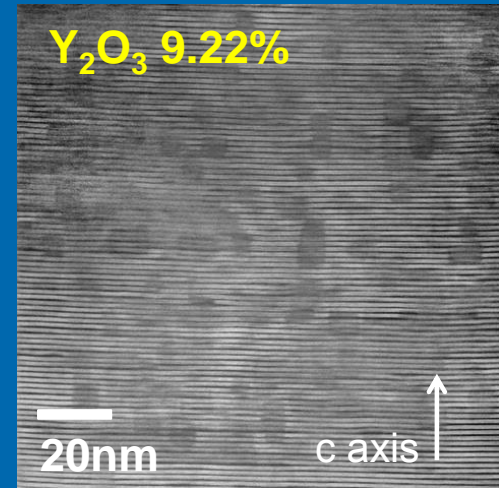
# Morphology of the $Y_2O_3$ nanoparticles inside YBCO films



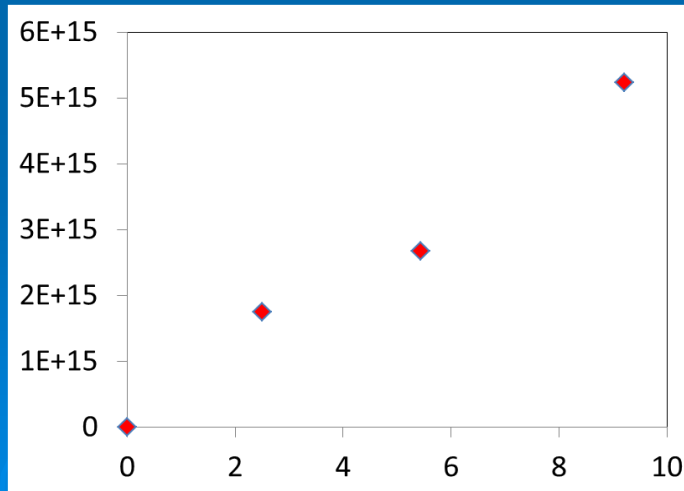
P. Mele et al *Superc. Sci. Technol.* 20 (2007) 616



P. Mele, J. Guzman, et al, accepted in *Superc. Sci. Technol* (2014)

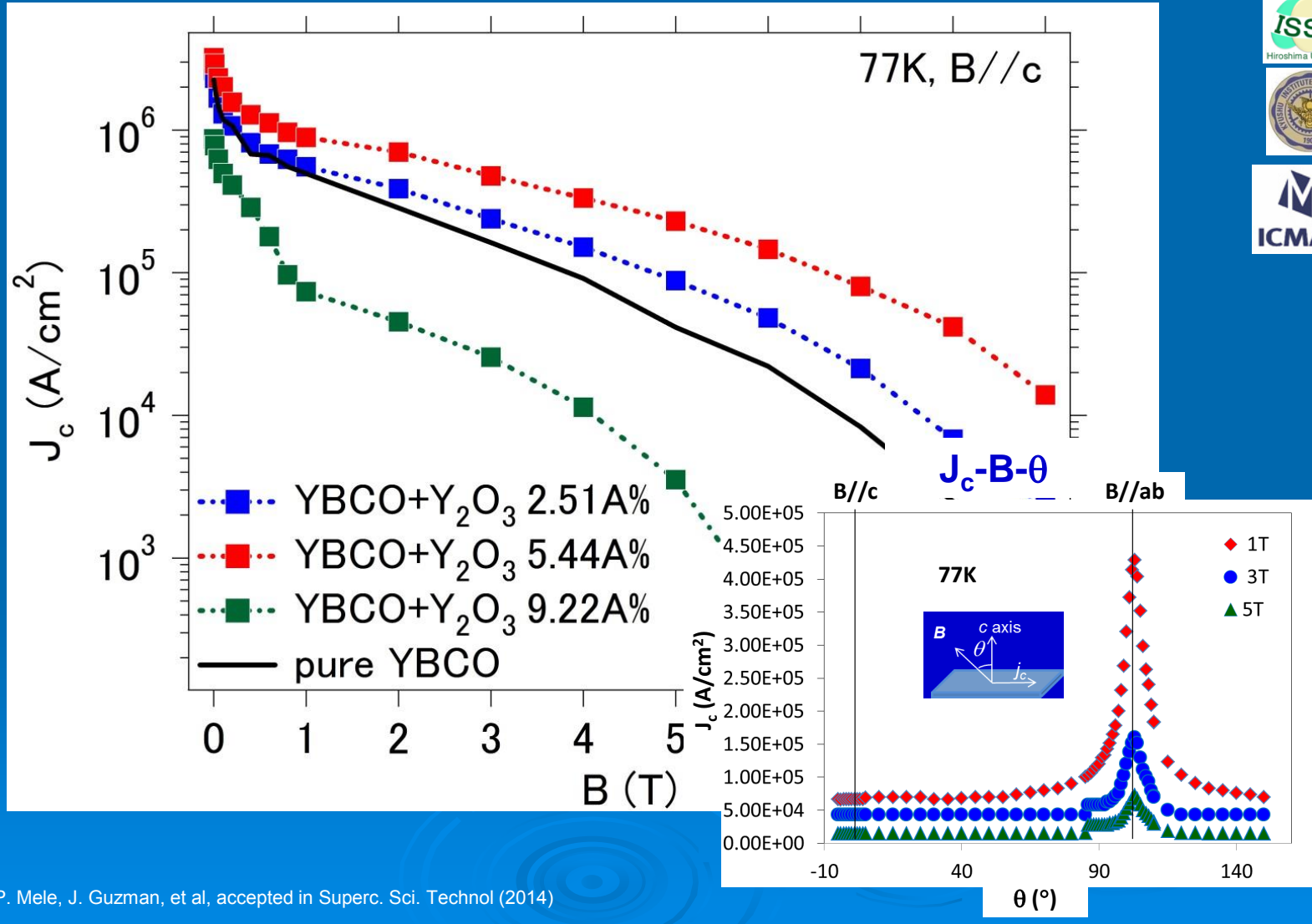


Nanoparticles ( $m^{-2}$ )



$Y_2O_3$  conc. (A%)

# Critical current of $Y_2O_3$ -added YBCO at 77 K



## (Strong) pinning by $Y_2O_3$ nanoparticles



$$J_c = \frac{\Phi_0}{4\pi\mu_0\lambda_{ab}\lambda_c d} \ln \frac{d}{\xi_c}$$

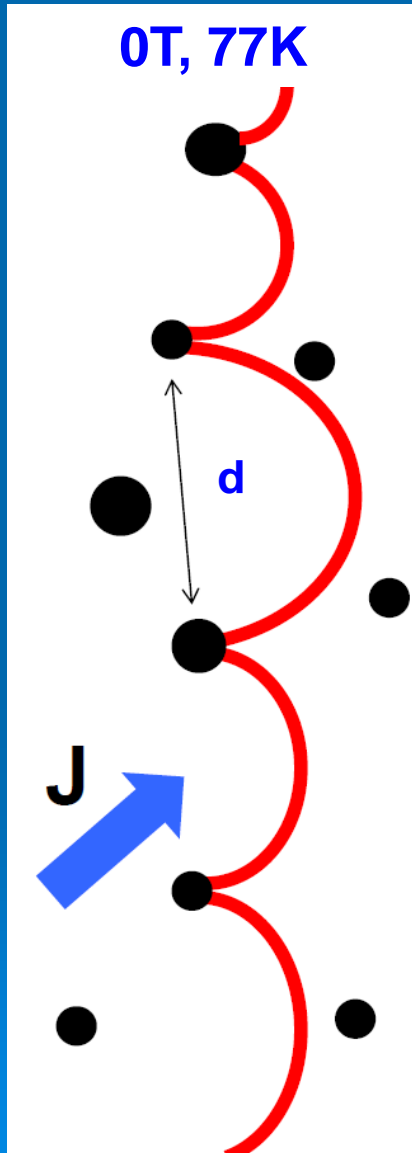
A. Gurevich Supercond. Sci. Technol. 20 (2007) S128

$$\Phi_0 = 2.068 \times 10^{-15} \text{ Wb}$$

$$\lambda_{ab} = \lambda_0(1-t)^{-0.5}, \xi_{ab} = \xi_0(1-t)^{-0.5}, t = T/T_c$$

$$\xi_c = \xi_{ab}/5 \quad \lambda_c = \lambda_{ab} \times \Gamma, \Gamma = 7$$

$$\lambda_0 \text{ YBCO} = 150 \text{ nm}, \xi_0 \text{ YBCO} = 1.5 \text{ nm}$$

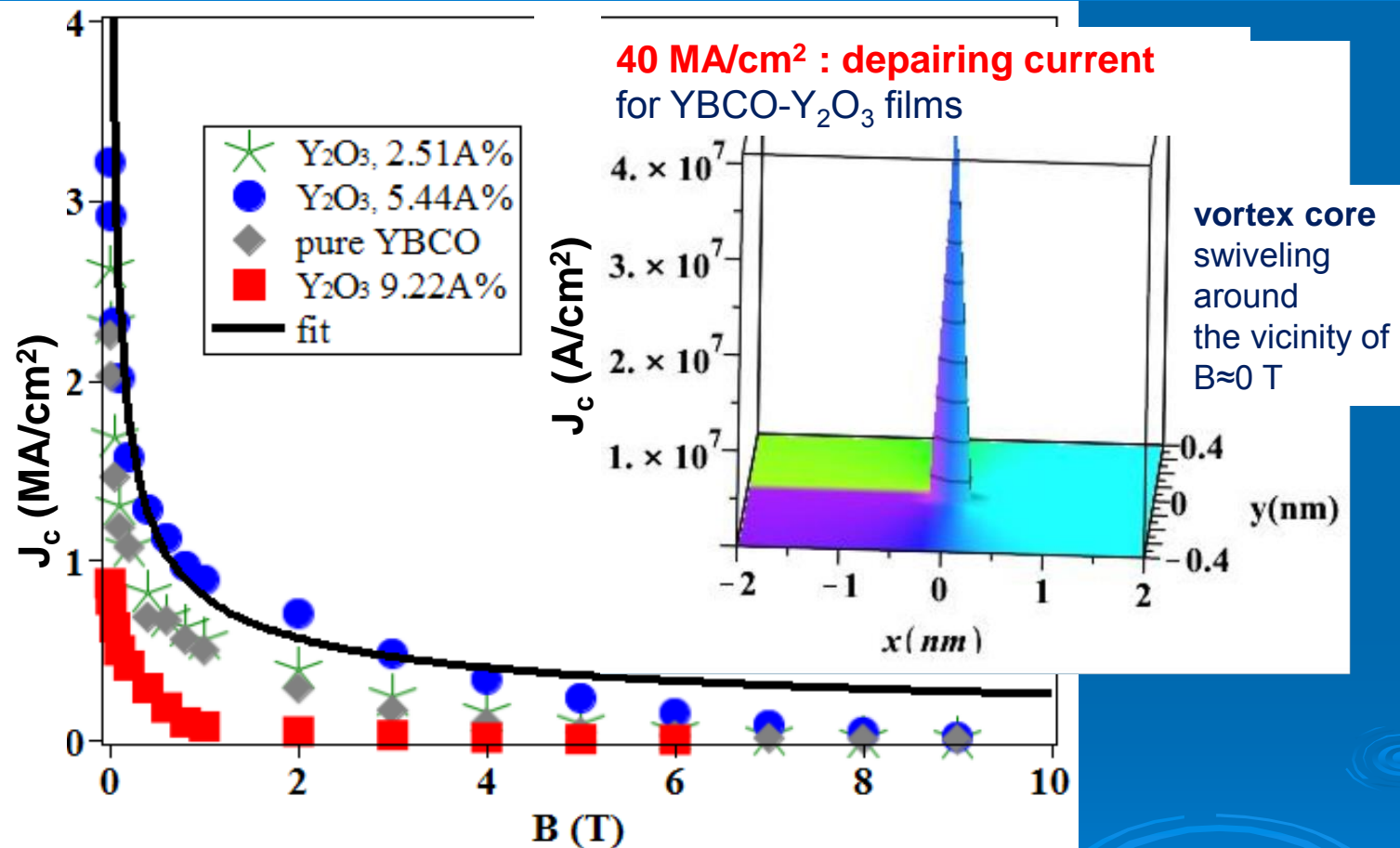


$Y_2O_3$ content	2.51A%	5.44A%	9.22A%
Amount of APCs ( $m^{-2}$ )	$1.75 \times 10^{15}$	$2.68 \times 10^{15}$	$5.23 \times 10^{15}$
$T_c$ (K)	89.26	89.2	87.78
d (nm)	20	18	12
Calculated $J_c$ (0T, 77K) ( $MA/cm^2$ ) 3D	5.93	6.4	7.4
Measured $J_c$ (0T, 77K) ( $MA/cm^2$ ) 3D	2.62	2.64	0.89
$J_c$ calc/ $J_c$ meas	2.26	2.42	8.31
Effective current blocking	10%	13%	32%

Reducing the separation between 3D APCs does not increase  $J_c$  due to current blocking by the pinning defect structure

P. Mele, J. Guzman, et al, accepted in Supercond. Sci. Technol (2014)

## Fitting of $J_c$ -B of YBCO- $Y_2O_3$ films: single-vortex dynamics



**Effective pinning along the vortex core length**

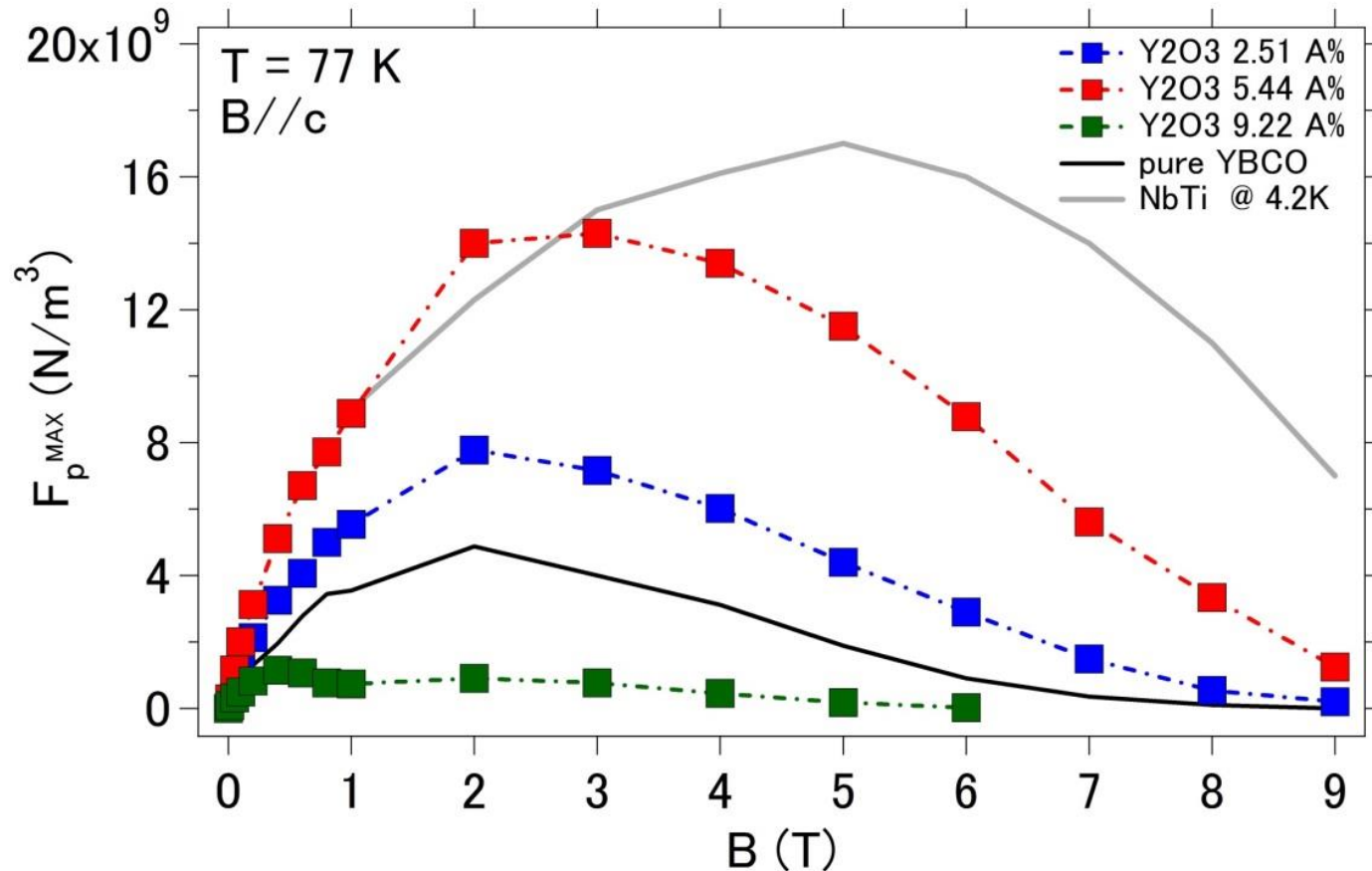
2.51A% → 6.5%

5.44% → 8.0%

9.22A% → 2.2%

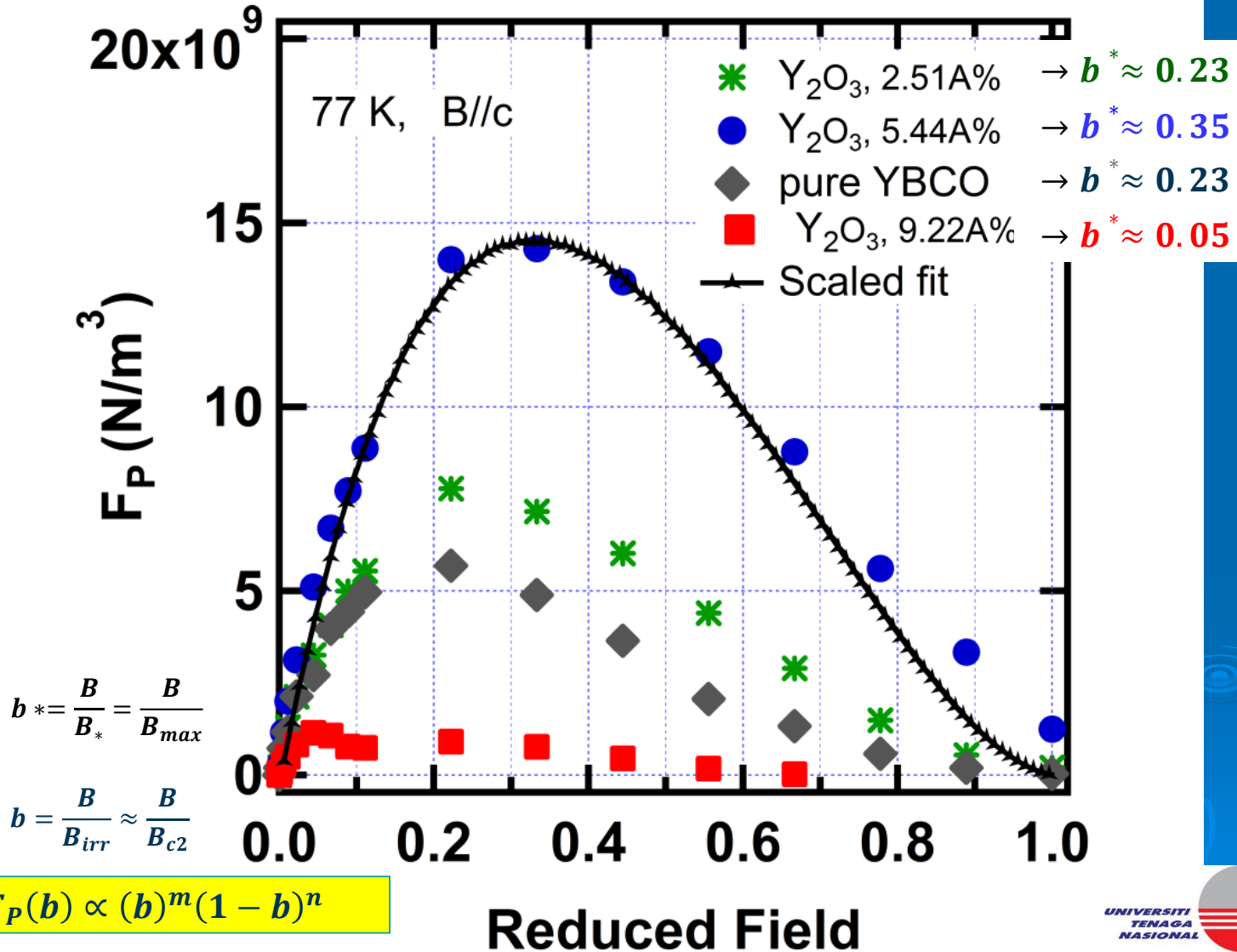
By M. I. Adam (UniTeN) – using Gurevich's model [SuST 20 (2007) S128]

## Influence of the $Y_2O_3$ nanoparticles on global pinning force



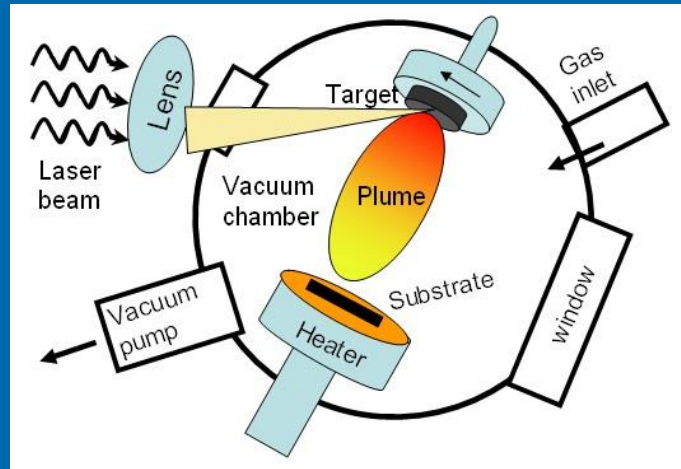


## Scaling of $F_p$ -B for YBCO- $Y_2O_3$ films



# Incorporation of APCs into YBCO films by PLD

## Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD)



### Experimental parameters

$\lambda = 248 \text{ nm}$   
 $E = 340 \text{ mJ/pulse}$   
 $T = 800\text{-}830 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  
 $P_{\text{O}_2} = 200 \text{ mTorr}$   
 $\nu = 5\text{-}10 \text{ Hz}$ ; pulses = 6000-10000  
 substrate:  $\text{SrTiO}_3$

## Dimensionality of APCs

1D

Nanorods // c-axis

2, 4, 6, 8 wt%  $\text{BaSnO}_3$

YBCO+  $\text{BaSnO}_3$  mixed target  $\rightarrow$   
 $\text{BaSnO}_3$  nanorods

**Large  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ ) but anisotropic**

$\uparrow$  c axis

---

3D

Randomly dispersed

2.51, 5.44, 9.22 at%  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$

YBCO+ $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  modified surface  $\rightarrow$   
 $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  nanoparticles

**Isotropic  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ ) but smaller**

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1D+3D

multilayer

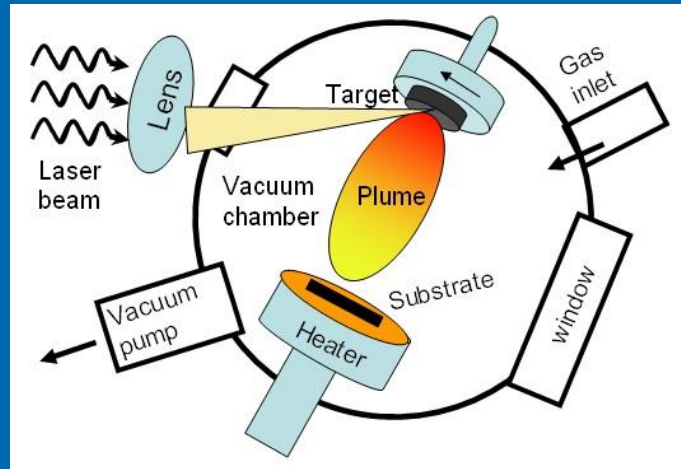
Combinations of 4wt%  $\text{BaSnO}_3$  and 2.5at%  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$

$\text{BaSnO}_3$  nanorods  $\leftrightarrow$   $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  nanoparticles

**Isotropic and large  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ )????**

# Incorporation of 1D+3D APCs into YBCO multilayers by PLD

## Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD)



### Experimental parameters

$\lambda = 248 \text{ nm}$   
 $E = 340 \text{ mJ/pulse}$   
 $T = 800\text{-}830 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  
 $P_{\text{O}_2} = 200 \text{ Torr}$   
 $\nu = 5\text{-}10 \text{ Hz}$ ; pulses = 6000-10000  
substrate:  $\text{SrTiO}_3$

↑  
c axis

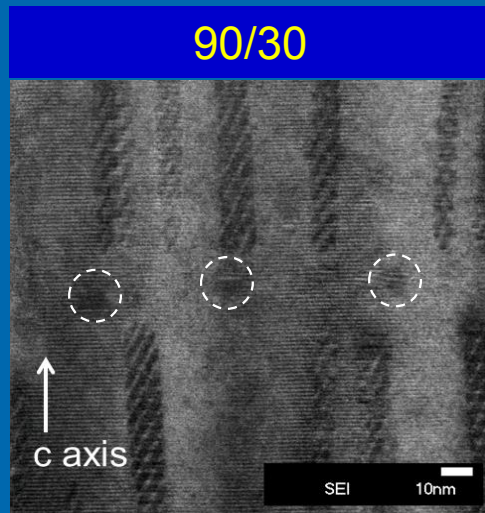
1D+3D multilayer

Combinations of 4wt%  $\text{BaSnO}_3$  and 2.5A%  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$

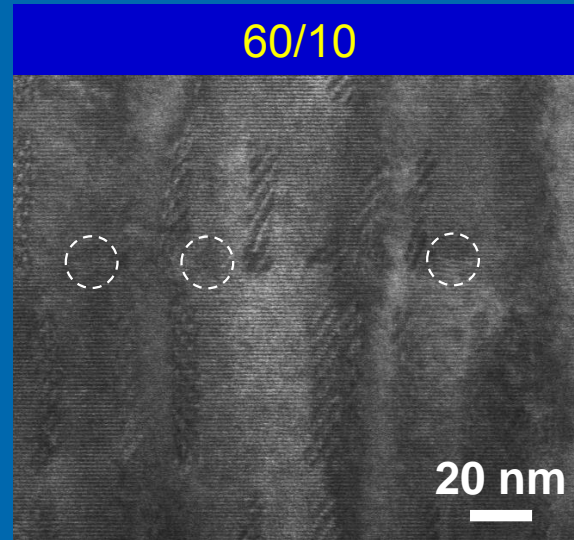


Isotropic and large  $J_c$  ( $F_p$ )????

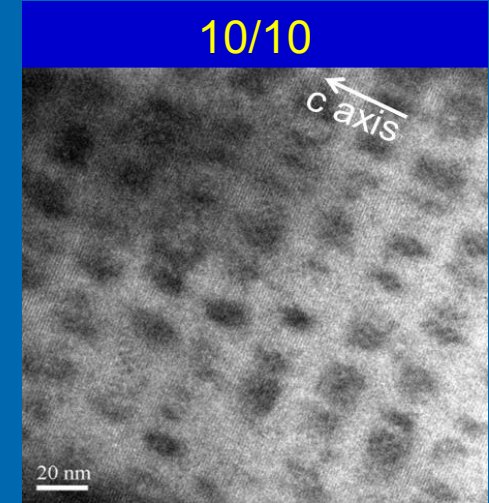
# Morphology of the YBCO+BaSnO<sub>3</sub>/YBCO+Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> multilayers



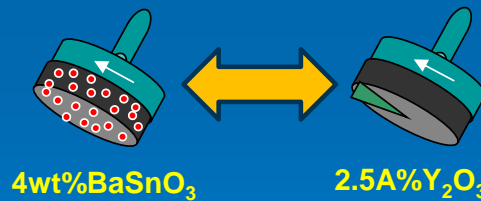
BSO nanorods and Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles



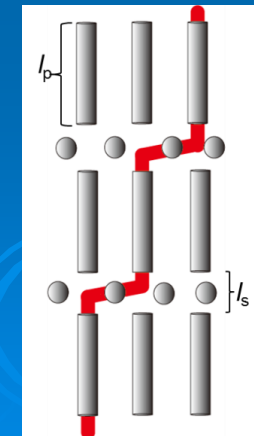
BSO nanorods and Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles



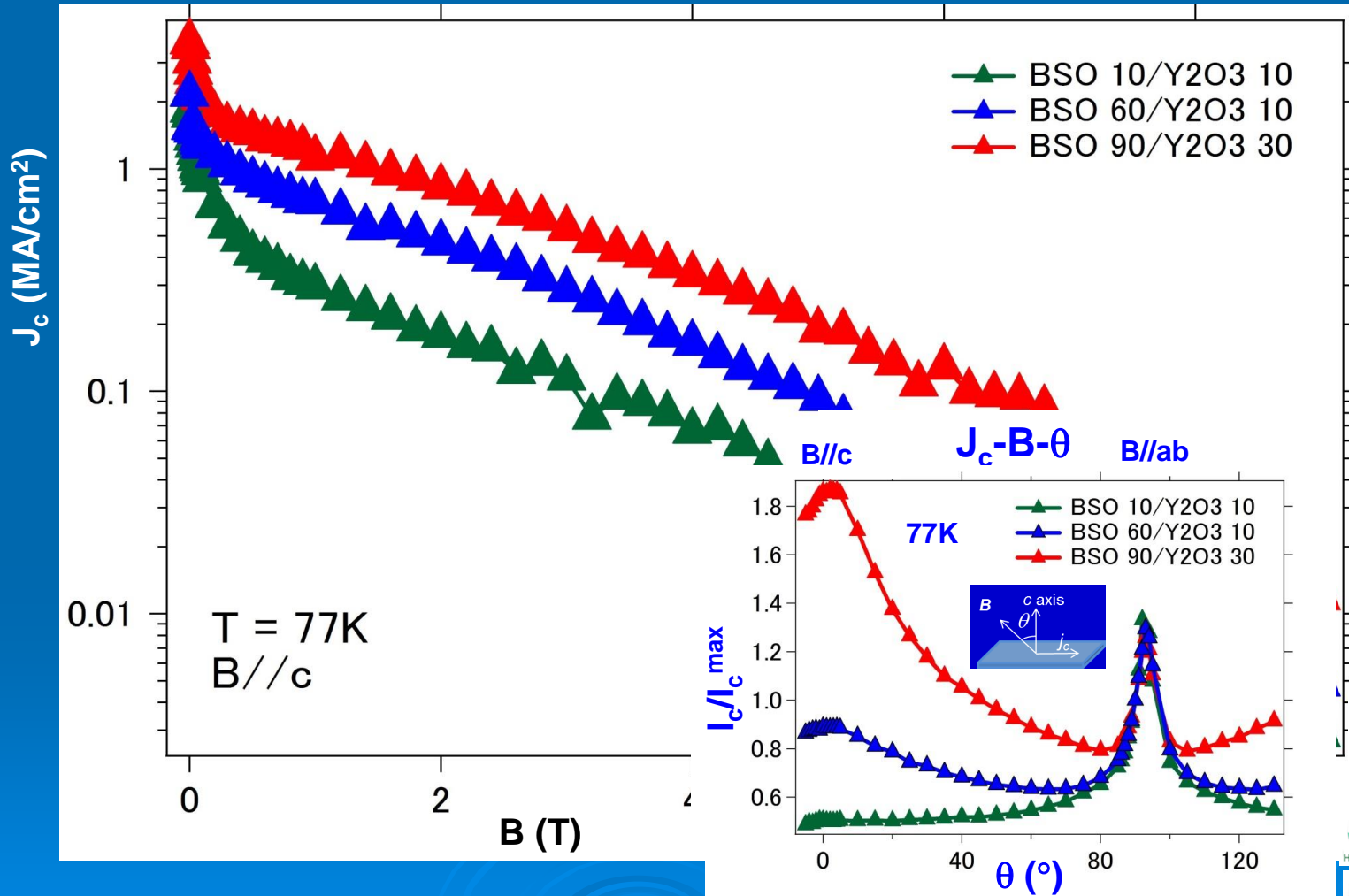
BSO nanoparticles only!?!?



Multilayer configuration	90/30	60/10	10/10
BaSnO <sub>3</sub> nanorod $l_p$ (nm)	71	57	18
Y <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> added layer $l_s$ (nm)	24	15	10



# Critical current of BaSnO<sub>3</sub>/Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-multilayered YBCO at 77 K



# 1D+3D pinning by BaSnO<sub>3</sub> and Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in multilayered YBCO

$$\Phi_0 = 2.068 \times 10^{-15} \text{ Wb}$$

$$\lambda_{ab} = \lambda_0(1-t)^{-0.5}, \xi_{ab} = \xi_0(1-t)^{-0.5}, t = T/T_c$$

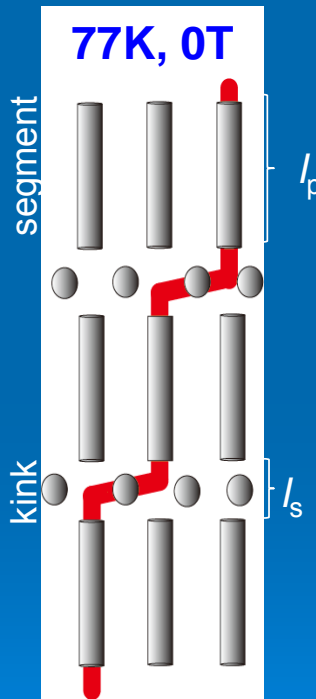
$$\lambda_0 \text{ YBCO} = 150 \text{ nm}, \xi_0 \text{ YBCO} = 1.5 \text{ nm}$$

$$\xi_c = \xi_{ab}/5$$

$$J_c^{1D+3D} = J_c^{1D\text{-segmented}} + J_c^{3D\text{-kink}}$$

$$J_c^{1D\text{-segmented}} = \frac{\Phi_0}{16\pi\mu_0\lambda_{ab}^2\xi_{ab}} \left[ \frac{l_p}{l_p + l_s} \right]$$

$$J_c^{3D\text{-kink}} = \frac{\Phi_0}{16\pi\mu_0\lambda_{ab}^2\xi_{ab}} \left[ \frac{\xi_c}{l_s} \right]$$

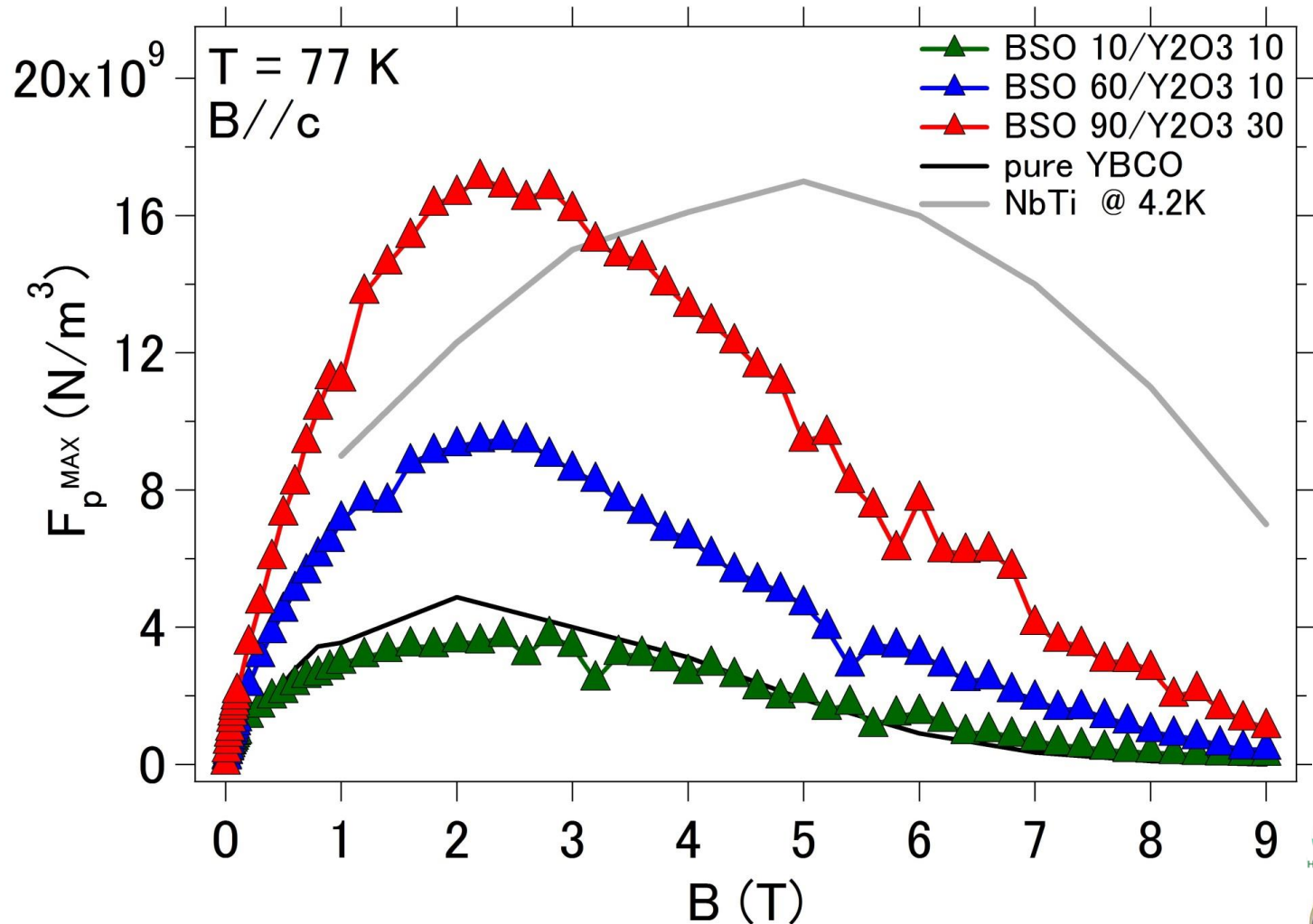


Multilayer configuration	90/30	60/10	10/10
BaSnO <sub>3</sub> nanorod $l_p$ (nm)	71	57	18
Y <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> added layer $l_s$ (nm)	24	15	10
Calculated $J_c$ (0T, 77K) (MA/cm <sup>2</sup> ) for segmented 1D	12	11.8	9.4
Calculated $J_c$ (0T, 77K) (MA/cm <sup>2</sup> ) (3D kink)	0.54	0.82	0
<b>Calculated <math>J_c</math> (0T, 77K) (MA/cm<sup>2</sup>) (1D+3D)</b>	<b>12.54</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>Measured <math>J_c</math> (0T, 77K) (MA/cm<sup>2</sup>) (1D+3D)</b>	<b>3.72</b>	<b>2.16</b>	<b>1.84</b>
$J_c$ calc/ $J_c$ meas	3.37	5.56	5.10
Effective current blocking (1D+3D)	15%	13%	33%

**Ad hoc analytical expression for  $J_c$  is required!**

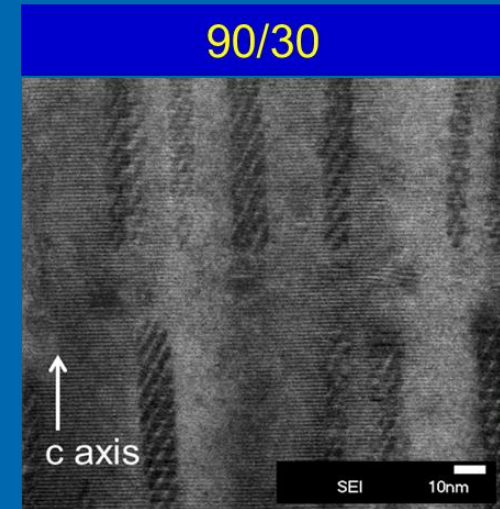
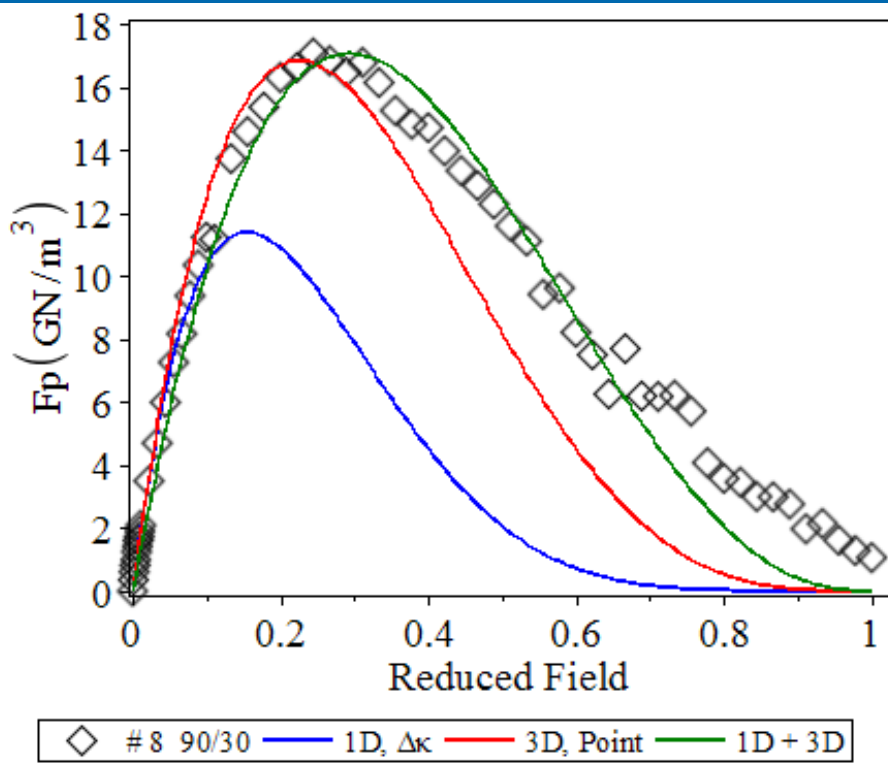


## Influence of the BaSnO<sub>3</sub>/Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> layers on global pinning force





## Scaling of $F_p$ - $B$ for [YBCO+BSO 90] / [YBCO+ $Y_2O_3$ 30] multilayers



$$F_P(b) = Ab^* (b)^m (1 - b)^n$$

$$b = \frac{B}{B_{irr}} \approx \frac{B}{B_{c2}} \quad b^* = \frac{B}{B_*} = \frac{B}{B_{max}}$$

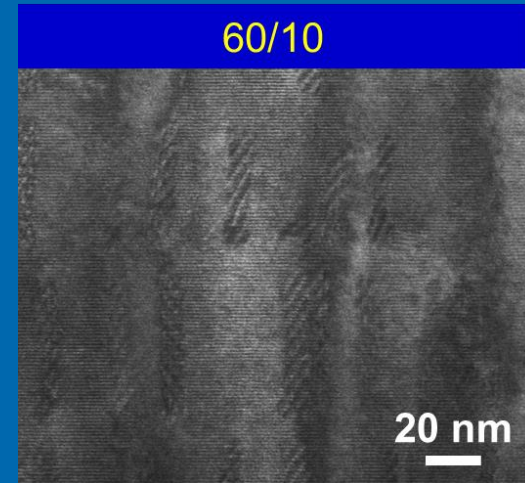
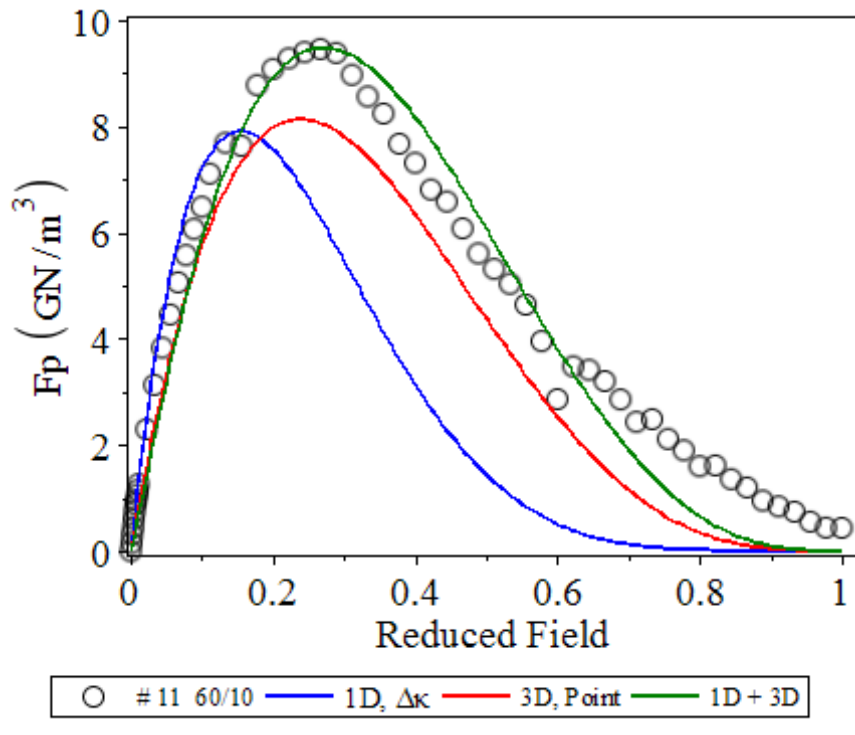
	1D pinning	3D pinning	1D+3D pinning
<b>90/30</b>			
$B^*$	0.9	2.2	2.4
$m$	1.01	1.02	1.04
$n$	5.5	3.5	2.5

P. Mele, M.I. Adam et al, unpublished





# Scaling of $F_p$ -B for [YBCO+BSO 60] / [YBCO+ $Y_2O_3$ 10] multilayers



$$F_P(b) = Ab^* (b)^m (1 - b)^n$$

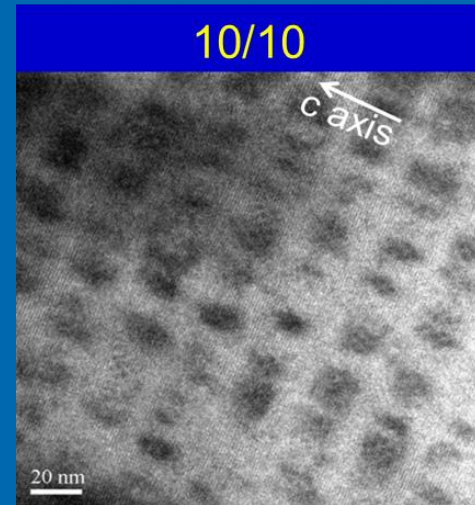
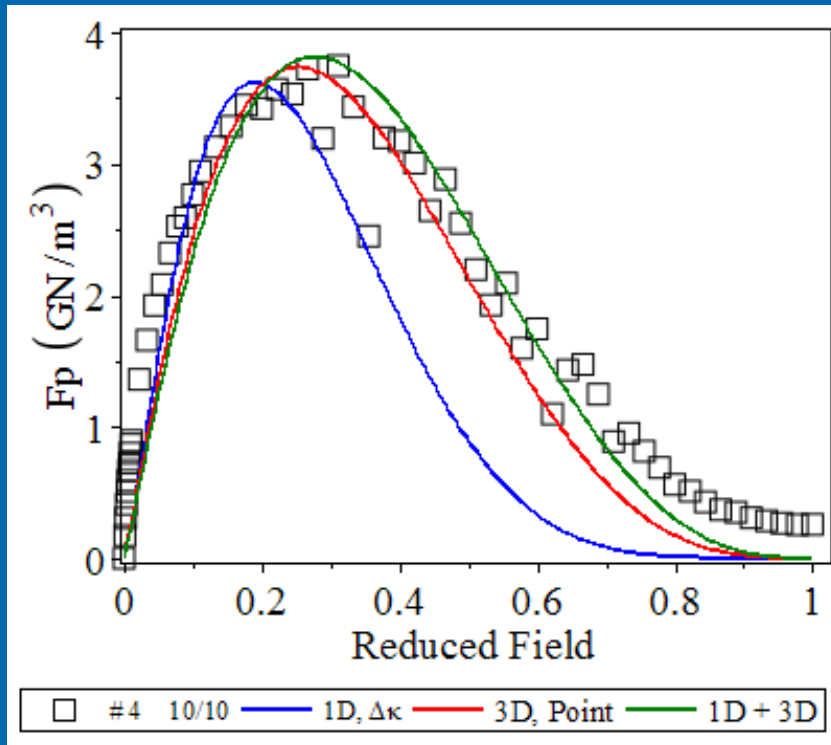
$$b = \frac{B}{B_{irr}} \approx \frac{B}{B_{c2}} \quad b^* = \frac{B}{B_*} = \frac{B}{B_{max}}$$

	1D pinning	3D pinning	1D+3D pinning
<b>60/10</b>			
<b>B*</b>	1.4	2.3	2.4
<b>m</b>	1.01	1.02	1.03
<b>n</b>	5.5	2.8	3.3

P. Mele, M.I. Adam et al, unpublished



# Scaling of $F_p$ -B for [YBCO+BSO 10] / [YBCO+ $Y_2O_3$ 10] multilayers



$$F_P(b) = Ab^* (b)^m (1 - b)^n$$

$$b = \frac{B}{B_{irr}} \approx \frac{B}{B_{c2}} \quad b^* = \frac{B}{B_*} = \frac{B}{B_{max}}$$

P. Mele, M.I. Adam et al, unpublished

	1D pinning	3D pinning	1D+3D pinning
<b>10/10</b>			
$B^*$	1.6	2.0	2.6
m	1.01	1.02	1.02
n	5.2	3.3	2.9

## Summary

- Addition of nanoscale APCs of different dimensionality in YBCO films: systematic study is proposed
- 1D-APCs (BaSnO<sub>3</sub> nanorods)  
Anisotropic behaviour (c-axis correlated pinning). Easy control of nanorods density and spacing.  
 $F_p^{\text{MAX}} = 28.3 \text{ GN/m}^3$  at 3T, 77K in 4wt% BSO-added YBCO
- 3D-APCs (Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles)  
Isotropic pinning but lower  $J_c$ ,  $F_p$  respect to 1D-APCs and segmented nanorods. Difficult control of nanoparticles density and spacing.  
 $F_p^{\text{MAX}} = 14.3 \text{ GN/m}^3$  at 3T, 77K for YBCO+ 5.44 A% Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
According to **single vortex dynamics** model, Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 5.44A% nanoparticles generate **8.0% effective pinning** along the vortex core length
- Multilayered 1D-APCs+3D-APCs  
Simultaneous c-axis and random pinning in YBCO+ 4wt% BaSnO<sub>3</sub>/ YBCO+ 2.5 A% Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> multilayers.  
 $F_p^{\text{MAX}} = 17.6 \text{ GN/m}^3$  at 2.2T, 77K in 90 nm YBCO+BaSnO<sub>3</sub>/ 30 nm YBCO+Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
According to **scaling law**, the global pinning behavior of the samples is a direct manifestation of the presence of different pinning centers in their structure  
Highest maximum field  $B^*$  corresponds to the **coexistence of 1D + 3D pinning**