

On magnetostrictive materials and their use in adaptive structures

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Abstract. Magnetostrictive materials are routinely employed as actuator and sensor elements in a wide variety of noise and vibration control problems. In infrastructural applications, other technologies such as hydraulic actuation, piezoelectric materials and more recently, magnetorheological fluids, are being favored for actuation and sensing purposes. These technologies have reached a degree of technical maturity and in some cases, cost effectiveness, which justify their broad use in infrastructural applications. Advanced civil structures present new challenges in the areas of condition monitoring and repair, reliability, and high-authority actuation which motivate the need to explore new methods and materials recently developed in the areas of materials science and transducer design. This paper provides an overview of a class of materials that because of the large force, displacement, and energy conversion efficiency that it can provide is being considered in a growing number of quasistatic and dynamic applications. Since magnetostriction involves a bidirectional energy exchange between magnetic and elastic states, magnetostrictive materials provide mechanisms both for actuation and sensing. This paper provides an overview of materials, methods and applications with the goal to inspire novel solutions based on magnetostrictive materials for the design and control of advanced infrastructural systems.

Key words:

1. Introduction

An adaptive or smart structure consists of four main elements: actuators, sensors, control strategies, and power electronics (Chopra 2002, Garg *et al.* 2002). A smart structure responds to changing external conditions - e.g., loads or deformations - as well as internal conditions - e.g., damage or failure. Microprocessors analyze the responses from the sensors in real or nearly real time and use integrated control theory to command the actuators to apply localized deflections and forces. These inputs effect changes in the structure which counteract or otherwise modify system response in a controlled manner. Numerous applications of smart structures to physical systems are evolving to actively control vibration, noise, damping, shape change, stress distribution, and even microscopic properties (Kessler *et al.* 2003).

The benefits of smart structures as compared with passive or conventional structures have been

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recognized in both traditional and emerging areas. In the area of civil infrastructure, for example, there are clear technological challenges in regard to the declining state of the civil infrastructure in the United States and other countries. Smart materials and structures research can enable “smart” bridges, buildings and highways that can detect and repair structural damage caused by extreme events - for example earthquakes - or long-term deterioration. Furthermore, due to their solid state operation, smart structures can offer an environmental advantage as compared to conventional systems based on hydraulic fluid. Other structural applications stand to benefit from smart materials research as well. The aging aircraft fleet currently in use by U.S. and foreign airlines necessitates sensors and actuators that can provide real-time prevention, detection and repair of damage in a number of critical structural components. Similar needs apply to the automotive sector, in which the ability of smart structures to operate safely, quietly, efficiently and reliably can enable novel solutions in areas such as NVH (Noise, Vibration & Harshness), structural crash-worthiness and condition monitoring, and restraint system design.

Magnetostrictive materials are a class of active metallic compounds which deform when exposed to magnetic fields. These deformations are a manifestation of the magnetoelastic coupling and corresponding dependency of magnetic moment orientation with interatomic spacing. The most common form of magnetoelastic coupling, the linear or Joule magnetostriction, pertains to the case when strains are measured along the magnetic field direction, as shown in Fig. 1. It is noted that if the magnetostriction is positive, the material elongates irrespective of the direction of rotation of the magnetic moments, and the transverse dimension is reduced such that the volume remains constant. If the magnetostriction is negative, the sample length decreases, and the diameter increases. A symmetric magnetostriction curve is then obtained as the magnetic field is cycled. While most magnetic materials exhibit Joule magnetostriction, only a small number of compounds containing rare earth elements provide strains in excess of 1000×10^{-6} . Due to the reciprocal nature of the magnetoelastic coupling, magnetostrictive materials respond with a change in their magnetic state when subjected to stresses. This effect, known as the Villari effect, provides a mechanism for sensing of force and displacement.

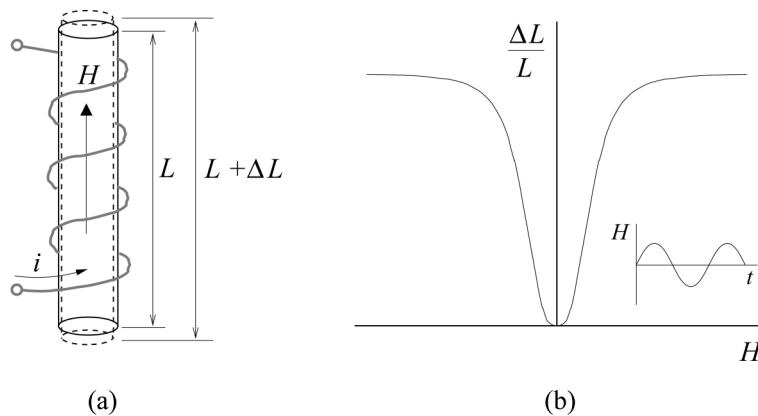


Fig. 1 Joule magnetostriction produced by a magnetic field H . (a) H is approximately proportional to the current i that passes through the solenoid when a voltage is applied to it, and (b) curve $\Delta L/L$ vs. H obtained by varying the field sinusoidally (inset)

Because magnetostriction is an inherent property of magnetic materials, it does not degrade over time as can be the case with some piezoelectric substances. Furthermore, newer magnetostrictive materials provide strains, forces, energy densities, and coupling coefficients which compete advantageously with more established transducer technologies such as those based on piezoelectric materials. A number of design and modeling issues, however, complicate the implementation of magnetostrictive materials. For instance, due to the required solenoid and related magnetic circuit components, magnetostrictive transducers are usually larger and bulkier than their piezoelectric or electrostrictive counterparts. Hence a primary application for magnetostrictive materials is vibration control of heavy structures. One additional consideration is that the most technologically advanced magnetostrictive compounds are costly to manufacture, as advanced crystalline transducer drivers must be manufactured through crystal growth techniques that produce directional solidification along the drive axis, in combination with precision machining of laminations, final diameters, and parallel ends of cut-to-length pieces.

From a device implementation standpoint, magnetostrictive materials exhibit significant nonlinearities and hysteresis to a degree which other smart materials, for instance electrostrictives, typically do not. The deleterious effects due to these behaviors can be circumvented through feedback control techniques. However, the development of broadband feedback control solutions that do not degrade in performance over a large performance range has been elusive in many magnetostrictive systems, because in these systems the efficacy of real-time monitoring and feedback control is diminished by noise inherent to hysteresis, thermal creep, and strong material property variations. One effective means of accounting for and limiting the deleterious effects of these issues is through the development of feedforward loops utilizing constitutive laws describing material behavior in terms of its inherent physical properties. Important advances on the modeling of magnetostrictive materials and structures have taken place recently, and as transducer designers find opportunities to develop new applications, model completeness and accuracy will surely follow. In addition, recent advances in materials science research have enabled more capable magnetostrictive materials in various forms, including amorphous or crystalline thin films, magnetostrictive particle-aligned polymer matrix composite structures, and sintered powder compacts suitable for mass production of small irregular shapes.

2. Historical overview

The first breakthrough in magnetostrictive materials occurred in the early 1960's with the discovery of the largest-known magnetostriction in the rare earth elements terbium and dysprosium. The strains in these elements are of the order of $10,000 \times 10^{-6}$ - three orders of magnitude larger than those of nickel - but they are achieved at cryogenic temperatures. The temperature limitation and the fact that the field of piezoelectricity was gaining technical maturity hindered the development of magnetostrictive materials and led in the early 1970's to a search for a new class of transducer materials capable of high room-temperature strains.

Highly magnetostrictive rare earths (R), principally samarium (Sm), terbium (Tb) and dysprosium (Dy), were combined with the magnetic transition metals nickel, cobalt and iron by direct compound synthesis and by rapid sputtering into amorphous alloys. In contrast to the normal Curie temperature behavior of the R-Ni and R-Co compounds, the R-Fe compounds exhibit an increase in the Curie temperature with increasing rare earth concentration (Clark 1980). This unusual property

facilitates huge room temperature magnetostrictions, of up to $3,000 \times 10^{-6}$, particularly in the TbFe_2 compound. However, because magnetostriction originates in the strain dependency of magnetic anisotropy, the large magnetostriction in these compounds is obtained at the expense of large anisotropies. This poses a technological limitation in that impractical large fields of over 2 MA/m are needed to bring these compounds to saturation.

Partial substitution of dysprosium for terbium in the TbFe_2 system resulted in improved magnetostriction and anisotropy properties. The resulting pseudobinary compound $\text{Tb}_{0.3}\text{Dy}_{0.7}\text{Fe}_{1.9-1.95}$ has been available commercially since the 1980's under the name Terfenol-D (**Ter** = terbium, **Fe** = iron, **N** = Naval **O** = Ordnance **L** = Laboratory, **D** = dysprosium). The highest room-temperature magnetostriction for Terfenol-D is 1600×10^{-6} at a moderate saturation field of 0.16 MA/m, but even larger magnetostrictions of up to 3600×10^{-6} are possible when this material is employed in transducers driven at mechanical resonance. Terfenol-D is commercially available in a variety of forms, including monolithic rods (Engdahl 2000, E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993), particle-aligned polymer matrix composites (Cedell 1995, Duenas *et al.* 1996, Anjanappa and Wu 1997) and thin films (Uchida *et al.* 1996, Body *et al.* 1997, Lindgren *et al.* 1999). Because of the large magnetostriction anisotropy and strong magnetoelasticity, Terfenol-D and other pseudobinary rare earth-iron compounds can be synthesized to exhibit a broad range of properties (Clark 1980, Restorff 1999).

A second new magnetostrictive material was introduced in 1978 which is based on amorphous metal, produced by rapid cooling of iron, nickel, and cobalt alloys together with one or more of the elements silicon, boron, and phosphorus. These alloys are known commercially as Metglas (metallic glass) and are commonly produced in thin-ribbon geometries. Because of the extremely high coupling coefficients ($k > 0.92$), Metglas is a prime candidate for sensing applications in which a mechanical motion is converted into an electrical current or voltage (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993).

3. Material behavior

The advantageous features of integrated smart systems based on magnetostrictives and other types of active materials (e.g., PZT, PMN, PVDF, Nitinol, NiMnGa, magneto- and electro-rheological fluids) are often achieved at the high drive levels in which constitutive relationships among polarization, strain and stress exhibit strong anisotropies, hysteresis effects, and multi-valued material properties (Bozorth 1968, Cady 1964, Jiles and Atherton 1986, Robert *et al.* 2001).

3.1 Magnetic anisotropy

Magnetic anisotropy refers to the dependency of magnetic properties on the direction in which they are measured. It can be of several kinds, including crystal, stress, shape and exchange anisotropy. Of these, however, only crystal anisotropy is a material property. In many crystalline materials, the magnetic moments do not rotate freely in response to applied fields, but rather they tend to orient along preferred crystallographic directions. This phenomenon is called the magnetocrystalline (or crystal) anisotropy, and the associated anisotropy energy is the energy required to rotate the magnetic moments away from their preferred directions. Crystal anisotropy energy and magnetostriction are closely related effects; if the anisotropy were independent of the state of strain, there would be no magnetostriction (Bozorth 1968).

While accurate models for crystal anisotropy and its relation with the magnetization process exist for the simple cases of cubic and hexagonal crystals (Kittel 1949, Lee 1955), models for complex crystal structures often rely on simplifying assumptions which reduce the analysis to the simpler cases. For example, in transducer design it is often useful to consider operating regimes in which stress anisotropy dominates crystal anisotropy. In structural design, these regimes are achieved by subjecting the magnetostrictive material to a compressive or tensile prestress, depending respectively on whether the material exhibits positive or negative magnetostrictive. The actuator shown in Fig. 7 illustrates the use of a precompression spring employed to this end. Further details regarding crystal anisotropy can be found in (Cedell 1995, Teter *et al.* 1987, Stoner and Wohlfarth 1948, Clark *et al.* 1984, Jiles and Thoenke 1994).

3.2 Magnetic hysteresis

The changes in magnetization which result from an applied magnetic field can be either reversible or irreversible. Reversible magnetization changes are energetically conservative and occur for small field increments in which the material can return to the original magnetic state upon removal of the field. Irreversible magnetizations are dissipative since external restoring forces are needed to bring the magnetism to its original state, such as when large fields are applied. In applications, both types of processes take place during the magnetization. The magnetization, either reversible or irreversible, can be explained by considering two related mechanisms: the rotation of moments and the movement of domain walls (Bozorth 1968, Jiles 1998, Chikazumi 1984).

Typical magnetization and strain loops for Terfenol-D are shown in Fig. 2 which illustrate magnetic hysteresis and saturation effects. From a design perspective, magnetic biasing as described later in Section 6 is used to center operation in the region of maximum strain change per unit field for optimum performance. For low magnetic field levels, partial excursions in the $M-H$ or $\epsilon-H$ curve are approximately linear. However, hysteresis is always present to some extent. The hysteresis can be attributed to the irreversible impediment to domain motion by pinning sites, such as when domain walls move across twin boundaries in Terfenol-D. Modeling hysteresis and nonlinear behavior is currently a focal point in the design and control of magnetostrictive materials. Details on the topic of ferromagnetic hysteresis can be found in (Bozorth 1968, Jiles 1998, Chikazumi 1984).

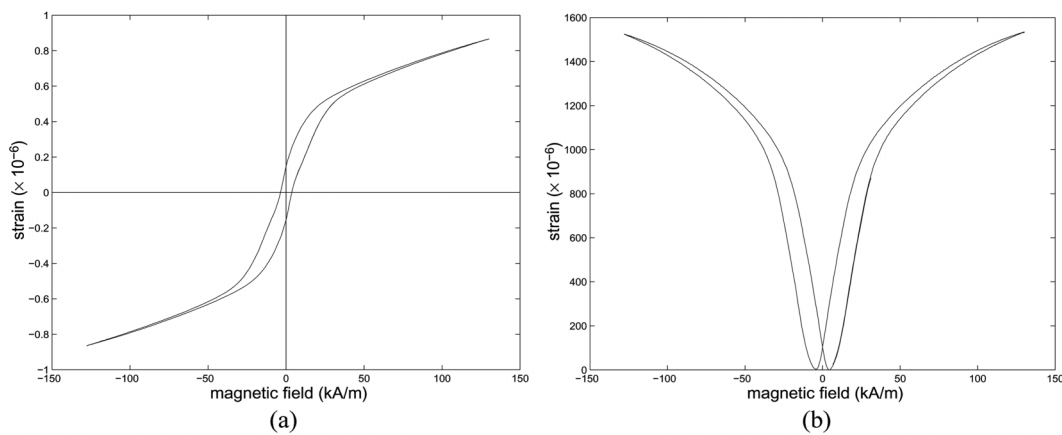


Fig. 2 Experimental magnetic induction and total strain, from Terfenol-D loaded at 6.9 MPa

3.3 Material properties

Table 1 lists nominal material properties of several magnetostrictive materials. The linear magnetomechanical coupling coefficient k quantifies the ratio of input energy which is available as output energy. Other properties include the elastic modulus E , saturation induction B_s , Curie temperature T_c , density ρ , and saturation magnetostriction λ_s . These properties typically vary substantially during transducer operation. For this reason, efficient transducer design requires an accurate assessment of material property behavior under varying operating conditions. In structural applications, this is done through experimental characterization employing both quasistatic and dynamic methods (Calkins *et al.* 1997, Dapino *et al.* 1996, 1997).

Table 1 Magnetoelastic properties of some magnetostrictive materials. Unless otherwise specified, all measurements were performed at room temperature

Material	$\frac{3}{2}\lambda_s$ ($\times 10^{-6}$)	ρ (g/cm ³)	B_s (T)	T_c (°C)	E (GPa)	k
Fe	-14 (Clark 1980)	7.88 (Bozorth 1968)	2.15 (Bozorth 1968)	770 (Bozorth 1968)	285 (Bozorth 1968)	
Ni	-50 (Bozorth 1968)	8.9 (Bozorth 1968)	0.61 (Bozorth 1968)	358 (Bozorth 1968)	210 (Engdahl 2000)	0.31 (Clark 1980)
Co	-93 (Bozorth 1968)	8.9 (Bozorth 1968)	1.79 (Bozorth 1968)	1120 (Bozorth 1968)	210 (Engdahl 2000)	
50%Co- 50%Fe	87 (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993)	8.25 (Clark 1980)	2.45 (Jiles 1994)	500 (Bozorth 1968)		0.35 (Clark 1980)
50%Ni- 50%Fe	19 (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993)		1.60 (Jiles 1994)	500 (Bozorth 1968)		
TbFe ₂	2630 (Clark 1980)	9.1 (Bozorth 1968)	1.1 (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993)	423 (Clark 1980)		0.35 (Clark 1980)
Tb	3000 (-196°C) (Restorff 1994)	8.33 (Bozorth 1968)		-48 (Cullity 1972)	55.7 (Engdahl 2000)	
Dy	6000 (-196°C) (Restorff 1994)	8.56 (Bozorth 1968)		-184 (Engdahl 2000)	61.4 (Engdahl 2000)	
Terfenol-D	1620 (Clark 1980)	9.25	1.0	380 (Jiles 1994)	110 (Kellogg and Flatau 1999)	0.77 (Clark <i>et al.</i> 1990)
Tb _{0.6} Dy _{0.4}	6000 (-196°C) (Restorff 1994)					
Metglas 2605SC	60 (Restorff 1994)	7.32 (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993)	1.65 (Jiles 1994)	370 (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993)	25-200 (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993)	0.92 (Engdahl 2000)

4. Joule magnetostriction

The Joule magnetostriction pertains to the strain produced along the field direction and is the most commonly used magnetostrictive effect. Because this effect occurs at constant volume, there must be a transverse strain with opposite sign to that of the linear magnetostriction,

$$\lambda_{\perp} = -\frac{\lambda}{2}. \quad (1)$$

4.1 Isotropic spontaneous magnetostriction

When a ferromagnetic material is cooled below its Curie temperature, a transition from paramagnetism to ferromagnetism takes place and magnetic moments become ordered giving origin to a spontaneous magnetization M_s within domains. This process is accompanied by a spontaneous magnetostriction λ_0 . It is in fact possible to derive a relationship between λ_0 and the saturation magnetostriction λ_s . To that end, we consider an isotropic material in the disordered state above T_c , which is therefore modeled with spherical volumes as shown in Fig. 3(a).

As the material is cooled below T_c , spontaneous magnetization M_s is generated within magnetic domains along with the corresponding spontaneous magnetostriction λ_0 . The domains are represented in Fig. 3(b) by ellipsoids with spontaneous strain e . Since the material is isotropic, the magnetic domains are oriented randomly; each bears an angle θ with respect to the direction of measurement. The net magnetization is consequently zero, and the length in the direction of interest is given by (Cullity 1972)

$$e(\theta) = e \cos^2 \theta. \quad (1)$$

Then, the average domain deformation on the onset of spontaneous magnetostriction is obtained by integration along all possible directions,

$$\lambda_0 = \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} e \cos^2 \theta \sin \theta d\theta = \frac{e}{3}.$$

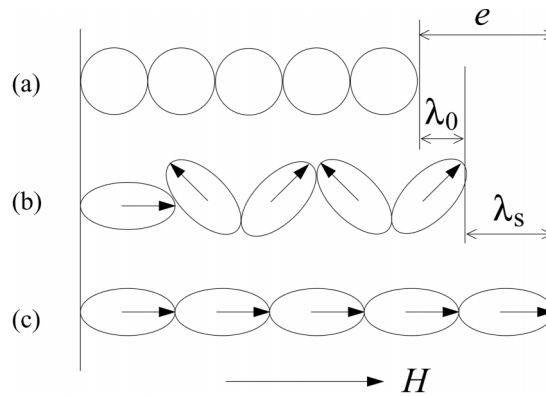


Fig. 3 Schematic diagram illustrating the magnetostriction of a ferromagnetic material. (a) paramagnetic state above T_c ; (b) after it has been cooled through T_c ; and (c) after it has been brought to saturation by a field H

Spontaneous magnetostriction λ_0 is homogeneous in all directions, so the material has changed its dimensions but not its shape. On application of a magnetic field, the magnetic domains rotate and become aligned either parallel with the field or perpendicular to it, depending on whether the material exhibits positive or negative magnetostriction. Assuming positive magnetostriction, the domains rotate into the field direction as depicted in Fig. 3(c). Near saturation, the material becomes a single domain and the total strain becomes e . Then, the total available saturation magnetostriction is given by the difference between e and λ_0 ,

$$\lambda_s = e - \lambda_0 = \frac{2}{3}e = 2\lambda_0. \quad (2)$$

This expression provides a method of measuring the spontaneous strain λ_0 by measuring λ_s . Methods to determine λ_s are discussed next.

4.2 Saturation magnetostriction

Assuming again for simplicity that the medium is isotropic, the saturation magnetostriction at an angle θ from the direction of the field is given by (Cullity 1972)

$$\lambda_s(\theta) = \frac{3}{2}\lambda_s\left(\cos^2\theta - \frac{1}{3}\right), \quad (3)$$

where $\lambda_s(\theta)$ is the saturation magnetostriction at an angle θ from the field and λ_s is the saturation value in the ideal demagnetized state, that is to say, when all possible directions are equally represented.

The saturation magnetostriction is then calculated from the difference between the maximum magnetostriction with the field parallel to a given direction ($\lambda_{s\parallel}$) and that with the field perpendicular to the given direction ($\lambda_{s\perp}$). Substituting $\theta = 0^\circ$ and $\theta = 90^\circ$ in (3) gives

$$\lambda_{s\parallel} - \lambda_{s\perp} = \lambda_s + \frac{1}{2}\lambda_s = \frac{3}{2}\lambda_s, \quad (4)$$

which defines λ_s independently of the demagnetized state.

observed at this composition. From the magnetostriction value at the

Anisotropy is present to some degree in all magnetic materials, and therefore the saturation magnetostriction needs to be defined in relation to the axis along which the magnetization lies. One exception is nickel, whose magnetostriction is almost isotropic (see Table 2). Recognizing that for cubic materials there are two independent magnetostriction constants λ_{100} and λ_{111} , the saturation magnetostriction assuming single crystal, single domain material is given by a generalization of Eq. (3) for isotropic materials,

Table 2 Magnetostriction coefficients of cubic crystal materials

Material	λ_{100} (10^{-6})	λ_{111} (10^{-6})
Nickel	-46	-24
Iron	21	-21
Terfenol-D	90	1600

$$\lambda_s = \frac{3}{2}\lambda_{100}\left(\alpha_1^2\beta_1^2 + \alpha_2^2\beta_2^2 + \alpha_3^2\beta_3^2 - \frac{1}{3}\right) + 3\lambda_{111}(\alpha_1\alpha_2\beta_1\beta_2 + \alpha_2\alpha_3\beta_2\beta_3 + \alpha_3\alpha_1\beta_3\beta_1), \quad (5)$$

where λ_{100} and λ_{111} are the saturation magnetostrictions along the $\langle 100 \rangle$ and $\langle 111 \rangle$ axes of the crystal. The cosines α_i ($i = 1, 2, 3$) define the direction along which the magnetic moments are saturated, while the cosines β_i define the direction on which the saturation magnetization is measured. The saturation magnetostriction along the field direction is obtained by using $\alpha_i = \beta_i$ in Eq. (5), which leads to

$$\lambda_s = \lambda_{100} + 3(\lambda_{111} - \lambda_{100})(\alpha_1^2\alpha_2^2 + \alpha_2^2\alpha_3^2 + \alpha_3^2\alpha_1^2). \quad (6)$$

It is noted that expressions (5) and (6) only apply to single domain materials. In the saturated state, the whole specimen consists of a single domain with its magnetization M_s aligned parallel to the applied field. However, when a domain structure is present such as in polycrystals, the magnetostriction can only be calculated by averaging the effects unless the domain structure is known specifically. Note that radically different domain configurations can give the same bulk magnetization and different magnetostrictions (see Fig. 4). So, assuming that there is no preferred grain orientation, formula (6) simplifies further becoming

$$\bar{\lambda}_s = \frac{2}{5}\lambda_{100} + \frac{3}{5}\lambda_{111}.$$

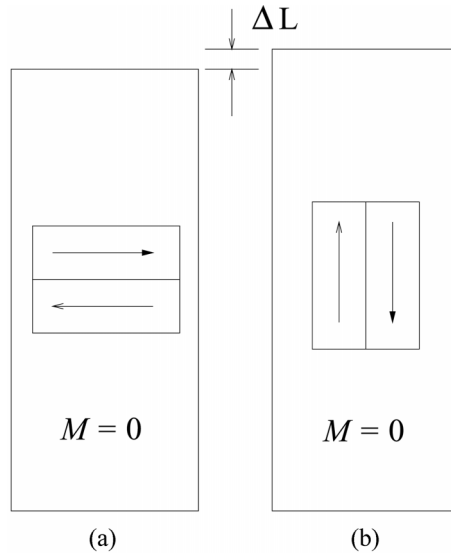


Fig. 4 Demagnetized specimen featuring a 180° domain wall in the (a) horizontal or (b) vertical direction. The length of the specimen is different in either case even though the magnetization is the same

Extensive magnetostriction data on the R-Fe₂ compounds can be found in (Clark 1980), while calculations of λ_s in different crystallographic structures such as cubic, hexagonal and polycrystalline can be found in (Lee 1955, Cullity 1972, Jiles 1998, E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993).

4.3 Magnetostriction below saturation

While the saturation magnetostriction λ_s can be determined employing the methods just discussed, the magnetostriction between the demagnetized state and saturation is very structure sensitive so general constitutive relations for the magnetostriction are not plausible. However, an explicit solution exists for cases when the strains are due primarily to 90° domain rotations. In practice, these rotations occur in: (i) a single crystal with uniaxial anisotropy in which the field is applied in a direction perpendicular to the easy axis or (ii) a polycrystalline material in which the magnetic moments have been brought to complete alignment in a direction perpendicular to the applied field, such as Terfenol-D under extreme compression or nickel under tension. The latter case implies that the perpendicular stress energy is sufficient to dominate the crystal anisotropy, as discussed in Section 3.1. For that regime, combining Eq. (1) and $\varepsilon = 3\lambda_s/2$ from Eq. (2) gives

$$\lambda = \frac{3}{2}\lambda_s \cos^2 \theta, \quad (7)$$

where θ is the angle between the M_s vectors and the field direction. Recognizing that the bulk magnetization along the field direction is given by $M = M_s \cos \theta$, Eq. (7) becomes

$$\lambda = \frac{3}{2}\lambda_s \left(\frac{M}{M_s} \right)^2, \quad (8)$$

which provides a quadratic relation between the magnetization and magnetostriction. It has been shown that this expression is sufficiently accurate in a broad range of transducer regimes in which high mechanical preloads are employed to optimize transducer performance (Calkins *et al.* 2000). A generalized version of this equation has been given in (Jiles 1995), while more elaborate models for magnetostriction hysteresis have been presented in (Clark *et al.* 1984, Sablik and Jiles 1988, 1993, James and Kinderlehrer 1993). Additional effects such as stress dependencies have been also considered (Jiles 1995, Agayan 1996). Finally, the dependency of the magnetostriction of the R-Fe₂ compounds with temperature has been discussed in (Clark 1980).

5. Other magnetostrictive effects

Joule magnetostriction is one of several manifestations of a more general phenomenon, that is the coupling between the magnetic and elastic regimes in a magnetostrictive material. These effects are briefly discussed below and summarized in Table 3.

5.1 Villari effect

The Villari effect, also known as the magnetomechanical effect, refers to the changes in magnetization that a magnetostrictive material undergoes when subjected to an applied uniaxial stress. This effect pertains to the transduction of energy from the elastic to the magnetic state, and

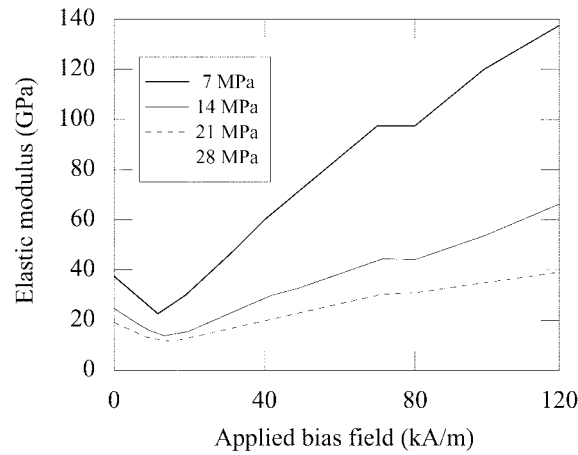
Table 3 Magnetostrictive effects

Direct Effects	Inverse Effects
Joule magnetostriction Change in sample dimensions in the direction of the applied field	Villari effect Change in magnetization due to applied stress
ΔE effect Magnetoelastic contribution to magnetocrystalline anisotropy	Magnetically induced changes in the elasticity
Wiedemann effect Torque induced by helical anisotropy	Matteucci effect Helical anisotropy and e.m.f. induced by a torque
Magnetovolume effect Volume change due to magnetization (most evident near the Curie temperature)	Nagaoka-Honda effect Change in the magnetic state due to a change in the volume

as such is the inverse of the Joule magnetostriction. Furthermore, the Villari effect exhibits many of the attributes of the direct magnetostrictive effect inasmuch as its physical origin also lies in the magnetoelastic coupling. The Villari effect has been the object of much study given its relevance in applications such as nondestructive evaluation and sensing. Extensive theoretical and experimental details can be found in (Jiles 1995). The effect of stress on magnetostrictive materials in particular has been discussed in (Dapino *et al.* 2000).

5.2 ΔE effect

The elasticity of magnetostrictive materials is composed of two separate but related attributes, namely the conventional stress-strain elasticity arising from interatomic forces and the magnetoelastic contribution due to the rotation of magnetic moments and ensuing strain which occur when a stress is applied. This is known as the ΔE effect and is quantified by $\Delta E = (E_s - E_0)/E_0$, where E_0 is the minimum elastic modulus and E_s is the elastic modulus at magnetic saturation. Because the strain produced by magnetic moment rotation adds to the non-magnetic strain, the

Fig. 5 Magnetoelastic modulus of $\text{Tb}_3\text{Dy}_7\text{Fe}_2$ at various stresses (Calkins 1997)

material becomes softer when the moments are free to rotate. This is illustrated in Fig. 5. Note that the material becomes increasingly stiffer as saturation is approached and magnetic moment mobility decreases. The ΔE effect is small in nickel ($\Delta E = 0.06$), but is quite large in Terfenol-D (ΔE up to 5) and certain transverse-field annealed $\text{Fe}_{81}\text{B}_{13.5}\text{Si}_{3.5}\text{C}_2$ (Metglas 2605SC) amorphous ribbons ($\Delta E = 10$). The ΔE effect of Terfenol-D can be advantageously employed in tunable vibration absorbers and broadband sonar systems (Flatau *et al.* 1998).

5.3 Wiedemann effect

A current-carrying ferromagnetic or amorphous wire will produce a circular magnetic field in a plane perpendicular to the wire and the moments will align predominantly in the circumferential direction. When an axial magnetic field is applied, some of the moments align in a helical fashion creating a helical magnetic field. The twist observed in the wire is called the Wiedemann effect. The inverse Wiedemann effect, known as the Matteucci effect, is the change in axial magnetization of a current carrying wire when it is twisted. Further details can be found in (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993).

5.4 Magnetovolume effect

While the volume of a magnetostrictive material remains virtually unchanged during normal operation, in certain extreme regimes the volume of the material may change in response to magnetic fields. This anomalous volume change is called the volume magnetostriction or Barret effect. The effect has little applicability in smart structure systems. For instance, while the magnetostriction curve of nickel rapidly reaches -35×10^{-6} at only 10 kA/m, the fractional volume change is only 0.1×10^{-6} at a much larger field of 80 kA/m. In the alloy Invar (36% nickel-64% iron) the fractional volume change at the Curie temperature, which is slightly above room temperature, compensates the intrinsic thermal expansion giving a compound with a nearly zero thermal expansion at room temperature. The inverse of the Barret effect, the Nagaoka-Honda effect, is the change in magnetic state caused by a volume change (Bozorth 1968, E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993).

6. Magnetostrictive transducers

One advantage of magnetostrictive transducers over other types of transducers is that they can be driven with conventional low impedance amplifiers, particularly at frequencies well below resonance in which the low impedance of a magnetostrictive transducer means that driving voltages can be low. This can prove useful in medical applications and in general can greatly simplify amplifier design. Fig. 6 shows the measured complex electrical impedance frequency response function $Z_{ee} = V/I$ of a Terfenol-D transducer designed following the generic configuration indicated in Fig. 7 (Calkins and Flatau 1996, Flatau *et al.* 1998). This transducer consists of a cylindrical magnetostrictive rod, a surrounding copper-wire solenoid, a preload mechanism consisting of a bolt and spring washer, magnetic couplers and a barrel-like permanent magnet which provides the bias magnetization. While specific design details depend on the particular smart structure application, this configuration depicts the basic components needed to extract maximum performance from the magnetostrictive material.

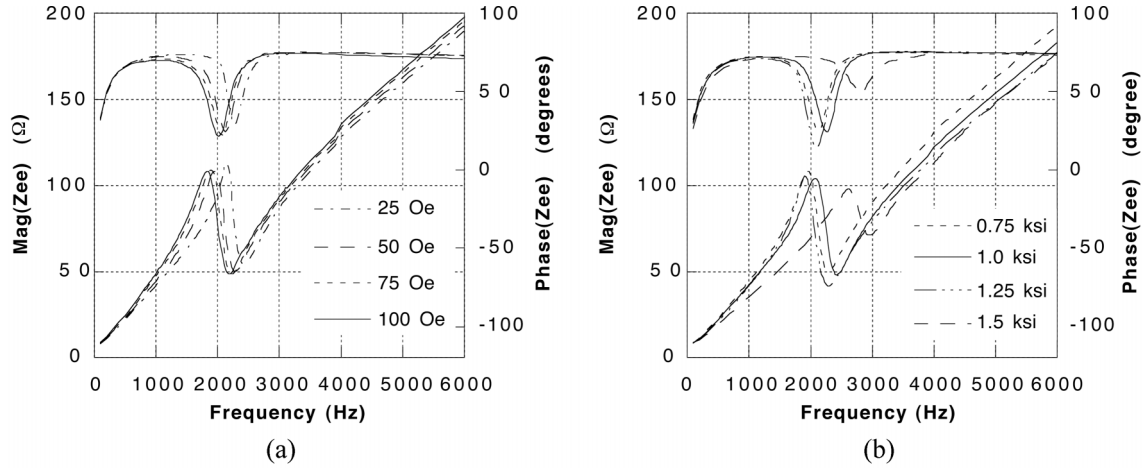


Fig. 6 Total electrical impedance Z_{ee} versus frequency, expressed as magnitude and phase. (a) Bias condition of 5.2 MPa, 24 kA/m (0.75 ksi, 300 Oe) and varied AC drive levels; (b) constant AC drive level of 8 kA/m (100 Oe) and varied bias conditions (Calkins 1997)

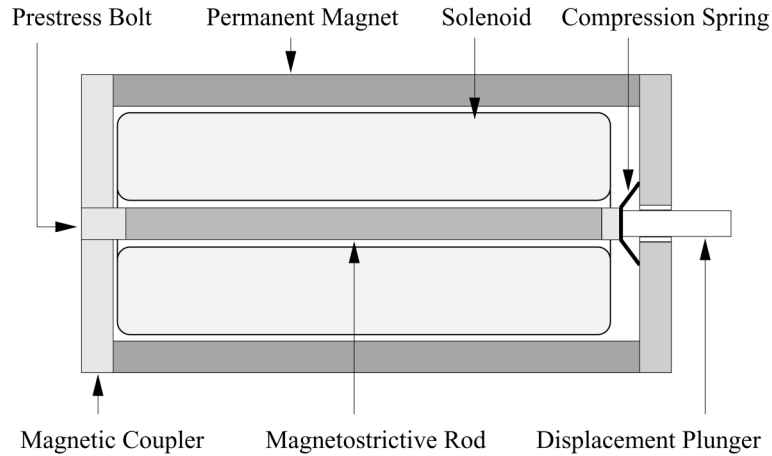


Fig. 7 Cross section of a typical magnetostrictive transducer

Because the magnetostriction is produced by the rotation of magnetic moments (see Section 1), a magnetostrictive transducer driven by an AC magnetic field vibrates at twice the drive frequency and the motion takes place in only one direction. This is illustrated in Fig. 8, where the solid lines represent the unbiased input and corresponding strain output. The dashed lines demonstrate the performance improvements achieved by applying a magnetic bias to the material. Now the frequency of the input is preserved, the output is bidirectional, and the ratio of output per input is substantially larger. To accurately center operation around the desired bias point, the permanent magnet is often employed in combination with a static field generated by passing a DC current through the solenoid. It is noted that while exclusive permanent magnet biasing has the advantage of substantial power savings, it has the disadvantage of added bulk and weight. Conversely, DC

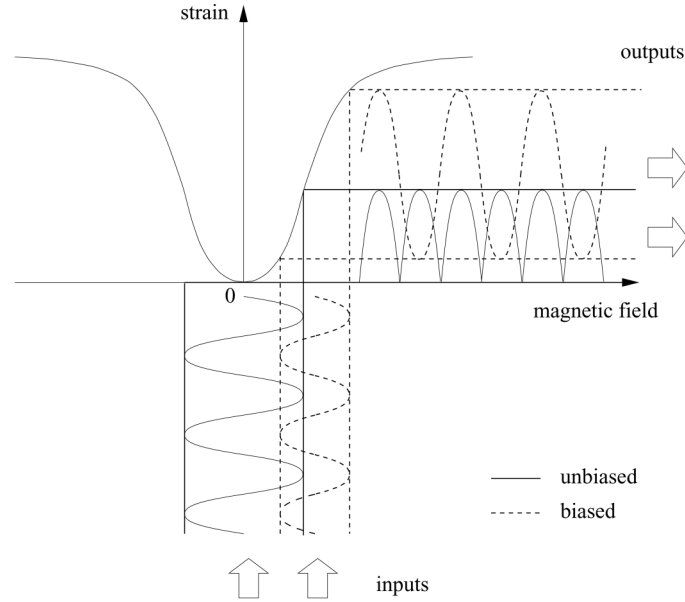


Fig. 8 Effect of magnetic bias on the strain produced by a magnetostrictive transducer

currents produce considerable power losses through ohmic heating but facilitate savings in bulk and weight. The magnetic biasing can be alternatively provided with magnets located in series with the rod or rods, design which is known as stacked-magnet configuration. The stacked-magnet configuration has been observed to provide improvements in the magnetomechanical coupling of up to 5% for large rods ($L > 20$ cm, $D > 2.5$ cm) compared to the barrel-magnet configuration. However, collateral problems such as saturation effects and resonance frequency shifts are common in stacked-magnet designs. Carefully designed transducers must provide efficient magnetic flux closure within the circuit formed by the rod itself, the couplers and the permanent magnets.

Finally, although modern magnetostrictive materials such as Terfenol-D are manufactured with the magnetic moments nearly perpendicular to the rod axis, a static stress (mechanical preload) is nevertheless required for achieving full alignment of all the moments. A mechanically free rod has the moments aligned randomly and will only produce about half of its maximum magnetostriction because the moments initially aligned with the rod axis do not contribute to the magnetostriction. Furthermore, the stress anisotropy generated by the static compression (or tension in the case of materials with negative magnetostriction) will enhance the overall magnetoelastic state of the material in the manner described in Section 3.1. It is emphasized that, in designs which employ linear washers for preloading, the stress in the magnetostrictive rod can vary significantly in relation to the nominal preload during dynamic transducer operation. By virtue of the magnetomechanical coupling, this can have a profound impact on the performance of the magnetostrictive transducer and driving electronics by affecting the magnetic state and, through it, the electrical regime (see Fig. 6). The effects of mechanical preload and magnetic bias on the performance of a Terfenol-D transducer have been studied in (Calkins *et al.* 1997). A second reason for employing a mechanical preload is to avoid operating the rod in tension, particularly when driving brittle materials such as Terfenol-D ($\sigma_t = 28$ MPa, $\sigma_c = 700$ MPa) at or near mechanical resonance.

6.1 Actuator applications

The number of actuator applications based on magnetostrictive materials, mainly Terfenol-D, is continuously increasing as a consequence of the high energy density, high force, broad frequency bandwidth and fast response that these materials can provide. Even though the cost of Terfenol-D is high at present, the range of applications will likely continue to increase as manufacturing techniques are perfected and prices decline. Actuators designed according to the configuration shown in Fig. 7 have been employed, among, in the following applications: sonar, chatter control of boring tools, high-precision micropositioning, borehole seismic sources, geological tomography, hydraulic valves for fuel injection systems, deformable mirrors, hydraulic pumps, bone-conduction hearing aids, exoskeletal telemanipulators, self-sensing actuators, degassing in manufacturing processes such as rubber vulcanization, and industrial ultrasonic cleaning. A discussion regarding current transducer designs is presented below in the context of four main applications subgroups: sonar transducers, linear motors, rotational motors and hybrid smart material transducers. The reader is directed to (Engdahl 2000, E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993) for more complete details.

6.1.1 Linear motors

The direct coupling between the load and magnetostrictive element in Fig. 7 implies that the net load displacement will be limited by the magnetostriction. For instance, a 11.4-cm Terfenol-D actuator will provide maximum displacements of about 0.2 mm. While this kind of displacement is sufficient for many vibration control applications, certain systems such as flow control valves or aircraft flap positioners typically require much larger strokes.

The fact that the Joule magnetostriction takes place at constant volume is employed in the Kiesewetter motor to displace loads beyond the maximum strain normally achievable with a Terfenol-D rod. This motor (Kiesewetter 1988) consists of a cylindrical Terfenol-D rod which fits snugly inside a stiff stator tube when no magnetic field is applied. Several short coils surround the stator so as to produce a magnetic field profile that sweeps along the Terfenol-D rod. When one of the coils is energized, for instance coil No. 1 in Fig. 9(a), the section of rod directly exposed to the magnetic field elongates and shrinks. As the field is removed, the rod clamps itself again inside the stator but at a distance d to the left of the original position. As the remaining coils are energized sequentially and the magnetic field profile is swept, the rod moves in the direction opposite to the sweeping field. The direction of motion is changed by inverting the sequence in which the coils are energized. Since a design perspective, the total displacement is limited only by the length of the Terfenol-D rod, whereas the speed of motion is proportional to the sweeping frequency and the magnetostriction of the rod. Other factors affect the smoothness and speed of the motor such as the number of traveling pulses, the spacing between excitation coils, the stiffness of the Terfenol-D material and skin effect degradation due to eddy currents. The Kiesewetter motor is self locking when unpowered, which is an important attribute for many robotic applications.

A proof-of-concept Kiesewetter motor has been presented in (Roth 1992) which produces 1000 N of force, 200 mm of useful stroke and a speed of 20 mm/s, intended for uses such as control of coat weight and fiber distribution in the paper industry or valve operation and precision positioners for the machine tool industry. An improved design presented in (Goldie *et al.* 1998) addresses some of the technological issues of the Kiesewetter motor, particularly the degradation of fit between stator and rod caused by wear and thermal expansion. Furthermore, this revised design enables rotary motion in a way which is otherwise impossible to achieve with the original Kiesewetter design.

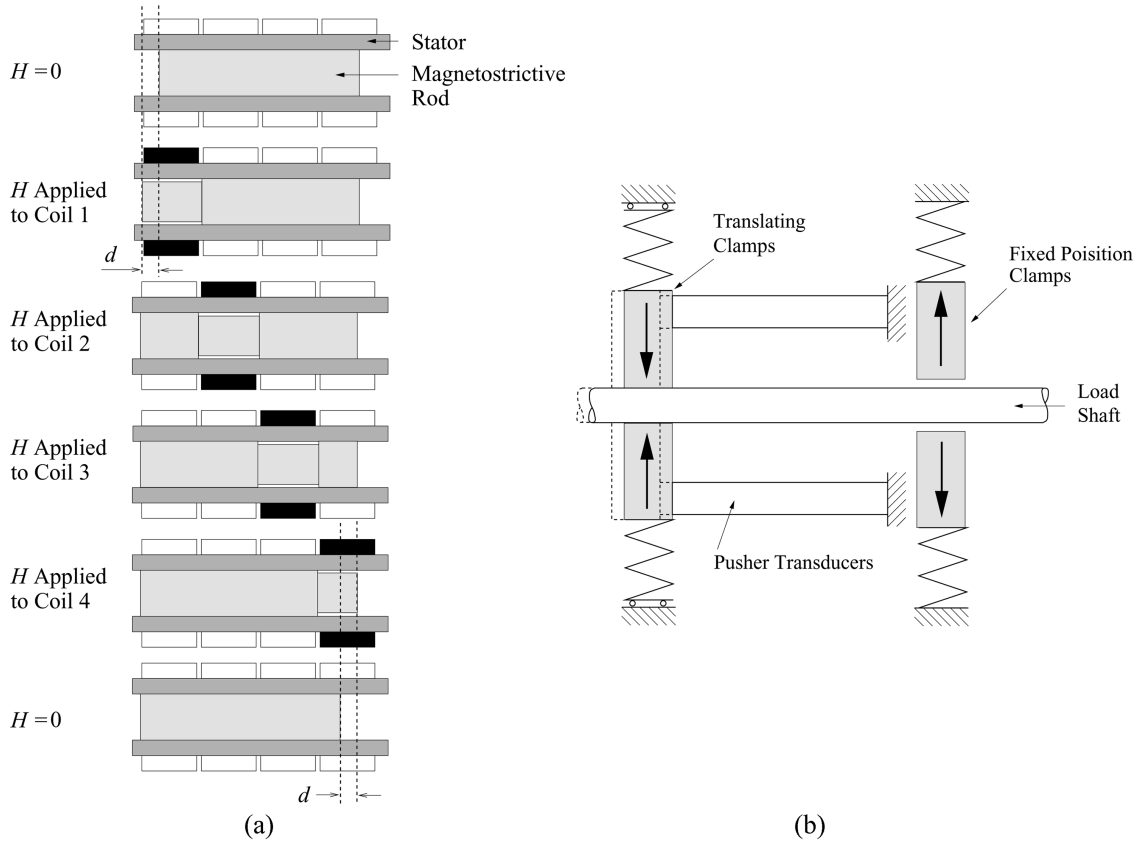


Fig. 9 (a) The Kiesewetter inchworm motor. Black rectangles indicate energized coils; white rectangles indicate inactive coils. (b) Inchworm linear motor

Another variant of the inchworm principle is shown in Fig. 9(b). This motor consists of translating clamps, fixed clamps, pusher transducers and a load shaft. By coordinating the clamping and unclamping actions of the clamps with the action of the pushing transducers, it is possible to induce bidirectional motion of the load shaft. The load rating is limited by the frictional force between the clamps and the load shaft. It is noted that the inchworm principle can be implemented with other smart materials as well, such as piezoelectric stacks (Chen *et al.* 1999), or a combination of piezoelectric and magnetostrictive elements as shown later in Section 6.1.3.

Although piezoelectric transducers are often preferred for ultrasonic power generation in the MHz range, certain applications in the low-ultrasonic range benefit from the ruggedness and lack of depoling mechanisms of magnetostrictive materials. For instance, nickel is being extensively used in applications such as degassing of liquids (20-50 kHz) and cleaning of dental or jewelry pieces (over 50 kHz). A surgical ultrasonic tool based on Terfenol-D has been developed recently which is reported to provide enhanced power and displacement outputs over existing piezoelectric tools, while being lighter, more compact and featuring the ability to deliver a 600 V, 1 MHz signal to cauterize bleeds without interfering with its surgical function. In this device, illustrated in Fig. 10, a laminated quarter wavelength Terfenol-D rod is coupled to a quarter wavelength titanium waveguide

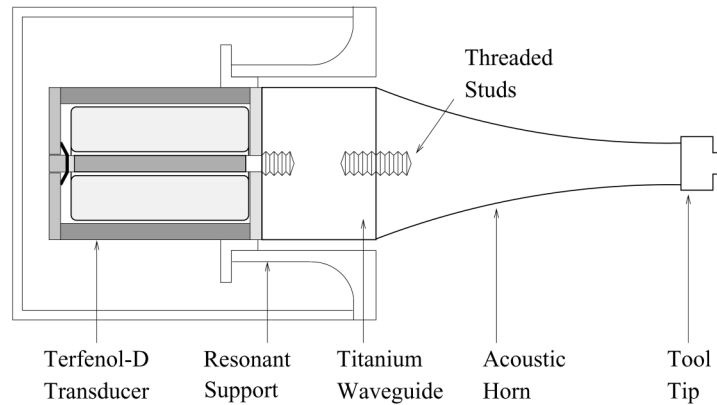


Fig. 10 Schematic diagram of an ultrasonic Terfenol-D device consisting of a quarter-wave transducer coupled to a quarter-wave titanium waveguide and a half-wave acoustic horn. Different tool tips can be used as required

which provides the resonant subassembly to which a half wavelength acoustic horn is attached. The acoustic horn provides an amplification factor of between 15-30 thus providing extreme accelerations and energy concentration at the tip of the tool (Hansen 1996, Frederick 1965). Other current or potential uses for such transducer design include industrial cleaning, sonic cell disruption and sterilization, friction welding, and treatment of diverse chemical and biological processes (Engdahl 2000).

6.1.2 Rotational motors

Smart material motors based on the magnetostrictive principle are not only possible but potentially simpler and more reliable than conventional hydraulic or electromagnetic systems. The inchworm technique has been employed in a rotational motor which produces a torque of 3 N.m and a speed of 0.5 rpm (Akuta 1992). Another device of the inchworm type also provides a speed of 0.5 rpm but produces a very high torque of 12 N.m and precision microsteps of 800 μ rad (Vranish *et al.* 1991). Despite the great position accuracy and high holding torques, the current inchworm-type rotational motors tend to lack efficiency. Much of the efficiency limitation has been overcome in the resonant rotational motor proposed by Claeysen *et al.* (1996). Two linear Terfenol-D actuators are used to induce elliptic vibrations on a circular ring that acts as a stator and which transmits the vibrations to rotational rotors pressed against the ring. The prototype is reported to provide a maximum torque of 2 N.m and a maximum speed of 17 rpm.

Much research and commercial interest is placed on the area of ultrasonic rotational motors. These motors are employed in a wide range of applications from autofocusing camera lenses to robotic manipulators. A rotational actuator has been developed by Akuta (1992) which employs Terfenol-D to achieve a relatively high speed of 13.1 rpm and a maximum torque of 0.29 N.m. As depicted in Fig. 11, this motor employs two Terfenol-D exciter rods to induce rotations in the shaft.

6.1.3 Hybrid magnetostrictive/piezoelectric devices

Given their technological interest, hybrid smart material actuators can be considered in a separate class independently of whether they are intended for sonar, linear or rotational applications. Because magnetostrictive materials are inductive and piezoelectric elements are capacitive, it is advantageous

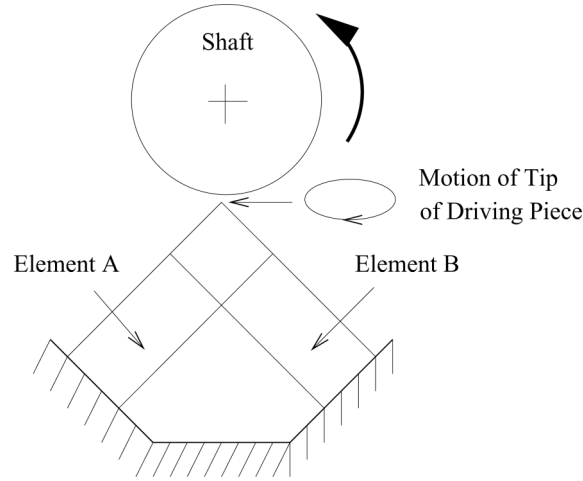


Fig. 11 Rotational ultrasonic motor (Akuta 1992)

to combine both types of materials in the same device so that a resonant electric circuit is formed. When driven at resonance, such a device behaves like a purely resistive load and only the energy effectively converted to mechanical motion or lost to inner losses needs to be supplied externally. This greatly simplifies amplifier design and helps for attaining high efficiencies.

To overcome the difficulties involved in achieving motion at only one end of a Tonpilz piston-type sonar transducer, a hybrid device has been demonstrated which consists of a quarter wavelength stack of piezoelectric Navy type I ceramic rings joined to a quarter wavelength Terfenol-D composite tube (see Fig. 12(a) and reference (Butler *et al.* 1993)). The inherent 90° phase shift between the magnetostrictive and piezoelectric transduction processes in combination with the quarter wavelength design of the elements ensures addition at one end and cancellation at the other. While the device is *mechanically* unidirectional, it becomes *acoustically* unidirectional only under array-baffled operation. The measured front-to-back pressure ratio is 5 dB for the device alone and 15 dB under array-loaded conditions. The concept of hybrid piezoelectric/magnetostrictive transduction has been also implemented for linear inchworm motors (Miesner and Teter 1994, Clephas and Janocha 1997) and rotational motors (Venkataraman *et al.* 1998). For instance, the prototype presented in (Miesner and Teter 1994) has a configuration as shown in Fig. 9(b), but in which the clamping is done by piezoelectric stacks and the translation is provided by Terfenol-D rods. The intrinsic 90° phase lag between the two types of elements provides a natural drive timing for the inchworm, while the direction of motion can be easily reversed by changing the magnetic bias on the Terfenol-D elements. This motor achieves a zero-load speed of 25.4 mm/sec and a stall load of 115 N.

A hybrid magnetostrictive/piezoelectric rotational motor is illustrated in Fig. 12(b) following the proof-of-concept transducer presented in (Venkataraman *et al.* 1998). A piezoelectric stack clamps a piece of friction material onto the rotating disk, while two magnetostrictive rods move the clamp tangentially to the disk to produce the rotational motion. The sequence of the motion is, as indicated before, determined by the natural timing of the piezoelectric and magnetostrictive response. The device produces a speed of 4 rpm at excitation voltages of between 30-40 V and frequencies of between 650-750 Hz.

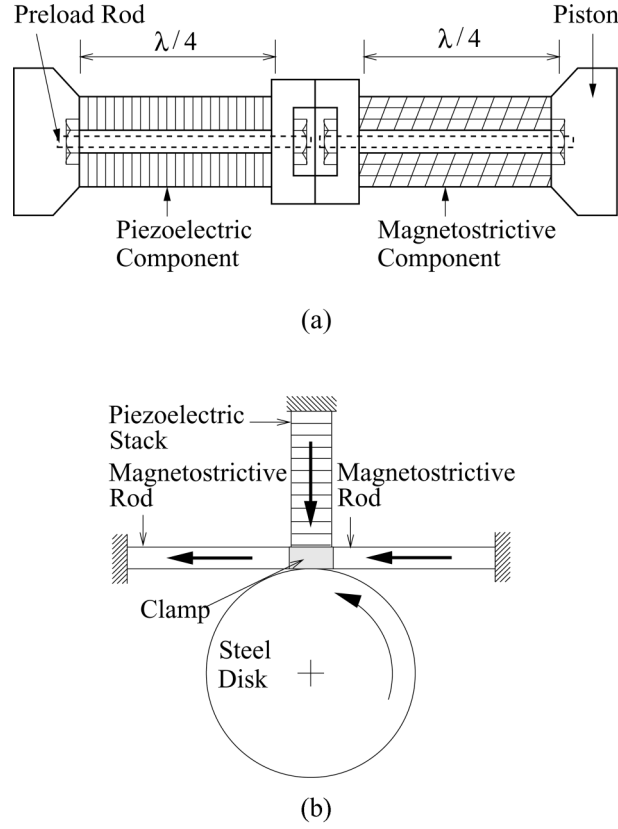


Fig. 12 Hybrid magnetostrictive/piezoelectric transducers. (a) Sonar projector (Butler *et al.* 1993), (b) rotational motor (Venkataraman *et al.* 1998)

6.2 Sensor applications

As evidenced by the growing number of publications and patents, magnetostrictive materials are being employed in a wide variety of sensor designs. In this overview, the term sensor is used in a broad sense to indicate the attributes of magnetostrictive materials which facilitate generation of electrical signals in response to mechanical excitations such as force, strain and torque, or magnetic excitations such as magnetic fields. By virtue of the magnetomechanical coupling, changes in the magnetoelastic state through these parameters (or a combination of them) produces measurable changes in the magnetization anisotropy. To complete the sensing mechanism, a pick-up coil is often wrapped around the magnetostrictive material to detect the magnetization changes, effectively providing a mechanism for conversion from the magnetic to electrical regimes. The principle that links the magnetization in the material with the voltage V generated across a pick-up coil is the Faraday-Lenz law of electromagnetic induction,

$$V = -NA \frac{dB}{dt},$$

in which N and A are, respectively, the number of turns and constant cross-sectional area of the coil,

and B is the magnetic induction which quantifies the magnetization state through $B = \mu_0(H + M)$ (Jiles 1998). Alternatively, interferometry techniques can be employed to detect the changes in wave speed which occur when the magnetostrictive material changes its properties in the presence of external excitations, for instance the stiffness changes associated with the ΔE effect as described in Section 5.

An overview of sensor designs is presented next, in which emphasis is placed on the main operating principles which enable operation of the sensors. While the list is not comprehensive, it is noted that a huge number of alternative designs can be devised based on the fundamental operation principles presented here. Further details can be found in the provided references.

6.2.1 Torque sensors

Magnetostrictive noncontact torquemeters have been devised based on the principle that the torque applied to a shaft generates stresses of opposite sign $+\tau$ and $-\tau$ oriented at $\pm 45^\circ$ from the shaft axis. If the shaft is magnetostrictive or has a magnetostrictive amorphous ribbon bonded onto it, the magnetic properties along the directions of $+\tau$ and $-\tau$ will change. These properties can be measured either in a differential fashion with a set of perpendicular coils as shown in Fig. 13(a), or through a single Hall effect or similar magnetic field intensity sensor (Garshelis 1992). This kind of sensor can be employed, for instance, in fly-by-wire steering systems for the automotive industry. Additional details and references can be found in (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993).

Another class of noncontact torquemeters relies on the changes in permeability exhibited by a magnetostrictive material subjected to torsional stress. In particular, applications requiring less sensitivity can benefit from the elevated mechanical strength that magnetic steels or alloys can provide. One such example is shown in Fig. 13(b), in which the working torque on a drill bit is detected with two sensing coils connected in series and located one over the flutes and the other over the shank (the permeability of the shank is less sensitive to changes in torque than the flutes.)

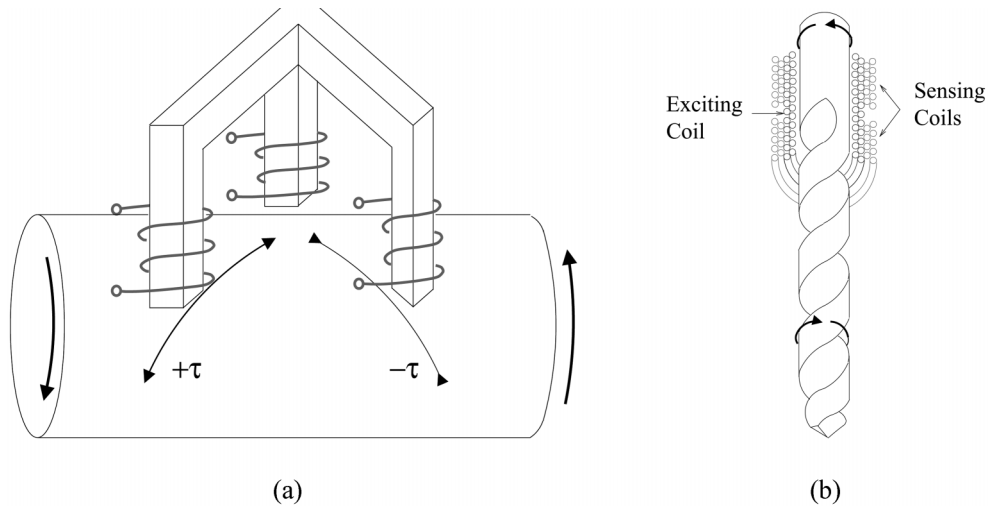


Fig. 13 Magnetostrictive noncontact torque sensors. (a) Differential reading along directions oriented $\pm 45^\circ$ from the shaft axis, and (b) differential reading of the permeability changes experienced by a drill bit subjected to a torque

An excitation coil provides the AC magnetic field excitation, while the sensor's proportional output is the differential voltage generated by the sensing coils as the permeability of the bit changes due to the applied torque (Sasada *et al.* 1994).

6.2.2 Deformation and position sensors

Transverse-field annealed magnetostrictive ribbons or wires make very sensitive strain gauges. A sensor of this kind has been made from strips of Metglas 2605SC transverse annealed for 10 min. in a 208 kA/m (2.6 kOe) magnetic field at 390°C and rapidly cooled in a saturation field (Wun-Fogle *et al.* 1989). The sensor responds to the changes in permeability of the ribbon, which by virtue of the magnetomechanical coupling depends in turn on the state of strain in the material. Defining a dimensionless gauge factor as the fractional change in the measured parameter (in this case permeability) by the change in strain, $F = (\partial\mu/\partial S)/\mu$, this sensor has an F equal to about 250,000, which compares extraordinarily well with resistive strain gauges ($F = 2$) and semiconductor gauges ($F = 250$). One problem encountered with this device is that normal thermal expansion can saturate the sensor. This problem can be overcome by bonding the material with a highly viscous liquid, although this limits operation to AC regimes.

A position detector can be accomplished with a magnetostrictive material employed as an acoustic waveguide. Such a device, shown in Fig. 14, consists of a permanent magnet which is connected to the target and rides along the length of the waveguide, an emitter/receiver head which sends and receives either an acoustic or current pulse down the waveguide, and a damper which prevents unwanted wave reflections. The principle of operation of the sensor is rather simple: the magnet interacts with the magnetostrictive waveguide and locally changes its material properties. These material property change can be detected in different ways. In one version, the stiffness discontinuity produced by the magnet (ΔE effect) partially reflects back an acoustic pulse sent by the emitter. In a second version, the emitter sends a continuous current pulse down the waveguide which produces a circumferential magnetic field that interacts with the axial field from the magnet. The resulting helical field produces a twist in the wire (Wiedemann effect) which travels back to the receiver head. In both versions, the transit times of the original and reflected pulses provide a measure of the location of the magnet along the waveguide. This sensor can be used to measure

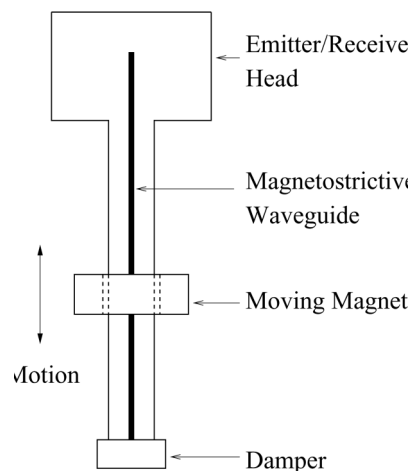


Fig. 14 Magnetostrictive waveguide position sensor

fluid levels by connecting the magnet to a float or for generic position sensing of up to 50 m with ± 1 mm accuracy (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993).

6.2.3 Magnetometers

If the magnetostriction of a given material is known as a function of magnetic field, the problem of measuring magnetic field reduces into one of measuring length. The length can be measured with a laser interferometer, optic fiber, strain gauge, capacitor or with another calibrated material such as a piezoelectric compound. For example, a very simple design consists of two slabs of magnetostrictive and piezoelectric materials bonded together (Fig. 15(a)). When a magnetic field is applied to the magnetostrictive material, it strains, thus inducing a proportional voltage in the piezoelectric material. In another version, shown in Fig. 15(b), a magnetometer is realized by bonding a field-annealed metallic glass ribbon onto a resonating PZT plate with a viscous fluid. An alternating voltage is applied to the PZT plate, which generates a longitudinal stress field. With proper bonding techniques, the dynamic stress in the metallic ribbon is congruent with that in the PZT while the static component is filtered out by the viscous fluid. By virtue of the Villari effect, these dynamic stresses create an oscillating electromotive force (e.m.f.) in the surrounding pick-up coil. When exposed to low-frequency magnetic fields, a low-frequency e.m.f. is generated in the coil which is extracted from the carrier e.m.f. with conventional phase sensitive detection techniques. The measured detection limit can reach 6.9×10^{-6} A/m at 1 Hz (Mermelstein and Dandridge 1987), which compares with that of fluxgate magnetometers.

Another type of magnetometer consists of a magnetostrictive film coating bonded onto an optic fiber. When the sensor is exposed to magnetic fields, the magnetostrictive material deforms and so does the optic fiber. This causes changes in the optical path length of laser beams passing through the optic fiber, which can be detected by an interferometer (Yariv and Windsor 1980). Highly sensitive metallic glass ribbons have been employed in devices so designed, yielding quasistatic resolutions of between 1.6×10^{-3} - 8.0×10^{-3} A/m (Dandridge *et al.* 1986). Finally, a diode laser interferometer has been used to detect changes in length of a Terfenol-D rod produced when a magnetic field is applied (Chung *et al.* 1991). A maximum sensitivity of 160×10^{-6} A/m was achieved, although certain nonlinear dependencies were observed which make it critical to operate the sensor within its optimum mechanical preload range.

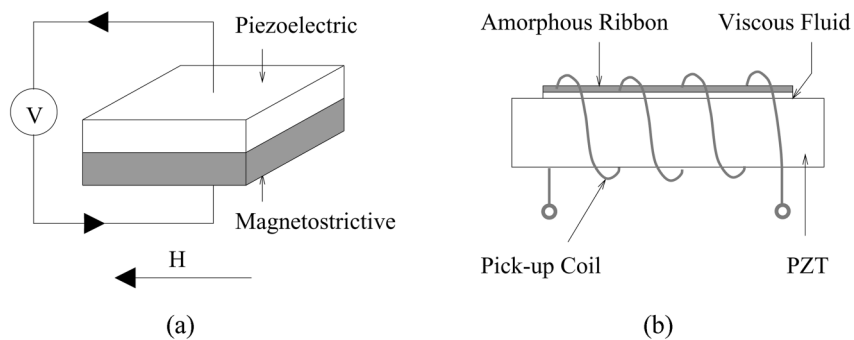


Fig. 15 Hybrid magnetostrictive/piezoelectric magnetic field sensors. When a magnetic field is applied to one of these sensors, the magnetostrictive material strains, which either (a) generates a voltage across the piezoelectric plate or (b) induces an e.m.f. in a surrounding pick-up coil which can be extracted from an alternating carrier e.m.f. produced as the piezoelectric plate resonates

6.2.4 Force sensors

Employing the Villari effect, it is possible to realize a simple and rugged force sensor employing either crystal or amorphous magnetostrictive materials. The magnetostrictive attribute which provides the operating principle for such a sensor is the dependency of the magnetization with the state of stress in the material. To illustrate, the design in Fig. 16 consists of two magnetostrictive elements, one surrounded by an excitation coil and the other surrounded by a pick-up coil, and two rigid end plates. In one mode of operation, an AC voltage is applied to the excitation coil which generates a magnetic flux in the sensor and a corresponding voltage in the sensing coil. As a force is applied, the magnetostriction in the elements produces a change in the magnetic flux which is detected as a proportional voltage change in the pick-up coil. In a second mode of operation at constant flux, the excitation voltage is allowed to change in order to maintain a constant pick-up coil output voltage. The change in excitation voltage is then related to the change in applied force. Compared to conventional force sensors such as those based on strain gauges, this sensor is simpler, more rugged and requires simpler electronics. A similar Villari effect sensor based on amorphous ribbons has been discussed in (Seekercher and Hoffmann 1990). Numerous other designs have been discussed or patented, including percussion sensors, pressure sensors and force sensors based on magnetoelastic strain gauges. The reader is directed to (E. du Trémolet de Lacheisserie 1993) for further details and references.

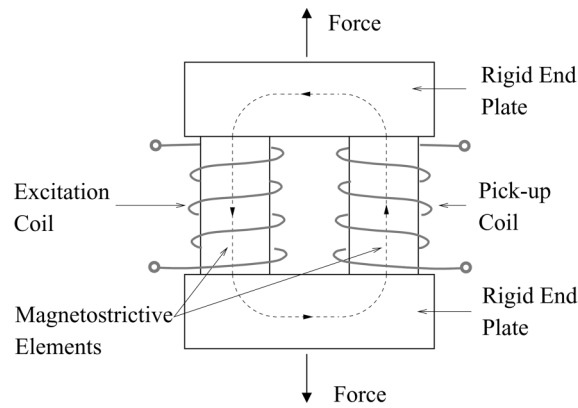


Fig. 16 Magnetostrictive force sensor based on the Villari effect

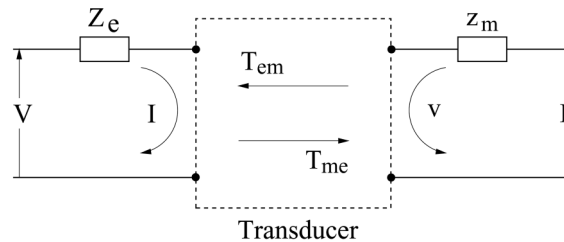


Fig. 17 Schematic representation of an electromechanical transducer

7. Conclusions

The magnetomechanical coupling present in magnetostrictive materials provides a robust mechanism for bidirectional conversion of energy between the magnetic and elastic states. Newer materials such as Terfenol-D or amorphous metallic ribbons provide a unique combination of high forces, strains, energy densities, operating bandwidths and coupling coefficients which has justified their use in an ever-increasing number of actuators and sensor applications ranging from micropositioning to vibration control of heavy structures. The excellent performance of magnetostrictive materials is sometimes obscured by the hysteresis and nonlinear effects which are intrinsic to magnetostriction. In this sense, achievement of full performance with magnetostrictive materials poses rigorous engineering challenges in a way which other less capable smart materials do not. However, as evidenced by the increasing number of patented devices based on magnetostrictive principles, transducer designers continue to overcome these challenges and make advances in design, modeling and control of magnetostrictive device performance attributes. As material advances continue and yield enhanced magnetostrictive compounds, it is expected that magnetostrictive device designers will find new magnetostrictive solutions to critical problems in the areas of condition monitoring and repair, mitigation of vibrations, and safety of structural systems.

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