Reactive Processing of Dense MgB₂ Superconductor from Mg-2B Powder Blend

I. Zlotnikov, I. Gotman, and E.Y. Gutmanas

Faculty of Materials Engineering, Technion-IIT, Haifa 32000, Israel

Synthesis of bulk MgB₂ superconductor from Mg-2B powder blend is reported. Reactive forming (thermal explosion under 80 Mpa pressure) yielded a relatively porous single-phase MgB₂ material. Reactive hot pressing (1000°C, 200 MPa, 1 h) produced 98% dense MgB₂-MgB₄-MgO multiphase specimens that, nevertheless, exhibited superconductive transition at 39 K.