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# Coercivity mechanism of Nd-Fe-B sintered magnets

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**Abstract.** We first study the electronic structure of several surfaces of crystalline  $\text{Nd}_2\text{Fe}_{14}\text{B}$  and estimate the crystal field parameters at the Nd sites based on first principles calculations. It is found that Nd ions exposed on the (001) surface exhibit an  $c$ -plane magnetic anisotropy. On the basis of this observation, we propose a mechanism that exhibits the coercivity reduction of Nd-Fe-B magnets. The model employed here is a micromagnetic model involving the anisotropy- and exchange-fields obtained by the first-principles calculations; it has a  $c$ -plane magnetic anisotropy around the surface, in contrast to the bulk  $c$ -axis anisotropy. We find that the local  $c$ -plane anisotropy drastically affects the coercivity, resulting in a reduction by half of the bulk anisotropy field  $H_c$ .