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A Novel Technique for the Preparation of Textured  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$  Superconductor

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**Abstract:** Textured samples having composition of  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$  were prepared by using a novel technique of heating the samples in a thermal gradient which varies linearly between 930-950 °C over a distance of 5 cm. The samples were characterized by X-ray powder diffraction analysis, temperature dependent resistivity and magnetic susceptibility measurements, and scanning electron microscopy. XRD analysis shows that sample heated between 930-935 °C has tetragonal symmetry and all other three samples show orthorhombic symmetry. Samples heated in temperature gradient of 935-945 °C aligned along the c-axis. The orthorhombic samples exhibited zero resistance above 86K with short transition width and samples heated in the temperature range of 930-935 °C was non-superconducting down to 80 K. Susceptibility measurements also confirms the same  $T_c$  values for the superconducting samples. The orientation of crystals and alignment of grains was observed by SEM images and investigated by XRD patterns. The maximum texture alignment of the  $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$  superconducting grains is obtained in a thermal gradient of 935-945 °C.

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