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In [1] we reported the existence of an anomalous increase of intensity, observed by neutron powder diffraction, occurring in a magnetic field below $T_c$, on the 001 nuclear reflection ring of the superconductor YBa$_2$Cu$_3$O$_7$. Two symmetric spots appeared in a plane normal to the magnetic field direction. This result was obtained on a non-compacted powder sample.

In the absence of any appreciable modulation in intensity on the rest of the ring (no apparent texturation), we suggested that this effect could be due to a magnetic organization within the sample. However, because of the regular reactor shut-down, we could not perform further experiments.

Very recently additional measurements on sintered and non-sintered samples, with various oxygen concentrations, as well as the observation of other nuclear reflections, reveal that the effect previously reported only occurs for unconstrained powders and is due to a magneto-mechanical orientation of the grains, a consequence of the very anisotropic magnetic properties shown by this material below $T_c$ [2].

The apparent reversibility we observed in the first experiment when the magnetic field was switched off, was due to a disorientation of the grains by the vibrations of our low-temperature device. In absence of vibrations, the structuration of the diffraction ring induced by the magnetic field remains stable even above $T_c$.

Finally, we recently received a preprint by J.M. Tranquada et al. [3] who reproduced our observation of the alignment of YBa$_2$Cu$_3$O$_7$ particles in a magnetic field, and which provides a confirmation of our results.

Experiments are in progress in order to obtain more information concerning the non-conventional structuration of the diffraction spectrum, associated with this magneto-mechanical effect.

References