Research Group for Spin-polarized Positron Beam

Group Leader: Atsuo Kawasuso

Primary target of our research project is the establishment of a highly spin-polarized positron beam for the research on spin-electronic materials. We produce intense positron source (**Ge-**Ga) that yields much highly polarized positrons than the conventional **Na source through nuclear reactions. We perform the spin-polarized positron annihilation experiments. Employing previously developed reflection high-energy positron diffraction (RHEPD) and Positron microsope, we also promote the studies of surface low-dimensional materials and nuclear materials

Spin-polarized electrons in Fe, Co, Ni and Gd detected by spin-polarized positron annihilation

The electron momentum distribution of a magnetic substance observed using spin-polarized positrons exhibits so-called fieldreversal asymmetry as shown in Fig. 1 due to time-reversal symmetry breaking arising from excess electron spins [1]. The Doppler broadening of annihilation radiation (DBAR) spectra of Fe, Co, Ni, and Gd polycrystals measured using spin-polarized positrons from a 68Ge-68Ga source in magnetic fields exhibited clear asymmetry upon field reversal. The differential DBAR spectra between field-up and field-down conditions were reproduced in calculations considering polarization of positrons and electrons. The magnitudes of the field-reversal asymmetry for the Fe, Co, and Ni samples were approximately proportional to the effective magnetization. The magnetic field dependence of the DBAR spectrum for the Fe sample showed hysteresis that is similar to a magnetization curve. These results demonstrate that spin-polarized positron annihilation spectroscopy will be useful in studying magnetic properties of spin-electronic

Atomic configuration of two-dimensional electron compound revealed by RHEPD

The adsorption of the noble and alkali metal atoms on the Si(111)- $\sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3}$ -Ag surface leads to the formation of $\sqrt{21} \times \sqrt{21}$ superstructures, accompanied by the drastic increase in the surface electrical conductivity. Recently, we found that the $\sqrt{21}$ $\times \sqrt{21}$ superstructures are fabricated with different stoichiometry of the adsorbed binary metal atoms on the Si(111) surface. The atomic and electronic structures of the Au and Ag superstructure have been investigated using reflection highenergy positron diffraction (RHEPD), angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES), scanning tunnelling microscopy (STM), and semi-empirical theoretical approach [2]. As a result, we found that the Si(111)- $\sqrt{21} \times \sqrt{21}$ superstructure has a characteristic of electron compounds. We also found that the interaction energy among the adsorbates plays an important role in the formation of $\sqrt{21} \times \sqrt{21}$ superstructures.

This work was done in collaboration with Matsuda group of ISSP, University of Tokyo.

Stress-induced corrosion cracking observed by positron microscope

Stress corrosion cracking (SCC) is still an important issue in the low-carbon austenitic stainless steels developed as corrosion resistive materials for nuclear power plants. However, its

mechanism has not vet fully been clarified. Recently, a hypothesis of the SCC crack propagation mediated by vacancy defects in a stress field near the crack tip is proposed. To investigate the vacancy formation during the SCC crack propagation, vacancy defects near the crack tip in stainless steel under tensile stress has been observed through in-situ positron microbeam measurements [3] From the DBAR measurements of a stress-corrosion-cracked stainless steel, a clear increase of density of vacancy defects was observed over 200-400 µm areas from the SCC crack. From the comparison of the DBAR spectra obtained for the SCC sample and plastically deformed sample, the vacancy defects around the SCC crack were attributed to plastic deformation due to the stress concentration near the crack tip [4]. On the other hand, it is reported that vacancy defects in austenitic stainless steels migrate easily at a high temperature and move along the tensile stress. Crack progress by the SCC may occur preferentially in the crack tip where vacancy defects are accumulated

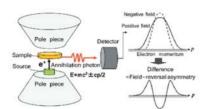


Fig. 1 Principle of spin-polarized positron annihilation spectroscopy (SP-PAS). Sample and source are placed in magnetic field. Longitudinally polarized positrons from the source are implanted into the magnetized sample and annihilation photons are detected by a Ge detector. Thus obtained DBAR spectrum reflects the electron momentum distribution. DBAR spectra for the field-up and field-down conditions are not identical due to the different spin statistics between positrons and electrons upon field reversal. This is called the field-reversal asymmetry. Field dependence of DBAR spectrum provides information on effective magnetization, electron spin-polarization and magnetization property of a magnetic substance. Considering the fact that positrons are trapped by vacancy defects, magnetisms induced by vacancy defects will be studied by SP-PAS method. By developing low-energy polarized positron beam, magnetic thin films and spin phenomena near surface will also be studied.

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Publication List

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